



# The Last Indian Fight in Wyoming

The Incident at Lightning Creek  
October 31, 1903

Thank you to William D. Moss for compiling this booklet of original documents and newspaper articles, and allowing the Niobrara Historical Society to reprint the booklets.



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he died. Charles Falkenburg, a well known wolf hunter, also of this city, fell shortly after the skirmish began. He was shot through the neck and his head was almost severed from his body. He died instantly.

#### **Chief Killed.**

Chief Black Kettle fell at the first fire and expired at once. Eagle Feather had both legs shattered by balls and laid on the battle field all night, being brought here this morning, together with the four other Indian prisoners, the twenty horses and the paraphernalia of the Indians, including the evidence of their depredations. Black Kettle, who was killed, is believed to have been the one who shot Sheriff Miller.

#### **Kills Six Redskins**

During the fight six redskins were killed, ten were wounded, five were captured and the rest escaped, taking their wounded with them wherever possible.

#### **Brought to Newcastle.**

A special train was sent out from here yesterday having on board Mrs. Miller, wife of the murdered sheriff, Dr. Horton, a trained nurse, and medical supplies, it being reported then that Sheriff Miller was not dead. The train went east to Crawford, Neb. and then went over the Elkhorn to Lusk.

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## **SECOND BATTLE**

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Special to the Leader.

Douglas, Wyo. Nov. 2 — A message was received here this afternoon giving meager details of another bloody battle which was fought yesterday afternoon near the scene of the first conflict. In the battle ten more Indians were killed and a dozen taken prisoners.

#### **Indians Reinforced**

After the battle of Saturday the Indians who escaped were joined by another large party of redskins who were hunting in the mountains. It was presumed that the first band of twenty-five were all the Indians in the country.

The same posse from here, reinforced by many ranchmen from the surrounding country, came upon the Indians about 3 o'clock several

miles from the scene of yesterday's fight and immediately gave battle. The Indians sought shelter and from every rock, tuft of grass or other shelter shots rang out. The Indians displaying their wild nature in fiendish yells. After an hour's fighting the redskins were again dislodged and completely routed. Most of those killed met their death while making a running retreat. During this fight not one of the posse was hit, although many had narrow escapes.

#### **Country Up in arms.**

From advices received from the Lightning creek district the entire country is up in arms over the outrage and the mountains are swarming with rangers anxious to over-take the fugitives. Poses have started out from Newcastle under John Owen, the noted Indian fighter, and will try to intercept the Indians who are headed for the agency. A posse from here under Sheriff Jack McDermitt, from Lusk, and other places started out as soon as news of the fight was received and this afternoon another large party left Douglas for the scene of the fighting.

#### **BODIES REACH NEWCASTLE.**

Special to The Leader.

Newcastle, Wyo. Nov. 2 — Jim Davis and D. Hackney have arrived here with the bodies of Miller and Falkenburg and the excitement is intense. Another portion of the posse are bringing in the prisoners, horses and outfit and is expected to reach here tonight. There is much talk of a wholesale lynching and it is possible Company A of the Wyoming National Guard will be called out to guard the redskins. The companies here, at Buffalo and Douglas have been instructed by Governor Chatterton to hold themselves in readiness to take the field at a moment's notice. It is improbable that the state troops will be called upon as there is a sufficient number of deputies to handle the hostile Indians and these are better able to engage the Indians than the troops.

#### **A Bad Indian.**

Sheriff Miller had several times received word from Eagle Feather that he could not take him and challenging the officer to attempt it. Eagle Feather also goes by the name of Smith and is a highly educated Sioux and a graduate of the Carlisle Indian college.

### **Governor Takes Action.**

Governor Chatterton, since he received the first news of the fighting, has kept himself well posted on events and has taken steps to call out the National Guard if necessary to quell the uprising. He has called the attention of the chief of the bureau of Indian affairs to the outrage and will ask that hereafter no more Indians will be permitted to leave their reservations to hunt in Wyoming.

**The Cheyenne Daily Leader**  
**Vol. XXXVII Number 74**  
**November 4, 1903**  
**Page 2**

The later reports published in yesterday's Leader about the Indian trouble have since been confirmed. There was only one engagement and the result was the death of two officials and four Indians.

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The Rosebud agency Is a new title to the old Pine Ridge agency, but it would appear that the character of the Indian has not been changed.







## FIGHT WITH INDIANS

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### Two White Men and Four Bucks Killed on Saturday on Lightning Creek.

