

www.facebook.com/winghill



**Name:** Mary Ann Bernal  
**Location:** Omaha, Nebraska USA  
**Course:** Novel Writing Course 2009  
**Title of Publication:** "The Briton and the Dane"  
**Publisher:** Scéal Books, an imprint of Canonbridge, LLC, Publishers  
**Web:** <http://www.maryannbernal.com>  
**Facebook Fan Page:** [The Briton and the Dane](#)  
**Blogspot:** [Mary Ann Bernal](#)

## **Bio**

Mary Ann was born at the United States Naval Base at Patuxent River, Maryland and was raised in Yonkers, NY, upon her father's honorable discharge from the Navy. She graduated from Gorton High School in 1962. She received an Associate in Arts degree from Elizabeth Seton College and a Bachelor of Science Degree from Mercy College where she graduated summa cum laude. She moved to Omaha, Nebraska in 2004 to be near her son and his family. Mary Ann recently retired from the University of Nebraska Medical Center where she worked in the Department of Pathology and Microbiology. When she isn't writing, Mary Ann attends as many sports events and dance competitions with her grandchildren as is humanly possible. She is also very active within the Soldiers Angels organization which supports our deployed men and women in the United States Military. Mary Ann is working on the sequel to The Briton and the Dane, due to be released later this year.

## **What motivated you to start writing professionally?**

The desire to write a historical fiction novel has been a lifelong dream. Unfortunately due to the time commitment, this reality was not immediately achieved. My family and friends have been a source of support throughout the entire process. Their understanding has been a blessing as I continue to pursue my writing career.

## **What are some of your proudest moments as a writer?**

My proudest moments are when I read the book reviews. I am delighted that people love the story and are anxiously awaiting the sequel.

## **How did your course work help you achieve your writing goals?**

The course helped me learn the craft of writing. I became familiar with the technical aspects of writing which differed from the creative word. I also learned the expectations and requirements

necessary to publish one's work. This knowledge helped me when I approached perspective publishers with my work, and was helpful when closing the deal.

### **Do you have any advice for anyone starting out with their writing career?**

What does the fledging author and aspiring actor have in common? They both wish to succeed in an industry prone more to failure than success. My advice for aspiring writers it to pound the pavement and never give up. You should always do your homework before you submit your manuscript. Research things like: the importance of having a literary agent, and the advantages and disadvantages of selecting a small publishing house over the larger firms. These are important things to understand as a writer seeks to be published. Smaller publishers are usually open to new authors. Small companies provide personalized attention and tend to have faster publication schedules. Those who persevere can succeed in this highly competitive market.

