



The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

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From the Spooky Desk of James Willis: Dedication and Gratitude



James

A lot can happen to a guy when he decides to devote his life to chasing after things that go bump in the night. I'm a living, breathing testament to that. While my first "official" investigation was when, at the tender

age of 8, I dragged my father over to Jessica Graham's grave to try and debunk the ghost story that had just appeared in the local newspaper, I didn't consider myself a true researcher until I turned 18 and joined my first paranormal group. Fourteen years later, I moved to Ohio and created The Ghosts of Ohio. Then, things really got exciting!

Never in my wildest dreams could I have anticipated what would become of the field of paranormal research in the 12 years since I founded The Ghosts of Ohio. I can remember thinking I must really be onto something when I was asked to take part in what would become the very first episode of MTV's Fear (the series didn't even have a name at that point). Today, I must get at least

four to five requests a month to take part in, or more often that not, simply turn over all my research, to someone proclaiming themselves to be a producer or director of a reality television show. Most are bogus, but it goes to show just how far into the public mainstream ghosts and paranormal research has become.

On the one hand, being more well-known has been a huge help in allowing people to find The Ghosts of Ohio in order to schedule an investigation or simply get more information about exactly what is going on in their home or business. Of course, the other hand is that the general public now perceives me as being just like the "investigators" they see on television and expect me to come into their residence, challenge the spirits to some sort of sparring match, force them to mumble something semicoherent into my digital voice recorder, and maybe, just maybe, make an appearance on video disguised as a bit of dust.

Through it all, though, The Ghosts of Ohio has endured. Many times, it was

simply due to my own stubbornness that we hung around. Truth be told, there are some rather dark times when I would sit and wonder if all the time and effort was really worth it. But then I would remember all the dedicated investigators who had come to The Ghosts of Ohio organization in order to aid them with finding answers. I owed them something. What's more, I owed something to all of you, the friends and family of The Ghosts of Ohio. Over the years, I have met more of you than I can even count. You send me emails sharing your personal experiences. You stand in line just to tell me how much you enjoy my writing style. You thank me for allowing you to come along on one of our overnights...and beg to come on another. You guys are the real reason I do this. And while I will continue doing it for a long, long time. If anything, I should be the one thanking you for sticking with The Ghosts of Ohio all these years. So, thank you!

Cheers,
James A. Willis
Founder/Director

Haunted Collector: A Review



Wendy

Let me start this off by blatantly admitting I really admire John Zaffis. I've been attending his lectures at various events for about seven years now, and he is always interesting, engaged, and eager to share

information. He's a no-nonsense guy that has succeeded in working in this field for over 40 years, starting out by following his aunt and uncle, Ed and Lorraine Warren, around on their demonic investigations. He's attended exorcisms in pretty much every religion and has worked with many demonic and possession cases, including the case

shown on TV as "The Haunting in Connecticut." But what he is most known for is being the go-to person for haunted objects. Recently SyFy offered him a show that would showcase his work in that area, so I was eager to check it out.

With a plethora of TV programs out there that aren't showing me anything new and interesting, I had high hopes for this one. This episode started out with SyFy's typical and inaccurate formulaic depiction of how we investigators approach our investigations, but that is the editing monkey's fault, not John's. A voiceover



explaining that the crew didn't just hop in a car and head out of state without doing phone interviews and pre-investigative work first would be nice. SyFy needs to consider that some of the viewers are newbies and are thinking that what they are seeing is

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Inside the Strange and Spooky World of James Willis: The Interview



Sheri

In honor of The Ghosts of Ohio's 12th anniversary, we thought it would be a great time to interview our founder, James Willis.

What did The Ghosts of Ohio look like when it began 12 years ago?

When The Ghosts of Ohio started, it was actually just me. And, I called it The Ghosts of Ohio because I wanted the group to act like ghosts in that we were always there but only people that really believed could see us because we worked in the background. It was me with my couple of pieces of hand-held equipment and we only had one video camera. For the first two years we could fit all the members and all the equipment in one Honda Accord, "Ol' Blue."

So, what does The Ghosts of Ohio look like now?

It's a full-blown organization. Before, we had random meetings at my house and I baked brownies. Now, we have about 25 members throughout the whole state and about half of those are active members. We have meetings once a month and fill two hours of time with stuff; we've come a long way.



