

Chapter 1 : 10 Lasting Historical Mysteries From Around The World - Listverse

The historical mystery or historical whodunit is a subgenre of two literary genres, historical fiction and mystery. The works are set in a time period considered historical from the author's perspective, and the central plot involves the solving of a mystery or crime (usually murder).

A historical mystery is defined as any mystery that is set more than 50 years prior to the publication of the book. That means a book written today about the past is a historical mystery. An Agatha Christie novel written in the present is not a historical novel. The book can fall in any era or any country. The historical mystery can be hard-boiled or cozy with a private investigator or an older woman who sits in her cave. The breadth of the category is staggering, and many readers enjoy learning something about a bygone era while being entertained. The only downside to a historical is that people know how the story ends. If the story uses any real events or real people in the narrative, then the reader will know the outcome. If the outcome varies from recorded history, then the novel becomes an alternative universe novel. Since the people of an earlier era did not possess the same perspective as people living in the current day, those differences must be explained either in dialogue or thoughts to the reader. Southern people in thought slavery was okay. In Victorian Times, women had very few rights. Level of Plot Plot is a major part of any historical novel. The action has been set in an earlier time for a reason. The plot will be dependent on many factors that are appropriate for that time. The Reformation was not a great time to be Catholic, so the murder of a priest might be more expected and the sleuth will need to figure out who committed the crime. Level of Mystery The level of mystery is high. A character in ancient Rome has only what his eyes and ears can learn. Level of Suspense The level of suspense can vary greatly. The mysteries can be somewhat cozy or may impact the fate of the nation. In one historical, the villains want to blow up the newly built Brooklyn Bridge, and the heroes must stop them. Level of Thriller Historical mysteries can take place at the highest levels of government and affect world politics. Presidents and Kings can be threatened and wars might occur because of the acts of these rogues. Level of Strangeness These books can feel strange at times, because real-life characters can be added as background or as main characters in the work. Any action by these people are fiction and not real. Level of Violence The level of violence can vary drastically. The books may be cozy to the point of being bloodless or can be awash in blood and guts. Level of Action The level of action can vary as well. The books can be traditional whodunits with more focus on deductive reasoning or hardboiled shoot-em-ups. They all can be classified as mysteries, but they can easily fit into the thriller category, depending on who is involved and the stakes of the crime. They can be suspenseful with timelines that must be met to stave off disaster. They can also be beautifully written, and many are, using the lyrical language of an earlier day. Many of these books have a murder to be solved as the plot motivator.

Chapter 2 : racedaydvl.com: Historical - Mystery: Books

The historical mystery or historical whodunit is a subgenre of two literary genres, historical fiction and mystery fiction. These works are set in a time period considered historical from the author's perspective, and the central plot involves the solving of a mystery or crime (usually murder).

Share Shares 65 Some mysteries have been baffling the world for a couple of years, while others have been around for centuries. On this list are just a few examples of dated mysteries that continue to intrigue those trying to solve them. Some are very tangible and accessible things that experts can examine all they like. Others are missing in action and are still searched for to this day. He even published a book that same year in which he described the discovery in detail. He claimed the city was built in the form of an arc, with some parts hidden under the sand and other parts visible. Over the years, these findings turned into rumors about an ancient city right in the center of the Kalahari, which is now covered completely by desert sands. Apparently, even the Khoi Khoi in the area have stated that there used to be an ancient city which was not built by them. Historian Gustav Prelude also claimed that the Khoi Khoi were willing to lead him to the ruins in the north of the area and to a place even further where precious stones had once been discovered. However, the mystery has now become somewhat of a myth, with some people claiming to have seen quarries or even shipwrecks in the middle of the desert. Also, nothing came of these searches. Then, in , another expedition was undertaken to the Kalahari broadcast on the Travel Channel , and walls and rocks were found that matched the original description by Farini. However, it still remains unclear whether these structures were man-made. Then the builders realized that no staircase had been planned for the choir loft. A standard staircase would not have sufficed, considering the small size of the chapel, and carpenters were at a loss as to how to create a staircase in such a small space. Joseph for nine days straight. The day after their marathon prayer session, a strange-looking man appeared at the door of the chapel. He told the sisters he was able to build them a staircase that would fit into the chapel, but they would have to give him complete privacy during the time it took to complete the task. Therefore, he worked alone in the chapel for three months, with only the basic tools he carried with him: When the staircase was completed, the man disappeared without ever giving his name to anyone. The staircase itself rose to 6. However, there were no nails or center support for this to even be possible. The shape of the helix should not have been able to bear the weight of people using the stairs, considering there was no middle column. Ten years after this strange incident, a railing was added to the staircase. In later years, the wood was tested by the manager of the chapel, and it was found to be an unknown variety of spruce not found in the area. The nuns at the time attributed the staircase as being the work of St. Joseph himself and insisted on referring to it as a miracle. Who the man was and how he was able to built the staircase so perfectly with basic tools remains a mystery. Is it just a legend that endured through the years, or is there something more to the story? Martyr Near the town of Pomorie in Bulgaria, among vineyards and orchards sits a man-made mystery. Named the Pomorie tomb or Dome Tomb, the structure is a semi-cylindrical vault with an empty column in the middle that is bigger at its top where it comes together with the external wall. The tomb is estimated to have been built between the second and fourth centuries AD. The place was reconstructed in the late s. Experts have been unable to establish a specific name for the structure or how it was so accurately built during that time. When research into the tomb began at the end of the 19th century, Czech brothers and archaeologists Karel and Hermann Skorpil made several drawings and notes about the structure. They assumed it was a tomb, as do most historians today. However, some researchers believe that it is actually a mausoleum built as a monument for a hero of those times. Research is ongoing to establish just what the purpose of this ancient structure was and who exactly built it. Some believe it was built by a wealthy Thracian family. Wheels Through Time Renovations of an apartment building in Chicago in yielded a little more than the plumber carrying out the work was expecting. He immediately set out to find the first owners of the building. They claimed that their son had stolen the motorcycle from its original owner before leaving to fight in World War I. They also said their son was the one who hid the motorcycle in the wall, but he was killed during the war, and therefore, the motorcycle remained hidden until the plumber

