



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 3 - Mar. 2006

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

Happy St. Patrick's Day! I hope this newsletter finds all of you happy and healthy. This is the time of year that John and I are filling our weekends with conferences and book signings. I'm also excited to get back to Gettysburg and explore the haunted battlegrounds once again. (See John's & Melissa's comments about the recent round of horrible vandalism there.)

Mark Nesbitt invited John and me to work for him at a Ghost Investigation weekend March 17-19 **UPDATE FROM "PRINT" EDITION - Event postponed to early October, date TBD** at the Haunted Mountain View Inn on historic Rte 30 in Greensburg, PA. This is a full day of discussing investigational tools, methods, etc, followed by everyone investigating the Inn that evening with the presenters.

I will be lecturing on using your sensitive side while ghost hunting, and then offering Readings and/or a Spirit Circle. Mark will be offering advice on ghosthunting techniques and using instruments. Author Patty Wilson will talk about local ghost stories. You will also hear the history of this beautiful building and grounds. Listen to what ghostly happenings have been heard by the staff and guests of the Inn. If you are interested, please contact the Mountain View Inn, Greensburg for reservations. 1-800-537-8709.

From the website: <http://www.mountainviewinn.com>

"Built in 1924, Mountain View Inn has provided superb lodging and dining in the Laurel Highlands for over 75 years. Mountain View Inn - providing so much. Unforgettable historic ambiance, quietly elegant lodging, an invigorating fitness center workout; a swim in the outdoor pool; two bocce courts, croquet court, veranda, a Wine Spectator Award wine list; fine dining from the creative genius of Chef Tom Lambert, drink and entertainment in 33rd Street; beautifully landscaped gardens and gazebos for quiet contemplation."

Spirit Day '06 - Sat. May 20 @ New Cumberland Sr. Ctr.

I have been working diligently on our Spirit Day in May program and am pleased to announce that we will have "Professor" Joe Kerrigan as our featured guest. He is an illusionist and story teller who will captivate you with magic and ghost stories from the Civil War. Joe has been featured on the Travel Channel's "Magic Road Trip Series" showcasing his Civil War Era Magic. He will also re-create a Civil War era Séance. (*Theatrical recreation, not the real thing*) John and I first saw his presentation at the Fairfield Inn on our anniversary and we were so impressed, we took Troy Taylor (who also loved it) to see Joe's show when he was in town later that summer.



After dinner, I will perform a Spirit Circle for those who dare to remain! In the morning, Rick Fisher will give a talk on his Mysteries Museum; Craig and John will be showing you how to brush up on the latest technical aspects of video taping, photography and EVP.

Remember our White Elephant Sale being held all day long to raise money for the group.

We will need our food committee again this year. Please sign up for Set-Up/Clean-Up/ Food/Beverages at tonight's meeting. Let's make this another fantastic, fun filled event.

Pricing and times will be announced in April's newsletter. Stay tuned. We will need our food committee again this year. Please sign up for Set-Up/Clean-Up/ Food/Beverages at tonight's meeting. Let's make this another fantastic, fun filled event.



DEPLORABLE ACTS! The SSP is saddened and disgusted by the latest round of vandalism at Gettysburg, where 3 monuments, including the 114th PA (Collin's Zouaves) right along Emmittsburg Rd by the Sherfy Farm were severely damaged by heartless ghouls. Those who did this have no appreciation for the nation they live in nor those who gave their

lives to keep it intact. We in SSP are dedicated to battlefield preservation and implore all who care about this hallowed ground - be your interest paranormal or historical - to do everything possible to protect it as if it were your own land... because, my fellow Americans, it is! - JDW (Photo taken by SSP NE Founder Ed Dobil 3/1/06)

Dinner with a Psychic-Medium at Alfred's Victorian Restaurant, Middletown, PA. April 26, 2006 - 6:30 PM

Your price for the dinner (tax/tip included) is \$29.95. You have your choice of three entrees: Shrimp Farcis, Cheese Tortellini Marinara or Butternut Chicken, mixed greens with a choice of dressing and a Sundae for dessert. Also includes coffee/tea or soft drink. Alcoholic beverages are available (cash bar).

