



# Spirit Society of PA.

## A P P A R I T I O N S

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### GHOSTS SCARE STAFF AWAY FROM LUXURY RENTAL BUILDING - from the *NY Post* (5/18/15)



Doormen have been quitting their jobs at a luxury rental building in Brooklyn that was once a hospital, sources said, spooked by eerie visions, sounds and even smells — sparking talk that the high-rise is haunted.

The 123 On The Park building on the southeast edge of Prospect Park was built on the site of the Caledonian Hospital, which closed in 2003.

After developers transformed the Flatbush building into a luxury rental and reopened its doors in July 2014, tales emerged of strange voices and mysterious footsteps — which are being blamed on the ghosts of former patients, sources told The Post. At least three doormen have left in the past six months, according to a janitor who works in the building.

Aleksandra Scepanovic, managing director of Ideal Properties Group, confirmed that there has been high staff turnover at the building and said, “They’ve had issues renting.”

One doorman who still works there told a superintendent in a nearby building that On The Park “is a messed-up place to work because it’s haunted.”

“He said he was doing routine security walks in the basement and the back of the building, and every time he would go down there by himself, he would hear footsteps echoing around him,” the superintendent explained.

“He told me he felt like a presence was following him.”

*The Week* has an alternative view of the situation:

### SAVY BROOKLYN RESIDENTS CRY ‘GHOST’ IN HOPES OF AVOIDING RENT HIKE

In case you haven’t heard, it’s an expensive endeavor to live in Brooklyn, New York. And with city rents heading further

north of astronomical all the time, it’s no surprise residents in New York’s hippest borough are willing to get creative in their fight to keep prices (sort of) affordable — employing out-there tactics like, say, claiming a building is haunted in order to drive away would-be renters.

The *New York Post* reported Monday that 123 On The Park, a luxury development near Brooklyn’s Prospect Park, is plagued by “strange voices and mysterious footsteps.” The high-rise occupies the former Caledonian Hospital, which closed in 2003, and the supernatural amenities “are being blamed on the ghosts of former patients,” the *Post* writes. Three doormen have reportedly abandoned their posts within the last six months.

But before you get too spooked, *Gothamist* is blowing out the pillar candles on the whole thing, writing that employees manning the door at the building Tuesday said the rumors of a haunting were conceived by “neighbors concerned that the new high-end development would raise their own cost of living.”

With any luck, they’ll save enough on rent due to decreased demand to spring for some Ouija boards and really get this ghost party going. —*Kimberly Alters*

### BARNUM’S CANNIBAL – From *York Blog*

(York, York County) This isn’t a ghost story, but it is one of the weirder tales to come out of the fair town of York. First, a bit of history. The York Judicial Center now stands on the site of the old Penn Hotel, which was razed for the Pennsylvania House Hotel. PT Barnum stayed in the Pennsy House in 1872. His act included 4 genuine Fijian cannibals, ransomed from the King of Fiji before they became the special of the day. One of them, a dwarf, took ill. He died uttering “Fiji” as his last word. He was laid out in a hotel room. The man watching him locked the door and left for half an hour. When he returned, the two remaining male cannibals were merrily nibbling away on the corpse while being scolded by the lone female, who apparently was Christian. At least, that’s what the York Daily reported. The town’s other paper, the True Democrat, called the story bunkum. What was left of the poor cannibal was buried in the local Potter’s Field with 700 other unmarked and unknown bodies. 25 years later, the bodies were disinterred, and people were eager to open the Fijian’s coffin and see if he was intact or was indeed served up as his showmate’s entree. Alas, the coffin was empty! It seems a local doctor hired a professional ghoul to snatch the body, which he proudly exhibited in his office as a skeleton. And he never told anyone if the corpse had any bites out of it. So we’ll never know if Barnum pulled another fast one or if the cannibals indeed enjoyed a nostalgic midnight snack.

