



# The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

[www.ghostsofohio.org](http://www.ghostsofohio.org)

Volume 22 Issue 6

  
**SOMETHING  
WICKED,  
this way  
COMES!**

I've never been a morning person. Ever. Make me stay up until 4 in the morning and I'm fine. Need me to drive all night to get somewhere? Cool. But ask me to be all bright and chipper before 9 am, even with a full night's sleep, and you're not going to like the answer...if I even manage to verbalize a response. And if given the choice, I would much prefer to lay in bed and slowly wake up. Still, something happened earlier this week that made me leap from the bed in excitement. As I turned my alarm off and sleepily glanced at my phone, I noticed it was only 49 degrees out: Fall was coming!



**JAMES**

I can tell you how excited it makes me to feel that nip in the air and to see leaves start falling from the trees. Most people ask if I start to feel overwhelmed in the fall with all my presentations and appearances. Short answer is "of course," but I wouldn't change a thing because I get to see all of you and share strange and spooky stories. What could be better than that?

This year, I've updated all my existing presentations, adding all-new video, audio, and photographs. Plus, I've added 8 new presentations that I've never done in public...yet!

Later in this newsletter is the full presentation schedule. Have a look and see when The Ghosts are coming to your town. Admit it; after a year like this, there's no better cure than gathering together and telling ghost stories!

Cheers,

James A. Willis,  
Founder/Director

# ABOUT A DOLL



JAMES

Over the past month or so, I have been asked this question countless times, so I figured I should address it head on: What's the deal with the Annabelle doll? To put it more succinctly, is an oversized Raggedy Ann doll inhabited

by an evil entity capable of causing death and destruction or is it all just a cash grab?

For the sake of the uninitiated, I'll boil down the Annabelle saga to this: Ed and Lorraine Warren came into possession (no pun intended) of a large Raggedy Ann doll, which the Warrens would come to believe had an extremely dangerous entity attached to it. It was so dangerous that the Warrens locked it inside a protective wood and glass case, complete with a sign that read "Warning! Positively do not open."

Annabelle (and her case) remained safely locked away in the Warrens' home museum until Lorraine's passing in 2019. From that point, a paranormal research organization claimed ownership of Annabelle and recently, they started taking Annabelle on tour, making appearances at various cons across the United States, complete with her own handlers. While on tour, Annabelle was

blamed for various events that occurred while she was in town, including fires, floods, and even "disappearing" for a while. Then, on July 13, 2025, Annabelle handler/paranormal investigator Dan Rivera was found deceased in his Gettysburg, Pennsylvania hotel room. Rivera had been in town attending a paranormal convention with Annabelle. The story exploded and battlelines were drawn: If Annabelle had the power to kill, why was she allowed to be taken on tour? Of course, if Annabelle wasn't haunted, well, that opens a whole can of worms, doesn't it?



**NOT Annabelle**

*(continued on page 3.)*

# ABOUT A DOLL continued

As with most of the work I do, I am not going to tell you what I think. I'm just going to tell you the facts as I know them to be and allow each of you to make up your own minds. Again, I am not here to disparage, merely to provide information. With that in mind, here are a few things to consider:

- Other than Ed and Lorraine Warren, there is no one to verify or corroborate Annabelle's back story, including why such a vengeful spirit would inhabit a Raggedy Ann doll
- The identities of the individuals who gave the Warrens the doll have never been identified and were only referred to by first name
- Paranormal researcher and Lorraine Warren mentee Dan Rivera became Annabelle's caretaker and was given permission to handle the doll. While he stated his faith was a core part of his protection strategy, he was not ordained by any organized religion or organization that set forth rules and guidelines for handling "evil" objects

- At the time of his death, Dan Rivera was accompanying Annabelle and various other artifacts from Ed and Lorraine Warren's collection on what was officially called the Devils On The Run Tour
- While the Devils on the Run Tour was held inside various paranormal conventions, one needed to purchase an additional ticket to see Annabelle (typically \$50, but children under 10 were free).
- The Devils on the Run Tour, while paused shortly after Dan Rivera's passing, is once again up and running. And yes, Annabelle is part of the tour.

So, there you have it. Make of it what you will. But there is one thing that I do want to make abundantly clear: Annabelle did not kill Dan Rivera. To even suggest such things is only going to cause more pain and grief for the family he left behind. Granted, Dan did play up the whole "Annabelle is dangerous" angle, but that's on him. Leave his family out of it.



