

## "John Cameron's Mourner"

Also known as "Lady of the Columbines" or "Lady in Black", tales of this mysterious lady materialized in 1887, with the death of Central City's most eligible bachelor.

John Cameron had been one of Central City's favorite son's. Every young woman in town was trying to snag Cameron as a husband. At 28, he suddenly died of "paralysis of the heart". His death left the entire town in mourning. After the funeral a mysterious young woman in mourning dress remained by the graveside. She returned every year on the anniversary of his death, November 1st, and also on April 5th, with an armful of Blue Columbines and wild flowers, wearing the same black brocade dress.

In 1899, fourteen towns people gathered at the cemetery to solve the mystery. The lady made an appearance from the opposite side of the cemetery. Moving in a mist toward the grave, she placed a bouquet on the grave, whispered a few words, and then silently moved away. Some of the onlookers tried to follow, but she disappeared over the crest of the hill. A terrific eerie wind arose from the same direction, forcing the group to give up and return to town.

During the next few decades the Lady of the Columbines occasionally reappeared, but her identity has always remained a mystery. Some say she was secretly engaged to John Cameron. Some say John Cameron died of a broken heart after she spurned him, and that the lady haunts his grave out of guilt and remorse. Anyone who may have known the truth is long gone, probably buried in the same cemetery. Still on November 1st and April 5th, a small crowd gathers in the Central City Masonic Cemetery to try and catch a glimpse of the lady in black.