

# Coexisting in the Smith House

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Covington, Tennessee, is a small community in Southwest Tennessee with a population of approximately 9,000 residents. It was incorporated in 1826 and became the county seat of Tipton County. Being the hub of the county, it didn't take long for impressive houses to rise up close to the century-old courthouse prominently located in the center of the square where businesses and trade thrived.

One such house, which was built in 1896, is located on South Main Street, two blocks away from the old town square, and has had more than enough time to accumulate its share of the spirits that surround the entire area. At one point in its history, it was even made into a boarding house, and some boarders may have decided to return to the house in the afterlife.

The two-story, 122-year-old house is owned by Leigh Ann and David Smith, who has lived in it close to a quarter century and stated that it has always had activity associated with it. Spirit activity in the house has been going on for years. Although nothing of a threatening nature has occurred over the years, Leigh Ann was curious as to what could be causing some of the activity they regularly experienced. So she invited our team to investigate.

Some of the claims of paranormal phenomena include hearing creaks and footsteps above the downstairs study, the smell of perfume or talcum powder downstairs, and the bed in the upstairs master bedroom being shaken hard enough to awaken Leigh Ann.

Her son has seen shadow figures and movement in the hall during the night. David has been woken in the early hours of the morning when he is at home. And the sound of breaking glass has been heard several times, but upon investigating, nothing is broken. We arranged to investigate the house on February 17, 2018.



**The Smith House was built in 1896 and is located in Covington, Tennessee. The current owners of the property have lived there for almost 25 years and have experienced spirit activity since moving in, including seeing shadow figures, hearing the sound of breaking glass with no known cause, and hearing disembodied footsteps, among other paranormal phenomena.**

## Our Innocuous First Investigation

Since neither Leigh Ann nor David wanted to be present during the investigation, so they planned to leave for a few hours and arranged to have their niece, Michelle, who was visiting from New York, meet with us and let us in the house.

After briefly explaining what we were going to do, we asked Michelle if she would like to join us, and upon accepting, we filled her in on how some of the equipment worked. Then she was paired up with one of the investigators. At that point Michelle had no real interest in the paranormal and was just curious what went on during an investigation.

Almost immediately, we started getting indications of interaction from the Boo Buddy, which was placed on Leigh Ann's bed, with it stating it liked holding hands and being tickled, which indicates that something was close to it and breaking the EM field surrounding it. This interaction went on throughout the night.

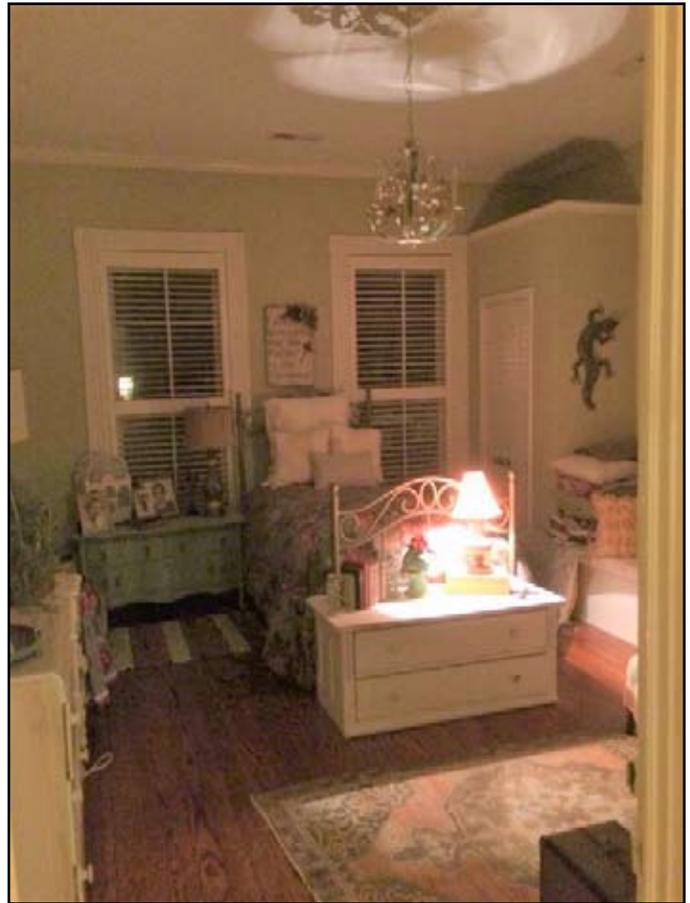
Although the geophone, which is a seismic response device, did not pick up any activity in the son's bedroom or in the hall, it became active once it was placed on the Leigh Ann's bed in the master bedroom. Video clips show the EMF display is fluctuating indicating movement and a possible spirit presence.

