

Felch writes to Marsh that he has not received a reply for which he is waiting. Work is delayed due to the worst weather known in the area and his resulting severe cold. He responds to Marsh' statement that they may be trying to cover too much ground with a soul searching account of the conditions of the work and a fascinating analogy to the war.

Canon City, Colo.
Jan. 6th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I have been waiting some little time before making out the Dec. statements, in order to hear from you in answer to a letter I wrote some three weeks since, but not receiving any think if you have written the letter may have been lost or miscarried

During the last cold and severe weather = about the worst ever known here = I have depended mostly on others to carry and bring my mail – for I have not yet fully gotten over the severe cold taken when I was getting off the fossils – and I dare not run the risk of taking more cold while such weather lasts and this may account for the loss of letters if any have been sent that I have not got

In one of your last letters that I received, you cautioned me not to attempt to go over so much ground another year in order that I might be able to do better and more thorough work.

It may be at times we have been too anxious to do a certain piece of work in a given time – and if this is so it may be partly due to the fact – that we thought if we were too long – in removing any particular bone or skeleton after the discovery was made known to you through weekly reports – you might think we were dilatory and not attending to work as it should be.

I felt in this way after a months close work had been done around the sacrum of Stegosaurus, and seemingly had accomplished but little during the time, and finally when all the work on it was done – and it came out in so bad shape as to appear almost worthless to us – we felt as though a good part of the time on it had been wasted, and perhaps hurried on other work to make up for lost time.

Later on however and when we resumed work on Allosaurus, I determined to go slow – made all the preparations possible to take out what remained of the skeleton in as good condition as it could be - after so long exposure to winter frosts and summer rains – by clearing off plenty of ground above for working room, and by working down the top rock as far down and close to the bones as safety would permit

From the time the first block of that skeleton was removed 'till the last was taken out – I saw myself to every move made and every blow struck on it – had platforms made – covered with burlap cloth, to receive all the blocks and fragments as they were removed – placed and replaced them many times in position – made and remade maps and diagrams

of all the different groups and blocks, used all the devices I could think of to so locate all the parts and fragments that I got the whole so fixed in my mind it would haunt me in my sleep and as I have said before; think I could put together again by moonlight.

Taking all things into consideration if the work done on this last job – is not called fair and passable – I shall be disappointed, and shall have to study up new methods and devices for future work.

The work of removing fossils from this quarry calls for a vast amount of ability skill and patience, sometimes more than I possess – and is like ~~to~~ dislodging an enemy from some strongly fortified position – only there the more damage done the better the work – while here we must take the fortress and all belonging with it without a scratch.

I have thought of this several times of late while working around and trying to find a weak point to get out some large dorsal vertebrae of the same series a ver. A: - a large cervical packed in Box 49 that belongs to a Brontosaurus as I believe.

The vertebrae lay in very bad shape to get out – the top portion being in hard rock, the middle (vertically) from four to six inches in a soft and rotten streak that comes between the layers of rock while the bottom part of the vertebrae are bedded in harder firm rock again

The mass will not split down through the whole vertebrae – only to and into the rotten streak – which crumbles up so badly that it is next to useless to try to do much with them.

I knew the series belongs with cervical A. mentioned above and when on examination if you should find them to be of no great value – had I not better let them go and put on the work where it will be of more advantage?

I shall put in all the work I can myself when the weather is favorable – have a lot of rock to work over for small bones etc – and a little East of where Skull No. 4 lay is some easy working ground already stripped where I took out the humerus of a Stegosaurus last year and where I expect to find more of the same skeleton – which may yet lead to something valuable.

As soon as the weather softens down – so that I can work without taking cold I will do what I can towards keeping the work along.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that is surprised and annoyed the list of shipment contents and map have not gotten to him. He gives details as to their mailing and in the meantime will telegram instructions for locating the Diplodocus jaw.

Canon City, Colo.
Jan 10th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Have just rec'd your card saying the list of Contents of boxes had not been rec'd by you.

Was greatly surprised & annoyed – for I sent them together with a map on Sunday, the 14th of Dec. last. They were carefully wrapped (two rolls) in strong manila paper – labelled with official posters – and it does not seem possible that both could have miscarried. Is it not possible they have not been overlooked there?

I will send a telegram that you may find Skull 6 for the jaw of Diplodocus - Boxes 10 & 11 – and will send on another list soon.

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he is sending another list of box contents. He gives details of the ones missing in the mail and mentions pamphlets he had asked for. He describes the formation where the bird jaw was found as the same layer in which Marsh removed an oyster when he was in Cañon City. He adds a postscript that when arriving in town to mail the duplicate set of box contents, he got the telegram stating that the first sent had been received.

Canon City, Colo.
Jan. 14th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I send on another list, to-day of contents of boxes, this time by registered mail.

The other and first one was sent off, on Sunday the 14th of December last, together with a map of the seasons work. Both were securely wrapped in strong paper and tied with twine. The map was rolled on a piece of broomstick about two feet in length.

The parcels should have got there before the 20th and it does not seem possible they could be lost when directed so plainly.

I hope the list of contents will turn up – for in addition to the list I wrote out some explanations on the marks and diagrams of Skeleton 7, (Allosaurus) that were fresh in my mind then, that I do not readily recall just now.

I also wrote a letter at or near the same time – stating the list had been sent – and I think it was in the same letter I made a request for some pamphlets – to put in book form – as you suggested the same to me when you were here.

The formation that the bird jaw (?) was found, is in the Cretaceous No. 3 – under and below the yellow chalk – exactly in the same layer of sandstone that comes in the massive white limestone – that you pointed out where you had taken out an Oyster from a rock that had tumbled down the hill near the creek.

Respectfully
M. P. Felch

P.S. 15th Dec.

After waiting two days for the worst storm of the season to subside I came in today to mail duplicate contents of boxes, and find your telegram of the 13th with information that those sent were received all right. Am glad you got them – and will not mail the last ones

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he and Smith have prospected an area requested by Marsh and are sending specimens. He also at Marsh's request explores the extent of other formations to the north and sends a diagram.

Canon City, Colo.
Feb. 10th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I seem to have had a little cross luck in getting off my letters lately – wrote on the 1st of the month with Jan. Statement – and then started off on our prospecting trip – with orders to have the letter mailed by the first chance.

Got home on Friday last and found it had not been sent – packed the specimens – and wrote another letter that night = sent the box Saturday but forgot the letter and did not discover the mistake 'till to-day – so will send this by special tomorrow.

The specimen sent in the box came from up the creek several miles above.

If you remember when you were here I told you that I thought some of the formations in that vicinity belonged to the Silurian or Devonian – and as you wished me to get the lay and thickness as near a possible of some of the different formations hereabouts this winter I got Smith to go with me and we explored that portion from which the specimens came from pretty thoroughly.

There is one section marked on the diagram (in box) where the fossils are found is full of Coral – in which the Halysites are most abundant.

It is also in this coral formation where all our caves are found.

I believe that this portion of rocks that we call Silurian are from 1000 to 1500 feet in this section

The next formation above this is about 40 feet thick and is a fine grained, dark red – solid and massive sandstone – almost as hard and looks like red granite – at the bottom = gets lighter toward the top and is there very thinly laminated.

It is in the bottom of this or top of the magnesian we could hardly tell which – that the specimen you examined last summer came from = the Brachiopods you said were from the Carboniferous. A small specimen was sent in the box, of the same kind. There is a great abundance of these in this strata and here is the last sign of any organic life till we get up into the Jurassic. It is just above the thinly laminated red sandstones spoken of that the coarse conglomerates of the Triassic begin.

This is as far as our explorations went – sometime we may take in the rest above, which are much easier to get a good view of. Such briefly is the outline of the rocks as well as I am able to

make them out – and you may be able with this and the specimens sent to get a general idea of what there is here. Smith thinks now that he will be ready to go to work by the 1st of Apr.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Feb. 1st, 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh	
To M. P. Felch	Dr.
To work for Jan. 1885	\$75.00

Rec'd check for above account Feb. 29th, 1885

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he is unhappy with the new arrangement, which apparently has to do with stopping work in the quarry for lack of USGS funds. In the meantime a neighbor who has been working for Felch in the quarry has threatened a land claim against it (see March 16th). He describes the hardship it lays on him and how he may be able to secure the land himself.

Canon City Colo.
Feb. 13th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours of the 4th inst. I rec'd yesterday.

I am somewhat disappointed at the turn matters have taken – and it going to come hard on me in one or two particulars.

I had made arrangements about the ranch so as to have the care of that off from my mind – and had ordered quite a large bill of fruit trees to be paid for on delivery in April – depending on the work for money to meet the obligation. Had I known it a month sooner I should have avoided engaging the fruit trees – as I don't like to get in debt or hire money during the present hard times, and stringency in money matters.

I suppose that I had better pick up the loose ends and pack away in the buildings and await future developments or better times.

As far as the other help, and Smith in particular is concerned it will make no difference, for as to a choice he had rather not work this season than to work.

I will make arrangements in Canon so that Mr. Grant can find us without trouble and show him over our vicinity and give him all the information that I can

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he says a receipt is enclosed for the check. He tells Marsh that if the quarry is to be safely held, it needs to be filed on.

Canon City, Colo.

Mar. 4th, 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

Yours of Feb. 22nd with check for \$75.⁰⁰ was rec'd – a receipt for the same is enclosed.

I will not make out any more statements for time, 'till some definite understanding as to future work is arrived at.

It seems also that if the "quarry" is to be held safely it will either have to be proved up on according to filings – or entered as a Homestead – and I do not know as it is worth the trouble and expense. I thought at one time of using my soldiers right – and enter it as an "Adjoining Homestead" but there is not tillable land enough on it to pay.

Respectfully Yours

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he has been ill but now is better and sees matters with the quarry differently. With work suspended, Neighbor and quarry employee Weld has threatened a pre-emptive claim on the land. Felch outlines a plan to secure the land by buying Weld's claim and asks for \$200 to make the half payment to Weld. A claims map is included.

Canon City, Colo.
Mar. 16th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

When I last wrote I was ill. Suffering from rheumatism, I had a good deal to trouble and annoy me, and was so discouraged generally I thought it mattered but little how things went – but now seeing away out with a little help, I wish to explain the situation fully, perhaps as much for your interest as mine.

Weld, who worked for me last season – and who is another Caliban – has a pre-emption claim of forty acres that is shown, as is also my original claim of 160 acres on the enclosed map.

This claim of Welds, has been owned and transferred now by five different parties – none of whom, have ever made final proof – but have “quit claimed”, one to another, each one in his turn filing on it as a pre-emption.

Situated as this claim is, with my best tillable ground on two sides – and with their dwellings close up in the corner that sets into my claim – I have always during the cropping season been a sufferer from the invasion of stock, pigs, and poultry – besides having to allow a right of way for roads water etc across my land.

I have at different times tried to purchase this piece of ground so as to be rid of the nuisance, and have offered more than the ground was worth to me on that account – but none of the parties would ever prove up on it so as to give a warrantee deed – and I did not wish to use my Homestead right to so little purpose – as to buy that and pay all it was worth and then have to prove up on it myself for it would be as good as throwing my Homestead right away - and my right is worth more than that of most – for having served in the army 3 years, 10 months, and 12 days that time would be deducted from the usual term of five years – leaving me but a little more than one year before I could make a final proof on any land that I should enter as a Homestead. This short time makes a vast difference in the value of the right. To go back a little.

When I first went to work on the fossils a year ago last spring Weld did not like it – because I did not give him a job – and done all that he could to annoy me – and it was on his account that I had to enter the fossil beds as a “Placer Claim”, as he could have easily changed his filings to have taken in as you will see by the map all of that ground. Now this placer claim filing don't now and never did amount to a straw if it was looked into, as against a Homestead filing, and Weld knows it, and in fact, and in justice too as I believe – everything here in the West under Teller's rulings have to give way to the Homestead Settler. Well, to keep the peace last year I set him to

work – and it is only fair to say - that he done his work very well – but as soon as I told him there would be no work before July, if then he got to annoying me again with prospect of plenty of trouble ahead.

I stood it 'till last week – when for the first time in my life, I went to a lawyer for advice – and then only to find that I had better buy him out if possible as the best way to end the matter – so I went this morning and he has agreed to sell the claim as it is for four hundred dollars – one half down – the balance with interest at the end of one year – giving a quit claim and possession when the first payment is made.

