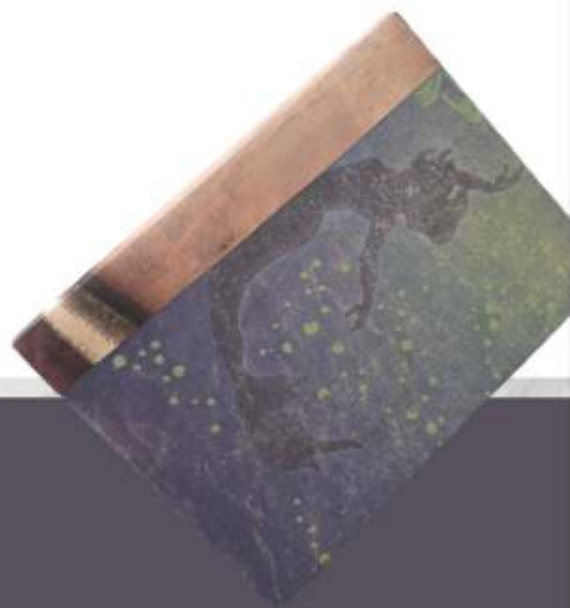


Archaeological Mysteries and books

Magazine

<https://archaeologicalmysteriesbooks.com>



Competitions!
Stories
History



Issue 1
May 2021

Archaeological Mysteries and Books

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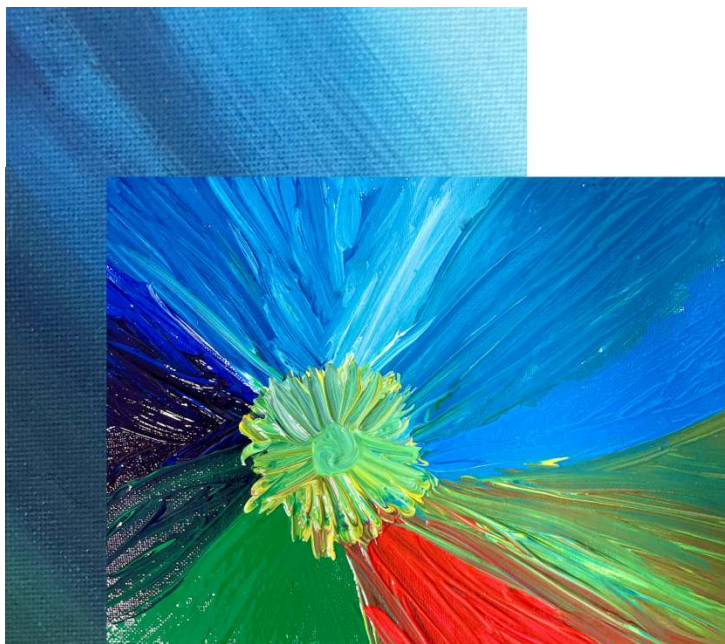
Archaeological Mysteries and Books Magazine!

Welcome to the first issue of Archaeological Mysteries and Books (AMB). In this issue we have included some poetry, a short mystery book, history articles and some puzzles.

Our poems in this edition are about the mysterious. What would happen if a stranger walked past and stared? Or you found a journal and ended up following its clues to a mysterious dark place? We hope you read the poems and create your own conclusions. Where would you go? How would you end your own story?

The two articles we included this month are about plagues and the unexplainable. Do you think mermaids are real? Or that the covid is like the biblical plagues? Please read these articles because the puzzles at the end include questions that you will know only if you read these articles.

We hope you love reading the interesting stories, researched articles and doing the puzzles! Enjoy!



Our First Magazine!

Poetry

Mystery Woman

I walked along the beach,
And saw a man teach,
He was teaching the masses,
With his amazing classes,
Then it all ended!



The ending came when the mystery arrived,
A woman wearing an amazing hat,
She sat and watched the class,
Then walked over as time passed.

The time passed fast as she stared,
What a thing to do! She stared with her wicked evil eyes at the teacher,
Mr. Teacher sighed and started to walk away as he felt the fear creep,
The students started to play on the beach,
Now their class was over!

The power of the mysterious woman was too great!

Discoverer's Journal

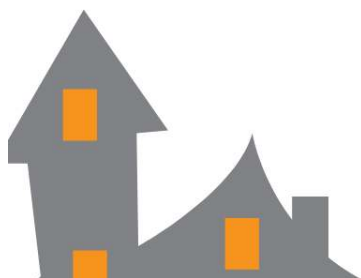
In the dark sandy outpost
There is a researcher engrossed
He is reading the book
The famous discoverer's journal

The journal is full of words
Written in strange circles
He is trying his best to arrange
He comes to a mysterious clue

The mysterious clue tells him about a place
A place in the dark
With water full of sharks
He goes and finds the dark space
He discovers the place
There he finds his life begins...

Short Story

The Mystery of the 🔍 Hidden Hall



The Mystery of the Hidden Hall

Zora was sitting on the old simple green two-seater in her tiny cramped, dismal, quiet, old high-rise studio on a warm sunny Monday morning. She was home from her job for the day and was sitting watching Netflix on her old computer monitor. She worked in an office as a general admin clerk and the pay was not that great and the work was so boring. She wanted to go and do something more challenging but was so grateful to be earning a wage. She worked seven days each fortnight and, on those weekdays, where she wasn't at work, she sat in her studio watching Netflix, reading, and planning her future. At thirty-eight she was still renting, not married, getting too skinny and wanting to leave the boring life behind and move abroad to work.

