



Spirit Society of PA.

A P P A R I T I O N S

A MONTHLY JOURNAL of NEWS & UPCOMING EVENTS · Vol 17, Issue 9 · SEPT 2012

“ROO’s” BOOS / Kelly Weaver

Once again, I cannot thank everyone enough for continued cards, both through the mail and online with Facebook and other sources. I had originally planned on being at this month’s meeting, but Monday is one of the 2 days I have my outpatient therapy each week - it leaves me very drained, and too tired to join you. I really miss all of you and promise you will see me soon! At least I have been able to enjoy some ‘normal’ activities, including celebrating both my and John’s birthdays at some of our favorite restaurants, and last weekend, a movie. (We saw *The Possession*; we both enjoyed it, and found the Jewish exorcism process particularly interesting. The film involves a Dibbuk Box - found at a yard sale, this box contains a Dibbuk, a spirit from Jewish folklore. How ‘true’ the story it is based on is we don’t know, but it seems such a box was sold on eBay and caused all manner of problems for different owners. The original box was the subject of an episode of *Paranormal Witness*, which we have not seen. I asked Rosemary Ellen Guiley what she knows of the box, and she reports both she and John Zaffis know the current owner. She also said to expect some ‘imitation’ cases, now that the movie has opened - JDW)

Sinister looking tower at the haunted Mansfield (OH) Reformatory taken by Melissa Telesha during a recent overnight investigation with Craig, Laura Shank & others. They will share more photos and details at tonight’s meeting.



MOVE OVER SASQUATCH -- IT’S SHEEPSQUATCH! - by Rosemary Ellen Guiley

One of the more curious crypto-creatures I’ve come across in my research in the Appalachians is called “sheepsquatch.” Like most cryptids, it looks like a weird combination of



multiple types of animals, with a little of this and a little of that. Woolly and friendly it is not, however -- sheepsquatch encounters have terrified witnesses. This month, I’ll be talking about sheepsquatch and other strange critters featured in my book *Monsters of West Virginia* at the annual Mothman Festival September 15-16 in Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia. While sheepsquatch has been peculiar to West Virginia and Virginia, it can show up anywhere. Cryptids have no state or regional boundaries.

The sheepsquatch is about the size of a bear with woolly white hair, and its front paws are more like hands, similar to those of a raccoon but much bigger. The tail is long and without hair. The head features a dog-like snout and single-point horns like those of a young goat. It carries a pungent sulphur smell. Most sightings reported over the years in West Virginia have centered in Boone, Kanawha, Putnam, and Mason counties. A rash of sightings was reported in Boone County in the mid-1990s.

In 1995, a couple driving through Boone County slammed to a halt when they spotted a weird white beast in a ditch alongside the road. At first it looked like a woolly white bear. Then they saw that it had four eyes. The creature leaped out of the ditch and attacked the car. The couple sped off. When they got home and examined the car, they found scratch marks on the side attacked by the creature.

In 1999, two campers in Boone County heard snorting and snuffling sounds in the woods as they sat by their campfire. They were not far away from their house. A sheepsquatch suddenly lunged out of the darkness and charged at them. The campers fled toward their house, pursued by the horrible thing. When they cleared the woods, the hairy beast stopped and let out a blood-chilling scream, and receded back into the forest. The next day, the campers returned to their site. The trail and the site were torn up as though someone had taken a tiller to the earth.

In Mason County, three people reported seeing what may have been a sheepsquatch one winter night as they drove from Huntington to Charleston via Point Pleasant. Heavy snow began falling, slowing their speed. Near Arbuckle, in a lonely and heavily wooded area, they rounded a bend going about five to ten miles an hour on the slick road. The driver glanced to his left and saw a white, furry creature that looked half man and half animal. It had a sheep-like face, ram-like horns, and dog-like paws, and it stood upright on its hind, human-like legs. Stunned, the driver stopped and backed up, not believing what he was seeing. His two friends saw the creature and started screaming. The creature looked straight at the driver and then ran away on its hind legs. One of the passengers was so spooked that he hunkered down in the back seat the rest of the way home.

A sheepsquatch may also have been the creature observed in Mason County in 1994 by a young former Navy seaman. The young man had grown up in Gallipolis, Ohio, just across the river from Pt. Pleasant, WV, the epicenter of Mothman sightings. He became interested in Mothman and looked for evidence to disprove the entity. He figured in a reverse way that if he could find no disproof, then that would be proof that Mothman was real. On the night of his encounter, he was out alone chasing down UFO leads along a creek bank north of Bethel Church Road. He saw no UFOs, but instead saw something even more strange. As he walked along the creek, he was startled by the sounds of something large crashing through the brush ahead of him. Since Mason County had little in the way of predators, he thought the creature must be a very big dog or perhaps even a stray cow. Nonetheless, he froze in uncertainty, hoping that he would not be wrong about what was coming through the brush.

The creature that came into view was unlike anything he had ever before seen. It was large with matted brown-white fur. He could not tell if the fur was dirty white, or was brown with a white undercoat. The beast walked on all fours and went to the creek, where it knelt to take a drink, putting out paws that looked more like hands. The head was long and pointed, and dog-like in shape, and sprouted large, single-point horns. The creature reeked of sulphur.

Horrified, the young man drew back into the brush, afraid to move or make a sound. After slaking its thirst, the creature crossed the creek and went off toward Sandhill Road. The young man waited until he was certain it was far away, and then ran as fast as he could to where he had parked his car.

The witness said he did not assume that the sulphur odor meant that the creature was "fire and brimstone," or demonic. Lingering chemical pollution in the TNT area has a sulphur smell, he said, and so perhaps any creatures that lived in the area would absorb the odor.

Demonic or not, sheepsquatch is not the kind of creature one wishes to encounter out in the woods late at night, especially alone! [Excerpted from *Monsters of West Virginia*, Stackpole Books. Reprinted with permission]



Spirit Society of PA.

APPARITIONS

Story & Photo Contributions are Solicited - send to:
weaviate@aol.com

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

COLUMBIA GHOST TOURS ANNOUNCED

Explore the history and hauntings of Columbia PA with historian Chris Vera and PSP Founder Rick Fisher

Begins May 25th 2012 and run through Nov.

When: Every Fri and Sat evenings.

Cost: \$12.00 per person - children under 12 \$7.00

24 hour advanced reservation is recommended.

Time 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM please arrive 15 minutes early.

Meet at: 301 Locust Street (National Museum of Mysteries - At the corners of 3rd & Locust Streets Columbia, PA 17512)

Call: 717-341-7574 for reservations or more information.

Coming this fall from PA MUFON - 2 Great UFO Conferences!



Phila. Speakers include: Frank Freschino, John Ventre, Sue Swiatec, Karyn Dolan, Stan Gordon, Travis Walton, Rob Swiatec, Peter Robbins, Grant Cameron, Richard Dolan, Steven Bassett and Linda Berry.



Pitt. Speakers include: Bill Birnes, Stan Gordon, John Ventre, Richard Lang, Linda Berry, Travis Walton, Lisa Romanek, Stan Romanek, John Ventre and Antonio Huneus.

Full details and registration info for both events at:

www.mufonpa.com