



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I @ N S

A Monthly Journal of News & Upcoming Events • Vol 10, Issue 8 - AUG 2006

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

The Summer is just flying by and Halloween will be here before you know it. I hope all of you are enjoying the sunny days!

John and I have been very busy over the last 2 months between book signings and traveling to Gettysburg for a great conference! (The third Annual Eastern Regional Paranormal conference) This was the largest paranormal conference of the many I've attended over the years and it was a wonderful experience. All of the speakers were top notch and very informative. I was supposed to present two spirit circles for the attendees on Friday afternoon and I ended up doing three. WOW, you should've seen me at the end of the night! Not too light on my feet. I vaguely remember dinner. Everyone seemed to enjoy my messages and it helped me sell a lot of books.

Next year I will have book number two as well as a variety of DVD's and Meditation CD's. I have a lot of work to do over the next few months!

For next year, Vince Wilson has joined with NJGHS founder L'Aura Hladik, Ghostvillage.com founder Jeff Belanger to offer a new "mega-event" in Gettysburg July 20-22,



2007: The first Ghost World Conference. Details on line at www.ghostworldconference.com

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 21st for our annual SSP HALLOWEEN PARTY

This year I've decided to put a little spin on the costume theme: **COME as you WERE.** What?? *Who do you think you were in a past life!*

Remember, we can't all be Cleopatra or Lincoln, but be creative and show us who you were. Location and time will be disclosed in next months newsletter.

HAUNTED TIMES magazine has hit the newsstand.

This is a well put together and intelligent magazine. I like it better than *GHOST1* magazine and am going to get a subscription. It comes out 4 times a year and it costs \$32.50 per year. (\$6.50 an issue, newsstand price) They began as an online line magazine. I'm thrilled to see it out in the real world.

If you get a chance, check it out! John Zaffis is on the cover of the Summer 06 issue. Details online at www.hauntedtimes.com



My First "Official" Gig as Kelly's Assistant - by Melissa Griffith The conference in Gettysburg the weekend of July 21-22-23rd was my first official task as Kelly's assistant. I had been to conferences before as an attendee, but had no idea what to expect or what was expected of me.

Meeting such "Ghost Notables" as Troy Taylor, John Zaffis, Mark Nesbitt, Vince Wilson, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Jeff Belanger, Ursula Bielski and others was a bit intimidating. I soon realized I had no reason to agonize; every single one of them was not only extremely



friendly and personable, but also possess a willingness to share their paranormal knowledge & experiences. (Kelly, Melissa & John Zaffis @ Left)

Hosted by Mark Nesbitt and coordinated by Vince Wilson, this was a

top-notch, professional conference that was informative, entertaining with smooth transitions between speakers and plenty of breaks to give your butt a rest. Some old cases, such as the Amityville Horror, were discussed as well as some new tales of ghostly phenomenon. Lots of discussion and displays of stuff for the "Techies" too, from Vince, Ron Milione of TAPS and our own Craig Telesha (with Gunther - his ghost hunting robot)

Vince made it clear that everyone involved in paranormal investigating needed to put ego aside and share information with each other in order to elevate the field of ghost hunting. He challenged all ghost hunters, professional and amateur, to come up with new theories, experiments and ideas. I had a great time, met some fascinating people and folded a LOT of brochures. I recommend attending next year's conference entitled, **Ghost World. You will NOT want to miss this one!**

RT: Kelly is interviewed by Ghostly Talk Radio.



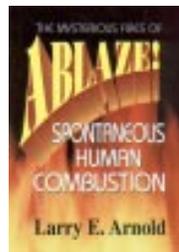
Dinner with a Psychic-Medium at Alfred's Victorian Restaurant, Middletown, PA. Remaining Dates for Summer 2006: Aug. 16 & Sept. 27 - Each @ 6:30 PM

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 (including several EVPs, some captured very recently), Alfred's resident ghost, from paranormal investigator John Weaver while his wife, nationally recognized Psychic-Medium & Author Kelly Weaver, does private readings for diners.

