Episode 13: Bathsheba Sherman

Source List

Content note: This episode discusses the deaths of infants and young children, the murder of a child, an invented story about infanticide, suicide, and demonic possession.

Bathsheba Sherman's life and records

- J'aime Rubio. "The Real Bathsheba Sherman - True History vs. 'Conjured' Fiction." Dreaming Casually, July 15, 2014. Draws on the 1850-1880 census, marriage, birth and death records, her will, and family gravestones.
- J'aime Rubio. "Bathsheba Sherman's Vindication." Dreaming Casually, 2019.
- J'aime Rubio. Stories of the Forgotten: Infamous, Famous & Unremembered. 2016. Chapter: "Bathsheba Sherman's Vindication."
- Find a Grave. "Bathsheba Thayer Sherman (1812-1885)." Harrisville Cemetery, Burrillville, Rhode Island.
- Horace A. Keach. Burrillville: As It Was, and As It Is. Providence, 1856.

Investigations of the legend and the farmhouse

- Kenny Biddle. "Correcting the Conjuring House History." Skeptical Inquirer, December 2019.
- Tim Weisberg. "Rhode Island's Falsely Accused Conjuring 'Witch' Gets New Headstone Amid Truth." WBSM, September 6, 2024.
- "Historians wanting to honor Bathsheba Sherman raise funds to repair headstone." The Valley Breeze, February 2023.

Child mortality in the nineteenth century

- Samuel H. Preston and Michael R. Haines. Fatal Years: Child Mortality in Late Nineteenth-Century America. Princeton University Press, 1991.
- "The Slaughter of the Innocents." Nineteenth-century medical article citing the 1850 U.S. census figures on deaths under age five. PubMed Central.

Ed and Lorraine Warren

- Wikipedia. "Ed and Lorraine Warren."

- MonsterTalk. "The Warren Omission." Podcast episode with Joe Nickell and Steven Novella.

The Conjuring House: reporting, 2022-2026

- Christopher Gavin. "Is the 'Conjuring House' for sale again? Here's what to know." Boston Globe, January 28, 2025.
- "Burrillville opts not to renew 'The Conjuring' house owner's entertainment license." WPRI, November 2024.
- "Burrillville Town Council votes against entertainment license for 'The Conjuring' house." ABC6, November 2024.
- Boston Globe. "At R.I.'s 'Conjuring' house, a new fear for paranormal fans: Losing it." October 8, 2025.
- Boston Globe. "'Ghost Hunters' star listed as owner of R.I.'s 'Conjuring' house." July 13, 2026.
- "Home that inspired 'The Conjuring' sells for more than $1.5M." FOX 5 NY, May 2022.
- "Home that inspired the Conjuring sells for 27% above asking." Inman, May 25, 2022.
- "The Conjuring's Perron Family Returns to the Real House for a Live Halloween Event." People, via Yahoo. The Perron family's account of the séance.

Salem background

- Wikipedia. "Mary Eastey."
- Related episodes: Episode 9, Tituba; Episode 10, Rebecca Nurse.

Later portrayals discussed

- The Conjuring. Directed by James Wan. Warner Bros., 2013.
- Andrea Perron. House of Darkness House of Light, vols. 1-3. 2011, 2013, 2014.
- Keith Johnson. Paranormal Realities. 2009.
- 2 Samuel 11-12 (the biblical Bathsheba).

Please be kind

Bathsheba Sherman's grave in the Harrisville Cemetery is real, and it has been vandalized because of this legend. If you visit, treat it with respect.

Support resources

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (United States and territories). Call or text 988, or visit the website for support.