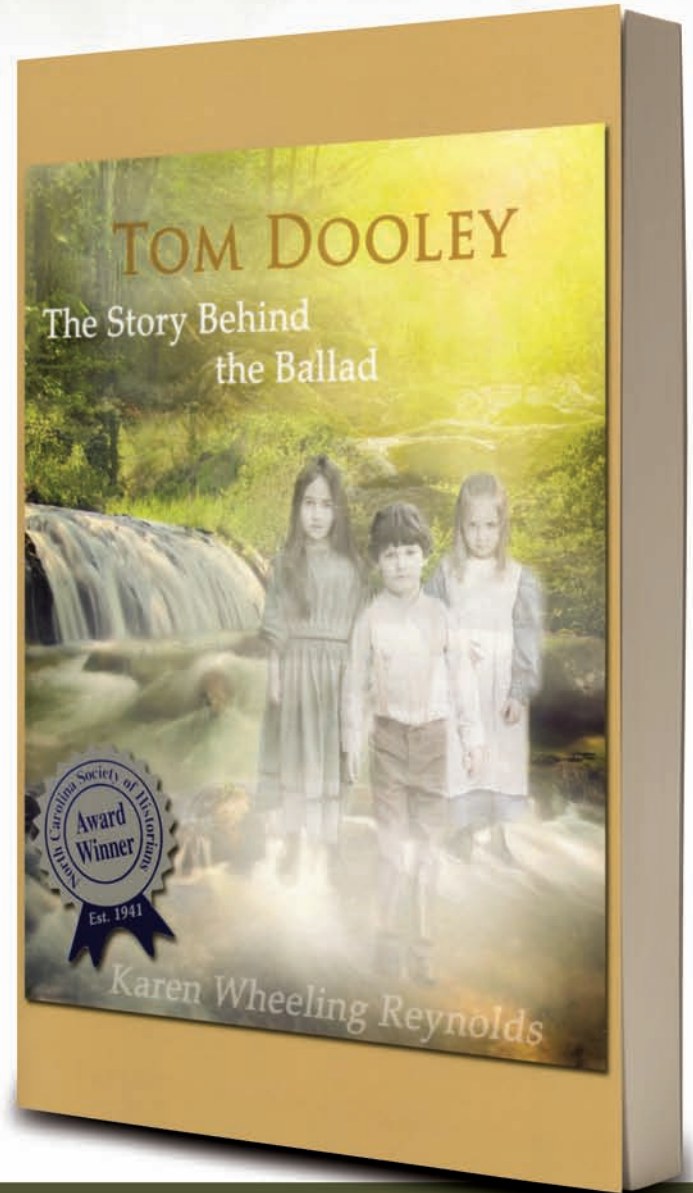


The Murder Mystery That Won't Die: The Story of Tom Dooley (You Don't Want to Skip This Particular Chapter in History!)

A handsome war hero. His adoring girlfriend. An old flame determined to rekindle the romance, despite her own marriage. It all adds up to a love triangle that explodes in jealousy, murder, and—eventually—a potentially wrongful execution. And it all goes to show that history is *far* from the dry, dusty textbook chapters we often assume it to be.

Karen Wheeling Reynolds, author of *Tom Dooley: The Story Behind the Ballad*, has crafted a fascinating work of creative nonfiction based on verifiable facts, and she says that this historical episode is a classic thriller for which there are still more questions than answers.

Following the Civil War, Confederate veteran Tom Dooley came home to Wilkesboro, North Carolina, and began a romance with Laura Foster. However, their relationship was soon complicated by Anne Foster Melton, Tom's former (and now married) sweetheart, to whose arms he also returned. This love triangle ended with Laura Foster's being stabbed to death the night before she and Tom were to elope. Tom was arrested and eventually convicted of her murder—and hanged for it. However, there were whispers that Tom might have died an innocent man, all to protect the *true* culprit: the love of his life, Anne Melton, who had been consumed by jealousy.



When you learn more about this timeless crime of passion and let Tom Dooley's story take you back to the vivid, convoluted, and surprisingly recognizable world of the late 1860s, you'll never look at history the same way again.

Karen Wheeling Reynolds grew up in Elkville, North Carolina, where the famous lovers' triangle and murder of Laura Foster occurred. She is the author of the play *Tom Dooley: A Wilkes County Legend*, which is performed annually at the Forest's Edge Amphitheatre in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. She is also the author of the book *Tom Dooley: The Story Behind the Ballad*.

To learn more about Karen Reynolds and *Tom Dooley: The Story Behind the Ballad*, or to schedule a speaking engagement, please email pan4life@embarqmail.com or visit www.karenreynolds.com.

Make Headlines in Your Group with Tom Dooley's Story

Karen Reynolds loves to make history come alive by sharing this fascinating story with groups of all shapes and sizes.

Her presentation includes:

- A basic rundown of the “Tom Dooley” events and timeline
- Captivating in-depth characterizations of all the major players (Be warned: This cast rivals that of any Hollywood thriller!)
- How we know what we know: separating documented facts from local rumor
- Popular theories on why Tom Dooley was wrongfully executed
- Reasons why this story still resonates
- When applicable, how the events relate to nearby legends and landmarks

Praise for Karen Reynolds and *Tom Dooley: The Story Behind the Ballad*

“A great read for anyone interested in a true telling of the lives and events of the legend of Tom Dooley.”

—**Bob Shane,**
*member of The Kingston Trio (#1 hit “Tom Dooley,” 1958),
recipient of a 2010 Lifetime Achievement Grammy Award*

“There are few stories in American lore as compelling as that of Tom Dooley. It has everything—love, hate, greed, jealousy, murder, intrigue, harsh frontier justice. Karen Wheeling Reynolds has not only told us the story, she has brought it to life through the eyes, ears, and voices of the people who actually lived it. If The Kingston Trio hadn't recorded the ballad long ago, they sure would after reading this. A captivating tale, beautifully told.”

—**Robert Inman,**
author of Home Fires Burning and Captain Saturday



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