

SASQUATCH

North America's Intriguing Phenomenon



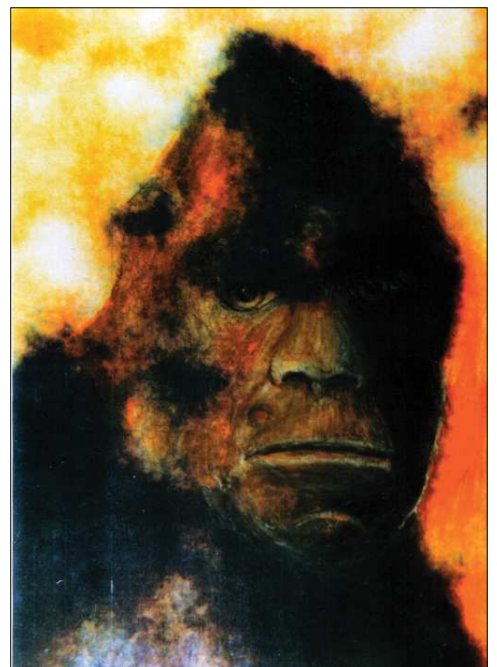
Frame 352 of the Patterson/Gimlin film.

(Photo: E. & M. Dahinden)

In this presentation, we explore the sasquatch phenomenon through the research of many dedicated sasquatch enthusiasts and professional scientists. While the last chapter on this intriguing subject is yet to be written, presented here are the facts as we know them.

For hundreds of years, sightings of strange, ape-like creatures have been reported throughout North America. Now known as “sasquatch” in Canada, and “bigfoot” in the United States, newspaper reports about what might have been these creatures date back to 1721.

With an estimated 400 possible sasquatch-related incidents now occurring annually, the issue has gone far beyond the realm of fantasy, and has attracted the attention of scientists and other professionals.



Artistic study by Christopher L. Murphy, 1996. (Photo: C. Murphy)

EARLY NATIVE SASQUATCH REFERENCES



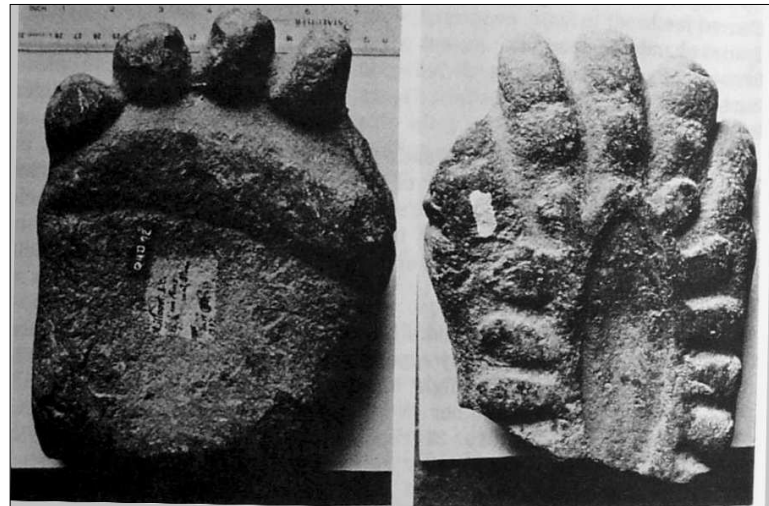
STONE HEADS

Perhaps the earliest indications of sasquatch existence are several different prehistoric carved stone heads found in the Columbia River valley, Washington/Oregon. Emeritus Professor of Anthropology, Roderick Sprague, tells us the heads share certain non-human but anthropoid features, and thus a relationship between the heads and sasquatch phenomenon is suggested.

(Photos: Public domain)

STONE FOOT

Another curious carving is a prehistoric stone foot that was found in Lillooet, British Columbia. It is believed to be a medicine man's ceremonial stone. Dr. Grover S. Krantz tells us that, "it resembles the modern footprints attributed to the sasquatch, not the prints of any known animal." (Photos: J. Green)



PETROGLYPHS

Petroglyphs (carvings or inscriptions on rocks) are found throughout North America. They depict people, animals and various symbols. Some, such as the one located at Painted Rock, California, shown here, are said to represent the "Hairy Man." Stories abound in Native legends about these creature, and its description matches that of what we have come to know as sasquatch. The age of this petroglyph is at least 1,000 years, but it could be much older.

