

# 'Haunted Marquette: Ghost Stories From the Queen City'

By Tyler R. Tichelaar

Q&A by Michelle M. Pillow, [MichellePillow.com](http://MichellePillow.com)

**T** Tyler R. Tichelaar is a seventh generation resident of Marquette, Michigan. He has a doctorate in literature from Western Michigan University and bachelor's and master's degrees in English from Northern Michigan University. He is the author of numerous books set around Marquette, including *The Marquette Trilogy* and *My Marquette*.

Besides writing about Upper Michigan, Tyler has always been interested in the supernatural and the Gothic. In 2012, he published *The Gothic Wanderer: From Transgression to Redemption*, a study of the Gothic novel from 1794 to the present. He has also written *Spirit of the North: A Paranormal Romance*, a historical fiction novel with a ghost in its storyline.

In addition, he is the author of the *Children of Arthur* historical fantasy series about King Arthur and his descendants; the series contains many Gothic elements, including an appearance by Dracula in the fourth novel, *Lilith's Love*. His newest release, *Haunted Marquette: Ghost Stories From the Queen City*, can be found at all your favorite online bookstores or at [www.MarquetteFiction.com](http://www.MarquetteFiction.com).

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**Q: In your book, *Haunted Marquette*, you explore various stories about places in Marquette, Michigan, that are haunted. What inspired you to write about this?**

**Tyler:** I'm a lifelong resident of Marquette, known as the Queen City of the North. I'm well-known for writing history books and historical fiction about the area. I've also always been fascinated with the Gothic and the paranormal.

In recent years, there have been a flood of books about haunted places in various cities, so I thought I better write one about Marquette before someone else did.

**Q: What is the one thing that people will get from this book?**

**Tyler:** I hope they will look at Marquette's history in a new way – and by extension all historical cities and places.

My previous books have helped to bring history alive for my readers. Now I want them to consider that the past is not past but still present, as evidenced by the many ghosts said to haunt the city. It's possible my readers may also change their viewpoints about the paranormal and their perspective on life after death.

**Q: Are you a paranormal investigator?**



**In 2011, Tyler R. Tichelaar was awarded the Marquette County Outstanding Writer Award. The same year, he received the Barb Kelly Award for Historical Preservation for his efforts to promote Marquette history.**

**Tyler:** No, I'm not a paranormal investigator, but there are paranormal groups here in Upper Michigan, and I did interview members of some of them about their experiences for the book. One local medium, Tammy Krassick, was especially helpful.

**Q: Do you believe in the supernatural?**

**Tyler:** I have never seen a ghost, but I do believe there are many things we do not have scientific evidence for that are possible.

I'm an open-minded person who believes in the Law of Attraction and quantum physics, so I am open to the possibility of other realms and dimensions. I also believe in the immortality of the soul, so I don't see why spirits can't communicate with us.

**Q: Why do you think readers, and society in general, are fascinated by the paranormal?**

**Tyler:** A lot of people dismiss an interest in the paranormal as stemming from a desire to be scared, but I think it's far more than that. I think a lot of it has to do with a desire to believe there is life after death. We don't want to believe this life is the only shot we get.

I also think we want comfort in knowing our loved ones who have died still exist and are well. I think a belief in the paranormal reflects a very religious or spiritual element to the human experience — we have a need to believe in a power greater than ourselves. Religions have often tried to control those beliefs, but today more people are seeking on their own, no longer wanting to be controlled by organized religions that have some outdated beliefs.

I think this willingness to explore is a good thing. There is so much we don't know, and there is no such thing in my opinion as forbidden knowledge — I think God wants us to explore and seek answers. Yes, there are ethical and unethical ways to do that, so we have to be careful not to get involved with people who want to scam us. But it's important that we follow our intuitions and do what we personally believe is in the best interests of our souls.

**Q: What did you learn about the paranormal that you didn't know before by writing *Haunted Marquette*?**

**Tyler:** I was hesitant to write the book at first. I was afraid people would think I was crazy to write on such a topic, and I was afraid I would attract crazy people to me who had crazy stories. Instead, I found almost everyone I contacted was extremely interested and willing to share their stories.

Some of the old stories I had heard turned out to be clearly fictional once I did historical research into them, but all of the living people who shared their own personal stories with me were very sincere. In many cases, they said they had not believed in ghosts before they'd had a paranormal experience, and they could not explain the experiences they had had — they just knew what they saw or experienced.

None of these people were simply seeking attention by claiming to have seen a ghost, but they were interested in solving the same mysteries about life after death that I was. Ultimately, writing this book became a very spiritual quest for me, and I think it was that for some of the people I spoke to as well. I was not expecting that when I began, but it was a wonderful result.

**Q: Do you have any paranormal pet projects?**

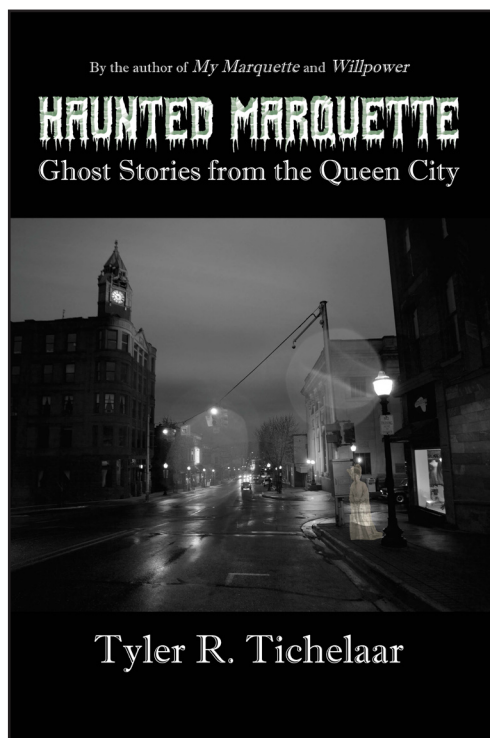
**Tyler:** I have a blog where I mostly write about Gothic literature ([www.GothicWanderer.com](http://www.GothicWanderer.com)) and occasionally review other

types of books and discuss paranormal experiences.

