

imaginative—a tale that gets abroad.” The only possible scientific explanations he could offer were that the ball of fire might be ball lightning, which would appear during storms but not during fair weather, as the ghost-light was said to have done at least part of the time; or it might be the burning of swamp gas, which would give a will-o’-the-wisp effect but would remain stationary; Reed added that he had never heard of this phenomenon in Iowa.

And there the matter has rested. The St. Mary’s ghost either has ceased its nocturnal prowling, or has ceased to cause enough comment to excite the imagination of news reporters. After the stories told to a reporter in 1947, there have been no more.

Museum Notes

February 7, 1965, marked the special opening of the Iowa Heritage Art Exhibit, featuring eighty works by William J. Wagner, Iowa artist and architect. Mr. Wagner’s watercolors and pen and ink drawings presented a remarkable panorama of Iowa’s historic sites—homes, churches, towns and monuments—to the delight of the hundreds of visitors who viewed this fascinating and memorable display. The exhibit was sponsored by the Iowa Society for the Preservation of Historic Landmarks and the Iowa Department of History and Archives.

Also on display for a limited time were several original Abraham Lincoln letters recently found in the Hon. John A. Kasson Collection. Accompanying these were Lincoln letters from other collections, including the President’s second inaugural address.

Another fine exhibit at the museum features glassware from the Keota and Iowa City glassworks.

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