

# Lizzie Borden



# Tristyn Borden & Niki Kawabata

Lizzie Borden

# Childhood of Lizzie Borden

- Lizzie was the born July 19th, 1860 in Fall River, Massachusetts.
- Sarah Borden (mother) passed away when Lizzie was 3 years old.
- 1865 Andrew Borden remarried to Abby Gray.
- Lizzie dropped out of school her Junior year.
- She was known for shoplifting.



# Events Leading Up To The Murder

1887- Lizzie stops calling her stepmother, Abby “mother”

1891- Someone broke into the house & took some of Abby’s items

1892- July 1st there was a family disagreement because Andrew bought his wife property, and his 2 daughters got mad.

1892- Abby & Andrew woke up with stomach sickness

1892- August 3rd A.M she was unsuccessful at buying poison

-August 3rd P.M she visits her neighbor Alice Russell and tells her that she fears poisoning, that her father has enemies, and that she has seen suspicious characters around the family house. “I’m afraid but that someone will do something.”



# Day Of Crime. August 4th, 1892

- August 4th A.M Abby goes up the stairs to continue her house cleaning on the second floor. Bridget Sullivan, the maid is outdoors cleaning windows for the next hour. Sometime during the next hour, Abby Borden is killed in the guest room by 19 hatchet blows to her head, face, and upper back.
- August 4th A.M Andrew Borden returns home carrying a small parcel. Bridget Sullivan let's Andrew into the house as she hears a muted laugh from upstairs. Lizzie visits her father briefly in the dining room, telling him that Abby had received a message and left the house. Andrew lies down in the sitting room, and Bridget goes to rest in her attic room. Andrew is murdered in the sitting room sofa. Lizzie calls for Bridget, saying someone had killed her father. Lizzie tells a neighbor, Adelaide Churchill, that she had been in the barn looking for "irons" (sinkers for an upcoming fishing trip) at the time of the murder.



# Lack of Evidence

Many things hindered the case and gave false lead away from the suspect, but the major one was the lack of forensic evidence. A hatchet had been discovered in the basement of the Borden home, but its blade was clean and the handle had been broken off—by Lizzie, according to police. The police's reluctance to use any sort of forensic testing also hampered the investigation. Fingerprint testing was then in its infancy and was never conducted as part of their inquiry. They did, however, establish that Lizzie had unsuccessfully attempted to purchase prussic acid, a highly poisonous liquid, in the days before the murders. Though investigators regarded this as evidence of an earlier failed attempt to kill her parents, they were unable to present it at trial.



# Finding Lizzie Borden

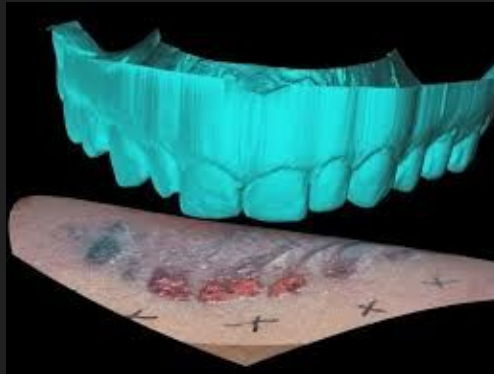


The suspect was found because after committing the crime she pretended to have found her father's dead body on the sofa in their parlor. She called for Bridget Sullivan their maid who shortly after notified police. Her step-mother Abby Borden was found shortly after her father murdered the same way. The suspect Lizzie Borden was finally apprehended on August 11, by Marshal Hilliard. She was arrested because Alice Russell (Lizzie's neighbor) observed Lizzie burning her blue corduroy dress in the kitchen fire that the police needed to see and admit it into evidence. She didn't spend much time in Taunton, north of Fall River. A preliminary hearing was held, she plead "Not Guilty". Judge Josiah Blaisdell finds that there is probable cause to try Lizzie for murder. After Alice Russell told the grand jury about a conversation she had with Lizzie Borden the night before the murder they issued an indictment for murder two days later. On June 5, 1893 the trial opens. On June 20, 1893 the jury returns with a verdict of "Not Guilty".

