Arkansas Gazette
Nov 18, 1877

A GHOSTLY MYSTERY.

An Inexplicable Light Appears Upon a Monument in a Cemetery—The Ghost Seen by One Young Man, Who is Frightened Nearly Out of His Wits.

[From the Rochester (N. Y.) Express.

GENEVA, November 12, 1877.—Absence from town and pressure of business have prevented our giving you an earlier account of Geneva's latest excitement, viz., a ghost—or, properly named, a ghostly light that has lately made its appearance upon one of the monuments in our new cemetery. As near as we can learn the strange light was first seen by the keeper of the cemetery, who, being of a superstitious nature, was easily frightened, and called to his aid others who were of a more valorous disposition, but could find no solution to the mystery. Of course the news of a ghostly visitor spread rapidly through the village, and every one was conversing about the all-absorbing theme. At night the superstitious keeper, accompanied by several of our citizens, journeyed up to the cemetery to explore the unexplained mystery, and as they were carefully feeling their way along, approaching the monument whereon the ghostly light delights to dwell, suddenly a sound, as of a mighty rushing wind, was heard just in front of the party, when the frightened keeper shouted: "There, there it is," on which one of the party exclaimed: "You d——d fool, keep still; can't you tell a covey of quail from a ghost?" After this brief excitement quiet was again restored, and the party proceeded with their investigations with no results, however, as the ghost did not then appear.

The excitement among people of an inquiring turn of mind was not, however, abated by the results of investigation, but rather increased, and the number of nightly visitants to the cemetery has been estimated at from 100 to 200.

The light generally appears between 8 and 9:30 p.m., and is sometimes seen upon the monument and at other times upon the grave in front of the monument.

On Saturday night a party of several men took a carriage and went to the cemetery to see the ghost. After they had made their investigations, and were returning to the carriage, one of the party, as they were passing by a dark and lonesome looking ravine, was startled by suddenly seeing arise, apparently from the earth, a wierd-looking figure, clad in white, which he characterized as being about fifteen feet in height. Awe-struck, he stood and gazed in silence upon the ghost, when suddenly it started towards him, frantically waving its hands. This was to much for human nature to stand; and the young man, now thoroughly frightened at really seeing a ghost, turned and fled, and those who witnessed his flight said that it with no measured tread he went along, but his pace might be easily compared to the pace of the steed that bore John Gilpin in his famous and memorable ride. Sufficient to say that his speed was not checked until he had placed about a mile between the cemetery and himself. Although the perpetrators of the joke have told the young man who was the ghost, he will not believe it, but still stoutly maintains that he saw the ghost. The mystery of the light on the monument has not been fully explained, but it is supposed to be a reflection from some light in a house near the cemetery. Others, however, do not give credence to this therory, and stoutly assert the cause is a supernatural one.

A RED LIGHT GHOST.

IT HAUNTED THE BEECH CREEK ROAD FOR TEN YEARS.

A Cool and Nervy Trick of the Hoboes That Was Discovered and Faded by an Unsuperstitious Railroad Man and Three Companions.

It is not often that a nineteenth century ghost can live for years on its reputation as did the Bald Eagle ghost of the Beech Creek railroad. Almost everybody in this section has heard of the Bald Eagle ghost. It was none of your sheeted night prowlers inhabiting a tumble down country house. The Bald Eagle ghost was an up to date spirit. It was simply a red light.

Ordinarily there is nothing extraordinary about a red light, but when the red light appears on a railroad that is a different matter. Had the Bald Eagle ghost been content to exercise its functions in the fastness of the mountains, in all probability it would have continued to enjoy its incorporeal existence indefinitely But the Bald Eagle spirit was unreasonable. It insisted on making a spectacle of itself just where it was most out of place and unwelcome.

Some years ago, old railroad men say, the Bald Eagle ghost was born. The midnight express was bowling along through a gap in the mountains when suddenly, dead ahead, a red light flared out on the track The engineer, scenting danger, reversed the engine and stopped the train, but a search failed to show why the train had been flagged. The train steamed off finally. A month or so later the express was again flagged by the light, but, as before, no cause could be assigned for the proceeding After this the signal was seen at irregular intervals, always in the lonely gap Trainmen at length began to entertain a superstitious fear for the red light, and in time it became generally known as "the ghost." Old hands at the brake wheel believed it to be the spirit of a track watchman who had been killed at the spot where it generally appeared.

Skeptical superintendents lay in wait for the ghost Extra watchmen were employed to patrol the district, but to no avail It was no fool ghost. It knew its business However, it reckoned without Jesse Pates.

Pates had long meditated an attack on the Bald Eagle ghost, and one night after his train had been delayed an hour by the light his resolution reached the point of action. Going down to the village store, he broached his scheme to the gang.

"Any of you fellows like to go ghost huntin some night?"

Everybody looked interested, and at last one young fellow demanded:

"Well, where's your ghost?"

"What's the matter with the Bald Eagle ghost?" he asked Some of the crowd shivered, but Pates went on: "There's a shining mark for a good ghost hunter. I don't believe in this fool talk of dead watchmen comin back. That Bald Eagle ghost is a pure fake, and I'm goin after him. I need about three good men. We'll go to the Narrows to lay for Mr. Ghost. We'd better each have a gun, too, in case of accidents. Any of you fellows go along?"

There was silence for a time, but at last three young fellows volunteered to accompany him. It was arranged to start on the following evening, and at the appointed time the ghost hunters met. At the Narrows Pates distributed his men along the accustomed scene of the ghost's perambulations and awaited results. Crouched in a clump of bushes, he himself lay for hours undisturbed except by the sound of passing freight trains Shortly before the time for the midnight express he heard a whispered conversation off to his left.

"Have you got the lantern, Pete?" some one asked.

