



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 16 Issue 1

FROM THE SPOOKY DESK OF JAMES WILLIS:

I'M STILL WEARING MY OCTOBER GLOW

Well, another Halloween is in the books. Suffice it to say, if you happened to pass by me on the street and were accidentally struck by my mile-wide grin, you know it was a great month. And if you're reading this, chances are you are directly responsible for my happiness.

Just to give you all a glimpse behind the ghostly curtain, things aren't always fun and games around the ol' Ghosts of Ohio Headquarters. Truth be told, many times it feels like an office in Corporate America. Days and sometimes weeks are spent dealing with things like personnel issues, scheduling, and even coverage for things like holidays and vacations. Since The Ghosts of Ohio has been in operation since 1999, it's to be expected that some "company stuff" would be required. Still, it can often be overwhelming, leaving me wondering "but what about the ghosts?"

There's also the idea that some of our research gets us into some areas that can feel pretty non-ghostly. Things like spreadsheets, probability charts, and more bar and line graphs that you can even imagine. The desired end result of all this is that we are able to predict where and when ghost activity is most likely to occur. Pretty cool, huh? But the end result often gets lost behind reams of paper and an endless piles of scribbled notes.

My point? I often end up not being able to see the forest for the trees. I get lost in all the data and the non-ghostly (yet essential) business side of things. And it starts to bum me out when I've got a pile of paperwork in front of me and all I really want to do is sit in some dark, spooky basement, calling out "is there anyone here with me tonight?" Sometimes, it gets to the point where I start to question why I'm still doing all this ghostly stuff.



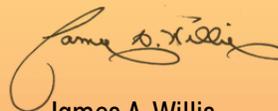
Happy
HALLOWEEN!

That all changes every October when I see all your smiling faces. As I travel across Ohio for presentations and appearances, it's the same in every town and city I go to: crowds full of smiling faces, all eager to learn about the work The Ghosts of Ohio is doing. You guys get us. And there's nothing I love more than looking out across the audience and seeing you all out there, hanging on every word, laughing and even gasping at all the right times. After all that, you still want to hang around afterwards to let me know how much you enjoyed the presentation and taking the time to share your personal ghost stories with me.

To say that I find your enthusiasm rejuvenating would be an understatement.

That's why I feel that as this Halloween season comes to an end, I need to take a moment to thank each and every one of you. For you truly are what keeps me and The Ghosts of Ohio going!

Cheers,



James A. Willis
Founder/Director



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

SHE WANTED ME TO COME OVER

Mary M., Coshocton, Ohio

I am 64 years old and have lived in and around Coshocton my entire life. When I was small, I lived with my family in a farmhouse. Across the road from us was an old house that has been abandoned ever since I can remember. My parents said that it had been abandoned as long as they knew about it, too. Years later, it had gotten so old and rotten that the roof caved in. Not long after that, the whole thing fell apart. Last year, I drove past there just for fun and it was still there. Or what was left of it. It just looked like an old pile of junk.

But, anyway, when I was small, I shared a bedroom with my twin sister. Our window faced the road and the abandoned house. I don't remember how old I was the first time I saw the woman, but I know exactly how it happened. I was lying in bed, just sort of starting out the window when I saw her. It was a woman dressed in a light-colored dress, staring out of the

window of the abandoned house at me. It was the middle of the night and there were no lights on anywhere, but somehow I could see her plain as day, even her face. I can't explain it, but the look on her face to me meant that she wanted me to come over to her house. It scared me and I ran into my parents room and told them. My father went over to the abandoned house to look, but he said there was no way you could even get inside it since it was rotting and falling apart.

I didn't see her every night and sometimes I wouldn't see her for months and months. But when I did see her, she always had that look on her face like she wanted me to come over. That was the part that really freaked me out.

Eventually, I stopped seeing her altogether. I just wish I knew who she was or what she wanted.



D-E-A-T-H

John F., Greenville, Ohio

When I was a teenager, my older sister had a Ouija board that I couldn't wait to get my hands on. Can't say I believed in all that stuff, but it was just the idea that the board was supposed to have the ability to talk to ghosts and demons and stuff like that. I guess you could say I was fascinated with the whole thing.

