



The ghosts of Ohio[®] Newsletter

www.ghostsofohio.org

Volume 10 Issue 6

FROM THE SPOOKY DESK OF JAMES WILLIS:

It's All In How You Look At Things



James

Recently, my wife and I purchased our dream home: a big house quietly nestled on two acres of land, roughly half of which is woods. Having spent the last 14 years living just north of Columbus, we

clearly left the hustle and bustle of the big city behind us. Now, our daily commute involves a quiet back road drive over the Hoover Reservoir.

I guess we weren't in the new house more than a few days before we realized something—it gets really dark in the woods at night! In what has quickly become almost a nightly ritual, Steph and I will go sit out on our back patio and gaze up at the stars. It's a wonderful way to put the stress of the day behind you. That is, of course, if you're not distracted by the odd sounds coming from the woods or the weird lights flashing through the sky at night.

So am I trying to imply that the new Willis homestead is smack dab in the middle of the infamous Skinwalker Ranch (if you've never heard of it before, look it up—spooky stuff)? Do I think Bigfoot is roaming the woods behind my house, remaining in the shadows lest the UFOs overhead spot him and try to beam him up? Hardly. So why mention it at all?

Simple. All it took was for me to look at things a little differently to see things in a different way. Truth is, there's probably always been critters roaming the woods out here. But up until the day I moved out here, I'd never heard them before. Case in point, the other night, Steph and I heard the telltale howls of the coyotes our neighbors said live in the nearby woods. It was one of the coolest things I've ever heard, but up until that night, I'd never heard such a thing. I still haven't seen these coyotes, but based on what I heard, I believe they exist.

Like all things in my life, I eventually try to put a paranormal slant on things. Regardless of how "normal" the things are that I'm hearing and seeing right in my own back yard, I believe you can draw a

comparison to the paranormal. Put it this way, after spending the last 14 years looking at the same surroundings in my back yard, I move to a new location and almost immediately start seeing things differently. Sometimes, all it takes is a change of scenery.

I think the lesson to be learned here is that we live in a strange and spooky world and to claim that we know everything about everything is simply naïve. There's so much more out there. So maybe, if you find yourself stuck in a paranormal rut and are about ready to throw in the towel because you haven't experienced anything paranormal yet, maybe you just need to mix it up and give yourself a change of scenery. Just something to consider.

In the meantime, I'll keep you posted as to when I'll be hosting my first Backyard BBQ & UFO Watching Party.

Cheers,

James A. Willis
Founder/Director



A NEW TWIST ON AN OLD IDEA

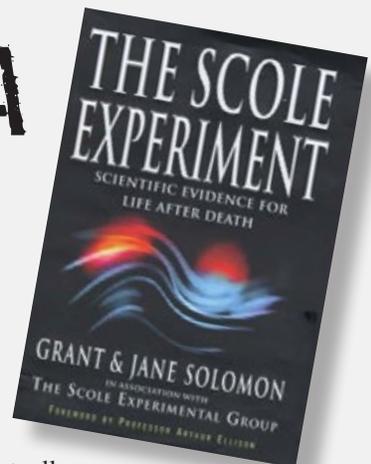
By James Willis

Last issue, we discussed how The Ghosts of Ohio was beginning a series of experiments using an EM Pump. Well, we've decided to go one further and have begun making plans to incorporate our EM Pump experiments into an even larger experiment. Essentially, we are going to be creating what we've deemed a "Controlled Séance."

So what is a Controlled Séance? Well, in essence, it will be a séance, but with one major difference—the introduction of equipment that can provide us with empirical data that we can analyze afterwards.

For some time now, The Ghosts of Ohio has been discussing doing our own version of the legendary Scoble Experiment. Closer

inspection of the methodology involved for those experiments, however, revealed that it would be virtually impossible to recreate them. For one,



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EVIDENCE OF THE SIXTH SENSE?



Samantha

Have you ever had the feeling that you're being watched? No, not in a Big-Brother-is-Watching-You kind of way, but in a way where you just know that someone's staring at you. Perhaps you've thought

about someone you haven't seen in a long time, only to have him or her call you, seemingly out of the blue. Or maybe you've followed a gut instinct—maybe about a person or event—only to find out later that you were right. Almost all of us would answer “yes” to at least one of these questions. While many would simply chalk them up as mere coincidence, there are others who suspect that there may be something bigger going on. Something beyond our five senses that connects us with each other and the world around us. Of course, I'm talking about our sixth sense.



