



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 20 Issue 2

The Rising Cost of Para-Unity



James

As 2022 draws to a close, people everywhere are (hopefully) filled with the spirit of giving, sharing what they have with others. The time of year when we all try to set aside our differences and just get along with each other. So of course, this is also the time when the term “para-unity” gets put into heavy rotation.

And since I’ve become known as someone who refuses to engage in para-unity, this feels like a good time to set the record straight.

To begin with, para-unity is not a new concept. I first remember hearing about it in the early 2000s, coinciding with the rise of paranormal reality TV shows. Suddenly, everyone wanted to form a paranormal group and initially, the idea of para-unity was that the old timers (like me) could work with the newbies, passing along knowledge and tips to help them learn the ghostly ropes, as it were. So less of a “unity” thing and more of a “support network.” That began to change when people decided they wanted to form a ghost group to get their own reality show. Suddenly, people were looking to be unified not to learn, but to simply take others’ research, using it for their own personal gain. And those who didn’t want to share were ostracized for not wanting to make the paranormal field one big, unified entity.

For the record, I have absolutely no problem sharing my research. I truly believe that no one has all the answers regarding the paranormal and it takes a lot of people kicking around theories and trying to come up with new investigative procedures. But under no circumstances will I ever simply open all my case files to anyone that asks. Why? Because

those files are filled with decades of cases involving private citizens who have turned to me and The Ghosts Of Ohio for help. Often, they are scared and don’t know where else to turn. It would be wrong to share that information with just anyone. In fact, a portion of The Ghosts Of Ohio’s bylaws, which all members must review and sign, states that we will not share any personal information about our cases without written or verbal approval.

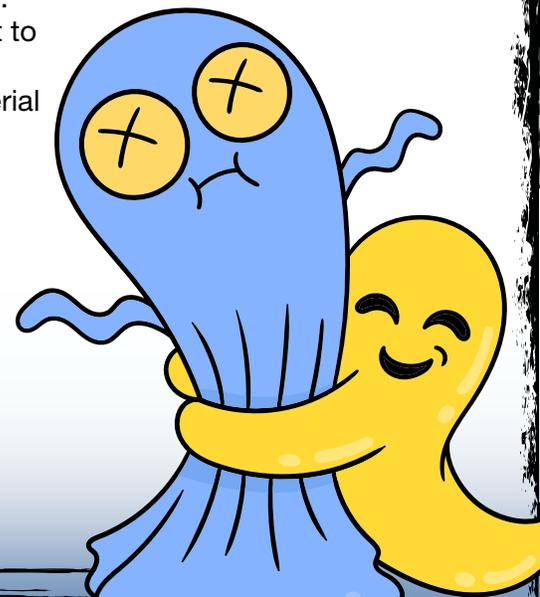
Clients and research should not be used as gambling chips for getting your group on the news, featured on a reality TV program, or your own YouTube channel. It’s just wrong. Several times a year, I’m contacted by people seeing advice from people who shared their ghost story and then found it featured on *When Ghosts and Demons Attack You in the Produce Section of Kroger*.

Cries of “para-unity” appear to be at an all-time high now. Do I think we will ever achieve it? Of course not. Too many egos and snake oil salesmen out there. But do I want it to happen? Believe it or not, I do. And I am more than willing to sit down and chat about paranormal theories, concepts, and ideas. I just ask that you come to me for the right reasons. Because if you want to be unified simply to gain access to material for your own gain, you’re missing the point.

Cheers,

James A. Willis

Founder/Director



PULLING ON THE HISTORICAL THREADS OF LIFE'S TAPESTRY



Mark

Every moment of every day, moving at incomprehensible speed, the grand Loom of Time warps and weaves countless strands of reality and memories into the colorful, complexly detailed Tapestry of our Past.

Standing close to the Loom, we see the entire picture at once, so clear and detailed, because those memories appear so close to us in the recent past. But the Loom of Time never stops. The fabric of history flows off the Loom at a dizzying pace, locking into that weave the now immutable events of the past.

Our experience of ordinary human consciousness seems to be locked to that singular nexus point of the Present. We can imagine the future. We can recall and touch records of the Past. But we only experience in "real time" the ever-changing moments of time's warp and weave, the place where the threads of life's tapestry merge and bind. How quickly, though, the woven knowledge and images of the past recede from our ever-present view. Over longer timespans, we can sometimes only discern a few threads of knowledge, touching upon lost memories and connections that once brilliantly illuminated the Tapestry of the Past.

