



the
dollhouse
graves
of
indiana

a zine
by Lo Riddell



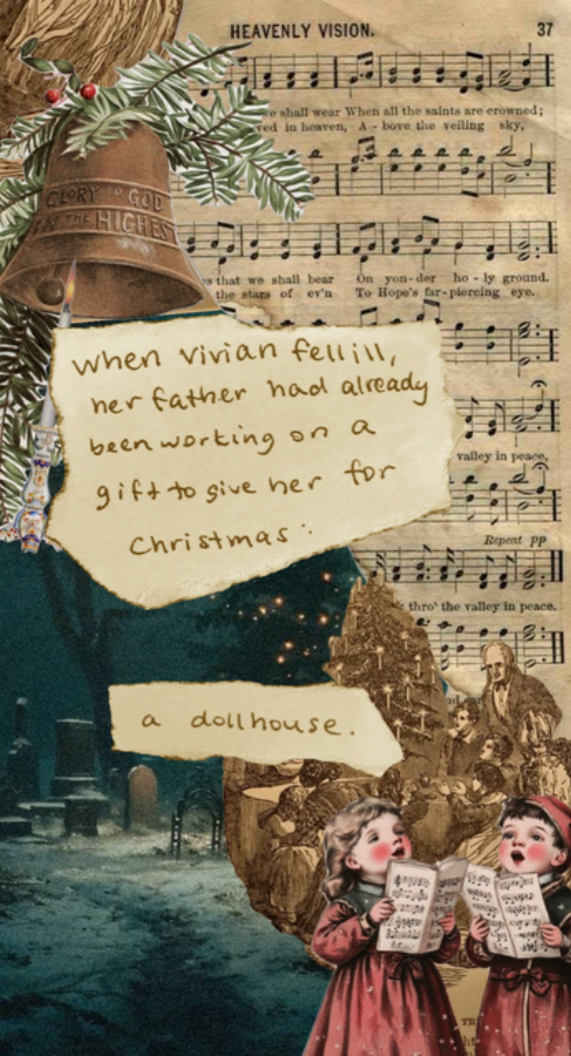


On October 30,
1899,

a five year old girl
named
Vivian May Allison
died in
Connersville, Indiana.

Her death certificate lists
her cause of death as a
"cerebro-spinal fever" —
likely what we today would
diagnose as
meningitis.

At the time,
She was the
only child
of her parents,
Horace and Carrie.



When Vivian fell ill,
her father had already
been working on a
gift to give her for
Christmas:

a dollhouse.



After Vivian died, her
father nevertheless
completed the dollhouse,



and his wife
handcrafted textiles
for the interior:
curtains,
rugs.



They placed
their daughter's
favorite toys
inside the dollhouse—

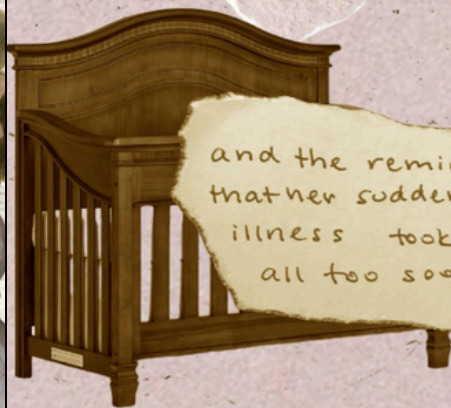
then, they decided
to use it as a
grave marker.



Now, Vivian
would be
eternally
remembered
by her favorite
things —



and the reminder
that her sudden
illness took her
all too soon.





Three years after
Vivian's death,
a nearby family
named the Clines
welcomed their daughter,
Lova Frances.

Lova was disabled
at birth,

dubbed an "invalid"
by people of her time.

Stories told about her
paint an image of a short
life lived in much pain.

She was unable
to move on her
own,
or even to sit.

The only thing that seemed to
bring her ease was gazing into
the windows of the dollhouse built for
her by her father.



Lova died on
October 18, 1908
at the age of six.

Her parents
had the dollhouse
placed atop her grave
and filled with her
favorite dolls and toys,



much like the Allison
family did for their Vivian.

