

**Felch writes to Marsh about shipping inconveniences, and comments on the fossil
dinosaurs near Washington. He writes of his clear memories of the land in the Virginia
area.**

Canon City, Colo.
Jan. 2nd, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours with vouchers and check I received yesterday.

The money came in a good time – and will help me out in beginning the New Year.

I shall begin right away to move the boxes to Canon – and hope soon to have them on their way.

I wrote to the Qr. Master in Denver – to find how to ship the boxes and he directs me to take them to the Rio Grande Ry – which is going to cause me some trouble, as by the time I get them all to town the Santa Fe will be open for traffic – and the Rio Grande folks will not receive freight that has got to be transferred again at Pueblo, when it can be sent from here without handling again – but I suppose I shall have to do it as he directs and then be at the trouble and expense of the extra work myself.

I was a good deal interested in regard to the finding of Dinosaurs at Washington.

It should prove to be another object of attraction and interest in Washington – to find the petrified fossils – as well as those antiquated ones around some of the Depts. there.

If the bones of these Dinosaurs are found near the horizon of the red clay deposits in V^a. there are many places that I remember well where they ought to be found besides the vicinity of Washington.

Down near Danville V^a there are some of the finest cropping's – hills high and steep, with banks well exposed for prospecting and again there is ground south of the Rapidan – between Culpepper and Orange Court House – that if I remember right, is much more favorable to find fossil remains in than around Washington.

Although it has been over twenty years since we finished up our four years tramp around and through V^a. I remember the conformation of the country almost as well as though it were but a year or two since we were there – and since working on this kind of work, have often thought that plenty of fossil remains ought to be found along the Eastern base of the Blue Ridge and on South as well as here – and from the fact that the general appearance there does not indicate quite so rough work as went on here when changes took place – fossils ought generally to be in a better condition and better preserved than among our foot hills.

I shall await your paper on these late discoveries – hoping to receive it soon I am –

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Jan. 2nd, 1888

\$100.⁰⁰

Rec'd of Prof. O. C. Marsh the sum of one hundred dollars on account – for work in collecting
fossils for U. S. Geo. Survey.

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he has been ill but will send the contents of boxes as soon as he can. It has been 30° below zero, the coldest ever known in Cañon City. He wants to go to the yellow chalk area and look for the head of a reptile as he has found vertebrae there.

Canon City, Colo.
Jan. 16th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I got the boxes off last week – and should have written before but had one of my old attacks – that has kept me confined to the house and bed much of the time for several days past – am getting over it somewhat and hope to be stirring around again soon.

I will forward you a copy of the contents of the boxes as soon as I can get over to the quarry again to get the memorandum = have also some work to do to leave things over in good shape on the quarry.

We have just passed through three days of the coldest weather ever known – mercury below zero all the time but about two hours – and on Sunday morning 30° below – the coldest by a long way that we ever knew.

When it gets warmer and I feel able I want to spend a few days down in the “yellow chalk” to see if I can find the head of some reptile where we found a string of cervical vertebrae a year or two since.

There are a lots of good bones down there some four miles away, but whether Saurian or not shall try to find out.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he has enclosed the contents of the boxes in this letter and the boxes should be there soon. The weather is now better and they will go prospecting for fossils.

Canon City, Colo.
Jan. 24th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Enclosed you will find list of "Contents of Boxes, which I believe is correct.

The boxes have been on the road for nearly two weeks and if not delayed should be there soon.

If convenient and you have received the money on last vouchers sent – would like the balance due (\$150.) on or before Feb. 5th as I have some accounts to meet then and soon after.

The weather is getting fine again and we intend to make a prospecting trip soon – and if we find anything of interest will keep you informed.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

**Marsh writes to Felch that he needs a sketch of the 1887 season's work. How the animals
lay has become more important due to the increase in numbers of individuals found.**

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
New Haven, Conn.,

Jan 28th, 1888.

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of the 24th inst. is at hand. I enclose check for \$150. to close account for 1887, and hope it will reach you in good season.

When you get time please send me a sketch of this seasons work in the quarry, to give me an idea of how the animals lay. This becomes more and more important, as the number of animals found increases.

Hoping your health continues good, I remain,

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

Felch writes that he has been busy on the ranch and in Denver on business. He wants to know arrangements for the coming season as he has a good man engaged. His health is better now than it has been for the past two years.

Felch March 26th, 1888.

Summer work

(Ans Apr 2nd, 1888,) [Note attached to the top of the letter]

Canon City, Colo.

Mar. 26th, 1888

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

I should have written to you sometime since but have been hard at work during the past two months in getting things in shape on the ranch for the coming season – besides having to go to Denver on business which took me longer than I expected – and from where I have but just returned – and so have not got about it until now – and I now write to know what arrangements you desire to make for work this season.

I have engaged a good man who can be ready to go to work any time after the 1st of April. My health has not been so good in two years as now.

Respectfully Yours

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he is disappointed at the lack of funding, especially as he has already engaged a man on expectation of summer work as usual. He asks to be relieved so that he can make engagements elsewhere.

Felch Apr. 1888
(Ans May 12th, 1888)
Future work [note attached to the top of the letter]

Canon City, Colo.
Apr. 17th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours of Apr. 2nd came in due season, and I was disappointed at the turn matters have taken.

