

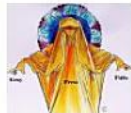
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# HAUNTED HILL HOUSE

Where Spirits Speak

Martha Hazzard Decker

**Gray Fults Press**



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*This book is dedicated to those who helped dig and discover information and documentation of events at Haunted Hill House. Donna McCauley, your help as a historian has been outstanding. You and Gypsy Jewels who has Zero Discrimination gave me back the desire to dig deep, especially with my metal detector. Katherine and Sonny Estes, without your patience I would never have been able to spend all the time I have in the house alone and with others. Maria Elana Santos Kempf, with your belief that I could do this I have made sure to follow through. Your help with transcribing a very long interview was more than helpful. I appreciate all my friends who have been there with me to explore and experience the house. Deborah Colleen Rose, I appreciate the time we spent discussing the book and your offers to help with whatever I needed. Without the help of Teal Gray, I'm not sure when this story would go to print. You have been ever so helpful. Most of all I would like to thank my husband, Ken, for his patience, belief that I could do this, his support and for all the nights I have spent away from him because I was at the other house. In fact, my truck has traveled the 135 miles to the house so many times the GPS would head to the house when I would tell it to go home.*

*There is one special friend whom I miss very much I would like to send loving thoughts to through this book. It is in memory of Sheila Gay. She passed this year and is terribly missed in our paranormal community.  
Sheila, this book's for you...*

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## PREFACE

Greetings fellow readers,

My hope is that you will enjoy this compilation of information about Haunted Hill House. Then be excited to find out more in the upcoming books in this series. Enjoy what you read. Take away from it what you want. Never be afraid to ask questions or dig into the world and its many mysteries. This house is an enigma and a massive puzzle of what, ifs and how. It can lead to deeper thought about many things and touch anyone in different ways. Thanks for taking your time to read about this incredulous house.

One note I did want to make is that there is more than one version of the events which occurred in the house and even in the history. The owners have worked diligently and tirelessly to uncover the truth and to let the history be known to the best of their ability. This is not an entertainment "haunted house." What happens here is real. Hundreds if not thousands of people can attest to their own personal experiences. One of the books in this series will cover all the paranormal activity. This book is only the beginning and I have only touched the surface.

What I will add in the series may be a little of everything, including rumors, myths and folklore in addition to what is documented. Many of the photographs I personally shot. Others have been provided by the owners of the house and others who have granted permission for them to be used. The owners provided a number of documents they received from the previous owner. Some information I found in newspapers, books and online. I will make every effort to give credit for the items when I have the

## WHY I HAD TO WRITE THIS STORY

I met Katherine (Kathy) and Sonny Estes the fall of 2018 thanks to a close friend of all three, Maria Elana Santos Kempf. The Estes' met Kempf during one of their trips to Jefferson, Texas for the paranormal conference, History, Haunts & Legends. Kempf and I have attended for many years. We both are speakers. Kempf is a gifted psychic medium who the Estes' were drawn to for a reading. It's history since then. I was invited to attend an event they were holding in October 2018. Kempf was going as a psychic. The Estes' had vendors outside and were conducting tours through the downstairs of the house. I was there to help out and it was my first time at the house. I have been so many times since then. I feel fortunate I have been able to spend many nights in the house since then. A lot of those times were alone in the house overnight. Those tales will come later.

I received a walk-through of the house and a brief history. It was the history the Estes' received from the prior owner. Over the years they have found much of the history to be different and have been able to update, often with documentation. Kathy asked if I would be the docent in the Scratch Room. I agreed. The rooms were named before they purchased the house, and they left the names the same. Paranormal teams have conducted investigations in the house through the prior owner. She told me the Scratch Room got its name because there had been 75 documented scratches in the room.

I'm one whom tries to go into locations with an open mind. I knew it stood caddy-corner to the Baker Hotel and had been built quite a few years before the hotel, but 75 scratches? I have been around paranormal activity since I was a young child but never somewhere with this amount of activity. I was polite while sort of rolling my eyes in my head but not in reality. Kathy often tells people I came there to debunk and as a skeptic. Actually, I try to keep an open mind while looking for natural causes. Only when all natural possibilities are ruled out do I begin to consider it might be

paranormal.

