



Meet The 2010 Officers:
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Indiana Ghost Trackers Indy Chapter

New Director for Indy Chapter



The Indianapolis Chapter of IGT can expect big changes in 2010 under the leadership of our new Director, George Solhan. George and his wife Cheri have been members of the Indy Chapter for a little over 5 years. George has worked in communication for many years including hosting his own radio show. He has worked for Comcast for the past 7 years. He enjoys traveling, ghosthunting, and supporting his Indianapolis Colts' Team. George's favorite place to investigate with IGT so far has been Moundsville Penitentiary in West Virginia where he had some amazing paranormal experiences. He also just enjoys getting together with his IGT friends and socializing. He hopes that IGT Indy will grow as a group this year and his goals are to make meetings both fun and informative. The new board members Rebecca Auker, Michelle Huff, C.B. Bjork, and Kelli McQueen are excited to assist George in making this a reality. Here's to a new year of exciting investigations, fun-filled road trips, good friends, and great memories with IGT Indy!

The Haunted

Looking for a new t.v. show dealing with the paranormal? Give The Haunted a try. It is a series on Animal Planet which reenacts paranormal phenomena experienced by both the home owners and their pets. Some episodes deal with actual spirits of once living pets, but most focus on the reactions of the owner's live pets who seem to be "seeing" what the humans cannot. The families talk openly about their experiences, detailing the events that led them to believe that something paranormal was going on in their residence. Every episode also includes various paranormal investiga-

tion teams that help the families and their startling evidence is presented. The shows air Sunday nights at 10:00pm. Animal Planet is also now accepting submissions of real life stories involving animals and paranormal activity. Questionnaires are located on the website and once submitted, your story could be chosen for a future episode! Go to www.animaldiscovery.com to view more information, watch show clips, etc. Check it out!

Kelli McQueen

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THE ELWOOD OPERA HOUSE

BY: KELLI MCQUEEN

A historic opera house still stands in the city of Elwood, Indiana. Located in the counties of Madison and Tipton, the Elwood Opera House was built by a wealthy German named Gustav Kramer in 1887. The building originally called the Opera House Block, consisted of five business rooms on the bottom level which was home to many businesses through the years including drug stores, clothing stores, pool halls, cigar stores, saloons, barber shops, tailor shops, etc. The second floor consisted of offices for doctors, dentists, and lawyers. The rest of the second and third floors contained the opera house.

The Elwood Opera House became very popular by 1893 and famous performers of the time were featured there. These include Jane Coombs, Heavy Weight Champion John L. Sullivan, Cecil Spooner, Conwell and Swan, and James B. Mackie just to name a few. Most of the shows were comedies but other types of entertainment were provided from musicals, to love stories, to animal shows. The Opera House held its share of conventions, weddings, and even all the Elwood High School graduation ceremonies until 1905.

In 1905 Gustav built a larger opera house called the Kramer Grande Opera House one block south, and closed the old opera house. The old building was sold in 1907 to the Mason's Lodge and by 1910 the building had been completely remodeled. In 1999 the Mason's sold the building but the Mason's "Blue Room" has remained preserved to this day just as they left it complete with the 1910 carpet, high rounded ceiling, marble finished pillars, and balcony. The opera house is used today mainly for wedding receptions and town meetings but has still hosted various entertainers like David Allen Coe and George Riddle. The Elwood Opera

House is the most historic building in Elwood.

Many who have visited will testify to the paranormal experiences they have had there. These range from odd sensations and cold spots, to doors opening and closing, phantom smells, and orb and ectoplasmic manifestations. Some have even claimed to see full body apparitions! IGT Indianapolis will be visiting the Elwood Opera House in February. We are hoping to experience this supposed paranormal phenomena for ourselves.



The Unsolved Foreman Murder Mystery

By: Kelli McQueen

A horrific crime took place on Friday, March 9, 1883 that to this day has yet to be solved. Mrs. Elizabeth Foreman, 87, and her daughter, Lucinda Foreman, 57, were found butchered in their home in the northwest corner of Marion County where the counties of Marion, Hendricks, and Boone meet. They lived alone on a large farm that they leased out to tenants. They made quite a profit from this and kept large amounts of money in the house as opposed to a bank. Word of their wealth circulated and the women experienced people trying to break in, one even going as far as to throw chloroform under the door and in the keyhole. After these break-ins, just three weeks prior to the murders, an elder son had all the money collected and deposited in a bank and made sure that strong bolts were put on the doors and shutters of the house. Lucinda hid the valuable objects from the house in a few smaller buildings on their land and in other places.

The women's bodies were discovered by a neighbor's son who went to check on the ladies at his mother's request. The neighbor, Mrs. Tansel, noticed that there was not the usual smoke coming from the Foreman's chimney that morning. The body of Lucinda Foreman was found on the ground between two small sheds. She had been hacked with an ax and

one wound ran from the left side of her head to the corner of her mouth. The gash was so deep that her ear was inside it. She had other wounds on her head and neck as well. Lucinda still clutched the corn she had been carrying.

