

August 20, 1948.

Sioux

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Mr. Ted Patrick,
Editor, Holiday Magazine,
Curtis Publishing Company,
Philadelphia, Penn.

Dear Mr. Patrick:

I am a regular reader of your magazine, and have enjoyed reading, in your current issue, an article by Mr. Donald Wayne, entitled THE SIOUX. Mr. Wayne writes sympathetically and well of these Indians, and I wish more writers did as well on Plains Indian subjects. But his story contains some errors which I think should be corrected.

As my credentials for criticism, I may say that I am the author of Warpeth and Council Fire (Random House, 1948), Warpeth, the True Story of the Sioux Wars Told in a Biography of Chief White Bull (Houghton Mifflin, 1934), Sitting Bull, Champion of the Sioux (Houghton Mifflin, 1932), New Sources of Indian History, the Ghost Dance, the Prairie Sioux, 1850-1891 (University of Oklahoma Press) etc., etc.

Mr. Donald Wayne is a good reporter (excuse the absence of vacation of my secretary) of matters under his own eye, but, somebody has filled him full of lies (as a Sioux would say) as regards Sioux history. To wit:

He says the "Sioux is not a written language". False. Missionaries had reduced Sioux to writing about a hundred years ago; a Sioux dictionary was published long ago. Ask Mr. Wayne to consult the Library of Congress; most old-time Sioux, and many modern Sioux, can write their own language. I have many records of this speech.

Mr. Wayne refers to the Cheyennes as among tribes whom the Sioux had "vanquished". The Cheyennes were allies of the Sioux.

Mr. Wayne says the Sioux defeated the U.S. troops on "two occasions". This is not adequate. The Sioux usually defeated the troops, especially at the Grattan fight at Fort Laramie, the Fort Phil Kearny Massacre, the Battle of the Rosebud, and the Custer fight. In three of these, nobody escaped alive.

Mr. Wayne says that General Harney "waged an unwearying indecisive campaign against the Sioux since 1835" until 1868. False. Harney fought Little Thunder once.

Mr. Wayne says the Sioux reservation was "administered by the Army" but this was rarely the case.

Mr. Wayne says Crazy Horse fled to Canada; that chief never was in Canada.

He says that Red Cloud, "generalissimo" returned to the reservation after the Custer disaster. ~~Red Cloud~~ That was in 1876. Red Cloud surrendered in 1868.