



# Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

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

Get ready to mark your calendars! Our Event Planning committee met last Saturday at the Italian Oven and we agreed on several events for 2009 that we think you will love.

First date to note is **Saturday, May 16** - our annual **SPiRiT DAY IN MAY**. Exact time/cost will be announced later. We are happy to announce that Mark Nesbit, historian and author of the acclaimed "Ghosts of Gettysburg" series will be our featured speaker. His latest books will be available for purchase and signing. Rosemary Ellen Guiley and Ed Okonowicz had prior commitments so they will not be able to attend this year, however Ed said he would love to join us in 2010. Next year he will have two new books available. PA MUFON Chief Investigator Butch Witkowski will be speaking on the ongoing surge in UFO sightings throughout PA (and perhaps have new info. on the Todd Sees case!) Craig Telesha & John will give a brief technical seminar. Rick Fisher will have artifacts from the National Museum of Mysteries. I will be doing an interactive lecture later in the day. As in the past, we will have our white elephant sale, silent auction and of course, a selection of delicious food from our members.

It was mentioned that we reprint our ghost/cookbook once again. We would also like to do another version of the book featuring members, family and friend's recipes along with new ghost stories from the area. If you have a recipe or story to share, please contact me or Melissa with the information.

**Historic Haunted Haldeman Mansion Investigation!**  
**2 Saturdays: June 20 and June 27 6:00 PM to Midnight.**

The investigation will be held on 2 separate evenings. Space is limited so sign up early. Price TBA in the brochure next month. Located next to the river in Bainbridge between Middletown and Marietta, the mansion was built in 1812, but some outbuildings, such as the summer kitchen and smoke house were built

prior, sometime in the late 1700's. The mansion was the birth place and home to Samuel Haldeman, a well-known scientist, naturalist and partner in the family business of the nearby furnaces at Chickie's Park.

Anyone who was present for our brief tour of the place last summer knows the strange sensations and events experienced in a particular second floor room, and thus knows why this place is a natural for a comprehensive investigation. We have planned for 2 nights due to the anticipated response, as it is simply im-

practical to conduct an effective paranormal investigation with large crowds present.

**Enjoy Nature in July!** Not everything we do is geared towards ghosts and the supernatural. How about getting in touch with your five senses and re-charge your batteries close to home?

The group will meet at *the Five Senses Garden* (Harrisburg's best kept secret) on **Saturday July 11**. Guided tours begin at 1:00 PM. The miracle of nature fosters a sense of peace and tranquility that has led to therapeutic relief and wonderment for all ages. (In these trying times,

who couldn't use a bit of R&R)? The area includes gardens that will tantalize your sense of touch, taste, sight and smell. The garden also features a labyrinth.

The labyrinth has been used since ancient times as a mystical, life-enhancing tool. Walking the labyrinth can soothe your mind and soul or guide you on life's journey. AS you walk the maze, pay close attention to your surroundings, the noises, the feel of the earth below your feet, your inner-most feelings! More information will come in the next two months for this adventure in nature.

**Get ready to see Waynesboro After Dark! Sat August 22** We will travel (car pool) to historic Waynesboro, PA for a **Walking Ghost Tour**. We will arrive early and peruse *Kindred Spirits Aroma and More*, a funky shop that offers candles, herbs, journals, fairies, dragon and more cool stuff.



One of many upcoming SSP member events for 2009 is a thorough investigation of the historic, haunted Haldeman Mansion! This is a can't miss for serious ghosthunters!

After the shop we will stop at *Adventures in Coffee* for dinner. (They offer a variety of sandwiches, soups, salads and of course, coffee). The Ghost tour will begin in front of the Coffee house. The tour will cover a distance about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile and is 90 minutes with 15 stops. (Remember, you must be able to walk the entire tour in order to participate).

We will have more details and times next month.

### Get the Willies in Philly!!!

We will carpool to Philadelphia on **Saturday, September 12, to the Eastern State Penitentiary!** Melissa is getting all of the information, which will be available at next month's meeting. Get ready to be scared to death at this creepy former prison!

