

The
NJROPE
Focus

Letter from the Editor

Hello Paranormal World (living and dead),

My name is Kathleen Coonelly. I am the Co-Assistant Director of a New Jersey based paranormal group called NJROPE. It stands for New Jersey Researchers of Paranormal Evidence. I am also the editor-in-chief of the NJROPE Focus. I joined NJROPE in late August 2010. I was so interested in the paranormal and was thrilled to hear that a close family friend ran a volunteer paranormal group. I later learned that it's not all fun and games. What I did learn in the process was that ghosts and spirits are a serious matter and helping people is our main focus. I am very grateful for the many opportunities that came my way so far and the many opportunities that are to come in the future.

I have always loved the paranormal and anything that has to do with it. From ghosts and spirits to the history and stories of everything we come in contact with, the love of the paranormal has never left. In early 2011, the director and founder of NJROPE, Frank Lazzaro, created the NJROPE Focus News Letter. I was very interested in each article that came out and was saddened by it ending. Now, in 2012, it is back. I approached Frank and asked about restarting the Focus. I stepped up to the plate to take on this HUGE responsibility and he passed the torch to me. I have revamped it. There are new articles and it is packed with a variety of information and fun. NJROPE members and I have everything covered from haunted locations to equipment. We are even bringing in some Pagan knowledge. We have it all and I am very happy and completely and utterly excited about this project. NJROPE members and I have pulled together to put out this first issue as quickly as possible. Many hours were spent researching, writing, re-writing, organizing, and putting together this newsletter. I hope you all have as much fun reading the first issue of the **NEW** NJROPE Focus as I did helping to create it. With that, I give you, The NJROPE FOCUS!

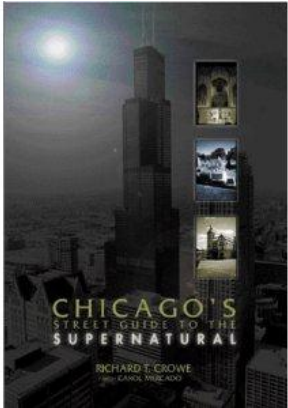
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NIROPE FOCUS



From the Director



I give you the writers of these tremendous articles:

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A Note From the Director

NJROPE has grown by leaps and bounds over the past few years. The main reason for this growth and success: the dedicated membership that the group has. Each member of NJROPE contributes key elements to the success and commitment of the entire team. For this, I am grateful. I am proud to be the director of such a great group of people. A few years back, NJROPE proudly presented the *NJROPE Focus*. Like with all good things time made it difficult to maintain the information based group newsletter. NJROPE's assistant director, Katie, approached me with the idea of restarting the *Focus*, but this time we would make it bigger and better. This time the membership would come together and make it happen. I would like to personally thank each contributing member. Furthermore, I would like to thank you the reader for taking the time to read about how great this group is and how much we "all" care about helping and educating the public about the paranormal world. With that, I proudly present to you the new *NJROPE Focus*. I look forward to many information pack editions and I hope that you all will feel the same way.

Frank Lazzaro
NJROPE Paranormal
Director

Myths and Legends: The Jersey Devil

This is the first article of Myths and Legends of the new NJROPE Focus. I will be writing about myths and legends around the world. Witness claims and sightings of the listed creature will be featured. The first myth/legend is going to start local. I bet you already know what it is. You got it: The Jersey Devil. Researching this creature fascinated me beyond belief. I have gathered a lot of information about this creature so please enjoy what I have put together.



The Jersey Devil is the one story that has been told for ages: either by a scout leader around the fire, by your school librarian during the month of October, or your parents wanting to scare you to wits end. Whoever told you had good reason to. There are three different theories of how the creature was developed. I honestly didn't know there were theories behind it, let alone 3. I was just under the impression that it was the one that we all grew up with.

Theory 1: Mother Leeds has given birth to twelve previous children. When pregnant and giving birth to her thirteenth in 1735, she cursed the child to be the devil. When born, he growled and screamed, then killed the mid-wife before flying up the chimney.

Theory 2: The far older version of the Devil originates back to the Lenni Lenape tribe. The local Native Americans tribes traditions included a mysterious "night monster" who would appear on occasion to terrify villagers and frighten away game animals. Children were told never to go in the woods at night because the Jersey Devil may catch them and eat them.

Theory 3: This theory I think was just said for kicks; to put some normalcy on the creature. It was said that the Jersey Devil was the child of a European immigrant who arrived in New Jersey in the eighteenth century. That was all of that. I couldn't find anything else on that theory or story.

"Mother Leeds" has been known by some people as Deborah Leeds. Deborah and her husband Japhet named the 12 children in the will he wrote in 1736. It is compatible with the legends of The Jersey Devil being the thirteenth child born by Mother Leeds. Deborah and Japhet Leeds also lived in the Leeds Point section of what is now Atlantic County.

The Jersey Devil was reportedly to have a human mother and his father to be Satan himself. The Jersey Devil is to have been described by some as having a head of a horse or cow, a body like a kangaroo or horse, and feet like a pig. Others describe it having talons of an eagle and inherited his father's cloven hooves. The most common description is a kangaroo-like creature with a horse like-face, head of a dog, leathery bat-like wings, horns, small arms with clawed hands, cloven hooves, and a forked tail. Reported to move quickly to avoid human contact and often described as emitting a "blood-curdling scream."

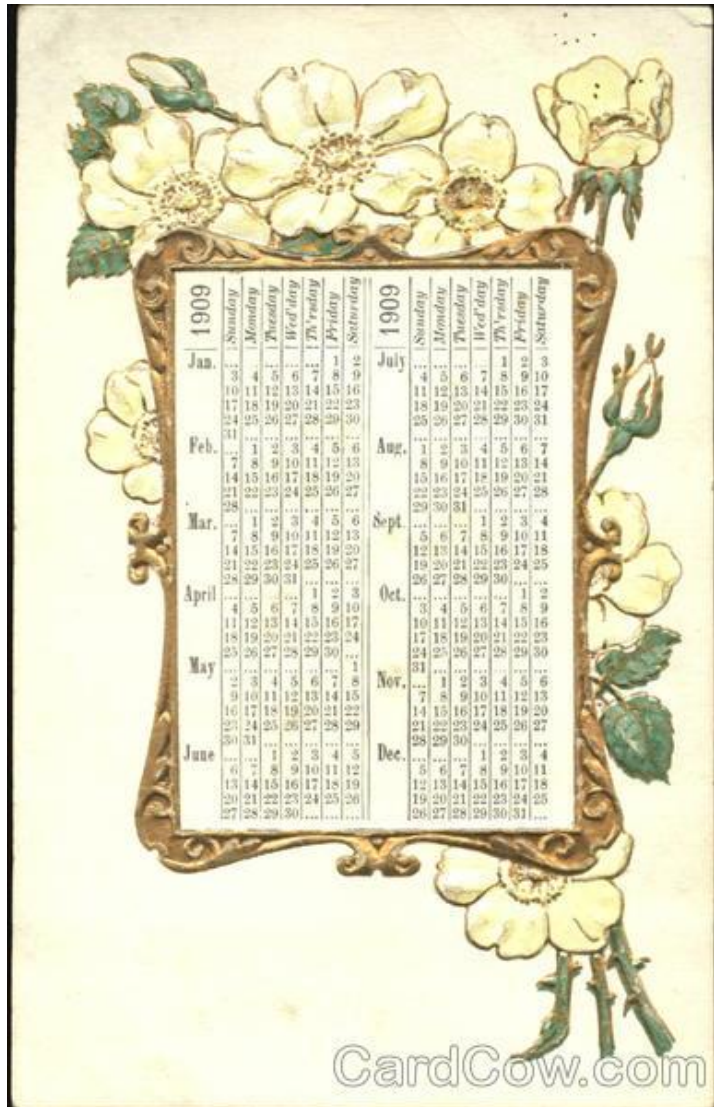
Many reports have been notes for sightings of the mysterious creature. He has reportedly been seen throughout South Jersey, from Salem to Pleasantville, and many areas in-between. In the mid 1970's it was even believed to have been seen as far a Texas. Most New Jersey Residents doubt the creature would have traveled that far from home.