Sheriff Miller of Weston County, Louie Falkenburg of Douglas and four Indians were killed, and a squaw seriously wounded on Lightning creek, just below the mouth of Walker and about forty-five miles north-east of Douglas, on Saturday last, as a result of an attempt on the part of Sheriff Miller and a posse of twelve deputies to arrest the redskins for killing game. The Indians were from the Pine Ridge Agency, numbering twenty-two bucks and about forty squaws and papooses. An attempt was made to arrest them on Friday while they were still in Weston county; but the Indians defied the officers and was compelled to retire for reinforcements — the Indians mean while crossing the line into this county where they were intercepted Saturday. A demand from Johnny Owens, who was in charge of the posse that the Indians surrender was answered with a rifle shot which fatally wounded the sheriff, and for a few minutes a veritable battle raged — the Indians finally scattered in all directions.

A telegram from Lusk Sunday forenoon brought the first news of the battle, and Sheriff McDermott and deputy Tom Cook set out for the scene of the trouble accompanied by Messrs, Morton, Williams, Mecum, Potter, Moore, Burbank, Hubbell, Wright, Heddon, Parsons and Rhoads. On their arrival on the battlefield, however, they found the dead Indians buried and the bodies of Miller and Falkenburg enroute for Newcastle — the fleeing redskins having made good their escape with no prospect of catching them this side of the reservation. Sheriff McDermott reached Lusk yesterday and left on the evening train for the agency where he hopes to intercept the murderers.

The body of Falkenburg will be brought here for burial — he having been a resident of this section for seventeen years in the capacity of range hand and trapper.

As we go to press we learn that a Weston County posse, headed by Lee Mather, captured nine bucks and ten squaws on Cheyenne River yesterday afternoon, which were taken to Edgemont.

Acting Governor Chatterton has made a demand on the agent at Pine Ridge for the arrest of the redskins believed to be implicated, and if their identity can be established Converse county is up against a lengthy and expensive trial, with the possibility a dozen hangings as a fitting finally.

1903 NOVEMBER 1903

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | 5   | 6   | 7   |
| 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  | 12  | 13  | 14  |
| 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19  | 20  | 21  |
| 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  | 27  | 28  |
| 29  | 30  |     |     |     |     |     |

#### PERSONAL AND LOCAL NEWS.

—Harvey Card was down from Manville yesterday.

—A big stock of heating stoves on sale at Henry Glinther's.

—L. Johnson made a business trip to Orin Junction yesterday.

—Heavy frosts have been of nightly occurrence during the past week.

—M. R. Collins has taken up the duties of cashier in the Lusk bank.

—Largest and best assortment of stoves ever in Lusk, at Sargeant Bros.

—C. A. Sherman of Manville, made a couple business trips to Lusk this week.

—Mrs. Wm. Legg is in from the ranch spending the week with Mrs. C. Schwartz.

—H. H. Crater and wife went to Manville yesterday to attend the Case-Allen nuptials.

—Nellie McFarlane has been confined to the house with sore throat for a couple of days.

—E. P. Merrill, the best plan tuner that ever struck Lusk, is here and will remain the rest of the week.

—Thanksgiving will be here three weeks from today. Better get that turkey up and fatten it for the occasion.

—Commissioner Lowrey went to the county seat Tuesday to attend a meeting of the county dads. He returned home last evening.

—Mrs. W. H. Little returned yesterday from Edgemont, where she had been for some two or three weeks visiting with her parents.

—The kids were out in full force on Halloween playing pranks in various ways, but as they did not destroy any property, we will not give them away.

—Of course you are all going to the Thanksgiving Ball, given in the "Journals" of Lusk Thursday evening, November 26, 1903. Everybody is cordially invited to attend.

—Mrs. H. D. Howard returned home last Saturday from a six weeks' visit with her parents at Chicago. She found everything in ship shape. Dick having had the house thoroughly cleaned and renovated during her absence.

—C. A. Hollingsworth of Sand creek, passed through Lusk Tuesday with 500 head of cattle, and is taking them down to the sand hills country in Nebraska to winter. In his section the sheep and grasshoppers ate the range down so close that he felt it was unsafe to try and winter his cattle at the home ranch.

—Sheriff McDermott and Under Sheriff Tom Cook came in from the north yesterday, where they had been looking for the Indians that escaped after the fight with the posse of men from Newcastle. The sheriff went on down to Pine Ridge agency in hope of capturing the escaped red skins as they arrived at that place.

Several railway engines had to drink city water again Tuesday and yesterday because there was not enough wind to turn the company windmills, consequently all the tanks along the line were empty. Many ranchmen have also complained the past four or five days about there not being a sufficient breeze to turn the windmills, and in some cases stock suffered for want of water.

—More seats had to be put in the Lusk school rooms this week on account of an increase of pupils coming in from the country to attend school. There is a larger enrollment of scholars on the school registers this term than there has ever been and from now on the attendance will be even larger. If the increase keeps up it won't be long before another room will have to be added to the school building.

—Go to Howard's for tablets, pencils, pens, ink, etc.

