



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A Monthly Journal of News & Upcoming Events • Vol 10, Issue 5 - May 2006

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

I hope this newsletter finds all of you enjoying the sunshine, beautiful flowers and trees that spring has brought to our doors. I've been dreaming of the brilliant colors and fresh air all winter long while I was recuperating from back surgery. It's now time to get up and move about and enjoy being outside! How about you?

This month we celebrate our tenth year as a group. I can still remember our first meeting at the Historical Society in Mechanicsburg with 15 people in attendance. Who knew what a long trip we'd have ahead of us? I'm proud to say that a good bit of the original group is still with us today. Thanks for sharing ten years with us and backing all of our ventures.

We've offered numerous haunted dining experiences, bus trips, conferences, fundraisers and have changed meeting halls several times. Hopefully the Senior Citizen Center will be our permanent home from now on. It has everything we could possibly need and the energy is inviting.

Tonight's Guest Speaker

Josh Woltz will be our guest speaker tonight. He is the host of the Walking Tour of Haunted Chambersburg.

We will be offering a fun-filled Saturday for you on June 17, 2006. We will start our day at 4:30 PM with an investigation at the Enoch Brown Memorial in Greencastle. John has gotten remarkable EVP here, so bring your cameras and equipment and see what you can capture in this mysterious place where so much history has taken place! (Please carpool to save gas and time.) We will begin promptly at 4:30 PM so give yourself enough travel time in case you'd get lost. (See the brochure available at meetings or on the website or Melissa's article on the following page for directions and more details).

Dinner at Casey's Bar and Grill will be at 6:00 PM which is located in Greencastle. (Dinner is on your own).

At 7:30 PM we will depart for our tour in Chambersburg. We will all gather at 8:00 PM in Chambersburg with our host Josh Woltz and begin our haunted walking tour. Remember to bring water, wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Bring your cameras/recorders and an open mind!

Spirit Day in May Countdown

Here is what I have so far for our set up committee:

Melissa Griffith, Clark Rudy, Dominique Shank, Jeff and Diane Nell, John and myself.

The Silent Auction Donations will come from:

Laura Shank, Clark Rudy, Melissa Griffith, Kelly and John Weaver, April Miller and Shirley Young. Terry Krouch is in charge of this event. Please, if you have any item you think you could bring to help us raise money in the silent auction, sign up tonight. We need more help here!

The Food for our event so far:

Terry Krouch – cake, Laura Shank - BBQ Meatballs & Pasta Salad, Dominique Shank - Monkey bread, The Nell's - a main dish & chocolate cake, Melissa and Craig - mac & cheese; choc chip cookies, Kelly and John - rotisserie chicken & vegetable tray, April Miller and Shirley Young, not decided.

We need more snacks, beverages and main dishes. You MUST bring a covered dish or snack to this event. Tonight, I'll need to have a lot more people sign up with what they are bringing. Let's make this another feast! If you haven't signed up so far, tonight is the night. This must be taken care of by the end of the week so we can prepare our dinner.

Clean Up Committee Melissa Griffith, Clark Rudy, The Shanks, Steve Groff, Kelly and John and April Miller.

The same names keep popping up on all of the sign up sheets. If you are planning on attending, please sign up tonight to get involved. This is YOUR GROUP - help make Spirit Day in May a success!



Kelly Weaver with noted paranormal investigator John Zaffis, who both spoke at the recent NJGHS Conference. See John Weaver's column inside for details on this excellent event.

More Fun Superstitions

Keys - Various superstitions surround locks and keys, no doubt inspired by their symbolic qualities. It is thought to be very bad luck to drop a key, and even worse to break one. Possessing keys that go rusty despite all attempts to prevent this occurrence is, however, a good omen: in the English Midlands it is said that a rusty key is a sign that someone is about to leave the owner an inheritance in their will. The luck-preserving power of keys are also reflected in an old European tradition that slipping a key under a child's pillow will keep the infant safe from evil while asleep.

