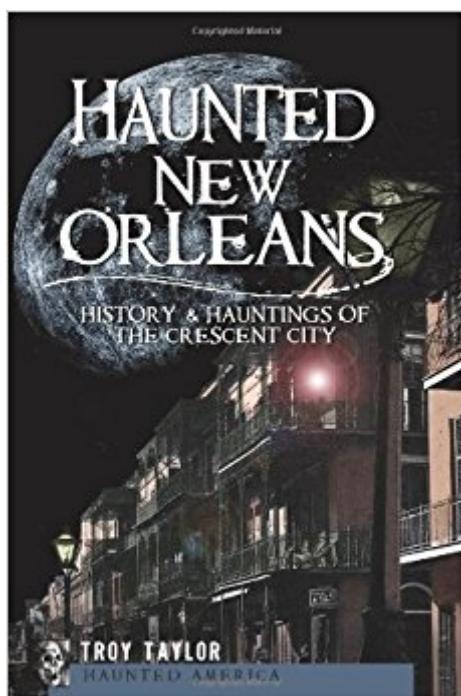


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# Haunted New Orleans: History & Hauntings Of The Crescent City (Haunted America)



## **Synopsis**

New Orleans--the Big Easy, the birthplace of jazz, home of Cafe du Monde and what some call the most haunted city in America. Beneath the indulgence and revelry of the Crescent City lies a long history of the dark and mysterious. From the famous "Queen of Voodoo," Marie Laveau, who is said to haunt the site of her grave, to the wicked LaLauries, whose true natures were hidden behind elegance and the trappings of high society, New Orleans is filled with spirits of all kinds. Some of the ghosts in these stories have sordid and scandalous histories, while others are friendly specters who simply can't leave their beloved city behind. Join supernatural historian Troy Taylor as he takes readers beyond the French Quarter and shows a side of New Orleans never seen.

## **Book Information**

Series: Haunted America

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: The History Press (August 27, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1596299444

ISBN-13: 978-1596299443

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.3 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #506,467 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #110 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Architectural > Cities #621 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Occult & Paranormal > Supernatural #859 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > History

## **Customer Reviews**

Troy Taylor is an occultist, supernatural historian and the author of seventy-five books on ghosts, hauntings, history, crime and the unexplained in America. He is also the founder of the American Ghost Society and the owner of the Illinois and American Hauntings Tour companies. Taylor shares a birthday with one of his favorite authors, F. Scott Fitzgerald, but instead of living in New York and Paris like Fitzgerald, Taylor grew up in Illinois. Raised on the prairies of the state, he developed an interest in things that go bump in the night? at an early age. As a young man, he channeled that interest into developing ghost tours and writing about haunts in Chicago and Central Illinois. Troy and his wife, Haven, currently reside in Chicago's West Loop neighborhood."

I bought this book directly from a shop in the French Quarter. I purchased it some time ago for my Kindle but the device was irrevocably damaged during a flood. That aside, I found this book an interesting mix of history and macabre. For anyone who has an interest in New Orleans dark side, this tome is a must read. The introduction (something I rarely read) provides a brief step into the history of the city. Afterwards, the author takes the reader on a journey through the haunting history the beginnings of the city to almost present day. Some of my favorite parts are: ~ The LaLaurie Mansion: a supposed dinner party turns into a blazing scandal that revealed the dark truth about a notorious socialite. ~ Marie Laveau: Celebrated Voodoo queen and keeper of secrets. ~ The Sultan's Palace: a mysterious Royal and his entourage meet an equal strange end. ~ Haunted Hotels and restaurants: one could be sharing desert with a long ago waiter or entertainers. This book is spine tingling and hard to put down. I often re-read parts to relive to fascination all over again. I Believe the author did fine jobs and I highly recommend this book before a trip to The Big Easy.

Lots of valuable historical information, however there are too many inaccuracies to award it more stars. The information provided on Marie Laveau is composed of pure legend. The home she lived in was not awarded to her for winning a court case. It belonged to who grandmother who was a free slave and she purchased the land and built the home and outbuildings with the money she earned as a merchant. For a fascinating and factual account of her life based on much research check out Carolyn Morrow Long's book. The address listed as the haunted location in "The Octoroon Mistress" does not match that of the Bottom of the Cup Tea Room. Both locations are on 2 separate streets! The information provided about Charles and Laura Larendon in "The Devil Came to New Orleans" is not factual. With all of these flaws it is hard to trust the credibility of any of the information provided.

No real detail. Very little background or detail on the sites or history to backup any of the view undervalued stories. Very disappointing

Troy Taylor is always an interesting writer. He does a lot of research on his subject of area, and all the books I've read from him make history fascinating. I really enjoy all of his books, very informative.

Taylor is a master. I am an historian and feel that I know the history of New Orleans fairly well. Still, Taylor's history is fantastic. He weaves the "dark" history of the City into the ghostly and

hemakes you never want to put the book down! It is strange that I thought I knew something about theCity, but Taylor opened new doors for me all along the way. And, after all was said and done I cameaway from the book with a hopeful, upbeat feeling about the City and her future!