—Ed Barber went to Casper yesterday to buy stock sheep.

—Harness and saddles repaired promptly at Henry Glinther's.

—Queenware, parlor lamps, carpets and carpet lining, at Grant's.

—Lou Cook is spending a few days here, being in from his sheep camp.

—Jacob MUI went to Douglas on Tuesday to deliver a bunch of sheep he sold.

—Miss Leona Brownrigg entertained her music scholars Saturday evening.

—Miss Lottie Lehmer spent Sunday at the ranch with Gen. Keithley and family.

—A G. Lowrey is having a kitchen and coal house built on the north side of his residence.

—The little boy of Gen. Keithley, who has been suffering from cankerous sore throat, is somewhat better at this writing.

—I wish to close my books and want those who have not been in to see me to call and settle at once. I need the money. H. C. Snyder.

—Mrs. Minnie Hummel, nee Hardigen, left for her home at Casper Monday, after spending a week on her homestead a few miles north-east of Lusk.

—A. B. and Frank Gairbreath, C. A. Sheldon, Mert Jones and George Lacey were in from their respective ranches near Warren last Saturday after grain and supplies.

—Lost, between Lusk and the stock yards, a ladies purse containing \$2.10 in silver, a gold ring with a set in it and a breast pin. Finder please return to this office and receive reward.

—Quite a number of cases of sore throat are reported in this vicinity. That time of year has arrived when you should be careful about catching cold and exposing yourself to the different changes of the weather.

—Emery Collins, who has acted as city engineer for the past two or three years, left last week for Douglas, where he has accepted a position as electrician with the Douglas Electric Light company, a more lucrative position than the one he had here.

—Dr. Schwartz, the eye specialist of Denver, will be here November 10. He has done more work here than any other eye specialist and comes here oftener than any other eye specialist. Don't forget the date—November 10.

—Bully Reynolds returned Saturday from Kansas City, Missouri, where he had been with a shipment of cattle. He put on exhibition at the stock show there a bunch of yearling steers that took second prize. This is certainly a good showing for grass grown cattle and shows that they have the right kind of blood in them.

—Steve Franklin brought to Lusk yesterday afternoon the four squaws that were left out in the battle ground north of here. The wounded squaw is not in such bad shape as was reported and may recover. Steve says he is thinking seriously of throwing in permanently with the dusky dandies and go to the reservation with them.

—On Monday a very important business change took place in Lusk whereby one of the most important business firms in the town's history passed into other hands. That of the Collins Commercial Co., which was purchased by H. C. Snyder and the two large mercantile stores of Lusk were merged into one under the firm name of H. C. Snyder & Co. It is with considerable regret that we see the Collins boys release their hold on the mercantile business in Lusk as they have been identified with that part of the town's interest almost from its inception. To the new firm we do all our tie and wish it all possible success. H. C. Snyder, the wheel-horse of the firm, is a merchant in all that the word implies, having had several years experience in that line. He is courteous, affable and accommodating and will give the town a store of which it may well be proud.

**Serap With Indians.**

Our annual trouble with Indians for violating the state game laws has occurred again and this time it proved more serious than ever before. Late Saturday night Steve Franklin came to Lusk and said Sheriff Miller of Newcastle with 12 men undertook to arrest 24 Indians on the head of Beaver Dams for killing antelope, but that the Indians resisted arrest and a battle with Winchester rifles followed. In the fight Sheriff Miller was wounded and L. Falkenberg, a trapper, was killed. Dr. Brownrigg was sent at once to the scene of the trouble, but the wounded sheriff died about an hour after he was shot.

Early Sunday morning a posse of eight men left town to reinforce the crowd that was supposed to be holding the Indians, but when they arrived it was found that the red skins had stealthily taken flight during the night. Four Indians named Chief Smith, Black Kettle, Gray Bear and a boy 15 years old were killed in the battle which ensued and they were rolled in their blankets and planted under steep inches of earth on the field of battle. An Indian wagon was still on the ground and it contained Chief Smith's wife with a bullet wound in her left shoulder and three squaws cursing her. The wound is serious and it is not thought she will recover.

After the fight the Indians split up into small bands and started for the reservation, some going in one direction and some in another. By the time officers and posses arrived there no Indians were left and a pursuit for the escaped ones was begun, but without success, the Indians having got too much of a start for the posses to overtake them. Probably ere this the Indians have reached the reservation, and it now remains to be seen whether or not the government will allow them to be arrested, brought back to Wyoming and stand trial for violating the state's game laws and resisting arrest from our officers.

Since the above was put in type the Indians that escaped were captured about 20 miles east of Edgemont, South Dakota, by a posse of Indian police, who heard of the trouble here and came out to meet the Indians, who were heading for the Pine Ridge reservation. Sheriff McDermott passed through Lusk this morning with the Indians and they will be given a trial at Douglas.

