



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 19 Issue 6

That's OK, I Never Wanted To Meet Your Daughters, Anyway



James

I guess it was around 2005. The Ghosts Of Ohio had been in existence for 6 years. My writing career was starting to take off—*Weird Ohio* had just hit bookshelves. And ghost reality shows were starting to become a thing. All in all, a fun time. My world was opening up and it seemed like everyone was coming up to me, wanting to learn more about what I did and, in some

cases, share their own experiences or secret love for all things strange and spooky. Weirdness was suddenly becoming more mainstream. Leave it to one jackhole to try and ruin everything.

I remember it like it was yesterday. I was sitting in my Corporate America cubicle, telling a few of my co-workers about my latest paranormal adventure. The tale concluded, the co-workers left my cube and I had turned back to my monitor when another co-worker, who had not been part of the conversation but had clearly been listening, came walking up. Slight paraphrase upcoming, but he looked at me and said:

"I don't think I'd want you coming around my daughters, Jim. You're weird."

And with that, he smiled and walked away. Talk about a gut punch.

His words stayed with me a lot longer than they should have. You see, I've been weird my entire life, but once I got to the age where I began to consider having a family, I spent countless hours—years, really—creating my own brand. I wanted to be known as someone who studied weird things and took them seriously, but not to the point where others couldn't take me seriously. Most of all, I wanted to be seen as someone who could look at things objectively and, dare I say it, professionally. And now I have this guy telling me that I'm so weird he doesn't want his young daughters, hanging around me?

I would be lying if I didn't admit that for a brief moment back there in 2005, I considering giving it all up; try my hand in the Land of the Normals, where everyone talks about the weather, the price of gas, and whether the car's due for a tune-up. And all the adults are allowed to be around young children.

Thank goodness that moment passed.

I mean, seriously, what was I thinking? Change everything in my life just because it's not to one random guy's liking? And what was I doing that had him so edgy? Looking back, I think he was just so narrow and close-minded that anything outside his little bubble was scary to him. Like the saying goes: We fear what we don't understand.

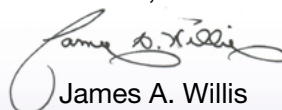
What I've always said is that my favorite thing about hanging out in the Weird World is that I can openly admit that I don't have all the answers: Do ghosts exist? I don't know. Is Bigfoot real? Not sure. Are we alone in the universe? Maybe. It's the not having all the answers that makes things so fun. It means that every day brings the possibility of learning something new.

So, no worries: I will forever (proudly) be known as Weird Willis.

And while I've never had any interest in seeing that former co-worker again, it would be kind of fun to see him out and about somewhere. Of course, I'd have to resist the urge to walk up to him and say:

"I don't think I'd want you coming around my daughter. You're normal."

Cheers,



James A. Willis

Founder/Director





INVESTIGATE THE ANCHORAGE WITH OUR FEARLESS LEADER

To celebrate the release of his latest book, *Southern Ohio Legends & Lore*, James A. Willis is partnering with Hidden Marietta to offer a unique chance to investigate The Anchorage, a location Willis covered in his book (and featured it on the cover).

On September 3rd, 2022, a small group of people will join Willis on a 6-hour investigation of The Anchorage. Hidden Marietta will even allow you to borrow some of their ghost-hunting equipment to use for the night.



Tickets are extremely limited, but if there's any left, you can snag yours here:

[**TICKETS**](#)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

“THE GROWL”

—Rebecca H., Medina, OH

My encounters are rather strange. I'm not even sure what it is, other than something I can't explain. I can't even tell you what it looks like because I never see anything. But I hear it and the best way I can describe it is a deep growling sound. What freaks me out is that the growl always seems like it's coming from the same spot, even though there's nothing there.

As a bit of background, I live in an old farmhouse that's been in my family for years. I think you could safely say that I visited this house and played in the yard for almost 30 years before I inherited it and I never had a single strange occurrence here.

