



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 8 -Aug 2005

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

I certainly hope everyone is having a splendid Summer. Although it is breezing by so fast, I'm enjoying the lazy, hazy days relaxing in my pool. October will be here before you know it and things will be back at a hectic speed once again. I'm preparing myself with a lot of rest and relaxation over the month of August.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS NEEDED!

SSP members helped raise much needed funds last year and now our bank account is dipping below a comfortable amount in my eyes. In the last few months, due to the vacations, etc. we have made our bare minimum when collecting money to pay for our rent, website and printing the newsletter. Let's put our heads together and come up with some fundraising ideas so we can build our bank account to a healthy status and avoid any change in the \$3 per meeting cost.

As far as I'm concerned, you can never have too many sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats, etc. with our logo. I'm open to all ideas. Let's work together and make some money \$\$\$\$\$\$

HALLOWEEN PARTY

This year our party will be held on **Saturday night, October 22nd**. (Time and directions to be announced next month) at the Rudy's residence in Etters.

Let's have some fun and add costumes to this year's event. Many of you seemed to like this idea when I mentioned it, so why not? (Of course you can be a party pooper and NOT wear an outfit) but you won't have a chance at winning a prize! (Long time members will recall Ray Krouch's dapper tux & top hat ensemble several years ago - Kelly's dad still calls him "Puxatawney Phil!") Put your creative thinking cap on and start thinking of who or what you'd like to be at our annual Halloween get together. Pot luck dinner will be served. A sign up sheet for food and drinks will be at the next two meetings.

BALTIMORE E.R.P. CONFERENCE

John and I had a great time in Baltimore's historic Davidge Hall during the second annual Paranormal conference hosted by Vince Wilson

(seen here introducing the event) and his Maryland group. He did a great job entertaining us over the weekend. Next year the event will be held in Gettysburg, so hopefully more SSP members will



be able to attend. Baltimore, in my opinion, is full of craziness driven by so many one-way and "interrupted" streets, which make trying to get from point A to point B a real nightmare!

We enjoyed Friday night dinner with Rosemary Ellen Guiley along the waterfront in **Fell's Point**. We ate great seafood, drank wine and laughed for what seemed like hours! (We did not repeat last years visit to Bertha's Mussels where Rosemary, Troy and anyone else who wanted them found they were out of mussels -- no wonder the place is haunted... perhaps by people who were dying for seafood. - JDW)

It was great to talk to old friends and make new acquaintances. Troy Taylor had a spectacular lecture about hauntings and the legends/misconceptions behind them. Are they truly what they say they are? It was very interesting. Rosemary talked to us about modern day Vampires (yes, they do exist!), and Mark Nesbitt fascinated us with stories from his new book, the *Gettysburg Ghost Guide*. My talk, "Things That Go Bump in the Night", was based on my years of paranormal investigations. I showed videos and EVP's from some of my memorable cases. Few of those present had seen any of this material and everyone seemed to enjoy the presentation. (It ended with an EVP clip from my camcorder captured at the Lancaster Farmhouse which was a "teaser" for Rick Fisher's program focusing on this fascinating location the following morning)

It was a nice weekend and I look forward to doing it all again next year. (As of now, I will be doing a Spirit Circle at Mark Nesbitt's haunted "Ghosts of Gettysburg" HQ on Fri. night to open the weekend.) Stay tuned for details! (Also see John's conference notes in this issue)

Hearse: 16th Century England

(Excerpted from the book: *Extraordinary Origins of Everyday Things* by Charles Panati- Harpers and Row Publishers, New York)

A hearse was originally not a vehicle to transport the dead to a final resting place but an ancient agricultural implement-a rake! The route from rake to hearse is not straightforward.

After a Roman farmer plowed his fields, he raked the land with a *hirpes*, a triangular tool of wood or iron with spikes attached to one side. In 51 B.C., when the Romans, under Caesar, completed their conquest of Gaul, they introduced the *hirpex* (Latin for rake) to the Western Europe. Inhabitants of the British Isles called the tool a "harrow." The name changed again in the eleventh century when the Normans invaded England, giving "harrow" the pronunciation *herse*.