"Yep," a second voice replied, "I've got her lit, but I'll keep her hid till I see the headlight."

"It's a dead easy thing," the first voice went on. "Blow the light out and throw it in that clump of bushes before you jump on."

Pates saw through the whole scheme in a second. Circling around, he signaled to his companions to close in, and in a short time they had the men with the lantern surrounded.

"Throw up your hands and show your light!" the ghost hunter ordered

In an instant out came the light and up went three pairs of hands. The hunters found themselves gazing at a trio of dirty, grinning tramps

"So you're the ghost that has been walking here all these years?" Pates asked in disgust.

"We never said we was no ghost," one answered

"Well, what in blazes have you been flaggin trains here for ten years, then?" Pates continued angrily.

"I guess, since we're caught, we might as well give the snap away," one of the tramps said, with a grin. "You see, we come over the hill from the Pennsy, and, not carin to walk more'n is necessary, we got on to the graft of flaggin the trains and baggagin to the end of the division. It was a great snap, but we spoilt it now. Every hobo on the road knew about this easy mark. We kep' a lamp there in the bushes especial for the occasion."

"Well, I'm jiggered," Pates remarked, "if that ain't the coolest piece of nerve I ever heard. Now look here. Drop that lamp and git, and if I ever hear of this here ghost walkin ag'in there'll be a hobo walkin in his future home before his time. Git and spread the news that the Bald Eagle ghost is dead. Git, I say, for we're goin to shoot after we count 50!"

But before Pates finished the tramps had disappeared, and the Bald Eagle ghost hasn't walked since.—Altoona (Pa.) Letter in New York Sun.

Kansas City Mo
Star
March 18 1913

'GHOST' LIGHT SCARE IN KANSAS

Farmers in Meade County Saw a Will-o-the-Wist Bounding Over Ground.

LAKELAND, KAS., March 18.—Farmers and stockmen here are making up a purse to bring a scientist here to investigate a "ghost" light which is seen almost nightly and is causing alarm. R. H. Painter, Loren Van Deusen and H. N. Holdeman have observed the mysterious lights. It first appears as a motor car light, but when approached it rises from the ground and disappears. It has been seen most frequently in Sand Creek Township.

Evansville In
Courier Press
Aug 24, 1913

PEOPLE OF SOUTHWEST SCARED BY GHOST LIGHT

Many See It on Night Journeys on Lonely Roads

GUTHRIE, Okla., Aug. 23.—In southwestern Kansas and in northern Oklahoma, for a number of years, settlers have been perturbed by a ghostly light moving mysteriously from place to place after nightfall, especially in late autumn and early winter.

This light has been seen so frequently north of Lakeland, Meade county, Kansas, in the last twenty years that settlers have given it the name of "the Sand creek ghost light," because of its appearance in the neighborhood of a stream called Sand creek.

This phenomenon appeared several times along the Sand creek recently and revived stories that settlers had been telling for many years about its uncanny movements and appearance. One said it had suddenly confronted him in the middle of the highway one dark night, terrifying him so greatly that his horses came near running away. In every instance the light soon disappeared.

Dr. Hugh Scott, receiver of the United States land office at Guthrie, once saw a similar phenomenon in northwestern Oklahoma, and vividly remembers his experiences. At the opening of the Cherokee strip of land to settlers, in 1893, he homesteaded a claim in Grant county, ten or twelve miles from the town of Waukomis. Scott, then a young man, lived alone in his dugout on the bleak prairie.

The country was infested with outlaws and the latter frequently harassed the settlers by stealing their horses and the few cattle they had brought from the states.

Outlaw Was Blamed

As the fall drew near the nights grew misty. One day a settler told of having seen a strange light moving steadily across the prairie. He had watched it and followed it and was positive that it was due to human agency. Other settlers began telling a similar story. The light was seen frequently about the time settlers were returning home from their sod churches on Sunday night.

They were seldom away from their claims during the week days. There were various theories about the light. Numbers were strongly of the opinion that it came from a lantern carried by a lawless character for the purpose of intimidating homesteaders with whom he had quarreled, and whose property he had threatened to burn. Others hooted this explanation, declaring that the light was a "hant."

"At that time," said Dr. Scott, "I was wholly without physical fear and my manner of life strengthened by courage. I was naturally inquisitive and resolved to embrace the first opportunity of seeing this spectrel visitor.

"The opportunity came unexpectedly. About midnight in December I left my dugout to listen to a pack of coyotes that was howling on a nearby hill, their yelling annoyed me, and I intended firing at them with my Winchester if they were within range. My Winchester was in my dugout. I had thought frequently of the mysterious light and several times had risen at 4 o'clock hoping that possibly it might be in sight.

"I had barely turned the corner of my dugout on this particular night when I saw something not more than sixty feet distant that sent a chill to my very narrow.

Light Caused Fear

"Moving steadily northward at a height of about seven or eight feet above the ground was the 'hant.' I am chagrined in saying that I was so chagrined that I could scarcely stand. My hair stood erect and rigid and my scalp grew fiery hot. I have never been able satisfactory to explain to myself why I was so frightened.

"The ghoulish appearance of the light may have been partly the cause. In height and width the light was about the size of my two hands, expanded. It glowed with a soft whiteness that cast no shadow. Its edges were broken in the surrounding darkness.

"A light breeze was blowing from the south, carrying the light gently northward, up the side of a low, flat hill. Spellbound and gripped by a most unreasoning fear, I watched the slowly moving light until it had traversed a distance of possible a hundred yards.

"In a flash I regained my composure. I grew angry at my timidity and swore that I would fight if there was anything to fight. Rushing to my dugout, I seized my Whinchester, saw that its magazine was filled with cartridges and rushed outside. The light had disappeared. I sat on a big stone at my door, Winchester in hand, hoping that the light would reappear. It was my intention instantly to begin shooting and to continue shooting until I got results.

