

JUN 15 2015

Do not rename Harney Peak with a name that few can pronounce or spell. This will just cause more resentment of the non native population towards the native population. I think a good name would be "Making of Owls" which everyone can pronounce and spell.

Glen Anderson
13196 Fall River Rd
Hot Springs SD 57747

Reiss, David

From: Rhonda Cordonnier <kolana@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 8:03 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Submitting signatures to support the campaign to rename Harney Peak
Attachments: Sign-the-Petition-to-South-Dakota-Board-on-Graphic-Names-Department-of-Tribal-Relations.pdf; Sign-the-Petition-to-South-Dakota-Board-on-Graphic-Names-Department-of-Tribal-Relations.csv

Good morning,

Attached is a list of 65 people, their names and contact information (PDF and CSV format) that have been collected in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to the original Lakota name for the mountain: Making the Sacred Owl Hill.

Please add these names to the others who are in support of this name change.

If you have any questions please contact me directly and thank you for your kind assistance.

With blessings and much respect for all you do for so many.

Rhonda Cordonnier
6735 Knight Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 641-2114

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"You have to be willing to give up the life you've planned for in order to live the life that's waiting for you." ~ Joseph Campbell



PETITION: Sign the Petition to South Dakota Board on Graphic Names - Department of Tribal Relations

To: South Dakota Board on Graphic Names - Department of Tribal Relations

It is a travesty & shame that this sacred site should ever have been named for a war criminal who was responsible for the wanton slaughter of innocent Lakota lives at the massacre of Blue Water Creek in 1855.

65 SIGNATURES

	NAME	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	DATE SIGNED
1	Rhonda Cordonnier	80918	United States	May 15, 2015
2	James Hamp	80241	United States	May 15, 2015
3	Nicole Spencer	80236	United States	May 15, 2015
4	Colorado Haze	80817	United States	May 15, 2015
5	Shauna Zeck	50701	United States	May 15, 2015
6	Christina Castle	46808	United States	May 15, 2015
7	Maureen Brucker	80634	United States	May 15, 2015
8	Don Baumgartner	59801	United States	May 15, 2015
9	Aquene Oceans	43039	Italy	May 16, 2015
10	Julia Holleran	93020	United States	May 17, 2015
11	Bill Clark	86403	United States	May 17, 2015
12	Cathy Botha	01450	South Africa	May 18, 2015
13	Susan Domitrz Sapienza	48183	United States	May 20, 2015
14	Bhabani Sankar Sahoo	110007	India	May 23, 2015
15	Mardi Strong	99507	United States	May 26, 2015
16	Laura Rollin	80831	United States	May 27, 2015
17	Ketty Ahern	93020	United States	May 30, 2015
18	Luke Ahern	93020	United States	Jun 02, 2015
19	Terry Rudd	LS9 6JX	United Kingdom	Jun 06, 2015
20	Doris Franklin	29160	United States	Jun 07, 2015
21	Abdul Malik Khan	60645	United States	Jun 07, 2015
22	LuAnn Giunta	06880	United States	Jun 07, 2015
23	Trina Lilbit Hawkins	51106	United States	Jun 07, 2015
24	Carolyn Palmer	BN3 8BL	United Kingdom	Jun 07, 2015
25	Samir Allariha	00972	Israel	Jun 07, 2015
26	Luise Behr	68794	Germany	Jun 07, 2015

