

THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

Volume 4, Issue 1/2

Spring/Summer 2015

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**Paranormal 101:
Types of Spirits &
Manifestations**

And More Inside! Including:

INVESTIGATION TIPS & TRICKS

THE BROWN LADY OF RAYNHAM HALL

MORE LOCAL HAUNTS AND SIGHTINGS!

THE RETURN OF LIVING WITH THE PARANORMAL!

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LEGAL JARGON

The Paranormal Informant is written and published for Rock Paranormal by it's founder, Robert Markin. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform, educate, and entertain the public about various happenings at our organization as well as about various paranormal and related topics.

This "magazine" may also contain articles, photos, and other submissions from various Rock Paranormal friends, members, and partners. Rock Paranormal does not endorse any particular products and/or services (other than our own, of course) that may be advertised in the Paranormal Informant. Not all of the opinions expressed in the Paranormal Informant are that of Rock Paranormal or Robert Markin (unless otherwise indicated).

You may submit stories, articles, responses, or general inquiries to Robert Markin:

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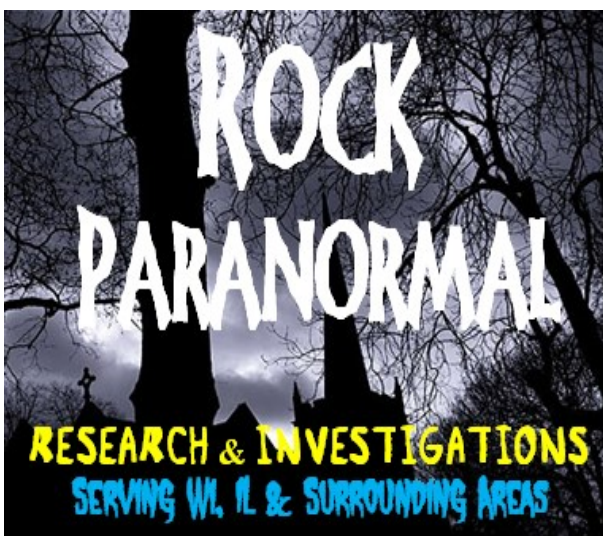
Robert Markin - Founder, Team Manager & Chief Investigative Researcher

Rock Paranormal - Research & Investigations

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Events dates, times, and locations are subject to change without notice, please ensure that you check with the host(s) of any events we publish in our events calendar before attending. Contact information is included with each event posted.

Please remember to visit our website and Facebook page for more information, up-to-date event schedules, interesting stories and more!



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Research & Investigations

<http://www.rockparanormal.net/>

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A Note from Our Founder & Manager

Robert Markin - Founder & Investigative Researcher

By Robert J. (Bob) Markin

My, how time flies! It's been quite a relaxed year here at Rock Paranormal so far. We haven't had very many investigation requests, but we are slowly working on our two research projects, the Starved Rock Research Project and the Midwest UFO Sightings Project.



cation with easier access to other bordering states, opening up all new possibilities!

Rock Paranormal will resume operations in the second week of July 2015 in Chicago. We will also be looking to add a few new investigators to the team from the Chicago-land area (if you are interested, please email me

I'm also pleased to announce that Rock Paranormal will be taking a small hiatus at the end of June for about two weeks. The purpose of this hiatus is because I am moving to Chicago with my fiancé, Joseph. This means that Rock Paranormal will also be moving it's headquarters from Beloit, Wisconsin down to Chicago, Illinois, one of the largest cities in the world!

Unfortunately, I can't take Erin Rose and Russell with me, but they will continue to stay on as part of the team and help with research projects, as well as act as the Wisconsin contact point for Rock Paranormal. They will still investigate with me from time to time when our scheduling/travel allows.

On the brighter side, this also opens up a whole new "local" territory for Rock Paranormal, centering us in one of the oldest, and most haunted cities in the United States! It also places us in a more central lo-

cation with easier access to other bordering states, opening up all new possibilities!

I'm excited to begin this new chapter in both my own personal life and in Rock Paranormal's history. We will definitely miss our old haunts in Wisconsin, but are excited for the chance to find new ones!

We are planning one of our "Haunted Roadies" to celebrate the move. We will be visiting some of our favorite cemeteries and locations, including "Elm Street", Fulton Cemetery, Newark Cemetery, and Oakwood Cemetery. We may even take a swing up to some of the further yonder haunts if we can get the planning down right for everyone. I'll make sure to get pictures for the next issue.

Happy Haunting, Everyone!

-Bob Markin-

Founder of Rock Paranormal

Rock Paranormal News & Updates

By Robert J. (Bob) Markin

GENERAL UPDATES:

As you may have read in my note, Rock Paranormal will be taking a hiatus from June 21-July 5, 2015. Team Manager Bob Markin and his partner are moving to Chicago, and they're taking Rock Paranormal with them! :-)

Rock Paranormal will "re-open" on July 6, 2015 and will be located in North-East Chicago, Illinois. No permanent office has been established at this time, but I will be running the team from my home office indefinitely.

TEAM UPDATES:

Erin Rose and Russell Tollefsen will be remaining as active members in Rock Paranormal. They will act as the Wisconsin contact point for Rock Paranormal's clients, and will participate in field investigations from time-to-time when possible. I'm sad we can't just pack them up and take them with us. :-(

This leaves a gap on the primary investigation team. Joseph will continue to assist me with my historical research and evidence review, but I need at least 1-2+ people to assist with the actual investigations, research, and reporting. I will be looking for a few good people to join the team from the Chicago area. Details are listed on the website, please visit www.rockparanormal.net.

We will be having a team "Haunted Roadie" event sometime in Mid-June to celebrate the move. All members are encouraged to attend, RSVP

ASAP, please. We will be visiting Oakwood, New-ark, Hanover, Fulton, Luther Valley and Cemetery Road Cemeteries, as well as the "Elm Street" location. Everyone is asked to donate \$5 for gas.

INVESTIGATION UPDATES::

We do not have any planned client investigations at this time, due to the pending move at the end of June.

However, I am planning to do a "dry-run" investigation of Bachelor's Grove Cemetery in Chicago sometime in July. I will be taking photos and trying to capture EVP during my visit. Bachelor's Grove is rumored to be one of the most haunted cemeteries in the world. I will be featuring my photos and findings in the next issue of the Informant.

