

## Red Light

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The following was written by Pete Crapia, founder of the Bachelors Grove Cemetery & Settlement Research Center. A great appreciation goes out to all of those that have and continue to contribute to the research efforts!

Reports of a red light date back as far as 1984. The first known sighting comes from an overnight investigation of the cemetery conducted by researcher Norman Basile of Illinois. The earliest written record can be found within a 1984 Chicago Sun-Times newspaper article where Basile is quoted as saying, "I've seen streaking red lights." which is in reference to the sighting of a yellow humanoid apparition.

During the Summer of 1984, at 10:00 P.M. Basile and one of his associates were attempting an overnight "camping" excursion within the cemetery. A few hours after their arrival his associate witnessed a yellow apparition near some trees. A moment later they both witnessed "red streaking lights, and watched in disbelief as a single tree began to shake frantically." Out of fear, his associate gathered their equipment and they both immediately left the area.

Through the assistance of researcher Dale Kaczmarek, President of the Ghost Research Society in Oak Lawn, Illinois, details of the yellow man sighting found its way into the 1989 book True Tales of the Unknown: The Uninvited by Sharon Jarvis.

Also within the book is the origin to the story of red lights that have been witnessed on the main path south of the cemetery, which was a portion of the Midlothian Turnpike at one time. On page 59 it goes on to describe a "phantom red rocket" that moves up and down the path as it leaves a "red trail in its wake." The light, which is also described as "fiery red", has been witnessed moving rapidly down the trail where it would stop, hover, and head back in the same direction from where it started while repeating the same pattern of movements. It is said that at first the red lights were thought to have been the prank of teenagers using Roman candles or bottle rockets. The repeating characteristics of the light, however, indicates that a prank using fireworks was not possible.

The 1998 book The Field Guide to North American Hauntings by W. Haden Blackman mentions the sighting of the yellow apparition as well. On page 72 it states, "One of these floating orbs took the shape of a yellow phantom. Seconds later, the ghost dissipated in an explosion of shooting red lights." This reference to the sighting, however, has been found to be misleading and partially false. The original report never indicated any "orbs" nor did it specifically describe an "explosion" of red lights at the exact moment the apparition disappeared. For further details the legend of the [Yellow Man](#) should be consulted.

Within the 1999 book *Haunted Illinois* by Troy Taylor. On page 261 it states, "One such light that has been reported numerous times is a red beacon-like object that has been seen rapidly flying up and down the trail to the cemetery." The referenced light is in relation to the same material written about by Dale Kaczmarek in 1989 but the description of "beacon-like" deviates from the original report and can be misleading. The statement was then reprinted within the 2000 book *Beyond the Grave* by the same author.

Found within the 2003 book *Voices from the Chicago Grave* by Scott Markus, it states that in the late 1990s Adam R. Rotsch "said that red lights were flashing throughout the cemetery in a way that it looked like they were 'dancing' with the green light periodically given off by fireflies." This sighting indicates that the red lights were not on the path south of the cemetery, hence it has no relationship to the "beacon-like" reference given by Troy Taylor in 1999 and 2000.

Author Cameron Banks stated within his 2004 book *Ghostly Graveyards and Spooky Spots* that "glowing balls that float through the air appear in many different sizes and in color such as blue, red, orange, and white." Such a sighting is found within an undated report given by Katey (private). She stated, "I have seen a red ball of light in the cemetery before. It was at least six feet off of the ground and floated around."

A multiple red light sighting is also included within a separate undated report by John Sobieck of Illinois. Sobieck stated that at approximately 12:00 A.M. he and his brother witnessed a few deer exiting a hole in the cemetery gate near the pond. A few seconds later he "noticed two green globes float across the graveyard." He also went on to state that his brother "says they were red, and it is a debate amongst us, but then again I have never heard of green globes in any ghost reports."

During an interview conducted in 2022, Larry Borkstrom of Illinois [recalled his first time](#) visiting Bachelors Grove cemetery in the Spring of 1986. Toward the end of his visit just before sunset, two balls of light appeared one foot above the ground and five feet in front of him while walking inside the cemetery. They initially glowed a mixture of white and blue and proceeded to slowly move toward the south side entrance. As they travelled toward the entrance both lights shifted to the color red. Three teenagers standing outside the entrance watched in silence as the lights "danced" around them. During this two to three minute encounter the lights alternated in a blue and red fashion. As the lights headed back toward Borkstrom they returned to a white and blue color. When the teenagers proceeded to enter the cemetery both lights returned back to the entrance in a "solid red" color. The teenagers ran away and as Borkstrom approached the entrance the lights simply faded from view. At no point did the lights leave the fenced perimeter of the cemetery.

Possibly related to the 1986 description reported by Larry Borkstrom is a photograph to a white and blue light, which also includes a white and red light leaving a tail of red behind it. Borkstrom was asked if the photograph resembled the blue and red lights he witnessed in which he replied "close, but it was years ago, I'd say almost." At one time this particular [photograph](#) shown to him

was released by Stacy McArdle at her now defunct website of [hauntedpages.com](http://hauntedpages.com). It is unclear as to the exact date it was captured, possibly in the very late 1990s, but it was labeled as capturing both a blue and red source of light within the cemetery. McArdle is known for identifying an unrelated hoaxed paranormal [photograph](#) of Bachelors Grove cemetery and convincing the perpetrator into admitting it. Based upon this statement of credibility it is up to the reader to decide if this photograph represents the same, or alternative, red light reported by eyewitnesses.

During May of 2022 a photographer visiting the cemetery [recalled details](#) of a red light encounter. Some time during 2017 or 2018, at approximately 1 or 2 A.M., Dan (private) experienced a red light outside the fenced perimeter of the cemetery. He initially witnessed the light in the southeast area of the woods adjacent to the cemetery. During the half minute encounter, it slowly traveled west as it faded in and out of view and eventually moved back and forth over a fairly wide area. Dan attempted to tell his friend about it who was standing in the northwest area of the cemetery, but after turning back the light was gone.