



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 11 Issue 6

FROM THE SPOOKY DESK OF JAMES WILLIS:

Farewell Summer, Hello Relevancy



James

As I'm sitting here in my office, listening to the distant whirl of the AC behind me, it's hard to believe that the summer of 2014 is quickly drawing to a close. Traditionally, the end of August is a depressing time

for many; vacations are over, schools are back in session, cold weather is on the way. You can almost watch the smile literally vanish from people's faces. Not mine, though. If anything, my smile starts growing around mid-August and keeps spreading wider and wider right through the end of October. That's because the end of August, for me, signals the beginning of the time of year when I feel Ohio truly embraces me.

In case you haven't figured it out by now, ghosts and the paranormal are my life. They've been in my blood as long as I can remember and I don't think I'll ever fully get them out. I need weird things to survive. I find "reality" to be dull, mundane, and boring.

Put it this way: ever tried having an intelligent conversation about ghosts with a group of total strangers while you're sitting on a beach? Or maybe while you're waiting in line at King's Island? If you're into getting weird stares, give it a try some time. If you're lucky, you might even get a "so are you like those guys on TV" comment or two.

Truth be told, 10 months out of the year, the general public doesn't "get" me...or even care to try and get me. And that's cool. Granted, I could totally do without being continually lumped into that generic "TV ghost hunter" category, but by and large, I'm fine with being viewed as the eccentric oddball. Where I do start to feel

a bit sad and annoyed is when people meet me, find out about what "I do" and then start making these bizarre assumptions about me, all based on the fact that I like to look for ghosts year-round. Most go no further than proclaiming me "weird," but others will start assuming that I'm uneducated and obviously have very low morals. Oh yeah, and my wardrobe consists of only black t-shirts and matching ball caps. I'm not sure where all that comes from, other than perhaps this all comes from a very limited perception of what people hear and see on TV and the Internet. You can almost hear them thinking, "That guy looks for ghosts in the middle of the summer. Something's not right with him."

But something really strange starts to happen, usually right after Labor Day everyone starts thinking about ghosts. One true sign that the shift is going to start is when the last of the Back To School merchandise gets cleared off the shelves to make way for the Halloween decorations (and the Christmas ones, but don't get me started on that). All of a sudden, people stop looking at me weird and instead say things like "Hey, you're into ghosts, right? Let me ask you something," which will inevitably lead to an in-depth conversation about the things that may be going bump in the night in this person's home. Once we hit the middle of September and officially enter fall season, I'm well on my way to being almost revered. It's almost as if the whole state of Ohio, if not the entire US, has ghosts on the brain. I think it has something to do with the fact that with Halloween approaching, everyone thinks it's OK to entertain the idea of ghosts or perhaps even to admit that they believe in their possible existence. These are the days when I can't help but smile because the paranormal has become normal.

It's more than just being popular, though. For me, the best part of this time of year is

that this brief two-month period is when I usually engage in the most serious, in-depth discussions with people about ghosts and the afterlife. Halloween seems to give people the freedom to talk about ghosts and to question all things paranormal. And while the rest of the year they may scoff at ghosts, Halloween sends them flocking to me for answers. Is it any wonder that it's my favorite time of the year?

Of course, I shouldn't get too excited yet as summer 2014 is currently giving us one last heat wave before it makes its exit. But it won't be long now. Just the other day, I noticed a few stray dead leaves laying on my driveway. I told myself to be patient, for soon I will be able to smell fall in the air and all will be right with the ghostly world again. You know the smell I'm talking about, right? If you do, that's one sure sign I'll probably be seeing you at a presentation this October where we can all sit around and talk about ghosts!

Until then, if you should see me out and about, feel free to use me as your own personal Halloween barometer. When my smile has crept across my entire face, almost blocking out my eyes, that's the sign that the season is officially upon us!

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

THE FARM HOUSE BY STEVE B. DELAWARE, OH

In 1969, after serving in Vietnam for a little over a year, I returned to the United States to marry my log-time sweetheart and begin a "normal" life. After receiving my discharge papers, my new wife and I decided to purchase a small house from my Dad in Delaware, Ohio. It was nothing fancy, just a little farmhouse located in north-end of town. Soon after moving in, I began to experience some odd occurrences. The first was probably the most traumatic.

