



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

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...and miles to go before I sleep



James

Just the other day, a friend of mine asked if I thought there'd come a point in time when I would walk away from the paranormal—just stop investigating. I thought about it a while, and then said, "I guess if I ever found all the answers I was looking for, I would." His next question was if I've found any answers. I just laughed and shook my head.

Truth is, while I have been involved with paranormal research groups since 1985—that's 40 years—I have more questions than answers. And I'm ok with that. I don't want to ever have all the answers. What a boring world I would live in if there was nothing new to see, hear, learn, or discover. I know the field of paranormal research has become riddled with Instant Results shows and videos: "see that? No idea what it was, so it's a ghost. Moving on.", but we all know that's not reality. But it does fall into the "entertainment" category, who's motto seems to have become "wrap it up quick and don't leave any loose ends."

I, on the other hand, have always enjoyed a good mystery. And I love movies and song lyrics that make you think. Perhaps that's what has fueled my seemingly unending desire to search for all things strange and spooky. Of course, something that comes with the territory is learning to admit when you're wrong. Notice I

said "wrong" as opposed to "lying" or "hoaxing." That's a different topic for a different newsletter. But if you honestly misidentified something or your equipment just malfunctioned (or didn't do what the creator claimed it would do), you admit it and move on.

Doing that also opens up a whole new avenue to search for answers: Learning from your mistakes. When you realize the "flashlight trick" really is just a trick and there's not really a ghost tapping the light on and off on command, don't just give up. Think: can I try a different type of flashlight? Another object the ghost might be able to exert pressure or energy upon to cause a measurable reaction. This is how we learn to adapt. This is how real answers are found. Granted, paranormal reality shows have set us back many, many years. That just means there's so much more to discover.

So me leave the paranormal? I just got here. And I've still got so much to learn and so many places to visit.

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director



PREPARE TO ENTER THE GATEWAY

Ever heard of The Gateway Experience?

Supposedly, it was some sort of top-secret project the Army was conducting “years ago.” Initially, it was just a series of experiments to try and see if subjects could be hypnotized and made to become remote viewers. They say the experiments worked, all too well. In fact, not only were the subjects able to remote view, but they also reported acquiring the ability to have out-of-body experiences and to visit other realms. That’s when our government panicked and shut the whole project down...or did they?

Even if you’ve heard of The Gateway Experience, you have to admit that’s a pretty sketchy-sounding description. Almost like someone took a couple of cliché urban legends and conspiracies and mixed them all together. Well, what if I told you that within all those outlandish claims there are tiny kernels of truth? A bunch of them, actually. How about that old tapes and manuals said to contain the instructions and exercises for The Gateway Experience have been recently discovered and made their way of the headquarters of The Ghosts Of Ohio? Got your attention with that last bit, didn’t I?

Well, while I can’t give away too much yet, I can confirm that we have found someone to voluntarily participate in The Gateway Experience. What if anything happens to him will all be documented in future issues of this very newsletter!

More on that in a bit, but we should probably take a step back and separate fact from urban legend, Don’t worry, it won’t suck all the intrigue out of the story!

The story begins with Robert Allan Monroe, born October 30th, 1915). In 1953, Monroe created RAM Enterprises, a production company for



Robert Monroe
From The Monroe Institute Italia

network radio programs. RAM Enterprises was so successful that just 3 years later, an R&D department was created by Monroe specifically to study something Monroe himself had become fascinated with: the idea that one could learn while sleeping.

Monroe was convinced that audio was the key. And wouldn’t you know it, he just happened to have access to all sorts of audio equipment. Monroe felt that the right combination of tones and frequencies could open one’s mind to essentially learn subconsciously. Monroe also wondered if using sound to try and sync the two sides of the brain—a process he would come to call Hemi-Sync—could unlock immeasurable abilities.

(continued on page 3.)

PREPARE TO ENTER THE GATEWAY CONTINUED


Never one to sit idle, Monroe would conduct the experiments on himself and almost immediately claimed to see results. But there were some things that, at least initially, Monroe thought were side effects. Namely, that he started seeing bright lights that would shine on hi, while conducting the experiments. In some cases, Monroe also reported episodes of sleep paralysis. This culminated with Monroe experiencing the sensation of leaving his body.

All of this would be chronicled in 1971 when Monroe released his book, *Journeys Out Of The Mind*. The book was a huge success and brought a new phrase to the world: the out-of-body experience. Of course, once word got out that there might be a way to expand one's mind, it was only a matter of time before the US government wanted to see if they could exploit it.

In 2003, the US government declassified a series of documents, one of which pertained to several CIA agents engaging in The Gateway Process at Monroe's R&D facility, which he had re-named the Monroe Institute. The declassified documents also described how the goal of the CIA was to see if it were possible to train one's mind to have an out-of-body experience and, if so, how far could one travel...and how to return?

The CIA report concluded that while several strange experiences occurred during The Gateway Process, most studies would need to be conducted in order to validate that out-of-body experiences were indeed possible.