One night, I had a couple of friends over and we were just hanging out. It was around Halloween, so of course we ended up talking about ghosts and trying to scare each other. When I mentioned that my sister had an old Ouija board, all my friends wanted me to go get it so we could try it. Big mistake!

We went and lit a bunch of candles and turned off all the lights. None of us were really sure what we were doing, so we spent a lot of time just trying to figure out how to use the darn thing. And I admit that we sort of took turns pushing the pointer and trying to scare each other. But then we all agreed to try and take it seriously and settled down.

Nothing happened at first, even though we kept asking questions. Then, all of a sudden, the pointer just sort of

started shaking on its own. Nothing too hard, but we all felt it in our fingertips. One of us asked, "Is there anyone here?", but nothing happened. It just kept shaking, although it felt to me like it was shaking more than before. So, we kept asking, "Is anyone there?" But, nothing happened except the pointer kept shaking, almost like it was vibrating or something.

Then my friend Steve asked, "If you're doing the shaking, what do you want?" and all of a sudden, the pointer started to move. Slowly at first, but then it started to move faster. And it spelled out D-E-A-T-H.

Well, that was it. We all let go of the pointer. Funny thing was we watched the pointer sort of sit there vibrating and shaking for another minute or so before we decided to blow out the candles, turn on the lights, and get the heck out of that room.

When we came back about an hour later, the pointer was laying on the other side of the room and the Ouija board was turned upside down. But no one else had been in the house after we left.



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES CONT.

SARAH DIDN'T WANT IT

Celeste W., Norwalk, OH

I have a cousin that lives out in the sticks. We visit a couple of times a year and when I was a teenager, it was boring as all getout. Absolutely nothing to do. One October, we went for a visit and my cousin said she was going to check out a haunted cemetery with some friends and asked if I wanted to come. Of course I did.

So here's the story about the haunted cemetery. They said there's a young girl named Sarah buried out there and that her ghost haunts the cemetery. There's a weird story that says when Sarah was alive, her father made her plow the corn fields, so much that Sarah grew to hate corn and could barely stand the sight of it. So of course, people go out to her grave and leave things like cans of corn and corn stalks just to kind of tick her ghost off. Kind of mean, I know.

So a group of us went out there and one of the guys hands me this dried up corn cob, like the kind people hang on their front doors for Thanksgiving, and tells me to put it on Sarah's grave when we find it. I was like sure, whatever, but didn't really think too much about it. The cemetery was in a little clearing in the middle of the woods, so it was really spooky and isolated. We found Sarah's grave, but spent some time just walking among the tombstones and checking things out. I got sort of bored after a while and just sat down on an old tree stump while everyone else wandered off. As I sat there, I

just sort of started picking on the dried corn cob, pulling some of the kernels out in a straight line from top to bottom. I managed to pull out 9 of them before everyone came back to me and we got ready to go. Just as we were leaving, the guy who had given me the corn cob said, "Ain't you gonna leave it on her grave?" So I did.

Later that night, we were back at my cousin's house and I went into my overnight bag to get ready for bed. The corn cob I had left on Sarah's grave was inside the bag! I know it was the same one because this one had the same straight line where 9 kernels had been pulled out! I thought at first that my cousin had done it, but based on the look on her face when I showed it to her, there was no way she was part of it. Nobody else that had gone to the cemetery that night had come inside my cousin's house and certainly not into my overnight bag. So I can only think that it was Sarah's ghost who put it there, although I have no idea how she was able to do that!



