



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 5 -May 2005

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

I'm excited to present our first Spirit Day in May this year. I hope everyone will enjoy what we have in store for you on Sat, May 21. Doors will open at 9:30 AM.

I will need a team of helpers to get the room ready for the event and to help clean up when we are finished. I will have a volunteer sheet set up at tonight's meeting. Heather O'Donnell will be giving us our food update tonight as well.

The cost is only \$15.00 per person! If paying by check, please have them made out to: Spirit Society of PA. I've listed it in the *Patriot News* calendar as well as handed out many flyers during my book signings, and lectures, classes and clients over the last few months. It has also been promoted on the SSP site, Rick Fisher's PSP site and Ed Okonowicz's site & newsletter.

I'm not sure how many people will attend, but the main goal is to offer our members an outlet to learn more about technology and to hear true haunting tales, and to listen to information about death and dying, how spirits communicate with us from the other side as well as who we were in the past.

Please dress comfortably, bring a blanket, pillow or whatever you will need to be comfortable for the guided Past Life Regression meditation after dinner. I can't wait to have a fun day, without a drunken spiritualist musician, Jack Daniels or Heiniken. (private joke!)

Massachusetts Haunting

Each month I receive many E-mails from around the country concerning ghosts and paranormal situations. (*I also get referrals from Troy Taylor's American Ghost Society as I am the mid-state PA. representative.*)

Recently, one crossed my desk which made me stop and re-read it several times. This woman is being touched by unseen hands and laid upon in bed, (all the while, her husband is trying to lay on top of her in a futile attempt to protect her)!

Other events include crashing and banging which was described to me as loud, angry and disturbing. Upon investigation, nothing is broken or moved. Rocking chairs rocking by themselves on the porch when no wind is blowing, lights going off and on, which continue to this day after an electrician changed the wiring around to alleviate this problem. She feels watched all of the time, enough to make her skin crawl! They see shadows or lights flying faster than a hummingbird through the house. An electrical cord was moving like a snake on its own -- while it was not plugged in -- and a glass dish decoration hanging in the dining room bangs against the glass hutch constantly, for no reason. (That's not to say there's no reason, but this is taken from the basic investigation form they filled out for me.) She told me this morning, (Wed.) that her mother came to be with her yesterday to

work in the barn to give her moral support, and heard growling in the corner of the barn, with *no visible animal or reason for the noise!*

She has done some historical research on her Mass. Farm which goes back to 1734. I've been in contact with her and will be helping her via phone calls, E-mail and photos. I've discovered quite by accident that I'm able to work with people at a distance on their haunting situations and have been able to help several people from Florida to Ohio in this way.

The woman told me that she contacted TAPS (You remember that group from their television show we all loved to HATE?). They told her they were *only interested in her case to get credible photographs and nothing more.* They offered no help on how to live with or get rid of these entities that are causing this family problems. Sleep is non-existent and the couple are taking turns sleeping and keeping watch in the master bedroom. (It does sound like there is more than one spirit residing in this house and the barn area).

A representative team from TAPS, a woman and her husband, did come to the house in question, and proceeded to take all of their EVP's, photographs and video tapes and have not returned to the home to offer any more help *or return their phone calls.* The woman from TAPS even confided to "P", the homeowner, that she was scared and didn't know what to do. I find it irresponsible that she wouldn't at least call her back or return her photos and tapes to her. (*See John's column for additional comments on this...*)

This poor woman was having such a bad day; she called me early Monday morning begging me to help her. I contacted her Monday evening and with her permission, tape recorded our session. I've been keeping a good file on this case and will keep you updated. I've offered advice to begin a cleansing which she began the next day. I'll be keeping in touch with her on a weekly basis offering her the best advice or help in her area that I can. Stay tuned!

WOULD YOU BUY A BOOK FROM THESE WOMEN?



