

## The haunting at Hubbell House

By [Tina Ugas](#) on October 31, 2014 in [Entertainment](#), [Regional News](#), [Social](#)

### About author



Tina Ugas



*The investigator in the photo is Mark Firulli. He happened to look up just as an orb appeared, making it appear as if he's looking right at it.*

Halloween is the season of the witch, of spirits, and of spooky tales. Easton is no stranger to tingling tales of strange encounters, and Bradley-Hubbell Homestead may have a ghostly presence all its own.

Incidentally, the historical character thought by some to haunt the Bradley-Hubbell Homestead was married on Halloween, more than two hundred years ago.

The Historical Society of Easton shared a tale of an eerie encounter at the homestead last fall. Board member Chester Burley said he and three other board members may have contacted the spirit of Clarissa Dimon, a relative of Alijah and Elizabeth Bradley, who built the house in 1816.

On Nov. 7, 2013, Mr. Burley, Kate Vespe, Frank Pagliaro, and Lisa Burghardt, historical society president, met at the homestead with a five-member team from the Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society (NPIS) to conduct an investigation. The ghost hunters eschewed crystals, candles and a séance and instead brought modern technology.

The investigators wired six rooms at the Hubbell House and set up a monitor and computer in the kitchen, Mr. Burley said. The team brought electromagnet field (EMF) meters, cameras and other devices to explore electrical energy that might indicate a spiritual presence. Mr. Burley was impressed.

"It looked like mission control for a space launch, like NASA control," he said.

The investigation into the eerie started with the paranormal society team using the electrical sensors to measure levels of electrical activity. The EMF is a hand-held device with small round lights ranging from light green to amber. Light green signals a small amount of energy, and as the electrical energy grows stronger, the light turns amber.

Adam Shefts, the group's founder, said they first went around the homestead with the sensor to check for electrical leaks; there were no energy leaks so they tried to make contact. He said the historical society members gave them a list of names of historical family members they wanted to make contact with at the homestead.



*The parlor at the Bradley-Hubbell house where Clarissa may have contacted the historical society and bodies have been laid out after death. Tina Ugas photo*

The team asked if the owner of the house prior to the Bradleys and Hubbells was present. No light.

They asked if it was Moses Dimon — no light. They went down the list past the Bradleys and Hubbells, and there was no response. When they asked if the person lived in the house there was no light.

When they asked if it was a Dimon, a light green went off. When they asked the presence if it was male, there was no light, but when asked if it was female all the lights went off. They continued by asking names of women related to the Dimon family, and when they got to Clarissa, all the lights went off. Apparently, so did the camera. Someone caught something on film.

## Clarissa Dimon

Before continuing the tingling tale, perhaps Clarissa Dimon needs her own story told. Ms. Burghardt, the historical society president, works as a genealogist at Connecticut House Histories. She assisted the exploration into who exactly this historical character was.

Clarissa Dimon was born Clarissa Beers in 1779. She married Pinkney Dimon on Oct. 31, 1802. Clarissa and Pinkney had a son, John Beers Dimon.

Pinkney's father was John Dimon Sr., who had a son, John Dimon Jr., who was the father of Elizabeth Bradley. Pinkney was the carpenter of the Bradley-Hubbell Homestead, Elizabeth's uncle, and Clarissa was Elizabeth's aunt by marriage. Ms. Vespe says Clarissa might have happy memories attached to the home.

Ms. Burghardt said Clarissa died of erysipelas, a skin infection, in 1859. The room where the meter responded to Clarissa's name was the parlor in the Bradley-Hubbell Homestead. Mr. Burley said the parlor is where the dead were laid out during funerals before commercial funerals were started during the Civil War.

## Caught on camera?

A member of the paranormal society team captured an orb when Clarissa's name was called and the sensor lit up. An orb is known in paranormal circles as one of the indicators of a spiritual or energy source.

The curious group ventured upstairs to the bedroom. The bedroom was dark, and Mr. Burley then inspected a small, six-inch flashlight provided to him by the paranormal society; it was a normal flashlight. They placed the flashlight on a dresser near the fireplace and across the room from everyone.



*The parlor at the Bradley-Hubbell house where Clarissa may have contacted the historical society and bodies have been laid out after death. Tina Ugas photo*

Mr. Burley said the flashlight was turned on very, very low, almost to the point of turning it off. The historical society members asked “Clarissa” to turn up the light to show she was present. The light turned up — bright, and Ms. Vespe screamed.

“When the flashlight flashed on, it was a bit scary,” Ms. Vespe said. “I didn’t want to leave because I thought a ghost might exist, and we might be conversing with Clarissa.”

Mr. Shefts said the group stayed in the dark, asking questions to continue making contact with Clarissa. The light turned up sporadically. Mr. Shefts was not startled and said he needs to explore the house more. He said that since the EMF device was sporadic along with the flashlight, he needs more evidence.

“We don’t jump to conclusions that everything is spirit,” Mr. Shefts said. “We conduct a certain number of tests to determine if there is a presence.”

He said his organization investigates only historical sites. Its goal is to go into historical places and document evidence that supports the history of the location. He and his team were invited back for another investigation by the historical society, but he said they have been busy with other events. He said he would like to visit the Bradley-Hubbell house again and conduct another investigation.

Ms. Burghardt, too, believes that another investigation is needed to determine whether they made contact with Clarissa Dimon.

“In terms of spirits, there are two camps: folks who believe in what cannot be seen, or those who feel it’s a ridiculous topic and not worthy of debating,” Ms. Burghardt said. “In terms of proving what we cannot see, the society at some point will have NPIS back for a second and maybe even a third investigation to explore the possibilities.”

Ms. Burghardt said the entity would need to provide more information that can be checked and from there it would be up to the historical society to decide if they believe the evidence supports the statement that Clarissa is a spirit in the house. However, even with evidence, she said you cannot convince some people.

“I’m rather certain that even with the evidence, those who do not believe in spirits will not be convinced, and those who do believe in spirits never needed the data in the first place.” Ms. Burghardt said.

Mr. Burley and Ms. Vespe believe something happened in that house. Ms. Vespe said the experience changed how she feels about the supernatural. She did not believe in ghosts, but she is not so sure about it anymore. She believes there might be spirits.

“I definitely had a fascinating experience, and I wasn’t expecting to see anything,” she said. “It made me less skeptical about things, and I am open about things we saw.”

Clarissa, Pinkney and their son, John Dimon, are laid to rest in Weston.

Clarissa and Pinkney's 212th anniversary is Oct. 31, Halloween.

The Easton Historical Society welcomes donations, and may be reached at [eastonhistorical.org](http://eastonhistorical.org). Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society may be found at [northeastparanormal.org](http://northeastparanormal.org) and reached at [info@paranormal.org](mailto:info@paranormal.org). Additional information was supplied by [cthousehistories.com](http://cthousehistories.com).

Whisper happy anniversary to Clarissa and Pinkney if you pass the Bradley-Hubbell-House tonight.

Don't forget to bring a flashlight.