In Vietnam, when we were hit with incoming mortar rounds and rockets in the middle of the night, I would wake up with a start, my heart pounding through my chest. One night after going to sleep in our new home, I woke up with that same

feeling. As I opened my eyes and raised my head from the pillow, I found the face of a very old lady a couple inches from my own. The lady looked like she was screaming but she made no sound. Thinking I was dreaming, I rubbed my eyes and the image went away. I laid my head back down and tried in vain to go back to sleep. As I laid there, I made up my mind to not blink or rub my eyes but to get a good look at this very old lady if this ever happened again. It did.

A couple weeks later, I woke up to the same scary face but this time, the now full bodied image floated at the foot of my bed. I slowly sat up and turned my head as I watched the floating full-body image slowly pass beside my bed and disappear

into the wall at the head of my bed. I never saw the old lady again. Other things happened, but she was gone.

Some time later, I was talking with a neighbor and mentioned my old lady experiences. She told me the sad story of a previous owner of my house, Anna. It seems she was tricked into believing that a couple of strangers were sent by her daughter to move her into a beautiful new home, at which time they loaded all her worldly possessions into a truck and vanished. Anna was heartbroken and very distraught and soon passed away. I believe the old lady spirit that had been visiting me was the spirit of that poor lady, Anna.

I JUST WANT TO MEET YOU BY STANLEY S. DAYTON, OH

I met James A. Willis at one of his book signings and we got to talking about ghosts and what they want from us. I told James my personal ghost story and he said I should share it with everyone. So here it goes.

When I was around 10, I moved to Ohio with my parents when my dad got transferred. We moved to a pretty nice house in Dayton. It was in a subdivision but we were lucky enough to have a house that backed up to a huge bunch of woods. I used to like laying in bed and looking out the window to see if I could see any deer before I fell asleep. I guess we were living there about a couple of weeks when one night I was looking out of my window and I saw a shape standing at the edge of the woods. I couldn't really tell who or what it was except that it looked like a person. I guess I laid in bed looking at it for about five minutes and then the shape just sort of turned around and went back in the woods. When I told my parents about it the next day, they told me not to worry about it that it was probably just my imagination.

A couple of days later, I was back in bed and I saw the same shape come out of the woods again. This time it came all the way out of the woods and stopped in the middle of the yard. I could see that it looked like an old man. He was just standing there, looking at me. I was sort of scared, but I just stared at him and didn't move. I didn't think it was a ghost at this point. It looked like a regular old man. After a couple of minutes, he turned around and walked back into the woods again.

A couple of days later, just as I was falling asleep, the old man came out of the woods again. This time he came all the way across the yard and was maybe 12 feet from my window. I could see him clearly now. He had on dirty overalls and he had a little white beard. I guess he was almost six feet tall. I was really scared this time because I thought he was a robber or a crazy person. But when he was looking at me, I was too scared to move. As soon as he turned around and started walking back toward the woods, I ran and got my parents. I told them there was someone in our yard. My

dad put the spotlights in the back yard on and ran out there, but he didn't find anyone. When he came back in, my dad talked to me about it. When I think about it now, I think my dad thought that maybe I was freaked out about moving into a new house and was making things up.

I guess it was another week before I saw the old man again. This time, I was really, really scared. The old man came out of the woods and came all the way up to my window and was looking in at me. His face was almost touching the glass! I wanted to scream, but I was too scared, so I just pulled the blankets up around my neck and stared at him. Then the old man did something really weird. He just sort of smiled and waved at me. Then, he disappeared!

I never saw the old man again. The only thing I can think of to explain it is that maybe he just wanted to come and say hi to his new neighbor and that once he knew that I had seen him, he didn't need to come back anymore.



