

THE LIFE OF ARROW WOUND
Lilah Morton Pengra, volunteer HAHA researcher

Native American Day 2020

In 1989, the South Dakota legislature unanimously passed legislation proposed by Governor George S. Mickelson to designate the second Monday in October as Native American Day. The following year, South Dakota became the first state to celebrate Native American Day rather than Columbus Day.

This biography of Arrow Wound is HAHA’s celebration of Native American Day. He lived his later years in eastern Custer County and across the river in Red Shirt in Oglala Lakota County.

Arrow Wound, Army Veteran

I first came across Arrow Wound when I walked through St. Bernard’s Catholic Cemetery at Red Shirt to take photographs for Find-A-Grave. I photographed all the military headstones, one of which marked Arrow Wound’s final resting place.



A search on Fold3.com turned up a record of his pension application and his name at the time of his enlistment, Black Eyes. The *U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, Indian Scouts* noted no age for him but described him as 5’6” with black hair, black eyes and dark copper complexion.

His pension application number, added later to his enlistment record, verified that this Black Eyes was the same man as Arrow Wounded, who applied for a pension in 1921 from South Dakota. Plus, his service dates matched the carving on his headstone. Researching records, especially with multiple names and no exact birth date, can sometimes be a real challenge!

Service at Camp Robinson

Arrow Wound served at Camp Robinson (later named Fort Robinson). The camp had been established to guard the first location of the Red Cloud Agency.

He enlisted as a scout in Company D under command of Lieutenant William P. Clark, 2nd U.S. Cavalry. Arrow Wound served two three-month enlistments, December 12, 1876 through July 1, 1877.

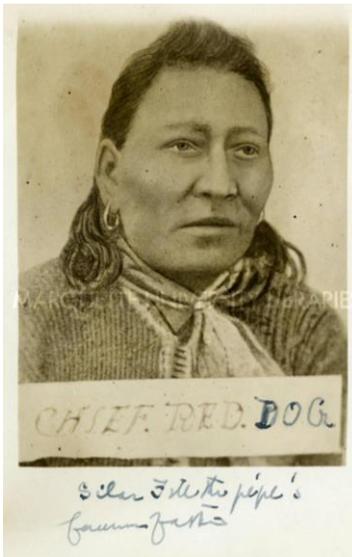
(S-FE-11) 6-2073		INDIAN WARS				
NAME OF SOLDIER:		Arrow Wound alias Black Eyes				
NAME AND CLASS OF DEPENDENT:						
SERVICE:		RANK: D. Indian Scouts U.S.A. ENLISTED 1876 DISCHARGED 1877				
ADDITIONAL SERVICE:						
DATE OF FILING.	CLASS.	APPLICATION NO.	CERTIFICATE NO.	FILE NO.	ACT.	STATE.
1921 July 14	Indian Scout	17987	10991		Mar. 3, 1927	S. Dak.
BOUNTY LAND:						
REMARKS:						

Because some traditional activities such as warfare and buffalo hunting were no longer possible, many young men enlisted as scouts to demonstrate their bravery, an attribute valued in Lakota culture. They were issued Sharps carbines, Colt revolvers, ammunition, and horses. And, they also received rations, an important consideration at that time because many Lakota were starving.

On May 25, 1877, Crazy Horse arrived at Camp Robinson. Arrow Wound, his brother Kills A Hundred (who also had enlisted as an Army scout) were part of the eighteen platoons of Lakota warriors and Army scouts who passed in review before General George Crook to mark the arrival of Crazy Horse. A newspaper present at the equestrian display called it a “precise drill in fine style” that ended in a handshake between Crook and Crazy Horse.

The handshake symbolized Crazy Horse’s agreement to meet with Crook to negotiate the surrender of Lakota not yet living on reservations. It was a momentous occasion, less than a year after the battle at the Little Bighorn; Sitting Bull and his people were still in Canada in asylum from the repercussions of winning the battle. The concessions offered by Crook that convinced Crazy Horse to come to Camp Robinson were not supported by Crook’s military superiors or politicians in Washington; and, Crazy Horse was killed three and a half months later.

