



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A Monthly Journal of News & Upcoming Events • Vol 12, Issue 1 - JAN 2007

"ROO's" BOOS - Notes from Kelly

Happy New Year! I hope each one of you had a great holiday season with your family and friends. Our holiday was very low key, which was a nice change from the hustle and bustle of the past few months.

I look forward to another great year with the Spirit Society of Pa. We are now going into our eleventh year as a group. Most paranormal organizations cannot compare to us as far as membership and dedication. I want to thank all of you for your help this past year with our activities and articles for the *Apparitions* newsletter. John and I really appreciate all of your help and devotion.

I am pleased that I was able to deposit over \$200.00 into our SSP Account after our December fundraiser. Thank you very much for support. Let's continue moving in a positive direction!

The West Shore Senior Citizen Center was grateful for our contributions of food and items for their Sale table that we left for them after our meeting last month. Lucy, the director, wrote a Thank You note to the group, which I will read to you at the meeting.

Remember, that as started in Dec. and continuing thru 2007, we will hold a 50/50 raffle at each meeting. If you have any fund raising ideas, please contact me or present them during meetings.



Don't miss the *electrifying* Rosemary Ellen Guiley, Mark Nesbitt, Stan Gordon, Kelly Weaver, Rick Fisher, Ed Okonowicz & others at the PA Paranormal Conference April 14, 2007 @ Bube's Brewery in Mt. Joy, PA. For details, see inside pages or www.paranormalpa.com

GOOD LUCK CHARMS and SYMBOLS - A Continuing Series by Kelly Weaver

Millions of people have an article of clothing that they believe will bring them luck when they are wearing it. Athletes are famous for their lucky shirts; actors are well known for items from hankerchiefs to neckties to specific shoe styles they believe will ensure a good performance. Students frequently choose something special to wear when they show up for a big test.

(I wear lucky jewelry, myself. - Kelly)

It is a rare bride who does not walk down the aisle wearing "something old, something new, something borrowed, something blue" for luck in her upcoming marriage. Many also place a coin in her shoe for a good luck bonus!

In the days of the Mogul emperors in India, before the British came in the 18th century, lucky clothing was never actually worn. This clothing was a gift from the Emperor himself, bestowed in a ceremony known as the *dubar*. It involved the ceremonial exchange of gifts, coins for the emperor and cloaks and turbans for his honored guests. These

items of clothing brought prestige to people who received them and were symbols of the greatest of good luck. They were displayed in the recipient's home and always became family heirlooms, handed down from generation to generation, a gift of luck from one's ancestors.

A tradition in China is to have the clothes one will be buried in made during their lifetime, even though they will not wear them until they are dead. It is common to have these grave clothes made by an unmarried woman in the belief that she has a long life ahead of her and this will be transferred to her work. It is best to have the clothes made during a leap year, whose length implies that life will also be long.

Among these costumes, the one considered luckiest is known as a longevity garment. It is a deep-blue silk robe with the word longevity embroidered on it in gold thread. Unlike the burial clothes, the longevity garment is proudly worn at important festivals, when it is believed the power of the golden letters will be enhanced. It is especially important, if one hopes for a long life, to wear the robe during birthday celebrations. It is believed that on these occasions the person will absorb health and vigor that will last through the coming year. Longevity garments are quite expensive and are commonly obtained as gifts from one's children late in life.

In ancient Greece, people initiated into a super-secret religious cult, the Eleusinian Mysteries, gave the costumes they wore during the induction ceremonies to mothers, who cut them up to make clothes for their babies. Everyone believed that these clothes had the power to bring good luck and long life to the infants who wore them.

Among the Plains Indians, especially the Sioux, in the late 19th century, a cult known as the Ghost Dancers emerged with the promise that its followers would prevent the white man from taking over their traditional hunting grounds. Their magic was said to come from elaborate dances they performed, but the edge of luck came from the shirts they wore. Anyone wearing one, it was believed, was protected from bullets, spears or any other instruments of death.