That morning as she was watching her Netflix, there was a loud buzz from her phone intercom. It was her mother. She buzzed her up. The tiny studio only had a bed, the green sofa, a tiny mini kitchen with stove, mini fridge, and microwave, not much room to invite guests in. Most of the time she would meet

her friends and family out at one of the cool and buzzing cafes in town. There, she could sit and chat comfortably with amazing coffee! In her apartment one could see the bed while sitting on the lounge, and it looked more like something fit for a teen rather than a mature woman in her late thirties. She was well educated, a hard worker, a researcher type and yet worked in such an entry level administrator role. What she wanted, was to be working freelance or in a high paying corporate job more fitting with her knowledge and age! She had a few university qualifications in business, finance, and science.

Her mother Barb arrived. She walked in through the front door, past the mini-kitchen, dining table, double bed, and to the lounge and as she sat down next to Zora, she sighed. There was a quietness between them as they both sat staring at the computer monitor watching the TV, a show called *bloodline*. Then Barb broke the silence. She said, 'I want to say something about our heritage.' Zora looked at her mother.

'What? Our heritage?' Zora had never even thought about her past. She was too busy working, trying to enact her dreams and move across the other side of the world for her career. She had been planning her move abroad since she was in her twenties and as time passed the reality of getting to follow her dreams was becoming more difficult. Some countries had age restrictions for international workers. That is what she never really thought was fair, because one must work well into their sixties, so why would countries have any age limits on inviting international talent over to work? She stared at the computer wondering what her mother was talking about!

'Our ancestry,' she answered. 'I have been researching our heritage and I want to tell you all about her ancestors,' Barb started to take out some bundled documents from her old brown, horribly stained handbag. It looked like she had taken a bundle of her research documents and shoved them inside her bag with speed. They weren't neatly folded, but rather bundled and scrunched. She handed them over. Zora took the badly bundled documents from her mother's hand and began uncrunching them and reading through the notes. On one of the pages was a list of notes with names, dates, and countries. She read she had some relatives in Ireland back in the late 1800s on her father's side. Her ancestors were named Patrick, John, Mary, and Katherine. Her surname was Fee, her father's surname, and her mother's surname was Marg, and she was under the impression that her family were from England, Ireland, Wales, and Scotland. That her father was predominately Irish, and her mother was English, Scottish, and Welsh. She never had a reason to learn about her past in any detail.

'So, we are from Ireland as I thought? At least on Dad's side?' Barb nodded. She kept going through the documents. More Irish names. A heritage tree. Some random notes. On the fourth page she could see that one of her family lines came from England, on her mother's side and they had travelled over to Australia as free settlers in the late 1800s.

'Keep going! You haven't read all the pages!' said her mother. She kept reading until she reached the last few pages. On one of those pages, it said she had another heritage line from Scotland, also on the mother's side. Then on the

final page, that that one of her ancestors on that Scottish line came originally from China.

‘China?’ she asked. Her mother looked at her with a broad smile.

‘China yes. One of our ancestors came from China. I was shocked. I want to go over to the UK to find out more. I want you to come!’ Zora was excited and agreed. The two of them were to leave in two weeks’ time. Her mother had booked all the travel. Even during covid times they were going. First, they would research their heritage in England and go into their Asian line. Neither of them ever suspected for a spilt second, they had Asian ancestors. They looked Celtic. They looked like white women of Celtic origins. Barb was dark-brown haired, and Zora had brownish red hair. A dark reddish colour. Her father Logan, that she spent lots of time with, was Celtic. Her parents were no longer together. They had divorced when she was in her teens, but her mother had researched both sides of the heritage. She spent time with both parents. Her father rang and visited at least once every few weeks and same with her mother. She also had five older siblings.

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After two weeks had passed Zora and Barb packed their suitcases and headed to the Brisbane airport. They were really going! They stopped at the McDonald’s on the way to grab some burgers for their afternoon dinner snacks. Then off they went on their long-haul flight to Heathrow!

They arrived at the airport and were greeted by people wearing face masks who ushered them through quarantine procedures. It was rather different to the last time Barb had travelled. Back then the airport was full of people. Crowds and crowds of travelers all pushing their way around the airport. This time there were less people. Only some workers in masks and a few wanderers coming from their flights. They went to their hotel in London and unpacked their suitcases. They were staying in a rather nice hotel with two queen sized beds and plush blankets and feather down pillows.

As it was their mission to uncover more clues about their heritage, they decided to go for a trip to the national archives. The next day they got the train to Kew gardens and walked to the archives. They walked in through the doors at the archives and began to explore the collections. One of the nice archivists there named Earl was able to assist. He went and retrieved a stack of relevant historical sources for them to read. He handed them some copies of census records, birth and death certificates, and transportation information. Barb had already read through many census records as that is where she discovered one of her ancestors was born in China. She had gone online at ancestry.com to go and discover her past and found many interesting facts. On the English line her ancestors were just working-class from Essex. They worked in the mines and as

farm labourer's. Then in the late 1800s her great great great grandparents migrated to Sydney. Then moved up north to Brisbane.

They were sitting at one of the many desks working their way through the documents. Barb was looking for new clues and was planning her visits to places of interest. 'Look at this census, see it said here that our ancestor Lin was born in china.' Zora looked. She stared. She was in confusion over why a man living in Scotland would be from China.