The conquering Normans observed that the raking device, when inverted, resembled their ecclesiastical candelabra. In time, the church's candelabra was renamed *herse*, and as additional candles were incorporated to honor a growing list of saints and to celebrate new holidays, the *herse* grew larger and larger.

The church candelabra, resting on the altar, had always been an integral part of a funeral service. The larger ones now were placed over the bier during the services for distinguished people. By the fifteenth century, the rake's progress was such that it measured six feet long, skewered scores of candles, and was a masterpiece of craftsmanship. Now it rode on the lid of a coffin during a funeral cortege.

In the next century, in England, the entire wheeled cart drawing the coffin became known as a "hearse", the later British spelling of "herse." Thus, the agricultural rake became the funeral wheeled cart of hearse. The route from wheeled cart to limousine is far more straightforward.

It is interesting to note that a snail's pace of a funeral cortege is not only a mark of respect for the dead. It recalls the earlier days, when lighted candles were a ceremonious part of a funeral march. For no matter how reverently slowly the mourners chose to stride, the solemnity of their pace was influenced by the practical need to keep the candles burning. This pedestrians' pace still suggests a limit to the motored hearse's speed.



A Hearse is a Hearse During the 70's, when lots of young dudes were driving cheesy customized "Luv Vans" I had a wild hockey teammate who's party vehicle was an **old Cadillac hearse**. It was filled with speakers that were usually blaring Black Sabbath from the 8-track player; a mattress filled the space where caskets once rode. I can just imagine my former defenseman, who was slim, 6 ft tall and had hair down to his waist picking up his date from her parents' house in this thing! I was in it once, and though I don't think an earthbound spirit would attach itself to the vehicle its body once was carried in, it was a real creepy ride! (I'm certain the energy built up from transporting hundreds of corpses had something to do with the creepy feeling)

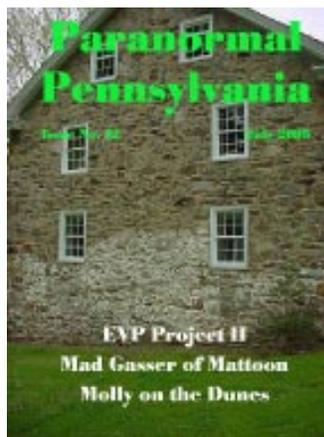
The photo above shows a 1/18th scale **die** cast (is that appropriate or what) model of what I believe to be the same type this crazy guy had - a 1959 Caddy Crown Royal Landau Hearse by Precision Miniatures! Cost is \$89 (includes a real wooden coffin) and it can be purchased from Replicarz, who I buy most of my Formula 1 Models. - JDW)

POSITIVE LIGHT

"You are the universe. It is not something outside you. You are that force which is in everything." - **Wayne Dyer**

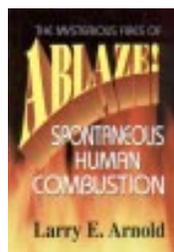
"Turning points announce themselves through a variety of vague symptoms: deep restlessness, a yearning with no name, inexplicable boredom, the feeling of being stuck." - **Gloria Karpinski**

"Your sense of boredom, contraction, or resentment is your soul's way of letting you know that you are settling for less." - **Alan Cohen**



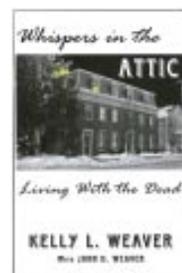
PARANORMAL PENNSYLVANIA Available in printed form at SSP meetings or save \$ and subscribe to receive .pdf file copies direct from publisher Rick Fisher. Writers include Eric Altman, Tom White, Stan Gordon, Troy Taylor, Katherine Ramsland, Ed Okonowicz, Patty Wilson, Mark Nesbitt, Charlie Adams, Dorothy Fiedel, Scott Ditmer, Bruce Haines, John & Kelly Weaver, Rick Fisher and more. Details at <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/magazine.html>

