

Footprints and Casts

Together with sightings and the Patterson/Gimlin film, footprints and other possible physical evidence serve to indicate the creature actually exists. Furthermore, this evidence provides insights into the actual size of the creature—both its height and other body measurements.

Large human-like footprints have been found in remote areas all across North America. They are often deeply impressed into the soil, indicating the creature that made the print was extremely heavy.

Numerous plaster casts have been made of probable sasquatch footprints. They have been studied by many professionals and deemed to be authentic. In other words, they were made from prints created by a natural foot.

Casting Insights

In 2004, I prepared an item for my exhibit at the Vancouver Museum that explained footprint casting. A photograph of the item along with the accompanying information is presented here to provide some insights into this subject.



Footprint Casts

How footprint casts are made and what they represent:

Footprint casts are made by pouring plaster directly into a footprint. The plaster flows into all depressions without disturbing even the most minute foot crevices created in the soil or sand. In some cases, dermal ridges (like fingerprints) have been found on footprint casts. The person seen here is Roger Patterson making a cast of a footprint left by the sasquatch he filmed at Bluff Creek, California in 1967.

Plaster takes about 20 minutes to solidify. When the cast is removed from the print, the result is a plaster representation of the *underside* of the foot. In other words, it is a view of the foot from beneath, not above, as illustrated in the adjacent photograph.

How footprint casts are duplicated: Footprint casts are generally duplicated by using the original cast to make a sand impression and then pouring plaster into the resulting print. Alternatively, a mold is made of the original cast for plaster reproductions.

The footprint casts in this exhibit:* Most of the footprint casts shown in this exhibit are duplicated casts. They were produced from either the original cast or a subsequent generation copy. Original casts are slightly larger than the actual foot that made the print. Duplicated casts made with sand are slightly larger again. Some of the casts in this exhibit are estimated to be up to 1.1 in (2.8 cm) larger than the actual foot that made the print.

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What Might a Sasquatch Foot Actually Look Like?



The photographs above show a sculptured clay foot that is based on a 1958 Bluff Creek cast (a print found by Bob Titmus). An actual plaster cast forms the sole of the foot. The human foot shown for comparison is 11.5 inches (29.2 cm) long.

Cast Considerations

When a foot is pressed into a soft surface such as soil or sand in the act of moving, three processes take place that affect the size of the impression made by the foot. First, the movement or motion of the foot causes some “slide” or “skid.” Second, the foot itself expands slightly in all directions (which is why one always tries out a new pair of shoes—weight placed on feet causes them to spread out). Third, the foot marginally displaces the sand or soil. It

* What is stated here also applies to the casts shown in this book.

Cast-Making Box



This is a cast-making box. It has hinged, lockable lids on both the top and bottom. One lid is shut and locked. The cast to be duplicated is placed “face up” in the box. Sand is then placed (gently pressed) on top of the cast, filling the box to the absolute brim. The open lid is then shut and locked and the box is turned upside down. The other lid is now opened, revealing the cast fully immersed in the sand. The cast is then gently removed, leaving a perfect impression for casting (i.e., pouring plaster into the impression).

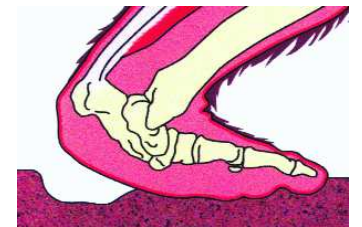
is impossible for an impression to be exactly the same size as the object that made the impression. One can prove this by trying to fit two circular objects of exactly the same diameter into one or the other.

On the right, the left-hand photograph is a perfect cast of my own foot. I made the imprint from which the cast was made by pressing my foot into sand. To get my foot firmly into the sand deep enough for a cast imprint, I had to use some motion (i.e., press down with my weight a few times and “jiggle” a little). This motion would partially be the same as walking motion, but not nearly as severe. After making the cast, I trimmed it to the exact (as close as possible) outline of my foot. I then made a transparency of my foot with no weight on it using a photocopier (i.e., I placed my foot directly on the photocopier plate and took a color photocopy).



