

## THE WEM PHOTO: Classic Spirit Photo or a Clever Hoax?

The photo of the little girl looking out a burning building taken in Wem, Shropshire, England in 1995 has generated a lot of controversy over the years. Recently, however, the Shropshire Star News (the county in which the town of Wem is located) has published an article that may solve the mystery once and for all. Apparently, one of the newspaper's readers noticed a little girl standing in the corner of an old postcard taken of Wem, England in 1922 that looks very much like the girl in the famous photo. The photos are compared side-by-side below.

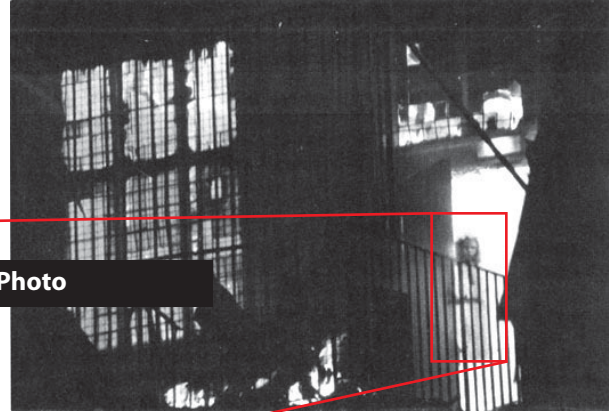


Postcard from 1922



For more details, see the full article at <http://www.shropshires tar.com/news/2010/05/17/does-postcard--solve-ghost-riddle/>

Famous Original Photo



While the girl in the fire photo is lighter and faded out, the comparison is uncanny. Especially notice how the sash around the waist and the button collar seem to match perfectly, as do the faces. This would be difficult to do on a film negative, but it could be done by an expert with the skills and tools--and disposition--to do it. Mister O'Rahilly, the man who took the photo, claimed it was no hoax--despite repeated queries--and went to his grave (the gentlemen died in 2005) swearing it was real. Of course, once it became so famous, he may simply have been afraid to admit his mischief for fear of ridicule (or, conceivably, criminal charges if he made money off the photo). In any case, we may never know for certain, and Mister O'Rahilly isn't talking.