



The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 24 Issue 1

THE GHOSTLY PAUSE THAT REFRESHES



JAMES

If you've been following along with my ramblings in this newsletter, you might remember me mentioning that this October was going to be a little different. For the first time in more years than I care to count, I was heading into the fall season without a book deadline hanging over my head. No manuscript to finish, no last-minute research to track down, and no late nights trying to figure out how

to squeeze a few more hours out of an already full day.

I'd made a promise to myself that, this year, I was going to slow down and enjoy fall. And you know what? I did.

But what I hadn't fully anticipated was that it would also give The Ghosts of Ohio a chance to take a bit of a breather. After years of seemingly endless miles traveling to and from investigations, countless hours reviewing audio and video footage, conducting interviews, chasing down historical records, and generally keeping ourselves busy with all things ghostly, it was nice to have a little time to just...be.

Don't get me wrong. I love what we do. I wouldn't have spent the better part of four decades chasing ghosts and other things that go bump in the night if I didn't. But somewhere along the way, I think I'd forgotten what it was like to enjoy some of the simpler things without feeling like I should be doing something else.

Case in point: I sat down and read a book. Not because it contained some obscure historical reference I needed to verify. Not because I was researching a location or trying to track down the origins of a ghost story. I read it simply because I wanted to. For fun. Imagine that!

I'll admit that it felt a little strange at first. I kept catching myself thinking about the research I *could* be doing instead. But once I got past that, I discovered something rather wonderful. Turns out, reading a book just for the sheer enjoyment of it is something I could definitely get used to.

And while I can't say I've suddenly become an expert at relaxing, I think there's something to be said for

occasionally stepping away from the things that keep us so busy, even when those things are what we love doing.

Of course, before anyone starts thinking The Ghosts of Ohio is hanging up its EMF meters and calling it a day, I should probably set the record straight. This little ghostly pause doesn't mean we're resting on our laurels. Far from it. We've already started making plans to revisit several of the locations featured in *Ohio's Historic Haunts II*, along with investigating some brand-new places we've never had the opportunity to explore before. There are still plenty of stories waiting to be told, and I'm looking forward to seeing what we uncover.

And as for me? Well, apparently my idea of slowing down only goes so far.

I've already signed contracts for my next two books. The first will have me returning to the wonderful world of cryptids and is currently slated for release in 2028. The second will take me into an entirely new state, at least as far as my writing is concerned, to explore some of its most beloved ghost stories and urban legends. That one's scheduled for 2029.

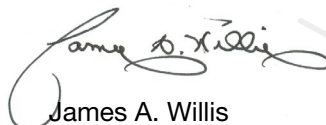
Oh, and there's also a contract for a UFO book sitting on my desk, with a tentative release date of 2030. So much for taking it easy.

But for now, I'm going to enjoy what's left of the fall season, appreciate having a little extra time on my hands, and maybe even pick up another book that has absolutely nothing to do with ghosts, monsters, or things flying around in the sky.

After all, there's plenty of time to get back to chasing the unexplained.

And something tells me it'll still be there when we're ready.

Cheers,


James A. Willis

Founder/Director



PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Something Happened in my Apartment

Sarah, Location withheld

I've been reading your newsletter for a while and have gone back and forth about sending this. Mostly because I don't really know what happened, and whenever I try to tell someone about it, I feel like I sound crazy. My boyfriend thinks I'm making too big a deal out of it, so I kind of stopped talking about it. But it's been almost three months, and I still think about it pretty much every day.

I'm 26 and live in an apartment outside of Columbus. I moved in last summer with my friend Megan, who I've known since college. It's an older building, but nothing creepy or anything. Just a regular apartment building with terrible parking and really thin walls.

Megan moved out in February to live with her boyfriend, and I decided to keep the apartment by myself. I actually liked living alone at first. Then, about two weeks after she moved out, I was in bed scrolling through TikTok when I heard someone in the kitchen. It sounded exactly like somebody opening the silverware drawer and digging around for something. I didn't even think about it at first because I was so used to Megan being there. I actually yelled, "What are you looking for?" before remembering I was alone.

I got up and checked, but nobody was there. The drawer was closed. I figured it was probably somebody next door and went back to bed. A couple nights later, it happened again, except this time I heard the drawer close. I know that sounds stupid, but there's a difference between hearing random banging through the walls and hearing your own kitchen drawer slide shut. It has this little squeak at the end because it's crooked.

After that, little things kept happening. Mostly noises. I'd hear what sounded like somebody walking from the kitchen into the living room. Sometimes I'd hear a little cough, like someone



clearing their throat. It always sounded like a woman.

The thing that really scared me happened on a Sunday morning. I'd been out the night before and was lying in bed around 10 when I heard someone say, "You can use mine."

It was a woman's voice, and it came from right outside my bedroom door. I sat straight up because I thought Megan had come over for some reason. I even called her name, but nobody answered. When I checked, there was nobody there and the front door was still locked with the chain on. I called Megan, but she was at her boyfriend's parents' house in Dayton.

What bothers me is what the voice said. "You can use mine." That's such a normal thing to say, like if somebody needed a charger or a hairbrush or something. But I hadn't been talking to anybody. I wasn't even thinking about anything I needed to borrow.

(continued on page 3.)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

Something Happened in my Apartment continued

A few weeks later, Megan came over to help me move some furniture. I hadn't told her about the voice because I knew she'd freak out, and honestly, I was starting to convince myself I'd dreamed it.

We were in the living room when Megan suddenly looked toward the kitchen and said, "What?" I asked her what she meant, and she said she'd heard me say something from the kitchen. She couldn't make out the words, but she was positive it was a woman's voice. The problem was, I'd been standing right next to her the whole time.

That was when I finally told her everything. She wanted to leave immediately, which honestly made me feel worse because now I had somebody else telling me I wasn't imagining things.

Here's the part I really don't know what to do with.

About a month ago, I was getting ready for work and couldn't find my black cardigan. I wear it all the time because our office is freezing. I checked my closet, the laundry basket, even my car. Nothing. I was standing in my bedroom getting annoyed when I said out loud, "Where the hell is my sweater?"

From somewhere behind me, very quietly, I heard, "Closet."

Not a whisper exactly. More like somebody talking from another room. I turned around so fast I nearly knocked over my lamp, but nobody was there. When I opened my closet, the cardigan was hanging right in front. I swear I'd already looked there at least twice.

I know how that sounds. Maybe I just missed it. Maybe my brain was playing tricks on me because I was already nervous about everything else. I get that. But why did I hear someone say "closet"?

I haven't heard the voice since then, although I still hear the drawer sometimes. The weird thing is, I'm not sure I'm even scared of it anymore. It's more like I feel embarrassed when I talk about it, if that makes sense.



I don't know anything about who lived in the apartment before us. I asked the landlord once if anyone had died there, and he just laughed and asked if I was watching too many scary movies. So that was helpful.

Anyway, sorry this is so long. I wasn't really planning to write all this, but once I started, I guess I had more to say than I thought. If you want to use this in the newsletter, that's fine. I'd just rather you didn't use my real name or the name of my apartment complex. My coworkers read your newsletter, and I really don't want to explain any of this to them.

I'd be curious if you've ever heard of anything like this before. Especially the part about the voice answering questions. I keep wondering if it's been happening the whole time I've lived here, and I just didn't notice until Megan moved out.

Thanks for reading this. It actually feels kind of good to finally tell somebody.

You can just call me Sarah.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

GATHERING EVIDENCE



Brandon L., Wooster, Ohio

I've been following your stuff for a while. I'm also a paranormal investigator, although I focus more on video content and social media than the traditional investigation side of things. My buddy Tyler and I are getting ready to launch our own YouTube channel. We don't have an official name yet, but we've been filming investigations for a while and building up a pretty solid library of content so we can start posting regularly once we launch. We're hoping to eventually turn it into a full-time thing.

Anyway, I wanted to share something that happened to us a few weeks ago. I've investigated a lot of places and can usually tell pretty quickly what's paranormal and what isn't. I'm also pretty good at debunking things, which I think is important because there's a lot of fake stuff out there.

We found this abandoned farmhouse about 40 minutes outside of Mansfield. I'm not going to give the exact location because people will probably go there and mess it up. Plus, we're planning to do a follow-up episode and don't really want anyone getting there before us.

The place is supposedly haunted by a farmer who killed his family back in the 1930s. I couldn't find anything online to confirm that, but a guy in a local paranormal Facebook group said his uncle knew somebody who used to live nearby, so there's definitely some history there. We're still researching it.

We went out on a Friday night around midnight. Just me, Tyler, and our friend Josh, who handles most of the cameras. We brought our REM pod, two K2 meters, a spirit box, and this new thermal camera I got off Amazon. It was only like \$70, but honestly, some of that cheaper equipment works just as well as the expensive stuff if you know what you're doing.

Right away, we were getting activity. One of the K2 meters started flashing in the kitchen, which is usually a sign of a spirit trying to communicate. Tyler



thought it might be picking up his phone, but I'd already ruled that out because I had mine on airplane mode. He didn't have his on airplane mode, but I don't think that matters.

We did a spirit box session in what we think was the parents' bedroom. I asked if the farmer was there, and we got what sounded like "get out." It was pretty clear to me, although Josh thought it said, "get down." Either way, that's a direct response, which is hard to argue with.

I told whatever was there that we weren't afraid of it and that if it wanted us gone, it needed to prove it. That's kind of my investigation style. I'm not one of those people who just sits in the dark asking if anybody's there. You have to challenge these things sometimes to get results.

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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

GATHERING EVIDENCE CONTINUED



That's when Tyler said something touched his shoulder. I didn't see anything, but he was standing near a doorway, which is where spirits tend to hang out because of the energy. I explained that on camera, but we'll probably cut most of it because the episode is already getting pretty long.

About an hour later, we went down into the basement. It was honestly pretty nasty down there. There was standing water in one corner and a bunch of old paint cans. Josh kept complaining about the floor being unsafe, but we'd already been there almost two hours and still needed a good ending for the episode.

We were setting up the cameras when I heard something upstairs. It sounded like footsteps, which was weird because all three of us were downstairs. Tyler immediately said it was probably an animal, but I could tell from the weight of the steps that it was something bigger. I've heard enough paranormal footsteps to know the difference.

I yelled up the stairs, "If you're here, come down and show yourself!"

Nothing happened, so I yelled it again. Then we heard this really loud bang from the kitchen. It sounded like somebody dropped something heavy on the floor. We all kind of freaked out, but I knew it was probably the spirit reacting to being challenged.

We went upstairs to check it out, and one of the kitchen cabinet doors was open. I don't remember if it was open before, but Tyler said he thought it was. Still, we got some really good footage of it and I'm thinking it'll make a great thumbnail for the episode.

Here's where things got weird, though. We were getting ready to leave when Josh noticed that one of his cameras had stopped recording. It was the one we'd left upstairs pointing down the hallway. The battery was completely dead, even though he'd charged it before we left. That's pretty common during investigations because spirits can drain batteries to get energy.



When we got home, we started going through the footage. Most of it was what you'd expect. Dust, random noises, Tyler swearing every five minutes. We found a couple possible orbs, but I don't usually count those unless they're moving in a way that proves they're not dust.

Then Josh found something on the hallway camera. Right before it shut off, there's about four seconds where you can hear a woman laughing. Not like an evil laugh or anything. Just a regular laugh, like somebody thought something was funny. The thing is, none of us heard that while we were there. And according to the story we found, it was supposed to be a man haunting the place. So that didn't really fit.

I figured it was probably audio contamination, maybe something coming from outside. But Josh cleaned up the recording, and the laugh is still there. It's actually pretty clear.

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PERSONAL EXPERIENCES

GATHERING EVIDENCE_{CONTINUED}

We played the clip for a few friends to see what they thought. A couple of them said it sounded like a woman saying something right after she laughed. One of them thought she said “idiots,” which honestly made me laugh because I couldn’t hear that at all.

But then Tyler sent me a version with the audio slowed down, and I have to admit, it does kind of sound like she’s saying “idiots.” We’re definitely using it in the episode. I’m calling it a Class A EVP because it’s clear enough to make out without headphones. Josh said technically that’s not what Class A means, but everybody has their own system for rating evidence.

I think this could actually be one of our biggest videos once we launch. We’re also talking about going back and doing a live investigation there after we build up an audience. People love that kind of thing, and I think we could probably make some decent money if we did a members-only livestream.

The only thing that’s been bothering me is something Josh pointed out last week.

He was going through some of the raw footage for a trailer we’re putting together and found a shot from the basement. It’s right after I yelled up the stairs for the spirit to show itself. You can hear the footsteps above us, then the bang, just like I described.

But in the background, right before the bang, there’s a man’s voice. It’s pretty quiet, but it sounds like he’s saying, “She’s not laughing now.” None of us heard it at the time. I thought maybe it was Tyler talking, but you can see him standing next to me in the video, and his mouth isn’t moving. Josh was behind the camera, and he swears he didn’t say it either.

I tried running it through an AI audio enhancer, but that actually made it harder to understand, so I’m just using the original. I haven’t put that part in any of our promotional clips yet. Mostly because I’m not sure how it fits with the rest of the investigation. If

the farmer was the one haunting the house, who’s the woman? And why would he say that?

I’m sure there’s an explanation. I’ve been doing this long enough to know that you can’t jump to conclusions, and I don’t want to put something out there unless I’m confident about what it is.

We’re probably going to save that audio for our first live episode. I think it’ll be a good reveal, especially if we can get the audience involved in figuring out what it says.

Anyway, I figured you’d appreciate hearing about it from another investigator. Feel free to share the experience with your readers. If you do, could you mention that we’ve got a YouTube channel launching soon? Like I said, we haven’t settled on a name yet, but we’re working on branding and all that. We’re hoping to launch with at least ten full investigations already edited so we can start getting subscribers right away.

Oh, and if you want the actual audio clips, let me know. I can send you the edited versions we’re planning to use for the episode. The raw files are on Josh’s computer somewhere, but honestly the edited ones sound a lot better anyway. Also, if you could maybe tell your readers to keep an eye out for our channel when it launches, that would be awesome. We’re hoping to get enough subscribers early on to start attracting sponsors and having somebody with an established audience mention us would definitely help.



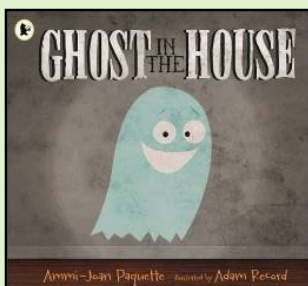


GHOST STORIES FOR THE LITTLE GHOSTS IN YOUR LIFE



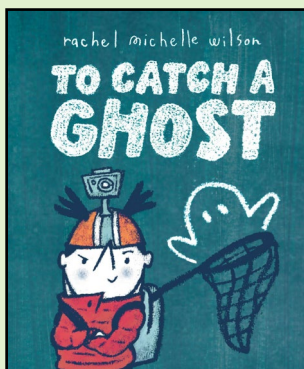
SAMANTHA

It's spooky season! Time for hot apple cider, corn mazes, horror movies, and yes, ghost stories. Did you know that some of the most entertaining ghost stories come in the form of children's picture books? It's true! Below is a list of my top 5 picks, and I'm not just recommending them because I'm a Children's Librarian. I genuinely enjoy the humor and heart that these stories contain; and I love sharing them with others. I hope you'll check them out and share them with the little people in your life. Happy Halloween!



Ghost in the House by Ammi-Joan Paquette

I can practically recite this entire story from memory because it's been one of my perpetual favorites to share with kids of all ages. With a sing-song rhyme it begins, "There's a ghost in the house, in the creepy haunted house, on this dark, spooky night all alone. And he goes slip-slide with a swoop and a glide until suddenly he hears...a GROAN!" What could it be? Readers get to discover more than just a ghost in the house. A mummy, monster, skeleton, and witch join the fun. However, there's one more creature in the house that sends them running in terror. What could it be? The answer may not surprise some readers, but the adventure is fun nonetheless!



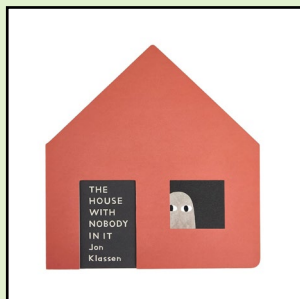
To Catch a Ghost by Rachel Michelle Wilson

Everyone knows you're supposed to bring something to show on show-and-tell day, and the new girl is determined (maybe overly determined) to bring something. "If you've got gumption, that something could be a ghost." Geared up and ready for the hunt, she informs readers of the steps in finding a ghost. First, you'll need to know where to search. Second, observe the ghost to understand its moods and habits, then bond with your ghost with activities it may enjoy, like playing games, gardening, or sharing pizza. Third, you'll construct a ghost cage that, once trapped, will hold your ghost. But now that this ghost is your friend, do you really want them trapped in a cage? Readers will be pleasantly surprised by how this adorable story ends.



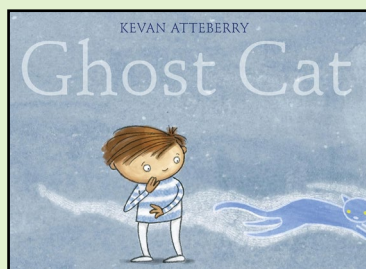
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GHOST STORIES FOR THE LITTLE GHOSTS IN YOUR LIFE CONTINUED



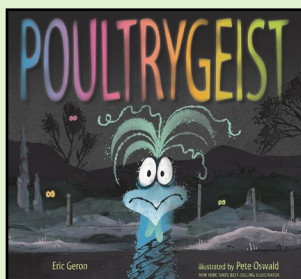
The House with Nobody in It *by Jon Klassen*

Jon Klassen is one of my very favorite picture book authors. His stories tend to be simple, quirky, and humorously dark to those of us who understand what's really going on. *The House with Nobody in It* is his latest creation; a board book shaped like a house that begins with the words, "There is nobody in this house. There used to be somebody. But there is nobody now." As we turn each page, we are treated to a tour of the house. Each room contains a piece of furniture, like a chair, table, or a clock. There doesn't seem to be anyone in the house. Or is there? Those who pay attention will notice that there is, indeed, a ghost watching us. What fun! Another excellent choice for kids who love ghost stories.



Ghost Cat *by Kevan Atteberry*

What happens when a beloved pet passes away? The boy at the center of this story is seeing, hearing, and even feeling something strange. "There is a ghost in my house. I've only seen it out of the corner of my eye, but I think it's a cat. I know because I used to have one." Throughout this gentle story, the boy takes note of his unseen friend's activities, like napping on the bed, meowing at the door, knocking things over, splashing in the fish tank, and ultimately purring and waiting at the front door. When his ghost cat disappears through the door, the boy opens it to discover an unexpected surprise. This story brings me to tears every time I read it, and kids who've lost a furry friend may find comfort in it.



Poultrygeist *by Eric Geron*

Why did the chicken cross the road? To get to the other side, of course! There's only one problem. Instead of arriving at the other side of the road, this chicken finds itself face to face with a truck that *WHAMO!* ejects him from his body and into the spirit realm. He's soon surrounded by other ghostly animals who inform him that he's now a "poultrygeist," tasked with haunting the living and turning "someone's sunny side up...into sunny side down." However, this gentle chicken wants nothing to do with haunting anyone, even checking with the reader to make sure they're okay. How will our hero handle this situation? This wacky tale is a true winner for kids K & up.



Happy Retirement, Frank!

After nearly a decade with The Ghosts of Ohio, Frank Yensel has decided it's time to hang up his REM Pod and retire from the team.

Over the years, Frank has contributed to the group in a variety of ways, from scouting potential investigation locations and donating equipment to reviewing audio and writing articles for this very newsletter. And, of course, we can't forget the literal miles of cables he's wound, unwound, and wound back up again over the years!

We'd like to thank Frank for his many contributions to The Ghosts of Ohio and wish him all the best in his future endeavors. Here's hoping his retirement involves considerably fewer tangled cables!



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!



OHIO'S HISTORIC HAUNTS II

UPDATE

As a special Halloween treat for everyone, we can finally and for the first time, reveal the locations that will be featured in the upcoming *Ohio's Historic Haunts II*, which is now safely in the hands of the publisher, Kent State University Press, and is making its way through the system, heading towards a 2027 release date.

Drum roll, please.

Northwest Ohio

Defiance Public Library
Brownella Cottage
Fostoria Area Historical Museum

Northeast Ohio

Hanna Theatre at Playhouse Square
Shady Bend Manor
Phoenix Brewing Company

Central Ohio

Thurber House
Red Brick Tavern
Wagnalls Memorial Library

Southwest Ohio

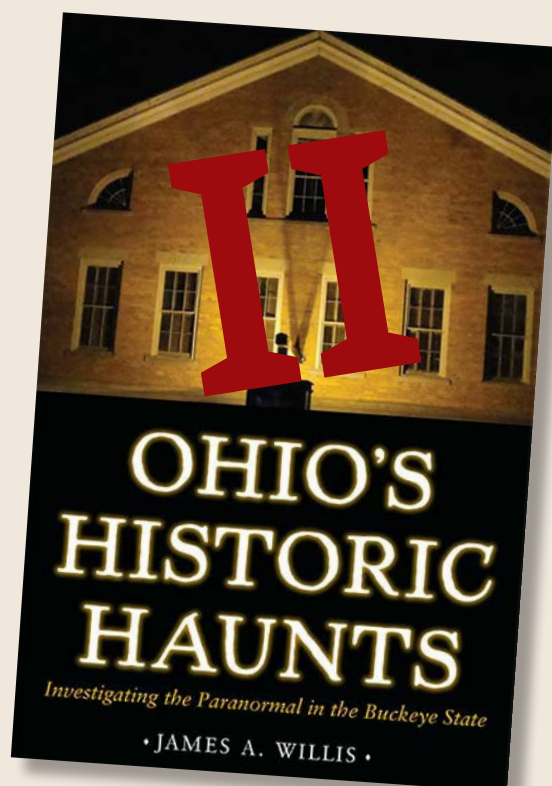
Promont Museum
Trebein-Flynn House
Brooke-Gould Memorial Library

Southeast Ohio

Prospect Place
The Anchorage
Lillian Jones Museum

While all these locations have been sworn to secrecy regarding specifics about the book (for now), they are all open to the public and many offer tours. Should you visit any of them, please be sure to thank them for being open to working with The Ghosts Of Ohio and for understanding that ghost stories can sometimes work to keep actual history alive.

There will probably not be a lot of updates related to the book's release date until early 2027, but we plan on releasing teasers and more information on each location beginning next week across our social media platforms. So, make sure you like/follow us to be the first to know!

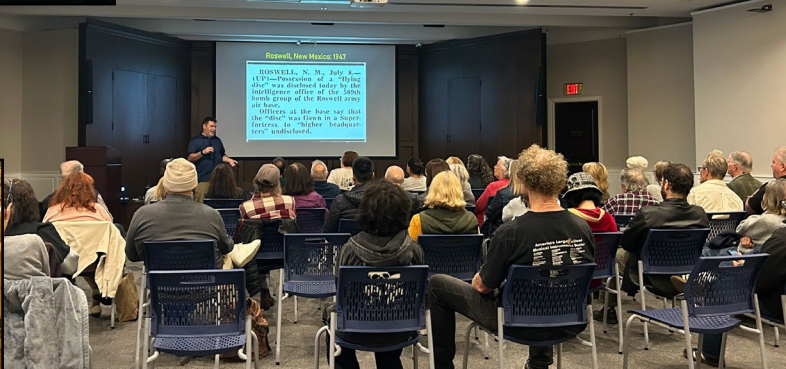


WHAT A FALL IT WAS!



It's been a busy fall for The Ghosts of Ohio! Our fall presentation tour took us to several new counties, where we shared some brand-new evidence, introduced new presentation topics, and even gave audiences a sneak peek at a few of the stories and experiences that will appear in the upcoming book, *Ohio's Historic Haunts II*.

Along the way, we had the chance to reconnect with familiar faces, meet plenty of new ones, and share our love of all things strange and unexplained. We've put together a little photo recap of some of the places we visited and the people we met along the way.



PRESENTATION AND APPEARANCE CALENDAR

We might be starting to creep towards the end of the year, but we're not quite finished yet! We still have one more presentation on the calendar for 2026, and we're already booking dates for 2027. So, who knows? We might be coming to a town near you!

Tuesday, November 17th @ 6:00 pm **Merry Scary Christmas presentation**

Pickaway County Library: Main Branch
1160 North Court Street
Circleville, OH 43113

As always, the easiest way to get us to come for a visit is to march into your local library and tell them you want to see The Ghosts Of Ohio!

Thursday, January 28th, 2027 @ 6:30 pm **UFOs Over Ohio presentation**

Pickerington Public Library
201 Opportunity Way
Pickerington, OH 43147

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts Of Ohio continue to schedule investigations and consultations for 2026. 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.

Are you unsure if you want or need an investigation? The Ghosts of Ohio also offers consultations. Let us discuss your current situation and what help we can 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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