



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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"ROO's" BOOS - Notes from Kelly

It is with great sadness that I write about our dear friend, Ed Dubil Jr.'s passing on Thanksgiving Day. We will sorely miss him. I was shocked to hear the news from his father on Friday evening. Ed had been suffering from pneumonia for the last few weeks and died from complications of the illness.

Ed was the director and founder of the Spirit Society of Pa.'s Northeast chapter, the White Dog Ghostchasers. We met him several years ago at a conference and quickly became friends with him and his 'ghost hunting dog' Brutus. (A beautiful white American Bulldog he had rescued as an abused puppy during his days as an Animal Control Officer.)

He was instrumental in helping us plan and execute our first Independent Ghost Hunters conference in 2002. Ed and his father drove over 2 hours to attend our meetings when they could. Although he had been down this way less frequently in the past couple years, he still was active on our message board and wrote his last posting a few hours before his death.

John and I worked with Ed and Brutus on the Battlefield in Gettysburg on numerous occasions. Brutus was well known not only to battlefield visitors but clearly to the spirits as well. Ed was a dedicated paranormal researcher and had a passion for the Civil War. He had a great-great grandfather and a great-great uncle who fought in the battle.

Last Monday evening we traveled to the Wilkes-Barre area to pay our last respects to Ed and his family. It was a sad last visit; saying goodbye to our dear friend was not easy.

Ed's father will care for Brutus. Many people from the paranormal community whom we contacted about Ed's passing have asked about his dog. Mark and Carol Nesbitt offered a home in their multi-dog family. Brutus will have a good home and will be near his faithful owner (hopefully) for many years to come.

One of my favorite memories of Ed was the bus trip SSP took in 2002 to the Flight 93 Crash site, Johnstown and finally Hollidaysburg's US Hotel for an investigation. I had rented a movie called the *RING* for the trip home. "Mr. Macho ghost-hunter" was cowering in his seat saying that the movie was too scary for him! He requested that we play a Disney movie on the next bus trip! I teased him about that for quite some time. Not afraid of ghosts, but a silly horror movie made him cringe. Go figure.

We in the SSP and the paranormal community will miss and never forget you, Ed. God bless you.

From Troy Taylor's Nov 29th AGS Newsletter: I was stunned when I came back to work and learned about the passing of a friend of mine in the paranormal community. I received the sad news from my friends John and Kelly Weaver that Ed Dubil Jr. had passed

away from complications with pneumonia. Many of you may remember Ed if you ever visited Gettysburg or Central Pennsylvania, who used Brutus, his massive American Bulldog as part of his "equipment" for hunting ghosts on the battlefield. Ed was a young, vibrant and always funny guy who was a long-time member of John and Kelly's Spirit Society of PA, part of another AGS-affiliated group, the American Battlefield Ghost Hunters and a member of the Sons of Union Veterans (he had two ancestors who fought at Gettysburg). Ed had a great passion for not only the paranormal but the Civil War and American History. He spearhead the effort to protect the battlefields from ghost hunting "thrill seekers", which earned he and Brutus great respect in both the paranormal and Civil War communities. Ed will be greatly missed by not only myself but by everyone who ever knew him. No trip to Gettysburg will ever be the same again. - Troy Taylor



In memory of Ed Dubil, Jr. 1969-2006
His enthusiasm for history & the paranormal, and love of his family, friends and animals will guide his noble spirit on its eternal journey.

N.C. Senior Ctr. has renewed our lease for another year! I am pleased to say that we will continue meeting at the center in 2007. We are happy with this location and I want to thank all of you for helping to keep it neat and clean during and after our use. In addition, I would like to thank all of

those who have donated items to the center this last year. Keep the goodies coming as well. We have had some wonderful treats over the last year.

Big thanks go to Clark Rudy for donating half of this months rent.

We need to continue to raise money for our bank account in order to pay each month's rent, website and printing costs of the newsletter. Ideas were presented at the November's meeting.

Beginning in Jan. 2007, we will hold a 50/50 raffle at each meeting. If you have any fund raising ideas, please contact me or present them during meetings.

Mark Your Calendars for Saturday, May 18, 2007 for our annual Spirit Day in May!

