

# THE MIDWEST REFINING COMPANY

CASPER, WYOMING

R. S. ELLISON,  
VICE PRESIDENT

January 11, 1928

Dr. George Bird Grinnell,  
238 East Fifteenth Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

I am very glad to hear by your letter of January 5th, that the manuscript about the North brothers has been accepted and will be available in printed form in due course. I shall also be very glad to have you use the cut of the picture of the Generals taken at old Fort Laramie in 1867. This appeared in connection with my article on Independence Rock in the Midwest Review last spring and if the cut will serve your purpose, I will be pleased to send it on to you immediately. I think you have a copy of the magazine, so that you can determine if the cut will fit your needs, but if it will not serve, will be glad to send you the picture itself so that the new cut can be made if desired.

I am wondering if you made any headway on the Wagon Box matter with Jim Gatchell and if I can be of any help to you in that connection or otherwise, I hope you will not hesitate to let me know.

With best wishes to you and Mrs. Grinnell for a happy new year, I am

Sincerely yours,

RSE:MH



# THE MIDWEST REFINING COMPANY

CASPER, WYOMING

R. S. ELLISON,  
VICE PRESIDENT

March 26, 1928.

Dr. George Bird Grinnell,  
238 East 15th Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

I am sending you two copies of our Midwest Review just out, containing your article on the Wagon Box fight. I hope the manner in which it is handled will meet with your approval and fit in with any other plans you may have had in mind concerning it.

If you need additional copies of the magazine will be glad to have you let me know so we can forward same to you.

I have had some thought of having it reset and issuing a few copies for distribution in pamphlet form, as I do not believe it would be very expensive and the article is so interesting and worth while that it might worth while doing so.

Trusting that all has been going well with you, with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

RSE:MH



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA  
LINCOLN

CONSERVATION AND SURVEY DIVISION  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

STATE ACTIVITIES  
SOIL SURVEY  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
INDUSTRIAL SURVEY  
STATE FORESTER  
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PHOTOGRAPHY AND FILM SERVICE

Lincoln, Nebr. Jan. 2, 1928

Mr. George Bird Grinnell  
238 East 15th Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Grinnell:

I beg to acknowledge with sincere thanks the receipt of your letter of the 22d of January. In it you state:

" I cannot tell you anything about ni tseh. I do not know that the Cheyennes called the north fork of the Republican , Chief River. I have heard them call it Wolf River."

In Amer. Anthro. Vol. VIII p.22 it is stated that the North fork of the republican River was called Wi hiuniyohe "Chief river". and on page 21 it is stated that the Arikara fork of the Republican was called by the cheyennes Ononiche "Ree river (Ononi, "Arikaria" plus Ohe, "river".

Is there some mistake here, or is there any reason that you know of why the river was called Chief River, does it mean as much as the principal or main stream?

Very thankfully yours  
*J. S. Mink*  
Conservation and Survey  
Station A  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**ROBERT BRUCE**  
18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

January 1, 1928

Mr. George Bird Grinnell,  
238 East 15th St.

My dear Dr. Grinnell:--

I have in this office at the present time the following:

1. Original of the Frank North Commission issued by the Governor of Nebraska when Frank J. North was mustered in as captain of the Pawnee scouts;
2. Three of the original Muster Rolls of both Norths and the Pawnee scouts;
3. Original of the Legislative Memorial by the State of Nebraska to Gen. E. A. Carr and Maj. Frank North.

I have also had, but have returned to Capt. North after making prints, the original of the letter from Gen. Crook to Frank J. North on the muster out of the Pawnee scouts.

By understanding with Capt. North, all these are being duplicated for the Nebraska Historical Society, so that they can be placed in the State Library at Lincoln. This through arrangement with Mr. Sheldon, whom you probably know.

