

THE DINOSAUR TRACKS OF DEXTER MARSH
GREENFIELD'S LOST MUSEUM, 1846-1853

Robert L. Herbert, with the collaboration of Sarah L. Doyle

This publication is the first biography of Dexter Marsh (1806-1853), a quarrier, stonemason and janitor of Greenfield whose short life culminated in the opening of his own museum of dinosaur tracks. From 1846 to 1853, more than 3,000 people signed the visitors' registers of his house-museum, including Oliver Wendell Holmes, F. G. Tuckerman, Austin Dickinson, Edward Hitchcock and many prominent geologists. Dispersed at public auction, Marsh's museum has been lost from sight and Marsh himself has seldom been mentioned, although he was the first discoverer of the dinosaur footprints (then thought to be bird tracks) of the Connecticut River Valley. He was the principal supplier of specimens of the tracks to the scientific world. The new publication provides a biography supported by his daybooks and visitors' registries and by appendices that reprint all known letters from his hand, two eyewitness accounts of his life, and the auction of his museum.

Biography 15,000 words

Appendices 11,000 words

Robert L. Herbert, professor emeritus of humanities, Mount Holyoke College, is the author of more than a dozen books and international exhibition catalogues. Since 2005 he has devoted himself to the lives and work of Orra White and Edward Hitchcock. In 2008 he published the travel diaries of Orra White Hitchcock, and in 2011, with Daria D'Arienzo, he curated the exhibition of her work at Amherst College's Mead Art Museum. Recently Amherst College has published online his *The Complete Letters of Edward Hitchcock and Benjamin Silliman, 1817-1863*, and *Edward Hitchcock in Europe, 1850, Unpublished diary and notes*.

Sarah Doyle began researching the history of the discovery of dinosaur footprints in 1993. Since 2007, she has been working with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association in Deerfield, Massachusetts, to promote and broaden public awareness of the footprints as scientific artifacts with special historical roots in the Connecticut River Valley. She has written and co-directed state and federal grants in support of this work and given talks on various aspects of the history to local audiences. She holds a BA in History from Wellesley College and a MS in Gender & Cultural Studies from Central European University. She currently edits a web site devoted to the topic: www.jurassicroadshow.wordpress.com.