

Amazing Find by Stanley Bojak!

Reporter Jack Wooldridge

As we look back through the history of Warren County, there are often some things that stick out. These things stick out because they are just plain cool. Finding a mammoth is a very cool thing in the history of Warren County that I am honored to be able to write about. To write this report, I had to scour the pages of many newspapers from the past, which sometimes were darn hard to read! I hope that you will enjoy this article on the Bojak Mastodon!

The Bojak Mastodon was originally found by a family who were on the property of their good friend Stanley Bojak. The children were looking for shells in what used to be a lake bed, when they uncovered large bones. Stanley Bojak finished the job, digging up some more bones and when he realized that he had something big, he contacted the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton. They sent Raymond J Stien, the head of the NJ State Museum's Bureau of Science, who examined the bones and declared that it was indeed a mastodon.

He also said it was a young mastodon, a teenager if you will. The nearly intact skeleton was found on its left side, seven feet from the top soil. The only bit missing was part of the skull, a large slice was cut out and was not found. The tusks of the mammoth were about three to four feet long. The bones were very well preserved, because of the protecting layer of water, and later, mud around it.

The bones were reassembled and put on display in the NJ State Museum. There were, in case you were wondering, mastodons found in the area earlier. Warren County has always been famous for weird things popping out of the ground. There were five to six mastodons found in independence, in 1844. Mastodons roamed the earth about 10,000 years ago.

I hope you enjoyed this look back at the historic Bojak Mastodon!