The right-hand photograph shows the transparency positioned on the back of the cast. The white margin around my foot is the amount of cast expansion caused by the conditions mentioned. It should be noted that not only is the cast longer and wider than my foot, but all details within the cast are larger (compare the relative size of the toes). It appears my second toe (from left) pushed out more than the others, causing a wider discrepancy.

It has been reasoned that the foot of a sasquatch would have a very thick pad. The illustration seen here of a possible sasquatch foot offered by Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum provides some insights. I believe a foot of this nature would spread out considerably with the excessive weight of these creatures—much more than a bony human foot. For that reason *alone* I believe *original* footprint casts are larger by up to 0.5 inches (1.27 cm) in all directions. When we add slide and soil displacement, we need to add up to another 0.20 inches (5 mm). We are therefore up to a 0.70-inch (1.8-cm) difference between the actual footprint and the actual foot with no weight on it. A cast made from the print will naturally be up to this amount larger.



When casts are duplicated by pressing them into sand, only movement and soil displacement affect size, because the cast is solid. A first-generation cast would probably increase by up to .12 inches (3 mm). When casts are serially reproduced, this additional enlargement factor is compounded.

Casts made from molds, of course, do not “grow.” Furthermore, casts made with a cast-making box (as shown on the left), whereby the cast is not moved or pressed down upon in the recasting process, have insignificant growth.

Footprint Cast Gallery

The following gallery of sasquatch footprint casts provides some insights as to the different foot sizes and shapes that have been found. Sasquatch, it appears, are just as varied as human beings in their physical makeup.

Refer to the previous section for information on cast growth. The adjacent chart provides statistics.

CAST GROWTH COMPARISON TO ACTUAL FOOT — NO WEIGHT	
CAST GENERATION	LARGER BY (MAX.)
ORIGINAL CAST	.70 inches (1.8 cm)
FIRST GENERATION	.82 inches (2.1 cm)
SECOND GENERATION	.94 inches (2.4 cm)
THIRD GENERATION	1.1 inches (2.7 cm)

NOTE: The increase applies to both the length and the width of the cast, and all details within the cast are increased proportionately. Cast generation growth applies only to casts made by *pressing* the cast to be duplicated into sand.



1. Bluff Creek, California, Jerry Crew, 1958 (2nd-generation cast, 17.5 inches [44.5 cm] long). This is a copy of the famous cast Jerry Crew took to a newspaper, and the resulting article gave birth to the word “bigfoot” as the name of the creature in the United States.



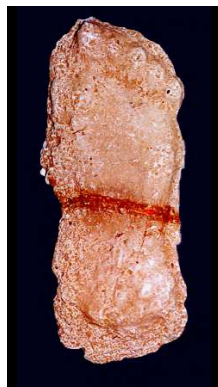
4. Believed to be from Bluff Creek, California. The person who made the cast is not known. It was probably made in the late 1960s (possible original cast or 1st-generation, 14.5 inches [36.8 cm] long).



2. Blue Creek Mountain road, Bluff Creek area, California, John Green, 1967 (original cast, 15 inches [38.1 cm] long).



5. Strathcona Provincial Park, Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Dr. John Bindernagel, 1988 (1st-generation cast, 15 inches [38.1 cm] long). The horizontal lines on this cast were caused by a hiker who stepped in the footprint.



3. Blue Creek Mountain road, Bluff Creek area, California, John Green, 1967 (original cast, 13 inches [33 cm] long).



6. Abbott Hill, South Olympic Peninsula, Washington, A.D. Heryford, 1982 (2nd-generation cast, 15 inches [38.1 cm] long). Certainly one of the best casts ever obtained; the copy seen here was professionally produced from a mold by Richard Noll, Edmonds, Washington.



7. Shawnee State Park, Ohio, Joedy Cook, June 18, 2003 (original cast, 15 inches [38.1 cm] long). A man and his wife found the prints and called a bigfoot hotline. Cook responded and found nine footprints.



