

Robert Taft general correspondence

Section 25, Pages 721 - 750

Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry, author, historian, and editor at the University of Kansas. The general correspondence letters of Mr. Taft consist of letters between various organizations and people.

Date: 1918-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll.#172, Box 1-2

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 308670

Item Identifier: 308670

www.kansasmemory.org/item/308670



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
LAWRENCE

OFFICE OF
THE CHANCELLOR

October 23, 1951

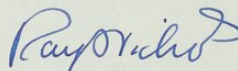
Memo to Mr. Taft:

This will authorize funds as follows for your work on the Pennell collection:

Assistance (student help)	\$800
Maintenance and equipment	450

Assistance should be expended in accordance with the payroll rules, and maintenance in accordance with the state purchasing regulations.

The accounts will be listed in the Business Office as Pennell Collection.


Raymond Nichols
Executive Secretary

RN:ef

15.30 left in salaries

6692 32nd Pl. N. W.,
Washington, D. C.
October 23, 1951.

Dr. Robert Taft,
Editor, Trans. Kans. Acad. Science,
Chemistry Department,
University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Dr. Taft:

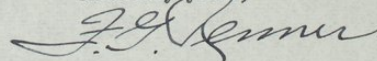
My friend J. C. Dykes wrote to you some weeks ago and asked that you send me a copy of "The Pictorial Record of the Old West, XIII, The End of a Century". I have received the publication and I want to let you know how much pleasure I have had in it.

My particular hobby is Charles M. Russell. For many years I have been developing a catalog with full descriptions, with dates, description, size, location, and all other details of his works, including oils, bronzes, water colors, pen sketches etc. So far I have records of over two thousand items. In addition, I have some thirty originals, hundreds of photographs of paintings and books and magazine articles he illustrated. The latter include over two hundred not mentioned in Yost's bibliography. I also have Schreyvogel's "The Despatch Bearers", which you mentioned.

Your article rather implied that a forthcoming issue would include a treatment of Russell. I hope so. If I can supply you with any information about him that you don't have, I will be glad to do so.

Thanks again for the reprint from the Kansas Historical Quarterly and I hope I may remain on your mailing list.

Sincerely yours,



F. G. Renner



Robert Taft general correspondence

THE
OFFICE OF THE LIBRARIAN UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AUSTIN · 12 · TEXAS

October 24, 1951

Dr. Walter P. Webb
Professor of History
G. H. 102

Dear Dr. Webb:

Thank you for sending me the copy of "An Honest Preface."
I have read the original in the Southwest Review but after
reading that I am certain that page 2 and 3 of the enclosed
reprint is really "An Honest Preface." Furthermore, it saves
a lot of the reader's time.

I am not sure whether Ralph Parker would be interested in
the University of Kansas library job or not. I think the top
salary--possibly the beginning salary--may be more than
Missouri is paying. The library, however, is not as good a
library as the University of Missouri library.

In case you do not care to recommend Ralph Parker, I suggest
the two names listed at the bottom of this letter as two
possible prospects. Both of them are, in my opinion, fine
prospects for university librarianship.

Sincerely yours

A. Moffit
A. Moffit
Librarian

AM:iw
Encl.

Wayne Yenawine
Circulation Librarian
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Archie McNeal
Asst. Librarian
University of Tennessee
Knoxville, Tennessee

*I do recommend Ralph Parker. The delay in
answering your inquiry is unavoidable.*



Robert Taft general correspondence

October 25, 1951

Mr. Bernard DeVoto
8 Berkeley Street
Cambridge 38, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. DeVoto:

Many thanks for your interesting and helpful letter of October 20. We are happy to place the name of J. Wyman Parker on our list of candidates for the University librarianship. Any additional names that you can suggest will be most welcome.

I greatly appreciate your kind words about my work. I think it is curious, too, that I should be working in a field that in some respects is so foreign to my training, but at least my training has made me seek for facts and their sources--or what I think are facts and sources--before I start writing. Chemists, too, I suppose are so cocky at having secured some mastery over a difficult subject that they rush in at other places where both fools and angels fear to tread.

My beginnings with Photography and the American Scene I have described at some length in an article "Seeing Kansas in the Sixties" which appeared in the Kansas Magazine for 1939. I do not have a copy of the Magazine or I would send it to you but possibly Harvard has a copy if you are interested. As you surmised, the present series of articles grew out of the photography book as the West has always fascinated me--as it has countless others.

