

1606 Dorion Avenue, Ottawa 8, Ont.
August 22, 1969

Dear Miss Williams:

I appreciated very much the interest you have shown in the manuscript I forwarded to you for review, and which has been duly received. I must apologize for typing errors. It was done by one of the junior typists, and as I am getting that service gratis, I couldn't complain. Unfortunately I had copies made before I caught out all the inconsistencies.

I intend to cover the Pablo buffalo herd purchase and the forest conservation program in later chapters. I have a copy of an article prepared by Mr. Harkin for the Commission of conservation, together with copies of photos, sketches, etc, which have been handed down from Captain Sparks. Harry Johnston, who as a member of the Railway Commission staff, helped design the fire-engine, still lives in Ottawa. His son Harry is a prominent member of the Historic sites and parks division.

For some time I have been trying to assemble a history of the Brewster family. A niece of Fred Brewster, who, incidentally died this summer, is in charge of a new public records building at Banff, the Archives of the Canadian Rockies. Funds for its construction were supplied by a wealthy resident of Banff, Mrs. Peter Whyte. She was an American, Catherine Robb.

Now with regard to your specific comment. The word "sanitation" in the Order in Council reserving the Banff Hot Springs is the actual wording, although the framers must have been thinking of health. The Oxford Dictionary explains that the word "sanitary" means "free from or designed to obviate influences deleterious to health", and I think the 185 officers of the Department had in mind the health advantages of the springs.

I agree that the hot springs controversy occupies quite a lot of space, but as you say, it has never been published, and we have had considerable correspondence with the descendants of William McCardell, who want their father recognized as the discoverer of the springs. I think I can trim the material on the lease hassle which led to the discharge of George Stewart as the first Park Superintendent.

In mentioning the early explorers, I tried to confine them to those who actually traversed lands now in the National Parks. Simon Fraser did not cross the Yellowhead Pass, as far as I can ascertain. We have a copy of his journals from 1804 to 1808, edited by Kaye Lamb, the former Dominion Archivist. The Encyclopedia Canadana states that the first recorded crossing of Yellowhead Pass was in 1827. Robert Douglas in the book "A Guide to Jasper Park, gives it as 1826. We have on file a good paper on Jasper compiled by the late Judge Howay, who was a former member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board.

Your suggestion about clarification of the term "central Rockies" is a good one, and I will try and clarify. The origin of the name Yellowhead seems a bit complicated. The same Encyclopedia Canadiana states that the name came from Tete-Jaune attributed to Francis Decoigne, who was in charge of Jasper House in 1814 when Franchere passed through on his way to Montreal from Astoria. Undoubtedly Jasper Haws or Hawes had charge of the post before that.

Your page of notes seems to end in mid-air with reference to the climbing area. era. Did you by mischance omit to include a second sheet. We have a complete set of the Alpine Club's Annual in the library, and I am familiar with the founding of the club.

As I have mentioned, I do appreciate your interest and suggestions and I think your memory is prodigious and your perspicuity undiminished. If you can stand it, I'll mail copies of further mss. when completed.

I am going out west on a reorientation tour on September 1, and I hope to get an appraisal of what has been done in the parks during the last ten years. It is 12 years since I made my latest official tour, but I did drive west with my family in 1964. I intend to take in Prince Albert Park, which I last saw in 1955.

On my return, I will have a better idea of the development that has taken place, particularly in respect of highways and campgrounds on which the Department has spent millions. For instance, the Banff Jasper Highway has a right of way 200 feet wide, is paved all the way with eight foot shoulders, and grades to Trans-Canada Highway standard, except up the "Big Hill" to Sunwapta Pass. Jim Wardle still lives in Calgary, and I am trying to get an interview with him.

I hope you have had a good summer. We have had a very hot one although I have space in an air-conditioned office. As you can see, this is my own typing, not very good, but better than my hand-writing. Again, thanks and my regards,

W. F. Lothian.

P.S. Harry Walker, a former Ottawa newspaperman and Civil Servant has produced an interesting history called "Carleton Saga". (\$12.00) It mentions your ancestors grant along the Rideau east of Bank Street, and states that your former home is still occupied (by Dr. Emmett O'Grady of St. Patrick's College at 96 Southern Drive. You knew, of course, that Rideau Gardens were subdivided about 15 years ago.

WF Lothian, 1606 Dorion Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, to MB Williams, 22 August 1969

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