

# General George A. Custer

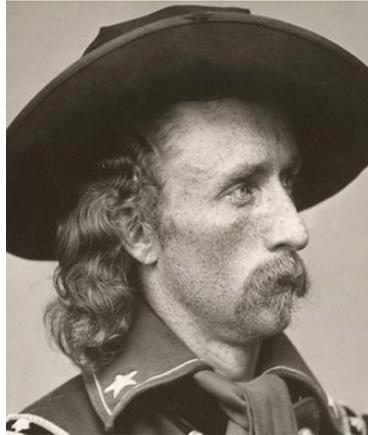


*As Portrayed By Dale Small*



George Armstrong Custer (December 5, 1839 – June 25, 1876) was a United States Army officer and cavalry commander in the American Civil War and the American Indian Wars. Raised in Michigan and Ohio, Custer was admitted to West Point in 1857, where he graduated last in his class. In his four years at West Point, he amassed a record-total of 726 demerits, one of the worst conduct records in the history of the academy. A roommate noted, "It was alright with George Custer, whether he knew his lesson or not; he simply did not allow it to trouble him. Under ordinary conditions, Custer's low class rank would result in an obscure posting, but Custer had the "fortune" to graduate as the Civil War broke out. All officers were needed.

He participated in the first major engagement, the First Battle of Bull Run on July 21, 1861. Custer was brevetted to brigadier general at age 23, less than a week before the Battle of Gettysburg, where he personally led cavalry charges that prevented Confederate cavalry from attacking the Union rear in support of Pickett's Charge. He was wounded in the Battle of Culpeper Court House in Virginia on September 13, 1863. In 1864, Custer was awarded another star and brevetted to major general rank. At the



conclusion of the Appomattox Campaign, in which he and his troops played a decisive role, Custer was present at General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant, on April 9, 1865.

After the Civil War, Custer remained a major general in the United States Volunteers until they were mustered out in February 1866. He reverted to his permanent rank of captain and was appointed a lieutenant colonel in the 7th Cavalry Regiment in July 1866. He was dispatched to the west in 1867 to fight in the American Indian Wars.

On June 25, 1876, while leading the 7th Cavalry Regiment at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana Territory against a coalition of Native American tribes, he was killed along with his entire detachment, which included two of his brothers. The battle is popularly known among European Americans as "Custer's Last Stand"; Native Americans refer to it as the Battle of the Greasy Grass, based on their term for the site. Custer's dramatic and controversial death shocked the people of the United States and enduringly became one of the most iconic incidents in United States military history. His notoriety has eclipsed his substantial success as a youthful Civil War commander.



*Dale Small portrays one of the more colorful characters known to history. Mr. Small has been in the hobby for some time now and enjoys the hobby immensely. Mr. Small lives in Hanover Pa.*