LOCK BOX 159
WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY

September 29,1932

Capt. Robert G. Carter Washington

Dear Captain Carter:

I have read your excellent letter of the 27th with extraordinary interest, and have made a revision of one paragraph to quote from it as follows:

"I really classed him," writes Capt. Robert G. Carter, U. S. A. Retired, "as our best, most reliable and dependable Indian fighter. He had an indomitable will, wonderful powers of endurance and unsurpassed courage." It seems to me that this summing up can never be equalled -- not to say surpassed!

x x x

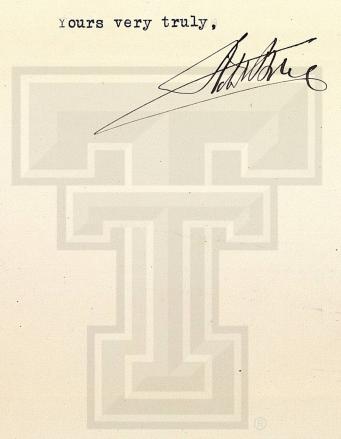
At first the Dictionary of American Biography allowed me only 600 words, but afterwards slightly added to the space allotment. However, even that does not allow me to give any details of the separate engagements, etc., and I have been obliged to make summaries of the different phases, so to speak, of the service rendered by Mackenzie. I am sure, however, that this will be more comprehensive than has yet appeared in any similar work.

I was quite prepared to have you correct McClellan's estimate of Mackenzie's height, as I was sure that he must have been more than 5' 7". However,
ex-serg. McClellan has written some interesting notes, such as the enclosed
clipped from one of the Motor Travel chapters a year or more ago; and I am
inclined to think that you will agree with his sentiments here expressed. I
may later have more use for these Mackenzie references than can be inserted
in a biographical sketch; and so would be pleased if you should care to return this with any comments.

Elsewhere in Mr. McClellan's description of the Dull Knife fight he refers to the soldiers calling Mackenzie (among themselves) "Old Jock!" I do not have a spare clipping of that, but seem to recall that Col. Hatfield doubted it. My own idea, from McClellan's general reliability (despite underestimating Mackenzie's height) is that the private soldiers did refer to him in that way; but would be interested in any comment from you also on

2) what you would think as to the likelihood of that.

While suffering rather severely from the prevailing conditions, I have not so far lost my head, or lessened my hope of contributing some good subjects to American history. Mackenzie and Lawton seem to have been more or less covered up by the excess of publicity given to Custer, but I believe there is a recession of the excessive laudation given to Custer during the past 50 years, and that impartial history will find a larger place for Mackenzie, Lawton, Carter, Hatfield and others.



ROBERT BRUCE
18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY
July 8,1929

Capt. R. G. Carter

Washington.

My dear Captain Carter: --

Don't bother about that Mackenzie photograph--if you do not happen to run across it hefore I have some need to engrave it, I can have a new print made from my negative, and the draftsman can letter the name over again.

Am greatly pleased to have your own photograph; and sometime in the course of the 25 years or so I hope to be engaged in this fascinating work, I shall probably have some occasion to use it. Noting the medal of honor, I have endorsed on the back of the photograph, see page 218, Heitman's Register, for reference to the bestowal of the Honor Medal.

Gen. Brown called here on his way down from West Point, looking over my photographs; and taking a fancy to one I have of Merritt, advises me that he has let the Army War College copy it, and also made an enlargement to frame for the A & N Club--so I presume you will see it soon, if not already. I missed Gen. Godfrey's call this time, but presume he saw Mrs. Custer--which would, of course, be still better.

Trusting that you are better both in eyesight and general health, I remain,
Yours very truly,

Maj. A. B. Ostrander, Seattle, was greatly pleased with his election as Associate, Order of Indian Wars.

Mong

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

September 8,1929

My dear Captain Carter:

I have come to my office thus Sunday morning in order to save a day in acknowledgment of your very kind and interesting letter of the 2nd. In order to make the circumstances clear, it will be necessary to state that the man who is proposing to get up and prepare his reminiscences is the veteran artist and sculptor, James E. Kelly, 474 West 144th St., this City.

My Kelly's name may not mean much to you, except that if you look up his name is WHO'S WHO, you will see that he has done some important military-historical works. He is also more of a Scotchman than an Irishman, and his father came from Scotland. For a half century he specialized on military history, and early in his career was fortunate enough to get a sitting from Sheridan, and made the Sheridan's Ride, which was ordered in duplicate by President Roosevelt, and gave Mr. Kelly his real entry to fame.

He made the Monmouth Battle Monument near Freehold, N. J., the Fitz John Porter at Portsmouth, N. H., the small Buford at Gettysburg and many others, only a few mentioned in WHO'S WHO. His last great work was the Rodney monument at Wilmington, of which I am sending a small postal card view. This was a \$30,000 job, which took him about six years, and I think permanently broke his health, for while Mr. Kelly is just past 74, he has been in ill health the past few years, and last winter it seemed as if he might pass along.

While Sheridan, Roosevelt, Porter, Admiral Clark and others were posing for him, he asked questions and took notes; and now in his later years, when unable to carry on his former work, he is beginning to put the material in shape. I made Col. Bates acquainted with Kelly some time ago; and when I walked into Kelly's place last evening, he said that Bates had just left, and they had been going over Kelly's notes of Pennington's conversation about Custer. So I just missed him. I did, however, read your letter to Kelly word for word, and at first opportunity will make a copy for him.

It was in connection with the above-named interviews that Kelly saw Gen. Webb, at least two or three times; and as Kelly has read me the notes, they seem very good. I suggested to Mr. K. that it would be a good thing to transcribe them, and send you a copy; but he did not seem willing to do that, thinking perhaps they are not yet in good enough shape. In fact he declined the same for Pennington's notes about Custer; but when Bates called he was glad to look them over and let Bates take notes--as in all probability, Bates' work will be issued ahead of Kelly's.

