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Some Proboscidian Remains Found in Henry County

By KEITH SUTTON

My object in preparing this account is to bring together all available data concerning Proboscidian remains which have been found or reported in Henry County, Iowa, and to make this information available to those interested.

The tooth of a Mastodon that roamed this area of Iowa in the Pleistocene Age was found Southeast of Rome, Iowa by the author, February 1949, in Big Cedar Creek, in Tippicanoe Township, Section 17, on the Lynn Wright farm.

The tooth is from species *Elephas columbi*. This elephant was taller than the Mammoth and rivalled the largest existing elephants in stature.

The portion of the tooth that was found measured $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches tall, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, and 6 inches long, which apparently represents about half the length of the tooth. The enamel portions of the tooth are still present. Although it is easily recognizable, it is in a poor state of preservation.

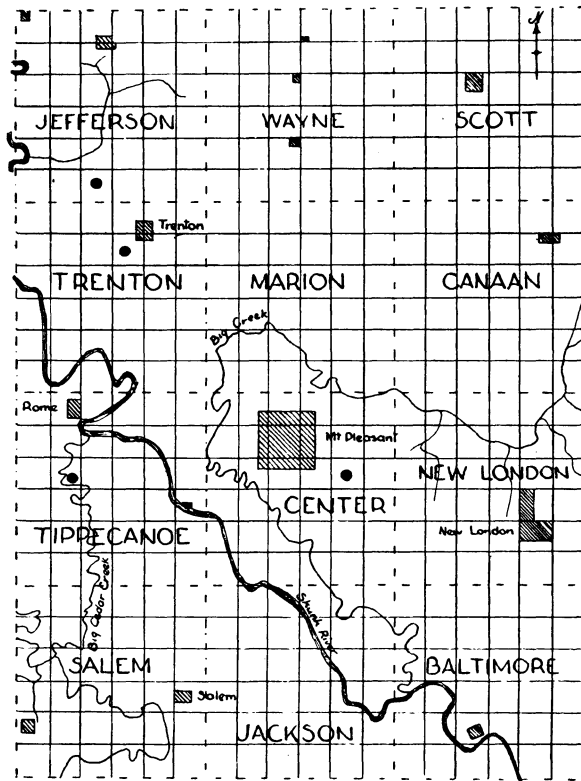
This is not the first Mastodon tooth found in Henry county. In 1921, the Iowa Academy of Science published an article by Dr. H. E. Jaques of Mt. Pleasant in which he told of other finds of Proboscidian remains. The article states in part that a Mastodon tooth was found during the digging of a shallow well less than a mile east of Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Section 17, Township 71N., Range VI W. This tooth was apparently the third molar of a mature animal of the species *Mammut americanum*.

The article goes on to state that during the summer of 1920, in a little creek a short distance south of Trenton, Section 10, Township 72N., Range VII W., two teeth of the species *Elephas columbi* were found by H. F. Elliott.

Mr. J. F. Kephart found a tooth of the species *Mammut americanum* in Sugar Creek northwest of Trenton in Section 33, Township 73N., Range VII W., September 1921.

The following reported finds were recorded in the Iowa Geological Survey: "In Nettie C. Anderson's list on page 27, T. E. Savage reported that several teeth and bones of a mastodon had been found in a well near Mt. Pleasant. They were in, or immediately below the Kansan drift. These remains are in the possession of Iowa Wesleyan College, at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa."

Another excerpt from this publication also states: "Frank



Henry County, Iowa showing where the Proboscidian remains have been found

Leverett reported that some mastodon teeth and possibly one of a mammoth has been found, in 1884 in the valley of Big Cedar Creek, Salem Township, Section 8. The creek had made an encroachment on an old bog. Leverett did not see these teeth, and they may have belonged to either a mastodon or mammoth.”

In the same publication, Dr. J. M. Shaffer of Keokuk, reported that he had seen two mastodon teeth which were said to have been dug up near the bank of Skunk river, in Henry County but no more exact locality was given.

The Iowa Wesleyan College Museum has recently been given possession of the lower extremity of the femur of a mastodon, which was reportedly found several years ago in Skunk river and was in the possession of George Crane until donated by his son to the college. Unfortunately the exact site of its deposit is unknown.

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