

Mrs. C. W. Baldwin M
620 Arthur Street
Novato, CA. 94947

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May 2, 1987

Dear Mr. KnifeChief;

Attached is the account of "Discovering Dinosaur Bones in Colorado." by O. W. Lucas. I am the great granddaughter of David Lucas and Louisa Waters Lucas, granddaughter of Aaron Ripley and Lucy Lucas Ripley and great niece of O. W. (Oramel W.) Lucas and Hattie Hitchcock Lucas.

This account, the copy of the newspaper clipping from The Avalanche, the copy of a pencil drawn map, two pictures of dinosaur bones and copies of two postcards from Professor E. Cope to O.W. Lucas are from the personal papers of the only daughter of O. W. Lucas, Miss Ethel Lucas, now deceased.

The picture of Garden Park School, 1891, is from the personal papers of Jasper N. Ripley, my father and youngest child of Aaron and Lucy Ripley.

The copies of postcards from E. P. Cope, dated 1877 seems to indicate that the excavation of bones took place around that date. One card is from Bandero, Texas which is northwest of San Antonio, Texas.

From the account and the messages on the postcards it appears that O. W. Lucas was the first to remove dinosaur bones from that region. Another relative has a record which states that the bones were sent to Marsh and Cope who gave or sold them to the New York Museum of Natural History.

I continue to hold the originals of the copies enclosed.

Sincerely,

Rebecca R. Baldwin
Rebecca R. Baldwin

Local History
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516 Macon Ave.
Cañon City, CO
81212

Discovering Dinosaur Bones in Colorado
(As dictated to his daughter, Ethel by
O. W. Lucas in the 1930's.)

At the end of my sophomore year in Oberlin College my financial condition was pretty low (minus!). I borrowed \$50.00 for a trip to Colorado. Before starting I consulted Prof. A. A. Wright, Prof. of Geology as to the possibility of making up some study and what sort of study in geology I could work out by myself. He said, "Quite impossible without class work." I said, "I'm going to the Rocky Mountains." He said, "By all means take up geology." I had previously written to my father (David Lucas) to secure for me the village school at Canon City, if he could. One member of the school board had a friend he wanted to put into that position so father failed in getting that position for me.

By the time I had arrived home schools in neighborhood had most of them engaged teachers. The school in Garden Park, 9 or 10 miles north of Canon City, where my sister Lucy (Ripley) and her family lived was not engaged so they employed me for the six months school - a small school.

While engaged in teaching this school I occasionally went into the hills hunting deer. One day, toward night - one Saturday - a couple of miles from my boarding place I had a shot at a deer. The deer ran off. I could find neither hide nor hair of him!

Disappointed, I wended my way back over the ridge to my sister's where I spent my holidays. Passing over the ridge of hills homeward I picked up a piece of rock, about three inches long and as wide as my hand, the shape of a cross section of a fish. Upon examining it closely I found there were fine white streaks running lengthwise. I at once decided that it must be petrified bone instead of a fish.

Looking around in the vicinity I noticed a little hump of dirt, 3 or 4 inches above the level of the ground. Taking a stick, I poked the dirt away and found a petrified bone 5 or 6 inches in diameter at the smallest place and 3 feet long. Greatly surprised, as I had never seen a petrified bone, I covered it up very carefully waiting an opportunity to take it out.

My first opportunity, I dug it out and carried it down to my boarding place. I had to make two trips as it was more than I could carry in one load.

The next Saturday I investigated the neighborhood, looking around in the vicinity, and came upon a bed of petrified bones with numerous pieces scattered around.

From this bed I eventually took out a femur bone 6 feet long and about 10 inches in diameter in the smallest place and a shoulder blade $5\frac{1}{2}$ feet long and 3 feet wide at the widest place and quite a number of vertebra, joints of the back and the tail and pieces of ribs.

I wrote to Prof. Wright of Oberlin telling him of my find. He wrote back deploring the lack of funds in that department of Oberlin College and greatly regretting that they could not secure the bones. He referred me to Prof. E. D. Cope of Philadelphia and Prof. Marsh of Yale. Prof. Cope replied to my letter saying that he was very desirous of getting the fossils. He made me an offer to pay me well for the time I required in taking them out.

When I finished my school I devoted most of my time to digging out the fossils. I made a camp at the foot of the hill near the creek.

I had a tent. First camp by creek meant coming down hill to the creek for water. After, changed camp had to carry water about a quarter of mile uphill.

The main reason I changed camp was that a man named Weston built a little shack, out of sight under a hill where I was working, where no one would see it but on the corner of the quarter section where I was working. He went down to Pueblo and filed on it. At the time I had dug out quite a number of bones. Weston came to see me and offered to sell part of his claim. So I went to a Canon City lawyer who said that Weston had forfeited his claim by offering to sell before he had proved up on it. So Weston gave up his claim. So I filed a claim and lived on it.

The first tent was a wagon cover and not too large. So I lived there and went down to the creek about $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile for water. I hired two men who had been working on the railroad in Canon City. They came up just after noon. I had dinner for them - beans and bread I had baked. One of them said, "beans again! always had them on the railroad," but said never had eaten more delicious beans than I had baked.

At the foot of hill - a bluff shaped up high with strata of red rock-- winds, water, rain had washed the red rock into shapes of bottles so I called them bottle rocks. On top of bluff, below my diggings towards town, white rocks were called Castle Rock - about 50 feet high. That same ledge of rock ran on down the west side to mouth of canyon of 4 Mile Creek which flowed through Garden Park and emptied into the Arkansas River, four miles below Canon City - came down from the north.

Road from Canon City to Garden Park went up canyon along 4 Mile Creek -- crossed creek 6 or 8 times. West side of creek - long line of hills (500 feet high), east side of creek sloped up to high mountains - one of numerous ridges

Discovering Dinosaur Bones

which came out of Pike's Peak. My camp was on west side of Garden Park at foot of hills. Lucy's home on east side of creek - a half or three quarters of a mile east of camp. My camp at foot of ridge on which I found the bones. Creek was $\frac{1}{4}$ mile below camp. After filing on the land I had to build so I built a log cabin about 8 X 10 feet up on bluff where the bones were. I lived in the cabin and had to go down to the creek for water. I hunted around the hills on Saturdays and holidays looking for bones. Before school was out I was appointed County Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Cooper who lived in neighborhood and was one of the County Supervisors recommended me for the position. Fremont County was divided so the old superintendent remained in the part of the county which was given a new name. I was appointed Superintendent of Fremont County. The part of the county cut off was called West Mt. Valley and was a great place for grass, hay and stock. When School closed I put up my tent and started work.

After vacation, as County Superintendent I visited schools and at proper times gave examinations for teachers. I didn't receive a regular salary but sent in a bill for time and expenses.

I continued working with bones until I returned to Oberlin. My brother, Ira (Lucas) worked for me for a time then I turned it all over to him when I returned to Oberlin.

A second place was found a short distance into the hills from the first location where the bones were found. Aaron (Ripley), Lucy's husband, found a bed of bones about a mile farther up the creek. This was a different species of animal. These bones of which there was not a large quantity were sent to Prof. Cope.

Professor Cope named the first bones which I took out *Camerasaurus Supremus* - a new specimen at the time. I later found out that at about the same time I found the bones a Professor Owens of England reported bones found on the Isle of Man between England and Ireland.

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