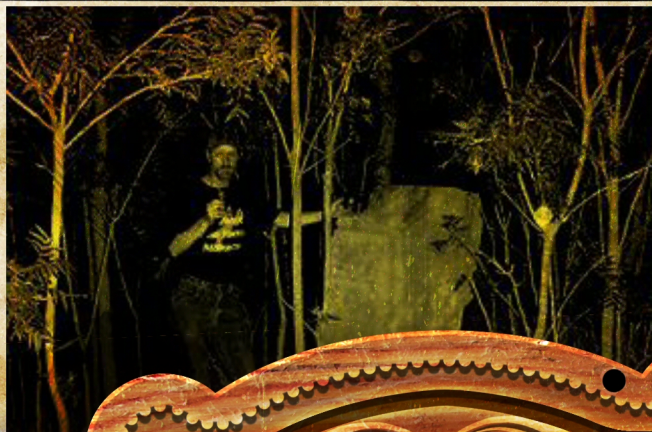




# REPORT

## BUIE PARK

INVESTIGATION



*Stamford  
Texas*

**TX004**

### SOUTHWEST GHOST HUNTERS ASSOCIATION



OPEN  
UNSOLVED

1998  
2001

COMPLAINTS  
STANDARD

**WWW.SGHA.NET**





## Forward

The word “investigation” is defined as  
“a searching inquiry for ascertaining facts; detailed or careful examination.”

The key word here is “facts”. Do ghosts exist? No, it has not been proven.  
Therefore are no facts to investigate.

What we do have is the testimony of the witnesses and this is where an investigational process will work. Investigations are often viewed as a skeptical activity because the main goal is trying to determine what the witness actually saw. Is it explainable or not? This is done through critical thinking and an event replication process developed by SGHA. This is an important concept because what defines a haunting or ghost sighting is “Multiple witnesses reporting unusual phenomena over a period of time”. If these phenomena can be explained, the witness reports are no longer validating paranormal activity as a cause and thus there is no ghost or haunting. Additionally historical research may be done in an attempt to validate facts.

It is important to understand that the goal of an investigation is not to find evidence of the paranormal but to attempt to identify any natural or manmade causes of the reported phenomena

### Definition of Terms

**Investigation Status:** Unsolved investigations will have either an open or closed status. An investigation is given an “Open” status if:

The investigators were unable to replicate all of the witness events. Something significant remains that is still unsolved.

It is important to understand that an “open” investigation does not mean that the unsolved facts are paranormal in nature. It simply means that we have exhausted our resources and cannot solve the “open” items/events.



A “Closed” status indicates that there is insufficient data or confounding variables that prevents replication or identifying possible explanations. This often occurs when investigators do not have direct access to witnesses or some other environmental change have occurred that creates confounding variables.

## Confidentiality Notice

Many of the witnesses interviewed have wished to remain anonymous in exchange for presenting their accounts of paranormal experiences. We honor that request and thus witnesses will often be identified by aliases. Any coincidence between aliases and actual persons is unintentional.

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## **Part 1: Location Information**

**Buie Park, Stamford, Texas**

## **Part 2: Location History:**

**Stamford is on U.S. Highway 277, State Highway 6, Farm roads 1420 and 2834, and the Burlington Northern Railroad, in northern Jones County. Part of Stamford is in Haskell County. H. McHarg, president of the Texas Central**



**Railroad, named the site in 1900 for his hometown in Connecticut. The Texas Central and the Swenson brothers, local ranchers who owned the town site and the surrounding area, cooperated to market lots and develop business. The first post office opened in December 1899 in a railroad boxcar.**

**A flour mill was a leading industry from 1906 until its destruction by fire in 1946. A cottonseed oil plant, an iron foundry, gins, brick manufactures, and a railroad roundhouse were other significant employers. Stamford College, originally called Stamford Collegiate Institution, was opened by the Methodists in 1907.**





By 1909 a faculty of sixteen taught 346 students. The drought of 1910, World War I and a fire in 1918 affected enrollments and finances, and in 1920 the college closed, as the Methodists established McMurry College in Abilene.

Buie Park was opened around 1910 and was named after Bernard Buie. He owned a real estate company in Stamford, Texas that specialized in farm and ranch properties. The park closed sometime in the late 1960's.

