

GRIPS



Got a Ghost? Get a GRIP!

Hello Everyone!

Welcome to our evening of MEET & GREET, where we hope to get a chance to know you and in turn you can meet us and hopefully choose to join us in our adventures. We are excited to have the opportunity to introduce you to our group. Members have ranged in age from 16 to 60+, believers and sceptics, people that has seen or experienced the paranormal to someone that is simply hoping for a chance to have a personal encounter.



GRIPS is a small group that is open to not only ghost hunting/investigation, but all things paranormal including such things as UFOs, Bigfoot, meteorite hunting and other exploration into the unknown or known world. We are a curious bunch, where the words WHY, WHAT, WHERE, HOW & WHO are an adventure that has yet to be explored and shared.

The Great River Investigative Paranormal Society was started by friends who would discuss any and all subjects they heard about or had experienced. Nearly every discussion ended with "I would really like to know,,,,," , it was this wanting to experience first hand the unknown is what lead us to form GRIPS. It was important to be a paranormal group rather than just a ghost group, because there is so much out there that can't be explained, but can be experienced. And we are willing to try and answer for ourselves or others what questions we can, though often the experience opens up more questions to be explored. Individual beliefs are as varied as the leaves on a tree. From a distance we seem the same, but close up we are all unique. That is the core of our group.

Over the years members have come and gone. Many have even returned at different times. We understand life moves on; relationships change, work can suddenly dominate ones life, a loss can alter even the strongest desire. We have an open door policy with all members in good standing.

We allow friends or family of members, as well as the property owner of the location being investigated to partiate in our adventures so that they understand the care and safety we take on our investigations. Many have joined for a short time, had their curiosity appeased and found it is not for them. It is a brave person who is willing to search for an answer that is not what they had wanted, wished for or expected.

Current members;

Linda Federonich, Co-Founder/Lead Investigator/Case Manger

Melissa Ruh, C-Founder/Lead Investigator

Natasha Otterbeck, Tech Specialist/Lead Investigator

Kris Connolly, Investigator

Leha Pettinger, Investigator

Adrian Otterbeck, Jr Investigator

Times change and so must we. Due to increased cost for items such as; meeting room, equipment, mailings, newsletters, snacks, web site upkeep and other business expenses, a new fee for Membership is in place. We are now asking for \$50/year. This is the first increase since the start of GRIPS in 2006. Also we would like to change the payment date to Oct 31st, which is our favorite date and will be easy to remember for everyone. This way over the winter months we can check out equipment and purchase for upcoming hunts and investigations. If you need to break down the amount into two smaller payments please see Linda or Natasha. We are looking forward to a most exciting year.

Included in the Membership fee will be fifty business cards with your name along with the GRIPS logo and contact information. You will receive them at the next monthly meeting. Monthly meetings will always be the first Monday of the Month at the Children's Programing Room on the first floor at the Carnegie-Stout Library in Dubuque, IA, located at 360 W 11th St. Exceptions will be holidays when the library is closed, then the meeting may be a different location or perhaps the following Monday at the library depending on availability of the room.

Villisca Trip!

The Villisca Axe Murder House is one adventure that will be a real exciting experience. It is noted to be one of the most haunted places in the US and the most haunted in Iowa. The tiny town of Villisca is located about seventy miles southwest of Des Moines, IA. This home has been featured on nearly every ghost investigation/hunting show as well as the Travel Channel. The TH of Dubuque had just featured an article of the murder on the 100 year anniversary of the deaths, last June.

In its day the home was considered modern and new with all the conveniences. By our standards one of the hardest things to understand was that a family of six could live in the small five-room house. Back then boys and girls shared rooms and everyone was expected to be home for meals, with very few exceptions. Families stuck together through thick and thin. Today everyone needs "their own space."

What a special time the Moore family had lived in! People relied on family members near and far, friends and neighbors for so many things. People left their doors unlocked without fear or worry. What a horrible shock the murders must have been to the town. No wonder that the spirits of the Moore's and the Stillinger girls are still so active.



Currently we have six members planning to spend the night Oct 28th at the Moore home. We are allowed a total of ten people per stay, so there are **FOUR openings** if you would like to join us. Please budget approximately \$75 for the stay itself, about \$25 for gas (we are taking two cars) and then of course money for two meals.

We will leave early on Monday Oct 28th, please eat a good breakfast and bring a sack lunch. Stops will be as needed for fuel, restrooms etc. We will have supper in Villisca that evening. When we visited last there was a museum about the family, murders and the town. It was free and included with the stay. I do not know if that will be the same or if there is now a cover charge. We had gone when Mr. Darwin Linn was still alive and he gave us a tour of the town pointing out homes and locations of principle players in the grisly drama. He took us to the cemetery where the victims are buried to see the longest granite monument made that marks the Moore's gravesite. Quite a site to see.

What a comfort Mr. Linn was, he told us stories of how he would have families visit with children and he would notice a child laughing and whispering in a corner and when asked they would say they are playing with their friends. He knew the friends were the Moore children and he knew he had done right by keeping the house from being torn down. He had also created the barn out back as a chance for all that visit to return to the present day when the atmosphere of the house was overwhelming. The barn is equipped with electric lights, TV, restrooms, a cot, frig and everything!

Because the home is like it was in 1912, there is no heat or lights. Please bring warm clothes, long undies if you have them, sleeping bag, and extra batteries, have your phone fully charged, cameras and your spirit of adventure!

If interested in joining us contact or text Linda @ 563-663-0830 or Natasha @ 563-599-4007 ASAP to secure a spot for the October 28th stay. It's as close as we could get to All Hallows Eve!

FUN & ADVENTURES..... • are not

just what G.R.I.P.S. stand for! Believe it or not we promote our values with each exploit we do. Our values are:

Genuine - We are GENUINE in reporting our findings to each other and the client.

Respectful - We are RESPECTFUL of each other and individual beliefs; to the client, their story, their property and privacy.

Inquisitive - We question everything.

Professional - We hold ourselves to be proficient, trained and sincere in all dealings.

Sensitivity - We show compassion and understanding to everyone and their situation.

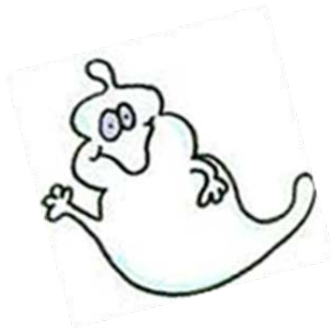
These simple words, says volumes for our group.

G.R.I.P.S. Tees to Please:

T-Shirts are available to team members as well as others. As they say in the fashion world, black is in. We have a few on hand for immediate purchase; others will be available for pick-up at the next meeting in November. Prices are as follows: short sleeve kid sizes, adult S, M, L & XL are \$11 for members, \$13 non-members, XXL or bigger are \$13/\$15 respectfully, long sleeves are an additional \$2 added to the prices. Hoodies are available, \$25 members/\$27 non-members. Any one interested in hats as well, please let us know and we will price them for the group.

Over the next year or so we are planning to expand the G.R.I.P.S. design for these items. We welcome your ideas and suggestions, a little imagination can go a long way.

Also being discussed is the idea of a "yearly" contest, where members, who line up adventures for the group, can win an award for being the one who arranged the most events or the most exciting investigation experienced which we could actually vote on. The award would be a hoodie or possibly a jacket. Keep in mind these escapades can be any paranormal quest, not just ghost. That should open the field pretty good. Anything goes and so do we!! Always with permission and safety in mind, the group is ready for everything; except for hanging over cliffs.



Next meeting will be the first Monday in November, the 4th. It will be again in the Children's Program room at the Carnegie-Stout Public Library.

We hope to see you again!

POSSIBLE UP COMING EVENTS :

I spoke with the event coordinator, Annette, at the Rensselaer Russell house in Waterloo about the possibility of an investigation. The house was featured on *MY GHOST STORY*; they no longer let any ghost groups in since the employee that enjoyed that type of event doesn't work there. She said due to the artifacts in the home an employee must be there, and the employees do not wish to be there at night. I mentioned that our group believe spirits are there 24/7 and would be willing to visit during the day, she said that should work and we need to decide on a day to visit. November is the month that is by appointment only so we would have the place to ourselves.

Please let us know if you would be interested and what days would work and we will narrow down a date and will try to set it up ASAP.

