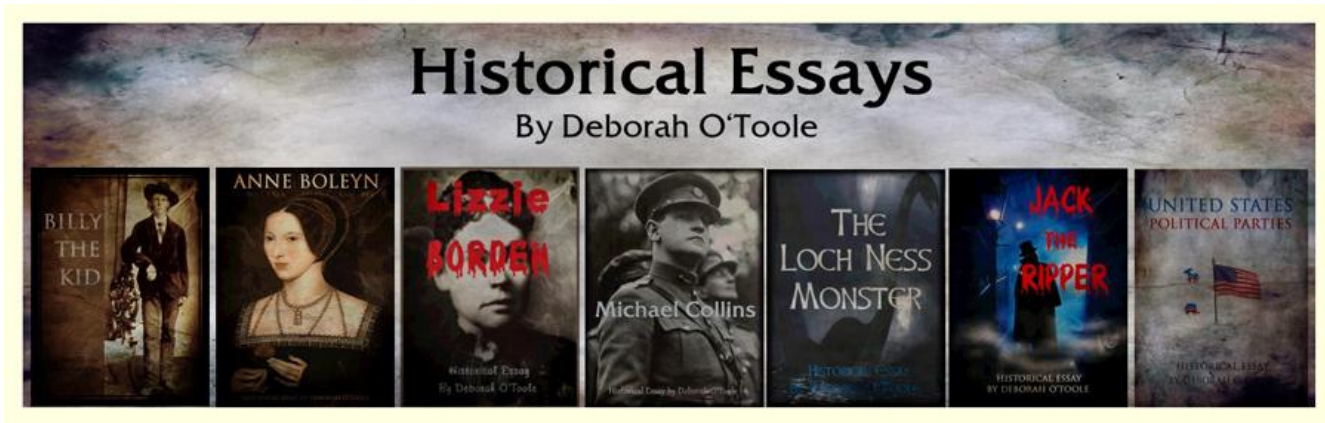


Excerpts from:

Historical Essays

By Deborah O'Toole



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ABOUT

Deborah O'Toole is the author of several historical essays, which are now available in e-book format. The articles first appeared in *Ambermont Magazine* when Deborah was a staff writer for the publication.

The essays include topics ranging from Billy the Kid, Anne Boleyn, Lizzie Borden, Michael Collins, Loch Ness Monster, U.S. Political Parties and Jack the Ripper.

The essays are now available at *Class Notes*, or can be obtained from Amazon (*Kindle*), Barnes & Noble (*Nook*) and Kobo Books (*multiple formats*).

For more, go to:

<https://deborahotoole.com/essays.htm>

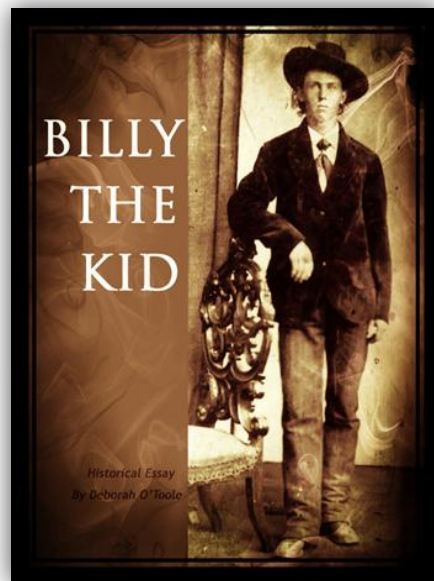
BILLY THE KID *(excerpt only)*

William Henry McCarty (*aka Billy the Kid*) was born in New York in 1859. The actual day of his birth is still in question. Some claim it was November 23, 1859 while others (*such as writer Ash Upson who helped Pat Garrett pen his memoirs*), insist the date was November 21, 1859 (*which also happened to be Upson's birthday*). Whatever the case, it is generally agreed that William McCarty was born in late 1859.



