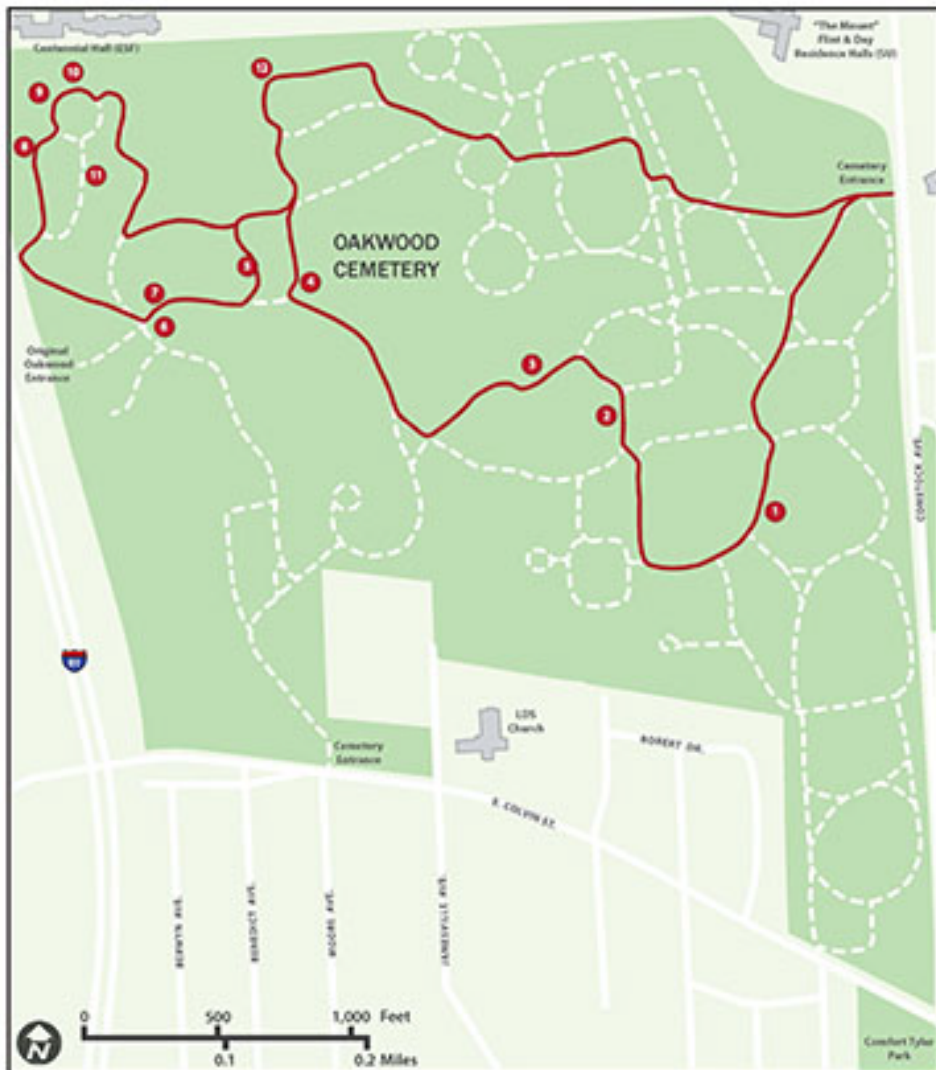


Oakwood Ghost Trail

Two Mile Walking Trail in Historic Oakwood Cemetery



Ghost 1-Split Rock Monument



There have been reports of glowing orbs hovering around this monument to the workers killed in a WWI-era explosion at the Split Rock Quarry. Some folks have actually taken photos of the orbs and there was one that appeared to show a body made of fog or mist.

Ghost 2- Laura Baldwin



Over the years, many folks have claimed to see a woman in a bridal gown wandering through the cemetery near this location. In the inscription it is noted than in "less than one revolving year, She was a Maid, a Bride, a Corpse. Adorned with every grace and possessing every personal charm and mental excellence. In her spring time she flew to that land where the wings of the Soul are unfurled. And now like a Star, beyond evenings cold dew, looks radiantly down on the tears of this world". This monument was erected to her memory by her husband, Harvey Baldwin, first mayor of Syracuse.

