
THE DISCOVERY PAPERS

Cretaceous Life in Missouri

8 year old Missouri boy discovers a dinosaur on family farm



Ole Chronister and his family uncovered some old bones when they were digging a well. Eight-year-old Ole shared their discovery with a Missouri Geologist, Dan Stewart, researching clay deposits. Stewart recognized them as dinosaur bones and convinced the family to send them to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., for confirmation and identification.

The scientist who examined the bones identified them incorrectly as belonging to a sauropod. The Smithsonian paid the Chronister family the

A model of the Missouri dinosaur is on display at the Bollinger County Museum of Natural History. It's a must see!

sum of \$50 for the bones, which they used to buy a cow.

Excavation work continued and more discoveries were made, including teeth. This helped the scientists to correctly identify the remains as that of a duck-billed dinosaur, a hadrosaur. It was named *Hypsiobema missouriense* and became the official Missouri dinosaur in 2004.

The Missouri dinosaur lived during the Late Cretaceous Period in Bollinger County, Missouri. It was a herbivore with around 1,000 small serrated teeth, an indication that the plant life it ate was very coarse or tough. It weighed about what an elephant does today, 2.7- 3.6 tons, stood about 10 feet tall, and stretched about 30-35 feet

Women entered the study of fossils and the ancient life forms they represent, a.k.a. paleontology, in the 1700s and 1800s. They were not allowed to join scientific societies or attend universities, at that time, because of their sex. Art, on the other hand, was seen as an acceptable activity for a woman. Male friends and family members, who were practicing paleontologists, sought the help of women as illustrators of their finds. These women were seldom paid or given credit for their contributions when the works were published.

By the end of the nineteenth century, women were attending universities, joining scientific societies and even becoming respected professors. Some women financed their own expeditions! The Paleontological Research Institution has mounted an exhibit on women in the field called *Daring to Dig: Adventures of Women in American Paleontology*. It is based on the children's book by the same name. They have created an online version as well. Check it out at: <https://www.museumoftheearth.org/daring-to-dig/>



A young explorer, Westa Greer Carson (a.k.a. "Lia") introduces visitors to the Missouri dinosaur at the doll exhibit at the Harris-Kearney House. Lia is the 2018 UFDC Convention Doll. A 12" InMotion Doll.

Artist Vinnie Ream



Missouri is celebrating its bicentennial this year and one of the famous citizens in the state's history is Lavinia Ellen "Vinnie" Ream Huxie. She became a student at Columbia College, Columbia, Missouri, in 1857, at the age of 10. Young Vinnie Ream wrote poems and the school anthem. She studied painting. Her talents caught the eye of an up and coming Columbia lawyer and politician named James S. Rollins..

The Ream family moved to Washington, D.C., in 1861. Mr. Ream's health made it impossible for him to work more than part-time. Vinnie helped the family budget by becoming one of the first women federal employees. She worked as a clerk in the dead letter office of the United States Post Office. She shared her musical talents singing at the E Street Baptist Church and in hospitals. Her love of art and dreams of becoming a sculptor never wained. She loved wandering around the Capitol viewing the paintings and statues.

In 1863, she renewed her acquaintance with James S. Rollins, now a Missouri Congressman. Rollins introduced her to a renowned sculptor, Clark Mills. Vinnie became his apprentice at the age of seventeen. She created busts and medallions of congressmen and other public figures. The following year, President Abraham Lincoln agreed to sit for half an hour a day for Vinnie to create a clay bust of him. For five months, the petite young sculptor made her way to the White House. (She was just under five feet tall and weighed under 90 pounds with long ringlet curls.) She had almost completed her work when Lincoln was assassinated.

Congress commissioned the 18-year-old Vinnie Ream to sculpt a full-size statue of Abraham Lincoln - the first woman and the youngest sculptor to ever be commissioned by the federal government. She was given the clothes Lincoln was wearing when he was shot, in order to get the correct measurements. She selected Cararra marble for the finished work, living in Rome for two years while she recreated her plaster model in marble. The completed work was unveiled in 1871 at the Capitol. She received rave reviews for the life-like manner in which she had portrayed the fallen president.





Vinnie continued her work as an artist and became a darling of Washington society. She had many admirers (and marriage proposals). One was another famous Missourian and artist, George Caleb Bingham, who painted her portrait twice.

Among her works are *America*, *The West*, *Miriam*, and *Sequoyah*,

the first free-standing statue of a Native American to be placed in Statuary Hall at the Capitol.



In 1878, she married U.S. Army Lieutenant Richard L. Hoxie and gave up her artistic endeavors for twenty years, to concentrate on home and family. When she returned to sculpting, she failed to achieve the success of her youth. She died in 1914 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. Her grave is marked by her statue *Sappho*. The town of Vinita, Oklahoma, was named in her honor.

Read more about it..... Check out these books about Vinnie Ream at your local library or bookstore: [Vinnie and Abraham](#) by Dawn Fitzgerald, [Letters from Vinnie](#) by [Maureen Stack Sappey](#), and [A Labor of Love - The Life and Art of Vinnie Ream](#) by Glenn Sherwood.

