

Ethel continued to appear to Walter, demanding his new wife return gifts. Over time, Louisa returned 50,000 dollars worth of jewelry. Her husband eventually persuaded her to sign a separation agreement.

Walter's father, when asked about the marital drama, said: "My boy was out of his mind when he married Miss Steck. This whole affair is being arranged to get money out of my family."

The Evening News, Wilkes-Barre, PA, 8 Oct 1910

Well, the 2nd wife

Mrs. Edward M. Steck relayed a remarkable story to the press about her daughter's separation from her husband. Her daughter, Louisa Dodge (age 17), married the wealthy author-lawyer Walter Phelps Dodge. She was his third wife. Walter came into the bedroom one morning and informed his wife that his second wife, Ethel B. Cole was hovering over her bed the night prior. He explained that Ethel wanted Louisa to return a lace veil and dress. This was only the beginning.


Bad friend

Mrs. John M. Kane requested a divorce from her husband, because his first wife Mary was tormenting her. Mary sat at the foot of Mrs. Kane's bed and groaned. Mary was angry at the new Mrs. Kane, a childhood friend, for marrying her husband.

The Justice of the Peace said Mrs. Kane would have to give another reason to be granted a divorce.

The Lanark Era, Ontario, Canada, 17 Oct 1900

GIRL CODE!



Anyway

Mrs. F. H. Wahl of Nickerson has just been given a divorce and \$2,000 alimony because her husband kept talking about seeing the ghost of his first wife. The court took the position that if he saw his first wife's ghost he should have kept it to himself; also that a woman is entitled to a divorce from a man who sees ghosts, anyway.

McCracken Enterprise, McCracken, Kansas, 08 Dec 1911

Sassy Seance

St. Louis, Aug. 30.—Stephen F. Garlock filed suit for divorce here today in which he charged his second wife inveigled him into a spiritualistic seance, where she called up the spirit of his first wife, who advised him to transfer his property to his second wife.

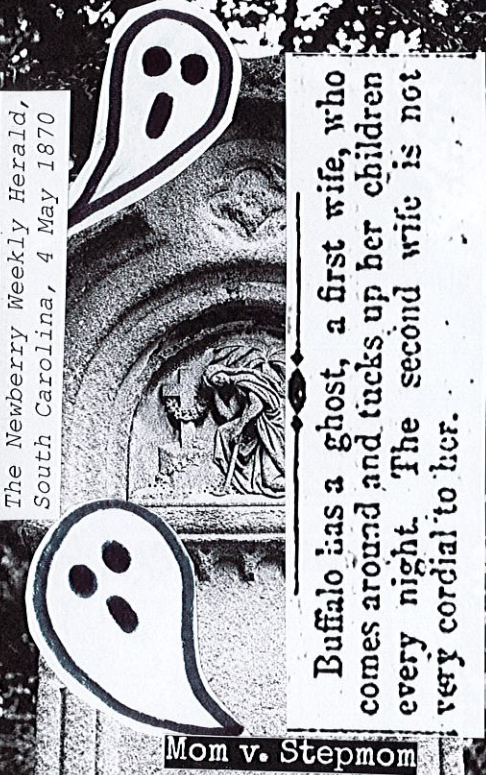
He refused to transfer the property, she said, and then his living wife "called him names."

More than a year ago Garlock filed suit for divorce but dismissed the case because he had no funds with which to prosecute it.

Mom v. Stepmom

Buffalo has a ghost, a first wife, who comes around and tucks up her children every night. The second wife is not very cordial to her.

The Newberry Weekly Herald, South Carolina, 4 May 1870



Haunt me

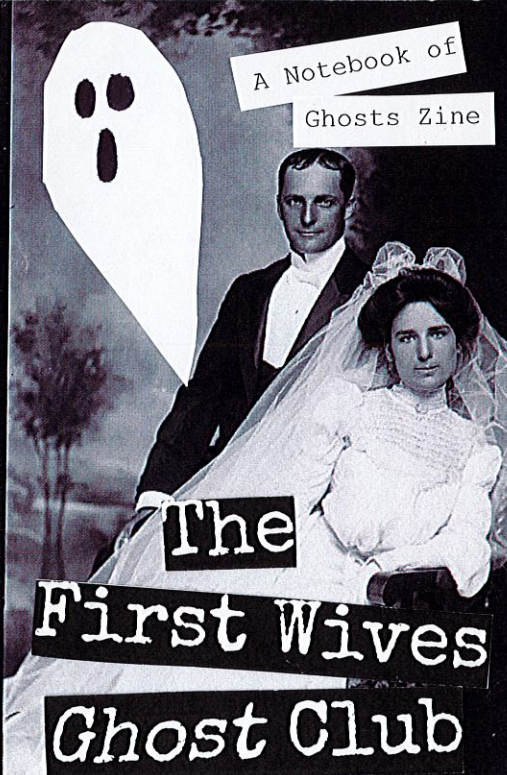
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The First Wives Ghost Club

A Notebook of Ghosts Zine



"Seance to Get Estate," *The Wichita Daily Eagle*, 31 Aug 1913