

"ROO's" BOOS - NOTES FROM KELLY

Talk about a fun day! Our **Chambersburg Chills Tour** was full of a lot of laughs and good times with like minded people. I was thrilled to see

what a large turnout we had for the tour, as the photo taken by the old (1818) Franklin County jail at Rt. shows! Kudos to everyone for being as quiet as church mice at the Enoch Brown Memorial site! This is what sets organized, respectful groups apart from certain "ghosthunting" groups who roam places like the Gettysburg Battlefield evidently thinking that their level of noise might wake the dead!

My only problem was that Josh told us way too much of the story in the beginning and tainted our investigation. If a group utilizes input from "intuitives" as well as instruments, audio & video recorders, etc., (as we in SSP do) this negates any observations made by even reliable psychics who have proven themselves. We now know that in the future, we need to tell our host what we do and don't want from the beginning. We all thought he would just be our tour guide on the walk, and had no idea he would begin the evening with all of the details. My belief is that you should go in with as little information as possible if intuitives are used as members of your investigation team.

I still think it was a lot of fun, and I look forward to seeing all of your photos and hearing any EVP that was captured. *(As this is written, 3 EVPs were evidently captured that afternoon; one by Gail another by Andrea, and possibly the same captured by Craig on his mini-DVD; these will be played at our meeting and eventually posted on the SSP site - JDW)*

Laughter filled the banquet room as we stopped for dinner. We had delicious food, good spirits, and friendships were strengthened as we giggled our way through dinner -- this is the time for lively banter and socializing... after the investigation!

The strangest place for me was the cemetery at the end of the tour. SSP member, Shirley had a bad episode near the site. She suddenly got very sick in the stomach and was sweating profusely. My first thought was "Oh my God, food poisoning." Thank goodness I was

wrong. Laura Shank, April Miller and I slowly walked with Shirley, giving her Reiki, and within a few minutes after walking away

from the cemetery, she was feeling back to normal. Strange place, indeed!

Thanks again to Melissa for planning another wonderful event!

Just in Time for Flea Season...

The Superstition Surrounding the FLEA

Various superstitions surround the flea and its highly irritant bite. Fleas are alleged to bite more often than usual when rain is expected. If they suddenly abandon a body they had previously infested for some time, it may be interpreted as an omen

of the person's certain death. In Germany, however, a flea bite on the hand may actually be welcomed, since it prophesies that the person concerned will shortly receive a kiss or some item of good news. *(I don't know about you, but I'm not kissing anyone who has fleas, I don't care how cute or wealthy they are! - Kelly)*

Householders anxious to rid their houses of fleas are advised to get up early on March first, close the windows and clean the house thoroughly, sweeping the door lintel and any cracks where fleas may hide; if this is done properly, no fleas will return that year.

According the European tradition, fleas will never enter a bed that has been well aired on Maundy Thursday and will shun a bed of a monk. Soil collected from beneath the right foot when the first cuckoo of the year is heard is said to work well as a flea repellent. *(I just use Frontline on Teddy & the kitties, it sure seems easier than that! - Kelly)*

Other objects reputed to repel fleas include boughs of walnut and foxglove. Also, a flea-ridden person may drive away the insects by leaping over a Midsummer bonfire, by bringing a sheep or goat into the house *(DUH, wouldn't that bring in more fleas???) - Kelly)* or by decorating a picture of the Virgin Mary on Easter Sunday as the Resurrection bell strikes while intoning the words, "Depart, all animals without bones."

Like I said, I'll stick to Frontline! I feel a little itchy....- Kelly

Source: *The Dictionary of Superstitions* by David Pickering



BIOGRAPHIES of the STRANGE and PARANORMAL by Gail Dull

CENTRALIA, PA - A Real GHOST Town?

It was Memorial Day weekend 1962 and the town of Centralia was cleaning up near the cemetery, getting ready for the town's annual celebration. They threw the trash in an indentation in the ground and lit the fire. Little did they know that this simple match would end the town.

That pit was where a vein of coal met the surface and that trash fire ignited the vein. The fire company was called and they "thought" they had extinguished the fire but they didn't. It rages on to this day, following the interlaced veins of coal under the earth. Initially, only three families near the cemetery had to be moved, but as the fire raged more homes were threatened. Valentine's Day, 1981 a sink hole that was 4 feet wide, 150 feet deep opened and nearly swallowed a young boy. He clung to the exposed roots of a tree until he was pulled to safety by another boy. Residents demanded action and got it. The government came in and bought them out. Today less than 20 people remain in this "Ghost town".

