



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 14 Issue 2

FROM THE SPOOKY DESK OF JAMES WILLIS:



James

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As 2016 comes to a close, I think it's becoming all too apparent that we're living in some pretty troubled times. Now don't worry, this is not going to turn into a political rant. Far from it. Still, I think everyone will agree that regardless of one's personal beliefs, there are a lot of angry people out there. Something I was reminded of recently at a holiday party.

The party started innocently enough: lots of good food, drink, and friends. But then, it happened: I was "outed" when I was introduced to someone as, shall we say "the ghost guy." The gentleman I was introduced to seemed very intrigued and asked my opinions on ghosts and spirits. There's not really a short answer to that question, but I tried to basically give a quick overview as to what I did and how I try to balance personal experiences with quantifiable data. That's when he got mad.

Yup, he was mad, alright. He basically started lecturing me on how I was never going to find a ghost "through science" and that I should just accept ghosts are everywhere. What's more, every cold breeze, weird noise, and disembodied footsteps are ghosts and I should just accept it and stop looking for evidence.

Oddly enough, I was intrigued with his response, if only for the fact that when I get "confronted" about my work, it's usually people who claim that I am not being scientific enough. This guy, on the other hand, was telling me that I was being too scientific. So I wanted to continue the conversation. But I didn't get very far before he threw up the ol' "talk to the hand" hand. Yes, he really did that to me. At that point, I excused myself and went looking for the bar.

But here's the thing: I had never met this guy before and had really only been talking to him for 30 seconds before he got cranky with me. So I seriously doubt that he got that bent out of shape over something I had said. Did he disagree with

me? Heck, yeah! But not to the point where his response and actions could be considered appropriate and/or justified. And what did I do in response? I got up and walked away. Life's too short to waste it on meaningless conversations like that.

And that's what got me thinking that maybe ghosts are the same way. Maybe they talk to some people and not others because

some of us are...mean. Perhaps we don't mean to come off that way, but for whatever reason, the ghosts just decide "I'm not talking to them. They're not my kinda people". Think about it. We carry a lot of baggage with us throughout the day and watching the local news in and of itself can be downright depressing. And it's OK to admit that you've probably snapped on someone who really didn't deserve it just because you had a bad day. What's more, we've all been somewhere where you just get an angry vibe off of someone and you haven't even spoken to them yet. What do we normally do in those situations? Look the other way and try to ignore them.

And maybe, just maybe, that's what ghosts do when they pop up in a room and find an angry investigator who is still harboring all that anger over getting stuck in traffic an hour earlier. Just something to ponder.

As for me, I've made a resolution to try and leave all my day's baggage at the door before I enter a building for a hunt. Couple of deep breaths, maybe some light meditation. Really anything to clear the ol' system out and get me ready for the task at hand. Couldn't hurt, right? Besides, in today's world, we need to keep trying new things to provide answers about ghosts as well as just how to survive.

Times like these I often wonder if the answer lies in the immortal words of Shirley Manson and Garbage: The trick is to keep breathing.

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director



Personal Experiences

The Heart In The Snow



-Julie B., Lima, OH

I've seen The Ghosts of Ohio a few times when they come to town for book signings and the Lima lantern tours. I have to tell you that the story Mr. Willis tells about Gretchen's Lock and those pictures of the writing in the snow he found really creep me out every time I think about it. It is what also made me think of this story that I would like to share with you.

My husband and I had been married for 32 years when he passed away suddenly in January of 2012. I missed him terribly and still do. We lived on a big piece of property outside of Lima proper. I think what made me miss him most of all was that he always had a sense of humor and was always laughing and doing funny things to make me laugh. He used to do crazy things like write things in the snow for me to find. One time, he even used our tractor to write our initials in the front yard. I guess when he left, the house just felt really empty.

The year after he passed away was very hard on me. We don't have relatives or many friends in the area, so I was often alone out at this house for long periods of time. On the anniversary of his passing, there was a bad snowstorm, so I basically stayed in the house the whole day and then went to bed.

When I got up the next morning, I put my jacket on and went to go out in the back yard to feed the birds. The entire back yard, which backs up to 5 acres of woods, had over 6 inches of snow in it. All of it was flat and unbroken, except for a large area in the middle of the back yard. My first thought was that some deer had come

through and bedded down for the night in the snow, but something didn't look right about it. So I went back upstairs to the master bedroom to take a look since it overlooked the back yard.