discovered it. Founder Dale Walksler uses the bike to this day, amazed that it still runs perfectly. Experts say that the complex engineering of the Traub motorcycle surpasses all of the classic motorcycles that came after it, and its parts have not been seen on any other motorcycles. Its engine is one of a kind, as is its brake system. However, the biggest mystery seems to be the creator of the Traub. This is in spite of a letter that Traub wrote to *Motorcycle Illustrated* in , in which he claimed to have built a 4-horsepower motorcycle. He also owned a bike shop and used to live in Chicago, close to the apartment building where the Traub motorcycle was discovered in . Seemingly just like any other small town on the outside, there is a secret in its core that has yet to be fully explained by scientists. While searching through the remains, they were astounded to find that many of them were completely free of decay and decomposition, even though the bodies had been there a very long time. One of the grave diggers, Eduardo Cifuentes, alerted the authorities, and subsequent examination of the bodies revealed that not only were they mummified in some natural, unexplained manner, but their clothes were also in very good condition. Other corpses in the cemetery were reduced to mere bones as was to be expected, but the mummies remained pristine, despite showing no evidence of having been embalmed. Theories for the cause of this phenomenon range from the diet of the locals, which includes unique fruits called the guatila and the balu, to the weather and high altitude of the area. Some of these bodies are now on display inside glass cases in a museum. The museum does not have any measures in place to preserve corpses, yet the San Bernardo mummies still refuse to yield to rot and decay. Wojciech Stattler Almost years ago, a search was initiated for the lost tombs of the Maccabees. Those who took part included scholars, experts, travelers, and so on. However, nothing ever came of the search, and it continues to this day. The family that piqued the interest of experts worldwide consisted of a Jewish priest named Mattathias and his five sons, who rebelled against the pagan rule of the Hellenistic Seleucids. When the priest died, his son Judah continued the campaign and eventually successfully freed Judea from the Seleucids and ensured the liberation of the temple. During the reinstatement or rededication of the temple, the festival of Hanukkah was born. It is their lost tombs that are still the center of a fervent search by archaeologists today. For now, the location of these royal tombs remains a mystery. Eva Jensen At the end of , employees of the Great Basin National Park in Nevada were going about their daily tasks when they stumbled across a strange find. Up against a tree leaned a Winchester rifle. More than , of these guns were made between and . Theories include that the rifle may have belonged to a cowboy or gold prospector who left it behind while searching for greener pastures. This would also mean that the rifle had been standing upright in the park for more than years. However, most find this scenario implausible. According to experts, another, more believable, theory would be that someone inherited the rifle and decided to leave it in the park for unknown reasons. The rifle is being held at the Cody Firearms Museum, but the aim is to eventually return it to the park for display purposes. Conrad Haas It took until for someone to discover a document named the Sibiu manuscript. The document contains pages and dates back to the s. The writing inside, however, is what has stumped experts. It includes technical specifications regarding artillery, ballistics, and multistage rockets. The author of the manuscript, Conrad Haas, included drawings of the rocket, which he designed and built. It is believed that the Sibiu manuscript is the first document detailing the science of rocket-building. Haas also detailed the idea of modern spacecraft, rocket fuel, liquid fuel, and delta wings. How it came to be that someone figured out rocket science hundreds of years before astronauts in the Apollo, Gemini, and Mercury programs used the technology remains a mystery. Wikimedia As soon as Genghis Khan drew his last breath in at the age of 65, several legends about his death were born. Some speculated that he died after falling from his horse or during battle against the Chinese. Others believed that he succumbed to pneumonia or, alternatively, lost too much blood after being castrated. Legend further obscures events by stating that a river was diverted over his grave to keep anyone from ever finding it. Another story has it that 1, horses were forced to run over the grave, after which trees were planted over it. Inside the chamber, they discovered a sarcophagus and an intact tomb. At one end of the sarcophagus , they found the skeleton of a young boy; at the other, they found the skeleton of a woman in her thirties. It is thought that they were sacrificed in order to accompany the woman whose remains were found inside the sarcophagus to the afterlife. Alongside it, Cruz and his team found a collection of jade and pearl objects. A diadem of jade beads was found around the skull as well as remains of what had been a funeral mask. Unfortunately, none of the

