

FINDS OF THE AMERICAN MASTODON (MAMMUT AMERICANUM) IN DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA.

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In the 36th annual report of the Department of Geology and Natural Resources of Indiana, finds of a Mastodon in Delaware County are recorded. They are as follows: a tooth whose grinding surface measured four by five inches, found four and one-half miles west of Muncie; ribs and some of the larger bones were found three and one-half miles south of Muncie; and a foot bone possibly of a Mastodon found in the eastern part of the county.

Last May when some workmen were widening and deepening a small stream about two miles east of Muncie, parts of a Mastodon were found. An upper molar having a grinding surface of 80 mm. by 65 mm. was found lying among small rocks in the stream. It has three ridges and two valleys. There are three roots, two being broken and a third is 75 mm. long and 40 mm. wide. An upper third molar having four ridges and four roots, two of which are broken was found near the tooth first described. Both teeth seem well preserved.

At a bend in the stream a sort of a pocket had been formed. At the bottom of this, the distal end of a femur was struck with a shovel by a workman. After draining the water and removing the muck, the bone was removed. This femur weighs 18¾ pounds after being thoroughly dried. It is 600 mm. long and at the distal end is 175 mm. wide. It appears as a bone which had been lying exposed in a field some months. These bones were taken to the laboratory and classified by the writer.

More digging was later done by the Vertebrate Zoology class in the adjacent muck, but only fragments of ribs and of the pelvic girdle were found.

Two large vertebrae have been in the possession of Dr. Hill of Muncie for some five years. He says that they were taken from a gravel pit five miles west of Muncie five years ago. They were given to the State Normal and the author classified them as the second and third vertebrae of the American Mastodon. The axis is 210 mm. high and 140 mm. wide. The neural cavity is 75 mm. by 70 mm. The odontoid process is 46 mm. high, 52 mm. at the base and 32 mm. at the tip. Its weight is three pounds. The third vertebrae is 110 mm. high and 135 mm. wide. Its neural cavity is 60 mm. high and 66 mm. in diameter. Spinal processes are destroyed. These two bones are not so well preserved as the teeth and femur which may be due to the time since removed and the kind of formation in which they were found.