RESEARCH PROJECT UPDATES:

The Starved Rock Research Project is being put on temporary hold until after hiatus. We will have access to better archives and research materials after the move, so we've postponed the project for the time being.

The Midwest UFO Sightings Project is underway. I'm in the process of trying to read through massive amounts of raw report data from the MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) databases, as well as sighting records from The W-Files and Weird Wisconsin websites. It's a lot of data to assimilate, so it's taking quite a bit of time. We will be featuring some of what we've learned so far in this issue.

OTHER UPDATES:

The next issue of the Paranormal Informant is due out Fall 2015 (September-ish).



Investigation Tips & Tricks:

USING AN EMF METER DURING AN INVESTIGATION/VIGIL

By Robert J. Markin

Whenever you watch one of those ghost-hunting shows on television, you always see the folks running around with all of this high-tech equipment that detects a wide range of things in various spectrums.

From infrared cameras to laser grids, to EM pumps to Spirit Boxes, you'd never guess how much tech is out there to detect the paranormal. And, a lot of it isn't cheap, either. Rock Paranormal prefers to utilize a more "old-fashioned" method of paranormal research, using very limited equipment.

One piece of equipment which does come in handy from time to time is the EMF meter. EMF Meters detect the level of energy the Electromagnetic field (EMF) is in a given area, and displays the levels for the investigator on a handy display. It is theorized that spirits give off electromagnetic energy, and will cause displacement in the natural EM fields in a "haunted" area.

There are all types and styles of EMF meters, ranging from small hand-held models with flashing lights and squeaking sirens to larger, more sophisticated models with additional built-ins. We've found that the good old-fashioned "Gauss Meter" works just fine, and usually doesn't complicate an investigation too much. We've also enjoyed using a MEL-Meter, which contains both a Gauss (EMF) Meter as well as a digital thermometer for detecting cold spots.

A old-fashioned Gauss Master/Meter can cost the user an average of \$15-30, depending on the specific model. MEL-type meters start at around \$35-40 and go up depending on the types of equipment you combine in the meter.

When you use an EMF meter during an investigation, the first thing you have to do is get a base reading. This doesn't mean that you turn it on and wave it around a little bit until you get a reading.

You have to determine the type of EMF meter you are using. There are two different types. A single-axis meter (most common) and a tri-axis meter. The Tri-Axis meter (most expensive) measures all three wave forms axis's of the EM field, and can easily take a push-button base-line reading.

However, if you have a single-axis meter, such as a Gauss-Master or most MEL-Type meters, you will need to find the base-line EM reading yourself, manually... CONTINUED, NEXT PAGE...



Bob Markin uses a MEL-Meter, which combines both an EMF detector and a digital temperature gauge in one.

Investigation Tips & Tricks Continued...

You may need to bring a calculator with you on your investigations if math isn't your strong point (which it is not one of mine). First, you need to orient yourself in the investigation area.

I find it best to orient myself North using a compass. Then, point your left arm straight out in front of you, and your right arm straight out to your right hand side. Then, you will also need to measure out a straight line centered between these two points. You should have three axis lines to take readings from, starting from the North. (0, 45, and 90 degree angles.)

Take readings from the North, East, and then "north-east" areas. Then, add your readings together, and determine the square root of the sum of your readings. This should be your baseline EM reading of the natural electromagnetic field present in your investigation area.

Once you have found your baseline reading, you will need to monitor the EMF for spikes that fall above or below the baseline reading. Some EMF meters (usually the MEL-type) have a feature to "hold" the baseline reading and only notify the user if the reading changes.

You should take baseline readings often, and record any changes in readings. It is also important to do additional research to determine if there are underground power lines or cables that run through the location, as they may cause what appear to be

somewhat "random" spikes in readings during an investigation.

It is theorized that when the EM field begins to dissipate, it is possibly due to the spirit "soaking up" the energy in order to manifest.

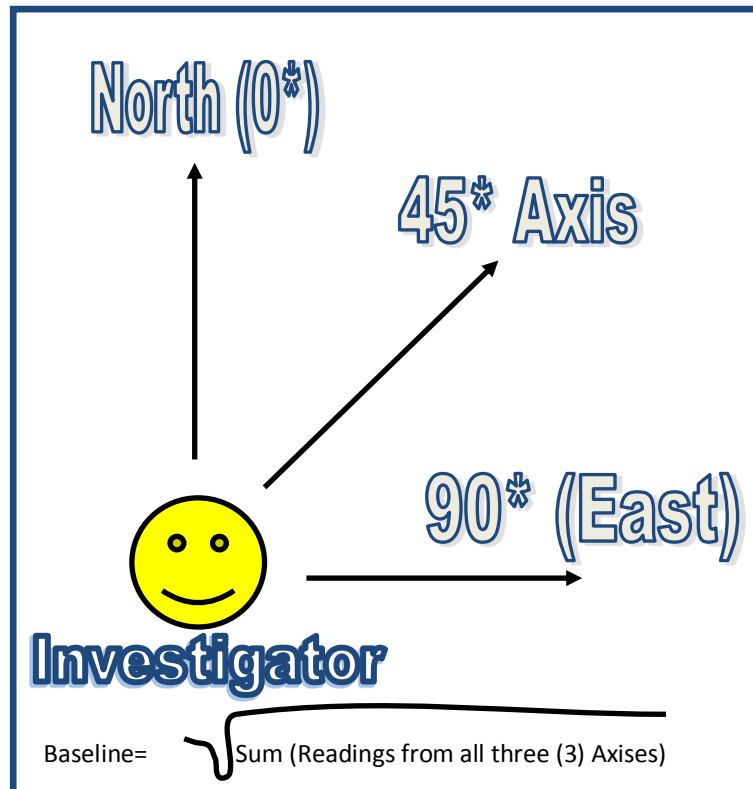
It is also theorized that when the EM field spikes high, it indicates that a spirit is present and/or attempting to manifest itself.

Monitoring the EM field and checking for dips/spikes in the field can assist in your investigations, but just because there may be spikes in the EM field doesn't necessarily mean that there is guaranteed paranormal activity present.

It is also important to remember that when humans are exposed to long-term

or high-level EM fields, it can cause auditory and visual hallucinations, which may be the explanation of some reported "hauntings". For example, if someone is sleeping next to a wall that continually gives off high EMF readings, and they have the feelings of being watched and hearing voices and seeing shadows at night, you have to take into account that the EM fields may be causing them to hallucinate these manifestations. This should be ruled out before proceeding to investigate.