Kelly also has the artistic temperament well developed, and sometimes would be likely to be more willing to exhibit the wonderful things he has than at other times. In the possible event that you should be in this city I would plan to take you up to Kelly's, and think you would be greatly surprised. Being a younger man than yourself, it would seem as it would be more appropriate for him to come and see you; but you are more vigorous and active than he-as he has hardly been a block from his residence since coming back from Florida about the last of March. He overworked on the Rodney monument, and its wonderful panels (which of course do not show in this small view) was afterward taken with a nervous breakdown, and later lost his wife, which about finished him as he was so much dependent upon her. I mention the foregoing to make clear why anyone must go to Kelly, as Col. Bates is now doing, instead of--if circumstances were different--expecting, or anticipating, rather, that he would come half way.

Owing to circumstances referred to he does not work regularly or consistently, and does not think his Gettysburg interviews with Webb and one or two others yet in shape; but I shall watch the situation, and if any opportunity comes will secure and send you a copy. I think that he made a sketch from Webb's description, which of course would have special value, as Kelly is a wonderful artist, who graduated from that into sculpture to make his principal reputation. He's a fine man to meet, and nothing would please me better than to take you up to his place in case you could sometime make it convenient; the chances are that he would open up completely on the Webb material, but otherwise the matter will probably have to await its development.

Sincerely yours,

You will hear from me shortly on another matter, but I wanted to go quite deeply into the Kelly matter at the earliest date--which is this day, following my visit to his place last night. R.B.

While reading this over it occurs to me that Kelly also knew Pleasanton and Kilpatrick, and has notes of his interviews with both. R.B.

Aft the

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

September 18,1929

Dear Capt. Carter:

I have seen and read your postal card to Mr. Kelly (following the long letter you wrote, and of which Col. Bates has taken a copy). By the way, Bates called yesterday, and is going to Boston tonight to see Gens. Summer and Bisbee. Were the notes dictated by Webb my own, I would hasten to make and send a copy to you for comment; but Mr. Kelly is not so disposed, and of course he has the right to do with them as he wishes.

My next Motor Travel chapter runs into Mackenzie a little, in the Ind. Ter., and the October issue will still more, as commander of the expedition in which the Pawnee scouts served. September is Late, as usual, and my copies often follow long after that; but in due time you will see them. When completed I shall probably issue them in pamphlet form.

White the matter is fresh in mind, would like to mention that Finerty, in his Warpath and Bivouac, says that Mackenzie was called by the Indians "Bad Hand", on account of some injury to his hand in the Civil War. In all probability you can give me some details, as well as letting me know if the Finerty mention is correct.

Yours very truly,

? that kand?

? Can you tell me which of Mackenzie's hands was injured, and where the encounter took place?

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

September 21,1929

Dear Capt. Carter:

I have read yours of the 19th with great interest: and now not to delay my reply unduly, I enclose rough advance proofs of Motor Travel for September (always published late in the month, and sometimes I am short of copies anyhow). These will be fairly easy reading -- for proofs; and will show how this narrative unexpectedly runs into Indian Territory History.

Yesterday the editor of Recruting News took away my edited version of Bourke's narrative of the Mackensie fight on Dull Knife's village; and considering that his story is long out of print, think that the reprinting of it, with new illustrations, will serve an important purpose. If you do not already receive or see it, you could secure them from Governors Island on request, and the series begins in the October 15th issue, to run about 4 weeks. I added some of Gen. Schuyler's comments, as you will see. For a month or so I shall be running serials in Motor Travel and Recruiting News, which is some job, with all my correspondence.

Bates is studying Civil War history, as well as the Custer fight, and if he makes good commercially on the latter may go into the former. He is only about 67 or so, 11 years older than I am; and I very much wish that I could have started some years before I took a trend in this direction. Up to this time the returns have been very meagre, and except for the favorable situation I have at this office, am obliged to make it go as a commercial proposition, which I am doing (but on slight margins). That is one reason I have not been away, to Gettysburg or elsewhere, this year.

Thanks for the comments regarding Gen. Parker's book. which I shall file against any possibility that I might be misled by coming into contact with his errors. As to a history of the 4th Cavalry, I might sometime be inclined to take it up, supplementing it with some pages on Mack-Cenzie, such as the comment in Cullom's Register, etc.; but I could not do so at this stage, and am wary of promising more than I am fairly sure of being able ultimately to do. As these chapters probably show, I do not spare myself in labor of preparation, and go strongly into illustrations.

I will watch my chance to show you Webb's notes on Gettysburg, but so far Mr. Kelly guards them closely -- more so, I believe, than would be best for their ultimate highest value.

Yours very truly, Alle

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

October 9,1929

Dear Capt. Carter:

Capt. Bourke's articles on the Dull Knife fight, edited and illustrated by me, and with some footnotes of great interest by Gen. WS Schuyler, are to begin in Recruiting News, Governors Island, October 15th issue. As you may know, I have contributed three serials already to it in preliminary form, widening the scope of my acquaintance, and also getting the material in better shape for future issue in separate form.

They do all the work with enlisted men, which is creditable under the circumstances; and also have an artist (a sargeant, I believe), who makes drawings. They have remade Mackenzie, from the print you have seen, but a little too large (as compared with what I would have done). If you do not already receive it, they would of course send you those issues. The object of this letter is:

- 1. To ask you to look over the enclosed of Mackenzie, secured from the Army Photo Service, and let me know if you think it sa good likeness, and when you think it was taken.
- 2. Gen. H. L. Scott says that Ben Clark was in the Dull Knife fight, and may have come up from the Territory in 76 with Mackenzie and the 4th Cavalry. Do you know of this, and have you any details about it?

Yours very truly,

Recruiting News sends me 25 copies of each issue in which I have any work; but I could always use 100. So would suggest securing them direct, though if you could not do this, I would send them to you as they come out, with request for return (because of the small number I have.) I have published another of the Motor Travel chapters, the North brothers enlisting the Pawnee scouts in 1876 for Crook's campaign; but have not received my extras yet.