**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!



MOVIE REVIEW: THE BRAY ROAD BEAST

Genre: Documentary

Written by Seth Breedlove & Mark Matzke

Directed by Seth Breedlove

Small Town Monsters

Streaming online and physical disc available for purchase

Official website: <http://www.smalltownmonsters.com/>



James

In recent years, documentaries featuring ghosts, monsters, and all things paranormal have become all the rage. For the most part, these docs consist of nothing more

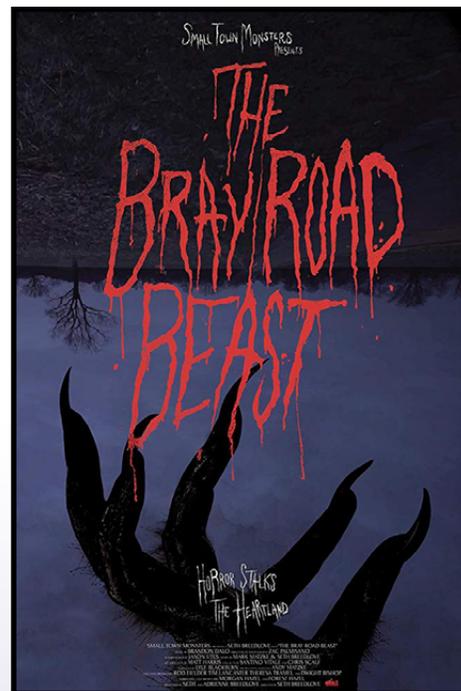
than the standard retelling of a well-known story with the sole purpose being to convince the audience that a particular ghost/monster exists. In a refreshing change of pace, Small Town Monster's latest offering, *The Bray Road Beast*, blows all that came before it out of the paranormal water.

For the uninitiated, the creature at the center of *The Bray Road Beast* first leapt into the public eye beginning in the 1980s when people started reporting seeing a werewolf/dogman-type creature lurking around Bray Road, near Elkhorn, Wisconsin. There have been several books and documentaries about the creature, but *The Bray Road Beast* takes a unique approach to the case, which is evident right from the get-go with the inclusion of Linda Godfrey.

Simply put, Linda Godfrey is THE researcher when it comes to the Bray Road Beast. It was Godfrey who first helped bring the case to light when she was a reporter with the Walworth County Week and covered the sightings in the 1980s. She's been researching it ever since.

Godfrey is featured heavily in *The Bray Road Beast*, which is something the documentary needs to be commended on. Far too many documentaries feel the need to tell their own story by bringing in their own "experts" and ignoring the ones closest to the case. *The Bray Road Beast* doesn't stoop to that level. Indeed, it also includes interviews from others who were close to the case. All of which not only makes for fascinating viewing, but also makes the doc take a rather unique approach to such paranormal topics. Mainly, that it's not trying to convince you that the Bray Road Beast even exists. Rather, the doc is satisfied with simply laying out the story, complete with facts and first-hand experiences from people who were there. It's left up to the viewer to decide for themselves if there's really something lurking out on Bray Road.

The Bray Road Beast also digs deeper into the legend and repeatedly touches on how the story, true or not, still had an impact on the community as a whole, including what people were thinking when the events themselves were occurring. In some instances, what people were feeling—the human element, if you will—takes precedence over the monster itself. It's more of a "boots on the ground" approach as opposed to the standard retelling. And that's something that really separates *The Bray Road Beast* from other documentaries on the same topic.



The Bray Road Beast also separates itself from previous documentaries by venturing into an aspect of the legend that is often whispered about, but never really touched upon. Specifically, that there were satanic rituals being conducted in the area around Bray Road that may or may not have somehow been connected to the beast itself. The doc also seeks to explore some possible origins of the beast, as well as tracing back similar stories.

All in all, *The Bray Road Beast* is an in-depth look at a fascinating case and offers something for those new to the tale as well as people who thought they knew all the facts. Keep in mind, though, that if you're looking for confirmation of the beast's existence, you won't find it with the documentary. Nor will you find proof that it doesn't exist. Rather, you will just be presented with all the evidence and it will be up to each viewer to decide for themselves. And if that isn't a sure sign that a documentary is fair and balanced, I don't know what is.

SPENDING THE NIGHT WITH THE GHOSTS OF OHIO INSIDE TWO HAUNTED LOCATIONS!



