

# THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

Volume 5, Issue 1/4

Winter/ January 2016

PART ONE OF TWO

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**THE ROSWELL INCIDENT & AREA 51**

THE ENFIELD POLTERGEIST

ENCOUNTERS WITH ALIENS

**HISTORIC HAUNTED BORLEY RECTORY**

## SPECIAL FEATURE:

Read an exclusive interview with Rock Paranormal's Founder and lead Investigator Robert J. Markin about his upcoming book, titled "Ghosts in the Graveyard: My Scariest Paranormal Encounters", which is based on actual events that took place in southern Wisconsin!





# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

## **PART ONE OF TWO:**

**Rock Paranormal / Odd Bob News & Updates P.5**

**Local Legends, Sightings & Stories P.6**

**Paranormal 101: The Roswell Incident & Area 51 P.9**

**NEW! Chicago Ghost Stories P.14**

**HISTORIC HAUNTS: The Borley Rectory Case P.16**

**Midwest UFO Sightings Feature P.19**

## **PART TWO OF TWO:**

**FAMOUS CASE: The Enfield Poltergeist P.4**

**Encounters with Extraterrestrial Biological Entities... P.12**

**Robert J. Markin's "Ghosts in the Graveyard" e-book P.16**

**Investigation Tips & Tricks: Conducting Research... P.18**

**Intro & History of Spiritualism... P.20**

**The Paranormal Classifieds... P.24**

## LEGAL JARGON

*The Paranormal Informant is written and published for Rock Paranormal by it's founder, Robert Markin, and contains comments and opinions of members, writers, and featured guests/interviewees that do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Rock Paranormal itself, or it's members. Rock Paranormal publishes the Paranormal Informant on a Quarterly basis via free PDF downloads and subscriptions. By submitting works or correspondence in regards to topics featured in the Paranormal Informant, you give Robert Markin and Rock Paranormal permission to print your correspondence in any issue of the Informant. The Paranormal Informant is published for informational and educational purposes.*

## MEET THE WRITERS

**ROBERT MARKIN** acts as writer and editor-in-chief to the Informant, in addition to his duties as team Manager, Administrator, and organizer. He has been researching and investigating the paranormal for nearly twenty years. He is the Founder and Team Manager at Odd Bob Investigations and is the sole-proprietor of Odd Bob Collectibles.

**ERIN ROSE TOLLEFSEN** is the Assistant Lead Investigator at Odd Bob Investigations and has researched and studied the paranormal for also nearly twenty years. She works from home as an Artist for her own company, Kooky Spooky Arts. She has investigated the paranormal with Bob for over 10 years.

**RUSSELL TOLLEFSEN** is Odd Bob Investigation's acting Equipment Manager. He is in charge of maintaining and setting up investigation equipment, and acts as "video documentarian" during

the team's investigations. . He is married to Erin Rose., and is eager to join the hunt.

**JOSEPH HERNANDEZ** is Rock Paranormal's Historical Researcher and Chief Skeptic. He doesn't normally participate in many of the investigations, but he loves researching history and mythology.

**SAMANTHA YONTS** joined Rock Paranormal/Odd Bob Investigations as Investigation Photographer. She has had an interest in the paranormal for several years, and takes wonderful investigation photos for the team.

**MELISSA LeBARON** rejoined the team as an Editor's Assistant. She helps Robert and the rest of the team proofread their articles and format them for this publication! Melissa has a degree in Journalism, and has worked as a reporter for multiple publications. She is a welcome asset to the team!

## THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

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**ROCK PARANORMAL RESEARCH & INVESTIGATIONS**

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## A Note from Founder “Odd” Bob Markin...

As some of you know, I’ve been hard at work creating a small, at-home online business called “Odd Bob”, where I will sell some paranormal, horror and sci-fi related items such as collectibles and memorabilia, as well as some of my hand-crafted items, wiccan items, and more.

Originally, I was going to combine the paranormal group, Rock Paranormal, with the Odd Bob brand name, and call the group “Odd Bob Investigations”. Although this is still being considered for something “down the road”, Rock Paranormal will continue to operate as a “separate” entity until further notice.

This means the group will continue to conduct paranormal research and investigations, publish our research in the Paranormal Informant, and work to further the field of paranormal research/studies.

Personally, as my partner and I are finalizing our move to Chicago, Illinois, having started my new “day job” at a coffeehouse, and finally being able to soon get all of the stuff I’ve needed for this business project out of storage upon the move, I’m excited for this next chapter in my life, as well as this new chapter for Rock Paranormal.

Before our move is complete, Rock Paranormal has never operated in such a large city before. There are numerous cemeteries and haunted locations in our new “territory” that are going to bring us all new adventures, and hopefully some new investigators along the way as well. I’m already also in the process of researching the nearby cemeteries and other locations, and attempting to locate own-

ers to arrange for on-site vigils where and whenever possible in the coming year.

Once the business opens, it will also allow me to put some much needed extra cash up for new equipment and resources for the group, such as a new EMF and a few digital audio recorders (I’ve been told it’s long past time to replace my old-fashioned tape recorders!)

Also, Chicago is home to some of the biggest paranormal conferences in the Midwest, which is something I am also looking forward to attending!

I’m also excited about finally getting back on our quarterly publication schedule with the Paranormal Informant. I’ve had to rush to rework and finish several articles as information has changed just before the publication date,

and I apologize for it being slightly late. But here it is! All kinds of interesting tid-bits fill this issue, and I hope you enjoy what I’ve selected to share with you. If you have anything you’d like to see, or would like to contribute a story/column or research article to be published in an upcoming issue of the Informant, please do not hesitate to contact me at: [robert@rockparanormal.net](mailto:robert@rockparanormal.net).

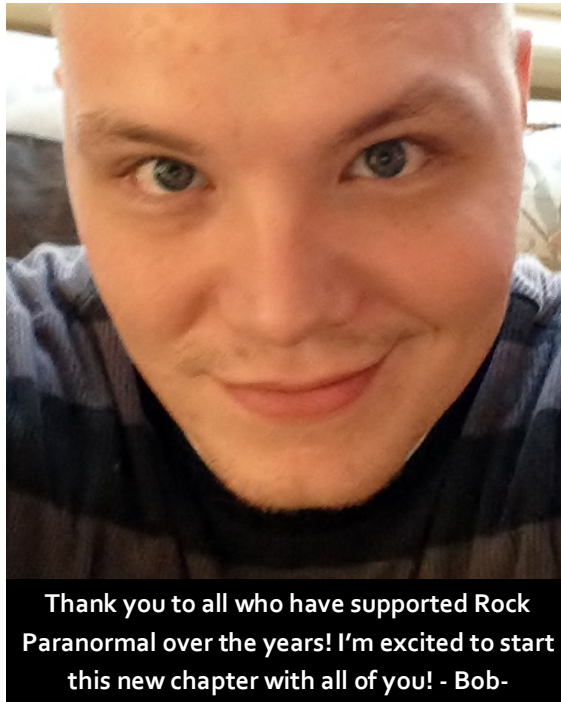
Until next time, boils and ghouls! Enjoy this issue of the Informant, and Happy Haunting!

Regards,

**Robert “Odd Bob” Markin**

*Owner - Odd Bob Online Stores*

*Founder/Lead Researcher - Rock Paranormal*





# IMPORTANT NEWS & UPDATES

## **ROCK PARANORMAL IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER INVESTIGATORS AND RESEARCHERS!**

Have you ever thought about becoming a serious paranormal researcher? Do you think you have what it takes to study the supernatural? Come study with us! Rock Paranormal is seeking volunteer Researchers to work with our team.

