

THE LIGHT AT SHUTTLEWOOD

1919 incident in a Derbyshire village remembered in detail

Ananda Sirisena

SHUTTLEWOOD is a village a few miles from Chesterfield, Derbyshire, in England. It was there that on the night of January 22, 1919, the sighting of a small, but apparently piloted light, took place. The main witness came to within three feet of the luminous orb which seemed to anticipate his every move.

The story begins at 10.10 p.m. when Thomas Hills Harrison had just stoked the fire in the greenhouse situated behind his home at Chesterfield Road in Shuttlewood. He was walking back to the house when he was startled to see his father staring through the living room window, pointing to a light in the fowl pen, some fifty yards down the garden. Mr. Harrison states:

"He sent me to investigate. The garden was one and a half acres in size, with apple trees set down the path, six of them in the fowl pen. All the trees in the pen were lit up, with long shadows in all directions. The night was very dark, calm and noticeably quiet. Even the hens made no noise as I opened the gate which was hinged to the cote. When I passed through the gate I could see the globe of light in the pen halfway along the top side. It was about four and a half feet from the ground and stationary all this time."

Thomas Harrison was so certain that someone must be with the light, that although he could not see anyone, he called out, "You will be burning your flashlight out, Charlie," thinking it would be their neighbour, Mr. Robinson. He continues:

"I got quite a shock when there was no answer. I walked up to within six feet of this beautiful globe of what we would now call fluorescent light. It was the size of a tennis ball and emitted as much light as a present-day mantle-type storm lantern. It was a most perfect sphere and beautiful to look at, like an over-size luminous pearl!"

"I took a semi-circular walk round and back again; there was no-one holding it. It did not dazzle in the least as I stared at it a full ten minutes or more. Never taking my eyes off it and all the time wishing my father would come and see what was the matter, I decided to look on the ground for a stick to touch it and see what would happen."

"Just then the globe seemed to sense what I was going to do and started to move away towards the wire-netting. During this withdrawal I got the impression it was quite friendly, particularly as it moved so very slowly, about the pace of a tortoise. I ventured closer to get a real good look; the edge of the sphere was as you see a fluorescent light, not a distinct line but a-cotton-wool effect. When it reached the netting, the globe of light fell to the ground giving off a display on impact not unlike a fireball. It then regained its normal shape, made a

searing sound and started to ascend the netting. Up until this time the place had been completely silent!"

Mr. Harrison then decided to go outside the pen around the hen-cote to follow it, but changed his mind. He went into the pen again as a second thought struck him that the fence must be broken down and he could follow that way. However, the fence was not down and at this stage it was his sister who saw the light actually go through the wire-netting. His sister, Mrs. Newman, was about twenty yards from it at the crossing point. His story continues:

"I could see the light had gone ten or more yards into Robinson's garden and was coming back straight for me at a fast pace. I took off my coat to try and ward it off but within seconds it jumped a foot or more to negotiate the netting in my direction and turned to the right when only a few feet away. I ran after it as fast as I could to the bottom of the pen, where it jumped the netting again. It seemed to want to keep to four or five feet from the ground. It then maintained a slower but fast-walking speed and followed the top of a young three-foot-high blackthorn hedge to the bottom of the garden. I could see it was hopeless my chasing it so I stopped and watched it turn right. When it came to a very high uncut hawthorn hedge it soared ten feet to a gap in some high branches and there it stayed for a good three minutes before passing through. Then I lost sight of it."

Believing it was the end of the encounter, Mr. Harrison started back towards home. He had barely walked ten paces before he began wishing the light would come back, and cast a last glance over his shoulder. He was stunned to see farmer Shepperd's field, on the other side of the hedge, all floodlit with a brilliant white light.

"The light must now have been two hundred candle-power in intensity. I could not see the ball of light itself until a few minutes later when it came back to the same tree-top where it hovered again for about three minutes. Then, just as I expected, it came back over the same path towards me at a fast-walking pace. I searched for a stick to defend myself but could only find a very short one. On this return journey it was only five candle-power in intensity and orange in colour, a change which I noted must have been very gradual, as there was no sudden switchdown."

