



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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CEMETERY SUPERSTITIONS – From Kelly Weaver

I love to study superstitions. Here are some about cemeteries. Enjoy! As they say one person's superstition is another's belief. One old superstition held that if you buried a first born infant with the babies face downwards, the family would never have another child.

If a person was suspected as a witch, they to would also be buried face down, in hope that the living would avoid further problems with the supernatural.



In Hungry a village had problems, suffering from a cholera epidemic. It was thought that it was the work of a witch who had recently died. As the epidemic raged on after her death, the villagers exhumed her body to make sure she was properly buried and to make sure she was buried face down. However the epidemic continued so they dug up the witch once again. This time the witches cloth were turned inside out. The body was reburied. There was still no luck so again the body was unburied. This time the villagers meant business this time and decided to cut out the witch's heart. The heart was cut up into four pieces and one quarter was sent to each corner of the village and buried.

In Northern Ireland, there is an all male cemetery and woman are not even allowed to visit. It is said, that the dead would rise from their graves to eject the intruder.

In the Breton region of France (Brittany) where a large part of the population is Catholic there is a cemetery where over 7,000 saints are said to be buried. Visitors are not allowed to enter this Holy place without removing their shoes first. Those who fail obey this tradition could find themselves a horrible fate of the stranger. It was believed that a stranger who discarded the warnings, well backwards until his entrails came out.

There are superstitions from other countries that believe that the last person buried had to act as a watch, guarding over the graveyard until relieved of his post by a newcomer. In some parts of Ireland, the gravedigger would leave a pipe and tobacco for the spectral guardian's comfort during the long watch.

It has been long believed by some that those who are newly dead suffer from a great thirst. The duty was quenching the thirst of the dead was sometimes given to the watchman. It was also said that the person who was given the task to bring water to the dead in the cemeteries provided a well to supply the water

and provided the wooden bowls. An old Irish custom had the priest bless and sprinkle a handful of earth on the corpse before the burial, because it was believed that of any part of the ceremony was not done, trouble from the other occupants (dead) in the cemetery would be expected.

It is believed by many that the actual soil from the burial-place is sacred, imbued in a special way with the remains of the dead. There are a wide variety of superstitions are associated with the soil and many believe it could be used in magic and witchcraft.

The Triangular Field – Answer to a Mystery?

Anyone who explores the paranormal at Gettysburg knows the Triangular Field is one of the most active locations. The stories of electronics inexplicably failing, anomalous images, bizarre instrument readings and EVPs are vast (and all things we've experienced). There is another thing Kelly and I have encountered here, and it's been repeated 3 times: While standing near the gate along the stone wall at the top of the field, the sweet smell of cherry pipe tobacco – with no visible source - moves in front of us, from left to right. It stops, moves back to our left, and vanishes. An eternal imprint of some citizen soldier, partaking in one of the few pleasures available to him during the 'cruel war' that took his life? Upon reading Kelly's notes for this month's newsletter, I found something that just may help explain it:

'There are superstitions from other countries that believe that the last person buried had to act as a watch, guarding over the graveyard until relieved of his post by a newcomer. In some parts of Ireland, the gravedigger would leave a pipe and tobacco for the spectral guardian's comfort during the long watch.'

Could this perhaps be the spirit of the last to be buried here, on eternal watch over his fallen comrades? The Elliot Map, made shortly after the battle and showing locations of Union and CSA temporary graves denotes mostly Confederate graves in the Devils Den/Triangular Field area, with a few Union. The CSA units engaged in the fight for the Triangular Field with the 124th NY were the 1st TX and 44th AL. I've searched the records of these regiments and found several in each with possible Irish surnames – perhaps there is something to this particular superstition... JDW
(Rt: Troy Taylor at the TF gate where we've smelled the phantom tobacco)



'The Enfield Haunting' Actors and Crew Experienced Unexplained Activity - From *Phantoms and Monsters*

Actors working on a series about the Enfield poltergeist have reported strange occurrences on the set.

As one of the most compelling and chilling accounts of paranormal activity ever recorded, the case of the Enfield poltergeist remains shrouded in mystery and intrigue even to this day.