	NAME	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	DATE SIGNED
27	Barbara Hoskins	32405	United States	Jun 07, 2015
28	Linda Smigelski	07304	United States	Jun 07, 2015
29	Eva PlzÁková	332 02	Czech Republic	Jun 08, 2015
30	Natan Khambu Kirat	09771	Nepal	Jun 08, 2015
31	Wilma Lagrand	4451RN	Netherlands	Jun 08, 2015
32	Petra Egging	6836 hd netherlands	Netherlands	Jun 08, 2015
33	Sylvia Ferro	33126-5030	United States	Jun 08, 2015
34	Curt Maes	8530	Belgium	Jun 08, 2015
35	Maya Wolfgang	12240130	Brazil	Jun 08, 2015
36	Willem Kom	9602vd	Netherlands	Jun 08, 2015
37	Lisbeth Jensen	9330	Denmark	Jun 08, 2015
38	Macropod Whisperer Antje Struthmann	4214	Australia	Jun 09, 2015
39	Jana Axamítová Kloudová	90203	Slovakia	Jun 09, 2015
40	Ile Minculescu	70000	Romania	Jun 09, 2015
41	Lutz Kollbach		Germany	Jun 09, 2015
42	Iris Cornet	2352RD	Netherlands	Jun 09, 2015
43	Ioana Anca		Romania	Jun 09, 2015
44	Sigrid Altmann	5020 salzburg	Austria	Jun 09, 2015
45	Roberta Limoli Barufaldi	01803	United States	Jun 09, 2015
46	Jenny Bron	1506 kd	Netherlands	Jun 09, 2015
47	Michael Foster	25430	United States	Jun 09, 2015
48	Maria Schulz	300424	Romania	Jun 09, 2015
49	Manuela Wolter	50309	Costa Rica	Jun 09, 2015
50	jolanda meier	3181za	Netherlands	Jun 09, 2015
51	Ingrid Benker	benkeringa@googlemail.com	Germany	Jun 10, 2015
52	Judy La Hair	81143	United States	Jun 10, 2015
53	Luke Cammack	80904	United States	Jun 10, 2015
54	Rose M Romero	80911	United States	Jun 10, 2015
55	Antje Lorenz	42113	Germany	Jun 10, 2015
56	Eduardo En Ingrid Ruiz	1015SX	Netherlands	Jun 11, 2015
57	Angelina Stoycheva	31513	Spain	Jun 11, 2015
58	Marleen Geudens	22605	Belgium	Jun 12, 2015
59	SunWolf Chaney	95632	United States	Jun 12, 2015
60	Daniel Cordonnier	80918	United States	Jun 12, 2015
61	Karen Murray	80921	United States	Jun 12, 2015
62	Marc Rogers	80918	United States	Jun 13, 2015
63	Phoenix Armijo	87505	United States	Jun 13, 2015

	NAME	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY	DATE SIGNED
64	Maria Keranez Carpentieri	Keranez@hotmail.com	Brazil	Jun 14, 2015
65	Lisa Ernst	59638	United States	Jun 14, 2015

Reiss, David

From: John & Susan <johnsusan@gwtc.net>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 8:20 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss:

I am not enthusiastic about changing the name of Harney Peak.

I am relatively well versed on Native culture having worked on most of the reservations in the 1980's and also serving as the Chief Judge of the Crow Creek Sioux Tribal Court until June, 1987. What I learned during that time is that there are as many opinions on these types of issues as there are Natives. I understand the concern of some Natives but I also know that other Natives who were pushed west by the Sioux, Lakota, Dakota, Nakota etc. probably have some thoughts on the issue as well. Each certainly has their own heroes and villains. Few people knew the genesis of the name until this controversy arose. It was just a name and at this particular juncture I think it is best to leave it alone.

Sincerely,

John Culberson
112 Buckboard Court
Custer, SD 57730
johnsusan@gwtc.net

Reiss, David

From: mary houska <hurdle14@rap.midco.net>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 10:19 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

Dear Members of the SD Board on Geographic Names:

A very intelligent and wise gentleman friend of ours who is 95 years old suggested an alternative name to us some time ago. He suggested it be called Paha Sapa Peak...easy to pronounce and well known to all, a name that is familiar to all who study the history of the Hills.

I certainly do understand the aversion of many of renaming Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga, as it is difficult to pronounce (and remember). I also understand that honoring a man who, according to history, had a history of violent acts against people, is questionable too. You have a tough decision to make.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mary and John Houska

Reiss, David

From: Lynn Kolund <lkolund@me.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 10:37 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Comments on renaming Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

The purpose of this correspondence is to provide comment on the recommendation to rename Harney Peak to Hinga Kaga.

My name is Lynn Kolund and I was the District Ranger or administrative leader for the Hell Canyon Ranger District on the Black Hills National Forest from 2009 to 2013. Harney Peak was within the 400,000 acres of the Black Hills NF that I was my responsibility. I am now retired and living in Custer County.

I was passionate about restoration of the Harney Peak Fire Tower, which is the most significant heritage site in the Black Hills NF. We could never get the funding and the staffing to get the project started until after I retired. This September will be the third year we have had a volunteer project to work on restoring and preserving this structure with so much rich history. South Dakota Public Broadcasting did a segment on it last year, which is on UTube. I encourage you to watch it.