"When it was within a few yards of me I felt my hair standing on end, and as though it knew, it stopped instantaneously, went three or four yards to the left and into Robinson's garden where it again stayed still. I went through the hedge and knocked on Robinson's door for someone to come

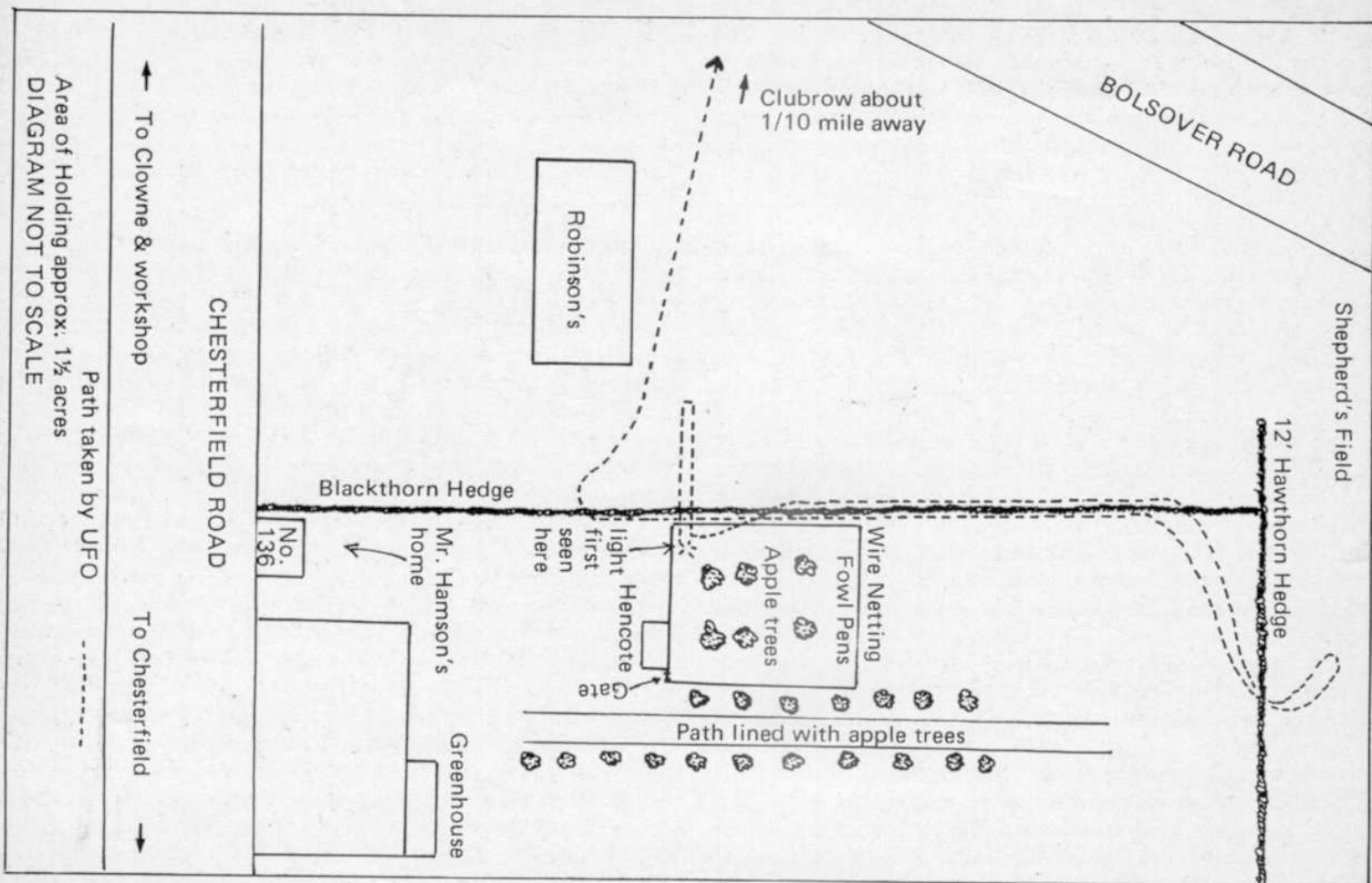


Diagram showing the path taken by the light at Shuttlewood, January 22, 1912 (not to scale)

and observe, as this neighbour is closer to the fowl pen than our house, but there was only a visitor, an old aunt, in at the time. We both watched and saw the light go past us to the left, to the north-east, follow an old hawthorn hedge and cross the field for, say, one tenth of a mile, towards Bolsover Road. There it circled round the tops of a row of houses known as Club Row several times, soared in the sky and went due east."

