



# The ghosts of Ohio<sup>®</sup> Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 18 Issue 1



## NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED THE PARANORMAL

While I'm writing this prior to the 31st, know that I will be spending part of the day hoping each and every one of you are somehow able to put the real world on hold for a few hours and bask in the glow of a rare Halloween full moon. Strange days, indeed.

It's sort of weird that there was a full moon on Halloween night—and on a Saturday, right before we roll back the clocks for Daylight Savings Time—and say that's the most normal thing that's happened recently. But it is. Truth is, we're quickly approaching the 8-month anniversary of the Big Lockdown, where talks of the "new normal" began. And still, there's no sign of what that new normal will look like.

Let's be honest: Nothing looks or feels normal right now. Nothing. Even the simple things that once brought us happiness—hobbies, movies, books—don't seem to provide that escapism we treasured...and so desperately need right now.

Even The Ghosts Of Ohio organization has been impacted. Overnight ghost hunts and most private investigations have been put on hold. And our monthly meetings are now virtual. And while our meetings still last several hours, the vast majority of the time is spent checking in with each other, making sure we're all doing ok, or as well as can be expected.

It was during one of those meetings where team members Wendy and Sam put forth a brilliant idea for an article for the upcoming newsletter: Ghostly road trips. Essentially, come up with several "haunted" locations that can all be visited during the course of a day. The locations should all be ones that were open to the public and, more importantly, should include at least one local eatery so as to also be an opportunity to help out during these trying times.

We all loved the idea, so much so that this issue includes several ghostly road trips with more being planned for future newsletters. We'd like to encourage all of our readers to take these road trips, for themselves and experience them the way we all did back when there was no "new normal," just "normal." So grab a loved one or two, gas up the car, fill it with snacks and drinks, and hit the road. Trust me, all the bad stuff going on in the world will be waiting for you when you get back. But just take a few hours to get out and enjoy the open road and the paranormal.

And we would love to hear about your adventures, too! Did you have any paranormal encounters? Find any other cool places along the way? Or better yet, did you create your own ghostly day trip? Feel free to drop us a line and tell us how it went (we like pictures, too). Oh yeah, and if you meet any new friends while you're out and about, be sure to tell them The Ghosts Of Ohio sent you!

Cheers,

James A. Willis

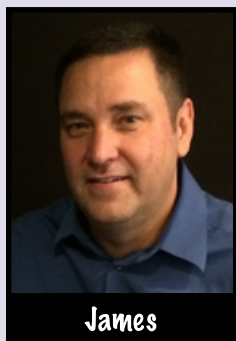
Founder/Director

# HAPPY HALLOWEEN





# SONG EXPERIMENT RESULTS



James

Just to bring everyone up to speed, for the past several months, we've been conducting a very unscientific experiment. In essence, every day at noon EST, I was listening to and concentrating on one specific song. Everyone was asked to relax themselves at noon and see if they could tap into the song that I was listening to. If a song title or artist came to mind, perfect. But even if only an image or a word popped

into your head, I wanted to know about it. I asked that regardless of what someone felt they were receiving. They emailed it to me so we could see if any of it "fit."

So without further ado, I can reveal the song title and artist:

## *The Boys Of Summer* by Don Henley



In all, we received 153 emails from people who felt like they were receiving something. None were able to identify the song title or the artist. The closest were three people who mentioned the word "summer" in their responses.

I also took a look at the words people submitted and compared them to the official lyrics to see if there could be any connection. Two people mentioned "sun" or "sunshine," which could be from the line "your brown skin shining in the sun," which is repeated several times in the song. But that's a bit of a stretch.

Taken at face value, one could say that the experiment was a failure. But I don't look at it that way. The way I see it, we just need to take a look at how we go about conducting the experiment, everything from the time of day it took place to the simple fact that people are currently having a hard time focusing on anything with all the craziness going on in the world.

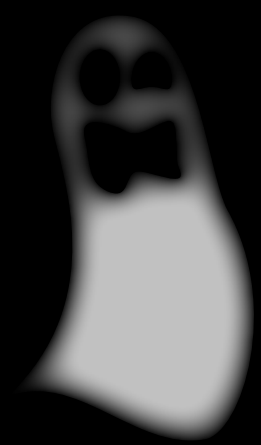
So I'm going to take a step back from this experiment and see what improvements we can make when we crank it back up again in 2021. And that's where you can help. If you are interested in participating in the next experiment, drop me a line and let me know your thoughts about it, including things we could change in order to get better results. Is 12 noon the ideal time? Should we extend the experiment time beyond the length of the song? Is there something better to focus on than a song?

In closing, while this experiment didn't give us the results we had hoped for, we are still treating it like a real experiment. Which means making tweaks and going back to the ol' ghostly drawing board!