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

Nowember 7,1929

Dear Captain Carter:

Not being quite sure in my own mind that you receive, or see, this little magazine, I am taking the precaution of sending the first chapter, because I believe you will be interested in the way I am developing Mackenzie's Last Fight with the Cheyennes—at least as compared with Bourke's (1890), which had just one picture. I am told by the office on Governors Island that they can spare no more for me; so would be glad if you can conveniently return this, and unless you get it, or can get it, I will try to mail the others as they come out.

Bear in mind that this is all done by enlisted men, not practical printrs, and they are not expert in calculating sizes; but the text is all right, and in the Nov. 1st issue the cuts are more nearly normal size. In the course of this work, Capt. L. H. North makes the observation that Mackenzie was a better Indian fighter than Crook; and you will see a comment by Schuyler (Brig. Gen., Retired) showing his opinion of Mackenzie, on the bottom of page 7. Any comment on North's opinion, as herein expressed would be of considerable interest.

Gen. Hugh L. Scott, who called here on the 22nd, agrees with North that Ben Clark was in the Dull Knife fight; but I am unable to find out whether or not he came up from the Territory in 1876 with Mackenzie, but am inclined to think that he did. Wish you or someone else could tell me for sure.

Yours very truly,

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

November 15,1929

Dear Captain Carter:

While you may have by this time received the 2nd installment from Governors Island, I enclose a clipping of it so that you may transfer to your own copy the correction here indicated. Through some mishap there was a mixup in type, and in attempting to correct it there, without reference to me, the sense was entirely spoiled.

Your recollections of the Virgina battlefields ought to be of very great interest; and I would like to see them in Recruiting News, or elsewhere. My contacts with the paper are through Serg. Richeson, who does the main editorial work, and called here yesterday with the November 15th proofs; but the responsible editor must be a commissioned officer, I believe Capt. J. B. Bellinger, Jr., whom I have never seen.

Rockwell's photograph, loaned by Schuyler, is in the issue now going to press. Gen. S. has also sent me one of William Philo Clark, not yet used; and I wonder if by any means you have one of Hayden De Lany, who I see by Heitman was brevveted captain for service in the Dull Knife fight. General Swift and General Schuyler would, I am sure, both vouch for the care used with loaned pictures, if you should have one of either De Lany or McKinney, both of which would fit so well into this narrative that I don't like to think of closing this series without one or both of them.

As I am short of copies (in fact the enclosed has been out once before), I would appreciate its return after the transfer of the important correction above referred to.

Yours very truly,

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

November 19,1929

Dear Captain Carter:

The Nov. 15th issue is overdue, and as you now receive them direct, I am checking your name off the list of those to whom I have been mailing them direct. Your replies are full of good points and suggestions, which I shall take advantage of insofar as possible. Am crowded somewhat by the issues only 15 days apart, and being obliged to deliver the illustrations about two weeks ahead; but of course this is not the final work, only preparatory.

I enclose print of a photograph copied from the altum of the late D. S. Mitchell, photographer at Cheyenne in 1876. His imprint was, Cavalry Review at Camp Robinson in 1876; and the scenery looks like it-but as usual I want to be sure if possible. Capt. L. H. North, of Columbus, Nebraska, about your own age, says that he texieves this is the 4th Cavalry before the Mackenzie fight, but he is not certain.

NOW THEN, if you could—by the aid of a glass or otherwise—look closely enough at this photograph to determine whether or not this is the 4th Cavalry, it would be a stroke of great importance to be able to identify it. If by any means Mackenzie should be identified in the picture so much the better, and perhaps also McKinney. I am sending this with strong hopes that you may be able to identify it—though I am not sure that it would be used in the present series, now drawing toward a close from the standpoint of one furnishing the material.

The Pension Office has supplied me with the address of Mrs. De Lany, and I am sending here the issues so far printed with request for the loan of a photograph; but as most borrowers are careless, and New York is a long way from Los Angeles, where she resides, I am not any too certain of securing anything, at least in time for my purpose.

With thanks and appreciation for your cooperation,

I am,

Sincerely yours.

I shall try to submit the enclosed photo to a party at Crawford, Nebraska, after it comes back from you: he at least could tell me whether those are the bluffs at Camp Robinson. R.B.

Cullom gives McKinney as the Class of 1872,

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

November 22.1929

Dear Capt. Carter:

I have a pleasant note from Col. Birnie this morning stating that Lt. McKinney was not a classmate of his, and he was unable to help me with a picture. According to Cullom, McKinney was graduated in 1871, and Birnie in 1872.

However, I have received Mrs. De Lany's address from the Pension Office, and yesterday sent to her at Los Angeles clippings of the first three chapters, calling her attention to the mentions of Lt. De Lany, and requesting a photograph. This is likely to come, if at all, too late for my purpose in this series, but I shall want it for the later reprint.

Your comments on Rockwell and Bourke are interesting and useful for the reprint. The tendency of photography and engraving seems to darken portraits.

I have taken up the matter of stream names with the owners of the property on which the Dull Knife engagement was fought; and in their opinion, the names have since been changed. Probably in the next chapter I shall have a sketch map showing the streams as they are now called, though I retain the name of Willow Creek in the Bourke Mss., as you have probably seen.

No reply yet from Gen. Tallman; and I see by the record that he is well along in years.

Thanks, more than I can easily express.

Sincerely yours,

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

December 17,1929

Dear Captain Carter:

That series in Recruiting News was much more of a job than it will ever appear to one outside of the breastworks, so to speak--especially securing the illustrations; but I hope you found it reasonably well done. Quite a number of extra requests for the copies have come to their office, and some to me.

My special reason for writing you today is that I am making a condensed statement of Gen. Mackenzie's record from Cullok, and am struck with the great number of engagements in which he participated in the Civil War. I wonder if you saw him in action, say at Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, the Wilderness or Gettysburg; and if so, will you give me a little pen picture of him inaction? I might use it to advantage in my contemplated booklet.

father, the late James A. Mosher, was private and sometime sergeant of the 9th New York Heavy Artillery, stationed I believe in Washington (defenses), from about September 1862 to January 1864, when he was invalided hower to northern New York, where I was born. Gen. King thinks quite likely he personally saw some of the men with whom I have since been dealing; and some say that I inherit from him my natural liking for military subjects. However, my own father died after a married life of less than 11 years, and was unable to do military service; in fact I scarcely remember him in any special way, as I was only 9 years of age when he died, and life the state of the service.

