

1886

A Missionary's Notes on a Silicified Wood from Pyramid Park

L. J. Hauge

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/jmas>



Part of the [Plant Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hauge, L. J. (1886). A Missionary's Notes on a Silicified Wood from Pyramid Park. *Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science, Vol. 3 No. 1*, 75-76.

Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.morris.umn.edu/jmas/vol3/iss1/10>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. It has been accepted for inclusion in Journal of the Minnesota Academy of Science by an authorized editor of University of Minnesota Morris Digital Well. For more information, please contact skulann@morris.umn.edu.

[*Paper J.*]

A MISSIONARY'S NOTES ON A SILICIFIED WOOD FROM PYRAMID PARK.—*Rev. L. J. Hauge.*

[*Note*—The editor has omitted several paragraphs and made a few verbal changes in the following paper.]

My wanderings in life began in a land of low islands, with no rocky cliffs nor mountains of importance.

In that land and at that time geology was not taught in our schools; still one of our professors used to say: "Look at the stones, boys!" and this injunction of our worthy teacher I have now followed, as opportunity has been given, for over a quarter of a century. * * * In my collection are over 700 species of wood, leaves and other parts of plants, mainly from the glacial drift of Minnesota and neighboring states.

Some of the specimens are taken from quite a depth in the ground; here in Minnesota 35 to 45 feet; farther west, deeper; north of Bismarck, Dak., some 50 miles, and on the east bank of the Missouri river, was found a stump of some height and one foot in diameter. The stump stood 59 feet below the surface of the ground and about 25 feet below the first bed of coal. The entire stump was solidly petrified.

In McCook county, Dak., was found, 67 feet below the surface of the prairie, a well preserved piece of wood, dry and hard, but not at all petrified. This wood seems to be cedar, and I might here say that of the many specimens apparently of this wood there are found all stages of preservation, from the clear non-mineralized to the completely petrified condition. Well diggers find many specimens of this character, and their stories about some of them are very good, though the evidence is sometimes wanting.

Leaves are not often found well preserved in the drift, and only two or three species of fruit have come to my hand. But to the west of the Missouri river large numbers of leaves are found and often the specimens are both large and beautiful.

Last fall I secured the exceedingly beautiful piece of petrified wood,* which I now present to your Academy, and I discovered it in the following manner: I joined a little party of hunters, partly for adventure and game, but mainly to see and if possible have a talk with old man Sitting Bull, who was then between the

*This is a large specimen of silicified wood.

head waters of Cannon Ball and Hart rivers with his band, said to number 3,000 braves, burning the grass and driving the buffaloes into their reservations for winter food. * * * * *

After being out several days without seeing the object of our search, we resolved to retrace our steps and once more come into civilization. The time passed pleasantly; when we were not hunting for Sitting Bull we were hunting the beaver and the antelope. Many an adventure was ours. On the last day of our stay in the Bad Lands, when we were at the close of a day filled with exciting hunting scenes, I started toward our camp alone. It was only four miles away, yet before I was half way there, my only guide, my instinct, had failed me, and I was lost among the rounded hills. I resolved to climb one in order to direct my course better. Choosing the highest to be seen I rode my pony as high as he could go, and using hands, legs and knees for the rest I finally got to the top. * * * * *

In looking around me I found the top somewhat flat and elongated, and at its highest point stood a pile of stones evidently built by human hands either for an altar or a landmark, and right in front of the pile was lying athwart the ridge a remarkably fine specimen of a tree trunk, about 10 feet long, but broken in several places; of this I took the piece which now lies before you. * *

This specimen was found in the east part of what is called Pyramid park, about 20 or 25 miles south of the Northern Pacific railway. Many logs and stumps occur in this region, not infrequently two to three feet in diameter.

May, 1884.

[Paper K.]

EVIDENCES OF EARLY MAN IN NORTHEASTERN MINNESOTA.

—George R. Stutz.

Forty years of my life have been spent in prosecuting the public land surveys of the government. My field of operations has been both sides of the Mississippi river from the northern boundary of Missouri to the international boundary on Rainy lake. I could only read as I ran over the surface of the country undisturbed by modern civilization.

The facts in my possession I give you, perhaps some conclusions. These last you can take for what they are worth.