I am anxious to know more about Capt. L. H. North, particularly what he has been engaged in since retiring from military service, and any interesting facts about his later life, any family, etc.--enough to make a couple of paragraphs of desirable record. Capt. North, who by the way, has recently been quite ill, is not a good source of "copy" about himself. Hence I would appreciate very much such information as you might be able to give me conveniently in a dictated letter, to form a part of my records. Hope you can write me about this.

Yours very truly,





**ROBERT BRUCE**  
18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

January 1, 1928

P.S.

This letter ran longer than expected when I put it into the machine, and since signing it I am reminded that someone said to me that Capt. L. H. North looks like a retired Methodist minister rather than an old Indian fighter. Interesting if correct, and I am wondering if you would consider that worth recording.

I am also told that Mrs. North was an accomplished horsewoman, about which you probably know; and I should be glad of any comments worth incorporating into my records.

I know that Frank J. North left a daughter, Stella, afterwards Mrs. Chambers, and I believe now a widow; but I have never heard direct from her.

Can you tell me if Capt. North has any family, and if so, whether or not they reside at Columbus?

Of course I wish these items to fill in the record while it can be done; and it occurs to me that you would be able to supply them better than anyone else. I have never seen any of them; but have had considerable correspondence with Capt. North about all but himself!

Robert Bruce



Worked out into  
Skidi  
C. + Apecheit

Clarence Reckmeyer

Fremont, Nebraska

1130 Am Anthropol  
no. 12, 1900 p. 550

August 5, 1928.

Dear Mr. Grinnell:

At the bottom of page 69 and the top of page 70 of "The Fighting Cheyennes" you say that "the Cheyennes were always anxious to exterminate the Pawnees" - and that in 1830 they found the Skidi Pawnees on the head of the South Loup. "It was a great ceremonial gathering of the whole Skidi tribe, for they were about to sacrifice a captive to the Morning Star"

Can you give me any more particulars in regard to this sacrifice they were about to make at this time and did you get this information from the Cheyennes or from some book which I may consult? While writers have contended that after Pitalashorn saved the girl in 1817 that the Pawnees never again made a human sacrifice, John T. Irving in his Indian Sketches states that in 1833 they were about to sacrifice a Cheyenne woman, whom they killed and tore to pieces when Major Dougherty attempted to save her - and Schoolcraft relates that they sacrificed a 14 year old Sioux girl in 1838. The one you mention is the third instance I have read of happening since 1817,



I will thank you for any information on the subject.

I am now in Manitou, Colorado and when I went to get "The Fighting Cheyennes" at the Colorado Springs Public Library they required a \$5.00 deposit as they said two volumes had been stolen. Last night while visiting Mrs. R. S. Ellison, who operates the Cliff Dwellers Canyon here in Manitou, she told me that a girl was arrested last winter for stealing "The Fighting Cheyennes" from the Colorado Spring Library. She was a young school teacher and said she could not afford to buy the book and wanted it so badly that she stole it. It is rather pathetic to observe that people so love your writings that they are willing to become criminals to secure them.

Mrs Ellison has a most interesting collection of Indian relics. Besides scalp locks, bead work, shields, war clubs, etc she has a gun used at the Sand Creek Massacre, a gun from the Battle of Battlefield and a revolver, knife and cartridge case that Wild Bill gave her grandfather.

If you come through Manitou this summer I am sure she will be delighted to see you as Mr. Ellison has told her about your historical relations with him.

With kind regards I remain Very truly yours  
Address Manitou, Colo until Sep. 1st. Clarence Reckmeyer

*Amy & Mary Leub*

Washington, D.C.,  
August 10, 1928.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

My historical research work here in connection with the early history of Marias Pass has brought me in touch with the U. S. Geographic Board, the Chairman of which, Mr. Frank Bond, has for some two months past been scrutinizing carefully the names of physical features in Glacier Park, many of which are named for persons and go back for 40 or 50 years.

These names are being card indexed and it is desired to add to the data on these cards the origin of names when such are known, particularly personal names, when and for whom given, etc.

