

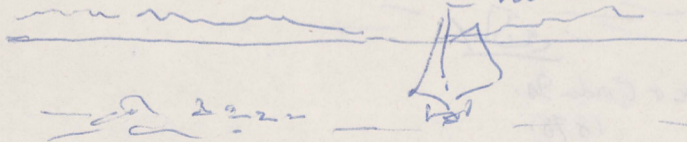
water colors.

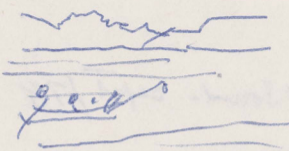
mountains - log + ducks

mt Gill + whale Passage fr Wright Sound - Sept /78


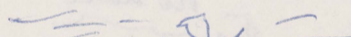
The sketch most like D.L. has the words  
Golebas Channel looking W.

no date.





S.W. entrance to NODALES Chau.

Sepia.   
on grey 

<sup>or M</sup>  
Nides Cove + Garden Is.  
1878.



Dear Dr. Leech -

I feel sorry that the photograph which  
that I sent ~~you~~ does not have  
the name of the place where it  
was painted - I know that this  
means a lot to you, <sup>however</sup> as you have  
give me a clue to ~~what~~ <sup>what</sup> part of the  
name of the channel ~~might be~~ - When  
I return to Montreal I will look  
through his sketches + see if I might  
be fortunate to find the full name.  
as I know that you would be so  
glad to have it -

Recently I had a very nice letter  
from your friend Dr. Tipper, asking if  
I could tell him where he could  
obtain one of my books on C. M. D.  
I have only a ~~very few~~ <sup>several</sup> ~~of them~~ <sup>copies</sup> left  
but promised to let him have one of  
them - He seemed to admire my

Uncle ~~Sam~~<sup>great</sup> ~~Sam~~, that I felt I  
should ~~give~~<sup>have</sup> ~~him~~ one, & I expect  
~~Sam~~ that he will enjoy  
at least part of my small  
book -

I have been busy working  
in my garden - it is lovely  
to have a little sunshine for  
a change - but Oh the mosquitoes!

Sincerely  
L. W. S.



1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa, Ont.

K2C 1Z4

2 May, 1976.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Your good letter  
and the clear photograph of G. M. Dawson's  
sketch greeted me when I got home on  
30 April. (I'd been on a bit of a journey  
eastward, including the annual meeting  
of the Canadian Institute of Mining and  
Metallurgy, which was at Quebec this  
year.)

I am proud to have the picture and  
appreciate your kindness in sending it.

Today I've been doing a bit of sleuthing  
on the location of the scene. The photographer  
evidently didn't include quite all of the  
picture, as the first letters of the title are  
missing in the left edge of the photo. The  
docked inscription reads: <sup>d?</sup> Letas Channel looking W.  
On the back of the photo are the words, printed,



"Goleta [?] Channel<sup>2</sup> looking W." I'm not sure whether this is your printing or someone's at McGill.

Without a date to guide me, I took a flying guess that this might be a sketch made during GMT's 1878 field work on the West Coast. My search of his Queen Charlotte report and map failed to turn up any Channel whose name ends with detas or letas. But there is a Goletas Channel at the east side of the north end of Vancouver Island. It's quite within reason that GMT could have been there en route to Q.C.I.

So - I come to you with a question. What is the name on the original, which I presume you have. Does it corroborate or refute my deduction? A point that gives me some uneasiness is that my impression is that the terrain on that part of the Vancouver Island coast may be more subdued than that in the left side of the sketch - but I've never been to Goletas Channel.

As a by-product of today's investigation  
I had the pleasure of re-reading a good part  
of G.M.S.'s Queen Charlotte Islands report.  
- keeping in mind that he saw all those  
things while at the same time being his  
own navigator among the treacherous  
reefs and currents.

I expect to be in Ottawa most of  
the summer and would indeed like  
to call in on you at Almonte some  
time.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Geoff. Leeb



1113 Greenlawn Cresc  
Ottawa, K2C 1Z4

Insured



Mrs. Lois Winslow - Spragge,  
2 Parkside Place,  
Montreal 109  
Que

Send 2<sup>nd</sup> letter  
Dec 7/76 - with quick sketches  
of G.M.D's several paintings - +  
with what writing was on them  
helpfully denoting where they were  
painted -



34 Dobie Avenue,  
Montreal 304, Que.

September 27, 1972.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Thank you very much indeed for your most enjoyable letter. Peter and I both thoroughly enjoyed our time with you at Georama and only feel sorry for those unfortunate members of your clan who were out of town and missed all the fun. Please excuse my typewriter, but it seems as if the only chance I have to write letters nowadays is at the office, where my electric machine is too much of a temptation to lay down my pen.

\* Several things to tell you: the coloured photographs of Uncle George's water colours were done by Arnott & Rogers (or is it now Arnott-Rogers-Batten?) here in Montreal, and there will be no problem in getting extra copies. I think the price is \$10 each, but this can be verified once Mr. Myles (who was show manager) gets back from his two weeks of rest and recuperation on Monday next.

Enclosed are copies of the photographs taken the morning of your visit to Georama. Copies of these are \$3.00 each, and all you and your family need do is make a note of the number of each photo and the quantity of each you require. Here again there is no rush - these people keep their negatives for five years, so you can get together and select at your leisure when you get back to Montreal next month.

Peter has an unexpected treasure trove for you. In today's mail he received from Western Minerals Corp., an American firm whose Georama exhibit was quite near the Dawson Linens, a selection (fairly large, I gather) of marble chips for you. If you will remember, we stopped by their booth, and they had a table projector showing coloured slides of various rock localities, and a table with a number of rather beautiful mineral specimens, and you jokingly asked me if I thought they would mind if you put one particular one in your handbag! Anyway, I guess they thought you were really a worthy cause, so you can now start thinking up some themes for some more rock art.

We are keeping very busy these days - Peter getting things underway for the new session at McGill and at the same time tying off loose ends from the summer field work; while I cope with the "September whirlpool" both at the church office where I work (where everything comes to life with a bang once the summer is over) and at home, where I am still putting away summer things and getting caught up with ironing and other tasks of a self-perpetuating nature. I am looking forward to Thanksgiving Weekend - three days at home.



Has your fossil arrived from Germany yet? Peter has become an expert at mounting the small ones on styrofoam, so they look just as if they were still embedded in the original rock, so we have our giant fish in pride of place in the living room and are building up a set of satellites around him, as Peter gets his cutting, gluing and painting done. So far he has finished mounting four, and you will be interested to see how impressive they look. I think your son's birthday is this week - if I remember rightly - and am sure he was overjoyed with his gift.

There is great excitement all over town about the Russia-Canada hockey series: yesterday afternoon even I (who usually am indifferent to most forms of organized sport) broke down and brought my radio to the office with me after lunch! It was certainly an exciting game, but it was almost too much of a contrast when it was all over to have to settle back to the mundane affairs of Mount Royal United Church. I felt when the game ended that we should all have gone home too.

I suppose your garden is in the process of being prepared for winter: on Sunday I dug up all my begonias and geraniums and now have a veritable hothouse in the basement. I think I shall have to raffle some of them off - or else move to a house with a conservatory. So far we have had a very pleasant autumn, in contrast to a poor summer, so I am glad that you were here in August when the weather wasn't so pleasant and are there in Almonte to enjoy the bright colours of autumn.