I remained outside my door two or three hours with my eyes fixed on the low hillside. The coyotes several times were in range of my Winchester, but I withheld my fire, lest I betray my presence, if the light should be returning. But the light did not return and I never saw it again.

"I was able later to explain satisfactorily to myself the origin of the 'hant.' Near my dugout was a swale which was moist and damp throughout the year, supporting a rank growth of wire grass, rooted in a black muck. Undoubtedly the light was a gaseous phenomonen generated from decaying vegtation—in other words, a will-o'-the-wisp, to be observed in marshes."

Jackson Ms
Daily Citizen
Feb 9 1889

GENUINE GHOST STORY.

A Phenomenon Strange and Startling in Rives--A Ball of Light Rises from a Suicide's Grave.

The Citizen's Rives correspondent furnishes the following wierd description of a phenomenon which has startled all the nervous people in three townships around Rives. He says that several years ago a young man named George Whitney committed suicide by cutting his throat in a piece of woods a short distance east of the Murray Speer farm. When the body was found it was buried on the spot where he committed the deed, on account of the remains being badly decomposed. Now comes the ghost.

At various times a bright light, emitting sparks, has been seen to rise from the vicinity where the body was buried, traveling westward toward the Smith woods, where it vanishes. Last Thursday night, Wallace Clark, who has seen the light before, was out of doors a short distance from his house when he saw the light coming up the road; when it got within twenty feet of him it stopped, and as he approached towards it it arose over the tops of the trees, and when near the center of the woods vanished. It has been seen by a number of people in that vicinity before.

HERALD, MIAMI, FLORIDA,
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1924.

PARIS NEWS

Austria and Hungary Buy Modest Homes in the French Capital for Their Legations.

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS.

THE ghost light of the Baskervilles has stepped right out of fiction to terrorize the inhabitants of a lonely range in the Warwickshire hills who live in constant fear of being followed by this mysterious beam of unnatural colored light. The ghost light has chosen a most suitable district for its nocturnal visits, for here between the villages of Fenny Compton and Burton Dassett, there are few houses and the low hills are surrounded by dark marshes. The hills themselves are strewn with the bones of the cavaliers and their Roundhead enemies, who perished during the battles of England's cvill war.

The villagers' tales are that the ghost light appeared one year ago, with its vivid ray of a yellow bluish hue. The uncanny tints which it gives various bojects is said to equal anything that Conan Doyle has yet produced. Its first appearance so frightened the inhabitants, that they took shelter all in one house, herded their cattle together and spent day and night searching for the origin of the light.

Eventually the light disappeared to return again exactly one year later. This time the neighborhood folks sent to nearby cities for scientific help, but subsequent expeditions, both by day and night, failed to reveal the mystery, although the searchers were often within easy reach of the beam. Toward daybreak the ghostlight often dances rapidly over the hilltops and into the marshes quicker than human agency is able to follow and then disappears with the coming of the sun. The rustic folk of the neighborhood tell many strange stories of the escapades of the light such as might be expected from Tinkle Bell or Peter Pan, yet the light so affects cattle that they are unable to sleep and become restless whenever it is in the vicinity of the stables.

JOURNAL, JERSEY CITY, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1902

SPOOK LIGHT IN BAY VIEW CEMETERY

Mysterious Light Appeared on Tree Frightening Passersby.

HOW POLICE AND FIREMEN HANDLED THE MATTER

Capt. Nugent Decided It Was a Job for the Fire Department —Firemen Though: It Was Up to a Hook and Ladder Company—Solution of Mystery: Telephone Wire.

The police, firemen and a large portion of the inhabitants of Greenville were late Saturday night much perturbed over the appearance of a mysterious light that appeared on the trunk of a tree in Bayview Cemetery, located about one hundred yards from Ocean Avenue. Superstitious pedestrians, seeing the light which sputtered and flared in the wind, hurried past, casting frightened looks back over their shoulders. All the stories they had ever heard of supernatural lights and of ghosts were recalled most vividly. "Spook light," some of them muttered as they hastened along, endeavoring to put as much space between them and the mysterious fire as possible.

To make the situation more uneasy the wind was blowing a gale. Excepting this one light the cemetery was in darkness. From Ocean avenue not even a tombstone could be seen.

This light was first seen about 10 o'clock. It was about half a foot in diameter. The wind caused it to take most grotesque shapes. At times it took on the form of the head and features of a man. Then, as the wind would veer a trifle it would, so some of the people say, closely resemble a coffin. The light appeared on the trunk of the tree about twenty-five feet above the ground, and directly faced Ocean Avenue.

Three Greenville men finally happened along. One of them noticed the light and called the attention of his companions to it.

"Heavens," exclaimed one, "it's a 'spook light,'" and without waiting to investigate any further he promptly took to his heels. His friends had also heard of spook lights, and not having any special inclination to remain in that neighborhood they made strenuous efforts to overtake their comrade. Reaching the Ocean Avenue police station one of the trio stopped long enough to rush in and inform Captain Nugent. The he hurried on home.

Captain Nugent called Detective Bennett and much bewildered the two policemen, after placing an extra revolver each in their pockets, left the station house to investigate. They, too, felt a rather peculiar sensation, when standing at the cemetery fence they gazed upon the mysterious fire.

"I don't believe in ghosts," remarked Captain Nugent, to Bennett, "but I don't much like the appearance of that thing."

"Let's go over closer," replied the detective, "and get a better look at it."