Indeed, because keys were traditionally made of iron, touching a key when danger threatens is considered a sensible precaution against all manner of evil. If a person is uncertain about which way to go on coming to a crossroads, one solution is to toss a bunch of keys over the left shoulder and observe how they fall: the longest key in the bunch will point out the right direction to take. All owners of bunches of keys are warned against jangling them on Wednesdays, as this will make the owner go mad!

Purse – Superstition has several pieces of advice to ensure that a purse (or wallet or handbag) is never empty. As well as keeping various good luck charms in it, the owner should make doubly sure that his or her purse is never totally empty since even one small coin will attract others. Anyone who gives a purse as a present should slip a coin into it to get the new owner off to a good start; a length of string secreted in it will apparently have the same effect.

Scissors - Being made of metal and having the power to cut, scissors are regarded as potent objects in superstition. They must be handled with care as their misuse risks one's luck, which can be 'cut' all too easily. It is therefore very unfortunate to drop a pair of scissors, and even worse if they then stick into the floor because this constitutes a DEATH omen (though regional variations suggest a wedding if both points stick in the floor and a funeral only if one point pierces the floor). Neither should the person who dropped the scissors attempt to retrieve them. He or she should ask a friend to pick them up, or, failing this, the scissors should be jumped on before touched. To be on the safe side the scissors should then be warmed between the hands before being used again. Scissors that come apart while held in the hands are also a sign of bad luck.

As is the case with knives and other sharp objects, scissors should never be given as presents unless the recipient hands over a coin or two in exchange as though buying them in the usual way; failure to do so may lead to the friendship between the two parties being severed. Scissors may, however, act as a protection against witches and in former times they were sometimes placed under the doormat to prevent any malevolent spirit coming into the house (usually in the opened position so that the blades formed a cross).

A curious superstition of African origin claims that scissors should not be opened and closed during the celebration of a wedding, as this will result in the groom becoming impotent.

Source: Dictionary of Superstitions by David Pickering – Cassell Press

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

Make a Day of the Chambersburg Chills Tour!

Although the official tour events do not begin until 4:30 p.m., why not make an entire day of the trip and explore other area haunts? You can entertain your investigative curiosities at Renfrew Park & Museum in Waynesboro (small per person entrance fee).

Emma Nicodemus bequeathed the park to the borough of Waynesboro upon her death in 1973. Under her direction, the park was named "Renfrew" in honor of two young sisters, Jane & Sarah Renfrew, who were scalped and murdered by Native Indians as they laundered clothes in Little Antietam Creek.

Although no official documents exist to prove the massacre ever occurred, there were Renfrew families in the area. A Sarah Renfrew married Jeremy Burns-the couple is buried at the Covenanters' Cemetery (also referred to as the Burns Cemetery) in Renfrew Park. Also, a lot of Renfrew families had lost loved ones to Indian attacks, but perhaps

misspellings and/or different spellings of the sir name (Renfros, Rentfro, Renfrow, etc.) aid in keeping these records a mystery.

Two brothers by the name of Harn hunted down the savages, shot them, took their scalps and recovered the scalps of the young girls. They arrived back in town just in time to bury all four of the scalps with the victims. Rumor has it the sisters are buried in the Covenanters' Cemetery in an unmarked grave; other reports claim there is a large sand stone marking their final resting place.

If the tale of the Renfrew sisters is merely legend, then someone forgot to tell the ghosts of two young girls that are spotted washing clothes along the banks of the Little Antietam.

Renfrew Park & Museum includes the old homesteads of the Royer and Fahnestock Families. Rumor has it that the Fahnestock House is haunted, but I have come across no particular story to tell. The Museum & Visitor's Center (housed in the Fahnestock Barn) has a wealth of interesting displays.

Renfrew Park is a photographers dream! With enough picturesque scenes to accommodate an entire roll of film. Allow plenty of time for meandering. You can visit the homesteads, the site of what was the log cabin where the Renfrews were said to live, Covenanters' Cemetery & the site of the Renfrew sisters' massacre.

On your way back through Waynesboro-do not pass up the photo opportunity of the Waynesboro Municipal Building-haunted or not haunted, it is the quintessential "Addams Family" house!

