

A great story about the paranormal makes me smile. I love to follow-up on these tips and many of them have been excellent leads. This week's column is about one such story and the young man that gave me information about a very strange phenomenon to which he was a witness.

One night several years ago Shawn Markle was walking with friends near the Old Stone Presbyterian Church cemetery in Lewisburg, WV, when they saw something unusual... red glowing orbs. Instead of being scared away, the adventurous young men walked into the graveyard to trace the source of the lights. The red eyes led them to a statue of an angel, before fading away. This particular funerary monument is located directly behind the oldest part of the original church.

The church and cemetery are beautiful. Well-kept lawns frame interesting stone and marble reminders of lives lived and lives lost. The original structure, built of light grey stone, was built in 1796. So well was it constructed, that this section of the site is still used today. The church is located directly across from the town's cultural

# PAT **BUSSARD**

## *Weird World*

### An Angel for Shawn

center, Carnegie Hall. Shawn was well acquainted with the area, as he had lived most of his life near the artistically-rich town of Lewisburg, West Virginia.

About a year ago, I asked Shawn, who is the son of my dearest friend from childhood, Martha Workman Massie, to retrace the steps he took the night he saw the bright red orbs. He, Martha, and I travelled the short distance from her house to the cemetery. I entered the grounds closely behind Shawn so as to

report on anything that we might find. I am one of the breed of paranormal investigators and reporters who truly believe that preternatural events do not occur exclusively in the darkest hours of the night, but to the astute observer, may happen just as often during the day.

Shawn led the way into the cemetery, which featured grass cut to military precision. We walked past both plain and exquisitely detailed headstones and tombs until we arrived at our destination. The angel

sat silently guarding the final resting place of Maud Montegue, the child of Alex and Laura Mathews. Maud was born in 1876 and left this earthly realm in 1888. The angel was placed to symbolically protect the spirit of the child and remains in amazing condition.

While at this location, we ran an Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP) session and took photos of the statue. On that day, no paranormal activity was recorded. I appreciated the report of the anomaly, however,

because I am extremely interested in following-up on others' experiences to see if they can be replicated or repeated.

Shawn was a reputable source, as I had known him since he was a small child and he was a young man of his word. When I would visit his mother, he and I would have long discussions about the paranormal. I was always impressed by his quick mind and thoughtful conversation. He was always quick to tell me stories he had heard of his friends' encounters with the unexplained. I enjoyed our talks immensely.

He will be sorely missed. Shawn left this world suddenly on Sunday, February 5, 2012. The loss of his bright spirit and quick mind makes the world a darker place in which to live. He was a musician of noted talent, who in addition to writing and playing his own music, would pen haunting songs that engaged the imagination and touched the soul. He came about this talent honestly; he carried the Workman blood, which pulses in time to rhythmic chords of music. Many of the members of this extensive clan have the gift of

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Shawn and the Angel

song and an affection for musical instruments. During his service, his cousin Charles and Aunt Linda sang, while Daniel, another cousin and his Uncle Wayne played guitars featuring several of Shawn's favorite songs.

I do not share this with you to make your heart weep, but rather to share with you a story about a young man who had an avid interest in paranormal research and who, if he would have had more time, may have made significant contributions to the field.

Shawn led me to an angel once, and as per the religion of his clan, an angel led him to heaven. Maud was also a child taken too early in life and in a loving gesture her parents placed a stone angel to watch over her throughout eternity. The quote from that monument upon which an angel is seated is as appropriate for Shawn as it was for Maud all those many years ago (sic), "Love hath a lien, nor time nor death can sever... are ours forever and ever."

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