

Briefing

Future/Perfect Part 2 assumes the Agents have already investigated *Future/Perfect* Part 1. Agents with a taste for adventure will not be hard-pressed to begin looking into the past of Arthur Hunt, particularly if they uncovered his “oddities” in Part 1. Chester is a natural place to start pulling apart the secrets that cover Hunt’s life like a shroud.

If the Agents failed to gain the testimony of Monty Greene in Part 1, Delta Green can provide it in audio files from some follow-up investigation. The Agents’ case officer can make noises about locating and removing any further threats that have to do with Hunt’s past. It’s well known that such “infestations” can corrupt entire towns.

Delta Green’s leaders have not forgotten the horrors of Innsmouth, an entire town devoted to the worship of the Great Old Ones. Could such a horrific and dangerous threat go overlooked for decades in the center of the

country? To Delta Green, the only thing worse than another Innsmouth is an Innsmouth that goes undiscovered until it is too late.

Future/Perfect Part 2 is ostensibly set in 2018. If your campaign is set in a different year, adjust the dates accordingly.

Starting with Part 2

If your Agents are entering *Future/Perfect* through Part 2, the investigation should focus on the New Star Crusade and its connection to the Ohio River Killer (see page 5). Perhaps an agent from Cincinnati—see **THE CINCINNATI CELL** on page 3—never managed to shake a suspicion that something strange was behind the Ohio River Killer and has convinced the Program to send help. The players can be drawn into the mystery of Arthur Hunt, and from there to Hellbend (*Future/Perfect* Part 1) and Duxbury (*Future Perfect* Part 3).



Delta Green in Chester

Delta Green prefers to insert Agents into FBI investigations, but that's not an option here. Whether the Agents are following clues about Arthur Hunt from Hellbend or are following old leads about the New Star Crusade, there is no active case for them to officially investigate. The Ohio River Killer case was resolved with the death of its suspect, years ago, and authorities have not connected it with missing-person cases since then.

The Program could arrange a highly restricted "training exercise," without telling the local authorities or FBI office about it. Otherwise, the Agents must go to Chester off the clock, taking vacation time or sick leave, and telling their families whatever excuses they can manage. The impact this has on each Agent's Bonds and career is up to the Handler.

Whatever brings them to Chester, the Agents must establish a base of operations. At your discretion, their case officer could give them access to useful assets in Cincinnati: a pair agents who have worked in the region before, and a Green Box that has been untouched for years.

Room and Board

Chester, Ohio is located 130 km from the Cincinnati airport, and is dotted with several small, out-of-the-way hotels, motels, and rental cabins. The Agents' best bet lies with the anonymous motels that dot Highway 50, northeast of town. They are technically out of the jurisdiction of Chester, Ohio, and are home only to traveling businessmen and tourists. In other words, people who mind their own business.

Staying at the Regency Motel or a bed-and-breakfast in Chester proper is higher profile and therefore more dangerous. In such a town, there is little else to do except talk about strangers. If the Agents stay in town and are implicated in some type of crime, numerous witnesses will step forward reporting their schedule in detail to the Meigs County Sheriff's Office, making it much more likely that such charges will stick. If the Agents are public about their investigation, this draws even more scrutiny. Staying in town also makes it far more likely that a deputy takes an interest, especially if some sort of crime seems to have been committed.

The Cincinnati Cell

A Delta Green team operating out of Cincinnati was devastated recently by an operation gone wrong. Six months ago, an occult-connected man named Zacharias Wilkes killed two of the team's four agents.

The two remaining agents (a local police officer and a DEA agent) are very paranoid about their involvement in the operation and in Program in general. They have made it a policy to meet only when vitally necessary. DEA Special Agent Rigoberto R. Young and Cincinnati Police Sergeant Stephen Moreno are not exactly knocking down doors to get back into the action. For the last half-year, they have looked into their case officer's requests independent of one another, hoping to prevent any outside investigation from linking them together.

If instructed to meet with the players' Agents, they choose an out-of-the-way spot: an isolated highway overpass, an abandoned railyard, or a dilapidated farm; perfect ambush territory. They assist in whatever way the Agents need, though they seem reticent and evasive.

Sergeant Moreno, particularly, is on edge. He appears well adjusted and normal, though cautious, but he has been wracked with severe nightmares since the shootout that ended the lives of his teammates.