Please give me a call when you get back, and I shall invent a dentist's appointment one afternoon so I can hasten over to tea.

With love from Peter and me,

Jean Eakins

Jean Eakins





MCGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

May 10, 1971.

Mrs. L. S. Winslow-Spragge,  
"Cedarbrae",  
Almonte, Ontario.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Thank you very much for the detailed information on the C.I.M.M. Women's Branch. It is most useful and important information - I have promised the C.I.M.M. headquarters a copy just in case they don't have one. I gather the men of the C.I.M.M. did not pay much attention to the Women's Branch until a Mrs. Bergeron led a campaign to raise funds for the University of Montreal Mining Library in the name of the Institute, and then the fur flew! Now the women are under control! But past endeavours appear to have been ignored, at least as far as records are concerned.

\* Uncle George's watercolours and sketches have all been photographed as 35 mm. slides and they look magnificent projected on a screen. I will let you know how the Sudbury meeting of the Geological Association of Canada receives them - it should be a good show. I put on an evening of early McGill geology history for my field school students at Sutton last Friday evening, and showed them the slides. They were all much impressed, and several of them remarked afterwards that they never realized McGill had such a distinguished past history in the geological sciences.

I have a marvelous slide of Grandfather Dawson in colour from a tinted photograph, resplendent in his favourite fur-trimmed coat, and a lovely slide of the oil painting of Uncle George, made after his death through a special subscription raised by the Canadian mining industry. By the way, I hope you don't mind my familiarity in referring to G.M.D. as Uncle George! It isn't flippancy, but a genuine feeling of relationship, albeit geological: we McGill geologists are a family, with JWD for our grandfather and GMD for an uncle. Only through historical reflection can we encourage and carry on the traditions of excellence.



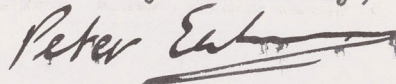
In the years when nobody cared, you kept at work on the records, and today your labours are bearing fruit: Mr. Andreassen is constantly saying thank God for Mrs. Winslow-Spragge; Mr. Trigg of the Notman collection blesses you, and Edgar Andrew Collard survives on you! You are apologetic about your biography because it has been stated that it isn't geological enough. Why should it be? You have done a remarkable job with your book, and one I am sure Uncle George would approve of wholeheartedly. After all, it is up to the geologists and the political scientists to take care of their own little areas.

I found your grandfather's personal copy of Uncle George's Boundary Report, and have turned it over to the Archives. 'Poco a poco se va lejos', as they say in Spanish: 'little by little one goes a long way'. I have also collected your father's reprints from the Geology Department and they are off to the archives too.

Jean and I have been reading copies I made of your father's letters with much pleasure and quite a few laughs. He had quite a sense of humour and was a keen observer of the human scene.

Well, many thanks again for all your help and support. I only hope I do justice to Uncle George at Sudbury: it won't be for want of trying.

Yours very sincerely,



P. R. Eakins  
Associate Professor

PRE/je



1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa K2C 1Z4

3 August, 1971

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

It is a long time since you've heard from me. This note comes to "break the silence" because I've something that may interest you.

In 1965 you gave me something that is one of my most cherished possessions - G.M.S.'s sketch "Looking S.E. from lat.  $49^{\circ}$  355 m. W." which hangs above my desk here at home.

This was painted during the 1873 Boundary Survey. I was able to pin-point the locale pretty closely not long after receiving this gift from you. Now I have established the day on which it must have been painted - namely Monday, October 6, 1873. G.M.S. was travelling eastward at the time, retracing part of his earlier route. The weather had been cold when he had passed by this locality first, a week earlier, and there had been snow on the ground.



By now (Oct 6<sup>th</sup>) this had melted and G.M.D. recorded "Splendid view from the top of the 'Pyramid.' A perfect Indian summer day. Gentle air from S.W. Not a cloud in the sky & sun almost oppressively warm. Panorama of picturesque outlined hills, grass covered & clear soft blue at horizon."

My reasons for concluding that my treasured sketch dates from that day are:

1. the mileage along the Boundary (miles west of the Red River) is correct. That day he travelled eastward from mileage 360 for a distance of "about 10 miles" and camped for the night in the valley near mileage 351. The sketch is entitled ".... 355 m. W."
  2. G.M.D. had time for sketching that day. They reached the campsite early and he spent the afternoon looking at items of geological interest near Pyramid Valley. The weather was perfect for sketching.
  3. The sketch shows a vista of hills clothed in the brown grasses of autumn, looking down into a valley, beneath what can only be described as "a clear soft blue horizon."
- The date is not yet proven, though, as G.M.D. was in the area in 1874 also.



My information has come from "Saskatchewan History," vol. XXI, No. 1 in which part of G. M. T.'s Journal for 1873 is published. I did not know anything about this publication until Mr. Clayton Grove gave me a copy of it recently.

Mr. Grove, whom I am sure has been in touch with you, is doing his Ph.D. thesis on the work of G. M. T., at the University of Saskatchewan. He has been doing research at the archives here this summer. All our G.S.C. <sup>field</sup> notebooks of G. M. T. and his contemporaries have, this summer, been formally transferred from our office to the custody of the Archives of Canada at the National Library and Archives building. It is a good place for them (though not as convenient for my own use of them!).

Mr. Grove is a serious, mature man, much older than the average graduate student. His academic background is rather unusual, as it combines geography, history, and some geology. I only wish he had ~~the~~ personal familiarity with the country in which G. M. T. worked. He plans to visit some of these areas next summer, I believe. I am fortunate in having



traversed on foot and with packhorses many of the actual routes that G. M. S. travelled on foot and with packhorses. When I read what he's written the scenes are real to me and the necessarily abbreviated descriptions in the notebooks are relatively easily understandable - both for what they say and what they don't say.

Mr. Grove does not have this advantage - and come to think of it - there are only a few of us today who do - but his sincerity and his thoroughness will partly offset this.

Our G. S. C. History is becoming a reality. Mr. Zaslav is here again this summer, working on the final part of the ms. The part I have here on my desk now for critical reading deals with the "modern era" of the G. S. C. We are now at the stage of selecting the illustrations. The earlier chapters have already gone forward to the "publishing editors" (the ones who worry about the commas and the capitals) and we feel at last that the book is in sight (for 1971 issue).



I was most disappointed that the plans of Mr. Poole of the C. B. C. for a documentary on G. M. S. did not come to fruition. He gave me the impression of being the type of man who might do justice to G. M. S. - so different from some of the "way out" characters that gravitate to the television business.

This summer I have had my nose very close to the G. S. C. grindstone - all office and no field - and in fact pretty nearly every weekend at it too. I have been out canoeing exactly twice! One of those days was on the Mississippi, upstream from Ferguson's Falls to beyond the Clyde, and it brought a bit of education. Saw a muskrat swimming across the river and paddled alongside it for a close look. The animal was swimming strongly and steadily, directly across the stream, in good muskrat fashion. But suddenly the realization struck me - "Wrong tail!" It wasn't a muskrat at all, it was a groundhog. I had no idea that a groundhog could, or would, swim the

6.  
Mississippi (not even our Mississippi!).  
But there he was, doing a good job of it and giving  
the impression that he just hadn't fallen in by  
mistake but that he knew exactly what he  
was about. I watch him till he reached the  
far shore.

