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## Favorite haunts: Paranormal researchers hunt for ghostly evidence in Westport

Jarret Liotta

Updated 7:07 am Tuesday, September 30, 2014



Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society team in July did research for possible paranormal activity at the Westport Historical Society's Bradley Wheeler House. Photo: Jarret Liotta

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Though signs that a spectre haunts the [Westport Historical Society](#) are somewhat vaporous, evidence of supernatural phenomena elsewhere in the region revealed by a team of paranormal researchers is enough to make a skeptic shiver.

Researchers from the [Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society](#) on Sunday presented a range of photographic and audio examples that they say are signs of things from the great beyond. The program was hosted by the historical society.

"Nothing in this field can be proven, even though we're showing you evidence of what we believe to be paranormal," said [Adam Shefts](#), founder and director of NPIS.

Shefts and his crew, however, who are based in Wallingford,



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Saturday, Oct 18, 12:00 pm  
Rye Playland Amusement Park, Rye

#### White Plains DAR 2014...

Thursday, Oct 23, 6:00 pm  
American Yacht Club, Rye

#### Porktoberfest!

Sunday, Oct 5, 12:00 pm  
Craft Butchery, Westport

2 Thu	3 Fri	4 Sat	5 Sun	6 Mon	7 Tue	8 Wed	All events
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during its six-year history. In the course of their work, they've accumulated a range of recordings of voices talking, photographs of light orbs, shadows and even figures, and videotapes of movements and activities, none of which were created by a living person at that time or by any known natural occurrence.

Perhaps the most startling was a videotape in which Shefts and investigator [Mark Firulli](#) asked the spirit of a young girl named Rosie, who had died at a hotel in Napanoch, N.Y., years ago, to turn on a flashlight they had left on a bed in the room. She did so twice, also shutting it off after they asked.

"This was a new flashlight and the bulb was burnt after this," Shefts said.

Several of the audio tapes included a raspy voice mimicking one of the investigators -- [Kyle Berthiaume](#) -- a moment after he had said, "Leave him to it," to another investigator. In another audio tape, a voice is heard cursing at the investigator, adding, "You're pissing me off!"

In July, the team was asked to investigate the [Bradley Wheeler House](#), home to the historical society. Employees there maintain that there is a spirit of a woman named Mary, who has demonstrated physical evidence of her presence, including footsteps and moving items.

[Elizabeth Devol](#), the historical society's director of education, said that when she left her office on a recent Saturday, unable to find some papers, they mysteriously appeared the following Monday neatly arranged on her desk, though no one else had visited the building.

"I don't come here alone a lot," she said.

While there were no major discoveries by the NPIS team at the Bradley Wheeler House, a quick succession of photographs taken just inside the front door showed a blinding ball of light in two of the frames, and then was gone.

"You can't call out the spirit to perform on command," Shefts noted.

NPIS investigators don't charge for their research, which they fund on their own.

For more information about the Northeast Paranormal Investigations Society, visit [www.northeastparanormal.org](http://www.northeastparanormal.org).

are not solely devoted to discovering other-worldly phenomena, but have an interest in research linking the locations -- and former occupants -- that they investigate.

"We're all history enthusiasts," he said. "We want to keep history alive ... Our slogan is 'Documenting history long after history is made.' "

Shefts and company took the historical society crowd of 30 or so people on a journey to at least two dozen historic houses, hotels, restaurants and buildings throughout Connecticut and nearby areas that the group has investigated

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