



## The Queensland Baby Photo

### SPECIFICATIONS:

**Date:** 1946 (some sources list 1947)

**Location:** Gatton, Queensland, Australia

**Photographer:** Mrs. Andrews

**Type Camera:** Unknown

**Other Information:** None available

Shot in Queensland, Australia, this is considered by many to be one of the more extraordinary spirit captures known to exist. Taken by a Mrs. Andrews in 1946 or 1947, the grave is that of her daughter (some sources name her as Joyce) who had died a year earlier at the age of 17. When she had the film developed, however, she was surprised to find a partially transparent baby sitting on her daughter's grave. Mrs. Andrews denied knowing who the baby was, nor did she believe it looked like her deceased daughter as a child, leaving for quite a mystery and one that has never been reasonably explained to this day.

Skeptics maintain that this is either a double exposure or a hoax, noting that the picture looks staged, especially since the apparition appears to be looking directly at the camera. I find this to be a

poor argument for a hoax, however, as one would expect human spirits to react to someone shooting a picture of them in much the same way they would during life. (Notice also that in many of the photos in my collection, the apparitions appear to be looking directly into the camera, further challenging this assumption.) As for a double exposure, this appears unlikely for two reasons: first, Mrs. Andrews denied knowing who the child was or of having taken any photos of a child and, second, there is no surrounding imagery suggestive of a double exposure. Also, notice how the transparency of the child lacks consistency, with the head being much more opaque than the rest of the body. That would be inconsistent with a true double exposure.

Finally, there is the hoax hypothesis to consider, but what sort of mother would

do such a thing on her own daughter's grave? Additionally, exactly how did she do it?

On an interesting side note, later researchers who visited the grave in the 1990's purportedly found the graves of two infants close-by, suggesting the infant in the photo was one of them. Such isn't that remarkable a discovery, of course, for there are infant graves in every cemetery, and some cemeteries even devote entire sections to children exclusively, making this bit of information irrelevant. Still, it makes one wonder if a deceased child might not have visited Mrs. Andrew's daughter's grave in search of a playmate--or just because she was lonely.