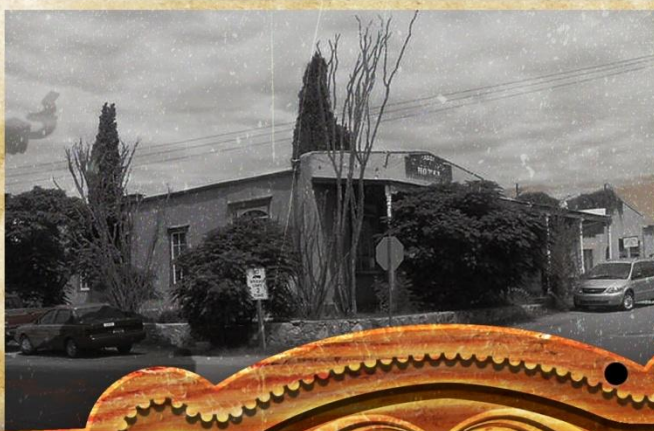




REPORT

NELLIE CASHMAN'S RESTAURANT

INVESTIGATION



*Tombstone
Arizona*

AZ004

**SOUTHWEST
GHOST HUNTERS
ASSOCIATION**



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Forward

The word “investigation” is defined as
“a searching inquiry for ascertaining facts; detailed or careful examination.”

The key word here is “facts”. Do ghosts exist? No, it has not been proven.
Therefore are no facts to investigate.

What we do have is the testimony of the witnesses and this is where an investigational process will work. Investigations are often viewed as a skeptical activity because the main goal is trying to determine what the witness actually saw. Is it explainable or not? This is done through critical thinking and an event replication process developed by SGHA. This is an important concept because what defines a haunting or ghost sighting is “Multiple witnesses reporting unusual phenomena over a period of time”. If these phenomena can be explained, the witness reports are no longer validating paranormal activity as a cause and thus there is no ghost or haunting. Additionally historical research may be done in an attempt to validate facts.

It is important to understand that the goal of an investigation is not to find evidence of the paranormal but to attempt to identify any natural or manmade causes of the reported phenomena

Definition of Terms

Investigation Status: Unsolved investigations will have either an open or closed status. An investigation is given an “Open” status if:

The investigators were unable to replicate all of the witness events. Something significant remains that is still unsolved.

It is important to understand that an “open” investigation does not mean that the unsolved facts are paranormal in nature. It simply means that we have exhausted our resources and cannot solve the “open” items/events.

A “Closed” status indicates that there is insufficient data or confounding variables that prevents replication or identifying possible explanations. This often occurs when investigators do not have direct access to witnesses or some other environmental change have occurred that creates confounding variables.

Confidentiality Notice

Many of the witnesses interviewed have wished to remain anonymous in exchange for presenting their accounts of paranormal experiences. We honor that request and thus witnesses will often be identified by aliases. Any coincidence between aliases and actual persons is unintentional.

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Part 1: Location Information

Nellie Cashman Restaurant
117 S 5th Street
Tombstone, AZ

Part 2: Location History

Nellie Cashman led an humble life. Her principal business was to feed the hungry and shelter the homeless, and her chief divertimento was to relieve those in distress and to care for the sick and afflicted. She persisted in good deeds through half a century, and her helpful activities were distributed over a broad field which extended from the arid deserts of Mexico to the bleak and inhospitable regions within the Arctic Circle.



She was inclined to associate more generally with men than with members of her own sex, and on several occasions she joined in stampedes with men, tramping with them over rugged trails and sharing the vicissitudes and discomforts of their rude camps.

Nevertheless, she maintained an unimpeachable reputation, and her character and conduct commanded the universal respect and admiration of every community in which she lived.

