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Media Contact:

Sarah Blackwell Office: 585-394-0787 x4

Cell: 315-225-0256

Ghostly Sights & Sounds: Tour Spirited Stops on the Haunted History Trail of New York State

Batavia, **N.Y**— The traditional "spooky season" is coming to a close, but there is no break in sight for the spirits on the Haunted History Trail of New York State. The trail operates 365 days a year – with plenty of hauntings and happenings in store for curious visitors.

Like at Rolling Hills Asylum, ranked as the *second most haunted site in the United States* by Haunted North America. Established in 1827, the asylum was once the Genesee County Poor House, a sanctuary in Western New York that welcomed society's less fortunate. As the years passed, that sanctuary quickly doubled as a cemetery – over 1,700 deaths occurred on property, and the unclaimed dead were buried on the grounds. Today the asylum serves a new purpose: home to the restless spirits that roam the abandoned building and a prime stop on the Haunted History Trail of New York State.

Visitors come to Rolling Hills Asylum year-round to participate in guided tours and ghost hunts - from a nine-hour quarantine to a two-hour flashlight tour. Lock-ins, public haunts, horror movie nights and historical tours are all offered at Rolling Hills, guided by the proprietors and senior staff who often know the spirits by name.

Rolling Hills Asylum even hosts a Paranormal 101 Class for novices interested in starting a more serious ghost-hunting hobby. The class includes how to take a baseline reading, conduct an EVP session, debunk photos and use the tools of the trade – tools which could help you investigate spirits at the other 65 stops along the Haunted History Trail of New York State.

Stops such as The Shanley Hotel located in Napanoch, NY, a paranormal hotel that takes pride in showcasing its spooky side. Ghost tours and investigations are included in the price of an overnight, or visitors can pay separately for a guided tour and exploration. Day and night, visitors have reported rocking chairs that rock on their own, mysterious clocks chiming, cold and hot spots, whistling, piano music, footsteps and the sounds of children's laughter.

In Central New York, <u>Dr. Best House & Medical Museum</u> is a time capsule of the earliest form of medicine, with medical devices that are sure to turn anyone's blood cold. Visitors can explore the home in Middleburgh, NY where Dr. Best, his wife and his beloved young son all lost their lives. Guided tours are available by appointment and provide eye-witness accounts of unexplained occurrences, such as sounds of a piano playing and distant voices.

Also central to the state is the <u>Erie Canal Museum</u>, the last remaining Weighlock Building in America. Daily tours discuss the history of the Erie Canal as well as the paranormal activity that occurs within the museum, including the group of ghostly children who like to play in the courtyard or the pair of arguing men who tromp down the 150-year-old hallways. Pay attention for the woman who was killed right where the model canal boat now sits – she makes an appearance every so often.

Daytime guided tours, haunted overnights, and spooky dinners welcome visitors in to experience 65+ locations – 365 days a year. For more serious investigators, nocturnal tours and ghost hunts are also available year-round. More information about haunted attractions, events and activities can be found online at www.hauntedhistorytrail.com.

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About the Haunted History Trail of New York State

From the great spirits invoked by early Native American tribes, to the first Dutch settlers who carefully avoided haunted places, New York has harbored centuries of spooky events that simply can't be explained. Interest in the eerie has steadily increased with television and movies exploring the ghosts, UFOs, and things beyond the realm of human understanding. All of this awaits you on the Haunted History Trail of New York State as it takes you to the places where human forms come out of the mist and strange lights wink from the dark.

The Haunted History Trail of New York State features attractions from almost every region of New York State. Haunted dining, tours, and overnights are available on the trail, with many of the attractions tying back to New York's local history. For more information, visit: www.hauntedhistorytrail.com.