**Warren and Northview Sayings.**

The savaniti is working now. Coyotes are still being slain.

The Thomases are at home again. Gen. Tool took in Edgemont last week.

We are told that Mr. Brewster has sold out.

Sam Seaman's new house is nearing completion.

Chris Ruffing went to Harrison the fore part of the week.

Colla Thayer went to visit her brother, Logan Thayer, on Lance creek, last Saturday and Sunday.

Some people seem to be afraid of this nice weather. I saw the more of it the better we had but little summer.

Some of the people are scared about the Indians, thinking that the whole agency will now get aroused.

Little Andrew Garnetson started out of school a few days to go down visiting his mother, who lives near Harrison.

G. Tool went down to Ed Arnold last Monday to get the seats that belong to the Old Woman creek school house, they having been taken there by mistake.

Mrs. Ed Wilson's sister, Cassie, died week before last in central Nebraska and Mrs. Wilson went down there and brought the body back to Chadron to be buried. Mrs. Wilson has the sympathy of the community in her sad bereavement.

**Notice to Debtors.**

Parties indebted to us please call and settle accounts. All accounts must be settled or we will be obliged to make claims.

**H. C. SNYDER & CO.**

We have moved to the old Collins Commercial Co. building, where you will find the largest

**General Merchandise**

stock ever seen in Lusk. We wish to reduce our stock as fast as possible as we are crowded for room. We offer you the best goods money can buy, prices as low as we can live, and as courteous treatment as we know how to give. Come and see us.

**H. C. SNYDER & CO.**

Call at Howard's



**Fruit & Confectionery Store**

For Anything in the Line of

**FRUITS, CANDIES & NUTS.**

Also—

**JEWELRY AND SILVERWARE**

Ever Always on Hand

H. D. HOWARD, West Side Main Street. Silver's Gold Stand, Lusk, Wyo.

**Lusk Barber Shop.**

First-Class and up to Date.

Shop one door north of the Herald office. Hair cut 25 cents; shampoo, 35 cents; head trim, 25 cents; bath, 15 cents; massage, 45 cents; shave, 15 cents; hot face, 30 cents. Hot baths any time you want them. Newcomb's hair oil hair dressing for sale in bulk. Shop open Sunday's (still open). No hairdressers or rough talk allowed in shop.

W. H. LITTLE Proprietor. Lusk, Wyoming.

**You Can Furnish Your Home Throughout**

any day you happen to want. I have the stock on hand from Mr. Howard of CHICAGO. No credit deals or rent work in this business. In WASH. PAPER our showings are second to none. Respectfully

**Theron S. Grant.**

Lusk, Wyoming.

**MRS. E. L. CRATER,**

DEALER IN

**Fruits, Candies and Cigars.**

I also grow or send out all kinds fresh fruit, jams, etc., and all things current in first-class confectionery store.

**Meals Served at Meal Hours;**

**Lunches Served at all Times.**

SINGLE MEALS, 15 CENTS

**Tickets Good for 20 Meals, \$5, Cash in Advance.**

Mr. E. L. Crater, east side Main street, Lusk, Wyo.

## Scrap With Indians

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# NEWCASTLE NEWS-JOURNAL.

VOLUME XV.

NEWCASTLE, WESTON COUNTY, WYOMING, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1903.

NUMBER 4

## The Indian Trouble.

About the 20th of October there was brought to Sheriff Miller a small band of Indians from the northern part of the county, telling him that they had been killed and that they had been killed.

Fast the laws should be enforced and the property of our people protected. Sheriff Miller organized a posse of deputy sheriffs and started them on October 23. He having other business to attend to started the next day and joined his posse.

These Indians were from the small band of elk men and were known to the mouth of Laramie. These were followed and shot back to Newcastle, where they were brought in by Deputy Sheriff Ed Buchanan and Arden Edmonds.

The rest of the party then started for Thunder Basin where they were reported the Indians were. Arriving in that country it was found that the Indians had gone south. They were followed and shot of over twenty bullets, and the dry park of the Cheyenne River, Miller demanded their surrender, and upon their refusal held a long consultation with them but without avail as their chief, Charley Smith or Eagle, refused to submit to arrest. Finally telling the officers that they were not strong enough to take them, and even stating that if the officers wanted trouble they could have it. Then he withdrew his men. Sheriff Miller withdrew his men. The next day he secured additional men and followed the roving band with them on Laramie Creek, about thirty miles from the Thunder Basin. On Saturday evening October 31, Miller's force now numbering twelve men besides himself and thinking it strong enough to force the Indians to surrender, they entered the camp and the sheriff called a man repeatedly to surrender. They refused to do so, and upon being ordered to surrender several times, the Indians fired upon the officers. The fight then began. The fight then began. The fight then began.