### Get Ready to Party once again with SSP

I booked the Senior Center for our annual **Halloween Party** on **Saturday, October 3 at 6:00 PM.** Start planning your costumes now! We will have DJ Craig once again. Get ready to boogie the night away with your crazy friends at SSP.

Thanks to Melissa Telesha for contributing the following "timely" piece from the History Channel Web Site (<http://www.history.com/content/valentine/history-of-valentine-s-day>)

## The Legend of Saint Valentine

Every February, across the country, candy, flowers, and gifts are exchanged between loved



ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday? The history of Valentine's Day — and its patron saint — is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day, as we know it today, contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition. So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men — his crop of potential soldiers. Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where they were often beaten and tortured.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first "valentine" greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl — who may have been his jailor's daughter — who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "**From your Valentine**," an expression that is still in use today. Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. It's no surprise that by the Middle Ages, Valentine was one of the most popular saints in England and France.

While some believe that Valentine's Day is celebrated in the middle of February to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine's death or burial — which probably occurred around 270 A.D — others claim that the Christian church may have decided to celebrate Valentine's feast day in the middle of February in an effort to 'christianize' celebrations of the pagan Lupercalia festival. In ancient Rome, February was the official beginning of spring and was considered a time for purification. Houses were ritually cleansed by sweeping them out and then sprinkling salt and a type of wheat called spelt throughout their interiors. Lupercalia, which began at the ides of February, February 15, was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, as well as to the Roman founders Romulus and Remus.

### BIGFOOT GOES TO SCHOOL!

Here are some pics from PSP Founder and PBS Researcher Rick Fisher from his recent appearance at an area school. Rick was contacted to give a presentation on Bigfoot and upon arrival found the students had decorated everywhere with signs, drawings and even footprints through the hallways.



Rick reports "BIGFOOT FEST" was a great success - the students genuinely enjoyed his presentation (and cast-making)! Perhaps one of these kids will someday become the one who finally discovers irrefutable proof of this elusive and mysterious creature.

## The 23rd NC Flagbearer: Connecting with a Descendant of Iverson's Brigade - by JDW

**Rt: 23rd NC Battle Flag, which today hangs in the State Museum in Raleigh, NC**

The "honor" of carrying the regimental colors in the Civil War was often a death sentence. *(It made one a prime target)* On the morning of July 1, 1863



when the 5th, 12th, 20th & 23rd North Carolina advanced on Oak Ridge north of Gettysburg, Sgt. Jasper Newton Stowe would become one of hundreds of casualties when Gen. Alfred Iverson's Brigade was torn apart by unseen Federal Infantry.

In mid January I was contacted by Lawson Warren, a NC native who is researching his ancestors - four brothers - who fought for the South. He had found our SSP site and the "Iverson's Pits" page, which includes the chilling volleys of musket fire and "We were unlucky" response I recorded there in 2003.

He wrote: "When I clicked on the audio recording of sounds made at Iverson's Pit, I literally came out of my chair, very clearly shaken and every nerve in my body going haywire! It is impossible for me to adequately convey to you the magnitude of my response to that recording."

Wow! While like many EVPs I've captured on the battlefield this one has always been creepy, but when someone who's blood flows in your veins (it was Lawson's g-g-great uncle) was there, I can understand the impact hearing it must have made.