Actually, lots of people did during their recent signing at Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg store! Kelly and Rosemary Guiley will return on Sat. May 28, 7-10pm. To learn more on Rosemary's prolific collection of works on everything from Angels to Vampires, please visit her site at www.visionaryliving.com

POSITIVE LIGHT

"What allows us, as human beings, to psychologically survive life on earth, with all of its pain, drama, and challenges, is a sense of purpose and meaning." — *Barbara De Angelis*

"Cease trying to work everything out with your minds. It will get you nowhere. Live by intuition and inspiration and let your whole life be Revelation." — *Eileen Caddy*

"Intuition is the supra-logic that cuts out all the routine processes of thought and leaps straight from the problem to the answer." - *R. Graves*

"Ask for what you need and want. Ask to be taught the right questions. Ask to be answered. Ask for the Divine Plan of your life to unfold through joy. Ask politely. Ask with passion. Ask with a grateful heart and you will be heard." — *Sarah Ban Breathnach*

PARA-TECH

Opinions & Observations by JDW

PARANORMAL VULTURES Kelly's column relates some disturbing aspects surrounding the haunting in MA.; not any of the paranormal events themselves, but how these people were evidently treated by the "investigators". Stating your only goal is to obtain evidence is fine when exploring potential activity at a cemetery or battlefield is one thing; to say this when people have contacted you for help is something different. Taking evidence gathered by the occupants and then refusing further contact is not only irresponsible, its stealing!

Granted, we know only one side of this story, but sadly we've heard such tales several times. Just as we have a responsibility to be respectful and professional in conducting investigations, we likewise have one to help people understand what they are experiencing, should it turn out to actually be a haunting. Many groups openly state that they will not and cannot "cleanse" a house, and that is fine. However, in cases where the occupants' lives are disrupted by paranormal activity, if you cannot help them yourselves, direct them to someone who can! Of course, with our own group, Kelly is able to provide spiritual support in a variety of ways and has helped numerous families over the years. In the rare few cases where overt negativity was involved, she referred them to a demonologist. The bottom line is we have never come in, recorded video, audio, etc. and rushed off with evidence of a haunting but offered no help for the haunted. Those who operate in this way are no more than paranormal vultures!

SOUND EFFECTS I'm conducting an ongoing investigation of the Lincoln Colored Cemetery south of Mechanicsburg. A single but clear voice was recorded on my first session; a substantial increase in activity during my next, (several more EVPs, camcorder battery drain and intense EM field movement) make it clear something is happening there! One voice, however, turned out to be my own! For a few years, I've been clipping my external mic on the back of my collar to minimize picking up my own breathing. When used in conjunction with my camcorder, it give me "fore & aft" audio and many times both have picked up the same voice, although at varying intensities. When reviewing my video, I heard a faint voice while describing a grave. Kelly's superior hearing led her to suspect this was MY voice (and it was) but I could not understand why my inflection changed. When reviewing the audio recording, there was NO variance in my voice. I then figured out why: Gusty winds were coming from the west, where my camcorder faced. This evidently affected the camcorder mic, but not the remote mic behind on my collar. *More on the LCC coming soon!*

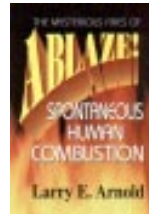
Wednesday May 18th 7pm: S.E.A.R.C.H. will review National Geographic's new series 'Is it Real' with primary focus on Human Combustion featuring SHC researcher **Larry Arnold**. We will also touch on NG's presentations on UFOs & Cryptozoology. Larry (if available) will answer questions in regard to his participation in the program and a discussion of paranormal issues in the media will follow. *Refreshments will be served. Please contact SGROFF@paonline.com or call 566-2835 if you plan to attend or would like directions.*



PARANORMAL PENNSYLVANIA

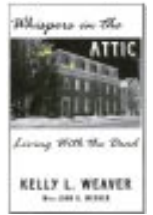
Available in printed form at SSP meetings or save \$ and subscribe to receive .pdf file copies direct from publisher Rick Fisher. Writers include Eric Altman, Tom White, Stan Gordon, Troy Taylor, Katherine Ramsland, Ed Okonowicz, Patty Wilson, Mark Nesbitt, Charlie Adams, Dorothy Fiedel, Scott Ditmer, 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 May 28, July 2 & Sept. 3, all at Mark Nesbitts Ghosts of Gettysburg store on Baltimore St. 7-10pm each night. (*Mark Nesbitt will also be signing on those dates, and will be at Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg on Jubilee Day, June 16*)



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.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL by Gail Dull

The True Horror of Amityville

Many if not all, have heard of the horror that occurred at what was known as 112 Ocean Avenue in Amityville, New York. But as many of us know that the truth is sometimes stranger than fiction.

