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## The ghost of Wittmann Cemetery

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The tiny cemetery of Wittmann is tucked away east of Highway 60 about half way between Phoenix and Wickenburg, Arizona. The community was named for one of the investors who financed the plans to reconstruct the Walnut Grove Dam. The Walnut Grove Dam at the Hassayampa River collapsed on February 22, 1890. Between 50 and 150 people died in the flood. Up until then, Wittmann was called Nadaburg. The town folk were so grateful of Wittmann's interest in the dam and irrigation needs of the area, that they changed the name of the town to Wittmann in the 1930's.

Wittmann Cemetery is one of the first cemeteries I ever investigated. For years the rumor of a ghost of an old farmer has been circulating. They say the farmer, wearing a hat and overalls, is seen walking near the cemetery gate late at night and floating toward the Iona Wash. One evening I decided to drive up to Wittmann and meet another paranormal investigating team taking photos in the Wittmann Cemetery. I brought along my daughter Nikki and we drove up Highway 60 toward Wickenburg. I had vague directions, but I was certain I would find the graveyard. I always do.

It was pitched black when I turned off 211th Avenue and followed the sign directing us to the cemetery. The only way I was able to find my fellow ghost hunters was by the flash of their digital cameras. We spent a couple of hours walking around snapping photos and gathering the usual collection of dust orbs on film. But in those days, that was really something!

Recently, we made the Wittmann Cemetery one of the stops on Cemetery Crawl 4--a road rally that travels around Arizona to study various cemetery styles and sizes. I was amazed how the housing developments were slowly closing in around the small cemetery which is still in use. Most graves range from the 1940's to the present. The most interesting tombstone is one of Copper Penny who passed away on 6 AUG 1987. The grave is adorned with several coins and pennies. Wittmann Cemetery is maintained by the Saguaro Janes Group of volunteers. Some headstones are stamped unknown. The entrance gate is along Galvin Road which is the east side of the cemetery.

We never did see the ghost of the old farmer during our visits--but you just never know what ghosts you might reap on a lonely road in the countryside.

If you go:

Wittmann Cemetery is East of HWY 60 --about half way (25 miles) between Wickenburg and Phoenix. Approaching Wittmann, look to your right for Center Street. Turn Right. Near the school, turn right on



West Dove Valley Road. Turn left at 211th Avenue. Drive about 1 mile. Watch for cemetery sign. Turn left on West Galvin Street. Drive down road. Cemetery will be on your left. Park outside of cemetery gate.

**For more info:** [www.mvdghostchasers.com](http://www.mvdghostchasers.com)

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