"I don't see what is the use," hastily responded the captain. "It is certainly a fire, and in that case it is a job for the Fire Department." Then the two policemen went back to the station house. Capt. Nugent telephoned to Capt. Aumack of Engine Company No. 13, on Linden Avenue, and informed him of the light on the tree and suggested that he come around and look it over. "All right," was the response. But he did not come. Instead he sent Fireman Culbert. The latter looked at the light for a few seconds. Capt. Nugent suggested to him that he go through the station house and get a nearer view. Culbert opined that it was not at all necessary. He was quite sure that it was a light, without going closer.

"You'd better send around for a ladder and climb up and see if you can't put it out," said Nugent. Culbert did not become at all enthusiastic over this suggestion. He did not answer for reveral seconds. He was thinking deeply. His face had become a trifle pale. Suddenly he brightened. "That ain't a job for an engine company," he told Capt. Nugent. "We don't carry any ladders, so you'd better call out the hook and ladder company."

"You must have a ladder around at your place," answered Nugent.

"I don't know, but I'll go and see," and Culbert hastened back to the fire house.

A few minutes later the station house telephone bell rang. "No ladder," was the curt message. "Can't do anything."

While Capt. Nugent was debating with himself what next to do a policeman came in and informed him that the light had disappeared. Capt. Nugent looked relieved. The light did not appear again that night. Yesterday morning Commissioner Tilden, Capt. Nugent and Detective Bennett investigated. They discovered what appeared to be a telephone wire which ran from Ocean Avenue along the rear of the station house and ended at the tree. Then the mystery was solved. The light was caused by this wire rubbing against the bark of the tree. No one appears to know how the wire got there.

Commissioner Tilden stated that it was against the rules to attach electric wire to any of the cemetery trees.

Portland Oregonian March 16, 1922

GHOST IN FOREST SOUGHT

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY ASKED TO TRACE STRANGE LIGHT.

Wise Men of Mountains Declare That Railway Train Headlight Solution Is All Bosh.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 15.—(Special.)—The Antigonish ghost has a rival on Jonas' ridge, Brown mountain, North Carolina, and Senator Overman has asked the geological survey to run down a strange light that moves up and down in the forests of the Blue ridge, southeast of Asheville, far from any human habitation.

Preliminary reports on the Brown mountain "apparition" have been made by federal officials, but they are not satisfactory to the people of Morgantown, Marion and other North Carolina communities that have observed the light for years. The geological survey explained to Senator Overman that the light came from railway engine headlights running down the circuitous road from Asheville. Wise men of the mountains call that suggestion "absurd" and demand a more searching survey. Recently the National Geographic society threw down the geological survey and said that the light came from a peculiar combination of electrical phenomena and atmospheric conditions.

Washington scientists are keenly interested in the stories of Jonas' ridge and the Antigonish ghost. They pooh-pooh the claim that the tricks of the ghost are due to radio disturbances. Professor J. Harris Rogers, inventor of the underground wireless, and E. B. Judson of the radio laboratory of the bureau of standards assert the Antigonish ghost has nothing in common with electrical disturbances. They emphatically deny that a barn was fired by radio currents.

The bureau of standards, the last word on radio, has knocked the radio theory into thin air.

In the midst of treaty and bonus troubles the republican administration is enjoying the search for solutions of the Brown mountain moving light and the Antigonish ghost.

WORLD-HERALD, OMAHA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1923.

Professors May Be Asked to Look Into Ghost Fires

O'Neill, Neb., Sept. 12.—Professor Rigge, of Creighton university, professors of the state university and savants of other institutions of learning in Nebraska may be asked to investigate the ghostly lights which nightly appear on the ranches of James Connolley and Thomas Gallagher in the northwest part of Shields township, north of O'Neill. A material increase in the number, intensity and brilliancy of the lights since just preceding the Japan earthquake lead local authorities to believe that some internal disturbance of the earth may have been responsible. Incidentally the only rocky section of Holt county is along another branch of Eagle creek, a few miles north of the scene of the lights, and Rock Falls on Eagle creek, the only water fall in the county is composed of a ledge of lava rock. No other volcanic matter is known to exist in the county except on the ranch of L. E. Skidmore near Ewing, more than thirty miles from the destrict of the ghost lights. Ranchmen Gallagher and Connolley, on whose places the lights nightly play and flit about estimate that more than five thousand people from O'Neill and neighboring towns have visited their ranches in the last two weeks to see the lights. Some remain until nearly morning on nights when the ghostly visitations are more prominent than usual. An average of fifty automobile parties a night visit the scene.

"Being the owner of a ghost graveyard is not all one round of joy and pleasure, declared James Connolley, on whose ranch part of the spirit lights appear. "It has its drawbacks. Only recently, my son, Thomas and his chum, Lloyd Gallagher, left one evening after dark to go to a neighbor, whose house light can be seen, from our ranch house. They cut across the big pasture and in some way confused one of the ghost lights with the lamp light of the place for which they were bound. They rode and road toward the light until finally they come out on the ranch of Wallace Johnson, six miles north and several miles beyond their original destination. Last winter an old lady of the neighborhood confused a ghost light with the light from her own house while bringing in the cattle and wandered about in the extreme cold for several hours before her rescue by other members of her family who became alarmed by her long absence."

Cleveland Oh
Plain Dealer
Aug 27, 1926

HUNT GHOST WITH RIFLES

Oklahoma Men Search in Graveyard.

TULSA, Okla.—They have stalked it with Winchester rifles, and have tracked it through the graveyard and streets of the deserted village of Old Ruby, but "they," which includes numerous newspapermen, and dozens of ghost detectors from this city have not solved the riddle of the red-orange ghost light that moves over the prairie of the most thinly settled section of Nowata county.

Mac A. Hawkins, skeptic writer of the Tulsa World, attempted to lay the uneasy light wraith, and came to the conclusion that the mystery was beyond his powers.

