

Thomas Sadler Roberts to George R. Murray, November 28, 1920

Your letter of Oct. 28th. last came into the hands of Miss Gratia A. Countryman, Librarian of the Minneapolis Public Library where the collection of the Minnesota Academy of Sciences is placed, and was referred by her by me.

The hound in regard to which you are seeking information was in the old collection of the Minnesota Geol. and Nat. Hist. survey at the State University and I presume it was there that the lady quoted by Father Edmund Hogan saw it, as it was presented to the Museum by a Rev. E.S. Williams in 1879. I have seen the specimen many times in years past and it was still among the old discarded material when I took charge some five years ago. It was very badly mounted, was moth eaten and dirty, was discarded sometime ago and I am sorry to say has entirely disappeared. I have made a search for it since your inquiry but cannot find it and presume it was destroyed when we moved into the new building (Animal Biology) where the Museum had inadequate quarters.

So far as I and others can remember it was never "pure white" but a grey in color. However it was so dirty and discolored of late years that it is difficult to say just what color it may have been originally. It was rough coated; hair long. There are no photographs of it so far as I know. It was recorded as a male Irish Greyhound. This hound was said to have belonged to Gen. George A. Custer who was killed June 25, 1876 while fighting the Indians on the Little Big Horn River as you will recall. How Rev. E.S. Williams came into possession of the dog I cannot say and am not sure that I could find out at this late date. But if the matter is of any special interest to you I could try to trace it through some of the residents of that time who are still left hereabouts. There are probably no written records and it would be all hearsay and rumor.

Under the circumstances I am very sorry that the specimen has disappeared but it was in dreadful condition and seemed to be of no interest to anyone.