



# Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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

## "ROO's" BOOS - Notes from Kelly

Happy Halloween! Ghosts and Goblins abound this time of year. The chill is in the air and its almost time to don a fun outfit and be someone else for the night. Halloween costumes are welcome at the Fright Night Party hosted by Rick Fisher and the PSP on Saturday, October 21 at the Railroad House. (More details in the newsletter)

**A Haunting in Florida** After a long wait, **Discovery Channel's "A Haunting in Florida"** finally aired Sept 28 and I must say I'm very pleased with how I was portrayed - both in the segments where I was interviewed and those where an actress portrayed me. (She even had blonde spiky hair!) Most importantly, they were very accurate in recreating my role and the story as I had experienced it through my communications with Dusty (the fellow AGS rep in Florida who Troy Taylor suggested contact me). From the first interview to the finished product, it was evident New Dominion Pictures (who produced the show) are an up-front, professional operation; it was vast improvement over my experience of MTV's "Fear". To no surprise, I've been inundated with e-mails and phone calls from people who watched the episode - some want readings, some want to share stories and some need help. Finally, thanks to everyone in SSP and elsewhere for your kind words about my appearance!

## CHARMS AND SYMBOLS FOR GOOD LUCK

*Beginning this month I'll be writing a column about the rituals and objects dealing with good luck. We can all use more of that, right? Give some of the suggestions a try. They come from around the world and is what our ancestors used to bring them a happier life.*

Some charms can make you healthy, some can make you happy, others can help you find a lover or keep one. Some lucky charms have the power to make you rich or beautiful, or both. They can confuse your enemies, protect your family, make your house secure. In just about every case, a lucky charm works its own special magic by summoning good spirits to counteract the forces of evil that are all around us.

In our time, people say there is no such thing as a good luck charm. But they might cross their fingers when they say it. If luck doesn't exist, how do they explain why millions of people buy lottery tickets in spite of the huge odds against winning? Someone eventually wins and luck is on their side.

If there is such a thing as good luck, then there is such a thing as bad luck, which should be avoided. Some people will walk under a ladder, but most won't do it without a fleeting thought that it might be a foolish thing to do. Wearing a charm for luck can't hurt, right?

In most cultures such things are seen as something magical but the Romans had a more active view. Among their words of wisdom: *Audaces fortuna juvat* "Luck does not favor hesitation." It is well and good to carry a rabbit's foot on your key chain or a 4-leaf clover in your wallet, but when all is said and done, the best way to attract good luck is to go for it. (Cont. on Pg. 2)

## HAUNTED TENT EVENT 2006 By Melissa Griffith

SSP members enjoyed a nature weekend getaway—roughing it in the wilds of Perry County. Our day began browsing through an old Civil War Era cemetery. A nearby monument touted it as "Rudolf Cemetery" yet on the Little Buffalo State Park map, it's listed as "Sulphur Springs Cemetery." A Sulphur Springs Christian Church was once located on the property. The group discovered many interesting headstones and two posed a bit of mystery—one listed "Mary (no last name given) consort of Mr. Osbourne" (Was this woman Mr. Osbourne's mistress or a "common law" spouse?); another was for a soldier with the last name of "Haney" although the family gravestones around his listed their last name as "Heaney." (Is "Haney" a military misspelling?)



Then we all headed across the street to the Blue Ball Tavern. The tavern was built in 1811 and it's rumored that it was in this building in which the county of Perry was laid out. The tavern, operated by John Koch, enjoyed a good business due to the Juniata Furnace, canal and gristmill workers. The tavern closed down in 1841 for unknown reasons; however, many people believe the business suffered financially when Koch discontinued selling liquor after he "found Jesus."

The basement is original to the building and is where the tavern was located. It was a bit creepy in there and we learned more about the tavern business than we wanted to know—for instance, they laundered the sheets only twice a year!



In one of the upstairs room, Kelly felt the residual presence of a

female. Later, the docent of Blue Ball Tavern revealed that once a woman had sequestered herself in that same room.

