Bozeman, Mont., June 16, 1920

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

My trip to Glacier has been brewing a story in which I want to run some personal material concerning yourself. The thing has taken shape and I shall write it at the first opportunity.

For the article I need a few photos—unmounted prints clear and sharp, for reproduction. I would like 4 or 5, may one of yourself, preferably an informal one out on the range, with the cattle or if you haven’t such a photo then a regular formal...
Bozeman, Mont.,

one. Then a general view of the Greeley Country, a
haying scene, and a
potato or beet scene or
such substitute as you
may think illustrate the
Greeley idea better.

If you can get them to the
Davenport Hotel by June 27,
you will catch me there, otherwise
please send them to me
at 301 Southbrook Court, Washington
DC.

I have a lot of pleasant
memories of the trip with
you about Greeley.

Best regards

E.Wilson
My dear Carpenter:

all your material and generous supply of photos were awaiting me on my return yesterday. It took me longer than I had hoped to make the whole trip. Since I got most of my Greeky dope through you, and Delphi is so near Delphi where the Greeks consulted the Oracle, I am going to call it Greeky Story. The Greeky Oracle.

I shall get at it soon and will send back the indicated documents which you wish returned. I have a lot of pleasant reminiscence of Greeky thanks to your chaperonage. Best regards.

E W.
Delph E. Carpenter
Greeley,
Colorado
July 1, 1920.

E. V. Wilcox,

Washington, D.C.

My Dear Mr. Wilcox:

I regret that pressure of court matters has delayed my gathering together the material which I will forward you within the next few days. I have the photographers who worked for me on crop photographs making prints from the negatives which we took in the Wyoming water suit. Of course I have merely selected a number of the best, someone or more of which you may find of value to you.

I am also gathering together various material on the Union Colony and history of Greeley which you will not find in the two books "Boyd's History of Greeley" and "Union Colony at Greeley" by Willard.

In writing of the development of this country, keep in mind the great work of x-Governor B. H. Eaton, which was concluded by his son.

Very truly yours,

DEC:BB
Greeley, July 14, 1920.

E.V. Wilcox,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Wilcox:

Under separate cover I forward pamphlets, photos and other "dope" which may be of service as per yours of 16th ult.

I wish you would return the pamphlets tied together with string. I wish them for my files.

I append hereto rough memorandum of reference material. Excuse appearance, it was "hand made" by your old uncle, as is this letter, by the "hunt and find" stenography method. I am only at home during occasional nights when the stenographer has gone hence &c.

If you wish anything more just howl. You will find our friend Knapp quoted in the catalogues of the cattle sale.

Yours,
References for material:

Delph E. Carpenter: *History of Colorado—Stone (1918)/Pp. 104-7; Who is Who in America (1920)*
*(In addition to memorandum contained in above, I am Counsel for Colorado in case of New Mexico vs. Colorado, interstate boundary, U.S. Supreme Court; General Counsel for The Greeley-Poudre Irrigation District; Counsel for the Saguache River Water Users Assn. (San Luis Valley) and counsel for many other smaller irrigation companies)*

Leroy S. Carpenter, father of D.E.C. and Union Colonist:

Col. Daniel Carpenter, grandfather of D.E.C & Union Colonist:
(He is a six-foot, kindly but driving Yankee frontiersman who made and lost fortunes and help make Ohio, Iowa and Colorado. His eldest son George was the father of Frank G. Carpenter, writer.)*

Martha A. Carpenter, (mother of D.E.C) President of Society of Union Colony Pioneers, was born in Brownsville, Pa. of Virginia parentage. She has always been one of the foremost minds of the Colombo women of Greeley and a woman of great executive ability, fearless, devout, just, generous to a fault, always for the sause of "the under dog", handsome as a young woman and thru life, able to bear up under the hardship of pioneering and with all a fine lady.

