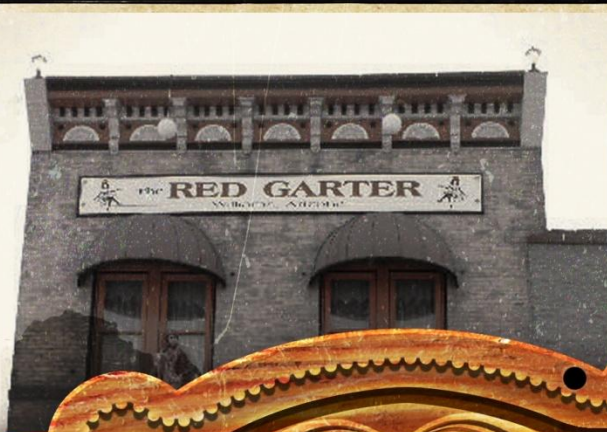




# REPORT

## RED GARTER BED AND BAKERY

INVESTIGATION



*Williams  
Arizona*

**AZ034**

**SOUTHWEST  
GHOST HUNTERS  
ASSOCIATION**



**SOLVED**

2008  
2010

COMPLAINTS  
STANDARD

**WWW.SGHA.NET**





## 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

Red Garter, B & B Inn

Williams, Arizona

## Part 2: Location History

The building that houses the Red Garter Bed and Bakery in historic Williams, Arizona was built in 1897 by August Tetzlaff, a German tailor. His plans were to cash in on what was expected to be a big boom for the town of Williams. Silver and copper mines were being planned for the Grand Canyon, and railroad workers were settling in the town as their construction work finished.



The building first housed a saloon on the first floor and a bordello upstairs. The working girls were known for hanging out of the windows and calling to the men passing by on Railroad Avenue. Both businesses did well, catering to miners, cowboys, and railroad workers. Then, as now, tourists visited the Grand Canyon on the Santa Fe and Grand Canyon Railway, and many of them would stop at the saloon for a drink and perhaps sample the services available upstairs.

The saloon was operated by Longino Mora. Mora himself was a notable figure, if not for his exploits as a scout for the U.S. cavalry, or his heroism in the Indian Wars, then for the fact that he had five different wives and twenty-five children. When his youngest was born, his oldest child was sixty years of age. Longino himself lived to be ninety.



Arizona outlawed prostitution in 1907, but throughout the state and much of the Southwest, the law was only loosely enforced - especially when the town's economy depended on the trade, as did Williams.

The little saloon and bordello just off the Old Trails Highway, which later became Route 66, thrived until the mid 1940s, when a murder committed on the stairs of the Red Garter led to a city-wide crackdown on saloons and houses of ill repute. This, along with the fact that most of the men who would otherwise patronize the bordello were fighting in WWII, led to its closure.



Over the next few decades, the building housed several businesses, including a general store and a rooming house. In 1979, John Holst bought the building and leased it out. In 1994, Mr. Holst took over the building and opened the Red Garter Bed and Bakery.

John's current project involves excavating the area behind the Red Garter. Williams, like San Francisco or Los Angeles, had a Chinatown



where oriental railroad workers settled when the railroad was completed.½The Chinatown in Williams, however, consisted of the two rear rooms of the Red Garter building, and a 25' x 32' lot. Apartments, a restaurant, a chophouse, and even an opium den were crowded into this small space. Often the local sheriff was called to this area to investigate a murder, only to arrive on the scene to find no bodies, no signs of mayhem, or anything out of the ordinary. There are even tales of the town garbage collector, Heine, being lowered into the cesspool below the outhouses to look for bodies, only to come up empty handed.

### **Part 3: Witnesses**

Past Reports from Former Guests (from guest comment book) Records from 2005 lost due to a fire in the adjoining building.

