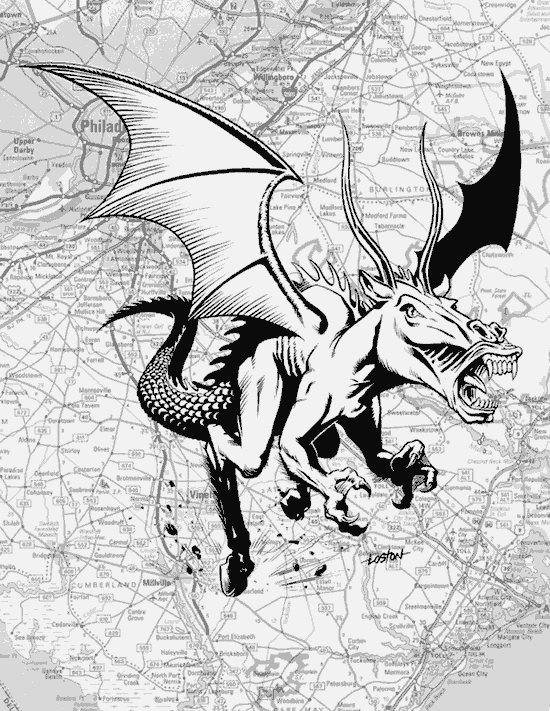
Myth of the Month

# Feature: The Jersey Devil



## The Birth

The Jersey Devil who was born in 1735 in the Pine Barrens still hunts its birthplace today. As the myth goes it was a stormy night when Mother Leeds was in labor with her thirteenth child. After the painful birth of the baby boy, the midwives and the Leeds siblings were relieved. There were rumors going around town that this baby was going to be born as a Devil for many reasons. The problem with myths is that the story is told differently every time. For example, one version of the story is that Mother Leeds cursed her baby because the labor was so painful. Other stories say that she cursed her baby when she found out she was pregnant for the thirteenth time. Another story was found saying that Mother Leeds was friends with a witch who wanted her baby to give to the Devil and Mother Leeds agreed with these terms without realizing what she was agreeing too. The reasons why the new infant turned into a Devil will never be known exactly however what is known is that it did turn into a horrible creature.

## Description



This creature is described like a kangaroo. It has a head and body of a horse, wings, short arms with claws, either split hooved feet or feet like a horse shoe. It also has a tail. Some versions of the Devil have horns on top of its head and fangs. Height has ranged from 3 feet to 6 feet. The body is also covered in thick black hair. Something that all the descriptions have in common is the fact that it can both fly and walk and it has a horrible scream.

## Where it is today

The history of the Jersey Devil, also known as Leeds Devil and What-is-it, is a remarkable one. Unlike other known myths such as Sasquatch, many people have claimed to see the Jersey Devil and reported multiple sightings. Today sightings are still being reported in a multitude of towns most commonly in South Jersey however, there are sightings in all regions of NJ and even in Philadelphia, PA.

If you have seen the Jersey Devil in your area, please write your story to Myth Monthly.

#### Next Month Features: The Hippogriff