Don't hesitate! Stop by our website, [www.rockparanormal.net](http://www.rockparanormal.net), and fill out the preliminary application! We will contact you for an interview!

## **ODD BOB & ROCK PARANORMAL PLAN FOLLOW-UP "FIND-A-GRAVE" CEMETERY ROADIE FOR SPRING 2017**

With the fun and success of the last "Find-A-Grave Cemetery Roadie", we're already planning another one! (Or two...)

This coming spring, we will be going back to Oakwood Cemetery in Beloit, Wisconsin, and will attempt to finish locating the remaining 27 graves we missed during our first Scavenger Hunt! We are doing research to help us resolve discrepancies between information.

Date and time will be announced soon. Check back for more updates and details!

Robert "Odd Bob" Markin is also planning several smaller "Cemetery Scavenger Hunts" at a few of the cemeteries in the Chicago area to look for Find-A-Grave photo requests. More information will be published on dates/times when they are finalized. Check out the website or Facebook pages for more information!

## **ROCK PARANORMAL LOOKING FOR NEW INVESTIGATIONS IN THE CITY OF CHICAGO AREA!**

Whether it's a sighting of Resurrection Mary along Archer Avenue, or strange lights in the sky, Rock Paranormal is looking for new cases! We've recently established ourselves out of the founder's home office in Chicago, and are looking to start finding new haunts A.S.A.P.!

Even if the place has been investigated by others before, we wouldn't mind visiting it for ourselves! If you know of a place we should check out, or you have a sighting or encounter of your own you'd like us to investigate, please do not hesitate to contact us right away! You can email Founder Bob Markin directly at:

[ROBERT@ROCKPARANORMAL.NET](mailto:ROBERT@ROCKPARANORMAL.NET).



## **ODD BOB ONLINE OPENING SOON!**

That's right! You can soon browse my Zazzle, Etsy, or Amazon stores or, you can view and bid on my eBay Auction Item of the Week! OPENING SOON! Limited, changing selection of used & new horror, sci-fi, occult, pagan/wiccan, paranormal and Halloween merchandise! For more information, Visit our website at: <http://oddbob.tripod.com/>

## LOCAL LEGENDS, SIGHTINGS & HAUNTS:

# HAUNTED CHANNING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*By Robert J. Markin*

Photo taken of Channing Park, former site of the Channing Street Cemetery. On the other side of the park, Channing Memorial Elementary School holds regular classes. Photo from Find-A-Grave: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2185874>

We've all seen the movie *Poltergeist*, and remember the part of the 1970s original where the lead character "Ben Freeling" screams at his boss about moving the headstones but leaving the bodies behind that resulted in the manifestation that terrorizes his family throughout the film. Other famous stories share a similar scenario, most notably the "Black Hope Haunting" (see next issue).

Most people just can't believe that someone would leave bodies behind and just build over the sacred, hallowed ground. But, in all of my years of research, this actually happens quite a bit more often than most people think. Channing Elementary School is one of those places, where the expansion of cities and concerns for space outweighed the costs of ensuring that all of the bodies had indeed

been moved to a proper resting place. And best of all, it's right here in Illinois!

### CHANNING STREET CEMETERY

Records indicated that the original cemetery was established sometime in the 1830s on the southwest corner where Division and Chapel Streets meet. Additional land was donated to the cemetery by a Mr. James T. Gifford, and eventually became known as "Channing Street Cemetery". It was opened for public burial in 1845.

Most of Elgin's early settlers were laid to rest in Channing Cemetery. In fact, according to the Elgin Historical Museum's website, prior to 1889, it was the only cemetery in Elgin.

However, due to... CONTINUED





## Haunted Channing Elementary School, Continued...

... the continuing increase in Elgin's population, and the need for additional "living space" within the city limits, and the over-crowding of the cemetery itself, the City of Elgin decided to establish a new, larger cemetery on the outskirts of town. In 1888, The City of Elgin established "Bluff City Cemetery", which consists of over a hundred acres of land dedicated to the cemetery.

In 1889, the City of Elgin then requested that the families with loved ones buried in Channing Street Cemetery pay to move the bodies and markers from Channing to the new Bluff City Cemetery, as the city had plans to convert the old cemetery into a park.

However, burials continued to take place in Channing Cemetery all the way until at least 1906, when the last recorded burial occurred. At that time, it is estimated that there were over 3,500 graves interred at Channing Street Cemetery.

By 1910, however, the city had let Channing Cemetery fall to near ruin. Many of the headstones were broken, missing, or had been reclaimed by the earth, gone and lost forever. The city still wanted to convert the land to a park, but continually ran into legal obstacles as they tried to acquisition the land.

In 1915, they slowly began to re-landscape the property, even though they hadn't completely and legally wholly acquired the property, and ignoring the fact that not all of the graves had been moved to Bluff City.

In the 1920s, the city moved a veterans memorial from Channing Cemetery to Bluff City, and continued to make plans for the park, even though they still hadn't completely acquired the land.

Finally, in 1945, Channing Street Cemetery officially closed. By 1947, it was thought that all of the remains had been removed from the property and relocated to Bluff City or another nearby ceme-

tery, and plans for the park began to proceed.

### DEATH TO THE CEMETERY

In 1949, the City of Elgin began to clear four acres of land in the southwest section of the land in anticipation of construction on the long-awaited park. Rumors allege that unmoved bodies were contracted to be removed from the premises by bulldozer, and some Elgin residents who were children living in the area at the time recall seeing bulldozers actually breaking up old coffins and scattering the remains on the grounds.

This blatant disrespect for the remains is what some believe cause the haunting activity reported at the park and school which sit on the property today.

In 1968, Channing Memorial Elementary School was built on the northwest corner of the former cemetery, at the intersection of Fulton and Channing Streets. That same year, the Elgin Area Historical Society (EAHS) dedicated a memorial marking the cemetery site.

### THEY FOUND THE BODIES

In 1998, the School District of Elgin approved an expansion to Channing Memorial Elementary school. However, due to the limited space available to the school, they knew they would have to expand into the cemetery, and would most likely find graves that were left behind and long forgotten.

In anticipation of this event, the district called in a team of archaeologists, lead by Douglas Kullen, to respectfully dig and remove any graves that might be found in that specific area needed for the expansion before construction would begin.

During a preliminary dig in the fall of 1998, the team confirmed that at least eight grave sites existed in the area needed for the expansion, and work was set out to begin the ... CONTINUED



# Haunted Channing Elementary School, Continued...

... excavation process, but winter set in quickly, and work came to a halt.

When work resumed in early spring of 1999, diggers unearthed the remains of two complete skeletons, one belonging to an unidentifiable adult, and the other belonging to a small child. Although the wood that made up the coffins had completely decomposed, the metal nails, handles and even a diaper pin were found with the remains.

By the time the dig was complete, thirteen grave sites in total were discovered, and the remains were shipped off to attempt identification. However, because the original Channing Cemetery burial records have long been lost, there is little hope of actually being able to identify any of the remains.

Eventually, the expansion to the school was completed and opened.

## THE SPIRITS ARE RESTLESS

Over the years, students and utility workers have found pieces of coffin hardware, such as nails and handles, tombstone fragments, and even occasionally bones and bone fragments while on the school grounds.

