T'Frere's guests, staff share stories of encounters with the residence's 100-year-old ghost

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Every night as guests at the T'Frere’s Bed & Breakfast lay down to sleep, they’re reportedly haunted by the ghost of Amélie Comeaux, a spirit that continues to roam its halls after her untimely death over a hundred years ago.

Originally part of the Comeaux Plantation in the late 1800s, T'Frere’s was the home of Amélie, a schoolteacher who was found dead at the bottom of a well on the plantation’s grounds, according to the legend.

Now, the 70-acre home located in Lafayette, which hosts guests, continues to house Amélie to this day. Workers, like T'Frere’s Manager Sabrina Tarazona, say Amélie gives them chills every day they come into work.

“It’s very unexplainable,” Tarazona said. “We hear footsteps a lot and doors move.”

T'Frere’s, which has four original rooms, the “Mary,” the “Leah,” the “1890” and the “Lafayette,” according to Tarazona. The website adds around this time of year, and “it” wakes her up with a scratch on the bottom of her foot,” Tarazona said. “And she then said she’d seen a woman’s figure.”

Tarazona said they also had a bride and her party who stayed the night at T'Frere’s and early in the morning they heard a gasping like someone was breathing.

Donna Duck, a worker for T'Frere’s, said she believes the gasping was Amélie before she died in the well.

“We think maybe it was her, Amélie, taking her last breath,” Duck said.

Duck added before she worked at T'Frere’s, she didn’t believe in ghost, but because of Amélie and the events she’s seen, she has changed her mind.

“I mean, the stories you hear and things that happened,” Duck said, “It’s hard to not believe it.”

Tarazona said at one point a few weeks ago she couldn’t find her daughter in the house at first but eventually found her upstairs in the 1890 room claiming she was playing with a baby. Though no baby was there, Tarazona and Duck remembered Amélie herself had had a stillborn baby.

“She said she was playing with the baby in the baby bed and she showed us the things that happened,” Tarazona said. “And she then said she’d seen a woman’s figure.”

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bed in the ‘1890’ room but there was nothing there,” Tarazona said.

With so many hauntings happening in the house, Brad Duplechien of
Louisiana Spirits Paranormal investigation said meeting Amélie and investigating her spirit was a goal of his.

“T’Frere’s was a place I wanted to go to for years,” Duplechien said. “We did a couple investigation of the place.”

Duplechien added T’Frere’s was a great place and they got some evidence while they were there.

“We got some audio that sounds like someone whispered ‘Amélie,’” Duplechien said. “We also have a video where we use something called a Rem-Pod, which detects electromagnetic energy.”

Duplechien said the rem pod is used to detect electromagnetic energy in a room and they were able to speak to Amélie and she communicated back to them.

Donna Primeaux, a previous visitor at the T’Frere’s house, like Duplechien, said she had experienced weird occurrences from Amélie.

“At first I didn’t think anything of it,” Primeaux said, adding, “Until we started doing the tour.”

Primeaux, who went with her daughters and her friends for the night, cited she felt something different in the air when she went upstairs at the T’Frere’s house.

“We went upstairs and I could hardly breathe,” Primeaux said.

Primeaux added later that night after she went to sleep, she woke up at around three in the morning to a nightmare about Amélie.

“I had a dream that the ghost came to me in a dream and she was crying in the corner and she was muddy,” Primeaux said. “She was mad I was there.”

After Primeaux was woken up by Amélie, she said she turned on the lights to something she’ll never forget.

“And there were two footsteps on the wall,” Primeaux said. “As soon as I saw that I was like, ‘OK, something is there.’”

Amélie said she had fun and plans to attend again in the future, something Tarazona said she encourages from guests.

“I think it adds a mystic to the history of the house,” Tarazona said. “The experience is fun. It’s a good story. It’s Halloween.”

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Although cat euthanasia due to overcapacity at the Lafayette Animal Shelter and Care Center is still an issue, the LASCRC reported a decrease in euthanasia rates.

According to data obtained by AAA from shelteranimalscount.com, 809 cats and 416 kittens were euthanized in 2017 and 137 cats and 92 kittens have been euthanized in 2018 in the Lafayette area.

To adopt a cat from AAA, fill out the following adoption application at https://acadianaanimalaid.org/adopt/cat-adoption/application/ or call AAA at 337-896-1553. To volunteer at AAA or LASCRC, fill out the following applications at http://acadianaanimal.wpenengine. com/vpplication/ and http://www. lafayettela.gov/LASCRC/SiteAssets/files/ LACCVolunteerApplicationNEW.pdf.

Black Cats continued from page 4

Night, saying that a deceased relative will come and sit in it.

“Sometimes at night, me and my sister, we see a lady sitting in the rocker in the living room,” Informant seven said. “It’s gotta be after 12 though. We don’t never see her before 12 though. She always got a white scarf on her head and when we go to touch her she disappears.”

Cluse’s findings are consistent with the thoughts of several current UL Lafayette students.

Romelo Williams, a music business major, said he believes in the paranormal, and that he’s probably experienced some odd things on campus, but subconsciously convinced himself that it was normal.

“I couldn’t tell you exactly what exists, but I feel like ghosts and spirits are present when they are called upon,” Williams said. “Paranormally, I probably have experienced some bizarre things but my mind tries to make sense of everything so I really wouldn’t notice.”

Philosophy professor Jesse Saloom sees a much simpler explanation for this mindset, but warned against the dangers of beliefs in the extraordinary, citing examples like the Salem Witch Trials as instances that have taken things too far.

“I think something like 60 percent of people after a spouse dies, say that they can feel their presence, and it’s overwhelmingly comforting for them to have this feeling,” Saloom said. “Have fun with it, as long as it’s not harmful. It’s not always helpful for people... It’s not just witches that have been burned at the stake.”

Graduate communications student Kelsey Chauvin said she thought ghosts and spirits were intertwined and that they don’t necessarily align with how they are portrayed in the media, calling them “energy based.” She also described instances of being able to feel her grandmother’s presence through sensory contact or memory.

“Sometimes I smell my grandmother’s house and she’s been dead for 13 years,” she said. “Or I have dreams about her or my mom. I think that they’re there, that you can feel them spiritually, but you can’t see them.”

She said she does think there are people who simply convince themselves that they can sense dead loved ones as part of the grieving process, but also highlighted how she’d moved past grief and can still sense it.

“I think that there are people (who convince themselves), but I also think there are people who can feel energies and feel people,” Chauvin said. “I’m the kind of person who’s very empathic. I can feel when someone is anxious or upset or happy without looking at them, and I think that you can feel that with spirits as well.”

Saloom said he is much more reluctant to accept supernatural explanations, citing science as a viable explanation for “spooky” events, and that faint senses can be interpreted in a variety of ways.

“I think it’s crazy,” Saloom said. “A lot of people (have always believed) in ghosts and paranormal things historically all throughout time. This is across cultures, across time periods; we believe in the paranormal, but we’re finding more and more scientific explanations for it.”

The views of students like Williams and Chauvin align with a 2017 Chapman University study that found nearly three in every four people believe in some form of paranormal activity, whether it be haunted places or ancient alien activity.

“Overall, I know the supernatural exists and it’s definitely not something we should dabble with carelessly,” Williams said.