While the sink hole *nearly* claimed the life of the young boy, no deaths can be directly attributed to the mine fire however; mining is a dangerous and deadly business and certainly men lost their lives below.

So are there any ghosts in this ghost town? Some people say yes.

While Centralia is NOT a tourist attraction, it does have visitors. During one visit in 1998 one "tourist" was near the cemetery watching the smoke billow out from the fissures created by the heat of the fire. As she stood there, people dressed in old fashioned mining helmets walked up out of one of the fissures and across the grave yard. She watched them for a few seconds and then they disappeared just like the smoke.

Another group was also near the graveyard and was standing near a crack watching the steam rise when from out of no where they heard a loud whisper, "Leave this place" and then the amount of steam escaping from the fissures closes to them increased and was accompanied by the smell of sulfur (which is not uncommon). Afraid for their safety, they hurried back to their car where they heard the voice again, "why did you do that?" They left and swear they will never return.

The final anecdote I would like to mention was of a couple who were snooping around an abandoned house. (Something that SSP does NOT condone.) While in the house and alone, they were standing at the top of the stairs on the second floor when they heard foot steps coming down from the third floor. As the sound reached what they thought would be the second floor hallway, there was no one there. They looked down the steps to the first floor, no one was there either. So whose boots were made for walking? They didn't stick around to find out!

WARNING: The area encompassed by the Centralia mine fire is extremely dangerous! Walking and/or driving in the immediate area could result in serious injury or death. There are dangerous gases present, and the ground is prone to sudden and unexpected collapse. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection strongly discourages anyone from visiting the area.

(Comment: Seeing how there are LIVING people who refuse to live this dangerous place, it would not be surprising to learn there are SPIRITS who choose to hang around Centralia! - JDW)

Musings of a Ghost Adventurer

By Melissa Griffith

Are Some Ghost Tours Over-priced Bores?

On the SSP message board, John brought to our attention that Gettysburg residents complaining of the local ghost tour groups littering, being loud & disrespectful in general—I decided to research some reviews of various ghost tours on the Internet. I have been disappointed by more than one ghost tour myself, but attributed it to being "more ghostie" than the average tourist, but apparently I'm not alone.

On the Yahoo Travel Site, this person's review for Salem, Massachusetts was entitled "Don't take the tours"—*Do not fall into the museum overload or the ghost tours. They are rather cheesy. Some are rather informational, but usually not worth the price. Don't ruin your day with high entry prices, explore and you will get as much out of the town on your own.*

I agree with the "on your own" option. When I visited Salem a few years ago, I overheard other tourists in a shop complaining that the ghost tour they had taken the night before was "lame." I purchased a book called "Haunted Happenings" written by a retired sheriff of Salem, Robert Cahill. I could read the spooky stories and visit the haunted locations on my own for the price of the book (\$9—cheaper than the cost of the ghost tour) AND have a take-home souvenir as well.

Another reviewer on CitySearch.com wrote about their experience with the Ghost Tour of Philadelphia—*The guide is a walking, talking advertisement for every other attraction in Philadelphia. I didn't hear much about ghosts, they were thrown in every now and again but overall there was a lot of talk of architecture and about famous people who have lived in/visited the city. Very interesting from a historical point of view, but not quite what I signed up for. The guide was long winded, over two hours, and as much history as he spouted, he only knew what he had been provided on queue cards and was not able to answer follow up questions. Overall I would say this tour was an INCREDIBLE waste of my time and the cost of the tour should have been supplemented by some of the other sights in Philadelphia as they got a two hour commercial on my dime.*

On About.com site a tourist complained: *Seattle's Private Eye Tours is not recommended. The two-minute glimpse of downtown at night is spectacular but the tour's guide is uninspiring and pedantic.*

Before you get too disenchanted with the entire "ghost tour" business, here is a glowing review from TravelPost.com about a Savannah, Georgia tour called "The Sixth Sense Savannah Ghost Tour:"

After spending a few days wandering around the squares, we could not help but notice the myriad of ghost tours haunting the historic section of town. We quickly came into the possession of several brochures. Sifting through the pamphlets, we were disappointed to find that some seemed utterly cheesy, some weren't so cheap and others, well, let's just say that we did not believe that the dead were so keen on following us around on a trolley all night long.

