

Paranormal VERACITY MAGAZINE

ISSUE #1 OCTOBER 2016

CASTLE

DIRECTOR OF WISPS - INTERVIEW

2016 UTAH PARANORMAL FESTIVAL

A LOOK INSIDE UTAH'S LARGEST PARANORMAL CONVENTION

THE ROOK

GHOSTSTOPS NEW EMF DETECTOR UNDER
REVIEW

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEE WHAT EVENTS NEAR YOU ARE ON
THE HORIZON

THE HAUNTED CLOWN

GET THE STORY BEHIND THIS SMALL BUT
VERY HAUNTED LITTLE CLOWN

THE HAUNTED ST. MARY'S ART CENTER

REBECCA GENESIS TAKES US ON A LITTLE
TOUR OF THIS HAUNTED BEAUTY



WISPS
Wasatch Investigative Society
for Paranormal Studies



ve·rac·i·ty

noun

conformity to facts; accuracy.

"officials expressed doubts concerning the veracity of the story"

truthfulness, truth, accuracy, correctness, faithfulness, fidelity; reputability, honesty, sincerity, trustworthiness, reliability, dependability, scrupulousness, ethics, morality, righteousness, virtuousness, decency, straightforwardness, goodness, probity

"we do not question the veracity of your story"

In the past couple years I have seen the same countless stories shared across many paranormal pages, groups and enthusiasts of the paranormal field. These stories often require a click to go to website type system to them that will take you to an untrusted website full of spam and sometimes even viruses. Most the time these stories contain a couple paragraphs and most of them filled with useless information. I decided it was time to start sharing real paranormal information with the paranormal enthusiast and researchers out in the field. This magazine will feature investigator interviews, equipment reviews, upcoming events, upcoming conferences, database of teams, database of psychics, ads, book reviews, user submitted stores and some featured ghost hunt locations that I attend. This magazine is dedicated to the field and the paranormal community. I so hope you enjoy it and will be looking forward to your submitted reviews, stories, content and more.



Paul Welch
The Spirit Warrior

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UTAH PARANORMAL EVENTS
By: Paul Welch

FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UTAHPARANORMALEVENTS/>

THE GENESIS CHRONICLES

By Rebecca Genesis



An original photo of the St. Mary Louise Hospital (Photo Credit: St. Mary's Art Center)

THE HAUNTED ST. MARY'S ART CENTER

In early June of 2016, I once again had the opportunity to spend a weekend in my favorite ghost hunting playground Virginia City, Nevada. There were still many haunted locations I hadn't been able to visit previously that were on my must-visit list. However, I was completely unaware of the historic St. Mary Louise Hospital building which is now the [St. Mary's Art Center](#).

After staying my first night in a haunted room at the [Sugarloaf Mountain Motel](#) and channeling one of their resident ghosts, I prepared to go on foot and hike around Virginia City to see what other kinds of ghostly experiences might be in store for the day. The first place on the top of my list was the notoriously haunted [Mackay Mansion](#).

After the Mackay Mansion tour, the very gracious and informative tour guide suggested that I go check out the old St. Mary Louise Hospital. She told me that she had some cool paranormal experiences there and that because it's off the main street, less people go there, or even know about it for that matter.

I didn't quite realize how much of a journey on foot it would be to the old hospital turned art center, but I walked all the way down the hill until I arrived at "R" street. It turned out to be an amazing trek, however, because I was also able to experience my very first encounter with Virginia City's wild horses! Five of them to be exact, including a juvenile and a pregnant mare. I was ecstatic!

As I approached the land with the old, big building I also noticed there were even more wild horses relaxing in the shade near a sign that read: "St. Mary's Art & Retreat Center." I made my way toward the big, four-story brick building, and past a large group of people enjoying a cookout in the front lawn of the property until I was greeted by a friendly dog at the top of the front steps.

The front door was open and as I walked in I noticed a few women in an office to the right. I told them who I was and why I was there

and I was pleased to learn that two of them, Jill and Jaedene, were also paranormal investigators for the [Northern Nevada Ghost Hunters](#). I asked if there was a fee to tour the St. Mary's Art Center and I was surprised to learn that there was no cost, but donations were accepted for the preservation of the building.

I was more than honored to donate \$10 and asked also asked the kind ladies what sort of paranormal activity people experience at the St. Mary's Art Center and if there were any hot spots in the building. Rather than spill the beans, Jill wisely suggested I freely roam about and see what I'm able to pick up on and then we would speak again when I was done. I happily accepted the challenge.

I promised Jaedene and Jill I'd be back to speak with them before I left and made my way down the hallway. Although the first room I entered to my right was filled with modern art sculptures, the feeling of the environment was not modern at all. As with many old buildings, it also seemed to retain an energy that was filled with many different memories and emotions.