Sincerely yours.

Good and interesting letters this AM from both General and Mrs. Godfrey.

I presume that Mackenzie was not married; but can you tell me?

I am struck by the fact that Commodore M. and his two sons he all died quite young, generally speaking, and especially the younger son. I believe killed in a naval action.

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

December 31,1929

Dear Captain Carter:

I am now preparing the Bourke serial for publication in separate form, like my Custer's Last Battle, only smaller and more convenient pages; and shall add much material, including the New York Herald report of the Dull Knife fight.

Enclosed is a copy of the greater part of yours of the 29th, which I might use in some odd corner of the booklet; so will ask you to look it over, and especially supply one word which I am unable to make out.

I have secured the enclosed photograph of Mc-Kinney as a cadet from West Point, and shall be glad to have you add it to your collection, as I have made a number of prints for use in my correspondence.

In connection with this work, I have looked up the reference in Grant's Memoirs to his statement that Mackenzie was the most promising of the young officers in the Army of the Civil War; this would imply a superiority, in Grant's mind, over Custer, but of course, he was not favorable to Custer anyhow. Personally I should think them about on a par; but any comment you might care to make would interest me very much.

Hoping that this work turns out to your satisfaction (considering my limitations), I am,

Yours very truly,

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

January 22.1930

Dear Captain Carter:

Lt. (or Maj.?) Daly called yesterday, and for about 2 1/2 hours we visited and talked over the Indian campaigns in the West. He is for at least awhile in Jackson Heights, Long Island City, where I shall soon try to see him and go on with our talks. I believe he does not expect to go to Washington for the Indian wars dinner.

X X

Some weeks ago I submitted to you a photograph of Mackenzie which I believe you did not care for; but since then I have received the enclosed as another one on file at Washington. I would be inclined to use this one in connection with my condensation of his record from Cullom; and would be glad of any comment--first, as to its identify, beyond question; and, secondly, as to how this resembles him when you first met him in the 4th Cavalry.

By the way, Daly showed me a letter from Capt. F. F. Duggan, of Fort Meads, South Dakota, stating that he (Duggan) was writing a history of the 4th Cavalry, which is news to me--and may be important.

Yours very truly.

18 OLD SLIP, NEW YORK CITY

January 27,1930

Dear Capt. Carter:

Your letter just received settles it! and I shall try to use that photograph of Macentie in connection with the record I intend to condense from Cullom and Dorst.

X

The enclosed is only a fragment, having been cut from 5 to 3 pages by the editor; but in the process I was able to use three more fine cuts for the forthcoming booklet, which I would otherwise have been obliged to make at my own expense, or go without. By somewhat forcing them into this article I also have clippings to use with my correspondence.

Of course the reading matter does not belong in the Mackenzie fight series, but was something I had in hand; and took advantage of the opportunity to have the cuts made and titles set. I shall be glad to have you look over the title, especially of the one top of page 20, and see if it is all right. In due time, of course, this will be transferred into the booklet, of which you will receive a copy on publication.

As I am short of these clippings, I suggest returning with any comment. The Pawnee subject will fall out and everything useful in connection with the Dull Knife fight carefully retained.

Yours very truly,

Herry

ROBERT BRUCE

Lock Box 159
Wall St. P.O., New York City
March 7,1930

Dear Capt. Carter:

Col. Hatfield, of Baltimore, has loaned me a photograph of Mackenzie like the one used in the Bourke articles in 1890, and which I have been unable until now to secure. The original is now out for copies, and I expect to enclose one of them in this letter; and so will ask you what you think of this as compared with the earlier one secured from the War Department, and used in Motor Travel for February, as per copy mailed on February 25th.

I am working slowly but surely toward the booklet on the Dull Knife fight; and enclosed you will find a rough copy of yours of January 6th referring to Mackenzie and McKinney. Of course you wrote this principally for my own information; but I would be inclined to print it, with any incidental changes you might care to suggest before that. It seems too valuable to be lost; and yet I am always careful to consult with the all from whom quotations are made; and think you might care to change it in some particulars, in view of my intention to put it into permanent form.

Yours very truly,

P.S. I have come across some incidental references to your article on Mackenzie's Raid into Mexico, and would be glad of a reference as to where it might be found in case I should ever feel like looking into it. R.B.

ROBERT BRUCE

LOCK BOX 159
WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY
March 10,1930

My dear Capt. Carter: --

I believe that the best solution is to use the later photograph of Mackenzie on the front cover of my booklet, and the earlier one with the condensed record from Cullom. Col. Hat-field, of Baltimore, prefers the later one, and you the earlier one; so the plan above suggested would seem best, and fortunately I shall have two places to use one of him.

At this late date, and for future history, I believe thoroughly in printing such comments as you have made on Mackenzie and Custer; so shall be inclined to do so without change. However, you did not return the copy I sent, and while I can of course make another copy from your letter, if convenient to return that one, I could use that direct.

Not having heard from you for several days, I mentioned you in a letter to Gen. Brown two or three days ago; and have a letter from him in the same mail which brought youss.

As for the Mackenzie raid into Mexico: I am not sure enough of being able to use it to suggest sending it on; but wanted to locate it in a general way in case such a need should come in future years. In this precarious business, I am obliged all the time to hold my effort within the zone of slightly paying work; and I think perhaps a few subjects may be safer to go along with than perhaps too many. But if prospered in the further progress of this work, I may get around to it in the 25 years or more I expect to retain my health and strength to work (I was a born in 1873, and hope that I shall have that much farther to go!)

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT BRUCE

LOCK BOX 159
WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY

March 13,1930

Dear Capt. Carter:

Even if that copy has been misplaced, it is not serious, as I can make a new transcript from your original letter.