(Photo: K. Moskowitz Strain)

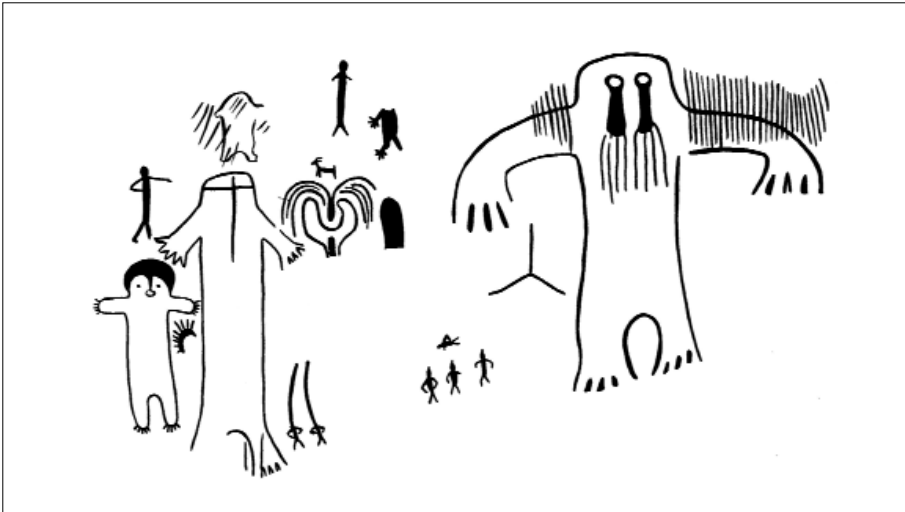
EARLY NATIVE SASQUATCH REFERENCES



PICTOGRAPHS

Pictographs (prehistoric drawings or paintings on rock) depicting what Native people describe as the “hairy man” have also been found. The exceptionally well-preserved images shown here are said to be those of an 8-foot tall hairy man with his wife and child. The ancient work is in a rock shelter also located at Painted Rock, California and probably dates between AD 500 and 1000. The Native people in this region are the Yokuts Indians, and their highly thought-provoking stories of the “hairy man” leave little doubt that they are referring to what we now call sasquatch.

(Photos: Pictograph, K. Moskowitz Strain;
Drawing, B. Bannon)

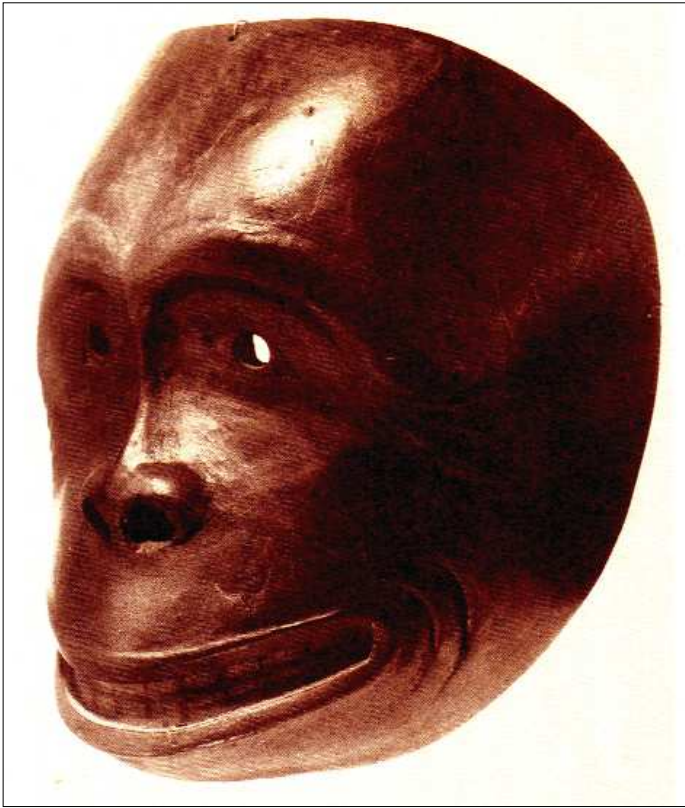


The identification of the previous images cannot be attributed to selectivity or imagination. Here we see unambiguous, naturalistic Yokuts images of a coyote, humans, and a caterpillar. This indicates that the “hairy man” was a completely different creature from now known species.

(Photos: K. Moskowitz Strain)



