

of the biblical Leviathan or Behemoth, as James Hartwell "waxed enthusiastic in the less odd parts of *Moloch's End*," stating that "a biblical king ought at first to manage Rhode Island"^[1]. Nathaniel Richardson himself complained about this, saying "O, this slim, madly sermonizing group"^[2]. Others, uttering "hesitant comments, about good amounts of work"^[3] being required, suggested bringing in "an agent intended to remove anything obstructive and/or monstrous"^[4] (this phrasing, some suggest, appealed to "part of Richardson's ego, in Freudian terms"^[5]), whether in the forest or the "stormy sea's enclosure"^[6].

Accounts of the creature recur shortly after the American Revolution; one report from 1785 states that citizens heard "a cry ring in Bowyer's Wood"^[7] which led "small stuff to flee," including one "immediately disheartened weasel"^[8]. In 1791, "a Scotsman perhaps set on capturing one"^[9] hypothesized that the creature was one of "a race scattered all over Kent"^[10].

The 19th Century

"A court deed"^[11] from 1823 (signed with "an X at the bottom, in archaic style"^[12]) in passing mentions "the being devoid of heart, name, or character"^[13] purportedly living in the woodlands being described; aside from that, nothing is heard of Squinamosh until the so-called Tiverton Hoax of 1841.

Though this was ultimately revealed to be "a Yale student's absurd lie"^[14], it was enough to make Squinamosh a "talked-about, venerated figure without any basis"^[15] for the next two decades. Its decline after that must "be due to reporters' overload, primarily"^[16] at the outbreak of the Civil War. The creature then receded even further into the background, as later years saw the popular taste for more sordid material "sharpen and heighten beginning at the end of 1871"^[17], and scandal sheets offering "earthy material from the Rabelaisian street"^[18] made a seven-foot forest monster seem quaint.

The last known reports relating to Squinamosh appeared in July, 1886, when (according to mocking mentions in local papers), carrying a "net unsuitable for a fantastical forest giant"^[19], "a half-dozen, touching no strong drink"^[20] spent all night looking for the creature in the woods near Somerset; come dawn, though, each "singular oaf went stealthily"^[21] to his home, becoming yet another individual whom a "bum steer put back to zero"^[22].

Footnotes

- ¹ ^ Ashwood-Danforth, Janet (2004). *A Voice in the Forest: Sermons of Colonial New England*. Prometheus Books. ISBN 1-59102-139-1.
- ² ^ Dolby, Ulysses (2004). *Nathaniel Richardson: A Life*. Altamira Press. pp. 62–63. ISBN 0-7591-0539-1.
- ³ ^ Dunwich, Simon, "New England: The Town Hall Tradition" E P Dutton; 1st edition, 1973. p. 205.
- ⁴ ^ Dunwich, Theodore, "New England: The Town Hall Tradition Continues" E P Dutton; 1st edition, 1974. p. 206.
- ⁵ ^ Dyson, Irma (Spring 2006). "Nathaniel Richardson: Motivation and Meaning in the Colonial Context". *New England Biographical Quarterly* **26** (2): 292
- ⁶ ^ Dubronsky, George (2004). *17th-Century Rhetorical Style*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, p. 422

7. ^ Doohan, Neil, *Squinamosh: The Life and Times of a Legend* (Chicago, The University of Chicago Press, 2009), 75
8. ^ ap Dafydd, Owain (1992). *Man of the Woods: A Scientific Inquiry into the Reality of Squinamosh*. Johnson Books. p. 5. ISBN 1-55566-099-1.
9. ^ Aarons, Rachel, *Squinamosh in Perspective* (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2009), 241
10. ^ Dupin, Eleanor, *Squinamosh: In Perspective* (New Haven, Yale University Press, 2009), 142
11. ^ Abercrombie, Tobias (January 2008). "Lore and Legality: Folkloric Evidence In New England Land Records". *American Journal of Legal History* **135** (1): 118
12. ^ Desjardins, Helena (1978). *Deeds of Old*. Hancock House Publishing. p. 16. ISBN 0-88839-123-4.
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14. ^ Andersen, Tor (1983). *John Adams's Hedgehog: Hoaxes and Pranks of the Ivy League*. ISBN 1886168008.
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16. ^ Altman, Thaddeus (1993). *Whither Squinamosh?* Visible Ink. p. 195. ISBN 0-8103-9436-7.
17. ^ Davy, Louis (1975). *The News Unfit: Rise of the Yellow Press*. G.P. Putnam's Sons. p. 296. ISBN 0-399-11528-5.
18. ^ Dijkstra, Edward. (1979). *Poets of the Press: 1851–1900*. Little, Brown and Company. p. 100. ISBN 0673521702. Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 78-78234.
19. ^ Dawes, Seymour (2009). *Anatomy of a beast: obsession and myth on the trail of Squinamosh*. Berkeley: University of California Press. p. 4. ISBN 978-0-520-25571-5.
20. ^ Ackermann, Ernst (2006). *When Legend Meets Liquor: A Pharmacological Approach to Cryptozoological Phenomena*. Johnson Books. p. 320. ISBN 0-7653-1216-6.
21. ^ Abercrombie, Tobias (2009). *Sasquatch v. Squinamosh: A Case History*. E.P. Dutton. ISBN 0-525-06658-6.
22. ^ Aragones, Carlos (1984). *Those Who Seek Squinamosh*. Western Publishers. p. 46. ISBN 0-919119-10-7.

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