What has kept you doing this for so long?

I'm stubborn (*laughs*). I refuse to give up. I've always had an unhealthy obsession with ghosts. And, I've always wanted to have proof that they've existed—I don't have that yet. I've experienced a lot of weird things that I think could be ghostly. And, certainly stuff that I can show to homeowners. But, I've never found something that I can present to the world and say, "I don't care if you're a skeptic or a believer—this is a ghost." It's the thrill of the chase...and being incredibly stubborn.

Do you ever question yourself as to whether you believe ghosts do exist because you've never had that defining experience?

All the time. I think you have to. What's made things harder is the ghost reality television. It has pushed things to extremes now. Way back when I started The Ghosts of Ohio, when people would talk to me about their ghost encounters, they were very minor. They would tell me, "It looked like this glass slid a little bit," or "I felt something kind of brush against me." Now, you'll hear the same sort of people tell you, "I was punched," or "I was kicked." I don't believe this is really happening to the extent that it is. I believe that people are watching these shows and are getting this subconscious idea that, "if I don't have this type of activity happening, people aren't going to believe me." It's almost like they have to go to more extremes. I have gone into those same locations [as ghost reality shows] and not gotten thrown or punched or kicked, but come away with little things that made me scratch my head.

I firmly believe that the "ghosts" of reality television do not exist. I have been in some of the most "haunted" places in the world—as a kid I actually climbed on Stonehenge—you think if anything was going to happen at any of these locations, it would happen to me, just by percentages. And, it's never happened.

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Haunted Collector: A Review—Continued

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actually what happens. Needless to say, I was immediately annoyed, but maybe that's just my bugaboo.

Once I got through the first painful five minutes, I was glad to find that *Haunted Collector* is definitely giving the viewer something new to chew on. Of course, the first case involved a clown cookie jar and a baby doll. Freaky-deaky in and of itself. The crew, consisting of John, his daughter Aimee, his son Chris, investigator Beth and tech wiz Brian, ran a daytime investigation (yes, we do investigate during daylight hours). And from there they attempted to locate energy that wasn't explainable. Next, they investigated in the evening, during which time a cold spot led them to dig beneath the house and find a gun. At this point, John brought in an arms expert from the local area, and after some investigating, found that it may have been involved in a crime. An object can retain energy, and if this gun was indeed used in the commission of a robbery/murder, then it could be the key to the haunting. Here is where John will step in and, with the owner's permission, remove the object in the hopes of ending the haunting. In this case, the gun went back to Connecticut with John and found a place in his museum. (At least it

wasn't a clown or a doll that was causing this one!)

The next case takes place in the Deep River Library in Connecticut. The library is actually an old Victorian home built for the Spencer family in 1881 that was later converted to be the town library. John, his daughter Aimee, and the director walked through the property, specifically looking at old objects that could be the reason for the haunting. John shrugs off the director's information regarding an old Royal typewriter that apparently rings on its own. (You know where this is heading.) Of course, when Chris and Brian do an EMF sweep, the typewriter makes the EMF meters spike. This reminded me of the cash register at the Dennison Rail Road Museum, which also gives off high EMF readings.

The group then sets up to investigate, going "low tech" in the attic near the typewriter by hanging ropes from a pipe to detect movement. I laughed seeing this, since *The Ghosts of Ohio* have a marionette that travels to our investigations for that exact purpose. Nothing is found during the investigation, but John takes the typewriter to an antiques expert who determines the year it was made was 1914. It was very likely used by the

Spencer mother as a way to correspond with her children, so her spirit may have an attachment to it. John removes it to his museum and the activity at the library, or "liberry" as the nor'easters call it, seems to have slowed down.

Overall, I enjoyed seeing investigations handled slightly differently than other shows. We see a group that focuses on objects, uses experts, and goes low-tech, instead of having to have the latest and greatest pieces of equipment out there. No running around, screaming, and at least SyFy seems to have not used the old "fakeout" formula, i.e., go to commercial making the viewer think something has been found, only to come back and find it was dust. I like that the group reviews their EVPs immediately in small segments, rather than having to sit through hours and hours of material that has to be looked at/listened to. That's a great way to know if you are on track or not. All in all, this show did give my tired, jaded brain some new ideas on how to look at our investigations with a different eye. So not withstanding SyFy's annoying formula for this genre of show, I will definitely be adding it to my DVR schedule.