NATIVE WOOD CARVINGS IMPLYING OR DEPICTING THE SASQUATCH



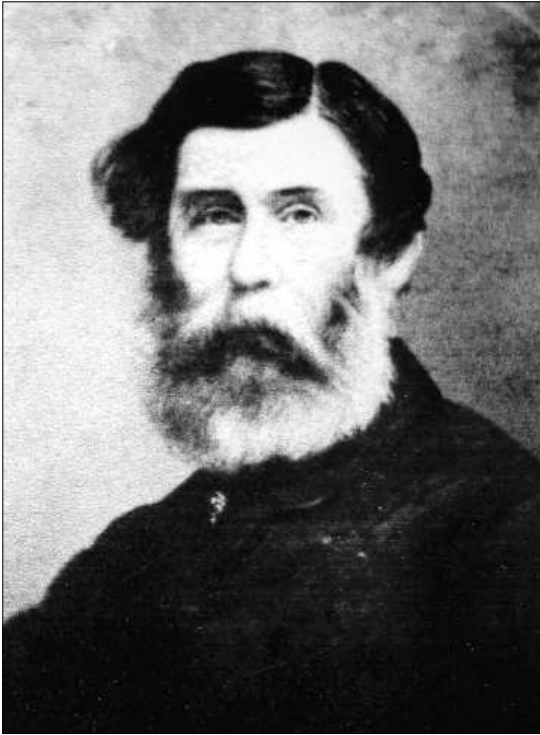
This Tsimshian mask was found in British Columbia in the early part of the last century. The creature it depicts is undeniably ape-like. As there are no known non-human primates (apes) of any sort native to North America, the inspiration for the carving may have been the sasquatch. In Tsimshian culture, as in many Native cultures, the sasquatch (known by many names) has sacred significance. This mask was made to honor the creature. Its actual age is not known, but it is believed to have been created in the mid-1800s. (Photo: Public domain)

Another Native mask that expresses a sense of reality is this Chehalis mask carved by Ambrose Point in the 1930s. He lived on the Chehalis Reservation in British Columbia, where many sasquatch sightings have been reported. It is believed he actually saw a sasquatch and this provided the inspiration for the mask. The physical size of the carving is far larger than a human head, and may indicate the great size of the creature he observed.

(Photo: C. Murphy)



EARLY WRITTEN SASQUATCH REFERENCES



Paul Kane

The earliest written sasquatch references recount the experiences of early explorers and travelers. We are told that Leif Ericson encountered ugly, hairy monsters in AD 986, and that Samuel de Champlain was informed of a giant hairy forest beast in 1603. There are indeed other accounts, and there is no telling of how many have been lost to history.

In his book, *Wanderings of an Artist Among the Indians of North America* (1859), Paul Kane provided a first-hand, direct account of early Native fear of the creatures. On March 16, 1847, Kane was in the Mount St. Helens, Washington, area. He was unable to get Natives to accompany him up the mountain for fear of, “a race of beings of a different species, who are cannibals.”



Theodore Roosevelt

Remarkably, the first major published account of what appears to be a credible sasquatch encounter was written by Theodore Roosevelt, who later became President of the United States. In his book, *The Wilderness Hunter* (1893), Roosevelt recounted a story told to him by a trapper that took place in the Bitterroot Mountains (Montana/Idaho) in the 1850s. The trapper provided convincing details on how his partner was killed by some sort of beast that walked on two legs.

Newspaper reports are by far the most numerous references. Many reports of *possible* sasquatch incidents prior to 1900 have come to light, and continue to surface as a result of the Internet and increased interest in the subject.

(Photos: Public domain)

THE SASQUATCH CLASSICS



Fred Beck in the 1970s; Inset, 1924.

(Photos: Left, J. Green; Inset, F. Lynch)

THE OSTMAN ABDUCTION

Also in the summer of 1924, Albert Ostman claimed he was abducted by a sasquatch near Toba Inlet, British Columbia. He was carried away in his sleeping bag and held captive for six days by a sasquatch family (male, female, young boy and girl). He documented the entire story and provided a sworn statement as to its truthfulness. He died steadfast that everything he related was factual.

(Photo: J. Green)

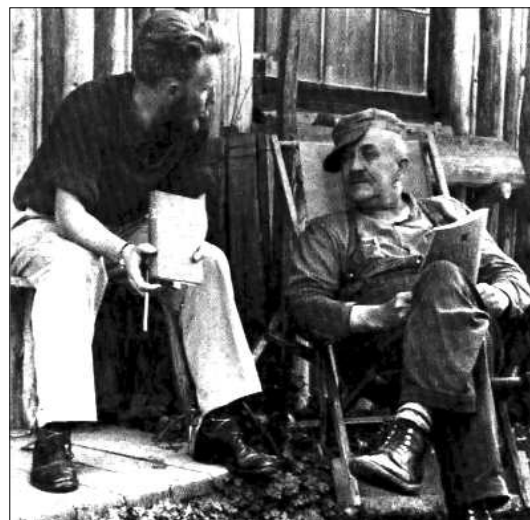


Abandoned Chapman home, late 1950.

(Photo: J. Green)

THE APEMEN OF MT. ST HELENS

In the summer of 1924, Fred Beck and four other prospectors claimed they were attacked by a number of sasquatch near Mt. St. Helens, Washington. The creatures threw rocks at the men's cabin and tried to break through the roof, wall, and door. The attack continued throughout the night, but the sturdy windowless cabin withstood all assaults. In the morning, Beck shot one of the creatures which toppled into Ape Canyon (so named as a result of this incident).