# Flaws

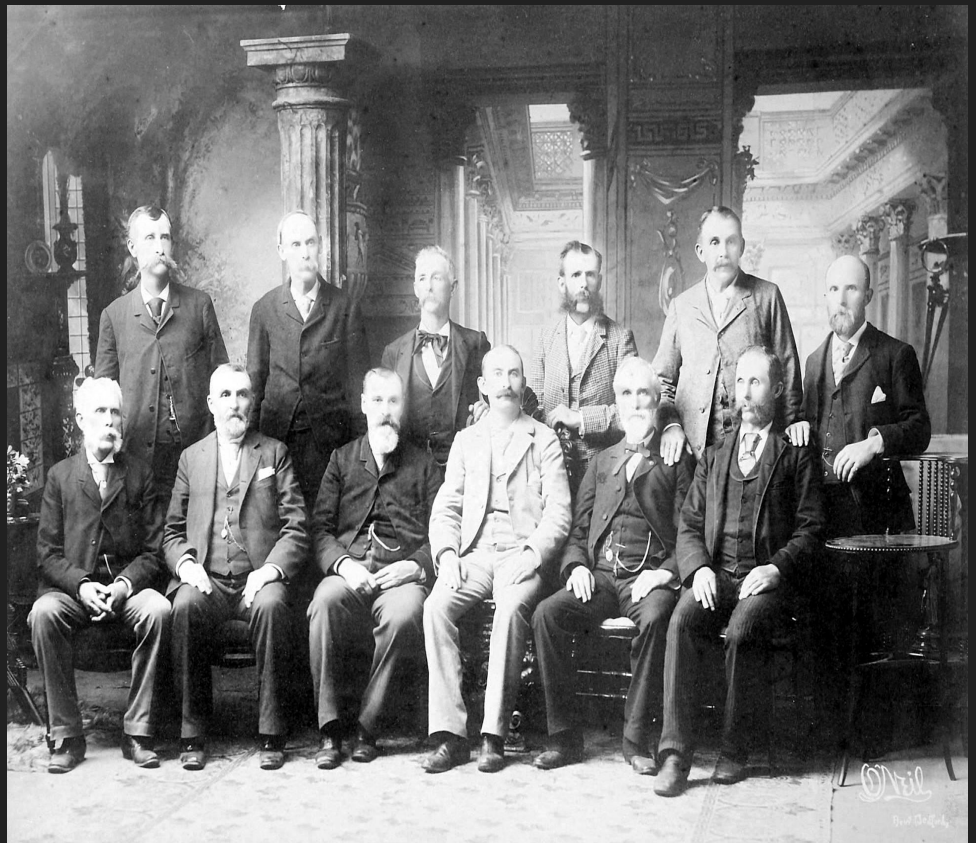
Since there was a lack of evidence there was not much investigators could do. I would not blame the investigators, I blame technology. If there was the knowledge and technology we have today, investigators would have found more evidence at the crime scene.

The collectors that were at the scene should've tested the ax blade for fingerprints. Although it happened in 1892, fingerprinting was established 12 years prior to it.



# The Trial

The prosecution- District Attorney Knowlton and Thomas Moody argued the case for the prosecution. After revealing the skulls of both Lizzie Borden's parents she fainted. The prosecution also presented the ax as the murder weapon Lizzie used. The strongest argument of the prosecution was definitely the state witnesses that testified concerning events in and around the Borden home on the morning of August 4, 1892. The most important of these witnesses, twenty-six-year-old Bridget Sullivan, testified that Lizzie was the only person she saw in the home at the time her parents were murdered, though she provided some consolation to the defense when she said that she had not witnessed, during her over two years of service to the family, signs of the rumored ugly relationship between Lizzie and her stepmother. The prosecution rested its case on June 14 after one final defeat.