This is more than it is worth, but it is the best I can do and under the circumstances may be well enough – and the proposition I want to make to you is - that if you will send me two hundred dollars (\$200.) to make this first payment – I will then enter that claim of Weld's 40 acres, ~~also~~ marked **B** on map = also the two squares marked Hxxx&C- the half square H and the half square Q on which is the present working ground for bones – and on which the cabins are situated – making 160 acres in all – this I will enter as my Homestead – and give you a lease for as long a time as you wish, to enter upon any and all of these tracts - excepting **B** for the purpose of digging fossils

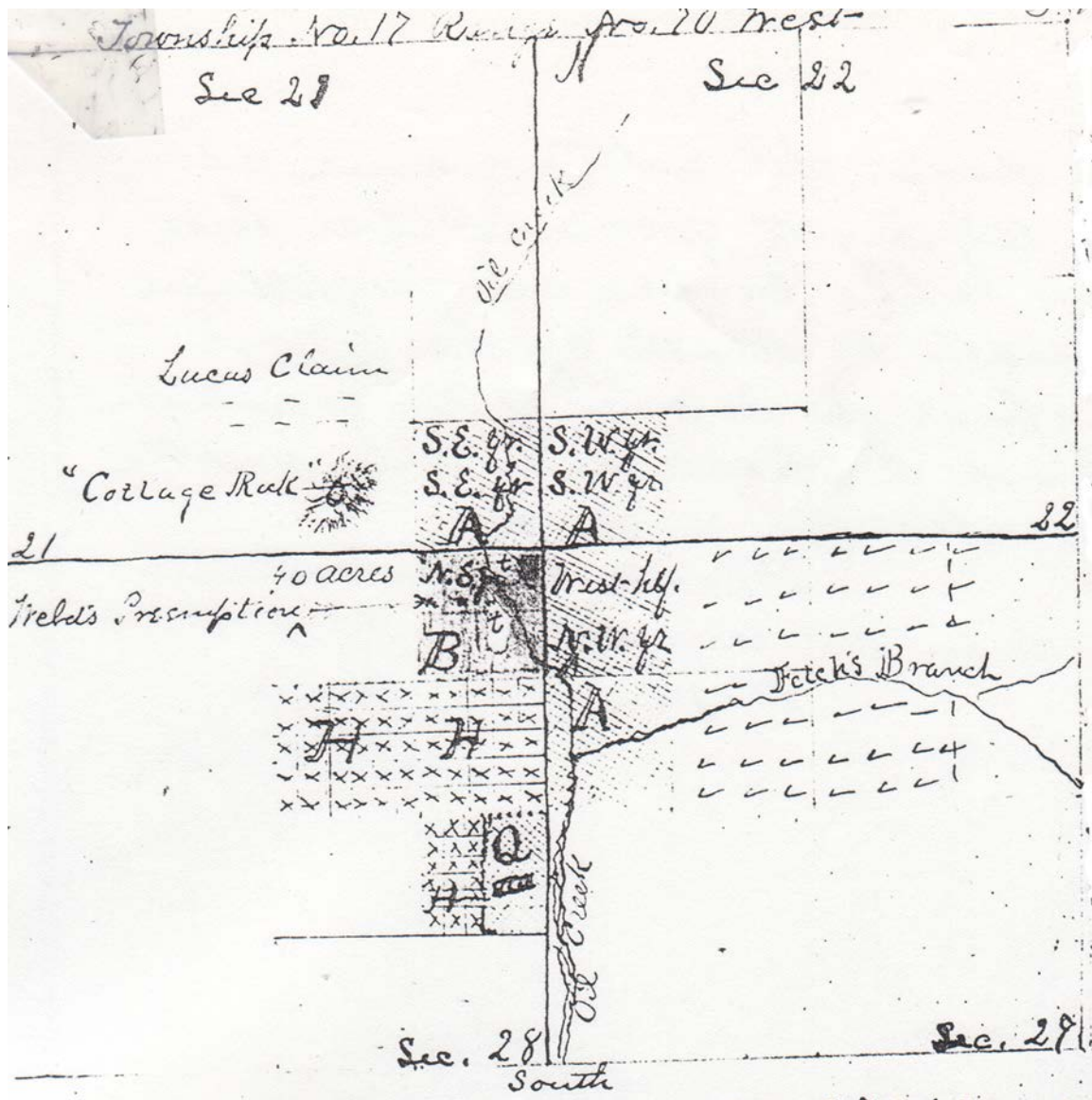
On the balance I can get my own security – and pay when due – at any rate the land cannot be held for the debt after once being surrendered and taken as my Homestead.

It seems to me the proposition is a fair one if you wish to continue the work at any future time. You knew if it had not been for me that it would have been worked by other parties long ago – and though I might get on surveyors now and prove up according to law as a "Placer Claim" the surveys, advertising etc would cost even more than two hundred dollars.

I wish you would write as soon as you get this or telegraph - yes or no - for though Weld says he will wait two weeks for me to raise the money the sooner it can be done - the better – and as for trying to get a dollar here now when people are frightened almost to death by the Silver bugbear, it is out of the question and I shall not even make an attempt to do so

Please let me know as soon as possible

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch



Township No. 17 Range No. 70 West

Weld's Preemption A – A & Canon Original Pre-emption of M. P. Felch Sec.s - 21 – 22 – 27

B – Claim by Preemption, of E. L. Weld – no title acquired. Forty (40) acres - N.E. qt. of N.E. qt. Sec. 28

Q. Quarry – Placer Claim by M. P. Felch 1884

H-Hxxx&C. Vacant ground; proposed Homestead Claim of M. P. Felch – to be taken in connection with Weld's claim and the "Fossil" claim to make 160 acres.

t t in B light shaded showing all the tillable land on the claim of 40 acres – some 7 acres in all – about equally divided by the creek

Marsh telegraphs Felch concerning acquisition of the quarry land.

March 24th, 1885

M.P. Felch
Cañon City, Colorado

Yes, if nothing better can be done. Await letter mailed today.

O.C. Marsh

Paid
Govt rate.

Marsh writes to Felch concerning acquisition of the quarry. He sends a check for \$200. and gives Felch more information about protecting the quarry.

YALE COLLEGE MUSEUM

New Haven, Conn.

March 24th, 1885.

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of the 16th inst. came duly, but the matter you mentioned was a difficult one to decide & I telegraphed you to await my letter of today.

I should like much to oblige you in getting rid of a troublesome neighbor, who also covets the fossil ground, and I will do what I can. I enclose a check for \$200 as you request, and I will leave you to use your best judgement in the use of it.

I can have the quarter-section set off as a reservation, or withdrawn from sale, by the Land Office, if it is necessary to secure the fossils to the U.S. Geology Survey, but this might take some weeks, or more, time.

I shall have no trouble about this at Washington, and can thus protect myself, but if you think by the plan you propose, you will be enough better off, you may use the check and I will arrange with you later about the return for it.

Of course I have no authority to spend any government money in this way, and I send the check as a personal accommodation to you. I certainly want you to keep full control of the quarry rather than any one outside.

As soon as I have funds from the Survey, I will let you start work. Just now I have not a dollar.

Yours very truly,
O.C. Marsh

Felch writes to Marsh that he is waiting for the letter concerning obtaining the quarry land. He then gives details on previous finds and speculates about the geology of the quarry area. The weather is bad and he is glad Mr. Grant, marsh's friend, has not come.

Canon City, Colo.
Mar. 27th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Your letter of the 20th and telegram of the 24th came to-day.

I also received your check for \$75.⁰⁰ on Feb. act. a few days since for which a receipt is enclosed.

The matter referred to in my last remains as when I wrote; we are waiting for your letter in regard to it which I shall expect to-morrow or next day.

The foot bones – “Dump of 1883.” I was quite sure when I found them would prove to be the missing ends of the united metatarsals – but Smith thought there was too much of them, especially the middle one to belong with the part sent in June – so I only marked and described them as possibly helping out on those sent on before

These were found by me sometime after you were here – down in the gulch some distance below where we worked over the dump in the spring, and were in the wash of the flood of Aug. 1883 showing the rock that contained these ends to have been dumped over at least two months before the Skull and Skeleton were discovered – as there was no time after that – the rocks could have got so far down.

I think when you come to work out all the foot bones sent on from last season's work, with the single exception of Ceratosaurs – you will get a far better collection than were sent on last year – or rather the year of 1883.

I believe there are many good specimens left in the old quarry (No 1) though it will be some more work to get them out on account of stripping off – and also that when No 2 is developed it will turn out as to quantity and variety as much as No. 1 has. Both quarries were one originally – with the same basin, depression, or “river bed” passing through from the N.E. to the S.W. or in that general direction.

I will send on some of those shells soon, as good specimens as we have on hand – and as soon as the ground dries out will dig for more.

They seem to come in beds – at least where these were found there were two beds several feet apart – with perhaps a bushel in each – and my children have found float crus in several other places but always in about the same horizon.

Our weather is most abominable, no doing anything with comfort at any time, and I have been glad that your friend Mr. Grant has not been here, for his impressions of our boasted climate would have been anything but pleasant and agreeable.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Mar 20th, 1885

\$75.⁰⁰

Rec'd of Prof. O. C. Marsh seventy five dollars for work for Feb. 1885

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he is sending the snails his family has been collecting. There are also what he thinks are reptile vertebrae specimens included. In a postscript, he acknowledges Marsh's letter with the check for \$200 for the land.

Canon City, Colo.
Mar. 30th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I will mail the specimens of shells tomorrow.

They are as good an average lot as we can find; came from several localities as will be found on description list in box.

Yesterday my wife and children, while coming up from Canon were taking a hunt for shell specimens along through the Cretaceous below, and run on to quite a lot of fossils in the "yellow chalk."

They brought home a lot of fragments of vertebrae and other bones, a few specimens of which are sent in the box.

They are evidently Reptile of some description

Respectfully.
M. P. Felch

I have used the last of the pasting labels

P.S. Mar. 31st
I have just rec'd your Reg. letter with check for \$200.⁰⁰.

I will use it and satisfy you for it in some way. I am greatly obliged – as it will help me out without more trouble.

In haste
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he will be able to begin work next week and will try a new man for the stripping off and reassures Marsh that nothing will be thrown away. He discusses the diagrams which he sent showing the stegosaur blocks and fossil clams. He outlines a plan to pay back the money Marsh advanced to him (to purchase Weld's land) by pay deduction.

Canon City, Colo.
June 23rd, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours of the 16th & 17th inst. have just received.

I shall be able to begin work on the bones next week – but cannot get Smith 'till later if at all.

I have had with me now for two months on the ranch, a splendid hand at most anything he has so far undertaken – one who is quiet sober and industrious – formerly a machinist in Mass. and I will put him on for a trial.

There will be a good deal of heavy hard work for a while in stripping off some ground to work to any advantage – and that I cannot do myself – or be of much account in helping on account of my old trouble in my side, which for several months past has been at times very bad – so I shall have to hire a second man to help on that for three weeks or a month perhaps; after which time – I can get along with one good man better than more.

After getting a good start, I shall save everything you may be certain of – for with the method adopted last summer of working out in blocks and separate groups there need not be the loss of a particle

When you come to work out the bones from the rock that were taken out at the close of last season's work, I think you will find there was as little chisel work done around bones as it was possible for anyone to do and get them out at all – and I know to a certainty that after you were here not a chip or particle was thrown away or lost from the ground we worked over

In Box No. 25 will be found I think all the diagrams of the body and sacrum of the Stegosaurus. These will show in which blocks the hind feet are, for I am certain you will find one hind foot as they bones were plainly exposed when the sacrum was separated into blocks – and they came in just the position where it would be expected to find them. The femur, tibia and fibula lay directly under the sacrum shut up like a jack knife – and at the lower end of the tibia and fibula several foot bones were plainly seen.

In continuing the work directly east of where Skull 4 lay – I took out two years ago- the humerus and several other bones of Stegosaurus and more vertebrae are still in sight of the same skeleton and when we work over that ground this season hope to have the good fortune to find the Skull

It will take me several days to get organized – tools repaired etc – but I shall not have to make many new purchases at present unless it be a bellows for my forge, as our old one got to be almost useless last summer – more from exposure to sun and rain than from use – when I get a new one I shall put it up right and shed it over.

I will have some of the fossil clams dug – but as to different varieties I cannot tell one from another —they are all only clams to me. Will you have them sent by mail, freight, or express? My daughter who found these and makes quite a specialty of fossil shells has just found, to us, a new variety in the upper Cretaceous or Eocene on Canon Park

In regard to the two hundred dollars you loaned me. How or in what shape would you like to put it? If satisfactory to you – you can draw up a note, dated from the time you made the remittance, send it on and I will return it signed - and then from this on until paid, make a monthly deduction from my pay of twenty dollars a month or so, to be applied to the payment of the note 'till paid.

For the next few months I shall have to hire a good deal of work done on the ranch, and have also on the 1st of Nov. a lot of fruit trees to pay for that I put out this spring or I would work out the whole as fast as possible. The money was a great accommodation to me at the time and I wish to make it satisfactory to you

Respectfully,
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that they are stripping off and will need to keep a third man for this. He refers to the condition of the beds, more fossil clams collected by the children and asks for supplies. He also asks for funds before Marsh leaves for Europe. His ranch does well.

Canon City, Colo.
July 8th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours of the 3rd just received.

Our work has but fairly began – and some little time will be used in stripping before any bones can be recovered safely.

The first work will be done near where we left off two years ago, toward the “East End” and among the first will be many ragged specimens – something unavoidable – you saw the condition and remember it presume – but after a start has been made – and we get into new ground I will do my best to have all come out in good order.

It is hard work to take hold now in the quarry – on account of the terrible heat there among the rocks – but I hope this extremely hot spell will soon be over

I will keep expenses down as close as possible – and try and get along with the old outfit as long as possible - but as I wrote before will have to keep the third man this month out after which time two of us will try and get along

We hunted every block and scrap for more of that Skull last season but without success – hope to find one however in the direction our work will go this season.

I will mail one or two boxes of the fossil clams soon have depended on the children getting them out – but all have been so busy have not got at it yet = will see to it a few days at the latest.

I would like some of the red chalk crayons and if you could send me a parcel of “Gum Arabic”, it would save buying it here at 75 to 90 cents pr. lb.. I have several gallons of water glass on hand from last year and will not have to buy any more this season I think

If you should go to Europe soon I wish if convenient you would send me a check for a hundred and fifty dollars or so – and then I can get along till the first or middle of September.

I shall have one man to pay the last of this month = and I shall not need it sooner – the other will wait longer or as long as I wish him too.

Times are worse in Colo., than any time since I lived here and tradesmen are hard pushed to give much credit – but I have got along splendid with your help – and my prospects as far as the ranch goes, never were half so good before – as all my crops are in the best possible condition –

Transcribed at the Garden Park Paleontology Society's, Dinosaur Depot Museum, Cañon City, Colorado
Original Materials at the Sterling Memorial Library Archive, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he is mailing the clams and describes one his daughter refers to as an "almond clam". He has found one very large dermal plate and a lumbar vertebrae of a Stegosaurus in an old area of the quarry.

Canon City, Colo.
July 16th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I have packaged three parcels of those clams and will mail the first time I have a chance to send to town.

