

July 5, 1929.

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

Dear Mr. Welch:

I was delighted to get your letter of July first announcing the discovery of Sitting Bull's painted tipi. That interests me very much. I judge that it adds a chapter to the story of the man's life. If I can persuade my publisher to illustrate my book as it should be, I shall want all those pictographs reproduced. Of course, he will want very exact reproductions, if any. I am not very flush just now, but I enclose my check for five dollars for picture No. 14 (where S.B. is wounded in the foot.). That will give me a sample with which to work; later I can let you know about the others.

I understand from the way you number the drawings that there must have been others in the tipi besides the ones you mention: what were they? Who made them? Was this Sitting Bull's private lodge? What was the name of the niece who made it, and her daughter's name? Do you happen to know, or could you find out, what year the tent was painted?

For my purposes the pictographs would be much more useful if we knew the years when the events occurred. I wonder if the family- or others- know anything about this? I should think Gray Eagle ought to know.

Thanks for the information about Sitting Bull's family tree. This was the first time I knew the name of Sitting Bull's mother. Some authorities state that his father's name (or one of them) was Four Horns. When did his father die, anyhow? There was an old man named Four Horns who surrendered with SB in 1881. Could this have been his father? I see it so stated in three different books.

Another frequent story is that his younger wife was named Pretty Plume. This is not the same as Pretty Feather, his sister, of course? Do you know the names of his wives, and when he married them? I understand that they were sisters to Gray Eagle. I have found no mention of whom the sisters of SB married? Maybe they didn't marry?

What you tell me of the identity of Hoke and Jumping Bull Jr. is what I was beginning to suspect from my reading, and I am glad to have it verified. It is mighty kind of you to advise me this way, and I'll certainly give you credit when my book appears. As for a copy for your shelves, you can count upon that. However, my work has been so interrupted this year that it will be some time before the story is ready for the press.

How big is this tipi? It would help me if I had a rough pencil sketch showing the cover laid flat and the position of the drawings indicated by numbers and a key. Are all the pictures war pictures, or are there pictures of hunting, or religious drawings? I once saw a painted tent which had all three mixed up on it.

I'll look forward to seeing the drawing soon.

Cordially yours