

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION
UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

October 27, 1952

George D. ...

Dr. W. S. Campbell,
The University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma.

Dear Dr. Campbell:

Thank you very much for your letters of October 21, and 23 in reply to my inquiry regarding the "Sitting Bull" gun in the collections here. I shall certainly look into the references you have kindly sent me.

Some months ago an old Indian turned up in Washington, in connection with the advertising of a western movie, who claimed to be "John Sitting Bull, son of Sitting Bull". He was brought in to see me and, although I understand there is considerable honest doubt as to the fellow's claims of relationship to Sitting Bull, I showed him the gun. He said he knew that Sitting Bull owned several Winchesters prior to the date of his surrender - at least 3 of them. Whether or not the old man was a fraud, I am inclined to believe that opinion is quite correct. In addition to the model '73 you mentioned and the model '66 in our collections, he presumably owned at least one other, if a contemporary source can be credited. In the year after the Custer Fight a gun showed up at Fort Keough in the form of a Henry rifle, on the side plate of which was engraved "Presented to Sitting Bull by Gen. U.S. Grant, in token of friendship and esteem". At least that is the testimony of Jirah Isha m Allen, who was there at the time.

Sincerely,

John C. Ewers
John C. Ewers,
Associate Curator of Ethnology.

B-37

Anderson
Sitting Bull