From what you wrote when work closed last fall, I supposed that we should go to work at the usual time this spring, and I shaped work and affairs on the ranch so as to cause no delay in that respect.

I also hired a man to go to work with me on the quarry at 40 dollars pr. month – and have him yet on my hands, although it is nearly double what we can afford to pay ranch help – but good help at this kind of work is hard to get, and to wait until men have got places to work for the season, or have gone to the mines would leave me without a chance to get any help at all when needed.

In this respect and in others it is a serious drawback to me – and though you are not to be blamed for not being able to obtain necessary funds to carry on the work as you would wish, I feel obliged to say after two weeks thinking the matter over that I cannot afford to continue longer in this manner – especially when my pay amounts to so little above the expenses for help and other items – and that I shall have to ask to be relieved and be ready to make engagements elsewhere.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Marsh writes to Felch that he is sorry for the inconvenience of starting the work late but he and the Survey are both low on funds. He asks Felch if he could collect needed specimens from elsewhere which he could sell to Yale as long as they are not connected to the Survey work.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
New Haven, Conn.,

May 12th, 1888.

Dear Mr. Felch,

I was very sorry indeed to learn from your letter that the delay in beginning work would put you in such serious inconvenience. I will do my best to make it all right, but I am so situated that I have to do everything with what the Survey allows me. For several years I have made up deficiencies from my own pocket (from \$1,000 to \$6,000 per annum) but this year I cannot do anything without injuring myself as my income is much reduced. I will write you again. as soon as I can see my way to helping you out.

Could you collect any single specimen, or skeletons from other localities than No 1 that would be extras? I might purchase such for Yale College, if what we need and quite separate from the Survey work.

Please let me hear from you soon.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

Felch writes to Marsh about the proposition to collect on his own and sell good specimens to Yale. He declines, as he cannot afford the risk of finding nothing suitable. However, Felch is unwilling to quit altogether, and if partial funding is available, he would like to work Quarry No. 2.

Canon City, Colo.
June 3rd, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Your letter of last month stating that for want of funds there was no immediate prospect of going to work for the Survey, but that if I could find some good specimens aside from the regular work, you might perhaps purchase them for Yale College – was received and has been duly considered.

As to the last proposition = to take chances of getting such specimens as you would be likely to accept for the College = I can hardly afford to make the attempt – for I am out now more than one hundred dollars on this seasons operations – and if such specimens as I should collect – could not be made use of there – I would be that much the worse off than I now am – and it will not do for me to go into anything further without seeing my way out of it.

What to do under the circumstances is what I have been trying to study out – and have about come to the conclusion = that I hardly want to throw up things altogether without making one more trial to find some good specimens - and will say that if you can get funds for the balance of the season – and want to open up some new ground on Quarry No. 2 that I will start in there

Now in regard to throwing up work on the old quarry = last year's work showed us conclusively that the bones there had pretty nearly run out – or at least there was a break or cut off by a sort of dyke or drift – and though by going through this we might get on to the beds again beyond, it would carry us so far in that the expense of stripping off over the beds would be enormous – and the results of course uncertain – while it is evident enough and plain to be seen – that Quarry No. 2 was once a part of the same river or lake bed as No. 1 and but a continuation of No. 1.

The whole flat there (No. 2) some 200 yards long by 100 or more wide is nearly level, but little broken up – and is underlaid with bones from six to ten feet from the surface and where Brown left off work there – showed bones in places as well as they ever did in No. 1. My plan of working that would be to put on force enough for a month or two to clear off ground enough so as not to be cramped for room – so in case a whole skeleton should be found in place it could be taken up without injury.

The great trouble – and one which caused a loss or injury of many good specimens in the old quarry was in not starting in right in the beginning – and if I start in on this new ground I want to start right, and with some system.

That there are good specimens to be had there I have never had a doubt – since Brown worked here – and if I live shall open it up sometime if I do not now.

If you are situated so as to have this done – and it meets your approval let me know soon.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S. We have found a fossil bearing strata of marl near the middle of the red Triassic sandstones – but have made no explorations – only found fragments of bone in place.

M. P. F.

Marsh writes to Felch that Mr. I. C. Russell of the United States Geological Survey will probably be coming to see the quarry and surrounding region.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology

New Haven, Conn.,

June 11th, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch,

Mr. I. C. Russell of the U. S. Geologic Survey intends soon to make a trip through the West, and will probably call on you to see the famous quarry and its surroundings. Please do all you can to give him a clear idea of the horizons represented in your region, and oblige.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

Marsh writes to Felch that he may begin July 1 and continue for the season. While Marsh would like skulls for his existing specimens, he will let Felch explore Quarry 2.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
New Haven, Conn.,

June 12th, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of June 3rd is at hand, and has been duly considered.

I expect to have funds after July 1st and shall be glad to have you begin work then, and continue the rest of the season.

I should like best of all to get the skulls from the specimens already found in Quarry No 1. especially that Carnivore. If, however, you feel sure that the same amount of work will bring better results in No 2. you may give that a fair trial first.

