

Waterside Press, Hampshire

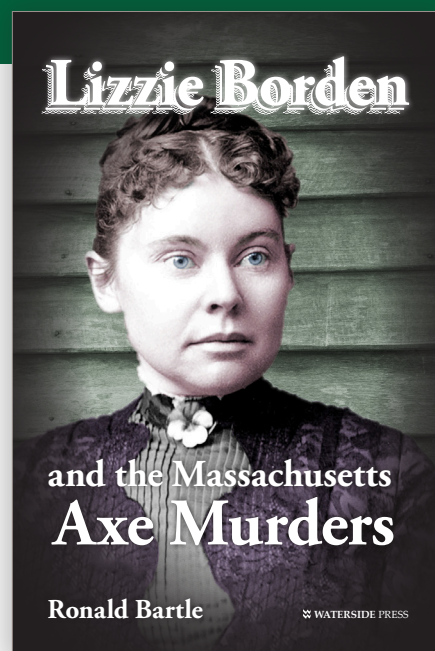
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Advance Information

Title	Lizzie Borden and the Massachusetts Axe Murders	
Author	Ronald Bartle	Foreword
Publisher	Waterside Press	
Format	Paperback 234x156mm, 200 pages (TBC)	
ISBN	978-1-909976-43-6	
Price	£19.95	Rights Worldwide
Publication	26 April 2017	Edition 1st
Category	Legal History, Crime and Punishment, Criminal Justice, Social History.	
Subjects	LAZ=Legal history	
Who will buy it?	Anyone interested in crime and punishment, trials and evidence including students, researchers, libraries and criminal justice practitioners.	



Key Selling Points

- A refreshing account of a very famous case
- Contains legal and other analysis
- A fly-on-the-wall view of the nineteenth century USA justice system
- A true story that reads like a thriller.

The case of Lizzie Borden is one of the most infamous in criminal history having spawned songs, plays and a range of publications. It also ranks as one of the most puzzling. Having been acquitted of the axe murders of both her parents, Borden then simply returned home and carried on as before only to be roundly ostracised by the stoutly religious local community. Prosecutors never charged anyone else with the crimes leaving the case naggingly unsolved.

Here, author Ronald Bartle revisits the events which occurred in Fall River, Massachusetts in 1892. He explains how her answers to police questions were at times strange and contradictory and her accounts to them often bizarre. With so many pointers to her involvement the trial has been compared to that of O J Simpson in the modern day. It is immortalised in legal and other folklore as well as in the children's rhyme:

Lizzie Borden took an axe
And gave her mother forty whacks.
When she saw what she had done,
She gave her father forty-one.

From the text

The essence of the prosecution case in the Borden trial is simply: If Lizzie didn't do it who else could have done? But when that is the proposition before a jury trying a defendant who enjoys from start to finish the presumption of innocence that is not enough... There is a difference between feeling certain that the defendant is guilty — and the sufficiency of the evidence to prove it. The method of criminal trial in Anglo-American jurisprudence is weighted in favour of the defendant... But as a system of justice it is, like democracy, though imperfect, better than all the others.

Author

Ronald Bartle was Deputy Chief Stipendiary Magistrate (now District Judge) for Inner London. His books include *The Telephone Murder: The Mysterious Death of Julia Wallace* (2012); *The Police Witness: A Guide to Presenting Evidence in Court* (1984 onwards), *Three Cases that Shook the Law* (2016) and *Bow Street Beak* (Waterside Press edition 2016).



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Putting justice into words