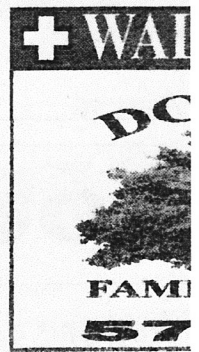




THE NEWSPAPERS HERALD

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Ghost Hunting in Sey

By Jay Miller

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Local paranormal researchers Kenny Hayes and Mark LaBello are interested in the things that are not easily explained.

Hayes, a Seymour resident, and LaBello are investigators of paranormal activity. Their group, the North America Paranormal Research Team, is dedicated to the study of the paranormal.

The goal of the group is to try to explain activity that is considered paranormal. Hayes and LaBello were at Wheatlands Plantation on Boyds Creek Hwy. May 19 to show some of what they do.

Wheatlands Plantation was an antebellum plantation and is now on the National Register of Historic Places. The property was utilized during both the Revolutionary and Civil wars and resides on an ancient trail utilized by Native Americans. It is also the home of a slave graveyard.

"None of the gravestones are marked but we have the names of about 80 slaves who worked here," Executive Vice President of Wheatlands Plantation Richard Parker said.

Parker, who has spearheaded efforts to restore the property, claims to have seen three full body apparitions on the property.

"It makes your heartbeat stop," Parker said.

Hayes and LaBello say that the graveyard is an active spot for paranormal activity. Multiple witnesses have reported seeing a lady dressed in white sitting on a nearby bench. Hayes has personally encountered activity in the nearby trees.

They say the nature of the encounters varies. Sometimes you hear things, sometimes you feel things, and sometimes you see things.

"When I experience something I want to go toward it," Hayes said. "I want to hear what they have to say."

Hayes and LaBello explained that many people are skeptical of their investigations. They feel that the experiences are open to interpretation and it is important to keep an open mind.



Wheatlands Plantation was an antebellum plantation in the distant past. Investigations are held Thursday through Sunday with paranormal investigations done on a regular basis.

The team tends to prefer simple tools to detect paranormal activity. One of their most useful tools, Hayes says, is a simple Maglite. They leave it in a

Many people have died on the property and the layers of history provide plenty of material for Hayes and LaBello.



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Wheatlands Plantation was an antebellum plantation in the distant past and is now open for tours Thursday through Sunday with paranormal investigations done on a regular basis.

position between on and off and the presence is able to use its energy to communicate by turning the light on and off.

“The theory behind all paranormal investigations is if there is something there it is energy based,” Hayes said. “The energy is able to interact with the equipment.”

Some of the equipment is designed to perceive sound. Other equipment is designed to perceive temperature changes, or shadows, or light.

“I have investigated homes here in Seymour and in some cases the sounds are nothing more than the house settling,” Hayes said. “I don’t necessarily believe everything is paranormal.”

Hayes and LaBello also use their investigations to help people debunk what they may perceive as paranormal activity.

“I work in the health care profession so I am always trying to help people in any way I can,” Hayes said.

The North America Paranormal Research Team conducts investigations regularly at the Wheatlands Plantation and the public is welcome to join. For more information, visit their website at www.naprt.com or find them on Facebook.

Wheatlands Plantation is open for tours Thursday through Sunday. They can be found on Facebook and reached by phone at (865)-365-1052.