



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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Happy Halloween from Kelly and John! We're now in the delightful time of year when thoughts of ghosts, hauntings and all manner of spooky things share the spotlight. There are a wealth of ways to experience the season, ranging from ghost tours, visits inside haunted sites, 'Hollywood' haunted houses (where the scares are manufactured) and even more mellow 'family' events. In this month's newsletter, we share a bunch of them!

We started off the 'Spook Season' at the 2nd Annual Albatwitch Festival in Columbia. Rick Fisher and Chris Vera (of the historical society) hosted another fine event; hopefully, by next year, a new spot will have been found for the Museum of Mysteries, which was showcased as part of the 1st festival in 2014.

Below: Not an Albatwitch (Apple Snitcher) but Rick's lovely Marilyn brought to life the River Witch, Nellie Noll. Living in nearby Marietta, the River Witch played a role in the infamous 'Hex Hollow' murder case.



Kelly and I had a great time seeing fellow 'ghosties' Craig and Melissa, Matt James, Rick and Marilyn and several others we've met thru the museum.

Kelly's talk on Animal Communication (above) was well attended and had a good interactive audience.

It was especially nice to see longtime paranormal friends Mark and Carol Nesbitt, along with 'Waldo' (camera-shy in the photo below). For those who don't know, Mark and Carol are actively involved in a wonderful cause – Susquehanna Service Dogs – that helps prepare puppies for a variety of ways to assist people. (Learn more at <http://www.keystone-humanservices.org/susquehanna-service-dogs/>)

Looking back, it's hard to believe almost 25 years have passed since we met Mark, soon after he published the first of his *Ghosts of Gettysburg* books in 1991. (During a presentation sponsored by HACC) Through has wonderfully written books and excellent tours, Mark has become the face of Ghosthunting in Gettysburg. Of course, many other books and tours have come and gone over the years, but Mark's historical background (as a former NPS Ranger), writing skills and thorough approach (when interviewing witnesses) leave him unapproached in documenting strange events in 'acre for acre, the most haunted place in America'. Congratulations on nearly a quarter century of the *Ghosts of Gettysburg*, Mark! (BTW, we're currently enjoying his latest book, *Haunted Crime Scenes*, co-authored with Katherine Ramsland)



Haunted Places in PA - From VisitPA.com

With a past that dates back to the early 1600s, Pennsylvania teems with historic sites known for paranormal activity and unexplained happenings. Check out these spooky locales, where you'll discover fascinating history — and possibly a ghostly encounter.

Used as shelter for Confederate sharpshooters and a makeshift hospital after the Battle of Gettysburg, the Farnsworth House Inn is touted as one of the most haunted places in America. Stay in the historic bed-and-breakfast and choose from a variety of spooky experiences, including ghost hunts and guided walks through cemeteries, hospitals, and battle sites.

In 1877, seven members of the Molly Maguires, a secret union of Irish coal miners, were imprisoned and executed at Jim Thorpe's Old Jail. Wander to cell 17 in the preserved building, where a Molly Maguire left a dirty handprint before his hanging as a declaration of innocence (mysteriously visible after the wall was washed, painted, and plastered).

Tour Penn's Cave & Wildlife Park to gain insight into the area's American Indian and pioneer folklore, including the story of a Seneca Indian maiden named Nita-nee who fell in love with a French trapper named Malachi Boyer. Forbidden to marry, the couple ran away and were captured, and Malachi was thrown into Penn's Cave to perish.

The eerie Early American Room in the Cathedral of Learning, the educational tower that looms over the University of Pittsburgh, is known for mysterious activity, including shifting furniture and objects, cold spots, and randomly flaring candles.

An American Indian named Harthegig, who mysteriously disappeared from the area in the late 1790s, is rumored to haunt Hell's Hollow Wildlife Adventure Trail. Listen for moans, screams, and laughter at Spirit Falls, named by visitors who've experienced the otherworldly sounds.

Visitors to New Castle's Hill View Manor report hearing voices and footsteps, and seeing numerous apparitions, including patients peeking out of rooms, a young boy, and a man who offers to take guests' photos for \$1. The facility, which operated from 1926 to 2004 as a home for the mentally ill, elderly, and financially destitute, is now open for tours.

Jean Bonnet Tavern, which has welcomed travelers to Bedford since 1762, is an excellent place to satisfy your appetite for delicious eats and paranormal activity. Guests and staff members report feeling touched when no one is around, seeing a strange man's apparition at the bar after hours, and hearing doors open and close on their own.