What you say about bones in the Triassic interests me very much. Please explore the place enough to let me judge from the specimens what sort of animals occur there.

Mr. I. C. Russell of the U. S. Geol. Survey is looking over the "Jura-Trias" of the West, and may soon call to see your sections. If so, please show him all you can. I have given him a note to you, and he may write before he comes.

Yours Very Truly,
O. C. Marsh

Felch writes to Marsh about the request to look for skulls in Quarry No. 1 and restates that it would take more expense than it is worth as he is not at all sure there is any more there. He restates his own ideas about the value of checking Quarry No. 2. He discusses the Triassic red beds and wants to know if Marsh wants him to show the potential new site to Mr. Russel if he comes. He will be ready to go to work on July 1 and wants to put on two men.

Canon City, Colo.
June 17th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours of the 12th inst. I have just received.

About getting more skulls in the old quarry – while it may be barely possible that more could be found there – the expense of getting at them would be considerable – and require an amount of work that would develop a much larger extent of ground over in No. 2.

In the beginning of last season's work the indications were good and I felt reasonably sure of finding one or two skulls due us, but as the work advanced the prospect grew less and less – until we got quite discouraged in making further attempts in that direction to find them – still if you wish I will start in there and make one more trial.

My plan would be however as stated in my last – to put in force enough for two months or so in Quarry No. 2 to make a thorough development there – and see if better results could not be obtained than for last year's work – and should it not turn out to our expectations – go back on to the old quarry – or elsewhere, or throw it up altogether.

The locality of fossil indications in the Trias – is on the west side of the creek, some 500 yards N. W. of our house, and on the farm I bought adjoining mine a few years since

Some 200 feet or more in a perpendicular below our bone beds, there is a well-defined strata of the grey marls – some 12 to 15 feet thick.

This brings it well down toward the middle here of the “red beds” and can be traced out I think the whole length of this series – and is not local or confined to this particular point.

Here in this marl are surely the remains of some animal but so badly decomposed on the surface that it is impossible to get and definite idea of what kind, or how large the animal was.

At present this gives but little satisfaction - but the locating of a fossil bearing strata in the Triassic is a point of interest – and further and careful explorations on this line may in the future lead up to something of value.

I will collect some of the surface fragments and send you – that you may be certain of their fossil nature – though from what I have written you will not expect to find in them – the character of the species to which they belonged. Shall I show this place to Mr. Russel if he comes – or until we know more of it, say nothing to any one?

I will have all things ready to go to work by July 1st and want to put on two men at that time for a while at least.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that they are working off an old bit of stripped ground in Quarry No. 1 and if no real finds appear, they will move on to No. 2. Mr. Russel has been there, making notes on the Jurassic strata and collecting mollusks for the National Museum. He had with him photographic apparatus and took photos of Jurassic strata along the creek and some of the quarry. He also visited the fossil outcroppings in the Triassic.

Canon City, Colo.

July 9th, 1888

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

I suppose you will be anxious to know how we are progressing with the work, but we have nothing of special interest to write of as we are only getting fairly underway.

Having a little ground left in the old quarry that was stripped off two years since – and not all worked out – I concluded to work that up clean to see if anything could be found before opening up on the other side of the gulch – and though we find some bones – they are mostly odds and ends and not connected or related to any of the other skeletons found here that I can see and unless we have better luck soon shall go to work on quarry No. 2.

Mr. Russel has been here and gone – I spent the most of two days with him – showing everything of interest and in making measures of the different stratas in the Jurassic. He expresses himself as highly pleased and well satisfied with his visit here – and astonished at finding such a great variety of fossils – especially the mollusks – a box of which we packed up to send to the National Museum

He had his photographic apparatus along and took several views of the strata along the creek – and some of our quarry – which he will finish up on his return to Washington – and will send you some copies.

We visited the place where the fossils are cropping out in the Trias – and he thinks it may turn out to be something of importance and he was very anxious that I should open it up while he was here – but I wasn't quite ready yet.

The weather is terrible hot – and it has been dry here so long that our ranges are all burnt up with drought.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Marsh writes to Felch that he is likely to be leaving for Europe in early August and needs an estimate of expenses so that arrangements can be made for payment.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
New Haven, Conn.,

July 12th, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch,

I am thinking of going to Europe for a month or so, starting early in August.

Please send me therefore, an estimate of expenses, so that I can make the necessary arrangements about vouchers, etc.

I hope you are having good weather and good luck

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

Felch writes to Marsh about expenses. He again mentions fossils from the Triassic which he will be sending.

Canon City, Colo.
July 22nd, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Your letter of the 12th inst. with request for statement of monthly expenses I did not receive until yesterday. Although my expenses for help – tools – findings etc to begin work with will amount to something over \$175⁰⁰ – I think I can come out about square if you send me that amount (175) for this month and next – and will also allow me to keep the extra hand, which I much need until the middle of next month – and after that – the average will not be above 150 pr. month

As to some former expenses incurred – and as to which you said you might try and help me out – I have made no demand – nor shall not as the Dept. have kindly sent me some publications through the request of Mr. Russel – but if our work should prove a good success – and we have as good a streak of luck as in some former seasons if you feel like doing anything there – it will be thankfully received

If you can send me this first payment soon it will greatly accommodate me – as I have been short of money for some time – and have quite a number of bills already nearly due – besides my help – who expect their pay at the end of the month.