Many students also report many various forms of ghostly activity, ranging from strange taps, raps, footsteps and voices to seeing shadows and full-bodied apparitions. Some residents get “the heebie-jeebies” from the park on the opposite corner of the property, and will not enter at night.

A strange orb-like light phenomenon has also been reported to be seen on the grounds at

night. Rumors also allege that when construction of the park occurred, any bodies and graves they found were dumped into a “mass grave” on the far south end of what is now the park, although no official records indicate that this is fact.

However, many residents report strange, uneasy feelings when walking near the land where the mass grave may exist. To this day, the only remaining marked grave on the property exists on the far

southwest corner and belongs to William Hackman, a former employee of the Elgin National Watch Company.

To this day, no one really knows just how many graves were left behind. There could still possibly be the scattered remains of hundreds of people lying beneath the grounds of

Channing Park and around Channing Elementary School. Children playing in the playground or in the park are literally playing on top of a forgotten graveyard.

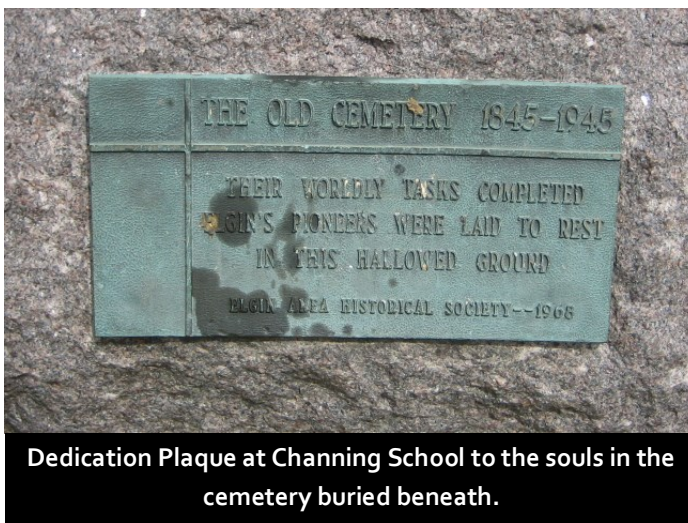
The memorial marker placed by the Elgin Area Historical Society is their only acknowledgment, and reads: “Their wordly tasks completed, Elgin’s Pioneers were laid to rest in this Hallowed Ground”.

## RESOURCES

<http://www.hauntedhometowns.com/HistoricGhostHuntToursElginIL.html>.

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=cr&CRid=2185874>

[http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1999-03-24/news/9903240235\\_1\\_archeologists-bodies-school-site](http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1999-03-24/news/9903240235_1_archeologists-bodies-school-site)





# **PARANORMAL 101:**

## **The Roswell Incident & Area 51**

***By Robert J. Markin***

The words “Area 51” are well-known in today’s Pop Culture, instantly bringing to mind UFO crashes and government conspiracies. Conflicting reports and unclassified documents that have been revealed over the years and made public knowledge have cast doubt on the official story of the incident.

What really happened that night in Roswell, New Mexico? We may never know for sure, but we can look at what we do know...

### **THE CRASH IS REPORTED**

In July of 1947, Bill Brazel, a worker on a local farmstead, noticed a debris field while out working just north of Roswell, New Mexico. He reported the incident to the local authorities, and the military became involved. They immediately took possession of the crash site, and wouldn’t allow press in to take photos.

It wasn’t long before one of the military officials told a press agent that they had captured what was believed to be the remains of a flying saucer and it’s occupants (presumed dead). The story was reported in the Roswell Daily Record, as shown above (Image Source: alien-ufo-research.org).

This started a frenzy as people were wondering whether we were alone in the galaxy or not, or if aliens were indeed visiting our planet. Multiple reports were printed by the Roswell Daily Record as the case seemingly unfolded before our eyes. The army had captured a crashed flying disc at a ranch in Roswell, New Mexico. The news was astounding.



Images of the first publicized reports of the crash in Roswell. Image source: [alien-ufo-research.org](http://alien-ufo-research.org).

### **THE STORY CHANGES**

However, within a few days, a new story came out. The crashed disc wasn't really a UFO or a disc at all... it was reported to be the crashed remains of a Project Mogul weather balloon.

This story became the “only true” explanation given for the events at Roswell, and one that the government and armed forces continue to tell the public to this day. But, some sources believe differently.

### **EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY**

There are a few famous photos from the Roswell crash, most notably the snippet from the Roswell Daily Record we have featured above, and the photo of Lt. Walter Haut holding pieces of debris from the crash site for photographers. Although initially reported as... CONTINUED



## “Paranormal 101: Roswell & Area 51” Continued...

... a crashed UFO, and later a weather balloon, very few people were allowed to examine the wreckage outside of the armed forces. Lt. Haut is the one who informed the press agents that there had indeed been a crash of a UFO at Roswell.

When the military changed the story, however, he didn't “make a big deal of it”, as any good soldier wouldn't. He went on with their version of events up until the day he died in 2005. At that time, there was an affidavit that was to be opened after his death. It was a big slap back at the government, and basically an “I told you so” confession.

Alien-UFO-Research.com reports that the affidavit confirms that the crashed object was not only most certainly an Unidentified Flying Object from outer space, but that it had indeed also contained the remains of actual extraterrestrial biological entities (EBEs, AKA “aliens”) in a hanger where

the armed forces had taken the crashed ship to be stored for analysis (which would later become known as “Area 51”).

### OTHER PROOF

You don't have to be a genius to do some extensive Google searching and find all kinds of documents and released “confessions” of witnesses, including other now-retired or dead military officials, secretaries, soldiers, doctors and more, all claiming to have been involved with or witness some of the events. All confirm that a ship did indeed crash at Roswell, and that in fact three EBEs were recovered from the crash site.

There is a great deal of signed statements, video interviews, books, death-bed confessions, and more, and with the internet, they are all at the palm of your hands. The only proof the government has is their “good word”, and their “expert [paid] opinions”, but they do not have the remains of the crashed “weather balloon” available for analysis by an outside source, and all other “official” documentation is as of yet unclassified.

### THE AREA 51 CONSPIRACY

After the crash at Roswell, large trucks were seen to come into the area and to be removing objects and debris from the site. The objects are then rumored to have been taken to a top-secret military installation known to most as “Area 51” in Nevada.

Area 51 has remained (until most recently) one of the governments biggest secrets. They denied its complete existence for many years, and even now, will tell you that it doesn't really exist. However, driving along the dark Nevada highway, now dubbed the “Extraterrestrial Highway”, makes you perhaps think otherwise.

Even after all... CONTINUED



Lt. Haut holding pieces of the downed vehicle for press photos. After his death, he confessed that this was indeed debris from a crashed UFO, and not a weather balloon as we have been lead to believe... Image Source: alien-ufo-research.org.



## “Paranormal 101: Roswell & Area 51” Continued...

... of these years, hundreds of people report sightings of strange lights in the sky in this area. Eventually, it became public knowledge that this top-secret installation was being used as a test facility for many prototype aircraft, including bombers and stealth vehicles.

Getting out and taking a short walk, you will find the sign that prohibits entrance to this “non-existent” location, as shown in the photo here. Photography is also prohibited, and violators are arrested, detained, questioned, and eventually released.



Signage at Area 51 warning against trespassers and photography. Black helicopters, trucks, and armed soldiers patrol this area heavily to enforce this border.

