

Transcribed at the Garden Park Paleontology Society's Dinosaur Depot Museum, Cañon City, Colorado.
Original material housed at the Marriott Library, Special Collections Division; University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Marsh writes to Felch that the connection has been made on Sk. 11. Felch is to keep remaining pieces free from frost.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey

~~Washington,~~ New Haven

Jan 15th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

I have been absent for the last ten days, and find yours of the 1st here on my return.

I enclose check as usual, and will write again soon. We are getting on well with Sk. 11, having made the connection all right. Keep all pieces till spring where frost cannot hurt them.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he needs a sketch of how the groups were in the quarry, especially in relation to Sk. 11. He can only lay out a section at a time and needs an overall idea to complete the plates for his volume.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological Survey
~~Washington, D. C.~~, New Haven

Jan 19th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

We are working on Sk 11, but as we have only room to lay out one point at a time we find some trouble.

What we seem to need is an outline sketch of how the groups lie, and about how the beast Sk 11 runs through them. We have got all right down to the base of the tail, (from the head) but we need some rough guide sketch to show how the tail itself goes on and where the rest of the femur and adjoining hind leg has gone to. We shall make it all out later, when we unpack all the boxes, but I am very anxious to get out the tail and one hind leg as soon as possible, as every hour is precious in making plates for the Volume. Help us if you can.

Yours in haste
OCM.

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is sorry to learn that he has been ill. They have the Sk. 11 blocks laid out now and will begin to expose the bone. More boxes have arrived safely.

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

Feb 4th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

I was sorry to learn from your daughter that you are not well, and hope you are now all right.

We have got most of Sk 11. together, and hope soon to cut it out so that we can see it.

The 31 boxes came in good order.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he has made room to lay much more of the blocks out and that Felch's diagram helped. He hopes to find a hind foot and to get the position of the plates and spines.

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

Feb 10th, 1887

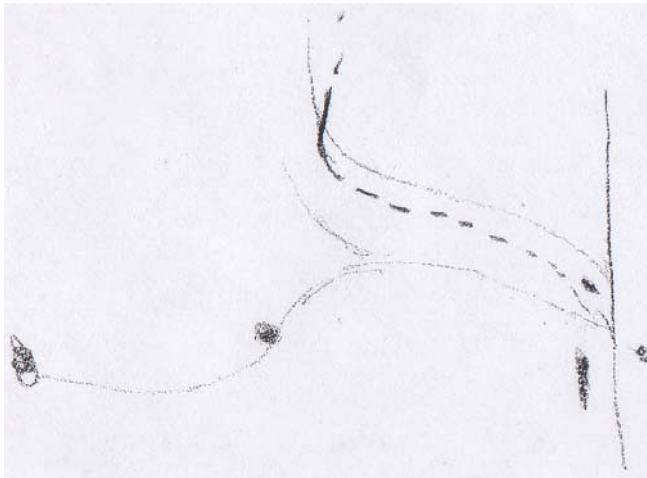
Dear Mr. Felch,

Your letter and diagram helped us out, and we have all together now but Gr. 20. I made room at last for it all.

I am very anxious to find the hind feet (or one of them), and also to get the position of the plates and spines, and hope all will come clear when we have cut out the tail, and what is near it.

Hoping you will soon be better.

I remain
Yours Truly,
O. C. Marsh



[ed. This sketch appears on the back of the letter. There is no apparent connection to the letter and may be Felch doing a quick map for someone or a loose quarry sketch as a preliminary to locating the bones for Marsh.]

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is sorry to hear that things are going badly for Felch personally and that he hopes he is soon better. He sends the March payment early.

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

March 10th 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

I was very sorry to hear from your last letter how unfortunate you have been, and I wish it was in my power to make it all up to you. I will do all I can now, and perhaps may be able to do more later when I see how my accounts for the year come out.

I enclose a check for \$75. for the month of March, which you may use any time after the date of it, and in the mean time send me the vouchers for it.

I hope your health will soon be better, and that when the flowers bloom in the Spring you will be yourself again.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is sorry to hear is still ill and outlines alternate plans for beginning work in the quarry as Felch becomes able.

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

March 25, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours with vouchers has just come to hand.

I regret extremely to learn of your ill health, and hope the warm weather will soon make you well again.

About work I can only say now that you may begin as soon as you are able. If you can start in April 1st, as before, I will allow \$150. as last year. If you think May 1st would be better, all around, to begin, regular work. I will allow you \$75. for April as I did for March, and \$150 from May 1st on.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he wants the remaining parts of the skeletons he has started on, and a possible carnivore skull. This is preferable to prospecting new ground. He thanks Mrs. Felch for some sunflower seeds.