findings pointed to the identity of the woman. Studies conducted on the remains revealed that she had been around 60 when she died and that she loved eating meat. It is believed that she was an important person, considering that her burial chamber was located next to that of Pakal the Great. The remains have since been returned to Palenque, and the research into her identity continues. Estelle lives in Gauteng, SA.

Chapter 3 : Best Historical Mystery Books | racedaydvl.com

The Forgotten Painting: A Historical Mystery Novella - Kindle edition by Gabriel Farago. Download it once and read it on your Kindle device, PC, phones or tablets. Use features like bookmarks, note taking and highlighting while reading The Forgotten Painting: A Historical Mystery Novella.

From stories based on true crimes to conspiracies, the importance of getting the history right is crucial. Not just right, but the history has to be believable. A good historical crime book needs to effortlessly create the background to the story without overwhelming it with detail. Each writer has to decide where to draw the line between a history textbook and a modern story. Sometimes the story just has to come first. In no particular order, these are my current favorites of historical crime books, most set in Great Britain, and most taking place at least years ago. They have all drawn that line between history and story slightly differently, and all have fascinated and sometimes haunted me. Bernie McGill, *The Butterfly Cabinet* Article continues after advertisement In s Northern Ireland, wealthy Harriet Ormond starts a prison sentence for killing her child, four year old Charlotte, hanged in a cupboard. But the story is far more complicated than it seems. The brutality of the crime is matched by the coolness of the mother, who is revealed through her prison diaries, a lonely and dominated child who grew into a difficult woman. *The Butterfly Cabinet* is based on a true story, the death of Mary Helen Montagu aged three, who died at the hands of her mother in in Portstewart. Annie Montagu received twelve months for murder. A very different time is evoked through the book, where the silent Charlotte hangs over both narratives. So much historical fiction is centered on capital cities, but Bernie McGill conjures a different world of Northern Ireland, with its divisions and class system. Ellis Peters, *A Morbid Taste for Bones* Still one of my favorite series of historical crime, *Brother Cadfael* is an ex-soldier turned to living as a monk in , one of the most turbulent and lawless periods of English history. Ellis Peters brought this distant period to life, and the world was so wonderfully researched it was convincing. To enhance the spiritual reputation of the abbey, Prior Robert decides to take the bones of a Welsh saint from her tomb back to the abbey. There are objections from local landowner Rhisiart, who is found with an arrow in his chest. For fans of historical fiction, Ellis Peters takes us back into an alien world before law and order, before government, when slaves had only just crept up the social ladder to become serfs, and lords ruled like kings. Parris creates a world that is vivid and fast changing, in a time when the whole of England was seething with plots to defend or overthrow the queen, her government or the church. The book is filled with devious, intertwined plots, horrible murders and plenty of action. *The Bone Garden* In the present day, Julia Hamill discovers a female skull in her garden, from the distant past but clearly the victim of a murder. While you can enjoy this simply as a crime puzzle to solve, it takes the reader back to a time before modern medicine when doctors went from an autopsy to women giving birth, spreading fatal infections without knowing it. Julia uncovers the mystery of the skull and the killings through letters and interviews with descendants of the principals. But was a dark time, where people fought for survival in a new world. Tess Gerritsen summons the darkness, the indifference and the constant danger in a terrifying read. The scandalous story was followed by Victorians in the paper, various low born people like the nursemaid being suspected. Detective Whicher comes into the house with an objective viewpoint, battling with the snobbery and entitledness of the grieving family. They protect the person who starts to stand out as a suspect: It becomes a battle between the classes, between emotion and reason, and the police and the press. Somehow she blends facts with fiction so seamlessly the reader takes it all as one story. Kate Summerscale finds the invisible division between the working class detective and the middle class family and shows us every misdirection, every suspicion. Although I knew the case, I was turned around, puzzled and fascinated by the story. Karen Maitland, *The Owl Killers* As a historical writer I stay safely in the modern era, a time from the Tudors onwards where there was some law and order, where parliament ruled with the monarch. But in most people grubbed a living from a little land rented to them by their all-powerful lord or the church. But no-one had power over the pagan traditions of centuries. In , a group set up a religious community run by women, for women. They could leave when they wanted, they could even marry. Into one of these beguinages comes a high born girl, the witness to a gruesome murder and raped by