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

## THIS IS NOT ANOTHER GHOST STORY

Denny S., Fostoria, OH

This is an account of an actual supernatural occurrence, not a ghost story! This would have been a good one for TAPS had they been around back then.

Well, it all started out as rumor at my high school in 1966, a true haunted house in the country. There were stories reports of kids who went out to the house, never to return. That was the real seed that sparked my interest: maybe this house was the real deal! So, I told my buddies and girlfriend, and they were ready to go.

We got directions and one warm, spring night, we decided to head out to the haunted house. The road that the house sat on was southwest of Frenchtown, Ohio. The first time we turned onto the road, there was a woodpecker sitting on top of a pole, who would fly down in front of us, heading in the direction of the haunted house. It was almost like the woodpecker was acting like a sentinel. I say that because no matter how many times we went back to the house, the woodpecker was there.

The house itself sat back off the right side of the road; an old 1800's brick two-story home. It was getting dark, but we could still tell from the house's appearance and the tall dry weeds everywhere that the property hadn't been tended to in many years.

To the left of the house was an old windmill while across the road was a barn with a small garage. There was just the usual junk in the barn, but in the garage was an old Model T, sunk to the axels, but otherwise in pretty good shape. But



there were bullet holes on the driver's side door and the legend said that this car once belonged to (*previous owner's name withheld for privacy—ed.*) and that he was gunned down and killed while he sat in the car. His angry ghost was said to still haunt his car, the garage, and even the house.

Leaving the garage, we made our way over to the front of the house when all at once, we were hit with a powerful stench, that seemed to come out of nowhere. Soon, we all saw a glowing, misty mint green ball, about the size of a basketball, at the back of the house, behind the tall weeds. As we watched, the glowing ball began moving towards us, parting the weeds as it got closer. That was all we needed to see. We ran back to the car, which we had thankfully chose to keep running, and were off down the road at full speed.

*(continued on page 5.)*

## THIS IS NOT ANOTHER GHOST STORY *continued*

Back at school, when we told all our friends what had happened, everyone wanted to see it for themselves. So, the following Friday night, three carloads of us set back out for the haunted house.

Arriving, we parked out front, and strolled around, telling everybody what had happened during my previous visit. It wasn't long before the stench began. The weeds behind the house started moving again, but there was no glowing ball, so we took the movement to be an animal. About half an hour passed by and then one of the guys went onto the front porch, looking through the open door and windows. There wasn't much to see, but suddenly we heard a loud bang from inside the house, followed by the upper floor of the house starting to glow.

As we watched, the glowing light appeared to move towards the staircase and beginning descending to the ground floor. Not knowing what it was, we decided to make a run for the cars, locking all the doors as soon as we got there. We were more than ready to leave, except all the cars' batteries appeared to be dead! That's when we saw a glowing ball of light emerge from around the side of the house, heading towards us. As we kept trying to start the cars—petrified, sweating and yelling—the glow came closer than it had ever come, all the way down to the old iron fence that surrounded the property. Suddenly, all the cars started, and we were off like a cannon shot.

Once we got back to Fostoria, most of the group decided that they had seen and heard enough, period. A few of us, me included, wanted to learn more and thought maybe a daylight trip might be in order. We made a couple of visits there during the day and nothing supernatural happened. We did find that there was another abandoned house nearby, about a quarter of a

mile up the same, deserted road. We did some research and learned that the previous owners had been driven from the home. At night, they experienced strange lights and sounds coming from outside their house, along with a strange pungent smell.

Lots of different people would venture out to that house over the years. But I and a few of my friends were the only ones that would go out there time and time again. We didn't always see the glowing ball or smell the strange odor, but something always seemed to be happening. One of the strangest things had to do with the shutters; we'd show up and the shutters would be in their normal place on the house and then, barely an hour later, they would be gone. Not like they had all suddenly fallen off, either. They were just gone. Then, like that, they would be back up on the house. The old windmill would sometimes turn on its own when there was no wind. It started to feel like someone, or something was turning the windmill to let us know it was there. And then there were the weird noises. Sometimes, it was a strange, high-pitched sound while other times it would be footsteps, knocks, and bangs. One time, in broad daylight, we heard what first sounded like vibrating sand on tin foil. But the longer the sound went on, it began to sound like a voice, repeating something over and over again. We even rolled up the windows, but the sound was everywhere, like surround sound. If only we had the equipment back then that we have now, I can't imagine what we might have been able to capture.

