

For Immediate Release

Nineveh's Crossing Distribution releases Historical Novel

The Wizard Clip Haunting

A True Early American Ghost Story

by Stanley D. Williams, PhD

<https://wizardclip.stanwilliams.com>

(Website)

An epic tale based on true, documented supernatural events in 18th century Virginia from a master storyteller.

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SYNOPSIS

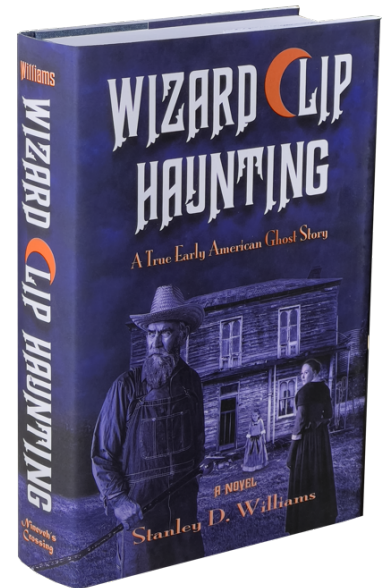
When America was young, reckless, and fiercely independent, an equally independent farmer and a renegade Catholic priest struggle to accept each other, but eventually join forces to confront an ancient Babylon spirit who threatens their safety and the country's freedom.

Narrated by historic personality, Fr. (Prince) Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, who investigated the original events, the story is not one but four, woven into a colorful tapestry of historical characters who enrich the dramatic celebration of traditional American values and themes.

The first story involves a 35-acre plot of land in Smithfield, Virginia (today, Middleway, West Virginia) on the edge of the Opequon Creek. The 35 acres is the site of a deranged murder, and forged land deed, that comes under a curse which results in its ownership being contested for nearly 100 years.

The second story involves our protagonist, Adam Livingston, an entrepreneurial but agnostic flax farmer, who comes to reside on the land. He is forced to deal with not only the curse, but his own imperfections that lead to disastrous consequences for his family.

The third is the story of a heroic, pioneering but renegade Irish Catholic priest, Fr. Denis Cahill. Having escaped anti-Catholic Ireland, he forges a heroic missionary path in the early days of the America but falls out with America's first bishop John Carroll, in part over the haunting events surrounding Livingston's farm.



The fourth is the source of the now famous hauntings, a strange demonic poltergeist known as the Clipping Wizard which has a proclivity for cutting crescent moons from cloth. When confronted by Christian ministers who have come to exorcise it, the demon lashes out with tragic and lasting effect.

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 Wizard Clip. Further, at the request of Bishop John Carroll, the events were investigated by none other than Rev. (Prince) Demetrius Augustine Gallitzin, who came 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, during his lifetime, 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.

REVIEWS

"A riveting tale that kept me on the edge of my seat for all 804 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!!" (A.R.)

"A Colossus of Historical Fiction wherein the reader is given a glimpse of New World pragmatism shredded by otherworldly forces it denies, and the Ancient Faith sweeping in to rescue surprised saints." (J.W.)

"An epic historical novel based on documented supernatural events in 18th century Virginia, from a master storyteller." (A.R.)

"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.M.)

"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.)

"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)

“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.M.)

“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.” (S.R.)

“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.” (R.M.)

PLOT SUMMARY

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 Livingston’s home and in the middle of the night 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 Livingston’s and friends are catapulted along to a final, cataclysmic conclusion.

DISTRIBUTION & FORMATS

The Wizard Clip Hauntings is available in both electronic and print formats. Traditional print editions are available through the author's website where there are links to Amazon, and to the electronic editions distributed by Kindle, Apple iBooks, Nook, Draft2Digital and others. A PDF is also available. <https://wizardclip.stanwilliams.com>

Retail book outlets can order print copies through IngramSpark's catalog.

Edition	ISBN	Size (in)	Pages	Weight (#)
Single Volume Editions				
Hard Cover	978-1-7329735-3-4	6 x 9 1.8	804	2.8
Paperback (PB)	978-1-7329735-4-1	6 x 9 x1.6	804	2.5
Trilogy Edition (Regular Font)				
Smaller Paperback Book 1	978-1-7329735-7-2	5.5 x 8.5 x .8	364	1.0
Smaller Paperback Book 2	978-1-7329735-8-9	5.5 x 8.5 x .5	244	0.7
Smaller Paperback Book 3	978-1-7329735-9-6	5.5 x 8.5 x .7	342	0.9
Trilogy Edition (Large Print)				
Large Print Paperback Book 1	979-8-9878323-1-8	6 x 9 x 1	472	1.7
Large Print Paperback Book 2	979-8-9878323-2-5	6 x 9 x .7	322	1.0
Large Print Paperback Book 3	979-8-9878323-3-2	6 x 9 x .9	454	1.6

Stanley D. Williams, Bio

Stan Williams is a writer and filmmaker, based in Michigan with occasional forays to Los Angeles and Europe. He is known in the film industry as a story & screenplay consultant and workshop leader due to his book: *The Moral Premise: Harnessing Virtue and Vice for Box Office Success*. With Will Smith and others, Stan was the script and story consultant on motion pictures that have earned over a billion dollars at the worldwide box office. The Wizard Clip story came to Stan as a true story from American history that would make a good motion picture. Stan agreed, but figured he better write the book first. Between other projects, *The Wizard Clip Haunting* took him ten years of research and writing. In their free time, Stan and his wife, Pam, enjoy sailing on the Great Lakes aboard their 41' ketch, Family Ties. They have three children, and ten grandchildren. Stan holds degrees in Physics (BA), Mass Communications (MA), and Film Studies/Narrative Theory (PhD). A full bio and main website:

<https://www.stanwilliams.com/StanMedBio.htm>

Stan has authored two other books:

- *The Moral Premise: Harnessing Virtue and Vice for Box Office Success*
ISBN 1-932907-13-0 - <https://moralpremise.com>
- *Growing Up Christian: Searching for a Reasonable Faith in the Heartland of America*
ISBN978-0-9824058-8-8 – Available at: <https://ninevehscrossing.com>

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