It was a long, long time ago that you  
remarked about liking the <sup>G.S.C.</sup> postcard map of Canada's  
geology that I'd sent, and about wishing to  
have a few extra copies. I apologise for my  
lack of action - but I hadn't forgotten. Here  
they are - from a poor correspondent!

With best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

Geoff. Lub



Dear Mr. Leach

I was so very glad to hear from you, it seems such a long time since I have had any news of you.

As your letter is dated June 29<sup>th</sup> of 1884, I am wondering if you are taking a summer <sup>from</sup> vacation ~~work~~ & staying at home?

It was good <sup>to</sup> see <sup>to</sup> enclose <sup>to</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>the</sup> <sup>copy</sup> <sup>of</sup> <sup>the</sup> <sup>letter</sup> <sup>which</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>have</sup> <sup>written</sup> to Mr. Watson's - Mr. Kner so much about all these

distant  
& western places, and from  
you on ~~your~~ <sup>personal</sup> experiences that  
you ~~really~~ <sup>really</sup> should ~~be~~  
write a book <sup>not just a</sup> on you are  
<sup>always top</sup> such an ~~wonderful~~ <sup>(the little man)</sup>  
upholder of Dawson &  
his exploits - I find  
the letter most interesting  
and thought it ~~was~~ so  
kind of you to send it to  
me -

~~has~~ I also received a  
letter from Mr Watson  
perhaps you gave him my  
name? He asked me about  
maps etc. and asked

When he could get a copy  
of my book - I have  
promised to send him one.  
I will also be glad to let  
you have a copy with my  
best wishes -

If you ever could drive  
out this way, I would  
always be delighted to see  
you. If might be taking  
an outing with your wife <sup>some time</sup>  
and if you gave me a call  
before hand there would  
always be a cup of tea <sup>winter</sup>.  
I expect to be here ~~the~~ all  
summer with the exception  
of the last 2 weeks of July.

~~The cat boat of 6~~  
~~old only 3.~~

Louise  
Pragel

---

<sup>Td</sup>  
my no is 256-2972  
and for now. my

Best wishes and very

Kind regards

Sincerely

Louise



1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa 5, Ont.

29 June, 1970.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

A surveyor from Dawson Creek, B.C. wrote to the Geological Survey recently, on behalf of the local Historical Society, asking what association there was between George M. Dawson and the locality and name Dawson Creek. I thought you might be interested in my reply, so enclose a copy of it. I am glad to do what I can to make people aware of G. M. D.'s contribution to the development of our country.

Are copies of your book still available?

If so, I would very much like to purchase a second copy from you or from an agent you can direct me to.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

Geoff. Leech



601 Booth Street  
Ottawa 4, Ontario.

June 29th, 1970.

Mr. D.E. Watson, B.C.L.S.,  
1136-103 Avenue,  
Dawson Creek, B.C.

Dear Mr. Watson:

This is in reply to your request to the Director of The Geological Survey for information on the association between Dr. George M. Dawson and Dawson Creek, B.C.

Yes, Dr. Dawson did indeed traverse your area. This was in the course of his epic journey from Port Simpson to Edmonton in 1879. He crossed the Rockies via the Pine Pass and followed the Pine River to the position of present-day East Pine. He continued eastward up Coldstream Creek and down Tremblay Creek to the Kiskatinaw, which he crossed just north of Arras on August 11th, 1879. He camped that night at head of Dawson Creek, in what is now the northwest quarter of Tp. 78, R.16. He calculated the latitude of this camp to be  $55^{\circ}46'54''$  and its elevation as 2605' (i.e. 1300' by barometer above Dunvegan, for which an elevation of 1305' was used as a datum.) On August 12, he travelled southeasterly, south of the Creek, then swung northerly and crossed the Creek at or very close to the present town of Dawson Creek. He then cut east to the Pouce Coupé River and camped that night just about opposite Briar Ridge.

On August 15, when about two-thirds of the way from Pouce Coupé River to Dunvegan, he met Mr. Henry A.F. MacLeod, Exploration Engineer for the Canadian Pacific Railway route. They had travelled together from the Pacific to the Rocky Mountain Trench, where their routes diverged, MacLeod taking the Parsnip-Peace route to Dunvegan. MacLeod was now travelling west again to link up with Joseph Hunter's C.P.R. Exploration of 1877, which had extended from Kamloops to today's Kiskatinaw River.

Now as to the origin of the name Dawson Creek. The Akriggs, in their valuable book "1001 British Columbia Place Names" (Vancouver, Discovery Press 1969), state that Dawson named it after himself. I know of no basis for this assumption and, quite to the contrary, have good reason for stating that it would have been entirely out of keeping with his character and conduct for him to have done so. Dawson made no reference to the creek name in his text report but shows "Dawson's Brook" on his map. On the other hand MacLeod called the creek "Dawson's River" in his report. I suggest that MacLeod may have named the stream for Dawson. I do not know of its appearance on any earlier map. Perhaps MacLeod's original journal contains the answer.



I enclose copies of pages from Dawson's original field notes, Dawson's report, Macleod's report, and of a section of Dawson's remarkable map of the country between the Pacific Coast and Edmonton.

Dawson G.M. 1881; Report on an exploration from Port Simpson on the Pacific Coast, to Edmonton on the Saskatchewan, embracing a portion of the Northern part of British Columbia and the Peace River country 1879; Part B (177 pp) of Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, Report of Progress for 1879-80.

Macleod H.A.F. 1881; Report on explorations made between Port Simpson B.C., and Battleford N.W.T. via the valley of Peace River, during the season of 1879; Appendix 3 (pp. 57-70) of Reports and Documents in Reference to the Canadian Pacific Railway, 1880.

Dawson's remarkable map, scale 1 inch to 8 miles, was issued in three large sheets to accompany our Report of Progress for 1879-80. The section I have copied for you is from Sheet II. Many of the names have been changed in succeeding years so the following list of names near Dawson Creek may be useful in reading the pages of the reports I enclose.

<u>Dawson</u>	<u>Present</u>
East Branch of Pine R.	Murray R.
Coal Brook	Coldstream
Buffalo Creek	Tremblay Creek
Mud R.	Kiskatinaw R.
D'Echafaud R.	Pouce Coupe R.

As you will see, Dawson thoroughly enjoyed crossing the piece of country around your town, especially as the easy travelling came after a session of hacking through dirty going in old burn. His reports are a pleasure to read, totally aside from their geological merit. I enjoy them particularly because my memories of trails and pack-strings include quite a few miles in his footsteps.

Dawson's outstanding geological ability is all the more impressive when considered with the work on botany, zoology, meteorology and ethnology that he carried on simultaneously. The map of the distribution of tree species of B.C. that accompanied the report on his 1879 journey is a classic. This journey was only one of his major traverses in the Cordillera. It took guts as well as brains to do what he did despite his physical handicap. You have probably seen the photo of this diminutive man taken at MacLeod Lake B.C. in July, 1879.

Exploits like Dawson's are a background for the development of a sense of our Canadian identity. He deserves to be better known by our people, especially western Canadians. More power to you.