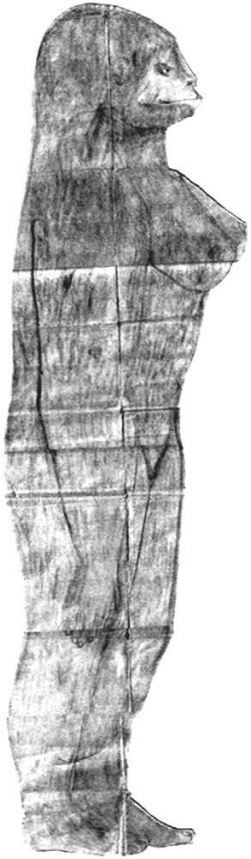
René Dahinden (L) and Albert Ostman.

THE RUBY CREEK INCIDENT

In September 1941, Mrs. Jeannie Chapman said she was terrified at the sight of an enormous sasquatch approaching her home. She gathered her three young children and fled to get her husband who worked nearby. Human-like footprints 16 inches long were found near the house. Unusual howling near the property during the next week caused the Chapmans to abandon their home.

THE SASQUATCH CLASSICS

THE WILLIAM ROE EXPERIENCE



In the summer of 1955, William Roe, an experienced hunter, hiked up Mica Mountain, which is near the town of Tête Jaune Cache, British Columbia. He said he saw what he thought was a bear half hidden in the forest, and calmly observed the creature from behind a bush. To his surprise, it stood up on two legs and walked towards him. Now fully visible, the creature appeared ape-like, about 6-feet tall, covered in dark brown, silver-tipped hair, and by its evident breasts, a female. Unaware that it was being observed, it proceeded to the edge of the bush concealing Roe. It crouched down and started to eat leaves from the bush. Roe observed the creature for a considerable time, and noted many details. When the creature noticed Roe, it shifted backward, stood up, turned around, and walked rapidly away. Roe had a rifle and leveled it on the creature, but decided not to shoot because he felt it looked too human. The drawing seen here was created by Roe's daughter, Myrtle, under his direction (although some drawing aspects differ from his description). (Photo: Roe family)

THE BIRTH OF THE NAME "BIGFOOT"

The term "bigfoot" became the common name for the creatures in the United States in October 1958. As it happened, during that month, Jerry Crew, a road construction worker, saw large, human-like footprints circling his parked bulldozer on a road being built in the Bluff Creek, California area. Such prints had been previously seen that year by Crew and other workers, and whatever was making the prints was being referred to as "bigfoot." Crew made a plaster cast of one of the prints and reported the incident to the *Humboldt Times* newspaper at Eureka, California. A subsequent *Associated Press* release used the name "Bigfoot," and nationwide publication of the story firmly established the name.



Jerry Crew in a newspaper photograph. (Photo: Humboldt Times)

EXPEDITIONS TO FIND SASQUATCH



Tom Slick and members of the Pacific Northwest Expedition. (L to R) Ed Patrick, Tom Slick, René Dahinden, Kirk Johnson, Bob Titmus and Jeri Walsh (Tom Slick's secretary). John Green, another member, took the photograph. (Photo: J. Green)

The only substantially funded and organized attempt to find sasquatch was the Pacific Northwest Expedition (PNE) which commenced operations in 1959, and continued for almost three years. The expedition was organized and mostly funded by Tom Slick, a Texas oil millionaire.

In 1961, Slick also initially financed the smaller British Columbia Expedition, headed by Bob Titmus, who worked with John Green.

Everything found by the researchers, including all photographs, was sent to Slick's Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas. Evidence found was encouraging, but

failed to provide firm proof of sasquatch existence.

Slick was killed in an airplane accident in October of 1962 whereupon support for both expeditions ceased.

In the 1970s, four additional expeditions, led by Robert Morgan, were conducted by the American Anthropological Research Foundation. Two were funded by the National Wildlife Foundation.

There have been, and continue to be, many private expeditions; however, to date, inconclusive evidence is all that has been collected.

THE PATTERSON/GIMLIN FILM



Frame 364 of the Patterson/Gimlin film. The height of the creature is estimated to be between 6 feet, 6 inches, and 7 feet, 3.5 inches. (Photo: E. & M. Dahinden)

On October 20, 1967 Roger Patterson and Robert “Bob” Gimlin of Yakima County, Washington, filmed what is believed to be a female sasquatch along a remote section of Bluff Creek in northern California. The one-minute color film footage clearly shows an ape-like, hair-covered creature walking along the north shore of the creek. During its passage, the creature turned and glanced at the men who were about 100 feet away. It then continued on its course and disappeared into the woods directly ahead.

The film has been intensely analyzed and studied by many qualified professionals, including a certified forensic examiner, most of whom attested to the probable reality of the creature filmed.