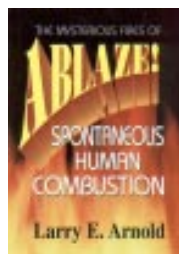
You will hear the antics of Emma, Alfred's resident ghost, from paranormal investigator John Weaver while his wife, nationally recognized Psychic-Medium & Author Kelly Weaver, does private readings for diners. You can choose to have a ten minute personal reading for an additional \$10.00. Space is limited for this "spirited" evening. Call Alfred's Victorian to make your reservation. 717-944-5373 (*For those who've never attended one of the annual October "Haunted Dining" events, here's a perfect opportunity to experience the delightful charm and superb cuisine of one of Mid-State PA's most acclaimed restaurants*)

MYSTERIES of ANCIENT AMERICA at Mar. 15 S.E.A.R.C.H. Meeting:

Adam Fausey presents a look at evidence which indicates an historical timeline as well as unexpected artifacts that seem to indicate the presence of North American civilizations much different from the ones that are taught by mainstream Archaeology and Anthropology. A buried city in Missouri, underwater pyramids and other artifacts in Wisconsin, also dinosaur pottery and carvings, a Lost Valley in Cumberland County plus even more that you have not likely heard about will be discussed in detail. *SEARCH meetings held 3rd Wed. of the month at the East Shore Library behind Colonial Park Mall, 7pm. For details, contact Steve Groff at SGROFF@paonline.com*

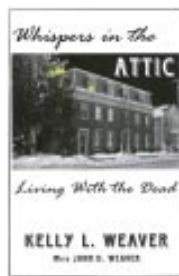


BOOKS AUTHORED BY S.S.P. MEMBERS



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

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)



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:

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E-mail: weaviate@aol.com

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

2006 CONFERENCE NEWS - *It's not too early to make plans for the spring & summer with all these great events coming up locally and in nearby states!*



PA PARANORMAL CONFERENCE - MAY 6, MARIETTA, PA
Lloyd Auerbach, Stanton Friedman, Rosemary Ellen Guiley Frank Feschino & Ed Okonowicz will be speaking along with PSP Founder Rick Fisher at his 2006 event at the haunted, historic Railroad House!

Details at <http://home.supernet.com/~rfisher/paconf.html>



NEW JERSEY GHOST CONFERENCE

APRIL 22, HACKETTSTOWN, NJ Speakers include Kelly Weaver, Rosemary Ellen-Guiley, John Zaffis, Vince Wilson, Jeff Belanger, Charles Adams and more! Lots of "extra" events at haunted venues, too and close to the PA border, too!

Details at <http://www.njghs.net/pages/9/index.htm>



AMERICAN BATTLEFIELD GHOSTHUNTERS SOCIETY "BOOT CAMP" EVENT & EXPO - APRIL 21-23, FREDERICKSBURG, VA Speakers include SSP NE Founder Ed Dubil, Mark Nesbitt, ABGHS Founder Patrick Burke, Dale Kaczmarek & more. Ghost Tours (in the town) & Battlefield Investigations.

Details at <http://www.americanbattlefield.com/webPage54.html>

EASTERN REGIONAL PARANORMAL CONFERENCE - JULY 21 - 23 GETTYSBURG



Vince Wilson hosts the 3rd Eastern Regional Paranormal Conference at Gettysburg Holiday Inn Battlefield July 21-23rd. Troy Taylor, Mark Nesbitt, John Zaffis, Rosemary Ellen Guiley, George Hansen, Katherine Ramsland & more, plus: A bus tour hosted by Mark Nesbitt, a Spirit Circle hosted by Kelly Weaver, a Haunted Pub Crawl hosted by Vince Wilson, an investigation of the G.O.G. HQ and a Haunted Train Ride!

