

Strange ... But True?

VAMPIRES

XINA M. UHL



**BLACK
RABBIT
BOOKS**



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The Undead

In 1892, a man named Edwin Brown became deathly ill. The townspeople wondered if his sister was to blame. Mercy Lena Brown had died a few months earlier. The townspeople worried she was a vampire. They had no other way to explain Edwin's condition. They dug up Mercy's grave. Her body was still fresh!





Vampire Tales

Some of the townspeople said Mercy's fingernails had grown. Others said she wasn't in the same position she had been buried in. The townspeople were sure she was a vampire. They cut out her heart and burned it.

The Browns' story is one of many vampire tales. In fact, people have told stories about these creatures for hundreds of years.

**A group
of vampires is
called a coven
or clan.**

Monsters Among Us

Stories say vampires have pale skin. They hate garlic, and sunlight hurts them. They run from religious crosses. Holy water burns them. Many stories say vampires have cold skin. They say the creatures can't be seen in mirrors. Some stories say vampires **communicate** with animals. Others say they can turn into bats.

Vampire **traits** vary from story to story. But one trait always stays the same. Vampires drink blood.

