

## **Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton**

### **Section 11, Pages 301 - 330**

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 Herman W. Hansen, Alexander F. Harmer, Matthew Hastings, William J. Hays, Gwynn Harris Heap, Joseph Heger, Thomas Hill, Ransome Gillett Holdridge (or Ransom Holdredge), William H. Holmes, Arthur Boyd Houghton, John D. Howland, and William Rich Hutton.

Date: 1930-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll. #172, Box 23

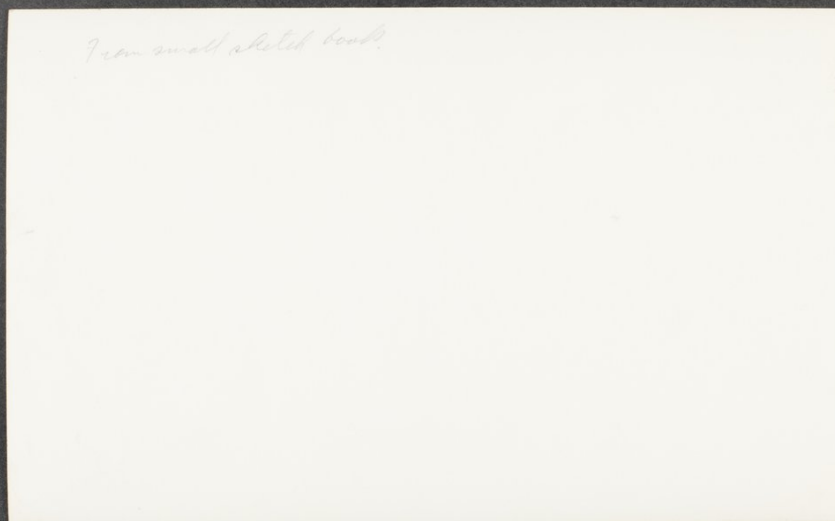
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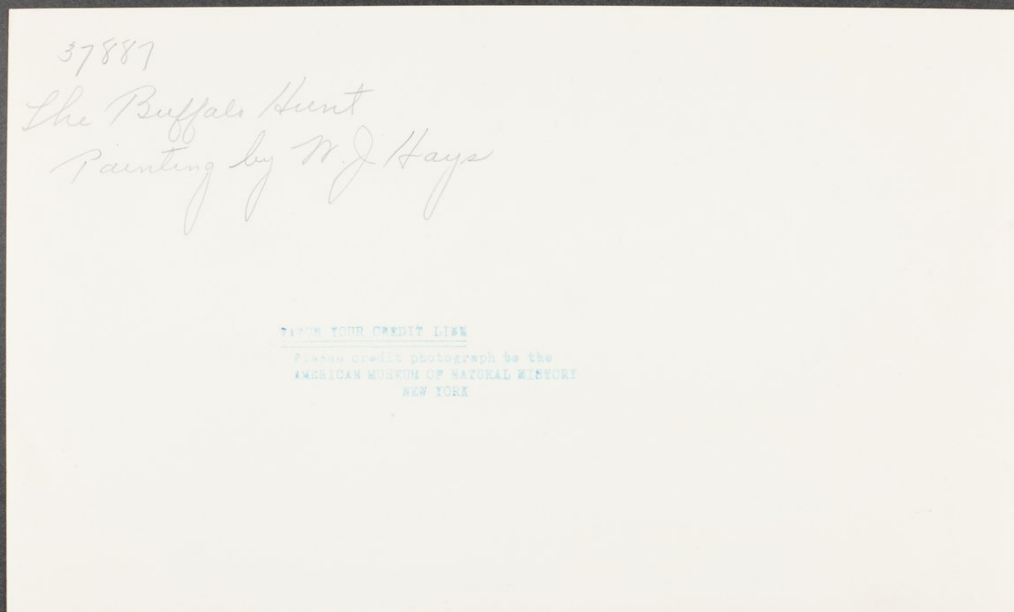
## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton



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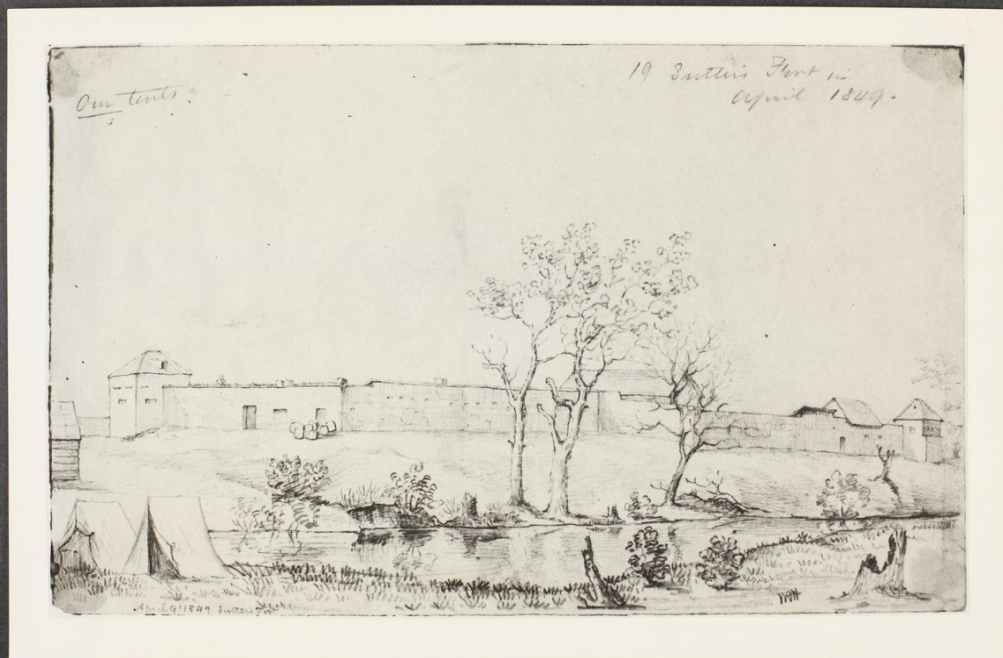


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Amon Carter Museum of Western Art  
P. O. BOX 2365 3501 CAMP BOWIE BOULEVARD  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76101 817/738-1933

ACM No. 12.73 Negx No. Date 1860

Title MOUTH OF THE YELLOWSTONE, FORT UNION,  
UPPER MISSOURI, JUNE 16, 1860

Artist William Jacob Hays

Size 9-7/8 x 14"

