

Tools of the Trade**Tools Used in the Early Days of Ghost Hunting**

Kerri Spillers, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC

Paranormal investigators have many items that they use during investigations. A digital recorder is usually the first tool a new investigator will purchase. What other tools can you think of? We also use video recorders, cameras, flashlights, mel-meters, K2s, ghost meters, the Ovilus, REM-pods, Zooms and many other devices. What did investigators use prior to today's technology? Let's take a look back.

One of the basic tools used in ghost hunting are yourself and your own senses. Often times people (and animals) can sense when something is different around them. When the energy in the room is charged so to speak, your body is able to pick up on this energy. This energy is what makes your hair stand up on end and can give you the chills. Candles were also used in the early days. Candles were used to draw spirits near, as a backup if the flashlight quit working and in séances.

Dowsing rods were also very popular. They were originally designed to locate water and metal underground. Dowsing rods were also made of tree branches. It was usually one piece of the branch that was in the shape of a "Y". The top part of the Y was the part you held in each hand, with the bottom part sticking out as the sensor. The idea was to hold the branch loosely in your hands and when you slowly walked around, it would point downward, upward or twitch when you walked over water or metal. Now dowsing rods are made of metal wire and there are two of them. It is unclear when they were first used to detect ghosts, but many paranormal investigators have these in their tool kits. It is believed by some that the crossing of the rods can detect a ghost. Other investigators use them as a means to answer questions. The investigator may start a series of questions by telling the spirits that they can cross the rods for a "yes" answer, or pull them apart for a "no" answer. The investigator will also ask some control questions, such as "Is my name Joan" to see if the answer is right.

Another form of dowsing was done with a pendulum. A pendulum is usually a crystal that is attached to a necklace type chain. When held by the chain end and letting the crystal end dangle, it would work much in the same way as the dowsing rods. The investigator may ask the spirit to show them what "yes" looks like, and wait for the pendulum to move. That motion would then be interpreted as a "yes" answer to the question asked. Some investigators tell the spirit which way to turn the pendulum for the answers, such as "turn it clockwise for yes and counter clockwise for no". A series of control questions would also be asked prior to questioning said spirit.

Other ideas for investigating were pretty creative. It is said that one ghost hunting pioneer would glue felt to the bottom of his shoes so his footsteps were nearly inaudible to the other investigators. This would reduce the amount of contamination when listening for ghosts. Some would put tape across doors to make sure no one was entering unknowingly and fabricating evidence or activity.

The Ouija Board was used (and still used by some today) not to locate a ghost, but to communicate with them. Some believe these "talking boards" can open up doors to the other side and if not properly opened and closed, can lead to dark and evil spirits coming through. This is believed to be true for any type of communication device. It is good practice to tell what comes through that it must go back prior to closing the session.

Bumps in the Night!!!!

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Most of the tools used in the early days of ghost hunting are still used today. We may have better technology now, but it is just as effective as the old ways. We still are striving to find that breakthrough device that will tell us, without a doubt that a ghost is in our presence. Until that day comes, we will continue to study, research and experiment with different tools to locate ghosts in our midst.

Additional Information:

http://www.angelsghosts.com/ghost_hunting_equipment

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dowsing>

<http://www.litchgate.org/history.html>

Ask TnT Paranormal

The following question(s) was/were submitted by our readers, by our online subscribers, or at events.

What made you want to become a Paranormal Investigator ?

I have several reasons why I became a Paranormal Investigator. I grew up in a home where I was terrified night after night because of unexplained phenomena. In 2009, is when my interest shifted from still being somewhat scared from my childhood to wanting to know the 'why' behind it all. My Grandmother, who raised me, also passed away that year. I wanted to find out if there was life after death as I could not bear the thought of her just dying and that's it! I became aware of others that were also frightened of things going on in their homes and wanted to help. I can go through the journey of discovering what may be out there and help people find ways of living with what is in their homes or being able to explain the man-made reasons as to what is causing their disturbances.

- Tracey Tanner, TnT Paranormal Investigators LLC



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