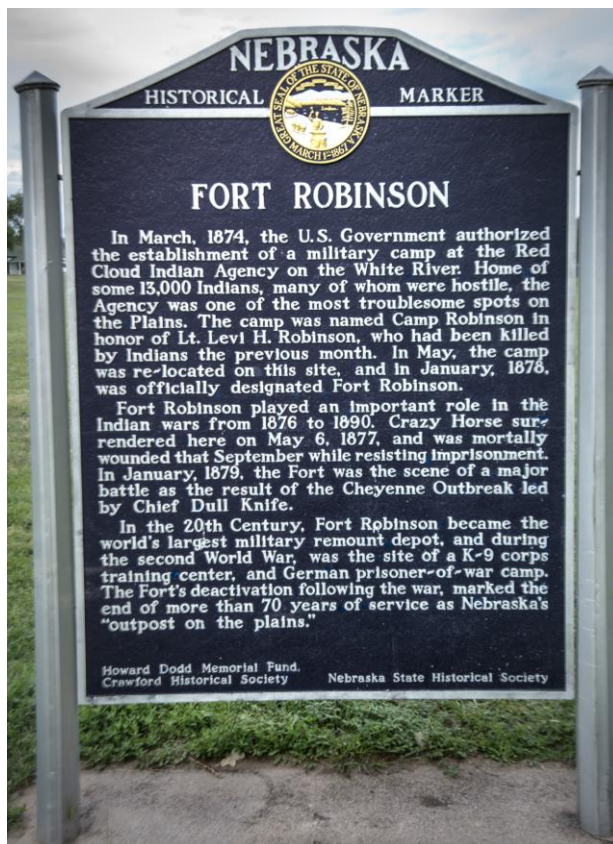


# Northern Plains History and Cultures

## How Do Native People and Nations Experience Belonging?



Photograph by Doug McMains, 2016

After having been forced by the U.S. government to relocate to the Southern Cheyenne reservation in Oklahoma, a group of Northern Cheyenne attempted to return to their homelands in Montana in September 1878. Many of them were captured, imprisoned at Fort Robinson, and killed when they attempted to escape.

“I will never forget finding myself standing in front of a marker near Fort Robinson, Nebraska. On that cold winter day I read in horror about our relatives who, in the middle of a freezing 1879 winter, laid their very lives on the line in order to fight their way home 400 miles away...It was at that very moment I realized the sacrifice our Cheyenne ancestors paid with their very lives in order that we might have one another, our culture and our beautiful homeland.”

—Major Robinson, Northern Cheyenne Tribe

Major Robinson, Western Heritage Center, Billings, MT, <http://www.ywhc.org/index.php?p=84>