

130 E. Centennial
Rapid City, SD 57701
April 9, 2015

SD Board of Geographic Names
Department of Tribal Relations
302 E. Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

RECEIVED

APR 12 2015

RE: Harney Peak

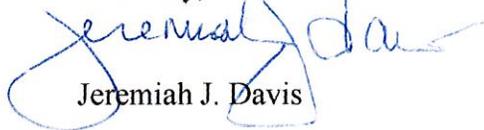
To Whom It May Concern:

As a long time resident of western South Dakota, and as someone who had climbed Harney Peak many times, and who has a good bit of nostalgia about the name "Harney Peak" I am writing in support of the proposal that the name of South Dakota's highest point be changed.

This is truly an idea whose time has come. Apparently even some of Harney's relatives do not oppose the name change. There is no nexus between the mountain and the man, other than the fact of inertia. Harney Peak is a spectacular and singular point which will continue to attract thousands of climbers every summer. We know that many points within the Black Hills, and the Hills themselves, are sacred to the Lakota, and that naming the highest point, and the center point, of the Hills for an "Indian fighter" is culturally offensive.

Black Elk Peak would be a much more suitable choice, which will create a more appropriate image for visitors to our beautiful region. This old wasicu can learn to address our highest mountain by a new name.

Sincerely,



Jeremiah J. Davis



Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>. Any proposed name changes for municipalities, counties or other political subdivisions of the State of South Dakota should be sent directly to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration.

Proposed Name: **Black Elk Peak**

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
- Change name of existing feature

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Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Should the peak be named after General Harney?

Type of Geographic Feature: **Mountain Peak**

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Custer County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Highest Peak in the Black Hills

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Nick Black Elk's vision of the importance of the peak as the center of the universe.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N

If yes, who?

Black Elk, Lakota Spritual Leader

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

No, myself as an Irish South Dakotan.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

See attached sheet:

Submitted by:

Name: David Kemp
Title (if representing organization or public entity):
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):
Mailing Address: 2420 S. Center Avenue, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, 57105
Telephone: (605) 338-8006
Email Address: davekemp@midconetwork.com

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Submit form to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: david.reiss@state.sd.us
FAX: 605-773-6592

Website: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

William S. Harney

By David Kemp, author of *the Irish In Dakota*:

In recent years while researching General Winfield Scott, who appears to be the source of the middle name, Scott in my Kemp family, I have encountered William Harney, the General Harney for whom the highest peak in the Black Hills of South Dakota is named after. You begin to ask why is this beautiful mountain in the Hills named after a nineteenth century military officer. Who was this William Harney?

I first encountered Harney in Michael Hogan's work, *Irish Soldiers of Mexico*, which deals with the San Patricios, or the Battalion of St. Patrick. Michael's essay on the San Patricios appeared in the May 2013 of the *Irish Gazette*.

The San Patricio's were American soldiers who chose to switch allegiance during the United States-Mexico War of 1846-1848. The San Patricios were led by an artilleryman, John Riley, who was a native of Galway, Ireland. They were made up of mostly native-born Irishmen.

Hogan noted that:

"At the Battle of Churubosco, holed up in a Catholic monastery and surrounded by a superior force of American cavalry, artillery, and infantry, the San Patricios withstood three major assaults and inflicted heavy losses on the Yanks. Eventually, however, a shell struck their stored gunpowder, the ammunition park blew up, and the San Patricios after a gallant counteroffensive with bayonets, were overwhelmed with sheer numbers.

In September, 1847 the Americans put the San Patricios soldiers captured at the Battle of Churubosco on trial. Forty-eight were sentenced to death by hanging. Those who had deserted before the declaration of war, like John Riley, were sentenced to whipping at the stake, branding, and hard labor.

The commander of the American forces at Churubosco was General William Harney. The most riveting aspect of the San Patricios' execution was the situation in which the soldiers were hung. The gallows were set up so that the prisoners stood looking up to the monastery. They were kept alive until they witnessed the surrender of the Mexican forces, the taking down of the Mexican flag, and the subsequent raising of the American flag over the battle site. The American commander who directed these actions was William Harney.

William Harney was born in 1800 in Nashville, Tennessee. He was of Irish Protestant descent. He began his military service under General Andrew Jackson. He was involved in the conflict with the pirate, Jean Lafitte, and in the Seminole and Black Hawk Wars.

