

LPS INVESTIGATION REPORT



Site Location	Knife and Cleaver, Houghton Conquest
Report Date	17 th December 2008
Report By	Bill King

Background

On 2nd November 2008 LPS was contacted by Susan of the Knife and Cleaver Inn in Houghton Conquest which lies just over 5 miles (8 kilometres) south of Bedford. Susan said that she was sure that people in the inn had been experiencing paranormal events and asked LPS if we would conduct an investigation on her behalf. As the inn has a long history of being haunted LPS jumped at the opportunity and on 28th November a team of nine LPS members arrived at the inn to do an all night investigation.

The Investigation

Members of SPI:RIT (the LPS Specialist Paranormal Investigators: Research & Investigations Team) arrived at the inn around 22:00 and straight away team members began to pick up on things including presences in the bar (other than the living customers). As is normal with all LPS investigations the team had not been told about the previous history of the site (either physical or paranormal) so as not to influence the team's perceptions of the site.

During the investigation we were joined by a reporter from the Bedfordshire on Sunday newspaper who spent some time talking with members of the team, Susan and the customers who had experienced odd happenings in the inn.

As soon as the customers had left we set up our equipment including motion sensing infrared cameras, sound recorders etc. Once this was done we did a ten minute meditation which helps clear the team members minds and makes them more receptive to the 'atmosphere' of the site. This was followed by a number of timed vigils, an experiment session, where team members used some of the more esoteric equipment like dowsing rods and pendulums, and a séance. The results of this investigation are given in the pages that follow along with a detailed history of the site including the names of people who have lived there during the last one hundred and eighty six years and the uses which have been made of the inn and its outbuildings.

Results

During the investigation the team members picked up on several residents of the bar area who have not existed in the normal physical sense for quite some time. These included the spirits of at least one cat and several spirits who seem to have dropped in for a pint (even though it was after closing time). One of the most notable related to the diary which, at the time, was in a small area just off the bar. Several team members saw figures or shadows in that area and one even saw someone standing just beyond the door and looking down towards the diary. This was especially interesting as the team member involved did not know of the haunted history which seemed to indicate that the Knife and Cleaver was haunted by two ghosts, one of which was thought to be male and the other female. It was said that a young student barman was rather shocked when he saw the pages of the booking diary turning over of their own accord. He was deeply shocked when a spectral hand suddenly appeared over his shoulder. It was also said that virtually every day you would feel a draught as if someone had walked past you, but there was never anyone there.

One of the most interesting results involved the reporter who has now gone away with a lot to think about after 'I experienced something very unusual and unlike anything I have ever experienced in my

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life'. Details of the event which prompted this comment can be seen in the Team Reports contained herein (specifically in the Séance section at the bottom of page 5 of the Team 3 report).

Various names were picked up on though a lot of these were just first names specifically, Rose, Jack, Marilyn, John, Jasper, Jane and Fred. Four names were more detailed and if anyone has any information regarding these we would be very interested to hear it. These names were Joseph, also known as 'Little Jo', Jake Richardson, Robert Varney and Stella Forbes (with the possibly associated words 'darling' and 'reverend'). Our psychic artist also came up with a picture of 'Rose' as shown on the right (a larger version appears in the Team 1 report) and we would be interested in knowing if anyone recognises the person, though it is possible she was alive during the Regency period which was from 1811 to 1820 during the reign of George III. This was during the earliest part of the history of the inn when details of who lived there are very sketchy at best.



Conclusion

All told it was a very interesting investigation which revealed that there is a lot of activity mainly due to former clients of the inn who still seem to be around a long time after they have died. Even if the former clients are not there they still seem to have left 'recordings', mere shadows of their former existence, as experienced by one of the team members in the bar area.

LPS wish to thank all those at the Knife and Cleaver who made us very welcome and made this an enjoyable investigation (the fresh coffee and toast at 7 O'clock in the morning after over eight hours of investigation was especially appreciated).