

GHOST TRACKERS NEWSLETTER

The Official Paranormal Publication of the Ghost Research Society



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Ghost Trackers Newsletter

The Ghost Trackers Newsletter is the official paranormal publication of the Ghost Research Society. The GRS was founded in 1978 by Martin V. Riccardo and this publication soon followed in September of 1982. It is published and edited by Dale D. Kaczmarek, President and is put out in February, June and October.

The **Ghost Research Society** is a membership organization devoted to collecting, analyzing and researching all forms of the paranormal with an emphasis on ghosts, hauntings, poltergeists and life after death. Different memberships are available for those wishing to become more actively involved. We are also looking for officers, State Coordinators, Field Investigators and Area Research Directors for various states and countries.

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Editors page:



Welcome to the Halloween edition of Ghost Trackers Newsletter. We've had a very busy summer with investigations, field excursions, ghost conferences and out-of-state investigations while vacationing.

A special thanks goes out to: Stacy McArdle and Monty McClennen for their generous help and guidance during our recent Field Excursion to the Crystal Lake/Woodstock region of Illinois, (see article later in this

issue), Chris Woodyard and her daughter for showing us around the Dayton, Ohio area and for a copy of "Haunted Ohio IV" and Shelley Sykes and her daughter for taking us to a local cemetery in Pennsylvania where she had picked up EVP (Electronic Voice Phenomena) on cassette tape before. Our vacation was made much more enjoyable because of all of you. Thank you!!

Thanks to: Tom Perrott for "Strange But True Ghost Sightings", Todd Womack for his cover design and local ghost tour information, Wilmette Historical Society for the information on the Gage/Puscheck house, Gary Hart for the ghost light clippings and for accompanying us on a recent ghost light investigation, Linda Haluska for helping with research into a home in Willow Spring, Illinois and John Cachel, Aimee Price, Amy Redman, Stacy McArdle, Monty McClennen, David Goodwin and Matt Hucke for copies of strange photographs.

Matt Hucke and myself are busy updating the GRS website. By the time of this printing we should have a new section devoted to fake photographs or, at least, those that have some form of natural explanation. I will be including additional

photographs and case histories in the future and some may already be up. So check the GRS website from time to time to see what's new. (www.ghostresearch.org)

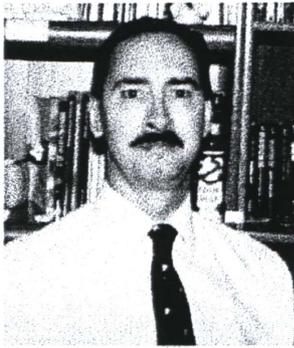
John Cachel and myself hope to have the completed Bachelor's Grove map in time for Halloween. We are putting the finishing touches on this most detailed map by Patron member and artist, John Cachel. He really does some excellent artwork and I hope that he will consider doing either some cover designs or smaller artwork for the newsletter for future editions.

Excursions Into The Unknown bus tours have been ongoing since April and will continue through mid-November. The price for most 5 hour tours has been increased to \$30 due to increasing bus rental rates. This isn't a bad price nor increase if you take into consideration that the tours began in 1982 for only \$20 per person. That's only a ten dollar increase in fares over the past 16 years! The mini 4 hour tours will remain at \$28 and the special Halloween tour which includes snacks, beverages and much more will be \$35. Look for the flyer in the enclosed package with your newsletter.

I may be changing my Internet service provider in the future from America Online to IBM. Consequently my email may be changing soon, however you can still continue to contact me through my website or at the website email address: DKaczmarek@ghostresearch.org.



Ghost Research Society



I would like to welcome the following Patron Members to the GRS: Thomas McNichols, Shannon Bates and her husband, Greg Maurer, Michelle & Meredith Moxley

and Scott Eaker. Sustaining members include: Steve McNichols whose cover design appears on the front of this issue of Ghost Trackers Newsletter and Lifetime Member Ray Ausby. Welcome to all!

Since our last issue we have added 7 new members and have received renewals from 12 veteran members. Thank you!

I would like to personally thank Troy Taylor from the American Ghost Society for inviting me to speak at this year's ghost conference in Decatur, Illinois this past August. I highly enjoyed myself as there were a number of quality speakers on a variety of topics who were not afraid to share their technologies with other researchers. I have noted in the past that others have been a bit paranoid in sharing techniques that seem to work for them with other researchers. Not here in Decatur, however.

Not only did I get a lot of interesting ideas but I also shared some thoughts and inventions that we have designed in the pursuit of ghosts. This was truly a conference not to be missed! Next year's conference is tentatively scheduled to be held in Alton, Illinois near St. Louis. It could be California for all I care. I would still make it a point to attend!

Troy's ghost tour was never better and I only hope that he will put together

something similar in the Alton area.

I did sell a lot of books, magazines and T-shirts at the conference, but not to despair, there's still plenty available as our ongoing book sale continues.

In the last issue of Ghost Trackers Newsletter I made a mistake in the Book Review section. The first book reviewed was "Ghost Stalkers Guide to Haunted California" and NOT "Ghost Stalkers Guide to Haunted Catalina". My mistake Richard, I'm sorry! This is an excellent book dealing with the entire state of California and not simply the city of Catalina as I indicated. Therefore much more information and ghost stories could be included as California has more ghost stories currently than any other state in the union.

This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to famed psychic, Greta Alexander who died recently in July at the age of 66. Alexander said a lightning strike when she was pregnant with her youngest child left her with psychic powers. After that, she said she could visualize the past, see the future and describe events that were happening a hundred miles away.

"She definitely had a gift and she used it in helping those in law enforcement," said Tazewell County Coroner Robert Dubois, a friend of 25 years. "And she was humble about it. That's what set her apart. She was in it to help, not for herself."

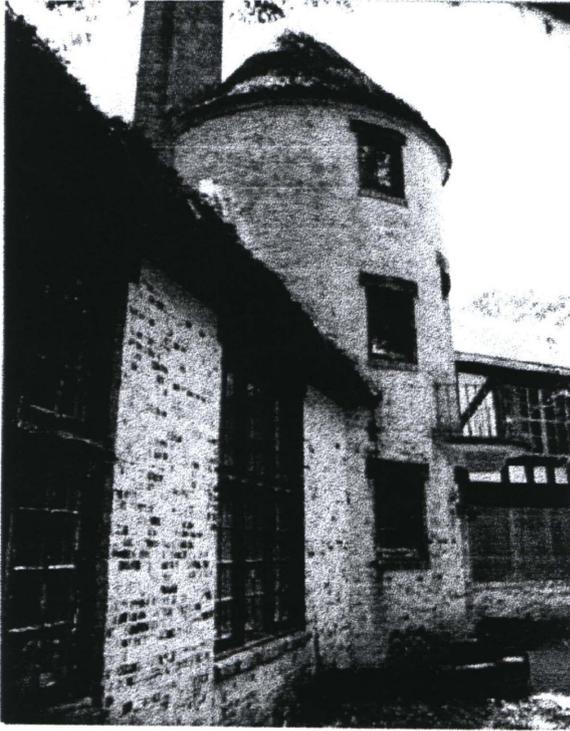
Alexander maintained that she didn't understand herself how her powers worked. "If I knew," she said once, "I'd bottle it."

She will be missed!

Fort George Island's Haunted 'Castle'

By

Lee Holloway



The tower and tall chimneys of the derelict old mansion sitting atop Mount Cornelia are vaguely reminiscent of "Collinwood" of *Dark Shadows* fame. But unlike Collinwood, which had a few semi-normal living inhabitants in addition to its ghosts, werewolves and vampires, whatever supernatural creatures stalk Fort George Island's "castle", have only each other for company.

The 17-room Tudor revival was built in 1928 as a winter residence for Nettleton Neff, a St. Louis railroad tycoon. In an interview in the 1970s, Jacksonville architect Mellen Greeley recalled the circumstances surrounding the design and construction of the house. "Mr. Neff came to my office one

day with rather complete set of small-scale drawings of a building and asked me to work it up," he said. "Then he went back to St. Louis." Greeley felt the plans were not appropriate for the lay of the land and drew up Neff's sketch along with a set of his own. When Neff received the sketches, he wrote Greeley asking, "Why did you take the trouble to work up mine?"