Overall, an EMF Meter can be a useful tool to any paranormal researcher in the field, and we recommend that you have at least a basic EMF meter in your paranormal equipment inventory.



Local Legends, Sightings & Stories:

By Robert J. Markin

BURNING BANSHEES

(Beloit, Wisconsin) It was an hot summer day in July. Three friends were down swimming at Turtle Creek, just off from some hiking trails. They were using a rope that was hanging from a tree and dangling into the swiftly moving waters of the waist-deep creek to swing into the middle (which was the deepest part) and drop and splash into the water.

They had been at it for about an hour and a half, when they decided to take a short hike along some of the trails before they headed home, which was just a few blocks away. They were walking along a trail that leads along the creek bank, when one of them smelled something almost rancid.

"It smelled like something was burning," the witness recalled, "it was very foul, it felt like it was

burning my nose just smelling it." That's when a feeling of unease settled among the group.

"We felt like we were being watched" recalled another witness. "We couldn't see or hear anyone else, but it felt like someone was watching us."

That's when the horror hit them. The smell got worse, turning from just rancid to the familiar smells of burning hair and the iron-like smell of blood. "It smelled like burning rotted meat and hair and blood all at the same time," one witness stated, the others agreeing. "It made me puke. They could barely keep from not puking, but I was the only one that puked."

Then, the witnesses report being terrified by the sound of a very loud, shrill woman's scream coming from somewhere deep along the wooded trails ahead of them. They then report seeing some type of black "shadowy-smoky shape" manifest about fifty feet in front of them down the trail into the woods ahead.

"That was that, we just turned around and ran home after that."

This incident was reported in 2003, and was recently found in some old case files. The witnesses were interviewed first separately and then together, and the stories of all three completely matched the others.

I did visit the location, but was unable to locate any strange rancid smells, nor did I encounter any strange smoky shadows. I did however, get startled when a loon shrieked. It doesn't quite sound like a woman screaming, but can be quite creepy in the right atmosphere. The witnesses indicate that they have never returned to that particular spot of the Creek since their encounter.



Return of Living with the Paranormal:

Personal Stories of Supernatural Sightings

Compiled By Robert J. Markin

PHANTOM FARMER FRED

(Beloit, Wisconsin) It's not everyday that you get to purchase your dream home. Luckily for one Wisconsin resident, her family was just that lucky.

The house is one of the oldest homes in Beloit, sitting in the Historical Homes district of the West Side of town. The two story farmhouse had been empty for a few years before the family signed the deed and took possession.

After moving in, it took a few months for them to notice that something odd was going on. Items kept disappearing and showing up later in very strange places. The smell of baking bread and other good foods would fill up the house when no one had even turned on the oven.

While washing dishes one day after a hearty family breakfast, the misses was hard at work when she stopped to glance at the clock. When she turned back down to her task, she noticed a reflection of someone behind her in the window in front of her. Thinking it was her husband, she asked about their plans for the day.

Not getting a response, the wife turned around only to see an old man with long gray hair and dirty overalls with boots and a straw hat. He had piercing blue-gray eyes. Startled and thinking someone had broken into the house, the wife turned

and yelled for her husband. When she turned back to yell at the stranger to get out, he was gone.

After the police arrived, no signs of a break-in could be found. All of the doors and windows were locked. The police took the report and the family went about their business.

A few weeks had passed when the strange figure appeared again. This time, it was the husband who saw the man, and it was again in the kitchen. The husband told his wife that he watched the man simply appear out of no where, tip his hat to the husband, then walk into another room only to seemingly vanish into thin air again!

After some research, the family found some archived information detailing that a man

matching the description of the phantom was originally the owner of one of the first homesteads in the area. There are no details of his life or death, only the purchase information for a few of the first owners of the land/property.

After locating the information, the family started calling the farmer by his alleged first name, "Fred". Although the activity has not stopped, the family doesn't feel threatened by it, and has welcomed Fred as part of their family.

"I think it would be weird if he wasn't here. It's always been his home, I'm just glad we can share it together!" the father jokes.

This home is a private residence.



Do you have an interest in the paranormal?

Do you love learning about history?

Do you like helping people?

WE'RE LOOKING FOR YOU!

Rock Paranormal is looking for a few good people to join our team as Investigative Researchers.

You must live in the Chicago area, be over the age of eighteen (18+), and have an interest in serious paranormal research.

It's not always just like you see on TV! You will be required to conduct actual research as well as write reports on your findings. Basic Training provided. For more information, visit our website below, or email Bob

Markin, Team Manager:

www.rockparanormal.net

rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com

Herbology Studies Continued:

Herbs & Their Practical & Magical Properties...

By Robert J. Markin

HERBAL ENERGY CLEANSING

Herbs have been used over the millennia by doctors and medicine-folk alike to treat and help heal disease, cure infections, and ease symptoms of illnesses in patients. Whole fields of study dedicated to the pharmacology of plants have erupted from this fascinating field.

But, herbs are not only good for keeping



Sage Plant, from Google Images

your body healthy, they are also good for clearing out negative energies in your personal spaces. During some investigations, we do recommend performing a basic cleansing ritual to

help get rid of unwanted negative energies.

This ritual energy cleansing is not a method of ghost removal or “exorcism” in any way, but is simply intended to help get rid of the negative energies that might be helping the spirits manifest. It is a two part ritual.

The first part involves burning Sage. Sage is a well-known herb used in cooking, but it is also known in pagan circles for its purification properties. The herb, when burned and incensed in the afflicted area, will purify all energy (negative and positive). It’s a banishing herb that will “break up” any stored and/or residual energies in a location, and

banish it completely.

Once you have sage-censed the entire area, you now have a space with no energy. A lot of people simply stop there. You can, however, by leaving the energy “blank”, you can allow negative energy to build back up just as quickly as you banished it. The next step is to cense the area with a positive-energy building herb. For this, Sweet Grass is recommended.

Sweet grass has positive energy connotations, and by burning it, you are building up a “shield” of positive energy in the area. This “shield” will help protect against negative energies, and can help reduce spirit activity in some cases.

You can conduct an energy cleansing as often as you feel it is necessary, and you don’t have to have a haunted home to cleanse your home or office, either. Many people cleanse their homes in this fashion just as often as they clean with a broom and dustpan.