Medium Pastel and crayon

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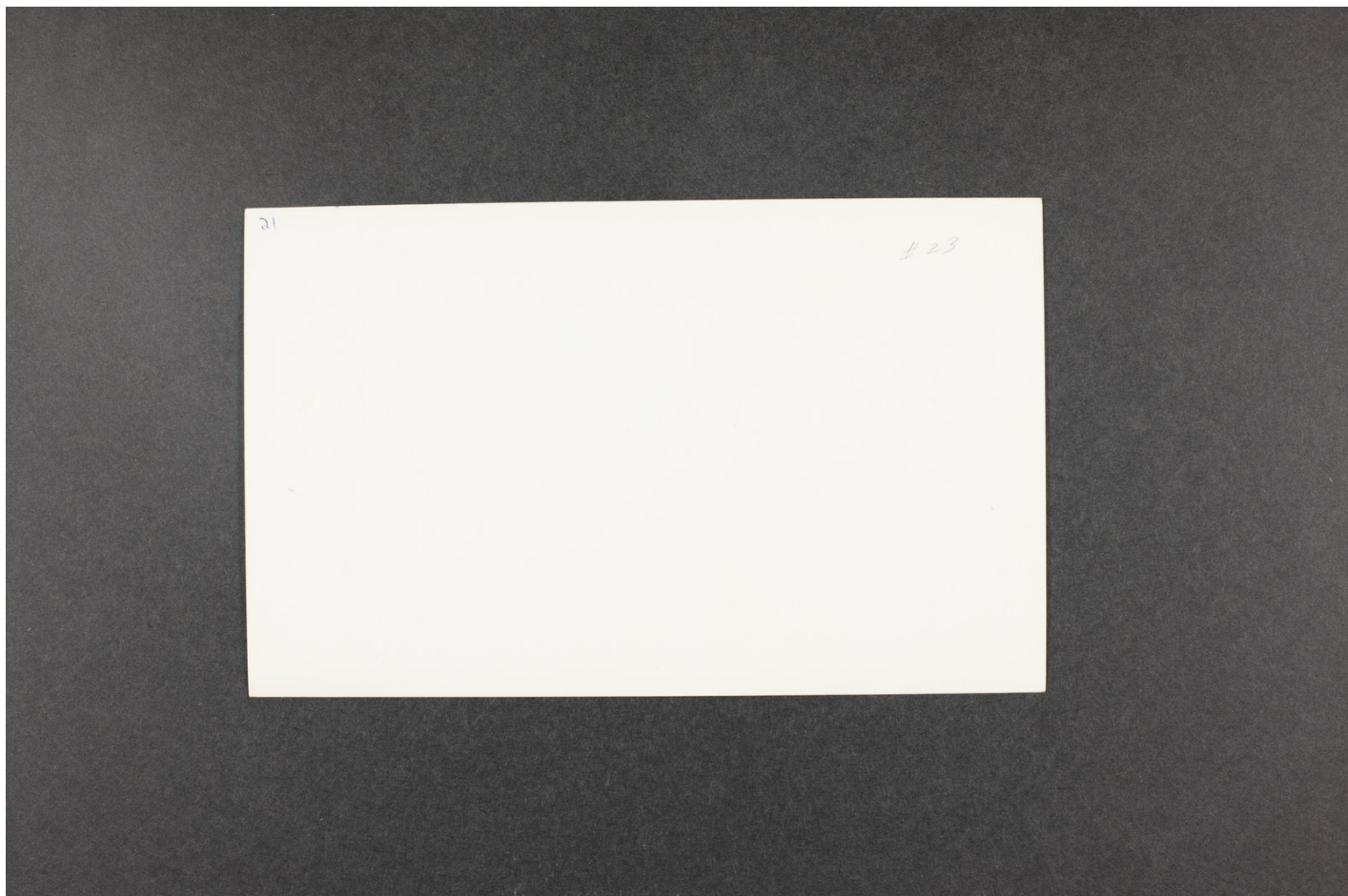
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December 16, 1939

Dr. LeRoy R. Hafen  
State Museum  
Denver, Colorado

Dear Dr. Hafen:

You may recall our correspondence on pictures of Fort Laramie. My interest in such pictures lies in the fact that I have in preparation a book The Frontier In Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included in my notes is reference to the work of a Harris Heap (or a G. H. Heap) with Beale's expedition of 1853. The original sketches of Heap are said to be in the "State Historical Society". Is this your organization? If so and the Heap sketches are your property, would you be good enough to describe the sketches for me briefly, i.e., their number, approximate size, nature of medium, and general character of the subjects. Are photographic copies available for purchase.

Do you have similar collections of other important pioneer artists?

Many thanks for any help that you can give me.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

Robert Taft.





## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

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### THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



#### OF COLORADO

*Established by Act of the Second General Assembly, 1879*

*All collections belong to the State*  
PUBLISHER OF COLORADO MAGAZINE  
State Museum, Denver, Colorado

Department of History  
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*Asst. Historian*

Department of Archaeology  
and Ethnology  
VICTOR F. LOTRICH,  
*Curator*

Library  
MILDRED REX  
*Librarian*

December 20, 1939

Prof. Robert Taft  
Department of Chemistry  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Prof. Taft:

In response to your letter of the 16th,  
shall say that we do not have the Heap sketches,  
and do not know where the originals may be found.  
We have a copy of his book relating to the expedi-  
tion of 1853. I think we have no similar collection  
of sketches of the original work of early artists.

Sincerely yours,

*L. R. Hafen*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
HISTORIAN & CURATOR OF HISTORY

LRH-mm





## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

January 26, 1940

Miss Doris Hait, Librarian  
Public Library  
Pasadena, California

Dear Miss Hait:

I have in preparation a book The Frontier in Picture which is to deal with the artists and illustrators who recorded the life and growth of our American west. Included in my list of artists is Gwynn Harris Heap. According to my notes a son of Heap, General David P. Heap, died in Pasadena in 1910. Can you tell me if there are any descendants of General Heap still living in Pasadena. If so, would you be good enough to give me their names and addresses?