During the several months it took to build the house, everything was handled by mail. Following completion, huge cartons of heavy mahogany and oak furniture began to arrive for the decoration of the Neff family's winter home. Tragically, the fine furnishings remained unpacked for Neff suddenly lost his wife and two of their children. The causes of the deaths of his wife and daughter are unknown, but it said his son, a former Yale student, committed suicide. In any event, Neff never returned to Jacksonville and never saw the place that was to have served as his Florida home.

For several years the newly-constructed residence at 11435 Fort George Road stood vacant. People who lived nearby reported what one described as "booming organ music" emanating from the empty house in the middle of the night. Rumor had it that Mrs. Neff was an accomplished organist and commissioned a German craftsman to build a magnificent pipe organ for her Florida property. However, an investigation revealed the edifice contained no such instrument. Folks also noticed that fog seemed to swirl around the deserted building where it remained even after the sun had dissipated the mist everywhere else.

Others were spooked by unexplained flickering lights in the vicinity of the house and nearby yacht basin.

In the 1930s, the property was finally purchased by the Kenneth Merrill family as a winter home but the presence of people did not seem to deter the ghostly activity. Merrill himself told friends, "It [the house] kind of gives you a spooky feeling."

Essie Johnson's mother, Vera Chapman, worked as a maid in the house when the Merrills were in residence. "She always said she was scared," Mrs. Johnson contends. "She said that house was always cold and dark, even on warm days when the sun was out, and when there was fog, she said it just settled around the place."

Although Mrs. Johnson does not recall her mother ever mentioning the phantom organ, Mrs. Chapman did tell her family she felt "troubled" upon entering certain rooms of the house, particularly the upper portion of the tower. "I remember Mama saying she felt like somebody was watching her when nobody was there. I know she always got out of that place before dark because she said you could see spirit lights and hear things around there," Mrs. Johnson relates. "She said the place was 'hainted.'"

The mysterious lights have been observed by many people. The Timuquan Indians who once populated the island believed such lights were the spirits of those who had died in the area. Others claim they are simply foxfire or swamp gas.

For undisclosed reasons, the Merrills abruptly abandoned their winter abode in the 1950s and, again, the house stood vacant. Before long, the stillness of the night was broken by the eerie strains of a spectral organ.

In 1969, the property was purchased

by Gerri and Antoine Betz and they took up residence in the refurbished mansion in October. "Just in time for Halloween," Mrs. Betz chuckles.

Gerri Betz, who once ran for a seat in the Florida Legislature, knew she had to have the house the minute she saw it. At the time, she was involved in filming a documentary entitled "Thread of Life" about new materials used in open heart surgery. "We had a meeting and talked about doing a fairy tale series using real actors," she recalls. "Someone said, 'You won't have to build a set. There's an old castle on Fort George,'"

Although she feels a lot of the rumors about the house are unfounded, Mrs. Betz admits some strange things happened there. For example, a dedicated and conscientious maid was spooked by something she refused to discuss and left without notice. Shortly thereafter, "something" slammed a heavy door behind a guest and the man was afraid to visit again. There was also a telephone connected to the nearby Barnett residence which would sometimes ring when the Barnett house was empty.

Then there was the night the family was having a sit-down dinner party and everyone heard the crash of breaking dishes. They ran into the kitchen to see what had happened and discovered shattered plates, cups and saucers all over the floor. However, the cupboard doors were all securely fastened and there was no way for the crockery to have fallen of its own accord. It was as though someone had angrily swept the dishes from the shelves. Needless to say, the catering staff was terrified and two of them walked off the job. After this incident, Mrs. Betz says she had a difficult time hiring caterers. "The next time I had a party, I had to get a different caterer. Word had gotten around that the place was haunted and

nobody wanted to work there!”

The house was again sold in the early 1990s as part of what was to be a massive Fort George Island development project. However, the plan fell through when people objected, pointing out the island was a wildlife sanctuary as well as an area of historical significance. The island contains several archeological dig sites. Fortunately, the State of Florida agreed, purchased the property and now most of the island, including the castle, is owned by the state.

Until recently, parts of the old house were utilized as offices, however, even the

most stalwart of civil servants refused to remain in the spooky old building alone.

Today, for the fourth time in its 70-year history, the castle is once again totally deserted. Island residents have no doubt it is only a matter of time before their slumber is interrupted by the haunting melody of a phantom organ--played by unseen hands.

Submitted by GRS member: Lee Holloway,
2260 North University Blvd., #44,
Jacksonville, Florida 32211-3240.

Ghostly Shorts

Ghosts. Poltergeists. Our best instincts tell us that there are no such things--nevertheless, we hear and sense a presence in our old house.

We bought the house in 1977. We fell in love with the large rooms, the stained glass windows and doors, the four fireplaces (plus one that's covered over to create a closet in the master bedroom), the speaking tubes, wainscoting, wood paneling, gas lights, beamed ceilings, tin roof and verandah. The house is carefully preserved. Anything that had been removed was stored somewhere in the house. Imagine our delight when we found brass wall fixtures with cut-glass shades ready to be mounted where the previous owner had removed them. Old chandeliers, wood trim, ornate escutcheons — all were kept after they'd been removed or replaced.

The house's history intrigued us, too. It had been built in 1888 by the housekeeper for one of the prominent families in town. She named it "The Pines" and lived there until just before 1910. She sold it to a family who were part owners of a fresh fish

business in Chicago. (It's still in business.)

Not too long after we settled in, I began to hear the sound of footsteps going up the wooden staircase to the third floor--always between 2:45 and 3:15 AM. The sound of footsteps would awaken me at least once a week for a while. They mysteriously stopped, only to resume again a period of time.

Our dog would stand at the bottom of the stairs to the third floor and whine. She refused to go up there, even if my wife would coax her. We've finished off the third floor, and our dog will go up there now, but not by herself.

On three or four occasions, we would find at least one window on the third floor open, and no one in the family had opened it. The windows are held closed by two turnbuckles, and they're not easy to open. This continued even after we installed storm windows up there.

One of my sons heard a cry for "help" when he was in the second-floor bathroom. No one was teasing him or even near that part of the house at the time. On

August 30, 1978, at 3:30 AM, a high-pitched wail like that of a child awakened me. It lasted about five seconds and sounded like it came from the third floor, near the front of the house.

On September 1, 1978, at about 4:15 AM, I heard the sound of furniture being dragged across the floor. It sounded as though it came from the second-floor sitting room, but no furniture was out of place when I investigated.

Starting in October, 1979, and continuing for a couple of weeks, my wife and I were awakened by the rhythmic sound of a toy drum. The sound lasted almost two minutes and appeared to come from the third floor. Later that fall, we heard the sound of someone running on the third floor. It sounded like a child.

My older son, who sleeps in what used to be the maid's room at the foot of the stairs to the third floor, has had several experiences. On one occasion, the hands of his alarm clock spun around. He has a frequent cold draft in his room. On several occasions, he had the sensation of someone trying to enter his body. The boy who lived in the house previously, and who had the same room as my son, claimed to have seen a young boy sitting at the top of the stairs to the third floor.

On February 18, 1982, my wife was alone and heard a small child's voice call "Mom". The call was repeated and she thought that our daughter had come home early from school. But when she looked for our daughter, she discovered there was no one else in the house.

We've had a lot of young people come to the house for parties or to visit our kids. The ones between the ages of 15 to 20 seemed to sense something there. Our older boy's girl fainted once because she sensed a

presence, and one boy who was quite artistic almost fainted as a result of feeling the presence strongly on the third floor. Some young people told us afterward that they felt as though their breath was being taken away, or that they felt very uncomfortable on the third floor.

Two of the five owners of the house have commented to us about strange happenings in the house when they lived there. One wrote us and said her family heard sounds regularly and even experienced the breaking of dishes. We haven't had any of that. We haven't felt threatened or unwelcome. It's just as though we share the house with someone we can't see.

While we've lived here, the house has been predictably quiet for a length of time only during the Christmas season. We decorate a tree and put in the front window on the third floor. All the time the tree is up, there are no sounds or awakenings.

There are stories that a young boy somehow connected with the house died in or near it. The stories don't identify the boy with the housekeeper, her employer, or the family that remodeled the house. Some say the child might have been the housekeeper's illegitimate son, but there is no confirmation of this.

We finished the third floor during the summer of 1981. We carpeted the largest room, painted the walls and turned it into a cozy recreation room. Since that time, the noises coming from the third floor have been substantially reduced. So we don't know whether we satisfied a restless spirit, drove him away for the most part, or are simply experiencing a longer-than-normal hiatus.