After some exploring, we met up at the campgrounds pavilion for our group dinner. Tables full of delicious, mouth-watering goodies! We ate hearty meals and had time for some socializing (Cont. on Pg. 2)

(LUCK - Cont.) You can help luck along. All you need is an appropriate good luck charm. In the next few months, I'll tell you what people around the world and from times past used for protection from bad luck coming their way. Most have been used for thousands of years, and belief in them still runs strong all over the world. After all, challenging these time-honored beliefs just might result in a run of bad luck!

### Acorn

Long before they began exploring the world in their long boats, the Vikings associated oak trees with Thor; the god who created thunder and lightning with his great anvil and hammer. Because the tree attracted lightning, they believed it was sacred to Thor. But they also believed that the acorn, the fruit of the tree, was always spared the god's wrath, and so they began putting acorns on window sills to protect their houses.

When the Vikings began roaming, one of their first stops was the British Isles, and they may have been quite surprised to discover that the mysterious Druids there also put great thought in the luck of the acorn. But theirs was a different kind of luck. The Druids worshiped the oak as a symbol of strength and long life and wore acorns around their necks as amulets to bring that strength to themselves.

In modern times, acorns, either real or wooden imitations, are often placed near windows or hung from window-shade pulls to bring luck into the house.

### Adornment

If you ever wondered why we wear jewelry in the exact places we do, stop thinking that it is because the places chosen are more accessible or make the most sense. In the past, it was common belief that evil spirits and demons could only enter the body through the main orifices. It would then make sense to place jewels or metals near those areas to prevent demonic possession. Wearing earrings dangling near two openings in the body protected the ears from allowing a devil passage into the body. In India, nose rings were used for the same reason, as were tattoos and designs around the mouth and eyes.

The tradition of fingernail and toenail painting originated because of a need to protect oneself from demonic entrance. Nails of the toes and fingers were painted so that the demons could not penetrate the skin in these vulnerable areas and gain access to the body.

The most protective article of jewelry by far was the ring. Since it is in the form of a continuous circle, it symbolized eternity and unity. It was also believed that certain stones and metals gain power over time and that they are affected by the good or bad luck of their wearers.

### Agate

The ancient Romans believed that wearing an agate in the ring would bring special favor from the gods. Over time, the stone became a lucky charm for people who work the soil. It has the power; some say, to make crops thrive in places otherwise barren, and the multicolored stone is more effective than a green thumb for making your garden grow. In the Far East, agates are said to promote eloquence. They also have the power to bring good fortune in the form of an inheritance. And if you aren't lucky enough to have rich, old relatives, some people say an agate can lead you to hidden treasure. In Islam, an agate crushed to dust and drunk in apple juice is believed to have the power to cure insanity. In some cultures, the same recipe is an antidote to a snake bite.

Source: *The A-Z Guide to Good Luck charms and symbols* – by Bill Harris 1996 Ottenheimer Publishers, Inc.

(HTE 06 Cont.) before heading to Newport High School where we met Anne Miller—our ghost tour guide. (Shown @ Rt)

Newport is a small river town with so many ghost stories Anne cut her usual 3-hour tour in half for us since time was a factor. We learned of the ghost family spotted at the old Newport Hotel, the two railroad workers who have been spotted from time to time where they had been killed and a rather comically eccentric doctor who—in life—often strolled across the street to his mistresses house while wearing nothing but a smile. We were also treated to stories of fellow SSP members Ron & Lisa Meck's house that they believe is haunted by Dr. Charles Delaney who used to live there.

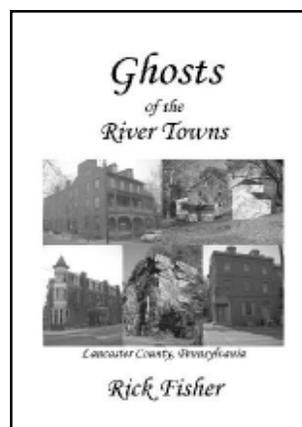
After an almost two-hour tour, it was once again back to home base where everyone gathered in the pitch darkness for a Spirit Circle hosted by our own Kelly Weaver. Kelly enchanted us all by giving everyone present a mini-reading. Some attendees claimed to have seen strange lights in the blackness of forest around us that night during the Spirit Circle. Could it have been Native American spirits joining us for our adventure?