'Wow we have a line back to China. We have their marriage certificate too,' Zora replied. The two of them could see that Mr Lin had moved to Scotland and married a local woman, a woman from the north, the rugged mountainous cold north. They started to think of all the reasons why a Chinese man would have moved to Scotland. They examined the marriage certificate and discovered that he and the local lady married and moved to a new town in the south. Their descendants came to Australia from the south three generations later, in the late 1800s. Their ancestor from Scotland named Genie then met the man from England named Marc and they married and had many children. What they noticed is that the man from China had changed his name to Forb, Joh Forb. 'Did you discover why this ancestor Joh Forb came over to Scotland?'

Barb looked shocked, numb, excited. 'Yes, I did. I read that he met her, the lady when he was visiting, fell in love and married her. That is what I read on ancestry. Someone else had done that research and...'

'So, you knew that? Then why did we come halfway across the world to find out things you had already discovered?' Zora sat with a look of momentary confused shock.

'We needed to find more documents like copies of this marriage certificate, and his birth certificate. On Ancestry, other researchers had written accounts, posted pics of the extracts and that is where it goes. Back to Mr Joh Forb and his name was Lin when he first arrived. That he had come from China, married the lady he loved and then it ends. It just stops. The records stop. We need to find out where he came from and more about him.'

'That is the reason we came. To go and discover who Joh Forb is? To find where he came from in China. To see if we could find more records here about his origins?'

Her mother nodded. They came to uncover more documents and to visit the places of their ancestors. To go forth and see where they lived. Explore their roots. 'Yes. We came to discover new records and visit the places.' The library reading room was empty. Devoid of any other researchers. Just the two of them. Siting. Reading. Thinking. 'This document here,' she indicated as she passed it to her daughter. 'This document here shows the small village they were living in the north. Their land estates. They were extremely wealthy in the north and then they became poor and moved into a crofter's cottage, then moved out and south. That is also what it said on ancestry. Our relatives became poor and by the late 1800s they had nothing. They came to Australia. Your father's ancestors were also extremely poor. On this Chinese and Scottish heritage line they were

rich, she was wealthy, business merchants as others wrote up on their research pages. I do not know anything else about Joh and that's why we came and to research my English lines in Essex, and Marc's heritage.'

Zora evaluated and examined the document. They were living in a low-cost crofter's cottage as farmer tenants in the north. On another document was a small image of a crofter's cottage with thatched roofing. On the page next to the grainy colour photo, it said – ruined crofter's cottage in the highlands – the Forg's. 'This is was their house?' She asked looking at the old rebellious ancient, ruined home. Someone had gone and taken a picture of it in the last few years.

Barb said yes, it was their home and that Joh, and his family had many children, and then they had children, and then they had children. It was one of his great grandchildren who move to Australia in 1898.

Will we go to Scotland and see it? See their house Mum?' Barb nodded.

*

On the outside of a small village was the old house. The roof was old and some of the thatching was still there. They looked at the old, dilapidated home and its crumbling walls. They slowly wandered towards, admiring the sun shining above the high peaked mountains behind the home. They walked inside the rejected vacant space. The walls were falling to pieces. The outside was indeed picturesque, but inside it was falling to shambles. The two were wandering around kicking their heels into the dirt flooring watching the dust fly. They could not picture their ancestors living in such a small dirty, cramped, dark space.

They were looking through the room and found a bunch of paper crumpled to the side. Barb stared. Zora picked up the scrunched paper and began unfolding it. Slowly. Carefully. They had found documents. Time stopped as the sun outside turned overcast and the trickles of rain started to patter down. As the roof was not fully covered the water started to drip down into the room. The space the documents were situated was covered from the elements with a tiny bit of thatch, so they were protected from being rained on. God knew how long those pages had been in that spot. Not long probably. If the pages had been their longer, they would have been worn, ripped, stained, and damaged. They weren't. Once uncrunched one could see writing on the pages. Clear writing in pen, black pen. Like someone had recently taken a bunch of blank pages and wrote on them. They looked like they had been there only a week at most or maybe a tad longer depending on the conditions. Neither of the women had any idea how long paper could last inside an old ruinous home partially covered with thatch.

'The documents here look recent,' Zora said. Barb was still staring. 'What are we going to do with these?'

Once her mother had come out of her staring, she answered 'What are they? What do they say?' She was not ever thinking they would find a bunch of scrunched up paper in their ancestor's old home.

'They have some notes about this place and some names. Did anyone ever have a reason to be putting bits of paper in here?' she responded.

Barb stated no.

'These notes are about the people who lived here. It mentions the Forg's. It mentions a list of tenant names before he lived here and then those who lived here after he left, I think it is a list of tenants. I mean why else would his name be on this list in 1830? Each name is listed and dates. He left this house, he moved out, south. I was thinking we might have a case of the clearances,' Zora had remembered researching it once, and seeing it mentioned in an article she read.

'The clearances? When Landlords evicted the tenants from their homes?' Barb asked.

'That's it. But on this piece of paper other people lived here after Joh had gone. If they were evicted from here and were poor how come others moved in? Did they pay more rent?' Zora asked.

Barb nodded. 'Don't know. They did probably.'

'We can see on this list of tenants that Joh was here for around Four years. He was here from 1826 to 1830 and moved south. We know that he and his wife became extremely poor. They moved out, probably couldn't afford this rent, and left. Maybe it was part of the clearances. Then someone named Whit Wilson moved in! He moved in in 1830. Then after he left in 1856 there were another two tenants.' Barb was interested.