Groups of 6-8 were brought through the house room by room. There were several hundred people touring the house that night. The line was long and wait times were close to an hour. Each room had someone inside to tell history relating to that room and having an assortment of paranormal equipment available for visitors to use. The equipment was different in each room. I can't recall what entity was in the Scratch Room, but I can tell you I saw a couple dozen scratches form on different individuals during that event. Yes, some could have been done by the person with their arm out of sight, but not all of them. I watched several guys hold their arms out where everyone could see and ask to be scratched. We all watched it happen as it happened. This led me to really take an interest in the house. There was a lot of other activity all over the house that night. There were many EVP's, electronic voice phenomenon. This is when something records a voice that no one hears at the time it's recorded. People were touched and some items moved on their own. Besides the scratches that night there was a chair that moved on its own. No one was standing by it or touching it at the time. Everyone in the room heard it move and felt the movement through the floor. The scratch room is fairly small. The walls are the original wood with no covering. There is a false fireplace in the wall and very small closet. It's about half the depth of a normal closet. Some people won't go into the closet and shut the door because at times they can't get back out. The door-knob won't turn. This happened with a tour group. I had to open the door and let the person out. There is a table and chairs in the middle of the room, and it's set up like a poker room.

The more history I learned about the house and the number of murders occurring there drove me to seek out more information. Not only murders but natural death as well. From there it turned into the desire to write a book and compile all this information. I have worked on the book about two years. Finally, I had to say enough. The more we dug, the owners and others, including myself, the more information we found. The book was becoming so big I started to think I would never finish.

With that in mind you are now reading the first book in a series

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about the house. I'm not sure how many books will come out of the house, but there will be several. This is the first and it is an overview of the house and history. I'll touch lightly on a number of things involving the house. The house has seemed to take on a life of its own. Included is a list of owners, experiences of people and teams at the house, historic information and more. Each of the books will focus on specific details. I'm not sure which comes next.

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## THE STORY AND HISTORY OF THE HOUSE

**H** haunted Hill House (HHH) is a 3800 sq. ft. mansion built sometime around or right after the Civil War. It's located at 501 NE 1<sup>st</sup> St, Mineral Wells, TX. Kathy and Sonny have experienced paranormal activity many times, including when they went to look at the house to see if they wanted to be the next owners. When they were looking at the house to buy, they saw paranormal activity was in the form of a green light. Both saw with their own eyes as it floated down the stairs toward them. They fell in love with the house right then and there. Now they feel that the green orb they watched float down the stairs may have been Jacob. One of the boys murdered in the house. Sonny has formed quite a bond with Joshua and Jacob since then and has strong feeling about how he believes Joshua was treated while he lived in the house. They have opened the house up for individuals and paranormal teams to come for investigations and overnights. Their hope is that someday information will be discovered to help explain and determine the cause for the many layers of activity, good and negative, along with determining if there is a portal, vortex or more in the house or on the property.

The home was a make-shift hospital early 1900s offering healings from the mineral waters. There are two wells on the property which may be two of the first wells in town. Later, during prohibition, it became a brothel and speakeasy, possibly for hotel customers. It was quite the hotel. Many famous people stayed in the hotel hoping to get cured by the mineral waters. There is still talk around town that there are tunnels leading from the hotel to this house and to the church. Talk is that one of the first owners knew Sam Bass. Treasure hunters are still looking for the gold Bass hid. Possibly it's in the caves on the mountain behind the house.

