

The Noises After Huntly's Earl Died

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An early account of Huntly Castle describes illness, terror and noises from an empty chamber after an earl's death, carrying sixteenth-century fear through a surviving written record.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Aberdeenshire, Scotland
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Reported events in 1576; manuscript published in 1836

THE ACCOUNT

After George Gordon, fifth Earl of Huntly, died in 1576, the account preserved by Richard Bannatyne describes a household shaken by more than bereavement. Men reportedly suffered violent chills and terror, then recovered. Bangs, groans and voices were associated with the dead earl's empty chamber. The story does not depend on a conveniently photographed face. Its disturbance is harder to place: something seems to be happening inside a room whose occupant is gone, while the people outside struggle to understand what has happened to them.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

Historic Environment Scotland examines the manuscript tradition, which was published by Robert Pitcairn in 1836. Bannatyne was a contemporary, but his information passed through other people. The heritage body also notes his Protestant background and possible hostility toward the Catholic Gordons. Those are specific reasons to read the account carefully, rather than treating age as a guarantee of accuracy.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

This is valuable because the haunting has a surviving paper trail. The document carries rumours, religious tensions and the fear surrounding an unexpected death together. Its historical importance remains even when the noises themselves cannot be recovered.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

The Haunting of Huntly Castle

Historic Environment Scotland

<https://blog.historicenvironment.scot/2020/10/haunting-huntly-castle/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

The Noises After Huntly's Earl Died

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-013>