'We need to go and seek out some information about this Whit Wilson. Maybe that can tell us more about this house and what happened here,' Barb was getting rather excited about their little cottage and what had happened. She started calling it their cottage. Indeed, their ancestors lived in it, and therefore they felt they belonged. They felt that the crumbling walls were seeping into their souls, becoming part of them, their memories, and their history. They would always remember the little cottage that one of their ancestors lived in for a short time. Their souls would take that memory with them.

They took those unfolded crumpled bits of paper with them as they walked out into the overcast, wet rainy weather.

*

They had left the house and travelled back to London. To the archives. They wanted to go and do some important research about Whit Wilson. They needed to uncover why he had moved into that old house. They found some land tenant records. He had moved in, and he lived there, and he left for the next person.

Back in their hotel they decided to do some differing investigations, outside of their Scottish roots. They knew all they needed about Scotland for now and would later focus on the china line. They also left their Whit Wilson research in the hands of the archives team who were looking into the history of their crofter's house. They went on to discover something about their English lines. The English lines were not that exciting. No Chinese ancestor. No long-lost cottage to find. Their English heritage was not that fun to research, Barb got rather over the English lines once she uncovered, she was a tiny bit Chinese. *Who didn't want to be something other than just English?* At least that's what she thought.

But they were now back exploring their English heritage. The ancestors lived in Essex near Magdalen Laver village. They were workers, farmers, and never important peoples. They started going through their records, histories and research and thought that the next day they would go for a small drive in their hire car up to the village to find more clues about their heritage.

They drove up to Essex, to the small township of Magdalen Laver and parked the car. They walked through its winding streets exploring the places and examining the buildings searching for clues about the places their ancestors had been. They reached a tiny end lane and sat on the side of the road looking their map, phone, and admiring the street views around them and the tall trees and green lush. Back home, the land was dry, desert, hot, and some parts were green, but not this type of green. Lush green. Beautiful green that came from the cool weather and rains. They were looking around picturing their ancestors farming, walking, and living in the homes. They were farmers and had lived in a cottage working the lands.

As they sat pondering and examining the landmarks on their map and phone, a stranger approached. He walked by and looked at the two ladies sitting. He stopped.

'Hi, my name is Jul and I live around here you too look comfy,' he said. 'Are you lost?'

They were both excited someone would stop to talk to them. Zora stated, 'Yes our ancestors are from here. We thought we would stop, look around for a second.'

'That is good. Do you want me to take you to show you the sites?' A kind stranger had stopped to show them around. They were never used to such niceness.

'Yes,' they both stood and followed Jul as he began walking and pointing out places of interest as they wandered back down the winding roads. 'Our ancestors' surname was Marg.'

'Marg? That is a name I have heard.' He had heard that name because it was the name of one of the distant neighbors. A family a few roads down had that exact name. It was never a common name. He began to walk them down towards their home as he explained all the locations. The parks, homes, church, and hall. They walked up to the neighbors' home, a brick cottage. He knocked on the green doorway. 'I want to take you here to meet my neighbor, Roman. He never said their surname.'

‘Exciting. Do they know any families named Marg?’ said Barb. The green door opened, and a man stood there.

‘Hello Jul,’ he said. ‘Come inside.’ Jul and the ladies went inside the house into the dining room and sat at a brown wooden dining table. Jul introduced the ladies to Roman and told him their ancestors were named Marg. It was then that the ladies were sitting there stunned. They were never thinking for a second that a man in the village would share their surname. ‘Your ancestors were Marg?’ he asked.

‘Yes, Marg. I was born a Marg. I married, then changed my name back years ago when I divorced my ex!’ Barb answered. ‘Gee I was so shocked to find another Marg. The name isn’t that common in Australia. I didn’t think I would find anyone with that name here.’

Roman Marg was starting to get all the documents about his past out of the cupboard. He made the ladies some tea and then off he went, exploring every tiny draw for his records. He was a keeper of the family’s records. He had hardly any friends and a big family who didn’t live in the town. His three siblings had moved to London, and overseas to the US and to Ireland. He was the only one who stayed in the local area. When he returned to the dining table, he was carrying a wad of documents in his hands. He had a folder in one and a stack of loose documents on top of that folder. Then in the other hand he was carrying a bundle of documents. He thumped the documents onto the dining table and told the ladies to go through them to see if he was related to their family. Barb’s great relative who came over from Essex was Marc Marg in the late 1800s. She began looking through the bundle of papers searching for any indication that his ancestors were related to a Marc. Within a few minutes she realized that his great ancestor was the brother of Marc. His ancestor was named Miles. Marc and Miles. She noticed that they had a total of eight siblings and all their names began with M. Marc, Miles, Mic, Mary, Maria, Minnie, Mort, and Mal. She was excited that they all began with M. Obviously their ancestors wanted their first name to fit well with their last. ‘Marc Marg, Miles Marg, Mary Marg, Maria Marg ... wow their names all begin with the same letter,’ she stated as Zora leaned over the table and began picking up some of the documents to read.

‘Yes,’ said Roman. ‘Many of our ancestors called all the siblings with names that started with the same letter. Most of my siblings have names beginning with R. Its strange. I never asked why. I have three kids and I made sure they don’t have names beginning with the same letter. All my kids, like my siblings moved on when they got old enough. They went off to uni college and to get married. Here is a photo of my kids.’ He showed them a colorful picture. ‘That’s cool. This is your family home?’ Zora asked.

