

Oldest “Sasquatch” Witness Drawing

The drawing shown here, which is dated 1897, is the oldest witness drawing I have found of a “sasquatch.” The information in the upper right corner states that the being was fourteen hands above. This equates to about 4 feet 8 inches—certainly not a very tall subject, but perhaps it was young. The term “Matah Kagmi” shown is the name given to the being in California where the witness lived and saw it. Remarkably, in Tibet the name given to what we call the yeti is Meto Kangmi, very similar to the California name, and perhaps indicates a connection between the two entities.

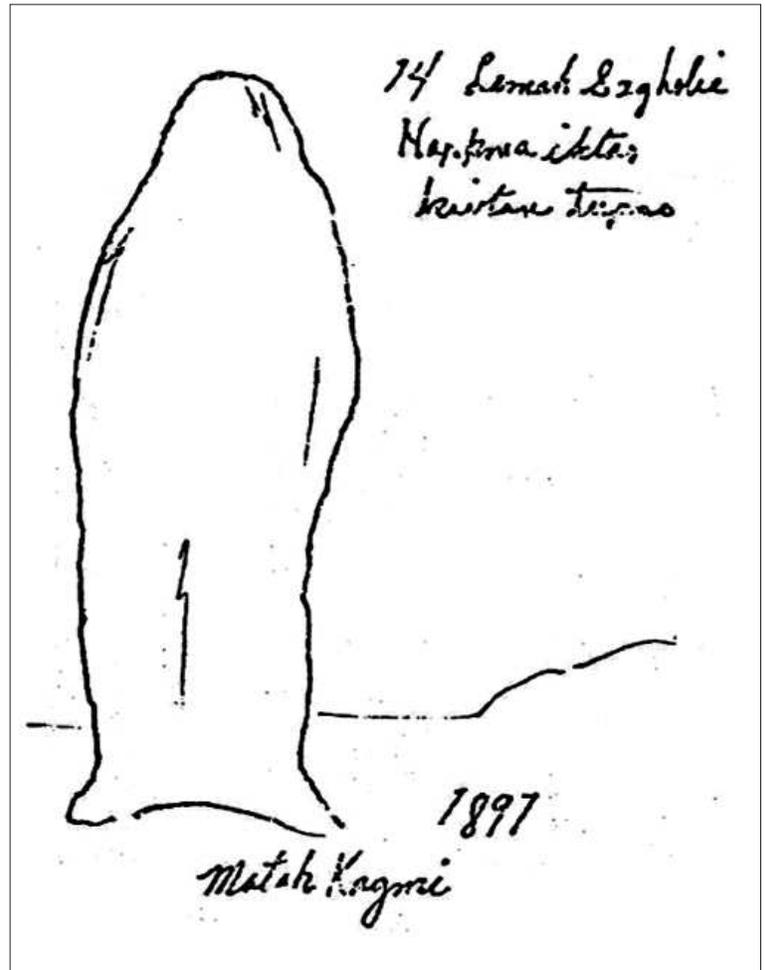
The story connected with the sighting is very intriguing. The witness treated the subject with kindness and was duly rewarded in a desperate hour of need some years later. Here is the story:

Hairy Creatures Return a Favor Tulelake, Mount Shasta Area, California, 1897

During the summer, a local native tells us he went fishing and caught a number of fish that he strung together for the journey home. As he walked along a deer trail at about dusk, he saw something ahead that looked like a tall bush. As he got closer, he became aware of a strong odor. He then realized that the “bush” was in fact a creature covered with coarse hair—much like horsehair. When it made an unusual sound, the native knew it was one of the creatures he had heard of from the “old ones.” He observed it more closely and clearly saw two soft brown eyes through the hair. When it made a slight movement, the native made a motion of friendship and laid down his string of fish. The creature snatched up the gift and made off immediately into the woods. Then it stopped for a moment and made a long low sound, which the native never forgot.

A few weeks later, the native was awakened by strange noises outside his cabin. Upon investigation, he found a stack of deer skins ready for tanning; then off in the distance he heard the long low sound he remembered from his earlier encounter. As time went on, he received further “gifts,” such as wood for fuel, wild berries, and fruits.

A few years later, the native took a job as a guide for some men looking for a treasure [probably a gold hoard]. The men had a map indicating a spot on Mount Shasta. When the group reached the foot of Shasta, the men started drinking, so the native went ahead alone to explore some lower rock shelves. During this process, he was struck by a timber rattler [a poisonous snake]. He headed back toward the group but fainted on the way. When he came to, he found himself in the company of three large hairy



creatures, eight to ten feet tall. They had made a small cut in the area of the native’s snakebite, removed some of the venom [we assume enough], and placed cool moss on the wound. The creatures then carried their patient down the mountainside and placed him under a low bushy tree. As they left, the native heard their familiar cry. The native then used his pistol to signal the other men and was thereupon taken to the nearest town for treatment.

For many years thereafter, the native occasionally heard the creature’s distinctive cry after sundown. The native related that the creatures were not vicious, but were very shy, especially of white people, and that they generally came out only in the evenings and at night. They lived chiefly on berries and roots that they dug. They ate meat only in the bitterest of cold weather. Their homes were deep mountainside burrows, unknown to man.

Note: This story was provided by Tawani Wakawa, a California Native. The Native referred to in the story was Tawani’s grandfather, who told Tawani the story firsthand.

Source: Tawani Wakawa, 1968. “Tawani Wakawa Tells of the Sasquatch; Encounters with Mutah Kagmi.” *Many Smokes* magazine, fourth quarter, 1968.