

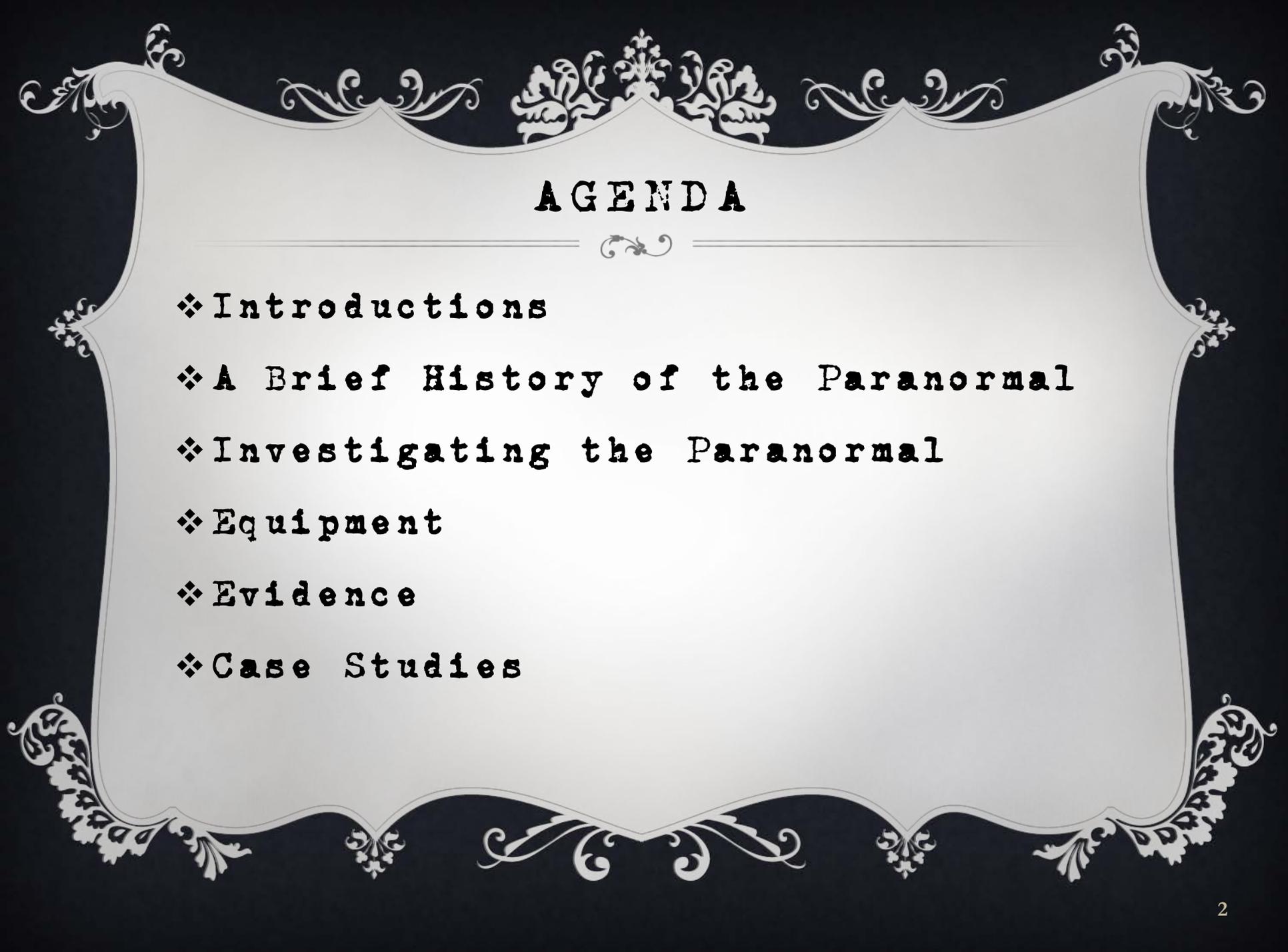


LBL®

PARANORMAL DISCUSSION

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Ghosts 101



# AGENDA

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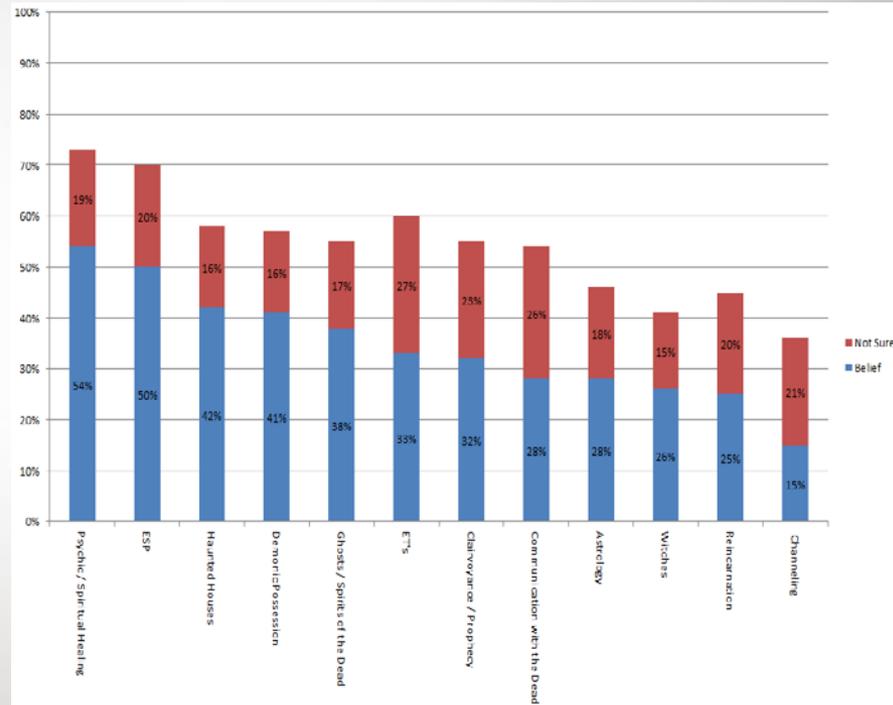
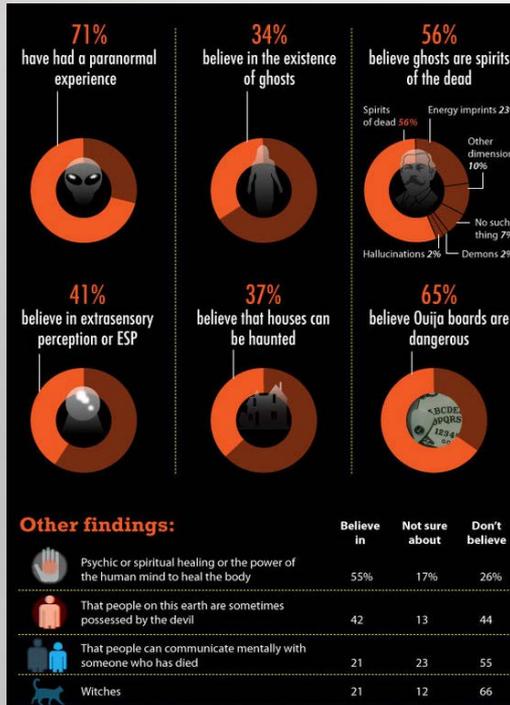
- ❖ **Introductions**
- ❖ **A Brief History of the Paranormal**
- ❖ **Investigating the Paranormal**
- ❖ **Equipment**
- ❖ **Evidence**
- ❖ **Case Studies**

# A BRIEF HISTORY

## ❖ Types of Paranormal

- Ghosts/Spirits
  - Manifestation of the spirit or soul of a person or a deceased animals
- UFO / Aliens
  - The possibility of extraterrestrial life is not, by itself, a paranormal subject. The paranormal aspect of extraterrestrial life centers largely around the belief in unidentified flying objects and the phenomena said to be associated with them.
- Cryptids
  - A cryptid is an animal whose existence is not confirmed by science or an animal that is considered extinct.
  - Popular cryptids include Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster, living Dinosaurs, Mothman, skyfish, the Jersey Devil, Unicorn and werewolves.

