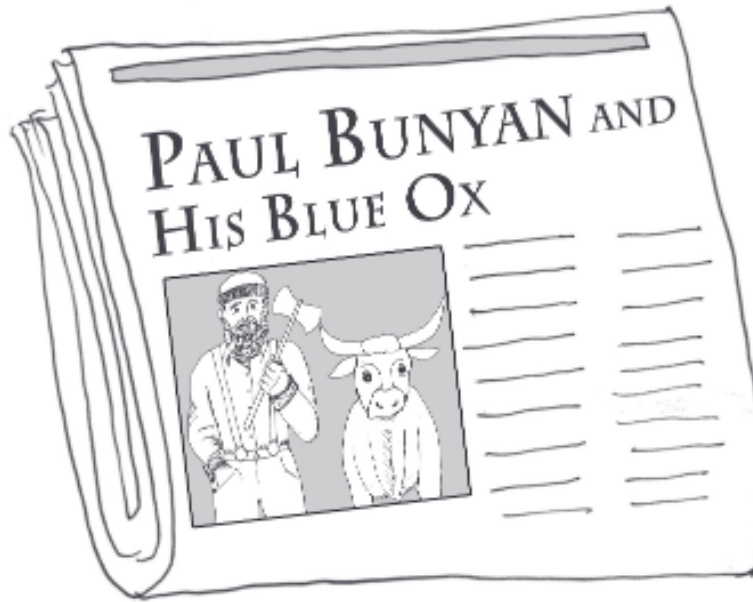


The Making of a Legend

The Origins of the Paul Bunyan Story



Paul Bunyan is an American legend. All legends have to start somewhere. Many start with a real event or person. The story is told over and over again. People add to the story. Soon it becomes larger than life—a legend.

So how did the legend of Paul Bunyan start? It probably came from mix of tales about two real-life men. Both were from Canada. Both became lumberjacks. Both lived in the 1800s. One had a name that sounded like Paul's. The other did not.

Bon Jean was a Canadian war hero. Many people knew him. Many people liked him. After all, he was a hero. The name Bunyan probably came from Bon Jean. In French, it sounds like Bunyan.

The Making of a Legend



Paul Bunyan got his name from **Bon Jean**. But his larger-than-life character is mostly based on a man named Fabian Fournier. Fabian stood out. He was tall and strong. At 6 feet, he was taller than most men. He had big, strong hands. He was a great lumberjack.

Fabian stood out for other reasons, too. Not all of them good. He had a bad reputation. He often drank. He liked to brawl, or fistfight.

Fabian was murdered in 1875. Soon after, they arrested his murderer. They put him on trial. The trial was very dramatic. It made Fabian famous. People read news reports about the trial. They talked about Fabian's life. These stories became larger than life. Some said that he had two sets of teeth. Others said that he would bite off hunks from wooden poles.

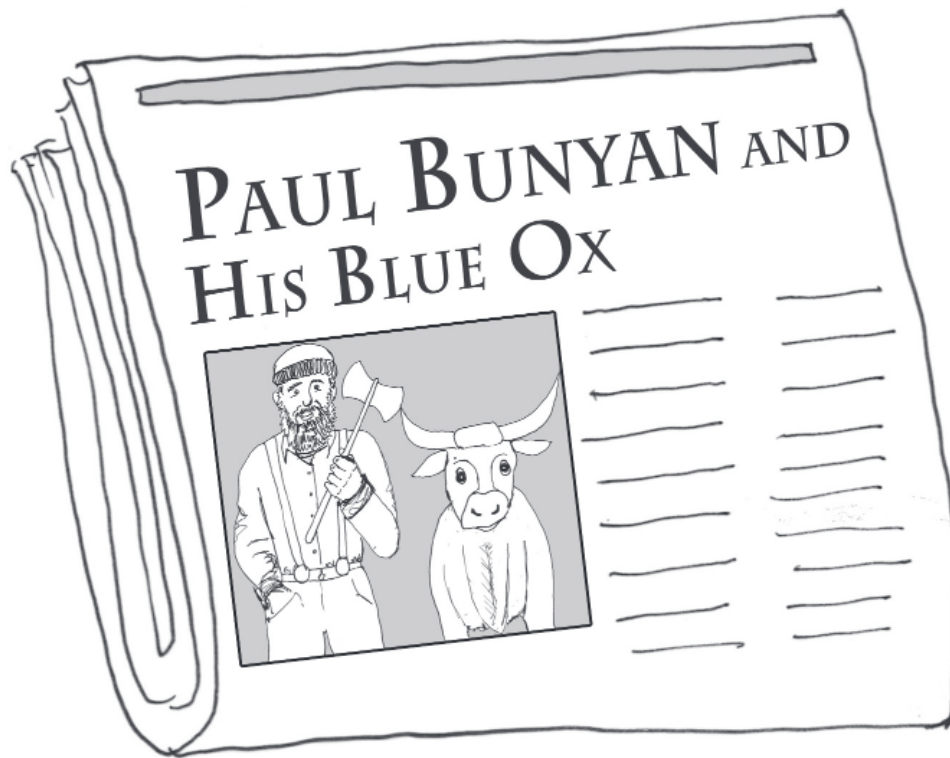
Lumberjacks loved Paul Bunyan stories. They helped make him into a legend. At night, they would sit around a fire together. They told each other stories. They liked to tell Paul Bunyan stories. They made up a lot of them. They began to compete to see who could tell the best one.

Time passed. Soon there were many stories about Paul Bunyan. He had a blue ox. They had many adventures together. Some even explained how parts of America were formed. These included the Grand Canyon and Great Lakes.



