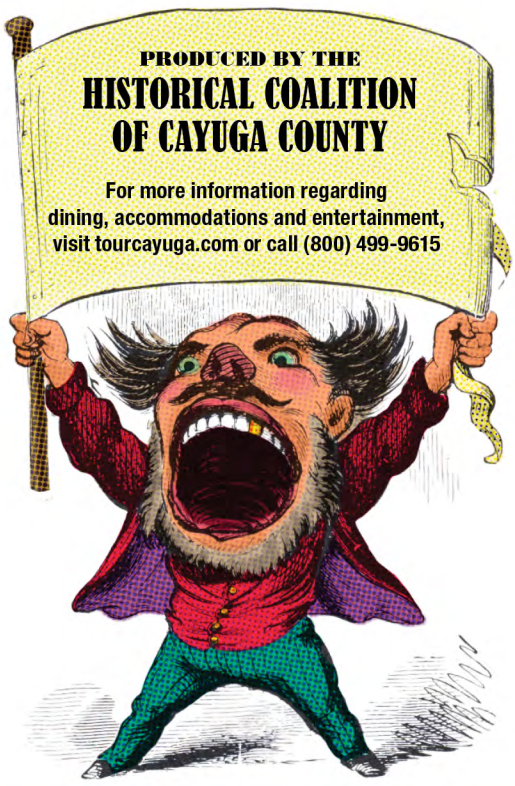
CITY, TOWN & VILLAGE HISTORIANS

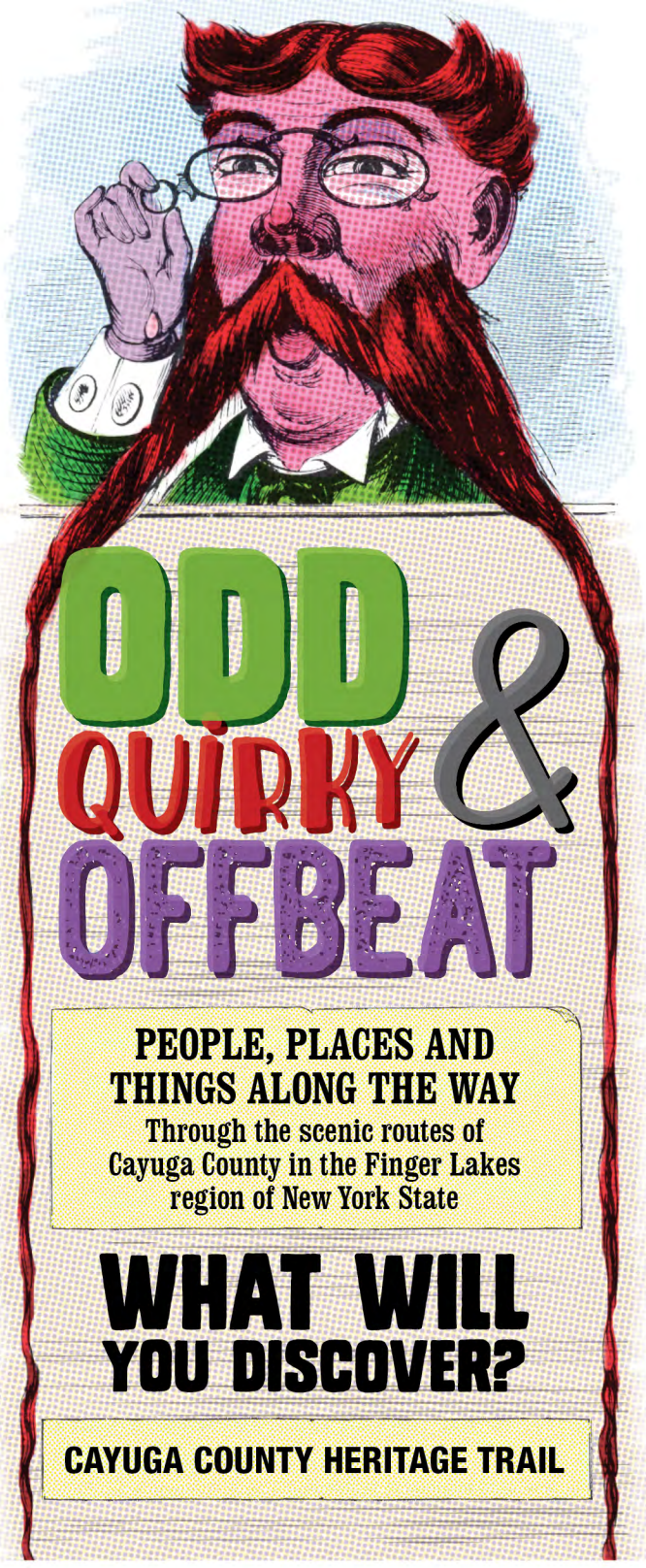
Auburn	(315) 253-8051	**Montezuma**	(315) 776-8844
Aurelius	(315) 255-1894	**Moravia**	(315) 497-1972
Aurora	(315) 364-7232	**Niles**	(315) 497-2606
Brutus	(315) 834-9398	**Owasco**	(315) 253-9021
Cato (Town)	(315) 834-6230	**Port Byron**	(315) 776-4321
Cato (Village)	(315) 626-2397	**Scipio**	(315) 364-7682
Cayuga	(315) 252-1707	**Sempronius**	(315) 496-2026
Conquest	(315) 776-4539	**Sennett**	(315) 253-3712
Fair Haven	(315) 947-5112	**Springport**	(315) 889-7762
Fleming	(315) 252-8988	**Sterling**	(315) 947-5666
Genoa	(315) 364-8202	**Summerhill**	(315) 497-3494
IRA	(315) 626-6905	**Throop**	(315) 252-7373
Ledyard	(315) 364-5707	**Venice**	(315) 364-7992
Locke	(315) 497-9778	**Union Springs**	(315) 889-7341
Mentz	(315) 776-8692	**Victory**	(315) 730-3183
Meridian	(315) 626-3223		



