

**SCOTTISH AREA**



**FOUNDED 1862**

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**  
**OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

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**ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE AND  
EDUCATION BUILDING,  
ALLOWAY, AYR  
INVESTIGATION NO 63**

**SATURDAY 4 OCTOBER 2014**

**OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT INTO ALLEGED HAUNTINGS**  
**ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE, ALLOWAY, AYRSHIRE.**



## **INVESTIGATION TEAM**

**INVESTIGATIONS OFFICER -  
ADMIN SUPPORT -  
TEAM LEADER/ FIRST AIDER -  
INVESTIGATION SUPPORT -  
INVESTIGATORS -**

**DEREK GREEN  
STEPHANIE MacDONALD  
JOAN GREEN  
BILL GREEN  
STEPHANIE MACDONALD  
LYNN ROBERTSON  
LISA BOWELL  
BARRY McCRACKEN  
KIA McCRACKEN**

Report compiled by – Derek Green  
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The Ghost Club (Founded 1862)  
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Investigative Night Visit to **Robert Burns Cottage**, Saturday 4 October 2014.

Owners and Occupants: **National Trust For Scotland.**

**Address:** Alloway  
Ayr  
KA7 4PQ

**GHOST CLUB INVESTIGATION SCHEDULE:**

**17:00 hrs** - Arrive at **Robert Burns Cottage.**

**19:15 hrs** - **Health & Safety Briefing by Derek Green.**

**19:25 hrs** - **Investigation teams make way to first location.**

**Rota of Investigators / Experiments**  
**Investigation at ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE - ALLOWAY**  
**Saturday 4 OCTOBER 2014**

**PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL**

Please also refer to your **GHOST CLUB INVESTIGATION SCHEDULE:**

**ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE**  
**INVESTIGATION TEAMS ROTA OF 8 VIGILS**  
**ALL EQUIPMENT WHICH IS OWNED BY INVESTIGATORS MUST BE BROUGHT TO**  
**INVESTIGATION.**

**BATTERY EQUIPMENT ONLY, ALL ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT MUST BE PAT TESTED.**

**SOFT SHOES ESSENTIAL DURING INVESTIGATION.**

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**Investigations Officer: Derek Green**

**Team Leaders: Derek Green**  
**Joan Green**

**Admin Support: Stephanie MacDonald**  
**Investigation Support: Bill Green**

**Responsibility of Team Leader is to ensure that Group vigils run to time.**

**INVESTIGATION TEAMS ROTA OF 8 VIGILS**

**TEAM 1**

Derek Green (Investigations Officer)  
Lynn Robertson  
Bill Green  
Stephanie MacDonald

**TEAM 2**

Joan Green (Team Leader)  
Lisa Bowell  
Barry MacCracken  
Kia McCracken

## **BASE AREA: STAFF KITCHEN/RESTROOM**

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### **HISTORY**

**Burns Cottage, the first home of Robert Burns is located in Alloway, South Ayrshire, Scotland. It was built by his father, William Burness in 1757. Burns, Scotland's National Poet, was born there on 25 January 1759. It is a simple two-roomed clay and thatch cottage and has been fully restored to become part of Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. The cottage has had a number of uses, including a spell as a pub. At first the cottage was not greatly valued, then the Suffragettes recognised its importance, having once endeavoured to set the cottage alight.**

**In 1818, the English poet John Keats took a trip to Scotland to visit the home, years after Burns' death in 1796. Before Keats arrived, he wrote to a friend that "one of the pleasantest means of annulling self is approaching such a shrine as the cottage of Burns — we need not think of his misery — that is all gone — bad luck to it — I shall look upon it all with unmixed pleasure.**

**Robert Burns cottage is now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland**

### **ALLEGED ACTIVITY**

**There have been reports of activity some witnessed by National Trust for Scotland Staff and visitors. Activity is being kept in confidence to help discount auto-suggestion.**

