



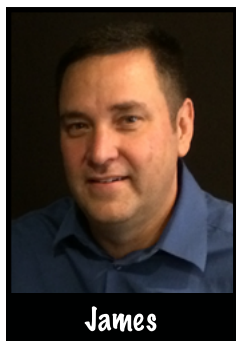
The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 20 Issue 1

20

Celebrating 20 years of The Ghosts Of Ohio Newsletter



James

Yes, you read that right: The issue you are currently pursuing marks the 20th anniversary of The Ghosts Of Ohio Newsletter. Honestly, I had to read that a couple of times before it really sank in. Hard to believe that decades earlier, my random thought that maybe people would want to know what was going on with my fledgling paranormal group would grow into what it is today.

Back then, the very first issue couldn't even really be called a newsletter. It was actually nothing more than 3 short paragraphs, sent in the body of an email to a grand total of 9 people, 6 of which were members of The Ghosts Of Ohio. Today, we have almost 4,000 active subscribers and they receive a full-color PDF, containing everything from the latest on The Ghosts Of Ohio to movie, book, and equipment reviews and everything in-between.

To celebrate this anniversary, I wanted to do something a little different. I asked the current members of The Ghosts Of Ohio to share some of their fondest memories about being in this organization. And it could be anything they wanted: Basically, I wanted to know what popped in their heads when I said, "what do you think of when you think about The Ghosts Of Ohio." It's their responses that make up the bulk of this issue.

Have no fear: Our regular content will return next issue and we've already got some great articles lined up for you, including one on conducting historical research, another on the strange & spooky side of Christmas, and an interview with a prominent leader in the paranormal field.

Until then, enjoy some ghostly memories from The Ghosts Of Ohio... and Happy Halloween!

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director



GHOULISH ADDITIONS TO MY HALLOWEEN PLAYLIST



James

As many of you know, I have something of a soft spot for holiday music, especially Halloween music. In particular, songs from the 1940s and 50s. I think it's because hearing songs from that time always makes my mind wander back to a time where people would gather for Halloween parties and dance the night away. The 1950s is where Halloween-themed novelty records started to become all the rage, culminating in the release of perhaps the greatest Halloween novelty song of all time, 1962's *The Monster Mash*.

Many of the songs that I've collected over the years find their way onto various playlists that I use as pre-presentation warmup music. I tend to organize the songs based on subject matter so that I play them at the appropriate presentation

(for example, Billy Riley and his Little Green Men's *Flyin' Saucers Rock & Roll* is only featured at the beginning of my *UFOs Over Ohio* presentation). But when I'm preparing to give a more general Strange & Spooky World presentation, I can broaden the song selection to include ghosts, monsters, and an assortment of spooky stuff.

Below, in no specific order, are a list of songs that have made their way into my 2022 strange and spooky playlists. Enjoy!



- The Voodoo Walk**
- Mr. Ghost Goes To Town**
- The Headless Horseman**
- Haunted House**
- The Skeleton In The Closet**
- Midnight Monsters Hop**
- Spooksville**
- Ichabod Crane**
- Monster Hop**
- Mostly Ghostly**
- Little Monster**
- The Headless Ghost**
- The Naughty Ghost**
- Swinging At The Séance**
- Dead Man's Stroll**
- Legend Of Sleepy Hollow**
- Mr. Werewolf**
- Deserted Ballroom**
- At The House Of Frankenstein**
- The Cat**
- The Mummy's Bracelet**

- Sonny Richard's "Panics" with Cindy & Misty
- Louis Prima & His Orchestra
- Bing Crosby with Vic Schoen's Orchestra
- Chris Klein
- Louis Armstrong with Jimmy Dorsey & His Orchestra
- Jack & Jim
- Nu-Trend
- Lawrence Welk and his Orchestra with Dick Hill
- Bert Convy
- The Creatures
- The Baker Sisters with Hugo Peretti Orchestra
- The Nightmares
- Jan August
- The Deep River Boys
- The Revels
- The Monotones
- The Kac-Ties
- Elliot Everett and His Orchestra
- Big Bee Kornegay
- Rod Willis
- Lee Ross



GOT A SCARY STORY TO TELL?

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



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!

MEMORIES OF THE GHOSTS OF OHIO



Mark

Writing something on this topic was easier said than done! I have been adventuring with Jim and the Ghosts of Ohio team since joining the group sometime in 2006. In my digital archive, one of my earliest investigation photographs (from the spring of 2007) shows far younger versions of Darrin, Wendy, Sam, Julie, and Jim. This was the investigation with the sandwich in an empty closet in a house with children, curious neighbors, and no toilet paper in the bathroom. We learned from that experience that sometimes it is not always ghosts

who haunt (or occupy) a place. Did I mention the ax and broken glass in the empty garage?