Lingering spirits of past prisoners seemingly haunt the cellblocks of Eastern State Penitentiary in Philadelphia. The nearly 200-year-old National Historic Landmark offers daytime tours, or brave souls can sign up for Terror Behind the Walls, the penitentiary's nighttime haunted house. The 1741 Hotel Bethlehem is the hang-out of many friendly ghosts, including a 1800s stage star who sings and dances for guests in the lobby, a welcoming Bethlehem tour guide who greets guests in the boiler room, and a former landlady who appears without shoes or stockings.

Ghost Tours

Learn about peculiar occurrences and untimely deaths at Erie's 1920s-era train depot during Union Station's Haunted History Tours.

Take the Ghost Tour of Lancaster for shiver-worthy stories of "otherworldly vigils, fatal curses and star-crossed lovers."

Follow the lantern light and keep your eyes peeled for a phantom hitchhiker and the ghost of 1700s-era politician Aaron Burr during Ghost Tours of New Hope.

Explore haunted locales like Allegheny County Jail and William Penn Hotel on the Haunted Pittsburgh Ghost Tour, where the Steel City's salty past comes to life.

"Haunted Houses" in PA

Bates Motel, Glen Mills

Field of Screams, Mountville

Reaper's Revenge, Scranton

Huston's Haunted Hollow, Rockwood

The Haunted Acres, Sidman

The Temple of Terror, Pottstown

Lulu's House of Horrors, Plymouth Meeting

13 Levels of Fear, Conneaut Lake Park

The Hegarty Mansion, Beccaria

Ghosts and Goblins Tours at Lincoln Caverns, Huntingdon

Hell's Hollow Haunt, Mercer

Jason's Woods, Lancaster

Pennhurst Asylum, Spring City

ScareHouse, Pittsburgh

Not-So-Spooky Family Events & Attractions

HallowBoo at Idlewild Park and SoakZone, Ligonier

The Count's Halloween Spooktacular at Sesame Place®

ZooBoo at the Pittsburgh Zoo & PPG Aquarium

Not-Too-Scary Night-Time Hayrides at Paul's Pumpkin Patch, Fairmount City

Knoebels Spooky Amusement Resort, Elysburg

Boo! at the Zoo at Lake Tobias Wildlife Park, Halifax

The Pumpkin House at Creekside Gardens, Tunkhannock

Eerie Events

Haunted Peninsula at Lighthouse Island, Tionesta, October 9-10, 16-17, 23-24, and 30-31, 2015

An Evening of Tales and Hauntings at Vicary Mansion, Freedom, October 24, 2015

Ghosts of Indian Steps at Indian Steps Museum, Airville, Oct. 31 - See more at: <http://www.visitpa.com/articles/haunted-places-pennsylvania> (links to all events are found on the site)

Thanks to Melissa for finding this... Nice to know the official tourism website for PA is promoting haunted places and Halloween season activities in our state!

MECHANICSBURG HAUNTINGS OCT 28

SSP Founders Kelly & John Weaver will offer a presentation on Mechanicsburg/Regional Hauntings at the Joseph T Simpson Library at 7pm. Event is Free, but registration requested. Call 717 766 0171 or go to http://www.cumberlandcountylibraries.org/SIM_Ghosts_OCT15

Tiny People w/Black Eyes in a Bar - From 'Phantoms&Monsters' Nelson from Lakeview, Minnesota called in on a September 8, 2014 episode of Darkness Radio to tell of something crazy he saw. He even admitted to Dave Schrader, the host, that it sounded far fetched but it was true and he asked him to hear him out.

October 2013 – St. Paul, MN. Quoting Nelson:

“This happened in St. Paul, Mn. I was in this bar on the east side of West Seventh one night. It was a Saturday night in the fall. It was about 8 or 9 o'clock. I was sitting at the bar just enjoying myself, having a drink and, well, it turns up, I just happen to look on the other side of the bar and I saw these little, kind of like... spirits. The best way to describe them, they were maybe about 3 to 5 inches tall and they kind of had oblong faces. There were two or three of these guys on this guy's shoulder and they were actually arguing with each other and screaming in this guys ear. As they were talking to him, he was shouting. You know how drunk people talk, they are 'Rar Rar Rar Rar!' I couldn't believe what I was seeing. These spirits were dressed in really old tattered clothes. I mean, they were torn and they just really kind of freaked me out. And they seen me. They looked at each other and then they looked at me again and they were talking. I could hear them talking but I couldn't make out what they were saying and then they looked at me again. I really started getting freaked out by this. Their eyes were dark; there were no retinas, no nothing, just black – little black eyes. And then they started talking into this woman's ear and then she started talking loud. Then I really started to get like, What's the matter with me? so I asked the bartender, 'Is it Saturday night?' I was kind of joking around, I was like, 'I must have had too many, I just wanted to be sure what day it was.' It was some time in October. I don't think i know what I seen that night. It didn't really freak me out in that I thought I was crazy, I just knew what I saw. Then I left the bar. I haven't seen this since.”

