

Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Catlin - Deming

Section 9, Pages 241 - 270

A series of research correspondence from the Robert Taft collection relating to frontier artists. Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry and author on the subjects of photography and art. The artists included here are George Catlin, Henry Caylor, Carl Christian Anton Christensen, Samuel Colman, Vincent Colyer, George Victor Cooper, Eanger Irving Couse, H. F. Cox, Charles Craig, Henry H. Cross, Edwin A. Curley, Frank H. Cushing, Felix Octavius Carr Darley, Theodore R. Davis, Charles Deas, and Edwin W. Deming.

Date: 1930-1955

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Theodore R. Davis

Sketches for Harper.- The Denver News says:- "Mr. Davis has shown us some of his sketches of his fights with the 'treated' Indians on the Smoky Hill, which he has prepared for Harper's Weekly. They are very fine, and we predict will be the best advertisement for Colorado and the 'Friendlies' that has ever been published. Mr. Davis will remain in Colorado for some time, and will make a series of sketches of matters of interest here for Harper's. There will be no better time for Coloradans to subscribe for that excellent pictorial, as the coming volume will contain many matters of interest to all of us. Mr. Davis is a talented artist and racy writer, and will do a great deal to bring our young State into notice.

Central City Daily Miners' Register. Dec.13, 1865 p.3

We were highly gratified to receive a call from Mr. T. R. Davis, War Artist of the Army of the Potomac, and a Mr. Hasbrouck, his traveling companion. Both are very agreeable and companionable gentlemen, whose further acquaintance we shall be glad to cultivate. They were on the scene of action of the later Indian attack on the Butterfield line, and participated with Mr. Collier in the fight which ensued. Mr. Davis comes to Colorado as Special Artist for Harper's Weekly, and will make many curious and many interesting sketches of life among the mines, as well as of the mines themselves. Again we welcome you, gentlemen. Call whenever it suits your convenience; our latch string is always out, to you.

Central City Daily Miners' Register. Dec.15,1865 p.3

Our sanctum was favored yesterday in an unusual degree by the influx of a corps of distinguished and agreeable gentlemen, Messrs. Davis and Hasbrouck; (the latter on being addressed by us as General, ignored the title in toto, declaring at the same time that he never had but one title- that of Judge, which he assumed from the fact that he once ran for Justice of the Peace, and was ignominiously defeated for that elevated position, and he has ever since preferred the ever honorable prefix of Mr.;) John A. Nye, a noted resident of Denver, the United States and the Apex road, a facetious individual who presists(sic) in being the happiest creature alive; Gen. Brewster, by the way a very handsome man, of charmingly agreeable conversational powers and presence; Judge Holly, our District Judge, and others, lesser lights; to whom, taken altogether, we are indebted for the pleasure of a happy morning session. We reiterate our assertion of yesterday about the "latch string." Pull it, gentlemen, and walk in, often.

Central City Daily Miners' Register Dec.16, 1865 p.3

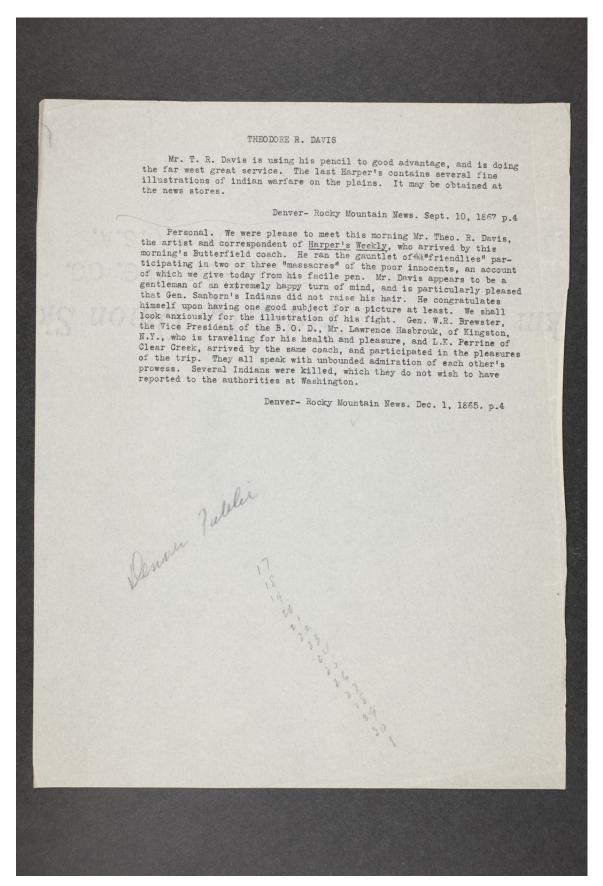
Yesterday Gen. Brewster and party visited Black Hawk. They were accompanied by Messrs. C.W. Morse and Wm. Morrow. The party were much pleased with the works of the Mammoth Company, where they were kindly received and shown around by Mr. N.S. Keith.

They next proceeded to the smelting works of J.E. Lyon & Co., where they were received by Mr. Lyon, who accompanied them through his extensive establishment, giving simple and satisfactory explanations of the working of the "Lyon's Process."