Since the eighteenth century, there have been thousands of reported sightings. Though I cannot write them all out for you, I found a few that intrigued me:

- 1840 – The devil was blamed for several livestock killings.
- 1841 – Strange tracks and unearthly screams.
- 1859 – Appearance in Haddonfield NJ.
- 1925 – Claims of a corpse matching the Leeds Devil description arose in Greenwich in December. A local farmer shot an unidentified animal trying to steal his chickens. Afterward, none of the 100 people he showed the corpse to could identify it.
- 1957 – Another claim of a corpse matching the Devils description.
- 1960 – Unusual tracks were found along with a loud shrieking heard near Mays Landing.
- 1960 – Merchants in Camden offered a \$10,000 reward for the creatures capture, even offering to build a private zoo to house the creature if captured.
- 2007 – A man watched a creature with a horse head and bat-like wings walk in front of him in Wharton State Forest.
- 2009 – A man is chased by a creature in his backyard in the Pine Barrens. The next day, he found strange footprints on his rooftop with four foot spans between each print.

There was a week in 1909 that as the most chaotic period of Devil sightings ever recorded. By the looks of the calendar to the right, the sightings took place in either January 1909 or October 1909.

- **Saturday (16th)** creature was sighted flying over Woodbury NJ.
- **Sunday (17th)** Bristol, P.A: several people saw the creature and tracks were found in the snow the next day.
- **Monday (18th)** Burlington NJ was covered in strange tracks that seem to defy logic. Some where found in other towns.
- **Tuesday (19th)** Nelson Evans and his wife of Gloucester allegedly saw the creature outside their bedroom window at 2:30 am.
- **Wednesday (20th)** possies were formed in Haddonfield NJ and Collingswood NJ to find the Devil. They watched the creature fly towards Moorestown, where it was later seen by to more people.
- **Thursday (21st)** The creature attacked a trolley car in Haddon Heights NJ but was chased off. Many armed guards protected trolleys in several other towns. Several poultry farmers found their chickens dead.
- **Friday (22nd)** The last day of sightings. Widespread newspaper coverage leads to a panic throughout the Delaware Valley prompting a number of schools to close and workers to stay home.



There are many, many more sightings and encounters of the Jersey Devil. To learn more about them, go to:
<http://www.njdevilhunters.com/sightings.html>.

The Jersey Devil is fueled by the various testimonials from alleged eye witnesses who have reported to have encountered the creature. From pre-colonial to present day, there are still sightings with in the area.

This guy is not only the local legend, but a local celebrity as well. He has been featured in many different TV shows (both scripted and non), music, books, even films. He has been featured on the A&E show *Paranormal State*, in a 2002 episode of *Scariest Places on Earth*, and in a more recent season of SyFy's hit series *Destination Truth*.

To conclude this very long article of The Jersey Devil, I would like to state my personal account and opinion of the creature. I believe that he is real. I feel I have had my own mini encounter with him. I was in my old bedroom at the time. It was dark outside and in my room as well. I was watching TV and I just happen to look up as this HUGE flying bird-like thing was gliding over my house and town. Although there are turkey buzzards in my area, this thing was much larger than any turkey buzzard I saw. If the Jersey Devil is real, he and Bigfoot are the best Hide and seek players that ever lived!

By: Katie Coonelly
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WHAT IS A PAGAN? By Kerry Morony

The term Pagan derives from the Latin term "paganus", which basically means 'country dweller'.

A Pagan honors/worships nature and the cycle of the seasons. They believe that everything has a soul or a spirit: trees, rocks, people, animals, the very land itself, etc. That being said, Pagans do NOT practice any type of sacrifice, whether it is human or animal.

While Pagans do believe in the concept of good and evil, contrary to popular belief and Hollywood, they do NOT worship nor believe in Satan. He belongs strictly within Christianity. Anyone who claims to worship Satan is NOT a Pagan.

Some Pagans may join a coven. The coven's way of practice depends on the Tradition. Most covens are led by a High Priest and Priestess. Initiates are given a year and a day probation period, to determine if the initiate truly wants to follow the path of that coven. However, many Pagans choose a solitary path. They practice alone, preferring to learn, research and worship in their own way. Each person must choose and follow the path that is right for them.

Quotations

"When one defines oneself as Pagan, it means she or he follows an earth or nature religion, one that sees the divine manifest in all creation. The cycles of nature are our holy days, the earth is our temple, its plants and creatures our partners and teachers. We worship a deity that is both male and female, a mother Goddess and father God, who together created all that is, was, or will be. We respect life, cherish the free will of sentient beings, and accept the sacredness of all creation." **Edain McCoy**

"We are not evil. We don't harm or seduce people. We are not dangerous. We are ordinary people like you. We have families, jobs, hopes, and dreams. We are not a cult. This religion is not a joke. We are not what you think we are from looking at TV. We are real. We laugh, we cry. We are serious. We have a sense of humor. You don't have to be afraid of us. We don't want to convert you. And please don't try to convert us. Just give us the same right we give you – to live in peace. We are much more similar to you than you think."

Margot Adler, *"Drawing Down the Moon"*, Beacon Press, Boston, MA, (1986), Page 453

Traditions of Paganism

Just like Christianity with its different sects, Paganism comes with different traditions as well. There is absolutely no way, short of writing a book, to go through every single one. That being said below is a list of just a few. Please note in no way is this list complete!

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1. Celtic
2. Wicca
3. Norse
4. Native American
5. Greek
6. Roman
7. Egyptian
8. Buddhism
9. Hinduism
10. Eclectic

SABBATS

Many Pagans, but not all, celebrate holidays, called Sabbats, based on the cycle of the seasons. There are a total of 8 in the year which consist of 3 Spring holidays, 1 Summer holiday, 3 Harvest holidays, and 1 Winter holiday.

