

BIOFORTEAN NOTES

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CONTENTS

THE BROAD RIVER SEA SERPENT

John Hairr

PROBING THE 1896 ST. AUGUSTINE CARCASS

Nelson Jecas and Renee Fratpietro

IRISH SNAKES, WILD CATS AND OTHER MYSTERY ANIMALS

Richard Muirhead

SONORAN SASQUATCH?

Alton Higgins

THE HISTORICAL BIGFOOT: A SUPPLEMENT

Chad Arment

THE BROAD RIVER SEA SERPENT

JOHN HAIRR

Down through the years, large marine animals identified as sea serpents have been reported swimming about in the world's oceans. The true nature of sea serpents has yet to be satisfactorily explained, and the identity of these creatures is a popular topic of discussion among cryptozoologists, marine biologists, and those interested in learning more about the mysterious creatures that inhabit the deep. One of the best documented yet least studied accounts of an encounter with an animal described as a sea serpent occurred in the waters between Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, during the middle of the nineteenth century.

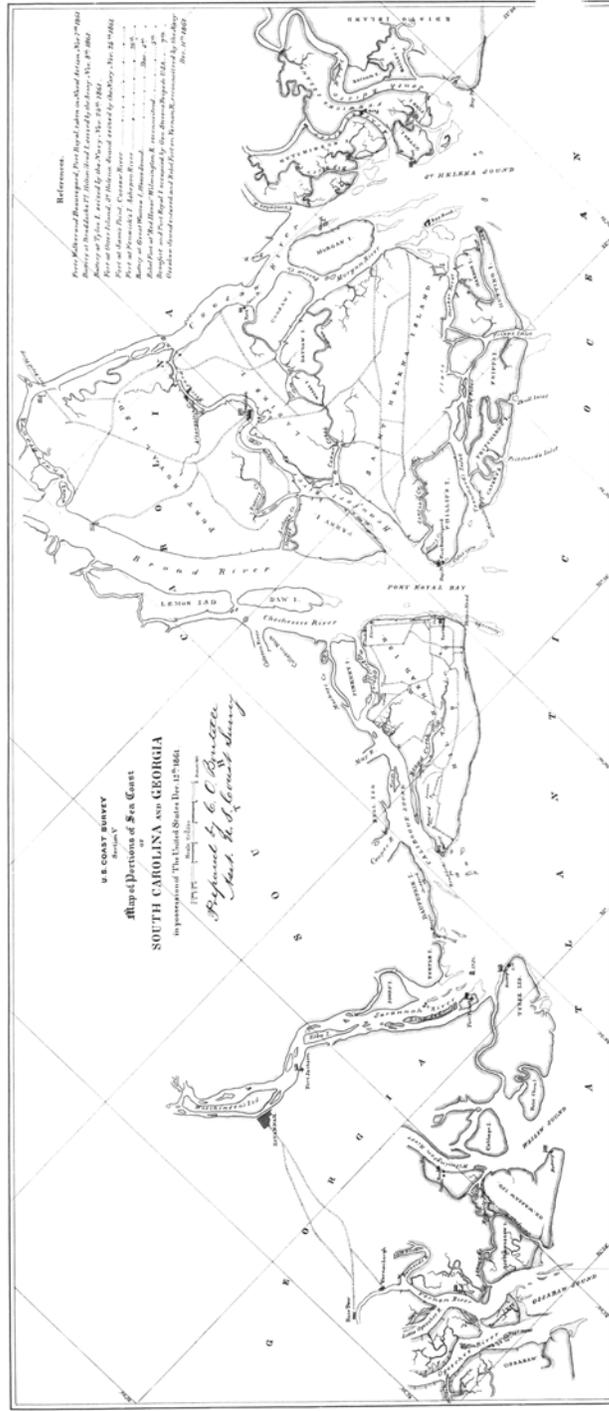
The mysterious creature was first spotted by the passengers and crew of the steamer *William Seabrook* at the mouth of Port Royal Sound late in the afternoon of Sunday March 10th, 1850. The steamer left Charleston earlier that morning on its usual run to Savannah with a stopover in Beaufort. As the steamer was passing into the sound, someone noticed something off in the distance that at first glance appeared to be a large inanimate object floating on the surface of the water. As they studied it, however, it appeared to be alive, and looked like some sort of large animal such as a whale. They pointed it out to the vessel's captain, Peleg Blankenship, who studied the object for a few moments, but could not quite figure out exactly what it was. Curious to learn more about the mysterious creature, Blankenship adjusted course to take a better look.

A correspondent from the *Savannah Daily Georgian* described what happened next. "Capt. Blankenship took a view through his

glass, and to satisfy the passengers, run a mile out of his course to get a better sight of this wonderful creature. The steamer run within thirty feet of it, when it sunk; but not until all on board had a full view of his serpentship. It was described to us as being from 125 to 150 feet in length, and portions above the water appeared to be from eight to ten feet across. From all accounts it must be the veritable Sea Serpent, from off Nahant, who is spending the winter South for the benefit of his health” (Anonymous, 1850a).

After their encounter with the strange animal, those on board the *William Seabrook* continued on their journey into Beaufort, where they offloaded passengers and cargo, and then headed on to Savannah. Once arriving there, word quickly spread in the coastal Georgia city of a sea serpent lurking nearby. The people of Georgia were accustomed to hearing such tales, as there have long been reports of mysterious creatures encountered down through the years all along the coast. There was even a report of a mysterious creature swimming up the Savannah River all the way to the falls at Augusta.

Correspondents from the local newspapers swarmed onto the scene to interview passengers and crew about their encounter. A correspondent from the *Savannah Morning News* penned the following account shortly after the incident occurred. “On Sunday afternoon last, about 5 o’clock, as the steamer *Wm. Seabrook*, Capt. Blakenship, was passing Broad River, about 30 miles North of Tybee Light, bound for this city, those on board the vessel saw at a distance of several hundred yards ahead what they at first took to be a floating log. As the boat neared it, however, they discovered it to be a living something, lying apparently still, partly submerged in the water; and as they came still closer, it assumed the appearance so often described by those who profess to have seen the Sea Serpent. The passengers and others describe it as being of a dark, muddy color, with a head somewhat resembling that of an alligator, 10 to 15 feet in length, which was entirely out of the water. The body, which described a curve as it lay in the water, discovered numerous bumps of the size of a hogshead rising out of the water, by which they were enabled to make an estimate of its length,



Broad River, map from 1861 (NOAA archives)

which they state at 140 to 150 feet. Capt. Blankenship, in order to gratify his passengers and crew with the best possible view of the sea monster, made a circuit round him, passing within 20 or 30 feet of it, during which his Snakeship seemed to take no notice of the vessel. After holding himself on exhibition until the boat's crew had enjoyed a full view of him, he slowly sunk beneath his native element. As the steamer passed on her course, the serpent again emerged from the water, and leisurely directed his course Southward" (Anonymous, 1850b).

When the *William Seabrook* returned to Charleston, a correspondent for the *Charleston Courier* had an opportunity to speak with witnesses who saw the sea serpent. The story they told was virtually the same as that reported immediately after the event in the Savannah newspapers. "The object was approached to within about thirty feet, and many on board the steamer had a good view of it, as it lay in about four and a half fathoms water, and at one time, moving sufficiently to create a ripple, when it disappeared, but was again seen, for a short time, in the wake of the steamer. It is represented, by some of the passengers with whom we conversed, to be some hundred and fifty feet in length, with a body of enormous bulk, and a head about the size of a hog-head, and resembling, in appearance that of the alligator. The monster was not at all, 'like a whale'" (Anonymous, 1850c).

As soon as news of the sea serpent surfaced, reports of an expedition to hunt down the strange animal began appearing in the media. One in particular was mounted amidst much frivolity by several individuals from Beaufort, who put together an expedition of two small boats armed with an assortment of weapons, including a small cannon. Nearly a week after Blankenship and his party saw the serpent, Captain John Barnwell and company headed onto the waters of Port Royal Sound and up Broad River, where rumors reported the monster to be stranded. This expedition of merry-makers of course did not find the sea serpent, but they did find four whales. Not wanting to face their neighbors' ribbing for returning empty handed, they attempted to kill a whale to bring back as a prize, but despite hitting the animal with a cannon shot and

several harpoons, were unsuccessful. Their explanation for trying to kill the whale instead of the sea serpent was that the sea serpent did not exist, and the sightings of the serpent, they contended, were merely sightings of these whales swimming single file (Anonymous, 1850f). But Blankenship and his party's original description of the animal made no mention of following a creature undulating in and out of the water mimicking the swimming pattern of whales and dolphins. In fact, their animal, which they approached to within thirty feet as they navigated completely around the beast, was reported emphatically as being, ". . . not at all, 'like a whale'" (Anonymous, 1850c).

Word of this hunt for the creature up the Broad River caught the attention of newspaper editors, and soon overshadowed the original reports of the sea serpent (Anonymous, 1850e; Anonymous, 1850f; Anonymous, 1850i). A fanciful account of Barnwell's hunt for the creature even made its way into a collection of short stories published by outdoor writer William Elliott in 1859 (Elliott, 1859). Most publications began treating the event as a humorous episode, while scientific publications in Europe ridiculed the event (Anonymous, 1850j; Newman, 1850). Even the famous sea serpent researchers A.C. Oudemans and Bernard Heuvelmans became confused by the misleading accounts and proclaimed the whole episode a hoax based on the encounter with the whale on March 16th, and not on the original reports of Blankenship's sea serpent on March 10th. Ironically, they included mention of a second sighting of a sea serpent in the same waters a few years later, but an ignorance of the geography of the South Carolina and Georgia coast prevented them from realizing the connection (Oudemans, 1892; Heuvelmans, 1968).

The sea serpent was alive and well, and spotted in the waters near Beaufort just four years later. However, this time it was not in the waters of Port Royal Sound, but just a few miles north in St. Helena Sound. News of this sighting was shared with the outside world thanks to the timely visit to the area by a British traveler named Amelia Murray. She was on the court of Queen Victoria, and travelled extensively studying nature, especially botany and

geology. On one of her trips along the southeastern United States, Murray was a passenger aboard the steamer *Isabel*, en route from Charleston to Havana, Cuba. She made the acquaintance of the ship's captain, surnamed Rollins, who shared details about his own personal encounter with the sea serpent in 1854. The vessel *William Seabrook* was once again involved, but she was under the command of a different skipper, as Captain Blakenship had taken over the steamer *Seminole* in 1853, making regular trips between Savannah and various ports of call along the coast of Florida (Anonymous, 1853). He was replaced by a Captain Peat, who would later gain notoriety as a blockade runner during the War Between the States.

According to Rollins, Peat, his crew and the passengers on board the *William Seabrook* encountered the creature near the mouth of the Savannah River. They were not able to get their vessel as close to the creature as Blankenship had back in 1850, as the mysterious animal dove beneath the surface upon the approach of the ship.

The next day, the *Isabel* departed and followed along the same route as the *William Seabrook*. A year later, the captain regaled Ms. Murray with the story of what happened next. "Captain Rollins of this ship says, he, like the rest of the world, disbelieved the report; but the next day, during the passage of this steamer to Savannah, on approaching the bar at St. Helens, he was called by his look-out man to see 'the biggest log that ever was.' On looking through his telescope, he clearly saw that the object in question was no tree, but a monster as long as the *Isabel* herself, in rapid motion; as he watched it, it reared its snake-like body and head high out of the water as the funnel of the steamer, and looked about for an instant, and then plunged down, leaving a swirling eddy where it had shown itself" (Murray, 1856).

What happened to the creature in the years after this flurry of activity is unknown. Perhaps it made its way south along the coast to the waters around the Altamaha River, where regular sightings of mysterious sea creatures continue to be made. Whether there is a relationship between the Broad River sea serpent and other sea

serpents reported from the southeastern United States has never been determined.

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PROBING THE 1896 ST. AUGUSTINE CARCASS

Editor's Note: Over the last few decades, there has been increased interest in “globsters,” or beached rotting carcasses that are sometimes suggested to be the remains of undescribed sea creatures. As scientists have developed better techniques for genetic identification, attempts to examine unidentified remains have produced interesting results. The carcass that has probably gotten the most attention over the years was discovered on the beach at St. Augustine, Florida, in 1896. Biologist A. E. Verrill described it as a new giant octopus (*Octopus giganteus*), though he withdrew that suggested identity in favor of a beached cetacean. Modern scientific analysis of preserved St. Augustine material began with the investigations of Wood and Gennaro (1971), and continued with Mackal (1986). They suggested that the samples were consistent with a cephalopod. In more recent analyses of this and other globsters (Carr et al 2002; Pierce et al 1995; Pierce et al 2004), other investigators have concluded that these, even when they have octopus-like appearances, are likely the remains of decomposing whales. Should we settle for this? I would suggest that good science continues to probe wherever questions remain, even if they are small nagging questions that others would prefer to ignore.

In cryptozoology, even a final determination that an alleged species does not actually exist is a good result, unlike the strawman argument popular in fluff skepticism that all cryptozoology investigators are “believers” and are only out to prove that

“monsters exist.” Proper investigation follows all trails as far as possible, to acquire physical evidence that can be evaluated with the technology at hand and attempt to determine if an alleged species does or does not exist. In this case, we have testable physical evidence that has produced mixed results, but most recently has been suggested to be cetacean. If this is a valid theory, then further testing of the physical evidence should be encouraged in order to confirm or disconfirm it. As it happens, additional testing of the material has been ongoing as genetic techniques advanced. The following summary provides some information on this testing. Nelson Jecas still has a small amount of material remaining, and there is further work that will be done on it. One of the primary issues has been that there is both authentic and contaminating DNA, as the samples were literally rescued out of the garbage, which is where the rodent DNA apparently came from. Deterioration of the authentic DNA is an additional issue. Hopefully, future work at retrieving and identifying the authentic DNA will provide a solid answer one way or the other for the St. Augustine carcass.

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COLLABORATION HISTORY OF NELSON JECAS AND
RENEE FRATPIETRO, REPRESENTING THE PALEO-DNA LABORATORY

In 2006 Dr. Roy Mackal contacted the Paleo-DNA Laboratory requesting analysis of a sample from an 1896 carcass, more specifically, species identification of the sample. At this time, Dr. Mackal informed us that Nelson Jecas was to be involved in the project as well. Two small samples (12M 11/5/79 and 2M) were sent to the lab for analysis. Four sets of universal primers in the mitochondrial DNA region were used on the samples. The regions tested included multiple areas of the cytochrome B and 16s. One small sequence from the 16s, region classified phylogenetically in the Class of Mammalia, grouping closely to whales was retrieved amongst the contamination of human, mouse and other species, but no positive identification could be established.

For the next two years Mrs. Fratpietro and Mr. Jecas remained in contact discussing many projects and ideas. In 2008 Dr. Mackal found a new sample from the same 1896 carcass (149380) and more analysis was requested in conjunction with Mr. Jecas and Mr. Gary Mangiacopra. Again, multiple regions of the mitochondrial DNA were attempted revealing only contamination. Amplified products were then successfully cloned in attempt to separate any contamination from authentic DNA but this sample seemed highly contaminated and no authentic DNA could be retrieved. Again no positive identification could be established.

Again for the next few years Mrs. Fratpietro and Mr. Jecas remained in contact discussing many projects and ideas. In 2010 another sample (2010) was sent for analysis. Leftover samples from the three previous attempts (149380, 2M, and 12M) were also re-tested using some new extraction and purification techniques. Five different universal regions including cytochrome B, 16s 12s, 28s and COT were tested as well as a new cephalopoda specific region. With this cephalopoda specific region, avoiding the contamination present in the sample looked promising. Unfortunately, no DNA was detected using the cephalopoda-specific primer set and two of the other six regions that amplified DNA were determined to be

contamination. So do these results reveal that there is no cephalopoda DNA present in the sample, therefore not from the class cephalopoda, is there just no viable cephalopoda DNA left or is this something completely different? A new plan of attack is needed.

Currently, in 2011, a new plan has been devised and an attempt will be made on yet another new sample (2011) and the previous samples (2010, 149380 and 12M) to solve the species identification mystery of the 1896 carcass. This time, cetacea specific primers and cephalopoda specific primers will be trialed. All the samples listed above were re-extracted and amplified using the cephalopoda and cetacean specific primers. In multiple attempts, the cephalopoda region did not amplify whereas the cetacean region did, some single bands and some double bands. The single bands that were sequenced revealed that the cetacean specific primers still amplified some contaminating DNA and no authentic DNA was retrieved. It was then decided to clone the double bands in attempt to separate the contamination from the authentic DNA. Still, all sequences were contaminating DNA. As of yet, the identification of the 1896 carcass is still a mystery, but we have not given up yet. New plans are in the works to continue the quest for an identity.

IRISH SNAKES, WILD CATS AND OTHER MYSTERY ANIMALS
RICHARD MUIRHEAD

When someone mentions the cryptids of Ireland one immediately thinks of lake monsters, ABCs (Alien Big Cats) and the now well documented Master Otter, the Dobharchú. But there are frequent variations on these themes. The more obscure cryptids are more interesting. By “obscure” I mean, “not well known; not famous” (Agnes 1999).

The further back in time one goes the more mythological or supernatural Ireland’s mystery animals seem to become. For example: “A fearful monster is described in a Irish tale as having been seen by Fionn and his heroes when hunting in Glen Smol; ‘it was being chased by a red wife (bean ruadh), had four thin legs, a head like a bear (? cullaigh), and long horns on it, the rest of it like a deer (eilit), with a shining moon on each side; the sea was as easy for it as the land, and no one could overtake it, but Bran got up with it as it fell dead.’ This beast-monster was no less than the King of the Fir Bolg in that shape” (Forbes 1905).

Also there were the Man-Wolves of Ossory (Joyce 1911):

“In the dim days of yore, the people of the kingdom of Ossory had the power of changing themselves into wolves whenever they pleased. During the whole time an Ossorian lived as a wolf, his own proper body remained at home as if he were dead: and when about to make a wolf of himself he gave strict orders to his friends not to disturb the body; for if it were removed he was never able to regain his own shape, but was doomed to remain a wolf for the rest of his natural life.

“While he was in his wolf-shape he ravaged sheep-folds and devoured cattle, and was in every respect as fierce and bloodthirsty as any natural-born wolf. And if you came on him suddenly and attacked him in the act of eating a sheep, he commonly ran straight home and resumed his own shape. But although he was now, when you confronted him, a man, and looked as innocent as a lamb, yet if you insisted on examining him closely, you found on him all the marks and tokens of his savage feast:—splashes of blood here and there, and bits of raw flesh in his teeth; and the wounds you inflicted on the wolf, you found them fresh and bleeding on the corresponding parts of the man’s body.” . . .

“Giraldus also reminds us that in his own day there were many old women in Scotland and Wales, as well as in Ireland, who were in the habit of turning themselves into hares and running about the country at night sucking the teats of cows. And here we are forced to acknowledge that he is corroborated by several Irish story-tellers of much later times, down even to the present day, who relate many curious stories of old women turning themselves into hares, and of some who were pursued by huntsmen and hounds and were caught almost in the very act of returning to their own shape. And after regaining the old-woman shape the wounds inflicted by the hounds were still on the corresponding parts of their bodies, raw and bleeding, as in the case of the man-wolves above mentioned.”

However there are exceptions to the purely supernatural. For example, around about 900 A.D the Irish writer of *The Annals of the Four Masters* (dating from between 2242 after the year of creation and 1616 A.D) reports an animal like a *Kentrosaurus* or *Stegosaurus*: It was a large beast with “iron” nails on its tail which pointed backwards. Its head was shaped a little bit like a horse’s and it had thick legs with strong claws (Taylor 1989).

CROCODILE

Lough Mask was said to be the haunt of a crocodile, as mentioned by Roderick O’Flaherty in his *A Description of West or hlar*

Connaught (1684) and cited in *The Mystery Animals of Ireland* by Gary Cunningham and Ronan Coghlan (2010):

“There is one rarity more which we call the Irish Crocodile whereof one as yet living about ten years ago [in 1674] had sad experience. The man was passing the shore just by the waterside and spied far off the head a beast swimming, which he took to be an otter and took no more notice of it, but the beast it seems lifted up its head to discern whereabouts the man then was, then diving swam under the water till he struck ground, whereupon he ran out of the water suddenly and took the man by the elbow whereby the man stooped down and the beast fastened his teeth in his pate and dragged him into the water, where the man took hold of a stone by chance in his way and calling to mind the knife he had in his jacket, took it out and gave a thrust of it into the beast which thereupon got away from him into the lake. The water about him was all bloody, whether from the beast’s blood or his own or both he knows not. It was the pitch [colour] of an ordinary greyhound, of a black shiny skin without hair as he imagines. Old men acquainted with the lake do tell there is such a beast in it and that a stout fellow with a wolf dog along with him met the like there once, which after long struggling went away, in spite of the man and his dog and was long time after found rotten in a rocky cave of the lake when the waters decreased. The like they say is found in other lakes in Ireland, they call it Dovarchu, i.e. water dog or anchu which is the same.”