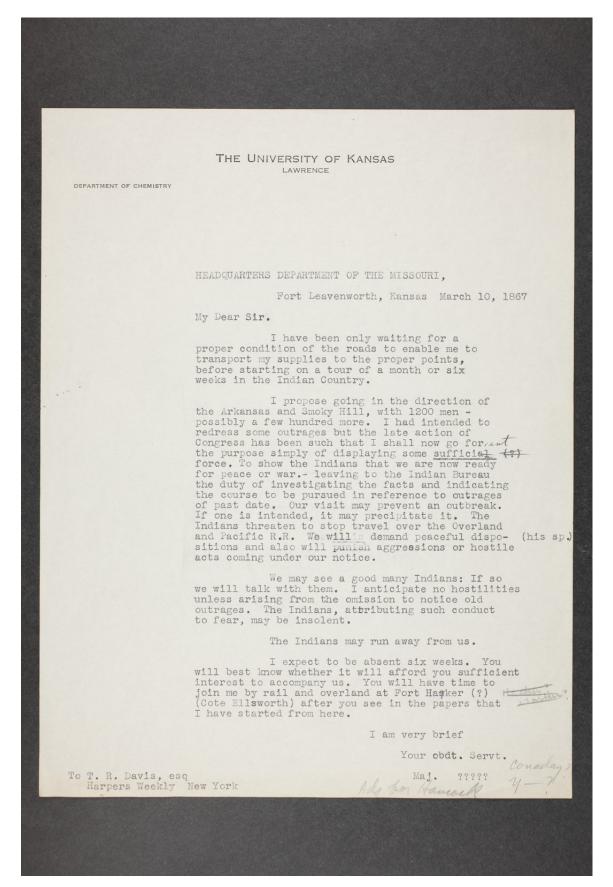
"Our Artist" was on the spot, and secured sketches of the points of interest for Harper's.

Central City Daily Miners' Register. Dec. 19, 1865 p.3 c.1



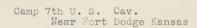








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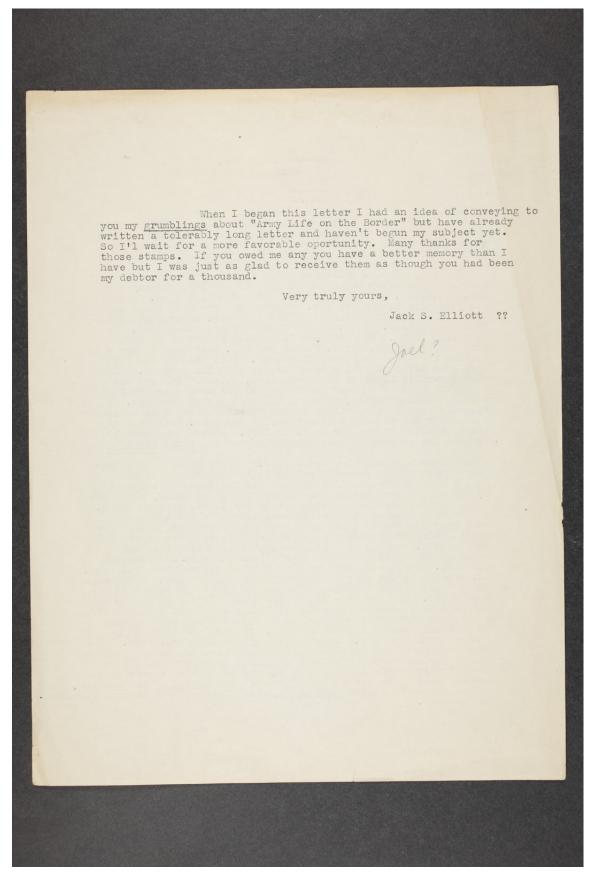
October 31st, 1868

My dear Davis
Yours of Sept. 21st. reached me a short time ago.
I fear I can give you but little satisfaction in most of your
querries but will answer as much because I feel out of humor
and so am fit for nothing but writing as from any other cause.

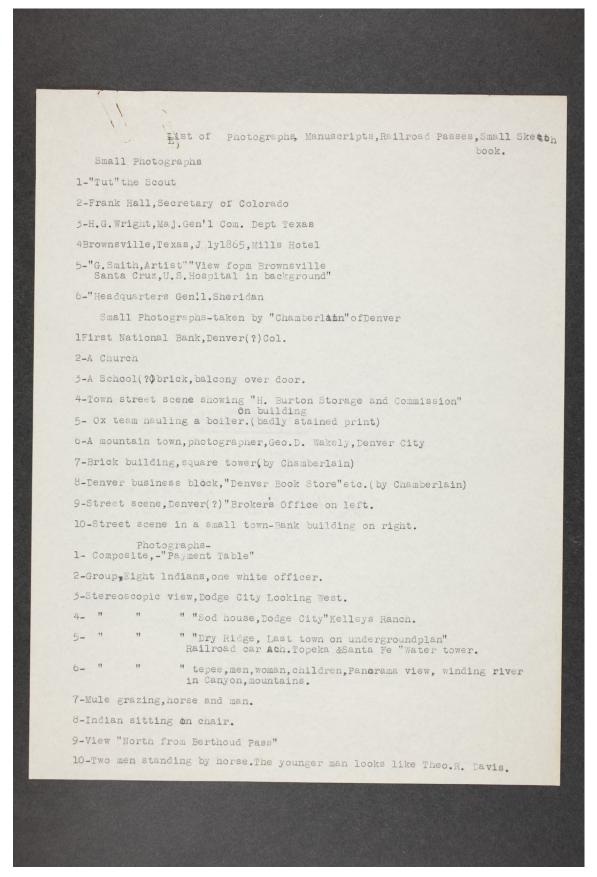
A grand winter campaign is being planned. Our column of the seven companies of the 5th cavalry, commanded by Bat. Maj. Genl. Sears, and to go south from Fort Lyon. One of ten companies of the 7th cav. to go south from Fort Dodge and one of five or six companies of the 10th cav. under Capt. Byrne from Fort Larned. Genl. Custer is to command our column. He is already here. The regiment is in much better shape than I ever saw it before. Genl. Custer and Col. West seem to agree in letting the "Dead past bury its dead". Both the 5th and 10th have been having a little brush or two with the Indians. These with Forsyth!s fight on the Republican, which by the way was about the best thing that has been done for some years in the way of Indian fighting, make all the real war we have had. I recently read a long article in the "Herald" from some scribbler who was trying to make some reputation for Genly. Sully out of his expedition to the Canadians in Sept. I have the honor to command the cavalry on that expedition and if it was fighting