# A BRIEF HISTORY



## TYPICAL POLLS

- ❖ Surveys continually show an increasing belief in what the scientific community generally calls “false” or pseudoscience.
- ❖ Various skeptics groups and renowned skeptic James Randi have long-standing offers of large sums of money to anyone who can prove a paranormal claim.
- ❖ Randi and members of his “2000 Club” are offering more than a million dollars. So far, no one has met the challenge.

# THE GHOST CLUB

- ❖ Ghost Societies have existed for a long time...
- ❖ Founded in London in 1862
  - It is widely believed to be the oldest ghost club in the world.
- ❖ Its prime interest focuses on paranormal phenomena
  - Such as ghosts / hauntings.
  - One of the club's earliest investigations, in 1862, was of the Davenport Brothers' "spirit cabinet".
  - The Ghost Club was challenging the brothers' claim to be contacting the dead - a claim that was later proved to be a hoax.
- ❖ Members include
  - Charles Dickens, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Sir William Crookes, Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, Arthur Koestler, Dr. C.E.M. Joad, Donald Campbell, Sir Julian Huxley, Sir Osbert Sitwell, W. B. Yeats, Siegfried Sassoon, Dennis Wheatley and Peter Cushing

# A BRIEF HISTORY

## ❖ Paranormal in Books

- Charles Fort (1874–1932) is perhaps the best known collector of paranormal anecdotes. Fort is said to have compiled as many as 40,000 notes on unexplained paranormal experiences, though there were no doubt many more than these.
- These notes came from what he called "the orthodox conventionality of Science", which were odd events originally reported in magazines and newspapers such as The Times and scientific journals such as Scientific American, Nature and Science".
- From this research Fort wrote seven books, though only four survive. These are: The Book of the Damned (1919), New Lands (1923), Lo! (1931) and Wild Talents (1932); one book was written between New Lands and Lo! but it was abandoned and absorbed into Lo!.



# A BRIEF HISTORY

## ❖ History of the Paranormal in Photographs

- Perhaps the first "ghost photo" was taken in 1860 by W. Campbell in New Jersey. The photo was of an empty chair, but once the photo was developed, the image of a small boy was discovered. However Campbell was never able to replicate this event and it is not well remembered by historians of the art.
- A year later in 1861, Boston engraver, William Mumler took his own photograph only to discover the image of a dead cousin in the photograph with him.
  - A leading photographer, William Black subsequently investigated his photographs and declared them to be authentic in nature.
  - Mumler was able to produce several more photographs with ghostly images of individuals, some recognizable as dead relatives and others as unknown people.
  - One of Mumler's most famous works is the photograph of Mary Todd Lincoln with the ghost of her husband Abraham Lincoln.
  - Mumler is widely credited with launching the popularity of spirit photography. Over the next few decades, many individuals chose to have their pictures taken in the hope of seeing some long lost relative.