My point is that most of the 30-40 thousand people who hike to Harney Peak each year think that the fire tower and associated structures constructed by the CCC is Harney Peak. Renaming the peak would only add confusion to the tourists who hike there and come to the Black Hills, adding much to our state economy.

Secondly, for the state residents, changing the name of Harney Peak to Hinga Kaga would undo much of the progress that has been made on reconciliation between our local, primarily Caucasian citizens and Native Americans (primarily Sioux) located on and off reservations in the state. I worked for 7 years for the Forest Service in Alaska. There Mt McKinley National Park was renamed Denali NP decades ago. I worked with National Park Service employees who shared their frustration with the daily questions and confusion for changing the name that they dealt with these many years later. The name change also clearly added discord between white and native Alaska residents long after those involved with the decision were gone.

In my experience, changing the name of Harney Peak will only add confusion for our tourists and discord for our state citizens. There is no compelling reason to change the name of Harney Peak and I encourage you recommend against changing it for my stated reasons

Thank you for taking my comment. I am sending this from a hotel room in Denver. Could you respond with an email to let me know that you received it. Thanks!

Lynn D Kolund
Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Baers <baerb@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 11:21 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

David,

Why not change the name of Harney Peak to "Owl Peak".

Bob Baer
605-745-7662

Reiss, David

From: Dodge Town Office Depart <officedept@dodgetowninc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 11:34 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I think they should leave the name as Harney Peak, it is one of this areas landmark areas and is known by that name and shouldn't be changed.

Eddie Rypkema
Dodge Town

Reiss, David

From: Brian Brandt <brianbrandt@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 11:35 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Name Change for Harney Peak

Hello -- I got an error message from the first e-mail I sent in this regard, so please forgive me if this is a repeat.

By now, I'm sure most of the historical facts surrounding General Harney have been brought to light as part of the discussion of renaming Harney Peak ... his numerous court martials, the fact that he murdered his slave girl for losing his house keys, the Ash Hollow massacre he commanded where his troops killed 80 women and children, the fact that Winfield Scott removed him from command and sent him home for "killing Indians for sport" instead of attending to his military duties during the Mexican American War. From the day of the original naming of South Dakota's highest peak in his "honor", attaching the name of a degenerate like Harney to the highest point in the state should have been a source of national embarrassment (as it has become now that more and more people outside the state know about it.)

As President of the Center for Business and Economics in Rapid City, I worked (and still work) with several groups on the Pine Ridge Reservation -- entrepreneurs who are making a substantial difference there. I started asking them years ago what the Lokota called Harney Peak, and they told me then "Place Where the Owls Dwell" -- which I believe, in the Lokota language, is one of the alternate names under consideration.

Now I see that the Secretary of Tourism and the Secretary of Game Fish and Parks have both come out against the name change ("It will confuse people" -- which people??, and to what calamitous end?). People who I know from surrounding states already consider South Dakota one of the most narrow-minded, backwards (look at teacher salaries), and prejudiced places they have visited (and the racial prejudice in Rapid City is ongoing and shameful.) So to have two state secretaries come out against changing the name from one of a murderer to something lyrical that honors the Native American's original attachment to the Black Hills is insulting to the Native Americans, and ridiculous in its foundation: "confusing, hard to pronounce?" -- have neither of these people ever been outside South Dakota to places like Hawaii, (Haleakalā National Park), Minnesota (Keewaydin - from the Ojibwe), Florida (Tallahassee, from the Creek word)?-- the list goes on.

One would think the Secretary for Tourism would welcome what could become a PR windfall by changing the name. But the state tourism industry is a throw-back to the 1950's in South Dakota -- low wages (and by God, keep them low), plaster the freeways from border to border with billboards for cheesy tourist attractions that people from all over the world have laughed at and deplored, and have a strong lobby in Pierre. The benefit the state could reap from making a big deal out of the name change is something anyone with a smattering of marketing sense would seize -- everyone from the Governor on down could gain substantially from this change in terms of national image. The smart thing to do is to change it, embrace it, and promote it.

Brian Brandt
Brianbrandt@earthlink.net
(605) 877-1276

Reiss, David

From: Dodge Town Office Depart <officedept@dodgetowninc.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 11:37 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak

I really think the name should be left as is. This is a well known tourist area and we shouldn't confuse people by changing the name.

Thank you,

Joy Palmer

Reiss, David

From: Paul Squillace <pssquill@rushmore.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Name Change

Dear David, I think the proposed name change of Harney Peak is crazy. No one can spell or pronounce the name, and even the Natives don't know what it means. If it means what some think, then it doesn't make any sense. I can't believe we are spending time and money taking about this when we can't afford to pay our teachers or educate our children. What a waste. Paul Squillace

Reiss, David

From: Frank James <fejames@dakotarural.org>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 12:50 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Hinhan Kaga

This hill should be renamed. It shouldn't carry the name of a Native American killer. I support the name change.

Sincerely,

Frank James
P.O. Box 448
Toronto, SD 57268

Reiss, David

From: Sarah Peterson <hummingbirdpottery@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 12:53 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Dear David Reiss,

I am 100% in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga. I wish there were more original Lakota names of places in South Dakota to honor the people who lived here first.

Thank you,
Sarah Peterson
hummingbirdpottery@yahoo.com
510 Jennings
Hot Springs, SD 57747
605-745-5189

Reiss, David

From: Karoline Neill <karoline.neill@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 1:10 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Comments on proposed name change for Harney Peak
Attachments: Harney Peak name chg letter.pdf

Dear Mr. Reiss,
Attached is my letter (comments) on the proposed name change for Harney Peak.

Please respond when you receive this message, so I know that you received it and could open the attachment.

Thank you,
Karoline Neill

2350 Malibu Loop
Sturgis, SD 57785
(605) 347-7658

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to changing the name of Harney Peak. I am asking you to stop all this Politically Correct madness!

The biggest reason given by supporters for the name change is that the peak is named after a general who apparently fought and killed Sioux 160 years ago. I have lived in and around the Black Hills for my entire life- 34 years- and until this debate came up in April 2015, I had no idea who Harney was. I didn't know he was a "hot-tempered general who led attacks on the Sioux" (RCJournal, *Two top State officials oppose new Harney Peak name*, June 14, 2015 p. A1) and didn't even know the peak was named for a general. So apparently the only people who even know about this are historians and people holding a 160 year old grudge. If all it takes to change the name of a place is one guy saying he's offended, well, let me tell you I am offended by the proposed name change!

In the cited story, apparently the name change is led by a man who is "offended" that Harney attacked and killed Sioux, including women and children. Is he equally "offended" about the "earlier killing of 30 soldiers and a civilian interpreter" (*Ibid* p. A5) for which Harney's "attack" was in retaliation for? I would guess not. I am offended that my tax dollars are being wasted on something this silly! The battle cited was 160 years ago! Get over it! I'm not angry about the Battle of the Little Bighorn!

The supporters of this name change are saying the name Harney is offensive. Well, they are being very hypocritical! Crazy Horse, for whom we have a giant monument in the Black Hills, was also a soldier/white man killer. He fought the soldiers, just as Harney fought the Sioux. Yet not one is "offended" by the monument/complex that tells his story! The Sioux people were not innocent bystanders in this war. They killed innocent whites as well. Take the story of Charles Nolin, who was killed in present day Sturgis. Just a pony express rider, doing his job, he was slaughtered by the Sioux while riding to deliver the mail. For every story of a soldier massacring Sioux, there is one for Sioux massacring whites. Not to mention the Sioux takeover of the Black Hills from other tribes. The Sioux weren't here first either! At least let's change the name to whatever the tribes who were here first called it!

Are Basil Brave Heart and his supporters going to pay for all the signs, maps, commercials and literature to be changed? What about the loss of inventory for those businesses who sell Harney Peak merchandise? I am offended that the supporters on this name change expect the South Dakota tax payers to pay millions or billions of dollars so they can feel warm and fuzzy.

Do you really think that an official name change will change the name of Harney Peak? It will not. People will just end up calling it "Hinhan Kaga, you know, it used to be Harney Peak". This happens with the other peak whose name changed- Mt. McKinley. This is also evident in other businesses and places in Rapid City that have changed their names.

