

October 1, 1957

Geronimo

Mr. Jim Kjelgaard
1238 West Palo Verde Drive
Phoenix, Arizona

Dear Mr. Kjelgaard:

Congratulations on your contract. Such a book should have a good sale.

I don't know that I can answer your questions. I think the best account of this man is entitled THE TRUTH ABOUT GERONIMO by Britton Davis. It has recently been republished by the Lakeside Press in Chicago.

It seems odd that an Apache would take a Spanish name. My knowledge of the Saints is not dependable; just what St. Jerome stood for, I have forgotten. Have you read the novel BLOOD BROTHER? The author may know something about that. Several persons interviewed Geronimo and were told about the massacre of his people and part of his family when he was a young man, so there must be something to it.

It was the Apache government scouts who enabled the troops to do what they did. By the way, the name Nachise is the correct spelling. It means oakwood. Cochise I forget the exact meaning of, but chise means wood.

There are only ten books in the Library of Congress listed under Geronimo, and of these only Barrett and Davis are any good. There is, of course, a huge file of military correspondence and reports in the National Archives on those campaigns. You might also look into the PERIODICAL INDEX and magazine articles.

I am sorry that I have not done enough research on Geronimo to be of any great assistance, though I have always wished to write an article or something on the old boy. I saw him twice when I was a young fellow.

Cordially yours,

W.S. CAMPBELL
(Stanley Vestal)

WSC:vhp