

# Johnny Cash, Big Foot

But the land was already claimed by a people when the cowboy came and when the soldiers came  
The story of the American Indian is in a lot of ways a story of tragedy,  
like that day at Wounded Knee, South Dakota.

Big Foot was an Indian chief  
Of the Minneconjou band,  
A band of Minneconjou Sioux  
From South Dakota land.

Big Foot said to Custer,  
"Stay away from Crazy Horse."  
But Custer crossed into Sioux land,  
And he never came back across.

Then Big Foot led his people  
To a place called Wounded Knee,  
And they found themselves surrounded  
By the 7th Cavalry.

Big chief Big Foot,  
Rise up from your bed,  
Minneconjou babies cry  
For their mothers lying dead.

Big Foot was down with a fever  
When he reached Wounded Knee;  
And his people all were prisoners  
Of the 7th Cavalry.

Two hundred women and children  
And another hundred men  
Raised up a white flag of peace,  
But peace did not begin.

An accidental gunshot  
And Big Foot was first to die;  
And over the noise of the rifles  
You could hear the babies cry.

Big chief Big Foot,  
It's good that you can't see  
Revenge is being wrought  
By Custer's 7th Cavalry.

Then smoke hung over the canyon  
On that cold December day.  
All was death and dying  
Around where Big Foot lay.

Farther on up the canyon  
Some had tried to run and hide;  
But death showed no favorites,  
Women, men, and children died.

One side called it a "massacre,"  
The other a "victory,"  
But the white flag is still waving  
Today at Wounded Knee.

Big chief Big Foot,  
Your Minneconjou band  
Is more than remembered here  
In South Dakota land.