



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 9, Issue 3 -March 2005

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

Great Balls of Fire! That's our topic this month in honor of our guest speaker, Larry Arnold. I'm excited to have Larry speak to our group on the topic of **Spontaneous Human Combustion**. John and I first heard him speak in the early 90's when we were part of the "Harrisburg Sky Watch" UFO group. I had never heard of people bursting into flames before I met Larry. How in the world does this happen? I hope all of you enjoy tonight's presentation!

SPIRIT DAY IN MAY!

John and I have put together a wonderful day for all of you on Sat. May 21. (Complete details are attached to this month newsletter). We will also be promoting this day at the Paranormal Conference this coming weekend in Gettysburg and hope to attract others in the region interested in ghosthunting and the spirit world. This will also offer a chance to meet some of our "distant" SSP members who normally cannot make a Monday night meeting. It will include a dinner hour where those attending bring a covered dish or other contribution, as we did last year. I will need volunteers to put the food, drinks, etc. together. Please sign up tonight if you are willing to help.

In honor of St. Patrick's Day...

THE SUPERSTITION OF THE COLOR GREEN

The color of nature, green has many powerful and ancient associations and, through it is supposed to represent hope and immortality, it is generally thought on both sides of the Atlantic to be among the most unlucky of all colors. Fairies and other malicious wood spirits are said to wear green, and it is suggested that anyone who dons green or otherwise favors the color will come under their evil influence. Even today many motorists will think twice before choosing a green car, while actors and actresses are famous for their dislike of the color on stage. Issues of green stamps have not fared well in the past, and it is said that whenever the Post Office releases stamps of this color some national catastrophe quickly follows. Brides are particularly advised against wearing anything colored green; in times gone by the guests at a wedding would also avoid the color, and no green vegetable would be included on the menu at the reception. One pessimistic traditional saying still occasionally heard in the British Isles warn that anyone who wears green will have to wear black soon afterwards.

As a motor racing enthusiast, I can add that for many years, green was considered an unlucky color for a race car. Even with the number of wins in international competition by English sports and formula racers painted in their traditional color, British Racing Green (prior to the advent of commercial sponsorship in the late 60s) it was still considered unlucky! This superstition has all but disappeared in recent years. In 2004, Tony Kanaan won the IRL championship in a predominantly green car and Steve Kinser took yet another WOO title in his green Quaker State sponsored sprinter. - JDW



SALUTE TO THE IRISH BRIGADE

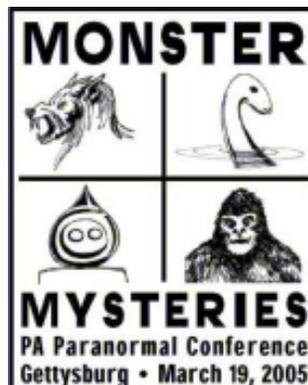
Ed Dubil's photo of Brutus, which appears on the SSP website, is a moving tribute to the souls of the Irish Brigade. I'm not Irish (Kelly has Irish ancestry) but on St. Patrick's Day I cannot help but think of the bravery shown by one of the Union army's most famous units at Antietam, Fredericksburg and here at Gettysburg, where afterwards only about 300 of their 500 men remained. The statue's mournful Irish Wolfhound is contrasted by Brutus' seeming awareness that "*on great fields, something remains*".

POSITIVE LIGHT

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." — Mark Twain

"If you concentrate on finding whatever is good in every situation, you will discover that your life will suddenly be filled with gratitude, a feeling that nurtures the soul." — Rabbi Harold Kushner

"Believe it is possible to solve your problem. Tremendous things happen to the believer. So believe the answer will come. It will." — Norman Vincent Peale



The 2005 PA Paranormal Conference is only a few days away - March 19 in Gettysburg. Topics covered incl Bigfoot, "Chessie", The Flatwoods Monster, Werewolves, The Carbondale Incident Gettysburg Ghosts & 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)

A SUTTER INN SPIRIT SCARES OUR "BEAR"



Ed Dubil's Brutus may be the official ghosthunting canine of the SSP, but when it comes to sniffing out aliens, Ted E Bear is top dog, as this dramatic photo illustrates! Actually, Teddy had a ghost encounter in the same room this pic was taken and he was not too pleased!

During our recent visit to the General Sutter Inn, we had some unusual events in Room 220 (seen @ Rt). More specifically, there is evidence that a spirit of some sort was tormenting (perhaps playing with is a better term) our dog, Teddy Bear.

We first stayed at this delightful and historic (1764) Lititz, Lancaster Co, Inn 2 years ago and experienced the unnerving and unexplained movement of a tea candle on the mantle into a paper bowl (for Teddy's food). The resulting flare up singed the wallpaper (we told the front desk, who simply confirmed "Strange things happen here"). During that visit (we stayed in Room 210), attempts at gathering EVP and other evidence were, unfortunately, inconclusive.