## THE GHOSTS OF OHIO NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE

We're still in the process of revamping our entire website. One of the sections of our site that we're going to make available is a searchable archive of all of The Ghosts Of Ohio Newsletters. And while it is nowhere near complete, with so many people currently searching for something to read, we wanted to let everyone have a little peek behind the curtain, so to speak. So follow the link below where you will find over 13 years of our newsletters—close to 80 issues—all available to read and download for free.

[CLICK HERE](#)



# A REAL SIXTH SENSE



Frank

I have personally known Janet, (not her real name) for a number of years. We once worked for the same company and got to know

each other fairly well. I have always found her to be professional, knowledgeable, honest and sincere. Over a period of time she learned about my interest in the paranormal. It was to my surprise that she shared with me her own paranormal encounters.

What I am about to relate to you is true. I have no doubt at all about these events taking place over a period of years. In fact, they continue to occur today. I asked Janet if I could interview her for this article and share her experiences, and was fortunate that she obliged. We could not cover all her experiences, just a few. There are just too many.

If you have had similar experiences or know of someone who has, please share them with The Ghosts Of Ohio. We would be interested in hearing about them and may even conduct an interview for an upcoming newsletter.

**Janet, please tell me about your sixth sense. What happens exactly?**

I see dead people and sometimes animals. In my early childhood, I saw people appear who had

already passed on. They were not transparent; they looked like a normal person. When they recognized that I saw them, they would vanish, fade or walk into a wall. The visions stopped for a number of years and started again when I was around 40.

**How do these events happen? Do you say something to trigger an appearance or do something unusual?**

I have never said anything to encourage these visions. I had no trauma that caused it or illness. In fact they seriously scared me many times. They usually happen when I am close to going to bed, am tired or drowsy, but I am totally aware of what's happening. I now sleep with lights and TV turned on. I have had too many startling episodes to deal with in my life.

**Tell me about some of your experiences when you see a ghost.**

Many times I wake to find a person or number of people looking down on me when I'm asleep. I wake up and there they are, one, a few or more. They look just like real people, sometimes dressed in older period clothes. When they recognize I can see them or when I scream they disappear.

The entities sometimes say my name very plainly or I am poked frequently, but there is no conversation. Sometimes I don't see anyone and I get poked. It's crazy.

I once saw a man walk out of my bathroom in the middle of the night. I thought my house was

being burglarized, but no, it was a ghost. Another time I was traveling for work in Pennsylvania. I stayed in a hotel and left the TV and lights on, and later that night a woman in older period clothes was kneeling by my bed praying. She appeared every time I stayed there.

**Have you ever shared this with your family? How did they respond?**

One night I was asleep and got up to go to the bathroom. I looked up and saw someone standing over my husband. I screamed bloody murder. My husband immediately woke up, and I explained what I saw. The person disappeared. This went on for a number of nights—the entity would stand over my husband or be at the foot of the bed looking at us. This was at a house where we lived in Indiana. My husband was aware of this, but later I shared it with my children.

I thought I was losing it. I eventually went to a neurologist who thought I had a degenerative brain disease. He put me on very strong medications that made me feel like a zombie. I was later referred to the Mayo clinic for evaluation. I met with a number of doctors there and completed tests. The psychiatrist told me I was normal and did not need these medications, "but some things happen that we just can't explain."

I can't seem to control it. It just happens and is part of my life. It's not a gift to me; it's a burden.

# A REAL SIXTH SENSE CONTINUED

One other time, and there are hundreds of them, I was walking down the street with friends. We were followed by a gentleman going into a restaurant. I held the door for him and he was gone. He disappeared before me. Now remember, my friends could not see him at all. They never knew someone was there.

**You have moved a number of time over the years. Do these entities go with you?**

I can't say they follow me, but I have had experiences everywhere I have lived.

We once rented a 113-year-old remodeled farm house southwest of Columbus, Ohio. I would wake up to go to the bathroom at night, and 4-5 women were in my bedroom almost every night. It got to the point I would just not open my eyes and would feel my way to the bathroom.

Another time in the same house, I was sitting in bed and noticed someone in pajamas walking out of a wall (he had a glow around him), go across the room and walk into another wall. I later learned he was a former owner who had died in the house. He was the only person I ever saw who had a glow around him.

This house was very haunted. My husband frequently traveled out of town and I would not stay inside the house at night by myself. No way.

We bought a house near Circleville, Ohio, but they never told us when we

bought it that a suicide had happened in the house. One day I noticed a young man around 17 years old standing in the corner. He looked up at me, and I think he said to himself, "She sees me," and he then backed into the wall. I know he was the young man who had taken his own life. Interestingly, my grandchildren sometimes would come over and play, and they seemed to have a "friend" who would play with them at times. I think it was him.

**Tell me more about he places you have lived. Do you see the same people? Do you ever personally know any of them? Do they interact with you?**

I have different experiences at different places. The people change all the time. I do not talk to them, they don't talk to me, with one exception.

