

Pat Fitzhugh, Author / Historian



As a small child, Pat Fitzhugh spent countless hours watching TV classics like “Ghost Story,” “Dark Shadows,” and the locally-televised “Creature Feature,” which featured classic ghost movies every Saturday night. “I was really into it,” he recalls. “As soon as my parents would go to bed, I would sneak downstairs and watch scary movies all night long.”

His movie-watching routine lasted nearly two years before his mother finally caught him one morning. To remedy the problem, she offered to tell him ghost stories each night at bedtime if he would promise to stay in bed and not go downstairs later. “She was a great storyteller,” he remembers. “By the time she finished a story, I would be too afraid to go downstairs!”

The story that frightened Fitzhugh the most, and which would later introduce him to scores of paranormal enthusiasts and mystery lovers around the world, was none other than Tennessee’s “Bell Witch” legend, which took place only fifty miles from his boyhood home in west Nashville. And to boot, his mother was born and raised where the legend happened.

“I was frightened and intrigued by everything she told me,” he says. “Knowing that she was somewhat of an insider really sent chills down my spine.” The biggest chill of all came when Fitzhugh learned of his distant relation to the Bells through a marriage on his mother’s side of the family, several generations back.

As a teenager, he began searching libraries, archives, and courthouses for more information about the legend. “My goal was – and still is, after more than thirty years – to create a ‘fact filter’ that can be used to evaluate various claims and theories about the legend, which will ultimately allow us to develop a better understanding of it,” he says. Fitzhugh is neither a skeptic nor a believer. “Maintaining a completely open mind and conducting well-balanced research is of the utmost importance in this field,” he states. “It can make you or break you.”

Not all of Fitzhugh’s time is spent researching the Bell Witch, however. “I enjoy stories of ghosts and the supernatural, and I actually research many of them. I’ve also conducted paranormal investigations and utilized such things as EMF meters, cameras, temperature probes, and EVP,” he says. “Ghost hunting and paranormal investigations are two different things,” he insists, “but I like to do them both.”

Pat Fitzhugh has written two books about the Bell Witch: “The Bell Witch Haunting,” and “The Bell Witch: The Full Account.” The latter is an epic, 406-page work that follows the legend from North Carolina to Tennessee, and then to Mississippi. It contains a comprehensive index, detailed historical discussion notes, and a wealth of history, theories, and perspectives on the legend. He also owns and maintains the popular, “bellwitch.org” web site.

Fitzhugh’s work has led to numerous radio and TV appearances, newspaper and magazine articles, speaking engagements, and a spot on the DVD of the 2006 Hollywood motion picture, “An American Haunting,” which starred Donald Sutherland and Sissy Spacek. Just prior the movie’s release, he discussed the Bell Witch legend with journalists at an international press conference facilitated by the Associated Press. Pat Fitzhugh has also worked on paranormal documentaries by The Learning Channel, The History Channel, Turner Broadcasting, and numerous others.

A contributing author of “Weird U.S.,” from Barnes & Noble Press, Fitzhugh’s latest book release is “Ghostly Cries from Dixie,” a chilling compilation of ghost stories from the American South. He also served as the editor of a newsstand magazine dealing with the outdoors, and he has hosted and produced two radio talk shows in his career.

Being an author and researcher isn’t easy, Fitzhugh admits. “There have been many obstacles and setbacks along the way, but I just maintain my focus and keep going; I won’t ever let up. Getting to meet so many wonderful and knowledgeable people along the way makes it all worth it, and most of those friendships last a lifetime!”

Pat Fitzhugh lives in rural Middle Tennessee, and in his spare time he enjoys playing guitar, photography, road trips, and fishing.

Books

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Books (Paranormal)



The Bell Witch Haunting (1999)
4.5 x 6.5" 120 pp.
Not currently in print



The Bell Witch: The Full Account (2000; revised 2003)
5.5 x 8.5" 406 pp.
Available at <http://www.bellwitch.org/selections.htm> (signed copies), Amazon & other online retailers, and in bookstores.