A copy of The Daily Arizona Citizen (Vol. 1, No. 120), dated July 29, 1879, which contains the following advertisement:

"DELMONICO RESTAURANT Miss Nellie Cashman Has just opened a New Restaurant on the South side of Church Plaza TUCSON ARIZONA

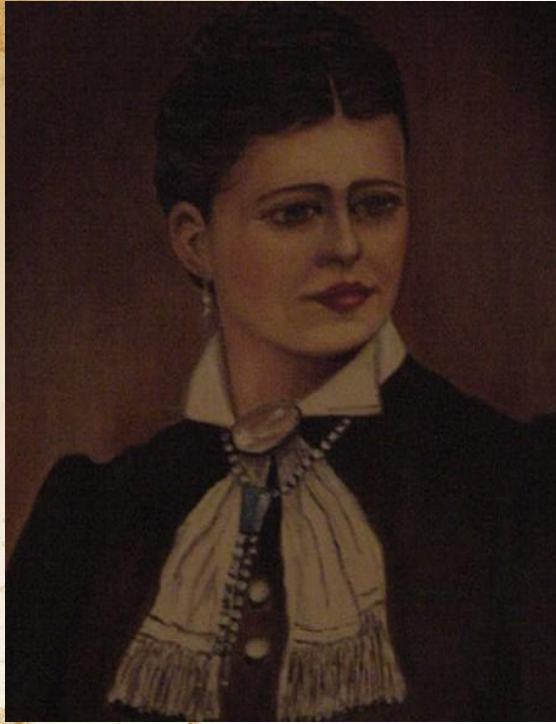
Miss Cashman will personally superintend the Cooking and Dining Departments. Patronage Solicited."

In 1880 Nellie cast her lot with the booming mining camp of Tombstone, where she established herself as the proprietress of the Russ House. Tombstone was then a bustling camp. Hundreds were added to its population each month. Illness and accidents occurred among this milling throng of miners and prospectors. There was no hospital at Tombstone, so there were many opportunities for generous, self sacrificing, willing hands to help in these cases of illness or accident or pressing need, and it was soon found that Nellie was prompt and persistent and effective with plans for relief. It might be a simple contribution, or an entertainment of some sort, but whatever it might be, Nellie's plan met with immediate and substantial support.

If she asked for a contribution the people contributed. If she had tickets to sell, they bought tickets. If she needed actors for a play they volunteered to act. And, although Nellie's pleas were frequent, none ever refused her. In fact, we would have felt offended had we not been allowed an opportunity to assist in some way with each one of Nellie's benefits. Her benefits were many and varied. One example was when a prospector had been sinking a shaft single handed and had fallen into the shaft, breaking both of his legs. He was discovered in a most pitiable condition. Nellie rushed to his aid and within a day or two secured nearly \$500 for his care and comfort.

At Tucson and Tombstone Miss Cashman conducted restaurants and she advertised "the best meals in town." In that business sanitation was a vital feature. Nellie always made it so, and in insisting upon sanitary methods she had to be very strict with her employees. But because of her kindly disposition and the justice of her demands, her instructions were always cheerfully complied with in fact, her employees were always numbered among her good friends.

This spirit of respect and esteem is strikingly illustrated by the unique manner in which it was expressed by "Sam Lee." Sam was a Chinese cook employed by Nellie in Tombstone. He found it necessary to pay a brief visit to his native land and requested leave of absence for that purpose. When he was ready to leave he asked Nellie to give him one of her photographs.



"Me tak 'em picture to China," said Sam, "me get him Chinaman paint fine picture of you, Miss Cashman, and me fetch 'em fine picture back to you."

Sam got the photograph and he had his artist friend of China paint a portrait of his esteemed employer, and he "fetch 'em fine picture back" to America, and that excellent portrait of "Aunt Nell" now occupies a niche of honor among Mike Cunningham's prized possessions in his Bisbee home. He says "Aunt Nell" told him many times that the painting was executed by a Chinese artist in Hong Kong. A photograph of this portrait is presented herewith.

Nellie Cashman was a devout Catholic, but her ministrations were not restricted to any sect or creed. It was but natural, however, that her most conspicuous activities should develop in connection with individuals and organizations of her own faith, and opportunities of this character often presented themselves to her in Tombstone. A conspicuous incident of this kind occurred in the spring of 1884. Five men, Daniel Kelly, Omer W. Sample, James Howard, Daniel Dowd, and William Delaney, were under sentence of death for murders committed at Bisbee the previous year. Sheriff J. L. Ward announced that the execution of these five men would take place "At the Court House, Tombstone, Arizona, March 28, 1884, at one o'clock p. m."