Ghostly Fiction: *The Beckoning Fair One*



Janine

I first read Oliver Onions' long short story, "The Beckoning Fair One," published in 1911, about a year ago, and from then on, I have measured every ghost story I've ever read against this marvelous tale, and I believe I always will. I'm in good company with this opinion since master horror writer H. P. Lovecraft also thought this one of the best ghost stories in all literature.

Its main character, Paul Oleron, is a not-so-successful author who finds a new place to live in a long-empty house. Unfortunately, once he moves, he finds it impossible to write at all, and is annoyed when his friend, the practical

and successful journalist Elsie Bengough, visits him with her opinions about writing.

Reading other stories by Onions, the issue of art for art's sake versus art for the sake of commercial success is a common theme for Onions. Could Elsie be partly based on Onions' wife, Berta Ruck, who became a prolific romance novelist? In any case, the excellent characterization of the large and showy Elsie is one of the pleasures of this story.

Elsie loves Paul, but he's scarcely aware of this as he begins to notice "a tiny musical tinkling" in the house. A dripping faucet, perhaps? Then, the cleaning lady recognizes that Paul is humming an old tune, "The Fair Beckoning One," which used to be sung

with harp music. It is the tune of the tinkling he is hearing in the house and an old harp cover is found. Paul falls in love with the house and a presence which seems to be in it.

Elsie becomes convinced the house is not good for him, and it begins to harm her. She has accident after accident there as she returns to try to save Paul from the house. Paul's obsession grows and the sense of a presence in the house intensifies. I can't say more than this without spoiling the ending.

This is the ultimate solid five-skull ghost tale. It appears in Onions' *Widdershins* collection, which is available for free on Kindle.

Rating: 5 skulls

Inside the Strange and Spooky World of James Willis—Continued

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Stepping away from the reality television world, and back to The Ghosts of Ohio for a minute—what are you most proud of with the group?

That we've persevered as long as we did. There have been numerous times where I personally have wanted to throw in the towel. But, what has kept me going, more than anything else, is that the people in The Ghosts of Ohio have all come together for a common goal—which is to find answers. You might believe in ghosts; you might not. So, I think I'm proudest that we've all come together with different backgrounds and different beliefs, yet we truly have become a second family.

It also makes me proud to see that we have fans, that people actually read our newsletter—we've got several thousand people that subscribe. We're all coming together and creating something out of nothing. And it's something that the paranormal community respects. It's kind of cool.

So, what makes The Ghosts of Ohio different than other Ohio ghost groups?

I think the fact that we are one of the oldest and most active groups of its kind out there. I think that since we come from all different walks of life, we come at it from a different perspective. Plus, I think we're unique in that we go in and try to figure out what's going on. We don't debunk a haunting or look to prove things. We approach things differently. We come at it from different angles. We bring in different pieces of equipment but we also try to look at the historical background of a situation. We try to look at the psychological aspect of things that are taking place there. We take what we do rather seriously.

Going back 12 years, would you still have started the group with what you have experienced today?

Yep. I would've. There's no way The Ghosts of Ohio could be what it is today without the other members. There's no way I could've accomplished some of

the things I wanted to do as a paranormal investigator alone. It's only after trials and tribulations that I've got this great core of people that I feel comfortable sharing these things with.

Now, let's talk about you, personally. Were you a weird kid?

I was a very weird kid (*laughs*). I was weird from the beginning.

How would you describe yourself as a weird kid (*laughing*)?

In kindergarten, I had a fifth-grade reading level. When we finally got to go to the elementary school library, my Mom had gotten me special permission—a note—I was the only one in the class that was allowed to get any book that I wanted. I always wanted the dusty books that were on the top shelves because they were books that nobody had looked at.

I still have a copy of my first-grade book report. Mine was on Edgar Allen Poe. In the third grade, I found a great way to make extra credit was to write my own ghost stories, turn them into urban legends, and then get a couple of my friends and we would do plays where we would act them out... my most

famous being "The Legend of Blooming Grove."