Special Agent Young is made of somewhat sterner stuff. Though he does not wish to be involved, he does his duty to the best of his ability. However, Young requires alcohol. Without it, he becomes unfocused, jumpy, and prone to mistakes.

This is not to say that these agents are useless. Special Agent Young has access to federal information on the New Star Crusade and Danen Ignis (see **THE NEW STAR CRUSADE** on page 15), as well as information on Douglas Yale. Sergeant Moreno can access the state police database, and look up nearly any major crime in Meigs County in the last 40 years.

The Cincinnati team investigated the oddities of the Yale case briefly in 2015, but nothing came of it. By then, the Ohio River Killer had been identified as Douglas Yale and had been found dead in the woods.

The Green Box

Green Box #419 is located three km outside Cincinnati, in a facility called Park-N-Store-It. It's a corrugated steel box, six meters square (20 feet by 20 feet), with a steel rolling-top door. The door is padlocked with a rusted Yale lock.

Moreno and Young do not even know it exists.

Park-N-Store-It is surrounded by a four-meter (12-foot) fence topped with razor wire. It is accessible only during business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The key to the unit is hidden on top of the lip of the door, amidst moss, rotting leaves, and water. It is obvious it has not been used in years.

Inside, the unit is packed with what seems to be the remnants of an estate: old tables, chairs, and a disassembled bed, all wrapped in plastic and covered in dust. Two paintings, each bound carefully in yellowed muslin bound with wire, are stowed in the corner. They are propped up on milk crates to keep them away from potential flooding. Many of the items are marked in fading pen with the following inscription: "Pickman-Wright Estate 01/12/69."

Those opening either of the two paintings are in for an upsetting turn of events.

Painting 1: The Tower

This painting of an ancient stone tower with staggered windows is haunting in its simplicity. The painting is signed "R.U.P."



Anyone staring at it finds themselves drawn to the crows circling the tower. Those failing a **Sanity** roll find they can hear the birds as they wheel in the sky, and continue to stare until pulled away. After ten minutes, the viewer sees the birds move (costing 1 **SAN**).

Those unfortunate enough to come upon the painting alone and are trapped, staring, and who fail a second **Sanity** roll, are not seen again. They will be observed going into the unit by the manager, and the painting will be found unwrapped and pointed at a set of footprints in the dust.

This painting has a side effect, one that the Program would be most interested in. Items smaller than a person left facing the uncovered painting for more than 10 minutes vanish, never to be seen again. The Agents might discover this by accident if they leave the painting uncovered with a chair or footstool in view. This method can permanently remove nearly any piece of evidence to a place where it is quite literally, beyond human reach.

Painting 2: The Bride

This unfinished painting of a pale woman clad in crimson seems to catch the light in amazing ways, making it difficult not to observe at length. A viewer must make a **WP**×5 roll or stare at it closely, becoming drawn to the woman's lips, which are painted black. The viewer must make a **Sanity** roll or see the lips move and hear the whisper of the word "Kadath." This costs 1 **SAN**. The painting does nothing else. The painting is not signed.



Chester History

Lying on the Shade River, Chester was a rural community from the earliest days of Ohio. It was the original county seat of Meigs County from about 1821 until the county seat moved to Pomeroy in 1841. Author Ambrose Bierce was born nearby in 1842.

In 1923, an incredible transformation took place. A local drunk, Arthur Hunt, suddenly became the town's resident genius. Drawing reporters from all over the state, Hunt went on to form Hunt Electrodynamics in Chester. He patented 60 significant electronic inventions and then left town, all in a matter of four years. Hunt left a large Hunt Electrodynamics plant behind, which rapidly supplanted the waning Crescent Machine Company as the number-one employer in town.

By 1943, a new company arrived through the workings of Hunt Electrodynamics: Parsons Bakelite Company, a plastics manufacturer for the war effort. This small business exploded over the next two years.

The Hunt plant closed in 1953 during the restructuring of Hunt Electrodynamics after the death of Arthur Hunt. Parsons Bakelite Company, renamed Parsons Plastics, has remained the top employer in Chester for the past 60 years, producing light sockets, plastic tubing, and cheap plastic screws.

