

## **Paranormal Investigation at the Grey Moss Inn, Part III**

*By Cynthia Leal Massey*

The Grey Moss Inn has been the subject of several paranormal investigations. In 2007, members of the After Dark Paranormal Research team were conversing with one of the restaurant owners when they heard “loud, banging noises” in the locked wine room.

The owner opened the door and several bottles of wine rolled out into the hallway undamaged.

“We found a total of four bottles of wine on the floor, still rolling around... we could not figure out how the bottles fell without any assistance and did not break,” founder Eddie Hill reported on his organization’s website.

This group also filmed significant orb activity in the main dining room. Although there is debate on whether orbs are actually indicators of paranormal activity, the video on the ADPR website is fascinating to watch.

Mission City Paranormal, in a 2009 investigation, reported “strange noises, possible apparition sightings, objects being moved, [and] one person getting scratched.”

### **The Investigation Begins**

Armed with knowledge of the previous investigations and the establishment’s history, I arrived at the restaurant at 9:30 p.m. on Friday, March 25, to meet the Paranormal Investigator Team of Texas (PITT). I had interviewed founder Kris Ratliff earlier on the phone to get a feel for what to expect.

Kris got involved in paranormal investigation with his wife, Annette, an ordained minister, first as a curiosity, then as a ministry. Devout Christians, they were told by other believers, “There are no ghosts. It’s all demons playing tricks on you.”

However, after the couple began encountering people terrified by “hauntings” in their homes, they found one thing they all had in common: little or no spiritual/religious life and virtually no knowledge of the Bible. Thus began their ministry.

Before they begin an investigation, they start with a prayer for protection from evil forces. They also have strict rules: No manufacturing of evidence, no use of occultist paraphernalia such as Quiji boards, and no partaking of alcoholic beverages.

At 11 p.m., the PITT crew, comprised of Kris and Annette, George Aguilar, and John Ratliff, set-up their equipment: several stationary camcorders hooked to DVR computer monitors in the cottage where Mary Howell once lived and in the main dining room. Other equipment included motion light detectors, EMF (electromagnetic field) detectors, infrared thermometers, a laser grid, hand-held camcorders with night vision, digital audio recorders, and flashlights.

Kris explained how the investigation would proceed. “Once we’re in the room, we’ll ask questions at random, such as, ‘Is there anybody here with us?’ We’ll wait a couple of minutes. Ninety-nine percent of the time, you won’t hear anything. You don’t know [if there was an answer] until you listen to the tapes later.”

We split into two groups around midnight after Kris led us in prayer. I joined Kris and George in the cottage, while Annette headed up a team comprised of brother-in-law John and restaurant manager Tiffany Ketchel and her friend Israel Vasquez. Their first station was the office.

I sat in front of the video monitor, which recorded what was going on in real-time, while George and Kris stationed themselves at different corners of the cottage. George began the questioning: “Can I have your name?” “What year is it?” Kris piped in, “Does it bother you that

we're here?" Such questioning went on for the next hour. About 28 minutes into the session, I saw an orb flash across the monitor. Kris said it might be dust. After an hour in the cottage, with no apparent paranormal activity, we moved to the office, where the other group had had an "experience."

They'd received two taps on the desk where Annette was sitting after asking if anybody was there. When Annette said, "Are you trying to get my attention?" there was another tap, which startled her so much that she jumped out of her chair and asked the others, "Did you all hear that?" I later saw and heard this on the video and audiotapes.

Throughout the night, the other team elicited more real-time activity than the group I was in. In the kitchen, the EMF detector kept going off when Tiffany or Annette was holding it, but was silent when the men were holding it. They concluded that the "ghost" had something against the men in their group.

Although there had been no apparent paranormal activity in my group (barring voices George heard throughout the night through his headphones), I knew this was not the end of the investigation. There were hours of tape to listen to and see. I went home tired, and eager to hear the results.

I would not be disappointed.

## **The Results**

On April 17, we met in the cottage for the debriefing. I will focus on the most intriguing evidence of paranormal activity.

Kris explained that before our team exited the cottage the night of the investigation, he'd left his digital voice recorder on the table. The following is what the recorder picked up about twenty minutes after we left: the sound of a door closing, keys jingling, chairs scooting, and then very close to the recorder a voice whispered, "Leave us." It sounded very clear and very creepy.

Kris put this in the electronic folder for questionable paranormal activity because although he is certain that nobody was in the cabin for several hours after we left, it is possible that someone (human) could have gone in there.

When we were in the second dining room adjacent to the office, audio indicated that someone grunted just as George said he felt the floor move. "The floor just shook hard," he said that night. The grunt and floor shaking seemed to indicate someone had fallen down. Also heard on the audio about the same time were whispers, "Let us help!" Could this be a residual haunting of something that happened in the past? Why did the person fall?

The most startling paranormal activity occurred during the time Kris, George, and I were in the main dining room at about 3:30 a.m. I was sitting at the monitor in the corner near the painting that has been mistakenly identified as Mary Howell. George was sitting at a table in the center right of the room, and Kris was in the smaller room on the far right where the unusual painting of the man/woman is hanging on the wall.

I saw a shadow or movement on the monitor and told Kris. He walked over to me, camcorder in hand. When he arrived, what I had seen was no longer there. He started to walk back, saying to George as he did so, "I'm going to sit by the painting." George responded, "Cool."

Kris's camcorder and George's voice recorder both recorded this conversation; however, George's camcorder recorded something different. In place of, "I'm going to sit by the painting," George's camcorder recorded a deep voice with a western twang, "I'm not going to hurt your friend," and George's response, "Cool."

The voice is clear, distinct, and eerie. Another residual haunting? Or an intelligent haunting letting us know we were safe? Was this the “shadow/person” I’d seen on the monitor just minutes before?

There were several instances of voices talking over crewmember’s conversations or answering a question. Sometimes the voices were deep and low; other times they came across as whispers.

At the end of the night, Kris, George, and John were doing a final sweep of the restaurant after picking up their equipment. Kris noticed that the silverware where the monitor had been was out of place. He placed them appropriately. He left the room and when he returned, he saw that the silverware had been moved.

The forks were crossed over each other and the knife and spoon were in the shape of a V. He asked John or George if either of them had moved the silverware and they said no. He put the forks parallel to each other again, but when he went to straighten the spoon and knife, the knife turned “on its own accord.”

All three saw this happen and they wondered if their eyes were playing tricks on them after a very long night. Since the cameras had been put away, there was no evidence to support what they saw, although mention of it went into the final report to the restaurant owner.

“There is a strong presence [at the Grey Moss Inn],” said Annette. “But there are no evil or malevolent spirits here. [In fact,] many of the spirits offered help.”

What is most interesting about the results of the investigation is that there appears to be several spirits, in addition to that of Mary Howell, residing at the restaurant. While mostly benign, some are rather mischievous.

However, I agree with Kris and Annette that, “There is nothing to fear, [what is manifested are] just remnants of those who have passed through this historical site for many years past.”

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