



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Custer Battlefield National Monument
Crow Agency, Montana

Dear Prof. Campbell:

I am not surprised at your comments re several mentions of Sitting Bull made in the Custer Battlefield booklet. At the outset, I will say that I am inclined to agree with you. From what I have read - especially of your writings - and from what little research I have done in Indian history, it seems clear to me that a leader who could achieve the status Sitting Bull realized would have to be a man of singular qualities, and among Indians, those of the warrior were the basic qualities.

concerns

As far as/Indian leadership here at the Custer fight, I believe that with the exception of some of the warriors rushing to defend the village in groups composed of members of the same societies, and possibly an already mounted man calling for others to go and help defend the village, that leadership did not exist.

Actually, I believe that more and more writers tend to utilize Indian materials - certainly Stewart's Custer's Luck goes much further in that direction than many other writings on the same subject. As far as altering statements on Sitting Bull, as found in the Custer Battlefield, it will be a long time before they need to be reprinted, but, by the time they are reprinted, I will be able to make a few alterations without raising a furor. Major Luce, who has "ramrodded" Custer Battlefield since 1940, has his limitations - as most of us do, and I do not think that I will be able to alter his views on the Battle, or Indians in general, at this late date. In any case, he will retire by May 1.

Like you, we have had a beautiful fall, and this week-end, we had our first snow - though it is all gone now, and the high today is predicted to be about 70 degrees. Actually, this is the "banana belt" of Montana - far different than at Havre where I lived before.

Yes, we do sell a series of books and other items in connection with the Museum. This selling program is actually carried on by what is termed a "co-operating association; which in our case is the Custer Battlefield Historical and Museum Association. I am a director of this group, as is the Supt. The enclosed list will give you an idea of what we have. Which brings to mind a question - when will your Sitting Bull be reprinted? I personally want a copy; especially after having just re-read the book. Really, I think you did a masterful job on Sitting Bull.