

Ordinance Depot
 Cheyenne Wy. Terr.
 Feb. 19th 1872

Prof. O. C. Marsh
 Yale College
 New Haven Conn.

Dear Sir

I am still holding the Fossil Mosasaurus for you, but as I expect to be ordered from this station soon please advise me what to do with it.

I am Sir

Very Respectfully

Yours Pat. Swift

A. L. Ramsey
 S. J. Ford

U.S. Ordnance Depot
Cheyenne W. T.
March 21st 1872

Prof. O. C. Marsh.
Yale College
New Haven Conn.

Dear Sir

Your note of the 14th inst. with package of pamphlets has just been received - Please accept my thanks for the favor. The fossil will be boxed today and shipped as directed - It was discovered in what I suppose to be Cretaceous sand rock in a ravine about 150 yds from the northern bank of Crow creek in the outer ridge of the Black Hills - About 18 miles from Col. Reynolds' Depot. The spot can be easily found by following up the creek to the Mts. - to where it flows out under a cliff of lime rock - At the southern extremity of the cliff a ravine runs in south westerly direction to the bank of the creek - Immediately under this end of the cliff - is an outcrop of granite (or gray gneiss probably) and south of the ravine

appear the strata of fossiliferous sand rock standing nearly on edge - slightly inclined away from the Mt. Between the strata of sand rock are very thick beds of black slaty rock resembling coal shale, and containing large nodules of kidney iron ore - Passing down the ravine to its junction with another small one near the bottom of the creek valley and turning up the Southern fork a few Yds you will see the spot where the Mosasaur was discovered - right in the face of the sand rock, ~~standing~~ ^{standing} nearly on edge and forming the Southern bank of the ravine -

As the rock is very soft and friable I have not doubt a large portion of the fossil has weathered out and been swept down the ravine by the water collected here from rain melted snow &c.

More of it could be found in all probability by digging in the drift - If you ever wish to visit the spot while Col. Reynolds is here he can take you to the identical place in two hours - I am to leave this post for Leavenworth Arsenal Kas. next ^{week} and being anxious to leave my pet in the hands of some one

who would be interested in it I wrote you the note to which you refer - I hope you will find this specimen peculiarly interesting and instructive - After you have examined it I would think to give me your opinion of it, its name, size, geological age and prominent characteristics - &c.

If you visit the Plains the evening summer and make it convenient to pass through Leavenworth I should be happy to see you at my house at the Arsenal -

Col. Reynolds sends thanks for your kind remembrance and wishes me to say something kind and complimentary for him -

I send you the sentiment without putting it in words -

Very truly

Your obedient servant

A. S. Varney

Lt. of Ord. U.S.A.