After this I can wait until you obtain your money on the vouchers and these should call for this month and Aug. for \$190. or 200 each to make yourself whole.

We are having splendid weather for work and getting along will - have now worked out all there is exposed in the old quarry and tomorrow shall start into the new ground where we shall make a desperate attempt to find some good specimens.

I will send you some of the fossil fragments from the Trias in a box by mail in a few days – the first time I go into town myself so as to register the box.

I have made no attempt to make any thorough exploration of this ground but send such fragments as crop out on the surface.

After we get well at work in the new ground shall hope to have more of interest to write about.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Marsh writes to Felch that he is to keep a sharp lookout for small mammal jaws in Quarry
1. He also asks Felch to mail some living turtles.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
~~Washington, D. C.~~, New Haven

July 24th, 1888.

Dear Mr. Felch,

I wish you would keep a sharp lookout for those small mammal jaws in Quarry No. 1. I need every fragment I can get.

If you have any small living turtles in your region, please send me one of each kind, by mail. There should be some in your creek.

If not too large, they could be sent in a tin can (in damp moss) by mail.

Hoping soon to hear from you.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

Marsh writes to Felch that he needs him to return vouchers soon and again mentions mammals.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
New Haven, Conn.,

July 24th, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch

Enclosed find vouchers for July, which I send, now so that they may come back before I sail.
Please return them by first mail.

I may have to send vouchers for August earlier than usual.

Wrote you yesterday, about those small mammals, etc.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

Felch writes to Marsh about Quarry No. 2 where they have found a carnivore skull found in poor condition. He mentions a bone found by Fred Brown, which O. C. Marsh marked with a pencil, No. 2. He sends a map of the quarries and describes the relation of them.

Canon City, Colo.
July 27th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I rec'd your telegram day before yesterday and will go into town to-morrow hoping to find the papers you mailed on the 24th – shall send for mail every day until rec'd, and return at once.

It is somewhat singular that your letter of the 12th was so long delayed = was not held in the P.O. at Canon for we got our mail at that time for several days in succession – and it was a matter that I was interested in having attended to promptly.

We began on the new ground Monday last – the rough outline enclosed, (will send a better one as soon as we get things developed) will give some idea of the locality – and “how the land lays”.

The bench – that for convenience we call No. 1 – lies just about N. W. from our old quarry and some 150 yds. from it – is bounded on the north by a small gulch – coming into that at or near the point **B**, where we have begun work. This is nearly level – slopes a trifle and runs just east of south – will average 60 feet or more in width and over 200 in length – with bones cropping's to be seen all the way up the gulch on the north and in several other places (XX etc) along either side.

Brown worked on the corner – N. E. – of this bench and found some good specimens and we started in just where he left off – taking a strip at first – some 25 feet long by 12 or 14 wide – and this we have already got down to the last layer next the bones and marl bed – more ground stripped in five days – than we could have done in five weeks at the old quarry – where there is so much blasting to be done with powder – where here all can be done with picks – gads and shovels.

This afternoon – we commenced moving out the first of the lower layer – and the second one (block) we took out had the greater part of a Carnivore skull in it – but very badly broken up – as it lay quite out on the edge where some had broken and worn away long ago.

This was bad luck for a start – and discouraged me a good deal – and if “cassin” would have remedied the matter any it out to have been a middling fair specimen by this time – but I have made the best of it by carefully getting all the pieces left – hardening of them up – so as to send in as fair condition as found.

The head lay in a bad position – the top being bedded in the marl – and from what there is to be seen the crown – or most of the top of the head is all here.

One break shows the teeth of both upper and lower jaws – shut in tight together – more strong and massive than in Ceratosaurus.

