

[REDACTED]  
Folklore Discussion 9:30 Fri.  
Mr. Danielson  
Optional Assignment #1  
February 26, 1969

70114

The Kappa House Ghost Story

Date Collected: February 9, 1969

Place Collected: In the Kappa Alpha Psi House, in the room of one fraternity member, *INDIANA UNIVERSITY*

Collectors Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED] Briscoe Quadrangle, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana

Birthplace: Chicago, Illinois

Age: 19 years old

Race: Black American

Occupation: Full-time student of Indiana University, a sophomore majoring in physical education. Also a part-time clerk-typist in the IU Main Library.

Religion: Baptist

Informants Name: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED], Bloomington, Indiana

Birthplace: Evansville, Indiana

Age: 21 years old

Race: Black American

Occupation: Full-time Indiana University student, a senior majoring in pre-med.

Religion: Catholic

The fraternity house of Kappa Alpha Psi, Alpha Chapter is frequently visited by what is believed to be a ghost. The ghost makes shuffling noises in the halls and other wierd or unexpl~~a~~nable sounds throughout the house. The ghost is sometimes heard late at night or when only a few per~~o~~ns are occupying the house--such as vacation time, etc. No one has~~e~~ver seen the ghost.

I was informed of this mysterious happening by my boyfriend who has been a member of the fraternity for the past two years. He has heard the "ghost"

in the house. I was visiting his room during open guest hours, apprx. 10:30 pm. He and I were the only persons present in the room during the telling of the tale. He told me that some of the brothers heard the ghost over semester break. And I asked, "what ghost?" He told me the background of the house--the house was erected as a memorial to the fraternity founder, Elder Watson Diggs, who died apprx. fifteen years ago. The house is approximately ten years old. The informant said members of the fraternity believe the ghost is that of Elder Diggs. The informant had no explanation for the ghost's roaming in the house, other than the fact that the house is a memorial to Elder Diggs.

To my knowledge the informant has not been heard to tell this story to anyone else, but he has related it to me one since February 9. On Feb. 27, I asked if the ghost had been heard lately. He was (informant) by another brother that the ghost was heard the week previous (shuffling feet in the halls) outside the sleeping quarters.

The informant first heard and collected the tale shortly after moving into the house in March 1967. He heard it in the Kappa house ( at a time when many brothers suspected the ghost on the prowl). He was told by several brothers, apprx. four, late at night about 2 a.m. The ghost was supposedly roaming the house at that time.

I have known the informant to tell me other "spooky" tales that had happened to him. Most of them were connected with his fraternity, such as things that happened as he walked to the house during pledgeship late at night. Another tale concerned a talking horse in his early childhood. He admitted making up that one, but he feels certain about the fraternity ghost. He knows that many brothers have heard the "ghost" and there is no other explanation for the mysterious sounds or why they are heard late at night or whenever most people are away from the house. Therefore, he also has taken on the belief in the traditional Kappa House Ghost Story, which began shortly after the building of the house ten years ago. Since then the tale has been told to new brothers who pass it on through oral tradition.