The Fox Sisters - 1848

Spiritism started from an American movement called Modern Spiritualism

1848: Hydesville (NY): Fox sisters
The Fox family lived in Hydesville since 1847. They had three daughters, two of whom lived with them.

Spiritualism originated March 31st, 1848 in this house.
On the night of March 28, 1848, annoying knocks were heard from the wooden walls in John Fox’s large cabin and disturbed the family’s sleep.

The girls, nine-year-old Katherine (Kate), and twelve-year-old Margaret ran to their parents’ bedroom, frightened by the loud knocks coming from the walls and ceiling in their room.
The knocks or "raps" continued that night. Later the manifestations included the sound of chairs being dragged and as time went on, the phenomena became more and more complex. Everything shook, objects moved, and it was like an explosion of loud sounds.

Three days later, little Kate, who had grown accustomed to the noise started to imitate the knocks by drumming on a piece of furniture with her fingers while talking to the side of the house from which the knocks came more frequently. Immediately, the "stranger's" knocks were heard in equal numbers and stopped when the girl stopped.
A friend of the family, Mr. Duesler, thought of using the alphabet to translate the knocks and understand what the invisible entity was saying.

The invisible knocker told them his story. His name was Charles Rosma; he had been a traveling salesman who stayed at that house as a guest of the Bell couple. He was murdered in the house and his merchandise and money were stolen. In an effort to hide the evidence of his murder his corpse was then buried in the basement.
The Fox sisters were under considerable pressure. The Church excommunicated them for making covenants with the devil. They were called liars and threatened with bodily harm several times.

Several commissions were formed at the time for the dual purpose of studying the strange phenomena and exposing the sisters as swindlers. They submitted the girls to the most rigorous and severe exams, sometimes coming dangerously close to brutality.
In 1888, 40 years after the Hydesville incident, when the phenomena were being commemorated Margaret Fox enticed by promises of financial gains from Cardinal Manning and reported to the New York Herald newspaper that the phenomena were fraudulent.
The Fox Sister

The following year, however, she regretted her lack of honesty towards the Spiritualist movement and gathered a large crowd at a music saloon in New York. She then recanted her previous statements. At that time, she not only affirmed that the Hydesville phenomena had been real; but she also provoked another series of physical effects phenomena in the crowded room.

A retraction was published. It appeared in The Light and the American newspaper New Press on May 20th, 1889.
The FOX COTTAGE

BIRTHPLACE OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM

The Fox Cottage was built in 1818 on a farm in the hamlet of Hydesville, N.Y. near Rochester. In 1848 it became the scene for loud rappings. It was on March 31st of that year that the sisters, Margaret and Katie Fox heard the rappings, and with their childish curiosity aroused, invented a code by which the spirit of a peddler was able to tell of his murder and burial in the dirt cellar below. Later, in 1904, the peddler's skeleton was located in the crumbling cellar wall.

In 1916, the neglected cottage was restored and moved to Lily Dale, N.Y. through the benevolence of Benjamin F. Bartlett.

In Lily Dale the Fox Cottage attracted many visitors. Through the mediumship of Flo Cottrell the rappings could still be heard. The Cottage was destroyed by fire in the Fall of 1956.
THE FOX FAMILY

WHO LIVED IN THIS COTTAGE AT THE TIME
MARGARET AND KATIE FOX, AGED 9 AND 11 YEARS,
RECEIVED THE FIRST PROOF OF THE CONTINUITY
OF LIFE, WHICH WAS THE BEGINNING OF MODERN
SPIRITUALISM, MARCH 31, 1848.

THIS COTTAGE WAS BOUGHT AND MOVED
FROM HYDESVILLE, N.Y. ITS ORIGINAL SITE,
TO LILY DALE, N.Y. IN MAY 1916, BY

BENJAMIN F. BARTLETT
1852: The first Americans missionaries of the Modern Spiritualism leave to Scotland and England.

1853: The ship Washington, departs from New York to the port of Breme, taking mediums, books, brochures and gazettes.

La Table, le Livre et les Esprits page 19 Marion Aubree and François Laplantine
The press announces for the first time the arrival of the movement in Europe on April 1853.

La Table, le Livre et les Esprits page 19
Marion Aubree and François Laplantine
Delphine Gay de Girardin (1804-1855)

It was she who introduced the phenomenon of turning tables to France.
ALLAN KARDEC - The Codifier of Spiritism

- He was born on October 3rd, 1804 in Lyon, France.
- He was educated at the Institution of Pestalozzi at Yverdun, Switzerland.
- He was a pedagogue and a scientist;
- French linguist - He spoke German, English, Italian, and Spanish.
- He also published many books aimed at developing a proposed methodology of education.
- He translated a variety of works on education and ethics.

Allan Kardec married to Amélie Boudet
February 9, 1832.
1854: Rivail was told about turning tables for the first time.

“...but it can also be made to speak. Ask it a question, and it replies.”

(Fortier)

“I will only believe it when it is proven to me that a table has a brain with which to think, nerves with which to feel, and the ability to reach a state of somnambulism.” (PW)
1855: “(...) Carlotti was the first to speak to me about the intervention of the spirits, but far from convincing me, he increased my doubts.”

Rivail (FW)

May 1855: “Patier, (...) a well-educated man of serious character, analytical and calm. He made a strong impression on me (...). He invited me to attend the experiments”

Rivail (FW)
“One night, his protector spirit, Zephiro, sent him a very personal message, saying that he had lived a previous life, as a Druid in Gallia. He was then named Allan Kardec.”

Henry Sausse

“It was there that for the first time I saw the phenomenon of turning tables.”

Number 18
1. Table turning forerunner of facts

2. There was an intelligent power expressed through the movements

3. Yes-No answers to questions

4. The ‘legs’ of tables in motion struck a succession of blows that corresponded to the number of each letter of the alphabet

5. Pencil fitted to a basket glides over paper produces writing

6. The presence of certain gifted persons would potentiate the movements (Mediums)

7. Mediums started to write

8. Other psychic means of communication: Speaking, Hearing, Seeing, Touching, Writing
“I perceived in those phenomena the key to the obscure and controversial problem of humanity’s past and future, the solution that I have been seeking my entire life.”

Caroline and Julie Baudin

“At Mister Baudin’s house; medium: Miss Baudin”

“To you, I will address myself as The Truth and every month, at this place, I will be at your service for a quarter of an hour.”

March 25th, 1856