Alfred B. Carpenter (Older brother of D.E.C) as a young man worked out and proved the discovery by him, that potatoes grown in the mountain districts when brought to Greeley and used for seed greatly increased the yield. He is an agriculturist— As distinguished from farmer, in mental quality, the one intensive farmer, the other stationary.


Boyd's History of Greeley, &c.

For additional agricultural statistics of Weld County see abstract of testimony in Wyoming vs. Colorado (which you will be able to borrow from Mr. Stansbury, Asst. Clerk U.S. Supreme Court), and see testimony of witnesses Parker, Rothchild, Petrakin, Ewing, Mattox, &c. McBrery &c.
E.V. Wilcox,
Washington, D.C.

My Dear Wilcox:

Yours of the 31st inst. at hand during my absence in connection with interstate litigation.

While I greatly appreciate the idea of "The Greeley Oracle", might I suggest that you give me the modest role and stress N. C. Meeker, Governor Eaton, Bruce G. Eaton and other like men. Meeker was really one of America's greatest men, subsequent events considered. You have traveled over the irrigated area, judging from your recent articles, which I have read with pleasure, and wherever you have gone Mr. Meeker was the moving cause, indirectly, of the development you found. Prior to his coming to this country with his Union Colony, the irrigation of uplands was an unknown and untried science. It was looked upon as the work of one mentally deranged, by a great many of the wise men of the country. The uplands were considered sterile and worthless. They little knew, in those times, that the arid character of the lands had preserved their original fertility and that the bulk of them were in fact unleached, alluvial soils or residual soils in place with all their original salts unaffected by excess moisture and unwashed by heavy rains. God's fertile soil was in place just where the processes of nature had broken down the rocks and all it required was water to make it immensely productive.

These things Meeker had studied and knew. While his coming was to some degree influenced by the personal equation of a tubercular son, nevertheless the fact remains that he dreamed out the irrigation of desert uplands and, with the aid of Greeley, put in motion the Union Colony which demonstrated to the world that uplands were more valuable than the river bottoms.

Upon the reclamation of uplands all our great irrigation development is founded. From the Greeley example like development progressed throughout the arid region. In due course the financial ability of the government came into play in order to overcome the obstacles private capital could not surmount.
Nettleton, who as I now recall, was the first Chief of the Reclamation Service, and was the pioneer engineer for the Union Colony and the first State Engineer for the State of Colorado. He it was who engineered and constructed a large number of the great canals of Colorado from 1870 to 1885. He originated the hydrographic service of Colorado by which our stream flows were measured and recorded. He carried his ideas into the government service and so the influence of Meeker, and his dreams and aspirations, as well as the proving of his theories, was the real beginning of the irrigation of arid uplands in America.

Those of us who were born of the Meeker enterprise are here by force of circumstances. Our fathers are entitled to their share of the credit. They were the soldiery who carried out the ideas of the dreamer. They staked their fortunes and the welfare of themselves and their children, to put into being the dreams of Meeker. Their hardships and sufferings are buried in dim memory. But their deeds are recorded in the irrigation of arid uplands of America. Those of us of the later generation have naturally absorbed the ideals of our ancestors. We were born in the heat of the struggle. Our faces have been forward, and not backward, because that is the way we were born. Our people were facing the failure prophesied by the wisest men of the times and were accomplishing the impossible. We were bred with the idea and grew amid the example. To us it was the natural condition. We knew no other way. Its success pointed it as the true route for us to follow and, in our weak way we have in part done the best we could.

Governor Eaton was a great man. His vision optimism and sheer nerve were remarkable. He followed close upon the heels of Meeker and was a moving factor in the Union Colony development. He had pioneered in the Cache la Poudre Valley during the early 60's and lived just over the West boundary of the Union Colony. His personality influenced outside capital to undertake what the colonists, collectively had accomplished. He had the executive ability to construct the project which Nettleton surveyed. He faced ruin and bankruptcy with calm exterior. He knew no insurmountable obstacle but died just as he was reaping his great reward. His son, Bruce G. Eaton, partaking of the personality and influence of his father, with indomitable will and sheer ability and effort, pulled over his father's project in the darker hours just preceding the successful conclusion. He
deserves unstinted praise and credit.