During the Black Hawk Wars he was in contact with Colonel Zachary Taylor, Captain Abraham Lincoln, and Lieutenant Jefferson Davis. During this time he began working with activities in then American Northwest. This included work with Jesuit missionary, Father DeSmet.

On January 17, 1833 Harney married Mary Mullanphy, daughter of John Mullanphy, who is described as an Irish philanthropist. I can't imagine what an Irish philanthropist did during famine times.

William Harney remained in the American army as a career soldier. When the Mexican-American War began he was appointed colonel and put in command of the Second Dragoons. During the siege of Veracruz, Mexico he served as a senior cavalry officer in the American army commanded by General Winfield Scott. After the Battle of Cerro Gordo he received a promotion to brevet Brigadier General. He was a commander of the cavalry at the Battles of Contresas, Churubusco, and the final battle for Mexico City.

Harney's marriage was not a happy one. During one Harney's trip out West, his wife, Mary took their three children and moved to Paris, France. Mary would later die in Paris in August of 1861.

One of Harney's campaigns involved being called back from France in 1854 to head west to deal with Indian activities along the Platte River. One of Harney's biographers states that he was involved in a precedent setting expedition in 1855. What was the precedent that Harney's campaign established?

Perhaps the most vivid description of Harney's expedition against the Lakota bands along the Blue Water River can be found in Mari Sandoz's classic historical novel, *Crazy Horse*, which appeared in 1942.

Sandoz's account is from the point of view of a young Lakota man, Curly, who would later take the name, Crazy Horse. The account describes Crazy Horse witnessing the killing of Brule leader, Conquering Bear. This attack by Harney's expedition was in retaliation for the killing of cow, belonging to a Mormon person traveling to Utah on the 'Oregon' trail. The people, who killed the cow were Minneconjou Lakota, who had moved quite a distance north after the incident. Conquering Bear was shot in the back while negotiating with members of the U. S. army. In subsequent skirmishes the American force attacked an encampment of Little Thunder's band, another Brule group, on the Blue Water River. This attack involved what became the precedent setting behavior by the U. S. Army. This was the first time that the tactic of massacring woman and children was carried out as a means of bringing about the "submission" of the Plains Indian population. As a result of the murdering of the Lakota people on the Blue Water the Lakota began calling Harney, the "Woman Killer".

After Harney's campaign on the Platte River in 1855 he became commander of American forces during the "Bleeding Kansas" activities which involved anti-slavery and pro-slavery militias. He was sent to Utah on an expedition against the Mormons in 1857-1858. By 1860 he had been named Commander of the Department of Oregon, and the Department of the West, located in St. Louis, Missouri.

He was removed from his command in 1861. It is stated that even President Abraham Lincoln was on record stating that Harney's removal was a grave mistake. He had developed a reputation for dealing "positively" with the Plains Indian tribes.

Harney retired from active duty in the military in September, 1863. His wife, Mary had died in Paris two years before. It is noted that he was later brought out of retirement to serve on government treaty commissions. It was the Peace Commission of 1868 that created the Laramie Treaty of 1868.

Harney would spend the rest of his life, living off of the inherited funds and property of his wife, Mary. He would later marry Mary E. Cromwell St. Cyr in St. Louis,

Missouri in 1884. Marry had served as his nurse, housekeeper and administer of his affairs, prior to their marriage. Harney died in 1889. There was a long drawn out fight over Harney's wealth between Mary Cromwell St. Cyr Harney and heirs to Harney's first wife, Mary's wealth and property.

The highest peak in the Black Hills must have been named during one of the many American expeditions into the Hills during the mid-1800s, perhaps when William Harney was Commander of the West.

As an Irish American historian who has concentrated on the Irish American activities in Dakota for the past three decades, I should probably be proud of the fact that the highest peak in South Dakota is named in honor of an Irish American soldier.

The Lakota people have had problems over the years with referring to the highest peak in the Black Hills as Harney's Peak, considering the horrible atrocities and suffering Harney's troops inflicted upon the Lakota people. Considering William S. Harney's military career, we can certainly not speak about him with pride, but rather with a definite sense of distain. After over one hundred and fifty years of calling the peak, Harney's should we, at long last, consider renaming the beautiful mountain?



PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C to recommend revision of offensive names for geographic places. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>

Current Name: Harney Peak

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Proposed Name(s): Black Elk Peak

APR 12 2015

Location/Identification: Pennington County: Located in the Black Hills National Forest

The above feature is currently named Harney Peak and the SDBGN is soliciting public input on the current name and the proposed new name for the geographic feature. One name has been proposed. Please complete the section if supportive of the current name or the proposed new name.

Support naming the Feature: Black Elk Peak Harney Peak

Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:

This is kind of a no brainer. There have been a myriad of military officers who have fought battles, some of the battles were justifiable, some were not. But, these officers were simply people doing a job for pay. They did not represent a culture, a spirituality, a philosophy, or an entire nation of people. In short, they were a brief and fairly insignificant story in history. On the other hand, Black Elk defines a nation of people, a spirituality, a philosophy, a culture, and a belief system we can all learn a great deal from. The highest point in South Dakota should be named to honor the Lakota people's contributions.

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

To propose a new name for the feature, please complete the section below:

Recommended Name:

Reason/Justification for Name:

Origin/Meaning of Name:

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

=====

Submitted by:

Name: Harold J. Arms

Title (if representing organization or public entity):

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable):

Mailing Address: 2723 Tawney Ct., Box Elder SD, 57719

Telephone: (605) 940-9502

Email Address: arnseh@rap.midco.net

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Comments should be submitted no later than May 1, 2015. Submit comments to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: David.Reiss@state.sd.us
FAX: 605-773-6592

Or access Public Comment Form: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>

Reiss, David

From: LewisLodge <lewislodge@q.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 7:45 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak --

Sir,
I've read many comments about changing the name of the peak in front of our home. One thing that strikes me, is the fact that many of the comments are from folks that don't live in the Black Hills, but far away. I moved here in the early 70's and built our home in the Hill City area in '79 as it faced the peak. My Wife and I were married on the peak in the winter, so it holds many good memories. I am 71 years old and still hike the Harney trails often.
Harney is not a derogatory name as some of the names you have changed . Those of us living in the area call it Harney peak and will continue to do so even if its changed. I can't wait for some " do good'er " group to discover that one of the fellows on Mt Rushmore owned slaves or some other horrible thing! Maybe its time to draw a line in the sand -- Life does go on.

Thanks,

Mikal Lewis
Box 360
Hill City, SD
57745
605 574 4256

Reiss, David

From: Mary Burrows <emt@gwtc.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 1:40 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss:

I am not sure that the name Black Elk Peak is the appropriate new name for this mountain.

I believe we should choose one of the designations for the mountain used by Native Americans throughout their history.

Thank you...

Mary Burrows (non-Native)
Hot Springs, South Dakota

Reiss, David

From: Legia Spicer <spicegirl@wat.midco.net>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2015 8:18 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Please change Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga Paha, its original name. Thank you!

Reiss, David

From: ken marchand <custercubs@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2015 5:32 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: harney peak rename, "granite peak"

let's just rename it "granite peak",

"when you have two groups with different views on a decision, then the "best choice" is a 'neutral' decision that neither of them proposed".

ken marchand
custer, SD

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APR 16 2015

2900 Poplar Dr
Sioux Falls SD 57105
16 April 2015

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 E. Dakota
Pierre SD 57501

Dear Board,

Please change the name of Harney Peak to a name ^{for it} that is older. *

It had names before it was named Harney Peak.

It should not be named for Harney because the area is ^{and was} so special to the Native peoples, and Harney led attacks on them!

We are capable of learning a word from a Native American language.

I look forward to it.

* not Black ~~talk~~ himself, but what he would have called it.

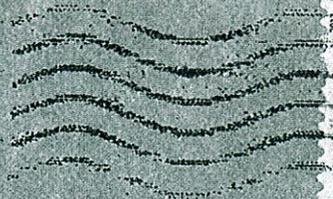
Thanks

CC Brechtelbauer

Ms. Norma Thomsen
2723 Oak Ave.
Rapid City, SD 57701

SD 577

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Greg
Fuher

Names

South Dakota Board on Geographic
Becker Hansen Bldg
700 E. Broadway Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501

Norma Thomsen
South Dakota Artist
(605) 342-6385
E-mail: Northomsen@aol.com

April 10, 2015

To: All Board on Geographic Names

I sincerely believe
BLACK ELK PEAK is
an ideal name - to
replace the Harney Peak
name.

I do hope we will
see this new name.
My thanks for your
work, Sincerely,
Norma F. Thomsen





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Black Hills National Forest

1019 North 5th Street
Custer, SD 57730
605-673-9200
FAX: 605-673-9350

File Code: 1500
Date: April 14, 2015

SD BOARD ON GEOGRAPHIC NAMES
DEPARTMENT OF TRIBAL RELATIONS
302 EAST DAKOTA
PIERRE, SD 57501

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APR 17 2015

Dear Boardmembers:

Thank you for the invitation to comment on a proposed new name for the geographic feature located in Pennington County that is currently called Harney Peak. I understand the SD Board on Geographic Names (Board) has received a proposal to rename the landform "Black Elk Peak".

Harney Peak is located on lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Black Hills National Forest. As a result, I appreciate the Board's decision to inform our agency of the proposal to rename the landform as any name change would require the Forest to update interpretive signs, maps, brochures, etc.

In general, I support changing the name of Harney Peak to a Native American name. Our office is aware, however, that renaming the landform after an individual from any particular Native American tribe may be interpreted as favoring one tribe over others that also practiced traditional activities and lifeways in that area of the Black Hills. Consequently, I prefer to remain neutral on the specific proposal currently under consideration by the Board.

Please keep our office informed of your decision and any other name-change proposals for landforms located on lands managed by the Black Hills National Forest. Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments.

Sincerely,

CRAIG BOBZIEN
Forest Supervisor

cc: Susan Johnson (R2); Michael R Hilton; Jerome Krueger



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APR 17 2015

Monday, April 13, 2015

Dear Members of the S.D. Board of Geographic Names,
I am glad you are considering changing
the name of Harney Peak.

After hearing from Native American
friends, I want to vote for the name
"Hinhan Kaga Paha," the original Lakota
name. My second choice would be
"Black Elk Peak," but the first choice
honors the Lakota/Dakota people more,
as a whole.

Thank you for adding this request
to your others. Best wishes in your
decision.

Mitakuye Oyasin,

Legia L. Spicer



Legia Spicer
1600 1st Ave. NE Apt. B5
Watertown, SD 57201

605-878-0817

PUBLIC COMMENT FORM

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C to recommend revision of offensive names for geographic places. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit: <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>.

Current Name: Harney Peak

RECEIVED

Proposed Name(s): Black Elk Peak

APR 17 2015

Location/Identification: Pennington County: Located in the Black Hills National Forest

The above feature is currently named Harney Peak and the SDBGN is soliciting public input on the current name and the proposed new name for the geographic feature. One name has been proposed. Please complete the section if supportive of the current name or the proposed new name.

Support naming the Feature: Black Elk Peak _____ Harney Peak

Reason/Justification of support to name the feature Harney Peak or Black Elk Peak:

*Why change something that has been named
this for all these years*

Thank you

Please attach any supporting documentation such as resolutions from governing boards or organizations; newspaper articles; petitions or historical references.

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APR 17 2015

South Dakota Board On Geographical Names (SDBGN)

Testimony Regarding The "Renaming" of Harney Peak

Edward C. Valandra
Community for the Advancement of Native Studies (CANS)

17 April 2015

Valandra Testimony: Renaming Harney Peak

“By God, I’m for battle—not peace. Don’t spare one of those damned red sons of a bitches.”

General William Harney prior to September 1855 Blue Water Massacre

My name is Edward Valandra. I am Sičhánǵu Thiithunwan from the Rosebud Reservation, and founder of the Community for the Advancement of Native Studies (CANS), which is chartered by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe. I currently teach Native Studies at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. I applaud the effort by the SD Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) to undertake the task of renaming Harney Peak. Undertaking this task recognizes that certain groups, communities, and people have been historically excluded when American society memorializes its heroes and heroines. I also support changing the name of Harney Peak to a more appropriate designation, which I will outline in this document.

Renaming is a common practice globally, and for this reason SDBGN’s decision to rename Harney Peak is not unique. For example, in anticipation of its independence, British Honduras renamed itself Belize in 1973; China “renamed” Peking to Beijing in 1949 when it adopted an alternate transliteration method; in a reconciliation effort, South Dakota renamed Columbus Day Native American Day in 1989; women from the West or western-influenced have traditionally changed their “maiden” name to that of their spouse; and celebrities often rename, i.e., rebrand, themselves, using a stage or pen name rather than their given legal name.

The motivation for renaming Harney Peak is, however, unique, and for several reasons. The first and foremost reason is that naming a landmark peak in Očhéthi Šakówinŋ Oyáte (herein Oyáte) territory for William S. Harney is inappropriate in the extreme. American narratives about Harney Peak, like the one below, present an uncritical view of the man for whom the peak was named.

Harney Peak was named by Lt. Gouverneur K. Warren in the 1850s for Gen. William S. Harney. Warren had fought for Harney in the 1855 Battle of Ash Hollow, in which U.S. forces defeated a group of Brule Sioux Indians in present-day western Nebraska, south of the Black Hills. The Ash Hollow battle was viewed as a victory of major importance by whites, because it avenged the so-called Grattan Massacre of 1854, in which Sioux Indians killed 30 U.S. soldiers. The Ash Hollow victory also brought about a period of relative peace for settlers passing through Sioux Country on the Oregon Trail. Consequently, it’s not surprising that the highest point in the Black Hills and several places in Oregon and other parts of the west were named for Gen. Harney. (Source: www.southdakota.com/harney-peak/)

Valandra Testimony: Renaming Harney Peak

The narrative implies the peak did not have a designation until Warren bestowed one. This implication is, of course, inaccurate. The peak indeed has a name pre-dating 1492. Another implication from the narrative is that, if Warren or others knew of the peak's pre-contact name but nonetheless bestowed a new one anyway, then such naming represents nothing more than a colonizer's hubris.

Moreover, the same narrative asserts that Harney deserves to have public spaces named for him based solely on a US-sanctioned criterion: fighting Indigenous Peoples. The narrative invokes military terms and phrases, like "general," "lieutenant," "Battle of Ash Hollow," "U.S. forces defeated," "victory of major importance by whites," "Indians killed 30 U.S. soldiers," and "peace for the settlers," and casts Indigenous Peoples as the aggressors in our own homelands. The narrative whitewashes what fighting Indigenous Peoples truly encompasses: demonizing Indigenous Peoples for defending our homelands and way of life. The narrative's goal is to justify whites' indiscriminate killing.

Harney Peak is not an exception, unfortunately. Numerous public spaces, not to mention buildings, towns, and monuments, have been named for Americans who either killed Indigenous Peoples indiscriminately or endorsed it in their official capacities: General George Custer (a SD town, a state park in SD), General of the Army Philip Sheridan (a town in Wyoming, a county in Nebraska), Governor Alexander Ramsey (a county in Minnesota plus several buildings and schools), President Abraham Lincoln (a county in SD, a memorial in Washington, DC), and Commanding General of the Army William T. Sherman (a town in Nebraska, the Sherman tank). Memorializing these and other "Indian fighting" personalities, many whom are white males, normalizes whites' killing of Indigenous Peoples. In the public spaces created by these memorials, American society inevitably comes to perceive such killings as something other than genocide.

Other stories challenge mainstream's cleaned-up version of William S. Harney's conduct toward Indigenous Peoples. For example, in 1967 Robert G. Atheran, a white historian, describes Harney's actions against the Oyáte at Mní Tǎ́o Wakpá (Ash Hollow to Americans) as far from a battle.

The end result was a massacre, although in white annals it has been recorded as a battle. "I never saw a more beautiful thing in my life," wrote one infantryman [who participated in the massacre], adding in mild apology, "We, of necessity, killed a great many women and children." More formally, Harney reported eighty-six killed, five wounded, and seventy women and children taken prisoners (p. 38).

Almost four decades later, Jeffery Ostler, also a white historian, adds to Atheran's narrative. He provides details that the infantryman's mild apology did not disclose.