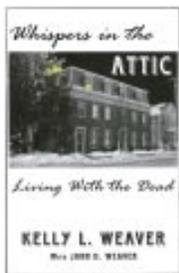
You can choose to have a ten minute personal reading for an additional \$10.00. Space is limited for this "spirited" evening. Call Alfred's Victorian to make your reservation. 717-944-5373 (For those who've never attended one of the annual October "Haunted Dining" events, here's a perfect opportunity 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 Nesbitts 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.

A P P A R I T I O N S

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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



This bi-monthly series of lectures brings nationally recognized paranormal experts, authors & 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.

Next Program: **Aug. 19, 10:30am to 2:30pm** Speaker: Author/Storyteller Ed Okonowicz - "**Ghosts of Fort Delaware**" Join incomparable storyteller "Ed O" for a fascinating look at true tales from his latest book! Ed shares his experiences leading the ghost/history tours and tells stories of apparitions, orbs and dungeon ghosts on Pea Patch Island and in the old fort itself.

\$20.00 per person does not include lunch. \$35.00 per person (includes lunch.) Menu offers 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. Send check or money order to: Rick Fisher, 109 South Second Street Apt. 2 Columbia, PA 17512

Next lecture will be **Oct. 21** with Antiques Expert John Kilsavage sharing tales of Haunted Antiques he has encountered and showing some of the actual items! (Kelly & I saw his talk at one of Rick's meetings several years ago; it was great and the haunted objects he displayed were fascinating, particularly a certain painting! JDW)

Experiments After Rick's Talking Board Lecture On June 10 the NMM held its first lecture series at the Railroad House. Hosted by yours truly, my talk centered on the History and Mystery of Talking Boards. After the lecture participants were asked to join in on a Ouija session. If communication with the dead was possible through a Ouija Board was it possible to record the messages through EVP.

While the planchette did spell out W A L T it was the participants who suggested the name WALTER. Later the planchette moved to spell out O S C A again the participants suggest the name OSCAR. While everyone attending the event was quiet during the session the voice of a man saying OSCAR was recorded while attempting EVP.

Other voices saying the names Adam and Charles were also recorded, and will posted on the website shortly. Is it possible to record the messages being spelled out on the planchette using EVP? Perhaps, but I will let you be the judge of that. - RF (Visit www.paranormalpa.com to hear EVPs from the session)

SEPT 23-24, 2006
at LITTLE BUFFALO
CAMPGROUND in
PERRY COUNTY
HAUNTED TENT
EVENT 2006

- Newport Ghost Tour
- Spirit Circle w/ Kelly Weaver
- Explore historic (& haunted) Local sites



BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL

by Gail Dull

Fall is in the air. The kids are off to college. Books? Check. Computer? Check. Pens? Check. EMF detector? What?

As the kids head off to college, there might be more surprises in store for them than a few pop quizzes. Almost every college has its haunting legends. Penn State is one of them.

While many legends on college campuses (campi?) are more moralistic or cautionary tales aimed at kids away from home for the first time, this first ghost story may be rooted in the truth. In November of 1969, Betsy Aardsma was doing research in the Pattee Library. She was murdered in the stacks. The crime was never solved. Witnesses say that her spirit remains in the library. Many students and staff report being touched and feeling watched when they are alone. Some according to an article in the *Daily Collegian* even claim to have been “assaulted”.

The library is not alone in these ghostly tales... The Old Botany building is one of the oldest buildings still in use on the campus. It was built in 1909. Staff report doors unlocking themselves and items moving on their own. The most intriguing story is that of the picture of one of the faculty that was taken in front of the building. Sitting in one of the upstairs windows was a man that no one knew or saw when the picture was taken. Additionally, staff has come in and heard movement on the floor above them and when they have investigated found an unused office with the door open and the lights on. Faculty also reports many problems with electrical equipment in the building as well.

Across the street from Old Botany is the Schwab Auditorium. Could the ghost of the Schwab be the ghost of former President Atherton who is buried next to the building? Or could it be his wife Frances? Chairs move on their own. Curtains move in unseen and unfelt breezes. It is also said that Frances can be seen in the attic of Old Botany looking down over her husband’s grave. One other ghost is said to roam between Schwab and Old Botany, the ghost of a student who was walking home during a blizzard in 1860 and froze to death between the buildings.