Immediately afterward Sheriff Miller was shot through the right, the wound, very heavy, severed close by the body. In a very few moments and before the fight was over, Mr. Miller fell so much that he was very weak and in less than half an hour he had passed away.

The Indians broke and ran when it was found that they had been killed and that they had been killed. Several others of the Indians, but have seriously injured. These who were gathered about by and around their fallen leader were: Oliver Johnson, Jack Moore, James Davis, John Owens, Paul Howell, Ralph Mackay, Louis Palenberg, Frank Zerbst, Charlie Harvey, Steve Franking, Henry Olson and George Fosham.

Word was immediately sent to Lusk, the nearest place, and Sunday afternoon a message was received from Lusk, stating that the Indians were not in the vicinity. The message was not received in response. Being Sunday it was very slow getting any word to Lusk or Douglas. Late in the evening an answer was received from Lusk stating that Sheriff Miller was seriously wounded. A special train was secured and Mrs. Miller accompanied by Miss Alice Brown, Dr. Horton and Deputy Sheriff Nichols went to Crawford to take the Northwestern train to Lusk to render that assistance as possible.

About three o'clock Monday morning a party came in with the bodies of Sheriff Miller and Mr. Palenberg. Word was immediately sent to Mrs. Miller who returned on 11.

Monday night a posse under Deputy Sheriff Lee Mathor of Crook county was sent from here to Edmond to intercept the Indians on their way to the reservation and early Tuesday morning captured them between Edmond and Arbuckle. There being some Indians and twelve square in the field. The rest of the band including Chief White Horse, were taken to the reservation.

Tuesday Indian Agent Brown arrived here and the authorities delivered to him the party had been and sent them home. The party captured near Edmond were sent to Douglas.

A terrible accident. Last Tuesday morning about two o'clock while Mr. W. H. Miller, a well-known Indian trader here, was in the act of loading some goods in some manner and his legs were driven under the wheels of the moving car. One leg was crushed and a pain and torture, agonizing, which the other was severely injured.

After being treated and laid under the wheels for some time, the Indian trader, who had been in his position and traveled away from the track and called to the engine driver for help.

The unfortunate man was taken home and all possible attention shown him but he could not be saved. He was taken to his wife and children. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn his sad demise who have the sympathy of all in their sad bereavement.

The remains were taken to Alliance for burial.

## HORTON.

Heads as sharp as a rapier, a quality considered, at S. G. Horton & Co.

This community gives their sympathy to Mrs. Miller and children.

Everybody is worked up over the shooting of Mr. Miller who was well liked around here.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Humphrey were visiting with the family in the late part of the week. Stanley Gentry was sent to work on the river. We wonder what's going to happen.

Charles Aggers has just completed a well for Peter Christensen. He reports plenty of water at a distance of eighty-four feet.

Andy Patonowski is going to have a well drilled. He has dug so many holes that there is no room to dig another.

Miss Rhoda Randall departed for Omaha last week after a month's vacation here.

Some of the early rustling for furs are thrashing chaff in the result of their work in the spring. Johnnie Moore has been digging his apids. He reports 4500 pounds from 275 pounds of seed. How's that for not crop in Weston county?

To have Sammel Kise singing in the small hours as he goes along the road with you would think that the angels had opened up in song.

P. R. Aiken.

## BUCKHORN.

Having fine weather now. If you want a good trade call on Harman.

Farmers are getting ready for the threshing machine. Mr. J. A. Ott will spend the winter at Buckhorn with friends. Plenty of disease at Buckhorn. One is named for paper lamp.

If you are going to say all winter you had better bring some grain.

Mrs. J. S. Sanderson and Mrs. Charles Loomis were entertained by the Harmon family.

Geo. Hubbard has gone to Montana after a load of lumber for the Buckhorn store.

## Meeting of County Board.

At the next meeting of the Sheridan county board of commissioners John Johnson will bring up the subject of leasing an invitation to every county board in the state to send representatives to meet at Jackson, the state capital, during the month of January, probably in the first week of the month.

Johnson's proposition is to prevent improper assessments being made than to correct them after they have been made and this view is shared by many prominent men of this part of the state, including Chairman Ator of the Sheridan county board. If all the counties will send a member to this meeting a multitude of questions for assessment purposes can be solved.

So that one county will not assess land or other property half as high or twice as high as the neighbor. Mr. Johnson's plan should meet with the approval of all who want to see equality in the matter of taxation.—Sheridan Post.