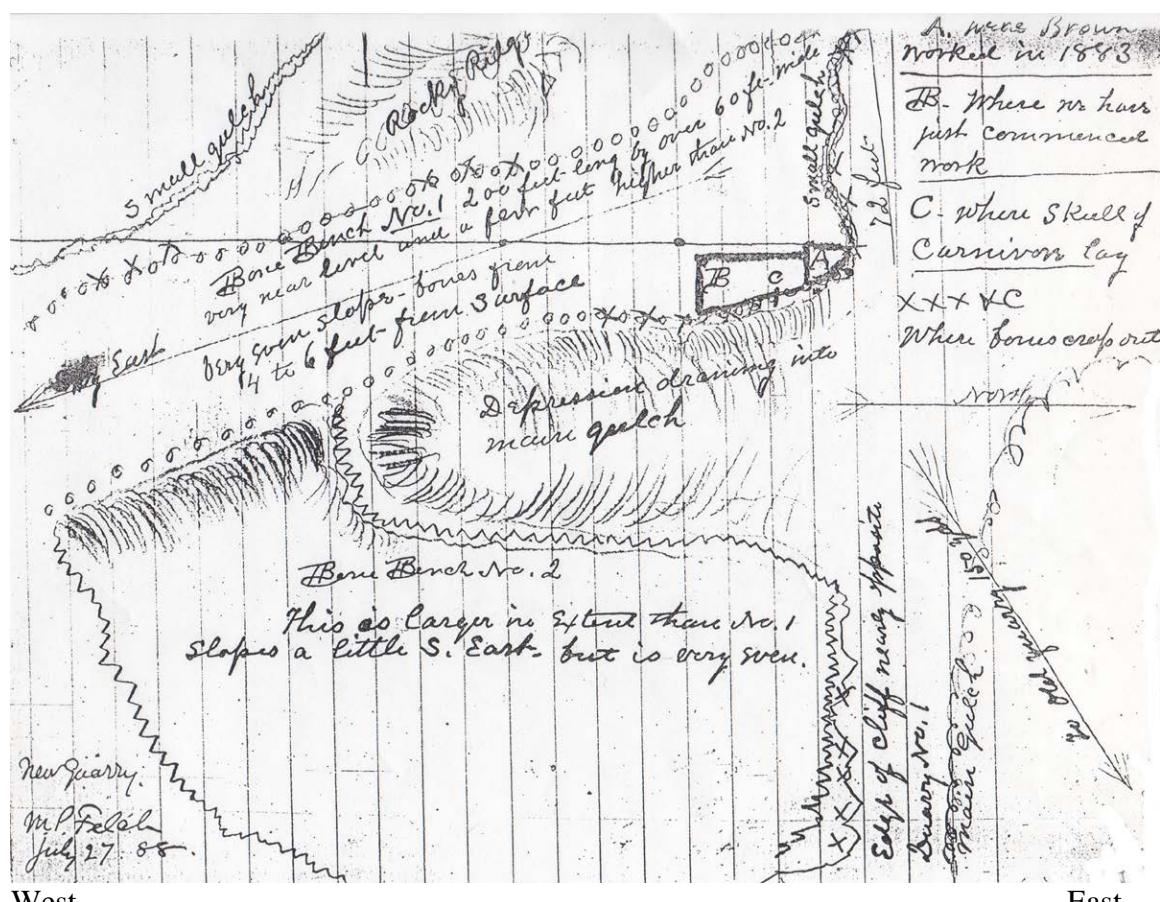
Fred Brown found some of this skeleton – one block with a portion of a dorsal vertebrae – I found after he went away – and which I called your attention too – when you were here first – and which you marked with a pencil – "No. 2", I have this yet – and shall look up all other pieces of this that may be found.

I hope we shall have better luck – for though the bones are not near as plenty here or crowded in so much together – we can in the same time get over four times the amount of ground as in the old quarry – where the stripping is now nearly if not quite four fifths of all the work done.

There is one drawback however as I have the matter studied out – and that is these rocks were apparently formed in shallow water – while to find bones as plenty as in the old quarry the waters must have been deep = an idea of my own not patented however.

I find I am quite out of the Official Envelopes.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch



New Quarry
M. P. Felch
July 27th, 1888

small gulch Rocky Ridge
Bone Bench No. 1 200 feet long by over 60 feet wide
very near level and a few feet higher than No. 2
Very even slope – bones from 4 to 6 feet from surface Small gulch 72 feet

A. where Brown worked in 1883
B where we have just commenced work
C – where Skull of Carnivore lay
XXX & C Where bones crop out

Depression drawing into main gulch

Bone Bench No. 2
This is larger in extent than No. 1 slopes a little S. East – but is very even
Edge of cliff nearly opposite Quarry No. 1 To old quarry 150 yds.

Felch writes to Marsh on financials and that he will look for turtles along the river before returning home.

Canon City, Colo.
July 30th, 1888

Prof Marsh
Dear Sir

Came in this morning and find the vouchers have got along all right – which I return to-day.

I suppose you have rec'd my statement for the month of July – which overruns the general average somewhat on account of the extra hand put on to start in.

You can send on the vouchers now for Aug – and make them for enough to cover this – or in any other way you think best.

I will take a little look down the river before returning home to see if I can hunt up some turtles.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Marsh writes to Felch that the Triassic [Pennsylvanian] fossils are wood but hopes he will find bones later. Bone from the new quarry looks good, and Felch is to watch there for mammals.

Yale College Museum, New Haven, Conn.

Aug. 3rd, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours with vouchers came to day, and I at once return check for \$170. as you may need funds. We can balance accounts later in the season.

The small box by mail also came. The Triassic specimens are fossil wood. Hope you will get bones with them later.

The small bone from new quarry looks better. You ought to find mammals there.

Very sorry the Carnivore Skull was such an antique. Hope you saved every fragment, as I want to compare it with the other. Look out for the feet.

Yours in haste

O. C. Marsh

Felch writes to Marsh describing the differences between Quarry No. 1 and No. 2. in which the bone is more scattered but the stripping off is much easier. He feels this will make the end results will be good. He has also inquired about a place to get turtles and can send them if Marsh still wants them.

Canon City, Colo.
Aug. 5th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

We have got along very well during the past week – and I think from present indications the outlook is fair in our new ground, and as soon as we get in away from the loose and crumbling edges into where the rock is more firm, that we can take out specimens in good condition.