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 Upcoming book signings with Kelly include Sept. 3 at Mark Nesbitts Ghosts of Gettysburg store on Baltimore St. 7-10pm each night. (Mark Nesbitt will also be signing on those dates)



Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith Melissa is planning our June "Haunted Tent Event" at Sickmans Mill in Lancaster Co. and the delightful "GORE TOUR" in spring 2006 to the Lizzy Borden House and Salem, both in MA. 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.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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PROTOCOLS: Code of conduct; the rules of correct or appropriate behavior of a group, organization, or profession (As defined by MSN's Encarta Dictionary)

Nearly a decade ago as the Capital Ghost Forum (now SSP) was in its formative stages, we were aligned with the IGHS - International Ghost Hunters Society. As most who read this are already aware, I'll spare the details of how many early IGHS follows were "magically removed" once questioning the "Docktor" and his phony Ph. D, but if any good came of these early days it was the IGHS prominently displaying a list of protocols for ghost investigations. These were never anything complicated (and evidently first suggested not by the Docktor but from a fellow ex-communicated follower, Rick Fisher); they were just a common sense approach that helps to ensure that any evidence when investigating a supposed haunted location is truly paranormal in nature.

We're not talking anything in-depth or technical here, like the proper way to take EM, thermal or other readings, nor the importance of knowing the historical significance of the land or structure involved. No, we're talking about the basic need to avoid doing certain things which will produce false "evidence".

Things like people in the background talking while others attempt to record audio (EVP) and smoking while taking photos.

Given how far investigation techniques have advanced over the past decade thanks to the likes of Troy Taylor, Rick Fisher, Mark Nesbitt, Dale Kaczmerak, Vince Wilson and others, it's amazing to know there are still people out there who choose to ignore even these most simple rules yet still call themselves "ghost hunters".

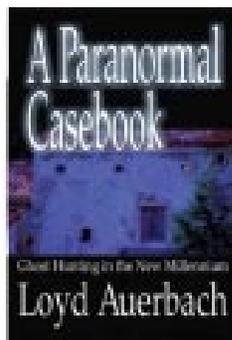
Yes, unfortunately this is not just a hollow rant. There are people out there doing just that regularly on the Gettysburg Battlefield -- smoking, talking constantly and moving around -- often in large groups, all while recorders are activated and flashes are going off. I've encountered them. Several members of this group have seen them, as have some individuals from other groups I spoke with at the recent conference in Baltimore.

Kelly and I learned long ago that effective investigation does not lend itself to large groups, even when people are cognizant of basic protocols. The more people, the more likely someone will be innocently talking or making another noise; the more people, the more dust and pollen disturbed. Compound this with a total disregard for accepted protocols and the "investigation" is turned into a circus!

When I witness or learn of those who gather "evidence" in a circus environment, it's an insult to the many people who approach battlefield ghosthunting with common sense and a measure of respect, just as was the National Park Service lumping "ghost hunting" in with drug use and drinking as the main reasons people go on the battlefield at night. Unfortunately, it is the rowdy hordes roaming about filling the night with flashes and noise who the NPS and the general public notices.

Are people like me trying to take the fun out of ghosthunting? No. Whether you have just a simple camera and recorder or a case full of thousands of dollars worth of instruments, you can have a good time AND obtain good, valid evidence, as long as you observe the protocols and use proper techniques.

Do I think that just because I've been doing this for almost 10 years think I know everything about ghost-hunting? Again, No; Troy, Rick, etc. will give you the same answer. But if people insist on ignoring the practices universally accepted by those serious about investigating the paranormal, they're not fooling anyone but themselves!



5TH ANNUAL PA PARANORMAL CONFERENCE

Looking ahead to May 6, 2006, Rick Fisher will move his annual event to the historic and haunted Railroad House in Marietta. The keynote speaker will be one of the world's leading authorities on ghosts and hauntings, Lloyd Auerbach. (His latest book, coming in Sept, is seen at left) Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Ed Okonowicz & Rick will also be speaking. Also offered are a 3 hour van/bus "Tales in the Dark" tour Fri night and his walking "Ghosts of Marietta" tour Sat night.