The above suggestion is a valuable one and is one that the county officials of Weston county have been working for years. During the year 1902, the commissioners of this county requested the other counties in this part of the state to unite in sending a delegation to the state board of equalization and discuss assessments with that body. Since that time the officials of this county have been working for the same object which resulted in the representatives of a few of the counties meeting the state board last August. A lightning in adjustment of assessments was made, but there is still much to be done to properly adjust the assessments of different counties and a meeting of this character proposed would undoubtedly do much good. We trust that such a meeting will be arranged.

Wall paper, wall paper, wall paper. The Big Bag Co. The Ladies Guild of the Episcopal church will give a bazaar Dec. 11.

Seen the line of California shirts at George's? Come! Better hurry.

John P. Ott is having his house painted and the beautiful large porch finished up.

Days clothing—Sheridan suits. The best ones you ever saw came from George's at \$2.50.

## SHERIFF WM. H. MILLER.

He is killed by Snake Indians While Attempting to Arrest Them.

This county has been overwhelmed with gloom and sorrow during the last few days as never before in the history. Known as he was to most every citizen, and esteemed for his ready and flagrant qualities, the tragic death of Sheriff William H. Miller while attempting to arrest a band of Indians, looms the largest of every one.

Mr. Miller was not only an able officer, most collected, courageous and faithful, but he was in every way a man in the truest sense of the word.

As an officer, he was always ready to respond to the call of duty regardless of personal convenience or of personal advantage. In the administration of his office he always endeavored to be impartial, so as the public welfare would permit, never having the general good in mind.

As a citizen, he was public spirited, ever cheerfully doing his part to advance any enterprise tending to the general welfare.

As a man, he was genial, kindhearted and generous to a fault, always ready to help any one in need or to assist any worthy cause.

As a husband and father, he was looked upon as a model, being kind, affectionate and industrious.

## Card of Thanks.

On behalf of myself and family, I wish to tender my sincere thanks to all who have assisted in our great affliction. We wish to especially thank those who accompanied us to Crawford on special train, the members of the posse who assisted the duty departed in the apprehension of the law and in the capture of the members of the atrocious party of Indians. We also desire to express our thanks to the members of the Knights of Pythias and the Improved Order of Red Men who showed so many kind notes.

Mrs. W. H. Miller.

The Wyoming Commission of the Laramie, Park and Snake River has undertaken the task of seeing that this state is properly and creditably represented at the World's Fair to be held in St. Louis in 1904.

With a great deal of work has been done and arrangements have been made with most of the leading mines, agriculturists and others, for exhibits along their several lines, yet it is more than probable that there are numerous interesting relics, minerals and agricultural products which will be overlooked, unless these possessing or having knowledge of the same, voluntarily communicate with the commission.

Therefore, we invite anyone who thinks he has anything worthy of exhibition at St. Louis to communicate as early as possible with Commissioner in Charge, U. S. National Museum, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., or to the Wyoming Commission, Cheyenne, Wyo.

And for communication to U. S. National Museum, Department of the Interior, Washington, D. C., or to the Wyoming Commission, Cheyenne, Wyo.

W. C. DeLong, Secretary of the Commission.

Mulling & Mulling are arranging for a grand dinner opening to the new hotel. They have employed an expert band of musicians to come and take charge of the opening. Watch for further announcement, dates, etc.

Mr. Miller was an excellent member, were conducted by the general board of the Knights of Pythias and the Improved Order of Red Men of Cheyenne and Newcastle, assisted the body to its last resting place and assisted in the services. People from every part of Weston county and many from Crook county attended the funeral as a tribute to the memory of the deceased, the attendance being by far the largest of any funeral held in Newcastle. His parents were present from Villa Grove, Colorado to attend the funeral.

We unite with all friends in extending our sympathy to the bereaved family.

SHERIFF WILLIAM H. MILLER.

As an officer, he was always ready to respond to the call of duty regardless of personal convenience or of personal advantage. In the administration of his office he always endeavored to be impartial, so as the public welfare would permit, never having the general good in mind.

As a citizen, he was public spirited, ever cheerfully doing his part to advance any enterprise tending to the general welfare.

As a man, he was genial, kindhearted and generous to a fault, always ready to help any one in need or to assist any worthy cause.

As a husband and father, he was looked upon as a model, being kind, affectionate and industrious.

## You are Invited

to "Put Your Foot Under Our Table."

Our Counters are now spread with the most tempting collection of Seasonable Merchandise.

You are invited to enjoy the collation. The most voracious Appetite can be appeased at this table. You can partake of this merchandise in large quantities with impunity, as we guarantee No Financial Indignation or Dyspepsia will result from too many helpings.

NEWCASTLE MERCANTILE COMPANY.

## To The Ladies Of Weston County,

We have the largest and best line of Ladies Tailor Made Suits, ladies coats and jackets, ladies furs etc. ever shown in the state.