Ghost 3-Drum roll in the Civil War Cemetery



This is one that was reported at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th, when old veterans would swear they heard drumrolls summoning the aged soldiers to join the ranks of their deceased friends, followed by the thumping of marching feet, sometimes followed by a far away trumpet call. Nothing has been reported since the 1950's but then, how many people spend the night in the cemetery?

Ghost 4-The Bride



A ghost has been seen descending the stairs here. One report said "Me & my friends spent the night in Oakwood one night. Over by the stairs graves in the west of the cemetery, I looked to my right and saw the bride and groom. They were beautiful, but they were bloody and they vanished before our eyes."

Ghost 5-The Devil's Chair



This is child-sized chair an example of the Devil's Chair, a form of tombstone that existed around the cemeteries of the 19th century. The legend with this one is that anyone sitting in it will die within a year. Other chairs are said to grant wishes, long life, or possess the person in the chair with the soul of the deceased.

Ghost 6- The Hermit



There have been reports of a ghostly hermit with long gnarled hair, a mouthful of decayed or missing teeth and skin flaking away from his face and arms emerging from the woods near the Haggerty Lion. In fact there was a homeless man, who was also reportedly a published poet from the SU English Department. After a mental breakdown that some say was caused by a broken heart, he no longer lived in normal housing but built huts in Oakwood, on Morningside Heights, and in St. Mary's Cemetery in Dewitt. He died many years ago, but the figure has been seen walking and muttering to himself as recently as the 2015 school year.

Ghost 7-The Satanic Rituals



While not a ghost, it is true that for several years someone broke into the old Chapel and conducted some sort of ritual using pentagrams and candles. It is also true that around that time, an Ed Smith father and his son saw a glow emanating from the broken door leading into the basement. The father took a picture which reportedly came out only as a purple glow, a BRIGHT purple glow...

Ghost 8-General Sumner



Civil War Union Major General Edwin Vose Sumner, Sr. Nicknamed "Bull Head" because of a legend that a musket ball bounced off his head, had the distinction of being the oldest field commander during the War. He had visited his daughter in 1863 planning to return to battle after recuperating when he died of a heart attack and was buried in Oakwood. The Ghost here is of a more somber sort as it consists of a muffled drum roll followed by dark shadows emerging from the ground and encircling the grave. It was said that the ghosts are those of his men calling the old soldier back. At least one report mentioned Confederate soldiers which is interesting in that Sumner was noted for having friends and relatives on both sides during the War.

Ghost 9-Haunted by a Suicide



The Westernmost meadow of tombstones sloping down near Oakwood and SU to Rt. 81 from the hillside bordered by SU and ESF, has been the source of frequent ghostly sightings. This is possibly because it is also the location of many of the evening recreational pursuits of students. There have been frequent sightings of ghostly mists and balls (or orbs) of light.

Ghost 10- ESF hires a paranormalist and finds...



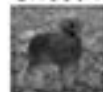
John Zaffis is no stranger to unexplained phenomenon; in fact, he goes looking for it. Zaffis, a renowned ghost hunter and expert on all things paranormal, shared his knowledge and experiences of the unknown with more than 100 students in Marshall Auditorium Oct. 13. His lecture was followed by a ghost hunt in Oakwood Cemetery that turned many skeptical students into believers. Zaffis lead a group of more than 40 students into Oakwood Cemetery, where he attempted to contact spirits through a scanning AM/FM radio and white noise generator, known as a ghost box.

Ghost 11-Comfort Tyler's Tomb



The source of many strange lights and noises is the pyramid shaped mausoleum overlooking Dedication Valley. The source of some of these is a now retired school counselor who as a kid used to camp by the pyramid, until it just became too creepy. The monument belongs to the family of Comfort Tyler, one of Onondaga County's original settlers, and is located in one of the oldest sections of the Cemetery.

Ghost 12-The Black Lab



Until a couple of decades ago a statue of the family pet, a black lab, stood on a stone base near the Alvord Family plot. The statue mysteriously disappeared and ever since there have been reports of a ghostly, glowing lab-shaped dog bounding through the air up and down the steep hills in this area.