As summer started to fade, The Ghosts of Ohio knew it wasn't going to be long before we were knee-deep in presentations and personal appearances. So of course, we just had to book a couple of Spend the Night locations just to hone our ghost hunting skills outside of private investigations. Well, that, and we wanted to have a bunch of new stuff to talk about at our presentations!



Our first Spend the Night was at a location many members of The Ghosts of Ohio had dreamed about being inside of for years—the Anchoage in Marietta, Ohio.

This castle-like structure has been looming above Marietta since it was first constructed in the late 1850s by Douglas Putnam. Initially a private residence, the building was also used as a nursing home from the 1960s until the 1980s. So one can only imagine the energy that might be lurking inside.

For this overnight, we broke into small groups of 2-3 and spread out. For the most part, it appeared to be a quiet, uneventful night. There were a few odd noises and the occasional creaking floorboard, but nothing too spectacular. Well, that's not entirely true. At one point in the evening, two male investigators both distinctly heard what they described as a "woman pretending to be a ghost going 'wooooooowoooo'." They both originally thought it was one of the female investigators, but it wasn't. In fact, while multiple recording devices were running in the area at the time, nothing was picked up on audio. We're all still scratching our heads over that one!



The next location The Ghosts of Ohio spent the night inside of was clear across the other side of the state—the South Main Elementary School in Bowling Green, Ohio. Several of our members had been wanting to investigate a school for a while, considering the amount of energy that must have gone through the halls when it was open for business. South Main Elementary also offered a unique opportunity in that there was no power anywhere in the building. So it allowed us to use our EMF-type devices without worrying about picking up things like bad wiring, etc. Of course, we were all hoping that at some point in the evening, all the EMFs would suddenly spring to life and start flashing like crazy. Didn't happen, though.

Just like the Anchoage, things were rather quiet at South Main Elementary. We did appear to capture a ghostly "Hey" in the boiler room area, but that was about it. Still, a really cool place to visit. And if nothing else, our founder managed to bring home a haunted school desk from a haunted school to add to his collection!

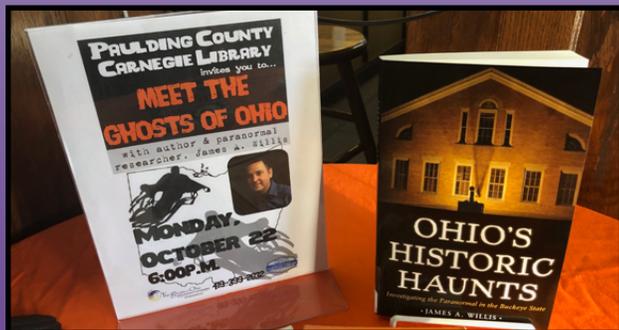


THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT TO SEE THE GHOSTS

This October was one for the record books for The Ghosts of Ohio. Our annual "Strange & Spooky Tour" consisted of 15 presentations and appearances, requiring over 2,400 miles of travel across the Buckeye State. And best part of all, some of our crowds were the largest we've seen in a long time, which meant we got to meet and spend some time with many of you!

From all of us here at The Ghosts of Ohio, we want to sincerely thank each and every one of you who took time out of your busy schedules to spend it with us!

Hope to see you all out on the road next October... maybe even sooner!



WANT TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE GHOSTS OF OHIO IN 2019?



It's true: The Ghosts of Ohio is getting ready to start releasing a list of locations where you can investigate with us as part of our Spend the Night with The Ghosts of Ohio program!

What's the Spend the Night program? Simply put, it's an opportunity for some of our fans to get locked inside of a haunted location with us on a private, overnight ghost hunt.

All you need to be is an active subscriber to this very newsletter. As long as you are, there's a chance your email address will be randomly pulled from the list. When that happens, you and a guest are headed to a haunted location with us for the night!



Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio have begun scheduling investigations and consultations for 2019. If you or someone you know is experiencing something unexplained in a home or place of business, contact us at info@ghostsofohio.org or visit our website to fill out an investigation request. All investigations are offered free of charge, and confidentiality and discretion are assured.

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

Interact with The Ghosts of Ohio

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

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

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

Administration

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