then Indian Wars must be a huge joke. (Don't allow this to become public if you please for "Old Sully" is an amiable old fellow and I would not like to hurt his feelings) I see some of the papers are pittying the "Poor Indian" as usual, while the Feace Commissioners are making heroes and saints of them again. I only wish some of the most enthusiastic of their admirers both male and female could have been the recipients of the "Noble Reds" kindnesses instead of the unfortunate settlers on the Saline and Solomon. One of the women brought into Fort Harker was ravished by twenty three of the villians and then shot through the body. Strange to say she bids fair to recover from all this. Ed. Wynccop is out in a letter defending the Indians. If he were not so insignificant I would like to see him "Touched up" in good style. Comstock was one of the first victims to the savages. He ans a Scout named Grover had visited the camp of "Black Kettle" a Cheyenne Chief then supposed to be friendly and were leaving it when they were followed and shot. Grover feigned death and escaped with his life. Comstock was killed the first fire. From some cause the Indians did not scalp him. He is the only one of our Scouts who have been killed to my knowledge. Under present circumstances I think my chances of getting coyote skins are at least no better than they are of being eaten by the coyotes. We are in the field and meen light, which latter means as uncomfortable as possible.





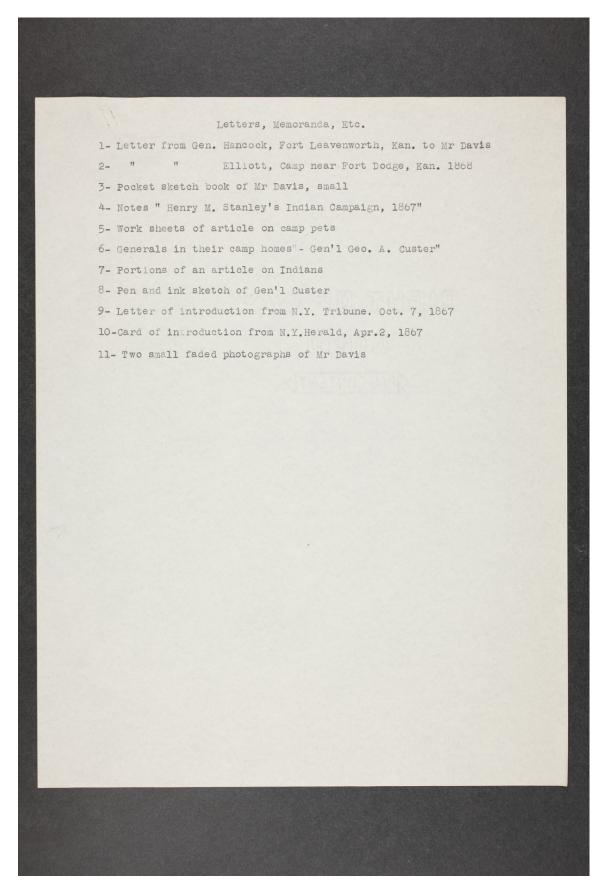




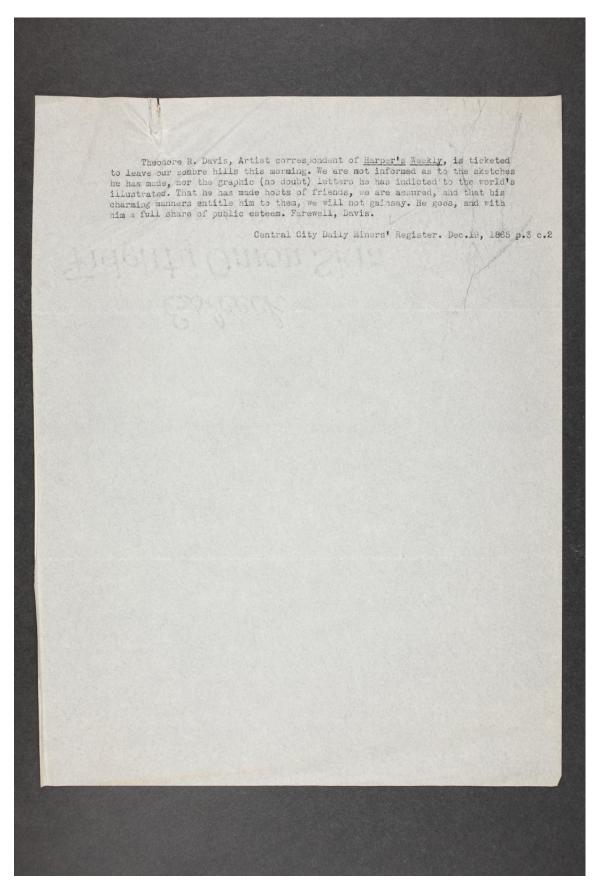


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11- Stereoscopic view- Horseman, mountain background
12- Central City, Colorado Territory
13- Bridge crossing river, village in the background (size 10 in x 14 in)
14- Tent, six men and photographic outfit
15- Cookstove, mess table, supply wagon
16- Camp by a river, men, wagons, tents
17- Camping party approaching river
18- Meandering river, distant camp, two men and a dog
19- View of camp, tents, men, covered wagons, prarie dog house
20- Horse drawn litter, woman, four men
21- Small camp on river bottom, man left foreground
22- Five tents, buffalo skulls in foreground, house
23- Small camp among trees
24- View of distant town on plain, mountain in background
25- View of butte, man in background
26- Meandering river, wide valley, distant mountains
27- Man in wagon in foreground, town in a valley in middledistance
28- Mountains in background, river in foreground
29- Meandering river, terraces, distant mountains
30- Railroad Passes
1- Chicago & Alton, Jan. 24, 1867
2- Union Pacific Railway E.D., 1867
3- St Louis Transfer Co., Dec. 31, 1867
4- Great Western Railway Co. No 34, 1866
5- Ohio and Mississippi Railroad Line Oct. 24, 1867, Cin. O to E. St. Louis ditto E. St Louis to cin. O.
6- Pacific Railroad, St Louis to Jefferson City
7- S.O.M.Co (Stage Coach Pass)