Travel back into Greencastle and give The Farmer's Wife Antique Store a visit! In a recent newspaper article, the owner, Marilyn Newcomer, claims the shop is haunted.

The front door bells chimes when there is no one there and lights that were turned off at closing are found burning brightly the next morning. Apparitions have been seen of a young woman at the cash register and an older woman peering out of a window. While ghost hunters were investigating the antique store, they witnessed mysterious footsteps and captured two evps that seemed to be the voice of a man. If you visit the shop, please ask permission if you wish to take photos inside the store. Meet your SSP friends at Enoch Brown Memorial by 4:30 for further investigating!

Directions:

To Renfrew Park from Harrisburg Area: Take I-81 South (55 miles) to Exit 5 for Waynesboro/Greencastle. Turn LEFT onto PA Rt. 16/ Buchanan Trail East towards Waynesboro for about 10 miles to end at 1010 East Main Street.

From Renfrew Park to The Farmer's Wife Antique Store: Go West on West Main Street/PA Rt. 16/Buchanan Trail E. towards Greencastle for 9 ½ miles. Turn LEFT onto South Carlisle Street. End at 103 South Carlisle Street.

From Farmer's Wife Antique Store to Enoch Brown Memorial Park: Go North on South Carlisle Street (toward East Franklin Street) for ½ mile. Slight LEFT onto East Walter Avenue for ½ mile. Slight RIGHT onto Williamson Road for 1 ½ miles. Turn RIGHT onto Stone Bridge Road for about ½ mile. Turn LEFT onto Enoch Brown Road.

Since many SSP members are also Civil War buffs, you may want to visit the monument & gravesite of Corp. William H. Rihl. Rihl was the first Union soldier killed north of the Mason-Dixon Line. Monument is just north of Greencastle on US Rte. 11 NORTH.



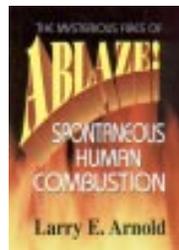
Dinner with a Psychic-Medium at Alfred's Victorian Restaurant, Middletown, PA. May 10 is SOLD OUT; 3rd Event has been added: June 7 - 6:30 PM

Your price for the dinner (tax/tip included) is \$29.95. You have your choice of three entrees: Shrimp Farcis, Cheese Tortellini Marinara or Butternut Chicken, mixed greens with a choice of dressing and a Sundae for dessert. Also includes coffee/tea or soft drink. Alcoholic beverages are available (cash bar).

You will hear the antics of Emma, Alfred's resident ghost, from paranormal investigator John Weaver while his wife, nationally recognized Psychic-Medium & Author Kelly Weaver, does private readings for diners.

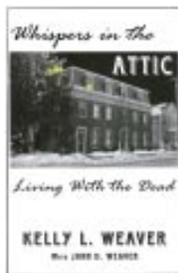
You can choose to have a ten minute personal reading for an additional \$10.00. Space is limited for this "spirited" evening. Call Alfred's Victorian to make your reservation. 717-944-5373 (For those who've never attended one of the annual October "Haunted Dining" events, here's a perfect opportunity to experience the delightful charm and superb cuisine of one of Mid-State PA's most acclaimed restaurants)

BOOKS AUTHORED BY S.S.P. MEMBERS



Ablaze by Larry Arnold Perhaps the world's leading authority on SHC - Spontaneous Human Combustion - and a dedicated paranormal researcher, Larry is a long-time supporter of local groups such as ours, S.E.A.R.C.H. and the former Harrisburg SKYWATCH. Larry's site is www.parascience.com

Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead by Kelly Weaver Look for upcoming signings at Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg store on Baltimore St. and at her NJGH & ERPC appearances in Spring & Summer '06. Also available locally from Civil War and More in Mechbg.



Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith Melissa is the SSP Activities Director, and planning another great "Haunted Tent Event" in Sept 2006 at Little Buffalo Campground in her native Perry County. Her book can be purchased locally at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg

Ghosts at Carlisle Barracks by Allen Campbell is also available locally at Civil War and More. (Had no image of Allen's book, thus I chose the famed MP LeTort photo rather than a really scary one - Allen himself! - JDW)



Spirit Society of PA.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

John & Kelly Weaver, 43 Essex Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011

E-mail: weaviate@aol.com

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

SUMMER 2006 CONFERENCE/LECTURE NEWS -



This bi-monthly series of lectures will bring nationally recognized paranormal experts, authors and investigators to south central PA at the Railroad House in Marietta. All proceeds from the series will benefit the forthcoming National Museum of Mysteries and Research Center.

Initial Program: June 10, 2006 10:30am to 2:30pm Speaker: PSP Founder Rick Fisher - **The History and Mystery of Talking Boards**

Second Program: Aug. 19, 10:30am to 2:30pm Speaker: Author/Story-teller Ed Okonowicz - **"Ghosts of Fort Delaware"**

\$20.00 per person does not include lunch. \$35.00 per person w/lunch includes lunch. Menu includes your choice of sandwiches, or burger and one drink coffee, tea, or soda. Seating limited to 40 people, no registration will be accepted at the door unless seats available. Registrations must be received no later than May 27th.

Send check or money order to: Rick Fisher, 109 South Second Street Apt. 2 Columbia, PA 17512

EASTERN REGIONAL PARANORMAL CONFERENCE - JULY 21 - 23 GETTYSBURG



Vince Wilson hosts the 3rd Eastern Regional Paranormal Conference at Gettysburg Holiday Inn Battlefield July 21-23rd. Troy Taylor, Mark Nesbitt, John Zaffis, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, George Hansen, Katherine Ramsland & more, plus: A bus tour hosted by Mark Nesbitt, a Spirit Circle hosted by Kelly Weaver, a Haunted Pub Crawl hosted by Vince Wilson, an investigation of the G.O.G. HQ and a Haunted Train Ride!

Details at <http://conference.marylandparanormal.com/>

NOTE: If you don't have internet access & need phone #s for events, contact John Weaver @ SSP Meetings or call me @ 932-9900 (9-5)

COMING
SEPT 23-24, 2006
at LITTLE BUFFALO
CAMPGROUND in
PERRY COUNTY

**HAUNTED TENT
EVENT 2006**

- Newport Candlelight Ghost Tour
- Spirit Circle with Medium Kelly Weaver
- Explore historic (& haunted) Local sites





The Washington Theater (Washington, NJ) While in Hackettstown for an appearance at the New Jersey Ghost Hunters Conference, Kelly and I got to explore the haunted Washington Theater. Currently undergoing some restoration, this theater dates to the 1920s and has hosted stage performances as well as motion pictures. The person involved with the restoration project mentioned lots of strange activity reported here over the years.



Of particular interest due to their almost dungeon-like appearance was the series of dressing rooms downstairs underneath the stage. Kelly was drawn to one room in particular (above, rt), sensing the presence of an actor - perhaps an actor/director she called "Oscar". Attempting to record legitimate EVP was pretty much negated with numerous other people throughout the building, but we did experience several unexplained spikes on the stationary Tri-Field meter while Kelly was attempting to connect with "Oscar". We were also stationary (and the only people on that level at the time), and these brief sharp spikes (documented with the camcorder) seemed to correlate with questions Kelly was asking. She later felt another presence back stage -- this one female -- but the amount of people moving about in this area simply did not permit any kind of evidence gathering. An interesting place, to be sure, and certainly one deserving a comprehensive investigation with co-ordinated teams.

NJGHC - NJGHS founder L' Aura Hladik and her members hosted a great event! We've met some of these folks before and it was fun to reconnect and meet new people as well. Some very dedicated ghosthunters here! Only downside was a rainy day precluded getting out to some of the haunted rural sites in this very beautiful and historic northwestern NJ location. For the first time, we saw presentations from Jeff Belanger and John Zaffis. Both were excellent! Dining with John Zaffis, Vince Wilson and others Sat. night made for some in-depth conversation on investigating the paranormal and we really look forward to joining them again at Vince's Gettysburg event in July.