Details at <http://conference.marylandparanormal.com/>

NOTE: *If you don't have internet access & need phone #s for events, contact John Weaver @ SSP Meetings or call me @ 932-9900 (9-5)*

Thanks to Janet Mueller for contributing the following item!

(A version of this made the rounds a few years ago -- this has some new ones and if you haven't seen it before, enjoy! - JDW)

YOU KNOW YOU'RE A GHOST HUNTER IF...

You get asked out and reply that you have to check your schedule first. You later log on to the Solar Weather link to see if there is a full moon or solar storm out that night. Then you get back with your would be date and tell him, "I'm sorry, I have a pressing engagement for that evening". (Thanks to ghostlymist@webtv.net)

Your car has a bumper sticker that reads: I'd Rather Be Ghost hunting!

You refuse to stay at a hotel that's not haunted.

You hear someone say "You look like you saw a ghost!"...and you start interviewing them.

You hang out on a ghost message board more then any other place on the net.

You talk to a brown out.

Your coolest ghost photo is framed and hanging in the hallway with your family photos.

You are more afraid of the living than you are of the dead.

You're the only one in the photo shop who gets excited over "bad" pictures.

You sit at your computer and look at the reflections in the screen to see if there is anyone behind you.

You have more photos of ghosts than you do of family photos.

99% of your bookmarks on the internet are ghost related.

You invite friends over to watch home movies and they see your last three investigations. (Film of an empty room for 3 hours.)

Your kid says they have an imaginary friend... and out come the cameras, tape recorders, camcorders

You apologize to the ghost for getting scared because you thought it was a human.

Your friends stop and stare at the Sony Night cam aimed at the bed in the spare bedroom and you have to tell them it isn't what they think it is.

You sleep with a camera next to your bed,...ya know, just in case

You find an EMF detector next to the remote for the TV.

Your newest electronic toy is an motion sensor!

At an event you film the ceiling and places where there are no people.

You spend as much time looking at the negatives, as you do the prints.

You're the only one at Aunt Bessie's funeral with an EMF meter and a tape recorder.

You're watching scary movies with your family and someone asks "Can ghosts really do that?" and you actually have an answer and the explanation.

Attending a family reunion is a trip to the family plot

Your friends tell you not to get involved in this stuff, because you may end up having a ghost possess you!

You spend more time with dead people than the living...but hey, aren't they more fun?

You sit at the office all day staring at a mini web cam of some deserted boat's engine room waiting for that "ONE PICTURE" instead of getting any of your work done.

You have more recordings of EVP's than you do of your favorite music.

You spend all your free time in haunted buildings and cemeteries, talking to the darkness.

You've been chased away from the Amityville house after disturbing a family barbeque in the backyard

UPS now delivers your new equipment to the office rather than your home so you don't have to explain to your wife why you need another ghost detector.

You have more photography equipment than a Japanese tourist

You keep rewinding that part on "3 Men and a Baby" to try to prove that it is a cardboard cut-out of Ted Danson.

You are waiting for Reggis to ask, "What is the most Haunted Place on Earth?"

You take a picture of your entire family and ask any deceased relatives to join in the picture

You get a new camera and the first thing you do is get rid of the strap.

You refuse to make friends with people who are skeptics.

You sit in front of your TV closely watching 8 hr surveillance tapes of the same scene with the volume maxed!

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

Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots reveals fascinating true ghost stories and local legends of Pennsylvania. Combined with delicious recipes from *Spirit Society of Pa.* 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.

Find out why you should not drop your spoon downwards in your bowl.

Did you know there are certain superstitions regarding how you eat off of your plate?

Why shouldn't a single woman wipe the bottom of the pan with a piece of bread? What doom awaits her?

How do you prevent the Devil from fouling up your meal? Read *Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* and find out the answers to these questions and a lot more.

I guarantee that you'll never look at your kitchen utensils in the same way again! - Kelly Weaver

(Available at SSP Meetings, Kelly's Magical Garden & Civil War and More in Mechanicsburg. All proceeds benefit the Spirit Society of Pennsylvania.)



