

VICTORIAN SPIRITUALISM

Modern Spiritualism has been hailed as being born in the year 1848 with the Fox Sisters. In my opinion, it began before that.

EMANUEL SWEDENBORG

(1688-1772) a well-respected Swedish Scientist genius, Astronomer, and Engineer of international repute, who developed his mediumship and conversed at great length with evolved spirits, had experiences with ectoplasm, did astral travel in the spirit realms, and had remote viewing visions (the Stockholm fire most famously). He wrote several books describing his experiences and explaining the philosophy taught to him by his spirit teachers. They gave much information regarding the spirit world and its occupants, which was to be substantially confirmed by the later revelations of Spiritualism. Inspired by his writings, other people formed the “New Church” (aka Swedenborgian Church), a Christian denomination founded on his teachings and drawing its faith from the Bible as illuminated by his writing. From time to time, there has been renewed interest in him. In her book “My Religion”, Helen Keller reported since age 16 she was a strong believer in the doctrines given to the world by Emanuel Swedenborg.

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS

(1826-1910) known as “The Poughkeepsie Seer”, better known to us as the “John the Baptist of Spiritualism.” Davis was naturally mediumistic and excellent at medical intuition. At the age of 19 while in a trance, he acted as the medium through whom Swedenborg was able to resume his work by dictating various philosophical books, in one of which, published in 1847, he predicted the advent of Spiritualism. Other predications included the automobile, typewriter, and the airplane. Davis carried on his inspired and inspiring work of writing, lecturing and Lyceum development until his passing.

THE SHAKERS

Eleven years before the Fox Sisters episode, a Shaker community had contact with spirit. An offshoot of Quakers, they believe in the Second Coming of Christ, and that their leader Anne Lee was Christ. This did not go over very well in England, and they fled to America. Shaker members had to be celibate, so they had to convert adults and raise orphans. In 1837, the Shakers who were used to dancing with spirits, **tranced** a WHOLE tribe of Red Indians. We’re talking 60 Indians whooping it up, talking in Indian, having a great time for SEVEN years. The Shakers allowed this because they wanted to convert them. One of the Elders named Evans explored the Shakers experiences. Eventually, the spirits informed the Shakers that they would be leaving, but they would spread to the rest of the world soon. Four years later, the Rochester knockings broke out, and Elder Evans and another Shaker visited the Fox sisters.

THE FOX SISTERS

Modern Spiritualism was 'born' on March 31, 1848 at a small cottage near Rochester, NY in the town of Hydesville. Although the rappings and hauntings had been reported by other occupants before the Fox family, none of them established spirit communication in such a public way. Young girls Katie and Maggie Fox communicated with the spirit of peddler Charles Rosna (his body was later discovered in the basement) with snaps and raps. It was a Quaker named Isaac Post who suggested using the alphabet as a rapping code with the Spirit World. The Fox sisters were investigated thoroughly and roughly. As one point, because they suspected the raps came from the girls like cracking joints, a group of women stripped them down, tied their dresses around their feet and made them stand on pillows. And still the raps were heard. Their older sister Leah managed their mediumship career of seances and public events. For more about the family's experiences and history, please view my Fox Family VIDEO series.

THE DAVENPORT BROTHERS

Ira (1839-1911) and William (1841-1877) were born in Buffalo NY. Their father was a policeman, and their mother had psychic gifts. Two years before the Fox family in 1846, the family was disturbed in the middle of the night by raps and noises. During investigations by the local community, hundreds of witnesses confirmed ropes untying, musical instruments flying, and more. The brothers moved onto automatic writing, table tilting, and levitation. The phenomena around them was explored to the same extent the Fox family was. The brothers were tied down by ropes and submitted to several tests. At ages 25 and 23, they began traveling the world, hiring public halls and challenging the world to come and see them. Houdini was known to have a correspondence and friendship with Ira.

SIR WILLIAM CROOKES

(1832 –1919) Well-respected and famous throughout the world of Science, he discovered the new chemical element which he named "Thallium" and invented the *radiometer* (used to measure electromagnetic and acoustic radiation, primarily the time it takes for a radioactive element to disintegrate), the *spinthariscopes* (a tool to look at alpha particles), and the "*Crookes*" tube (the beginnings of the TV tube). When he decided to investigate spirit phenomena, his fellow scientists were overjoyed -finally, here was a man for the task who could attack it with the Scientific Method. He investigated several mediums and his work encouraged several other scientists to take a serious interest in spirit phenomena.