The entire episode had lasted thirty-five to forty minutes for it was nearly 10.50 p.m. when Thomas Harrison returned home. He remembers the exact date because of a remark made to his father, "Another two days and it would have come on my birthday." He was born on 24 January, 1902 and was nearly seventeen years old at the time. Next day he asked several neighbours if they had seen the light, but they had not. A few days later he asked a Mr. Sid Heathcote, who lived in Club Row, about the light but no-one there had either seen or heard of it.

A remarkable dream

On the night of January 22/morning of January 23, 1919, after Mr. T.H. Harrison had witnessed the light, he had a dream which he remembers clearly. He admitted this fact with some reluctance because he did not wish the dream experience to be muddled with the physical experience. He states categorically: "I had a dream and it was no ordinary dream.

This was stark staring reality. I encountered the light all over again in the fowl run. It seemed to be trying to communicate."

As this was an unusual dream with possible psychological importance he was requested to submit further details. This was his report:

"Dream experience only - I approached the light in exactly the same position in the pen run. When a few feet away, I came to realize there was more light in the area than could come from this solitary two-inch globe of light. I started investigating and took a walk round the side of the cote to see if another one was there. On finding nothing, I realized I had walked where there should have been netting to stop me! This I could not understand but left things as they were and took a few paces among the apple trees and there with my back to the light I suddenly saw all the shadows from the trees, posts etc. move with a jerk. I turned round and got quite a shock to find the light was just behind me, an inch or more larger, but as it did not move I soon felt relieved and began to enquire in my mind 'What is all this about?' To my surprise various shapes and shadows started floating around on the surface of the ball from right to left. I had the impression it was a miniature globe of the world although at first I thought the globe was reflecting objects, including myself.

"Next, I questioned how there was so much

light when it seemed the ball was encased in a layer of orange colour? It immediately split open a quarter section on the left to show me a silvery ball giving off intense light and with a patch moving from right to left, something like the map of Spain.

"I then enquired 'Why are you here, or what is your message?' and to the West (of this globe) I saw a huge red arch which filled the sky and registered on my brain that it was the world on fire, or some other world. When I thought 'But the world's surface is mostly water' another arch pushed into it from the left and obliterated the first with one of all ice. The frozen sea was showing rocks and ships stuck in the ice. I was trying to take in all these details when everything around me disintegrated and I realized I was in bed. *A dream only - nothing real in this.*"

Apart from this dream, there are two other unusual points worth mentioning, which are difficult to explain. "A strange blackout, or halo round the light which I saw is difficult to explain because the whole fowl run and trees had plenty of illumination, yet there was a circle of darkness immediately around the light. This puzzle cropped up again in the dream I had in the early hours next morning."

"Another curious incident: about an apple tree that my father planted that same day a few feet from where we saw the light. If this tree is still there I guarantee that it will, even now, be trying to bear fruit in winter. We often made the remark 'The light had changed its timing'."

* * * * *

Thomas Hills Harrison is now a retired jeweller and antique clock restorer. He says his memory is quite clear on the matter although it was fifty-five years ago. He had almost forgotten about the sighting until during the 1939-45 War, when a friend brought an electrical device called a Tesla Coil. When this was switched on, the sound it made reminded him immediately of the identical searing sound the light had made. Mr. Harrison's sister, Mrs. Newman, is alive but his father and Robinson's aunt are now both deceased.

Conclusions

The conclusions that can be drawn from this report are that a light, of unknown origin, remotely controlled in some fashion, was observed by at least one group of forty people on January 22, 1919, at Shuttlewood in Derbyshire. The light changed speed, intensity, colour and altitude at various times during the sighting, but no change in size was reported. This orb of light was not hostile in any way but at moments, owing to its proximity to the main witness, caused him to feel rather uncomfortable. It can be surmised to have been some type of instrument that either had the ability to detect intended action, or was under control

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STELLA LANSING'S CLOCKLIKE UFO PATTERNS—PART 2

Berthold Eric Schwarz, M.D.

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FASCINATING anomalies, in the shape of clocklike patterns of UFO-shapes, on films shot by Mrs. Stella Lansing, were described in Part I of this study.