As I have frequently remarked, you are doubtless more familiar with the early history of Glacier Park than any intelligent white man now living.

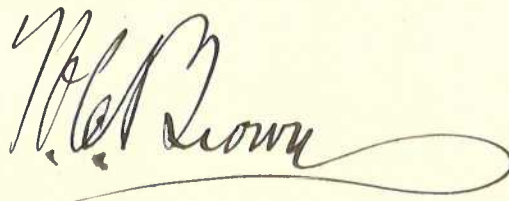
Mr. Bond has questioned me as to some of these names but I am familiar with a few only, while you are probably familiar with many, especially in the northeastern section.

I enclose a copy of the latest map of the Park, and ask if you would not be willing as a public service to write on the face of the map data with respect to any of the names with which you are familiar and return same to Mr. Frank Bond, Chairman, United States Geographic Board.

I suggest this method as one which you might follow with the least inconvenience to yourself.

With warm regards and with pleasant recollections of my little visit with you in June, I am

Very sincerely yours,





*Return this*

**ROBERT BRUCE**  
18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

November 16, 1928

Dear Dr. Grinnell:


Mrs. Custer left for Florida yesterday afternoon, and will be at the Seville, Daytona, until the last of March. I write this recalling that you had probably planned sometime to call upon her; and when I spoke about it, she said all right if you would phone in advance, so she might be sure to see you.

X X X X

I have not yet received back those three or so rough pages of copy, made by condensing your report of some features of the 1874 expedition. As was probably apparent if you looked over that last copy of Motor Travel left with you, I have been paying special attention to illustrations, and in some cases have been in some difficulty in finding text to cover them. (The cuts are necessary to assist the publication of my work). So it seemed to me that a condensation of some of your notes would help out as a background of the illustrations.

My idea of submitting them to you was to be sure they made no errors, and to invite any corrections you might care to make. It is doubtful if they would be carried into my permanent work, as my idea has been to bunch the illustrations more than would be possible in the magazine. If convenient, I would appreciate their return.

Yours very truly,



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COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA

Sept 26. 1928

Dear Mrs Ginnell, Uncle Lute was taken with "Flu" the evening of the 17<sup>th</sup> and has been quite ill - however Dr seemed better pleased with his condition yesterday. I tried to induce him to go to a hospital when he was first taken ill - but he would not listen to that - nor will he have a nurse.

Aunt Vera was taken down 2 or 3 days after his attack - but is up now - however far from well. If Uncle Lute had proper nursing together with his medical care I am sure he would soon be up.

When he called Dr or rather when Dr first went to see him - he Uncle L. issued his proclamation about going to a hospital & it was 2 or 3 days later that I tried to get him to consent - but nothing doing.

Do not think there is any danger but you know one of his age cannot recuperate rapidly -

Should you write him you might suggest

that you hope to have had a good  
nurse - may not have any effect  
& still it may,

Flu has been quite prevalent here, &  
a few deaths. Mrs. North & her sister  
who is visiting here - were both in the  
hospital for a week or more but  
are at home

Very kind regards to Mrs. G.,

As ever

Ed



**ROBERT BRUCE**

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

May 16, 1928

Mr. George Bird Grinnell,

238 East 16th St.

Dear Dr. Grinnell:

I enclose the record of Sandy Forsyth, made up for me with considerable care--evidently, by the Adjutant General's Office; and this may be returned at your convenience in the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.

By the way, Gen. Godfrey wrote me a day or so ago that he thought Forsyth was the officer sitting high (or a little higher than the rest), with one leg thrown over the other, and almost at your left hand in the Gottschamer photograph. If so, he would be the officer between yourself and Prof. Donaldson, except that he is sitting a trifle in front. This is of some importance in case a print of that photograph can be secured.