‘Nope. This home we brought when I married. Our original family home is in another village and the homes we lived in over the years have been renovated or demolished. Our family had many homes we lived. We moved as we needed. Our ancestors on one line where farmers and lived mostly in one cottage and farmed the land. The other side we were miners and labourers and moved around as needed to find work. Our family were not well off. Not ever.’ Roman was telling them.

‘We are excited to discover you’re our distant relative,’ said Zora.

‘Yes, I am excited too. I have never had relatives arrive at my home recently. I am glad to have found you! I want to take you to a place and show you something. A special place.’ The ladies looked thrilled.

‘Where?’ asked Barb. She was looking over with a little worry. They had only arrived at this man’s home and now they were going somewhere unknown.

‘It’s in another village. It is in the local hall building. Not the hall in our village.’ Roman said. He made the women begin to imagine why. What could there be in the hall in another village!

‘Why?’ asked Jul who was intrigued why they would be going to another town hall but agreed to go with them and see what they were to see!

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The four of them drove in Mr Roman’s Green and yellow gator tractor down the road. It was slow moving. Eventually they got to the old hall. It was a stone building. On the front door was a sign saying town hall with all the rules and regulations listed.

They entered the front door. The big bold wooden door opened with a massive groan as they stepped inside. Before them was a big room used for meetings and functions. The floor was covered in white carpet in one corner section of the room and had wooden floorboards covering the remainder of the hall. As they walked into the hall, Roman directed them to the left side to a table. On the table was a set of documents. The ladies stood in front of that table staring at the documents feeling surely, they came here for more than just documents! Hell, they had climb into his weird gator and were driven along the streets with a few expressional onlookers probably thinking they were weird. Surely this wasn’t the special place?

Barb asked. ‘What is this? Is this your special place?’ Roman shock his head. ‘Well, what are these?’ she asked pointing to the documents.

‘These are the records of the town and what is interesting is what they say. This document speaks of a mysterious underground chamber. I want you ladies to read the account and then I will take you there to the special place.’ The ladies began reading the account.

‘An underground chamber exists that is said to be the entrance to a strange hall. A hall underground. The hall is full of archaeological mysteries. Remanence of a culture that lived underneath. The Marg family excavated the underground hall and found a range of artefacts that were not known and could not be linked to any culture in England. There were strange statues, ornaments, and a hoard of books written in foreign text of a language undeciphered. They took photos and presented their findings to the archaeology community and were told that what they found was someone’s idea of a good prank. Nothing they found was real. That some person had gone and found an underground room and planted a range of artefacts in it. The family tried to hand the artefacts they found over to the local authorities, but they would not accept them. They kept the artefacts in the hall and one day when the family went down there the artefacts had

disappeared. One of the Marg's had also indicated that when he went into that hall one time, there was an open shaft in the one of the walls. He went through the shaft and realized that it was an entrance to a long tunnel. He didn't want to go through the tunnel as he had no clue as to where it went. He went and told his friends and family, and they all went down to see found no evidence that there was any opening in the wall. Therefore, the hall is very strange, and most people do not want to go and discover what is there. They feel that it is unsafe to visit.'

After the ladies had finished reading about the hall, they were interested that it was their family who discovered such a strange place. Barb asked, 'What was our family doing finding a strange underground hall?'

'The hall is underneath this hall. That is why I brought you to this place. Over there at the back there is a set of stairs leading down to the hall,' Roman started walking them over to the stairs. At the back of the hall next to the wall was a set of strange wooden stairs. They walked down the stairs and at the bottom there was a door. Roman turned on some lights and opened the door. One was thinking to find a room for storage, kitchen, or cellar but no... when he opened the door there was a colossal room, larger than their hall. Roman turned on the lights the four of them walked into the mysterious hall. On each side was a stone wall. The floor was covered in wooden floorboards. The stone walls were covered in strange, engraved images of people, buildings, shapes, and creative words in an unknown language. In the room itself there was nothing. The room was just a big empty hall. The four stood staring at the engravings of the walls around them. There were no artefacts, no openings in the walls. Someone had put in lights.

The four of them were standing in the big empty hall under the ground. Their expeditions to find their heritage had forced them to uncover an even stranger mystery. **The mystery of the *hidden hall*.**

Articles

Biblical Plagues

Ghosts, Big Foot, and Mermaid



Biblical Plagues

Biblical Plagues

Today we are suffering a plague, the corona virus that has trapped us all in our homes. Many people are preaching that it is a sign of the end of times, but is it? Well, some say no and others maybe? Some say that the end of times comes with many signs including wars, earthquakes, and famine and that even though we are suffering due to covid, it is not the end of times. Others indicate that we have suffered from these ‘signs’ and that we are coming to an end. However, there is no evidence that covid is one of the plagues mentioned in the scripture or that we are coming to the end of days. We will recover from covid and its under control, we have vaccinations and advanced health services today and thus it is not the end of times. With the plagues of the bible and exodus they had many plagues one after each other. Ten plagues. The covid is a bad plague, but not a concurrent set of happenings that is the end of days. In the past they believed God caused their suffering, today we have our advanced medical knowledge to understand why viruses are caused, and why we are suffering a highly infectious disease that has spread around the world.

Moving onto the biblical plagues during the Moses exodus. They suffered from ten plagues. Here are the plagues as written in the exodus where Moses goes to pharaoh as instructed to inform of what will occur if he does not let the Israelites go. (Book of Exodus).

