

OUR SOLID MULDOON AND DONALD TRUMP

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If you are digging in our valley you might come upon a salt layer. That layer will possibly contain creatures preserved in salt. One of those is the ancient man introduced around the nation as one of the oldest humanoids, a “missing link” to our jungle past. This was “Cardiff man.” Not till 1878 did another ancient man come to light. This was popularly called “the solid muldoon” and was born in our valley.

The local ancient man, as a writer for the Ouray newspaper declared, was a ‘fake’. But the discoverer a Mr. George Hall (aka Hull) nor his anthropologist partner, Dr Conant, ever backed down completely. Their nationwide tour was silently backed by the great showman, P. T. Barnum.

Hall had promoted another missing link earlier. That was Cardiff Man, found in upstate New York. By 1879 there was a body of scientific evidence that neither could have survived in such good condition in a block of salt. Still when Hill discovered his second man right here there were plenty of believers.

No matter what scientific study showed about either ancient man, much of the general public believed in them. Even after Hull more or less confessed that it was a hoax belief stayed high. A great many Americans never gave up their belief in the Muldoon of our back yard. Even those who lost their faith enjoyed the event and were ready to forgive and forget. I think we should put up a sign welcoming tourists to the “home of the missing link in human evolution.”

One fascinating aspect of human behavior is how we deny facts and stick to our opinions regardless of evidence. Most recently we’ve seen Donald Trump and his many followers denying that he lost the last election. Over a hundred court cases and investigations support the fact that he lost. That makes no difference to Mr. Trump’s followers. Gini Thomas, wife of supreme court Justice Clarence Thomas, recently testified before congress that America believes the election was stolen. Nothing will change the opinion of 3 out of 10 Americans that Trump really did win.

Debates over the literal meaning of the Bible sound a lot like the debates over the election. In the 1870s debate over Biblical phrases like “There were giants in those days,” supported the Muldoon, but others argued for Divine creation in seven days.

Today debates over the safety of computer data or the honesty of election officials have a religious feeling. In 1879 Those who argued from scientific evidence piled up facts. Those who argued for Divine creation just kept chanting: “Humans are not descended from monkeys.”

Humorists pointed out how the Muldoon featured many facial features of Hall’s son in law. It was sent off with good wishes when shipped east on the D & R. G W. Some women gasped when shown the anatomically correct Muldoon. It was big. People kind of liked the old guy around here.

Today, those who have pledged themselves to Donald Trump and his movement are apparently much more serious. The events of Jan. 6 show that. Hull's Solid Muldoon was displayed for only \$3.00 (later reduced to 50 cents). Trump has cost us a lot more than that so far. Could it cost us our democracy if we descend into dictatorships as so often has happened?

P T. Barnum offered (he said) \$20,000 for the Muldoon. but the offer was rejected. In 1913 his "man" was sold for \$10,000. Our local Solid Muldoon has never been found.

What will happen with the Trump election debate? 3 out of every 10 Americans believe Trump actually won. The American public takes debates like this more seriously than they took the "Solid Muldoon." We're privileged to watch this history play out. The Muldoon himself was always smiling at us.