

Mounted Pelt of General Custer's Dog Sought Here

'Cardigan' Believed to Have Reposed in Old University Museum.

Somewhere in Minneapolis reposes the preserved body of Cardigan, a dog famous in the Indian history of the nation as the pet and companion of General George A. Custer, the slain hero of the battle of the Little Big Horn, which occurred June 25, 1876.

The story of the famous dog arises in every discussion of the relief expedition which went to Custer's assistance. Information of Mrs. Elizabeth B. Custer, widow of the slain soldier, seems to indicate that the dog did not accompany his master on that trip, but remained with her at Fort Abraham Lincoln, and was later given to a friend of General Custer's.

This friend, it is recorded, came to Minneapolis, and here the dog probably died.

"His new master honored him by having his body set up by a taxidermist," Mrs. Custer relates in "Boots and Saddles, or Life with General Custer in Dakota." "A place was found for the image in some public building there," she wrote. [note misquote]

Nicholas R. Murphy, 3341 Forty-first avenue south, veteran Minneapolis mail carrier, who was a sergeant in the Seventh U.S. Infantry, commanded by Colonel John Gibbon, which, with four squadrons of the Second cavalry and a small detachment, arrived at the scene of the massacre 24 hours too late to help Custer, declared last night that he doubts the story of the dog ever having been in Minneapolis.

"So many of the legends in connection with General Custer's life which have been circulated in stories have proved to be false," Mr. Murphy said last night, in discussing the search which has been conducted for the dog many years. "It is of course, a part of the romantic pioneer history of the wonderful Northwest, and anyone who knows of the present resting place of this relic should make the matter known to those interested in the history of the territory."

Descendants of several pioneers here declare they believed they had heard some mention made of the dog many years ago. From all reports it reposed in the old University museum, and probably was not labeled. When the museum was moved, many items were disposed of if they apparently had no historical value, and it supposed that this is what happened to the remains of Cardigan.