

# **BGES Presents: Custer's Last Stand: The Campaign of the Little Big Horn and the Northern Plains Indian Wars**

May 25-June 2, 2012  
from Bismarck, North Dakota

George Armstrong **Custer** is one of America's legendary characters romanticized by Errol Flynn and others throughout the years. Commissioned a general in the days preceding the battle of Gettysburg, Custer rose to the brevetted rank of Major General only to return to a more modest rank after the war. He became the most famous of American Indian fighters leading the famed 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry to a controversial and heroic end at the Little Big Horn. Today, Lieutenant Colonel George Custer remains a polarizing figure. Join us as we follow him to his destiny as part of a definitive "War on the Northern Plains" tour with historian Neil Mangum and the Blue and Gray Education Society.

## **Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup> 2012:**

Arrive at Best Western Seven Seas Hotel and Waterpark near the Bismarck Airport and at leisure.

## **Saturday, May 26<sup>th</sup> 2012**

Meet your travel colleagues at 7:30 AM for breakfast and pick up your name tag, reading books and maps. We depart at 8:30 AM for Fort Abraham Lincoln and Fort McKeen the two staging areas for the May 17, 1876 march—here the soldiers left to the strains of "The Girl I left Behind Me." Like the men on horseback and the infantry we will see miles melt beneath our tires as we make several marching column stops crossing Powder River and visiting Glendive and Powder River Depots en route to Best Western War Bonnet hotel in Miles City, Montana.

## **Sunday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Departing at 8 AM our ride today passes through the remains of a garrison site, Fort Keogh, to the campsite at the head of Rosebud Creek where Custer assumed command of the expedition and turned towards the LBH. A special treat your exclusive access to the private land where Sitting Bull has his victory vision—Neil is the only historian to have gained the right to visit it. It is one of the highlights of the trip. The ancient markings on the rocks at this sacred site are unforgettable. While in this area we will go to the graves of several important Indian warriors: Little Wolf; Dull Knife and Two Moons. We will overnight three nights at the Big Horn Resort in Billings. Full breakfast is included each morning.

## **Monday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

For the next two days we will do the battle of the Little Big Horn leaving at 8 AM each day—today we focus on Custer's approach, the valley fight of Jesse Reno his retreat to the hilltop and the hilltop defense.

## Tuesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012

We continue by following Custer into battle with a detailed treatment of his tactics and the Indians' counter tactics—the markers on the battlefield speak loudly and the dramatic end on Last Stand Hill will move you. You'll get a chance to visit the gift shop and museum.

## Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Today we will return to the Custer campaign and visit the Battle of the Rosebud—Neil wrote the book on it! We will then travel to Wolf Mountain the site of Crazy Horse's last fight. We will overnight at the Best Western Town Center in Sheridan, Wyoming.

## Thursday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012

This morning we head to Ft. Phil Kearny—the second of the protective installations manned by the cavalry. Then it is to the ridge and site of the December 1866 massacre of Capt William Fetterman and 79 of his troopers. Yesterday you will have heard about the Hayfield fight and today you will see the sister engagement known as the Wagon Box Fight. The day ends, following a stop at Devil's Tower (made famous in the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*), at Best Western Town and Country for two nights in Rapid City, South Dakota. Breakfast is included each morning.

## Friday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012

An unforgettable day with stops at the Crazy Horse Monument, Mt. Rushmore, Fort Meade and Historic Deadwood—a western town with every building on the National Historic Register.

## Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012

We return to Bismarck with stops at Sitting Bull's grave, Fort Yates, Fort Rice and Fort Dilts. You'll spend the night where we started at the Best Western Seven Seas near the airport in Bismarck before heading home on the 3rd.

**What Your Registration Includes:** This registration includes 8 full days with Neil Mangum, an internationally famed scholar/historian with exclusive access to many sites—some on privately owned land, two tour escorts, bus driver's expenses and gratuity, exclusive use of a deluxe 57 passenger motor coach with bathroom on board for 8 days\*, 9 nights superior or better lodging, breakfasts (where included with the hotel room)\*\*\*, complimentary snacks, sodas and bottled water, a reading list and reading book with maps, all admissions and airport transfers to and from hotel in Bismarck.

