

# DOWNLOAD PDF A COMPLETE LIFE OF MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE A. CUSTER

## Chapter 1 : George Armstrong Custer - Wikipedia

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## Chapter 2 : George Armstrong Custer - HISTORY

*Frederick Whittaker is quite good in writing all the details of Custer's life from being a young boy and living in Monroe, Michigan, meeting Elizabeth Bacon swinging on a gate in front of her house, speaking to him " Hey Custer boy! ".. to his life as a cadet at West Point.*

Visit Website Despite his unimpressive record, the U. Army desperately needed officers to serve in the newly-begun Civil War. He was commissioned a second lieutenant and based in Washington , D. Custer earned a reputation for both bravery and brashness. He also became known as a publicity hound, taking every opportunity to get himself in front of the cameras and newspapermen documenting the war. In the summer of , the year-old Custer was promoted to brigadier general of volunteers, and took command of the Michigan Calvary Brigade. Soon after, he began sporting an unusual and flamboyant uniform, which brought him even more attention. Custer played a key role at the Battle of Gettysburg , preventing General J. Stuart from attacking Union troops, and later capturing Confederates fleeing south after the Union victory. But his brigade lost more than men, the highest of any Union cavalry unit. They fell in love when Custer returned home on leave in Libbie was from a wealthy and prominent local family, but Custer was still months away from the military actions that would first bring him fame. Unlike most military wives of the time, Libbie happily accompanied Custer to his postings, and they both wrote each other constantly when separated. The couple had no children. They held regular salons in their homes, and cultivated journalists back East. After being transferred to Petersburg, he and his men took part in the Battle of Appomattox Court House that finally ended the war in the spring of April He briefly considered leaving the army to pursue business opportunities or run for political office, but when a new 7th Cavalry Regiment was raised to pursue American aims in the West, Custer assumed command as a lieutenant colonel. Custer and Libbie arrived in Kansas in the fall of , and Custer participated in a campaign against the Sioux and Cheyenne the following spring. This resentment would later have devastating consequences. Shortly afterwards, he was court-martialed for leaving his command to visit Libbie. But by the fall of , Custer was back, with Phil Sheridan having argued for his early return to fight in the Indian Wars. In , President Ulysses S. Well aware that they would be unable to make the trek during a harsh winter, the government planned to use this as an excuse to expand hostilities. But in , gold had been discovered in the region " thanks to a mining expedition led by Custer " and the U. Among those who resisted American aggression was Sitting Bull , a Hunkpapa Lakota chief and holy man. Due to lead the 7th Cavalry when it left on its campaign against the Sioux that spring, Custer was instead caught up in the controversies engulfing Ulysses S. His testimony at a Congressional hearing in Washington, D. Custer did himself further damage by leaking additional details to the press. A furious Grant removed Custer from command, and briefly had him arrested when he tried to return to his troops. Only after several high-ranking generals intervened was Custer allowed to return to his post. In mid-May the U. An estimated 2, were gathered in a camp along the Little Bighorn River in what is now Montana. Fearful that the Native Americans would escape, Custer chose to press on with an immediate attack. He divided his troops into three battalions, which were to attack the camp from different directions. Custer and his men headed north, into the Battle of the Little Bighorn , never to be seen alive again. The action of the other battalion commanders has been mired in controversy. Ten years later, at the Battle of the Little Bighorn, Reno faltered, ordering his men to move to safety at the first sign of Indian attack. Captain Frederick Benteen, tasked with preventing the Sioux from retreating, soon met up with Reno. Custer was discovered naked, but unscalped, with a bullet to the chest and forehead. The battle itself may have lasted for up to two hours, as the Americans faced off against a well-equipped Sioux force armed with powerful and deadly repeating rifles. His death at just 36 made him a martyr, with newspaper stories, articles, books, advertisements and Hollywood movies glorifying his life and career. Chief among those burnishing his fame was Libbie Custer, who spent her widowhood writing a series of best-sellers about their life, continuing to cultivate his legacy for more than 50 years until her own death in

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## Chapter 3 : A Complete Life of General George A. Custer: Major-General of Volunteers; Brevet | eBay

*A complete life of Gen. George A. Custer: Major-General of Volunteers; Brevet Major-General, U.S. Army; and Lieutenant-Colonel, Seventh U.S. Cavalry by Whittaker, Frederick, Publication date*