08/17/06- "ghost" sighted

09/16/06- pair of stories but no details given

11/30/06- "ghost" less active on second night

03/17/07- "ghost" encounter and reported missing chocolate

05/08/07- "felt" Eve's presence

05/22/07- "ghost" encounter

06/29/07- handwriting was difficult to read but "Jeff" had an "encounter"

07/17/07- Interesting experience Best Gals Room (room 1)

08/12/07- radio turned on twice in the night

10/10/07- "ghost" encounter

03/13/08- "ghost" seen in mirror between rooms 2 and 3

03/25/08- man whistling and door slamming shut

03/28/08- "ghost" active

04/04/08- soft touch and whispers room 1

04/30/08- "ghost" encounter plus perfume aroma and other



5/01/08- curtains open by themselves and "weird" electric behavior i.e. "flickering" light smells i.e. cigar smoke?

05/06/08- strange noises in hallway

05/19/08- "spirit" of Madame was "felt"

06/19/08- strange noises heard

07/14/08- strange "bangs" in the night (heard by 2 different guest in 2 different rooms guest not related or together)

07/16/08- strange "bangs"

09/11/08- same as above

11/09/08- "ghost" active

## TETZLAFF BUILDING

THIS VICTORIAN-ROMANESQUE STYLE BUILDING, DESIGNED AS A SALOON AND BORDELLO WAS BUILT IN 1897 BY GERMAN TAILOR AUGUST TETZLAFF. OFFERING FEMALE COMPANY IN EIGHT CRIBS AND AN ELEGANT PARLOR, IT ALSO BOASTED A TWO-STORY outhouse. WHISKEY, POOL TABLES AND POKER GAMES PROVIDED ENTERTAINMENT ON THE GROUND FLOOR, AS DID THE CHINESE RESTAURANT AND OPIUM DEN LOCATED AT THE BACK OF THE BUILDING. THIS BRICK BUILDING STOPPED THE DEVASTATING 1901 AND 1903 FIRES THAT BURNED DOWN ALL OF "SALOON ROW" TO THE EAST. IT IS NOW ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.



## Part 4: Reported Phenomenon

Once in a while a ghost will appear in a picture even without a formal invitation. Such as the mysterious smiling woman in a photo John Holst--owner and innkeeper of the Red Garter Bed & Bakery in Williams--shows his guests while they munch on his homemade pastries at breakfast. No one else in the photo has a smile. Even stranger, this woman with the coquettish grin casts no reflection in the mirror, she stands in front of.

"Pretty odd, huh?" Holst asks me as we study the old photo, which he also has posted on the Red Garter's website.

Holst describes himself as a "hard-core skeptic" when it comes to ghostly apparitions. But he has come to terms with his bed & breakfasts' resident ghost, which one of his guests named Eve. The two-story Victorian Romanesque-style bed & breakfast, once one of the rowdiest buildings in Williams, was constructed in 1897 as a saloon and bordello. Holst remodeled the whole building, converting the eight upstairs rooms (one for the madam and seven for the girls) into four guest rooms, each with its own bathroom.

"The gal I've got that comes to visit here is really shy," Holst says. "She's made an attempt to connect with certain people. I don't know how she chooses them.

"I do appreciate the fact that this building has more than 100 years of traumatic things going on" Holst continues. "So anything's possible."

When Holst opened the bed & breakfast in 1994, some guests remarked that they felt an "aberrant pressure". Or heard footsteps up and down the stairs. Or has recurring dreams of a certain woman with long dark hair wearing a floor-length gown. Even though Holst still finds this supernatural side of his bed & breakfast a curiosity, he does admit to a peculiar sound he ambiguously attributes to Eve.

"Sometimes I hear a sound that goes 'clunk'," Holst explains. "It's like a door slamming. I have no idea where it comes from."<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> (Valley Guide Quarterly, Summer 2001, *Spirited Hotels*, By Christine Maxa)



Guests of the Red Garter have felt depressions appear in their mattresses, as if someone was sitting at the foot of the bed. Others who have seen the apparition describe her as a Hispanic girl with long dark hair. She wears a white nightgown and is usually seen holding something in front of her, although it is never quite clear what it is. One guest who claims to have made contact with the apparition says her name is Eva.<sup>2</sup>

## **Part 5: Investigation**

Two separate investigations were performed at this location. The first was on November 22nd, 2008 with a follow up on August 15th, 2010.