The simultaneous execution of five men from the same scaffold was, indeed, an extraordinary event. The murders committed by these men had been unprovoked and cold blooded, and the death sentences of the outlaws met with emphatic popular approval. The public sentiment was so strong against the condemned men that many were eager to witness their execution. Sheriff Ward had invited as many "official witnesses" as could be accommodated within the court yard, but a majority of the would be observers of the gruesome act were excluded.

Inspired by these circumstances and a lust for gold, a brutal hearted, mercenary group leased an adjacent vacant lot and erected a grandstand overlooking the courtyard and prepared to sell standing room thereon to all who were willing to pay a substantial fee to view the execution. This sordid, barbaric enterprise aroused the indignation of the better class of citizens, but there appeared to be no legal way to prevent it.

An outrage upon humane sentiment and common decency was about to be perpetrated, and an ominous, suppressed excitement gripped the community. There was sore need for a tactful, sagacious, and determined leader and at the crucial moment such a leader appeared in the person of Nellie Cashman.


The condemned murderers were undeserving of succor, other than of a spiritual nature. It was in these circumstances that Nellie Cashman interested herself in their welfare and volunteered to assume the role of Mother Confessor to the unfortunate prisoners while awaiting execution. Only two of the condemned men were Catholics when Nellie undertook her good will responsibilities as spiritual adviser, but so sincere and appealing were her ministrations that very soon the other three humbly and gratefully accepted the tenets of her faith. It easily may be imagined how Nellie's great soul rejoiced at this result, and we may not doubt that her gentle and sympathetic influence sustained and soothed the doomed men during their last hours on earth.

The unhappy prisoners were greatly depressed when they heard the sounds of the busy hammers constructing the grandstand and realized that the plan was to turn their execution into a public show for gain and the gratification of a morbid throng, and thus make the occasion a Roman holiday. Earnestly they pleaded with Sheriff Ward to forbid it, but he bluntly told them that he had no authority to interfere, and it was obvious that, for political reasons, he had no desire to do so. Then, as a last resort, the distressed men confided their objections to their Mother Confessor.

Nellie Cashman's soul which was the soul of honor if ever there was one had been in violent revolt against the impending outrage from its inception, and the fire of her Celtic spirit blazed from her eyes as she listened to the pleadings of her spiritual charges. But even though her eyes flashed, her manner was calm and confident as she replied consolingly: "Please don't

worry; just leave it to me, and I assure you that not a single foot of the space on that grandstand will be occupied at the time of the execution." And this assurance satisfied and comforted the doomed men because their confidence in their Mother Confessor was unbounded.

But Nellie Cashman had embarked upon a desperate enterprise one that would prove an exacting test of her tact and courage. In view of the tense feeling prevailing in the community, it would be an easy matter to arouse the mob spirit and precipitate a riot. This must be avoided. obviously Nellie realized the dangers that threatened in the delicate situation, for she observed the utmost caution in the development of her plans, and she disclosed those plans only as their progress made it necessary to do so.



HOLIDAY PRESENTS!

THE RUSS HOUSE!

MISS NELLIE CASHMAN, Manager.

Thoroughly Refitted. Everything New.
Eastern Waiters. White Cooks.

MEALS 25 CENTS AND UPWARDS.

Board \$6.00 per Week, in Advance. \$6.50, if Paid Monthly.

The first precaution of this daring and strategic leader was to clear the field for her contemplated activities. She assumed an unusually light hearted manner to the public in order the better to conceal the storm that raged within. Very quietly she conferred with the chief of police and several dependable leading citizens to whom she suggested that in view of the suppressed excitement incident to the impending execution an effort should be made to induce everyone to retire before midnight. This suggestion met

with enthusiastic approval, and the result was that the streets of Tombstone were practically deserted by midnight.

The next important action taken by our Mother Confessor was to get into communication with a score or more of her rugged and reliable miner friends and to obtain their promises to assemble at a designated rendezvous exactly at two o'clock the next morning, equipped with sledges, crowbars, heavy drills, picks, hammers, and saws. The men readily promised to assemble, although they did not know what they were expected to do.