Nearly two years ago I signed a contract with Scribners for publication of some of the material appearing in my present series. This past September I sent them my Mss. and a considerable group of pictures but the final form and details of publication are yet to be arranged. Any advice or suggestions from you would be most welcome--doubtless your aid would have been most effective if I had had it before signing the contract. Coleman was the party interested in signing me up although I had had some correspondence with Perkins on the matter before his death. Joe Hopkins, as you probably know, has now succeeded Coleman at Scribners.

Yes, I too hope we will find an occasion to meet before the happy hunting ground is reached. I'm afraid you will find me dull company as I'm not much of a talker--but I am a good listener when good talkers are around.

I'm much interested in your new book, since you now have my curiosity greatly aroused. I'm sure the curiosity of others will



Mr. Bernard DeVoto
October 25, 1951
Page two

also be insatiable if you will insist on the title What I
Think I Know about Damn Near Everything. That title in
itself should make it a best seller.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c

Robert Taft general correspondence

Joseph G. Masters
BUSH HILL FARM
Smethport Pennsylvania

October 30 1951

Professor Robert Taft
The University of Kansas
Lawrence Kansas

Dear Prof. Taft:-

I have enjoyed immensely looking over and reading your articles, "The Pictorial Record of the Old West", in the Kansas Historical Quarterly.

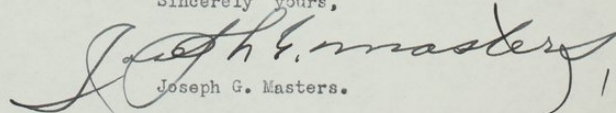
You have rescued many of these records from their hidden and lost places and brought them forth for all of us to see and enjoy. You have done a fine service for Western Americana, - for these could be of untold value to writers of our early western history.

During the 1920's and 1930's-while living in Omaha- I spent each August in digging through western trails, battle scenes, the history and story of our far western conflicts of the early Trans-Missouri West. I was there early enough to find a good many who actually had a part in these great events and to whom I could return year after year for information. In all I found a dozen Sioux and Cheyennes on the reservations of the Dakotas and Montana who fought Custer or who were in the camps there by the Little Big Horn when the Custer troopers made the attack. All in all, we now have a fairly complete account of the salient features of this "immortal" conflict from the Indian point of view.

The Library of The University of Wyoming is now publishing my 11,000 word account of this conflict, - to circulate among University Libraries. (May I beg to say that I do not mean this as a sales talk).

All of this gives me an added interest to the valuable pieces of historical work that you have done.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph G. Masters.

Robert Taft general correspondence

COPY - Letter from JOSEPH STANLEY PENNELL
OCEAN CREST
SEASIDE, OREGON

7th November 1951

Franklin D. Murphy, M.D.
Chancellor: The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Murphy:

Thank you for your good letter about the negatives. I am much pleased that they have found a home at the university. I think of your acceptance of these pictures as twice fortunate for me: First because of the fact that Professor Taft will handle them. And second because they belong in Kansas at the university.

Thank you also for your invitation to break bread with you. When I come to Kansas I shall hold you to the invitation. I have, of course, read of your works in Medicine and would add my admiration to that you must have had. . . .

About the manuscripts. At the moment, I am not ready to part with any of them: but I shall think seriously of Kansas when I feel that I can part with them. So far I have all my manuscripts except those which went up in smoke by matches in my own hand. About two and a half books went that way. I am thankful that nobody saw them but me.

I have heard of Professor Wortham's work in contemporary American literature. All in all, K.U. is a place of fine learning. And once to have been there excites a pride in me.

Yours,

(Signed) Joseph Stanley Pennell



Robert Taft general correspondence

November 9, 1951

Miss Ina T. Aulls
Denver Public Library
Denver, Colorado

Dear Miss Aulls:

You have been so interested in my series of articles on early artists of the American West that I am writing to tell you that I have at long last sent my revised manuscript off to publishers. The material published in the Kansas Historical Quarterly has been completely re-arranged, expanded in some places and cut in others in the form in which it has gone to the publishers. Just when it will appear I do not yet know but probably some time during 1952.

