

The Sioux and Cheyennes frequently carried home arms and legs and heads of their enemies as trophies to carry in the scalp dance. The sign language gesture for Sioux is a sweeping of the hand under the chin, meaning "cut throat" which shows that the Sioux were once head-hunters.

Of course Colonel Luce is correct in his belief that Rain-in-the-Face did not cut out or eat Tom Custer's heart. The extent of the mutilations at the Custer fight was reported by Lieutenant Bradley, and has been reprinted in SOLDIERS OF THE PLAINS, by P. E. Byrne (New York, 1926).

Certainly the Sioux did not fear the dead bodies left on the Custer battlefield enough to keep them from prowling over it when their camp passed that way again in August, 1876. I have talked with a number of Sioux and Cheyenne men who went over the battlefield at that time, moved by curiosity and to indulge the pleasure of remembering their victory.

If the Sioux had any fear of the dead in those days, it was of dead Sioux, not dead enemies.

Sincerely yours,

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