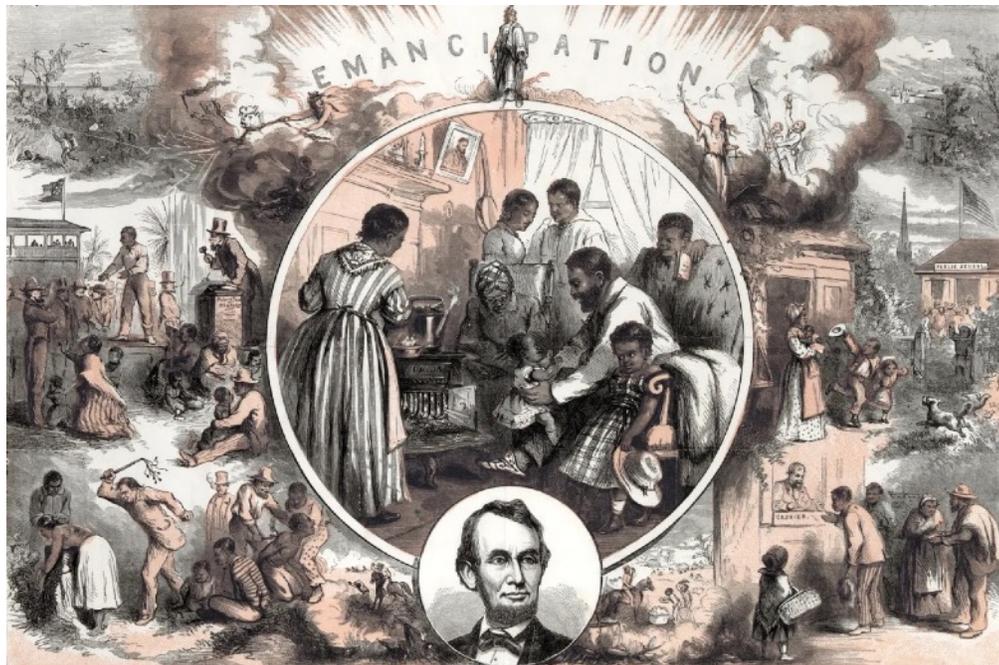
America's Newest Federal Holiday - Juneteenth

On June 17, 2021, President Biden signed into law a new national holiday to be celebrated annually on June 19th, to be known officially as Juneteenth National Independence Day, or Juneteenth, for short. It marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865. The troops were there to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people were freed. U.S. General Gordon Granger read General Orders No. 3 which proclaimed to the people of Texas that all enslaved people were free.

The Emancipation Proclamation made by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, freed enslaved people in Confederate states in rebellion against the Union. It applied to places under Confederate control, not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas under Union control. In Texas, slavery had continued and with little fighting or Union troops, it was seen as a safe place for enslavers. The arrival of General Granger and the proclamation was cause for celebration for the 250,000 enslaved people of Texas. Juneteenth was born!

The following year saw the first “Jubilee Day” (as it was first known) celebration on June 19, organized by freedmen in Texas. The annual event featured music, barbecue, prayer services, and other activities. Gradually, the traditions spread throughout Texas and beyond. Texas declared it an official holiday in 1979 and other states soon followed. Now, it’s a national day of celebration to mark the end of slavery in the United States.

Read more about it... Check out these books at your local library or bookstore: Juneteenth for Mazie by Floyd Cooper, Opal Lee and What It Means to Be Free: The True Story of the Grandmother of Juneteenth by Alice Faye Duncan, and Juneteenth Book for Kids by Green Owl.



Fun for Time Travelers



Amelia Peabody here. I hope you are enjoying a fun summer! One of my biggest activities is hosting the "Show Me Missouri in Dolls" exhibit at the Harris-Kearney House. I am seated front and center to welcome you to learn about Missouri's history during its bicentennial year! The museum is open on Fridays and Saturdays from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm and if you identify yourself as a Time Traveler to your guide, there are surprises in store.

There is still time to join in the "Show Me Missouri" contest.

In honor of Missouri's 200th Birthday, the Westport Historical Society is holding a special contest for our Time Travelers. Select a person, place, or event in Missouri's rich and varied history and share the story with us. How you share it, is up to you. Paint a picture. Write an essay. Create a video.

There will be three age categories - Grades: K-3, 4-8, 9-12.

Prizes will be awarded in all three categories by the Society's partners and sponsors. An awards ceremony will be held at the Harris-Kearney House on Missouri's Birthday - August 10, 2021.

The winning entries will be featured on the Society's webpage.

Entries are due on August 1, 2021, by 5:00 p.m. electronically to the Society's email address: westporthistorical@gmail.com.

If you need inspiration, check out my exhibit at Harris-Kearney House. It's open until August 28, 2021, and be sure to mark your calendar for the awards ceremony. Help us celebrate Missouri's 200th Birthday!

Our friends at the Bollinger County Historical Society have sent us a coloring page of the Missouri dinosaur.



HYPsiBEMA, the official state dinosaur of Missouri, is a hadrosaur or duckbill dinosaur.



One of my favorite dolls in the exhibit is portraying Vinnie Ream. You read about her earlier in this issue. She has a porcelain head and hands on a leather body by an unknown artist.

Hope to see you soon!

Amelia

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