

Thomas Lacey séance collection

Reel 2. GA270-1_001b

1960-1962

Transcribed by: Transcript Heroes

[Start of recorded material 00:00:00]

Otto: Who were baptized then at my coffin when I was buried. You were baptized on the same day. And your grandfather, Peter, met my father. He was so proud of you and he liked you so well that would walk up and down with the baby carriage and he would go downtown and let people see the nice little girl that he had. That was his grandchild.

I have no ill feeling toward anyone, but I'm thankful to God for the privilege he has given me to commune with you today. There were a number of other manifestations. Most of which I've forgotten. But a little Indian guide White Wolf spoke very sweetly. And we enjoyed the session very much.

In fact, we thought so much of it that I asked the medium, Mabel Riffel. By the way, the other medium's name was Matty Nichols. Later, Matty Nichols Johnson. She was the one through whom the talking was done. At least she – her

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guide, through her, supplied the power of which enabled the spirit voices to manifest.

I asked her if there's any place for a person to get more information since I knew practically nothing about all of this. They told me that there was a place about 55 miles southwest of Buffalo, near a town called, "Fredonia," where there was a beautiful camp partly on islands. It had about a couple of hundred residents in the winter. But in the summer, it was quite a town. And visited by thousands of people who came there searching for truth.

The name of this place was called, "Lily Dale." And the name, certainly, was a very appropriate one. I want to mention the fact that Nelda's mother's name was Katie. Katie Meyer. And she had a sister, Mary, with whom Nelda lived and who practically brought her up as though it had been her own child.

After our meeting on the Saturday afternoon when Nelda's mother manifested to us, we asked Mary, that is her aunt, just what happened at the time of the funeral. And she said, "Well, what do you want to know?" Well, we told her that we wanted to know whether – who gave her the name. Was

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it because Nelda's mother gave the name? And then we said, "And where were you baptized?" "Oh, she was baptized at the funeral above the coffin." So, this was a wonderful manifestation, we thought.

Woman: Now, tell them this about Lily Dale.

Otto: Well, as I said before, Lily Dale is about 55 miles southwest of Buffalo. It's on the way to Jamestown, New York. It's a beautiful resort spot. There are three lakes. One is the large one and two smaller ones at each end. But there are a lot of homes on what is practically an island. Now, we decided after the advice we got from the medium to see what it was like in Lily Dale and we did not waste much time.

We had our first sitting with the medium about May of that year. And in July we took a drive over to Lily Dale. We went as far as Buffalo the first day. You see, there were no paved roads at that time. And they – we didn't know how far we'd be getting in a day. So, we stayed in Buffalo overnight. I remember we were at the Ford Hotel.

The next morning, we started off for Lily Dale. On the way to Lily Dale something very peculiar happened. Nelda

[00:05:14]

wanted to drive, and I had put a shoe onto the accelerator because there used to be just a little button there. And I bought a shoe that would fit, like an iron plate. So, she started driving.

We were going along on the road. There was about one slab of pavement in the centre with some gravel on each side. But it seems that her foot slipped, and the car veered toward the left and went straight towards an oncoming car. Well, it looked to me as though we'd have collision with this other car. But the man who was driving turned off and got off the pavement, onto the gravel. There wasn't much of a ditch there or he certainly would have gone into the ditch. But nothing happened, and we went on our way. And we got to Lily Dale.

Now, Lily Dale, as I said, is on a beautiful island with lovely lakes around it. And it is really the beginning of Chautauqua Lake district. We arrived there on a – I think it was on a Saturday afternoon. There was a meeting going on in the auditorium. There was – a big crowd was there. And we wanted to see what it was like. We managed to get in.

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We had a seat almost near the very back of it. A man whom we later discovered was a Mr. John Slater was on the platform. He hadn't given – the lecture had been delivered by someone previous to that, but he was giving messages, it seemed. And we listened to one or two. I noticed he told one fellow to pull out his watch and told him that it was given to him. And he says, "If you look at it, you'll have the number so-and-so, and so-and-so." He repeated about six or seven numbers. They were all on the watch. "Just I'm telling you this, so you can check up on it."