A new device we used, called Parascope, senses static electricity and lights up when a static charge is present. This device also indicated activity. During the investigation, as people got close to this device, it would light up detecting their static charge, but once they were out of range, the device would again light up, as if something was following behind the person. There were several occasions where the Parascope would light up when no one was close by.

Another device we used was the Ovilus III, which says words provided by an internal dictionary of 2,000 words. The words are generated by the environment surrounding it, and it is believed that an entity can manipulate the environment to produce words in response to questions asked.

Several words were spoken by the Ovilus III, and many had reasonable relationships to questions or actions of the investigators. One notable event cannot be explained. While team member Angela was dealing with the video monitors, she made a comment that she thought something was messing with her. The Ovilus III said then said the word *blodik*, which is not a word in its dictionary. Then when Angela looked at the monitor of the Ovilus III, it showed the word *laugh* instead.

There is another instance where the Ovilus III used words that were not in its dictionary. This shouldn't have been possible and could only have happened by something manipulating what it said and what it showed on the



**Pictured above is the guest bedroom where the niece was touched on the legs.**

monitor. On further investigation of the word *blodik*, I found it was a word used in Esperanto. Esperanto became the most popular artificial language scheme, which was first published by Dr. Lazarus Zamenhof in 1887. Could this word have been used by one of the boarders staying in the house in the early 1900s?

Personal experiences, such as feelings of being watched, feeling cold spots, and hearing footsteps on the upstairs floor, all could have had rational explanations, but they were duly noted and actually verified some of the claims of David and Leigh Ann.

Based on what we had found, if there was an entity present in the house, it did not appear to be negative at all, and the activities it had displayed so far were indicative of just wanting to be recognized.

Often a spirit stays in the shadows and no one knows it is even there, but for reasons of their own, they will do things to let others know they are there, whether it is because it wants to communicate, is lonely, or is comfortable with the people in the home. If it was negative, it would have actually broken glass or created other damage rather than just making sounds that get attention.



**Pictured above is the home's master bedroom, where Leigh Ann has been shaken awake by an unseen force.**

We advised David and Leigh Ann that by talking to this entity and telling it that there are some things that are acceptable and some that are not, the activity should decrease. And it did ... for a while.

### **Paranormal Activity Gets Physical**

Around a week after the investigation, we received a call from Leigh Ann informing us that both Michelle and David had experiences that were not the same as before.

Michelle was sleeping face-down in their guest bedroom and suddenly woke up during the night to the feeling of a pair of hands around her ankles and slowly moving up her legs. She tried to turn over to see who was touching her, only to find no one was there. She was the only one in the room. Being totally freaked out, she ran to her aunt's room and spent the remainder of the night sleeping on the couch.

In the morning, Michelle and Leigh Ann were discussing what had happened, and David told them he had the exact same experience just before dawn. It was a one-time experience, and the Smiths took it in stride. But Michelle told them the next time she visited, she would definitely stay somewhere else. Needless to say, Michelle went from being just curious into a believer of the realities of the paranormal.

It troubled me that the activity went from something that went bump in the night to actual physical contact. It indicated a change in the pattern of activity that did not seem positive.

### **Things Turn Darker**

On August 4, we went back for a third investigation of the Smith house. This visit was prompted by Leigh Ann telling us she had experienced loud knocking on her bedroom door during the night. When she got up to investigate, she found David was sound asleep and there was no one else in the house. This was also a new activity that had not occurred before.

I had just acquired a new piece of equipment, called Kinect, which scans the environment in infrared and creates stick figures if it detects anything that appears to be bipedal, displaying it on a tablet. This was an ideal chance to see if we could obtain further evidence as to what was causing the activity in the house.

