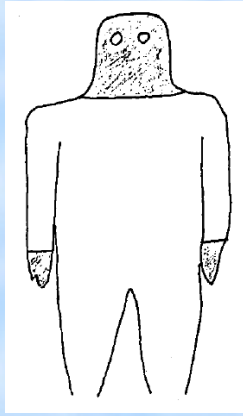


JANUARY 10, 1978 – SOUTH MIDDLETON MASSACHUSETTS

January 10 was a day of high, broken clouds. Snow flurries occurred in the Boston area, but the Gould's remembered no large snow fall that day. During early January there were only a few inches of snow cover at any one time. The first large snow didn't occur until January when inches fell. It is probable that if the sky were mostly cloudy, the lighting was flat on that day. Tom Gould spent much of that day working on the property. At 2:30 p.m. he was chopping wood in an area due north of their house when he spotted a white-suited figure standing on a path beside a tree about 90 feet away. The figure stood 4.5 feet tall, wore a squarish helmet in which were set two dark eyes or eyeholes. It had broad shoulders with arms which hung down the sides. The being's apparently gloved hands had 3 digits ("looked like mittens"), resembling a thumb, finger, and a thicker part. The hands and helmet were battleship gray. (Investigator's note: These details are a composite of Tom's observations of the being, based on at least 7 separate encounters. Tom claims to have seen this or a similar figure 4 or 5 times during December 1977, or a few weeks before this incident. The figure was always alone; however, Tom always had the vague impression of a second figure near the first that he couldn't quite perceive. On January 10 it is unlikely that Tom saw much detail of a white figure standing 90 feet away against a white background of a flatly lit, overcast day). The being stood staring at Tom. Tom spoke in English and got no reaction. But when he spoke in French, he thought it moved slightly. Tom was unafraid of the being (this not being the first encounter) and continued chopping firewood for 1 hour or 1/2 half hours glancing at the being occasionally. It never moved. (In explanation of this apparent nonchalance, Tom told me that by then the figures were a common sight to him and that

chasing them had always proven futile.) Upon finishing the chopping, Tom got in his pickup and drove down the road a short way. He looked again for the being but it was gone. (The area is hilly with lots of trees and shrubs. It is easy to lose sight of a small object even nearby). Then he noticed what looked like a huge boulder about 150 feet away down a slope in a partially wooded area. He stopped the truck, got out and walked some distance around the area to look for the being and to get a better vantage point on the strange object. The object was sitting on the ground; "it was egg-shaped, wider at the front than....at the back. It's got little windows all over the sides of it....The window looked like a frog's eye — it had a hood-like over the window," said Tom. Later Nancy reported the windows as round and bubble-shaped; they seemed to protrude from the sides of the craft and were adjacent to one another. The dark gray surface of the UFO was dull and rough, like the surface of a brick. No seams or protrusions were evident. Measurements in the area indicated that the UFO was about 40 feet long by 13.5 feet wide across its nearer or wider end, and possibly 10 feet high (an undetermined portion lay in the snow or depressing the ground surface). The being had been approximately 300 feet to the west of the UFO. I investigated the "landing area" on April 23, or 3.5 months later; at that time it was well overgrown with brush and small trees. There was no evidence of a depression or environmental damage except for broken limbs on two trees. These two trees were the tallest in what would have been the UFO's path of vertical descent. I was the one who first noticed these broken limbs, and pointed them out to Tom. He stated he was sure they were broken by the UFO because they had not been broken before the sighting, and the wood had appeared green and clean-cut the day after the sighting. I questioned him closely on this point. He admitted that he could not be sure he had been in the area of the "landing" within several days to a week before January 10.

Tom was afraid to approach very close to the UFO, and eventually returned home. He is uncertain when he told the family about his experience, but remembers that upon doing so they laughed and thought it was a joke. There is a discrepancy about whether the next sighting was the same day or the next day. On probably the following day (January 11) Tom was again cutting wood on the lot when he again saw the UFO sitting in the same place. In late afternoon he got first Allan, then Nancy to look at the object. Nancy remembered viewing the object about dusk. She thought the time was about 4:30 to 5 pm; sunset was about 4:50 pm. Allan, whose vision is effected by glare, thought that the sun was reflecting off the snow causing glare. He could only see what looked like a big boulder. Tom would not allow the youths to approach closer than 150 feet to the UFO. Nancy was unable to see much detail because it was dusk, and the UFO was a distance away partially obscured by trees and brush. Even so she claims to have seen 7 windows on the UFO once her eyes focused on it. On the following day (probably January 12), Allan saw a daylight disc ascend from the property. He was in the bathroom about 10 a.m. when he suddenly observed a UFO about 100 feet in the air over a rise at an azimuth of 15 degrees. Its bearing was approximately the same from the house as the location where the landed object had been but apparently closer to the house. The object had a smooth, dull, steel-gray or silver surface, and was shaped like two discs pressed together, the bottom being flatter than the top. Four long legs extended from the underside (Allan remembered seeing only 2 legs but assumed there were 4). The legs extended below the rise along Allan's sight-line. As he watched, the object slowly rose vertically. He quickly ran outside, but saw nothing more of it. He later found what he called "pod marks" in the clay-like soil near the rise.



Sketch of the humanoid seen by the witness



The Goulds' residence on River Street

**Reliability evaluation:
medium**

**misunderstanding of natural phenomenon,
maybe vehicle with working team on board,
one single witness, children didn't see much**

