

Licking County Players Theater

The building now occupied by the Licking County Players Theater has had many uses over the years. Before housing the Licking County Players, the building was originally home to Criss Brothers Funeral Home. Paranormal activity has been reported at several locations within the building. The two most active places are the makeup area and workshop. When the building was used as the funeral home, these rooms were used for embalming and preparing the body.



Source: www.forgottenoh.com/Countries/Licking/playerstheater.html

Sixth Street Cemetery

Veterans’ Park on Sixth St. was once Newark’s cemetery, which contained 282 plots. After the establishment of Cedar Hill Cemetery, no more burials were allowed in Sixth Street Cemetery. In 1875, a notice was placed in the newspaper that the families of the deceased were to rebury them at Cedar Hill. A sign was also posted at the old graveyard. Despite the orders by the city, most of the bodies were not removed. As a result of the cemetery’s disrepair, the city began taking down the gravestones and burying them just under the surface of the ground. The exact number of bodies remaining is unknown; however, skeletons have been dug up, or even washed out by rain, as recently as the 1990s. Some have said the area is haunted.

Sources: L.B. Whyde, “Bodies Buried Under Local Historic Sites,” *The Advocate*, April 28, 2005.

Jeff Bell, “Tombstone Discovery Revives Old Memories,” *The Advocate*.



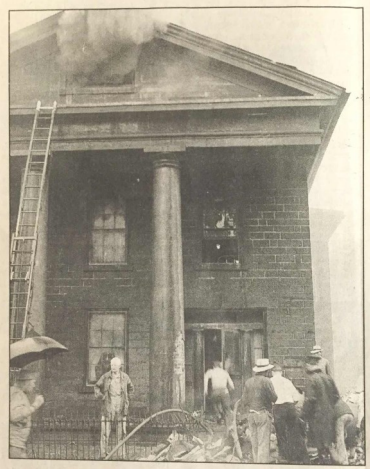
Buckingham House



The Buckingham House, home to the Licking County Historical Society, once belonged to Judge Jerome Buckingham. There were a number of strange accidents that accompanied the home’s move from its original location, on North Third Street in downtown Newark, to its present spot in Veterans’ Park. The axle of the truck that hauled the house bent during the process, pieces of the home fell, and it took much longer for the building to be moved and secured. Since its relocation, caretakers and guests have witnessed some spooky incidents around the home. Judge Jerome's private bedroom is always drafty because his presence is still there, according to legend. Some have said you can hear foot-steps coming down the hall. Doors and windows occasionally open and close all by themselves despite being locked, and a curator reported seeing muddy footprints in the hall that ended mysteriously in the dining room. In 1996, a bride at a wedding reception claimed to have seen Jerome's specter at the top of the staircase. The park where the house now stands was once the Sixth Street Cemetery, and may still contain as many as 230 burials.

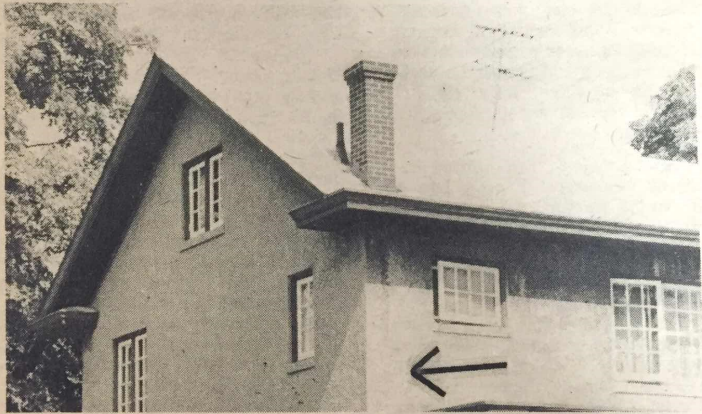
Source: Dan Fleming, wiki.lickingcountylibrary.info/Legends_and_Hauntings

Hudson Avenue B-25 Bomber Crash



The story of the 1942 Bomber Crash on Hudson Avenue that killed eight men continues to linger on years after the crash. The current owner of one of the homes that was damaged in the crash believes that the spirits of two men killed in the accident maintain a presence in her home, specifically Captain Lawrence Lawver and Colonel Douglas Kilpatrick, the co-pilot and pilot of the crash. She has noticed that the spirits routinely tilt picture frames on the walls and break light bulbs. She also reported that her son has seen the ghost of Colonel Kilpatrick in the mirror and has even interacted with him.

