

STURGIS WEEKLY RECORD
Friday, October 17, 1913

JOHN LATTMANN DEAD.*

Gate City Guide, 10th: John Lattmann died at the Methodist Deaconess hospital last Monday after an illness of several months. He was taken to the hospital about two weeks ago in hopes of regaining his health but the grim reaper had advanced too far into his life and the end came within a few days. Mr. Lattmann was born in Canton, Zurich, Switzerland, in January 1848. Coming to [sic] Switzerland in 1872, he enlisted in the army in 1873, joining the Seventh Cavalry as a member of Troop I. He was at Fort Lincoln for some time and came to the Black Hills in 1887, and was under the command of General Custer during the time of the Custer massacre, but was serving under Major Reno. He was one of the men who escaped this battle owing to the rushing Custer having advanced too fast for the men under Reno's command who were unable to arrive at the main field in time to partake in the battle. Reno's men were fighting off smaller troops of Indians and were unable to get to the position of battle where Custer had planned them to be. Lattmann was in this troop and for two days laid in ambush to avoid being killed by the savage Indians. It is said that Lattmann is the last of the men in this part of the country who were under the command of Major Reno and General Custer at that time.

Mr. Lattmann leaves no known relatives other than a half brother in Nebraska and a sister in Germany. He was a man of fair means and shortly before his death deeded over all his property to his sister. He was generous and kind hearted and ever willing to help his friends and neighbors whenever possible.

He fought in many Indian skirmishes in the early days and with his passing the Black Hills loses one more of its so-called "old timers." Those who were personally acquainted with Mr. Lattmann are best able to tell of the many acts of charity he performed during his lifetime.

He was laid to rest in Elk Vale cemetery on Elk Creek Thursday at one o'clock. Rev. H.L. Hood officiating at the last sad rites.

* - The spelling of Lattmann is as it appeared in the newspaper. I have always used the spelling of Lattman as that is the way it is printed on his headstone.