PRODUCED BY THE

HISTORICAL COALITION OF CAYUGA COUNTY

For more information regarding dining, accommodations and entertainment, visit tourcayuga.com or call (800) 499-9615



ODD & QUIRKY OFFBEAT

PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS ALONG THE WAY

Through the scenic routes of Cayuga County in the Finger Lakes region of New York State

WHAT WILL YOU DISCOVER?

CAYUGA COUNTY HERITAGE TRAIL



15¢ BEER

PORT BYRON ERIE CANAL HERITAGE PARK F

1575 Rooker Drive, Port Byron | (315) 776-8564

The original Erie House cash register has only one worn key. The others look brand-new. This one worn key was used when canalers bought a bottle of beer for 15 cents. It's safe to say beer was the most popular item on the menu!

SECRET ISLAND

LOCK 52 HISTORICAL SOCIETY E

73 Pine St., Port Byron
(315) 704-8874 | Portbyronhistorical.org

In the early days of abolition, a bit of land along the Seneca River became known as Haiti Point because of the number of escaped slaves traveling the Underground Railroad that passed through the home of Orvall Duvall, whose house was located along a bend in the river. Duvall was a staunch abolitionist and friend of William H. Seward. During the construction of the Barge Canal, the route of the new canal made this bend into an island that is now called Haiti Island.

BEST PEAK A AT THE PARK

STERLING LITTLE RED SCHOOL-HOUSE AND HERITAGE PARK

1294 St. Rt. 104A, Sterling
(315) 564-6721
SterlingHistoricalSociety.org

A rare 1900-1910 slate-roofed railroad signal tower on the grounds of the Sterling Historical Society's site provides a bird's nest view of Sterling's Heritage Park. This historic tower has seen a lot of history, including the passing of trains burning cinders and belching smoke, which caused it to shake in rhythm with the train.

COBBLED TOGETHER

COBBLESTONE MONUMENT C

Meridian (Monumental Grove) Cemetery
Rt. 370, Cato

The Kimball monument is the only cobblestone monument known to exist in the area. Cobblestone architecture was commonly used in the early to mid-19th century for housing, agricultural and community buildings. The appeal of cobblestone was the availability of round, smooth stones along Lake Ontario, and the visually arresting designs that they could be laid in.

TITANIC VICTORY!