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely yours,

RT/cdo

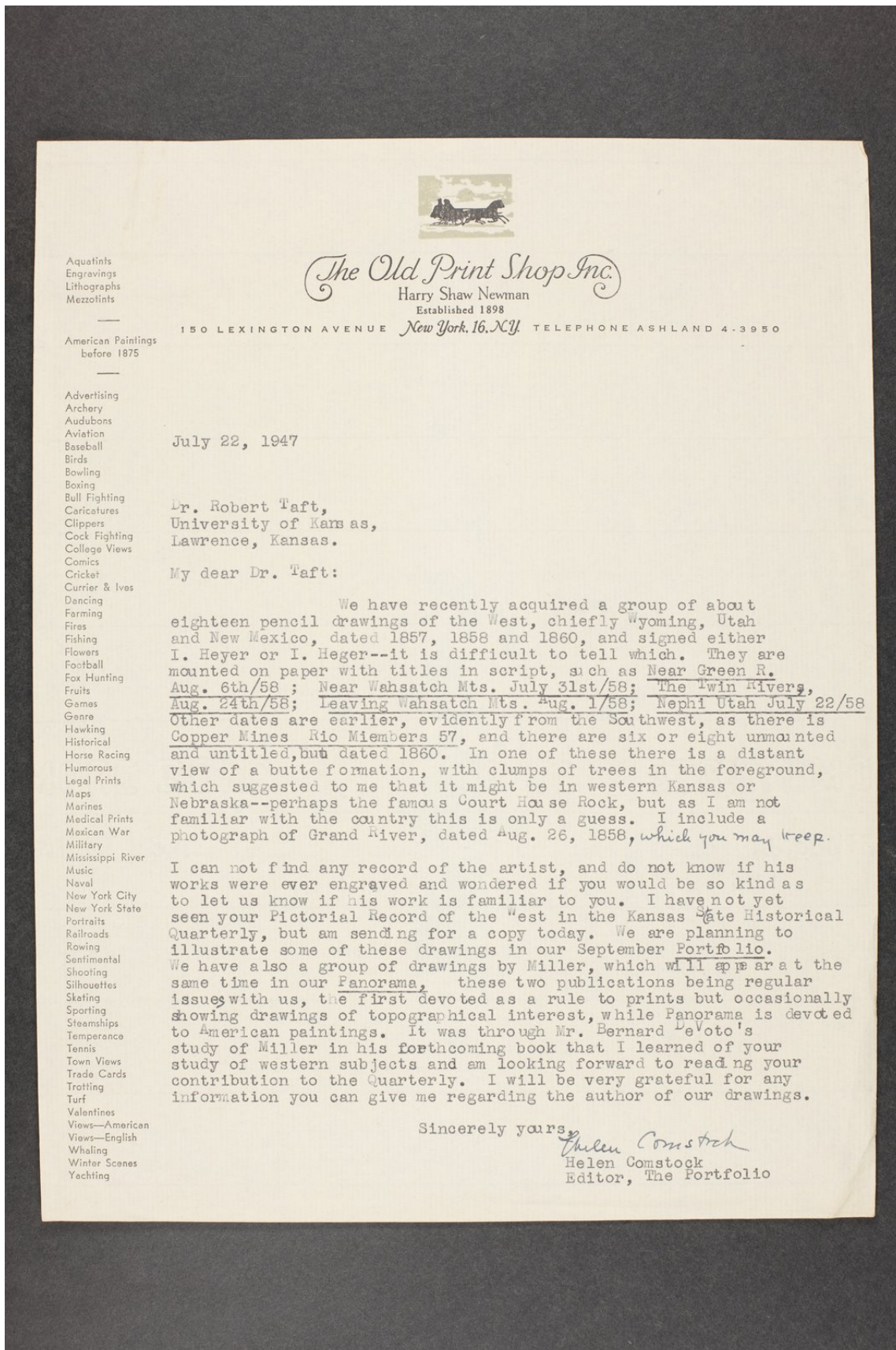
Robert Taft.