Although they do not "advertise" it in the manner of places such as the Farnsworth or Cashtown Inn, we have heard tales of encounters with the paranormal from a few of their employees. Some are of apparitions (a young girl and a young boy) which of course might be residual and some are of events suggesting intelligent spirits (names spoken, doors opening, etc). What happened both during our 2003 stay and this year clearly suggest at least one intelligent presence.

Our room this time was situated on the East side of the Inn; none of the adjacent rooms were occupied on Friday night and with everything silent, I ventured out with instruments in hand and recorder and remote mic in operation. Two doors down, in front of room 218, I noted a spike on the Trifield meter, and went inside. Additional spikes were noted as I entered. 2 EVPs were obtained here: One, as I enter and just prior to my voice confirming there are fields moving around, says "Who are you?" (this actually seems to be repeated). The other, after noting a very significant reading of 7 on the meter, offers evidently a simple confirmation "Yes". A clear "Hello" - either a male child or female voice - was also recorded in the hallway toward the front (North side) of the Inn. (*I'll be sharing all EVPs at tonight's meeting*)

On the 3rd floor, directly above rooms 218-222, 2 more voices were recorded, one just before I mention a cold spot and needing to use my thermal scanner. What these say is hard to make out. I should note that despite having my "scientific" equipment this weekend, one thing was missing - Kelly's abilities. With the medication she is on for her herniated disk being so draining, she has to limit the time she spends in contacting spirits and their energies. Even without getting too involved, she could still feel their presence, though.

After I returned to the room Friday night and began reviewing my tape, Kelly was petting Teddy on the head and shoulders and he suddenly growled and snapped. The only time he ever does anything like this is if his tail is touched in certain ways, and she was no where near his tail! We did not make much of this at the time, but after what happened Sunday, we think we know the reason.

Saturday saw the arrival of several more guests, occupying all the adjacent rooms. There were people moving about and easily heard, and thus not a good time for further investigation in the hallways. We did ask some questions in our room, and in asking if General Sutter might be here (he lived across the street and several portraits decorate the Inn named for him) there is a response, again hard to clarify.

After a long day, dinner and a nice bottle of wine, I slept soundly, and did not notice the strange noises Kelly heard thru the night in our room. I decided to leave a tape recorder running Sun AM as we went down to breakfast for about 40 min. This was approximately 10am, and by this time all the adjacent rooms were vacated. (Strangely, the people who stayed in room 218 with their dog, (this is where I got voices Friday), left very early Sunday - the room was vacant by 8:30! When we returned and I began to review the tape, we heard the very disturbing sounds of our "Baby" upset - whining, whimpering and barking in a very defensive manner. It was too upsetting for Kelly to listen to, so I later reviewed it myself after we returned home.



I've done this (recorded while Teddy was alone) previously in 2 other haunted places, the Highland House in Cape May and Holiday Inn Battlefield in Gettysburg, and

in neither case did he react like this! It was virtually continuous and hard to listen to, but I found a sequence where a very clear bit of laughter is heard between agitated barks! Just before we returned, a "Crash" is heard - we are "anal" about checking things in our room to avoid leaving something behind (I had already taken most of our luggage down to the car) and saw nothing out of place or askew when we got back. I suspect the "crash" might even have been him lunging toward someone!

On the ride home, Teddy acted rather strange and anxious -- he could not seem to get comfortable. He was fine once we got home. Remember - we had not yet heard the laughing recorded when he was so upset in the room. Once we did, it became clear that the incident Friday when he growled, the upsetting whining and whimpering of Sunday and strange behavior on the ride home were all interrelated!

I've written to the Innkeepers asking if any other guests with dogs have reported anything similar happening to their pets, but have yet to hear from them. I've explained that we will certainly return, but not to that particular room. The owners want to retire and have the place listed for sale on a B & B Inns real estate site (only \$2.3 Million) and we certainly hope anyone who buys it continues the tradition of allowing guests to bring their dogs, even though one of the Inn's permanent "guests" may not approve!



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A P P A R I T I O N S

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PARA-TECH

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Opinions & Observations by JDW

BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL by Gail Dull

This is the first in a series of articles to highlight people, places and incidents that are of interest because they are related to the paranormal or just plain strange. In the coming months, I hope to cover not only famous people such as paranormal investigators, mediums, mystics and possibly even murderers but also famous haunted places and strange paranormal events such as UFO sightings and the like. I hope that you enjoy these articles and if you have any subject suggestions, please email me at dullone@comcast.net.