During the 2008 investigation the team reported various noises heard throughout the night including 1 loud bang heard by entire team. Approx 5:00am to about 5:30 am voices of couple heard by everyone but Carl.

The primary task of the second investigation was to determine any potential sources for the noises. Audio recorders were placed in all four rooms and the bathroom of Room 3. Controlled tests were performed by emitting a known sound in each of the rooms to provide background data. Audio was then recorded from 9:00pm to 8:00 am. The files from all recorders were plugged in a 5 channel master mix and synced.

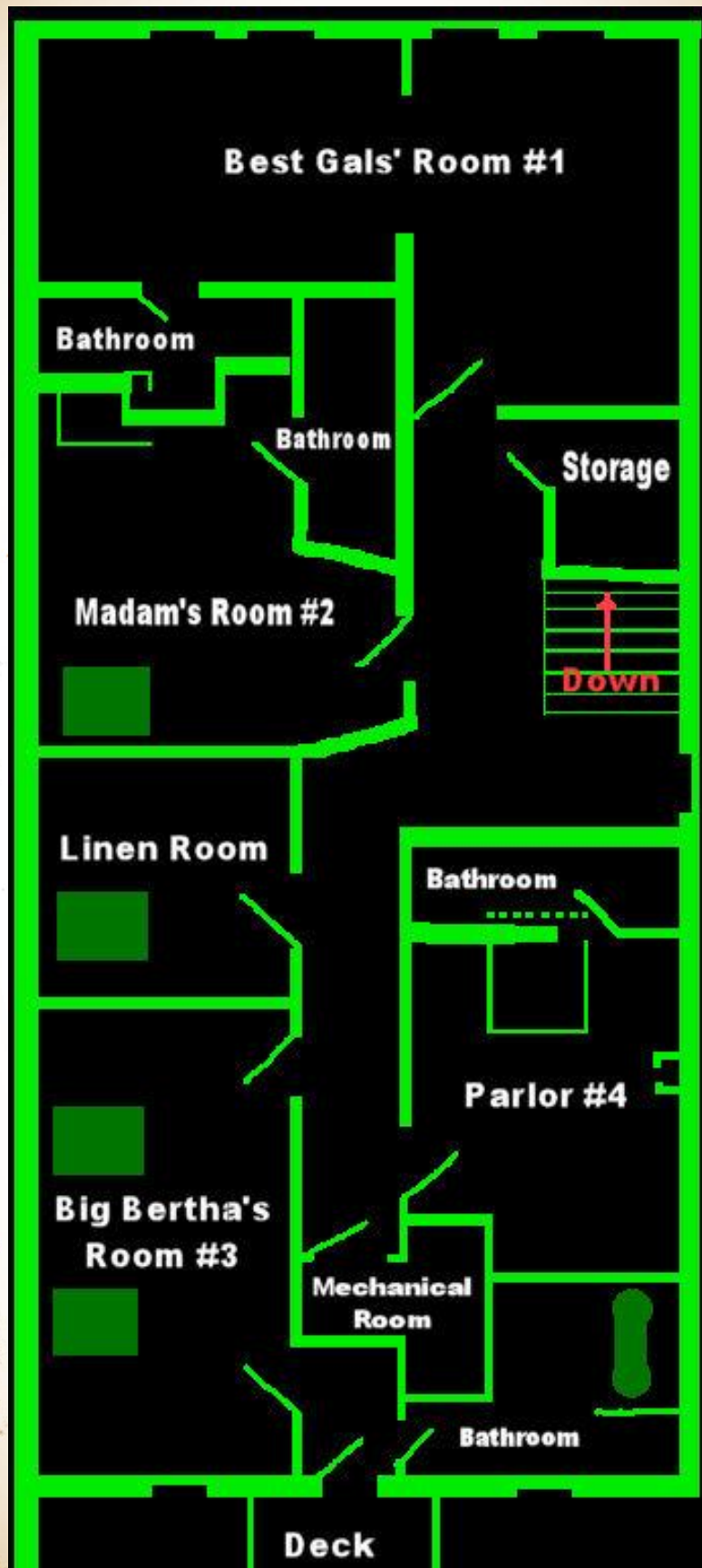
High frequencies are more quickly damped by the air than low frequencies. Therefore a distant sound source sounds more muffled than a close one, because the high frequencies are attenuated. For sound with a known spectrum (e.g. speech) the distance can be estimated roughly with the help of the perceived sound. By analyzing the amplitude of the noises recorded during the night we were able to isolate the approximate origins of the noises.

