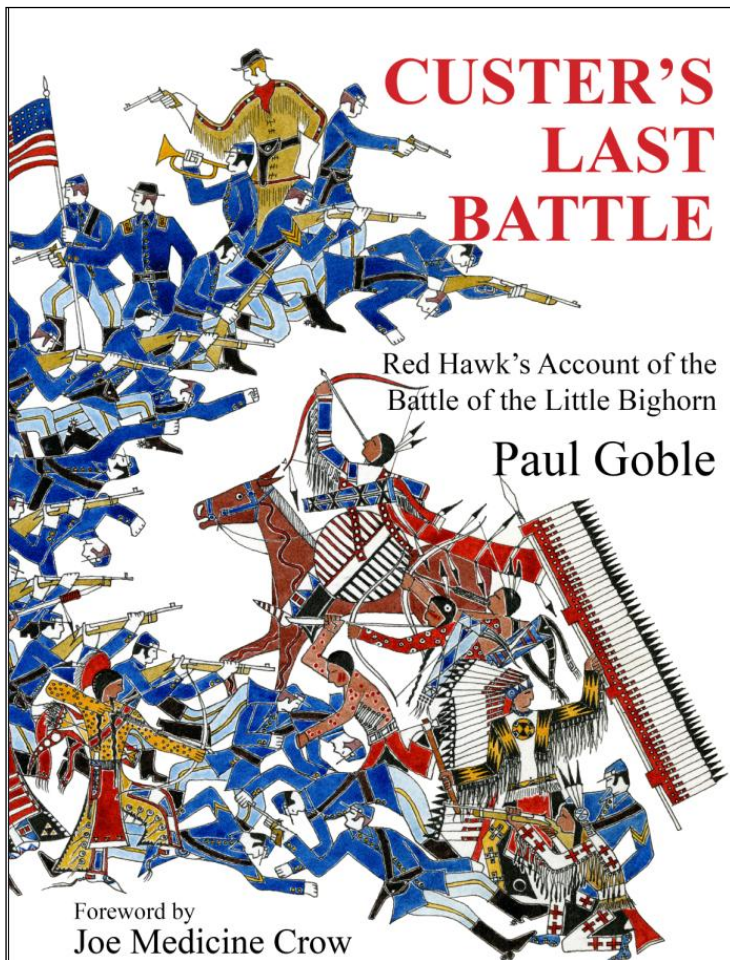


Custer's Last Battle

Red Hawk's Account of the Battle of the Little Bighorn

Told and Illustrated by Paul Goble

Foreword by Joe Medicine Crow



On the morning of June 25, 1876, a force of 700 men from the 7th U.S. Cavalry led by General George Armstrong Custer attacked an Indian encampment on the banks of the Little Bighorn River. Unbeknownst to Custer, he faced the combined might of the Lakota, Cheyenne, and Arapaho tribes, led by their greatest chiefs, Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse. Advised by his Indian scouts not to attack, the foolhardy general ignored their warnings and trusted to “Custer’s luck” one last time. . . .

This new edition of Goble’s first published book allows readers to rediscover the Indian retelling of the Battle of the Little Bighorn by Red Hawk, a fictional young Lakota warrior.

Wisdom Tales is honored to publish this reformatted edition, which corresponds to the author’s original intention for the work.

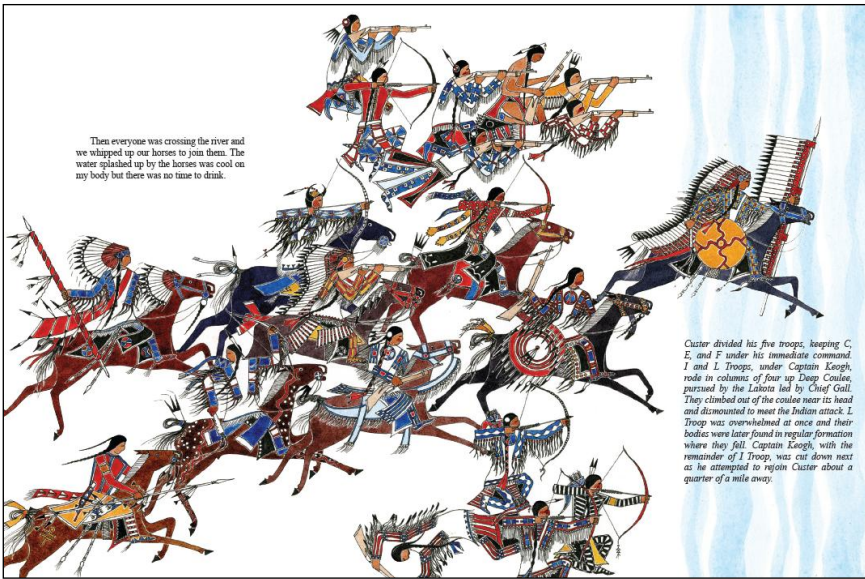
This Book Features:

- ❖ A revised and updated text.
- ❖ A modified layout that achieves Goble’s desire to integrate the text next to the artwork.
- ❖ A new Author’s Introduction.

- ❖ A Foreword by Joe Medicine Crow, the Crow tribal historian and oldest living member of the Crow Tribe, whose grandfather was one of Custer’s own scouts.
- ❖ 44 color paintings by award-winning artist, Paul Goble.

Publication Details:

- ❖ ISBN: 978-1-937786-11-3
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- ❖ Price: \$16.95
- ❖ Trim Size: 7.75x10.25
- ❖ Page Count: 44 Casebound



Then everyone was crossing the river and we whipped up our horses to join them. The water splashed up by the horses was cool on my body but there was no time to drink.

Custer divided his five troops, keeping C, E, and F under his immediate command. I and L Troops, under Captain Knough, rode in columns of four up Deep Coulee, pursued by the Lakota led by Chief Galt. They climbed out of the coulee near its head and dismounted to meet the Indian attack. I Troop was overwhelmed at once and their bodies were later found in regular formation where they fell. Captain Knough, with the remainder of I Troop, was cut down next as he attempted to rejoin Custer about a quarter of a mile away.

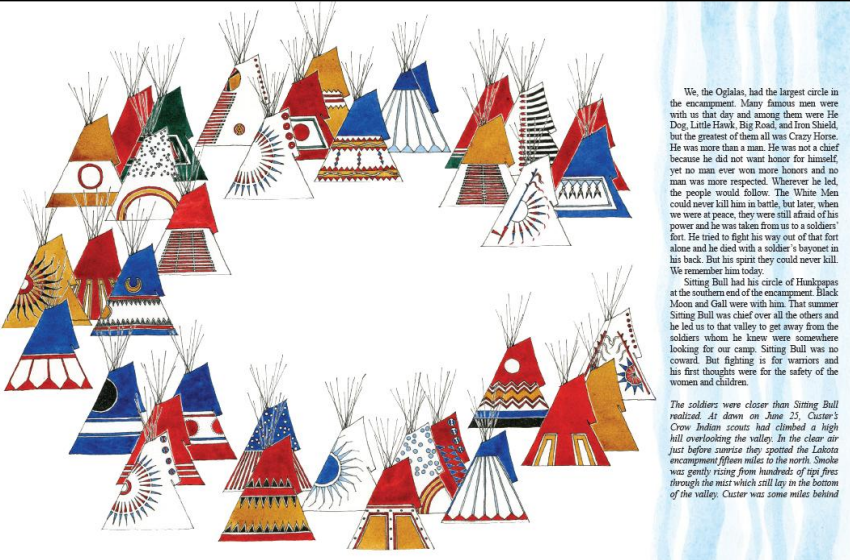
“[It is] beautifully illustrated and written with verve and authenticity. . . . The pictures are among the best I’ve seen in any children’s history, and the realities conveyed to the young readers are the closest to the final layer of truth that one can hope for.”
 —New York Times

“From the picture map on the title page to the lists of sources and suggested readings, an unusual volume that is at once handsome, stirring, and historically anchored (and thus worth the trouble of being unusual).”
 —Kirkus Reviews



When I reached the ford the soldiers had already climbed out of Medicine Tail Coulee and were going back up the hill. They went slowly, stopping to shoot back and then retreating up the slope again, filling as they went. They did everything slowly and together and nobody was excited, yet always they went back. Our Strong Heart Society warriors could not have fought harder and the soldiers died as bravely as they would have done. It was a hard struggle, very hard all the time. I have heard some White Men say that the soldiers were drunk and others say that the soldiers shot themselves. It is lies. The men who say that were never in the battle. Nobody can say those soldiers did not fight hard because I was there and I saw them. I never saw such brave men.

