

Fort Wayne Chapter



INDIANA GHOST TRACKERS



"Apparition Edition"

JUNE 2006

Newsletter Editor: Terra W
Newsletter Committee: Simona S, Eric W

CEMETERIES GALORE!!

LIKE CEMETERIES? THANKS TO THE WONDERFUL INVENTION OF THE INTERNET, WE HAVE A WEALTH OF INFORMATION AT OUR FINGERTIPS!! THERE'S NO END TO WHAT ONE COULD FIND...IF THEY KNOW WHERE TO LOOK. THIS ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER WILL FEATURE ALL SORTS OF COOL INFO ON FAMOUS CEMETERIES, FAMOUS GRAVES, AND SOME OF THE INFAMOUS PEOPLE IN THEM. WATCH FOR THESE ARTICLES LATER ON...

Chapter Officers:

*Director and Investigations
Coordinator:*
SHANNON K

*Asst. Director and
Chapter Trainer:*
AARON H

P.R. Director (Contact Info):
DAWN B

P.R. Assistants
TAMMI V
KARA C

Secretary:
DAN C

Treasurer:
KATHY M

Reminder:

West Virginia Penitentiary
\$25 / Person

Saturday 9/02.

If anyone has any questions,
please email Shannon S
(SC Regional Director)
igtscregionaldirector@yahoo.com

HURRY...Time is running out!!!

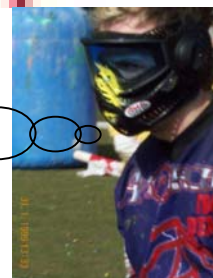
Visit their website:
www.wvpentours.com



**STATEWIDE PAINTBALL
TOURNAMENT CANCELLED DUE
TO LACK OF INTEREST. SORRY
FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO WERE
LOOKING FORWARD TO
BRUISING YOUR FELLOW GHOST
TRACKER FRIENDS.
POSSIBILITY OF RESCHEDULING
FOR LOCAL CHAPTER
LATER ON.**

**AWW MAN!
Bummer!!!**

**Next time,
you're history...**



MAY'S GHOST HUNT

Local Cemetery near Churubusco, IN



Everything went really well that night. We had some potential members come check us out for the first time, and even they were impressed. Most everyone experienced “something” that night...some of which could be explained, some could not.



Each trip to this cemetery sends shivers down my spine. There is an older part and a newer part. At this location, there is a physical dividing line separating the two. It almost seems to double as a mental or even spiritual divider as well. One can usually feel the difference once they cross the dividing street into the older land. Some of the headstones boast dates of death to be early 1800's, and maybe some even earlier.

I've heard there was an historic battle that took place near the cemetery. Some in the paranormal field believe that spirits don't usually hang around cemeteries, but instead tend to stay where they died or where they felt most comfortable in their living years. But since there was a battle here that involved union & confederate soldiers against local Indians, legend has it that many souls did, in fact, die near this cemetery so their souls remain.

Some members felt spells of nausea or dizziness, some felt like they were constantly being watched, and others felt drawn or pulled in certain directions. A lot of our FWIGT friends noticed the curious shadow figure(s??) that kept peeking around the tombstones. One popular tomb seems to have someone “hanging around” it, and it catches the attention of many members every time we visit. See above for two photos of MILLER's headstone. Is this mysterious figure Miller him/herself?? Someone close to him/her? Or just someone that has no connection to Miller at all?? We may never know.



“WE NEED YOU!!”

JUNE TRASH BASH POSTPONED

(Due to Father's Day weekend)

We'll get back to you later on the new date. We still have 3 more Trash Bashes to complete before the year is out. When the time comes, step up and help your chapter out. Not only are we helping clean up our community, but we're also getting our name out there for free with our “Adopt a Highway” sign.

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS !!!

We are still working on getting a GREAT, exclusive hunt set up for those that help with Trash Bashes. You don't help... You don't go.

Did you happen to catch the MONTHLY TRAINING at May's meeting??

Since Aaron was doing the business stuff, Shannon helped with the mini-training session. She works as a police dispatcher and has been trained by the FBI and police departments. She gave us some insight using what she's learned in her profession. Shannon offered some tips on how to tell if someone is lying during an investigation. We learned how to better read body language and subtle clues. The body doesn't lie, even if the person does.

For more information on this topic or about other mini-training sessions, see Shannon or Aaron.

HEY!!! I THINK YOU FORGOT TO SEND YOUR PICTURES TO SHANNON AND TERRA!!

I know you are getting some great photos at our monthly hunts, because I *see* you using your cameras. Maybe you're hanging on to them for just the right moment, or maybe your dog ate them, or maybe aliens abducted them. But if you're one of those lucky people to still have your pictures, please send them in.

We need them for our monthly newsletter, chapter history album, and also for our awesome website. If you have ANY photos of great orbs, possible ghosts, fun group photos, etc (they do not just have to be of paranormal activity) that you'd like to see published, please send them to Shannon or to Terra every month.

Here are some great pics sent in by Shannon, taken at a farm in Elkhart County:



Notice the mist forming in upper right hand corner, and also on left side of pic, BEHIND the hay.

