Most of you remember the stories about Che Mah, the smallest man in the world who retired from the circus and lived here in Starke County. But did you know that he was arrested in New York? A friend of mine sent this news clipping that I hadn't seen before. I thought you would enjoy it. It is small print, so you may have to enlarge it some.

Also, more on Che Mah can be found on our website --- http://www.starkehistory.com/index_files/Page1263.htm

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No sooner had the gang-plank been run up to the National line steamship Italy, which arrived at New York lately, than Mr. Maurice de Vries, a theatrical agent, sought permission of the Custom-house officer in charge to go on board, stating that he only wished to bring ashore a little thing, which he could put in his pocket. He and a friend were permitted to pass, and a few moments later they emerged from the steamer, preceded by a remarkably small piece of humanity in a wideawake hat and an ulster reaching to his feet. On reaching the dock the agent of a city museum stretched forth his hand to greet them, and immediately the quartet was surrounded by the same number of Customs officials, who quietly informed them that they were arrested on suspicion of being smugglers. "Whatee sayee?" exclaimed, the small individual, whose ire was aroused, and who was none other than Mr. Che-Mah, the famous Chinese dwarf. "Me smugglee? Me no big 'noughee to hidee anyting!" But the officials were obdurate, and marched their prisoners to the Superintendent's room, where they were compelled to submit to an annoying search. Nothing, of course, was found; but the Chinaman expressed his opinion that this was "a funnee kindee countree." Che-Mah, who is celebrated as the homeliest man extant, is a native of Ningpo, China, where he was born fortyfour years ago. His exact height is two feet, which leaves a difference betwen himself and his fellow-countryman, Chang, of exactly seventy-two inches—of course, in the latter's favour. For some eight months these two whims of nature travelled through Europe together, drawing large crowds wherever they went. This is the dwarf's first visit to America. To look at, he is a remarkable specimen of human nature, and, judging by his face and hair, has more the appearance of a Japanese than a Chinaman. He grows a thick goatee and well-cultivated moustache. The top of his head is somewhat bald, but it is well fringed by long, jet black hair. His face is round and full and his eyes betoken determination. Both his hands and feet are small, even for so diminutive a person. Under the armpits and across the chest he measures within a fraction of his height, while a No. 5 hat fits him loosely and his boots measure barely five inches in length. The length of his legs is eleven inches. When asked by a Herald reporter how he had enjoyed the trip across the ocean, he said, "The ship rolling, pitching allee timee, knockee me all to pieces. Was vella sickee four day; feel more sickee now than ever. No getee me out for one weekee. Never here afor, stay long timee, see Melica. Like see a Chang. He good-a fellah." "I suppose you had plenty to eat and drink coming over, and otherwise enjoyed yourself playing cards, &c.?" suggested the reporter. "Me teetotala," was the reply, "me drink nothing stronger as ginger ale, lemonade, nothing stronger as ginger ale, lemonade, shellee or porta wine—sometime dropee champagne to oblige my friend. Eata everything. Play cards? Yes, sah! Euchre or pokee. In London me play great much with Prince of Wales. Solly him no heah; good boy; me missee he." The only ornaments of jewellery which Che-Mah displays are a solid gold link chain, from which dangles a fifty-franc gold piece, and a ring set with five large brilliants. His father, he says, is six feet high, his mother five feet six inches, and his sister five feet eleven inches. inches, and his sister five feet eleven inches, and they are all living. Che-Mah is a good linguist, and converses fluently in English, French, and German.