Florence Cook - starting in 1870, Crookes conducted spirit investigations for 3 years with Florence Cook (age 15), who manifested with ectoplasm the spirit of Katie King, daughter of the pirate governor of Jamaica John King/Henry Morgan. Crookes carefully noted every little detail and took several photographs during seances, noting the differences in their complexions, heights, and hair color. At some of the seances, Florence's hair was nailed down to the floor and still Katie would materialize in the cabinet.

Daniel Douglas Home (1833-1886) one of the greatest physical mediums in whose presence almost all types of physical phenomena occurred. Born in Edinburgh, his powers were discovered whilst he was living in America. On his return to England in 1855 the remarkable phenomena aroused great interest. He could levitate and fly. He became friends with several of the crown heads of Europe, as well as Kate Fox (married name Mrs. Jencken). Often very ill, his “powers” would ebb and flow and made it difficult for him to be a test subject in investigations.

Crookes tested both D.D. Home and **Kate Fox** his own house, subject to his controls and at times of his choosing and observed by trusted family members and associates. Crookes found Kate to be the MOST productive of sounds than any medium he had encountered. Even when not in a formal séance, Kate could place her hand on ANY substance and a triple pulsation of thuds could be heard (a living tree, a sheet of glass, a stretched iron wire, on the roof of a cab, and on the floor of a theatre). This would occur even when the medium’s hands and feet were held, or when standing on a chair, suspended in a swing from the ceiling, or enclosed in a wire cage. In a 1874 paper, Crookes reported fully on his investigation of Kate Fox.

COLONEL HENRY STEEL OLCOTT

(1832 –1927) American civil war military officer, journalist, lawyer, and the co-founder and first president of the Theosophical Society. He was the first well-known American of European ancestry to make a formal conversion to Buddhism. While in Ohio, Olcott was introduced to Spiritualism by relatives who formed a spiritualist circle after seeing the Fox sisters on tour in Cleveland. In 1853, after returning to New York, Olcott became a founding member of the New York Conference of Spiritualists. He investigated various mediums, including the following:

Horatio Eddy (1842-1922) and **William Eddy** (1844-1932) – physical mediums, described as rude and rough farmer types from Vermont. They specialized in spirit cabinet work, materializations, and telekinesis powers. As young children, they would go into trances or spiritual materializations would appear around them. They were banned from attending school because items would allegedly levitate or be thrown across the room. Believing their abilities were the work of the devil, their abusive father would starve, beat, and pour boiling water over the boys. His torturous treatments physically and emotionally maimed them. Then the father decided instead to make money off from their so-called “gifts,” and they were hired out as mediums for a travelling show. For 14 years, William and Horatio traveled throughout North America and Europe where they were often met with abuse as skeptics tried to awaken them from their trances by drastic measures such as punching, stoning, beating, burning, or shooting them. After their father passed away, the two brothers returned home and converted their farm to an inn, where they took in guests for \$8.00 a week. The brothers began holding séance-type shows in which they would connect with the spirits of the departed of the attendees. No money was charged for these spiritual encounters.

Olcott's Investigation of Eddy Brothers

In 1874, Olcott decided to investigate the Eddy Brothers. For 10 weeks, he personally witnessed 400 different apparitions appear from the cabinet and musical instruments being played by spirit materialized hands. He scientifically measured the spirits with a certified scale and recorded their weights, noting the weight of individual spirits would vary over the course of the séance. In a series of 15 newspaper articles, he detailed his investigations of the Eddy Brothers. While there, he met Madame Blavatsky (another ardent Spiritualist and who he would later co-found the Theosophical Society with) for the first time while he was at the Eddy farm. While she was there, a whole crew of Russian spirit people materialized and spoke with her directly in Russian. Important to note that while Olcott did not personally like the Eddy brothers, he did assert their abilities were genuine.