The Spectral Tech team members for this investigation consisted of Angela Wallace, Tara Finley, and Bob Fountain. Three observers were also present to watch and verify what the team observed and recorded. Angela and I formed one team and primarily focused on the IR cameras and Kinect device. The other team consisted of Tara and the three observers and focused on EVP sessions, using various EMF devices for potential communication.

Both teams had significant interactions with the equipment they were using. Angela and I observed what appeared on the Kinect monitor to be a tiny childlike entity dancing by the headboard of Leigh Ann's bed. It is important to note that often Leigh Ann experiences what feel like footsteps walking across her bed at night and causing the bed to shake. Could this be the spirit of a child that feels safe around a female adult?

The Kinect also displayed a human-size stick figure laying on the bed, and it moved its legs when requested to do so. It also appeared to quickly move away from a Mel Meter placed by it to see if it would register on that equipment. It seemed like it was unsure of what it would do, which is why we usually try to explain what certain equipment does when we are using it to attempt communication.

When walking through the hallway on the second floor, we also picked up with the Kinect a huge stick figure, around seven feet tall, by David's bedroom, which quickly disappeared when we noted we could see it. It later appeared in Leigh Ann's bedroom when we went back, and it again disappeared when we noted its presence. It almost appeared to be deliberately avoiding us and did not want its presence to be known.

Tara and her team also collected significant data during their EVP sessions. Although nothing significant was picked up on the recorders, the primary interaction was with the various K-II Meters being used. Three different EMF meters were used, and either one or all three would light up as a response indicating yes. The responses were not random; they seemed to be immediate responses to the questions being asked.

Tara experienced something that felt like a hand touching the small of her back and rubbing her while sitting on the floor, and one of the observers felt like a large hand was holding him on the shoulder. He was standing in the hallway where the large stick figure had been spotted. At one point when the questions focused on a potential negative presence, three of the people present felt nauseated and felt like they were about to vomit. When the topic changed, the feeling of nausea dissipated.

It appeared that there were several entities present, and when asked if they were making the knocking sounds for fun or to scare the people living there, no response was given. When asked if there was something negative in the house and they were knocking to warn the occupants, both questions were answered by lighting up all three EMF meters. All three meters lit up when asked if they were afraid of this negative presence.

Rather than being evil, it is more likely that an extremely negative entity intends to be disruptive in the house, and the entities that coexist rather peacefully with the Smiths are being protective of their hosts.

It's believed by some psychic mediums that when you begin attempting to interact with spirit, you not only open up a portal that allows you to interact with certain spirits, but you almost create a beacon to any spirit, good or bad, that wants to get in on the action. When we did our initial investigation, did we not only contact the spirits in this house, but also open a door for this new entity we now have to deal with? Or was it the presence of the niece that drew this negative presence to the house? We will probably never know.

## Conclusions

With this investigation it appears that there is more than one entity that frequents the house. The entities appear to be non-threatening, even protective, and have to date obeyed the request to leave the residents alone at



**Pictured above is the downstairs fireplace where the Kinect device captured a stick figure leaning over as if it was placing wood in the fireplace.**

night. The Kinect picked up on a small spirit, possibly a child, which is willing to communicate and can be playful by walking on the bed at night.

What is disturbing is the indication that there is something negative that has recently appeared in the house and the non-threatening entities are afraid of it and are trying to alert the occupants of its presence. This entity could be responsible for the inappropriate touching on the niece when she came for a visit, as well as touching Tara on the small of her back. It could have been responsible for the hand placed on one of the observers when standing in the hall where the huge stick figure appeared.

When addressing the possible presence of a negative entity and the immediate feeling of nausea of three people present at the investigation does not indicate the presence of a benign entity.

When the investigation was over, we met with Leigh Ann and David and presented our findings. We suggested they arrange to have their house blessed by their clergy and to keep in mind that they should focus on driving out only the negative influences. If the entities that have coexisted with them for all of these years are acting as their protectors, it would seem to be a bad idea to run them off when they are needed the most. If that fails, we suggested an actual cleansing of the house may be in order.

We will keep following the activities in the Smith house until we feel that all has returned to normal and the Smiths and their unseen friends can again coexist in peace. ♦