At the same time, half a world away, a Chinese cult known as the Fists of Righteous Harmony, commonly called the Boxers, believed a similar lucky shirt brought the same sort of protection. The Boxers extended the protection to death by drowning as well as from guns and cannons.

What do you wear to feel lucky? - Kelly

Excerpted from the book – *The A-Z Guide to Good Luck Charms and Symbols* By Bill Harris. Ottenheimer publishers.

BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL

by Gail Dull

Washington D. C. is only an hour and a half from here, give or take a traffic jam or two or a ride on the Metro. A city steeped in history and by some accounts, ghosts. In the coming months, I will highlight some of the most famous, more obscure and some that are open for tours.

The Octagon House

The Octagon House is located at 18th Street and New York Avenue, NW. It's a three story brick house that despite its name, only has six sides. The name comes from the front foyer of the house which does have eight sides. It was built between 1798 and 1800 and was the home of one of the richest tobacco plantation owners and his wife who was the daughter of the governor of Maryland. Originally the Tayloe family used the home as their winter residence. However, history has a way of intruding on idyllic life.

During the War of 1812, actually in 1814, the White House, which two blocks away, was burned by British Troops as they invaded Washington. John Tayloe, the owner of the Octagon House invited President James Madison and his wife Dolly to use the house as the "executive mansion" until repairs were completed on the White House.

It is said that Dolly Madison was very fond of the six sided house on the odd-shaped lot. She was also fond of the garden at Octagon House and of lilac perfume.

After the war, in 1817, the Tayloe's and their fifteen children moved back into the house and used it as their permanent residence. Once again, tragedy would visit Washington.

One Colonel Tayloe's daughters began seeing a suitor that didn't "suit" her father. Her seeing this man greatly upset her father and it is said that either during or after one of the fights, this daughter either fell or was pushed over the rail of the stairway (rt), falling to her death.

Sadly, another of Colonel Tayloe's daughters also perished in this same way a few years later. The circumstances around this second daughter's mysterious death were lost to history.

Today, those who work there claim to see a candle light moving up the infamous staircase. A scream described as a "falling scream" as if the sound is coming from someone falling is also heard.

The scent of Dolly Madison's lilac perfume is often smelled throughout the house.

The Octagon House is now the home of the American Institute of Architects and has been restored to all its Colonial glory. It is open for tours Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, except on New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. Guided and group tours are available and it is located near the Farragut West Metro Stop. Some sites quote the entrance fee as being \$5.



2007 PARANORMAL CONFERENCE NEWS

6th Annual PA PARANORMAL CONFERENCE hosted by Rick Fisher at historic, haunted **BUBE'S BREWERY** (Lt.) in Mt Joy, PA on **April 14, 2007**. From the Victorian elegance of the Central Hotel section to the Gothic realm of the Catacombs, Bube's is a perfect venue to explore the paranormal! Speakers include Frank Feschino, 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 event details can be found online at www.paranormalpa.com



PPC Speaker Highlight: "Shedding Light on the Shadow People" Rosemary Ellen Guiley, who has authored over 30 books on the paranormal, has been collecting information on the Shadow People for two years. Who are they? What are they? Do they have an agenda – with us? Find out in Rosemary's report on a shadowy, mysterious realm. Be prepared to sleep with the light on! (See website for all speaker topics)

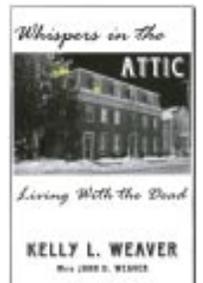
HAUNTEDAMERICA CONFERENCE with Troy Taylor and the AGS June 22-23 at the Lincoln Theater in Decatur IL. Speakers include Troy, Derek Bartlett, Vince Wilson, Jeff Belanger & John Weaver. Kelly Weaver will be hosting another seance in the theater Friday night. Details on line at: www.prairieghosts.com/conference.html