Various forms of Sweet Grass, from Google Images

BLACK-EYED KIDS: The New Vampires?

By Robert J. Markin



Lately, we've been hearing more and more about strange encounters with beings known as "Black-Eyed Kids" (BEKs). Although this phenomenon has been reported more and more recently, many people are under the impression that this is a "new" phenomenon, perhaps something made up by an overactive imagination.

However, stories of strange children with "eyes black like a moonless night", who lured the unsuspecting into a trap where the victim would vanish forever into the unknown.

THE B.E.K. SCENARIO

The typical encounter scenario goes something like this. Usually, someone is home alone and there is a knock on the door. When the person answers, anywhere from 1-3 (usually) kids appear at the door, asking for help.

The stories are anything from being lost to looking for a friend, but they always want you to invite them in. Many people report feeling drawn to the children, and many report feeling compelled to let the children inside.

If the person is smart enough and they can

avoid letting the children in, they usually report that the children insist on being let in, usually until being threatened with the police. Then, they "run away" or just "vanish".

No one really knows what happens if you let these children in, as no one has reported such an encounter. It should be noted that all reports of the Black-Eyed Kids are of people having a near-miss with the creatures, never actually having allowed the children in. One can only assume what these devilish things would do if you actually let them in your home.

Sightings of BEKs have been found dating hundreds of years back, however, most of these sightings classify the creatures as "demon children", and not as Black-Eyed Kids, which is a recent term.

Nearly all of the reports describe the same scenarios: being alone, being approached by strange children who ask for help and to be let in, strange compulsion to comply with the children's requests, feelings of dread and unease in the children's presence, and fear of the children.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...

BLACK-EYED KIDS Continued...

DID YOU SAY VAMPIRE?

Recently, some paranormal researchers have posed the theory that BEKs are really what could be a version of the well-known vampire species.

Why do they think this, you ask? Simply put, when you compare the legends of the two creatures side by side, you can see the similarities all too clear.

For instance, in popular mythology, vampires are undead creatures who feed on the blood of the living to survive. They possess strange mind powers which enable them to ensnare unsuspecting persons into letting the vampire into their homes and end up becoming prey.

People who have encountered BEKs report a similar compelling feeling to listen and comply with the wishes and demands of the BEKs, feeling drained of energy and out of control of their bodies. Usually people have to force themselves to not open doors for these beings. One man described trying not to comply as one of the “hardest things he ever had to do”. He literally had to muster all his will to just slam the door shut and walk away.

It would seem that both Dracula and the BEK can use mind-control on their victims. Check one.

Another similarity comes in the appearance of the creatures. Vampires are usually always described as pale and thin, having dark eyes, and being cold to the touch.

Not shockingly, nearly every description of BEK's is similar. Pale, cold-looking skin and lips, dark black eyes. Many have even been reported as being dressed in “older” or “vintage” clothing, suggesting that they are from an entirely different time in history.

One witness reported that the children she encountered spoke “old English” rather than the currently used slang English, a fact that she indicates didn't dawn upon her until after she narrowly escaped their clutches.

The similarities keep piling up. Although we have no actual reports of the Black-Eyed Kids drinking blood, we actually do not have any reports from any individuals who survived an actual encounter with the Black-Eyed Kids, only many who have narrowly avoided their encounter.

Are Black-Eyed Kids really just vampires? It's hard to say at this point, as there is not enough evidence to decide conclusively. It does seem that they share an awful lot of similarities to the infamous Dracula and his vampire minions, but they also have their own unique differences. Perhaps they don't drink blood at all, perhaps the reason people feel tired around them is because they are a type of energy vampire?

More research into this topic will have to be done before further analysis can be complete. Until then, what do you think? Are they vampires? Or are they a creature all of their own?

In either event, I don't think I'm going to open the door for anyone I don't know anymore...



PARANORMAL 101:

Types of Spirits & Manifestations

By Robert J. Markin

When a client calls you to come investigate their home, you never really know what type of spirit you may be dealing with until you get there. Most people assume that a ghost is simply a ghost, but there is actually a wide range of “types” of ghosts, each with their own specific characteristics, but many of which may also fall under multiple categories.

Hanz Holzer, one of the founding fathers of modern paranormal research, created an amazing classification system which holds true to this day. Combining his system with a few tweaks and updates for the new “ghost hunting age”, we here at Rock Paranormal refer to this list as the “Holzer-Markin Haunting Classification System”, and we use it to determine the type of hauntings/spirits we may be dealing with at a given location:

ATMOSPHERIC PHOTOGRAPH GHOST

This type of manifestation, also known as a “Mental Imprint Manifestation”, occurs when the energy from an event “imprints” on the environment, and is witnessed as a single replayed event.

This is one of the most common types of manifestations. A great example of this type of phenomenon would be the repeating phenomenon of a spiritual re-enactment of someone’s final moments at the scene of their death.

These entities do not interact with witnesses, but seemingly just replay a certain scene.

HISTORICAL & MODERN GHOSTS

These ghosts, are your typical ghosts. The difference between them is the time in which they died. If the ghost is from more than a hundred years

ago, per say, you’d interact with it differently than someone who just died a few years ago. These are the most common type of haunting.

One of the most widely reported encounters of this type takes place at the Gettysburg Memorial field. Many people have reported seeing ghostly soldiers re-enacting their last battles, or even interacting with someone thought to be a re-enactment performer who later turns out to be a ghost!

CYCLIC/RECURRING GHOSTS

These ghosts are also another popular phenomenon, however, mostly in England, France, and other European nations. These spirits are “timely” spirits, rumored to report at a certain time on a certain day or every certain number of years.

The most common form of this manifestation is the spirit that re-appears every year on the day at the time of his/her death at a particular location. There are many examples of this type of spirit all around the world, and even in many local town legends and myths.

INTERACTIVE GHOSTS

These spirits are the type of spirits that people see on television. These are ghosts who know they are ghosts, and who can be fully interacted with. These are the ghosts that you can ask questions of and get an EVP response from during an investigation vigil.

Although these ghosts are “hard to come by”, this type of spirit poses the greatest chance for a researcher to collect evidence due to the entities ability and desire to interact with the investigator.

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PARANORMAL 101 Continued...

Types of Spirits & Manifestations

GHOSTS OF THE LIVING

This is an interesting phenomenon, as it involves the ghost of someone who, as the title suggests, isn't deceased at the time of the sighting.

