

Experiences in Dowsing for History

1. The Rural Cemetery -- My first major grave dowsing experience was at a rural cemetery. Initially it appeared that there were a moderate number of burials (300 to 400 recorded grave sites), but after dowsing the total area of the cemetery and its periphery, I found a large number of unmarked graves.

The cemetery was established back in the 1870s when the rural area was first homesteaded, and two families had donated 1.5 acres each for the burial area. In the early history of the cemetery, each of the donor families had family members and relatives buried there.

In my research of this unique rural cemetery, I also had read a transcript of an interview with one of the caretakers. He related that there was a total of "15 unmarked children's graves" buried somewhere in the cemetery, but a specific location was not given. I set out to find the location of these 15 unmarked graves.

Before I was finished dowsing the total area of the cemetery, I not only found the 15 unmarked children's graves, but I also located well over 100 additional unmarked graves of children and adults. These unmarked graves were not in the normal burial area of the cemetery's sections, lots and plots. The 15 unmarked children's graves were buried beneath the access driveway separating the two burial sections. The numerous other unmarked graves were around the periphery of the normal burial area, plus many were outside the normal perimeter of the cemetery itself.

I have researched a lot of local history attempting to determine why there are so many unmarked graves, but have yet to uncover a reason for this unusual situation. A nearby large metropolitan area is probably the source of the persons buried in these unmarked graves. Their deaths may have occurred during the influenza epidemic of 1917 and 1918 and their plight might have been that they were too poor to have marked burial sites.

One unique grave site in this cemetery is marked with a headstone of a farmer who was born in 1815 and died in 1875. A relative of this deceased farmer had the following entry on the Find-A-Grave Web site: "We have been told that great- grandpa was 7 feet tall and 300 pounds---a very big man."

I dowsed that particular grave site and confirmed that the remains of the farmer who died in 1875 were indeed nearly 7 feet in length.

Other observations of unusual burials at this cemetery:

In one grave site, I determined that one body was apparently buried on top of another. This was a husband and wife burial site and they died years apart. When I dowsed at the end of the one plot in the two-person lot, I detected a female reading at one end and a male reading at the other. Using the dowsing 'stomp' test for depth indicated that there was a burial at a shallow depth (less than 2-3 feet). Stacked or 'piggy-backed' burials in this region are unusual.

I located several burial sites with headstones that apparently have been moved and did not mark the correct burial site (i.e., male and female stones reversed, child in a burial site marked for an adult).

There were a few homemade cement marker stones at some burial sites that were probably made by families too poor to purchase stones.

There was one WWII veteran's burial site that was recorded on the cemetery's incomplete paper records but was not marked by any headstone. I determined which site was the veteran's by differentiating the body length from an adjacent unmarked infant's grave (from the same family). I worked with two other persons who subsequently obtained a headstone (free of charge) from the Veteran's Administration after documenting this particular veteran's military experience and burial site.

2. The Mountain Cemetery -- One of my unique dowsing experiences was that of checking out all of the plots and burial sites in a small mountain community's cemetery. The local community had recently selected a group of citizens to manage the cemetery. The problem was that there were inadequate burial records (burials reportedly dated back to the later 1800s) and very few of the graves were marked with stones.

I assisted the newly formed cemetery board in dowsing the burial area. By the time I finished the dowsing project, we had located over 60 burial sites and most were unmarked. We placed metal stakes at the newly located grave sites so that unused plots could be used for future burials.

Adjacent to this mountain cemetery was a small hilltop. Local legend had reported this hilltop site as the location of early Indian burials. I spent over an hour dowsing the top of this hill and did locate 3 old burial sites that had been overgrown with pine trees, and/or had rocks piled around the site. The opening banner photo of this Web site was taken at the site of this hilltop burial.

3. The Human Skeleton -- For experience and verification of my dowsing processes, I dowsed a real human skeleton at a medical training facility. I confirmed that my dowsing ability and procedures were effective for detecting the presence of a body and the determination of gender in a controlled setting.