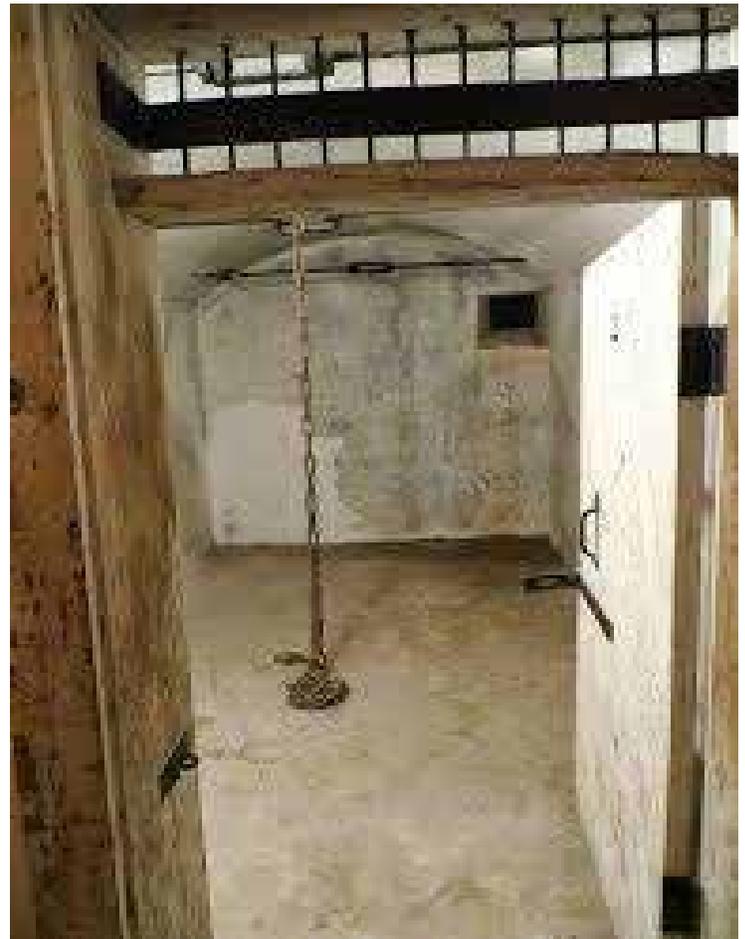
OK, this was in a BAR... that's my first thought. Then again, the fact he gives them a general term (spirits) suggests he is not really into the paranormal and familiar with things such as black-eyed kids, elementals, etc. Could be something to this... JDW

Black Mirror Gazing Workshop with Rosemary Ellen Guiley Fri. 10/23/2015, Sat. 10/24/2015 9:00-10:30pm

Experience the ancient art of black mirror gazing, or scrying, with metaphysical/paranormal expert and SSP favorite Rosemary Ellen Guiley, author of *The Art of Black Mirror Scrying*. Using gentle meditation, Rosemary guides you through your journey into the astral realms that await: past, future, contact with the dead, and more. Individual experiences will vary, but whatever the mirror reveals, it will be a night to remember! Black mirrors will be provided, or you can bring your own. Seating is limited.

Contact: Ghosts of Gettysburg, 271 Baltimore Street,
Gettysburg, PA 717-337-0445
www.ghostsofgettysburg.com
reservations@ghostsofgettysburg.com

Kelly will be attending this event on Sat 10/24 - we look forward to seeing Rosemary for the first time in over a year!



Fright Night at the Museum - Halloween Night Columbia Historic Preservation Society

October 31, 7 PM to 10 PM. Haunted Lancaster County with Rick Fisher. Includes refreshments and a tour of the haunted dungeons in the market house (photo above). More information coming soon.

Ghosts of Columbia Walking Tour

Hear the haunted history and legends of Columbia, PA. Tours begin in April each year and run through November. (a minimum of 5 people required for tour.)

When: Every Friday and Saturday evenings.

Cost: \$15.00 per person (group rate 10 or more people \$12.00 per person)

All participants taking the tour will be required to sign a Waiver and Release of Claims form before taking the tour. (no exceptions)

24 hour advanced reservation is needed.

Time 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM please arrive 15 minutes early.

