



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A Review and Preview of SSP Activities and Items of Interest • Vol 8, Issue 12 - Dec 2004

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

Happy Holidays! John and I wish each and every one of you a wonderful holiday season. With Halloween now behind us, we are able to concentrate on 2005 and the projects we can bring to the SSP.

One idea is to have a Camera Day, where we teach the basics of photography using both 35 MM and Digital Cameras. Also a clinic to determine if a photograph contains paranormal evidence or not. I'd like to devote one meeting to this subject in the Spring. The weather will be more forgiving, allowing people to attend who may live a distance from the Sr. Citizen Center. Everyone is encouraged to bring their cameras and photographs to this special Training session. Details to be announced in January.

Haunted Sickman's Mill – information will also be available in January concerning our SSP camping trip planned for late June 2005. An investigation of the haunted mill will be included.

Radio – Internet Interviews for December and January

John and I have been guests on the *Alabama Paraspiritual Research Radio* station over the past month. (www.apsrradio.com) They are broadcast via satellite, radio and the Internet. I will be on Friday night December 17 from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM EST. John will be a guest on Tuesday, December 21, from 6:00 PM -8:00 PM.

On Wednesday, January 12, I will be a guest on the Spirit Seekers of Ohio's chat group via their website @ Spiritseekersofohio.net. Just simply click onto the live chat block and you too, can join the question and answer session pertaining to Life after Death and Angels.

I am currently writing an article on Animal Spirit's to be seen in *Ghost! Magazine's* Spring issue. *Ghost! Magazine* is a nice addition to anyone's library who is interested in the paranormal. They cover the scientific and psychic aspects of ghost hunting along with true life ghost stories in every issue. Check it out online at www.ghostmag.com.

Subscribe to the magazine at:

Ghost Subscription 9014 East Calle Bogota Tuscon, AZ 85715

Cost is \$19.95 for a 1 year subscription. You can also visit ghostmag.com to order. Sign up for 2 years and get a free T-shirt.

In Sympathy

On behalf of the SSP, I send Sympathy planters to long time members who have suffered a loss in their immediate families. Recently, Clark Rudy lost his father. I received the following Thank You card from the Rudys:

"Thank you so much everyone for the beautiful planter and the thoughts and prayers that came along with it. We can't make it through hard times without good friends. God Bless." Love, Clark and Brenda.

On behalf of the SSP, anyone who has lost someone close to them knows how hard this time of year can be. Please be kind and understanding. Reach out to those who may be suffering a loss and let them know how much you care. Best Wishes to all of you! - Kelly

Superstitions that Surround Christmas

As the most popular of all the year's religious festivals, Christmas is surrounded by a wealth of folk traditions and superstitions applying to virtually every aspect of the festive season.

In former times the festivities got into full swing on Christmas Eve, when there was much feasting and laughter when the burning of the Yule Log took place. Legend has it that you should not put up your decorations until Christmas Eve, but this superstition is now largely ignored. (*I see tons of Christmas decorations up around Halloween!*)

Mistletoe, according to custom, should not be brought inside until as late as New Year's Eve, but this again is largely ignored. The Christmas tree is the centerpiece of most family's decorations.

The Druids and other pre-Christian societies used the trees as a symbol of fertility. These trees and shrubs have come to represent good fortune. It is said that these trees bring money to the families who display them in their homes. Perhaps that is why some people put a tree in every room? Hum?

The doors of the house used to be opened at midnight to let out any evil spirits, and a Christmas Candle was customarily placed in a window to burn all night long to guarantee the households luck for another year. It was a bad sign if the candle went out before the family rose.

Christmas Eve is also a time when the supernatural may be consulted about the future. Young girls were encouraged to walk backwards to a pear tree, around which they must then walk nine times in order to see their future husband. I'd be to dizzy to even see the poor fellow!

Another superstition is for a girl to tap on a hen-house. If she gets a reply from the hens inside this means that she will not marry that year. If a rooster pecks on the wood, then she is in for a delightful relationship with a man in the very near future!

St. Nicholas, in his modern guise as Father Christmas or Santa Claus, will fill stockings hung on the chimney mantle over night. This is in remembrance of the legend that St. Nicholas tossed three coins down the chimney of the house lived in by three poor sisters; the coins fell neatly into some stockings that were drying by the hearth.

Another superstition surrounding Christmas pertains to the door.

