

Wednesday, June 3, 2026 at 8:49:42 PM Eastern Daylight Time

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**Subject:** Re: Study of Native American tribes  
**Date:** Monday, October 7, 2019 at 10:46:50 AM Eastern Daylight Time  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** Ezzo, Julia

I cannot thank you enough. My greatest irritant is knowing that information has been gathered by Someone and exists Somewhere and I can't find the drawer or cabinet where it is filed away gathering dust.

You have given me a new, deep pool to swim in and when I come out the other side I'll let you know what I found.

Again, thank you.

Take the rest of the day off.

Tell them I said it was OK.

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Ezzo, Julia <[julia@msu.edu](mailto:julia@msu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 7, 2019 9:30 AM  
**To:** [REDACTED] >  
**Subject:** Re: Study of Native American tribes

Greetings [REDACTED]

Unfortunately, I was unable to find exactly what you're looking for, but I do have some suggestions for you to continue your hunt. It is possible that by reading through these reports, they might point you in the right direction. You may also have some success by going to an old Federal Depository Library and browsing their W sudoc collection. Michigan State University did not become a Federal Depository Library until 1907 so our War Department documents for years prior to this are rather spotty and sadly do not include much from 1850-1860.

Explorations in the Dakota Country, in the year 1855 by Lieut. G.K. Warren  
822 S. Exdoc 76  
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/009024602>

The Sioux war: what has been done by the Minnesota campaign of 1863: what should be done during a Dakota campaign of 1864.

With some general remarks upon the Indian policy, past and future, of the United States.  
<https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/100011146>

Report upon the Indian tribes

<http://name.umdl.umich.edu/AFK4383.0003.004>

found in Reports of Explorations and Survey to Ascertain the Most Practicable and Economical Route for a Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean.

<http://memory.loc.gov:8081/ammem/ndlpcoop/moahtml/afk4383.html>

Additionally, I'd recommend checking War Department reports and/or congressional committee hearings/reports that might be available in the Congressional Serial Set for that time period or in the Executive Branch documents collection from 1789-1932 that were not included in the Congressional Serial Set. You also may want to check the Congressional Globe from that time period to see if this topic was discussed in the House of Representatives or Senate

You might also need to check various War Dept. Record Groups (RG) in the National Archives RG 107 <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/107.htm> I covers the Office of the Secretary of War from 1791-1947. Another possibility might be RG 165 <https://www.archives.gov/research/guide-fed-records/groups/165.html> Records of the War Dept. General and Special Staffs.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best,  
Julia

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Date:** Thursday, September 26, 2019 at 1:15 PM  
**To:** "Ezzo, Julia" <[julia@msu.edu](mailto:julia@msu.edu)>  
**Subject:** Study of Native American tribes

Dear MS Frankosky;

I am trying to locate a source of information compiled by the War Dept, in the 1850-60 time period which I saw referenced in a book on the Sioux wars.

This was at least twenty years ago and I have only recently tried to rediscover it. I'm beginning to doubt my memory. Let me summarize what I can recall;

The War Dept, in the later part of the 1850s, commissioned a group of scholars to make a study of the Northern Plains tribes to the goal of 'Know Your Enemy'; their composition, customs, life style, seasonal movements, methods of hunting, warfare, etc

These studies were then compiled and edited into a manual issued to officers and non-coms assigned to the frontier units. With this handy manual a commander could count the lodge rings in an abandoned camp and estimate the numbers of men, women, children, warriors and non combatants likely to be in that particular clan.

I have re-read a couple of dozen books trying to find the reference again without success.

I'm beginning to entertain the notion that I imagined the whole thing. I have an excellent imagination.

Do you know of any such document?

Barring that, can you suggest where I might look for it?

I have spent the last year wringing out the internet to no avail.

I really appreciate any help, however small, you can offer.

If I can't locate it, I may have to give up my historical fiction and turn to sci-fi.

I hate to do that as there is a glut on the market.

I am

your hopeful servant

[REDACTED]

ms

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10