I will be working on lining up our guest speakers over the next few months. For those of you who have never attended our SDM event, it is a day full of speakers and workshops dealing with the paranormal. Last year to everyone's delight, we were taught camera techniques, bent forks and spoons in a meditation, and had some great speakers to entertain us.

What an array of silverware we had at the end of the evening! We ended the night with a spirit circle and some of our participants received messages from their loved ones.

I decided to keep the cost down and the work to a minimum after producing two large conferences over the last few years. The focus is on having a good time together as a group and learning new techniques and hearing different views on the spirit world. If you would like to recommend a speaker contact me via e-mail. I have a few ideas I am working on and will keep you informed in upcoming newsletters.

Charms and Symbols for Good Luck - Holiday Edition

Holly – Although it is one of the most enduring symbols of Christmas, holly was the gift of good luck among the Romans celebrating their midwinter festivals. The northern tribes, who eventually brought about Rome's downfall, draped holly over doorways as shelter for friendly woodland spirits who could bring good luck into their houses. In medieval Europe, it was planted under windows because people believed it repelled witches.

Sprigs of holly in the house at Christmastime will bring you good luck. Be careful not to bring it indoors before Christmas Eve or your family will fall to squabbling. Be sure to burn it on the Twelfth Night (January 5) or the good luck will turn sour.

Mistletoe - Stand under a sprig of mistletoe and you are sure to be kissed. If that in itself is not a sign of good luck, consider its deeper meaning. According to a Viking legend, after Baldur, the son of the goddess Friga, died and was restored to life, her tears of gratitude turned into white berries of mistletoe. A sprig of mistletoe used as a dart is what killed Baldur in the first place, and when he was resurrected, his mother proclaimed that the plant was now sacred to her and would never again be used for evil purposes. Friga was the Norse goddess of love, and from that moment to this, anyone kissed under the mistletoe falls under special protection. Pucker up!

New Year – In China, where the New Year arrives with the first full moon after the sun enters Aquarius (January 20 according to our calendar), it is time to give gifts of money or gold to bring good luck during the coming year.

Almost every culture has special beliefs reserved for the first day of the new year; all of them intended to make a new beginning and to ensure good luck. In some places, it is customary to open the windows at midnight on New Year's Eve so good luck will fly in and bad luck will fly out. It is also considered important nearly everywhere to make as much noise as possible with noisemakers and horns, church bells, and fireworks to encourage bad luck to go away. If someone kisses you on New Year's Eve, you will be kissed frequently all year long. In addition, if you take a drink at the stroke of midnight, you will have good luck. It will be even better if you drink the last of the contents of the bottle- but be careful. You will not feel so lucky the next day if you have to drink the first half of the bottle to get to the bottom half!

Toasting – In the good old days it was not at all uncommon to slip a bit of poison into someone's drink. As a means to avoiding sudden death, people began requesting that their host take a sip or two from their glass. Eventually, it became necessary only to touch each other's glasses together making a sound that would frighten away evil spirits. The touching was accompanied by a wish for health, which was another way of saying "I have not poisoned you."

In the days when wine and ale were drunk almost as soon as they were made, sediment collected at the bottom of the glass. The problem was

solved by dropping a piece of toasted bread into the glass to soak up the bitter bits. The result was a tastier drink if not a healthier one. And that is how the term "toasting" came about.

Here is a Toast to all of you. Happy Holidays! Cheers! - Kelly

Source: *The A-Z guide to Good Luck Charms and Symbols* – by Bill Harris Ottenheimer publishers

KELLY'S MAGICAL GARDEN - Offering a variety of Intuitive Services for your Spiritual Quest

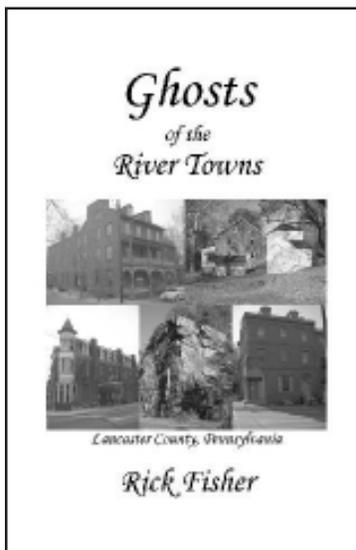
Kelly Weaver offers readings via mail, e-mail and in person. For details, please visit

www.kellysmagicalgarden.com

•Private Readings available by appointment: Personal, Animal, Past Life & ADC (After Death Communication) **Contact Kelly at 717-737-7623 or weaviate@aol.com**