To which Cunningham and Coghlan (2010) add: “This animal is unlike the commonplace Irish otter, for although it initially looked like one, it evidently wasn’t.”

STRANGE WEXFORD ANIMAL
Irish Press, August 17, 1933

An animal, said to resemble a young crocodile, was discovered in a heap of debris in a garden at the back of Dr. Cantwell’s residence, Main Street, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, and has been forwarded to the Dublin Zoological Gardens.

Forty-two years later another crocodile-type animal turned up off Co. Wexford: “Hook Head is one of the two capes at the south end of the Barrow estuary in Co Wexford. Here, in 1975, a monster resembling a lizard, about 20’ long, was seen by fishermen” (Cunningham and Coghlan 2010).

MYSTERY BOAR-LIKE CREATURE

In *Walker’s Hibernian Magazine* for February 1781 an illustration of a wild boar or auroch-like animal appeared. (Officially, the last auroch died in Europe in 1627 in Poland.) In fact, several of these animals were found in late 1780 or early 1781 near Thomastown on the road between Tipperary and Cashel (see Muirhead 1997).

The text makes it clear the animals were tame: “This animal followed him at a slow pace near a mile. . . .” But this doesn’t indicate what species it actually was. What makes the case interesting is that the animal, although boar-like, is somewhat anomalous. The account tells how one John Carrol was travelling towards Cashel from Tipperary when he heard what sounded like the roar of a bull amongst some trees. After a few moments he saw the animal whose noise he had heard; its size and figure was that of an ordinary pig, but its head was armoured with spreading horns. This animal followed him at a slow pace near a mile until coming to a place near Thomastown Pool, where it entered a cave. The following night Mr. Carrol and some other men went to the cave and found three animals, which they took home (Muirhead 1997). This is the substance of the story.

These animals sound superficially like wild boar. The trouble is, what about those horns? Wild boar have tusks, not horns. According to Thompson, a naturalist of 19th century Ireland, writing in *Natural History of Ireland*, the tusks of Irish wild boar were of goodly dimensions. But Dr. Scouler, in 1833, said that compared with wild boar found in Scandinavian peat bogs, the Irish boar was very diminutive and was plentiful down to the 17th century, though the exact date of extinction is unknown (Harting 1972). If the Irish



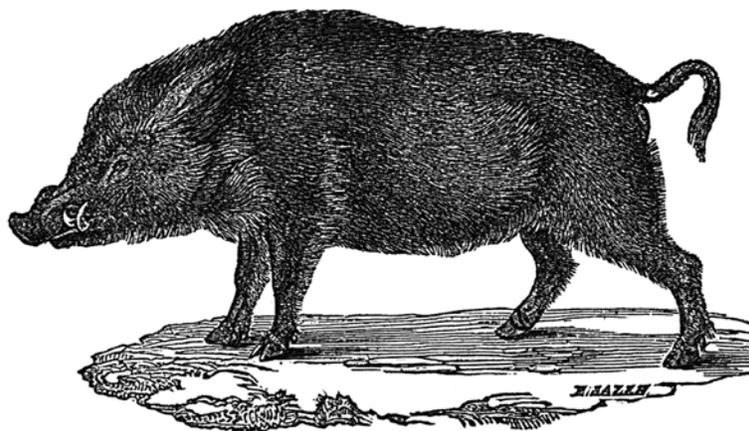
wild boar were really diminutive, would it have had prominent tusks? Unless it was some kind of deformity?

As far as aurochs are concerned, according to noted mammalogist Dr. Derek Yalden (pers. comm., Oct. 16, 1998): “All the evidence is that the Aurochs, like Roe Deer, never ever reached Ireland, so the question of when it died out does not arise. In the extensive *Paleontographical Society Monograph* on them (Reynolds 1939) there are 30 records from Scotland and 93 from England and Wales, but none from Ireland. Bison never ever made it either, so misidentification is not a factor. (There are plenty of records of both Reindeer and Irish Elk, even a few Woolly Mammoths, so absence of collectors is not an excuse.) Aurochsen were forest animals, and the habitat was not in place before the land-bridge was severed by rising sea-levels.”

Yalden later replied to me (pers. comm., Nov. 4, 1998), seemingly a bit exasperated: “I’ve no idea what the animal is, or was! The illustration clearly matches the description, the size and figure was that of an ordinary pig. It shows a pig’s snout, tusks,

cloven hooves, and curled tail. I think it is meant to be a sow with teats.” This followed his previously noting (pers. comm., Oct. 16, 1998), “Wild Boar are believed to have been long extinct in Ireland (perhaps in the Neolithic). They didn’t of course have horns. Someone, I suspect, was playing tricks. The Aurochs was a big animal, buffalo/bison-sized, and would never have been described as ‘the size and figure of an ordinary pig.’ I can’t imagine three Aurochsen going in a cave, or tamely being ‘brought home’ either (quite apart from the fact that the aurochs never got to Ireland). My guess is that someone stuck some bull’s horns on a pig.”

British cryptozoologist Max Blake (pers. comm., Feb. 15, 2010) commented: “The Irish beasts sound to me to be most likely misidentified wild boar, the huge tusks on some males could have been mistaken for horns or similar appendages.” Irish mystery animal researcher Ronan Coghlan (pers. comm., July 4, 2011) commented: “It looks like a European bison, wisent or zubr (all the same thing). . . . Nothing like this has ever been reported in Ireland.” Later Coghlan (pers. comm., July 6, 2011) said: “The wisent, also known as the zubr, is the European species of bison. It is now small in numbers and is mainly found in Poland, but I think there may be some on an estate in England. I have seen a stuffed specimen at the Natural History Museum in Dublin and it looks not unlike your mysterious beast.”



According to J.E. Harting, in his book *British Extinct Animals Within Historic Times* (1972), “the wild boar (*S. scrofa*) was common in Ireland until at least the 17th Century, although it is not certain at what stage it became extinct.” The image here is from J.E. Harting’s book.

THE IRISH WILD CAT

The Irish Wild Cat is another controversial animal which according to orthodoxy does not, nor ever has existed in Ireland. To quote from Cunningham (2008) again: “There is . . . an Irish cryptid—known from native testimony and folklore but still awaiting zoological acceptance—which once attracted the notice of some of Ireland’s most prominent 19th-century naturalists: the Irish wildcat. Ireland, unlike mainland Britain, has never been home to the European Wildcat (*Felis sylvestris*) in either its prehistoric or modern form, despite the island’s geographical proximity to Britain, the existence of land bridges when sea levels were much lower, and its ecological suitability to support such creatures. Yet despite the orthodox zoological view that there are no genuine Irish wildcats, there is a surprisingly substantial amount of anecdotal, and perhaps archæological, evidence to suggest that an aggressive feline predator has been indigenous for quite some time. . . . In Michael Vinney’s authoritative work on the natural and geological history of the country, simply entitled *Ireland* on p.58 he . . . includes a possible reason for the wildcat’s presence, noting: otter, pine marten, red fox, red squirrel—even the wildcat—are all candidates for early introduction to Ireland for their skins.”

Dr. Karl Shuker in *Mystery Cats of the World* (1989) said in relation to the observations of the naturalist Thompson: “Thompson had taken a particular interest in reports of alleged wildcat sightings in Ireland, notably in mountains of Erris in the county of Mayo. He had himself seen a very large cat, weighing 10lb 9oz/ 4.75kg which had been shot in the wild at Shane’s County Antrim. Apparently this specimen resembled the European wildcat in every way except for its tail (which was not bushy at its tip) and its fur



(which was of a finer texture). . . . In or around 1883, whilst shooting rabbits near County Galway's Annaghdown, F.C. Wallace sighted an animal which in his opinion seemed to be a magnificent specimen of a bona fide wild cat, but as no physical evidence was obtained, no formal identification could be made."

In W.H Maxell's *Wild Sports of the West* (1833) there is an account of the Irish wild cat, as follows: "Having put a terrier in, his suspicions were confirmed, as the dog came out severely torn, and, assisted by a shepherd-boy, he laid rabbit-nets round the den, commenced digging, and, before he had proceeded far, a cat of immense size bolted. She was breaking through the rabbit-net, when the chasseur, with more gallantry than prudence, seized her by the neck. The fierce animal instantly attacked him in turn, and, fastening upon his hands with teeth and talons, held her desperate grasp until the boy, with the edge of a spade, broke her back. They brought the dead beast along with them; it was of a dirty grey colour, double the size of the common house-cat, and its teeth and claws more than proportionately larger."

Hamilton (1896) provides the sceptics opinion, citing Sir J.W. Wilde: “Sir J.W. Wilde writes:— ‘I have known a great number of Cats in my time—gentle, tame, spiteful, venomous, vicious, cruel, clean, dirty, honest, stealing, &c.; but I never saw a Wild Cat, certainly not in the west of Ireland; all Cats I saw there were evidently tame ones that had got into the rocks and become wild.’

“In another letter he says:— ‘Mr. La Touche has asked me to communicate with you respecting the existence of the Wild Cat in Ireland. I never met with such an animal, although, both as a sportsman and somewhat of a naturalist, I have had ample opportunities for observation. There is no purely Irish name for Cat, for the word Catt, or, as it is pronounced, Catta, is a more corruption of English term. In the “Proceedings” of the Royal Irish Academy for 1860 you will find a lengthened essay of mine upon the unmanufactured animal remains then belonging to that institution; it contains much curious information on the ancient animals of Ireland. That the Domestic Cat has occasionally strayed from home and gone wild is quite true; and instances of the kind occurred in my place in Connemara some years ago, where in a cave by the lakeside a Cat brought up her young, and, frightened by the dogs, would never come near the house again. The only ancient reference which I can now lay hands on is that of the ancient Irish poem treated of in the tract already referred to, where it is said two Cats were procured from the cave of Ratticrohan, in county Roscommon, but I see no reason for believing that they were originally wild. The word used in the original MSS. is *Chait*, but is evidently a corruption of the English term.’”

Interestingly the Irish wild cat is supposed to have a spike or nail on the end of its tail, as noted by Cunningham (2008): “Which has been variously labelled a spike, claw or nail. Within T.J. Westropp’s *Folklore of Clare* there is a brief mention of a wildcat. In the chapter ‘Animal and Plant Superstitions’ p. 62, is the reference:

The wildcat is believed to have a spike on the end of its tail which it can stick into a pursuer, but I found no such fine legend in Clare on this point as I

did near Kerry in Limerick, where the cats pursued and anchored themselves onto a farmer and his dog, after chasing them from Clorane to Old Kidimo.

“Whilst researching sightings of animals in Ireland’s lakes, I corresponded with a man from one of the most isolated and, it must be said, most beautiful regions in Ireland. The Mullet in north-west Co Mayo looks similar to a peninsula jutting out into the Atlantic like an arthritic finger, but it is technically an island, means that it is Ireland’s second largest offshore island after Achill. Pap Murphy is a truly fascinating man in a country full of great characters and fascinating men, yet his knowledge of Co Mayo is humbling. From archaeology to history to folklore, anybody researching this region of Ireland should definitely visit him or his visit will be a complete waste of time.

“Pap had often heard of the wildcat, and when questioned told me of an incident which happened around 1940 or 1950. Pap’s uncle and father encountered a wildcat in a shed at the end of Pap’s uncle’s house. According to Pap, the animal was entangled in some fishing nets and debris. It was subsequently killed. The cat was quite large and had growled at both men. The two men also told of the animal’s possessing a nail at the end of its tail. When questioned about this very curious physical feature. Pap was adamant it was very sharp and possibly bony—it was not an illusion created with the tail hairs’ ending in a poisoned tip, as I cautiously suggested.”

There follows below a selection of newspaper and journal reports from Ireland on the wild cat arranged alphabetically by county and chronologically based on my research in 2010 (Muirhead 2010). The articles are arranged in date order of sightings, irrespective of publication date. As can be seen many of the reports are from the South-West and West of Ireland.

Irish Republic

Co. CLARE:

FOXES AND BADGERS

Nenagh Guardian, December 17, 1838

For some time past war has been declared on foxes by the farming community in this area, and though the season of peace and good-will is at hand, there are no signs of a truce yet. During the past week a local sportsman shot four foxes, two badgers and a wild cat almost as big as a young sheep in the Ogonnelloe district.

CO. CORK:

SUPPOSED OCCURRENCE OF A WILD CAT IN THE WEST OF CORK

Irish Naturalist, Vol. 17, no. 7, July 1908

A species of Wild Cat is proved by its fossil remains to have inhabited Ireland at no very remote period, as Dr Scharff has shown in his very careful paper (Proc. R.I. Academy, January 1906), and he also urged that enquiries should be made as to whether such an animal has been seen or heard of lately (*Irish Naturalist*, 1905, p.79). Though the specimen referred to below has unfortunately perished, and conclusive proof of its species is therefore unattainable, it may be well to record the remarkable descriptions given me by several members of the Becher family.

In 1881 I made a note of the statement of Mr E.W. Becher and his sister to the effect that some years previously their elder brother shot a Wild Cat at Liss Ard, the O'Donovan's place. "It had a broad head, short legs, bristly tail; the colour was brindled, with bars of black on a dark grey, with a dash of colour."

I have recently met their elder brother, the Rev H. Belcher, who at my request has written the following account:— "Castlehaven Rectory, Skibbereen, May 8th, 1898.

"I shot what I took to be a Wild Cat at Liss Ard, Skibbereen, during the winter of 1873-74, probably in January 1874. The place was high, rocky ground, on the skirt of a

young plantation. I just got a glimpse of it passing through the gorse and brambles and thought it might be a Marten Cat. We were beating for Woodcocks. The retriever fetched it, and when she came out of the covert the Cat had her by the nose.”

Southern Star, February 11, 1893

This extract was a summary of a lecture on Irish natural history by the Rev. H. Burton Deane at Clonakilty in Co. Cork. In it he says: “Rosscarberry is a capital place for otters, foxes, stoats, weasels, wild cat and others of the furry tribe.”

Southern Star, July 19, 1902

Here is wonderful exemplification of the queer effects which sunstroke has on some timorous minded people: “Dear Sir, permit me, through the medium of your Macroom Notes to put before the public of Macroom and district a danger which menaces thousands of human lives. There is at present in Coolcower wood a wild cat of the most blood-thirsty description which I saw with my own two eyes on Thursday evening last. This may sound like a hoax, but I pledge you my honour I am perfectly earnest. I knew the animal as soon as I caught a glimpse of him, crouching as I believed, for a spring upon me. It was at least four feet long with great glaring eyes and a bushy tail about two foot in length with a nail in the end of it. I did not wait for further observations at the time but I can assure you it was a wild cat.” Yours truly Pro Bono Publico.

CO. KERRY:

The Freeman's Journal, September 2, 1923

When the cat appears in place-names, it is not the domestic cat that is meant, but the wild cat which was at one

time common in Ireland, and was certainly not extinct fifty years ago, for I know a man that used to trap them in a wood at the foot of Corran Tuathail, Co Kerry. This wild cat was a fierce brute, called Cat-Crainn, tree-cat, and occasionally Mada-Crainn, tree-dog, the latter being also the Irish name of the squirrel.

CO. LIMERICK:

The Freemans Journal, August 24th 1838

Mr Cahitl (?) of Whiskey-hall, county Limerick, shot, on Thursday last, at Cragg-wood, three wild cats of monstrous size. These strange animals attacked the wood ranger a few days ago, who narrowly escaped with his life. So disfigured were his features, and so completely exhausted was he, that his family did not for a considerable time recognise him on being brought home. Mr Cahitl has taken the skins to send to the Royal Cork Institute.

A large all-white cat was reported on September 9, 1944, in the *Anglo-Celt*, which killed kittens, birds and small dogs.

IRISH SNAKES

Contrary to the persistent legend that British missionary and former slave St. Patrick drove out all the snakes from Ireland during his ministry in the 5th century A.D., these reptiles have turned up in various locations in Ireland since at least the early nineteenth century onwards, as the following examples will show. Indeed so widespread is the occurrence of snakes both chronologically and geographically that it is hard to believe that Ireland has been or is now totally devoid of snakes.

Here are some of the records:

Irish Republic

CO. CARLOW:

SNAKES IN IRELAND.

Irish Independent, August 18, 1909

A few days ago a postman named Sinnott, while cycling near Bagenalstown Co Carlow, killed a snake on the roadside. The skin was a greenish colour, with dark spots, the reptile measuring twenty-seven inches in length.

CO. CORK:

A STRAY SNAKE NEAR CORK.

The Irish Naturalist, Vol. 5, no. 1, January 1896

A recent issue of the Cork *Constitution* records the occurrence of a snake near Blarney. The reptile was encountered crossing a grass field and is said to have been at first mistaken for an eel! It was promptly knocked on the head, a fate which meets all the members of its order, which purposely or accidentally are let loose in Ireland.

CO. DUBLIN:

FOUND A HOME IN DUBLIN.

Irish Independent, May 29, 1905

The Dublin "Evening Mail" states that a snake was discovered in the office of that paper on Saturday morning. According to the "Mail" paragraph, the reptile was about 18 inches long and "by its markings seemed to belong to the order of common English grass snakes."

SNAKE FOUND IN IRELAND.

Irish Independent, July 9, 1906

A terrified mother, her slumbering baby, and a three-foot long snake gave rise to a sensational incident at

Ranelagh, in the suburbs of Dublin, the other day. The persistent barking of a dog attracted the mother's attention to the viper, which was wriggling its way towards the perambulator in which the baby slept. She immediately called for assistance, and after an exciting chase the intruder was captured. It is at present a prisoner at the Zoo, where its scope for wandering is prematurely closed.

GARDEN SNAKES.

Irish Independent, July 9, 1906

Something like a mild sensation was created in Ranelagh when a snake was discovered in a garden in that historic locality. But there is hardly any necessity for alarm, nor would the presence of an odd snake or two in Ireland tend to upset the tradition of their banishment by St Patrick. One swallow does not make a summer, nor would the discovery of half a dozen snakes in Ireland prove that the reptile is indigenous of this country. The snakes might easily have got into Ireland with some foreign cargo. Quite recently a live snake fully the size of the one caught in Ranelagh was found in Liverpool Docks coiled round a bundle of bananas. But it is no novelty in England, where both the harmless wood snake and the venomous adder are common enough. It is pretty certain that for many centuries, at least, Ireland has enjoyed an immunity in this respect, and there is no reason for believing that we shall not continue to be free these reptiles in the future.

AN EPIDEMIC OF SNAKES.

Irish Independent, July 13, 1906

Sir—As there seems to be an epidemic of snakes in and around Dublin at present, it may be of interest to know that when passing along Marlborough street about a fortnight ago in the forenoon I saw a small snake being killed by some boys on the steps of the Abbey Theatre. As far as I could gather it had come down the lane opposite. In length it was about two feet, and it was of a dark brown colour, but did

not appear to have any ring around its neck. A seafaring man who was passing at the time described it as a “grass snake”. Can any reader suggest a likely explanation for this sudden rush of undesirable aliens?

Carraig Dhonn, Dalkey,

S.O. Huadhaigh.

July 10, 1906

OPINIONS OF READERS

SNAKES IN IRELAND

Irish Independent, July 16, 1906

Sir—Under the above heading there appeared a letter from a Dalkey correspondent stating that he witnessed a snake being killed in Abbey street by some boys. Your correspondent is somewhat uneasy by the appearance of these aliens. Judging from the tone of his letter I am inclined to think that he is anxious for the entire destruction of these reptiles.