You remember all this, huh?

Yeah, and I still have copies of all those. I was always writing ghost stories. I was just twisted from the beginning. My sister, donna, was to blame. I was born right about the time when the movie "Rosemary's Baby" came out. When I was an infant, donna decided to dress me up as Rosemary's baby and dressed me in all red and drew a little devil mustache on me and put me inside this old-fashioned, pram-looking thing with a sign that said "Rosemary's Baby" and she pushed me around the neighborhood. I do have pictures of that (below).

Donna says that I used to go around telling people that when I grew up, I wanted to be the scientist who found the Loch Ness monster. I don't remember that, but it does sound like something I would say! (*laughs*)

What was the most defining paranormal experience that you had that made you say, "I need to devote my life to this"?

Wow (*pauses*). I grew up near

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A young James as "Rosalie's Baby" (referencing the film "Rosemary's Baby," as James' mother was named Rosalie).

Inside the Strange and Spooky World of James Willis—Continued

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Tarrytown, "Sleepy Hollow." Ever since I was little, I thought the legend of Sleepy Hollow and the headless horseman was real. When I found out it wasn't, I thought, "Are there true ghost stories?" My nieces and nephews would always say, "Tell me a true ghost story..." So, finding out the headless horseman wasn't real, led me down this path of needing to find out what the true ghost stories are.

My first "investigation" was when I was eight years old and I read an article—valuable prizes if anyone can find this article—in the Orange County Post, which is a tiny newspaper in upstate New York. I believe it was just called "A Halloween Ghost Story." But, it was about Jessica Graham, and she haunted the cemetery on Peddler Hill Road.

The cemetery does exist. I begged my Dad to take me there, and he did. And I ran around the cemetery trying to find Jessica Graham's ghost. And at eight years old, I was thinking too critically about the story.

Talking about the paranormal field in general, what areas have recently had breakthroughs that excite you?

I think the whole idea of a laser grid is intriguing to me because it goes back to the idea of when I had an experience in 2001 where the infrared thermometer that I was using, which had a red beam, hit what was potentially a solid object, but there was nothing there. The beam hung in mid-air. So, I was intrigued when I saw TV shows were using laser



James Willis providing a presentation to an audience in Fairfield, Ohio.

grids.

If you could invent any piece of equipment, what would it be?

I think it would be kind of cool to have some kind of "Ghostbusters" trap. If there was some sort of device to contain [ghosts] to show people...something that you could keep in one area, visible, to show people.

What would be your dream place to investigate if you could get in

anywhere in the world?

Franklin Castle (*pauses*). Outside of Ohio, I would love to do the Tower of London. I think that would be kind of cool to go there (*pauses*). This sounds a little creepy but, I think I would like to actually go and do an investigation of Jonestown [Guyana, South America], where Jim Jones and the cult drank the kool-aid. There were tens of thousands of people who were either willingly or unwillingly murdered or committed

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Top Five Jim Willis Investigation Road Trip Items

1. GPS and Gazetteer Map
2. *Monster* beverages
3. Snack bag
4. CD selection of heavy metal music
5. Fanny pack full of handheld equipment



Ol' Blue setting a course record for paranormal-class vehicles at an abandoned race track.

“The World’s Leading Magazine of the Paranormal”: The Fate of Fate Magazine



James

Believe it or not, there was a time when paranormal buffs and casual researchers didn’t have the luxury of hopping on the Internet to learn about the latest sightings taking place. And while “classic”

authors like Hans Holzer were helping keep everyone abreast of their latest endeavors, the wait between books was almost unbearable. Surprisingly, with so much having changed in the field of paranormal research, one thing remains the same: People looking for the latest goings-on in the field still turn to Fate Magazine for the scoop.

Long before the UK’s Fortean Times and decades before Jason and Grant started their TAPS Paramagazine, there was Fate. Created in 1948, the magazine promoted itself as “the world’s leading magazine of the paranormal” that included “true reports of the strange and unknown.” And boy, did it ever deliver! Taking a look at the leading authorities who have contributed articles over the years reads like a paranormal who’s who: Loyd Auerbach, John Keel, Jerome Clark, Loren Coleman. Aside from the articles themselves, Fate also included an introductory section “I See By The Papers,” which included recent paranormal news from newspapers across the globe. Readers were also encourage to submit their own paranormal experiences, which would be included toward the back of each issue.

