

Notes contained in Folder 1, Box 21, MS 196, of the Earl Douglas Papers at the Special Collections Division of the Marriott Library, University of Utah at Salt Lake City as to how the Marsh to Felch letters ended up there. Writer unknown.

[Sarah Felch Zimmerman would be Sarah E. "Sadie" Felch. She was a part of the work in the quarry during her childhood and liked by Marsh for the help she gave her father. Note in particular the sketches she provided for a few of the letters. She went east in 1888 and while there visited Marsh. She is the only Felch offspring known to have done so from the letters. The "Francis" of the notes of Douglass is most likely a mistake in first name. Ed.]

Letters of O.C. Marsh to Felch, 1882 to 1891

Mrs. Sarah Felch Zimmerman told me about these letters in one of her visits to the Dinosaur Laboratory on the University of Utah Campus in 1925.

She was the daughter of Mr. Felch.

The Zimmers had lived for some time in a tent on the "Reservation" in the Uinta Basin. A storm came and blew the tent down or blew into the tent. It contained a box in which the letters of Prof. Marsh to Mr. Felch had been stored and preserved. The letters blew out of this box and were scattered. Mrs. Zimmerman picked up and preserved what she could find. When she was here she offered to give these to Mr. Douglas if he cared for them. The offer was gladly accepted as he had wished for a long time to know more about the field operations of Prof. Marsh. He realized the fact that these should be carefully preserved so he offered to have them deposited in the library of the University, if this could be done, subject to the order of disposal of Mrs. Zimmerman and himself.

He took them to his home, read and arranged them and kept them for the purpose of getting the data for the "working up" of the skeleton of the carnivorous dinosaur in the University of Utah, and for the studying and compiling of the other information which they contained. (He is now beginning the work of compiling the data which are of especial interest. (July 21, 1926).

**Transcription of typed notes relating the interview with Francis Felch Zimmerman
by Earl Douglas. The facts are somewhat garbled within the letter and with facts
found elsewhere. Douglas's penciled notes follow the transcription.**

Talk with Mrs. Zimmerman. About October 5, 1925

Met at her daughters

Took few notes but do not remember all.

She said she found first bone in the large quarry in Garden Park north of Canyon City, Colorado. Was about 12 years old.

Met Prof. Williston when she was about 12 years old at Lawrence, Kansas.

He and Prof. Eldredge came to Garden Park at about that time. (They were probably studying up the geology of the country.)

By a canyon stream or waterway something had been found which was supposed to be petrified wood. Uncle Charles said it was not wood but bone. Mr. Felch picked this up.

Williston taught her how to shoot and she became an expert).

There was such a nice spring on Mr. Felch's place—or near—that many people came there.

Mrs. Zimmerman (Miss. Felch) used to go up to Maple cave to show people the cave.

Was always picking up specimens etc.—agates and other things.

Was offered tuition in school—when she was 17 years old she had a collection covering a sideboard 8 feet long. Was offered a years school in—ladies school for it. Was so fond of it would not accept. Would be \$300.

Earlier than this her uncle Charles (Felch) was interested. Of Piermot? N. H.

Someone found perfect vertebra but bleached white.

Miss. Felch went all over hunting agates, gypsum etc.

Miss Felch was first to find bone in what after became the famous Marsh Quarry—No. 1. she did not remember just what bone it was.

Professor Williston was the first who dug there. Miss. Z. 11 or 12 ys. Old.

Miss. Francis Felch born in 1867.

Was 12 years old when first saw Prof. Marsh. He kissed her when he first saw her. Mother somewhat perturbed—or father. (Marsh never married and was supposed to be cold and unaffectionate.

Mrs. Zimmerman II

Evidently two scientists or naturalists met and there was a strong fellow feeling.

If Miss. Z was 12 when Marsh first came it was in 1869. she tells how she set a chair for Prof. Marsh which landed him on the floor. Her mother reproved her severely and she was much mortified herself.

Mr. Felch's letters are in New Haven, and his reports.

Mrs. Grace Colby is sister of Mrs. Zimmerman—her half sister.

No, she is the oldest child of Mrs. Z's half sister.

Mrs. Z had a brother Ned. He found a clam near the quarry and —Quarry No. 1— northwest of the quarry and it was named *Unio Felchi*.

Mr. Felch was in the Civil War. Was hospital steward. Moved to Boston just before war closed.

Met wife—

He crossed the plains (in covered wagon?) and worked in oil well ½ mile from Canyon City several years.

Mrs. Felch crossed plain next year.

Mrs. Z born in log cabin where Union Depot now stands in Denver.

Mr. Felch took homestead in Garden Park. Lived on it. Quarry No. 1 was on his ground. After Prof. Williston Mr. Felch and Mr. Utterback began digging in Quarry first.

Letters of Professor Marsh, Mrs. Francis Felch Zimmerman offered to give to me but I offered to have them deposited in the University of Utah subject to her order and mine, probably as a loan.

Mrs. Francis Felch Zimmerman III

These notes of talks with Mrs. Zimmerman are from memory not notes. All need verifying.

She once visited Prof. Marsh in New Haven and was royally treated. He was not only a collector of fossils but other rare things. Had rugs or carpets, china and pottery, or something of that nature.

Marsh and Red Cloud were great friends.