

The Bell Family’s Talking Haunting

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The Bell family’s unwelcome visitor did more than knock. The Tennessee tradition gives it a voice, an argumentative personality and favourites among the people it frightened inside the house.

STATUS	A recorded story, with its history attached
CLASSIFICATION	STR
MATERIAL	Adams, Tennessee, United States
DISPOSITION	PUBLIC / SOURCED STORY
CATEGORY	Strange Files
RECORD TYPE	Ghosts & hauntings
STORY HISTORY	Accounts set around 1816-1821

THE ACCOUNT

At the Bell farm, the disturbance supposedly learned to talk. The Tennessee Encyclopedia’s account begins with strange appearances and noises, then describes a presence that pulled bedcovers, pinched people and imitated familiar voices. Called Kate, it argued over scripture and joined in singing. It was particularly hostile toward John Bell but reportedly treated his wife Lucy kindly. That uneven behaviour gives the haunting its peculiar character. This is not an automatic creak in a wall; the family story imagines an intruder capable of choosing allies, interrupting a household and refusing to be ignored.

FOLLOWING THE TRAIL

The encyclopedia places the disturbances in the years before John Bell’s death on 20 December 1820 and records the tradition that the spirit claimed responsibility. Its listed sources include Charles B. Bell’s 1934 book and Charles E. Price’s 1994 history. Those are later accounts; the entry does not supply contemporary medical evidence establishing a supernatural cause of death.

WHY IT STAYS WITH US

The voice is what separates this from a standard haunted farmhouse. Kate supposedly participates in the community’s ordinary conversations, turning even prayer and family decisions into opportunities for an unwanted reply.

WHERE THIS TELLING COMES FROM

Bell Witch

Tennessee Historical Society / University of Tennessee Press

<https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/bell-witch/>

RETURN TO THE STORY

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Visit the record for its illustrations and further reading.

<https://u225x.com/record/STR-GHOST-028>