The most well-known form of this type of haunting is the German doppelganger. This spirit is rumored to be an exact duplicate of an individual, and if the individual sees his or her own doppelganger, it is alleged to be a sign of your impending demise.

Another, more recently discovered alternate explanation for this type of phenomenon is Astral Projection. Astral projection involves inducing a deep state of meditation, so deep that an individual can literally project their spiritual self to another place/time. During the projection experience, the projector can interact with objects and locations and individuals just as if they were "awake", and many report being able to feel all tactile sensations during their projections.

One story of Astral Projection would be where a young girl was coaxed into following her

little brother into the woods, only to be lead to find his body unconscious in the woods, and that the "brother" she followed in had disappeared.

CRISIS APPARITIONS AND DEATH-BED VISIONS

These are exactly as they sound. Many people report seeing spirits or what some describe as "angels" during extreme illness or near-death. Some people have reportedly indicated that they were able to see spirits when nearing death, the most commonly known being able to see a long-dead loved one such as a grandfather welcome you to the other side as you are passing.

This same experience has been reported by individuals who report near-death experiences where they survive and are resuscitated.

Others report seeing spirits during times of extreme stress and/or anxiety.

FAMILY GHOSTS

These ghosts are spirits rumored to haunt only a specific family or family line. These ghosts are rare, but some have been reported through the ages. One such famous case would involve the well-known Winchester Mystery House.

Sarah Winchester was the heir to the Winchester Rifle fortune, however, she claimed to be haunted by the ghosts of people killed by the Winchester rifle, and also indicated she believed the ghosts to be involved in the death of her family members, as well.

Sarah Winchester built an elaborate mansion in California complete with doors-to-nowhere, stairs that lead to walls, and hidden rooms, all in her effort to hide from the ghosts that haunted her family.

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PARANORMAL 101 Continued...

Types of Spirits & Manifestations

HAUNTED OBJECTS

These are so popular, they even made a television show about them called “Haunted Collector”, where a paranormal investigator roams the world collecting objects believed to be possessed and/or otherwise “haunted” by spirits or entities.

In most instances, once a haunted object is removed from the sighting location, activity usually tends to cease, but usually increases in the vicinity of the object itself. The Warrens also have a large museum of haunted objects that they’ve collected through their years of ghost hunting.

FRAUDULENT HAUNTINGS

Yes, even faked hauntings have a classification. At least, this one doesn’t require much explanation. A fraudulent haunting is any haunting proven to be a hoax, fake, or otherwise humanly staged.

SURVIVAL AFTER DEATH

All ghosts are people who “survive” after death, but this particular category has two sub-components:

S.A.D. Type 1 - Spirits who know they are dead, but have something they wish to accomplish before passing onto the other side. This may be passing on information or locating something lost, for example. It is believed that if these spirits can

complete their “unfinished business”, they will be able to pass on successfully to the spirit realm.

S.A.D. Type 2 - These are spirits that have survived after death, but do not know they are dead. They do not acknowledge their physical death for whatever reason, if any reason at all other than simply because they do not know they died. It is believed that these spirits pass on once they believe and understand that they are actually deceased.



ANIMAL GHOSTS

Just as the name suggests, these manifestations are the spirits of animals that have passed. These can be of any animal, and all types of animals have been reported over the years.

AERIAL PHENOMENON

There are various types of phenomenon...

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...

PARANORMAL 101 Continued...

Types of Spirits & Manifestations

...that appear in the sky. Angels and apparitions of strange ships and beings have been reported through every age in recorded history. These can also include strange lights, mists, or other anomalies. One report that comes to mind is a haunted forest where multiple witnesses encountered strange “balls of light” that seemed to “dance around the trees and shrubs”.

The sightings were later attributed to swamp gas and natural causes.

STRUCTURAL APPARITIONS

These are very interesting phenomenon, and include such manifestations as ghostly houses, buildings, farms and businesses. One encounter with this type of phenomenon included a witness walking through a woods near a cemetery (Bachelor's Grove Cemetery, Illinois) and seeing a house seemingly appear out of nowhere. The house then vanished, almost as if it were a mirage, when the witness tried getting closer.

VEHICLE APPARITIONS

Just like structural apparitions, this phenomenon is quite a sight to see, and includes things such as phantom sailing ships, ghost cars, airplane apparitions, and spectre trains. One of the most famous of these types of hauntings is The Flying Dutchman, an old sailing ship spotted by numerous sailors in the seas, usually as an omen of bad tidings to come.

DARK/NEGATIVE ENTITIES

Some entities act violently, and attack or lash out at the witnesses/victims. These entities are often manifestations of people who were “bad” in life, and they end up being “bad” in death. These entities do not necessarily mean “demon”, as those entities are a classification all of their own, but rather

just a “mean” or “hurtful” spirit. These entities are often associated with “shadow walkers”, because they normally manifest as a dark, shadowy figure. However, Shadow Walkers are actually a spirit form, and not all shadow walkers are evil spirits.

DEMONIC ENTITIES

This classification is reserved for entities who possess an individual for the purposes of evil, or for the purpose to harm good. If you are not experienced, you should not deal with cases where demonic entities may be present. You should find a reputable, well-known paranormal researcher with experience and refer your client to them, privately. Do not take out an ad in the newspaper or on Craigslist. Joking aside, this is a very serious matter that requires serious training, knowledge, and understanding. You can do more harm than good if you are not experienced, and it is best to leave this to the experts.

POLTERGEISTS

Poltergeist is German for “noisy ghost”, mostly because this type of “haunting” is associated with bangs, footsteps, and voices. Poltergeists are actually caused by human agents, usually a pubescent teen, majority of the time being female. It is believed that the hormonal changes puberty induces when combined with stress can cause some teens to access portions of their brains that allow temporary telekinetic and psychokinetic abilities.

Poltergeists usually are short in duration, lasting only a few weeks or months, and are often focused on a single individual, most often either the individual causing the phenomenon or the target of the causer's anger, frustration, and rage, which acts as a trigger for the phenomenon in such cases.

ASK ROCK PARANORMAL!

E-Mail Questions to: rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com

We've had a great response and received an interesting bunch of questions since the launch of Ask Rock Paranormal! We love the questions, so keep them coming! We're an open book, so feel free to ask anything you'd like to know about us, our team, our investigations and research, or just some questions about the paranormal you'd like us to answer for you!