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Aquatints  
Engravings  
Lithographs  
Mezzotints

American Paintings  
before 1875

Advertising  
Archery  
Audubons  
Aviation  
Baseball  
Birds  
Bowling  
Boxing  
Bull Fighting  
Caricatures  
Clippers  
Cock Fighting  
College Views  
Comics  
Cricket  
Currier & Ives  
Dancing  
Farming  
Fires  
Fishing  
Flowers  
Football  
Fox Hunting  
Fruits  
Games  
Genre  
Hawking  
Historical  
Horse Racing  
Humorous  
Legal Prints  
Maps  
Marines  
Medical Prints  
Mexican War  
Military  
Mississippi River  
Music  
Naval  
New York City  
New York State  
Portraits  
Railroads  
Rowing  
Sentimental  
Shooting  
Silhouettes  
Skating  
Sporting  
Steamships  
Temperance  
Tennis  
Town Views  
Trade Cards  
Trotting  
Turf  
Valentines  
Views—American  
Views—English  
Whaling  
Winter Scenes  
Yachting



*The Old Print Shop Inc.*

Harry Shaw Newman  
Established 1898

150 LEXINGTON AVENUE New York, 16, N.Y. TELEPHONE ASHLAND 4-3950

July 22, 1947

Dr. Robert Taft,  
University of Kansas,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

My dear Dr. Taft:

We have recently acquired a group of about eighteen pencil drawings of the West, chiefly Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico, dated 1857, 1858 and 1860, and signed either I. Heyer or I. Heger--it is difficult to tell which. They are mounted on paper with titles in script, such as Near Green R. Aug. 6th/58; Near Wahsatch Mts. July 31st/58; The Twin Rivers, Aug. 24th/58; Leaving Wahsatch Mts. Aug. 1/58; Nephi Utah July 22/58. Other dates are earlier, evidently from the Southwest, as there is Copper Mines Rio Miembers 57, and there are six or eight unmounted and untitled, but dated 1860. In one of these there is a distant view of a butte formation, with clumps of trees in the foreground, which suggested to me that it might be in western Kansas or Nebraska--perhaps the famous Court House Rock, but as I am not familiar with the country this is only a guess. I include a photograph of Grand River, dated Aug. 26, 1858, which you may keep.

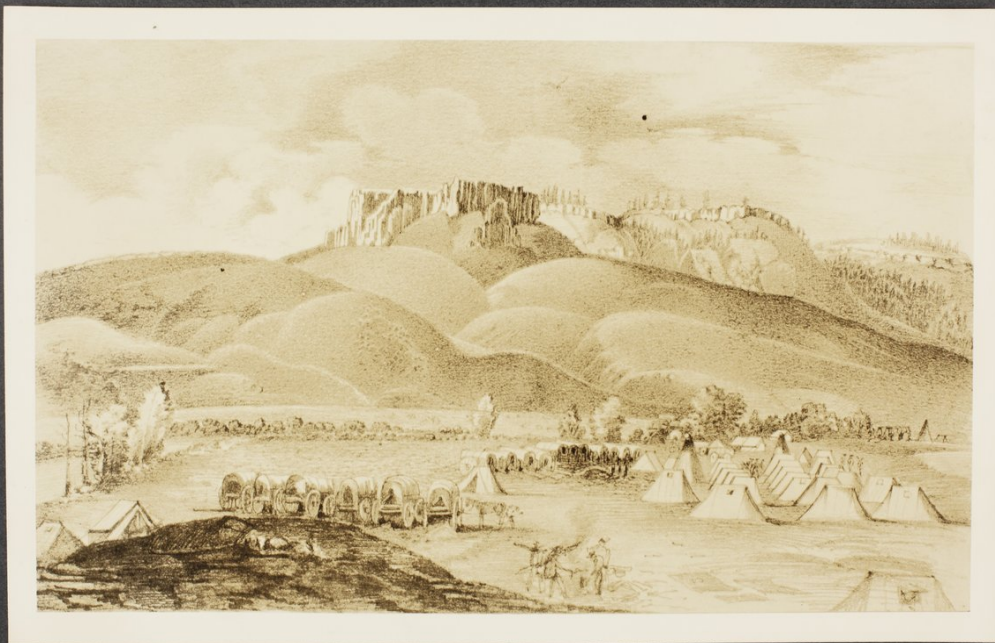
I can not find any record of the artist, and do not know if his works were ever engraved and wondered if you would be so kind as to let us know if his work is familiar to you. I have not yet seen your Pictorial Record of the West in the Kansas State Historical Quarterly, but am sending for a copy today. We are planning to illustrate some of these drawings in our September Portfolio. We have also a group of drawings by Miller, which will appear at the same time in our Panorama, these two publications being regular issues with us, the first devoted as a rule to prints but occasionally showing drawings of topographical interest, while Panorama is devoted to American paintings. It was through Mr. Bernard DeVoto's study of Miller in his forthcoming book that I learned of your study of western subjects and am looking forward to reading your contribution to the Quarterly. I will be very grateful for any information you can give me regarding the author of our drawings.