SPRING HOLIDAYS

1. **Imbolc** - Generally celebrated on February 1st or 2nd, Imbolc welcomes the upcoming spring, and the end of winter. It is a time to honor fertility and things yet to be born.
2. **Ostara (Spring Equinox)**- Celebrated mid-March, when there is an equal amount of length between night and day. It's a holiday of balance – when it's no longer Winter, but not yet Spring. It's a holiday of fertility and sowing seeds. The hare was seen as a symbol of fertility, and as Easter is based on Ostara, this is where the Easter Bunny comes into play.
3. **Beltane** - Celebrated on May 5th and the last of the 3 Spring holidays. This is a time to prepare for the warm months to come, for love and union.

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SUMMER HOLIDAY

4. **Summer Solstice (Litha)**- Celebrated in mid to late June, usually the 20th or the 21st, and it's the longest day of the year. Litha is the celebration of the green fertile Earth, abundance and fertility.

HARVEST HOLIDAYS

5. **Lughnassadh (Lammas)** - (pronounced Lew-NA-ssa) Celebrated the beginning of August, it focuses on the beginning of the harvest season, where grains and fruits/vegetables are harvested, breads are baked, canning is done, all to prepare for the upcoming winter months.
6. **Mabon (Autumn Equinox)** - Celebrated Mid to late September. Like the Spring Equinox, Autumn Equinox is an equal balance of day and night. Respects are paid to the upcoming darker months and as the sunlight grows shorter, this is when the crop's harvest was stored. It is a time for reflection and for settling any old business, as it will be a period of rest.
7. **Samhain (Halloween)** - (pronounced SOW-in) Samhain is the last of the Harvest Holidays and celebrated on October 31st. It is the Pagan New Year. It is a period where the veil between the worlds (living and dead) is at its thinnest and it is the perfect time to remember and honor your ancestors. Many Pagans will have what is called a "Dumb Supper" and set a place (or places) at their table for those who have departed.

WINTER HOLIDAY

8. **Winter Solstice (Yule)** - Last of the 8 holidays, Yule starts around Dec 20th or 21st, and extends 12 days, usually to December 31st (Yule night), and hence the tradition of the song "Twelve Days of Christmas". This is the longest night of the year, and when the days following start to get a little longer. There will be specifically prepared food, for when after the Yule log is lit and the tree is decorated. It is traditional to save a piece of the current year's Yule log in order to use it to light the next year's Yule log.

CONCLUSION

Although the above is a very brief summary of Paganism, hopefully it opens you, the reader, to have a better understanding of the Pagan lifestyle and traditions. I look forward to our continued journey down Pagan's Lane!

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Bright Blessings!

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Haunted places: Fort Mifflin NJROPE FOCUS August 2012 By: MoJo

Fort Mifflin is touted as the most “haunted” place in the USA. It is the only intact revolutionary war battlefield and “The Historic Fort of Philadelphia”. With the events surrounding the grounds, the rich history of this place certainly lends itself to this reputation. Fort Mifflin offers traditional historic tours, as well as paranormal programs and events for visitors:

http://www.phila.gov/recreation/fort_mifflin/Fort_Mifflin_Home_Pa.html

<http://fortmifflin.us/paranormal/>

History

Fort Mifflin, also known as Fort Island Battery or Mud Island Fort, was built on Mud Island on the Delaware River as a revolutionary war post in 1771 by the British. The fort was not constructed without controversy. The Quakers settling this area were pacifists; a harbor and marina for trade and transportation was supported, but a military fort was not a priority. Construction of the solid granite walls on the south and east sides, was completed, but construction then ceased temporarily in 1774, due to civil unrest. In 1776 this site was deemed necessary to support the fight for independence and construction was therefore continued under the direction of Benjamin Franklin.

Strategically, this was a key decision due to the location of the fort at the juncture of the Delaware and the Schuylkill Rivers just north of the Delaware Bay. Later in the war, Mifflin was instrumental in delaying delivery of vital British supplies; thus holding the British at bay so that George Washington and his men could retreat to Valley Forge to regroup. This turn of events earned Fort Mifflin the distinction of being called “the Fort that Saved America”.

General William Howe, commander of the British Army in 1777, was put into a very difficult position. Surrounded on three sides, his troops were in dire need of supplies critical in maintaining the occupation of Philadelphia, the pursuit of General Washington, and the defeat of the Continental Army. Timing was critical as winter would soon be upon them. General Howe ordered the ships in Delaware Bay to travel North with the much needed supplies. For six weeks, naval troops attempted to complete his orders, but were thwarted by the troops at Fort Mifflin. With extensive use of ammunition, booby traps added to the river, and personal assaults, the British navy was

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kept from continuing up the river. Finally, the two thousand British troops and 250 ships decided to take definitive action leading to a bloody battle that was instrumental in the outcome of the Revolution.

Just two years earlier, US troops had taken over the British fort on Mud Island that now held 400+ rebel troops bent on assuring the success of General Washington. The conflict that followed is documented as the largest bombardment on the North American continent. After five days of intense cannon and grenade assault from the superiorly equipped fleet, with Old Glory flying proudly, the remaining troops set the fort afire and retreated to NJ only after it was evident that they could no longer hold the fort. Only the white stone walls and some foundations of the original fort survive today. During those five days of fighting and five nights of repairing the damage from the daily onslaught, 250 of the 406 to 450 men garrisoned at the Fort Mifflin were killed or wounded. Many men gave their lives only to have the British take the fort in the end.

After years of neglect following the bombardment and the subsequent fire, repairs to the military base began in 1794 and continued through the 19th century. The fort continues to be restored to this day as a historic site. It is also in current use by the Army Corps of Engineers.

Fort Delaware was constructed in 1820 taking center stage from Mifflin as a defense point, but the fort was then also used as a meteorological observatory.

Although the revolutionary war was the last military action at the fort, Mifflin was used to hold Confederate prisoners, as well as Union Soldiers and civilians accused of breaking the law during the Civil War. The Army stationed anti-aircraft guns at old Fort Mifflin in order to defend the nearby Fort Mifflin Naval Ammunition Storage Depot (NASD) and the United States [Naval](#) Yard in Philadelphia during WWII. Army and Naval units including the 76th Coast Artillery Regiment, the first Negro Coast Artillery unit in United States history, also used the fort for various activities during this time.

Fort Mifflin was decommissioned in 1962. The Philadelphia Historic preservationists are restoring the fort. Mifflin is still an active base used by the Army Corp of Engineers. It is the only active base that pre-dates the Declaration of Independence. Fort Mifflin is the only military base in use that is older than the nation itself.