However, thanks to the invention of technologies such as GPS and cartography satellites, what was soon a well guarded secret could now be searchable and viewable from the sky via Google Maps.

Over the years there have been multiple documentaries, books, magazine exposes, and more about Area 51 and the crash at Roswell. We can pretty much say that after the object crash landed at Roswell, the military gathered up the debris and the

bodies of the EBEs, and moved them to Area 51 for further study.

### WHAT HAPPENED TO THE DEBRIS AND BODIES ONCE IT REACHED AREA 51?

Nobody truly knows what ever became of the crashed object or the occupants. Most people speculate that they are still there, hidden away in some secret, underground research facility operated with black budget money.

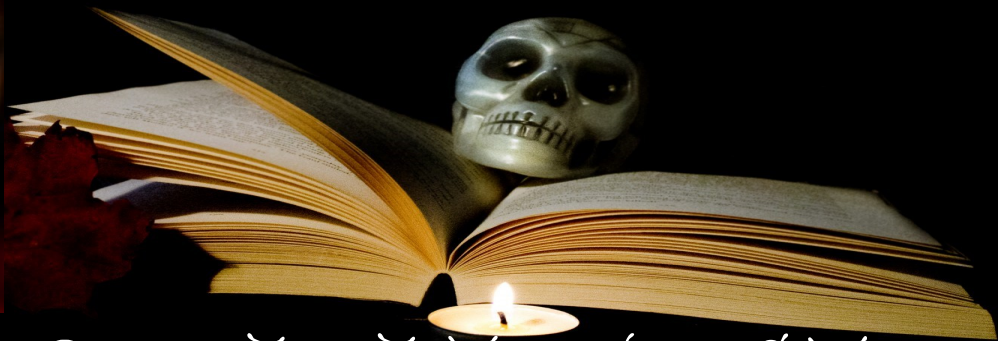
Over the years, witnesses, including those who have worked at Area 51, have claimed that they have seen the debris, as well as other “flying saucers” and objects, at the installation. Some also claim to have seen the bodies of the EBEs they found dead on arrival at the crash scene. Some people may remember the famous “alien autopsy” video that circulated a while back, featuring alleged scenes from the actual autopsy of one of the bodies recovered from the wreckage, as shown below.



Video still from the “Alien Autopsy” video. Image Source: [www.pleasedontprobeus.com](http://www.pleasedontprobeus.com)

No one really knows what happened, and that authenticity of the video has been debated for decades. The government isn’t telling us anything willingly, so we’ll just have to wait and see what other documents and information becomes declassified over the coming decades...

# Ask Paranormal Bob...



## Answering Your Questions About All Things Strange & Unusual...

Greetings, Boils and Ghouls! It's time for another edition of "Ask Paranormal Bob", where I answer (as best I can) your questions about the paranormal, supernatural and occult!

We still have a ton of questions that have been previously submitted, so let's get started!

**Q: "I read on your website that you will be changing your business name and opening a business. Are you going to be taking a profit from your research group now? How does that work?" -Anonymous Submission**

*A: I'm glad you asked that question. I/We have decided to change that up again a little bit. To clarify, Rock Paranormal will continue to operate as a separate, not-for-profit entity, and will continue to operate under the Rock Paranormal name.*

*I am opening a small online home retail business under the name of "Odd Bob Online Stores", of which I will be taking a profit from. However, a portion of the profits I earn through that store are going to be channeled into Rock Paranormal for use by the research group.*

*This way, since Rock Paranormal has no source of income aside from member and public contributions, I have a*

*way of generating some form of cash so that we can upgrade some equipment, attend some conferences, and fund a few investigation trips. Rock Paranormal is receiving the full benefit from this business agreement, and my business is donating a portion of the profits to make it happen.*

*However, I am not in any way, making any profit from Rock Paranormal. Any items my stores feature that bear the logo, 100% of the profits from those sales are given directly to the group. Everything else generates a much smaller portion of the profits towards Rock Paranormal (I do have to make a living, folks!) I hope that answers your question. :-)*

**Q: I hear things in my house at night. I think sometimes that someone is in here with me, but I live alone. I'm not sure if I want an investigator coming to my house yet. What can I do? - Mary Adams, WI.**

*A: Well, Mary, if you don't want to have an investigation team come thumping through your house, that is completely understandable. There are a few measures you can take to help you in your current situation.*

*First, I would start keeping a journal. Whenever something strange or bizarre happens, write it down. Write down what happened, how it made you feel, and anything else you think might be pertinent ... CONTINUED*





## **“Ask Paranormal Bob” Continued...**

*... This will help you see if there is a pattern to the events. If there is a pattern, it will enable you to see if there are potentially other causes of the phenomenon. For example, you hear loud creaks four or five nights out of the week, and they all occur at eight at night. Once you know this is a pattern, you can start to look for explanations. Perhaps a neighbor coming home from work, and the vibrations from his vehicle cause your house to creak.*

*This information will also help you to conduct some background research on your home. Did anyone die there previously, or have there been previous reports of phenomenon? If you can determine that your home is indeed haunted, you may want to consult with a paranormal research team or a medium to find ways to deal with the phenomenon. This could be anything from spreading tar water or casting a circle of salt to saying prayers and asking the spirit to leave. No two cases are exactly alike, and resolution of each case is usually different. Sometimes, you can't get rid of it, and you have to wait it out or move. It will depend on what happens in the case in the long run. I can't really tell you what would work best without knowing more specific details about what is happening.*

*Keep in touch and keep me up to date if you wouldn't mind. I'm always here to help if you have any questions or concerns. I can also refer you to reputable groups that will ensure confidential investigations into your encounters at your request. In any event, best of luck and bright blessings! -Bob-*

**Q: I think my teacher is a vampire. You know, one of those energy kinds that drains your body of all of its aura or whatever? Everyone in my class always gets really tired when we are around him, even some other teachers say he is weird. What can I do to protect me and my classmates from his attacks? - “Elvira”, OH.**

*A: Well, Elvira, I'm going to start by saying not to stake him through the heart! ;-) Energy Vampires, sometimes called “Psychic Vampires”, are an interesting phenomenon.*

*Some PV's know they are vampires and willingly drain the energy of others, while some have no idea they are a psychic vampire (PV) and have no control over their “drinking”.*

*I would normally recommend practicing putting up your personal “energy shield” to help protect you, but because your shield is made up of your own personal energy, it might actually make it easier for the vampire-in-question to feed directly from you.*

*You could try talking to the teacher, subtly, or outright, and determine if they know they are a vampire. If they do, and they insist on “eating” from you, then you should take more drastic steps to protect you and your classmates. If they don't know, but realize it, they may be able to stop themselves without having to pursue it further.*

*If you feel you still need protection, you and your classmates can always find protective amulets, charms, and the like from your local magic/occult shop. Mythology says that silver amulets work best against vampires of any sort, including etheric revenants (“ghost” vampires), as it causes them harm. There are also protective stones and other gems that can be worn, depending on your preference for materials. As before, I'd check with your local witch or magic/occult shop to find out what might work best, as I am not an expert on all things “vampire”. :-)*

**That's it for this issue's Ask Rock Paranormal! Don't forget that starting next issue, this column will be called “Ask Paranormal Bob”!**

**To Submit Questions to “Ask Paranormal Bob”, email: [rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com](mailto:rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com)**

**By emailing your question, you give Robert Markin and Rock Paranormal permission to edit and publish it online and in the Paranormal Informant E-Magazine.**

**ASK PARANORMAL BOB!**

# HAUNTED CHICAGO:

## TRUE TALES FROM THE WINDY CITY...

*By Robert J. Markin*

### THE DEMON BABY OF HULL HOUSE

Stories of a ghostly face in the windows of the infamous Hull House in Chicago have filled local lore and legend seemingly forever. Stories of the ghost of a demon baby born inside the Hull House have haunted our history since I can remember, and it's one of my favorite Chicago Haunts stories...