I have taken occasion in the introduction to my new book to acknowledge my deep indebtedness to you and to the Western History Collection at the Denver Public for you have been my most important single source of information. I marvel at the completeness of your Collection and at the wisdom and energy of you--and I presume Mr. Weyer--in forming this Collection. Certainly every library worthy the name could follow your example in securing and preserving source materials for their own localities. Not only are such materials invaluable to historians and writers but their preservation, use and display constitute, I believe, the method of all others in maintaining the American way of life. Such use of source materials is one of my fundamental beliefs and you may recall that in my other attempts to utilize them locally, I wrote a recent series of editorials. (I may have sent you a set; in any case, I'm sending one now under separate cover).

I trust that I shall have opportunity to visit the Western History Collection many times in the future and to use it in still other projects I have under way.

Many, many thanks for your invaluable aid.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c

November

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
AUSTIN 12

November 11, 1951.

Dear Professor Taft:

The inclosed letter contains about all I know about ~~librarians~~ librarians. I had to appeal to our librarian, Mr. Moffit. I would recommend Ralph Parker as to character, intelligence, and ability. He must be a good librarian because he has made steady progress since he got his degree. He is head of the library at the University of Missouri.

Since Mr. Moffit refers to the "Preface" I am sending you a copy. The copy I sent him had the inside pages blank.

Sincerely yours,

W. A. Webb

Robert Taft general correspondence

Joseph G. Masters
BUSH HILL FARM
Smethport Pennsylvania

November 19 1951

Dr. Robert Taft
The University of Kansas
Lawrence Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:-

Thank you very much for the August 1951 installment of "The Pictorial Record of the Old West".

I am enjoying the paintings that you have presented very much indeed, -and it is most interesting to be able to read the comprehensive record of early western artists. What a tremendous amount of careful research work you have done!

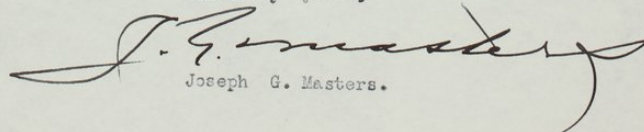
I used to see Sharp's home there in Taos and his paintings in the the Santa Fe Museum when I was working on history in that region but I could never figure out any good reason for breaking in on Mr. Sharp at his home. Sometimes, however, the Taos Colony had very few paintings on exhibition when I went to their Headquarters. Our Dr. Robert Gilder in Omaha used to go to Arizona to paint in winter months, but I don't recall any early historical scenes that he made.

One summer when I had joined Dr. Edgar L. Hewett's archaeology group excavating Chetro Ketl at Chaco Canyon Mr. Rollins was spending the summer there painting. He had with him one of his canvases (dictionaries are silent on this plural), "The Neophytes", - a small group of Indian women standing in the attitude of worship just in front of the entrance of the "Old Church at Laguna" Pueblo, which I thought the most attractive of all the paintings I had seen in the Southwest. I did not have in my pocket the \$450 or \$500 that the artist thought it worth so I left Chaco without it.

I read and reread Walter Wyckoff's "The Workers", for they offered social data and materials gained on the spot.

I am sending you a complimentary copy of my book on the mountain men as published by Ginn and Company in 1935. Photographs not acknowledged are all my own, I believe. I gave it the title, "Stories of the Far West", that it might sell more widely in the schools (with which I was connected) and because I liked the words, "Far West". Altho it appeared in the midst of the Great Depression when school book agents were saying, "We never sell a book now-a-days!" it has had an excellent run.

Sincerely yours,



Joseph G. Masters.



ELECTROCOLOR ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF INCOME, EXPENSE AND DISTRIBUTION

RESERVE:

1951 Balance Brought Forward	\$ 1,000.00
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RECEIPTS:

Feb. 29, 1952 - Royalty Minimum for 1951	\$1,200.00
Feb. 29, 1952 - " Earned - 1951	1,074.36
Feb. 29, 1952 - " Earned - 1951	93.64
Aug. 7, 1952 - " Earned - 1952 (6 Mos.)	<u>50.00</u>

Total Receipts	<u>\$ 2,418.00</u>
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Total in Account	\$ 3,418.00
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EXPENSE:

Deduct Office & Travel Expense	<u>100.00</u>
	\$ 3,318.00

RESERVE:

Deduct Reserve	<u>1,000.00</u>
Balance to be Distributed	\$ 2,318.00

DISTRIBUTION:

J. E. Stareck	\$ 927.20
Robert A. Taft	463.60
Cross Laboratories, Inc.	<u>927.20</u>
	\$2,318.00

Robert Taft general correspondence

R. V. COLEMAN
ROSEVILLE ROAD
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

January 8, 1952

Dear Professor Taft:-

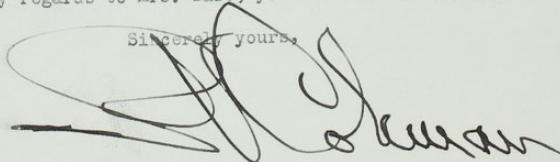
"Sat. 11 (March, 1871) Father started for Chicago on the midnight train after lumber to build his barn in Kansas." This is from a Journal kept by my Father at Galesburg, Illinois. The lumber was hauled in wagons from St. Joe to what is today Oneida, Kansas. The following year, when the farm machinery, the chickens, the household furniture and the family came out, the St. Joe & Grand Island had been built as far as Seneca, but there were no sidings; accordingly the car containing the Coleman goods was placed last on the train; dropped off where directed; and pushed back to St. Joe ahead of the engine on the return trip - the goods, of course, having been unloaded. So if you want to add the St. Joe & G. I. to your map - about as far as Hiawatha - I think you would be O. K. for 1871. And if you want some closeups for the years subsequent to 1871, let me know. For example: Saturday, Oct. 18, 1873 "Clear. Thrashed in the forenoon the machine broke after dinner & we quit in disgust. Austin & I picked a load of corn & then went hunting."

Thanks for "Life in Kansas - 1871", and for The Pictorial Record of the Old West, XIV. Reports . . . for a Railroad is one of my favorite books. I used to read it over and over - when I was making the Albumen of Amer Hist. And it well deserves one of your inimitable presentations. You give me data that I find new and valuable.

It sticks in my mind that Hopkins or you told me that your manuscript was in or to be in. My knowledge of what goes on at 597 Fifth Avenue is almost a blank. I have not been into the city for months. Hopkins, poor boy, had, as you may know, a very serious operation and was out for weeks, maybe still is. I sincerely hope he will handle the production of your book; no one else in the organization will do it so well.

My regards to Mrs. Taft, yourself and the family.

Sincerely yours,



Robert Taft general correspondence

Dear Mr. Taft;

1/9/52

As I read through the latest paper in your series (oh, it is a grand thing, sir, and I am enjoying and profiting by it very much), I kept wondering what ever happened to the collection of materials — "pictorial" wise — that Elms Scott Watson had amassed. The last I heard was, indirectly — through Don Russell, editor of the Brand Book for the Chicago Press of the West — that Julie (Mrs. W.) and John, their son, had the materials books and all, and wished to dispose of them as a whole. Just where they are at the moment, I don't know, nor just where Julie is. John is in Peoria, Ill., my home town. I'm to be there, visiting my parents, next week and I'm going to see John to ask him about his father's library.

But — that's by the way (although, if you wish, I will write you what I find out).

It is to thank you for both items sent, that I write: for the Life in Kansas and Pictorial Record reprints. What pleased me much, in connection with the latter, was to find I actually had quite a few of the P. Railroad Repts. that you used. Railroadiana looms quite respectably large among my collections — I have the Vol. 12 of the 59 Doc., for example, and five others of the series. None of Egloffstein, unfortunately.

The map on the back of the Life in Kansas separate is good to have — not only for the railroad aspect, but location.