Residence Halls also have their own tales of terror. Runkle hall has several “affected” rooms including a lounge. Televisions turn on to the “Spanish” channel, even when the residents do not watch it, beds shake and have been seen to “breathe”. Furniture moves around the rooms. Rumor is a former student hung himself in the stairwell. (Note: according to the *Daily Collegian*, the student actually committed suicide in nearby Leete Hall, not Runkle.)

Beam Business Administration Building was formerly used as a dorm. Stories tell that it was so overtaken by “poltergeist” activity that it was changed into an office building. Activity centers around a second floor men’s room where a former student hung himself from an exposed pipe.

The most unique “ghost” is that of Old Coaly. Who’s he? Old Coaly was one of the original pack mules that were used to build the university. When he passed he was preserved and displayed in Old Main. After a fire in Old Main in the early part of the century, Old Coaly was stored in the basement of Watts Hall. This basement, in one of the most posh residence halls, often echoes with the braying of Old Coaly. Not only has he been heard...but he’s been seen standing in the first floor hall!

Could PSU’s campus be haunted by the students and uh, “workers” of this fine institution? I won’t hee-haw around; I’ll leave you to decide.

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

Why the Devil Wears Prada

Why do ghosts wear clothes and how can inanimate objects be ghosts? Being naked in public is a social no-no, but why do ghosts wear clothes? Is it a paranormal taboo? How can clothes and other inanimate objects (such as ghost ships) be ghosts if they were never living?

First, let’s explore what constitutes “living” and “dead.” If something is to be considered “living,” it must exhibit **all** of these factors—Made of cells, obtain and use energy, grow and develop, reproduce, respond and adapt to its environment.

Since ghosts/spirits do possess (so to speak) some of these qualities they cannot be considered “dead” either. So, scientifically, they are considered “non-living.”

To begin with there are a few simple energy rules:

1. Everything—living or non-living—contains energy. For example, when an object sits in the sun, it will get hot. It is retaining the heat energy from the sun.
2. The universe’s energy remains constant—there is no gain and no loss.
3. Energy cannot be created nor destroyed only transformed.

Using these rules, it’s easy to see that if the amount of energy in the universe remains constant, cannot be created nor destroyed and everything contains energy—it only makes sense that the same energy is used over and over again—being merely transformed. Therefore, it’s possible that objects (ships, clothes) and even residual hauntings are all simply a product of energy being re-used or replayed. When cold spots are experienced with an intelligent or spirit haunting, it could merely be the spirit transforming the heat energy into a manifestation.

Try this simple experiment: Hold your hands out about 6 inches apart with the palms facing each other. Now, bring your hands together stopping just before they touch. Continue repeating this motion as quickly as you can. Soon, you will begin to feel ‘energy’ build up between your hands.

So, where does the energy go when you stop moving your hands? It escapes into the air and will probably never be used again. But, remember, energy levels remain constant—so if we just transformed the heat around us into energy that will probably never be used again, where does it go? Most of the energy is lost out into space and is replaced with the sun’s energy.

Energy is everywhere and all matter contains it. Matter IS energy in a specific form. The elemental particles of an object vibrate at various frequencies and remain constantly in motion.

A theory about psi (kinetic energy) and inanimate objects printed in *The Journal of Paraphysics* in 1998 “speculates that a theory of psi was beyond the scope of physics and physical science.” meaning that our current scientific knowledge is inadequate to explain psychokinesis (PK) activity, such as ESP (extra sensory phenomenon). The theory involves a bizarre fifth dimension, “Since PK phenomena such as telekinesis involve energy transfer or rather a utilization of energy, the contact is limited to the space-time continuum. However, information transfer is not so restricted and can occur outside of the normal space-time continuum.” Thus it’s possible that “ ...

all living organisms, all inanimate matter, react psychically, regardless of any definition of consciousness.”

Is your head spinning yet? It may sound like a bunch of “Back to the Future” bunk—but it is only a theory and certainly cannot be disproved at any rate.