C.A.D from Elmhurst, Illinois

THE GHOSTS OF ROBINSON WOODS

By

Thomas D. McNichols

Over the last few years the Offices of Paranormal Investigation have researched and investigated many sites. One of the most haunted locations that Steve and myself have come to know is Robinson Woods Indian Burial Ground located in Chicago on East River Road and Lawrence Avenue.

Robinson Woods is the final resting place of Chief Chee-Chee-Pin-Quay the chief of the Potawatomi, Chippewa and Ottawa Indians. Alexander Robinson as Chief Chee-Chee-Pin-Quay is known in English, is buried there alongside his wife Catherine (Chevalier) Robinson and other members of the Robinson family.

Robinson who was the son of an Ottawa Indian mother and a white Scottish father, was raised in Michigan among the Potawatomi. In 1812 he was in Chicago when news reached him of the Fort Dearborn Massacre. On April 15, 1812, Robinson assisted John Kinzie and Captain and Mrs. Heald's escape from the brutal killing that took place at Fort Dearborn. In 1814 Robinson became a permanent resident of Chicago.

In 1826, Robinson married Catherine Chevalier the daughter of a Potawatomi chief known as Shobonier. Upon Shobonier's death, Robinson assumed the role of chief. His name was changed to Chee-Chee-Pin-Quay which means Blinking Eye.

In July of 1829, Chief Chee-Chee-

Pin-Quay and the Potawatomi were granted a large portion of land at the Treaty of Prairie du Chien. A section of this land was conferred to Chief Chee-Chee-Pin-Quay for his efforts to keep the peace as an interpreter when he worked for Alexander Wolcott. He was also awarded this land on account of saving the lives of John Kinzie and Captain and Mrs. Heald at the Fort Dearborn Massacre. Robinson was also awarded a lifetime annuity of \$200 which was later raised to \$500 by the Chicago Treaty.

Catherine (Chevalier) Robinson died on August 7, 1860. Alexander Robinson himself lived on for another twelve years and then died on April 22, 1972.

On May 26, 1955 the Robinson homestead for some reason burned to the ground. It was occupied by Chief Chee-Chee-Pin-Quay's 89 year-old granddaughter Katherine Boettcher. She was rescued from the conflagration by local firemen. Also rescued from the fire were Katherine's 53-year-old son Herbert and his 48-year-old friend Tony Bistry. In 1955, shortly after the fire, the property was bought by the Cook County Forest Division.

Indian burial grounds are traditionally considered haunted and are a good place to find ghosts. Robinson Woods is no exception.

Since the early 1970s there have been reports of peculiar orbs and lights that have

been seen in Robinson Woods. Mostly the orbs and lights are seen to the left of the huge rock that marks the graves of Alexander Robinson. The anomalous lights have been witnessed by neighbors, motorists and local law enforcement. Ordinarily, the bizarre orbs and lights are not seen with the naked eye, but come up some time later when film is developed.

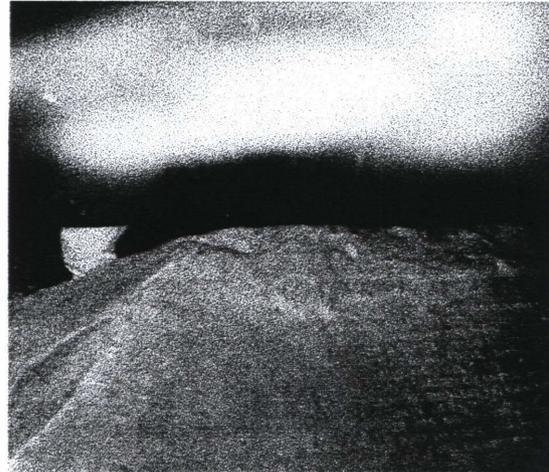
Not only are there strange lights and orbs floating around Robinson Woods, but unexplainable sounds as well. Over the years there have been reports of Indian drums or Tom-Toms being played inside the woods. When inquisitive people investigate the woods for the source of the drums, they find that there are no Indians or Indian Tom-Toms to be found.

Another inexplicable sound heard coming from Robinson Woods is the distinct sound of wood being chopped. When people search for the source of this sound, they too find nobody chopping wood. Nobody corporeal that is.

Not only are there unexplainable supernatural, sights and sounds in Robinson Woods, but an odd smell as well. Once again near the rock that marks the Robinson family grave the smell of violets are often smelled. The flowers are frequently reported in the winter, when there should be no fragrance of violets or any other flowers for that matter being smelled.

Over the course of a year Steve and myself have researched and investigated Robinson Woods quite often. In that time we have never smelled the fragrance of violets and at no time heard the sounds of Indian Tom-Toms or wood being chopped. That's not to say that the sounds and smells don't exist. However, we have taken a lot of pictures at this site and have gotten back some very good results. One of which is this

picture taken in September of 1997.



Although this is not a very good scan, it clearly shows Steve behind the rock taking some EMF (Electro-magnetic Field) readings. Right above the rock there is a large white thick mist. There is also a mist in the lower right corner. You can see through the mist at Steve in the background. The original picture is a lot better than this poor scan. When this picture was taken, Steve was reporting to me a change in the EMF meter reading. We also saw no mist at the time of this picture. Could this mist be the source of the changing EMF?

On a separate occasion Steve and myself were entering Robinson Woods shortly after midnight on a later October night. We noticed a handful of high school students sitting on the wooden benches along side the rock. They had apparently been there for awhile and had exhausted a case of beer already. I was surprised that the police had not been there already as they were not making any attempt to keep their voices down. Steve and myself approached them and asked what they were doing here. We found that they come to Robinson Woods very often. They sit around the rock for a

few hours drinking beer and telling stories. They told us that on a few occasions they had in fact heard the sounds of drums and one time even saw a man along side the tree line.

Whether they can be believed or not isn't the point. The point is that there seems to be a lot of activity still going on atop the graves of the Robinson family.

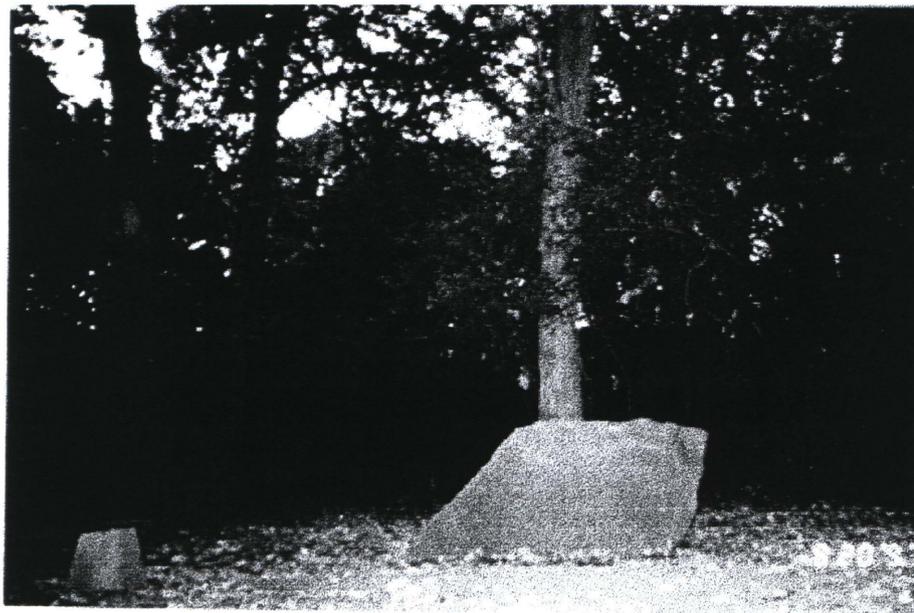
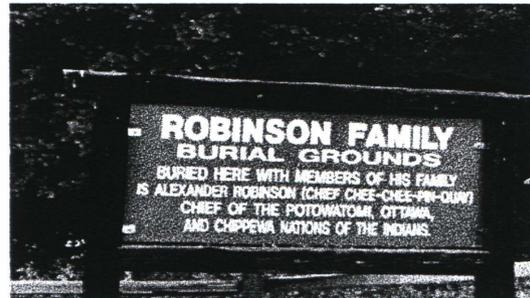
Steve and myself think that Robinson Woods Indian Burial Ground is haunted because of all the activity that still goes on there. That the spirits have become restless and make themselves known. I think this explains the lights, sounds and even the phantom smell.