Daniel A. Camfield, a Rhode Island Yankee of Welsh
parentage who came to Colorado without a dime, was the
final empire builder growing out of the Meeker idea. He
came to Greeley and worked as a field hand. He married
into one of our Colonial families. He rapidly gathered
and absorbed the Greeley and Meeker ideal. His wonderful
imagination, charming personality, marked diplomacy and
indomitable courage soon began to manifest itself in the
development of the Rhode Island Sheep Company and its
ranches on Grow Creek just above my ranch. In 1891 he
constructed the first great flood reservoir in that section.
This is the reservoir I now own. He became imbued with
the idea of developing great irrigation enterprises. His
motives were mainly humanitarian, with but secondary con-
sideration of personal gain. "As he expressed it to me
"I want to help make homes for the millions out of the desert
places of America". He was regarded as a visionary. He
struggled in the face of bankruptcy and won. When his
credit was not worth a loaf of bread, he, nevertheless,
spent his time, well dressed and suave, among the financial
interests of Chicago and New York. He dreamed out and
promoted the greater South Platte development from Greeley
to Julesburg. Putting over the Jackson Lake enterprise,
he rapidly progressed from one great project to another
until, at the time of his sudden death in New York, it
was truly said that he, in a given length of time, had
brought more acres under actual irrigation and furnished
more homes for American farmers than had the Reclamation
Service of the United States, backed as it was by unlimited
government funds. In 1909 he had accumulated a private
fortune of about $600,000. He launched the great Greeley-
Poudre enterprise to reclaim 125,000 acres of land immedi-
ately adjacent to and north of the present developed Greeley
area, at a cost of $5,100,000. Unfortunate litigation, with
its blasting influence upon the sale of irrigation securi-
ties, retarded the construction of this his last enter-
prise, when it was half completed. He poured his private
fortune into the enterprise, silently and without a murmur.
He fought, many times almost single handed and alone,
against unequal odds and dropped dead in New York while
walking upon the street, on his last trip in his efforts
to finish his great project. This project, his last, in-
cluded within its eastern border the very land where he
began irrigation development in 1891.
Camfield, like all great men, who a generation before their time, was vilified and abused by the very people who now draw sustenance from the projects he promoted. He was a "John the Baptist" who went into the wilderness ahead even of the building and putting into motion the organizations which constructed the projects he conceived. Lovable, square and a true sportsman, he lived and died for humanity and left nothing to his own kin. Governor Eaton was likewise maligned and abused and threatened with physical violence in the formative and pioneer period of his great enterprise. Had it not been for the remarkable qualities of his son, he too would probably have died penniless. His work was that of a humanitarian. Both these men put into being the dreams of Meeker.

Burton D. Sanborn was a small boy brought to Greeley with his parents who were Union Colonists. He was a farmer's son without "backing". From a small real estate dealer he developed into an empire builder. His field of activities was primarily in the Cache la Poudre and Big Thompson areas. He picked up the broken North Poudre project of Carter Cotten promotion and made it a going concern. He developed the Seven Lakes and Boyd Lake Reservoir systems upon the Big Thompson and turned the Thompson area into a veritable garden. But he overreached his financial ability, struggled with unequal odds and expired as he rode in an auto in his last struggle to save his enterprise. He too cared little for his private gain; his dream was for the benefit of all man kind so long as the world may last. He loved to speak with his intimate friends, of the homes of the thousands of people which would endure upon the lands he reclaimed. Private gain was but an incident. His too was the fulfilled dream of Meeker.