Don't remember ever hearing any of my relatives talking about any weird stuff, either.

I had been in this house for about 5 years when one morning, I was sitting on the front porch when I heard what sounded like a dog growl, coming from the front yard. I couldn't see anything, though, so I walked out into the yard to see if I could locate the dog. As I wandered around, the growling would get louder, which led me to a spot in the yard where it felt like the growl was originating from, only there was nothing there. The growl was right in front of me, but I was looking at nothing but empty space. There were no

trees, rocks electrical poles or anything around me and yet, the growl was coming from somewhere. If I backed off, it sounded like the growl got quieter, as if whatever was making the sound was still there, only farther away. After about 90 seconds, the growling just stopped.

I was willing to write it off as just one of those weird things, but it kept happening. Not all the time or even at the same time of the day. In fact, I couldn't figure out any pattern. It's just that sometimes I would be outside and I would hear that growling coming from an empty space in my front yard. Any ideas?



STOCKPILING MOVIES FOR OCTOBER



James

If you're a regular subscriber to this newsletter, you know that I have something of an unhealthy obsession with horror movies. And that every October, I make it my duty to watch at least 1 scary movie a day for the entire month (although it usually ends up being 3-4 a day). I'll even go so far as to create "theme weeks", where I'll give myself a certain theme/topic (monsters, zombies, found footage, etc.) and stick to those movies for the entire week. From time to time, I'd write about some of my favorites, usually in the October 31st edition of the newsletter, which would inevitably lead to people asking, "why did you wait so long?"

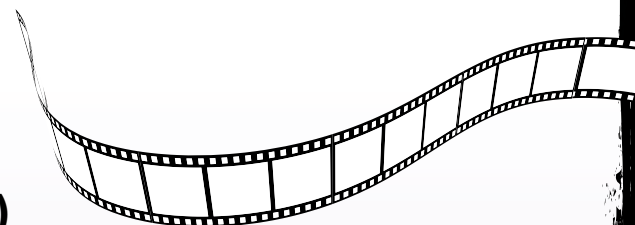
So, with that in mind, I decided to share some of the "go to" movies on my October list to give people a jump on planning their own spooky movie-watching schedule. I even picked a category: Haunted Houses.

Now, these are not all the movies on my Haunted House list or even the more well-known ones. Rather, I picked ones that are a bit more obscure. They're not all perfect, either. But I found them enjoyable enough that they have made their way onto my "annual favorites" list. Enjoy!



Housebound (2014)

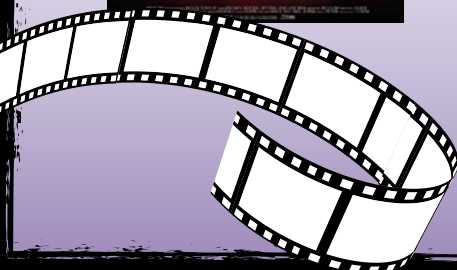
Housebound is a horror-comedy film from New Zealand, which might help explain why it flew under my radar for a while. And while the movie does have its flaws, by and large it works. The plot involves a young woman, Kylie Bucknell, who, after yet another arrest, is sentenced to house arrest at the home of Bucknell's estranged mother and stepfather. Turns out Bucknell's mother likes to call in to talk shows and discuss that she believes the house is haunted. And before long, Bucknell herself starts to think the same thing. Kudos to writer/director Gerard Johnstone for creating the amateur ghost hunter character who shows up to do some EVP work!



We Are Still Here (2015)

The year is 1979. Following the death of their young son in a car crash, parents Anne and Paul Sacchetti decided to move to a new home in rural Massachusetts. They haven't fully unpacked before some of the local townsfolk show up and give them a little history lesson on the house. Turns out it used to be the old funeral home where some unspeakable things happened. Shortly thereafter, Anne begins to sense that her dead son has moved in with them, along with something more sinister. Soon, secrets began to be revealed, including one that the entire town has been trying to keep secret.

