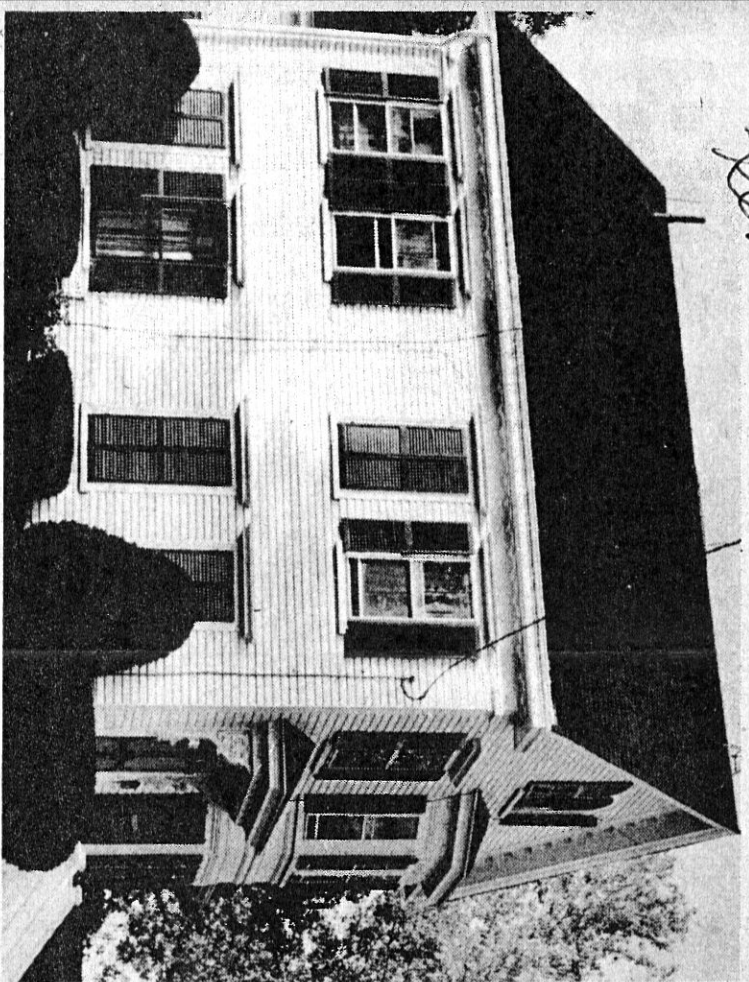


Next house (Ray's sister never here now)



A SAFE HAVEN, this Newmarket house provided Emma Borden refuge from the glare of national attention that followed her sister Lizzie's trial and acquittal in connection with their step-mother's and father's murder in 1892. Lizzie, above right, remained in Fall River, Mass., but Emma later moved to Newmarket, where she spent her days in seclusion.



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Emma Borden Gets Away With Murder?

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

For over 90 years, schoolchildren have chanted the strange tale of Lizzie Borden, the Fall River, Massachusetts spinster accused, tried, and later acquitted of the bloody murder of her father and stepmother. What has become the classic 'unsolvable' crime is now the subject of another in an lengthy parade of books and treatments, but this investigation leads to a quiet house in Newmarket, New Hampshire.

It was here that Emma Borden, her sister's most staunch supporter, settled several years after the crime. According to Frank Spiering, author of 'Lizzie,' Emma may have been Newmarket's most notorious citizen, for it was she who, quite literally, got away with murder.

It Began In August, 1892

'The story of the century' began one hot August morning in 1892, when police in Fall River were summoned to

father's entire fortune by the scheming Abby. Retreating from what had become a daily round of argument, both Lizzie and Emma left Fall River to visit friends. Lizzie, however, suddenly decided to return, leaving Emma to continue on to Fairhaven.

