

August 22, 1929.

Robert P. Higheagle, Esq.,  
Rapid City, S.D.

Dear Mr. Higheagle:

I have your kind letter containing the twentyfive songs by Sitting Bull. I had no idea you could find so many. But they are just what I want. Thank you for your very prompt and thorough work. The legend of the Migration of the Birds is very nice, and I can use that too. You did not say what you wished me to pay for that. I am enclosing fifty dollars for the songs.

I would like to ask a few questions about these songs. If you cannot answer them now, perhaps you will find some old-timers on your vacation who can do so. I would greatly appreciate complete information, because most of the books about Sitting Bull are full of mistakes and lies, and if I write anything, I want it to be all true. Please try to answer my questions.

Song Number IX. You say Sitting Bull sang this when on his way to Washington, D.C. on tribal matters pertaining to the cession of the Black Hills country. Do you know what year this was?

Song number IV. You say Sitting Bull made this song by request at the Sun Dance for fair weather. Do you know when this happened? Was Sitting Bull himself ever a leader in the Sun Dance? Did he ever make the dance, or take part in it? I would like to get full information about this, especially what kind of dance he danced in the Sun Dance, and when and where.

Song number V. You say Sitting Bull was proclaimed head chief of all the Sioux and placed upon his horse by Gall and Running Antelope after much ceremony by the Dakotas. When and where did this happen? Do you know what ceremonies the Dakotas made at that time?

Song number VIII. You say Sitting Bull made this prayer the night before the Custer fight in 1876. I have heard that Sitting Bull was "making medicine" during the battle the next day. Was this true? Where was Sitting Bull and what was he doing during the battle? Some of the books say that he did not fight and was a coward. Now, I do not believe that he was a coward, for no coward could be leader of the Dakotas. If he did not fight there must have been some other reason. I would very much like to know where Sitting Bull was during that battle.

You say that Sitting Bull belonged to different societies at different times. You mention the Fox Society, the Crow Society, the Strong Heart Society, the Buffalo Secret Society. I would like to know during what years he belonged to these Societies, and what office he held in them.