**Brad E. Steiger 1936-2008 wikipedia**

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad\_Steiger

**Brad Steiger** (February 19, 1936 – May 6, 2018) was an American author of fiction and non-fiction works on the [paranormal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paranormal), spirituality, UFOs, [true crime](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/True_crime) and biographies. His books sold well to the public but were widely criticized by academics and skeptics for making far-fetched claims without scientific evidence.

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| **Brad Steiger** | |
| [Brad Steiger.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Brad_Steiger.jpg) | |
| **Born** | Eugene E. Olson February 19, 1936 [Fort Dodge, Iowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Dodge,_Iowa), US |
| **Died** | May 6, 2018 (aged 82) |
| **Occupation** | Author |
| **Nationality** | American |
| **Education** | [Luther College (Iowa)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luther_College_(Iowa)) [University of Iowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Iowa) |
| **Genre** | [Paranormal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paranormal) |
| **Years active** | 1956–2018 |
| **Spouse** | Sherry Hansen Steiger (m. 1987) |
| **Website** | |
| [bradandsherry.com](http://bradandsherry.com) | |

## Biography

Steiger was born as Eugene E. Olson on February 19, 1936,[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger" \l "cite_note-EoOP-1) at the [Fort Dodge](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Dodge,_Iowa) Lutheran Hospital during a [blizzard](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blizzard). He grew up on a farm in [Bode, Iowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bode,_Iowa). He identified as [Lutheran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lutheranism) until the age of eleven, when a [near-death experience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Near-death_experience) changed his religious beliefs. His parents encouraged him to become a teacher.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-Cosmoetica-2) He graduated from [Luther College (Iowa)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luther_College_(Iowa)) in 1957 and the [University of Iowa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Iowa) in 1963. He taught high school English before teaching Literature and Creative Writing at his former college from 1963 to 1967.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-EoOP-1)

Steiger claimed to have written his first book at age seven.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-Cosmoetica-2) His first book, *Ghosts, Ghouls and Other Peculiar People*, was published in 1965. He became a full-time writer by 1967.[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-EoOP-1) He authored/co-authored almost 170 books, which have sold 17 million copies. He wrote biographies on [Greta Garbo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greta_Garbo), [Judy Garland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Judy_Garland), and [Rudolph Valentino](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rudolph_Valentino), the latter of which was adapted as a [film](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valentino_(1977_film)) in 1977.[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-Brad&Sherry-3) With his wife Sherry Hansen Steiger, he was the author of *Four-legged Miracles: Heartwarming Tales of Lost Dogs' Journeys Home*.

Steiger appeared as a radio guest on [Coast to Coast AM](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast_to_Coast_AM)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-C2CAM_Guest-4) and the [*Jeff Rense*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeff_Rense) *Program.*[[3]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-Brad&Sherry-3)

Steiger wrote that he believed [Atlantis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Atlantis) was a real place. In his book *Atlantis Rising* he argued that Atlantis was the home of an all-powerful civilization with sophisticated technological achievement.[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-5) He also declared the tracks at [Paluxy River](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paluxy_River) to be evidence for an ancient civilization of [giant humans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giants_(esotericism)).[[6]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-6)

He was a proponent of the [ancient astronauts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_astronauts) idea. Steiger stated that many humans descend from alien beings. He referred to these beings as "star people".[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-7)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-8)

Steiger was married to Sherry Hansen Steiger, an author and minister, from 1987 to his death in 2018. They have five children and nine grandchildren.[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-Cosmoetica-2) He died on May 6, 2018, at the age of 82.[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-9)

## Reception

Steiger's books on UFO's, spirituality, and the paranormal have generally sold well, but have been criticized by many academics for spurious content, lack of scientific evidence, and failure to cite sources, among other reasons.

Anthropologist Bonita Freeman-Witthoft gave Steiger's *Medicine Power* an entirely negative review. She noted that Steiger failed to cite scholarly sources, gave faulty [documentation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Documentation) and his reporting of [mythology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mythology) was inaccurate. She concluded that "It is a disappointing work of no use to scholars and of little use to a person sincerely interested in American Indian spirituality."[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-10)

[Sarah Higley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Higley) gave Steiger's *The Werewolf Book* a mixed review and concluded "with a definite penchant for the sensational at the expense of the accurate, the casual reader will find much in it informative and entertaining as well."[[11]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-11)

Skeptical investigator [Joe Nickell](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joe_Nickell) considers Steiger an unreliable source and has noted that he "endlessly cranks out books promoting paranormal claims".[[12]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-12)

His books have also drawn criticism from [Jason Colavito](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jason_Colavito) who has stated they are filled with [pseudoscientific](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pseudoscience) claims.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brad_Steiger#cite_note-13)

## References

 *["Steiger, Brad (1936–)"](http://www.encyclopedia.com/doc/1G2-3403804325.html)*. Encyclopedia of Occultism and Parapsychology. 2001.

