

20 Prospect

Welcome to my Front Porch

The Dogman of Michigan

August 11, 2009 by Tom G.

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1 Votes

If yesterday's post about the Paulding Light seemed only vaguely spooky, today's will send shivers down your spine.

Today I speak of a true terror of the north woods. The Dogman of Michigan. (<http://www.michigan-dogman.com/index.html>) Quick, cover the children's eyes!



The Dogman of Michigan

from the Legend of Michigan site...

What Does a Legend Become, When the Truth Outruns the Fiction?

It began as an April Fool's Day prank, a simple poem set to music, crafted to play on the radio a few times and then disappear.

Then something very strange happened. The joke reversed course. A mysterious, centuries-old Indian legend revealed startling parallels. A French fur trader's diary from 1794 told of an encounter with "loup garou." A letter from 1857 described a creature that stood upright like a man, yet "bore the countenance of a grey wolf."

Then contemporary witnesses came forward by the score, bringing with them photographs, film, audio recordings, and dramatic physical evidence.

The Legend became real.

I get chills just reading it. For anyone familiar with Native American lore, there is a long tradition of belief in shapeshifters. Enchanted, evil creatures that roam the night and have the ability to transform themselves from animal to human form. The dogman is such a creature.

Like a werewolf, he walks erect on his hind legs, with the countenance of a wolf. For any who have stared into the eyes of such a creature, there can be little doubt that there is an intelligence, and an evil depth behind them that no mere animal possesses.



Aaaarrrrrrroooooooo!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here's the story of one eye witness...

"Recently my wife and daughter accompanied my mother and her co-worker at a cabin on Island Lake (near Fife Lake) in northern Michigan. The lake, which is private, had a paved road that circled around to both extents, but did not connect around the lake.

As an avid outdoorsman, and former DNR employee, I have spent a considerable amount of time viewing nature. Noticing many of the trails that vented into the forest around the lake I decided to hop on my mountain bike and explore. While I saw nothing unusual at first, the last day of my stay in the area is when I saw something that will change my perception of nature forever.

It was nearly 6 pm, I ventured off on a different trail that I previously rode, not knowing where it ended up, I figured I would turn around anyway and go back after some time. After pedaling nearly a mile through dense pines, I noticed a small clearing to my right, and a very old abandoned camper. Several paths crossed and went into what looked like two-tracks in various directions. Gathering my bearings I stepped off my bike, suddenly, what sounded like two dogs viciously fighting and growling came from the trailer.

Startled but not frightened, I glanced back at the trailer, and out of its window stared what looked like a canine head, but with incredibly bright eyes. Its paws rested on the window ledge, as if it was standing up against the wall of the trailer to get a better view of me. Suddenly the figure retreated into the darkness of the gutted trailer, followed by a loud thump. Frantic I crashed my bike into the stump of a pine, but I did not look back. As I flew through the forest, what I did hear can only be summarized as a coyote but with a much deeper howl. Pedaling for what seemed like eternity, the two tracks I was on led to the main road. I was never more thankful in my life to be OUT of the woods.

Is it true? Could he be out there stalking the woods of Northern Michigan?



Lock the doors and hit the gas!

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One thought on “The Dogman of Michigan”

1. andrew says:

May 25, 2010 at 7:51 am

i seen the dogman he was 7.4 feet tall the image at you have is the dog man and a he was 10 feet form me ok

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Michigan Dogman

The **Michigan Dogman** is a cryptozoological creature first reported in 1887 in Wexford County, Michigan. Sightings have been reported in several locations throughout Michigan, primarily in the northwestern quadrant of the Lower Peninsula. In 1987, the legend of the Michigan Dogman gained popularity when a disc jockey at WTCM-FM recorded a song about the creature and its reported sightings.

History

In 1987, disc jockey Steve Cook at WTCM-FM in Traverse City, Michigan recorded a song titled "The Legend", which he initially played as an April Fool's Day joke. He based the songs on actual reports of the creature.

Cook recorded the song with a keyboard backing and credited it to Bob Farley. After he played the song, Cook received calls from listeners who said that they had encountered a similar creature. In the next weeks after Cook first played the song, it was the most-requested song on the station. He also sold cassettes of the songs for four dollars, and donated proceeds from the single to an animal shelter.^[1] Over the years, Cook has received more than 100 reports of the creature's existence. In March 2010, the creature was featured in an episode of *MonsterQuest*.

Cook later added verses to the song in 1997 after hearing a report of an animal break-in by an unknown canine at a cabin in Luther, Michigan. He re-recorded it again in 2007, with a mandolin backing.

Sightings

The first known sighting of the Michigan Dogman occurred in 1887 in Wexford County, when two lumberjacks saw a creature whom they described as having a man's body and a dog's head.

In 1938 in Paris, Michigan, Robert Fortney was attacked by five wild dogs and said that one of the five walked on two legs.^[2] Reports of similar creatures also came from Allegan County in the 1950s, and in Manistee and Cross Village in 1967.

Linda S. Godfrey, in her book *The Beast of Bray Road*, compares the Manistee sightings to a similar creature sighted in Wisconsin known as the Beast of Bray Road.^[3]

Gable film

In 2007, a digital copy of an 8mm film surfaced on the internet. Dubbed "The Gable Film" because of a small paper tag attached to the box containing the film reel, it quickly attained viral status among cryptozoological enthusiasts. Many people believed it was the long-awaited conclusive evidence of the existence of the Michigan dogman. The entire film is 3.5 minutes long, and appears to have been shot in the mid to late 1970s, due to the clothing and hair styles by the persons in the film, which were most prominent during that time. Early scenes are typical home movie fare: children riding snowmobiles, a German shepherd, a person chopping wood, etc. Toward the end of the film, the photographer is shooting from inside a moving vehicle traveling along a dirt road, when he spots what appears to be a gorilla-like animal moving in a field on the passenger side of the vehicle. The photographer exits the vehicle and seems to pursue the creature for several seconds. Then it appears again, facing the photographer from a ridge about 150 feet away. After a few seconds the creature charges. Rapid movement of the camera suggests the photographer is fleeing the attack. In the last five seconds of the film, there is a flash of teeth and muzzle, and the camera drops to the ground, lying on its left side. A second film titled "The Gable Film Part 2" surfaced later on which seemingly shows a police investigation of the incident recorded in the first reel during which the officers investigating the scene examine a bifurcated corpse (presumably the body of the person recording the previous reel).

After years of analysis and debate, the film was finally revealed as a hoax in the finale episode of *MonsterQuest* on March 24, 2010. The Gable Film had been shot using vintage cameras, film, and period props by Mike Agrusa, a fan

of "The Legend," song. The second video was likewise hoaxed. *MonsterQuest* claimed their investigative team uncovered irregularities in the film, and then forced the hoaxers to confess to werewolf expert Linda Godfrey. However the Hoaxers say that they told *MonsterQuest* from the beginning that the film was a fake and they fabricated the "investigation" to make a more interesting episode.^[4]

Feature film

In late 2011, film Rich Brauer released a film called *Dogman*, starring Larry Joe Campbell. The movie premiered at the State Theater in Traverse City.^[5]

References

[1] Godfrey, pp. 61-62

[2] Godfrey, pp. 60-61

[3] Godfrey, pp. 62-63

[4] <http://michigan-dogman.com/wordpress/?p=207>

[5] http://www.cadillacnews.com/news_story/?story_id=1799456&year=2012&issue=20120323

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