



A Small Ghost Story

by Linda Baker

Have you heard of Harry Martindale?

In 1952 Harry was a plumber's apprentice in York, England. One of his first jobs was working on the pipes in the basement of the old Treasurer's House in York -- a building ancient in its own right, but with a substantially older twist in its cellars.

Harry had been fiddling around with the pipes down there for awhile. At one point he thought he heard the sound of a trumpet fairly close by. Finding no source for the sound he returned to the work at hand. As he did so, another sharp blast of a trumpet sounded directly behind him. Turning around to see what caused the noise, much to his shock and amazement, he saw what appeared to be Roman soldiers coming straight out of a solid wall. First to emerge was a commander on horseback. Then following, a somewhat straggly and disheveled column of soldiers on foot trudged by carrying round shields. He couldn't see the lower portions of the horse or the men until the column crossed a place recently dug out to accommodate the plumbing work. It was then that Harry could see the entire form of the soldiers.

White faced and unable to speak, he scrambled out of the basement. Running wildly, hair on end, Harry almost collided with the Treasurer's House curator. The curator, a highly educated man with a reserved personality, gave Harry the once over, cleared his throat and said, "Ah, seen the Romans, have you?"

This little story is true. At the time of Harry's encounter, it was thought by historians that the Romans carried only long, rectangular shields, never round ones, however subsequently it has been discovered that the shields described in detail by Harry Martindale were indeed the authentic equipment of certain Roman troops of the day. Others have witnessed the march of the Romans at the Treasurer's House. The 2000 year-old Roman road has been rediscovered at the level where the marching soldiers in entire form were observed.

Linda Linda Baker, of [Sacred Sites Tours](#), is insanely fond of maps and greatly enjoys working with Donna Niles to organize and organize and lead tours to sacred sites in [England](#) and [Scotland](#).

Linda is widely read in archaeology, history, and has a loving reverence for spirituality. As an ardent proponent of Pilgrimage, Linda takes great pleasure in connecting kindred spirits with the spirits of place.