



Meet The 2010 Officers:  
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## THINK YOUR HOUSE IS HAUNTED?

By Kelli McQueen

Before calling in a professional paranormal investigation team you might want to start documenting the experiences on paper or in a journal. A few things to note are:

- The date(s) of the occurrence(s)
- The time(s) of each occurrence(s)
- What are the strange phenomena you are experiencing? What do you see, hear, smell, or feel? Be specific.
- Who is experiencing it? List all family members and even pets that have noticed the unusual activity.
- List all the people who are in the house at the time of the experience. (Some phenomena can be connected to a certain person)

What room in the house is the activity taking place in? List specific places like crawl-spaces, attics, closets, etc. When this information is collected, look for patterns. Is the activity taking place in the same location every time or only with the same individual? Is the activity occurring at a similar time every day/night? Could the activity be centered around a certain item in the house? (Ghosts can be connected with objects instead of houses or people) If more than one person is experiencing the phenomena and both people keep notes of this, they can then compare and look for similarities in their documentation that could give greater validity to the events. This documentation is very helpful to investigators and can even help distinguish the type of haunting that may be present..



**The Whispers Estate is a favorite haunted house in Southern Indiana. Stay there if you dare!**

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## The Mystery of the Crossroads

By: Kelli McQueen

I've often heard of the supernatural power of a crossroad, but never fully understood why crossroads are said to be so dangerous. What are the ancient beliefs about these areas?

Crossroads have always been places of great spiritual power. Places where ghosts, fairies, vampires, witches, and devils are said to lurk. Although there are many of these places today, places where two roads intersect, they were not as common in the ancient world. Many cultures have different beliefs about crossroads. Here are just a few...

In Africa, they believe that many Gods guard the crossroads teaching wisdom to those seeking it.

In Germany, the people place offerings of "Hecate cakes" at the crossroads to honor the Goddess of the underworld and sorcery Hecate also known as the Queen of Ghosts. They would place a single candle on the cake so the Goddess could find her way there in the dark. This idea later evolved into birthday cakes.

In England, gallows were built at crossroads so that the spirits would be confused and would not be able to come back for those who condemned them. Suicide victims were often buried at crossroads as well in an attempt to confuse the souls so they would not return to seek vengeance on those who might have wronged them

in their life or led to their death. Crossroads are thought to be confusing places due to the 4 possible forked paths.

The Irish believed that witches meet at crossroads to perform their rituals, and in India it is believed that the Indian God Bhairva guards the crossroads and keeps watch between the two worlds. In Eastern Europe, vampires are said to wander near crossroads looking for victims. Even evil fairies are thought to wander here looking to carry their victims off to their world.

The African American folk magic practice of Hoodoo relies on the powers of the crossroads. In Hoodoo, the Devil is thought to hang out at the crossroads. This is not the same Devil of Christianity. It is clever, mischievous, and known to play tricks. It longs to steal a person's soul in exchange for a favor. A bargain is made at the crossroads to be able to possess some extraordinary skill, from playing an instrument well, to winning in gambling, etc. The item wished to be mastered is brought to the crossroads at midnight for three to nine nights in a row. Animals then appear like a bear or a black dog or cat to indicate that the spell is working. Then a black shadow of a man will appear, borrow the object, and model how to superbly use the item. From that point on, the

able to perform their specific skill masterfully. The person must, however, give up their soul in exchange for this "power". Many people have struck this unfortunate deal and though they experience short term success and notoriety, they often die tragic deaths or lose everything.

One such story is that of famed blues musician Robert Johnson. After losing his beloved wife during childbirth and not receiving the acclaim he thought he deserved as a blues guitarist, Robert made a pact with the Devil at the crossroads. He walked to the crossroads at the junction of Highways 61 and 49 in Clarksdale, Mississippi at the stroke of midnight. Reciting an ancient incantation, he called upon the Devil. In exchange for his soul, the Devil granted Johnson the impressive ability to play his guitar like never before. He experienced success from that point on, getting a record contract, producing records, and touring. However, in 1938, at the age of 27, Johnson met an untimely death that remains a bit of a mystery today. Some think he was poisoned with strychnine by a jealous husband. He was warned by his friend not to drink from an opened whiskey bottle on his table at a local juke joint but to no avail.

Johnson suffered horrible convulsions and died several days later on August 16, 1938. There is even debate as to where he is buried as three different grave

sites in Mississippi bear his name. Robert Johnson's music influenced many other musicians. Some of these musicians also have had their fair share of tragedy throughout their careers leading many to speculate that the "curse" is connected to those who have played Johnson's infamous "Crossroad Blues" tune. Eric Clapton, Lynyrd Skynyrd, and The Allman Brothers Band are just a few of the musicians said to be connected to this "curse". Robert Johnson was inducted in the Rock and Roll Hall of fame in 1986. For more information about the life, death, and legacy of Robert Johnson please visit the following site <http://www.hauntedamericatours.com/cursed/>



## Meet our Public Relations Director, Michelle Huff!

### 1. Tell about yourself.

I am a wife and mother of three. Sadie is 6, Grace is 3 and Noah is 10 months. My husband Dan is an area manager for Fastenal. I have a BA from Purdue in elem. Ed. and a MA from U. Indy in Educational Leadership & Admin. I am the Executive Director for the Pike Township Educational Foundation. I am originally from Lafayette, but I have lived in Brownsburg for 3 years.

### 2. What do you like to do in your free time?

I like to watch Lost and Chuck with my hubby or play guitar hero on the Wii. I like to hang out with my friends (aka the cheer moms). I love to sing, act, and dance. I love horror movies and of course the paranormal.

### 3. What are your favorite memories of ghosthunting? Fave places? Fave experiences?

My favorite places have been Whispers Estate and Moundsville. For some reason the most memories come from all the funny things that happen like the fact that Kelli and I always have some kind of car related issue or the fact that someone always thinks it is a good idea to make me sit in the dark jail cell by myself. I either come across really brave or have sucker written on my forehead.

### 4. Where would you like to hunt that you haven't been to yet?

Eastern State, Trans-Allegheny Asylum, Villisca Ax murder house (sp?)

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Michelle (far right) and friends touring Prospect Place, Ohio.