One night I saw a little boy about 5 years old in my room standing by my dresser. He came back 4-5 times that week. I finally told him to go toward the light. I did not know what else to say. I never saw him again.

**A few years ago we went to Mansfield Reformatory and explored the facility. Did you see anything there that you had not already shared with me?**

No, as you recall we smelled perfume and cigar smoke in the warden's residence that may have come from his wife who was accidentally shot there. But I never saw any spirits anywhere. In fact, when I got there I asked for a cone of protection around me to avoid interaction. I did not tell you that at the time. If I went back I would do

things differently. I would be open to visions. I think there is something going on after we pass from this life.

**Do you ever recognize any of these entities? Are they people you knew?**

No, I did not know anyone personally. But I do have an experience with my cat that passed away some time ago. My cat came back about a year after she had passed. I can't see her, but at night I can feel her get on the bed and walk across and lay down. I can't see or hear her, but I know it's her.

**What is the most unusual experience you've had?**

Well, I'll tell you something that happened about 3 years ago. I was in bed, and my husband was asleep in a chair across from me. He sleeps in a chair due to a back problem. Anyway, I wake up and a man is lying beside me in bed. Looked like a real person. It scared the crap out of me. He was dressed and was just looking at us. I screamed, and then he was gone. That was a moment of terror for me.

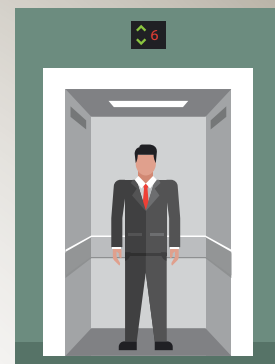
**Does anyone else in your family have this gift?**

Not that I'm aware of. None of my kids, my mother or grandmother. My great grandmother was a Cherokee Indian, and I really don't know much about her abilities. My grandmother was from southern Kentucky, and she would always share stories with me of situations that you could not explain. There is much superstition back in those hills.

**Thank you for sharing some of your experiences with me, Janet.**

# SECRET SYNCHRONICITY

*The following is a work of fiction. All characters and incidents are products of the author's imagination and any resemblance to actual people or events is coincidental or fictionalized.*



## CHAPTER SEVEN: “INTO THE LION’S DEN, PART 1”



Mark

Descending alone in the glass-lined cylindrical elevator to the underground TANIS complex, Mark watched the layers of earth

and rock rise smoothly upward. Dry stone walls illuminated only by the decorative LED lights circumnavigating the elevator’s perimeter soon gave way to the loose gravel and sand layer of the great underground aquifer created by towering glaciers from the last ice age.

“Hold,” Mark commanded to the unseen, but ever-present, virtual AI control interface. The glass elevator gently halted its downward descent. The sound of water flowing through the intricate gravel layers replaced the normally quiet hum of the elevator at this depth. The elevator control panel read 3:14 PM. “Of course, it would,” thought Mark, slightly arcing an eyebrow that even the MIB would recognize with an approving, though ever slight nod. For months now, this singular time had appeared far more often to his conscious mind than statistically random chance observations would predict. A circular time loop

of its own sort and a complete mystery to Mark. Pi, the irrational number that governed all things circular, began with those same three digits.

As he pondered these thoughts, he walked over to the cylindrical glass wall to look more closely at the pure, clean water flowing through the jumbled layers of gravel and sand. This natural-wonder aquifer supplied the drinking water for millions of people on the surface, though few had any real understanding of its fundamental role in their lives. Its existence literally echoed across the Miami Valley landscape in the hundreds of new and old gravel quarries and never-dry riverbeds, all filled with water, and all connected to this underground aquifer. Hidden from view in plain sight, not unlike TANIS in that respect. A soft multi-toned chime interrupted Mark’s quiet, contemplative interlude before the AI spoke. “Mark, you have VIP visitors waiting on the lower level.” There never seemed to be enough time to just enjoy the sights and sounds, he thought to himself before saying “Resume” to the transparent walls before him.

Soon, the elevator’s cylindrical doors slid silently open. Automated identity scanners launched an invisible laser grid

across Mark’s face and body as he strode through the security archway, logging his precise arrival time in the computer records. Stepping into the command center, Mark grabbed his white lab coat hanging inside a nearby locker and put it on. It was always colder down here. On the other hand, his two VIP visitors standing near the control consoles, the Men in Black, always wore finely tailored suits made from warm fabrics that insulated both their bodies, and their cooler-tempered souls, from the world around them. Funny how that worked so effectively.

“How are the star-portal experiments going, Doctor?” asked Orien, the younger MIB agent. Both he and Arcturus gazed out the command center windows to the saucer-shaped artifact on the lower laboratory level. “Have you decoded any of the higher-level control schematics yet?”

“We are, more or less, making progress,” answered Mark. “Given that the schematics involve symbolically written and highly advanced alien science, complex multi-dimensional mathematics, and an unknown language, and that no living aliens can help translate the syntax structures, there are...challenges.”

