

Hauntings

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Ghosts & Hauntings

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and the oil flow had to be carefully adjusted to provide enough power for the light to burn brilliantly enough to be seen by ships miles away.

Her grandfather had died under tragic circumstances. It was during a sudden wild winter storm with icy winds and monstrous waves. Ships on Lake Superior were in danger, for they could not see the shore without the light. But the light never came on. One ship crashed into the reef, and half of the crew died. When people went to the lighthouse to find out why it was not lit, they found the old man dead on the stairs. He had apparently been running to light the lamp when he suffered a heart attack.

"I Couldn't Do It!"

Years later, another winter storm hit the lighthouse point along Lake Superior. Though the girl's father was now the lighthouse keeper, he was ill with a high fever and could not leave his bed. He told his daughter that she had to do it—and that he had confidence in her.

But though she had watched both her grandfather and father light the lamp many times, she had never done it herself. Nervously she tried to light the wick and slowly regulate the brass damper that would supply oil to the lamp. But she was failing miserably. She was trying to work quickly, but her hands were shaking. All she could think about were the sailors out in that storm who were depending on the light, and she would be to blame if it were not lit.

Just as she became convinced the job was too much for her, she told writer Frederick Stonehouse, something amazing happened:

Suddenly, I heard Grandfather's soft voice behind me. "Slow down, girl, you can do it.

OPPOSITE:
A woman in Thailand searches rows of bodies in hopes of finding a loved one who went missing after the tsunami. With thousands of dead, many bodies were never claimed and funerals were not held—leaving the spirits of victims free to seek out family members.

CHAPTER 3

Ghosts on the Move

Just as with battlefield ghosts, the spirits of people killed in sudden violent accidents are said to linger at the site of their death. Whether it is an automobile accident, a plane crash, or a sunken boat, ghosts are believed to linger. Ghost researchers believe that those killed in traumatic accidents may be unaware that they have died. Their spirits are more apt to roam at the site of the accident, often looking for friends or loved ones. Sometimes they may also try to deal with whatever caused the accident in the first place.

A Horrific Accident in Maco

One of the most famous of these spirits is that of a railroad conductor named Joe Baldwin. He worked on what is now called the Atlantic Coast Railroad, servicing passengers in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. One night in 1867, a terrible accident occurred near the town of Maco, in the southern part of North Carolina.

Baldwin was riding in the caboose when it unexpectedly coasted to a stop. Alone in the caboose, he looked out the window to see what was going on. He saw that the caboose had become uncoupled from the rest of the train and that a train was coming up, full speed, right behind him.

According to witnesses in the oncoming train, Baldwin grabbed a lantern and began swinging it back and



Flames rise from the wreckage of an airplane that crashed in New York in 2009. Some believe that the spirits of those killed in violent accidents such as plane crashes linger, perhaps searching for loved ones.

For Further Research

Books

Jeff Belanger, *Who's Haunting the White House? The President's Mansion and the Ghosts Who Live There*. New York: Sterling, 2008.

Rosemary Ellen Guiley, *Ghosts and Haunted Places*. New York: Chelsea House, 2008.

Michael Norman, *Haunted Homeland*. New York: Forge, 2006.

Rebecca Steffoff, *Secrets of the Supernatural: Ghosts and Spirits*. New York: Marshall Cavendish, 2008.

Michael Teitelbaum, *Ghosts and Real-Life Ghost Hunters*. New York: Franklin Watts, 2008.

Web Sites

American Association-Electronic Voice Phenomena (www.aevp.com). This is a very helpful Web site that includes the latest findings in EVP research and provides samples of some of the most interesting EVP transmissions.

American Society for Psychical Research (www.aspr.com). This organization investigates claims of ghosts and hauntings and also has a number of links on its Web site to information on a number of paranormal events.

Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (www.csicop.com). This organization encourages critical investigation of ghosts and hauntings based on scientific principles. The site provides excellent links to articles by skeptics who point out what they see as weaknesses in many ghost hunting investigations.

Discovery Channel's Psychic and Paranormal Web Site (www.discoverychannel.co.uk/paranormal/index.shtml). This is a very appealing site, with discussion of paranormal events throughout the world. It includes a well-maintained glossary of terms used by ghost hunters and a section on the world's most haunted places.

Ghost Research Society (www.ghostresearch.org). This group investigates ghosts, using the most high-tech instruments and tools. The site has links to some of the most famous haunting cases and how researchers used equipment in their investigations.

Ghostvillage.com (www.ghostvillage.com). A very interesting site that features an almost limitless range of personal narratives—real-life encounters with ghosts. The site also has links to interesting articles on the latest ghost research.

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