Boxes Nos 1 and 2 are about the same as those sent last winter – but in No. 3 they are quite different – much smaller – about the size and shape of an almond – and in fact they resemble almonds so much that my daughter who discovered them calls them the "almond clam". They come a little higher than the others and are very rotten – so much so that out of over a hundred specimens she could get but a few that would bear packing

We are getting along with the work stripping as fast as the hot weather will permit,

There is a good deal of rock to remove now, as the farther back we go the deeper it gets – but it has to be done to make room to work at good advantage; and unless we find good specimens in this seasons work I do not believe it will pay to go farther back than we are now.

In clearing up some of the odds and ends along where we worked two years ago I find one very large dermal plate – and lumbar vertebrae of Stegosaur – , this toward the East End where more of the Skeleton may be found. Things on this old ground that has been weathered so long are not in the best shape but I will do the best I can with it.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S. Our P. M. at Canon tells me that he has never rec'd any order from the P. O. D. relative to sending franked matter free of the registry fee – but he will try one box through and if it gets there all right will send them all so hereafter.

M. P. F.

Felch writes to Marsh more detail about the stripping off. He describes the things they find above the quarry layer. Felch says that he is having a hard time convincing the new men that even bones "smaller than a barn door" are important!

Canon City, Colo.
July 25th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir,

The parcel sent me by mail came through all right.

As we are still at work stripping off, and shall be some little time more before doing much on the bones, I wish to write more fully about it, than I have done before.

At the point where we left off work last season – a little over the line between the "West End" and "Central Divisions", there was a large dorsal vertebrae and some other bones in sight, that were left when we quit work in Dec. 1883 – a part of the large skeleton that lay directly over the body of Allosaurus.

We first began to strip off above these bones – a strip some six or eight feet wide and the length of the face the same as last year.

When we got down to the bone bed we found a series of vertebrae continuous from the first one, that run further back and in a direction East by north – and that the ground now uncovered was too cramped to work to any advantage, and I decided to go still farther in so as to take in the whole Skeleton if it should prove to be here. This has been done, going back 13 feet east and several feet north further than last year – which will give us all the ground we can work this season – as this last additional stripping meet some old ground cleared off by Beshier and Tyler two years ago.

In stripping off whenever a break or split occurs in the rock we keep a look out for bones – but do not of course work down the rock as fine as in the regular strate, as it is very seldom anything more than a few stray turtle bones are found in the upper rocks, but in one place we found almost the entire remains I think of a Saurian that was not over a foot long when alive – and in another a bunch of very small vertebrae and other small bones that are interesting

I have hard work to make new men understand the value of small bones most all of them thinking that a bone less in size than a barn door or there abouts, is not worth the trouble of looking up.

I have taken out a very large caudal vertebrae, in toward the East end, that, though having somewhat the appearance of Stegosaurus is different from any figured or described, and also unlike those found last year

The body is solid – bi-concave – considerably more deeply cupped behind than before – a very large neural canal – a long neural spine expanded toward the upper end to all of seven inches in width, and measuring from the apex to the underside of the centrum 26 inches.

It is a pretty good specimen and is mostly in rock.

I should send some of the specimens of small bones by mail but the pieces of rock around them go beyond the limit in weight.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh sends his statement and describes his removal of previously exposed bone during the stripping off, getting all ready to work the new ground in a systematic manner.

Canon City, Colo.
July 31st, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Enclosed please find statement with bills of purchase for the month.

In making out this I have deducted from the total amt. due, the sum of twenty five dollars as a first payment on the 200. dollars, also eight 35/100 dollars to pay interest at 10 % from the time the money was received up to date – which I hope will be satisfactory

The purchases for the month were somewhat more than I anticipated but were all necessary – in fact there are some things needed, as a bellows for the forge, new picks and some other things that we have managed to do without. For the balance of the season the greater part of the expense account will be mostly for packing and boxing materials and will not be so much on the average as for this month – and as I shall be able to dispense with Earle in a week or 10 days more I hope to keep the whole account so as not to overrun \$150.⁰⁰ pr. month

We have got along remarkably well considering the extreme hot weather, and the kind of work done – for we have removed at least a third more cubic feet of rock in the same amount of time than we ever did before – besides we have had to work at greater disadvantage than formerly – as we have to go in farther back away from the dump.

There is now but one more layer of rock about 2 two feet in thickness to remove to reach the bone bed – this layer has to be all picked and hammered away as it will not do to use powder so near to the bones – and as soon as this is done I will be ready to start in where we left off last season – working the ground East with the rock seams which is the only way it can be done safely

While I have directed all the stripping off, and assisted a good deal, I have also done a good deal of clearing up of bones that have been exposed and partly worked out – some of them for a year or two – along through the Cen. and E. end of the quarry – and with the exception of one very large dorsal vertebrae and a tail in which five vertebrae show have them all out. The large dorsal is a bad subject, part of it being gone and I shall not touch that just now, but the tail which belongs to some of the large Sauropoda I will have just about time to get out before the men get the rest of the ground ready.

During this week and since I wrote last, among other specimens I have taken out the remainder of a cluster of foot bones left by Tyler when he was working out some caudals of series No. 2 E. in '83. What he left I got out in good condition in the rock – also found near here a cervical vertebrae, a good and perfect specimen and a clumsy rib – both in rock – several “float” foot

Due on July Statement to date	\$172.35
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Felch writes to Marsh that he is sending an outline of the new ground ready to work. They have come across a skeleton of a small carnivore and removed a sauropod tail in the East End. A map and a drawing are included.

Canon City, Colo.
Aug. 10th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir,

Yours with check for \$150.⁰⁰ was duly received, for which you will find receipt enclosed.

I also send an outline of new ground ready for working – with the position of some bones marked that crop out in places.

We shall begin on the West side working East along with the rock seams as usual – taking everything clean as we go – and this will bring us first on to the large dorsals marked A. & B on diagram. The series I believe to be continuous too, and under the back wall at H. and if so we shall get most of the cervicals and possibly the head in time

Directly under the back side of the wall at D we found in the next layer above the regular bed considerable of a portion of a skeleton of some small carnivore – which, judging from the tibia and fibula is from a third to half the size of a Ceratosaurus.

I have finished up and taken out the tail of the large sauropoda in the “East End”.

There were 16 vertebrae in all and the specimens are good.

The last five are apparently all united, not only the ends of the centra, but the neural spines, as shown by the diagram of this group which I enclose

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Aug. 8th 1885

\$150.⁰⁰

Rec'd of Prof. O. C. Marsh. the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, in part payment for work on fossils, for self, help, and team; for the month of July 1885.

M. P. Felch

So Baseline

F. Supposed Stegosaurus remains – 0 0 0 0 etc. Croppings of bones



Diagram group 4 [at E on map]

Tail of Sauropoda series No 4??

I have placed this on the map of the East -End - on Range 0 from 2 to 1 inclusive al?? in the extreme S.E. portion of the quarry. The distal end of the series pointed directly east

Quarry No 1
Aug 6th, 1885
M.P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he has been ill for a few days and unable to do much. He is also having difficulty with layers of different types that a bone bed penetrates and outline a possible way to get them out. He describes damage from a cloud burst right over the quarry and gulch.

Canon City, Colo.
Aug 20th, 1885

Prof. Marsh,
Dear Sir

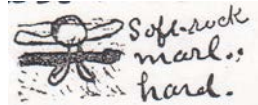
I have been ill for a few days – and unfit for much work – and am almost discouraged and at my wits end to get at the work – so as to do it to suit you.

I took hold once or twice to remove the vertebrae from the point shown on the diagram sent in my last – and abandoned the job in disgust.

The situation briefly is this.

This skeleton = and many bones that I can now safely locate as belonging with it, that were taken out and sent two years ago = lays higher – with one exception, in the bone bed – than any other skeleton found in the quarry.

Several of the vertebrae, and one humerus that I have most ready to take up – lay clear up in the top in a rock that though soft is firm enough to work well, under this is a lot of rotten rock and marl several inches thick with still harder rock below – and these bones penetrate down through the rotten mass into the hard rock below thus.



This is where the trouble comes in – the top down to the rotten portion is easy to remove in blocks and keep track of, as the seams are well defined and the rock splits easy, but in the middle part there is no rift at all – and any attempt to get it up so as to match up with the top in the order which it comes out has not worked well so far.

If there was but one or two bones in this condition they might be worked out – but here in the crust of the working ground, taking the vertebrae as a center from right to left there is a space of eight feet wide at least by four feet in depth that is crowded full of bones of all kinds massed in together.

Were the rock of uniform hardness throughout, I could easily get out the blocks – and group them so as to make good work, but as it is – it seems well-nigh impossible – and a whole seasons work like the last ten days would I believe make me as grey as a rat.

I am going however to make another attempt next week on a new plan – and see how it will work.

I will take the top run of blocks off as carefully as possible – so as not to disturb any of the middle – and then take water glass and try to harden up this enough to remove in slabs down to the next hard strata – which will be taken up the last of all. If this plan works well in taking out there is going to be a good deal of difficulty in marking and grouping so as to match together again - and locating where each part belongs – to say nothing of the danger of running into other bones and skeletons that are liable to be mixed up underneath this one

I will do the best I can with it under the circumstances for I believe it would prove a good subject – and also that all of the skeleton forward of the middle dorsals with the exception of the ulna and radius which were sent on a year ago last Dec. are in the quarry and nearly in the position which the animal died

The humerus that I have almost ready to take up must belong with it – and is more massive and robust than any which the quarry has yet produced – though not as long as some

Its entire length is three feet and five inches – and the upper end 21 inches wide – with the portion where the scapula rests – nearly or quite 5 inches thick – in fact the whole is very strong and clumsy.

We had a most terrific “cloud burst” almost directly over the gulch by the quarry, which came near doing a good deal of damage.

As it was it beat our tar paper roof on our store shed to a pulp – and buried the working ground and quarry with mud and rocks from above – and completely washed our trail to the road down to bed rock.

I shall not need any money before the 10th or 15th of next month – to square up for Aug. work and expenses.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that it has rained almost daily since Aug. 10. He has injured his leg and is being treated by a surgeon for an "indolent ulcer". Dr. White, from the Survey is in the area and out in the hills with the Felch children. He has identified 2 or 3 species in the clams which were sent recently and gives them a fresh water origin. Vandals have removed part of a humerus but Felch contacted a lawyer and the bone will be returned and damages paid.

Canon City, Colo.
Sept. 7th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Enclosed find statement for Aug.

I have not had time to get the bills for purchases for the month but make an estimate of five dollars which will vary but little from the amount either way.

Before making out the next statement I will get them and if not correct will make it so then.

We got along with the work all right considering the rainy weather, a very serious drawback – there having been scarcely a day since the 10th of Aug. but what it has rained more or less – and until I became entirely disabled and had suspend entirely during the past week

I had not been well for some time but kept about work as usual, 'till some two weeks since I injured my left leg – on the outside and just above my knee, in moving some large rocks – and though the injury was so slight that I paid but little attention to at first, it in a few days got to be quite serious.

Wednesday of the past week I had to get a surgeon to attend it, and he pronounces it an "indolent ulcer" and commenced a treatment which is bringing it back to life again – and I hope soon to be around again

Dr. White of the Survey came up early this morning and has just come in having been out in the hills with my children during the day.

He seems highly pleased with this locality and has found a great variety of shells aside from the clams in the Jurassic formation – all of which he says he is quite sure of their fresh water origin.

Among the clams that were sent – he says he found 2 if not 3 varieties or species

The humerus that I wrote of in my last – met with some bad luck – from a party who went on the ground during my absence – breaking and taking away some piece – but I got a lawyer after them and they have promised to restore them and pay damages – I hope I have found some sternal bones with this – shall know soon.

Respectfully,
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Aug. 31st, 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh
To M. P. Felch Dr.

To bal. due on July Statement	\$22.35
" Work for self to date	75.00
" " " Watts	60.00
" " " Earle ½ month	26.00
" " Expense for purchases	<u>5.00</u>
Total Dr.	188.35

Cr.	
By due one payment on note	25.00
" " interest on same	<u>1.46</u>
Total Cr	<u>\$ 26.46</u>
Total due to date	\$161.89

Felch writes to Marsh that he has found some foot bones outside his main area of work. In their main work area, he has encountered a very difficult excavating situation and wishes that Marsh could come out to give advice.

Canon City, Colo.
Sept. 16th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Rec'd your check on account for \$100.^o to-day, for which a receipt is enclosed

We are at work - again and since my last have found some of the foot bones belonging with the large skeleton which we designated as "No. 9"

The foot bones found, consist of three metatarsals - astragalus - and possibly more but of that I am not certain - and these belong with the leg bones $R = \& Q =$ Cen. Div. not far from where the big femur II+ was taken out. Have also taken out a long spine and dermal plate and have partly out the right illium of Stegosaurus - some small foot bones, etc.

This work just mentioned is rather outside of our regular work which as I have stated before consists in taking out the series of vertebrae belonging to the large skeleton (No.9). and which can only be done when the weather is good - and on which as yet we have hardly got a fair beginning - and more - if I thought there could be any prospect of your coming out to see whether it is going to pay to do any more on it I would leave it alone 'till you came - for it is by far the worst job I ever attempted to do = and I fear if I do my best it will prove to be far from satisfactory

Our mode of working them out - was to work down with our chisels to uncover as much of the surface as possible without getting on to the bone.

The next move was to cut down alongside - the series on the left side - going toward the head as low down as the vertebrae lay deep - so as to get a better chance to split down the blocks with the seams. This we have done on that side for eleven feet finding them in regular position all the way but on the right side this could not be done - as that side is crowded full of bones clear up and into the main series.

