

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

Custer

January 17, 1955.

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

Dear Dr. Campbell:

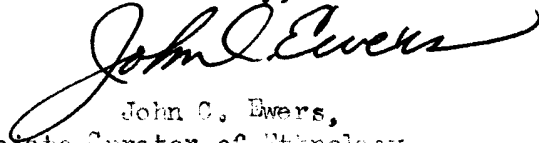
I was very glad to hear from you in your letter of January 12.

Wish I could help you regarding the list of names of Cheyenne Indians killed at the fight where Custer fell. I don't believe it probable that you found the list here in the U.S. National Museum. I phoned Mrs. Margaret Baker in charge of BAE Archives. She says she believes you must have found the list in one of the James Mooney field note books in the BAE Archives. She says it may be difficult to locate the reference more precisely without going through a lot of the Mooney script. However, she assures me she will look into the matter and write you if she finds a precise reference.

I believe you will be interested to learn that since you were here we have brought that old Arapaho buffalohide tipi cover out of storage, spread it out, had a drawing made of the skin pattern and photos of some of the details of the ornaments. I am preparing a short illustrated article on it for publication. I know of no other publication of the exact pattern of skins used in a skin tipi cover, other than Wislizer's for Blackfoot (which has been reprinted any number of times). Do you? Actually this layout is different, much more symmetrical. It is a 14 (or possibly 15) hide lodge, dressed very thin, and still in good condition, although collected by V. Colyer in 1874. Have had the cover weighed - exactly 85 lbs. Dr. Setzer of Division of Mammals who examined the cover with me, believes it very possible that in the 80 years the cover has been in dry storage in the museum it probably has lost ca. 20 per cent of its weight. So it probably weighed at least 100 lbs. when used by the Indians. I shall send you a reprint of the article when it is published - possibly before mid-summer.

Best of luck to you in 1955. It was indeed a pleasure to have met you.

Sincerely,



John C. Ewers,
Associate Curator of Ethnology.

P.S. We plan to exhibit the tipi in revised hall - next yr.