Back at the Borden house, Lizzie resolved to end the competition once and for all. According to Spiering's account, she purchased arsenic and poisoned Andrew and Abby's meal. Abby was violently ill, but to what must have been Lizzie's disappointment, did not die. Andrew was also ill, but remained healthy enough to discuss a new will. That discussion was overheard by his younger daughter.

It was a few days later, on August 4, 1892, that Fall River police made their gruesome discovery. Their interviews with Lizzie and Bridget pointed to unknown intruders, but certain inconsistencies soon surfaced. Lizzie told investigators the family had risen about 8:30 a.m. Andrew soon left on business, saying he would return for the noon meal. Abby, planning to change bedsheets in the guest room upstairs, instructed Bridget to begin washing windows. Grumbling about the over 100-degree heat, Bridget began her chores, leaving the house for the barn several times to refill her water bucket. Lizzie told police she remained

seekers jamming the street outside. Emma arrived after receiving word in Fairhaven of the tragedy. In Fall River, she found her father and stepmother dead and her sister the target of endless questioning.

Even after the passage of several days, the activity remained, but the focus of police efforts was not the 'unknown intruders' but Lizzie Borden herself. Investigators, after reasoning the only two people in the house on the morning of August 4 were Lizzie and Bridget. They discounted the theory that Bridget murdered Abby, returned to her window-washing, and then hacked Andrew Borden. Lizzie, then, was the logical suspect, ... or was she? No one checked with Emma's friends in Fairhaven to learn her whereabouts on the morning of the murder. There seemed no need to. Even without a witness, blood-stained clothing, and a murder weapon, Fall River police were soon convinced they had their murderer, in this case a 32-year-old spinster and sometime Sunday schoolteacher, Lizzie Borden.

The Trial Began

In November the grand jury handed down murder in-

uninvited, the Borden maid, and the tireless form of 70-year-old Andrew Borden, his face bludgeoned beyond recognition. In a search of the house, a neighbor later discovered Abby Borden lying in a second-floor guest room, also the victim of a bloody attack that had left the walls bloodstained and her mangled head partially severed from her body.

The murder of the town's richest resident and his wife shocked Fall River, as did the possibility the murderer was still on the loose. The only people known to be in the house at the time were Bridget and Lizzie, and both swore they had not seen anyone enter the house. After washing windows for most of the morning, Bridget had retreated from the heat in her third-floor attic room. Lizzie, police were told, was in the barn in back of the house, looking for sinkers for her fishing line. When she returned, she found her father and called for help. The house's other occupant, 43-year-old Emma Borden, a spinster like her sister, was away visiting friends in Fairhaven.

Learning from Lizzie that her father had had enemies, investigators had first suspected unknown intruders, but what they and the shocked residents of Fall River did not know was that the Borden's home life provided a telling glimpse into the murderer's true identity.

Andrew Borden may have been Fall River's most affluent citizen, but he was also a tight-fisted, dour man with an almost-fanatic desire to save his every cent. He refused to install electricity, or even the most basic conveniences in his home, and watched every penny with an eagle-eye. The Borden family was on a tight budget, despite the amassing of a fortune later estimated at \$500,000, close to \$12 million today. Andrew Borden knew too well the value of a dollar, and spending his thousands on luxuries was not his plan. Instead, he continued investment in property and real estate, making more money through extensive business dealings.

Household Was An Armed Camp

It was the family fortune that led to transforming of the Borden household into an armed camp. Abby Durfee Gray, who had married Andrew following the death of his first wife, effectively monopolized her husband's attention. She often complained to others that the two girls, especially Emma, were openly antagonistic, and despite efforts to get close to Lizzie, Emma had always stood in the way.

Shortly before the murders, the girls learned that Abby had succeeded in achieving not only their father's affections, but his money as well. Several months before the murders, Andrew gave a house he owned in Fall River to Abby's sister, Sarah Whitehead, and later announced his intention to put the nearby family farm in Abby's name. Lizzie and Emma, arguing their father had promised them the property, were each given \$2,500 for their interests in the property.