### Fright Night in Marietta w/ Rick Fisher & the PSP Oct. 21

All SSP Members are welcome to join Rick Fisher and his Paranormal Society of PA members at the haunted Railroad House (rt.) located in Marietta. We did this instead of our having our own party a couple years ago and it was a great event.

**Date is October 21, from 7:00 - 8:30pm.** Please bring some snacks to share, and your best EVP recording or story of a paranormal encounter. Prizes will be offered for best EVP, story and costume (costumes are optional) *If you are planning to attend, please e-mail Rick Fisher at [rfisher@redrose.net](mailto:rfisher@redrose.net)*



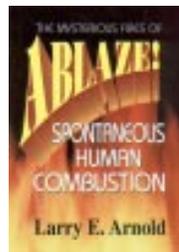
**Coming Soon: *GHOSTS of the RIVER TOWNS* by Rick Fisher** No one knows more ghost stories from Lancaster County's river towns of Columbia, Marietta & surrounding areas than PSP founder Rick Fisher, who hopes to have his first book available by Halloween. (Rick will also be offering his walking Ghost Tours of Marietta, departing from the Railroad House on Fri & Sat nights through Nov. Call (717) 684-3643 for reservations.

**HAUNTED DINING at Alfred's Victorian Restaurant, Middletown, PA. Wed. Oct 18 & Wed. Oct. 25 - 7 PM**

Join Paranormal Investigators Kelly and John Weaver for an evening sharing true tales of hauntings experienced in Alfred's and other mid-state locations. See ghost photos and hear EVP. Enjoy a great meal in the Alfred's tradition and perhaps even have your own ghostly encounter with Emma, as some have had during previous "Haunted Dining" events!

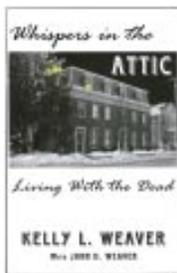
**Note: Beginning in Spring 2006, activity has clearly escalated at Alfred's - We have many new stories and pieces of evidence to share, gathered over the past few months!** Price for the event (tax/tip included) is \$32.95. Menu Features: October mixed greens with a choice of dressing, bread & herb butter, Emma's Butternut Chicken, mixed greens with a choice of dressing and a Chocolate "Boo" Sundae for dessert. Also includes coffee/tea or soft drink. Alcoholic beverages are available (cash bar). **These events always sell out - call Alfred's for reservations ASAP at 717-944-5373**

**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](http://www.parascience.com)

**Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead by Kelly Weaver** Look for upcoming signings at Mark Nesbitt's 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)



**MIDDLETOWN GHOSTS, LORE & LEGENDS TOUR**

Coming Oct 10, 11, 17 & 18th; 2 tours nightly @ 7 & 8. Sponsored by the Greater Middletown Economic Development Corporation, this lantern-lit walking tour offers tales of the unexplained happenings and sightings in this historic town, the oldest in Dauphin County. Cost is \$8 per person; children under 10 free. Each tour will be limited to 25 people, so early ticket reservations are advised. Call 717 944 6332 or e-mail [gmedc@verison.net](mailto:gmedc@verison.net) for tickets. (Along with Alfred's Victorian, Middletown has lots of fascinating ghost stories - Kelly and I heard many from her late Uncle Cecil. This looks like a great tour! JDW)



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: **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)

\$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

**6th Annual PA PARANORMAL CONFERENCE** hosted by Rick Fisher at historic, haunted **BUBE'S BREWERY** (Lt.) in Mt Joy, PA on **April 14, 2007**.



Speakers include Rick Fisher, Stan Gordon, Rosemary Ellen Guiley & Karl Petry, Mark Nesbitt, Ed Okonowicz, Kelly Weaver & Patty Wilson. Buffet luncheon included with admission. Ghost tours of the brewery will follow the conference at 7pm (free to first 20 conference registrants) and at 8:30pm (\$3 per person) Full details can be found online at [www.paranormalpa.com](http://www.paranormalpa.com)

**GHOST WORLD CONFERENCE** 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. Speakers include Vince, L'Aura, Jeff, Charlie Adams, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Mark Nesbitt, Troy Taylor, Kelly Weaver & John Zaffis. Details on line at [www.ghostworldconference.com](http://www.ghostworldconference.com)



**Spirit Society of PA.**

**APPARITIONS**

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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S.S.P. Website: [www.spiritsocietyofpa.com](http://www.spiritsocietyofpa.com)

# BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL

## by Gail Dull

### Ghosts, Myths and Legends of the Capitol Complex

Fall is here again. The leaves turn crisp and float to the ground and by the end of the month, thoughts turn to other things that float, the ghosts and goblins of Halloween. With this in mind we went searching for the kind of stories that always seem to surround buildings that are older and have such storied histories, like the Capitol and the Ryan Office Building.



