

1964-09

# Mastodon Record in Lorain County

Surrarrer, Thomas C.

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The Ohio Journal of Science. v64 n5 (September, 1964), 375-375

<http://hdl.handle.net/1811/5028>

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MASTODON RECORD IN LORAIN COUNTY.<sup>1</sup> An excavation was made in September of 1952 to secure water for greenhouses on the Ray F. Petch Farm located in Columbia, Lorain County, Ohio, two miles north of the intersection of Columbia-Westriver Road and Ohio State Route 82. The excavation site was about 500 ft west of Columbia-Westriver Road and 1,000 ft south of Osborne Road.

During the digging, fragments of ivory were found. One piece measured 28 inches in length and 8 inches in width. These fragments suggested the presence of a mastodon to me, and I identified them as ivory. Although the excavation had already filled with water, the area was carefully probed. A large tusk was located about 6 inches under water on the margin of the digging. The pond was partially drained and trenches were dug at 18-inch intervals radiating from the location of the tusk. Fragments of two tusks, three teeth, four ribs and fragments of two other bones were unearthed. The teeth and tusk fragments were identified by the author as *Mammot americanum*. One of the tusks had apparently been broken off and the stub used until its end had been worn smooth. The diameter of one tusk, based on the curvature of a fragment, was gauged to be over 8 inches; it presumably came from a large adult animal, conceivably weighing as much as 5 or 6 tons. It is probable that the tusks, teeth, and bone pieces are all from the same individual. The several pieces were far enough apart to indicate a considerable amount of movement. This has been commonly observed in similar discoveries and could reasonably result from changes in water level and stresses created by freezing and thawing over long periods of time. The remnants of a shallow well were uncovered close to the bones. A small deer antler was also found at the same depth. Other skeletal remains could have been moved closer to the surface and thus disintegrated or have been otherwise dispersed.

The site of the find was similar to that of the Orleton Farms Mastodon (Thomas, 1952). The excavation was made in a bog at the center of a depression. The tusks were buried about three ft under the surface. The top soil was black muck with shells of molluscs (not identified) present. Underneath the muck was a more solid clay mixed with gravel.

Acknowledgment is made to Mr. Robert Cossaboom of the Geology and Geography Department of Baldwin-Wallace College, who aided in the location of one of the tusks; to Mr. William Scheele of the Cleveland Natural History Museum who visited the site several times; to Mr. Charles Brausch and Mr. Joseph Bauer, then major students in the Biology Department of Baldwin-Wallace College, who did much of the hard labor; and to Mr. and Mrs. Ray Petch, owners of the property, whose interest and cooperation made this record possible.—T. C. SURRARRER, *Biology Department, Baldwin-Wallace College, Berea, Ohio.*

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<sup>1</sup>Manuscript received August 3, 1963.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- Thomas, E. 1952. The Orleton Farms Mastodon. *Ohio J. Sci.* 52 (1): 00-00.