That's where the story ended, save for the fact that the CIA denies any other experiments were conducted. Oh, and the Monroe Institute now offers an 8-week course called The Gateway Experience, which is said to be the same procedures used by the CIA for the Gateway Process.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY OPERATIONAL GROUP
US ARMY INTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY COMMAND
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755

9 June 1983

SUBJECT: Analysis and Assessment of Gateway Process

TO: Commander
US Army Operational Group
Fort Meade, MD 20755

1. You tasked me to provide an assessment of the Gateway Experience in terms of its mechanics and ultimate practicality. As I set out to fulfill that tasking it soon became clear that in order to assess the validity and practicality of the process I needed to do enough supporting research and analysis to fully understand how and why the process works. Frankly, sir, that proved to be an extremely involved and difficult business. Initially, based on conversations with a physician who took the Gateway training with me, I had recourse to the biomedical models developed by Itzhak Bentov to obtain information concerning the physical aspects of the process. Then I found it necessary to delve into various sources for information concerning quantum mechanics in order to be able to describe the nature and functioning of human consciousness. I had to be able to construct a scientifically valid and reasonably lucid model of how consciousness functions under the influence of the brain hemisphere synchronization technique employed by Gateway. Once this was done, the next step involved recourse to theoretical physics in order to explain the character of the time-space dimension and the means by which expanded human consciousness transcends it in achieving Gateway's objectives. Finally, I again found it necessary to use physics to bring the whole phenomenon of out-of-body states into the language of physical science to remove the stigma of its occult connotations, and put it in a frame of reference suited to objective assessment.
2. I began the narrative by briefly profiling the fundamental biomedical factors affecting such related techniques as hypnosis, biofeedback and transcendental meditation so that their objectives and mode of functioning could be compared in the reader's mind with the Gateway experience as the model of its underlying mechanics was developed. Additionally, that introductory material is useful in supporting the conclusions of the paper. I indicate that at times these related techniques may provide useful entry points to accelerate movement into the Gateway Experience.
3. Niels Bohr, the renowned physicist once responded to his son's complaints about the obtuse nature of certain concepts in physics by saying: "You are not thinking, you are merely being logical." The physics of altered human consciousness deals with some conceptualizations that are not easily grasped or visualized exclusively in the context of ordinary "left brain" linear thinking. So, to borrow Dr. Bohr's mode of expression, parts of this paper will require not only logic but a touch of

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Declassified CIA Cover Letter on Gateway Experience

So back to where The Ghosts Of Ohio fits into all this. Well, as noted earlier, we have acquired copies of what are said to be copies of the original Gateway Process. Long-time member of The Ghosts Of Ohio, has also volunteered to read the instruction manual, listen to the guided audio tapes, and report it all back to us. Stay tuned!

HAUNTED AMERICA CONFERENCE

Earlier this year, when Troy Taylor asked me to be a speaker at his Haunted America Conference, of course I readily agreed. After all, not only have I known Troy since the late 1990s, but this would be the 27th year Troy's held the conference.

I guess it was about a week later when I started panicking. It was when I realized that I hadn't spoken at one of Troy's events in over 15 years, and never at Haunted America. Oh yeah, and it was being held in Alton, Illinois. Had it been too long? Was I still relevant? Did people in Illinois really want to hear about strange and spooky things in Ohio?

I shouldn't have worried because all was put to rest almost the moment I walked in to set up my table. All of the vendors and my fellow speakers were amazing, as way Troy and his seemingly endless army of staff. And when it came to my presentation, the audience was engaged, supportive, and one of the best I had ever had the pleasure of speaking in front of. I certainly don't remember the applause at the end of one of my talks being so loud or going on for so long. BTW, to echo what I posted across social media: a video from the end of my presentation shows someone towards the back of the theater, stage left, trying to start a "standing ovation" for me. If you're that person, get in touch with me because I owe you a beer.

Thank you, Haunted America. I WILL be back!



FROM THE ARCHIVES



We debuted this section of our newsletter last issue and the response was overwhelming. So much so that we've decided to make this a regular addition to all upcoming newsletters. **If you missed the last issue, here's the deal with From The Archives:** We will post a photograph, without context, and let everyone try to figure out just what's going on in it. Then you can scroll down a bit, and we'll let you know the history behind the photo.

Here's this issue's photo. Only thing we'll tell you for now is that there are members of The Ghosts Of Ohio in the photograph and it was taken in the summer of 2011. Have a think and then scroll past the photo to discover what's really going on in the photo.



So back in the day, The Ghosts Of Ohio would gather with family and friends for the official GOO Summer Jamboree. Each year, we would try to find a state park or campground where we could all hang out, enjoy some grillables, and, most of all, be within walking distance of some haunted locations. After lunch or dinner (or both), we'd all pack up and head out in search of spooky things.

In the summer of 2011, we settled on Blue Limestone Park in Delaware, Ohio. Aside from being in close proximity to alleged haunted locations such as the Delaware Arts Castle and Ohio Wesleyan University, the park itself backs up to the Blue Limestone Quarry. According to legend, following a trail through the back of the quarry will lead you to a series of tunnels said to be home to a group of satanists and the ghosts of those who were sacrificed in the tunnels. There's also supposed to be a pond near some railroad tracks, said to be haunted by numerous people who drowned there while swimming...or after being involved in a train crash that ended with the passenger cars rolling into the pond.