And the man looked. He said, "You're quite correct," he said. Well, a few minutes later after giving a few more messages, as they called it, he said, "Say, somebody is asking here," and then he turned around, seemed to look at the side of him as though somebody was standing by him. I didn't see anyone. But someone must have been standing there. He said, "Who did you want?" Yes, this person, which I later discovered was supposed to be a spirit. He said, "Who did you want? Otto Smith? Oh, will you stand up? Is Otto Smith here?"

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And Nelda tried to hold me down. She didn't want me to get up. But I insisted on getting up. I stood up. He says, "Yes, your mother, she's greatly worried about you. You know you haven't been at home for some months. A couple of months. You used to take her to church. And because you were interested in Spiritualism she wouldn't go to church with you. She said she was ashamed of you. And your father thought you were entirely in the wrong. So, you stayed away from them. Now she's worried about it and she's sitting like this."

And he showed his hand by the side of his cheek. And I know that that's the way she used to sit very often. So, he said, "Now, I'm not saying that you're to give up this. But I do say this, you can have no ill feeling towards your parents. And I'm sure you haven't, but you are worried too as to what to do. Now, I'm going to tell you to do this. When you get back home you go over to your father's place and you walk into their house and just say, "Hello dad and hello mom." And they'll be so happy to have you come back home. Now, you will find that is what will likely happen."

[00:10:09]

Well, later on it did happen because when we came home we were welcomed very much just as the prodigal son had been welcomed – what you read in the book. We enjoyed our first visit to Lily Dale. It was a memorable one. We attended a number of good lectures and heard the message bearers. We roamed about the different parts of the island, seeing the different little streets.

In fact, there were about five. There was South Street and First, Second, Third, and Fourth. And then North Street, then came the lake. We also visited several mediums and had sittings with them. I do not remember the names of them all, but I know one was a Mr. [Dichard] who was a trumpet medium and with whom we sat one evening, got some good evidence. And also, a visit from our spirit friends.

Another one was a Mr. Cartheuser. He was a world famous medium. He spent most of the winters in New York City. He had been tested by many psychic societies. It was here where an Indian guide of ours by the name of Black Hawk manifested and stated that he was the one who was with us at the time that we left Buffalo on the way to Lily Dale.

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And then he shoed the other person aside. He knew that he wouldn't go in the ditch, but he pushed him, as he said, aside so that there wouldn't be any collision.

We had not spoken to anyone regarding that close call or close shave from an accident. But he seemed to know all about it. At one time we sat with the same medium, Mr. Cartheuser. My wife, Nelda's mother was talking to us when an uncle of mine wanted to, as we said, butt in. And the two of them were talking. She asked him to be quiet until she was through.

So, he came without the trumpet to my left ear and spoke softly to me. And said, in German, "[Speaks German]." Another medium was a Mr. [Keylar]. Mr. [Keylar] would sit in broad daylight in a room. You could bring several sheets of heavy paper with you. Put your initials on it so you know that they are your own. And he'd put them in between two slates, that is a slate book. And in with it he put several little pieces of lead pencil, a red, and a blue, and a black one.

He would then tie a strap around the slate so that nobody could open it. When I had a sitting with him, he sat on the

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one end of the little table and I sat on the other end. He asked me to hold the two ends of the slate, inside of which were the pieces of paper. And he held the other side. It was in broad daylight and the sun was shining into the room at the time.

All at once the slate seemed to dip up and down, up and down, up and down, up and down for about a minute or two. After about two minutes he said, "Well, I guess they're through because everything stopped." And it was quiet. While before you could hear little scratching going on inside of the slates.