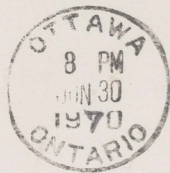
Yours very truly,

G. B. Leech  
Geologist

GBL/is  
Encl.



1113 GREENLAWN CRESCENT  
OTTAWA 5, ONTARIO



Mrs. Lois S. Winslow-Spragge,  
"Cedarbrae"  
Almonte  
Ontario



1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa 5, Ont.

15 July, 1970

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

I was pleased to receive your letter and especially want to thank you for your kindness in presenting me, again, with a copy of your 'Life and Letters of G. M. D.'. As you may guess, I give your book a lot of use! It is doing a good work in furthering the proper appreciation of this great Canadian.

Yes, I am in Ottawa this summer.

I have been forced into pretty much of a desk-bound position of late years (not for any physical reason - just the nature of my responsibilities) but I do hope to get out west for 3 weeks in September.

Thank you for your invitation to call on you. I hope we can do just that sometime - with a bit of prior warning.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,  
Geoff. Leech

1113 GREENLAWN CRESCENT  
OTTAWA 5, ONTARIO



Mrs. Lois Winslow-Spragge,

~~"Cedarbrae"~~

~~Almonte~~

Ont.

1/0 W. Warrington  
Mehis Beach  
P.2





1113 Greenlaw Crescent,  
Ottawa 5, Ont.

5 March, 1968

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge.

Thank you for your letter - a pleasant surprise.

I passed on your kind suggestion of perhaps making a gift of the G. M. Dawson's L.H.T. (?) hood from Queen's, but it seems that the opportunities for actually displaying it might be too few to justify possessing it here. Thank you for the thought.

As to the medals, my inquiries have drawn a blank. Awards like these are so very much personal effects that they would surely have been more likely to go to the family than to be put with any of his scientific possessions that might have gone to "the office". On the other hand, if they had been passed on later the family and the G.S.C. should have some record of them. I will continue to watch for any clues.

Our G.S.C. history project should make a great advance in the next year as Dr. Taslow, the historian, will devote his sabbatical year (from U. of Western Ontario) to it here.

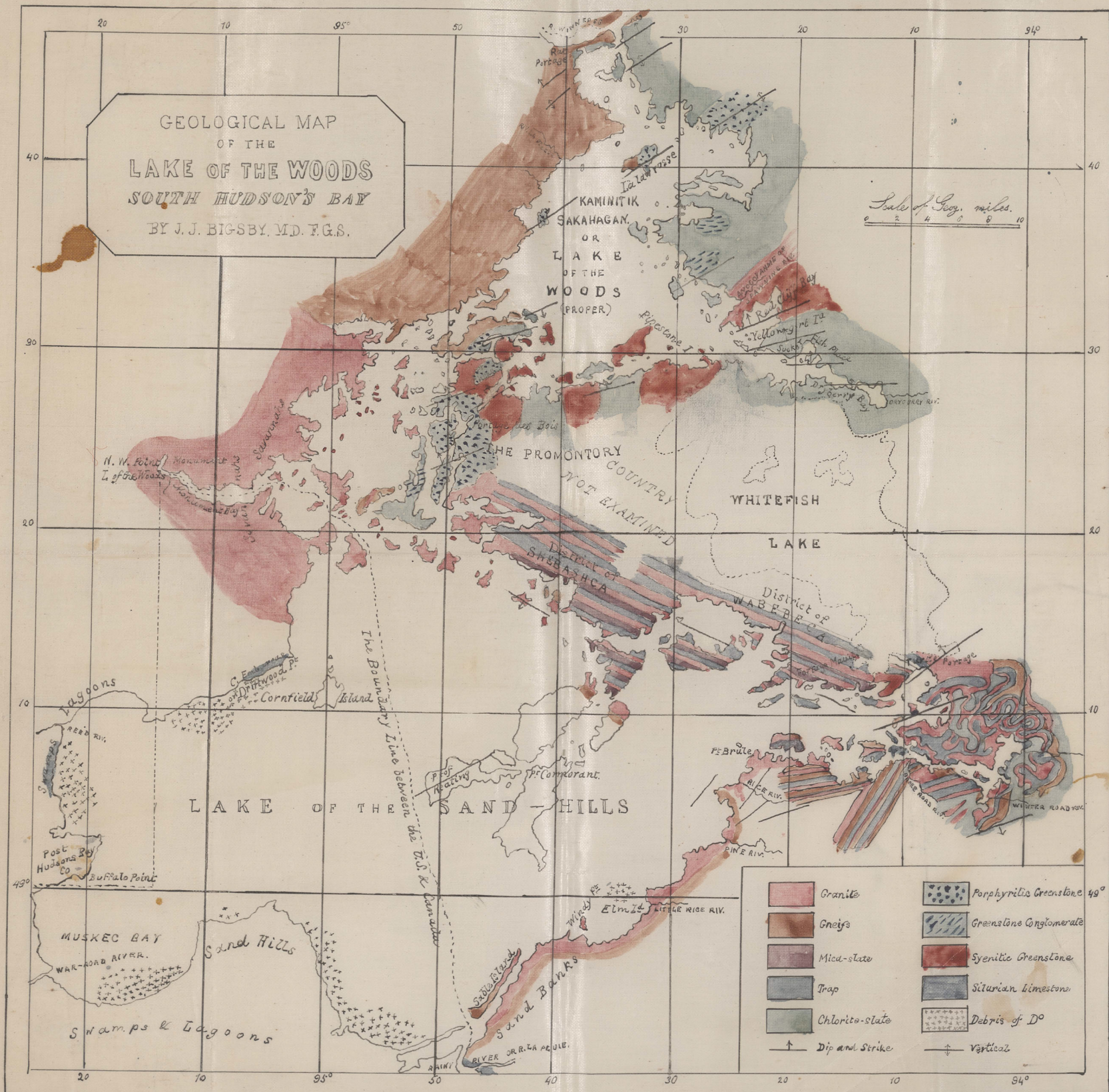
Yours sincerely,  
G. B. Leach



GEOLOGICAL MAP  
OF THE  
LAKE OF THE WOODS  
SOUTH HUDSON'S BAY

BY J. J. BIGSBY, M.D. F.G.S.

Scale of Log. miles.  
0 2 4 6 8 10





Letter from The Seech.  
with enclosure of Map of Lake of the Woods  
area

**Lois S. Winslow-Spragge**

2 PARKSIDE PLACE  
MONTREAL, QUEBEC



1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa 5, Ont.

11 January, 1965.

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

Your gift of one of George Mercer  
Lawson's sketches is deeply appreciated. I shall  
treasure it always. Thank you.

Yes indeed, I can place with some  
certainty the locale. First, from the topography,  
I placed it as being somewhere in the Plains  
section of the International Boundary—probably in  
Saskatchewan or southwestern Alberta. With this  
to guide me I then worked on G. M. L.'s Boundary  
Commission report. The scene looks southeast toward  
what G. M. L. referred to as "The Great Valley" and is  
near Pyramid Creek. This would date the sketch  
as 1873.

If it is possible to do so, I would very much  
like to have the opportunity of seeing your



collection of his sketches, especially mountain scenes.

