

## SITTING BULL: OUTLINE OF LIFE

Born the winter following the great portent, the meteor shower or "rain of fire" 1833. Father a subchief, Four Horns.

Killed his first buffalo at 10 years of age.

Counted his first coup on the warpath at 14. Assumed his father's name.

"Made medicine" and took the name Sitting Bull at 23. Fated a diplomat in hand

Was active fighting the whites in the 60's (from 26 yrs. onward.)

Led raid against Ft. Buford, 1866. age, 32.

Fought Crows in intervals of battles with whites, as shown in his own record in pictographs preserved in Washington, D.C.

Refused to go on a reservation, and in the war which followed wiped out Custer, 1876. This a topic which should go over big. Age 42.

After defeat by General Miles, he fled to Canada, 1877. There he gave the Royal Northwest Mounted Police of Canada the biggest problem they ever had to solve, detailed records of which (including Sitting Bull's speeches in council) we have. Remained in Canada until 1881, when starvation compelled him to return to the States.

Prisoner of war until 1883- age 50. Unalterably opposed to white men.

Prevented the sale of Dakota reservation lands, 1888. Age 55.

Seized upon the insignificant cult (Ghost Dance), developed it, and used it as a weapon against the whites, which led to his death in 1890, and soon after to the tragic massacre of helpless Indians at Wounded Knee.

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Left two wives and nine children, one of whom was killed with him.

His personal character was quiet, generous, brave, and loyal. He was a rare combination of religious zealot, man of affairs, diplomat, soldier, organiser, and visionary. Though arrayed against overwhelming forces, he maintained his hold on the Indians, coped with the whites, and resisted the inevitable to the death. And there have been no end to the quarrels over his character and achievements. A good thorny problem in biography.

Of no other Indian are the records so abundant, treaties, battles, autobiographic pictographs, interviews, statements of his allies and enemies, detailed record of his great military victory (Custer fight), the Ghost Dance (in Mooney's complete monograph), and his death. It will be a big job to get this material all together and sift it. But I believe that I am as well qualified to do this as anyone.