Ghostly Cries From Dixie (October 2009)
5.5 x 8.5" 184 pp.
Available at <http://www.bellwitch.org/ghostlycries.htm> (signed copies), Amazon & other online retailers, and in bookstores.

Current Projects

- ❖ "The Bell Witch Unraveled" (Working Title)
- ❖ "More Ghostly Cries From Dixie"
- ❖ "Will O' the Wisp"

Engagements

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Professional Engagements

A Small Sampling

Radio Interviews

INTERNET RADIO		CONVENTIONAL RADIO	
Coast to Coast AM	Psy Talk Radio	The Johnboy and Billy Show	KIRO AM, Seattle, WA
The Paranormal View	Contact Beyond	University of Wisconsin Radio	WRSR FM, Flint, MI
Shadows of Doubt	Darker Side of the Moon	KRVL Radio, Tuscon, AZ	WHMI FM, Flint, MI
Para-Investigators	Haunted Voices	WFAD, Middlebury, VT	KYSR, Los Angeles, CA
The X-Zone	World of the Unexplained	WBEZ FM, Chicago, IL	WKJK, Louisville, KY
On the Home Stretch	ParaChallenged Radio	WLYF FM, Miami, FL	WNWS FM, Jackson, TN
The Sacred Division	The Lou Gentile Show	KCXL AM, Kansas City, MO	WGSQ FM, Cookeville, TN
Shadow Talk Paranormal	Encounters	WWTN FM, Nashville, TN	
Ghost Chatter	End of the Line	WSM AM, Nashville, TN	
Ghostly Talk	Night Search	WSIX FM, Nashville, TN	
Ground Zero Radio	Paranormal Python	WJFK FM, Washington D.C.	
CBS Psychic Radio	The Ghost Mafia	WAXQ FM, New York, NY	
Parahub Radio	Moebanshee's Lair	KNON FM, Dallas, TX	

Television / News Appearances

WREG NewsChannel 3, Memphis, TN – Evening News

WTVF NewsChannel5, Nashville, TN – Evening News, “OpenLine,” “Talk of the Town,” “Morning Line,” “The Plus Side of Nashville”

WSMV TV, Nashville, TN – Evening News and a special documentary

WBBJ TV, Jackson, TN – Evening News

Conferences and Events

Mid-South Paranormal Convention (Louisville, KY)
 “Journeys Beyond” Paranormal Convention (Mobile, AL)
 “KateFest” Paranormal Convention (Adams, TN)
 “Alternate Realities” Conference (Johnson City, TN)

Kentucky-Tennessee Threshermen's Show (Adams, TN)
 Cumberland Caverns Storytelling Festival (McMinnville, TN)
 Journey Into the Unknown Paranormal Conference (Gadsden, AL)
Various libraries & universities across the southeastern U.S.

Movies and Documentaries

"An American Haunting" - Guest appearance/interview on DVD
 The Travel Channel (Various)
 The History Channel (Various)
 The Learning Channel (Various)

Turner Broadcasting (Various)
 Fox Entertainment (Various)
 "An American Haunting (In Search of the Truth) - Documentary
 "The Bell Witch of Tennessee" - Documentary

Books and Articles

"The Bell Witch Haunting"

* "The Bell Witch: The Full Account"

"Ghostly Cries From Dixie"