Experts in Hollywood have stated that they could not duplicate the creature seen without significant financial resources, and even then there were no guarantees. The world-acclaimed make-up artist, John Chambers, stated in the late 1990s that even he was simply “not that good” to create the creature seen in the film.

Every effort to duplicate the film by film producers and amateurs has failed miserably. Many individuals over the years have tried to discredit the film, but not one piece of even marginally hard evidence has surfaced to cast doubt on the film’s authenticity.



Ad photo showing the Cine-Kodak K-100 camera used to film the creature.

(Photo: Kodak)

THE PATTERSON/GIMLIN FILM



The film site probably appeared very close in appearance to this scale model. Patterson's position is indicated with a red pin. The creature's position is as seen in frame 352 of the film (about one third into the total film). Just beyond this point, ground debris, bushes, and trees obscure the creature's images.

After the creature disappeared in the forest, the two men followed its trail on horseback. Unfortunately, after a short distance, the tracks went up into the mountains so they could not follow them.

The men then returned to the film site and closely examined the tracks on the sand bar. The footprints were about 14.5 inches long and 1 inch deep. They immediately made plaster casts of two footprints (right and left foot) and filmed the footprints using a second film roll. Patterson is seen here holding the casts shortly after they had set.

The men then drove to a shipping facility and sent the film roll showing the creature, and likely the roll showing the footprints, to Yakima, Washington, for immediate processing. They wanted to hear back that they had captured the creature on film before they left the area. However, a few hours after returning to their camp, heavy rain forced them to abandon further research. With great difficulty due to flooding and landslides, they made their way out of the area early the next day.

(Photos: Top, C. Murphy; Right: E. & M. Dahinden)



THE PATTERSON/GIMLIN FILM



Patterson (seen here on the right) and Gimlin (left) were excited about the film's prospects, and within one week provided it for analysis by scientists and other professionals at the University of British Columbia. Although some interest was expressed, the film failed to obtain support for a government-sponsored expedition to seek hard evidence of the creature's existence.

The two men thereupon took the film "on the road," where it was greeted with interest by the general public.

In 1971, René Dahinden

and had it reviewed by scientists in five countries. Two scientists went beyond simply viewing the film and provided encouraging written reports. In North America, three additional scientists and a forensic examiner have gone on record as to the probable authenticity of the creature filmed. Other professionals have expressed opinions that support either the film, or the sasquatch in general. Usually, when scientists take the time to properly analyze the Patterson/Gimlin film, they are impressed and motivated to perform further research. (Photos: Top, E. & M. Dahinden; Right, R. Patterson)



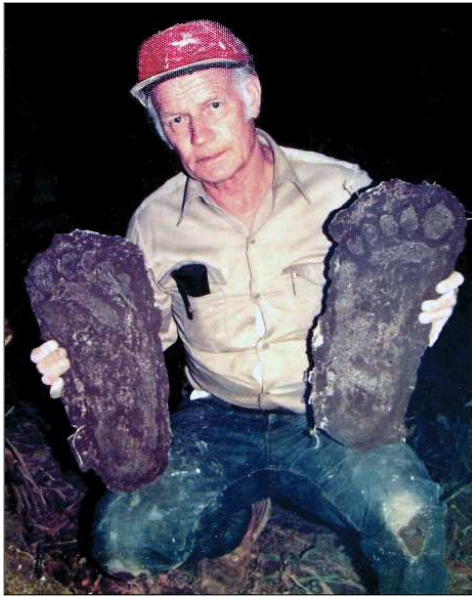
LIVING TESTIMONY

Bob Gimlin is seen here at the Willow Creek Bigfoot Symposium in 2003. He has recounted the story of the filming to audiences many times since the epic event in 1967, and continues to reaffirm that what he saw at Bluff Creek was a natural creature. (Photo: C. Murphy)

THE PHYSICAL SASQUATCH EVIDENCE



(L) A print (one of 15) found near the Skeena River, B.C. (R) Bob Titmus with casts of two prints.



FOOTPRINTS

Footprints and resulting plaster casts provide the strongest current physical evidence of sasquatch existence. The quality, configuration and distribution of prints all rule in favor of a natural foot making the prints. Anthropologists who have studied casts agree that the prints were made by an unknown primate.

(Photos: Bob Titmus)

HAND PRINTS

Although hand prints are rare, several have been found and cast. The prints are not only much larger than a human hand, but also show other distinct differences. Scientists who have studied hand casts contend that the prints were not made by a human hand.

(Photos: C. Murphy)



(L) Print found on Onion Mountain, California, cast by Bob Titmus. (R) Print found in the Blue Mountains, Washington, cast by Paul Freeman.