Several historians claim young William's real father was named Bonney, which may account for his use of the name as an alias in later years. Young William's mother, Catherine, later married a man by the name of Henry McCarty, who became the father of William's younger brother, Joseph.

When William was only three years old his family moved to Coffeyville, Kansas. Two years later, the McCarty's again moved (*this time to Colorado*), and it was during these travels that William's step-father died. An exact date for McCarty's death is not known, since a death certificate or obituary was never located . . .



"Billy the Kid" by Deborah O'Toole is an essay about William Henry McCarty (*aka William Antrim, William H. Bonney, Billy the Kid*), including information about the Kid's early life, his later cohorts (*Doc Scurlock, Charlie Bowdre and Jose Chavez y Chavez*), the Kid's death and burial, resources, related films and links for further study. "Billy the Kid" is available in e-book format at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo Books.

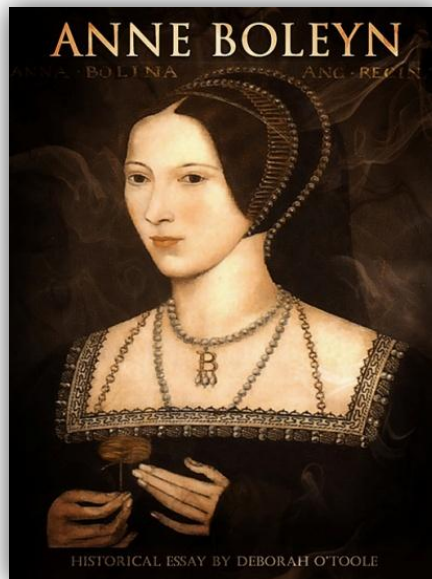
ANNE BOLEYN *(excerpt only)*

It is generally believed that Anne Boleyn was born on or around May 1, 1501 at a manor house in Blickling, Norfolk, England. She was the second daughter of Thomas Boleyn and Elizabeth Howard. Many still claim Anne was born at Hever Castle in Kent, although it has been proven she did not move there until after her birth.



Thomas Boleyn came from basic "common" stock, although his mother was daughter to the Irish Earl of Ormonde. Anne's mother Elizabeth was the daughter of Thomas Howard, Earl of Surrey. Thomas Boleyn would later be created Viscount Rochford, a title given to him by Henry VIII after Anne was firmly ensconced at court.

Anne possessed what was called a "sixth finger" or a "second nail" on one of her hands. In later years, this physical "deformity" would be used against her, implying that the presence of the digit was somehow supernatural or evil. Anne's other prepossessing qualities included black eyes, long dark brown hair (*which she often interlaced with jewels*) and a petite stature. She had a thin face with high cheekbones and a pointed chin. Although not beautiful in a conventional sense, Anne had a vivacious personality and fluid movement that attracted people to her, especially men . . .



"Anne Boleyn" by Deborah O'Toole is a historical essay about Henry VIII's second wife Anne Boleyn, which includes information about Anne's early life, her involvement with Henry VIII and the reformation, her marriage and short tenure as Queen, her arrest and execution, quotes and notes, related films, biographical resources and links for further study. "Anne Boleyn" is available in e-book format at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo Books.

LIZZIE BORDEN (*coming in 2025*)

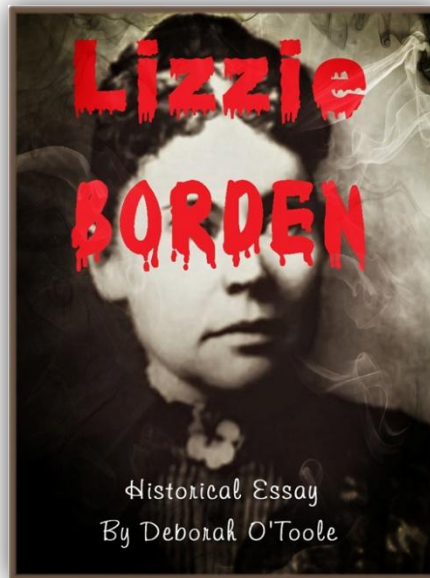
"Lizzie Borden" by Deborah O'Toole is an essay about the American women who became notorious for being the main suspect in the brutal murders of her father and stepmother in 1892.



