17430
[1]

[1940] Saurian in Iowa
1888
Returned Aug. 11/99.

JUDGES FOURT
C. H. LEV
SCOTT M
GEO. W.

| COUNTIES. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrison | Jan. 3 | | | |
| Monona | Jan. 2 | | | |
| Cherokee | Feb. 7 | | | |
| Osceola | Jan. 1 | | | |
| O'Brien | Jan. 1 | | | |
| Sioux | Feb. 1 | March 29 | Sept. 19 | Nov. 21 |
| Plymouth | Feb. 22 | May 31 | Oct. 10 | Dec. 5 |
| Woodbury | Jan. 3 | March 8 | May 30 | Aug. 29 | Oct. 31 |
| Lyon | Feb. 14 | May 9 | Oct. 3 | Dec. 12 |

UNITED STATES NAT
THE SMITHSONIAN I

OFFICE OF
D. W. WAKEFIELD.
DISTRICT JUDGE.

3 T 6 R 38

SURVEY,
NEB.
DEC 1887
Ans'd
Sent 3d 4th 36.

Sioux City, Iowa, Nov 28 1887.

Hon J W Powell
Director U S Geological Survey
Washington D.C.

Sir:-

Last week the Scientific Association of Sioux City obtained the fossil remains of a Saurian dug up on the farm of Mr W H. Talbot a few miles north of here

It is of the Cretaceous age and came from bed 19 of Woodbury shales as shown in the general section between pages 198 & 199 Vol 2 Geology of Iowa 1870 by White and about a mile North east of Cedar Bluff.

We have the centra of 81 vertebrae a few of which are broken - They measure a little over 11 feet in length - Some vertebra are missing and we think the length with head must have been 15 feet - We also have portions of head and teeth and other bones - It seems clear there are two or more paddles - - We think this

17430
[1]

JUDGES FOURT

C. H. LEWIS, CHEROKEE, IOWA.
SCOTT M. LADD, SHELDON, IOWA.
GEO. W. WAKEFIELD, SIOUX CITY, IOWA.

| COUNTIES. | TERMS OF COURT, A. D. 1887. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrison | Jan. 3 | Feb. 28 | Aug. 29 | Oct. 31 |
| Monona | Jan. 24 | April 4 | Sept. 26 | Nov. 28 |
| Cherokee | Feb. 7 | April 25 | Oct. 10 | Dec. 5 |
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| O'Brien | Jan. 18 | April 11 | Sept. 5 | Nov. 7 |
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OFFICE OF

GEO. W. WAKEFIELD.
DISTRICT JUDGE.

37 6 88



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Director U S Geological Survey
Washington D.C.

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We have the centra of 81 vertebrae a few of which are broken - They measure a little over 11 feet in length - Some vertebra are missing and we think the length with head must have been 15 feet - We also have portions of head and teeth and other bones - It seems clear there are two or more paddles - - We think this

17432

Saurian in Iowa.
Nov 1887.

Ans Feb 15th/88.

1940

Returned Aug. 11/99.

[3]

17451
[2]

**JUDGES FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF IOWA.**

C. H. LEWIS, Cherokee, Iowa.
SCOTT M. LADD, Sheldon, Iowa.
GEO. W. WAKEFIELD, Sioux City, Iowa.

| Counties. | Terms of Court, A. D. 1887. | | | |
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| Lyon | Feb. 14 | May 9 | Oct. 3 | Dec. 12 |

OFFICE OF

GEO. W. WAKEFIELD.

DISTRICT JUDGE.

Sioux City, Iowa, 1887.

is the first Saurian found in Iowa

While I cannot now give you a particular description will say that the tail seems quite long as compared with total length and from casual examination some of us have been inclined to consider it some species of Pythonomorph or Mososaur —

We organized our association not quite two years ago and are not yet well supplied with books on paleontology —

The association would like copies of any books you may publish for distribution

Very Respectfully

G. W. Wakefield

Secretary Scientific Association

of Sioux City, Iowa.

17433.
[4]

Sioux City, Iowa
Nov. 28, 1887.