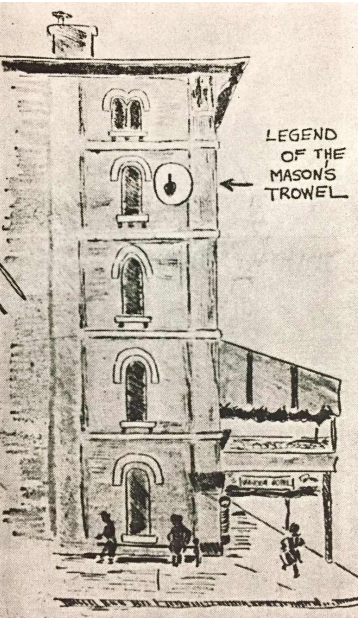
Source: Dan Fleming, wiki.lickingcountylibrary.info/Legends_and_Hauntings



These two photos show the damage done to the house located at the corner of Hudson and Wyoming Streets when the B-25 crashed into it. The upper picture shows the damage done, and was taken right after the accident while the arrow points to the scars left to the house even today.

Legend of the Mason’s Trowel

The Hotel Warden, which used to stand where Wendy’s is today, was once the subject of a mysterious legend dating back to the nineteenth century. The hotel was originally called the Buckingham House, and it was a three-story brick structure that was built before the Civil War. During the 1880s, the building was expanded and a fourth floor was added. The legend states that a master mason fell to his death while doing construction work on the new fourth story of the building, landing on the sidewalk below. As an omen of good luck, and to honor his memory, the mason’s coworkers attached his trowel to the side of the building, pointing downward to the place on the sidewalk where he fell. They reportedly used a piece of metal around the handle of the trowel to hold it in place. When the historic hotel was demolished in 1966, the trowel was donated to the Licking County Historical Society. Even though the building was torn down decades ago, the memory of what happened on the site of the former hotel will continue to haunt the location for years to come.



Sources: Chalmers Pancoast, *Our Home Town Memories vol. 1* (Robert W. Kelly Publishing Corporation, 1958), 90.

Dave Richardson, “Warden Hotel Crumbles Into History,” *The Newark Advocate*, March 16, 1966.



