

# DOWSING FOR UNMARKED GRAVES

By

Linda Faye Nelson

Have you ever walked upon the hallowed grounds in a cemetery, where a veil of silence hangs heavy in the air, and you stop and gazed at all the graves that have no headstones?

As you wandered through the peacefulness of the cemetery, you might see graves that are marked only with slabs, iron rocks, wooden stakes, pottery, sea shells, concrete blocks or bricks. Maybe you see graves that are only mounds of dirt that have been hilled-up. You may also see graves that are only just a sink in the ground, and you wonder to yourself. Who lies sleeping sweetly in these humble graves that have been kissed by only the sun, rain, and wind? Whose memory time has now subdued, through the passing of the years? Who lies here in sleep too deep for any dreams to go drifting by? Who lies here where their voices and cries are now forever hushed, and their earthly forms, and cheerful faces will never again be seen on earth? Who lies here that is forever gone, but once their lives were so important to their loved ones? Who lies here that has forever passed from this life on earth, but now has found their peace from grief, loneliness, pain, and tears, when they were here no more; for the shade of life has been pulled for them to the land of God's silent mystery? Who lies here so still in sleep that time has forgotten them, but is only waiting for the touch of God? Could it be a man, woman, child, or a baby?

Have you ever wanted to find out where your ancestors' burial site is located? You have no proof, but you do have an idea as to the location? Then you may want to try Grave Dowsing. Grave Dowsing can and will identify the locations of unmarked graves within a cemetery, and also give you the gender of the body in the grave.

Dowsing is an ancient technique that has been used both by the Ancient Egyptians and Chinese. In the Middle Ages, Dowsing was used in Europe to find coal deposits. Miners in the Harz Mountains of Germany prospected with witch hazel twigs, and this practice was later adopted for finding water. During the United States Colonial period, a dowser was a respected member of their community and thousands of wells were the result of their efforts.

## WATER DOWSING

Water dowsing is done much the same way as your basic grave dowsing; however there is a slight difference in the reaction of the rods when you find a large body of underground water. When you walk over an area that contains a well or larger body of water, your rods begin to take you in a circular motion, the rods will begin to pull you in one direction and around. But if you find water pipes you will still get a crossing with your rods. It is important to learn to recognize whether you are picking up on a burial or on a water source. You can usually solve this question rather quickly by following the length. Because most of the time, your water source is just only a water pipe and once you find the direction that the water pipe is laid, the rods will stay crossed as long as you remain over them. One step to the right or left though, will cause your rods to uncross, which further establishing the fact

you are over a water pipe. This is great for finding the water pipes in your yard and for saving money, if you ever have to repairs your water pipes.

The earliest sign of dowsing usage dates from a 4,500 to 5,000 year old grave inscription in Brittany. The first time a dowsing rod was described in literature was in 1540, in a publication on Mining called De re Metallica by Georgius Agricola.

These days dowsing is being used in archaeological and geological work and by Utility Companies to locate damaged pipes and cables, and by people like me who are trying to find unmarked graves.

Dowsers use L - Shaped Rods, and Y - Shaped Rods, while others may use pendulums.

### HOW TO MAKE DOWSING RODS

There are several ways to make the Dowsing Rods. My childhood friend Mrs. Frances (Smith) Williams and I both use two metal coat hangers. We cut the coat hangers at the neck just before the point where they join to form the hook of the coat hanger. Take and straighten each hanger, trying to get out all of the bends. Once the coat hangers are straight, they should measure out to be 36 inches long.

The handle portion is made at one end of the coat hanger. You will have to bend the coat hanger in an L - shape at a 90 angle. You may need to vary the handle length depending on the size of your hand. Just make sure that the handle do not extend below your hands (handle size should be about 4" to 6" long). We also make a small sleeve for the coat hangers' handles out of copper tubing that is the same size of the L - shaped handles. This will allow you to grip the sleeve handles and allow the coat hanger rod to turn without obstructing its movement. We also have a pair of Dowsing Rods made from steel welding rods, and clothes line wire. We always use the heavier Dowsing Rods if the wind is blowing. It is best to use the Dowsing Rods when there is very little or no wind at all.