Wakefield, Geo. W.
Secty. Scientific Association
of Sioux City

Says the Association recently obtained the fossil remains of a Saurian in that vicinity which he describes. Desires paleontological and other books.

Decem. 5, 1887.
Respectfully referred to
Prof. O. C. Marsh
By order
J. S. Ellis
Chief Clerk

2130.

17435



# Scientific Association.

3 Write notified of reference.

Sioux City, Iowa, Jany 23rd, 1888.

Prof. Spencer F. Baird,
Secretary of Smithsonian Institution,
Washington D.C.

Sir=

About a month or more ago I reported the finding of fossil remains of a reptile in the Cretaceous deposit - near Sioux City Iowa.

This fossil is in the possession of the above named Association. Our president, Mr J.C. Hosking has examined it with considerable care and in the light of such geological works as we have, including Copes Cretaceous Vertebrate published by the Government in 1875, I think, and he has been unable to identify it with any reported species. In a paper read before the Association Jany 21, 1888 he says of it:

"I have here to night an imperfect skeleton found some two months since which I cannot identify but which certainly belongs to this period (Niobrara group of Cretaceous). It was found in digging on the steep hill side. The excavation chanced to cut into

17436

# Scientific Association.

Sioux City, Iowa, ..... 188

" the outcropping edge of a thick bed of Niobrara
" shale. The Workmen destroyed the skull mainly
" before they were aware of its value. They
" gathered up some fragments and sent word
" to Mr Talbot, in whose company I went
" up the next day and completed the excavation
" assisted by one of the men. We were
" obliged to work mainly with jack knives - the
" matrix being tough plastic clay that could
" not be worked with picks much better than
" a bed of pitch. Here are the vertebrae - 81
" of them - a few of them are doubtless missing -
" here are fragments of the jaw and a few
" teeth and a heap of fragments crushed
" in such a manner as to suggest an
" awful conflict with some mighty monster in
" which this devourer was devoured"

I am instructed by the association to write you in regard to identification of this fossil if it belongs to a specie heretofore reported

17437

# Scientific Association.

Sioux City, Iowa, ..... 188

and if not heretofore reported then to have this specimen described and named. We have just commenced the work of collecting a Museum and do not wish to part with this fossil. We have supposed that we could send the skeleton to the Smithsonian for the purposes suggested and that you would identify, or describe and name as the case may be and thereafter return to us — with the information you may be able to give us —

Will you kindly advise me in this behalf as to what you can and will do for us with full directions as to sending &c —

Has the Government issued any publication on the Cretaceous Vertebrata since Cope — Both the Dakota & Niobrara Groups are exposed in the Bluffs near Sioux City which the Association is desirous of studying

Very Respectfully W W Mayfield, Secretary.

17434

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

MEMORANDUM.

JAN 28 1888

To

Prof O.C. Marsh.
What achar do you
recommend

G Brown Goode

Ans. Feb 15/88.

17438 [1940]

Scientific Association.

Sioux City, Iowa, Feby 21 1888

Prof. O. C. Marsh

Dear Sir=

By this Mail I send you several vertebrae and other parts of fossil discovered here as per your letter of Feby 15/88 – I also inclose herewith Explanatory Memoranda by Mr J. C. Hoskins, our president,

He thought best to send more than you suggested in your letter – I trust they will reach you in safety

Very truly yours

Geo W Wakefield

Secretary

Scientific Association

Sioux City Ia

17439

Location SE¼ of SW¼ of Sec 35 T90 R48

Date Nov 21 1887.