Originally published monthly in B&W in the smaller digest size, in 1994, the decision was made to switch Fate to a full-color, full-size magazine. After celebrating its 55th anniversary, the publishers of Fate decided to revert back to the original digest form, which is its current format. The color photography remained, however.

As with any magazine, readership is key to success. And with so many people turning away from print magazines and newspapers in favor of online versions, Fate Magazine began to feel the same pinch as did other print publications. Perhaps based on that, the publishers decided in the summer of



2008 to go from monthly to bimonthly. And while that certainly helped with publishing costs, there was nothing Fate could do to counteract the fact that news, paranormal news specifically, tends to spread like wildfire across the Internet. As a result, most of the information included in Fate Magazine was “old news” by the time the print magazine hit newsstands. Perhaps in an effort to combat that, Fate now offers online print-free subscriptions as well as web-unique content on their site.

But if there is one aspect of Fate Magazine that, in this author’s opinion, is a victim of the times, it’s with regard to the content itself. Having been a subscriber for decades (and a reader for many years before that), I could remember that thrill of finding the latest edition of Fate in my mailbox and how I would devour it from cover to cover that very night. It seemed that every article was written by a well-known, respected member of the paranormal community who was digging deep into a topic. Who are the Men In Black? Was the Amityville Horror story all a hoax? Does the Bermuda Triangle really exist? Today, Fate seems filled with articles that I can really only describe as “fluff,” most of which are written by people I

have never even heard of. And trust me, I’ve heard of pretty much everyone who is anyone in this field. Yet the names of most of these people escape me, which makes the fact that Fate has increased the length and number of the reader submissions kind of give the impression that the magazine is just one, big reader experience.

So what does the future hold for Fate Magazine? It’s hard to say, really. Fate’s hung in there longer than any other paranormal magazine. In fact, it’s not even close. You don’t survive over 60 years in the magazine industry without having a huge fan base. Still, with interest in the paranormal at an all-time high right now, one can’t help but wonder what will become of Fate once people begin to lose interest in all this paranormal stuff. But here’s one long-time reader that hopes Fate finds a way to hang in there another 60 years. After all this time, the magazine’s sort of become an old friend. A friend who, no matter how long it’s been since their last visit or that they might tell the same old stories when they do show up, it’s still pretty cool to come home from work and find them waiting for you at your front door.

Sam's Spooky Selections!



If you read the last Ghosts of Ohio newsletter, then you already know about my affinity for supernatural fiction, especially when it's geared toward teens. Lucky for me, being a librarian not only puts me in touch with the latest titles, but occasionally I get the privilege of reading books that haven't even been published yet! The following are titles that are coming out this month, and I hope you'll enjoy them as much as I did!



Hereafter by Tara Hudson

Amelia is dead and she knows it, but that fact doesn't stop her from repeatedly waking up floating in the river where she died. Was it an accident, suicide, or murder? She has no idea. All she knows is that she wants this nightmare to stop, and maybe Joshua—a young man she miraculously saved from drowning—is someone who can help. Unfortunately, there are dark forces in the river that want her for their own, and they'll stop at nothing to claim her.

Rating: 🦴🦴🦴



Haunting Violet by Alyxandra Harvey

Set in Victorian England, this story centers around 16-year-old Violet, who has spent the majority of her life helping her mother take advantage of the grief-stricken and the wealthy through contrived séances and so-called psychic readings. It's a shameful way to live, but Violet's mother thrives on the attention her "powers" give her. Ironically, neither of them knows that it is Violet who possesses true psychic abilities, and she will need to use those abilities to solve a year-old murder.

Rating: 🦴🦴🦴🦴🦴

Got Ghosts? Request For More Information

From time to time, The Ghosts of Ohio learns about a haunted location that, try as we might, we just can't seem to dig up any additional information on. That's when we turn to one of the largest groups of Ohio ghost experts out there—our newsletter readers! That's right, we're asking you to let us know if you have any information (or better yet, have had a personal experience) at any of the following locations. If you have, shoot us an email at info@ghostsofohio.org. And who knows? You just might get the chance to investigate the location along with The Ghosts of Ohio!

