

# 'Best evidence' of paranormal activities gathered at Phelps House

By Sloan Brewster  
Senior Staff Writer

SIMSBURY - Male specters tried to contact paranormal investigators during their most recent visit to Phelps House and Tavern in Simsbury.

Two male voices were revealed in footage from Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society's Aug. 10 visit to the 242-year-old house, said paranormal investigator Adam Shefts.

The two voices were hard to make out and it is unclear what

was being said.

"I really can't make heads or tails of it," Shefts said.

The only other evidence the house is haunted was found on the team's mal meter - a device used to detect energy.

During the visit, the base reading on the meter was three, but when the crew asked a ghost they believed was present to bring that number up, it complied.

"We asked it to go up to a 4.0, which is pretty high," Shefts said. "We caught that on video."

Other than that, the spirits

remained pretty quiet, he said.

Previously, the team, which has been to the site four times in about one year, has received many more messages from beyond.

"In the past, we've captured some of the best evidence we've captured," Shefts said. "I've been doing this for about eight years and some of the best evidence I've come across [is from the Phelps House]."

Shefts and his team have heard clear voices in the old house, which is owned by the Simsbury Historical Society.

When Shefts told his name to the long-dead Fanny Phelps during one visit, she answered.

"I know," whispered the ghost, her raspy voice coming clearly through an audio recording that Shefts and his team were playing during a presentation on their ghost hunting adventures.

In another audio clip, a man, presumably Elisha Phelps, made a wise crack. Investigators were attempting to contact Elisha, so they spoke to him about his own history, telling him about some of the things he and his brother, Noah Phelps, had experienced during the Revolutionary War at the Battle of Ticonderoga.

"No kidding," was the dead Elisha's snarky reply.

Another specter has offered investigators a drink.

While attempting to contact Noah's descendant Jeffrey Phelps, who in the 1870s was one of the



Courtesy photo

Adam Shefts uses a device to monitor spiritual activity at the Phelps House and Tavern in Simsbury Saturday, Aug. 10.

last tavern keepers, they asked him to lead them to a table.

"Have a drink," came a whispered response captured on a recording.

Investigators have also seen something that could be interpreted as a spiritual visitation.

In footage, they found a couple of orbs had been captured in photos.

Since orbs can be dust particles and other explainable anomalies, they tend not to consider them as evidence of the paranormal, Shefts and investigator Mark Firulli said.

This time, though, it was different and, instead of being the usual grayish blob, one orb was colorful and seemed to be moving intentionally in a particular direction.

In one video clip, the circular structure blocks the light from a lamp. Firulli was in the room alone when that picture was taken and the light was not only blocked in the photo, he said. He actually recalled the light in the room going dark for a minute.

In another shot, which was taken after crew members invited any spirits present to pose for a group portrait, there is another

potentially purposeful orb.

On investigations, the crew sets up 16 night vision cameras, audio devices and energy meters, then splits into teams that try to interact with various spirits by asking them questions, Shefts said.

"We take turns asking questions of any former inhabitants that might be still around and use trigger objects that spirits might be familiar with," Shefts said. "[At the Phelps house, we used] a silver dollar from the 19th century to try and entice the spirits to interact and if they did, we would offer to buy them a drink with it."

In addition, he used a Victorian music app he has on his phone.

"So, I went into Fannie's room and I played some music from that era," he said. "So we tried to put ourselves into that time period."

Using items from a time period with which ghosts are familiar has been proven to increase activity, he explained.

The team is hoping to return to the house in November to gather more evidence and then may come back to town to give another presentation on its findings. It last did a presentation in April.

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