

28 Gorham St.
Cambridge, Mass.
14 April 1933

Research:
"Long Lance"

Prof. Walter Stanley Campbell
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University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Prof. Campbell:

It might interest you to hear what I have recently learned from Mr. Graham, to whom you so kindly referred me in regard to "Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance." Mr. Graham has also heard the rumor that Long Lance was a Negro, but states that his brother Walter disclaims any Negro blood, and, as he says, "If he were the son of a negro he could not disclaim that fact; it would be too evident." I presume Mr. Graham is not fully aware of the elastic and, from the anthropological point of view, virtually meaningless use of the word Negro in the United States. However, information furnished to Mr. Graham by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to whom he had applied in regard to Long Lance's case, pretty thoroughly disposes of Long Lance's published accounts of himself. His real name was Sylvester Long and he was enrolled at Carlisle as an Eastern Cherokee "but was not generally accepted by other Cherokee Indians at the school at that time;" which division these Cherokees belonged to is not specified. He assumed the name Sylvester Long Lance in 1912 on his graduation from Carlisle, was appointed to West Point but did not attend, fought in France with the Canadians, and in 1922 became a member of the Blood band of the Blackfeet, by initiation. My suspicion that he was connected in some way with the Croatan is confirmed; his mother was a "part blood Croatan Indian," and therefore could have been in blood almost anything-- Negro, white, or Indian, or a mixture of any or all. Mr. Graham's