HARRY PRICE (Picture courtesy of www.sjrkids.org/hunters.html)

Harry Price was born in England in 1881. By the time of his death in 1948, he would become one of the most famous ghost hunters in history. His interest in ghosts began as a teenager when he and his best friend stayed in their town's "haunted house". After hearing footsteps and other sounds

in the house Price and his friend set up a camera at the base of the stairs where most of the sounds were coming from. When the sound of someone coming down the stairs was heard, they took a picture, only to find out when it was developed, there was nothing on the film. Price often noted this as his first experience with the paranormal.

Price was also interested in magician magic and as he became an adult he used his magician skills to debunk many fraudulent mediums and spirit photographers. It was these magician's skills that would later return to "haunt" his credibility.

He was a publicity seeker, never shying away from the media and he always called attention to any investigation he was involved with. Little did he know, his most famous case would be presented to him in 1929.

The Borley Rectory (Pic courtesy of www.mythographica.com)

The Borley Rectory was built in 1863 on the site of a former monastery near Essex, England. The home was the residence of the Minister of the small town church. Each of the resident ministers reported strange happenings on the property. A ghostly



stage coach was said to cross the property passing through all obstacles in its path. A young nun was seen walking through the yard only to stop at the garden gate before just fading away. Local legend states that the nun had fallen in love with a monk from the nearby monastery and the two were planning on running away together in the coach. Unfortunately love between a nun and a monk was forbidden, the monk was hanged and the nun was walled up in the convent.

Over the years, ghostly carriage and nun were seen by numerous neighbors and townspeople. Every resident of the home reported phantom footsteps, moving objects and many phenomena as would be associated with poltergeist activity.

In 1930, the most well known residents moved into the home, the Reverend Foyster and his wife, Marianne. It was Marianne who became the focus of much of the ghostly activity. From bells ringing to mysterious rapping on the walls the activity increased dramatically with the Foyster family. Marianne was even reported to be thrown

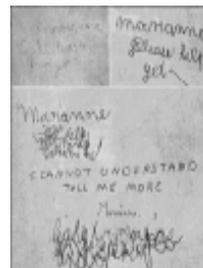
from her own bed and bruised by unseen hands that slapped her. A local newspaper in reporting the activity called Price to investigate the property which he had visited during the occupancy of previous residents. By the end of the investigation Price would call the home, "The Most Haunted Home in England."

The Writing's on the Wall

One of the most intriguing aspects of the Borley haunting was the spirit's attempt to communicate with Marianne Foyster. The spirit even began to write on the walls, some of the messages even appeared before the witness' eyes!

(Photo courtesy of www.bizarreingredients.co.uk)

The most disturbing message is pictured in the above right hand corner, "Marianne, please get help". Eventually, Marianne took to writing on the walls to try to respond to the spirit.



Another message to Marianne was left on an envelope. The spirit had written her name to which Marianne replied in writing on the envelope, "What do you want?" The spirit replied a few days later on that same envelope, "rest".

Price spent many months with the Foyster's investigating the phenomena and was even witness to many of the events. After five years of living in the "most haunted home in England", the Foysters had enough. They moved out.

This left Price with a unique opportunity. Being independently wealthy, he leased the house for one year to conduct his ongoing investigation of the property. He placed an ad in the local paper looking for volunteers to stay at the rectory to record any phenomena that they observed. In order to ensure the quality and conditions of the research, Price published the first how-to conduct a paranormal investigation handbook.

With the nearly two years of continuous investigation into the Borley Rectory, Price published two books on the investigation, "The Most Haunted Home in England" and "The End of Borley Rectory". A few months after the final resident of the rectory moved into the home 1939, it burned to the ground when an oil lamp was knocked over. During the home's haunted history, it had been rumored that there was a body buried in the basement of the rectory and with the home in ruin, investigators moved in. Investigators discovered that the rectory had been built of the foundation of an older building and they found the bones of a young woman. Could this have been the body of the young nun?

Borley would give Price his fame, but it would also become what some would say is his downfall. Many detractors state that much of the "phenomena" had logical, natural explanations that Price had ignored or that with his knowledge of stage magic, that Price created much of the phenomena himself. Some detractors claim that he used his knowledge of magic to publicize himself, his investigations and sell his books.

Was he a fraud? Or was his investigation into the rectory legitimate? We may never know but the most important item to come out of Price's Borley investigation was his how-to guide. Many investigators today point to Price as the father of modern ghost investigation protocol.

It was a Weekly Reader book on haunted houses that I read when I was seven that introduced me to the world of the paranormal investigator, the main subject of the book? Harry Price's investigation of Borley Rectory.

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By *Melissa Griffith*

The Lady of the Lake

On a beautiful August day in 2004, I convinced some family members to join me in a stroll around Children's Lake in Boiling Springs. I had heard rumors of the lake being haunted by a "lady in white" who could be seen walking around the lake or seated at one of the benches facing the water as though she were waiting for someone. No one seems to know the identity of the lady, who she is waiting for or why she's attached to the lake.