I have no reason to believe that the spirits are evil in anyway. I think that all accounts of any type of devil worship that go on there is purely fabricated by high school students and in fact is high school students themselves that go there to experiment with

things they don't understand.

In the opinion of the Offices of Paranormal Investigation, Robinson Woods Indian Burial Ground is a very haunted location. We feel that it's a perfect place for further study into the paranormal and deserving of more attention.

Submitted by GRS member: Thomas McNichols, 4942 W. Eddy, Chicago, IL. 60641.



Photograph by GRS member John Cachel taken at Robinson Woods on September 20, 1997 which shows an anomalous orb on the first of three trees on the extreme left of the picture.

SPIRITED EXCHANGES: The Five Most Commonly Asked Questions on Ghost Tours

By

John J. Lamb



I've been in the ghost tour business for six months and have discovered that most people are largely ignorant of the facets of genuine ghost phenomena. Throughout the business day I discuss ghosts with all manner of persons. The bulk of folks, however, can be broken down into four basic categories. The first are the skeptics, who sneer at the very idea of ghosts. Second is a class of Fundamentalist Christians who assert I'm a shill for diabolic forces. Third are the untutored believers, whose common perception is that ghosts look like Casper, moan noisily or shout "boo", and remain on the earthly plane because of "unfinished business". Fourth and finally, are the New Agers who possess some of the silliest notions of all.

My conversations with people on the subject of ghosts were both enlightening and a little disturbing, for discussion of the subject can provoke strong feelings. Some of these verbal exchanges were amusing; a few were thought provoking, while others were downright barbed. Therefore, I thought it might be entertaining and perhaps beneficial to share some of the most frequently asked questions about spectral phenomena and how I normally answer such inquiries.

1. You don't actually believe in ghosts?

Usually this interrogative is delivered in a haughty tone, as if the questioner imagines he is speaking to a foolish child. Yet your average skeptic does not appreciate his position and is not solely borne of empiricism, but also constitutes a philosophy. Pyrrho of Athens developed "Skepticism" in the 3rd Century BC and, very simplistically stated, was a philosophy of doubt suggesting nothing could be considered "real" unless personally experienced and therefore proven by the percipient witness.

Although I cannot empirically prove their existence, I do believe in the existence of a class of phenomena we call ghosts. The Doubting Thomas will usually declare such a position to be evidence of credulity and immaturity because, after all, there is no ironclad proof of ghosts. Yet in other areas

the skeptic is willing to take certain things on faith. For instance, even the professional doubter assumes that the stream of clear fluid issuing from a kitchen faucet is water, but if the skeptic remains true to his philosophy, he would acknowledge the possibility the fluid is vodka until proven otherwise. By this example, I try to illustrate that rigid skepticism is little better than a form of mental masturbation.

Finally, I usually ask the skeptics why they are so troubled that I believe in something that isn't "real" and point out that their rude behavior is almost identical to a zealous religionist arguing his faith.

2. *What are ghosts?*

I don't claim to possess a unified field theory on specters, but do offer several potential answers. Some ghosts might be earthbound spirits, while other apparitions might be an anthropomorphic expression of psychometry. How do we tell the difference? Well, my standard isn't particularly scientific, but if a ghost appears to be intelligently interactive with a human observer I'm inclined to believe it is a sentient spirit. Oppositely, if the ghost behaves in a manner similar to a video tape image, I feel it likely the specter is an inanimate energy pattern.

Additionally, I allow the possibility that certain classes of apparition phenomena may be connected with a presently unknown function of time. Such events generally involve multiple apparitions and often occur on battlefields. The observer, in essence, has not seen the "ghosts", but rather was afforded a momentary glimpse of the past.

3. *If ghosts are spirits, why do they wear clothes?*

This is actually a good question and

one that has been examined by some of the more keen intellects in the ghost field. Generally, I rely upon G.N.M. Tyrrell's analysis of the phenomena and suggest the following theory:

The sighting of a ghost is not necessarily an aspect of physical vision. Rather, the phenomenon appears to be generated by means of telepathy. A ghost sighting, moreover, seems to require two separate but interlocking functions: the spectral stimuli is perceived and then deciphered by the mind of a percipient witness. Indeed, the observer plays a pivotal role in how the apparition is seen. Therefore, it is we who clothe the ghost and provide it with form. This also explains why witnesses report seeing apparitions in different forms and why it is so difficult to purposefully photograph ghosts.

4. *The Bible says that there is no such thing as ghosts, so aren't you actually trafficking with demons?*

Questions of this sort generally emanate from Christians of the Fundamentalist stripe and are somewhat difficult to answer in a way that avoids becoming a counter-attack on both their rigid faith and their literal interpretation of Scripture. Generally, I begin by pointing out that I've thus far seen no evidence that the bulk of ghost phenomena has diabolic origins. I don't deny the possibility of demons, nor do I entirely dismiss the potential that some paranormal activity might be the product of diabolic agency.

Unfortunately, this soft answer seldom turns away wrath. The questioner, all too often, will then respond with a salvo of Biblical quotations. On more than one occasion, I've been told I'm bound for hell. Fortunately, all my friends will be there.

5. *Do you perform "soul rescue" missions?*

This question refers to an occult/spiritual process of freeing a ghost from the place it abides and is normally asked by New Agers. My answer is always in the negative. To begin, I lack both the desire and psychic ability to accomplish such functions. Furthermore, such unilateral tampering seems an arrogant pastime. I am not omniscient. I don't know if a ghost has a perfectly fine reason for remaining on a site; therefore, it would be recklessly foolish for me to try and send it on its way. Indeed, the specter might have a far better reason for being there than me.

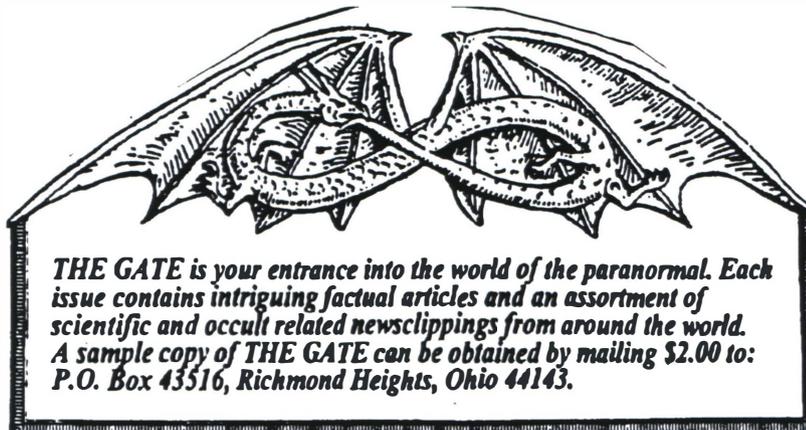
Besides which, if all the ghosts were gone my tour business would suffer

In closing, let me make one thing abundantly clear. I truly enjoy my daily debates with the public and not merely

because I'm addicted to verbal combat. With each difficult question, the ghost researcher must reassess and clarify his or her position on the phenomena. Indeed, our opponents are our greatest allies, for they force us to become better at our work.

Old Town Ghost Tours is located in San Diego, California and operates throughout the year. The tours cover a distance of about four city blocks and are 90 minutes in duration. Prices are \$10 for adults and \$8 for GRS members and children. For further information, please telephone (760)724-1789.

Submitted by: John J. Lamb, Area Research Director for the GRS, PO Box 371818, San Diego, CA. 92137-1818, (760)724-1789.



THE GATE is your entrance into the world of the paranormal. Each issue contains intriguing factual articles and an assortment of scientific and occult related newsclippings from around the world. A sample copy of THE GATE can be obtained by mailing \$2.00 to: P.O. Box 43516, Richmond Heights, Ohio 44143.

THE GHOSTS OF HAMPTON COURT PALACE

By

Richard Senate



England is a most haunted land — it's ancient houses and crumbling castles are rumored to have legions of wandering spirits. So it was only natural that Debbie and I would take a busman's

holiday and travel to Great Britain in search of her many phantoms. We came away convinced that all the stories of ghosts were true!

