

May 17, 1930.

The Secretary,
Royal Northwest Mounted Police Veterans' Association,
Vancouver, British Columbia, Dominion of Canada.

Dear Sir:

May I ask a favor?

I am making a study of the life of Sitting Bull, the Sioux Indian leader, who was in Canada under the control of the Royal Northwest Mounted Police (1877-1881). The officers in charge of the archives of the Dominion have been very kind and helpful, but as you can imagine, the records lack the personal touch. I wish very much to get into touch with some of the members of your Association who served at or near Fort Walsh, Saskatchewan, during those years (1877-1881), in order to gain their recollections of the Indians and of Sitting Bull and his affairs.

The masterly way in which the Mounted Police handled that big invasion of angry red men ought to go down in history, and I want to get the facts before it is too late. Will you be kind enough to give me the names and addresses of those living members of your Association who may have firsthand knowledge of Sitting Bull?

I am not a journalist looking for copy, but a serious historian. I was a Rhodes Scholar (1909-1911) at Oxford, and served as a Captain of Field Artillery in France. I have published several books on the Old West. Please help me.

Cordially yours,

W. S. CAMPBELL.

P.S. - May I add that though known by the name of my step-father, Campbell, I publish under my own father's name, Stanley Vestal.