

Combours's Walking Wooden Leg

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At Combours, the staircase ghost sometimes arrives without the rest of its owner: a wooden leg walks alone, with a black cat for unsettling company nearby.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Brittany, France
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Recorded by Chateaubriand in his nineteenth-century memoirs

THE ACCOUNT

Chateaubriand remembered a childhood story almost too peculiar to improve. A dead count of Combours, said to have worn a wooden leg, returned at certain times. On the tower stair, people might meet the leg walking by itself, sometimes accompanied by a black cat. The missing body is the unsettling detail. A familiar sound of movement has broken loose from the person who should be making it. The cat makes the impossible procession feel oddly domestic, as though this were merely part of the house's ordinary nighttime routine.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The château quotes the story from Book Three of Chateaubriand's *Memoirs from Beyond the Grave*. Its modern interpretation associates the ghost with Malo-Auguste de Coëtquen, who lost a leg at Malplaquet in 1709. That identification does not neatly fit the memoir's claim that the count had been dead for three hundred years. The source preserves a legend with an unstable chronology, not a consistent witness record.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

That contradiction is useful. The story's unforgettable image survived more faithfully than its dates: a staircase, a cat, and footsteps belonging to only part of a man.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Legends

Château de Combours

<https://www.chateau-combourg.com/en/legendes>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-017>