Perhaps our most jarring encounter took place on a rain-filled afternoon in the vast Tudor palace of the much-married Henry VIII. It was raining hard when the train pulled into the station after a wearing train ride from London. The weather had changed from sunny in the morning, to stormy by one o'clock in the afternoon.

Debbie was prepared for the rain with hat and umbrella; I was not. It was a long wet walk from the station, across the bridge to the huge palace. But even in the rain the magnificent set of building was impressive, with high chimneys and ornate gargoyles.

We had traveled to Hampton Court because of the many sightings of ghosts reported here over the decades. It is said to be one of the most haunted places in all of England. Built by the ambitious Cardinal

Wolsey, confidant to King Henry VIII, it served as his ecclesiastical palace. He boasted that there were none finer in all the land.

Unfortunately, when the King visited the Cardinal he grew envious, and in a wise action the confidant gave Henry the palace. This didn't stop the king from having him arrested years later and his wealth added to the king's.

Henry lived here during five of his six marriages, enlarging the palace and adding such wonders as an ornate chapel. He had one tower carved with a massive intertwined "H" and "A", to show his endearing love for his second wife, Anne Boleyn. Four years after their wedding he had her arrested and beheaded. Her ghost would have reason to haunt this place, but she has never been seen wandering these halls. Rumor suggests that her headless specter resides at the Tower of London, where she was executed.

Another of Henry's wives, Catherine Howard, has been sighted in one hallway so often that it is marked in the guide books as "The Haunted Gallery". Howard married the aging monarch when she was 18, but within a year rumors were whispered that she had a young lover, and this scandal ultimately led to her arrest. Knowing her grim fate, she broke from her guards and rushed down the hallway, trying to reach the king as he was in prayer in the chapel. He ignored her cries and she too was condemned to the block. But her screaming ghost is still said to

wander that hall.

We followed the tour book as it led from one opulent room to another — a maze of chambers and stairways. Debbie grew excited as we walked up a flight of stairs and into another room.

“There is someone here,” she whispered to me, “over there, by the window!” I looked and saw nothing, but there was a chill in the chamber that seemed to overpower the room. A sudden chill raced down my spine.

“She is all in white — a white dress. She has long flowing hair, and she has a candle in her hand in a long candle holder.” I still saw nothing.

“Is it Catherine Howard?” I asked, “or Anne Boleyn?”

“She’s moving!” gasped Debbie, as she pointed to some invisible thing in the corner. Just then a rush of cold air swept past us and down the hall. Quickly it was gone, leaving a cold damp chill in its wake.

We found a guide and asked about ghosts. Debbie told of what she had seen. Others had seen the same sort of specter, thought to be Henry’s third wife Jane Seymour, who died very near the place Debbie and I had acknowledged the apparition. She died in childbirth trying to give Henry the son he longed for. The guard told us that one staff member had seen the ghostly lady in white and quit the very next day.

We next found the famous Haunted Gallery, and Debbie felt something here as well, although not as strong or as sad as what she had encountered before. She felt other places with moving cold spots and odd vibrations. We later discovered that we were indeed lucky that it was raining so hard — on good days that palace is filled with tourists and school children, and under those

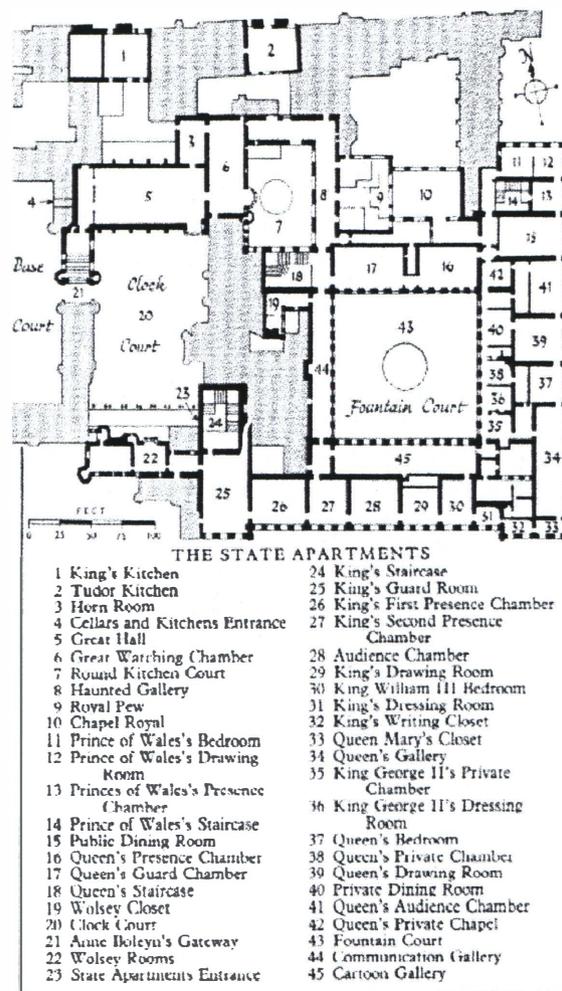
conditions almost no one experiences the paranormal.

If you should travel to Hampton Court in search of ghosts, try to do it in a driving rain. Because the stories are true: the psychic scars from four hundred years ago still mar the atmosphere of this historic place.

Submitted by: Richard Senate, Special Consultant to the GRS, 10061 Carlyle St., Ventura, CA. 93004.

Website:

<http://www.aim.tj/JAM/ghost/ghstglry.htm>



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

A Focus Distortion

By

Maurice Schwalm



Eating a small wafer may, under certain circumstances, precipitate a remembrance of times past. A slide which suddenly appears hyper dimensional may produce an awareness of time and space per se.

Suppose it were possible to capture an event that had been experienced at one point in time as if it were an ongoing event. What would that say about time?

We have been investigating a UFO landing site report. What we have found would be classified by UFOlogists as software if not totally gelatinous. That is, no nuts-and-bolts saucer but merely an apparition of extra-terrestrial presences and forms that could as well have dropped in from another plane as another place.

It is known from laboratory studies that some subjects hit ahead by a certain time band whatever the calling rate may be. Their consciousness includes that much of the future routinely. It is therefore not inconceivable that an entity might have a time band that is coextensive with its entire existence. Such an entity would be much "here" as "there". If it also happened to be a macro structure of consciousness whose

varied cells partook of consciousness, incidental and random encounters with subordinate and determinate structures could easily be mistaken for encounters with self-sufficient entities that would appear to be acting in an unpredictable and incomprehensible manner since we would demand of cellular life the coherence that only the macro structure of the life form would possess.

The slide in question is part of a roll which contains more obvious effects such as a view of a tree limb with 3 self-luminous fields in front of it. The camera was set for infinity focus, and may obtained it in an unexpected sense. The close up limb is in sharp focus and the view down the valley is very soft and out of sharp focus. It is as if the presence created their own focus. There is a shot of the hillside where a blue light danced in the viewfinder while the light meter kept showing decreasing levels of light although there was no change in visible lighting. Here, we found a river running through the trees and obscuring them — even though we were not in sight of water. There is a river two miles away. The intervening space has been collapsed.

Less visible even than the Athenaesque face in the clouds that repeats in depth are the intricate workings in leaf tone, relief and shadow to create a bestiary worthy of a sacred grove of classical Greece. This in a trash fill within a block of a fully

developed residential area.

There is even a quarry nearby. Caves and groves always had a sacrificial connotation as do fills and quarries in modern police experience. This particular fill has been the site of varied reports for two years. An eight foot tall black hairy beast allegedly crashes through the woods at night. The sounds and lights associated with UFO landings were observed in the proximity of

the telephone pole, where our "Athena" photo was taken, about two months ago. Improbable animal cries are frequently heard.

The question is, are such diverse reports to be discounted or felt as in the heart of darkness?

Submitted by: Maurice Schwalm, PO Box 3522, Kansas City, KS. 66103-0522.



One Heck of a Ghostly Summer

By

Dale Kaczmarek

This Summer has been packed full of interesting sites and people that I had the opportunity of visiting during my Summer vacation and while conducting various Field Excursions with other GRS members. I had the great pleasure of meeting with out-of-state members whom I only had either email, phone or correspondence contact with in the past.

