



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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'ROO'S BOO'S - THE QUESTIONABLE FLASH BY KELLY WEAVER

Friday June 21 at 1:30am I awoke and noticed my television was still on, my door cracked open; John had already gone to bed. (In his traditional separate chamber!) After turning off the TV, I suddenly saw a bright 'Flash' not once, but 3 times - along with the sound an old Polaroid camera or even certain digitals might make. This seemed to be in the hallway outside our rooms.

I thought, perhaps John was still up and saw the cats or Teddy in a cute position that warranted a photo, and got up expecting to find him taking pics of the 'kids'. However, the house was dark and John was snoring away in his bed! No rational explanation could be found - I was very perplexed about what I had just witnessed.

When John returned from his usual Sat AM hockey, I asked if he had been taking photos in the wee hours (thinking perhaps he crawled back in bed after doing so)? No! he assured me he wasn't. I also shared the story with Melissa when she picked me up for a morning of shopping. Very strange indeed!

Sunday I left to spend a few days with my Dad in Myerstown, and was surprised to learn the John had a similar experience a few nights later. Same location I saw it - outside our bedrooms in the hallway.

What - or who - was the flash? Sometimes when I was very sick lights - small flashes - would appear in my room, but this was different and very odd! - Kelly

In all our years together I've learned strange things can happen around Kelly, so I had no reason to doubt her. The following Tue night (June 25) I was half asleep on the living room couch around 11-11:30pm when a single bright FLASH in the same location awoke me! I do not recall hearing any sound (the TV was still on) and it was only one flash (at least that I noticed) but my first thought was 'was this what Kelly saw?'

One of our cats, Telbit, was laying with me and I noted he was looking around, somewhat startled. As usual, I searched for any possible explanation (headlights bouncing off the bathroom mirror, etc) but could find none. Years ago, we both noted a strange flash in Kellys room when some strange events followed her purchase of a 'Tea Cozy' long banished to the shed, and perhaps a good relic for Zaffis' museum, as Kelly has said. At this point, we have no idea what these flashes were! Dual abductions? Nah - we're too weird!! - JDW

AT IVERSON'S PITS - 150 YEARS TO THE DAY BY JOHN WEAVER

On the evening of July 1st, I enjoyed a stunning sunset on the 150th anniversary of action north of Gettysburg along Oak Ridge - where so many Iverson's Brigade (5,12,20,23 NC) stepped off into eternity. Lillies now rise on this land once soaked in their blood, and a million fireflies danced as darkness overtook the last rays of the sun. It was a solemn, beautiful night that I shall never forget. (EVP contact was attempted, including playing the authentic 'Rebel Yell' a 37th NC Vet of the battle recorded in the 1930s. A painful sounding response to 'Anyone here from Durham?' was obtained.)



When the 'Peace Light' memorial (below) was dedicated on the 75th anniv. (1938), over 1000 CW vets were present (25-30 actually fought at Gettysburg). How many spirits who linger will note the passing of the 150th?





Philadelphia Area MUFON Conference
October 4 – 6, 2013
Sheraton Bucks County Hotel
400 Oxford Valley Road
Langhorne, PA 19047
t — 215.269.3408 f — 215.269.3414

Philly- Oct 4-6 2013- Fri w/cocktail Hr \$36. Sat \$40,
 Q&A Sat dinner buffet \$41, Sun \$35. Full Pkg only \$130.

- Travis Walton- Fire in the Sky
- Tom Carey-- Witness to Roswell
- Richard Lang- - Anti Physical UFOs
- Jon Maberry - UFOs and Aliens in Pop Culture
- Nick Redfern - The Real Men in Black
- Anthony Sanchez-UFO Hwy to Dulce NM
- John Ventre- - The Case for UFOs
- Mike Melton- Psychological Effects of Being an Experiencer
- Bill Birnes- UFO Hunters Season One book signing
- Pat Uskert - UFO Hunters Reunion
- Bill Weber- What is MUFON?
- Antonio Paris- Reviving Ufology

Pittsburgh Area MUFON Conference
November 2, 2013
Westmoreland Community College
145 Pavillion Lane
Youngwood, PA 15697

Pittsburgh-Sat Nov 2 2013 -\$29 includes lunch and \$28
 for Q&A dinner buffet. \$55 combo.