4. The Body Revealed -- I assisted some church members who maintained a small rural cemetery in the dis-interment and re-interment of a body. A woman's body, that had been buried 6 years ago, had to be dug up, moved to another plot in the same cemetery and re-buried. (note: this particular body had been buried in a fiberboard casket.)

I dowsed the existing site of this particular burial, then I dowsed the unopened site for the new burial. I also dowsed the existing site after the body was removed, then I dowsed the new site after body was re-buried. Each dowsing experience was positive and reinforces my answer to those who often ask me during a dowsing demonstration at a cemetery ---- "Did you ever dig up a grave to prove that there is a body as indicated by your above-ground dowsing?"

5. The Body Not Revealed -- A few years ago, I was demonstrating to some relatives my dowsing procedures in a hometown cemetery. One of my relatives was standing on a nearby flat headstone and requested that I dowse the burial site marked by the stone.

I dowsed the grave as requested but did not receive any signal to indicate that there were body remains. My relative stepped off the stone and I could then read the inscription: '(Name) Missing

in Action in WW-II'. This headstone was a memorial to a lost soldier of a past war whose body was never recovered.

6. The Old Fort Cemetery -- Besides the probable Indian graves that I located with my dowsing work near the mountain community described earlier, I was able to dowse some graves that dated back to the 1830s at the burial grounds of a frontier trading post and fort.

Only three of the old graves were marked. I found that there were over 60 other unmarked graves in that old cemetery. My research indicated that cholera and other diseases were most likely responsible for the deaths of many of the workers who built the fort. In later years, others buried in that cemetery most likely died along the trail and at the fort because of wounds and sickness. During the homesteading years, settlers dying in the area were probably buried at one end of the old fort's burial grounds.

7. A Cemetery Once Removed -- Back in the early 1960s, a dam and large reservoir was being built in a river valley. A small town and its cemetery had to be moved to a higher elevation to avoid the subsequent pooling waters of the reservoir.

A cemetery/grave relocation company was employed to move the graves to a new cemetery at a higher elevation. All was apparently okay as a result of this grave relocation process until the past few years.

Wave action and fluctuating water levels from the lake had eroded the shoreline and was encroaching at the edge of the old cemetery and uncovered the end of one of the old grave sites. I dowsed the area and determined that a child's remains still existed in the partially exposed grave and that there was an adult's remains in an adjacent grave that had not yet been exposed. These body remains had evidently been missed by the grave relocation company.

8. Variations in the East-West Burial Orientation -- In some of the small rural communities close to where I live, many of the Catholic churches maintain cemeteries next to the church structure. A few of these cemeteries have burials oriented in a north-south direction. In fact the bodies face towards the church structure.

In a Central U.S. metropolitan area cemetery, I have dowsed several burial sites of Catholic nuns. Their remains are situated in a northwest-southeast direction facing the distant cathedral.

9. Burials in the Un-Cemeteries -- Most of you are familiar with stories of burials in pioneer and frontier days. You probably will not be surprised to hear of graves, marked and unmarked, located next to a farmstead, on the knoll of a hill in a pasture, next to a stream, or in some other remote location.

I was contacted by a local man who wanted to locate the grave of his uncle who died of a disease in his young life and was buried in the pasture not far from his farm home. With some concern about my ability to locate such a remote burial site, I accompanied this man to an isolated rural area to search for this 100-year-old grave.

He had indicated to me earlier that the pasture burial site could be seen from the steps of the nearby farm house. When we arrived at the site of the farm, no house was visible. The man indicated that it had been torn down, but the front steps were still there and could serve as a

landmark to view the pasture burial site.

We stood on the old farm steps and spotted a possible area in the adjacent pasture where the burial might be located. I went to that area and set up 4 flags marking a square area of about 50 feet on each side. I starting a dowsing search path at one side of the square, following a north-south orientation, and moving laterally 3 feet after each sweep.

On about the 14th sweep I came across an indication that there was something under the pasture sod. I checked the burial orientation (east-west--fortunately a Christian burial), the body length (about 6 paces), the gender (male), and the burial depth (about 4-5 feet). I was certain that I had located the remains of the deceased uncle.