When I looked out the window, I was shocked to find that what I thought was deer was actually the perfect shape of a giant heart. It was huge—about 10 feet



across and just as tall. It looked like someone had just traced out a giant heart and then walked around and around in it, making it bigger and more distinct. The only problem was that there were no tracks or footprints anywhere else except in the outline of the heart.

I haven't told many people this story because most of them think it was an animal or that I'm making it up. But I'm not. I know what I saw and I know the heart was made by my husband, who stopped by on the anniversary of his death just to let me know how much he still loved me.



Personal Experiences Cont.

Unwelcome Guests

—Mark J., Coshocton, OH



When I was younger, I never believed in ghosts and it used to annoy me when people would say “I never believed in ghosts until this one thing happened to me and now I totally believe”. I would just roll my eyes at them because I was convinced it was all [bull]. But then wouldn't you know it something happened to me and now I believe.

I was a freshman in college and me and two of my buddies decided to take a couple of girls out in search of this haunted house in the woods. To level with you, we were just going out there to scare the girls and have some fun. None of us guys really believed in ghosts or any of that stuff. And the story about the house was pretty stupid. They said the ghost of the guy who built the house there haunted the place and he would get mad if anyone did anything to his house. So people would go out there and break windows and do stupid stuff just to see if they could upset the ghost. I'm not proud of it today, but that's what we went out there to do. People said if you made the ghost mad, it would come out and scratch you and just sort of try and hurt you. Like I said, none of us guys believed it. We just wanted to scare the girls.

So we all get out to the house and, yeah, it was kind of creepy out there. It was kind of cool though because all the windows were broken out but there were curtains that would sort of blow in the breeze. It made it look like there were people up in the windows and stuff. That really freaked the girls out.

So we all go inside and there's just a bunch of broken stuff all over the place. But, in what looked like the dining room, there was just this one wooden chair all by itself. So my friend goes and stands on the chair and is all like, “Hey ghost dude, I'm standing on your best chair! Why don't you make me get off it?”

Almost as soon as he said that the chair broke into pieces and he fell on the ground and cut his hand pretty bad. The girls were all screaming saying the

ghost did it, but us guys were just sort of [ticked] off. Plus my one buddy's hand was cut pretty bad, so we figured it was time to go. I didn't think a ghost did it, though. At least not at that point. But I thought I would try to be cool and so I picked up a piece of the broken chair and threw it against the wall. And I said, “You like that, ghost? Why don't you do something to me now?” Guess what happened next? A big piece of wood fell from the ceiling above me and hit me on the top of the head. I swear that I saw stars. That was when we all decided to get the heck out of there. From that point on, I believe in ghosts and I treat them with respect. I've never been back to that haunted house, either. I don't know what happened that night, but I do know there was something in that house that we [ticked] off.



**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 email 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!

JUST ANOTHER TWO-BOTTLE CONVERSATION



Samantha

Once in a while a topic presents itself that is so unusual or downright weird that it begs to be discussed, questioned and analyzed from every conceivable

point of view. Jim Willis calls these “two-bottle conversations,” and the group has had its fair share of them. Recently, I heard about something that I had never heard before, but that I desperately wanted to explore as one of these conversations. I’m talking about ghost aliens.



Yes, those kind. Little grey extraterrestrials with big heads and eyes who supposedly crashed to Earth in Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947. I know there’s a lot of debate over the crash itself and whether or not actual aliens had been recovered from the site. This article is not going to go into all of that. Instead, my focus is on the concept of the spirits of dead aliens lingering on our planet.

First, a little “according to legend” background to set the scene. After the UFO crash in 1947, alien bodies were recovered and initially taken to the Roswell Army Air Field hospital, where at least one of them died. A few years later the facility became Walker Air Force Base until its closure in 1967. Currently, the building is home to the New Mexico Rehabilitation Center. Since 1997 at least a dozen employees of NMRC have reported strange phenomena that seems to center around the 2nd floor, which happens to be the location of the old surgical area. They’re currently using that floor primarily for storage because, as one witness put it, “None of the personnel want to work there.”