Finally, we found what we were looking for. A still, stone statue of Ms. Corinne Lawton stared at us with her pupil-less eyes. The words "Sixth Sense Savannah Ghost Tour" accompanied her pallid face. Our fascination with the tour increased when we read about the company's owner, Shannon Scott. Shannon, having worked for the television show, "Scariest Places on Earth" and as a member of the Georgia Board of Parapsychology, had already struck us as knowledgeable about the supernatural. We quickly made reservations.

At about 8 p.m., we made our way across Abercorn Street to a house illuminated with candles. As we were waiting on the front porch, I could not help but marvel at the tension in the air. Something about the place stirred up excitement in all of the anxious tour-takers. When the front door opened and a man in black appeared, I knew that I had definitely taken the right tour.

Of course, not all tour guides have to work on wildly popular television shows or have a Ph. D. in parapsychology, but they should at the very least, be a long-time resident of the area and have an interest in the paranormal.

Some tips: If the promotional materials and décor of the tour is cheesy—that probably carries over to the actual tour as well. Checking out the tour’s website, if they have one, may also help you make a decision on their legitimacy. Ask about the tour guides—what credentials do they possess to be an informative, knowledgeable, entertaining host? Also, ask other tourists! When people feel that they have been ripped off or had an enjoyable experience—they will tell you! If the price seems excessive, be wary. In my opinion, over-priced means the company has no passion for the subject and may be just out to make a buck. If the tour is a year-round venture (not Halloween tours only), look for a brick and mortar building headquarters. Folding table on a sidewalk touting “professional” ghost tours? Hmm. As always—buyer beware!

(Adding to Melissa’s excellent overview, Kelly and I have also taken numerous ghost tours over the years. The very first was in New Hope, PA in 1990, and it remains one of the best! Along with our knowledgeable guide’s delightful blend of history, legend and paranormal research regarding this charming town on the Delaware, we had the added thrill of a “dark and stormy night”: A thunderstorm passed just close enough to add the appropriate audible and visual effects! Rick Fisher’s tour of Marietta, PA is also highly recommended as are any of the tours (including Ft Delaware) offered by Ed Okonowicz. If you ever get to the midwest, Troy Taylor’s Alton, IL tour is a must and although he doesn’t do them regularly, Vince Wilson’s bus tour of Baltimore Haunts during his conference a couple summers ago was great!

Last but hardly least, are the tours we recommend first to any out of towners who contact us prior to visiting Gettysburg: Mark Nesbitt’s Ghosts of Gettysburg tours. Kelly and I were fortunate enough to actually have Mark as the guide on the first tour we took with him 15 years ago. Today, of course, Mark employs several tour guides, but his insistence on their having a solid historical knowledge of the town and battle as well as the ability to relate the tales from his books ensure his tours remain the standard by which all other Gettysburg ghost tours are judged. - JDW)



Enoch Brown Site & Chambersburg Our recent “Chambersburg Chills” tour which began with an investigation at the Enoch Brown Massacre site near Greencastle included some interesting events. As Kelly mentions in her column, the only down side to the Enoch Brown investigation was Josh Wolz beforehand relating too much historical info. (and his own intuitive feelings) about the site. However, this did not preclude some peculiar activity being noted, and evidently a few more

EVPs were captured. While at the actual mass grave (where I had captured the voice of a male child responding to my request for a name in 2004), I encountered an intense (and quickly moving) cold spot about 6 ft to the SW of the fence. Unfortunately, I got no response when asking “who just walked by me”. (This was the only thermal anomaly I noted; numerous trifold meter readings at various locations also yielded nothing unusual, as did compass readings)

Near the bathroom, Gail Dull captured what sounds to me like a girl’s voice saying “Get Home”, and at the meeting, we will hear a segment captured by Andrea McFetridge after Josh concluded his introduction by asking if anyone else had anything to add. This clip (which I’ve yet to hear) reportedly sounds like a girl singing. (Craig also captured what seems to be a female child’s voice at about the same time) The last stop (Cedar Grove Cemetery) on the Chambersburg Tour had a strange “Triangular Field-like” battery draining effect on several members cameras, including my own. “Tours” not being conducive to true evidence gathering, I did not bring all my instruments along, but a comprehensive EM sweep of this section of the cemetery might shed some light on the cause (natural or paranormal). The way one member was affected at this location (described in Kelly’s column) further suggests something unusual was happening at this spot Josh considered the “most actively haunted” on his tour.