As a board member of the NMMRC, I would like to thank the new owner of the Railroad House, Raphael Augon, for the support he has shown for Rick's vision of the museum and his support of the paranormal community in general. Be sure to check it out for a fine dinner or a romantic weekend getaway at www.therailroadhouse.com - JDW



Now Available: **GHOSTS of the RIVER TOWNS** by Rick Fisher

No one knows more ghost stories from Lancaster County's river towns of Columbia, Marietta & surrounding areas than PSP founder Rick Fisher, and his first book is full of fascinating accounts from this historic and haunted region of South Central PA. To order, send check or money order for \$6.00 (includes postage and handling) to Rick Fisher 109 South Second St. Apt. 2 Columbia, PA 17512 Rick's e-mail is rfisher@paranormalpa.com



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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2007 PARANORMAL CONFERENCE NEWS

6th Annual PA PARANORMAL CONFERENCE



hosted by Rick Fisher at historic, haunted **BUBE'S BREWERY** (Lt.) in Mt Joy, PA on **April 14, 2007**. Speakers include Rick Fisher, Stan Gordon, Rosemary Ellen Guiley & Karl Petry, Mark Nesbitt, Ed Okonowicz, Kelly Weaver & Patty Wilson. Buffet luncheon included with admission. Ghost tours of the brewery will follow the conference at 7pm (free to first 20 conference registrants) and at 8:30pm (\$3 per person) Full event details can be found online at www.paranormalpa.com

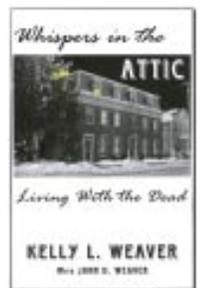
HAUNTEDAMERICA CONFERENCE with Troy Taylor and the AGS June 22-23 at the Lincoln Theater in Decatur IL. Speakers include Troy, Derek Bartlett, Vince Wilson, Jeff Belanger & John Weaver. Kelly Weaver will be hosting another seance in the theater Friday night. Details on line at: www.prairieghosts.com/conference.html



GHOST WORLD CONFERENCE Vince Wilson has joined with NJGHS founder L'Aura Hladik, Ghostvillage.com founder Jeff Belanger to offer a new "mega-event" in Gettysburg **July 20-22, 2007**: The first Ghost World Conference. Speakers include Vince, L'Aura, Jeff, Charlie Adams, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Mark Nesbitt, Troy Taylor, Kelly Weaver & John Zaffis. Details on line at www.ghostworldconference.com



Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead by Kelly Weaver Now in its second printing, Kelly's account of her life as a medium and ghosthunter is available locally from Civil War and More in Mechbg., Borders Books in Camp Hill and Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg HQ. Available online through Amazon.com and Troy Taylor's History & Hauntings Book Co. Kelly's second book is coming in Spring 2007.

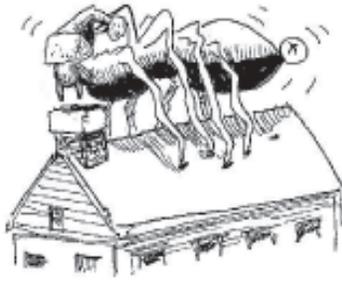


Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith Melissa is the SSP Activities Director, and planning another great "Haunted Tent Event" in Sept 2006 at Little Buffalo Campground in her native Perry County. Her book can be purchased locally at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg

Ghosts at Carlisle Barracks by Allen Campbell is also available locally at Civil War and More. (Had no image of Allen's book, thus I chose the famed MP LeTort photo rather than a really scary one - Allen himself! - JDW)



"Hey Mom - I hear 8 tiny reindeer and jingle bells on the roof... Santa must be here!"



The Christmas Spider By Melissa Griffith

One Christmas season, my mom showed me an ornament she bought at a craft show. It was a gold spider. How odd for Christmas, I thought. Then she showed me a piece of paper that came with the ornament and it all made sense. Perhaps after you read this, you will not quite look at spiders in the same way again.

