

Champ

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A 1977 photograph gave Lake Champlain’s elusive resident a lasting outline. Champ survives between an ambiguous image, reported encounters, and the familiar water of an inhabited landscape.

STATUS	Documented photograph; identity unresolved
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Lake Champlain, USA and Canada
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Lake Champlain tradition; Sandra Mansi photograph, 1977

THE ACCOUNT

Lake Champlain’s monster has a name short enough to sound almost neighborly: Champ. Its most famous photograph was taken by Sandra Mansi in 1977. A dark shape above the water became the image people returned to when telling the story. Vermont Public revisited the case in 2019, bringing together a lake science-center specialist, a fisheries biologist, and accounts from the region. The lake’s legendary inhabitant was still drawing different kinds of attention.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The photograph is a documented object associated with a named photographer and year; it does not by itself establish an unknown animal. Vermont Public frames the subject as a question about myth, reality, and local enjoyment rather than a confirmed discovery. Its program page supplies an anchor for the photograph and discussion, but not measurements or a physical specimen that would settle the identity.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

A local monster changes how an ordinary stretch of shoreline is read. Something that might pass unnoticed elsewhere becomes a possible return. Champ is especially compelling because the image is limited: a small visible portion asks the viewer to imagine an entire hidden body.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Champ: Myth, Reality Or Just A Bit Of Fun?

Vermont Public

<https://www.vermontpublic.org/programs/2019-07-15/champ-myth-reality-or-just-a-bit-of-fun>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Champ

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-009>