Another Ghostly Voice HEARD at Alfred's! On April 26, I was waiting for Kelly to do readings for the two remaining employees following the first of her series of "Dinners with a Psychic". One was in the closed off Flamette with Kelly while the other was downstairs, and I had just witnessed a strange flash in the Magnolia room. (*Which I later could not confirm, as suspected, was a headlight reflection*) Within a few moments, I **HEARD** a voice next to me clearly saying "Hey", but of course there was NO ONE there; my recorder was on and this was captured on tape (the clip is posted on the "New" section of the SSP site. To date, this is the second "disembodied" voice I've heard at Alfred's, the first (and infamous, for the way it scared me!) being several years ago when after letting Kelly's Uncle Cecil Downing out the front door following a late night of TV filming, a raspy female voice told him "Don't shut the (inner) door!".

For some reason, this place has become a real EVP mine of late; several other recent examples will be played at tonight's meeting. - JDW

KELLY'S MAGICAL GARDEN - Offering a variety of Intuitive Services for your Spiritual Quest

Kelly Weaver offers readings via mail, e-mail and in person. For details, please visit www.kellysmagicalgarden.com

•Private Readings available by appointment: Personal, Animal, Past Life & ADC (After Death Communication)
 Contact Kelly at 717-737-7623 or weaviate@aol.com



HAUNTED SPOTS & COOKING POTS - NOW AVAILABLE FROM THE SSP -- ONLY \$6.00

Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots reveals fascinating true ghost stories and local legends of Pennsylvania. Combined with delicious recipes from *Spirit Society of Pa.* members, friends and families, this book will entertain you for years to come.

Discover which local establishments and eateries have more than food on their menu! Savor recipes that run the gamut from appetizers, main dishes and desserts all the way to yummy treats for your furry friends.

Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots will delight your spirit and tummy with spooky superstitions pertaining to the spirit world **and** its relationship to food.

Find out why you should not drop your spoon downwards in your bowl. Did you know there are certain superstitions regarding how you eat off of your plate?

Why shouldn't a single woman wipe the bottom of the pan with a piece of bread? What doom awaits her?

How do you prevent the Devil from fouling up your meal? Read *Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* and find out the answers to these questions and a lot more.

I guarantee that you'll never look at your kitchen utensils in the same way again! - Kelly Weaver

(Available at SSP Meetings, Kelly's Magical Garden & Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg. All proceeds benefit the Spirit Society of PA)



Biographies of the Strange and Paranormal

By Gail Dull

Carson Long Military Institute, a boarding school for spirited boys and spirits?

As with most “military” organizations the official word is, “there are no such things as ghosts”, yet the stories linger. Carson Long Military Institute in New Bloomfield is no different.

Carson Long has existed in one form or another since it’s founding as the Bloomfield Academy in 1836. Like most places that have been around that long, there are those that claim that not all of the former students have “moved on” to higher forms of learning...if you get my drift.

The first story deals with the building known as The Maples. The Maples is a large building that used to be used as both living space and classrooms prior to 1997. Since then, it has housed a reception hall and museum. It no longer serves as part of the day to day living of the cadets nor should we say the living cadets?

Cadets report seeing a pale looking person peering down at them from one of the upstairs windows, at times when the building is known to be locked. Once, after seeing the figure, a cadet went to inspect the room where he had seen the figure, only to find nothing, or so he thought. While they were standing there, a large item fell from a shelf, seemingly on its own volition. The boys left, fearful of being blamed for disturbing a museum display.

Others tell of seeing doors in The Maples open and close on their own. Pillows on a window seat are found in disarray, even when they have been known to have been properly placed and no one has been in the building. Televisions act up, flashing black and white when they are color sets. Lights are also known to go on by themselves. Talking can be heard when the observer is alone in the former home. However, when investigated, they always stop when the room they are in is entered.

Other cadets reports sounds of distant drumming and a mysterious ghostly drummer boy. Phantom footsteps are also reported.

