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Simsbury's Phelps Tavern investigated by Northeast Paranormal Society

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Special to the **Simsbury News**

SIMSBURY — Paranormal investigators visited the historic Phelps Tavern in November and December to learn whether ghosts or spirits are active there, and will have a report ready in January.

Simsbury Historical Society President Kevin Gray said there have never been any complaints about spirit activity at the tavern, even when a caretaker worked there, but said he was approached by Adam Shefts of the Northeast Paranormal Investigators Society, and agreed to let the New Haven-based group look at the tavern.

"We have found that there is a lot of spirit activity at historic buildings," said Shefts. "We are trying to do what we can to engage spirits in interaction."

Shefts visited the tavern on Nov. 3 and claims he and his group members found some spirit activity. They returned on Dec. 15 to do a follow-up investigation.

"We believe we can capture spirit voices, their energy, and even find some instances of objects being moved," said Shefts.

The group turns out the lights and uses infrared surveillance cameras throughout the house. Once they have set up a monitoring system, they move throughout the house, regarding audio and attempting to talk with spirits.

The investigations are done at night because Shefts says it is easier to engage spirits then.

"It's calmer at night and there is less activity to disturb them," said Shefts.

Shefts laid to rest claims that spirit activity is always negative.

"We believe whatever may be here in the house simply wants to interact," said Shefts. "It's not a bad thing."

Gray said while there are some who are skeptical about the idea that spirits or ghost exist, he is very open-minded and was happy to allow the investigators check out the house.



(Photo by Gregory A. Scibelli) Adam Shefts, of the Northeast Paranormal Society, sets up his equipment at the Phelps Tavern Dec. 15.

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“I let Adam check it out,” Gray said. “They brought back some photos and some recordings and they were very convincing.”

Gray said the staff of the Phelps Tavern was also eager to ask questions of the investigators once they complete their findings.

“They have a lot of questions for Adam and his crew,” said Gray. “They are very interested in what they could learn about history from them.”

The Phelps Tavern is open from noon to 4 p.m. An active staff works during those hours and delivers tours to patrons. There are several historic buildings on the Phelps complex.

Gray said he would recommend that other historic houses in town also call upon the society for investigations to see if any spirit activity could be found. Investigations usually take three to four hours, and Northeast Paranormal, which is based out of, does investigations for free.

Shefts said he and most of the members work regular jobs and invest their own money in the equipment and the time processing video and recordings.

“We do it because we enjoy doing it,” said Shefts.

Northeast Paranormal Investigators will return in January, and the historical society will schedule the event.

“They are going to come and share their findings with the public,” said Gray. “We will be holding a program for them to make their presentation. We are hoping people will come and listen and have an open mind.”

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