When it comes to the sixth sense, it is generally accepted among paranormal researchers that everyone has one. Some are more attuned to it than others (psychics and mediums are two examples), but everyone has some level of intuition. The challenge is proving its existence and its effects on the world around us. That's why I was recently thrilled to see a 2011 episode of the Science Channel's *Through the Wormhole with Morgan Freeman* called “Is There a Sixth Sense?” Sure, it was two years ago, but it revealed that scientists around the world are conducting

experiments that prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that the sixth sense is not only real, but that we are all connected by it.



Rupert Shel Drake, Ph.D — *from sheldrake.org*

Let's start with that feeling of being watched. How do we know that someone's staring at us? Rupert Shel Drake is an author, parapsychologist, and former biochemist & plant physiologist who proposes that there is a “hidden field generated by all living things” that he calls the “morphic field.” Morphic fields are extensions of ourselves that allow us to affect our environment as well as other people. To test how the field works, Shel Drake set up a simple experiment in which subjects had to determine whether they were being stared at or not. The person doing the staring would either focus all of his/her attention on the subject (extending his/her own morphic field), or he/she would look at the

ground, not thinking about the subject at all. Amazingly, he found that the subjects were correct the majority of the time. While his work has been met with some criticism, it's hard to deny that he may be onto something. Let's take a look at something a bit more concrete.

Michael Persinger is a cognitive neuroscience researcher and professor at Laurentian University in Canada. He believes that, given the right conditions, human thoughts can be transmitted from one person to another. Remember the example of thinking about someone you

haven't seen in years and suddenly getting a call from him or her? In the episode, Persinger said, “Human thoughts are not non-physical. They are physical units of action potential from the nerve itself. Can they be transmitted across space, under certain conditions? Absolutely, and there's evidence for it. If we have seven billion human brains, all immersed in a magnetic field (which they are), a change in one, if it's connected (and we are because the magnetic flux lines go right through us, right through our brains), the change in one could influence everyone.” Basically, because we're all enveloped in the earth's electromagnetic field, a change in one of us (under the right conditions) would be able to affect others. To prove this, Persinger



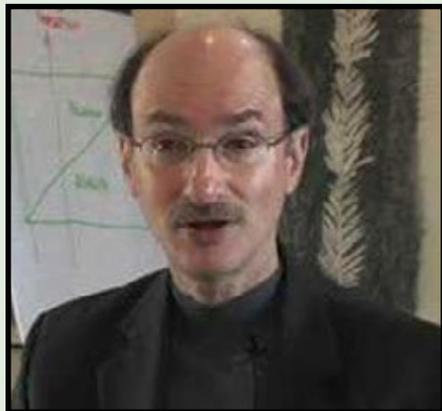
Dr. Michael Persinger —*from Persinger Publications*

developed an experiment in which two subjects were placed in separate rooms that were soundproof, lightproof, and shielded from the earth's EMF. The subjects were each fitted with headgear that generated Persinger's own controllable electromagnetic frequencies, and also monitored each subject's brain activity. The subjects then sat in total darkness and silence as Persinger turned up their EM frequencies to an equal level. Then, a light would flash for the first subject only. Incredibly, the brain activity for both subjects jumped! This experiment proved that two people in separate places, given the right conditions (being on the same electromagnetic wavelength), could have a shared experience. Maybe your thought about that distant friend happened at just the right moment to signal him/her to give you a call!

(continued on page 3.)

EVIDENCE OF THE SIXTH SENSE? (CONT'D)

Another aspect of the sixth sense is that of presentiment, or having some intuition about something that hasn't happened yet. Dean Radin is a parapsychology researcher and author who is the senior scientist at the Institute of Noetic Science in California. A former President of the Parapsychological Association, he has conducted research at Princeton University, the University of Edinburgh, etc., and is a leader in the study



Dean Radin, Ph.D. —from *Natural Awakenings* magazine

of the sixth sense. One aspect of the sixth sense he has tackled has to do with whether people can really anticipate things that will happen in the future, a.k.a. presentiment. To test this, he conducted an experiment during which subjects were shown a series of random photos, some dull and some dramatic. Radin monitored the stress levels of the subjects as the pictures changed, looking for reactions not when an emotional picture appeared, but before. This is what he calls a "presentiment response." Incredibly (and inexplicably), all of the subjects in the experiment showed this anticipatory response. They were actually reacting to certain photos before they appeared on the screen! This is fascinating stuff! The experiment not only proved that presentiment is real, but that everyone has the ability to use it. Can you imagine what a planet full of people would be able to do if we could all tap into our sixth sense? Which brings me to our final, most compelling experiment...

