



Michigan's Lead Paranormal Investigators

GRIMSTONE GAZETTE

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Open for hunts at the Bruce Mansion

By Kara Swanson, Grimstone Inc. West Chapter Director

Get ready for adventure this spring as Grimstone Inc. opens the mansion doors in Brown City, MI for paranormal exploration.

Grimstone Inc. will host ghost hunts, paranormal classes, historical tours and more at the infamous Bruce Mansion located at 5977 Van Dyke - Brown City, MI.

The Bruce Mansion was built in 1876. The Victorian Italianate home was a rare example of Second Empire style in the county. John G. Bruce built the home for his growing family to show his status in the community. Today it is still one of the larger homes in the city.

Since opening for business in December 2012, over 126 people have been brave enough to explore the paranormal during seven successful ghost hunts. They didn't leave disappointed either. In a haunt journal kept at the Bruce, patrons have left many entries describing experiences they have encountered.

There are multiple reports of people being poked, seeing shadow people, and even witnessing ghostly figures of a cat and dog. Evidence has been documented, too. A photo of a girl has been captured in a bedroom on the second floor and a photo taken

of the outside of the home showcases a man standing inside the office. One couple from Sterling Heights was shocked when they found an anomaly in their picture that simply could not be explained nor replicated.

There is an arsenal of EVPs collected, too. Never has Grimstone Inc. investigated a place that can repeatedly offer Class A EVPs. So much has been collected that Director of Grimstone Inc., Chris Bailey, developed a program

to display the evidence at the mansion. It showcases and pinpoints the location of where each piece was gathered in a sitemap of the home.

During the paranormal classes, students will discover some of the tools commonly seen and made popular on such television shows as Ghost Hunters. Participants will not only learn how to use these tools, but the science behind them, too. At the end, there will be a chance to gain hands-on experience as they roam the halls of the Bruce Mansion. Classes will include Introduction to Electronic Voice Phenomenon, Spirit Photography and Video Surveillance. The cost is generally \$50 per person for a 2-hour session.

Ghost Hunts will also be offered at the Bruce Mansion. For an unbeatable price of \$40 per person, people can explore the home on their quest to obtain evidence of the paranormal. Investigations are 8:00p.m. to 2:00a.m.; check-in begins at 7:00p.m. Participants are encouraged to bring their cameras, recorders, and an open mind.

For more information or to register for an event, visit www.BruceMansion.com or call (313) 444-4746.



The Bruce Mansion is an 1876 Victorian Italianate home in Brown City, MI. This historical home is filled with unique history and colorful spirits. The three-story mansion maintains its original mahogany staircase, its tucked away butler stairs, the upper dance studio, and a bone-shivering Michigan basement.

Photo By Kara Swanson

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Encounter with a doppelganger

By Christopher Bailey, Grimstone Inc. Director

THE PRISON

The old Ohio State Reformatory was cold. Frost was on some of the windows and in a few spots where the windows were broken, snow had managed to blow in. It was February. It would still be several weeks before the prison would be open to historical tours and the more entertaining ghost hunts. That night in 2012, the prison contained life between its walls. Paranormal investigators, ghost enthusiasts, and friends had gathered from across the country that morning to help with the upkeep of the building.

The groups worked hard shoveling rock, flaked paint, dirt, and debris out of the back rooms. They swept the prison cells. They organized old furniture. All this work was done to help the OSR Historical Society in maintaining the site. The reward was to spend the night at the prison. Grimstone Inc. was part of the groups that worked hard and we were well rewarded. That night we explored the prison with author Joe James, who wrote "The Ohio State Reformatory: An Overview."

The group has been to Ohio State Reformatory on numerous occasions. The year before, Grimstone Inc. had helped as well. During that night, members were going down the hall in the Warden's building. They were following the darkened silhouettes of each other in single file when one person was pushed from behind. Turning to where someone should have been, there was a gap in the line. The member behind him was spaced back because he thought there was someone he was following in between the two. When Grimstone returned to the prison in 2012, we naturally wanted to revisit the Warden's quarters. We were not disappointed.

My first encounter was when I was in one of the main hallways. The majority of the group was in a large room at the end of the hallway where they were taking pictures and attempting an EVP

session. I was with Josh Spearow, a historical researcher in our West Chapter. He was behind me about five feet and to my left, in the hallway junction. I was down on one knee trying to position my camera properly to do a series of photographs using a slow shutter speed. While I was working the camera controls, a high pitched whine was heard and quickly grew in intensity. It was predominantly in my left ear and the sound grew so loud, I felt like my skull was going to crack in two. I put down the camera to cover my ears with my hands. A moment later, it was gone.

I looked back at Josh and asked if he had heard anything. He had heard the whine as well. I described how loud it was to me. He expressed that he did not hear it as loudly as I did. What was it that I heard though? It left me shaken and confused. However, my interest in the sound would soon fade as I rejoined the group. **Continued on page 3.**



Ohio State Reformatory, also known as Mansfield Prison, was built in 1834 and opened in 1896. It's Romanesque architecture style was built with the intent to intimidate the inmates. In 1984, the facility closed, but was spared from being demolished when the Mansfield Reformatory Preservation Society purchased the property from the state. They now run ghost hunts in the prison in an effort to restore the building.

Photo By Chris Bailey



Encounter with a doppelganger (continued)

Continued from page 2. The majority of the group was now in a new room of the Warden's quarters, near the "X" corridor. They were taking pictures and sharing stories. The area was close to where they saw the silhouette the year before. Mark, who was there during that time, was recounting the event and I was growing restless. It was near 1 AM and my body was conflicted. I had caught a second wind, but I knew if I did not get to bed soon, my body would really feel all the travel, walking, and work it performed recently. I stepped out into the hallway to see what other members might be doing.

I saw Josh and his girlfriend, our West Chapter Director, Kara Swanson, to my right. They were about ten feet away and walking into a room on the opposite side of the hallway. Josh was leading and Kara was behind him, perhaps by only a foot or two. While it was late at night, the large moon outside casted soft light into the hallway and I could clearly see Josh's features, down to the curl of his hair at the back of his neck, even the stitching of his black beanie. He wore a jet black hoodie, like the rest of the group. Both of them entered the next room quietly and I decided to follow. I quickly made my way to the doorway. What I saw was not what I expected.

Kara stood alone in the center of the room. The room was a bedroom with two closet doors on the far wall. There were no other doorways or exits. Josh was not there. Kara looked confused, almost disorientated. I asked, "Kara, are you okay? Where is Josh?" She jumped in surprise. Wide eyed, she replied, "You saw him too?"

THE DOPPELGANGER

It took a moment for Kara's words to sink in. How could she not know where someone was that was literally two feet in front of her a moment before, especially when that someone was her long term boyfriend? She recounted how she walked into the room with him



Grimstone Inc. members, Dave Owens and Chris Bailey, investigate the Warden's section of Ohio State Reformatory. This hallway leads to the X-corridor of the facility, which is arguably one the more haunted locations in the prison.

Photo By Josh Spearow

only to have him suddenly not be there. I listened as I walked near the walls of the room, looking for other exit points, checking the closets to make sure he was not hiding in one. I looked at Kara. She was visibly shaken. She was not the kind of person to play pranks on me. Neither was Josh. They did not know I was following behind them, so how could this be staged? One thing was for certain though. Kara and I were alone in the room.