The Rev. W. J. Scantling, pastor of the Christian Union Church has attempted to solve the light, and failed.

Hawkins describes his view of the phantom:

"An orange red glow, that did not throw any reflection, such as an automobile headlight might have thrown. To the watchers it was visible below a small catalpa tree at the graveyard entrance, so it must have been close to the ground.

"Lon Bryant and one of the other reporter rushed to the cross roads. There was nothing to be seen—a light shower that had settled the dust had made it perfectly possible to see any tracks that might have been made, but there were none."

So the spook of Old Ruby will continue to wander through the deserted streets, and caper in its playground at the graveyard until someone finds an explanation of its existence.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1922

CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER

"GHOST LIGHT" SHINING

Port Clinton Mystery Renewed; Curious Go Miles to See It.

(Plain Dealer Special)

PORT CLINTON, O., Nov. 23.—The so-called "Ghost Light" which appears at night on the road between Lindsey and Oak Harbor again is attracting the attention of Port Clinton residents.

They are making trips to the spot where the light has been reported to have made its nocturnal appearance for many years. Atmospheric conditions, it is said, cause the light to be more brilliant at times.

Its mysterious appearance and disappearance have caused many to drive for miles to witness this spectacular illusion

Ghost Light of Maco Back But 79-Year Secret's Safe

New Orleans Times Picayune March 3, 1946

Strange Glow Above Rails Defies Solution

(International News Service)

Wilmington, N. C., March 2.—The ghost light of Maco is back again today—but its secret is as safe as it was 79 years ago when it first appeared on the Atlantic Coast Line tracks 14 miles west of Wilmington.

It has defied railroad men, government scientist, an army machine gun company and sundry puzzled investigators.

On a hot afternoon in 1889, the presidential train bearing Grover Cleveland paused near Maco station to take on a load of fuel for the wood-burner. The president, taking a stroll down the track, saw a signalman with a red and green lantern.

When Mr. Cleveland asked why he carried two lanterns, he heard the strange story. The signalman said:

"Joe Baldwin's ghost light."

Carry Two Lights

He informed the president that signalmen always carried two lights every night at Maco—so they would not be confused with the ghostly weaving of Joe Baldwin's light.

The legend began in 1867, at a time when railroad cars were jonied by pins and couplers and Conductor Joe Baldwin was caught between two of them and decapitated.

The mysterious light appeared shortly afterward and the legend that lives with it is that Joe Baldwin has come back after his head.

B. M. Jones of the Coast Line's auditing department, was on hand when President Cleveland's train passed in '89, and recalls seeing the president. He described the light this way:

"It seems to be weaving directly over the tracks, at a height of about five feet. Then the light described an arc and landed in a swamp below the tracks."

The phenomenon created enough disturbance to draw an investigator from Washington. The light was too fast for him. But he saw enough to convince him that this was no "jack-o-lantern," or, as he called it, "ignis fatuus." He left unsatisfied.

Army Inquiry Fails

One year an army machine-gun company was ordered to camp by the tracks to solve the mystery. They returned to their Fort Bragg headquarters knowing no more about the strange light then when they arrived.

Several railway officials have seen the light. One of them recalls how an engine in which he was riding stopped for the light.

Three Coast Line employes have seen it recently. J. R. Blinn looked at the lights from north and south, and said:

"It definitely is not a car light. It lasts too long, and it rises and falls. It's visible for five minutes at a time."

Ab Love agrees there is no explanation for it, and Miss Frankie Murphy specifies that you can see reflection of the light along the rails.

Railroad authorities reported today that numberous younger people have parked athwart the tracks lately in an effort to see Joe Baldwin's light—and warned that unless this practice ceases, it is likely that the ghost of Joe Baldwin will have some company soon.

National Labor Tribune June 24 1944

Ghost Light Leads to Rescue of Injured Pilot

ABOARD CARRIER FLAGSHIP, WESTERN PACIFIC. — Almost unbelievable stories float around a powerful aircraft force like this one, and one of the best is about Lieut. Murl W. Davenport of Detroit, who once in the early morning hours of darkness saw a light blinking on the water below him—where, he was convinced, a fighter pilot shot down by zeros was adrift.

Lieutenant Davenport circled nearly seven hours over that spot. He finally was able to communicate with a PT boat which sped in—and found an injured pilot, who had been adrift for 40 hours. The boat crew, though, didn't see any light.

The rescued pilot recovered. He said he had parachuted into the sea, and somehow his rubber boat came loose from the plane and drifted over toward him. He climbed in and prayed, he said—because "I had no flashlight; no way to signal. . . ."

"LENINGRAD" AS NEW NAME FOR PETROGRAD DOESN'T TAKE WELL

Nobody Outside Russia Seems To Favor Proposed Change—English Like Geographical Names To Stay Put—Ghost Lights Terrorize Villagers.

GHOST LIGHTS AFFRIGHT.

The ghost light of Baskervilles has stepped right out of fiction to terrorize the inhabitants of a lonely range in the Warwickshire Hills who live in constant fear of being followed by this mysterious beam of unnatural colored light. The ghost light has chosen a most suitable district for its nocturnal visits, for here between the villages of Fenny Compton and Burton Dassett there are few houses and the low hills are surrounded by dark marshes. The hills themselves are strewn with the bones of the Cavaliers and their Roundhead enemies who perished during the battles of England's civil war.

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Canton Oh Repository Feb 3 1924

'GHOST LIGHT' IS SEEN

Spirit of Old Man Who Hanged Himself Believed By Superstitious Folk To Return To House

Staff Special.

OAK HARBOR, O., July 1.—The "spook light" on Lindsey-rd, five miles southwest of Oak Harbor, again is receiving much attention and is the cause of nightly watch parties.