Promptly at two a.m. on that fateful day of the execution Nellie Cashman was looking into the stern faces of a formidable group of strong and resolute men. Quickly she revealed her purpose to demolish the offensive grandstand. "You lead us to that grandstand and we'll do the wrecking," was the spontaneous response of the men as they caught up their wrecking tools. "Come on men," was Nellie's curt command as she led the way to the court house. Then seizing a sledge from one of the men she rushed forward and with a well directed blow shattered the first splinters from the grandstand. A very busy hour followed.

When the dawn came and the throngs were once more astir upon the streets of Tombstone they discovered that the grandstand had been reduced to a mass of kindling wood and deposited at the bottom of a convenient arroyo. There was no profiteering during that execution.

The chief instigator in the grandstand enterprise was a carpenter named Constable. After the execution Nellie impressed upon her miner friends the fact that this carpenter had shown himself to be a most undesirable citizen. Very soon Constable discovered that he was out of employment and was becoming increasingly unpopular. Shortly thereafter he left Tombstone exiled through the dominating influence of Nellie Cashman.¹

Nellie bought the Russ House and opened up a restaurant and boarding house in Tombstone in the early 1880's. This is the same house that bears the name of "Nellie Cashman's" restaurant in Tombstone today. Nellie not

¹ A Modest Tribute to the Memory of a Noble Woman, Whose Energetic, Courageous, Self Sacrificing Life Was an Inspiration on a Wide Frontier During Half a Century," by John P. Clum (originally published in the Arizona Historical Review, 1931)

only operated a successful business but cared for a lot of the down and out miners in the camp, becoming known as "The Angel of Tombstone."

Part 3: Witnesses

This section identifies the witnesses to the reported activity.

Name	Sex	Connection with reported incident	Interviewed
Robert*	M	Employee, 2nd hand account	02 Sept 2001
Denise *	F	Waitress, Witness	02 Sept 2001

*Witnesses given aliases are noted by a **

Both witness told us the general accounts of the phenomenon that is occurring inside the restaurant (see Section 4).

Part 4: Reported Phenomenon

The building remained a boarding house until the late 1950's, then was gutted and became the restaurant it is today. Often, staff will arrive in the morning to find that objects have been moved during the night. Strange noises, crashing sounds, and even muted voices have been heard in the building. Lights mysteriously turn on and off of their own accord, and sudden changes in temperature are felt in various areas. Though these spirits are seemingly harmless, they do seem to be sensitive to criticism, making themselves known when people express their non-belief. In fact, on one occasion when a customer was making fun of the ghosts, a mustard bottle suddenly jumped from the table, leaving her clothing spattered with the yellow liquid.

Employee's feel the spirits are from the frontier days, not necessary Nellie Cashman herself. Another employee saw an older gentleman attired in an outdated black suit walk straight into the kitchen. No one was in there upon an immediate inspection. The owner has seen the apparition of a man and woman dressed in fine western clothing walk in the dining room together out of the corner of her eye. Thinking they may be re enactment players from town, she turned to serve them only to find nobody there.

Part 5: Historical Investigation

The building that houses the restaurant is not the same building that was used by Nellie Cashman. (Redlands Daily Facts, Jan 21st, 1959)

Historic Nellie Cashman Hotel In Tombstone Burns

TOMBSTONE, Ariz. (UPI)—The Nellie Cashman Hotel, once the home of such famed characters of the old west as Marshal Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday, lies in ruins today.

The one-story adobe structure on Toughnut St. was destroyed Tuesday by a fast-burning fire lashed with 30-mile an hour winds.

A wealth of relics from the post Civil War period when Tombstone was one of the toughest towns on the frontier was lost in the blaze of undetermined origin.

A large portrait of Nellie Cashman, "The Angel of Tombstone," which hung in the hall of the 12-room structure, was among the valuable relics destroyed.

Miss Cashman, a strikingly beautiful dark-haired woman renowned for her kindness to miners down on their luck, operated the House during the 1870s and the early part of the 1880s.

Miss Cashman's boarding house faced the O. K. Corral where the three Earp brothers, Wyatt, Virgil and Morgan, fought their famous gun battle with Ike and Billy Clanton, Tom and Frank McLowery and Billy Claiborne on Oct. 26, 1881.