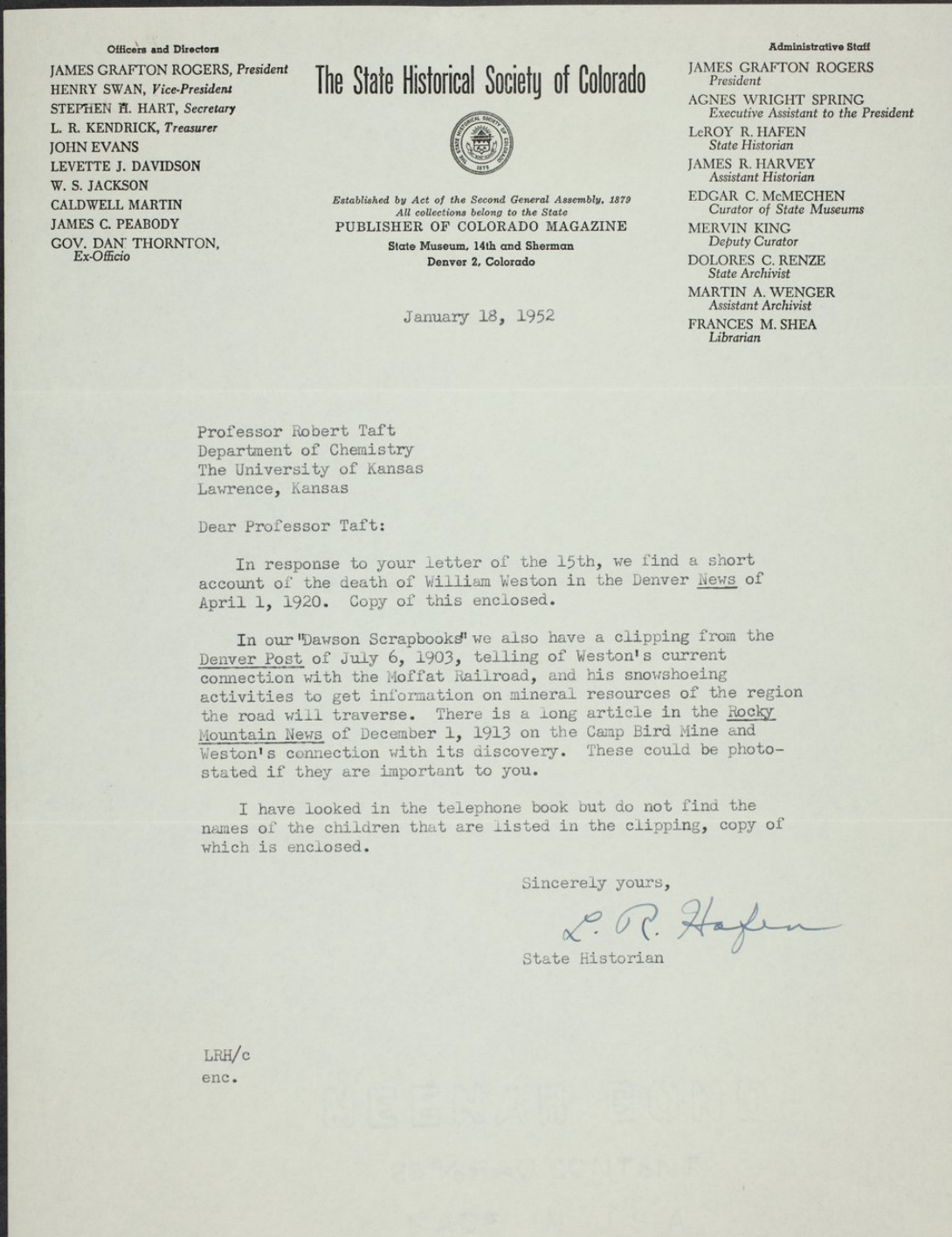


of the several early forts. And the text serves to supplement other materials I have on Dodge City, for example.

It was very kind of you to send those things to us. They have a "good home". In some way, some time, I will be able to repay that kindness.

Sincerely yours,
Don Bloch

Robert Taft general correspondence



Robert Taft general correspondence

Dawson Scrapbooks, Vol.III, p. 45

Denver News
April 1, 1920

1920
76
7844

The funeral of William Weston, well known thruout the country as a mining engineer and discoverer and first owner of the Camp Bird mine at Ouray, who died Tuesday morning following an attack of bronchial pneumonia, was held at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon at his home, 177 South Downing street. Burial was in Fairmount cemetery.

Born in London seventy-six years ago, Mr. Weston came to America on a hunting expedition and visited Colorado in 1870. He was associated with the old Kansas Pacific railroad for a number of years, and while general traveling agent for that line did much for the growth of Colorado in the early days by advertising the state in the East.

Mr. Weston followed mining in various parts of the state and discovered the Camp Bird mine at Ouray and other famous properties. He was affiliated with the late David H. Moffat in mining.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. William Weston, one daughter, Mrs. Sidney V. Este, and one son, Guy S. Weston.



Billings, Montana, Jan. 20, 1952.
5049 Lake Elmo Road.

Dear Dr. Taft:

You continue to astonish me with the amount of ground you can cover in a given time. Each number of "The Pictorial Record of the Old West" is a full-blown Doctoral Thesis, and a good deal better than many such theses. The latest number particularly intrigued me, though I have not yet read it clear through. The map of Kansas of 1871 is the only one I have as yet seen showing the forts in existence at that time. Several of them I do not recall ever having heard or read of or about. I missed such a map in reading about Custer's campaigns in the South before we went to Fort Lincoln. Thanks a million.