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

Apr 15th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of the 10th inst. about working the quarry is at hand.

I can only say now that I am anxious to get the remaining parts of the skeletons now partly out, rather than to strike new ones. You better save everything as you go, for the present.

I hope the East end will prove rich, and as the bank is low there, I would keep in that region rather than prospect over new territory.

I believe you think the skull of that big Carnivore is in the bank further west. What are the chances of finding that by digging? I want another Carnivore skull very much.

We find more and more Carnivore bones mixed with Sk 11, but have not yet got onto the latter half of the tail.

Please thank Mrs. Felch for those sunflower seeds. I shall plant them on my place.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that they can not find more of the Sk. 11 tail after the break. They are finding Morosaurus, part of a carnivore skull instead and various other things.

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

Apr 27th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Enclosed find voucher for April, which return soon.

We cannot get on to the Sk 11. (Stegosaurus) after the break in the tail, but find instead bones of a Morosaurus, part of Carnivore skull (in Gr. 20) and various other things.

We can find nothing resembling spines or small tail vertebrae. Where have they gone?

I want another Carnivore skull very much, so look out for one.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that they still have no more spines or vertebrae of Sk. 11 in block 20, and fears they are lost.

Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey
Washington,

May 12th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Enclosed find check for April, which please acknowledge.

We can find no more vertebrae or spines of Sk 11 in 20, and I fear we have lost them.

Hope you are having good luck.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

Marsh writes to Felch that he needs clarification on two points concerning a possible Diplodocus hind foot. He asks the weight of this, as he may want it by Express. He sends an oath (United States Geological Survey) which Felch needs to swear before any U. S. official with a seal.

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

May 18th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Your letter about the hind foot of Diplodocus? interested me very much, and I hope you can make sure on one or two points.

(1) the number of joints in each toe between the metatarsals and claws. You say there is only one, but yet you find 18 bones in the foot.

(2) the exact form of the claws (or bones representing them) on the 4th and 5th toes.

Both these points are of great importance.

If the foot had not been so large, the best thing would have been to try to keep all in position, with plaster etc. Even if it broke up in coming, we could get ~~get~~ the pieces together. I have 50 feet of Dinosaurs in pieces, but only imperfect ones still in the matrix. Of all the feet from your wonderful quarry I have not one with more than two thirds of the bones except of that big carnivore, of which both hind feet are nearly perfect.

How much would the present foot weigh? I may want it sent on by Express. Please keep it sacredly by itself, and while it is fresh in your mind, make diagrams and mark each bone so that we can get it together again here, as I may want to figure it as it lay.

I enclose a blank oath which all on the Geolog. Survey are expected to take as a matter of form. You can swear it before any U.S. officer who has a seal, and return it soon as convenient.

Hoping you will soon strike another foot.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is very interested in the hind foot. He has also found one metatarsal of Sk. 11 at New Haven.

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

May 22, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

I enclose voucher for May to save time. I will perhaps telegraph on receipt of your letter about that hind foot, which interests me much.

We have found one metatarsal of Sk. 11, and hope more may be near.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

Marsh writes to Felch that he thinks, from Felch's notes and sketch, that all of the hind foot is there and wants it at once. The rest of the material should be boxed and sent when he reaches the wall and he can then put on a man to remove more overburden.

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

May 27th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of 22nd with diagram is at hand. I think you have all of that big foot, but am not yet quite sure how the bones go on some of the toes. We can probably make it all out when we get them before us here, with aid of your full notes and sketches.

About the work at Qu. 1, I think you better box up and send on all the material on hand when you get up to the wall. We need the foot at once, and the other bones may help us out.

After July 1st you may put on another man for stripping, but I must keep expenses as low as possible till that time. I fear I shall have run considerably (over) as it is.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

P.S.

You may box, as before, with numbers 1, 2, 3 etc. and continue the numbers in your second shipment next fall. Put on each box U. S. G. S. (not Yale College) and send through the Quartermaster Dept. whenever ready.

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is very glad they have found spines. The sketched vertebrae must be Allosaurus, look out for the fore feet and skull.

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

June 12th, 1887,

Dear Mr. Felch,

Enclosed find check for May.

Am very glad you have found those spines in pairs, and hope they will keep in position till they get here.

The vertebrae sketched must be Allosaurus, or a nearly allied Carnivore. Look out for the fore feet and skull. Both become important now we know Ceratosaurus.