Modern art in a historic building (Photo Credit: Rebecca Genesis)

The building was mostly empty of the living as I made my way through it. I could hear voices now and again, and I ran into a couple of jovial teens during my tour, but I was there to interact with the dead. As I worked my way up and through the building, I could constantly feel some sort of unseen presence. I continued taking photos and speaking aloud to the entity, knowing it would only be a matter of time before I performed a crystal channeling session.

Once I finally made my way through most of the building and to the top floor, I decided it was time to channel. I settled down in a cozy bedroom with a long, wooden bench which was likely an old pew. I took off my backpack and retrieved my amethyst crystal pendulum from inside one of the pockets.

I connected immediately with my Spirit Guide, Michael who then introduced me to an entity who wanted to communicate. From the channeling session I was able to determine it was a female spirit who had died on the premises years ago and chose to stay to watch over those in the environment. I could tell she had a very loving and positive energy, and genuinely cared for the living. It was a very cool channeling session.

Once I completed my haunted tour of the building, I went back downstairs to pow wow with Jill and Jaedene about my findings at the St. Mary's Art Center. I still had to review my photo and EVP evidence, which ultimately didn't substantiate anything paranormal, but I spoke with them about my channeling session I had in one of the rooms with a friendly female spirit.

"The woman told me she died here while it was a hospital and that she likes it here, so she chooses to stay," I informed them. "She definitely isn't malevolent and she's more of a protector here in spirit."

"That sounds like our White Nun," Jill immediately responded. I was happy to have my channeling session validated. After a bit more dialogue, I exchanged information with the ladies and thanked them for allowing me the experience to tour the building. Then I set back on foot for a very steep uphill hike back to town.

[Continued on page 6](#)

THE GENESIS CHRONICLES CONTINUED

THE HAUNTED ST. MARY'S ART CENTER

Later that evening, back at my haunted motel room, I noticed that a book I had picked up while in town, [Haunted Virginia City](#) by Janice Oberding, had some information on St. Mary's Art Center and the White Nun Jill mentioned at the end of my tour of the old Hospital building.

According to Oberding, the White Nun is the most prevalent entity people have said to encounter at St. Mary's Art Center. The story goes that when the ghostly nun was alive, she was also a nurse who took care of the patients at the St. Mary Louise Hospital years ago. It's said the woman perished in an accidental fire while trying to save her patients. However other sources online mention the possibility that the White Nun died at the hospital long ago under mysterious circumstances.

Regardless of how she died, the apparition of the White Nun is seen most frequently watching from one of the third-story windows both during the day and at night and in room 11 which was the hospital's former chapel. She has also been seen walking up and down the halls, as if she is still checking on patients. Dressed in all-white, it's easy to see how she got her name. Similar to my experience, those who encounter the watchful spirit say she is a friendly entity.

Another ghost reported to have been seen at St. Mary's Art Center is a heavy-set woman who smells like violets and has been seen in one of the building's kitchens. Others also contend that they have awoken in the middle of the night to see a ghostly spectre of a woman trying to take their temperature. But it's not just female spirits who are said to still roam the halls of the old hospital. A ghostly man in an old wheelchair has also been seen in the building and it's said he looks confused. Perhaps he hasn't quite figured out that he has died.

Undoubtedly, there have been many souls who passed while staying in the building back when it was a hospital. The land used to belong to a man named Jacob Van Bokkelen who had a beer garden on the premises up

until his accidental death by explosives that also killed ten other men. After his passing, Marie Louise, the wife of mining magnate John Mackay, purchased the land and donated it to the [Daughters of Charity](#) for the purpose of building the St. Mary Louise Hospital, the first medical facility in the area.

The [hospital](#) first opened in 1876 and could accommodate up to 70 patients. With indoor plumbing, both hot and cold running water in all the rooms, steam heating, and gas lighting, it was a renowned medical facility in its heyday. It was also mostly fully self-sustained with gardens, fruit trees, and chicken coops on the grounds. However, it wouldn't be long until the population in Virginia City began to dissipate after the mines became less productive. The Daughters of Charity left the hospital, and the town behind in 1897.

Storey County took over the operation of the hospital but the population of Virginia City continued to shrink, and the St. Mary Louise Hospital closed its doors for good in the 1940s. The building sat unused and empty until 1964 when it faced the possibility of being demolished. However, a man named Father Paul Meinecke, along with a group of local artists, teamed up to save the derelict building and reopen it as a peaceful, yet vibrant non-profit art center where artists could cre-

ate and share their works and the community could learn how to tap into their own creative potentials.