"Our Family Trouble" - Foreword

"Weird U.S." – Contributing Author

"Capture Music City" - Photography and captions

"Bucks, Ducks and More" Outdoors Magazine, Editor / Radio Host

Melt Magazine

Failure Magazine

Woman's World Magazine

Esquire Magazine

The Haunted Places Report

Australian Paranormal Society Article

TTU Tech Times Article

The Psychic Journal

The Tennessean Newspaper

The Herald Citizen

The Commercial Appeal

Various local-area newspapers and Internet e-Zines

** Twice appeared on the Suggested Reading list for the State of Tennessee's Summer Teen Reading Program*

Interview Information

Pat Fitzhugh, Author / Historian

Interview Information

Radio Interviews

1. Pat does not place long-distance calls to be interviewed; the interviewer must place the call.
2. Please give Pat your station's "listen live" link when you set up the interview.
3. Approximately 1-2 days before the interview, you will receive a contact phone number for Pat on the day or night of the interview. Due to frequent travel, Pat's contact number is usually different for each interview.
4. If you need a picture or other information to advertise the interview, please e-mail Pat directly at pat@bellwitch.org.
5. Cancellations are unfortunate and usually unavoidable. If you must cancel the interview, please provide as much notice as possible. Pat will do the same if he must cancel.
6. If your show makes podcasts, please give Pat a link to the show's podcast page. He maintains a public collection of links to all his radio interviews.

Television Interviews

1. Television interviews are given to Nashville-area television stations only. Interviews are given to other stations only when Pat is in town for lecture or signing events, time permitting.
2. Please provide clear, specific driving directions to the station/studio.

General Information

1. Pat will not discuss his personal information (family, age, employer, address, etc.) during interviews.
2. Pat's targeted audience is genuine fans of the paranormal. He gives interviews for one or more of the following purposes: 1) to entertain people with ghost stories, 2) to share the findings of his research, and 3) to offer his opinion on various topics relating to the paranormal world. Interviews are given in a positive, informative, and often entertaining way. Pat does not participate in arguments, debates, or similar drama.
3. Pat's last name, Fitzhugh, is pronounced, *Fits-Hue*, or alternatively, "if the shoe ***fits you***, wear it."

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Personal Appearances

Personal Appearances in General

- Arrangement and Coordination: As much notice as possible should be given before an event. All pre-event discussions and coordination between the sponsoring organization and Pat Fitzhugh is done through e-mail.
- Fees: Pat Fitzhugh does not charge an honorarium (speaker's fee). Donations, if offered, will be accepted and put to good use; however, a donation is not required.
- Expense Reimbursement: If an engagement is more than 35 miles from downtown Nashville, the sponsoring organization is required to cover Mr. Fitzhugh's gasoline expense to and from the engagement. Gasoline reimbursement, in full, is due immediately following the engagement (I.O.U.'s, are not accepted). If the engagement is more than 149 miles from downtown Nashville, the sponsoring organization is required to cover *both* gasoline *and* lodging expenses. Hotel reservations should be made by the sponsoring organization prior to the event. Contact Pat for room particulars. The sponsoring organization should pay the hotel directly.
- Exact driving directions to the venue **and** hotel (if applicable) must be provided to Pat at least 24 hours prior to the engagement.

Book Signings

- The sponsoring organization agrees to set up a table and chair for the event.
- Pat Fitzhugh retains all proceeds from his book signings unless an agreement is made to the contrary, prior to the event.
- The venue is responsible for ensuring the good behavior of its patrons.

Lectures

- Lectures may be one, two, or three hours in length. This is to be decided by the sponsoring organization.
- The sponsoring organization is required to provide a podium, lectern, or other suitable speaking platform. A sound system and/or a computer-enabled overhead projector may be necessary for some lecture events. If such accommodations are necessary, Pat will consult with the sponsoring organization in advance of the event.
- The venue is responsible for ensuring the good behavior of its patrons.

Contact

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Contact Information

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Web Site: <http://www.bellwitch.org>
Myspace: http://www.myspace.com/the_bell_witch
Blogspot: <http://the-bell-witch.blogspot.com>
Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pat.fitzhugh>
Goodreads: http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/71110.Pat_Fitzhugh
BookTour: http://www.booktour.com/author/pat_fitzhugh
Yahoo: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bellwitchcentral>
Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/Pat-Fitzhugh/e/B000APO3DK/>
Twitter: <http://twitter.com/BellWitchAuthor>
Event Listing: <http://www.bellwitch.org/events.htm>
E-Mail #1: pat@bellwitch.org
E-Mail #2: patswebcom@yahoo.com

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