As someone who grew up in New York's Hudson Valley, I can say that the writer and director of *We Are Still Here*, Ted Geoghegan, absolutely nailed the look and feel of 1970s rural living on the east coast. Throw in a healthy dose of HP Lovecraft references and this movie feels like it was made in the 70s, which really sucks you in. It's a bit of a slow burn, but as soon as the final act kicks in, the blood and gore really start flying.



STOCKPILING MOVIES FOR OCTOBER continued



A Dark Song (2016)

An Irish-British independent film, *A Dark Song* puts a unique spin on spirit communication and haunted houses while exploring the lengths someone will go to just to speak with a departed loved one.

Grieving parent Sophia Howard longs to hear the voice of her dead seven-year-old son's voice one last time. She eventually finds occultist Joseph Solomon, who tells her that he can conduct a secret months-long rite which will allow them to summon Sophia's guardian angel, whom Sophia can then ask to speak with her son. Solomon then instructs Sophia to rent an isolated house where the pair will live, alone, while they conduct the rite.

The real power of *A Dark Song* lies within the powers of actors, Catherine Walker and Steve Oram. Almost the entire film takes place inside a single location with just these two actors. And it takes a while for things to really start getting creepy, leaving the two actors to carry the film along, which they manage to pull off. There isn't much to *A Dark Song*, but what is there will keep you guessing right up to the very end.



The House Of The Devil (2009)

College student Samantha Hughes resorts to scouring babysitting ads as to way to make rent money. She's getting desperate, which is why she reluctantly takes a well-paying gig at the remote, spooky-looking mansion owned by the Ulman family. But as soon as she arrives, at 12:30 am, no less, things seem...off. For starters, Samantha wasn't hired to babysit children, but Mrs. Ulman's mother. In fact, Mr. Ulman tells Samantha there aren't any children in the house, even though she starts to hear someone or something moving around. Oh yeah, and there's a rare lunar eclipse happening outside, too.

If you're a fan of 70s classics like *Rosemary's Baby*, then look no further than *The House Of The Devil* for your spooky fix. Like all good 70s horror, *The House Of The Devil* is one long, slow burn. The creep factor is certainly there, but rather than reply on jump scares, *The House Of The Devil* is filled with odd little moments that help to create an overwhelming sense of dread.



The Innkeepers (2011)

