



Hump

Dakota Images

Hump, born in 1848, was a Minneconjou Teton leader of the Cherry Creek band. Along with Crazy Horse, Sitting Bull, and Gall, he fought to assert his rights to the Powder River hunting grounds. In June 1876 he helped to stop General George Crook at the Battle of the Rosebud, and he fought in the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Later he went to Canada with Sitting Bull.

When he returned to Cheyenne River, he and Big Foot became the most influential men on the reservation and were avid spokesmen for the old way of life. Hump served as a scout for General Nelson Miles and earned the confidence of the army officers, which led to his appointment as chief of police at Cheyenne River. Wearing his badge and uniform, Hump led the opposition to the Crook Commission, although he later changed his mind and signed the land agreement.

When news of the Ghost Dance and Messiah Craze came to his Cherry Creek camp, Hump left General Miles and presided over a succession of wild dances that soon attracted about four hundred Minneconjous. However, after the army had arrested some of the Indian leaders, Hump wavered in his belief. Finally, Miles sent Captain Ezra P. Ewers, whom Hump trusted and liked, to persuade Hump to surrender at Fort Bennett. When Ewers rode into Hump's camp alone, Hump was impressed by his courage and complied with his request. He went to the Cheyenne River Agency and donned the uniform of an army scout and used his influence against the Ghost Dance.

In later years he continued to work for his tribe and attended an unsuccessful conference in Washington. Hump died in 1908 and was buried in the Episcopal Cemetery at Cherry Creek.

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