1. The plague of blood (Exodus 7)

17) " This is what the lord says: By this you will know that I am the lord: With the staff that is in my hand I will strike the water of the Nile, and it will be changed into blood. 18) The fish in the Nile will die, the river will stink; the Egyptians will not be able to drink this water" 19) The lord says to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Take your staff and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt – over the streams and canals, over the ponds and all the reservoirs – and they will turn to blood. 'Blood will be everywhere in Egypt, even in vessels of wood and stone."

2. Frogs (Exodus 8)

2). Then the lord said to Moses, 'Go to Pharaoh and say to him, 'This is what the lord says: Let my people go, so that they may worship me. 2) If you refuse to let them, go, I will send a plague of frogs on your whole country. 3) the Nile will teem with frogs. They will come up into your palace and your bedroom and onto your bed, into the houses of your officials and on your people, and into your ovens and kneading troughs.'

3. Plague of Gnats (Exodus 8)

16) Then the lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron, 'Stretch out your staff and strike the dust of the ground,' and throughout the land of Egypt the dust will become gnats"

4. Plague of flies (Exodus 8)

21) If you do not let my people go, I will send swarms of flies on you and your officials, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians will be full of flies; even the ground will be covered with them. 22) "But on that day, I will deal differently with the land of Goshen, where my people live; no swarms of flies will be there, so that you will know that I, the lord, am in this land. 23) I will make a distinction between my people and your people.

5. Plague on livestock (Exodus 9)

2) If you refuse to let them, go and continue to hold them back, 3) the hand of the lord will bring a terrible plague on your livestock in the field – on your horses, donkeys and camels and on your cattle sheep and goats. 4) But the lord will make a distinction between the livestock of Israel and that of Egypt, so that no animal belonging to the Israelites will die,”

6. Plague of Boils (Exodus 9)

8) Then the lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Take handfuls of soot from a furnace and have Moses toss it into the air in the presence of Pharaoh. 9) It will become fine dust over the whole land of Egypt, and festering boils will break out on people and animals throughout the land.”

7. Hail (Exodus 9)

18) Therefore, at this time tomorrow I will send the worst hailstorm that has ever fallen on Egypt, from the day it was founded till now.

8. Plague of Locusts (Exodus 10)

4) If you refuse to let them go, I will bring locusts into your country tomorrow. 5) They will cover the face of the ground so that it cannot be seen. They will devour what little you have left after the hail, including every tree that is growing in your fields. 6) They will fill your houses and those of all your officials and all the Egyptians – something neither your parents nor your ancestors have ever seen from the day settled in the lands till now.

9. Plagues of Darkness (Exodus 10)

21) Then the lord said to Moses, “Stretch out your hand toward the sky so that darkness spreads over Egypt – darkness that can be felt.” 22) So Moses stretched out his hand toward the sky, and total darkness covered all Egypt for three days. 23) No one could see anyone else or move about for three days. Yet all the Israelites had light in the places where they lived.”

10. Death of the first born (Exodus 11)

4) So, Moses said, "This is what the lord says: 'About midnight I will go throughout Egypt. 5) Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the first-born cattle as well. 6) There will be a loud wailing throughout Egypt – worse than there has ever been or ever will again.'

These plagues have been researched by many professionals who have come up with many scientific explanations as to their real causes. Some studies indicate that the plagues were caused by volcanic ash that hit Egypt during the eruption of Santorini (Block, 1976; Travisanato, 2006). Where does the evidence come from that the plagues were caused by volcanic ash? Well one scientist, Travisanato (2006), has written that the London medical papyrus paragraph 55 shows us evidence of people suffering from volcanic fallout. The red water caused the burns in the plagues as the treatment discussed calls for bandaging with a medical mix for acid-derived burns and discusses the formation of vermin in the wounded flesh. According to Travisanato (2006) these medical accounts tie to the biblical plague number one where the Nile turned red and then the frogs were overwhelmed by kinnum and that they lay eggs and hatch, which causes the next plague number four. The word Kinnun is said to mean annoying insects including mosquitoes, midges and 'arvo' or flies (Sampson, 2008). The eruption covered Egypt impacting humans, cattle, game, and harvests causing the disasters of the plague one after the next. The Eber's papyrus also outlines many conditions caused by volcanic ash including medical illness, coughing and asthma, eye problems, burns, blisters on the head and bladder and gastro-intestinal apparatus (Trevisanato, 2006).

Other scientific research explains that the plagues were caused by climate changes. The el-nino-southern Oscillation (ENSO) teleconnection. That the weather and progressive climate warming along the eastern Mediterranean coast where the Israelites worked in forced labour caused the plagues (Ehrenkraz and Sampson, 2008). As Goshen was away from the coast it escaped the impacts. The changes in the temperature caused algae blooms to form in the Nile, which killed the fish, and sent the frogs onto the riverbanks (Ehrenkras and Sampson 2008). The changes in the warming weather patterns caused a set of happenings that resulted in the biblical plagues on after the other. Biblical archaeology magazine (2003) discusses that torrential rains in Ethiopia could have sent red clay into the Nile River and that is why frogs migrated out of the river and that caused the other plagues. Norton and Lyons (2002) state that the first plagues were caused by a bloom of toxic phytoplankton, and this caused the fish to die and the frogs to go up onto the land. The rove beetles flourished from the dead frogs. Rove beetle swarms are normally focal and therefore could have plagued the Egyptians and not the Israelites (Norton and Lyons 2002). The science and weather explanations give us evidence why the Egyptians suffered the plagues.