According to the St. Mary's Art Center website, the artists who both learned and practiced their art there, "emerged as an important factor in the advancement the modern cultural scene of the Northern Nevada." It would be during the 1990s when the facility transformed once again, when it also opened its doors to the public. Today, the building maintains its dual purpose to serve as a place for artists and their creations while also lending itself to the public for hosting events and retreats.

The last time I visited Virginia City in late July/early August of 2016, I had the pleasure of meeting in person a paranormal investigator I had been following on Facebook, Michelle LeBaron. Michelle lives in the Reno area and also frequents nearby Virginia City every chance she gets. She is a proven ghost magnet, time and time again. Michelle has also collected some of the best paranormal evidence I've ever seen. You can follow Michelle's paranormal investigations and view her evidence by liking her paranormal page on Facebook [here](#).

St. Mary's Art Center is an amazing place for artists to create and display



Guest room where I channeled a female presence (Photo credit: Rebecca Genesis)

their works and conduct workshops to teach other aspiring artists. And, of course, it's definitely an intriguing place to experience the paranormal whether you are an investigator or just simply interested in the spirit realm.

Since they opened their doors to the public, it is also a perfect venue for events such as weddings, reunions, company meetings, retreats, and conferences. With multiple cozy guest rooms, two full kitchens, meeting rooms, and a beautiful setting rich with history in the hills of Virginia City, you'll be sure to enjoy every moment spent at this amazing location.

Whether your event is a few hours, or a few days or more you can reserve your time and dates at the St. Mary's Art Center by going to their website [here](#). And, as I mentioned before, donations are always welcomed and appreciated. You can also like their Facebook page [here](#).

St. Mary's Art Center is located at 55 R Street – Virginia City, NV 89440. Their phone number is 775-847-7774. The public can visit this historic and haunted building from Thursday – Sunday between 11:00 am and 4:00 pm.

Be sure to check out my photo gallery from my visit to St. Mary's Art Center [here](#).

Please feel free to leave a comment or contribute any additional information you may have on St. Mary's Art Center, including your own paranormal stories. To follow along with my ghost hunting expeditions you can [SUBSCRIBE](#) to my blog and the [Ghost Seers](#) website.



(Photo credit: Leslie Rae Sinks)



(Photo of Rebecca Genesis)

THE

ROOK

The Rook is a brand new EMF detection device brought to you by the awesome folks at [GhostStop](#). It's designed for easier night viewing from all sides and to filter out false readings of EMF.

FEATURES:

1. EMF sensor with lights visible all around the unit
2. Sound alert that varies with proximity of the EMF detected
3. Highly sensitive EMF detects even small changes
4. Quality detection fortified from most interference
Ergonomically built for comfortable carrying with grip texture
5. All red lighting used to preserve night vision
6. Lighted on/off power switch and power indicator for finding it in the dark
7. Balanced to sit upright on its own for viewing in 360 degrees
8. Tripod mountable for flexibility in various applications



Front view of The Rook (EMF Detector) brought to you by GhostStop

The Rook is an EMF detection device designed to improve on today's KII meter that is widely used in today paranormal community. This little device coming in at about the same size as a standard KII was designed by paranormal investigators for paranormal investigators. It's use of having only red lights was to help keep investigators night vision sight adjusted to the total darkness. Due to its shape you can stand the Rook upright and view the lights on the meter from all sides. As the detection signal increases it lights up the other red bars on the device spreading out while putting off an audible alarm. The audible alarm will

change pitch with the change in EMF signal that the device is picking up. The Rook was designed to remove some of the false positives said to be given off by the KII meter.

Upon testing this device on multiple investigations in the field I had found the power button to be somewhat clunky and not as easy as the push button on/off the KII uses. It does pick up EMF as it states but while side by side with a KII that is spiking it will continue detecting only low ranges of EMF. This could be caused by the design to filter out false positives that the KII will sometimes pick up. Cell phones and Walkie

Talkie's also don't seem to have an affect on the Rook which is a very good thing. When the EMF strenght goes up this devicee goes into action by lighting up the bars along the top outward and sounding off an audible alarm. This helps when you need to focus yourself away from the meter at any time. This device is available throught GhostStop.com at a price of \$65.00.

By: Paul Welch

PROTECTING THE HONOR OF THE PARANORMAL COMMUNITY



Zach Watters conducting an EVP session at Empress Theatre

As a paranormal investigator I often get asked what it's like. Do I get scared when I see a ghost, get touched, or see a shadow? There are a lot of misconceptions coming from many sources: television, film, stories of haunted places that are trying to drum up business, etc. There are even paranormal teams that over exaggerate the things that happen while on a hunt. You know these teams have to give the patrons something to talk about. The patrons paid good money and need to see something, so maybe someone "gets pushed." But every investigation? Unfortunately, this type of exaggeration happens, I've seen it.