I hope that none of your millions of readers will consider me pulling the “long bow” when I say that the County Dublin is infested with snakes. While rabbiting through Coolock on Sunday, 8th inst., I went as the crow flies on to Feltrim and back to Artano through Mr Andrew J. Kettle’s farm, where I came across (adjacent to the convent or convalescent home) four snakes. I was somewhat alarmed and called the attention of Michael Flanagan to their presence of what then appeared to be cranes or herons with their necks erect in the air. Acting on the advice of Flanagan, I fired at and killed with my gun one of the most prominent of the number in a semi-mown field, and to mine and Flanagan’s amazement there was no less than a dozen of these reptiles who raised their heads in various directions and filled the air with a hissing noise, and disappeared into a corn field about a hundred yards from the scene after which myself and Flanagan examined the victim of a full charge of No. 4 shot, who died evidently without a struggle,

as it lay at full length minus the head, which was decapitated.

On July 11th myself and Michael Hanraghan of Ormond quay, went in through Marino gate with the intention of viewing the intention of viewing the novitiate. The pathway from this gate to Puckstown is about two miles. On the way to Puckstown through Marino grounds we saw six of these reptiles, two opposite Lord Charlemont's House, and four between the latter and the novitiate. One hundred yards from the "Thatch" on the same date were two boys with dogs in search of a "snake" which they succeeded in dispatching.

John O'Hehir
Merville House, Clontarf,
July 13, 1906

Irish Independent, July 17, 1906

Sir—I beg to state that my foreman captured a large snake in my cellar the other day. The reptile was coiled up in a dusty corner, and we managed, after some difficulty, to get it into a sack. I have the snake in a glass case in my window, where he can be seen by passers-by. I mean to keep it as a curiosity, and we have given it the name of "Dusty."

James Quinn
2 Main Street, Blackrock

WARNING THAT STRAY SNAKES CAN LEAVE SOME PEOPLE RATTLED

The Irish Times, July 22, 2006

The Dublin Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (DSPCA) is seeking new homes for 10 stray pets of the slithering kind. Some 1,500 years after snakes were supposed to have been banished from Ireland, the society is experiencing an upsurge in the number of stray reptiles turning up in unwelcome places. . . . In recent weeks the society rescued 10 snakes in the Dublin area, varying in size from 12cm (5in) to 2m (6.6ft).

Co. GALWAY:

Sometimes a “snake” is not what it seems to be:

A SNAKE IN GALWAY

MINIATURE REPTILE IN TOMATO BASKET.

Connacht Sentinel, August 8, 1933

There was great interest amongst Galway people on Saturday morning as the result of what was thought to be a snake being found by Mr Peter Lynch, Courthouse-avenue, in a basket of tomatoes brought from the shop by his little daughter.

The reptile was about 3½ inches in length, of a blackish colour, with little yellow spots across the back. It had a large head and eyes resembling a snake and a small fin over its tail. It had also two incisors and was somewhat like the common newt in general appearance. Mr Lynch sent his find to Mr. Higgins, Assistant Professor of Natural History, University College, Galway, who identified it as a foreign species of caterpillar and sent it to the National Museum, Dublin.

Co. KERRY:

SNAKES AND ADDERS

Kerryman, March 14, 1953

Lord Castlerosse was showing a party of American millionaires over the famous Killarney golf links, which was his pride and joy. “See” he exclaimed, throwing his arms wide towards the spacious prospect of lake and fell. “It has wider fairways, better natural hazards and more beautiful vistas than the best of your links in the United States.” “Waall”, said Whitney magnanimously, “I guess you’re about right. You made a good job of it, but you got to give Saint Patrick credit for banishing the snakes outa the

country before you began to build your links. No fear of treading on a rattler or a copperhead in the rough like we have. . . ." Suddenly as we approached Raspe's old copper mines near Doulough, the Dean shouted "Did you see him?" and ran his bike off the pathway into the grass. He jumped off, threw the bike aside and clamped his foot firmly on something that squirmed viciously in the grass.

"It's a snake" he exclaimed, when I got close enough to look down at his capture. Sure enough it had all the characteristics we associate with the pictures of snakes we had seen in books—eel-like body, camouflage colouring, coarse skin and baleful, unblinking eyes. He was very much alive and we were very much aware of dangerous possibilities. But we succeeded in covering him with my cap and wrapping him up in handkerchiefs to take him home. On the way back we discussed various ways of keeping him alive to prove that we had really caught a snake in dear old Ireland.

ARMAGH VISITORS DISCOVER SNAKE IN TRALEE HOUSE

Kerryman, September 2, 1994

It may be now the case that St Patrick did not chase all the snakes out of Ireland—well, not out of Tralee, anyway. An 18 inch-long non-poisonous garter snake was discovered by a family from Armagh while they were staying in a rented house in Ballymullen for the duration of the Rose of Tralee. The black snake, with yellow stripes, was spotted under the stairs before the family chased it out of the house into the garden. They contacted the Gardai in Tralee and Ballmullen army barracks. Garda Martin Tierney, from Tralee Garda station, took the call and assisted the family in forcing the snake into a lunchbox with a rake. . . . The garter snake was removed to Tralee Garda station and from there to Toby Hodd, Muckcross, Killarney because of his knowledge of boa constrictor and used to keep two garter snakes. . . .

SEARCH FOR ELUSIVE SNAKE COMES TO A HAPPY CONCLUSION

Kerryman, May 12, 2000

A five day search for an elusive snake in Killarney ended successfully late on Sunday evening with the capture of a reptile over one metre long outside a garage. Not so much then 'A snake came to my water trough', as in old Inter cert D H Lawrence poem, as a snake came to my oil depot. The black and white snake was spotted by residents and business owners in Barrys Lane on Wednesday evening when it appeared in a toilet in the area. National Park Rangers were called to investigate and terrified residents were asked to keep a watchful eye for the creature. Barrys Lane garage owner Noel O' Sullivan, where the snake appeared a number of times said: "We were all afraid. Nobody knew how dangerous it was." The snake was thought to be a garter snake but he was later identified as an equally harmless king snake. National Park Ranger suspect he may be an escaped pet which went into hibernation in the garage. . . . Happy the snake, who was secured in a canvass bag, was to be handed over to the Kerry branch of the RSPCA.

DEADLY HORN-NOSED VIPER FOUND IN CO. KERRY

The Irish Times, August 26, 2006

A nine-inch snake described as "highly dangerous" by the Kerry branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) has been found in a box of house tiles imported from Greece. The discovery was made on Thursday by workers at a building site in Ballyduff, Co. Kerry. The snake, a horn-nosed viper, is highly poisonous and its venom can kill within two hours.

CO. TIPPERARY:

SNAKES IN IRELAND

The Freeman's Journal, May 27, 1837

Sunday morning, a grass snake, two feet and a half long,

was taken in Coolnamuck wood, the estate of Charles William Wall, Esq., within three miles of Carrick-on-Suir, by a countryman. It is now to be seen in the shop of a medical gentleman in Carrick.—*Waterford Chronicle*.

Co. WEXFORD:

SNAKE FROM CO. WEXFORD

Irish Independent, November 15, 1920

A grass snake found in Co. Wexford has been placed in the Dublin Zoo.

Co. WICKLOW:

AN OLD RECORD FOR AN IRISH SNAKE

The Irish Naturalists' Journal, vol. 8, no. 9, January 1946

The dilapidated remains of a snake bearing the following inscription has recently been acquired by the National Museum. The inscription, which is on the back of a visiting card of "Lord Walter Fitzgerald, Kilkea Castle" [Co. Kildare], reads as follows:— "An Adder killed by John Ryan, of Castledermot, on the public road at Ballynure Church, Co. Wicklow, on 4th September, 1903. Length 3 feet." Needless to say, the specimen is a Grass Snake and not an Adder. No doubt it was somebody's pet which had escaped from captivity or had been introduced with merchandise.

National Museum, Dublin, 23.1.1946 A.W. Stelfox

Northern Ireland

Co. ANTRIM:

Countryside-Monthly, September 1, 1906

A 2 foot long grass snake was reported to have been killed in Ballymena

CO. ARMAGH:

AN INVASION ON THE BOYNE
Irish Independent, July 19, 1906

Sir—Perhaps it will interest your readers north of the Boyne to learn that the snake invasion seems to have, like William of old, crossed that historic river. Whilst I was yesterday having a walk round my farm adjoining the Warrenpoint road with a friend of mine, Mr Patrick Marren, U.C. of this town, I came on a fine specimen of the snake family, I came on a fine specimen of the snake family under a small hawthorn bush which is growing in my field. We approached the visitor carefully, but he was more agile than we, and after a most exciting chase got out of our reach into the ditch, my friend having performed several acrobatic feats in a vain endeavour to throw his coat over the snake. We had over opportunity of examining him carefully, and he seemed to be about 4 feet long with a white spot on the back of the head, and his body was of a dark brown colour. I regret very much I had no means of despatching the trespasser, as he would undoubtedly be a curio in the district, he being the only specimen I have ever heard of having been seen around here.

Theobald Hanna.

“The Oaks” Chapel street, Newry
July 18, 1906

Co. DOWN:

SNAKES
Animals and Men 14, 1997

Contrary to popular opinion snakes have turned up in Ireland, most probably introduced deliberately or by accident. In 1831 a Mr James Cleland introduced six grass snakes to Rath-gael in Co. Down from Covent Garden to see if they would survive. One snake was killed at Milecross

about three miles distant, and it was thought at first to be a kind of eel until a naturalist identified it as a snake.

“One far seeing clergyman preached a sermon in which he cited this unfortunate snake as token of the immediate commencement of the millennium.” (Chambers, 1883)

Three more snakes were later killed, which left two still in the wild. The *Times* of Sept 8th 1832 reported, reprinting from a Belfast newspaper, that “a gentleman called at our office last night with a female snake 3ft 3 inches (1 m) in length, which was killed yesterday in a field at Milecross. . . . They (grass snakes) have recently been seen in the Co. of Down. The futility of the popular belief that snakes cannot live in our blessed land has been most fully demonstrated—several large eggs having been found in its ovarium.” (Muirhead 1997) Their presence in Ireland was attributed by some to opposition to the Reform Bill of 1832.

CO. LONDONDERRY:

A STRAY SNAKE NEAR COLERAINE

Irish Naturalist, vol. 5, June 1896

On the evening of April 22nd, a lady friend called to tell me that she had killed a snake in her garden, which is in the immediate vicinity of Coleraine. It is on the right bank of the river Bann, and about a quarter of a mile south of the town. She described the reptile’s hiss and her own alarm in such a graphic way, that in spite of the legend about our Patron Saint and his expatriation of all Ophidians, the incredulity with which I first regarded her story gave way, and I accompanied her to the spot and found upon a grass plot in front of her house the newly-killed snake. It is a Ringed Snake (*Tropidontus natrix*) measuring twenty five and three quarter inches in length. In depriving it of its supposed power to harm she had not used it gently. Nevertheless, though somewhat mutilated, the specimen was well worth preserving, and so I committed it to a bottle of spirits.

It is not necessary to say that Ringed Snakes are not native here, but where this one came from, or how it came here, I have been as yet unable to make out.

James Bellas

Cronbannagh, Coleraine.

Co. Tyrone:

A SNAKE MYSTERY

Irish Independent, May 20, 1918

A 10 inch snake was found in a hothouse at Omagh Rectory. It is not known how it got there.

WORMS AND FROGS

The slow-worm (a lizard) has become established in Ireland. “It is not supposed to be part of the Irish fauna, but there is now evidence of an introduction by humans in the west. Rumour has it they were introduced in about 1960” (Cunningham and Coghlan 2010). In recent years they have been seen in the Burren region of Co. Clare (Anon 2006).

Lady Augusta Gregory (1852-1932) was a collector of folklore who lived in Sligo. She collected stories of giant worms—one was 8 foot long and attacked a woman near Clough.

“It was once believed that the frog was not indigenous to Ireland. Giraldus says it was not to be found there and the appearance of one in the 12th century caused King Donal of Ossory to prognosticate gloomily. But there must always have been a small number as DNA research at the University of London has shown that the DNA of Irish frogs is different from their British counterparts. This means that the frog population of Ireland that existed before the Ice Age cannot have died out completely, but must have found a warm niche somewhere in that wintry spell, emerging when the good weather returned. Foreign frogs were introduced to the Dublin area about the 18th Century and the two breeds would have mixed” (Cunningham and Coghlan 2010).

WATER PIG

In 1998 or 1999 I was told a story of a “water pig” which was seen in a “narrow swampy river that runs into the sea in the west of Ireland.” It was described as being black and the size of a small dog. This had occurred in the late 1960s. Perhaps it was a juvenile seal? In April 2008, an animal that looked like a walrus was seen by a woman in Termon, Co. Mayo, when she opened her cowshed. A similar animal was seen in May 1962 in Lough Dubh by Alphon-sus Mullaney and his son.

BEAR

There have been occasional bear scares in Ireland, such as in 1886, 1895 and 1926. These scares seem to have been known as “Newry Bear” scares after the town in what is now N. Ireland, rather like the “Surry puma” became a kind of generic term in Britain in the 1960s. Consider these examples:

THE NEWRY BEAR AGAIN

The Freeman's Journal, August 8, 1886

As Guard Maxwell was taking a train into Madden Station at 11 o'clock he observed the form of a large animal in a corn field adjoining. Scarcely waiting the stoppage of the train he rushed from the van, seized a rope and a pole, called assistance, and made for the field. After a desperate struggle he secured the brute, which proved to be a brown bear of the Asiatic variety. It is supposed his capture is the famous Newry bear, whose movements were so fully reported a year ago, and his attention is to present it to the Dublin Zoo. The reappearance of Bruno in the neighbourhood was reported some days ago, but till now was regarded as a hoax.

THE NEWRY BEAR

The Freeman's Journal, August 14, 1886

We have received a communication purporting to come from Mr D. Maxwell, denying that he was instrumental in catching a bear at Madden Station as reported in our issue

of the 8th, and giving many particulars regarding the natural history of the aforesaid bear and its present habitation.

Jumping forward to 1895:

THE NEWRY BEAR STILL AT LARGE

INDIVIDUALS ATTACKED

PROPERTY DESTROYED

The Freeman's Journal, February 25, 1895

Unfortunately the latest intelligence that can be imparted regarding the bear prowling about Newry is that he is still uncaptured. It would be almost impossible to exaggerate the damage that the dreaded beast is committing, and the inhabitants of the district are afraid to venture outside their homes after dusk for fear of encountering him. On Friday night he was observed in the vicinity of Camlough, county Armagh, and was pursued by several of the residents of the district. His footprints were traced to the Lake, in close proximity to which Bruin was sheltered from observation. A shot was fired by one of the pursuers, and scarcely had the report died away when the "grisly" darted from his hiding place, crossed the Lake—almost entirely frozen and a distance of about half a mile—and escaped. . . . Up till now the peregrinations of the beast were confined to a radius far out in the rural district, but its intrusions into the borders of a populous town was regarded with alarm. Search parties were constituted, and proceeded in pursuit of bruin. These included Sergeant Durnan, Sergeant Kilcourse, Newry; Sergeant Keane, Camlough; Constables Campbell, M'Connell, Gilmore, Fitzpatrick, Phillips, Sheridan, Reilly, M'Cusker, Mr Richard Doherty, and many others, who divided themselves into groups, and went in different directions tracing the marks of the brute, which were identified as the indents of a bear. They made a minute search of the townlands of Tullyhappy, Clonduff, Searse, Knockduff, Crobane, Shinn, &c but at no time did they come

in sight of the troublesome one, and a second day's investigations had no results.

THE NEWRY BEAR
PROPOSED HUNTING EXPEDITION
EXCITING SEARCH NEAR ARMAGH
The Freeman's Journal, February 26, 1895

No further tidings regarding the movements of Bruin have been communicated to the police authorities, and though a vigilant search is still being made, he has succeeded in evading observation and detection. In hunting circles the bear has excited the greatest interest, and several gentlemen of a sportive disposition have explored and are exploring the surrounding hills endeavouring to capture him. To-day the District Inspector in command of the Newry district, received a communication from the officers of the Hussars at Newbridge, stating that if the bear was still prowling about the town they would arrange for a hunting expedition. The District Inspector, of course, could give no definite information as to whether the bear was still located in this district or not, and so far arrangements are not completed.

The Freeman's Journal, February 28, 1895

The Newry bear has been pretty well hunted to death. He has become quite a newspaper feature. If the bull may be pardoned he has displaced the sea serpent as the lion of the season. . . . He is now, we are told roaming at large through the woods. Chorus—let him roam. The bear has got to be a bit of a bore. Terrible is the scepticism of the times. There are people who are beginning to think that the Newry bear has no real existence at all and that the tales of him are of a cock and bull description. There is a story in a Wild West novel of a wild beast show that is possibly in point. Two gentlemen dead broke, in fact answering accurately the Claimant's description of men with brain's but without

money, advertised a wild beast show. They had but one beast in stock, but it was a boomer, unique and furious. We forget precisely its name, but it was something awe-inspiring and tremendous. The Orinoco comes pretty close to it. The biggest hall in the town was hired to see this fiery, untamed animal go through his performance, of which eating hot iron was the most moderate item. Suddenly a terrible tumult was heard behind the stage, the trampling of feet, the clanking of chains, yells of beastly fury and cries of human terror, blended in a hurricane of sounds. Suddenly one of the showmen rushed on the stage deadly pale with fear (or flour), with clothes in tatters and blood streaming from face and arms. "Gentlemen" he cried, in a voice that quavered with emotion, "Save yourselves, save yourselves, save your wives and children. The Oronocko is at large." They left without waiting to have their money back.

THE NEWRY BEAR AGAIN
LUDICROUS INCIDENT IN A RAILWAY TUNNEL
The Freeman's Journal, March 6, 1895

Information of an amusing incident which occurred on Sunday has just come to light. Several men were returning home from repairing some telegraph wires, and chose their route through the railway tunnel at Lisscommon, a townland adjacent to Newry. Conversation turned to the bear and its depredations, many of which were alleged to have been perpetrated in that district. Two of the party were in advance, when suddenly a nameless something reared up and embraced one of the pioneers. "Help, help!" and "The bear, the bear!" reverberated through the tunnel, and the rearguard came up with a lantern, only to find that the nameless something was a large brown goat.

IS IT THE NEWRY BEAR?
CAPTURE IN CO. ROSCOMMON
The Freeman's Journal, March 29, 1895
Yesterday great excitement was occasioned in

Ballintubber by the announcement that the escaped Newry bear had been captured at Caran, about two miles from here. It appears that about 6.30 yesterday morning Thomas Snougue, the hand on the lands of Caran, was out on the farm when he spied a strange looking animal. He at once gave the alarm, and in a short time about ten men turned out and went in pursuit. After an exciting chase of an hour's duration they succeeded in capturing the brute. He is of a brown colour, and seems to be incapacitated from the treatment he received. There were many sheep and lambs missed off the surrounding farms previous to his capture. The people of the locality generally believe he must be the escaped Newry bear. The hand on the land (Thom. Snougue) brought the matter before the magistrates presiding at Ballintubber Petty Sessions today, when Capt M'Turnan, R.M ordered the R I C to visit the scene. The bruin is at present chained up in an outhouse on the land.

In 1926 there was a bear scare in Newbliss, Co. Monaghan, just inside the Irish Republic.

IS IT A BEAR?

ALARM AMONGST NEWBLISS RESIDENTS

The Anglo-Celt, April 10, 1926

It is being stated in Newbliss that on Saturday morning an animal like a bear was seen roaming before most people were astir in the village. A workman told our representative on another morning that his attention was directed to a number of dogs gathered round an animal which was entering the village from a road leading to the country. As the brute approached him he at once saw it was a bear and urged some dogs to attack it, but no form of inducement could induce them to try conclusions with bruin, and all of the dogs beat a hasty retreat. The bear then went in the direction of a slaughterhouse situated in the village. Other persons have since affirmed they saw the strange animal. It is stated that a small travelling menagerie, some time ago,

when in Coothill, lost a bear, and the assumption is that it is the same animal which is now prowling about in Newbliss district in the night time, keeping in hiding during the day.

According to the *Irish Independent* of April 30, 1926, the Newbliss “bear” was shot and found to be a badger, then put on exhibition. Bears have not been found in the wild in Ireland for about 3000 years.

DEFORMED MUSTELID?

In *The Naturalists' Notebook* for 1869 there appeared a story about an unknown mustelid-like animal (illustration here by Dr. Darren Naish.) The story originally featured in *Saunders's Newsletter*.



