

January 22, 1933

Mrs. William O. Russell  
48 Cedar Lane Way  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mrs. Russell:

My friend Colonel George P. Ahern has informed me that as a girl you were acquainted with Sitting Bull and his family while he was a prisoner of war at Fort Randall. Colonel Ahern has also given me permission to use his name in writing this letter to you.

As you may know Colonel Ahern was of great assistance to me in gathering information about Sitting Bull, whose life by my pen was recently published in your city by the Houghton Mifflin Company. My original plan was to bring out the book in two volumes, but owing to the depression, this became impossible, and certain chapters had to be compressed into a paragraph. Among these was the chapter on Sitting Bull as prisoner of war. Therefore at that time I did not write you for information as I could not find room for it in the book.

Now, however, I am planning another volume in which one chapter will be devoted to Sitting Bull as prisoner of war and I shall be very grateful to you if you will assist me by giving as full an account as possible of your recollections of the chief and his family. Rest assured that I shall be happy to give your name as one of my authorities when this information is made public. Hardly anything has been printed on this chapter of Sitting Bull's life, and I shall deeply appreciate all the information you may choose to give.

Perhaps I should add that though I write under the name of my own father, Vestal, my legal name is that of my stepfather, Campbell.

Yours faithfully,

W. S. Campbell,  
Formerly Captain 335th F.A.