Mr. & Mrs. Nelson Holmes - materialization mediums of Philadelphia who claimed "Katie King" and "John King" as their controls. The claim was supported by Henry T. Child and the Reverend **Stainton Moses** and publicly endorsed in various Spiritualist publications. However, in 1874, the Nelsons were publicly accused of fraud and Spiritualists were in an uproar, so Olcott was called into investigate. He interviewed the key people, discovered the alleged accomplice (their landlady) was lying, and decided that because the evidence was conflicting he would test the medium in his own way without reference to the past. The medium Mrs. Holmes was put into a bag tied around her neck and secured. The cabinet was securely netted on all sides to prevent access. During the séance, numerous heads formed and semi-materialized and the event was considered a successful repudiation of the accusations.

Mrs. Compton - materialization medium investigated by Olcott. At a séance with 12 people attending, Mrs. Compton was placed in the spirit cabinet on a chair, with threads passed through her pierced ears and fastened to the back of the chair. It was pre-arranged that Olcott would be allowed to enter the cabinet to view Mrs. Compton was still secured. During the séance, a slim white spirit figure emerged from the cabinet and was weighed by Olcott at two intervals (two different weights for the same spirit... 77 & 59 pounds). As arranged Olcott, entered the cabinet while the spirit figure was outside of it. The medium was gone! The chair was there but no sign of Mrs. Compton. He weighed the spirit again, now 52 pounds. The séance progressed and the figure returned to the cabinet and other subsequent spirit figures of different shapes and sized emerged in turn. Eventually, Olcott took a lamp and checked on Mrs. Compton again and found her looking like the dead with no pulse and no breathe coming from her lungs and cold to the touch, and every thread was UNBROKEN and every seal undisturbed. After all 12 people examined the threads and seals, Olcott cut the threads with a pair of scissors and carried the woman, chair and all, out of the cabinet and into the room. She remained inanimate for 18 minutes and then gradually she came back to life with her temperature going up and breathing again. Olcott weighed the medium at 112 pounds.

Henry Slade (1835-1905) an American medium famous for slate-writing mediumship, in which messages were written on sealed slates. He was thoroughly tested by several eminent investigators, and pronounced genuine. Olcott and Blavatsky were responsible for Slade's visit to Europe as they recruited him as a test subject for a Russian scientific committee. Described a tall, lithe man of six feet with a dreamy mystical face, luminous eyes full of expression, and a melancholy grace, Slade would produce slate-writing in full light with sometimes one hand or no hands on the slate while his hands were held by others at the table. Other times, the slate would be held by one of the investigators and still the phenomena was produced. In 1876, Slade was put on trial at the Bow Street Police Court. The conjurer Maskelyne gave testimony of Slade's suspected fraud with a trick table. This was refuted by other credible witnesses such as Alfred Russel Wallace who asserted the genuineness of Slade's mediumship. Slade was sentenced under the Vagrancy Act to 3 months of prison with hard labor. Under appeal, the conviction was quashed. His health seriously affected by the strain of the trial, Slade left England for the Continent a day or two later. When he felt better, he proceeded to travel through the world and be part of research and more seances. Some were successful, however he continued to be accused of fraud at various locations. And sadly, there is ample evidence that Slade character and psychic abilities degenerated in the latter part of his life.

SIR OLIVER LODGE

(1851 –1940) an English physicist whose investigations into electromagnetic radiation contributed to the development of radio communication, and he held key patents in early radio communication. He was the chair of physics at the University College Liverpool in 1881 and was the principal of the University of Birmingham from 1900 to 1919. A pioneer of Spiritualism, Lodge's research into life after death was a topic on which he wrote many books, including the best-selling *Raymond; or, Life and Death* (1916), which detailed messages he received through a medium from his son who was killed in WWI. A prominent member of the Society for Psychical Research, Lodge investigated various mediums.

Eusapia Paladino - famous Italian levitation and materialization medium, known to be illiterate and rude, at times her phenomena was real and other times she was an unapologetic trickster. She submitted to many tests by several researchers, and some exposed her cheating. Lodge attended four sittings with Eusapia and reported his findings in the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*, November, 1884 – he believed Eusapia to be real and stood by his convictions of her mediumship.

Leonore E Piper – mental medium from Boston, USA - allowed herself to be subjected to the most exacting scientific investigation of her mediumship for a period of 45 years. She was instrumental in converting many eminent people to believe in a spirit agency operating through her trance. Lodge's first investigations with Mrs. Piper took place in 1889, when the medium was tested in England by the SPR. He received many evidential messages from loved ones, in Spirit, which soon convinced him that the "dead" still live. His findings were published in 1890.

