



# Spirit Society of PA.

## A P P A R I T I O N S

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### Moments in time: April 14-15 comments by JDW

Personally, I find it remarkable that two of the most monumental and tragic events in world history share these dates.

On April 14, 1865 actor John Wilkes Booth shoots President Abraham Lincoln in Fords Theater. The next morning, April 15, Lincoln dies and now 'Belongs to the ages'.

On April 14, 1912 the White Star Liner RMS *Titanic* strikes an iceberg in the north Atlantic on her maiden voyage. At 2:20 the next morning, April 15, she breaks apart and sinks taking over 1,500 souls (mostly from hypothermia).

Lincoln was essentially a sitting duck - with Presidential Security then pretty much non-existent, and those who died on *Titanic* were the victims of greed and ineptitude that failed to provide lifeboats for all onboard. Lincoln's foretelling of his own death in vivid dream is well known, as is Morgan Robertsons 1898 story '*Futility*' where the *Titan*, a similar ship meets the same demise as *Titanic*. Its just all a bit too weird! (Many documented premonitions about *Titanic* exist in varied forms)

Is there something about these calendar dates that make them prone to horrific events? A search does reveal some other tragic events: On April 14, 1930 Tornadoes killed 219 in AL and MS; April 14, 1941 saw the first major roundup of Jews in Paris (3,600) during the Nazi occupation; April 14, 1944 the freighter Fort Stikene explodes in Bombay, killing 1,376; April 14, 1969 a tornado in Dacca, Pakistan kills 540. April 15, 1978 43 people die as 2 trains collide in Bologna Italy; On April 15, 1989 96 people are crushed to death at Sheffield Stadium in England; April 15, 2002 an Air China crash kills 128 and most recently on April 15, 2013, terrorist bombs at the Boston Marathon kill 3 and maim and injure hundreds.

Given all this, perhaps the phrase 'Beware the Ides of March' should be altered to recognize April as the mid-month time to be wary of!

Numerous accounts exist of the apparitions of not only Lincoln, but his wife Mary Todd and his assassin John Wilkes Booth manifesting in Fords Theatre.



Actors have reported a spot on the stage often is inexplicably cold, and affects their performances. (Booth of course, appeared in many productions here, prior to his final, most infamous act) There may be other spirits that linger here too: While being used as an office for the War Department in 1893, its upper 3 floors collapsed, killing 22 government employees. (Photo at lower left shows the aftermath; Of course, today it is fully restored)

The area off Newfoundland where *Titanic* rests also has seen its share of strange encounters - communications problems, lights with no evident source, even a claimed encounter with the apparition of Captain Smith are amongst the events reported. As I've personally experienced and documented paranormal activity during the Gettysburg battle anniversary (and along with others believe such activity increases that time of year) I suspect the tragic sites in DC and the North Atlantic likewise do the same as these moments in time are revisited each calendar year.

### Titanic Hauntings in Halifax (By Alan G Luke AAA Online)

In April 1912, search and rescue teams departed the deep waters off Halifax for the *Titanic* disaster site and recovered 328 victims, 209 of whom were brought to Halifax and temporarily housed at the Snow & Co. Funeral Parlour on Argyle Street, currently the venerable Five Fishermen Restaurant.



Above: *Titanic* victim prepared for embalming on deck of the *Mackay-Bennet*

The original pulley used to hoist the *Titanic* cadavers to the upper level still hangs in the ceiling of the wine room. "Can't ignore the ghosts" said manager Gary MacDonald, "you must acknowledge them or they will pull stunts."

MacDonald added that odd occurrences such as glass flying off a shelf with no one near, or when cutlery on a table shifts then falls to the floor by itself do not faze most of The Five Fishermen staff members.

“The next time you’re in The Five Fishermen enjoying a wonderful evening of dining and you hear a crash, have no fear—no one will blame you,” says Leonard Currie, an employee for more than twenty years. (Below: Vintage photo of the Five Fisherman as a funeral home)



Some of the wealthiest victims sent to Halifax included:

John Jacob Astor (age 47), who was survived by his pregnant wife and children.

Charles M. Hayes (age 55), president of Grand Trunk Railway, who had looked forward to the opening his new hotel, the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. His wife and children survived, and the opening was postponed until June. A photograph of Hayes and the Titanic can be found in the hotel lobby.

Ida Strauss refused to board a lifeboat without her husband, Isidor, who was the owner of Macy’s Department Store. Searchers found Isidor wearing a fur-lined coat, but no sign of Ida.

Of the 150 Titanic victims buried in Halifax (in three cemeteries), 121 are interred at the Fairview Lawn Cemetery, the tombstones laid out in the configuration of a ship’s bow. The most popular gravestone is J. Dawson (James, not Jack as in the 1997 film, Titanic).