I've often thought about what we could have been encountering in that house could have meant, and there was one incident that summed it all up for me. One night, there were about seven of us in the front parlor with nothing much

*(continued on page 6.)*

## THIS IS NOT ANOTHER GHOST STORY *continued*

going on. All at once, it popped into my head that the strange smell that we often encountered was of rotten flesh and that perhaps that was an indication of a demonic presence. As soon as I thought that, I noticed something move out of the corner of my eye. Turning, I saw what freaked me out to the point of being unable to speak.

Rising off the floor at least three feet was a huge horsehair and walnut couch! I dropped my lantern and all of us ran for the door, barely making it out before the couch slammed into the wall, sending plaster flying before it crashed to the floor. When we went back another time, we found that it took four people to barely lift that couch. After regrouping outside, three of us went back inside to get my lantern. We found it and took off again, but not before we heard a door being slammed hard from somewhere inside the house. Weirder still was that night, when I was home and in bed, my mother would later say that she heard what sounded like someone playing the harmonica in the front room of her house. When she got up to look, she saw our rocking chair, busy going back and forth, except there wasn't anyone in the chair. She asked me what I was doing up at that old house and my dad said he didn't like the idea of me showing "it where we all live."

I'm often asked if I ever saw an entity at the house. One of the strangest encounters happened in broad daylight at about two in the afternoon. We were just sitting in one of the bedrooms, which was filled with nothing but old furniture and dust. We were all startled by sound of the huge bedroom door slamming shut even though there was no wind. Not even a breeze. As I looked at the now-closed door, I couldn't help but notice there was someone or something standing in front of the door. It was a human figure, although it was all iridescent purple, pale



and hooded. It was also floating about a foot above the floor. At almost the same time, the temperature in the room began to drop. We all started looking towards the windows to escape, which is when I heard the figure groan. Turning to face it again, I watched it vanish before my very eyes.

I made countless trips out to that house over a three-year period and experienced many paranormal events. After thirty eight years, I decided that this event needed to be written about for others to know about. It's in a way, part of the history of the home and the area. Ever since these supernatural experiences, I have been involved with the other side we call the paranormal. There is life after this life. It does not matter who believes this event or not, it happened, and we who were there all know it was as real as it gets!



## BOOK REVIEW

# My Confrontation with Hell: Real Demonic Encounters of an Exorcist

Msgr. Stephen J. Rossetti  
Spirit Daily (2025)



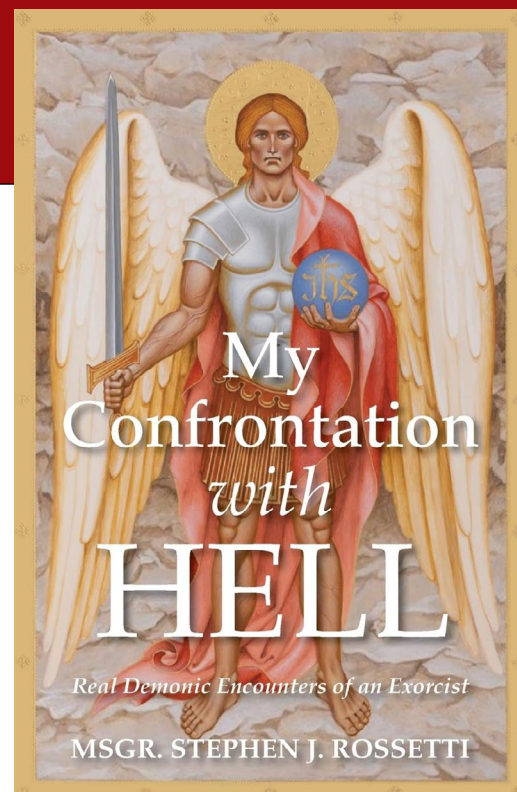
Frank

At 77 years old, as a Christian with over 20 years of experience in paranormal investigations, I have spent much of my life searching for answers about the unseen. My interest in the spiritual world grew after some unsettling personal experiences and watching the TV show, *The Dead Files*, which revealed how much we don't understand

about the spiritual realm. When I discovered Monsignor Stephen Rossetti's, *My Confrontation with Hell*, I knew it was more than just another book. It felt like a bridge linking the paranormal work I've done, my faith journey, and a deeper understanding of evil's reality. I sometimes join his monthly Deliverance sessions online. Just search his name—I believe he is the real deal.