There was once a very poor woman who was working extremely hard on Christmas Eve Day scrubbing and cleaning her small house in preparation for Jesus' visit that night. In order to impress Him, she busily decorated her tree with the best ornaments she could afford. As she swept, cleaned and decorated the spiders made their escape to small nooks and crannies where the lady's broom could not reach them. The spiders stayed in their hiding places watching the woman wondering what all the fuss was about.

Finally, it became late and the woman was exhausted. She had worked hard and she was sure that her Lord would graciously appreciate her spotless, small cottage and the beautiful tree. She was soon fast asleep.

The spiders now crept slowly into the room and stared in amazement at the tree with its twinkling lights, shiny ornaments and dazzling display. The spiders began to crawl all over the tree excited with its wonders. They inspected every branch, every ornament and each light. The happy spiders spent hours enjoying their holiday event until they, too, became exhausted and retreated to their corners for the night.

In the wee hours of the morning, Jesus came to the small cottage and when he saw the Christmas tree, he laughed. The tiniest of creatures had left behind a tree decorated with more cobwebs than lights. But Jesus knew how hard the lady of the house had work and how disappointed she would be to wake up Christmas morning and see her tree in this condition.

With a wave of his hand, the cobwebs turned into gold and the tree was even more beautiful.

This is why to this day, we decorate our tree with "tinsel"—all thanks to the curious spider.

HAUNTED SPOTS & COOKING POTS FROM THE SSP -- ONLY \$6.00

Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots reveals fascinating true ghost stories and local legends of PA. Combined with delicious recipes from SSP members, friends and families, this book will entertain you for years to come. Discover which local establishments and eateries have more than food on their menu!



Savor recipes that run the gamut from appetizers, main dishes and desserts all the way to yummy treats for your furry friends. *Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* will delight your spirit and tummy with spooky superstitions pertaining to the spirit world **and** its relationship to food. (Available at SSP Meetings & Kelly's Magical Garden All proceeds benefit the Spirit Society of PA)

Strange Happenings at John Weaver's Workplace? (OK, anything's strange around me, as Kelly would say, but read on!)

A few years ago, I shared some reports with the group about possible paranormal activity at my workplace (*I am the Art/Advertising Director for the electronics firm I've worked at since my college days*). Several people here had claimed to witness an apparition -- a woman -- in parts of the second level of our plant. Knowing my interest in the paranormal, one of them who had seen this approached me. He also related a story that was being circulated about a woman who had worked here many years ago (before we bought the facility in 1994): This woman supposedly committed suicide by walking out into traffic on the nearby highway (Rt 83) and was said to be the source of the apparition.

Shortly afterwards, Kelly and I did a fairly comprehensive, but not lengthy, weekend investigation of the areas involved. Kelly did not "sense" anything here, and no EM or thermal anomalies were detected by my equipment. Attempts to contact a possible spirit via EVP likewise proved unsuccessful, both during the investigation and on a couple of evenings after work. Even looking into the history of the facility revealed no clues. One of my friends from hockey/racing circles worked at this facility during the 70s-80s when it was owned by another firm. I told him about this and he talked to several of his former co-workers (all upper management), and none had heard of the purported "suicide woman". The individual who first contacted me is a very intelligent, no-nonsense kind of person. I very much believe he (and others) saw something, but so far neither Kelly or I have observed anything to correlate the idea my workplace is haunted.

Since our first investigation, many people have reported hearing strange things in our plant, especially when working late or on weekends when noise is reduced. I've heard them too, but this is a huge (200,000 sq ft) facility built in 3 stages over the years - lots of creaking and bumps here! We do have some unexplained activity in a certain pair of bathrooms that many of us have observed: the motion activated paper towel dispensers frequently are heard going off without anyone in the rooms! (Again, I've used meters and recorded here with negative results.) People also have mentioned "seeing things" out of the corner of their eyes, but no one has been able to offer a good description of what they saw.

That just changed!