## **Ghost Club Investigation notes**

### **Official Report compiled by Derek Green from notes of the Investigators**

**The following information has been taken from the notes of the investigators present and where possible notes have been copied verbatim and listed by location.**

#### **PRIOR TO THE INVESTIGATION.**

##### **LISA BOWELL – SCRIBED BY JOAN GREEN**

Lisa walked into the Cottage and went into the kitchen and picked up on a general feeling of friendly people who were welcoming and were very curious and interested in what the team were about to do. A young woman about 30 years with dark hair which was drawn back was also most interested. Lisa described the woman as wearing a white blouse and dark skirt. Lisa added that she had lived in the house and was welcoming us in. Lisa then added that there were children running about and a general feeling of a happy home. Lisa then went into the Spence and felt that this room was much quieter. A lot of thinking would be done here and contemplation. Lisa sensed the date of 1790 and this followed with the information about a young woman with full red lips and very shy. Lisa could not sense the full name of the young woman. Lisa did add though that a poem had been written about this

##### **BARRY McCracken – VERBATIM FROM BARRY'S NOTES**

*17:55 walk round in cottage in Byre. Definite moving cold spot that I walked in and out of several times before dissipating. Kia also experienced this at this time. It moved 3 to 4 feet at a time to and fro by wooden pillar. Spent about 5 minutes doing this. Took photos on walk round. One interesting one which I showed to Derek*

##### **LYNN ROBERTSON – VERBATIM FROM LYNN'S NOTES**

*At 17:10 hrs, on entering the grounds of the cottage walking along the path with the unruly field to the left, I feel really anxious. I had to go back to the car as I had left my phone and I wanted to run along the path as I felt frightened. I got the vision of a young girl in the field running around frantically, she was very dishevelled and I started to feel pressure around my throat area. Got the impression that the girl had a yoke ( a thing that goes round a shire horse) around her upper body towards her throat, she is also wearing a flimsy summer dress, dark in colour with a lace collar and someone is calling out Bridie. At 17:55 hrs, I went outside to speak with Derek, he asked what was I picking up, I told him I cannot stop looking at the field as it was freaking me out. Walked over to go into the Cottage by myself but could not go in as I could sense this young girl with ropes bound around her bleeding wrists and being pulled inside by a male. Male has a white shirt, black waistcoat, black trousers and knee length brown leather boots. The girl does not want to enter the cottage and is swearing and cursing "God help me". The young man is sneering and he has a gash on his bottom lip right hand side. (I am wondering where the pond is. Is a pond at the bottom of the field? Young man is shouting to the girl that she is a heathen.*

**(Scribed by Derek)** Red Room 18:25 hrs, Lynn picked up a gentleman who was very well dressed, a Colonel type gentleman mid 50's and portly. Lynn added that he had gout and he made a dragging noise with his right leg and foot, Lynn added that she was sure that these noises may be heard by staff and visitors. The man also liked a drink and Lynn said that she felt she was sweating, she then added that he leaves a strong smell of cigar smoke around the entrance to the red room. Lynn also said that he had a distended belly and was 5ft 8. Lynn then explained that the man said that he wanted to take her to the tool shed and Lynn was now sensing a strong Masonic connection. The man then proceeded to shown Lynn a scythe which he lifted and then started laughing.

At 18:33 hrs, Derek and Lynn entered the kitchen to be told that the Kettle in the right corner had switched itself on. Derek asked if this had been investigated and did the staff which were present know if the kettle by any chance was faulty. The staff present did state that the kettle was not faulty as far as they knew. Derek then checked the kettle but could not find an explanation for it switching itself on and starting to boil.

