



The troops passed by Twin Buttes on their way to Campsite No. 5. The buttes were called "Maiden's Breasts" by the Indian guides. Photo taken May 2015

The information about the individual campsites located between Mandan and Dickinson was drawn from the book "Following the Custer Trail" by Laudie Chorne, as are the map illustrations. Chorne notes that the trail depicted in the maps is approximate, and intended for the reader to gain an understanding of the terrain through which the soldiers traveled. Many of the landmarks seen by the troops traveling the Custer Trail are visible from Old Highway 10 and Interstate 94.

The Map Locations of the campsites were documented by Mr. Frank Anders between 1930 and 1950. Mr. John Carroll compiled Anders' work into a book entitled "The Custer Trail of 1876." The longitude and latitude coordinates are derived from the Map Location descriptions. Keep in mind that each camp was approximately one-half mile square to accommodate the large number of troops and animals that traversed the trail in the spring of 1876.

Most of the campsites are on private property. Anyone wishing to visit them must obtain appropriate permission from the landowners.

Campsite No. 5: Head of Hay Creek

May 21, 1876

Map Location:

Morton County

T139 R88W

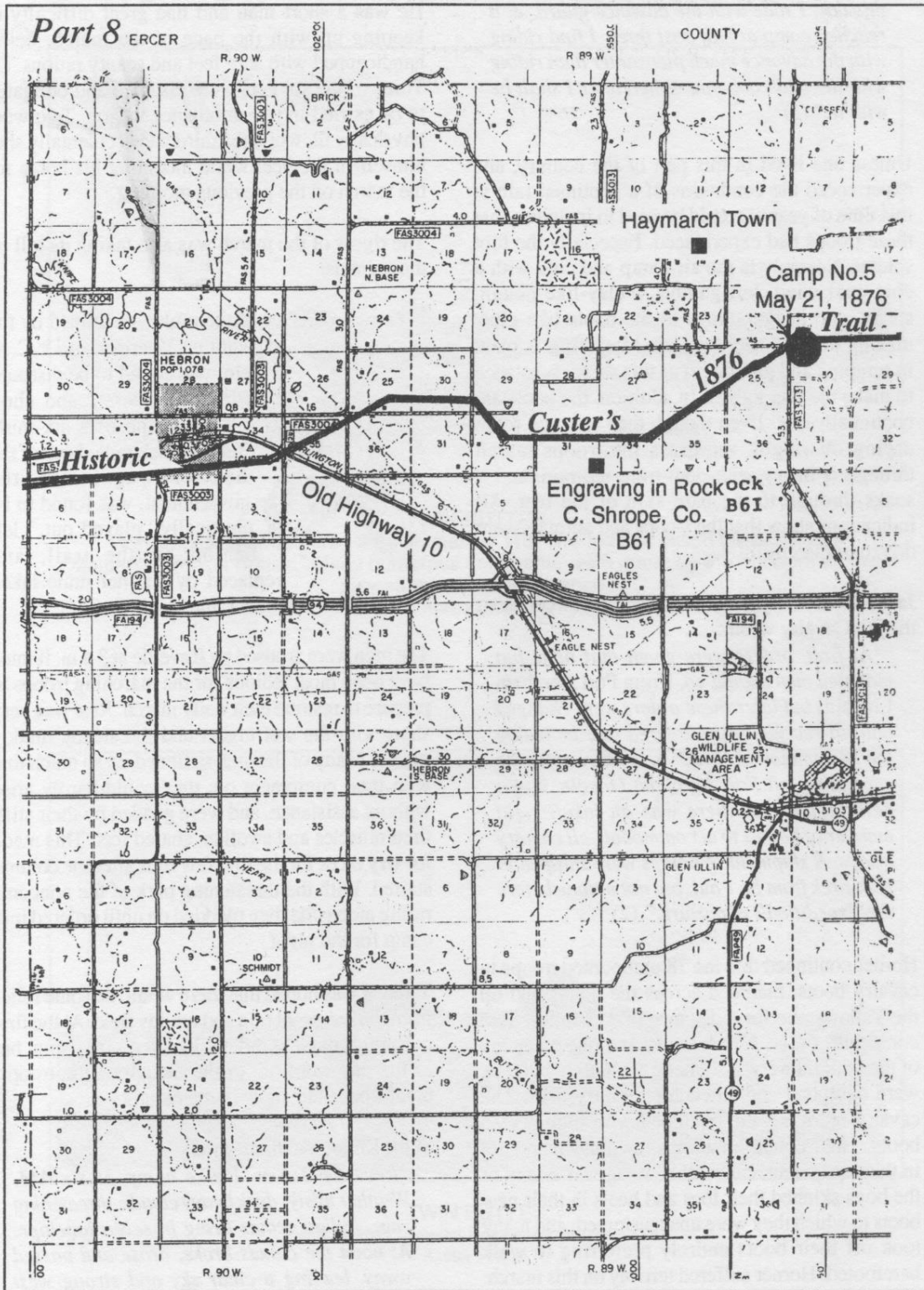
SW 4 Sec 19

To reach this campsite, take Exit 108 from I-94, follow gravel road north-northwest four miles. Campsite will be approximately ¼ mile east of the road. Note, directly southeast of Exit 113 are the Twin Buttes called “Maiden’s Breasts” by the Indians. (Laudie Chorne, “Following the Custer Trail,” p44)

Reveille sounded at 3:00 a.m. as the rain continued. The march started at 6:00 a.m. At noon, the sun finally shone through breaks in the clouds and the sky cleared. This was the first sunny day the troops had seen since leaving Fort Abraham Lincoln. The column passed by Twin Buttes, also called “Maiden’s Breasts” by the Indian guides. Camp was made on a branch of the “Big Muddy” at 3:30 p.m. after a march of 13 ½ miles.



Aerial View of Campsite No. 5



Laudie Chorne, "Following the Custer Trail," p. 45