- Kathleen Marden- Betty & Barney Hill
- Linda M Howe- Self Actuating Machines
- Stan Gordon- Mysterious Creatures
- John Ventre- - The Case for UFOs
- Michael Lee Hill- Lake Erie UFOs



Above: IR photo of the Jonas Rupp House east of Mechanicsburg served as headquarters for CSA General Albert G Jenkins after he captured Mechanicsburg in late June 1863. Yep, its haunted! Kelly sensed this years ago when it was the 'Graystone' restaurant (confirmed by staff at the time). She felt both childrens' energies and that of an older man (perhaps Jonas Rupp, who died in the house) When the late attorney John Fenstermacher - a civil war./history buff - acquired it, his friend Mark Nesbitt investigated it a few years later and did find some things. During an 'open house' as part of the 150th anniversary of the capture of Mechanicsburg, I spoke extensively with the current owners about their own experiences (they've had a few, such as unexplained pipe smells, loud noises upstairs, cold spots and electronic issues - such as the doorbell, as have some of the employees). I explained that our experience suggests stone houses such as this one seem to be repositories for residual (and possibly 'intelligent' energy we hope to soon explore the place ourselves!

Below: Another IR shot from the 150th anniv. of the capture of my home town shows the haunted Washington Fire Co (Rt) and the Union Church. Several SSP members interviewed FD members about their experiences a few years ago and both it and the Rupp house were mentioned in our Mechbg Ghost Tours. As for the Union Church, I've heard nothing about it being haunted, but it always sort of 'creeped me out' inside - JW



History and Lore of Pine Grove Furnace State Park (100th Anniversary: 1913-2013) - Thanks to Melissa!

Steeped in natural and historical features, the 696-acre Pine Grove Furnace State Park is at the northern tip of the Blue Ridge Mountains, in an area known as South Mountain. Visitors enjoy many recreational opportunities, including two mountain lakes, Laurel Lake and Fuller Lake, hiking the Appalachian Trail, biking the rail trail, visiting the Appalachian Trail Museum and imagining when the park was a charcoal-fired iron furnace community. The park is surrounded by Michaux State Forest, which provides opportunities for exploring extensive public lands around South Mountain.

A short history of Pine Grove Furnace from the state park's website: In 1764, George Stevenson, Robert Thornburgh and John Arthur built an iron furnace along Mountain Creek. They named it Pine Grove Iron Works and manufactured plate stoves, fireplace backs, kettles and probably munitions during the American Revolution. In 1782, Michael Ege purchased the iron works. After 32 years of growing his business, Michael's oldest son, Peter, inherited Pine Grove Iron Works. In 1829, Peter built for his wife, Jane Arthur Ege, a red brick, English Tudor mansion (Ironmasters Mansion). Jane died at Pine Grove in 1841 and was laid to rest in the Pine Grove Cemetery next to her son George Washington Ege, who had died in 1831. Peter expanded his iron works in 1830, building Laurel Forge, which reheated and hammered cast iron from Pine Grove Furnace to produce wrought iron, a bendable metal that could be formed into shapes.

The financial panic of 1837 bankrupted the Pine Grove Iron Works. At a sheriff sale the following year, Frederick Watts and his law partner Charles Bingham Penrose purchased Pine Grove to try their luck in the iron business. Watts went on to found Penn State University in 1855 and served in 1871 as Commissioner of Agriculture for President Grant. Penrose was a state senator and Solicitor of the Treasury for President Harrison. In 1864, Jay Cooke and Company bought the iron works and formed South Mountain Iron Company, bringing in Jackson C. Fuller to be the furnace manager to run the daily operations, while the business affairs were taken care of in Philadelphia. The new company built South Mountain Railroad to bring raw materials to the furnace and move the iron products to market.