Sincerely yours,

*Helen Comstock*  
Helen Comstock  
Editor, The Portfolio



## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton



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Green River Aug 26/58  
By I Meyer or Roger  
The Red Paint Shop  
150 Lexington Ave  
New York





## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

W. J. HOLLIDAY & CO.  
INDIANAPOLIS 7, INDIANA

W. J. HOLLIDAY

May 19, 1949

Dear Mr. Taft:

Your letter of May 4th was forwarded to me here from our Hammond plant.

I wish that I could give you some idea about the date of publication of the Dubois Journal with the Heger drawings, but it is in the hands of the Grabhorn Press, and as you know, they are not the most prompt people on earth. The type, however, has been set, but I expect it will be fall before the book will be published.

It is going to be limited to 300 copies, and we have had to set a price of \$60.00 on it, which will just about get us out even.

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Taft  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

P.S. Thank you very much for the reprints from the Kansas Historical Society. They are very interesting.



## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

LINDLEY EBERSTADT

CHARLES EBERSTADT

### Edward Eberstadt & Sons

*Specialists in Old and Rare Books Relating to the Far West*

55 WEST 42nd STREET  
NEW YORK

October 17, 1951

Robert Taft, Esq.  
Department of Chemistry  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

Mr. Eberstadt has asked me to reply to your letter of October 13th and your inquiries about Heger.

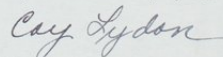
The following information is exactly what appears on the title page of the book:

CAMPAIGNS IN THE WEST, 1856-1861  
The Journal and Letters of Colonel John Van Duesen Du Bois with pencil sketches by Joseph Heger. Edited by George P. Hammond (Professor of History and Director of Bancroft Library, University of California.) Arizona Pioneers Historical Society Tucson, Arizona, 1949.

The book was printed in an edition of 300 copies by Grabhorn Press, San Francisco. Joseph Heger was born on January 11, 1835 but there is no record of his death though it is known that he was very ill in 1897. There are 16 illustrations by Heger in the book, 4 of which came from the W. R. Coe Collection and 12 from the W. J. Holliday Collection.

I hope that this information answers all of your questions thoroughly.

Very sincerely yours,



(Miss) Cay Lydon, Secretary

/cl

## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

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*Specialists in Old and Rare Books Relating to the Far West*

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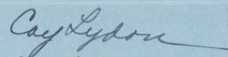
October 29, 1951

Robert Taft, Esq.  
Department of Chemistry  
University Of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

In reply to your  
inquiry of October 21st, Heger was a  
private in the U. S. Army until 1860  
and the published sketches show this  
same date.