Here is where my natural curiosity and deep interest in the past intersect this whimsical analogy. I truly enjoy discovering and uncovering mysteries long since hidden from view and forgotten. I pull on the historical threads of the Tapestry of our Past, trying to find all the original connections now lost. Often, only a few clues highlight a single thread that connects to something unknown. Through diligent research, determination, and

sometimes sheer luck, this one thread can lead to more threads crossing in the weave of time. There are several online tools that can aid this historical research endeavor, including the vast historical collections available from Newspapers.com, Ancestry.com, and Fold3.com. County real estate records verify home ownership and establish timelines, at least backwards to the point that online records were first made available. Sometimes, only the dusty old tomes and ancient maps held in the historical reference section of large libraries can complete the missing puzzle pieces. On rare occasions, finding and contacting living descendants can be provide amazing perspectives. I have used all these resources in my quests for uncovering lost and forgotten knowledge.

Pulling on the threads of history is not without its distractions. It is so easy to find an interesting cross-thread while pursuing the first, and suddenly one is falling down the proverbial "rabbit hole" chasing after a dozen interesting tangents. That's fun too, of course, but can be counterproductive in chasing down the connections of that one original thread that started the historical journey in the first place. I put all these historical search tools to good use on our Ghosts of Ohio investigations. For fun and practice, I occasionally seek out a random thread to pull and see what I can find out. Here are two examples.

**Widow Mourns Death
Of Son She Warned
To "Stay Off Tracks"**

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PULLING ON THE HISTORICAL THREADS OF LIFE'S TAPESTRY, continued

Graveyards can provide a solid starting point for reverse-tracing life history. Several years ago, I explored a small cemetery in Riverside Dayton and felt drawn to a tombstone of a 15-year-old boy, Ralph "Buddy" Muse, who died in 1941.



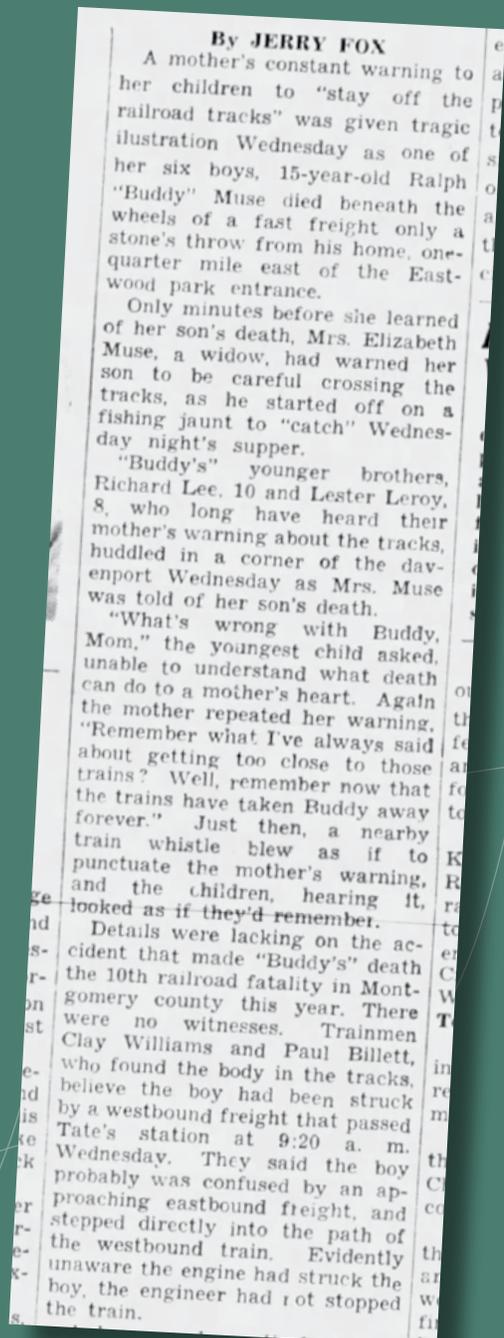
RALPH "BUDDY" MUSE

Pulling on that thread, based simply on name and dates, led to a tragic story. Buddy, a care-free and good-natured boy by all accounts, set off one morning to simply catch a few fish for his mother to cook for the family dinner. No one witnessed what happened next, but authorities later surmised that Buddy waited for a passing eastbound freight train to clear the

tracks, but then stepped directly into the path of an oncoming westbound train— hidden from view and sound by the first train's passing. There was even a picture of this smiling boy in the newspaper story. So pulling on that thread put a face and a history to what was otherwise a forgotten tombstone inscribed with just a name and dates. Perhaps Buddy wanted his story to be told once more.