BODY PRINTS

Body part impressions were found in Skookum Meadows, Washington, that may indicate a sasquatch reclined in soft earth/mud. A cast (known as the Skookum Cast) was made of those impressions. It has been studied by professionals, who contend that the impressions were likely made by an unknown primate. Nevertheless, there continues to be considerable controversy as to what may have actually made the impressions.



The Skookum Cast. (Photo: R. Noll)

THE PHYSICAL SASQUATCH EVIDENCE

SASQUATCH HAIR

Hair samples associated with sasquatch sightings have been collected and analyzed by Dr. Henner Fahrenbach. The following is his report on his findings.

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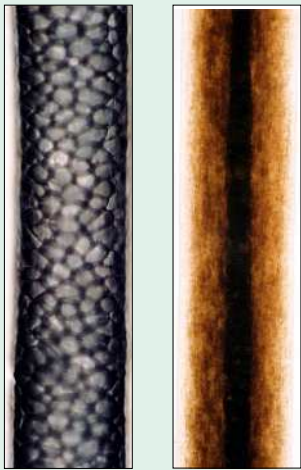
Generally, sasquatch hair has the same diameter range as human hair and averages 2 to 3 inches (5 to 8 cm) in length, with the longest collected being 15 inches (38.1 cm). The end is rounded or split, often with embedded dirt. A cut end would indicate human origin. Hair that is exposed for a long time to the elements tends to be degraded by fungi and bacteria, a process readily apparent under the microscope. Such hairs are routinely rejected, and none of the photographed hairs shown here suffer from such defects.

Sasquatch hair is distinguished by an absence of a medulla, the central cellular canal. At best, a few short regions of a fragmentary medulla of amorphous composition are found near the base of the hair. Some human hairs also lack a medulla, but the current collection of 20 independent samples [no longer available] with congruent morphology effectively rules out substitution of human hair.

The cross-sectional shape and color of sasquatch hair is uniform from one end to the other, in keeping with the characteristics of primate hair in general. There are no guard hairs or woolly undercoat, and the hair cannot be expected to molt with the seasons. Hence, hair collections are invariably sparse in number.

Despite a wide variety of observed hair colors in sasquatch, under the microscope they invariably have fine melanin pigmentation and a reddish cast to the cortex, presumably a function of the pigment pheomelanin.

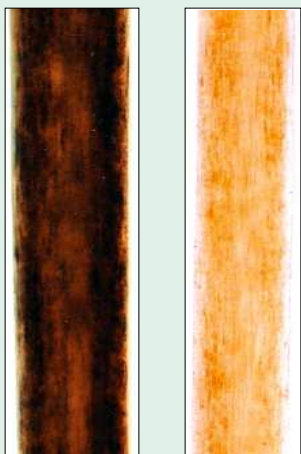
Efforts at DNA analysis are continuing, though hampered by the lack of a medulla, a condition that, where it exists in human hair, also impedes such studies. Advances in DNA technology promise eventual success.



Deer Chimpanzee



Human Sasq-CA



Sasq-WA#1 Sasq-WA#2

Hair micrographs (260x): The deer hair has the cross-section almost entirely occupied by the medulla, an unbroken lattice in hair terminology. It has, of course, a thin cortex and cuticle. The chimpanzee hair, pitch black, has a continuous, mostly amorphous medulla. The human hair has the typical amorphous fragmentary medulla. The three sasquatch hairs (one from California; two from Washington) are: (CA) dark brown; (WA#1) very dark (observed as black on the animal); and (WA#2) reddish brown (called buckskin by the observers of the animal). A medulla is uniformly absent in these hairs. (Photos: H. Fahrenbach)

SASQUATCH PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

POSSIBLE SASQUATCH STRUCTURES



What could be a sasquatch-made structure found at Klawock Lake, Alaska, with an ax for scale. (Photo: E. Muench)

We can reason that sasquatch probably make some sort of structure for resting, and perhaps use caves or other enclosures for protection. Some structures have been found and attributed to the creatures. There is no firm proof that such structures are sasquatch-related, however, they cannot be connected with any known animal.

POSSIBLE SASQUATCH SOUNDS

Alleged sasquatch howls and what might be called “talking” have been recorded. The “talking” in one case was professionally analyzed. There were three speakers *possibly* identified and the voice of one individual was determined to be non-human. Additional analysis has brought about claims that the “talking” might be a language of some sort. There is no firm proof that any alleged “sasquatch sounds” were actually made by these creatures.

BROKEN/TWISTED TREE BRANCHES



Branches possibly broken by a sasquatch: (L) Walla Walla, Washington; (R) Mt. Hood, Oregon. (Photo: C. Murphy)

Twisted and broken tree branches have been associated with sasquatch for many years. Dr. John Bindernagel reports: “Occasionally observed where a sasquatch has moved through a wooded area is a series of broken sapling or branches up to four inches in diameter, snapped or twisted off six to eight feet above the ground.”