These
could be
your
pictures
featured!!



Same hayloft, but camera was held over Shannon's head.

Membership Stuff

Jeremy L heard about IGT through a friend (Simona) who was already in FWIGT. He joined just a little over a year ago at the same time his friends did. He has an individual membership. His favorite hunt is either the Columbia City Jail or the Chase building. Jeremy is originally from Ft. Wayne. In the last two years he has had two residences, both of which had a bit of activity. His place out in Churubusco had items that would move around right in front of people, disembodied footsteps, shadows and bright orbs out in the yard. His current residence has some native residents still staying in the back yard. Shadows zip around, muddy footprints have appeared on the floor of the house and the faucet has turned itself on once.

Tara and I became a couple while members of IGT. Together we have had many paranormal experiences both during hunts and during our everyday lives.



Tara F also heard about IGT through Simona, and joined with an individual membership at the same time her friends did. She is originally from Phoenix, AZ, and her relatives still live there. She's lived here for 4 years now. The best hunt she ever went on was her first, also the Chase building here in Fort Wayne. They were in the middle of an EVP when she felt "someone" touching her hair. She mentioned something to the group; they all saw an indentation in her hair. It then began to pull and tug on her hair making her feel very uncomfortable, and she grew very tiresome. It continued to play with her hair, and tried to push her away from the circle. That's when she knew it was time for her to leave. Granted it was the scariest, it's by far the best hunt.

All membership applications and renewals must be mailed directly to corporate.
Make checks payable to: Indiana Ghost Trackers, Inc.

Mail your check/money order to:

Indiana Ghost Trackers, Inc.; PO Box 6576, Lafayette IN 47903

June Dues:

Brandon L

Theresa L

Individual Membership: \$25

Couple Membership: \$40 Family Membership: \$50

Congratulations!!!

The following members have completed the basic training classes and will be placed on Investigation Teams:

Candy F

Alison W

Jamie C

Kevin E

Eddie H

Symbolism in Gravestone Art

One of the most interesting facets of studying gravestone art is the symbolism of the icons carved on the stones. Many of these provide insight into the nature of the culture in which the deceased lived. Others make a statement about the life or death of the deceased. Here are a few of the common symbols and their widely accepted meanings:

Angel (flying)—rebirth
Angel (weeping)—grief
Arrows or darts—mortality, the dart of death
Clock—passage of time (these are rare, but there's a fine example in Peterborough, NH)
Coffins—mortality
Cross—salvation
Dove—Holy Ghost
Flame (burning)—life
Flower—the frailty of life
Flower (broken)—death
Garland—victory in death
Hand (pointing upward)—ascension to heaven
Handshake—farewell to earthly existence
Heart—the abode of the soul; love of Christ; the soul in bliss
Ivy—memory and fidelity
Lamb—Christ; the Redeemer; meekness; sacrifice; innocence.
Lamp—truth; knowledge
Lily—resurrection; purity
Portals—passageways to the eternal journey
Rose—sorrow
Skeletons—mortality
Skull (winged)—the flight of the soul from the mortal body
Skulls and crossbones—death
Sun (rising)—renewed life
Sun (setting)—eternal death
Sword—martyrdom; courage;
Torch (inverted)—life has been extinguished
Torch (burning)—immortality; truth; wisdom
Urn—mortality (a receptacle for the bodily remains)
Wheat—time; the divine harvest (often used to denote old age)
Willow—grief

Source:

http://www.rootsweb.com/~nhoga/misc_articles/symbolism_in_gravestone_art.htm



Mercy Brown's Story

New England's most famous "Vampire"

In Rhode Island the thought of vampires still cause locals to quiver and shake. For deep in the belly of this small state, Behind the Chestnut Hill Baptist Church in the town of Exeter, lies the grave of New England's most famous vampire, Mercy Brown. No longer is this fear summoned by the belief in souls rising from the grave though. The telling Mercy's story has become a long-lived RI tradition. A tradition that combines true local history told in the customary fireside style with a late October night visit to the site where this unusual story took place. Some who have braved these moonlit adventures have returned with tales of strange and frightening experiences. So stoke the fire, turn off the lights and curl up in the easy chair as we roll back the clock to the late 1800's.

George T. Brown was a well-respected farmer in Exeter RI. In December 1883 he lost his wife Mary Eliza to consumption. (Tuberculosis) He was given little time to recover from this horrible tragedy when the same disease took his 20-year-old daughter Mary Olive 6 months later. Several years passed and George's streak of misfortune had seemed to come to an end. His only son Edwin and several daughters all were healthy and strong. Edwin was living in Wickford RI and working as a store clerk when he suddenly became to show signs of consumption. Worried George immediately took Edwin to a doctor. If he too had contracted consumption it would sure lead to death. Edwin traveled to west to Colorado Springs hoping to find a cure in the mineral waters. While Edwin was away George's daughter Mercy Lena had also contracted the "galloping" variety of consumption. She quickly passed away in January of 1892. Her body was stored in the stone crypt awaiting burial after the spring thaw. Several months later Edwin returned to his family. He had been diagnosed with consumption and his health had made a turn for the worse. At this point, family and friends concluded that the deaths were the result of a vampire and this daemon was living in one of the Brown graves. George decided to turn to an old folk remedy. With the help of Harold Metcalf, a doctor from Wickford, they exhumed the bodies of Mary Eliza, Mary Olive and Mercy Lena to find if any of them were vampires. Mary Eliza and Mary Olive's bodies had already returned to the earth. Only the skeleton remained. However, Mercy Lena who had only been buried a few months earlier seemed in excellent condition. When they examined her heart, they found what they interrupted as fresh blood. Though Dr. Metcalf assured them that this unexceptional, they felt they had found the daemon. They proceeded to remove her heart and burn it to ashes on a rock nearby. The ashes were mixed in water and consumed by Edwin's as a medicine for his illness. Unfortunately this didn't prevent Edwin from passing away 2 months later.