Looking at specific plagues now, Noegel (1995) mentions the seventh plague is extremely important. He discusses that it was the seventh plague when pharaoh repents his deeds and that the word hail is mentioned 14 times and more than in any other plague. Water is the most importance source for Egyptians. The tenth plague is the one where we need to spend some time. How and why was it possible for only the first-born son of the Egyptians to die? Early research suggests that the Israelites escaped due to the building materials of their homes (Block, 1976). The Hebrews lived in a marshy area and their homes made of clay and reeds. However, the Egyptians lived in stone and brick homes. When their homes collapsed the brick or stone could kill the Egyptians including their firstborn, whereas reeds or clay would not. The cannibal hymn mentions that an ancient tradition in Egypt where the first born were slayed on a certain night (Biblical Archaeology 2003). The Jewish Bible quarterly (2017) states the deaths of the first-born could have happened from insect-borne diseases from the fourth plague and livestock that were then transmitted to humans. The location, dwellings, and practices of the Hebrews in comparison to the Egyptians explains why the first-born child died.

All the plagues both during the time of the exodus and today can be explained by science and culture.

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*Ghosts, Big Foot, and
Mermaids*

Ghosts, Big Foot and Mermaids



Ghosts, Big Foot and Mermaids

People see Big Foot or Mermaids while exploring and want to understand what they are really experiencing. Do they really see a ghost or is it something more explainable? Do they really see an ape man while in the jungle? Or is it someone dressed up or a wild animal? Why do people see mermaids? What are they seeing? Here we explore these questions. Let's start with ghosts!

Ghosts

The dead people who have not yet gone to the other side show their presence to us through many ways. As white energy fields, as electric sparks, or sounds. When people visit haunted places, they see what they think is a ghost of a dead person and sometimes capture this image in a photo or on video. As there are over 10,000 haunted places in the United Kingdom alone it is not challenging to think that one might see dead people or hear them if it is scientifically possible. The most haunted locations in the world include Eastern State Penitentiary and Waverly hills sanatorium in the United States and Monte Cristo

Homestead in Australia. A list of the 21 most haunted locations is available on the [haunted rooms website](#).

Some people go and hunt ghosts so they can prove they are real. You can go on a ghost tour of the most haunted homes in the world. [Monte Cristo Homestead](#) is one place where you can go and take a ghost tour. People turn the mysterious into opportunity via ghost tours. In Queensland there are many haunted places to go and [experience](#).

Are the ghosts we see dangerous? Can they cause real harm and cause people to become evil? Can they possess people's bodies? Well, Holzer (1997) indicates that only in fiction stories can they cause harm, and that real ghosts are too busy trying to get to the afterlife and understand where they are. We have no evidence that real ghosts, if we believe they are real, are dangerous. People come forward and state they have experienced ghosts who haunt their homes, cause them daily trouble, but with no proof. Even when ghost hunters go and investigate there is no proof that they are communicating with ghosts. There is no proof that a ghost exists or that it is evil. Many [TV shows](#) go to the most haunted homes and try to communicate with the dead and they are fake. How would you prove that the person on the show or outside a TV show was really touched or that they heard a noise made by a ghost?

When do we experience ghosts? In the day? Mostly in the [darkness](#) when we are fearful. Photos of ghosts have been captured over many generations and most but not all ghost experiences happen at night. One photo includes the ghost of Abraham Lincoln, which is pictured. Many people have experienced strange ghostly images in some of their photos and most of the time there is a logical scientific explanation as to what the blob or shape is. As an example, when a person takes an image the light causes a random shadow, shape to appear or other explainable experience. Or a person is in the image, and they look like a ghost. People can even include fake ghosts in their photos using apps these days. Therefore, even when we experience what we think is a ghost and capture it we still can never prove that ghosts are real and that when we die our souls stay and are trapped between our living realm and the next.



Is this proving ghosts are real?
Visit here and see if you think
these [photos](#) are real ghosts!



What is this? A

There is not clear scientific proof that ghosts exist. What is this photo above? A smeared photo? Not a ghost most realistically. Therefore, in conclusion, it's great to go and explore haunted homes, but it is unlikely that what you are experiencing is a ghost. It's more likely to be your fear that causes you to see things, hear things and believe you are experiencing something that you really are not.

Big Foot

Big Foot is a large, tall hairy man that lives in the forests. He is said to have evolved from our early hominid ancestors. There are many accounts of people seeing a big foot or their local version of big foot in their travels. Yet there is no evidence that he exists. Many people became interested in big foot when the video by Roger Patterson in 1967 hit the news. In that footage was an ape man creature walking upright in Bluff Creek. The footage is really a man in a costume. Looking at any video of this footage you can clearly see that it is a man walking, not some big hairy creature living in the wilds of the Americas. But it certainly got people extremely interested in big foot. Many films and books were written including Survivor Man Bigfoot and [Expedition BigFoot](#).



Photo of big foot 1976



This graphic shows us the big foot sightings in the United States from Live Science as of 2012. An article by [Animal Planet](#) discusses 10 sightings.

Mysterious creatures like Big Foot, including the Almas, Yeti and related, have been seen in other countries. These creatures live in the forests, caves, and remote regions where people do not live. An article explores the Almas and a video by national geographic called is it real, [Russian Bigfoot](#) explores accounts of sightings. We humans have shared Neanderthal DNA, and who knows if a separate species could have evolved living in the remote jungles eating wild foods, hunting animals, and living in caves. How would a big foot live in remote regions and not have anyone see it? Many creatures can survive in the forests and are not known or seen. Even now we have advanced mapping, people and animals are said to have remain hidden for years and still haven't been discovered. We do not even know if there are any more species as we have not discovered them yet.