The first person to open the door on Christmas morning to welcome in the spirit of Christmas is very lucky, and further good fortune will attend the household if the first visitor on Christmas morning happens to be a dark haired man. Me? I'm too busy opening packages to worry about all of that.

Children born on Christmas Day itself will never be troubled by ghosts and are safe from drowning or hanging. Those born on Christmas Eve are also lucky. It is also said that ghosts will not appear on Christmas Day. I wonder if those people who live in haunted houses will notice a difference that day? I may have to do some research on that one!

Some say, however, that the headless images of those who are fated to die in the following twelve months may be discerned in the shadows cast on the walls by a roaring fire.

Christmas, as any holiday, is surrounded by a host of superstitions. All I know is that if I'm feeling a bit ill on Christmas Day, I'm going to avoid the fireplace, that's for sure! Eggnog anyone? (*Not moi! JDW*)

Source: Dictionary of Superstitions by David Pickering –Castle Wellington House Press

POSITIVE LIGHT - DEC

“Know that your soul is connected to the Source of all that is. It is directly connected. Take a moment to quiet yourself, ask for your soul's voice to speak to you, learn to hear it, practice translating its wisdom in your life; you will always know your soul's voice by it's quality of peace.” — Leandra Carroll

“Your vision will become clear when you look into your heart... Who looks outside, dreams. Who looks inside, awakens.” — Carl Jung

“When seeking something material, begin by knowing that you are an abundant being living in a universe that supports you in having everything you need to be happy.” — Alan Cohen

WEIRD NEWS!

A Norwegian farmer will be allowed to let this dilapidated barn stand – because tearing it down would stir up ghosts.

The farmer told officials in Tromso, “Many years ago, I removed its roof. The result was that I had several encounters with the underworld and I fell gravely ill. There are underworld creatures living in that barn.”

Town building chief Hallvard Thon agreed: “Sometimes, we just have to accept that there's more between heaven and earth than between the files and rules in the township's building code.” NY Post – Weird News – 11/10/04

Woman Auctions Father's Ghost on eBay

Recently, a Hobart, IN woman posted her father's ghost (and his cane) on eBay in an effort to calm her son's fears of grandpa's ghost.

Mary Anderson said her son Collin has avoided going anywhere in the house alone since his grandfather died last year. Her description titled “This isn't a joke,” Anderson's comments include: “I always thought it was just normal kid fears until a few months ago he told me why he was so scared. He told me ‘Grandpa died here, and he was mean. His ghost is still around here!’”

However, she countered this with “My dad was the sweetest, most caring man you'd ever meet.” Her father's metal walking cane was included so she would have something to actually send the winning bidder - and meet eBays rules. The proceeds from the auction will be used to buy Collin a special present, she said.

Anderson made a special request of the winning bidder: “I would like to ask you to write a letter after you've received the cane (and the ghost) to my son letting him know that he's there with you and you're getting along great.”

And it sold... for \$65,000!!!

Antigua-based On-line casino GoldenPalace.com will add the “ghost cane” to their collection. This is the same outfit which paid \$28K for **a grilled cheese sandwich said to bear the image of the Virgin Mary.**

“It's just the new Americana thing,” said Monty Kerr, a spokesman for the online casino in an MSN report.

Kerr said the cane will likely will go on tour like the famous sandwich.

Medium Kelly Weaver recently made contact with John Lennon's spirit, who recalling his infamous 1960's quote told her the fact that the ghost/cane sold for over twice the cost of the cheese sandwich proved **“Ghosts are more popular than the Virgin Mary!”**

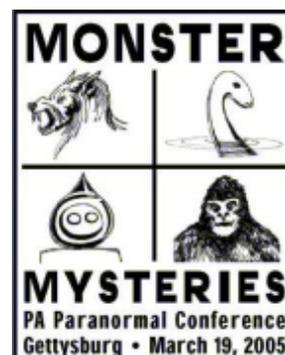
JW's Comments: Seriously, now... I have not seen a lot of details on this one but while there are numerous cases of objects which genuinely seem to be haunted (Ask *Possessed Possessions* author Ed Okonowicz) this very likely could be a spirit visitation, and of course there is no guarantee that if it is truly an earthbound spirit (ghost) it would follow the cane. I can find nothing on-line detailing the exact nature of the activity, nor suggesting the family enlisted the help of any paranormal groups to analyze the situation (betcha' TAPS could have **Demanded** that nasty 'ol grandpa leave the poor kid alone). I do wonder why the child suggests he was mean, but his mom disagrees. And if the activity continues and Collin continues to be scared, what happens to the cane's world tour?