The Making of a Legend

The Origins of the Paul Bunyan Story



Paul Bunyan is an American legend. Legends often start with a real event or person. The story is told over and over again. People add to the story. Soon it becomes larger than life—a legend.

So how did the legend of Paul Bunyan start? From a mix of tales about two real-life men. Both were French-Canadian lumberjacks. Both lived in the 1800s.

Bon Jean was a French-Canadian hero. He fought in the Papineau Rebellion of 1837. Many people knew and liked Bon Jean. After all, he was a hero. The name Bunyan probably came from Bon Jean. In French, it is said like BOHN-JAWN.

The Making of a Legend



Paul Bunyan got his name from Bon Jean, but his larger-than-life character is mostly based on stories about Fabian Fournier. Fabian moved to Michigan after the Civil War to work in logging. He was six feet tall and had enormous hands.

He was very tall and powerful. This made him stand out. In those days, the average man was five foot seven.

Fabian stood out for other reasons, too—not all of them good. He was known as a strong axman and lumberjack. But he had a bad reputation. He often drank and got into brawls, which are fistfights.

Fabian became famous after his murder in 1875. A dramatic murder trial followed. It got people talking about his life. Soon, tall tales about his life began to spread. For example, they said that he two sets of teeth and that he would bite off chunks of wooden poles.

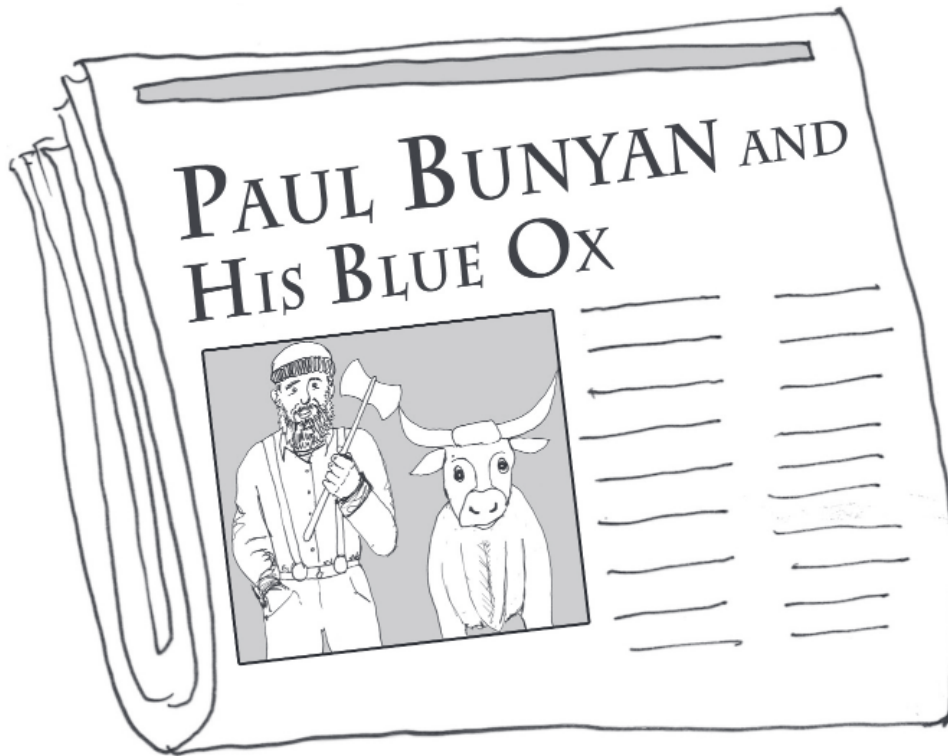
Loggers spread tales about Paul Bunyan across the country. They also made up stories about him as they sat together around a campfire. They began to compete to see who could tell the best Paul Bunyan story.

Over time, the legend of Paul Bunyan grew. Soon, it began to include a giant blue ox. His movements around the country began to explain how many American landmarks were formed, like the Grand Canyon and Great Lakes.



The Making of a Legend

The Origins of the Paul Bunyan Story



Paul Bunyan is an American legend. Legends often start with an unusual story about an event or person. The story is told over and over again. As time passes, the story gets exaggerated. Storytellers add to the story. Soon it becomes larger than life—a legend.

So how did the legend of Paul Bunyan start? Historians believe it is based on a combination of tales about two real-life men. Both were French-Canadian lumberjacks who lived in the 1800s.

Bon Jean was a French-Canadian hero. He fought in the Papineau Rebellion of 1837. Many people knew and liked Bon Jean. After all, he was a hero. The name Bunyan probably came from Bon Jean. In French, his name is pronounced BOHN-JAWN.

The Making of a Legend



Paul Bunyan got his name from Bon Jean, but his larger-than-life character is mostly based on stories about Fabian Fournier. Fabian moved to Michigan after the Civil War to work in logging.

He was six feet tall with enormous hands. Being tall and powerful, Fabian stood out. In those days, the average man stood five feet seven inches tall.

Fabian stood out for other reasons, too—not all of them good. He was known as a strong axman and mighty lumberjack. But he had a bad reputation. He often drank and got into brawls, which are fistfights.

Fabian became famous after he was murdered in 1875. The sensational murder trial that followed got people talking about his life. Soon, tall tales about his life began to surface. For example, they said that he two sets of teeth and that he would bite off chunks of wooden poles.

Loggers helped spread Paul Bunyan tales across the country. They also invented more stories about him as they sat together around a campfire. Loggers began to compete to see who could tell the best Paul Bunyan story.

Over time, the legend of Paul Bunyan grew to include a giant blue ox. And his movements around the country also explained how many American landmarks were formed, like the Grand Canyon and Great Lakes.