From "a" to "b" was located by L. C. C. N. and the vertebrae lay continuous in the curve from "a" round to tip of tail at "b" which seemed to touch the lumbar vertebrae at "a" -

White's Section is in SE¼ of NE¼ Sec 2 T89 - R48 perhaps 3/4 mile distant nearly south and not visible from point of this find

That part within the circle above had been dug out before I saw it and doubtless many bones were broken and lost

as the clay was so tenacious that they could not be seen – only felt and the labourers took no interest in the matter. and were at work for the mason who was to put in the cistern – Accidentally one of Mr Talbots employes passing by telephoned to Talbot who ordered at once that all pieces should be saved and excavation cease till he could see them – When we reached the place next day they showed us a bucketful of fragments but they had gone on and completed their excavation. luckily a vertebra was visible at "a" and I got a man to help and using mostly our jackknives we secured the remainder in pretty good condition

We have in all 81 centra of which 3 are represented by lower halves – 1 by upper half and 4 by smaller fragments of the sides – 6 more have small fragments missing – the remaining 67 are entire – I have arranged them as nearly as I can judge as they should be, and numbering from the smallest up I find the 46th & 49th only have any portion of the processes attached. I cannot determine positively



which are cervical and which lumbar nor which are dorsal and which caudal – but I am quite sure that several cervical and dorsal are missing – probably broken up by the labourers – Very little but small fragments remain of the head

I think we have all the lumbars and all the caudals unless there were some smaller ones beyond my number one – I excavated these myself – feeling for them all through the clay with my knife – We have a few bones on the paddles in fair condition – and a bucketfull of fragments of ribs and spinal processes &c &c none more than two or three inches long and all bearing marks of great violence – The portion remaining is in all cases the harder part and the part missing has been broken off violently not having decayed – and the sound portion is in every instance more or less crushed –

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| No. 142 – 14 – 29 | I think are caudal | |
| No 49 lumbar | 74 lumbar or cervical ? | |
| 59 + 64 | | dorsal |
| + 81 | | cervical |

17442

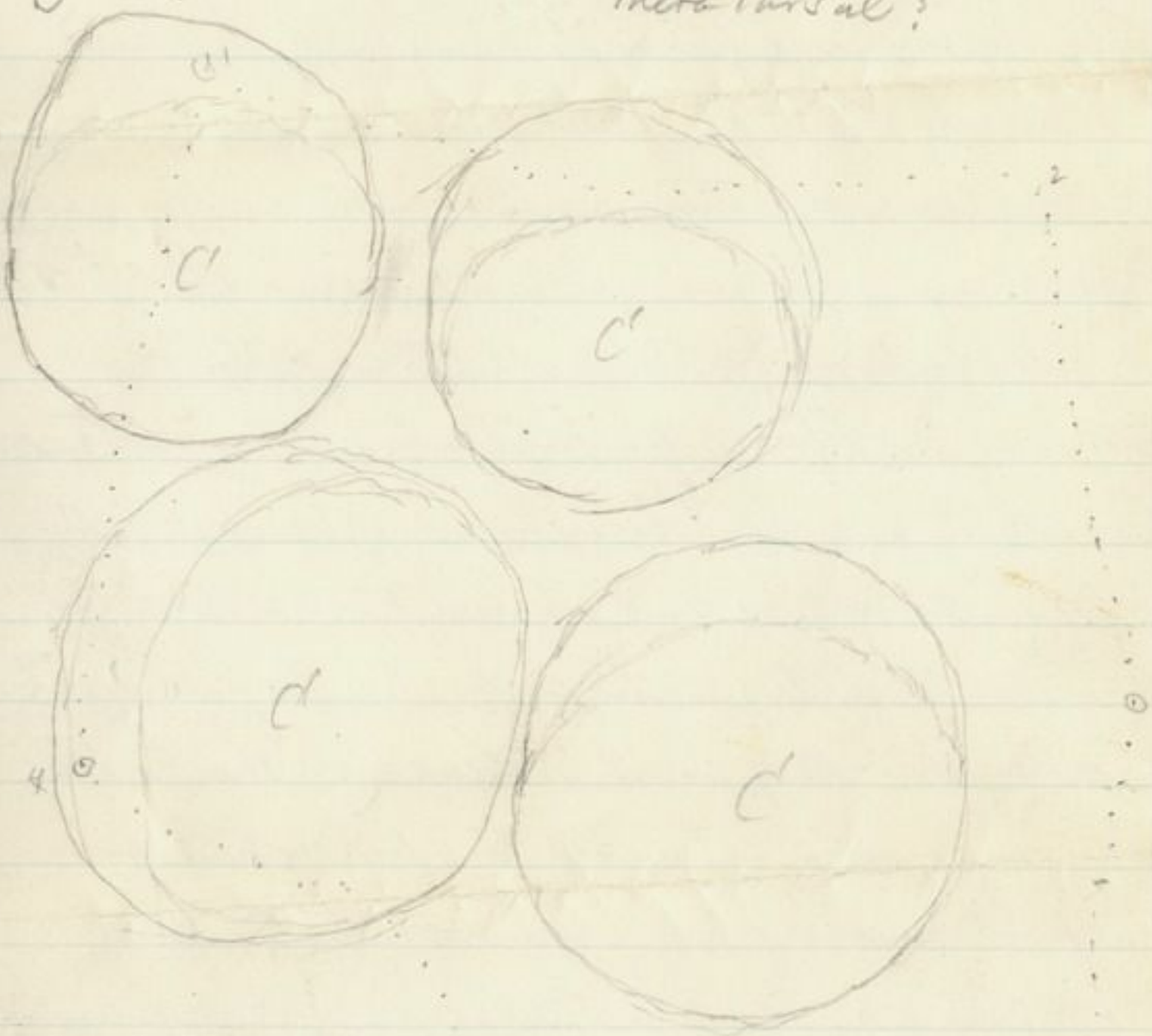
A Head of humerus see outline of fragment as shown by dotted line