George and
Mary Cline
willed that
Lova's dollhouse
be destroyed
upon their
deaths.

but, according
to local legend,
a cemetery worker
convinced George
to keep the
structure
intact.



Mary Cline died
in 1945 and was buried
in Arlington East Hill
cemetery in her hometown
of Rushville, Indiana.

The next year, George joined
her.

Rather than destroy the dollhouse,
a decision was made - uncertain
by whom - to disinter Lova's
remains and move her and
her dollhouse to her parents' side.

Both dollhouses fell victim
to vandals over the
last century.



In the 1970s, Lova's
was broken into, and all
of her original toys
were stolen.



to this day,
those items
have not been
recovered.



However,
the community
donated new toys
and trinkets to
Lova's dollhouse.

In recent years,
restoration and
preservation efforts
have been made
to clean up
vandalism and to
weatherproof both
dollhouses.



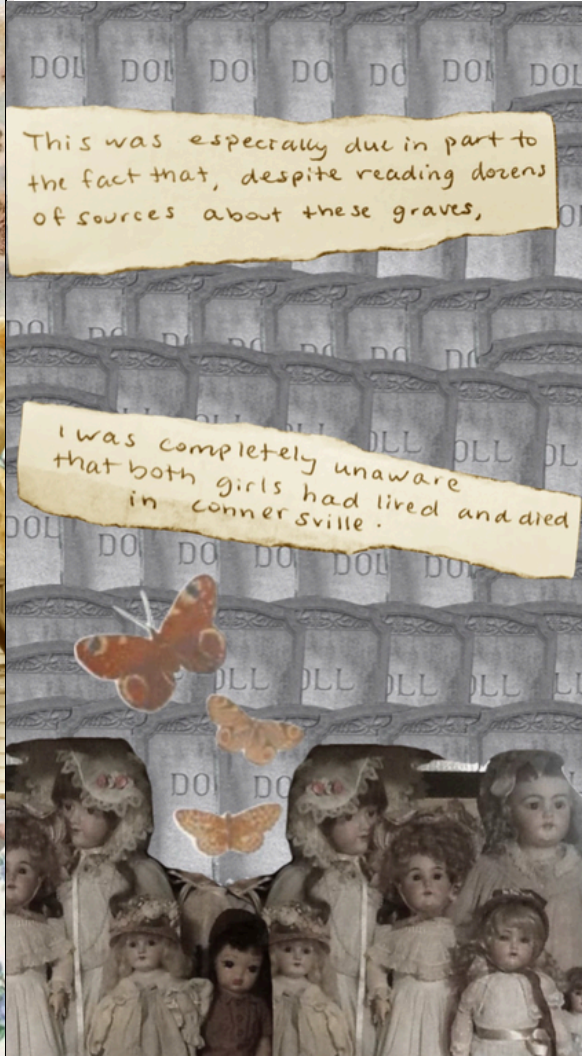


when I first came upon
the stories of these graves,

I was struck by the similarities
between them.

This was especially due in part to
the fact that, despite reading dozens
of sources about these graves,

I was completely unaware
that both girls had lived and died
in Connersville.



signifikan yang sangat penting
hal yang sangat kedelala tiba
"Kalau harga kedelala tiba
baik, wajar lah. Terkait di
favoritas

MARKER MADE OF LOVE

Volunteers keep up dollhouse marking grave of Indiana girl who died in 1899

By Mike Fender
The Indianapolis Star

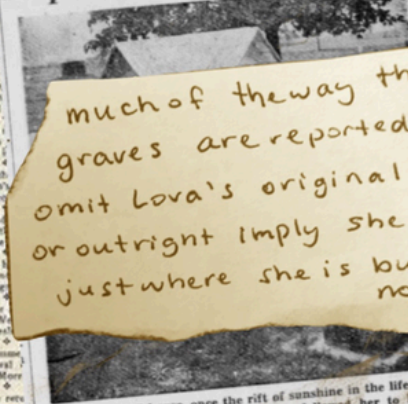
CORONAVILLE, Ind. — It is the most unusual place to find an antique Victorian doll house. Tucked away in a wooded land on the edge of town, the house has been the site of many funerals and the home of many thousands of grave markers during the past century. The house is in the town of Coronaville, Ind., 25 miles from Indianapolis. The house is called "The Little Coronaville residence house" but when it comes down to it, the dollhouse story is really just a love story of a man and a woman.

Dollhouses Still in Cemeteries as Monuments to Girls of Another Day

By Mike Fender
The Indianapolis Star

When Violet May Allison died unexpectedly in 1899 at the age of 5, her parents decided to build her a dollhouse. The house had always been the home of her father's dolls and toys. Her father, a farmer, did most of the building, while her mother, a teacher, did the decorating. The house was built for the little girl who was named Violet May Allison. It was built for the little girl who was named Violet May Allison.

Dollhouse On Cemetery Lot Perpetuates Memory Of Child



much of the way these graves are reported on omit Lova's original town, or outright imply she died just where she is buried now.

This doll house, once the rift of sunshine in the life of 6-year-old Lova Cline of Arlington, followed her to her grave. It has attracted countless passersby since it was moved to the cemetery 41 years ago.

During the past year the...
...sufficient postage...
...their deaths...
...the past year the...
...the past year the...

This led me to believe that



Somehow,

by some stroke of cosmic coincidence,

there were two families in Indiana

a mere 25 miles apart

who separately came to the same conclusion on how to memorialize their girls.



I only discovered both girls' death certificates after deciding to write this very zine.

I had originally set out to write about the mystery around these similarities;

some sort of eerie fate leading to two nearly identical dollhouses placed on the graves of two entirely unconnected children.

Instead, what I've discovered

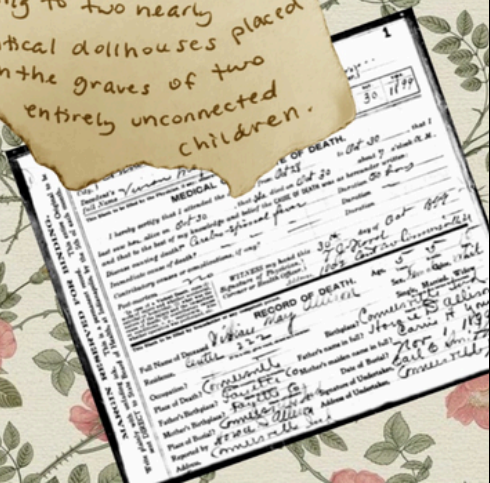
is how often we make inaccurate conclusions about history

based on a repetition of misinformation*

or a continued line of omissions

that lead to missing pieces of a "puzzle" that really isn't puzzling at all.

* Most sources, including Vivian's grave, list Vivian's date of death to be October 20. However, her death certificate states over and over that it was October 30.





There are still
some eerie similarities
between Vivian and
Lova.

Seven years after
Vivian's death (and
two years before
Lova's), the Allison
family birthed a baby
girl they named Lovell
(a name that is, of
course, rather similar
to Lova).



Both girls died in
October.

The dollhouses are
essentially identical
in structure.

Under the impression
that these girls lived and
died 24 miles apart
(a short car ride in 2025,
but a day long horse ride
in 1908), I was
taken aback by the
synchronicities.

But knowing that they
were from the same town
all along has erased
the ominous awe
I once had.

I was seduced by a fantastical fallacy
because I made for a more haunting story.

Perhaps the
Clines were just inspired
by the Allison's. Perhaps
there is no divine or morbid
coincidence connecting
the two at all.

Only the
simple fact that
medicine was not
very advanced in the
Edwardian era, and
child death was all
too common.

But I
digress.



Though I cannot
find information on which
Connersville cemetery Lora
was initially buried in, it is
very possible - and likely -
that it was the same one
as Vivian.



Perhaps, for almost
40 years, their dollhouses
paralleled one another -
whether in adjacent plots or
on opposite ends of the
cemetery - until it came
time for Lora to rest
with her parents.



Today,
their graves
have spent more
time apart than
time spent in
the same
town.

If love could
have saved you,
you would have
lived forever.

it carry
your head
with
me



Still, I like to
think that Vivian
and Lova are acquainted
in whatever afterlife
there might be.



two little
girls, forever
frozen in childhood,
but never alone.





a zine by Lo Riddell
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