

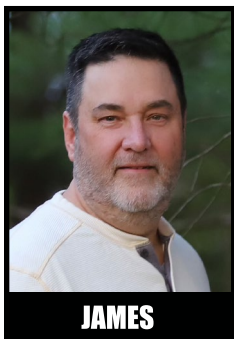


# The ghosts of Ohio® Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 22 Issue 4

## WE'RE STILL GETTING PERSONAL



JAMES

Over here at The Ghosts Of Ohio Headquarters, we are still busily gathering up all the personal experiences you have submitted to us for the newsletter. If we haven't gotten to yours yet, rest assured, it WILL be in an upcoming issue. Until then, please enjoy the latest three stories that have been submitted to us.

Future issues will also feature multiple personal stories, as well as a bunch of new stuff to answer the question some of you have been asking:

### *Do you guys still do investigations?*

The short answer is a resounding "yes." However, the vast majority of investigations are related to private residences and businesses, and we never make that information available to the public.

We have been focusing on different ways to "get personal" with the ghosts. Essentially, what are some things we can do and/or say that would make the ghosts like us and want to interact with us? We've devised a few different experiments that have yielded some very promising results. And that's the kind of stuff we will share with you in upcoming newsletter editions!

Oh yeah, and we've just added a bunch of new presentation dates to our calendar, so you can come out and meet us in person. Details are later in this issue!

Cheers,

James A. Willis, Founder/Director

# 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.





# SUPPORT YOUR OHIO LIBRARIES

Recently, the Ohio House of Representatives introduced House Bill 96, a portion of which proposed cutting millions of dollars in funding for Ohio libraries. While the House changed the bill before it was approved, the new funding proposal still falls over \$90 million short of the level Governor DeWine initially recommended. Substitute House Bill 96 is now with the Ohio Senate.

Library funding is used for a wide range of things, including hosting authors, providing access to technology and resources, and buying books. And all of that is provided free of charge to the general public. Put another way, if you have attended any of The Ghosts of Ohio's free library presentations in the

last 25 years, or checked out any of our Fearless Leader's books from your library, you have library funding to thank for that.

The Ghosts Of Ohio is just a tiny portion of what potential library funding cuts would impact. That's why you must let your local library know how much they mean to you and your community. And the best part is that it won't cost you anything. Get a free library card, attend a free presentation, or walk into your local library and say "thank you".

You can learn more about Substitute House Bill 96 and its potential impact on Ohio libraries by visiting the [Ohio Library Council](#).

OLC

OHIO LIBRARY  
COUNCIL



## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

# Headless in Old Washington

Kevin K., Old Washington, OH

Great newsletter! I've been reading it for a long time and really enjoy it when people send in their own stories. It made me realize that I wasn't alone in experiencing and seeing something I couldn't explain, so I figured it was time for me to submit my tale!

To start with, I live in a tiny little place in Guernsey County, Ohio. Nothing ever happens here and, as the story goes, nothing ever will. Back in my teenage years, if you were looking for excitement on a Saturday night, it usually involved nothing more than a 6-pack or two and hanging out in the woods. So, of course, that's where my story starts.

I was just out there with a couple of friends, shooting the breeze and enjoying some lukewarm suds, when someone in the group pointed off to the woods and said, "Who is that?" We all looked, and you could barely make out the shape of someone, or something, standing in a little clearing. It looked like a person, but something seemed weird about him. The shape just wasn't quite right, like something was missing.

My initial thought was that it was someone coming to hassle us for drinking out in the woods. So I remember yelling something like "sorry, man, we're taking off now." But that's when the figure started walking towards us. Again, while walking like a

person would, there was something odd about his gait. It almost looked like he was stumbling or unsure where he was walking. Based on that, I figured it was someone who had already perhaps imbibed an adult beverage or two and was looking to score some more. That's what made me decide to hang out there and say something like "hey, buddy, want a beer?"

The figure kept walking towards us, and when it got within about 10 feet of me and my group, I discovered why it looked so odd and was walking funny: its head was missing.

That's right, walking towards us was a headless man, arms outstretched. What's more, he was wearing a long-sleeved white shirt stained red with blood. That was all I needed to see to realize I was done drinking for the night. My friends and I booked it out of the woods, leaving behind the headless figure and a couple of unopened beers.

We went back the next morning and found nothing out of place. Even the unopened beers we had left behind were right where we had left them. Initially, we thought we had fallen victim to a prank by some other bored teenagers who wanted our beer. But then, why leave the beer behind? Honestly, I have no idea what we saw that night. None of us does.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

*The Old Crawler*

Maggie H., Burlington, OH

Let me start by saying that I am proud to say that my grandparents were born and raised up in a holler. Literally in the middle of nowhere. Looking back, when I was small, I thought my grandparents lived in a vacation cabin because I never questioned why my parents sometimes took me up there for vacation. I loved it, actually, albeit during the day. When night fell, the woods would come alive with all sorts of strange sounds that would freak me out a bit, if I'm being honest. But my grandparents, especially my grandmother, were very matter-of-fact and would casually brush things off by saying things like "that's nothing to worry about, just a big old black bear" and move on.

Again, looking back, it's a bit disconcerting that they would tell me there was a wild bear in the woods and then go inside, leaving their granddaughter alone with said bear. But that was just how my grandparents were. It probably would have made things worse if they had freaked out and pulled me inside. So at the time, I would casually brush off the black bear or whatever they told me was making strange noises out in the woods. Of course, there was that one time that no soothing tone could calm me.

It was a hot summer night, and I was sitting in the front yard with my grandparents, in front of a nice bonfire my grandfather had just started. I must have been 9 or 10 years old. I can remember just sitting there, watching the fire's smoke spiral into the trees, slowly disappearing as it faded away from the flames. And that's when I first saw it.

My brain didn't seem to comprehend what I was seeing at first, but gradually, I began to realize what I was looking at. High up in a tree, roughly 30 feet off the ground, was a dark shape.



The best way I can describe it is that it looked like a small person, maybe 4 feet tall, clinging to the side of the tree on all fours, with the head closest to the ground. Creepy, huh? It gets worse.

As I watched, the creature started crawling down the tree, headfirst. When it started getting closer to the ground, I could make it out in more detail, except there weren't any details to speak of. It was just a dark, human-like form, crawling down the side of the tree.

When the creature was about 8 feet from the ground, it jumped and began slowly crawling towards me. That's when I lost it and started pointing and yelling, "What is that?!" Without missing a beat, my grandmother looked over at the creature and then said to me the words which I can still hear in my head:

Oh, that? That's just the old Crawler. Pay no mind."

Pay no mind? Was she serious? I didn't bother to ask and just returned to the house, where I stayed for the rest of the night. As for my grandparents, they must have stayed out there with the Crawler for another hour or two. Then they came inside and casually went to bed.

Several times, I would ask my grandparents what the Crawler was. They would look at me like I was asking foolish questions, shake their heads, and say, "It's just an old Crawler. That's it." And while I spent several more summer vacations with my grandparents, I never saw the Crawler again. But maybe that was because I always ensured I was inside by the time the sun went down.

## PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

# The Vanishing Hitchhiker

Greg B., Medina, OH

In the 1970s, I was a long-haul truck driver who spent much time going up and down I-71 between Cleveland and Cincinnati. I often drove late at night, when the highways were deserted except for the occasional car or a fellow trucker.

One particular night, I don't remember the exact date, I was driving up I-71, heading to Cleveland, when I noticed a figure alone by the side of the road. As I got closer, I could see it was a guy wearing blue jeans and what looked like a dark-colored hooded sweatshirt. I also noticed that he had his thumb out, hitchhiking. Back then, I would never pick up anyone I didn't know, so I had no intention of stopping for this guy. Still, as I passed him, I felt weird about the guy. Something didn't seem right. I didn't see any backpack or anything else he might have been traveling with. It was just a guy, standing alone by the side of the highway.

Once I passed him, I looked in my rearview mirror and could no longer see him by the roadside. I remember thinking it was weird, but maybe it was just because it was so dark outside and I was the only other vehicle on the road.

A couple of weeks later, I was again driving along the same stretch of I-71 north at night, and lo and behold, I saw the same hitchhiker standing on the side of the road. He was dressed exactly as he had been the first time I saw him. It had to be the same guy. Determined to find out what his deal was, I started to slow down a bit, and that's when I got my first look at his face. Except, he didn't have a face. It was just a black void without eyes, nose, or mouth. He wasn't wearing any face covering. Plain and simple, he didn't have a face. That was enough for me, and I sped up. Once again, I looked in my rearview and he was gone.

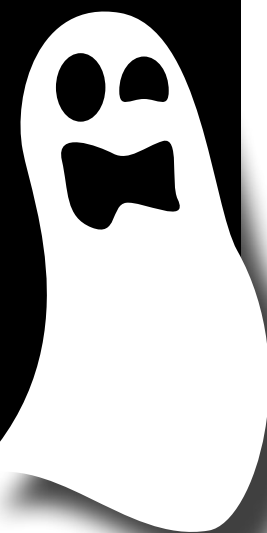
I must have traveled that stretch of I-71 dozens of times after that night, but I never saw the guy again. Even after I retired, whenever I would find myself driving up I-71 North at night, I would keep a sharp eye out on the side of the road. But I never saw anything like I did those two earlier times.





## WE WANT TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR GHOSTLY EXPERIENCES!

Have you had a ghostly encounter in Ohio? Want to see it featured in a future issue of The Ghosts of Ohio Newsletter? Then here's all you have to do: Just write down your story and send it to [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "Newsletter Ghost Story." Be sure to also include your name as you'd like it to appear with the story. We'll take it from there and send you out an e-mail letting you know which issue it is going to appear in. That way, you can get all your friends to sign up for the newsletter so they can see how famous you are!



## EQUIPMENT REVIEWS

Got a piece of paranormal equipment you've always wondered how it works? Does it really do what it's supposed to be doing? Or maybe you've created some paranormal equipment you'd like field tested? Either way, let us know because The Ghosts Of Ohio would love to help! Drop us a line at [info@ghostsofohio.org](mailto:info@ghostsofohio.org) with the subject line "Equipment" and we'll take it from there!



# 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.

### **Thursday, June 19<sup>th</sup>–Sunday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2025**

*Haunted America Conference (\$)*

Lewis & Clark College:  
Benjamin Godfrey Campus  
580 Godfrey Road  
Godfrey, IL 62035

[Tickets now](#)

### **Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup> @ 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 15<sup>th</sup> @ 6:00 pm**

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

### **Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> @ 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 27<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm**

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

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

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