

October 29, 1929.

Mr. Matthew F. Steele,  
Fargo, North Dakota.

Dear Mr. Steele:

Please accept my hearty thanks for your kind letter of October 24 and for the photograph of the portrait of Sitting Bull painted by Mrs. Weldon. I am extremely glad to see both. The costume of Sitting Bull in the portrait is apparently one he wore during the summer of 1885 when with Buffalo Bill's show. I have seen several photographs of him of that time in this costume. Probably Mrs. Weldon copied it from one of these photographs since Sitting Bull's nephew seems to know nothing about it. I am returning the photograph herewith as you requested.

Your estimate of Sitting Bull's character interested me greatly and closely parallels the opinion I have been forming from a study of the man's life during the past two years. I am going to ask your permission to quote from your letter in my book.

What you tell of Sitting Bull's cabin at the time of his death interests me greatly. Did the portrait hang in the cabin where he slept the night of his death. What was in the cabin or cabins? I shall be grateful for any details you may recall. Did you see anything of Sitting Bull's shield after his death?

When you arrived on the scene of the fight where was Sitting Bull's white horse? You speak of having in your possession the tobacco pouch taken from Sitting Bull's body that morning. I suppose you saw the body soon after the fight. Do you recall what clothing, if any, was upon the body and what wounds were visible? Where was the body of Crow Foot, Sitting Bull's son, when you arrived on the scene. Was another child killed in the scramble? How did Sitting Bull's wives and the other prisoners behave and what did they say at the time? I shall be extremely grateful for any of your recollections not included in the paper which you offer so send me. Of course I shall be delighted to receive it and promise to return it promptly. I would like also have your official title and the name of your command at the time of Sitting Bull's death.

Did you ever see Mrs. Weldon? If so, please let me have your opinion of the lady.

I assure you that I am very grateful for the information you are giving and will be happy to give you full credit for your assistance wherever it appears. Do you know anyone who might be able to supply Sitting Bull's days which your information does not cover? If so, let me have his name and address.

Very cordially yours,

W. S. CAMPBELL.