

Arrangements for the investigation were made by founding member Barbara Hughes. The jail was scheduled for demolition and the investigation needed to be done prior to demolition.

History:

The jail was built in 1922. The corner stone on the building listed the following names: A. Rice, A.L. Tippet, T. J. Bristol (commissioners), M.H. Palmer (ex officio), J.H. McCall . It was noted that many of the historic buildings in Murphy had been erected by the Free Masons and were so identified. However, the jail did not indicate any Masonic connection.

Traditional stories about the jail included the story of "Old Bill." Bill was said to have been the town drunk and was frequently taken to jail for public drunkenness. Eventually Bill ceased drinking and changed his life, which led to him obtaining a job at the jail where he had previously spent so much time as a prisoner. He apparently did a variety of tasks at the jail including dispatch and custodian work. After his death a number of stories were told of sightings and contact with a being believed to be Old Bill. A current report stated that two of the Mexican workers helping to demolish the jail had "seen something" that frightened them so that they fled the building and it took quite a bit of persuasion to get them to return to work.

The Investigation:

On the evening of September 30, 2010 at 8:30 p.m. the following members of the Cherokee County Paranormal Society met to investigate the old jail: Jon F., Barbara H., Lori A., Keith L., Rudy P. Audry P. and a guest Barbara V. We divided into 2 teams. Team 1 consisted of Barbara H., Lori A. and Rudy P. Team 2 was Jon F., Keith L. and Audry P. Team 1 started their investigation on the first floor of the jail while Team 2 investigated the basement of the jail. Guest Barbara V. accompanied Team 1.

Equipment used in the investigation included: K-2 boxes, Frank boxes (aka ghost boxes), digital cameras, temperature gauges, and voice recorders.

Basement: no results were documented. . This was disappointing as traditional stories indicated that "colored" arrested were incarcerated in the basement during segregation in the 1940-1950's. The far right room in the basement had a grated door. This room was used to store evidence. There was another small room in the basement used for storage.

Jail First and Second floor investigation summary:

Both Team 1 & 2 report no physical evidence: No change in temperature, no K-2 indications. There was no response to our questions or efforts to contact, or provoke any type of response except for one clear event. Both teams reported an audible phenomenon. A low pitched growling voice said, "Get OUT!" and "LEAVE!"