Where: Columbia Historic Preservation Society
19 - 21 North 2nd. Street Columbia, PA 17512

Call: 717-341-7574 or 717-572-7149 for reservations or more information.

Your tour guides are Columbia historian Chris Vera and Rick Fisher, one of the country's most well known ghost hunters.

HEX HOLLOW (Documentary)

Witchcraft and Murder in PA November, 1928.

In the town of Stewartstown, PA, (York Co.) Pow-wow doctor John Blymire believed he had a curse placed upon him by fellow Pow-wow doctor and farmer Nelson Rehmeier.

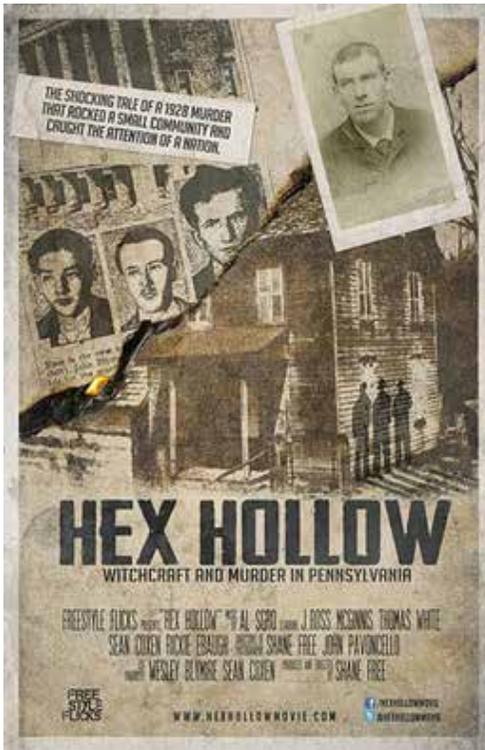
To break the "Hex", Blymire, along with John Curry and Wilbert Hess needed to get Rehmeier's book of spells and a lock of his hair and bury it 6 feet in the ground. When they confronted Rehmeier, a struggle took place and the three men brutally murdered Rehmeier and set his body on fire.

All three men were arrested and charged with murder. The court cases that followed gained national attention as the country was shocked to learn the existence of 20th century witchcraft.

Advance Screening! Nov.7th, Strand Capitol Theater, York, PA

The first screening for "Hex Hollow" will be taking place Saturday, Nov. 7th, at 2pm and 7:30pm. Tickets will be available to subscribers after Labor Day and then open to the public a week after that. There will be a VIP ticket option as well for those who want to attend a reception after the screening. Details TBA.

Below: The actual 'Hex House' that Craig, Melissa, Kelly and I visited during a special Halloween season event in 2013. (Photos were not allowed inside the house, which was indeed 'creepy'!)



Yep - Melissa has done it again! During a recent visit with 'Officer Deb' Snyder (now living in Pittsburgh) she discovered this lovely gem! Another Q: Whats the creepiest doll (or part of one) you ever saw? We wanna hear about it (or - yikes - SEE it) !!!

Q: Who would find and photograph this delightfully creepy 'HEADLIGHT'?

Hint: She was recently seen strolling about with, uh, BEETLEJUICE at the Albatwitch Festival...



PLAN TO GET YOUR SPOOK ON THIS HALLOWEEN SEASON

GHOST TOURS OF THE HARRIS-CAMERON MANSION

Dauphin County Historical Society

Harris-Cameron Mansion

219 South Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17104

Friday, October 30

Spooky stories of unusual happenings in Harrisburg's history are told in the dimly lighted mansion. Times to be announced. Keep checking the website closer to Halloween at: dauphin-countyhistory.org

ROCK FORD PLANTATION

881 Rock Ford Road, Lancaster

For more information, go to: rockfordplantation.org

Sleepy Hollow: The Legend Comes to Rock Ford

October 2, 9 & 16 Performance Times: 7:00 p.m., 8:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

This interactive 45-minute play performed to sold-out audiences in the mansion. Follow Ichabod Crane, Brom Bones, Katrina Van Tassel and Squire Van Tassel from room to room on the first floor of the candlelit mansion as they transport guests to the Van Tassels' home and weave a tale based upon the legend of the Headless Horseman of Sleepy Hollow. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.

Saturday, October 24 * 6:30 p.m. - Midnight

The 6th Annual Headless Horseman's Ball

Rock Ford's largest fundraising party of the year. Held in the Barn and Special Event Tent, guests will enjoy music and dancing, fabulous food, an auction of enchanting items and experiences, and much more during this gala evening! Costumes optional. RESERVATIONS REQUIRED.



SPIRIT SOCIETY OF PA.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:
weaviate@aol.com

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