

December 15, 1932

Sioux

Mr. Angus McDonald
Dixon, Montana

Dear Mr. McDonald:

My friend Dr. E. E. Dale of the Department of History in this University has given me your name as one who might help me get information as to a certain event in Flathead history. I shall be very grateful if you will help me.

I have recently been doing historical research among the Plains Indians, particularly the Sioux. One of the great battles they tell of was an attack upon the Flathead camp on the Mussel Shell River in Montana about the year 1872. It seems that the Sioux, in large numbers, concealed themselves to the west of the camp and sent a small party of young men to the Flathead camp to steal horses early in the morning. The Flatheads pursued these decoys and a hard fight resulted in which numbers on both sides were killed. This fight is described in the seventeenth chapter of my biography of Sitting Bull, just published.

If there are any old men among the Flatheads who remember this fight, I should be very happy to have their recollections of the battle together with the number of Flatheads killed and wounded and their names. I would like also to know how many Flatheads were in the camp at the time and the names of any Flatheads who showed valor that day. If you can supply this information let me know and I will send you a copy of the book.

Yours faithfully,

E. S. Campbell
("Stanley Vestal")

ESC:FB