After removing some of this outer edge – and in which the skull was found = mentioned in my last = we struck quite a lot of bones = caudal vertebrae – a coracoid – femur = quite large = a humerus and two smaller leg bones nearly connected with the humerus.

Two of the vertebrae found – and probably belonging with this skeleton were of a little different type from any that I remember to have seen, in having the neural spines like the one outlined in the enclosed sketch. None of these bones belonged with the carnivore skull – but to some of the larger herbivorous families I think – and although they may be of no special importance in themselves = will go to show in my opinion, that by finding so many bones of one skeleton in place – that here as well as in Quarry No. 1 a nearly whole skeleton may yet be found – and that the bones are not so scattered as in most other localities – and further that the chances are equally as good for finding skulls as there.

Had the skull we came across first only have been in four or five feet further back, it would have been in rock where all could have been saved.

As I have said before in regard to this new ground – the bones are not near as thick or crowded – as in Quarry No. 1 – and that a good deal larger extent of ground will have to be worked to get the same amount of bones – but the ground is so much easier worked – as far as stripping off is concerned that there is not so great a difference in the end as one would suppose at first – so therefore I think the general prospect good

When I was in town last Monday I took what time I had to spare hunting along the river-bank and mill-pond for turtles - but the water was high and muddy from recent rains and I could not find any – but was told by some boys who know the localities well here about – that in a lake some three miles below town – and along the grade of the Santa-Fe Ry. there can be found in any warm day an abundance of them.

If not too late to be of any benefit to you – I can obtain some for you at the place named and send on most any time.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S.

I believe I mentioned the fact in a former letter that I am out of Official Envelopes



Vertebrae from Quarry No. 2

M. P. Felch Aug 5th, 1888

Felch writes to Marsh that he has an odd bone and sends a drawing. He thinks it may be associated with foot bones.

\$170 recd.

“odd bone” = patella? [Note attached to the top of the letter]

Canon City, Colo.
Aug. 11th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours with check came last night for which find receipt enclosed – and accept thanks.

I have been at work for the last two days around the tibia and fibula of a Sauropoda and find some very peculiar bones – one wedged in between the distal ends of the leg bones and the other just at the end of the tibia.

I have tried to show this by the enclosed rough sketch but it does not give a very correct idea – only as to position.

These may be only some detached parts of a vertebrae – but having seen some in the old quarry three years ago almost exactly like them, that were found with foot bones I did not know but these might have been a kind of covering for the foot. Will work them out carefully and see what they are soon.

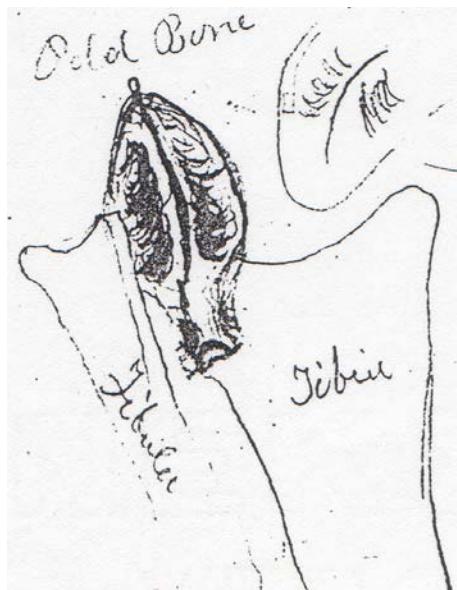
Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Aug 10th, 1888

\$170.⁰⁰

Rec'd of Prof. O. C. Marsh – the sum of one hundred and seventy dollars due for work – for self – help team and outfit for July – 1888.

M. P. Felch



Odd Bone
Fibula Tibia

This "odd bone" is some 8 inches long – curved down from 1 to 2 making quite a prominent ridge along the line – and then curved out again in the shaded part to the edges – Strongest part in the Shank at "1" but all quite thin

M. P. Felch
Aug 11th, 1888

Felch writes to Marsh that they are finding leg and foot bones in Quarry No. 2. They will strip off new ground as they are following a string of vertebrae up the neck of something. He needs his money for July and August as he has had to take out a loan to cover expenses, and it is due soon. He will mail a jaw in poor condition that was found in stripping off.

Canon City, Colo.
Sept. 7th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I have delayed writing for some little time hoping to have something of special interest to communicate – but as nothing new has turned up to speak of will put it off no longer.

In some respects our new quarry is turning out very well – we find a large number of leg and foot bones mostly well preserved – and a good many vertebrae in natural position but with the exception of some of the smaller ones and some caudal vertebrae have not been able to save them – owing to the nature of the ground and rock in which they are found. So far – our...

[Page 2 is missing]

...to get these out so connected with the foot bones that you can see exactly where they belong. As I said before in regard to them = they may be only parts of detached vertebrae = but if so it is very singular they should in every instance get into position with the foot and leg bones.

We have found so far quite a large portion = legs etc = of two different skeletons here – one the larger one most of the dorsal vertebrae with their ribs were nearly continuous – but owing to the crumbly condition of the rock we could not save them – but now they are coming into the neck – the rock is better and I shall do my best to save some – and can if we can only take out the blocks in order to group them up and do good work

Before we can do much more however we shall have to strip off another section back of our first as the neck points that way and if that end of the skeleton holds out as good as it promises now, we hope to find something better in the future.

