

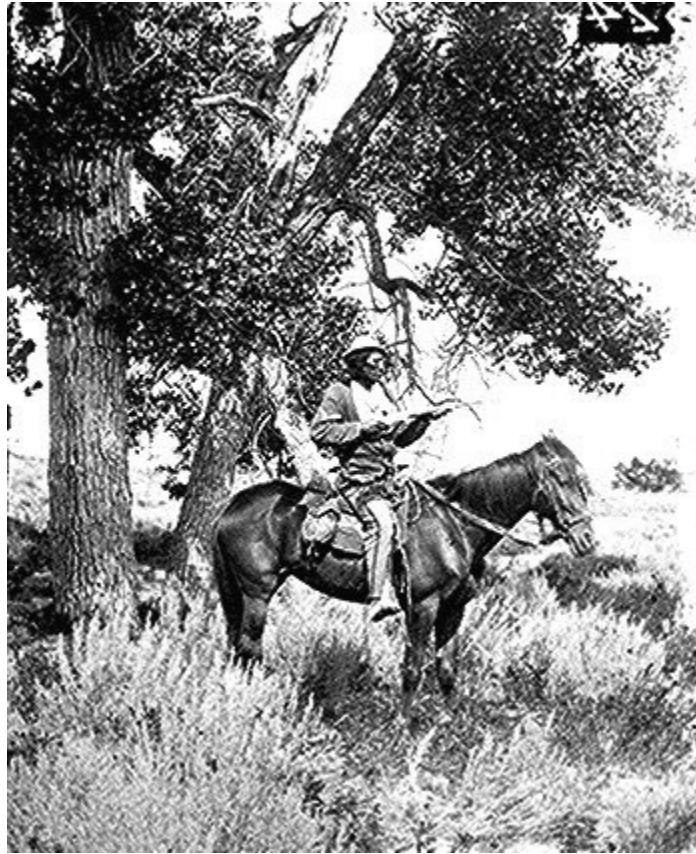


Custer and Bloody Knife (kneeling left) 1874

Bloody Knife
1837 - 1876

Arikara born in the Hunkpapa Reservation, Dakota Territory. His father was Hunkpapa and his mother was Ree(Arikara). He spent his first 16 years with his father but was frequently taunted, beaten and abused for being a "half-breed". At age 16, he left the Sioux camp with his mother but returned in 1860 to visit his father. Bloody Knife was still despised by the Sioux, and was almost killed during his visit. Chief Gall, a leader of the Hunkpapa, killed Bloody Knife's two brothers in 1862. Bloody Knife was married to She Owl in 1866.

In 1868, Bloody Knife enlisted as a scout in the U.S. Army and was assigned to the 7th Cavalry. He quickly became George Armstrong Custer's favorite scout. He was insolent toward whites and ridiculed them. He often amused Custer by ridiculing his marksmanship. Custer never got angry and often gave gifts to Bloody Knife.



Bloody Knife

In 1874, Bloody Knife guided the 7th through the Black Hills. He was with Custer in the Little Bighorn campaign and told Custer there were too many Indians to fight, a warning Custer ignored. Bloody Knife, in turn, ignored Custer's plea for him to stay out of the battle. Bloody Knife was assigned to Major Marcus Reno during the Battle of the Little Bighorn and was killed by a shot to the head as he was standing beside Reno in the battle. Reno was attempting to ask him what the Indians were doing when he was shot and his blood splattered Reno's face. Reno then lost all inhibition and barked out orders that did not make sense before fleeing. It has been speculated that Bloody Knife's blood splattering put Major Reno in a state of shock. Bloody Knife was beheaded by the Sioux, who took the head to their camp. His grave is in the valley, Little Big Horn Battlefield, Montana.

Sources:

Son of the Morning Star, Evan S. Connell, 1984

Wikipedia The free Encyclopedia

Of the Indian protagonists of the 1876 campaign, Bloody Knife⁸, the Arikara-Sioux head of the scouts for the Seventh Cavalry, former Sioux slave and Custer's friend rests in peace under a glorious monument in his reservation at Fort Berthold.

Bloody Knife, and Arikara Indian scout who was killed at the Battle of Little Bighorn, was the favorite scout of General George Armstrong Custer and was at his side in the Yellowstone, Black Hills and Little Bighorn campaigns of 1873-1876. He was the son of a Hunkpapa Sioux father and an Arikara prisoner. He was considered a "mongrel" because of that, in particular by Gall, who Bloody Knife hated. To this day, Bloody Knife's people tell the story of his horse. During the pivotal summer of 1876, after the Battle of Little Bighorn, the buckskin horse belonging to the Arikara warrior found its way home, 500 miles distant, to Like-A-Fishhook Village near what is now Garrison, ND. The Arikara say the spirits of all the men, both warriors and soldiers, who fell in the battle, were embodied in the horse, which returned home to tell the story of their brave deeds.

After many exchanges of shots, after much dodging and shifting of position, the [enemy Indian was killed there. 2](#) [Note: According to **Edward S. Godfrey, this was the [Sioux/Arikara half-breed scout Bloody](#)**

Knife, whose skull and brain matter splattered **Reno's** face and coat. **Gall** also said **Bloody Knife** was the first man killed among the American soldiers in the Reno fight.