

# SPEAKER BRIEF

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**STANLEY D. WILLIAMS, PhD**

**Author • Filmmaker • Paranormal Historian**

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## EXPERTISE

- Historical Paranormal Research & Documentation
  - 18th Century American Hauntings
  - Exorcism Cases & Church Archives
  - Narrative Theory & Storytelling
  - Evidence-Based Paranormal Investigation
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## SIGNATURE TOPIC

### **The Wizard Clip Haunting: America's Most Documented Colonial Supernatural Case**

A meticulously researched account of the 1790s Livingston family haunting in Virginia—featuring documented exorcisms, church archives, eyewitness testimonies from priests and settlers, and involvement of historical figures including America's first Catholic bishop.

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## CREDENTIALS

- **PhD** - Film Studies/Narrative Theory
- **MA** - Mass Communications
- **BA** - Physics
- **Author** - *The Wizard Clip Haunting Trilogy* (Defiance Press)
- **Author** - *The Moral Premise: Harnessing Virtue and Vice for Box Office Success*

- **Filmmaker & Story Consultant** - 30+ years experience
  - **Researcher** - Accessed Baltimore Diocese Archives, Jesuit historical records, rare 19th-century monographs
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## PRESENTATION OPTIONS

### KEYNOTE/FEATURED TALK (45-90 minutes)

*"The Wizard Clip: America's Most Documented Colonial Haunting"*

Full historical account with A/V presentation, primary source documents, eyewitness testimonies, and exorcism details.

### RESEARCH WORKSHOP (60-90 minutes)

*"Mining History for Paranormal Truth: Research Methods for Documented Cases"*

Practical training on accessing archives, evaluating sources, building credible cases, and documentation standards.

### PANEL PARTICIPATION

Ideal for panels on historical hauntings, exorcism cases, religious paranormal investigation, academic approaches, or documentation methods.

### BREAKOUT SESSION (45-60 minutes)

*"From Haunting to Hollywood: Storytelling in Paranormal Research"*

How narrative structure impacts credibility and public reception of paranormal cases.

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## WHY BOOK STANLEY

- ✓ **Academic Credibility** - PhD researcher with rigorous standards
  - ✓ **Engaging Delivery** - Filmmaker who presents dramatically
  - ✓ **Documented Evidence** - Archive-based, not legend or folklore
  - ✓ **Historical Depth** - Connects paranormal to American founding era
  - ✓ **Broad Appeal** - Engages believers, skeptics, historians alike
  - ✓ **Book Sales Opportunity** - Trilogy available for conference retail
  - ✓ **Flexible Format** - Adapts to keynotes, workshops, or panels
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## THE WIZARD CLIP CASE - KEY FACTS

- **Timeline:** 1790s post-Revolutionary War Virginia

- **Documentation:** Letters, church records, priest testimonies, diocese archives
  - **Phenomena:** Mysterious clipping sounds, shredded linens, phantom wagons, violent manifestations, supernatural voices
  - **Exorcisms:** Multiple attempts by Catholic priests including those authorized by Bishop John Carroll
  - **Historical Figures:** Involved George Washington (land surveyor), Bishop John Carroll (first U.S. Catholic bishop), Prince Demetrius Gallitzin (Russian prince-turned-priest)
  - **Impact:** 14 documented conversions due to witnessed phenomena
  - **Evidence:** Accessible in Baltimore Diocese Archives, published monographs (1870s), priest correspondence
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## AUDIENCE TAKEAWAYS

Attendees will learn:

- Research methodologies for historical paranormal cases
  - How to access and evaluate primary source documents
  - Standards of evidence that withstand skeptical scrutiny
  - The intersection of religion and paranormal investigation in early America
  - Narrative techniques that enhance (not diminish) credibility
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## A/V REQUIREMENTS

- Projector/screen for PowerPoint presentation
  - Lapel or handheld microphone
  - Standard presentation clicker
  - Internet connection (preferred but not required)
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## PROMOTIONAL ASSETS AVAILABLE

- High-resolution speaker photos
  - Book cover images and promotional graphics
  - Sample chapters and excerpts
  - Video clips (if available)
  - Social media content
  - Press release templates
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## TESTIMONIALS

*"Stan Williams brings academic rigor to a story that captivates like a thriller. The Wizard Clip case is meticulously documented—this is paranormal research done right."*

*"Astonished at his knowledge... convinced he had been instructed from above."*  
— Historical account of witnesses to the Wizard Clip phenomena

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## BOOK AVAILABILITY

### The Wizard Clip Haunting Trilogy:

- Book 1: *Passages*
- Book 2: *Strangers*
- Book 3: *Ministers*

Available for:

- Conference bookstore sales (wholesale rates available)
  - Book signing events
  - Attendee giveaways/prizes
  - Electronic review copies for media
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## BOOKING CONTACT:

Stanley Williams [Stan@StanWilliams.com](mailto:Stan@StanWilliams.com)

# SUGGESTED PANEL QUESTIONS

## For Stanley D. Williams - The Wizard Clip Haunting

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### GENERAL/OPENING QUESTIONS

1. What first drew you to the Wizard Clip haunting, and what made you realize this wasn't just another ghost story?
  2. As someone with a PhD in narrative theory, how do you balance compelling storytelling with academic rigor when researching paranormal cases?
  3. Can you give us the "30-second elevator pitch" for the Wizard Clip haunting—what happened?
  4. This case dates back to the 1790s. How is documentation from that era different from modern paranormal investigation records?
  5. What surprised you most during your research into the Wizard Clip case?
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### HISTORICAL DOCUMENTATION QUESTIONS

6. You accessed Baltimore Diocese Archives and rare monographs for your research. What's the most compelling piece of primary source evidence you found?
  7. How do you distinguish between legend that grew over time and actual documented events from the period?
  8. The case involves letters between priests and bishops. What do these letters reveal about how the Catholic Church approached paranormal phenomena in the 1790s?
  9. What advice would you give to paranormal researchers trying to access historical archives and church records?
  10. Were there any conflicting accounts in the historical record? How did you resolve them?
  11. How has historical documentation of paranormal cases changed from the 1790s to today? Are we better or worse at it?
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### THE HAUNTING SPECIFICS

12. What were the primary manifestations that plagued the Livingston family?
  13. The case involved multiple exorcism attempts. Can you walk us through what happened during these exorcisms?
  14. Why do you think the haunting was so violent and persistent? What made this case different?
  15. The phenomenon was called "The Wizard Clip" because of mysterious clipping sounds. What was actually happening?
  16. You mention 14 people converted to Catholicism because of what they witnessed. What does that tell us about the credibility of the phenomena?
  17. Were there any skeptics at the time, and how did they explain what was happening?
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### **RELIGIOUS/SPIRITUAL QUESTIONS**

18. How did the Catholic Church in early America approach cases like this differently than today?
  19. The case involved Bishop John Carroll, America's first Catholic bishop, and Prince Gallitzin, a Russian prince-turned-priest. How did their involvement shape the investigation?
  20. What role did religious prejudice play in the 1790s regarding this case? Maryland and Virginia had complicated relationships with Catholics.
  21. From your research, what did the priests involved believe was happening spiritually?
  22. How do documented exorcism cases from history inform modern paranormal investigation?
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### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY QUESTIONS**

23. What's your process for researching a historical paranormal case? Where do you start?
24. How do you evaluate the credibility of 18th-century witnesses?
25. What red flags do you look for that suggest a case might be fabricated or exaggerated?

26. You have a physics background. How does scientific training influence how you approach paranormal research?
  27. What makes a paranormal case "documentable" versus just a good story?
  28. If you could go back in time to investigate the Wizard Clip haunting in real-time, what would you do differently than the priests and witnesses of that era?
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### **SKEPTICISM & EVIDENCE QUESTIONS**

29. How do you respond to skeptics who dismiss all paranormal cases as superstition or mental illness?
  30. What would it take for a modern skeptic to find the Wizard Clip case credible?
  31. Are there any naturalistic explanations that could account for what the Livingstons experienced?
  32. The case has physical evidence—shredded linens, burned buildings, injuries. How important is physical evidence versus testimony?
  33. What's the difference between believing something paranormal happened and being able to prove it happened?
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### **STORYTELLING & NARRATIVE QUESTIONS**

34. You wrote the Wizard Clip story as a trilogy. Why narrative fiction rather than straight non-fiction?
  35. How do you walk the line between historical accuracy and dramatic storytelling?
  36. What cinematic techniques did you use in your writing to make the story more visceral for readers?
  37. The trilogy was originally conceived as a movie. How does that cinematic thinking influence your approach to paranormal storytelling?
  38. Does adding narrative and drama to a true case risk undermining its credibility?
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### **HISTORICAL CONTEXT QUESTIONS**

39. What was life like in post-Revolutionary War Virginia, and how did that context shape how people understood the haunting?
  40. George Washington surveyed the land where this happened. How does that ground the story in real American history?
  41. This case predates the Spiritualism movement by 50+ years. How does that affect its significance?
  42. What was the relationship between Catholics and Protestants in 1790s Virginia, and how did that impact the case?
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### **COMPARATIVE QUESTIONS**

43. How does the Wizard Clip haunting compare to other famous historical paranormal cases?
  44. Are there similar documented cases from the same era in America or Europe?
  45. What makes this case more credible than, say, the Bell Witch or other colonial-era hauntings?
  46. How do 18th-century exorcisms compare to modern exorcism practices?
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### **MODERN RELEVANCE QUESTIONS**

47. What can modern paranormal investigators learn from how this case was handled in the 1790s?
  48. If the Wizard Clip haunting happened today, how would it be investigated differently?
  49. Why do you think documented historical cases matter to contemporary paranormal research?
  50. What does this case teach us about the importance of primary sources and documentation?
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### **PERSONAL REFLECTION QUESTIONS**

51. Has researching this case changed your own views on the paranormal?

52. Were there moments during your research where you doubted the case or questioned whether to continue?
  53. What's the most haunting (no pun intended) detail from the case that stays with you?
  54. If you could ask the Livingston family one question, what would it be?
  55. What do you hope readers/audiences take away from the Wizard Clip story?
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### **PRACTICAL/AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT QUESTIONS**

56. For audience members interested in researching historical paranormal cases, where should they start?
  57. What resources are available for accessing church archives and historical records?
  58. Are there other documented historical cases you'd recommend people investigate?
  59. How can amateur researchers contribute to paranormal historical documentation?
  60. What's next for you? Are there other historical cases you're researching?
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### **CLOSING QUESTIONS**

61. Why does the Wizard Clip haunting matter today, over 200 years later?
  62. What's the one thing you want people to remember about this case?
  63. If someone's skeptical about the paranormal, what would you want them to know about the Wizard Clip haunting?
  64. How can people learn more about your work and the trilogy?
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### **PANEL MODERATOR TIPS:**

- Allow Stanley to reference specific documents, letters, or archive materials
- Visual aids enhance discussion (maps, timeline, document images)
- Good follow-ups explore the intersection of academic research and paranormal investigation

- Encourage questions about research methodology—Stanley's process is as interesting as the case itself
- Time permitting, audience Q&A is highly recommended