(continued on page 6.)

## SECRET SYNCHRONICITY *continued*

Both Orien and Arcturus turned their heads slightly to look at one another, almost as if some telepathic link had suddenly appeared between them. Mark noticed this uncharacteristic “tell” and immediately wondered.

“Wait! There are no living aliens that can help translate this artifact, right?” inquired Mark, since they were all three alone in the command center space.

The MIB ignored his question and returned their gaze to the star-gate hovering ever so serenely within the sleek saucer-shaped craft. “Gotcha!” thought Mark, his mind now racing ahead on multiple future paths. They quite definitely knew something he didn’t, though impossible to press further at the moment.

Arcturus spoke, “You’ve done well, we think, given the challenges. You deciphered the command codes for spatially redirecting the portal-lock connection to specific world coordinates, even if only visually connected from one side.” Traveling through the portal remained an elusive objective so far.

“James Willis can attest to your success in a way,” commented Orien, humorously recalling the experimental portal events the MIB had orchestrated at the Twin City Opera House and Jim’s receptive Ghost Meter sensor. “By the way, he and Darrin from the Ghosts Of Ohio are en route from Columbus now. They will arrive at Wright-Patt around 4:30 PM. Is everything prepared as planned?”

“Yes, in every detail,” replied Mark, still wondering if a living alien actually existed somewhere within the dark shadowy domain of the

MIB’s control. That would be a true game changer!

“And your research on the schematic subsections that seem suggestive of closed timelike curve navigation?” inquired Orien.

“Promising,” said Mark, “though the few descriptions I’ve decoded are incredibly advanced. I feel a bit like a 1st grader reading a textbook on advanced thermonuclear fusion reactor design.”

“Excellent. I suppose time will tell,” Arcturus nodded in affirmation. “But getting back to the more important issue at hand, what is your plan for James and Darrin this evening?”

“Wright Field history, a cool laboratory tour, and an after-hours ghost hunt backstage, of course,” answered Mark. “I hate to ask, but what do you two have in mind for this evening?”

“Brainwave neural pathway analysis,” stated Orien nonchalantly, turning to face Mark whose face now communicated a look of genuine concern and inquiry directed at both MIB agents. “Relax, Mark. They won’t feel a thing. Really. Purely non-invasive, we assure you. We aren’t going to dissect their brains.”

“OK. Well, you have your part to play, as do I. Where on Earth did you find technology like that?” Mark asked.

“On Earth?” is all Arcturus would say, only one eyebrow slightly arched.

“You know, one day, I wish you two would upgrade my security clearance on this project,” said Mark.

“Do you even own a black suit? Or your own supercool MIB sunglasses. Or a Fedora hat?” questioned Orien with a bit of a smirky grin.

“No.” answered Mark to all of these.

“Well, then that’s a problem for another day,” concluded Arcturus. “We all have work to do. It’s time we three returned to backstage to engage our distinguished visitors.”

Orien then added his closing thoughts, “It is vitally important that Jim and Darrin walk away with confident perceptions, that they truly believe the topside laboratory operations exist exactly as they appear and nothing more.”

Nodding in agreement, Arcturus continued, “To state the obvious, our deep national secrets depend on this deception. We must all successfully deflect Jim’s attention away from how close he is to the truth hiding in plain sight.”

Still, they all three stood together in silence a minute longer, staring down at that incredible alien craft and the truly uncharted capability of the ancient star gate powered up within it.

**Coming in the  
December Newsletter**

*Chapter Eight:  
Into the Lion’s  
Den Part 2*



# SPOOKY ROAD TRIP: NORTHEAST OHIO (EAST SIDE)



Samantha

Has COVID-19 got you down? Do you find yourself yearning for some spooky fun, but you're holed up at home with nowhere to safely go and nothing to safely do?

There's a solution for that! How about a road trip designed for the (safe) paranormal enthusiast in you? This one-day itinerary features ghostly hot spots from areas east of the Cuyahoga

River in Northeast Ohio. Grab your mask, hand sanitizer, and mapping device, then get in your car and go!



## Squire's Castle

Located inside the North Chagrin Reservation of the Cleveland Metroparks

2844 River Rd.  
Willoughby Hills, OH 44094

Feargus Squire built this structure in 1897 as a gatekeeper's house,

with the hope of also building an elaborate manor house. After running into difficulties, however, the project was ultimately abandoned, and the estate was sold. Only a shell of its former self, it's now part of the Cleveland Metroparks to be enjoyed by everyone. It's just a short, easy walk from the parking area. As far as hauntings are concerned, urban legend states that Squire's wife Louisa died on the property and now wanders the halls as a ghost. Regardless of whether or not this is true, Squire's Castle is an interesting—and picturesque—place to visit.