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

•Private Readings available by appointment: Personal, Animal, Past Life & ADC (After Death Communication) **Contact Kelly at 717-737-7623 or weaviate@aol.com**



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 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.

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? *Haunted Spots and Cooking Pots* reveals 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 PA)



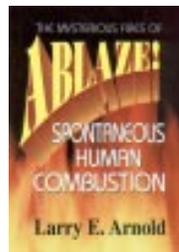
Dinner with a Psychic-Medium at Alfred's Victorian Restaurant, Middletown, PA. 2 More Dates added for Summer 06: July 12 & August 16 - Each at 6:30 PM

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 (including several EVPs, some captured very recently), Alfred's resident ghost, from paranormal investigator John Weaver while his wife, nationally recognized Psychic-Medium & Author Kelly Weaver, does private readings for diners.

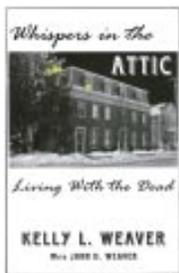
You can choose to have a ten minute personal reading for an additional \$10.00. Space is limited for this "spirited" evening. Call Alfred's Victorian to make your reservation. 717-944-5373 (For those who've never attended one of the annual October "Haunted Dining" events, here's a perfect opportunity to experience the delightful charm and superb cuisine of one of Mid-State PA's most acclaimed restaurants)

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:

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

E-mail: weaviate@aol.com

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

SUMMER 2006 CONFERENCE/LECTURE NEWS -



This bi-monthly series of lectures will bring nationally recognized paranormal experts, authors and 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: Aug. 19, 10:30am to 2:30pm Speaker: Author/Storyteller Ed Okonowicz - "Ghosts of Fort Delaware" Join incomparable storyteller "Ed O" for a fascinating look at true tales from his latest book! Ed shares his experiences leading the ghost/history tours and tells stories of apparitions, orbs and dungeon ghosts on Pea Patch Island and in the old fort itself.

\$20.00 per person does not include lunch. \$35.00 per person w/lunch includes lunch. Menu includes 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

EASTERN REGIONAL PARANORMAL CONFERENCE - JULY 21 thru 23 GETTYSBURG, PA



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)

COMING

SEPT 23-24, 2006
at LITTLE BUFFALO
CAMPGROUND in
PERRY COUNTY

**HAUNTED TENT
EVENT 2006**

- Newport Candlelight Ghost Tour
- Spirit Circle with Medium Kelly Weaver
- Explore historic (& haunted) Local sites



Paranormal Packs Halls, Sells Books and Floods Airwaves

- Tania Padgett, Newsday Sunday, June 18, 2006

(06-18) 04:00 PDT New York — The special events hall at the Jacob Javits Convention Center is not an easy space to fill.

But on a balmy spring night, Sylvia Browne packed the 30,000-square-foot space as easily as a global trade show or a jobs and careers fair. And her product? Immensely more entertaining.

Browne is a psychic-medium, meaning she - at least according to her - receives information beyond her five senses and hears the musings of the dead.

Her greatest gift, some would argue, is her exceptional showmanship, or ability to present psychic-mediumship, spiritual ponderings and personal memoir with theatrical flair.

For the 3,000 people — some who had paid as much as \$75 a ticket to see her — she did not disappoint.

Seated on stage with a flowing print blouse and dark slacks, Browne, 69, a brassy blonde with fire-engine red nails and a searing wit to match, answered questions from audience members about loved ones who have passed, love lives that have gone off-kilter and health concerns that baffle doctors.

Some audience members looked relieved at her answers; others, downright puzzled; and still others, doubtful. Nevertheless, at the end of the event, lines to get her books, audiotapes, CDs and autographs ran the length of the walls. "I'm just here to tell the truth," Browne told Newsday later. "That is my purpose."

Not everybody, though, was a believer that night. One woman rolled her eyes when asked whether she thought Browne was authentic. Another was much more direct: "She's full of crap."