Our major Field Excursion for 1998 included a trip to the Crystal Lake/Woodstock area of northwest Illinois with Active Members: Stan Suho, Matt Hucke, John Cachel and Howard Hight. We were met there by Stacy McArdle and Monty McClennen who were are guides throughout the day. Stacy runs the Traveling Paranormal Research Association website (<http://geocities.com/Area51/Lair/9413/>). This site is highly recommended by me as it contains a lot of interesting sites around the northwestern suburbs including many strange and quite unusual paranormal photographs. Most of them personally taken by Stacy herself!

We met in the square in downtown Woodstock on one of the hottest afternoons in late June. Our first stop was the Woodstock Opera House said to be haunted by a ghost called "Elvira" who allegedly committed suicide by jumping from the tower of the building shortly after the opera house was opened. The building itself was

built in 1889 originally to house the City Hall, public library, fire department and a second-floor auditorium. Now-famous personalities Paul Newman, Tom Bosley, Betsy Palmer, Geraldine Page, Shelley Berman and Lois Nettleton were among those who performed there.

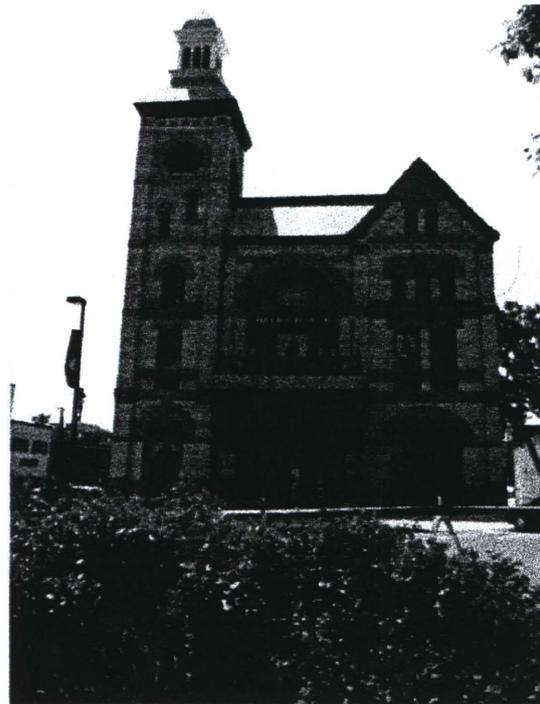


Photo: Matt Hucke

There is even a chair in the balcony dedicated to Elvira, DD113. It seems that some attendees to various stage plays or operas have seen either the spring-loaded

chairs depressing in the down position by themselves or suddenly flapping up suddenly without human assistance.

Strange noises describes as “clunks and groans” have been reported by employees and at least one stagehand came face to face with a dark outline while descending a spiral staircase one evening. The ghost even appeared to Shelley Berman just after he had finished a rehearsal. A number of seats suddenly sprung up by themselves.

We were able to roam around the theater with our cameras and equipment, however never far away was our eternal babysitter, one of the theater’s employees who was apparently quite curious as to what we were up to but never offered any information about the ghost.

Our next stop was the Tavern on the Square (a.k.a. Jail House). The restaurant is actually located where the old jail and Court House once was. Waitress and other employees often speak about strange noises of slamming doors but could never figure out what or who was causing the sounds.

Sometimes unexplained voices could be heard and some objects were displaced and would turn up missing. Phantom footsteps were still to be heard recently under the new ownership.

Howard Hight did get somewhat high EMF readings in one particular cell but nothing else out of the ordinary occurred or was picked up, even on film later developed.

We then turned our attention to several local cemeteries which have had a history of paranormal occurrences. It did also appear that Stacy acted as a natural magnet for the odd

happenings. She was able to capture a number of strange images on film.

We stopped at Oakland Cemetery which dates back to 1859 and which contains a large swampy area that used to be quite a popular swimming hole locally known at Choate’s Pond. Unfortunately at least two young children were said to have drowned there in the late 1800's; no ghosts are alleged to haunt the old pond however the large mausoleum is yet another thing.

The Buck Mausoleum is supposed to be the heart of the haunting activity going on at Oakland Cemetery. It was bricked up a number of years ago after some local teens broke into the crypt and vandalized it quite badly. On a number of occasions disembodied screams and cries are said to emanate from the closed structure. Stacy indicated the last time it happened was while she and a group of fellow investigators were visiting the site on the evening of October 23rd of 1997.

That same evening several group members encountered what could best be described as “a glowing globe” and “an orangish-yellow fire”. These were not only seen but photographed by Stacy and her group. Another phenomena also reported was a low-to-the-ground black shadow which had to known natural explanation.



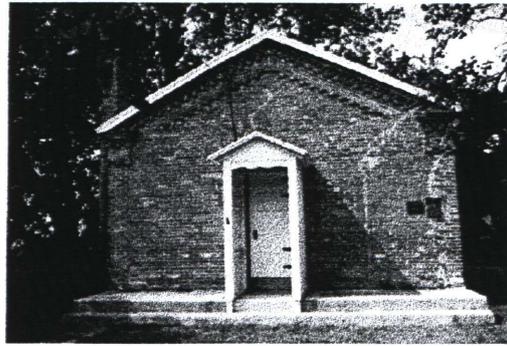
We then visited Greenwood Cemetery which was apparently begun in 1840 after the property was acquired by Henry King who was a prominent Pennsylvania investor. There was already a grave on the property as early as 1838, that of Elbridge Boone. The most famous grave is that of Ann McQuinn who was the first white woman to live in the county. There is a section devoted to Civil War burials as well.

Strange mists and globes of light have been captured here in the past and some have described EVP on audio tape. A strange high-pitched scream was also heard to come from the center of the cemetery after dark and the ear-witnesses that heard it claimed it did not sound like an animal but that it was too "human".

We made a brief stop at Ostend Cemetery which was originally called "Thompson's Burying Ground". The site was consecrated in 1842 and had its first burial in 1846.

Monty McClennen photographed a strange ball of light which appeared in the grassy area and not on a reflective surface or tombstone. Mists have also been captured on film and mysterious equipment failures also plague this location. There have been unconfirmed reports of crying sounds coming from the empty graveyard.

The team then proceeded to the Holcombville School circa 1858. There have never been any official investigations allowed inside the building but unofficially a Crystal Lake resident once had a Ouija board session inside the old school house in 1990. According to the report, the planchette began moving around the board by itself and she heard some sounds while inside the small building.



TPRA members claimed to have heard unexplained tapping sounds on some of the windows to those who look inside.

Just before dusk, we made an extended stop at the former George Washington Stickney Mansion, 1904 Cherry Valley Road in Crystal Lake. Perhaps the most haunted home in the area, Mr. Stickney had the home purposely built with rounded corners because it was said that the devil could hide in the corners. It was built in 1849, however some accounts including a sign at the front of the property indicate 1856, with no 90 degree corners.

Stickney died in 1897 from unknown causes while others rumor soon began circulating that he hung himself while still others claim that one 90 degree corner was mistakenly built and it was in that one corner that Stickney was found dead!

Up until about a week prior to our visit we had obtained permission to enter into the building with the Chief of Police as it's now used as City Hall. However a break-in by vandals posing as Satanists who proceeded to spray paint the inside with graffiti, ruined it for our group.

Rumors of transparent faces seen peering through the darkened upstairs windows, to lights going on and off, mysterious flute playing, movement of objects including piles of important papers to

employees being pushed by invisible hands make this the most haunted house in the area. Another anomaly is that no one seems to know where the Stickney's are buried today.

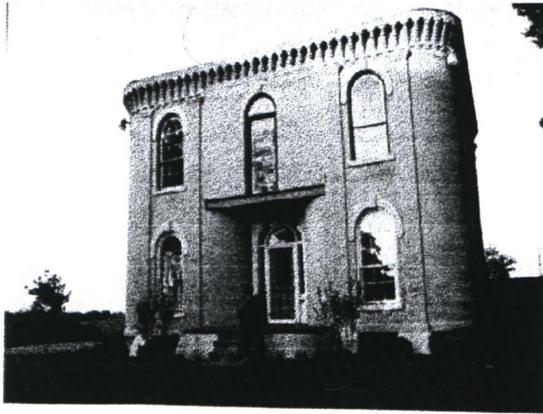


Photo: Matt Hucke

It is truly an eerie spectacle to see this pre-Victorian house literally standing in the midst of open farmland and corn fields.

The real test came later at nearby Mt. Tabor Cemetery which doesn't have any history of haunting phenomena until recently but is just extremely photogenic.