Chester Township Facts

- » **AREA:** 118 square km (45.5 square miles)
- » **POPULATION:** 1,284 (1950 Census); 2,496 (2010 Census)
- » **FOUNDED:** 1821
- » **INDUSTRY:** Plastics, Tourism
- » **TEMPERATURE:** High 40 C (104 F); Low -78 C (-109 F)

The Ohio River Killer

The most cursory Internet search for strange events in Meigs County turns up the story of Douglas Yale, the Ohio River Killer.

In 2010, Douglas Yale joined the New Star Crusade. At first, there was little special about Yale. He was a quiet man with a long history of psychological problems, but

he faded into the group, sticking close to Danen Ignis and doing whatever was asked of him. But soon, Yale began causing trouble in town, something the group tried to avoid. Yale was arrested twice for drunk and disorderly conduct and once for assault. When Ignis confined him to the farm, he turned his problems on the Crusade.

In 2011, after an armed confrontation, Yale was ejected from the New Star Crusade. For six months, he vanished, only seen from time to time in town. Rumors persisted that he was living in the forest in an old tent. He was known to frequent the mounds at night. On October 21, 2012, a county deputy discovered him defacing the mounds.

Yale flew into a rage and seriously injured the deputy, who only survived by shooting Yale five times with his sidearm. Still, Yale escaped. One of the largest manhunts in Ohio history followed.

For the next seven months, through one of the worst winters in Ohio history, Yale eluded capture. In that time, three people disappeared: nurse Maureen Poch, age 30; farmer Ignatius Gerhard, age 88; and Sabrina Callard, age 6. When their remains were found, Yale became the sole suspect. In each case, bones, teeth, and hair ground up into a disgusting pile, all the meat dissolved away. The state crime lab could not identify the dissolving agent. It said the remains had been exposed to the elements too long. (An Agent with Medicine 50% or higher or who succeeds at a Medicine roll finds that explanation dubious. If asked, a medical examiner at the crime lab says it's the best explanation they could find for a strange situation. But the examiner could tell dozens of stories just as weird.)

In 2013, Yale was captured at the Chester Mounds on the summer solstice. Local authorities keeping an eye on rites performed by the New Star Crusade saw him at the edge of the forest. Despite a hail of bullets, Yale survived to be captured. He was catatonic and unresponsive, and was thrown in the Meigs County lockup.

After a day and a half in custody, Yale vanished from his cell on the night of June 23, 2013, along with Deputy Arthur Falstaf. Falstaf had a distinguished career, but he left his post without warning the night that Yale vanished. It was strongly suspected that somehow, for unknown reasons, Falstaf helped the killer. The deputy has not been seen since. The New Star Crusade was placed under tight

surveillance for weeks, and hunkered down at the Ignis farm, but was quickly eliminated as a suspect.

Over the next month and a half, four more people disappeared, their distinctive remains found by hunters, hikers and travelers in the back woods of the county. The bones and hair had been ground up into compressed piles, picked clean of meat. In this time, Yale became nationally famous as the Ohio River Killer. Reports compared him to the likes of Ted Bundy and the Son of Sam. Dozens of reporters descended on Chester to cover the story. Numerous television shows would be made about the murders, due mostly to their brutality and cannibalistic nature.

In October 2014, the case took an even stranger turn. Bones found by hikers near the Chester Mounds were identified as those of Douglas Yale. There was no mistake; the man thought to be responsible for seven confirmed and one suspected death was dead. Yale's bones were picked clean and had been scattered. Police and the press observed the poetic justice that he had apparently been killed and eaten by animals much as he had done to his victims.

In death, Douglas Yale remained as much of a mystery as in life. Despite numerous sensational books on the subject, few solid facts on Douglas Yale exist. Yale's childhood—what of it is known—is the standard tale of an absent father, a drunken mother, and deep poverty. Yale experienced various brushes with the law throughout his life.



Yale's nightly walks at the mounds had affected him badly, and he degenerated slowly into madness. He was ejected from the New Star Crusade when Danen Ignis realized his charge had lost his mind.

Even after Yale's bones were discovered in October 2014, murders and disappearances in the area continued. But no one in law enforcement connected them to the dead Ohio River Killer.