Ghost Stories and Paranormal activity

1778 is the first reported haunt; this reported activity has continued for decades. With no women present, women's wails lamenting the loss of their men were, and often are, heard. Since then audio, visual, and electronic evidence, as well as personal experiences have helped establish the forts reputation as being haunted. Smells of wood fires, gun powder, and baking bread have wafted through the air with no reason for the aroma. People have been touched, sometimes gently, sometimes harshly, and have even been restrained by invisible persons. Tools have been

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seen to swing and have moved from one place to another without explanation. TAPS as well as other paranormal researchers have investigated the fort and the consensus that it is haunted goes without question among paranormal professionals. Anecdotal evidence, written accounts, as well as visual and auditory evidence can be found on the internet and as the focus of television programs.

1) The Screaming woman

The ghost of Elizabeth Pratt is said to fill the fort with anguished screams. She has been described as being of various ages. Legend has it Elizabeth and her family lived in the officer quarters at the fort. To her chagrin, her daughter wished to marry an enlisted man, which was not acceptable for the daughter of an officer. This caused conflict between Elizabeth and her daughter. As the story goes, Elizabeth disowned her daughter who then succumbed to typhoid and died without ever making up with her mother. Elizabeth became distraught and hung herself by throwing herself screaming over the balcony of the second story. Some stories also report the room she hung herself in was on the first floor.

Although there are many who claim to have heard screams, some even having reportedly called the police to investigate thinking a woman was being assaulted, these reports cannot be specifically verified. Recent research indicates that this may not be Elizabeth Pratt, and that this story which has been re-told for years, is just that, a story. This area was not inhabited by the officer's families of that era. Tony Selletti in Fort Mifflin: A Paranormal History, indicates that officer's families lived on the grounds where the artillery shed is currently located. This shed is also an area of high activity. Some historians claim that another woman also named Elizabeth is possibly this screaming woman whose cries echo through the fort. Credible first hand witnesses are difficult to document and the exact location or origin of the screams is not verified. Paranormal researchers have experienced varied activity in the officers' quarters nonetheless.

2) The Artillery Shed

This location is a more accurate location for Elizabeth Pratt and her family to have lived, as this is where the officers' quarters had been located. It is now a shed, thus, depending upon what is being stored there, it may not be accessible for visitors and subsequently has not been investigated often. Reports of paranormal activity have increased in this area recently.

3) The Blacksmith

Jacob Sauer, the blacksmith, kept the door to his shop open to allow for air flow contrary to regulations governing the fort which required doors to be kept closed. To this day, the door will open without provocation or cause. Tools have been seen to swing and to move with no plausible explanation. Figures have been seen in and just outside the shop. The name of the blacksmith is not documentable.

4) The Faceless Man

A faceless entity inhabiting casement #5 but also wandering around the fort was initially believed to be William H. Howe aka Billie Howe; a deserter from the Civil War era who was tried twice for desertion and murder and was housed at fort Mifflin in different locations before his execution. He is reportedly one of two persons to be hung at the fort (some report he was the

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only person hung), and 1 of 3 or 4 people executed on site depending upon the source. During a recent excavation, the discovery of casement #11 had rooms appearing to be a jail containing his signature on a wall. The entity occupying this area is more aggressive towards blonds, especially those wearing makeup.

5) Casement #11.

This has reportedly been the site of phantom faces and EVP's. This is also reportedly where William H. Howe was housed after attempting the escape of 200 prisoners from casement #5. He was executed on August 26, 1864. He is the only person to have had tickets sold by the army for persons wishing to witness his execution. Reports of him being totally illiterate are false; as he wrote to President Lincoln twice asking for clemency, although his writing skills were quite poor. There is much graffiti from the Civil War period upon these walls.

6) The Lamplighter

A lamp lighter carrying an oil burning lamp has been seen in spite of the illumination of the fort having been switched to electric many years ago. Without any corroborating evidence, he is identified as Joseph Adkins.

7) The Powder Magazine

The magazine is known as the haunt of a soldier from the Revolutionary War. He makes himself known through the sound of footsteps in the hall as well as EVP's. He has been sighted outside the structure in the area of the door. Twice documented, a shadow of a figure has been seen quickly exiting this area and disappearing up the embankment.

8) The Tour Guide

A docent dressed in period garb has been seen traveling the fort and giving guided tours when no guides are scheduled or wearing this uniform.

9.) Other Paranormal Experiences

- Besides wailing women, screams, children laughing and speaking, and dogs barking have been heard as well as drums and gun fire, all with no plausible explanation.
- Period ships have been seen docked by the fort when no historic vessels were in the area.
- Walking to and from the gate is a sad looking man who disappears without a trace.
- The ghosts of casement 11 often refuse to interact other than to ask to be left alone. This is a newly discovered area for exploration.
- Casement #1-#5 is known as a paranormal hot spot with varied experiences. All the casements are known to exhibit activity. Casements 4 and 5 have the most aggressive manifestations.

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- The outer water casement is where Hessian troops approached the fort during the siege. A German tourist has recorded German speaking EVP's. Female voices have also been recorded here.

The Buildings:

- The area was a port use by colonists in Philadelphia prior to the construction of the fort on the island.
- Construction began in 1771 and was halted in 1774, due to political unrest
- Construction began again in 1776 and was completed.
- Fort Mifflin was destroyed by a fire in 1777 and rebuilt by the army from 1794–1798.
- Some report the rooms in the farthest interior of "casemate #11" to be of original construction. These "proof rooms" were utilized to make cannon charges and may have been reconstructed after the burning of the fort.
- The blacksmiths shop is reported to be the oldest surviving structure built before 1802.
- Fort Mifflin includes barracks for soldiers built in the 1790s, they measure 117 feet by 28 feet and are two stories. The original barracks contained 7 rooms, 5 of these rooms were dormitory style designed to hold 25 men.
- In the 1790's The Citadel was also built over a crossed shaped hole which had been used as a final effort to defend the fort during the Revolution.
- 1798-1801, for defense during a possible future siege, six cave-like casement structures were constructed. Just inside the main gate and in the entrance to the bomb-proof casement was located an oven to bake bread. In this opening soldiers also attended chapel and ate. The largest casement, #1, was a barracks; the smaller casements were utilized as storage areas. Casement #5, also a larger room, was designed to act as headquarters in a time of attack.
- In 1814 a two story officer quarters was built, it measures 96 feet 28 feet.
- A guard house and prison were built in 1815 to 1816.
- Sometime about 1819, to the north of the fort walls, a two story building holding a hospital on the second floor and a mess hall on the ground floor was constructed.
- In the 1800's engineers filled in the area around Mud Island connecting it to the mainland at the western bank of the Delaware.
- In 1836 major renovations of the officer quarters and the soldier's barracks began. These were later renovated, adding a second floor.
- The hospital mess building became a meeting house in 1837 along with the addition of artillery shed with an interior raised platform to protect cannons.
- In 1839, the military designated the existing one story brick guardhouse as an arsenal.
- A kitchen was added to the officers' quarters in 1840. The Army removed the two story kitchen wing from the officers' quarters building before the 1920's
- The later part of December of 1842 saw the completion of the Sutler building