The second investigation recorded a loud banging noise at 4:50 am. The source of the noise appears to be coming from the area near the mechanical room. The recorders also captured a moderate amount of typical noise pollution including street noise and people talking. The recorder in Room 1 was able to pick up conversations occurring downstairs. Room 3 was able to pick up conversations occurring in Room

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<sup>2</sup> (Route 66 Magazine, Summer 2001, Highway Haunts By Rob Newman)



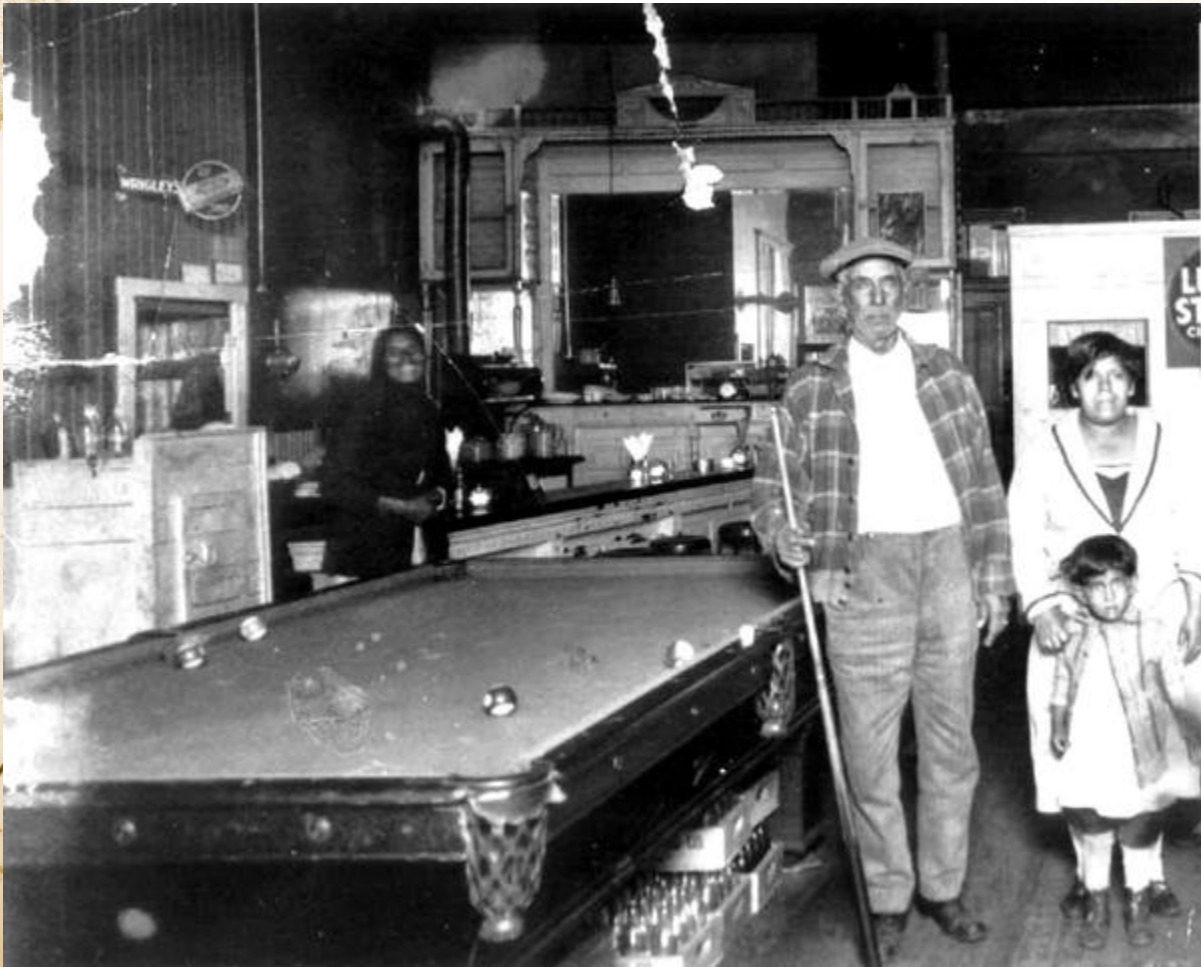




Room 3 was able to pick up conversations occurring in Room 4. This was probably aided by the fact that the historical building still has its transoms intact. Some noises also seem to originate from the bar next door.

This provides a sufficient explanation for the audio phenomenon experienced by the witnesses and identifies contamination sources for people trying to capture electronic voice phenomena without controls.

The most unusual phenomena is that the ghost supposedly has appeared in photographs. One such photograph is a 1934 picture of the unsmiling faces of Longino Mora, his fifth wife Clara and his 25th child, Carmina. Oddly, the photograph also portrays a woman behind the counter standing before a mirror who is smiling broadly. The woman is not reflected in the mirror she stands in front of.



An image analysis was performed on the photograph to take measurements of objects in the picture to establish dimensions and



distances. After determining the angle (position) of the mirror, which is angled slightly upwards and to the right, we triangulated the position of where the woman should be reflected in the mirror. Our hypothesis is that the woman does not appear in the mirror because of the angle in which this photo was taken. If the mirror was wider, her reflection would be concealed behind Longino's right shoulder.