If this was enough to keep young cadets awake and give them red eyes, the next story is about reports of red eyes....

Cadets report that the spirit of a former headmaster haunts the chapel and that if they look into the mirror in the bathroom their eyes will glow red. The eyes of the cadets are not the only red eyes...the eye of the eagle perched above the door to the chapel is said to have his vigilant eye glow red on occasion.

The current president’s father was also a former president of the institute and his portrait hangs in the chapel. It is said that the eyes of the portrait will follow you as you walk by.

Do the eagle and the former president keep a watchful eye out for the cadets? I guess the “eyes” have it!

The JACKSON, MI. POLTERGEIST - Part 1 By Troy Taylor © 2002, All Rights Reserved. Used with permission

Although many researchers today often mistake the work of “poltergeists” (noisy ghosts) as being nothing more than the unconscious forces of disturbed persons at the location of the activity, some happenings might not be so easy to explain away! In the past, all ghost researchers assumed that the antics of haunted houses were the work of spirits but as time progressed, it began to be realized that the human mind was more complex than we ever imagined. Some scientists and investigators began to show that some of the items that

moved around in houses, glasses that broke, doors that slammed and other weird events that occurred were actually being controlled by energy created by living persons.

In some cases, disturbed, nervous or anxious individuals who lived in the “haunted house” were unknowingly causing outbreaks of activity to erupt. Soon, this became a common theory in the paranormal field and cases that seemed to involve ghosts were quickly found to be the work of psychokinesis (PK) instead. But was this always the case?

Were researchers becoming too quick to jump to the conclusion that violent and destructive cases were not ghostly in nature? Could some of the strange and unusual cases that were first thought to involve overlyfraught teenagers actually involve the spirits of the dead instead?

Such was likely the case of a terrifying poltergeist who wreaked havoc in a Jackson, Michigan home in the early 1960’s. At first glance, the house had all of the makings of a PK poltergeist case as there were two teenagers living in the house (including a 13-year old girl) and the makings of a tense situation. Perhaps the first thing that most researchers noticed to be out of the ordinary though was the length of time during which the activity occurred.

Author and investigator Nandor Fodor (one of the first paranormal researchers to draw the links between human “agents” and poltergeist activity) noted that most poltergeist cases have a lifetime of a few weeks or even a month or two at the most. The aggressive energies needed to cause objects to move about, break and be thrown are usually spent in a short amount of time. It is very rare to hear of a human agent type of poltergeist outbreak that lasts for very long, which is what makes the Jackson, Michigan case so unique. The events in the home of the Victor Lincoln family lasted for more than three years, beginning in 1959! The events in the Lincoln home began quietly and without much fanfare. In fact, the strange occurrences had been taking place for more than two years before the residents realized that they were not simply the targets of malicious burglars or vandals. Frequently, they would return home to their empty house and find that lamps had been overturned, bottles and cans were strewn about the kitchen, light bulbs were broken, water was running and doors that had been locked tight were standing open.

Not surprisingly, the police were called into investigate but they could find nothing out of the ordinary and no signs that anyone had been in the house. The Lincoln’s simply put double locks on the doors and hoped whoever was targeting them would stop. The locks failed to put an end to it though and they occasionally returned home to find the place vandalized.

Then in October 1961, the Lincoln’s began to realize that there was something very strange going on in the house. The intruders, they realized, were not anyone that the police could do anything about. According to Victor Lincoln, the house was “spooked”. The weird now occurring when the family was home. According to their later accounts, dishes and bottles were seen hurtling through the room, moans came from the basement, heavy footsteps endlessly paced back and forth through the house, doors opened and closed, water spigots and gas jets turned on without assistance and books would vanish from a bookcase in the house, only to reappear later on beds, desks and chairs. This was not simply forgetfulness either - occasionally, the piles of books would include 10-20 volumes!

As mentioned already, the Lincoln’s seemed to have the “typical” poltergeist outbreak going on, right down to the teenagers living in the house. In 1962, the family consisted of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln and the three youngest of their six children. (*Cont. next issue*)