This done our first work was to go forward to the first seam - and try to get out a slice clear down from the top to the bottom - and from the left side across to the right

The attempt to follow out the plan laid down, resulted, as I have feared all the while, in disaster as far as going down from top to bottom was tried - for the top being firmer than in the center and bottom - it only broke half way down - and - in this break splintering and crumbling badly

However I kept at it - took off this top clear across the run (I use the word "run" to mean all between two seams - from right to left and top to bottom - as 1" run 2" run etc) which made

several blocks of various lengths – and then worked out the bottom part as well as it could be done – for here there are neither seams or layers = just a soft pudding stone.

Now after this first run is all out clean we have any amount of blocks – chunks slices, fragments etc on our hands to harden up on broken edges, and soft places – and to fix them up in shape to pack – and worse, to mark connections – with explanations so that they can be got together again, and to locate each parcel of the fragments at or near the places from which they came – all of which I have done. We have only got through with the first run and a little more than half the second – but so far – although as you must see the pieces are almost innumerable I have been able to make the different parts go together – and have not lost a particle – but it takes the utmost patience care and caution to do it. As we go on farther the work will be more complicated as there are a lot of Stegosaurus and other bones that will have to come out – taking all across in “runs” as we will have to do.

A little diagram enclosed will give some idea of the situation of the large series and other bones.

If you are not coming out this fall and see the work – I wish you would write whether I had better keep along on this – or throw it up for something else. I have tried to state the matter neither better nor worse than it is.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S. 17th, Sept.

We finished up taking out the 2nd run to-day and had a trifle better luck than with the first one

By digging under that part directly under the vertebrae – and keeping clear of the bones above that lay in the bottom part of the vertebrae – blocking up to support as we went along – pasting our cloth strips over the weak places, we were enabled to get out one block some three feet or more in length, and this I think we can harden up so as to pack and ride safely. These vertebrae are very large taking up a space from right to left -, all of four feet by two in depth – and the strongest and most massive portions are nearly two feet from the center. After getting this run taken care of – we will try our luck on the next one. We are having the best weather now we have seen in six months and work may go better.

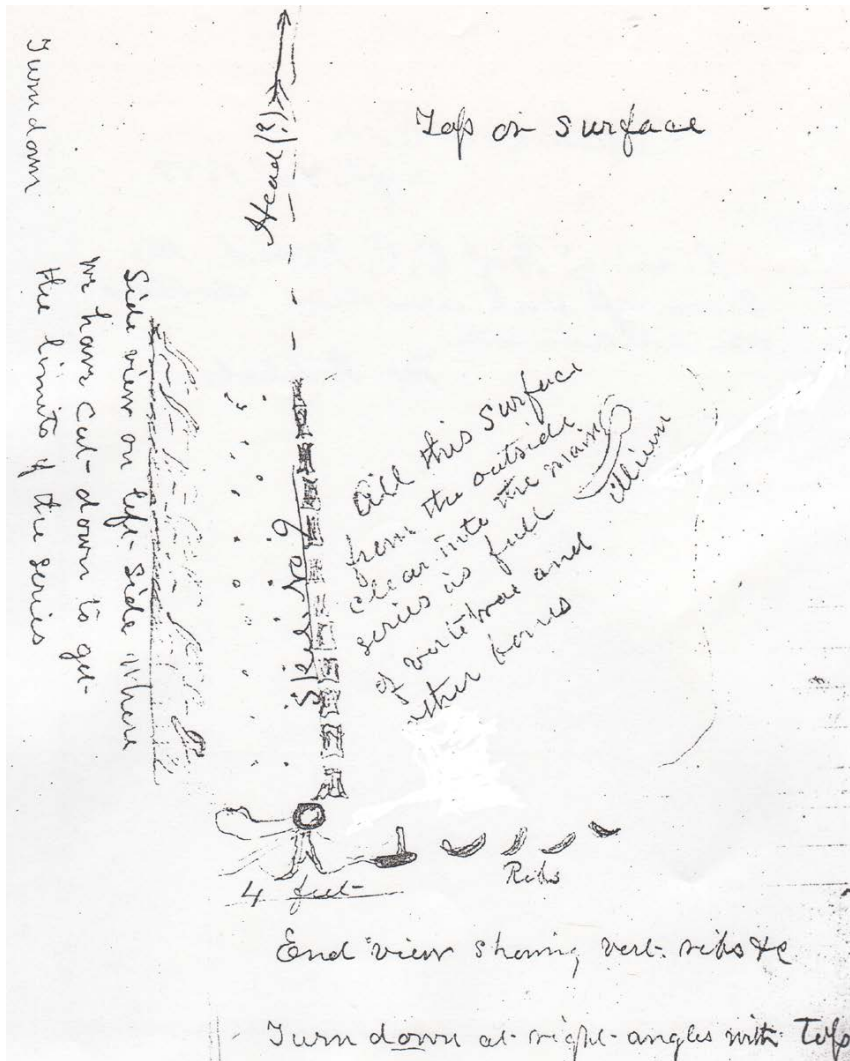
M. P. F.

Canon City, Colo.
Sept. 16th, 1885

\$100.⁰⁰

Rec'd of Prof. O. C. Marsh the sum of one hundred dollars on account

M. P. Felch



Turn down

Side rim on left side where we have cut down to the limits of the series

Top or Surface All this surface from the outside clear into the main series is full of vertebrae and other bones

Skel. No 9 Head (?) → Ilium 4 feet ribs

End View shown, vert-. ribs etc

Turn down at right angles with the top

Felch writes to Marsh that he is having better luck at the latest 'runs' as they are becoming more familiar with rock conditions. He is coming onto more vertebrae near an area worked by Smith in 1883. He gives details about marking the blocks for position and sends a drawing of an unusual bone.

Canon City, Colo.
Sept. 26th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yesterday finished up another run – on which we had some better success than the two first.

Most of the blocks in this group came away in cleaner fractures with less small pieces - as by becoming better acquainted with the rock and using methods adapted to it we managed it better

It is slow and tedious at the best however and tasks all our skill to get them out so as to keep connections straight – coming out as they do in all sizes and shapes – in size and weight from only a few pounds to some of which will weigh nearly three hundred pounds

I have adopted a way to handle these large blocks some of which are wedge shaped



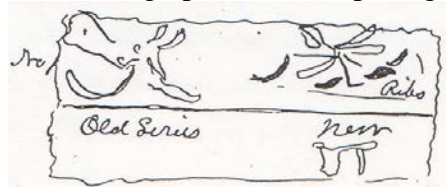
with the thin end full of bones more or less broken and splintered by which I can manage them first rate.

One great trouble in taking out blocks from rotten – seamy and shaley rock – has been to keep them (the blocks) in shape after taking out – while hardening and preparing to pack – but this I can now do with fair success.

On the right end of the run – and on the backside we broke into another series of large vertebrae - where there are probably two or three in position at least, that lay directly over the ribs we have been following from the start, and beyond these and to their right lay some caudal vertebrae of a series that Smith worked on two years ago.

The right end of our work comes up to the ground worked in “83 which makes that side more difficult – some of the bones along the work on this boundary – having been chipped off then which together with exposure during the time makes the work incomplete in some respects.

On clearing up this, and exposing the front face of the nest one it shows about thus



The vertebrae in series No. 1 seen to be changing somewhat and are pretty well forward in the back or going into the neck – and there are no signs of ribs near them.

I suppose you understand that from where we began, all through – it is one unbroken chain – nothing separate or independent in any one group or run.

The only trouble will be in keeping up the connections but by dividing into groups (one group in each run) marking blocks and connecting them by certain marks – numbering places to definitely locate fragments – every one of which is done up in a parcel as soon as they come away from a break – but little confusion will result.

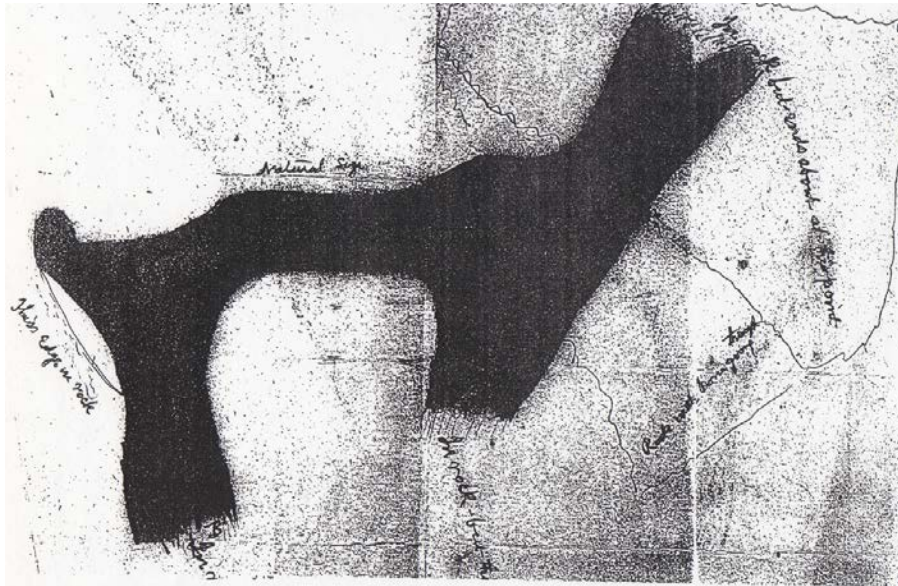
I send a sketch of a new bone a puzzle – unless it may be an illium of a new type of Carnivore - for the smooth fine texture of the bone indicates that much.

It was found only a few feet from where the Allosaurus lay – and directly under our series of vertebrae that we are at work on

It came out in four blocks and is perfect – No. 1 split open with about half in each rock Nos 2 & 3 running through the rocks as shown.

It is mostly flat and thin the strongest portion being at the joint on the left and along the top of the arm connecting the two sides

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch



Natural size

This edge in rock in r [rest not on copy] In rock but the [rest not on copy]

In rock but ends at about this point

Rock wall – bone group through

Felch writes to Marsh that the wet weather continues and a waterproof tarp, unavailable in Cañon City, would keep the bone from being badly damaged. He describes current bones and a cervical vertebrae he feels goes with Skull No. 6, diplodocus.

M. P. Felch Rec'd Oct. 9th, 1885

Statement for Sept.

Diplodocus Cervicals [note attached at top of letter]

Canon City, Colo.

Oct. 3rd, 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

I send with this my statement for Sept. with an explanation of some of its items.

I have to report for the past week about the same old story = getting tiresome to me = of very bad weather – causing delay and some damage to the work.

Without going into particulars, I will say that that from the nature of the work and the condition we have to leave the rock during long continued wet spells – it is impossible to protect it – so but what more or less will loosen up and slack away and it could only be made safe but by having a large heavy tarred canvas cover – that will turn or hold water to spread over the whole – but it is something that cannot be had here.

If the work is to be continued another year it would pay many times its cost in work alone to have something of the kind.

The sketch of a new bone sent in my last proves to be a rib – have found another nearly like it alongside of a vertebrae – these come in directly under the large series on top but close down on the marl bed.

In working out some rock on the left of the large series to make working room – we have found three cervical vertebrae – quite near but not in regular order with each other.

These I am satisfied belong with skull No. 6 (Diplodocus)

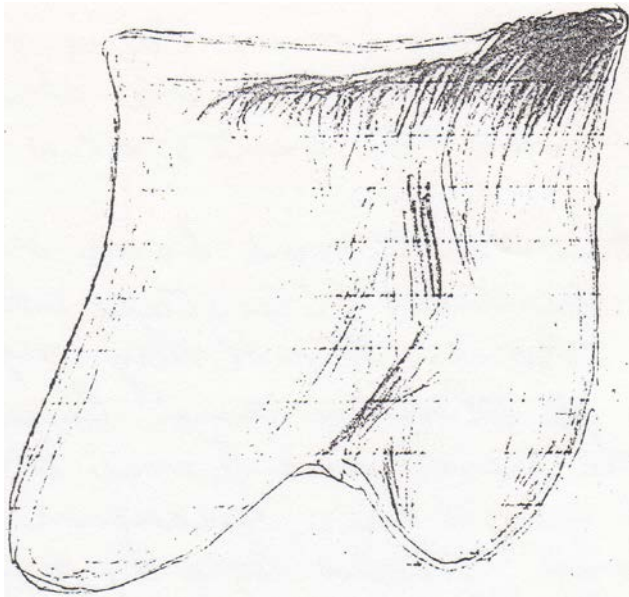
They come in in exactly the same layer – with no intervening bones on that line between the vertebrae and skull.

The vertebrae - bear out in their general structure about what I should think they ought to – being of slender and light build the centrum of one which I could get a fair measure of being about 9 inches long by not over 2 or 2 ½ in diameter – and with long –, light –, and slender processes running nearly a foot from the body.

Another bone from the foot was found with these of which I send a sketch – natural size, face view – but the bone is not over an inch thick the other way.

This may be only a “float” however and have nothing to do with the vertebrae

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch



Canon City, Colo.

Sept. 30th, 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh

To M. P. Felch	Dr.	
To due on July & Aug act.		\$ 61.89
" Work for self and help to date		135.00
" Dewey & Rockwells Act.		2.00
" W. B. M ^c .Gees	"	2.25
" Alling & Cos	"	5.12
" L.F. Joels	"	9.00
" Paid for one load sawdust		3.00
" " " hauling load lumber		<u>0.00</u>
Total		218.26

Cr.

By due one installment on note of twenty five dollars	\$ 25.00
Int. on balance to date	1.25
Overcharge on Aug Statement	<u>1.70</u>
Total	27.95 <u>=====</u>
Balance due on 3 rd qr. to date	\$ 190.31

Though I was unable to work for a few days in Sept, I kept my man on some rough and outside work, repairing trails etc – and also had him do a few days' work for Smith in harvest - who will pay back in work soon, day for day – a change in our favor = and as I have done considerable work with my team for which I made no charge I put in the work for the whole months' time as usual.

I also got a full load, = twenty large sacks = of sawdust that only cost me three dollars besides the sacks = delivered to me – and its use and convenience in taking out large blocks, covering bones safely that are partly worked out, is worth many times what it cost.