**COVID Details:** This is mainly outdoors. Practice social distancing and wear a mask when around other people.



## James A. Garfield National Historic Site

8095 Mentor Ave.  
Mentor, OH 44060  
440-255-8722

This was once the home of President James A. Garfield and his family. Over the years a wide

assortment of ghostly activity has been reported here, including

the scent of cigar smoke, lights turning on and off, the front door opening on its own, the sound of children playing, and the presence of an invisible female in the house. Even if you don't think you're interested in presidential history, the house and grounds are fascinating places to learn and explore!

**COVID Details:** Wear a mask and practice social distancing. The Visitor Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10am-4pm. Exhibits and artifacts are open for viewing, and high-touch surfaces are cleaned frequently. There is an 18-minute movie that gives you the background of the site, followed by a 40-minute Ranger-led Google 360 tour of the house. Afterward, you can take a cell phone tour of the grounds that will guide you to 10 different locations. Check the website for more details: <https://www.nps.gov/jaga/index.htm>



## Fairport Harbor Marine Museum and Lighthouse

129 Second St.  
Fairport Harbor, OH 44077  
440-354-4825

This museum contains maritime artifacts pertaining to the Great Lakes and may also be haunted by a ghost cat!

Call well in advance for tour information, especially since their website is unclear about when the tour season ends. You may even be able to book a private tour depending on the size of your group. Website: <http://www.fairportharborlighthouse.org/>

**COVID Details:** Wear a mask and practice social distancing if you go inside.



## Rider's Inn

792 Mentor Ave.  
Painesville, OH 44077  
440-354-8200

This bed-and-breakfast, restaurant, and pub has been around since 1812, and it was a stop on the Underground Railroad. So it stands to reason that it

has acquired a few ghosts over the years, right? People have reported cold spots and the feeling of being watched, and there seem to be at least two ghosts haunting the place—a soldier

# SPOOKY ROAD TRIP: NORTHEAST OHIO (EAST SIDE) CONTINUED

and a woman named Suzanne. Whether you stop for lunch or stay for the night, this is definitely an interesting location for paranormal enthusiasts and historians alike!

**COVID Details:** Masks are required and so is social distancing. Reservations are highly recommended since seating is currently limited. For more information, visit their website: <http://www.ridersinn.com/index.html>



## Chestnut Grove Cemetery

79 Grove Dr.  
Ashtabula, OH 44004

This cemetery is the final resting place of the unidentified victims of one of the worst train disasters in U.S. history: the Ashtabula Train Disaster of 1876. The wreck

involved a bridge collapse during a blizzard, killing nearly 100 people. It's said that their spirits can occasionally be seen wandering the grounds.

**COVID Details:** The Ashtabula County Historical Society is closed due to COVID, but you can read a bit about the wreck by seeking out its historical marker. It's located on Lake Avenue near the Ashtabula County Medical Center. You can also visit this website to read the inscription: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=121524>



## Punderson State Park/ Punderson Manor

11755 Kinsman Rd. (a.k.a. SR 87)  
Newbury Township, OH 44065  
440-564-9144

There are a lot of outdoor things to do at Punderson—camping, hiking, fishing, boating, biking, etc. And you can also check out the Punderson Manor Lodge and Conference Center, which offers dining, lodging, and occasionally, paranormal activity. Over the years, staff and guests have experienced cold spots, sounds of laughter, objects moving on their own, doors opening and closing, faucets turning on and off, and more.



**COVID Details:** Masks are required in all indoor spaces, and social distancing must be maintained. If you'd like to dine here, the dining room and lounge are open with limited hours and menu. It's best to call ahead. Visit these websites for more information:

<https://www.pundersonmanor.com>

<https://ohiodnr.gov/wps/portal/gov/odnr/go-and-do/plan-a-visit/find-a-property/punderson-state-park>



## Melonheads of Kirtland

Wisner Rd.  
Kirtland, OH 44094

If you're feeling adventurous and have a little extra time to kill, try testing out the urban legend of the Melonheads. Typically described as malformed children with large

heads (causes vary wildly depending on the story), they are said to be seen somewhere along Wisner Rd. While you probably won't see anything, you'll always have the story of the day you went looking for Melonheads!

Happy travels!





# SPOOKY FUN

## AUTUMN DAY TRIPS AROUND DAYTON, OH



Mark

To say that the COVID-19 virus pandemic changed all of our lives in 2020 would be an understatement, of course. After months of staying closer to home, cabin fever becomes a real experience for us all. But Autumn is my favorite season of the year! If you live in southwest Ohio near Dayton, these day-trip destinations still provide a fun adventure. All provide ample

opportunity to stay socially distanced; just remember to wear your mask in public when appropriate!



### Woodland Cemetery

<https://woodlandcemetery.org>

Located just south of downtown Dayton on a hill rising above the city, Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum remains a timeless destination. Over 175 years old, this vast historic cemetery contains “over 111,000

souls entrusted to its care.” In the quiet solitude of the richly landscaped cemetery, one can get lost in the majestic serenity of the arboretum while wandering among the tombs and headstone markers from ages past. Who knows, perhaps not everyone you see in this cemetery actually leaves.