As a child, I read the book and saw the movie and didn't sleep for days. I was terrified about what I had read and wondered how all of that could happen to one typical suburban family. There's an easy answer...it didn't. Before I discuss the story, I want to mention the six innocent victims that died on Wednesday, November 14, 1974:

Ronald Sr., 43, Louise, 42; his sisters, Dawn, 18, and Alison, 13, and his brothers, Mark, 12, and John Matthew, 7.

Ronald and Louise DeFeo and their children moved into the Dutch-Colonial home, a home that they named "High Hopes". Little did they imagine that the house would be the scene of their final nightmares. Ronald Sr. was a domineering person. Ronald Jr. also known as Ronnie or "Butch", as the family called him, seemed to get the most grief and beatings from his father. Ronnie also inherited his father's quick temper and was prone to violent behavior.

As Ronnie matured the fights got angrier and more violent. However, Ronald would do what many parents do with children who behave poorly; he bought him presents including an expensive speed boat and a car. His parents did try to get him help. They took him to a therapist who Ronnie refused to work with. By the end of high school, Ronnie was involved with heavy drug use including the use of LSD and heroin. Money for the drugs wasn't a problem, if he needed money he asked for it from his parents, if they didn't give it to him, he took it anyway.

Ronnie wanted more. He had been given a job at his grandfather's Buick dealership, a position that further strained the relationship with his father who also worked there. With the drug use his violent behavior increased and so did the fights with his father.

One night, during a fight between Ronald and Louise, Ronnie ran to his room, loaded a cartridge into his shotgun and ran back downstairs where his parents were fighting, pointed the shotgun at his father's face telling him to leave Louise alone. Then he pulled the trigger. By some miracle, the gun didn't go off. Ronnie just walked away.

After that, things deteriorated even further. Ronnie's need for money to support his drug habit and his undiluted greed led him to cheat his family. As part of his job at the family dealership, he was responsible to take the daily deposits of money and checks to the bank. Ronnie arranged for a friend to hold him and another employee up and take the money which they would split later.

As the police had questioned Ronnie about the crime, Ronnie became angry and refused to cooperate with them. Ronald realized why Ronnie wasn't helping...he had been in on it. While Ronald may have spoiled his eldest son and had given in to him in the past, this was the last straw. The next day when Ronnie refused to go to police headquarters to view mug shots to try to find the robber, Ronald went off. While they did not hit one another, Ronnie screamed at his father, "...I'll kill you!" before running to his car and driving off. This was Friday, five days before the murders.

It was nearly 3am on Wednesday Nov. 14 when Ronnie came down from his 3rd floor bedroom with his shotgun and went to his parents' bedroom where the horror began. He gave each of his parentstwo shots in the back before turning and proceeding to his brother's room.



After he was finished there, he went to his sisters and did the same. In a span of less than 15 minutes, his family was annihilated.

Was he possessed as he later claimed? I'll leave that to you to decide. Would a possessed man after killing his entire family, take the time to clean up, change clothes, trim his beard and put the rifle and the

bloody murder clothes in a pillow case and drive away? Would this same possessed person then drive miles away to stash the murder weapon and the bloody clothes in a storm drain? Would this same possessed man, a known drug abuser famous for showing up late to work, show up to work hours EARLY?

After his father failed to show up for work was he worried? He called home several times and got no answer, but did he leave work? No. He stayed until noon before leaving. Did he go home to check on his family because he was worried? No. He visited his girlfriend to whom; he mentioned that he was "worried about his family". He called home and got no answer. Was he worried? Did he go home then? No. He took his girlfriend shopping. Did he then go home to check on his family? No. He called a friend to ask if he was going out later. His friend said that he would around six that night. Did Ronnie run home to check on his family? No. He did mention to his friend that he knew that all the family cars were in the driveway but no one was answering the phone. Did he go home then? No.

Ronnie spent the rest of the afternoon doing what he did best, drugs and drinking. At six he joined his friend at a local bar. He again said about being worried about his family, but that he would have to, "Break a window to get in." His friend told him to go home and check on him and after a little while Ronnie returned to the bar screaming that his parents had been shot.