what she thinks is a demon. The villagers start to blame the beguinae for crops failing and cattle dying. Fear builds until violence is just a word or deed away. The story roams across many narrators, as the church fails to keep order and the Owl Masters take over. This is the book that made me want to write historical crime. Karen Maitland created a world so strange I almost wanted to stop on each page and look around and wonder at the filth, the poverty, the lives of these people, at the mercy of nature, ignorance and their corrupt masters. This world is set in the time of Dickens but this is no morality tale. The story is set entirely in the lowest layers of society from servants to the slums to the asylum. The women prey on their victims and each other, and the story feels as stifled and confined as the characters. Sarah Waters paints a picture of a dangerous place and time with dark humor as well as hurt and rage. Despite the melodrama, the characters are believable and their motives are understandable. The twists and turns are sudden and surprising, and ultimately satisfying. In this rebellious island, he is called to examine the body of a slave girl. Ruso realizes an injured slave girl, Tilla, has information and buys her as a cook to tease more information out of her. Ruth Downie meticulously builds the world, not of sunny Roman courtyards and temples but a working regiment in an occupied country. It never feels like a history lecture, the world is shown deftly through the everyday life and actions of the characters. Ruso is irritable, stressed and overworked, but his curiosity draws him into the mystery. Ruso and Tilla are an irresistible pairing, the intelligent British girl with the cynical doctor go on to investigate crimes in a whole series of books. The characters are very recognizable to a modern reader, and the whole book has humor running through it. I can especially recommend reading the first page, where a list of characters foretells the story cleverly. The historical background is authoritative and brilliantly researched. Despite his frustrations, Ruso has a satisfying arc through to a new partnership and the rest of the series. Tom fights to be released if he can solve a murder committed inside the prison. The actual prison is recreated from diaries and documents from the period. Well researched, the book shows a society devastated by financial collapse, gambling, exploitation and amorality. Tom, the central character, is our eyes and ears and the prison is as strange and terrifying a place for him as it seems to us. Debtors had no rights until they paid off their debts, and would be expected to provide rent and food for their involuntary lodgings. Destined for the church, Tom has fallen into gambling and sin, and the prison offers a chance for some kind of redemption. Almost every character is a rogue, including Tom, yet many are likeable, making a living as best they can. This is not a cosy, period drama, this is fast and dramatic with great characters. Graeme Macrae Burnet, *His Bloody Project* A tale told by the seventeen year old accused murderer, Roderick Macrae, from prison in Inverness, Scotland who is suspected of three violent deaths. The story, set in , is of oppressed Scottish crofters scratching a living on the edge of the western coast in Culduie. There is a real sense of the cultured people of Inverness reveling in the goings-on in Culduie. Roderick becomes a spectacle, a specimen shaped by his environment. It asks questions about the effects of brutality and emotional neglect throughout, as well as exploring the murders themselves. The last third of the book answers some questions but leaves the reader with more.

Chapter 4 : Mystery Page Turners: The Historical Mystery Novel

The story of how modern science finally tracked down the observer's mistake has all the makings of a blockbuster movie: a scientist with a hunch, a series of clues, and a daring investigator.