Over the years, employees have experienced a range of phenomena on the 2nd floor, including cold spots, lights turning themselves on and off, doors slamming, the sound of footsteps in the hallway, elevators opening and closing, and of course ghostly figures. One of the night nurses says that she was getting coffee when she felt a heavy sensation that made her skin crawl. She turned around and saw a small figure, about 5 feet tall, with a big head and fingerless hands. Another woman claimed to have seen it, too, and said it was wrapped like a mummy in some sort of shiny cloth. A small apparition has also been seen on a few occasions standing at the end of the hall.

Interesting stuff, right? Now let’s start this two-bottle conversation by delving into the meat of what we’ve just learned.

Let’s assume, for the sake of argument, that everything we know so far is accurate and true. We also know that highly intense, dramatic events (like aliens crashing to Earth, only to die in a strange Army hospital!) can leave their energy footprint on a place, making it reasonable that a haunting could be taking place in this facility. These hauntings can be residual, like a recording that plays over and over, never interacting with anyone. Or they can be intelligent, where they actively do things to get attention or affect their surroundings. Some of the paranormal activity in this facility sounds residual, but it’s possible that some of it may be intelligent. So again, for the sake of argument, let’s assume that the ghost aliens are intelligent and not residual.

Here’s my first two-bottle question. If spirits of humans, animals, and extraterrestrials can hang around, is it possible for them to leave this planet, too? The Law of Conservation of Energy tells us that energy can’t be



created or destroyed, but that it can change form, which is the accepted basis for the existence of ghosts in the first place. But if it changes form, like when we die, where can it go? How far? Since the Earth has an electromagnetic field around it, and we have gravity holding us down, is our energy confined to our own planet? Are the aliens trapped here on Earth, unable to go home to their own people? If so, I can’t imagine a more horrific situation for them.

Which brings me to my second question: How would a ghost alien behave? How would it communicate with us? How do we communicate with it? Okay, so that’s three questions, but you get the idea. We don’t speak or write the same language (if they even have those means of communication); and based on what they reportedly look like, I’m guessing facial expressions and gestures would be out of the question. So how would this work? I suppose we’d have to rely on their behavior, but honestly, slamming doors, opening elevators, and messing with the lights aren’t very effective. Those actions draw attention

(continued on page 5.)

JUST ANOTHER TWO-BOTTLE CONVERSATION CONT.

and possibly express frustration, but they're not effective communication. And unfortunately, it would be nearly impossible to spend time developing a relationship with them because they're spirits, not live aliens. Spirits require a lot of energy to manifest. Their appearance is unpredictable, and they're only temporary. In each of the cases where witnesses saw the ghost aliens, they faded away within seconds of being spotted. How could we possibly develop a means of communication if we could only see them for seconds or minutes at a time?

Question number three: Is it possible to help an alien spirit move on? This question, of course, assumes that there is somewhere to "move on" to, which is up for debate. Some think it means accepting death and allowing a spirit's energy to disperse. Others think it means joining an afterlife community of sorts. Regardless, would we be able to help an alien spirit move on? Given the fact that we don't have a means of communication, and the fact that we don't have any concept of what the alien's beliefs are, the prospect seems very unlikely.

My last question for now: How do we know that the ghost is really that of an alien? Spirits can take on many forms, not just the form they had in life. Could the "alien" actually be the spirit of one of the doctors or Army personnel that operated on or recovered an alien body after the 1947 crash? Perhaps the experience was so jarring and life-changing that the image of what they witnessed is how they project themselves as spirits.

There are so many more questions that I could present here, but I'll spare you. It's very much like Alice falling down the rabbit hole. One question creates two more, and those questions create a host of others. I will, however, share some information about the man who interviewed the witnesses of the phenomena. After quite a bit of

searching, all of the information I was able to find about this topic seemed to derive from him: Jim Marrs.

