

Sitting Bull is a good controversial subject, for there will never be an end to the controversies about the rights and wrongs of the Indian, about the Custer fight, about the Ghost Dance, about the character of Sitting Bull himself, who has been represented as everything from a saint and a patriot to a fraud and a horse-thief. I believe that he offers meat, and having done the biggest white frontiersman, I can see no other Figure of equal stature in the Old West; and certainly nobody- white or red- about whom so much has been written.

Yet there is no LIFE extant worthy of the name.

I happen to be fortunate also in that my wife's uncle was a member of a U.S. survey of the Indians in the sixties and camped with Sitting Bull's band for a whole winter. I am counting upon his recollections for some fresh material.

It is not my plan to write anything sentimental or any apology for poor Lo. I intend to be objective and to set down the fight the man made against impossible odds so as to make the reader understand the motives and actions and appreciate the tragedy against its proper background.

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Sitting Bull..

born 1833-4 year it rained fire(meteor shower)
 Went to war first time at 14; had killed first buffalo at 10 years.
 Made medicine first time at 23 years.
 Was active against the Crow Indians until wars with whites began.
 Fought whites 60-76; led raid on Fort Buford 1866. Age 32.
 Destroyed Custer 1876. Fled to Canada soon after, 1877. Age 43.
 Relations with Royal Northwest Mounted Police, 1877-81.
 Returns to States, owing to starvation(no more bison), surrenders, 1881.
 Prisoner of War until 1883. Age 50.
 Prevents sale of Indian lands to whites, 1888. Age 55.
 Seizes upon Ghost Dance cult, using it as weapon against whites, 1890.
 Killed 1890. Age 57.

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