Many people honestly have no idea what it truly takes to conduct an investigation. The long hours of going through dark buildings, sitting in the dark talking to yourself. The time it takes to actually set up a location, and the research that goes in to help educate the patrons of the history to the area you are investigating.

I believe that as part of the paranormal community we need to elevate our standards. We are not a television show that needs to have good ratings if we want to stay on the air. It's our duty to educate the people we take on these excursions on how to truly conduct an EVP session. This includes setting up the correct environment, and reminding people around to not whisper. Next, have everyone

state their name and say a little something so that everyone has their voice on file to go back and refer to if they think they have a possible EVP. Also, keep EVP sessions small, don't record for hours. Most of the team members in the paranormal community have real jobs and do this as a hobby. It takes about four hours to review one hour of recorded EVP. How many people actually have time to review hours upon hours of audio or video?

Most of the paranormal activity that people experience can be explained by something really simple, but people want to believe so badly that they are seeing or hearing something that is paranormal. Without truly educating them we have many false reports of actual activity. They aren't lying, but they are unintentionally fabricating a paranormal experience. After this fabricated experience they tell their friends, and then they want to go ghost hunting too. With all of the media that I discussed earlier, they are expecting to see something on the hunt that night. If they don't they are disappointed.

Paranormal investigation is not a science, there is no definitive proof of ghosts, and there are always sceptics. I believe we need to add the scientific elements into each investigation. Have a controlled environment, keep the conditions the same, record the data over time, then data snoop and find answers. Discuss what pareidolia is. Wikipedia defines

pareidolia as a psychological phenomenon involving a stimulus (an image or a sound) wherein the mind perceives a familiar pattern of something where none actually exists. So when someone sees a face in the tree, is it really there? Or, do you want to believe you caught a ghost on camera so bad that your brain takes patterns and creates a face for you to see? When in doubt, throw it out. If you're not positive about the evidence that you have found to be true, it most likely is something perceived that is not there.

As a member of paranormal unity, I am calling upon all of us to take our teams and investigations to the next level. Educate those you are taking out. Set up controlled experiments that can be repeated. Debunk, debunk, debunk. Then, when it truly can't be explained, you just may have some paranormal activity caught on video, audio, or in a photo.

If we have the data to back up what we are finding and experiencing, there is no question as to the authenticity. Let's bring the science and psychology into our paranormal community to help further our education of paranormal investigations. Let's truly help people in need of us. Help them feel safe in their houses and surroundings.

By: Nate Tooley & Tim Stillman – Founders of [Mountain West Paranormal](#) – Est. 2010



Front view of HWY 6 Diner (Photo Credit: Paul Welch)

New Location

HWY 6 Diner

This little diner is located on the far west side of Eureka, Utah and is somewhat charming in a town full of empty buildings. I was asked to join a local Utah team named [Spirits 'R' Us](#) in their first investigation of this location. Upon arrival you get a weird feeling that this diner seems odd in a town that appears to be dying all around it. Many storefronts are empty along the Hwy 6 road that travels through town. The inside of the diner is very welcoming and new.

Built in 1913, this restaurant is connected to another building which gives you access to the basement. This is a virgin location that has not been investigated before to anyone's knowledge.

When we first arrived we decided we would keep the group together for the first ses-

sion where we asked questions in the quiet and a short Spirit Box session in the dining room for a small portion of the night.

Not getting many responses in this new location we decided to split up and I followed Danielle Smith and Josie Gonzalez into the basement that felt very different from the rest of the building. The earth is still exposed on the south side of the basement and the remainder of the room is about a 15x15 space if I were to take a guess. During the session downstairs we did have some flashlight activity but no significant responses over our other equipment. The ladies decide to leave me in the basement alone for awhile where I continued to run the Echovox and throw questions to those I could not see.

During my time alone in the basement I was

getting more flashlight action on both flashlights and the static meter started coming alive as it sat on the stairs as if they became comfortable with just having me with them.

Time quickly went away on me and they returned to join me and eventually we decided a break was in order so we went outside to the patio area. The restaurant is located at the far west side of town and the deer where making themselves comfortable and coming down and walking across the highway right in front of us. We wandered over to examine the spot where they were coming down the hill and a little baby deer carcass was sitting there in the dirt.

We walked in and joined the rest and we split up yet again sending the other group down into the basement. We decided to go upstairs this time with

Kymerlee Lawrence joining us this time.

While the staircase looks really cool they are not friendly for climbing up as they are oddly shaped and have an odd turn in them. We sat up in the office doing an Echovox session trying to get the local spirits to come talk with us. While there were some responses there were none that jumped out as me as actual conversation with the afterlife.

