U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.
7062 G. R. OCT 4 1884

Fort Elliott Texas
22d Sept 1884.

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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 way of, at least acquiring some further and more definite information would suggest itself: but am sorry to report that for the present at least I can not more in the matters you speak of. In my letter to the Surgeon General I contemplated receiving an order as having some other officer ordered to the Goodnights Ranche to investigate the question of the fossil remains & secure if practicable a complete skeleton for the Army Med. Museum — I am alone as medical officer in this post and the Ranche is 75 miles

away. It would take if the work, is to be done by army transportation & enlisted men at least a fortnight to go there & excavate a skeleton & bring it safely here for shipment to Washington. It would then very likely be a long time en route.

Mr Goodnight whose ranche I hear comprises certain property known as Palo Duro Cañon stated to Dr G. M. Boynton, who is my informant, that in his opinion there were at least 75 of these skeletons in the Palo Duro Cañon. The probable cause of them being there and to what race or races of extinct mammoth animals they belong would require an expert to find out.

The remains that Dr Boynton showed me were a molar tooth of a herbivorous creature of great size & the head of the humerus (?) presumably of the same animal — If desired I might be able to procure similar specimens & forward them to Washington but I think you will appreciate that only by a special order from Hd. Qrs could I undertake to procure an entire skeleton

On enquiring I have heard of a man named Marks (I believe) who lives 50 miles from here & who takes considerable interest in archeological matters of all sorts, I will send yr. letter to him & request that he forward to you any knowledge he may possess that will be of service. — As to Indian mounds and relics I am not aware of their existence near us. Probably Mr Marks will write you on this head. — I will address Mr. Marks thro. Dr. G. A. Jessop.

I hear that about 200 mls. to the N. E. a few buffalo can still be captured. I have not seen any large wolves in our neighborhood but should suppose that a good specimen cd. be procured easily wherever buffalo exist & probably much nearer.

It is currently reported here that buffalo can be quite readily shot in Wyoming 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

* Numerous buffalo skulls are to be found on all sides of this place.

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 New Mexico, & 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 matters you speak of but hope that my good will will be taken for granted.

Very respectfully
your obedt. servant
R. C. Newton.
A. Surg. U.S. Army