Our first stripping was only about 12 feet wide by 25 or 30 long – and though shallow in depth on the edge gets to be some 6 to 8 feet on the backside and still gets a little deeper – and though it makes a little more surface work than in more shallow ground the rock is more firm where it is deep and the bones are much better preserved. It is a good deal of work to open up a new quarry in sand rock, and takes some time to get acquainted with all its bearings – and best places.

In regard to payment for Aug. \$1,70 I will say that I am pushed quite close this summer for money – was disappointed in getting two hundred dollars in July that was due me – and which I may not get at all – and I was compelled for the first time since you made me a loan to borrow money from the bank – and for which my note is due about the 25th of this month – and if I can

get what is coming by that time for Aug. I can pull along for another month without being greatly pushed.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S.

I will send the next time I go in town a box by mail containing what is some kind of a jaw – 5 or 6 inches long that we found in stripping off – and though it was not discovered until some of it went over the dump – and is badly broken, I think it is nearly if not quite all saved.

In regard to those mud-turtles I have found where some can be had and if it will not be too late to make use of them can send on some small ones yet.

M. P. F.

R. W. Westbrook sends a check on behalf of Marsh.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
New Haven, Conn.,

Sept. 15th, 1888

M. P. Felch, Esq.,
Cañon City, Col.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find check for \$170.00 which I forward at Prof. Marsh's request.

Yours respectfully,
R. W. Westbrook

Marsh writes to Felch that he is back from Europe and awaiting survey funds.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology
New Haven, Conn.,

Oct 15th, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch,

I am home again from Europe, and shall now look after the bone business once more.

I enclose vouchers for Sept. Oct. which please return soon.

Owing to President making at Washington, the usual appropriations bills have only just been passed, and I hope soon to have some funds from the Survey. I have had none since June.

I hope you are having good luck.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

Felch writes that he is glad Marsh had a safe trip, and that he has been quite ill and did not put in a full month. He is better now and can go back to work.

Canon City, Colo.
Oct. 27th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours with vouchers for Sept. came all right, and I return them signed with this

We are glad to know that you are well and had a safe trip.

As for me I have not had the best of luck – have been very bad with my old army trouble – and came near getting my final muster out – but am better and can go on with the work again – which we had to entirely suspend for a time.

I shall not there for put in a claim for a full month in Oct. but you had better send on the vouchers for the same amount as before.

Will write again soon

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he is very discouraged with Quarry No. 2. They are finding nothing in good condition and it has been a very bad year for him on his ranch. He asks for his last pay and is quitting work on Quarry No. 2 unless Marsh can come out and decide he should continue. He does not wish to do more on his own responsibility.

Canon City, Colo.
Nov. 23rd, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I suppose you must be anxious to know how we are getting on – and ‘though it is a disagreeable duty to me, I am compelled to state plainly – that in our work we do not meet with any success – and that there is no use to continue work on this quarry at least.

I am a good deal disappointed in this, and more discouraged than I can express – for with the poor showing of last year – I hoped to do well enough this to make it up – but from the time we started in ‘till now it has been getting from bad to worse if possible and instead of finding a plenty of good specimens, we have but little material to show for all our hard work and that – such as seems to me sometimes to be hardly worth the boxing and sending

We have worked over a good deal of ground and in places found plenty of bones, but in most all cases, both the rock and bones were in so bad a condition as to make it utterly impossible to save or do anything with but a few.

Sometimes we would strike a place where the specimens would be in good rock – and fairly well preserved – and this would encourage us to go on again – only to find at the next move things as bad as ever.

I should have given up before – had it not been for the hopes of finding the skull of a large Sauropoda – as we had found some of the dorsals and cervicals – and so we followed up on the neck until it played out altogether – and though we worked on some distance from where the last vertebrae were found – could not strike another bone of any description

This was some two weeks ago that we left off there – and then we went back to where we first opened the quarry – and have been there at work since – finding only in that time, one small leg bone – a part of a rotten vertebrae and a badly crushed and broken illium – quite a large one once – so we concluded last night that there was no use trying longer and quit – for it is only throwing away time to no purpose to continue in this way.

I wish you could come out and look over the ground and prospects if you wish to continue work – for I do not like to go ahead any longer on my own responsibility – and had rather give it up entirely than to do so without some direction

Take it all round it has been a bad year for me, for besides the bad luck on the quarry – our crops have been a partial failure a total loss of 5 acres of potatoes, and only about half a hay crop, owing to the lack of water for irrigation – as the summer has been with us the driest we ever had.

In closing up the work now though two months' pay at 150 pr. month will not begin to bring me out square – with all my work – help and expenses – and such a lot of material left on hand that will be worthless for any other purpose as twelve dollars' worth of water glass for one thing – still I don't feel like charging more than this in view of the poor showing we have made – but after all in this I do not see how we could have done better under the conditions and circumstances, so if you will send me one month's pay now which I greatly need – and the vouchers for the balance I can wait until you can get a return from Washington

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Marsh writes to Felch that he is sorry for the bad luck this season and hopes to come out next season to plan more work. If Felch's daughter is back east, Marsh would like her address.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Division of Vertebrate Paleontology

New Haven, Conn.,

Nov. 26th, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch

Yours of 22nd is at hand, and I am very sorry your luck has been so bad this season.