#### HISTORY OF HULL HOUSE

Hull House was built in Chicago, Illinois in the near west side of the city. It was founded in 1889 by Jane Addams, and eventually grew over the years to include multiple buildings.

It was a "community of university women" whose goal was to promote and provide educational and social opportunities for the "working class". The resident women held classes on a wide range of subjects, including literature, history, art, and more. They also provided free lectures and concerts, and

operated children and adult social clubs.

#### THE HAUNTING OF HULL HOUSE

Addams had made impressions that the attic of the property was haunted long before it became famous. It was believed that the wife of the original owner/builder of the home, Charles Hull, who died in 1860, was haunting the top floor of her old home. It was already included in many tours of Chicago's ghosts given even then. However, in 1913, the story became terrifyingly different.

Legends say that a man claimed to rather want to have the Devil in his house than a picture of The Virgin Mary, and his wife then gave birth to a child with scaly skin, a tail, and demonic pointed ears. A child of Satan himself. The father wanted nothing to

do with the child, and the mother allegedly took the baby to Jane Addams herself at Hull House.

It was rumored that Jane Addams attempted to baptize the child unsuccessfully, and ended up locking it in the attic. Although she denied these facts, she found the story ... CONTINUED ➡





# Haunted Chicago!, Cont'd...

... fascinating and used it as a centerpiece of a book she wrote in later years.

Legend has it that Addams raised the child in the attic until it's early death at a young age from it's condition. It is rumored that if you look up to the second floor window, you will see the face of The Devil (or the demonic baby) looking back at you.

Personally, I can't wait to visit and look in the window, and tour the building myself.

## WHAT IS THERE TODAY...

Over the years, the mansion and other attached buildings were renovated, remodeled, or otherwise altered to meet the changing needs and demands of the association, but the original building survives today, and is recognized as a Chicago Historical Landmark.

The Hull House Association ended it's operations in early 2012, but the mansion remains open to the public as a museum to this day. They operate by donation (suggested \$5, but they won't turn you away if you can't donate, either), and are open Tuesdays through Fridays from 10a-4pm and Sundays from 12p-4p. You can visit their website for more details: [www.hullhousemuseum.org](http://www.hullhousemuseum.org).

## REFERENCES:

<http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/Exhibits/janeaddams/photoshullhouse/Nursery1.jpg>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hull\\_House](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hull_House)



Recent photo of Hull House, now operated by the University of Illinois Chicago as a public museum. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated. Visit their website for hours and tour info: [www.hullhousemuseum.org](http://www.hullhousemuseum.org)

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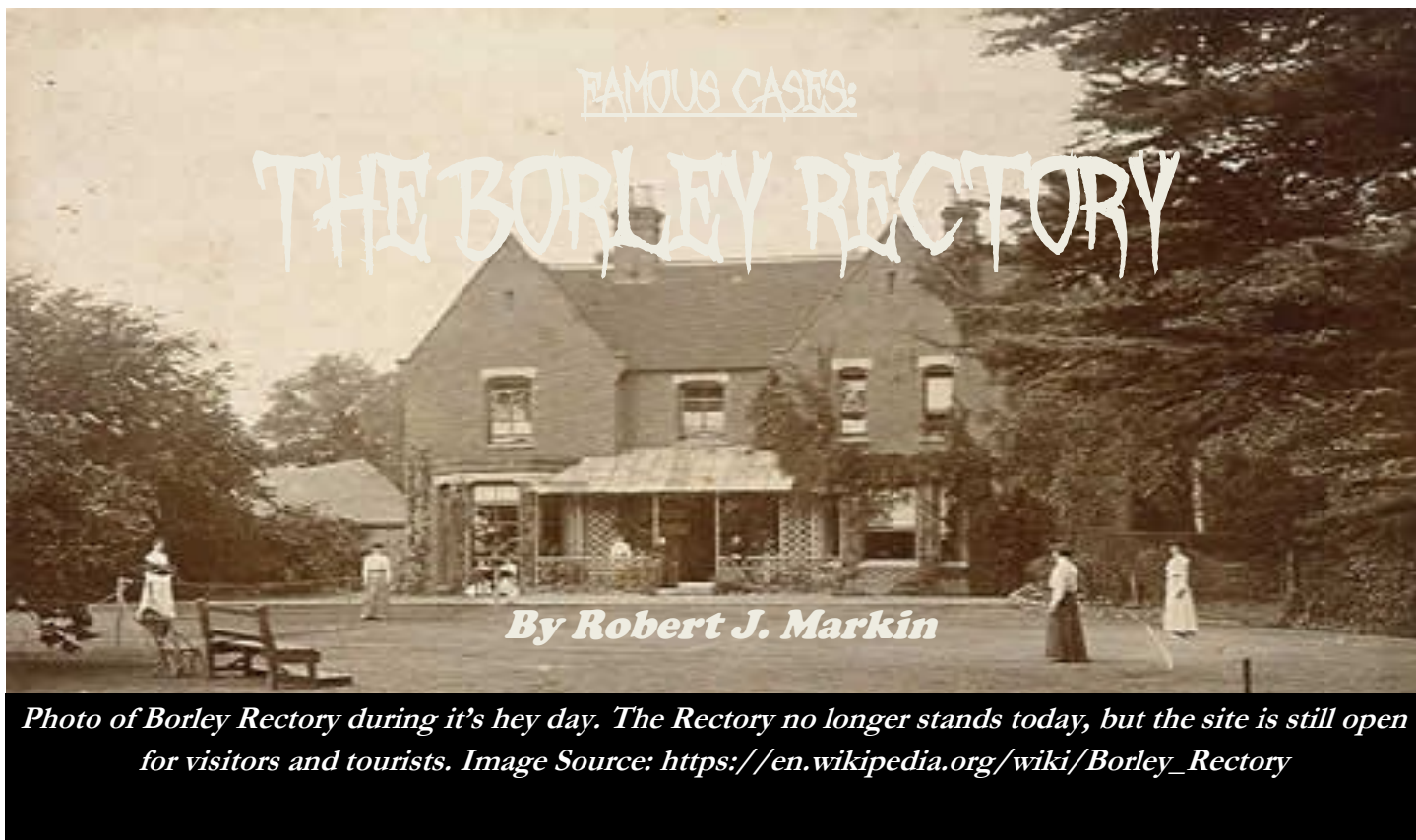
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Ghost Hunting Equipment [.com](http://ghoststop.com)



Near the Suffolk border in England, a quiet and quaint church sat nestled in the isolated and desolate area of the countryside. Built on grounds rumored to be haunted, the church would eventually become known as “England’s Most Haunted House”.

### HISTORY OF BORLEY RECTORY

Borley Rectory was built was Rev. Henry Bull in 1862 after many townspeople insisted that the land was either “haunted” or “cursed”. Local legends say that a Monastery once existed on the site in the thirteenth century.

When it was a monastery, it is rumored that a young monk fell in love with one of the nuns, and they made plans to elope. However, their plans were foiled when they were discovered, and the monk was hung while his lady was walled up in the walls of her convent.