Jay Cooke, often called the "Financier of the Civil War," raised \$1.2 billion through the sale of federal treasury notes. A small commission on the sale of each bond made him the wealthiest man in America by the end of the war. He then bought the Northern Pacific Railroad, which failed in the poor economy and depression after the war. Cooke was bankrupt and moved into his son-in-law's home. The closing of the banking house of Jay Cooke and Company caused the financial panic of 1873.

The South Mountain Iron Works went up for sheriff sale, but no one bought it. In 1877, the railroad and iron works were sold separately. Through his friend Fuller, Cooke bought back the ironworks, forming the South Mountain Mining and Iron Co.

Future founding member of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, John Birkinbine, became the furnace's engineer. Concerned over Pennsylvania's dwindling forest reserves and wanting to show that charcoal iron furnaces could be fired with alternative fuels like coke and coal, Birkinbine renovated the furnace in the winter of 1878. Charcoal remained the primary fuel of the furnace, but the furnace no longer had to shut down when charcoal supplies were exhausted. Birkinbine also increased the size of the furnace, which produced 6,000 net tons of cast iron in 1883, the peak year of production. But, new technologies were quickly putting small iron producers out of business. The furnace went out of blast in 1895, ending 131 years of iron making on South Mountain.

In 1913, Pine Grove Ironworks was sold to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to be part of the new Forest Reserve system. Fuller Lake, an iron ore quarry, filled with groundwater when mining ceased. Laurel Lake had supplied water power for Laurel Forge. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps established Camp S-51 and built roads, trails and facilities until 1941. Some of the historic buildings dating back to the charcoal iron community still stand and include: the furnace, ironmaster's mansion, clerk's office, stable, grist mill (now the Appalachian Trail Museum), the second iron master's mansion (now the park office) and several residences. Remnants of raceways, charcoal hearths and related manmade features are still discernible. In 1977, Pine Grove Iron Works was entered in the National Register of Historical Places.

LORE LOCATIONS:

Pine Grove Cemetery: It's a short, easy hike to the Pine Grove Cemetery—although there isn't much to see. The headstones are no longer there (only slight ground depressions of graves and a few tombstone bases), a victim of decades of neglect. Although many have attempted to keep the forest from devouring the consecrated ground; in the end, it was a losing battle. You can still walk the area and give respect to those who were once buried there—among them Peter Ege's wife Jane (died in 1841) and their son George (died in 1831). A docent at the A.T. Trail Museum told a story of tombstones from the cemetery being located in their building when they first moved in and claimed they are now housed in the park office. This cemetery is one of several in the area that claim to hold the earthly remains of famous 18th Century iron and glass master, Baron Henry Von Stiegel. His genuine grave site is officially unknown. (See Ironmaster's Mansion for more on Von Stiegel.) Directions: From the furnace stack, travel east on Quarry Road for less than a mile; make a left onto Cemetery Road and you will see the sign for "Pine Grove Cemetery."

Fuller Lake: The ore pit is now filled with water and is named Fuller Lake. The water originates from underground seepage. This was a constant source of difficulty for the operators of Pine Grove Furnace. The water wheel near the lake was utilized to draw out the water, but historical records indicate that flooding was a serious concern during rainy periods. When mining ceased, the quarry filled with groundwater. It's said

that the water filled the depression so quickly that some of the machinery could not be saved. It was abandoned and is still on the bottom of the lake. Fuller Lake is also the location where, during the annual "Fall Furnace Fest," The Legend of the Hairy Hand is told and a great Jack O'Lantern float event is held.

Ironmaster's Mansion: You cannot miss this wonderful manse as it stares down from the hill at the furnace stack and Paymaster's Cabin. It has recently been completely restored and is now used as a unique venue for events and as an overnight hostel—mostly to those hiking the Appalachian Trail. Inside the mansion there exists a secret passage and legend has it that it was used as a hiding place for slaves escaping the bonds of slavery on the Underground Railroad. In the mid 1900's, there were rumors that the edifice was haunted by the famous iron and glass master of the 1700s, Baron Henry von Stiegel, who was related by marriage to the Ege family. He had worked briefly at the furnace; however, the mansion was built well after Von Stiegel's death. An interesting story nonetheless. Von Stiegel's official grave site is unknown (there are several areas that have claimed to be where he is buried) and Pine Grove Furnace Cemetery is one of them. Perhaps his ghost is haunting the area of his (supposed) grave?

