



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

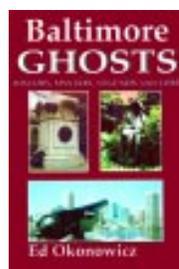
A Review and Preview of SSP Activities and Items of Interest • Vol 9, Issue 2 -Feb. 2005

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

Happy Valentine's Day everyone! This is also our fourteenth wedding Anniversary. We had a beautiful candlelit old fashioned Victorian Wedding at the haunted Lutheran Church (original building by the graveyard) in Hummelstown. No one seemed surprised when I walked down the aisle in a bright red gown. (Go figure!) We did capture some strange images on wedding photos taken by 2 different 35mm cameras in this old building. I guess that's where it all started...

Announcing: SPIRIT DAY IN MAY! At the Senior Citizens Center in New Cumberland, Sat. May 21

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21, 2005. John and I are putting together a special event for you to enhance your skills in paranormal research, (photo/video/instrument workshop presented by John, Ed Dubil and other long time investigators) learn more about the mysterious spirit world from a "sensitive" point of view (presented by Kelly), as well as provide some entertainment. (*NO drunken, whiskey swilling, hippie musicians will be speaking this year... not to worry!*)



We will have author, teacher and award winning story teller **Ed Okonowicz** as our featured speaker. Ed's presentation is based on his latest book, *Baltimore Ghosts - Histories, Mysteries, Legends and Lore*. As many of you know, he is a fascinating person who will keep you laughing and entertained throughout his presentation. He has written a large collection of ghost books over the years and will have them as well as his new *Baltimore Ghosts* for sale that day. You can visit Ed's web site at: www.mystandlace.com

We will end the day with a group Past Life Regression. This is going to be a "spirited day" for everyone, so tell your friends and sign up now for **Spirit Day in May**. Hopefully, some of our "remote" members known only thru the SSP Yahoo message group will be able to attend so we can all meet in person. The cost is only \$15.00 per person. Tickets will go on sale in March.

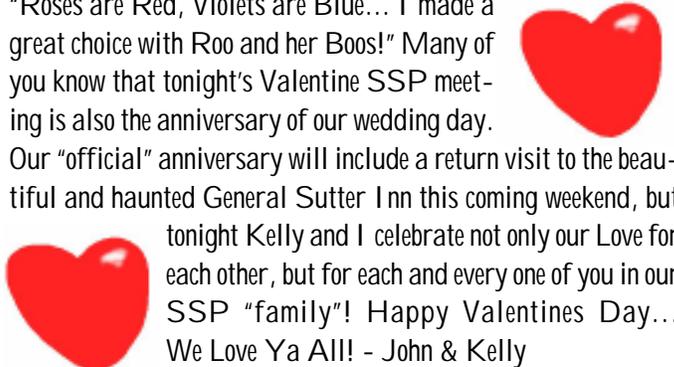
Full details shortly on the SSP website and the March newsletter.

OTHER UPCOMING SSP EVENTS

Haunted Tent Event at Sickman's Mill June 25/26 - An investigation of the haunted mill will be included, and possibly a seance with Kelly too. Its a great campsite -- and a fascinating haunted historic mill -- don't miss it! Details available from Melissa Griffith at the meetings or on the "Events" page of the SSP website.

"GORE TOUR '06" April 2006 - This weekend journey to MA. will include a Whack-y night's stay at the Lizzie Borden House in Fall River, then on to Hang with the Witches in haunted, historic Salem. Plenty of time to plan and save for this one of a kind journey! Again, details available from Melissa at the meetings or on the SSP website.

