

My House is Haunted: Beverly McGrath's Encounter with the Paranormal

By: Randa Gore

Brown brick covers the century old home. Red flowers sit off to the sides at the end of the porch stoop, and a stained glass windows glimmer in the evening sunlight. 1104 East Main Street appears to be just another house in the Historic Emily Kimbrough District of Muncie. Nothing seems unusual about the home; it is just another house on the block. Beverly and her husband Harold McGrath, have lived here for sometime. The home was previously owned by George and Hazel, and according to Beverly, Hazel never left.

The McGraths moved into the home while Hazel was still living, George however had passed away. Hazel died just a couple months after the McGraths moved in, and it was then that strange things began to happen, according to Beverly.



Beverly's first experience happened around Halloween night. Harold was at work and Beverly was home alone.

"I kept hearing doors open and close, footsteps, and sometimes heavy breathing," she said.

She couldn't figure out where these noises were coming from. Once Harold returned home, the noises stopped.

"It was at this moment I knew the house was haunted," she said. "You just get this unexplainable feeling, and you know you're not alone."

Things of this nature continued to happen but only when Harold McGrath was not home. This was until the couple rented out the upstairs of the home. One night the McGraths were sitting downstairs and it sounded like a party was going on upstairs. Beverly had experienced this happening before and knew that it was the ghosts because their tenants were not home. Harold McGrath did not believe her until he went upstairs to see for himself, and sure enough no one was there. The tenants claimed they heard noises coming from downstairs when no one was home as well.

Most of the ghostly activity would occur when alterations were being made to the house, according to Beverly.

“When making changes to parts of the house sometimes we would find notes from Hazel,” said Beverly. The notes would be old notes written by Hazel when she was still alive. There was a note found in the attic saying to add more rooms to the house, and another note was found in the kitchen saying to keep the cabinets, according to Beverly. They also found quite a few notes behind the fireplace. These however were not about the house, but notes Hazel had written to her husband.

“We did research on a couple of them (the notes), and it turned out they were actually written after he was dead,” said Delaware County Historic Preservation Officer Bill Morgan. “It turns out this ghost must have been quite the clairvoyant.”

One of the most memorable experiences Beverly said she had was when she and Harold McGrath were remodeling the kitchen and putting in new lights. She found out from the neighbors that George was an electrician, and he often worked out of the McGrath’s home. One night the McGrath’s were in the kitchen with some friends, and they were talking about one of the notes they had found from Hazel. One of people in the kitchen made a perverted joke about George and Hazel and all of a sudden their newly installed lights went out, and would not come back on according to Beverly. It turned out they had to replace all their newly installed lights with new ones because the other ones would not come back on.

Beverly says she saw Hazel once, or a lady she believes to be Hazel. Beverly was sitting in the living room when she turned around and saw a lady walking down the stairs.

“I could only see her legs, “ said Beverly. “She had on brown oxford shoes and back seamed hose. She didn’t look like a ghost at all. She looked like a real person.”

Beverly turned around and then glanced back and the legs had disappeared.

The McGraths have lived at the residence now for over 30 years, and say it has never been scary.

“When the ghosts get out of control I just talk to them,” said Beverly.

Even with the ghosts the McGraths have no plans of leaving.

“I’ll probably haunt this house when I die,” exclaimed Beverly. “I love this house.”

No ghostly activities have happened the past three years according to Beverly. She has discovered that the ghosts do not like being talked about, and when they are discussed in the house little things begin missing or being misplaced.

Beverly said the last time she talked about the ghosts in the house she came home from work the next day to find her two candle sticks laying on a table near their candle holder. They fit firmly in the holder and she thought maybe her husband, who was the only other person in the home had taken them out, but he said he had not touched them. Day after

day she came home to find the candle sticks lying in the same exact position. After a few days she told Hazel politely to stop, and it did.

It is for this reason that McGrath only talks about her ghosts out of the house now. Although she says does not mind the ghosts in her house, she tries to not disturb them.