Now I’m compelled to Google “Naked Ghosts” ... just out of curiosity!

More Pics from the Recent (7/22/06) E.R.P.C. in Gettysburg



Left: SSP’s Craig Telesha with “Gunther” (“Ghost-Hunter”) his robot-investigator. Gunther brought some interesting reactions moving amongst the crowd! (Vince Wilson’s own robot sits on the table)



Right: So there he was... The always entertaining Troy Taylor shared several great tales, along with some compelling video of an opening door captured during an investigation of the Villisca Axe Murder House in Iowa.



Left: Jeff Belanger (founder of Ghostvillage.com) has gone somewhere no ghosthunter has gone before: Jeff actually received permission to visit the White House and interview personnel in depth about the hauntings there! His efforts will be published in a book coming in 2007!



Right: TAPS’ Ron Milione develops new technology for the group and demonstrated some of his latest efforts.



Left: Ursula Bielski’s knowledge of and passion for the history and hauntings of Chicago is second to none! Anyone going to the Windy City should be certain to make time for one of her tours!

PARA-TECH

Opinions & Observations by JDW

A few gleanings from the recent ERPC... In her presentation, Ursula Bielski made a good point about ghosthunting becoming “too technical” -- if we rely solely on instruments to investigate hauntings, the human element will be a non-factor, and we may even lessen the chance of contact. That is why I’ve long believed using competent mediums (such as my wife) in conjunction with instruments enhances our research... Vince booked Kelly and most of the other presenters at a hotel along Rte 30; little did he know the woods behind it were once part of the large post battle hospital, Camp Letterman! (I got an EVP response to “Who was your C.O.” there Friday night)... Seems like fewer people are alarmed by the Ouija Board these days; as John Zaffis noted, it’s not the board itself but the intent of the users and their knowledge in regards to protecting themselves (see pg. 2 for Rick Fisher’s report of recent Ouija/EVP activity)... Ironic that the White House staff talked openly to Jeff Belanger about the hauntings there but the NPS officially denies any paranormal activity at Gettysburg!

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 SSP 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.

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? *Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* reveals 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)



This "Ghost Test" was printed in the *Weekly World News* (So it has to be TRUE, right?) on June 26, 2006. It's quite entertaining—funny how they are perpetuating the misconception that a ghost's sole purpose is to "SCARE HUMANS." Where do they GET this stuff?
Enjoy! - Melissa Griffith, SSP Activities Director

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT GHOSTS?

•TEST YOURSELF!

- 1) You are most likely to see ghosts...
 - a) In your office
 - b) In an airport
 - c) At a football game
 - d) In a vacant house or empty part of a house (such as an attic)
- 2) Ghosts like to eat...
 - a) Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches
 - b) Dark chocolate with almonds
 - c) Nothing
 - d) Sushi
- 3) Ghosts are drawn to...
 - a) Music
 - b) Pets
 - c) Favorite movies
 - d) None of the above
- 4) Which appliance is a ghost most likely to haunt?
 - a) Toaster
 - b) Dishwasher
 - c) Refrigerator
 - d) Stove
- 5) Ghosts usually wear...
 - a) Nothing
 - b) The clothes in which they were buried
 - c) The clothes in which they died
 - d) White bedsheets
- 6) If you meet a ghost you should...
 - a) Talk to it
 - b) Run away
 - c) Chase it with a broom
 - d) Close your eyes and say a prayer
- 7) You can tell a ghost is nearby because...
 - a) You feel a cold chill
 - b) You can see it
 - c) It moves small objects around
 - d) All of the above
- 8) When ghosts want to relax they...
 - a) Do crossword puzzles
 - b) Go to the gym
 - c) Travel
 - d) Swim

Analysis

1D. Ghosts often appear in places that are not usually frequented by the living. Most spirits don't like company and need to be alone. They haven't accepted the fact that they are dead and will only be able to go on their way after much solitary reflection. In the meantime, they show themselves only when they want to scare away intruders or communicate some unfinished business to the living. That's why they don't show up in an office during normal working hours or at an airport or a football game — too many people around. Occasionally, spirits go to attics to look for the things they owned when they were alive. You may see them there if you go up alone. You might see a ghost on your TV screen, but if you do, call the repair man: Ectoplasm, the chemical building block of ghosts, is incompatible with digital circuits.