Originally settled by Owen Dyer, whose buried there today, this cemetery started in 1846. A small Catholic church once adorned the property known as North Barrens Church or Little Church in the Woods. It is the final resting place of a Civil War and Mexican War veteran.

In the 1980's TPRA began investigating the site presumably due to a picture which allegedly shows a phantom tombstone! The grave marker is plainly visible however you can see the grass the foliage thru the marker and it doesn't match any of the other tombstones so it isn't a double-exposure.

Voices have been heard sometimes laughing, singing or mumbling a "hello" and

much EVP has been recorded there as well. A single globe was once witnessed weaving in and out of the small markers which are located in a section devoted to small infants. The most startling was a greenish mist which was observed on four separate evenings moving through the darkened graveyard. One evening while the group was departing, suddenly the entire middle section of the cemetery illuminated as though it was daylight. It lasted for several seconds.

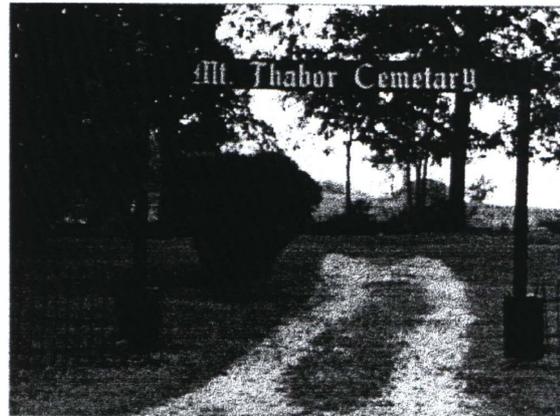


Photo: Matt Hucke

While we did get some EMF readings what truly was amazing was the amount of photographs that we took which apparently show something out of the ordinary. GRS member John Cachel seemed to be the most successful as he captured several globes at various locations throughout the evening. Both Stacy and Monty captured globes and Stacy added one that showed evidence of a strange mist.

Even I captured something instantly on the spot. In conjunction with the 35mm cameras, and camcorders, I also employed a Polaroid Instant camera and while we began to wrap things up, I decided to try one more picture near a obelisk-shaped tombstone. Within 60 seconds, I had my answer. There, just to the right of the tombstone was a

nicely-shaped globe of fuzzy white light.



It would be interesting to plan another session at these and other locations in the near future.

Later in July, during my vacation, my wife and I traveled to the east coast to both visit some relatives and check out some haunted locations. One site near Baltimore is listed in Dennis William Hauck's book, "The National Directory of Haunted Places"; the Hampton Historic site in Towson, Maryland.

This large imposing building houses more than one ghost even though the curators and people who run the bookstore and gift shop don't believe the stories. For \$1.00 you can purchase a booklet entitled, "The Ghosts of Hampton" but on the first page there is apparently a disclaimer which reads, *"The stories and legends in this book are entirely fictional, and have no basis in historic fact. The authors' imaginations and creativity are responsible for these interesting fables. Although family members are mentioned, there is no know connection with the Ridgely family."*

But nonetheless, I still found the building spooky and interesting at the same time. It's supposed to be haunted a grey

lady which has been seen by various family members while it was still being used as a family residence. Allegedly some caretakers have experience some weird happenings also.

The book mentions the strange omen of a crashing chandelier which is said to proceed a death in the immediate family.

We traveled to Gettysburg, the most haunted Civil War battlefield that I've yet come across. Haunted by phantom regiments seen both near the Devil's Den and the Triangular Field to the sounds of gunfire, cannons, sabers and horses throughout the battlefield.

We met GRS member Shelly Sykes and her daughter at our motel within plain view of Pickett's charge and they took us to a small, out-of-the-way cemetery where they had recorded EVP in the past and where a strange dark silhouette was seen walking along the split-rail fence on one occasion.

We walked through the area with our EMF meters and other sophisticated devices in an attempt to detect any anomalous energy sources or electromagnetic deviations. There were none on that evening and nothing was captured on film or video tape.

However, that doesn't mean the area still is haunted. Sometimes you simply must be there at the right place at the right time.

On the way back home, we stopped near Dayton, Ohio and met up with GRS member Chris Woodyard who also runs Invisible Ink (800-31-GHOST). The best darned collection of regional ghost books anywhere, period! Her own private collection actually made me a bit jealous!

Chris and her daughter took my wife and I around downtown Dayton and the environs and spoke about several interesting areas including a few haunted cemeteries where an apparition of a young girl has been

seen to glowing tombstones observed by passing motorists.

We stopped by a Masonic Temple where Chris had been contacted by a ghost during an investigation and we also stopped at the Patterson Homestead which has been the scene of multiple phenomena from apparitions, movement of objects, strange odors and general poltergeist phenomena.

Chris also talked about the spirits encountered at Wright Patterson Air Force Museum, the Palace Theater, Memorial Hall and what she considers to be the most haunted house in Ohio, The Franklin Castle in Cleveland.

I was able to pick up several regional ghost books while on vacation which will add to the vast library of haunted locations already in the archives of the GRS.

GRS member Stan Suho and myself accompanied Gary Hart for an extended investigation into the Moody light in Indiana. This ghost light is said to be the spirit of Farmer Moody who lost his daughter to drag racers and even today continues to chase those kind away from his former property.

The light is yellow to white in color and seems to get quite close as you sit quietly alongside the road. To summon the light, legend says, you flash your bright lights three times and the light will then appear in the distance, getting closer the longer you stay quiet.

It's a great ghost story however through our investigation and high-powered binoculars and spotting scopes, the light resolves itself into two automobile headlights in the distance probably 1-2 miles away. However, there are those that claim to have had very close encounters and one that said he actually saw a little man carrying a lantern that disappeared from site.

Even after coming into contact with

several people that evening who were strong believers in the light and actually showing them the car headlights through our binoculars, they still continued to deny the obvious. I guess they don't wish to have their bubble burst and their legend put to rest. Oh well...

I do wish to personally thank Chris Woodyard, Shelley Sykes, Gary Hart, Stacy McArdle and Monty McClennen for showing both the GRS, GRS members and my wife and I the various locations within their immediate vicinity. Without your help, patience and the time you gave us, the trips would have been useless.

So ended the summer of 1998 but even at the writing of this newsletter GRS members were in the process of investigating several new public sites and two haunted house investigations. The results of those investigations will be made available in upcoming issues of Ghost Trackers Newsletter.



Opinion Polls

Carlos Lopes of Riverside, California writes, "I'd like for you to feature more pictures with each story. Example: some good articles don't have a picture to show the reader what the house, cemetery, etc. that is haunted, looks like. Also if possible to show pictures of the persons/ghost as they looked like when they were alive, old photos. One final note, I'd like for you to feature a story on the ghost in Minnesota said to be a little girl called Anne Marie Twente, that was accidentally buried alive."

Editor: I will be adding more photographs just as soon as I get the bugs worked out. I'm not familiar with that story. Anyone out there that can help me out with that, I'd appreciate it.

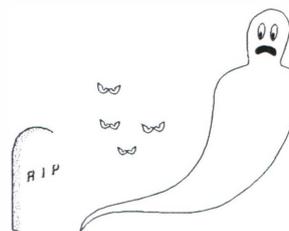
Mark Lacey of Lakeside, Nova Scotia comments, "Maybe a section with photocopies of newspaper clippings. A harder cover might be good idea."

Richard Elkin of Hobart, Indiana says, "I am an artist and would be happy to contribute a piece of art for an upcoming issue. Please just let me know what specifically you are looking for. Also, I would like to get a photo ID badge, but I misplaced my application for Active Research.

Regarding the graphics for the GRS buttons, ID cards, etc. I think there is some room for improvement. If you are seeking any assistance with logos, graphics, etc. please feel free to contact me and I'll help in anyway I can. Your membership package is very nice, with the button and ID card. It just seems that they could be snazzed-up a

bit, possibly with a new logo (the updated 'Ghostbusters'-like logo does not convey the serious nature of GRS studies at all, either. The newsletter is great! Keep up the good work and, again, please don't hesitate to contact me!"