### *Previous ghost hunts or investigations at this location:*

Six investigations have been performed at Buie Park. The first was in 1998 with follow up investigations in 2000 and 2001:

### **Part 3: Reported Phenomena (General)**

Up in the Big Country area, near Abilene, there's a small town named Stamford. Near that community, there's a brushy, overgrown park on Farm to Market Road 1226 about five miles south of the town, which is known as Buie Park. The old park harbors two well known ghosts of the area, and the legendary spirits are known as the Hatchet Lady and May's Mother. Whether they haunt the wooded park area simultaneously, or whether they take turns, I'm not certain. But according to an article by Kathy Sanders that ran in the Abilene Reporter News on October 30, 1985, they are well known around Stamford.





The Hatchet Lady's story is, years ago, when the park was still a well kept beautiful spot; a young woman from Stamford was engaged to be married. Shortly before the wedding was to take place, her fiancé took her out to Buie Park, and there in that remote setting he broke the news to her that he really didn't want to get

married after all.

The young woman was shocked... hurt... crushed by this disclosure. In her distraught state she refused to accept her fiancé's decision, and in a moment of unreasonable rage and heartbreak she killed him with a hatchet. (No one has been able to explain how a young woman, supposedly out for a tryst, could have so conveniently been supplied with such a deadly weapon!) Anyhow, the story goes that, hatchet in hand, the spirit of the young woman still returns to stalk the park, preying on amorous couples. I guess she figures if she couldn't be happy, why should anyone else be? She is a vindictive spirit, apparently.

The other ghost that roams Buie Park is the pathetic spirit of a broken-hearted mother. Years ago, according to the legend, a woman had a little girl, about ten years old, named May, who had been playing in the park by the riverside when she disappeared. She was never seen again. Everyone believed she drowned in the river. The grieving mother looked and looked for her daughter until she finally lost her mind. Now dead herself, she still is said to return, wandering all over the park crying for her lost child. Many people claim they have heard her sad and mournful cries... "May, oh May.. May... May".

## **Part 4: Phenomena reported during Investigations**

During the first investigation in 2000 an abnormality was witnessed by two investigators. Just before they reached the rear section, they noticed a bright



light off to their left. It was a glowing ball that moved through the trees, cutting directly in front of them. The glowing ball was approximately 4 inches in diameter and slowly crossed the road directly in front of them. Once it reached the other side, it hovered for a moment before it shot off through the woods. The ball was wave like in its motions and made a slight humming sound. It was quite bright and also seemed to flicker slightly. There was also a hum associated with it, but it was not the kind that can be heard, but felt. The sighting lasted approximately 10 seconds.

## **Part 6: Historical Research**

Public records were searched to see if we could find any references to any deaths occurring in the park (murders or accidental). We were unable to locate anything except for a fatal car crash that occurred about 2 miles away. The history does not support the basis of the myths.

## **Part 7: Conclusions, Confounding Variables**

During our six investigations of this area we were not able to find any direct witnesses. All of the information about the phenomena occurring at the park is second or third hand.

The glowing ball of light is obviously the most interesting phenomena we witnessed at the site. We strongly suspect that this phenomenon is ball lighting. The object had many values associated with that phenomenon.

BL is thought to be made up of Plasma - the state of matter beyond Gas. (Stars are made up of Plasma). The process by which it can be produced terrestrially is open to some speculation as, according to "orthodox" science, it is very difficult - if not impossible - to reproduce in a laboratory. It seems clear, if one accepts its existence, that it is strongly associated with electrical storms - common in many reports.

Some people seem to think its appearance may also be associated with high voltage power lines. Or even high power tv transmitters. It is often seen in



clouds, or dropping down from them. It seems it is commonly spherical in shape, but can be discoid or ellipsoid. It can penetrate solid walls and if it is indeed made up of gas plasma, it will be electrically charged and will therefore be influenced by magnetic fields and possibly metal objects.

Ball lightning usually occurs during or right after a thunderstorm, although it has been created without any detected electrical storm.

After the first sighting we returned several times specifically looking for this phenomenon. All searches were uneventful and it is still a mystery.

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