
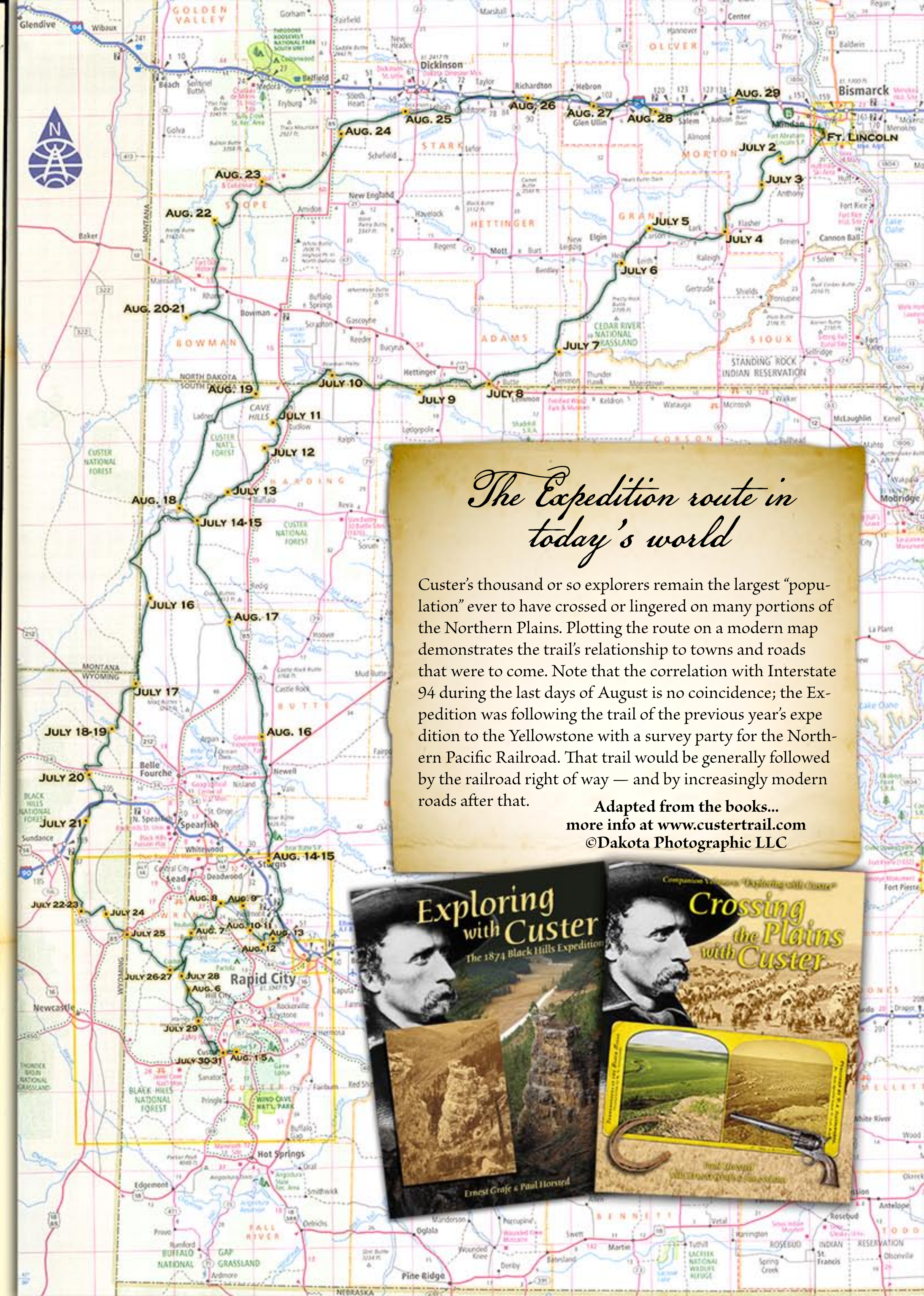


## The Black Hills Expedition "Ludlow Map"

Created under the direction of Col. William Ludlow after the 1874 Expedition, this map recorded all that was known at the time about the country between Fort Lincoln and the Black Hills. It updated earlier maps based on meticulous records kept by the engineer's assistants — latitude and longitude readings, a "meander line" reflecting compass and odometer readings, elevations calculated with the help of a barometer, and portions of the topography sketched into notebooks. Remarkably accurate considering the short time available for collecting data long the trail, it fits with relatively minor adjustments when overlaid on a modern map (at right).

  
 MAPOFA  
**RECONNAISSANCE OF THE BLACK HILLS.**  
 JULY AND AUGUST, 1874.  
 With troops under command of  
**LT. COL. G. A. CUSTER, 7<sup>th</sup> CAVALRY,**  
 by  
**CAPT. W. LUDLOW, CORPS OF ENGINEERS.**  
 Scale 1 in. = 12 miles.



*The Expedition route in today's world*

Custer's thousand or so explorers remain the largest "population" ever to have crossed or lingered on many portions of the Northern Plains. Plotting the route on a modern map demonstrates the trail's relationship to towns and roads that were to come. Note that the correlation with Interstate 94 during the last days of August is no coincidence; the Expedition was following the trail of the previous year's expedition to the Yellowstone with a survey party for the Northern Pacific Railroad. That trail would be generally followed by the railroad right of way — and by increasingly modern roads after that.

Adapted from the books...  
 more info at [www.custertrail.com](http://www.custertrail.com)  
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