

Abstract of letter of Oct 4, 1932 from John E. Bruguer & Son
Hot Springs, S.D. This man is a Nephew of John Bruguer & told me

*** My Uncle xx was like all my brother Indians and he would remember my the Indians. They still sing songs at their dances in his honor. A song is made up about him & is thrilling & sounds good. It is a lonesome song. I often hear my uncle tell of his past experiences & enjoyed them very much. We always spelled our name Bruguer & had 7 Bruguer, but I think my uncle spelled it Brughiere in account of going into Sitting Bull's Camp for protection. Gen Hugh Scott asked me one time if I was any relation to John Brugier in Montana so I told him he was my Uncle & he said if you are as good a man as your uncle you are a good man. *** I have heard my Uncle say many times when he has had bad luck of my kind xx "Take the worse as it comes" *** He is buried in the Poplar Cemetery. He has one daughter living at Poplar. Her name is Mrs Julia Linn Warner. I was named after my Uncle xx Indian Name Big Leggings (Tahmota Tanka). When my Uncle John first went into Sitting Bull's Camp for protection, he went there with a young Indian, and went into Sitting Bull's tepee & the Indians said him in White men's clothes, so they all came running over there & pulled up the pegs of the tepee to see him & were amazed with just how arrows so he did not know what minutes he was going to have a bullet or arrow go through him. He said he was ready, then Sitting Bull said to this man, "If you are going to kill this man kill him and if you are not give him a drink of water, give him a smoke - a pipe of peace - and give him something to eat," so they did instead of killing him & after that they all thought the worse & all of them & he could also speak their Sioux language. That's where he was a Clerk for Sitting Bull. Afterwards he did good on both sides for whites & Indians.

My dad and Uncles all got their education in St Louis Mo. They Uncle John said he was coming home from school from St Louis, Mo and was on the stage when a bunch of Indians held up the stage & when they saw he was just Indian they tried him to get off so he did & the Indians killed the people that were on the stage & cut up the horses and destroyed everything. My Uncle came home alone. I think he said he was 17 years old then. This was the time of the Minnesota Indian Massacre (1862).

You might remember about this. *** I knew Sitting Bull since I was a boy. He use to come & visit us. Stay two or three days with us & he & my dad would tell about the early days & experiences. They sit & smoke their pipe of peace, after eating a meal Sitting Bull have a pipe of peace to my dad as a gift, & its made of red stone & the stem is 18 long & the bowl 4 1/2" high. It is made in two sections carved from the red pipe stone & its historic interest makes it a very valuable as well as a beautiful relic. This pipe must be over 60 years old *** I gave it to Mr J. J. Hoffman of Glasgow, Mont. *** Found a very rich man here sitting Bull the time they took him on a steam boat in the west to show him how many people there were. Then he came back he gave me this ring. *** I enlisted as a Scout in 1840-91 at Ft Bennett, S.D. 12th Inf under Capt. H. H. Harst. *** Sitting Bull was a kind good hearted man. He was generous.

With many good wishes to you, I am your friend
John E. Bruguer

Note - M.C.B.
John Bruguer noted about 1840 Miles was probably born John E. Bruguer in 1851, killed a man in the early 70's and Sitting Bull was with him in Oct 1876 & was with Baldwin early in Dec 1876. He died June 12, 1877 at Fort Laramie.