Our purchasing manager approached me on the morning of Nov. 30 looking visibly nervous. She often works late and proceeded to describe the apparition of a woman she saw outside our bathroom area the night before! I've worked with this person for many years and she is stable, sober and reliable. Nonetheless, I asked her to describe the event a couple more times over the next 2 days, and the details remained consistent each time -- this is a good barometer for verifying witness credibility. I was so impressed with her sincerity and description that I could wait no longer, and set up my surveillance camera facing the "hot" area near the bathrooms (*pic above*) where she saw it and where other people have glimpsed things from the corner of their

eyes. As this is written, I'm only about 2 hours into the 8 hr. tape and anxious to see if something is captured. - JDW (*My co-worker's account follows*)

Apparition Sighting - 11/29/06 - As submitted to SSP's JD Weaver

As I was leaving work one night I realized I didn't have enough money on me to buy the latte I was looking forward to for my drive home. As I sell sodas at work I realized I probably had enough money in the soda cup to buy my latte, so I turned around and headed for the lunchroom. As I came around the corner I saw it, the hazy form of a woman with blonde/brownish (I guess what is normally called "dirty blond") hair, in light blue pants -- most likely jeans and a light green or mint green top. She was by Robins bench and was obviously startled that I was still here as I had just been heading for the door a few seconds earlier, her head actually jerked towards me and she streaked (I saw no defined legs so it wasn't walking or running) into the kitchen. She obviously didn't want to see me anymore than I wanted to see her, so I wasn't afraid. I went about my business got the money and probably walked a little bit faster out of the building and to my car.

It was just a hazy form, no actual features that I could discern. I have heard of people seeing things in the building and at times when I've been here alone I have heard people moving around out in the plant from time to time but I always tell myself it's just someone from downstairs -- the second shift. And there have been times when I have felt things, but I always choose to ignore it. I often see moving shapes out of the corner of my vision - and I always ignore it, because I really don't want to see anything.

I have seen spirits twice before but they were people I knew and I felt they were coming to me with a message. One was a suicide that came to me, he was smiling and whole and I felt he wanted me to know he was OK now. The other was my grandmother -- I think she was checking to see if I was OK.

I cannot think of anyone I know that this could be so I think she is connected to the building not me.

It was an eerie experience, I was not afraid -- unnerved is a better term. It is not that I want to see spirits but it seems I am open to it so I can. Each time someone I know dies, I am worried they will appear to me as I close my eyes to go to sleep. The suicide spirit was the first time I saw a spirit and he appeared to me as I tried to go to sleep one night, this happened when I was around 12, ever since that time when someone dies I feel that

they may appear to me as I try to go to sleep.

My personal opinion is that these spirits are those who have not passed over. There are several people, my mother and my cousin who I know that if they could they would have appeared to me. But as we had "finished our business" here (on earth) and we had discussed them crossing over as they were dying, there was no reason for them to remain here... I told them I would be there soon - as this life is just the blink of an eye in eternity's time so I know they are waiting for me there.



Remembering Ed Dubil - Some comments by JDW

Like Kelly and everyone else who knew him, I cannot believe our friend is gone. Both being Civil War buffs before becoming ghosthunters, we shared a lot in common; our mutual passion for history drove a respectful approach to paranormal investigations on battlefields and other historical sites that I hope will be part of his legacy.

In the last couple years we saw little of Ed, due to his working different schedules. He also became active with The American Battlefield Ghosthunters and a group in his home region working to maintain the historic Avondale Mine Site. In fact, the last e-mail he sent - only hours before passing on Nov. 23 - called for a last clean up of the site prior to winter. He mentioned Kelly and I, as well as Pat Burke from the ABG coming up to see it (muddy conditions caused him to call off a planned visit by us 2 years ago). He also sent this to everyone in his address book -- a final good-bye, perhaps?

Ed's passion for his Steelers was legendary (did you ever see him or Brutus without something from the black & gold on?) I loved tramping the battlefield with him and hearing his tirades against "dimwit" Dan Sickles. (Ed had a vested interest here - his g-g-grandfather served with Thompsons Light Artillery and was nearly overrun in the Peach Orchard thanks to Sickles "unique" positioning of the 3rd Corps)

Ed was especially fond of the late "Uncle Cecil" Downing; I hope and pray that these two, beloved and respected by countless people everywhere, will get re-acquainted on the "other side". - JDW

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

Late last night and the night before

Tommyknockers, Tommyknockers knockin' at my door

I want to go out, don't know if I can

'Cuz I'm so afraid of the Tommyknocker man - Stephen King

The Tommyknockers were once well-known folklore. Their legend originated with Cornish miners who worked the PA coal mines in the 1820s.

