



Smithsonian Associates

## The Battle of the Little Bighorn

*With Clay Jenkinson*

Tuesday, September 14, 2021 - 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. ET

### A Custer – Little Bighorn Timeline

- 1851 Fort Laramie Treaty establishes geographic limits of the Sioux nation
- 1868 Battle of the Washita, a dawn raid on a peaceful Cheyenne village, the “template” for the Little Bighorn
- 1868 Second Fort Laramie Treaty establishes the Great Sioux Reservation, including the Black Hills
- 1873 Custer’s Seventh Cavalry escorts Northern Pacific Railroad survey into the heart of the Yellowstone Valley
- 1874 Custer leads military reconnaissance into the Black Hills, “discovers” gold
- 1875 Autumn: Allison Commission attempts to buy the Black Hills from the Lakota
- 1875 November 3: Secret White House meeting authorizing lax enforcement of 1868 treaty in the hope of touching off a war with the Lakota and Cheyenne

#### 1876

- January 31 The deadline for non-agency Indians to come into their respective Indian agencies comes and goes without Native compliance
- March 17 Reynolds fight with Cheyenne on the Powder River, Montana
- April 3 Colonel Gibbon’s column departs from Fort Ellis, Montana
- May 17 General Terry’s column (with Custer) departs from Fort Lincoln in Dakota Territory
- May 29 General Crooks’ column departs from Fort Fetterman, Wyoming
- June 4-6 the Lakota Sun Dance in which Sitting Bull sees vision of soldiers falling into the Native American encampment
- June 21 meeting on board the *Far West* at mouth of the Bighorn River to establish exact strategy for the coming battle – battle planned for June 26
- June 22 Custer moves south to get into position for pincer movement on the 26<sup>th</sup>
- June 24 Custer marches through the night to reach the large Native American encampment before the Lakota and Cheyenne have time to scatter
- June 25 Battle of the Little Bighorn
- July 4 American Centennial

#### 1877

- February Congress ratifies agreement in which 7.3 million acres of Lakota land, including the Black Hills, sold to the American government
- September Crazy Horse killed while resisting arrest at Fort Robins

## Books by Clay Jenkinson

*The Language of Cottonwoods: Essays on the Future of North Dakota*

*Bring Out Your Dead: The Literature and History of Epidemics*

*Message on the Wind: A Spiritual Odyssey  
on the Northern Plains*

*The Writings of the Lewis & Clark Expedition  
in North Dakota*

*Becoming Jefferson's People: Re-Inventing  
The American Republic in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

*A Free and Hardy Life: Theodore Roosevelt's  
Sojourn in the American West*

*The Character of Meriwether Lewis: Explorer  
in the Wilderness*

## A Few Books on the Custer Fight:

Evan S. Connell. *Son of the Morning Star.*

Stephen Ambrose. *Crazy Horse and Custer.*

Robert Utley. *The Lance and the Shield: The Life and Times of Sitting Bull.*

Pekka Hämäläinen. *Lakota America: A New History of Indigenous Power.*

T. J. Stiles. *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America.*

**Listen to the Thomas Jefferson Hour**, Clay's weekly podcast about the life and vision of the Third President of the United States. See [Jeffersonhour.com](http://Jeffersonhour.com) for details.

**Clay is the editor of *We Proceeded On***, the quarterly journal of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. You should subscribe: [www.lewisandclark.org](http://www.lewisandclark.org).

Clay is leading an initiative for [Governing.com](http://Governing.com) called **Listening to America**, an attempt to get beyond the narrow partisanship in our understanding of the narrative of America.

Clay performs a one-man show called **Shakespeare without Tears** throughout the United States. The purpose is to show a: that Shakespeare is not nearly so intimidating as he might seem; b: that today is the best time since the Elizabethan era to appreciate Shakespeare. This highly entertaining show is not just for English majors!

Clay is a writer, public humanities scholar, editor, public radio personality, adventurer, leader of cultural tours. He lives in Bismarck, North Dakota, one of the last agrarian places in America. He has a particular interest in the American West.

Clay Jenkinson  
701-202-6751  
[clayjenkinson.com](http://clayjenkinson.com)  
[clayjenkinson2010@gmail.com](mailto:clayjenkinson2010@gmail.com)

1324 Golden Eagle Lane  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58503  
[jeffersonhour.com](http://jeffersonhour.com)

## Cultural Tours

Clay leads annual cultural tours on the Lewis and Clark Trail, in Mr. Jefferson's Virginia, and France, in John Steinbeck's California, in Homer's Greece, and the Landscapes of English Literature.

Clay also hosts January humanities retreats at a wonderful mountain lodge west of Missoula, Montana, on Thoreau, Dickens, Shakespeare, Books of the Road, American Indian literature and history, and more. It's the book club you always wanted to join.

Clay teaches online humanities courses for adults (no essays, no exams!) on a wide range of subjects, from the future of the U.S. Constitution, to the Making of the Atomic Bomb, to the literature and history of the Great Plains, to Virgil's *Aeneid*.

For more information, go to [Jeffersonhour.com](http://Jeffersonhour.com).