We took a moment and both described Josh. It seemed silly to both describe someone we are so familiar with, but we did. We both agreed; black beanie, black hoodie, blue jeans.

We walked back to find the rest of the group. As I walked, fear caught up to me. A few moments ago, I was

following friends into a room. I was calm and had no concerns. I did not feel endangered or threatened. No little hairs were standing up on the back of my neck. I was safe. When I entered the room, my world changed. The room was shy one person who had to be there. What I saw, what Kara saw, was not Josh. Then what was it and what did it want with us? Would Kara have had a different encounter if I had not followed her? The world suddenly felt far less safe. If it had just been me to see Josh, then I would have deduced I was way over tired and probably hallucinated. It was disturbing to rule out that comforting answer.

When we got back to the group and saw Josh, I was only more confused. **Continued on page 4.**



Encounter with a doppelganger (continued)



The East Cell Block in the Ohio State Reformatory is the largest free-standing steel cell-block in the world at six tiers high. The prison has been the scene of many Hollywood movies, such as Shawshank Redemption, Air Force One, and Tango & Cash.

Photo By Chris Bailey

Continued from page 3. Josh was not wearing his Grimstone black hoodie. He wore a light grey hoodie. I remembered back to the hallway incident prior and remembered he had the gray hoodie on then too. Then why was the double in a black hoodie? Kara and I were certain he wore a black one. The answer that came to mind next scared me the most. It wanted to blend in with the group.

THEORIES

Ghostly Apparition – The first hypothesis is that it was an apparition of a ghost. However, this quickly falls apart because it appeared to be Josh. Even if I were unable to see his face (which I did from the side), it wore modern clothes. It did not look like an inmate, guard, clerk, or other prison support staff member which could have feasibly passed away at the location.

Out-of-Body-Experience (OBE) or bilocation – Out-of-Body-Experiences are commonly reported as paranormal experiences in which the person's mind or spirit leaves their physical body and travels elsewhere. Bilocation is a reported phenomenon in which a

person can be literally two places at the same time. One of the most reported cases was by Louis Rodgers, a famous medium in Australia during the early 1900s. Several times Rodgers was spotted in Melbourne and Sydney during the same time period. One test conducted by Dr. Martin Spencer of the Victoria Institute for Psychic Research kept Rodgers under observation in a locked room in Melbourne. He provided Rodgers with a code word. Soon after, one of the investigators in Sydney spotted Rodgers. A phone call came in for Spencer. Expecting it to be his field investigator with a report, he was surprised to hear Rodger's voice saying "This is Louis Rodgers. The password is Lilac." This baffled the investigator who was sitting across from Rodgers.

What was witnessed, though, at the Ohio State Reformatory, did not match typical reports of bilocation or OBE. For one, the real Josh was questioned in detail of the night. Josh has no memory of being in the hallway or room with Kara and me. He simply was somewhere else at the time. Josh did not feel disorientated or detached

during the time period Kara and I saw the double. This was not by the doing of Josh's consciousness.

Demonic–The Ohio State Reformatory has had its share of negative entities paying a visit there. While we were at the clean-up, one OSR rep informed us that if we see a little girl on the premises, do not follow her. Children are not admitted and a little girl never died in the prison. This is something else, unpleasant. The demonic are commonly attributed with their ability to mimic individuals, taking on forms that would entice or allure. This candidate is plausible, although unsettling.

Wraith, Fetch, or Doppelganger – Doppelganger is a German word consisting of two substantives. Deppel is German for double. Ganger means walker. It is a spirit double of another. In English folklore, it is often considered a death omen. There have been several reports of individuals seeing their doppelganger preceding their death. The most famous is probably Abraham Lincoln who witnessed a pale faced version of himself in the mirror with his normal reflection. He divined for the image of his healthier self shows he will do well in his term and be re-elected. The pale face showing him he would not live through the second term. His assassination fulfilled his prophecy.

What a doppelganger is, though, is a mystery. Could it be a Josh from some alternate universe? No one can say. Josh did not witness it. Regardless, I am happy to say Josh is still with us today. However, the paranormal world is bigger and more complex than imagined.



Ghost encounter: first hand account

By Kara Swanson, Grimstone Inc. West Chapter Director

A year has passed since I saw the ghost of a Grimstone Inc. member. His death was not tragic because he is not dead; he is very much alive and well.

Commonly, a ghost is thought to be the spirit of a dead person. My ghost experience makes me question everything I had previously thought a ghost to be and their capabilities.

The day was Saturday, February 11, 2012. Myself and five other Grimstone Inc. members arrived the night before at Ohio State Reformatory (Mansfield Prison) located in Mansfield, Ohio. We were there to participate in the exclusive annual clean-up. Our efforts helped to restore the facility and get ready for the upcoming season.

Mansfield was built in 1886 and is more than 250,000 square feet. It has housed over 155,000 inmates in its lifetime before closing on December 31, 1990. It has been the venue of many movies like Shawshank Redemption and Air Force One. Today, it opens its doors to paranormal buffs wanting to experience the building and its resident spirits.

After several hours of hard labor and darkness falling, we entered the Warden's area of the prison to investigate. The night before, I had several things happen to me – my bed was repeatedly kicked, I had a constant feeling of someone watching me while trying to sleep, and I had some unmistakable EMF responses – but nothing was like what was about to unfold.

As we walked down the hallway towards the X-corridor and chapel stairs, the group dispersed into four different rooms. Chris went off ahead towards the room on the right. I followed Josh into a small space around the corner to my right. To my surprise, when I entered the room, Josh was not there.

I quickly looked for other exits; there were none. I peeked in both

closets and found nothing. As I stood in the room racking my brain trying to find answers as to what happened – I must be crazy, I am tired, was it a shadow? – Chris entered the room.

He asked me, "Where is Josh?"

"He is not here," I replied.

"Yes he is. I saw you follow him in here," Chris quickly insisted.

We looked at each other in disbelief. Chris immediately did what I had just done; he checked the closets for Josh as if we were playing tricks on him. When he realized that Josh was indeed not there, we stared at each other in amazement.

Chris began describing what he had seen. I described the exact same thing back. I saw Josh wearing a black beanie, black hooded sweatshirt, jeans, and a shoulder bag. He walked just like Josh does and was the same weight and height.

Seconds after, Josh walked in the room as if nothing had happened; he of

course had no idea of the events that had just taken place. When he walked in, it was as if I had seen a ghost. I didn't know what to think; was it really him this time?

Chris and I began to tell him what had just occurred. Josh insisted that while walking down the hallway, he was behind me and went into a room off to the left. He said he was in there with Dave; Dave confirmed this. The two rooms did not connect. There were only two ways out of the room: the door and the closed window that sits three stories up.

Still pumping with adrenaline, it was hard to notice a glaring fact that was right in front of me. Josh was wearing a light grey hooded sweatshirt. He in fact had been wearing this the entire night as documented by photos taken throughout our stay. The thing Chris and I had seen was wearing a black hooded sweatshirt. This only added to the mystery of what we had seen.

After taking several days to think about what had occurred, I determined there is only one explanation; we must have seen a Doppelganger.