The first printing of my Custer Story is about sold out and we are rushing to get into shape for the second printing. There were several mistakes in two of the maps that had to be straightened out; and since the Literary Guildpost news release in November complained that the book did not give the beginner a chance, a short orientation summary had to be provided, since there seemed to be some merit in the complaint. That would have been a job of an hour or two a few years ago, but I am in my 80th year now, memory very poor and am stale from being cooped up in my shack by perpetual snows and below normal temperatures. That has been going on for two months in an unbroken stretch, and no promise yet of a change. As to the book, the comments continue to be mostly highly laudatory, much to my surprise.

Again, thank you for those fine publications. Best regards and the best of all New Years to you.

Sincerely yours,

Charles Kuhlman Charles Kuhlman.

Robert Taft general correspondence

COL. M. L. CRIMMINS
312 GENESEE ROAD
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

1/29/52

DEAR DR. TAFT

I HAVE YOUR LETTER OF THE 22ND

I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND THE DATE
EMORY THE PICTURE OF THE MILITARY PLAZA
SAN ANTONIO, BUT I WILL KEEP ON TRYING..

I FIND IN NATURALISTS OF THE FRONTIER
BY SAMUEL WOOD GEISER, SOUTHERN METHODIST
UNIVERSITY PRESS 1948 2ND ED. APPENDIX 13-
P 281 - SCHUTT, ARTHUR 1814-75. WAS
IN 1853-55 FIRST ASSISTANT SURVEYOR UNDER
MAJOR EMORY OF THE U.S. MEXICAN BOUNDARY
SURVEY.

YOUR REPRINT OF THE PICTORIAL RECORD
OF THE OLD WEST. I JUST ARRIVED MOODY
THANKS.

I GIVE MY COPY OF EMORY'S REPORT TO
THE O'NEIL FARMS - WILLIAM MAY, SAN
ANTONIO - MRS. FARMS FAMILY WERE HERE

Robert Taft general correspondence

IN THE 1850'S AND ON THEIR RETURN TO
SAN ANTONIO IN ABOUT TEN DAYS I
WILL ASK THEM TO HELP
I READ THROUGH THE ALAMO STAR
PUBLISHED BY J. P. NEWCOMB IN 1854
AND I DO NOT REMEMBER ANY MENTION MADE
OF SCHUTT BEING THERE IN THAT NEWSPAPER

Sincerely,

Wm. L. Cunningham

200 East 66th Street,
New York City 21.

January 30th, 1952.

Mr. Robert Taft,
The University of Kansas,
Lawrence, Kansas.

My dear Mr. Taft:

I have been rereading your introduction to "Photography and the American Scene" and see that the motives which started you on the research for that grand book are very similar to those which started me in 1946 on a project I have just finished. I was a collector of stereoscopic views and could not find out anything about their origin and history. For some reason I did not then discover your book or I would probably never had gone back to the source material. Once introduced to those old photographic periodicals I could not stop, even though I knew then that you had been there before me, for by that time I felt that there was enough on stereo alone to assemble all the facts into a book.

The result is practically a companion volume to yours, with the point of view of a collector of old photographs rather than interest in photographic technique. I've tried to see all the collections in the east, because though mine is one of the largest it is not at all the best - especially in western material. It has been called to my attention that you have published "The Photographic History of Kansas" which I have not read. How may I obtain a copy? I need particularly to be sure that I have a record of all the photographers known to have worked in stereo. My file of over 1500 includes so many obscure New England operators that I certainly don't want to omit any pioneers in the west..

There are not a great many of us stereo collectors - only

eight active colleagues on my list, though I have heard of a few more. However, there is a lot of interest now in carte-de-visite collecting - probably you started it! The ladies are taking it up, while stereo, except for two or three of us, is a man's hobby. "Photography and the American Scene" is still in great demand. I've heard rumors of a new edition and certainly think that Macmillan would be wise to put one out.

I'd be very grateful for the information about how to get "The Photographic History of Kansas" and any suggestions you could make to me about recent publications and articles discussing early western photography. For instance, through Mr. William Culp Darrah I heard of the invaluable diaries published by the Utah Historical Society of the exploration of the Colorado River by Major Powell. My book is really supposed to be finished but there's always room for correction in this stage before it has even been submitted to a publisher.