On another occasion of thread-pulling practice, I began with a shocking story I ran across by chance (probably looking for something else!). While there were specific clues for historical research in the initial newspaper reports that I found, the location was not clearly identified. I eventually found other related articles that pictured the outside of the house, but not its address. Finally, after finding another article related to burial plans for the family, I found the name of the road where this tragedy unfolded. Now armed with knowledge of a road and a general regional location, I used Google Maps to virtually walk down the road from one end to the

other, looking for the house that had appeared in the old newspaper article. With a little patience and steady clicking of the mouse, I eventually stood in front of the same house, though many years later in time, of course. It still existed. That led me to one last thought; I wonder if the family that now lives in the nicely cared-for country home knows anything about its dark and tragic past. Hopefully, they do not.



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 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!

INVESTIGATION: ROADS HOTEL, INDIANA



Wendy

On November 12th, the Ghosts, along with a couple of guests, headed to the Roads Hotel in Indiana for an overnight investigation. Best part? We all had our own bedrooms there, which really takes ‘overnight’ to a new level. We would be able to sleep when we wanted, while all our equipment still ran.

We started out the night at the 1925 PubHouse in Anderson, Indiana for dinner, then strayed south to have our fudge packed at Uranus Fudge Factory. Seriously, the Ghosts have the best time when they are out and about together!



The time change meant it was pitch black before we even finished dinner, so we were finding our way down unlit rural roads, in search of the Roads Hotel in Atlanta, Indiana. Sam and I got to what we thought was the building, then called Jim because we didn't know where to park. He said he was standing out in the street. No, he



wasn't. He insisted he was in the middle of the road. No, he wasn't!! A dark figure came out of the building we were parked by, so I asked if this was the Roads Hotel. Dark figure answered, “one block down”, so we drove around the block. And THERE was Jim, standing in the middle of the road. Hey, we weren't the only ones who couldn't find him!

Once we all managed to get into the building during the first sleet storm of the season, we went upstairs and threw our overnight bags into rooms we wanted. Mine had a cute little table with a tea set on it, very appropriate for me if you ask my friends.

Back downstairs, we had Mike from the Lost Limbs Foundation (which receives the profits of the investigations to help provide prosthetic limbs to children) give us a quick tour of the downstairs, along with known history and a couple stories. Then it was time to decide where to put the DVR cameras, studio mics and extra DVR-connected handheld video cameras.

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INVESTIGATION: ROADS HOTEL, INDIANA *continued*



With the equipment all in place and running, we each headed up to our rooms where we were going to start the first session by doing individual EVP sessions, one room at a time. It is hard on investigations to do EVP without having another group or person also talking or working in the background, so this was the first time we tried this. We started in room 1, which was Jim, and when he was done, he called out for the next room. This way we went through 8 bedrooms (7 were occupied) in about an hour. We had laid a 20-foot EMF Trip-Wire down the hallway, and several of us observed the lights changing colors or “popping” as people were asking questions during their session. We regrouped downstairs to discuss the weird patterns from the Trip-Wire lights, decided to add a second Trip-Wire to the hallway, then began setting up for the second session.

The second session was a trigger session. When an original owner passed away around Prohibition, his wife turned the building into a Speakeasy/brothel to help pay the bills. We decided to try to call up that era (during which John Dillinger among others stayed at the hotel) so we set up for the 1920's. Sam and I put on flapper dresses and pearls and came downstairs to the ‘game room’ where we set up a table to play cards. With a

sealed bottle of Southern Comfort to evoke the Prohibition era and Jim feeding 1920's music through a speaker, we dealt in Mark and Frank for a couple hands of Contract Rummy. We laughed, sang along, and played cards for well over an hour while Jim and our guests, Amber and Cindy, walked the house using a GoPro camera to catch the fluctuating light show happening on the trip wires.



