

Bumps in the Night!!!!

October 2014 Issue

Tools of the Trade

Researching Tools - Using the Internet

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An important part of the paranormal investigation process is the research of the property. There are many different types of information you can gather about a property and without a focused plan of attack the research can get very overwhelming. The first step you need to take is to determine what information you or your team want to research and track about the property and/or investigation. This information can include property history, city history, environmental concerns, geological and man-made data, and demographic information.

At TnT Paranormal we have a standard procedure we use for research and group the researched information into the following areas:

- General Information
- City Demographics
- City Geological Information
- History of the Location
- City and Surrounding Area History

For General Information, we gather the following information: address of the location, longitude and latitude, property identification number, the type of dwelling, square footage, number of out buildings on the property, number of rooms, size of property, what the buildings are made of, style of buildings, and materials used to make the foundation.

For City Demographics, we gather the following information : current population, date incorporated (and date established), religion per capita, nationality per capita, present factories, parks and forest preserves nearby, cemeteries, landmarks, cell towers, land mobile towers, antenna towers, microwave towers, other towers, airports in the area, railroad tracks in the area, and power lines near the location.

For City Geological Information, we gather the following information : elevation of the property, bodies of water nearby, dominating mineral deposits, manmade or naturally made mines or caves, and environmental issues from the area,

For History of the Location, we gather the following information : the year in which the location was built, previous owners, confirmed deaths at the location, and how the property has been used over time.

For City and Surrounding Area History, we gather the following information : deaths by crime, Indian wars, revolutionary war history, civil war history, mob affiliation, weather related catastrophes, and industrial and related catastrophes.

The next step is to determine which tools you will utilize to conduct your research. We at TnT Paranormal Investigators gather information from the following areas: using web sites, going to village halls, talking to historic societies, searching newspapers, and visiting local libraries and county clerks offices. We have found that there are many web sites available to the public which can be used as part of your researching a property or area before you begin (or after if that is your preference) your investigation. Some of those useful websites are:

General Information:

<http://itouchmap.com/latlong.html>

<http://showmystreet.com/>

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City Demographics :

<http://www.city-data.com/>

City Geological Information :

Geological information: <http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/index.shtm>, <http://mrdata.usgs.gov/geology/state/state.php?state=IL> , and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geography_of_Illinois#Northern_Illinois

IL Caves: <http://dnr.state.il.us/lands/Landmgmt/PARKS/region.htm>

IL Mines: <http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/?q=ilmines>

IL Rivers: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_rivers_of_Illinois

IL Soil: <http://www.illinoissoils.org/links.htm> and <http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/soils/soildrum.html>

EPA site for Environmental Issues: <http://www.epa.gov/myenvironment/>

History of the Location:

People - Recent :

Social Media Sites: such as Facebook, Myspace, Twitter, and LinkedIn

<http://www.peoplesmart.com>

<http://www.peoplefinders.com>

People - Historical:

Obits, old newspapers, city directories, census records, etc.: <http://www.ancestry.com>

<http://www.glorerecords.blm.gov>

<http://rs6.loc.gov/amhome.html>

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi>

<http://illinoisgenweb.org>

<http://illinois.outfitters.com/illinois/history/family/>

Find a Grave Site: <http://www.findagrave.com>

Property - Recent:

<http://www.spokeo.com/>

<http://www.zillow.com/>

<http://www.zillow.com/homes/>

<http://blockshopper.com/>

<http://www.chicagobusiness.com>

<http://www.trulia.com>

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/>

Property - Identification numbers: <http://www.zillow.com/>



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City and Surrounding Area History:

http://www.genealoger.com/illinois/il_land_records.htm

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/data_lan.hm

<http://illinois.outfitters.com/illinois/history/family/land.html>

Historic and Current Weather Research: <http://www.wunderground.com>



The information research man seem daunting and/or a lot. However, we have found it does help us assess each case, as well as compare information from cases.

Please note that no research should ever be done without express written permission from the owner and/or manager of the property. This permission will help you access any records for property. This information is kept at the confidentiality level requested by the client.

In conclusion, this was an overview of a few websites that we at TnT Paranormal find useful and you may as well also. If you have additional questions or comments, please drop us a line at our website and/or Facebook. We'd love to hear from you.

