

28 Gorham St.
Cambridge, Mass.
10 March 1933

Prof William Stanley Campbell
Department of English
The University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Campbell:

I fear that you will soon come to regret your generosity in answering my earlier letter of enquiry. However, I now have a problem--not of great moment but of considerable interest--which I feel you are more likely than anyone else to assist me in solving. Recently my attention was called to an article in a poetry-magazine published in Chicago by Flora Warren and George Steele Seymour, THE STEPLADDER, in which the writer made merry over a hoax perpetrated upon the New York reviewers by one "Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance" who had written a book, "Long Lance," purporting to be an account of his childhood as a member of the Blackfeet of western Canada. "Long Lance," it was definitely stated, was neither a Blackfoot or an Indian of any other tribe, but on the contrary was the son of the Negro janitor of the highschool at Asheville, N.C., his real name being Sylvester Long.

This story of course was directly in line with my interest in Negro-Indian relations; such a hoax, if actually perpetrated, was at least worthy of a foot-note. I consequently began to investigate the writings of "Long Lance." Some were unavailable, including his autobiography, but I found a biographical sketch in the Wilson Bulletin, Decr., 1928, which stated that he had been appointed to West Point by Pres. Wilson but had enlisted in the Canadian army. An article in the Century, January, 1929, was on West Point and partially based on his 'experiences' there; he claimed that he would have graduated in 1920 had he not enlisted. Other articles in the Mentor