



# Spirit Society of PA.

## A P P A R I T I O N S

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### APRIL FOOLS DAY ORIGINS

The origins of April Fools' Day are uncertain, but one theory is that it began in 1582, when France adopted the Gregorian calendar. Before this time, New Year's Day fell on March 25 rather than January 1. Those who continued to celebrate the old New Year at the beginning of April were called "fools" by their early adopting contemporaries.

Even before this transition, the New Year had long been associated with the term "fool." In medieval France, the Feast of Fools fell on January 1. At this popular festival hijinks abounded: Christian ritual was burlesquely imitated, a fake pope was elected, and high and low officials swapped jobs for a day. Feast of Fools was likely modeled after the similarly themed pagan festival Saturnalia.

As this French tradition died out during the 16th century, a new one sprung up in the form of April Fools' Day, or All Fools' Day. In France, the fooled party is called the poisson d'avril, which literally means "April fish." The customary prank involves pinning a paper fish, also called the poisson d'avril, to a friend's back.

This is not the only April Fools' custom involving paper and backs. In Scotland, April Fools' Day is called Gowkie Day—gowk is another name for the cuckoo, which is a common symbol of the fool. The pranks continue into April 2, Taily Day, when friends traditionally attach a "kick me" sign to their friends' backs.

Other countries have their own customs: Brazil celebrates April 1 as Dia da Mentira, or "Lie Day," in which people try to fool their loved ones for comedic effect. Though not directly related to April Fools' celebrations, in northern India people throw colored water and powder on others as part of the Hindu festival of Holi, which generally falls in February or March. One Holi tradition is strikingly similar to the now defunct Feast of Fools; for one day people playfully trade caste, status, gender, and age roles.

The beginning of spring marks a time of lighthearted pranking around the world. Do you know of any other April Fools' Day customs? What are some of your favorite AF pranks? - Kelly

### CAPTAIN SMITH'S GHOST

Sarah Eleanor Smith, the wife of *Titanic's* Captain E. J. Smith, was in her drawing room, when the door opened. She watched him walk towards the window oblivious to her presence.

Clearly this confounded her, as he was supposed to be sailing on RMS *Titanic's* maiden voyage during what was to be his last command prior to retirement. Upon reaching the window, Captain Smith simply vanished. This was too early for news of the *Titanic* disaster to have reached Mrs. Smith, but it is written that she knew this meant he would never return.

She was not the only woman in Southampton who reported such strange events on the night *Titanic* foundered. Wives of sailors and other members of the crew told tales of waking with nightmares, and hearing their names called out by loved ones. According to records, approx. 685 of the ships crew of 900 hailed from Southampton. Of these, 538 would never return. Of the approx. 1,500 who died, only 329 bodies were recovered. Captain Smith's was not amongst them.



### TRIANGLE UFO SIGHTINGS INCREASE IN PA

Since first becoming a Field Investigator for MUFON many years ago, I have directly investigated well over 100 cases reported in my territory which has included at times 12 different counties. (As we have added FI's over the years, I am now pretty much limited to Cumb., Franklin & York counties, serving as State Section Director for this region.) One thing that stands out is the number of 'Boomerang', 'Chevron' and 'Triangle' shapes reported in my cases. (19 in total over the years, 11 coming in the last 5). During the same 5 year period, MUFON investigators in PA have handled 247 reports of such objects. NUFORC, which simply logs but does not investigate reports, does not have a searchable database (in regards to UFO types in individual states) but theirs likewise reports a wealth of these objects being reported – over 11,000 such being logged since the 1950s.

My most recent case was on March 8, near Mechanicsburg – around 8pm, a student observing the stars on a clear night reported seeing a large chevron shaped craft – moving swiftly without lights and sound. Unfortunately he did not respond to my interview requests but his description is very similar to other reports we have received. During Feb-March 2016 in PA, these sort of objects were reported 4 times to MUFON and 5 times to NUFORC. Keep watching the skies! - JDW

**RETRACTION FROM MARCH NEWSLETTER: MAY SSP MEETING Will be held MON MAY 9**  
**(2rd MON of THE MONTH, AS NORMAL) Disregard prior notice in MAR (NO MEETING in JULY OR AUG)**

## Finds Big Sea Monster at *Titanic* Wreck Scene

*(Thanks to Phantoms and Monsters, a strange Titanic tale with a Cryptid bent!)*

Second Officer of the Corinthian Sees Strange Water Giraffe with Neck Twenty Feet Long on His Last Trip from London to Montreal

### *DIVED DOWN WITH A WAIL LIKE A BABY'S CRY*

London. Oct. 18. - Surely it would have been a mistake for the "silly" season to pass without its sea serpent. Down at the Surrey Docks just now is a man who has not only seen a fearful and wonderful marine monster, but has even sketched it from life.

It is not exactly the sea serpent of hoary tradition, but a sort of sea giraffe - an extraordinary looking amphibious animal which is puzzling the zoologists who have heard of it and seen the drawing.

Some idea of this weird freak of nature may be gathered from this first hand description of it: "Hias bonny blue eyes: cries like a baby; neck twenty feet long; body fifty feet; big head with long ears and snout: three horned fins adorn its bony head; two big flapping fins - skin like a seal; brownish yellow in color, with pretty dark spots."

A plain, commonsense seaman, who tells his story bluntly, without any frills or trimmings, Second Officer G. Bachelor, of the Allan line steamship Corinthian, describing his strange adventure with this sea giraffe, said: "We were bound from London to Montreal, and it was my turn on watch on the bridge in the early morning of August 30. It was a cold morning and the gray dawn was just breaking when, as I was keeping my eye straight ahead on our course, I picked up a queer looking object about a mile ahead. It disappeared and as quickly it shot up again no more than two hundred feet away from the ship.

