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Volume 3, Issue 6  
June, 2010

# Indiana Ghost Trackers Indy Chapter

## Tuckaway House by Kelli McQueen

On a heavily wooded lot in Indianapolis's Historic Meridian Park Neighborhood on the Northside, sits a home known as Indy's best bungalow. That home is called Tuckaway. Built in 1906, the home was bought and then enlarged and expanded by George Phillip Meier and his wife Nellie Simmons Meier in 1910. George was a renowned fashion designer in Indianapolis, owning his own women's dress shop and later showcasing his work in the LS Ayers building. Nellie was a world famous palm reader or master of the skill of "scientific palmistry" as Nellie called it. They were very well known in all the important circles of society and entertained at their home frequently. Nellie read palms for some very famous clients including Albert Einstein, Walt Disney, Amelia Earhart, George Gershwin, and Franklin Roosevelt. It was customary of the time for famous people to give their hosts and hostesses autographed pictures and letters, so Nellie accumulated quite an impressive collection from her clients. Nellie, although a very spiritual person, insisted that she was not a fortune teller, but instead took a very scientific approach in analyzing and studying the lines on people's hands. The Meier's took a lot of pride in their home and furnished it lavishly. They enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle surrounded by many friends until their death.

Ken Keene bought the house in 1972 from the Meier's niece, Ruth Austin, a well-known teacher of modern dance and

ballet. In doing so, he inherited many of the personal items of the Meier's including beaded dresses, a ouija board, palm prints, and the autographed pictures of Nellie's famous clients which he proudly displays throughout Tuckaway to this day. Ken has restored the home to honor the history of the place as well as to honor it's former occupants. For Nellie and George seem to have never left Tuckaway. According to Ken, they still remain in the home they once loved so much and even have helped guide him as he refurnished the home with period items and furniture. Ken claims that when the home is quiet, sometimes you can hear the residual sounds of glasses tinkling, music playing, and people chatting as if enjoying one of the Meier's many social gatherings. He has seen mists go across the room as well and he just seems to feel the friendly presence of George and Nellie from time to time watching him as if to say thank you for preserving their beloved home.

Tuckaway has been featured on many local news shows, in the Dan T. Hall documentary Ghost Stories 2 Unmasking the Dead, and in American Bungalow Magazine. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Homes in the 1980's for its architectural and historical significance. To see pictures of Tuckaway go to the following website..... <http://www.historicmeridianpark.org/about-the-neighborhood/tuckaway>

## Vermillion County Jail and Sheriff's Residence

### By Kelli McQueen

IGT Indy has an exciting opportunity coming this month! Thanks to a friend of member Tandi Foster who belongs to the Vermillion County Historical Society, IGT is going to investigate the Vermillion County Jail and Sheriff's Residence in Newport, Indiana! This jail has been certified haunted by 2 paranormal investigation groups out of Illinois, but has yet to be investigated by any Indiana team.

The third Sheriff's Residence and Jail to be built in that area was built in 1868 in Italianate style of bricks. It later became just the Sheriff's residence in 1896 when a new jail was added on. That jail was made of rusticated stone in the Romanesque Revival Style. The jail ceased operation in 1992 and became owned by the Vermillion County Historical Society. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

The building is two stories high with an attic and a basement. There are the main level jail cells and the solitary confinement cells on the second floor to explore as well as the basement and the large Sheriff's Residence.

Not a lot is known of the history of violence and/or death at the location but in 1879 a man named Walter Watson was hung in the side yard. The Illinois teams that have investigated have gotten at least one EVP of an angry male cursing and stomping, and they have captured mists, strange lights, and even shadow figures on camera.

IGT Indy will be heading there this month to see for ourselves!



## Being a "Sensitive"

By C.B. Bjork

All humans are born with an ability to sense the world around them. Some call this a sixth sense or a "gut" feeling. Some people have a better understanding or ability to use this sense than others. There are three main types of "Sensitives." These are Clairvoyant (ability to see), Clairaudience (ability to hear) and Clairsentient (ability to feel). Usually, if you are Clairvoyant, you have the other two. If you are Clairaudient, you are also Clairsentient. However, if you are Clairsentient, you do not have the other two.

