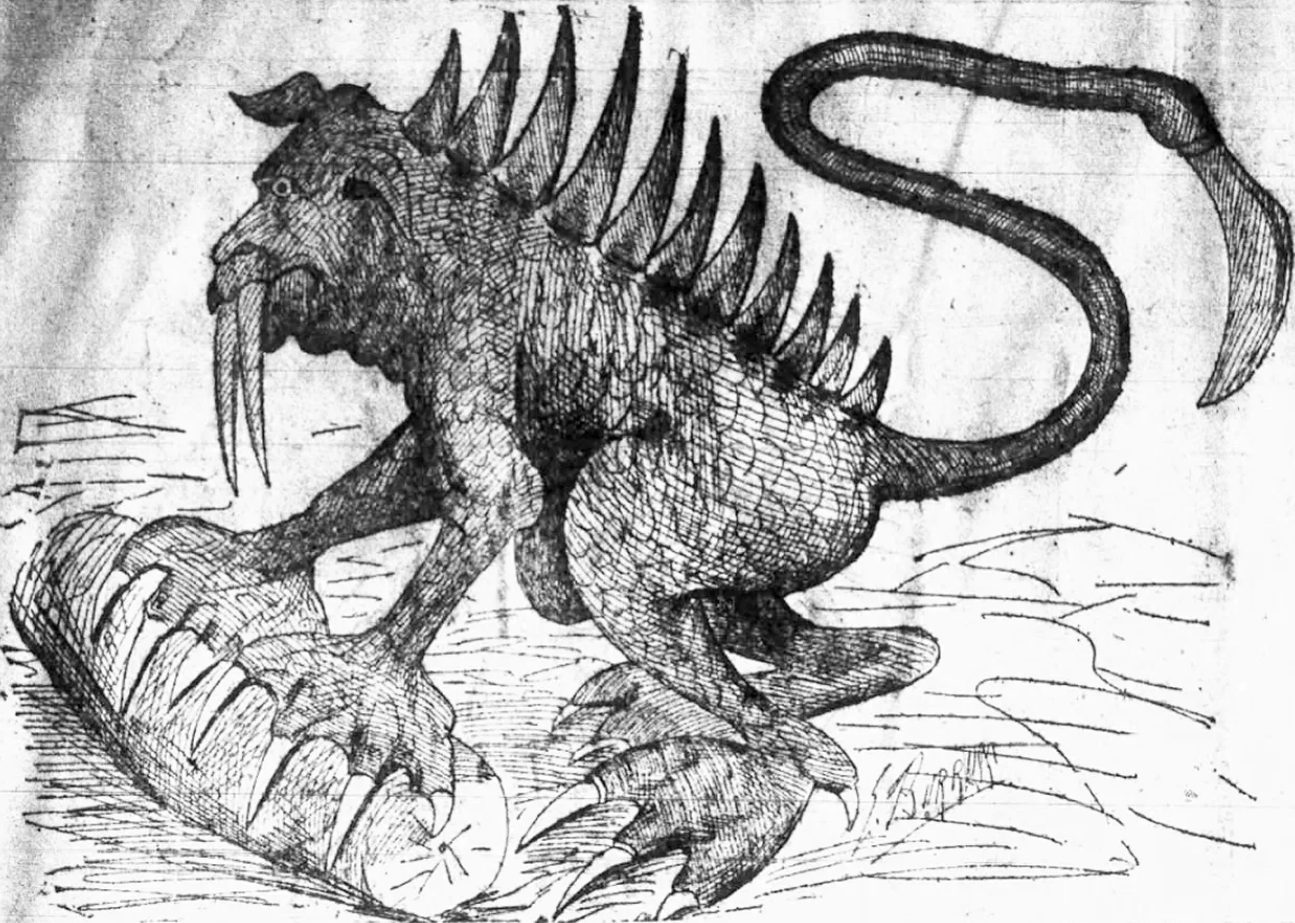


THE GREEN GOWROW, KILLED IN SEARCY COUNTY.



—From Photograph by Wm. Miller.

Mr. William Miller, the well-known business man of this city, returned Friday from Searcy county. Mr. Miller tells a marvelous story of the discovery of a hitherto unknown monster near the town of Blanco, in Calf Creek township.