At 18:36 hrs, Lynn noted *"I am in the kitchen (baseroom) the young girl is telling me that fear made her urinate and the puddle on the floor just inside the main door in the cottage is the result. This appears on a number of occasions and it can't be fathomed. Shortly after the note I took in the Kitchen (base) I went outside and sat on the bench. A young man is sitting to my right and has told me has been trying to find the harp. Was the love of my life and they took it from me. He tells me he can hear the music from the harp when it is deathly silent. He says that McAllister can give you details, he drove the horses with the carriage. He told me his surname is Hunter but not telling me his forename, he is a school teacher. Mr Hunter to most he has said smiling. He is asking me to ask someone why they have moved the black stewpot. The pot used to be in the cottage but has been moved for some reason. Mrs Hunter fears for her, I said fears for who. He said "you know fine well".*

*I asked Stuart re the Stewpot, he said he was not aware but some items had been removed from the Cottage and he said he will find out."*



## **OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION REPORT**

### **VIGIL ONE**

#### **LOCATION: ROBERT BURN'S COTTAGE – THE KITCHEN**



**TIME: 19:30 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

**OUTSIDE WEATHER CONDITIONS: DRY AND SUNNY**

Derek asked out and Stephanie said that she was sensing a woman with a guttural voice who had lost a baby. Lynn sensed a woman of large appearance – a midwife by the name of Sandra Scott. At 19:32 hrs, the team heard a noise like a thump coming from above in the rafters (This would suggest the building was cooling down). Lynn's woman has painful wrists caused by wringing out sheets. Stephanie said she was sensing a smell of burning and Derek added that he was sure he had heard a dragging sound but no one had entered the building. Lynn then added that she was thinking of a Nun and the name Sister Mary Margaret who was walking up and down from side to side of cottage from back door to the window. Derek then entered the Spence and asked out and said he could hear the dragging noise again. For the second time this was checked but no explanation could be found. Lynn then commented that she was sensing a distinct humming noise as though a bee hive was outside. Stephanie reported hearing faint tapping sounds but again it was reckoned that this was due to the building cooling down as it had been sunny earlier that day. At 19:52 hrs, Derek asked out again and Lynn sensed a young girl by the name of Elsie who had walked in. She said she was looking for the Mortar and pestle because she couldn't find it and it should be there because the medicines were kept in this room. The girl Lynn described as being aged around 15-16 yrs and she comes to help and is very polite and curtsying a lot. The mortar and pestle is connected to natural herbal Remedies. The girl then showed Lynn the tied up bunches and said they were connected to respiratory illness. The Nun still in communication said that she would help out but is not allowed into the cottage. Lynn then added that she could see the Cottages needing vacated and scrubbed out. Stephanie asked if there had been a fire and she had the sense of the roof burning in a fire after being struck by lightning. Stephanie added that there had been a man in the cottage who suffered from an illness and he was frightened by the fire. Shortly after, he passed away and left a great sorrow in the cottage. One problem after another. His illness seemed to stem from a bad foot possibly gangrenous or gout. Lynn then added that a male was shouting in her ear "You have the wrong room" as though different people stayed in different parts of the cottage at one time. Stephanie and Bill at 20:07 hrs both commented on the smell of burning. Nobody else could smell this.

## **VIGIL ONE**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS EDUCATION BUILDING – THE GALLERY**

**TIME: 19:30 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 2**

The group started with a silent vigil, during this time Barry's torch went on and off twice. Barry noted *Cold spot forehead height whilst sitting in chair by cupboards. Moved from left to right dropping slowly down the right side of my face. Also experienced by Lisa and Joan. We thought it was a draught but that was impossible as vents above were closed and there were no windows in the room. When leaning forward to write notes cold spot stayed behind me on the back of my head. Also orange pinpricks of light observed by myself and Lisa appearing and vanishing very quickly in various places around the room* The gallery was very quiet and Joan used her pendulum. Joan asked if Spirit was there and the pendulum answered yes. Joan then asked the following:

Male? – Yes

In this Room? – No

The Red Room? – Yes

The group then decided to move to the Red Room.