Tommyknockers, depending on which account you read, were human in appearance but were only about two feet high and they dressed like miners. Others say though vaguely human in appearance, they had huge noses, they're fingers, toes, arms and legs were elongated and their skin was greenish. The creatures were generally considered to be jokesters and high-spirited.

So committed to the belief in Tommyknockers, it's been said that mine bosses had to reassure their workers that the small beings were, indeed, "on the clock" in the mine just to get miners to go to work. In fact, when gold mines in California were finally exhausted, the miners insisted that the bosses officially terminate the Tommyknockers services so that they may move on to another mine to do their duties.

Tommyknockers have been credit with saving miners' lives and being instrumental in guiding miners to the next rich vein. However, if you get on the wrong side of the supernatural miners—they were known to cause mine cave-ins and deaths.

During lunch breaks, most miners would leave a small piece of their sandwich for the Tommyknockers to eat and woe be to he who did not!

At hearing the sounds of tiny tools banging, miners were to follow the noise until they would come across the "mother lode" thanks to the guidance of the Tommyknockers. Others say if you hear them knocking loudly—it meant evacuating the mine immediately as a cave-in was imminent. Tommyknockers were mischievous pranksters and frequently annoyed the miners by hiding their tools, blowing out lanterns, stealing food and giggling at them from the dark corners of the mine.

Some believed that the Tommyknockers were not bizarre creatures at all, but the ghosts of miners who had died warning working miners of cave-ins and dangers. Yet others believed them to be the spirits of the Jews that killed Christ and were sent to work in the darkness of the tin mines—never to see daylight again.

The "tink, tink" noise of the knockers' tiny hammers hitting the mother lode was probably nothing more than water dripping deep inside the mine; the knocking heard before a cave-in could be the wooden beams beginning to give way; lanterns getting extinguished may be from a lack of oxygen and stolen food and tools can be contributed to other workers—but who's to ruin a perfectly good lore story?

Mining is an extremely dangerous occupation even today—but in its heyday, even more so. Miners were a superstitious group and within the unsafe, claustrophobic darkness, perhaps it made them feel better to know that they were being watched over by strange creatures that, for a mere daily morsel of sandwich, would save their very lives.

Hospital Ghosts: They Check In, But Do They Check OUT?

- By Gail Dull

As I spent Halloween weekend watching practically every "haunted" TV show I could find, I started to notice a trend...many of the most "allegedly" haunted sites were hospitals and were often *mental* hospitals.

What is so darn spectrally special about these hospitals? Is it that they are most often made of steel, brick and stone? Is it that the people there were so confused by their illness that they were not able to go to the light? Could it be because they were held there against their will for so many years? Could abuse by their "caretakers" cause them to stay? Or is just the memory of the horrors that occurred in such places enough to make one "imagine" a haunting?

No one knows, but one would suspect that any or all of the above could cause these places to be thought of as "haunted" but are they?

Harrisburg State Hospital While the "star" of the movie "Girl, Interrupted" is technically closed, several violent and criminally insane patients who are unable to be placed elsewhere still remain as full time residents. Many buildings still function as out patient facilities. This sprawling campus of brick buildings stands just off of Cameron Street at the Harrisburg and Susquehanna Township line.

A friend of mine who works in the mental health field used to work at HSH. She reported numerous accounts of cold spots and odd happenings. She recounted to me that there were certain places in one particular section of a hallway where it would be perfectly normal in temperature, only to have the temperature drop to the point where she'd get goose bumps...and there were no vents windows or other "breezes" that would explain the sudden, extreme drops in temperature as many of them occurred in the summer as well. She mentioned that in some places you would feel as if you were being watched, even when alone.

Another interesting fact of the haunted hospital phenomena is that many of the facilities were tuberculosis hospitals (if they were not mental hospitals). Waverly TB hospital is a prime example. In doing research for this article, I found that HSH was both. Toward the back of the campus was a TB hospital. It is unclear from the maps whether this particular building is still standing.

I had also noticed that due to the stigma of both TB and mental illness many patients' bodies were never claimed by their families upon their demise. At other facilities, they were buried onsite in "potter's fields" While the historic map I have notes that there is a *morgue* on the HSH site, there is no indication of an onsite cemetery.

I think it would prove very interesting to investigate, however, as this is still a functioning facility, it is NOT open for exploration.