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- The Army completed West Sally Port in 1866
- From 1866 to 1876, Engineers intermittently repaired and modernized Fort Mifflin while upgrading its armament.
- Construction of the detached high battery south of the fort from 1870 to 1875 was not finished.
- A torpedo casement constructed about 1875 sealed off access to the unused magazine known as "casement #11." This preserved a plethora of historic artifacts; dozens of animal bones, a tin cup, a tin chamber pot, period buttons, and pottery.
- In 1923 the Marine Barracks held the first recorded USMC Birthday dance
- 1969 Architect John Dickey restored the Blacksmith Shops' bellows and forge
- The 1980's saw the restoration of the Blacksmith's building.
- In 2011 casement #11 was rediscovered

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The Brown Lady of Raynham Hall

Written by: Maureen McLaughlin

The Brown Lady of Raynham Hall is probably both one of the most famous and widely used ghost photos there is. The photo was taken in 1936 by two professional photographers, Captain Provand and Indre Shira. They were at Raynham Hall to do a photo shoot for Country Life magazine. As they were taking photographs of the staircase an ethereal veil formed coming slowly down the stairs. Knowing that they had captured something the pair made sure they had a witness present during the film development. Country Life magazine printed the picture and story December 26, 1936.



The ghostly image of the Brown Lady of Raynham



Raynham Hall in Norfolk, England

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The legend of the brown lady is that she is the ghost of Lady Dorothy Walpole. Dorothy Walpole was the sister of Robert Walpole the first Prime Minister of Great Britain. Dorothy was the second wife to Charles Townsend who was notorious for his violent temper. The story says that when Townsend found out that his wife had committed adultery with Lord Wharton he punished her by locking her in her rooms in the family home, Raynham Hall. Dorothy was never allowed to leave the hall not even to see her children. She remained at Raynham Hall until her death in 1726 from smallpox.

Sightings

Christmas 1835 was the first reported sighting at a holiday gathering

1836 the next sighting made by Captain Frederick Marryat at friend of novelist Charles Dickens

1926 the next sighting of the brown lady

September 19, 1936 brown lady sighted and captured on film by two photographers for Country Life Magazine.

Is it possible that the brown lady will make another appearance in 2036?!?

Sources:

Ghosthunt.com

wikipedia.org

www.scott.net

BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF WESTERN ASTROLOGY

Astrology is the method by which humans have attempted to understand themselves and predict their reality through use of the stars and planets above. Having been organized and utilized by numerous cultures and traditions in a myriad of different ways; the use of the sky to search for the higher knowledge of our existence has been studied for millenia and has become a staple of human civilization. Ever since we were able to plot the movement and patterns of the cosmos, there has been Astrology.

Whether or not you believe in Astrology, my purpose in these articles is to help your understanding of it's complexity--and to give you a chance to potentially see the strange correlations and odd synchronities that come with a more advanced knowledge of it's concepts. While there are many skeptics and many controversies surrounding Astrology (some of which I'll touch upon in further articles)--I'm willing to help give you the tools to be educated enough to come to a more thorough understanding; and come to a final conclusion for yourself.

I am by no means an Astrologer. I've become rather erudite on the concepts and the understandings of Western Astrology--and feel comfortable informing others. In this article, I will be giving you a very general understanding of Astrology. In further articles, I will be going into more detail regarding the Signs, the Planets, the Elements and various other Astrological beliefs. At this time, I'll just touch some of the important of the numerous concepts of Western Astrology--to give an overview of information for you to take in--before defining the individual terms and going deeper into the belief system.

The Western Tradition of Astrology is the most used form of Astrology in the Western countries. It is a form of Astrology that is a continuation and expansion upon Hellenistic Astrology (practiced by the ancient Egyptians and the surrounding societies)--and is furthermore routed in Babylonian Astrological concepts (which is the first organized tradition of Astrological belief, used during the 2nd millennium B.C.). Western Astrology is the form which we all have the basic understanding of. Through the use of Sun Sign Horoscopes as a means of divining potential experiences for individuals sharing the Sun Sign depicted. This method found popularity in the times before and after World War I; with the publishing in magazines and newspapers of just the Sun Sign Horoscope. Meanwhile, many Astrologers believe that this form of use has damaged the field in a sense of 'dumbing' it down to such a wide-scope of prediction, that many individuals don't experience the intricacies nor the complexity of a true Natal Chart horoscope.

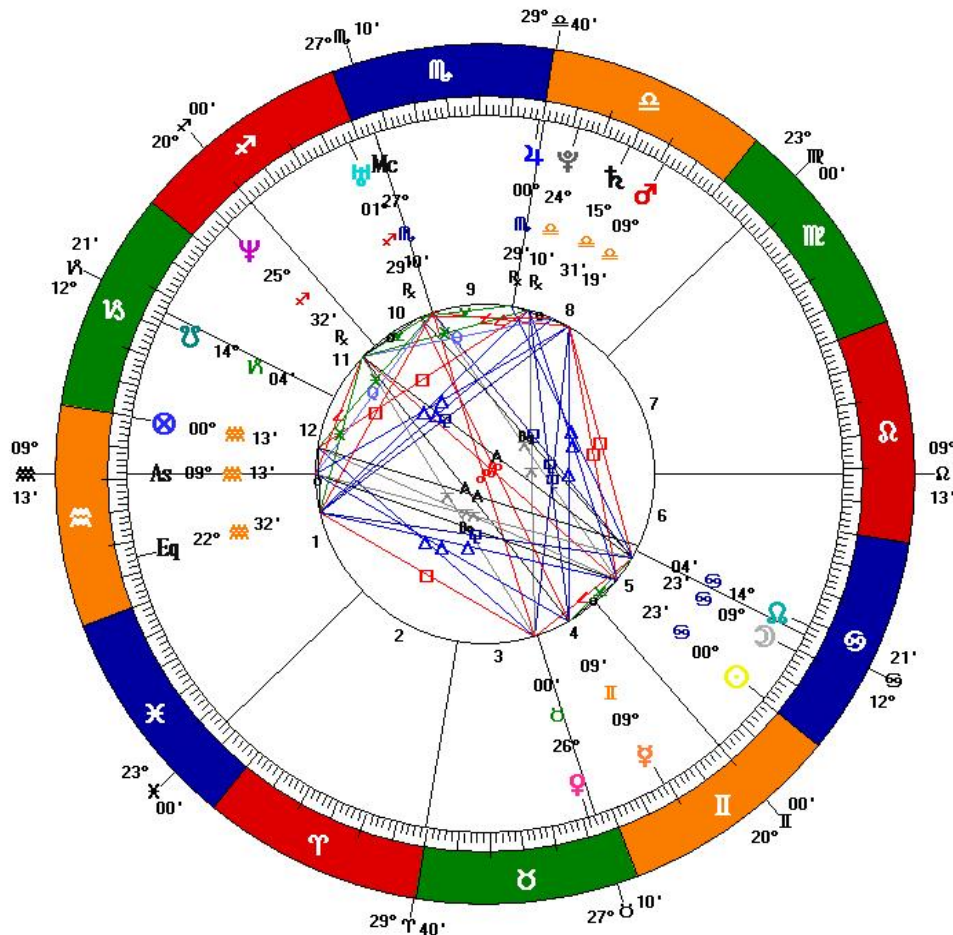
A BRIEF UNDERSTANDING OF ASTROLOGICAL CHARTS