Capture of a Curious Animal in a Rabbit Snare—An animal which baffles the skill of those who have seen it to define, was a few days ago found in a snare set for rabbits in the demense of the Marquis of Conyngham, at Slane, County Meath.

It is thus described by the gamekeepers:—The size of a good cat, with a tail about a foot and a quarter [18 cm] in length, covered with a strong wiry hair. The snout is sharp and pointed, something like a weasel's (sic). In the mouth there are four large tusks, two pointing upwards and two pointing downwards. A small mane of dark brown hair runs down the whole length of the back; but the strangest thing of all is that it has twelve toes or claws on each foot, in two

rows—seven on the outside row, which are exceedingly sharp, and five on the inside, in general it is more stoutly built than animals of the cat kind. Still, the body is lithe and supple, the colour throughout is dark brown, and white on the breast.

A conversation with the current Marquis of Conyngham in July 1997 revealed that this was the first time he'd heard of the animal. Some family records had been destroyed in a fire but he had read about wild cats in Ireland "in the early 20th century."

PINE MARTENS "ATTACKING SHEEP"

This unheard of behaviour was recorded for posterity in the *Connacht Tribune*, March 14th, 1936.

STRANGE ANIMALS

I noticed in a recent issue of "The Connacht Tribune" that a defendant stated that the gun for which he had been summoned was kept by him for the purpose of shooting strange animals which were destroying his sheep. An inquiry in the locality which this defendant resides has satisfied me that the animals to which he referred are Pine Martens, a species of weasel almost extinct in Ireland today. These animals are much larger than squirrels and their skins are much prized by furriers.

In ancient times they were to be found in fairly large numbers on the Mourne Mountains and on the hilltops of County Wicklow but they have practically disappeared from those haunts today. They are still found on the Highlands of Scotland and in the forests of England. . . . For several years their existence was unknown in the West of Ireland but less than twelve months ago one of this species was captured in Augrane Wood, near Ballygar, by Mr Patrick Keane, Ballythomas, Creggs, an employee of the Department of Agriculture (Forestry Section). The capture of this rare animal received much publicity in the metropolitan and

provincial Press at the time and naturalists were much in the discovery of such an animal in Co. Galway. . . . Evidently there is a colony of these animals in the vicinity of Glenamaddy.

MARSUPIAL MOUSE?

KELLS SPORTSMAN'S STRANGE FIND

Meath Chronicle, September 18, 1915

Mr Gilbert Crosbie, the well known Kells sportsman, made a rare discovery in a wood at Maperath on Thursday morning. He came upon a weasel, which had a strange little animal in its clutches. He, however, got possession of the "freak", which was then dying, having been bitten on the head by the weasel. The "freak"—for it is nothing else—is a trifle larger than a young rat, has a brown back, white belly, thin legs, rabbit head, hare's ears, "scutty" tail, and a little pouch under the throat, somewhat after the style of the kangaroo. Mr Crosbie is sending the little hybrid to Dublin to have it stuffed.

DOG-FOX HYBRID?

STRANGE ANIMAL

Kerryman, May 13, 1983

An unusual animal—a cross between a dog and a fox was shot in Direen on Sunday week last by members of the Currow Gun Club who were on a vermin shoot at the time. The animal had the head and tail of a fox and dog-like body with coarse, thick hair.

UNKNOWN PIG-LIKE ANIMAL

APPEARANCE OF A STRANGE ANIMAL NEAR DERRYLAHAN.

Nenagh Guardian, February 16, 1898

A recent appearance at Derrylahan, Roscommon is a

strange animal the genus of which is a mystery to the country people and others who have visited the locality. The newcomer is described as as a quadruped resembling a pig in shape, but somewhat larger and furnished with a red shaggy coat. The extremities differ from those of a pig in being much more pointed while the feet resemble those of a sheep and the eyes are very prominent and high up in the head. The mysterious visitor has been in the locality for some weeks, and appears to have taken up permanent residence on the farm of Mr Benhold, of Derrylahan where it has excavated a huge burrow capable of admitting the body of a man. The animal divides its time between Derrylahan and (?)

Wood some distance away. And appears in no way disconcerted by the approach or proximity of human beings or any of the brute creation. A few days ago a gentleman whilst shooting, accompanied by two dogs, came suddenly on the strange animal lying in a clump of bushes. The dogs advanced but on approaching closely to the unexpected quarry became terrified and in spite of all calls and attempts to shock their flight ran home with great speed, and refused their food during the following day. The mysterious animal continues to roam the country unchecked.

ELK?

The *Killeshadra News* of March 20, 1954, tells of one James Leddy, who, when ploughing, found the remains of an animal with “elk-like horns”. This doesn’t tell us very much as many people have only a vague idea of what an elk is. In Europe the term is used for the moose, in America for the wapiti (Cunningham and Coghlan 2010).

COYPU

The *Roscommon Herald* of February 25, 1939, reported the story of a coypu:

STRANGE WILD ANIMALS

A man named Meneely was shooting wildfowl at Holyrood near Belfast when an animal the size of a collie but shorter in the legs came out of a clump of grass and attacked him. His gun was not loaded at the moment, and the beast got hold of him by the leg. If he had not been wearing sea-boots he would have been badly bitten. Finally, he killed the creature, but it was a long time before it was identified. It was a coypu, a South American rodent. How it got to Ireland is a mystery.

INSECTS

Ireland has from time to time been visited by unusual insects. In *The Natural History of Ireland* by Gerard Boate (1652) the following is to be found:

A Letter from Dr. Thomas Molyneaux, Fellow of the Royal Society, to the Right Reverend St. George, Lord Bishop of Clogher; concerning Swarms of Insects, that of late Years have much infested some Parts of the Province of Connaught in Ireland.

My Good Lord,

Ever since your lordship first spoke to me of the strange appearance of vast swarms of a sort of insects in this kingdom, that have lately much infested some parts of the province of *Connaught*, and the great ravage and devastation they have wrought in that country: I endeavour'd to inform my self the best I could concerning them; partly, I confess, from an inclination common to those of my profession, to make enquiries into things natural; but more especially from an earnest regard to gratify your lordship's expectations and desires, which I have always looked upon as commands, in whatever lies my power. . . . This last year, 1697, they have reached as far as the Shannon, and some of the scattered loose parties crost the river, and got into the

province of Leinster, but were met there by a stronger army of jackdaws, that did much execution among them, killing and devouring great numbers. Their main body still keeps in *Connaught*, and took up their last quarters at a well improve'd *English* plantation, not far from the river *Shannon*, call'd *Air's court*, where they found plenty of provision, and did a great deal of mischief by stripping the hedges, gardens, and groves of beech quite naked of all their leaves.

But the true locust, much resembling in shape a common grasshopper, though larger, is quite a different sort of insect from this, which belongs to that tribe call'd by the naturalists . . . the *Scarabeus* or beetle kind, that has strong thick cases to defend and cover their tender thin wings, that lie out of sight and next to the body.

BLOOD-SUCKING SPIDER

“The spider is of course no stranger to the Irish, but in Clare it was believed there was a special type—the Blood sucking spider. This could grow to the size of a piglet and it would attack children in the night” (Cunningham and Coghlan, 2010).

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SONORAN SASQUATCH?

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Popular culture strongly identifies Western Canada and the heavily forested parts of the Pacific Northwest as the most likely abode of a large upright primate widely known as the Sasquatch. The Texas Bigfoot Research Conservancy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit research organization, has long advocated the position that such a species exists in the most remote confines of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, particularly the region where those states adjoin. Certainly, legends and more contemporary accounts from other parts of North America have been recorded, but reports originating south of the U.S. border are rare. While this may be considered to be a function of both language differences and a less technologically connected populace, it is probably safe to say that the Sasquatch is generally visualized as a creature of the higher latitudes.

Nevertheless, Mexican and Central American folklore does include references to creatures that compare favorably to descriptions from the Pacific Northwest of large apelike creatures. Zoologist Ivan T. Sanderson compiled one of the earliest popular commentaries on the subject of hidden hominoids in his book *Abominable Snowmen: Legend Come to Life* (1961), including descriptions of a Sasquatch-like species, the Sisemité, inhabiting the remote reaches of Mexico and Central America, including Guatemala, Columbia, Belize, Nicaragua, and Honduras.

Legends pertaining to the Sisemité predate European settlement of Latin America. This was a hair-covered mountain-dwelling primate resembling humans, but standing taller and having a much heavier build. The Sisemité supposedly walked bipedally with very long strides, threw rocks, and was said to be a creature of the night. Natives of the region widely believed that the Sisemité was capable of abducting human women. According to Eberhart (2002), variant names for the Sisemité had meanings along the lines of “spirit of the mountains” and “guardian hill spirit.”

The designation of the Sisemité as a spirit, as per the translations of some of the common names, could be seen as an indication of a paranormal or spiritual belief system as the source of the legends. However, Mark Sanborne, who researched the National Archives in Belize for information pertaining to the Sisemité and conducted interviews with Belizeans, writes that among the Kekchi’ Mayans of southern Belize, for example, the Sisemité was regarded as “a rare animal, not a supernatural being” (1992). He states that, among the Kekchi’, the Sisemité is seen as an indicator species of healthy ecosystems, with the creatures retreating as primary forest is logged.

Accounts of large bipedal apelike creatures in Mexico and Central America do not originate exclusively from indigenous sources. In his book *The Discovery of the Sasquatch: Reconciling Culture, History, and Science in the Discovery Process* (2010), John Bindernagel relates the account of an American prospector who described encountering a Sasquatch-like creature around 1920 while he was lost in Darién Province, Panama. He was camped at high altitude and said the creature approached him throughout the night from the steep forested slope above his camp. He supposedly shot and killed it near daybreak and was able to closely examine what appeared to be a huge manlike ape. The prospector said all the toes on the feet were aligned parallel to each other, as seen in humans.

If true, the account from Panama seems to be clearly indicative of a Sasquatch-like creature, but not all historical records are as apparent. The following highlighted passages were taken from

the writings of one of the Jesuit missionaries who worked in the villages of the Province of Sonora in the eighteenth century. As described by Brown in *The Grizzly in the Southwest*, eighteenth century Sonora extended “northward on the west side to the Sierra Madre from Cajeme (now Ciudad Obregon), near the California Gulf coast, to Tucson,” an ecologically diverse area of deserts, semiarid grasslands, and mountains comprising the northern portion of the modern Mexican state of Sonora and the southern portion of Arizona.

Father Ignaz Pfefferkorn (b. 1725), a German Jesuit, labored among the Pima Indians from 1756 to 1767. Following the expulsion of his Order from Spanish dominions, he penned a *Descripción de la Provincia de Sonora*, first published in German (*Beschreibung del Landschaft Sonora*) in 1795, and later translated into Spanish and English. Because of their experiences and close observations of the geography and the different people who lived in the provinces, the reports and letters of missionaries provide valuable information for historians and anthropologists. Pfefferkorn is considered an extremely reliable and creditable observer, and his writings are widely cited by historians.

While journals and reports of European (and American) explorers, surveyors, travelers, and others were often extremely detailed and trustworthy, early accounts of wildlife written by Europeans could sometimes be rather vague. For example, it was not uncommon to describe several different kinds of bears based on color. In his discussion of the animals of Sonora, Pfefferkorn wrote:

Of the Sonora bears some have black hair, others dark grey, and the smallest number are a reddish color. These last are the most cruel and harmful, according to the statements of the herdsmen. The herdsmen who often have the opportunity on the field and in the bush to observe the natural impulses of animals tell also that the cinnamon bears eagerly go after ants. . . . Hence the Spaniards in Sonora call the reddish bear “oso hormiguero” [ant bear]. (Pfefferkorn 1949:107)

There were, of course, only two species of bear in the Province of Sonora during the eighteenth century. The “cinnamon bear” was almost certainly the Mexican grizzly (*Ursus arctos nelsoni*), a species few people realize once existed at such southerly latitudes.

Much of Pfefferkorn’s book features information procured from indigenous tribal members. In relating descriptions of bear depredations, Pfefferkorn may have inadvertently recorded some of the earliest accounts of Sasquatch interactions with humans. It is likely that, as he noted the following Indian reports, he presumed they were talking about grizzly bear activity, as did Brown in *The Grizzly in the Southwest*. That certainly appears to be the case in the first sentence. However, it is also possible that the creature described by some of the Indians in the remainder of the passage was the Sasquatch, not the predominately diurnal grizzly bear.

Pfefferkorn wrote:

Bears are a special menace to stock raising, for they eat many a calf, and, if no smaller prey falls into their clutches, they will attack even horses, cows, and oxen. They delight especially in eating maize as long as it is still tender and soft. Woe to the field if a hungry bear breaks into it at night. He eats as much as he can and makes off with as much as he can grasp and carry in his mighty arms. In so doing he ruins even more of the field by breaking it down and treading upon it. The inhabitants of the country assert that a bear defends himself by throwing stones when one attempts to chase him away and that a stone hurled from his paws comes with much greater force than one thrown from the hand of the strongest man. This seems the more remarkable because the bear is supposed to throw the stones backwards. (Pfefferkorn 1949: 106-107)

Such comments may seem incongruous for a highly educated man who traveled widely and lived for years in bear country. Pfefferkorn had earlier described seeing a grizzly bear while he was on a journey. His Indian guide attempted to kill it, but the

bear, wounded by his pursuer, killed the man instead. With this kind of personal experience, it seems odd that Pfefferkorn would think (or insinuate) the same species was capable of walking bipedally so as to carry off large quantities of corn “in his mighty arms” and to be able to throw rocks more forcefully than “the hand of the strongest man.” Is it possible that Pfefferkorn, while confident in the inherent truthfulness of his Indian collaborators, secretly harbored doubts that the Indians had accurately identified the nocturnal rock throwing visitors to their cornfields?

While the supporting evidence is, admittedly, extremely limited, and the proposition speculative, I propose the possibility that Father Pfefferkorn heard some descriptions of Sasquatch observations and activity that have been credited for centuries to the grizzly bear.

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THE HISTORICAL BIGFOOT: A SUPPLEMENT

CHAD ARMENT

PART I

In 2006 I published *The Historical Bigfoot*, a collection of historical records and newspaper accounts related to the long tradition of apelike creatures reported in North America prior to the term Bigfoot (or even Sasquatch) entering popular culture. This is a supplement to those stories, including newly uncovered reports as well as stories that were part of previously noted sighting clusters. As there are still many historical newspapers which have yet to be digitized (and thus are difficult to investigate at present), I have no doubt there are many more reports yet to be uncovered.

As noted in *The Historical Bigfoot*, these stories are not proof of a living breathing Sasquatch. In fact, many stories are recognizable as rumors, misidentifications, escaped primates, hoaxes, or tall tales. (Even if truthfully stated, all sightings that are passed along, even in newspapers, are folkloric; that is, they are infused with and ruled by cultural expectations that influence the expression and distribution of pertinent details.) But while we cannot state that because these stories exist, Bigfoot must exist, if one day there is solid scientific proof of Sasquatch, then it will be reasonable to suggest that some of these accounts reflect historical encounters with the creatures—however muddied by folkloric trappings. Of course, distinguishing individual encounters as accurate, even with proof that the species exists, would be highly subjective at best. These stories are not worthless, however, as there are potential avenues for statistical investigation, as has been done with

historical sea monster accounts by Dr. Charles Paxton. At the very least, they indicate geographic regions where future fieldwork might prove fruitful.

As with all early reports, some spellings may be incorrect (e.g. gorrilla). The September 12, 1900, New York *World* story was contributed by Paul Grzybowski.

ARKANSAS

Arkansas *Whig*, June 17, 1852

The Wild Man of the Woods of Arkansas.—From the following paragraphs, it would seem that this distinguished but very mysterious individual has gone to New York and become an editor. Who would have thought it was Greeley, the [—] and Free Soiler, who had astonished the natives across the river!

“Every now and then we see it stated in the Western papers that a wild man is roaming through the great Mississippi bottom in the State of Arkansas. Numerous travelers and hunters have asserted that they have seen him, but none have ever been able to get near enough to give particulars concerning the strange being. The story is just revived again. The creature is said to be unmistakably a human being, over 7 feet high, but with all the shyness and habits of a completely wild animal.—*N. Y. Courier and Enquirer*.

It’s strange how soon people forget! We remember when that wild man was first caught and brought to this city. He was kept for several months on Graham diet, then tamed and made editor of the Tribune.—*N. Y. Day Book*.

CALIFORNIA

THE WILD MAN SEEN AGAIN

Fort Wayne, Indiana, *Weekly Sentinel*, August 27, 1873

Tulare (Cal.) *Times*, August 3: The wild man who has been seen so often in the mountains east of here for the last three years, and

who has incorrectly been stated to be a species of gorilla, was seen again recently near Snow Valley. He was engaged in picking thimbleberries, and was perfectly naked. He is covered all over with long black hair, and had long gray whiskers. He is a white man, large and powerful, and at least six feet high; his finger nails have grown out several inches in length. Downing was within twenty feet of him when he raised up from picking berries. He stood perfectly still and looked at Downing for some time, and then turned and started to run. Downing was sitting down picking berries himself, when this wild creature raised up out of the low bushes near him. He had not seen him before. He is a gentleman of undoubted veracity. Many others of our citizens have at different times caught sight of this monster. William Arnold, an old and well-known citizen, saw him some time ago sitting on the top of a large rock, engaged in the highly romantic, and to him no doubt delightful, occupation of scratching himself. He is the constant terror of the Indians in the mountains eastward, who all have either seen him or know of his existence. They tell the most marvelous stories of his performances. They think he is either the devil or some dead white man, whose ghost has come to annoy them. There can be no doubt of the reality of this wonderful wild man, as he has been seen so often by the most credible witnesses. A short time ago Mr. John G. Knox, our efficient Deputy County Clerk, while driving rapidly in a buggy above the Ash Spring Hill, overtook a man running as though frightened almost to death. On inquiring the cause, the man told him he had just encountered a terrible wild man or the devil, and that it was "enough to frighten anybody." Mr. Knox took the man into his buggy, and on telling the story at the next house, the gentleman said he himself had seen the same creature. Many persons resident in the vicinity have seen him at various times. We suggest that an effort be made to capture him. His range is pretty well known, and his capture could no doubt be effected without a very great effort.

San Francisco, California, *Bulletin*, October 2, 1873

That Wild Man.—The *Tulare Times*, of September 27th, has the following: The "wild man," of which so many accounts have been

published, has at last been captured, as Charles Converse informs us. It turns out to be a species of nondescript very like a bear, although it entirely lacks arms or forelegs, and walks upright like a man. Converse thinks it is a deformed bear. Shaft (or Shaffe) and Johnson, who captured him, will be in town to-day. They propose to sell their "catch" to Woodward, and will telegraph to that gentleman in regard to the *lusus naturae* they have secured. They had to shoot and wound him before catching him. Converse came down from the mountains on horseback, and passed the captors of the "What is It" on the way down with a team. When they arrive we shall be able to learn the full particulars in regard to this new wonder of the Sierras.

A WHAT-IS-IT

The Strange Animal that Frightened a California Woodsman
Galveston, Texas, *Daily News*, March 25, 1888

F. Burns, who resides near Brighton, was in the city yesterday, and says that a few days since a man in his employ named Brooks was at work in the willows, near the American river, when he was suddenly confronted by an animal of strange appearance, which was about four and a half feet in height, walked erect, and was covered with long, black hair. Mr. Brooks was of course considerably startled at the appearance of the strange being, which retreated into the dense thicket skirting the American river. Mr. Brooks says the animal appeared to be a large ape or gorilla. He believes it to be an escape from a menagerie, or possibly some human deformity. Mr. Burns says he proposes to instigate a hunting party in a few days to find out if possible what the mysterious creature is. [Sacramento Bee.]

COLORADO

Colorado Springs, Colorado, *Gazette*, March 30, 1878

A few days since, says a correspondent of the *Rosita Index*, a party of prospectors arrived in town, and gave the description of a terrible wild man which they had discovered in the Sangre de Cristo

range. The man is represented as being about seven feet high—very large and strong and clothed in deer pelts. We understand that the party will try to capture this ‘wild man’ of the mountains this spring.

