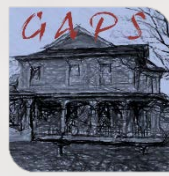


Greater Arlington Paranormal Society's Paranormal Periodical



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Hello and welcome to the first publication of our paranormal periodical. We are so excited to offer a chance to share our stories, thoughts and more with you and give you a chance to share some of your stories, questions and thoughts with us. We hope you enjoy reading this quarter's edition. We appreciate any feedback you would like to share with us. Our contact information is on page four.

A Little About Us

We are **The Greater Arlington Paranormal Society**. While individually our interest in the paranormal has always been part of our lives, collectively we became actively involved in 1991. Glynda and I spent our honeymoon in Jefferson, returning each year for our anniversary and with each visit we not only learned more and more about the wonderful history of Jefferson including the haunted history as well. This really spurred our interests in ghost hunting.

Over the next several years we visited a few "haunted" areas and with the advent of the various internet sites, we found others that shared an interest in the paranormal. Around the Dallas-Ft. Worth area there were a few meet-up groups and we attended a few of those meetings. By 2004 we created our first web presence with *Glynda's Ghost Pages*. While this was just a page for sharing stories, we began to see that there were many out there that had stories and an interest in investigations.

In 2010 we officially launched our group and website. The purpose of the group was to share with others our experiences and hear from others, investigate paranormal claims and help those that were experiencing unexplained activity. While we believe that there are things in this world that are paranormal, some of these occurrences are explainable and it with this in mind that we offer our help.

We are dedicated to finding the truth when we perform an investigation, even if it means we find no paranormal activity. We will never fabricate evidence nor do we charge any fees for investigating.

We will not manipulate, encourage or entice anyone into believing or not believing in paranormal activity. We will perform the investigation and let the evidence speak for itself. We will use a variety of investigative techniques to perform our investigations, including cameras, strobe/flashing lights, recorders and of course personal experiences, as we believe that eyewitness testimony is essential to any paranormal experience.

While we believe in God and Jesus Christ and carry that belief with us when we investigate, we will not proselyte or try to convert anyone to any religion while on an investigation. While the topic of religion may come up, and usually does during an investigation, it is discussed in the context of the investigation. If the client wishes to discuss religious aspects we will engage in that discussion but it is up to the client.

Confidentiality is a must while conducting an investigation. We will not reveal the address or name of a client without express written consent to do so. While we may discuss in general terms, activities we have encountered, we will never provide personal information without consent from the client. We will investigate or help with any paranormal event and will work with other teams when appropriate. We will use a client's name in association with an investigation only with a signed released form allowing us to do so and this will be only in conjunction with evidence gathered.

We use an investigation form for each investigation we do. The form is very specific and asks some questions that may seem very personal, such as use of alcohol, drugs and medication. We ask this for safety reasons as well as to gain an understanding of the situation we are investigating.

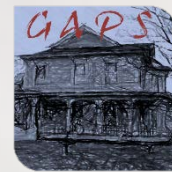
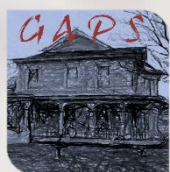
We are a non-profit organization. We do not charge any fees for our services. We are seeking the truth, not profits. Many people that are experiencing paranormal activity want resolution and should not be having to pay for the help they seek.

We are glad to include others in our group as long as they are sincere in their interest in the paranormal. Joining an investigation just to be scared or for fun is not who we are looking for as part of our team. If you would like more information about our team please contact us.

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I woke up to hear knocking on glass. At first, I thought it was the window until I heard it come from the mirror again



MY OPINION!

What about Orbs?

I needed to replace my cell phone's screen guard protector yesterday.* If I had access to our clean room here at work, I would go in there and do it. Unfortunately, I can't so I'm at the mercy of whatever particles are in the air at the time I replace the screen guard. And though I thoroughly wipe the phone down and am careful with the protector, inevitably there is always a spec of dust that finds it's way on the phone screen that I don't see until the protector is in place and then it's too late. What does this have to do with orbs? Well, as Colonial Ghosts points out in an article about orbs in photos, "Unless you are in a perfect vacuum, these contaminations are always present."¹ The contaminations they are referring to are of course orbs in photos.