To this day people have reported experiencing a variety of strange phenomena within the walls of this cemetery. Many witness who were interviewed claimed to have seen the ghost of Mercy strolling through the graveyard on a moonlit night. Others report having heard the crying of a young woman or seeing a bright blue light near Mercy Brown's tombstone. Most people who have visited Mercy's grave tell of sensing a presence nearby. Feeling as if they are being watched. Whether these experiences were due to heightened emotions or restless spirits, no one can be sure. One thing I can say is that no matter what your beliefs are, an evening visit to Mercy's grave will send shivers up your spine and scare up some fond memories for you and your friends.

Historic Cemetery #22 is off of Victory Highway (Rt#102) in Exeter RI. The church and graveyard look like a scene out of the past. Walking down the dirt road into the cemetery, you'll see the tombstone of William C. Johnson to your right. Cut through the stone, just above what looks like a book, you'll see a square. From this square you can spy Mercy's grave left of the road and to the right of a pine tree. Some locals have said that if you hide behind this grave on a moon lit night in October and watch her grave through this square; with silence and patient, you maybe lucky and witness Mercy taking a ghostly stroll through the graveyard. For the more adventurous, some version of the tale say that you have to knock 3 times on her grave and say "Mercy L. Brown are you a vampire?" and Mercy will speak or appear to you. I haven't heard any stories from those who have tried this method yet. I'm sure there are some interesting tales yet to be uncovered. The park is open to the public year round, dawn to dusk. If you do decide to visit Mercy's grave, please keep these thing in mind. Don't go alone. Always have a good flashlight and a second set of batteries. Keep your car keys easily available. Most of all though, please respect the property and the dead so others can continue to enjoy this bizarre bit of Rhode Island History.

Source: <http://strangene.com/cemeteries/vampire.htm>

Obituaries

'Amityville Horror' resident dies; was 59

May 12, 2006

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS - George Lee Lutz, whose brief stay in an Amityville, N.Y., home spawned one of the most famous haunted house stories ever, has died of natural causes at age 59. Lutz, a Las Vegas resident, died Monday, his lawyer Larry Zerner, of Los Angeles, said Wednesday. The Clark County coroner listed the cause as heart disease.

Lutz, a former land surveyor, became famous after moving his new bride and three children into a three-story Dutch colonial on Long Island in 1975. About a year earlier, six members of the DeFeo family had been shot and killed in the home. Ronald DeFeo Jr., the eldest son, was convicted of the murders.

The Lutzes lived in the home for 28 days before being driven out - by the spirits of the DeFeos, according to Lutz's account. The family's eerie tales became the source for Jay Anson's 1977 book, "The Amityville Horror," along with a 1979 film of the same title and a 2005 movie remake. The book and movies chronicled horrors including visions of walls oozing slime, moving furniture, a visit from a demonic pig named Jodie and spontaneous levitation.

The franchise made a cult figure of Lutz, who some claimed bore a creepy resemblance to Ronald DeFeo. Recently, he defended himself against some who accused him of intentionally moving into the home to profit from the DeFeo murders.



Kathy & George Lutz

Did you know....

The first poltergeist was recorded in 856AD at a farmhouse on the banks of the River Rhine in Germany. The spirit tormented the family by throwing stones, banging on walls and making fires. Even when several priests armed with holy relics came to visit, it sent them packing with a hale of stones.

Source:

http://www.discoverychannel.co.in/paranormal/spirit_world/ghost_history/index.shtml

Quartz in stone could explain why so many ghosts appear in castles. Quartz acts as insulators and can hold electrical impulses.



Check out these
websites:

<http://drazorl.tripod.com/> WWW.TANGLEDFOREST.COM

<http://www.hauntedlives.com/>

<http://www.fortwayneghosttrackers.com>

DIFFERENT NAMES FOR GHOSTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES:

Albania: lugat
China: gui
Czech Republic: strasidlo
Denmark: spogelse
Holland: zweem
Iceland: draugur
Ireland: taibhse
Italy: fantasma, spetetro
Japan: yuurei
Kenya: kizuka
Philippines: multo
Saudi Arabia: jinn
South Africa: isipoki
Spain: fantasma, espectro
Turkey: hortlak

Source:

<http://texasboo.tripod.com/id6.html>