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE

(1859-1930) a British physician and prolific author, Doyle is best known for his Sherlock Holmes stories. From 1885 to 1888, he was invited to participate in table turning sittings at the home of one of his patients, General Drayson, a teacher at the Greenwich Naval College. The medium was a railway signalman, and some amazing phenomena apportations took place. Doyle didn't believe it – he thought the medium was scamming and the sitters were stupid. Nevertheless, he was interested. Soon after that, he joined the Society for Psychical Research (SPR) and carried out a series of experiments with Mrs. Ball and was finally convinced that telepathy was genuine. Doyle's second wife, Jean Leckie, was a Spiritualist medium and also often channeled a spirit called Pheneas.

For almost 30 years, Doyle continued his studies and investigations and then at the peak of his literary career (at the age of 58), he wrote his first books indicating his alliance with the cause of Spiritualism. His belief in Spiritualism came with a price --- along with lots of time and energy, he lost £200,000 an amazing amount of money at that time in history.

Spiritualism's Popularity in the Victorian Area

The movement's popularity led to a surge in the number of spiritualists, with reports suggesting that by the end of the Civil War, around 11 million people in the US subscribed to Spiritualism, and there were 35,000 practicing mediums.

The "Burned-over District" refers to a region in western and central New York State (stretching from the Finger Lakes to Lake Erie) during the early 19th century, known for intense religious revivalism and the emergence of new religious movements and social reform efforts, including the Mormons, Shakers, Spiritualism, Women's Suffrage, Abolitionism, and more. Spiritual fervor expanded "like a forest fire" and scholars continue to study this phenomenon.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Spiritualism played a crucial role in the early women's rights movement, paving the way for future women leaders. While reformers talked about women's autonomy, mediumship cast women in a central public role in the religion and spirit mediums were able to speak publicly in lecture halls and churches.

Victoria Woodhull: A prominent spirit medium and clairvoyant who became the first woman to run for president in 1872.

Susan B. Anthony and **Elizabeth Cady Stanton**, both prominent figures in the women's rights movement, were connected to Lily Dale Assembly and frequently visited the Spiritualist community. During her first public lecture at Lily Dale, Susan B. Anthony spoke to an audience of 3,000 people. Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote for the suffragist newspaper "The Lily" under the pseudonym "Sunflower". [The Sunflower is considered a special Symbol of Spiritualism.]

OTHER MEDIUMS & INVESTIGATORS OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM

Maria Hayden (1826-1883) American medium, credited with being one of the first professional mediums to bring Spiritualism to Great Britain in the 1852. Despite facing criticism, she conducted séances and helped popularize the movement in the UK. Despite her critics, she managed successful careers as a spirit medium, a healing medium, a psychometrist, and a medical doctor. The famous pioneer of psychometry Dr James Rodes Buchanan spoke of her “as one of the most skillful and successful physicians I have ever been with.” Her husband William Hayden was a wealthy and influential newsman, congressional reporter, and eventual editor of the Boston Atlas, as well as being a dedicated abolitionist.

David Duguid (1832-1907) this Glasgow medium was perhaps most famous for spirit oil paintings of landscapes, produced in total darkness at an amazing speed, and independently of his hands. In his presence were produced all kinds of phenomena, and through him was dictated a remarkable book, the well-known “Hafed, Prince of Persia”.

William Eglinton (1857–1933) noted for outdoor and daylight materializations and also for slate-writing mediumship. Questions put in Spanish, French and Greek were answered in the same languages. After a sitting with Eglinton, the UK prime minister W.E. Gladstone was sufficiently impressed to join the Society for Psychical Research. When Eglinton was accused of fraud by SPR, he was in South Africa and denied the charge on his return. The Council of the British National Association of Spiritualists ordered an investigation. They dismissed the charge on the basis that no direct evidence could be obtained from the accusers.

Madame D’Esperance (1848-1919) known for extraordinary apports, materializations and sketches made in complete darkness, of spirit relatives of her friends. At a séance in Finland in 1893, she claimed to have dematerialized the lower part of her body whilst only her head and stomach remained.

Dr. A Russel Wallace (1823-1903) Co-discoverer with Charles Darwin of the Theory of Evolution. He painstakingly investigated Spiritualism over a number of years, eventually stating quite fearlessly that its phenomena were proved quite as well as the facts of any other science.

