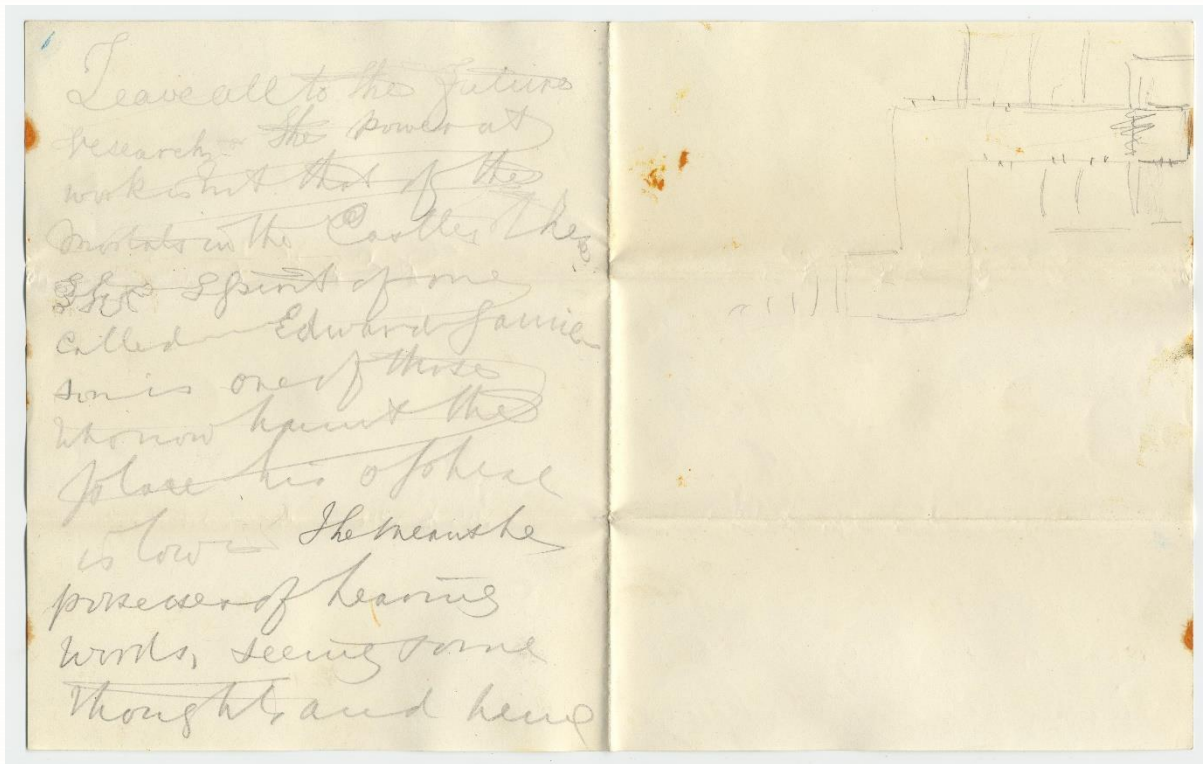


### Transcript of a séance, CR1886/Box 469

For October's document of the month, we have decided to focus on a paranormal theme. We have chosen one of the séance transcripts from the Greville of Warwick Castle collection. These were found by a researcher in the papers relating to Anne Greville, the fourth Countess of Warwick. They had been sealed in an envelope marked "Clarke's specifications for painting..." and appear to be transcripts of séances which occurred at Warwick Castle during the nineteenth century.

The transcript starts with the following: "Leave all to the future research. The power at work is not that of the mortals in the Castle"<sup>1</sup>.



First page of the séance transcript, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1886/Box 469

There are two transcripts in the envelope, but the one we have chosen to focus on here appears to channel the spirit of a servant called Edward Jamieson, who has been blamed for moving objects and creating noises around the castle: "the spirit of me called Edward Jamie-son is one of those who now haunt the place"<sup>2</sup>. A search of Ancestry and Find My Past yields no records for anyone with that name [although we did find reference to an Edward Jameson baptised in Coventry]. It is suggested in

<sup>1</sup> Séance transcript, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1886/Box 469.

