

The Mannings are my
Father's cousins

WESTRALIANA

AN OLD STORY REVIVES THE "DAVILAK GHOST"

WALKING through the former Davilak Estate out from Fremantle I have always felt a mysterious, eerie influence from the pervading silence, the light wind through the high trees, the slight whistling of the bushes around the lake.

It reminds me of Hamlet's clairvoyant assertion—"There are more things between Heaven and Earth, Horatio, than is thought of in your philosophy."

In some seasons I have seen the lake completely red, caused by a water-plant vegetation. Perhaps this colour and the Aboriginal name Dgilgies Lake made Mr Lucius Alexander Manning, who acquired the 2,000-acre estate in 1860, name it "Devil's Lake".

The Aborigines promptly pronounced this as "Davilak". And so Lucius Alexander who was a kindhearted man, said: "Davilak it is".

Long ago the Aborigines had held their initiation-to-manhood ceremonies near high tuart trees beside the lake. But as soon as the shadows of Snake Hill (North) and Monkey Hill (South) approached the water they moved to their Hamilton Swamp Camp, a mile to the north-east, because they believed that near

the lake beyond the beams of the sun the "evil spirits" would get them and kill them.

Initiation ceremonies continued there with the Manning family's full approval till 1893.

by
Jan Rassing

Lucius Alexander Manning had died in 1888. He was the son of Charles Alexander Manning, a London contractor, who had lived in Peru, married there the daughter of the Spanish Governor and arrived in Fremantle on August 3, 1840.

Recently Mr Lucius Manning (92), of View Street, Peppermint Grove, Lucius Alexander's second son, told me a remarkable story.

During the last war he visited his sister, Mrs

Ley, a widow who was living in the Davilak Manor which was burned down in 1958.

Among her servants she had a couple from Darwin who came down here after the bombing raids. The husband did outside work and gardening and the wife was the cook and laundress.

Mrs Ley was an extremely truthful woman. She said to her brother: "You should see the cook, something has happened to her and I believe what she says".

When Mr Manning came into the kitchen, the husband said to his wife: "Don't be silly, woman, Mr Manning will think that you are around the bend".

Cook's story

She replied: "Please be quiet. I want to ask Mr Manning a question, after telling my story".

Lucius said: "Go on, please"; and this was the story:

"Last week about 11 am I was hanging out the washing near the lodge, when out of it stepped a soldier, slouched hat partly over his face, and walked towards me.

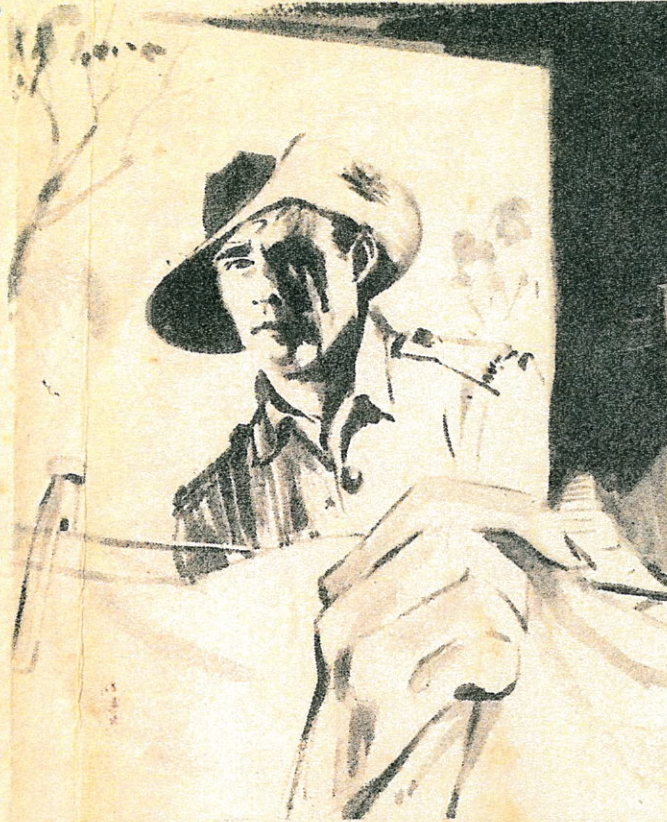
"I thought I must tell my husband to inspect the lodge because it seems that there are some unauthorised guests.

"When the soldier was about 20ft away he looked up. I nearly fainted.

"To my horror I saw that half his face was shot away, there was a bloody hole and his uniform was covered with blood.

"I looked away because I could not stand it any longer and asked: God, man, what has happened to you?

"When I looked again the soldier was gone and I said a prayer. Now, my question is: Has anyone been killed here?"



she was hanging out the laundry, the soldier came out of the lodge and walked towards her.

She needed all her faith, fortitude and presence of mind not to run away in panic. She did what the Priest had told her.

A remarkable thing happened: half of the soldier's face smiled, he nodded his head and was gone. She never saw him again.

Explanation:

Neither Mrs Ley, nor Mr Manning, nor I have ever seen a ghost.

But since mankind's beginning many perfectly sane, healthy and serious people have seen ghosts. And that is nothing astonishing.

When death occurs and the soul leaves for other regions, the vehicle that carried the soul and connected him (or her) with the material body, which some people call: the "etheric double", continues to live on temporarily.

The old Egyptians who had an uncanny knowledge in this field, named the vehicle: the "Ka"; whereas they named the soul: the "Ba" (in both words the "a" is pronounced as in "Adam"); and the material body: the "Khat". For lack of other words I use this terminology.

For reasons unknown the "Ka" of a deceased

normal, cases the "Ka" disappears very quickly.

The best remedy against apparitions and unnatural noises is exorcism according to religious rules. It is preferable, but not strictly necessary, that exorcism be done by a priest or a minister of religion. In most cases the "Ka" will be seen no more.

Sequel:

After the second apparition, Mrs Ley, in presence of her brother, asked the cook to describe the ghost as precisely as possible, his height, gait, mannerisms, and the like

The cook did so and Mrs Ley exclaimed, immediately:

"But that is so and so, born a few hundreds of yards from here and who was recently killed in the battle of El Alamein in Western Desert".

Investigations proved that this man had had half of his face shot away.