II. Possibly Related Psychic Events

Although many photographs of the clocklike formations, plus other previous pictures of Mrs. Lansing's alleged UFOs, seemingly defy the laws of optics, they might conform to the findings of psychic photography. Psychiatrist Jule Eisenbud's brilliant researches of Ted Serios fully explore this subject.⁶

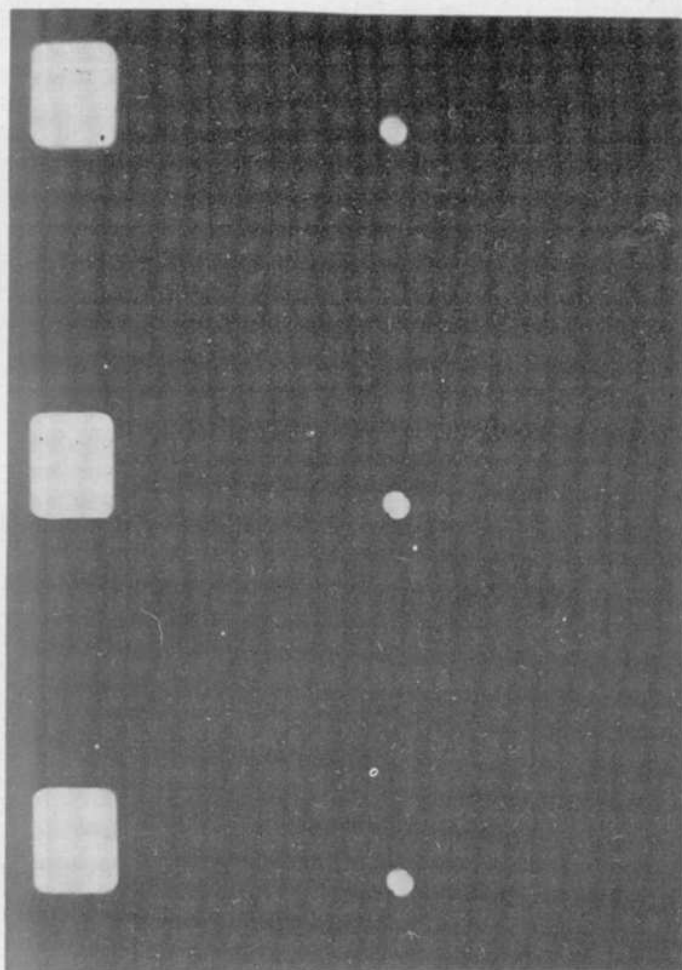
Event 1. The Monk?

Using her Canon camera model 14, and a new foil-wrapped cassette of Kodachrome II colour film purchased on December 29, 1972, Mrs. Lansing took pictures that same day of her dog, daughter, sons, and husband. Her son Richard then took a picture of her in the front yard. These pictures were all taken outside her house and on the frozen lake in the backyard.

On Wednesday, January 3, 1973, Mrs. Lansing visited her friend Mr. C., her employer of five months, and his wife who lived a few miles away in a module home. The C's wanted to thank Mrs. Lansing for her ornamental flower gift. She agreed to visit them only if she could take motion pictures of their coloured television set during a special show which included Liza Minelli and others who were being presented to Queen Elizabeth II. As a young woman, Mrs. Lansing sang with a band and she always enjoyed entertainers.

Consequently on January 3, 1973, between 8.30 and 10.00 p.m., she took many stills and extended runs of the television show, using the same film and camera as a few days earlier. Mrs. Lansing also simultaneously tape-recorded much of the show. During the evening she took pictures in the C's living room of a table with a lamp and her ornamental flower gift. It was a pleasant social occasion and nothing unusual was noted. My listening to Mrs. Lansing's tape recording on February 3, 1973, confirmed this impression. The remainder of the film was used in Mrs. Lansing's home on the colour TV show "In Search of Ancient Astronauts (von Daniken)," on Friday, January 5, 1973, between 10 and 11 p.m.

The film cassette jammed at 49½ feet, near the end. Unable to make the marking "exposure," Mrs. Lansing took the cassette out and replaced it with



"Clam shell Moon" by B.E. Schwarz in presence of Mrs. Lansing

a fresh one. She mailed the film for development on January 16, 1973, and it was returned from the laboratory on Monday, January 22, 1973. When she projected it that night, she was shocked and called her husband and children to show them. She then immediately phoned me in New Jersey.

In contrast to her previous filming experience, she found that her outdoor pictures taken earlier in the day (December 29) of her family and herself did not show what they were supposed to. Instead she saw blank transparent film and at different points (1) single frames and then a changing horizon or mirage-like effect of the hills opposite the lake (see Figure 7); (2) what looked like the face of her husband's deceased maiden aunt superimposed upon her own face (see Figure 8) with distortion of the background: