

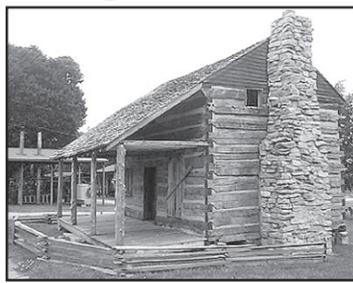
Bell Witch Legend

Halloween is a perfect time to tell scary stories, ones that make you afraid of the unknown and ones that make your skin crawl. In the spirit of spooky, I recently found a story that's been told many times, and in many different ways. It is the tale of the Bell Witch or Bell Witch Haunting, a poltergeist legend from Southern folklore, centered on the 19th-century Bell family of Adams, Tennessee.

John Bell Sr., who made his living as a farmer, resided with his family in Adams, Tennessee in the early 1800s. According to folklore in 1817, his family came under attack by a witch. After settling in a community, Red River, which became Adams, Tennessee many years later, John Bell acquired more land, clearing a number of fields for planting. The Bells had three children, Elizabeth (Betsy), Richard and Joel.

One account of the tale, states that John Bell was inspecting his corn field when he encountered a strange-looking animal sitting in the middle of a corn row. He was shocked by this animal that had the body of a dog and the head of a rabbit, so he shot several times, and it vanished. He thought nothing more about it until after dinner. That evening, the family started hearing "beating" sounds on the outside walls of their log house.

This continued with increased frequency and force each night. Bell and his sons often ran outside to see if they could catch whoever was making the sounds, but found nothing. The noise proceeded to move indoors as the children claimed there were rats gnawing on their bedposts, bed clothes pulled off them, pillows tossed onto the floor by something invisible.



This cabin, built in the 1810 timeframe by John Bell's family, is believed to be the only surviving structure from the original Bell plantation. It was used as an outbuilding for many years. It can be found behind the Bell School building on Highway 41.

In time, they began hearing faint, whispering voices, which sounded like an old woman singing hymns. Soon their daughter, Betsy began experiencing violent encounters with an invisible entity. It would pull her hair, slap her until it left welts and hand prints on her face and body.

John Bell asked his family to keep these incidents a secret, but eventually he felt the need to reach out to his friend and neighbor, James Johnston. Johnston and his wife spent the night at the Bell's home and experienced very similar disturbances. The Entity's voice strengthened over time and become loud, singing hymns, quoting scripture and even carrying on intelligent conversation. Soon many more people heard the rumors, which even spread to Nashville, where General Andrew Jackson took an interest.

John Bell and his eldest sons had fought under General Jackson in the Battle of New Orleans. In 1819 Jackson visited the Bell farm to see for himself if the stories were true. They also experienced some strange happenings as well. As they approached the Bell farm their horses stopped and couldn't pull the wagon. After Jackson exclaimed that it was the "Bell Witch" a female voice told Jackson that they could proceed and she would see them again later that evening. They were then able to

proceed across the property.

One of Jackson's men claimed to be a witch tamer, and vowed he could kill any evil spirit. The entity then attacked him. He claimed that he was being stuck with pins and beaten severely, causing his body to jerk in different directions. A strong, swift kick to the man's rear end, from an invisible foot, sent him out the front door. Angry, the entity then spoke up and announced that there was yet another "fraud" in Jackson's party, and that he would be identified and tormented the following evening. Jackson's men fled in fear, against Jackson's wishes. He was curious to find out who the other fraud was. The story is unclear about that aspect.

The entity or "Witch" was particularly violent towards the Bells youngest daughter, Betsy. Betsy was interested in Joshua Gardner, a young man who lived not far from her. Soon they planned to marry, with their families' blessings. The entity apparently wasn't happy with this arrangement and tormented the couple whenever they were together, voicing its disapproval, repeatedly telling her not to marry Joshua. Betsy finally gave in and broke off the engagement. The hauntings let up for her after that, but it continued to despise John Bell.

For some unknown reason, the Witch had an abiding and passionate hatred for John Bell. It would never explain why it hated John Bell so much, but the Witch swore it would kill him. Accounts vary about the witch being someone who had been cheated by Bell or a male slave whom Bell had killed.

Bell had been experiencing episodes of twitching in his face and difficulty swallowing for almost a year, and the malady seemed to grow worse

with time. By the fall of 1820, his declining health had confined him to the house, where the entity commenced removing his shoes when he tried to walk and slapping his face when he experienced seizures. Her loud, shrill voice could be heard all over the farm, cursing and chastising "Old Jack Bell," as she often referred to him.

John Bell died on December 20, 1820, after slipping into a coma the day before. After his death, the family found a small vial of liquid in the cupboard. John Bell Jr, gave some to the cat, which died immediately. The "Witch" then spoke saying, "I gave Ol' Jack a big dose last night, which fixed him!" John Jr. quickly threw it into the fireplace where it flared up into a blue flame and shot up the chimney.

It is said that the entity laughed and sang the whole way through John Bell's funeral, not stopping until everyone left.

The only member of the Bell family the Witch really seemed to like was Lucy Bell. Kate always spoke to her with respect, gave her helpful advice, and kept her informed of what was happening in her family back in North Carolina. April 1821, the entity visited John Bell's widow, Lucy, telling her that it would return for a visit in seven years. It

returned in 1828, as promised. Most of its visit centered around John Bell, Jr, with whom the "Witch" discussed such things as the origin of life, civilizations, Christianity, and the need for a mass spiritual reawakening. Of particular significance were its nearly accurate predictions of the Civil War and other events.

The entity said farewell after three weeks, promising to visit John Bell's most direct descendant in 107 years.

They say the witch's name was Kate. Kate was becoming well known and drew large crowds of people. She seemed to be very intelligent in many things: the bible, people's past and the future. She could be in two places at the same time - miles apart from each other.

Some of the information was taken from the website page, <http://www.bellwitch.org/story.htm>.

There are many books written about the famous Bell Witch of Tennessee. The legend of the Bell Witch is part of Tennessee history and is still taught in schools today.

There have been several movies based, at least in part, on the Bell Witch legend, including *The Blair Witch Project* in 1999, *Bell Witch Haunting* in 2004, *An American Haunting* in 2005, *Bell Witch: The Movie* in 2007, and *The Bell Witch Haunting* in 2013.

With ancient legends such as this spooky tale, the stories got more and more far fetched, so who knows what to believe. You be the judge.

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 Paid for by Friends of Richard Hamm

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 Saturday, Nov. 5th • 9-11 AM
 Saturday, Nov. 12th • 9-11 AM
 and Day of Sale 4 PM

AUCTION SITE: Held on site.
 PROPERTY LOCATION: 1430 Hiser Station Rd., Milton. From Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 40 at Cambridge City then east 4 mi. to Hiser Station Rd. then South ¼ mi. to farm on the west side. From Centerville west on Hwy. 40.

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LEGAL ADVERTISING

SECTION 000100 INVITATION TO BID

Notice is hereby given that Wayne County Commissioners will accept bids for a single unified general construction contract which includes all aspects of the work according to Drawings and Specifications prepared by LWC Incorporated.

A pre bid conference will be held at the Raper Expo Center of the Wayne County Fairgrounds, 861 Salisbury Road, Richmond, IN 47374 at 8:30 am on November 3, 2016.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the Wayne County Board of Commissioners, 401 East Main Street, Richmond, IN 47374 no later than 10:00 a.m. on November 9, 2016. Bids will be opened publicly.

Bid and Contracting Documents: Documents are available from LWC's FTP site, which may be accessed at <https://ftp2.lwcinspires.com>. The Login ID is **WCExpo**. No Password is required.

- Contractors may use PDF copies of Drawings and Specifications for bidding.
- Contractors may arrange for printed, "hard copies" with the printer of their choice, at Contractor's expense. The cost for printing will not be reimbursed.

TIME OF COMPLETION
 Bidders shall begin the Work on receipt of the Notice to Proceed and shall complete the Work within the contract time—Work on site is to begin approximately November 21, 2016. Completion date is December 31, 2016.

WAYNE COUNTY IS TAX EXEMPT

BIDDER'S QUALIFICATIONS:
 Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws covering their respective trades and be able to obtain insurance and bonds required for the Work.
 All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond equal to 10% of the bid amount. No performance or payment bond shall be required.
 Bids may not be modified, withdrawn, or cancelled within 30 days following the time and date designated for opening.
 The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive irregularities in the bids and bidding. The Owner shall have the right to waive any informality or irregularity in any bid received. It is the intent of the Owner to award the Contract to the lowest responsible or best bidder consistent with the Owner's best interest.

#311-16 10/26, 11/2/2016

LEGAL ADVERTISING

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

WAYNE COUNTY, INDIANA BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Thursday, November 10, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners and Council Chambers in the Wayne County Administration Building, 401 East Main Street, Richmond, Indiana, on the following eight petitions:

- BZA 2016-63:** Petition of David B. and Katie G. Beiler for a Variance of Use to operate a contractor shop with contractor storage out of an existing barn with a proposed addition at 13083 Olive Branch Road, Hagerstown, Indiana 47346, A-1 Agricultural District, part of the East Half, Northwest Quarter Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 13 East, Jefferson Township, 7.363 acres.
- BZA 2016-64:** Petition of Danny W. and Pauline K. Addington for a Variance of Use to have a temporary second dwelling at 4350 Abington Pike, Richmond, Indiana 47374, A-1 Agricultural District, Lot 20 in Hargrove Subdivision, Center Township, 9.93 acres, more or less.
- BZA 2016-65:** Petition of owner Beverly Ann Hughes and contract buyer and occupant John W. Roberts for a Variance from the Development Standards to reduce the minimum required side and rear yard setbacks in order to build an addition onto the rear of an existing detached garage at 717 W. Whitewater Road, Fountain City, Indiana 47341, A-1 Agricultural District, part Fractional Section 12, Township 17 North, Range 14 East, New Garden Township, 3.099 acres, more or less.
- BZA 2016-66:** Petition of the estate of Elizabeth A. Stoltzfus, (Levi M. Stoltzfus and Stephen M. Stoltzfus, as personal representatives), purchasers Raymond S. and Elizabeth A. Miller and applicant Aaron K. Lapp for a Variance of Use to have contractor storage in a proposed building at 13282 Olive Branch Road, Hagerstown, Indiana 47346, A-1 Agricultural District, part Northwest and Southwest Quarter Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 13 East, including Lot 3 in a Replat of Rose's Subdivision and part Northeast and Southeast Quarter Section 12, Township 17 North, Range 12 East, Jefferson Township, 25.48 total acres, more or less.
- BZA 2016-67:** Petition of the estate of Elizabeth A. Stoltzfus, (Levi M. Stoltzfus and Stephen M. Stoltzfus, as personal representatives), purchasers Raymond S. and Elizabeth A. Miller and applicant Aaron K. Lapp for a Variance of Use to have a temporary, second dwelling inside a proposed building at 13282 Olive Branch Road, Hagerstown, Indiana 47346, A-1 Agricultural District, part Northwest and Southwest Quarter Section 7, Township 17 North, Range 13 East, including Lot 3 in a Replat of Rose's Subdivision and part Northeast and Southeast Quarter Section 12, Township 17 North, Range 12 East, Jefferson Township, 25.48 total acres, more or less.
- BZA 2016-68:** Petition of owners Jeffrey M. and Amy J. Mullin and applicant Philip C. Baisley for a Variance from the Development Standards for a reduction in the minimum required lot width in order to have horses and a reduction in side yard setback in order to use an existing accessory building for agricultural use, 4856 King Road, Richmond, Indiana 47374, A-1 Agricultural District, Lot 8 in Winding Creek Subdivision, Webster Township, 5.585 acres.
- BZA 2016-69:** Petition of Debra S. Shepherd for a Variance of Use to have horses and chickens at 3084 Webster Road, Webster, Indiana 47392, R-1 One-Family Residence District, part of the Southeast Quarter Section 22, Township 17 North, Range 14 East, including Lots 18, 19 and 20 in the original plat of Fairfax, now known as the unincorporated Town of Webster, Webster Township, 2.50 total acres, more or less.
- BZA 2016-70:** Petition of Norene G. Groth for a Variance from the Development Standards to reduce the minimum required front and side yard setbacks in order to build a detached garage at 3714 N. Washington Road, Greens Fork, Indiana 47345, A-1 Agricultural District, part Northwest Quarter Section 35, Township 17 North, Range 13 East, Clay Township, 1.17 acres, more or less.

BY: Kristen Ward, Chairman
 ATTEST: Steve Higinbotham, Secretary

#310-16 10/26/2016