For more details go to <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/paconf.html>



In the Westminster Catacombs... Just after everyone had walked out of the catacombs, I took this photo to demonstrate one of the reasons why ghosthunting is not conducive to large groups! Look at all the "spirits" we stirred up! Of course, this visit could not really be considered a true investigation, and Vince Wilson along with everyone knew that. With over 20 people in a confined area, unless you can get them to stand still and tape their mouths shut, you simply cannot obtain any credible visual or audio evidence! Nonetheless, it was a great experience and we've spoken to Vince about joining his team for a "proper" and lengthy investigation of the site and further experimentation with Kelly's vitals being monitored.

THANK YOU - To all who sent cards and posted messages of condolence on the passing of my sister, Carol Johnson who had lived in TN for over 20 years. Although much older and more like an aunt, Carol was a genuine, selfless soul who's concern for those she loved outweighed her many medical problems. Her grandchildren could not have a better spirit guardian watching over them! - JDW

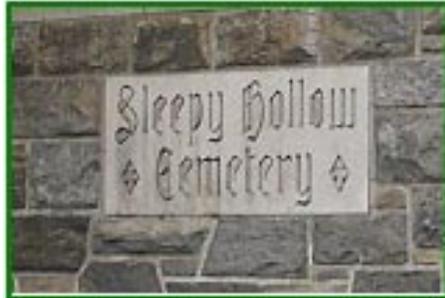
Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

AUGUST 2005 SSP Newsletter

Sleepy Hollow Legends

“On mounting a rising ground, which brought the figure of his fellow-traveler in relief against the sky, gigantic in height and muffled in a cloak, Ichabod was horror-struck on perceiving that he was headless!”

We have all heard the much-beloved, supernatural tale “The Legend of Sleepy Hollow” written by Washington Irving. The enduring legend has been terrifying solitary nighttime travelers for almost two centuries but it was only recently (1996) that southern Tarrytown, New York officially changed its name to Sleepy Hollow.



Although the tale was developed only from the imagination of Irving, he used actual people and places as the base of his story. There is a Sleepy Hollow, an Old Dutch Church, Van Tassels, Ichabod Crane, a headless horseman (sort of) and a Headless Horseman Bridge, in fact,



there are two of them. The real bridge—at least the bridge that the fictitious Ichabod would have had to cross to thwart the diabolical intentions of the horseman—is a modern concrete bridge that is heavy with traf-

fic. The second, albeit faux, “Headless Horseman Bridge” is much more picturesque (Left) and quaint and is located inside the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

The Old Dutch Church congregation dates back to 1687 but was not officially organized until 1697. Over one hundred years later, Irving used it as the beacon of salvation for the hapless Ichabod. The Van Tassel Estate still exists today as the “Landmark Condominiums.”

The Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in itself is a one-way ticket to Creepville. The enormous final resting ground includes gothic-style family crypts, eerie statues and ancient tombstones. The atmosphere of this place at dark must be downright bone-chilling.

We located the grave of Washington Irving and some Van Tassels. Only later did we learn from a caretaker that there is a grave for Eleanor Van Tassel Brush who inspired the character of “Katrina Van Tassel.” Apparently, it once had a marker touting it as such, but it was perpetually being stolen; so eventually the marker was no longer replaced.

The headless horseman is also buried in the Old Dutch Church’s Burying Ground. Okay, so it’s not really **the** headless horseman, but his

grave was marked as being an “Unknown Hessian Soldier” and may have been the grave marker that inspired Irving to create the vengeful specter. The caretaker showed us the spot where this soldier was buried, but it, too, was unmarked due to some citizens with an apparent tenacious prejudice against the ancient foe who repeatedly vandalized the marker.

Irving had borrowed the name “Ichabod Crane” from a soldier he met in the army (rumor has it Crane was quite embarrassed about it). The real Ichabod Crane is buried in A s b u r y Methodist Cemetery on Long Island, New York.

