

Sir

Greenbrier July 13th 1796.

Your letter of 26th May came to hand, and agreeable to your request I have sent you some more of the bones of the animal formerly sent, which is all could be procured, the most curious being taken away when they were first discovered, these I now send I took from the Cave myself, a gentleman from New York who was here accidentally on business accompanied me, we found one of the bones of the claw about two Inches long which Mr. Hopkins took with him, if it was of the same animal of that I sent you, it must be the small claw that sticks to the leg above the foot; however the long bone I now send will enable you to Judge whether it is of the same animal or one of less size and as this appears to be the hind leg, and that you have of the fore leg, you can the better Judge his size, I was in some hopes the Head bones or Teeth might be found, but so many large rocks are fallen from the Top of the cave these bones may be covered - I have never heard of any bones of this kind being found any where before, but an account I had from two persons in the year

1769

when I first came to this Country (then inhabited only by
a few Hunters) induces me to think such a Creature yet
exists - the account I had as follows, and to which you
will give what credit you may Judge it deserves -
George Wilson, and John Davis, informed they were lying
on Cheat River some time in the year 1765 in the nighttime
something approached their camp with a astonishing roaring
and very much alarmed them, their dogs also sprung &
lay down at their feet refusing to bark, as it drew nerer
its cry became in their opinion as loud as thunder, and
the stomping seemed to make the ground shake, the
darkness of the night prevented their seeing their enemy,
tho they stood long with their arms to defend themselves, they
hoped to see its tracks in the morning, but in this they were
disappointed, not a sign was to be found; Wilson gave me
this account here, and Davis some years after in Kentucky
where he now lives, the former who was Lieut. Col. to M'Gays
Pennsylvania Regt. died in New York in the late British
war - should you think proper to lay any farther commands
on me they will be rec^d. with pleasure

I have the honor to be your
Ob^d. Humble Serv^t.

John Stuart

Honble. Tho^s. Jefferson

Stuart John. Greenbrier. July 13. 96.

rec^d. July 26

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