X X X X

The Warren pamphlet, as I recall, is about half way up on the shelves between your door and the west window--a paper covered report containing the map of the Battle of Ash Hollow, Nebraska, which I wish to photograph or make a photostat print, and at the same time take off some notes. Perhaps you might be willing to let have it for a few days when I call some weeks hence to leave a copy of THE BLACK HILLS of OLD DAKOTA. I have been here since August 1922, without having lost or mislaid anything, and hope to continue that record.

I am ~~making~~ making very fair progress in the collection and filing of old maps, photographs and narratives, have now a fair start and hope sometime to move up into the class of writers like yourself, though realizing that I have a long distance still to go!

Yours very truly,



# THE MIDWEST REFINING COMPANY

CASPER, WYOMING

R. S. ELLISON,  
VICE PRESIDENT

June 2, 1928

Doctor George Bird Grinnell  
238 East Fifteenth Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

I have your good letter of May 18 and will await with great interest hearing from you and Captain North about another trip this summer to the Dull Knife battle ground. I realize the necessary limitations imposed by the lapse of time on all of us, but I am sure that Mr. Condit will be helpful in lining up an outfit if you feel like undertaking the horse-back part of the trip along the lines discussed last year.

Your comment on General Bisbee's letter to Mr. Bruce about your Wagon Box article is greatly appreciated and I am in entire accord with your statement that the Indian, like most of the whites, act and talk differently on different occasions. I am getting a few comments since the publication of the article and when they are assembled would like to send them on to you for further comment on your part. I have not heard so far from our friend Gatchell, but Doctor Hebard seems disposed to support Gibson, whose account appears in her Bozeman Trail. As you say, however, it is a matter on which everyone is entitled to have his own opinion without doing violence to the opinions held by others.

I am sure you will be interested in hearing that our Historical Landmark Commission is making progress in the acquiring of thirty-two acres at old Fort Bridger. Some of the funds are being raised by local people in the counties in that part of the state, but as the purchase price is \$7100, it will require a broader campaign later on. However, since it is one of our most interesting and historic sites and the opportunity to secure it is undoubtedly as favorable now as we could hope for, I feel sure that we will be able to work it out successfully.

Hoping to hear from you again as to our proposed trip, and on any other matter of interest, I am

Sincerely yours



RSE:RD

# THE MIDWEST REFINING COMPANY

CASPER, WYOMING

R. S. ELLISON,  
VICE PRESIDENT

May 14, 1928

Doctor George Bird Grinnell  
238 East 15th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

I have your letter of May 9, and am wondering if it is not time for us to begin to consider more definitely another trip to the Dull Knife battle ground next summer, provided Mr. Condit is able to line up an outfit for use in retracing the route followed by the troops on their night trip into the little valley where the battle occurred. Of course, this will depend, also, upon whether you and Captain North care to undertake such trip or not. If you do, I will be glad to help out in anyway I can to such end.

With reference to your Wagon Box article, Mr. Robert Bruce of New York City tells me he recently asked General Bisbee for comment upon the story, based upon some of his experiences with the Indians on the plains. Since Mr. Bruce will probably send you a copy of the Bisbee letter, I will not go into it now. I understand, however, that in the main he agrees with your conclusions, excepting he does not have the same opinion of their modesty in relating exploits in which they were engaged.

I am wondering, also, how the publication of the North manuscript is progressing, as I will be disappointed if it is not made available in printed form.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours



RSE:RD



**ROBERT BRUCE**

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

May 12, 1928

Dear Dr. Grinnell:

I had already asked Gen. Godfrey about Gen. Forsyth, but the details seem to have slipped his memory. To have run across the full official record of Sandy Forsyth has been a painful surprise, and any use of it by me will let his fine military record stand out alone, with a cloak thrown over the remainder!

Am passing along to Mr. Ellison that paragraph of your letter about Gen. Bisbee's comments on your article; and think either a printed or typewritten copy should more appropriately come from him. However, I have retained a carbon copy in case of too long delay in using it in the Mid-west Review.

