

52 *WITCHES, WARLOCKS, AND LEGENDS OF OLD MASS.*

There are ominous stories coming down from the time of the Pilgrims about certain spots along the upper Miskatonic River; old settlements huddle close to the slopes of the hills here in this lonely stretch of land while looming over them the low mountains of Massachusetts hold their secrets still...

One such site is Chapochoaug Hill, a rise east of Aylesbury, just south of the river. Fifty years ago Irish diggers dynamited a railroad tunnel through the hill, perhaps disturbing some ancient spirit in the rocks. The tunnel project itself was dangerous and many lives were lost, giving the tunnel a dark reputation, one only made worse by several fatal accidents in the years following. Ghost stories spread soon after. Passengers using the train reported seeing odd faces at the window in the darkness. Odd lights were seen bobbing along within the tunnel by work crews checking the line, thought to be the ghost of a dead switchman. Other times odd lights have been seen on the hill itself, though if these are a wayward railroad engineer or something else entirely is unclear.