Those of us who have studied "Photography and the American Scene" will always be grateful to you for writing it!

Most sincerely yours,

Lorraine L. Hays Dexter

(Mrs. Byron Dexter)



February 22, 1952

Mr. Beaumont Newhall
George Eastman House
900 East Avenue
Rochester 7, New York

Dear Mr. Newhall:

Many thanks for the copy of volume number one of Image. I hope you will continue to send it to me.

We have recently acquired from Joseph Stanley Pennell, the novelist, the negatives of his father, J. J. Pennell. The elder Pennell was from the early 1890's until 1923, the village photographer at Junction City, Kansas. The collection embraces some 25 to 30,000 negatives and represents practically the life-time work of the photographer. I am now in the process of examining this collection, negative by negative, and am making a selection of about 10% of the negatives for printing and mounting and cataloging the prints. I have gone through about 3,000 negatives and find that the collection gives a pretty fair picture record of village life in the period represented. What makes the collection additionally valuable is the fact that Junction City was only some three or four miles from Fort Riley, and Pennell made frequent photographic excursions to this army post. In addition to the record of village life, we will therefore have an extensive pictorial record of army life for the same period.

Do you know of any similar collection?

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT:c

KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY
(INCORPORATED)

700 BALTIMORE AVE.
TELEPHONE VICTOR 1327

KANSAS CITY, MO.

February 27, 1952

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

Dear Dr. Taft:

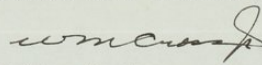
We are enclosing the 1951 statement of the Electrocolor account, together with our check in the amount of \$424.34 in payment of your share of 20% of the amount earned from royalties.

Following our practice of previous years, we have deducted \$1,000.00 reserve and \$100.00 for travel and office expense before making the distribution.

With kindest regards.

Very truly yours,

KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY



Walter M. Cross, Jr.

WMC/dbb

Encls. (2)



1951

ELECTROCOLOR ACCOUNT

STATEMENT OF INCOME, EXPENSE AND DISTRIBUTION

RESERVE:

1950 Balance brought forward	\$ 1,000.00
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RECEIPTS:

Mar. 31, 1951	Royalty Minimum for 1951	\$1,200.00
" " "	Royalty Earned - 1951	989.70
" " "	Royalty Earned - 1951	32.00
Total Receipts		<u>2,221.70</u>
Total in Account		\$ 3,221.70

EXPENSE:

Deduct Office & Travel Expense	100.00
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RESERVE:

Deduct Reserve	<u>1,000.00</u>
Balance to be Distributed	\$ 2,121.70

DISTRIBUTION:

J. E. Stareck	\$ 848.68
Robert A. Taft	424.34
K. C. Testing Laboratory	<u>848.68</u>
	\$2121.70

Robert Taft general correspondence

March 8, 1952

Dean Nelson, Chairman
Budget Committee
Strong Hall

Dear Dean Nelson:

I writing to apply for a research grant in accordance with Chancellor Murphy's letter of February 9. The project is described below in accordance with the outline suggested in Dr. Murphy's letter. The grant requested is primarily for work to be done during the summer of 1952.

a. Research on the Fennell Collection of Photographic Negatives.

b. The project proposed is primarily a continuation of the work I am doing the present semester, namely the selection of significant negatives from the Collection, supervising their printing and cataloging, and performing newspaper research. The newspaper research is directed to the purpose of obtaining background material for a written account of the photographs and the Collection and also for the purpose of obtaining a more *precise* dating than is now available for many of the incidents depicted.

I hope to have the major task of selecting, printing and cataloging done by the end of the summer as well as much of the newspaper work and a start on writing the results of my research as a preface to the catalogue of the Collection. I have examined some six thousand negatives to date and have had virtually no help. Beginning March 10, I have a graduate student in history joining me and hope that more of my time can then be devoted to research and less to manual labor.

c. I am scheduled to teach this summer but I believe that a replacement can be found. In this case, I estimate the budget would be

Personal salary.....	\$1000
Assistants.....	400
Travel.....	300
Total	\$1700

The last item will be necessary as the newspaper research must be done in Topeka and a number of trips to Junction City and Fort Riley-where I have already made contacts-will be made.



