

GHOSTS IN WEARE GIFFARD

“Ghosts? Some people believe in Ghosts, others do not. For nineteen years we lived at Footlands and on the most part very happy ones in spite of floods, fire, and repeated loss of electricity and water. Even the well we uncovered was a lifeline during extreme weather when everything else failed.

Soon after moving in I was aware that other folk were also in residence, they were very friendly and often made their presence felt, particularly during the evenings when there would be a bang of a door closing or someone moving around. Our dogs would suddenly stand up, fully alert but no barks. On investigating nothing could be seen or heard. We came to take this as part of our lives and just used to call out to see if we could be of help.

The only time I actually saw one of our visitors was one night. I was fast asleep when I suddenly awoke sensing that someone was standing by my bed. I roused myself and saw a little man dressed in naval uniform, possibly of late nineteenth century, brass buttons brightly polished standing there just looking at me, he was not frightening. I spoke to ask what I could do, but no reply. I thought don't be silly you are just imagining it, closed my eyes for a few seconds then looked again; he was still there but only faintly. Another few seconds and he was gone. He came again a few nights later, just appeared for a short while then had gone. No more visits.

My Aunt, who visited us regularly for several weeks at a time, would often see a little elderly woman dressed in old fashioned clothes, busy working in the hall near the inglenook fireplace. We were not the only ones who sensed other folk around

hall near the inglenook fireplace. We were not the only ones who sensed other folk around the house; a friend who came to help with repairs and building also had these feelings, but friendly ones.

It would be interesting to know if our friendly visitors still live at Footlands.

THE CHURCH AND OLD RECTORY.

I am sure there are many stories to tell of the Ghosts who are to be found in the Church and Old Rectory. Rev. Michael Glare had many a tale to tell, and on one occasion when I went to the Old Rectory, he took me into the old part where Miss Silvery lived, after it was sold. It was there he had sensed another presence. It certainly had that sort of feeling about it. The Church Ghosts must be very friendly because when I walk in, there is always this sense of peace and well being. A very friendly Church and village must be due to the people who have lived there, and those who do today”.

Babs Combes



SEALED ROOMS - AND THEIR OCCUPANTS.

An elderly gentleman from Yorkshire described North Devon traditions he had heard as a young man when living there. One being of the old Hall of Weare Gifford on the River Torridge, between Great Torrington and Bideford. He said:

“In the Hall there is said to be a room in the upper floor which has been bricked up. A young woman had a certain disease (not specified) and in accordance with custom the room, with her in it, was “eliminated”. Recently a visitor took a dog to this floor, and the animal on coming to the door of the room appeared panic-stricken and ran away, looking back frequently as though there was someone there”.

The gentleman added that he had no idea whether there really was such a room in the Hall.

Taken from ‘Devon Ghosts’ by Theo Brown published 1982.

HOWARD’S YARN.

“A ghost walks between Weare Giffard Hall and the church between 12 midnight and 1am., and goes towards the Belfry. Further to this, in years gone by, a female servant from the Hall said that she was not frightened of ghosts, and decided to take a walk at the appropriate time. So, a man known as Ginger Isaac, dressed up as a ghost and frightened her to bits!”.

Howard Curtis