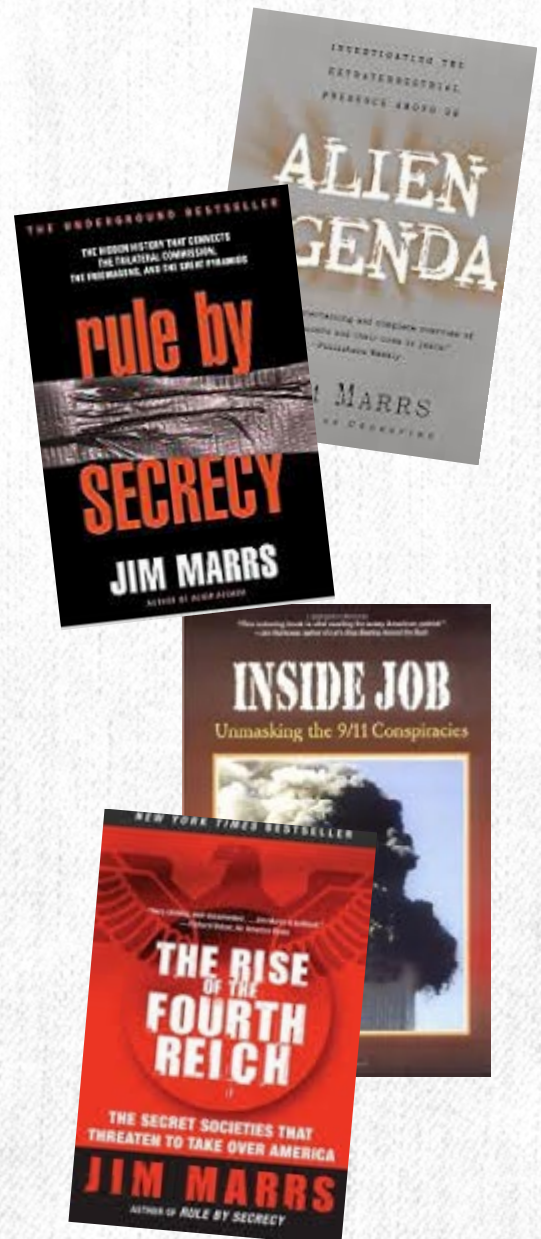
Marrs has worn a lot of hats in his life, including Vietnam vet, journalist, investigative reporter, military/aerospace writer, radio talk show host, and conspiracy theorist, focusing on such topics as the Kennedy assassination, the 9/11 conspiracy, secret government programs, and UFOs and aliens. He has authored several books, and has spoken at conferences and appeared on a wide variety of television and radio talk shows, including Coast to Coast. He has even taught a couple of courses at the University of Texas at Arlington—one on the Kennedy assassination, and one on UFOs.

When I was searching online for anything related to ghost aliens at Roswell, the first (and only) article I found was called "Alien Ghost at Roswell?" written by Marrs on April 5, 2016. It was posted on a website called Earth Mystery News, of which Marrs is a regular contributor. When I say that his article is the "only" article I've found on the subject, I suppose I'm fibbing a bit. I did, in fact, find others, but they were all copies of the one Marrs wrote! This, coupled with the fact that the name of the website is vaguely reminiscent of Weekly World News, makes me suspicious of what Marrs has written. When it comes to the paranormal, it's not typical to find only one source for a story. Usually there are other authors who have followed up with their own research. This is not the case here.

Supposedly, it was in 1997 when sightings of a ghost alien began, but there are no other documented sources for this information other than what Marrs wrote in his article. Sure, some people don't want to talk about their experiences. But in this day and age, with the glut of paranormal shows on television and the general public

acceptance of ghostly happenings, don't you think there'd be some mention of this earlier than April of this year? Maybe I just didn't dig far enough, but it makes you wonder. Do his witnesses really exist? Is there really a ghost alien? Or has Jim Marrs simply written a new urban legend?

I'm sure this conversation will continue...



MEET THE GHOSTS OF OHIO: Ted



Length of time in The Ghosts of Ohio? 5 years

What got you interested in ghosts? I have been interested in deep mysteries since being a kid. Science/physics caught my initial attention along with ancient aliens a la “Chariots of the gods” and the like. Then I became interested in mysteries about things unseen (especially ghosts) with the desire to explain such phenomena in terms of what is known in science (and possibly point a way to physics in advance of what is now known).

Favorite piece of ghost-hunting equipment? The digital voice recorder (thus far), as it has delivered numerous, unmistakable electronic voice phenomena (EVPs) for study.

Favorite place you've investigated? Thus far, the old Mansfield Reformatory in Mansfield, Ohio. I have captured multiple EVPs there, along with nearly coincident EMF meter indications (also audibly recorded).