A Doppelganger is a German word meaning a ghostly double of a living person. Fortunately, Josh did not witness what I had seen as folklores say seeing your double marks one's death.

To this day I can remember the events like it happened yesterday. It has changed the way I investigate. I no longer am just taking pictures of empty spaces, but people in the area too. You never know who you are actually looking at because, after all, it would appear that doppelgangers do not only exist in episodes of Supernatural or Grim, but at Mansfield Prison, too.

To learn how you can donate to help restore Mansfield Prison, or to investigate it for yourself, visit <http://www.mrps.org/>.



X marks the spot where Grimstone Inc. member, Josh Spearow's, doppelganger was seen the night before this picture was taken of him in the Ohio State Reformatory. The area was built so that the light shining through the windows in each of the four rooms that meet at the intersection of the hallway create an 'X' on the floor.

Photo By Kara Swanson



Double sight

By Robin Ritchea, Grimstone Inc. Administrator

Have you ever seen someone who looked just like you? Have you ever quickly glanced, seeing a mirror image of yourself? Maybe you have experienced a doppelganger. A doppelganger is a ghostly double, and the word "doppelganger" literally means "double walker," as discussed on About.com.

Last year, I had to euthanize a pet. He was a sweet, silly, 14-year old cat named Demetrius. After he was let go, I was very, very sad. I wandered around the house trying to keep busy with household chores: doing dishes, vacuuming the floors, dusting, etc. Two days after the incident when I went downstairs to finish the laundry, I looked into Demetrius' favorite hiding place in the darkness, and I jumped a bit when I saw his eyes staring back at me. Well, they looked like his eyes in his adorably fuzzy grey face.

Of course, I momentarily thought, "Oh, hi D." Then I remembered that he was gone. I looked again; in a second glance, I saw nothing. I remembered that it was okay to feel like he was still there and gave myself a break about my lapse - my imagined sighting of my lost kitty.

At the Grimstone picnic last summer, I told one of my cohorts about the experience, and he said that it could have been a doppelganger. Well, I didn't know many details about doppelgangers, so I decided to look into them. According to my research on several websites, doppelgangers look just like someone who is alive, and yet they are not that person. Unlike a twin, the doppelganger is believed to be a ghost of sorts, possibly from a different dimension.

Now, in some ways, I doubt their

existence, yet I have no definitive reason to do so. Yes, I saw my cat. No, I couldn't see him when I looked the second time. Yes, I had my glasses on. Maybe it was a play on light. Maybe it was something that I wanted to see.

However, the doppelganger is rumored to be sighted before a death, not after one. Queen Elizabeth and Percy Bysshe Shelley were visited by doppelgangers before their demise. In fact, the eerie apparition is believed to warn people of their own deaths or oncoming evil in their lives. If a person sees a doppelganger of someone else, it may be a portent of illness or some danger; if a person sees a doppelganger of themselves, their death is supposedly coming.

What is truly interesting to me is that the scientific community has actually explored this phenomenon. According to WebMD, doppelgangers may simply be a game of our minds. The website stated, "Stimulating a certain spot in the brain with electricity may make people feel like a shadow person is hovering nearby." WebMD explained that a 22-year-old woman in Switzerland was being evaluated for epilepsy surgery, when the doctors electrically stimulated her left temporoparietal junction in her brain. The woman began feeling as if a shadow presence was with her, yet she had no history of psychiatric problems. The researchers concluded that the left temporoparietal junction may play a role in psychiatric and neurological disorders, because the patients typically describe the sensation of a presence.

So, if indeed a doppelganger can occur, it could possibly be just a bizarre brain trick. Or maybe, just maybe, our minds aren't playing games. We just haven't figured death out.

1. Wagner, Stephen. "True Stories of Doppelgangers." About.com. n.p. n.d. Web. 25 Mar. 2013

2. Hitti, Miranda. "Shadow Person Lurks in Brain: Sense of Shadowy Presence Tied to Specific Spot in Brain." WebMD WebMD Health News. 20 Sept. 2006. Web. 25 Mar. 2013.



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My imaginary friend

By Mark Krueger, Grimstone Inc. East Chapter Director

My name is Mark and I am a Paranormal Investigator. It was the summer of 1973 and I was a five-year-old who just happened to have an imaginary friend. Now, I'm sure many you reading this will automatically come to the conclusion that my imaginary friend was just that - my imagination. I can completely understand why most would think that to be the case. Had I not had the experiences I had, I would probably be with, what I feel will be, the majority of you. To be honest, I may not even be interested in the paranormal to the extent that I am today if it wasn't for my experience. Going forward with my story, I want you to understand that what you are about to read is based on my recollection of that period in my life as well as my opinions on certain beliefs. And here we go...

Like I said, it was the summer of 1973, and there I was with a face full of freckles and as thin as a toothpick. I was the second oldest with four other siblings. I had one sister older than me, another sister just a bit younger than me, and my mother had recently given birth to my youngest siblings who were fraternal twins. This made for five children in our household all under the age of seven. I think it's needless to say that my mother had her hands full between myself and all of my siblings. I must add that my mother had to care for all of us children without my father in the picture. Looking back now as an adult, I can say that I was a very well-adjusted five year old, considering our family situation. I didn't know of any other way to feel about it at the time. I knew that my one-on-one time with mom was extremely limited with the babies and all. I was okay with that. I had to find ways to keep myself busy, but also had no interest in hanging out with my sisters.

I was fascinated by all the typical "boy stuff". I liked collecting bugs and garter snakes and things like that. Although I lived in a sub-division,

there was a field up the street just a bit. I call it a field now, but at the time it was a tropical jungle to a boy of just five years old. I can still see the field as it was back then so vividly in my mind today. The grass was long and flowing and there were trails through the field that bigger kids had used for shortcuts rather than going around the field. I spent many hours alone in this field searching for cool bugs and snakes to add to my collection. One day, a man approached me. He was

dressed in grayish-blue overalls with a white t-shirt underneath. He wore a hat that reminds me of what a train conductor might wear. He also had a sack, or what might be called a satchel, over his left shoulder and carried what I would describe to be an old wooden broom handle with a nail sticking out of the end. He would use this tool to stick into paper trash on the ground and then put the paper into his satchel. **Continued on page 8.**

WANTED

BY GRIMSTONE INC.

DEAD OR ~~ALIVE~~



Spirit Photography

After Abraham Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, Mary Todd Lincoln attempted to stay in contact with her dead husband by visiting the studio of William Mumler, a Boston engraver who claimed to photograph the dead. Under her assumed name, Mrs Lindall, the photo (right) of Mary with the ghostly Lincoln was taken by Mumler who claimed he did not know her true identity. Mumler was later taken to trial for fraud and today most of his photos are considered fakes. Under the circumstances, the authenticity of Mary's photo is still up for debate. Even Harry Houdini (left) posed with the late president in the 1920's to show how easily it was to produce such fraudulent ghostly encounters.

If you have any photographs or evidence of the dead, contact Grimstone Inc. at pad@grimstone-inc.com to submit your evidence. Our experienced staff will examine your evidence to give our professional opinions.

www.Grimstone-Inc.com(313) 444-CRIM [4746]Investigators@Grimstone-Inc.com



My imaginary friend (continued)

Continued from page 7. Please keep in mind that things were different back then. Today, we teach our children to not talk to strangers. This man, whom I will call John, had many stories that captivated my interest for hours.