Msgr. Rossetti is an American Catholic priest, licensed psychologist and long-serving exorcist in the Archdiocese of Washington. Educated at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Boston College (PhD in psychology), and Catholic University (DMin), he has also led the Saint Luke Institute and serves as President of the St. Michael Center for Spiritual Renewal.

In *My Confrontation with Hell*, Rossetti combines clinical insight with theological reflection, describing over two decades of ministry confronting demonic oppression and possession. I am He writes as both a priest and psychologist, blending theology, psychology and raw personal experiences as an exorcist. The book's short chapters with titles like *Blacker than Black*, *Horrifying Beyond Description* and *Slimed and Attacked by Demons* spoke directly to some of the darker cases many have seen on their own investigations. The inclusion of real case studies of demonic possession and deliverance



resonated with me deeply. If you have met people who suffered under spiritual oppression, Rossetti's account will give language and context to things you may have witnessed but could not explain.

One of the things I really liked about Rossetti's book was how authentic it felt. It wasn't written to be sensational. Rossetti wants to educate but is always cognizant of the fact that the people he is writing about are human beings. As such, he treats them with compassion, and his writing strikes a perfect balance between his work as a priest and that of a psychologist. If there was anything to knock about Rossetti's book, it was that the content sometimes felt overwhelming and I needed to take breaks while reading it so step outside into the sunshine.

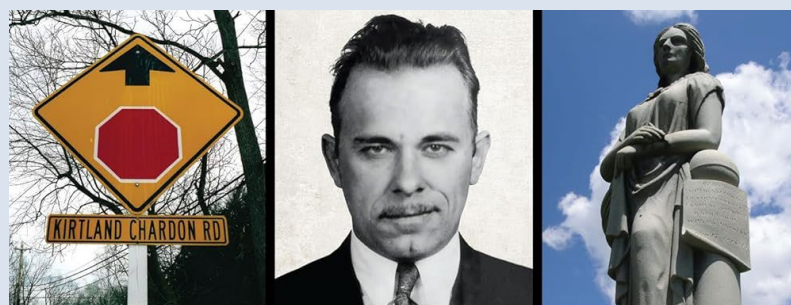
Anyone with a serious interest in the paranormal will enjoy reading this book. As a person interested in paranormal activity, I understand that evil is real, and this book really drives that home.

# NORTHERN OHIO LEGENDS & LORE

**The wait is almost over: The third and final book in James A. Willis' Ohio Legends & Lore series releases on September 30th.**

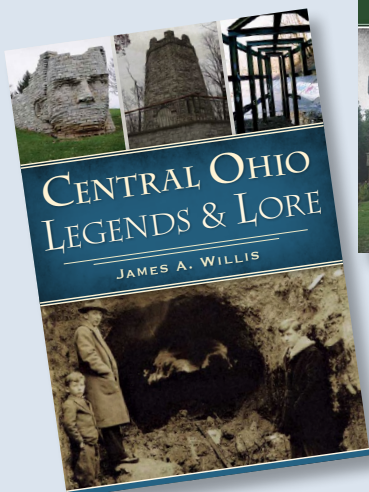
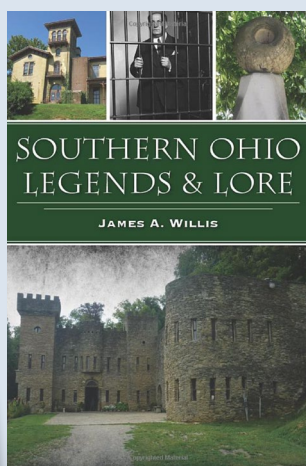
Like the other two books, *Northern Ohio Legends & Lore* will focus not only on ghosts, but also strange roadside oddities, notorious people, monsters and cryptids, and even an urban legend that claimed Michael Jackson hid his home phone number inside his *Thriller* album. What does that have to do with Northern Ohio? Well, you'll just have to read the book to find out!

The book is currently up for pre-order online on places like [Amazon](#) and should be available in most Ohio library systems by October. And yes, we will have plenty of copies available at most stops on our Strange & Spooky Fall Tour!



