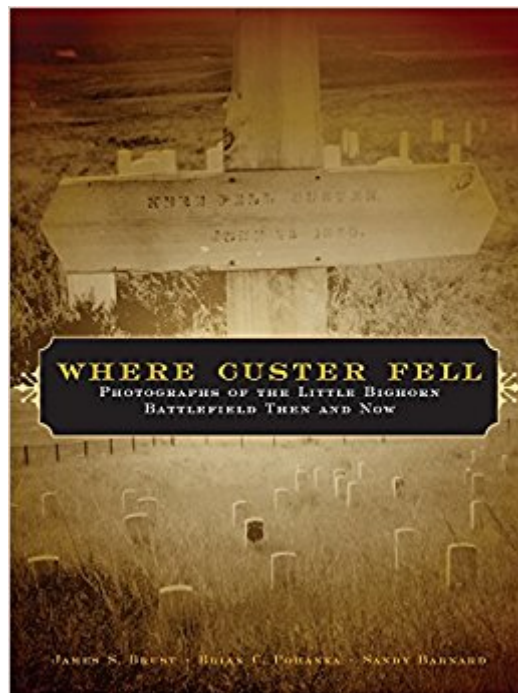


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# Where Custer Fell: Photographs Of The Little Bighorn Battlefield Then And Now



## 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

James S. Brust, M.D., a specialist in historical photographs and prints, has published frequently on these topics in journals and magazines. He resides in San Pedro, California. Brian C. Pohanka, who passed away as this book went to press, was a military historian and author of several books. He also was senior researcher, writer, and adviser for Time-Life Books, television documentaries, and feature films. Sandy Barnard is an independent scholar and writer specializing in the Indian wars. He studied English and History at Boston College and received an M.A. in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1971. He taught journalism at Indiana State University for over 30

years. He has authored numerous books on the Little Bighorn and related topics, including *I Go With Custer: The Life & Death of Reporter Mark Kellogg* (AST Press, 1996), *Campaigning with the Irish Brigade: Pvt. John Ryan, 28th Massachusetts* (AST Press, 2001), *Ten Years with Custer, A 7th Cavalryman's Memoirs* (AST Press, 2001), and, with James S. Brust and Brian C. Pohanka, *Where Custer Fell: Photographs of the Little Bighorn Battlefield Then and Now* (OU Press, 2005). He served as editor of *Greasy Grass*, published by the Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association, and he resides in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Decent photos... But nothing new...ok for someone who has never been to the battlefield or not likely to ever go there... Have been there many times and always learned something new... The most interesting aspect of the battle is viewing the many artifacts found over the years and studying the lives of the survivors. The horse bone photos are about everywhere along with the primitive grave marker photos are just about in every LBH book written !! Would like to take a modern trip by auto 4 wheel drive or horse from Bismark ND to the battlefield and stop at some of the Cavalry campsite and at the Yellowstone conference where all met on the Far West. Then proceed down the Rosebud and cross over the divide into the LBH valley. Think would make for a very insightful book of itself along with modern photos etc. !!!!

I have walked the ground at the battlefield site and I found that the early pictures add a much greater sense of the carnage that existed in the early years following the battle. The oldest pictures reproduced in the book were taken in 1879 just 3 years after the battle. Much of the landforms remain the same, but the road network, buildings and cemetery were all added before archeology studies of historical sites were ever considered. There was at least 20 years of relic hunting at the site before even limited protection was provided. This book is not intended for a person with just a casual interest, but any serious student can benefit from the pictures and text. The book makes it clear to me that any attempt to understand the battle based on the current locations and number of markers can lead to false conclusions. The text tallies the extra grave stones and notes the location of about 28 bodies is unknown. The reproduction of early pictures along with "best" attempts at pictures taken from the original camera locations show the difficult task that burying the dead was. The first attempt amounted to just enough dirt to cover the bodies and even after 2 more trips to the site by military units to "tidy up the site" there were still remains to be found. It is clear that not all remains were marked and that some markers have disappeared. This book was the result of many years of research for pictures and many visits to the site by the authors and is greatly appreciated. I

do wish there had been a few color prints, but I will run up to the site this spring and take a few color pictures to add to the views. JOT

In this very interesting large-format paperback, photos of the Little Big Horn battlefield taken (in some cases) within a year or so of the battle are compared to photos taken as nearly as possible from the same spot and with the same field of view, over the past 20 years. It is amazing how little this landscape has changed, the main differences being due to erosion, changes in the course of the river, and the springing-up of large numbers of trees in what was originally a treeless, barren waste. My main reservation about the book is that clearly, it lives and dies by the quality of the photo reproduction, and this quality is not high. "Serviceable" is the best I can say about it. Another problem is the huge, often nearly maddening, amount of sheer repetition in the text discussions. This is clearly done to make the commentary on each pair of photos as self-contained as possible, but nearly exactly the same comments, in almost exactly the same words, appear over and over. This book makes a good companion to the recent Little Bighorn account, *A TERRIBLE GLORY*. It provides, based on Indian accounts and archaeological excavations, a fairly detailed discussion of the various stages of the battle involving the three companies (or whatever they were called) of cavalry who went along with Custer... details that are not present in *A TERRIBLE GLORY*. The authors make a number of very interesting points, concerning for example the later confusion between the spot where Custer's body was found (at the top of the hill) and the spot where he was buried (about 100 feet down the hillside). It's clear from the photos that Custer's body was found at a spot which today is immediately in front of the later monument. Wherever Custer was buried, he might be still there, because when the graves of the officers of the 7th Cavalry were excavated so that the bodies could be reburied as the families directed (Custer was supposed to wind up at West Point), only a few scattered skeletal fragments turned up in the grave marked as his. Unlike many university press books I have examined in the past few decades, this one has been professionally set in type, and the text looks great.

WHERE CUSTER FELL: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD THEN AND NOW  
Where Custer Fell was great for me and my wife. as we were there in 2013., The Photographs and the story line was OUTSTANDING.. We will be back in 2015. Having read this book and seen the photo's then and now will make our return trip that much better. (nothing to do with this book we found the rangers and staff at the little big horn great. the only thing was I could not buy a shirt with Custer on it. ) My advice would be to buy Photographs of the little Bighorn Battlefield it is a

must.Richard Barron. Boyup Brook Western Australia. ( Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre)[...]

As an avid interestologist regarding Army v. Native American battles of the "Indian Wars", I appreciate the expertise of the writing....the history that hasn't ended regarding the Battle of the Little Bighorn.....however let me use the big word 'BUT" I was disappointed in the few photos in the book. Having other works of similar idea (ex: The Black Hills. Then and now.) I expected to see more "then and now" comparisons. The writings are, more or less, a rehash of other historical printings. Though well written, the title eludes to the "photographic composites" that aren't there. These authors, one of which I knew well, are capable of more.

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