While acquitted of the charges in a court of law, Lizzie spent the remainder of her life under a shadow of doubt.

The following is a little ditty made popular during Lizzie's lifetime:

*Lizzie Borden took an ax
and gave her mother forty whacks.
When she saw what she had done,
she gave her father forty-one.*



"Lizzie Borden" by Deborah O'Toole is scheduled for release in 2025, and will be made available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

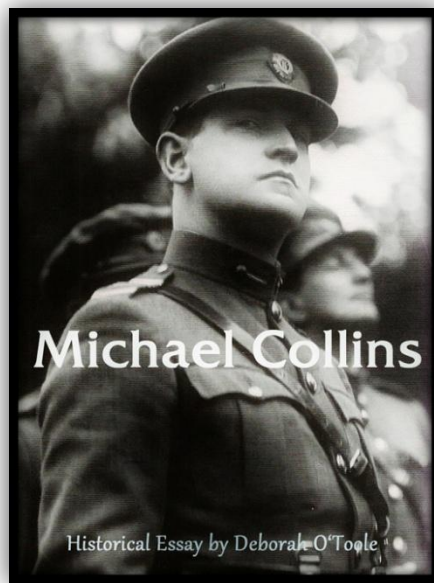
MICHAEL COLLINS *(coming in 2025)*

"Michael Collins" by Deborah O'Toole is an essay about Irish revolutionary Michael "The Big Fellow" Collins, who became a symbol of Ireland's struggle for independence during the 20th century.



He was also a soldier and politician who served as commander-in-chief of the Revolutionary Irish Republic, Irish Volunteers, Irish Republican Army and the National Army. In addition, he was president of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and chairman of the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State.

Collins was assassinated at the age of thirty-one by anti-treaty forces following the Irish Civil War in 1922.



"Michael Collins" by Deborah O'Toole is scheduled for release in 2025, and will be made available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

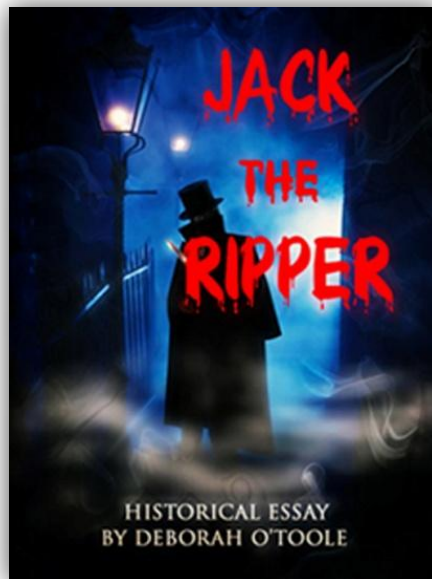
JACK THE RIPPER *(excerpt only)*

The name summons images of foggy London alleyways, of a man slinking about in a long cape with shifty eyes barely discernible in the shadows, and of the hapless women who met their ends on the wrong side of a knife wielded by a psychotic serial killer. Long before such a pseudonym became commonplace in our modern day and age, Jack the Ripper was the epitome of the definition more than one hundred years ago.



Many of the Ripper murder sites are still in existence; such as Miller's Court (*where Mary Kelly met her horrific end*); Mitre Square (*Eddowes murder*); Buck's Row (*re-named Durward Street, and where Mary Ann Nichols was killed*); Berner Street (*re-named Henrique Street, the scene of Elizabeth Stride's murder*); and George Yard Buildings (*now known as Gunthorpe, where alleged first victim Martha Tabram was killed*).

The remains of Mary Kelly were discovered in her room at Miller's Court in Whitechapel on November 8, 1888. Her murder was purported to be the last at the hands of the Ripper, and by far the most brutal. Apparently Kelly owed back rent for her lodgings and when the landlord came to collect late in the morning of the 8th, he happened to look inside her room through a window and espied the grotesque tableau upon the bed . . .