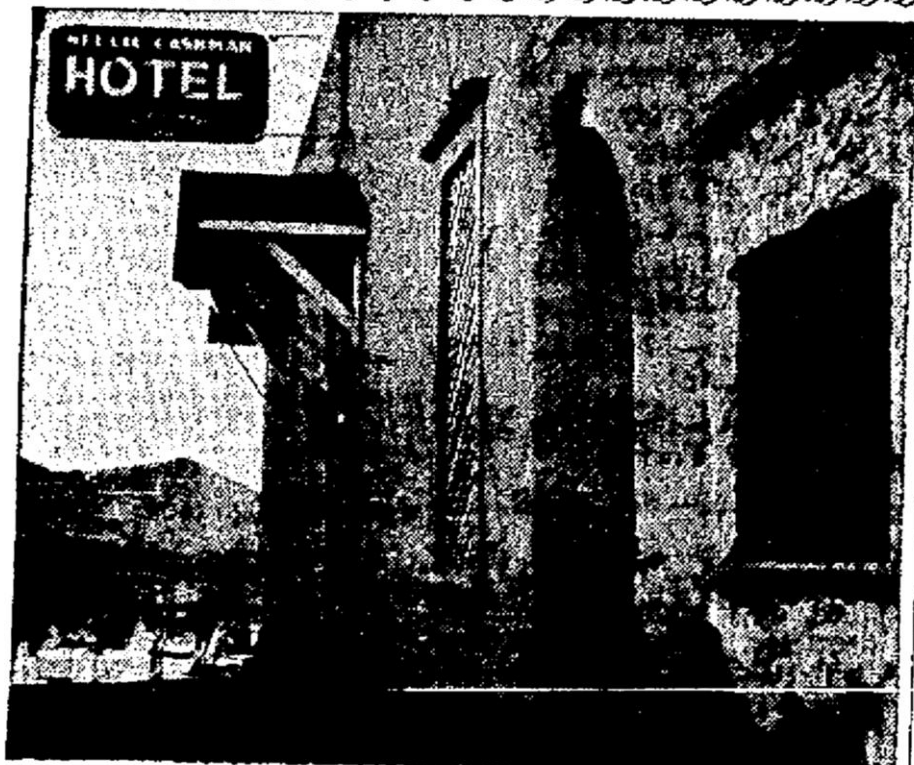
The fabled boarding house owner, who was one of the town's most respected women and who was said to have never been tainted by a hint of scandal, left Tombstone that same year, according to a legend.

In later years John Slaughter, sheriff of Cochise County, lived in the boarding house started by Nellie Cashman.

The hotel had no bar in it and since 1951 it had been operated by Mrs. Josephine Keagle who still rented out rooms but concentrated mostly on selling souvenirs to tourists.

Arizona Album

HOTELS IN OLD ARIZONA
Edited by Albert R. Buehman



NELLIE CASHMAN'S HOTEL IN TOMBSTONE

Nellie Cashman's famous old hotel in Tombstone is no longer doing business, it having been destroyed by fire in January, 1959. But the hotel and Nellie, who died years ago, live on in the memory of the "town too tough to die." Revered for her many good deeds and acts of kindness to down-and-outers of the old-time mining camp, Nellie Cashman will always be a part of the history of Tombstone.

The hotel, which attracted many tourists and historians' attention, was located at the northwest intersection of Fifth and Toughnut streets.

Nellie Cashman, so the historians tell, objected strongly to the erecting of grandstand seats for the hanging of five men doomed to die at one time—Mar. 28, 1884. After her appeals to the sheriff and others had failed, she rallied a group of decent citizens the night before the hanging was scheduled and tore down the temporary bleachers. The crowd, which had paid fancy prices for seats for the execution, took Nellie's act in sufficient good nature that she was not prosecuted or harmed for it. (Daily Citizen photo.)

This creates the first problem for paranormal enthusiasts as it rules out the hypothesis of a "residual haunting". The present day building was built in the early 1960's.