He then opened it in my presence and in full daylight. And I saw the three sheets of paper which I had initialled. And they were filled with messages from friends of mine who had passed over. Not only friends, but relatives and guides. One was very evidential. It being from my wife's – Nelda's grandfather, Peter Meyer. I spoke with him a little ways back.

He signed his name and the signature was exactly [unintelligible 00:15:29] the same as he always wrote his name. Now, he wasn't there. Not in person. But someone

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did that. That came from the devil some say. It's a very peculiar thing because it's marked. The message he gave was very evidential.

Another one was from Nelda's mother which is also evidential. And another from Anna, a child which had been born to Nelda – or which should have been born to Nelda, but it was a miscarriage, but it had lived right on. She had always wanted to call the next baby Anna, but this one was then called Anna. In fact, she took the name Anna.

Another one was by a George [Stull] who claimed to have been with me from the time I was born, that he always helped me in school and then in business. I attribute much of my success to the advice I've continually been receiving from my good friend and guide, George [Stull]. There were several pictures drawn on it too. How that was all done in the space from two to three minutes, it was hard to tell except that it was done by spirit power.

We made many visits to Lily Dale during the next several years. In fact, after the first year we decided to purchase a property there which was for sale. There was an old lady that had passed on. We would make from eight to ten visits

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every year and enjoy the time very much. They're big – the Leolyn Woods, as they call it was right to the rear of the house.

In fact, it was all along the rear of South Street at the upper end there was an entrance to the Leolyn Woods and a beautiful pathway led in past huge trees which were preserved and near the centre of the woods was a large flat stump from which they used to give lectures and give messages. Large crowds used to come out there. It was really a beautiful place and we enjoyed going there very much.

I was in my early 40's when we first visited Lily Dale. One of the mediums with whom we had sat after having been there several years was Ms. Dorothy Maxwell. She was a young lady at the time. She was a very good medium. And we had many a sitting with her. We got a lot of evidential news and had many visits with our dear ones.

Although we spent quite a lot of time during the summer in visiting other camps and had also resold our house on South Street, we always kept in touch with Dorothy. She is now Dorothy Maxwell-Smith. And Dorothy would be near

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between 60 and 70 years of age. We heard many lectures, attended classes, and visited a lot of different mediums.

Someday I hope to get back to Lily Dale and make a search of the names of all the various mediums with whom we'd sat. There must have been a total of some 25 at Lily Dale at that time. We enjoyed the meetings at the big auditorium. One of the A1 speakers was a Dr. [Macgyver Tindal] who had come from England some years before. One of the things he said has never left me. He always said, "I'm full of life and joy and health." He said, "If you say this often enough, your whole body will get the vibrations and you will be able to live a very long and happy life." Dr. [Iver MacTindal] at that time was about 91, but he looked more like 60.

We also met a Reverend [Eta Ledsol] who we later understand was spending a good deal of her time during the summer months at Camp Chesterfield near Anderson, Indiana. It was partly through her and some other information we got which induced us to make a trip later on to Chesterfield.

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Our trip to Camp Chesterfield was a memorable one. I believe it was about 1927 when we started off after spending a few days at Lily Dale where we still owned the house. We thought the trip would be nearer from Lily Dale, but we found out that it was about the same distance as it was from Central Ontario. It took about two days and we arrived in Chesterfield on a late afternoon, but towards the evening of a Saturday.

The camp at Chesterfield comprises the greater part of a beautiful grove. Large trees. There are beautiful homes there, along with several hotels and a big restaurant. We understand that between 40 and 50,000 people visit this camp every year. We discovered that the admission to the grounds was only 20 cents a person. And, of course, it would be 20 cents a day while you were staying there.

The hotel accommodations were very cheap at that time. The daily rate being no more than from \$2 to \$3 per person. This did not include the meals, but the meals were very reasonable. Breakfast being no more than about 25 cents. Lunch, about 50 cents. And dinner, 75 cents. Of course, the rates would be entirely different now.