AVONDALE MINE DISASTER - From a descendant of two of the victims *Kelly and I received this e-mail from a person who saw the info on the Avondale Mine Disaster on the SSP site:*

My Great-Great-Great Uncle Madison Allabaugh & Great-Great Uncle John Powell who married an Allabaugh were part of the 110 who perished that day. I have just recently made a visit to the Wyoming Valley to visit this site with my cousins who live in Wilkes-Barre, PA. We have taken pictures of the site but I have not had them developed yet. I have had contact with deceased family members on 3 occasions in my life. My Father was born and raised on Avondale Hill, Plymouth Twp, PA.

It seems as though I am very open to the other side, and I am hoping that my ancestors who perished in the file in 1869 have tried to reach me from the other side. My cousin is also related to the two ancestors who perished. I would like to ask you if you would like me to forward you the pictures if anything unusual shows up on film? (*I replied that we would certainly want to see the photos - JDW*)

Comments From Troy Taylor on HAUNTED HALLOWEEN at Decatur's Lincoln Theatre: *Thanks to everyone who attended the Haunted Halloween event on October 30 at the Lincoln Theater. I think that just about everyone who attended enjoyed the event and I can speak for many who were both chilled and enthralled by the séance that occurred. In addition to spooky activity that was recorded (although is not completely analyzed yet) on video, a number of messages came through with eerie connections for many who were present. Even myself (the constant skeptic) received not one message but two! One of them was not directed to me but was to someone that no one knew about and concerned something that no one at the séance table, including Kelly Weaver, could have known. And strangest of all, the message (prediction) is now coming to pass just as stated. Weird, huh?*



Its not too early to plan for the 2005 PA Paranormal Conference, March 19 in Gettysburg. Topics covered incl Bigfoot, “Chessie”, The Flatwoods Monster, Werewolves, The Carbondale Incident & more. Speakers include Stan Gordon, Rosemary Guiley, Mike Frizzell, Eric Altman, Mark Nesbitt & Rick Fisher. For details or to register go to - <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/conf.html> (or call Rick Fisher @ (717) 684-3643)

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

The “Eek”conomy—Ghosts are Big Business

Scaring Up Profits

Let's face it, nowadays ghosts are in en vogue and the living are cashing in. Restaurants, hotels, inns and bed & breakfasts that once denied rumors of their perpetual, invisible guest now advertise them in publications, newspaper articles and t.v. programs. There are a plethora of websites and books solely dedicated to haunted businesses that are open to the public. And business is booming.

Mark Nesbit is single-handedly responsible for a new resurgence of tourism in Gettysburg (not that it needed any help). His “Ghosts of Gettysburg” series has renewed interest in the small town by folks who may not be interested in the Civil War, but are excited by the possibility of having a supernatural experience. Inevitably, the books spawned a “Ghosts of Gettysburg Walking Tour” that proved so popular it didn't take long for competitors to set up shop and jump on the paranormal bandwagon. Now, Gettysburg's high tourist season can be marked by two occasions: the anniversary of the battle and Halloween.

And it's not just Gettysburg, ghost tours are available all across the country. You cannot visit a sizeable town or city in the United States that doesn't have a few spirits of their own to capitalize on.

For instance, would you spend \$200 to sleep in a house where two people were viciously hacked to death with an axe? I would (and did)! The Borden House of alleged murderess Lizzie Borden fame is currently an operating bed & breakfast and there is no lack of business, particularly during the spooky month of October. The victims, Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Borden, are certainly turning in their graves.

Even Burkittsville, Maryland have learned to tolerate their infamy as the pseudo-location of the hit movie, “The Blair Witch Project” and turned a fast buck selling ‘witch’ items including the wooden stick figures that were popularized in the film.

And towns like Salem, Massachusetts rely on tourism as their main source of income. Without the 1692 witch trials, would Salem even be on the map? When I visited Salem, they were selling everything—t-shirts, mugs, books, magnets, tours, witch balls, witch hats, postcards—you name it, it had a price tag on it. And I, too, ferociously ate it up and paid cash money for some ‘official’ Salem witch trinkets (see photo of me and capitalism at it's best). Not that I (or probably the rest of the free world) mind—to me, it was worth every penny! Everybody wins—business owners and towns are profiting with hefty tills and tourists are happy and content to part with hard-earned money for a souvenir.