CONNECTICUT

Barre, Massachusetts, *Gazette*, July 25, 1893

Was It a Gorilla?—A Sportsman Astonished—De Chaillu is wanted in this country just now, to ascertain whether the woods near Stamford, Conn., are inhabited by his famous gorillas. One day last week, while Mr. Cortis Wilbur, a sporting citizen of Stamford, was hunting in the aforesaid woods, he came suddenly upon what he supposed to be a large animal, digging roots. Carefully raising his gun, he took steady aim, and pulled trigger, but the weapon missed fire; whereupon the said animal straightened up, to the size and statue of a seven foot man, covered from head to foot with matted hair, and with an unearthly yell darted deep into the woods, at a speed more than human. As soon as Wilbur recovered from the shock inflicted upon his nerves by the horrible apparition, he turned toward home, and made for the bosom of his family at double-quick, convinced it was a gorilla or the devil. His story was quickly bandied from mouth to mouth; and on the following day, several who had heard strange cries from the woods, during the night, volunteered to lead a party in pursuit of the wild man. A party was quickly made up; and, with Wilbur as a guide, they started on their errand—taking guns for protection, in case the sylvan gentleman should prove to be a secessionist. They soon discovered footprints similar to those left by a man’s bare feet, which led directly from the place where the hunter had first seen the strange creature to a very dense thicket. All search for the “gorilla,” however, proved useless; though they could distinctly hear its yells in response to their shouts. The matter-of-fact people in the vicinity believe the “gorilla” to be nothing more than some poor lunatic; and the authorities have taken measures to lure him to his keepers.

DELAWARE

A FIERCE GORRILLA LAID OUT A BIKER.

Tucson, Arizona, *Daily Citizen*, December 9, 1901

Ridgely, Md. Dec. 9. A huge gorilla escaped from a circus at Staford, Del., on Sept. 28, and since then has terrorized the residents in that section and along the eastern shore of Maryland.

Frank Biles was nearly killed on Saturday night last by the gorilla near Bethel Camp Ground, Delaware. Biles was riding a wheel to Cannons when he was attacked. The animal threw him from the wheel and dealt him a heavy blow with its fist.

The man pulled his revolver and shot twice, making his escape to Cannons. Upon reaching Cannons he was unable to speak for some time. His clothing was in shreds and an ugly wound was over one ear. A posse of fifty men started after the animal, but could not find it.

FLORIDA

THE JIM-JAMS IN FLORIDA

Newport, Rhode Island, *Daily News*, June 3, 1881

Florida, Orange county, is greatly excited about a mysterious beast which is said to make nocturnal raids around the neighborhood. There is only one person—a negro—who will swear that he has seen the strange animal, but there are scores of persons who claim to have seen evidences of his depredations on adjacent farms, and to have heard his unearthly screams when startled by the approach of men. The Negro says that he suddenly met with it at the mouth of a cave on the farm of a Mr. Green, and that it stood erect to the height of seven or eight feet and screeched so loudly that it frightened him so badly that he fainted. When he regained his senses the animal had gone. Parties have explored the mouth of the cave on Green's farm, and while they claim to have discovered evidences of the whereabouts of some strange animal they have failed to come up with it. Tuesday it is said that a dead dog, with

its back broken, was found near the mouth of the cave, and part of a sheep's skin and entrails were also close to the entrance. A party is being organized to search for and kill the strange animal, but the Negro will not be of the party.

ILLINOIS

DIDN'T FIND THE "WILD MAN."

Illinois *Inter Ocean*, December 8, 1891

Vandalia, Ill., Dec. 7.—Special Telegram.—News reached here today that the wild man hunt came off at the prescribed time and place in Louden Township Saturday. The party hunted over an area of ground about four miles in circumference, but failed to sight the man. It is now believed by many of the people of Louden that the supposed wild man is no more nor less than a citizen of their own township, who more than once during blackberry season played the wild man act and frightened the berry pickers.

REPORTS FROM JO DAVIES COUNTY INDICATE

Wild Ape is Roaming About That Section At Night

Freeport, Illinois, *Journal-Standard*, July 25, 1929

(Special to *Journal-Standard*)

Elizabeth, Ill., July 25.—A report which has spread through this section of the country during the past few days with great rapidity tells that an ape was seen in the woods near the highway in Derinda township a few miles south of this city recently.

According to the story, a young man who is employed on a farm in that part of the county was going home late the other night and as the car approached a thick woods the young man saw an ape leave the road and dash into cover in the trees. So vivid did the animal appear that he saw its shape, its tail and other characteristics of such an animal.

While a great many of the people in this locality felt there must be some mistake about an ape in this part of the country, there were many who still expect that the animal may again put in its

appearance. It is said that a searching party was organizing to rid the country of what might be a menace to the locality, but so far as can be ascertained no other persons have yet reported getting a glimpse of the ape.

It was reported that although the searching party did not locate the animal, they will continue their efforts. Many of the residents of this vicinity, especially the women, were much aroused over the story, fearing that the wild animal might carry away their children or do harm to the adults of the community.

The fact that only one person is said to have seen the animal there are still many who believe in the yarn and are anxiously awaiting further developments.

JO DAVIESS COUNTY APE NOT AN APE AT ALL

BUT BILLY GOAT, DERINDA MAN SAYS

Freeport, Illinois, *Journal-Standard*, July 31, 1929

(Special to *Journal-Standard*)

Stockton, Ill., July 31.—After hundreds of Jo Daviess county people, especially women and children, had been terrified by the reported presence of an ape roaming by night among the canyons, hills and timber lands of the northwest portion of Illinois a week ago, residents of this section are becoming more at ease as later reports are seeping out and gradually circulating throughout this community.

Whether the ape was small of stature or large was a question which puzzled residents of this section for the past week, as many farmers, armed with shotguns, searched in vain for the animal which spread terror throughout this region, especially in the vicinity of Elizabeth, where the ape was first supposed to have been seen.

Reports which are fast gaining circulation in the vicinity of Stockton indicate the ape was not an ape at all but a whiskered "Billy" goat, prowling around by night, hopping fences, nibbling trees and dodging in and around the underbrush. Whether this is a solution to the question which has perplexed thousands all over this section of the country is as yet undetermined. However a few people in this community have offered a clew which might be of

assistance to those who may be desirous of continuing the search for the beast.

Information “leaked out” here, today to the effect that Archie Ehler, a resident of Elizabeth, owns a goat. The same “authority” expressed the belief that the owner of the goat pastures his whiskered pet on the Moffett farm in Derinda township each summer, and it was in this section of the county that the ape was first reported prowling around.

Further investigation may reveal the identity of the ape and probably solve the perplexing problem.

INDIANA

A TERRIBLE VARMINT

Infests the Neighborhood of Menden, East of Here

Indiana State Journal, January 26, 1898

Pendleton, Ind., Jan. 20.—Reports from the Menden neighborhood, south of this town, bring information of a panic among the people there on account of a ferocious wild animal which has made its appearance there. The daughter of Mel Russell was the first to see the beast and she describes it as looking like a baboon or gorilla. It is too large for an ordinary monkey. Charles Patterson, a well-to-do farmer, saw its tracks in the snow and he says it had toe-nails fully eight inches long. Others who have seen the tracks corroborate Patterson’s story. John Brough, who saw it at night in a tree, where his dogs had tracked it, says that when he approached the animal easily swung to the ground and that his dogs fled and he after them as he was not armed. The animal disappeared in the darkness unmolested. These stories have been coming in for several days and people here are beginning to believe some ferocious beast has actually taken up its haunts in this locality. Dogs will trail it, but no amount of urging can prevail on them to “close in” and give it fight. Some say it is a monkey while others think it a crazy man, and still others a panther. Whatever it is it is creating

considerable terror in the Menden neighborhood and the men are preparing to “hunt it down” if for no other purpose than to quiet the alarm of the women and children.

MAYBE IT WAS A MAN, THEY'RE UP TO STUNTS

Valparaiso, Indiana, *Vidette-Messenger*, February 8, 1929

Galena, Ind., Feb. 8—(INS)—Another hunt has been started here for the mysterious black beast that raided the A. A. Akins farm just east of here, killed one pig and carried off in its “arms” another pig weighing 85 pounds, according to Leonard Akins, 20, who surprised the animal and was forced to flee for his life.

Posse of farmers, aided by dogs which tried to trail the black animal, failed to find it and returned still in doubt as to the identity of the creature.

“I can't imagine what it was unless it was a cross between a big bear and a hyena,” young Akins said.

The hunters found one set of tracks that resembled bear tracks, Akins related, but as no one in the party was an expert on bears, the question was left open, he said.

“The critter walked on its hind legs, had pointed ears and ferocious teeth, I can say that much,” Akins declared.

The youth said he ran into the animal in a barn on the Akins farm. The beast was killing a 60-pound pig.

“The creature reared up on its hind legs and started toward me,” Akins said. “My airdale dog, however, dashed ahead and barked at it and it turned on the dog.”

Akins then started to run to his home to get his gun. In running he glanced around, saw the animal seize another pig which weighed at least 60 pounds, take it in its “arms,” go across the fence and start for some woods.

“It was as big as a man and walked on its hind legs,” the youth asserted.

A canvass will be made of all circuses and zoos in Southern Indiana to determine if any wild beast escaped.

IOWA

HUNTER HOT ON 'GORILLA' TRAIL Strange Tracks Near Council Bluffs Thot to Belong to Circus Animal

Mason City, Iowa, *Globe-Gazette*, November 20, 1930

Council Bluffs, Nov. 20. (AP)—G. C. Bain, who says his experience with a Colorado sheepmen's organization qualifies him for big-game hunting, today was hot on the trail of an animal, variously described as an ape or gorilla.

The beast, said to have escaped from a wagon circus more than a year ago, has been reported seen or heard by farmers living as far as 50 miles from here during the last three weeks.

Tracks near Lake Manawa, three miles from Council Bluffs, were described by Bain as being unlike any he had seen before. He said he would put baited traps around the lake, and said, "we should have a look at whatever it is in a day or so."

It was reported that parents in Shelby county were accompanying their children to school because of reports of the presence of the "ape."

PHANTOM IS NOT "MERE MONKEY"

Another Added to List of Those Who Have Seen Beast.

Mason City, Iowa, *Globe-Gazette*, November 21, 1930

Council Bluffs, Nov. 21. (AP)—On the side of those who think Lake Manawa's phantom is more than a mere monkey today was aligned J. Miller, farmer, who has been added to the growing list of those who have seen the beast.

While working in the field yesterday, Miller said, his horses started plunging wildly. "I looked toward where the horses were gazing," he said, "and saw something ambling thru the corn rows. It was almost as tall as a man, shaggy and broad, but I couldn't say positively what it was."

Miller's farm borders on the Missouri river where G. C. Bain, Gunison, Colo., trapper, has undertaken a search for the animal,

believed to be an ape or gorilla that escaped from a wagon circus in Glenwood more than a year ago. Bain's efforts, tho, came to naught when rain obliterated the beast's tracks. The hunter today resumed his search.

Further credence that the beast is an ape was given by the statement of Dode Bachelor, resident in the willow thickets near the river for more than half a century, that there was in the wilds some creature that "has never been there before in 50 years." Bain quoted the hermit as saying the animal's uncanny wailing "put to shame" the howl of a wolf and sounded "like a woman being murdered." His dogs, Bachelor told Bain, had been restless for two weeks.

TERRIFYING ANTHROPOID JUST A WEE MONKEY

Helena, Montana, *Independent*, November 22, 1930

Council Bluffs, Ia., Nov. 21.—(AP)—The terrifying gorilla of Lake Manawa flats shrunk to a monkey today.

Many people have reported seeing the anthropoid—described as large as a man—as it roamed about the countryside.

Today, a small boy living near the lake said he saw the animal at close range and that it was a common size monkey.

A Colorado trapper, G. C. Bain, who came here to trap the beast, said he found monkey tracks about the flats yesterday.

WILD GORILLA SEEN

Carroll, Iowa, *Carroll Daily Herald*, August 24, 1932

The regular periodical find of a wild animal at large in the fields or wild places of Iowa has again turned up—this time near to the city of Ottumwa. Three men reported to officers that they had seen a wild manlike animal, with fur all over and a white stripe down its back. The animal was jumping about on a large log in the timber. It generally takes a month or two to unravel a mystery like this, but in this case, those on the hunt found Andy Meyers, a farmer, dressed in a horse hair coat and fur mittens, trying to get the honey from a bee tree and leave the bees behind.

KANSAS

HUGE GORILLA SEEN BY BOY

San Antonio, Texas, *Express*, August 3, 1929

Independence, Kan., Aug. 2—Embryo big game hunters of the county sheriff's office today vainly attempted to find a "gorilla six feet tall with short feet and long hands," reported by Charles Shepherd, 12, to have been seen south of the city limits.

The boy fled crying to his home after the alleged encounter. He said he met the animal near Rock Creek while en route to a swimming party. The animal was reported to have attempted no violence, but to have followed behind the youth.

Officers failed to find even any footprints. Four days ago a "gorilla" was reported at large at Nowate, Okla., 50 miles from Independence.

LOUISIANA

Cincinnati, Ohio, *Daily Enquirer*, July 10, 1868

"Have you seen the wild man" were the first words upon everybody's tongue yesterday. Some answered in the affirmative, and some in the negative. For my part I have not seen him. The people in this community were on the 30th ult. thrown into the greatest excitement by the announcement that a wild man had been seen in the woods by some hunters, distant about one mile west of this town, in Livingston County. The description given by the parties who saw him I obtained second hand and consequently can not vouch for its accuracy. He is described as being about seven feet high, with large, ferocious eyes, his body covered with long black hair, and as being precisely of the shape of a human. It is reported as being bullet-proof, as he has been shot at several times by different parties who have encountered him, without any visible effect. All sorts of stories and considerable speculation have been in circulation concerning this singular being. Some positively assert it is the Devil, come for the Radicals and the Negroes; others say it is Christ come again on earth; while another class insist upon

its being a ghost; and still another and more probable character is given by others, who are of opinion it is some escaped animal from a menagerie now exhibiting in Mississippi. Again, there are others who believe no such thing has been seen at all, it just being something gotten up for the purpose of alarming the Negroes. And if the latter be the case, the object is completely accomplished, for a more thoroughly alarmed set of beings never existed than are the negroes here. A perfect panic has broken out, and yesterday, as the freight train went north, twenty-four of these panic-stricken beings leaped on the flat cars and were carried away. From the inconsistent stories told, I am of opinion that there is more "scare" than hurt, although one report says he has killed one man, six dogs, three horses and five head of cattle. But as I can trace the rumor to no reliable source, I give it no credit. A young man named Samuel Akers, it is reported, shot three times at the object, and missed it; and after the third shot he ran to a pile of cross-ties, seized one, threw it on his shoulder, and jumped thirty feet up into a pine tree, and then threw the tie at young Akers, which came very near hitting him. This is rather too huge a story to meet with believers.

As far as I can learn this curious animal (if such it is) was first seen about sixty miles from here, in the State of Mississippi, and was driven ten miles across the State line. This took place about a week ago. The next seen of it was as before stated, about one mile from this place. I have tried to find some one who could give a reliable version of the affair, but can find no such person. I am inclined to the belief that if there is any thing, it is either an escaped man monkey from a menagerie, or a device of the Kuklux to intimidate the negroes, as it is known there are a large number loitering about here, who live entirely by support of the Freedman's Bureau, including what they can steal.

MAINE

A FRIGHTENED HUNTER

Greenville, Pennsylvania, *Shenango Valley Argus*,

November 4, 1876

The Calais (Me.) *Times* says: "Samuel Spaulding, of Springfield, while hunting in the vicinity of that town recently, encountered the devil face to face. This he persistently and tremblingly declares. In corroboration of his testimony there is a collateral fact. Whereas he formerly passed a great part of his time in the woods with his gun, he now secludes himself at home, hardly venturing from his premises. All questioners obtain from him the same statement accompanied by a description of his Satanic majesty. For many years the story has been periodically revived of some strange creature in the woods near Springfield, and lumbermen have seen it as far distant as the head of Musquash stream; but Mr. Spaulding is the first man bold enough to declare that it is the devil. If his story is true, and his manner and character are in his favor, he had a very near view and might have bagged the creature, had he not been afraid to fire his gun. If it was really the devil, there are many who will never forgive him his remissness."

A TERROR IN THE WOODS

Great Consternation Caused by the Deeds of a Wild Man.
Unlucky Lumbermen Slain and Their
Bodies Mangled in a Shocking Manner.

San Francisco, California, *Call*, November 27, 1895

Bangor, Me. Nov. 26.—A lumberman who returned to-day from the forest in the north of the State brings the most harrowing intelligence of the doings of a wild man in the lumber region of the west branch. He states that great consternation has been caused and a large number of lumbermen have left the camps and returned to their cities rather than face the monster.

For over two months quite a number of men have disappeared from the camps and when found bore the semblance of having had an encounter with some wild animal, their bodies in every instance having been terribly mangled and torn. A lumberman who returned to a camp a little north of this city a week ago startled all by stating that while at work he had been attacked by this wild man, and it was only by the help of his ax that he had been able to defend himself from the murderous attacks. Since that time he has been

seen by the crews several times, but on their approach he fled into the deep woods with the speed of a deer.

He is described as being so nearly like an animal that it is almost impossible to detect him from one. He has a long, shaggy beard, and is covered with a huge, skin coat. The general belief is that he is a sportsman who has become lost in the deep forests, and after wandering around for weeks has gone hopelessly crazy, and already there have been over half a dozen instances of a similar character in the State.

The crews of the lumbering camps are out hunting for the man and hope by shooting him in the leg to effect his capture.

MARYLAND

'VARMINT' REPORTED SEEN NEAR PRESTON

Cumberland, Maryland, *Evening Times*, July 8, 1940

Preston, Md., July 8 (AP)—Search for a “varmint” which kept residents of Harmony, seven miles from here, in an uproar over the weekend lagged today in the face of official claims the “mysterious creature” was a myth.

At the same time, Harmony citizens contradicted such a finding, pointing to the unearthly screechings, thumphings, and large unidentified tracks in the woods near Gafney's Wharf section.

Since these manifestations several nights ago, women and children in the neighborhood have been staying home at night and many of the men have gone armed.

James Wright reported he saw a creature—he identified it tentatively as an orangutan—as he passed a clump of woods two miles from Harmony Saturday morning. A posse of about 100 armed men searched the section vainly Saturday night and again yesterday.

State police who visited the section yesterday reported after inquiries that there was “nothing to” the “varmint” reports. Officers said they appeared to have grown from a rumor, passed around the countryside and improved with each telling.

MASSACHUSETTS

APE WILD IN WOODS

Strange Animal Chased Berry Pickers on Hoosac Mountain
Three Weeks Ago Was Seen Again Yesterday
Father Dared Not Shoot at Animal for Fear of
Hitting His Daughter. Party Organized to Hunt
Creature Tomorrow Afternoon

North Adams, Massachusetts, *Transcript*, July 18, 1902

Residents of South Church street and vicinity in the neighborhood of St. Joseph's cemetery are in a state of excitement over the presence of what is supposed to be an escaped ape in the woods south of the tunnel road. The animal has been seen on three distinct occasions, and those who saw it are ready to take oath that it is an ape of unusual size, weighing at least 100 pounds.

Three weeks ago people walking in the woods or on the tunnel road were frequently startled by a peculiar noise coming from among the trees, described as something between a shriek and a squeal. The rumor gradually gained headway that a wild animal of some unusual and unknown variety was making its home in the woods near the cemetery.

Two weeks ago Wednesday Frank Jones, who lives on the tunnel road above the cemetery, was working in his back yard when he saw his daughter, a 16-years-old girl, and a young man with whom she had gone out to walk, running across the pasture towards the house closely pursued by a large black animal. Mr. Jones ran into the house for his gun, but did not dare to shoot for fear of hitting either his daughter or the young man.

When about 50 yards from the house the animal suddenly abandoned the pursuit and made tracks for the woods. Mr. Jones then had time to observe it, and was convinced that it was a large black ape. The young people were badly frightened at their startling encounter. They said they were just passing the edge of the woods when the ape appeared and started to follow them.

Mr. Jones told the story to a number of his neighbors that night and tried to organize a party to hunt the animal down. The neighbors

were inclined to be incredulous, and the attempt was not successful. They attributed the pursuit to an unoffending and prosaic Newfoundland dog. One or two who had heard the strange cry in the woods were half inclined to believe Mr. Jones' story, however.

Some days later the report was circulated that the ape had been seen in Briggs' pasture, quite a distance to the south of its alleged familiar haunts. There was nothing definite to substantiate the rumor, however, and it soon died out again.