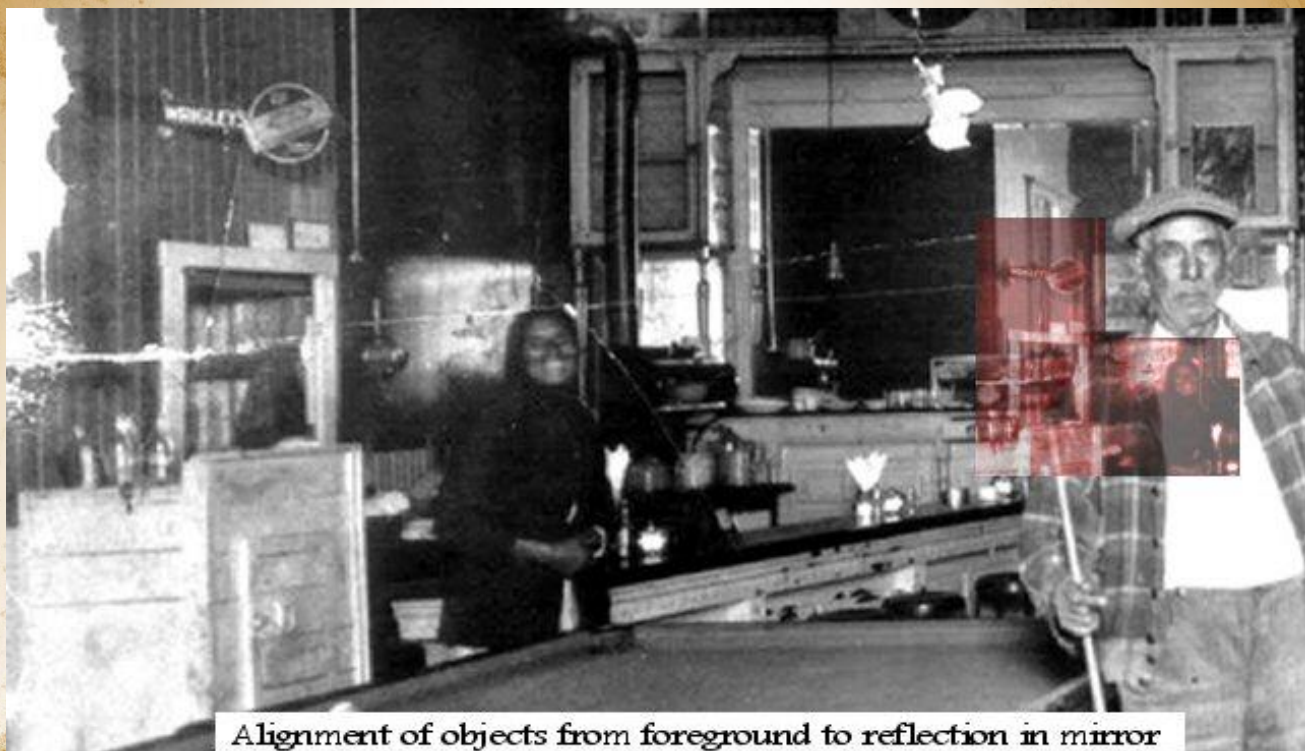


1a: The fan

2a: The shelf

A second analysis was also performed by taking a section of the image and creating a mask (colored in red). The objects in the foreground that can be seen in the mirror were used as a guide to resize the mask so that it corresponded to the same size as the original. The mask was added as an additional layer showing approximately where the smiling woman would be if the mirror was large enough and Longino was not in the way.





There are also reports that the motion detectors/ lights that line the stairway go off when there is no one on the stairs. this in itself is not paranormal. In fact it is a commonly addressed issue with most motion detection equipment. The most common cause is that the detectors are also sensitive to temperature. The plastic that the sensor looks through, will move with in accordance with the thermodynamic properties of the location. The heat from the wall and the cold of the night air will keep the eye seeing the plastic cover move. Motion sensors can sometimes detect things you can't see like wind (movement of air) or insects.

## 5.1 Historical Research

In addition to the ghost of Eve, there are also sightings of a male ghost.

*"A glimpse of a gentleman or cowboy is seen from time to time."*

*"Another apparition of a cowboy has been reported, along with the sounds of jiggling doorknobs."*

Supposedly this ghost has its origins in a historical incident that happened at the hotel in the 1940's.



*"Even during prohibition, the saloon and brothel continued to operate, hiding its bar and poker tables behind a divider. Both businesses continued to operate successfully until the mid 1940s, when a murder was committed on the stairs of the Red Garter, leading to a city-wide crackdown on houses of ill-repute. The crackdown ultimately led to the closure of the saloon and brothel after more than forty years of operation."*<sup>3</sup>

