

A Mammoth Skeleton

What appears, unmistakably, to be parts of the skeleton of some prehistoric mammoth animal were unearthed on the farm of John Dosch, better known as the Ripley farm, in the town of Dayton about six miles west of this city. The first bone was found by one of Mr. Dosch's boys one day last week, sticking out of the bed of the creek. The spot is a low place in the meadow, where the creek has cut some nine feet below the surface. The first bone found was apparently one of the thigh bones of the animal and prodigious in size, measuring thirty-nine inches in circumference about the joint and being over three feet in length and probably seven or eight inches in diameter at the smallest places. Subsequent search and digging at and near the spot brought to light several other bones, including three leg bones, a rib some four feet in length and numerous small bones, apparently parts of the feet. None of the skull or vertebrae have yet been found, but enough is now above ground to prove that the spot is the burial ground of some animal known only to former ages. Several have expressed the opinion that the bones are those of a mastodon, while others seem to think that neither the leg joints or ribs are long enough to have belonged to such an animal. The bones are in a good state of preservation, the outer part being still hard, while the inner is readily crumbled with the fingers. The soil where the bones were found is a layer of blue clay, above which is a rich loam and beneath a gravel. Another peculiar part of the find is the presence in the place of partly decayed wood, the specie of which appears to be pine. It is white, with seeming traces of pitch streaks in it and is easily split into splinters as fine as matches. The search will be continued by Mr. Dosch and sons to see if any further bones can be discovered.

--Richland Democrat.