

July 31, 1929.

Colonel S.C.Vestal,
Chief, Historical Section,
Army War College,
Washington, D.C.

Dear cousin:

I was delighted to get your two good letters so full of aid and good will. I suspect we may be relatives, as you suggest, and in any case shall be happy to claim the relationship. My father, Walter Mallory Vestal, was born in Tennessee, Columbia or Cullyokee, and was educated by old Sawney Webb in the boys' school there. He came to Kansas in the 80s, married my mother- a girl from Ohio- and died while I was an infant. Family tradition is that the Vestals came from Carolina, Georgia, and Virginia. But I think no one in the direct line is living now. My father was also robbed of his father when a child. But I remember his mother, a Southern lady, quite well. She married a Williams for her second husband.

Do you happen to know what language the name Vestal comes from? I have only seen one Vestal in the flesh- a doughboy whom I happened to run across during the war in France. He was from Carolina, and I believe there are some of the family in Tennessee. Indiana, of course, has provided a number of officers for the Army. And there is a Vestal, florist, in Texas somewhere. If you know where I can find anything about the family, please tell me. All that I do know makes me anxious to know more.

I was much interested to learn of your experiences in the Indian country, and your account of the Custer battle-field as it was in earlier days. Of course, that battle is one of the high spots in my narrative, and I am glad to get everything I can on that. I thank you for giving me the address of Colonel Bates. I am glad that some one is working on Custer. The last "life" I read was terribly done. The author seemed to know nothing, either of military affairs or of Indians.

It is my hope to come to Washington- just when I can't say. But when I do, you may be sure I shall let you know, not merely for the great service you have done me, but for the greater satisfaction of talking with a real live Vestal again! Inasmuch as this is a family letter, I am taking the liberty of enclosing a snapshot recently taken of me. Don't let it prejudice you against me.

I am enclosing a letter for your files with regard to the Sitting Bull matter.

Cordially yours,

W.S.CAMPBELL