Once Sam and I decided we were cold enough in our tiny dresses, we went back upstairs to put on our regular clothes. Jim stayed downstairs and took pictures of the table where we had left our cards as we had laid them down during the game. Everyone once again met in the main dining area to eat some snacks and discuss any type of paranormal events we were aware of. This then ran right into what was a casual third session, where we just basically talked and wandered from room to room, looking at the pictures, sitting on the different furniture and running more EVP sessions. Several of us headed up to sleep since it was closing on 2AM while others stayed up and continued investigating for several more hours.

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INVESTIGATION: ROADS HOTEL, INDIANA continued

The night ended for some just as I was getting up at 6:30am to hang out with Frank at our monitor setup. May I just say that is very hard to be respectful of those still sleeping when every floorboard pops and groans, and the bathroom doors squealed right out of a horror film. Those need some serious WD-40 sprayed on their hinges. Not sure if that works for 150-year-old doors but it might be an idea for future investigators to take to heart.

Once Jim came downstairs, he reviewed the card table to see if there had been any change from the picture he had taken. Nope, no other gamblers in the house except us! After coffee, tea and baked goods, we did our tear down and repacking of Jim's car before heading to all points in Ohio to recover.



It was fun, it was exhausting, and we are still going through over 50 hours of film and audio. I can't say enough about the care that is being taken to the building itself by the Lost Limbs Foundation, and think it is a perfect event for respectful ghost hunters everywhere!



ANDREW LAKE INTERVIEW, PART 1

First and foremost, I owe a huge apology to Mr. Andrew Lake. He took time out of his busy schedule to sit down and talk with me for almost 3 hours and I am just now getting around to typing all of this out. So Mr. Lake, I'm incredibly sorry for such a long delay. Life is never dull, to say the least.

—Josh



Andrew Lake is one of the best people on just everything weird in the New England area! He has appeared on *The Bridgewater Triangle* documentary, and numerous podcasts, including co-hosting *30 Odd Minutes*. He's also the author of *Ghost Hunting Southern New England* and founder

of Greenville Paranormal. In my opinion, you can't mention the odd and spooky New England area without including Andrew Lake.

I was lucky enough to have the chance to chat with him one afternoon and it was one of the best interviews I have had yet.

Josh Kitchen: I always like to ask first, how did you first get involved in the paranormal field in the first place?

Andrew Lake: *For most people, it's a personal experience. For me, I was 11 years old when I had my first run-in with a ghost. I was in Scituate, Massachusetts and it was the summer of 1975. I was upstairs asleep in this very old house and I woke up at like 2:35 in the morning. I remember seeing the clock on the other side of the room. The house was incredibly still and there was no movement. And then directly below me, there was somebody in the kitchen doing all kinds of noises in the kitchen. Yet there were no footsteps with it. It was just the drawers opening and closing and the silverware clanking and bowls clattering and, and chairs being pulled back and forth. Everybody else was asleep on that floor upstairs and nobody went downstairs because they would have had to go right by my open bedroom door. And nobody came back upstairs.*



When I asked about it the next morning, nobody knew what the heck I was talking about. So the very next night I woke up again at 2:35 and I'm looking at the old digital clock, the clock radio as I remember. And the moon was hanging in the same spot. And the house felt weird again. And I hear all the same noises directly below me in the kitchen. So I brought it up to my friend, whose family owned the house. And I told him two nights in a row you slept right through it. I can't believe everyone slept through it. So everybody was treating it like it was no big deal, but they were doing so kind of in a cagey way, like a little bit like nervous. And they were churchgoing folks, German ancestry very serious people. And my friend says, "I don't know maybe it's my great aunt. She died in the house."

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ANDREW LAKE INTERVIEW, PART 1 *continued*

JK: Was he being serious?