In my serial story, *Secret Synchronicity*, in the Ghosts of Ohio newsletter several years ago, everything I wrote about that chance meeting in front of old Reid Hall at Miami University in Oxford Ohio is true. Had either Jim and Stephanie or my family varied our timing by only a few minutes, we never would have met. In fact, nearly every event involving the Ghosts of Ohio and our fictional counterparts in that story did happen exactly the way I described it, as Jim and others will attest. I do indeed work at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in the old Wright Field (Area B), in the hangar complex built for B-29 bombers that could have received remnants of a crashed extra-terrestrial ship in 1947. There is little I can say or do that will ever remove that small but stubborn seed of uncertainty remaining in Jim's mind -- that events described in my fictional story might be at least partly true, just as the Men in Black planned.

Over the 15 years that I have been with the group, thousands of memories recorded themselves into those mysterious microtubule brain structures of my brain -- patiently waiting to be summoned to conscious thought (see the July 2022 Newsletter). Countless hours have been spent on investigations. Many older public venues hold fascinating historical significance on their own. We have recorded data over time that have clearly revealed fascinating evidence of

paranormal events: footsteps where not one of us walked, electronic voice phenomenon (EVP) where not one of us talked, voices like our own saying things we didn't say, sensors that revealed sharply defined electro-magnetic field (EMF) 'portals' that appeared and disappeared, and haunting laughs and voices not our own on audio recordings.

Years ago, at Waverly Hills Sanatorium, I and two other Ghost of Ohio members at the time simultaneously witnessed a ghostly doppelganger of Jim stand up in a hallway not more than 15 or 20 feet from us and then walk away in the dimly lit corridor. We could not see where he went, so we called out asking him where he had gone. Much to our surprise, Jim then stood up from the middle of the hallway, where he wasn't a moment before, saying that he was right there. Wow! That's just one of many amazing experiences with the Ghosts of Ohio.

In concluding this all-too-short synopsis, as intriguing as my personal paranormal experiences have been, one final memory stands out. Truly one of the most fulfilling aspects of being a member of the Ghosts of Ohio team has been the strong bond of friendship and mutual trust we have developed over years, sharing in so many paranormal-seeking fun adventures!



GOO MEMORIES



Wendy

Where do I start? With the bad investigations of course! Let's see... there is the infamous sandwich in the closet with one bite taken out at a private investigation; the place where the floors were rotting and water soaked to the point that we left imprints of our feet; the investigation at the falling down house in the middle of the woods that necessitated us dragging a

generator through the fields so we actually could run our cameras; the drunken contest winners at one investigation, and the guest investigators who played tricks on us at another. Those weren't all of them, but for the most part, bad times are few with the Ghosts.



So now, good memories and exciting finds! The Mohican GOO jamboree comes to mind, with kickball, food, and a personal tour of Malabar Farm. All the great evidence we got at places like Mansfield Reformatory and Waverly Hills. Private home investigations where rooms suddenly got dark and blocked out the light. And of course, the doppelgangers that have been showing up at certain investigations that have initiated many of Jim's 'two bottle' conversations. What are they? On top of it all are the summer jamborees and December Merry Scary parties where we can relax and talk about and debate all things weird and wonderful while having fun with our families and friends.

Now I would like to share one incident as an example of a night with the Ghosts of Ohio. We were investigating the Lima Adult Learning Center in Lima, OH. We arrived and got a quick tour of the building to orient the stories of haunting incidents with locations and set up our



equipment accordingly. We split into a couple groups and began investigating. To the uninitiated, this means either sitting on the floor being quiet or doing an EVP session or walking the assigned area with equipment that will pick up temperature changes or EMF field fluctuations. It was pretty quiet except for a possibly ghostly issue with the front door.

After the end of a session, we were headed to the kitchen, which was our gathering place to meet after each session to discuss anything that had occurred. As I walked down the upstairs hallway to the back stairway, I went through what felt like a mass of spider webs. (The feeling of spider webs across the face is sometimes felt during a paranormal occurrence). When I got to the kitchen Jim and the others were talking and I said, "I just walked through spider webs". Everyone stopped and looked at me. The people from the Council said, "we cleaned this afternoon, there can't be spider webs". I looked straight at Jim and said, "I just walked through spider webs". Of course, the Ghosts knew what I was talking about and there was suddenly a flurry of activity as everyone grabbed equipment and followed me upstairs. I stopped in the hallway where I still felt the affect, and others walked into that area where they could also feel something that might be attributed to an EMF fluctuation. This was right outside the attic door. Mark opened the door and walked up a few steps and said, 'yeah it feels really weird in here'. Whatever it was slowly dissipated, and we were left again with a quiet building.