Over the course of the summer, I spent many hours in that field just walking alongside John while he picked up the trash every single day. It seems as if he was just there every time I went out to the field. I remember telling John about my baby brother and sister just being born. He told me he knew all about them and that my mom would need my help because there were going to be some health problems. I didn't understand what he had meant by health problems, but he just asked me to promise that I would be the man of the house when I needed to. He then told me that he wasn't going to be able to come back as often as he had been able to, but that he'd always be around especially when I needed him. As the days passed I saw less and less of my friend John. I continued to run to that field every day in hopes of being with my friend, until one day, he just stopped showing up altogether. It was then that my baby brother and

sister were diagnosed with a problem with their legs. They both had to wear special braces that kept their bones straight. It seemed as if mom was always taking them to see the doctor.

I had just assumed that John knew mom since he had known about my baby brother and sister and their medical condition. It was then that I told my mother about John and all the talks we had and how he was always out in the field. I can still hear my mom tell me that I was always alone in the field and that she peeked out the window every now and then to keep an eye on me. I know that she assumed the same thing that most readers assumed when they first started reading this story: "Just another child with an overactive imagination." I may even think this to be the case today when I look back at that summer, but... John kept his promise.

The following summer, my mother was back to work. Because she had five kids, it was difficult to find one babysitter willing to babysit all five kids at the same time. We were split up that summer between different locations. The babysitter watching me was mean. I had to stay in a bedroom basically all day with absolutely nothing to do. Of course, I was a bored child and would try to find things to do in that bedroom to keep me busy. I believe I used to try to imitate different animal calls and my calls interrupted her watching television. As a punishment, she whipped me with a belt on my back. She told me that if I told my Mom about it that it would only get worse. As you might imagine, I didn't want to get whipped so I kept quiet in the bedroom over the following days. As I lay in that bedroom one day, afraid of what might come if I acted in a way that made her mad, I heard a voice calling out my name. "Was it John?", I had thought. I opened the closet to see if someone was in there, I looked under the bed and even opened the window and looked around outside. I could see no one. There were no other words spoken other than my name. I

was a little scared at first, but hearing my name called a second and third time had a much more calming effect. I never did see the source of the voice I heard calling my name that day; That just happened to be the very last day I spent with that babysitter. My mother had noticed the belt marks on my back that night. I remember my mother yelling at the babysitter and then crying. To be honest, I'm finding myself getting choked up while writing this part of the story. You see, John kept his promise that he would be around when I needed him. I felt comfort in hearing my name called and it's what I needed to hear more than anything at that time in my life.

Looking back as an adult now, I still have vivid memories of the story that you read. I have no doubt that "John", as I called him back then, was more than just my imaginary friend. Call him what you will, or think what you will, but I know who and what John was and is. He is still with me to this day even though I can no longer see him or have conversations. This lifetime experience has given me enough to believe without a doubt that we do go on when we pass from this physical life. It also gives me faith and shows me just how powerful and unwavering the love that our Creator has for us is.

In my opinion, generally speaking that is, children are more capable of communicating with the other side because of their innocence. As we grow from children into adulthood, many seem to lose sight of that connection we may have had in our youth because of the influence of society. We are taught that ghosts and anything we can't see is not real. When you hear something over and over again, you tend to start to believe those things as the truth. I realize that not everyone can understand what I have personally experienced when they haven't had an experience like mine. I can accept and respect that. I believe that children can have imaginary friends, do you?



Grimstone Inc. member, Mark Krueger, uses a K2 meter to measure electromagnetic fields in the attic of the Bruce Mansion located in Brown City, MI.

Photo By Chris Bailey



Matrixing: The truth behind what you think you see

By Angel Fillinger, Grimstone Inc. Historical Dept.

The human brain is the most complex of organs. Medical doctors, scientists and psychologists still only have a small grasp on its complexity. It is an organ that, through a network of small nerves and neurons, can think and function completely on its own. Each section runs and controls the body, and the most interesting of all is the thought process. An entire article could be written just on the functions of the brain alone, but this article will focus on another thing the brain is responsible for: matrixing. Matrixing is what the mind does to make sense of things that don't make sense. This is an important thing to understand, whether you're an amateur or professional paranormal enthusiast.

So what is matrixing, exactly? The technical term is Pareidolia, which, according to dictionary.com, is defined as, "The imagined perception of a pattern of meaning where it does not actually exist, as in considering the moon to have human features." Many paranormal enthusiasts have adopted matrixing as the choice word to explain



This photo, taken after someone claimed to see a skull on the wall at Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky, is a prime example of matrixing. Someone may see a skull in that red circle, and others see nothing but a stain on a wall.

It may all be in your mind, thanks to matrixing.

Photo By Angel Fillinger

this phenomenon. The mind is always looking for an understandable meaning behind the information received from its five senses. Have you ever looked at the clouds and saw a bunny, castle, or even Jesus? Take the Rorschach test, better known as the ink blot test, for example: this test is a series of inkblots on paper. Psychologists use it to test a patient's perception. It is rather simple; the patient tells the doctor what they see on the paper, and the doctor can get a closer look into the patient's mind. This is all a form of matrixing; the mind tries to make sense of what it sees.

What does all this have to do with the paranormal? Well, it has nothing to do with the paranormal per say, but really more to do with debunking the paranormal. Quite often someone will see an image in a mirror or a photo that they have taken. That face could be paranormal, however it could be matrixing. If the mirror is dirty or aged it can be quite easy for the mind to see a series of dots and smudges as a face; the same applies to a photograph. If the photo is taken of a wall, window or any surface with a design element like smoke, the mind will attempt to make sense of that design. The most common thing the mind knows to look for is a face. It is always important to check and rethink whenever an image is seen on a surface that has any potential design to it. Go back and take a look. Did the mirror you saw the old lady in last night have any smears, smudges, spots or imperfections on it? Did the wall that the evil-looking face was seen on have any pattern to it? If you know about matrixing, you can go back and look at that wall again and, most of the time, you can find that same scary face in those peeling paint chips on the wall; you may even be able to capture it again on film.

Not every apparition or paranormal occurrence is

matrixing, which is important to keep in mind. Think about it, examine it, then decide for yourself if what you saw was your mind's way of seeing what it didn't understand, or if dear Aunt Sally really was standing behind you.

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Methods for improving data collection

By Matt Tiza, Grimstone Inc. Research & Analysis Dept.



Matt Tiza, head of Grimstone Inc. Research & Analysis Department, enters the Bruce Mansion in Brown City, MI.

Photo By Chris Bailey

“So what do you guys do anyway?”

This is a frequently asked question often posed by those who are not familiar with paranormal research. To answer it is to answer the underlying question that prompted it.

“What do you do to further the scientific endeavor in your research?”

Whether one is being questioned by a skeptic or just the sincerely curious, a rational and straightforward answer is necessary to convince others that paranormal research is not a complete waste of time.

The popular form of paranormal investigation, ghost hunting, is little more than glorified paranormal tourism. With this approach, the paranormal team seeks out every allegedly haunted location within reach and endeavors to capture some all-elusive paranormal evidence during one-night investigations of each location. There is little, if any, repeat investigation or attempts to correlate supposed evidence with multiple devices over time.