Barry noted *Corridor to Red Room by door of room Kia's and, Lisa's and my torches all went off at the same time for about 6-7 seconds and then all 3 came back on again.*

## **VIGIL TWO**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE - THE SPENCE**



**TIME: 19:40 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

Derek sensed the name James Dunlop and sensed an energy that was building. Stephanie asked if Derek knew if a face had been seen at the window of the Spence as she felt that Staff may have seen a face looking through the window from the outside from time to time. The temperature was recorded at 15.8C and Derek asked James to step forward, as Derek did this the team heard a bump. Derek said that James was keeping his distance, he described him wearing buckled shoes, breeches, a dark coloured coat. James was approx 5ft 4. He also had dark wavy hair, a moustache and was holding a red covered book and James was wearing a white coloured Jabot. Derek asked James to try and speak but he said he would speak when he was ready. Lynn then said that she felt that people were sleeping in the hay loft. **(The Cottage at one time had been an Inn and public house)** Horses and carts were outside heading for somewhere else in Ayrshire. Lynn felt that it may not have been an Inn but the Cottage was a

place where people could stay overnight on their way to Markets later on. Lynn then said that she was sensing a gathering of people for a rushed discussion then someone was throwing a dice but it was not gambling it was to make a decision about an issue.

Lynn then added that there were saddle bags which had something important inside them, she actually felt it was concerning alcohol of high content and it was being moved on and sold. Lynn was then sensing a gentleman called Patrick Sharpe and she felt that the Cottage had conditions like a half way house. Also Circus people had a connection to the building as well.

## **VIGIL TWO**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS EDUCATION BUILDING - THE RED ROOM**

**TIME: 19:48 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 2**

*Barry noted Lisa saw a man sitting in a chair on entry to room aged in his early 20's. We all sat down at this table apart from me and a call was made with Joan doing the yes no pendulum contact. Transcript of this written by Lisa. During this the name John was repeatedly put to me and that he shoed horses and this was confirmed by spirit when asked. At one point when the name was confirmed I said out loud about horse shoeing and it felt like someone had put their hand on my shoulder, very cold and intense causing me to step forward and away from it. Various noises and knocks heard but this was likely to be central heating noises.*

The team held a pendulum session at 19:43 hrs and the temperature was recorded at 19.4C.

The following session was scribed by Lisa Bowell:

Is there someone here? – Yes

Male? – Yes

Do you/did you belong to this building? – No

Did you belong to the Cottage? – Yes

*(A noise was heard at the far of the room, a possible knock.)*

Are you in this room now? – Yes

Will you come and sit with us at the table? – yes

Can you make the temperature fall? – Yes

*(No fall recorded during the following)*

Do you mind us being here?- No

Were you born in the Cottage? – NOTHING

Did you understand the question? – Yes

Did you visit when something else? – Yes

Were you born there? – Yes

Was your name Michael? – NOTHING

Are you turning the torches off? – Yes

Can you do it again? – Yes

*(Loud knock heard)*

Did you stay here in the 1800's? – NOTHING

1700's? – Yes

Did you know the Burns Family? – Yes

Were you able to read? – NOTHING

Don't be afraid to answer – NOTHING

Did you work for the Burns Family? – Yes

Did you work with animals? – Yes

Did you work on land? – Yes

*(Lisa sensed the name John)*

Is your name John? – Yes

*(Barry felt he was pushed forward slightly and reacted)*

Is that your first name? – Yes

Did you receive an injury or strain from overwork? – Yes  
Was it your shoulder that was hurt? – Yes  
Did you work at a forge? – No  
Did you have something to do with shoeing horses? – Yes  
Did you do other little jobs for people? – Yes  
Did you have children? – No  
Did you marry? – No  
Did you die as a young man? – Yes  
Did you like Burns Poetry? – NOTHING  
(Lisa sensed “What poetry”.)  
Was Queen Anne on the throne when you were living? – Yes  
You were born in 1700’s, are you aware we are in 2014? – NOTHING  
Is it easy to understand us? – Yes  
Do you find our conversation of interest? – NOTHING  
Could you try to say something to us? – NOTHING  
Did you fight for Country? – No  
Did you become ill after the accident then passed? – No  
Did the illness cause an accident and you passed? – Yes  
Was your illness upper part of the body? – Yes  
Trouble breathing? – Yes  
Was it Consumption? - Yes  
Are you making noises in the corner of the room? – No  
CIRCLE CLOSED.