# A BRIEF HISTORY

## ❖ History of the Paranormal in Photographs

- It is important to note two things about early spirit photography:
  - Early cameras had very long exposure time—up to one minute—during which the subject had to remain perfectly still. It was quite common for "ghostly" images to appear when a subject moved or left the frame before the exposure was complete.
  - Spirit photographs and stereographs were sold as entertainment novelties in America in the late 19th Century. These were basically indistinguishable from "genuine" ghost photos, but were not intended to be considered real.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

### ❖ History of the Paranormal in Photographs continued...

- Following in Mumler's footsteps, a number of other photographers sought to cash in on the spirit photography phenomenon, including Frederick Hudson (London) and E. Buguet (France).
- In 1891, Alfred Russell Wallace (one of the developers of the theory of evolution) voiced his opinion that spirit photography should be taken seriously.
- That same year, one of the best-known ghost photos of all time was taken by Sybell Corbett at Combermere Abbey in Cheshire, England.
- The photo was of a library room, taken with an exposure of one hour. Although the room was apparently unoccupied the entire time, the resulting photo clearly showed a man sitting in a chair.
- The man was identified by a relative as Lord Combermere, who had died in an accident five days earlier.

## A BRIEF HISTORY

### ❖ History of the Paranormal in Photographs continued

- In 1911, James Coates published a book called *Photographing the Invisible*, in which he examined numerous cases of spirit photography. This book helped propel paranormal photography into the mainstream and brought the attention of a number of researchers.
- Another boost was given to spirit photography by respected English scientist Sir William Crookes, who conducted research into various paranormal phenomena and concluded that, among other things, spirit photography was a credible pursuit.
- As the sophistication of spirit photography developed, so did the understanding of fraudulent tricks. Many early photographers were shown to have used double-exposure techniques and simple plate-swapping tricks.

# A BRIEF HISTORY



## ❖ UFO Sighting: New Hampshire (c1870)

- Not much is known about this incident except that it is claimed to have provided the earliest photograph of a UFO. The photo shows a cloud formation over the summit of Mt. Washington, New Hampshire. Clearly visible is a flying cigar-shaped object.
- The description accompanying this photo reads "SUMMIT Mt. Washington WINTER 1870-1871 Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1871, by CLOGH & KIMBALL, in the Office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington."<sup>1</sup>
- The original photograph was purchased by Independent-International Pictures Corp. in 2002 via eBay auction<sup>2</sup>.

# A BRIEF HISTORY



# A BRIEF HISTORY

Mary Todd Lincoln with Abe



"Lord Combermere Photograph"



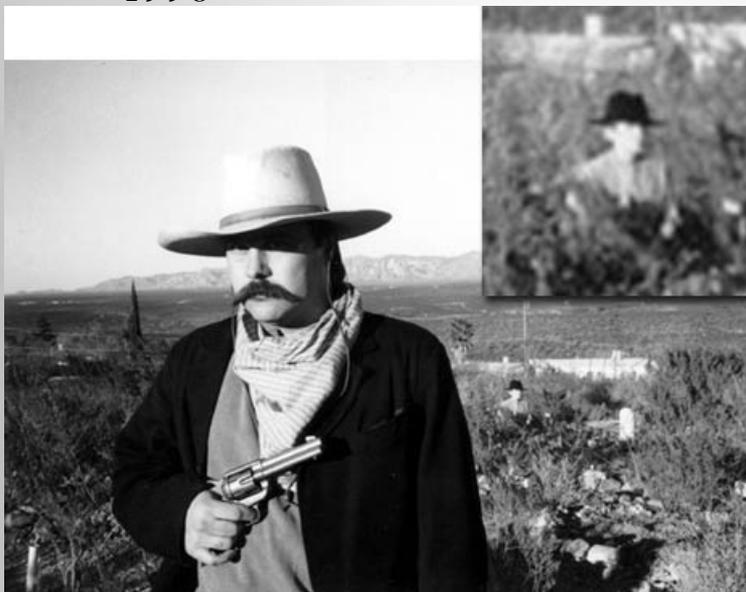
COTTINGLEY FAIRIES - 1917



ELEMENTARY MY DEAR WATSON

# A BRIEF HISTORY

1996



Reflection in window



# A BRIEF HISTORY

## ❖ History of the Paranormal On the Radio

- In 1929 Joseph Dunninger hosted the "Ghost Hour" on NBC radio. During the show Dunninger projected mental images to listeners, asking them to write in with their results. The show was less paranormal radio, as an attempt to harness the perceived paranormal properties of radio waves.[2] The pioneer of paranormal radio was Long John Nebel who, from the 1950s until his death in 1978, hosted late night shows dealing with the supernatural.[1]
- In 1988 Art Bell launched the late night talk show Coast to Coast AM (formerly West Coast AM, broadcast on KDWN from 1978) which regularly deals with paranormal topics. The popularity of Bell's show caused a rise in similar programs across the US during the 1990s