Son of Red Dog and Slow



Arrow Wound, son of Red Dog and Slow, was born just west of the Black Hills in 1853. Slow was Red Cloud’s sister. Red Dog, born Hunkpapa, became Oglala when he married her and they chose to join Red Cloud and his people. Red Dog eventually became the acknowledged leader of the Oyuhpe band. His photograph, published in the Catholic Mission newsletter *The Indian Sentinel* labeled him as “Chief Red Dog, Silas Fills The Pipe’s famous father.”

Red Dog gained fame as a persuasive and thoughtful speaker and honest interpreter. A *Chicago Times* reporter interviewed Crazy Horse the day before his surrender at Camp Robinson. Red Dog translated for them as Crazy Horse described the fight at the Greasy Grass where he defeated Custer eleven months earlier.

Arrow Wound and his brothers Kills A Hundred and Fills The Pipe supported the choices made by their father. Red Dog fought his native enemies and then the intruding U.S. Army. He was wounded 18 times, including at the Fetterman fight in 1866.

At the treaty negotiations in 1868 at Ft. Laramie, Red Dog counseled the Oyuhpe to accept the treaty, although he first asked that acceptance wait until his sons learned to read English. He wanted to know exactly what he was signing. Later, he agreed to sign the concession of the Black Hills because, he said, if his people did not sign in return for payment (which he thought ought to be thirty million dollars), white men would take the Black Hills anyway.

Red Dog visited Washington as part of a peace delegation in June 1880 with Little Wound, John Bridgeman (interpreter), Red Cloud, American Horse and Red Shirt. In August that same year,

he visited Carlisle Indian School to inspect their educational efforts. Arrow Wound could read and write both Lakota and English but no record was found that he attended Carlisle.

Arrow Wound as a Young Man

Arrow Wound twice captured horses from the enemy and twice participated in the Sun Dance, honorable and traditional activities commemorated by the eagle feathers in his headdress and beadwork on his favorite buckskin shirt. He wore both for a photograph taken of him years later by Father Placida Sialm for *The Indian Sentinel*.

Black Eyes received his adult name, Walks With Arrow Wound, after a battle in which he was wounded but continued to fight. His brother also received his adult name because of an incident during a fight. He sat down on the battlefield, in the midst of arrows and bullets whizzing about him, and very nonchalantly filled his pipe. He proceeded to take a smoke and thus received his name, Fills The Pipe.

Walks With Arrow Wound later shortened his name to Arrow Wound or Arrow Wounded. Some records give a first name of Solomon or Sam.



ARROW WOUNDED, CATHOLIC SIOUX
Wahinkpe (Arrow Wounded), Catholic Sioux and son of the famous Chief, *Shunka Luta* (Red Dog), Holy Rosary Mission, South Dakota

Reservation Days

After the death of Crazy Horse at Camp Robinson, Arrow Wound moved to White Clay Creek. In 1880, he worked with the boss farmer at Pine Ridge Agency and was, according to Emil Afraid of Hawk, the best mechanic there. Arrow Wound could disassemble, repair and reassemble a mower in record time. His skill with farm equipment served him well when later he ranched near the Bower family (of the Bowers' Family Band fame) on lower Battle Creek. He raised horses and harvested native hay, both of which he periodically sold to the Army.



In May 1887, he went to England with Buffalo Bill's Wild West show aboard the sailing ship *State of Nebraska*, photographed in New York Harbor before its departure by the *New York Times*. The ship carried 297 passengers, including 97 indigenous performers and 18 buffalo, 181 horses, 10 elk, 4 donkeys, 5 Texas longhorns, 2 deer and 10 mules. All but 40 of the original performers returned early because they could not tolerate the weather. Arrow Wound stayed the whole year and returned aboard the *Persian Monarch* from Hull, England.

