

Pittsburgh, Pa. May 18th 1875 ¹⁷¹³⁶
1875 767

Editor Tribune — I have just
read the very interesting article in
the Tribune of the 17th, relative to
the remains of the Mastodon found
at Otisville, New York. Either
New York or New Jersey, who lost
that prize may get a letter by
addressing Mr. Richard Kenton,
nephew of Gen. Simon Kenton, at
Verhona, Champaign County, Ohio, who,
unless he recently parted with the same,
has the most complete and perfect
skeleton of a Mastodon probably ever
examined in this country.

This skeleton was discovered
about five miles north-west of Ver-
hona in 1868. I saw it two years
after in Mr. Kenton's attic, and

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the bones were in the most perfect state of preservation, only one or two of them showing signs of decay and they but slight. Both the upper and lower jaws retain nearly all the teeth.

A letter addressed to Mr. Kenton, in care of Mason Arrowsmithe, at Urbana, will reach him. I would myself take pleasure in giving any of your scientists further information concerning the remains.

W. A. Taylor.

W. A. Taylor,

Editorial Rooms, Daily Post,

Pittsburgh, Pa. May 24, 1875.

Prof O. C. Marsh -

Dear Sir - (Pass of

the 2nd received. I will also write to Mr. Kenton and favorably recommend ~~him to you~~ you to his consideration. Being myself one of Gen. Kenton's grand-nephews, and a relative of Mr. Richard Kenton, it is probable that my suggestions will not be without weight. I shall take great pleasure in assisting you in any way I can, and I am glad that my letter to my friend Mr. Ried fell into your hands.

It will probably be a week before your letter reaches Mr. Kenton. His post office is a small country place some miles from our town, but I cannot recall its name. But in Mr. Arrowsmith's case it

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not fail to reach him. At the time I saw the remains they were in a remarkably good state of preservation and the skeleton was very complete - so much so, that with my limited knowledge of anatomy, I believe that I could have arranged it and supplied any missing parts.

Mr. Kenton found it while digging in a slough covered with a recent growth of swamp oaks, in search of water for his stock, the first of the remains were found some five or six feet below the surface, and all within a very small area. The principal portion was together, and bore all appearances of the animal having sunk by the ear into the yielding clay of the slough. The place where the remains

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more found is near some peat bogs
in the Mad river valley, and the entire
soil of the district possessed marked
chemical peculiarities, which I think
will account for the preservation of
the skeleton in the condition I saw
it. Two or three miles from the place
near Spring Hills is a remarkable
deposit resembling in formation coarse
rock, lime being largely one of its
constituents. This deposit would doubt-
less be interesting. Should I chance to
be in Champaign county I will send
you a specimen. I had some of
them in my office but some years ago
during my absence they were carried
away to Boston by an itinerant
showman

Very truly yours

W. A. Taylor.