The light is visible on almost any clear night, especially during the early hours. It appears first over the center of a small creek bridge, where it wavers a moment, then travels to the west side of the road to disappear near an abandoned house which superstitious persons say is haunted.

According to belief, the light is the spirit of an old man who is supposed to have hanged himself in this house many years ago. The light resembles a full moon in color and shape.

Thousands of persons visited the scene six years ago, when interest in the light was sufficient to attract the attention of a famous scientist. He finally explained the light was the result of phosphorus which was present in the creek bed.

Many are inclined not to believe this theory, as the light is visible only from the north and at a distance of more than 150 yards. Some persons scoff at these beliefs and say the light merely is the reflection of auto headlights.

A number of other explanations have been advanced, but none is so generally accepted as the ghost theory.

Cincinnati Ch Post
July 1 1922

Macon Ga Telegraph
March 24 1907

Spook Light Saved Train.

From the Chicago Tribune.

In the spring of 1887, while I was engineer on the fast mail from Cleveland to Pittsburg (C. and P. R. R.), the following incident occurred: It had been rainnig steadily for three days and the hilly regions of Wellsville, Ohio, had a direct effect upon the hitherto small streams and creeks in converting them into raging torrents. My train was due at Wellsville at 1:23 a. m., and being 37 minutes late, I was running at full speed, about 55 miles an hour, and knew the track to be in good order and at this point free from probable obstructions of any kind.

My train was made up of four Pullman cars, three small cars, and a baggage car, all the Pullman cars being comfortably filled. We were approaching Wellsville when at a point about a mile from a stream known as Yellow Creek, just outside the city limits, I put my head out of my engine cab window to look for signals, when to my astonishment there was a red lantern swinging back and forth across the track, just in front of the engine, but, as it appeared to me, as high as the smokestack. I frantically closed the throttle, applied the brakes, and showered the rails with sand, which soon brought the train to a standstill. All this time the mysterious light was swinging to and fro just in front and above the engine. I stepped out onto the track, but there was no sign of a light of any kind, nor of any person, but it would have been quite impossible for any human being to have flagged the train, as above explained.

I walked ahead some 300 yards, and, not seeing any signal lights at the approach to the bridge, I knew something was wrong, and going a short distance further I found that the bridge had been swept away by the flooded stream, which almost covered the track.

What explanation can be given for this seemingly supernatural token, which saved scores of passengers from an untimely death and a watery grave?

Baltimore Md Sun
March 6 1895

A BOBBING GHOST.

Mysterious Light which Persons Say They've Seen in Greenmount.

If the reports of persons whose veracity is said to be above suspicion be true, there is a job for a first-class ghost-slayer in Greenmount Cemetery. The "spook" in question does not assume the shape of a hideous, grinning skeleton, nor yet that of a shadowy phantom in a waving shroud. Its advent is not accompanied by dismal wails and it doesn't clank any chains, as well-bred ghosts are popularly believed to. This ghost has compressed himself into the form of a dimly glowing ball of fire, and he amuses himself after nightfall by hovering over the cemetery at some distance from the surrounding walls.

Several persons say they have seen the mysterious fiery sphere. Gripmen and motormen on the City and Suburban cars, which pass the cemetery both on Greenmount and North avenues, report that their attention has been called to the light, and that several of their passengers have seen it. Sometimes the light dances through the trees thirty or forty feet in the air, and sometimes it bobs playfully along the ground, bouncing here and there like a rubber ball.

The officers of the law who patrol the streets around the cemetery declare that they have never seen the phantom and they scoffingly attribute the spook to other causes. There are others, though, in the neighborhood who seem unmistakably annoyed by the jumping light, which they say exists beyond all doubt. Those who have had optical proof of the antics of the restless ball of fire are of the opinion that something should be done to stop its bobbing, but as it has not bobbed into anybody yet, the cemetery authorities are disposed to let it bob.

Omaha Ne World-Herald
Aug 6 1933

Ghost Light Reason Near O'Neill Related

Special Dispatch to The World-Herald.

O'Neill, Neb., Aug. 5.—Ghost lights, appearing north of here a few days ago to mystify those of a new generation, are nothing but a luminous gas created by wet weather and decaying animal bones, according to R. J. Marsh, former postmaster here.

"There then were millions of skeletons of buffalo, deer and antelope in a decaying condition," Mr. Marsh stated, "and there was heavy rainfall. It was unusual not to see those 'ghost lights' on a dark night for years after I came here. The bones have now completely disappeared.

SAND CREEK GHOST LIGHT

It is Once More Appearing, After Several Years.

This Ghastly, Mysterious Light Has a Township Startled.

MAY BE A NIGHT MIRAGE

Brilliant Light Flashes on Meade County Prairie.

The Strange Phenomena Cannot Be Explained, But It is Seen by Many.

After a disappearance of six years, the "Sand Creek Ghost Light" is once more beginning to put in an appearance nights in southeastern Meade county, near the town of Lakeland.

This mysterious light, white and very bright, suddenly appearing on the prairie, often accompanied by a sound as of escaping steam, so startled farmers and stockmen that it was with dread that they would venture out in the night in the Sand Creek neighborhood.

For several years, however, since that neighborhood has commenced to settle up, the mysterious light has not made an appearance.

Saw the Strange Light.

A few nights ago John C. Crompton traveling overland with his family from Oklahoma to Lakin, Kan., drove hastily into Meade and reported seeing a strange light, in the very vicinity where the mysterious Sand creek "ghost light" formerly held forth.

"We were driving along slowly when suddenly a great white light, very bright, appeared to be coming toward us," said Mr. Crompton. "When the light came within a few rods of us it suddenly disappeared, only to reappear in a short time.

Bewildering and Gruesome.