Kaye Wagner of Trumann, Arkansas writes, "I find it fascinating to read of tales that tend not to be huge 'head liners'. Small paranormal events that one tends to keep to themselves, are often the puzzling of all! Your printing process totally destroys any quality of your photos! Having worked as a professional photo-journalist and viewed many prints in the past, I know that color shots (especially Polaroids) tend to print dark in black and white, but all the photos as a whole tend to be (almost) useless. I'm sorry I have no answer to this problem that would not be an added expense (i.e.): color pages. Even the best printer can only do so much when shooting a black and white from a color shot."



Happy Halloween!

Book & Video Reviews

Twilight Visitors: Ghost Tales, Vol. One by Sharon A. Gill & Dave R. Oester (Star West Images, Regional Book Publisher, PO Box 976, St. Helens, OR. 97501, 503-397-0686, website: Ghost Web: <http://www.ghostweb.com>, softbound, 178 pages, 1995, \$13.95, ISBN: 1-885591-84-5)

I first had the opportunity of meeting the authors at the first Decatur Ghost Conference in 1997. They were kind enough to autograph my book for me. Apparently a self-published book that can still be ordered through their website since they have recently moved from St. Helens, Oregon.

I found the book to be somewhat dry due to the fact that it was just a collection of somewhat short stories that seemed to have simply been collected through his website or from the Guestbook on his site. Some of the stories were hard to follow as they were apparently printed just as they were received without any editing or correcting.

The pictures are fuzzy and pixeled meaning that you can see almost every dot in the photographs displayed in the book. I guess though it could be considered a fair start for Gill and Oester. I rated it a 4 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Where Have All The Ghosts Gone? by Alana Eyler (stapled paper, 27 pages, 1997, \$5.00)

Another self-published booklet that I picked up at the Book Center on West 7th Street in Frederick, Maryland while on vacation. This area is perhaps the only location you would be able to locate this booklet unless you try Invisible Ink (888-31-

GHOST), as they may have some copies.

A very small booklet with regional ghost stories and legends including phantom animals, Jack-o'-lanterns and ghostly visitations from phantom ladies to angels.

I found the stories interesting by vague as to where they occurred but I suppose the statement at the end of the book helps explain the vagueness. *"Unlike the Civil War ghost stories, many of the individuals who related these stories are still living. To protect their privacy, names have been either deleted or changed. This does not effect the truth of their accounts."*

I enjoyed the book but wished that I could have located the sites mentioned in the booklet while I was still in Frederick, Maryland. Rated a 5 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Ghosts and Legends of Frederick County by Timothy L. Cannon & Nancy F. Whitmore (Studio 20, Inc., Frederick, Maryland, 1997, 73 pages, softbound, \$5.95, ISBN: 0-9602816-0-6)

This book was actually first printed by the authors (7916 Juniper Dr., Frederick, Maryland, 21701) in 1979 and is now in it's fourth printing. The book is divided into five sections: Haunted Houses, Legends & Folklore, The Civil War, Strange Creatures and South Mountain.

I found this local book on Frederick county and it's environs to more informative than the one just previously reviewed as it gives more information and locations where the hauntings have and are still occurring today.

I especially enjoyed the section on

the Civil War and South Mountain as Frederick saw it's share of that bloody war throughout the four years of the Civil War.

Written by two local natives of Frederick it's highly recommended. Rating a 6 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

The Ghosts of Hampton collected by Anne Van Ness Merriam (Orangerie and Gift Shop Committee of Historic Hampton, Inc., 1985, 17 pages, paper stapled booklet, \$1.00)

Unfortunately the only known location to pick up a copy of this booklet is at the Hampton Historic Site in Towson, Maryland which is a suburb of Baltimore. My wife and I visited the site in July 1998 and were told there were no ghosts here even though the Book and Gift Shop prominently displays this booklet right next to the cash register on your way out.

It gives the history of the Ridgely family from it's early beginning to after the house was bought by the Avalon Foundation in 1948 and given to the Federal Government. It is currently administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, the National Park Service.

The tales in the book were told Mrs. Merriam by descendants of Captain Charles Ridgely who in 1783-90 built "Hampton" on what was then several tracts of land comprising thousands of acres.

The booklet also talks about the Grey Lady who has been seen throughout Hampton's history and the omen of crashing chandeliers which usually mark a death in the immediate family within a month.

An interesting but short booklet, and fictional, if you believe the disclaimer in the beginning of the book. I don't!

Rated a 5 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

America's Most Haunted by Bob Schott (Adventures Beyond, Global Media Productions, PO Box 36773, Los Angeles, CA. 90036, www.adventuresbeyond.com, video tape, 51 minutes, 1997-1998, \$29.95)

I'm going to let the writing on the cover jacket best explain the contents of the video tape: *"Internationally referred to as a 'Supernatural Headhunter', Bob Schott, producer and director of Adventures Beyond, heads up a hand-picked team of Paranormal Investigators, including Troy Taylor, and other members of the American Ghost Society, as they confront two of the most Haunted Locations in the U.S.*

"Journey to the South and Mid West where Bob and his team confront the Legendary Bell Witch Cave. You'll go inside of the Bell Cave at midnight and enter the chamber to a disturbed Indian Grave located beneath an ancient Indian Burial ground above.

"Then hold on, because you'll witness a strange Energy Doorway EFX pass back and forth and moments later actual apparitions appear, which completely baffle Advanced Optical Defense Technology Experts.

"Next you'll travel to 'Graveyard X' a remote graveyard in the Midwest, as all Hell breaks loose during the most Intense Live Seance ever captured on video. Using Advanced Night Vision you'll actually see a Ghostlike FACE appear over one of the team members during the seance. Utilizing a vast array of custom designed Advanced Technology, Adventures Beyond makes a breakthrough in communication with the

Supernatural, as actual Ghostly apparitions are recorded for the first time.”

I found the video absolutely amazing especially the extreme temperature readings picked up by a hand-held Raytek thermometer during the actual seance at Graveyard X. Rated a 9 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

An Unknown Encounter: A True Account of the Haunting of Jackie Hernandez produced and directed by Barry Conrad. (A BarCon Video Production, 1997, 81 minutes, \$29.95)

“In 1989, a small group of paranormal researchers investigated a woman’s claim that her small San Pedro, California home was haunted. What followed turned out to be one of the most bizarre, true hauntings on record - all documented on videotape by a professional cameraman.

“Strange balls of light! An attempted hanging of a photographer! Human blood plasma dripping from the house’s walls!

“Is this the evidence the world is waiting for? Do ghosts really exist? This 81 minute documentary delves into a world seldom seen by most people - the world of a woman besieged by a ghostly entity. An entity so violent that it hung a man in her attic! An entity so terrifying, it followed not only the woman to her new home but even pursued the paranormal researchers themselves!

“Dr. Barry Taft, formerly with UCLA’s parapsychology lab as well as principal investigator on the now famous ‘Entity’ case has stated that this could very well be the ‘granddaddy of all hauntings’ at

least from the perspective of visual evidence captured on both video and still photographs.”

An incredible amount of actual video tape which shows strange rod-like structures whizzing through the field of recording which today remain unexplained. Actual video tape sessions during the actual investigation. There are no reenactments here!

A truly amazing video that the paranormal researcher or novice should pick up for sure! Rated a 8 in a 1-10 scale.

Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Echo’s Journey: The True Life Story of Echo Bodine, Renowned Psychic (TQ Productions, 1998, 90 minutes, video tape)

I had met and worked with psychic Echo Bodine on two occasions. Once with the *Encounters* crew in Elk River, Minnesota and again with *The Other Side* crew in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Both times we were involved in haunted house investigations. I found her psychic gifts to be truly amazing and accurate. However, this video is not.

I found it especially boring and dry even though later the tape followed her through an actual haunted house investigation. Most of the tape was simply a static shot in a studio setting of Echo talking about everything from her childhood to her today. Much of it was uninteresting while other parts did peek my interest.

A professionally great production of a slightly boring situation. Sad. Rated a 3 in a 1-10 scale.

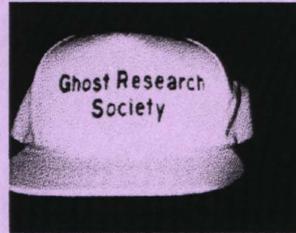
Reviewed by: Dale Kaczmarek

Classified

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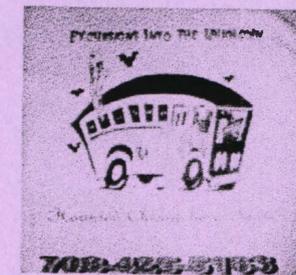


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