### **VIGIL THREE**

#### **LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE – THE BYRE**



**TIME: 20:40 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

Lynn noted hearing a noise coming from the Kitchen area or the Spence just into the vigil. Derek, Stephanie and Lynn all heard faint noises coming from the barn and investigated them. No reason could be found for the noises but they did not appear to come from the thatched roof. Lynn then said that she had the feeling of a Town Crier type person. Lynn could see the outside of cottage being quite busy with people all standing around like a small market. Lynn then commented that she felt she was being drawn to a church in the area where young girls who were pregnant may have received sanctuary and children may have been put up for adoption. Derek went back into the Spence as he felt there was a presence behind the team. The team tried asking out but no further noises were heard.

**VIGIL THREE AND FOUR (TEAM STAYED IN SAME LOCATION)**  
**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS EDUCATION BUILDING – THE LIBRARY**  
**TIME: 20:30 – 21:25 HRS**  
**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 2**

At first the team sat round the table in the room and had a silent vigil asking for any sounds to be knocked on the table. On the table was a Kilmarnock edition of Burn's poetry which was open at a page that had an etching of Rabbie Burns on it. Beside the main book was laid a tiny little tartan book of Burns Poems. The book was an inch square. This was done in the hope to attract spirit response. Joan then asked out and asked if the tiny book was interesting to them. Lisa sensed a man who said he could not see the purpose of the small book. Joan then responded by explaining that it was very easy to carry either in a pocket or in a ladies bag. Lisa then picked up that the man was commenting that the etching in the Kilmarnock Edition made Burns look more handsome than he was in reality. No identification of the man was given.

The team then decided to hold a circle but felt the table was just a bit too big, they then moved to a corner of the room.

**CIRCLE SITTERS:**

Joan Green  
Lisa Howell  
Barry McCracken  
Kia McCracken

The following information was scribed by Joan:

Joan opened the circle and quite quickly Lisa Howell had a communicator

Spirit man came forward.  
With a high fever.  
Breathing problems (Consumption)  
Sweet heart called Elizabeth.  
Man in a very dark room.  
Man is starving there was a famine.  
Year 1767 – Life got better.  
He is very pale in colour.  
Possibly an Uncle of the Burns Family.  
Things have been very bad,  
A bad harvest.  
People are doing terrible things to survive.  
Better time came 1767.  
Did not marry Elizabeth.  
Passed away before he could marry.  
She was the best a bonnie lass.  
People couldn't help each other all were in the same state.  
Had a brother.  
He had a bad cold and it was a bad winter.  
Only one lantern to light rooms.  
*(Lisa's voice was becoming very faint and Joan decided to close down the circle.)*

Barry noted *Very intense for me in the circle. Felt very sad and emotional and cried as Lisa explained abject poverty of an individual who he said was Robert Burns uncle. I got very bad chest pains and it felt like I had a sore mouth and toothache all at once, very uncomfortable. Total desolation when circle closed, very drained of energy.*

Kia felt very tearful during the circle and very heavy afterwards.

## **VIGIL FOUR**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE - THE BARN**



**TIME: 21:15 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

Derek asked out then decided to move back between the Kitchen and the Spence and the Byre. Derek asked for responses but nothing was coming forward.