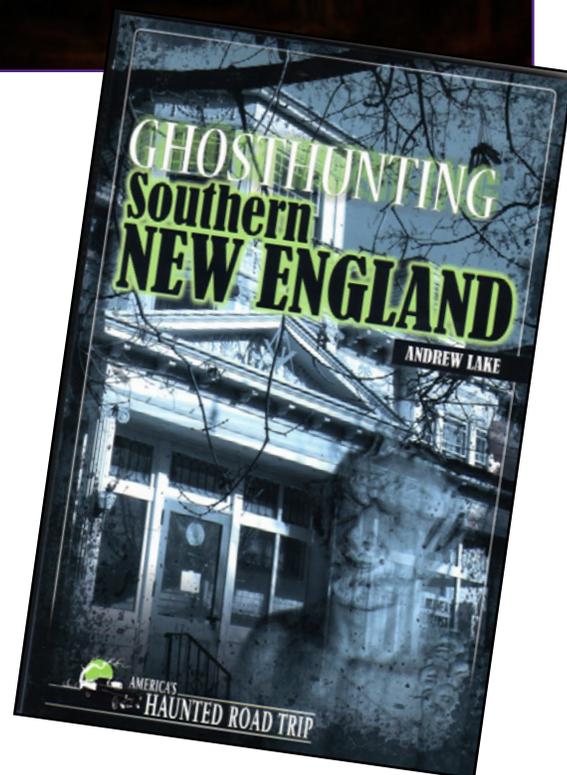
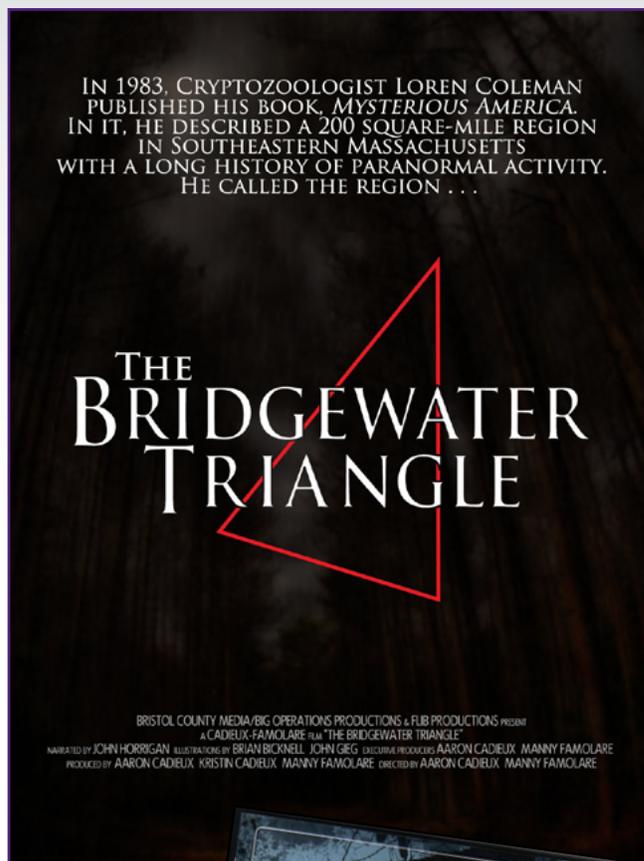
AL: *He said it kind of sarcastically, so I made the mistake of going to his parents and asking them. I got looked at very sternly and told, "Andrew, we don't talk about things like that." So I said that I was sorry, that I didn't mean to be rude, and left it at that. But I have a feeling the family thought the same thing. And they just didn't like talking about it.*

JK: What year did you start Greenville Paranormal?

AL: *What would it be? I guess 2005 is when I came up with the name, I don't think I built my website until about 2006. My first website and the funny thing is, I didn't even know how to run a computer. I turned it on and said I'm going to teach myself how to use a computer and I'm going to build a website. I'm the founder of Greenville Paranormal, and I'm also the sole member of Greenville Paranormal. Because basically what I do is I just keep other ghost hunters on my phone, so to speak. And when I get a case, I go, "Hey, you know what? Felicia would be a good person to call it on this" or "I'm going to call Scott and Matt, see what they're doing." I don't get into that ego thing with the group. And, you know, I'm the director and all that stuff. I like bringing other people and letting them do their thing. Because over the years, I've gotten to know these people. I know who the hacks and the frauds are, and I know who the legit people are. So I have colleagues that I know I will benefit from, and the homeowner or the property owner will benefit from having them there.*

JK: What do you see as the biggest challenge in the paranormal field from when you first started until now?

AL: *I think right now is trying to make people understand that you're not a buffoon. You're not some dweeb who thinks that you're going to be a rock star if you walk around with an EMF meter.*



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ANDREW LAKE INTERVIEW, PART 1 continued



I mean, like we're saying, some places are just so sick of these people. They don't want to have anything to do with ghost hunters or any kind of researcher or investigator. So right now, the biggest thing for me is, if I do find out a place is haunted and I want to be discreet and polite and respectful.

One of the biggest things I got to get over is to try and help this guy understand "No, really, I'm not an embarrassing fool who's going to cause headaches and problems for you." I take this, you know, legit, and I'll do it, you know, under the radar and I won't bore you any unnecessary attention. So washing my hands of the other buffoons, I guess, is the biggest challenge for me.

JK: Exactly.

AL: *I know that sounds kind of arrogant. But it's not that at all. I think it's just that I was raised*

differently. My parents were from the World War II generation, and I think I was raised with a little bit more couth and respect for other people's space and their privacy. Others weren't and they end up going into someone's living space or their business or whatever and just turn the owners off. And then someone like me, or, you know, one of my colleagues finds out about the place and they just lump us into the same category and tell us to get lost. So that, to me is like the biggest stumble is just getting people to take me seriously, but not too seriously. Because I do have a sense of humor. And I do like to poke fun of myself.

JK: Let's say you have the ability to clear up or "influence" thoughts on subject matter in the paranormal, what would it be?

AL: *With ghosts, let us stop making everything*

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ANDREW LAKE INTERVIEW, PART 1 *continued*

about demons. With UFOs, let's stop talking about how they travel great distances in space when it's pretty obvious that they live here on this planet with us. And when we see them, it's just them driving around in their vehicles, going from one spot on planet Earth to the other. That's the other thing. People will say, "why did they come from another galaxy just to take a cow?" They didn't; they came from underneath the guy's farm and took it. They're beneath us there.

Bigfoot: Stop calling it a monkey. It's not it's a human being, it's a race of people. And that's why the government's keeping it secret from us.

JK: What is it about the New England area that makes it just so crazy and active?

AL: *It's one of those window areas. I think there's something about this region that causes this stuff to happen. That's why I believe the UFO, the cryptid, and the ghost stuff are all linked. And I jokingly said, maybe when we have all this UFO activity with them jumping in and out of portals and using whatever drive system they use. Maybe they affected the electromagnetic fields in this area and created the window area just by flying in and out of here for reasons of their own. And that's coughed up all the hauntings and that's caused the Thunderbird sightings and the Bigfoot sightings and the other weird creature sightings. So that's kind of a theory I'll stick to.*

And when I look at New England. It's just so crazy. Now even into New York State and Ohio and Pennsylvania, New Jersey. This whole area is just absolutely crazy. And I sometimes wonder if it all goes back to the UFO activity because Don't forget even Cotton Mather wrote about the UFO sighting on the Charles River. And the story makes it sound like those guys were abducted because they lost time and ended up against the current in a different spot on the Charles River and the thing they saw in the sky was gone. So it's almost like Cotton Mather there may have recorded the first UFO abduction in North America.

JK: It would make sense that everything is connected. But, trying to convince others of that, that's a problem in and of itself.

AL: *You know, who knows, but it's funny how you do have these pocket areas and you go down what chestnut Ridge, you know, between Ohio and Philadelphia and, and all the incredible stories that have been documented down there—Bigfoot getting off the UFOs and you know, when they'd be investigating a haunting in an area and then they hear a report of a flying saucer. And so I do believe that these window areas all around the world, I think it all goes hand in hand and it's like what came first the chicken or the egg in my theory is it's The UFOs flying saucers, wherever you want to call. I think that they're punching through some kind of doorway, and they create other doorways where things come through the doorway with them. Because I mean, you look at the stuff like Loren Coleman, and Ivan T. Sanderson and those guys, you know, they were the ones who started John Keel, they started to like, collect the stories, there was no internet, and there was no like para cons or anything. These guys eventually would meet each other and share information. And they'd be like, holy crap, somebody told you that story in that state, I had somebody told me the same thing happened to him in that state. And I think it was, you know, as these guys started to find these similarities and stories, I think that, for me, as someone sitting back and listening to them and observing their observations, I think it comes down to Window areas that are created by some kind of phenomenon. And the only suspects I have are these dimension jumpers with their UFOs or whatever, you know, whatever they're doing. That's my only explanation. I don't stick to it. Because I know I'm wrong.*

Next issue: Part 2—Pukwudgies, haunted lighthouses, and the Bridgewater Triangle.

Investigations & Consultations

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

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