



# Searchlight Paranormal Investigations

21 Wheeler Street  
Warwick, Rhode Island 02889  
(401) 738-6624

## Stagecoach House Inn Investigation Report

Case Number: 201102RI001

**\*\* Condensed and Edited for Website Use \*\***

### **INTRODUCTION:**

On February 13, 2011, Searchlight was contacted by the Stagecoach House Inn, regarding possible paranormal activity. Searchlight and the Stagecoach House Inn had been in contact in the past regarding various claims via email.

Searchlight contacted (name withheld) by phone. During our conversation (name withheld) told Searchlight numerous stories of alleged paranormal activity that had occurred at the Inn. The majority were claims made by overnight guests of the Inn. One of the claims was as recent as February 12, 2011. Some of the claims were even recorded by the guests in the in-room guest books. See below for a description of some of the claims.

Searchlight set up a time to meet with (name withheld) to conduct an interview at the Inn. The initial interview convened February 18, 2011 at 1:00 p.m.

### **INITIAL INTERVIEW:**

Present at the interview was (name withheld), proprietor of Stagecoach House Inn, David Grist, Director Searchlight Paranormal Investigations along with Investigators, Yxchel Foy and Lynn Dee Tortolanni.

### **Facts of the interview follow:**

#### **Client Information:**

**Stagecoach House Inn**  
**1136 Main Street**  
**Richmond, RI 02898**

Years in Business: approx. 10 years

Number of Guest Rooms: 12

Number of other Rooms: 1 laundry, 1 furnace room, and 4 office spaces

#### **Reported Activity:**

Three major claims were made:

1. An apparition of a man walking a dog was seen in a lower level guest room closest to the Wood River by two overnight guests. Both guests were middle-aged to elderly. This account was written in the in-room guest book.
2. A recent overnight guest and her husband reported pillows had been moved in their room. This activity took place during the dinner hours (@6-8pm) on February 12, 2011.

3. An overnight guest complained about the sound of children running/playing in the hallway on the 2<sup>nd</sup> level early one Sunday morning. No children were in the building at the time.

### **BUILDING INSPECTION:**

The team was given a tour of and inspected the establishment.

The electrical, HVAC, and plumbing are all up to local building codes as the building had gone through a recent total renovation around 2000.

No anomalous activity occurred or was recorded during the tour.

### **HISTORICAL DATA/FINDINGS:**

Searchlight conducted exhaustive research into the history of the Stagecoach House Inn and the immediate surrounding area.

Through our research the following facts were discovered:

1. The tavern was built in 1796 by Francis Brown in the Brands Iron Works. It burned down and was rebuilt in 1846.
2. In 1815 the New London Turnpike was opened and the tavern became well known as an overnight stop. About this same time, the tavern became the social center for the community.
3. Brown's Tavern was also commonly known as "The Halfway House" due to the fact that it was halfway between Providence, Rhode Island and New London, Connecticut.
4. Stagecoaches would stop at the tavern and people, especially children, would run to greet the stagecoach driver. Stagecoach drivers enjoyed celebrity status at that time.
5. The tavern contained 26 rooms. It was 150 ft in length until 1925 when 40 ft was removed on the east end of the building to lay a cement road.
6. 1814. Three brothers of the last name of Tefft built a Grist Mill where the Dow mill stood near the cement bridge. The power used was a wooden wheel. One morning the brothers came across a decapitated body and a head wedged under the wheel. The body was identified as a traveling tinker. According to records no one spoke too highly of this gentleman.

As for tragedies that occurred in and around the tavern, we discovered that a few fires occurred in the tavern and a few deaths as well. However, there seems to be some discrepancies as the information was obtained from diaries and the recollections of residents some years after the incidents occurred.

The following information was compiled regarding tragedies in and around the tavern.

1. The investigators uncovered two different accounts of the mill fire and the story surrounding the boy that perished.
  - a) Account 1: a 12 year old boy, John Worden, hid in the mill after stealing money from his sister for a spelling book and was afraid of being punished. He accidentally sets fire to the mill after lighting a match to see in the dark. He became trapped in the ensuing blaze and only his bones are found in the rubble. The newspaper at the time dates the event as April 20, 1899. This is the account Searchlight tends to accept because of the detail that was obtained.

- b) Account 2: The second account was of a young lad who was not happy having to work at the mill and started the fire to release him of his duty. It was assumed he perished in the fire as they never heard from the boy again.

Citations:

1. "Driftways in the Past". Westerly, Rhode Island. Richmond Historical Society.
2. "History of the State of Rhode Island with Illustrations." Albert J. Wright, Printer No. 79 Mille Street, corner of Federal, Boston. Hong, Wade & Co., Philadelphia 1878. p.284-290

### **INVESTIGATION:**

Investigation was scheduled for March 7-8, 2011 beginning at 6:00pm EST. Investigators in attendance; David Grist, Kevin Grist, Yxchel Foy, David Grist III, Meaghan Healey, and Kimberly Coccozza (MSPI).