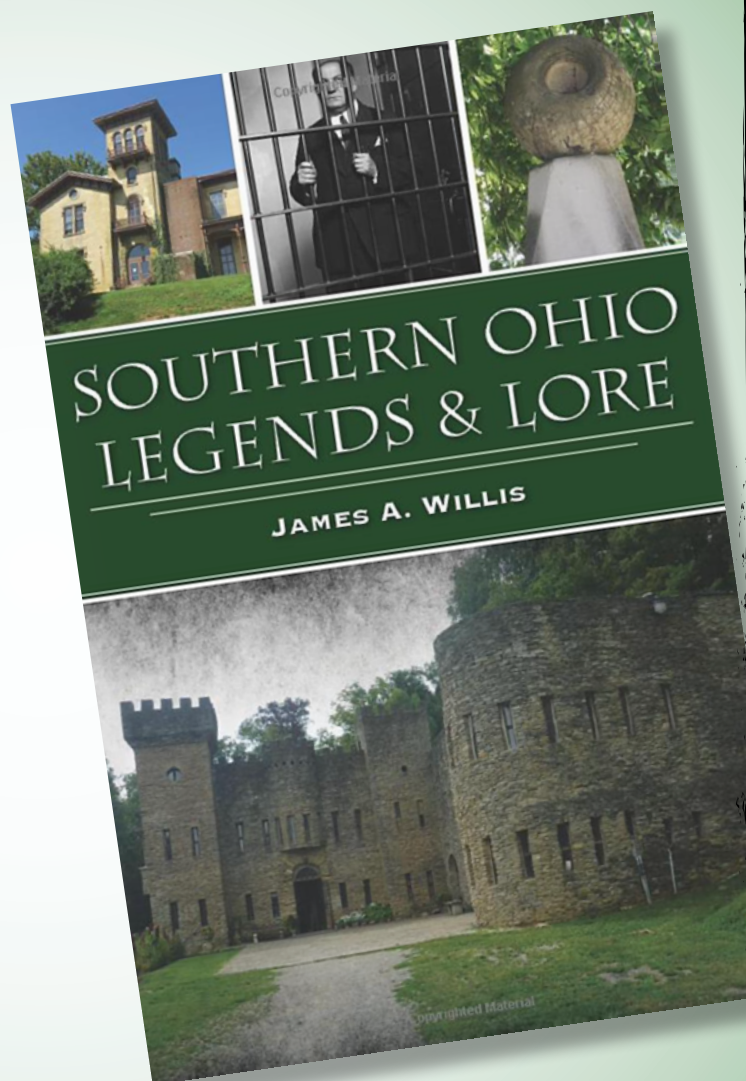
If you haven't seen *The Innkeepers* yet, the less you know going in, the better. So, I'll keep this brief. Connecticut's historic hotel, the Yankee Pedlar Inn, is preparing to close for good after being in business for over 100 years. On the last night they are open for business, there are only two employees left working: Luke and Clair. With nothing better to do to keep themselves occupied, the pair decide to do a bit of amateur ghost hunting to see if the stories about the inn being haunted are true.

Of all the movies I included in this article, *The Innkeepers* is the most flawed. But it's also the one that is near and dear to my heart because I can see myself in this movie. Let's be honest; there's not a ghost hunter among us that wouldn't jump at the chance to be the last to ever investigate a haunted hotel before it closed its doors for good? There's also this fascinating bit of trivia: The Yankee Pedlar Inn really exists and is supposed to be haunted. Writer/director Ti West not only chose to incorporate the actual inn's history and ghost stories into *The Innkeepers*, but the film itself was shot on location at the inn, which is in Torrington, Connecticut.

SOUTHERN OHIO LEGENDS & LORE

Released on August 15th, our fearless leader's latest book, *Southern Ohio Legends & Lore*, is packed with stories about some of Southern Ohio's strangest stories and legendary characters—everyone from Gene Autry to infamous bootlegger George Remus—and even a cemetery said to contain a tombstone bearing the mark of a bloody horseshoe.

Southern Ohio Legends & Lore is currently available on [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), and [Walmart.com](#). Physical copies should be available at all Ohio brick-and-mortar stores as well as all 2022 presentations and appearances.



EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

Got a piece of paranormal equipment you've always wondered how it works? Does it really do what it's supposed to be doing? Or maybe you've created some paranormal equipment you'd like field tested? Either way, let us know because The Ghosts Of Ohio would love to help!

Drop us a line at info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Equipment" and we'll take it from there!

OUR 2022 CALENDAR IS TAKING SHAPE

The following are confirmed presentations as of this writing. Keep in mind that things can, and probably will, change at a moment's notice. So, if you are at all interested in attending any of these events, please be sure to follow The Ghosts Of Ohio on any of our social media accounts as we will post updates as soon as they happen. Also consider contacting the venue(s) directly as they will also be able to fill you in on any guidelines/rules regarding masks.

