



# GHOSTLY TALES & MYSTERIOUS HAPPENINGS

## “The Unexplained”

By Tanya Shukalova

As the leaves rustle down dark roads, a breeze rolls in and chills crawl up your spine. You feel eyes on you but don't know where they're coming from. Could they be the skeleton decoration sitting on a neighbour's porch or a neighbour's wandering eye? Or could it be someone else? Someone you can't see?

Living in Brockville/Prescott & Gananoque, the towns are so filled with history, much of which is still present today, means that there is an abundance of ghostly tales to be told of the unexplained.

- One of which, comes from Fort Wellington in Prescott. As a young boy, Robert B.

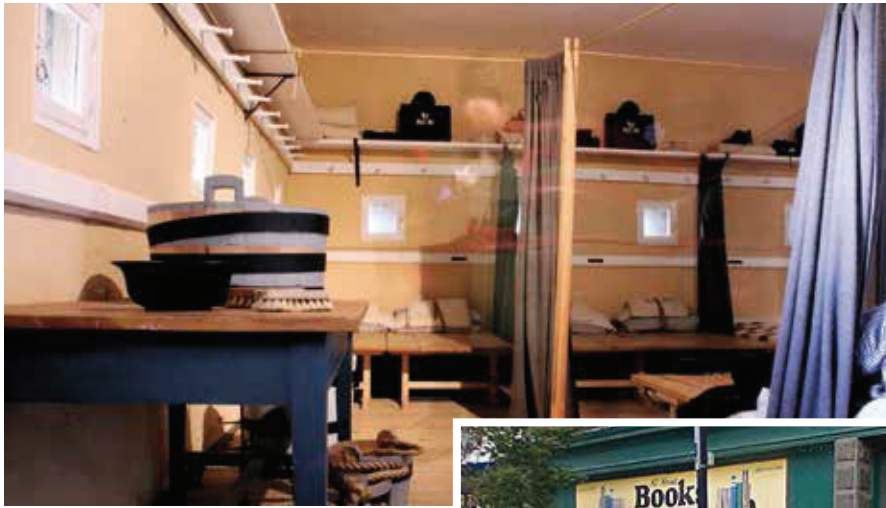
Stewart volunteered at Fort Wellington with his friends to dress in historical costume and portray children of soldiers. This was the most exciting summer activity Robert could imagine and he continued to volunteer there for years. On an autumn afternoon of 1982, Robert was helping the Chief of Interpretation, Mr. John Black; rewind some old films in the barracks room of the Fort. This was a very small room on the second floor, with a film projector in it. There was a white cat that hung around the Fort at that time, and it was sitting just outside the door of the room that Robert was in. He noticed the cat focused on something outside of his view. He had an uneasy feeling that

something wasn't quite right, so after the film finished rewinding, he got up to go back to see Mr. Black in the officer's quarters. As he was following the cat through the barracks, it stopped suddenly and its hair stood on end. It started to hiss at something in the southwest corner of the room.

Although Robert's attention was focused on the cat, he had the impression from the corner of his eye of movement in that same corner of the room. Completely spooked, Robert ran down the stairs and out to the officer's quarters to tell Mr. Black what happened. Mr. Black assured the boy that they were the only two people there. They both went through the building and found that indeed, they were the only two people physically present.

There have been other reports from Fort Wellington of the same corner and a similar presence, which has been called "Terrance", as well as other strange happenings.

- All About Books, (now called Beggars Banquet Books & Internet Cafe) on King St E in Gananoque, the former owner, Deb Savoy (All About Books) seems all too familiar with a former employee of what used to be a drug store. Ms. Savoy was assisting a customer on a regular business day when she peeked over one of the shelves to the very last aisle. There was an older, slender man wearing a hat and standing alone. She walked around the corner of the aisle and



Clockwise: Fulford Place home of George and Mary Fulford built between 1899-1901; Fort Wellington Barracks South West corner, the area that the apparition was felt/seen. (photo courtesy of Caitlyn Quade-Heritage Interpreter Fort Wellington); Former location on 162 King St E Gananoque of All About Books (now called Beggars Banquet Books)



was about to ask the man if he needed any help, but there was no one there. Within that few seconds it took her to turn the corner, he had disappeared.