The Power of Suggestion: Gullibility Pays the Price

Ebay has had tremendous success with it's ‘haunted’ items. The famous haunted painting entitled, “Hands Resist Him” sold for \$1,025.00. The purchaser of the painting, Kim Smith of Grand Rapids, Michigan, was inundated with e-mails from people claiming to have adverse reactions to the painting when they viewed it on the Ebay site and offered various exorcism rituals. Smith eventually contacted the artist of the painting who seemed unaware of the painting having such a negative reputation. The artist, W.P. Stoneham, says the piece was self-portrait of himself at age five in a Chicago apartment. The title of the painting was inspired by a poem his wife had written for him.

Having viewed the painting myself, I'll admit, it has a creepy feeling

about it or is that just the power of suggestion? Logically, so many people having reactions ranging from headaches, stomachaches and other ailments from viewing a mere photograph image of a painting seems ridiculous.

But the haunted painting price has nothing on the “Ghost in the Jar” that sold for \$50,922. This is simply ignorance at its worst. This unusual auction spawned “Free the Ghost in the Jar” bumper stickers and t-shirts and other ridiculous Ebay auction spoofs such as the “Toast in a Jar” item for sale. I suppose the old Barnum adage of “There's a sucker born every minute” might apply.

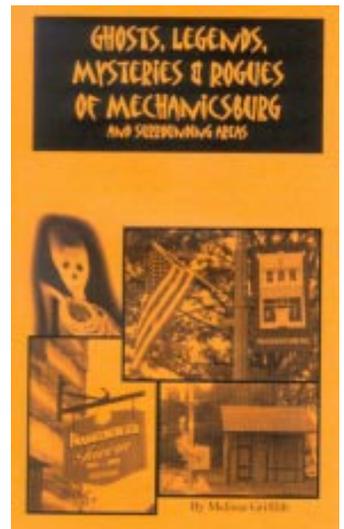
My brother e-mailed me an Ebay auction of a haunted house for sale in the Philadelphia area. Although it's market price was listed in the \$100,000-range, the asking price was \$250,000. Unfortunately, I never found out if it sold or not. Since these strange auctions, a sudden bumper crop of haunted items can be found on Ebay with a recorded thousands of Lookie-Loos, but no serious bidders. Another adage comes to mind, “Fool me twice, shame on me.” Perhaps the novelty has worn off or Ebayers' have secured some street-smarts.

Mass Hysteria

What has caused the paranormal renaissance? Although society as a whole has become more open-minded and accepting of subjects that were once taboo, I personally credit the modern ‘ghost boom’ to one thing—the 1984 blockbuster film “Ghostbusters.” Ghostbusters not only brought the supernatural to the masses, but it made ghost busting seem like, well, fun. Suddenly everyone and their cousin could participate in hunt ghosts and amateur busters went on the prowl for haunted locations.

Another reason for the sudden interest in the paranormal from the public at large is that society that has become more sophisticated and are demanding more thrills and entertainment. And new technology in forensics, science and electronic equipment has sparked new interest—as they provide a vehicle to possibly be able to some day PROVE that ghosts exist. Ghost hunting can also be a frightening and satisfying adrenaline rush within the relative safety of a group event. And perhaps the Ghost Busters were on to something—it's fun!

Melissa is the author of *Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg and Surrounding areas*. Copies are available at SSP meetings or from Melissa directly. We appreciate her excellent monthly contributions to *Apparitions* and look forward to the Haunted Tent event she is planning at Sickman's Mill next summer. More details on that event coming in January.



Spirit Society of PA.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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E-mail: weaviate@aol.com

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



PARA-TECH

Opinions & Observations by JDW

On the Saturday following Thanksgiving Kelly and I joined our friend Rene Kruse to investigate a seldom-visited part of the Gettysburg Battlefield. Like Kelly, Rene is a regional rep. for Troy Taylor's AGS (she spoke at our first IGHC event in 2002). Rene is a professor of Industrial Arts at California University of PA and recently built a fascinating cabin about 8 miles south of the battlefield which she and her children visit as often as possible. We've been with her at numerous events, but this is the first time we've collaborated on an investigation. She is a delight to be around and a thorough, experienced investigator.