THEY'RE HERE



# A BRIEF HISTORY

## ❖ History of the Paranormal in Movies

### ❖ First Ghost Movie ever made?

- The Haunted Castle (French: Le Manoir du Diable which means "The Manor of the Devil") is a 1896 three-minute-long French film by Georges Méliès.
- The film contained many traditional pantomime elements and was intentionally meant to amuse people, rather than frighten them.
- It is considered by many to be the first horror film, as well as the first vampire film. The Haunted Castle is now in the public domain.
- AKA The Haunted Castle, The Devil's Castle, The Devil's Manor,
- It was released on Christmas Eve, 1896, at the Theatre Robert Houdin in Paris



# A BRIEF HISTORY

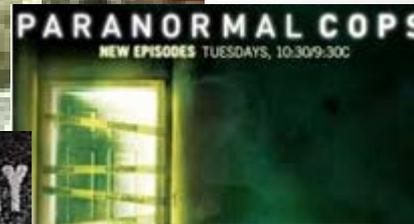
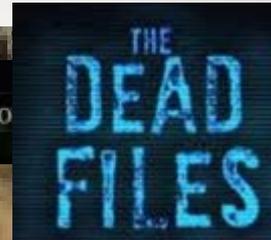
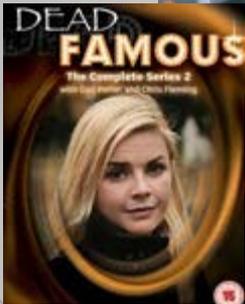
## ❖ History of the Paranormal in Television – Blame Two Plumbers

- Some 62 shows about the paranormal on Television before Ghost Hunters came on the scene in 2004. (Over 80 since)
- 1949 Ripley's Believe it or Not was the first that really explored the “Paranormal”
- 50's had One Step Beyond, not much in the 60's
- Then in the 70's - Arthur C Clarke, In search of... and Beyond Belief
- It really wasn't until the early 90's that the Paranormal in TV began to grow
- Nothing on American Broadcast TV – (SciFi, UK, A&E)

## ❖ New Ones

- School Spirits – SyFy
- Beyond Belief – OWN
- Chasing UFO's – NatGeo
- Professor Weird – Science Channel
- Paranormal Paparazzi - Travel Channel

# PARANORMAL TV



A decorative border with intricate floral and scrollwork patterns in white, framing the central text. The border is wider at the top and bottom, tapering towards the sides.

# INVESTIGATING

- ❖ The Call to Investigate / Client Interview
- ❖ Research
- ❖ The Actual Investigation
- ❖ Equipment
- ❖ Evidence Review
- ❖ Conclusion
- ❖ Follow Up

# THE CALL FOR HELP

- ❖ When Ghost Hunters first started, you would always here Grant say:
  - “We’re Ghost Hunters and we are here to help”
- ❖ That’s the bulk of your investigations
  - Helping people understanding what’s going on in their house or place of work
- ❖ Never assume anything about your client
  - Be Open and Honest as you listen to their claims
  - Be Open Minded as you listen to their claims
  - As a Skeptic, it is sometimes hard to not take someone serious
  - But to the client, what is happening is real and they are in need of help
- ❖ Confidentiality when investigating
  - Some do not want their names or addresses published

# RESEARCH

- ❖ Always Screen your Client.
  - This is done during the interview process.
  - Most Paranormal Groups will have an investigation form to complete
  - Beware of Laws / Never Trespass
  - Always good to have some history of the property you are investigation.
- ❖ Understand the “active” spots for your investigation.
  - Target these areas but not exclusively.
- ❖ If you are using a psychic or medium limit their knowledge.
- ❖ Do as much research on the building or property as you can.
  - Don't automatically assume that every haunted place is built upon an ancient Indian burial ground.