People had reported the location to be haunted for years prior to the church and rectory being established, but Bull ignored the warnings and

constructed the rectory anyway. Not soon after, the family began to report strange happenings, such as phantom footsteps, whispers and knocks. A ghostly nun was seen to walk through the garden, and Henry Bull even constructed a patio so he could watch for her.

When Henry died in 1927, his son Harry Bull inherited both the rectory and the parsonage. Strange activity continued on the grounds. When Harry “retired”, his successor, Rev. Guy Smith, came to the parish and lived in the Rectory. He stayed for only one year, citing the deteriorating house and it’s ghostly occupants as why he wouldn’t stay.

In 1930, Smith was replaced by Rev. Lionel Foyster, who was joined by his wife, Marianne. It was then that the haunting activity increased to a dangerous level, resulting in Marianne being attacked by flying objects and nearly smothered by a mattress. Writing began to appear on the walls, written by unknown persons. CONTINUED





## The Borley Rectory, Cont'd...

... It was then that Mr. Harry Price, the now world-renowned paranormal investigator and one of the fathers of modern-day ghost-hunting, stepped in. The Borley Haunting would be Price's most infamous case, and would propel him into the spotlight and pave way for future paranormal research.

### THE PRICE PHENOMENON

Shortly after a newspaper circulated a story about the phantom nun, Harry Price was contacted to investigate the property. He was intrigued by the reports of phantom footsteps, strange lights, and the alleged apparitions of a headless man, a girl in white, a phantom coach, Henry Bull and the nun.

During his initial investigations into the case, Price attributed most of the poltergeist-like activity as having been caused by Mrs. Foyster herself, who was acting as an unknown agent for the phenomenon. He pointed to the fact that Mrs. Foyster seemed to be the focal point of all the phenomenon, and that she was most likely unknowingly causing the occurrences through spontaneous telekinesis.

The Foysters moved out of Borley Rectory in 1935, and Harry Price decided to rent the rectory for a year so that he could conduct an "around-the-clock" year long investigation of the location. He placed an ad for willing participants and investigators in the local newspapers.

Price hand-selected forty participants, and printed the first-ever "how-to" booklet on ghost hunting that detailed how they should pursue their investigations and how to operate the equipment they would be using during their investigations.

Over the course of the year, investigators would conduct wild experiments to try and debunk or cause phenomenon to occur. Others kept accurate and detailed journals about their experiences, which contained many strange and bizarre accounts

of the previously reported phenomenon manifesting itself repeatedly.

Harry Price and his investigators also began pioneering experiments in spirit communication. They began using a spirit board and planchette (the Ouija) to form words and communicate with the other side. Allegedly, the group made contact with a spirit named "Maria".

Price and his investigators would have many sessions over the course of several months with "Maria". During these sessions, they learned that Maria was a young woman who was strangled to death by her husband and then buried her remains in the cellar.

This seemed to fit reports of the spirits that had been previously encountered on the location. Price was pleased, and they continued to contact "Marie". However, a short time later, "Marie" made a prediction that changed the fate of Borley forever.

### A TRAGIC PREDICTION

During one of the many "spirit board" sessions Price and his investigators conducted with "Marie", the intelligent entity they made contact with, she indicated to them that danger lay ahead.

"Marie" informed Price and his team that the Rectory would be burned and destroyed in a fire, and that after the fire, evidence of her murder would finally be found.

Well, time passed and the rectory did not burn down. A few months later, Price's lease was up on the property, and the year-round investigation concluded.

A short time later, the rectory came up for sale, and new owners purchased the home. When they were moving in, one of the new owners accidentally kicked over an oil lamp, causing fire to spread quickly throughout... CONTINUED ➡

## The Borley Rectory, Cont'd...

... the rectory, eventually engulfing the entire property. Not much remained after the fire was finally subdued but a few exterior walls.

It seemed “Marie” was right about the Rectory being burned down. Price took the opportunity to conduct a small excavation of the property ruins. During his excavation, he found what appeared to be small, fragile bones and fragments. These bones were later confirmed to be that of a young woman, and Price attested that this proved the story of “Marie”, as she had also predicted her bones would be found.

Price gave the bones a religious burial on the property, and later went on to write many books about his experiences at Borley Rectory.

In 1944, the remains of the building were demolished and razed, and all that stands now is an empty lot where the rectory once stood. The grounds are still there, and people still report strange phenomenon to occur while visiting. You can walk through the gardens and even walk where the rectory once stood.

### THE PRICE REDUCTION

After Harry Price died in 1948, the Society for Psychical Research sent three investigators, Eric Dingwell, Kathleen Goldney and Trevor Hall, to

investigate Price’s claims about Borley.

After much research, they concluded that Price had hoaxed and produced some if not most of the phenomenon that was reported and witnessed during the course of his investigations. They also believed that Mrs. Foyster also was hoaxing the phenomenon she reported.

Some researchers argue and defend Price and his findings, citing the numerous reports from witnesses before and after Price’s investigation, many from individuals who were not associated with Price or any other paranormal researchers at all. Still, some insist

that this is just “blown up out of proportion”, and that there really isn’t anything to the Borley Legend but false accounts, rumors and stories.

Borley Rectory has been the subject of many paranormal researcher’s investigations over the years. There are many books and magazines with articles and information about the phenomenon, including books written by Harry Price himself. I recommend reading more about the Borley Haunting before making up your mind...

### RESOURCES

<http://www.prairieghosts.com/brectory.html>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borley\\_Rectory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borley_Rectory)  
[http://www.harrypricewebsite.co.uk/Borley/borley\\_into.htm](http://www.harrypricewebsite.co.uk/Borley/borley_into.htm)



Photo of the remains of Borley Rectory after the tragic accidental fire that was predicted destroyed the building. Image Source: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borley\\_Rectory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Borley_Rectory)



## **RESEARCH UPDATE:**

# **The Midwest UFO Sightings Project**

***By Robert J. Markin***

Well, we've been touting the Midwest UFO ing through the day or night sky. There are also Sightings Project for quite some time now. However, when we first started the project, we had no idea serve individuals and activities below them, and just how massive of an undertaking we were getting ourselves into. even more that say they saw an object land or having already landed, take off.

There have literally been hundreds if not thousands of reports of unidentified flying objects, alien abductions, and more over the last hundred years. You can go even further back and find strange reports dating to times before modern recorded history!

There's just no way we can compile all of this research into a few short pages, so I've decided to do a brief summarization of the history of UFO encounters, and include some of the more obscure, and less known encounters that I have been able to dig up in my research.



Image of one of the most commonly reported types of Extra-terrestrial Biological Entities (EBEs), commonly known as "the greys". Image Source: [www.wheredidtheroadgo.com](http://www.wheredidtheroadgo.com)

The problem is, even today, is that when you bring up the subject of UFOs and/or the possible existence of EBEs, people still laugh at you and call you crazy. Although it is much more accepted now, back in the early days (pre-Roswell), you probably would've been carted off to the looney bin if you said you made contact with ET.

This means that of the few reports that are available, they are just that... a few available reports. You can't accurately project the rise and fall of sightings when your data isn't complete.