Anyone that has had even a passing interest in the paranormal is familiar with orbs. And as you can guess, there are a variety of opinions on what they are and what they represent. This could be simple flashes of light on dust, mist, an insect or they could be part of the spirit world. Bustle's website has a good article where several photographers explain their take on orbs, with a summary that "...the consensus is that orbs equal dust or something similar reflecting off of the flash²." Edward Robinson writes in his book, *Crime Scene Photography*, calls this effect backscatter, which is caused when light from a flash bounces off of microscopic particles suspended in the air that causes bright spots between the flash and the subject of the photograph.³

However, you will also find that there are those that feel that the orbs are more than a reflection. Learning Religions' take is that many "orbs are electromagnetic energy fields that contain angelic energy."⁴ They also say that not every one is a spirit. In some pictures orbs are particles. For the ones that they feel are spirit based, they call them Angel Orbs and see these as more than just a ball of light.

They mention that when looked at close up, they "feature intricate patterns of geometric shapes and colors to reveal the different characteristics in the auras of the angels who are traveling within them."

In general, I don't put much stock in orbs. I have seen a lot of them in pictures and videos but very few have caused me to examine them in any detail. There are some within the group that disagree with me on this but that's ok. There is so much of the world of the paranormal that is subjective and opinion based that those interested in the paranormal will always have disagreements.

If you have a comment on the world of Orbs, please feel free to write us or leave a comment on the website.

1. <https://colonialghosts.com/orbs-in-photos-debunked/>
2. <https://www.bustle.com/p/what-are-orbs-heres-the-real-deal-behind-those-ghostly-appearitions-in-your-pictures-according-to-professional-photographers-12605425>
3. Robinson, Edward (2016) *Crime Scene Photography* Academic Press pg 558
4. <https://www.learnreligions.com/what-are-angel-orbs-123854>

* You can get a protector at Dollar Tree – just as good as the expensive ones from other places.

YOUR OPINION!

What about Orbs?

I believe orbs are a visual display of the energy that is released from our bodies after we pass. Our ability to see them depends on a multitude of circumstances. I don't know what's out there but I know what I've seen. Some things just don't fit into our perspective of things. – Amy

"...If you watch or read certain sites or shows, everyone has their opinion. Ghost Hunters says its just dust. Others say they are spirits trying to collect energy. Others thinks they are dust. Me, I'm not sure. Dust perhaps. But I have photos from several locations that have orbs within them. Orbs in a cemetery with what appears to have a face in it. Orbs down a dusty road. Orbs in a motel such as Jefferson or the Ott in Liberty, TX. Can dust be reflected off of a wall , like its mirror image? Banana shaped orbs. Orbs here, there, and everywhere." - Joel

"Through my research about orbs I have read that there are too many natural world explanations for them. I do believe that an orb is a sign of something and it could mean anything. I have learned to use my feelings as a barometer to see what I believe the orb means to me." – Ingrid

I know that dust can have that effect. I think a person has to look at the orb's color, shape and it's transparency before deciding whether or not it's a ghost. They also have to consider when and where the photo was taken. There was one time I was excited about capturing an orb. I had been on a ghost hunt at Endicott College near Boston. I then realized that it was the flash of the camera reflection off a wooden door. However, another time a friend and I went to the haunted cemetery in Granbury. I took several photos and did not see any orbs. I took another photo and there were so many orbs that it looked like snow. At that moment, my EMF detector went off. - Cristin

I begin tucking him into bed and he tells me, "Daddy check for monsters under my bed." I look underneath for his amusement and see him, another him, under the bed, staring back at me quivering and whispering, "Daddy there's somebody on my bed."



EQUIPMENT TALK



When checking out websites of the many Paranormal Investigators, you are sure to find a list of equipment used by the team for investigations. Here at Greater Arlington Paranormal we are no different. For any investigation, the equipment used should be considered as part of the team. Personal experiences from an investigation are great but without any collected evidence, those experiences are simply stories. However, if you have some physical evidence to present alongside those experiences, it's a different result.

For those that have been investigating the paranormal for any length of time knows that there are advancements made with the equipment used during investigations. Just think of the days that you used a 35mm and had to wait for the film to be developed. Recording devices have come a long way and while I never investigated using a reel to reel tape recorder, there was a time that we relied only on the large full-sized cassette recorder for any EVP work. The digital age changed all of this. And if you watch an early episode of Ghost Hunters (debuted October 2004) and compare it to any of the shows on now, the equipment used continues to evolve.

While we would all like to have an unlimited budget for the latest equipment, like the investigators on television, one doesn't have to break the bank to start investigating. Various websites offer some of the basic equipment at very reasonable prices. The listings below show some items needed for a basic investigation. Prices shown below are from a quick search on Amazon, Walmart, EBay, and specialty stores like The Ghost Hunter's Store in Philadelphia. This can help give you a general idea of the cost of building your investigation kit. Also, don't forget to check thrift stores, garage sales and the like as you can sometimes find items there at a steal.

If you have questions or comments about equipment, please feel free to contact us.

Still Cameras (\$45.00 - \$100.00)

Anyone with a cell phone has a camera and that's a good thing when investigating the paranormal. However, a cell phone is not enough for a thorough investigation. Every investigation team should have at least one dedicated digital camera and if possible, consider several. You don't want to be sitting around waiting for a team member to report back to base so someone else can go take pictures. We have used a 35mm camera, though not something we would normally take with us. While a Cell Phone cameras have gotten better over the years and can be used, it is best to use a digital camera, made specifically for the purpose of taking pictures. We have a few Kodak Digital Cameras that have been workhorses for us over the years.

Video Cameras (\$60.00 – \$200.00)

One of the most important tools in your arsenal. And with advancement being made in the field, there are now many different cameras for different applications. In the old days, the Video Cassette Camera was the standard. Battery life was always an issue with these but we muddled through with extra batteries and extension cords for the adapters. Eventually the digital age arrived and we no longer used tape. And now, with different cameras and filters we have many choices for our investigations and with the affordability of infrared cameras, are not left to low light nightmares any longer. For our team we use a standard Sony Digital Camera, IR Cameras with DVD Recording/Monitoring system and a Full Spectrum LCD Camcorder. While we would love to have a FLIR, we have not added this to our budget... yet.

Digital Voice Recorders (\$25.00 - \$40.00)

Along with a video camera, the Digital Voice Recorder is an important piece of equipment and any investigator will have it with them in their investigation. Anyone interested in investigating the paranormal will have at least a couple of these on their list. We have several voice recorders on our equipment list including microcassettes and full size tape recorder. It depends on the investigation and our set up as to what we will use. We will always have several recorders available during an investigation.

Investigator's Notebook (Go to the Dollar Tree)

For each investigation, we have a client folder. We start with our investigation form and build from there. We have a few spiral notebooks with us for notes, experiences and tracking, which comes in handy when noting counters while video recording. Notebooks, notepads and the like are available at dollar stores and the value these notes bring as you review your notes from an investigation is priceless. Remembering little details isn't as easy as it used to be.

Basic Accessories

While it may seem like a no brainer, there are accessories that should be in every team's tool box...

- Batteries – All Sizes – Don't forget the button batteries...
- Flashlights – Hand held, head lamps, standing, clip ons...
- Walkie Talkies – Got to communicate with the team – even for the smaller investigations...
- Thermometers – Don't forget the ambient thermometer...
- EMF Detectors – You never know when it can come in handy...
- Tapes – If using cassette recorders, don't forget cassettes, you can't record on nothing..

We buy at various places but here are a couple of good suppliers...

