

July 21, 1929.

Brig. Gen. Edw. S. Godfrey, U.S.A.
Historian, Order of Indian Wars,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

My friend, Major George F. Ahern, has sent me your name as one who can aid me in historical research on the Sioux campaigns. May I introduce myself and ask your co-operation?

I am an old Rhodes Scholar and a teacher in this University. Just now I am working on a life of Sitting Bull, the Dakota leader. I shall be very grateful if you can help me to gather the facts about this unusual old savage. I have come to the conclusion that the Indian, being a fighting man, was best understood by the soldier. The missionary, the farmer-settler, the white-collar Indian agent, all failed to understand him. Yet the officers who knew the Indians best have generally kept silent, and left the story to be told by those who have the least comprehension.

If you can suggest the names of officers who took part in the campaigns against Sitting Bull, or who knew him while a prisoner of War at Fort Randall, Dakota Territory (1881-1883), or afterwards on the Standing Rock Reservation, I shall owe you a debt of gratitude.

What is your own impression of the man, Sitting Bull. Anything he did, said, any impression you may have of him will be most valuable. Often the least detail, when put with others, proves to be significant.

Do the Proceedings of the Order of Indian Wars contain any material which might help me? Or do you possess any unpublished manuscripts which might be of value, if transcribed for my use? I shall be glad to give full credit for any information you may give.

Perhaps I may add that, although known by the name of my step-father, Campbell, since childhood, I prefer to publish under that of my own father, Vestal. My family have been officers in almost every war waged by the United States.

Faithfully yours,

W.S.CAMPBELL

Formerly Captain, 335th F.A., A.E.F.