Evidence captured during single investigation sessions may not be

reproducible and offers few angles for analysis. As such paranormal phenomena is not well understood or described, it is rather seen as random or sporadic at best. This is due to the investigator’s limited control over the environment during a single session.

The first step to approaching any unknown area of research is to first identify the variables present and to take all measures possible to control them. While much may seem outside of direct control, the context of the investigation is always under the investigator’s control. The system (e.g. the location) and the methodology (e.g. devices, techniques used, etc.) represent the context of the investigation. So if it is only thing directly controlled during the investigation, why do investigators continually change the context of the investigation by investigating a different location each time?

Ideally all investigators would make it a top priority to find a productive location with large amounts of observable paranormal phenomena. Such a “paranormal laboratory” would allow the investigators to experiment to find the best possible methods to collect high quality evidence. There are several historically significant locations that are world-famous for frequent alleged paranormal activity. Often these locations charge investigative teams a premium to reserve the location for a one-night investigation. However, few paranormal research teams have the budgets to do extended research in such premium locations. The need to find an accessible and productive location becomes paramount for teams seeking a dedicated research site.

METHODS

Once such a location has been identified, the investigators use scientific methodologies to create a research strategy. The initial site

survey and investigation lay the groundwork for this research strategy. The team will use the paranormal claims made by the client or any other research teams that have preceded them for the initial device setup, including stationary monitoring cameras, digital voice recorders, EMF (electromagnetic field) meters, trigger objects, etc. Any evidence or suspicious phenomena identified during the first evidence review form the basis for the subsequent investigations. For example, the evidence review shows a strange “apparition” on camera in one of the bedrooms on-site. The following investigation will allow the team to correlate the visible evidence caught on camera with additional cameras, digital voice recorders, EMF meters, data loggers, etc. Perhaps the visible phenomenon will correlate with a change in temperature or humidity, EMF activity, etc.? This could demonstrate the repeatability of the phenomenon and elucidate some other mechanisms by which the alleged entity manifests itself, or it could simply reveal that the “apparition” is merely water vapor that is only visible to the sensitive infrared camera when the ventilation system turns on during a humid night. Consideration of both positive and negative outcomes reveals how suspect the initial video evidence of the apparition is when considered by itself. Without subsequent investigations, correlation or further examination is impossible.

Correlating multiple devices during the initial investigation is impractical except in the smallest locations, such as apartments, as investigators are unlikely to commit much of their resources to one small area of the location. The first few investigations serve to identify the most productive areas of the location whereby multiple devices will be put to the best possible uses. **Continued on page 11.**



Methods for improving data collection (continued)

Continued from page 10. Due to the limited understanding of paranormal phenomena, the research team will likely encounter many unproductive nights even at the most productive of locations. Even these “negative studies” provide the baseline conditions for future investigations. The team must document the climate, optics, acoustics, and EMF activity of the location in order to understand the context of any alleged paranormal activity occurring within the location. Without baseline information, the investigator is likely to confuse light reflections from outside, stray noise, normal temperature changes, and EMF “spikes” from appliances powering on as paranormal. The normal ebb and flow of a location, such as sounds and vibrations normally experienced on site, reveal much about future events that may be interpreted as paranormal. Stray noise from off-site, animals on-site, wind and water effects on the exterior walls, roofing, and windows, settling of the location, etc. all produce auditory, vibrational, and sometimes visual effects that must be understood in the context of evidence review.

The repeat investigations allow for adjusting the camera angles for comparison to the initial investigation during evidence review. Perhaps a

certain phenomenon is not observed at all angles, or perhaps using a new camera angle will reveal a natural cause for the event, such as a light reflection from outside?

Adjusting the angles is not only true for cameras but for digital voice recorders, EMF meters, etc. Echoes and other acoustics in an area can cause sound to vary across the area. Perhaps what sounds like groaning voices in one corner of the room will reveal a noisy door hinge on the other side of the room? Adding or eliminating an echo effect may also help to pinpoint the cause of a sound on a recorder as well. This same idea is true for EMF as well. Orientating an EMF meter differently may reveal an EMF or reduce the field strength (unless one is using an isotropic meter).

This seemingly random and sporadic appearance of paranormal phenomena has led some investigators to consider continuous monitoring methodologies designed to capture infrequent events over long periods of time. Several videos appeared in the media featuring anomalies on security cameras. While the footage was incidental, capturing the phenomena would have been impossible without long term monitoring. Due to the sheer volume

of device data to review during long term monitoring, investigators must seek out data acquisition software that will filter out anomalies and log them for review. Often times motion capture effects, whether on camera or via software, are useful for identifying motion. An infrared sensor that trips a light on the camera will alert the camera to motion. Frame-by-frame motion



Brandi McIntosh, Grimstone Inc. lead investigator, takes pictures of a client's home during a site survey. Grimstone Inc. performs site surveys before investigations in order to document baseline readings, create maps, and photograph the home. This helps to determine optimal camera placement and investigation tactics.

Photo By Kara Swanson

tracking is also available on some high-end cameras that will place rectangles around perceived objects in motion. Data loggers, digital voice recorders, etc. will all produce analog data that can reveal anomalies of magnitude in data charts (i.e. temperature spikes or drops, amplitude spikes, etc.). This allows for the review of very long data sessions and easy identification of time-stamped spikes or anomalies.

New paranormal investigation and analysis techniques are continually emerging to augment those mentioned in this article. The gradual technological improvements of the devices used and the vast ingenuity of the investigators to devise robust, creative, and productive research strategies will ensure the advancement the field of paranormal research. No matter the devices or strategies employed, it is the responsibility of the investigator to understand the significance and the context of all evidence captured. Repeated investigations of the same location are the only understood means of accomplishing this.



During an investigation at a private residence, Grimstone Inc. member, Chris Bailey, uses a thermal camera to document an EVP and EMF session being conducted by Mark Krueger and Kara Swanson.

Photo By Chris Bailey



How I bless my home

By Pauletta Fulton, Grimstone Inc. Historical Dept.

When first moving into a new place, or if I just get a creepy feeling, I always like to do a blessing on my home. Whether it is a rental, an apartment, or something I own, I bless my home - not only for me, but for my family and friends as well.

Supplies you will need:

- Broom
- Salt (I prefer sea salt)
- Smudging sage
- Smudging cedar or sweet grass (both preferably)
- Patchouli oil
- White candles (one for each room of the home)

STEP 1: Sweep away negativity. Get a broom and start from the farthest point of the home. Start sweeping all negative energies out of the home. With every swipe of the broom, say, "Negativity be gone".

STEP 2: In a counterclockwise motion, take the smudging sage all through the home from the farthest point, including closets. Make sure to have a candle lit in every room of the home. While smudging each room, repeat, "Blessing my home, may no spirits roam".

STEP 3: Do the same as in Step 2, but with the smudging cedar and sweet grass.

STEP 4: Go back through the home clockwise and place sea salt in every

corner of the home. Place a smudge of the patchouli oil in the corners of the windows, blowing out the candles as you leave the rooms.

The inside of the home is now finished, but there is one more step.