Carl Etherington's Lynching

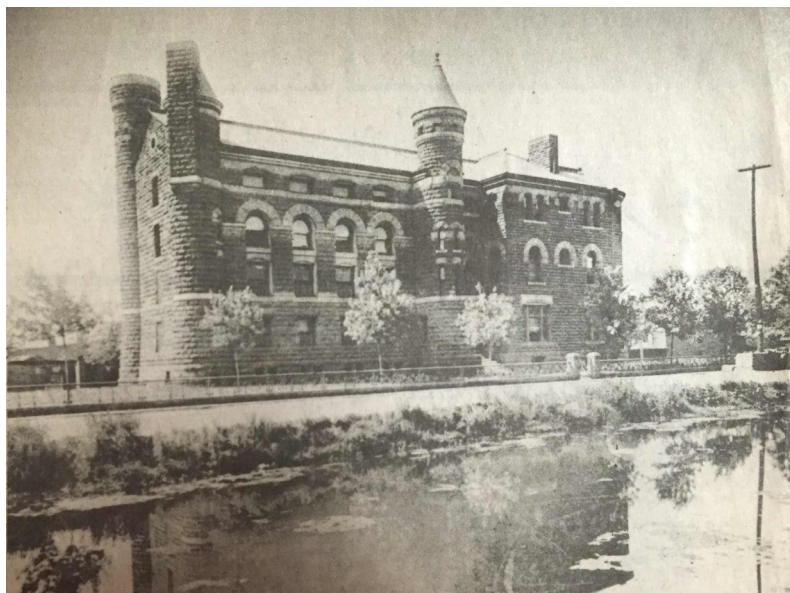
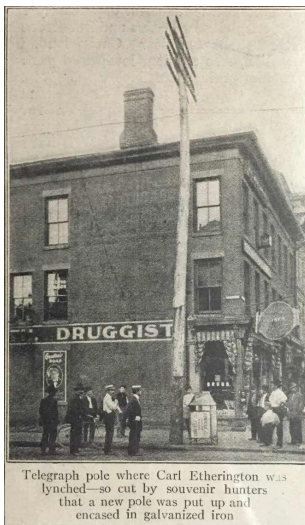
The Temperance Movement was a powerful force in the early twentieth century. As a result, a vote was made in 1909 to make Licking County "dry," but many saloons in Newark boldly stayed open. After the sheriff and the mayor failed to respond to complaints, Wayne B. Wheeler of the Anti-Saloon League in Columbus hired a group of special detectives from Cleveland to infiltrate Newark and identify the culprits. One of the agents was 17-year-old Carl Etherington, who had lied about his age to join the force. On July 8, 1910, detectives entered a saloon that had refused to comply with the vote, but they were no match for the crowd. Although the other agents escaped, Etherington was caught and beaten. He shot a police officer in self-defense, and was taken to jail. By 9:00 p.m. 5,000 people were gathered outside the jail. A group stormed in at 10:30 and took him. By 10:35 he was hanging from a telegraph pole at the southeast corner of the square. The event made national news.

Source: Dan Fleming, *Final Friday Local History Walk*, July 31, 2015.

The Captain's Ghost

In the days of the canal, it was common to see rooming houses where those traveling by canal boat would stay. One of these houses supposedly occupied the building where the H&R Block is today on South Park Place. According to legend, a captain of one of the canal boats traveling through town was staying in this building. After a night of merry-making at Gingerbread Row (South 2nd Street, just south of the square), the captain returned to his room only to be murdered and thrown into the canal. After the incident, the building is said to have closed down as a rooming house, because the "Captain's Ghost" haunted the second floor of the building.

Source: Crystal Stamper, "Legends of Licking County," *Community Booster West*, October 26, 2003, 1 - 3.



The Old Licking County Jail

The former Licking County Jail is possibly one of the most haunted places in Licking County, if not the entire state of Ohio. The jail, which is over 125 years old, has been investigated by several groups of paranormal researchers over the years. It was featured on the popular Travel Channel show *Ghost Adventures* in 2014 as well as *Ghost Adventures: Aftershocks* in 2016. Over the course of its history, the building has seen at least seventeen deaths under its roof, including four sheriffs whose deaths mysteriously took place in the same bedroom. Paranormal investigators have collected a large number of EVP (electronic voice phenomenon) recordings, as well as many pictures that they claim validate the presence of ghosts or paranormal activity. One ghost that seems to appear commonly is that of the "crazy lady." She has been recorded as making unusual noises and screams, as well as speaking in words and sentences. Another spirit that supposedly appears is said to be that of Mae Varner. Mae was an inmate who died tragically in 1953 after setting fire to her clothing with a match she had obtained. Mrs. Varner had only been at the jail for approximately 45 minutes before she was discovered by the matron doing her nightly rounds.

Source: www.parajail.com



Newark's Haunted Locations:

1. **Licking County Players Theater** - 131 W. Main St.
2. **Sixth Street Cemetery** - 6th St. between W. Main and W. Church St.
3. **Buckingham House** - 5 N. 6th St.
4. **Site of B-52 Bomber Crash** - Corner of Hudson Ave. and Wyoming St.
5. **Site of Hotel Warden** - Corner of 2nd St. and E. Main St. (location of Wendy's)
6. **Site of Carl Etherington's Lynching** - Corner of 2nd St. and S. Park Place
7. **The Captain's Ghost** - 15 S. Park Place
8. **Former Licking County Jail** - 46 S. 3rd St.



Licking County Library

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