GHOST WORLD CONFERENCE July 20-22, 2007: The first Ghost World Conference. Speakers include Vince, L'Aura, Jeff, Charlie Adams, Mark Nesbitt, Troy Taylor & John Zaffis. Details on line at www.ghostworldconference.com



Whispers in the Attic - Living With The Dead by Kelly Weaver Now in its second printing, Kelly's account of her life as a medium and ghosthunter is available locally from Civil War and More in Mechbg., Borders Books in Camp Hill and Mark Nesbitt's Ghosts of Gettysburg HQ. Available online through Amazon.com and Troy Taylor's History & Hauntings Book Co. Kelly's second book is coming in fall 2007.



Ghosts, Legends, Mysteries and Rogues of Mechanicsburg by Melissa Griffith Melissa is the SSP Activities Director, an investigative team member and a regular contributor to our newsletter with her "Musings of a Ghost Adventurer" Column. Her book can be purchased locally at Civil War and More bookstore on Market Street in Mechanicsburg.



Spirit Society of PA.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

John & Kelly Weaver, 43 Essex Rd, Camp Hill, PA 17011

E-mail: weaviate@aol.com

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

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

Who is Emma?

We've all heard of the famous ghost of Alfred's Victorian in Middletown affectionately named "Emma." But did Emma ever exist and, if so, who exactly was she?

The generally accepted story of Emma goes like this: Simon Cameron Young purchased the Victorian mansion from his brother, Redsecker Young, in 1902. He lived there with his two daughters, Emma and Eliza. Emma's demise is speculation and there are a few theories. One is that she was in love with a man beneath her station and was forbidden to marry him; another story is that her lover was killed during World War I—either of which scenario left Emma in despair. So desperate and heart-broken she threw herself into the furnace committing suicide in a most horrible manner. Others have hinted that her jealous sister, Eliza, actually pushed her into the furnace.

Whatever Emma's demise, it's been said she continues to haunt Alfred's to this day. The scent of lavender is a sure sign that Emma is nearby. She frequently plays tricks on the cook, the cleaning lady and patrons to the upscale restaurant.

But is the story of Emma true?

Craig and I attended the "Ghosts, Legends & Lore Tour" in Middletown in October 2006. The tour guide from the Middletown Historical Society related that Emma was not Simon Cameron Young's daughter, but his second wife and step-mother to Young's daughters. Mrs. Young was the quintessential "lady of the house" who organized many social events at the mansion. She loved her home, managing and caring for it all of her life and even, some say, after.

To get to the bottom of the "who was Emma" mystery, we visited the Middletown Cemetery to see if we could find a grave for Miss Emma Young.

We found a large stone marked "S.C. Young" (Rt) and stopped the vehicle. There appeared to be an entire family plot for the Young family.

There was a stone marking the final

resting place of "Father—S. Cameron Young (1859-1935). Just beside that marker is a much older one (Left) that is no longer standing upright for "Mame A.—Wife of S. Cameron Young" (1859-1886). On the other side of Simon's tombstone is a marker for "Daughter —Elizabeth Ann Young (1881-1959).

It appears "Mame" was Simon's first wife, who obviously died very young -

at the age of 27. The "daughter" Elizabeth being born in 1881 would mean that Mame could have been her mother who would have given birth at the age of 22. (More strangeness — if you

scramble the letters to the name "Mame," it would spell "Emma.")

In the row behind these three stones in the family plot was the gravestone for a "M.E.Y. 1858-1948." (Rt) Could this have been Simon's second wife? Could this be our "Emma?" What does the

"M.E." stand for? Could the "E" be an abbreviation for "Emma" which may have been the name this person was commonly known by?