GOO MEMORIES



Samantha

I'll never forget the day Wendy called and excitedly told me that she'd just interviewed with a "good" paranormal group, and that I needed to fill out an application ASAP. I did exactly as ordered, and now – 17 years later – I still consider it one of the best decisions of my life. Not only did I gain a fantastic group of friends, but I've also been surrounded by smart people who

are just as curious, just as eager, to delve into the unknown in search of answers as I am. Together we've gone through thick & thin with countless meetings,



investigations, experiments, presentations, road trips & jamborees; and we've had tons of intriguing "two-bottle conversations," kicking around paranormal "maybes" and "what ifs."

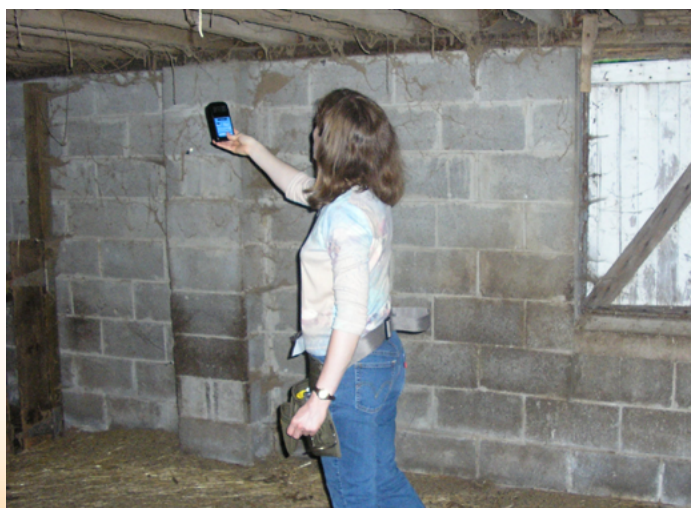
Although it's difficult to narrow down my favorite moments, I suppose I'd start with some of the fascinating, unexplained things that have happened on investigations. Things like the whispers & footsteps that followed Wendy and me on two different floors at Waverly. Or the two of us audibly hearing "Hello, Mom?" at Twin City (that I did, indeed, catch on my recorder, not once but twice). Or Kathy and I hearing a Frank's box stop and say, "My name is Liam" before returning to its rhythmic static. Or trying my "hand" (ha ha) at automatic writing and coming up with words related to what was going on downstairs. The list goes on.

I have even loved the laughable investigation moments, like being totally stoked that I captured what sounded like a demonic dog on my audio recorder, only to discover that it was Mark's voice distorted by the recorder itself.

(I have since carried two recorders at all times, just in case.) And when a loud (and mysterious) bang & clatter happened near me at the Haunted Hydro, I'll never forget how Jim said, "What was thaaaat?," and then proceeded to pick his way all the way through the extensive haunted house maze to get to my location. It's a good thing it wasn't an emergency because it must have taken at least a few minutes while the two of us spoke across the cavernous room to each other. That wait for Jim in that moment still makes me chuckle.

Outside of investigations, I have enjoyed group experiments, like trying to control a candle flame with our minds (we couldn't) or feeling around a room for higher electromagnetic fields (a couple of us could!). I've also enjoyed being introduced to the wonders of pie iron cooking over a campfire, and also to cheeseburger pizza. (Seriously, if you see this on a menu, order it!)

I could say so much more about being in this group, but I'll sum it up with this: There is no other group of people I'd rather hang out in the dark with than the Ghosts of Ohio. Here's to a lot more years!



DARRIN'S REFLECTIONS



Darrin

As I think back, there are so many memories I have from the years of being in the Ghosts of Ohio. My first investigation I went on, we had a reporter follow us around most of the night. It was at a bed and breakfast that was fully booked with couples on their honeymoon, and we were told we needed to wrap up the investigation by 11. What was that bump in the night noise really?

Another early investigation we had an overly friendly dog that continually jumped

on me and Jim throughout the night and would take friendly bites out of us. We also spent part of the night being watched on night vision cameras by the clients who asked us to come and conduct the investigation for them.

And then there was spending way too much time watching a creepy puppet, I mean marionette, slowly spin around in the dark waiting to see if something would interact with it and make it move. Crawling in and laying in a morgue body cooler at Waverly Hills. The time before GPS's and driving around with only a map to find places we needed to go all across the state. Clipping a dead skunk on the way to an investigation with the under carriage of the car and then having to live with the smell for a long time since it was at the end of November and too cold to leave the windows down too long. And how could I ever forget about blowing-up a kick ball with a thunderous kick during a kick ball game at one of our summer jamborees.

Over the years there have been so many memories of people, places and experiences that narrowing them down to just a few is very hard to do. These memories



don't even take into account all of the actual paranormal things that have happened over the years with people that have become more like family than anything.