Nettie Colburn Maynard (1841-1892) young powerful trance medium, visited Washington DC in winter 1862 to see her brother in the federal hospital. Mary Todd Lincoln had a sitting with her and was so impressed she introduced Nettie to Abraham Lincoln for more seances.

Emma Hardinge Britten (1823-1899) an English medium, largely credited for the philosophical outlook of Spiritualists. As a child, she exhibited psychic and mediumship gifts. While visiting the US, she attended Spiritualist séances and developed further. A popular “trance lecturer”, she was also instrumental in Abraham Lincoln’s reelection campaign. She wrote for and began Spiritualist magazines and authored several books. Through her mediumship the first Principles of Spiritualism were given.

DATES OF MODERN SPIRITUALISM

The following is a list of important dates considered to be milestones in the unfoldment of Spiritualism:

1743 Swedenborg developed his mediumship at age 55 and wrote several books explaining his experiences

1837 - 1844 A Shaker community tranced a whole tribe of Indians for seven years

1848 The Hydesville Knockings in the USA lead to the investigation of the Fox sisters & the "birth" of Modern Spiritualism.

1849 The first public demonstration of Mediumship by Margaret Fox in the Corinthian Hall in Rochester NY.

1852 Maria Hayden came from America to be the first Spiritualist medium to work in Britain.

1853 Darlington-born David Richmond returned to his native town from America. The Quaker townsfolk obliged him to leave. He went to Keighley in Yorkshire, the first Spiritualist Church being opened by him there.

1854 Robert Owen, Socialist Reformer and Co-Founder of the Co-operative Society, became converted to Spiritualism after sittings with Maria Hayden. After he passed to Spirit, he became the author of *The Principles of Spiritualism* which he gave through the mediumship of Emma Hardinge Britten.

1855 "The Yorkshire Spiritual Telegraph" the first Spiritual Newspaper, published in Keighley.

1863 Andrew Jackson Davis established the first Sunday Lyceum in New York.

1865 An attempt was made to form the first National Organization of Spiritualists in Darlington.

1866 Emma Hardinge Britten returned to England where she was quickly recognized as a very powerful medium.

1866 The first Lyceum in Britain was opened by Mr. J. Hitchcock in Nottingham.

1869 The Dialectical Society appointed a committee to investigate Spiritualism. They published a very favorable report - the best by any external body.

1871 Sir William Crookes reported on Spiritualism to the Royal Society & published his findings in the quarterly *Journal of Science*.

1872 Second attempt to form a National Organization was made at a National Conference in Darlington. Again, it failed. However, it stimulated interest and people wrote to the Spiritualist Press. It soon became recognized that there was a need for such an organization.

1873 A conference was held in Liverpool which led to the formation of the British National Association of Spiritualists with its headquarters in London.

1879 Lily Dale was incorporated as Cassadaga Lake Free Association, a camp and meeting place for Spiritualists. The name was changed to The City of Light in 1903 and finally to Lily Dale Assembly in 1906. The purpose of Lily Dale was to further the science, philosophy, and religion of Spiritualism.

1882 formation of The Society for Psychical Research

1887 The "Two Worlds" was launched as a weekly newspaper by Emma Hardinge Britten. The British "Lyceum Manual" was published for the first time. Its Co-authors were Mr. H. A Kersey of Newcastle upon Tyne, Mr. Alfred Kitson and Emma Hardinge Britten.

1887 The Principles of Spiritualism were published in the "Two Worlds" magazine as follows: -

- The Fatherhood of God
- The Brotherhood of Man
- The Immortality of the Soul and its Personal Characteristics
- The proven facts of Communion between departed Human Spirits and mortals Personal Responsibility with compensation and retribution hereafter for all the good and evil deeds done here
- A path of Eternal Progress open to every Human Soul that wills to tread it by the path of Eternal Good.

1890 Formation of the National Spiritualists' Federation. Spiritualists' Lyceum Union established. Name was later changed to British Spiritualist' Lyceum Union in 1894.

1893 Foundation of National Spiritualists' Association of America.

1901 Foundation of Spiritualists' National Union Limited.

1902 The S.N.U. took over rights, assets & obligations of the Federation & obtained legal status so it could hold real property.

