

# **Villisca** National and International Interest List

## **J. B. Moore Home (Villisca Axe Murder House)**

owned and restored by Darwin and Martha Linn

The primary location for the feature film, *Haunting Villisca* and winner of an historical restoration award –

The small, white frame J. B. Moore house is the site of the largest mass murder in Iowa. In the small town of Villisca, Iowa in June of 1912, 8 people – 6 of them children - were brutally slain by an axe murderer while in their beds. Despite 2 trials and a Grand Jury Investigation, the crime was never solved. To this day, the crime is still the subject of heated national and international debate about the potential suspects and the mystery of “who done it.”

The house is owned and operated as a museum and national historical site by the Linns. It has thousands of requests for information, scheduled educational tours and visitors each year. Since a well-known Fox TV Show, *Scariest Places on Earth*, featured the house and its paranormal activity, there have been visitors from as far away as England and France and interest from countries including Canada, Japan, Denmark, Belgium, Germany, Switzerland and Africa among others. There have been so many unexplained occurrences and there are so many paranormal groups requesting overnights, that the J.B. Moore Home is booked more than 6 months in advance.

### **The Olson-Linn Museum (also owned by the Linns)**

Another museum on the town square in Villisca, Iowa that is full of quaint memorabilia, news items from the time of the murders and other historical info and which was another location for the movie, *Haunting Villisca*.

### **Official Website of the Villisca Axe Murder House**

[www.villiscaiowa.com](http://www.villiscaiowa.com)

Owned by Darwin and Martha Linn, this official site contains extensive historical, crime and trial info, publications, personal experiences of past residents of the Moore Home and visitors’ stories. It also has many orb and entity photos, E.V.P.s (electronic voice phenomenon recordings, or ghost voices) and other amazing paranormal data. The site features an online store and links to other related sites and info on upcoming events related to the J.B. Moore Home (the Villisca Axe Murder House.)

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**Paranormal investigators** are usually non-profit groups devoted to the research, documentation, education, and investigation of ghostly phenomena. Investigators combine technological equipment such as audio and video recorders, thermal cameras, 35mm and Digital Cameras, and EMF readers with scientific methods and/or psychic ability. Many have visited the J.B. Moore Home.

## **Below are some who have investigated there:**

***Paranormal Investigations*** - Dave and Leslie Christensen were the original paranormal investigators in the J.B. Moore Home. They visited multiple times and used infra-red equipment and electronic devices to record paranormal activity in the house.

***Millers Paranormal Research*** – Paranormal and psychic research team that has investigated the J.B. Moore Home and has proof of an “intelligent and residual haunting” (repetitive and interactive with visitors to the house.) There are photos of orbs, E. V. P. s, and detailed descriptions of their investigations by team members Brenda Marble and others with Psychic Mediums Joyce Morgan and Misty Maeder who also are recognized police department psychic researchers. They made independent tours of the house and their findings were remarkably similar. They believe they have proof of who committed the murders. M. P. R.’s website features the J. B. Moore Home as one of the most haunted sites and the most interesting case they’ve ever come across. The Villisca story is featured in *Ghost! Magazine* (March 2004.) Millers also contributed to the paranormal documentary, *Villisca Axe Murder House: The Untold Story*. [www.millersparanormalresearch.com](http://www.millersparanormalresearch.com)

***The San Diego Ghost Hunters*** - This amazing team is comprised of psychic/intuitive women who have known each other for years and who also work with friends, experts and technical advisors to investigate haunted sites. The San Diego Ghost Hunters have not only investigated the Villisca house, they have been the team followed in a cable pilot, *Opened Doors: Glimpses from the Spirit World*, which features the Villisca Axe Murder House. Their innovative “white light” methods and state of the art equipment bring out remarkable evidence of spiritual activity which they verify through historians, archeologists and genealogists. Their work includes groundbreaking apparition photos, thermographic video, EVPs and recordings of sessions with “the black box”, an audio device which can directly communicate in real time with the dead. [www.sandiegoghosthunters.com](http://www.sandiegoghosthunters.com)

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***P.R.I.S.M. Paranormal Research and Investigations Studies Midwest –***  
[www.doyouseedeadpeople.org/](http://www.doyouseedeadpeople.org/)

P. R. I. S. M. is the only team which has come back to investigate the Villisca house on an ongoing basis. They have extensive amounts of impressive paranormal data including a video of the children's room closet door opening and closing on its own and many astonishing E.V.P.s of the victims' and killer's voices. Team members David Rodriguez and Anney Horn were interviewed in the documentary, *A Ghost of a Chance: The Making of Haunting Villisca*.

***Christopher Moon*** - Paranormal expert who works with Frank's Box" created by Frank Sumption which is a telephone-like communication device which claims to speak directly with the dead.

***Stacy Heatherly*** - Psychic, Empowerment Consultant and Ghost Mentor (and now a documentary filmmaker) led lamplight Mystic Tours of the house. She also mentored the ghosts of Mrs. Moore and her daughter, Katherine, two of the Villisca axe murder victims. Stacy spoke with the spirit of Mrs. Moore who emphasized the message that people can change and forgive. Stacy also tried to help Mrs. Moore and Katherine better understand and deal with their circumstance, heal and go (back) to the Light. [www.stacyheatherly.com](http://www.stacyheatherly.com)

***Troy Taylor*** - (author) of *Ghosts of the Prairie* (featuring the Villisca Axe Murder House) Troy is not only a well-known paranormal writer who has published many books, he is also director of the Dead of Winter Film Festival. Troy visits the Villisca house on a regular basis. [www.prairieghosts.com/Villisca](http://www.prairieghosts.com/Villisca)