“Women would leave flowers, hotel key cards and even lingerie,” said Hap, the Historical Bus Tour guide.

The most solemn site is a headstone marked “Unknown Child,” later identified by advanced DNA testing in 2007 as Sidney Goodwin, a 19-month old boy who perished with his parents and five siblings. Visitors bring flowers and dolls.

Interred at grave stone #202 in the Mount Olivet cemetery is one of the musicians who bravely played as the Titanic sank. Bass fiddle player and second-class passenger John Clarke from Liverpool still wore a green-and-grey uniform with a scarf when searchers recovered his body.

Halifax philanthropist George Wright died on the Titanic and left \$5 million to the Women’s Institute and School for the Blind. This was sadly fortuitous as five years later the city’s worst tragedy occurred. Nearly 200 people were blinded (mostly by shattered glass) as a result of the 1917 Halifax Harbour Explosion. - Alan G. Luke is a member of TMAC (Travel Media Association of Canada) as a freelance writer/photographer and resides in Ajax, Ontario.

## Announcing the Second Annual



SEPT 26, 2015 COLUMBIA, PA.

**Free lectures on the unexplained with guest speakers including: Rick Fisher - Chris Vera - Kelly Weaver - Rene Kruse - Mark Nesbitt - Sharon Hill - Kenny Biddle - Ghost Detective Bob Christopher with Dave Juliano - Brian Keane**

**Live Music - Games - Apple Pie Contest - Vendors**

### NASA Veteran Claims Slender Alien Hitched A Ride On The Space Shuttle

A former NASA employee claims he spotted an alien, standing approximately 9 feet tall, that hitched a ride on the space shuttle. He further saw the strange creature having a quiet chat with astronauts.

Many believe that this is a conclusive evidence of the extensive, global conspiracy where nations’ leaders are in contact with aliens.

Others, however, are less sure.

In a video released on a news site, Clark C. McClelland makes the claim about the tall alien. McClelland says that he has worked for 35 years at NASA and become part of the Apollo missions. As of this writing, no one has ever disputed his claim. A picture of him on the Space Shuttle also circulated online, which is conclusive enough to some people.

McClelland says that he unexpectedly saw an alien that he describes as gangly and slender. He explains that he was monitoring a Space Shuttle mission during that time. To his surprise, he saw something different with two astronauts in the payload bay of the Space Shuttle.

Interestingly, he claims to have seen an alien ship parked nearby. Many people have ridiculed McClelland, saying he is nuts. Others, including UFO fans, believe that those who poke fun at him only want to spread disinformation like the work of the Men in Black.

McClelland says he knows ET and alien aircraft and can identify any of the two when he see them. He believes that aliens have been on Earth and walking among humans. He suspects that these aliens may have been implanted into different governments on Earth. (From *Phantoms and Monsters*)

### Aurora, Texas: Supernatural Hotspot - by Nick Redfern (Mysterious Universe)

Micah Hanks’ new article, on his recent visit to Aurora, Texas, and his quest for the truth about the alleged 1897 UFO crash in the area, has prompted me to make an observation on the affair. It’s an observation that doesn’t exactly place the controversial, 19th century event in a new light. It does, however, demonstrate something important: where there is one strange and unearthly mystery there is very often another.

As some of you may know, one of my biggest influences in the world of paranormal writing and research is the late John Keel, the author of such acclaimed titles as *Our Haunted Planet* and *The Mothman Prophecies*. Keel noted that certain areas and towns seem to attract far more paranormal activity than others. Perhaps the most famous example of what Keel termed “window areas” is Point Pleasant, West Virginia – the focus of a wide range of strange goings-on, in the 1960s, that Keel wrote about in the aforementioned *The Mothman Prophecies*.

All of this brings me back to that small Texas town to which Micah paid a visit last week. It’s a little known fact that Aurora (situated in Wise County) is home to numerous other “things” of a weird nature, some of which are far stranger than a crashed UFO and a dead alien. I have in my files three reports, from Aurora, of sightings of a certain beast that has become legendary in the fields of Fortean- and Cryptozoology-based research. It goes by the name of the “Alien Big Cat,” or the “ABC.”



For years, and throughout the world, people have reported sightings of large, anomalous, and black-colored cats prowling around and provoking fear and mayhem in the process. While most researchers of the ABC phenomenon conclude the mystery cats are wholly down-to-earth in nature, the fact is that there are more than a few reports of these creatures displaying certain supernatural overtones. Such rogue reports anger and frustrate some researchers of the ABC puzzle. But, too bad: the reports exist; like it or not, deal with it or don’t.

As a perfect example, we have to turn our attentions to Aurora. Of the three reports I have on-file of ABCs in Aurora, no less than two originated within the town’s cemetery – a cemetery

where, it has been alleged, the remains of the dead “alien pilot” were buried following the 1897 incident.