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The mediums were very friendly to us. We enjoy the minute which we meet. In fact, we made, I would believe close to 100 trips to Chesterfield over the next 20 years. We felt quite at home there. And soon got to know most of the mediums and many of the inhabitants of Chesterfield and also of Anderson, Indiana which is about eight miles from Chesterfield.

Most of the mediums who we met when we first visited this camp have passed on. But one of those that we were especially interested in was Reverend Pansy Cox. She's still living and lives in the wintertime in Anderson. In the summertime she has a home in the Chesterfield camp.

When we arrived on the grounds on that first memorable Saturday night we discovered that a meeting was in progress in the beautiful chapel at the end of the grounds, farthest away from the gates. A medium was doing messages from the platform. We went in very quietly. As we entered the doorway the medium turned towards the door and she said, "There is a person here, a spirit who tells me that her daughter and the daughter's husband are just coming in now. Her name is Nelda Smith from Canada."

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This was good evidence for us as we had come right unannounced. We had registered at one of the hotels and were glad to get to sleep as we had had a long trip and were quite tired. We awoke early the next morning because we had heard the [Indian love call] over the loudspeaker system. We enjoyed a lovely breakfast. There were many people present.

One of them being Mabel Riffle who came over to where we were sitting and told us she would do all she could to make us feel at home and to have a pleasant stay. Over this period of 20 years we sat with dozens of mediums at Chesterfield. It would be impossible to remember all the names or even to remember the times when we did sit and who was with us at the time.

There are a few very interesting experiences which I wish to relate. After breakfast that first morning we walked over to the home of Mabel Riffle. She was very happy to give us an idea of what we could do for a couple of days that we were going to be present. She told us a number of names of mediums and where they were living so that we could visit them.

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We had heard of the outstanding phenomena that was carried on or shown at Chesterfield and knowing that a person could get more real enthusiasm and interest and evidence by sitting with some mediums who had necessary requirements for the showing of physical phenomena. When we arrived at Mabel's home after breakfast she outlined a few of the places we could visit on that particular day.

She told us of a cousin of hers, Mrs. Mabel – no. Mrs. Fanchion Harwood Durst who was not only a trumpet medium, also clairvoyant, but she also was very prominent in what they call materialization. That is when spirits would come out of the cabinet where she would be sitting and walk around the room and talk to you.

We attended a private sitting at Fanchion's home that afternoon. There was no one else present except Fanchion. And I forget the lady's name who was attending the cabinet. By the cabinet we mean a little enclosure in which she would be sitting that would be surrounded by a dark curtain.

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Shortly after we had started the meeting the curtains of the cabinet parted, and a man walked out. And remember, there was only a woman in the cabinet. But this man walked over to where we are, where we were sitting and gave his name as Mr. Heinz. I did not recognize him at first, but when he told me that he had been at our house here some two years ago, at the time that the Toronto Symphony Orchestra was represented by a few of their soloists, I remembered then that he was the father of Ross Heinz who's the general manager, who at that time was the general manager of the Continental Casualty Company in Ontario.

After a number of remarks regarding his experience with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra he told me that he would like me to let his son Ross Heinz know that he was here and that I was to show Ross a slip of paper which he quoted to me to write down, a scriptural passage from Deuteronomy. I think it was about the seventh chapter and about the tenth verse.

He said if I showed this to Ross he would understand what it meant. A short time later I had occasion to be in Toronto

when I visited the Continental Office and had a visit with University of Waterloo Library. Special Collections & Archives. Thomas Lacey séance collection. Reel 2. GA270-1_001b.

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Ross. I told him of my experience and he was astounded as he had no idea that such a thing could really happen. He said he's very, very much interested. And it certainly is right that what I brought him was absolutely the arrangement he and his father had made while his father was still alive.

He said he would like very much if I could get some more information and report to him again at some future time. However, it was not long after when Ross Heinz was transferred to Chicago and I haven't had a chance to talk to him since then.