Boiling Springs is about as quaint and charming as a small town gets. The lake and surrounding park is clean and green and heavy with history. First, we stopped at the local Italian restaurant for dinner then made the short walk to the 'boiling' spring behind the Boiling Springs Tavern. My 8-year-old nephew, Damian, asked me if he threw something into the spring would it melt. I just laughed and explained to him that the water wasn't really boiling, but that the bubbles come from caves underneath the ground some 1,800 feet. These boiling springs can also be seen at particular spots on the lake as well. The effect these springs have on the lake is that the temperature hovers around 53 degrees and never freezes.

Damian was excited to feed the ducks, who are perpetual residents of the lake. They seemed to be wise to small children with bags of grain as they followed him around like loyal puppy dogs as he threw them handfuls of corn from a plastic bag (that are sold inexpensively at the mini-mart on the square of town).

Our evening lake walk began on the square of town where an impressive town clock and veterans of foreign wars memorial sits. The clock tower was built from stones taken from a local barn that was once used to house slaves on the Underground Railroad.

We walked south on North Front Street that borders the lake. We soon came upon a state historical marker for the Daniel Kauffman House. Daniel Kauffman laid out the town in 1845 and was an avid supporter of the Underground Railroad. A main station for runaway slaves is nearby Island Grove which is also home to a spring that is said to boast medicinal qualities.

The lake was man-made in the 1750s to harness the springs' power to operate the bellows for the iron furnace. The Carlisle Iron Works produced ammunition during the Revolutionary War as well as other ironware. The furnace still stands just across the road at the southern end of the lake.

As we continue our evening walk, we pass the Ege Mansion (or sometimes called the Ege-Bucher Mansion). The mansion was built by Michael Ege, Senior, in 1795 when he reigned as iron master at The Carlisle Iron Works. The mansion, complete with widow's walk, possesses large fireplaces, mahogany woodwork, imported Dutch tiles and a three-story Colonial staircase.

Some say that many slaves owned by Michael Ege Sr. are buried on the property. He was known to treat his slaves cruelly. An advertisement was placed by Ege on August 18, 1789 offering a reward for a runaway slave. He must have rolled over in his grave (and received his comeuppance) if the rumors are true that the mansion was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad. It is also rumored that there is a tunnel that leads from the mansion to the Gelinas House (currently a Bed & Breakfast) across the lake.

The furnace prospered under the guidance of Michael Ege, Junior, who had inherited the business and family home from his father. But, by a long shot, the most interesting character in the family was Michael Jr.'s son, Peter.

Peter Ege, by most accounts, was kind hearted and gregarious (albeit to an obnoxious fault), he was also eccentric. When he married his housekeeper, he laid in bed with his dog as the pastor performed the ceremony. He would ride through town on the back of his horse and throw money to the town's children. He once even faked his own death just to frighten the bejesus out of friends as they passed by his casket by suddenly jumping to 'life.' On occasion, he would burn his wife's precious silks in the fireplace. Peter was also known to take heavily to alcohol and on some of his drunken adventures would ride his horse through the mansion and up & down the three-story grand staircase.

But the family fortune dwindled and Peter was forced to sell the mansion that had been in his family for three generations at auction for a fraction of its value. He eventually died a broken man in a 'poor-house.'



The most intriguing legend regarding the Ege property is that Baron Henry von Stiegel is buried on the front lawn near the lake. Stiegel was a rich, famous and flamboyant glass and iron master in his day. It is generally accepted that Baron von Stiegel was related to the Ege family (as Peter called him "Uncle") but it's never been actual proven. Regardless, von Stiegel visited the mansion often and, like his "nephew," he also eventually lost his fortune to become a shell of man.

The rumor is that the self-proclaimed Baron died at the mansion in the middle of a harsh winter.

With the ground being frozen solid, he was buried on the property with an unmarked stone to indicate his head; another, his feet. The intention was to rebury him elsewhere after the spring thaw, but—for whatever reasons—his body was never exhumed for reburial.

Since the final resting place of Stiegel remains unknown, many areas claim that Baron Henry von Stiegel is buried on their respective properties as well. However, there is some evidence to support the theory that Stiegel actually is buried on the lawn by Children's Lake.

At one point in time on the property there was a fenced-in area near the lake with a marker touting it as the grave of Stiegel and folks picnicking at the lake would visit "Stiegel's Grave" and leave flowers behind. In 1934, Mrs. John Robertson reported that it was told to her by her grandmother (who was Stiegel's daughter, Elizabeth) that, "His grave is alongside the lake at the upper end of the park in front of the mansion ..."

At dusk, my brother and his family decided to make the trek home. My sister, Amanda, Damian and I waited around until dark since I wanted to get some photos of the lake at night and, perhaps we'd catch of glimpse of the "Lady in White," if we were lucky. We weren't lucky.