I discovered my clairsentient abilities while on vacation in St. Augustine, Florida. Needless to say, as one of the oldest settled cities in the New World, there are plenty of ghosts to be found. A few weeks after my visit, I met a professional ghost hunter. I explained the sensations I was having while on the hunt because they were unusual for me. She advised me that I was sensitive. She went on to further explain about ghosts and having encounters. I have found her information to be accurate as my experiences add up. Just like there are good and bad people, there are good and bad ghosts. The interesting thing is that ghosts do not exist on a linear time line like we do. Ghosts can move forward or back in time. One of the harder things about being clairsentient (or any other), is that because you do not have a physical reaction to the ghosts, people will label you as a charlatan because they do not sense them like you do.

You might think it is neat to be a walking EMF detector. As I wander through life, I am continuously clairsentient. It doesn't matter if I'm at work, at the mall, or in a haunted house. At the same time, if I encounter a ghost at work or at the mall, I have the same reaction as if I was in the haunted house. The best way to describe the feeling I have when I encounter a ghost is like an electric buzz. I get this feeling from head to toe and it kinda takes my breath away momentarily. Hair stands up on my body from head to toe. This is not to say this is exactly what happens with all clairsentients, but it tends to be similar.

Unfortunately, as a clairsentient, I am also an emotional sponge. If I am around negative people, I too will become negative. I have to work to determine what my emotions really are and clear out what is not mine. So, you are going along all happy and

fine, walk into a store, pick up negative emotions, and next thing you know, you are mad for no reason. It's not like, "gee, I'm starting to feel mad" and you see the onset. Most times it's like a bomb going off. Your spouse comes in, they are in a foul mood, and KABOOM, you end up in an argument for no good reason. It's like gasoline on a fire. I have become really good at apologies as a result.

Let's look at another fun time. In my house there is my wife and son. As you know, ghosts like the higher energy in kids and I have had him bring a few home. So, it's been a long day and you hit the sack. Next thing you know, it's 1 AM and you snap awake because you have an unseen visitor. Initially, I didn't know how to deal with them. Now, I know I can send them away and it is only a minor annoyance.

Yet, there is the encounter at work. I worked at a store with 11 tanning beds. In the back of the store I would occasionally get my sensation. I worked at concentrating on what I was feeling and was able to determine the ghost was of a woman. I got the feeling her name was a Mary or Marie or Maria. You have to learn to open up and clear your own voice in your head so you can distinguish between the thoughts of the ghost and your own.

As I mentioned earlier, everyone has the ability. It's a matter of learning. There are a handful of New Age stores in Indy and there are classes about exploring your psychic abilities. I'm not saying everyone will develop the ability by taking classes, but you will be able to learn more about it and you can see what you are capable of. I would just add the tag of "Be careful of what you wish for..."

## Meet Member Cheri Solhan!

### Tell us a about yourself (job, hobbies, interests, family, etc.)

I have been married to our Director, George, for 27 years, We have 2 children - Crystal (26) & Michael (21). We have 2 grandchildren - Tristan (2 1/2) & Morgan (almost 2). I have worked for Roche Diagnostics for 19 years. I am a Contract Specialist in our Logistics Department. My hobbies are family, traveling & ghost hunting - all of which keep me very busy.

### 2. How did you get interested in ghost hunting?

George came across IGT on the internet 5 years ago. We attended their next meeting & have been members ever since. The social networking & traveling are some of my favorite perks of ghost hunting.

### 3. What are your favorite memories or experiences since being involved with IGT?

I really enjoyed investigating Moundsville (WV State Penn). We have had some really awesome experiences there. I have been "whispered" from one of the jail cells on tier 3, I saw a nickel fly off of a kitchen counter when no one was around & I watched as a shadow person moved down the cell block towards us. Even though we didn't really have any experiences in Gettysburg, I would love to go back when we can spend more time there. This is a great place to visit even if you are not in to the historic value of this beautiful area. The great experiences that I have had while ghost hunting will never be forgotten!

### 4. Where are a few places you would most like to investigate?

There are a few places that I would like to investigate in the future such as Bobby Mackey's, Mansfield Prison & The Whispers.



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