<https://www.theghosthunterstore.com/>



*There was a picture in my phone
of me sleeping. I live alone.*

<https://www.amazon.com/>





Share Your Stories with Us

Each edition of our newsletter we will share your stories and experiences. If you have anything you would like to share, please feel free to sent it in. This edition's article comes from Amy and she shared the following:

It started again when we moved to our house built in 1935. The land has a rich history too. Our town oozed historical charm. I was immediately drawn to the house. I loved it. Then I noticed small things happening. Things that make me question whether or not I was really experiencing them or that my mind was making them up.

On occasion door knobs would turn right as I would reach for them. It was unnerving, but I kept telling myself I was imagining it. Eventually I started seeing shadow people. Two of them, what felt like an older man and a young girl. I thought I was the only one experiencing these things. Then my daughter asked me why I stand in her doorway at night and watch her for so long. I became more unnerved. We only had problems in the middle bedroom. The front of the house seemed to be inhabited by peaceful spirits. The back of the house was creepy, but nothing too terrible. But that middle room. If she shot in a different one she wouldn't have nightmares either.

We brought in someone to cleanse the room. She appeared to sleep peacefully for awhile after that. I didn't hear any stories from her. We still had strange things happen, but nothing we couldn't handle. Then she started saying there was a woman's voice "singing her to sleep." she was scared. She didn't sleep well anymore. She claims to have heard footsteps in the hallway late at night after she returned from the bathroom. I believe her because I've heard those footsteps when I've been home alone. And music. Not music from today, but echoes from the past, played on a phonograph. It was lovely music. Happy music. I didn't mind it one bit.

Most of the things that happened I still tried to find explanations for. I still chose to nerve there was a logical reason behind them. When I heard things in the middle bedroom and I was alone, I was often too startled to bring my camera. Then one day I heard a loud crash. I went to investigate. Nothing seemed out of place, but I kept recording. Suddenly this (for lack of better words) misty light puff appeared from the floor and quickly rose to the ceiling right in front of me. I got it on video, but it doesn't do it justice. It was an amazing orb that I was fortunate enough to see right in front of me. However, the video is always up for speculation. But I know what I saw.

We've since moved from that house. We've stopped having those types of experiences. We have different experiences, though not as many, but that's a story for a different time. - **Amy D.**

HELP NEEDED

Adrienne writes about a sighting on Greenbelt, between Trinity and Green Oaks. The apparition was a young woman, somewhere between 17-25, with blonde hair, attractive and "very much alive."

"At first," she writes, "we thought it was a live person but it was 3:30 in the morning and she was standing alone on the side of the road. We were both sober."

They drove over a small hill and as they came down the other side of the hill she appeared. They were heading south and she was on the west side of the road.

"She was motioning with her arms, as if to get someone to pull over. Her face appeared distressed. But I noticed no blood or bruises," Adrienne states. "She scared the hell out of me," she continued. They were doing about 35 mph. She was wearing a white top and below her waist it was obscured by the tall brush.

For many of us, we know the area of Greenbelt as being the site of Screaming Bridge. We had not heard of any apparitions appearing at the site or nearby so we are asking for your help. If you have any information you would like to share, send us an email and let us know.

HOW TO CONTACT US

We love to hear from anyone interested in the paranormal. We have three ways to contact us so if you are interested in contributing to our newsletter, have questions about the paranormal, would like to give us some feedback or just want to talk about the paranormal, please contact us:

Website: www.arlingtonparanormal.com

Phone: (214) 616-0082

Email: info@arlingtonparanormal.com



SCREAMING BRIDGE



Recently, we received an email inquiring about a ghost sighting over near the Greenbelt/Trinity area. Of course my first thought was of the Screaming Bridge, though I was not familiar with any apparitions pertaining to the site. After discussing with the person about their experience and her own investigative work, it looked like this wasn't connected to the events associated with the bridge but possibly to another tragic event that occurred nearby.

When the report came over, the description was of a young blonde woman on the side of the road. My recollection was that none of the girls killed were blonde but I wasn't sure. And since there had been other deaths in the area before and after, I began researching events to see if anyone with blonde hair may have died in the vicinity.