Inside the house, the body of her mother, Elizabeth, lay in the kitchen with her neck almost completely severed. She too had many other head wounds made by an ax. Elizabeth appeared to have been making breakfast and the food was gone. Did the twisted killer butcher her and then eat the breakfast she had made?

When the news spread, the citizens of the town of Royalton panicked. They raised \$2,000 as reward money for the arrest of the murderer(s). Police made their first arrest two weeks after the murder. They arrested a German farm laborer named Phillip Kuhn whose coat was found in a shed near the Foreman's farm. He was not tried, however, when the coroner's report failed to provide anything other than circumstantial evidence. Later when an ax and a corn knife, the murder weapons, were found on top of a cupboard in the Foreman kitchen, the owner of the items, David Doyle was questioned. He however was crippled, so all guilt was removed from him. James Hough was the third suspect and a likely one indeed. He had two previous arrests for



Lucinda's Grave

rape and was not well liked in Royalton or the surrounding Trader's Point area. When police first approached him, he ran and was shot in the side. The coroner's inquest failed again to turn up any evidence and Hough was released from custody. Later a man named George Gill was arrested. He was the owner of a disreputable saloon and had a broken finger and no thumb on his left hand. This was significant because bloody handprints were found in several places in the Foreman home which seemed to show a missing thumb on the left hand. Despite this amazing coincidence, no incriminating evidence was brought forth and Gill too went free! Mrs. Foreman's own son was even questioned when it was thought that he had taken out a large insurance policy on his mother just before her death. This led nowhere as well. So who was responsible for this heinous crime?

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Meet our New Chapter Trainer, C.B. Bjork!

1. Tell about yourself....family, hometown, what you do for a living....

I am married. My wife's name is Eileen. We have a son, Jacob who is 10. I live in Westfield. I work for Conseco in the Policyholder Services Dept.

2. What are your hobbies or favorite things to do?

My primary hobby is photography. I am working toward showing my work in various art fairs and events. I love riding my motorcycle and when the weather breaks I'll be on it full time.

3. What got you interested in ghost hunting?

I was living in Florida and took a trip to St. Augustine and I had an encounter with a spirit at a cemetery on the ghost tour. Later, in Orlando I was in an antique shop and in one room I had the most incredible feeling of dread. About a month later I met a woman who did "ghost busting" professionally. I related my experiences to her and she explained to me what was happening in each situation and explained about being a "sensitive."

4. Where is your favorite place to ghost hunt or where would you most like to go someday to investigate?

St. Augustine, was an interesting place. I wish I had known more about ghost hunting when I was there. Locally, I would like to spend the night at the Hannah House. I would like to go to the Winchester House or Alcatraz if given the opportunity.

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Being from Lebanon and being familiar with the area of the murder, I was intrigued by this story when I first read it in an old issue of the Lebanon Patriot newspaper in the article written by Dan Heidenreich. Most are familiar with the Villisca, Iowa ax murder, so I was surprised to learn of such a brutal crime taking place near my home and such a long time ago. How could a crime like this go unsolved? I was really hoping to learn more about the crime and was desperate to locate the actual land or even the house if it was still around. Angie Miles and I spent the afternoon at the Sylvan Munce Center in Zionsville researching the story but to little avail. I did find the old plot of land in a book at the Lebanon Public Library. All I know is that the old Foreman land is somewhere near where Fishback Creek in Zionsville runs under the interpass of 4-65 on Indianapolis Avenue. I would love to find this original homestead someday.

I did locate the graves of the Foreman family

in a cemetery off of 86th street in the Trader's Point area. The cemetery, called Pleasant Hill Cemetery was easy to locate. Angie and I went there one afternoon to attempt an EVP session at the graves of Lucinda and Elizabeth. Could their voices from beyond the grave help to solve their murders?

Well, the day was windy and the location of the cemetery did not allow for a quiet, peaceful session. Farm equipment, dogs, mooing cattle, the steady flow of traffic, and a constant banging of the flag against the flagpole hindered our efforts. However, at one point, when being asked, "Who did this to you? Who hurt you? Can you give us a name?" I got what sounded like a faint whisper. Upon playing it back, to me, it was clearly a name. Now, many may think that I had read the article prior to this and knew the suspects names by heart, right? Wrong. I did not remember, as I am not good with names, and interestingly enough, Angie had already gone through the names of a few of the suspects when

asking, "Did Phillip Kuhn do this?" etc. She did not ask about this particular suspect however. This name took me by surprise and I ran upstairs to find the article and look through the suspects names again. There it was clearly in the article. The most ill reputed of the men. Do you remember which one? Yes, the name that was whispered on the EVP was "James." Wow! No, this isn't solid proof and I would have to go back and try this experiment again before I would be convinced that my recorder did in fact pick up the name James. But, it was chilling in itself to be sitting there talking to the two murdered women telling them that their killer was never caught. Hopefully when the weather gets nice, I will revisit their graves and try once more to get some answers to this lingering mystery.



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