B femur?

C ? four more like it see below

D piece of skull

G ? 5 metacarpal? metatarsal?




dotted line shows outline of part of "A" not sent from "1" to 2 line of puncture

with A- from 1 to 4 + 2 to 3 the outline is entire - from 3 to 4 it is broken

J. L. C. Hopkins
Feb 21 1888

17443

1941

Returned Aug. 11/99

If not delivered

iation.

Sioux City, Iowa, March 15, 1888. 188

Prof. O. C. Marsh,
Paleontologist, U. S. Geol. Survey,
New Haven Conn.

Dear Sir;-- Your letter of ~~Feb. 15~~ March 1/88, received and the request therein made referred to the Scientific Association of Sioux City, and I am instructed to send you the residue of the Saurian as requested in your letter. I have accordingly, this day, sent you by Express prepaid the remainder of this fossil. Our Mr. Hoskins has numbered most all of the pieces, having first thoroughly cleaned the same. One piece is numbered "o" is thought by Mr Hoslins in view of your last letter to be a part of the head where the same joins the spinal column. The numbers 1 to 81, are the remainder of the vertebrae, portion of which numbers I heretofore sent you. The remaining small pieces and fragments have been numbered as a new series. Nos. x1 to 9 are supposed to be pieces of the skull; x10 to 14 pieces of bones; x15 to 18 disks similar to one sent you; x19 to 25 pie ces of bone;x26 to 39 supposed to belong to paddles;x4o to 48 supposed to be ends of ribs; x49 to 72 pieces of ribs;x73 to 87 pieces of head; x88 to 103 spinal processes; x104 to 125 supposed to be portions of pelvis or sternum; the piece letter "A" is the remainder of "A" heretofore sent you; "K" is supposed to be a portion of shoulder blade; "H" is a piece of the clay composing the matrix in which the fossil was found; "L" is a concretion from the matrix. In addition, I send a number of pieces and fragments unmarked. I call your attention to vertebrae No. 42 to which a piece of the jaw and teeth is adhering in the position in which it was found. The box contains everything we have except one large tooth which wqs not at hand at the time the box was packed, and for that reason was omitted. This tooth is larger than any that has been sent you, although similar in form and appearance.

I call your attention to the desire of our Association heretofore expressed in my letters to the Smithsonian Institution which were referred to you, that this fossil should be carefully preserved and when the examination is completed, that the same should be returned to the Association, and I have no doubt that you will carefully preserve same and return to us accordingly at our expense.