**Q: If given the chance, would you become a vampire?**

**Tyler:** That's a hard question. I'm going to say yes, provided it's only for one day. I promise to be gentle and not kill anyone when I drain his or her blood.

I'd just like to be in a vampire's brain for a day to know how he thinks and also what kind of vision he has — I mean, bats are blind, so vampires, since they often turn into bats, must have many other heightened senses, and it would be pretty cool to be able to fly and have super-human strength — although sleeping in a coffin doesn't sound very comfortable.



*"Haunted Marquette deftly weaves history, urban legends, and unexplained phenomena into a kaleidoscope of ghostly hauntings that reveal a side of the Queen City most of us have never experienced but perhaps always feared was there."* —Sonny Longtine, author

I will justify my decision by saying that I would do it for science and as research for a future novel so people would know the truth about vampires and be better able to protect themselves. Somehow, just putting on a vampire costume doesn't answer all those questions for me.

### **Q: How would you react if you came face to face with a ghost?**

**Tyler:** Depending on how capable the ghost was of communicating, I'd probably get out my camera and voice recorder and ask it all the questions I could. I would hope it would be one of my ancestors who lived here in Marquette.

I'm a genealogy addict and have so many questions. My family has been in Marquette since 1849, so I'm sure some of my relatives are ghosts — I want to know more about their lives. In fact, an ancestral uncle is one of the ghosts I mention in my book, but while a medium has seen him, he hasn't contacted me personally yet.

### **Q: Have you ever done a past-life regression?**

**Tyler:** Yes. I am a big believer in reincarnation. I have done past-life regressions by listening to tapes. I'm sure I've had several lives, especially one as a monk making illuminated manuscripts in the Middle Ages — I'm sure that's where my love for writing came from.

### **Q: If you could time slip to any year, when would you go?**

**Tyler:** I'd probably go to 1890 in Marquette. The most prominent of Marquette's early pioneers were still alive then, as well as most of my early Marquette ancestors. If I could just have one day back there I would fill a notebook with my observations — hopefully, I can bring a camera and voice recorder with me too.

### **Q: Would you jump into a fairy ring?**

**Tyler:** Heck, yeah. I'm also a huge fan of the Arthurian legend and have written the *Children of Arthur* historical fantasy series, so I'm all about getting to know the fairies — maybe they can lead me to Avalon.

The fairy Melusine is featured in my book *Melusine's Gift*, and she grew up in Avalon. I have a lot of questions for King Arthur too, and he's supposedly still hanging out there waiting for the hour of Britain's greatest need.

### **Q: If you could channel into another author's**

### **mind to find out how they wrote a particular book, who would it be?**

**Tyler:** I would definitely want to be inside Bram Stoker's brain. I am sure that he had a lot of sources for *Dracula* that we don't know about. I suspect he read the French vampire novelist Paul Feval, but I don't know for sure.

*Dracula* is so superior to Stoker's earlier books that I'd like to know what inspired him. I've written a lot about the novel *Dracula* in my book *The Gothic Wanderer*, and I've written a sort of sequel to *Dracula* in my fourth

*Children of Arthur* book, *Lilith's Love*, in which I tell the life story of Quincey Harker, who has *Dracula's* blood in him.

I'VE HAD SEVERAL LIVES, ESPECIALLY ONE AS A MONK MAKING ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS IN THE MIDDLE AGES.

### **Q: If you could be anywhere while writing, where would you be and why?**

**Tyler:** Anywhere in England. I love it there. So much history, and so much natural beauty to the landscape. I'm also descended from many famous people from English history, including King Edward III and all his ancestors.

Maybe I could also meet some of their ghosts and ask them some questions.

### **Q: What are your favorite paranormal shows, movies, and books?**

**Tyler:** I love *Svengoolie* and all the old horror films he shows on TV. I especially like the old Hammer studios vampire films. In more recent years, I've been a fan of the film *Dracula Untold* and the TV shows *The Ghost Whisperer* and *Medium*.

I love all the nineteenth century Gothic classics — *The Mysteries of Udolpho*, *The Monk*, *Melmoth the Wanderer*, *Zanoni*, *Dracula*, etc.

### **Q: What does the future hold for your writing?**

**Tyler:** I'm about to publish the last of my five-book *Children of Arthur* series. I'm also working on another historical fiction novel about Teddy Roosevelt's libel trial that took place here in Marquette in 1913. And I imagine there will be a sequel to *Haunted Marquette*, since I already have more stories than I was able to put in the book.

I hope to live long enough to write many books, but if not, maybe I'll come back and channel novels through some aspiring novelist in the 22nd century.

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To learn more about Tyler R. Tichelaar, visit [www.MarquetteFiction.com](http://www.MarquetteFiction.com) and [www.HauntedMarquette.com](http://www.HauntedMarquette.com). ♦