

Harriet on Charleville's Staircase

STR-GHOST-016 / REV A / 2026.09.08

Charleville's best-known ghost is connected with a child's death on its staircase. The heritage trust preserves reports of singing and a small figure in blue and white.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	County Offaly, Ireland
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Death in April 1861; later castle accounts

THE ACCOUNT

The staircase is the centre of Charleville's Harriet tradition. The castle's heritage trust identifies her as the youngest daughter of the third Earl of Charleville, who died there in April 1861, aged eight. Its published haunting account gathers later reports of singing, laughter and a little girl in a blue-and-white dress, with fair curls and blue ribbons. These are the details the story has accumulated around a real family loss. There is no need to add a scene of the accident, imagined final words or an explanation of what a child's ghost would want.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The trust's page is a traceable account of the castle's own tradition and openly states its belief in hauntings. It does not provide a dated original statement for each reported sound or sighting. The historical death and the later claims should therefore be read as related parts of the tradition, not interchangeable evidence.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The appeal lies in how ordinary its reported signs are: singing, laughter, clothing. They suggest a household continuing to hear a child in the place where it once expected her, rather than an elaborate supernatural performance.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Stories

Charleville Castle Heritage Trust

<https://www.charlevillecastle.ie/stories>

RETURN TO THE STORY

Harriet on Charleville's Staircase

Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-016>