However, if willing to give it to me, I would be glad to file with my other records the name of that old soldier in Heniker, N. H., for in the course of years I might be taking up those subjects and be interested to see the pictures, etc. But I have taken hold of all can do for some time to come, and hesitate to overload—or promise more than I might be able to fulfill!

As to the later picture of Mackenzie: in case you have one, as I think is mentioned in your letter, I would be glad to have it back, to save making a new one, as I have used several in my correspondence: but if of any special interest to keep, do so.

Yours very truly,

Mark ...

ROBERT BRUCE

LOCK BOX 159
WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY

April 4,1930

Dear Captain Carter:

I enclose another chapter of the historical series, still retaining the Pawk title lest the editor should consider it finished and switch my subjects before I am through with making engravings for my separate publication on the Dull Knife fight. Some good material in this, I believe you will find; howwver, I am so short of copies that I would be pleased if you would mail it back at your convenience; and when the whole is issued a copy will be sent.

The later photograph of Mackenzie, secured from Col. Hatfield, of Baltimore, is in line for publication; and probably in the same issue I shall use your comments on Mackenzie and McKinney, eliminating Custer from the present treatment, for reasons already fully explained.

x

Sometime ago I wrote you that the retired sculptor, J. E. Kelly, who made the Buford monument at Gettysburg, is writing his reminiscences, including his talk with Gen. Webb about Pickett's Charge. I have recently copied that matter for Mr. Kelly, and shall take it to him tomorrow afternoon, at which time I will see if he would be willing to have me send you a copy for examination and comment. However, he is very canny on that point, and when I first mentioned it (before it was copied) he declined to consider the suggestion—but I may have better luck when I see him again tomorrow with the copying done. If so, you will soon receive a copy from me.

Yours very truly,

ROBERT BRUCE

Lock Box 159
WALL St. P.O., New York City

July 26,1930

Dear Captain Carter:

First of all, I have been short of copies of Motor Travel for the past three months; but the Mackenzie series is continuing in the magazine, and in the fall, when I expect to publish it, a complete copy will be sent-which of course will be more satisfact-ory than the fragments anyhow.

x

I wrote you last spring that I had undertaken to put in shape the monumental recollections of James E. Kelly, the retired sculptor--as other things allowed. One of the narratives was his talk with Gen. Andy Webb, about Pickett's Charge; at that time I asked permission from him to send you a copy--but he hesitated about it, and of course I could not do so without his permission. Last night, however, I suggested that he consent to my sending you the two enclosed paragraphs, for any comment you might care to make, A Of course this is different from the accepted theory--and I am none too sure in my own mind about it; but at least the circumstances are interesting.

For convenience I am copying those paragraphs onto a separate sheet.

With best regards, I am,

Yours very truly,

Of course this incident would be stronger if Mr. Kelly had secured the name and regiment of the man who told the story; but he failed to do so, and now it is hardly more than an old-time echo of a conversation in the early 1880s.

Mich and

ROBERT BRUCE LOCK BOX 159- 76 WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY

> November 25 1932

My dear Capt. Carter:

I have read your letter of the 19th with great care and interest; and now comment upon some points found in it:

As between the two, your Mss. on the Texas campaigns is probably more complete and better than Hatfield's. Having been born as late as 1873, I hope to be in this work for at least another 20 years; and think that in time the way will open to publish Hatfield's, perhaps in connection with yours! Mr. Ellison and Mr. Barber, who together contributed \$500 to the Fighting Norths, will probably help also in the Dull Knife fight, now under way; and Hatfield's would be the next logical step, in case the way should open to handle it. Work like this will justify itself with some contribution toward the production cost, but will not take care of everything and leave enough to enable even a self-sacrificing editor to put it through.

That suggestion about turning your narrative Into fiction is simply absurd! Sometimes I wonder how some editors hold their jobs. As surprising thing is that almost never does the family of a writer take any real interest in or help it in any way. For instance, both Ellison and Barber are what in or help it in any way. For instance, both Ellison and Barber are what might be called outsiders; yet they are the ones who helped me see the North publication through, and while several members of the North families are at least well to do, they not only contributed nothing, but have been a first-rate repository for complimentary copies, perhaps not thinking that a copy given away costs as much as one sold.

From time to take I have been planning to copy that Hatfield Mss. in duplicate, but it would be a long, tiresome job, which I have hesitated to undertake unless some actual use might be in sight. Still I would very much like to have you see the carbon copy, and may still stretch a point to do it, regardless. You certainly would be interested in the two or possibly three references to yourself. I shall keep this in mind.

The Mackenzie biographical sketch will disappoint you because I am held down to less than half enough space to do it justice. However, I have quoted Grant's well known statement (Memoirs, Vol. 2, page 541, 1886 edition) that he considered Mackenzie the most promising young officer developed by the Civil War. Grant says that before the end he was in command of a Corps, which I believe is the slip of a word, for I have nowhere seen his command

2) referred to as more than a livision in the Appomattox campaign. With some authority like yourself to fall back upon, I would be inclined to ask the editor to add division in parenthesis when quoting Grant as to the command of a Corps.

I believe you said sometime ago that you had sent for a copy of the W. P. Annual with Dorst's article on Mackenzie; and will take the liberty of adding that if you have no other or further use for it, you might be willing to let me have it, particularly as I would like to file James H. Wilson's article on Sheridan where it might sometime be used to offset such things as Joseph Hergeshimer's recent book on Sheridan, which I tried to read and then gave up as not worth while! If this suggestion is not agreeable, it may simply be discarded and nothing lost but my incidental reference to same.

Of course that can always be consulted in a libfary, but having one at hand is infinitely better. Any time you might see no hope of using your own Mss., I would much like to have it, subject to recall any time you might care for it. I would be interested in those separate papers you mention but in looking carefully into a big subject, nothing takes the place the whole for comprehensive reference. One thing is certain—if I should ever handle it, there would be none of the modern "ghost writing" about it; and while the circulation would not be large, copies would go where they would do the most good, that is among the best libraries and deeply interested students.