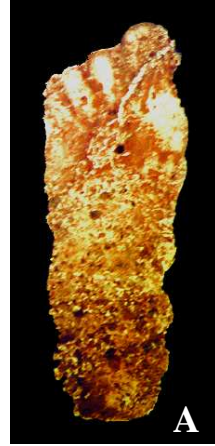
8. Chilliwack River, British Columbia, Thomas Steenburg, 1986 (2nd-generation cast, 18.5 inches [47 cm] long). Steenburg was informed of a sighting in the area three days after the occurrence and went to investigate. He independently found 110 footprints all approximately 18 inches [45.7 cm] long.



9. Laird Meadow Road, Bluff Creek area, California, Roger Patterson, 1964 (3rd-generation cast, 16 inches [40.6 cm] long). Prints were found by Pat Graves, October 21, 1963, who told Roger Patterson of the location. The creature that made the prints is believed to be the same as the one that made the prints found by Jerry Crew (see No. 1).



10. Bluff Creek, California, Bob Titmus, 1958 (2nd-generation casts, 16 inches [40.6 cm] long). Both casts are from the same trackway.



A



B



C



D



E

11. Hyampom, California, Bob Titmus, 1963. Hyampom is a tiny village about 60 miles (96.5 km) south of Bluff Creek. All prints from which these casts were made were found on the same occasion, but only the first three prints (casts A–C, which were from the same trackway) were found in the same place. The other two casts (D and E) were from prints found in an additional two separate locations.

- A. Original cast, 16 inches (40.6 cm) long
- B. Original cast, 17 inches (43.2 cm) long
- C. Original cast, 16 inches (40.6 cm) long
- D. Original cast, 16 inches (40.6 cm) long
- E. Original cast, 15 inches (38.1 cm) long



12. Skeena River Slough, Terrace, British Columbia, Bob Titmus, 1976 (2nd-generation casts, 16 inches [40.6 cm] long). Both casts are from the same trackway. Children found and reported the footprints; Titmus investigated and made the casts.



13. Patterson/Gimlin film site, Bluff Creek, California, Roger Patterson, October 20, 1967, (1st-generation casts: left cast, 15 inches [38.1 cm] long; right cast 14.6 inches [37.1 cm] long). Actual footprints in the soil measured 14.5 inches (36.8 cm) long.



14. A–E. (See description below.)



14. All casts seen here are from the Patterson/Gimlin film site, Bluff Creek, California They were made by Bob Titmus from prints that were still in place on October 29, 1967, 9 days after the filming. All casts are originals. They vary in size (14–15 inches (35.6–38.1 cm) in accordance with foot placement and motion.



15. Bossburg, Washington, “cripple-foot” casts, René Dahinden, 1969, original casts: left cast, 16.75 inches [42.6 cm] long; right cast, 17.25 inches [43.8 cm] long). Over 1,000 footprints were found. They were discovered on two different occasions. On the first occasion,

a few prints were found, and then a few weeks later a long line of prints was found. The casts were intently studied by Dr. Krantz, who was adamant that they appear to have been made by a natural creature. He reasoned that if the footprints were a hoax, then the hoaxer had to have an in-depth knowledge of anatomy. Furthermore, this person would have had a remarkable skill in constructing or designing some kind of apparatus to make the footprints.*



16. This set of the Bossburg cripple-foot casts shows the speculated bone structure of the feet, as determined by Dr. Grover Krantz. It is reasoned that the deformed foot (left cast, but actual right foot of the creature) was the result of an accident or a birth defect. Casts shown were made by BoneClones, California.



17. Elk Wallow, Walla Walla, Washington, Paul Freeman, 1982, (3rd-generation cast, 14 inches [35.6 cm] long). The cast has an indentation in the center caused by a rock the creature stepped on. This cast is a copy of one of three casts made by Paul Freeman on which Dr. Grover Krantz discovered dermal ridges (akin to fingerprints).*