

Although Ghosts of the River Raisin is a fictitious story, many of the elements woven into its storyline are fact. These notes can provide readers and educators with a broader historical context for what is, essentially, a mystery novel. The purpose of these notes, then, is to better separate fact from fiction, which always is a challenge for historians.

#### Chap. 1

1. The electronic voice phenomena (EVPs) mentioned (Look! Breathe! Mama! Home!) are EVPs recorded at the battlefield by Ghost Hunters of Southern Michigan ([www.ghosm.org](http://www.ghosm.org)). The names of the paranormal researchers are the actual names of group members.

#### Chap. 2

1. The description of Will Butler's neighborhood and nearby streets are based on the actual neighborhood that exists along the River Raisin

#### Chap. 3

1. The description of the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post, its history and its location in the community are factual.
2. The La-Z-Boy chair was invented in Monroe and the town remains home to the corporate headquarters of La-Z-Boy Inc. The Monroe shock absorber was invented in Monroe and Tenneco, Inc., a parent company still has a headquarters in the Monroe area.
3. Descriptions of the Battle and Massacre at the River Raisin are taken from historical accounts.
4. "Remember the Raisin!" was the battle cry used in subsequent conflicts during the War of 1812.
5. There is a bullet-riddled wall at the Navarre-Anderson Trading Post.

#### Chap. 4

1. Vince's Drive-in is a diner located between N. Custer Rd. and the River Raisin in Monroe.

#### Chap. 5

1. The account of the Monroe Monster is true, taken from the files of The Monroe Evening News.
2. The story about Custer's ghost at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts is a local legend.
3. Custer's connection to Monroe is factual. A statue in his honor stands in downtown Monroe.

#### Chap. 7

1. All the descriptions of Woodland Cemetery are accurate, including the names of those buried there, except for the name and story of Isaac Crane, the gravedigger.

#### Chap. 10

1. Scott Lonsdale is a real person who has presented to school groups at the River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center.
2. Descriptions of the aftermath of the Battle of the River Raisin are actual excerpts from the History of Monroe County by Talcott Wing.

#### Chap. 12

1. The geographical descriptions of the Dorsch Library and the streets and other locations are based on reality.
2. The "Skirmish Line" marker exists at the battlefield and bears the precise wording quoted in the story.
3. Ghost-hunting and paranormal groups have visited the battlefield regularly in the past, and many still do.

#### Chap. 13

1. The alley and narrow passageway near The Monroe Evening News exists as described.

#### Chap. 14

1. The descriptions of the Electronic Voice Phenomenon are based on actual recordings made at the battlefield by Ghost Hunters of Southeast Michigan.
2. Paranormal groups and others have reported occasionally seeing orbs of light over the battlefield area.

#### Chap. 15

1. The excerpt from Talcott Wing's "The History of Monroe County" is taken directly from the book.
2. The Book Nook long has been a fixture on S. Monroe St. in downtown Monroe.
3. Description of trenching work and discovery of bones in downtown Monroe represent actual newspaper reports of the find.
4. The story of Samuel Agnew donating land for a makeshift cemetery is true.
5. The story of Lucy Brewer is true. The suggestion that she lost her head to a cannonball is pure fiction.

#### Chap. 16

1. The description of the historical museum history, location and contents are accurate.
2. The excerpt of the letter from Colonel Price about his son is historical fact.
3. The letter relating the death of Colonel Price actually exists.
4. The words used in the report of the start of the battle near the picket fence is a fictional account based on historical fact.
5. The account of the death of Eb is entirely fictional.

#### Chap. 17

1. Christine Kull long has been a worker at the Monroe County Historical

Museum.

2. Invaded on All Sides is a book authored by Ralph Naveaux, a former museum director.
3. There is no cat living in the museum, but it probably wouldn't be a bad idea.

Chap. 19

1. The description of the Dansard mausoleum and its contents is accurate.

Chap. 23

1. The story of the Freeman family is totally fiction.

Chap. 26

1. Russ Lemkie is the actual name of a GHOSM member.
2. Memorial Place exists and is described accurately in the story.

Chap. 28

1. The fictional Monroe police chief, Nathan Hart, was given that name in the story to honor American Capt. Nathaniel Hart of the War of 1812.
2. There are local legends of the ghost of a young girl being seen at the battlefield and elsewhere around Monroe.
3. There is an intersection of Baptiste and Noble Ave. not far from the River Raisin National Battlefield Park.
4. William Butler was an actual participant in the Battle of the River Raisin and the story of his burning of a barn during the battle is historical fact.

Chap. 32

1. Dr. Michael Pratt and Dr. Ted Ligibel are real people who have researched the battlefield.
2. Scott Bentley is a real person and was the first superintendent of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. I have done actual research at the battlefield.

Chap. 33

1. The story of St. Antoine's Church and Riversedge subdivision is true and the St. Antoine's memorial actually exists.