"Jack the Ripper" by Deborah O'Toole is an essay about serial killer Jack the Ripper, including information about the Whitechapel district of London, the victims, suspects, the investigation, press coverage in the day, resources, suggestions for further study, related films and links to current computer games inspired by Jack the Ripper. "Jack the Ripper" is available in e-book format at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo Books.

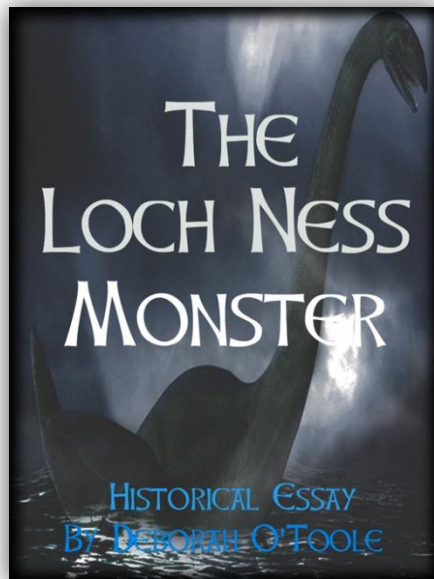
LOCH NESS MONSTER *(excerpt only)*

Tales of the Loch Ness Monster have floated around the world for centuries. Described as a large aquatic animal or a plesiosaur-like creature, the Loch Ness Monster (*also known as "Nessie"*) has been the subject of numerous amateur and scientific investigations over the years in an attempt to uncover the truth. She is said to have a long neck with a dinosaur-like head, a humped back, flippers and reptilian dark gray skin; her estimated length is anywhere between fifteen and forty feet, with a weight of up to 2,500 pounds.



She is said to have a long neck with a dinosaur-like head, a humped back, flippers and reptilian dark gray skin; her estimated length is anywhere between fifteen and forty feet, with a weight of up to 2,500 pounds. Nessie has been touted as an imaginative endeavor to attract tourists to the Inverness area, or as a bona fide lake monster with a variety of corroborating photographs to prove it.

However, the legend of Nessie is not taken seriously by most mainstream scientists and other skeptics, although sightings by a large number of reliable resources seem to lend some validity to the claims of her existence . . .



"Loch Ness Monster" by Deborah O'Toole is an essay about the myths and legends surrounding the Loch Ness Monster in Scotland, including information about Loch Ness, sightings of Nessie through history, expeditions, resources, related films and links for further study. "Loch Ness Monster" is available in e-book format at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo Books.

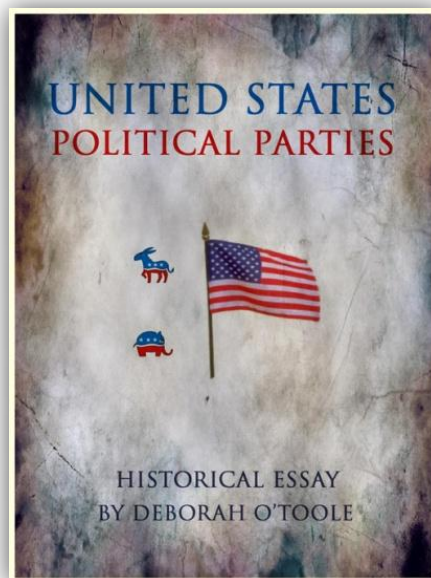
U.S. POLITICAL PARTIES *(excerpt only)*

Note: "U.S. Political Parties" was updated in November 2020 following the presidential election.

Originally formed as a congressional caucus to defend the Bill of Rights and to create opposition to Federalists, Thomas Jefferson founded the Democratic Party in 1792. Six years later, the organization was officially dubbed the "Democratic-Republican Party" whose purpose was to be the political rallying point for "the common man." The group's name was later amended to the Democratic Party.