"Roses are Red, Violets are Blue... I made a great choice with Roo and her Boos!" Many of you know that tonight's Valentine SSP meeting is also the anniversary of our wedding day. Our "official" anniversary will include a return visit to the beautiful and haunted General Sutter Inn this coming weekend, but tonight Kelly and I celebrate not only our Love for each other, but for each and every one of you in our SSP "family"! Happy Valentines Day... We Love Ya All! - John & Kelly



POSITIVE LIGHT

"Imagine that your inklings are God's whispers to you - the same God that gave you the idea will give you the means and support to see it through. Then every act that springs from your joyful vision will become a prayer that will bless the world forever." — Alan Cohen

"We may miss a great deal of joy because we expect it to be unusual, dramatic, and spectacular. We are waiting for lights to flash and bells to ring. But the truth is that joy is here, right now, waiting for us to notice it." — Veronica Ray

"For a long time it had seemed to me that life was about to begin — real life. But there was always some obstacle in the way. Something to be got through first, some unfinished business, time still to be served, a debt to be paid. Then life would begin. At last it dawned on me that these obstacles were my life." — Fr. Alfred D'Souza

"Difficulties are opportunities to better things; they are stepping stones to greater experience." — Brian Adams

MONSTER MYSTERIES
PA Paranormal Conference
Gettysburg • March 19, 2005

The 2005 PA Paranormal Conference is only a month away - March 19 in Gettysburg. Topics covered incl Bigfoot, "Chessie", The Flatwoods Monster, Werewolves, The Carbondale Incident Gettysburg Ghosts & more. Speakers include Stan Gordon, Rosemary Guiley, Mike Frizzell, Eric Altman, Mark Nesbitt & Rick Fisher. For details or to register go to - <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/conf.html> (or call Rick Fisher @ (717) 684-3643)



SPIRIT SOCIETY OF PA LECTURE: "To SHC or Not... That is a Question?" March 14, 2005

*"For every action there is an equal and
opposing criticism."*

Nowhere is this axiom more present than in the pioneering work of central Pennsylvania's own iconoclastic researcher, Larry E. Arnold, who has been the target of heated rebuke and searing barbs for daring to investigate a subject both fascinating and horrifying – and reviled. Spontaneous Human Combustion.

More than 150 years ago, Charles Dickens was sharply criticized for evoking SHC in his 19th century novel, *Bleak House*. Attitudes since then have not changed when it comes to SHC. Scarcely anyone believes in it, and those who do are quickly labeled fools and mystery-mongers. But then Orthodoxy does not take kindly to a wide range of phenomena that by definition – and evidence – are outside the normal. And therein lies the opportunity to disclose new insights; to acquire new knowledge; to discover new mysteries.

SHC is clearly outside the norm; paranormal, if you will. It challenges so much that you have been taught, beginning with the most basic premise that the human body is not innately combustible. Indeed, it is exceedingly difficult to destroy by fire. And yet, as Arnold's three decades of research into the hidden history of fire phenomena has unveiled, what is innately difficult is not inherently impossible.

Did you know that the ashes of Mary Reeser, who became world-famous in the 1950s when alleged to be a victim of SHC, are interred near Mechanicsburg, PA? What conundrums confounded firefighters in Mrs. Conway's bedchamber in Upper Darby in 1964? How to explain the baffling burning that befell beloved Dr. Bentley in Coudersport in 1966?

You will be challenged – hopefully captivated as well – by the astonishing evidence that he will put forward this evening. Even if you have seen some (of all) of the dozens of television programs about SHC that he has co-produced, there will be new material heretofore undisclosed to the public. Ample time will be given for questions and discussion.

Larry E. Arnold is director of ParaScience International in Harrisburg, PA. A native of Carlisle, he is world-renown for research he's done in fortiana. He predicted in print the "impossible" Class IX meltdown at TMI-2 eight months before it happened, which became the subject of his first book, *The Parapsychological Impact of the Accident at Three Mile Island*. His second book, *The Reiki Handbook*, is the first manual written about this hugely popular form of non-invasive healing. He has appeared on "That's Incredible!," "Unsolved Mysteries," Maury Pauvich, Leeza, The Learning Channel, Discovery Channel, Sci-Fi, Fox, FoxFamily, A&E, Lifetime, and soon on National Geographic TV. His hundreds of radio interviews include Art Bell, Howard Stern, Jeff Rense, and Coast to Coast AM. Articles by him have appeared in Fate, Fortean Times, INFO Journal, UFO Report, Pursuit, Pennsylvania Magazine, and elsewhere.

