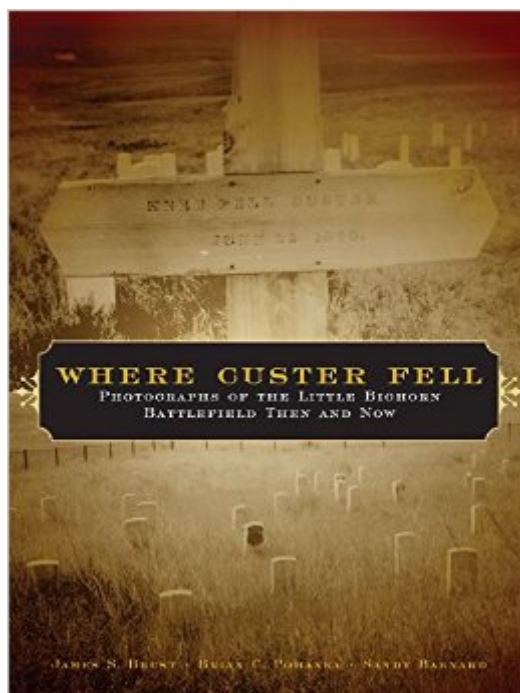


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Where Custer Fell: Photographs Of The Little Bighorn Battlefield Then And Now



Synopsis

The Battle of the Little Bighorn has long held an eminent position among the chronicles of the mythic West. None of the men who rode with Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer to his "Last Stand" survived to tell the tale, but this stunning photography book provides a view of the battlefield as it must have existed in 1876. To create *Where Custer Fell*, authors James S. Brust, Brian C. Pohanka, and Sandy Barnard searched for elusive documents and photographs, made countless trips to the battlefield, and scrutinized all available sources. Each chapter begins with a concise, lively description of an episode in the battle. The narratives are graphically illustrated by historical photos, which are presented alongside modern photos of the same location on the battlefield. The book also features detailed maps and photographs of battle participants and the early photographers who attempted to tell their story.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The project that sent three historians trudging across every acre of Custer Battlefield and beyond is finally complete - for now. "Where Custer Fell" is a testament to the teamwork, fellow admiration, and knowledge of Dr. James Brust, the late Brian Pohanka, and Sandy Barnard. The concept behind "Where Custer Fell" is something I've wanted to see ever since I found the book "Yellow Ore, Yellow Hair, Yellow Pine: A Photographic Study of a Century of Forest Ecology" during my first trip to the Black Hills in 1978. The spiral book by Donald R. Progulski and Richard H. Sowell is a study of the 1874 Black Hills expedition led by George A. Custer told in before and after photographs.

Photographer Sowell researched historic photos of Custer's camps including the long lines of wagons, livestock, and soldiers beside mountains, forest, and streams. Sowell then hiked throughout the Black Hills to locate the exact spot from which the historic photos were shot - there he set up the camera and snapped a contemporary photo. The before and after photos included in "Yellow Ore" give the reader an opportunity to look at and wonder how much the landscape has changed due to man and nature. Brust had similar ideas, however his subject would be the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument. The task he found himself under far outweighed the requirements Sowell encountered - Sowell was looking at one set of historic photos. Brust's monumental mission involved one of the most photographed battlefields of the Indian Wars -- photographers have been active there since 1877! Brust soon realized that he couldn't do it alone. Coming on board next to help with the project was Brian Pohanka followed not long afterwards by Barnard.

I read all the glowing reviews here of this book. I decided to buy it. That was a mistake. If I could have looked inside this book beforehand, I could have saved myself the money. Let's get one thing straight. This book is NOT a photographic tour of the LBH battlefield. It is basically a history of the battleFIELD in photographs. It takes an old photograph taken some 80-120 years ago and matches it to a modern day photo taken from the same angle. It's two basic themes are: A. "Gee, look how little things have changed in the last 100 years" and B. "Look! they don't have a grave marker where it should be." ALL the photographs, even the current day ones, are in black-and-white. I found this disappointing. The photos are small, average size about 5.5" x 3.75". If you expect to see much detail in a B&W photo this small of a vast battlefield landscape, you'd better get out your magnifying glass. Let's go over a few things this book does NOT show: 1. Contrary to what another reviewer said, there is NO picture of the Crow's Nest. There is one picture of 4 guys standing NEAR the Crow's Nest, and the camera taking the picture is pointing to the northEAST. So not only do you NOT see the Crow's Nest itself, you CANNOT see the view of the Little Big Horn valley from it. 2. There is no photo of the Lone Tepee site. 3. Incredibly there is NOT a single photo of the location of Reno's skirmish line. This alone is a fatal omission. 4. There is NO photo of the timber where Reno made his brief stand (and started his "charge" to the rear). The closest you'll get in this regard is a photo of Charlie Reynold's grave marker. 5. There is no view from Sharpshooter Ridge to the Reno hilltop position.

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