### Carillon Historical Park

<https://www.daytonhistory.org>

Located only a little further south of Dayton, not far from Woodland Cemetery, Carillon Park presents an open-air, 65-acre setting filled with Dayton history. One can easily spend an entire day (or more) exploring the

park and themed exhibits! The Heritage Center at the museum’s entrance houses both amazing historical exhibits and Disney-quality animatronics of famous Daytonians who tell their stories firsthand. Two charmingly themed restaurants on the property further that Disney-like experience! If you climb the stairs on the glacial moraine hillside, you will find the lonely concrete foundation, cement pond basin, and stairs to nowhere—all that remains of the Dayton Quarantine Hospital, which opened in

1887. In this isolated spot, the hospital first cared for victims of smallpox, then later offered treatments for social diseases and alcoholism, before closing in 1949.



### Magee Park

Bellbrook, OH

[https://www.ghostsofohio.org/lore/ohio\\_lore\\_23.html](https://www.ghostsofohio.org/lore/ohio_lore_23.html)

Located south of Dayton in Bellbrook, this small 4.3-acre public park occupies a narrow hollow through which the Little Sugar Creek

waters flow. By day, Magee Park is home to a small playground and picnic area, where the laughter of children can often be heard while families enjoy the shaded park. The Little Sugar Creek happens to cut through the ancient Ordovician rock layer that normally lies buried deep beneath Ohio’s landscape. In the rocks near the creek, you can easily find amazing fossils that are hundreds of millions of years old! But, a darker ghostly side of the park exists in parallel with the light. The lore and legends speak of a headless ghost who wanders the creek, along with sad tale of a mother and baby who met a tragic end there in the late 1800s. So perhaps, if you are lucky enough, and the moon is just right, and the fog is just so, the ghostly apparitions of a darker shadow of Magee might cross your path in this lonely park setting. For further details, look it up on our Ghosts Of Ohio website archive!



### The Hammel House Inn

Waynesville, OH

Located a short drive south of Dayton, just north of Caesar Creek State Park, the historic Hammel House Inn in the heart of Main Street in Waynesville is now under new management, only recently re-opening in September 2020.

Delicious American-fare meals once more flow from the chef’s kitchen to your table. Stop here and dine outside on the expansive front porch in fair weather! Inside, both modern and colonial-themed dining rooms provide a cozy retreat from shopping among the more than 60 craft and antique shops that make their home in this small-town atmosphere. Built in 1822,

# SPOOKY FUN

## AUTUMN DAY TRIPS AROUND DAYTON, OH continued



### The Hammel House Inn continued

the Hammel House Inn doubles as a bed-and-breakfast, features five guest rooms, several haunting tales, and a ghost cat! At nearly 200 years old, the Hammel House Inn delivers both excellent food and deep historical charm. Given the literally thousands of antiques on floors and shelves in all the shops nearby and the real possibility of spiritual attachments exponentially multiplied, it should come as no surprise that Waynesville is known as "The Most Haunted Village in Ohio."



### Museum at the Friends Home

Waynesville, OH

Not far from the Hammel House Inn, you can find a museum located in what was once the heart of the Quaker district in Waynesville.

Featured in the book *Ohio's Historic Haunts*, written by James Willis,

the Museum at the Friends Home occupies the former 1905 Friends Boarding Home, housing retired Quakers and single schoolteachers. More than a few friendly ghosts haunt this place!



# GHOSTLY COLUMBUS ROAD TRIP



Josh

The days are starting to get shorter and cooler. The leaves are finally starting to change color and fall to the ground. Pumpkin flavored everything is out in full force, and most houses are decorated up in their best spooky accent. That can only mean that Halloween is starting to draw near. What a wonderful time to be someone interested in the paranormal and just plain weird! There is something about

the month of October and the anticipation of Halloween. Even with the ever-changing world we are living in now, I still find an excitement in welcoming the spookiest time of the year.

Besides, who doesn't love watching *It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown*? Now, I know we are living in a different time, and with so many unknowns, it might be a little hard this year to fully celebrate in the style that I know we all are wanting! So we at GOO want to give you a safe chance to go around and check out some haunted locations in person. Yes, you heard me right. We have decided to take different parts of Ohio and find some places rumored to be haunted that you can actually go and visit. Safely of course. And since I live right next door to the state capital, I had several important decisions to make. Now, while I might not have included a personal favorite location of yours, I can promise that it didn't go overlooked. I wanted to make this a day trip, places that all of our readers could go and explore (and eat) and only using a few hours. I wanted every location to be fairly close to one another but also have a certain aura around it. After all it is that time of the year to explore and embrace the things that go bump in the night!



## Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery

Located at 2900 Sullivant Ave sits one of Columbus's most well-known haunts: Camp Chase Confederate Cemetery. 2,168 remains are estimated to be buried in 2,122 gravesites; although, the

boulder under the archway reads "2,260 Confederate Soldiers of the War 1861-1865 buried in this enclosure." Camp Chase changed from a training camp to a prisoner of war camp early on in the civil war. By 1863, Camp Chase held 8,000 men, and

during late 1864, a smallpox outbreak took a toll that resulted in the death of many men. Before Camp Chase was turned into a cemetery and the final resting spot for these Confederate soldiers, they were first buried at the city of Columbus cemetery and once Camp Chase Cemetery was opened, they were moved—along with 31 men who died at Camp Dennison around the Cincinnati area. Efforts began to mark the graves in the mid-1890s by William H. Knuass, a Union veteran. This still speaks volumes to me still to this day. A soldier on the opposing side decides to head up a movement to mark the graves of the "enemy." The Civil War still, in my opinion, is one of the most unique and devastating moments in the history of America. But enough about history, let's get to the real reason we are reading this. First off, if you visit, I highly suggest checking out Hilltop Dairy Twist (which happens to be right next door), so park, grab yourself a cone and head on over to the cemetery. Sometimes referred to as the Veiled Lady or The Lady In Gray, her identity has long been speculated as to who she really is. Louisiana Ransburgh Briggs is a name that comes up often in the research of "who" this spirit could be. I won't paint this entire picture for you (after all, I really want you to get out and explore these locations), but the female spirit is most commonly seen moving between gravestones with flowers in hand. Many visitors have reported crying and sobbing of a female, only to find that no one is around. Fresh flowers are often found on several graves all throughout the year. It's also been noted that during reenactments, odd voices are heard, mysterious confederate soldiers are seen moving amongst the tombstones, and more bizarre, a strong wind gust kicked up and blew over a table and tent. Those there agreed it had to be The Lady In Gray. My wife Sarah and I have both been at the cemetery numerous times in the past, and we have captured some really good evidence. Probably my favorite is an EVP of Sarah asking, "What is your name?" followed by a gruff voice of a man saying what we both heard as "Mark Deathridge" followed by a gust of wind, which really captured our attention during the audio review. Upon looking up names of those who are laying at rest in Camp Chase, we did find the grave of one PVT Mark Deatheradge. I can't begin to describe the feelings that we both had. (I'll share the link to the audio file as well as post pictures.) This is one of my favorite memories at any location. So believe me, when you visit Camp Chase, take plenty of pictures. Walk around and try to reach out to those spirits who might be hanging around that day because sometimes... they do reach back out.

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# GHOSTLY COLUMBUS ROAD TRIP CONTINUED



## Greater Columbus Antique Mall

For the next location, I wanted to pick a place that is a little off the beaten path. Plus, being only roughly 10 minutes, you can take a route that will take you by Greenlawn Cemetery. Now I could

have easily picked Greenlawn as my second location but I feel Greenlawn deserves its own article. With its numerous legends and notable people who are buried here, it easily stands out on its own. So maybe sometime in the near future I will circle back to this. But for now, back on the road. At 1045 South High Street sits a beautiful Victorian building—built in 1889 by George Janton, a candle and soap manufacturer. Upon the passing of George Janton, it went to his youngest son Fred Janton until 1924. The house then became the Woodyard Funeral Home and then Hughes Funeral Home. The Elks Lodge then owned this space from 1952 through the 1970s. Bringing us to its current known name as The Greater Columbus Antique Mall. Several reasons why I picked this location, but mostly I love the history of this building. How often can you actually go shop and walk around in a place that used to be a funeral home?! Plus, right now giving the current state of everything, I always do my best to help local small businesses first, and this one just so happens to be haunted! Commonly reported is an apparition of a man walking around wearing a gray suit (who is thought to be someone tied with one of the funeral homes), children are often heard upstairs in the attic, a long wooden bench is said to seat a couple of older women, and you can hear their conversations from time to time. Plus, take into account you have all these antiques items that might still have previous owners attached to them. You've really got a perfect storm. I have ventured in the antique mall several times, and while I have never seen or heard anything firsthand (aside from all the old Christian Moerlein Brewing memorabilia that may or may not have followed me home), but I've heard great stories from workers. Many times they talk about all the strange noises that are captured on their security system. So again, these rumors and legends have to start somewhere from something. Give yourself plenty of time while you visit here. They are opened everyday 12PM-6PM. Hopefully you've worked up an appetite because next we are off to get a bite to eat!

For the next location, I am going to give you a choice. Both locations are located fairly close; it just depends on what you

are in the mood for. Fine Italian dining with ghost children? Or German food paired with great beer and a haunted upstairs banquet hall? I'll give you a brief lowdown on both and a few suggestions on what to eat and drink!