ABLAZE! The Mysterious Fires of Spontaneous Human Combustion, is his third book and the basis for an unforgettable presentation at our March meeting. Signed copies of **ABLAZE!** plus an assortment of his videos about SHC will be available, at discount. Come with wonder, questions, and even disbelief. It will be an evening you will not soon forget!



Playing the Trumpet: Combining a relic from the age of spiritualism with modern technology in attempting to contact the "other side".

Ever since Kelly acquired it from spiritualist friends in the midwest last year, I've been curious about the telescoping, conical device known as a "trumpet". In theory, this device was used to help facilitate contact between mediums and the spirit world. While I cannot comment on its effectiveness during a period when fraudulent means were frequently used to prove contact, it does appear to have some promise when combined with modern electronic devices and the talents of my wife.

Kelly used it during one of her mediumship classes, and recorded a very clear response to her mentioning the kitchen. The response – clearly not her voice, with different inflection, says "The kitchen". Other voices of lesser clarity were also recorded that night.

On a recent evening, we retired to the sunroom and, after setting up 2 audio recorders and the Tri-Field meter, followed the standard regimen of preparation she uses when attempting contact with spirits for her clients. Remote microphones were both attached to the large end of the trumpet. Definite (if faint) responses to a few questions were recorded, some with both recorders. (These are still being analyzed) One of the most intriguing events occurred when Kelly asked for a sign confirming the presence of her spirit contact, Annabelle: Knocking clearly begins in the room above her head (it was recorded) and concurrent with this, a clear spike (reaching 4) was observed on the EM meter. (I was focusing on the meter throughout the entire session; it mostly rested at zero, save for some very subtle increases. This spike was substantial and has no rational explanation.

More research needs to be done with the "Trumpet". Was it really a factor in producing what seems some very plausible evidence of contact, or was it just Kelly's ability alone? I'll be trying it by myself here and together I want to use it at some other locations, such as on the battlefield. We do know that such shapes can indeed enhance audible sounds – it may be possible inaudible sounds from the other side can also be enhanced by this simple device.



Kelly's Spiritualist "Trumpet" - A true instrument of contact?

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

Your Reputation Precedes You

Throughout history many animals are associated with death, the dead and evil.

Raven/Crow. The raven is in the crow family, but is about 1/3 larger in size. (We will use ‘raven’ and ‘crow’ interchangeably here for simplicity sake.) It seems probable that they have been stigmatized simply because they are black in color and feed off carrion (dead flesh). Another reason for their somewhat sinister reputation is that they had been long associated with execution sites, battlefields and cemeteries because it is in these places they would feed off the dead. There is also an old belief that crow communities hold court and if a crow is found guilty of a crime, the defendant is then killed on the spot by the flock. These factors are probably the basis for the reason a group of the birds is called a ‘murder’.

Most people immediately think of Edgar Allan’s Poe famous poem, “The Raven” which regards the raven as a messenger informing the main character of the death of his beloved Lenore. But the raven’s deathly reputation has been around for thousands of years before Edgar Allan Poe. In fact, most of the raven’s lore goes back to ancient times.

The Romans believed the crow had the mystical power of prophecy, the ability to see into the future because it would call out “*Cras! Cras!*” which translates into “*Tomorrow! Tomorrow!*” In Roman mythology, crows were white in color and regarded as graceful, elegant creatures. That being, a crow was chosen to watch over the pregnant lover of Apollo. One day the crow brought bad news to Apollo and the crow was turned black.

In ancient Ireland the crow was once domesticated for use in divination practices and the term “Raven’s Knowledge” meant “Second Sight.” The crow was an emblem of the Celtic death goddess, Morrigan (Morgana). Similarly, a Danish myth tells of a witch named Krake (Crow) who was the daughter of Valkyries (Goddess of death who was also said to be a man-eater and used the crow as her totem). Krake was a shape-shifter who could appear as a beautiful virgin, hag, monster or crow.

Medieval superstition dictates that witches used crows’ feet to cast death spells. The wrinkles around eyes we refer to as “Crow’s feet” probably derived from this—being associated with old age (as all witches were perceived as old hags).