A Western Astrological Horoscope is composed by using the placement of the Planets within the constellations in the 'Plane of the Ecliptic' in unison with the location of the individual at the time of birth. It uses this correlation with a metaphysical mathematical principle that forms a very complex array of angles, shapes and degrees; each with their own unique meaning. The 'Plane of the Ecliptic' is the path of the Sun's rotation around the Earth in accordance to our field of view from the center of the planet--and houses the Zodiac constellations utilized in Astrology. The celestial bodies that travel through this plane are mapped through their placement within the constellations. In correlation to the Earth and the person being studied, this results in the Natal Birth Chart. The Natal Chart gives an understanding of the person-in-question's unique persona. In using this chart in unison with the past, present or future placements of these planets--an Astrologer can speculate, expand and predict on what occurred or will occur in these times.

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[PICTURE OF BIRTH CHART]

A NATAL BIRTH CHART



Before computer programs, Astrologers had to map out the placement of these planets in this plane using complicated means. Now, Astrologers have the benefit of purchasing programs that can plot the placement of the Sun, Moon and planets more accurately; able to see the past, present and future through the predictable path of the planetary cycles in real-time.

The following are just a few of the concepts in Western Astrology, not including the Signs nor the

Houses of the Zodiac, in limited detail. These will be expanded upon in future articles, but touched upon now as to show there is more to Astrology that may not be commonly known:

A BRIEF UNDERSTANDING OF THE ELEMENTS

Astrology includes every aspect of the human psyche within it's system--symbolized by the specific Elements, Planets and Signs. The basic understandings of Astrology are understood in the Four Elements of the Universe: AIR, FIRE, WATER, and EARTH. Defined simply as: Energy, Thought, Emotion, Manifestation. These Elements are the building blocks of the universe and encompass every one of our actions and personalities. Within them, the planets are a greater symbolism of these Elements--defining more specific powers of the Element. Each Planet is ruled by an Element--and in turn, each Sign is ruled by a Planet. Thus, each Sign is a reflection of these Elemental energies. Detailing to the individual what energies they use most throughout their existence.

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A BRIEF UNDERSTANDING OF THE PLANETS

Within Western Astrology, there are ten main celestial bodies used. The Sun, the Moon, Mars, Mercury, Venus, Jupiter, Neptune, Pluto (still considered a planet in Astrology, despite recent Astronomical changes), Uranus and Saturn. These planets are each given their own unique symbolism and Elemental association--and rule over the specific Signs of the Zodiac. Meaning, if you're an Aries, you're of Mars--and by investigating the Sign, the Planet, and the Element--you will have an understanding of yourself you may not have known by merely researching the Sun Sign alone.

Furthermore, each Planet in the Zodiac is given a Sign on your Birth Chart and in Divinational Charts. Meaning, instead of just the one sign we all know; the Sun Sign (which is the placement of the Sun upon birth); we all actually have ELEVEN signs within us; one for each of the planets associated with the Zodiac--and one extra, called the Ascendant (or Rising Sign [which I will go into in a future article]). These signs are bestowed to the planets by their placement within the Plane of the Ecliptic at the time of our birth (for Natal Charts) and their past, present and future placements (for Divinational Charts). The most important of these signs (the ones adding the most to your overall character) are the Sun Sign, the Moon Sign, and the Ascendant (Rising) Sign.

Overall, the many Signs within us, together, formulate a clear understanding of your personality--and each one adds an understanding to the other. This is why some people say, "I looked up my Sun Sign. It's Pisces. But upon reading up on it, it is really only about 40% accurate." It's because they're not factoring in the REMAINDER of their Signs. Each planet's placement within a specific Sign, grants your Natal Chart further symbolism and insight into your persona. They're the real key to Astrology; the collaboration of all these different Signs to make you. Again...it's not just about the Sun Sign.

CONCLUSION

As you see, there is more information about Astrology that you may not be aware of--that may help you gather more of an understanding on your own personality, as well as intrigue you into discovering more about yourself. I hope that these articles help you to acquire your own position on Astrology--to research your Natal Chart and to delve into the understanding of what your personal symbolism may represent.

In future articles, I will go over the Signs, the Planets, the Houses, and the Elements in more detail. I will also attempt to explain the understandings of the angles and degrees of Astrology, that you may have a better understanding of how an Astrologer comes to certain conclusions. As well as touch upon some of the Universal Astrological Times that affect the world, so that you may be able to see Astrology at work in your day-to-day life.

In conclusion, Western Astrology is the understanding of macrocosm and microcosm. That the person focused upon (microcosm) is REFLECTED within the universe (macrocosm). One of the greatest misconceptions of Astrology is this: that the Universe DECIDES your traits upon your birth, thus the concept of free-will is eradicated. It is a common debate among believers and skeptics; the skeptic's first words are something akin to "We rule ourselves, not the sky."

What isn't known here is that the basis of Astrology isn't the CONTROL of the celestial bodies over our persona or our life experiences; but that what will occur to us creates the heavens and the sky's reflection of this. Meaning, your LIFE EXPERIENCES make you an Aries or a Taurus or a
[Type text]

Gemini--and this is reflected and known by the heavens. The heavens aren't forcing your traits or your future--they are merely showing you a deeper understanding of your personal experience--so that you're further prepared to know your strengths and weaknesses and act accordingly. Consider it a mirror image of yourself, shown in the patterns of the cosmos.

My former Mentor, who is a Master Astrologer, once told me this basic concept which mostly relates to the Sun Sign (Ego)--but I am paraphrasing to collaborate with all of Astrology: "You are before a cave, sent to battle a dragon. In front of the cave is a chest of tools (your traits) with which you will battle the dragon (your reality). Astrology doesn't dictate what these tools are. Your experience with them does. Within the chest are the best tools FOR YOU based on your life experiences." This statement opened my mind a bit. I think it accurately expresses that Astrology isn't meant to force you to be a certain way, but to open the understanding of yourself to be the best you can be!

Thank you for your time!

- Michael Howell

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Psychic Realm

In August we had two blue moons in one month which is a rare phenomenon occurring approximately once every 19 years. The moon brings heightened energy for everything on the earth and many people have been feeling the shift on the earth & the new changes that are happening. New energy is happening all around us and crystals help height energy - each crystal has a folklore history to it and some believe that they transmit energy both ways positive and negative. If you see one on the list that interests you purchase it and you can wear it, put in a pocket, just keep it in your wallet or keep it by your bed. Each of us are attracted to different ones because we might need their help....go with what you feel, see, experience or even hear. You know there is no right or wrong answers in life just different experiences!

