

See 1880

Rapid City, Dak. 11-3-84

Smithsonian Institute, A. G.

Gentlemen:-

We

have for sale a very large
petrified head of some extinct
animal, having two horns
on the end of the ~~nose~~ nose
opposite each other, we broke
off part the nose but we have
the pieces & some tusks that
that were broken off: One horn
which projected from the
ground is partially decayed
but we have the point of it.

The other horn is broken in
two in the middle but it is
perfectly solid and fits exactly
on the tusk farthest back ^{at} $7\frac{1}{2}$ in.

from side to side and, and about
three inches in length from
crown to end of root.

The head is perfectly solid
& weighs about 300 lbs. ^{Including ~~in~~ kind of cement with which it is filled}

It was unearthed in the
bad lands near where parties
employed in gathering specimens
for Yale College were at work
this summer. The tusks are 2 in
in length ^{crowns}. We have some large
teeth bones &c & can get more
if we can get a sufficient price
for them.

Can you make us an offer?
Please state your terms &c

If you ^{do not} wish to purchase, will you
please give the address of some
probable purchaser?

Most Respectfully Yours.
Sherman Capt.

U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR.
2237 | G. R. | NOV | 10 | 1886

Rapid City, Dak.
Nov. 3, 1886.

Cape Sherman

Have for sale a
large petrified head
of an extinct animal
and enclose diagram.

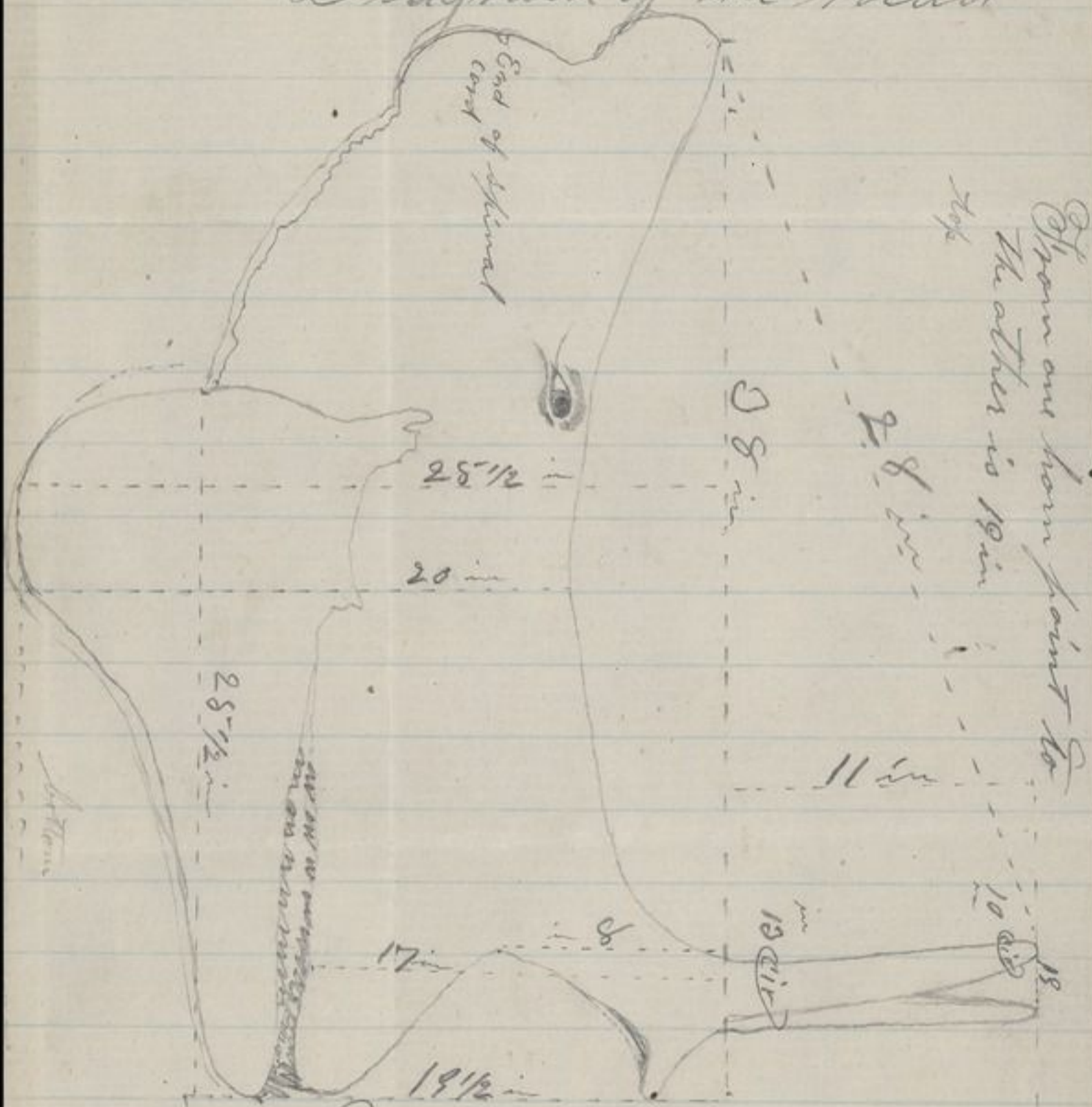
Nov. 10, 1886.

Respectfully referred
to Director of the
National Museum.

By order of
the Director:

James G. Camp
2237
1886
Chief Clerk.

Diagram of the head



(Copy)

YALE COLLEGE MUSEUM,

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Nov 12th 1886.

Sherman Cople Esq.

Dear Sir,

Your letter
of Nov 3rd in regard to
a fossil head you have
for sale has been sent
to me from Washington.

I have many heads of
this kind that I found
myself, and others that
my parties collected this
Summer in your region.

but I should be glad
to get more, as I am
writing a book about
such animals, and I
am willing to give
their full value for any
you may send me.

Please send it on
by express, with all the
pieces, (however small,)
very carefully packed.
Each piece should be
wrapped up separately, so
that no two can touch
each other.

No one can judge the
value of such a specimen
without seeing it, and
I will make you an
offer as soon as it
arrives. If we cannot
agree on the price,
I may get you another
purchaser, or will hold
the head subject to your
order. If we agree on
this, I may want you
to get more for me.

Yours truly
O. C. Marsh.
Direct to Yale College Museum.