The phenomena started in August 1977 when single mother-of-four Peggy Hodgson called the police to report a series of strange disturbances at her home in Enfield, England. One of the visiting police officers reported witnessing a chair moving by itself across the floor but was unable to determine how it had happened.

As time went by the peculiar incidents occurring at the house escalated from items of furniture being shaken and moved to objects being thrown, loud knocking sounds and - most terrifyingly of all - the alleged levitation of 11-year-old Janet, one of Hodgson's four children.

Notable researcher Maurice Grosse from the Society for Psychical Research spent significant amounts of time observing and recording the poltergeist activity at the house.

To this day his files remain some of the most intriguing accounts of a haunting ever documented.

Over the years the case has inspired numerous books and documentaries as new generations of researchers have struggled to conclusively explain what took place more than 35 years ago.

The latest TV series to cover the case is *The Enfield Haunting*, a drama based on Guy Lyon Playfair's book *This House is Haunted: The True Story of the Enfield Poltergeist* (A sequel to 'The Conjuring' based on this story is planned to film in 2016)

Oscar-nominated actor Timothy Spall who, having been selected to play the role of Grosse, spent time listening to the original recordings that his namesake made of Janet speaking in a strange demonic voice. He later admitted that the experience had left him a little shaken.

The subject matter of the series also left several members of the production team a bit spooked, especially when items of equipment started to mysteriously stop working on set.

"Every time our photographer came on set his camera broke," said executive producer Jamie Campbell. "It annoyed him, but terrified the rest of us." - *Phantoms and Monsters'* Lon Strickler comments:

"This particular case has irked me since I first read about it many years ago. I honestly believe most of the activity was either staged or the result of overactive minds. Lon"

(I too am familiar with the case, which the late Ed Warren claimed to have seen one of the kids involved - who had been caught faking some events by other investigators - LEVITATING and thus was suffering from DEMONIC POSSESSION! - That alone is enough to cause major doubts about its authenticity! - JDW)

Recalling the Buck Hill Inn - by J D Weaver

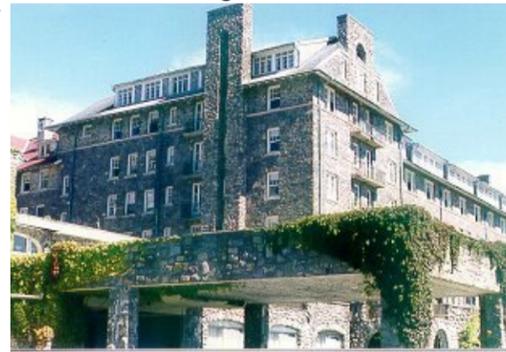
Recently, our old friend and colleague L'Aura Hladik Hoffman, founder of the New Jersey Ghost Hunters Society interviewed Kelly and me about our experiences while filming in 2000 with MTV's *Fear at the abandoned Buck Hill Inn*, located in the Poconos. L'Aura, who now lives in NE PA, is writing a book on Poconos ghosts (she previously authored *Ghosthunting: New Jersey* and *Ghosthunting: New York City*).

Most readers will recall the BHI returned to the news during the search for suspected cop killer Eric Frein in the fall of 2014. It was suspected he may have been hiding at the massive abandoned complex, and news footage showed dozens of police vehicles surrounding it. Of course, years ago it made news through the MTV *Fear Series*, prompting numerous illegal visits to the site by thrillseekers, the curious, and 'ghosthunters'.

One thing we stressed to L'Aura was the fact that during the filming, we met some individuals (and saw testimonial from others) who were former employees that related encounters with the paranormal at the BHI. This - and a prior promotion of it as a 'Halloween Haunted House', which also recounted tales of murder, suicide and hauntings - certainly established the fact that the BHI had long been considered haunted. But wait...

As the BHI suddenly became known as an abandoned, spooky location thru *Fear*, it attracted the aforementioned illegal visitors, prompting hundreds of arrests and fines over the years and even saw one of its older buildings destroyed by arson in 2003. It is currently owned by Hollywood Real Estate Services, who are seeking sealed bids for all or parcels of the property. (Prior owners attempted to secure investors to restore/develop the site) Frankly, in my opinion, its condition would require an amount of \$\$ no sane person would spend, should the goal be to restore it.