Crystal Historical Folklore:

Amazonite – improves self worth and confidence

Amber – lift heaviness and allowing happiness to come through

Agate – this stone is good for protection and calms energies

Amethyst – spiritual upliftment

Apatite – communication of all kinds

Aquamarine – helps with love and show mercy to all

Aventurine - circulation of everything in life by clearing blockages

Carnelian – balance creativity and mental processes

Citrine – upliftment of all kinds

Emerald – physical and emotional healing

Jade – relaxation

Lapis – understand the mind and expanding your viewpoint

Malachite – bring harmony into one's life

Moonstone – helps one accept ideas by balance in life

Black Onyx – helps one to change bad habits

Opal – see all possibilities all around

Peridot – brings the energies to balance within the body and energy around oneself

Quartz – balance

Ruby – love and open the heart

Sapphire – mental clarity

Sodalite – protects from external negative energy

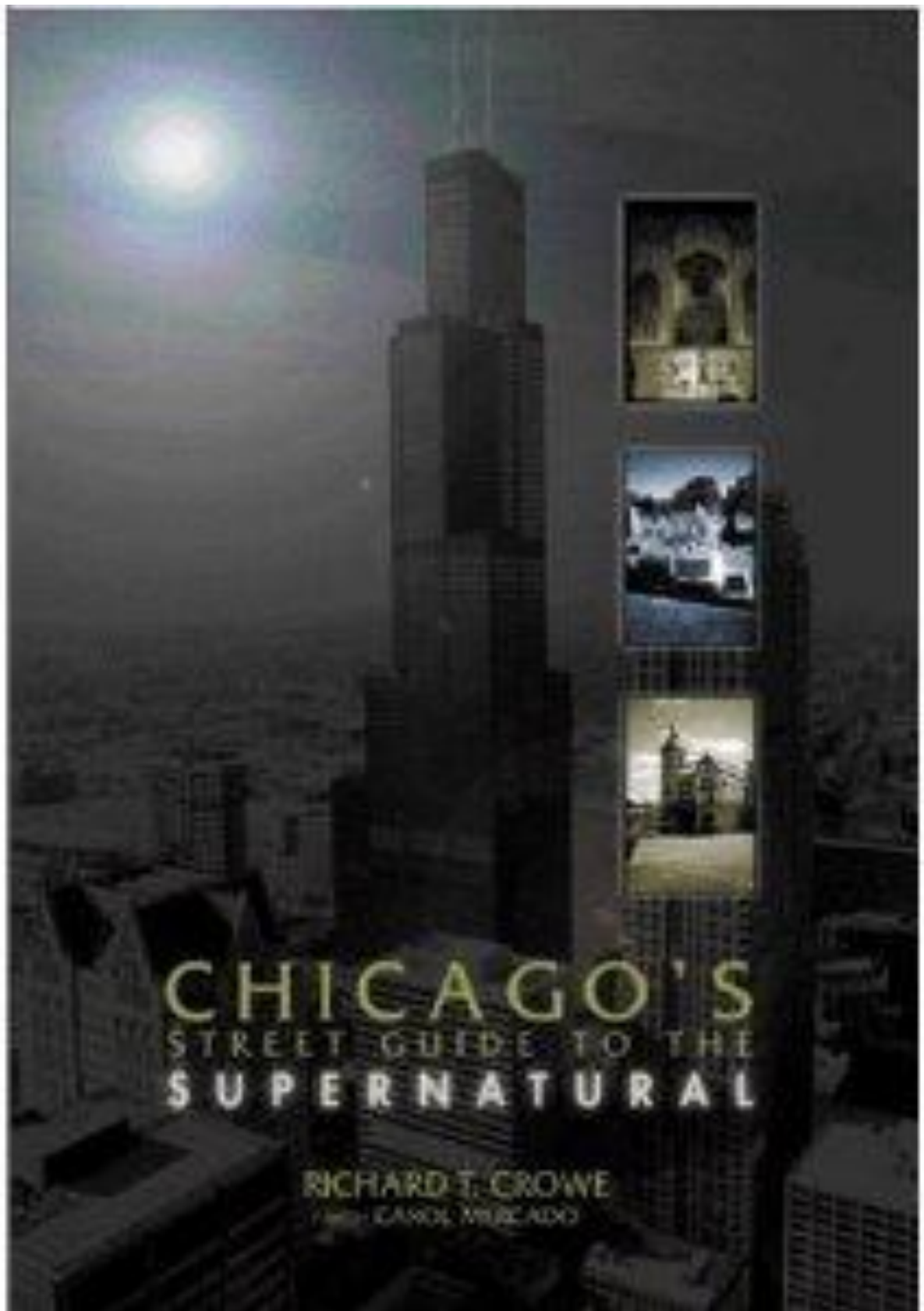
Tanzanite – changes, uplifts and opens the heart

Tourmaline – promotes ying & yang balance in every life aspect

Unikite – balances physical/emotions

Written by: Nancy Tursi Colleen Daugherty Hilary Bergen

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Richard T. Crowe

Born : January 10, 1948

Died : June 6, 2012

Crowe passed away from complications from pancreatic cancer that had only been discovered eleven days earlier. As Chicago's preeminent ghost hunter, he parlayed his love of literature and history into Chicago's Supernatural Tours. In addition to that, he was a Army veteran, noted author, lecturer, and a world traveler.

Crowe first became entranced by ghost stories as a child listening to tales of the supernatural spun by his grandmother. She peaked his interest and he started reading voraciously.

As a Master's student in English literature in the 1970's, Crowe joined the geographical Society at DePaul University, and it was there that a professor asked Crowe if he could come up with a bus tour for other members that showcased haunted places with historical significance.

On October 17, 1973 he did just that.

In Chicago's Downtown one stop on the bus tour takes you to the Chicago river. On the morning of July 24, 1915, a steamer ship named the S.S. Eastland was one of five hired for a company outing. A tug was hitched and ropes were ordered cast off. The Eastland was so over loaded that it rolled completely onto its side, and estimated 880 people drowned. Bodies were taken to the nearby Ried - Murdoch Building, which was directly across on the opposite shore and used as a makeshift hospital. From 1955 the building was used by the City of Chicago, housing its traffic courts, the State Attorney's Office, and various city departments. In 1998 it was re - developed and now it currently houses the headquarters of Encyclopedia Britannica. More bodies were taken to local mortuaries. The only public building nearby that was large enough was the Second Regiment Illinois National Guard Armory. In 1989, this very building became home to Harpo Studios.

In North Chicago another stop on the bus tour is where the St. Valentines Day Massacre took place. On the morning of February 14, 1929, in what was known as SMC Cartage Co. Garage. Seven members of the George " Bugs " Moran gang were surprised by what at first appeared to be a regular raiding party. The seven

men were lined up against the garage wall, and without warning machine gun and shot gun blasts cut them all down. Moran later said . . . only Capone kills like that . . . In 1967, a quarter of the block was razed for a Chicago Housing Authority Senior Citizens development. While the building was being prepared for demolition one large portion of the back rooms north wall, the actual crime scene, was sold to a Vancouver antiques dealer named George Patey. The section of 144 bricks which were six - feet high and ten feet wide were numbered and shipped to his bar in Vancouver to be used in a exhibit. Wax museum - style figures of victims and shooters as well as taped narration and sound effects were used. Despite this unique idea, it closed. Other people who had purchased some of the Patey bricks experienced personal misfortunes as well.