"For some time I have heard reports, more or less vague, of the presence of this animal in Searcy county," said Mr. Miller, "but I placed no credence in the tales that were told. About two weeks ago I was called to Blanco on important business, and I determined to investigate the matter thoroughly while I was there.

"Immediately upon my arrival at Blanco I instituted inquiries and I was amazed to find that the people of the whole township, and of St. Joe and Richland townships, were in a fever of excitement over what they called the 'gowrow,' which they described as a terrible animal which slaughtered cattle, horses, hogs, dogs and cats. The gowrow had terrorized the community for several months but though numerous attempts had been made to capture it all of them had proved unsuccessful. The animal would steal down from the mountains at night and commence his depredations. He would break into cowsheds and kill and devour the cows and calves. Several times he had been interrupted in his blood-thirsty work, but he always managed to escape, carrying one of his victims with him.

"I inquired why they called it the gowrow, and was told that that was the awful cry it uttered when engaged in its devilish work. During the recent

snow, a youngster who resides in the neighborhood discovered the tracks of the gowrow while out rabbit-hunting. Being alarmed at the ponderous size and peculiar shape he fled in great consternation to a farm house and notified the inmates of the presence of the tracks. We formed a posse, armed ourselves with shotguns and Winchesters and started in hot pursuit of the gowrow. We followed the tracks without difficulty for several miles through the new fallen snow until they disappeared at the river bank. The monster had evidently entered the river and thus escaped his pursuers. A diligent search was made of the river bank for a number of miles, which resulted in the discovery of an enormous cave which was so nicely concealed under a shelf of rock, and so completely hid by a thick clump of cedars that it had hitherto escaped the notice of the inhabitants of the country. The ground had been worn smooth from the water's edge to where the cave entered the rock, as though some ponderous body had been repeatedly dragged over it. We soon secured light wood torches and, nothing daunted, entered the cavern where we were confronted by a sight which made each particular hair stand on end like quills upon the fretful porcupine. As the flickering light of the pine knots illuminated the erstwhile darkness of the cave, casting our distorted shadows against the shaggy rock, there grinned at us countless skeletons and skulls of all kinds and sizes, many of them evidently those of unfortunate human be-

ings, while others seemed to have belonged to horses, sheep, hogs, dogs and wild animals that had served a dainty repast for the gowrow at some time.

"We hastened out of the cave and concealed ourselves behind a large boulder to await the monster's homecoming. We had waited probably a half hour when we heard a ponderous splashing in the river as though a great stern wheel steamer was approaching, and the next moment a huge body of a sickly green hue dragged itself awkwardly out of the water and began waddling its way toward the cave. Shall I attempt to describe it? Its head was ponderous in size and resembled somewhat that of a man, only two enormous tusks projected over the under lip. Its legs were short and thick and terminated into a web foot which somewhat resembled that of a duck's, only each toe was capped by a vicious looking claw. Its body was covered with enormous scales, while along its back bristled a series of sharp horns, which came to an abrupt end near the root of the tail. The tail was thin and long and was provided with a sharp bone at the end which the gowrow could wield as a sickle, and when enraged would prove a formidable weapon. Just at this point I got in the snap shot (which is printed with this article) with my kodak, and then I gave the command to fire. The men fired in a volley and when the smoke cleared away we saw the monster writhing in the throes of death, but he died hard. With his ponderous tail he lashed down a couple of trees as

large as my leg, and also cut off the leg of a poor fellow named Tom Brennan, who was formerly a section hand on the Iron Mountain railroad, and last year worked on the section below Benton. Not wishing to see the monster suffer I again gave the command to fire and this volley ended the gowrow's suffering. The enraged farmers then sprang upon the dead beast with their axes and, more in anger than sorrow, hewed him to pieces. I then immediately returned to Blanco and the next day, having transacted my business, left for Little Rock.

"From a careful examination of the photograph which I made of the monster I am convinced it is a pachyderm, and is a combination of the hyaenidae and rhinocerotidae. It has incisor and canine teeth which apparently show that it has some relationship to the ceratotherium of the rhinocerotidae genus. These animals were supposed to have long since disappeared from the earth. Their remains are found in the miocene formation.

"In all probability this specimen was the last of its kind, and I regret very much that it was killed, as it would have been of vast interest to scientists, and would have afforded a rare opportunity for gathering trustworthy information as to the characteristics of prehistoric animals. I have, however, made arrangements for gathering its bones and for their shipment to the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, ton."