Is it the passion in which the people who spent their professional careers here and expended their energy that left impressions? Or as some people suppose, the construction of the building of stone and metal that holds this energy? Or is it just the overactive imaginations of staff who let their minds wander? We'll leave that to you to decide...

#### The Speaker Matthew J. Ryan Building

The Ryan Building was dedicated on Halloween, October 31, 1894, making it twelve years older than our storied Capitol. Also known as the Capitol Annex, it housed the Executive offices and the State Library and Museum. It originally was occupied by only 90 people but now houses over two hundred and those are the ones you "can see"....

The first report comes from someone working late one night. They glanced up and recognized a Representative as they walked past the desk carrying their newspaper. The Representative walked into their office and out of the line of sight of the staffer...it was then the staffer realized that that gentleman had passed away some months before! In the interest of security, they walked into the office to see who had actually walked into the office and there was no one there!

Others report ghostly happenings on the third floor, a floor with the kind of history that begs for legends and myths...originally, the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor was an unused attic, a storage place for Capitol relics. One staffer had been searching the attic and felt as if she was being watched, only to have the Capitol Police later find out that it wasn't some wayward spirit, there was a homeless person living in the attic!

The feelings of being watched continue, especially when working late, people who have worked on the third floor report feelings of being watched, only to find out they are alone. Or they will be in the restroom and think that there is someone in another stall, only no one actually is. There are also reports of the sounds of a door opening and closing when people are there alone later at night... Is it a ghost or just the sounds of an old building settling?



The next two stories happened to me, personally. I was sitting in my office (wooden door @ left) in a different part of the building one afternoon working on a project with a coworker. My desk is U-shaped and we were sitting at the

one end of the U. My computer and phone were at the bottom curve of the U and we were only writing on the desk, nothing that would cause any shaking of any real effect. The phone cord was resting on the mouse pad portion of the keyboard tray. It was sitting in the center of the pad when suddenly, the cord fell off the pad swung only three times and came to a complete stop as if some one put out their hand and **made it stop**. It was the oddest thing I had ever seen and obviously my coworker saw it too as her eyes were the size of dinner plates...we replaced the cord as it had been and TRIED to have the same thing happen...but we were unable to reproduce the activity.

About 2 weeks later I was alone in my office and I had a box heater that I had been using to warm my office but had yet to turn it on for the day. This box heater had a dial to use to turn it on that was so hard to turn that I always had to pick it up, sit it on the desk and put one hand on the top of it to steady it so that I could turn the dial. So as I was sitting there thinking how cold it had suddenly gotten in my office, I hear a "click" and look down to see that my heater had turned itself on! I've had that heater for 5 years and this is the only time it's chosen to obey my "thoughts." Looking back I wonder if my office was actually cold or if it was as the result of some paranormal activity I hadn't noticed behind me?

The best story about the Ryan building occurred one morning in the mid 1990's when a staffer was sitting in their office in the front of the building. About 7:45 they heard a loud scream out in the hallway and ran out to find one of the messengers staring up at the glass transom overhead. There, very clearly outlined, was what appeared to be the body of a tall male. The staff at the time included a pretty lively cast of characters so the staffer's first instinct was that it couldn't be real. However, because they had had that incident involving a homeless person sleeping in the building just a month earlier and they decided to inform the Capitol Police. Soon two officers arrived and very gingerly crawled out across the support beams to retrieve the "cadaver" (this was before the Annex was renovated and nothing was structurally sound on the roof). To no one's surprise the corpse turned out to be a very realistic stuffed dummy clothed in a ski suit and a very large (Size 17+) pair of shoes. The shoes were actually the vital clue to apprehending the pranksters and it didn't take too long for the Capitol's finest to track down the instigators. Allegedly fortified by "spirits" of the non-Halloween variety the two had concocted a surprise for their fellow workers.

