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## Interview - Mary Ann Bernal

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### Could you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I must admit that I am an incurable romantic anglophile who has a passion for ancient European history, from the rise of the Roman Empire through the Dark and early Middle Ages. I am a New York transplant, having moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 2004 to be near my son and his family, and was employed by the University of Nebraska Medical Center until my retirement in 2010.

### Describe your book 'The Briton and the Dane: Birthright' in 30 words or less.

The novel brings to life the tumultuous ninth century, when the formidable Vikings terrorized the civilized world. The epic adventure runs the gamut of deception, treachery, intrigue, and complicated relationships during a time of war and conquest in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

### What was the hardest part of writing your book?

Making sure my numerous characters do not get lost in the story, since my novels are quite complex, having multiple antagonists, protagonists and subplots. Character lists, maps, and a glossary are included in my books and are also available for download on my webpage.

### What books have had the greatest influence on you?

Sir Walter Scott's "Ivanhoe" was the book that piqued my interest in British history and the early Middle Ages, and "The Long Ships" by Frans G. Bengtsson brings the Viking era to life.

### Briefly share with us what you do to market your book?

I have created profiles on numerous book promotion sites, have donated books to be included in silent auctions at community events, and have participated in contest giveaways on social networking book catalog websites.

### How do you spend your time when you are not writing?

I have been a volunteer with Soldiers Angels since 2007. The non-profit organization provides support for deployed US military personnel and their families. I am also very supportive of my grandchildren's activities, and can be found cheering in the stands for my grandson's sporting events and my granddaughter's dance competitions, and I am actively involved in my parish community, participating in numerous ministries.

### What are you working on next?

I am currently working on the third installment of the trilogy entitled "The Briton and the Dane: Legacy," which will be available in 2012.

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