**From Phillylist.com, this story on Bizarre Creatures centers on Lancaster County**

Although the legend of the werewolf spans across the world, real incidents of such encounters are either very scarce or simply never documented, but they do in fact exist. Lancaster County may be an hour's drive from Philly but we simply couldn't resist the following tale of wolfen weirdness to howl, or indeed shudder at!

Wisconsin author Linda Godfrey, in her fantastic book, *Hunting The American Werewolf*, comments that:

With a Germanic heritage second to none, PA has always enjoyed a lively folktale repertoire including werewolf, or Woolfmann, notions brought from the old country where trials of alleged witches and changesters remained vivid in emigrants' minds.

With that we venture to Lancaster, where sightings of *Albatwitches*, meaning 'apple snatchers,' have been recorded. Such humanoids were seen in February 2002. They were said to resemble stick-like figures, strolling by the road side. Such beings are covered in hair and stand around five to six feet in height, but are not bulky. Bigfoot researchers have argued that such creatures may be juvenile Sasquatch, but witnesses argue that the monsters they have seen have long muzzles and are not ape-like but very skinny.

Another eerie beast said to roam Lancaster County is the *Goatman*. Sightings date back to the 1970s when farmers recorded seeing a bipedal wolf-like animal stealing a chicken. The beast was gray in colour with a white mane, and had long claws, and on its head were two horns. Meanwhile, Spook Wolves are odd entities said to roam near Philadelphia and throughout Pennsylvania. These beasts are said to be wolf spirits that were seen as far back as the 1800s. Legend has it that wolf corpses, stuffed and once on display at the Philadelphia Centennial, were in fact mere shells to house such evil spectres, and although such ghosts could never attack anyone they were often associated with the Devil, and seen by graves. Some researchers have suggested that such monsters are similar to phantom black dogs, or 'hellhounds,' which are also considered bad omens.

*OK - We're certainly familiar with the Albatwitch, but a Goatman in Lancaster Co? Call Wild Bill & Willy to build a trap!-JW*  
**HAUNTED JUNGLE GYM?** *A friend recently reminded me of reading something online about a haunting at Memorial Park in Mechanicsburg, and I recalled it was listed on the Shadowlands site: SOLDIERS AND SAILORS PARK (Mechanicsburg, Cumberland County) In the back of the park by the plaque on Memorial Field, people have reported seeing the ghost of a young boy by the woods. His head is twisted, and it's thought he was the victim of a fatal fall from a jungle gym in the park playground. The park has since removed the jungle gym; better late than never. - As a kid, I spent a lot of time in the park and certainly played on the now-removed jungle gym during the 50's-60's. I've even asked folks - such as SSP members Ray & Terry Crouch, who've lived there longer than I, if they ever heard of such an accident. (They live near the park and have not). I do recall there was something 'spooky' about the woods in the west end of the park, and even had Kelly 'read' it, with no results. How this 'haunting' came about, I certainly don't know! - JDW*

**CRASH CANYON GHOSTS** To no surprise, the spot where on June 30, 1956 a United DC-7 and TWA Constellation collided in mid air and killed 128 has had its report of hauntings. This spot in the Grand Canyon near the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado Rivers is now known as Crash Canyon. On a recent episode of *Mysteries at the National Parks*, it mentioned one ghost sighting with an unusual bent: Ranger KJ Glover claims seeing more than a dozen people walking up the trail, in 50's style clothes and talking to each other as if nothing was unusual. Here's the really strange part: *Five or six Native Americans* followed, speaking in a language she didn't understand. When she climbed out of her tent for a closer look, all had vanished. Crash Canyon is located near a sacred Hopi site called a sipapu—a gateway to the underworld, where the Hopi's ancestors emerged long ago and where the dead can come back. *Ghosts from different times evidently interacting?* Personally I cannot recall anything of the sort. For example, along with the usual apparitions of CW soldiers at Gettysburg, there have been some reports of Native American spirits near the Triangular Field (believed to be a sacred spot when they populated the area long before the whites) – but not soldiers and Indians together! *Does anyone else ever recall reading of such an interaction? - JDW*



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**APPARITIONS**

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

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