

4043 Ben Lomond Drive
Palo Alto, California 94306

July 5, 1965

Dr. Wallace E. Stegner
13456 South Fork Land
Los Altos Hills, California 94022

Dear Dr. Stegner:

You are listed in the Congressional Directory as Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments. I am also aware of your interest in local conservation projects.

For some years I have been interested in the history and geography of the American West.

Last year I visited Wounded Knee, Pine Ridge Reservation, Shannon County, South Dakota. As you are perhaps aware, Wounded Knee Creek in the vicinity of the present Wounded Knee community was the site of the massacre of 200 or more Sioux Indians by U. S. Cavalry on December 29, 1890; the last great "battle" between Indians and U.S. forces.

It would seem only appropriate that the Wounded Knee Battlefield area be designated and developed as a National Monument, even as Custer Battlefield in Montana and a host of sites of lesser importance than Wounded Knee.

If you would support a program leading to establishment of the Wounded Knee Battlefield area as a National Monument, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Very truly yours,

/s/ John W. Pollock

John W. Pollock

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

JUL 12 1965

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

July 10, 1965

Robert Utley
Chief, Historical Division
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C.

3 Ben Lomond Drive
Alto, California 94306

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Dear Bob:

I can't find the list of sites considered for National Landmark Status, and it could well be, as Mr. Pellock says, that Wounded Knee is deserving of something better. I don't think a National Monument, but maybe a National Historic Site. Can you have someone check the list of sites considered, designated, and rejected, to see if this one is there? I'd appreciate it if you'd let me know. No hurry.

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Yours,

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July 13, 1965

Dr. Wallace S. Stagner
Department of English
Stanford University
Stanford, California

Dear Wally:

I believe the enclosed memorandum and its attachment will answer your question about Wounded Knee. Mr. Pollock wrote to me too. He had recently read my Last Days of the Sioux Nation, which deals largely with the battle, and urged my support of his proposal.

Several of us in the Service felt strongly that Wounded Knee should have been favorably recommended, but we were overruled. Now it may be too late, for recent advice indicates that highway construction may have impaired the integrity of the site unacceptably.

I am returning Mr. Pollock's letter.

We are looking forward to meeting with you in October.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

Robert M. Utley
Chief, Division of
History Studies

Enclosure

cc:
Mr. Littleton - w/c inc.
Mr. Utley

RMUtley:mlw

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