

# Is Bobby Mackey's A Beloved Night Club Or a Portal to Hell?

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If you've spent any time in Kentucky then you've probably visited, or at least heard about, [Bobby Mackey's](#). Open to locals and tourists alike every Friday and Saturday night, the night club has become known as the go-to place for live music, line dancing, karaoke, or a run at the mechanical bull. You would think that places such as this would be a dime a dozen in Kentucky, but a quick look at the website reveals the key element that sets Bobby Mackey's apart from the rest. At the top of the page there's something that jumps out as unusual ... an option simply labeled "[paranormal](#)."

Prior to being purchased by country music singer Bobby Mackey in 1978, the building has flipped through many chapters of varying degrees of terror, which has led to it becoming extremely haunted. Built in the 1850's, the building's first use was that of a slaughterhouse. A well was dug in the basement that was used to catch all of the blood and animal bits after the day's slaughter, and that well is the only original element of the building that remains in place to this day. Although the slaughterhouse ceased operation in the 1890's, bloody activity still took place in the basement once it was infiltrated by occultists who thought of the location as a portal to hell that was perfect to conduct their rituals near. This evil activity is thought to be the catalyst for the building's hauntings, which have only increased throughout the years.

In 1896 a murder took place on the property which added to the negative energy already taking root there. Pearl Bryan, the 22 year-old daughter of a wealthy local farmer, made the grave error of focusing her romantic intentions towards a man named Scott Jackson, a dental student who was secretly a member of the occult group that had taken over the basement of what is now Bobby Mackey's. An unexpected pregnancy found the young couple making plans to travel to Cincinnati for an abortion but somewhere along the line Mr. Jackson decided to attempt to perform the procedure himself, under the assumption that his dental education would give him enough knowledge to do so. He apparently didn't really care if his girlfriend died during the operation or maybe that was his intention because once Jackson realized that his handy work wasn't working, he murdered Pearl and dumped part of her body a few miles away from the building. Her head, which was removed in hopes of concealing the identity of the body, is rumored to have been used in one of the occult's rituals inside the building.

In the 1930's the building was converted into a popular Gambling Casino, and then, around which time another horrible tragedy took place. A dancer named Johanna is said to have taken her own life in her dressing room located in the (you guess it) basement of the building and her ghost is the one most frequently seen in Bobby Mackey's. Once a good time girl, always a good time girl.

The night club now offers frequent [ghost tours](#) so locals and tourists who are brave enough to investigate the building for themselves can do so. Many different professional paranormal investigators have researched the activity on site throughout the years including [Nick Groff](#), host of [Paranormal Lockdown](#). During his investigation Nick made contact with Johanna herself and asked her if she enjoyed live music, which she was caught on a recording saying "I love it when the band plays."

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Bobby Mackey's opened just before The Urban Cowboy movie starring John Travolta swept the nation and the nightclub still house's a very active mechanical bull. In the 90's a book by Douglas Hensley about the hauntings, entitled "Hellsgate", paved the way for nationally televised shows from "Jerry Springer" to "Ghost Adventures" and "Paranormal Lockdown".

Mackey, always true to his roots and totally focused on traditional country music is still the headliner today after an incredible 40 years. Everything else has changed with time but America's Honky Tonk, Bobby Mackey's, stays the same. The way it was is still the way it is.

His song "Johanna", written in 1989 about the hauntings, is a major "Social Media" hit among paranormal enthusiasts. Curious investigators "come for the ghost and stay for the music" and off course the most requested song is always "Johanna". Visit Bobby Mackey's just across the Ohio River from Cincinnati in Wilder, KY. Bobby's new CD, "I'll Go Down Swinging", is available on iTunes, Pandora, Spotify, YouTube, and throughout Social Media.