### **INVESTIGATION BREAK**

## **VIGIL FIVE**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS EDUCATION BUILDING - THE RED ROOM**

**TIME: 22:12 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

Derek asked out and Stephanie said that she was sensing a pregnant woman who would not say who her husband was. Derek then tried a knocking/response session by knocking once, twice and then twice again. Stephanie then said she was sensing a stern man who resembled George C Scott with curly long hair. Lynn said that there was now a woman by the name of Elizabeth Semple but she was not making eye contact with the man. The man was tall and was about 6ft 2 in height and very upright with a slender build. He was wearing a suit and cravat and the woman was wearing a very long flowing dress with a very slender waist and her hair piled up on top of her head.

Stephanie said her man was very full of himself and not particularly well liked by many people with a holier than now attitude. He was quite cruel and sadistic and Stephanie was now feeling quite uncomfortable. The man was of a creepy appearance and was wearing a long black coat and breeches. Around 18<sup>th</sup> Century. Lynn started moving about the room and was sensing a double bass. Lynn then noted that she was seeing a transfiguration in Derek's face and he was starting to resemble a circus clown.

## **VIGIL FIVE**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE - THE BARN**

**TIME: 22:00 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 2 and NICOLA BURNS (STAFF AND HER FRIEND.)**

The team stood in different places in the Barn for a silent vigil and after a time the general feeling was that the room was very quiet and with an empty feeling. Lisa commented that the building did not feel the same as it had earlier

on and that there was not so much of a friendly feeling. The team did feel that as the temperature was falling this could have accounted for the different feelings.

### **VIGIL SIX**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS EDUCATION BUILDING - THE GALLERY**

**TIME: 22:45 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

Derek asked out and asked for the previous gentleman to step forward and to try and give a communication. Lynn said a man that was from the area who worked in a tool shed had a bad accident with a spear type like tool and that it had went into his neck by accident. Lynn was seated at the bottom end of the room and was sensing quite a high roof with rafters and involving a rope which was upsetting. Lynn felt this very strongly but as she walked up and down she felt better and she never returned to the same original spot. Derek moved to the area Lynn had been standing and Lynn sat down at the top end of the room beside the doors and felt better at the top of the room. Stephanie started to think of a woman by the name of Isabel Munro and Derek said he kept picturing a snapping dog. Stephanie asked if Derek knew if Piano or harpsichord music had been heard as she kept thinking of this. The team agreed that for some strange reason the atmosphere in the room was quite heavy and that it had not been like this earlier.

### **VIGIL SIX**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE – THE KITCHEN**

**TIME: 22:20 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 2**

The team tried a pendulum session and they agreed that the atmosphere had seemed to have changed. The following was scribed by Lisa Bowell:

Are you male? – No

Are you in the Kitchen? – No

Are you in the Spence? – No

Are you in the Byre? –Yes

Will you talk to us? – Yes

Do you want to stay where you are? – No

Will you join us then in the Spence? - Yes

Did you live here? – No

Did you work here? – Yes

Were you born in the 1800's? – No

1700's? – NOTHING

1900's? – Yes

Did you have something to do with paperwork? – NOTHING

Did you like alcohol? – NOTHING

Were you a cleaner? – NOTHING

Housekeeper? – NOTHING

Are you still with us? - NOTHING

### **VIGIL SEVEN**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS EDUCATION BUILDING - THE LIBRARY**

**TIME: 23:20 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

Lynn was sensing a lady wearing a taffeta dress with a check design and lace up boots. A man was also looking around for something. The woman is upset and the man was shouting.

## **VIGIL SEVEN**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE – THE SPENCE & THE BYRE**

**TIME: 22:35 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 2**

The team started in the Spence reading out some poetry by Robert Burns but there was no response. The team then moved to the Byre. Joan asked out and some of the team started to hear noises, but not all. At 22:45 hrs the team heard what was described as female voice saying woohhhhh it was then agreed that there was a pub across the road and that it was very highly likely that the noises were coming from the pub as it was getting quieter outside with traffic etc. just after the voice Nicola and her friend complained that while they were standing on the doorway of the Spence they were starting to feel uneasy so Joan and Lisa swapped places with them. Joan and Lisa had no feelings in this area. The general agreement was that earlier in the night the building seemed to have an atmosphere of being highly charged