Three places you'd love to investigate?

1. Skinwalker Ranch
2. Catacombs of Rome
3. Maybe some castles in Scotland or Ireland



SEND THE GHOSTS BACK IN TIME!

Last issue, we announced our new “Back In Time” feature where we asked you to share your spooky stories from childhood and we would do some research to find out where those stories stand today. Sort of like a supernatural scavenger hunt where we try to unearth all those tales from your youth. I guess we struck a nerve with you guys because the response has been overwhelming! We’ve gotten over 50 requests so far, which include everything from ghosts and haunted houses to mysterious monsters and even a few UFO sightings! Amazing!

We are featuring the very first request we received in this very issue. If you’ve sent in a request, please know that we will get to your story as soon as we can. Truth be told, we were caught a bit off-guard by the response, so we’re busy digging out of a hole...a deep, spooky hole that we’re really glad to be in!

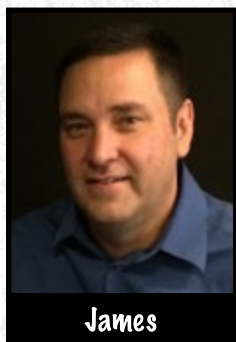
For those of you unfamiliar with what we’re doing, it all goes back to the idea that everyone, even though who might not believe in the supernatural, has one thing in common when it comes to ghosts: A scary story of a haunted place from your childhood. You know, the old house you weren’t supposed to go near or the creepy old grave sitting all by itself on top of a hill. Maybe the monster that lived in the woods behind your house. Well, whatever it was, we’re sure that you’ve often thought to yourself “I wonder whatever happened to that place?” Well, now’s your chance to find out!

The Ghosts of Ohio wants you to send us your childhood ghost stories. We’ll take it from there and dig into the history to find out if there really was any truth to the tales that chilled your bones as a youth. Just send an email to info@ghostsofohio.org with as much information as you can remember and we will jump right on it. We’ll even supply you with a free report with everything we were able to uncover. So what are you waiting for? Send The Ghosts back in time!



BACK IN TIME

THE FACE ON THE TOMBSTONE



James

Figured the best way to kick off the “Back In Time” segment would be with the story that gave me the idea for this column. Back in October, The Ghosts were preparing to give a presentation at a Lima-area

location. One of the audience members came up to me and asked if I knew anything about “the tombstone that had the face on it” that was at a cemetery not too far away. I hadn’t, but three people, who did not know each other, who overheard our conversation had. They all spoke about going out to the cemetery in the late 50s and 60s to try and scare whomever they were with at the time. To a person, though, they wondered what the real story was and what had ever become of the tombstone. And this column was born!

So here’s what we started with:

LEGEND:

There is an old cemetery near Carey, Ohio, that is home to a particular tombstone belonging to a husband and wife. The wife was found dead in their family home, which is right next to the cemetery. She had been strangled to death and while many people suspected the husband, he was never charged.

When the woman was buried and the tombstone was put in place, the image of a woman began to appear on the stone. The woman appeared to be screaming and no matter what the groundskeepers did, the image would not fade from the stone. They even replaced the stone and the image appeared on the new stone, as well. Years later, when the husband died, a second image appeared: That of a man with an evil look in his eyes. What’s more, the man’s hands were visible, and they were wrapped around the screaming woman’s throat. It was as if, in death, the couple were reacting the woman’s final moments on Earth.

It was said that if you went to the cemetery late at night and drove your car up near the tombstone, that once your car’s headlights hit the stone, the images would almost literally jump off the stone at you. Sometimes, you can even see the couple’s ghosts walking through their house late at night.

TRUTH:

The cemetery in question is the Lutheran Ridge Cemetery in Carey, Ohio. The tombstone in question belongs to Irvin and Dinah Copley. Dinah died in 1935 and Irvin passed away in 1953. Interestingly enough, there apparently was something on the tombstone that, when looked at just the right way, could be taken for two figures, in profile, facing each other. And if you looked hard enough, you could probably make out what looked like hands around one of the figure’s throats. But by all accounts, this was nothing more than the natural “design” of the marble tombstone. But that didn’t stop people coming by the carloads to the cemetery, beginning in the mid-50s, shortly after Irvin’s death. Back then, you could drive your car almost right up to the stone itself.