All this I have said friend Wilcox, that you may see how modest is the role we of the later generation must play. We know to whom the credit belongs and we love to tell the story. My grandfather, then in his seventies, brought his fortune and spent it for the purpose of fulfilling the Meeker ideal. My father, a young man, came with him and continued the struggle, breaking under the strain. Could the son and grandson do other than continue the drive, if he were American and were the true descendant of such men? This is the idea.

This is a country of plains and distant mountains. From the time I was born my horizon has been a long way off. My eyes are adjusted to long distances. My imagination has run with my range of physical vision. To those of us thus fortunately born there is nothing impossible. Humanity yet to come appears before us in the same manner as
do the distant mountains to our eyes. We dream of empires and generations yet to come, because we were born that way and that has been our environment from the day we saw light. These mental attributes, brought about by our birth and environment, cause us to reach out for new lands to water and new areas to reclaim. Private gain is of minor importance. To accomplish, to see homes where arid prairie existed, to see school houses and cities rise up out of the cactus sod, these are the rewards we wish and hope to obtain.

To those of us who make up the second generation of the Union Colonists, another and different task is assigned. Our forbears promoted and constructed. We have been reared during the period of reckoning following the original construction. Ours has been the atmosphere of overcoming original mistakes or reconstructing financial blunders. We are, by environment, trouble shooters as it were. Ours is the duty of correcting mistakes and defending what we have, as well as that of pioneering in fact and in law.

The last statement will probably explain to you why my life is devoted to interstate water litigation. Colorado is upon the crest of the continent. Our streams from our mountains run to all seas. Ours is the place of origin. Other lower states look with jealousy upon our development and unjustly charge our success as the cause of their partial failure. They look with jealous eyes upon the waters that originate within our borders and wish to break down the barrier of the State boundary. With these lower states, the United States Reclamation Service is prone to join, probably with the dream that by so doing they may ultimately be the central body which will be called upon to administer and distribute the waters of our streams (this the future welfare of mankind forbids). Attack from various quarters, we who were born at the business are the natural defenders of our property rights. We claim no right to entirely shut off our streams from other states. We know full well that our development of the upper areas dissipates the disastrous floods and brings back their water in steady flow to the same general drainage in the form of return and seepage water from the great land sponge. All we ask is to be let alone. Our development has made flowing streams over the hot, dry sandy beds of the Arkansas and South Platte rivers that existed but a
generation ago. We stabilize the flow of the streams that once ran in floods and then became streaks of desert sand. We cannot wear out the water. What goes into the ground must come out, and that too lower down. We have originated and developed administration of public waters through the police power of the state, long prior to other states. We are continuing to improve our already complex system. Under our right as a State to regulate our own affairs and administer our own natural resources, such as air, water etc. We cannot concur with the hidden ambition of the Reclamation Service to become a perpetual body for interstate regulation of waters of the streams. No such power exists under the constitution and we need no help from that quarter. The service was founded to build and then turn over as rapidly as possible to the farmers. Such were the debates in congress and such is the provision of the laws that created the Bureau. We have a right to expect our share of the common reclamation fund and will pay it back much sooner than will the farmers whose ideas of the necessity of irrigation are but partly developed.

All these things put us upon the defensive and it is the duty and privilege of some of us of the second generation to defend, never attack, the water rights of our farmers now and to be. These upper states need no paternal guardian in their irrigation administration. We are getting nicely, have transformed the desert into farms, made homes for millions now and to come and if encouraged will continue. If other states have a grievance we will gladly meet and treat and will enter into into interstate compact in manner as provided by the federal constitution. We do not object for the whole, as probably we have a right to do, but are willing to take our reasonable portion, whatever it may be under all the facts and circumstances, which materially differ on each interstate stream. I mention this matter by reason of one of your statements in a recent article to the effect that the government should long ago have provided a code of law for the control of irrigation. The new states are admitted on equality with the original thirteen. Our government is one of delegated powers. All other governmental powers were reserved to the State. Among these reserved powers is that of control over rivers within and between states, except where settled by treaty between the states or by decision in original proceedings before the United States Supreme Court. If you will consult the congressional record and the arguments leading to the enactment of the original federal reclamation act, you will find that such was the acknowledged law at the time that act was passed and there has been no change since.
W. V. Wilcox #7.