Saturday, October 1st @ 2:00 pm
Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation
Southwest Public Libraries:
Westland Area Library
4740 W. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43228

Friday, October 7th @ TBD
My Strange & Spooky World: An
Evening with Author James A. Willis
Verity Lodge: Miami University—
Middletown Branch
4200 N. University Blvd.
Middletown, OH 45042

Tuesday, October 11th @ 7:00 pm
Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation
Willoughby Public Library
30 Public Square
Willoughby, OH 44094

Thursday, October 13th @ TBD
Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio presentation
Jackson City Library
21 Broadway St.
Jackson, OH 45640

Saturday, October 15th @ 2:00 pm
Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation
Stark Library: Jackson Branch
7487 Fulton Dr. NW
Massillon, OH 44686

Tuesday, October 18th @ 6:00 pm
Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation
Clermont County Public Library:
Union Township Branch
4450 Glen Este-Withamsville Rd.
Cincinnati, OH 45245

Thursday, October 20th @ 12:00 pm
Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation
John McIntire Library
220 N. 5th St.
Zanesville, OH 43701

Friday, October 21st @ 6:30 pm
My Strange & Spooky World: An
Evening with Author James A. Willis
Thurber House
77 Jefferson Ave.
Columbus, OH 43215

Saturday, October 22nd @ 6:00 pm
An Evening with Ohio's Spirits
presentation
Athens, OH
Details soon!

Monday, October 24th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio presentation
Seville Library
45 Center St.
Seville, OH 44273

Tuesday, October 25th, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
Ohio's Historic Haunts presentation
Dayton Metro Library:
New Lebanon Branch
715 W. Main St.
New Lebanon, OH 45345

Wednesday, October 26th @ 7:00 pm
Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio presentation
Columbus Metropolitan Library:
Southeast Branch Virtual Presentation

Thursday, October 27th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
Amityville: Horror Or Hoax? presentation
Medina Library
210 South Broadway St.
Medina, OH 44256

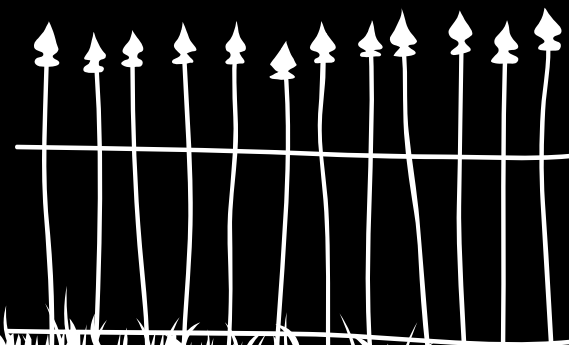
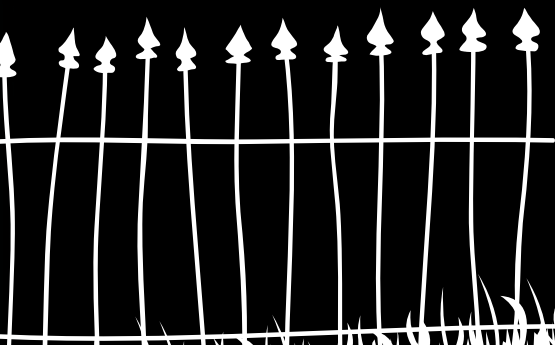
Thursday, November 3rd, 2022 @ TBD
The Spooky Side of Abraham Lincoln
presentation
Fairfield County Heritage Association
Lancaster, OH

Thursday, November 10th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
Just How Weird Is Ohio? presentation
Grove City Library
3959 Broadway
Grove City, OH 43123



GOT A SCARY STORY TO TELL?

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do: Just write down your story and send it to info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story". Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you out an e-mail letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!



Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2022. All members of the organization who would participate in investigations have been fully vaccinated.

Additionally, we can also make arrangements to drop off ghost-hunting equipment at your home or business and walk you through how to set it up yourself if you prefer. So, if you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at info@ghostsofohio.org or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

Not sure if you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts Of Ohio also offers consultations. Let us sit down with you to discuss your current situation and what help we may be able to offer. For more information, please visit <http://ghostsofohio.org/services/investigations.html>

Interact with The Ghosts Of Ohio

In addition to our website, here are a couple of places where you can find The Ghosts Of Ohio lurking online:

 [FACEBOOK](#)

 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

Administration

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