

411 E. Washington St.,
Appleton, Wisconsin
26 December, 1956

Professor Walter S. Campbell,
(Stanley Vestal),
School of Journalism,
University of Oklahoma,
Norman, Oklahoma

Dear Professor Campbell:

✓ Thank you for your interesting letter of December 18. There is no argument as to white casualties nor any regarding the valor, tactics and combativeness of the Indians. What you say in the latter respect only adds to the force of the last paragraph of my letter to GUNS Magazine.

Judging from your general comments (Prefaces) on American History, the lessons we should draw from it especially as to past mistakes and our policies for the future, in many respects we think alike.

✓ But regarding this matter of Indian dead, especially in the Wagon Box fight, I believe you are badly off balance. For that reason you have no answer to the last two paragraphs of my letter referred to above. The last paragraph particularly appears insurmountable.

I do not have available your book New Sources of Indian History so perhaps any remarks I make are unfair. All I can assume however is that these new sources rest somewhat on the stories told you by Indian friends of the second generation though you do mention in your letter, a written record of 1880. Such actual survivors as you interviewed, naturally were in their dotage; and many of these people probably had been interviewed at earlier dates and so were familiar with the answers desired from the line of questioning pursued.

Years ago in Montana, there was a lady who had friends in a number of Indian families. At times writers of frontier lore, engaged this white woman to get the Indian side of the story. So, for these trips on her pinto, she always provided herself with plenty of tobacco and other presents, following the time-honored custom. Her difficulty was that Indian tales rested more on the presents than on the facts. With all due respect to your sincerity, I am dubious about the accuracy you desired and expected to obtain.

Let us suppose for instance, that there were 300 Indian casualties. Fifty or sixty years after the event, you and your Indian friends would have been fagged out under the scheme of your interview, at the end of a dozen or two names. How many men today can remember by name, even the casualties in their own company in WW II?

I never paid for info