Video: approx. 42 hours (includes surveillance and hand-held, 28 surv., 14 hh)  
DVR camera locations -- main lobby facing staircase, (Room Number withheld) facing outside deck(Room Number withheld) facing fireplace, main lobby 2<sup>nd</sup> floor facing east.

Audio: approx. 30 hours (all digital handheld)

EMF: Base readings taken in every room all appeared with normal acceptable ranges. 0-.2mg.

Environment: All temperature and barometric pressures appeared normal. No anomalous differences were noted.

### **Experiments Conducted:**

1. Pillow Movement – At various times during the evening the pillows in one of the guest rooms were used as trigger objects. No anomalous activity occurred during these experiments.
2. Wind Chimes - The wind chimes were used in various locations throughout the investigation. No anomalous activity occurred during this experiment.
3. Surveillance video was recorded for one full hour prior to any investigators entering any rooms.

### **Personal Experiences:**

8:48pm, (Room Number withheld): Investigators Yxchel Foy and Meaghan Healey heard what appeared to be a man's voice. An anomalous sound or voice is heard during the review of the audio recordings at this same time reference. We cannot call this sound evidence as we cannot make out what is being said and the possibility remains that this may be a mechanically produced sound emitting naturally within or outside of the room.

9:21pm, (Room Number withheld): Investigators David Grist and Kimberly Coccozza heard what they described as a female child sighing or moaning.

9:49pm, (Room Number withheld): Investigators David Grist and Kimberly Coccozza witnessed what appeared to them as a dark mass. The mass appeared over the bed, moved toward the tub area then dissipated. Kim explained that it temporarily blocked her view of the lamp on the night table.

**Photographic/Video Evidence:**

**\*\*\* No photographic or video anomalies were recorded \*\*\***

**Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP):**

Several strong possible EVP were recorded during the investigation although many anomalous sounds were recorded. Each recording is explained in detail below:

**Possible Strong EVP:**

1. (Room Number withheld): Footsteps and door latch  
EVP Filename: doorlatchsteps.wma
2. (Room Number withheld): I don't know  
EVP Filename: I don't know.wma
3. (Room Number withheld): Female Unknown  
EVP Filename: Dipshit.wma
4. (Room Number withheld): : Female making humming sound.  
EVP Filename: female hmm2.wma
5. (Room Number withheld): Possible voice appears to say "... in the morning".  
EVP Filename: in the morning.wma
6. (Room Number withheld): Voice appears to say "Thank You".  
EVP Filename: Thank You.wma
7. (Room Number withheld): Female whispering  
EVP Filename: female whispering.wma
8. (Room Number withheld): Female? "Water".  
EVP Filename: water.wma

**Other Anomalous Recordings:**

9. (Room Number withheld): Possible male voice saying "Nate"  
EVP Filename: Possible name - Nate.wma
10. (Room Number withheld): Odd mechanical sounding voice recorded – appears to say "my name is...". The phrase is not completed as an investigator spoke.  
EVP Filename: My Name is.wma

11. (Room Number withheld): Possible female making humming sound.

EVP Filename: Female hmm.wma

12. (Room Number withheld): Possible occurrence of the word "No", twice

EVP Filename: Two Nos.wma

### **FINAL RESULT AND CONCLUSIONS:**

Two pieces of evidence stood out to us during this investigation. The dark shadow that was seen by two separate investigators in (Room Number withheld) and the eight possible strong EVP that were collected.

In the case of the dark shadow, both investigators described the event in nearly the exact same detail. And although no natural cause could be determined, this anomaly could have been natural in nature since the surveillance system should have captured the anomaly but did not. We can only classify this event as personal experience.

In the case of the EVP; No investigative group can be 100% sure that a single EVP is the voice of something supernatural as there is no way to prove its origin. However, through a process of deduction and using various factors such as environment, and investigators/others present we can be fairly certain these may not be natural.

Our strongest possible EVP was that of the door latch and footsteps. We studied the context of the EVP and the physical characteristics of the structure. (Room Number withheld) is fully carpeted and the hallway outside the room has a carpet runner on it. Also, no one on the team was wearing heavy shoes or boots. What is interesting about the door latch sound is that it almost matches exactly the same sound we captured in another investigation where a particular type of door latch was present. Stagecoach House Inn and the structure from the other investigation were built around the same time period so that particular type of door latch could have been used in both structures. We also believe this EVP may be residual in nature. A man walks up to his room, opens the latch, takes a step or two then continues to walk into the room.

As a result of our investigation, it is unclear whether or not the Stagecoach House Inn is experiencing any paranormal activity. However, it does appear from our investigation that some unexplained phenomenon may be occurring which would require further investigation.

**END OF REPORT**