In my statement for Aug. I charged five dollars on account for expenses – but can only find bills for \$3.30 so I have credited up a balance of \$1.70 on Sept. Statement

M.P.F.

Felch writes to Marsh about new vertebrae and general progress. There seems to be more of the carnivore, of which he recently sent a drawing of a rib.

Canon City, Colo.
Oct. 11th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours dated London Sept. 20th with check for \$100. was received in due season.

The work for the past week has gone along very well – we have untangled the snarl and confusion made by the heavy rains of the week previous and have things in hand again.

The new (as we think) vertebrae that came in on the left of the old series will continue – as in taking out the remainder of No. 3 = named and number in the order found = show another further on – besides a very large foot bone – probably a metatarsal.

This No. 3 is I am sure a new thing, and will I believe be interesting.

I had splendid luck in getting it out, all in blocks of firm rock – from which I did not lose a single fragment. If all would come out like this the work would only be a pleasant one, compared with what it is on the others.

Of that carnivore – from which a sketch of one of its ribs was sent two weeks since, I think there is considerable of the Skeleton here.

As fast as the upper skeleton No. 9 is removed we have to take out the bottom layer down to the marl – in order to get good working room above – and in this way we are finding this new skeleton – and at the last break – we find apparently several vertebrae in position – that belong with the caudals.

These show, nearer those as figured in *Creosaurus atrex* – than *Allosaurus* on No. 4.

We do nothing with any parts removed – but to mark the blocks so as preserve connections and then lay them away – and so we cannot tell much how they appear only as a surface is exposed as in the rib – and one or two vertebrae.

I hope it will prove something good and that we may find enough to make a fair restoration.

So far not a chip has been lost – or taken out – unless some might have been sent last year – in those cervicals and that section of jaw with four large teeth.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.

Oct 9th, 1885

\$100.⁰⁰

Recd of Prof O. C. Marsh the sum of one hundred dollars on account.

M. P. Felch

This telegram, from Felch to Marsh is a dark copy. The date, after Oct. 17th and before Oct. 27th, is assumed from its placement in our copies of the letters. He does refer to a telegram recently sent in his letter of Oct. 27th (2nd letter of that date).

Canon City, Colo.
Prof. O. C. Marsh

Expenses for last quarter come to five hundred and thirty dollars.

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that the bones previously supposed as a carnivore are in the Stegosaur family. He comments on the diagnostic bones, and also the little clusters of small bones which he has not found in the literature [ossicles] which he feels may be lost unless in hard rock such as in his quarry.

Canon City, Colo.

Oct. 27th, 1885

[23]

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir,

In our work of last week, we removed some more of the lower layer containing skeleton 11.

We have now found enough of this - to show that the bones belong with Stegosaurus - or to that family, and not to any of the carnivorous species as I at first supposed.

It may be possible that portions of the two are mixed, but the connection through all is close and complete, and the last ones taken out = and connecting ones farther on are Stegosaurus.

This we knew from an illium - and also from the great numbers of dermal plates = one large spine = one of those singular ribs, strongly curved and with a sharp elbow near the upper or proximal end - and also from the little clusters of small bones like those sent yesterday in the box - and also shown in the sketch sent with the box.

These little bones were just as numerous around the Stegosaurus found last year and extend over quite a large space in both.

Of the present one, = No. 11 = you will be able to get the exact extent and limits for I have got them all in the blocks that will match up together from first to last.

These may not be of much importance - but in reading up the papers on Stegosaurus - I could find no mention of this particular feature - and did not know but what they might have been missed, or overlooked in collecting, as they would be hard to find in anything but hard firm rock like ours.

We prepared all of No. 11 that we have out, to-day, for packing in boxes, and in looking over the blocks that surround the one from which the sketch was made last Sunday, I am inclined to think we have the top and back part of the skull and upper jaw - but without any under jaw

There is plenty of room however in the adjoining blocks - one of which will weigh between three and four hundred pounds to hide several heads.

A little sketch is enclosed showing the position of No. 11. The next group of this will be somewhat broken as a lot of bones were worked off here two years ago - and among others the tail of Ceratosaurus - but nothing of more importance = except a part of the illium = was touched

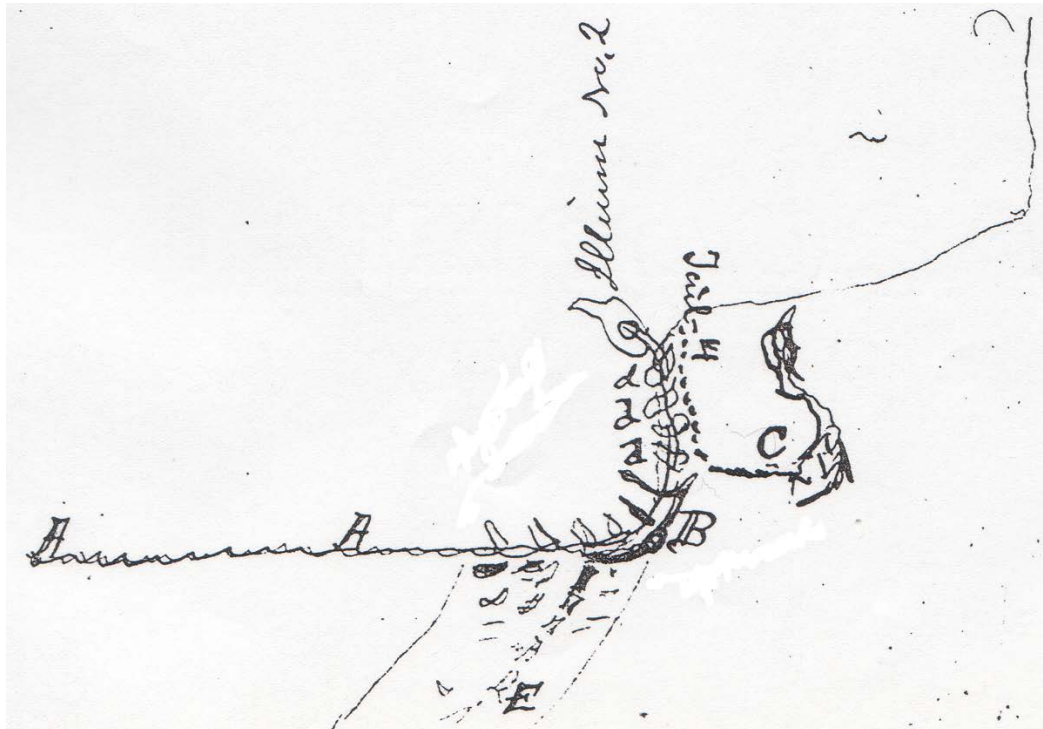
then than some dermal plates - a rib - and spine - and these not so but what a good restoration or figuring can be made. No limbs of feet have been found with this yet.

Of No. 9 we got down another run last week and had good luck - except at the left end it came out in more pieces than we like - but it is unavoidable owing to the shattered condition of the rock.

On the right end of the run we have three large caudal vertebrae in one block - the distal ends of two large ribs that we have been following up for over two months besides other bones.

You will get in these blocks of No. 9 some nice and perfect ribs - especially - cervicals, that we are getting into now.

If I was as sure the rest of the vertebrae in this Skeleton preserved their form as well as some of the ribs I would feel all right about them. In a break in the last group we got the first sight of a centrum since we started. The cup is all of 5 inches deep - and over a foot across



illium No. 2

Tail 4

This shows the position of No. 11 so far.

A- A- The front face of working ground

B – The corner where the illium lays

a – a - & A line of dermal plates – rib – spine – vert. etc

C Sk. No. 4. The tail worked out right over four of the dermal plates and anterior portion of the illium.

E The part worked out of No. 11

From **B** on the corner up as far as the tail was taken out of No. 4 it is in bad – shape – having been worked off before and worn out

Felch writes to Marsh that he has sent a telegram of expenses. He wishes Marsh could come out to see the poor conditions in the quarry for himself. He gives a long description of the working conditions and the difficulty of getting bones out in any kind of good condition. However, he assures Marsh that absolutely everything is being saved. He sends a sketch to show why the task is so time consuming and explains his drawings.

Canon City, Colo.
Oct. 27th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir,

To hasten matters a little, I sent to day a telegram stating the total amount of expenses up to Oct. 1st as five hundred and thirty dollars – which comes to within a dollar or so of that figure, as you will see by footing up the accounts sent in by monthly statements.

In these monthly statements, I deducted twenty five dollars, with interest at 10%, on each months pay due myself – as pr. understanding earlier in the season.

Of late I have been thinking you might wish them in different shape if you were called upon for itemized accounts – and if they are not satisfactory in their present form I will amend them to suit you.

I had been somewhat in hopes 'till recently, that you might find time to come out this fall and look over the work – but your lengthened stay abroad and lateness of the season will I suppose make it impossible.

My reasons for wishing you to come and see for yourself the nature and condition of the work – are = that I cannot give even a fair general idea of it by writing or mapping it out, and our progress is so slow – from certain conditions – and from the methods we have to adopt that I fear the results will not be as satisfactory as usual to you, as they certainly are not to me, when the work is done.

In one particular however, our work will meet the demand to “save everything” and this we have done – nor can we help doing it as everything – good, bad, or indifferent has to come in along with one continuous chain from start to finish – with no chance or place to leave out or skip anything if we desired too – and this fact will be seen when the work of restoration is carried along.

“Everything goes” is the motto now.

In another particular also- with very few exceptions- as in the case of a leg bone, or rib that lies loosely in soft rock = do we ever touch a tool near a bone to work it out always leaving the rock with the bone if firm enough to hold safely in place.

Now it would naturally seem that by leaving out the former work of chiseling out bones, that we should make fair progress in getting out the blocks one after another in regular course – and

under some conditions it could be done – but along this series of vertebrae where we are doing most of the work – of the season, it seems as though we were at a dead stand for most of the time- the work of taking down one run across the breast of the work, requiring, as it has in some cases – at least ten days of close application to accomplish it. Why this should be so cannot be readily told in a letter – but could be easily understood by any one making a trial – and after all the question sometimes comes up – like hunting certain kinds of game – “is the game worth the powder”?

All that we can know is – that we are all the time following up a line of vertebrae – with other parts of the skeleton – that so far the vertebrae are apparently in regular order and position – but how badly out of shape – or in what condition – we can tell nothing

Enclosed is a little sketch, which with some explanations may give a little idea of the work more than what I have written, and perhaps a full account in detail of taking out the bones according to our present method may come in the right place here.

We will suppose that one run of blocks has been removed and the next is ready to go to work on – which shows on its face about as represented in the sketch.

Preparatory work has been done on this – to the extent of hardening up, and fixing in place all the loose fragments on its face also in cutting down with sharp chisels the rock on the left side near enough to define limits, there, but not close enough to get on to the bone – and also some work of the kind on the top surface, removing loose or useless rock, that the blocks may not be too heavy when taken out.


The next thing in order is to carefully undermine all along the whole course of the run – as far under as to the next vertical seam that goes down from the surface, by digging out all that portion that is shaded red in the sketch and putting under props for a support as fast as worked out.

This was found necessary, as a part of this red bed sticks almost like putty – and where the bones from the underside of the vertebrae were imbedded in this – on the first attempts to get them out – this stuff would tear out all the under bones and made bad work – while by carefully working out a small section at a time – and by pasting strips of cloth over the surface of the projecting bones to the firm rock on either side – that had been found from clearing the rotten and sticky mass below – and in this way the underside would be made as firm as any part of it.

We now have the top – left side and bottom in as good shape as we can make it – and are ready to go to work in taking the different sections down.

The whole is already loose not only from the seam on the backside of the run, but from numerous fractures – vertical – horizontal and diagonal, that starting somewhere from a common center run out in all directions.

Finding one along the course that binds less than the rest this one is first taken out – all the pieces or fragments that break away with it are immediately picked up – located and done up in close parcels – and marked to the spot and block – where they belong. The block when taken out is laid on a sack partly filled with sawdust – to prevent the edges of the bone from being broken –

and then dried – brushed from dust and dirt that had worked into the seams – and then hardened up with water glass – and very weak places strengthened with the cloth strips. Some of these blocks that weigh between two and three hundred pounds – are delicate things to deal with – as often they will run off to a thin wedge  at one end, and this thin end is always sure to be bone with no rock to protect it. Such a one may be under treatment for several days before it is in shape to pack – with always more or less danger of its falling to pieces before we can make it safe. So on through the whole run – one block after another is taken out – hardened – all fragments located in their places – groups of blocks lettered – connection marks made and described through them all, the face of the next run being fixed up as we go along 'till all is done,

My first plan – was to work off the vertebrae in Skeleton 9, and other bones to the right, leaving the bottom (F) to be worked after that was done – but after removing one or two groups it was found the whole had to be taken along together – as the work of under-mining the upper part could not be done without, for want of room – and in doing this was found the bones placed with Diplodocus – and enough of another to name it as a separate Skeleton – No.11 -

Of this skeleton, one larger block was taken out the past week and is apparently full of vertebrae – and other bones - with more still in sight beyond.

One block taken out of this skeleton where a break occurs across the end shows a bone that has the appearance of the back part of a large massive under jaw = only there is not a sign of a tooth or socket to be seen in it – but in another small piece of rock from near this, and in which there is some bone there appears to be the bottom of three small sockets 0=0=0 somewhat like those in the Labrosaurus jaw that Brown found here.

Another singular feature about this -, is the mass of small round bones – perfectly round; of from less than half an inch to an inch in diameter – that cluster around this supposed jaw – and from the regular order in which they occur in one or two places, it seems as though no chance work placed them there.

