

**STURGIS WEEKLY RECORD  
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**FORT MEADE ITEMS**

The death at Whitewood, of a former chief trumpeter of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, John Burri, recalled to memory the important services of the army in opening up the west and particularly of the Black Hills region. Chief Trumpeter Burri served in the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry from 1871 to 1885. He was with General Custer when the latter entered the state in 1872 and also on the memorable Black Hills expedition in 1874. He organized the regimental band and brought its reputation up to one of the best regimental bands in the army. At the time of the Battle of the Little Big Horn he was absent from the command on furlough. He later participated in the campaign against the Nez Force [sic, Perce] Indians in Idaho and Montana, and was cited for bravery in action during this expedition. In "Boots and Saddles" Mrs. Custer makes mention of the fact that he frequently entertained the general and herself on lonely evenings by playing on his zither. He was discharged from the army at Fort Meade in 1885, and has since resided in the vicinity. His late years were spent at Whitewood.

Upon request, the commanding officer directed that the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Band and a funeral escort be sent to Whitewood to attend the funeral of Mr. Burri. The funeral services were conducted at the Presbyterian Church in Whitewood by Chaplain Albert K. Mathews, U.S. Army. The ceremony was impressive and was attended by practically all of the inhabitants of Whitewood and a great many outsiders. A march composed by the deceased, the Black Hills March," was played by the 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Band. "Taps" was sounded by Corporal Bugler Swift, 4<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, with the bugle so often used by the deceased.