I have been completely baffled in attempts to secure one of those Warren booklets such as I saw on your shelves, the Warren family, Gen. Abbot's family and the Government Printing Office all reporting having none. If, sometime in the future, I might be sufficiently in your confidence to secure the loan for a few days of your copy, I can guarantee perfect care and safe return; but perhaps it would be well to let this stand as a future hope, especially as I am thoroughly occupied in my Black Hills of Old Dakota, for which I am still hoping to secure a print of that Gottschamer photograph.

Yours very truly,



**ROBERT BRUCE**

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

May 10, 1928

Dear Dr. Grinnell:

Mr. Gottscamer, of St. Paul, who has that 1874 negative, wrote me upon his return from Montana about two weeks ago that he had applied for copyright on that photograph, etc.; and evidently the attention it attracted has gone a little to his head and he thinks it will turn out to be a good thing. Aside from the doubt in my mind as to whether he can copyright the picture taken in 1874, and the original owner dead--I can speak from some experience when I say that he will find the public demand for it much less than he seems to think. Meanwhile he declines my offer to make prints of it for Gen. Godfrey, yourself, Capt. North and Col. Varnum, and my effort to complete the identifications is temporarily thwarted, unless he changes his attitude. I wrote a statement of the facts in the case, and told him it should be in the Black Hills booklet; but considerable time has elapsed without hearing further.

A copy of your article in the Midwest Review was sent to Brig. Gen. W. H. Bisbee, Retired, 1906 Beacon St., Boston, and some comments thereupon, received direct from the General, were copied and mailed to Casper yesterday, with a suggestion to Mr. Ellison to print them and let me have a few copies, one for Gen. Godfrey. This will probably work around in time.

I have been trying to ~~locate~~ locate Gen. G. A. (Sandy) Forsyth during 1876; and in piecing together various items think he may have been in Europe and Asia that year. Would be glad to know that this is so, if you recall. I am somewhat shocked to see that he was courtmartialled and sentenced to dismissal from the Army during the latter part of his career, though the order was partially suspended. This seems incredible to me in looking upon his fine face, and I wonder if you know why this was done.

The Black Hills booklet will be out in a few weeks.

Yours very truly,



# THE MIDWEST REFINING COMPANY

CASPER, WYOMING

R. S. ELLISON,  
VICE PRESIDENT

April 27, 1928

Doctor George Bird Grinnell  
238 East 15th Street  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

I am glad to have your letter of April 23, and am sending you three additional copies of the Midwest Review containing your Wagon Box story. We will probably exhaust the available supply shortly, so I am glad to fill your modest requirements before the remainders are exhausted.

I was particularly interested in hearing what some of your friends with western experience might say about the story, as I thought it might develop some discussion and possibly some viewpoints which could be used to advantage in a separate pamphlet along the lines I had in mind as I recently wrote you.

Mr. Robert Bruce of 18 Old Slip, to whom I sent a copy, wrote me recently that he had a letter from General Godfrey to whom a copy was sent at your suggestion. It seems the General was not altogether in accord with some of your conclusions, but knowing a little of his personal temperament, I did not take it all serious. In case you hear from the General, however, will be interested in knowing what points he may have in mind, if you feel like advising me later on.

By the way, in a letter from Mr. W. H. Jackson at Washington D. C., he tells me that at a recent visit of Horace M. Albright, the latter expects to be transferred from the Yellowstone to the Yosemite Park. I am sorry to hear this as a visit to the park with Albright as superintendent there is especially enjoyable to me.

Hoping to hear from you again as you have time to write, and with kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours



RSE:RD



# THE MIDWEST REFINING COMPANY

CASPER, WYOMING

R. S. ELLISON,  
VICE PRESIDENT

April 13, 1928.

Dr. George Bird Grinnell,  
238 East 15th Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

I have your letter of April 9th and am wondering who may have sent you the February 1927 Midwest Review containing the article on Independence Rock and the Oregon Trail. I think I sent you a copy of it last year and some one of your numerous friends has probably given you the article thinking you had not already received a copy of it.

