

January 23, 1952

Superintendent Edward S. Luce
Custer Battlefield National Monument
Crow Agency, Montana

Dear Superintendent Luce:

I have a saddlebag which once was part of the equipment of some trooper of the Seventh Cavalry. It was picked up on the Custer Battlefield by one of the relatives of Scarlet Whirlwind, the Sioux woman who later married Tatanka Wanjila or Lone Bull (Chief Henry Oscar One Bull), Sitting Bull's younger nephew by his favorite sister, Wiyaka Wastewin, or Good Feather. Scarlet Whirlwind brought this saddlebag into One Bull's family, as you will find stated in my biography of Sitting Bull, page 177.

This came into my possession directly from One Bull and his wife at his cabin on Grand River in 1930.

At that time Scarlet Whirlwind pointed out that the bag had been mended here and there by the Indians with sinew (which proves that it was in Indian possession). She said that the saddlebag had been used as a valise in her family for many years, and the wear on that part of the leather used as a handle bears this statement out.

It occurred to me that such a rare item will find its place sooner or later in a museum and that the museum on the Custer Battlefield is the logical place for it. Do you have funds for the purchase of such exhibits? If so, what would this saddlebag be worth to you?

I could also supply a photograph of the man who killed General Custer. I had the story from himself and numerous other Indians and white men who knew about it and can give you the whole story together with the photograph. The man was a well-known relative of Sitting Bull, a distinguished warrior whom I knew well through many months of research on Sitting Bull and the Sioux. It seems to me that this item belongs in your museum along with complete details supplied by the Indian killer himself and corroborated by other Indians who were in the fight.

I should be happy to hear from you.

Cordially yours,

W. S. Campbell (Stanley Vestal)

P. S. I asked my friend George F. Brimlow for your address. He gave me the one above. If you are not there in winter, I suppose this letter will be forwarded.