But to return to the topic at hand, Please, in any article you write give to the deceased Meeker, Eaton, Camfield, Sanborn and others the full credit that is due them. While some of us will never die satisfied unless we feel that we have done our small part in bringing about the reclamation of every arid acre that may be reached within our time, nevertheless we know to whom the credit is due and want you to tell it that way.

In my own personal matter, as I stated to you at the ranch house the evening that you were there, it doubtless seems "a far cry from the position of interstate water lawyer before the United States Supreme Court in original cases between states of the Union and a cow puncher wrestling with the calves, cursing at the men and indulging in the ordinary modest undertakings of the agriculturist". But such again has been my environment. I want to help by improving the live stock of my country, by making farms where prairie existed before, by living and conversing with the toilers and knowing how they feel and what they desire. Their lives are my lives. My duties as an interstate water lawyer are to defend the very areas from which they "draw suck". I could not successfully represent them unless I knew them as they are and I would not care to represent them if I thereby should be denied the privilege of frequently returning to the primitive. After all I am my birth and original environment personified. I am just a plain cow puncher, farmer and cattle raiser with all the loves and hates of my breed. I have labored long and hard to be an honorable lawyer and I try to live in my professional work in the constant atmosphere of thoughtfulness for generations yet to come in states now in the making and greater to be. But I could not, as I have said, fully realize that which is to take place or why present conditions are as they are, unless I kept my being in touch with the source of my life and breeding. So, please play me up modestly and let the credit rest where it belongs.

I greatly appreciated your visit. I wish we had had more time and I could have talked off your other arm. I know the great work that you who write for the millions are engaged in. You're moulding the thoughts of the rising generation as well as of the present. I have spent many of the happiest days of my life with men of the pen and I am very fond of them and their fraternity, you included. Come whenever you wish and I only hope that I will be here when you come.
One thought I omitted, and then this long letter will close and my stenographer will rest:

In one of your articles you spoke of the duty of water being four acre feet or some such an amount. I call your attention to the significant fact that the duty of water in this section is much higher. The testimony of A.A. Edwards in the Wyoming suit showed that the duty of water on a twenty year experience under the Larimer County canal, the most northerly of the Creasay area, and where we stopped on our journey north, has been one acre foot per acre at the land and about one and one-third to one and one-fourth acre feet at the river headgate. The same experience obtains on the North Foulde system north and east of Fort Collins. Both these systems irrigate residual soils underlaid with shales and sand rock. The duty under the Larimer and Weld canal (Eaton Ditch) serving the area immediately south from the Larimer County canal (Water Supply and Storage Company) is about one and one-quarter to one and one-half acre feet at the land. The duty under Union Colony No. 2 canal (canal of The New Cache la Poudre Irrigating Co.) serving the land immediately north of the Cache la Poudre river, has been from one and one-half to two acre feet per year. This canal serves mainly soils of alluvial character underlaid at some 50 or 40 feet with beds of gravel. The Eaton ditch area includes both alluvial and residual soils and may be said to be intermediate between the Union Colony and Larimer County canal soils. The duty has been made higher under the upper canals by reason also of greater scarcity of water as their priorities are later than that of the Union Colony canal. In the Kersey district, an old river bar of the South Platte overlaid with alluvial soil, much water was originally required but the water plane has risen so that the duty is about two acre feet in that region. But under the newer lands to the south where the soils are either residual or loess (windblown) and are underlaid with shales and sand rock, successful crops have been raised during the past few years on less than an acre foot per acre at the land.

With this friend Wilcox I bid you fond adieu.

Yours,

[Signature]

DEC: BB