Very respectfully,

Geo. W. Mansfield
Secretary Scientific Association
of Sioux City Iowa

17444

P.S. If this shall prove a new species I suggest the propriety of designating it by the name of our Mr Hoskins who has been chiefly instrumental in securing it and who has spent a considerable time in studying it

W W

17445

# Scientific Association.

Sioux City, Iowa, June 30 1888

Prof O C Marsh
New Haven Conn.

Dear Sir.

Referring to your letter of March 24 1888 in regard to the "Saurian" we shipped to you and your request for missing parts I would say that yesterday our Mr Hoskins and myself went to the place where it was found and made search for additional remains working several hours. We found 3 or 4 unimportant small fragments. We concluded that we could not get any further remains. I trust therefore you will at an early day give us a decision from what you have.

Very Respectfully

W W Mansfield Secy

17446

Ans Nov 23 '88

Return
No. 805 N
If no

# Scientific Association.

Sioux City, Iowa, OCTOBER 12, 1888

PROF. O. C. MARSH,

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

DEAR SIR:

I CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF THE SAURIAN THE REMAINS OF WHICH I SENT YOU LONG AGO FOR EXAMINATION, AND TO BE IDENTIFIED AND NAMED BY YOU. THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION ARE MAKING FREQUENT ENQUIRIES OF ME AS TO THE RESULT OF YOUR INVESTIGATIONS NOT HAVING HEARD FROM YOU I HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. WILLYOUKINDLY WRITE ME AT AN EARLY DAY ADVISING ME AS TO YOUR CONCLUSIONS IN REGARD TO THIS FOSSIL.

VERY TRULY YOURS,

GEO. W. WAKEFIELD.

SECRETARY.

17447

**JUDGES FOURTH JUDICIAL DIST. OF IOWA.**

*C. H. LEWIS, Sioux City, Iowa.*
*SCOTT M. LADD, Sheldon, Iowa.*
*GEO. W. WAKEFIELD, Sioux City, Iowa.*

| COUNTIES. | TERMS OF COURT, A. D. 1889. | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harrison | Jan. 7 | March 18 | Aug. 26 | Oct. 21 | |
| Monona | Feb. 4 | April 15 | Sept. 23 | Nov. 18 | |
| Cherokee | Feb. 25 | April 29 | Oct. 7 | Dec. 2 | |
| Osceola | Jan. 7 | March 18 | Aug. 26 | Oct. 28 | |
| O'Brien | Jan. 14 | April 1 | Sept. 9 | Nov. 11 | |
| Sioux | Jan. 28 | April 15 | Sept. 23 | Nov. 25 | |
| Plymouth | Feb. 11 | April 29 | Oct. 7 | Dec. 9 | |
| Woodbury | Jan. 7 | March 18 | May. 27 | Aug. 26 | Oct. 28 |
| Lyon | March 4 | June 10 | Oct. 14 | Dec. 9 | |

OFFICE OF

# Geo. W. Wakefield,

DISTRICT JUDGE.

Sioux City, Iowa July 10, 1889

Prof O. C. Marsh
New Haven Conn.

My Dear Sir: In Spring of 1888 in behalf of the Scientific Association I shipped you for examination and identification a fossil "Saurian". Last October I wrote you & you answered you would give it attention since which time we have heard nothing from you. I am often asked about the result and the questions are getting monotonous. Kindly advise me what this fossil is and also have the same packed and shipped to me at Sioux City at my expense.

Ship to Geo W Wakefield, Secretary of Scientific Association, Sioux City, Iowa.

Your early attention to this is earnestly requested

Very Respectfully
Geo W Wakefield
Secretary

17448

POSTAL CARD - ONE CENT

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS SIDE IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

NEW HAVEN AUG 30 CONN

RECEIVED

CITY AUG 31 430 P.M. 99

1

C. E. Beecher,
Yale University Museum,
New Haven,
Conn.

Iowa City Iowa August 18 1899

17448

Yours of 15th inst at hand
Have also received box
containing specimen of plesiosauras
as stated in good condition
Accept my thanks for your
prompt attention

Sincerely
W. W. Mahnfield
secretary Scientific association