"THE JERSEY DEVIL: A POLITICAL ANIMAL"

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ABSTRACT

The Jersey Devil: A Political Animal

By Brian Regal

Abstract

The Jersey Devil ranks as the most popular legend in the folklore of the Garden State. In the dark forbidding Pine Barrens, a witch known as Mother Leeds gave birth to a "child with horse-like head, bat-like wings, clawed hands and hooved feet." It flew off into the woods to take up a career haunting and harassing travelers. The only element of the legend with historical connection is the reference to the Leeds family (indeed, it was originally known as the Leeds' Devil). The story has become layered down with myths and variations obscuring the original events that gave rise to it. A reappraisal of the story is in order. Far from being a tale of a monstrous birth gone horribly awry, the story comes not from a blaspheming mother, but colonial era political intrigues, Quaker religious in-fighting, astrology, rumor mongering, almanac publishing, a cross-dressing Royal Governor, and a future Founding Father.

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REFBACKS

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In New Jersey and Philadelphia folklore, the Jersey Devil (a.k.a. the Leeds Devil) is a legendary creature said to inhabit the Pine Barrens of Southern New Jersey. The creature is often described as a flying biped with hooves, but there are many variations. The common description is that of a kangaroo-like or wyvern-like creature with a goat- or horse-like head, leathery bat-like wings, horns, small arms with clawed hands, cloven hooves and a forked tail. It has been reported to move quickly and is "The Jersey Devil Cocktail" was concocted by putting together "apple jack, cranberry juice, Triple Sec, and lemon juice" (Mockridge). Sports. Notes. ↑ Also referred to as the "Garden State phantom" ("Jersey Folk to Discuss Folklore"). ↑ 50.8 centimeters. ↑ Approximately 1.905 to 2.54 centimeters in length. Regal, Brian. "The Jersey Devil: A Political Animal." New Jersey Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal, vol. 1, no. 1, 2015, p. 79., doi:10.14713/njs.v1i1.13. Retrieved from "http://mysteries.shoutwiki.com/w/index.php?title=Jersey_Devil&oldid=4324". Categories: Cryptids. New Jersey. Contribute. A devil is said to haunt the wooded Pine Barren of southern New Jersey. Dubbed the Jersey Devil, it has never been photographed or captured, but has appeared in dozens of books, films, and television shows including "The X-Files." Most accounts suggest that the creature has a horse-like face with antlers or horns sprouting from the top of its head. Most images of the Jersey Devil look like a monster that a high school Dungeons & Dragons player might dream up as a composite of different, unrelated animals whose features could never actually exist in the same animal, but look weird and scary. So what's the explanation for the Jersey Devil? There's very little to "explain"; we have a monster whose origin is obviously rooted in myth, and whose features are anatomically impossible.