MOVIE REVIEW: THE CONSPIRACY



Rick

GENRE: Thriller/Independent Film

DIRECTOR: Christopher MacBride (*Sleep Lab* and *The Education of Fredrick Fizzell*) Starring: Aaron Poole (*The Beautiful City* and *Forsaken*) and James Gilbert (*Saw IV* and *The Corridor*)

AVAILABILITY: Netflix (streaming and physical disc) and Redbox

RATING: 3.5 out of 5 skulls



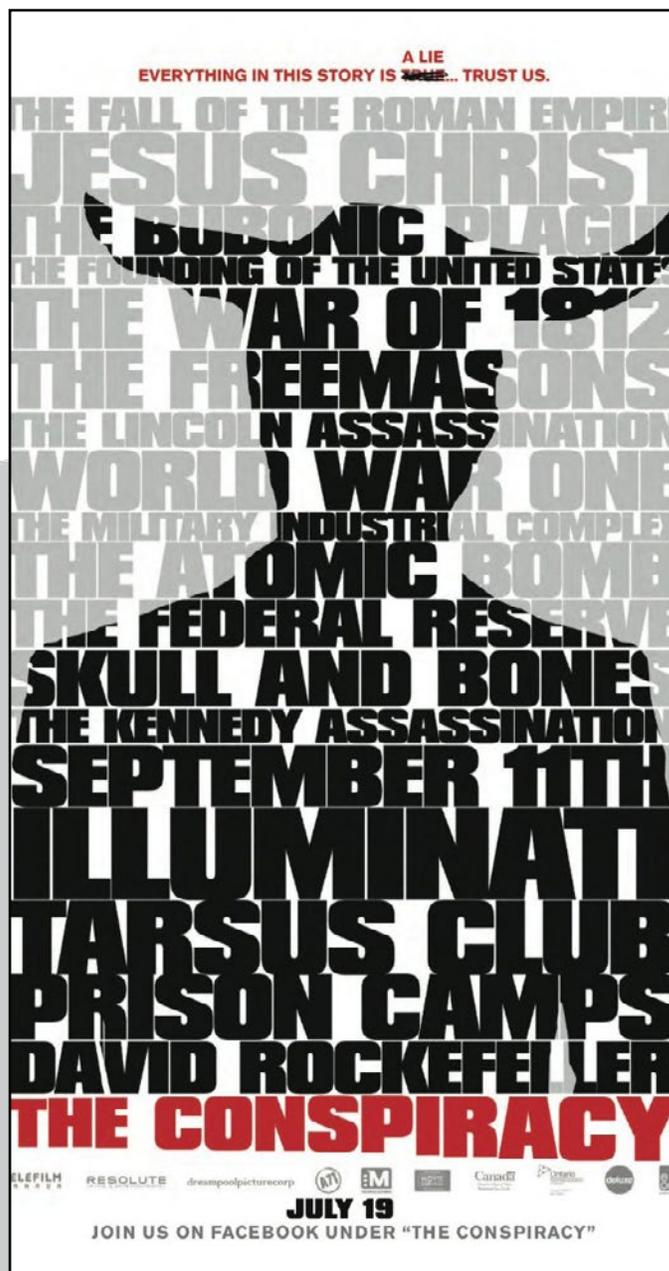
This movie is what we call a mocumentary, which means it appears like you are watching a documentary; however, it's fake.

The premise of the movie centers around two independent filmmakers who set out to film a documentary about conspiracy theorists. Things get interesting when their lead subject mysteriously disappears and the filmmakers become obsessed to find the truth behind what happened to him.

They discover that their lead subject uncovered a secret society called the Tarsus Club in which the ultimate goal is a One World Order. Freemasons and the Illuminati have nothing on the Tarsus Club; this organization consists of the most powerful people on the planet, more powerful than the members of Bohemian Grove, and has managed to fly under the radar for over 4,000 years. Until now. The filmmakers discover that in recent times, the Tarsus Club was responsible for both World Wars, the Kennedy Assingation, and 9/11.

Things really heat up when our filmmakers uncover the location of the next secret meeting (please overlook the fact that the club has managed to remain hidden for 4,000 years but our filmmakers manage to gain access to their next big shindig in a matter of days).

My excitement level for this film was high, mainly due to my passion for conspiracy theories. It had everything you would expect; interviews with witnesses that required blurred-out faces, lead characters being followed around by strange people on bicycles, as well as SUVs with tinted windows, and the sacrifice of innocent farm animals.



Overall, the film was entertaining, a few creepy situations with a twist at the end. I also enjoyed how they combined truth with fiction—a requirement for a good mocumentary. The film definitely has an *Eyes Wide Shut* feel to it.