Myths Legends and Lore of Disney, Part II

It's spring again, well almost. Does spring training for the Phillies count? Either way, March is here and it is time for my annual pilgrimage to the House the Mouse built. Yes, **I'm going to Disney World**, again.

As I did last year, I searched for many popular myths and legends of my favorite vacation spot and its California sister...

Myth One: The Haunted Mansion in Disney land contains REAL bullet holes.

During the disco decade of the 1970's a visitor to the park brought along his handy-dandy gun and proceeded to shoot at the pseudo-phantoms in the ballroom scene. The extra large pane of glass used for the effect was too large to be removed so the DIs (Disney Imagineers, Disney's version of an engineer) just taped over them. According to my source, they can still be seen, if you know where to look.

Answer: True

Myth Two: People have been killed on the rides at Disney World.

Unfortunately, several people have been seriously injured or killed at WDW (Walt Disney World). Most of the injuries were the fault of WDW guests choosing to ignore common sense and do things such as: unbuckle their seatbelts and stand up on coasters, climb out of their cars or try to break into the park. One notable exception was an employee who was killed while sweeping the Skyway platform. Other employees, not aware of where the sweeper was, turned the ride on. The sweeper in an attempt to avoid being knocked off the loading platform grabbed onto the gondola and tried to climb in. He held on until the car was about forty feet in the air and then fell, hitting a tree on the way down. He did not survive.

Answer: True

Myth Three: There is only one replica of the Liberty Bell in existence and it is in the Magic Kingdom. Who says you can't learn anything at the "House of Mouse"?

There is a replica of the Liberty Bell in the Liberty Square section of the Magic Kingdom, (not far from the Haunted Mansion) this replica is the **ONLY ONE** in existence today that was made from the same cast as the real Liberty Bell. Once this replica was cast the original mold was destroyed.

Answer: True

Myth Four: A picture of a naked woman can be seen in a Disney movie.

While the issues that deal with words in the clouds (Lion King) or subversive messages to strip (Aladdin) are either tricks of the eye/ear or unintentional, the naked lady in the movie the Rescuers, is actually true. Because it is true and it is full frontal nudity, I will not show you here, however if you search the web, you can undoubtedly find the screenshots from the movie. Disney claimed that during normal full-speed viewing, the offending shot could not be noticed; however, they did recall some copies of the movie on video. They now say that the picture was inserted into the movie during processing and was not placed by any Disney animator. The offending frames were removed from later releases.

Answer: True

Myth Five: Disney animators inserted then CEO Michael Eisner's phone number into the movie, "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" It was listed as graffiti on a bathroom stall, underneath the phrase, "For a good time call, Allyson Wonderland" and then Michael Eisner's phone number. While it has been stated many times that this did show up in the original print of the film, any versions of home movie IE tape or DVD, do indeed show the phrase mentioned above, but the phone number is no

longer visible. So while it may be true, there is no way currently to confirm it.

Answer: Undetermined

A word of warning, I've been looking into these Disney myths and the information I have provided was confirmed on more than one source, HOWEVER, there is a site I have come across called Disneylies that promotes erroneous information about the Disney corporation. While I believe that everyone is entitled to their opinion, much of the information is outrightly false and easily proved as such. Please do not take that site as being remotely truthful. Stick with sites such as Snopes.com for your legend research.

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

This Land is Your Land

Being a 'ghost hunter' can be tough. You can receive the gamut of reactions from others—interest, excitement, indifference, disbelief or disgust. Gauging others' feelings towards the paranormal is tricky. What makes being a serious investigator of the realm of the supernatural even more difficult are the morons who visit haunted locations for a lark with the intent of doing harm.

We all know about the vandalizing that occurred in Gettysburg recently and it makes us all heartsick that these cretins have such little respect for those soldiers, Confederate or Union, who bravely fought and/or lost their lives for our country. Such complete disregard for the thousands of lives that were taken on this hallowed ground and the preservation of this historical land certainly deserves our attention.

