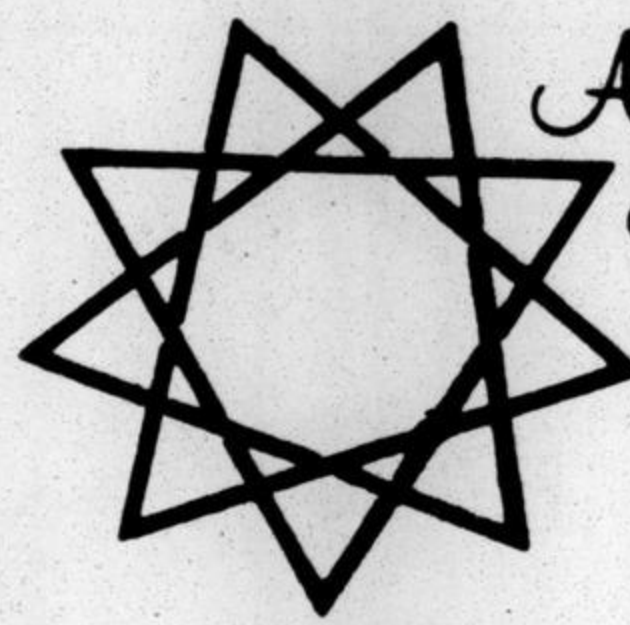


Occult Americana

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January/February
Issued Bi-Monthly @ \$2.50 per year
18112 Chagrin Blvd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44122



All
Things
Magic
and Secret

THE PSYCHIC HIGHWAY

Modern occultists refer to the strip along the New York Thru-way from Buffalo to Albany as the 'Psychic Highway'. Historians refer to this district as the 'Burned-over District'.

For the first few decades of the 19th century the fires of revivalism swept over Western New York preparing souls for an intense spiritual awakening. The highway was soon crowded with religious 'free-lancers' who preached moral and spiritual reform to eager listeners. These preachers had little formal education and only the vaguest affiliation with the orthodox ministry.

One of the many major American faiths born of this strange mixture of time and place was Mormonism. A fourteen-year-old boy named Joseph Smith was converted by a 'hell-fire' methodist revivalist near Manchester, New York. The preacher advised the young boy Joseph to seek God in solitude so that He could guide his path. Joseph prayed for this guidance in a grove of trees on a hill not far from his father's farm. The Lord told him not to become affiliated with an established church because he, Joseph Smith, was to become the instrument for the establishment of the True Church of Jesus Christ.

Three years later, in 1823, the angel Moroni came to Joseph and told him of a sacred book that was buried in the same near-by hill. The angel led Joseph to the sacred spot and it was there that the golden plates were found. Soon after the plates were translated into the Book of Mormon the angel removed them from the earth. This book is considered the fulfillment of the Christian Bible for the religious group known as the 'Latter Day Saints'.

The Book was, originally written in a form of Egyptian hieroglyphics and it chronicles the history of the American continent.

The history of the original Americans begins in the seventh century B.C. with a man named Lehi, his wife and

four sons. Lehi was told by the Lord to flee his country of Judea. He and his family went to the Arabian desert where the revelations of God continued to pour in on Lehi. He was told to build a large ship. He and his family set sail and after many months landed in South America. Here they prospered and multiplied. Two of Lehi's sons were named Laman and Nephi.

Nephi was god-fearing but Laman was wicked. The brothers quarreled. The descendants of Nephi were fair-skinned and beautiful. The descendants of Laman had dark skin and were unpleasant. The tribes continued their quarreling through the years. At the time of the ascension of Jesus, who came and counseled the descendants of Lehi, it was the Nephites who received the blessing.

Their troubles continued until 429 A.D. when a final battle was fought and the Nephites were destroyed by the Lamanites. The battle occurred on the hill which is known as Cumorah and is located near Manchester, New York.

The Nephites left a record in the form of gold plates and it was this book that Joseph translated into the Book of Mormon.

the editor

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SUB-SCRIPTS

Notes from Subscribers

Share your specific interest in Occult Americana with other readers. The editor does not always share the opinions in this column, but offers space for a free exchange of ideas and interests. Use 200 words or less, exclusive of your name and address.

DEVIL'S DIVIDEND



Jane
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The Italian influence on American drinking habits is apparent in the 'old country' medieval origins

of the names given to these favorite drinks. The only obvious American influence is seen in the flourishes added to these powerful mixtures. A recipe handed down in our family has always been known as the Devil's Dividend. I suspect that the ingredients have been altered through the years only to conform improved commercial bottling processes, and that the original early American versions were of materials that could be obtained from the small but well cared for back-yard gardens of the inhabitants of the 'Little Italies' that grew up in all American cities. I offer the following recipes, wielded from unwilling relatives, as a sample of the curious mixture of assimilation, with a stubborn clinging to the old-world influence, as indicated by the names of these drinks.

Devil's Dividend

- Mix in 1/2 gal. pitcher
- 1 fifth white port
- 1 8 oz. bottle ginger ale
- 4 tbls. unsweetened lime juice
- 2 tbls. maraschino cherry juice
- 2 cups cognac

This recipe of course would be adequate for a large gathering but the 'Scarlet Omen' is usually reserved for a more intimate group.

- 1 cup gin
- 2/3 cup dry red wine
- 1/3 cup cranberry juice
- 1/4 cup unsweetened lemon juice

Mix, stir and pour over cracked ice.

Jane

GENEOLOGICAL EXCHANGE

Readers may have pertinent information valuable to someone else in tracing racial memories. Submit the information you seek in 25 words exclusive of your name and address.

Judy McCracken
26670 Loganberry Drive
Apt. 203 A
Richmond Hgts. 44143

Attempting to complete details of family tree. Need information about Peter Cleary of Irish background, known to have settled in Western Pennsylvania.

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