

April 27, 1929.

Mr. A. B. Welch,
Postmaster,
Mandan, N. D.

Dear Mr. Welch:

The people at Washington have finally completed the photostats of Sitting Bull's autobiography and I am sending them to you herewith. I suppose that the Indians will soon be coming out of winter quarters and that you can discuss these drawings with them and let me know what they say, as you suggested. There are forty drawings numbered chronologically, which cover the years from 1848 to 1870. On the back of each sheet I have typed the explanation given by Sitting Bull while prisoner of war at Fort Randall in 1881, to officers who interviewed him there. The drawings had been in the possession of the whites since 1870. Numbers 14 to 22 are all practically identical, except for slight differences in the costumes of the white men and as the cost of preparing photostats was considerable I only had one made of this series, number 14. As you will see, numbers 39 to 51 are missing, also numbers 53 and 54. The missing numbers represented exploits of a person described in the record as Sitting Bull's brother, Jumping Bull. This man is represented also in Number 11, where he rides double on Sitting Bull's horse. I find references elsewhere to Sitting Bull's two fighting nephews, one of whom was named Little Assassaboine, who was apparently also called Hohe. Perhaps one of these nephews is the brother referred to.

You state in one of your letters that Sitting Bull's two wives were sisters of Gray Eagle. In the reports of the Indian Commissioner for 1873 I find references to a brother-in-law of Sitting Bull whose name is given as Tachauke. Do you think this the same man? What would that name mean in the Indian language? McLaughlin says that Gray Eagle volunteered to accompany the police who killed Sitting Bull and that Gray Eagle had been loyal to Sitting Bull up until seventeen months before his death. Do you know anything about the causes of Gray Eagle's desertion of Sitting Bull?

One thing about these drawings I would like to clear up if possible is the meaning of some of the war bonnets and weapons and quirts carried by Sitting Bull. Are these part of the uniform of a warrior society? If so, what society? In Number 8 Sitting Bull holds in his hand something not explained and which is not very clear to