On account of not having been in New York City for some little time, I am able to state definitely that I did not have the privilege of calling you at your home a few days ago, so that it was no doubt some other party with possibly some other name.

I am wondering if you have heard from any of the names on the list you recently handed me for sending out copies of your Wagon Box story. If so, will be interested in hearing what they have to say, if consistent, when you have time to write me about it. In the event any of them did not receive a copy for any reason on account of being lost in the mail, will be glad to send them another copy if either you or they will let me know.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

RSE:MH



# THE MIDWEST REFINING COMPANY

CASPER, WYOMING

R. S. ELLISON,  
VICE PRESIDENT

April 6, 1928.

Dr. George Bird Grinnell,  
238 East 15th Street,  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Doctor Grinnell:

I am just back from a few days' absence on a trip to Colorado and note your letter of March 30. I certainly hope that I did not make any serious break in compiling the brief data regarding your Western interests and principal books written by you. However, if anything is out of joint, please do not hesitate to let me know, because I am interested in having it as nearly correct as possible.

I am glad to send out to the men on the list which you handed me, copies of the Review, as I know several of them by name and in fact had already sent copies to Captain North and to Mr. Connelley. I am sure on account of their interest in our Indian history that they will be delighted to have the opportunity of reading your contribution to the Wagon Box and Indian literature.

I appreciate your suggestion regarding the form in case we issue the story in pamphlet form and will be glad to follow that together with any other suggestions you will be kind enough to give me. Everyone who has seen the cover and read the story with whom I have talked, has been very generous in his words of appreciation and since we only get out a limited number of our magazine for our own organization together with certain special libraries and historical associations and have no subscription list, it is possible that there may be enough requests coming in to justify having the story made into more available shape by issuing it as a separate in pamphlet form. Will advise with you further as the matter develops.

Hoping to hear from you again as you have time to write, I am

Sincerely yours,



RSE:MH

Clarence Reckmeyer  
Mr. Geo. Bird Grinnell  
Fremont, Nebraska  
February 19, 1928.

New York City.  
Dear Mr. Grinnell:

Your kind acknowledgment of February 14<sup>th</sup> finds me still in Salt Lake, where I have been studying old Mormon Trail history for the past month.

We have uncovered a new angle on the naming of Raubhyde Creek. In the 27<sup>th</sup> annual report of the American Bureau of Ethnology this creek is apparently alluded to as Hyde Creek, being thus listed as one of the tributaries of the Elk Horn. I am now frowning away on the theory that some train of Mormon emigrants erected a sign at this creek naming it, Hyde Creek, in honor of Elder Orson Hyde, a prominent Mormon, who published "The Frontier Guardian" at Kanssick (Council Bluffs) Iowa, from February 7, 1849 to February 1852. So far I find no such evidence.

Captain North writes me under date of February 9<sup>th</sup> as follows:-  
"I saw your letter in the World-Herald but don't quite agree with you. The man may not have been skinned alive or dead but the Pawnees certainly killed him and he as surely killed the Pawnee girl. You probably remember that I said the Pawnees never would acknowledge that they skinned the man."



The <sup>2.</sup> ~~Pawnee~~ <sup>Indians</sup> did kill a Mormon named John Weatherly in June 19, 1847 near Pappoa Creek, about 8 miles east of the Elk Horn - Whether they were Pawnees or Omahas I dont know, but hunt up the particulars in the Mormon Records to-morrow.

Am I correct in presuming that the enclosed picture of Pitalesharu, which I have had photographed from the picture on Page 143 Volume 1 of McKenney and Hall's "History of The Indian Tribes of North America" is the original "Brave of The Brave" who rescued the Iolan girl from being offered as a human sacrifice to The Morning Star in 1817 and who was presented with a medal for this brave act, in Washington in 1821? I leave for home Tuesday.

Very truly yours

Clarence R. Kibben