Q: What is the scariest place you've ever investigated? What happened that made it so scary?

-Jessica, Janesville

A: (Bob) The scariest place I can recall visiting is actually a tie between two places. Elm Street and Fulton Cemetery. I say Fulton Cemetery because one night I became temporarily possessed by some type of spirit. It was a young girl. I was just doing a cemetery visit with some friends, and I was drawn to this particular part of the cemetery. When I walked over towards the back part, I blacked out kind of.

I say kind of because I could see something, but I couldn't see reality. I "saw" myself being chased by two men who I felt were older than me, but appeared to be about my age. I was about twenty at the time, so I figure they were about that age. They were chasing me through the cemetery, but it was much smaller than it was in reality.

I saw myself getting caught by them, and being dragged against my will towards a n old fashioned ground cellar. The last thing I remember was seeing my legs kicking out of a dress and being drug down some stairs into the cellar, and the door to the cellar slamming shut and it going black.

That's when I woke up to reality and a sore face. My friend who had been with me was freaking out, slapping me across the face. He said that I was walking around looking all crazy and muttering about someone trying to get me.

He said the last thing I did was start screaming something about "cellar doors" before he slapped me and snapped me out of whatever trance I was engulfed in.

It was a terrifying experience, knowing that for a brief moment in time something had taken control of my body and my mind and made me see something that wasn't there. The feeling of being invaded lingered afterward for a while.

The other scariest place would be the Elm Street house. It is an old abandoned property that we found one day, and we always had some strange experiences out there. One of the last times we were out there, we could hear voices and two of us swore we saw some kind of dark shadowy figure lurking about in the woods surrounding the property.

As we were exiting, a huge black bird landed on the car and rode the wiper, staring and cawing at us as we tried to leave. After hearing the voices and seeing the shadows, the bird did me in for that place. I would never go back at night. The next time we visited the location, the barn that once had been there (we found a noose hanging from the rafters in it the first time we found the location), and that was the only standing structure remaining on the property, was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. What's odd about that is that the house also burned to the ground. The reports indicated that they believed it to have also been a lightning strike. It killed the whole family. It's a really scary, creepy place.

Q: What is your favorite ghost hunting show?

-Ali, Clinton

A: Well, we love them all. If we had to pick, it couldn't be just a few. Voted highest to lowest is our top five:

1- A Haunting, 2- Most Haunted 3- America's Most Haunted 4- Scariest Places on Earth 5- Destination: Truth.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE...

ASK ROCK PARANORMAL CONTINUED!

E-Mail Questions to: rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com

Q: If you could investigate anywhere in the United States, where would you go?

- Steve, Beloit

A: Well, we picked three places we all would love to visit:

1— Bachelor's Grove Cemetery in Chicago, Illinois. Why? It's rumored to be the most haunted cemetery in the Midwest, possibly even the United States. Rumors of ghostly lights, phantom houses, shadow walkers, voices, and stories of the mob hiding bodies in the swamp out back are just begging to be investigated!

2— Brown Mountains in Seattle, Washington. Why? Because of the Brown Mountain Lights, of course! Most believe them to be UFOs, they appear every so often and are one of the most well-documented repeat UFO sightings ever recorded.

3— New York City, New York. Why? It's one of the oldest cities in the United States, and with it's old history comes many more ghosts! New York City has some of the best ghost stories, from Ghostly ballroom dancers to haunted hospitals, ghost ships to phantom hookers, it wouldn't take us long to track down a few good investigations in the Big City.

Q: What do you have to do to be a member [of Rock Paranormal]?

- Christian, Rockford

A: At this time, you have to meet the following qualifications:

1— You must live in or near Chicago, Illinois to be an active team member. If you live outside of Chicago, you can apply to be an Associate Investigator.

2— You must be at least 18 (eighteen) years of age.

3— You must have an interest in serious paranormal research. This will require participation in field investigations, undergoing required trainings, attending mandatory team meetings, conducting research, interviewing clients, and writing reports.

If you are only interested in the "fun stuff", this isn't the group for you. You can apply on our website, rockparanormal.net. After we receive your application, we send out a questionnaire for you to fill out and return. Once we receive your questionnaire, a preliminary interview is scheduled.

After the initial interview, candidates are then selected based on merits such as previous experience, field knowledge, subject matter expertise, and other factors. We then conduct another round of interviews with the remaining candidates perform a public records background check. Having a record doesn't mean you won't be accepted for membership, but failing to disclose a record does automatically disbar a candidate for one (1) year.

After the interviews and checks are completed, positions are offered based on the needs of the team. We usually try to keep a small team of investigators, so we don't always have a position available, but we always interview every applicant and everyone gets a fair chance at an open position.

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION YOU'D LIKE ANSWERED? SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS FOR "ASK ROCK PARANORMAL" TO:

ROCK.PARANORMAL.BOB@GMAIL.COM

Please indicate "Ask Rock Paranormal" in your subject line. If you send a question, you consent to and give Rock Paranormal and it's founder Robert Markin permission to publish your question and our response in the Paranormal Informant E-Zine.



FAMOUS CASES PRESENTS:

THE BROWN LADY OF RAYNHAM HALL

By Robert J. Markin

Probably one of the most infamous ghost photographs, the Brown Lady of Raynham Hall was taken in 1936 in Norfolk, England, when two magazine photographers who were taking pictures for an architectural journal when they spotted the spirit floating down the stairs and quickly snapped this infamous photograph.

Since being captured, this photo (and the original negatives) have been tested and scrutinized by paranormal researchers and photography experts alike, but no evidence of a hoax can be found. Some people point out to the fact that the banisters appear to be incongruent, moving at two different angles, suggesting a double exposure.

FAMOUS CASES: THE BROWN LADY Cont'd:

However, if you look at the enlarged photo on the previous page, you can clearly see a landing halfway up the stairs, which would account for the stair railing appearing to be juxtaposed at two different angles. You can clearly see a small decorative piece along the side of the landing on the mid-left of the photo, and you can even see the banister on the right hand side of the stairs, which debunks the debunkers theory that this was a poor double exposure job.

This is one of the rarest forms of an apparition. Most people see partial-bodied apparitions, usually the head, torso, and part of the legs (if any). This apparitions appears to have all the appropriate appendages, making it probably the only full-bodied apparition ever caught on film.

Many have suggested that because it is such a good picture that it must be a fake. Others insist that it's just one of the best unexplained photos ever taken.