We searched the newspaper archives of Williams and the surrounding towns looking for any accounts of a murder that happened in Williams during that decade. We only found two major incidents. The first is unrelated to the investigation (A son murders his Dad with an axe at the family home) and the second was the murder of Joe McDaniel, the Chief of Police in Williams, on **April 15th, 1947**. This is the only possible historical account that fits the description.

The initial reports of this incident are confusing as the location of the murder is simply identified as being a "tavern", other state that it was a buffet. However the Arizona Daily Sun eventually identifies the location as being the Sultana Buffet on July 15th. The Sultana is several blocks away and on a different street from the saloon owned by Longino Mora. So that incident did not happen on the stairs of the Red Garter B & B as some the stories claim. Perhaps there is some confusion between some of the stories between the two buildings.

Another "rumor" is that one of the working girls stabbed a john at the bottom of the stairs, killing him. If this occurred, we were not able to find anything about it in any of the newspaper archives.

Further research of the "Crackdown" on prostitution also shows that it was a result of the efforts of the U.S. Army, not the murder of the Chief of Police or a local customer of the brothel.

## **Part 6: Myth Building / Hypotheses**

Myth Building at this location is severe. The ghost stories of the Red Garter have been published in several books, magazine articles and newspapers. The lobby of the business contains a "certification" from a ghost hunting

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.legendsofamerica.com/az-redgarter.html>



group that claims it is haunted and the building is also the starting point of the local ghost tour.