Sincerely yours,

Once in a while I call on Lovell H. Jerome, WP, 1870, who is confined to the house since has throat operation last January or so. I spent most of last Wed. P.M. with him, finding him mentally as alert as ever, but don't think he will ever get around much again.

(his)

Box 76, Wall St. PO, N.Y. City, Dec. 8,1933

Dear Capt. Carter:

Just to say -- after many months, my sketch of Mackenzie appears in the last volume so far issued of the Dictionary of American Biography, which I hope you can see at some library. Out only last week. You will see yourself quoted as one of my authorities. However, my space was dreadfully cut, and please read it with the statement that it isn't 1/4th of what Mackerzie deserved, while Custer was overdone in about the same proportion! Would be interested to know if you consider it well done under the circum-Robert Bruce stances.

ROBERT BRUCE
Lock Box 259 16
WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY
February 3.1934

Dear Capt. Carter:

I promptly received your comments on my sketch of Mackenzie in the Dictionary of American Biography; thanks. In the volume now in process I have Frank North, of the Pawnee Scouts; also Gen. A. H. Terry at the office of the publishers. They also gave me Upton, and as my sketch is certain to be cut, I thought you might be interested to see the way I developed it in full. Any comments you care to make will, of course, be received with care and interest; and possibly I might make any suggested changes before mailing the first copy to Washington. This is still some margin of time.

You will note my references to considerable correspondence with Col. Hatfield, to whom I have given a brief credit. Hatfield also spoke of Upton's great friend ip with John A. Alexander and John W. Martin, one or both of whom you may have known. In view of the immense amount of work in this compilation, and the certainty that it will be badly cut in the Washington office, I am inclined to hope sometime to be able to treat Upton separately; hence any comments will be doubly welcome, to go into my file.

In connection with the research work on this I have referred to the battle of Chancellorsville, and it occurs to me that if Upton had been in the place of Gen. Howard, the surprise by Stonewall Jackson would not have happened (?) Other instances suggest themselves for future treatment.

I have not made even a decent living for more than 3 years, and sometimes have not had enough extra money for a trip to Washington. Furthermore, something develops almost from day to day; so altogether I have not replied to your tentative suggestion to call upon you, but perhaps the way may open for me to do so--and I appreciate your mention of it just the same.

Sincerly yours,

Payment for this work is about 10% of the value of one's time, as you may know.

ROBERT BRUCE
LOCK BOX 159 76
WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY

February 7,1934

Dear Captain Carter:

I am much pleased to have your comments on Upton, and one immediate result is to lengthen the last line to include your name as one of my authorities—making it ready, Correspondence with Col. C. A. P. Hatfield, 1930/31, and Capt. Robert G. Carter, 1934. This may seem to give Hatfield some precedence over yourself, though it is merely adding to what I had already credited to Hatfield. If this is not ok, or you have any further suggestions, I shall be glad to consider them carefully. I might reverse it to place your name before Hatfields, if that would seem better; and please advise just as you feel.

Probably you have already discovered that you did not return the first page of the Upton copy; not specially important, as I have the original, but convenient to have altogether. If overlooked in any way, do not put yourself out unduly. Perhaps in another 10 years or so I shall be bringing UPTON out in separate form, better illustrated than Michie's book, and in such case your comments will be invaluable. Having been born as late as 1873, I naturally look for more years than any of your generation can; hence shall try to carry on for at least some years to come.

Sometime ago I wrote to Gen. James Parker, and had no reply; and from your mention of being the last survivor of Mackenzie's Indian campaigns with the 4th Cavalry, I wonder if Parker could have pased along. (Or perhaps you mean that you are the only survivor of all those campaigns.)

With renewed thanks and appreciation, I am,

Sincerely yours,

ROBERT BRUCE LOCK BOX 159

WALL ST. P.O., NEW YORK CITY

September 24,1932

Dear Captain Carter:

It's a long time since you and I have exchanged letters! However, until just now, there has been no special reason for writing you: and for about a year and a half since the sale of the Old Slip property, I was doing some other work. I have seen Gen. Brown a couple of times since, but he did not come on this year to the West Point re-union.

In the course of events some subjects have been assigned to me by the new Dictionary of Biography Washington, which is being issued in 20 volumes under a subsidy of \$500,000 by the New York Times. One of them is a biographical sketch of Gen. R. S. Mackenzie. A long time back you wrote me frankly about Custer as compared with Mackenzie, tho' I have never used it, and don't intend to do so while Mrs. Custer is living. After that the whole subject is likely to be opened wider than has yet been done.

Mr. J. S. McClellan, of North Little Rock, Ark., who was with Macenzie on the Powder River Expedition of 1876/77 (the Dull Knife fight) says that Mackenzie was about 5' 7" in height and weighed about 175 pounds. Finerty, in his Warpath and Bivouae, calls him "tall," which the height quoted by Mcclellan would not seem to be -- only medium. would be much pleased to know what height you would give him.

The late Col. Hatfield and I corresponded quite a little before his death, and led me to think that Mackenzie's campaigns in West Texas were about the high pints in his career -- much more important from an historical standpoint than the Dull Knife fight, though I am inclined to think that -- with others -- has been overshadowed by the great publicity of the Custer fight. I would be much interested in your opinion as to what might be called the summit of Mackenzie's career, and particularly if you agree with Col. Hatfield as to West Texas holding that position.

One reason I am taking special care with this assignment is because it is unlikely that another opportunity of the kind will occur for 25 years at least. So if you care to go into some details regarding Mackenzie's place in history, I shall be much obliged. I have Dorst's article in the West Point annual of 1889, which I have used for general reference more than for any help in arriving at a true historical summary of Mackenzie's military career.

