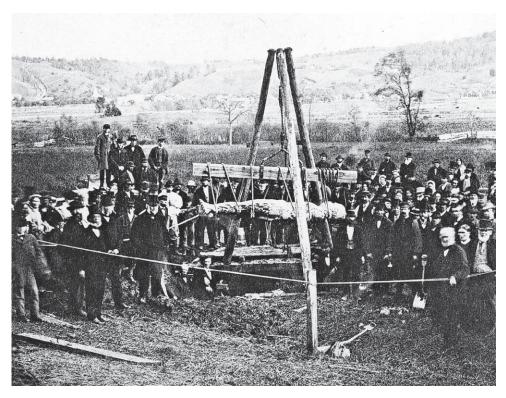
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## **LOCAL HISTORY**



A crowd watches as the Cardiff Giant is removed from the ground. It was "discovered" on Oct. 16, 1869, on the Stub Newell farm outside Syracuse. Although it became regarded as "America's Greatest Hoax," tens of thousands of people rushed to Upstate New York to see the giant petrified man for themselves. Onondaga Historical Association photo

## A giant hoax brought fame to Central New York

148 Years Ago: On Oct. 16, 1869, a 10-foot tall, 3,000pound "petrified giant" was discovered on the farm of William Newell in Cardiff, just south of Syracuse, by some men hired to dig a well on the farm. Newell covered the giant with a tent and charged people to view it. The giant attracted large crowds paying as much as 50 cents each (around \$9 today) and drew national attention. A substantial offer by entertainer P.T. Barnum for the giant was turned down, so he made one of his own. Both were revealed to be frauds a short time later. The original Cardiff Giant is now on display at the Farmers' Museum in Cooperstown.

Dan Connors for the Onondaga Historical Association