Robert Taft general correspondence

Dean Nelson

3/8/52

page two

The travel item includes the current semester (I am making two trips a week to Topeka and have made three to Junction City at my own expense); the other two items refer to summer only. I believe the present appropriation for the Pennell Collection will cover "maintenance".

f. I am working at present one to four hours a day (including Sundays) on the Pennell Collection. It is only one of a ^{number of} research projects I have under way.

If the above grant is made all my time will be given to the Collection during the summer.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft
Professor of Chemistry

RT:g

Robert Taft general correspondence

HELEN L. CARD

American Illustration

RFD No. 3

SPRINGFIELD, VERMONT

Remington
Frost
Abbey
Pyle
Kemble

Phone
Windsor Vt.
46-W2

165 East 49th St.
New York, N. Y.
March 17, 1952

Mr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Mr. Taft:

I have just discovered through C. R. Smith the existence of the series of pamphlets of which you are the author, PICTORIAL RECORD OF THE OLD WEST.

There are tears in my eyes, to think that I missed all this. I have much respect for you as a scholar, and when this group was sent to me to read, plus your book reviews, I immediately wished to obtain copies. I have decided probably I can buy the series, and if so, I want two sets of them all.

I keep files up at my place in the mountains, in which I am busy recording as best I can, the work of American illustrators, and particularly the work of many whom you mention in the series.

And got a good old sneakin' chuckle out of your book review of Harold McCracken's Remington, for it is just what I thought of it. I don't see why even the demand for "popularizing" should make things necessarily so sloppy - however..... and so far as I'm concerned so un-real.

I ran into Harold one evening when he was uncorked -- or the bottle was - and the venom he let loose on my innocent head for having wanted once in my innocence to write about Remington (remember I met you at Ogdensburg, gosh, WHY didn't you make friends with me? I don't bite, and I am interested) was really extraordinary, considering that he "won" and published his book, while you and I did not. "Remember that work you did for the Houston people? Well, I ~~xxx~~ told them you were no good; I told them about you; I blackmailed you from coast to coast" etc. etc. First I was stunned with amazement, second, my pride rose up and I stiffly didn't answer; third, my Peeping Tom of a brain summed up a valuation of the man which it had always suspected --

Oh well -- I hate these jealousies, which are usually so unnecessary. One thinks sometimes of the Lord's Prayer, "Thy Kingdom come" which I always take to mean a wish for the day when everyone will realize that everything comes from the hand of God and there is no real need to gouge and bite your fellow-creature. Hm. Don't mean to startle you!

Anyway, I'm not the one to struggle with writing, I guess. I struggle enough with recording many things and making up pictorial files. You may remember that I made up the monumental reference collection on Remington for the Art Reference Library of the Metropolitan Museum, and followed it with one on A. B. Frost, E. W. Kemble, W. T. Smedley, C. S. Reinhart, etc. I do wish I knew you. I had little money when I went to Ogdensburg but risked it on a labor of love, and being a little timid in those days missed getting acquainted with you, too. Wretch.

Let me know if you write any more about artists. I like your work and respect it.

Helen Card

Robert Taft general correspondence

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
REGION TWO
OMAHA, NEBRASKA
Room 407.

*Ans.
3-26*

March 20, 1952

Dr. Robert Taft
University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Professor Taft:

I am in the process of preparing an article on the new museum at Custer Battlefield to be published in the July issue of Montana Magazine of History. In my descriptions of the various photographs, sketches, and paintings used to illustrate the exhibit story, I am attempting to give the names of the illustrators. Your Photography and the American Scene and your "Pictorial Record of the Old West" in the Kansas Historical Quarterly have been very helpful. However, there are a few items I have been unable to unravel.

We are exhibiting in one case two photographic reproductions of Charles Schreyvogel's paintings, autographed by the painter to Mrs. Custer, one of which represents dismounted soldiers on a skirmish line firing at mounted Indians circling in the distance. I presume this is his painting entitled "Skirmish Line." The other shows mounted troopers charging an Indian camp, with Indians riding at close range in front of them. I have been unable to find any of the references you cite in the Kansas Historical Quarterly for August 1951. If you can enlighten me as to the titles and dates of these two paintings, it would be deeply appreciated.

Incidentally, the Custer Museum will be dedicated June 25, and we hope reprints of my article will be on sale at the Battlefield at that time. That depends on whether I can get my materials to the editor by the 1st week in April. I shall send you a reprint when they are out.

Sincerely yours,

Harry B. Robinson
Harry B. Robinson
Historian