The first good day that comes, that I can spare the time I will try and figure this bone and also one of the vertebrae that a good sketch where of one side and neural spine above, is fully exposed can be made

Some – or rather the large part of this skeleton thus has been found is on the right hand side or outer edge where it has been exposed for two years and the rock crumbles more or less but so far what we have recovered is in pretty good condition. It lays midway on the same level with Allosaurus & No. 4.

We had splendid weather up to yesterday (Sat.) morning when it set in raining, barely giving us time to cover up and protect the work – soon changing to snow, which continued all day and night.

We are in hopes now as soon as this clears up that the rest of the season will be better – have had more rain and bad weather this year than was ever known in Colorado in any one year.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S. Have only two more envelopes left

P.S. Oct. 27th I could not get my mail to town 'till to-day on account of the bad condition of the roads.

Yesterday I made as good a sketch of that "jaw" of Sk. 11 as I could do under the circumstances.

I fear you will not be able to make much out of it – more than that it is something new – to our quarry at least. Smith was down last evening and thinks he could work a month or so, as his work is not pressing him much now; if I needed him – and would work for forty dollars and board for one month. I will do as you think best about it – his work would come in now as well as any time – for I have a good deal of rough hard work for my other man – as my trails up the hillside to the quarry which have been repaired twice this summer are now washed clear to bed-rock and I can neither get lumber up the hill for boxes – or the boxes down 'till a good deal of hard work is done on them – besides other work of a like nature.

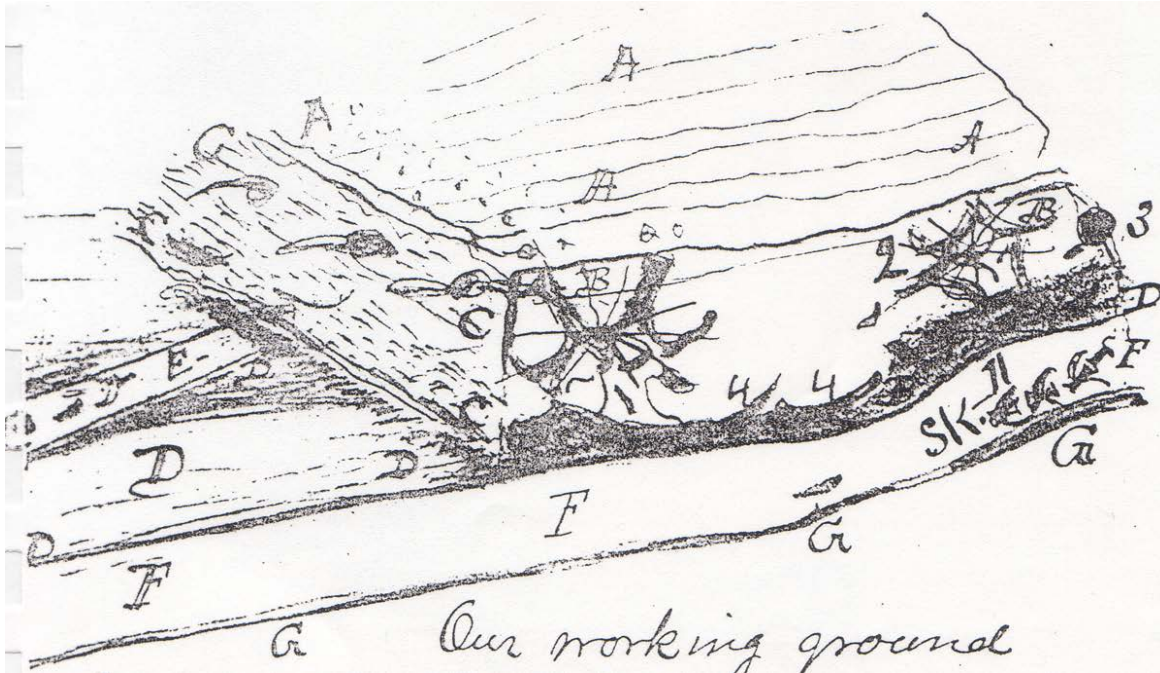
The work should be carried up to a certain point before closing so as not to be exposed through the winter – and when that point is reached we could shut down.

I got more stripped of than I should have done, had I of known how difficult it would be to work – and had it of been no worse than last year I could have gone over the ground almost alone ere this by myself.

Please let me know whether I had better get him or not soon – so that if he comes he can go to work by Nov. 1st if possible

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

P.S. He owes me a few days' work which he will do any way soon.



Our working ground **A** - **A** & **C** Top surface - seamed from left to right

B - **B** & **C** Front face - vertical section exposed

C - **C** & **C**. Side - on left of large series - chiseled down to the floor **D** - **D** - exposing left side of vertebrae.


D - **D** 2" floor on first level above marl bed

E - **E** - A second bench front where the bones of the Diplodocus (?) show up

F. **F**. The hard sandstone on the first floor or marl bed in which - No - 4 - Allosaurus - and the new carnivore [K.C. note - Stegosaurus] Sk. 11 are found.

G - **G** First floor = bottom, or marl bed.

The red in Sec. **B** shows the rotten shale in which the bottom of the vertebrae lie imbedded.

The ink lines  through the vertebrae show fractures seeming to radiate from a common center - 2 large independent ver. on the right 3 large caudal - 4 - 4 - 4 - Ribs & other bones - 6 ribs now in sight
(over



The above is to show the order in which the different layers were deposited.

Taking a section of the whole face from left to right and from top to bottom before any work is done it shows the layers almost exactly as shown above – the folds coming up over No. 2 very sharp – making a well-defined ridge the whole length of the vertebrae – and extending on to No. 3 as represented while in No. 1 (Diplodocus bones) the folds lay on those at the left of No. 2, and though lower than No. 2 are higher and later, and coming in exactly the same order as Skull No. 6 has led me to place these (No.1) with that skeleton

Felch writes Marsh that he has received the telegram and says he is enclosing a diagram of vertebrae with double chevrons [not with letter].

Canon City, Colo.
Oct. 31st, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I rec'd your telegram last night – and will try and get things all in good shape by the last of next month

Enclosed find statement for this month, balance due to date of \$220.15

I also send a diagram of some caudal vertebrae with apparently double chevrons – that we uncovered yesterday morning.

Will write more soon.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Oct. 31st, 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh

To M. P. Felch Dr.

To work for self to date	\$75.00
" " " A. Watts	60.00
" Hydes Bill	2.70
" Beechers "	2.86
" Harding Bros "	3.55
" Pauls & Penney "	1.50
" L. F. Joels	10.28
" Due on former Act.	<u>90.31</u>
Total	246.20

	Cr.
Due as monthly installment on note	\$25.00
" " Int. on same	<u>1.05</u>
Total Cr	<u>26.05</u>

Bal due Oct. 31st, 1885 \$220.15

Felch writes to Marsh from town and says he has new vouchers that are more accurate. He thinks they are badly mixed up on Sk. 11 and the Stegosaur but Marsh can sort it out.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT

J. S. BOWLBY, POSTMASTER

POSTOFFICE, Canon City, Colo. Nov. 3rd, 1885

Prof. Marsh,
Dear Sir,

Came in to-day to election and find the new vouchers which are nearer correct than the first. We are all at work – the weather the best we have had this season – and with Smiths help – shall be able to get past the most exposed portion of the ground stripped – and where the rock and bones will both come in better condition.

I think we are badly mixed up on Sk. 11 and the Stegosaurus – but you will be able to sort them out when the boxes arrive.

Took out nearly a whole foot yesterday – of some of the large animals – In haste

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh about the crowded bone bed how difficult it is to know what is what. He describes the poor condition of what is exposed and inquires of Marsh just when he wants work concluded for the season. He explains what he thinks needs to be done before work stops.

Canon City, Colo.
Nov. 5th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

In regard to the supposed jaw without teeth – I forgot to say that in making the sketch I had to make it bottom side up – on account of the bones exposed that I was fearful of breaking.

The bone when first uncovered on the left side = (Sketch) looked very much like the back part of the under jaw of Ceratosaurus only the foramen was smaller and not as well defined in outline – and a portion being hidden in rock also – it was hard to tell just what it was – though when the whole block was finally taken out – and others adjoining it – exposing bones that connect with it – I was more than ever satisfied that we had a part of a head at least – and if this was a jaw it would have to be an upper one. It is possible that I may be mistaken – for in taking out bones in rock – unless a whole surface of bone is exposed it is hard at times to know what we have got.

So also in keeping track of a skeleton = as when we first struck No. 11 I was sure it was another Carnivore, from a fair view of some of the vertebrae – but it soon run into the Stegosaurus bones – and all so crowded and mixed up that we can't tell one from another.

In my letter of Oct. 31st when I sent the monthly statement – I sent a sketch of some caudal vertebrae – which on looking up answer the description of Diplodocus – all but in one particular – they are not yet so far (six now in sight) “deeply excavated below” = on the contrary the underside comes down in some of them almost as sharp as the letter V. I will send a sketch of their exact size and shape where separated in three places transversely.

I have to separate these almost all of them from the rock – as it is so loose around them it won't hold – but so far have had good luck with them – and they will make splendid specimens

Smith took out several of the same series two years ago that were sent on at that time – and also what we always thought was the Sacrum with but three vertebrae.

This sacrum he worked on a long while – and when we raised it from the ground (it took four of us with ropes and poles) to move on one side to fix up for packing – it broke up from its own weight – and we never did any more with it – but lay it aside on the dump where a part of it still remains.

Had I understood the way to harden up – strengthen – and group – we might have made a good subject of it – for most of our work this year has been far more difficult to handle than this was.

As we get in further the bones get thicker and more crowded not only in the lower layer but the upper where Sk. 9 lays.

On the left side we have the old series followed from the start – on the right the caudals of Diplodocus – and between the two scarcely an inch of ground but what contains bones.

In taking a block from the caudals to day – we found in the bottom seven ribs – or rather the sections of seven different ones from half an inch to over an inch in diameter.

The proximal ends of these point inward so we expect to find a portion of still another Skeleton not far away = and with this same block two small vertebrae were found that probably belong with the ribs – all this, with the known fact that not far ahead the Stegosaurus now at the bottom – has pushed up to the top to keep Sk. 9 and the tail of Diplodocus company – makes the whole interesting if we take that view of the matter.

In your telegram as also in your letter you said to have all work closed by Dec. 1st”.

In this did you mean the carting of the boxes to town as well as of packing and finishing up?

I have done no packing yet whatever in boxes – and all my lumber with the exception of what we carried up on our backs to make a platform and some other needed purposes is still at the foot of the trail – piled up to season.

I want to take off two more runs from the top anyway this fall – and about four or five feet from the bottom, as it is all in very bad shape to leave over winter – as we stripped down quite close on top for the distance above mentioned – and the bottom on the outer edge has already been weathered two years – and is in bad shape enough now without standing over another winter. The rest of the ground that we stripped this summer can be covered up with marl to prevent freezing as it is not stripped down so close to the bones by nearly two feet as that portion two runs a head on top

Now that Smith is helping us I will have Watts repair the trail so that we can draw up the lumber with a horse – and so divide up the time in making and packing boxes and taking out what is necessary to leave the work in good shape – and if the weather holds good we can accomplish so much, but it will push us to do good work and at the same time haul in the boxes to town.

This part – carting – I can do alone after the rest are through, on the first of next month – unless you wish to have it all closed out complete this month – which if you do please to let me know in time so that I can arrange things in that way

Oct. 6”

We completed the taking out to-day, the group of caudals up to and including a part the 6th one from where we began on these, and shall not get much farther in that direction this fall – not

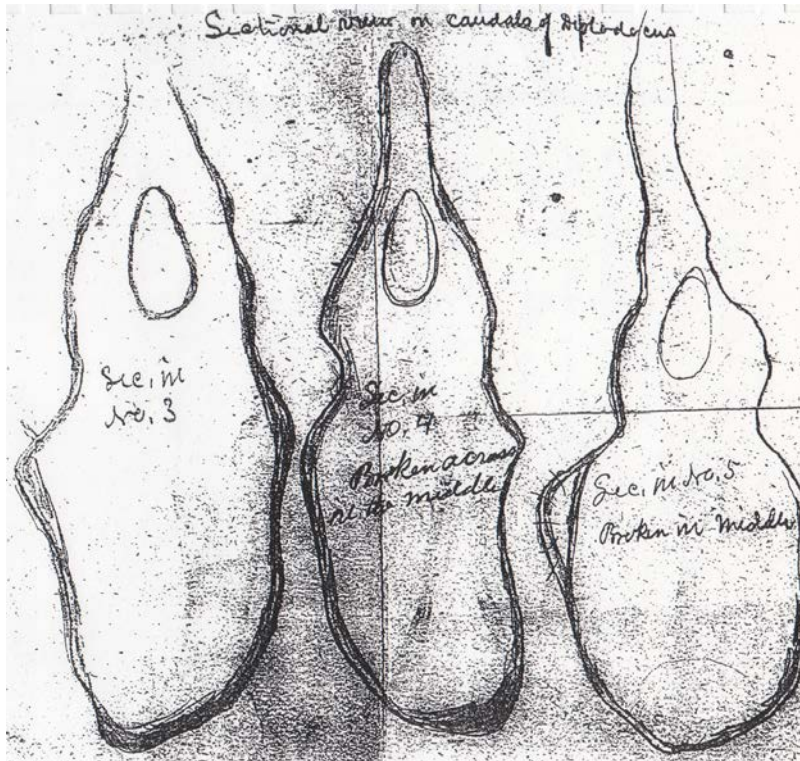
more than two at the most unless we carry the work farther along on that – the right side than on the left.

I send an outline of where three were broken apart - that shows their size and shape – not quite as sharp on the bottom as they looked when lying flat.

As they go back toward the distal end of the tail – the faces for chevrons on the centra – are spread wider apart – and the chevrons – change to correspond – and are stouter and clumsier than farther forward.

Respectfully Yours

M. P. Felch



Sectional view on caudals of Diplodocus

Sec. in No 3

Sec. in No 4 Broken across at the middle

Sec. in No. 5 Broken in middle

Felch writes to Marsh that he has not yet received the remittance for October which he needs. He has had to borrow money to cover expenses.

Canon City, Colo.
Nov. 16th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

I expected to have rec'd a remittance by to-day for Oct. work – am very much in need of money and hope to get it soon.

I had to hire a hundred dollars last month – Watts will have two months' pay due him the last of the month – and wants it all then as he is going back to Georgetown to work in his old place again – and what was due on the last months account will hardly be enough to meet present demand

We are getting along well with the work and if the weather keeps good hope to accomplish the work necessary to be done.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that he is about ready to ship, but is waiting for weight and Bills of Lading. He mentions vandals being bad on Sundays so he has taken to being sure the quarry is watched to prevent them doing harm. He says if he had it to do over he would put up a seven foot high barbed wire fence with locked gate. He describes his marking system on the wall so that next year's work can be matched with this.

Canon City, Colo.
Nov. 22nd, 1885
Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

We have the work nearly closed up and expect to get in most of the boxes during the week – should have them all made, but got out of lumber and have to send in to-morrow for more to finish up with

In packing up I find we have much more material than I expected – almost if not quite as much as was shipped last Dec.

As I have to get the weight of the whole before sending into the Qr. Master for a requisition for “Bills of Lading” it may be several days after they are carted in before sending, as they will not ship till I receive the bills but as soon as possible I will get them off.

We shall not be able to quite finish up to where I would have liked too – having to leave a section unworked in the right-hand lower corner as shown in the sketch sent with this

All the rest on the top layer with Skeleton 9 and other bones is left in good square shape for future work.

I may after the boxes are off – and Smith and Watts quit, take out this corner – and may be able to do some more on it before they leave – but the bones here are very rotten – the rock from weathering two years crumbles badly in removing it – and only by taking plenty of time – and working with great care can anything be done with it

After this corner is taken out the whole front face will be in good shape, and can be protected by setting up heavy posts against the face of the wall (as at A. B. C & D in sketch) and then nailing on boards to the posts.

If this is not done every specimen exposed will before spring be tampered with if not ruined, by outsiders

I have had no end of trouble in this way, last winter and this summer, notwithstanding I have notices stuck up on the quarry and the trails leading to it, positively forbidding people on pain of trespass to enter the grounds without permission

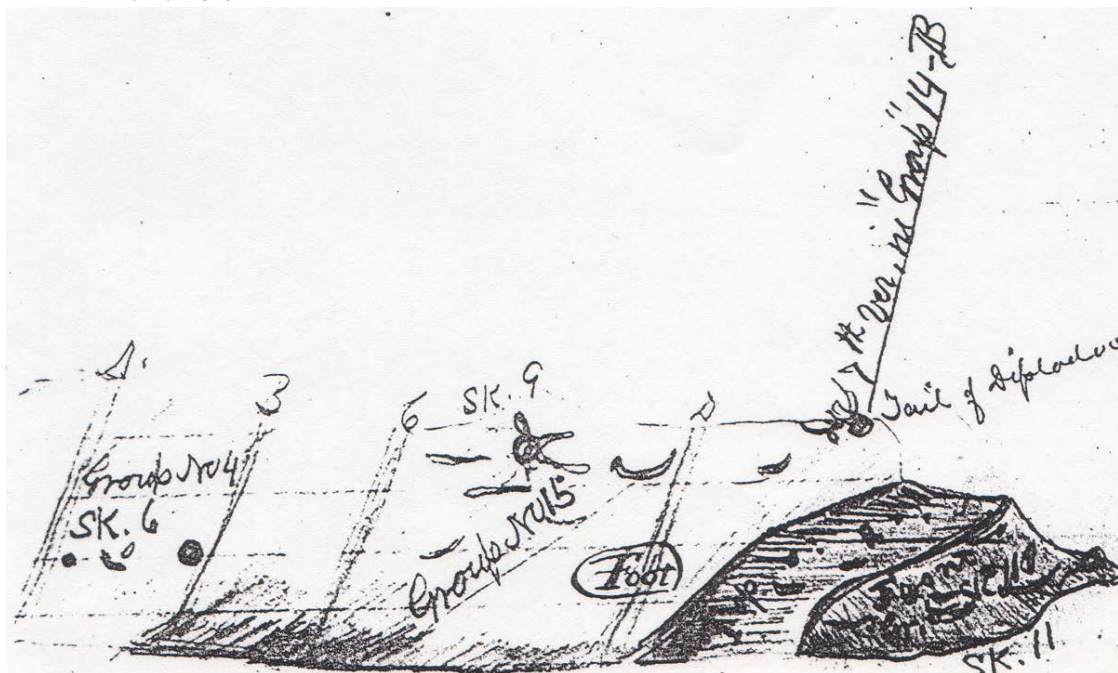
Since the first of Sept. when the large humerus came near being ruined by a party of young people from Canon one Sunday – we have not left the quarry alone on Sundays – but have taken turns in watching the grounds constantly.

If I do any work in the future, among other things before doing a stroke of work toward getting out bones I am going to have a barbed wire fence seven feet high around the whole with gate and lock to keep curious people out.

Of the bones left in the face of the wall – I will send a correct diagram, if required – showing the size of the exposed part – mark these – as also the points in the wall, showing where the last blocks and groups were removed so that the work can be taken up at any time in the future without any trouble in getting connections = as in the sketch =
part of “Gr. No 4 Sk. 6” with foot and other bones will be sent on – the point in the wall where they came from will be marked “Gr. 4 Sk. 6” and where the group with half the 7” vertebrae in the series, will be marked and recorded as “Ver No. 7 in Gr. 14 – B – Sk. 9” and so on with all the remainder.

Our last work done and just finished up was in taking out a large lot of foot bones, about at the place marked “foot” in the sketch. There is a lot of them – enough with the rock to fill a big box – but where they belong is hard to tell as no leg bones come near.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch



Group No 4 Sk. 6

Sk. 9

Group No 15 Foot
7th Ver. in “Group” 14 – B”

Tail of Diplodocus
Sk. 11

M. P. Felch. Nov. 22 / 85.

Felch writes to Marsh that he has received his check for \$220. He and Smith have found some foot bones, likely Stegosaurus.

POSTOFFICE DEPARTMENT
J. S. BOWLBY, POSTMASTER
POSTOFFICE, Canon City, Colo. Nov. 23rd, 1885

Prof Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours with check for \$2.20 just rec'd – will send a receipt when I get home.

I will keep on awhile longer as you suggest - for after writing my letter yesterday Smith and I went to the quarry and removed a large block from the corner, and there found – a mass of foot bones that must belong to the hind feet of Stegosaurus – as they lay almost on, and inside of the illium of that skeleton.

I will send outlines of these – as far as exposed that will show their general shape.

In haste
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Nov. 23rd, 1885

\$220.15
Rec'd of Prof. O. C. Marsh the sum of two hundred and twenty dollars and fifteen cents, to balance account to, and including Oct. 31st, 1885

M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that all referred to as foot bones in his previous letter probably include foot and other bone. He sends drawings.

Canon City, Colo.
Nov. 28th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Enclosed please find receipt for the money sent – also statement for Nov.

I have not put in any account for my team work – will let that stand over to go in with the final statement next month.

If you can send what is due by the 10th or 12th I can let the balance coming next month; = if any is due me after paying up what is due you on account = till you get a return from your vouchers for the present and last quarter.

I shall not keep Watts longer than the 10th as he wants to be in Georgetown by the 15th, and would like the money to square up all around then.

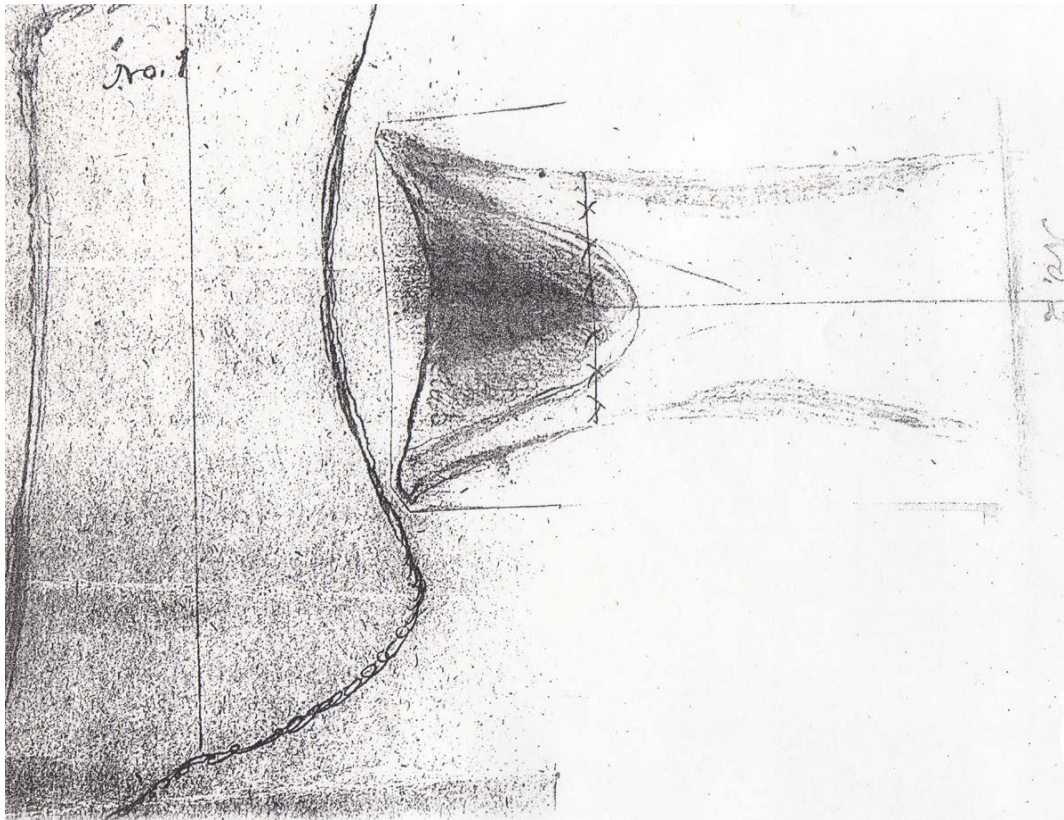
I mentioned in my last about finding more foot bones.

I send an outline of some of them – but a more thorough look over them since I wrote has satisfied me that all are not foot bones as at first supposed.

Nos 1 and 2, as well as others not shown, there can be no question about, but 3 – 4 and 5 are probably something else – but all are massed and crowded in together so it is hard to tell where one begins or another leaves off.

The weather has been cold rough and stormy – we have to dry all our work by the fire and have not made much show this week – but are about ready to take out some more soon that will give us a better idea of that there is. We shall have a plenty of time by the 15th to close up and fix the quarry in good shape for the future.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch



No. 1

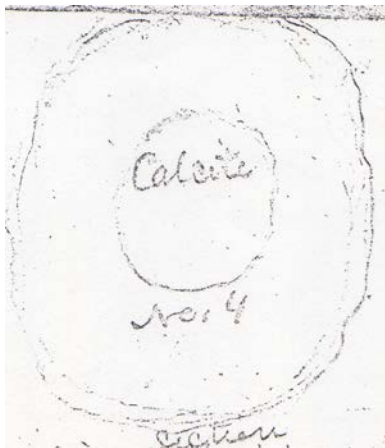
No. 2



5417 Transverse Section of foot bone

No. 3

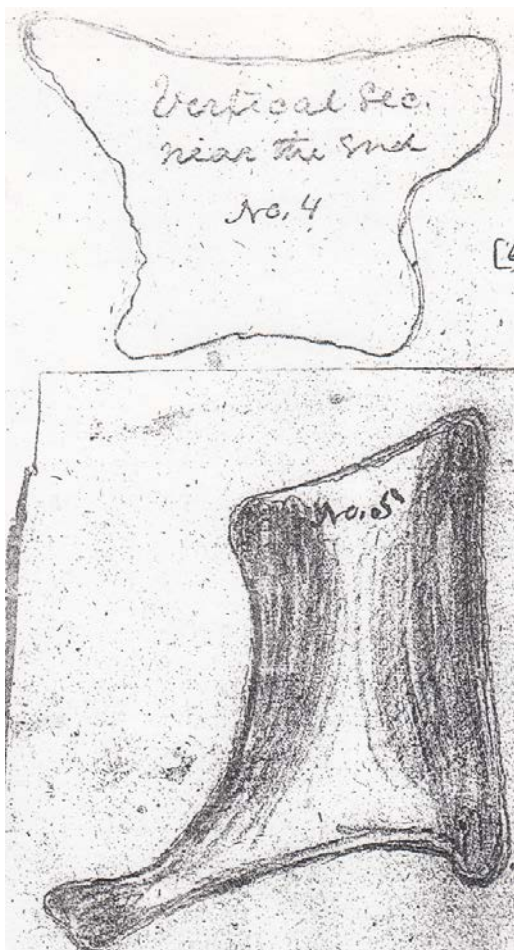
Length of same about ten inches as near as can be measured at in the rock



[5] Calcite No. 4

5417

vertical Section of upper bone five inches from the break near the end
Whole length 15 or more inches long



Vertical Sec. near the end No. 4 [6]

No. 5 ___ inches long [# is under edge of paper lower drawing is on – did not copy]

Canon City Colo.
Nov. 30th, 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh
To M. P. Felch Dr.

