

On the Roster

Pvt. Charles A. Windolph

Charles Windolph arrived in the United States in 1871 and enlisted in Company A, 2nd Infantry on Nov. 12 of that year. He deserted on July 18, 1872, and re-enlisted on July 23, 1872 as Charles Wrangel. He was assigned to Company H, 7th Cavalry. With the Seventh, Windolph served in the Yellowstone expedition of 1873, the Black Hills expedition of 1874 and the Centennial Campaign of 1876, where he was shot in the buttock during the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25. He was later awarded the Medal of Honor in 1878 because he:

“With three comrades, during the entire engagement, courageously held a position that secured water for the command.”

Windolph remained in the military until 1883 when he was discharged as first sergeant of Company H. After his military career, Windolph worked as a blacksmith for 49 years. He also attended the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 26, 1926, and was awarded the Order of the Purple Heart for the wound he received during the hilltop fight. Charles Windolph died on March 11, 1950. He was 98 years old.

Windolph told his story to Frazier and Robert Hunt, who published it in the book, *I Fought with Custer: The Story of Sergeant Windolph, Last Survivor of the Battle of the Little Big Horn*.



In 1873, Pvt. “Wrangel” turned himself in for deserting 2nd Infantry in 1872. He was restored to duty without trial as Charles Windolph.