I recently took a trip to New Orleans after doing a lot of research, both online and from books I purchased, because wanted the inside track on where to stay and what to see while in the Crescent City. While I was there, I bought this particular book, and didn't get a chance to read it until after I got home. As I flipped through the text of 'Haunted New Orleans', I began to get the creeping, uncomfortable feeling that I had read a good bit of this copy before, both online and in other books I had purchased before my trip. A quick check unfortunately proved this to be the case. The author, Troy Taylor, has lifted entire paragraphs from preexisting works with only minor changes to the copy. Consider the similarity of these passages:"Jules served as apprentice under his mother's tutelage for six years before she sent him to France where he served in the great kitchens of Paris, Strassburg and Marseilles. He returned to New Orleans and became chef of the famous Pickwick Club in 1887 before his mother summoned him to head the house of Antoine... Jules married Althea Roy, daughter of a planter in Youngsville in southwest Louisiana, and Marie Louise, the grand dame of the family, was born. A son, Roy Louis, was born in 1902..."-from Antoine's Restaurant's website"After the death of his father, Antoine's son, Jules served as apprentice under his mother for six years before traveling to France, where he worked in the finest kitchens of Paris and Marseilles. In 1887, he returned to New Orleans and became chef of the renowned Pickwick Club until his mother summoned him to master the kitchens at Antoine's. Jules later married Althea Roy, daughter of a planter from Youngsville in southwest Louisiana, and their son, Roy Louis, was born in 1902..."--From Haunted New Orleans page 123I realize that every collection of stories like this book is based on other existing works, and with the advent of online content it is easy to find reams of material on the internet. But in this instance there have been only nominal changes to wording and few (if any) alterations to content or structure. It doesn't matter if it comes from another book or a website: Mr. Taylor needs to realize that if he copies and pastes entire passages and change a few words, it doesn't make it an original work. The plagiarism doesn't end there, unfortunately:"Rumored to be the 'House of the Rising Sun,' the Villa Convento is a Creole townhouse built in or around 1833. The land was purchased from the Ursulines nuns. The first owner was Jean Baptiste Poeyfarre, who commissioned the construction of the building. His widow, ten years later, sold the property and building to Octave Voorheis. Mr. Voorheis lost this purchase in the depression following the Civil War, approximately in 1872. During the following twenty-year period, there were

two different owners. On March 10, 1902, Pasquale Taromina purchased the property. The family lived here until February 1946."-from the Hotel Villa Convento's website "This former Creole townhouse and bordello is rumored to be the original 'House of the Rising Sun', from the famous song. It was built about 1833 on land purchased from the Ursulines nuns, and the first owner was Jean Baptiste Poeyfarre, who commissioned the actual construction. His widow sold the place ten years later to Octave Voorheis, who lost the property in the depression following the Civil War. It was purchased by Pasquale Taromina in 1902, and he owned it until his death in 1946."--from 'Haunted New Orleans', page 114I will acknowledge the extremely low probability that it was the websites which copied this author, even if their copy is more detailed and better written than his (here he even reproduces the website's typos, such as 'Ursulines nuns' instead of 'Ursuline nuns'). If I had just found a few similarly-worded websites, I would not be writing this review (but ask yourself which is more likely: that Antoine's Restaurant, which has been around since 1840, would copy their history from Troy Taylor's book, published just a few years ago? Or the other way around?). But this author's way-too-familiar source material is not just limited to online. Mr. Taylor also took passages from print books published over half a century ago:"In the early days burials were all in ground and were terrifying affairs. Caskets were lowered into gurgling pools of water and were sunk into pits of oozing mud. As often as not, the coffin would capsize as the water seeped within. Heavy rains or a storm would cast newly buried half-decomposed cadavers to the surface."--from Gumbo Ya Ya (published in 1945), page 337"Such conditions made funerals a somewhat terrifying affair. Caskets were often lowered into gurgling pools of water and oozing mud. As often as not, the coffin would capsize as the water began to leak in, causing newly buried half-decomposed cadavers to float to the surface of the grave..."--from Haunted New Orleans, page 57Look, if I caught three very clear examples of this writer stealing from other authors just by casually reading through his book, it begs the question: how much more of this book's text is 'borrowed'? I'm afraid (and quite frankly too angry) to check. And if Troy Taylor lifted passages from other work he found for free online or in other books, then why did I just pay \$14.99 for his derivative work? And not a particularly well-written one, at that? I certainly wasn't expecting him to channel William Faulkner when I cracked this book open, but I was at least expecting him to write an original volume! In every way possible, this book disappointed me. Someone needs to sit this writer down and explain to him that not only did he cheat his readers who pay for his books, he also cheats the writers from whom he steals copy. Save your hard-earned money for writers who deserve it. There are other, quite well-done ghost books about New Orleans. Go with ANY of the other books written about this place and this subject. I wish I had done the same instead of buying this offering from

Troy Taylor.

Very descriptive book on the history and hauntings of New Orleans. A good read and covers different areas. Highly a Recommended

Love the historical emphasis of this book. The fact that so many buildings in New Orleans have such a violent past just makes me want to learn everything about this city.

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