"It was northwest of Lakeland; just how far we were from that postoffice, I cannot say, but I should judge about six or seven miles. Every time the light appeared, the horses reared and plunged and we were compelled to stop to avert a runaway. At first I thought it was an automobile light, but it was too large and bright for that, and, as no machine appeared, I gave up that idea. It was certainly the most bewildering and gruesome light I ever saw, and I cannot understand what it was."

Meade people immediately recognized the light from the description given by the traveler, and there was much excitement over the news that the "ghost light" had reappeared after several years.

Capt. Painter's Story.

Captain R. M. Painter, a wealthy ranchman living near Lakeland, and in Sand Creek township, vouches for the truth of the mysterious light, but is unable to account for it.

"I first saw the ghastly light some seven years ago," said Capt. Painter. "I have seen it on 25 or 30 different occasions, but never have been able to explain it. It would first appear like the light of a lantern, but immediately bloomed out as big as a full moon.

"It looked somewhat like the headlight of a locomotive coming suddenly around a curve, and was accompanied by a roaring sound, like the escaping of steam, but there is no railroad within twenty miles. It reappeared at intervals of from one to seven days. It would never get closer than 60 or 70 rods and seemed always to come from the northwest.

The "Ghost Light."

"I and members of my family have observed it many times. We know it in our neighborhood as the 'ghost light.' When it shows up it always badly frightens horses, and has been the cause of many runaway accidents. The horses seem to know its approach before it is sighted.

"About six years ago, many others besides myself repeatedly saw this ghastly light, but it disappeared about the time that the Germans settled in that portion of the county and has not been heard of until now.

"At one time it appeared to be directly in front of the Lakeland postoffice, and several times while driving at night has it appeared, always causing the horses to be alarmingly frightened. One citizen saw it, and attempted to go to it, but it disappeared, with no remaining sign or mark left to tell the tale.

Not a Marsh Light.

"We have made many efforts to ascertain the cause of this strange light. It is not of a phosphorescent nature for there is no marsh or lowland there and it appears to be of a brilliant white, while phosphorescent lights are blueish of tint, and besides phosphorus lights appear only in wet, marshy, low places. There is no low or wet lands out our way. It is high and dry there. All theories have been exploded, after investigation, and the mystery of the light still remains. I am a non-believer in ghosts, but the ghost-light never has been explained."

Herman Tonhoff, of Odee, Meade county, has been an eye witness of the light and describes it exactly as does Capt. Painter. He was riding a horse one night when the light appeared and his horse squatted down trembling with fear.

Frank Fuhr, editor of the Meade Globe, says the reappearance of the Sand Creek "ghost light" is causing much concern. "Whether one believes in ghosts or not, the strange light is a phenomena that is causing much anxiety," he said.

Several Theories Advanced.

Several theories have been advanced. One is that the ghostlight has some connection with the earth cracks which have attracted much attention in Meade county. The theory is that interior pressure of gasses cause these cracks, and that the escaping gas being ignited froms this strange phenomena. But no trace has ever been found of natural gas, or of the effects of gas burning.

Another theory is that the lights are really mirages, if such a thing as a night mirage is possible, of Rock Island railway trains on the railroad twenty miles away, the electric headlight of the locomotive being lifted and shown miles away on the prairie by this optical phenomena.

At any event the "Sand Creek ghost light" has proved that it can "come back," after having disappeared for several years.

Northwest Arkansas Times
Fayetteville
Nov 3, 1949

"Ghost Light" Seen Again On Arkansas Hill

Hatfield, Ark., Nov. 3-(AP)-The ghost light of Brushy Ridge is flickering again.

Since 1908 an eerie glow has appeared sporadically among the trees on a Polk County mountainside eight miles west of Hatfield. Jerry Williams, 70, who has seen the light many times in the last 41 years, spotted its reappearance two weeks ago.

Once again residents of the Brushy Ridge community tried to discover its source, but reported when they were within a mile it simply disappeared.

Some folks once thought it was moonshiners. The moonshiners themselves settled that. Others thought mineral deposits were responsible. Geologists blew up that theory. Older residents long ago took the ghostly glow for granted and quit trying to find its cause.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1915.

MANITOBA FREE PRESS, WINNIPEG,

Lethbridge Alt Herald (Canada) Nov 30 1938

THE MYSTERY OF THE WEIRD LIGHT AT ELM CREEK

(As Dr. Watson Might Have Told It.)

If Dr. A. Conan Doyle had listened to the story told to the Free Press last night in deadly earnest by a resident of the Elm Creek he might have recorded it in his memoirs of the great detective somewhat after this fashion:

* * *

I have set down from time to time many of the strange adventures that have befell my friend Sherlock Holmes during the course of his professional career, but I can remember of no single case that excited his curiosity and set working at high tension those strange faculties he had for deduction like the mystery of the weird light at Elm Creek.

We were sitting cozily in our study on Baker street on a rainy evening, Sept. 7, 1915, with Holmes engrossed in a study of the Hyksos of the XVIIth Dynasty of Egypt, when a jitney drew up to the door, and we heard the step of an excited man on the stairway. The individual in question burst into the room and stood for a moment dazed as our brilliant reading lamp smote his eyes. Holmes surveyed our visitor with that rapid scrutiny that is the result of his years of experience.

"Pray be seated, Mr. Snoodle of Elm Creek," he said, "I perceive you have left your threshing to make a hasty visit to town, and you must have news of importance. Outside of the fact that you are a farmer and married, that you are a member of the Hoo Hoos, and that you drive an automobile I can see nothing to interest me. Pray tell your story." The man seemed astounded. "How do you know these things?" he enquired.

Chaff Mixed With Chin Alfalfa.

