Smithsonian
National Museum of Natural History

Bill Groethe photographs of surviviors of the Battle of Little Big Horn, 1948

Sarah Ganderup

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National Anthropological Archives
Museum Support Center
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Table of Contents

Collection Overview 1
Administrative Information 1
Local Call Number(s)..... 2
Scope and Contents note..... 2
Biographical/Historical note..... 1
Bibliography..... 2
Names and Subjects 2
Container Listing .....

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Anthropological Archives
Title:	Bill Groethe photographs of surviviors of the Battle of Little Big Horn
Date:	1948
Identifier:	NAA.PhotoLot.92-14
Creator:	Groethe, Bill, 1923-
Extent:	10 Gelatin silver prints (mounted)
Language:	Undetermined .

Administrative Information

Provenance

Donated by Bill Groethe through Art Madill, 1992.

Location of Other Archival Materials

Groethe's photograph, entitled "Lakota Moon of the Longest Night," held in National Anthropological Archives Photo Lot 2002-02.

Preferred Citation

Photo Lot 92-14, Bill Groethe photographs of surviviors of the Battle of Little Big Horn, National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

Restrictions

The collection is open for research.

Access to the collection requires an appointment.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright retained by Bill Groethe. Contact the repository for terms of use and access.

Biographical Note

William M. Groethe (b. 1923) is a professional photographer from Rapid City, South Dakota, known for his photographs of Mount Rushmore and his portrait of the last survivors of the 1876 Battle of Little Big Horn. Mentored by fellow Rapid City photographers Carl Rise and Bert Bell, Groethe was the only professional photographer in attendance at the reunion of the Battle of the Little Big Horn survivors. Both Rapid City and the State of South Dakota declared September 2, 2009 as William M. Groethe Day in honor of the 61st anniversary of the Little Bighorn photo.

Scope and Contents

Photographs made by Bill Groethe depicting a reunion of survivors of the Battle of Little Big Horn at Custer State Park, South Dakota, on September 2, 1948. The survivors depicted include Little Warrior, Pemmican, Little Soldier, Dewey Beard, High Eagle, Iron Hawk, Comes Again, and Nicholas Black Elk. John Sitting Bull, though not a survivor himself, was present to represent Sitting Bull, his adoptive father.

Bibliography

Photographs published in Mary Duffy, "Bill Groethe: Master photographer of Mount Rushmore," South Dakota Magazine, May/June 1991.

Local Call Number(s)

NAA Photo Lot 92-14

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Hunkpapa Lakota (Hunkpapa Sioux)
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)
Little Bighorn, Battle of the, Mont., 1876
Minneconjou Lakota (Minniconjou Sioux)
Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)

Cultures:

Hunkpapa Lakota (Hunkpapa Sioux)
Indians of North America -- Great Plains
Lakota (Teton/Western Sioux)
Minneconjou Lakota (Minniconjou Sioux)
Oglala Lakota (Oglala Sioux)

Names:

Beard, Dewey
Black Elk, 1863-1950

Places:

Custer State Park (S.D.)

Addl. KW Subj

Sioux