James

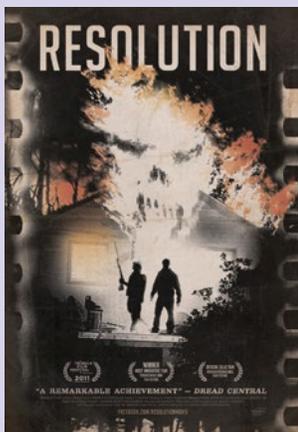
WANNA SEE SOMETHING REALLY SCARY?



When Rick and I got to talking about him doing a DVD review for the newsletter, we started reminiscing about the last good horror movie we'd each seen. That, of course, led to the inevitable discussion about how over the past few years, in my opinion, good horror movies have been few and far between.

That's not to say that there haven't been a lot of horror movies in recent years. It's just that most of them don't do anything for me anymore. Perhaps it's because I've watched so many of them over the years that I've finally progressed past what has become the stereotypical American horror movie; one packed with cheap stingers and jump scares and a wafer-thin plot, usually one filled with holes. In other words, I tend to be drawn more towards independent films that try to bring something new to the horror table, as it were.

With that in mind, allow me to present some of my more recent flicks that I enjoyed. They're all a little different and most are ones that never really hit it big. But they are all enjoyable and would make for perfect viewing some dark and stormy night in October!



Resolution (2012)

Available on Netflix (streaming and physical disc), Google Play, and Vudu.

When Michael (Peter Cilella) gets an email from his old friend, Chris (Vinny Curran), he naturally assumes Chris is looking to reconnect. But when Michael opens the attachment, he finds himself watching a disturbing video featuring his friend. Seems as though Chris has gotten himself addicted to crack cocaine and has taken up residence at some old cabin in the woods, doing drugs and shooting at anything that moves. Michael is so disturbed by the video that he makes the decision to find the cabin and force Chris to get clean and sober.

Michael eventually managed to find the isolated cabin and, through a series of events, gets Chris to reluctantly begin detoxing at the cabin. But before long, bizarre things start happening, including people wandering onto the property in search of everything from ghosts and monsters to UFOs and even a possible porthole to another dimension. Oh yeah, and did I mention the cabin is located on an Indian reservation, too?

You can watch Resolution's trailer [here](#).



Open Grave (2013)

Available on Netflix (physical disc only) Redbox, Google Play, and Vudu.

This movie opens with the main character waking up in a giant mass grave with no idea how he got there or even what his name is. Someone eventually hears his cries for help and throws him down a rope. From there, things really start to get weird.

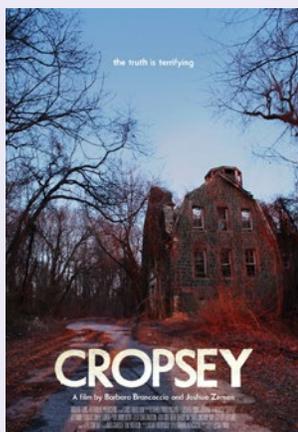
Once out of his open grave, the main character, played by Sharlto Copley (Elysium, District 9), encounters a group of people who, like him, have no idea who or where they are. And where did all those dead bodies come from? Could it be possible that there is a killer amongst them?

With shades of 2000's Memento running through it, *Open Grave*, directed by Gonzalo Lopez-Gallego, holds its plot cards close to the chest, only allowing the audience to figure things out as the characters do.

Have a peek at the trailer for Open Grave [here](#).

(continued on page 5.)

WANNA SEE SOMETHING REALLY SCARY? (CONT)



Cropsy (2009)

Available on Netflix (streaming and physical disc) and Hulu.

Reality and urban legends come crashing together in this intriguing documentary by Joshua Zeman and Barbara Brancaccio. The film traces the history of Staten Island's most infamous urban legend: Cropsy. According to legend, Cropsy was a deranged serial killer who dwelled in the tunnel systems of the abandoned Willowbrook Mental Institution. Locals would tell you that if you got too close to those tunnels at night, Cropsy would snatch you up, especially if you were a young child. Pretty much your classic urban legend tale. Or so it would seem until Zeman and Brancaccio come to find out that the legend of Cropsy might be based on actual events.