I was shocked and saddened to learn, only today, that Dr. Maudslayi died last month. He had only a short time before been at Ottawa and came in for a long chat about his summer's work in Cornwall, where, as you might expect, he had delved into history as well as geology. He seemed then to be in good health and was full of plans for the future. He was a fine man.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff. Leech

1113 Greenbawn Cresc.  
Ottawa 5, Ont.



Re picture

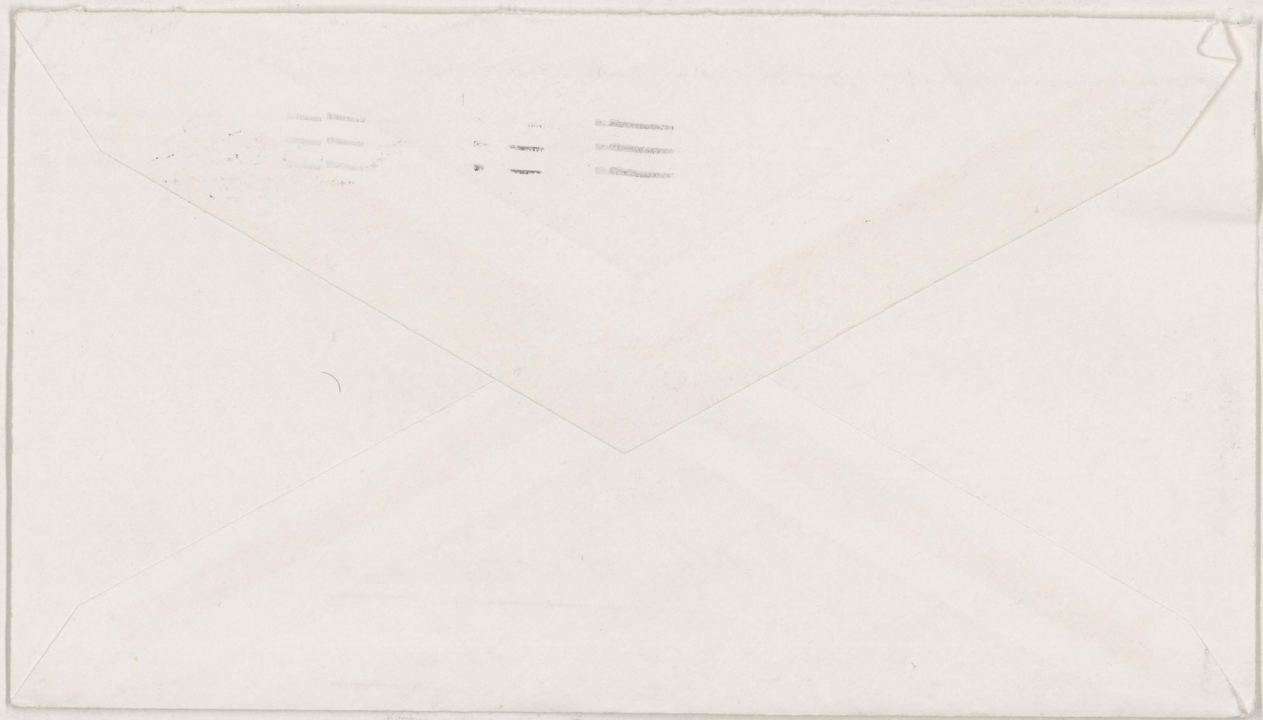
Mrs. L. S. Winslow-Spragge,

2 Parkside Place,

Montreal 25

Que.





1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa 5, Ont.

19 December, 1963

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragge:

My most hearty thanks to you for the autographed copy of "Life and Letters of George Mercer Dawson" which arrived when I was again away. I have read it thoroughly, with an interest you can well imagine. It was a pleasure to read, at last, things that filled in so much about Dawson's character that until now I could only infer from his accomplishments and the way in which his technical field notes and resultant reports were written.

Your book has served to whet my appetite still further, the "samples" of his personal accounts of his journeys that you selected for inclusion make me, all the more, wish to know more. For example, his Rocky Mountain seasons of 1883 and 1884 which are not represented among your selections - I have followed Dawson's footsteps over many passes and through many valleys he travelled in those two years, and would like intensely to know his impressions and experiences as he recorded them at the time.

You have good reason to be proud of the excellent printing and binding your work received.

Your selection of Dawson's published articles, listed at the end of the book, illustrates well the scope of his writings, but, as a geologist, I note that a number of his major geological papers are unreported.



You ask my opinion of the suitability of the book for general circulation. This is by no means an easy question. I'm prejudiced because of my admiration of G. P. Lawson and by the fact that my reaction would differ from that of a person who has no background knowledge about Lawson and about the unfolding of the geological map of Canada. For those who already have some framework into which to fit your account the book will make fascinating reading. But for those starting "cold" would probably benefit from, indeed, might require, more of a running thread of narrative in order that the letters, particularly, could be fully appreciated. Letters for the year 1879 are a case in point. I got a great deal out of them and could read between the lines because I know his route, have read the resultant report, and know some of the ground personally. But the general reader unfamiliar with this background would appreciate Lawson's accomplishment much better if these letters were prefaced by an account of the journey and the setting in which it occurred.

By the way, you are perhaps familiar with the book Daniel Gordon wrote about this same journey, entitled "Mountain and Prairie" and published in 1880.



May I assure you of my deep continuing interest in the life and work of your Uncle, Dr. Dawson. You deserve great credit for your effort in collecting and preserving primary material on him. This is a service to Canada. As Professor Maudsley said when he gave his C.B.C. talk, G.M. Dawson should be better known to Canadians for the sake of building our own Canadian traditions.

yours very truly,

G. B. Leech

G. B. LEECH

P.S. Have you seen the recently published book about the Boundary Survey of 1873-74, with a number of photographs, called "West on the 49<sup>th</sup> Parallel" by J.F. Parsons (Norrow, New York, 1963)? The author obviously did not have much primary material on Dawson.



Dear Dr Leech -

To G. B. Leech -

I am sorry that I have not thanked you sooner for your most kind letter, I was greatly pleased to receive it - and so glad that you find my little book interesting and worthwhile -

It was good of you to pass your copy on to Dr Harrison, I had a nice letter from him also - and have since sent him a copy for himself and two copies for the Geological Survey's libraries - If you think of anyone else who should have, or would enjoy a copy, I would be glad to know of them -

It really is wonderful to find how many people seem to be interested in this little book, they all comment on different parts, <sup>in different ways</sup> and ~~some~~ of them use the word "fascinating" - So you can imagine how pleased I feel - One person wrote "Your book makes me feel I really knew him, I had no idea he had done so much for Canada, you have so well shown his achievements as well as his personal life" - Some of my friends have said, "We must put this on the market, I am still not quite sure about this, but I have asked Mrs Shepherd at Barlow's book store (now Smith's) to read it and see what she thinks? -

As soon as I can find time, I intend to have a look at the letters again, and see if I can find anything <sup>of to do with</sup> the years 1883 + 1884 - and if I do I will let you know -

I regret that the list of G. M. D.'s writings (pamphlets) at the end of the book is <sup>not</sup> complete, this <sup>list</sup> was taken from a printed <sup>sheet</sup> that my mother had put



<sup>C. W. D.'s</sup>  
with his letters - If at any time you could let me  
have the names of publications that are not shown -  
I would like very much to add them to my list.