For his entire life he would be called "Autie" by his loved ones, stemming from his own mispronunciation of his middle name. As a boy, he was always distracted by other pursuits and rarely, if ever, established himself from the pack as a student. In he attended a Normal School and by the following year had his teaching certificate to instruct grammar school. It was not long before he grew tired of his profession and soon applied to attend West Point, the U. Custer entered the academy in the fall of He graduated last in a class of 34 in June of As the Civil War broke out, Custer emerged from the academy. He chose the Cavalry as his branch of service. Initially Custer was assigned staff duty with the Army of the Potomac. He soon distinguished himself as a man quick to volunteer and easily relied upon. In November of , Custer was introduced to a sought-after young woman Elizabeth "Libbie" the daughter of a judge. Nevertheless, the two soon began to court writing letters to one another frequently. In the two years since the war had broken out, he had been promoted several times all the way to the rank of Brigadier General of Volunteers, commanding the Michigan Cavalry Brigade. In February , the two were married in Monroe. After the honeymoon, Custer again returned to his obligations as an officer, but the two corresponded incessantly and spent time together whenever the opportunity presented itself. Through the rest of the war he steadily advanced in responsibility and rank. In many cases, Generals led their troops on the battlefield by commanding movements from the rear. Custer, however, distinguished himself as a leader who commanded his troops from the front. Often times in a charge he was the very first soldier to engage the enemy. In one instance, he extended so far ahead of his own men that the enemy cut him off from the rest of his command. Men found in Custer a gallant leader worthy of following into battle. In the majority of the battles where he fought against Confederate forces he was victorious. On many occasions, he narrowly escaped harm in battle having 11 horses shot from under him. He incurred only one wound from a Confederate artillery shell during the Battle of Culpepper Courthouse. As a result he became known for his legendary "Custer Luck. In , when the U. Colonel of the regiment. The first Colonel of the 7th was Col. Andrew Smith, and the second Colonel was Col. Sturgis were usually on detached service, which placed Custer in command of the Regiment until his death on June 25th, In , serving under General Winfield Hancock, Custer would see his first real experience in the west. Ostensibly, the campaign was to enter into peace negotiations with the Southern Cheyennes and Kiowas along the Arkansas River. At the end of the campaign, he was promptly placed under arrest and charged with: The court-martial found him guilty of all charges and he was sentenced to one year of suspension from rank without pay. A dishonored Custer was now plagued with a very different reputation from the venerable one he enjoyed during the Civil War. In , conflict between Cheyennes and homesteaders raged. Army dispatched a winter campaign in response to Indian raids along the Arkansas valley. Custer, now reinstated, was to command the 7th for the campaign which culminated with the Battle of the Washita on November 27th, In , the 7th would be called into action again. This time, they were charged with protecting the Northern Pacific Railroad Survey as it moved along the Yellowstone investigating sites to lay rail. The Lakota, among other tribes, took particular issue with the construction of the railroad. Soon, the Lakotas were attacking survey sites regularly. While neither party realized it at the time, this would be the first contact between Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Gall and other notable Lakota figures and their famous opponent; Custer. Opportunistic men began to enter the hills in search of riches. Meanwhile, homesteaders had been frequently raided by Lakota war-parties. The army sought to establish a fort in the Black Hills to deter mining invasions and protect Lakota land, as well as have a site within the Sioux lands for the purposes of preventing further raiding. The 7th was charged with finding a proper site for a fort to be built. Along for the expedition, at the behest of General Custer, were two professional miners. During the summer expedition, gold was discovered and accompanying journalists

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quickly sent word back east of pay dirt. The rumors of gold in the Black Hills that had been circulating for over fifty years had now been confirmed, and a new gold rush was on. By late , information had become public that high ranking officials in Washington were involved in a scandal that involved the selling of exclusive trading rights at forts and posts along the upper Missouri region. The licenses needed to trade at military forts were issued by the Secretary of War, William Belknap. In March and April of , Custer testified before a congressional committee that Secretary Belknap was involved in the graft. This put Custer in a precarious situation with the Commander and Chief, who was presently overseeing the final planning stages of an offensive on non-treaty Lakotas and Cheyennes for the upcoming spring. Custer was eventually allowed to command his 7th Cavalry for the upcoming campaign. In the spring of , the U. Army dispatched 3 massive columns comprising multiple regiments of Cavalry, Infantry, and Artillery. Their objective was to clear the area of the Lakota and Cheyenne and force them onto the Great Sioux Reservation. On the morning of June 25th, based on intelligence suggesting that the Lakotas and Cheyennes were about to flee, Custer ordered his 7th Cavalry to attack. By the end of the day, soldiers and approximately 80 Lakotas and Cheyennes lay dead. Custer was among them. Less than two weeks later on July 4th, Philadelphia was bursting at the seams with pride and nationalism. On the th birthday of the United States people had come from all over the world to share in the theme of " Years of Progress. Americans were confounded in shock and stricken with grief. Americans were devastated, but none more than Libbie, the wife of the fallen General. For the rest of her days, she tirelessly lobbied public opinion portraying her husband as a brave, gallant, and noble figure struck down before his time. Thanks in large part to Libbie, her husband achieved in death the infamy he sought in life. Since the day of his death in , Custer has and will forever remain a lightning-rod of controversy. Regardless of his merit, Custer has been and will forever remain at the forefront of American historical discourse.