On a History and Haunting Ghost Walk, a psychic was brought in to the shop, the very last aisle to be exact. The psychic reported that they had a male presence there, with an old type name, like Henry. The presence also came off to be very stern and disliked children because they were too noisy. Lots of jars were also seen to have to do with this presence.

The group visited the local historian, Charlie Donevan, who told them that the now book store, used to be "Signs Drug Store" (where they had many jars) and a pharmacist named Hubert (close enough) used to work there. Hubert was a tall, slender man, often found wearing a hat and also had a dislike for children. Charlie knew this because he was only a child when the Drug Store was there. Ironically, the spot where Hubert's pharmacy counter used to be is where the children's book section is now.

- "Haunted Mansions" seem to be a popular Halloween theme, but Brockville has one of its very own. Anyone who has driven down King Street in downtown Brockville would have seen the huge house formerly inhabited by the Fulfords. George and Mary Fulford were a very wealthy family in the 1900s. George Fulford was a very smart

business man and politician, which earned him the huge estate but after a fatal car accident in Massachusetts, the estate had been passed down to the couple's only son, George Fulford II.

Mary, George's widow, never remarried and was very lonely and sad after her husband passed. During thunderstorms, she would get frightened and go to her son's door, knock on it and ask to sit with him for company.

When she was 89 years old, Mary passed away from old age in her bedroom on the third floor of the house. The room was connected to a nursery that was made for her son. One night, years after Mary's death, George II's daughter in law - Ruth Fulford - was spending the night at the mansion. Her husband and herself were in town to celebrate the baptism of their son. It was a hot, August night and she had trouble sleeping because of the loud thunderstorm outside. She was sitting in bed reading when there was a knock at the door and a woman's voice asked, "May I come in?"

Ruth felt afraid for some inexplicable reason and yelled back, "No, go away!" Then there was silence.

Were these experiences all coincidences that could be explained when examined under a bright light, or are there just some things that we can't explain and should leave that door unanswered? **LH**

**Editors Note:**

These are just a few of the unexplained stories that have been told to us that have happened here in Brockville/Prescott & Gananoque. For those of you who wish to find out more about ghostly tales and mysterious happenings, may we suggest you buy Brockville Author, Nancy Fraser's book "Mysterious Brockville 2". You can find it at Leeds County Books on King St E in Brockville, Coles Book Store at 1000 Islands Mall or at The Brockville Museum. While Fulford Place does not have "Haunted Tours" any longer, they are still open for tours of the mansion and the tea room is also open for your enjoyment.

[www.heritagetrust.on.ca/.../Fulford-Place-\(Brockville\).aspx](http://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/.../Fulford-Place-(Brockville).aspx).

**Lisa Bird of the Gananoque Downtown BIA supplied us with this information:**

Is Gananoque haunted? Many people believe the town has some "residents" who, after passing, still visit the town they once called home.

The Red Cow Society will be organizing a "History & Hauntings Ghost Walk" this coming October. We will be visiting several places throughout Gananoque that have had ghost tales associated with them. This walk isn't just about stopping at a site and repeating the story. This walk includes a psychic-medium and someone who has actually had an experience within the site we visit. We go into the sites and the psychic will try to sense any spirit activity. Participants will also have the opportunity to use Ghost Hunting equipment.

In the past we have visited Donevan's Hardware, a 4th generation family business that seems to have one of its founding fathers overlooking the shop.

Also included was a stop at what was "All About Books." The former owner actually got to see her resident ghost!

The Fire Hall Theatre seems to have a male spirit who has been seen by several staff. During our own investigation we used a KII meter in the theatre and received direct responses to our questions. For more information, please visit, [redcowsociety.webs.com](http://redcowsociety.webs.com) or [www.facebook.com/pages/Red-Cow-Society](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Red-Cow-Society)