I am not familiar with Daniel Gordon's book, entitled  
"Mountain and Prairie", nor have I seen the recently  
published book about the Boundary Survey of 1873-74 -  
I must try and get them, they would be interesting  
to read.

From now on I shall be collecting any news in <sup>papers</sup> in fact  
I <sup>can find</sup> ~~come upon~~ about my uncle, to pass on to Dean Howdley.  
For instance, I was told the other day, that at one time  
my uncle attended a dinner party in the U.S.A., at  
which his Mark Twain was present - the dinner  
turned out to be a very entertaining affair, & my uncle  
was able to equal all of Mark Twain's witty  
remarks and ~~can~~ <sup>catch them</sup> ~~out~~ <sup>him</sup> ~~show them~~ several times -

I am so sorry about the wrong spelling of your  
name, really very stupid of me, and I hope I may be  
forgiven? - I corrected this mistake with a fine pen -  
The books I sent Dr Harrison -

I hope that your life goes smoothly, and that your  
work is interesting - and with my very kind regards

Sincerely

L.W.S. -



1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa 3, Ont.

20 September, 1962

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

My visit with you a week ago Sunday was thoroughly enjoyable and I hope there will be more opportunities to talk together.

I left at the beginning of that week for Calgary and southeastern B.C., returning last Sunday night, and giving six geological talks in the interval. At the beginning of this week my wife, Jean, entered the hospital and she was operated on yesterday. She is getting on well but will be there for a week or ten days.

Dr. John Maxwell, who had spoken to me about his interest in learning more about your father, has left on a tour of chemical laboratories in Canada and U.S.A. and cannot avail himself of the possible opportunity to see, this Fall, the "Life" you have written as he will be away for more than a month.



I should like to keep Grzimek's "Serengeti shall not die" for another ten days or so if I may. Jean read much of it, and enjoyed it, while I was in the west but I've had time only to look at the pictures. Also, I've a friend here who lived for a number of years in Tanganyika and I'd like him to see it.

Yours sincerely,

Geoff. Leech



1113 Greenlawn Cres.  
Ottawa 3, Ont.



Mrs. L. Winslow-Spragge,  
"Cedarbrae"  
Almonte  
Ont.





1  
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27-4-62

Dear Mrs. Winslow - Sprague.

Sorry the photos took so long - the photographers didn't keep their promise and in view of the circumstances under which the prints were being made I was in no position to be stuffy about it.

The photo of the Beard R. was taken <sup>in 1961</sup> by Mr E. B. Dixon of our staff. You are looking <sup>with</sup> upstream from B.C. into Yukon, the boundary (lat. 60°) crosses the river about at the white bank midway along the west margin of the river. The monument to Dawson is on west bank (left in the view) just around the farthest point at which you can see water.

The "Dawson in its hey-day" photos are a pair that lap and in which you are looking down-river, plus a single looking in the opposite direction. The complex of long low buildings ~~at near the~~ that appear on both members of the overlapping pair 6037, 6038 are the same buildings that are in a generally wooded area near the base of the slope (crossed by the plume of smoke) in the single view. The pair were taken at a later date than the single, note the additional buildings around the long ones I spoke about.

I hope these photos and the map have been useful. It has been a pleasure to send them - again - sorry it took so long.

Yours sincerely,  
G. P. Leach



1113 Greenlawn Cres.  
Ottawa 3, Ont.  
13 April, 1962

Dear Mrs. Winslow-Spragg:

Just a line to say that the map is completed and is now being reduced. I have been promised the prints for 20 April and expect to mail them to you that day - next Friday. <sup>later I see that is Good Friday so will make every effort to get delivery from the photographers by Thursday.</sup>

The prints you receive will be the same size as the map I enclose and the cartography will look like that on the enclosure - as closely as I was able to draw <sup>2 print</sup> it. (My working manuscript is four times the area of the map I enclose and its geographic limits are the same.) I was able to put on 101 of the names you sent. The remainder comprise chiefly the groups around the Northwest Angle, <sup>USA.</sup> and the "Aleutian" group. Of the latter I have shown Behring Str., St. Lawrence Is. and an arrow pointing of the map to Pribilof Is. I managed to put on almost all the names you marked in red.

As to photos - I have been promised my prints (glossy) for April 17. Am sending 2 different views of Dawson City in its heyday and one of the heard canyon. The Queen's Univ. student who has a photo of the monument at heard canyon has failed me - doesn't answer letters.

Sorry to have taken so long with drafting the map but I have had a considerable pressure of duties as I am pushing hitting for my boss who had a heart attack.

yours sincerely,  
Geoff. Leach





This is not the map  
 but is sent to show your scale,  
 print size, geographic extent,  
 and general appearance  
 of the map, which will  
 have various names deleted  
 and many more added  
 also geog. features  
 added.  
 S.B.L.



1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa 3, Ont.

2 February, 1962

Dear Mrs Winslow-Spragge:

Your hospitality a week ago today during the lunch and visit that I found so thoroughly enjoyable and interesting is certainly much appreciated, and I should have told you so 'ere now had it not been that the prevalent 'flu overtook me when I reached home. I hope you have escaped it, and that your sister is now fully recovered from her encounter with it.

Under separate cover I am mailing today ~~the~~ Spring 1960 and Autumn 1960 copies of 'The Beaver'. These are the ones that have the pictures of G. M. Dawson taken during the International Boundary Commission's survey in the early 'seventies. He is not specifically named in the second photo (Winter 1960, p. 34) but there's no doubt as to identity.

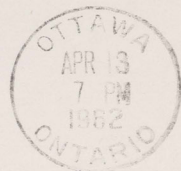
I should like to have the magazines back when you have finished with them. If you wish copies of your own I could almost certainly purchase them for you either from 'The Beaver' or from a book dealer and would be glad to do so.

Please let me know if I can be of service re Dawson's journeys. I look forward to another meeting with you.

Yours sincerely,  
G. B. Leach



1113 Greentown Cres.  
Ottawa 3, Ont.



Mrs. E.S. Winslow-Spragge,

2 Parkside Place

(Cote des Neiges)

Montreal 25

Que







1113 Greenlawn Crescent,  
Ottawa 3, Ont.

30 November, 1961

Dear Miss Harrington:

It was a real pleasure to hear from you concerning Mr. George M. Dawson. It is good to know that his letters and papers are, in good part at least, gathered together and are treasured. All too often in these days of small living quarters, and scatterings of families, records such as this are simply lost sight of or are disposed of for want of space and lack of interest.

George M. Dawson and his exploits have held special interest for me since my high school years, when I hoped some day to be a geologist and he stood out as a sort of ideal geologist in my mind. Today his picture adorns my office in the Geological Survey of Canada - a picture that your brother Bernard gave me 25 years ago - and my respect for him has grown through the years.

His geological reports make fascinating reading, if for no other reason than that they touch on so many facets of natural history and ethnology of newly described regions. I have



read all of them for pleasure, from his B.N.A. Boundary Commission one onward, and I have studied a number of them carefully from the point of view of Technical Data because I have been fortunate enough to have followed his footsteps in some of my own work in B.C.