Now it was time to break out the dowsing rods to see if they can at least physically speak with us through the rods. They were able to easily answer yes or no questions for us and we had about three spirits hanging out with us in the small office area. We then see out the window some emergency vehicle lights out on the street so we proceeded back down to check out what they were.

We walked outside to find its some maintenance vehicle out working on something down the street but we had nothing to fear since our cars were not parked in that area. Overall it was a very good investigation but seemed quiet the night we were there. Maybe we just need to visit more often before they start speaking to us through our equipment. I did accidently scare Mackayla Nay as she came out of the ladies room and did not expect me to come walking around the corner.

Other investigators present where Mitch Nay, Kathie Bulow and Ethan Ho.

By: Paul Welch



Photo of old Hwy 6 Deli located at 321 Main Street Eureka, UT 84628



Mackayla and Danielle in the main dinning room (Photo Credit: Paul Welch)



Kathie Bulow Kymerlee Lawrence and Danielle Smith in the main dinning room (Photo Credit: Paul Welch)

CASTLE

Director of [WISPS](#)

I had a pleasure to sit down with Castle and the [WISPS](#) team for a podcast during the 2016 Utah Paranormal Festival. He got to throw some questions at me so I thought it would be fitting to return the favor. I have much love and respect for this man as he explores the unknown and helps those in need in their homes.

Paul - "When did you first know that you wanted to be a paranormal investigator?"

Castle - "I first developed an interest in the paranormal at the ripe age of about ten. I grew up with my parents working shift work so I spent a lot of time at my great aunt's house. Her house was built in the early 1900's and was very active. I would hear footsteps upstairs when I was in the basement and I knew nobody was upstairs. There was also one particular room in the house that had a "feel" to it. The room was always ice cold and exceptionally creepy. It was the kind of room it was very uncomfortable to spend any amount of time in because you knew you weren't alone in there, and you knew what was in the room with you wasn't friendly at all. I also attended an elementary school that was built in 1901. It was a huge beautiful sandstone behemoth of a structure, and as a child, me and my friends used to "ghost hunt" during recess. There were a couple of books in the school library on ghosts that stoked the imagination. In essence I grew up in a "perfect storm" environment that really got me interested in this field."

Paul - "Where did you go for your very first investigation as a full fledged investigator?"

Castle - "My first ever official investigation was at Fort Douglas. I spent years and years researching the paranormal, but when I finally took the leap from studying to doing I attended a public investigation. My book knowledge was great, and got me off to a great start, but learning how to investigate from a practical standpoint was new to me. For a first investigation I had a tremendous amount of activity, visible orbs, light anomalies, and some amazing photographs. For anyone looking to get into investigating I highly recommend attending several public events to learn how to conduct an investigation. I think there are a lot of people with a lot of enthusiasm and interest, but they jump in with both feet without taking time to learn in advance. When I say learn, I am talking about both educating oneself through literature and practical learning.



Castle - photo during podcast interviews

Those with little knowledge can really get themselves and residential clients into a lot of trouble if they don't know what they are doing."

Paul - "How many years' experience would you say you have in the field of paranormal research?"

Castle - "If I count the years spent studying and the years investigating I would say roughly 30 years. If I only count practical in the field experience I would say roughly five years. Although I am a relative newcomer to the practical aspect of paranormal research I spent years and years studying cases and any literature I could get my hands on. That preparation has served me very well with the practical aspect of investigating. I am a religious guy, and I think if anyone from my church were to peruse my library I would get some odd looks. Between religious books I have read

and studied, I have books on demonology, witchcraft, Satanism, and just about any paranormal subject you can imagine. The one thing that I love about this field is no matter how educated and no matter how much anyone thinks they know there is always something new to learn. New experiences have forced me to go back and rethink theories I've formed. Along the way I believe I get a clearer picture of what's on the other side. Ultimately though that being said I suspect what we've learned is a drop of water in an ocean."

Paul - "Is there any location you will not return to?"

Castle - "Well there are the obvious trouble homes where we've crossed all the willing spirits and evicted the negative spirits. No point going back to those places. The only time myself and our team has drawn a line in the sand on returning to a location are those residences which have invited in negative entities and are unwilling to end the practices which invited those spirits in, in the first place. When people ask for help, but they refuse to stop using their Ouija boards, or drug use, or in once case the client was sexually abusing his child. Those are the places we won't go back to. It's not that we are scared of those locations or don't want to help, it's just that anything we can do to try and help won't be effective long term. I think the hardest one for me was a case where the client was sexually abusing his child. I went to that house three times with different mediums each time. Each time spirits in the home told the medium what was going on. I confronted the client about it and he of course denied the allegations, but his body language shouted guilty. He was a deer in the headlights. The hard part was the child was non-verbal and you can't exactly make a report to Child Services that... "a spirit told me through a medium..." "

Paul - "What would be your top five locations if you got to go anyplace to investigate?"