The place we visited is the foundation of a house which sits in the woods between the Triangular Field and the Rose Farm. During the battle, it was open land and the farm was owned by George W. Weikert. Elements of Anderson's brigade passed through here and were then driven back by Brooke's late afternoon push through the Wheatfield into Rose's Woods. Bloody fighting took place immediately North of this small farm and it's post war owner, a black man named Timbers (it is more commonly called the Timbers farm) *supposedly* hung himself there.

Numerous instruments (EM, Thermal), IR camcorders and several extenders, cameras and audio recorders were used and gathered evidence of some very different types of activity.

The video shows some possible paranormal mist (cannot rule out breath, as it is fainter in the way breath usually appears) and a possible "orb" anomaly, but one thing it captured that is very clear to me is an apparent volley of gunfire. This is not the first time I've recorded gunfire in the Rose Woods area, and it is around the time when Kelly is describing the line of soldiers "in tan" being mowed down in the woods closer to the Rose Farm to the North (that is where she was pointing) — this is where Brooke broke through until driven back by Semmes and Anderson. Strangely, this sound was only recorded on video; I was also recording on audio at the time and it cannot be heard on that tape.

I suspect the image Kelly "saw" of the line of soldiers to the north of us and evident gunfire recorded are one of the countless residual events that remain on the field. She once again impressed me with a particular description, as she knows nothing about who was where on the battlefield; her "tan" description is clearly suggestive of the "butternut" color prominent amongst the Southern army.

Within the Timbers foundation itself, activity of a different nature was documented. Both Rene and I recorded numerous EM spikes within the perimeter at different times, and the activity picked up when Kelly attempted to communicate with Mr. Timbers. She believes he did not commit suicide, but was murdered. Kelly got the name "Allen" (uncertain if a first or last name) being associated with this crime. Along with the EM spikes, incredible thermal activity was felt by all three of us and documented with scanners. Rene registered a drop of 18 deg. from ambient low on the foundation between Kelly and I, as I physically felt it move from my midsection to my feet! I've walked into and felt cold spots pass by many times, but the way this one seemed to "walk down my body" was incredible - and creepy! It was like someone slowly moving a block of ice from my waist to my feet!

I've since learned that noted guide and historian Gary Kross feels Timbers was lynched -- perhaps confirming what Kelly "got". We look forward to doing more work at this very isolated and haunted spot.



Kelly sits on the foundation of the Timbers farm house, trying to connect with anyone on the other side. Shortly after this photo was taken, incredible cold spot activity was felt by Rene Kruse, John and Kelly (and documented) directly in front of her. Numerous EM spikes detected within the foundation at the same time further verified her attempts at contact really stirred something up in this isolated spot. Audio and video recordings from the evening are still being analyzed but it is obvious this is a very active location, or at least it was the night we were there.

The Healing Pin by Laura Shank On the day of our October meeting, I burned my right hand pretty good on the stove at about 4pm. I had ice on it and it began to blister. I had a mark on my hand from the burner. I went to the meeting and I put and held ice in my hand throughout the first part of the meeting, then held a cold water bottle after that. When we came into the meeting, I had seen Kelly's mom setting up her display of fashion pins. I went over to take a look and saw a green and purple stone pin and was drawn to it. I normally don't wear pins, so I thought it a bit strange that I was drawn to one. My hand was burning and throbbing really bad at the end of the meeting. I kept thinking of the pin. When the meeting was over, I went to look to see if anyone had bought the pin. No one had, so I bought it. I had picked it up in my left hand and transferred it to my right hand. As soon as I touched it with my burned right hand, the pain and throbbing went away. I kept it in the bag till we got home and I took it out. My hand had begun to hurt again so I thought "Why not let me see if it was a fluke." I held it in my burned hand again and the pain went away. When I woke up the next day, I had no pain or redness or blisters. The day before I couldn't even drive with my right hand. You couldn't even tell I was burned. I don't know what Kelly's mom was thinking of when she made my pin, but it was very healing for me.

***Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead* by Kelly Weaver**

Available at SSP meetings, Ghosts of Gettysburg Headquarters, Troy Taylor's History & Hauntings Book Company, The Inner Connection in New Cumberland, Borders in Camp Hill and Cupboard Maker books in Enola. Also available at Amazon.com "...This is a must-read book for anyone who has an interest in psychic phenomena, ghost hunting or with a desire to better understand the mysterious world that we live in." - Troy Taylor, Author/Founder, American Ghost Society