- Devil's Backbone**
(Camden/Preble county)
- Fudge Road**
(Gratis/Preble county)
- Airplane Hollow**
(Nelsonville/Athens county)
- Hellmouth**
(Kenyon College/Knox county)

Interact with The Ghosts

Need a spooky friend? If you have a MySpace account, swing by and add The Ghosts of Ohio to your friends list: www.myspace.com/ghostsofohio.

And for those of you who use Facebook and/or Twitter, you can find The Ghosts of Ohio on those sites, too:

Facebook

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

Twitter

<http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio>



Art of the Damned: The Haunted eBay Painting



James

Need a good laugh? Then hop onto eBay and do a search for “haunted items.” My recent search turned up everything from jewelry and photographs to creepy dolls and even household appliances—all being

offered up by sellers who proclaim the item to be haunted. Most are comical, with my favorite being a stick (which looked more like a small limb from a tree) that the seller not only claims “stood up” all by itself, but also could be heard to wail, and I quote, “ooooooooohhhhhhhhhhh!!!!!!” in the middle of the night. There are, of course, a select few items that look like they should be haunted (mainly the aforementioned creepy dolls). But just where did all this selling of haunted items on eBay originate? Well, in a world where people have tried to sell everything from body parts to their own soul on eBay, it was inevitable that eventually haunted stuff would show up. But most people are unaware that one of the very first “haunted” items to go up for auction on eBay came with a very strange and enigmatic backstory.

In February of 2000, a couple from California decided to sell the 24” x 36” painting they claimed they had received from someone who found it seemingly abandoned outside an old brewery. Referring to it as a “haunted painting,” the couple’s listing went into great details about how objects inside the painting would move or appear to come to life, even providing what claimed to be photographs taken by a camera triggered by a motion sensor in the middle of the night...by something moving inside the painting.

Haunted or not, the painting was certainly creepy enough. In the center of the painting stood a normal-looking young boy who appeared to be standing on the front step of a house. But that was the only normal thing about the painting. Directly behind the boy was a glass paned front door, behind which a multitude of ghostly hands could be seen. Most disturbing of all was what

appeared to be a half-girl, half-doll figure standing to the boy’s right. The girl’s face was expressionless and instead of eyes, she had empty sockets. In her hands, she clutched a cylinder with wires hanging out of the top of it.

The couple was apparently so concerned about what would happen to anyone who purchased the painting that their listing came with the following disclaimer:



Warning: Do not bid on this painting if you are susceptible to stress-related disease, faint of heart or are unfamiliar with supernatural events.

By bidding on this painting, you agree to release the owners of all liability in relation to the sale or any events happening after the sale that might be contributed to this painting.

This painting may or may not possess supernatural powers that could impact or change your life.

While mostly ignored at the beginning of the auction, as more and more people passed the link around to friends via email, the bidding picked up with only a few days left. As the number of page views climbed upwards towards 30,000, a bidding war broke out. When

the auction finally ended, the winner was Perception Gallery, a Grand Rapids, Michigan, art gallery, who paid a mind-boggling \$1,025 for the rights to call the haunted painting their own. But just where did this haunted painting come from?

Not long after the auction ended, the artist came forward. His name was William “Bill” Stoneham, a California artist who admitted to having created the painting in 1972. Entitled “Hands Resist Him,” Stoneham stated that he had no knowledge of the painting being haunted. Oddly enough, the young boy in the painting was Stoneham himself at the age of five, standing in front of a Chicago apartment. The odd-looking girl beside him represented an “imagined companion.” As for the ghostly hands, they were made to represent “other lives” or memories that are tied to a specific location.

Stoneham further went on to explain that he had originally sold the painting at an art show to actor John Marley (Love Story, The Godfather, Hooper), who passed away in 1984. He had no idea what happened to the painting after Marley purchased it or how it ended up abandoned behind a brewery.

As for the painting’s whereabouts today, it is still owned by the Perception Gallery, despite stories circulating on the Internet of owners and even art critics dying after viewing the painting.

For more information on artist Bill Stoneham, visit his website at www.stonehamstudios.com.

THE GHOSTS ARE ON THE GO!