The Brown Lady is rumored to haunt Raynham Hall, and her real name is reported to be Lady Townshend, wife of Lord Charles Townshend. Legend has it that Lord Charles learned of Lady Townshend's infidelity, and locked her up at Raynham Hall for the rest of her life, not even al-

lowing her to see her own children. She is reported to have died in the hall many decades later, of old age/natural causes.

Shortly after her death, the rumors of her ghostly spectre haunting the halls began to spread. She was apparently first reportedly seen by King George IV in the late nineteenth century.

She was seen by many witnesses since, most notably in 1835 by a British Colonel who described her as being "dressed aristocratically", wearing the same brown satin dress that appears in the infamous photo. Her skin is alleged to glow with a pale light, but her eyes are supposed to be missing! She even scared one novelist who stayed at the Hall so bad he tried to shoot her, but the bullet passed right through her and into the wall behind her.

The last time an encounter with the Brown Lady of Raynham Hall happened was in September 1936, when the infamous photograph was taken by Captain Provand and Indre Shira for *Country Life* Magazine. They reported they just happened to be in the right place at the right time, and when her spirit appeared and startled them, they just happened to be taking pictures and were able to capture one of the best ghost photographs of all time.

Lucky break, guys. Perhaps they could share some of that luck with me for my ghost photos?

RESOURCES:

1. Warren, J. (2003) *How to Hunt Ghosts*. Simon & Schuster: New York, NY.
2. <http://hoaxes.org/raynham.html>
3. <http://www.castleofspirits.com/brownlady.html>
4. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brown_Lady_of_Raynham_Hall
5. Photo sourced from Wikipedia article



MEET THE TEAM:

Erin Rose Tollefsen, Lead Investigator



Erin Rose is just starting her thirties, but she swears that she's already had her fair share of paranormal experiences to last her lifetime.

"I've always had an obsession with weird things. As long as I can remember, I've loved Halloween and all things 'spooky'". Erin Rose started researching the paranormal when she was in her teens after experiencing a string of paranormal events in her own home.

"When I was younger, all this crazy stuff would happen like things flying across the room or my bed vibrating. A few times, I thought I saw a shadow person creeping around my room." It was shortly after these experiences that she found out her brother was also having similar spooky experiences.

"That's when I knew it was definitely something paranormal!" Erin Rose laughed. Shortly after, she met Robert Markin, who at the time was working with the Office of Paranormal Investigation

And Research (OPIAR). The two became best friends, and have studied the paranormal together for over a decade since. In 2012, when Robert launched Rock Paranormal, she made the decision to join.

"I couldn't wait to get started I was so excited!" she tells us. "I love all of it, the research, the investigations, the evidence reviews. Some of it takes a lot of time, but it's all worth it to get that one amazing EVP or great picture, for me!"

Although Rock Paranormal is moving from her hometown area, Erin Rose will continue to act as "Lead Associate Investigator" for the South-Central Wisconsin area, where she will continue to conduct paranormal research and act as a Wisconsin contact point for Rock Paranormal.

"It's going to be an interesting next half of the year with all the changes, but I know it's for the better. It'll open up whole new territories and locations to be investigated. I can't wait to help out with that!"

When she's not paranormal-ing things up, Erin Rose runs a craft business from her home, and she is also a digital artist. Her business, Kooky Spooky Arts, sells hand-crafted and one-of-a-kind Halloween, Horror, and Spooky-Inspired crafts ranging from art boxes to jewelry, art prints to sculptures. You can find them on Facebook under "Kooky Spooky Arts".



Research & Investigation Updates

With the announcement that Rock Paranormal will be moving it's main office from Beloit, Wisconsin to Chicago, Illinois, you can guess that we haven't had much of a chance to plan any investigations or research project events.

Once the move is complete, and the hiatus is over (Hiatus is from June 21-July 5, 2015) Rock Paranormal will resume normal operations, and will begin to schedule more investigation and research events.

Chicago also has a much larger selection of libraries and archives that will be more easily accessible to the research team and will assist with the research process.

THE STARVED ROCK RESEARCH PROJECT

As you all know, earlier this year, we announced the Starved Rock Research Project. This state park in Illinois is rumored to be haunted by the spirits of Native Americans who were forced up onto a rock and starved to death by armed enemy forces. Their spirits are rumored to haunt the park.

We haven't done much in this arena after the announcement. We were waiting for warmer weather to plan a few excursion trips to the park itself, but now with the move we won't be able to get out there as soon as we'd like. We're temporarily putting this project on the back burner until after the move.

THE MIDWEST UFO SIGHTING PROJECT

This project is going to take a while to complete. While we are heavy in the process of gathering, sorting and processing data from sources such as the Mutual UFO Network and the W-Files Archives, I keep finding more and

more potential sources for information and data, which then just adds to the compilation portion of the project.

As indicated, we are still in the process of gathering background research data, and haven't progressed to the next stage of this project at this time. We plan on attempting to contact and interview some witnesses if possible, as well as visit some of these locations.

The end result will be a comprehensive report and sighting map of all recorded UFO Sightings in our area of the Midwest. This project is estimated to take no less than one year or more. We will keep posting updates as we progress.

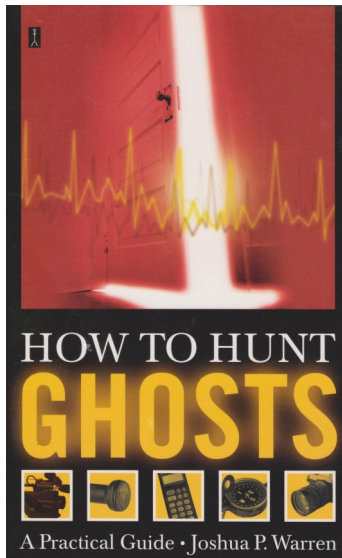
BACHELOR'S GROVE CEMETERY

Since we are moving to Chicago, we can't ignore the fact that we will be right around the corner from the reported most haunted cemetery in the U.S.. Sometime in July, we will be visiting this infamous location and doing a preliminary walk-through. We will be taking photos, video, recording EVP, and using a few instruments for measurements. We will publish the findings from our "walk-through" in the next issue of the Informant, due out in September.



THE HIT LIST:

Recommended Readings, Resources & More!



