

Martin Abernethy
Claremont, California

November 29, 1929.

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Professor W. S. Campbell,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

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Dear Mr. Campbell:-

Sorry I cannot give you any information about Sitting Bull that is not already in your possession. I have had no contact with the Sioux since I was seven years old and my only memory of them is that of an Indian trying to sell my uncle a pony. My uncle was on his death bed and my aunt refused to let him come in; he pushed her aside and led the pony in to the bed side. My uncle died a few days later and we returned to my father's home in Ogdensburg, N. Y. That was in 1862. The following week after our departure the Sioux taking advantage of most of the men being with the Army - went on the War Path and swept over that part of the State where we had lived. Many settlers were killed and much property destroyed before the soldiers arrived and rounded them up. Forty of them were sentenced to be hung; but one was reprieved, and the thirty-nine were hung on one scaffold in the presence of the entire tribe. One of my nearest neighbors here in Claremont, who died a few years ago at the age of ninety-two, was an officer with the troops that captured the Indians.

It is possible that Rev. Rudolph Petter, Lame Deer, Mont., might be able to give you some information about Sitting Bull. He is a Missionary to the Cheyennes and lived for many years at Cantonment. He is a good friend of mine, and if you mention my name I am sure he will aid you if he can.

Sincerely yours,

M. Abernethy

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