One’s immediate reaction might be that the branches were broken by strong winds, or other severe weather conditions. However, precise observations by Dr. Robert Alley in Alaska reveal that branches are broken in this way during periods when weather is not a factor. Because hands would likely be needed to break the branches, the sasquatch is a likely suspect.

EXCREMENT OR FECES

Large, human-like evacuations have been found and examined. Their contents are not that of a human or a bear, and their shape and size differs from any known animal.

SASQUATCH ROOTS

(A Plausible Origination Theory)



Speculated transmigration route of humans and animals from Asia into North America and beyond.



Dr. Grover Krantz with a model of a Gigantopithecus blacki constructed by William Munns. (Photo: G. Krantz)

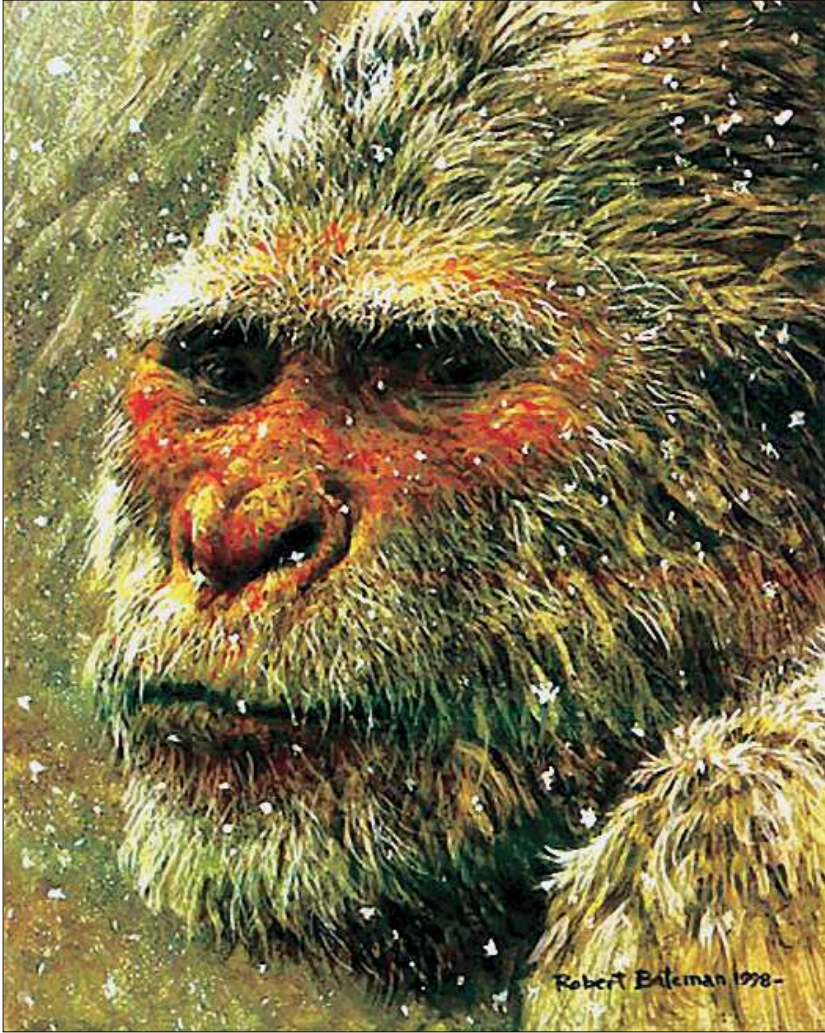
Until very recently, none of the known great apes could lay claim to a possible fossil ancestor, but four huge fossilized lower jaws and hundreds of teeth from a giant ape that could be a sasquatch ancestor have been on record for many years. Designated *Gigantopithecus blacki*, these giant apes were living in southern China at least until 100,000 years ago, and an older jawbone found in India proves that they existed over a large area and for a very long time. There is no evidence that they spread to North America, but other animals did, and there is no apparent reason why they could not have done the same.

Dr. Grover Krantz reconstructed the complete skull of a *Gigantopithecus blacki* based on the creatures' lower jaw. A direct comparison with a human skull and a gorilla skull confirms that the "Giganto" was very large.

Whether *Gigantopithecus* walked upright or on all fours will probably never be certain unless other bones are found. All that the jaws indicate is that an ape of sufficient size to match sasquatch descriptions did exist in relatively recent times, and not too far from North America. Living in parts of North America would have required adapting to life in a much colder climate, but here the creatures' huge size would have been a significant advantage.

(Photos: Top, C. Murphy collection; Center. C. Murphy)

SASQUATCH “CONNECTIONS”



Painting of a yeti by Robert Bateman.