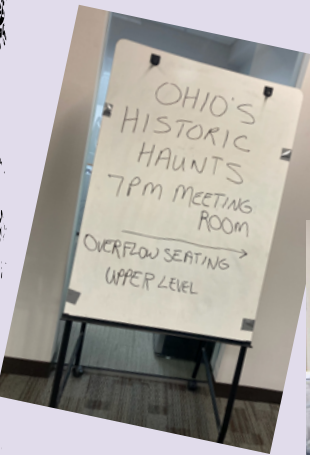
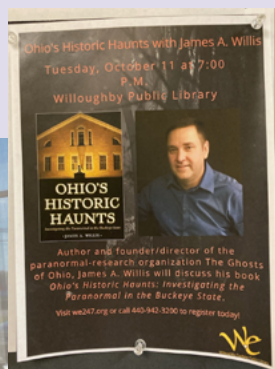
WHAT AN AMAZING FALL TOUR IT WAS

It is said that the power of the ghost story comes not only from the storyteller, but from the audience as well. It's an understatement to say that we were all a bit apprehensive as to what exactly awaited us on the first post-COVID Fall Tour. Will anyone show up? Does anyone want to still hear ghost stories? We are happy to report that the answer to all those questions is a resounding "yes."

In the past month, The Ghosts of Ohio has given close to 20 presentations across Ohio, logging in close to 3,500 miles. It was frantic and a bit overwhelming at times, but it was an amazing experience that will not soon be forgotten.

Of course, the best part was having all of you take time out of your busy days (and evenings) and turning up to hear our stories and gasping, shrieking, and laughing right along with us.

So, from the bottom of our collective strange & spooky heart, the Ghosts Of Ohio want to sincerely thank you for spending time with us. Stay weird!



AND WE'RE NOT DONE YET!

Halloween might be over, but that doesn't mean you still can't see the Ghosts! We've still got a couple of surprises waiting for you as we head towards 2023, including FOUR different presentations being given over the course of a 3-day weekend in December at Columbus' GalaxyCon.

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



Thursday, November 3rd, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
The Spooky Side of Abraham Lincoln presentation \$
Fairfield County Heritage Association Fall Meeting
KC Event Center
343 East Walnut Street
Lancaster, OH 43130
[Ticket information here \(price includes dinner\)](#)

Thursday, November 10th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm
Just How Weird Is Ohio? presentation
Grove City Library
3959 Broadway
Grove City, OH 43123
[More information here](#)

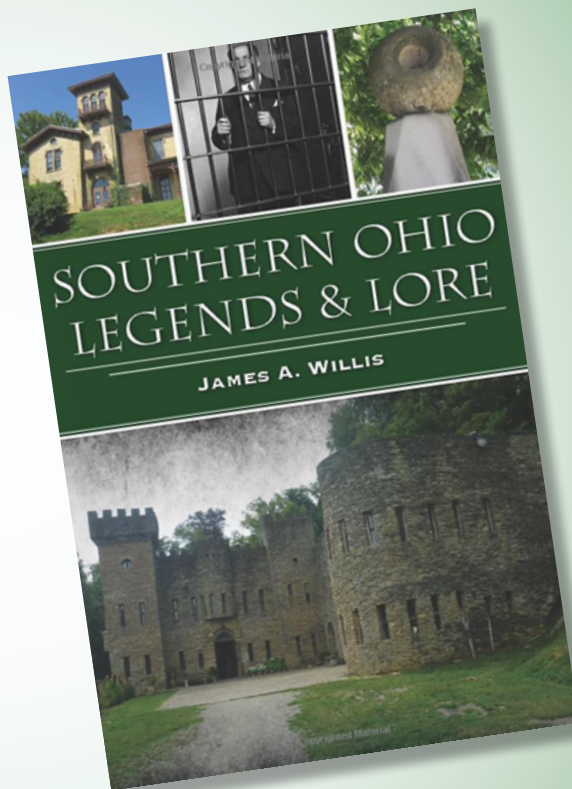
Friday, December 2nd–Sunday, December 4th
GalaxyCon Columbus \$
Greater Columbus Convention Center
400 North High Street
Columbus, OH 43215
[Tickets on sale here](#)



SOUTHERN OHIO LEGENDS & LORE

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

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



Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2022 and into 2023. All members of the organization who would participate in investigations have been fully vaccinated. Additionally, we can also make arrangements to drop off ghost-hunting equipment at your home or business and walk you through how to set it up yourself if you prefer. So, if you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at info@ghostsofohio.org or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

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

Interact with The Ghosts Of Ohio

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

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 [TWITTER](#)

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Administration

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Newsletter Staff:

Editor-In-Chief: James Willis

Designer: Stephanie Willis

Contributing Authors:

Darrin Boop

Wendy Cywinski

Mark DeLong

Samantha Nicholson

James Willis