There is, however, absolutely no evidence to suggest that Irvin strangled or otherwise murdered his wife. When Diana’s obituary ran in local papers in October of 1935, there was no mention of a suspicious death. It would appear that this legend sprang up after people starting noticing the strange markings on the stone.

While the positive side of this legend is that it sort of aided in bringing the cemetery into the public eye, it also, sadly, brought a**holes who felt the need to get drunk inside the cemetery grounds at night and vandalize the cemetery, as well. In an effort to cut back on the amount of damage being done to the cemetery, the decision was made, some would say by survivors of the Copley family, to remove the stone that was causing all the ruckus. So the story about the original stone being removed is at least partially true.

However, rather than remove the stone in it’s entirety, only the top portion—the one that appeared to have “faces” on it—was removed. The rest of the stone, the portion bearing partial names and dates, was left behind and re-etched. There is no evidence to suggest that a new stone was ever placed over the grave or was even created. This took place in the late 1960s.

As for the nearby family house where the evil deed is said to occur, that appears to have been nothing more than a small building that was once on the property and owned by the Lutheran Ridge Church. It was semi-abandoned for many years, including after the original stone was removed. So perhaps with no “faces” to see, the “haunted family house” was added to the legend.

So there you have it: A local legend that grew based out of nothing more than some strange patterns detected in a tombstone.

Lutheran Ridge Cemetery is still in existence, but it has seen better days. Should you choose to visit, please do so during the day and observe all local laws. This cemetery, and its residents, have suffered enough.





Merry SCARY Holiday Party



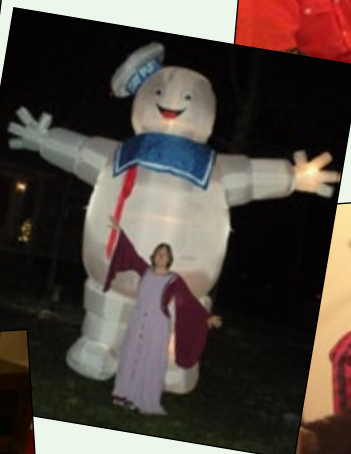
Well, another year is in the books, which means another Merry Scary Holiday Party has come and gone, too. What's that? You've never heard of the Merry Scary Holiday Party? For shame!

Born out of our fearless leader's frustration that we were all too busy in October to have a Halloween party, he came up with a brilliant idea to combine Halloween and Christmas into one giant party!

The result was the Merry Scary Holiday Party: A place where Halloween and Christmas decoration collide. Witches wearing Santa hats, animatronic werewolves

singing carols, the ghost of Jacob Marley decorating the tree, even stockings hung by the fire with severed feet in them! Think A Nightmare Before Christmas and you'll get the basic idea.

The Merry Scary Holiday Party has become an annual event that has taken place for over a decade now. And a few years ago, The Ghosts of Ohio made the decision to make the Merry Scary a costume party, taking things to a whole new level. Here are some pictures from the 2016 party to prove just that!



SPEND THE NIGHT with The Ghosts of Ohio in 2017!



For those of you not familiar with our Spend The Night program, simply put, it's an opportunity for some of our fans to get locked inside of a haunted location with us on a private, overnight ghost hunt.

All you need to be is an active subscriber to this very newsletter. As long as you are, there's a chance your email address will be randomly pulled from the list. When that happens, you and a guest are headed to a haunted location with us for the night!

We're already well on our way to several events for 2017, including this one:

This February, The Ghosts of Ohio will be spending the night inside the **Bryn Du Mansion in Granville, Ohio**. Long known as a popular place to hold a wedding or even a polo match, this historic building appears to have acquired a ghost or two over its long history. This will be the very first time The Ghosts of Ohio have investigated Bryn Du, so we are very excited for this opportunity.

Want your chance to spend the night with The Ghosts of Ohio at Bryn Du? Well, as long as you're a subscriber to this newsletter, you've got a chance. And be sure to keep your eye on this newsletter for when we announce other locations we'll be going to in 2017.

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio have begun setting dates for 2017. 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
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Columbus-OH/The-Ghosts-of-Ohio/60704381381?ref=mf>

 TWITTER
<http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio>

Administration

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