Another local attraction of interest is Captain Kidd’s Rock (Rt) located in Kingsland Park on the Hudson River. It was on this rock that Frederick Philipse, who was in cahoots with the infamous pirate, would build a fire to signal Kidd’s ship.



You can also tour the ancestral home of the Philipses at Philipsburg Manor in Sleepy Hollow. It is operated as an 18th Century manor house, water-powered mill & farm. There is also a millpond—which had me wondering if it was



the same millpond where three local siblings had once drowned. We found the triple tombstone (above) in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery of the youngsters with the same last name and same date of death. Truly heart-breaking.

The small town offers other tours as well including Kykuit—the Rockefeller Estate and Sunnyside—the home of Washington Irving. Tales of witches, strange creatures, pirates, thunderstorm-conjuring goblins and (as recent as the mid 1980s) the site of many UFO reports have made Sleepy Hollow a supernatural must-visit.

Some of you may recall that Kelly and I spent a couple hours in the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery on the way home from our visit to Putnam County’s stone chambers with Rick Fisher, Mike Frizell and others. It is one of the largest and most fascinating cemeteries we’ve seen and this entire region of the Hudson Valley is a beautiful, historic and delightfully mysterious area! - JDW

BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL by Gail Dull

Erzabet Bathory - The "Blood Countess" This article continues last month's "Possible Origins of Vampirism" article. Last month I discussed what some see as a medical condition that led to the legend of the vampires. This month, I look into one of the people whose actions may have helped to sculpt the legend.

Born on August 7, 1560, she was one of the rarest of all killers, a female serial killer. Her cruelty is legendary and may have inspired Bram Stoker to create Dracula, but more on that later.

The Bathory family was one of the most powerful and wealthy in all of Hungary. They gave birth to two ruling princes and a king of Poland. Erzabet became famous for her beauty and education. In an age where even the nobility was illiterate, she was fluent in German, Latin and her native Hungarian.

At the "tender" age of fourteen she was married via an arranged marriage to Ferenc Nadasdy, another of the dying lines of Hungarian nobility. He was nineteen. The wedding was a lavish affair to which even the Holy Roman Emperor Maximilian II had been invited.

Ferenc, the groom, was not intelligent, in spite of his education and instead chose the military as his career. They settled into life with servants at the Castle Sarvar.

It is important to note that at this point in history, peasants were serfs and thus the nobility could do whatever they wanted with them. They were not seen as being on the same level as the nobility and were treated accordingly.

It is known that both Ferenc and Elizabeth treated their servants cruelly; though he may have tortured his servants (which was a socially acceptable practice at the time) Ferenc was not known for KILLING them as Erzabet was.

Because he was off fighting the Turks most of the time, he and Erzabet had little contact for the first ten years of their marriage. Erzabet was left alone, at home to run their estates.

After ten years of marriage, Erzabet gave birth over the course of several years to three daughters; Anna, Orsolya and Katalin and two sons; Andras and Pal. Orsolya and Andras died shortly after birth.

In 1603, Ferenc died. Faced with being a widow in her forties and her youth and beauty fading, Erzabet's violence escalated. One of the legends that claims to chronicle Erzabet's crossing over into the realm of true evil states that while out riding her horse one day she was irritated by an ugly old woman who replied back to Erzabet's comments on her repulsiveness, "Take care, oh vain one, soon you will look as I do and then what will you do?"

Already vain, the impending loss of her beauty began to consume her. One day after one of her servants pulled her hair while brushing it; Erzabet lashed out and slapped the servant whose skin was torn open. Blood from the gash splashed on Erzabet's hand and when she wiped away the blood, she thought that her skin looked younger and more beautiful. It is said that this may have been the moment when she decided to BATHE in the blood of young virgin girls so that she could remain young forever.