Nothing further was heard of the ape until one day last week, when Mrs. Jessie Carr, who also lives on the tunnel road, went up into the woods after berries. She had been picking for some time and not paying much attention to her surroundings, when the bushes were parted not 25 feet away from her and the ape peered steadily at her through the opening. She gave one glance and started for home, leaving her berries behind her.

Last Wednesday Mrs. Jane Vaughn, mother of Fred Vaughn, who works in the dye house of the Arnold Print works, went berrying in the same locality and was badly frightened by the peculiar cry close overhead. She did not see the ape, but says there can be no doubt as to where the noise came from.

And yesterday forenoon the ape was seen again by Mr. Jones. He says he was walking down the tunnel road towards his house, when it suddenly appeared in the road ahead of him.

The animal bounded along in front of him on all fours, and he got a good look at it. He rushed into the first house he came to to see if he could borrow a gun. He was unsuccessful, and when he came out again the ape had disappeared.

Mr. Jones and Mr. Vaughn have now succeeded in organizing a hunting party, which will go up into the woods tomorrow afternoon and try to kill or capture the strange animal.

The descriptions of those who have seen the ape, agree in nearly every particular. It is large, with black shaggy hair, a good deal of which is worn off around the neck, evidently where it had been chained. The supposition is that it has made its escape from some circus and wandered up into this section of the country.

MARTHAS VINEYARD SEARCHING FOR APE

Islanders Think Simian Is Loose in Woods.

Two Men Saw Strange Animal, Which Turned Upon One of Them.

Boston, Massachusetts, *Daily Globe*, August 23, 1915

Special Dispatch to the *Globe*.

Chilmark, Aug 22—Is there an ape roaming unrestrained through the woods of Marthas Vineyard? It is this question that has thrown a chill over the vacationists on the upper end of the island. Women and children hesitate before they go out on the hills berrying, and every farmer with a dog turns it loose instead of chaining it up at night, as was his custom.

The little colony of cottagers at Menemsha Creek is wondering when the dark form seen scampering across the field of George D. Eustis the other night will come their way.

For, strange and impossible as it may seem, two men have caught glimpses of this big and unwelcome visitor. A track in the sand like the footprint of a young child and the unusual manner in which a turkey nest was despoiled of its eggs point to a visitor of the ape family.

One of the Chilmark Tiltons first encountered the intruder a week ago while he was at work in the woods. At first he thought it was a young bear. Any curiosity Mr. Tilton may have felt was dissipated when the animal turned on him. He fled to his house after a gun and when, with his brothers, he set out again the animal had disappeared.

His description of the creature was somewhat vague and unsatisfactory, but it was enough to prove that the Vineyard had a visitor not native to its soil.

"It was heavy limbed and black," Mr. Tilton said. "Stood I should judge about three feet in height. The head was big and rounded, his teeth were white and prominent."

George D. Eustis of Hollyholm Farm on the South Shore noticed that his dogs were very uneasy several nights. One evening they suddenly ran into the woods together, apparently in pursuit of something, and after a brief time came back pretty much out of breath.

Mr. Eustis thought little of the incident then, but when he turned out one morning to find a turkey nest on the edge of the woods robbed of all its eggs, he became interested.

The robber left a trail of sucked eggs behind him. The animal might have picked up an armful of eggs and held them against his breast with his paw while he ambled off toward cover, dropping them as he went.

Then Mr. Eustis saw the creature. A commotion in his henhouse brought him to the window Thursday night. When he rubbed sleep out of his eyes a bit he saw a dusky figure crossing his field. It lumbered along with a sidewise motion and as near as Mr. Eustis could tell was three feet tall. It was black and hard to see against the woods, but in its passage across the open space the watcher had a good view of it.

At the farm brook the beast stopped, bent over and drank. Then it stood erect, turned and went into the woods.

In the morning the family found a footprint like that of a child on the sand. At Valleydale Farm, the Summer place of Dr. C. R. L. Putnam of New York, they have an ape as a pet for the children. It is kept securely in a cage. Mrs. Putnam is authority for the statement that the ape walks on the toes and ball of his feet. Such an impression was that found on the Eustis Place.

Mrs. Putnam is reported to have offered to come down if the ape reappears and attempt to capture it. She is confident that her experience with her own pet will make it possible for her to catch the wild animal.

At first cry an ape on Marthas Vineyard, separated by five miles of water from the mainland, seems most improbable. An ape might easily have dropped over the side of a passing ship and swam ashore.

Fred Luce, the rural carrier, remembers a sailor landed at the Marine Hospital in Vineyard Haven who had a pet ape. This animal was so obnoxious that the authorities killed him and his body was cremated.

“But,” Mr. Luce says, “one might just as easily run away and take to the woods.”

MICHIGAN

BLONDE BEAR-MAN IS A DEER THIEF?

Eagle River, Michigan, *Telegram*, February 25, 1917

Ironwood, Michigan, Feb. 24th—It looks as if it may be Halloween in February for the Ironwood Sheriff's Department as they are bemused once again by more fantastic reports of the Blonde Bear-Man that people had witnessed walking across Cloverland Drive after a church service last October.

Saturday's report came in from two men who apparently watched from a distance as what they described as a giant man in a blonde fur suit proceeded to steal a deer they had hung from a tree to be gutted. Local officers suggested that it may have been a white bear or timberwolf, while the hunters insisted that the fellow or beastie had indeed quickly dashed off on two feet while it carried their kill away under its arm. The Sheriff's Department commented that should they locate the perpetrator and it is a man in furs, he will be charged with petty larceny for making off with the deer carcass. However, if it should turn out to be a white bear, Sheriff Miller has plans for a new pelt-rug in front of his hearth.

MYSTERIOUS ANIMAL DISAPPEARS FROM ATHENS

Ludington, Michigan, *Daily News*, July 19, 1926

Battle Creek, Mich., July 19.—(AP)—The animal of uncertain size and origin that haunted the district near the Pine Creek swamp near Athens, for several days about two weeks ago, has made no reappearance recently.

Scores of stories regarding the beast have been started but apparently without foundation, the only actual knowledge that can be gained of the "thing" being its attack upon Harley Inman over two weeks ago; an attack on a dog belonged to Ed Harbaugh and the killing of sheep on the Michaels farm.

MYSTERIOUS ANIMAL IS REPORTED RANGING

COUNTRY AROUND BURLINGTON AGAIN

Ludington, Michigan, *Daily News*, July 22, 1926

Battle Creek, Mich., July 22.—(AP)—John Henry, 55, rural route mail carrier out of Burlington, reported to the sheriff's department last night that he had been attacked "by the thing," mysterious animal which had previously attacked Harley Inman, Athens township farmer.

Two hours later four Marshal men, staying at Lyon lake, six miles from Burlington, reported they had seen "the thing" in the Lyon lake marsh and secured permission from the sheriff to use shotguns in a hunt for it.

Sheriff Colby came to Battle Creek today to confer regarding offering a reward.

Mr. Henry, the only horse and buggy survivor of the Burlington rural carriers, said he noticed a chicken floundering in the road. He started toward it, he said, and noticed in the brush at the side an animal which he took to be a large dog but which was unusually "skinny." The animal leaped at him, he said, and in throwing up his right hand to protect his face his coatsleeve was caught and torn. He beat the animal back with the butt end of the buggy whip and it came at him again. He again struck, this time hitting the animal squarely on the nose and, with a whine, it departed. Mr. Henry believed that it was a wolf.

The four Marshall men who reported seeing an animal, said that it appeared to be an ape.

Sheriff George Colby today announced a reward of \$25 until further notice for each wolf killed or captured in Calhoun county. He said that the entire sheriff's force organized into a hunting expedition tomorrow to search in the vicinity of Burlington and Athens. He said that he did not believe the story told by Paul Noonan, 18, and Arthur Cowles, 16, of Marshall, that they had seen "a large, hairy thing arise from a marsh and climb a tree," near Lyon lake late yesterday, but that he had implicit confidence in the story of Mr. Henry.

HUNT FOR APE NEAR LYON LAKE
Two Boys Saw Huge Animal
Hundred Men with Guns Take Part in Search for Beast

Marshall, Michigan, *Evening Chronicle*, July 22, 1926

Paul Noonan and Arthur Cowles said they saw an ape or a large monkey in the swamp east of M-29 just opposite the driveway that leads to the cottages on the east side of Lyon lake at 4:00 o'clock yesterday afternoon. They reported it to Deputy Sheriff John Harther.

The report spread like wild-fire and headed by Deputy Sheriff Orlo Fish of Tekonsha, a large crowd of men with rifles, shotguns and revolvers searched the swamp and way back into the woods as far as the Fissenden farm which is located on the east and west cross roads. But they didn't find any ape nor any other wild animal. Reports that an ape was shot and that it weighed 180 pounds and that the beast had attacked Ethan Allen were without foundation.

Noonan and Cowles had been swimming in the lake, they said and were starting to walk down the road for home. They looked over to the swamp and standing beside a small tree they said they saw a large animal which looked like an ape standing on its rear foot and waving its fore feet. It was perhaps six rods from the road.

The boys caught a ride into town and then reported the matter. Townspeople flocked to the lake as farmers in the vicinity of the lake gathered for the hunt. There were at least a hundred men with firearms hunting for the animal and the cars were parked for nearly half a mile along the road.

Paul Noonan told his story in the *Evening Chronicle*. "Art and I were starting for home from the lake and we had been thinking about going huckleberrying when the berries got ripe. I said to Art, 'I wonder if there are any berries in this marsh,;' and we looked over and about ten rods from the road we saw the ape. It was standing on its hind legs and waving its hands. We stayed there about two minutes and then we beat it." He said it must have been at least five and one-half or six feet tall and might weight 200 pounds.

Paul was certain it was an ape. He said he could see the brown hair on it. His story was confirmed by young Cowles. Other men who were out there said they saw where the animal had wallowed in the marsh grass and two women who were picking huckleberries said they saw the animal climb up a tree.

An examination of the tree in question revealed that something had certainly climbed it as the bark on the tree was torn in places. The tracks of the animal were plainly visible down to the road and the hunters traced it that far and from there on the trail was lost.

The animal is believed to have been scared away by the commotion and to have made for the woods where it probably lost itself in the trees. While some people are inclined not to believe that there actually was an ape seen, those who were on the ground say that there can be no question about it whatever.

This same animal was seen to cross M-17 about eight miles west of Marshall Sunday night. At the same time came reports from the farm of Mrs. John Paxton that chickens had been killed in that vicinity.

The Evening Chronicle published the first story of a wild animal of some kind attacking people in Calhoun county. Several days ago an Athens man was said to have been attacked by an animal not far from his house. The day following the reported attack, the principal of the Athens high school wrote an article about it and brought it to the Chronicle office.

The Evening Chronicle confirmed it and with a few additional details published it.

Yesterday afternoon was the first time that anyone had actually identified the animal. It must be traveling nights because no one had actually seen it before although a Burlington mail carrier claimed he saw what he took to be a wolf devouring a chicken while on his mail route.

According to Deputy Fish, as Mr. Henry, the mail carrier, was driving down the road with his horse and buggy, he saw an animal in the road and he took it to be a police dog owned by Wm. Platz. As he approached the animal Henry saw it had a chicken in the road which was not yet dead. Mr. Fish says Mr. Henry took out his jack-knife and grabbed his whip fearing the animal might attack him and as he drove up to the animal it left the chicken and Mr. Henry hit it with his whip and the lash on the whip went around the animal's neck but it gave a jerk and got away. Mr. Henry told Deputy Fish he took it to be a wolf.

Deputy Fish took the ape story as a joke this morning. He, however, stated that he understood an ape or monkey with a carnival company got away from its cage when the company was showing in Kalamazoo about a month or six weeks ago and had never been captured to his knowledge.

POSSE OUT AFTER WOLF

Sheriff Colby Sent Out Twelve Men on Its Trail Today
Marshall, Michigan, *Evening Chronicle*, July 23, 1926

Sheriff Colby had twelve men out today with John Langridge of Fredonia as leader, in an effort to run down a wolf or dog that is killing sheep in the southwest part of the county. One farmer, whose name Mr. Colby could not recall, has had five sheep killed.

Mr. Colby stated he took no stock in the report about an ape, gorilla, baboon or any other unusual animal having been seen in the vicinity of Lyon lake. "That is just hot air" said the sheriff. Mr. Colby stated he would pay \$25 reward for the capture of any wolf, dead or alive that is killing sheep. "Remember it must be a wolf. I'll not pay a cent for an ape or any other animal" said he.

All kinds of reports were in circulation last evening about two expert hunters having killed an ape near Lyon lake. However Jay Bryant, one of the men mentioned, stated he had been in Battle Creek all the afternoon on business. Sheriff Colby says he does not take any stock in the story told by the two boys. "It was a clever story all right," said he.

Mr. Colby stated he did believe the story told by John Henry, the rural route letter carrier from Burlington. "There is either a wolf or stray police dog in that section that is killing sheep and I am willing to help run it down," said Colby.

Mr. Colby says wolves rarely ever travel at night and it is for this reason that he has the posse out today. Deputy Sheriff Eckloff who lived in the upper peninsula when a boy says it is rare that one wolf will attack a man. They are easily frightened.

John Lee said this morning that he saw footprints of an ape in his huckleberry marsh near the Kahance place about three-quarters of a mile from the marsh where Paul Noonan and Arthur Cowles said they saw the ape Wednesday.

Mr. Lee said that the animal had torn down some of the bushes and had evidently gorged on huckleberries. The tracks were identical with those found at the Lyon lake marsh. The animal must have been in there Tuesday, according to Mr. Lee. He doubts however that it is anything more than a good-sized monkey.

Mr. Lee said the monkey is probably traveling nights and that it will be heard from again as it is "staying" in marshes for the most part and huckleberry pickers will see it sooner or later. He doubts if it would molest any one unless angered by an attack.

ATHENS POSSE FOILED AGAIN

Marshall, Michigan, *Evening Chronicle*, August 16, 1926

Athens, Aug. 16—General alarm sounded here Friday afternoon by Glenville Coffman, who announced that he had seen the wild beast which has been reported lurking about Athens for several weeks, sent more than 25 armed citizens into the fields and woods near the Coffman farm home.

The Coffman Home is half a mile west of the brick school house, south and west of Athens.

Tho no trace of any animal was found, the country side was well scoured by the local posse before the hunters returned home and again stood their shotguns in the corners.

Mr. Coffman declared he could not tell from having seen the animal whether it was an ape or a bear. He pointed out the spot where the beast was, but marks could be found in ground.

"He did not leave any tracks," Mr. Coffman declared. One group of hunters followed a pair of tracks across plowed fields for two miles, thinking they were trailing a bear and found two boys who had gone swimming.

All of the hunters yesterday had either shotguns or rifles except William A. Wilson, garage man, who carried a trusty pitchfork.

Ed Harbaugh, farmer living west of town has expressed the belief that the animal may be lurking about his farm.

"I am confident that this beast is sucking the milk from my cows," says Mr. Harbaugh. "They do not give as much milk now as they did in the spring."

MYSTERIOUS BEAST AGAIN SEEN NEAR BATTLE CREEK

Farmer Describes 'Thing'

Ludington, Michigan, *Daily News*, August 20, 1926

Battle Creek, Mich., Aug. 20.—(AP)— “The thing,” mysterious beast, that has caused some persons in this vicinity to become frightened and others to wax sarcastic, made its appearance six miles from Battle Creek last night, according to the report that Floyd Bowman, a farmer, gave the Calhoun sheriff’s department.

Undersheriff Peter Hymer, City Detective Jack Cramer and Patrolman James Thayer responded to the call and spent the better part of the night, with dogs, in searching underbrush in the vicinity of St. Mary’s lake, where “the thing” was supposed to have lurked.

Mr. Bowman said that he was attracted by his dog, which returned to the house howling, went under the porch and refused to leave. He said he investigated and saw a “black, fur-bearing beast, about four feet high” which disappeared in the underbrush at his coming.

“The thing” is credited with having attacked a farmer near Athens, a rural mail carrier near Burlington and several dogs and to have killed a number of sheep. It has been described in various forms, from an ape to a lynx.

Two Marshall youth claimed they saw it climb a tree. The huckleberry crop around Pine Creek swamp has been practically a failure because people were afraid to go into the marshes to gather them, it was said.

MISSISSIPPI

THE “WHAT IS IT” OUTDONE

The Wild Man of the Woods, an Extraordinary Creature Discovered in the Forests of Warren County

Waterloo, Iowa, *Courier*, March 26, 1868

From the Vicksburg [Miss.] *Herald*.

The following extraordinary story, which for want of space we

have been compelled to condense—we have received from a perfectly reliable source.—About twenty-five miles from this city, but in this county, is a small stream known as Beer Creek, which empties into the Big Black river. The margin of both these streams, in that vicinity for miles back, is an almost impenetrable swamp, grown up with canebreakers, and wild, tangled vines, but filled up with all kinds of game, including bear, deer, and turkeys.

In pursuit of this game many young men resort to this spot with their hounds. For some time past, strange stories have been told by the negroes of an extraordinary animal seen near these swamps. The negroes, in their usual manner, have graphic and startling descriptions of his appearance, but usually winding up with the declaration that it was the devil which had been seen by them. One peculiarity, as described by the negroes, was that from his tracks he seemed to be going both ways at once. That is, one foot pointed to the front and the other to the rear. These stories were laughed at and derided by the citizens, no one believing in any such statements. This extraordinary creature had often suddenly presented himself among the negroes in the early twilight, causing great consternation among them. He is described by the negroes as being about eight feet high, each eye, in their language, “as large as a hen’s egg,” with no nose and no upper lip, his two eye teeth as large as a man’s thumb, extending down over his plan about eight inches; his right foot points directly to the front and the left one to the rear, and the measurement of the track is just twenty-three inches in length; his finger nails are perfectly hard and solid, and are about six inches long; the hair on his head—which is stiff and wiry—sweeps the ground as he walks, and is parted in the rear and brought down in front on each side of his singularly-formed chest, which is not round nor flat, but is angular like that of a fowl. The hair on the body of this singular being is very stiff and grows to the rear, parting at the angle of the breast bone growing back and uniting with a long stiff growth on his spine, which extends back about one foot like the spinal fin of a fish, or the bristles on the back of a boar—the hair on his arms is parted and grows in the same way, making a long, thick brush on the back of the arms, ex-

tending from the shoulders to the point of his middle finger; the same peculiarity is observable on his legs.—

This singular and horrible object, the negroes represent, has been seen by them at different times for several months, and that night has been rendered hideous by the unearthly howlings of this unknown animal. No white person has ever seen him until recently, when he was discovered by a hunting party. Several gentlemen—acquaintances of ours—met on last Thursday week with a view of bear hunting in this swamp; they were accompanied by about fifteen well-trained bear dogs. They prepared for the hunt early in the morning, and, when about commencing, their attention was attracted to an unusually large man track in the soft soil, upon examination it was discovered that the track was constantly being reversed. In an instant the stories of the negroes occurred to the party, and at once it was determined to pursue the creature which had made this track. The dogs were instantly called and encourage to follow the track, which they did promptly. The gentlemen, mounted upon good horses, found but little difficulty in keeping up well with the hounds. In a few minutes an object was presented to their view which sent a chill to the heart of every member of the party. They had unearthed a nondescript. A being—apparently human—suddenly arose from his lair—turned, and for a moment stood in silent inspection of his pursuers, and then, instantly, with a yell truly terrific wheeled, and with the speed of the fastest horse rushed away before the dogs.

This wild and exciting chase was continued for nearly ten miles, when at last the terrible monster, foaming with rage, was brought to bay upon the bank of the Big Black, and turning with a fury unparalleled, it seized the foremost dog with both hands, and by the exercise of super human muscular strength, buried its long talons in the body of the howling brute, and literally tore the dog asunder. Dropping this it instantly seized the next and sent its two immense tusks through the skull of the doomed dog. One of the hunters, becoming alarmed for the safety of the party, drew his revolver and fired twice at the monster, but evidently without effect other than to frighten it by the report, when, turning with a hideous yell,

it plunged into the river, diving and remaining under water fully five minutes, when it would suddenly spring high into the air, screaming with the voice of a regiment of soldiers. It finally swam to the opposite side and disappeared in the neighboring forest, since which time it has only been seen twice by white persons. Several attempts have been made to capture it, but, up to the present time without success.