**\*We reserve the right to downsize the transportation** to 15 or 12 passenger vans to match the registration. A minimum of 20 registrations is required to cover the rather expensive costs of the bus and driver. If this happens both vans will have PA systems which will allow everyone to hear Neil's presentations en route.

**\*\*Meals on this trip are a la carte** to comply with some people's requests to hold down the total cost of the registration—given that the bus and driver will be over \$10,000 and there are

two staff members plus Neil this is our only real option. I am told many people will eat only two meals a day or may get a pizza at night and would prefer to save the \$150-\$200 per person charge a trip of this length would normally command. We haven't done this before. It may work out fine—but for you regulars this will be a change of pace (Subway will be optional) and if we have enough folks it may drive the fast food places nuts.

### **About the Faculty:**

**Neil Mangum:** is one of the nation's foremost Indian Wars authorities and is a life long student of George Armstrong Custer. Neil served his career in the National Park Service where his postings included a tour as the Superintendent of the Little Big Horn National Battlefield. He was a key player in significant changes that made the site more inclusive and healing. His engaging manner has opened many doors to heritage tourists and made him one of the most respected historians in the country. He has also led tours of the Great Sioux Indian War, The Apache Wars, The Central Plains Indian War, the Buffalo Red River War and many other western themes. He is the author of the definitive work, **The Battle of the Rosebud: Prelude to the Little Big Horn.** Neil retired from the NPS in 2003 and now lives in Payson, Arizona.

**Meeting Site and Hotel:** This program starts and ends at the Best Western Seven Seas Hotel and Water Park, 2611 Old Red Trail, Mandan, ND 58554 (1-701-663-7401) . Your registration fee includes two nights lodging here on May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. It also includes seven nights lodging on the road. We will make all your reservations and pay your room and tax. Incidentals at the hotel will be billed as you incur them. The hotel has a shuttle van that will pick you up from the airport and take you back.

**Airport and Transportation Arrangements:** The servicing airport is Bismarck (BIS). Delta, United and US Airways all service or have connections that serve Bismarck. You may get the airport shuttle to and from the airport in Bismarck. If you drive to the event, we will make arrangements for you to leave your car at the hotel until we return.

### **Key Publications and Recommended Reading (includes shipping and handling)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Nathaniel Philbrick, **The Last Stand, Custer, Sitting Bull and The Battle of the Little Big Horn, \$20**

\_\_\_\_\_ George Armstrong Custer, **My Life on the Plains \$20**

\_\_\_\_\_ Elizabeth Custer, **Boots and Saddles, or Life in Dakota with General Custer \$28**

\_\_\_\_\_ Richard Upton, **The Custer Adventure \$35**

\_\_\_\_\_ Stephen Ambrose, **Crazy Horse and Custer, The Parallel Lives of Two American Warriors \$20**

\_\_\_\_\_ Edgar Stewart, **Custer's Luck \$30**

\_\_\_\_\_ Neil C. Mangum: **The Battle of the Rosebud, Prelude to the Little Bighorn \$ 35**

**2012 BGES Registration Form**  
**Custer's Last Stand: The Campaign of the Little Big Horn and the**  
**Northern Plains Indian Wars**  
May 25-June 2, 2012

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Registration \$2400    \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Family Member or friend sharing room \$2000

\_\_\_\_\_ Deposit only—per person \$500 Net Due on or before May 24th, 2012

\_\_\_\_\_ BGES member \$2300    \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Family Member or friend sharing room \$1900

\_\_\_\_\_ Full time Teacher or student, confirmation may be required, \$2000 single or double

\_\_\_\_\_ I am not a member of the BGES send me membership information

\_\_\_\_\_ Send me the books I've indicated. I've enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Make checks payable to BGES and mail to PO Box 1176,  
Chatham, VA 24531-1176 or call 434-250-9921 fax 434-432-0596

You may also register and make payments on line using PayPal.

Charge my    Discover    Mastercard    VISA    American Express \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Vin Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_