Of the two hundred and twenty-five men who rode down Medicine Tail Coulee with General Custer not one survived. It will never be known why he did not immediately cross the river to attack the camp. He did not know that Reno was already surrounded and it was possible that he was waiting for Reno to support him. It is also possible that he feared an ambush among the trees by the river and was unwilling to expose his troops to heavy fire while crossing the river. History might have been snatched with a bold charge through the encampment, but by waiting he gave the Indians time to collect on the opposite bank. After firing several volleys across the river in an effort to dislodge the Indians, he was soon forced by their determined attack to retire from the ford. The five troops of the Seventh U.S. Cavalry fell back up the slopes and Custer must have known that the only hope of survival for his command lay in reaching a defensive position on the ridge. From the time he left the ford until the last shot was fired it is probable that little more than twenty minutes passed. It was an orderly retreat towards the ridge. Custer, with F, C, and E Troops in that order, retreated up the slope in echelon formation. E Troop, acting as rearguard, suffered the greatest casualties.



We, the Oglalas, had the largest circle in the encampment. Many famous men were with us that day and among them were He Dog, Little Hawk, Big Road, and Iron Star, but the greatest of them all was Crazy Horse. He was more than a man. He was not a chief because he did not want honor for himself, yet no man ever won more honors and no man was more respected. Whenever he led, the people would follow. The White Men could never kill him in battle, but later, when we were at peace, they were still afraid of his power and he was taken from us to a soldiers' fort. He tried to fight his way out of that fort alone and he died with a soldier's bayonet in his back. But his spirit they could never kill. We remember him today.

Sitting Bull had his circle of Hankyogas at the southern end of the encampment. Black Moon and Galt were with him. That summer Sitting Bull was chief over all the others and he led us to that valley to get away from the soldiers whom he knew were somewhere looking for our camp. Sitting Bull was no coward. But fighting is for warriors and his first thoughts were for the safety of the women and children.

“Goble writes with respect and authenticity.”
 —San Francisco Chronicle

“Goble is a careful storyteller and has a respect for the authentic voice of the Native people. His interpretation of Native history and legends has held up over and over for more than a generation of readers.”
 —Lauren Waukau-Villagomez, Bear Clan member, educator, and author

About the Author and Illustrator of *Custer's Last Battle*

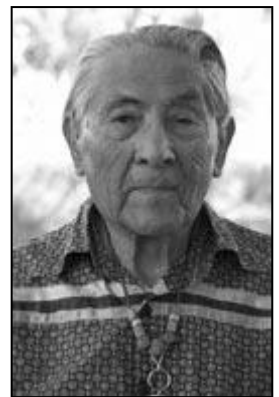
PAUL GOBLE is an award-winning author and illustrator of over 30 children's books and is best known for *The Girl Who Loved Wild Horses*, which won the prestigious Caldecott Medal. He has given his entire collection of original illustrations to the South Dakota Art Museum in Brookings, South Dakota. Goble, a native of England, studied at the Central School of Art in London. He has lived in the United States since 1977 and became a citizen in 1984.



Goble's lifelong fascination with Native Americans of the Plains began during his childhood, when he became intrigued with their spirituality and culture. His illustrations accurately depict Native American clothing, customs, and surroundings in brilliant color and detail. Goble researches ancient stories and retells them for his young audience in a manner sympathetic to Native American ways. He lives with his wife in Rapid City, SD.

About the Author of the Foreword

DR. JOE MEDICINE CROW is the Crow Tribal Historian and the oldest living man of the Crow tribe. In 1939, he was the first member of the Crow tribe to obtain a master's degree. He has received honorary doctoral degrees from the University of Southern California and Rocky Mountain College. Medicine Crow is the last traditional Plains war chief, having achieved the war deeds necessary to be declared a "chief" during World War II. He served in Europe and earned the Bronze Star, a US Forces individual military decoration for acts of bravery or merit, or for meritorious service.



Dr. Medicine Crow is a guest speaker at Little Bighorn College, the Custer Battlefield Museum, and several other colleges throughout the nation. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, in August 12, 2009. He lives on the Crow Reservation in Lodge Grass, Montana.

