

*Folk Beliefs,  
ghost stories,  
& the Paranormal  
in our history.....*



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# folk beliefs

## TELLING THE BEES

In "Under Old Rooftrees", it is told that when the head of the household died, a lady of the family would dress in mourning and go to the hive, saying

*Bees, your master is dead, but do not go away.*

## SHOE LUCK

In colonial days, a shoe was sometimes concealed in the wall of a new house. It was thought to give good luck or protection. Several of these have been found in our area.



## PIG TROUGH DANCE - SEEN IN BELLVALE

In the 17th and 18th centuries, if a younger sister married first, the eldest was invited to "dance the trough." The girl dressed in mourning & danced in a large trough, surrounded by other young folk,. Amid the merriment, if a boy joined her, their marriage would follow soon.



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# *paranormal phenomena*

## **Ghosts & Haunted Houses**

Our community is chock full of old houses reputed to be haunted. In recent decades interest has risen in the more systematic investigation of these places. Researchers have recorded some of them.



Many of the area's ghostly events, and interviews with those who have experienced them, are collected in the book *"Seeking Ghosts in the Warwick Valley"* by Donna Reis.

The New Jersey Paranormal Research organization has investigated the Warwick Cemetery, a private home, and a restaurant.

"Orbs" captured in the Warwick Cemetery in 2004.  
*Courtesy of New Jersey Paranormal Research.*



# Witches



According to William Benjamin Sayer, writing around 1927, the most famous "witch" to live in our area was Penelope Peacock who lived on Ackerman Rd. near Rt. 94, in the early 1800s. The small ravine there is called "Witch's Hollow" and the brook that runs from there to the village is named "Witch's Brook".

She was a widow that kept to herself. and was reported to cause all kinds of mischief for those who bothered her.

When she died, she was not buried in a churchyard, but on the land near her home, and some superstitious neighbors placed a large stone over her grave, so that she could not rise.

The widow Dobbins, who lived near Sugar Loaf, was also considered a witch.

Witches featured in many of the stories that Mitty, a local slave girl, told the children. They could turn hens stone dead in the night, and leave them standing on their bills in the hen house in the morning. They would sour milk, and steal bad children.





# U.F.O.s



In the 1950s and 1960s the country experienced an epidemic of reports of Unidentified Flying Objects. Warwick was part of this flurry of UFO activity.

The recently declassified "Project Blue Book" archive reveals that several Warwick people called in reports from around town and Greenwood Lake.

Although all were dismissed as explained by normal aircraft or astronomical bodies, to this day some are convinced that what they saw were extraterrestrial vehicles .