Castle - "Wow, now there's a question to make me think. I would most certainly want to visit Waverly Sanitarium, Bobby Mackey's, the Amittyville House, the Tower of London, The Holy Cross Mausoleum. With spaces for over 35, 000 burials I suspect that Mausoleum would be a fascinating investigation. I can't complain though I've had the opportunity to investigate a lot of locations people don't normally have access to. The team has had the opportunity to investigate places nobody will be able to go to again."

Paul - "Do you have a favorite local location you like to investigate and why?"

Castle - "There is a spot that's a local favorite of mine. The problem is it's a "top secret" location and I had to sign a non-disclosure agreement to be able to investigate there. The hard part was along with the non-disclosure we weren't

permitted to take any photographs. The place was crazy with activity. Myself and two others with me saw a full figure apparition. Other saw apparitions, and there were audible whistles and screams the entire time we were there. I captured a number of EVPs and had an amazing time. I need to see if I can make arrangements to go back. Obviously with the non-disclosures it was not easy to get into in the first place. There are a few public favorites I like to go to, and the activity in those places seems to vary from visit to visit. I've had some great experiences at Asylum 49 and The Family Tree. I find myself going back to those venues time and time again."

Paul - "In what year did the WISPS team get it's start officially?"

Castle - "As an official, fully fledged, team we launched our website and started recruiting members at the very beginning of 2013. We actually did all the organization and planning in 2012. One of the biggest things I stressed when forming the team is professionalism. It is a rare occasion when the team investigates a location without wearing our approved uniform; those rare occasions are usually private paid investigations like a jaunt to Asylum 49 where we don't have a client, even then I choose to

[Continued on page 14](#)



CASTLE - CONTINUED

represent the team well and will still wear the uniform. I think a professional look leaves a client with a good impression, and I think investigators who look professional are more apt to act that way.

Over our first year we had a lot of growing pains. We had a lot of great members, and a lot of great potential members. You want to accept everyone, but at the same time you can't reasonably field a team of fifty members so you have to draw a line. Like any team it quickly became apparent who was truly interested in investigating, and who was there for cheap thrills. Those who were there for cheap thrills quickly weeded themselves out. Our current team is very solid. Periodically as needed we add a member here or there. Some folks get busy and start to fade away. One thing we did to try and help the process along was to require that members pay a yearly due. It's not terribly expensive, but those who are rarely able to investigate, and those who have lost interest aren't willing to pay the due and can be replaced with a new member who really wants to dive in. We don't need the dues to function I cover all our web expenses out of my own pocket, but the dues funds are useful for paying deposits at paid venues, booth fees for conventions, and other expenses that come up."

Paul - "Demonology is something your specialize in, what made you go into that particular direction in the paranormal field?"

Castle - "This goes back to some of the original reasons I got involved in the field in the first place. My study into the paranormal naturally led into this particular topic. I was fascinated by the work of Ed and Lorraine Warren, their nephew John Zaffis, and Adam Blai. I am religious. I don't wear it on my sleeve as some do, but religion fascinates me almost as much as the paranormal. I think if people realized how religious I actually am they would be surprised. As I said though I don't wear it on my sleeve and I am respectful of all benevolent belief systems even if I don't always agree with them. I was fascinated how well what I was learning through studying demonology meshed with what I knew religiously. I was also a little dismayed at some of the ineffectual methods some used to attempt to counter those entities. When I was 16 years old I had an experience in Cedar City with my sister, who is also a member of the team. She and her husband introduced me to a couple they were friends with. I was immediately struck by something that was "off" with them. I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Later that week we had an experience when my sister and her husband went over to the home. The couple were both speaking in voices that weren't theirs. They were revealing information they shouldn't have had knowledge of including the fact I suspected something was up with them which I hadn't shared. When my sister and her husband returned home something had followed them back. Fortunately we were able to quickly identify and deal with the problem before it got out of hand.

I've never been afraid to confront evil, and I am confident in my ability to keep myself and my team safe. That's the rub with demonology and those types of cases. If you don't

The WISPS Podcast with Castle, Tim Behunin and DeAnn (Photo by: Paul Welch)



understand the nature of what you are dealing with, and the rules in dealing with it, you can quickly get yourself into a heap of trouble. I know a lot of teams won't deal with those types of cases, and I have a tremendous amount of respect for those teams. It takes a lot of courage to know when you are up against something you aren't prepared for and walk away instead of trying to blindly proceed forward possibly putting the team and the clients at risk. In some of our cases I've had certain team members refuse to go to or go back to certain locations. I never press the matter. I don't want anyone dealing with something they aren't comfortable with. If I feel a team member may be vulnerable at a particular location I make sure they don't leave my side or they have an assigned partner. This method has worked well for us in keeping our team members safe."

