

June 26, 1962

Miss Rose Taff  
2140 Great Highway  
San Francisco 10, California

Dear Miss Taff:

The negative and an enlargement of the photograph of your father is enclosed with this letter. I hope you like the enlargement. It is about as good a one as can be made from the negative. I am very glad to have a picture of your father and intend to use it in a forthcoming publication of historical geological interest.

Your father did some remarkable work here in Texas in the winter of 1889/1890, when he was a very young man and as yet inexperienced. The field notebook which he kept at that time is still in existence in Austin, Texas, and was seen by me. It is a marvel of clarity and precision and includes some fine small sketches of geological exposures. Your father mapped the Cretaceous-Tertiary contact from Littig, east of Austin, to Terrell, east of Dallas, in that winter. No one before him had actually seen the contact nor did anyone know how it looked and exactly where it was. He figured all that out himself. Unfortunately, he did not publish his results himself, probably because he was so busy with the next work that he had to do. However, believe me, I intend to give him all due credit for his exceptionally fine work. I think he stood head and shoulders above the 12 geologists with whom he was associated at that time in Texas.

I have not been able to locate the field notebook your father used later on in south Texas. Would you know by any chance where it might be? If it is as good as the first one, it would be worth looking into.

Are there any letters in existence that your father wrote from Texas in those early years?

I regret that I missed out on meeting you while I was in San Francisco. It would have been very interesting to hear you talk about your father, whom I never met.

Please accept my thanks for your help in this reevaluation. You have been most kind.

Sincerely yours,

H. B. Stenzel

HBS:cd  
Enclosure

Shell Development Company  
Exploration & Production Research Division