

Wizard Clip Haunting – Synopsis, Schedule & Blurbs

When America was young, reckless, and fiercely independent, an equally independent, agnostic farmer reluctantly joins forces with a devout but renegade Catholic priest to confront an ancient Babylon spirit that threatens their safety and the country's freedom.

The Wizard Clip Haunting is a historical fiction novel of the 1797 well-documented events in what is currently Middleway, West Virginia, but was then Smithfield, Virginia. Adam Livingston, an innovative flax farmer vexed from early childhood with premonitions that predict tragedies, is at the center of the tale. When his first wife dies, he takes revenge on God by remarrying a woman who hates all religion.

A mysterious sojourner lodges at the Livingstons' home and in the middle of the night the man realizes he's going to die. He asks his hosts to fetch a Catholic priest to hear his confession and give him last rites. But the Livingstons refuse, having promised themselves, in keeping with the times, that no Catholic priest would ever cross the threshold of their house. Before the stranger dies he curses the Livingstons, their house and farm. Immediately the haunts begin: strange noises, black vapor, wraiths of horses and wagons, house tremors, and most peculiar the clipping of crescent moon shapes from anything made from flax linen.

Adam soon realizes that the noises and the clippings are not practical jokes put upon them by neighbors, but by a demon their young daughter, Eve calls "The Wizard." When Adam finally decides to fight fire-with-fire, he recruits a variety of ministers to come to the house and exorcise it. But

all fail, and the farm becomes the curiosity of the region with folks just dropping by with both tragic and comedic results.

The haunts escalate, especially when a minister shows up, and all hell literally breaks loose when a Catholic priest appears, resulting in death and destruction as the Livingstons and friends are catapulted along to a final, cataclysmic conclusion.

While a work of historical fiction, a great many of the characters and events the novel chronicles are real. The main characters, Adam and Mary Ann Livingston, their friends Richard and Anastasia McSherry, and Fr. Denis Cahill actually lived through the hauntings that historically came to be known as The Wizard Clip. Further, at the request of Bishop John Carroll, the events were investigated by none other than Rev. (Prince) Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, who has come to be known as the Apostle of the Alleghenies, and is under consideration for canonization by the Catholic Church. His current title is "Servant of God."

Fr. Gallitzin is the novel's narrator. During his lifetime he wrote of the Wizard Clip hauntings: "After three months of investigation, I was soon converted to a full belief of them. No lawyer in a court of justice did more than I, nor procured more than your unworthy servant." Today, over 200 years later, the village of Middleway, West Virginia, continues to celebrate its place in history with wood-block emblems on building fronts depicting a crescent moon and a pair of scissors. The village, to some, is still remembered as Clip Town.

BOOK TOUR SCHEDULE

Sat. 10/7 1:00 – 4 PM
4 Seasons Bookstore
116 German St., Shepherdstown WV

Mon. 10/9 9:35 AM
Rob Mario's Radio Show WRNR
Facebook Live

Mon. 10/9 6:30 PM
Handley Regional Library
Benham Gallery,
100 Piccadilly St., Winchester, VA

Tue. 10/10 6:30 PM
Women's Club, St. James Parish,
49 Crosswinds Dr., Charles Town, WV

Wed. 10/11 7:00 PM
Charles Town Library
200 E. Washington St., Charles Town

Fri. 10/13 7:00 PM
St. Joseph Parish – Lackey Hall
235 S. Queen St., Martinsburg, WV

Sat. 10/14 9 AM – 4 PM
Middleway Day Street Fair,
Middleway, WV

Mon. 10/16 7:00 PM
St. Francis University, Loretto, PA
Public Lecture – Disepio 213/214

Tue. 10/17 7:00 PM
Priest Field Pastoral Center
History of Catholic Faith in the
Americas Conference

Riveting! ★★★★★

Stan Williams' novel is a riveting tale that kept me on the edge of my seat for all 789 pages! With the detailed historical research and colorful characters of a Ken Follett novel, and the witty other-worldly dialog of C.S. Lewis' *Screwtape Letters* (seasoned generously with Catholic doctrine and a pinch of romance), this book is a must-read!! (Amazon Reader)

Outstanding ★★★★★

I'm captivated by *The Wizard Clip Haunting* as it combines the best of both worlds. It accurately shares the known facts of the *Wizard Clip* with exciting fiction of what may have been. From the very beginning the characters sprung to life. I laughed, celebrated and mourned with the characters. I was there with them, and I cried when...(spoiler)...I think every waking moment will be spent reading this. A riveting novel. (K. McCormack)

