



Little Bighorn Battlefield Update - Summer 2014

By Denice Swanke, Superintendent



It has been a wonderful, busy summer at Little Bighorn Battlefield! It was great to spend time with many of you at the CBHMA pizza party, symposium, and annual meeting as well as at other random encounters over the course of anniversary events.

For me, special highlights of the 138th Anniversary of the 1876 battle included the Arikara Old Scout Society program on June 24, the Indian Memorial rededication on the 25th (especially the remarks by former Superintendent Barbara Sutteer) and the combined CBHMA/U.S. Cavalry School wreath-laying on Last Stand Hill on Sunday, June 29.

Since the anniversary, our park staff have been particularly busy with the following projects:

- broken irrigation lines (one asbestos-cement water line after another ruptured mid-June through July)
- departure of three of our seven maintenance staff (one retirement and two transfers to other parks)
- development of interpretive site bulletins for the Indian Memorial, prairie dogs, and biodiversity
- preservation work in Custer National Cemetery with the Hands on Preservation Experience (**HOPE**) project from mid-July through mid-August
- initiation of a new forum with nearby cultural resource sites (Pompeys Pillar, Chief Plenty Coups and Rosebud Battlefield state parks, etc.)
- burials in Custer National Cemetery (four in July)
- interpretive programs at the Visitor Center
- finalizing the park's Foundation Document
- new research requests

With continued gratitude for your support and love of the Battlefield,

Denice



Photo caption: The National Park Service rededicated the Indian Memorial at Little Bighorn Battlefield on June 25 to commemorate the installation of permanent interpretive panels that pay tribute to *all* Native Americans who fought at the 1876 battle. An article on this project appeared in the Summer 2013 issue. *Courtesy of Derry Mounce*

“I have been in many hard fights,
but I never saw such brave men.”
– *Brave Wolf, Cheyenne (1895)*

Courtesy of Joe Creaden