

Dance of the Ghosts

Belief in Prayer, and the Death of Sitting Bull



Sitting Bull Returns

- It was an embarrassment to the US military that Sitting Bull defied them and lived “free” in Canada
- Finally, SB returned to the US in 1881, in tattered clothing
- SB became a celebrity, the last well know chief of the Sioux, or any other remaining Native American tribe.
- SB is released from US custody and tours with Wild Bill’s well known “Wild West Show” as a star attraction.
- Pg 427 – the strange relationship between NA and the US populace.

Christianity “Our Way”

- In 1890, a Paiute named Wovoka began spreading a religion similar to Christianity. Pg 435.
- He claimed there would be a cleansing of the land, similar to that described in the bible.
- He was seen as a “Christ like” figure by the NA, especially to those that had converted to Christianity.
- In order to bring on the “Rapture” Wovoka claimed the NA must pray by doing the Ghost Dance.
- Thousands of NA getting together to feverishly dance and pray for the end of white people did not go over well with the white settlers.

The Death of Sitting Bull

- “White Hair” McLaughlin, the reservation agent, did not like SB’s attitude that he was a real person, so he accused SB of a conspiracy behind the Ghost Dance, trying to stir the NA to revolt.
- McLaughlin sent the reservation police to arrest SB, but the Ghost Dancers tried to stop them.
- During the scuffle, shots were fired and SB took two bullets, one to his head, killing him as he willingly was arrested.

Wounded Knee



One more massacre

Arrest Warrant for Big Foot

- After SB's death, Big Foot took his tribe of mostly widows and orphans to the Pine Ridge reservation hoping Red Cloud was still strong enough to protect him and his tribe.
- Along the way they are captured by cavalry regiments and are brought to the fort at Wounded Knee, the place where Crazy Horse's heart has been secretly buried.
- Although the tribe is mostly women and children, and BF is mostly dead with pneumonia, a scuffle over a deaf man's rifle breaks out, prompting open gunfire.
- Most US Army casualties and wounds are due to friendly fire
- The NA dead are left to freeze until later for collection.
- Those women and children who survive are locked in a church still set with a nativity scene for the recent Christmas holiday.



Caption

Famous Battery "K" of the 1st Artillery. These brave men and the Hotchkiss guns that Big Foot's Indians thought were toys, Together with the fighting 7th what's left of Gen. Custer's boys, Sent 200 Indians to that Heaven which the ghost dancer enjoys. This checked the Indian noise, And Gen. Miles with staff Returned to Illinois."