"I saw it distinctly rise out of the water. First there was a big head, with long ears and long snout, and bulging blue eyes that were mild and liquid. Then there was a neck - no end of a neck - and it swayed with the wash of the waves. What it was I couldn't guess for in twenty years of seagoing, including trips in tropical waters. I've never seen anything like this sea giraffe that was staring right at the Corinthian.

"As the thing seemed to eye me it lashed the water with its big front fins. Then it suddenly dived and disappeared, at the same time giving an odd little wail like a baby's cry. You wouldn't think such a huge animal could have had such a small voice.

"As soon as I went off duty I went below and made a sketch of the monster in india ink. When the Corinthian reached Montreal my sketch was shown to Professor F. E. Lloyd, of McGill University, an expert in zoology. The professor said that whatever it was, it wasn't a serpent, but a sea mammal. It was certainly built on high speed lines, and its fin-like protuberance was well adapted for running things up.

*(I can find no image of the sketch mentioned - JDW)*

"I located this sea giraffe in latitude 47 deg. 51 min. north, longitude 48 deg. 32 min. west, off the Grand Banks, and not many miles distant from the spot where the Titanic went down. I am inclined to think myself that the wreck of the Titanic has had something to do with the presence of this strange creature in water where nothing of the kind has ever been noticed before. Is it making food of the dead bodies below?"

Mr. Bachelor made the gruesome suggestion in all seriousness. He was greatly impressed with the absolute accuracy of his observations.

Mr. Bachelor, it may be added, is a canny Scot, and his view is that there may still be more survivors of an almost extinct race of sea beasts. Anyway, zoologists are not unacquainted with an "amphibious or aquatic reptile" called the sauropterygia, which curiously resembles the description of what Mr. Bachelor saw. This sea monster had a small head and an exceptionally long neck, but it is generally stated to have been extinct for ages. - The Times Dispatch - (Richmond, Va.) - October 19, 1913

NOTE: This sighting occurred on August 30, 1913...1 year and 4 months after the sinking of the RMS Titanic. The Sauropterygia marine reptile is sometimes mentioned as the possible identification of the Loch Ness Monster...though it supposedly went extinct at the end of the Mesozoic period. On another note, I seriously doubt that any of the surviving family of the doomed ocean liner's passengers wanted to read about their loved ones being consumed by a 'sea giraffe.' Lon



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**A P P A R I T I O N S**

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## Dr. Washington Dodge Asks Bulletin

### To Express His Gratitude to Friends

BY DR. WASHINGTON DODGE.



NEW YORK, April 19.—Fremont Older, Managing Editor of The Bulletin: Please extend through the columns of today's Bulletin to all inquiring friends, whose telegrams were handed me aboard the rescuing steamer Carpathia, my affectionate greetings and my undying gratitude for their loving messages.



My family, thank God, were all saved, being one of the very few where this was the case.

As soon as able to resume our journey, which I trust will be in a few days, I shall start for my beloved city. Sincerely yours,  
WASHINGTON DODGE.

### TITANIC VICTIM WHO DIDN'T DIE IN THE ATLANTIC HAUNTS HIS FORMER HOME IN SAN FRANCISCO

The Cry of 'Women and Children First' echoed across the ocean that cold spring night and into society itself. To most, those male passengers who survived (128, with 54 of them from first class) cheated the 'rule of the sea'. (How could have 108 women died while 128 men managed to save themselves?)

While White Star Line Chairman Bruce Ismay was the most notorious, another was Dr Henry Washington Dodge. Faced with a wall of disapproval from everyone he met, Dr Dodge initially embarked on a lecture tour. He shared his memories of *Titanic*, but also used the platform to defend male survivors.

He tried to explain how many women would not get into the lifeboats. None of them believed that the ship would really sink and they were too afraid to get into an open boat. He only saved himself when no other takers were forthcoming for Lifeboat 13.

In reality, many women refused to take to the boats; likewise, crew incompetence sent so many boats away unfilled that approx 470 more lives could have been saved. However, no one was really buying Dodge's claim and the trauma wore him down. His depression became so acute that, on June 21st 1919, Dr Dodge shot himself in the head and, seven years after *Titanic* sank, became one of its final victims.

Yet even then there was no respite. His ghost has regularly been seen, quite clearly and by several witnesses, still wandering lost around his former home.

### Freaky 3-Headed Person appears again on C2C



On a recent Coast to Coast AM the world's only three-headed person called in to speak with George Noory. Sadly, Elvira and Bobo announced the tragic loss of middle sibling, Walter, who they said died in his sleep of an aneurysm.

### MH370 'FOUND ON GOOGLE EARTH' – EX US AIR FORCE MAN CLAIMS THIS IS THE MISSING PLANE

A UFO investigator looking for evidence of flying saucers inadvertently stumbled across the suspected aircraft in an eight-month-old Google satellite image.

If Scott C Waring is correct, the plane had travelled to the Cape of Good Hope, off Cape Town, South Africa.

His claim today coincides with the discovery of debris on the east coast of Africa in an area between Mozambique and Madagascar.

The wrecked parts are being sent to Australia for tests to see if they came from MH370.

Mr Waring, who is editor of UFO Sightings Daily, posted details of his discovery online.

If he has discovered the aircraft, it would appear the plane has survived the mystery crash largely in one piece.

The Boeing 777 disappeared on with 239 people on board en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014.

The site of the debris find is about 1,200 miles from Cape Town. Mr Waring today blogged: "I was looking around the Cape of Good Hope for an old UFO sighting I found three years ago, and was hoping to make an update when I came across a shadow in the water, which resembled an airliner.

"I used to work on B-1 bombers back at Ellsworth SD, at an SAC during my USAF days. I know a plane when I see one."