The home once was owned by a family involved in dark occult activity, verified through former residents. It involved three generations of the same family. It may also have a basement. The owners are trying to locate it and the entrance to the tunnel. At

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one time there was a slaughterhouse on the back of the property. Last year it was brought up that there may even be a cemetery on the property. This would explain the odd steps going to the lot on the side of the house. Someone who knows how to find lost graves claimed to have been able to determine there were slight indentations in the ground on the side yard that may be graves. It also explains some of the stones placed in one corner on that side yard. To date it hasn't been investigated but it is in the future. There are so many things to explore when it comes to HHH. Some think there may be a body that's more recent buried somewhere on the property. A number of people have said it is there. This relates to a murder where someone has confessed but failed to disclose where he put the body. The missing female did know people at this house during the time she went missing. There is also an unsolved murder where the body was missing about a year. She was last seen in front of this house and knew people who lived there at that time. Her murder is still an open unsolved case. Items belonging to her and to the other female have been located on the property and identified by individuals who knew the women. The other murders are much older.

The Estes' own an empty lot next to the house. There had been a house there for many years. The city not only tore it down but removed the soil under the house and on the property, including the pipes for water and sewer. According to people living in town and in law enforcement the house ended up being a drug house run by a drug cartel. Allegedly there have been at least eight murders associated with that house. This lot has yet to be seriously investigated for paranormal activity. But unexplained things have happened on the lot a few times.

This house has been rated by a number of sites as the #1 most haunted location in Texas and #1- #3 in the nation. Over 200 scratches have been documents in this house to date. Spirits seem to talk a lot and will join in on conversations that are recorded by security cameras. Not only do they join in on conversations, but they also talk about the future and may talk to specific individuals about personal information. There 18 rooms to investigate. The house was featured on Portals to Hell in 2020 and has been on

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

### **Martha Hazzard Decker**



Martha Decker has been involved in investigating the paranormal since 1999 and is the founder of East Texas Paranormal. She was on Portals to Hell and Death Walker. Her experience includes investigating private homes, commercial businesses, historical sites and public locations, UFOs and cryptids. Decker has worked with cities that contacted her regarding activity in

municipal buildings. Decker works with law enforcement agencies to help solve unsolved murders. She is an empath and has experience as an investigator, writer, author and photographer. Decker retired in 2007 from law enforcement as assistant chief of police and detective. While in law enforcement Decker was a negotiator, instructor, specialized in domestic terrorism and crimes against children. She worked with federal and State agencies. She worked for the State of Texas as a child death investigator, was a speaker, educator and worked with the anti-human trafficking task force. She's a process server and was a private investigator. Decker experienced a number of unexplained occurrences as a child which triggered her interest into the unknown. She often speaks on how to use common law enforcement techniques

and apply them to paranormal interviews and investigations, including how to interview children. Decker's photography has been published in newspapers, magazines and even on the cover of phone books in west Texas. Her book, *Paranormal Profiling*, was published in 2014. Decker has spent many nights alone at Haunted Hill House researching information for the book. It's been many months in the making and she can't wait for it to become available. In 1995, Decker received a first place award from the Associated Press for specialty reporting while working as a journalist for the Cedar Creek Pilot. Decker writes articles for Medium.com. She has over 20 years of investigative experience ranging from criminal to civil and journalistic. In the mid-eighties she produced and directed several television shows, including Ray Wylie Hubbard Live at Dallas Palace. Decker also spent over 10 years as a volunteer firefighter and rescue SCUBA diver.

Author of *Paranormal Profiling*, and seen on *Portals to Hell* and *Death Walker*.

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This is the first in a series about Haunted Hill House in Mineral Wells, TX. The house was built around 1880 and is now the site of serious paranormal activity. There are children's giggles, growls, hisses and scratches. There have been a number of deaths at this location. The house is listed by many sites as the #1 most haunted house in the U.S. This book covers some of everything. Shadows are seen moving about the house. Visitors witness orbs, EVPs are numerous as are disembodied voices. The house has been featured on Portals to Hell, Paranormal Declassified and Death Walker with Nick Groff.

"I got in bed in the Axe Room to crash for the night when suddenly the entity Toby was nose to nose with me! I was shocked. This has never happened in my 22 years of investigating. I decided to keep my eyes closed until it was gone," Martha Hazzard Decker

Toby photo by Stacy Wosika



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