To residents, the Douglas Yale case is old news. It is something akin to the story of Jeffery Dahmer or Richard Speck, yet another lost person looking to matter in the world. Few give a second thought to the strange fact that Yale survived a huge shootout unscathed, or that he escaped from a secure jail and abducted an armed deputy. It's just another strange part of a strange story.

A Haunted Place

The truth is, nothing much is wrong with the town itself. There are unnatural anomalies (such as the mounds, the Ohio River Killer, and Arthur Hunt himself) but Chester is surprisingly normal. Its obsession with its mounds and the triskelion snake image is just a natural bit of town pride. Chester has no supernatural significance. But the players don't need to know this. As far as they are concerned, the town can seem sinister and just "a little *too* nice." In fact, playing up this apparent veneer of good will can be a great way to enhance the paranoia. And paranoia is what *Delta Green* is all about.

The Mound Builders

Archeologists believe the Chester Mounds were built by the Adena culture, which rose and fell long before the first Europeans arrived in North America. The Adena left behind a legacy of earthworks and ancient mound structures from as far east as West Virginia all the way to the edge of Oklahoma. They are thought to be responsible for the construction of the Great Serpent Mound and Chester's more modest triskelion of serpents.

Little is known of these people, and it remains a matter of archeological debate whether a single culture was responsible for the various earthwork structures found across the eastern U.S. or a mixture of tribes with similar rites and rituals.

Archeologists agree that the earthworks they constructed date from between 2000 and 100 BCE. These earthworks are some of the largest in the world, and some (such as the Chester Mounds and the Great Serpent Mound) are intricate and detailed.

The Adena are thought to be the predecessors to the modern Indian tribes that populated the area when Europeans began populating the continent. Many Indian tribes claim to be unbroken descendants of the Adena, but no one has definitive proof.

For more information about the Chester Mounds, see page 19.

The Last Age of the Serpents

The truth of the early Adena culture has long been lost to humanity. It was in fact a series of human “fiefdoms” ruled by singularly powerful serpent folk nearly 3,000 years ago. These few serpent folk, numbering fewer than six, awakened from a three-million-year slumber to find their old kingdom wiped from the surface of the Earth.

The first of the serpent folk to awaken resurrected a handful of its powerful cousins, and an army of more degenerate ophidians, who had survived the downfall of their culture 750,000 years before. They hoped to forge a new serpent-folk culture in the wilds of the mammal-overrun world.

Unfortunately, the serpent folk are secretive and reclusive. Each created a small kingdom, using their magics to enslave the primitive human cultures. Disputes erupted in a pointless war between them. This war lasted nearly a thousand years. The conflict ended with the human cultures discovering the serpent folk’s weakness. There was a reason the serpent folk were strict vegetarians: their bloodlust was so great that once tempted by blood, they would feed until glutted and then enter a torpor in which they were eminently vulnerable.

This quickly led to the death of most of the serpent folk, bringing their reign to an end. However, one of them, Xichlasa, reentered his long slumber. His twenty-five most valued guards were buried with him. The rest of his army of degenerate serpent folk guarded his tomb. Xichlasa would later become Arthur Hunt.

These degenerate serpent folk remained in the area until the Shawnee appeared nearly 2,500 years later. By that time, the serpent folk could not offer significant resistance. The Shawnee killed and drove off the creatures.

Sensing the evil of the Chester Mounds, the Shawnee placed them in a kind of quarantine. Those who were drawn to their power were slain. Shawnee warriors patrolled to watch for signs of the return of the “strange, white-faced people,” as the degenerate serpent folk came to be remembered. Meanwhile, embedded in the mounds, Xichlasa slept, waiting for a time more suited for his kind.

He slept for nearly 3,000 years, until Arthur Hunt drunkenly dug him up in 1923. The serpent consumed Hunt, took his form, and was let loose on the modern world.

The Hunter

Douglas Yale never committed a single murder—but a doppelganger of him did, eight times before his capture, and eight times after the confirmation of Yale’s death. Yale had come under the psychic sway of a monster called Xa, one of the serpent-folk.

The Chester Mounds are home to the sleeping bodies of 25 more of its kind, “degenerate” serpent-folk who long ago served the ophidian that would take the form of Arthur Hunt. Xichlasa chose to leave them in their slumber until such a time as they would be useful to his cause. They are crude, violent creatures, capable of only physical labor and a blunt, hypnotic mind-control. In the past,