A must-see if you are at all interested in urban legends and their origins.

Watch the trailer [here](#).



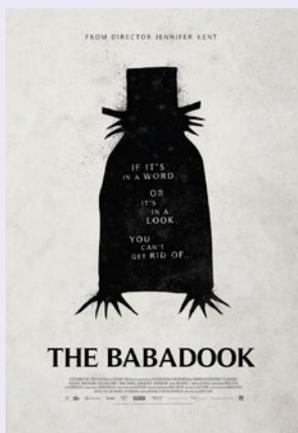
The Tunnel (2011)

Available on Netflix (physical disc only)

A special Peer-To-Peer version of the entire film is available to watch for free on YouTube. Check it out [here](#).

The Blair Witch goes Down Under in this intriguing little flick from Australia. Filmed documentary-style, the movie begins with news broadcasts about an underground lake in Sydney, Australia, that the government has chosen to “tap” in order to address their recent water shortage problems. When locals begin protesting the move, claiming it will disturb the homeless and “other things” that dwell under the city, local reporter Natasha Warner (played by Bel Delia) decides to grab a cameraman and sound guy and head down into the tunnels to see if she can film a scoop. It doesn't take long for the trio to get hopelessly lost underground, but not before learning that they are not alone. And that whatever it is that appears to be stalking them, it's not human.

Check out the official trailer for The Tunnel [here](#). It's an unrated trailer, so there is some adult language.



The Babadook (2014)

*If it's in a word
Or it's in a look
You can't get rid
Of the Babadook*

Here's another independent horror movie out of Australia and one that has been creating a huge buzz on the film festival circuit. Story centers around single mom, Amelia (played by Essie Davis), and her 6-year-old son, Robbie (Daniel Henshall). After finding a mysterious old book entitled Mister Babadook, Amelia and her son begin to wonder if the frightening creature they read about has somehow crawled out of the book and into their home.

No US release date yet, but if all the reviews are to be believed, this is one film to keep an eye on!

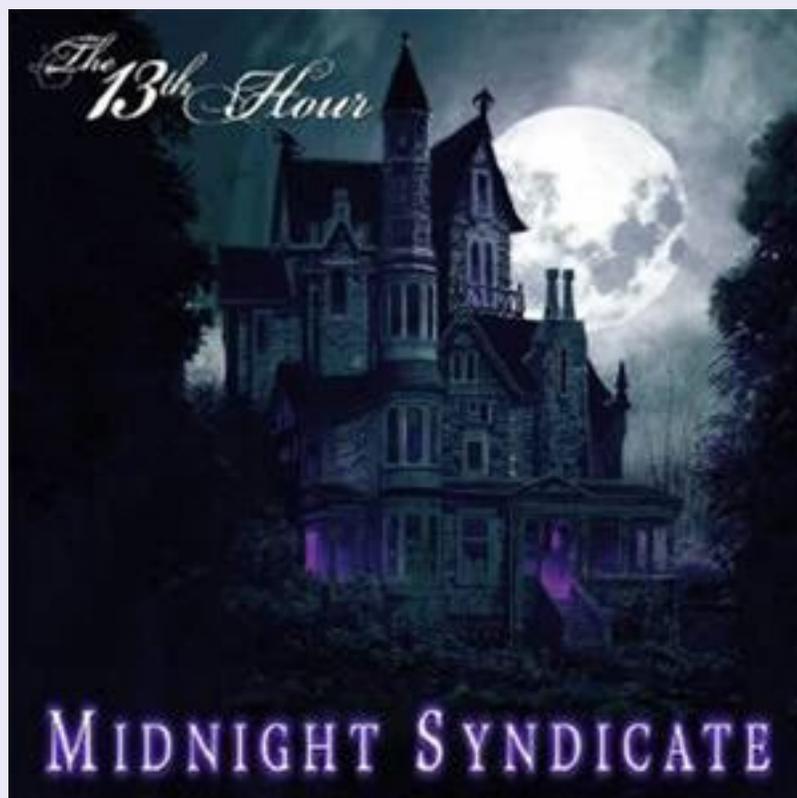
Check out the official trailer [here](#).

Midnight Syndicate: Live!