<sup>2</sup> Séance transcript, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1886/Box 469.

the transcripts that Jamieson had hidden an item in one of the rooms in the castle. There is also a map of some of the rooms drawn out onto the back of the transcript. Later in the transcript, it is suggested that two other male spirits were aiding Jamieson: "He is aided by two Men Spirits in a like sphere"<sup>3</sup>. No names are noted here, but it is suggested later that they are also two former servants. The transcript concludes that the course of action to take is to search rooms in the castle for the object. The transcript ends rather abruptly with the name Harriet repeated twice at the end of it. The other transcript takes the form of questions put to Jamieson and his replies through a medium.

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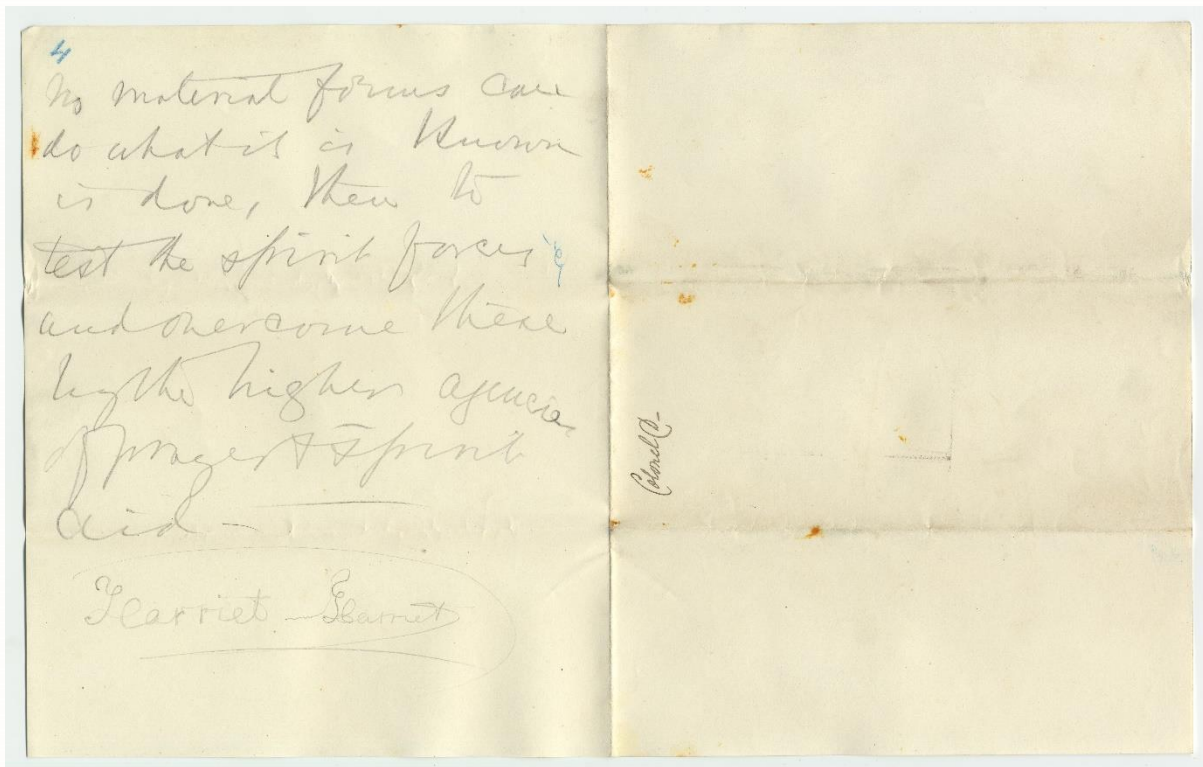
<sup>3</sup> Séance transcript, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1886/Box 469.

