

and

REV. FRANKLIN E. SMITH
RECTOR, CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY
SOUTH HAVEN, MICHIGAN

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Mr. Walter Stanley Campbell,
University of Oklahoma
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Mr. Campbell:

The reading of nearly all your works with pleasure and profit leads me to ask your advice on two matters connected with an Indian study which I am attempting to make.

In 1896-97 I was resident at El Reno, Oklahoma Territory, and there made the acquaintance of David Oakerhater, a Cheyenne, a missionary to his people. I am now attempting to gather material for a sketch of his life, regretting that when I knew and contacted him in his life time that I did not then take opportunity to learn his life story first hand. I am informed that Old Crow is still living at Concho. He knew David and might give me some information that I need. Can you tell me of any one whom I might be able to secure to interview this old Cheyenne?

I would also like your advice and suggestion on another, and to me a puzzling matter. What my sketch really means is an attempt to account for David Oakerhater. The problem as I see it, having known him personally, is this: here was a personality as kindly and gentle as any man of my acquaintance (and that is saying a good deal) who yet for the first thirty years of his life was a plains savage and a warrior of the tribe. Later events of his life may adequately account for a change in view-point and, obviously, habit and custom, but does not account for the fundamental gentleness and kindness of his nature. Seemingly irreconcilable with the record of a warrior of the Cheyennes. If you can give me any hints which will help me in this psychological problem I shall be grateful. I may add that by contact and study I know a little of Indian psychology.

Yours sincerely

Franklin E. Smith