Facts provides a number of clues, and she challenges students to figure out the subject using those clues. Each game contains either four or five clues. Each game centers around a particular curriculum theme in United States or world history. Time Required The time required for this activity is about one to two class periods. Students need time to check out the clues, determine a research strategy, conduct research, and submit their solution to the History Mystery. Time may vary depending on the reading level and problem-solving skill of the students. Learning Objectives Use problem-solving and critical thinking skills Analyze clues Explore topics and events from the 4th–8th social studies curriculum Use search terms to conduct Internet research Use an online interactive form Materials Computer access How to Use This Game History Mystery is designed as an independent student activity, which can be played by individual students or by a small group who works together to figure out the mystery person, place, event, or object in history. Teachers should explain to the students that the incentive of the game is to solve the mystery in the fewest clues. Throughout the game, students are encouraged to conduct research by using the clues they have collected thus far. They can "investigate" the mystery by using the online search option built into the game. However, the results are not guaranteed to be found in those Web sites, meaning that students will have to devise various research strategies, depending on each game. Students are also encouraged, for example, to use offline resources, such as textbooks, library books, and maps. The game provides an excellent opportunity for collaborative research by small groups of students. Once students have conducted research and come up with possible solutions, they should return to the game and submit their answer in the blanks provided within the game. If their answer is correct, they will receive a particular designation as an investigator of historical mysteries and be able to learn more about the mystery subject. Extensions Have students create their own time line with time periods indicated but no events marked. Each time students solve a mystery, have them locate and mark the person, place, event, or object in the appropriate place on their own time line. Have your class create its own History Mystery Museum exhibit, where students can display information and artifacts e. Have students use their social studies textbooks and related classroom materials to create their own History Mystery game. Small groups of students could develop clues similar to those used in History Mystery and have their classmates attempt to discover the solution. Themes should center around the particular topics being studied in class. An activity center with clues printed out on cards could make this an independent enrichment activity within a classroom. Play a version of "Twenty Questions" around history themes. The teacher or a student could think of a historical person, place, event, or object, and students would be allowed 20 questions to try to guess the mystery. Questions must be worded so that answers can be either "yes" or "no. Themes should center around topics being studied in class. National Standards Correlations In playing History Mystery, students identify people, places, events, and objects important in United States and world history. Participation in History Mystery especially correlates with the following themes in social studies: Culture People, Places, and Environment Individuals, Groups, and Institutions The experiences of conducting research, solving clues, and finding additional facts help students meet the following specific middle-grades learning goals, which fall under the strands cited above. Explain and give examples of how language, literature, the arts, architecture, artifacts, beliefs, values, and behaviors contribute to the development and transmission of culture. Identify and describe selected historical periods and patterns of change within and across cultures, such as the rise of civilizations, the development of transportation systems, the growth and breakdown of colonial systems, and others. Locate and describe varying landforms and geographic features. Analyze group and institutional influences on people, events, and elements of culture. She lives in New York City, where she has worked as an educational writer and editor for over nine years. Sunita often can be found traveling in Asia, South America, Europe, and the United States, taking a firsthand look at some of the places she learned about in social studies classes and searching out the perfect masala dosa. Louis, Missouri, and fellow Columbia University graduate.

He almost became history himself when he got lost in the Sahara ten years ago. After finding his way, he visited historical sites in Mali and then returned to New York City, where in addition to writing and editing, he has worked as a sound engineer, run a movie production catering company, and spent countless hours exploring the intricacies of cyberspace. He has followed up that trip with other long jaunts around the globe. In his spare time, he ponders that greatest of history mysteries: Resources The following Scholastic supplemental materials can be used in conjunction with History Mystery: American History Timelines by Susan Buckley These large, reproducible social studies timelines allow students to learn about historical topics and add dates, information, and art work. Scholastic Homework Reference Series by Anne Zeman and Kate Kelly These guides on geography, world history, and American history provide a ready reference source for historical facts and concepts in each of the three areas. To order any of the Scholastic supplemental materials above, call World Wide Web sites are a great research source for students attempting to solve the History Mystery clues. These should be used in addition to offline sources such as textbooks and reference books.

Chapter 5 : Historical Mystery Subgenre Guide | Best Mystery Books

History and mystery are two words that rhyme fields that go easily hand in hand. As the saying goes, when two historians discuss the same event, often you'll end up with three different perspectives. I suppose the same can be said of many different fields, but I think it is especially true for.

Mystery Author Index I have recently discovered the pleasure of reading historical mystery novels. I have found them to be well written and frequently less violent than their modern day counterparts. The detectives use their brains to solve crimes rather than resorting to laboratory tests and other methods of modern forensic analysis. This page is not meant to be a comprehensive treatment of the field, but only a list of some of the authors which I have enjoyed.

Albert and her husband, Bill, write a series of Victorian - Edwardian mysteries under the name of Robin Paige. This series features Kate Ardleigh Sheridan and Sir Charles Sheridan who use the newest scientific methods of the day in solving crimes. For more information, visit their web site.

Stephanie Barron - Writes the Jane Austen mystery series as well as historical novels, and under the name Francine Matthews she writes spy novels. In the Jane Austen series, the novelist Austen solves crimes with skill and ingenuity. Find out more at her web site.

Lillian De La Torre - Lillian De La Torre was the first writer to use a real historical figure as the detective solving a crime. She wrote 30 short stories portraying the exploits of Samuel Johnson as a private investigator. She was born in New York city. She married George S. She taught in the English department at Colorado College for twenty seven years. Most of the other Sam Johnson stories appeared in that magazine. More information may be found in her obituary in the New York Times. A bibliography of works may be found at the Fantastic Fiction web site.

Ruth Downie - British author who was born in North Devon. The first book in the series is *Medicus* which was published in She has a web site here

Charles Finch - An American author who writes Victorian mysteries featuring wealthy Charles Lenox as the sleuth. Visit his Facebook page. She was the author of a series of award winning historical mystery novels which describe the exploits of a woman physician Adelia who was trained in the schools of Salerno in the art of examining dead bodies to determine the true manner of their death. She brings these skills to medieval England in the twelfth century. She has also written a series about Kate Martinelli, a San Francisco police detective. For more information, visit her web site

S. Parris - This is the pen name of Stephanie Merritt who is the author of a literate and fascinating mystery series in which the series detective is the philosopher Giordano Bruno. These books are set in Elizabethan England which is rife with intrigue and religious controversy. The first book in the series is *Heresy* which was published in You will find more information about the author and her books at her web site.

