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>> PSYCHIC TIME-TRAVELER LAINE CROSBY VISITS STRATFORD HALL THIS SATURDAY

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By JESSE SCOTT

FOR THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Laine Crosby appears to be in a world of her own.

But after a peek into the psychic time-traveler's eerie, spirit-filled realm, you can't help but think that maybe she's not alone after all.

Crosby will communicate with and explore the living ghosts that reside at Stratford Hall this Saturday at 7 p.m.

Her lecture will focus on the spirits within Stratford Hall's historical confines.

"We'll be taking a step back in time," Crosby told Weekender. "It's going to be a fun, upbeat evening. I'll be telling a lot of stories, while trying to explain to the audience what it's like to be able to see those in the 1700s and 1800s."

Crosby is a native of Atlanta. In 2004, she moved to a haunted plantation in Maryland and literally woke up one morning talking to dead people.

Since realizing her unique psychic capabilities, Crosby has helped authors piece together detailed historical narratives throughout the East Coast, and has appeared regularly on The Ghost Channel.

She also works on missing persons cases, and helps connect the living with their deceased loved ones.

The feeling Crosby gets while interacting with a spirit still tingles her spine each and every time.

"It's different each time, depending on the spirit," said Crosby. "I go about connecting with the spirit in a couple of different ways. One way is through 'remote view' in which [I am] able to look



back in time and see locations and battle movements and hear people talk."

Remote viewing is a mind-sensory technique in which someone maps out a physical location without seeing it first.

Prior to entering a location, Crosby literally draws out a map of the location on paper and pinpoints where she senses the strongest spirits.

After mapping out the scene, she begins tracking down the spirit.

"When I go to a location, I can feel the pressure," said Crosby. "Sometimes it feels like I have low blood pressure almost like I didn't have breakfast that morning. Sometimes it feels like you're in the car and someone is watching you. You know someone is there."

And she's not afraid to ask questions of the haunts.

"I go up to the spirit and ask them questions and get a sense of whether they are male or female," added Crosby. "As I develop my abilities, I hear them in their voice, whether it's a British accent or slave dialect."

Sometimes no interaction is needed at all--Crosby simply knows a spirit's background and story instantly.

"Occasionally, it feels like a flash drive in a computer, and I boot up with all of this information," said Crosby. "I can't tell you everything that's on the flash drive, but it's a sudden realization of all of these things at once."

During her Stratford Hall lecture, Crosby will touch on her firsthand experiences with some of Stratford Hall's most renowned residents.

"Elizabeth," a Colonial resident of Stratford Hall who was accused of having an affair, is one of the spirits Crosby met on a recent visit. Crosby hopes to debunk the myth of Elizabeth's betrayal.

"Elizabeth was involved in a big scandal," said Crosby. "When I went down to Stratford Hall for a tour with my family, I listened to a guy tell the story and kept hearing this voice that said 'I did not do that! I did not do that!'"

"Throughout the house, I kept hearing her. She told me her name was Elizabeth."

Naturally, having such a mysteriously powerful skill can come with a bit of outside skepticism.

"I'm not out to convince people that it's real," said Crosby. "We always get the couple that sit in the front row and roll their eyes at me. But, by the end of the event they're saying, 'Wow, I can't believe it's real.'"

Jesse Scott is a Fredericksburg writer.

What: Psychic Time Travel with Laine Crosby When: Saturday, Oct. 9, 7 p.m. Where: Dupont Library at Stratford Hall Cost: \$8 Info: 804/493-8038; stratford hall.org; lainecrosby.com

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