

# Dunafon Castle:



## History:

The castle was built by Marcus and Muriel Wright. Construction was started in 1929 and was completed in the 1940's.

The castle is just under 9,000 square feet and includes:

- 1 – full Bathroom
- 3 – ¾ Bathrooms
- 3 – Fireplaces
- 1 – Wood burning stove
- 5 – Bedrooms

The construction of the castle was made possible initially by the labor of Mr. Wright's laborers that were needing work due to the stock market crash. The rock that was used to make the castle was quarried from the "Lair O the Bear" park by wheelbarrow. After the start of construction Mr. Wright installed a train that would go over the mountain and deliver the rock

and supplies directly to the site. The way that he accomplished getting the train over the mountain was to use a mining train that had driven on all of the wheels. That meant that the heavier the load the better the traction to pull the weight over the mountain.



**Tamsin Barnes**

The construction of the castle included a dam with 10,000 gallons of underground water storage that comes from a diversion of Bear creek to a twenty-two-foot-tall overshot water wheel which is connected to a hydro-electric generator that supplies electricity to the castle. The 4-Killowatt and 60-killowatt units also supply heat to the castle. The generators also supplied power for the mining train.

For the grounds of the castle they completed the train track including a bridge and a house to store the train, when not in use.

The castle also included a four car garage with a fireplace for heat.



**Fireplace in the main room**

The seventeen acres of land features three ponds that are part of the irrigation that supplies water and power for the castle.

The construction of the castle was based on the true definition of a castle, they made sure that there was a moat, a bridge and stone walls as a system of defense.

After Mr. Wright's death in 1965, the castle fell into disrepair and was placed into a trust.





**Greg Hollenbeck**

On April 22, 1970 William and Tamsin Barnes purchased the castle and started to restore it.

William Barnes was the owner of the Autorol Computer Mapping company.

Tamsin B. Barnes (July 18, 1934 – October 31, 1999) was born in Beloit Wisconsin and graduated from the University of Colorado. She married William Barnes and became the sales manager for her husband's company. She was also the president of the American Society for Photogrammetry and remote sensing.



**Lake on the property**

When the Barnes' purchased the castle, they started construction of their own. The four car garage was converted to an entertainment room with a kitchen and gambling equipment. They also planned to build a pool on the terrace just outside the game room.

When the Barnes owned the castle there were rumors of gambling and even stories of the castle being a brothel.



**Peter Boyles broadcasting from the Castle**

The castle was deserted again when the Barnes and one of their daughters (Paula S. Barnes born December 2, 1960) were killed on Air Egypt flight 990 on Halloween 1999. They were starting a fifty-four-person tour of the Nile region.

(CNN) - - An Egypt Air plane with 217 people on board crashed at sea early Sunday off of the island of Nantucket, Massachusetts. The U.S. Coast Guard said one body was recovered from the water and all those on board are feared dead. Distraught family and friends of the passengers and crew of Flight 990 gathered at the airport in Cairo. Egypt Air scheduled a special flight for them to fly to Cairo from the United States. The relatives of 185 people on board the plane have all been notified, an FBI spokesman said. The Boeing 767 passenger plane disappeared from radar screens after taking off from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York. The plane plummeted at a "rapid rate," dropping at more than 20,000 feet per minute, said Jim Hall, chairman of the U.S. National Transportation and Safety Board. The plane descended from 33,000 feet to 19,000 feet in 36 seconds, he said. Egypt's government asked the NTSB to lead the investigation into the crash. President Clinton said Sunday there was "no evidence of foul play of the Air Egypt crash". "We have no evidence at this time and I think it's better if people draw no conclusions." Clinton said.



There were many reports of the First Officer having crashed the plane into the ocean because of a mental condition or possible retribution on the Captain of the plane.

The NTSB's final report was issued on March 21, 2002 after a two-year investigation. Their conclusion was: "The probable cause of Air Egypt flight 990 is the airplanes departure from normal cruise flight and subsequent impact with the Atlantic Ocean as a result to the relief of the First Officers flight control inputs. The reason to the First Officers actions was not determined."

The ECAA's report came to a different conclusion: "The relief of the First Officer did not deliberately dive the plane into the Ocean. Nowhere in the 1665 pages of the NTSB's docket or in the eighteen months of investigative efforts is there any evidence to support the so called "deliberate theory" In fact the record contains specific evidence refuting such a theory. Including an expert evaluation by Dr. Adel Fouad, a highly experienced psychiatrist. There is evidence pointing to a mechanical defect in the elevator system of the accident. The best evidence of this is the shearing of certain rivets in two of the right elevator bell cranks and the shearing of and internal pin in a power control actuator. Investigators cannot rule out the possibility that the RFO might have taken emergency action to avoid collision with an unknown object. Although plausible, this theory cannot be tested because the United States has refused to release certain radar calibration and test data that are necessary to evaluate various unidentified radar returns in the vicinity of flight 990."



The Barnes were survived by their daughters Tamara Lewis and Lisa Berry & Elizabeth Bergman. An interesting note about Mr. Barnes is that his name was used in one of the first Nigerian email scams.

The castle was purchased from the trust of the Barnes on November 5, 2004

The current owners are working to restore the castle back to its original design and use the property for different events such as promotions for non-profits and thirteen-steps, as well as fishing and rental opportunities.





### **Reported Paranormal Activity:**

The Barns sisters related stories of when they were growing up in the castle. They reported stories of seeing a man in the castle that was not really there, as well as hearing footsteps and the sounds of large crowds of people partying in the basement.

One of the Barns sisters said that she would “practice playing dead” when she went to sleep because she thought that whatever was in her room with her would leave her alone if it thought that she was dead.

The sisters both said that they would “feel” someone in their room with them at night and that it would follow them in the hallways and they would see shadows of people moving between rooms from the outside of the castle.



The current caretaker of the castle has seen what he describes as an “energy” in the building and states that “the spirits have helped with the construction of the castle”.

**The Investigation:**

We conducted the investigation in unison with a radio show on the evening of October 27, 2007.

The team arrived at 6:00 and was given a tour of the property. The radio broadcast started at 7:00 p.m. and lasted until 9:00p.m. The broadcast included interviews with past owners and the current residents.

The women that had grown up in the castle reported that they had seen a little boy on the top of the castle earlier that day and that one of them had been grabbed while they were walking around.

When the show finished, the majority of the people involved left the castle and we started setting up our equipment.



**Our base location**

**Location/Equipment:**

**Hallway from garage:**

- Video camera
- Microphone
- Remote thermometer

- Digital audio recorder
- One person to monitor hallway

**Main Living Room:**

- 2 – Video cameras
- Microphone
- One person to monitor the room

**Hallway between bedroom and bathroom:**

- Video camera
- Microphone

**Wine Cellar:**

- Microphone
- Video camera



**The wine cellar**

The investigation lasted about 6 hours.

There were a few unusual sounds during the investigation, but due to the lack of control of people in the location we cannot rule natural sounds out.

EMF readings were consistent and no unusual variances were noted.

The following morning one of the guests reported that his girlfriend had woke up in the middle of the night and said "they are all around us" and then went back to sleep as if nothing had happened.

We could not offer any conclusions about the castle due to the lack of control during the time we were there. A follow up would be recommended.