Paul - "Was there any particular courses or training you had to go through to get experience in Demonology?"

Castle - "There are several online courses I can point people toward, and a lot of literature. For me it was years of study, both religious study and paranormal study involving the demonic. There is no certification or degree in demonology and like the paranormal in general, there are no true experts, I don't consider myself an expert and I am still learning with each and every case and encounter. Most anyone claiming to be an expert is usually peddling snake oil, so to speak. I believe there is a lot of misinformation out there floating around, and a lot of ignorance, sadly some of that ignorance is willful. The prevailing school of thought is that demons, and demonic hauntings are incredibly rare. I would subscribe to this school of thought with regard to major cases such as Amityville, the Smurl case, the Enfield Poltergeist, etc... In truth demonic spirits are incredibly common. They are usually present in most cases which are having a harmful and negative impact on a family or individual. That is the target of a demonic haunting, to destroy families and individuals. Cases where families are under siege aren't always crazy like the famous cases on television. Most are very subtle, but no less terrifying for those involved. Most of those cases involve both human and demonic spirits. Most of these cases are incredibly subtle and misidentified as malevolent human hauntings.

If you read and believe scriptural accounts a third the host of heaven was cast down to earth. There are also scriptural references that speak of "number-

less concourses of angels". If a third of a numberless body was cast down to earth that's a substantial number of fallen angels. Like humans these spirits range from impressive and powerful to weak and pathetic. I think most people recognize the former for what they are, and misidentify the later mistaking them for malevolent human spirits. I know some readers are wondering how we can tell the difference. I work with a very skilled medium who can clearly see the difference, and negative entities have some unique characteristics to their hauntings, and characteristics that can also be divulged during an investigation without a medium there to see what is going on. In those cases though it is significantly more work to ferret out what you are dealing with on your own. In short those types of entities leave a calling card of sorts."

Paul - "What was the craziest experience you have ever had during an investigation?"

Castle - "I was at a very dark location which had an active portal. I was sharing a story about a very dark experience I had once had. I had two mediums in the room with me at the time and some other team members. I was warned the portal was getting bigger as I shared the story. Simultaneously both mediums jumped up onto chairs and described small black shadow creatures were pouring out of the portal and swarming the floor. Other people in the room could feel things tugging on their pant legs. Next thing I know I'm still inside the building with two or three other team members and the rest of the team has fled the building and has gone across the highway. I had to go retrieve them. We've been back there many times, but haven't had an experience quite like that once since."

Paul - "Have you ever had a moment during an investigation that you felt it was no longer safe for you and your team? If so please explain."

Castle - "I think the closest we've come to something like that was a residential investigation we once did. The client had some seriously bad stuff going on at his home and asked us to come in and investigate. The client claimed to have been involved in Ouija in the past which was the source of all the problems in the home. During the investigation we found the client had lied to us and was still heavily involved in Ouija. The client was very much being influenced by the forces he was messing with. As we began our usual cleansing process the client rolled into the fetal position and covered his ears pleading for us to stop. Partway through the night he

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CASTLE - CONTINUED

told us he could hear voices chanting in his head. He wrote down what he was hearing which was clearly Latin. One of our investigators knows Latin and it translated into "This one is ours, Priests." It should be noted three of the team members that night were ordained clergy. Those things alone weren't what raised the safety fears. The problem was the client was an avid hunter and had a house full of firearms. We assigned a team member to basically watch him and keep him away from the guns in the event he decided he needed to use those on us. Unfortunately with that case we did what we could, but with him being so deeply and willfully involved with what he was involved in we were upfront and told him we couldn't come back until the circumstances had changed."

Paul - "I personally had an experience that caused me to quickly leave a building, have you ever experienced anything that made you quickly leave a location?"