The picture shows members of The Ghosts Of Ohio and some friends inside a small tunnel at the back of Blue Limestone Quarry. Some have referred to this as a "train tunnel", which while true, is a bit misleading. The train tracks are actually above the tunnel, which appears to have been built to allow trains to cross over the creek (visible on the right side of the photo). The creek feeds directly into Delaware Run.

FROM THE ARCHIVES CONTINUED

It was a fun excursion, but it was ghost- and satanist-free. And while the stories certainly feel like urban legends, we were able to confirm that there was indeed a fatal train wreck in the area back around noon on Saturday, June 25, 1904. A Cleveland-to-Columbus express train was running almost 2 hours behind when it came speeding through Delaware. Unable to navigate a sharp turn, the engine and a baggage car left the tracks and crashed in a ditch. Three people were killed with 10 others sustaining injuries. However, it should be noted that this particular accident did not take place at the railroad tracks in Blue Limestone. Rather, it was in the opposite direction and closer to downtown—near the Big Four Depot.



1904 Big Four Depot train wreck

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!



WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

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!



RIP WEIRD OHIO



It has been confirmed: *Weird Ohio* is officially out of print. Hey, it had a 20-year printing run—not too shabby.

There are currently no plans to print more, and our inventory is down to single digits. From time to time, the warehouse finds a few stray copies that had been tucked away somewhere, forgotten. They get sent our way if/when that happens. But if you don't have a copy of *Weird Ohio* yet, you might have waited 20 years too long to get one.

All hope is not lost, though: You could make plans to come out and see us at one of our presentations (did we mention most of them are free?) and there just might be a long-lost copy of *Weird Ohio* sitting on our merch table!



OUR 2024 CALENDAR CONTINUES TO GROW



Summer: The season when The Ghosts Of Ohio calendar starts spilling into the next year! Couple of new dates for 2024 have been added, too!

As always, the following are only the confirmed dates—much more are in the works. Also, while the following dates, times, and topics were current when this newsletter went to press, it is all subject to change, so please check with the individual location to be on the safe side. Additionally, we post any changes to all our social media accounts, so give us a Follow/Like to stay in the loop.

As always, unless an event is marked with a “\$”, it is free and open to the public. But in all cases, seating may be limited, so it’s always a good idea to check with the venue regarding the need to pre-register.

Monday, July 1st @ 6:00 pm

UFOs Over Ohio

Brown County Public Library—Sardinia Branch
13309 Purdy Road
Sardinia, OH 45171

Wednesday, July 10th @ 6:00 pm

Meet The Ghosts Of Ohio

Columbus Metropolitan Library—Gahanna Branch
310 Granville Street
Gahanna, OH 43230

Saturday, July 20th @ 11:00 am

Weird Ohio

Brown County Public Library—Mary P. Shelton Building
200 W. Grant Avenue
Georgetown, OH 45121

Monday, July 22nd @ 6:30 pm

Amityville: Horror Or Hoax?

Mentor Public Library
8215 Mentor Avenue
Mentor, OH 44060

Saturday, September 21st-Sunday, September 22nd

2024 Mothman Festival

Pt. Pleasant, West Virginia

Monday, October 7th @ 6:00 pm

Investigating the Paranormal in the Buckeye State

Barberton Public Library
602 W. Park Avenue
Barberton, OH 44203

Thursday, October 10th @ 6:00 pm

Creatures At The Ohio Border

Tuscarawas County Public Library—Main Library
121 Fair Avenue
New Philadelphia, OH 44663

Saturday, October 12th @ 2:00 pm

The Strange & Spooky World of James A. Willis

Columbus Metro Library—Franklinton Branch
1061 W. Town Street
Columbus, OH 43222

Monday, October 14th @ 7:00 pm

Monsters In Ohio

Cuyahoga Co. Public Library—North Royalton
5071 Wallings Road
North Royalton, OH 44133

Thursday, October 17th @ 6:30 pm

My Strangest & Spookiest Investigations

Dayton Metro Library—New Lebanon Branch
715 W. Main Street
New Lebanon, OH 45345

Saturday, October 19th @ 11:00 am

Ghosts & Legends of Defiance County

Defiance Public Library
320 Fort Street
Defiance, OH 43512

Friday, December 6th-Sunday, December 8th

GalaxyCon Columbus (\$)

Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215

[Tickets on sale](#)

2025

Saturday, March 1st -Sunday, March 2nd

Frogman Festival III (\$)

Oasis Conference Center
Greater Columbus Convention Center
902 Loveland-Miamiville Road
Loveland, OH 45140

[Tickets soon](#)

Thursday, June 19th-Sunday, June 22nd

Haunted America Conference (\$)

Lewis & Clark College
Alton, IL

[Tickets soon](#)

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2024. 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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Newsletter Staff:

Editor-In-Chief: James Willis

Designer: Stephanie Willis

Contributing Authors:

James Willis