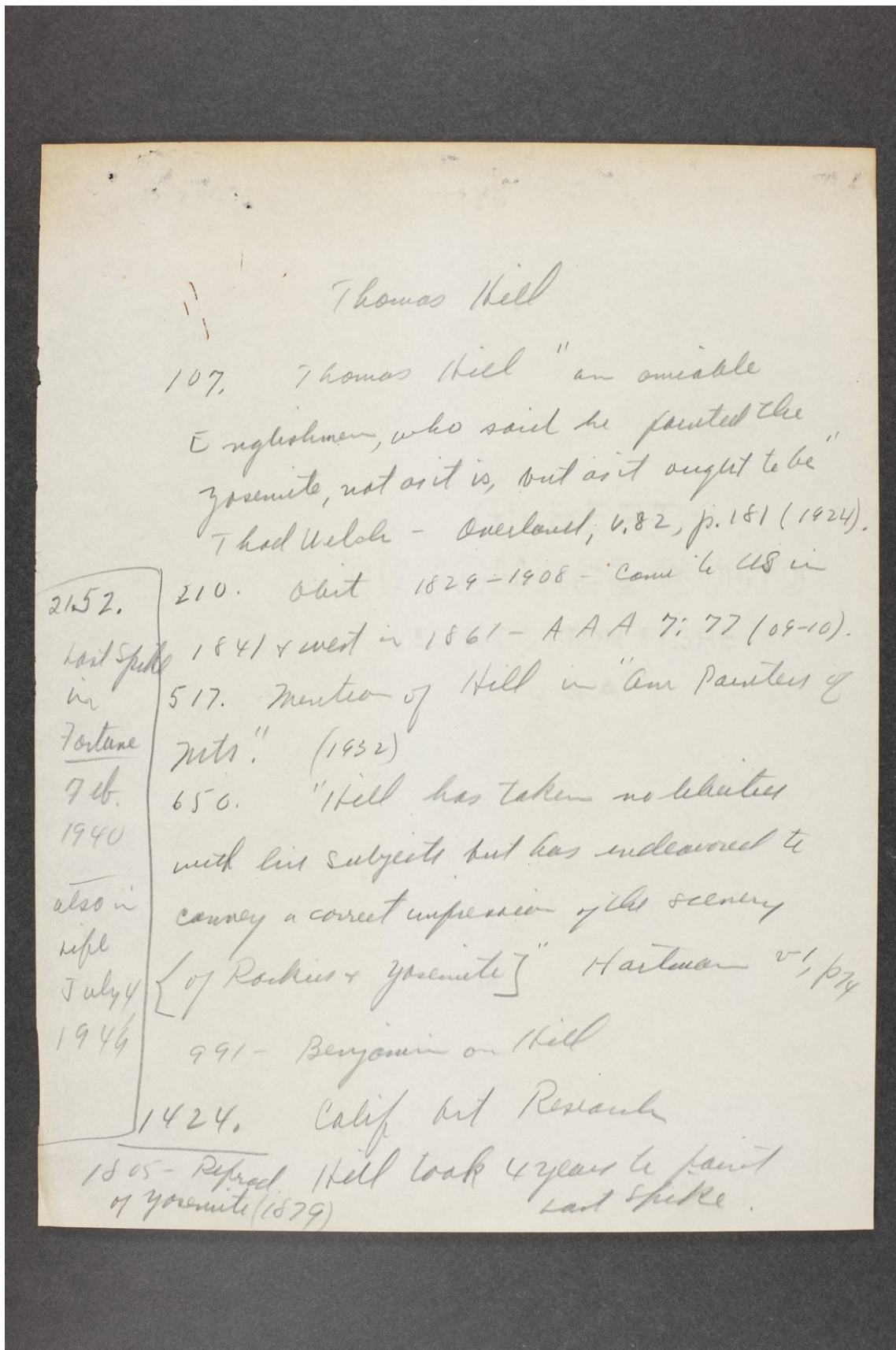
Very sincerely yours,

  
(Miss) Day Lydon

/cl



## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton





## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

July 9, 1949

Director, Department of Finance,  
Building and Grounds Division  
State of California  
Sacramento, California

Dear Sir:

Can you tell me if Thomas Hill's painting "Driving the Golden Spike" is now owned by the State of California? If so, where is the present location of the painting and what are its dimensions? Your cooperation in furnishing this information will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

RT:c

Robert Taft

## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton



DRIVING THE LAST SPIKE

*(From Painting by Thomas Hill)*



## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

KEY TO PORTRAITS IN "DRIVING THE LAST SPIKE"