Friends accompanied Ronnie to the house which had been silent since the gunfire of fifteen hours before. One of the friends saw the bodies of Ronald and Louise and called police...and a legend was born.

It didn't take long for the police to catch on, especially when they found the empty cardboard box for the Marlin rifle that was the murder weapon...in Ronnie's room! A year later, Ronnie was convicted of murder and sentenced to twenty-five years to life on six counts. He remains incarcerated today. (www.franksreelreviews.com/shorttakes/amityville.htm)

The "Horror" Begins George and Kathy Lutz moved into the house on December 18, 1975, keeping and using most of the furniture that belonged to the DeFeos. For the large house and all the furnishings they paid approximately \$80,000. According to the book, they moved out 28 days later.

Dr. Stephen Kaplan, a well known parapsychologist, investigated the "horror" and found many discrepancies between the "true story" book and the real truth. The story was also discounted by more sources: the Amityville Police Department, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Rockville Ctr., DeFeo's attorney and even George and Kathy Lutz changed some of their story. None of the tenets of the home since George and Kathy fled after their twenty-eight days of terror have had any negative experiences.

Some sources state that DeFeo's lawyer William Weber had had a meeting with the Lutzs concerning the house and that "over a bottle of wine" the haunting and possession story was born. It would help both sides. Weber could claim that DeFeo was under the "influence" of demonic forces and the Lutzs could get out of a mortgage that was more than they could afford.

Years later Ronnie would claim that Weber and the Lutzs made up the story for money. Weber later claimed that he knew the story was a hoax, because he helped to make it up.

To me, the true Amityville "Horror" is the six innocent people who were lost in the hoax that made others rich.

Sources: www.crimelibrary.com

Ghoulie Girl's Movie Review: The Amityville Horror 2005

The Ghoulie Girl recently saw this new remake of a horror classic. In order to accurately review this movie, Ghoulie Girl decided that it was necessary to look at the movie from two perspectives. 1. The perspective that this was based on the book. 2. A separate horror movie not related to the classic.

In relation to the original, it is barely a shell of the original. The names of George and Kathy Lutz and the half-moon windows of the third floor are the *only* similarity to the original. Anyone remotely familiar with the original will be greatly disappointed if they were hoping for an updated, version of the original.

As an "independent" horror movie (forgetting the original movie all together), It is a somewhat fair horror flick. Ghoulie Girl jumped in her seat no less than 5 times and the woman seated behind her was so startled at one point that not only did she scream; she was so startled that her popcorn flew everywhere. It has many special effects reminiscent of recent horror flicks such as *The Ring* and *The Grudge*.

Over all, the plot is thin and meandering. For those of you with little ghouls of your own, please note there is some adult language and one gratuitous sex scene.

Ghoulie Girl's Rating:  1 1/2 Skulls out of a possible 5

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By *Melissa Griffith*

Is Rehmeyer's Hollow Hexed?

In 1928, the Rehmeyer "Hex" case was the biggest witch trial in the United States since Salem. And, much like today's media circus murder trials, it spawned a book, "Hex" written by Arthur H. Lewis in 1969, and the 1988 movie "Apprentice to Murder" was based on the incident at Rehmeyer's Hollow near York, Pennsylvania.

John Blymire had been a ne'er do well all of his life. As a young adult, he'd managed to eke out a living doing odd jobs. The little spare money he did have usually went to a powwower -- sort of Pennsylvania Dutch 'witch doctor' (for lack of a better term). When he'd begin to lose faith in one powwower, it was on the next and then the next.

Eventually Blymire got married and fathered three children, two of whom died. It seemed bad luck had followed him for the last 15 years of his 32-year-old life. He became convinced that he'd been cursed by a witch using hexerei (witchcraft).

One powwower convinced Blymire that he was being hexed by a local witch named Nelson Rehmeyer. Blymire knew Rehmeyer and had even, on occasion, did some work on Rehmeyer's farm. In order to eradicate the hex, John needed to collect a lock of hair and the "Long Lost Friend", a book otherwise known as the Witch's Bible, from his tormentor.