**Below: 88th PA marker, commemorating where battle flags & prisoners from Iverson's Brigade were captured (JW photo)**



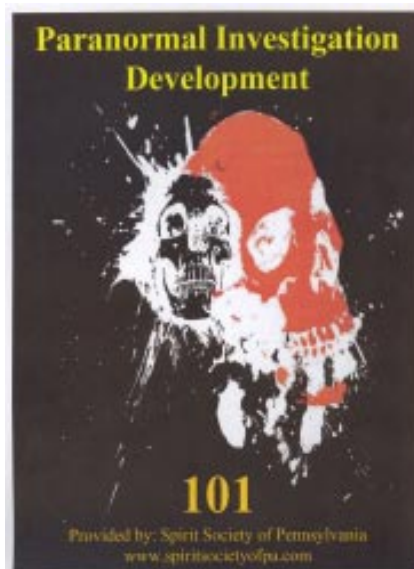
Sgt. Stowe (who had been elected color sergeant as a result of his bravery at Chancellorsville) fell wounded, and the 23rd's flag was captured by Sgt. Gilligan of the 88th PA (who won the Medal of Honor for this action) Lawson continues the story of his ancestor's fate: *He was taken prisoner then transported to DeCamp Hospital on Davids Island in Long Island Sound, New York. He died there on August 3, 1863 and was buried on the island and then re-buried at Cypress Hills Cemetery in Brooklyn (where he still lies) (he lies on top of another Confederate soldier, John D. May 2<sup>nd</sup> NC Infantry).*

The Stowe's had already lost another of their sons in the war; Jasper's brother William Henry died at Seven Pines while serving with the same 23rd NC. Sadly, this was so common during the bloody struggle - many families would lose more than one of (sometimes all) their sons to the Confederate or Union cause.

Lawson's research on his ancestors is part of a documentary he plans to produce for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the war. He has never been to Gettysburg and plans a visit soon, and wants Kelly and I to join him at the spot where Jasper Stowe and so many from his native state fell wounded or dead in John Forney's farm fields.

These fields, forever known as "Iverson's Pits" for the grim "crops" once planted there in long, neat rows, will always hold a personal fascination for me (and less of one for Kelly, given some unpleasant encounters she's had there). However, having the chance to walk upon them with the descendant of one who experienced the Hell that these fields became on a July afternoon will add another dimension altogether to the place.

### New! Free Download from SSP: P.I.D. 101



Paranormal Investigation Development 101 is a comprehensive guide to understanding the procedures & policies SSP has refined over 12 years of investigating haunted places. It's a "must-read" for anyone who wants to become involved with SSP field investigations. Many thanks to Melissa Telesha for preparing this .pdf document, which can be downloaded free at [www.spiritsocietyofpa.com](http://www.spiritsocietyofpa.com)



**Spirit Society of PA.**

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

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# PICS FROM BUCKS COUNTY MUFON CONFERENCE, JAN 24



Above: Part of the overflow crowd during MUFON State Director John Ventre's presentation at Bucks Co. Community College. Over 450 people attended - and that's only the paid count! Of course, with almost a full year of media coverage of the numerous UFO reports in Bucks County, interest was high, but no one expected a turn-out this large!

Rt: PSP Founder Rick Fisher with Bill Birnes of UFO Hunters and publisher of *UFO Magazine*.



Birnes was interested in Rick's research on the 1966 Presque Isle UFO landing incident and asked him to forward info to his producers.

Left: John Weaver of SSP & PA MUFON with Birnes.

Rick had a display for the Museum of Mysteries; Kelly & I had one for SSP and some local (Harrisburg) UFO history. Literature from both displays was gobbled up by the crowd! Rt: Tracey Roy of SSP & PA MUFON with noted Abduction Researcher Dr. David Jacobs from nearby Temple U.



## REVISED 2009 SPIRIT SOCIETY OF PA MEETING & EVENT CALENDAR

JAN 12 Meeting NCSC

FEB 9 Meeting NCSC

MAR 9 Meeting NCSC

APRIL 13 Meeting NCSC

MAY 11 Meeting NCSC

MAY 16 - Spirit Day (Sat)

JUNE 8 Meeting NCSC

JUNE 20 - Haldeman Invest. 1 (Sat)

JUNE 27 - Haldeman Invest. 2 (Sat)

JULY 11 - Five Senses Garden (Sat)

JULY 13 Meeting NCSC

AUG 10 Meeting NCSC

AUG 22 - Waynesbobo A.D. (Sat)

SEPT 12 - Eastern States Penn (Sat)

SEPT 14 Meeting NCSC

OCT 3 - Halloween Party NCSC (Sat)

OCT 12 Meeting NCSC

NOV 9 Meeting NCSC

DEC 14 Meeting NCSC

*Other special event dates may be added during the year...*