2C. Ghosts don't eat, so even if they loved sushi or dark chocolate with almonds in their lifetimes, you won't be able to lure them out of hiding by placing their former favorite foods on the table.

3A. If you want to see a ghost, you can try drawing them out with the music that they liked when they were alive. As intangible beings, they respond strongly to intangible media (and also tangible mediums like our Madame Malisa). Ghosts don't like pets because animals sense when they're around and make a racket. They also don't respond to movies, even the ones they liked in their lifetimes. A ghost's eyesight is notoriously poor except in almost total darkness.

4A. Ghosts are naturally drawn to the "pop" action of a toaster because it scares people.

5C. Most people who have seen ghosts say they wear the clothes in which they died, not the ones in which they were buried. This makes sense: That was the way they looked when their lives ended. Ghosts don't actually wear sheets. People who claim to have seen them like that are really seeing raw, unformed ectoplasm. Ghosts who appear in this form are usually in a transition period, getting ready to head off to the afterlife. Ghosts who are still dressed will probably be around for a while, like seniors at a prom.

6A. If you meet a ghost for the first time, you will probably be scared. Talk to it. That will help to calm you down. Attacking it will only rile you both. Running won't make it go away (it can float faster than you can move). Prayer may make you feel stronger . . . but it won't make the ghost disappear.

7D. Many ghosts seem to enjoy teasing live humans. After all, there's not much else to do when you're dead. Unfortunately, some ghosts do not have good intentions and will hurt people if they get a chance. Some are tormented. Some are angry and want vengeance. If you sense that a ghost is nearby, be firm with it. Ghosts respect those who are unafraid.

8D. While ghosts can't actually swim, they know how to float and enjoy the coolness of the water. Their eyesight isn't good enough to do crossword puzzles and they no longer have a real body, so going to the gym holds little appeal. Neither does traveling. They can go anywhere they want, but they prefer to stay close to the places that were meaningful to them in life.

Wow! Why read books by Troy Taylor & Vince Wilson when all you need to know about Ghosts is right there in the supermarket check out line? (Wonder if WWN got their info. from someone with a Ph.D from the Universal New Life Church?) Thanks for the laugh, Melissa!

THOUGHTS ON THE GETTYSBURG BATTLE ANNIVERSARY & ACTIVITY OBSERVED ON JULY 1 2006 by JDW

Having witnessed (and sometimes documented) various strange events on the battlefield during the “anniversary” over the years, it’s evident the first 3 days of July offer greater opportunities to experience something paranormal. From the day I walked into a virtual ice-box on a sweltering July 3 while tracing the route of Pickett’s assault (when my interest in Gettysburg was purely historical), to hearing phantom harmonica music, to filming long ribbons of mist aligned as troops spike my Tri-Field meter, the list of things I’ve encountered on these dates goes on and on!

IVERSON’S PITS During the most recent (2006) Anniversary, yet more strangeness was to manifest. While Kelly and Rosemary Guiley were at a book signing at Mark Nesbitt’s store, Rosemary’s friend Will accompanied me to several areas north of town which saw the first bloodletting on that same date (July 1) in 1863. With the line of trees removed behind the stone wall where Union troops from Baxter’s 1st Corps Brigade decimated Iverson’s North Carolinians, I wondered if Kelly’s old “adversary” missed the woods he seemed to favor. (With little wind and few cars/people about, conditions were excellent for attempting EVP contact but none was recorded this time). For the past few years, since the NPS began restoring the battlefield’s appearance thru tree removal, I have made a point of asking if anyone has noticed the missing trees, or if things look more familiar in these areas. So far, I’ve heard no responses to these questions. From this can we infer that those spirits who’s voices we can record have no perception of physical changes to the land? How does this compare to the often reported component of domestic hauntings which sees increased activity when a structure is altered? Frankly, I’ve yet to notice an upturn in activity at any of numerous recently cleared areas on the battlefield, but would be interested to know if any other regular investigators have.