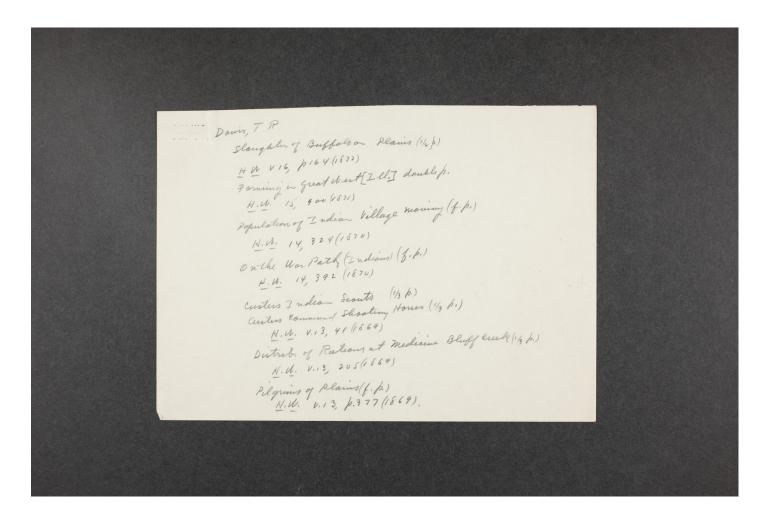




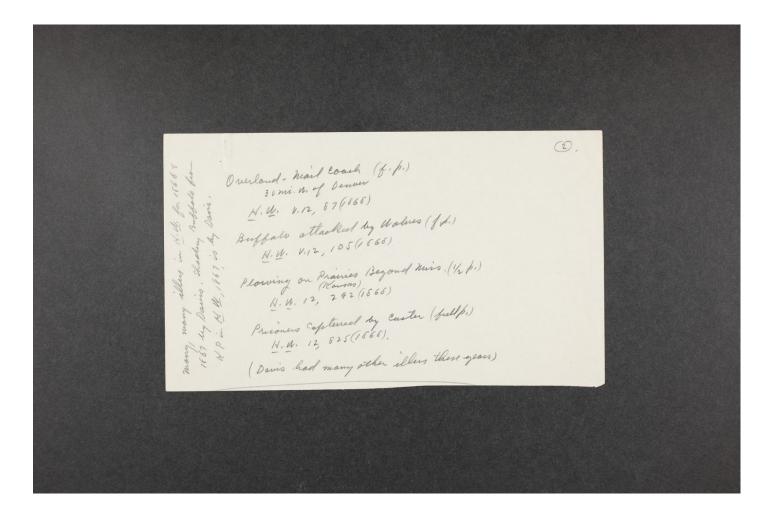




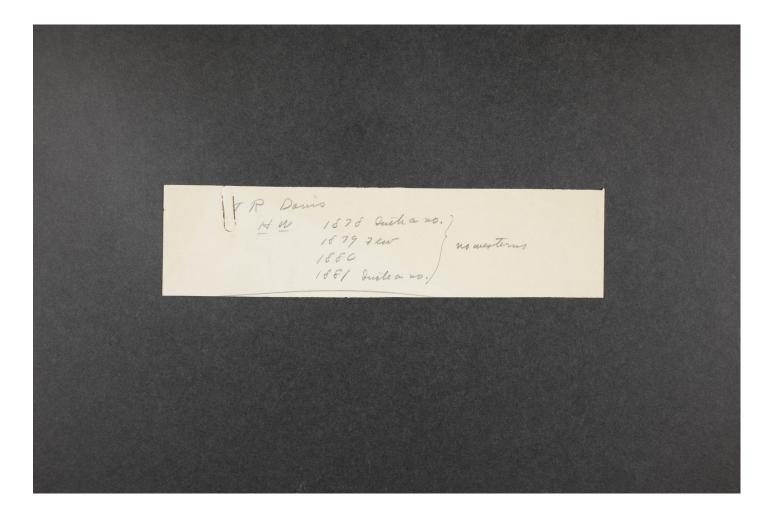










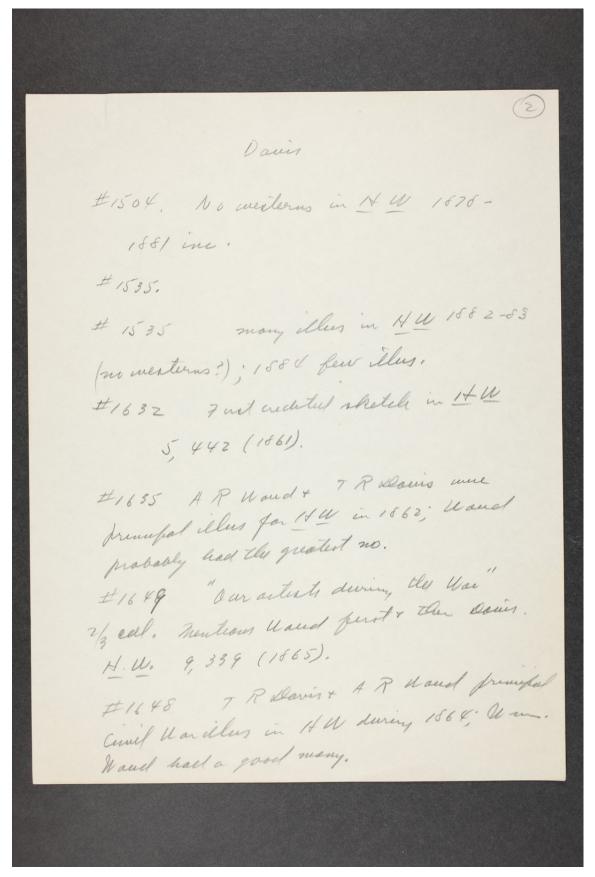




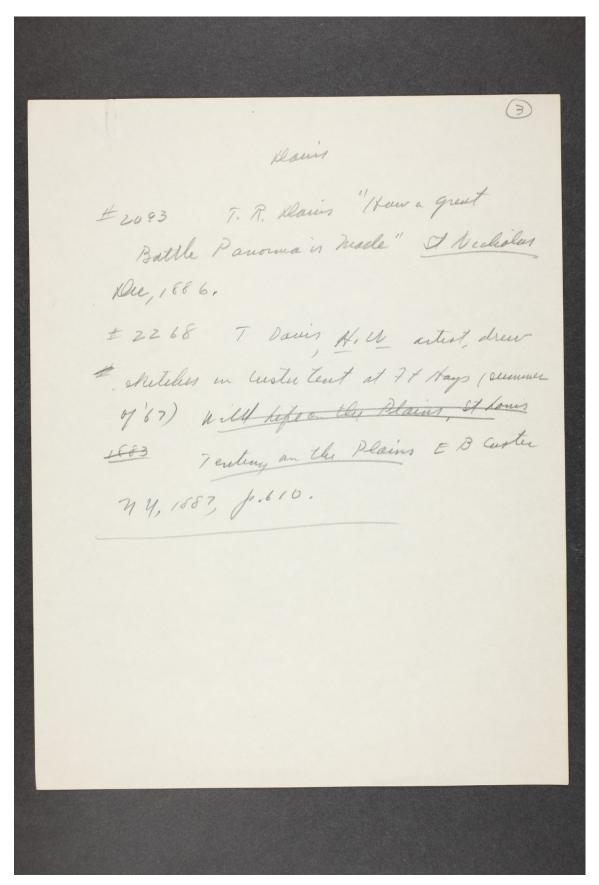
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T. P. Davis #593. whit ny Trebune, nov. 1, 1884, p.7C.5. d ashing Park, N. J. hov. 10, 1894 - 54 years old; born in Boston; student of / herrick; artest for It is during war; correspondent for Herald + Sun (ny), Frendy queleys. Intereste of grout, Sherman, shoudan, hagan, I booker. Twee wounded; kept augures of from amp, leg by fistals. Uned at as f. Park last 14 years where # 1222 mention of Dains in Ny Tribune, cluder on Wealth July 21, 1861, p. 4, C. 6. (get) #1442 " Jagonter Trees of Calif" (fp) H W V, 17, p. 96 (1873). young Bucks an War Path "p. " Howy Bucks Returning with spoils" Redrawn My Sul & yeinge, Jr. H. W. V.17, p 413 (1873). # 1462a. hist of western class in A.W 1868-1872 inclusive \$ 1494, many illus in 18.00 1876, 1877