Not only are these vandals desecrating the Gettysburg Battlefield (which in itself is horrifying enough), but they are also depriving others of the true Gettysburg experience, wasting the time of the police and National Park rangers (and tax payers money, I might add) when their services can be better utilized elsewhere and forcing the NPS to limit the time that visitors have to enjoy the battlefield; not to mention the amount of money to repair the damage.

Are stiffer penalties the answer? Possibly. Someone on the SSP message board suggested making these criminals perform community service in the park. I suggest their punishment should be to record every single word on every monument on the Battlefield and every tombstone in the National Cemetery. Perhaps that will give them some idea of the magnitude of the Battle of Gettysburg and will result in respect for those who died here. Of course, paying for the damage they caused would be an excellent start. Hit 'em where it hurts—the pocketbook!

This is not a National Park Service issue. This is not a Pennsylvania State Police issue. This is OUR issue! These lands belong to us, the American public. You would not allow this sort of misconduct in your front yard, would you? So, you are probably saying, "What can I, Joe Public, do about it?"

1. Educate! Tell people (especially youngsters) how important historical landmarks are to you and our entire nation. Emphasize that our ancestors deserve respect & honor and how essential it is to preserve these areas for future generations.
2. Visit historical sites and lend your support (monetarily or otherwise).
3. Report damage, vandalism or suspicious behavior to the authorities.
4. Join or support organizations that preserve our history.
5. Contact your state representative and learn how you can support or encourage anti-vandalism legislation.
6. It can be as easy as taking the responsibility to dispose of litter you may come across.

THE GHOST I THINK I SAW by John D. Weaver

Did you ever SEE a ghost?

I think fellow ghosthunters will agree, that's probably the most "FAQ" they hear.

After a lifetime of interest in the paranormal and nearly 10 years of actively exploring locations reputed to be haunted, my answer to that FAQ is "Yes" and "Maybe".

If pets count as ghosts, yes, I have definitely seen one. Regular readers of *Paranormal PA & Beyond* and those who've read *Whispers in the Attic - Living with the Dead* by my wife Kelly, are familiar with her account of BOTH of us seeing the apparition of our beloved German Shepherd several hours after he passed on. I was a remarkable and moving experience.

Now, if one interprets *ghost* to mean the apparition of a *deceased human*, my answer is "maybe".

Before I explain, I must state that while I focus trying to obtain solid evidence to prove a location is haunted, and do not claim to have any of the abilities people like Kelly and other mediums have, I am hardly immune to unexplained close contact with what could be considered a ghost. I *felt* (but could not see) *someone* sit down on the edge of my bed at Cape May's Albert Steven's Inn. I've been *forcefully touched* on the shoulder while alone in the bathroom of the Gettysbrew Restaurant, a barn which in 1863 served as a field hospital for 1,300 casualties from Johnson's Division of the Confederate ANV. With no *living* persons nearby, I've *clearly heard* a raspy female voice tell me "Don't shut the door!" at Alfred's Victorian, a haunted restaurant we know well. Yes, experiencing such things are more profound than hearing the EVP or viewing the anomalies captured by your camcorder - they reassure my skeptical side that there *is something going on we cannot easily explain!*

As you have read, I've *felt* and *heard* the presence of what certainly could be the ghost of a human being at known haunted locations, and several years ago, I really think I might have seen one — just across the street from my house!

One spring day in the early 1990s, Kelly and I were on our daily dog walk. Blue (who's apparition we would one day see) was having hip problems, so we dropped our canine "kids" off at the house and continued. Our route found us again turning onto our street, Essex Road, and heading back by our house, although we were not ready to stop on such a perfect day. We were on the right side of the street, and just prior to passing our house to the left, I briefly noticed a person approaching us. As normal, we were engaged in conversation, but as the distance closed, I was distracted by the thought this person seemed "out of place".

