
IN MEMORIAM
John D. McDermott
1935–2017

John D. McDermott of Rapid City, distinguished historian of the Plains Indian wars, died 31 December 2016 at the age of eighty-one.

Born 5 December 1935, McDermott was a native of Redfield, South Dakota. He earned degrees from the University of South Dakota and the University of Wisconsin before joining the National Park Service (NPS) in 1960 as chief historian at Fort Laramie. Beginning in 1964, he worked in Washington, D.C., with the divisions of policy analysis and history for the NPS and later the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, where he was policy director when he retired in 1986.

McDermott then moved to Sheridan, Wyoming, where he advised the Fort Phil Kearny/Bozeman Trail Association, served as president of the Sheridan County Historical Society, and helped organize the five-state Frontier Heritage Alliance. He was an accomplished leader in heritage tourism and continued that work for History America and the Great American Tour Company, companies owned by his wife, Sharon, after moving to South Dakota.

McDermott was the author of numerous books and articles. His best-known work was *Red Cloud's War: The Bozeman Trail, 1866–1868*, for which he won a Wyoming State Historical Society Publications Award. He was a contributor and advisor to *South Dakota History*, and his last book, *Red Cloud: Oglala Legend*, was published by the South Dakota Historical Society Press in 2015. McDermott's extensive research collection will reside with Black Hills State University in his native South Dakota.

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