In Suburban Chicago South and Southwest your bus tour was not complete without a stop to the gates of Resurrection Cemetery. To hear the story of Resurrection Mary, The ghostly hitchhiking damsel who was been driven home after a dance to simply disappear from the backseat in mid travel, or to ask to be let off in front of the cemetery and glide right through the front gates altogether. The earliest accounts of Mary date back to 1939. Accounts are one thing, physical evidence of her is another. At 10:00 pm on the night of August 10, 1976, a police sergeant named Pat Homa received a call from the dispatcher to proceed to the gates of Resurrection Cemetery. The dispatcher was told there was a blonde women in a white dress was locked in the cemetery. Sergeant Homa did not find anyone, but when he was about to leave his attention was drawn two bronze bars on the left side of the main gates. The bars were bent apart and the most amazing thing about these bars was that there were scorch marks with definitive finger and palm prints in them. As word about this discovery leaked out into the community, crowds of people flocked to the cemetery. Crowe sent a letter to the archdioces asking to purchase the bars, but was told that the bars were not for sale under any circumstance. In October 1977, the bars were sawed out and sent out to be straightened. They returned December 1978, they were straight, but the finger and palm prints were now obliterated. Extreme measures had been taken by the cemetery to suppress, to cover up, and to destroy the evidence, but what the cemetery could not do was to confiscate all the photographs that had been taken. Photographs, color - slides, even a video tape exists, showing that at one time some unique marks had been on two bars of the front gates.

In a fitting coincidence, Richard T. Crowe is buried with his parents in

Resurrection Cemetery. If you wish to visit the family plot, they are in section # 66, block # 38, Lot # 8, grave # 5.

In October 2000, Crowe co - wrote with Carole Mercado a book titled Chicago's Street Guide To The Supernatural : A Guide To Haunted And Legendary Places In And Near The Windy City. It is a wonderful book, with old and new photos, and the location address. In 2008, I went to Chicago for a function. I managed to get to Resurrection Cemetery after it closed, so I took pictures of the gates. I also went to the Willowbrook Ballroom and took one of their business cards as a souvenir. Get yourself a copy of this book and discover the connection between the Willowbrook Ballroom and Resurrection Mary.

Sources :

Crowe, Richard T. & Mercado, Carole - Chicago's Street Guide To The Supernatural :
A Guide To Haunted And Legendary Places In And Near The Windy City
Carolando Press, Inc., August 2000
isbn # 978 - 0 - 94054 - 206 - 8

<http://www.findagrave.com>

<http://evergreenpark.patch.com>

<http://www.chron.com>

REM POD

The Rem Pod is a new piece of equipment in Franks Arsenal of tools to detect Electromagnetic waves. The theory is that spirits access these fields to communicate with us at any given time. By using the Rem Pod and its electromagnetic capabilities we can hear and see the disruption of these waves caused by the spirit or entity when it comes within close contact with this device. There is a beeping type of sound along with blue, green, red and white light's flashing depending on the proximity of the EM field being broken. This is good to set up a perimeter for anything passing by within the designated area. One thing you should be aware of is some radio frequencies will interfere with it making the Rem Pod alert .For example the hand held radio that we use for communication will make the Rem Pod sound off when keying the mike. Therefore it is good practice to keep the Radio Frequency meter handy to make sure you have a valid alert. R F meter you say? Well that's a whole other story. Always remember don't be afraid to use different equipment every time you investigate so you can get familiar with the equipment and always ask questions when in doubt.

Joe Gates

Tech manager/officer/investigator



Designed Exclusively For Professional Paranormal

REM-Pod Specifications

Easy to View Bright RED, GREEN, BLUE & Yellow Indication
Audible Tones Correlating To Field Disturbance
Glow in the Dark Surface Allows Easy Visibility (Glow for 24 hrs.)
9Vdc Operation
Instantaneous Response To Field Fluctuations & Spikes
Toggle Switch ON/OFF
Mini Telescopic Antenna provides 360 Degree Coverage
New Amplified REM-Pod with 3X Sensitivity Increase
Response Time: 100msec.



Article by: Martha Farrell
(Mother of Editor in Chief)

Have you ever seen a million dollars? Neither have I, certainly not in my piggy bank! But that doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. We all have our moments of disbelief in things, especially if we can't see it or touch it, but maybe we need to take a leap of faith. We are pretty narrow-minded if we believe we are the only living beings in our entire universe; so maybe we need to expand our horizons and view things from a different perspective – the perspective from “the other side”. I admit I have a hard time with this since I have never seen an other-worldly figure; but then again, I've never seen a million dollars.

When Steven Spielberg made Jurassic Park, he was going on the assumption that dinosaurs did exist. I think it is safe to assume that he never saw one until he made his movies. But he believed in his project, and of course he made HIS million dollars. So I guess what I'm trying to say is don't be skeptical about anything until you can prove otherwise beyond a *shadow* of a doubt.

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Upcoming Events

August 18— Allentown lecture for teenagers interested in the paranormal

August 25— Monmouth Battlefield and Colleen cookout.

September 1— Private Investigation

September 5— Wrap-up

September 7— Private Investigation

September 15— Pleasant Mills Cemetery, Batsto

September 21— Meeting

September 29— Berlin Abandoned Home

October 7— Blackwood Pumpkin Festival

October 13— Witches Ball (October 21: Rain Date)

October 17— Winslow Library Lecture

October 19 – Meeting

October 26— Allentown Library Event

October 31— Halloween Event

November 3— Support Group Meeting, Allentown, NJ

RANDOM TERMS OF GHOST INVESTIGATING

B	L	E	S	S	I	N	G	T	E	A	M	G	D	R	S	N	G	A	L	A	X	Y	L	Q	U	E	S	T	I
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Terms can be found in a horizontally, vertically, or diagonally straight line. Answer grid next month. 😊

- | | | | | |
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| NJ ROPE | NORTH TEAM | HEAVY SWEEP | NJ FOCUS | RECORDINGS |
| GHOSTS | SOUTH TEAM | MANIFESTATION | ORBS | CLASSES |
| INVESTIGATIONS | CRYSTAL | SENSATIVE | NO WHISPERING | MEETINGS |
| AWARENESS | POSSESSION | CEMETARY | REPORTS | EVENTS |
| BLESSING TEAM | GROUNDING | HOUSE | PHOTOS | RESEARCH |
| EVPS | WRAP UP | THE D WORD | QUESTIONS | BLESSING |
| EQUIPMENT | PROTECTION | PARANORMAN | ST MICHAELS MEDAL | EMF |

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