

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Washington D.C. Mar 10, 1891.

Prof. O. G. Marsh,
Dear Sir:

Will you kindly advise me
regarding the following queries?

① Should the Niobrara (Loup Fork) group be
classified as Miocene or Pliocene?

② Should the White River group be regarded as
Oligocene?

③ I fail to find who first used the terms
"John Day group" (not John Day basin), also
"Equus beds". Can you cite me the passages
where these terms were first used?

Yours very sincerely

Gilbert D. Harris.

(Copy)

New Haven, Conn., March 11, 1891.

Gilbert D. Harris.

Dear Sir: -

In reply to your letter of March 10, I will try to answer your inquiries in the order you give them.

1. The Loup Fork, or Niobrara Group, should be classified as Pliocene, and not Miocene.

2. The White River ^{group} should be regarded as Miocene, and not Oligocene.

3. I think there is no doubt whatever that I first defined the ^{Equus} beds, and gave them that name. In the Am. Jour. Sci. vol. xiv. p. 355, Nov., 1877, in speaking of the Pliocene, I stated "The upper ^{beds} may be distinguished from the lower by the presence of a true Equus." This is from my Nashville address, ^(August 1877) and in the author's edition of this address, which was issued soon after it was delivered, I used as a frontispiece a geological section with the names of the different horizons attached. Here you will find the name "Equus beds." You will find the same plate in the Am. Jour. Sci. for November, 1878, Plate IV.

In defining the John Day Group, I find on referring to the Am. Jour. Sci. vol. ix. p. 52, January, 1875, that I used the term John Day basin. As the basin was a new and distinct one, as I proved by the fossils I found, this is, of course, equivalent to giving the same name to the group. I afterward used the term Michippus beds (see Plate above referred to) for

(over)

the same horizon, so as to make it correspond more nearly with the other names I had applied.

I think this will clear the points you mention. If not, let me know, and I will gladly try to help you again.

Yours, very truly,

[O. C. Marsh]

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