Another man, who was with us on that dowsing expedition, had successfully dowsed for buried pipes while employed with a petroleum refinery company. He was surprised that he could dowse for bodies and was able to confirm my findings. The man who requested my services later had a flat headstone placed on his uncle's burial site in the pasture.

Other burial locations not associated with a cemetery included my dowsing experience along a river bank near an adjacent bridge. By chance (and using the sweep pattern mentioned above) I came across a burial site next to a fence line. The grave was oriented east and west, the body size and gender was adult and female and the burial depth was about 4-5 feet. This was probably a homesteader's wife or grown daughter who died of disease in the later 1800s.

A friend and I were dowsing along the edge of a farm field primarily looking for an Indian trail reported to have been in that area, when he ran across a buried body. We were surprised to find that an adult male had been buried in a Christian burial manner on this farm land.

10. Old Abandoned Railroad Right-of-Way -- In my hometown there was once a short commuter railroad connecting our village with a nearby larger city. This right-of-way was over 125 years-old and was only used for about 2-3 years before it was abandoned and then removed with almost no visible traces. There are no maps of this short-lived railroad line available. (adjacent illustration depicts the steam dummy engine pulling a single coach.)

Reading an old local newspaper, I was able to identify a couple of landmarks where the old railroad terminated or passed nearby. I used my dowsing rods and was able to locate the twin imprints of the rails where it crossed newer public roadways.

The imprints of rails are about 50 inches apart, similar to the modern U.S. rail gauge. I am somewhat baffled by how the iron rails which were set off the ground by wooden crossties, could leave an imprint that can still be detected by the dowsing technique after 125 years.

11. Old Wagon Trails -- Located in a field behind my home is an old Army Wagon Road (trail) that is over 140 years old. I was able to research and locate old maps that show somewhat imprecise locations of this wagon trail.

By dowsing along public roadways in locations where I believed the wagon trail crossed, I was able to find evidence of the trail.

The wagon wheels' 'imprints' are generally located 46 to 48 inches apart at many of the crossings that I dowsed. At a point where the trail follows the curve next to the river valley, the wagon twin

imprints spread out where the old teamsters varied their wagon turning patterns.

I believe that the old iron rims of the wagon wheels pounded an imprint into the soil that is still traceable through the dowsing process.

12. Old Indian Trails -- I have successfully dowsed an old Indian trail in my home area. It was a trail that probably was last used over 150 years ago. This particular trail was created by the Indians who migrated from their semi-permanent dwellings in the east to the buffalo hunting areas in the west and then returned to their dwelling areas after the hunt.

This particular trail, similar to others in the plains area of the U.S., consists of two parallel paths about 7 feet apart. The twin trails appear to be wider (further apart) at turn points. The Indians apparently traveled on horseback and on foot in this parallel path fashion for ease of movement, communication and protection.

Again, without seeing actual evidence of an Indian trail, I am somewhat amazed that the pounding feet and hoofs could leave an imprint that can be detected by dowsing after such a long time.

13. Farm Field Corner Markers -- A farm owner once approached me about needing assistance locating corner markers that were supposed to accurately designate the boundary corners of the 80 acres farm. These corner markers were reported to be metal rods driven into the ground.

The corners had nearby approximate markers of tree hedge rows or corner wooden fence posts. I used a criss-cross pattern of dowsing within about 15 feet of where we thought the buried corner markers would be. I was able to locate 3 of the buried metal rods.....the 4th corner had been dug up to bury a gas line and the marker rod probably had been removed.

14. Capped Abandoned Oil Well -- The community in which I live had several oil wells drilled within the city limits during the late 1920s and early 30s. The wells were all dry holes and were plugged or capped.

When the basement was dug for the building of a church in the late 1950s, a capped oil well pipe was uncovered. This pipe was shortened and the basement floor was built over the capped shortened pipe. This was confirmed to me by an older member of the church and I found an aerial photograph that showed the approximate location of the oil well on the land where the church building was constructed.

I was able to use my dowsing rods and locate what I think was the old capped well beneath the basement floor.

