

## BOOK REVIEW

*Firearms in the Custer Battle.* By John E. Parsons and John S. du Mont. (The Stackpole Company, Harrisburg, Pa. 59 pp. \$2.75)

Few incidents in American frontier history have held the interest and imagination of Americans as has Custer's renowned last stand on the Little Big Horn. Although the subject of enumerable paintings, dramas and "personal reminiscences," the actual events have been so obscured by all of the subsequent tradition, reaching the level of a permanent chapter of our national folklore, that it is refreshing and pleasurable to pick up anything dealing with such a matter-of-fact and practical subject as the ordnance and firearms actually used by the army personnel in this engagement.

As the authors point out, the matter has been the subject of considerable license in connection with the "relics" and souvenirs of the battle, all with their respective claims to authenticity. Only by careful checking of Ordnance Department records in the National Archives, even as to the highest serial number that could permit any individual weapon to be old enough for use in June, 1876, have the authors cut away the confusion and inaccuracy relating to this aspect of the event.

Published in quarto size, and resembling a hand book or pamphlet, the volume is well printed on fine stock and lends itself to the superior reproduction of the many drawings and illustrations. The various pictures of Custer, not only at Fort Lincoln but on several of his hunting expeditions, are excellent. Such illustrations may serve well as a supplement to any study of our own Battle of the Washita; and it is hoped that some day the authors will extend their research back through some eight more years of history and provide us with a similar report on the weapons used by the Seventh Cavalry on that memorable day of November 27, 1868.

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