Hoping that you are still enjoying good health, and with best wishes for the continuance of same, I am,

Yours very truly,

(breb)

P. S. I suppose you are familiar with Dorst's statement, page 18 West Point annual of 1889, that in 1876, when it seemed that troops might be needed in the disputed presidential returns, Grant selected Mackenzie as the one to have command in case it came to a crisis, and ordered him to Washington, to be on hand. This is important, if true; and I wonder if you know about it?? I do know that he went to Washington for a time, but returned to Nebraska and was afterward in command of Camp Robinson before returning again to the Southwest.

PS 2: everything changes in New York--even my PO box, which is now 76, since last spring, when renumbered by the PO.

11 October, 1938. Mr. Robert Bruce, Box 76, Wall Street Post Office, New York, N. Y. My dear Mr. Bruce: Yours received, with enclosure, which I am returning. I have sent for and received the Annual Report of the Association of Graduates of West Foint for 1889, with Dorst's obituary sketch of Mackenzie. This and the sergeant's estimate of Mackenzie's character are, with what I have given you in the past and now more recently, all you could desire in a historical sketch of 600 words or more. In fact I don't know that I could add to what I have already described of Mackenzie's makeup and personality. Of course, I could give you many anecdotes connected with my close relations with him. The wound through his lung was always a most serious drawback to his physical comfort and action on campaigns and it probably, with his other wounds, added to his irritability at times. He could not ride more than 25 to 30 miles without being in great pain and yet he rode 160 miles in 32 hours when we crossed the Rio Grande River in 1873, without, so far as I can recall, a single murmur or sign of exhaustion, although many of our men after going without sleep for 3 nights had hellucinations and showed signs of exhaustion and incipient insanity. Mackenzie was a poor rider and I never saw him make a run after a herd of buffalo, of which there were always countless thousands on our line of march near the headwaters of the Red. Colorado, Brazos, Trinity and their branches. In fact we were rarely out of sight of numberless herds. He was, however, very fond of hunting bear with dogs, of which he generally had two packs -- one of bear hounds, the other of greyhounds, the latter to run antelope, jack rabbits, and the lobo or grey prairie wolf. He was so careless about his clothes on a campaign that on our campaign in 1871 -- when we followed the Northern or Qua-ha-da Comanches out on the "Staked Plains" and lost them at dusk in a black, sleeting "Norther" -- the men had to pull a buffalo robe off the pack mules and wrap about him to keep him from freezing to death.

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To - Mr. Robert Bruce, New York City.

11 October 1932.

About 1872 he bought a beautiful mahogany bay three or four year old Kentucky thoroughbred. He had staring, crazy blue eyes and we did not like the looks of him. He rode him out of the post (Fort Richardson) one day, with a snaffle-bit, for about three miles. The colt ran away with him, bolted through some post bak timber, knocked him out of the saddle and then ran into Fort Richardson. We went out to find him; his face was scratched and cut and covered with blood. He never rode that animal again. When we went into Mexico, Matthews (his striker) rode him again with a snaffle-bit. He was a discharged soldier of the finth Cavalry ("Brunettes") and a fine rider. When we made the charge in column of platoons (10) on the Indian village and at a gallop, we saw Matthews on the left flank, going like a stear by the column, by the villages, way out in the open. He bid run away again. He jumped a ditch or arroyo and dropped fead in his tracks, -- Matthews going over his head like a bullet and landing in soft ground. Beyond a few bruises he was not hurt and soon came with the saddle and bridle of the animal that Mackenzie had steered clear of for a year or more.

In my monograph, "Pursuit of Kicking Bird", I relate how Colonel Lewis Carpenter, 10th Cavalry, (later Brigadier General) gave what he termed an "informal dinner" to Mackenzie and myself on Otter Creek, near Fort Sill, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), in August 1871, and Mackenzie's sarcastic comments on the same. There were ten courses and wound up with "prune pie". We were in the field with pack trains. Carpenter was in command of his supply camp while the 10th Cavalry was out. Why a cavalry command could be furnishing "prune pie" for dinner while we were in the brush, with shelter tents, "dobe" biscuits, bacon and coffee, was a puzzle to Mackenzie and he did not get over his disgust for sometime, although, of course, he did not make it known to Carpenter.

Did you ever finish your North series in Motor Travel? I have been going over our correspondence and I can neither find the conclusion of that or the Dull Knife fight. You wrote, however, that when finished you intended to make booklets and send me copies. If you did so, I never received them, although I feel quite certain you sent me more than those two numbers of the Dull Knife story. Where can I secure the balance? Let me know about this.

Page #3

To - Mr. Robert Bruce, New York City.

11 October, 1932.

The Camp papers, prepared by him on his visits to the many Indian battlefields, and held by his widow at \$5,000. have now, through her attorney, been offered for \$800 to the Newberry Library in Chicago. This offer has now been put up to the Library of Congress and we are awaiting its decision. From what Camp told me before his death, these notes or memoranda, if secured will put an entirely different phase on the Custer story.

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter, Captain, U.S.Army, Retired.

27 September, 1932.

Mr. Robert Bruce, Lock Box 76, Wall Street Post Office, New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Bruce:

Was glad to hear from you. Although I am 87 I am in fairly good health except a chronic case of arthritis (articular rhaumatism) in shoulders, hands and spine, the latter interfering now with walking which limits my exercise.

Now as to Mackenzie and some of the points you desire to bring out in your sketch for the American Biographical Dictionary. He was transferred from the 24th Infantry and joined the Fourth Cavalry at Fort Concho. Texas, where I was then stationed, in February 1871. In March we changed station to Fort Richardson. In May he began his campaign in cooperation with the 10th Cavalry, to drive Kicking Bird's band of Ki-o-was into the Fort Sill reservation. This was after General Sherman's inspection and the massacre of Salt Creek Prairie near Fort Richardson. We stayed out until November 18. I was his field adjutant and often slept under the same blankets with him when we bivouacked without shelter, and I ate and marched with him in the saddle and afoot. He always relied upon us Civil War men and with the exception of Lawton I was nearer to him then than any other officer of the regiment.

