

December 22, 1928.

Mr. E. W. Jarmark, Superintendent,  
Pine Ridge Agency,  
Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

Dear Sir:

Thank you for your kind letter of December 6. I should have answered it sooner, but my little girl has been very ill and I had to let everything drop. I am writing to Superintendent Mossman as you suggested. I have no doubt that he can help me get the information I need. As I explained to him, I am not a wild-eyed journalist trying to make copy for a Sunday edition. I claim to be a serious historian, interested only in the facts, and without any intention of whitewashing or condemning any man. As you will see from the enclosed card, I am the author of a standard book by the same publisher who gets out McLaughlin's "My Friend the Indian". I am also a Rhoades scholar and served two years as a captain of field artillery during the War. As you are aware Oklahoma is filled with Indians, many of them educated and influential in all walks of life. It would be foolish to say the least for a professor in the state university here to go about writing sensational stuff about Indians.

Though the title of my next book will probably be "Sitting Bull", I realize that many of the Dakota Indians were quite as important as he, though less celebrated. However, you understand that in publishing, the popular appeal of a famous name cannot be overlooked. But in this case I intend to bring in as many of the Indian leaders of that period as I can. The story of Sitting Bull is merely the thread on which I wish to string the whole history of the Dakota.

This being the case, I hope that you will do what you can to assist me by giving information as to the relations and opinions of important Indians on your reservation, with regard to Sitting Bull. I fully understand that the Indians were divided into many bands which were often jealous of each other and acted independently along different lines. It is this sort of thing which needs clearing up. Anything you can tell me about the internal politics of the Indians will be very useful and very gratefully welcomed.

You need have no fear that I will misquote you. There has been too much of that sort of thing already.

Faithfully yours,

W. S. Campbell.