

November 21, 1928

Mr. A. B. Welch  
Postmaster  
Mandan, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Welch:

I want to thank you for your kindness in giving me so much information about Sitting Bull. Your letter will help a great deal, and your estimate of Sitting Bull's character certainly seems convincing.

While I was in Washington last summer I inspected Sitting Bull's autobiography in the form of fifty odd pictures representing his exploits and those of his brother Jumping Bull on the war path prior to 1870. I observed that he killed very few men, and that several of his victims were women. Do you think you could obtain some information from the old Indians regarding the fights represented in this auto-biography, if I should send out to you a photographic copy of it? I understand that the Sioux Warriors often recounted their exploits in public, and there must be men living who have heard Sitting Bull narrate these deeds. It would be a great thing for my book if I could get the time, and place and circumstances of some of these fights, and I have no doubt you could do this far better than I could. I know from my experience with the Cheyennes in Oklahoma that it takes a long time to gain the confidence of the old men, and since you have that already, I will be very grateful for your help.

I wonder if you would be willing to give me certified copies of the documents in your possession regarding the order in both Sioux and English for Sitting Bull's arrest, and also McLaughlin's reports of the affair afterward made. I would like also any orders regarding Sitting Bull's permit to leave the reservation to go east with the Wild West show, or any other purposes if your book contains them. I would be willing to pay for the clerical work necessary to transcribe them. I hope to come up to your country next summer, but I know that the Indians usually talk more readily in the winter, so that I have no doubt you could be of great assistance to me. I will certainly thank you for your help in this matter.

Faithfully yours,

W. S. Campbell