What's next? Will we change the name of the Black Hills back to Paha Sapa? What about the town of Custer? Surely THAT name offends someone! What about Custer State Park, Sturgis, Ft. Meade, and Mt. Rushmore? The list is endless! Changing the name of Harney Peak will open the flood gates of wasting tax dollars and time paying state workers to have countless public hearings on changing every town, peak, valley, and creek name!

This is such a waste of time and money because no tourist (or even people who live here) even know the story of this long dead, and long forgotten, general Harney. The way to better race relations is not to give in to racism and political correctness.

Karoline M. Neill
2350 Malibu Loop
Sturgis, SD 57785
(605) 347-7658

Reiss, David

From: Diana Norman <dddeutsch@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 1:35 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak - Name Changes in South Dakota

Harney Peak & Shannon County:

Dear Mr. David Reiss,

I would like to respond to the hullabaloo in regards to the demands and request to change long standing names of towns, counties, and significant landmarks in South Dakota.

1. Someone will always want to change or dislike some name and project their personal ideology on to others.
2. Changing things to Lakota names that are difficult or hard to figure out to pronounce does little to help anyone let alone tourists to be able to identify and share their experience assist no one. Most Lakota people cannot pronounce the new names either.
3. I have great respect for both Lakota and other Americans plus South Dakota individuals who were significant in creating South Dakotas rich history even though both sides had dark moments with those who were just following their life paths... good or not so proud moments can be attributed to both sides. Wars, warriors, and soldiers do what they do...it is not a pleasant experience on either side.
4. Regards of what others try to change or call things.... A rose by any other name is still a rose. Harney Peak is still Harney Peak.

Sincerely

Diana D Norman
email: dddeutsch@hotmail.com

Reiss, David

From: Schaal, Daniel <Daniel.Schaal@SDSTATE.EDU>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 2:25 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak renaming

David Reiss,

I wish to submit public comment on the the proposed name change for Harney Peak, if this is not the correct address for such comments please forward this message to the correct location.

I am 100% in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak, but I am 100% against the proposed name. After hearing the history of Gneral Harney I agree that the current name is offensive and should be changed, but it should be changed to a name that the general population can pronounce. If the name is changed to something like "Black Elk Peak" or "Sylvan Peak" the people of SD will embrace the name and use it in their daily life. In this case the name will truly be changed and the name "Harney Peak" will cease to exist. If the name is "officially changed" to "Hinhan Kaga," then that is the name that will appear on the maps and signs, but it will not be the name used by many (if not most) of the citizens of South Dakota. That name is too hard to remember and pronounce, so people will continue to refer to the peak as "Harney Peak" in general conversation. Because of this the name "Harney Peak" will live on in everyday speech for decades. People will not do this for political or ideological reasons, they just will prefer to use a name they can pronounce. (I know that we currency have towns and other locations that have Lakota names, but none are as difficult as this name) If we truly want to get the name "Harney Peak" out of common usage, then it must be changed to a name that the general population can pronounce.

Daniel Schaal
1816 Olwien St.
Brookings, SD
605-651-1339

Reiss, David

From: Paul Seamans <jacknife@goldenwest.net>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 3:21 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

I support the name change to Hinhan Kaga. I do not like naming geographical features after people in power to curry their favor, as Warren did with Harney.

Paul Seamans, Draper

Sent from my iPad

Reiss, David

From: Rhonda Cordonnier <kolana@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 3:24 PM
To: Reiss, David
Cc: Mark Clements; Rhonda Cordonnier
Subject: IMPORTANT: More names to Submitting signatures to support the campaign to rename Harney Peak
Attachments: Additional Names for the Renaming of Harney Peak .xlsx

We have 16 more names to add to the list making a total of 81 voices speaking in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak.

I am not sure when the cutoff is so when you receive this update can you please confirm you have received the signatures and also tell me when the cutoff is?

Many thanks
Rhonda

On Mon, Jun 15, 2015 at 7:02 AM, Rhonda Cordonnier <kolana@gmail.com> wrote:
Good morning,

Attached is a list of 65 people, their names and contact information (PDF and CSV format) that have been collected in favor of changing the name of Harney Peak to the original Lakota name for the mountain: Making the Sacred Owl Hill.

Please add these names to the others who are in support of this name change.

If you have any questions please contact me directly and thank you for your kind assistance.

With blessings and much respect for all you do for so many.