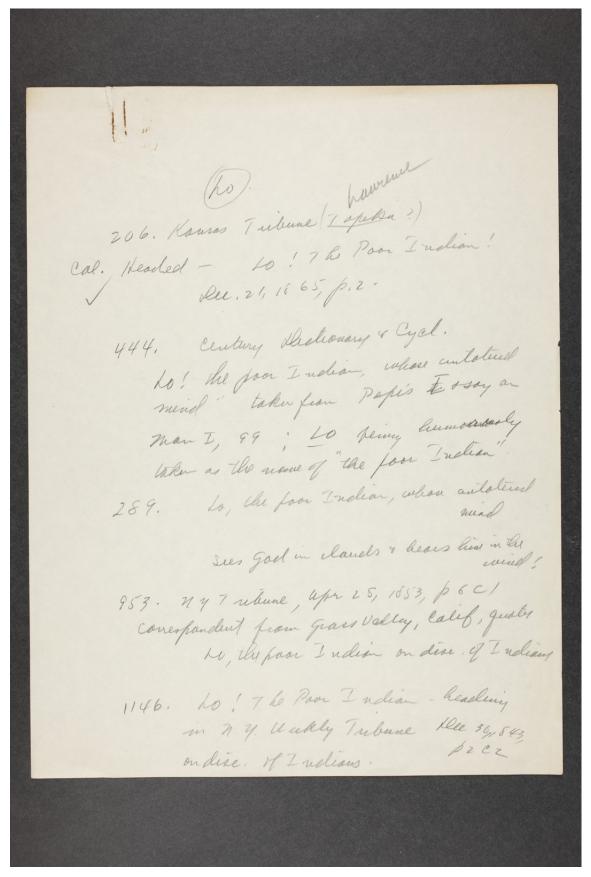




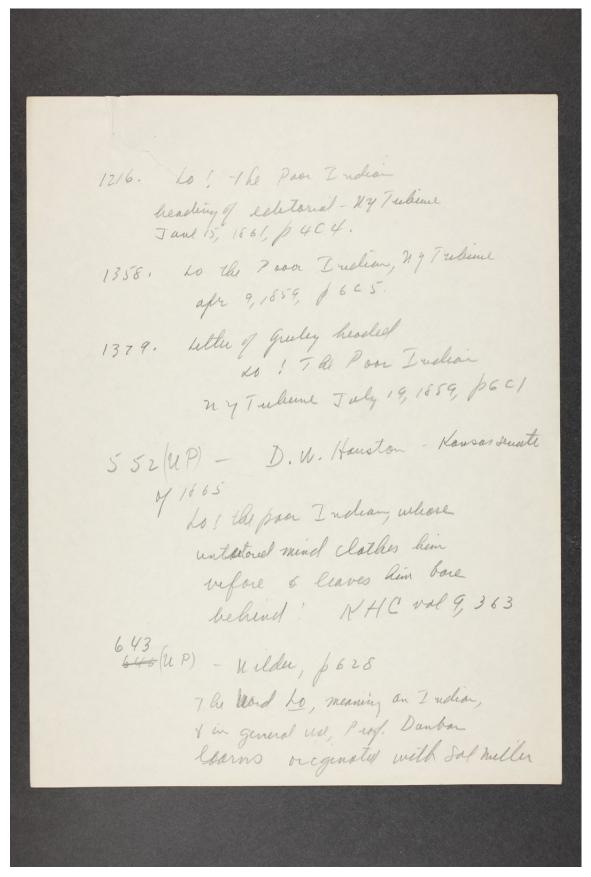




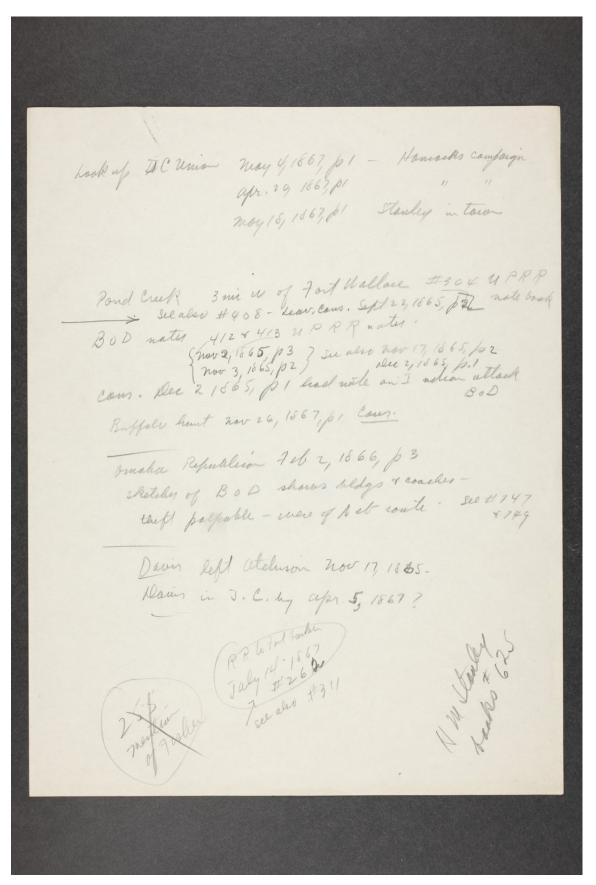




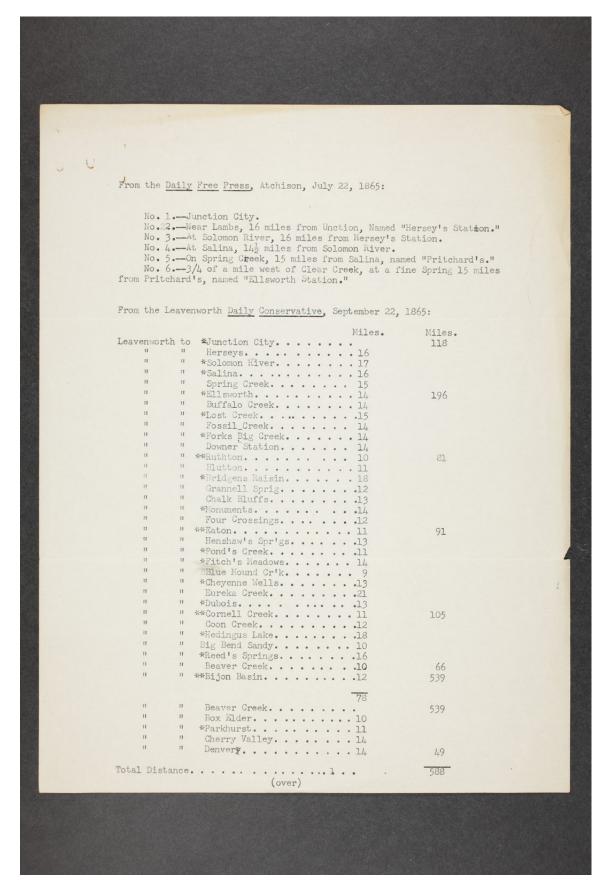




