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“HAUNTED SPACES” TOURS ADD NEW OPTION TO ADULT HALLOWEEN ADVENTURES

Trick or Treat for kids has given way to great scary adventures for adults as the top Halloween pursuit over the last few years. The Lake County Historical Society, creators of the sold out “Myths, Legends” tours are bringing a new adventure this fall entitled, “Haunted Spaces.” Lake County has many places, spaces, nooks and crannies where over the decades, people have reported seeing “things”, “apparitions”, lights, movements and more. There has never been an explanation for these things, yet the same visions have been reported repeated over the decades.

LCHS has put together the “Haunted Spaces” tour to take guests to some of Lake County’s most infamous places for unusual sightings to see, or feel, for themselves if the supernatural lurks in these spaces. Guests will board small buses for their fully narrated tour, stopping at several destinations. Based on time and ghostly activity, participants will be getting off the bus at three to four of these stops. The Society can not reveal in advance the locations of these stops because, as Karen Sawitke, event coordinator relates, “we used to reveal the stops, and we would show up only to have a crowd already waiting.”

This year, the stops range from a private residence, to historic buildings, a local businesses and a colorful location with numerous sightings to talk about. During the narration on and off the bus, guests will learn about a ghost with a fondness for cigars who is frequently seen, a prestigious leader who made many important life decisions guided by the voice from beyond the grave and a spirit who visits by stepping through a mirror. Returning to the Center, participants will also have an opportunity to view areas in which recent sightings have been reported. The Lake County History Center was the locale of an episode of “Paranormal State” a program on the A&E network in the Fall of 2009. The entire building was wired for sound, motion and spiritual presence. Since that time, the number of sightings have increased and guests will have an opportunity to test their own “sensitivity” to these places in the building.

The tour lasts approximately 2.5 hours and the narration will also involved stories of the supernatural, paranormal and the vast number of reportings in Ohio, a state rich in spiritual activity. Narrators will share stories of sightings and haunting in neighboring counties for those who would like to explore further and encourage guests to relate their own stories. Reservations are limited and required. Tours are offered Oct. 15 and Oct. 22. with departure times at 1:00pm, 1:30pm, and 2:00pm. All tours depart from the Lake County History Center, 415 Riverside Dr., Painesville Township, Ohio. For reservations, information or directions, please contact the Center at 440-639-2945 or visit www.LakeHistory.org for online / Paypal reservations.

Lake Erie College

Various hauntings at [Lake Erie College](#) in Painesville.

College Hall

A girl named Stephanie haunts College Hall. She was a student at Lake Erie in the 1800s, when it was an all-girls school, and she had an affair with a professor and got pregnant. When he showed no inclination to marry her, she hung herself from the fourth-floor belltower. She roams the closed-off fourth floor and is spotted from outside. Lights always seem to be on in one of the fourth-story windows, even when the building is closed for the night. An Ameritech worker who was installing wiring alone on Stephanie's floor supposedly fled in terror, leaving his equipment behind.

Morley Music Hall

It's not hard to feel the presence of one of the Morleys who haunt the eponymous Music Hall. You might also see Mrs. Morley, who floats in a long white gown down the staircase. She has been known to order students out of the building, and also slams doors when music is played badly. One piano player heard a door slam every time she hit the wrong key. The building was closed for a while, and it was whispered that they'd sealed it off because of Mrs. Morley's angry spirit. Stephanie, from College Hall, might also visit this building; she gains access through a large mirror in the social parlor.

Fine Arts Building

The theater's green room, used by the drama department for rehearsal and some storage, is haunted by a presence which surrounds students and makes them feel uncomfortable for no good reason. Maybe it has something to do with the figure of a man with "dark, tough skin" who is seen roaming the Fine Arts Building at odd hours.

Andrews Dorm

Mary Evans, who was president of the college more than a century ago, haunts this dorm for reasons unknown. The dorm building wasn't built until the turn of the twentieth century, but Mary Evans plagues it with poltergeist activity--knocking things off shelves and off walls, slamming doors, moving things.

Fowler Dorm

The mirrors of the Fowler Dorm are haunted by a spirit who appears to be standing off to the side, behind the viewer. Some say it's the image of a female student with long brown hair who died in the building years ago.

Rider's 1812 Inn

Rider's 1812 Inn in Painesville is haunted by the ghost of "the ugliest woman in Painesville," Mistress Suzanne. It's said that she was probably killed by her third husband, Joseph Rider, the guy who built the Inn. He married her in 1834, most likely for her money, and she died just six weeks later under "mysterious circumstances." She's apparently not bitter, though, because she's a very friendly and helpful ghost. Rather than feeling cold spots in the Inn, people report feeling warm and happy there.

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Sources

Petkovic, John. "Ghosts, Haunts, and Urban Legends." *Cleveland Plain Dealer*. October 31, 2000 pp. 1A.

Possibly the creepiest scary story in the state comes to us from the Kirtland area in Lake County: the legend of the Melon Heads, a bunch of people (usually kids) with abnormally large, melon-shaped heads. That's about where the agreement ends, however; the Melon Heads legend has about as many variations as any story I've run across (with the possible exception of [Hell Town](#)).

Origins of the Melonheads

One version of the story which paints Dr. Crowe in a fairly humanitarian light has him taking care of the unfortunate children at his home. His wife, however, was so kind that when she died the Melon Heads went crazy with grief and burned down the house, killing the doctor and themselves in the process. Their ghosts are said to inhabit the area. Which reminds us all just how dangerous nice people are, and that they must be stopped.

One version makes Dr. Crowe a government scientist who was exposed to so much radiation that his kids were born with melon heads. The government buys him a house in secluded Lake County to keep him out of sight in his twilight years, but his kids sometimes go to the road and are spotted by locals.

Melonhead Sightings

No matter where For Creepy Cleveland's take on the Melon Heads, go [here](#). Erialink.com
Another excellent Melon Heads information page can be found [here](#). geocities.com

Fergus B. Squire built Squire's Castle as a caretaker's home while he built the *real* castle, which was never completed. He lived in the caretaker's cottage while he was preparing to build the main house. One night his wife was found dead on the basement steps with her neck broken. Under suspicion, Squire left. He sold his land in 1922. Later the Cleveland Metroparks system purchased it and the land around it. They stripped out the interior and filled the basement in with cement, but the castle still stands on the park land, and it's said that sometimes you can hear screams coming from inside it; sometimes you can see a mysterious light pass in front of one of the windows.

Squire's Castle

Just outside Cleveland's city limits lies the section of the Metroparks District known as North Chagrin Reservation. This area is home to a golf course, a wildlife sanctuary, and according to legend, one restless ghost.

At the turn of the century, F.B. Squire, a wealthy businessman, purchased over 500 acres of land near Cleveland. Squire, an avid hunter, loved the outdoors and had always dreamed of living in the country. His plan was to build a summer retreat for himself and his family.

Building began with Squire erecting a three-story building that was to eventually serve as the gatehouse for his estate. In the basement of this building, Squire constructed an ornate trophy room and filled it with the heads and skins from his hunting trips. The only problem with Squire's dream house was that his wife not only despised hunting, but also the whole country lifestyle. When her husband first began constructing the manor house, Mrs. Squire would often stay at their home in the city. Eventually, in an effort of appease her husband, she began journeying out to the property. According to local legend, Mrs. Squire's displeasure over the summer retreat resulted in her developing insomnia. It was said that she often walked the gatehouse at night, carrying a small red lantern for light.

Late one evening, for reasons never fully understood, Mrs. Squire ventured alone into the trophy room, carrying her red lantern. While in the room, something frightened Mrs. Squire. Some believe it was simply the reflection of her lantern on the faces of her husband's trophies. But there are some that believe Mrs. Squire looked into the face of something unearthly that night. Regardless of what it was, she became so frightened that she attempted to flee the room. In the darkness, she fell and broke her neck.

Upon finding his wife's body, Squire was overcome with grief. Indeed, he blamed himself for his wife's death. He immediately ceased construction on the house and moved back to the city... never to return again. In the 1920s, the property was bought by Cleveland Metroparks, which incorporated it into the North Chagrin Reservation. Locals who remembered FB Squire began calling the abandoned gatehouse "Squire's Castle".

Today, the building is literally a shadow of its former self. Park authorities have removed all but the outside shell of the building. And the basement room where Mrs. Squire met her untimely death has been filled in. To the uninformed, it appears to be nothing more than the quiet remains of an era gone by.

As for Squire's Castle being haunted, there are some who claim to have seen the light of a red lantern in the windows of Squire Castle. And that the lantern is carried by the lonely ghost of Mrs. Squire, a woman forced to walk the grounds of a place she so despised. It makes for a nice story, but despite the fact that it seems highly unlikely someone would turn the basement of a gate house into a trophy room, Mrs. Squire did NOT die on the property. In fact, she died many miles away under quite normal circumstances.

Still, there are far too many people reporting "something" moving around Squire's Castle late at night. So while Mrs. Squire doesn't haunt the castle, maybe, just maybe, someone else's ghost does.

The Drury Mansion was once home to a Cleveland millionaire named Francis Drury but changes in fortune, and numerous misfortunes, have placed the house in the hands of law enforcement officials.

What walks in this gothic mansion? What lingers here that can make both police officers and hardened criminals tremble in fear?

ASHTABULA GHOST TOWN WICK

ASHTABULA TRAIN WRECK AND CEMETERY

Ohio Adult Parole Authority

No one knows for sure.

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