NEARBY TRUE CRIME LOCATIONS:

Discovery Site of "The Babes in the Woods": In November of 1934, the bodies of three young girls (ages 12, 10 and 8) were discovered on South Mountain. They were wrapped in a blanket and appeared to be merely sleeping; however, they had, in fact, been murdered. The case became a nationwide sensation and efforts were made to identify the children who were known simply as "The Babes in the Woods." The girls were identified as Norma Sedgwick, Dewilla and Cordelia Noakes by their grandmother in California. Their father, Elmo Noakes, and his adult niece, Winifred Pierce, were later found dead in Altoona of a murder-suicide committed by Elmo. Apparently, the five were driving cross country from California and ran out of money (although Elmo left a good-paying job in California and his last paycheck had never been picked up). No longer able to afford to feed the girls, their normally dotting, loving father resorted to the unimaginable. The Babes are buried at Westminster Cemetery just outside of Carlisle. Their father and Ms. Pierce are also buried there, but not in the same area. Directions: From entrance of PGFSP, Start out going southeast on Pine Grove Road for a very short distance and take the first left onto Route 233/Centerville Road (right across from the park office). Travel about 2 1/2 miles. The historical sign (large, blue with yellow lettering) will be on your left-hand side.

Dead Woman Hollow Road: There are a few tales about why the road has such a peculiar name, but no one knows for sure. Strangely enough, on May 12, 1988 Rebecca Wight and Claudia Brenner parked along Dead Woman Hollow Road and ventured into the woods for a weekend camping trip.

The next day at their camp site, they became victims of violence—someone was shooting at them. The assailant fired eight bullets. One missed its targets. Two shots hit Rebecca who died (one shot destroying her liver) and, although she received five bullet wounds (four to her head and neck), Claudia managed to walk four miles for help. Stephen Ray Carr was sentenced to life without parole for the attack on the women and the murder of Rebecca Wight.

You can read Claudia Brenner's book, "Eight Bullets" for more details about this story. An independent film based on this event, "Dead Woman Hollow" was released in 2013. Directions: From the entrance to Pine Grove Furnace State Park, travel west on Route 233 for 2 1/2 miles. Dead Woman Hollow Road is on your right-hand side. Check out Pine Grove Furnace State Park's website under "Events" for their programs (many of them free), events and tours of the Ironmaster's Mansion. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/findapark/pinegrovefurnace

Thanks to Melissa, some great upcoming programs at Pine Grove Furnace State Park!



Unknown Stories of Pine Grove Furnace - Pine Grove 100th Anniversary Event

Date 8/10/2013 Time 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Phone 717-486-7174

This event will feature little-known and personal stories relating to Pine Grove Furnace. Local resident Andre Weltman will give mini-presentations on such topics as forgotten uses of the park in the 1920s; Laurel Lake dam failures; and occupational injury or death during the 18th-19th century iron industry (is the famous Hairy Hand of Fuller Lake based on a real event? Mostly "no," but...). Also, members of the public especially including local cabin owners are invited to share their own stories of Pine Grove, including family history and memorabilia during this "open mike" local history event.

Please meet at the Furnace Stack Pavilion at 3pm.

Appalachian Trail Museum Presents: Secrets of the Monuments of Gettysburg

Date 8/18/2013 Time 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST

Pine Grove Furnace State Park

Appalachian Trail Museum 1100 Pine Grove Road

Phone 717-486-8126 Local historian, Bill Engle will share stories of the prevalent monuments seen in Gettysburg.



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APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:
weaviate@aol.com

S.S.P. Website: www.spiritsocietyofpa.com