TOWN OF VICTORY HISTORY CENTER AND MUSEUM B

Rt. 38 (intersection of Rt. 370 & Rt. 38), Victory | (315) 730-3183

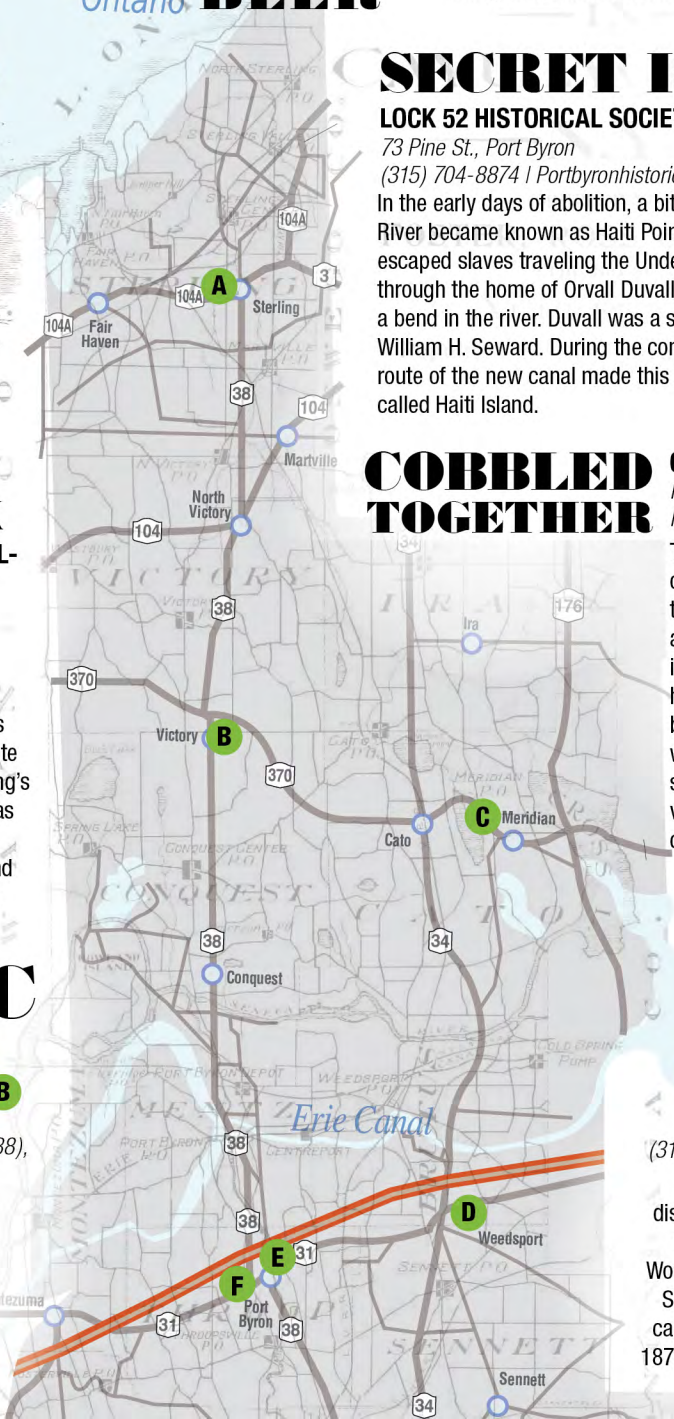
Survivors from the 1912 RMS Titanic lived on Pople Road for a majority of their lives. Never speaking of their journey on the Titanic, neighbors did not know about their astounding story until after their deaths.

DUCK UNDER GLASS

D OLD BRUTUS HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

8943 N. Seneca St., Weedsport
(315) 834-9342 | Oldbrutushistorical.org

Under a glass dome atop a cabinet displaying a collection of Stevens Duck Decoys stands a unique taxidermied Wood Duck prepared in 1885 by Harvey Stevens of Weedsport. Stevens' hand-carved duck decoys were advertised in 1875-1906 as "The Finest in the World".



ODD & QUIRKY OFFBEAT

Cayuga County's "Odd, Quirky & Offbeat" is a guide for the curious and adventuresome traveler who wants to discover the people, places and events that shaped the history of Cayuga County, New York. Come discover all the amazing history of Cayuga County that serves to shape who we are today.

IT'S ELECTRIFYING!

CAYUGA MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND ART H

203 Genesee St., Auburn | (315) 253-8051 | Cayugamuseum.org

A condemned killer met his death by electrocution at Auburn Prison on August 6, 1890, heralding a new method of capital punishment. See a photo of the world's first electric chair where he met his fate. And imagine being a prisoner yourself as you experience a full-size replica of a current cell from the oldest continually operating prison in the country. All this and more awaits you at the Cayuga Museum.

MONSTER MOSQUITO G

MONTEZUMA HERITAGE PARK

PO Box 476, Montezuma | (315) 406-6575
Montezumahistoricalsociety.org

Revenge can come at a stinging price, particularly when it involves the ire of a giant mosquito! Legend has it that in days of old, a monster mosquito was killing the native Iroquois along the banks of the mighty Seneca River. Warrior braves banded together to kill this monster. In an epic battle, its blood was spilled into the river, and as the story goes, gave rise to a population of tiny mosquitos who continued to take their revenge by stinging the Natives along the River.