  "The Dan Schneider Interview 10: Brad Steiger" (Interview). Cosmoetica. April 8, 2008.

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  [*"Brad Steiger"*](https://web.archive.org/web/20090915180314/http:/www.coasttocoastam.com/guest/steiger-brad/5860). [*Coast to Coast AM*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coast_to_Coast_AM). Archived from [*the original*](http://www.coasttocoastam.com/guest/steiger-brad/5860) on September 15, 2009.

  Simms, L. Moody. (1976). *From Atlantis to UFOs*. *Social Science* 51 (2): 97–104.

  Williams, William F. (2000). *Encyclopedia of Pseudoscience: From Alien Abductions to Zone Therapy*. Facts on File Inc. p. 257. [ISBN](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISBN_(identifier)) [1-57958-207-9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Special:BookSources/1-57958-207-9)

  Hicks, John. (1992). *Alien Encounters*. Time-Life Books. p. 126. "The world is apparently full of such star people, a term used by Brad Steiger, who believes himself and his wife to be among the alien-descended elite."

  Battaglia, Debbora. (2005). *E. T. Culture: Anthropology in Outerspaces*. Duke University Press. p. 89

  [Brad E Steiger Obituary](http://www.majorericksonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Brad-E-Steiger?obId=3083724#/obituaryInfo)

  Freeman-Witthoft, Bonita. (1977). *Reviewed Work: Medicine Power: The American Indian's Revival of His Spiritual Heritage and It's Relevance for Modern Man by Brad Steiger*. [*Journal of American Folklore*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Journal_of_American_Folklore) 90 (357): 354–356.

  Higley, Sarah. (2000). *Reviewed Work: The Werewolf Book: The Encyclopedia of Shape-Beings by Brad Steiger*. [*Journal of the Fantastic in the Arts*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Association_for_the_Fantastic_in_the_Arts#Journal_of_the_Fantastic_in_the_Arts). Vol. 11, No. 3 (43). pp. 314–317.

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 ["Brad Steiger, the Nephilim, and the Lizard People"](http://www.jasoncolavito.com/blog/brad-steiger-the-nephilim-and-the-lizard-people). Retrieved June 12, 2017.

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<https://www.majorericksonfuneralhome.com/obituaries/Brad-E-Steiger?obId=3083724#/obituaryInfo>

# Brad E Steiger

## February 19, 1936 — May 6, 2018

Brad E. Steiger, 82, of Mason City, IA died Sunday, May 6, 2018 at the Muse Norris Hospice Inpatient Unit.   
  
Steiger was born as Eugene E. Olson on February 19, 1936 at the Fort Dodge Lutheran Hospital to Hazel and Erling “Link” Olson. He grew up as a typical farm boy in Bode, until a near-death farm accident changed his perspective on life at the age of eleven. This out of body experience eventually led him to research and write about all things “unexplained.”   
  
He married Marilyn Ann Gjefle in 1956, with whom he had four children. He graduated from Luther College in 1957, and attended graduate school at the University of Iowa. He taught high school English in Clinton, Iowa before teaching Literature and Creative Writing at Luther College from 1963 to 1967.   
  
His first book was published in 1965 while he was teaching, and he became a full-time writer by 1967. In the early 1970's, he penned a weekly newspaper column, “The Strange World of Brad Steiger” that was carried in 80 American newspapers and publications around the world.   
  
Since then, he authored /co-authored over 170 books which have sold 17 million copies. He wrote many non-fiction books researching unexplained phenomena such as ghosts and U.F.O’s, as well as biographies on Greta Garbo, Judy Garland, and Rudolph Valentino - the latter of which was adapted as a film in 1977. Steiger was married to Sherry Hansen Steiger, an author and minister, from 1987 until the time of his death. Together they co-authored over 50 books, including a series on animal intelligence and miracles. They traveled around the world researching and lecturing, and appeared as guests on many radio shows including Coast to Coast AM, and television networks such as A&E and HBO.   
  
Brad was known for his kind and caring demeanor, keen intellect, and quick wit. Even as his health was failing him in recent months, he made sure that no one left his room without a good laugh.   
  
Brad is survived by his beloved soulmate, wife and partner, Sherry Steiger, sister June (Tom) Krull-Bonderman of Clear Lake, four children: Bryan Olson of CO, Steve (Melissa) Olson of New York, Kari (Daniele) Olson Fusaro of Italy, Julie (John) Tyree of AZ, and daughter by marriage Melissa (Brad) Schoneberg of Mason City; ten grandchildren: Cristina (Riccardo) & Erik Fusaro, Katie & Natalie Tyree, Maya & Lily Olson, Corissa & Cianna Olson, and Sophia & Olivia Schoneberg, two nephews: Kirk and Mike Krull and families, as well as numerous cousins.   
  
A private family gathering will take place at a later date. Online condolences may be left for the family at www.majorericksonfuneralhome.com, and the family asks that memorial contributions be directed to the Animal Welfare Institute.

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