## **VIGIL EIGHT**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS EDUCATION BUILDING – THE LIBRARY (CONTINUED)**

**TIME: 21:10 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 1**

The male and female earlier in the evening that Lynn had received a communication from were still there. The man seemed quieter but the woman was still upset. The man seemed to have a job working with numbers. The team then discussed the investigation and Stephanie asked if we knew if there had been a breakout of Cholera and she asked if we knew if there had been a farming accident involving two children a boy and a girl. The team still in discussion agreed that the investigation had been a quiet night. Before closing their vigil, Stephanie asked if there was a connection to the Knights Templar or something of that nature.

## **VIGIL EIGHT**

**LOCATION: ROBERT BURNS COTTAGE – THE SPENCE**

**TIME: 22:55 HRS**

**INVESTIGATORS: TEAM 2**

The team formed a circle:

Joan Green  
Lisa Bowell  
Barry McCracken  
Kia McCracken

Scribed by Joan Green

Lisa sensed a young woman in her 20's.  
Dark hair in a bun.  
Woman worked in a Dairy which was very busy and it was the 1840's.  
Name of Charlotte  
Woman has a brother.

*(Lisa's voice again is becoming faint)*

**CIRCLE CLOSED.**

Afterwards both Lisa and Joan felt a sensation in their stomachs and Lisa did say that the woman was hesitant in coming forward. It wasn't that she didn't want to but something was holding her back from speaking.

**END OF INVESTIGATION**

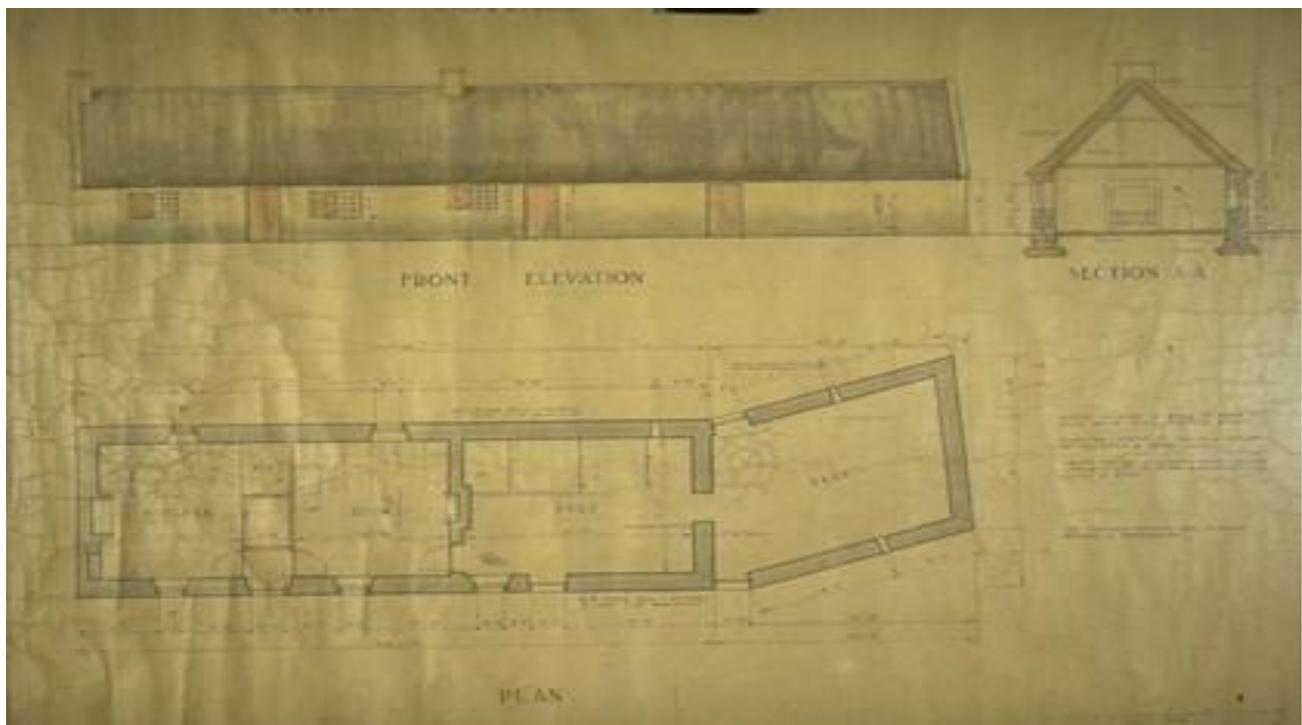
**Extracts from a Communication by Lisa Boswell after the Investigation.**