One such ABC sighting occurred in 1978 and the other in 1989. In both cases, the creatures were seen prowling amongst the gravestones and acted in strange fashions. In fact, in very strange fashions: as the terrified witnesses looked on, the cats vanished – as in really vanished. Dematerialized before their eyes, in other words. Moving on...

Researcher Erica Cordier notes: “On June 2, 2003, about 6 a.m. a postal worker traveling east on County Road 3673 in Wise County, Texas, slammed on the brakes of her white Mustang when a frightened group of deer suddenly bolted across the road in front of her. Incidents with wild deer are nothing new in this mostly rural county but this time there was a bizarre twist – the deer were being chased by two red fireballs about the size of basketballs.”

Cordier’s research has uncovered additional anomalies, including Mothman-style reports, animal mutilations, and weird telephone interference. Then there is the matter of the area’s very own werewolf. Aurora is situated on the 114 road in Wise County. Travel along that same road for about 15 minutes and you will reach the town of Paradise. Back in September 1996, a local rancher had a nightmarish, late-night encounter on his farm with a beast that walked like a man, yet which was covered in hair and sported a wolf-like head and a long, protruding muzzle. It’s hardly surprising that the term “werewolf” sprung to mind. It’s a case I investigated in late 2006 and found that there was much more to the story: animal mutilations (yet again) were part and parcel of the puzzle, and the rancher found on his property a somewhat menacing-looking, carved, stone head – something which he believed had been fashioned by occultists as a means to conjure up the deadly beast.

And just a handful of miles from Paradise is Decatur, a city of 6,000, also located in Wise County. It’s home to around 6,000 people and to...something else. That “something else” is more than a few Bigfoot – as Lisa Shiel noted in her book, *Backyard Bigfoot*.

So, what we have here is a county chiefly noted for one, legendary mystery (the alleged 1897 UFO crash), but which, in reality, is home to much more, too: Sasquatch-type beasts, animal mutilations, strange balls of light flitting around the roads, anomalous black cats, the closest thing one can imagine to a werewolf, and a mysterious gang of occultists.

Some might say the high concentration of weirdness in such a small area is merely coincidence. I say otherwise. I say “Window area.”



**Spirit Society of PA.**  
**APPARITIONS**

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

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

## **OTHER UPCOMING PARANORMAL/UFO EVENTS**

Celebrate Ouija's 125th Birthday in the City Where it was Born: Baltimore!

### **OuijaCon – April 23-25, 2015 – Baltimore, Maryland**

Come celebrate the history and legends of the Ouija board with some of the world's foremost authorities on the subject. The conference includes lectures, workshops, plus collectors from around the globe will be setting up a temporary museum showcasing over a century of talking boards.

OuijaCon is the Talking Board Historical Society, Inc.'s inaugural event. All proceeds will go to benefit the society, a 501(c)(3) registered non-profit organization.

Speakers include Robert Murch, Jeff Belanger, John Zaffis, Chip Coffey, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Dave Schrader and more. Full details at <http://www.tbhs.org/events/ouijacon-2015/>

### **SUSQUEHANNA MYSTERIES ALLIANCE MAY 27, 2015**

**(Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookstore)**

Speaker: Psychic Medium/Author Kelly Weaver

Topic: Animal Communication

[mysterybooksonline.com](http://mysterybooksonline.com)



### **HAUNTED AMERICA CONFERENCE**

June 19-20 Alton IL <http://www.americanspookshows.com/>

Speakers include Troy Taylor, April Slaughter, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Mark Nesbitt, Ken Gerhard



### **MUFON PA 2015 CONFERENCES**

(Details at <http://mufonpa.com/wp1/>)

#### **2015 'EERIE' PA Conference May 16 2015**

Speakers include Bill Konkolesky, John Ventre, Peter Robbins, Don Schmitt-

#### **Philadelphia Area Conference Oct 9-10 2015**

Speakers include Dr. David Jacobs, John Ventre, Jen Stein, Richard Dolan, Nick Pope

#### **Pittsburgh Area Conference: Nov 14 2015**

Speakers include Loren Coleman, Stan Gordon, John Ventre, Phyllis Glade



Rick Fisher shares historic and contemporary accounts of Bigfoot encounters on March 28 at the National Museum of Mysteries and Research Center in Columbia PA - thanks to all who came out! Be sure to see the outstanding new video on the NMMRC at [museumofmysteries.org](http://museumofmysteries.org)



Kelly Weaver's Replica 'Spirit Trumpet' on loan to the NMMRC - These devices were used to attempt ADC when Spiritualism flourished in the early 20th Century

Right: Rear of the massive and uber creepy Hotel Columbia adjacent to the NMMRC. Built in 1892 some activity has been reported here; the possibility of renovation suggests it would increase greatly!