Anne Perry -. One series details the investigations of Inspector Pitt and his wife Charlotte. Another series features private investigator William Monk and his wife Hester. Both series describe the social inequalities and injustices which were common to this period.

Ellis Peters - Pseudonym of Edith Pargeter. Ellis Peters wrote 90 books but it was only with the publication of the *Brother Cadfael* novels that she achieved wide spread recognition. A list of the *Cadfael* novels may be found on Wikipedia.

Sansom - was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. He was a practising lawyer until he decided to quit and become a novelist. An interview with C. Sansom may be found at the Guardian web site.

Sykes - A british novelist whose first novel *Plague Land* is set in 14th century England following the ravages of the Black Death. This well-researched novel describes the efforts of young Oswald de Lacy, the new Lord of Somershill Manor to find the murderer of two women in the village. The villagers believe that the murders were committed by demonic dog-headed men, but Oswald looks for a human murderer.

Charles Todd - Charles Todd is a mother and son writing team who are Americans. Their series detective is Ian Rutledge who has returned from World War I shell-shocked and accompanied always by the voice in his head of Hamish, a British soldier whom he had executed on the battlefield for refusing to fight. Charles Todd Web Site.

Nicola Upson - A real treat for fans of Josephine Tey. Nicola Upson writes a series of mysteries which feature Josephine Tey as the sleuth. The first book *An Expert in Murder* was published in , and more books in the series have followed. Upson has also written nonfiction books, and has been the mystery critic for the *New Statesman*. For more information, visit the Fantastic Fiction web site.

Maisie was a nurse during the war, and

became a private detective after the war was over. Winspear was born in Kent, England, and in moved to the United States. The first novel in the series Maisie Dobbs was published in , and won an Agatha Award for best first novel. For more information visit her web site. Akunin worked as a translator before becoming a writer. Lindsey Davis - was born in Birmingham, read English at Oxford, and then worked in the civil service until The first novel of the series, The Silver Pigs was published in Davis has won many awards including the CWA Cartier Diamond Dagger which honours outstanding achievement in the field of crime writing. For more information, visit her web site Michael Gregorio - is the pen name of the writing and married couple, Daniela De Gregorio and Michael G. Their series deals with the investigations of magistrate Hanno Stiffeniis in Prussia during the occupation by Napoleon. In the first books of the series, The Critique of Criminal Reason. Hanno calls upon the investigative skills of Immanuel Kant, the philosopher. You will find their web site here. The first book The Rhetoric of Death is a fascination introduction to the this world of royal schemers and religious controversy. Miss Rock has a Ph. She is also half of the mystery writing team of Nero Blanc. Her biography and information about her books may be found at her web site. Look here for an interview with Ms. Visit the Round Table Mysteries web site for more information. The first book in the series is Mamur Zapt and the Return of the Carpet. Pearce was born in Anglo-Egyptian Sudan. You will find a bibliography of his books at Fantastic Fiction. If this has stimulated your interest is historical mysteries, click here for lists prepared by real experts on the subject. Please address any comments, additions, or corrections to info sldirectory.

Chapter 6 : History Mystery Teaching Guide | Scholastic

Best Historical Mystery Books The Best Mysteries in a Historical Setting If you like your mysteries from a by-gone era, to read to travel back in time and relish a chance to step back in time to before modern forensics and technologies to a time when detectives or amateur sleuths actually used their own brains and intuitions over the technology.

