

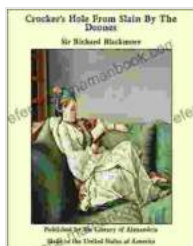
Crocker Hole: A Literary and Historical Landmark from Slain by the Doones



Nestled amidst the rugged landscapes of Exmoor, England, lies Crocker Hole, a captivating rock formation that has captured the imaginations of countless readers and history enthusiasts. This enigmatic landmark owes its fame to its prominent role in R.D. Blackmore's thrilling novel, "Slain by the Doones." Through Blackmore's vivid prose, Crocker Hole became an integral part of the narrative, adding mystery and intrigue to the story.

Literary Origins

In "Slain by the Doones," Crocker Hole serves as a hideout for the infamous Doone family, a band of outlaws who terrorize the surrounding countryside. The novel follows the adventures of John Ridd, a young yeoman farmer who seeks to avenge the murder of his father at the hands of the Doones. Crocker Hole becomes a central setting for the novel's thrilling climax, where John Ridd confronts the Doone chieftain, Carver Doone.



Crocker's Hole From "Slain By The Doones" by Marci Perrine

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 308 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 17 pages



Blackmore's vivid descriptions of Crocker Hole paint a vivid picture of its rugged beauty and strategic location. He writes, "Crocker Hole was a strange place, and yet not so strange as to be uncomfortable. It was a great cavern in the midst of a range of rocks, whereof the entrance was so narrow and tortuous that a man might easily pass it without seeing it."

Historical Significance

While Crocker Hole's literary significance is undeniable, the site also holds historical importance. Archaeological evidence suggests that the cave has been inhabited since prehistoric times, with fragments of pottery and flint tools dating back to the Bronze Age. During the medieval period, the cave

was used as a hideout by outlaws and rebels, including the infamous Doone family.

In the 19th century, Crocker Hole became a popular destination for tourists and literary pilgrims. Visitors flocked to the site to experience the rugged beauty of Exmoor and to see the place that had inspired Blackmore's novel. Queen Victoria herself is said to have visited Crocker Hole in 1856.

Geological Formation

Crocker Hole is a natural limestone cavern that was formed by the erosion of water over thousands of years. The cave is characterized by its narrow entrance, which leads to a large, open chamber. The cave walls are adorned with stalactites and stalagmites, creating a mesmerizing subterranean landscape.

The cave's remote location and rugged terrain make it a challenging but rewarding destination for hikers and explorers. Visitors can access the cave through a narrow footpath that leads from the nearby village of Malmsmead.

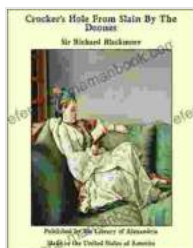
Tourism and Conservation

Today, Crocker Hole remains a popular tourist destination, attracting visitors from around the world. The cave is open to the public, and guided tours are available. Visitors can explore the cave's depths, learn about its geological formation and historical significance, and perhaps even catch a glimpse of the Doones' ghostly presence.

Recognizing the importance of preserving this unique landmark, the National Trust, a conservation organization, has acquired the land

surrounding Crocker Hole. The Trust works to protect the cave and its surroundings, ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy this remarkable site.

Crocker Hole, a captivating rock formation nestled amidst the rugged landscapes of Exmoor, England, is a place that has captivated the imaginations of countless readers and history enthusiasts. Through its prominent role in R.D. Blackmore's thrilling novel, "Slain by the Doones," Crocker Hole has become an iconic literary landmark. The cave's historical significance, geological formation, and ongoing preservation efforts make it a truly remarkable destination for hikers, explorers, and anyone seeking to immerse themselves in a rich blend of literature and history.



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