

THE

PARANORMAL INFORMATION

Published by:



reporting stories of the paranormal
in Wisconsin and surrounding areas

Our First Issue! Fall 2012 (Oct-Dec 2012)

A WITCH'S CHRISTMAS

Werewolf Sightings!

A VISIT WITH ED GEIN

LIVING WITH THE PARANORMAL

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THE PARANORMAL INFORMANT

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A Witch's Christmas

Christmas Traditions and their Pagan Roots

By Robert J. Markin

Director of Investigative Research

Rock County Paranormal Research

As many of us settle down

to our holiday traditions, we are putting out our Yule logs out and warming up to roasted chestnuts on the fire. No? Well, aside from the consumerism that has conquered the holidays and made them the largest shopping season (or disaster?) we can ever imagine, Christmas and the winter holidays celebrate family, friends, and the coming of the New Year.

Wiccans celebrated the New Year during Samhain, or what non-pagans call "Halloween". It is then that they celebrate the closing of the year, and they experience the veil between the worlds at its thinnest. During the winter season, however, we celebrate Yule. Yule, traditionally, is where the reigning Holly King ends, and the Oak King begins his rule. This day is celebrated

on the solstice, when the day is the shortest during the year.

Imagine a brutal swordfight in where one King kills another to take power. That is in essence what many covens "reenact" during their rituals, the Oak King killing the Holly King, which marks another turn of the wheel, ending old year and moving to new.



"Hauling of the Yule Log", 1832. By Robert Chambers, From "The Book of Days", 1832 (p.734). Downloaded from:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Chambers_Yule_Log.png

Many covens celebrate by gathering and burning their Yule logs, as many covens did traditionally. In olden times, however, the meaning was magical. They would save the last of the Yule log they had burned and keep it until the next year.

It was believed that it would protect the coven-steaders from home fires and lightning strikes throughout the coming year.

Most Wiccans celebrate with ritual, including

FIX THIS ARTICLE!!!!

A Witch's Christmas Continued...

cakes and ale, libations (giving to the Gods), and the burning of the Yule log. Many also recreate the battle between the Oak and Holly kings during their rituals.

In the ancient times, many celebrated this day as the end of the harvesting season. Many celebrated with clove-spiced apples, and children even "trick-or-treated", although not as they do now. It was the children, led by guardians from house to house as today; however they were the givers of treats instead of the receivers! They passed out gifts from the harvest, such as spiced apples, organs, cookies and nuts to neighbors.

People also decorated with boughs of holly, mistletoe and evergreen boughs. These are quintessential Christmas items, and most modern homes have even had these decorations today! (I know I do!) And in the kitchen, eggnog, roasted turkeys, cider and fruit cakes were abundant. (Sounds like Christmas at Grandma's to me!) Even the colors

of red, green, gold, and white were traditionally used to denote the Yule season in decoration around the hearth and home.



It's interesting to think how many traditions of modern, non-pagan households are actually based on traditions of the "Old Religion", and how similar they are. Although we do not celebrate the birth of Jesus, we celebrate the birth of the New Year and the Reign of the Oak King. But all that aside, it's still interesting isn't it? I mean, how many of these things do you do at Christmas?

Sources:

<http://wicca.com/celtic/akasha/yule.htm>

Buckland, Raymond. (2001). *Wicca for Life*. New York, NY: Citadel Press.

THE BEAST OF BRAY ROAD

By Robert Markin, Director, RCPI

The Beast of Bray road is a werewolf like creature that was first reported outside of Elkhorn, Wisconsin (yes, right around our corner!) in the 1980s. Bray Road is a small but rural road just outside of the city. The peak amount of sightings occurred in the late 80s and early 90s. Linda Godfrey, then reporter to the *Walworth County Week*, was skeptical at first, but

then became convinced after interviewing the witnesses. Her research became the book *The Beast of Bray Road: Trailing Wisconsin's Werewolf*.

The Beast itself is described as a large, ape or bear like creature, standing around 7 foot tall. This creature has wolf-like features, but stands on either two or four legs, and can walk on its hind legs. It is said to be covered with brown or grayish fur similar to that of a dog or bear. Some theories about what the creature could be include a variety of feral dog or a hybrid creature of dog and

wolf origin. But that doesn't explain how it can walk on two feet.

My team and I have driven down Bray Road in outside of Elkhorn many times, searching for the beast. We have never seen it, or any traces of it or its prey. If you are ever in Elkhorn, and you find yourself driving down this seemingly desolate road surrounded by trees... lock your doors and roll up your windows... you never know if you might see the Beast!

Sources:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beast_of_Bray_Road

A VISIT WITH A SERIAL KILLER...

ED GEIN



By Robert Markin— Lead Investigative Researcher, Rock County Paranormal Research

Everyone

has seen

the movie Texas Chainsaw Massacre with the infamous serial torturing murderer Leatherface, but did you know that his character is based off a real person? From right here in Wisconsin? That's right. Edward Gein was born August 27, 1906 and died on July 26, 1984. His crimes included exhuming corpses and "bodysnatching" from the Plainfield Cemetery in Plainfield, Wisconsin, his hometown. He would fashion "trophies" and "keepsakes" from the "parts" and keep them around the house. It wasn't only until 1957 when police raided his house did they discover the gruesome scene, which included bowls made from skulls,

heads just sitting around the house, human skin chair coverings, and the heads of his two victims, Bernice Worden and Mary Hogan.



