

## Deaf Culture Question of the Week – Mar. 8 – 12, 2010

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March is Deaf History month. Last week we kicked off the month with famous African-American Deaf persons. This week we turn to a connection between Deaf culture and Native American culture. This week's DCQW was brought to my attention by WSD Social Studies teacher, Greg Murphy. It is a question I bet many readers of DCQW will find interesting. Thanks Greg.

The Battle at Wounded Knee was the last major battle between the Sioux nation and the United States. On December 29, 1890, 365 troops of the US 7th Cavalry, supported by four Hotchkiss guns, surrounded an encampment of Miniconjou (Lakota) and Hunkpapa Sioux (Lakota) near Wounded Knee Creek, South Dakota.<sup>[1]</sup>The Sioux had been cornered and agreed to turn themselves in at the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota. They were the very last of the Sioux to do so. They were met by the 7th Cavalry, who intended to disarm them and ensure their compliance. [Quoted from:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wounded\\_Knee\\_Massacre](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wounded_Knee_Massacre))

**Which Deaf Sioux tribesman is credited with resisting when ordered to lay down his rifle and thus starting the last battle of the Indian Wars?**

- a. Sitting Bull
- b. Kicking Bear
- c. Black Coyote
- d. Silent Hawk

Scroll down for the answer.

Answer: “c” Black Coyote. On December 29, 1890, soldiers entered the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota demanding the all Indian firearms be relinquished. A medicine man named Yellow Bird advocated resistance, claiming the Ghost Shirts would protect them. One of the soldiers tried to disarm a deaf Indian named Black Coyote. A scuffle ensued and the firearm discharged. The silence of the morning was broken and soon other guns echoed in the river bed. At first, the struggle was fought at close quarters, but when the Indians ran to take cover, the Hotchkiss artillery opened up on them, cutting down men, women, children alike, the sick Big Foot among them. By the end of this brutal, unnecessary violence, which lasted less than an hour, at least 150 Indians had been killed and 50 wounded. In comparison, army casualties were 25 killed and 39 wounded. Colonel James Forsyth was later charged with killing the innocents, but exonerated. This battle became known as “the massacre at Wounded Knee”. Wounded Knee became a catch phrase for all the wrongs inflicted on Native Americans by the descendants of Europeans. In 1973 Indian activist drawing on the courage of their ancestors would stage another confrontation there. [Access from: <http://www.lastoftheindependents.com/wounded.htm>]