



The ghosts of Ohio[®]

Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 22 Issue 5

WHEN IS A DOOR A PORTAL?



JAMES

The Ghosts Of Ohio has been actively investigating portals for well over a decade. We tend to just stumble across them during our investigations. And while we have documented several instances of clearly

defined high level of EMF suddenly appearing on walls, spreading out across said walls, and then collapsing back down before disappearing, we're still scratching our collective heads as to what it all means. And since we've yet to find a natural explanation for the activity we've witnessed, the subject of portals has been the subject of many a late-night two-bottle conversation.

As I was putting together this newsletter, it struck me that both Personal Experiences involved doorways. Physical doorways, mind you. And yet, strange activity was reported around these doors, including physical interactions with the door (that were heard in real time but not captured on the doorbell camera) and even physical objects seemingly appearing out of the blue. That got me to thinking: Are portals always supposed to be invisible? Of all the anomalous activity/behavior that we've encountered that we attributed to being portal-like, we never saw a physical doorway or even framework or something

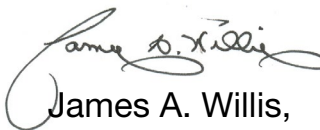
that could be taken to represent a door frame. It was always just invisible energy that appeared, expanded, retracted, and then disappeared again.

We've been told that portals are secret doorways to different worlds and dimensions. But what if some of these portals are hidden in plain sight, disguised as "normal" doors? Or how about this: what if there are certain ordinary-looking doors that function as you'd expect—allowing people to pass from one room to another—except that every now and then, an invisible portal opens inside that door frame? Where would you end up if you walked through that doorway at just the right (or wrong) time?

Something to keep in mind the next time you're about to cross the threshold of some old, abandoned house in the middle of nowhere.

Now where's that second bottle??

Cheers,


James A. Willis,
Founder/Director



PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Raven S., Clintonville, OH

It started the day after Halloween. I was home alone, still half-asleep and scrolling TikTok on the couch, when I got a motion alert from my doorbell cam. I figured it was the neighbor's cat again or maybe a delivery, but when I opened the app, there was... nothing. No motion. No person. Just the quiet image of my porch—and sitting dead center on the welcome mat was this weird little figure made of cornstalks, like a tiny scarecrow. No face, no string, just tied together with what looked like twine and red thread. I opened the door half-expecting to catch someone running off as a prank. But the street was empty. Totally quiet.

I brought the thing inside—because yeah, dumb move, I know—and showed it to my roommate later. She laughed it off, said it was probably someone being cute or artsy. But I couldn't shake the feeling that something was just off. It didn't feel like a joke. The cornstalks were brittle and smelled... old. Not fall-festival-fun old. Like barn rot old. I tossed it in the trash that night and didn't think much more of it. Until it happened again.

Three days later. Middle of the day. Bright sunlight, nothing spooky going on. I had just walked back in from Target and locked the door behind me. Fifteen minutes later—ding—another motion alert. And guess what? Same thing. No person. No car. Just that second cornstalk figure, identical to the first one, sitting on the exact same spot on the mat. This time, it looked a little more

frayed, and the twine had come undone just enough to show something stuck inside—like a bit of cloth or maybe... hair?

At that point, I was done. I checked the cam footage frame by frame, thinking maybe it glitched or missed something. But the timestamp went straight from nothing to bam—there it was. Like it blinked into existence. I even posted it to Reddit, hoping someone had a logical explanation. Most people called it a hoax or said it was “fey energy,” whatever that means. One user DM'd me and said, “Don't throw the next one away. Bury it. And **don't look inside.**” I haven't gotten a third doll yet. But every time I hear that notification chime, I swear my stomach drops through the floor.



PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Someone's At The Door

Marge L., Akron, OH

I've lived in this house for over fifteen years. It's nothing fancy—a small craftsman-style place tucked at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac. It's always been peaceful here. Safe. The kind of neighborhood where people still wave when they walk their dogs and kids leave their bikes out overnight. I'd never had a single creepy moment in this house—until that night.

It was just past 2 a.m. when my phone buzzed with a Ring notification: "*Someone is at your front door.*" That alone was odd—no one ever shows up here unannounced, let alone in the middle of the night. I tapped into the live view, expecting maybe a raccoon or a tree branch triggering the sensor. But the porch was empty. Perfectly still. I watched for a while, thinking maybe I'd missed someone walking away, but there was nothing. Just the faint hum of the porch light.

A few minutes later, another alert. "*Someone is at your front door.*" This time, I opened the live feed and turned the volume up. That's when I heard it—a man's voice, faint but distinct, like it was coming through an old radio. He said, "Hello?" Drawn out, almost polite. But there was no one visible. No shadow. No shape. And then, suddenly—BANG BANG BANG—violent pounding on the door, so hard it rattled the hinges. The voice came again, louder now, insistent and cracked with age: "Hello! Hello!" Over and over. I don't scare easily, but I grabbed my phone with shaking hands and called the police.

By the time they arrived, the knocking had stopped. Everything was still again. We played back the Ring footage together—me, the two officers, one of whom kept glancing at the door like he half-expected it to start shaking again.



The camera had recorded the alerts. You could hear the voice clear as day. But there was nothing to see. No figure, no shadow, not even movement. Just my empty porch and the sound of someone—or *something*—desperately trying to be let in. The officers looked as unsettled as I felt, but in the end, they had no answers. And none of my neighbors' cameras picked up a thing.

I haven't gotten another alert like that since. No voice, no banging. Just silence. But every time my Ring buzzes in the middle of the night, I freeze. I wonder what would've happened if I'd answered the door that night. Opened it. Spoke back. I used to think ghost stories were fun nonsense. Now I'm not so sure.

RED LIGHT, RED LIGHT, RED LIGHT...



SAMANTHA

I hoped for a red light as I fumbled for my phone. I was on my way to work and found myself behind an SUV with an unforgettable license plate. It seemed that my aunt, who passed away just three months earlier, had finally found a way to communicate.

This wasn't the first time this sort of thing has happened to me. After my grandma passed away in 2015, I found myself in need of a new car just a couple of months later. My beloved Elantra had a lot of miles on it and had been costing me more & more to fix. Now the check engine light was on, likely due to a sensor issue that was going to cost me at least another \$1000 to repair. It was time to say goodbye and find something new. I went to a Toyota dealership to check out a Prius I'd seen online. When I started the car for the test drive, a radio station came on whose signal shouldn't have been able to reach that far north. It was the big band station that my grandma always listened to! Chuckling to myself, I took that as a sign that my grandma was supporting my decision to get the car.

But that wasn't all!

After the test drive, I decided I liked the car and wanted to purchase it. As we all know, it takes a little time for the salespeople to get all the paperwork and financing in order. While I sat waiting, I texted my sister that I'd decided to buy the car. Her response was, "You deserve it." Those were my grandma's words every time we were unsure. Those words locked in my belief that my grandma was still supporting me, even after she was no longer physically here.

Something similar happened to other family members after my grandpa passed away in 2006. One young cousin, probably 2 or 3 years old at the time, saw Grandpa in their house, despite the fact that she had never met him. When my uncle asked her what he was doing, she said he was saying hi. And after coming out of a bingo hall one night, my mom, aunt, and grandma all saw a license plate in the parking lot that read BJP813. Grandpa's name was Bernard John Patch, and he died on August 13th, 2006.

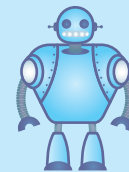
Which brings me back to fumbling in my bag for my phone to take a picture at the red light. It was June of 2022, just three months after my aunt had passed away. Of all the routes I could have taken to work that day, a spur of the moment decision made me take the route that ultimately put me right behind an SUV with a license plate that read GAYLE P. My aunt's name was Gayle Patch. You bet I took that picture! I shared it with my family, who were all equally stunned.

Loved ones seem to find ways to communicate from the other side, in ways that make us sit up and take notice. Ask the people around you, and you'll likely find someone who has had similar experiences. Some find objects like coins, jewelry, or other personal items appearing in unusual places. Some get whiffs of smoke or perfume. Lucky ones may hear or see their deceased family member. And some of us get messages spelled out on random license plates.



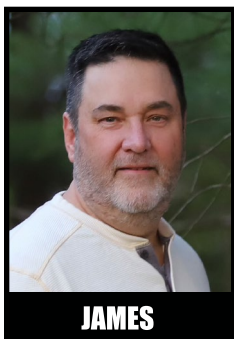
This trinket fell out of my grandma's hutch when we brought it home, just a month or two away from my first trip to the Smokies. I never even knew she'd been there! Thanks, Grandma!

THE RISE OF THE ROBOTS



Deez damn row-bits are gonna take over da world someday. You watch.

—Arthur H. Willis



JAMES

Yup, that's my dad, going on and on about how robots were going to rise up and take over the planet. He said it a lot, actually. Granted, he was usually pointing at the *Lost In Space* robot or Robby the Robot in *Forbidden Planet*. Neither one of which seemed

capable of taking over much of anything. Still, looking back, I can't help but feel that my father really was frightened of robots and what they were capable of doing. Perhaps that's why, just prior to his passing in 2008, I had a long, 15-minute phone conversation with him (that I managed to record and still have) about how he was going to physically fight the "snotty row-bit who won't let me call anybody" (spoiler alert: It was a recording, telling my father they could not complete his number as dialed). But I digress.

The point of all this is that while I am not (yet) convinced robots are going to take over the world, I can't help but think of my father when I see the havoc that Artificial Intelligence (AI) is causing throughout the paranormal community.

Look, I've been doing this for a long, long time. And there have always been people whose sole purpose in the paranormal field is to spread lies. Some go so far as to actively and intentionally create hoaxes by making fake images and videos. They've been doing it for centuries and in all cases, technology made it easier to create a hoax. Don't believe me? Just look at the history of spirit photography and all the double exposures. But through it all, technology was always there to help the paranormal researcher expose the truth. Allow me to explain.

Let's use the example of a photograph that supposedly captures...something. It can be



*Robby the Robot adorns the poster for 1956's *Forbidden Planet**

anything—a ghost, a UFO, the Loch Ness Monster—but for the sake of this article, let's just call it an "anomaly".

Now, if we look at the photo itself, what secrets does it hold? If it's an old photo shot on 35mm, is there a negative? If so, is the anomaly visible in the negative and not caused by a processing error? If it's a digital photo, can EXIF data be extracted to provide camera settings, date, time, and location when the photo was taken?

Once you have gathered all you can from what was going on "inside" the camera, it's time to look outside. Take the photo to the location where it was taken and survey the environment for anything that can help validate or explain what's going on in the photo. Use the photo to help you get a sense of scale or even if there are nearby objects like trees where wires could be hung or used to hide co-conspirators from the camera's eye! If there are people in the photo,

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THE RISE OF THE ROBOTS CONTINUED

try to identify them and see if their stories match.

The final step would be to scan the photo in and look for things that shouldn't be there. In most situations, you just needed to know how to work in a couple of filters or hunt and peck your way through Adobe Photoshop to be able to tell if someone digitally altered the photograph.

Then AI showed up and all of this went out the window. It used to take a long time to come up with an acceptable fake. Not anymore. We've stepped through the looking glass, progressing far beyond simple forced perspective and dangling pie plates in front of a camera. Want a video of the ghost of Anne Boleyn riding shotgun in a UFO that just left the Devil's Tower? It might take a bit longer, but you can still get it in just a few minutes. And it will look believable.

It seems like AI is shifting the paranormal field from asking "could this have been faked?" to "how was this faked?" It's unfortunate that it's come to this, but honestly, I must admit that values like integrity and honesty are becoming rare in this field. Misidentifications have long been accepted as normal, with strange evidence becoming the standard. Clout chasing sometimes does that.

Believe it or not, AI-generated photos have become so prominent in popular culture, not just in the paranormal world, that mass media now must include a disclaimer alerting viewers that AI-generated images have been used. There are even AI detector programs designed to analyze a photo or document to determine

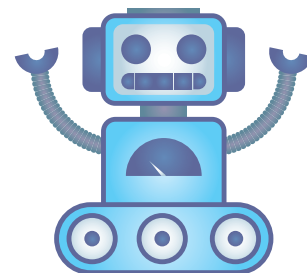


Dr. Smith didn't trust the Lost In Space robot...and neither did Artie Willis

the likelihood it was created with AI. While some argue that these programs serve as good gatekeepers, I would counter by pointing out that these programs were all developed by the AI systems themselves. So, who is really monitoring whom here?

The AI row-bits may not be ready to take over the entire world just yet. But they've already started staking their claim on the paranormal scene. We all need to stay alert. Should the row-bits come for you, allow me to share some of my father's words of wisdom as to how to defeat them:

Ya rip dare damn wires out and den dey can't do nuttin'! Dat's all ya gotta do. Simple."



GHOSTS ARE ONLY IN OLD HOUSES...RIGHT?



WENDY

You have seen that person on house hunting shows; they don't want to live in any house that isn't brand new because 'old houses can be haunted.' And that's probably a common belief. After all, a house with years to it has multiple owners.

One or more may have died

there, or there has been physical or psychological trauma inflicted on people living in the house that can kick up the nasties. Right? A brand-new house is the way to go. (Feel free to nod along with me). Right, right, right??? Nope, sorry, you did not get final Jeopardy.

Let's look at some scenarios to the 'new house can't be haunted' case. A brand spankin' new house is unlikely to have a haunt the first year of ownership, unless a worker tragically died there. Would that be correct? No again. Because when it comes to hauntings, you need to consider not only the house and all its previous owners, but also the land it was built on, the area it's located in, and other factors.

The Ghosts Of Ohio investigated a house that was less than 20 years old at the time, built in a neighborhood along a reservoir extension. And where was that extension built? Say it with me, Poltergeist fans... on top of a cemetery. Did they move all the bodies out of the old cemetery and into the new one before they let the water flow? They say they did, but the subsequent hauntings all along the street would belie that. All I can say is that while we were in the basement of that house, we all stood and watched as the hallway became so dark that you couldn't see across it to the room on the other side. Since the owner of the house said that neighbors up and down the street complained of the same thing, it points to an environmental haunting.



And let's face it, most houses are built on land once inhabited by First Peoples. You know, those original dwellers who were driven off the land so that the Europeans could have it. Yeah, that really can't bode well for subsequent inhabitants. Anytime you get pain and strife, like on a battlefield like Gettysburg or a prison like Andersonville, you have the propensity for paranormal activity because intense emotion can be recorded by the environment. It makes me wonder what walking the Trail of Tears would be like. Maybe I don't want to know.

The next thing to look at is the geography. Is there a spring in the area that may have arms

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GHOSTS ARE ONLY IN OLD HOUSES...RIGHT? CONTINUED

under your house? Or an underground river/creek? What about building materials. Ah, that's where a biggie comes in, at least in my mind. England is known for its hauntings. Why? Most likely the stone building materials mixed with the misty rain they get. Here in the last 20 years, what is the one thing everyone building or renovating a house must have? Granite countertops. As soon as I saw those gaining in popularity back 20ish years ago, I knew we were going to have some hauntings coming up. Why? Granite is full of quartz. And do not even get me started on the new love for quartz countertops. People are literally building an energy recorder and conductor into their kitchens and bathrooms.

Quartz is a recorder, both as a record keeper crystal and as a crystal oscillator used in recording equipment. So, while you are banging pans and cupboards in the kitchen every night, your counters could be recording that. And if it can be recorded, it can be played back. I've heard quite a few people with granite in their homes say, 'I swear I hear someone in the kitchen moving things around and closing cupboards at 3 in the morning.' Yeah, but it's probably not your friendly neighborhood Casper; you (or a former owner who lived in the house while those counters were in place) have most likely unknowingly created a recording by constant, repetitive movements, particularly if (unlike me) you cook.

Quartz can be found everywhere, including sandstone, slate, and shale. So, all those big country houses in England that have ghosts? They're probably recorded by the stone made to build them, with rain acting as a catalyst. My parents built their house in 1972 when I was 8 years old. Guess what? That house was haunted within a year. In my case, much of it was attributed to past life interference, but not everything could be explained by that. We built the house on top of a shale cliff along a creek. Get where I'm going? A ton of shale beneath us, with water running through it. Perfect conditions for an earth-based, non-ghost haunting. I used to close my windows at night in the summer because I'd see glowing orbs come in through the window and hang out in front of my dresser mirror. Most likely elemental, with quartz and water boosting its energy.

So, it is time to put that 'only old houses are haunted' myth to rest. Anything and everything can be haunted by our environment. Maybe not noticeably, and maybe it only kicks up once or twice a year when the conditions are just right; but either way, on this planet, it is pretty darn hard to escape a haunting!



THURBER BARBEQUE AT GREEN LAWN CEMETERY



It should come as no surprise to anyone reading this newsletter that our Fearless Leader, James A. Willis, has had a long-term obsession with James Thurber, the Thurber House, and *The Night The Ghost Got In*. He and The Ghosts Of Ohio have been conducting investigations at Thurber House for well over a decade. And if you've been lucky enough to attend one of Willis' presentations where he presents some of the "evidence" we've captured at Thurber House over the years, you know he loves giving a dramatic reading of Thurber's *The Night The Ghost Got In*... at least the few first paragraphs, anyway. Well, this August, you will have the chance to hear Willis read *The Night The Ghost Got In* in its entirety, all while giving to a worthy cause: Thurber House itself.



On Saturday, August 9th, Columbus' historic Green Lawn Cemetery will host the family-friendly Thurber Barbeque.

Guests can enjoy a delicious picnic dinner from City Barbeque, listen to live music, take a guided tour of the Thurber family gravesite, and hear guest readers bring some of James Thurber's most famous stories to life, including Willis reading *The Night The Ghost Got In*.

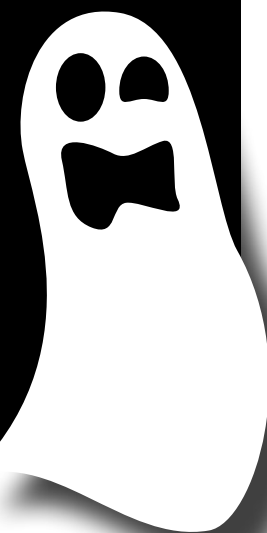
Vegetarian dinner options are available, and you can also forego the dinner portion and attend the event itself.

[Go here](#) to register for the event.



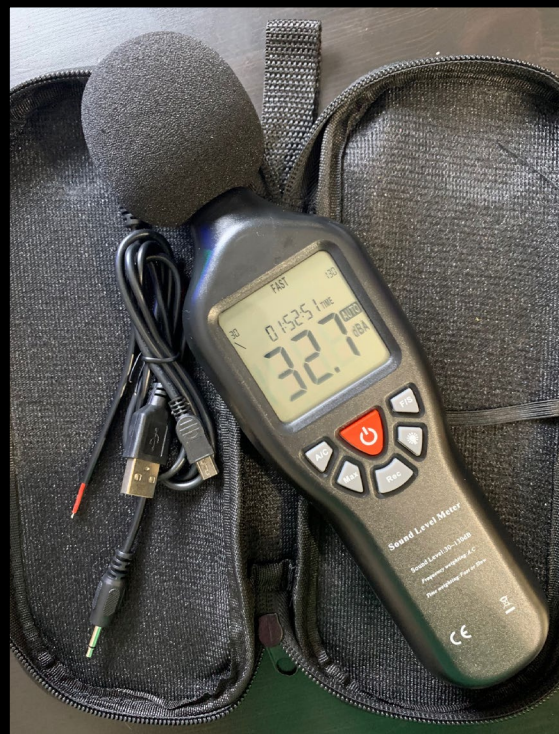
WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

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!



THE GHOSTS OF OHIO CALENDAR

Here come 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, August 9th @ 6:00 pm

*Family-Friendly Thurber Barbeque
at Green Lawn Cemetery (\$)*

Green Lawn Cemetery: Grand Gazebo
1000 Greenlawn Avenue
Columbus, OH 43223

[Make reservations here](#)

Monday, September 15th @ 6:00 pm

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

Wednesday, September 24th @ 6:30 pm

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

Saturday, September 27th @ 4:00 pm

“Ghosts” presentation—TBD
Wayne Public Library
137 E. Main Street
Wayne, OH 43466

Thursday, October 2nd

Ohio’s Historic Haunts presentation
Heights Libraries
2345 Lee Road
Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

Monday, October 6th @ 6:30 pm

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

Thursday, October 9th @ 6:00 pm

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

Tuesday, October 14th at 6:00 pm

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

Saturday, October 18th @ 4:00 pm

Amityville: Horror Or Hoax presentation
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 presentation
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



www.strangeandspookyworld.com/appearances

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 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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 [TWITTER](#)

 [INSTAGRAM](#)

Administration

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Newsletter Staff:

Editor-In-Chief: James Willis

Designer: Stephanie Willis

Contributing Authors:

Wendy Cywinski

Samantha Nicholson

James Willis