SACRED REMAINS

FRONTENAC ISLAND K

Cayuga Lake, West of Union Springs
Frontenac Museum: 178 Cayuga St., Union Springs | (315) 889-7273
Freepages.history.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~frontenac/

With artifacts dating back 5,000 years, Frontenac Island offered native residents a sacred burial ground. An Archaeological dig turned up the skeletons of 159 humans, 18 dogs, 1 eagle, and many artifacts used as offerings for funeral rituals. Some of the items discovered originated from as far away as the Lake Superior region, some 500 miles away.

DON'T LET THEM EAT CAKE

HOWLAND STONE STORE MUSEUM L

2956 RT. 34B,
Hamlet of Sherwood
(315) 364-5587
HowlandStoneStore.org

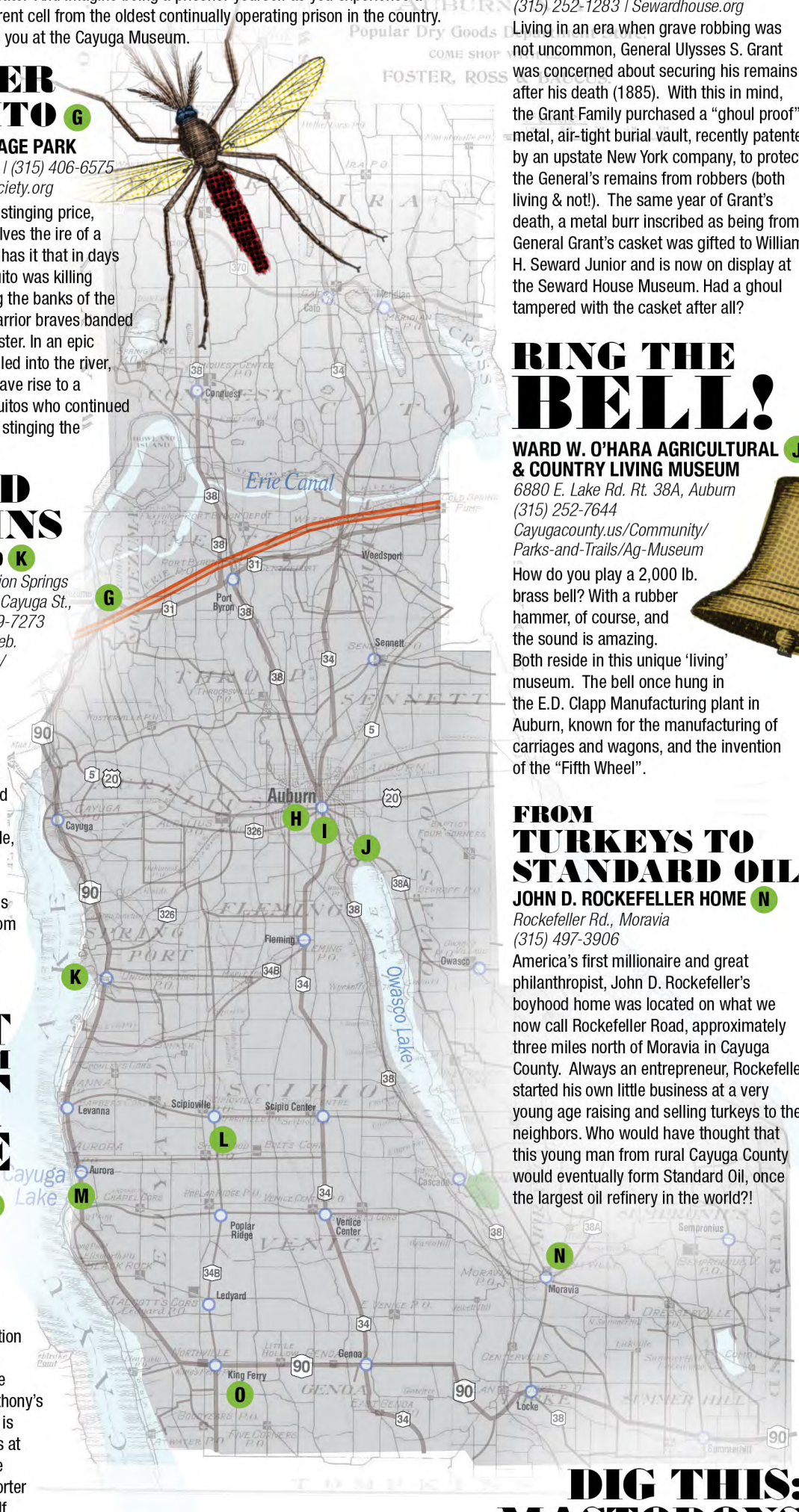
This 'piece' of history is just a tad past its expiration date. The historical slice was saved from the cake celebrating Susan B. Anthony's 78th birthday in 1898. It is fitting that it now resides at the Howland Stone Store Museum. A strong supporter of women's rights herself, Emily Howland was a good friend of this important leader of the women's suffrage movement.