What about the Young's daughter supposedly named "Emma?" There is no such gravestone for her. There is, however, a stone for daughter "Elizabeth." Was there only ONE daughter and could the name "Emma" actually be a nickname for "Elizabeth?" If so, this daughter did not die at a young age as the tale supposes—she lived well into her 70s.

Is the spirit at Alfred's Victorian the wife of Simon Cameron Young, M.E. Young? Or is the distraught ghost Simon's daughter, Elizabeth? Or could it be a second daughter named Emma who, for whatever unknown reasons, was not buried in the family plot or does not have a tombstone marking it?

The identity of the Victorian's famous "Emma" still remains a mystery.

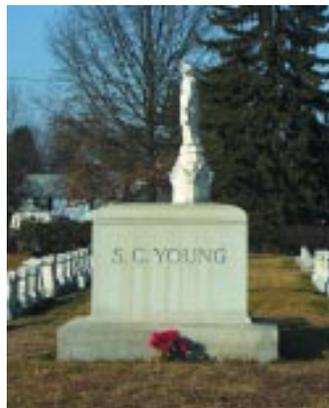
If you want to hear more stories about Emma while dining at Alfred's Victorian, be sure to join John & Kelly at one of their haunted dining events at the upscale restaurant! You may just have your own experience with the spirit of "Emma."

ALFRED'S UPDATE - by John Weaver

Melissa's excellent and timely article comes just after finishing our busiest year ever at Alfred's, so I would like to add some comments:

After purchasing the property in 1969, the Pellegrini family and restaurant staff bestowed the name "Emma" on the intelligent spirit who haunts the place. We suspect the Baum family, who owned it from 1949-1969, are likely the ones who first had experiences with "Emma" (she died the year before they bought the home). For years, Alfred's described Emma as the *daughter* of Simon Cameron Young (and still do on their website), but it was only recently (Spring 2006) that Middletown Historical Society research confirmed that *Mary Emma (Sutton) Young*, was indeed Simon Cameron's *second wife*. Amongst the EVPs we've recorded are several of a female voice, including laughter answering Kelly's questions of "Emma, are you here?". The clearest voice is that of a male, who responds to my question by actually naming her: "Emma is here." (Both are posted on the SSP site) Of course, I can never forget when while alone in the lobby, I heard a raspy female voice clearly say "Don't shut the door!" All these tend to confirm there is at least one female spirit presence, and she is very likely former resident Emma Young.

Activity at Alfred's has increased dramatically of late, both in numerous reports from employee Jeannie (one involves a beam of light she witnessed downstairs, nearly identical to one I saw upstairs) and several fresh EVPs being recorded. Given what has happened in the past, I feel Kelly's increased presence has something to do with this. Along with our normal 2-3 "Haunted Dining" events in October, Kelly has been hosting monthly "Psychic Dinners" as well as several events for bus groups from out of town. Things always seemed to increase after our annual October events, but since her monthly appearances began last April, activity has clearly escalated, and we are talking with Pamm about a compatible date for another late night investigation with full surveillance equipment. (A entire chapter on Alfred's will be included in Kelly's next book, to be published in summer 2007)



2007 S.S.P. Meeting & Event CALENDAR



73rd NY Infantry (2nd Fire Zouaves) Monument - Excelsior Field, GNMP
Photo by SSP Co-Founder John Weaver

<u>MONTH/DATE</u>	<u>DAY/TIME</u>	<u>EVENT/LOCATION</u>
JAN. 8	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
FEB. 12	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
MARCH 12	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
APRIL 9	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
MAY 14	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
MAY 19	SATURDAY Noon	SSP SPIRIT DAY - N.C.S.C.
JUNE 11	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
JULY 9	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
AUG. 13	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
SEPT. 10	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
OCT. 8	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
NOV. 12	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.
DEC. 10	MONDAY 7pm	SSP MEETING - N.C.S.C.

*Other events may be added during 2007
Please visit www.spiritsocietyofpa.com for latest event news!*