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## Chapter 4 : A Complete Life of General George A. Custer

*A complete life of Gen. George A. Custer: Major-General of Volunteers; Brevet Major-General, U.S. Army; and Lieutenant-Colonel, Seventh U.S. Cavalry.*

Custer also had three older half-siblings. Emanuel Custer was an outspoken Democrat who taught his children politics and toughness at an early age. He had to have a tooth drawn, and he was very much afraid of blood. When I took him to the doctor to have the tooth pulled, it was in the night and I told him if it bled well it would get well right away, and he must be a good soldier. When he got to the doctor he took his seat, and the pulling began. The forceps slipped off and he had to make a second trial. He pulled it out, and Autie never even scrunched. Going home, I led him by the arm. It was to train teachers for elementary schools. While attending Hopedale, Custer and classmate William Enos Emery were known to have carried coal to help pay for their room and board. His class numbered seventy-nine cadets embarking on a five-year course of study. With the outbreak of the American Civil War in , the course was shortened to four years, and Custer and his class graduated on June 24, He was 34th in a class of 34 graduates: In his four years at West Point, he amassed a record-total of demerits, one of the worst conduct records in the history of the academy. A fellow cadet recalled Custer as declaring there were only two places in a class, the head and the foot, and since he had no desire to be the head, he aspired to be the foot. A roommate noted, "It was alright with George Custer, whether he knew his lesson or not; he simply did not allow it to trouble him. All officers were needed. Civil War[ edit ] McClellan and Pleasonton[ edit ] Custer with ex-classmate, friend, and captured Confederate prisoner, Lieutenant James Barroll Washington, an aide to General Johnston , at Fair Oaks, Virginia, Like the other graduates, Custer was commissioned as a second lieutenant ; he was assigned to the 2nd U. Cavalry Regiment and tasked with drilling volunteers in Washington, D. After the battle, Custer continued participating in the defenses of Washington D. He was absent from his unit until February Johnston up the Peninsula, when General Barnard and his staff were reconnoitering a potential crossing point on the Chickahominy River , they stopped, and Custer overheard Barnard mutter, "I wish I knew how deep it is. The attack was successful, resulting in the capture of 50 Confederate soldiers and the seizing of the first Confederate battle flag of the war. McClellan termed it a "very gallant affair" and congratulated Custer personally. In his role as aide-de-camp to McClellan, Custer began his life-long pursuit of publicity. On July 17, he was reverted to the rank of first lieutenant. Recalling his service under Pleasonton, Custer was quoted as saying that "no father could love his son more than General Pleasonton loves me. Lee , moving north through the Shenandoah Valley in the beginning of what was to become the Gettysburg Campaign. On June 29, after consulting with his new commander, George Meade , Pleasonton began replacing political generals with "commanders who were prepared to fight, to personally lead mounted attacks". Wesley Merritt , Elon J. Farnsworth both of whom had command experience and George A. All received immediate promotions; Custer to brigadier general of volunteers, commanding the Michigan Cavalry Brigade "Wolverines". Custer lost no time in implanting his aggressive character on his brigade, part of the division of Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick. Now a general officer, Custer had great latitude in choosing his uniform. Though often criticized as gaudy, it was more than personal vanity. He intended to lead from the front, and to him it was a crucial issue of unit morale that his men be able to look up in the middle of a charge, or at any other time on the battlefield, and instantly see him leading the way into danger. Hearing gunfire, he turned and started to the sound of the guns. Reassembling his command, he received orders from Kilpatrick to engage the enemy northeast of town near the railway station. Custer deployed his troops and began to advance. After a brief firefight, the rebels withdrew to the northeast. This seemed odd, since it was supposed that Lee and his army were somewhere to the west. Though seemingly of little consequence, this skirmish further delayed Stuart from joining Lee. Further, as Captain James H. Kidd, commander of F troop, Sixth Michigan Cavalry, later wrote: Late in the morning they heard sounds of gunfire from the direction of Gettysburg. The next morning,

