

Fouke Monster

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The Fouke Monster entered national attention through a family’s frightening account in 1971. A house, a hairy arm and a panicked escape became the foundation of The Legend of Boggy Creek.

STATUS	Reported encounter and documented publicity; creature unconfirmed
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Arkansas, USA
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Cryptids
STORY HISTORY	Fouke, Arkansas, May 1971; earlier reports and 1972 film

THE ACCOUNT

In May 1971, Bobby Ford told local authorities that a hairy, red-eyed creature had grabbed him outside his Fouke home. He said he broke free and ran through the front door without stopping to open it. His wife, Elizabeth, reported seeing a hairy arm at a window. The family’s account reached local reporters and then national wire services. The following year, The Legend of Boggy Creek carried the story to movie audiences, with Fouke’s own people and landscape woven into the film.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The Encyclopedia of Arkansas records Ford’s treatment for minor scratches and shock, along with the reported investigation. Officers found tracks and porch marks but no creature; the account says no blood was found despite shots allegedly striking it. Those details document a frightened household and an unresolved report, not a confirmed attack by an unknown species. The later film is a dramatized, documentary-styled retelling rather than footage of the encounter.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The door is the detail that refuses to become grand mythology. It is a household object caught inside a moment of panic. That scale keeps the account close: whatever someone believes about the monster, the story begins with people trying to get back inside their home.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Fouke Monster

Encyclopedia of Arkansas / Central Arkansas Library System

<https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/fouke-monster-2212/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Fouke Monster

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-CRYPT-039>