The Republican Party began brewing in 1854, perpetuated by anti-slavery activists and those who felt the government should allow western land to settlers free of charge. However, it wasn't until 1856 that the party was officially tagged "Republican" when John C. Fremont was nominated for President under the slogan "Free soil, free labor, free speech, free men, Fremont."



"U.S. Political Parties" by Deborah O'Toole is a non-partisan essay about political parties in the United States, including the history of Democrats and Republicans and other political parties, facts about the Electoral College, related trivia, presidential quotes, resources and links for further study. "U.S. Political Parties" is available in e-book format at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Kobo Books.

Q & A: HISTORICAL ESSAYS

Deborah O'Toole is a former staff writer for Ambermont Magazine. She wrote several historical essays on a variety of subjects for the online publication, re-prints of which are now available in multiple e-book formats.

How did you pick topics when writing articles for Ambermont Magazine? Or were the subjects chosen for you?

Ambermont Magazine gave me a great deal of freedom in choosing subjects for my articles. Each month, I'd select a topic, do the research and then write the article. Topics were varied because my interests are rather eclectic. Whatever I wrote about held a fascination for me to begin with, so it was enjoyable to undertake the necessary research and then write my findings and views on the subject.

If my editor Reen liked the content, Ambermont would publish the article and pay me accordingly. There was only one time they didn't run one of my articles, which was the piece about *Jack the Ripper*. My editor thought the content and imagery was too grisly for their readers. Class act that they were, Ambermont paid me for the article even though they never used it in their magazine.

After Ambermont Magazine switched their content to gaming, why didn't you continue to write for them?

I wasn't really interested in writing game reviews or articles about the current trends in gaming. Ambermont Magazine was very understanding about my decision, so there were no hard feelings when I resigned as their staff writer.

What did you do with your articles after leaving Ambermont?

I sort of shelved them for a long time. A few years ago, I decided to include them in the *Class Notes Research Catalog*. Since August 2012, a selection of my articles became available in e-book format from Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

How is researching and writing an article about a specific subject different from writing fiction novels?

It's as different as night and day. In some ways, writing an article is more difficult because the author is hemmed-in by historical facts, along with length constraints. Although it takes longer, writing fiction is more enjoyable because the author can allow their imagination to run free.

If you were to write an article today, what topic do you think you'd choose?

Probably the life and times of Michael Collins, or a piece about Lizzie Borden.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Deborah O'Toole is the author of *Celtic Remnants*, a novel of enduring yet impossible love and betrayal set in the turbulence of Ireland, glamour of London and wilds of Scotland. She is also author of *Glinhaven*, *In the Shadow of the King*, *Mind Sweeper* and *The Crypt Artist*.

In addition, she writes darkly abstract poetry (*Torn Bits & Pieces*) and short-story juvenile fiction (*Short Tales Collection*), and is the author of a series of historical essays, articles and book reviews for *Ambermont Magazine* and *Class Notes*.

Writing as Deidre Dalton, Deborah is author of the "Collective Obsessions Saga," which chronicles the extraordinary loves and dark obsessions between two families sweeping a span of more than 165 years, most of which are set against the backdrop of a magnificent seaside mansion in Maine. Books in the ten-part family saga include *Hearts in Sorow*, *The Advent*, *Quixotic Crossings*, *The Twain Shall Meet*, *Enthrallment*, *The Keeper's Journal*, *Hearts Desires*, *The Twilight*, *Megan's Legacy* and *Limb of Iniquity*.

Also writing as Deidre Dalton, Deborah is author of "The Bloodline Trilogy." The novels follow the uniquely magical yet ominous journey of three women through time. The trilogy includes *Bloodfrost*, *Bloodlust* and *Blood & Soul*.

Using the pseudonym Shenanchie O'Toole, Deborah also writes for the recipe website Food Fare. She is writer and co-editor of a dozen cookbooks, along with more than forty titles in the *Food Fare Culinary Collection*.



Deborah O'Toole

<https://deborahotoole.com/>