

United States Post Office

CLASS

Mandan, North Dakota,
July 11th, 1929.

Dr. W.S. Campbell,
Norman, Okl.

Dear Dr. Campbell :

Am writing to tell you that as I was placing the drawing in a case, I tore the upper part of the paper a little. If the drawing is what you desire, I shall be glad to make another for you if, in framing or trimming, you can not shear that part off.

Your inquiry as to meaning of "WIGHAHNPI YAMONI".
Wi - sun or moon, according to prefix of night or day.
chan - might be can - weed or tree. (e as in chaw; n silent.)
pi - plural termination of verbs, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, and often of adverbs and prepositions.

Wicahnakpi - burial places, not on scaffolds. Tombs.

Yameni - YAMNI, numeral adjective "three."
YAMNI, 2nd per. sing. of mmi - "to go."

The word might also relate to spreading things out in the sun to dry.

I rather believe that the first word is not spelled correctly. Neither is the second word if it means the numeral, three. If there is an "a" (wichah(a)mpi) the word might mean "to lay a man away in a grave" from wica - relating to sex (males) human.

hmaka - to lay or place in a grave.

Therefore "Three men buried" might be a fair translation. However, I am quite certain that both words as given in your letter, are incorrect. Some one has tried to spell it phonetically. Is it a proper name or what is it? Sorry that I cannot give you much satisfaction regarding it, but it doesn't mean much to me. There are so many contractions and roots involved, coupled with possible misspelling. When requested to speak slowly, it is often the case that the Indian then tries to correct - then one is lost in a maze of dropped letters, pronouns placed between syllables of verbs, etc.

Yours truly,

A B Welch