To work for Nov. self	\$75.00
" Smith	60.00
Watts	60.00
McGees Bill – sacks -	3.30
Alling & Co. " Hardware	5.00
L. F. Joels Lumber	<u>6.00</u>
Total	\$209.30
Cr.	
Due on monthly payment	\$25.00
Int on same	<u>.85</u>
Total	25.85
Amount due	183.45

Canon City, Colo.
Dec. 17th, 1885

Rec'd payment in full for the above account
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that the weather has turned stormy. They have 29 boxes to ship in town with a few more to take in. He describes the condition of the bone bed for next year as very crowded together with bone and fragments. He gives his and Smith's opinion of the arrangements of the Stegosaur dermal plates and includes a drawing, though "neither will be seriously disappointed if our theory does not come up to the standard of fair "guess work" ".

Canon City, Colo.

Dec. 9th, 1885

Prof. Marsh

Dear Sir

A very cold wave with snow struck here to-day, fortunately however our work is nearly done, and tomorrow both Smith and Watts will be through

The remainder of the work, grouping together, packing etc I can finish by the 15th if it turns off warm again.

We have 29 boxes in town, and shall have 6 or 7 more when all are packed.

The work is now complete up to where all the rest ahead, appears to be in much better and firmer rock than where we have done the most of our work this season.

In the "corner" just finished – the bones have come out full as well or rather better than I expected before starting in on them – as on one side it had been weathered and exposed since the tail of Ceratosaurus was worked out, and much damage along that border had been done at one time and another to the bones that cropped out – all of the anterior portion of one illium having been destroyed, and some ribs damaged.

With this exception the bones will be found in good condition, though somewhat rotten and brittle in places.

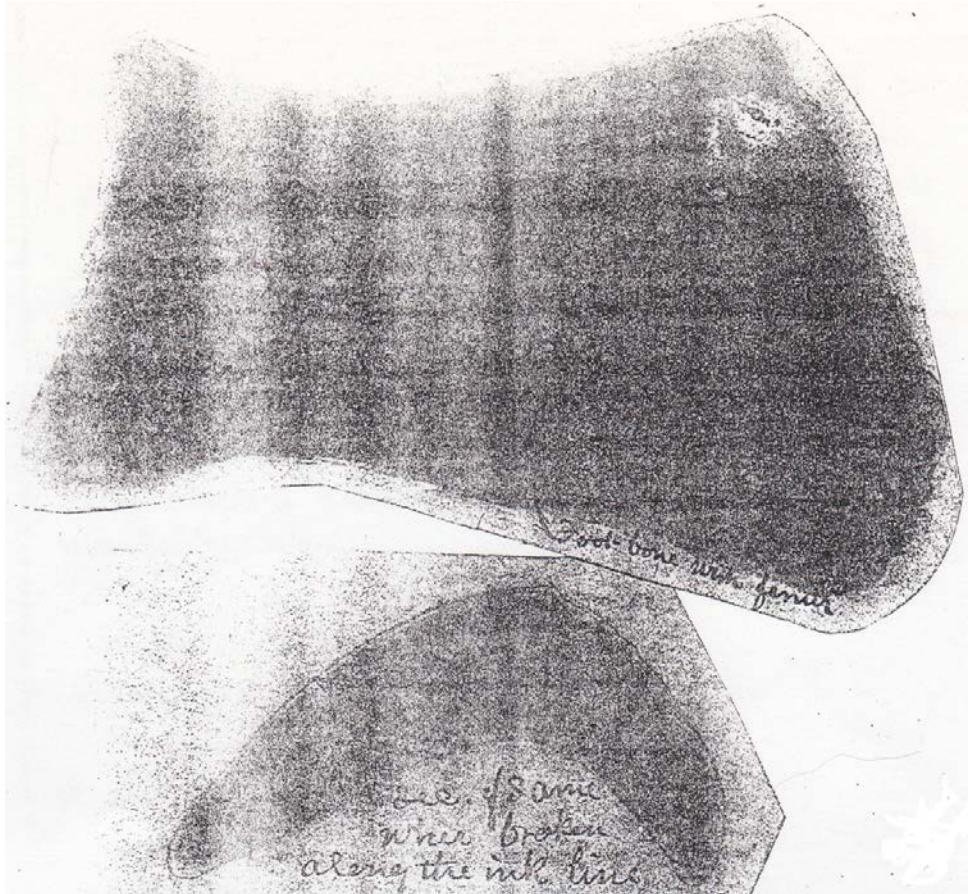
In this last lot removed will be found the remainder of the illium referred too – a pubis – four or five leg bones that are complete – the ends of both femurs (remainder left over in the wall ahead) several dorsal vertebrae, a lot of ribs some complete I think, and almost in position with the vertebrae to which they belonged – besides what appears to be a great many foot bones.

I think you will find in this lot more bones crowded together in a small space than in any lot I have ever sent – and as the blocks are all continuous and connected in all the different groups – and all the groups joining together – their relative positions can be seen there as well as if in the quarry, without any description save the diagrams that go with them.

I send a sketch of a foot bone that will be found in rock, with the end of one of the femurs.

Others like this will be found – that differ from any before found in being wide, thick and deeply hollowed out on the underside – as seen from the diagonal, transverse section in the sketch.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch



Foot bone with femur
Face of same where broken along the ink line

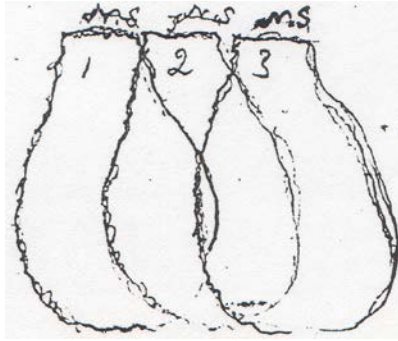
Smith and I have speculated a good deal as to the position of the dermal plates along the dorsal region and have got them fixed about thus _____

Single row on each side.

One for each vertebrae on a side.

Head coming up to apex of n. spine.

Lap sidewise thick edge out.



N.S 1 N.S 2 N.S 3

We shall not be seriously disappointed if our theory does not come up to standard of fair “guess work”.

Felch writes to Marsh that the weather reached 12° below zero but has warmed up enough for him to finish. He sends sketches of a bone found near the one sketched in his last letter. A receipt is enclosed.

Canon City, Colo.
Dec. 17th, 1885

Prof Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours with check I rec'd yesterday – and enclose a receipt for the same = also a bill that was included in last month's statement, but which I overlooked and did not send with the other bills of purchase.

In a few days I will make out the final statement so that you can have the vouchers ready by the first of next month

Since my last – we have had about as severe winter weather as we ever get in this country – the mercury going down to 12° below zero – and it was about impossible to do anything in the quarry – but during the past three days it has warmed up so that to-day I finished up clean – the last bone found being one of which I send a sketch.

This was found in a block that lay under the illium and not over two feet from where the one lay of which I sent a sketch in my last.

The boys thought they had found all there was in these blocks – but I found several by working them up close.

These are singular if foot bones – and I will record them in the “contents of boxes” so you can find them readily. I am going in tomorrow with a load – and again next Monday with the last.

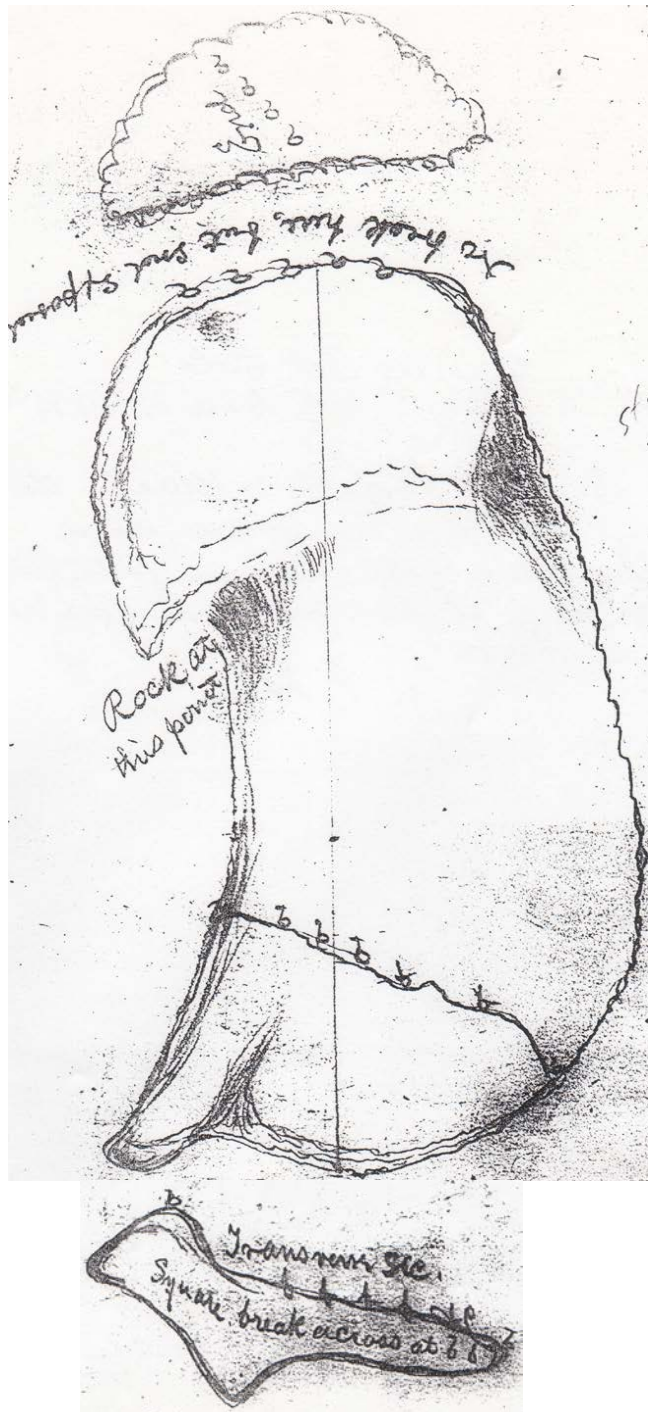
Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.
Dec. 17th, 1885

\$183.45/100

Rec'd of O. C. Marsh the sum of One hundred and Eighty three dollars, and forty five cents, in full for work on fossils for Nov. 1885

M. P. Felch



End a a a
No break here, but end exposed
Rock at this point

Transverse Sec. square break across at b b
Natural size

Felch writes to Marsh that he is enclosing two vouchers, one with lumber not yet purchased and one without. He proposes to use lumber to cover the exposes face and to cover the top exposure with dirt to winter over. He expects to ship all 35 boxes in a few days and then will write up contents to send list.

Canon City, Colo.
Dec. 25th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Enclosed please find statement for Dec.

I have made out two – one including lumber to fix up the quarry safe as I have before explained – that with necessary work is estimated at fifteen dollars.

The second leaves this item out = and as I have not purchased the lumber will not if you do not think best.

You spoke of covering up the exposed bones with Earth – and this I proposed to do on the top surface – but on the perpendicular face of the wall – five feet high in places it will not do even if enough earth could be had conveniently. You can have vouchers for either and if this item for lumber is not included, I will do the best I can with the material on hand.

Westons bill of two dollars was for helping me in town – unload boxes – and weigh them all off before sending to the Qr. Master for Bills of Lading – as no help would be furnished by the freight Agt. to do the weighing.

I also enclose the expense account for the season with the average = nearly = for Nov. & Dec.

I shall expect to receive orders from Maj Belcher by to-morrow or next day to ship the boxes, 35 in all, and then I will go to work writing up on their contents.

Respectfully Yours
M. P. Felch

Felch writes to Marsh that the boxes were sent yesterday. He will get the contents written up and send. He then settles financial accounts and he will let Marsh know about his plans to work or not next year.

Canon City, Colo.
Dec. 27th, 1885

Prof. Marsh
Dear Sir

Yours of the 21st inst. with vouchers and blanks I received today.

The boxes were all loaded on the cars yesterday and are now on the way to New Haven.

I had blanks to send to Maj. Belcher – left over from last year.

The total weight of the 35 boxes is 12,308 [#], considerable more than last year.

Before the boxes arrive there I will have the “contents” written up and some other matters attended too.

I have a few days’ work on the quarry in fixing up things up for the winter to attend to first.

In the statement for Dec. sent in my last the average for Nov. & Dec. amounts to a trifle less than \$150. pr. month, while the vouchers call for 175

The whole amount however should be drawn and the balance applied to making some purchases of things needed before starting in another season = things that I have done without this year, and at times to a serious disadvantage – rather than incur any expense not actually needed, as long as allowances were limited.

I will make out a list and estimate the cost of things needed if I should conclude to work on the quarry longer – of which there is some doubt now - but of this there will be time enough between now and the 1st of Apr. to think about – and the money if drawn to the full amount you can hold and apply where most needed.

Hoping the boxes will all get there safe and in good season I am

Respectfully Yours -
M. P. Felch

Canon City, Colo.

Dec. 31st, 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh

To M. P. Felch Dr.

To work self ½ month	\$37.50
" " Smith 1/3 "	20.00
" " Watts 1/3 "	20.00
" Team for season	24.00
" Paid Eugene Weston	<u>2.00</u>
Total	103.50

Cr.

By bal. due on borrowed money	<u>\$75.00</u>
Due to date	\$28.50

Expense account for 1885

July	\$205.70
Aug.	166.00
Sept.	156.37
Oct.	155.89
Nov.	209.30
Dec.	<u>103.50</u>
	996 76

Or with the item of \$15. = 1011.76

This makes an average for Nov. & Dec but a trifle less than 150. pr. month

Canon City, Colo.

Dec. 31st, 1885

Prof. O. C. Marsh

To M. P. Felch Dr.

To work self 1/2month	\$37.50
" " Smith 1/3 "	20.00
" " Watts 1/3 "	20.00
" Team for season	24.00
" Paid Eugene Weston	2.00
Lumber & nails	<u>15.00</u>
Total	118.50

Cr.

By balance due on borrowed money	<u>\$ 75.00</u>
Due to date	\$ 43.50

Received payment in full,
 M. P. Felch