A good way to study history or your family history is to become a history detective. A history detective knows where to find information on a subject he is trying to research. For Henry County history the three volumes of history compiled by the Historical Society in is an excellent source of information. The local library also has the local newspapers on microfilm when you are researching a specific year. Henry County Mystery 1: How did the Maumee River get its name? The river was named by French traders however, but for another reason. The French traders understood that the name of the tribe of Indians was Me-ah-me, and referred to the river as Riviere des Miamis. Later the people who settled in this region pronounced the name in two syllables as Mau-mee. Henry County Mystery 2: How did Napoleon, Ohio, get its name? Why is a question not to be demonstrated or solved at this time. Elnathan Cory, one of the proprietors of Napoleon, was a land speculator. In he established the towns of Marengo and Austerlitz. Both of these towns were short lived and failed. These two towns were named after two famous battles won by Napoleon Bonaparte. Henry County Mystery 3: Census include Henry County, Ohio? The state of Ohio was formed in and Henry County was formed in The answer is that in there were not enough people in Henry County to enumerate. The census of Henry County lists only people. Most of Northwest Ohio was covered by the Black Swamp and the land was wet. The name Black Swamp came from the heavy cover of massive trees and the black mud below them. The swamp was mainly located on the south side of the Maumee River and some areas north of the river. It extended south in some places 40 miles wide. With the wetness came mosquitoes which caused Maumee Fever, Ague, Malaria, and other associated diseases. The settler who had access to Quinine had a beneficial cure. The Toledo Blade of February 8, reported on the Black Swamp Road of the drowning of a span of horses in a swamp mud hole, the bottoms of which had fallen out. The draining of the swamp and the clearing of trees on the land eliminated both the swamp and mosquitoes. Henry County Mystery 4: Why did the Irish and German immigrant canal workers fight over a corpse? When one of the Irish workers died, his body was placed on a two-wheeled cart and they headed for the old cemetery. When the Irish arrived at the grave site they found their corpse missing. Someone noticed a corpse on the side of the hill and discovered it to be the Irish corpse that apparently had slipped out of the cart. This very disastrous and destructive fire in Napoleon on November 1, brought the attention of the citizens of Napoleon to the necessity of some organized and efficient system of fire protection. Most of the entire block of East Washington Street including the schoolhouse, was destroyed in this fire. Most of the buildings in this block were of wood frame and were heated by wood burning stoves. When a fire occurred the citizens would form a bucket brigade and pass water by the bucketful from a water source such as the canal to the fire. With the loss of the schoolhouse located on East Clinton Street in back of the present-day Ace Hardware and the loss of the businesses on East Washington Street it became time to organize a fire department. It was not until October of that the city purchased a steam fire engine. Finally the town of Napoleon had a fire department and a means of controlling fires. Henry County Mystery 6: How did Napoleon, Ohio almost have its name changed to Henry, Ohio? The petitioners wanted to Americanize the name Napoleon to be named Henry after Patrick Henry, and wanted the county seat to be named Henry like the county. After the petitioners received approval from the Commissioners on June 24, , for seven weeks, the Democratic Northwest News listed their address as Henry, Ohio. The same year, Augustin Pilliod, a Frenchman, started construction of a three story flouring mill on Front Street in Napoleon. Pilliod opposed changing the name of the town and on October 10, , the day a new Mayor and Councilmen were to be elected for the newly incorporated village of Henry, Mr. The incorporation of the village of Napoleon was delayed for 10 years until At that time no mention was made for changing the name. Henry County Mystery 7: Why was a bad year for Napoleon? This bridge was made of wood with iron rods. A newspaper article tells about Fred Coleman driving over the bridge at this time, when he heard a crash behind him and saw the first span give

way. He put his horses in a run and just cleared the second span when it gave way and was destroyed. In the mid-afternoon, the ice started flowing again and two more spans were swept away destroying this bridge. A new iron whipple style was then constructed in the spring and summer and was completed in August of 1812. This was the third bridge to be constructed over the Maumee in Napoleon. Then on Sunday at 2: The fire started in a building on the corner of Perry and Main Streets. There was strong south wind blowing at the time and the fire spread with terrible rapidity. Twenty-two buildings were destroyed including the Henry County Courthouse. Many of the downtown buildings you see today were built after this fire. Our present courthouse was rebuilt in and completed in 1815.

Henry County Mystery 8: The first bridge across the Maumee River at Napoleon was what type of bridge? Prior to people had to use a ferry to cross the Maumee River at Napoleon. The ferry was operated by Joe Merse and landed at the foot of Monroe Street from the south side. In a wooden covered bridge with a roof finished like an attic was constructed. These covered bridges had a roof which helped protect the surface of the bridge and made it last longer. Many of the covered bridges are still in existence in New England and southern Ohio. Some of the younger boys would take a few boards and place them on the rafters and sleep under the roof in the summertime. Ed Lingle drove the first team of horses across this covered bridge in November of 1812. In the evenings the townspeople used the covered bridge for a barn for their cows. The covered bridges were also known as kissing bridges as courting couples on an afternoon ride would go across a covered bridge to steal a kiss so they would not be seen by the townsfolk. In this covered bridge was deemed unsafe and was torn down. A second wooden bridge with iron rods was built to replace the covered bridge.

Henry County Mystery 9: Saur established a drug store in Napoleon. What was the occupation of his wife Prudence? Charley Saur located his drug store at N. Perry Street in Napoleon in 1815. For the next years there was a drug store at this location, operated by various owners. The outstanding feature of his store was a large gold color mortar and pestle located on the top of the building. This mortar and pestle could be seen for several miles in every direction. In the front window was a crystal mortar which scattered its many colored rays of light in every direction. His store was well stocked with all the latest medicines and surgical appliances of the time. His wife, Prudence B. Saur graduated from the Medical College of Philadelphia in March of 1815 and returned to Napoleon to establish her practice. Her office was located in the Saur Drug Store. She was one of the first four ladies who gained entrance to the State Medical Society.

