

February 15, 1933

Mr. T. J. Gatchell
Buffalo, Wyoming

Dear Mr. Gatchell:

Since I saw you last summer I have been completing my new book on Indian wars, using the accounts of Indian eye-witnesses, chiefly Sioux. I have got an account of the Wagon Box fight from a living eye-witness who took part in it, but after talking with you I am anxious to check the location as described by my Indian informant, for I remember you told me that the monument was not erected on the battlefield. As I understand it there was a small camp at some distance from the Wagon Box corral -- the camp where two men were killed early in the fight. I shall be very grateful to you if you will be so kind as to tell me how far this camp lay from the wagon box corral and in what direction, and also the lay of the land in each direction from the wagon box corral. Knowing that you are preparing chapters on this affair I am not asking you to give me your material but merely to help me check the statements of my Indian informant and make sure of the accuracy of his information. The details of the fight have convinced me of the identity of it and I have the names of the six Indians killed that day. The Indians also inform me that Crazy Horse organized that war-party which came from the north and that Red Cloud was not present. I believe I have something fresh to contribute on this subject and therefore I make bold to trouble you in this way. Of course I shall give you credit for any information you may give me. You probably noticed that I cited you as one of my authorities in my book Sitting Bull.

One thing more. How far from Fort Phil Kearny was the wagon box corral and in what direction?

Yours very truly,

W. S. Campbell
("Stanley Vestal")