

belongings would identify them. Since the former is not possible, it is only the scattered belongings which clue people into the fact that the remains are those of Joshua Cooper.

Discovered in a gully near the edge of the Cooper farm by twelve year old Billy Cooper, the remains are scattered up and down a sixty foot length of the dry ditch. Unfortunately, the Cooper clan walked all over the crime scene and the area around it, obscuring any tracks that may have been of help. No belongings were missing, not even Joshua's silver pocket-watch in which was engraved his initials. From the condition of the remains, it is obvious the attacker had plenty of time to strip the flesh and consume it. The family believes a wolf was responsible, but this is pure conjecture.

The sheriff personally examined the scene. His determination was that a prowling cougar or wolf was responsible.

Scene of the Murder of Emaline Fletcher (killed May 15, 1915)

By all indication, the murder occurred in the outhouse on the Fletcher farm. This is also where the remains were consumed. Only broken and gnawed bones and a few scraps of flesh were left. Blood traces here were more evident than at the Cooper killing since at that site, much of the blood having soaked into the soil and was therefore obscured to some degree. Here, blood coats much of the interior of the outhouse, especially the floor. As with the Cooper case, well-meaning family members tramped all over the crime scene, obliterating any useful tracks that may have been in the area. Anyone seeing the remains of Emaline Fletcher will see the obvious similarity to how the Cooper remains appeared. Their condition is very distinctive and will be for all future murders.

When found by Emaline's mother, Coletta, the door to the outhouse was open. The odor was only then getting strong and flies were having a field day.

The sheriff also put in an appearance here. After examining the scene, his only action was to levy a bounty on large predators.

Scene of the Murder of Donovan Beardsmore (killed May 16, 1915)

Not yet identified as of the beginning of the scenario, this is a puzzling case. The remains belong to a Hardrock miner named Donovan Beardsmore. They were found by Cory Alsbury while he was squirrel hunting on a friend's farm. The site is easy to locate since it is the only tree in a pasture on the east side of the property. The bones general description matches those of the Cooper and Fletcher cases and were scattered over a one hundred foot radius. The greatest concentration was at the base of the tree.

Unfortunately, no one thought to check for tracks though some belonging to the Vampire Skeleton could have been found. This reflects poorly on the competency of the sheriff's department. Investigators reviewing this case may realize the error and take steps to ensure they don't repeat it.

Beardsmore's remains are in the possession of the county coroner and can provide useful information. A competent forensicist will note human teeth marks on the broken and splintered bones and will be able to discount a predator. Unfortunately, no competent forensicist is in the county unless a player character qualifies as one.

If the player characters are deputies, the scenario may begin with this murder. Note that they will not be the first on the scene. In fact, the sheriff will dawdle and will assign them to the case only after the body has been removed by the coroner.

Scene of the Murder of Victor North (killed May 21, 1915)

This is the first murder after the scenario commences. It is the first in a string that happens every two days or so. After May 30, the string of killings will slack off somewhat since the creature will be somewhat sated and will probably come to the realization that it is being too overt. The site of Victor North's death will be the first chance for the investigators to get a firsthand look at a crime scene.

The remains of one Victor North, a local farmer, are discovered in a ditch adjacent to the main road a mile south of town. Lyle Madison, a postal carrier, finds the scene on the morning of May 22 and after relieving his stomach of unwanted contents, reports it to the sheriff's department via the telegraph in town. Of course, he blabs it to everyone along the way, allowing perceptive investigators the chance to hit the scene first.

Upon arrival at the scene, observers will note several things. First, assuming curious onlookers haven't beaten the group to the site, there may be a few intact tracks in the soil around the scene. These may be followed for perhaps half a mile. While they end unexpectedly at a stream and cannot be followed further, they do establish a rambling trail that leads roughly in the direction of the mine.

The scene itself is the usual grisly one left by the Vampire Skeleton. The remains appear much like those of Joshua Cooper and are scattered up and down the ditch for perhaps fifty feet. All larger bones are broken or splintered and little flesh remains. Even the skull was smashed and no brain matter or bone marrow can be found. Belongings are similarly flung about and enough can be collected to confirm the identity of the victim. A successful Forensics roll or a halved Medicine roll will reveal to the observer the presence of human teeth marks in the bones. The exact cause of death is not apparent. However, North was known to carry around a .22 caliber target revolver for "plinkin' snakes and varmints" and this is lying nearby. If examined, it is revealed that all six shots from the weapon were discharged. An in-depth search of the area finds, with successful Spot Hidden rolls at half the normal chance, two fresh, small caliber bullet holes in nearby trees. If the bullets are dug out, it is obvious to anyone familiar with firearms that these are .22 caliber bullets.

The latter clue should suggest one of two things to the investigators. Either North was too drunk or scared to hit his assailant or his assailant was somehow unaffected by the bullets.



Scene of the Murder of Jack Lloyd (killed May 23, 1915)

Jack Lloyd is killed while checking an injured cow on his farm. The scene is discovered by a neighbor, Richard Weston, on May 31. While looking for Jack, he saw a collection of buzzards and decided to see what they were circling. The scene is a poor one for investigators. The remains sat undiscovered for over a week and nature has not been idle in the mean time. Some bones are missing altogether and tracks have been washed away by rains. The remains are certainly those of Jack Lloyd since his wedding band can be found. It has his name inscribed in it.

Scene of the Murders of Fred and Sara Holden (killed May 25, 1915)

In some ways this is the most shocking scene. Two are killed in a single attack and this should serve as warning to the investigators. The scene is discovered on June 2 by a neighbor, Winthrop Cook. Tracks in the area are gone due to rain and wind.

The killings occurred within the Holden farmhouse, certainly a new development. The scene is, therefore, relatively fresh. The bones were picked completely clean, a fact that can be noticed if a successful Spot Hidden combined with a successful Idea roll is made. Not one bit of flesh is left, just large blood stains and spatters. It is as if the killer felt comfortable with the situation and didn't fear being disturbed (this is the

Caption
case). The mere boldness of this crime should serve to spur the investigators to redouble their efforts.

Scene of the Murder of John Hunter (killed May 27, 1915)

Lyle Madison finds a second set of remains on May 28. These belong to John Hunter, a local farmer. He was apparently killed near his front door as is indicated by a large blood spatter on the ground and where his shotgun is found. The shotgun, a 12-gauge double barrel type, is loaded and unfired. The remains are under the porch and appear much the same as with the other scenes. Their location is obvious in the daylight due to the buzzing of flies and the odor.

Tracks can be followed from this area, but they inexplicably stop at a farm pond a half mile away (yes, in the general vicinity of the mine). It is as if the creature waded into the pond and never came out. Dragging the pond is a useless gesture. What the Vampire Skeleton did was to shift into its fox form and slink away. Fox tracks are in the area and can be followed in the general direction of the mine for a few hundred yards, but eventually peter out. The investigators should make no connection between fox tracks and skeleton tracks unless they somehow possess special knowledge or intuition or have heard the Onondaga story about the Vampire Skeleton.

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