



Oct. 1876: Chief Sitting Bull talking with General Nelson Miles after the army's defeat at Little Big Horn. Original by Frederic Remington (1861-1909)

DNA from Sitting Bull scalp proves man is grandson

[Sitting Bull](#) (*Tháŋŋka Íyotake*) was a Lakota Chief who is best known for his defeat of [Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's](#) 7th Cavalry at the [Battle of the Little Big Horn](#), known to the Lakota as the Battle of the Greasy Grass, on June 25-26, 1876. Various tribes had been joining Sitting Bull's camp over the preceding months, drawn by his spiritual leadership and seeking safety in numbers against US troops. Their number soon grew to more than 10,000. Custer's 700 men were badly outnumbered when they attacked the camp and were forced to retreat. The Sioux warriors ultimately killed Custer and most of his men in what was later dubbed [Custer's Last Stand](#).

Sitting Bull led his tribe to Canada, but after finding inadequate food there, returned to the U.S. and became a celebrity touring with Annie Oakley and Buffalo Bill Cody. In 1890 the Army knocked on his door to arrest him in his home for his people doing a nearby "Ghost Dance." One of his people shot an officer resulting in a fight in which he was mistakenly killed by a trooper. He was buried at Fort Yates, North Dakota, for several decades, until Lakota family members exhumed his body and relocated the remains near his birthplace in Mobridge, South Dakota.

His grandson Ernie LaPointe, seeking to confirm his relationship, had his DNA tested against the DNA in a lock of Sitting Bull's hair taken illegally by the Army surgeon but still stored in the Smithsonian Institution.

The DNA verified LaPointe as Sitting Bull's grandson.

Info: shpr.fyi/sittingbull

Deer carry COVID

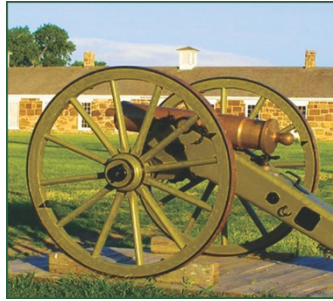
Earlier this year, researchers found that many wild deer in Michigan had antibodies that suggested [the animals had been exposed to SARS-CoV-2](#), the virus that causes COVID-19. It was a significant cause for concern, as a large population of susceptible animals could act as a reservoir that allows the virus to spread back to humans.

At the time, however, uncertainties abounded. The study looked at only a small sample of the deer population of one state—we didn't know how the animals were exposed, and we didn't know whether the virus was actually spreading among

wild deer. Since then, a few of the blanks have been filled in. Critically, deer-to-deer transmission has been observed in captivity. On Monday, a [preprint of a new paper](#) answered some more questions, showing that infection is widespread in a second state, driven both by its spread from humans and deer-to-deer transmission.

Eradicating COVID is impossible and is now known to be even more impossible because it is carried and spread by animals.

Info: shpr.fyi/deercovid



Cannon buried at Potato Hill by army in 1855

Cannon buried at Potato Hill was searched for 150 years but record shows it was retrieved by the Army long ago.

The cannon, called a "[mountain howitzer](#)" – with a barrel made of bronze, about three feet in length, weighing a few hundred pounds and typically carried by horse, in three separate pieces. This piece of artillery, records show, was supposedly buried [by Major Granville O. Haller](#) as part of his retreat from the battle of Toppenish Creek in the Yakima Valley in October 1855.

[Toppenish Creek](#) is sometimes called "Haller's Defeat." Five American soldiers died, and 17 were wounded; and it's believed that there were approximately 20 casualties among the Indigenous combatants. It's considered the first formal military engagement in the Treaty Wars of the 1850s, when the U.S. Army was part of the effort to quash Indigenous resistance following [a dubious treaty process](#), and an influx of settlers and miners into the natives' home area that had been granted to them in the treaty.

Many treasure hunters have scoured and dug the Potato Hill area for the cannon.

However, Jo Miles, an author and historian based in Yakima, located the official record of Major Haller burying a single cannon in October 1855 during his retreat from Toppenish Creek, but then Miles also found the official record of that same cannon being recovered later by the Army.

All hope for treasure hunters is not lost as the article linked below says cannons were also buried at two other places, one near Naches Pass, the first Washington pass used by wagon trains, along the route long used by Natives to travel from one side of the mountains to the other.

Info: shpr.fyi/spudhillcannon



Breach Snake River Dams?

Snake dams breaching excruciatingly hard decision stayed until July 31, 2022

Breaching advocates and the Biden administration have a nine-month window to craft a possible end to 20 long years of very difficult salmon-and-dams litigation on the Snake River.

Info: shpr.fyi/snakedams1

Scientists say they have found a possible trace of ancient life inside a 2.5-billion-year-old ruby.

The ruby sample from Greenland, where the oldest known deposits of rubies are found, contained graphite -- a mineral made of pure carbon. Chemical signatures in the carbon suggested it was a residue of early life.

To determine whether the carbon was biological in origin, the researchers looked at its chemistry -- specifically the composition of isotopes in the carbon atoms.

"Living matter preferentially consists of the lighter carbon atoms because they take less energy to incorporate into cells," Yakymchuk said. "Based on the increased amount of carbon-12 in this graphite, we concluded that the carbon atoms were likely once ancient life, most likely dead microorganisms such as cyanobacteria."

Info: shpr.fyi/life2billionago



Give Blood!

Give blood by Nov. 23 & receive a \$10 Gift Card via email, thanks to Amazon.

Every two seconds an American needs life-saving blood. However, filling that need is proving to be a challenge.

Matt Ochsner, American Red Cross communications director for Idaho and Montana, said the organization is seeing **a nationwide shortage that puts its blood product supply at its lowest point in the past 10 years.**

Make your appointment at: redcrossblood.org/give.html
Info: shpr.fyi/giveblood

Give Blood!

Dave Bunting, Nov. 8, 2021
References in links below items.
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daverant.com