

## Relics Revealed Revisited

The Survival Files — Case 16 — ESS = 271.8

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*Note: This builds on Case 15, Relics Revealed, which should be read first.*

When Hamlin Garland received the letter from Gregory Parent, he had just published *Forty Years of Psychic Research*, a book he felt was the final summation of his work as an investigator of the paranormal. But the letter, and the journals, papers, and artifacts he subsequently discovered, brought an unexpected and astounding capstone to his avocation. Indeed, what Garland titled "The Mystery of the Buried Crosses" would prove to be one of the most convincing arguments for the survival of human consciousness after physical death.

Once he had read Parent's journals and gazed upon the 1,500 crosses with his own eyes, Garland knew that he had been handed a case of supreme importance. He also knew that the case needed to be verified by an independent researcher duplicating the feat of finding such items buried in the California desert. Despite being 76 years old, Garland realized that this task had fallen on his shoulders.

His first step was to find a medium who could contact the spirits of Gregory or Violet Parent or of the missionaries themselves. As he was considering who might be best suited for the job, Garland received a letter from a Dr. Nora Rager in Chicago who had read *Forty Years of Psychical Research* and wished to introduce him to a medium named Sophia Williams, who had recently moved to Los Angeles. Garland interviewed Williams and found her perfect for the job. She was friendly, could work anywhere (indoors or out), anytime (day or night), was anxious to help, and made no charge for her services. As Garland writes: "It was in this providential way that I found myself in possession of a most intelligent co-investigator."<sup>1</sup>

In her very first session, Williams immediately became a conduit for several of Garland's deceased friends. One of whom, Henry Fuller, often acted as a control in the coming sessions. But it wasn't just the obvious acquaintances of Garland who spoke through Williams in that first session; spirits that he hardly remembered showed up, and at least one fellow that he didn't know at all. The latter identified himself as Harry Friedlander, a recently deceased friend of the stenographer whom Garland had hired to take notes of the session. Williams had never met the stenographer nor did she know he would attend the session. Friedlander accurately described his recent death in an airplane accident. Garland refers to this performance by Williams as "our first evidence of her power." There would be a lot more.

At their third sitting, on March 17, 1937, the spirit of Violet Parent spoke through the medium. She affirmed that there were more crosses to be found and she promised the aid of the padres in finding them. As the sessions continued, many of the missionaries did come through, plus several early explorers of the American Southwest.

Besides the veridical material received through Sophia Williams, there came some interesting, and reassuring, insights into the afterlife. One of the padres noted: "We have all changed our opinions about many things — not only about the Indians, but about religion. We learn the truth on this side. ... We have found now that there is no difference in creed."

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<sup>1</sup> Garland, *The Mystery of the Buried Crosses*, p. 49.

All that Garland and company managed to get from their first few expeditions were good lessons in how hot the desert could get, how steep the hills, how hard the ground, and how prickly the cactus that seemed to grow everywhere. Then on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 1937, while digging as instructed near the roots of an ancient oak tree some 75 miles northeast of Los Angeles, Garland's daughter, Constance, struck a cross.

Greatly inspired by this first find, Garland *et al* took every opportunity to make the lengthy excursions prescribed by the spirits. The story of the successes and failures of these trips is well told in Garland's book. Suffice it to say here that a total of 16 crosses were discovered in widely scattered and generally difficult-to-reach locations.

And so, the "research" of the Parents was duplicated and authenticated. People with no connection to the Parents, once again, have been able to find something that could not have been consistently found without information held only by the supposedly dead.

### Discussion

An analysis of this case, and more details, may be found on pages 107-114 of *The Survival Files*.

Scoring for Case 16				
Scale	Question ID – Points Subtracted	Base	Minus	Equals
CS	M3 - 5, M15 - 5	200	10	190
WR	W3 - 4, W5 - 10, W22 -5	100	19	81
IC	0.7 + 0.1 bonus			.8
The CS (Certainty of Discarnate Source) and WR (Witness Reliability) scores are calculated objectively by answering a series of yes/no questions. IC is an indication of the complexity of the information. See the <i>Evidence Scoring System</i> for details.			Total	271.8

END CASE 16

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