

15853

ALBERT SMALL,

Attorney and Counsellor at Law.

Hagerstown, Md.,

Feb. 16 1884

Maj. J. W. Towell,

Smithsonian Inst.

Washington

D.C. Dear Sir:

I have just obtained possession of a fossil tooth, mastodon, I think, - length 6 in. width  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , weight 2 lbs 15 oz - found about 15 yrs since in this County. It is in very fine condition, nearly perfect, the enamel, almost entire, being unchanged, the grinding face of the tooth being almost unbroken.

All I have thus far learned, my first information of its existence obtained a week since, is that a country laborer in working at or about a marshy margin of a brook - locally "the little Antietam" (one of several so locally named) - 12 or 15 yrs since unearthed it, and was struck with its "size". In none of his surroundings was there enough intelligence or interest to call forth any appreciation of its geological value. As a mere curiosity it passed to the possession of two gentlemen, who looked upon it also as a "big curiosity". None of them, however, had that appreciation which would have led to further search. He is still living in the neighborhood,



and I have no doubt will facilitate any search. I have written him, and will gather all the information I can. I would send it down, but that it adds so much to the collection of my invalid boy Naturalist, that I cannot bring myself to deprive him of it. I will bring it down, however, the first time I come down; that its true origin may be determined - mastodon, mammoth or elephant - and for comparison.

My engagements are such that I cannot say when I shall get time even to visit the place of discovery. So far as I am now advised it is near the Potomac, and not more than 2 to 3 miles from the foot of North Mountain, and I think in a State section, or where as between the Conococheague and North Mountain limestone, slate and sandstone commingle. If it is of sufficient interest and significance to justify some one of your skilled explorers running up here to look it up, I will take great pleasure in facilitating the search. So far as mere labor is concerned all that would be needed can be had at \$1.00 to \$1.50 per day; but, unhappily, there is no one here competent to effectively direct.

I hope during the summer to get time to make an effort myself. I would be glad, however, if you could have it made, or if not that, at least give me in some way the intelligent direction and suggestion I shall need to assure success, if there be anything more.

Very Respy  
Yr obdt servt  
Albert Small.



ALBERT SMALL,  
Attorney and Counsellor at Law.

Hagerstown, Md., April 11 1884.

Mr. J. W. Powell,  
U. S. Geol. Survey,  
Washington, D. C. } Dear Sir:

Several months since I wrote you of the discovery in this County of a Mastodon's tooth, and spoke of the probability of discovering other parts &c.; and for any suggestions of direction or aid proper.

Having had no response to that letter I beg to enquire as to its receipt &c.

I should be greatly obliged for copies of any of the reports &c., issued within the last two years, of your Geological and Ethnological work, which you may be at liberty to send me.

Very respectfully,  
Yrs.

Albert Small



538 GR.

Angerstrom, Md.

Apr. 11/84.

Small, Albert

Inquirer enc. his letter  
reporting to the Survey  
the discovery of a  
mastodon tooth & requests  
Ethnologic and Geologic  
Reports.

May 19 - wrote Small.

Answer letter sent March 24, 1884

15856

Will Professor Marsh  
kindly correspond  
with the writer  
personally, or return  
this letter with  
such remarks as  
will enable the  
office to do so.

Yours truly

J. M. Wood

Director.

538  
1884