This was 1991 or 92, long before the "retro" early 70s look came into fashion, but this girl was dressed like someone from that era! She wore wide bell-bottomed jeans, what we used to call "earth" shoes, and a fringed leather jacket - the kind Roger Daltrey of *The Who* was often seen in. Her brown hair was long, straight and parted in the middle; a "choker" necklace was around her neck. She wore little if any make up, and seemed to be in her late teens; not beautiful but perhaps average looking. She looked like half the girls in my high school class! (1972)

I made no direct eye contact with her, as I often do with folks we pass on the street; I was too taken back by her appearance. Likewise, I was too astounded to even say anything to Kelly; she was telling me something and did not even seem to notice the strangely dressed girl pass by us. Not wishing Kelly to think I was "checking out" other females, I discreetly glanced behind me to make sure she was still there. She was, continuing south on Essex Road. After a few more steps, I again turned my head and looked, and she was gone.

In the few seconds between my first and second glance, there is no way anyone short of an Olympic class sprinter could have made it to the next street and turned, so I surmised she must have entered one of the houses on that side of the street; had she moved real quick, she *may* have made it to a house on the other side. I finally spoke and asked Kelly if she had noticed her. She only mentioned noticing someone pass by; that is not uncommon - Kelly can "zone out" sometimes, consumed by particular thought. In the weeks and months that followed, we kept a close eye during our daily walks — we live in a small development and it is easy to spot "strangers". We never saw the "Hippie Girl" (as we began to refer to her) again.

Initially, I did not think I had seen a ghost. Although by this time we had already vacationed in several haunted places and added the paranormal as a new reason for visiting Gettysburg, we had yet to immerse ourselves in ghosthunting by starting the Capital Ghost Forum (in 1996). Only later did I realize that I might have seen a *type* of ghost!

Around this time, Mark Nesbitt's first two *Ghosts of Gettysburg* books were published. One story struck a chord with me: The "Phantom Regiment" which is often reported maneuvering on the now peaceful Wheatfield that was stained with blood on a July afternoon in 1863. These spectral soldiers are seen replicating the tactical movements of a well-trained Civil War regiment, but are not the modern re-enactors witnesses may mistake them for. Is this really a regiment of earthbound spirits (ghosts) replicating their last steps on earth? Or, is it (more likely) a "rip in time" giving a random few a look at once transpired there? Whatever this apparition is, it certainly suggested to me that the "Hippie Girl" I saw on a lovely spring afternoon was likewise something not rationally explained. (*Sketch done from memory Dec 05*)

There are perhaps 3-5 houses she could have turned into, physically or ethereally. I would regularly see the people who lived in those houses outside in the ensuing months, but never anyone who looked like the "Hippie Girl". These were younger couples; none old enough to have a daughter in her late teens. I'm confident that if she did once live in one of those houses, her family had moved on by the 90s. (The houses in our development were built in the mid-late 1950s; prior to that it was farmland.) Did timing play a role? Did the same date I saw her correlate with the one her life ended? An unintentional overdose? A traffic accident? A suicide? Had I been an experienced investigator at the time, I certainly would have paid closer attention to the date and time, and maybe even knocked on a few doors.

After nearly 15 years, I still keep my eyes peeled for the "Hippie Girl", which I now suspect was some sort of residual apparition. Depending on one's definition, such an experience may not really qualify as seeing a "ghost", but I remain convinced that what I witnessed that sunny spring afternoon was something from the paranormal realm.





PARA-TECH

Opinions & Observations by JDW

KNOW WHAT'S AROUND YOU

Being aware of the conditions around you are a fundamental part of investigating the paranormal. This is particularly critical when the scene is outdoors and in the dark. Some of this is so simple (don't take photos when its raining; if others are around when attempting to record EVP, have them shut up) it only requires a bit of common sense.

