

Robert P. High MSS #37
How Sitting Bull was Made a Chief. (172)

57
Sitting Bull, son of Jumping Bull, nephew of Four Horns, was selected war chief first in 1857. Old Bull doesn't recollect the year, but counting back winters it comes to that year. That was war chief. That made me think that he took part in some of the fights around Fort Sully etc. Soon after that time he was made a war chief. The place where he was declared as a tribal war chief is at the mouth of the Grand River where Sitting Bull was born. The instrument they used in the ceremony in connection with this selection of chief was the peace pipe. This pipe has different decorations. All peace pipes are decorated with porcupine quills or beads and the stem has a duck's feather, generally the neck of a mallard. All this means something. Duck's feather means this feather never gets wet anywhere. This means Sitting Bull should have patience not affected by water or by air. Ceremony was opposite the town of ~~Mow~~ridge. The Indians were camping there. Having gone over what he had done on the war path the advisors - (These people chosen by certain chiefs or certain class of warriors.) For example among Huncpapa it requires consent of the whole tribe, but Sitting Bull was selected by a body of warriors who then presented him to the people - sort of a nominating convention. Then he is confirmed by ceremony of the tribe and all the people were required to be present. Sitting Bull smoked the pipe and then he was given some water out of a cup and then they dipped sweet grass in water and he sucked it. That means he should tell nothing but the truth. Never desert the tribe. Then he was given a cane. His destiny in life should be a long life, so long that he would reach the age when he would use the cane. Pipe, water, and cane instruments given war chief.

chief
Advisors were Black Bird, Strikes the Kattle (the man who was with Sitting Bull when he was killed) Brave Thunder, Gall (bosom friend of Sitting Bull. Younger than Sitting Bull).

Prior to the ceremony Crow King and Gall had been declared war chiefs.

Sitting Bull was declared supreme chief of Tetons, 1867. Got this date from the