Sometime later we had another very remarkable experience of sitting with Fanchion. I was, at that time, still playing the organ and choir leader at St. Matthews Church. One of my main choir soloists was a Ms. Jenny Shorten. She had married sometime previously. And several years later after a very short illness she had died. The sitting I referred to was about several years after her passing. Shortly after the meeting was opened with the Lord's Prayer, who would walk out of that cabinet, but Jenny.

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She came right over to where we were sitting and said, "Otto, I want you to know that I can still sing as I used to at St. Matthew's Church." She says, "I'm going to walk over to the piano and I'll play the piano and then I'll sing a song and I want you to help me." I hardly knew what to say. But she walked over and started playing one of our familiar hymns.

She sang there, and I accompanied her. We had a lovely time. The manifestation lasting about five minutes. She didn't ask us to tell her father who was a professor at Lutheran College in Waterloo, to tell him about it as he would likely not believe it anyway. And there were at least a dozen mediums at Camp Chesterfield who could demonstrate the phase of materialization. One of the foremost of these was Edith Stillwell. She used to have sittings about twice a week in the evening when as many as from 20 to 25 people would sit in a circle. She'd be in the cabinet and usually she had Mabel Riffle attend the cabinet because Mabel, being a good clairvoyant could describe the manifestations if they were not quite understood.

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We sat quite frequently at these meetings. But one or two are very clearly in our minds. One evening I was called up to the cabinet and my father and mother both appeared, each taking a hold of one of my arms and we walked around the room. And we walked over to where Nelda was sitting. And the four of us had a very pleasant conversation for a few minutes. They recognized one or two others from where – one of them being Dr. Hett.

We talked about a number of things and they mentioned the fact that they were looking forward to the time when we could all be together again as so many of them were waiting for their friends and loved ones. I could go on and on and tell many, many instances where we have pleasant and evidential visiting with our friends.

If I wish to relate all our experiences at Chesterfield and could remember them all, the story would fill a whole book. During the years from say 1930 to about 40 we made many visits to Chesterfield. We subscribed to a paper called, "The Psychic Observer," and also, we read one called, "The Progressive Thinker." In this way we managed to get a lot of news about various camps throughout the world.

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There were quite a few in the United States. One of these was a camp near – at a town called Effort. This was near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. So, we decided to take a trip there because Mabel Riffle had told us of her cousin who had started a camp and they were doing very well in this little town called Effort.

When we first visited there in about 1932 we found that they had their meetings at a small hotel near the outskirts of the town. But they were considering purchasing large valuable property which was a big – had been a big hotel. It had a beautiful setting. And many notables of the early days used to stop there on their way west.

In fact, we had the pleasure at one time of sleeping in a room which had been occupied several times by President Lincoln when he was travelling through Pennsylvania. We sat with many mediums and we heard many wonderful lectures. It was here where we were introduced first to Arthur Ford who was a great platform speaker and message bearer.

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A great many books have been written on the subject on psychic phenomena and the experiences that many people had are worth reading.

Woman: Tell about the experiences you had with Tom Lacey.

Otto: It was about two years after I first became interested in psychic phenomena that I met Mr. [Gordan Stice] one morning who told me that there was a gentleman living in Waterloo, and he was working in Kitchener at Sutherland and Schultz. And that he was sitting for the development of mediumship.

I discovered a little later that this man, Mr. Thomas Lacey and his wife and several friends attended one of the meetings which I had been instrumental in having in one of the halls in Kitchener when I had a medium from Chicago demonstrate some psychic phenomena.

This was a very successful night and a number of people seemed to be quite interested. Gordan said that he would be very glad to introduce me to Mr. Lacey. Perhaps, we could arrange to have a sitting with him some night. This was the beginning of a long series of sittings for development. Different ones would come into the circle and

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stay for several weeks, help along for several weeks, and then they would disappear again.