You may get that extra man at once, as you suggest, and arrange pay as proposed. Cant you get a shed or tent over the quarry during the great heat of Summer. It was very hot even in Sept. I remember.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that government funds have run out but he is paying out of his own funds. More boxes have arrived.

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

July 17th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

I enclose a check for \$150. as I know you need the money. The Govt funds ran out, and I have to pay this out of my own pocket.

The boxes came in good order. That foot is not quite complete, I fear.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch asking if there are any more phalanges and asks him not to use ? on the bones.

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

July 21, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Enclosed find voucher for July, which return soon.

Of that foot I can find no phalanges exceeding 3 to each toe, and not that. Some must be missing. Are you sure none others however small lay near?

Don't try *verinition* on bones. We cant get it off our fingers.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he needs to move whatever bills possible to July due to fiscal year problems, "the govt ran out of money".

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

July 30th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch

Yours with vouchers rec^d today.

The Govt money ran out for the month of June, as end of the fiscal year. July funds are all right and so for the rest of the season, so please put all you can over July 1, and push on the work.

I had to pay all June bills, and accounts out of my own pockets, but for July I shall have the U. S. behind me.

Yours in haste
OCM

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Marsh writes to Felch that he has enclosed the check.

Yale College Museum, New Haven, Conn.

Aug. 16th 1887

Dear Mr. Felch

Enclosed find check as requested

Will write again soon.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he has received the diagram and is glad he is in a good area again. Marsh hopes for the big carnivore head soon.

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

New Haven, Conn.,

Sept 9th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of the 4th with diagrams has just come to hand, and I am glad to know you are once again among the good bones.

I am quite sure the vouchers for Aug were sent to you, but as they have not turned up I enclose duplicates which return soon.

I enclose a small check as you may need some funds.

Hope you will get that big Carnivore head soon.

In haste

Yours Truly

O. C. Marsh

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Marsh states that he will look up a letter of last summer and arrange matters.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological Survey
~~Washington, D. C.~~, New Haven Ct.

Sept 19th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours with vouchers is at hand. Enclosed find check for \$100. as requested.

Will look up your letter sent last summer, and arrange matters. Have been away for some time.

Glad you are having such good luck.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he has sent vouchers and hopes the good luck continues.

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

Oct 6th, 1887.

Dear Mr. Felch,

I enclose voucher for Sept. as you requested.

I have been away or I should have sent them before.

Hope your luck continues

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he has been gone, encloses a check and will settle accounts when he closes work. Luck is running out.

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

New Haven, Conn.,

Oct. 28th, 1887,

Dear Mr. Felch,

I have been away so much of late, and so overwhelmed with work that I have not had time to go over your late letters to see just how our account stands. I send a check now as you request, and when you close work we will arrange matters for the season.

I am very sorry you have had bad luck with the old quarry, but think next season will bring some good skulls.

Yours Very Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is sorry the quarry seems to be petering out and hopes for more luck.

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

New Haven, Conn.,

Nov 5th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Enclosed find vouchers for Oct. which please return soon. I hope you have by this time found something better as those waterworn bones can be of little value.

I shall be very sorry if Quarry 1 has really petered out as I wanted another Carnivore skull from there very much

How about the West end where you left part of a skeleton?

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is to send the fossils 4th class freight. He mentions the bird tracks as possibly important. He thinks they may be dinosaur and Felch had better not say much about them.

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

New Haven, Conn.,

Nov 19th, 1887

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of the 14th is at hand. I enclose check for \$150. and will send balance when you close work.

I also send envelopes etc. as you request.

Be sure and have fossils go as 4th class freight.

I am much interested in those "Bird tracks" you describe, and wish you had secured one or two, with one of the larger tracks. The latter cannot be Mammalian if the beds are Cretaceous. Better not say much about them as they may be important.

I should think the large tracks as well as the small ones were made by Dinosaurs.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh

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Marsh writes to Felch that he is working on Jurassic dinosaurs from just outside of Washington, D. C.

Department of the Interior, U. S. Geological survey
~~Washington, D. C.~~, New Haven

Dec 26, 1887,

Dear Mr. Felch,

Yours of the 19th came today. I was waiting to know whole amount due before sending vouchers.

These I now send as you suggest for two months, to cover the amount due you, as per account sent.

I am hard at work on a new lot of Jurassic Dinosaurs from just outside Washington D. C. They have been lying around loose there for ages, while the "fireside geologists" there have been busy asserting that the beds contain nothing. Will send you my paper soon. One of the Sauropoda is only about 12 ft long.

I enclose check for one hundred dollars as you may need it.

Yours Truly
O. C. Marsh