

July 31, 1929.

The Recorder,
Order of Indian Wars,
Room 2020 Munitions Building,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

Colonel S.C.Vestal, Chief, Historical Section, Army War College, has suggested that I apply to you for assistance. I am engaged in preparing a Life of the celebrated Sioux leader, Sitting Bull, and wish to communicate with officers now living who participated in the campaigns against the Plains Indians, particularly the Sioux and Cheyenne (1862-91).

Colonel Vestal also informs me that the Order of Indian Wars has much material which might be of use to me. If you will be so good as to tell me what material you have, and how I may gain access to it, I shall be very grateful.

It is my belief that officers of the Army who knew the Indians understood them rather better than other white men, for the Indian culture was essentially a warrior culture. I am therefore anxious to gather the impressions and recollections of such officers.

Perhaps I should explain that, although known since childhood by the name of my step-father, Campbell, I prefer to publish under my own father's name, Vestal.

Please help me. I shall be happy to give you full credit for your aid when my book is published.

Faithfully yours,

W.S.Campbell

formerly Captain 335th P.A., A.E.F.