Ladies Tailor Made Suits \$8.00 to \$50.00.  
Ladies coats \$5.00 to \$35.00.  
Ladies fur Pelarines, Stoles Etc. \$1.50 to \$100.00

We are glad to show these—fact is we are proud of them,—you would be too, were they yours. Great many ladies select a garment and have it laid away. The early bird you know.

GEORGE & CLEM ON THE CORNER.

## THE INDIAN TROUBLE

About the 20<sup>th</sup> of October word was brought to Sheriff Miller that several bands of Indians were in the southern part of the county killing game and that not satisfied with violations of the game laws, they had killed stock on the range.

That the laws should be enforced and the property of our people be protected, Sheriff Miller organized a posse of deputy sheriffs and started them out October 23. He having other business to attend to started the next day and joined his men.

Then went in search for the violators of the law finding a small band of six men and six squaws near the mouth of Lance Creek. These were disarmed and sent back to Newcastle, they were brought in by Deputy Elton, Ed Buchanan and Arthur Edlund.

The rest of the party then started for Thunder Basin where it was reported the Indians were. Arriving in that country it was said that the Indians had gone south. They were followed and a band of over twenty bucks and thirty squaws were overtaken on the Dry fork of the Cheyenne River, Miller demanded their surrender, and upon their refusal held a long consultation with them but without avail as their chief, Charley Smith or Eagle Feather, refused to submit to arrest plainly telling the officers that they were not strong enough to take them, and even stating that if the officers wanted trouble they could have it. Seeing that his force was insufficient to force a surrender, Sheriff Miller withdrew his men, The next day he secured additional men and followed the redskins coming up with them on Lightning creek, about three miles below the Beaver Dams. On Saturday evening October 31, Miller's force now numbering twelve men besides himself and thinking it strong enough to force the Indians to surrender, they intercepted them and the sheriff called to them repeatedly to surrender. They refused to halt and upon the order being repeated several times, one Indian fired upon the officers. The fight then became general and lasted several minutes. Louis Falkenburg, one of the deputies, was the first white man to fall being shot through the neck.

Immediately afterward Sheriff Miller was shot through the thigh, the femoral artery being severed close by the body. In a very few moments and before the fight was over, Mr. Miller had lost so much blood as to be very weak and in less than half an hour he had passed away. The Indians broke and ran when it was found that five of them had been killed and Chief Smith badly wounded, dying the next day. Several others of the Indians, from five to ten, were wounded but how seriously is not known. Those who so gallantly stood by and upheld their gallant leader were, Oliver Johnson, Jack Moore, James Davis, John Owens, Fred Howell, Ralph Hackany, Louis Falkenburg, Frank Zerbst, Charlie Harvey, Steve Franklin, Henry Coos and George Fountain.

Word was immediately sent to Lusk, the nearest point and Sunday afternoon a message was received here announcing the fight. The account being meager, the whole community were kept in suspense. Being Sunday it was very slow getting any word to Lusk or Douglas. Late in the evening an answer was received from Lusk stating that Sheriff Miller was seriously wounded. A special train was secured and Mrs. Miller accompanied by Miss Allie Jewell, Dr. Horton and Deputy Sheriff Nichols went to Crawford to take the Northwestern train to Lusk to render what assistance was possible.

About three o'clock Monday morning a party came in with the bodies of Sheriff Miller and Mr Falkenburg. Word was immediately sent to Mrs. Miller who returned on 41.

Monday night a posse under Deputy Sheriff Lee Mather of Crook county was sent from here to Edgemont to intercept the Indians on their way to the reservation and early Tuesday morning captured them between Edgemont and Ardmore, there being nine bucks and twelve squaws in the band. The rest of the band including Chief William Brown have probably made their way in safety to the reservation.

Tuesday Indian Agent Brennan arrived here and the authorities delivered to him the party held here and sent them home. The party captured near Edgemont were taken to Douglas.



Cheyenne Daily Leader

#84 November 15, 1903

## Indians At Fault

### RESULT OF GOVERNOR'S INVESTIGATION OF TROUBLE WITH THE SIOUX

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Shooting of Sheriff and Deputy Absolutely Inexcusable and Chief Executive will insist on Trial, if for no other purpose than to Vindicate Dead Officers – A Decided Stand.