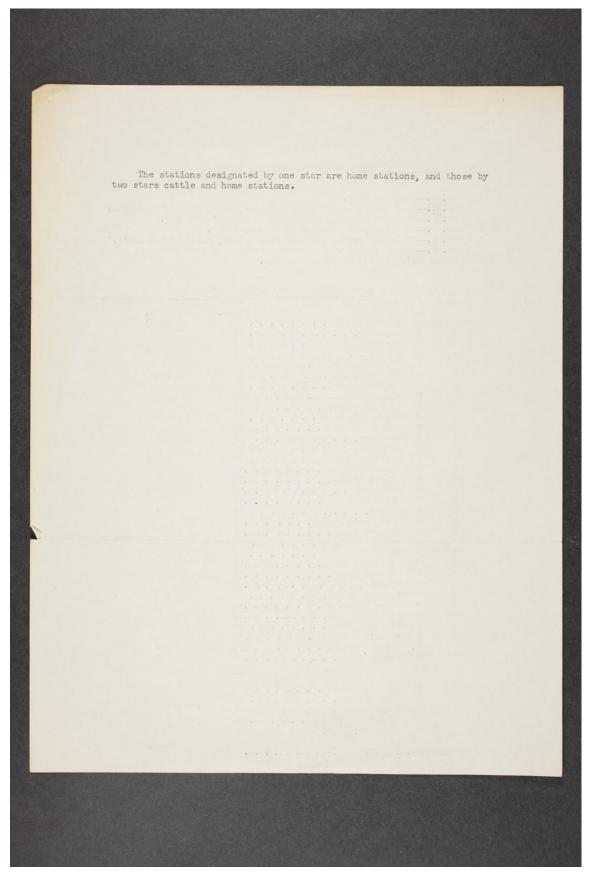




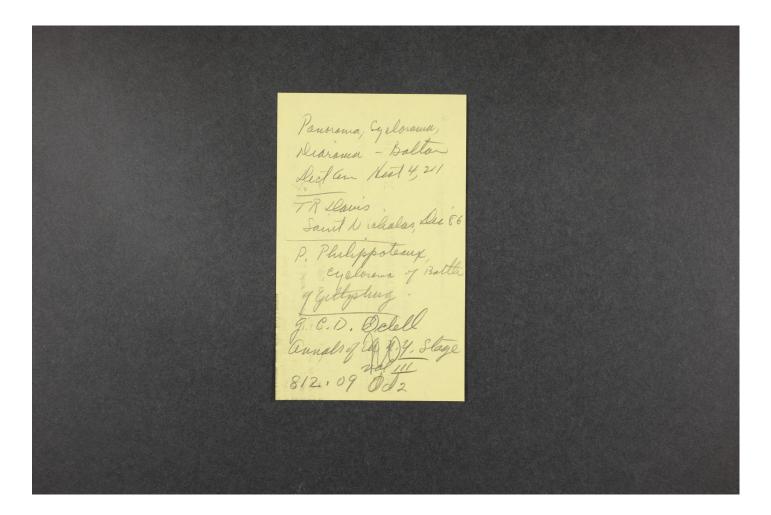




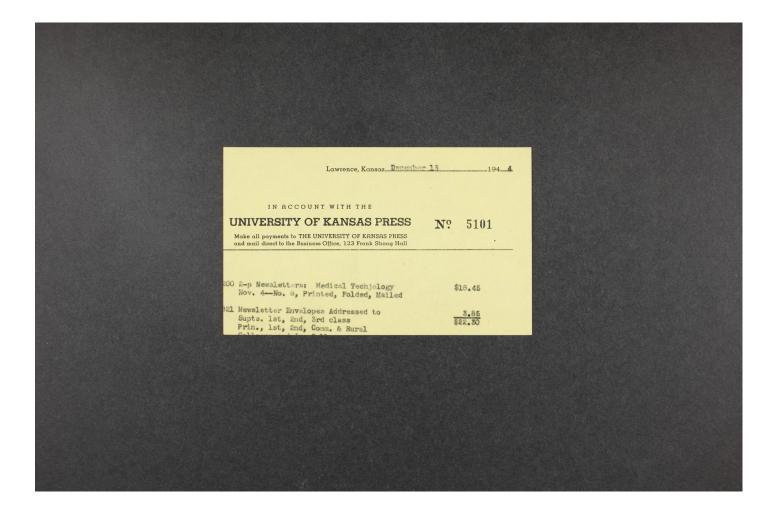




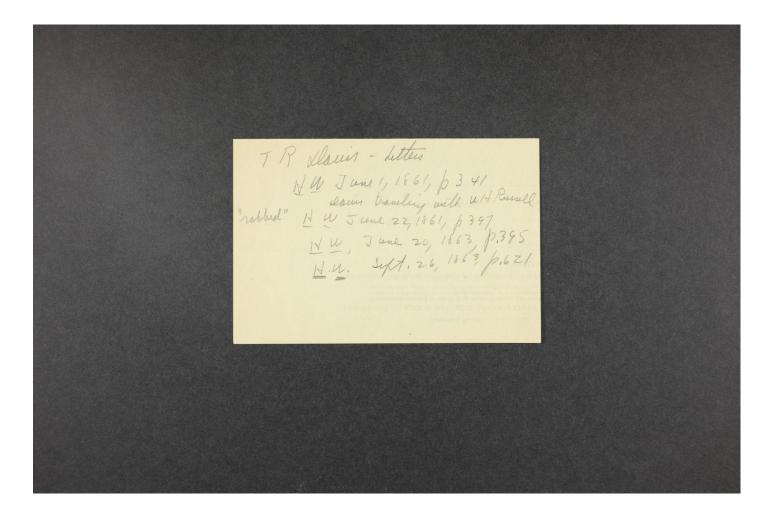