***Robert Baca*** - Renowned Psychic Medium has visited multiple times and held public readings in the house. [www.voicesfromheaven.com](http://www.voicesfromheaven.com)

## **Below is a partial list of other paranormal teams and investigators**

Adsagsona Paranormal Society  
Southern Wisconsin Paranormal Research Group  
Vanderworker Todd Paranormal Research Team  
Paranormal Activity Investigations, K.C.  
DIEPART  
Night Paranormal  
Kentucky Shadow Chasers  
Chasing Midnight  
St. Louis Area Association for Paranormal Investigations

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## Paranormal Films, Videos/DVDs, CDs, TV Shows and Radio News features (partial list):

- Fox Family's, *Scariest Places on Earth TV show* - featured the Villisca Axe Murder House and was in the top 10 episodes ever broadcast
- *Opened Doors: Glimpses from the Spirit World* - cable pilot by AriesWorks Entertainment featuring the San Diego Ghost Hunters
- Television Francaise 1, Vincent Nequache, Director -*The World's Most Mysterious Mysteries* show on Villisca Axe Murder House was broadcast to over 10 million viewers in France, Belgium, Switzerland and Canada
- Court TV's *Haunting Evidence* - episode on the Villisca Axe Murder House. Two psychics and an investigator claim to reveal who the killer or killers were
- Sci-Fi Channel's, *Proof Positive* - paranormal show's feature story about the Villisca paranormal phenomenon and data from the crime and the house
- WE Television- show on remarkable women including psychics who investigated the Villisca murders
- *Jeff Rensa Show* - popular national radio show with world famous paranormal author, Brad Steiger, interviewed filmmaker Kimberly Busbee about the feature film, *Haunting Villisca*
- *Villisca: The Untold Story* – video of paranormal investigation by Miller's Paranormal Research of Missouri, capturing footage of an investigation in the house and claiming to reveal the murderer
- *News and features from Omaha's Channel 8 TV*- a series of news stories and programs based on the Villisca paranormal phenomena
- *DJ Celebrity, the "Round Guy" KGGO, Des Moines* – Avowed skeptics planning to debunk the paranormal stories of the Villisca Axe Murder House, the Round Guy and his on-air partner Heather, hosted a Halloween overnight at the J. B. Moore Home. They left quickly after being scared away from the premises by ghostly voices and other phenomena. They are now believers...

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- *ThrillSeekers Contest* - radio promotion, Channel 94.1 Jams radio station (Omaha) Halloween promotion with DJ and guests staying in the Villisca Axe Murder House
- *Mystic Tours of the J. B. Moore Home* - On-going overnights and tours booked at the J. B. Moore home, often video and audio taped.
- *Overnight with Paranormal Investigators, E-Bay* - one spot sold monthly in a raffle for a guest/observer during the on-going paranormal investigations
- *“The Ballad of J.B. Moore” and “The Paranormal Boogie”* -music videos with band, Bowman and Brown as performers.
  - Music videos recently shot at the house, featuring a ballad used in the movie, *Haunting Villisca* and a song about the Villisca Axe Murder House, both written by Jeffrey Brown
- *Let’s Talk Paranormal-* show out of LA area, shot in Villisca
- *Multiple articles and news features-* News stories in The Des Moines Register and in Omaha/Council Bluffs area newspapers and various national and Midwest publications
- *Ghost! Magazine,* national publication feature article on Villisca
- *Anniversary Memorials* -The Linns host the annual memorial public gathering held in early June (the anniversary of the axe murders.) Many interested in the history and the paranormal investigations attend the event.

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## Historical Interest

**Villisca : The True Account of the Unsolved 1912 Mass Murder That Stunned the Nation** – a fascinating and well-written book by ex-law enforcement professional and expert historian, Roy Marshall, recounting the crime, possible suspects, subsequent trials and devastating aftermath of the Villisca Axe Murders. Available in online store: [www.hauntingvillisca.com](http://www.hauntingvillisca.com)

**Historical Website about the crime** - Has detailed historical info and related projects (films, videos, books, documents sold on site) - Appeals to history buffs and students. Contains info on historical documentary- *Villisca: Living with a Mystery*. [www.villiscamovie.com](http://www.villiscamovie.com)

### Historical Films and videos/DVDs on this site:

- *Villisca Iowa 1912 Axe Murders* – video with story recounted by Dr. Ed Epperly, historian of the Villisca crime
- *The Villisca Axe Murder House* – a video tour of the J.B. Moore home, hosted by Dr. Ed Epperly, historian of the Villisca crime
- *Villisca: Living With A Mystery*- a documentary film about the crime

### Books and documents sold:

- “Morning Ran Red” – fictional novel by Stephen Bowman, inspired by the Villisca murders – was sold and recently reprinted due to renewed interest
- “Villisca” – a book of the historical account by Roy Marshall, recounting the crime and subsequent trials
- “The Detectives”- a book by Roy Marshall (historian) about the private investigation of the Villisca crime
- “The Interrogation of Reverend Kelly” –a book by Roy Marshall about the primary suspect for the Villisca murders with Reverend Kelly’s confession and recanting of the same
- “Dope Sheet” – a book by James Wilkerson (the detective who investigated the Villisca murders)
- “The 1912 Coroner’s Inquest”, & “Signed Statements”- 2 printed book facsimiles of the actual court documents for the Villisca trials
- “Reminiscences” – a book (memoir) by F.F. Jones (an Iowa Senator who was implicated in the 1912 Villisca murders)
- The Villisca Review- a reproduced copy of the actual June 1912 Villisca newspaper