The money proved little comfort, nor did it ease the girls' growing fears they would soon be cheated out of their

Examining Abby's body, police later determined she had been killed at approximately 9:30 a.m. Both Bridget and Lizzie, however, heard and saw nothing. At 10:45 a.m., as Abby lay on the guest room floor in a growing puddle of blood, Andrew returned home. Bridget later testified that as she struggled to unlatch the front door's three locks to let Andrew in, she heard Lizzie laugh from upstairs. Told by his daughter Abby had gone out, Andrew went to his bedroom using the back stairs, returning to nap in the first floor sitting room until the noon meal. Bridget went to her attic room, Lizzie supposedly went to the barn, and the murderer struck a second time.

By 7 p.m. the day of the murder, the Borden house was still in an uproar, with investigators peering into closets in their frantic search for a murder weapon and curiosity



Resident Remembers White-Haired Emma

Emma Borden was not merely a faceless player in an almost-100 year-old tragedy to Royce Carpenter. To the 15-year-old Newmarket boy doing chores at Emma's home, she was a polite, white-haired woman who called him by name.

'She always called me by my name,' said Carpenter, now 80 years old and a resident of Epping. 'I didn't know who she was, of course.'

Carpenter was born after the Fall River murders, but does remember his parents discussing the event. News of the deaths of Abby and Andrew Borden in the faraway town of Fall River had made headlines, reaching countless cities and small towns, and Newmarket was no exception. But to the young Royce Carpenter, the murders were merely another event that had occurred in the years before his birth. It didn't interest him. 'I didn't know much about it.'

He did know Emma, but not as the star witness or an accused murderers' supportive sister. She was only the woman who lived in the Newmarket house he traveled to after school to do chores. Milking the cows and chopping wood, Carpenter would see her sitting in the kitchen and she would greet him briefly as he brought wood from the barn.

Did they talk about the weather? 'No, we didn't,' laughed Carpenter, 'but there is one thing that sticks in my mind. She never went out, but I think she used to go into the barn, when I wasn't there. Emma would ask the young man

routinely make the front page of every newspaper in the nation. After 13 days of testimony, the verdict was handed down - Not guilty.

The two girls, by now in possession of Andrew's estate, returned to Fall River and what they hoped would be a normal life. But as one reporter noted at the trial's close: 'That was the end of one of the greatest modern criminal trials, and it left people where they began, asking one another who killed Mr. and Mrs. Borden.'

According to author Frank Spiering, it was Emma, Andrew Borden's eldest daughter, who had channeled her hatred and resentment of Abby and her love for her sister into a bloodthirsty attack on that hot and humid August morning.

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about his work, if it was difficult to pile wood as high as the stack in the barn, and wasn't it hard work? 'I was raised on a farm, but since she came from the city, I guess she didn't know too much about it.'

Despite the possible barnyard wanderings, Emma kept to the house and kept to herself. Twice a year, a chauffeured limousine would arrive to whisk her to parts unknown (author Spiering says Emma went to Boston to check on her stored fur at Jordan Marsh). Carpenter remembers the limousine, but said Emma generally stayed inside, sometimes sitting on the open porch.

Eva Edgeley, now deceased, lived across the street and she often remarked on Emma's habit of staying indoors. Emma made her last appearance in Newmarket June 10, 1927. After shattering her hip in a fall, she died, eight days after her famous sister, Lizzie. The Newmarket embalming firm of Brown and Potter (on the site of today's Kent Funeral Home) handled the arrangements, charging \$25 for the actual embalming and \$110 (one dollar per mile) for transportation to Warren, RI.

Emma is buried in Fall River, having planned all along to forsake her adopted town of Newmarket for a final resting place in a town her sister had unwittingly thrust into the glare of the national spotlight. Unlike Newmarket, who hosted the less infamous of the Borden sisters, Fall River was made a part of modern history.

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