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In an interview, Governor Chatterton made public the result of his investigations made during his recent trip to Central Wyoming, in regard to the responsibility for the Sioux outbreak. The Governor ascertained that shortly before the fight it was reported to Sheriff Miller of Newcastle that a band of Sioux Indians were not only illegally hunting game along the border of Weston and Converse counties but were also slaughtering the cattle of the ranchmen. These reports were so authentic that the sheriff organized a posse of six men and started in search of the Indians, meeting them on the Dry Fork of the Cheyenne river. When the officers first reached the Indian camp the bucks were out hunting. Upon their return the sheriff demanded their surrender. Some of the Indians were willing to come in but others were not, the latter saying that they were under Charley Smith or Eagle Feather – his Sioux name. Smith became defiant when the sheriff told him that the Indians were violating the law and replied that Miller had not men enough to take them. He then ordered his party to break camp. As they started the sheriff and his posse went with them for some distance, urging them to surrender and submit to the law. Smith refused and the sheriff party again overtook the Indians on Lightning Creek the day after, about sunset. Demand was made upon the Indians to halt and surrender. This was repeated three times when the Siouxs opened fire. The officers replying immediately. The Indians fled as soon as they saw that some of their party were shot.

The Governor stated that there can be no question as to where the responsibility lies. The Indians were violating the laws of the state of Wyoming-knowingly and willfully-and the murdered officers were martyrs to their duty.

The Governor declared that he would insist on a thorough trial, if for no other reason than to vindicate the dead officers and present their sacrifice in proper light before the people. "This matter," said the Governor, "has been noticed all over the country and Wyoming, for the sake of it's own good name, must go to the bottom of it, and the Indians, if they are the ones who did the killing, must meet with proper punishment."

Clipping from unidentified newspaper.

**(Illegible words) And Deputy Falkenberg in a Fight Eighty Miles South of Newcastle, Saturday Evening.**

Late information from the scene of the fight between Sheriff Miller and posse and a band of lawless Indian hunters says that the fight occurred on Lightning creek in Converse county, eighty miles south of Newcastle on Saturday an hour before sunset.

Sheriff Miller of Newcastle, ex-Sheriff Owens and a posse of eight men had followed the Sioux, who were from the Pine Ridge agency, to the beaver dams with warrants for their (words illegible) killing game. The Indians refused to surrender, and the posse allowed them to pass, and securing four additional deputies headed the Indians in a valley at the beaver dams and demanded they surrender.

The Indians, headed by Charley Smith, otherwise known as Eagle Feather, without replying shot and instantly killed Deputy Falkenburg. The shooting then became general on both sides. Sheriff Miller was shot in the hip, dying from the wound.

Five Indians, including the notorious Eagle Feather, were killed and five badly wounded of who three are not expected to live. The Indians then scattered and struck out for the Dakota line. There were 22 bucks and two squaws and children in the party.

Sheriff McDermott of Weston county, Deputy Cook and a posse of twenty cowboys from Douglas and Lusk, all heavily armed, are in pursuit of the Indians and (illegible words) overtake them before they reach the state line, but as the Indians had a long start of them this is highly improbable. Pursuing parties from Lusk and other places have returned home.

The dead Indians were buried, while the bodies of Sheriff Miller and Deputy Falkenburg were taken to Newcastle, where they were buried. (Illegible words) yesterday said Sheriff Andy Nielsen of Sheridan and a posse had captured and were holding nine buck Indians at that place, awaiting orders.

J.R. Brennan, Indian agent at Pine Ridge agency arrived in Newcastle Tuesday night. He was greatly worried about the Indian trouble and feared an outbreak at the agency. Up to that time he had failed to get any advice from Washington.

The father and mother of Sheriff Miller also arrived at Newcastle Tuesday night. There is great excitement (illegible words) game and killing cattle in southern Weston and northern Converse county for several years, and this fight is the outcome of it.

**Vol. 74, No. 15 Douglas Budget Sept. 10, 59**

**Lightning Creek Indian Battle Site Marked**

Clark Bishop, accompanied by Al Sims and Rod Thomson, recently marked the site where the Lightning Creek Indian battle was fought in 1903. It is located on land owned by Mr. Thomson and the description is as follows, NW ¼ NW1/4. Sec. 19 Twp 37 Range 66. The site was survey by Mr. Bishop, and never before had been marked.

A steel marker post was placed near the tree where Sheriff Miller of Weston county was shot; the tree being identified from an old photograph in the possession of Sheriff Miller's daughter, Mrs. (illegible) Oliver, of Newcastle. Sheriff Miller died a few hours later at an old log cabin which at that time was Jackie Mills' cow camp, according to records of the battle.

Mr. Bishop inscribed with a chisel at rock for the marker and it reads "Sheriff Miller died here Oct. 31, 1903. Kld by Indians." He also marked another rock with the inscription, "Indian died here, 1903." And placed it over an old Indian grave near the cabin.

An informal petition to the Wyoming Historical Society asking that they erect a marker at the site of the Lightning Creek Indian Battle of 1903 is at the Budget office and all interested persons are asked to please sign their names to it. One of the first signatures to appear on this petition is that of Rep. Keith Thomson, who is wholeheartedly in favor of the marker, according to a letter received by (illegible words).

## **II: Photographs and a Personal Memory**