Her violent streak escalated not only did she have her servants murdering and beating numerous young girls for blood for her to bathe in;

Erzabet would take part as well. Once whilst she was ill, she was so weak she could not leave her bed so she had a servant bring one of the girls to her bedside and hold her so that Erzabet could **BITE OFF THE FLESH of her victim!**

Over the years, she became more and more careless about who she kidnapped and how they disposed of the bodies of the victims. Townspeople and other nobles became aware of the happenings at the Castle of Bathory, but due to Erzabet's nobility (I use that term VERY loosely here) and the fact that she was *only* murdering peasant girls, she was legally doing nothing wrong. This was soon to change.

In her warped mind, she soon felt that the peasant blood wasn't good enough, she was still showing signs of ageing so she began murdering and torturing young noble girls. This was the proverbial last straw.

In late 1610, Erzabet's castle was raided and the servants who had assisted her were taken into custody. Erzabet was held under "castle-arrest". Because of her status of nobility, special laws had to have been passed for even this much to have been done!

Erzabet was never tried, her status of nobility protected her. Her servants were all put on trial and many of them were beheaded, burned at the stake or dismembered. Some told what they knew to try to be saved. One servant, Zusanna told of a register kept in Erzabet's own handwriting that accounted of the deaths that occurred at her hands. When produced, the ledger accounted for the deaths of **650** girls!

Erzabet's cousin, who ruled the country, could not condemn her to death as it would forfeit her property from the family so instead he passed his own judgment, she was to be walled up in a room in her castle with only a few slits for ventilation and a small pass through for food. She spent the remaining three years of her life in that room.

How does that relate to Bram Stoker? Vlad Teps (who was ironically related via marriage to Erzabet) is generally regarded as being the source of the Dracula prototype. While he may have tortured and murdered Turks, he was not known for BITING his conquests and drinking their blood, nor was the reason related to his pursuit of eternal youth. He was also Romanian, not Hungarian as Dracula and Erzabet were.

What details about Dracula relate more to Erzabet than Vlad? In addition to those details listed above, Erzabet was well educated, beautiful by all accounts and fluent in several languages.

Other accounts also quote Erzabet as one of the sources for the werewolf legend accounting for her reputation for biting and tearing the flesh from her servants.

Is either account true? We may never know but it is known that while doing research for Dracula, Stoker used a book called "The Book of Werewolves" by Reverend Sabine Baring-Gould. Included in this book is the story of a Hungarian Countess known for torturing her servants, biting them, killing them and bathing and drinking their blood to retain her youth.

Sources:

www.crimelibrary.com

www.xs4all.nl/~kvenjb/madmon.htm

www.draculacastle.com/html/bathory.html

<http://www.geocities.com/wanwarlock/bathory.html>



EASTERN REGIONAL PARANORMAL CONFERENCE

Kelly and I had a wonderful time at the recent 2nd ERPC in Balto. It's always great to re-connect with speakers and attendees we only get to see once or twice a year.

This year's event had a unique venue - Davidge Hall, built in 1812, is the oldest surviving medical teaching facility in the US. From Ed Okonowicz's talk on Spirit Day, many of you will recall the tales of cadavers secretly brought here from nearby Westminster Graveyard. The speakers gave their presentations in "Chemical Hall" - a 200 seat amphitheater where chemical experiments - many involving bodies and body parts - were once held. A series of ominous metal doors behind the speakers' podium were used to dispose of the chemicals and experimental materials; imagining what was what once poured into these sort of made your stomach turn.

Similar to the NPS at Gettysburg, the University of MD (who own the facility) does not "officially" acknowledge anything of a paranormal nature here. While there were too many people and noise to effectively investigate the place, a couple curious things were noted: While seated at the top of the hall, Rene Kruse (California U of PA Professor and AGS rep for Western PA) felt a heavy sensation that almost made her sick. She asked Kelly to move into that area and she too noted the sensation. Sat. night we had to get a UMD security guard to unlock the facility so some of us could retrieve gear for our visit to the Westminster Catacombs. The fellow was very accommodating and even allowed extra time for folks to make a quick bathroom stop. While looking at the various displays, he asked what sort of event this was, and I explained. To my surprise, he said "Oh, yeah - I've heard different things about this place, like some people seeing someone sitting high up in the gallery and then vanishing!" Hmm...