Real or imagined? Ghost or joke, that's for you to decide...Happy Hauntings!



**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](http://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](mailto:weaviate@aol.com)**



## BRUTUS and the CRIB - From SSP NE Founder Ed Dubil

Longtime CGF/SSP members and battlefield trampers are familiar with Brutus, the wonderful American Bulldog often seen at Gettysburg and other civil war sites throughout PA, MD & VA. We in SSP are also familiar with the multitude of stories about haunted possessions, as documented by author Ed Oconowicz. Here's some comments from Brutus' faithful companion Ed about a recent experience with an antique crib; it certainly seems like Brutus once again senses something most of us cannot. (JDW)

Wanted to show a few pictures from last night. The quick story behind this is, my father, yesterday started refinishing a crib for my sister's upcoming baby. I had found out today, that the crib was made by my great-great-great grandfather in 1872, and yes, he is my grandfather who fought at Gettysburg with Thompsons Light Artillery. Neat coincidence!

Anyway, my sister wanted this do to the fact that so many relatives were in this crib from our family. Being 134 year old, who knows what memories were in it. Well, I took Brutus out last night, brought him in, and after we came in, he wouldn't budge from where he was calmly sitting. I looked on the floor and against the wall, and I see the pieces of the crib that my dad had taken apart. That is what he was staring at. I will show those pictures and the pieces of them a few hours before. I actually couldn't get Brutus to come back with me, so I slept on the sofa so he knew I was there, then he finally came and laid next to me...So strange..strange..



## PARA-TECH

Opinions & Observations by JDW

From an article in the Oct. 2, 2006 Harrisburg Patriot-News: "Someone pried plywood off the back of the Amity Hall Inn Friday trying to get inside the old building, state police said. After hundreds of similar break-ins, police warned ghost hunters not to trespass in what some say is a haunted hotel in Watts Twp., Perry County."

This does not surprise me — over the years, Kelly and I have received numerous enquiries through the CGF and SSP sites asking what we knew about the place. My response has always been that it is RUMORED to be haunted, and that we have never checked it out because it is posted. One person even told me that he and some friends had "obtained permission" to investigate the place and got "lots of orb photos" and were very scared. (I have an idea his "obtained permission" was as real as the many "spirits" captured in their photos of dust!)

What irritates me is the use of the term "ghost hunters" to describe the people who trespass here. People who do this are thrill seekers, not ghost hunters! Of all the things an individual ghost hunter can do to harm their reputation, nothing is worse than trespassing (or ignoring posted access times, such as at Gettysburg). We (SSP) don't condone it, Rick Fisher, Troy Taylor, Vince Wilson... any respected person/group in this field does not condone it.

Don't know if they'll print it, but I at least felt better sending a letter to the Patriot-News editor explaining the difference between legitimate paranormal researchers and thrill seekers! - JDW

### Would you really ride THIS BUS with THIS GUY?



Troy Taylor shared this photo of his new "WEIRD CHICAGO VOODOO BUS" recently purchased for his Windy City tours! (He told us they would get "creative" with a color scheme.) No word if he used my suggestion: "Ride the SHORT BUS with Troy Taylor"

For more on Troy's Chicago tours, go to [www.illinoishauntings.com](http://www.illinoishauntings.com)

### HAUNTED SPOTS & COOKING POTS AVAILABLE FROM THE SSP -- ONLY \$6.00

Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots reveals fascinating true ghost stories and local legends of PA. 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. (Available at SSP Meetings, Kelly's Magical Garden & Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg. All proceeds benefit the Spirit Society of PA)



### Haunted South Central Pennsylvania

**FREE** Presentation

True stories of local haunted & bizarre places—most of them open to the public!

This Halloween season, be enchanted by ghost stories from the capital region and dare to explore these strange South Central Pennsylvania area locations.

Not for the faint of heart—Adults only, please.

Join SSP Activities Director @ Author Melissa Griffith  
For this Free Presentation. Date: Wed Oct. 18th 7pm  
Place: Mechanicsburg Mystery Bookstore  
Corner of Trindle & Clouser Rds - 2 mi West of Mechbg.  
Free presentation, but you must register by calling 795 7470