HERBST’S WOODS One place I did record a couple voices that night was in Herbst’s Woods near Willoughby run. (Although owned by John Herbst, this woodlot is sometimes called McPherson’s Woods as it is adjacent to that farm and its prominent barn, and sometimes Reynold’s Woods, for Maj. Gen John Reynolds, who was killed on the south side of this woods while leading the famed Iron Brigade of his 1st Corps into action) Will seems very intuitive, and like Kelly the first time I had her back in those woods, gave a pretty accurate “description” of the fighting there (back and forth... vicious... determined). His prior knowledge of the battle exceeds Kelly’s, but is very basic, and I don’t honestly think he knew exactly how the fighting progressed here. (Few folks with a casual interest pay a lot of attention to the first day’s action) Here, Confederate Brigades from Heth’s Division of AP Hills Corps led by Archer (and later Pettigrew’s) clashed with the Iron Brigade of the Union 1st Corps. Perhaps the most intense fighting came in the afternoon when the 26th NC crossed Willoughby run and ran into the 24th MI. Consequently, these 2 units suffered the highest percentages of casualties at the regiment level during the battle for each side. (A great read on the fighting in this area is Richard Shue’s *Morning at Willoughby Run*) I did record two voices here, in ideal, quiet conditions: The first is a **response to my request for a name**. The second seems to be “**Farewell**”, recorded just after I said “Thank you” and “Goodnight” and underscores why you should always wait several seconds prior to shutting off your recorder when concluding a session. (This is the second time I’ve recorded this rather archaic term at Gettysburg... how many times today do you hear someone say “Farewell”?) * EVPs can be heard at www.spiritsociety.com

RAILROAD CUT Of course, recording EVP on the battlefield is hardly anything strange or limited to the anniversary days, but at the Rail Road Cut through McPherson’s Ridge around 7:30pm, something very unusual was observed.

On July 1 1863, an out-flanked Confederate Brigade led by Joseph Davis (nephew of Jefferson Davis, CSA President) tried to make a stand in this cut but was overwhelmed by Union forces from



Cutler’s brigade, aided by the 6th Wisconsin from the Iron Brigade. Looking to the NW, we noticed a very visible mist in the cut perhaps 200 yards away. What is strange is that there was hardly any temperature variance from earlier in the day (which normally causes such mists to form). Will is a meteorologist/analyst and agreed with my comment that this mist seemed very out of place given the conditions... we watched it for a while and it rapidly dissolved. (This disappointed me, as it negated the chance to approach it and perhaps replicate the Tri-Field meter inexplicably spiking amongst mist as it did by the Angle on July 3 a few years ago.) I took several photos pointing toward the mist (*see above*) and just one pointing the other way (*toward the Seminary - see bottom of page*) for contrast. Although no mist was seen there, when I finally downloaded the photo, what may be a shadow figure is seen in the distance in the center of the track. Is this really an apparition? I don’t have additional data to support it, but the way it partially obscures the ties and shows no explainable source certainly make it a potentially paranormal image!

RE-ENACTORS A FACTOR? The battle anniversary always brings the year’s largest crowds to Gettysburg, both in the town and on the battlefield. Amongst them are a huge contingent of re-enactors portraying infantry, cavalry and artillery units from both sides. Does their presence cause an increase in activity? The most prolonged encampment of thousands of re-enactors occurred in the summer of 1992 during the filming of Ron Maxwell’s *Gettysburg*. Although several tales from participants have been included in different volumes of the *Ghosts of Gettysburg* series, Mark Nesbitt told me he could fill an entire book or more with the accounts he’s received! Ron Waddell, who portrays a surgeon from Stuart’s Cavalry was also the EMT in charge of medical services for the camp and has shared a wealth of strange stories from that event with our group. Add to this the numer-



ous times we’ve worked with re-enactors in the field and heard their stories, there are many reasons to believe there is indeed a correlation between those who relive the Civil War and those who died in it!

There is no guarantee you’ll experience (or be able to document) the paranormal when visiting Gettysburg on the anniversary dates, but personal experience tells me the odds are much greater that you will! - JDW