In contrast to Harney's sanitized version of the slaughter, Lieutenant G.K. Warren wrote in his journal of the "wounded women and children crying

Valandra Testimony: Renaming Harney Peak

and moaning, horribly mangled by the bullets.” Frank Salway, a trader who arrived at Ash Hollow shortly after the massacre, heard from Harney’s interpreter that soldiers took an infant from a woman who had been shot through the leg. The child was “put up as a target and shot at by some of the soldiers who killed it” (p. 41).

The Oyáte’s story of what happened at Mní Tǎ́ Wakpá in September 1855 deserves equal consideration. The Oyáte’s accounts of Harney’s actions contradict US history’s glorification of him. In 1976, James LaPointe, then an 83-year old Oglála Thítǎ́wǎwǎ Elder, noted, “There were some [whites] who were despised [by the Oyáte] for their treachery, such as William S. Harney. Colonel Custer belonged to this category also” (p. 43). The Oyáte do not describe Harney’s tactics as a fight but instead as *Tiapa Wičhakte*, which indicates people being slaughtered in their homes.

General Harney made friendly overtures, and Little Thunder agreed to meet him in amiable parley. While the General and Chief Little Thunder were engaged in talk, the general, secretly deployed his soldiers, who completely encircled the encampment. After the trap was set, and people killed, Harney disdainfully told Little Thunder to go and defend his peoples. A massacre occurred that ranks high among many atrocities suffered by the red man in which women and children were the victims (*ibid.*).

Basil Brave Heart’s September 2014 letter, with supporting documentation to SD Tribal Relations Secretary LaPlante, provides graphic depiction of the Mní Tǎ́ Wakpá Massacre. Because of Harney’s conduct during this US sanctioned, punitive campaign, Harney acquired different names amongst the Oyáte. But he is most remembered as Óhũkešni Tokawichaya—one who plunders or rapes the weakest of the people. Atheran, Ostler, LaPointe and Brave Heart called out Harney’s behavior with candor, and they deserve our gratitude.

This testimony and others give evidence of how disparate the narratives have become—one sanitized, one not. The disparate narratives between the Oyáte and Americans about Harney’s actions at Mní Tǎ́ Wakpá are but one example of the contested narratives between Indigenous Peoples and whites in South Dakota and in the United States generally. Unaddressed, the disconnections that result from this disparity widen with each passing generation. Recognizing the disparity in the narratives and wanting to address it has evidently brought SDBGN to where it is at today: a commitment to re-naming Harney Peak.

Having established that Harney is an inappropriate name for the Black Hills’ highest summit, the question not only for the SDBGN but also for all those who care deeply about social and restorative justice and reconciliation becomes: what name is appropriate? Fortunately, Oyáte history and culture provide the answer. Prior to and after European Contact, the formation of the United States, and the establishment of South Dako-

Valandra Testimony: Renaming Harney Peak

ta, the Oyáte have always called this peak Hiŋhaŋ Káğa Pahá. Beyond serving as a significant, physical landmark, Hiŋhaŋ Káğa Pahá has also served the Oyáte as a multi-purposed cultural and ceremonial space.

Culturally, Hiŋhaŋ Káğa Pahá is not literally about owls. The area has cosmological associations that are mirrored in the land formations in and around the greater Black Hills. When a person learns the Oyáte's story about why the peak is called Owl Making Place, other celestial-to-land (and vice versa) relationships become clear. These relationships frame the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Oyáte's way of life. For example, the Wičhíŋčala Šakówiŋ narrative and its constellation are both associated with Hiŋhaŋ Káğa Pahá. The story teaches people, among other things, about how valuable our children are and instills the desire to ensure that no harm comes to them. The constellation reminds us of that story and transmits its teachings to the next generation. Valuing and protecting children is a custom shared by all; yet the Oyáte's historical name exposes that the peak's present name memorializes a man whose values were the opposite.

Ceremonially, when the sun is in the Wičhíŋčala Šakówiŋ constellation, the people know to Welcome-Back-The-Thunders at Hiŋhaŋ Káğa Pahá. This communal ceremony coincides with the Spring Equinox, and it signals to the people to start making preparations for upcoming summer ceremonies. These timed ceremonies ensure that the people will continue on, stay connected to each other, and are thankful to the Natural World. From the historical record, we learn that Harney held views opposite from what Hiŋhaŋ Káğa Pahá represents.