It’s only June, but this Halloween season is already shaping up to be one of the busiest in The Ghosts of Ohio’s history! This year, while we are still scheduling several appearances at local libraries, we’re also going to be partnering with local ghost tours to give more of you the opportunity to come out and see us...and hear about some local haunts in the process!

Details are coming soon, so keep an eye on your newsletter for details. You can also friend us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter to get breaking news as it happens!

The Ghosts of Ohio Annual Jamboree

To celebrate the 12th anniversary of The Ghosts of Ohio, on June 10, 2011, members of The Ghosts of Ohio and their family gathered at the Goldfinch Shelter in the Germantown Metroparks for an afternoon of grilling, kickball, and sack races!



The Ghosts of Ohio members enjoy quality time with their banner.



Grills were expertly manned while pans and trays were inspected for suitability.



The annual sack race was thrilling for youths and agonizing for adults, as per tradition.



Stroller durability testing conducted at the Metropark proving grounds, a new tradition.

James Willis: The Interview

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suicide. As depressing as that sounds, it fits the whole criteria of residual and intelligent hauntings. If you were ever going to get evidence of a tortured spirit left behind, it would be there.

Final question. What's up next in the James A. Willis author world?

I just completed "Haunted Indiana." I am currently working on my labor of love, which is tentatively titled, "The Ghosts of Ohio: Investigating the Buckeye State's Historic Haunts" for 2013.

The James Willis Weird List

- Weirdest Memorabilia You Own:** Fiji Mermaid
- Weirdest Place You've Been:** "Blue Flash" homemade roller coaster in Indiana
- Weirdest Person You've Met:** Little Damien
- Weirdest Movie You've Seen:** "Hillbillies in a Haunted House"
- Weirdest Book You've Read:** "House of Leaves"
- Weirdest Investigation Experience You've Had:** Finding a half-eaten sandwich in a closet, kids sleeping under piles of clothes, and a bathroom with no light
- Weirdest Paranormal Festival You've Attended:** Mothman Annual Festival, Point Pleasant, WV
- Weirdest TV Show You've Seen:** "Tales from the Darkside"
- Weirdest Unexplained Paranormal Phenomenon That Occurred:** Laser beam hanging in mid-air, or being enveloped by a cold section of air

Spend The Night with The Ghosts of Ohio in 2011

The Ghosts of Ohio is continuing to look into renting out some of the most haunted buildings in Ohio (and beyond) for an entire night. Unlike traditional "ghost hunts," where you are often forced to share the location with total strangers, every building we rent out will be totally ours.

How do you get in on all this spooky fun? It's simple, really. All you need to do is sign up for The Ghosts of Ohio newsletter—which is free...and which most of you have already done!!

For each investigation, we'll be picking several names from our list of newsletter subscribers and giving them the first shot at spending the night with

us. All they need to do is pay the same registration fee that the members of The Ghosts of Ohio have to pay in order to rent out the building (dollar amount subject to change based on individual venue).

In addition, we'll be drawing at least one lucky Grand Prize winner who will get to come along for FREE!

That's all there is to it! Of course, we might want to take a few pictures of you on the investigation and post them on our site so you'll be the envy of all your friends. But hey, that's a small price to pay for the chance to spend the night with The Ghosts!

Who Gets to Spend The Night Inside Waverly Sanatorium?

On Tuesday, August 23, 2011, The Ghosts of Ohio will be spending the night locked inside Waverly Sanatorium in Louisville, KY. A few lucky newsletter readers will be joining us, too. Specifically, **Penny Brown**, **Tiffany Mingus**, **Marcel Ceden**, and **Will Egan** will have the unique opportunity to ghost hunt alongside members of The Ghosts of Ohio. Congrats to them, as well as to **Elizabeth Miller**, who is our Grand Prize winner and gets to spend the night with us for FREE!

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 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!



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Coming Up—Next Issue: August 2011

- A review of our overnight at Waverly Sanatorium
- Hot or Not: Handheld Ghost Hunting Equipment
- Review of Zak Bagans new show, Paranormal Challenge

Investigations and Consultations: Continued Scheduling for 2011

The Ghosts of Ohio is continuing to schedule investigations for 2011. 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 now 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>.