### PRACTICE

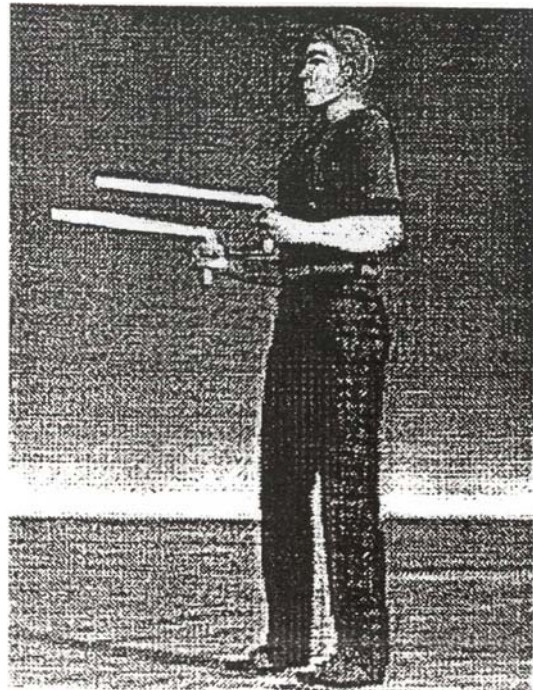
You may find that your Dowsing Rods may respond differently for you than what I have outlined in this article, which is why it is extremely important that you practice and develop your own technique. You must go to a cemetery and PRACTICE on a marked grave, and still after some people have practiced they still can not use the Dowsing Rods to find unmarked graves. I can not stress the importance of PRACTICING because you can not be sure that the readings you are getting are accurate unless you have perfected the technique while PRACTICING on marked graves. Do not look at the headstone before you attempt dowsing. Do all the methods that I outlined for you, make your determination and then verify it with the information on-the marked graves. By PRACTICING over and over again, soon you will become confident and comfortable with your Dowsing Rods. If you have trouble getting the rods to work for you, then you could be holding the rods too tightly, placing your thumbs over the bends of the rods, or walking too fast. If you can rule

out these most common problems, then you probably will fall within the percent that cannot perform this technique.

### BASIC DOWSING TECHNIQUE

Hold the Dowsing L - Shaped Rods with the sleeves on each rod and in each hand with the long portion protruding in front of you with your elbows at a 90 degree angle, so that your forearms are straight out in front of you. Now hold your arms close to your body, and both arms and the rods should be parallel to the ground, and each rod should be separated by the same distances as your body width. You should look like a gunfighter posing/or a shootout.

Approach the suspected gravesite at about midpoint, walking very slowly with slow shuffling steps. If a body is present, the two rod tips begin to swing inward and will cross in front of you, when you are over the grave. Once you step off the grave, the rods will uncross. Now back up from the suspected gravesite and approach the body near the point at which you believe to be the feet. If your rods still cross, then you know you are still over the body. Now back up and begin to move over just a wee bit and repeat this same process again. When you have passed the end of the body or have crossed over the body, sometimes one rod might go straight ahead, and the other rod will point toward the body, but the rods will not cross. Repeat this same procedure at the opposite end of the body. Please note, if you have been careful you can actually determine the length of body within two or three inches, as it is buried.



My childhood friend Frances and I sometimes have trouble remembering each point of the body that we have already checked, so we use poker chips or colored marbles to mark each point of the body where we have already got a cross with our rods. When we have finished marking each point of the body with white poker chips, we can then see the exactly position of the body that is buried in the grave. We then use red poker chips to mark the head of the females and we use blue poker chips to mark the head of the males. We then make careful measurements. We then use a couple of small stakes for more permanent markers.

### CEMETERY LAYOUTS - LOCATING AN UNMARKED CEMETERY

Most cemeteries in the United States bury their dead in a Christian manner. This means that the bodies are buried with the head facing West and the feet pointing East, although not always.

You will find also that Christian burial grounds are very well laid out, side by side and head to toe in perfectly straight lines. This is very important to remember because animal bodies can also be picked up with the dowsing rods; however it would be very unusual for an animal burial ground to be laid out so symmetrically. So, the symmetrical layout of the gravesite is your first clue that the remains are most likely human. Most humans hopefully are buried on their backs and animals on their sides. I have not yet experimented with Indian burial grounds, but it is my understanding that many Indians are buried in a sitting position so some alterations may be necessary when dowsing in Indian burial grounds or cemeteries with different religious backgrounds. Remember also the layout of the body will later help you determine the gender of the body buried in the grave.

As mentioned earlier, Christian graves are laid out in a west-east direction. When trying to locate a lost cemetery, walk in a north/south direction in order to pick up a pattern. Usually you will find the graves to be separated by two or three feet. As you cross each grave, the rods will cross and then uncross as you step off the graves. I take two - three steps between each grave (this may vary depending on the size of your steps.) If you do find a pattern has developed (cross, three steps, cross, three steps, etc.) you have most likely found a cemetery. You will then need to determine the perimeter of the cemetery. By walking north and south, you can come pretty close to determining where the burials begin and end. When you reach the edge of the burial ground and are no longer picking up bodies, go back to the last grave and begin walking east and west. You will now be picking up on the length of the body; you will get some variances depending on whether a baby, children, or adults occupy the graves. Keep walking east and west until you are no longer picking up bodies. By the time you have completed a square, you will have a good idea of the perimeters of the cemetery. Be sure to always check past the last body for at least twenty feet. Always remember that you are looking for a pattern. .

#### DETERMINING APPROXIMATE AGE

To determine the approximate age of the body buried in an unmarked grave, begin at the foot/head of the grave and walk the length. The rods will cross at the feet/head and remained crossed until you reach the other end (feet/head) at which time they will uncross when you step off the body. I count my steps as I walk the length of the body. For me, one - two steps indicate an infant, two - three steps a toddler, three -four a child, five steps could possibly be adolescent or short adult, six steps an adult, and seven steps a tall adult. Once again, this is where practicing with marked graves will help perfect your technique.

