

Spotted Treasure



Red-spotted Newt (*Notophthalmus viridescens*) is a subspecies of the Eastern Newt that is easy to see in our local forests during or after a rain. These newts have three life stages including the early larva or tadpole (three months), this juvenile stage (several years in the woods), and the aquatic adult that is olive green in color with the same spots. Although common, the newts are increasingly threatened by habitat loss and invasive species. Photo taken by Trix Niernberger in the wet Petersburg woods.

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The Life Of George Holcomb

by George Holcomb • Transcribed by Betty McClave • Edited by Alex Brooks

Charlotte E. Wins Her Lawsuit

Wednesday, June 26, 1850: I and my daughter Sarah went to Lenox and Geo P. carried Deborah, we all as witnesses and the wife of F. Jay Wylie as a witness and E. M. Buell we six witnesses for the plaintiff, and Colonel Ross and two others for the defendant, with several depositions on both sides. Council for plaintiff Thomas A. Gold of Pittsfield and H. W. Bishop of Lenox and Kellog and Colt of Pittsfield for defendant. This afternoon trial called on, tonight bound to tomorrow, half past eight in morning. We put up to Wilson's tavern through the day and all we witnesses had dinner excepting Buell, he came this afternoon. Tonight Squ Gold rode up to Pittsfield with me and Sarah rode with Geo P. and Deborah, Mr. J. Wylie carried his wife. I did not settle my bill to Wilson's, left to settle tomorrow. Tonight we all stayed to F. Jay Wylie's and to supper there.

Thursday: This morning I and my son Geo P. and daughter Sarah O and Cornelia Wylie with her returned to Lenox at the opening of the court. The case was on trial through the day before Judge Hoar and about sundown the jurors went out to make up their verdict. Tonight I came about a mile on the road to Pittsfield to one Mr. Kendall's and stayed, and Sarah went to F. Jay Wylie's and stayed, and Geo P. and

Deborah Wylie came home. Tonight before I left the court house I paid up Squ Bishop for pleading Charlotte's case. I paid him 25 dollars and took a receipt in full, and paid my bill to Wilson's for nine dinners, and two horses to hay and oats, 4 dol 37 cts.

Friday: This morning at half past eight I returned from Mr. Kendall's. I paid him 37½ cents for myself per lodging for breakfast and horsekeeping. When I got to the court house the jurors handed their verdict to Judge Hoar which he gave into the court which was in favor of Charlotte E. Holcomb that Marcellus Ross is to pay her twelve hundred dollars and the cost. I then returned to Pittsfield to J. Wylie's and took dinner. I handed him one dollar to hand to lawyer Hubbard for council on said case, nearly two years ago, shortly before said Marcellus Ross was arrested. This afternoon I and my daughter Sarah returned home from Pittsfield. Tonight I drove a cow onto my Rodgers farm and left her through the night with my bull.

Monday: I took my one horse wagon and rode to Pittsfield and returned the names of the six witnesses to Squ Gold that was on part of the plaintiff to Lenox last week on the Ross case and I also paid said Thomas Gold twenty dollars on his fees and took a receipt. I returned home by four o'clock.

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