

Answer reply

file

B-37

April 15, 1953

Hardwick Moseley, Esq.
Houghton Mifflin Company
2 Park Street
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Hardwick:

Now that there has been such a stir about the "stealing" of Sitting Bull's body from North Dakota and reburial in South Dakota, I am wondering if the national publicity might justify another printing of my biography of that chief or perhaps a reprint in a pocket book. If so, I could, if you like, add a paragraph to the chapter on the Custer Fight, giving the account of who killed Custer and how it was done. This story has never been published. ✓

When I went to get the story of Chief Joseph White Bull, Sitting Bull's elder nephew, the white folks at the Indian Agency were very indignant. They said to me, "Don't you know he is the man who killed Custer?". The first night I was there the Indians held a dance in a double log cabin and I made a talk and gave presents to the chief. It was a chilly evening and the door was closed, but a crowd of white men gathered outside and for more than an hour boomed and hissed and whistled to express their displeasure of my enterprise. However, the Indians and I ignored them entirely.

I had stipulated that I wanted no hearsay from the chief but only what he himself had seen, done and known. As it happened he was fighting hand to hand and among the soldiers he killed was one who was afterwards identified by Indians who knew him, as Custer. But as White Bull had never seen Custer he asked me not to put that in the book since he said, "That is hearsay." I was confirmed in carrying out this agreement