#### DETERMINING GENDER/HUMAN REMAINS

There are two methods to determine gender of the person buried in the grave. The first one can give a false reading depending on whether the undertaker buried the person correctly, and the second method has proven to be foolproof, so far. It is VERY important to use both methods when you are trying to determining where a burial site contains human remains or not.

METHOD ONE: Approach the suspected gravesite at about midpoint, or center, while you shuffle your feet very slowly and hold one of the rods over your head. (Pick a day with little or no wind.) The rod will slowly begin to turn clockwise if a woman is buried in the grave, or counterclockwise for a man.

Now back up and lower the rod from your head, and hold the rod straight from your body, about waist high and approach the suspected gravesite again at midpoint. The rod will turn toward the head of the female, and will also turn to the feet of a male.

The rods will work from either side of the body. Also at the end of a grave, one wire might turn toward the body and the other rod will keep straight or, both rods might turn toward the body. Sometimes when walking down an aisle in a cemetery, between graves, one rod may point to the right and the other rod to the left.

METHOD TWO: (One Finger) While you are standing in the center of the suspected gravesite, balance the handle of one of the rods on your index finger, hold the rod straight down. The rod will begin making a circular motion. The rod will then rotate counterclockwise for the male, and rotate clockwise for a female. It is uncommon, but does happen sometime that a body can be accidentally buried backwards, which is why Method 2 is used as confirmation. No matter how the body is laid in the grave, Method 2 will give the correct gender. Method 2 can also be used when more than two bodies are buried in one coffin or one grave. In any case you will need to go over the entire grave using the one-finger method. If you find there is a break between the bodies or a difference in gender, sometimes the rods will swing in a pendulum motion and then resume a circular motion. This is good to use when an infant is buried with his or her mother, etc. Combining the two methods will also help you to determine if human or animal remains are in the grave. Animals will also register gender, but it is unlikely that animals will be buried in a Christian manner. So if you do find several burials, you must use the gender methods to determine the layout of the bodies. If all the heads point west and the feet point east, and the one-finger method agrees with the overhead method, then most likely you have found human remains. Most humans (hopefully) are buried on their backs, and animals are buried on their sides. Although a horse or cow is much larger than a human body, dogs, cats, and other smaller animals can easily be confused with human remains.

## CREMATIONS

Cremations are more difficult to pick up; however, they are detectable if the ashes were buried in a container. When crossing over the buried container of ashes, the rods will react differently, sometime swinging together from left to right in a horizontal pendulum motion. You CANNOT determine gender. Using the one-finger method, the rod will circle either clockwise or counterclockwise and then reverse direction, repeating the reversals over and over. If the ashes were spread in the wind, then of course, they have gone with the four winds and cannot be detected.

I have talked with other dowzers who have tried the gender methods in different geographical locations and have found that the reactions of the rods will vary when

determining gender. In some instances they react the very opposite of what I have wrote here in this article. This is why practicing in a marked cemetery in the same geographical location is important. I believe that the longitude and latitudes of the earth affect the polarity reaction of the rods' reading.

You cannot be sure that the readings you are getting are accurate unless you have perfected your technique of the rods on marked graves. Do not look at the headstones before you attempt dowsing. Do all the methods I have mentioned above, make your determination, and then verify it with the information on the grave headstones. Practicing with your rods over and over again, and verifying the information of the gender, ages, and length of the bodies, and soon you will become comfortable enough to be confident of your dowsing ability. The more comfortable you become, the more sensitive you will become with the dowsing rod (PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE).

### LIVING BODIES THEORY

Several scientists claim that the dowsing rods pick up a disturbance in the earth's magnetic field. Still others claim that the rods are picking up the gases from decaying bodies. None of this can be true because the rods will cross over the bodies of a living human while he/she is lying on the floor. The rods will also give the gender. As you can see, the above theories by scientists cannot be right if the dowsing method works on living individuals. It could be that the dowsing rods might have something to do with the magnetic field that is given off by our bodies that surely remains with the body even after death.

As a personal testimonial, I can say with 100% confidence if you are a believer, and if you are careful, and follow my directions and methods as outlined in this article, you, too, might succeed at Dowsing for Graves. It works for me, what about you?

### Sources:

Article by Thomas A. Markham "Dowsing For Graves"

Article by Brenda Marble "Grave Dowsing"

The World Book Encyclopedia

Article by Tom Graves: "Dowsing: Techniques and Applications" (Published in the US and reprinted in the UK in 1986 as "The Diviner's Handbook")

An Encyclopedia of Claims/James Randi

Article by Rasmus Jansson "Dowsing - Science or Humbug"?

Personal work that has been performed by Mrs. Frances (Smith) Williams and Linda Faye Nelson