Rhonda Cordonnier
6735 Knight Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(719) 641-2114

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"You have to be willing to give up the life you've planned for in order to live the life that's waiting for you." ~ Joseph Campbell

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66	147516511 Susan Mattson	59601 United States	06/15/2015
67	109893933 Laura Stone	55609 United States	06/15/2015
68	51043473 Randall Wallace	94114 United States	06/15/2015
69	126437318 Sonny Bass	59635 United States	06/15/2015
70	137158573 Peter Spooner	55804 United States	06/15/2015
71	27966285 Molly Luna Iris	97146 United States	06/15/2015
72	184076381 Maren Souders	97206 United States	06/15/2015
73	188237779 Alison Tibbals	85711 United States	06/15/2015
74	16841684 Ellen Galbreath	85719 United States	06/15/2015
75	50355115 Hortensia Pohn Macleod	55057 United States	06/15/2015
76	23720729 T. Michael Rock	55422 United States	06/15/2015
77	123455361 Linda Gryczan	59601 United States	06/15/2015
78	47997205 David Weiss	55104 United States	06/15/2015
79	186551195 Karen Brokken	97223 United States	06/15/2015
80	43337498 Carol Thurston Martin	50010 United States	06/15/2015
81	42680049 Phil Robison	59601 United States	06/15/2015

Reiss, David

From: Lucy Halverson <lucy@lcherald.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 5:08 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposed Harney Peak name change

To Whom it may concern:

As a born and raised South Dakotan - a native of South Dakota - I would like to express my opinion in the proposed name change of Harney Peak.

I am opposed to changing the name of Harney Peak!

I am well aware of some of the offensive names given to creeks and other landmarks in the state, such as Squaw Creek, and agree that they should be changed. But, General Harney was an officer in the U.S. Army who was assigned a duty in the 1800s and carried it out as ordered. If Harney Peak's name is changed I'm afraid it will only be a matter of time before the city of Custer or Custer County or other well known South Dakota locations (Mt. Rushmore, perhaps) will come pressure to change also!

We can't rewrite our history.

We can't undo the way people treated Indians a 150 years ago. It was a completely different time in history.

Being of German decent, I'm disgusted by the way the Germans treated Jewish people and others 70-75 years ago during WWII. But, it is history. And, we have learned from that history, and hope atrocities like those never happen again.

As a life long resident of South Dakota, a person who at age 55 finally walked to the top of Harney Peak - And, proud of it - Please consider my opposition to the name change.

Lucy Halverson

--
Lucy Halverson, Publisher/Editor
Lyman County Herald
PO Box 518, Presho, SD 57568
605-895-6397



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Reiss, David

From: Jim Didier <jimdidier@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 5:15 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Proposed name change from Harney Peak to KaKa peak in the beautiful Black Hills of SD

Time to Voice our Great Silent Majority Logical Opinion

This is ridiculous.....Will we be changing the name of Custer City, Custer Mountain, Custer County here in South Dakota, not to mention other towns, counties, mountains, etc named for Custer in a dozen other states?

So General Harney was a little over the top in his dealings with racial issues...Isn't it possible that Sitting Bull, Nez Pierce and watch out, Crazy Horse didn't kill or abuse whites? All have significant landmarks named after them .. If Harney Peak is changed, then we need to change the name of Crazy Horse Mountain, Black Elk Wilderness Area, and Sitting Bull National Grasslands back to their original Caucasian names.

Do we have to change Mt. Rushmore back to its native monicker, as well as Bear Butte or Devils Tower?

How about Diamond Head in Hawaii?....Most people that live there don't have a clue as to it's Polynesian label.

Let's be real... Harney Peak was and always will be HARNEY PEAK, until some greater force (not the federal government) in the universe decides otherwise..

Reiss, David

From: June Johnston <junej@gwtc.net>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 8:55 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak name change

Mr. David Reiss

I am very much opposed to changing the name of Harney Peak.

I do not believe that the name should be changed because this is the ancestral home of the Lakota. The documentation that I have read states that the Lakota came to the Hills region in about 1776. At that time this area was the home of the Arikara, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Gatakas.

These tribes did not give up their territory without a fight. It took almost 30 years for the Lakota to displace the tribes that were in the area.