We have on file at the Survey his geological notebooks, many of which I know pretty well, and we have his field photographs. His notebooks for the 1883 season are on my desk now, as they involve the part of the Rockies in which I have been working for the last few seasons.

Tawson's scientific contributions, especially when considered in the light of the physical difficulties under which he gathered his data, tell a good deal about the man - his perseverance, and above all his amazing powers of inductive reasoning. He criss-crossed the Canadian Cordillera without benefit of established transportation and without maps, his geological observations were of necessity relatively scanty, in view of the immense areas involved, and yet he <sup>recognized</sup> revealed the geological framework and his fundamental concepts about it stand good today. He had an amazing facility for extrapolating from scanty data and coming up with the right answer. He could ride along the



valley and though the actual outcrops underfoot were few he could deduce the geology of the mountains above him on the basis of distant views of geological structures, outcrop forms, and topography, and by recognizing all the clues that were provided in the gravels of streams which debauched from those mountains. In this respect he has seldom been equalled, in fact one of the troubles was that he made it look too easy and some of those who followed immediately after him tried the same methods but succeeded only in creating confusion.

Lawson's contribution to the exploration of the West and his administrative contributions as Director of the Geological Survey are permanent monuments.

His technical reports tell all he had to report and, as I said, they indicate something of his character.

But so much of the human element is lacking - because neither in his published reports nor in his field notes did he allow the mere human element to intrude - by this I mean the personal element - we all know his contributions to ethnology! What a fascinating combination it would be - the coupling of the "official" accounts with the impressions from the personal side.

One can follow, in published reports and field notes, the progress of the party from camp site to camp site.



One realizes that today they crossed a rushing river. How much trouble did they have? From personal experience of mountain travel with pack horses I am well aware of what may happen, and what sometimes does happen during river crossings. Then too, one realizes that Dawson's party has now been on the trail for six weeks. How is the grub supply holding out? To what extent are they living off the country - any fresh meat in camp tonight? Today they apparently got caught in a bad storm while on the move, but they kept going. Tired men, tired horses, making camp in the rain - or sleet. What were Dawson's thoughts - what were the effects on his party? They reach a tiny trading outpost. What of its occupants? One can be sure Dawson missed nothing, and shrewdly judged something about his character, and learned something of his history! What about the crew of the Survey party - some of them were men born in the region being explored. What tales did they have to tell - one can be sure Dawson extracted any information that might have been useful.

The field notes that we have tell none of this. They stick strictly to business. I think in '83 Dawson allowed himself to intrude only once. "Did not move camp today, I being indisposed." Similarly the field



photos consist almost entirely of views of mountains and geological phenomena. Camp scenes are rare. He seems never to have wasted film on the cook making bannock or the packhorse that became mired in the bog hole (but he couldn't refrain from recording choice catches of fish on occasion!)

His notebooks are full of meticulous sketches of topographic forms of mountains along the traverse routes and these are obviously drawn without erasures, a remarkable feat. They are well done - I have no difficulty in recognizing the features in areas with which I am familiar. It came as no surprise therefore that he did something in the way of painting.

I long to know more about the man and about the human side of his explorations. The obituary by B. J. H. (whom I presume to be B. J. Harrington) in the *American Geologist*, vol. 28, <sup>pp. 67-76,</sup> 1901, contains on p. 71 the tantalizing statement "In addition to his field-books proper he generally kept copious journals which contain much interesting information." Here surely must be the answers to many of the questions that come to mind - here and in letters home from the field. I can find no record of these journals in our Survey



files, but this is hardly surprising, as they would surely have been Dawson's personal property. Should you or other members of your family allow me to learn more about S. M. Dawson from family papers or recollections I shall be deeply appreciative.

Yours very truly,

Geoffrey B. Leech



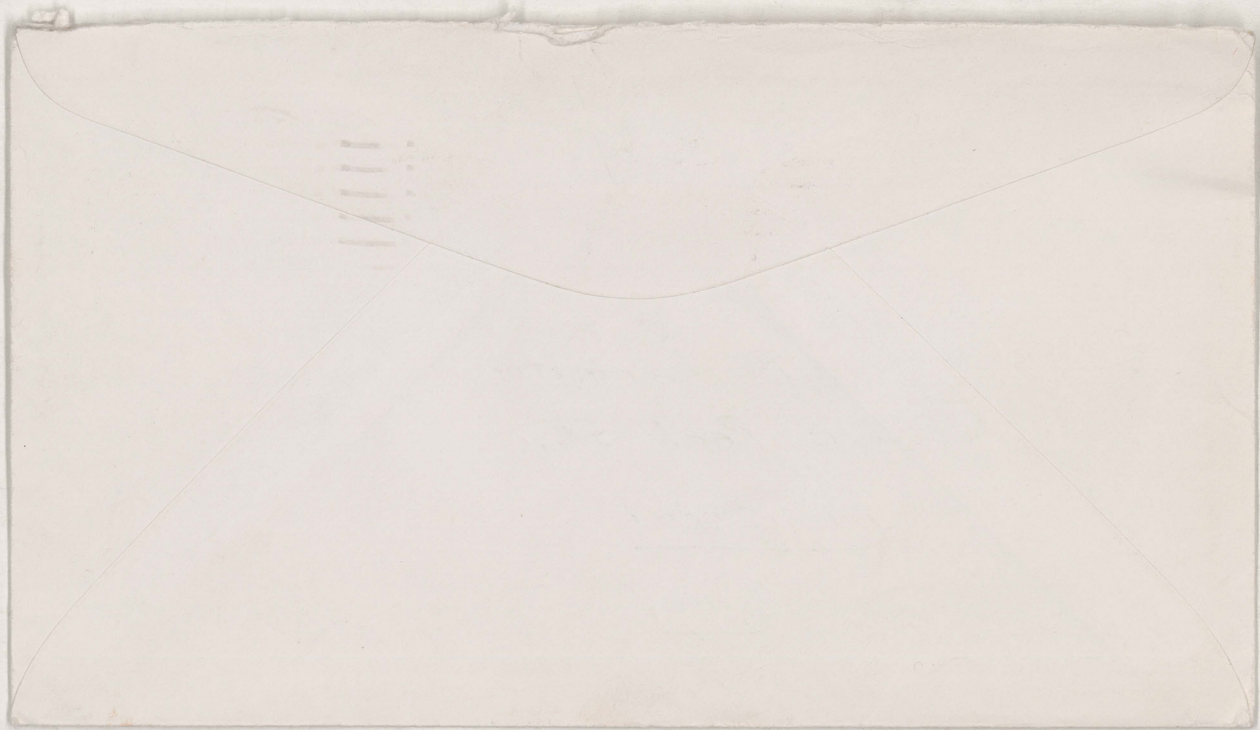
1113 Greentown Cres.  
Ottawa 3-Ont.

Letter from  
Geoffrey B. Seck and  
Lillian Seck



Miss C. M. Harrington,  
3492 Peel St.,  
Montreal  
Que.