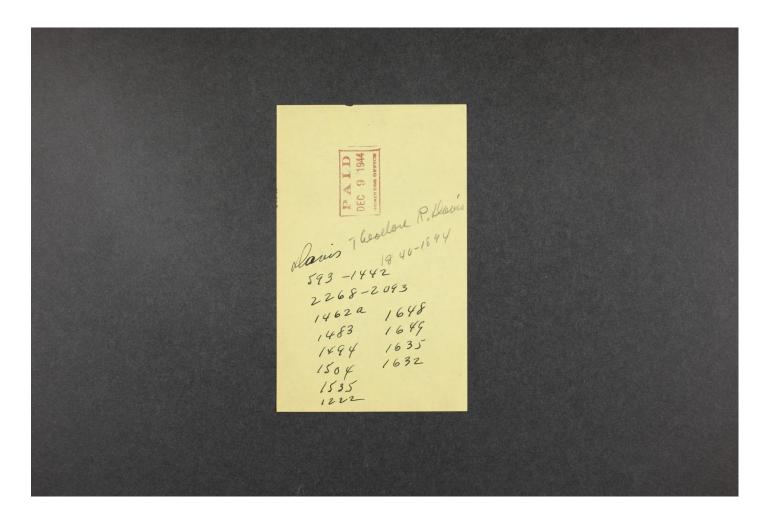




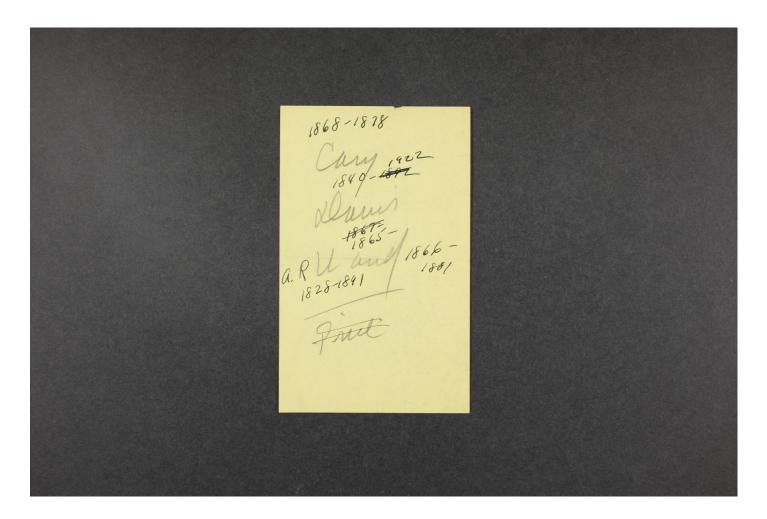




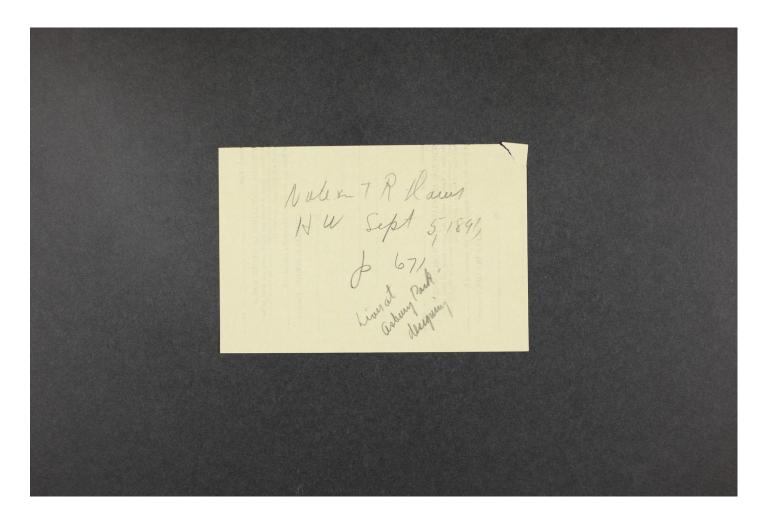














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