What this strange creature is, no one can conjecture. The gentlemen with whom we have conversed represent it as a black man about six feet high, but in other respects resembling to a great degree the description given by the negroes.

It has broken the negroes from attending loyal leagues at night in that section of country.

MISSOURI

WHAT IS IT?—A STRANGE, WILD CREATURE

San Francisco, California, *Bulletin*, January 28, 1873

For some weeks past, the people living near the lowlands, or creek bottoms, five miles southwest of Hallsville, in this county, have been seriously alarmed and nearly startled out of their wits, by the sudden and mysterious appearance in the neighborhood at various times, of a strange, ferocious looking creature, resembling a gorilla, which it seems, has its haunt in the deep thickets, and under the shelving rock and caverns that line the creek in that vicinity. What it is or where it came from, no one knows. That it is there, a living reality, many a frightened farmer can attest from the scare it gave him. It appears to be over five feet high, has short crooked legs, a long body and long arms with ugly looking talon like fingers, a short, thick neck, large savage looking head, in which gleams a pair of blood-shot eyes, while its mouth extends from ear to ear, and is filled with long fangish teeth, which it displays when disturbed. Its body is covered with a heavy coat of brownish hair, and its general aspect is absolutely terrible and ferocious, making the stoutest heart quail before it. Thus far, no one has suffered

personal injury from it, other than a severe fright, as it never seeks to make a direct attack on human beings, but rather seems to delight in suddenly rushing forth from its lair, and with appalling roars and fearful gestulations chasing all who venture near its haunts. Poultry, shoats, etc., have been missed by the farmers, and it is thought this creature has something to do with their disappearance. The range of this wild being is near the farms of W. Winn and Ollie Barnes, and in that neighborhood. One person gravely informed us that it was the devil, as he had tried in vain to shoot it, and that dogs cannot be induced to go near its haunts. We gathered the above facts from reliable parties, while in the neighborhood last week.—*Centralia (Mo.) Guard*

APE ROAMING IN E. JOPLIN; ATTACKS DOG
Joplin, Missouri, *News Herald*, July 28, 1924

Joe Frakes isn't inclined to be a drinking man. Therefore it is proper to assume that Joe doesn't "see things." Joe is the watchman at Miners park and the story he relates of the nocturnal visits of a large ape is told without exaggeration.

Frakes has seen the "bugger" as he calls it, and Sunday night his two dogs, which he keeps at the park, got into something of an argument with the visitor as a sprinkling of hair in the grandstand will testify.

According to Frakes, the ape made his escape by running to the top tier of seats in the stand and making a flying leap onto the roof which extends over the entrance. From there he made one leap to the ground and disappeared. His footprints are visible on the roof. Frakes said that he understood the ape had escaped from its owner and was roaming wild, having the "scalp" of one dog to his credit already.

NEVADA

A STRANGE CREATURE.
Two Hunters Chased by a Wild Man In the Antelope Mountains.
Sacramento, California, *Daily Union*, November 8, 1879

William Shegan, who came in from Antelope valley last evening with a load of produce, tells a *Leader* reporter a very strange and startling story of the experience of two men who were hunting in Antelope valley last week. He says that Peter Simons and John Gore had been out all day hunting ducks and such other game as came in their way, and as evening came on they took a short cut across the mountains on their way back to the ranch. The mountain over which the trail led them was a very rugged one—in fact, the wildest place in the Antelope range of mountains—and a few years ago used to be infested with the larger species of wild animals. As they were slowly picking their way around the edge of a large chasm, they heard a slight noise near a rugged cliff, and saw a huge, hairy object, apparently half man and half beast, spring from behind a cliff and start for the other side of the mountain, running with the speed of the wind. Mistaking it for a wild animal, one of the hunters, Gore, fired at it. The shot appeared to take effect in the arm, for, with a scream of pain, the creature halted, tapped the wound, and, turning, charged its pursuers, who, with empty guns in hand, dared not measure strength with such a foe. Dropping their guns, both sought safety in flight, and stopped only when compelled to do so from lack of ability to run farther. The men say that they are positive that the creature resembled a man in general appearance. It was wild-eyed, and very fierce in its disposition, judging from the short time they saw it. Mr. Shegan's story revives a long-forgotten but now distinctly recalled yarn, to the effect that many years ago a lunatic, then a young man, escaped from his keepers in California and gained the fastnesses of the Sierra Nevada, where he evaded pursuit, and, it is thought, subsisted on the flesh of small animals killed through some means best known to himself. Several months ago, says Shegan, a strange creature answering the description of the being recently seen, with the exception of the grizzly beard, was discovered by a party of men who were hunting on the mountain some fifteen miles from Antelope, and it is thought that this may be the same. The hunters say they are positive that it was no optical illusion, but a genuine wild man, and a very fierce one at that. The creature's arms, they say, were long and hairy, and it looked very much like a full-grown gorilla. They aver that it

ran with remarkable swiftness, all the time uttering loud cries, as though in pain and enraged. They declare that it was only by their utmost exertion that they escaped their pursuer, and they say that there is not money enough in Nevada to hire them to again venture across its path. Mr. Shegan says there is talk of organizing an armed force in Antelope valley to go in search of this creature.— [Eureka (Nev.) *Leader*, November 1st.]

NEW JERSEY

QUEER BEAST IN JERSEY

It is Larger Than a Sheep and Cries Hoo-hoo! Hoo-hoo!

New Haven, Connecticut, *Register*, October 20, 1899

Phillipsburg, Oct. 20.—For several days past farmers have reported a mysterious animal on Marble Hill, a few miles above Phillipsburg. It has been described as ranging from the size of a sheep to that of a cow. No one claims to have obtained a good look at the creature, which goes crashing through the brush when approached. All who have had a glimpse of or heard the animal report that it makes a sound like “Hoo-hoo,” roared long and loudly.

Such an animal was reported in the vicinity of Lambertville, in Hunterdon County, a year ago. The proximity of the animal to the State Turnpike today caused a wheelman named Shields to stop and investigate, but he could find no traces of the beast.

Two chestnut hunting parties were put to flight by the strange roaring.

NEW YORK

Marion, Ohio, *Daily Star*, May 23, 1881

A mysterious beast, reported to be eight feet high, is said to occupy a cave on Mr. Green's farm at Florida. New York, making nocturnal raids and killing farm animals.

A GORILLA IN LONG ISLAND

Cincinnati, Ohio, *Commercial Tribune*, November 6, 1886

The villagers of Seatucket, Long Island, believe there is a gorilla lurking in the woods which border their town, and they are fearful of their lives in consequence. The farmers go to work in the fields armed and do not venture out after dark. Their wives would as soon defy an army of mice as leave the shelter of their home, while the children are afraid to go to pasture for the cows, and in some cases have to be escorted to and from school. The nutting season is at its height, but the children dare not venture near the woods. The colored natives, many of whom go nightly to Stony Brook, two miles distant, to buy provisions, now make the trip in groups armed with axes and pitchforks.

Selah Strong is a farmer of Seatucket who has a fine flock of Southdown sheep. Two weeks ago the pick of his flock was found one morning dead in the fold with its throat horribly mangled. There were marks of claws in the flesh, and in a spot of soft ground nearby was an almost human footprint. The sheep was skinned, and then it was found that its back was broken. Two nights afterward Jacob Saterie, who lives about a mile from Farmer Strong, heard a fearful squeaking in his chicken house. He loaded a double barreled gun and went forth. The chickens had quieted down, but on the floor beneath the roost were three fat hens whose heads had been literally torn from their bodies. There was nothing to indicate who or what had been guilty of the slaughter.

The "bloody butcher," as the unknown trespasser came to be called, remained veiled in mystery for several days. A few days since, however, Farmer Jun Addis met the intruder. It was night and dark, but the farmer declares that he had two good square looks at the animal. He stood about five feet high. His legs were thin up to the knees and then they were quite full. His arms were the same, and he had a little head. He was hair all over, and he had no tail. Two men are now in Seatucket searching for a gorilla that escaped from a Coney Island menagerie. The whole village thinks this is the creature that has been doing all the damage.

ARMED FARMERS HUNT WILDMAN

Three Miles North of the Spring Valley N.Y. Area.

New York, NY, *The World*, September 12, 1900

Mrs. Matt Starr while heading to her pickle patch this morning spotted what she thought was a wild animal on the ground eating her cucumbers, until it rose up on two feet. It was gigantic, with shaggy black hair and small eyes that gleamed evilly. It chased her, gaining at every step until her husband and son came out of the barn, causing it to flee into the woods, howling. Local men loaded up their shotguns and pistols and went off in pursuit. They discovered corn cobs it had eaten and a bed of broken down corn stalks and brush. They vow to hunt it till it's captured.

NORTH CAROLINA

A STRANGE ANIMAL ON THE NORTH CAROLINA COAST

Petersburg, Virginia, *Index and Appeal*, August 26, 1875

The Newbern *Journal of Commerce* is responsible for the following:

Asa Grandy, a colored resident of Kits Swamp, relates a strange and startling incident that occurred in his immediate neighborhood on Thursday last, and which has occasioned considerable excitement and alarm among the inhabitants thereabouts.—It appears that for some time past a strange looking animal has occasionally been seen, by different parties, lurking on the outskirts of the forests between sundown and dark, but until recently no one had been able to approach the stranger near enough to describe its appearance. From the description given by Asa, we conclude it to be a nondescript which Barnum the great showman would be glad to possess even at an expense of thousands of dollars. Its face in appearance is quite similar to that of the Wanderoo, having a long snowy beard or mane, while its body closely resembles that of a Baboon, though from the knees down, its feet and limbs are, in shape and form, precisely human.—In height it would measure about five feet, while its volume around the chest would eclipse

the Cardiff Giant. Asa states that this nondescript has for several weeks past been preying upon poultry, garden vegetables, and green corn to an alarming extent, when on Thursday morning last while his little girl of five years was at play in the corn crib with a neighbor's child, and himself at work stripping fodder in the field near by, he heard the children screaming, the dogs furiously barking, and his wife loudly crying for assistance, whereupon he swiftly ran towards the point from whence the cries proceeded, and at the edge of the cornfield met face to face this singular being with the children in each paw, making directly towards the woods. At the sudden approach of Asa, the animal, being taken by surprise, halted for a moment, and as it partially turned to change its course, a well directed blow felled it to the earth and the children were released without injury; but before its capture could be accomplished it sprang from the ground and with lightning rapidity gained the covering of the wood where all traces of its whereabouts remains as yet a mystery, though the forests for miles around have been thoroughly searched. Much excitement and fear prevails throughout that section, and no mother will again rest in peace until this strange intruder is captured and rendered harmless.

OHIO

Massillon, Ohio, *Evening Independent*, August 6, 1925

Pomeroy, O. (AP)—A correspondent of a local paper writing in from Lock Run, a rural precinct in the eastern end of Meigs county, says:

“There has been quite a bit of excitement in our community owing to the fact that some of our folks have been disturbed by an animal resembling an ape or gorilla. It was last seen between here and Portland. Many have seen its tracks where it leaped about ten feet at a jump. It is hoped that some brave adventurer will jump in and capture this beast, as it is keeping most of the populace under their respective beds in their homes. If it keeps on annoying us we will be compelled to call for state aid.”

TWO FOX HUNTERS ALSO REPORT SEEING STRANGE ANIMAL IN TREE
Zanesville, Ohio, *Signal*, August 11, 1932

While reports of the presence of an ape in the vicinity of the Henry Hardesty farm near Chandlersville were being questioned by some residents and substantiated by others, two fox hunters came forward today with an account of seeing the ape on the William Osborne farm, near Riz Mills some time ago.

Harry Prouty, Green Valley, and Dewey Hughes of near Chandlersville declare that while hunting fox on the Osborne farm, they saw a strange animal in a tree, gripping branches with odd hands and feet and all the while peering at them. They said that as they approached the animal clambered through the tree foliage and disappeared.

Although they wondered at the presence of the strange animal, it seems as though they made but little mention of the incident until reports were made to Sheriff William Curtis by Henry Hardesty a few days ago that an ape was seen in the trees of his farm, some distance from the Osborne tract.

Prouty and Hughes were not armed with a gun and were using only one dog while hunting. They continued on their way and did not investigate.

Until the beast is trapped or shot, residents of the rural area where the ape was reported seen are keeping close to their homes and children and young folk are cautioned not to venture into the fields or forests.

The ape is believed to have escaped from circus or carnival and to have taken refuge in the country which is heavily wooded in sections. It is said to be easily distinguishable by a white ring about its neck. The ape may or may not be vicious but neighbors are planning to organize and search out the beast. No reports have been received of it attacking or killing livestock on the farms.

PENNSYLVANIA

Windham, Connecticut, *Herald*, October 15, 1801
Harrisburg, (Penn.) Sept. 7.—A Singular non-descript animal

has since a few weeks several times made its appearance, near Northumberland town, in this state, which has been the subject of much speculative enquiry in these parts. The extraordinary formation of this wonderful creature, as represented by a number of respectable inhabitants of that place, who have seen it, is certainly astonishing to every one, particularly to those acquainted with natural history, and furnishes the mind with a variety of conjectures, some of which perhaps not very favorable to the human species. It is said to be about five feet in height, and moves erect; it has a more perfect human face than any other animal of the brute creation hitherto spoken of. The head is crowned with hair, which falls regular over the forehead, near to the eye brows; its neck and breast are bare, but downwards it is covered entirely with hair of a reddish cast. Its arms and hands appear perfect like those of a man, excepting the nails which are similar to claws of beasts; but the feet appear perfect. It has a very long tail, which it winds round its body when running.—An attempt was made to catch it a short time since, by three gentlemen on horseback; one of them was near enough to strike with the lash of his whip, but taking down a steep hill, the gentlemen were obliged to dismount to pursue it, when it made its escape. We hear a thousand dollars is offered for this animal alive.

Indiana, Pennsylvania, *Weekly Messenger*, October 3, 1888

“For the past several days wild rumors have been floating about to the effect that some gigantic animal resembling a gorilla is running at large through the forests near Big Run. Several parties had reported seeing strange tracks in the mud at various places. At first no account was taken of it, but the reports came in so thickly that several prominent citizens of Big Run finally concluded to investigate the matter. Going to the places designated they were surprised to find the tracks more peculiar and gigantic than had been reported. They measured one of them and it proved to be a trifle over sixteen inches in length. It was wide at the toes and narrowed gradually toward the heel. Distinct marks of toes with long nails or claws were visible, suggesting the idea of a gorilla. The animal has not yet been sighted, but the oldest hunters acknowledge themselves

completely at a loss to know to what species of created beings that wonderful foot belongs.”—*Spirit*

POTTER COUNTY ROMANCE

Giant Wild Man Said to be Roaming the Wilds

Olean, New York, *Democrat*, August 14, 1894

The Gazette of Galeton, Potter county, Pa., is responsible for the following story, which certainly beats the most inspired efforts of any New York state newspaper liars: Last Sunday afternoon Jud Burrows' boys whose home is in Dry Hollow, five miles west of this place, received a scare that will not leave their memory while they breathe the air of life. After breakfast the boys went to pick some blackberries for their mother, accompanied by the family dog. They were picking away unconcernedly near the edge of a piece of thick woods not far from the house and but a short distance from a high bank at the river's edge, when they were suddenly startled by the awfullest yells, mingled with cries of pain from their dog, that they had ever heard. Wondering what was the matter they rushed out of briars to a spot of clear ground, when, on looking up, they beheld a sight that temporarily froze their blood and struck their limbs with palsy. For a few seconds they were rooted to the spot, bereft of the sense of speech and the means of locomotion. The fearful sight that met their eyes was a giant about seven feet in height, from whose nude body, from feet to head, grew long, matted hair. In one hand at arm's length he held the large dog as easily as a boy could hold a stick of candy. Luckily for the boys the dog's cries of pain restored to them the use of their legs and lungs, and they hallooed loud for help as they fled toward home.

With an indescribable screech that raised the echoes for three miles distant, the wild man flung the dog after the retreating boys, rushed toward the river, and in two bounds from the 20-foot-high bank, cleared the stream and disappeared. In the afternoon a party of armed settlers started in search of the wild man but, though his trail was plain, they failed to find him. Monday of this week several men got a glimpse of him from a distance, but did not attempt

to molest him. He is described as a giant in size, with high broad shoulders, extraordinarily long arms, large head, and his whole body covered with thick, dark hair. He is probably the same wild man that was reported as having been seen over near Hull's last spring. His appearance has set this part of the country in a commotion. Mr. Burrows' dog was found in a pretty dilapidated condition. Several of his ribs were broken in the giant's grasp, and his hide is fearfully punctured from the wild man's finger nails.

GORILLA PROWLs AT GRIFFIN MINE

Uniontown, Pennsylvania, *Morning Herald*, October 19, 1926

Brier Hill's gorilla scare has moved across country to Griffin Mine No. 1, of the Banner Coal and Coke Company, near Masontown, according to reports emanating from that section last night. Employees at Griffin claim to have seen the animal at 2:30 o'clock Monday morning and, when they made efforts to get near it, the animal swung off into the darkness.

GORILLA SEEN IN WOODS IN ADAMS Co., SUNDAY

Lebanon, Pennsylvania, *Daily News*, February 2, 1927

Gettysburg, today—Motorists who arrived in Gettysburg Tuesday from Iron Springs in the mountains of the western part of Adams County, reported that on Sunday a gorilla jumped over their automobile as they drove over a bridge.

They say that the animal was sitting on the arch of the bridge and as they drove past jumped from one side to the other. They were afraid the animal would fall into the car, they said. According to their story, the animal disappeared in a pine grove nearby and is not believed to be on Jacks Mountain.

WILL BEGIN SEARCH FOR STRANGE CREATURE

Chester, Pennsylvania, *Times*, January 22, 1932

John McCandless, of Swarthmore, with eight other men; all armed, will begin a man hunt near Lyndell, five miles north of Downingtown, today. The object of the hunt, believed to be a

maniac, was seen by McCandless and a companion in the locality last Tuesday.

According to McCandless, who is employed at the Upper Bank Nurseries, near Media, the creature crawls on all fours like an animal, but otherwise has the appearance of a human being of unusually large build. McCandless and a friend, Lee Yeager, of Media, saw the strange creature last Tuesday, prowling about among the pines when a group of men from the nursery were digging trees in the vicinity of Lyndell.

“I couldn’t get a clear glimpse of the body,” said McCandless yesterday, “but I know that it was not hairy, like an animal’s body would have been. I saw the hands very clearly, however, and they were just like human hands, only unusually large.”

He said the strange creature lunged at him uttering a series of sounds like groans. He did not have a weapon and did not wait to see what the creature would do. Later on, he said, boys living in the neighborhood discovered footprints like those of a man, but exceptionally larger, but did not find any traces of the creature itself.

SOUTH CAROLINA

GORILLA-LIKE BEAST ACCOSTS NEGRO FOLK

Charleston, West Virginia, *Daily Mail*, February 6, 1938

Rock Hill, S. C., Feb. 5 (UP).—An epidemic of monsters, which started with “the monster of Marmotte street” which terrorized the Negro population of Mobile, Ala., tonight appeared to have spread to the Negro community of this town.

A mysterious beast, said to resemble a gorilla, was reported to police by two frightened Negroes. They told police a “fierce, fur-covered animal” accosted them on a lonely street last night.

Another Negro reported that the beast had killed and eaten a calf and had attacked him and ripped off his clothing before he managed to escape.

TENNESSEE

Richmond, Ohio, *Gazette*, March 9, 1893

The dead body of a giant wild man was found in the big woods near Gallatin, Tenn. He was seven feet high and weighed 300 pounds.

TEXAS

MAN OR GORILLA?

A Strange Creature Discovered Near Comanche

Fort Worth, Texas, *Gazette*, October 2, 1895

Cherokee Tex., Oct. 1.—(Special)—What is it? Wild man, ape or gorilla? Cherokee creek, San Saba county, runs through a hilly country covered with live oaks in some places, but mostly with cedar, especially the country near the mouth of the creek and for twelve or fifteen miles up the stream. The valleys on the creek are narrow, very fertile and mostly in farms.

The local papers last week contained an account of a Mexican lion chasing some boys on Cherokee creek, where it runs through cedar brakes. S. G. McLean, the mail contractor and mail carrier between the town of San Saba and the village of Cherokee, says the account in the papers is incorrect. He was in that locality a few days since and the people report that the animal seen was undoubtedly a wild man, ape or gorilla. A young man by the name of David Henry saw the animal sitting down like a man and thought it was a negro or a Mexican.