## NORTHERN OHIO LEGENDS & LORE

JAMES A. WILLIS





# THURBER HOUSE BBQ AT GREEN LAWN CEMETERY

On Saturday, August 9th, our fearless leader took part in an amazing event at Green Lawn Cemetery in Columbus, all centered around Ohio's own James Thurber.

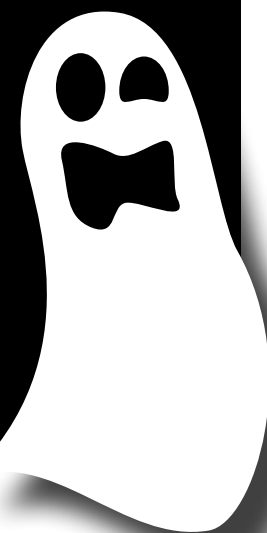
After many years of reading the first two paragraphs of Thurber's *The Night The Ghost Got In*, Willis was incredibly moved to be asked to read the short story, in its entirety, from the cemetery's Grand Gazebo while audience members enjoyed a City BBQ picnic. Amazing.





## WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do: Just write down your story and send it to [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "Equipment" and we'll take it from there!



# IT'S ALMOST TIME FOR THE GHOSTS!

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

Unless an event is marked with a "\$," it is free and open to the public. However, seating may be limited, so it's always a good idea to check with the venue about the need to pre-register.

## **Monday, September 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

*Ohio Bigfoot and Grassman*  
Barberton Public Library  
602 W. Park Avenue  
Barberton, OH 44203

## **Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm**

*Ohio's Historic Haunts*  
Mentor-on-the-Lake Library—  
Lake Branch  
5642 Andrews Road  
Mentor-on-the-Lake, Ohio 44060

## **Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm**

*"Ghosts" presentation—TBD*  
Wayne Public Library  
137 E. Main Street  
Wayne, OH 43466

## **Thursday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>**

*Ohio's Historic Haunts*  
Heights Libraries  
2345 Lee Road  
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

## **Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm**

*My Strangest & Spookiest Investigations*  
Mentor Public Library—  
Main Branch  
8215 Mentor Avenue  
Mentor, OH 44060

## **Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

*Ohio's Historic Haunts*  
Chillicothe Public Library—  
Main Library  
140 South Paint Street  
Chillicothe, OH 45601

## **Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**

*Bigfoot and the Ohio Grassman*  
Wayne County Library:  
Shreve Branch  
189 W McConkey Street  
Shreve, OH 44676

## **Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm**

*Ohio's Historic Haunts*  
Public Library of Youngstown &  
Mahoning County: Canfield Branch  
43 W Main Street  
Canfield, OH 44406

## **Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm**

*Amityville: Horror Or Hoax*  
Dayton Metro Library: New  
Lebanon Branch  
715 W. Main Street  
New Lebanon, OH 45345

## **Tuesday, October 21 at 6 pm**

*Bigfoot and the Ohio Grassman*  
Wayne County Library:  
Creston Branch  
116 S. Main Street  
Creston, OH 44217

## **Thursday October 23 @ 6:00 pm**

*Weird Events in Ohio History*  
Wayne County Library:  
West Salem Branch  
99 East Buckeye Street  
West Salem, OH 44287

## **Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

*Presentation Topic TBD*  
Milton Union Public Library  
560 S. Main Street  
West Milton, OH 45383

## **Thursday, October 28<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm**

*The Mothman Cometh*  
London Public Library  
20 E. First Street  
London, OH 43140

## **Friday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Just How Weird Is Ohio?*  
The Public Library of Youngstown  
and Mahoning County: Main Library  
305 Wick Avenue  
Youngstown, OH 44503

## **Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

*Merry Scary Christmas*  
Jackson City Library  
21 Broadway Street  
Jackson, OH 45640

## **Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2026 @ 6:30 pm**

*The Strange & Spooky Side of Abraham Lincoln*  
London Public Library  
20 E. First Street  
London, OH 43140

## **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

*Frogman Festival IV (\$)*  
Oasis Conference Center  
902 Loveland-Miamiville Road  
Loveland, OH 45140





## Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio are continuing to schedule investigations and consultations for 2025. 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>

## 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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## Newsletter Staff:

**Editor-In-Chief:** James Willis

**Designer:** Stephanie Willis

**Contributing Authors:**

James Willis

Frank Yensel