



# The ghosts of Ohio<sup>®</sup> Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 22 Issue 3

## LET'S GET PERSONAL



JAMES

I've said this many times over the years: it doesn't matter if it's in person, over the phone, or through email—The Ghosts of Ohio loves hearing your personal experiences related to the paranormal! Each year, we get over 50 submissions to the Personal Experiences section of our website. And since we usually only carry 1-2 Personal Experiences per issue, you can see how quickly we fell behind in getting all your stories out. So, to catch up, this issue will involve **THREE** personal experiences. Future issues will also carry multiple Personal Experiences.

Of course, just because we're playing catch-up doesn't mean we don't want to hear your stories. Quite the contrary, we want everyone to keep sending them in. Information on how to do that is below, right after my weird-looking signature!

Cheers,

James A. Willis, Founder/Director

### 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!



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

# The Thing by the Side of the Road

Mark B., Defiance, OH

Last fall, I was driving home from my girlfriend's house, taking my usual route through the back roads. It was one of those clear fall nights where the moon was out and made a spooky glow over the trees. I had put my windows to let the cool night in. The road was mostly deserted, save for the occasional rustle of leaves. Suddenly, from the corner of my eye, I noticed a flicker of movement just off the side of the road. At first, it seemed like a trick of the light, but as I got closer, I started to freak. A giant, transparent creature jumped up from the side of the road at my car. I slammed on the brakes, trying to avoid a collision as this thing had moved in front of my car.

I couldn't really make sense of what I was seeing. I thought it was a person at first, but it was too tall, and believe it or not, I could see right through it. There are no features, either. I couldn't make out a face. What I'm guessing was its arms were flailing about as it kept coming closer to my car. There was no way I was going to be able to stop in time, and I remember sort of tensing up and preparing for impact. But then the creature jumped up and went over the top of my car. I looked in my rearview mirror and could see the creature standing there in the middle of the road. I swear it felt like he was looking at me with red eyes, although maybe that was just the reflection from my brake lights. Whatever it was, I slammed on the gas and got the heck out of there. Ever since, I take a different way home from my girlfriend's house if I'm going to be there after dark.



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

# Faded Memories

Allison J., Delaware, OH

A couple of years ago, I found myself helping a friend clean out her grandmother's old house. I'd never been to the house before, but my friend was convinced it was haunted. She said her grandmother swore there was a ghost in the attic, so of course, I had to go there, both to label boxes and to see if there really was a ghost there.

As I climbed the rickety stairs leading to the attic, I could see why people would say it was haunted. It didn't feel haunted, but even though they were cleaning out the house, the attic still had all sorts of dust and cobwebs. It had a musty smell to it, mixed with that of old wood. Exactly what you'd expect a haunted attic to smell like.

Once I got fully into the attic, there were open boxes all over in one corner. The rest of the attic looked untouched with all sorts of antiques and old clothes. I had been asked to look into each open box, see what was inside, write a label, and then tape the box up. Easy enough.

I completed my task quickly and then decided to explore the rest of the attic. I stumbled upon an antique trunk tucked away in a corner. Its leather exterior was cracked, and the rusty clasp barely held it shut. Intrigued, I knelt down and managed to open it. Inside, there were a bunch of lace doilies stacked as if they were being used for packaging or protection. Underneath them were piles of old photographs and letters.

I couldn't help myself and started looking through the photographs. Many of them were so old that they were cracked, and some began to crumble as I held them. It was then that I felt a strange presence in the room as if I were no longer alone. I remember turning around, thinking my friend or one of the helpers had come in. But I was alone in the attic, or at least there was no one I could see.



Obviously, I didn't recognize anyone in the photographs. Yet, as I looked through each one, I was overcome with the feeling that I knew exactly who these people were as if I were rediscovering a long-lost friend or loved one. All the while, that strange feeling that someone was in the attic with me grew stronger, and it seemed to be getting closer to me.

I don't know how long I was up there, sitting on the floor of a dusty, old attic, looking at photos of people and places that I didn't recognize, yet unable to shake the feeling that someone was in the room with me who wanted me to remember these people. But at some point, my friend called up to me, saying lunch was here. At that moment, I snapped back, and all the feelings instantly left—I once again felt alone in the attic.

After lunch, I went back up to the attic alone and once again looked through the photos. I felt nothing. Whatever had been there was gone. I had my friend come up to the attic with me and asked her about the pictures. She didn't recognize the people in the photos and had no idea where the trunk came from. Looking back, I'm convinced that whoever I felt in that attic they were there to try and make sure I didn't forget the people in the photos.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

## THE BOY IN THE WOODS

Ashley W., Yellow Springs, OH

Growing up, I always heard creepy stories about an old well in the woods that was supposed to be haunted. Kids used to call it the Wishing Well, and it was haunted by a little boy who was trying to steal the coins from the wishing well. Something pulled him in, and he drowned. I think that story was just to make what I always felt was just an abandoned well from an old homestead, but the idea of possibly seeing a ghost made me always want to visit it.

I finally convinced some of my girlfriends to go with me out there one night. It was kind of a spur-of-the-moment type of thing, so we weren't prepared to wander around in the woods at night. So, other than the flashlights from our phones, we didn't have any other light source.

None of us had been to the well, so we were just wandering around. I guess we had been out there for about 15 minutes or so when my one friend, Caitlin, decided to call out, "Where are you, Thomas?" because she had heard that was the boy's name. We took turns calling out to Thomas, but got nothing in response. I guess we started getting bored because we ended up asking Thomas questions about how old he was. When we did that, I started to feel a little weird, and when I asked them later, all my friends said they thought the woods began to feel different when we started asking Thomas questions.

At one point, Caitlin asked, "Why did you steal the money from the wishing well, Thomas?" As soon as she said that, a big gust of wind blew past us. Up to that point, the air had been still. I don't know what made me do this, but I said out loud, "Thomas, did you steal money from the wishing well?" No sooner had those words left my mouth when we all heard a little boy's voice clearly say, "No!"

Almost in synch, we turned our phones to the spot where we thought the boy's voice had come from. Standing in the light from our phones was a little boy, maybe 7 years old. He had blonde hair, dirty clothes, and suspenders on. He didn't look like he was from our time period. I started fumbling with my phone to try and get some pictures of the little boy, and my friends were all doing the same thing. While I was doing that, I heard a little boy laugh. My friends heard it, too. When I looked up from my phone, the boy was gone. Some of us got a couple of pictures, but there was no boy in them—nothing we could have mistaken for a boy, either.

We stood there for a moment, trying to process what had just happened. Then, we finally got the courage to go over to where we had seen the boy to see if there was any evidence to explain what we had just seen. We had to walk maybe 30 feet to get to the spot where he had been, but there was nothing there. But maybe 10 feet behind where the boy had been standing, we found the remains of an old well.

I, for one, never went back out there after that night. What I heard and saw was enough to convince me that old well is haunted.



## BOOK REVIEW

# The Paranormal Ranger: A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained

Stanley Milford, Jr.

William Morrow and Company, 2024

Available in hardcover, paperback, eBook, and Audiobook

*"There is so much more to this world and our vast universe than we can imagine, and we have only just begun to scratch the surface."* - Stanley Milford, Jr.



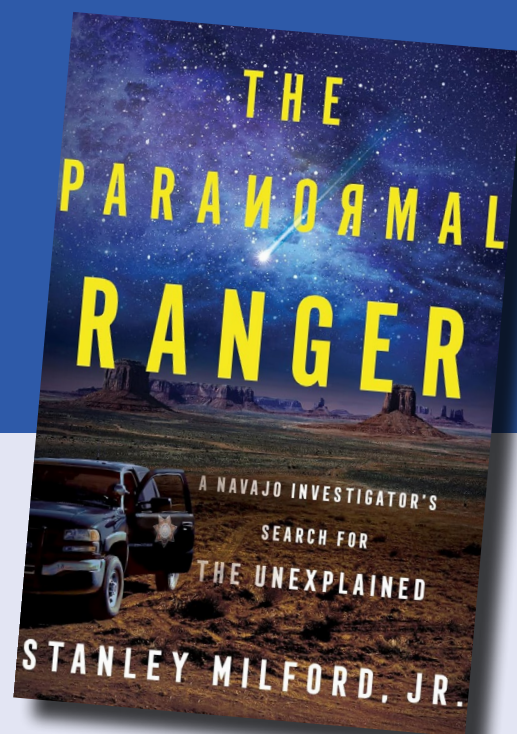
SAMANTHA

When it comes to investigating the paranormal, it's not often we have the opportunity to hear about it from a different cultural perspective. *The Paranormal Ranger* provides a first-person window into the world of the

Diné (aka Navajo) people, their relationship with the supernatural, and how a law enforcement officer tackled such things to keep his community safe. Not only did I savor this book, but I also had the privilege of watching a virtual Q&A with author Milford, presented through my local library. In both the book and interview, I found him to be open & honest about his work, and he possesses the same thoughtful curiosity about the paranormal we do. This review blends both experiences.

Stanley Milford, Jr. (of Diné and Cherokee descent) grew up wanting to be a law enforcement officer. To him, an officer was "a protector, a kind of warrior who placed himself in danger in order to protect innocent lives." Being a Navajo Ranger fulfilled that

role. In his 30-year career, he did it all - protected natural & archaeological resources, conducted criminal investigations, inspected livestock, did traffic enforcement, busted bootleggers, responded to domestic violence calls, participated in manhunts, protected dignitaries, did event security, and was a firearms instructor. To top it all off, he and his partner, Lieutenant Jonathan Dover, were also tasked with being the reservation's "Paranormal Rangers" after their chief got a call from an elderly woman in the community who complained that she was treated like a joke by other officers after reporting seeing Bigfoot steal one of her sheep. Knowing that Milford and Dover were consummate professionals, the chief singled them out for the task, saying, "You may not understand it, have any experience with it, believe it, but you *will* investigate it. We're here to help people." And in Milford's words, "When you get an order from the chief, you say 'yes sir.' It's not like we raised our hands wanting to be X-Files or anything!"



(continued on page 6.)

## BOOK REVIEW

## The Paranormal Ranger: A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained continued

At this point, it's important for non-Natives to understand the Navajo's relationship with the supernatural. To the Diné, it is believed that everything has a soul and that the paranormal needs to be treated with caution and respect to stay safe. Taboos and superstitions have become ingrained in the culture, starting with the idea that nighttime belongs to the spirits when witches and skinwalkers can wreak their havoc. The Diné avoid wandering after dark, whistling after dark, washing hair or chopping wood after dark, or speaking the names of the dead after dark. They burn their hair & nail clippings to keep witches from cursing them. They avoid haunted places, they don't stack rocks, they don't place ash at the base of trees, and they avoid contact with owls, which are considered omens of death and spies for evil spirits. Milford writes, "Navajos avoid meddling with the supernatural at all costs, no matter what time of day. That work is for medicine men, not ordinary people."

Since the position of "Paranormal Ranger" had not existed before, Milford and Dover needed to establish a set of procedures for approaching such cases, which, first and foremost, included treating people with dignity and respect and then investigating their claims as thoroughly as they would any other case. "I knew that paranormal events were not uncommon on the reservation. Those cases tended to be ignored...and those who experienced the phenomena

were often called mentally ill or assumed to be drunk," Milford writes. "I thought everyone deserved to be taken seriously, no matter how unusual their reports may be."

The men also discussed the need to protect themselves from both physical and nonphysical attacks by entities both seen and unseen. "It wasn't like we could use pepper spray, a baton, a Taser, or even a firearm on a ghost or something demonic." For help, they turned to Navajo medicine and the expertise of medicine men for protection. "In Navajo culture," Milford explains, "it's widely believed that if a person is experiencing something paranormal, it means that their life is out of balance and they are not in harmony with their surroundings." Medicine men are healers skilled at warding off evil and bringing a person's body, mind & spirit into balance & harmony.

Over the course of their time as "Paranormal Rangers," Milford and Dover investigated all manner of phenomena, including Bigfoot (the most common call), UFOs, skinwalkers, hauntings, doppelgangers, livestock mutilations, orbs, portals, shadow figures, and objects being thrown or apported out of thin air, including 66 coins that appeared over two days, all landing heads up. Each case was investigated using a blend of law enforcement and paranormal investigative techniques (audio/video recordings, EMF,

*(continued on page 7.)*

## BOOK REVIEW

## The Paranormal Ranger: A Navajo Investigator's Search for the Unexplained continued

FLIR, etc.) and gut instinct. Perhaps the most chilling encounter Milford described was that of a skinwalker. In Diné lore, skinwalkers are a type of witch that takes animal or animal-like form in order to harm others. In his encounter, Milford recalls feeling a dark presence and then seeing an enormously tall creature outside his car. He had to drive over 70 mph to outrun it.

Based on his experiences, Milford believes that working with the paranormal has helped him develop a stronger sixth sense. Trusting that gut instinct (what he calls his “guardian spirit”) has helped to keep him safe. In addition, his observations have helped him develop theories about the supernatural. One interesting theory involves “paranormal hotspots” that are located throughout the world. Why are certain places so active? He believes that there are two types: *naturally* occurring hotspots, where activity just seems to happen there (Sedona, Arizona is one example that he mentions), and *manmade* hotspots created by “turmoil & violence on a mass scale, such as Gettysburg.” It is his belief that these hotspots invite us to face the past, acknowledge our violent history, and understand the “harm done to one another.” It’s important to take the time to root out the reasons for activity for healing to begin.

Now retired, Milford remains deeply interested in the paranormal and is particularly “inspired by the search for

extraterrestrial life.” A musician, photographer, and watercolor artist, he says that he “would like to try to pull in some of the paranormal” in his work. Regarding his book, he hopes that it can help open the door to discussions about the paranormal since so many people are reluctant to share their experiences. “It’s hard to find a family on earth,” he says, “that doesn’t have at least one family member that has seen something. It’s much more common than we believe or want to accept.”

Whether you’re interested in the supernatural, law enforcement, or Navajo culture, this book will enrich your understanding of what it means to be a paranormal investigator in this great, big, diverse world that we share. Perhaps we’ll all learn to pause and consider cultural differences before taking actions that could hurt rather than help. After all, helping is what we strive for.

In addition to *The Paranormal Ranger*, I recommend reading *An Indigenous People’s History of the United States* if you’d like to explore U.S. history from a different perspective. You’ll gain even more understanding of Native American cultures and how events in history have affected their beliefs.

# READY TO HOP ON DOWN TO LOVELAND?

Frogman Festival III is only a few days away, but there's still time to snag your tickets and join in the fun. And this year, it's a two-day event!

You can get 2-day passes for both days (Saturday and Sunday) or 1-day passes for Saturday or Sunday. Bundle packages that include a poster and shirt are also available.



Discounted pre-event tickets are available here <https://frogmanfestival.org>

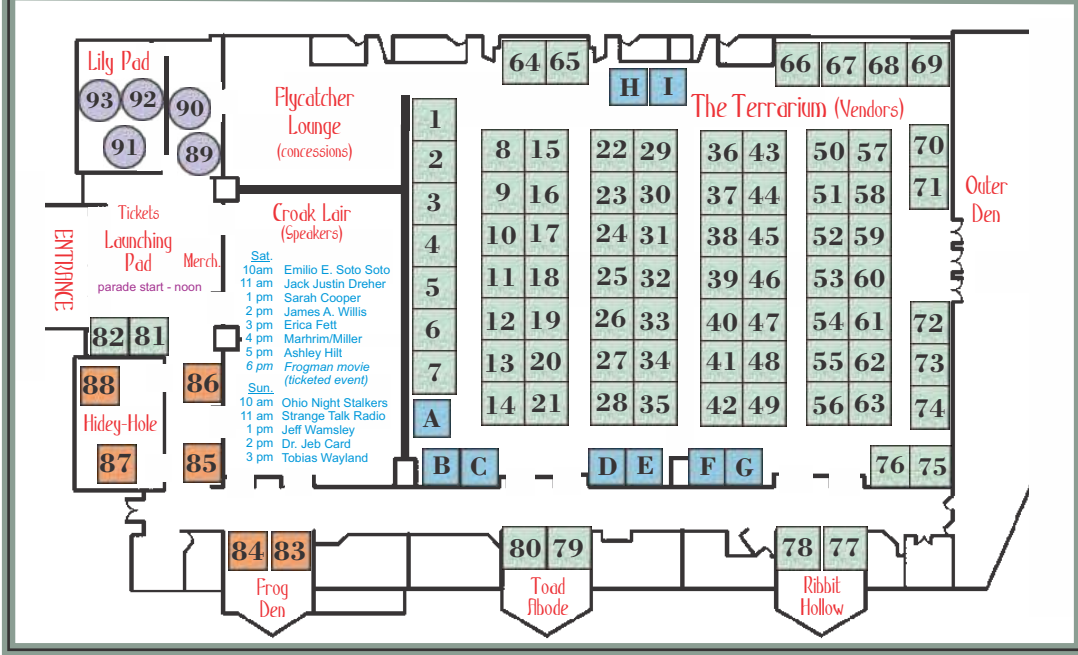
Tickets will also be available each day at the door.





# 2025 Frogman Festival Map

frogmanfestival.org		<b>VENDORS, SPEAKERS &amp; ENTERTAINERS</b>		Thanks to Loveland Magazine*	
		*denotes sponsor of the festival			
1 Eerie Travels	37 Starryedartist Designs	74 Basement Sludge			
2 James Renner	38 Beepboopco	75,76 Udderific Cheese Spread			
3 Lor Illustraion	39 Sticker Smash	77 Bloat Games			
4 John Kachuba	40 Hardiewear	78 figmentpudding			
5 Michael Thompson	41 Pop Rocket Creations	79 P. House Games			
6 Corpse Flower Press	42 Keep On Creepin' On	80 Hedgewitch Hall *			
7 Sham Comics - Tim Fuller	43 Jamie Snell and Jen Clower	81 All American Gutter Protection*			
8,15 Adulting Axolotl Apparel & Acstry	44 Columbus Ghost Tours	82 Jeff Craig, Cartographer			
9 Appalachian Huntsman	45 Tony Breeden Books	83 Francine Haydon - Intuitive Reader			
10,11 Bell Book & Comic	46 S.R. Pierce Art	84 Crystal Edelman - Facepainting			
12 Ballyraven	47 Manfish	85 The Strange Road *			
13 Chad Wehrle	48 ConjureDust Designs	86 Frogman Movie			
14 Cryptid Clyde	49 Easton Hawk Illustration	87 Love The Land			
16 Amazing Sci-Fi	50,51 Bigfoot Search Gear	88 Erin Shaw - Live Animal Exhibit			
17 Earthenwood Studio	52 The Frog Shop	89 Shenandoah Squatch			
18 Splendid Spooks	53 Ohio Night Stalkers/Mike Miller	90 Creep It Real (band)			
19 Anime Gravy	54 FrankenPup	91 Wump Mucket Puppets			
20 Whitney Yadon Art	55 Sherwin Sketches Cryptids	92 Dakarai World Dance			
21 Holly Who Art*	56 Seymour's Captive Cryptids	93 Aaron Crary			
22 Monsterologist	57 David Garza's F-Stop	A Dr. Jeb Card			
23 Brett Manning	58 bedlam Arts & Goods	B Ashley Hilt			
24 KeikiArt's Monster Shop	59,60 dafsquatch designs	C Tobias Wayland			
25 Cryptids Of The Corn Podcast	61 Pull Club Studio	D Jeff Wamsley (Sun. only)			
26 Whimsy Witch Creations	62 Pickled Punks	E James Willis			
27 Poppunflo	63 Starcruiser Studios	F Sarah Cooper			
28 Cryptoteeology	64,65 Crowtown Squatchers	G Strange Talk Radio, Alex McMoethlin			
29,30 Black Swamp Paranormal of NWO	66 Moon Light Tattoos	H Jack Justin Dreher			
31 The Geek Foundry	67,68,69 Cryptid Camp*	I Boutaina Marhrim & Anthony Miller			
32 AnyaZoe	70,71 Flower in the Attic	67 Emilio Emilio Soto Soto, PhD			
33 Crafty Demons	72 PopWater Studio	67 Erica Fett			
34 Grin & Bones	73 Ooakenwood				
35 Cryptid Comforts					
36 Wacky Dragon					



## 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!



# THE GHOSTS OF OHIO CALENDAR

Spring is coming, and so are 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.



*Saturday, March 1st - Sunday, March 2nd, 2025*

## Frogman Festival III (\$)

Oasis Conference Center  
902 Loveland-Miamiville Road  
Loveland, OH 45140  
[Tickets on sale now](#)



*Wednesday, March 19th @ 6:30 pm*

## Cryptids Across the US presentation

Pickerington Main Library  
201 Opportunity Way  
Pickerington, OH 43147  
[More information here](#)



*Thursday, June 19th–Sunday, June 22nd, 2025*

## Haunted America Conference (\$)

Lewis & Clark College: Benjamin Godfrey Campus  
580 Godfrey Road  
Godfrey, IL 62035  
[Tickets on sale now](#)

[www.strangeandspookyworld.com/appearances](http://www.strangeandspookyworld.com/appearances)



## Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio have begun scheduling 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:

 [FACEBOOK](#)

 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

## Administration

The Ghosts Of Ohio Newsletter is a free, bimonthly email newsletter. To subscribe, unsubscribe, or change your email address, please visit [http://www.ghostsofohio.org/mailman/listinfo/mailman\\_ghostsofohio.org](http://www.ghostsofohio.org/mailman/listinfo/mailman_ghostsofohio.org)  
**Please do not send vacation notices or other auto-responses to us, as we may unsubscribe you.**

The Ghosts Of Ohio collects your name and email address for the purpose of sending this mailing. We will never share your name or email address with advertisers, vendors, or any third party, unless required by law. The Ghosts Of Ohio will never sell, trade, or rent your personal information.

For more information, please visit us online at [www.ghostsofohio.org](http://www.ghostsofohio.org).

## Newsletter Staff:

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

**Designer:** Stephanie Willis

**Contributing Authors:**

Samantha Nicholson

James Willis