Dear Mr Leech,

I was going through Geo Meyers <sup>his</sup> small sketch books the other day, <sup>these</sup> you obid. I ~~had~~ <sup>took</sup> ~~selected~~ <sup>chosen</sup> ~~certain~~ <sup>sketches</sup> ~~to be printed~~ <sup>in</sup> my book - while looking at them the thought came to me that you would value one of these - So I chose one <sup>out</sup> and have had it framed for you - it is not <sup>a</sup> spectacular <sup>one in pleasure</sup> - <sup>but</sup> the little bit of colour is nice - and it <sup>also</sup> has <sup>an</sup> <sup>small</sup> <sup>sample</sup> of <sup>his</sup> hand writing in the corner - I cannot tell <sup>you</sup> <sup>exact</sup> <sup>where</sup> <sup>it</sup> <sup>is</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>you</sup> <sup>may</sup> <sup>be</sup> <sup>able</sup> <sup>to</sup> <sup>guess</sup> <sup>(approximate)</sup> <sup>?</sup> I had hoped to have <sup>it</sup> <sup>ready</sup> <sup>for</sup> <sup>Xmas</sup> <sup>but</sup> <sup>this</sup> <sup>was</sup> <sup>not</sup> <sup>possible</sup>, So I am sending it <sup>(now)</sup> <sup>together</sup> with all my <sup>best</sup> <sup>wishes</sup> for the New Year.

I hope that you and your family are well and have enjoyed a happy Xmas - and with my very kind regards

L.W.S



I was very glad to hear fr you, and happy to km that you liked the little picture. - It seemed odd a piece to have all these little sketches hidden away, and I felt with your interest in my birds that you would be ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> very one to appreciate a specimen of his work. - And in that you have it, I am naturally glad that you like it.

I was very interested that you were able to locate more or less accurately the place where ~~you~~ <sup>the</sup> sketch was made. - was taken from

I have two small books of G. M.'s sketches - mostly in pencil - and ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> of them are of rock formations on hills or possibly mountains. I would be glad to show them to you any time you <sup>might be</sup> ~~were~~ in Montreal.

I feel very shocked and indeed sad on the news you gave me of Dr Maudslayi's death - it seems incredible - <sup>he seemed so ~~young~~ ~~well~~ ~~such a~~ ~~strong~~ ~~person~~</sup> He was ~~such a~~ <sup>such a</sup> fine man so keen <sup>+ interested in</sup> about everything and charming to talk <sup>and</sup> to. Even in with only such a <sup>very</sup> short <sup>acquaintance</sup> ~~friendship~~ <sup>legs</sup> I feel as if I had lost a good friend - ~~and I can~~ <sup>I am</sup> ~~imagine~~ <sup>wondering</sup> ~~how~~ <sup>he</sup> ~~you~~ <sup>has</sup> ~~feel~~ <sup>gone</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~am~~ <sup>wondering</sup>



Dear D.S.

I was very ~~glad~~<sup>pleased</sup> to hear from you, and so ~~pleased~~<sup>delighted</sup> to know that you liked the little picture. It has been such a <sup>a real</sup> pleasure knowing you and realizing the great interest you had in my work - ~~that~~ I could not help <sup>but</sup> feel that you more than anyone <sup>else</sup> would appreciate <sup>having</sup> one of his sketches - thus it was that I decided to pick one out for you.



What will be one of his plans to  
write a further book about G.M.D.?  
Well such is life - and we must  
accept what comes - I am sure  
~~that you must feel~~

I hope you & your family are well. Should you  
be coming this way anytime, please let me know - as I always  
enjoy a visit from you - with best wishes in 1965.



Dear Dr Leech:

copy.

I was delighted to receive your lovely long letter and was most interested to learn that you had discovered the exact location of the little G.M.D. sketch which I gave you some time ago - this must have taken quite a lot of thought & calculation - your reasons for <sup>your final</sup> decision on where the exact place was, are quite fascinating to me - and I like to read over your paragraphs 1, 2 + 3 of explanation.

I have just returned from Metis Beach where I spent 10 happy days in the old family house, which was built by and belonged to Sir Wm. Dawson - while there I espied <sup>on the</sup> <sup>of Sir Wm's library</sup> a G.M.D.'s <sup>named</sup> water colour, <sup>framed</sup> hanging on the wall - it is a rather larger <sup>one</sup> than usual and there is nothing to show where it was taken from, but on the back <sup>there</sup> is written in <sup>my grand mother's</sup> ~~Lady Dawson's~~ hand writing that it was a camp site <sup>probably</sup> in 1880 - I asked my brother's permission to bring this back with me, as I knew the McGill Archives would be <sup>willing</sup> to photograph it - and I have been wondering if there would be any chance of your running out here some day to look at it - you might very well know the <sup>exact</sup> spot where it was <sup>framed</sup> - and I would be so glad to have this information.

Mr Groom came out & spent the afternoon with me



J. Arthur Mullen - C.C.

member of firm

Hughes - Sawbrey  
Mullen. Tonkey  
Sigouin

116 Lisgar.

Phone. 236-7339.



last Saturday - I find him a most delightful visitor and enjoyed all he had to say. I was glad to have your remarks about him - he is certainly a serious and thoughtful researcher - and I will be glad to help him in any way I can - At one point I thought of letting him take my G.M.W. sketches for you to look at he offered to do so - but then it seemed a little complicated and I thought that it would be preferable if you came out here, when I could also have the pleasure of seeing you. Mr Groom tells me that he plans to go over some of the Dawson <sup>routes</sup> next year - If I am such a knowledge of all these areas that Dawson travelled, that I think that you are the one who should be writing his biography.

How exciting that the History of the Geological Survey is nearly completed - it will be a most exacting job to select just the right illustrations, they always mean so much in a worthwhile publication. I can remember Mr Gaslow had some very good illustrations in the last book he wrote "The Defended Border" (~~etc~~) - Please <sup>so he must have good judgment about picking</sup> give my kind regards ~~to him~~ if you see him, though I expect he was long ago forgot me - I will be looking forward eagerly to seeing this book -

I like you, was very much disappointed that Mr Pool's plans for a documentary <sup>G.M.W.</sup> did not come off - the last time I saw him - he was so sure that he could do some -



last Saturday - I find him a most delightful visitor and enjoyed all he had to say. I was glad to have your remarks about him - he is certainly a serious and thoughtful researcher - and I will be glad to help him in any way I can - At one point I thought of letting him take my G.M.D. sketches for you to look at he offered to do so - but then it seemed a little complicated and I thought that it would be preferable if you could see out here, when I could also have the pleasure of seeing you. Mr. Groom tells me that he plans to go over some of the Dawson ~~areas~~ <sup>routes</sup> next year - If I am such a knowledge of all these areas that Dawson travelled, that I think that you are the one who should be writing his biography.

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thing very ~~good~~ <sup>worthwhile</sup> - I <sup>very much</sup> fear that somebody on the Lops  
Committee in Toronto must have put hi off -

Thank you for your <sup>remarks</sup> lovely ~~little story~~ <sup>on</sup> the  
swimming grand hog - apparently even had long  
~~characters~~ <sup>arrivals</sup> take to exploring <sup>my water</sup> ~~at~~ <sup>times</sup>! I wonder if he  
has any maps hidden in his underground haunts?! -  
also thank you for the post cards - which I am  
glad to have - And if there is any chance of your  
being able to run out here, just call me on the phone  
so that I will be sure to be <sup>in</sup> here - I am here most of  
the time - My tel. no is 286-2972 -

With my kind regards & best wishes  
as always  
Lois W-S