As I was researching it reminded me about how much the story of Screaming Bridge had changed over the last 50+ years. Some of the changes, or enhancements, were clearly designed to make the story scarier, obviously trying to maximize the scare scale of the story.

The truth is, we love a good scary story; we always have. The scarier the better. It was noted in one article about the accident that this is one of the reasons the girls were out on Arlington-Bedford road that night. They wanted to go to the creepy side of town and talk about scary stories. What a better way to get the most out of the scary stories then go to a creepy location to tell it. Think about how much better it is to tell about a murderer who escaped prison and is hiding out in the woods while you are out camping in the woods then if you tell it in your living room. For the most part, we don't mind taking a story and changing it up a bit to help us achieve the scariest story possible.

When stories we tell are old, vague and unverified, we can really change the story to whatever is going to get the most effect. The escaped convict with a hook for a hand, the lady of the lake, etc... are stories that we have heard forever and when we tell them, we can do what we want with the story. If we need to change the location from White Rock Lake to Lake Worth, it's ok. If we need to make the escaped convict from Huntsville the criminal in our story, who's going to go check if there ever was a criminal with a hook that escaped from Huntsville. No one. Because we like being scared. These are the "fun" ghost stories that we love to tell. There are no living persons to verify the story. Newspaper accounts are non-existent so it's easy to tell them like we want to and be happy with the results of scaring the listener.

With all this being said, it is important to remember that some stories are not just stories. Some of the tales we love to tell were real events that happened to real people at a real location and in some cases, people connected to the event are still alive.

When we tell the tale of The Screaming Bridge, we are talking about three girls that died that night. They weren't three faceless, nameless teenagers that died only to return years later to scream at midnight for the occasional ghost adventurer. They were three girls that attended Arlington High School. They were just normal teenage girls. The tragic events that happened that night and the subsequent events were very real. To the three survivors, they would live with this event as they returned to school and got on with their lives. To the boys that burned the bridge or the one that removed the barricade they too would live with this event. For all the families they lived with this too.

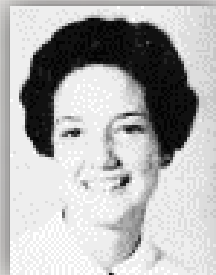
This accident saw the lives of three teenagers that would never get to live the lives they had dreamed about. Their parents would carry the pain of losing a child for the rest of their lives. The boys involved would have to carry the guilt of what they had done and even the young man that tried to warn the girls wondered if he could have done something different to keep them from speeding away from him and crashing into the ravine. There are enough scary stories out there that we don't need to take a real, tragic event and enhance it to scare us.

In Memory

By Velda Heron

*Their love of life and simple things,
The love that only goodness brings,
The quiet happiness they all knew,
The love they felt for friends so true,
Their happy laughter, friendly smiles,
Will linger through our weary miles,
And give us in our work and play
A true desire to be as they.
And may we ever as we live
More love to others humbly give*

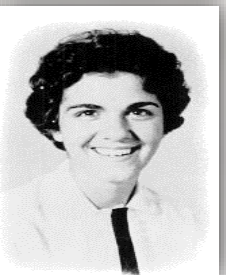
As found in the Arlington High Year Book. Dedicated to the memory of Kathy Fleming, Claudia Reeves and Lou Goldner



Mary Lou Goldner



Claudia Jean Reeves



Kathy Fleming

For an in-depth look into the facts about Screaming Bridge, visit our website and click the link on our homepage.



Why I'm Angry...



Hervey Allen said, "Legends are material to be molded, and not facts to be recorded." The tale of Screaming Bridge is a legend. It shouldn't be but it is. After 58+ years, the story has indeed been molded into a legend that makes it one of the area's top paranormal haunts to visit.