The second issue is that there are no accounts of anything unusual occurring in the building prior to 1994. The first published account was in 1996 in the book " Haunted Places: The National Directory: Ghostly Abodes, Sacred Sites, UFO Landings, and Other Supernatural Locations" by Dennis William Hauck. If this was an actual haunting, there should be some prior accounts, not a thirty year gap.

Part 6: Investigation

Our investigation was conducted on September 2nd, 2001. The investigation consisted of interviewing the staff and audio recording to create a sound map of the building. The information from the staff provided several possible explanations for the ghostly activity.

Strange noises, crashing sounds, muted voices

The reports of "crashing sounds" are actually a record of only one incident. A stack of dishes in the kitchen had fallen over while the staff was talking in the dining room. Robert told us that "it was possible" that the dishes simply fell off the table on their own accord if they were stacked haphazardly. Myth building makes this incident appear that it is actually a common occurrence.

Strange noises and muted voices are actually quite common in the building as it lies directly across from Six Gun city where reenactments and plays are performed. During our investigation we were able to hear parts of conversations from people walking by the building as well as some of the louder parts of the Six Gun city production. There are simply too many possible explanations for this type of phenomena.

The mustard incident

According to the stories, a customer was making fun of the ghosts when a mustard bottle suddenly jumped from the table and splattered her. Again this appears to be an exaggeration of the facts. When Robert told us this story, he claimed that the bottle was somehow knocked off the table and

fell to the floor. The bottle hitting the floor caused it to splatter on the woman's clothes.

Apparition of a man and woman

During our interview with Denise we stumbled upon another variant of this story that may be more accurate. What the original story tends to neglect is that the owner was busing tables when she spotted the couple (out of the corner of her eye). She gathered up the dishes off the table and took them to the back before returning to discover that the couple had vanished from the dining room. By our approximation, the trip to drop off the dishes took around 6 seconds. This was 6 seconds that the couple was out of her sight. This would have been more than enough time for the couple to exit the building, thus establishing a very likely alternative explanation for the incident.



Part 7: Conclusion

The propagator of the ghost stories is the restaurant. It should be noted that in the late nineties there was a surge in the interest of ghosts in Tombstone as several television shows had filmed documentaries there. Tombstone's major industry is tourism. The competition for tourist dollars is intense due to the relatively short tourist season. Is money a possible motive for the propagation of the ghost stories here?

Myth building and bias is an issue here as the ghost stories here have been published in several books.

**The Complete Book of Ghosts: A Fascinating Exploration of the Spirit World ...
By Paul Roland**

**Haunted Places: The National Directory : Ghostly Abodes, Sacred Sites, UFO ...
By Dennis William Hauck**

Ghosts By Stuart Webb

The genesis (oldest account) appears to be the crashing of the stack of plates that is soon followed by with a report (from a former employee) of a woman in a Victorian dress being seen in the building after closing. Despite the fact that this woman was never seen again and that the details of the event are vague at best, rumors of the building being haunted are started. At first the haunting is directly attributed to Nellie Cashman herself but as that is questioned the focus of the haunting shifts to two other unidentified "spirits". This is why different versions of the myth have different details.

"Over the years there have been sightings of a woman inside the restaurant by employees and customers -- everyone believes it is Nellie."

"Employee's feel the spirits are from the frontier days—but not necessary Nellie Cashman herself."

Additional witness experiences are then assimilated into the myth by inaccurately perceiving a relationship between the unrelated events and the genesis. This creates an illusion of validity (Story Validation) and a preconception that the unusual experiences are paranormal in origin.

More witness search for, interpret and focus on information in a way that conforms to the myth's preconceptions (Confirmation Bias). This primes the

location for additional "paranormal" experiences by creating an observation selection bias.

Biased by the knowledge of the myth, people start noticing things that were not noticed previously and, as a result, wrongly assume that this newly discovered phenomenon is paranormal in origin (Observation Selection Bias).

The activity at this location does not meet the Gurney/Myers Standard for Ghost Investigations and there is not any sufficient evidence to support the claims of paranormal activity.

UPDATE 2010: Nellie Cashman's is now Cafe Margarita. It's under new management, has been remodeled. To date there has not been any ghostly phenomena reported.

Part 8: Photographs