## The Spaghetti Warehouse

The Spaghetti Warehouse at 397 West Broad Street, most known for their family-sized portions. This place has some amazing food! Before we talk ghosts and history, let's talk grub. I highly suggest to get a table or booth in the dining

train. It's just a fun place to sit! The building has a lot of old world charm—some on purpose, some based off the history (more on that in a minute). I suggest the 15-layer lasagna or the chicken parmigiana! I'm a sucker for signature dishes. But onto the history and haunts. An icehouse was the original purpose of the building, opening in 1891. The area of Franklinton was devastated with flooding in 1913 and left many dead. Those bodies were kept in cold storage at the icehouse. Guests have often spoke of seeing children in period clothes, only to be told by staff that they don't have kid actors like that. I did get a really interesting firsthand story from a waiter. Sarah and I stopped here to eat after doing a maternity ward tour of Grant Hospital, and we decided to stop here for a late lunch. Our waiter seated us in the dining car and took our drink and appetizer orders. Upon coming back with the drinks, he asked what brought us in today. We explained we had gone and toured Grant, and Sarah had been craving pasta, so we decided to go in. I laughed and mentioned just how creepy the outside of the building always looked, and it's no wonder! It's rumored to be haunted. Without missing a beat he proceeded to tell us a story about how he was prepping silverware and wrapping them in napkins. He had a nice stack of them and got up to go get another tub. Upon coming back he discovered that two different napkins had totally unfolded and the silverware was placed randomly alongside. He didn't see or pass anyone coming out of the dining car. I can't remember word for word how he put it but pretty much said that looking back at it, he tried to explain it all away with reason and didn't really believe in ghosts. But after thinking about it for a while, he had no idea how any of that could happen. Needless to say, we were low-key trying to investigate while eating dinner! Now after you finish up dinner here, drive a short distance over off Lucas Street and West Chapel Street to one of the many surrounding breweries and bars!

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# GHOSTLY COLUMBUS ROAD TRIP CONTINUED



## Schmidt's Sausage Haus and Restaurant

Italian food not your thing? Don't feel like driving after dinner to get a good beer or drink? Well I think I have you covered. With plenty of beautiful scenery and tons of places to see and shop at either before or

after eating (or if you have a little wait before getting a table), I suggest Schmidt's Sausage Haus und Restaurant. Nestled back off 240 E Kossuth Street is this gem! Don't let the packed parking lot and bustling crowds scare you away! Like I mentioned before, if you have time to walk around before being seated, do it! Besides, Schmidt's Fudge Haus is literally a stone's throw away. Everything on the menu is fantastic! It's hard to pick, but you can't go wrong with the Bahama Mama, and save room for a cream puff! Better yet, eat one and take some home! You'll thank me later if you haven't had one before. Pair just

about anything with their awesome selection of German beer! The Schmidt family began their business as a packing house in 1886 and had a stable in which they kept the animals. This stable would go on to become the restaurant in 1967. Almost all of the ghost stories that are told or I've been able to find all start on the second floor of the restaurant, which is the banquet hall used for private events now. Most of the time footsteps are reported, but when you check, no one can be found in the area. Sometimes a woman can be seen in mirrors when you walk past, only to again find nothing behind you. Other instances of the smell of cheap perfume floating by has also been noted. So I say go! Try to take note and maybe you can have an experience of your own to add to the legend of Schmidt's Sausage Haus. I might also add that just because it might not be the most active place on my list, sometimes those are the best to check out. Besides, I really think we all deserve some travel (even if it's just a short day trip), some good company, food, and—why not—a beer, huh? After the crazy year we have had, I think we all deserve it!

## CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN HALLOWEEN ADVENTURE: CAN YOU SURVIVE HALLOWEEN NIGHT?



Samantha

Being a children's librarian in the time of COVID is challenging. How do we reach families when many of them are staying home? How can we adapt our services to meet their needs?

The answer is: **We get creative!**

Since May, my co-workers and I have created a plethora of online programming, including live Zoom storytimes and other events, pre-

recorded craft and science videos, and a kid-friendly virtual escape room using Google Forms.

My latest interactive creation (again using Google Forms) is a virtual Choose-Your-Own-Adventure story set during Halloween night. Since many kids and parents may be missing out on festivities this year, I thought I'd offer something spooky and fun that can be experienced more than once. It's called

"Choose-Your-Own Halloween Adventure." I drew a lot of inspiration from *Goosebumps* and *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*, so participants should be prepared for a bit of a scare.

If your family would like to give it a try, please follow the link. And if you enjoy your experience, feel free to share it with others!

**Happy Halloween!**

<https://bit.ly/3I1DXXD>



## Investigations & Consultations

COVID-19 has most certainly changed the way we conduct business. Until further notice, The Ghosts Of Ohio is not permitted to conduct investigations within private homes and businesses based on the current Ohio Stay At Home Order. However, that does not mean we cannot conduct photo interviews and begin background work in preparation for the time when the Stay At Home Order is lifted. So if you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto: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>

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