Highly Recommend ★★★★★

After an extensive 10 year research into the life of Prince-Priest Demetrius A. Gallitzin (1770-1840), including his personal involvement in the *Wizard Clip Hauntings*, you can imagine my fascination in how this novel delightfully brings to life the initial facts and the formation and integration of the many complex personalities involved. The character development is excellent as is the high suspense and drama leading up to the *Wizard* and his clipping! In my eyes it perfectly and artistically brought to life an awesome but real story, and this is what very much mattered to me. (Betty Seymour, Loretto, PA)

Worth Every Minute ★★★★★

Wizard Clip Haunting offers a unique perspective into an intriguing event in early American history. Although lengthy, it presents wonderful character development and a page-turning plot. In the early pages of the book, I learned a great deal about details not usually studied in American history—from the persecution of Roman Catholics in Ireland and the early years of the United States, to sailing, to the slave trade—and later in the novel, the author's in-depth research into the art of weaving plays a major role in the plot. As the story of the haunting began, I found myself reluctant

to set the book down, which is rarely the case for me. Of particular interest was that the story of this haunting is well documented, and the author's note details his research into the event. This is indeed an American ghost story, but the historical resources that verify its occurrence make the story even more fascinating. And, of course, the conflict staged between good and evil keeps the reader rooting for the good guy! Fans of historical fiction and the supernatural will find this haunting story worth every minute of reading! (H.Smith)

Credible Tale of Human and

Demonic Warfare ★★★★★

With *The Wizard Clip Haunting* Stan Williams has blended history, legend, myth, and mystery into a gripping fictional tale of human (and other-world persons) battles for the lives and souls of a collection of real-life late eighteenth century settlers and pioneers in the Virginia of an emerging United States of America. The author's experience as a Hollywood script writer and movie consultant is evident in his skillful portrayals of the cast of characters whom he brings to life - and for some - to death in a whodunit, or rather a who-is-doing-it plot which culminates in both an explosive and unexpected conclusion. It is a huge read in more ways than one, and if Dr Williams can fashion a script out of it we can expect a blockbuster of note. Mike Mahony, South Africa.

Wonderful with Great Twist at the End ★★★★★

The Wizard Clip Haunting is a wonderful historical horror novel dealing with religion, the devil and his demons and a group of people who are interesting characters in a story I wasn't quite expecting. Yes it is a horror story with the devil and demons playing their part at trying to deceive and rid the world of those who are good. The pull of good and evil with guardians and demons is as old as religion and one that most never tire of reading or hearing. I'm one where good needs to win, and it does here, but how it happens is interesting and the ending ties all the different characters together in what was happening and needed to be done to set things right. Even if you are not religious, this book based in religion is well worth the time to

read just for the characters, the suspense of what will happen next, and how it will all be resolved. (B.A. Mealer)

I Can't Wait to See What Happens Next.

I'm half-way through your book and can't wait to see what happens next. Historical fiction is my absolute favorite genre. Adding in the screwtape-style correspondence makes it even more of a page-turner. (A.M.)

Not What You'd

Expect ★★★★★

I have a Reader's copy, and while I find the story line somewhat interesting, it didn't hold me. However, it seems my wife, who was a bit intimidated by the magnitude of pages, small print, and "ghostly" story, took a chance at my prompting. She now spends most of her free time engrossed in this work. I don't know, but I am urged to offer a "Moral Premise" of sorts, "never judge a book by its cover." (John Devry)

Four Stories in One ★★★★★

If you're looking for a novel that has action, adventure, drama, and other worldly interactions, you'll enjoy this Historical Fiction on the first documented exorcism in the US. I was so impressed with the novel, I looked up some of the main characters and the events the book is based on. The story and the characters are enthralling, you'll love it. (Scott A. Rogge)

A Haunting Tale that Will Make Your Soul Shiver ★★★★★

The story is original and compelling. Keeps you interested as the mystery unfolds. Dynamic writing with enough twists and turns to keep any reader engaged. (Richard Mauro)

Have to Keep Reading to Find Out

Dr. Williams writings are so explicit and detailed that the reader envisions themselves into the time and scene they are reading about! At the end of each chapter the reader anxiously awaits the outcome of the web the devil has cast. Will light prevail over darkness?! You have to keep reading to find out. (E.W.)