Over the years, The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter has carried information about all sorts of ghostly things, including books and movies. But this is the first time in the newsletter's 12-year history that we are including information related to live music. But in this case, the news was so exciting that we just couldn't keep it to ourselves: this Halloween season, Midnight Syndicate is playing a bunch of shows!

What's that, you say? You don't think you know Midnight Syndicate's music. Don't worry, you probably do. Put it this way; if you've ever found yourself standing in line at any haunted house attraction, pretty much anywhere in the world, and got creeped out by the weird, ethereal music they are playing, you can thank Midnight Syndicate for that. Yeah, their music really is played around the world. That's because Midnight Syndicate IS haunted house music, hands down. No one even comes close. Not bad for two guys from Northern Ohio, huh?



And here's the best part: this October, Midnight Syndicate will be performing LIVE at Cedar Point's HalloWeekends this year, beginning on Friday, September 12th and running through the first weekend in November. Why is this such a big deal? Because Midnight Syndicate hasn't played live in a long, long time. So this is a truly unique chance to see the guys behind the music.

They're not just bringing the music, either. There's a full-blown stage production involved, too.

So if you're into Halloween and spooky music (and since you're a subscriber to this newsletter, it's probably safe to assume that you are), start making your plans now! And when you get there,

keep an eye out for members of The Ghosts of Ohio as many of us are huge fans of Midnight Syndicate. To help spot us, here's a hint; we'll probably have on our well-worn *13th Hour* t-shirts!

For more information on Midnight Syndicate, go to midnightsyndicate.com

Get the down low on Cedar Point's HalloWeekends. www.cedarpoint.com



NEXT WEEK, THE GHOSTS ARE GOING TO JAIL

OK, you can stop firing up the Internet and heading over to TMZ; we're going to a haunted jail! As far as you know, we're all still law-abiding citizens!

On Friday, September 5th, The Ghosts of Ohio will be conducting a private, all-night ghost hunt at the Licking County Jail in Newark, Ohio. Even though it was recently featured on the season finale of *Ghost Adventures*, this location is a newcomer to the list of Ohio's Haunted Hotspots. As such, this will be the first time The Ghosts of Ohio venture into this facility. We couldn't be more excited!

The number of participants needed to be kept low in order to avoid the risk of potential evidence contamination (i.e., we needed to keep from falling over each other in the darkness), but a few of you were lucky enough to score the chance to come hang with us for the night.

So what do we hope to encounter during the overnight? Who knows! But you'll hear all about it in the October edition of The Ghosts Of Ohio Newsletter!



The old Licking County Jail, taken from www.parajail.com

EVER BEEN TO A CRYBABY BRIDGE IN OHIO?



If you have, The Ghosts of Ohio's founder and director, James A. Willis, wants to talk to you!

Willis is currently in the process of compiling what he hopes will be the most comprehensive database of all known Crybaby Bridges in the state of Ohio. And he wants you to help! So if you've ever been to a Crybaby Bridge/Tunnel/Lane/Hollow in the state of Ohio, drop Willis a line and let him know about it. What happened there? Anything? Did you hear the baby cry? Even if you think the whole story surrounding the area is bogus, he still wants to hear about it. He'll even include your story on the website, along with your story, when the site launches.

For more information about the project, visit his [author site](#). To submit your story, send it to jim@strangeandspooky.com

GOT A SCARY STORY TO TELL?

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do:

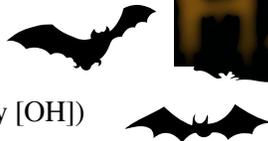
Just write down your story and send it to info@ghostsofohio.org with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story." Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you out an email letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!

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 group 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!

- Dalton Cemetery** (Dalton / Wayne county)
- Hell House** (Lockbourne / Franklin county)
- Stage's Pond** (Ashville / Pickaway county)
- Witch's Pyramid** (Ridgeway / Hardin county)
- Zombie Land** (Ohio-PA border / Mahoning county [OH])



COMING IN THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Review of the Licking County Jail Overnight

Trick Or Treat With The Ghosts Of Ohio



HALLOWEEN

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio is still scheduling investigations for 2014. 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:

 **MYSPACE**
www.myspace.com/ghostsofohio

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

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

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