

# The Wanderer of New Hope

By Shiloh Burnam

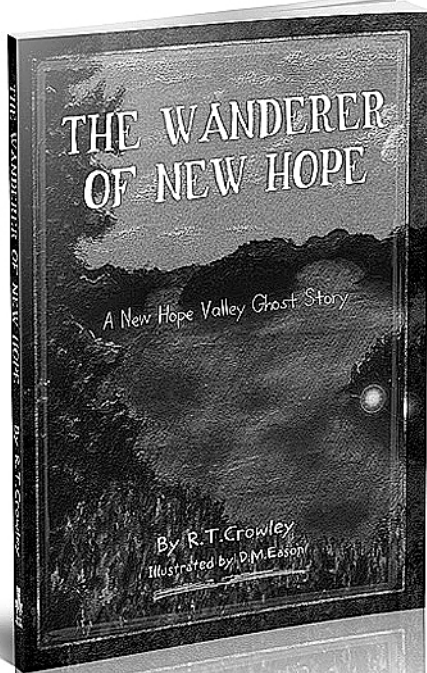
The first novel from any author is always an uncertain proposition, but in R.T. Crowley's debut story, "The Wanderer of New Hope" (Peak City Publishing, 2011), the author delivers a healthy dose of reading pleasure in unexpected ways.

He draws from his experience as a historian to tell the story of a fictional family with ties to a local legend. As a volunteer at the North Carolina Railway Museum, located near the south end of New Hope Creek, he began a project to research the history of the valley, once considered some of the best farmland in the State of North Carolina. In 1980, this land was impounded for flood control by the US Army Corps of Engineers and became Jordan Lake.

Such research always encounters local legends and stories, and those of the area began to follow a pattern, leading to the legend of the wandering spirit in this tale. Legendary stories describe disjointed incidents over a period of time, so linking them together through the lives of the various generations of the fictional Stone family provided a vehicle to tell the entire story in a very readable manner. The result of this work is now presented as "The Wanderer of New Hope."

The work is set in Chatham County, in the valley of New Hope Creek, now known as Jordan Lake. On the surface, the tale traces local legends and stories about a ghostly presence inhabiting the valley. The author uses historical events to weave the tale of a local, well-to-do Victorian family, whose lives intertwine with the apparition in unexpected and mysterious ways. The story spans from 1861 to the present with connections to "The Wanderer of New Hope" through many generations of the family.

While legends are often told and retold with embellishments over time, the author writes the legend in narrative, as if relating factual events recorded in time. The combination of a fictional novel coupled with the actual tone of the legends, leaves readers wondering about the reality of "The Wanderer of New Hope" and the chance of a personal encounter. One reader



said, "We may never be able to visit the area around Jordan Lake again without feeling a touch of panic if the leaves are moving with no wind or if we see a pale yellow light in the trees. It just might be the start of a new encounter with The Wanderer of New Hope."

R.T. Crowley is a writer, historian, actor, and businessman with long worldwide experience in many fields, including serving as part of the U.S. Delegation to the United Nations. Having authored books on various facets of business, he has now turned his pen to fiction with "The Wanderer of New Hope." A distinguished speaker on many topics, Mr. Crowley is highly respected in the community and a well-known figure around town.

Peak City Publishing, in Apex, NC, will publish the book. Follow the progress of the book on Facebook or by visiting the publisher's author page: [www.wix.com/peakcitypublishing/thewandererofnewhope](http://www.wix.com/peakcitypublishing/thewandererofnewhope)

Peak City Publishing, LLC is a small trade publishing company that provides full service publishing services to authors. For more information: [www.peakcitypublishing.com](http://www.peakcitypublishing.com).

*Shiloh Burnam is President of Peak Publishing, LLC.*



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