Formerly known as the Gatsby Mansion built in 1897

Victoria – July 2018

Our stays in Victoria always involve some place haunted but we aren't there just for the ghosts. The Pendray Inn, for example, is a beautiful Queen Anne home built in 1897 by William Joseph Pendray, a prominent entrepreneur in the 1800's. The Inn is very inviting and offers a glimpse into the elegant past enhanced by the unique artisanal craftsmanship throughout. Back in its day the mansion once towered on the edge of the inner harbour while the grounds proudly displayed William Pendray's artistic topiaries which attracted admirers from all over. William Pendray and two of his son's all died untimely deaths so it's not a wonder that apparitions make an appearance from time to time.

We didn't actually see anything during our stay but we did experience some unusual events that are not easily explained. Most of our stay was uneventful but one

particular night after staff at the front desk had left for the day we decided to roam through the eerily quiet inn. It was about 10pm and we decided to explore the lobby including a private dining area on the main floor. We chatted quietly when suddenly and shockingly we heard a sinister whispering voice out of nowhere say, "I can see you". It was creepy as hell! We bolted out of there and sat down in some large wing chairs by the fireplace in the lobby as we contemplated what we just heard. There were no other guests wandering about since it was kind of late. Intrigued by the ghostly voice we decided to ask our mysterious "guest" some questions. To our surprise, we heard audible taps echoing from the depths of the fireplace. They weren't random taps but were in response to our questions—the typical one for *yes*, two for *no.* This experience is still so mind blowing when we think back on it. Our hearts raced and we laughed nervously. If it wasn't for the fact that the three of us experienced this I don't think any one of us alone would've believed what we heard. We all did eventually retire to our rooms and somehow managed to fall asleep but that wasn't the end of the strange activity.

Garden Room #3

My husband William and I were woken up by loud music in our room in the wee hours of the morning. I remember the time was 3:38am and the only reason I recall this was because I thought it was a strange time to set an alarm. It was still dark and coming out of a sleepy fog I looked at my nightstand expecting to see a clock radio. I assumed it was an alarm that was previously set by another guest. I was startled and self-conscious because the music was so loud I was worried it would wake neighboring guests who were, undoubtedly, still soundly asleep. I fumbled and looked around but the clock was only a clock—no radio. My husband, meanwhile, was looking at his nightstand and there was nothing but a lamp on his side. He got up from the bed and walked across the room to a chest of drawers that held a TV. We thought there must be a radio there somewhere. As we came to realize there was nothing there either, we discovered that the music was coming from William's iPhone which was charging on the small vintage table. The song playing was Elton John's *Someone Saved My Life Tonight.* The only way music could have played is if someone unlocked the phone, went into the music app and selected that specific tune. How the song was playing remains a mystery.

Later that morning after breakfast, we decided to find out if the staff could tell us anything. We didn't want to be too obvious in asking odd questions but our first thought was that the

disembodied voice was a prank. We did notice there were two speakers mounted on opposite corners of the ceiling where we heard the voice the night before. Nonchalantly we commented that we noticed the speakers as we asked about events at the Inn. We brought it up to more than one staff person on separate occasions and to our surprise both ladies informed us that the speakers in that room hadn't worked for years.

Photo in dining room of the Inner Harbour, Victoria BC ca 1930