On November 28th in 1928, John Blymire along with two teenagers, John Curry and Wilbert Hess, whom he had convinced to assist him, literally beat Nelson Rehmeyer to death when he refused to give the intruders the two items. The murderous trio tried to cover up the crime by dowsing Rehmeyer's body with kerosene and setting it and the

house ablaze. But the plan went awry when the fire fizzled out prematurely.

John Curry, a mere 14-year-old kid at the time of the murder, served 10 years in prison. As an adult, he was a loving husband and father, served in the military, owned a dairy farm and—thanks to the teaching and encouragement of his cellmate at Eastern State Penitentiary—was a locally famous artist. He had returned to York County and even though most people in his community knew who he was, they never seemed to judge him by it. Despite his past, he was well-liked and respected.

Wilbert Hess, barely an adult at 18 in 1928, spent 10 years in prison as well—although he was convicted of the lesser crime of second degree murder (Curry & Blymire were convicted of first degree murder). He told a newspaper reporter that he knew he had been a sucker, but felt he had still managed to make a man out of himself.

John Blymire, seen as the ring leader of the group, was incarcerated for twenty-three years. Upon his release, he got a job as a janitor at an apartment building and lived out his life in a rather low-key fashion.

Today Rehmeyer's Hollow is rumored to be a hexed, cursed and haunted place. People claim that in the area electronic equipment goes haywire or refuses to work at all, strange sounds and sights are heard & seen and dogs act strangely and refuse to enter certain sections of the hollow. What or who haunts the area exactly, well ... no one seems quite sure. Nelson Rehmeyer is an excellent guess as rumor has it on particular nights, Rehmeyer's ghost can be seen in the area. Apparently, it would be hard to miss as it is aflame! Or perhaps it's a haven for all the spirits that Rehmeyer may have conjured during some secret powwow rituals. Whatever supernatural forces linger in the area, I'm sure the hollow has tested the courage of many a group of teenagers on a crisp, autumn night close to Halloween.

The Witches' Bible "The Long Lost Friend" was written in German by Johann Georg Hohman in 1820. When the book was transcribed into English in 1846, the author's name was 'Anglo-cized' to John George Hohman.

Hohman did a lot of traveling with his work in order to support his family. Soon he began writing down all of the superstitions and home remedies that he was exposed to during his travels by different types of religions.

Being touted as "The Witches Bible" gives the book a dark, supernatural quality. Reproductions of the booklet are sold today in gift shops in Pennsylvania Dutch Country and when I got my hands on a copy, I found the unsavory accusation, quite frankly, laughable. The book gives charms, cures, incantations and home remedies on how to cure anything from colic to a snake bite; recipes for molasses and beer; charms to prevent being bewitched or robbed, potions to cure dropsy, lockjaw or mostly whatever might ail one. Most of the hocus-pocus in "The Long Lost Friend/Witches Bible" are what we would call today innocuous 'old wives' tales' and is a staple in every Pennsylvania Dutch household. It probably gained such a sinister reputation because of its use by Appalachian folk magicians and powwowers who were seen as mystical people.

Hohman gathered information from German, English and Egyptian sources; Gypsies, alchemy and the Kabbalah. It's most fascinating claim (the last paragraph in the book) states: "Whoever carries this book with him is safe from all his enemies, visible or invisible; and whoever has this book with him cannot die without the holy corpse of Jesus Christ, nor drowned in any water, nor burn up in any fire, nor can any unjust sentence be passed upon him. So help me."

THOUGHTS ON THE RETURN OF A ROSE FARM RELIC by John Weaver

One of my favorite parts of the Gettysburg Battlefield, from an historical and paranormal perspective, is the Rose Farm. What was once a nondescript Pennsylvania farm will be forever remembered for the epic struggle in and around a simple wheatfield on July 2, 1863. It is said that more bodies were buried on this farm than any which witnessed the horrors of the Civil War. For nearly a decade, my wife Kelly and I (along with members of the Spirit Society of PA, formerly the Capital Ghost Forum) have visited the relatively isolated area where the dense woods and the open pasture adjacent to the Rose farm house meet along Brooke Ave. All manner of evidence suggestive of paranormal activity has been obtained here: Anomalous photos and video; unheard voices and gunfire manifesting on recording devices (EVP); unexplained temperature and electro-magnetic field variations. Though less tangible as evidence, the observations of mediums such as my wife and even the reactions of an American Bulldog named Brutus, further suggest this is a very active area.