HOW TO HUNT GHOSTS by Joshua P. Warren - This is probably one of my favorite books of all time. I bought it on a whim at a goth convention vendor table. I actually just put it on the shelf when I first got home, and found it again a few months later. I haven't put it down since.

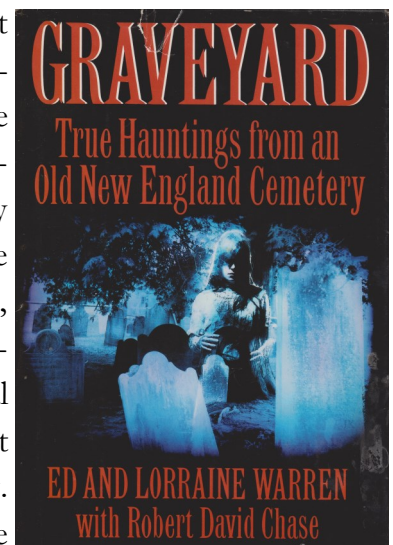
Full of information and complete with sketches and diagrams when applicable, this book, written by one of the leading experts on the paranormal, has become one of my ghost hunting bibles. It has so many bookmarks and post-its you'd swear I tagged every page, but this book just has a great wealth of information with easy-to-understand explanations.

In my opinion, this book should be a part of every ghost hunter's paranormal library.

itself reminds me of a textbook of sorts, which to me makes it all that much simpler to read and understand. Gives good (but brief) explanations of many different aspects of paranormal research, ranging from ghosts to UFOs and psychic powers.

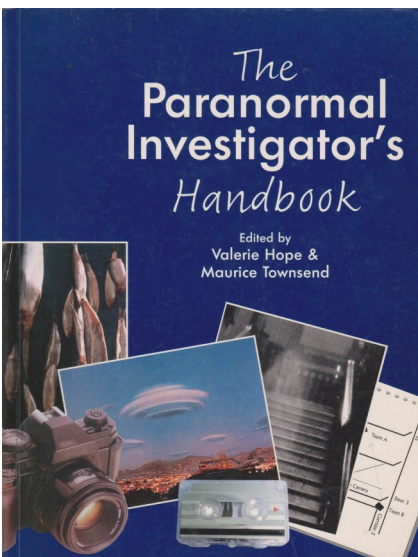
GRAVEYARD: True Hauntings from an Old New England Cemetery by Ed & Lorraine Warren -

Before you start preaching about the validity of Ed & Lorraine Warren's work, I personally feel that they did more to advance the public's knowledge, awareness, and understanding of paranormal phenomenon than most investigator's today. The book describes the



hauntings at various locations all around New England cemeteries.

THE PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR'S HANDBOOK by



Valerie Hope & Maurice Townsend - One of the first books that graced my collection, this book is a great "starting point" for anyone interested in becoming a serious paranormal researcher.

The book

This book is a great read and some of the stories are funny while others are simply terrifying. The collection is one of my favorites, and somehow it ends up on my night stand quite a few times through-out the year. I've read it more than a dozen times, but every time I read it, it's just like it's the first time all over again.

Do you have a show, movie, documentary, book, magazine, podcast or other paranormal tid-bit you'd like to see reviewed here?

SUBMIT IT VIA EMAIL:

rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com

www.rockparanormal.net

2015 Spring/Summer Team Events

MAY 2015

Janesville Renaissance Faire

Going as a team! Dress in costume if you'd like! Cost includes Admission at \$10 per person. Carpool available. RSVP to Bob for additional information...

JUNE 2015

Team "Haunted Roadie"

Join the team as we celebrate the move to Chicago with a big road-trip to our favorite haunts! From Fulton to Elm Street, we're taking them all in! Afternoon/Evening trip being planned. RSVP to Bob for details/info. \$10/person

HAITUS

June 21st-July 5th, 2015

JULY 2015

Chicago Team-Building Drive

New Team Member recruitment and training. To apply to become a member, visit our website at www.rockparanormal.net.

JULY 2015 CONTINUED...

Bachelor's Grove Cemetery Walk-Through

Hidden along the highway, this is reportedly one of the most haunted cemeteries in existence. Bob and Joseph will be visiting this location for a sight-seeing walk-through in July. More information as it comes. Time/Date TBD.

AUGUST 2015

Chicago Team Meeting

New Member Orientation & Training. Plan Field Investigation Training Session. Location/Time TBA.

Associate Team Meeting

New Member Orientation & Training. Online. Time/Date TBA.

Field Investigation Training Session

Outdoor Field Investigation Training. Tentatively planned for late August. Completion required for active membership.

Event Schedule may change. Please visit the website and Facebook page for the most current info.



IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT...

The next issue of the PARANORMAL INFORMANT is due out in September! It's going to jam-packed full of paranormal peculiarities, so be sure to check it out!

ARTICLES IN NEXT ISSUE INCLUDE:

Chicago & Midwest 2015 Halloween Events Calendar

More Local Legends, Sightings & Stories!

Paranormal 101: The Poltergeist Phenomenon

History of Spirit Photography (A Brief Synopsis...)

Investigation Tips & Tricks: Interviewing Witnesses...

Famous Cases: The Winchester Mystery House

Haunted Chicago! Feature

Research & Investigation Highlights and Updates...

Bob's 2015 Halloween & Horror Hit List!

AND SO MUCH MORE...

Check it out Early Fall of 2015!

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ROCK PARANORMAL

RESEARCH & INVESTIGATIONS

LOOKING FOR SUBMISSIONS

Witnessed something strange and unusual? Perhaps a ghost, or maybe even some lights in the sky that you couldn't quite explain?

Do you want to share your story? We'd love to hear it. And if you'd like, we'd like to share it here! Accepting ghost stories, local legends and folklore, and stories of other strange creatures and weird things in Southern Wisconsin and surrounding areas.

Visit our website at

<http://www.rockparanormal.net/>
for more information.

More About Rock Paranormal

Rock Paranormal was founded and is operated by Robert (Bob) Markin. If you are contacting us in regards to an investigation request, please email:

rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com

If you would like to submit something for the Paranormal Informant, such as a response to our PSYCH101 Column, a Question for Ask Rock Paranormal, other submissions and/or any inquiries to the editor/publisher of the Paranormal Informant, Robert (Bob) Markin, can be directed to:

rock.paranormal.bob@gmail.com

Check out our website for more information.

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ROCK PARANORMAL - RESEARCH & INVESTIGATIONS

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