The expedition Big Foot team found DNA evidence of a [non-human in the Appalachians](#). So, big foot and the Almas and other versions of unique hominid species that evolved in the past could still be hidden in the wilds or lived there in the past. We will not be able to provide evidence they are real until we find the clues that prove they live in our remote places. The evidence of an actual *dead or alive* Big Foot.

Mermaids

Mermaids have been sighted many times, including on the island of Benbecula in 1830 by individuals when they were busy cutting seaweed. They saw a weird creature, a mermaid, and the men tried to catch it. However, it washed ashore dead days later (see Scot clans - [The Benbecula Mermaid](#)). In Ireland, those who live near the sea believe in many stories of mermaids. One about a male merrow who captured the [drowned souls of sailors in pots](#). In Zimbabwe they believe in mermaids. The locals were building a dam and spotted mermaids and were so afraid they refused to go and carry out any more work. They had to appease the mermaids before they could go back. In Israel in the town of Kiryat Yam the news reported of a mermaid being seen in 2009. Many cultures have stories of seeing mermaids and some are not real.

The national ocean service state that there is no scientific evidence for mermaids. But people take the stories and accounts and turn them into great fiction (Goggin, 2018). Animal planet created a documentary called "Mermaids: the body found". They used the aquatic ape theory to explain that mermaids are real. That people have not only sighted them, but there is evidence through the theory of how they evolved in the ocean. This documentary is available to watch on [Youtube](#).

The aquatic ape theory helps explain how mermaids evolved. Our ancestors went and lived by the sea to forage for food and learnt how to walk upright bipedally to keep their heads out of the water and walk-through water. They also developed ways to dive swim for food, and hold their breath. That is why we have a blubber skin' and webbing in our fingers as we developed that when we went and spent large amounts of time living in water. This explains why we

love the water. The branch of our ancestors that went and lived permanently in the sea developed into mermaids. They adapted and developed tails.

If the mermaid's actual exist why do people never see them? Where in the oceans are they living? What happened to them? Cases of modern mermaid sightings are explained as made up. As an example, someone dresses up as a mermaid, or someone gets half a fish and land animal and combines their skeletons to form a fake mermaid, or they mould a fake mermaid and pretend they found it on some rocks or on the sand at a beach. Myths and stories are great for writing in novels and creating movies for entertainment. There is no evidence that real mermaids exist.

There are many news stories, accounts of myths, videos and more about the stories of mermaids in the reference list.

Additional Readings

Ghosts

21 Most Haunted Places in the World - <https://www.hauntedrooms.co.uk/21-most-haunted-places-in-the-world>

Ghost tours in Australia at Monte Cristo Homestead - <https://www.montecristo.com.au/gtours.html>

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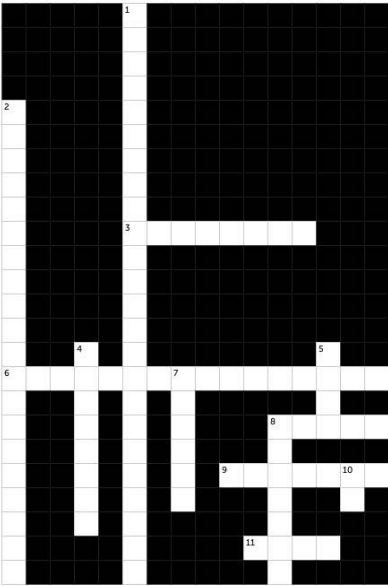
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Evidence for Mermaids - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=unFUGyN2o6U>

Puzzles and Comps

Crossword



ACROSS

3 What website did Barb use for her family history research?

6 What theory was used to describe the existence of mermaids?

8 Where was the first poem 'mystery woman' located?

9 What country did Zora and Barb go to in the short story?

11 What were the sailors souls captured in?

DOWN

1 What is the most haunted place in America?

2 What papyrus did the researchers get clues of the biblical plagues from?

4 Where are you going to find a Almas?

5 What is the main character's name in our short story?

7 What was the researcher discovering in the second poem?

8 What creature was captured in the Roger Patterson video?

10 Is covid a biblical end of times?

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Find-a-Word

F	S	H	O	R	T	S	T	O	R	Y	E
M	D	I	S	C	O	V	E	R	E	R	U
L	D	X	R	A	K	I	G	Y	G	W	U
A	N	Y	S	U	T	T	H	R	P	I	J
Q	G	O	E	Y	V	E	O	E	L	T	T
N	G	V	D	B	O	Y	S	T	A	H	O
V	Y	E	O	R	M	B	T	S	G	O	O
B	E	S	C	A	O	B	S	Y	U	E	F
U	L	F	R	O	M	N	J	M	E	P	G
O	F	O	K	K	G	Y	U	I	S	U	I
R	Z	S	K	I	T	S	E	U	L	C	B
M	G	Y	G	S	S	U	R	Y	P	A	P

HINTS

YETI	BIGFOOT
ZORA	MYSTERY
CLUES	PAPYRUS
CODES	BOOKS
SHORTSTORY	DISCOVERER
PLAGUES	GHOSTS

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Editor: Cassandra Madden

Contact: info@archaeologicalmysteriesbooks.com

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