

A FREE PROGRAM KIT FROM HAUNT MY BLOCK™ • FAMILY-FRIENDLY EDITION

FICTION LABELED

Library Archive Hour

A 45-minute program your library runs to introduce patrons to *Chronicling America*, the Library of Congress's free historic newspaper archive, with odd, non-tragic items from old local papers and a short, clearly fictional ghost story.

Fiction, AI-assisted. Clippings are real public-domain items (published 1930 or earlier, Library of Congress *Chronicling America*), with personal names redacted. The story is invented. Haunt My Block is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Library of Congress.

For the program librarian

Who runs it: your library. Haunt My Block supplies this free printable and nothing else. We don't present, attend, co-host, promote, register attendees or sell anything at your program.

Edition: Family-Friendly Edition material only: spooky, not scary; no gore; no real deaths or tragedies.

Patron privacy

- Haunt My Block collects no patron data and no data from children: no sign-in sheet for us, no form, no QR code to us, no survey, no tracking.
- Please don't send us attendee names, emails, ages, photos or counts by age.
- Patrons who want to search their own street can use the free archive, which needs no account.

Playing a story

Libraries and schools may play purchased Family-Friendly stories at free, non-ticketed public programs.

1. **Free:** read aloud a short fictional town story, or play a town episode of the free podcast *Haunted America, Town by Town*, from Haunt My Block, where available.
2. **Purchased:** a Family-Friendly Edition story (\$14), ordered by a staff member for a public place in town, played only at a free, non-ticketed program.

Program outline (45 min)

Time	Segment	Librarian notes
0:00	Welcome	"Tonight we're reading what our town's newspapers printed more than 90 years ago."
0:05	Exhibits	Read the clippings aloud. Ask: what's missing from each item?
0:15	Live archive demo	Open <i>Chronicling America</i> on the projector, filter by state, search a street name, and show how to read a page.
0:25	Theory round	Patrons call out one-sentence fictional explanations. Nothing is written down or collected.
0:30	Story	One Family-Friendly listening option.
0:42	Close	Hand out the take-home search-tips sheet.

EXHIBIT A · ILLUSTRATIVE SAMPLE

THE EVENING CHRONICLE

LAMP SEEN BURNING IN VACANT HOUSE ON CARROLL STREET

Neighbors Puzzled — Owner [REDACTED] Abroad Since Spring

Residents of the block were at a loss last evening to account for a steady light observed in an upper window of a dwelling known to have stood empty these four months. Patrolman [REDACTED] made inquiry but found the doors fast...

Illustrative sample written for the Haunt My Block site, not a real clipping. Town kits replace this page with real public-domain clippings (names redacted).

Take-home search tips (no account needed)

1. Go to loc.gov/collections/chronicling-america.
2. Filter by **state**, then by **date** (try one decade).
3. Search a **street name in quotation marks** plus your town, e.g. "Elm Street" (an example name).
4. Try period words: *Hallowe'en, lantern, strange light, fair, parade, snow*.
5. Open a result to see the full scanned page; check the date and the paper's name.
6. Write down the date, paper and page so you can find it again.

Credits and fine print

- Clippings: Library of Congress, *Chronicling America* (public domain, published 1930 or earlier). Personal names redacted by Haunt My Block.
- **Haunt My Block is not affiliated with or endorsed by the Library of Congress.**
- Stories are fiction, written and narrated with AI assistance. Characters are invented; we make no claim that any place is haunted.
- Libraries and schools may play purchased Family-Friendly stories at free, non-ticketed public programs.
- Free to print and use with this page intact. Questions: hauntmyblock@agentmail.to (no patron information, please).