

*and
also write
Custer's*

Box 184,
Saint John, N.B., Canada,

Feb. 7, 1932

Mr. Stanley Vestal,
% "Adventure" Magazine,
161 - 6th Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Sir:-

Just, I suppose, because I saw on the cover of the "Adventure" of the 1st inst. reproduction of a painting done by my son, Hubert, I bought the copy and while going over the matter contained I noted your story of the Custer massacre at Little Big Horn.

This brought to my mind a very strange story told me while in Montana in the summer of 1917. With a man named Walter S. Custer, whose father was a cousin of the general, I was in Butte and there met a man who was at the same hotel (the Taft) whom I accidentally discovered was a special agent of the U.S. Dept of Justice. His name I do not remember, nor was his business in Butte at that time known to anybody in the hotel except myself.

When he heard Custer's name mentioned, and at the same time learned that a daughter of Major Reno was also staying at that hotel, he became communicative regarding the Custer incident.

The strange story he told was, as far as I can now remember, this: During the civil war his father's property in Virginia was destroyed, the family killed, all except himself and (as it afterwards proved) a sister. He was taken care of by a band of Indians and became one of their number and was at Little Big Horn and saw the Custer fight. More than that: he was one of two sent by the Sioux to deceive Custer, his companion being an Indian who knew English. This man's face was colored to hide the fact that he was white. Stated he was about 8 years old when taken away by the Indians from Virginia and was, of course a man grown at the time of the fight. Later he escaped from the Indians and made his way South where he was taken up by a man of means to whom he had told his story, and educated in medicine. That afterwards he was an army doctor, serving with the troops on the Mexican border and later in the Philippines.

A few days after he left Butte, the premises of the I.W.W. whose quarters were in Finlanders Hall were raided and at the same moment similar action was taken in several big mining centres in Nevada and elsewhere in the West.