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July 2, , orders came to hurry north to disrupt General Richard S. Returning to his men, he carefully positioned them along both sides of the road where they would be hidden from the rebels. As he had expected, the rebels, "more than two hundred horsemen, came racing down the country road" after Custer and his men. He lost half of his men in the deadly rebel fire and his horse went down, leaving him on foot. The rebels broke off their attack, and both sides withdrew. He was about to experience perhaps his finest hours during the war. To accomplish this, he sent Stuart with six thousand cavalymen and mounted infantry on a long, flanking maneuver. Custer then sent out scouts to investigate nearby wooded areas. About the same time Gregg received a message warning that a large body of rebel cavalry had moved out the York Pike and might be trying to get around the Union right. A second message, from Pleasonton, ordered Gregg to send Custer to cover the Union far left. Since Gregg had already sent most of his force off to other duties, it was clear to both Gregg and Custer that Custer must remain. They had about men facing Confederates. Soon afterward fighting broke out between the skirmish lines. Stuart ordered an attack by his mounted infantry under General Albert G. Custer ordered Pennington to answer. Resupplied, they again pressed the attack. Outnumbered, the Union cavalry fell back, firing as they went. The Fifth Michigan was forced back and the battle was reduced to vicious, hand-to-hand combat. Seeing this, Custer mounted a counter- attack, riding ahead of the fewer than new troopers of the Seventh Michigan Cavalry, shouting, "Come on, you Wolverines! The horses and men became jammed into a solid mass and were soon attacked on their left flank by the dismounted Ninth and Thirteenth Virginia Cavalry and on the right flank by the mounted First Virginia cavalry. The pursuing Confederates were cut down by canister, then driven back by the remounted Fifth Michigan Cavalry. Both forces withdrew to a safe distance to regroup. The artillery barrage to the west had suddenly stopped. A grander spectacle than their advance has rarely been beheld". He must make one, last effort to break through the Union cavalry. Outnumbered but undaunted, Custer rode to the head of the regiment, "drew his saber, threw off his hat so they could see his long yellow hair" and shouted McIntosh was able to gather some of his men from the First New Jersey and Third Pennsylvania and charged the rebel left flank. Stuart knew that whatever chance he had of joining the Confederate assault was gone. He withdrew his men to Cress Ridge. She was not initially impressed with him, [33] and her father, Judge Daniel Bacon, disapproved of Custer as a match because he was the son of a blacksmith. It was not until well after Custer had been promoted to the rank of brevet brigadier general that he gained the approval of Judge Bacon. He married Elizabeth Bacon fourteen months after they formally met. Cheyenne oral history tells that she also bore a second child, fathered by Custer in late Some historians, however, believe that Custer had become sterile after contracting gonorrhea while at West Point and that the father was, in actuality, his brother Thomas. Stuart was mortally wounded. Sheridan and Custer, having defeated Early, returned to the main Union Army lines at the Siege of Petersburg , where they spent the winter. In April the Confederate lines finally broke, and Robert E. Lee began his retreat to Appomattox Court House , pursued by the Union cavalry. She treasured the gift of the historical table, which is now in the Smithsonian Institution. Custer rode Don Juan in the grand review victory parade in Washington, D. The owner, Richard Gaines, wrote to General Grant, who then ordered Custer to return the horse to Gaines, but he did not, instead hiding the horse and winning a race with it the next year, before the horse died suddenly. June 24, First Lieutenant, 5th Cavalry: June 5, Brigadier General, U. May 8, Brevet Lieutenant Colonel: April 15, Mustered out of Volunteer Service: February 1, Lieutenant Colonel, 7th Cavalry: Custer arrived at Alexandria on June 27 and began assembling his units, which took more than a month to gather and remount. On July 17, he assumed command of the Cavalry Division of the Military Division of the Gulf on August 5, officially named the 2nd Division of Cavalry of the Military Division of the Gulf , and accompanied by his wife, he led the division five regiments of veteran Western Theater cavalymen to Texas on an arduous day march in August. On October 27, the division departed to Austin. During his entire period of command of the division, Custer encountered considerable friction and near mutiny from the volunteer cavalry regiments who had campaigned along the Gulf coast. They desired to be mustered out of Federal service rather than continue campaigning, resented imposition of discipline particularly from an

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Eastern Theater general , and considered Custer nothing more than a vain dandy. Although their occupation of Austin had apparently been pleasant, many veterans harbored deep resentments against Custer, particularly in the 2nd Wisconsin Cavalry , because of his attempts to maintain discipline. Upon its mustering out, several members planned to ambush Custer, but he was warned the night before and the attempt thwarted.