Henry County Mystery 10: Upon discovery of this murder their two month old baby, Charles Foster Williams, was found in his bed crying and famished. The murder occurred on a Tuesday evening and was not discovered until Thursday around 1: George was found lying in the barn with his throat cut and a gash in his head. Williams was found lying on the bedroom floor with her skull cut open. George Williams had sold clover seed and the murder was evidently committed for robbery. When the murder became known Wesley Johnson was arrested. An ax was found hidden in a straw stack and identified as the murder weapon. Wesley Johnson was hung in the Henry County jail on May 29,

Chapter 7 : History Archives | Historic Mysteries

Writing an historical mystery is easy. Just start with a time and place, add a few interesting characters and culprits, inject a murder, toss in a few clues, and add a twist at the end.

This blog will discuss a variety of favourite mystery and suspense novels, including classic texts. For a novel to qualify as a historical mystery, the historical period must be foregrounded. Spy thrillers set in Nazi Germany, for example, are not historical mysteries Winks , Although historical mysteries make extensive use of period details and customs, only some of them depict actual personages. These mysteries are set far enough in the past so that knowledge of the period derives from texts, not personal recollection of events Kelly , 43; Winks , A mystery such as *The Thirty Nine Steps* " which is set on the eve of World War I " is not historical because the author wrote it in see my post on the novel. Buchan wrote in the midst of events and did not have the advantage of historical perspective. Four eras tend to dominate the historical mystery genre: The most popular writers of ancient-world historical mysteries are Lindsey Davis and Steven Saylor. Patricia Finney writes about the Elizabethan world. Historical mysteries can explore specific incidents from the past. Other events such as the crimes of Jack the Ripper and the conspiracy theories surrounding the assassination of President John F. Kennedy have been used as the basis of mystery novels. What attracts readers to historical mysteries? Intellectual curiosity about peoples and times that no longer exist is a strong motivation. Information about the past is often more accessible in mysteries than in historical texts. The pleasures of escaping from the present motivate many readers. In troubled or unsettled times, this need is stronger. Readers also enjoy exploring their ancestral roots. What gives historical fiction its power? These novels make the past come to life in a way that nonfictional accounts of history do not. Story gives us a kind of knowledge that abstract reasoning cannot. One of the advantages of story knowledge is its concreteness and specificity. Stories give us individualized people in specific times and places doing actual things. Rationality tends to sidestep the messy particulars to deal directly with the generalized concepts behind the particulars. Historical mysteries remind us that past events are essentially unknowable " can never be irrefutably interpreted or fully comprehended. Since there is no such thing as an objective version of historical events, the historical novel is a powerful medium for presenting the past. The most successful writers have always offered us a model of detective fiction in which the materiality of events and the material evidence which points to those events remain mediated through and therefore subject to the narratives that are told about them. Many historical mysteries give readers a new perspective on contemporary society. We see the present more clearly from the vantage point of the past. Leon Garfield reminds us: It is very hard to represent the familiar strikingly against the familiar. It is like writing on red paper with red ink. Things familiar become invisible, and it is only when we move them to another place or another time that their qualities leap out at us. A favourite picture, reframed, becomes almost a new picture, and we remember what first attracted us. Garfield , , The historical mystery is one of the fastest growing subtopics in the mystery genre Winks , The pleasures it affords readers are many. *The Healing Power of Stories: Creating Yourself through the Stories of Your Life.* Posted by Pauline Dewan.

Chapter 8 : The History Girls: A Historical Mystery by Lynne Benton

There are some historical mysteries that may never be solved. Sometimes, that's because the relevant excavated material has been lost or an archaeological site has been destroyed.

By Eleanor Sullivan November 28th, Writing an historical mystery is easy. Just start with a time and place, add a few interesting characters and culprits, inject a murder, toss in a few clues, and add a twist at the end. Voila, you have an historical mystery! How hard could it be? Not only must you create a compelling, tension-filled mystery, you must build an accurate story world. Contemporary mysteries require research, too, of course. So you need to know about firearms—how far does a bullet from a nine-millemeter or a revolver go? Can a bullet hit someone under water? The answer is no. How long would it take to die from a drug overdose? Neither expressions would be used in historicals in the 19th century. How do you build an accurate story world? Here are some suggestions: Begin with primary sources such as letters, diaries, and photographs. Fortunately, the letters were transcribed. Next search for legitimate research sources. Travel to the site, if possible. Take lots of photos. I use them constantly as I write—what did the stove look like? How did a woman dress? Create a map of the location if you can. Follow up with studying the work and lives of inhabitants. For example, I needed to learn about herbal medicines, midwifery, cabinet making, and blacksmithing along with food preparation, kitchen gardens, and harvesting.

Chapter 9 : Mysteries — Henry County, Ohio, Historical Society

Historical crime writing is a varied type within the crime genre, and seems to be growing. From stories based on true crimes to conspiracies, the importance of getting the history right is crucial.