But. Mrs. Smith and I stood right with them. And for several years there were only the four of us. Mr. and Mrs. Lacey and Nelda and I and we sat regularly and had very rapid development shown to us.

A great teacher once said when the ear is ready, the master speaks. It is a very difficult matter for anyone to say when a person is ready. Small children are usually fed milk, but as they grow older they can eat the heavier food such as meat and other articles. Similar, in psychic science, the beginner should have only simple phenomena.

He should have the opportunity of seeing that there is an all-important power that is beyond our intelligence that can show us in no small measure that this intelligence leads us on to greater things from time to time. You might wonder how a third person can first become interested in psychic science.

I know there are a great many books. Many of them refer to strange happenings throughout the world. This becomes interesting to the average person. And sometimes, some

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friend may introduce you or your friend to witness some of these happenings. Some people become interested immediately while others have to be shown many times before they show any interest whatever.

In my own case, it was apparent that I did not seem to be interested at all until my wife said that she was interested and would be glad if I got some further information. Our first sittings with Mr. Lacey, the medium, were mostly of a nature showing the phenomena that existed and that could be demonstrated.

Later, after a number of years we heard voices and discovered that our friends and relatives were always near us. And many of them, at different times, communicated with us. As time went on we went into the philosophy of it and many of the masters from ages ago came to us and delivered some marvellous lectures which we were very lucky that we were able to record them. There now follows the first recording that we made June the 7th.

The following reproductions are from recordings made at the home of Otto Smith, 362 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario. The messages were selected from recorded

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psychic manifestations received over a period of two years during which time hundreds of entities including masters, teachers, guides, friends, and relatives made their presence known and proved the survival of the personality.

Our master teacher, Amirah from a higher plane has full charge of the proceedings which are usually opened with a prelude of altar music and a suitable prayer. The medium is Mr. Thomas Lacey. His brother, Walter, who passed away in early childhood is the doorkeeper. It was about 32 years ago that our little group commenced sitting in the silence.

Within a very short time it was very evident that Mr. Lacey was a natural born medium. We had regular weekly visitings for several years during which time development was rapid. We soon heard voices in several languages. Materialization. Etherealization. Transfiguration. Apport phenomena. A movement of objects about the room. As many as four trumpets with luminous bands circling the room, all at the same time.

Progress continued at a remarkable degree. Unfortunately, owing to circumstances beyond their control, Mr. and Mrs. Smith were unable to continue. Soon after, Mr. and Mrs.

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Lacey moved to Hamilton where the sittings with other groups continued. During the spring of 1960 following the return of the Lacey's to Hespeler, the meetings were resumed.

A small group at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. On June 28th, 1960 the first recording was made at the meeting. The opening remarks –

[Unintelligible 00:48:32 – 00:58:23]

On August 19th, 1960 we were treated to a great surprise.

The nurse's boyfriend, Carl, had been killed during the first great war. He had been interested in the cultivation of roses while on the earth plane. It seems that he kept on his interest after passing over into spirit. A great surprise referred to the fact that Carl came into the séance room this evening and with the direction and help of Maskelyne, a former English magician who had passed over some years before.

He was able to not only bring in a rose but he had the rose with Maskelyne's direction, created in the room, in the presence of all of us. I shall reproduce part of this

[00:58:57]

manifestation. It is not very clear, but I believe with a careful concentration we may be able to get most of it.

[Unintelligible 0:59:16 – 01:03:58]

Woman: Nobody can understand that.

Otto: No, no. What I was going to –

Woman: I think that whole thing is a total loss. The very start of that I couldn't understand a thing.

Otto: No, what I meant, the reason I let it go on –

[Unintelligible 01:04:11 – 01:07:34]

Otto: That's as far as I got. That's it. I tell you what we can do then, instead of all that, [unintelligible 01:07:52].

[End of recorded material 01:08:02]