# THE INVESTIGATION

- ❖ Safety First
- ❖ Determine the time and scope of your investigation
  - Determine the way you set up your equipment.
  - Determine how your investigation will proceed.
- ❖ Walk through if possible
  - If time and circumstance permits, a general walk through of the site is beneficial during set up and investigating.
  - If doing a walk through, limit the number of participants
- ❖ Teams
  - Investigate in teams as much as possible
    - Safety
    - Contamination
- ❖ Be QUIET!!!



# THE INVESTIGATION

## ❖ What are you looking for?

- Personal Experiences
- Photos
- Videos
- EVP's
- Temperature Fluctuations
- Anything out of the norm



# EQUIPMENT

## ❖ Personal Experiences

- Top thing that will happen – Stay Alert!
- This is why it's difficult to prove the paranormal

## ❖ Ghost Hunter Basic Kit

- Camera Digital or 35mm
- Audio Recording Device
- Video Camera – Regular and Infrared
- K2 Meter
- Thermometers

# EQUIPMENT

- ❖ Beginners Kit \$119.00
- ❖ K2 EMF Detector \$60.00
- ❖ Digital Cameras \$100.00
- ❖ Digital Recorders \$50.00
- ❖ Full Spectrum Camera \$200.00
- ❖ The Ovilus \$220.00
- ❖ Laser Grid \$59.00



# EQUIPMENT



[VideoPad Video Editor  
Master Edition](#)



[ELECTRIC CHARGE  
DETECTOR ECD-102](#)



[Yes / No Spirit  
Communication  
Trigger Prop](#)



[The EVP Package By  
Digital Dowsing](#)



[The Ovilus X](#)



[DTD \(Digital Text  
Display\) for the Ovilus  
X](#)



[GHS Geophone](#)



[GHS Wide Spectrum  
Flood light with Dual  
Switches](#)



[HTO \(Haunted Trigger  
Object\) detection  
system](#)

- ❖ New Equipment for Tablets
- ❖ Electricity Detection
- ❖ Communication Devices
- ❖ Speech to Text
- ❖ Motion Sensors
- ❖ Full Spectrum Enhancements
- ❖ Trigger Objects

# EVIDENCE REVIEW

- ❖ Be Alert
- ❖ Take Your Time – Don't Rush through the collected evidence.
- ❖ Two Sets of Eyes are Better if possible.
- ❖ Most clips, recordings, etc only last a few seconds
  - Nodding off after a night of investigating or being distracted can cause one to miss something during the review
- ❖ Reviewing is not a Party
- ❖ Be Quiet/Be Attentive

# CONCLUSION

- ❖ Jason and Grant call this the Reveal
- ❖ Your Client asked you to investigate for a reason
  - They are expecting a follow-up after the investigation.
- ❖ Just because there is no evidence doesn't mean your client is lying
- ❖ Be Open and Honest
- ❖ Don't Manufacture Evidence
  - You are the investigator and your opinion is worth something – until you screw it up and get a bad reputation.

# SOME EVIDENCE

- ❖ We saw some photos – some admitted fakes some maybe not
- ❖ Here are a few things that we have found through the years





# HOW TO CREATE A LOGO

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- ❖ Scary Font
- ❖ Weird Design
  - Different size lettering
  - Backwards Letter
- ❖ Something inside an O (a cross, a circle, etc)
- ❖ Smearred Lettering
- ❖ Shaky Film



*Thank You for Your Time*

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QUESTIONS?



# PHOTOS

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