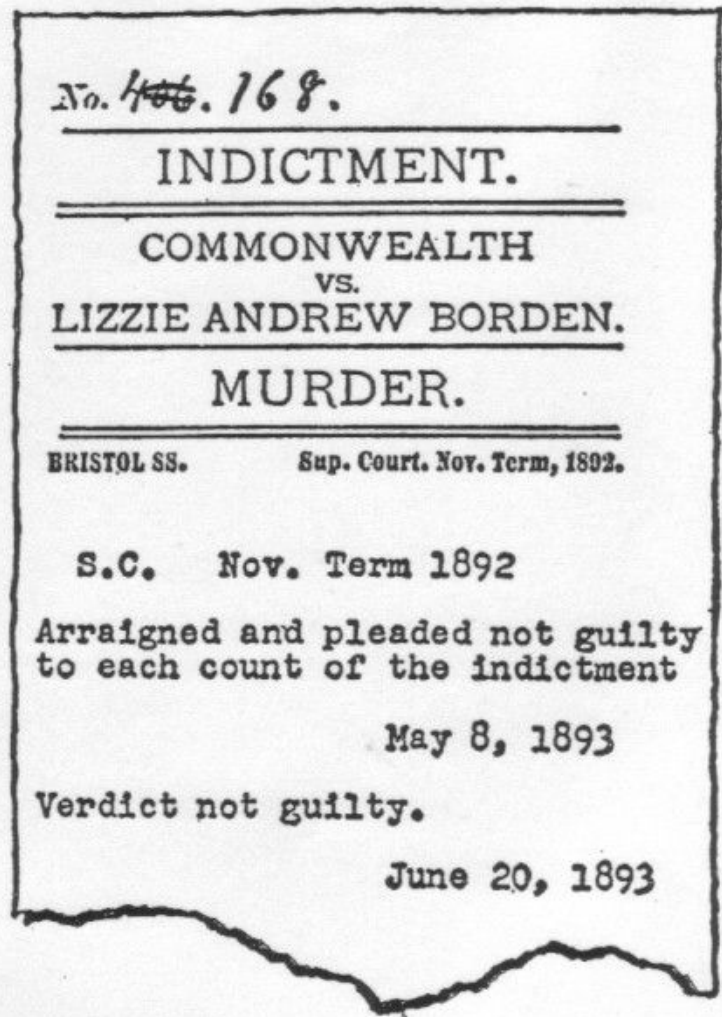


(The Jury)



# The Trial

The defense- Lizzie pleaded not guilty. The defense kept hammering at the contradictory testimony of key prosecution witnesses. The defense also explored holes in the prosecution case: Where, the defense asked, is the handle that supposedly broke off from the axe head that the state hauled into court and claimed was part of the murder weapon? The state had no answer. The defense also exploited the government's own timeline, which allowed from eight to thirteen minutes between Andrew Borden's murder and Lizzie's call to Bridget Sullivan, Robinson tried to suggest the difficulty of washing blood off one's person, clothes, and murder weapon of blood, and then hiding the murder weapon, all within that short span of time. Verdict: "Not Guilty" (June 20, 1893)



# Other Info

Since this murder in 1892 technology has significantly improved. During the time of this murder investigators only had eye witness, allegations, and a trail of lies to prove Lizzies involvement in the murder. If the prosecution were able to use the technology we have today without a doubt they would have been able to show Lizzie Borden was guilty of committing both of the murders.

**\$5,000**  
**REWARD!**

The above Reward will be paid to any one who may secure the  
**Arrest and Conviction**  
of the person or persons, who occasioned the death of  
**Mr. Andrew J. Borden and Wife.**

**EMMA J. BORDEN,  
LIZZIE A. BORDEN.**



Hair Found Near Mrs. Borden's Body  
EDWARD CARROLL PHOTOGRAPHER,  
AND COURTESY OF THE FALL RIVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

# If It Was Today...

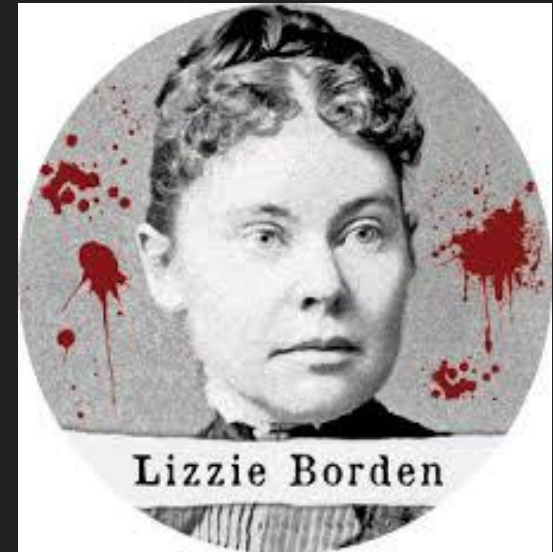
If this were to happen in this time period collectors would take pictures of the crime and the area around it. Fingerprinting would play a huge role, testing the ax blade to see if there was any prints left on it would be key. Investigators would be more observant and see if there are stains on the possible suspects clothes.



# Our opinion

We both undoubtedly believe Lizzie Borden committed both murders of her step-mother Abby Borden and her father Andrew Borden.

We would have done many things throughout this investigation differently. Now days we have much more advanced technology and better knowledge of Forensic science. We know much more about the steps of finding the criminals. The lack of forensic evidence was what kept Lizzie from being convicted. The hatred towards her step-mother Abby We think Lizzie was a selfish adult who wanted all of her father's money for herself that's why she committed this horrendous crime.



# Work Cited



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