1916 Parliamentary Campaign for the legal recognition of Spiritualism instituted by the Union under Ernest Oaten.

1918 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle proclaimed his belief in spiritualism.

1923 Formation of the International Spiritualists Federation.

1931-1935 Arthur Findlay's Trilogy published: "On the Edge of the Etheric," "The Rock of Truth," and "The Unfolding Universe"

1932 The “Psychic News” was founded by Arthur Findlay under the editorship of Maurice Barbanell.

1934 First broadcast on behalf of Spiritualism through BBC by Ernest Oaten.

1937 Spiritualism investigated by Church of England Committee set up by Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Cosmo Lang. (Its subsequent favorable report was suppressed but leaked to “Psychic News”).

1939 Ministers begin to be appointed by the Spiritualists’ National Union.

2008 In British history, the Witchcraft Act of 1735 was replaced by the Fraudulent Mediums Act of 1951, which criminalized fraudulent claims of psychic or spiritualistic abilities, but not sincere belief, and was itself repealed in 2008.

SPIRITUALISM AS A RELIGION AND A PHILOSOPHY

With the organization of Spiritualism as a “new” religion during the Victorian Era, the gifts of mediumship and healing were protected and held sacred. This deliberate move away from “entertainment” and into “sacred connection” was crucial to spiritualize the thoughts of the mediums and sitters. Channeling messages served a higher purpose to uplift humankind.

PURPOSE: The advent of Modern Spiritualism brought a definite message to the world --- each of us is an eternal Soul endowed with spiritual gifts and each Soul been given the opportunity to walk in knowing consciousness with God Divine, the Universal Source of All. We must strive to see the Higher Ground, to breathe in the Story of Life, and embrace spiritual unfoldment in mediumship, healing, and life.

EVIDENCE: Messages from the beyond show that the Soul and love never die, and that individual Personality is maintained after “so-called death” AND that communication between all planes of existence is a reality. Spiritual healing shows Divine Love can flow from the Source through us for higher and greater purpose to attune and align us with Pure Spirit. The personal experience of these moments cement the understanding that we are Souls on this journey and takes us from mere leap of faith into a true “knowing”.

SPIRITUAL NATURAL LAW: Spiritualism is a religion of self-culture, consolation, self-mastery, joy, and knowledge rather than belief. Living in accordance with Spiritual Natural Laws, the Spiritualist feels a deep connection with Infinite Intelligence, experiences the Two Worlds, and manifests their Creative Reality with Personal Responsibility.

TERMS OF PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP

ECTOPLASM - semi-luminous thick vapor which oozes from the side or the mouth of the medium and is dimly visible in the gloom then solidifies into a plastic substance. One investigator, W. J. Crawford, referred to it as "plasma" and paid great attention to the correspondence between the weight of the ectoplasm emitted and the loss of weight in the medium. In his experiments, it was usual for the medium to lose as much as 10 to 15 pounds in a single sitting — the weight being restored to her immediately when the ectoplasm retracted.

CABINET - used to focus energy into smaller space so ectoplasm can be contained. and spirit can manifest. Usually a wooden cabinet, but a curtain across a corner works also

TRANSFIGURATION – refers to a form of physical mediumship where a spirit, using energy (often described as "ectoplasm"), slowly creates a visible, often facial, manifestation in front of the medium, allowing the spirit's face to be seen. Considered a form of objective evidence, as it is a visual manifestation that can be seen by those present, rather than a subjective experience. Because it usually builds slowly, it is more likely to occur in mediumship circles and meditation groups or during full-trance channeling.

ETHEREALIZATION – A transparent wispy representation of the astral body of someone who is deceased. Usually momentary, it comes and goes quickly.

MATERIALIZATION – Unlike the wispy transparent etherealization, materialization is solid, usually very white material in the form of a deceased loved one or guide. Many describe the substance as solid ectoplasm.

TRANCE MEDIUMSHIP - allows a spirit being to take control of the body, mind and energy of the medium, to a varying degree, for the purpose of communication, spoken or written

TRUMPET MEDIUMSHIP - evolved in 1852 by Jonathan Koons, an Ohio farmer. Ectoplasm coming primarily from the medium and at a lesser degree from the sitters is used by spirit operators to fashion something resembling a human larynx, so spirit voice emanates from the trumpet. The spirit trumpet is made from metal, usually aluminum.