(Photo: R. Bateman)



Yeti footprint cast copy, about 12.5 inches long. The original was created from a photograph. (Photo: C. Murphy)

THE YETI

The yeti, which is said to inhabit the Himalayas, was first brought to the attention of the outside world about 100 years ago. Since that time, many expeditions have been undertaken to find the creatures. There are many documented sightings, some very credible, but absolutely no known photographic evidence. Footprints in snow remain the main tangible evidence of the creatures' existence. Tibetan monks have three known scalps and a skeletal hand that they claim are from yeti. However, analysis of one scalp did not support their claim; it was seen to be made from the skin of a serow (goat-antelope family). As to the hand, bones from it sent to England in 1959 were recovered in 2012 and DNA analysis showed they were human. The hand was stolen in the late 1980s, so is no longer available.

In 2001, British scientists obtained alleged yeti hair samples yielding DNA that could not be identified. Bryan Sykes, Professor of Human Genetics at the Oxford Institute of Molecular Medicine, stated, “We have never encountered DNA that we couldn’t recognize before.” However, in 2012 the hair was found to be from a bear.

Yeti footprints appear to be different from sasquatch footprints. It might therefore be reasoned that the yeti is not very closely related to the sasquatch.

SASQUATCH “CONNECTIONS”

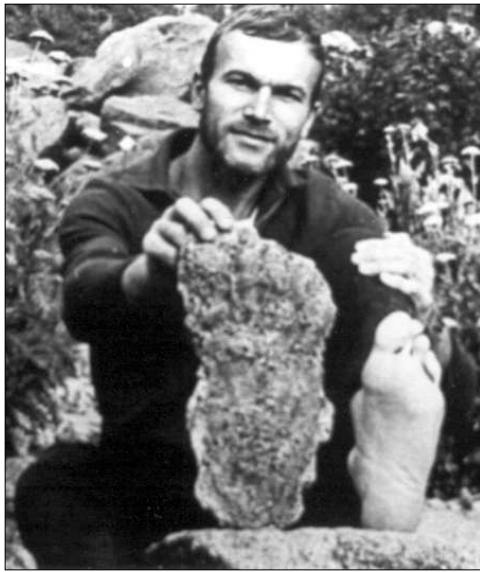


THE RUSSIAN SNOWMEN

“Russian snowmen” (also called almasty, kaptar or leschy) have been sighted throughout Russia for centuries. Although they share some features with the sasquatch, it has not been established that they are the same creature. Sightings indicate that snowmen, like humans, differ in stature from region to region.

Stories of examining, capturing, and killing snowmen are well documented, but conclusive hard evidence of the creatures’ existence has never been produced. There are no known photographs of these creatures that are considered definitive proof.

One plausible account of a slaying took place in 1925. Soviet soldiers inadvertently killed a snowman during a confrontation with anti-Soviet guerrillas in the Pamir-Alay Mountains. Circumstances were such that they could not transport the body out of the region. However, it was thoroughly examined by an army physician. A detailed account was provided to Soviet scientists by the unit commander, Major-General Mikhail Topilsky, in 1966.



(Top) A possible Russian snowman likeness. (L) Igor Burtsev with a 14-inch cast from a print found in the Pamir-Alay Mountains. (R) A 15.5-inch footprint found in Tien Shan.

(Photos: I. Burtsev)



Soldiers with slain snowman by Lydia Bourtseva.

(Photo: L.. Bourtseva)

SASQUATCH “CONNECTIONS”



Yowie study by Barry Olive.

(Photo: B. Olive)



Aborigine pictograph of a “giant, hair-covered man.”

(Photo: P. Trezise)



Andre Clayden with 16-inch cast.

(Photo: Tony Healy)



Yowie footprint found after a close-range sighting.

(Photo: Tony Healy)

THE AUSTRALIAN YOWIE

Although “yowie” is a fairly recent term for Australia’s sasquatch, the creature itself predates written history. In fact, it appears these mysterious creatures have been encountered by Aborigines since they arrived on the continent. A Kuku Yalanji pictograph, depicting what these people refer to as a giant hair-covered man, provides some indication of the antiquity of the phenomenon.

Native yowie encounters, however, were not taken seriously until Europeans slowly pushed into the “out back” and saw the creatures first-hand. The earliest credible sighting by a European was in 1848. A shepherd maintained that he saw a hairy man who walked upright and terrified his normally fearless dogs.

Extensive research on the yowie has uncovered about 300 credible sightings or incidents, and analysis of these eyewitness reports reveals an astounding similarity between yowie and sasquatch. Unfortunately, tracks are rare because of Australia’s dry soil conditions, so few reports provide this kind of evidence. Nevertheless, what has been collected is impressive, and confirms that the creature is far beyond Native legend.



Alwyn Richards saw a yowie step over this fence without breaking stride.

(Photo: T.ony Healy)