For those that love a good, scary ghost story, this is great news. Unfortunately, as a Paranormal Investigator it's frustrating, disappointing and somewhat annoying. Just type "screaming bridge Arlington, TX" into your search engine and you will get a variety of sites bringing you the story of the screaming bridge.

Typically, this would be a good thing because the more information you have about paranormal activity the better. But with our penchant for taking liberties with ghost stories, it is sad. A real life event with real people and an actual location that has been turned into nothing more than a listing on various blogs about scary places in DFW. A now legendary ghost story to be lumped in with The Lady of the Lake, Miss Molly's or The Lake Worth Monster, which has morphed into a story that is unrecognizable from the actual, true story.

Case in point. In September of 2018, the website, www.onlyinyourstate.com published an article by Katie Lawrence called, "The Legend of Texas' Screaming Bridge Will Make Your Hair Stand On End."¹ While the whole article makes anyone with the slightest knowledge of Screaming Bridge shake their head, the introductory paragraph really gets to me.

Here, Lawrence writes, "Texas is full of urban legends but most are either completely fabricated or versions of truth stretched so far they might as well be fake" (emphasis added). She goes on to say that the story of Screaming Bridge doesn't fall into this category. She writes that the story is "absolutely terrifying" and that you don't want to go there alone at night. This wouldn't be a bad way to start an article if she hadn't followed it up with this:

"One fall night more than 50 years ago, several teenagers were carpooling home after their high school football team defeated its opponents by a landslide. Still riled up over the victory, driving responsibly definitely wasn't of utmost importance to the group."

What the heck? So much for truth. The only things she gets right is that it was more than 50 years ago oh and that there were teenagers involved. Her disregard for the truth doesn't stop there. For some reason she adds, "The bridge running through Arlington's River Legacy Park was just wide enough for one car at a time. Hooting and hollering, the children's excitement drowned out all other noise - like that of a vehicle with no working headlights speeding towards them."

What makes this article even more ridiculous is that she falls into the same old trap that other bloggers do with this story, telling the reader that if "you stand on the bridge and gaze into the river, you'll see a tombstone for each of the deceased with their name and date of birth and death." Then she tells us to visit at midnight on the anniversary of the accident and you will hear two cars screeching towards each other before colliding in an "ear-splitting" crash."

Finally, she concludes her article by telling us that the location of the bridge is at River Legacy Park but you will have to as a park ranger for directions as it's extremely difficult to explain in writing." Leaving us with the warning that maybe it's better if you don't go visiting such a gruesome place as it might be the most grave mistake you've ever made.

To be fair (?) to Lawrence, she's not alone in trying to promote a legend that doesn't exist. Even the city of Arlington promotes the legend of Screaming Bridge², relating the same story as does the one from ranker.com³, which puts the story at number 7 on its list of creepy, Texas urban legends.

Look, I get it. These writers are wanting to present a scary story and I have no issue with that. What frustrates me is when they distort or in some cases fabricate the story. With little or no regard for the truth and certainly no research into the story, they just write for effect. It's interesting on Lawrence's blog, she links two videos, the first one⁴ negates just about everything she writes about the story, including the location. She even uses pictures from the video in her blog showing the real location of Screaming Bridge, as she incorrectly tells you that it's in River Legacy Park. The second video⁵ is of two investigators going to the bridge inside of River Legacy Park and reporting hearing a strange scream. Of course this only helps perpetuate the misconception of the location of screaming bridge.

So, why am I angry? It didn't take me longer than a few minutes to get the details about the story of Screaming Bridge by going through the newspapers from the time to find the real story. It bothers me when bloggers, writers and the like don't take just a moment to do a little research for their stories and instead just repeat and enhance the story to try and get additional hits for their site. As an investigator of the paranormal, I want facts. I don't need a scary story.

1. <https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/texas/screaming-bridge-tx/>
2. <https://www.arlington.org/plan/blog/post/18-of-the-most-haunted-spots-in-dfw/>
3. <https://www.ranker.com/list/creepy-texas-urban-legends/jacobybancroft>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrlytAkUweE>
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lw8n4SIIfhc>