I just wanted to add a little bit to what I picked up at Burns Cottage on Saturday. I expect you've seen the notes already but I've done a bit of internet research on the 2 people I picked up during the investigation, really just trying to see if I was on the right lines for what was coming through.

I think I had Robert Burns uncle coming through. He mentioned the year 1767 and although I didn't get why this was significant, he said that was when an event happened to change things. He described famine and hardship. But in 1767, the Stewarton to Irvine Toll Road was opened and this changed things for the rural local communities for the better. The local economy started to improve. So I think he was describing what life was like beforehand and trying to say that things changed for the better.

The second person I think was Robert Burns' wife, Jean Armour. She had quite a few kids by him before they got married and I think it was a matter of shame for her family. Which I think was why she was reluctant to say that she was unmarried as I got the impression that she was living with someone but didn't want to admit it. I saw her as a young woman and judging by her hairstyle, I said 1840s, but I think that was wrong. I know she died in 1834. The hairstyle she had probably could fit with hairstyles of 30 years previously. I have seen a portrait of her as an older woman and it fits with what I saw as a younger version of her. What makes me think it was her is the embarrassment of admitting she was living with someone but not married to them.

## PLAN      General Layout



From Left

- Kitchen
- Spence
- The Byre
- The Barn

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## SUMMING UP

Firstly on behalf of the Ghost Club Council, our investigation team and myself, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to Mr Stuart Cochrane, The National Trust for Scotland and on the night my thanks also go to Ms Nicola Burns, for all their help and kindness in making this investigation possible for members of the Ghost Club.

The Investigation of Robert Burns Cottage and the Robert Burns Education Building on the night were very quiet. From the start of the vigils the Teams felt that the the energy wasn't as strong as it was when we arrived at 17:00 hrs. Both Mediums, Lynn Robertson and Lisa Howell worked very hard on the evening and did provide the investigation teams with some information that we do hope can be corroborated by the National Trust For Scotland. Towards the end of the night, Team 2 heard from inside the Spence a sound of a female voice saying Wooohhhhh. Sadly this is insufficient evidence due to the fact that the pub was across the road and the main street and road runs past the Cottage so there was outside interference to be considered.

Sadly due to conditions on the night being quiet, we have insufficient evidence to confirm the type of activity which allegedly takes place in Robert Burns Cottage. As previously mentioned though, we may have some good evidence from the Mediums. I do know that I personally asked Stuart about one of the issues that Lynn was picking up on regarding the child in the back field and Stuart did confirm that other Mediums who have visited have sensed the same as Lynn. For me that is very interesting and is a form of corroboration for the Mediums.

Finally, it is my honest opinion that Robert Burns Cottage may contain energies from the past which from time to time may manifest. On the whole though both buildings had a very good atmosphere.

Again my thanks go to Stuart Cochrane and the National Trust For Scotland for making this investigation memorable for the Ghost Club in the very historic Robert Burns Cottage, Alloway, Ayr.

Derek Green  
Investigations Officer for The Ghost Club  
Sunday 25 January 2015.