I'm uncertain of the trail of owners since it was closed in 1990, but In Feb, 2001, about a year after it appeared on *Fear*, Kelly and I were contacted by one of the investors involved in the property who asked that, since we had described our experiences on the SSP website and Paraseek.com we wrote for at the time, we published the following notice - IMPORTANT NOTICE: THE BUCK HILL INN IS PRIVATE PROPERTY THAT IS PATROLLED FREQUENTLY - TRESPASSERS ARE ARRESTED AND FACE A FINE OF \$300 The owner actually requested that in lieu of posting the notice regarding it being private property, we could simply remove any mention of our visit to the Buck Hill Inn from our site and the Paraseek site. This we refused to do, noting how ludicrous it was that we were targeted as being the reason all these young people were suddenly trespassing on the property.



You rent your property to a major network known for sensationalism to film a reality show viewed by millions and blame its notoriety on a couple of stories on paranormal websites?

If this wasn't enough, the owner (at that time) was then interviewed by a Pocono area newspaper, claiming that stories were fabricated and that only a few incidents reports of paranormal activity were ever made. Hmmm - that's not what I heard when speaking to some of the staff while Kelly was doing a solo interview. One showed some of the statements they had received from former employees relating their experiences and actually said they had so much background material, they didn't know what all to use! (*Much of the preceding two paragraphs was taken from the chapter on the BHI in Kelly's Whispers in the Attic - Living with the Dead, which we shared with L'Aura to further detail our experiences at place.*)

Looking back, I still find it ludicrous that through the whimsy of particular proprietors, the once beautiful but now hulking, deteriorating Buck Hill Inn has undergone such an identity crisis: From an Authentic 'Haunted House' attraction, to a rental location for a sensationalized reality show, to an historic property with no history of paranormal activity worthy of restoring to its former grandeur. WTF???

After our interview Kelly and I talked some more about our time there. Most people know I rarely react in a 'sensitive' way like Kelly or other intuitives do, but this was one of the rare places I did. It gave me the creeps as much as it did her, and I fully believe that an extensive investigation (or excavation, as John Sabol calls his archaeological approach to exploring haunted sites) would fully conclude the Buck Hill Inn IS haunted. If they ever do try and renovate this place, I can just imagine the 'fun' those doing the work would experience! - JDW



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

MYSTERIES AT THE NATIONAL PARKS - TRAVEL CHANNEL

America's network of national parks represents vast, dense expanses of virtually unexplored wilderness - hotbeds for mysteries and the unexplained. Each episode delivers several haunting stories to add to the backdrop and natural beauty of some of the country's most famous national parks.

Episodes on the Travel Channel and/or On-Demand (Comcast).

Haunted Battleground (Gettysburg)

Ghost sightings, a secret government time-travel experiment, and Native American battles suggest that Pennsylvania's Gettysburg National Military Park is a place of unusual and mysterious power.

Chupacabra Island

The fabled chupacabra, which many believe lives in Puerto Rico's El Yunque National Forest, is linked to various UFO sightings and a secret US government research facility in the area.

Land of the Lost

Unexplained disappearances, a mysterious death and a Karuk Indian legend are linked to a race of superhumans in California's Shasta National Forest.

Nazi UFOs

While some believe the random flashes of light at Glacier National Park in Montana are evidence of extraterrestrials, a trail of clues leads to an even more shocking theory: that the technology causing them may be Nazi in origin.

Ape Man and Aliens

A Bigfoot-like creature and UFO sightings suggest that California's Joshua Tree National Park may be ground zero for alien genetic experiments.

Firestarter

Believed to be the work of Pele, the fire goddess, black magic, mysterious deaths and violent fireballs haunt Hawaii Volcanoes National Park.

Flight to Hell

A tragic plane crash, shocking murders and a mysterious python infestation suggest a dark, evil power deep in the heart of Florida's Everglades National Park.

Portal to the Underworld

Ghosts of a bizarre plane crash and a mysterious underground city point to powerful forces at work inside Grand Canyon National Park.

Thanks to Melissa for submitting this list!

(Will be interesting to see if any of David Paulides research on the many missing persons cases in National Parks will be touched on - JDW)



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APPARITIONS

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

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