15. Old Dwelling Site -- This old wood structure house was a residence for several families for over 70 years. Because of its deteriorating condition it was torn down. The lot where it was located is now vacant without any structures.

Over a 100 years later, I was able to dowse the lot where the house was located and was able to map out the foundation of the house and its adjacent structures and utilities. Behind the house I was able to dowse the location of the exterior storm cellar, two different outhouses and two different wells that served the household at different times during those years. Also, I dowsed out

the utility lines that later served the house including the water, sewer and gas lines.

16. Child's Burial During the Depression -- I was told this story by a local cemetery caretaker. 'Back in the Depression days a farmer noticed some folks in an old vehicle stopped over and setting up camp in a rural cemetery located a short distance from his farm home. This apparently was not unusual in those days as families on the move looking for work would often stay in parks and cemeteries and by streams and lakes along their route of travel.

What struck this farmer as being unusual was that he awoke during the night and could see a lantern moving around in that nearby cemetery. The next day, noting that the travelers had moved on, he went to the cemetery to look around. He spotted a small, freshly dug area near one corner of the cemetery.

Many years later, the farmer, then retired, told the caretaker of that cemetery of his suspicion that somebody or something was buried in that corner of the cemetery by those Depression-era travelers.'

The cemetery caretaker eventually contacted me and arranged for me to dowse the area in question. I did so and detected what I believed to be an infant buried in that corner spot. Apparently that infant died while that family was traveling through the area and they buried it next to their campground in the cemetery. The caretaker has since marked that burial spot.

17. Bodies in a Mausoleum Vault -- I performed a dowsing test in a local mausoleum I was able to detect bodies in vaults that were either parallel to or at right angles to the adjacent passageway. In one case, I was able to determine that there was no body remains in a particular marked vault, which the mausoleum caretaker verified.

One would have to be very careful in attempting to dowse bodies in vaults that are close together both vertically and horizontally.

18. Cremated Body Burial -- I have dowsed a few burial sites of cremated remains. I have detected a signal that something is in the ground at that grave site. I am uncertain whether the dowsing signal was from the detection of the container or the actual body ash remains.

19. The Incomplete Body -- In one smaller rural community, there once was a local hospital who had an active surgeon. The surgeon performed some amputations of arms and legs during his tenure at that hospital.

A retired cemetery caretaker in that community described to me how the surgeon used to bring those amputated limbs out to the local cemetery. He assisted the surgeon in burying the arms and legs in a small area near the periphery of the cemetery. After the retired caretaker showed me the burial area, I dowsed the small plots and determined that 'short' objects were buried there (somewhat similar in length to a buried infant).

20. Animals & Animal Remains -- Live animals and animal remains can also be detected using the dowsing process. Determination of the gender of the live animal appears to be possible by noting and dowsing the head end if possible. The burial remains of animals can easily vary as to orientation (that is, the location of the head end) so gender determination may be unpredictable.

21. Body Aura -- The live human body can be dowsed in either the standing or prone position. The body appears to have a surrounding zone of radiation that varies in projected distance.

I have often demonstrated to interested persons how to dowse the human body. I use a live person lying on a pad on the floor (or ground) in my grave dowsing demonstration.

The same procedures as dowsing graves are used, except one does not step on the live person! Dowsing detection must be accomplished by, (1) leaning over or stepping over the reclining person, (2) walking parallel to their reclining body and leaning slightly over them to determine body length, (3) and walking next to their head or feet to determine gender.

Occasionally I demonstrate how the subject's mental processing of happy or sad images can retract or extend the auric signal from/to the actual body.

Usually I begin this demonstration by standing about 10 to 15 feet away from an upright person. I then walk towards the subject with my dowsing rods in position. When I get within about 15 to 30 inches of the subject's body, the rods usually indicate a signal.

I then ask the person to mentally visualize an image of a happy event in their life. When I walk towards them with my dowsing rods I receive a rod movement signal anywhere from 5 to 15+ feet distant from their body.

Next I ask the person to visualize/think about a sad event in their life and then I repeat the dowsing approach. I usually am dowsing less than a few inches from the body before the rod moves.

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