Castle - "Not me personally, but the team yes. I had scheduled a private investigation of the old Zion's Bank Building in Salt Lake. The building is incredibly active and in some locations very dark. A few days after setting up that investigation I was contacted by Ben Hansen from Syfy's Fact or Faked who I've known for years. Ben asked if I could help him staff a charity Investigation the same night in a different building a few blocks away. I agreed and we decided to split the team with half helping Ben, and the other half investigating the Zion's Building. Halfway through the night I had the teams switch so everyone got a chance to investigate that building. Our medium Brandy was with me, at the other investigation. Near the end of the night Brandy got upset and told me something was happening to Tim, the investigator I had left in charge at the Zion's Building. A few moments later Tim called me in tears asking for help. We ran to the Zion's building where Tim and everyone was outside. I entered the building with another investigator and made sure everyone was out. While inside the building the activity was off the charts. On the third floor we could hear loud unintelligible whispered conversations. I moved to the second floor and when I did it sounded like an entire NFL football team was coming down the wooden stairs behind me. After making sure everyone was out I met with Tim who explained he had been attacked. Brandy explained the dark entity in that building had tried



Castle and Bill Hartley at the 2016 Utah Paranormal Festival

to attach to Tim. It was a little while before we went back to that building and several months before Tim would come to any location we knew to be dark, but as I said we won't back down to evil."

Paul - "Public ghost hunts....hate them or love them?"

Castle - "Tough call! I have mixed feeling about them. I'm still willing to attend public investigations if it will get me into a location I don't otherwise have access or a contact to get into. Many times venue owners charge so much for access a public investigation is the only is to get in. We have staffed numerous public investigations. I think they are great for educating the public, and helping those who want to get into the field get their feet wet. Unfortunately they have become so common that many venue owners are starting to see dollar signs and it's getting harder and harder to do them. Many teams use them for fund raisers which is great, but as venue fees rise it's harder to get in to do private investigations, and nearly impossible for teams to use them to raise funds. I've been on some amazing public investigations, and I've been on some that were garbage. One in particular was a fundraiser for a girl with cancer. The cause was noble, but the execution was poor. The organizer way oversold the venue so it was impossible to find a place to investigate without considerable noise contamination and there was a group in each room,

hall, etc... There was zero organization and at the end of the night I felt like that investigation was a complete waste of time. That is the hard part about public investigations. The quality depends on the organizer and the location. It can be a real crap shoot. The other hard thing for me with public investigations is the safety aspect. There are rules that need to be followed to ensure a good and safe investigation. I worry sometimes that those rules don't get covered or taken seriously. I worry that some ill equipped novice or thrill seeker is going to get themselves into some real trouble."

Paul - "What would you tell someone that is looking to becoming a paranormal investigator?"

Castle - "First off never investigate alone, ever. I recommend they educate themselves before they do anything. A solid foundation before they get started will ensure more success than going in looking for thrills. I would tell them to attend several public investigations before they even think about doing a private one. This will give them a chance to learn from others, and give them an idea of what they like what they don't like, what works, and what doesn't. Lastly I would tell them to stay completely away from private residences until they have a considerable amount of experience in the field. A novice going into a home to help can potentially make things worse and they may be ill equipped to deal with what they find. I think many investigators myself included had had to learn some of these lessons the hard way. It can be done, but I would recommend doing it the easy way and doing it right. My other thought would be to ask their motivations. If it's thrill and excitement I recommend sticking to public hunts and investigating cemeteries with friends. Those looking for the thrill of it will quickly learn it can be incredibly boring at times investigating. Their desire to continue will quickly die off."

Paul - "If someone wanted to contact your team for assistance in their home, how would they go about doing that?"

Castle - "We can be contacted through our website at wisps.org. We have a brief questionnaire we require a client to fill out to make sure they understand what it is we will be doing, and what we need to make their investigation be successful. All our investigations are completely free of charge, but we need to keep outside participation to a mini-

mum, and keep children and pets out of the mix. We are also willing to do presentations, staff public investigations, and we'll even be happy to answer basic questions. I've even consulted on cases outside the state of Utah."

Paul - "You run a great podcast show, what made you decide to put out your own podcast show? (which I love by the way)"

Castle - "Thank you! We try and put on an entertaining program for those interested in the paranormal. We were contacted a few years ago by the GIS (Ghost Investigation Society) which for years was the premier team in Utah. That team was featured on The Art Bell show, and routinely put on excellent radio shows around the Halloween season. The GIS along with Ben Hansen, and Jimmy Chunga, a well known Utah celebrity and former morning show DJ, asked us if we would staff their public investigations which they frequently ran in the area. As mentioned earlier I knew Ben Hansen very well from working together with him, and I had gotten to know Chunga, and Brendan Cook with the GIS through several public investigations I had attended. I agreed and began building a strong relationship with that group. Chunga had started a a podcasting network called Podbash. Chunga approached me and asked if we would be willing to do a paranormal Podcast for the network. We agreed and have been producing shows ever since. There has been a learning curve and some growing pains as we've had to learn how to conduct and record a quality show. At times it's been a challenge to come up with interesting topics to discuss, but I feel most of our shows have been pretty good overall."

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