A famous superstitious tale in England is the curse of the Tower of London. It’s said that Charles II was warned that if the ravens were to ever leave the Tower, the monarchy would fall. He immediately ordered that ravens be forevermore housed at the Tower, a tradition still carried out today. But the current Queen Mum need not worry since the ravens’ wings are kept clipped to ensure their captivity (which is cheating, in my book).

Crows also play in part in many ancient religions. In Hinduism, the soul of a dead person travels through the World of Spirits to the World of the Ancestors. Pindas, ritually-prepared balls of rice, were fed to crows and the river as both were believed to aid the soul in this journey. If the crow refused to eat the pindas, it was thought the soul held unfulfilled earthly desires that prevented it from leaving the earth. This is a belief portrayed in the movie “The Crow” starring Brandon

Lee as the main character, Eric Draven (suspiciously, his last name is almost ‘Raven’). Eric cannot move on until he avenges his own murder and the crow tags along as once Eric’s soul is lifted of this burden, the crow will carry his soul on to the World of the Dead. In Shamanism, the crow is a shape shifter who is a carrier of souls from darkness into light. They are ancient creatures who guarded the earth before man’s existence and possess the magically ability to move through space and time. Crows honor ancestors and are knowledgeable of all things relating to ethics.

These contradicting (both good & evil) beliefs about crows are summed up in an old English rhyme about the birds: One means anger, Two means mirth, Three a wedding, Four a birth, Five is heaven, Six is hell, But Seven is the devil’s own self.

Cats. In ancient Egypt, the cat held a place of honor. The most common goddess, Bast, was depicted as a domestic cat. Bast was the goddess of many things including the moon, fertility and protector of all cats. While the goddess, Sekhmet, is lion-headed (large cat) and rules over the fate of humanity.

There was extreme punishment for killing or even harming a cat. Diodorus Siculus said: *Whoever kills a cat in Egypt is condemned to death, whether he committed this crime deliberately or not. The people gather and kill him. An unfortunate Roman, who accidentally killed a cat, could not be saved, either by King Ptolemy of Egypt or by the fear which Rome inspired. (Qtd. in Preserved for Posterity, 1997)*

A story tells how when the prophet Mohammed found a cat sleeping on his robe, instead of disturbing the honored animal, he cut a hole in his robe in order to wear it.

So, how did the cat go from goddess to a symbol of evil? Cats have always been perceived as aloof towards humans, independent, mysterious and are natural born killers of rodents, bird and sometimes rabbits. The cats’ somewhat sinister reputation—especially if they are black (again, the color black is associated with death) may have began in the 14th Century when cats were blamed for the Bubonic Plague (the Black Death) which killed 1/3 of the population of Europe (35 million). Your chances of surviving the disease was only 10% and the plague killed with a surprising swiftness. Boccaccio, an Italian writer, said its victims “... ate lunch with their friends and dinner with their ancestors ...”

For some reason, people came to believe that cats were the carriers of this disease and felines were killed by the thousands. Ironically, because the disease was actually carried by fleas on rats—the plague spread even more quickly when the rat population exploded, as there were no cats to kill them off.

The negative reputation of the cat was strengthened with the witch hunts of Europe and America in the late 1600s-early 1700s. Although cats were an ordinary household pet (to keep the household mouse-free), a woman owning a black cat was suspect. The reason probably being because cats were common and the accusers needed a reason (any reason would do) for condemning their neighbor of witchcraft, so the cat took the heat.

Some thought the cat was the witches’ “familiar” who was the messenger between the witch and Satan or that the cat was a shape shifter and was actually the witch in animal form.

Toads. Toad folklore is most prevalent in pertaining to witchcraft. It was thought witches kissed toads as homage to Satan. Toads, espe-



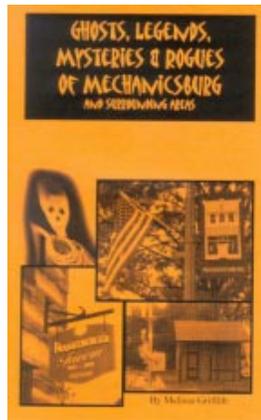
cially if they sported tiny horns on their heads, were believed to be demons in disguise and were thought to possess a magical stone in their heads that was used as a talisman. Some witches claimed to dress their toads with bells attached to small velvet capes.

