

Abstract of letter of Oct 4, 1932 from John E. Bruguier son of
Hot Springs, S.D. This man is a nephew of John Bruguier of Hot Springs
xxx My uncle xxx was liked by both Indians and Whites. He is still
remembered by the Indians. They still sing songs at their dances in his
honor. His song is made up about him & is thrilling & has made good their
lovesome too. xxx I often hear my uncle tell of his life & experiences &
enjoyed them very much. He always spelled our name Bruguier instead
of Brughiere, but I think my uncle spelled it Brughiere on account of going to
Sitting Bull's Camp for protection. Gen Hugh Scott asked me one time
if I was any relation to John Bruguier 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.
xxx I have heard my uncle say many times when he has had bad luck
my kind xxx "Take the world as it comes" xxx He is buried in the Poplar
Cemetery. He has one daughter living at Poplar. Her name is Mrs Julia Love Warner
I was named after my uncle xxx Indian Name Big Leggings (Tahmroka
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 saw him in white men's clothes, so they all came running over there
& pulled up the pegs of the tepee to see him & were armed with guns & bows
& 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 his
men. "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 worst of him & he could also speak their Sioux language.
That's where he was a Clerk for Sitting Bull. After wards he did good on
both sides for Whites & Indians.
My dad and Uncle all got their education in St Louis Mo.
My 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 told him to get up & go, so he did & the
Indians killed the people that were on the stage & cut up the harness
and destroyed everything. My uncle came home alive. I think he said he was
17 years old then. This was the time of the Minnesota Santee Massacre. (1862)
You might remember about this. xxx 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 it 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 xxx I gave it to Mrs J. Hoffmann of Glasgow, Mont. xxx
I owned a ring xxx which some rich man gave Sitting Bull the time they took him on a steam
boat in the part to show him how many people there were. When he came back
he gave me this ring. xxx I enlisted as a scout in 1890-91 at Ft Bennett, S.D. 12th Inf under
Capt J. H. Hunt. xxx Sitting Bull was a kind, good hearted man. He was generous.
With many good wishes to you, I am your friend
John E. Bruguier

Note: WCB
John Bruguier noted about 70 Miles was probably born in 1851. Killed a man in the early 70's & joined Sitting Bull & was with him in Oct 1876
was with Sitting Bull's camp in Dec 1876. Fred [unclear] did not marry [unclear]
[unclear] June 12, 1876 at [unclear] Mont