### **THE BRIEFEST HISTORY OF MIDWEST UFO SIGHTINGS YOU'LL EVER READ**

UFOs have been sighted in Wisconsin, Ohio, Minnesota, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois and beyond for well over sixty years. Some of the earliest reports that I can find date back to the fifties and sixties of cigar- and saucer-shaped objects fly-

Recently, shows like "Ancient Aliens" have shown us how UFOs have shown up in pieces of artwork from ancient times past, meaning that we could have possibly been being visited by EBEs from other worlds since the dawn of human understanding. It's quite a scary thought, but makes it darn hard to get an accurate... CONTINUED



# The Midwest UFO Sightings Project, Cont'd...

... picture of how long ago and how frequently we've been visited when you don't have all available information.

So, we've put together a small expose of some cases from the Midwest we thought you might enjoy...

## FAMOUS MIDWEST UFO SIGHTINGS

Although I can't find any cases that had national media coverage in the Midwest, I did find information on a case where the UFOs seemed to be studying the entire Midwest... and it happened in the 1800s!

According to Burlingtonnews.net, author Mary Sutherland brings to attention a strong of reports that happened in 1897. Over the period of a few days, cigar shaped objects were reported in Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin and Illinois.

The first sighting occurred on the night of April the 5th in Omaha. More than a hundred people witnessed the cigar-shaped object with a shiny, steel-like body. No one knew what the word "UFO" was at this time, so it was simply a strange object in the sky.

A few nights later, in Iowa, several other people reported seeing the same/similar craft in Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, and Burlington.

Again, just a few nights later, in Chicago and in Mount Carroll, Illinois, multiple witnesses again witnessed the same object and they all had the same matching descriptions as before: an object with "rotating red and green lights". It was also seen in Quincy, Illinois. Later that night, it was reported in Wausau and Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The following day, it was seen in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The next day, more reports came in from Wisconsin, and then a few days later from Indiana. A few days later, a similar object was seen

over Cochranville, Ohio. Since this was before the advent of paranormal research groups and UFO hunting societies, no one ever investigated these reports to the full extent.

What were the objects looking for? Were they simply observing us in our natural habitat? Or were they trying to see what kind of defense we might be able to put up should they choose to attack? Since we are all still here, I'm going to go with the observation theory.

You can read the original article here: <http://www.burlingtonnews.net/midwestufo.html>

## UFO'S IN CHICAGO IN 2006

At approximately 4pm on November 7th, 2006, authorities began receiving reports from the Chicago O'Hare International Airport, which included reported from twelve employees as well as a dozen other witnesses, that a small, round disc-shaped object was hovering over Gate C17.

For over two minutes, this object appeared to hover stationary in the air, and was witnessed by multiple expert witnesses, including pilots and airport supervisors. Then, the object suddenly shot up through the sky, disappearing from sight, but leaving a hole of clear air through the cloudy sky that closed within a few moments after the object disappeared.

No photographic or videographic evidence has ever surfaced, but the fact that multiple witnesses report the exact same object, and that they witnesses are trained to spot aircraft at long distances for their career professions, makes this one of the most infamous and well-known sightings in the Midwest. For a list of the "Top 8 UFO Sightings in Illinois", visit this website: <http://mysteriousheartland.com/top-10/top-8-ufo-encounters-in-illinois/> CONTINUED ...





# The Midwest UFO Sightings Project, Cont'd...

## THE UFO CAPITAL OF WISCONSIN

Chicago claims to be the UFO capital of the Midwest, quoting its large number of well-documented mass sightings. However, a small town in Wisconsin says that it is the UFO Capital of its own state.

In the 1970s, a police officer in Elmwood, Wisconsin had multiple repeat sightings of the same object near his home. It was widely reported that he had witnessed a bright, orange glow. Thinking it was a fire, he went to investigate, only to discover that the glow was a UFO hovering some 100 feet off of the ground.

He radioed the sheriff's department and told them what he saw, but as soon as he did, it shot up and disappeared. The officer claims that a beam of light shot down from the craft and struck him just before it disappeared, which killed the battery in his car and left Wheeler unconscious.

Wheeler was not the only one to see UFOs in Elmwood, Wisconsin over the years. It had been a relatively commonplace local phenomenon that was talked about amongst the townsfolk for years.

With the national media coverage, and the

widespread sightings of UFOs throughout the town and surrounding areas, the town declared itself the "UFO Capital of Wisconsin". They even host their own "UFO Days" the last full weekend of every July, according to their Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/UFO-Days-Elmwood-WI-Last-full-weekend-every-July-315363775176519/>).

## RECENT UFO SIGHTINGS

Even today, people are reporting sightings of strange objects in the skies in cities all across the nation. Over the course of our next couple of issues, we are going to be bringing you highlights from our research and reports that are added to the various UFO reporting databases that



Artist Rendering of a UFO abducting a witness. This is a rare, but common enough reported phenomenon. Although we didn't encounter reports of abductions in our research as of yet, they are out there. Image Source: [www.greencomet.org](http://www.greencomet.org)

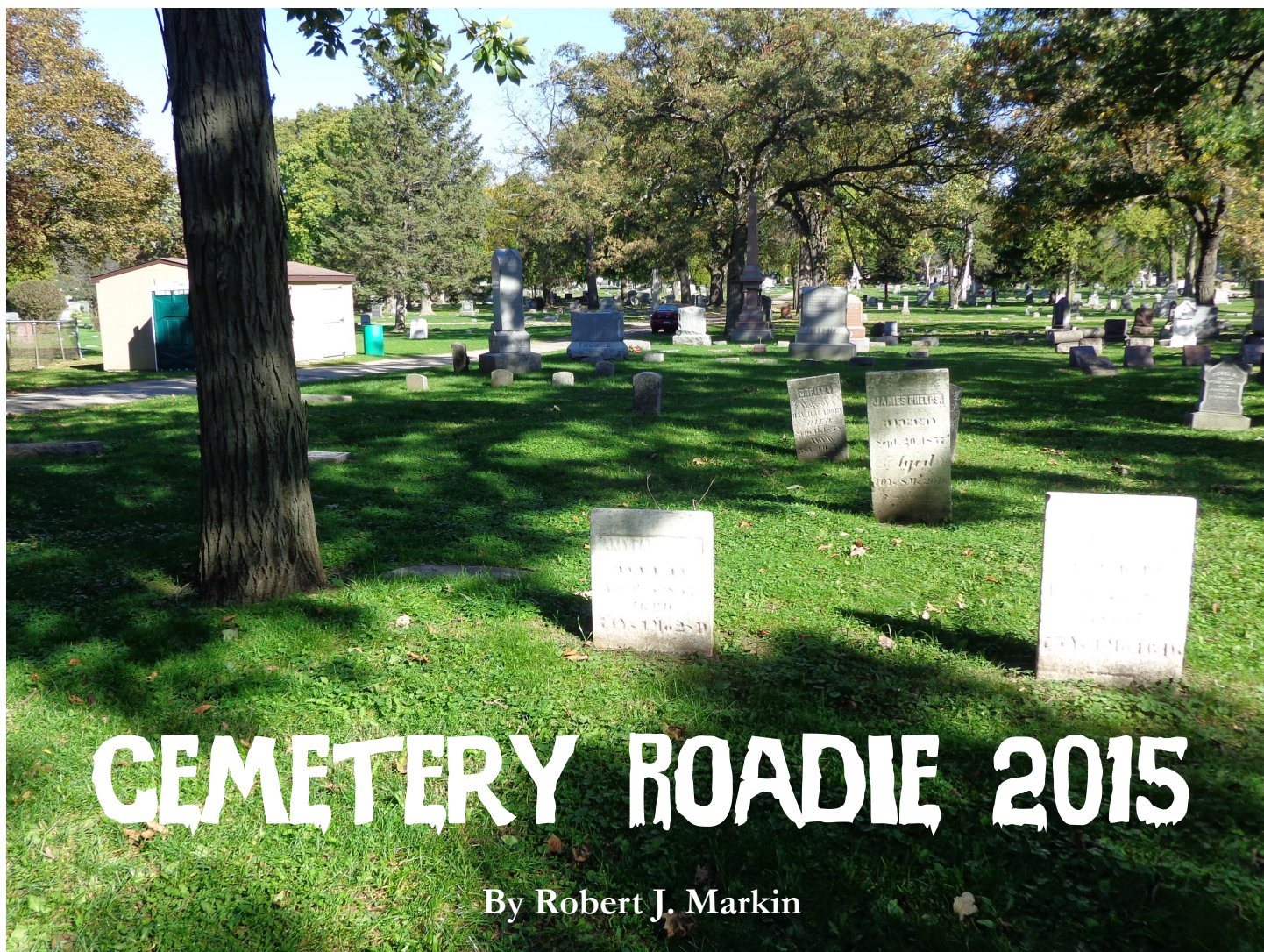
we follow. These organizations receive literally hundreds if not thousands of reports every week, and they catalogue all the information online.