<sup>2</sup> In a lower sphere spirit is  
described as a material  
atmosphere. Unable  
him. Whose agents  
of material form  
to create noise.  
He can be defeated  
in his purposes -  
by the higher power  
of spirits. He is  
aided by two others

<sup>3</sup> Spirits in a little  
sphere. There are two  
mediumistic servants  
whose atmosphere  
is made use of for  
the purpose of adding  
power, one is getting  
weakened light -  
The course to adopt  
is to search the  
places, & prove that

Pages two and three of the transcript, Warwickshire County Record Office,  
CR1886/Box 469

This transcript appears to have been written in the style of automatic writing, or psychography. This is a claimed psychic ability where an individual produces written words without seeing what has been written. It is unclear whether this is the handwriting of Anne or another individual who was present for the séance. We have provided a full transcript of the document separately.



Page four of the transcript, Warwickshire County Record Office, CR1886/Box 469

### **Anne Greville**

Anne Greville (nee Chateris) was born in 1829 to the ninth Earl of Wemyss. She grew up in Gosford House in East Lothian, Scotland, and married George Greville (the fourth Earl of Warwick) in 1852. They had five children together. On the 1891 census, she is listed as an "Artist – Sculptor". There are many of her drawings and sketches in the collections here at the Record Office. A small selection can be found in the article by Adam Busiakiewicz on the Our Warwickshire website<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> Information gathered from *The Maestro's Pencil Box*, Adam Busiakiewicz, Our Warwickshire, <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/maestros-pencil-box> (accessed 01/09/2020).



Her eldest son Francis (who inherited the Earldom of Warwick on the death of his father in 1893<sup>5</sup>) recalls in his autobiography his mother's interest in ghosts, and how she was often visited by the Archdeacon Colley, and they would hold séances in what was known then as the Oak Bedroom (now the Kenilworth Bedroom). She died in 1903<sup>6</sup>.

### **Spiritualism and the Spiritualism Movement**

Spiritualism (the belief that the dead can communicate with the living through a medium) began to grow in popularity in the United States and Europe during the 1850s. It is agreed that the modern Spiritualist movement began in 1848, with Margaret and Kate Fox in Hydesville, New York. They claimed that they had communicated with the spirit of a murdered man who resided in their home<sup>7</sup>. In 1851, this was proved to have been faked by the sisters, but the movement continued to grow in popularity.

It wasn't necessarily seen as a separate religious movement, more a way of providing evidence to support religious beliefs of life after death and the existence of a person's soul<sup>8</sup>.

The nineteenth century is routinely believed to be a period when "disciplines and institutions of modern science were founded and cultural authority shifted from traditional authority of religion to explanation through the scientific exposition of natural laws"<sup>9</sup>. An example of this is Charles Darwin's *Origin of Species*. However, it was also a period of religious revival. Roger Luckhurst also describes the period as the following: "It was a golden age of belief in supernatural forces and energies, ghost stories, weird transmissions and spooky phenomena"<sup>10</sup>. From this document it appears that Anne Greville was a believer!

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<sup>5</sup> *Francis Greville, 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Warwick*, Stephen Luscombe, The British Empire, <https://www.britishempire.co.uk/forces/armyunits/yeomanry/warwickshireyeomanryfrancisgreville.htm#:~:text=Francis%20Richard%20Charles%20Guy%20Greville,Eton%20and%20Christ%20Church%2C%20Oxford>. (accessed 01/09/2020).

<sup>6</sup> *A Warwick Castle Secret, and a Conversation with Ghosts*, Adam Busiakiewicz, Our Warwickshire, <https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/warwick-castle-secret-conversation-ghosts> (accessed 01/09/2020).

<sup>7</sup> *Victorian Spiritualism*, Dr. Andrzej Diniejko, The Victorian Web, <http://www.victorianweb.org/victorian/religion/spirit.html> (accessed 27/08/2020).

<sup>8</sup> *History of Modern Spiritualism*, BBC, <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/spiritualism/history/history.shtml> (accessed 27/08/2020).

<sup>9</sup> *The Victorian Supernatural*, Roger Luckhurst, The British Library, <https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/the-victorian-supernatural> (accessed 01/09/2020)

<sup>10</sup> *The Victorian Supernatural*, Roger Luckhurst, The British Library, <https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/the-victorian-supernatural> (accessed 01/09/2020)