Therefore, I submit this testimony to support those who have recommended that the SDBGN approve "Hiŋhaŋ Káğa Pahá " to replace the name of "Harney Peak."



Edward C Valandra
Box 1235
Mission, SD 55105
Email: n8tv.studies@gmail.com

Glossary

Mní Tǎ́ Wakpá:	Blue Water Creek
Očhéthi Šakówiŋ Oyáte:	People of the Seven Council Fires
Hinŋhaŋ Káŋa Pahá:	Owl Making Place
Wičhínčala Šakówiŋ:	Seven Girls

Sources

- Athearn, Robert G. 1967. *Forts of the Upper Missouri*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.
- Brave Heart, Basil. 2014. Letter to Secretary Leroy "JR" LaPlante, The Department of Tribal Relations, regarding Harney Peak.
- LaPointe, James. 1976. *Legends of the Lakota*. San Francisco: Indian Historian Press.
- Ostler, Jeffery. 2004. *The Plains Sioux and U.S. Colonialism from Lewis and Clark to Wounded Knee*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Ullrich, Jan. 2011, 2d. *New Lakota Dictionary*. Bloomington, IN: Lakota Language Consortium.



Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

The South Dakota Board on Geographic Names (SDBGN) is a state commission created in 2009 by SDCL Chapter 1-19C. The SDBGN has adopted a Public Involvement Process which seeks public comment on the existing historic name and offering recommendations and justification for the new name as well as names for unnamed geographic features. The SDBGN follows the United States Board on Geographic Names' principles, policies, and procedures. For further information visit <http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/policies.htm>. Any proposed name changes for municipalities, counties or other political subdivisions of the State of South Dakota should be sent directly to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names for consideration.

Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga Paha

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
 Change name of existing feature

RECEIVED

APR 20 2015

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

before becoming Harney Peak it was traditionally known as Hinhan Kaga Paga by the Lakota people

Type of Geographic Feature:

mountain Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

highest land form between the Atlantic Ocean and the Rocky Mts mountains

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Hinhan Kaga Paha - means making of owls - the rock formations look like owls - this was a spiritual place for the Lakota people.

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N
If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

individual.

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

The Lower Brule Cultural Resources Elder Advisory Committee - letter of September 5, 2011

Submitted by:

Name: Susan Gullikson
Title (if representing organization or public entity): _____
Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): _____
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 181 Wagner SD 57380
Telephone: 605 384-5391
Email Address: _____

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Submit form to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: david.reiss@state.sd.us
FAX: 605-773-6592

Website: <http://www.sdbgn.sd.gov/>



Propose New Name or Name Change of Geographic Feature

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Proposed Name: Hinhan Kaga Paha

Action Requested:

- Name an unnamed feature
 Change name of existing feature

Reason for requesting name change or proposing a name for unnamed feature:

Before Harney Peak it was called Hinhan Kaga Paha by the indigenous Lakota which meant "making of owls".

Type of Geographic Feature:

Mountain Peak

Location of Feature (County/Geographic Coordinates):

Pennington County

Descriptive Information of the geographic feature:

Highest Landmark between Atlantic Ocean & the Rocky Mountains.

Meaning or Significance of the proposed name:

Hinhan Kaga Paha means "making of owls" cause rock formations look like owls; it was a spiritual place for the Lakota

Intended to Commemorate/Honor an Individual Y N

If yes, who?

Are you representing an organization/public entity or acting as an individual? If representing an organization or public entity, please identify the organization and your role.

individual

Please provide any letters of support for the new name and list any public entities or organizations that have indicated support for the new name below:

The Lower Brule Cultural Resources Elder Advisory Committee letter dated 9/5/2011.

Submitted by:

Name: Nadine Selwyn

Title (if representing organization or public entity): _____

Organization or Public Entity (if applicable): Yankton Sioux Tribal Member

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 752 Wagner SD 57380

Telephone: (605) 384-3479 or (605) 491-5118

Email Address: none

If the recommended name is adopted by the SDBGN, additional information may be needed to support the recommendation to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names.

Submit form to:

SD Board on Geographic Names
Dept. of Tribal Relations
302 East Dakota
Pierre, SD 57501

Email: david.reiss@state.sd.us

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