

Classic Ghost Photos

Real, hoaxes or double exposures--these are the most famous classic ghost photos.



The most famous ghost photo of all time! The Brown Lady of Raynham Hall photograph was taken on September 19, 1936 by Captain Provand while shooting pictures for Country Life magazine. Provand's assistant saw a haze descending the stairs and requested another shot be taken. When it was developed, the Brown Lady could clearly be seen on the staircase. The photograph was printed in the December 6, 1936 issue of Country Life magazine.

The ghost of Raynham Hall is postulated to be Lady Dorothy Walpole who once called Raynham Hall home. She was the sister of Sir Robert Walpole who was considered the first prime minister of England. Her father would not permit her to marry her love, Second Viscount Charles Townshend. However, she did end up marrying Townshend after his first wife passed away. Up until that point, Dorothy had already had intimate relations with Lord Wharton. Although it took place before their marriage, when Townshend learned of his wife indiscretions he had her locked up in an apartment at Raynham Hall and denied her access to her five children.

Her death on March 29, 1726 at the age of 40 was officially recorded as smallpox, but many believe she died after being pushed down the grand staircase. Her ghost has been spotted many times over the centuries, usually wearing a brown, brocade dress.

Other ghosts of Raynham Hall include a cocker spaniel, two children and the Duke of Monmouth.



Lady Dorothy Walpole-Townshend, otherwise known as The Brown Lady of Raynham Hall.

The famous "Tulip Staircase" photograph was taken in 1966 by Reverend Ralph Hardy. At the time the retired clergyman from British Columbia took the photo, he noticed nothing out of the ordinary.

The staircase makes its home in the Queen's House section of the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, England.

Phantom footsteps and strange figures have long been reported on and near the staircase. The negative was examined by experts, even some from Kodak, who concluded the negative had not been tampered with.





The Borley Rectory has been billed as “The Most Haunted House in England” and was investigated extensively by paranormal enthusiast Harry Price when he was asked to do a story on the ghosts that haunted the property. The ghosts included a nun, monk and phantom coach. There were reports of moving furniture, rappings, items disappearing, footsteps, apparitions and many more paranormal phenomena.

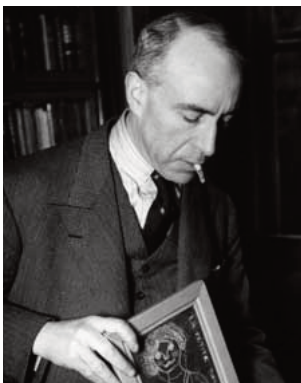
Activity increased when the house was occupied by Reverend Lionel Foyster and his wife, Marianne, who seemed to be the catalyst for the incidents. She claimed to be slapped, nearly suffocated and tormented by the spirits of Borley regularly. Writing on the walls began to appear--written to Marianne Foyster and asking for help.

After the Foysters moved out in 1935, Price leased the house in order to investigate it 24/7. On May 25, 1937 he took out an ad in the Times that read:

Haunted House: Responsible persons of leisure and intelligence, intrepid, critical, and unbiased, are invited to join rota of observers in a year's night and day investigation of alleged haunted house in Home counties. Printed Instructions supplied. Scientific training or ability to operate simple instruments an advantage. House situated in lonely hamlet, so own car is essential. Write Box H.989, The Times, E.C.4

During a seance, a spirit calling herself Marie Lairre claimed she was a nun from France who came to Borley to marry a wealthy man who had a house that was once on the same location as Borley Rectory. Marie said her husband strangled her to death and buried her in the cellar.

In March of 1938 another ghost prophesized that that very night the rectory would burn down revealing where Marie's bones were concealed in the basement. No fire occurred that night, however, almost a year later a new owner accidentally started a fire in the library when he knocked over an oil lamp. The entire building was ruined.

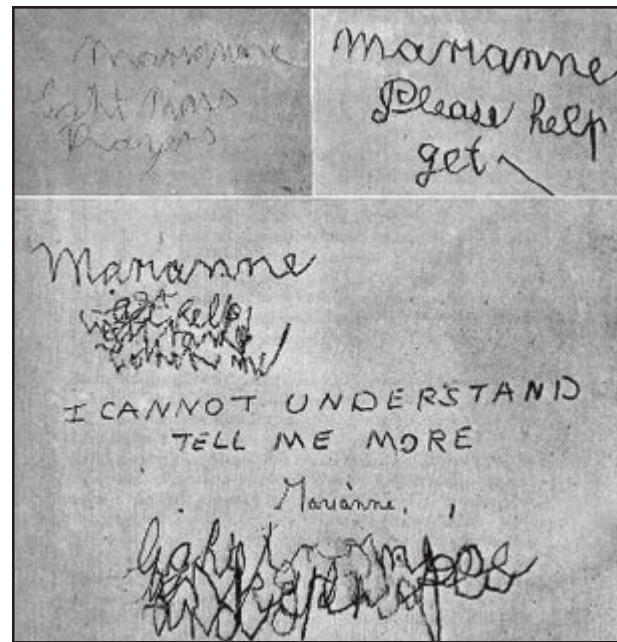


Photograph of Harry Price taken in 1932.

Price dug around in the cellar where he found some old bones that belonged to a young woman. The bones were given a proper burial.

Harry Price wrote two popular books about the Borley Rectory.

The building was demolished in 1944.



Handwriting that mysteriously appeared on the walls at Borley Rectory. The letters in all capitals were written by Marianne Foyster in an attempt to garner more information from the spirits.



