

From the Rapid City Journal -- March 11, 1950.

LAST SURVIVOR OF BATTLE OF LITTLE BIG HORN IS DEAD*

Lead, March 11 – Charles A. Windolph, 98, the nation's oldest Congressional Medal of Honor winner, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. G.C. Fehlman, in Lead at about 3:45 a.m. today.

The famous soldier, who served with Colonel George A. Custer in the fateful Battle of the Little Big Horn and also won the Purple Heart for a wound received during this historic engagement, lost his fight to reach the century mark.

Windolph had been in failing health since his birthday Dec. 9. The aged veteran, who was one of the last members of the almost depleted ranks of the GAR, had been employed for the Homestake Mining Company for 49 years.

He was retired at the age of 85. Windolph was active even in his early 90's and took daily walks through Lead. However, during the past five years he had been a semi-invalid under the care of Dr. and Mrs. Fehlman.

Windolph was born Dec. 9, 1851, in Bergen on the isle of Riigen in Germany. He came to the United States when he was 19 years old and immediately joined the U.S. Cavalry to learn to speak English.

He married a childhood sweetheart from Germany in 1880, and left the army at her request in 1883.

Five children were born to the couple, of which three are still living: Mrs. G.C. Fehlman, Lead; Robert Windolph of Lead; Mrs. P.L. Harms, Minneapolis, Minn. Also surviving are a granddaughter, Mrs. Paul Metcen**, Lakeview, Ore., and three great grandchildren.

Windolph was a member of the Homestake Veteran's Association.

The body is at the McColley mortuary at Lead pending funeral arrangements.

*Although Windolph was the last white survivor of the Battle of the Little Big Horn, he was not the last survivor. That distinction goes to the Lakota Dewey Beard who died in 1955.

** In Windolph's obituary that appeared in the Deadwood Pioneer-Times on March 12, 1950, this name is spelled Metzen.