STEP 5: Take all the smudging sticks around the perimeter of your home and property just for precautionary measures.

This has worked for me in the past. This is not a guaranteed house blessing. It may give peace of mind to some and, like I said, it has worked for me. Always seek a professional when dealing with the possibility of something paranormal.

The flashlight experiment in ghost hunting

By Patricia Nielsen, Grimstone Inc. Investigation Dept.

For many years, paranormal investigators have used the flashlight experiment to attempt to communicate with spirits. What exactly is the

flashlight experiment, you may ask? The flashlight experiment is when someone takes a flashlight and sets the light between the on and off setting,

thus making the instrument much more delicate. At this position, little, if any, interference from a person or the environment is required to cause the light to turn all the way on, off, or flicker. That sounds exciting, doesn't it? I thought so!

I have personally used the flashlight experiment many times on paranormal investigations. I never thought that there could be something other than the paranormal causing the light to turn on and off. I was too stuck on my own excitement of thinking it was a ghost interacting with the light, and failed to look at the scientific reasoning of why the flashlight could be turning on and off all by itself. One day, I decided to research "using a flashlight to communicate with ghosts", and, to my surprise, I found something that put a damper on all my excitement of ever thinking I had an actual ghost turning my light on and off.

Recently, I decided to research "using a flashlight to communicate with ghosts", and, to my surprise, **Continued on page 13.**



During a private investigation of the infamous Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky, Grimstone Inc. members patiently wait for spirits to communicate with them by turning on and off a flashlight. Pictured left to right: former members Nick Trugo and Larry Cain, and current members Leah Klepadlo and Jeff Klepadlo.

Photo By Mark Krueger



The flashlight experiment in ghost hunting (continued)

Continued from page 12

I found something that put a damper on all my excitement of ever thinking I had an actual ghost turning my light on and off. According to Examiner, a flashlight contains several parts that come together to make the instrument work, including contact strips, the switch itself, and the lamp. Batteries are critical to most models of flashlights. On Energizer, I found that when a flashlight switch is pushed to the 'on' position, it connects two contact strips, which begins a flow of electricity, powered from the battery. Activated by the flow of electrons, the filament, or LED, in the tiny light bulb begins to glow, producing light. Examiner also explained that, when placed between the 'on' and 'off' positions, a flashlight creates an open circuit with minimum surface area connecting the two contact strips, and, as a direct result, may cause the flashlight to not work properly.

After hearing the truth of the flashlight and why it turns on and off by itself, you may argue that the flashlight technique works, and it may in some circumstances. Perhaps before logging the flashlight technique as good evidence, you may consider using another approach when using the light. For example, you could ask the possible ghost to flicker the light two times for a "yes" and one time for a "no"; that way, it may seem a little more legitimate than simply setting a flashlight on a table and watching it come on and off in a disorganized manner in response to your questions.

I hope this has helped you understand why the flashlight experiment may not always be the best way to obtain evidence that the paranormal exists in a certain spot. Happy hunting!

1. Korbus, Jason. "The Flashlight Experiment." *Examiner*. 4 Oct. 2010. Web. 11 Mar. 2013.

2. "Flashlights 101: How Flashlights Work." *Energizer*. n.p. n.d. Web. 11 Mar. 2013.

Photo Analysis

Do you have an interesting photo you would like to share or have Grimstone Inc. analyze? Your photo may even appear in a future issue of the Grimstone Gazette! Please e-mail photos to our Photo and Analysis department at pad@grimstone-inc.com.



Photo and analysis By Brandi McIntosh, Grimstone Inc. Lead Investigator

This is a photo I had taken in 2010 at The Henry Ford Museum located in Greenville, MI. I had taken my daughter on a field trip to the museum for some learning fun. I took pictures of almost everything in the museum, including the famous Kennedy assassination car. The horse-drawn carriage is located right next to the trains in the very back of the museum. As I began looking through the pictures after I uploaded them on my computer, I came across this one, and something odd was located in the seat. I zoomed in as much as I could and discovered what looks to be a girl or woman with a bonnet sitting in the back seat, practically transparent. As you can see, there is not much sunlight or any reflections in the picture. I'm not quite sure what to make of it, but it's definitely an interesting piece of evidence and part of history!



Photography: Tips from personal experience

By Angel Fillinger, Grimstone Inc. Historical Dept.

It is very important to know your surroundings when taking photographs. As in all investigations, it is best to get a base reading of the area on each different piece of equipment, so that during the investigation and later evidence analysis, you have an image to which you can compare. Base photos can be a good way to get to know the area: it is recommended to take one photo of each room, in each direction. This is simple for those using digital cameras, but can get pricey with those using 35mm prints. At the very least, a good photo showing both ends of a room taken from mid-point is key.

Below, you will find the reasoning behind my photographic madness. The first photo is an amazing photo I snapped during my visit to Waverly Hills Sanatorium in Louisville, Kentucky.

Imagine my excitement when I found an almost-perfect image of a spirit child peaking around the corner at me during my investigation of the first floor. (Figure 1) That photograph might be considered paranormal. However, if you look at Figure 2, you will see that my child is only a turn-crank and steel piping.

The field in which we investigate has enough frauds and hoaxes out there; all too many are quick to jump on the "It's paranormal!" band wagon, while others who mean well may not know to take base photos to compare. It becomes hard to show off a credible piece when there are so many fakes. This is why it becomes so important to have those base photographs; it helps to keep our credibility intact when do we have a convincing piece of evidence.

During an investigation, I always take photos in pairs, because it allows me to compare each photo anomaly to the next photo. When you can decipher your photographs and weed out the true from the false, it will lend you so much more credibility as a paranormal researcher.

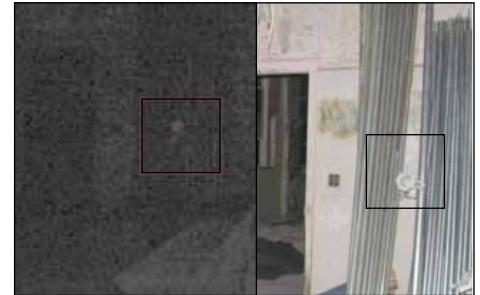


Figure 1 Figure 2
These photos prove the importance of always trying to search for natural causes of what may seem like a paranormal anomaly in a photo.
Photo By Angel Fillinger

When spirits attach

By Pauletta Fulton, Grimstone Inc. Historical Dept.

Spirits and Demons can attach to us due to different emotional states, thoughts, karma, past experiences, or even trauma. A house full of anger and resentment is more likely to have a spirit or demon attached to them than a house full of hope and love. So said my Grandmother, a very wise woman.

When a spirit or demon attaches to a person, so many things can happen. The person can change completely, the changes can be subtle, or it may just look like the person is losing their ever-loving mind. When a spirit or demon is thought to have attached to a person, the family or friends will tend to seek help. Help is usually in the form of their religious beliefs or paranormal investigators. Different faiths or practices deal with spirit/demon attachment in different ways. Some are similar to each other, but they all have a common goal.

Christianity, for example, has exorcism. It isn't talked about much, but when it is, it is usually thought of as a hoax or a

person looking for attention. There are documented cases where exorcism has worked, but the church won't release those records due to the privacy of the individuals involved. Exorcism usually deals with a member or members of the church (i.e. pastor, priest, rabbi, nuns, clergy, etc.) praying from the Bible, and the use of crucifixes, Holy water, and a lot of Faith.

