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New Lizzie Andrew Borden Photograph Discovered

<http://www.hatchetonline.com/HatchetOnline/index.htm>

ORLANDO, Florida—A previously unseen image of Lizzie Andrew Borden, who was accused and acquitted of the hatchet murders of her father and stepmother, has been discovered. Stefani Koorey, Ph.D., editor and publisher of the online scholarly magazine *The Hatchet: Lizzie Borden's Journal of Murder, Mystery & Victorian History*, found the photo recently as she was conducting research on the Borden murders of 1892 at a Massachusetts museum. Lizzie is perhaps 8 or 9 years old in the new image.

“I found it with Borden scholar and author Leonard Rebello, the author of *Lizzie Borden: Past and Present*,” says Koorey. “Between us we have fifty years of experience studying the Borden murder case, and we knew immediately what it was and who it was. Len and I are very excited by the find as there are only eight known images of Lizzie Borden, and none from this period in her life.”

“In August of last year,” said Koorey, “I found the Andrew Borden portrait at Luther’s Museum in Swansea, Massachusetts, just sitting there gathering dust and forgotten. The portrait was unmarked, and after some research it was determined that it was Andrew, Lizzie’s father. Because Len Rebello had some research to show that there was also a Sarah Borden portrait (Andrew’s first wife and mother to Lizzie and Emma), I went back with Len and Borden writer Michael Brimbau, and, with the help of the curator of the Swansea Historical Society, Carl Becker, found the Sarah in December, right before Christmas. Then this! It has been a tremendous year in Lizzie Borden studies!”

“But not only that,” said Koorey, “Len and I believe we also located a previously unidentified photograph of John Morse, Lizzie and Emma’s uncle, who was visiting 92 Second Street the day of the murders but was paying a call on a family member nearby on Weybosset Street. And if that were not enough, we think we also found an unknown Emma Borden as a child! We additionally identified a photo album that belonged to Lizzie and Emma Borden that was donated to the Swansea Historical Society by Orrin Gardner, Lizzie and Emma’s cousin, and good friend of Emma’s and legatee to many of Emma’s possessions when she died in 1927. Emma was waked in Orrin’s house in Touisset. The first two images in Lizzie and Emma’s family album are of Andrew and Sarah Borden, but many of the photos are unidentified.”

“They Borden sisters’ album even contains a cabinet photograph of Charles Stratton and family—otherwise known as Tom Thumb—who lived in Middleboro, Massachusetts. Apparently, it was not uncommon for folks to own these images as they were sold publicly for very little money.”

The Sarah Anthony Morse Borden image is a charcoal portrait, the type that was made by photographer’s studios in the 19th century, probably from a photograph, and a companion portrait to the previously discovered Andrew Borden image. Reports Koorey, “Popular in the 19th and 20th centuries, charcoal portraits were relatively inexpensive to produce. One technique was to overpaint enlarged photographs with charcoal and white pencil to enhance the original photo and retouch the image to produce a better-looking subject. Here, the human artist served the same function as Photoshop does today. Another charcoal portraiture technique was to enlarge the photograph and make the drawing *from* the image, but not *on* the image. It saved the subject from having to sit for hours for the likeness to be completed as the artist used the photograph, and not the actual human, as their guide. Apparently, photography studios routinely employed artists to make the portraits, sometimes charging as little as \$2 for the process.”

The Hatchet will premiere the Lizzie, Sarah, John Morse, and Emma pictures in its February 2008 issue and include an article by Koorey on the discovery. Interested parties can view the image from the cover of the magazine at either <http://MondoLizzie.com>, <http://LizzieAndrewBorden.com>, or <http://hatchetonline.com/HatchetOnline/index.htm>.

Stefani Koorey, who holds a Ph.D. in Theatre History and Dramatic Criticism from Penn State, is the webmaster of LizzieAndrewBorden.com, the preeminent Lizzie Borden web site, the administrator of the Lizzie Borden Society Forum, author of the blog MondoLizzie.com, and the editor and publisher of *The Hatchet: Lizzie Borden’s Journal of Murder, Mystery & Victorian History*.

The Hatchet is an online quarterly journal devoted to the examination and investigation of murder, Victorian history, the Borden Murders of 1892, and the history of Fall River, Massachusetts. Written for both the novice and seasoned Lizzie Borden enthusiast, *The Hatchet* takes a literate and entertaining approach through wide-ranging feature essays, reviews and criticism, interviews, fiction, art, poetry, and humor. Fact-filled, *The Hatchet* contains contributions by authors, poets, non-fiction writers, Lizzie Borden scholars, and historians worldwide. Submissions are open and all authors and artists will receive monetary compensation for their work.

Koorey, an international speaker on all things Borden, recently appeared as an expert on the case on the Discovery Channel’s documentary *Lizzie Borden Had An Axe* (2004). She also served as a consultant on the project and worked closely with producer Tim Evans of Morningstar Entertainment on locating other experts on the case and even advised former detective Tom Lange (of OJ Simpson fame) on where best to conduct the luminal test of the house.

For information, please contact Stefani Koorey at peartreepress@cfl.rr.com or at 407-761-2361 for further information.

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