The Global Consciousness Project. Maybe you've heard of it, but most likely you haven't, which is a shame. So let me tell you about it! Roger D. Nelson was the Coordinator of Research at the Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research Lab at Princeton University until his retirement in 2002. Did I mention Princeton? He has

spent over 30 years researching our sixth sense and our interconnectedness across the globe. His idea of a Global Consciousness Project began with random number generators. Random number generators (RNGs) are, in Morgan Freeman's words, "basically electronic coin-tossers," except that they deal in ones & zeroes instead of heads & tails. They're supposed to be completely random, but in the 1980s, Nelson discovered that RNGs can be affected by people's thoughts. "In the course of a long series of experiments, over years, we found that people could change the behavior of these random number generators—very slightly, but very significantly." And this got him wondering. If one person sitting near a RNG can affect the data, what could an entire city of people do? Could RNGs placed around the world be used to track millions of people? In 1997, the Global Consciousness Project (GCP) was born. It was (and still is) a network that documents any subtle, but direct effects of humanity's collective consciousness as it reacts to global events. "What we have done," said Nelson, "is set up a scientific experiment with a fairly simple hypothesis. The idea is when large numbers of people share consciousness, especially emotional, then our network will show deviations from randomness." Participants in the project span the globe, and to date there are over 340 RNGs, all continuously collecting real-time data that is sent to Nelson's server at Princeton.

Incredibly, the GCP has recorded numerous "deviations from randomness" that seem to prove the existence of some sort of global consciousness. Spikes in data have occurred at the beginning of wars, New Year's Eve, during the Winter Olympics, and after the death of Princess Diana. There was a strong, five-hour-long spike after the 2008 Presidential election. And by far the most significant spike happened on September 11, 2001. Of course, we all know what happened that day. But were any of us able to predict what was going to happen ahead of time? According to the Global Consciousness Project, we were. At around 4:30 a.m. on September 11th, the GCP recorded the beginning of a huge change, well before the first plane hit the Twin Towers. This was the first (and so far only) time that the GCP network showed a reaction before a major event even began. The Project's scientists have no explanation for it except that we must all be somehow connected to

each other and the world around us. That the Project is validating exactly what it set out to prove!

Whether you believe in a sixth sense or not, you have to admit that some of the scientific findings described in this article are interesting, if not compelling. All of the experiments proved to some degree that we all have the ability to sense another's "morphic field," connect with people across distances (without the benefit of technology), and predict the future. We all have a sixth sense that is scientifically measurable. The challenge now is discovering ways to consciously tap into this ability so that we can make use of it, just like our other five senses. There are countless experiments going on around the world right now. Maybe we'll develop some of our own!

GOT A SCARY STORY TO TELL?

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 email 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 EXPERIENCES:

Crying In The Cemetery

John J., Somerset, OH

I'm 54 years old and have spent all my life in Somerset, Ohio. Many a childhood day was spent wandering around the woods, hunting and camping. I loved the outdoors.

Back in my teenage years, my and buddies loved going camping for the weekend. We would sort of just head on over to Hocking Hills or some deep woods and just hike in. Looking back, I don't think I would ever think of doing something like that today, but back then it was normal to just park alongside the woods the hike in. Some of my best memories are of me as a teenager sitting around a campfire with my friends just shooting the breeze.

Well one weekend, I guess I was around 19 or so, I went on a camping trip with my two best friends, Brian and Steve. We had been camping together for many years that this time we decided to try to find somewhere new to go. So we basically just headed out of Somerset until we found some woods that looked good and deep and headed in.

Friday night came and went without anything weird happening. Saturday morning, we broke camp and decided to just blaze our own trail deeper into the woods. At this point, we were basically making our own way. I guess it was around 5:30 in the evening when we decided to stop and set up camp for the night.

We pitched the five-man tent we carried with us, and then Brian and I started gathering wood for a fire while Steve wandered off to see if he could find any mushrooms. (The legal ones, of course!) He was gone only a couple of minutes when he came running back to the campsite, and I mean running! He told me and Brian to follow him, and that we were not going to believe what he found.

We followed Steve through the brush for maybe 100 yards when we came to a little clearing. Sitting in the middle of this

clearing was a small pioneer cemetery. I guess there were as many as six or seven stones in total—at least no more than 10. The three of us walked around for a while and then we realized that all the stones seemed to be from the same family. Sorry, but I don't remember the name. But the really sad thing was that all the graves were young kid's graves. I don't remember all the years, but I do remember that they all died within a couple of years of each other and none of them were older than 12 when they died. I remember that because we thought it was sad that none of them ever made it to being a teenager. It was then that I think Steve said something like, "Where are their parents?" He was right. There were no parents anywhere in the cemetery. Or even adults. Just all the kids. Looking back, I don't remember feeling anything creepy in the cemetery. It was just kind of sad.

So we went back to the camp, ate dinner, then stayed up a while just talking. I don't know about Steve and Brian, but I never even gave the cemetery another thought as we went to bed. If I remember correctly, it must have been about 11:00 pm or so when we hit the sack.

The next thing I remember was laying in the tent, half asleep, and hearing a woman crying. I remember thinking I was having a dream. That was until Steve started shaking me, whispering for me to wake up. When I opened my eyes, Steve was laying next to me, shaking me. Brian was at the front of the tent and he had opened it up a bit and had his head stuck out, like he was listening for something.

Just as I started to wake up, Steve whispered, "There's a woman up in the cemetery, crying." That woke me right up. The three of us stuck our heads out of the tent, and sure enough, we could hear plain as day the sound of a woman crying and it sounded like it was coming from that old cemetery.

Brian said he thought maybe someone was messing with us. But we were at least a two-hour walk away from civilization, so there was no way that someone was messing with us. Steve said we should go see who it was, but Brian didn't want to go. But I did. I guess I never really thought about ghosts up to that point, but at that moment, I really wanted to see one.

There was no moon out that night, so it was kind of hard to see where we were going. I remember thinking that if it was a ghost, Steve and I were probably going to scare it away with all the racket we were making snapping twigs and walking. But we kept hearing the crying, so loud that it was easy enough to just follow the sound.

Just as we reached the clearing, the crying stopped. There was no noise, either. Everything just got really quiet. Years later, Steve told me that just as we got to the cemetery, he saw what looked like a woman in a white dress, draped over one of the tombstones, crying. But she vanished before his eyes. As for me, I didn't see anything. But I remember feeling really creepy when everything got quiet.

Steve and I must have stood there a good 20 minutes, but we never heard anything else. So we headed back to the campsite and the three of us pretty much stayed up the rest of the night, just trying to make sense of what we had heard. As soon as daylight broke, we hiked back out.

To this day, I still wonder who or what my friends and I heard that night in the cemetery. If you were to ask me, I would tell you that I think it was the ghost of the mother of all those young kids buried there, still sad that they all died so young.



THE GHOSTS OF OHIO GO CAVING



Wendy

Well, not really. Me and small spaces? Not a good idea. But this year for our annual summer get together, which is affectionately referred to as “The Jamboree,” The

Ghosts of Ohio rented one of the pavilions at the Ohio Caverns in West Liberty Ohio, which is located northwest of Columbus. We spent a couple hours just hanging out with our families and eating lots of picnic food like fruit salad, burgers and hotdogs, cookies, and bean dip with chips. After all that, we needed to exercise some of those summer calories off, so we struggled up the hill to the gift shop to purchase tour tickets.



“Soda straws”

There were two different tours that we looked at, the Natural Wonder tour and the Historic tour. Most of us “newbies” opted for the Natural Wonder tour, as it would allow us to see all of the different cave formations. Others took the historic tour, which spent more time discussing the history of the Caverns. Each tour has only a limited number of spots available, so our group was split up into several tours. Since I had not been to the Ohio Caverns before, I decided to take the Natural Wonder tour. And I’m glad I did.

When I travel, there are two things I like to look at for recreation: ghost tours and cave tours. I’ve seen multiple caves in Ohio, Kentucky, Pennsylvania and South

Dakota, but have not been to the Ohio Caverns before. Most of the caves that I have explored are “dry” caves, like Mammoth Cave. In those caves, you have huge rooms and walkways, some “cave bacon” or “soda straws” near the entrances, but not much else in the way of formations. In a “wet” cave like the Ohio Caverns, you still have constantly dripping water that helps form not only the bacon and the straws, but also massive stalactites and stalagmites. As I walked along, I was surprised at the sheer quantity and size of the formations here.

The tour was not very long, barely an hour, so it is a good pace for all ages. And there is plenty to see to keep young kids occupied picking out what they think they see in the formations. One girl on our tour found all kinds of interesting shapes in the formations, including a unicorn!

So if you are looking for somewhere special to have a family reunion or event, think about the Ohio Caverns. You’ll be in a quiet countryside setting great for picnicking, exploring the many species of



trees, mining for gems and fossils, or visiting the swing set. Besides the two tours I mentioned, there is also a special Limestone Tour, which has wheelchair accessibility. For more information, visit www.ohiocaverns.com

A NEW TWIST ON AN OLD IDEA, (CONT'D)

the Scole Experiment was conducted every week, at the same time, by the same people, in the same location—a location that was dedicated to the experiments and could not be used for anything else. Aside from that little tidbit, The Ghosts of Ohio members come from across the entire state of Ohio, so finding a central location where everyone could meet once a week was not practical.

So we decided to create our own version of the Scole Experiment and to basically look at ways where we could take the age-old method of (supposedly) communicating with the dead, the séance, and adopt it to fit our needs.

For most traditional séances, a medium of some sort is usually called upon to facilitate the proceedings. That wouldn't work for us, though, since the medium would be adding an unknown into the equation. Put another way, since The Ghosts of Ohio organization has yet to come across a medium that we are convinced is 100% legitimate, we couldn't risk the experiments by bringing one in (we are currently considering "testing" a medium beforehand, though).

So that meant it would have to be The Ghosts of Ohio members themselves who would need to do the calling in of the



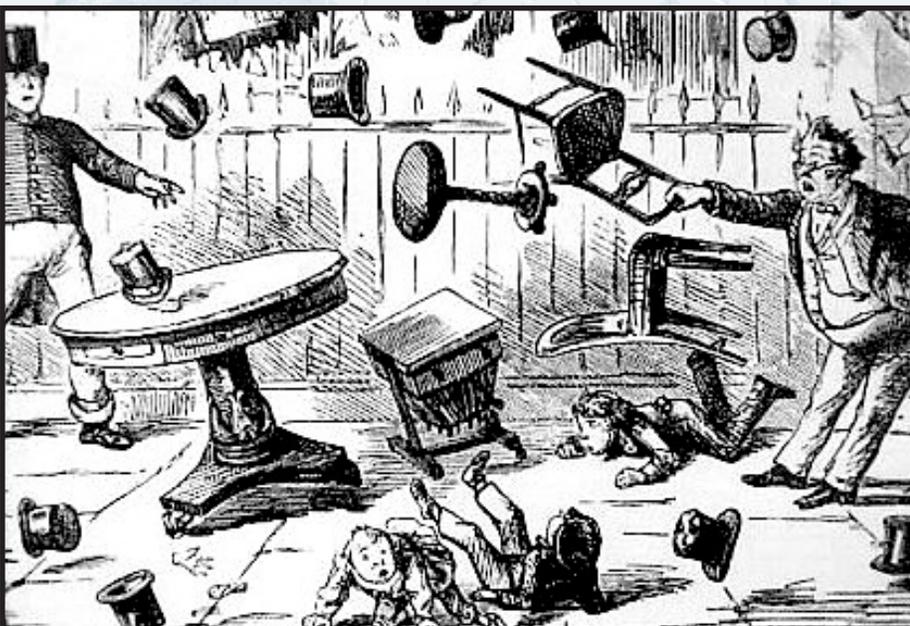
Scole House, the location where the majority of the Scole Experiments took place

spirits. Since we have already been working hard on finding ways to "center ourselves" and make us more relaxed and in tune with our environments (which may also include the spirit world), we felt it was an opportune time to try out that to work and see if by opening yourself up, you could become more open to having a paranormal experience.

Our latest decision was made with regard to where to have the series of séances. It came down to this simple question: should the place have a reputation for being haunted or not? It's an intriguing question because if you look at séances, in general they are held at all sorts of different locations, including ones that aren't even supposed to be haunted. It's as if the medium is able to draw the spirits in.

For us, it ended up being a rather easy question for to answer. Since no one from The Ghosts of Ohio has much experience doing anything that could be considered "drawing a ghost in," we decided to go with a place that is supposed to be haunted.

And that's where things stand as of this writing. We've identified a location and while we're already deep in discussions with the owners, nothing's official yet. But to be honest, even when it becomes official, I probably won't reveal the name of the location until after our experiments have been completed. Regardless, once permission is given, we're planning an outing so we can get a good look at the area we'll be using in order to predetermine what equipment will go where. And THAT we will most certainly keep you informed about...as well as if and when any spirits decide to join us at the table!



We're hoping our séance doesn't get as out of control as this one did. But just to be on the safe side, our séance will have a strict "no hats" policy. —from *PrairieDogMag*

HERE COME THE GHOSTS!



I know it doesn't seem like it when you step outside, but fall is just around the corner. And that can only mean one thing—roasted pumpkin seeds! OK, two things. Fall means The Ghosts of Ohio is getting ready to head to your town to show you all the spooky stuff they've captured over the 14+ years they've been around.



Also, as part of the hoopla surrounding the September 1, 2013, release of his latest book, *The Big Book Of Ohio Ghost Stories*, The Ghosts of Ohio's founder and director, James A. Willis, will be appearing at a few select locations. He'll even be speaking at some of them! More details as they become available, but for now, mark your calendars!



October 4th & 5th, 2013

Lima Lantern Tours
 Tickets available at www.limalanternstours.com



October 19th, 2013

Delaware Ghost Walk



October 21st, 2013

Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation
 Milan Public Library
 Milan, Ohio



October 25th, 2013

Bowling Green Rotary Ghost Walk:
 Tales & Tombstones



October 26th, 2013

Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation
 Hancock Park District



October 28th, 2013

Meet The Ghosts of Ohio presentation
 Dayton Metro Library: Wilmington-Stroop Branch
 3980 Wilmington Pike
 Dayton, OH 45429

More information can be found at
http://www.daytonmetrolibrary.org/calendar?rp_id=1258632&task=view&view=single



September 29th, 2013

My Strange & Spooky World:
 An Afternoon with James A. Willis
 Oxford Community Arts Center Ballroom
 10 South College Avenue
 Oxford, OH 45056

Tickets available by calling 513-280-6115
 or e-mailing margimoul@gmail.com



October 12th, 2013

Dublin, Ohio presentation



October 31st, 2013

Big Book of Ohio Ghost Stories book signing
 Book Loft
 Columbus, Ohio



November 2nd, 2013

Buckeye Book Fair

GOT GHOSTS?

REQUEST FOR MORE INFORMATION

From time to time, The Ghosts of Ohio learns about a haunted location that, try as we might, we just can't seem to dig up any additional information on. That's when we turn to one of the largest group of Ohio ghost experts out there; our newsletter readers! That's right, we're asking you to let us know if you have any information (or better yet, have had a personal experience) at any of the following locations. If you have, shoot us an email at info@ghostsofohio.org. And who knows? You just might get the chance to investigate the location along with The Ghosts of Ohio!

Black Mary Ann (Cleveland/Cuyahoga county)

Buffington Island (Portland/Meigs county)

Buckeye Belle (Beverly/Washington county)

New London Road Jogger (Hamilton/Butler county)

Watkins Road Bridge (Columbus/Franklin county)

COMING IN THE OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

A Visit To Elizabeth's Grave (finally!)

Recap of The Ghosts of Ohio's October Tour

Investigations & Consultations

The Ghosts of Ohio has already begun scheduling investigations for 2013. 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:



MYSPACE

www.myspace.com/ghostsofohio



FACEBOOK

<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/pages/Columbus-OH/The-Ghosts-of-Ohio/60704381381?ref=mf>



TWITTER

<http://twitter.com/ghostsofohio>

Administration

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