The Treaty of 1851 recognized the ARIKARA right to the northern end of the Black Hills. This claim was unilaterally extinguished by the warlike Lakota. In 1868 the US recognized Lakota ownership despite many objections from the ARIKARA, CHEYENNE and CROW tribes.

I have heard the arguments that Harney was less than an honorable person. I am sure that the tribes being attacked by the Lakota thought that the Lakota war chiefs were less than honorable persons. Harney was a product of his times. We should not judge his actions in light of present times. Harney did attack a village near Ash Hollow and killed or captured over 150 people. This was an act of retaliation for the deaths of 30 soldiers. Again this was an act of war. We do not need to look to far back in our own history, WWII, to see that acts of violence and retaliation toward civilian populations were still being carried on. Do I need to mention the fire bombing of Dresden and the atomic attacks on Japan? Those were Acts of war and are hotly debated in current times.

The Lakota can claim that the Hills were their ancestral home but I don't think that less than 300 years in a location that was taken by the Lakota by force from the tribes who were there first, can be considered the Lakota ancestral home. They were interlopers much like the whites who came next. They may have had a name for Harney Peak but I would bet that the tribes who were in the Hills FIRST also had a name/s for the peak. I hate to say it but we pushed the Lakota out much as they pushed the Arikara, Cheyenne, Kiowa and Gataka out of the area. Sometime around 1876 Red Cloud cut a deal with the US to sell the Black Hills for four million dollars. Spotted Tail also signed the agreement. By late 1877 most of the Lakota were moved to reservations.

If the state of SD is truly interested in racial reconciliation, they need to leave the name of Harney Peak as it is. By changing the name to suit a vocal few who if you really look at history have no more claim to the area than then having taken it by force less than 300 years ago, you will alienate the larger population who want the name to stay as it is. The whites may have taken the Hills unfairly but I would venture guess that the tribes who could not stand against the warlike Lakota would also state that the land was taken from them unfairly also.

Leave the name Harney Peak as it is.

June Johnston

Reiss, David

From: Schulz Barbara <schulz.barbara@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 15, 2015 10:49 PM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: change the name

Dear Board Member,

We hope you decide to change the name of Harney Peak to Hinhan Kaga or some other traditional Lakota name. We should embrace the rich heritage of South Dakota's Native Americans instead of honoring the Lt. Calley of his day. It would be good for the SD tourist industry and good for race relations.

Thank you for your consideration

Byron and Barbara Schulz (Caucasian, retired Air Force, and long time residents)

605-341-3267

JUN 15 2015

June 12th 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to you to voice my opinion and hope that you do not consider changing the name of Harney Park. I'm sure you have received many many letters requesting to please not change with many reasons. There are so many reasons why the name should remain as it is and you have heard them all as I am not going to list all of them. You the Board will see ~~heard~~ heard, it is heard to all of us, not just be Mature Americans. History can not be changed. I was born and grand children and love it, my children and grand children also love it as much as I do. We all feel also love it as much as I do. We all feel the same, the name should remain as it is. You change the name and then there is. You change for more. Will be request for more and by no means One of the big reasons and by no means the most important would be the expense, Please take every thing into consideration, and vote to keep the name Harney as we all know and love it, Thank you
Sincerely,
Page Michael

Reiss, David

From: Jerry Wilson <wilson57069@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 7:46 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Re: Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I was disappointed to hear that two members of the governor's administration are opposing changing the name of Harney Peak. They allege that the suggested name would "confuse" tourists, and other such bogus claims. Well, then, why not adopt Black Elk Peak, the center of the Black Elk Wilderness Area. This certainly would confuse nobody, and in fact would be an international tourist draw.

Thank you,
Jerry Wilson

On Fri, May 1, 2015 at 8:52 AM, Reiss, David <David.Reiss@state.sd.us> wrote:

Mr. Wilson,

I apologize for not being able to respond promptly, I am in receipt of your email and it will be accepted by the Board as a statement for the record for consideration in the Harney Peak deliberation. Thank you for your input.

Best Regards,

David Reiss

South Dakota Board on Geographic Names staff

From: Jerry Wilson [<mailto:wilson57069@gmail.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 8:53 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Black Elk Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

I downloaded what I thought was the public comment form regarding changing the name of Harney Peak to Black Elk Peak, but could not input my comment. Please inform me exactly how to do so, or accept this email as my comment.