The stories start with an unexplained noise heard by the owner and a photograph that shows a woman who appears to not cast a reflection in a mirror. This is the genesis.

A second ghost then appears, a short Hispanic girl with black hair that a psychic would later "identify" as being a woman called Eve. An examination of this ghost reveals that initially it occurred in a dream of one of the B & B's guests. As the myth develops, she becomes an actual apparition seen pacing at the foot of the bed.

While Eve may be the first ghost that is reported, a second male ghost soon follows. This is also a typical red flag of myth building.

The patterns in the witness reports and published media are highly suggestive of the Correlation Cascade Model of myth building.

The Red Garter is a wonderful old building that is filled with many historical events that are quite fascinating. This, combined with a few unexplained incidents, creates the genesis of the stories.

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 propagator is the business itself. The myth is propagated by disseminating information to guests, the media and other people who visit the location.

These visitors have been biased and if the person's belief is open to the existence of paranormal phenomenon, their perception creates an increase in the possibility of misinterpreting a normal event as a paranormal oriented



one (Subjective Validation Bias). This, in turn, creates additional events that give the myth longevity.

### **Books that mention the Red Garter**

Dinner and Spirits: A Guide to America's Most Haunted Restaurants, Taverns ... By Robert James Wlodarski, Anne Powell Wlodarski

Haunted Arizona: Ghosts of the Grand Canyon State By Ellen Robson

Haunted Arizona: Ghosts and Strange Phenomena of the Grand Canyon State By Charles A. Stansfield

Restless Spirits: Utah's Small Town Ghosts By Linda Dunning

## **Part 7: Conclusion**

If you are looking for a great historical Bed and Breakfast in Northern Arizona the Red garter is it. The rooms are comfortable and the staff are very hospitable. If you are only looking for ghosts, this probably is not the best place to visit.

Hotels and B & Bs' are often the hardest locations to investigate because the majority of the incidents are reported by guests who are not familiar with the environment and sounds of the building. If the staff is not reporting anything unusual there is often not much to suggest that the building has paranormal activity occurring as statistically, they should have a greater chance of having an encounter.

The staff we talked with have not encountered anything highly unusual, just the odd feeling that "something" is there.

This leaves us with the brief descriptions provided by guests that have taken the time to enter their experiences in the guest comment book. When you take away the ghost stories, the common experiences are sounds that they can't explain and sensations that can be typically explained by psychology (Parasomnias, REM Sleep Behavior Disorder, Sleep Paralysis)

Since the majority of the encounters with the ghost named Eva occur while the witness is in bed, a hypnagogic hallucination is one variable that is difficult to rule out.



Hypnagogic hallucinations are hallucinations which occur at the boundary between sleeping and waking. They can occur when people are falling asleep, or when they are starting to wake up, and they tend to be extremely vivid. Many people experience hypnagogic hallucinations at some point during their lives.

Visual, auditory, tactile, and kinetic sensations can all be experienced during hypnagogic hallucinations, and everyone experiences slightly different forms. Some people, for example, may feel like they are falling, and jerk themselves awake to avoid hitting the ground. Others may hear voices as they are trying to drift off to sleep, or experience a vivid sensation that someone or something is in the room. Sensory experiences such as



feeling like one is submerged in a pool of water are also not uncommon.

In some cases, hypnagogic hallucinations can be frightening for the people who experience them. They may include vivid and frightening images, including images which are out of scale, which can make the hallucinations seem even more

unsettling; people may see giant spiders on the walls, for example, or feel like they have shrunk down to a tiny size in the bed. The vivid experiences may also be brought to mind over the course of the day, causing inexplicable images or sensations to filter through someone's consciousness at an unexpected moment.<sup>4</sup>

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.

## Part 8: Photographs

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.wisegeek.org/what-are-hypnagogic-hallucinations.htm>





November 22nd, 2008, 1st Investigation Team