Is Browne authentic? Should any psychic-medium be considered so? The debate is an old and disputatious one. And the answers always seem to come back with the sing-songiness of a nursery rhyme. Yes. No. Maybe so. What is certain is that purveyors of the paranormal are no longer dismissed as sideshow or carnival attractions. Instead, they have moved into the mainstream, maneuvering their way into areas once handled solely by therapists, religious counselors and life coaches, some sociologists say. And in the process they are creating a booming cottage industry.

"There is no question that psychics-mediums have become much more respected," said Patricia Baker, a sociologist and psychotherapist in Boston who is working on a book about people's changing attitudes toward authority. "And it definitely seems that people are turning to them more for their problems, particularly when terrorism, war and scandals have caused people to question our political and religious leaders."

Nearly three-quarters of Americans believe in the paranormal, which includes extrasensory perception (ESP), communication with the dead and channeling spiritual entities, according to a poll last year conducted by the Gallup Organization. That's up from the half or more Americans who said they believed in the paranormal, according to a similar Gallup Poll done in 1990.

Margaret Brewer, a 57-year-old former schoolteacher from Manhattan, has always been open-minded, so much so that when a forensic accountant suggested that she see a psychic, she didn't hesitate to make an appointment. At the time, Brewer was embroiled in an acrimonious divorce, which was eroding her finances and peace of mind. The accountant suggested Yolana Bard, a tough-talking, flame-haired medium from Manhattan who was known for helping police solve criminal cases.

Bard told Brewer that she would find help in a box in her basement. Brewer was doubtful but tore through her cluttered basement anyway. And there she uncovered a box filled with stocks, which she said helped ease her financial hardship and sealed her belief in the paranormal. Since that initial session, she has gone to Bard regularly for about 10 years.

"Yolana is very spiritual," said Brewer. "And I have gone to her with many problems. She's like a spiritual adviser, life coach and therapist all wrapped up into one."

TV and cable stations have been banking on believers who are fueling the psychics-mediums phenomenon.

On Wednesday, cable's CourtTV is launching "Haunted Evidence," a show about a psychic, a paranormal investigator and a medium who team up to help solve cold police cases.

It's no surprise that producers are scrambling to put more paranormal fare on the air.

James Van Praagh, psychic and co-producer of the top-rated drama "Ghost Whisperer" on CBS, and Allison Dubois, the psychic-medium who is the inspiration for the widely viewed "Medium" on NBC, boast viewers in the millions and have both written books that have scaled the New York Times best-seller list.

That's also the case with John Edward, a Long Island psychic-medium who shot to fame in 2000 with his Sci Fi Channel show, "Crossing Over," on which he contacted the spirits of audience members' departed loved ones.

Now he has a new show on the WE cable channel called "Cross Country," on which he takes his medium practice on the road.

Publishers of Browne say she is a powerhouse when it comes to selling her brand of psychic-mediumship. Since 1998, Browne has published 13 books, 11 of which have become best-sellers, said Reid Tracy, the president and chief executive of Hay House of Carlsbad (San Diego County). On average, she moves 200,000 to 300,000 books annually and does 27 lectures a year, earning about \$2.5 million in ticket sales, he said. Her in-person readings net \$750 for 20 minutes to half an hour.

More celebrity psychics-mediums are on the way. Mary Rose Occhino, a rising star from Long Island, has already written two books: "Beyond Theface," she said. Her father had died of a brain tumor, had died on Memorial Day and been buried on her birthday.

"There was no way that she could have known that," said Sirianni.

Still, not everything is completely rosy for the industry. Some publishers believe that the psychics-mediums phenomenon has hit a plateau, particularly in book publishing.

Another problem is the growing number of celebrity skeptics who are constantly taking aim at psychics-mediums. They include Penn & Teller, in a popular show on cable's Showtime network; James Randi, a widely respected investigator of the paranormal; and Joe Nickell, senior research fellow of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, who writes a column for Skeptical Inquirer magazine and has written 20 books attacking the paranormal.

"We have no evidence under controlled scientific conditions that psychic or any paranormal activity exists," said Nickell, of Amherst, Mass. "People want to believe in it because it promises wonderful things, where science may not."

Psychics-mediums are not worried about the skeptics. "Everybody has a critic," said Bard.