Fort Ellett, Texas
22nd Sept. 1884

To Prof. Spencer F. Baird,
Sec. Smithsonian Institution,
Washington D. C.

Dear Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from you dated the 6th inst. I have delayed a reply hoping that some further and more definite information would suggest itself; but am sorry to report that for the present at least I can not give more information than you speak of in your letter to the Surgeon General I contemplate sending the matter to the Museum - I am alone as medical officer on this post and the Ranch is 75 miles.
away. It would take if the work is to be
done by Army Transportation Engineers
men at least a footlong to go there
and excavate a skeleton and bring it safely
here for shipment to Washington. It would
then very likely be a long time en route.

Mr. Goodnight whose ranch contains
petrified property known as Palo Duro
Canyon states to Dr. G. W. Boynton, who
is my informant, that in his opinion there
were at least 45 of these skeletons in
the Palo Duro Canyon. The probable cause
or cause of them being there and to what race of
extinct mammal animals they belong
would require an expert to find out.

The remains which Dr. Boynton showed me
were a molar tooth of an herbivorous
creature of great size with the head of a rhinoceros
presumably of the same animal. If all
these I thought I might be able to procure similar
specimens and forward them to Washington but
I think you might appreciate that only by
a special order from Mr. you could send
me to procure an entire skeleton.
On Inquiring I have heard of a man named Mr. Parks (I believe) who lives 50
miles from here & who tells considerable interest in archaeological matters of all
sorts, I will send you letter to him to
guess that he forward to you any know-
ledge he may possess that will be of
relevance. As to Indian mounds and relics
I am not aware of their existence near
us. Probably Mr. Parks will write you
on this head. I will address Mr. Parks thru Dr. Ayres.

I hear that about 200 miles to the N. E.
A few buffalos can still be captured. Have
not seen any large wolves in our neighbor-
hood but should suppose that a good
specimen & be procured this way wherein
buffalos exist. Probably much nearer.
It is currently reported here that buf-
falos can be quite readily shot in Wyom-
ing or other northern territories

If the Smithsonian should desire to
send one of their agents to look into any of these
questions it would give us great pleasure.
to and as much as we might be able to. I have the honor of a slight acquaintance with Prof. Stevenson, who used to visit him ago, and look forward to meeting him again sometime with anticipations of pleasure.

I regret, sir, that it does not seem practicable for me to do something more tangible in the matter you speak of. But hope that your good will will be taken for granted.

Very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
R. E. Newton.