ROOM WITHIN A ROOM

SCIPIO LODGE M

325 Main St., Aurora | (315) 246-0413

Enter the historic Masonic Lodge and step back almost 200 years to 1819 America. This building of unique architectural significance holds a secret "room within a room" replete with symbols of freemasonry still used in today's rituals.



GHOUL PROOF!

SEWARD HOUSE MUSEUM I

33 South St., Auburn
(315) 252-1283 | Sewardhouse.org

Living in an era when grave robbing was not uncommon, General Ulysses S. Grant was concerned about securing his remains after his death (1885). With this in mind, the Grant Family purchased a "ghoul proof" metal, air-tight burial vault, recently patented by an upstate New York company, to protect the General's remains from robbers (both living & not!). The same year of Grant's death, a metal burr inscribed as being from General Grant's casket was gifted to William H. Seward Junior and is now on display at the Seward House Museum. Had a ghoul tampered with the casket after all?

RING THE BELL!

WARD W. O'HARA AGRICULTURAL & COUNTRY LIVING MUSEUM J

6880 E. Lake Rd. Rt. 38A, Auburn
(315) 252-7644
Cayugacounty.us/Community/Parks-and-Trails/Ag-Museum



How do you play a 2,000 lb. brass bell? With a rubber hammer, of course, and the sound is amazing. Both reside in this unique 'living' museum. The bell once hung in the E.D. Clapp Manufacturing plant in Auburn, known for the manufacturing of carriages and wagons, and the invention of the "Fifth Wheel".

FROM TURKEYS TO STANDARD OIL

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER HOME N

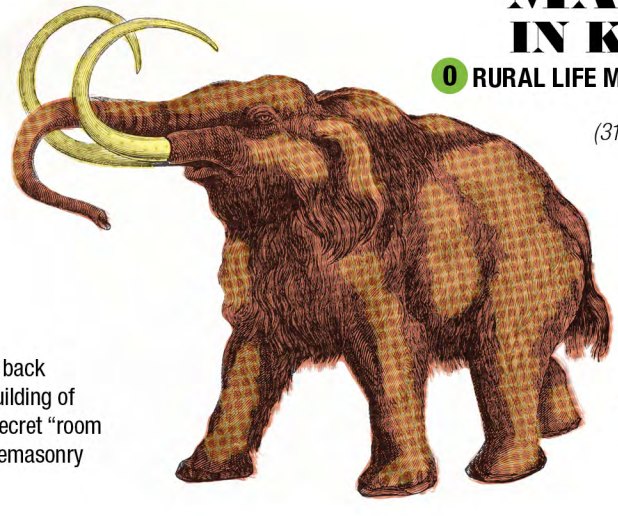
Rockefeller Rd., Moravia
(315) 497-3906

America's first millionaire and great philanthropist, John D. Rockefeller's boyhood home was located on what we now call Rockefeller Road, approximately three miles north of Moravia in Cayuga County. Always an entrepreneur, Rockefeller started his own little business at a very young age raising and selling turkeys to the neighbors. Who would have thought that this young man from rural Cayuga County would eventually form Standard Oil, once the largest oil refinery in the world?!

DIG THIS: MASTODONS IN KING FERRY

O RURAL LIFE MUSEUM AND SCHOOLHOUSE

920 St. Rt. 34B, King Ferry
(315) 364-8202 | Genoahistorical.org



The year was 1955, and a King Ferry farmer wanted to dig a pond for his farm. Imagine his shock as he uncovered the skeletal remains of a large elephant-like creature. Bewildered, he contacted university experts and NYS scientists. To everyone's fascinated delight, the remains of a mastodon had been discovered in King Ferry.