Indoor investigations have their own challenges, but you have much more control over the conditions, especially if the place is occupied. For example, even if working in the dark (as TAPS prefers) sources that may cause false positives such as reflective surfaces or heat/AC vents can be readily identified by turning on the lights!

Outdoors, its a whole different game, even if one has evolved beyond accepting every dust or pollen particle they capture as an "orb". Here, a shiny tombstone or traffic sign in the distance (I've seen many examples of both) may cause an "anomaly". It is important to remember that while the average flash will only illuminate an area perhaps 10 feet from the camera, reflective surfaces far in the distance can become something bright and mysterious! Other "anomalies" I've seen captured outdoors in the dark include an orange extension cord, a "Levis" logo on the jeans of a person close to the camera and the reflective Nike "swoosh" on a distant sneaker! These things looked pretty strange at first, but a closer look revealed the truth!

One way to minimize these false positives in outdoor night time investigations is to familiarize yourself with the area while it is still light. Begin at least an hour before dusk, and note locations of things such as road signs and other reflective markers, power lines or even the proximity of nearby dwellings. (Changes in wind direction can carry distant voices quite far, creating false "EVP") This "twilight walk through" will also allow you to take instrument readings and/or if using an intuitive (as I often do with Kelly) give them a chance to identify active areas you can return to for after-dark photos/filming. (Of course, it is assumed the location is one you are permitted to be at after dark)

Being unfamiliar with one's surroundings is responsible for what is surely the most often reported false claim of paranormal activity: the planet Venus! Being an inferior planet (along with Mercury, one of two planets who's orbit is inside Earth's), Venus appears low in the sky, before sunrise or after sunset. Only the Sun and Moon are brighter than the very reflective, cloud-covered Venus! Many people never give the night sky a second look -- until they see this intense, glowing white light low on the horizon, and report it as a "UFO". As this segment of the paranormal was my focus long before ghosts and hauntings, I can tell you it is the equivalent of "orb" photos without correlating evidence in regards to the number of claims made! (Of course, it is also the most convenient explanation skeptics use to debunk even well documented sightings) If the public would take a few moments to learn just a little bit about the night sky, there would not only be less false UFO reports, but more folks appreciating one of nature's most beautiful sights! *(I've been a stargazer ever since I first tried to look for Santa and the Star of Bethlehem as a child. It's still one of my favorite activities! Next time you're out ghosthunting on a dark night, take a moment to enjoy the awesome display above you!)*

SSP Paranormal Question of the Month: CAN GHOSTS CRY?



Answer: YES.

Particularly those from the 4th NY Independent Battery, the 11th MA and the 114th PA who fought so valiantly to preserve the 3rd Corps of the Army of the Potomac on July 2, 1863. May their tears be erased by the restoration of their monuments and the apprehension and punishment of those who dishonored these brave souls and our nation.

TENNESSEE GHOST WALKS

Travelling to TN this summer? Enjoy local ghost tours? Here is some info shared by the founder of Appalachian Ghost Walks:

I just wanted to take a moment to introduce myself... My name is Stacey Allen McGee and I founded The ARC ~ Alternate Realities Center in February of 1994... I have also worked in the travel and tourism industry for a number of years... Presently, I'm the Tour Director for Appalachian GhostWalks and I would like to invite each of you to visit our website at www.AppalachianGhostWalks.com as well as our area sometime soon...

Mention that you saw us in this yahoo group (Yahoo SSP group) and we'll give you \$1 per person off the tour, or tours, of your choice...

We currently have five different tours in operation with five more to be added by the end of 2006, or the first quarter of 2007. In Tennessee, these include Historic Erwin, Jonesborough, Rogersville, Blountville, Greeneville, Knoxville, and Johnson City with 2 locations including the East Tennessee State University campus and a hiking adventure called "Legendary Buffalo Mountain"...

In Virginia, these include Historic Abingdon, and Saltville... Hope to see you sometime soon!

Happy Hauntings!!! Stacey Allen McGee Tour Director, Appalachian GhostWalks Founder of The ARC ~ Alternate Realities Center