Saturday's speakers were Mark Nesbitt, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Kelly and Dale Kaczmerak. Given the recently announced hours changes by the NPS on the battlefield, Mark's presentation focused on the number of locations in the town and surrounding areas that were not NPS land and thus accessible any time. Of course, most of these are described in his latest book *The Ghost Hunter's Field Guide to Gettysburg & Beyond*.

The Catacombs underneath the Westminster Church is a delightfully creepy location and have been the source of much paranormal activity.

Here, BSPR Founder and *Ghost Tech* author Vince Wilson wired Kelly (Left) with a pulse rate and blood pressure monitor to see what effect the sensed presence of a spirit might have on her. Towards the back of the catacombs, in a separate chamber, Kelly announced she felt something and that the multimeter she was carrying showed a clear jump in the readings. I looked in time to notice they had indeed



jumped but then subsided. (Photo at RT shows the spot Kelly sensed activity) Vince concludes his experiment was a success and I agree -- It suggests a clear physiological reaction occurs with a "sensitive" when they sense such a presence. I hardly think that Kelly can cause her pulse & BP to suddenly rise just by announcing she "feels" something; I see this as tangible evidence that her body reacts to a presence in a certain manner. (With over 20 people in the Catacombs, setting up EM meters and other equipment would not have been practical, but I believe that had a meter been placed in the chamber where she had the reaction, it would have further confirmed a presence there.)



After Kelly's Saturday presentation ended with a "teaser"-- where her camcorder captured the reply to "who can hurt me?" in the 3rd floor of the Lancaster Co Farmhouse -- Rick Fisher's Sunday AM program showcased several older and new examples of what he has been recording there over the past few months. Amongst them were several more he got while she guided us back through the rooms following her initial walk through. Rick and Kelly both feel this may be a combination of "intelligent" spirits and residual energy - perhaps a repository of spirit energy. Whatever it is, it's simply a "gold mine" of EVP!

After Rick's presentation, author Charlie Adams related a fascinating story about a man from Camp Hill who died in the spring and asked his ashes be spread over the outfield of the Reading Phillies stadium. Despite the Senators coming to Harrisburg in the 80s, this life long Phila. Phillies fan stayed loyal to their AA farm club in Reading and attended many of their games. Charlie is a big baseball fan and is the announcer at the Phillies games. After the ashes of their old fan mingled with the turf of the field, all sorts of strange and unexplained things started happening with the new \$1 million scoreboard!

Ed O kept us amused with yet another round of his Possessed Possessions tales and Troy Taylor followed with a look at the legends surrounding some of America's most famous ghost stories and how what's behind them range from pure fabrication to inaccurate history to incredible but true circumstances. One of the most interesting of these is how the "Vanishing Hitchhiker" story, one of the most common urban legends, is actually based on the very real and well documented ghost story of "Resurrection Mary" in Chicago! Unfortunately, we had to leave at 5 pm and miss Ursula Bielski's presentation on her Chicago Ghost Tours but we did get to meet Troy's delightful friend on Sat. night.

Vince and his group are a great bunch of people and very accommodating - it's always good to spend time with them. An unexpected surprise came when we met but we met Derek Bartlett from CAIPRS in MA. at the event. He is a super guy and very dedicated, experienced ghosthunter -- he is the guy who Ed Dubil volunteered to show around Gettysburg when Kelly and I were committed Spirit Day. He once again had immense praise for Ed, and as we've told him, we're so thankful to have Ed represent our group in such a positive, professional manner. (We'll be speaking to Derek about the possibility of fitting the haunted Danvers Asylum into our "Gore Tour" trip next spring!)

There is talk that since Rick Fisher is holding his conference in Marietta (May 6) next year, Vince *may* hold his in Gettysburg in July. Although the 2 Baltimore Conferences were great events, the downtown locations seemed to minimize attendance. We'll keep you advised.