He must have enjoyed performing because, in 1928, he played a lead role in a World Wide Motion Pictures' production filmed by Charles Loeffel, a St. Louis movie director who came to Red Shirt to utilize the scenery of the Badlands. Loeffel claimed that his movie showed the good side of Indian life, although the plot concerned the sole survivor of a small pox epidemic. Apparently the movie never made it into theaters.

Family and Later Life

Arrow Wound married three times. His first wife died before 1895. They had a daughter, Slyade, born 1889, who died about 1911.

He and his second wife, Julia, had four daughters and one son: Lucy, b. 1895; Mary, b. 1896; Anna, b. 1897; Sallie, b. 1898; and William, b. 1902. Sallie married Nathaniel Living Outside.

After Julia's death, Arrow Wound married Comes Walking (Emma War Bonnet), daughter of War Bonnet and Boiled Hand. They had three daughters: Lizzie, b. 1905; Susie, b. 1907; and Jesse, b. 1911. Jesse contracted TB so the family moved to Buffalo Gap in search of better medical care and education. When Jesse died at Buffalo Gap in 1927, the family returned to Red Shirt.

In 1890, Arrow Wound lived with his family in the Wounded Knee district. He counseled peace and patience to friends and neighbors on both sides of the river but, as he regretted in later years, was unable to prevent the tragedy at Wounded Knee.

Arrow Wound became a catechist in the Catholic Church. For the last 15 years of his life he traveled the districts to read the Bible in Lakota and talk about religious wisdom to his friends and family. He died September 3, 1939. His obituary noted that Father Joseph Zimmerman "gave him a soldier's funeral."

Bibliography

Emil Afraid of Hawk, "Indian Tells Story of Frontispiece," *The Indian Sentinel*, Volume 13, Number 2, page 91, Catholic Indian Missions: Washington, D.C. (1933).

Ancestry.com: 1900, 1910 and 1920 U.S. Censuses for South Dakota and Indian Censuses, 1890 through 1937.

Anonymous, *New York Times*, April 1, 1887, photograph of SS State of Nebraska in the harbor with William Cody's Wild West Show participants on board. Not copyrighted.

Anonymous, "Sioux Girl Dies from Tuberculosis," *Rapid City Journal*, April 19, 1927.

Anonymous, "Movie at Red Shirt," *Rapid City Journal*, October 13, 1928.

Arrow Wounded photo, *The Indian Sentinel* Volume 15, Number 1, page 2, Catholic Indian Missions: Washington, D.C. (1934-35). Scan from Marquette University, Raynor Memorial Library, Special Collections, not copyrighted.

Kingsley Bray, "Red Dog" accessed September 20, 2020: <https://www.american-tribes.com/Lakota/BIO/RedDog.htm> and <https://amertribes.proboards.com/thread/330/red-dog?page=3>

Kingsley Bray, *Crazy Horse: A Lakota Life*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006.

Thomas R. Buecker, *Fort Robinson and the American West, 1874-1899*, Nebraska State Historical Society: 1999.

Find A Grave Memorial, accessed June 20, 2017,
https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/180549749/arrow_wound

Thomas Powers, *The Killing of Crazy Horse*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2010.

Red Dog photo, Marquette University, Department of Special Collections and University Archives, *Holy Rosary Mission/Red Cloud Indian School Records*; 6-1 B.

Placidus F. Sialm, "The Caller on the Hills," Eulogy of Silas Fills The Pipe, *The Indian Sentinel*, Volume 6, Number 2, page 59, Catholic Indian Missions: Washington, D.C. (1926).

U.S. Army, Register of Enlistments, 1798-1914, Indian Scouts, accessed on ancestry.com numerous times

Joseph A. Zimmerman, "Sioux Virtues," *The Indian Sentinel* Volume 20, Number 1, pages 11-12 (1940).