For those of you interested, you can check out the databases we follow on your own at no cost by visiting their respective websites:

**Mutual UFO Network:** [www.mufon.org](http://www.mufon.org)

**National UFO Reporting Center:**  
[www.nuforc.org](http://www.nuforc.org)





# CEMETERY ROADIE 2015

By Robert J. Markin

**Every year**, my friends (and team-mates) with other genealogical websites such as ances- always try to do something “exciting” in the fall, try.com to help people understand their family his- something that usually involves getting together and tories. The website hosts Memorial Pages which fea- traveling to some interesting paranormal spot or the ture the information about a person’s life, and in- other. One year, we travelled to Plainfield and visit- cludes images of them and/or their grave sites, as ed Ed Gein territory, and investigated a cemetery in well as details where they are buried so you can visit. Nekoosa. Other years, we’ve gone other places.

However, sometimes, we end up just visiting for Find-A-Grave, meaning that people can submit some of our old “haunts”. We all have many fond requests for us to photograph certain gravesites for memories of driving to the cemeteries and taking a them. We then upload the pictures to the website a nice stroll, doing grave-rubbings, or having a picnic. for the individual, and they can post them on their We’re those weird people that love hanging out in loved one’s memorial page. It’s kind of like a scav- cemeteries. enger hunt.

But, this year we had a purpose other than Anyway, as the year progressed, we only re- just “hanging out”. About a year ago, Erin Rose and ceived a few requests. We decided to do a Robert joined a website called “Find-A- “Cemetery Roadie” for Find-A-Grave, and...

Grave.com”. This website works in conjunction CONTINUED NEXT PAGE... ➡



## Cemetery Roadie 2015 Continued...

... to find all of the requests we had received. To our surprise, just as we finished planning the trip, more photo requests started piling in... requests every day for about a week straight. Suddenly, we had over forty photo requests!

We rounded up our “posse” (unfortunately, there were a few who couldn’t make it), and headed out with our lists, directions, and cameras! Erin Rose & Russell Tollefsen and myself (Robert Markin) were all present. Although we didn’t experience any paranormal activity (and weren’t really looking for any that day, anyway), we had a great time!

We stopped at Laona Cemetery, Shirland Cemetery, Rockton Cemetery, Plymouth Cemetery, and Oakwood Cemeteries. We found the first few with relative ease, but started having trouble once we got to Oakwood. Several of the submissions included plot numbers, but the information did not match the information on the current map provided on the City of Beloit website, and we were only able to find three of the thirty graves at Oakwood.

Time ran out before we could get too much farther into our hunt, so we opted instead to grab a bite to eat, and make two pit-stops on the way home: Shopiere Creek and The Old Abandoned

Property on Elm Street. Although we weren’t able to get back to access the remains of the house and barn, we were able to stop by and say hi to our old haunts.

After we got home, I uploaded the photos to the memorial pages of the graves we were able to find. I also made a few memorial pages myself for other graves we had taken photos of that didn’t have memorial pages already on Find-A-Grave. I was also able to upload a few of the pictures (featured) to the main pages of the Cemeteries.

We are planning a second trip soon. We’d like to plan a few trips and do some more research to try and determine why we were experiencing so many discrepancies between the information we were provided and the map we obtained.

We would like to find the remaining 27 graves at Oakwood Cemetery, as well as visit the remaining cemeteries on the list. We are hoping to do so either before the snow flies, or next spring at the latest! We just can’t wait!

**Check out more pictures from the 2015 Cemetery Roadie on the following page! ➡**



Photo of Halloween decorations left in Shirland Cemetery, Rockton, Illinois. Photo taken by Robert Markin, Oct. 11, 2015.



## Cemetery Roadie 2015 Continued...



The "Witch Baby" Grave in Rockton Cemetery, Rockton, IL.  
Photo taken by Robert J. Markin, October 11, 2015.



Photo taken at Shirland Cemetery, Rockton, IL. Photo taken by Robert J. Markin, October 11, 2015.



Photo of family plot in Oakwood Cemetery, Beloit, WI.  
Photo taken by Robert J. Markin, October 11, 2015.



Photo of overgrown plot at Clinton Corners Cemetery, Clinton, WI. This cemetery is in bad need of restoration. Photo by RJM.



Photo of Abandoned Elm Street Property by R. Markin, 2015.

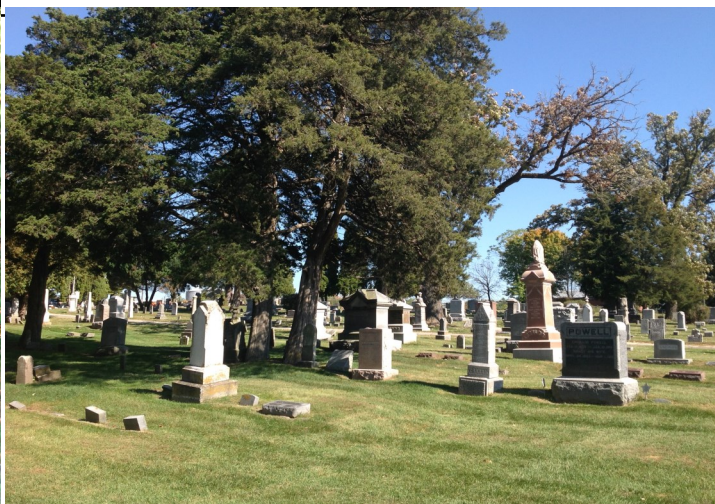


Photo of Shirland Cemetery, Rockton, IL. Photo taken October 11, 2015 by Robert J. Markin.





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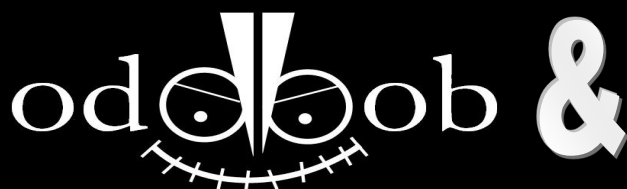
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**Markin, Team Manager:**

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Rock Paranormal & Odd Bob Online Stores were founded and are operated by Robert "Odd Bob" Markin. You can contact him with questions in regards to this publication, the organization, it's activities, or for investigation team membership information. Please email him directly:

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