Investigating the paranormal, however, is secondary to me in regards to the history. Since my first visit as a child over 40 years ago, I've been fascinated with Gettysburg. On a recent Saturday while Kelly was doing a lecture and readings in town, I headed out for an afternoon of exploring. Beginning in the Wheatfield, I headed through the woods, following the route of Brooke's advance as he drove Semme's Georgians westward toward the pasture adjacent to the Rose house. Crossing the fence toward the north end of the field, I would soon encounter a new twist to one of the many little mysteries of the battlefield.

I am very familiar with the terrain here through Bill Frassanito's superb analysis of the death studies photographed by Gardner, O'Sullivan and Gibson in *Journey In Time* and *Early Photography at Gettysburg*. Walking southward, I sat on a rock to take some photos and also record, but something looked a little different in front of me. I then saw another person walking north along the fence line; I waved hello, as did he, and then surmising we shared a particular interest in this spot, he approached saying "Did you notice the missing rock is back?" He pointed to a boulder approx. 2 ft by 2 ft with a unique ridge in it (not to be confused with the large split rock further south) — this rock, like several others, helped Bill Frassanito identify the precise locations of some of the lines of bodies, but it had been STOLEN on July 3, 1987!

The man I was speaking with confirmed a shared interest in this area of the field and is also a Park Watch volunteer; he discovered it had returned sometime in January of this year! He went on to explain that he could find no tracks or evidence that someone had brought it in a vehicle. I suspect his rock must weigh a couple hundred pounds, and would require at least 2 strong men to bring it in from the road! We agreed its return had many mysterious aspects, although he did say that after informing the rangers, they commented how many times

people sent smaller stones back to the park, saying their kids picked them up while there. I wished we could have talked more, but after a few moments he got a call to go pick up someone, and had to leave.

I continued taking photos, and later when comparing them with the analysis in *Early Photography*, it appears the rock not only was replaced facing in the correct direction (west) but also is in the same approximate location, relative to other landmarks. This suggests a couple scenarios about who returned the rock: If it was the same person (or persons) who took it almost 18 years ago, they either have an incredible photographic memory of the location or they have closely studied Frassanito's analysis. Even if this relic had been acquired by another party, the bottom line is whoever returned it was quite aware of its original location/orientation.

At our monthly SSP meeting a few days later, I shared this story and Jeff Nell suggested the original theft may have been a fraternity prank. This does seem plausible: There are several frats at Gettysburg College and 1987 was several years before interest in ghosthunting dramatically increased night time traffic. Dense summer foliage, a series of look-outs and youthful strength could have

made this an easy heist. The return, though, evidently sometime in January 05, would be quite different, I think, with minimal foliage and increased night ranger patrols. Once it were carried through the fence, finding the approximate original location would be a major challenge (I'm sure no one had any GPS coordinates to work with).

Along with WHO took, we must ask, WHY was it returned? Could it be simple guilt -- either an individual or group (as in the fraternity theory) wishing to atone for a simple juvenile act. Or is it possible that, like the pieces of lava returned to the main island of Hawaii after supposed misfortune follows them, this rock had a similar effect? After all, it had served for 124 years as a unique marker for the young men from Georgia aligned in a final, gruesome portrait. (During a recent booksigning with Kelly at his store, I spoke with Mark Nesbitt who suspects it may be something more than guilt. As a former park ranger, he knew of examples of smaller stones being returned and as a writer collecting reports of strange activity, he has heard similar stories.)

Am I suggesting the method by which this large artifact was returned involves something from the paranormal realm? No, I see no evidence to support such a claim. However, whether it was guilt, or perhaps even something of the energy forever embedded in it, the fact is a missing piece of the battlefield has now returned! Given the recent rash of desecration, including the theft of swords from statues and other monument damage, seeing this rock transformed an already beautiful spring day into one I'll never forget.

Top: Confederate dead, view at the edge of the Rose woods, July 5, 1863 by James F Gibson (*Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division reproduction number, LC-DIG-cwpb-00868*) Bottom: View of at the edge of the Rose woods, showing return of rock which was stolen on July 3, 1987 (*Taken April 9, 2005 by John Weaver*)