I enclose check for \$170. as you request and also vouchers for the same. I also send blanks for shipping fossils, which you of course send 4th class.

I shall make an effort to come out next season, and then we can perhaps plan for better luck.

If your daughter is in the East I should be glad to know her address.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

Felch writes to Marsh about vouchers and final payment for the season. He then talks about his daughter who is on an extensive tour of with relatives in the east. She is staying at present with a married daughter of his, her half-sister and he is proud as she has paid for most of the trip herself. He wants her to visit the college (Yale) and see some of the specimens sent from Cañon City.

Canon City, Colo.

Dec. 5th, 1888

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

Yours with check and blanks came in due season.

I notice the vouchers sent – are for Nov. instead of Oct. for although as I stated in a former letter our work was not continuous for all of that month – I supposed you would rather have them all come in regular order than to skip a month, to be take up with the next.

One more payment will satisfy all of my demands however – for anything I know of now – but if you wish to work out another set for Oct. I will sign and send them.

I have been slightly under the weather again and as soon as I feel able will attend to getting off what little material we have on hand

I do hope you will be able to come out early next season.

Respectfully Yours

M. P. Felch

Yes – my daughter is still east – and may stay through the winter – with a married daughter of mine and her half-sister. Her address is

Sadie E. Felch

West Fairlee, Vermont

She left home on the last of May last – has visited in Prov. Boston – Lowell – Manchester – Montreal – and some dozen other places including the White Mtns. and other localities in N. H. & Vr with her relatives – and with the exception of some 30 or 40 dollars has paid the entire expenses of the trip herself – from moneys she had earned and saved at one time and another – a fact that I am somewhat proud of myself – when so few young people can be found that are self-reliant.

If she comes home this winter however I shall have to send her money to come with – but before she returns I would like to have her visit the College and some of the specimens we have sent from here –

M. P. F.

Felch writes to Marsh that he is seriously ill with heart failure and wants him to advance \$100. from his account to Sadie so that she can return to Colorado. He has sent a note to Sadie that gives permission for her to sign vouchers, etc. in his name.

M. P. Felch - Rec'd Dec. 29th, 1888 -

Poor Health. - Wishes \$100.

Sent to S. E. F. (Sent Dec. 31st) [note attached to the top of the letter]

Canon City, Colo.
Dec 25th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I write to ask if you can let my daughter have some money on my act. to come home with – as I am growing steadily worse and with little if any prospect of getting around again.

I wrote to her some little time since telling her that I was having one of my attacks = heart failure = and she then wanted to come home but I told her to stay and complete her visit – and then enter a training school if she wished to – but as I am getting worse all the time – I would like to have her come back and see me once more.

We got a letter from her yesterday saying that she was going to New Haven as soon as you returned – about the 10th of Jan. and I thought if she had to wait from that time until you could send the money to me – and then to have it sent back again it would make it too late – and that the best way if you were willing to do so would be to send her a check for 100 dollars on my account

She will go to Providence to make her last visit before going to New Haven – and if you could = just as soon as you get back = send her a check addressed to her at No 7 Charles St. Providence R. I. or to "Mr. F. F. Learned" of the same address he can get it for her – and then she will be ready to start.

I only take this method to hasten up matters = as it will make from 10 days to 2 weeks difference about getting home.

I have not done an hours work toward sending the fossils – shall now depend on her to pack up and fix matters for me as she can do it much better than anyone besides myself and always has been a great help to me in this work. I may try and write you again soon.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S. I have written to my daughter to-day of this proposed arrangement – and also enclosed a line to her for you with authority to sign any receipts or vouchers in my name.

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he has received his full pay and has sent Sadie a draft for New York to make it easier for her to obtain the money to come home. While they want her home soon, she is to visit New Haven first. Felch is still quite ill.

Canon City, Colo.
Dec. 30th, 1888

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours of the 23rd inst I received to-day.

I have written my daughter that I have received my pay in full – and shall send her with it a draft on New York so you will not be at any trouble to send her a check as I requested in my last.

Although we are quite anxious to have her return home as soon as possible I have written her to be sure and stop off for a short time at New Haven – and if you will drop her a line as soon as you return from Washin she will start right off so as to hasten matters. Direct to No. 7 Charles St. Providence R.I. where she will be about the 7th of Jan. I am not any better – have to keep my room all the time.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Dec. 31st, 1888

\$170.⁰⁰
Rec'd of Prof. O. C. Marsh One Hundred and Seventy Dollars in full for work on fossils to date

M. P. Felch

Marsh writes to Felch that he has sent the check to his daughter and that he hopes Felch will be well soon.

Washington, D. C.
Yale College Museum,
New Haven, Conn.

Dec 31st, 1888

Dear Mr. Felch

Yours of the 29th inst has just reached me here via New Haven.

I have today sent your daughter the check for \$100. as you requested and she should get it New Year's day

I hope sincerely that you will soon be better, and that all will go well with you.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh