

*Michigan's
Most Haunted*

**A Ghostly Guide to the
Great Lakes State**

Sandy Arno Lyons

Copyrighted by Sandy Lyons
*All rights reserved. No part of this
book may be used or reproduced
without prior written permission from
the publisher, except in the case of
brief quotations embodied in critical
reviews and articles.*

*Manufactured in the
United States of America.
Copyright 2007*

*Edited by: Dr. Susan Richardson
Photographers: Steven Oatley &
Sandy Arno Lyons*

*Layout/Photo Consultant:
Steven Oatley*

*Cover Design/Baldwin Illustrations:
Tom Zahner of Curve Detroit*

SkateRight Publishing
First Edition 2007

*Library of Congress Control Number:
2007906168*

ISBN 978-0-9798876-0-4

Acknowledgments:

A special thanks to everyone that willingly took part in this exciting project. Without you this book would not have been possible.

Specifically:

Anton, Anton's Publishing Primer

Amy & Tom, CurveDetroit.com

Steven Oatley, www.Axisfilms.tv

David, D&R Paranormal Investigations

Julie, The Sweet Dreams Inn

Patty & Angela, The Terrace Inn

The Murphys, Murphy's Lamplight Inn

Chrissy, George, Christine & Kim,
Holly Hotel

Steve & Kathie, LaSalle-Griffon
Organization

Barbara, The National House Inn

David, Perry Hotel

Lesley, Scott & Doug, Baldwin Theatre

A Few Words of Thanks:

To my amazing parents, Barb and Mike Arno, and my sister, Amy MacIntosh, for listening to all my crazy ideas and never letting me give up on my dreams.

To my loving husband, Chris, for being the current recipient of my crazy ideas and for supporting me no matter what.

To my students at Figure Skating Club of Birmingham and Berkley Royal Blades Figure Skating Club for allowing me to do what I love: you inspire me everyday.

***Dedicated to
those in search
of the unknown***

“I see dead people”

The Sixth Sense, 1999

“I ain’t afraid of no ghost”

Ghostbusters, 1984

I wasn't sure which quote was more appropriate. What can I say? I'm a believer with a sense of humor.

Table of Contents

Foreword	1
The Ones That Got Away	5
Sweet Dreams Inn, Bay Port	8
Ballroom Blitz	11
Girls Weekend	13
Stagecoach Travels	16
Terrace Inn, Bay View	18
Hallway Happenings	19
Christian Rock Rules!	21
Calming Presence	23
Murphy's Lamplight Inn, Central Lake	26
Lady in White	28
Little Girl Lost	29
Just Stop It!	32
Bathroom Occupied	34
Holly Hotel, Holly	36
The Dining Car	39
Second-floor Friends	42
No Rest in the Restroom	45

The Griffon, Lake Michigan	48
A Perfect Day	50
In Search of The Griffon	52
Here Comes Uncle Sam	53
National House Inn, Marshall	56
Mirror, Mirror on the Wall	59
Little Jason	61
Lady in Red	63
Perry Hotel, Petoskey	64
A Cool Breeze	67
100 Years	69
Ungentleman-like Conduct	71
The Storm	74
More Library Visitors	77
Finally, a Name	78
Baldwin Theatre, Royal Oak	82
Keep It Down!	85
Who Moved the Boxes?	87
Behind the Curtain	90
Map	93
About the Author	94

Foreword

I have always enjoyed a good tale. Growing up I pursued anyone who had something to say about things never taught in school nor written down. After spending the past 10 years reading other Michigan ghost books by Marion Kulco, Dan Asfar and Rev. Gerald Hunter, just to name a few, I was inspired to write my own. The stories I encountered are such gems that they needed to be told and the places made public. People should be able to visit and decide for themselves whether to believe or not.

Obviously, none of these stories can be proven scientifically, but I can assure you these stories are true to the best of the participants' knowledge. I only included stories that were interesting and given to me by reasonable, sane and sober people. I had to sort through a lot of old wives' tales, obvious hoaxes and childish nonsense before finding the real jewels. Everyone had some story of random dish rattling or unexplained bumps in the night.

Whenever possible, I've traveled to local libraries, museums and spoken with many a historian to check facts. One of the problems is deaths at hotels and

restaurants are not publicized for obvious reasons. And, as anyone who has researched genealogy will tell you, death records are organized by date and name, not place. Restaurants don't record customer names, and old hotel guest registries are usually long gone.

In conducting the various interviews and visiting all the properties for this book, I have made the following observations:

1) Ghosts don't necessarily haunt the places where they died. They haunt the places that they visited in life. And, in many cases, they haunt their favorite places: vacation spots and social hangouts.

2) Three things need to be present for ghostly activities:

- Sensitive individuals who can pick up on slight shifts in energy levels. Not everyone has this trait and "seeing is believing."
- A quiet and relaxed atmosphere so that energy can more easily be detected, hence why sightings usually occur at night.
- An older property with original architectural features. This is why occurrences are usually found in older parts of buildings.

It may come as a shock to find out that I've never actually seen a ghost, which is a good thing—I scare easily. What I have noticed about the places I've visited is that the air seems heavier, not with humidity, but with a little extra something, like energy, which isn't present at my house—Thank God!

Maybe you have a tale to tell or have information on the people or places presented in this book. Any new information that can help substantiate stories or provide more details will be included in future editions of this book.

Also I'm always looking for more haunted B&B's, restaurants, pubs, theaters, stores, etc. I stay away from private residences—Who would want their address publicized? I avoid graveyards—need I say more? And I run like hell away from anything too creepy or evil—otherwise, I'd be up all night worried that the clown from *Poltergeist* is going to find me.

Email me your stories, findings or new leads to sandy.lyons@yahoo.com.

I hope you have as much fun reading and visiting the places in this book as I did researching and writing this book.

Happy Hauntings,
Sandy

The Ones That Got Away

Allegan, Michigan

Upscale restaurant, just outside of town:

According to the internet, they're haunted by a lumberjack who died on the property. One employee said, "Oh yeah, we're definitely haunted." The manager did not return any of my five phone calls.

Near Muskegon

Upscale restaurant and inn, just outside of town:

I sent them my standard "Are you interested in being in my book?" email in May [2007]. A month later I visited their website to get their phone number to follow up on my original inquiry. As it turns out, just two weeks after I sent my email, the entire place was destroyed by fire. Thank God, no one was injured. Very sad.

Oxford, Michigan

A bar on main street, downtown:

Rumor has it that the bar has an old slave tunnel in the Michigan basement haunted by a Civil War soldier. Employees confirmed something weird was going on, but the manager said, "I have no idea what you're talking about." After that, employees' memories seemed to fade really fast. Hmmmmm.

Westland, Michigan

Former tavern near an old saw mill:

The internet details how an old mill worker was killed in a freak accident and haunts the property. The report went on to say that ghost-hunting investigations showed a picture of his face in ectoplasm, whatever that means. My email inquiry was answered immediately by a very polite individual who said, "This just isn't our kind of thing." (But having ghost busters run around with an ectoplasm machine is? Whatever.)

Sweet Dreams Inn ***Victorian Bed & Breakfast***

Bay Port, Michigan



bayportchamber.com (989) 656-9952

History

The Sweet Dreams Inn was built in 1890 by William H. Wallace as his personal residence. He and his family lived on the first and second floors. The third floor was a large ballroom and featured wood floors and vaulted ceilings. According to local historians, every Saturday night Mr. Wallace hosted large parties with music and dancing that lasted until morning.