This photograph of a “floating brick” was captured during the Rectory's demolition and was published in Life magazine in 1944.



In 1963 Reverend Kenneth F. Lord took the photograph known as “The Specter of Newby Church” at Newby Church (built in 1870) in North Yorkshire, England.

The Reverend claimed that when the photo was taken, there was no figure present. There are no reported hauntings at Newby Church and, even more suspicious, the figure in the picture appears to be over nine feet tall.



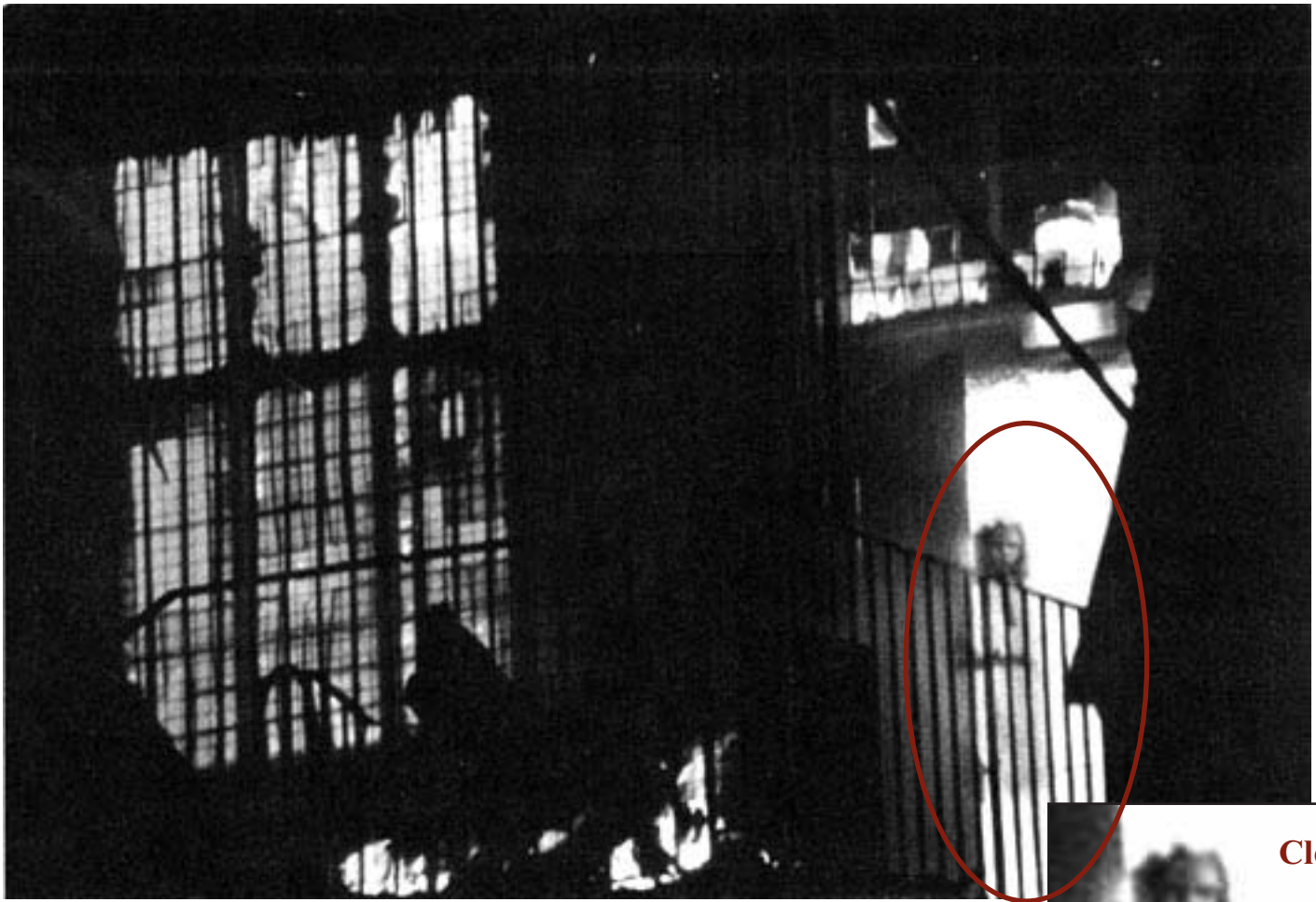
Lord Combermere was being buried at a nearby cemetery at the time this photograph was being taken in 1891 by Sybell Corbet in the Combermere Abbey library. The faint figure of a man can be seen sitting in the chair. Many believe it to be Lord Combermere himself.



This eerie photo was taken from the deck of the S.S Watertown. Crewman claimed the faces floating in the water beside the ship were those of James Courtney and Michael Meehan, two seamen who died on the vessel when they were overcome by fumes while cleaning out a cargo hold. The unfortunate men were buried at sea on December 4, 1924.

This photo is a group from Goddard’s squadron that served in World War I on the HMS Daedalus. There seems to be an extra man in the photograph. He is believed to be an airplane mechanic named Fred Jackson who was killed by a propeller two days before this picture was taken.





This photograph was taken as Wem Town Hall burned to the ground on November 19, 1995 by Tony O’Rahilly of Shropshire, England.

This was not the first time the town hall caught fire. A fire in 1677 was caused by a young girl being careless with a lit candle. Her name was Jane Churm. Could this ghostly girl be Jane 300 years after she inadvertently devastated the building?