Robert & Erin Rose sitting at the site of Ed Gein's missing gravestone in

Ed Gein made over forty "visits" to the cemetery during his evening escapades. His ultimate goal included making a "woman suit" out of skins so he could pretend to be female. On November 21, 1957 Ed Gein was arraigned on first degree murder, where he pled not guilty by insanity. He was sent to the Dodge Correctional Institution and the Mendota State Hos-

pital in Madison, Wisconsin before he was determined to be able to stand trial. He was found guilty, and spent the rest of his life in the mental hospital.

He died in 1984 of respiratory failure at Mendota Mental Health. He is buried in Plainfield Cemetery next to his mother, Augustus, and near his victim Bernice Worden. Also nearby, are the disturbed graves he had robbed earlier in life. His gravestone has been removed and is kept in a museum because people tend to steal it.

Gein was also the inspiration for other famous movie monsters such as Norman Bates in Psycho and Jame Gumb, the killer in The Silence of the Lambs.

Our group visits Plainfield Cemetery and the graves of Mr. Gein, his mother, and his victim, Ms. Worden, once a year to pay a visit.

The Gein property in Plainfield, Wisconsin, is private property. We did not cross the fence on our visit, and we suggest that you respect the owners wishes and keep out.

References:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ed_Gein



Investigators Tabetha, Tanya & Robert at the Ed Gein Property, Haunted Roadie 2011.

LIVING WITH THE PARANORMAL

Real Stories of Real People Experiencing the Paranormal...

GROWING UP WITH THE SUPERNATURAL-SUBMITTED BY MICHAEL

Well my experiences started when I was in third grade. We had moved into a house after my mom and my youngest brother's dad had split up. The house seemed really nice from the outside, but after we went inside and set our dog down he ran out the door and stopped at the car refusing to come back into the house he had never done that before. That should have given my family a clue that something in the house wasn't right. On the first night we noticed strange noises and we all were uneasy to sleep my mom told us it was in our mind we were just trying to get used to being in a new place. Well weeks went by and the noises continued on. We started to notice little things going on in the house like when my mom would mop the white tiled floors in the laundry room the floor would look black afterwards and she thought we were tracking dirt in, but when she would mop it when we weren't home and the floor would turn black then. Well after a month it became harder and harder to sleep upstairs in bedroom my brother and I shared we keep on feeling like we were being watched. Finally one

night my brother and I were sitting up one night to try and see if we can see what was watching us. Little did us now we were in for a scare we would never forget. I sat there in the dark waiting for whatever might just show up. Around the time we usually felt like we were being watched.



Photo Captured by Robert Markin: Smoking a Cigarette! This is just an example of how some ghostly photos can be easily faked...

At first everything seemed ok and out of nowhere we felt my room got cold and we see what appeared to be a man standing over our beds. He was staring at us in a way like we he wanted harm us. My brother and I jumped out of our beds and ran down stairs to my mom whom was sleeping on the couch we woke her up and told her there was a man in our room she didn't believe us and went upstairs she didn't see anyone at all but she asked us did we have our window open because it was cold in our room. She then proceeded to go to her room that was next to ours and before

she knew it a shadow or what looked to be a shadow stepped out of her door into the hallway and she screamed. Since that night we wouldn't sleep upstairs at all. After that incident we could hear what we thought was children laughing...

GROWING UP CONTINUED...

and everything and we could hear what sounded to be the man moving around upstairs at night. After a while the noises and everything seemed to stop and my mom told us we had to start sleeping up stairs again at first my brother and I refused and she would sleep in our room with us till a week or so went by then we were fine. Then after the first night she didn't sleep in the room with us it all started back up again. So my mom had enough and started asking around and looking up the house at the local library she discovered the horrible past of the house and decided we were going to move. Well the night before we were going to move we had my great-grandmother come over and stay with us. As soon as she entered the house she felt the entities in the house won't make it a good night for us. After we finished packing some more of our stuff we finally laid down for the night to try and get some rest, but we soon learned that wasn't about to happen the man we seen in our room the few times in we stayed in it appeared down stairs in the living room and terrified us completely. We left the house that night immediately instead of waiting till the next day. After that my family noticed that no matter where we seemed to move it always felt as if we attracted the haunted houses. We went to a friend finally and asked her to come find out what was going on and she had explained to my mother with the energy I had seemed to be emitting from me they will always be attracted to us and we noticed it became more true through the years as I got older it seemed the more they were attracted to me. Finally they seemed to start appearing to us at some of the houses.

*Thank You Michael,
For Sharing Your Story!*

LIVING WITH THE PARANORMAL

The Spirit of Christmas...