When I served as managing editor of South Dakota Magazine from 1999 to 2005, I began to think seriously about how inappropriate it was to honor Gen. Harney by giving a prominent feature of our state his name. After all, his record as an Indian fighter, should we say his record of racist, genocidal disregard for human life, was undeniable. And what an affront to the Native people from whom the Black Hills were illegally taken to insult them and to honor Harney by affixing his name to the obvious center, the pinnacle, of that sacred land.

I was very happy to learn that the SD Board of Geographic Names was considering this long-overdue move. Please do make this important change. It will go far toward removing a century and a half of dishonor and disrespect of our Native people and heritage.

Thank you,

Jerry Wilson, PhD

Vermillion, SD

Reiss, David

From: April Malik <mayapril@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 8:31 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Comment on Harney Peak renaming project

Dear SDBGN,

Even though William Harney is known for his involvement in violence against Native Americans, I don't think we should change the name of the mountain.

In history, there are many not nice things, from every group of peoples (Native American too). Harney Peak is well-known mostly because of the people that built the structure and blazed the path to get to the top. In their honor, we should leave the name as it is, and use it as a teaching tool of the history of this area. Native Americans had no intentions of creating an accessible path to reach the top of Harney Peak. Let it be named after those that did.

Energy and ambition doesn't always follow the most noble people. Oh well, that is how it is sometimes. Their contributions still have merit.

It's easy to be the critic. We didn't have to build it.

Thank you,

April Malik

Reiss, David

From: ROBERTA CRAWFORD Owner <bobbyc605@centurylink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 9:25 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: renaming Harney Peak

I do not support the name selected for renaming Harney Peak. It is too hard to pronounce. In fact leave it as is. We cannot re-write history due to the demands of a few. I can't imagine what this will cost in signage, maps etc.

Whom of that era, doesn't have baggage? I will add that I am an enrolled tribal member.

Where will this stop if you oblige this group? They will keep on re-naming any city, county, lake, mountain etc.

If this can't be stopped please consider something simpler.

Roberta Crawford
Rapid City SD

Reiss, David

From: James Huff <jameschjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 10:05 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Renaming of Harney Peak

Dear Mr. Reiss,

With regards to the renaming of Harney Peak for the life of me I can't even believe this state would even seriously take up such a question.

The article that was in the "Rapid City Journal" spoke of an individual on the Pine Ridge Reservation who found Harney Peak offensive because of the killing of Indian women and children in Nebraska in the 1855 by General Harney who was, for better or worse, ordered to destroy what was perceived to be an "enemy." It apparently slipped this person's mind that General Harney was ordered to do this since 30 soldiers had previously been killed.

If this is why we have to rename counties, points of interest, or anything else someone finds offensive then why not rename Sheridan Lake? General Sheridan ordered to destruction of the buffalo to cut off the American Indian's food supply. Why not rename Sherman Park in Sioux Falls? It rests on an American Indian grave site and General Sherman was the Army Chief of Staff when General Sheridan issued his orders. Why not rename Crazy Horse Mountain? He was responsible for the death of Custer and his command. Why not rename Sioux Falls, Yankton, or an other city with a Lakota Sioux name?

My point is when does this politically correct nonsense stop? Was attempting to erradicate the American Indian right? Of course not but it is an unfortunate part of this country's history and trying 100 plus years later to change history because someone or group doesn't like it is just a waste of time.

This is just another example of a waste of people's time and money.

Regards,

Jim Huff, Lead, SD

Reiss, David

From: Jim Buckles <jimb@gwtc.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 10:07 AM
To: Reiss, David
Subject: Harney Peak,

From: Jim Buckles <jimb@gwtc.net>
Date: June 15, 2015 at 9:55:30 AM MDT

I'm against changing the name of Harney Peak. Changing the name can't change past history and there are different stories about how that happened. The new name that one of your board members has proposed will only be known by very few people that will visit the location.

James C. Buckles

Reiss, David

From: Bob Audette <bobatsd@midco.net>
Sent: Tuesday, June 16, 2015 10:12 AM
To: Reiss, David

I would be willing to bet that 99% of the citizens of South Dakota didn't know or care who Harney Peak was named after. It is just the beginning of the name changes that will but pursued if we allow this to go forward. Please leave the name as is.

Robert Audette, Rapid City