The animal got up and approached him. He did not like the looks of it and took to his heels. The animal followed rapidly, running on all fours like a dog. Young Henry, seeing that he would be caught, picked up a rock, faced about and struck the animal over the eye. It turned, ran up a stooping live oak tree and commenced biting the bark off. The young man summoned some neighbors and returned. He found the marks of the teeth on the tree and examined the tracks. They resembled a bear's track. The paws or hands

resembled, so Henry says, a man's hand, only longer. He also says that the animal was covered over with dark brown hair.

Another young man, Ben Harrell, also saw the beast. Has any circus or menagerie lost any of the monkey tribe?

VERMONT

Oshkosh, Wisconsin, *Daily Northwestern*, December 3, 1877

Standard, Vt., has a wild man of the woods, four feet high, covered with hair, with a head of fiery red hair that hangs over his shoulders, and who runs like a deer and yells like a hyena.—*Patriot*.

VIRGINIA

THE APE ABROAD AGAIN

Beckley, West Virginia, *Raleigh Register*, December 16, 1921

Readers will recall the stories circulated last winter of the appearance of an ape or other strange wild creature of the woods in some sections of the country. A Pocahontas, Va., boy starts a tale of having seen a new terror of the woods. The Pocahontas lad is said to have been considerably frightened when an unknown monster followed his trail thru the darkness of the night in the vicinity of Boissevan, and a correspondent of the Graham, Va., News expresses the belief and fear that this dangerous ape is back in our midst and warning is issued to hunters and night travelers to be on the lookout for the animal. The theory has been advanced, by some that the animal may have been summering in one of the abandoned manganese mines near Tip Top and has only recently come out into the open to terrorize the community, and send that creepy feeling down the spinal column of those unfortunate enough to cross its shadow during the stillness of the night.—W. Va., *News*.

WASHINGTON

Portland, Oregon, *Oregonian*, November 11, 1876

R. W. Hall writes as follows to the *Echo* concerning what is called a "mysterious wild person" in the woods near Olympia. Mr. Hall says: "On Saturday, the 4th of November, while I was rowing a boat up Woodward's Bay—which is a branch of South Bay—I saw that something was moving the grass on the beach. Its back, covered with light hair about one inch and a half long, was in sight. I thought it was a fox or coon. The tide was high, and I turned my boat toward the bank. As I neared the shore, and laid down one oar, preparatory to striking the animal with the other, it stood erect, like a man, and looked at me a moment over its shoulder. I was surprised and dropped my oar in amazement. Its body was covered with light, short hair, while longer and lighter tresses hung heavily from its head. Its arms were quite small; lower limbs strong and muscular; stood about three feet high; and face like a child's, with piercing, light blue eyes. It sprang into the brush, jumped over a log, and hid. I found it, and stood within a few feet of it, wondering how to make its capture. Without turning its eyes from me, the strange creature laid under the log till my hands were within a few inches of its body, then it passed under the tree and ran away with such speed that I could not keep it in view. I am sure that it is a white person—young or old; and while its visage is impressed upon my memory, I shall never, never, believe that it is anything else." Indians say the same object has been seen by them twice before.

WEST VIRGINIA

APE CROSSES RIVER INTO WEST VIRGINIA

Cumberland, Maryland, *Evening Times*, July 15, 1920

Parkersburg, W. Va., July 15.—Here's some more ape information. Two fellows started on an expedition yesterday to Gravel Bank, Ohio, where the famous ape hangs out and here's the story they brought back. On their way to Gravel Bank they stopped a

man in a machine to ask him for a lift. The man started talking about the ape and said that while he was on his way from Marietta Sunday night he was passing the thicket at Gravel Bank when suddenly an ape ran across the road in front of his machine. He stopped and saw the ape run up a hill and disappear in the woods. The two ape hunters then decided not to go any further and started through a wheat field. They came to a group of oil men who were drilling a well. The men said they saw the ape on the West Virginia side Saturday evening and when they walked towards it, it disappeared in a thicket. They said the ape was a large one, bigger than an ordinary man.

The story sounds kind 'o fishy but it came from reliable sources. The parties that went up yesterday are going to explore the thicket and a newspaper man is going with them to see if all the stuff that has been spread about the ape is true.

APE VISITS THE CITY

Charleston, West Virginia, *Daily Mail*, August 1, 1920

An ape, believed to have escaped from a circus, has been seen several times in the surrounding community. Last Tuesday night the ape visited the homes near the depot and it is thought that he came as far as the schoolhouse on Sixth Street.

ANIMAL, THOUGHT APE, ATTACKS BOY OF 9

Syracuse, New York, *Herald*, August 18, 1920

Sisterville, W. Va., Aug. 18.—A mysterious animal described as an ape has been terrorizing Tyler county for ten days and although searching parties have scoured the hills since its first appearance. It is still at large.

The animal of mystery has been seen a score of times. It attacked a boy, 9, on a lonely trail half a mile from his home.

Charleston, West Virginia, *Daily Mail*, August 29, 1920

Wheeling—The full-grown ape which is supposed to have escaped from the Cincinnati Zoo, and which was last heard of on the river road north of New Martinsville, heading this way, was seen

crossing the National Road just beyond Roneys Point. An automobile owned by J. W. Neidhart, of 604 Main street, and occupied by some ladies and children, was being driven along the road in this section when they saw the strange animal leap down from the B. & O. tracks, jump over the street car tracks and cross the road, disappearing into the bush beyond.

TYLER COUNTY APE NOW HAS A FAMILY

Charleston, West Virginia, *Daily Mail*, July 16, 1923

Sistersville, July 16.—The Tyler county ape story, buried two years ago, has been revived. The mysterious brute which stalked through dark spaces in the wilder sections of West Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania, is still stalking, two local citizens say.

The yarn comes from the heart of Tyler county, in the region of Muddy creek. Two men, C. C. Clarke and John Ferrell, of the Manufacturers Light and Heat company, saw the sight which made their hair stand on end and declare the story is "gospel" true.

Clarke and Ferrell told how they were rigging up a bailing machine at a well close to a thicket. Suddenly their attention was attracted to the edge of a precipice by frenzied screams. The men looked. They saw a mother ape with six little ones clinging to her side while in her mouth was another dangling over the edge of the cliff.

Dropping their tools and shutting down the well, the men ran. They ran until they reached their foreman, M. G. Sherwood. With James Henderson as their leader, a posse was formed and went in search of the ape. No trace of the animal could be found, however, but footprints were in evidence on top of the cliff.

Latest reports from the posse are that the ape is still evading capture.

OFFERS REWARD FOR CAPTURE OF HUGE APE ALIVE

Uniontown, Pennsylvania, *Morning Herald*, September 2, 1925

Buckhannon, W. Va., Sept. 1.—A reward of \$250 was offered today by R. S. Reid, newspaper editor, for the capture of an ape that has been frightening residents of Ten Mile, Hesper and Sago near here. The offer states that the animal must be taken alive.

The ape was reported at large several weeks ago in the southern part of Upshur county and recently was seen near Ten Mile. The animal is said to be as large as a small man and has been encountered frequently in orchards eating fruit.

WISCONSIN

Milwaukee, Wisconsin, *Daily Free Democrat*, March 14, 1856

Wild Man in the Woods.—The Waupaca Ledger of the 4th inst. Says: We hear that a wild man has been discovered in the woods near Jenny Bull Falls, Marathon county. He is described as being completely covered with a coat of reddish hair, and so fleet as to render all attempts at capture abortive. Several times during the severest weather, he was seen browsing in the tops of trees, and on being discovered, made off with the speed of the wind; in one instance he made a side jump of fifteen feet. The inhabitants of that vicinity think it is an escaped lunatic who has been wandering about the country for some years.

THE LAST SENSATION IN MILWAUKEE—

THE WOODS HAUNTED BY A WILD MAN

San Francisco, California, *Bulletin*, September 21, 1867

The *Sentinel* of August 17th, has the following:

We have just learned the particulars of a most singular affair, which is, as yet, in mystery. It seems that for some months past the farmers in the vicinity of Oak Creek, in this county, have been troubled with what they supposed to be minks or foxes, that have entered their hen coops and often almost entirely stripped the hen roosts. All precautions to keep out depredators have proved futile, doors which were latched being opened with apparent ease and the hens taken from their roosts. Occasionally even lambs have disappeared, and traces of their having been destroyed were afterwards found. The supposition that the animals and fowls were stolen was untenable, as the evidences that they had been devoured by some carnivorous animal was too strong. One person, who had

been particularly aggrieved by the disappearance of his property, resolved to keep watch—and, if possible, discover his enemy and put him out of existence. Armed with his rifle, he stationed himself one night this week near his hennery and awaited developments. About 11 o'clock he heard a stealthy step approaching, and, peering through the darkness, discovered an object approaching. It crept cautiously to the hennery, now walking on all-fours and again standing erect as a man. The watcher was at a loss to distinguish what the animal or being could be, but resolving to penetrate the mystery, took aim and fired. A piercing shriek arose as of a boy of twelve years of age in terrible pain, and the object bounded off on all-fours, uttering meanwhile a plaintive moan or wail, which could proceed from no animal but a human being. It made its way to the adjacent woods and was soon lost to both sound and sight. The gentleman returned to his house and related what had occurred, fully convinced that he had wounded a human being who had attempted to rob his hen roost. But the fact that the object had gone off like an animal somewhat staggered his belief, and he resolved to fathom the mystery still farther if possible.

The next day, with his rifle on his shoulder, he sallied out into the woods in the direction of the object had taken. He traced it some distance by pools of blood where it had evidently lain down to rest, but soon lost track of it as these disappeared. He found his way into a marsh near by, and when about half way through was startled by the appearance of an animal or being with a distinct human face looking at him from a short distance. As soon as he made a movement, however, the singular creature started off with great swiftness and was soon lost to sight among the tall grass. Going to the place where he had first discovered the animal—for we will call it an animal at present—he distinctly traced in the mire the marks of human feet and hands, somewhat distorted, it is true, and with enormous claws, but sufficiently displayed to remove all doubts as to the matter. Filled with wonder, and not devoid of fear, the gentleman retraced his steps home.

Coming to this city on Thursday, the gentleman related his experience to Lieut. Kendrick of that police force. Of course the story

smacked so strongly of the improbable that the Lieutenant regarded it as a hoax: but when he saw that his informant was evidently sincere in his narrative, he resolved to solve the mystery if possible. Making all necessary preparations, he started in company with the farmer for the scene of the affair.

Arrived at the farmer's house, they started forth. Going to the swamp, they searched for some time, but without discovering anything. When they were about to give up the search, on account of the near approach of night, they heard a rustling among the grass near them. On turning, they beheld a sight which startled them. It was without question a human face, but resembled that of a brute so closely as to be almost unrecognizable as such. They made a movement as if to approach it, when it darted off, leaping like a wild cat. As it receded they could obtain a good view of the creature's body, which was covered with hair, but at the same time appeared altogether different from that of any animal in existence, the shape resembled most closely that of a human being in the act of running or leaping on all fours. The twain attempted pursuit, but the creature was soon lost in the dim shades of the woods. They returned wondering, and well they might, in regard to the strange sight they had seen.

This story is almost too incredible for belief, and would be entirely discredited but for the fact that the creature has been seen by two unimpeachable witnesses.

Janesville, Wisconsin, *Daily Gazette*, November 21, 1889
The Gorrilla seen at Palmyra was contrived by a German joker.

PART II

Infrequently, a strange primate was actually captured, though invariably turned out to be a known species. Here are two cases of that sort. The first is particularly strange, as it involves what is clearly a black-and-white ruffed lemur! It's hard to say whether this was an escaped exotic actually discovered in Texas, or if someone created a tall tale backstory to attract more interest. Sadly, there are no feral lemur colonies in Texas.



Mr. Itt

STRANGE ANIMAL TAKEN; HAS HANDS LIKE HUMAN'S
Lancaster, Ohio, *Daily Eagle*, February 21, 1927
Lawton, Okla. Feb. 21—C. E. Miller of Lawton is seeking a name
for one of the strangest animals ever seen in the Southwest. For

want of a better name he calls it Mr. Itt. The animal was captured in the Gyp hills of Texas.

Mr. Itt, Miller says, stand 30 inches high and weighs 20 pounds.

He has fine silky hair, black and white. His hands are shaped like human hands and he has the face of a dog. He has white cuffs on his arms from wrist to elbow and a black coat with black and white trousers. There is a white collar around his very small neck. A stump tail provides him a seat when he decides to keep himself perpendicular. There is a toe nail on the great toe of each foot and nails or claws like those of a dog on the other toes.

Mr. Itt has very decided likes and dislikes. He refuses to eat meat of any kind, insects or eggs, and lives on vegetables.

Birds frighten him. He likes dogs but will fight with cats.

He is referred to by some as a variety of sheep. Others believe he is a strange specie of coon. He might be thought to resemble a bear, or a monkey, or a dog, or even a skunk, although he has no odor.

The second story involves a more prosaic ape. The news article calls it a "baboon," but it looks like one of the macaques to me, possibly a Barbary macaque, as those were not uncommonly kept as sailor's pets.

NIGHT RAIDING PHANTOM SIMIAN CAPTURED IN BLOODY SKIRMISH

Reno, Nevada, *Evening Gazette*, November 6, 1930

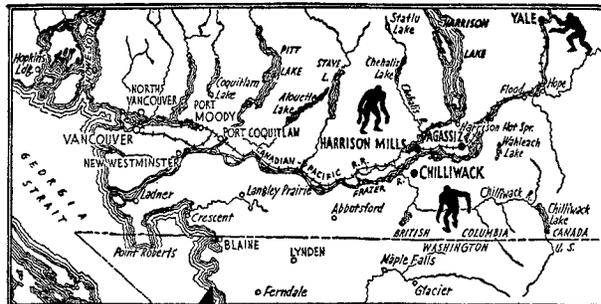
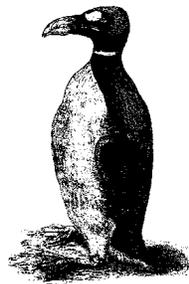
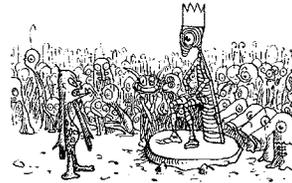
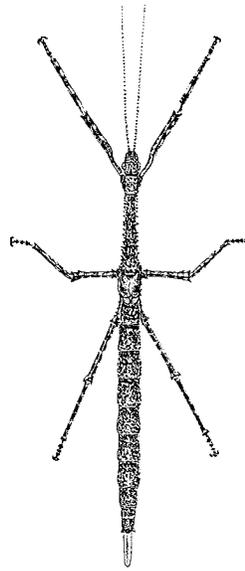
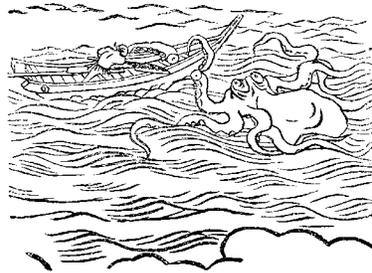
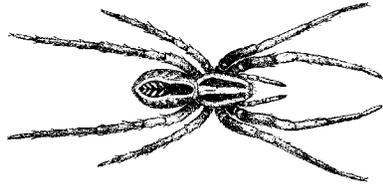
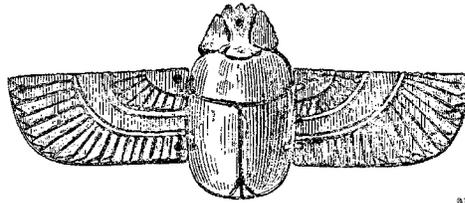
Seventeen-year-old Donald Gardner, Beaverton, Ore., youth, who emulated the famed Tarzan of the Apes in the capture of a sixty-pound marauding baboon, is the victor and "Togo" is the vanquished in the latest Oregon hunting story, which might well have found its locale in darkest Africa. For months farmers in the region adjoining Portland have been missing chickens and finding ape tracks in their place—but they never caught sight of the ape. Donald and his father caught sight of the Simian recently and with a flying tackle Donald stopped the animal from escaping through

the trees. Gardner senior lost his trousers in the conflict that followed and both were severely bitten. But the ape was finally subdued with ropes and chains and taken to a Portland zoo.



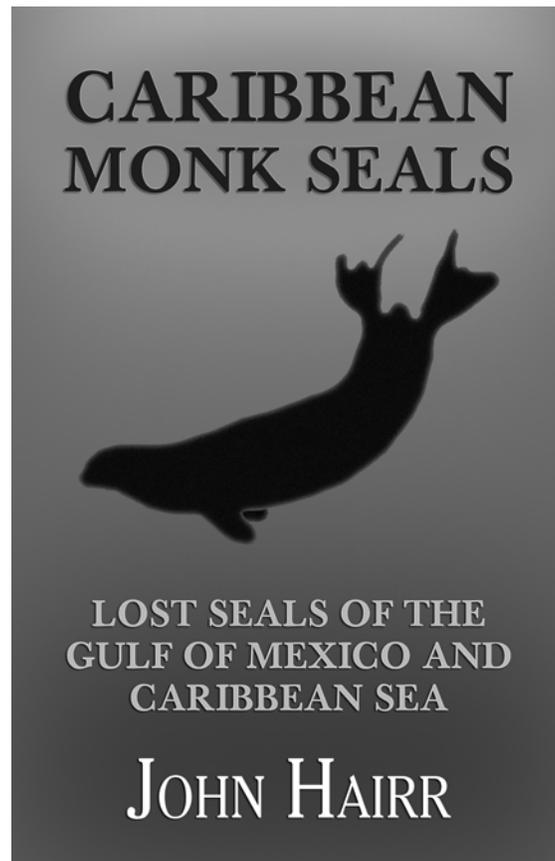
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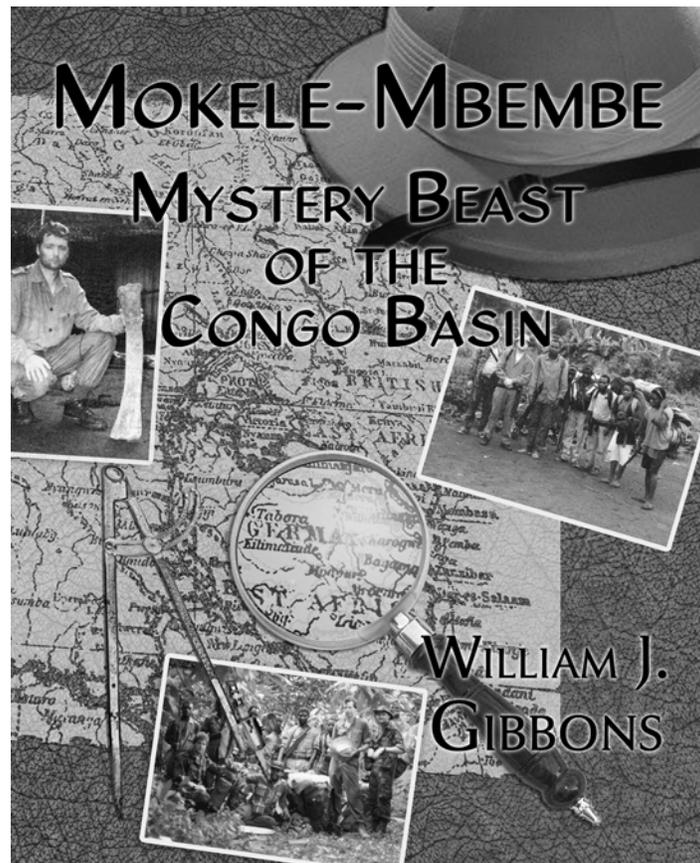
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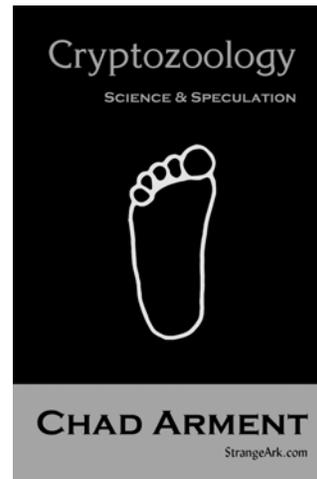
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