Native Americans have another way to deal and rid of unwanted spirit/demon attachment. Native Americans will use Medicine men, or Shaman, to help rid of the attachment. The Shamans will use a variety of techniques in these process. The use of herbs, like sage and cedar, will be used for cleansing the soul of the individual. The Shaman will also use chants, incense, meditation, and ash from the fire to rid a person from attachment. That, however, can be very dangerous if the Shaman is not very well trained. The spirit/demon can fight back and attack the Shaman and the person and it can result in injury or

even death.

Last, but not least, is the Wiccan faith. Wiccans have been around for a very long time and they believe in preventative measures for spirit attachment. Blessing homes is always a start: salt around doorways, hanging a broom to ward off evil. Some may think that those are just cute decorations from yesteryear, but those have been handed down for generations to ward off unwanted attachments. Wiccans will also cast protection over their home to keep them from harm.

All faiths have their own way of dealing with the attachment of spirits/demons. The main thing that people need to realize is that, sometimes it is either faulty wiring, bad pipes, or a medical or psychiatric disorder causing the problem. It is important to seek professional help first and foremost: call a plumber, get an electrician, or get a checkup with your doctor. If, after all of that, you're still not finding answers, it may be time to call in a paranormal investigator.



They walk among us

By Suzette Parling, Grimstone Inc. Investigation Dept.

This is an original short story and contains mature content that may be disturbing to some readers.

Waking up she realized she was in the trunk of a car. The road seemed to go on forever.

Panic began to raise in her. The air was so heavy and thick that breathing became nearly impossible. With every turn she could feel vomit rise up into her mouth. She tried to move, to break free, but it was no use. She was hog tied. The road seemed to go on forever. Finally the car began to lower its speed. Panic now turned into uncontrollable terror. Another turn, a stop and then silence.

She could hear the key sliding into the

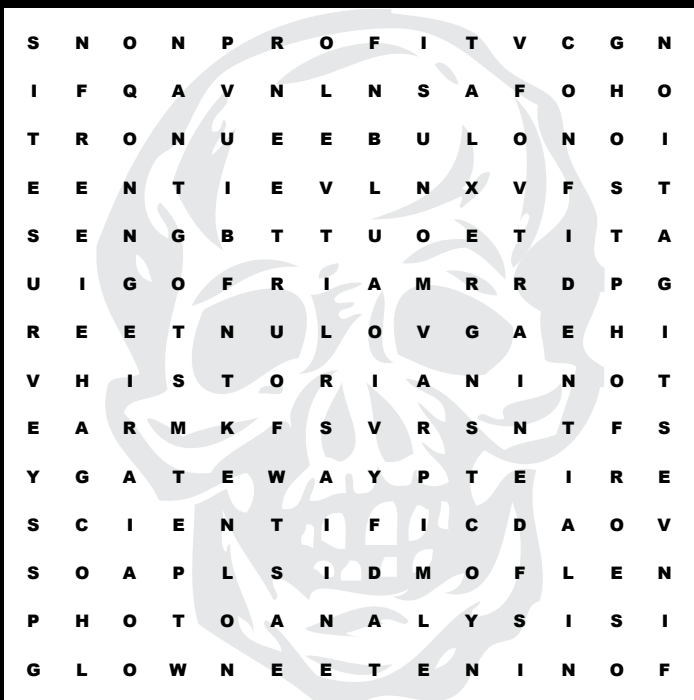
trunk lock and then the trunk popped opened. "Well hello, it's good to see you're awake," he said as he grabbed her roughly by the hair. "What are you doing to me you freak, what the hell is..." SMACK!" He backhanded her in the face. "I will be the one who asks the questions, understand?"

The smell of burning leaves lingered in the air. Looking around she knew immediately that she was somewhere in the northern country. Up the hill was a small hunting cabin. "Come on pretty, let's get some shelter from the storm," he said and began humming

the Bob Dylan song. She looked up to the darkening sky. He yanked her out of the trunk and under the pale light of the moon, dragged her torn body up the gravel driveway that lead to the back of the cabin.

He pulled her up the stairs and into the cabin. Her pants were soaked in her own urine. With her body aching and bruised, he roughly slammed her into a wooden chair. Sitting across from her were two elderly women and the bastard that broke into her home pulled up a chair next to her. **Continued on page 16.**

GRIMSTONE INC. WORD SEARCH



- FOURTEEN:** Grimstone Inc. has been a leading paranormal research organization for 14 years (established in 1999).
- SCIENTIFIC:** Grimstone Inc. primarily uses scientific methods to investigate and document the paranormal.
- NON-PROFIT:** As one of the longest running paranormal research organizations in the Midwest, Grimstone Inc. is a non-for-profit organization.
- FREE:** All Grimstone Inc. services are free.
- CONFIDENTIAL:** We sign confidentiality agreements with all Grimstone Inc. clients to assure privacy.
- GATEWAY:** The Client Gateway is a unique web experience allowing Grimstone Inc. clients access to their case file. Clients can check the status of their case, view evidence and reports submitted by members, evaluate our performance, and keep us informed by writing client journals. The information is private and can only be seen by members working the case.
- PHOTO ANALYSIS:** Send your photos to pad@grimstone-inc.com for a free & professional examination of your paranormal evidence by Grimstone Inc.
- SITE SURVEY:** Grimstone Inc. performs site surveys before an investigation as a means to determine the most efficient way in evaluating your property for possible paranormal activity.

- INVESTIGATION:** During an investigation, Grimstone Inc. will attempt to find evidence of a haunting using a variety of means.
- VOLUNTEER:** Grimstone Inc. is a volunteer organization. Members are not paid and volunteer their time.
- NINETEEN:** There are currently 19 Grimstone Inc. members.
- TRAINED:** All members are trained in EMF detection, photography, video surveillance, audio analysis, thermal imaging, environmental logging, historical research, and much more.
- VAULT:** The vault is an online resource for Grimstone Inc. members. It is used for group communication, case management, evidence, and organizes training manuals, procedures, and more.



They walk among us (continued)

Continued from page 15. He had a century old rotting corpse smell that emanated from his body. When he spoke, a vulgar scent of curry mixed with garlic overwhelmed her and she could not help but throw up on herself. She looked over to the women and in a flash she observed their faces distort into something demonic. She blinked her eyes in hopes it

was her vision playing tricks on her. To her horror, there was nothing wrong with her vision. They were evil beyond description! They began to hiss and shriek. The shorter hag said, "So this is what is left of the great line of the Douglass Clan? Look at you; nothing but a whining child in pee stained pants." Laughter exploded in the room. "We took your momma's life

and now we are going to take yours!" Images of her mother lying on her deathbed began to flash in her head. In an instant her fear turned into rage. She shouted, "I will kill you!"