DIRECT VOICE – (also referred to as Independent Voice) physical spoken word from the Spirit World from somewhere in the room or amplified through a trumpet. Often, it sounds like a whisper. Some feel it is produced by an ectoplasmic voice box formed in the room or in the spirit trumpet.

APPORT – living and non-living objects suddenly appear, given by spirit, flowers, stones, objects

RAPS – the production of psychic energy that results in audible sounds without physical means. Sounds may come from the walls, underneath chairs or tables, or from within woodwork. Sometimes a sound code can be established between the medium and the spirit.

TABLE TILTING - Sitters gather around a table (round preferred) with fingertips lightly touching the top. Raising the vibration by singing or chanting is usual. Spirit operators dance the table!

SLATE WRITING - Two slate tablets are tied together with a small piece of chalk inside. After sitting, the slates are unbound and the message from spirit is read.

AUTOMATIC WRITING – considered a form of trance writing, the medium's body especially the hand is utilized by the channeled soul to write in the sender's words and style to convey a message to those on the earth plane AND usually goes beyond the knowledge and experience of the medium. The medium is unaware of what is being written, and the spirit's handwriting is noticeably different from the medium's handwriting.

SPIRIT PHOTOGRAPHY – sometimes called ghost photography, it is the practice of creating or claiming to capture images of ghosts and other spiritual entities, a trend that gained popularity in the late 19th century, particularly during the Spiritualist movement. Various commissions investigated the authenticity. William Hope is one famous spirit photographer.

TELEKINESIS - Moving objects from one place to another without using physical contact. The re-shaping of objects using the mind's energies, such as bending a spoon, or key, by just holding it and focusing. Telekinesis is created by higher levels of consciousness. It cannot be created by 'wishing it' to happen on the physical level. The energy to move or bend an object is created by a person's thoughts created by their subconscious mind.

Additional Resources:

Books – *The History of Spiritualism* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, *Radical Spirits* by Ann Braude

Slate writing VIDEO interview <https://youtu.be/JaopfGISBVs>

Trumpet mediumship VIDEO interview <https://youtu.be/GC0cGPNv6wY>

Fox Family Series VIDEO interviews

- Katie & Margaret <https://youtube.com/live/KH4yK5nBq9Y>
- David Fox <https://youtu.be/8f1Pr4aIYCU>
- Leah Fox <https://youtu.be/34kC49bmetg>
- John & Margaret Fox
- John & Margaret Fox <https://youtu.be/9GQjmMBR0og?si=P76NE9Fra0vQ41X7>
- The Fox Cottage
- The Fox Cottage https://youtu.be/YlkrCOfKpiY?si=085uOsU5l_a7NRu9

Andrew Jackson Davis VIDEO interview <https://youtu.be/5PzdbD166cM>

INSTRUCTIONS FOR SPOON FORK or KEY BENDING

1. Find utensil of choice (a Teaspoon is preferred to start with)
2. Hold utensil in your hand / hands-however you are comfortable.
3. Sit quietly--breathe comfortably--relax.
4. Empty mind of all extra chattering and thoughts. Remember stay focused.
5. With eyes closed--slowly rub your fingers tips over the surface of the object.
6. Feel--don't think about it--feel what the surface feels like. Get into the flow of molecules, atoms, energy.
7. This may take a few attempts. You will begin to actual "feel" the energy.
8. At that very moment when you feel it--you and the object as a blend of energy--just bend it! If you've done it correctly--it will bend easily!!!
9. Remember NEVER apply high-pressure force! You aren't there to physically force it to bend with brute strength. That's not the point of the exercise. Go lightly.

Your energy levels must be very high. The desire to move or break or bend an object must exist in a level of thought we do not as yet have control over with the 10% of the brain human's presently use.

If you are going to sit and stare at an object and 'will it' to move, bend, or break—it probably won't! If you can learn to tap into your higher levels of consciousness. Become 'one' with the object--as all things are connected in the universe--then see the object bend or move--you should have some degree of success. This takes a trained, focused mind, which usually comes from years of meditation. It is done with your mind relaxed, raising your energy levels, then making the changes.

Have an accepting attitude. Believe it can happen. Focus your attention. So many people say they are concentrating but in fact their minds are scattered, and they aren't really into it at all. Be there.