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 there. It is of the Cretaceous age and came from bed 19 of Woodbury Shales as shown in the general section between pages 198 and 199 of "Geology of Iowa 1870" by White and about a mile northwest of Cedar Bluff. The name the Centro Valley West from a part of which are broken. They measured a little over 11 feet in length. Some vertebrae are missing and we think the length with head must have been 15 feet. The also have portions of head and teeth and other bones. It seems clear there are two or more paddles. We think this
How J. D. Powell

Director U.S. Geological Survey
Washington D.C.

Sir,

Last week the scientific association of Sioux City obtained the fossil remains of a Sauvian dug up on the farm of Mr. W.H. Talbot a few miles north of there. It is of the Cretaceous age and came from bed 19 of Woodbury Shales as shown on the general section between pages 198 & 199 Vol. 2 Geology of Iowa 1870 by White and also a mile north east of Cedar Bluff.

The skull of the Centura shows two vertebrae a few of which are broken. They measure about a little over 11 feet in length. Some vertebrae are only a little above 15 feet. The skull also shows portions of head and tail and other bones. It seems clear there are two or more paddles. It seems this
is the first Sauroid 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 mososaurus".

Theorganized 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.
Sioux City, Iowa
Nov. 25, 1887,

Mr. Jefferson Geo. W.
Secretary, Scientific Association
of Sioux City

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

Dec. 5, 1887.
Respectfully referred to
Prof. O. C. Marsh.

S. L. Clark
Chief Clerk

2130.
SIOUX CITY, IOWA, January 23, 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. E. D. Hosking has examined it with considerable care and in the light of such geological works as are usual, including Cope's Cretaceous Vestigial published by the Government in 1870, I think, and she has been unable to identify it with any reported species. In a paper read before the Association January 21, 1888 he says of it: "I have here to ought an imperfect skeleton found some two months since which I cannot identify but which certainly belongs to this period (Cretaceous group of Cretaceous). The excavation chanced to cut into..."
the outcropping edge of a thick bed of Niobrara shell. The Workmen destroyed the skull mainly before they were aware of its value. They gathered up some fragments and sent word to Mr. Hall, 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—some 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 discoverer was devoured.

I am instructed by the association to write you in regard to identification of this fossil if it belongs to a species hitherto unknown.
And if not, hast thou reported them 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 therefore 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 etc.

Has the Government issued any publication on the Cretaceous Vertebrata since Cape York, the Dakota, and Nebraska Groups are exposed in the Bluff around Sioux City which the Association is desirous of studying?

Very Respectfully, W. W. Whitfield, Secretary.
JAN 28 1888

Prof O.C. Marsh,

What action do you recommend

Cy Brown Good.

Scientific Association.

Sioux City, Iowa, July 21, 1888

Prof. O.C. Marsh

Dear Sir,

By this mail I send you several vertebræ and other parts of fossil discovered here as per your letter of July 15/88. I also inclose herewith Diplodocus Memoranda by Mr. J. B. Korters, 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,

M.M. McCallum

Secretary

Scientific Association

Sioux City, Ia.
Believed to be in 1919 of White's Section Page 198 Vol 2

Gee Elly 8 June 1870
May be 21 or 23. No rock is exposure. Stuck no heads -

94 miles besides near

94 miles distance.

White's Section

1889 - 818 failed

from finding fluid

sufficient and not viable.

10+6

Excavation

Cross-bedding shown

Cross-bedding shown

Zonotome 3047674861908245

Date Feb 21 1887

1743A
as the clay was so tenacious that they could not be seen—only felt and the labours took no interest in the matter and were at work for the mason who was to put in the cistern. Accidentally one of Mr. Baldet's employees hearing by telephoned to Baldet who arrived 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 bucket full 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 jackknife 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 146 “a” 49 only have any portion of the processes attached. I cannot determine position.

which are cervical and which lumbar nor which are dorsal ad which caudal but I am quite sure that several cervical and dorsal are missing—probably broken up by the labours—very little but small fragment remain of the head.

I think we have all the Howra and all the Caenals 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 tines on the pedicles in fair condition and a bucket full of fragment of ribs and spiral processes more more than two or three inches long and all bearing markings 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 3
59 + 64 dorsal
151 cervical
Head of femur or see outline of fragment as shown by dotted line.

Four more like it are below piece of skull.

C metatarsal

C metatarsal

Dotted line shows outline of part of it not cut off from 1 to 2 line of puncture with A from 1 to 4 and 2 to 6. Other outline is entire from 3 to 4 if it is broken.

J.D. Hopkins

Jul 21 1888
Prof. O. C. Marsh,  
Paleontologist, U. S. Geol. Survey,  
New Haven Conn.

Dear Sir;— Your letter of  

March 15,  1888  

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. Hoskins 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 pieces of bone; x26 to 39 supposed to belong to paddles; x40 to 48 supposed to be ends of ribs; x49 to 72 pieces of ribs; x73 to 97 pieces of head; x83 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 was 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,

[Signature]

Secretary, Scientific Association of Sioux City.
P.S. If this shall prove a new species I suggest the propriety of designating it by the name of Mr. Huskisson, who has been chiefly instrumental in securing it, and who has spent a considerable time in studying it.
Scientific Association.

Sioux City, Iowa, June 30, 1888

Prof. O. L. Marsh
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Sir:

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

Very Respectfully,

W.O.W. McNeil, Sec.
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 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 inquiries of me as to the result of your investigations. Not having heard from you I have been unable to answer these questions. Will you kindly write me at an early day advising me as to your conclusions in regard to this fossil.

Very truly yours,

GEO. W. WAKEFIELD,
SECRETARY.
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 your 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
Simp's City Iowa August 18 1899

Yours of 15th. not at hand.
Have also received box
Containing specimen of plesiosaurs
as stated in good condition.
Accept my thanks for your
prompt attention.

Sincerely

E. W. Munford
Secretary Scientific Association