- |                       |                            |                            |                            |                         |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. STEPHEN T. GAGE.   | 14. BISHOP J. SHARP.       | 27. COL. LITTLE.           | 40. JUDGE GALWOOD.         | 54. S. S. MONTAGUE.     |
| 2. A. P. STANFORD.    | 15. WM. SHERMAN.           | 28. MRS. J. H. STROBRIDGE. | 41. J. H. STROBRIDGE.      | 55. T. D. JUDAH.        |
| 3. F. A. TRIPLE.      | 16. CHARLES MARSH.         | 29. F. L. VANDENBERG.      | 42. SIDNEY DILLON.         | 56. L. M. CLEMENT.      |
| 4. HON. JOHN CONNESS. | 17. DAVID HEWES.           | 30. LELAND STANFORD.       | 43. GEN. COGSWELL.         | 57. ELI DENNISON.       |
| 5. C. N. WEST.        | 18. LORENZO SAWYER.        | 31. H. NOTINGHAM.          | 44. GEORGE F. PARSONS.     | 58. COL. T. H. HEAD.    |
| 6. BENJAMIN WELCH.    | 19. E. BLACK RYAN.         | 32. C. P. HUNTINGTON.      | 45. EDGAR MILLS.           | 61. A. P. K. SAFFORD.   |
| 7. E. F. GERALD.      | 20. MRS. E. B. RYAN.       | 33. S. B. REED.            | 46. HON. MILTON S. LATHAM. | 62. B. B. REDDING.      |
| 8. J. R. WATSON.      | 21. BISHOP L. FARR.        | 34. F. D. RICHARDS.        | 47. MARK HOPKINS.          | 63. CHARLES CADWALADER. |
| 9. REV. DR. TODD.     | 22. JOHN CORNING.          | 35. P. McGRUE.             | 48. MISS EARL.             | 64. ADOLPH STEINER.     |
| 10. JAMES W. HAYNES.  | 23. W. E. BROWN.           | 36. JOHN DUFF.             | 49. MISS ANNIE REED.       | 65. S. W. SANDERSON.    |
| 11. E. H. MILLER JR.  | 24. THOMAS P. DURANT.      | 37. T. F. WOODWARD.        | 50. JUDGE E. B. CROCKER.   | 66. A. N. TOWNE.        |
| 12. ARTHUR BROWN.     | 25. DR. J. D. B. STILLMAN. | 38. J. R. ADAMS.           | 51. CHARLES CROCKER.       | 67. GEO. E. GRAY.       |
| 13. ROBERT ROBINSON.  | 26. DR. H. W. HARKNESS.    | 39. OAKES AMES.            |                            |                         |



Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton



THE COMMODORE <sup>310</sup>  
APARTMENT HOTEL DODGE AT TWENTY FOURTH  
OMAHA

February 10, 1944

University of Kansas  
Fine Arts Division  
Lawrence, Ka.

Dear Sirs,

Mr. Wright Howes, dealer in Americana, Chicago, recently informed me that a member of the Fine Arts Dept., University of Kansas, was engaged in preparing a volume on early American artists who went west.

I own the painting by R. D. Haldredge, "Indian Encampment at the Foot of the Rockies," shown on enclosed photo. I am interested in learning all I can about Haldredge and his work, as I believe the above painting is a rare item of Americana art.

Please pass this letter on to the proper individual of your dept., and

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be assured that I will be  
grateful for any information that  
can be given me on this subject.

Very truly yours,  
Ray E. Appleman  
Jat H. T. C.



## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS  
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS  
LAWRENCE

DEPARTMENT OF PAINTING

February 15, 1944

Prof. Robert Taft  
Department of Chemistry

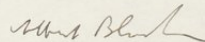
Dear Professor Taft:

The enclosed letter was turned over to me the other day for a possible reply. I understand that you are the man referred to in the first paragraph of the letter; and since we find in none of our works of reference any such painter as R. G. Holdredge listed, I thought it just possible that you might have some information on this painter which you could transmit to Mr Appleman, the inquirer. I am writing Mr Appleman that I have forwarded his letter to you.

I can see no valid reason why Holdredge should not be listed in any of the available works of reference, since the picture enclosed seems to be at least as good as the work of most of the painters of the American Indian.

With many thanks for your kindness,

Sincerely,



Albert Bloch

(1 enc.)

ab:af

*Probably Mr Appleman would like to have his photograph back, although he didn't say so.*



## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton



## Robert Taft correspondence related to frontier artists, Hansen - Hutton

