

Ellen Kelly's home coming after her release from Melbourne Gaol February 1881, just 8 weeks after Ned was hanged.



Scan source of this image is unknown

Both pictures are same except for the sepia colour which is artificially changed.



If we enlarge this we see what is proposed to be a shadowy figure in the doorway – but highly pixilated



The question, was this figure standing in the house at the time the photo was taken, or is it an aberration the result of reduced pixel file size and low resolution picture scan ? If there was someone in the house it really does not matter who it was, but a good observation anyway.

Another scan courtesy Ian Jones's book 'Ned Kelly a Short Life'



Ellen Kelly with young Jack,

Grace Kelly and dog Faith, Kate, Alice, Ellen with pet lamb

When we enlarge this image and grain it up (below), but this image fails to show any hint of a figure in the doorway.



Conclusion, Without having a high resolution scan from an original photo print, there is little evidence to say there was a figure lurking in the background. However, the sepia likeness of a figure suggested through slight tonal shades of sepia version on page 3 is most probably just co incidence - like looking for faces in sky clouds.

Compiled by Bill Denheld following an observation by fellow Kelly researcher Mark Sands of West Australia

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