A toad's bodily fluids were supposedly used in potions—excrement for flying; spit used for invisibility; ashes for curing drunkenness; "toad's milk" (a secretion from its glands when the toad is scared or provoked) was used for various spells and potions or the animal was cooked in stews for many other witch purposes. We all know the old wives' tale stating that if a toad pees on you, you will get a wart—a testament of the power of the toad's secretions and the 'wart' being related to witches (as any sort of skin anomaly was seen as being the 'mark of the devil').

Bats. The bats infamy seems to stem only from the facts that it is black, nocturnal and vampire bats survive on the blood of livestock.

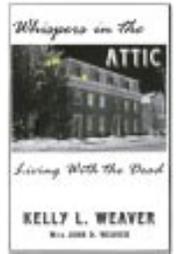
Rats. Rats have a similar notoriety as the bat. It's a nocturnal creature that feeds on carrion and, generally, gives most people the heebie-jeebies.

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



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

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



Musings of a Pterodactyl Adventurer

Recently, Melissa and I were discussing some possible haunted locations in Perry County and the conversation led to the reported "Mothman" sighting outside Newport in summer 2003 that both Rick Fisher and I investigated. Below is a story of her own encounter with a strange creature about 17 years ago:

My recollection: It was night time, around 11:30 p.m. and I was driving on Apple Ridge Road (nothing but flattened cornfields on either side of the road—so nothing blocking my view) The thing was flying very low, maybe 12-15 feet off the ground and flew right in front of my car. It was HUGE with a wingspan of at least 8-10 feet. It had no feathers (only a tan-colored 'skin') and basically looked exactly like what you see in picture books of a pterodactyl. That's about all to the story. It just flew in front of my car and was gone. Of course, my family 'picks' on me about this and that's fine; but I know what I saw! Like I said, it was a long time ago ... but I'd be interested to know if there were any other sighting in that area. I keep telling my family they'll be eating crow when they discover a pterodactyl carcass in Perry County!!

There are some possible correlations between this sighting 17 years ago, the aforementioned "Mothman" sighting, and the strange sounds reported by an experienced hunter & outdoorsman that Rick Fisher checked out through his PBS involvement. These events were not all that far apart. Melissa also mentions a road in this area (she grew up here) that kids used to go to "park" which also had reports



of strange sounds & activity. Rick feels Melissa's sighting (and perhaps also the "Mothman" may be one of several Thunderbird sightings reported in PA. I've suggested checking out more of this area in the spring. - JDW

From SSP Member & SEARCH President Steve Groff:

S.E.A.R.C.H. Presents :

"FORBIDDEN ARCHAEOLOGY" - Wed. Feb. 16

We are told by experts in the field that there is no evidence supporting the contention that there have been advanced civilizations that predate our modern historical record, but *is this true??* Is it possible that there is at least *some evidence* that many of the those incredible stories about "the Gods" and ancient super-civilizations that we regard as "myths" are in fact *true* historical accounts from contemporary eye witnesses? Could it be that this evidence is being suppressed?

S.E.A.R.C.H. member Adam Faucey will give a presentation covering controversial aspects of modern archaeology that we rarely hear about in the mainstream media. He will take us around the world as we explore South America, Syria, Cyprus, orient and even Antarctica to help us decide if the ascent of man was given "assistance" somewhere in our ancient past. We will examine artifacts such as the Sphynx, the Iraq battery, the Mahabarata, the underwater pyramids of Japan plus other ruins found in both the Atlantic and Pacific regions, just to name a few.

S.E.A.R.C.H. meets at the East Shore Library (room B) behind Colonial Park Mall. Doors open at 6:45 pm meeting begins at 7:pm. Open to the public and admission is free. If interested or you have questions, please contact Steve Groff at SGROFF@paonline.com or call 566-2835 .

(S.E.A.R.C.H. meets the 3rd Wed of Each Month; all are welcome)



Spirit Society of PA.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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