Mr. Sherlock Holmes flicked the ash off his cigarette. "I note," he said, "that your name and address is printed on the suit case which you are carrying. The chaff which is copiously mixed with the alfalfa on your chin tells me that you are putting wheat through the separator, the patch on your knee tells me you are married, the insignia of the Hoo Hoos is on the ring you are wearing, and I note that the inside of your thumbs is worn smooth from holding the steering wheel of a Ford."

With this brief introduction to our family circle Mr. Snoodle proceeded to tell of his experience: "I am a member in good standing of the Baptist church," he said, by way of a start, "and I have never touched booze in my life. My eyesight is so good that I can read the newspapers without the aid of specs. I live northeast of Elm Creek, one mile east of the road between ranges 4 and 5, and I can bring dozens of men to bear testimony to the truth of what I have to tell you.

"It was along about July 1 last that we noticed an automobile coming up the road from the south. It seemed to be about a mile distant. The time was about 8.30 in the evening. We could see the brilliant glow from the headlights, and we concluded that my brother-in-law was coming to call upon us. But that car never got to the house. The light remained exactly in the same place for over an hour and then disappeared."

The Mysterious Light.

The man lowered his voice to a tone of awe calculated to impress us, and continued: "That same light has been appearing in the same place for the past two months. It was seen last night. It was seen every night this week. There is not a house within 80 rods of the road for a distance of three miles. The light is as brilliant as though it were generated by electricity. We can see the rays from it. It seems to float around in the air at just about the right height for an automobile or motorcycle lamp. The thing seems supernatural, and foreign laborers cross themselves devoutly when they see it. The farmers make a detour of a few miles in order not to pass that way."

The face of Holmes seemed to be taking on a slight flush, and his eyes glowed brightly beneath his long, straight brows. "It sounds interesting, Watson," he chuckled. "Pray proceed," he said to our narrator.

"We have tried to investigate that light by dashing on it at full speed with an automobile," said Mr. Snoodle. "We have tried to steal up on it in the dark, but it is all to no purpose. We can get within a certain distance when it disappears as if by magic, and the place where it had been is left as dark as the original pit. Only last night four of us jumped in to my car, determined to make a last effort to solve the mystery. We slipped quietly out of the front gate on the low speed, and the moment we got on the straight road we opened her up to 40 miles an hour. We fairly flew down the road, the light fairly before us, but it seemed to keep at the same distance. It seemed that if we kept on we would eventually collide with it. And then it just snapped off as quickly as you would turn an electric switch button. We went over the road and almost into town, but could see no trace of an automobile or of any individual. I tell you the thing is getting on our nerves and that is why I have called upon you. We need your assistance badly."

Guiding Light for Aeroplane?

"It resembles," said Sherlock Holmes, "the mystery of the light in Seven Keys to Baldpate, I am interested, will you please conclude."

"There is nothing very much more to tell," said our visitor, "except that it may interest you to know that you can only see that light looking to the south. You cannot see it coming from the north. It is there both on dark nights and on moonlight nights. It is seen earlier each night as the days grow shorter. It first appears about 7.30 these evenings and is seen for half an hour. Then it disappears and is seen again about 9.30, again for about half an hour. A dozen people have seen it at a time. We have 20 men threshing on our place, and they see it together every night. There is a new gravel road along this highway which has never been used because the farmers always take a trail to one side, and we have thought there might be a phosphorescent rock or something of the kind which would throw out the light. Such a thing, however, seems impossible. It has also occured to us that this might have been a guiding light for an aeroplane from the south, but as yet the thing remains a deep mystery."

"I have studied 57 varieties of light," said Sherlock Holmes, "and have written a treatise on every species of illumination from the humble candle to the latest invention of the electrical world, but I have yet to investigate a spook light that disappears as does this one. The story rings true to me. My time table tells me that it is 45 miles ride to Elm Creek. Have you a little time on your hands, Watson? If so we will take a look into this strange phenomenon."

(Note—This is the story as vouched for by a well known resident of Elm Creek. If Mr. Holmes succeeds in solving the mystery the story of his exploit will be given in a later edition.)

Ghost Light Alarms Czechs

Fear Pinkish Light in Saskatchewan Cemetery Carries Bad Omen

ESTERHAZY, Sask., Nov. 30.—(C.—New fear swept into the district surrounding Tabor cemetery 17 miles northeast of here following a report the cemetery's "ghost light" was seen again Monday night.

The people, descendants of a Czech colony that settled there in 1885, are convinced the fast-travelling pinkish light heralds a supernatural visitation. Among them the general attitude is "Pray, Brethren, pray, for the hour of visitation is at hand." They are certain the light is a warning, that something sinister is to befall them.

(Professor Gordon H. Shrum of the University of British Columbia said the light probably was "some sort of electrical discharge." He compared it with the aurora borealis—northern lights.)

The cemetery itself originally was intended solely for the burial of atheists. No clergyman has ever entered it. Some of the original Czech settlers taught a gospel there was no such thing as God or hereafter, and their people were buried in the cemetery.

To most of the people the district is known as the Dovedale district and the cemetery as the Dovedale cemetery. It was renamed Tabor several years ago after one of the original settlers.

What Professor Thinks

VANCOUVER, Nov. 30.—(C.—Suggestion that weird cemetery lights reported by residents of Esterhazy, Sask., are probably "some sort of electrical discharge" came from Dr. Gordon H. Shrum, professor of physics at the University of British Columbia.

"The pink color of the phenomenon suggests that it is an electrical discharge, since nitrogen in the air glows pink when excited by a charge of electricity," the university professor said. "Frosty dry air often makes possible unusual electrical phenomenon."

"The mechanics of such a discharge are still a bit vague," he explained, "but so are the mechanics of the aurora borealis." All the same nobody can doubt their existence."