He was five feet, nine inches, in height; was very thin and spare and did not weigh over 145 pounds. Later, when he was made a brigadier general he gained flesh and may have weighed 160, but never 175 pounds. Most of the time he commanded the Fourth Cavalry. He was fretful, irritable, oftentimes irascible and pretty hard to serve with. This was due largely to his failing to take care of himself and his three wounds received during the Civil War. He kept late hours, ate but little and slept less than anybody in the regiment. But he was not a martinet and was always just to all the officers and men. These wounds and one that same year in 1871 in a canon of the "Staked Plains" in the Texas Panhandle, where he received a bad arrow wound in his thigh -- I was standing near him at the time. He finally broke down from worry and neglect in keeping up his strength by proper food and sleep.

Junet 0)

Page #2.

To - Mr. Robert Bruce, New York, N.Y.

27 September 1932.

I have no knowledge of Dorst's statement regarding General Grant's selection of Mackenzie to take command of troops in 1876. He (Mackenzie) was fond of Dorst and after I left the regiment took him into his confidence and doubtless Dorst's statement regarding that event is true. I acted as his adjutant when we went into Mexico in 1873 -- before Dorst joined -- and not even Lawton or any other officer of the command knew where we were going until we reached the river about dusk and made our famous ride of 160 miles in 32 hours with a pack train. our wounded, prisoners, and the Indians and Mexicans trying to ambuscade us on our return march.

Hatfield was right when he intimated to you that our campaigns in the Texas Panhandle and the canons of the Staked= Plains were the high points in Mackenzie's career, especially our capture and destruction in September 1874 of the villages of the confederated bands of Comanches, Kiowas, Cheyennes and Arapahoes in the Palo Duro Canon and the capture of all their ponies (2200), which we shot, leaving them afoot as winter was coming on thus forcing them to come into the Fort Sill reservation and surrender, -- the last band in April 1875.

It was a terrible campaign but it won West Texas from the raids and depredations of those four tribes and the pioneers begun then to flock in. [Where was once a desert and a desolate wilderness peopled only by savages, buffalo, wolves, rattlesnakes, prairie dogs and jack rabbits, is now a populous section with towns, colleges, railroads, horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, vast acres of cotton, alfalfa, etc., etc. 7

Mackenzie hung on like a bull dog until the Indians begged him to let go. He had more brains than Custer, better judgment, and he carefully planned his attacks, providing for all emergencies, inspecting the arms and ammunition, and the latter (surplus) to be carried by the men instead of placing it in the saddle pockets to be secured by the Indians by stampeding the horses.

Furthermore, all of his officers were loyal to him. There was no Reno or Benteen clique and there was always good teamwork. He had many faults, but I always thought that his wounds and his intense concentration upon his work -- the work that kills -and his ambition to succeed was the cause of his breakdown and I

Page #3.

To - Mr. Robert Bruce, New York, N.Y.

27 September 1932.

really classed him as our <u>best</u>, <u>most reliable</u> or <u>dependable</u> Indian fighter. If Grant selected him to hold down those conditions in 1876, it was because he thought he was the best man fitted for the job. Just as he expressed in his memoirs "Mackenzie is the most promising young officer in the army". He had an indomitable will, wonderful powers of endurance and unsurpassed courage.

Sincerely yours,

R. G. Carter, Captain, U.S.A., Retired. Plainview, Texas, Feb. 12, 1930.

Capt. R. G. Carter, c/o Army & Navy Club, Washington, D. C.

Dear Captain Carter:

I received your greetings some weeks ago, and thank you so much for your kind wishes. Was sorry to learn of the trying time you had with your illness, and sincerely hope that you are feeling much better now. The severe winter that has prevailed has been very hard on so many people. We are having a period of delightful weather here on the plains during February, after the coldest wave in history during January, — that is since the weather reports have been kept. I am sure that you know what storms mean on these Plains, and how the wind can blow here.

I am sending you a little collection of photographs of our Plainview country which Colonel R. P. Smyth collected to send to you and brought to me to mail. You wrote in one of your letters about Mr. Smith whom you said built the old Rock House, and evidently you thought Colonel Smyth was the one. It was Colonel Smyth with whom you had the correspondence some years ago, and he asked me to tell you that he had searched for the grave that you spoke of and since everything has been chanced so much at that location, he was unable to locate it. The Colonel says to tell you that Plainview is located on the Runningwater or Blanco Draw at the upper hackberry grove, about twenty miles below the runningwater; the Old Mackenzie trail crossed the townsite at the south side of the Public Square. He said that he saw a Seminole at Fort Clark during the Spanish American War who said that he remembered the Ward killing. Colonel is a great student of history and little escapes him.

I have been talking with a publisher and he states that for my story it wauld be of much interest to give a personal sketch of yourself, and I wonder if you will kindly write me and give me a personal sketch -- Tell me where and when you were born, some of your earlier life, your army experience and what you have been doing through the years, etc., and how you spend your time now, -- what things interest you most, -- and your reflections

in looking backward. Your writing indicates that are a highly educated man and may we ask where you were educated? Did you acquire it in a Military School?

Also do you happen to have any photos of General Mackenzie, or any pictures of military interest of the Plains of Texas? The picture of yourself is splendid, and the publisher advises that if you have any very early pictures that they would add to the story, and also he would like to have a right new picture of you, taken this winter or possibly you might have one made of you after you receive this letter, in your favorite chair or doing the thing that you do in every day life. Colonel Smyth and Mr. Hilburn, the editor, both think your story should be ofdwide interest, by leading with a feature story about you followed by your own story. Could you have a right new picture made of you in your sitting of every day? This is to be at my expense, and I shall insist upon paying for it.

I had an illness of influenza myself this winter, and my lack of strength is what has delayed this work until now, but I want to push it through, and hope that you are not disgusted with me for the delay.

I trust these photos, which are the gift of Colonel Smyth, will be of interest to you, who made it possible for this development to take place. I don't think in the busy rush of things that those who blazed the trail for civilization should be forgotten, and credit should be given them for the service that means so much to our country.

Hoping that you are much improved in health, and with kindest wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Mary L. Gox