

## L. M. Hoag and the Ghost at Ury

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LINDLEY MURRAY HOAG, when he visited Aberdeen, expressed a wish to visit Ury, and Captain Barclay hospitably invited him to stop there and sleep on his return journey to the South, adding that by so doing he would see the place both by daylight and by candle-light. It was a raw afternoon in October when Hoag started, and by the time the conveyance reached Ury he felt himself thoroughly chilled, and requested to be allowed to go straight to his room and have a basin of gruel in bed. The next morning, at breakfast, they were standing as people do before the fire, when Hoag, looking at an old portrait of the soldier who fought "ankle deep in Lützen's blood," remarked, "Ah, there is my friend of last night."

"Not quite," said Miss Barclay, "that is an ancestor of ours who has been dead nearly 200 years."

"Oh," said Hoag, "he looks like the old gentleman who came into my room last night."

At this juncture breakfast was served, and Captain Barclay seemed deep in thought. At last he said, "Will you please tell me, Mr. Hoag, who it was that came into your room last night, and what he was doing there?"

"Well," replied Hoag, "I was just going off to sleep when there was a knock at the door and a sweet old gentleman very like that portrait came into the room. He had a candle in his hand which he shaded with his other hand, and he apologized for disturbing me. He then went round the foot of the bed and opened a cupboard in the wall at the other side, taking out some old papers which looked like parchments."

"Did ye ever hear the like o' that!" exclaimed both the Barclays. "Why, there is no cupboard there."

Captain Barclay remained thinking, and when breakfast was over he said, "Mr. Hoag, will you please do me the favour of showing me exactly where the old gentleman found the papers?"

They all three went upstairs, and sure enough there was no appearance of any cupboard, but the wall sounded hollow. Barclay tore off the paper, and found some wooden boarding. This he broke off with the poker, and an iron door was laid bare. He tried fruitlessly to open this and then sent for a blacksmith, who found and opened a safe door—and in the safe were the missing deeds. Miss Barclay ever after used to speak of entertaining angels unawares whenever she related the circumstances of Lindley Murray Hoag's visit to Ury.

From *John Wigham Richardson*, 1911, pp. 37, 38, under date 1849.

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1738 Apl. 11 John, son of Thomas Pain, a Quaker, baptized.  
Parish Register of WATH, co. York.