Submitted by Stacey

I don't know if this is the type of ghost story you're looking for but it's something that happened to me and I find it to be a very special moment in my life and actually cherish it. My mom passed away in September 2000. For years before this, she would ask me to help her decorate for Christmas which I gladly did. Every single year she put tinsel on her Christmas tree and took a lot of pride in the finished product. Every year, I would put just a couple piece of tinsel on top of her head as a joke and every year she didn't "catch on" until after we were done and she'd spot it in the mirror; but she fell for it years and years. The Christmas of 2002, 2 years after she passed away, I was decorating my Christmas tree in our new home as it was our first Christmas there, so it was already a special holiday season for us. Well, after I'd gotten done putting on all the decorations, garland, and the final touches of tinsel, I went to the bathroom and low and behold, I had tinsel on top of my head. I truly felt that my mom was there and letting me know it by putting that tinsel on top of my head as a joke, letting me know she was with us. I will remember this for the rest of my life as it's a very special memory now. As I said, I know it's probably not the type of "ghost story" you are looking for, but I'd thought I'd share anyways...

Thank You, Stacey, For Sharing Your Story!

PHENOMENON OR FAKERY?

WEIRD THING IN THE WOODS...

Looking at the photo on the left, taken by Investigator Robert Markin at Carver's Rock State Park, shows what seems to be a woman running through the creek wearing a hat and waving her arms. Or some other amorphous shape.

Facts are that we aren't actually sure what caused this photographic anomaly. We were not smoking and I held my breath when we took the picture to prevent any false positives. We're still not sure what to really make of it...

WHAT DO YOU THINK???

YET ANOTHER WEIRD MIST...

This photo was taken by Investigators of the Wisconsin Investigators of Supernatural Phenomenon, in a Delevan, Wisconsin cemetery. This photo shows a weird mist, and this was taken as a test shot before we took the photo below. Again, we're not quite sure where the mist came from, but we can't rule out the possibility of it being breathing related.

WHAT DO YOU THINK???



SMOKY MISTS? INVESTIGATORS BEWARE!

This photo was also taken by WISP at Delevan Cemetery, in an attempt to show how easily you can hoax mist photography. They smoked a cigarette and took photos of the mists.

This one even looks like it has a face, and a head, and a body! Can you see it? Look close!

WHAT DO YOU THINK???



MEET THE ROCK PARANORMAL TEAM:

ROBERT MARKIN

**Director of
Investigative Research**

Robert has always loved Halloween. Halloween was the culmination of all things that intrigued him : ghosts, vampires, witches, and aliens! (And not to mention pumpkin spice coffee!) Having grown up with supernatural phenomenon in his home at an early age, he developed a taste for all things supernatural.

When he was around 15, his intrigue turned into a burning curiosity to know: "what else is out there?" He began to study all aspects of the paranormal, including ghost folklore of the world, and



Robert Markin, the Director of Investigative Research at Rock County Paranormal Research, AKA Rock Paranormal, taken during an annual camping trip.



Robert Markin, right, and Investigator Erin Rose Tollefson, left, with Ed Gein's mother in the Plainfield Cemetery.

Vampirism through history and literature, UFOlogy, general psychology, and general paranormal and cryptid research. (Yes, he even hunts for big-foot when he can!)

Robert is pagan, wiccan to be specific, and so is his investigator-partner Mary Cole, which does influence how they conduct their investigations. "We believe that there are many realms of beings, and many different forms of energy and of existence, but we also acknowledge science and the scientific method in our research. I believe it's a more well-rounded approach to include the science and the religion," said Robert.

Robert has been professionally researching the paranormal for over 10 years, and founded Rock County Paranormal Research in 2012 to service Beloit, Janesville, South Beloit, and the surrounding areas in Wisconsin and beyond.

Investigator Bob Says: Warm up with something delicious today at your local café!

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For More Information, contact:

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Next Issue: Spring 2013

Thank you for reading our first issue of the Paranormal Informant! We appreciate you taking your time to partake in our adventures with us! Please visit our website at your convenience for more content and information, upcoming events, links to other groups, and even ways to submit *your* story for publication in the Informant! In our next issue, we're looking forward to bringing you:

The Amityville Horror: The Real Story

2013 CONVENTIONS & EVENTS:

Horror, SciFi, Fantasy, Pagan, and Paranormal

ALIEN ABDUCTIONS?

CEMETERY INVESTIGATIONS:

Dartford Cemetery

As Seen on TV

BELOIT GHOST STORIES

And more! Issue 2-1 Due out March 2013!

ROCK COUNTY PARANORMAL RESEARCH

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://rockparanormal.tripod.com/>
for more information.

More About Rock County Paranormal Research

Rock County Paranormal Research does conduct paranormal research and investigations into claims of paranormal, supernatural, and even other-worldly phenomenon. We conduct our investigations and research free of charge, and are happy to publish this quarterly magazine. We also provide for the complete confidentiality of our clients, and respect wishes for anonymity. Rock County Paranormal Research will not publish any person(s) information without prior permission, and all stories contained within this publication are the creative properties of the writers who wrote them. Rock County Paranormal Research will not knowingly publish false information in regards to any claim made by any person(s), and attempts to check the validity of every reader submission before publication. Questions, concerns, or comments may be directed to:
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