



Paranormal Pete

Historic restaurant tells tales
of a ghostly inhabitant



TO MOST CUSTOMERS, Biddie's Coach House may seem like any other restaurant. But after hours and behind the scenes, eerie events have been known to occur.

Many employees at the coach house, an 1830s home in Historic Dublin on South High Street that was transformed into an eatery and tea room, attribute these happenings to the ghost of former Dublin resident Pete Nelson.

Jim Richards, member of the Dublin Historical Society and great-great-grandson of former coach house owner Holcomb Tuller, has lived in Dublin his entire life. Richards recalls hearing about Nelson in the 1930s, shortly after Nelson is supposed to have died.

"I remember Pete Nelson (from) when I was a kid," says Richards. "My mother said that he hung himself in a building just north of the coach house."

Diane Hammons and her husband Dick purchased the coach house in 2008 with the staff already in place. For the first few months, Hammons was unaware of "Pete" and his reputation – but she slowly caught on as employees began to share their personal experiences.

"As time went on, I would hear more stories about previous events and the

people who opened (the restaurant)," says Hammons. "None of them wanted to come in by themselves."

The stories vary in theme, but tend to take place on Sundays when the restaurant is closed. Hammons speculates Pete feels that's his day to have the space to himself. The coach house also sees an influx in "ghostly" activity toward the holiday season, when business at the restaurant begins to pick up.


"Toward the end of December, little things start happening again," says Hammons. "It's like (Pete says), 'I'm tired, I want you guys to lay off.'"

These "little things" range from falling objects to actual sightings. For instance, one day Hammons closed

the restaurant like she would any other day – which included setting the security system, equipped with motion detectors. Before stepping into her car, she stopped and spoke for a few minutes with a neighboring business owner.

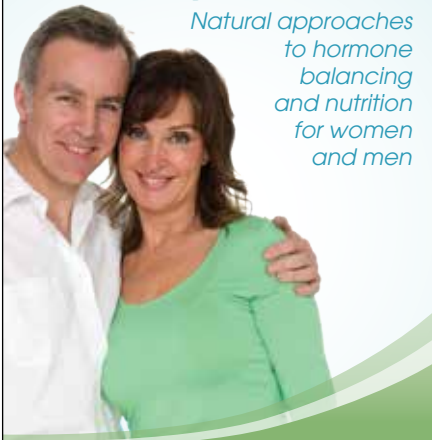
A couple of days later, her neighbor came by the restaurant and asked about a man lingering in Biddie's after Hammons left. When Hammons insisted that she had





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Biddie's Coach House has three dining rooms, which were constructed between the 1830s and the 1850s. The building is rumored to be haunted by the ghost of a man named Pete Nelson, who is rumored to have died in the area in the early 1900s.



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checked the building before setting the alarm, the blood quickly drained from the woman's face.

"She said, 'I know what I saw,'" says Hammons of her neighbor. "I could tell it was starting to bother her that I was explaining how it could not have happened."

Although Pete has been known to cause chills, Hammons says no one is truly afraid of him. And while some are convinced that Pete's presence is real, others are not so certain.

"In 1964, my wife and I lived in that house for six months, and I never thought

anything about a ghost in that building," Richards says. "I wouldn't say that there isn't (a ghost), but we never experienced anything (supernatural)."

Hammons also admits she is skeptical.

"I don't have any personal experience, so I'm not necessarily a strong believer," she says. "But I also do not discount anyone else's experiences because there are some things you just cannot explain."

Rose Davidson is a contributing writer. Feedback welcome at laurand@cityscenemediagroup.com.