

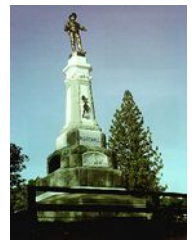
GHOSTS OF THE GOLD DISCOVERY STATE PARK IN COLOMA, CALIFORNIA

Christine B.



Since I moved to Placerville in 2003 I have personally seen a few ghosts in the buildings of El Dorado County. The county has a rich history of gold miners, gamblers, and hangings, especially in the county seat, Placerville, formerly known as Old Hangtown. Coloma is about 12 miles north of Placerville on historic Highway 49. Highway 49, as a matter of fact, dissects the Gold Discovery State Park. The State Park is the site where James Marshall first found gold in California in 1848. Mr. Marshall's discovery changed the demographics of the western United States as the event brought thousands of people to California within a matter of a few years. Up until the discovery of gold California was considered a remote outpost.

The State Park has many interesting exhibits, among them a statue of James Marshall overlooking the picturesque American River valley. About a quarter of a mile down the road from the monument is a small cemetery. Directly across from the cemetery is the cabin where James Marshall lived when he worked for John Sutter at his mill on the American River in the mid 1800s. I have been to the cabin many times, and each time I have explored the area I have felt there was someone inside the cabin, although it has always been locked and not open for visitors.



The first time I visited the cabin the feeling that someone was inside was overwhelming to me, so I began taking photographs through the windows. One of the photographs I took revealed that my feelings were correct. In the lower panes of the window that is located to the left of the front door a face appeared.

Whenever I am at that area of the park I feel drawn again to the cabin. Each time I feel that I am not alone there. During one visit I was sure I saw someone move in the cabin, although, as I mentioned previously, the cabin is always locked. Thinking that I might have seen a park employee in the structure, I looked through every window, but there was no one (living) inside. I then went across the street to the cemetery and began shooting photographs of the tombstones, some of which had the cabin as a background. When I went home and reviewed the photographs I had taken I was shocked to see that several had a clear image of a spirit in that same window I had captured the image of a face in previous photographs.



The James Marshall cabin taken from the cemetery across the road. An image is clearly in the front left window.



Here are some closer views of the same window:



Old glass has lots of ripples, I know. My flash could have gone off when this digital photo was taken, and that could explain the white area of the window. In my opinion, however, after experiencing two episodes of having a strong feeling that someone was in that cabin, this is a true spirit photograph.

I'm sure I will be back to the area many more times. I'll keep you posted if I come up with any more "ghostly images."