

12-26-28

Dear Mr. Campbell--

You can forget Sitting Bull graduating, or even ever being at West Point. There are a great many absurd rumors of all kinds about various subject concerning the Old West, as you know, and this is one of them. I never heard of it before. Even such supposably good men as Hough helped spread them by sacrificing fact to enrich their fiction. Hickok's shooting is an example. Hal Everats chapter on the Indians chasing a man for 100 miles with only a few yards between them at the start is another. I wrote him about that, but tho Hal is a good and usually sincere writer, he did it deliberately. "Fanning out" would have had the white in less than an hour, as I told him, and as he knew it himself. Raine's badmen yarns are other sample., tho I think he actually believes such unfounded ~~stories~~. The list is too long to mention more.

But as I told you, I believe that Sitting Bull actually did go to the University of Missouri. If you are in doubt about using it, you have my full permission to quote me on it. I do not know the years, and probably few, if any one, is now alive who does, or could, know. Indian boys in white schools then on the frontier, as Missouri was, were quite common, and nothing especial was thought of it. As he did not get fame till long after, and probably did not use that name there, there is probable no written record that is traceable for certain. Would attract about as much attention, and of the same sub-degree, as a negro boy in a public school today.

His signature is hanging on the wall of the History Museum here, and if you will write to --Mr. L. R. Hafen, State Historian, State Historical Society, 14th and Sherman sts, Denver, Colo--I think you will get the foto you wish. Might have to pay for taking it, of course, as there are no local funds for many desirable objects here in the history line. I'll

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*That does not mean an ancient education, however. It probably enabled him many to read, write, and to travel from 1864 that destroyed them.*

*Also all local western records are very spotty - many now lost.*