The letter! The memory came rushing back. She remembered the letter she found while clearing out her father's home after his untimely death. She had just found the letter prior to the attack. "What did it say? Think, damn it!" Closing her eyes, it appeared magically as if it was right before her:

Dear Morgan,

I love you, my dearest Morgan, and wish I could have told you this in person, but if you received this letter, than fate would not allow it. On the day of your birth I gave this letter to your dad in case I was not able to stand up to the wickedness that our family has fought for centuries. He promised to give you it to you when the time is right. The changes will begin when you are expecting your first child, so know that I am sending you and my grandbaby love and protection. You will need it in the upcoming months.

You are the seventh generation of firstborn females and are one of the "chosen." The blood that flows through your veins is more powerful than any magic. Do you remember when you were little and before bed you always wanted me to tell you the adventures of Scathach, the great Scottish warrior of Alba, or the stories of her father, the Great King from Caledonii? Night after night I would recite the stories, and every now and then I would try to throw in a Grimm's Brothers Fairytale, but you never really had much interest in Cinderella or Little Red Riding Hood. They seemed to bore you. But your eyes would light up when I retold the tales of the Green lady that haunted the Knock Castle, or the stories of the Island of Skye and the Fort of Shadows. Remember the names from the stories, because those were not just bedtime stories I told you - in truth, Continued on page 17.

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They walk among us (continued)



Found in an antique store in Holly, MI, this 17th century vampire hunting kit from Romania is evidence that vampires were perceived as a real threat in that time. The kit includes Holy Water, several crosses, a knife, rosaries, a garlic necklace, wooden stakes, and more.

Photo By Josh Spearow

Continued from page 16.
it is the history of your ancestors and they will help defend you from the darkness.

Because of your gifts, there will be many who wish to harm you. It has been a battle that our family has fought for centuries. Walking among the living are souls who have been lost to eternity and take shelter from hell in the form of the human body. Their only purpose is to wreak havoc and destruction to mankind. Inside my cedar chest are the book of shadows written by your ancestors and the tools that you will need for battle against the demonic. By your very birthright, by the blood of the Picts, it is your job to seek and destroy these creatures and to send them back into the realm of darkness. . .

Morgan never got a chance to finish the letter or see what else rested inside the cedar chest. Midway through reading the letter, she felt a rush of pain in her head so intense that her world turned immediately to blackness. The blow was so hard that blood sprayed the walls and ceiling. She did not know what had hit her until now.

“Open your eyes princess,” snarled the bastard as he smacked her upside her head. Looking down upon the table laying out before her were

ancient knives made out of bone with razor sharp blades. She could see fresh blood on the blade and could smell the iron from a pool of dried blood that covered the floor beneath it. The three demons sat, exposing their true identity to her. Their faces were darkened, their teeth pointed, and rotting flesh was dripping down from their chins. It was a truly disgusting sight. They freed her hands and then attempted to place her on a table. Out of her mouth came the language of her ancestors, words that have been lost to mankind for centuries. The ancient words were spoken with great force; she did know their meaning but could feel their force. The room began to spin as the words continued to flow from her mouth. The screams of the demons rose louder as she recited the ancient incantation. Rising up above the ground, she flew with great force at the two hags attempting to escape; stopping them dead in their tracks on the other side of the table. She grasped the ritual knife from the table and in a single stroke cut the hag’s throats, nearly severing off their heads. Turning to the hissing sounds coming from the male bastard, she saw him begin to flee out the doorway at lightning speed. She let out the warrior’s cry as she ran after him into the night. He was gone, leaving in his wake traces of his foul stench. Her sense of smell was abnormally heightened and she tried to track him, but to no avail. The bastard was able to escape under the cover of night.

Exhausted, she collapsed onto the cold Earth. In the wind she heard her mother say softly, “my child, be strong, for it has just begun.”

She laid upon the ground until the sun began to rise over the horizon. Ever muscle in her body trembled and it took all her strength just to stand. She felt sick to her stomach and began to dry heave. The memories of the night before came flooding back. She turned to look at the cabin. It looked so charming in the daylight; a

sharp contrast from the night. She reluctantly made her way to the cabin. She had to see if the reality of the night was true. Entering, she observed blood everywhere - on the floor, on the ceilings and on the table. The bodies of the hags were gone! In their place was scorched wood and blood! Again she felt sick to her stomach and ran out of the cabin. At that moment she realized she must be pregnant. That would explain the letter, the weeks of feeling sick to her stomach every waking moment, and the powers that emerged from her. It was too much to comprehend. She needed coffee and a bath. She needed to find a way home. She thought to herself, “I am screwed.”

She walked for miles before coming upon a small service station. **Continued on page 18.**

What's Next?

*By Karen Green, Grimstone Inc.
Investigation Dept.*

the universe
is a box.
an illusion
looking out.
for someone is watching.
watching us play,
watching us smile,
watching us cry,
it's all a game to them
seeing us die.
putting dreams in our sleep.
laughing , laughing, laughing,
why do we strive to get ahead?
to be put back again?
another box?
I'd like to ask them.



They walk among us (continued)

Continued from page 17. She made a collect call to her boyfriend, Steve, but got his voicemail. Another collect call was made, and this time to her best friend. "Christie, thank God you answered, can you please come and take me home...."

Christie arrived two hours later. Morgan thanked the station clerk for the coffee and got into Christie's car. "What the hell happened to you?", Christie asked. "I really don't know," replied Morgan. She wanted to confide in her friend, but did not know how to explain it. She did not even know how to explain it to herself. So instead she lied and told Christie she had went out drinking with one of her cousins that came down for her father's funeral and fell down in a drunken stupor, which caused the bruising. She said she got into an argument with her cousin and stormed off. Christie just looked at her and replied, "Right, and I'm a virgin, and just let me know when you're ready to talk about it." Morgan sighed with relief. Christie had been her best friend since grade school and never pried, and she could smell crap a mile away.

Christie dropped off Morgan at her

father's house. Morgan entered the empty home and a sense of sadness overcame her. She looked at the pictures that hung on the wall, her father's favorite chair, and the book he was reading resting on the table next to it. She never felt so alone. She went into the den and looked at her blood that was sprayed on the walls. She shivered at the memory of last night. She went over to the cedar chest. She reached in and opened one of the book of shadows. She began reading it but kept her senses on high alert. She did not want to be ambushed again.

The pages of the book were old and smelled of rosemary. Inside were amulets, talismans, and a beautiful ogham that had "Branogeni" inscribed onto to it. Reading further, she learned that it was a Gaelic term meaning "born of raven". One of the book of shadows was written by Raven, her great grandmother fifth removed! The tales her mother told were there to be seen by her own eyes.

There was so much to take in and the journals were endless. The day was dying and she readied to leave, when she looked over to the desk and saw

a large brown leather-bound book with runic inscriptions on it. She went over and began reading. Unlike several of the other books, this one lacked a date. She could tell it was very old. The language used was Gaelic and she needed to keep referring back to a book she found in the den that translated the words into English.

After translating several pages she reread them without interruption. The words were haunting. They read: "The people of the land are the defenders of the Trolords, the keepers of peace and knowledge. We the daughters of Scathach have been chosen to protect the children of the land from the CUNAS, those that deceive and destroy. They walk among us to steal the souls of the living. . ."

Suddenly the lights went out and a strong wind flew through the house. The smell of rotting corpses filled the room. Morgan said out loud, "Not again." Her body began to shiver and she heard her mother's voice in the wind say, "Be strong child, it has only just begun."



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