

dence from his research to support his belief that Custer DID disobey his orders, both in the letter and the spirit, thereby being chiefly responsible for the Little Big Horn disaster. Among the documents in Dr. Cutter's collections are several letters written by Capt. Frederick W. Benteen of the Seventh cavalry to D.F. Barry, well-known photographer of Indians, and he revealed to WESTERNERS the contents of two of these letters which furnish interesting sidelights on the character of Custer and other officers of the Seventh.

Through the kindness of Dr. Cutter, the Brand Book has the privilege of being the first to print these historic documents. SPECIAL NOTICE: The text of these letters, which follow, is CONFIDENTIAL, RESTRICTED MATERIAL AND MUST NOT BE REPRINTED NOR QUOTED WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM THE OWNER OF THE LETTERS, DR. IRVING S. CUTTER.

May 18th. '97  
39 Pavilion Street, Atlanta, Ga.

Dear Barry:

Yours of the 14th. inst. with copy of N.Y. Press rec'd duly.

The reproduced photo makes a fine showing. The story seems to be from "Morris" formerly of "M" Troop, 7th. Cav., think that I saw it once in N.Y. Herald.

The whole of the expedition from the departure from Terry, would make an entertaining story if well told, and were not so threadbare -- and some day I may write it.

I have never gone into print on this subject, as there seemed to have been so much said, and so much time elapsed, that there was no one left -- other than Mrs. Custer who would care to have any discussion kept up; and she wouldn't care to have my story of the happenings accepted by the world -- even if they would be.

My son keeps up his love for the military, he is absent in Savannah, Ga. now contesting on a rifle team, but anyone who gets away with prizes from the Savannah boys will know that he has done some good shooting. Fred has his uniform coat in the Govr's Horse Guards covered with medals that he has won, but none as yet that have been captured from the Savannah boys with a cavalry carbine appears thereon.

I haven't received the interview with Dr. Porter in the Globe Democrat, but I can form a pretty fair idea of about what it will be. Porter was after a Medal of Honor from Uncle Sam and requested me to assist him in getting it. I informed him of the way to go about it but since then I haven't heard of it.

By keeping your production before the people you are in my opinion bound to establish a fine business in New York -- it is only a question of time.

Am obliged to you for the trouble you went to get photo in Press. It makes a fine picture.

Mrs. Benteen joins me in kind remembrance to Mrs. Barry and yourself.

Very truly Yr. Friend,  
BENTEN

39 Pavilion St. Atlanta, March 29-'98.

Dear Barry:

Your kind favor of Harper's Weekly containing De Rudio's account of his escape from "Gall's forces" came O.K.

De Rudio was 2d. Lieutenant in my troop from 1869 to 1876, so, consequently, I ought to know him, as I do, "like a book", and Ananias -- or any other historical