

Transcription, February 2015:

New York Times 36(11054) (4 Feb. 1887): 1f (anon.).

[p. 1f]

‘A Spiritualist Exposed. How a Boston Audience Captured the Spirits.’

Boston, Feb. 3—Mrs. H. V. Ross, hailing from Providence, has been astonishing the Back Bay for some months past with remarkable Spiritualistic séances. Scientific and literary gentlemen have attended the manifestations and have been amazed. She and they will do so no more. Prof. William James, of Harvard College; the Rev. Minot J. Savage, Dr. James R. Nichols, and Prof. Alfred Wallace, of England, are a few of those who have pronounced her materializations as among the wonders of the nineteenth century. Mrs. Ross has occupied a comfortable house at No. 96 West Concord-street, and the séances she has given each week during her stay have been well patronized. Several gentlemen of this city who have visited at Mrs. Ross’s house came to the conclusion that her materialized spirits were more mundane than ethereal and set about to investigate. A party headed by C. A. Beaman, a well known jeweler of this city, Dr. N. W. Gilbert, John W. Tufts, the organist of Kings Chapel and others, 12 in all, were present at a séance last evening. By a previous plan it was agreed that at a certain moment each member of the party should seize one of the “spirits,” as well as the medium and her husband. A moment or two before the signal was given one of the party was conversing with a materialized spirit. The young man seized the shadow by the hand, and with a firm grip, and yanked it into the middle of the room. At the same instant the light was turned on, a stalwart man seized Mr. Ross in his arms just as that gentleman pulled his revolver, while others securely held Mrs. Ross, as well as several “spooks,” in the cabinet. Young Braman had a sharp tussle with a muscular “spirit” and felled him to the floor inside the cabinet. Close investigation showed four boys and a little girl inside the curtain, who during the evening had figured as deceased friends and relatives.

The mystery of the cabinet was also solved. It consisted of a curtain drawn across one corner of the room where the walls were apparently solid. Investigation showed that by an ingenious mechanical contrivance the board could be lifted, leaving an open space into a closet in the back parlor. In the mêlée one of the party was quite severely cut by broken glass, but beyond this no injury was received by any one. Mr. and Mrs. Ross made no attempt at explanation, but refunded the money paid by each person who had witnessed the séance.

The Times’s correspondent called at No. 96 Concord-street this evening, but was unable to gain admittance, and there were no signs of life about the premises.

[\[Return\]](#)

The Alfred Russel Wallace Page, Charles H. Smith, 2015.