

COLONEL GEORGE RUHLEN  
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1011 NORTH EIGHTH STREET  
TACOMA, WASHINGTON.

September 24, 1929..

Captain W. S. Campbell,  
Department of English, U. of Oklahoma,  
Norman, Oklahoma.

*Ruhlen*

Dear Captain Campbell:

Your letter of Sept. 14, 1929, erroneously addressed to me at Tacoma, Wisconsin, reached me today.

I regret that I am unable to furnish you with any information about the Indian Sitting Bull that would be of any use to you in your research. I was on duty as lieutenant in a company of the 17th U. S. Infantry that was stationed at the Cheyenne River Indian Agency, then in what is now South Dakota, from September, 1872 to December, 1876, but do not recall that Sitting Bull was ever mentioned or ever appeared among the ten or twelve thousand Indians of the Sioux nation that were congregated around that Agency,

I was also on duty as Captain and Quartermaster at the Pine Ridge Agency in Nebraska during the "Bloody Shirt" campaign there in the Winter of 1890/91 but did not there hear or learn anything about Sitting Bull except the every day exaggerated and sensational street talk about the campaign generally.

Of army officers now living who had any part in military affairs in which Sitting Bull was or might have been engaged I can now recall only:

7 Brigadier General Edward S. Godfrey, who was a lieutenant in the 7th Cavalry with Major Reno's command at the Custer fight on the Little Big Horn in June, 1876. I think he was also with the 7th Cavalry at Pine Ridge in 1890/91. He is the author of quite an extensive literature about the Custer campaign in 1876 and would no doubt be able to give you information of value if you have not already communicated with him. His address is: Cookstown, New Jersey.

Another officer is Colonel Charles A. Varnum, U. S. Army, Retired, who was also with Reno's command at the Custer fight in June 1876 and, I think, at Pine Ridge with the 7th Cavalry in 1890/91. His address is 2702, Union Street, San Francisco, California. He may be able to tell you something that would be of interest.

I do not recall the names of any other officers of the old 7th Cavalry now living who were in the Custer fight or in any later Indian campaigns having relation to Sitting Bull. If you can yourself recall any such officers you will find their addresses, as retired officers, in the bimonthly "Army List and Directory" which you can obtain, if you have not now a copy, from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. -----price 30 cents.

*write him*

Very truly yours,

*George Ruhlen*  
Colonel U. S. Army, Retired

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