

**Ripper
Geography
& Victorian
English
Culture**

David M. Gates

THE CASEBOOK
Examiner
issue one
April 2010

**Morganstone,
Elizabeth
Phoenix
&
Mrs Carthy**

Neal Shelden

JACK THE RIPPER STUDIES, TRUE CRIME & L.V.P. SOCIAL HISTORY



R. J. Palmer
Examines

**THE RISE OF
WALTER ANDREWS**

**MICHAEL
KIDNEY IS**

INNOCENT!

Tom Wescott Takes A Fresh Look At Some Old Myths



THE CASEBOOK
Examiner
issue one
April 2010

CONTENTS:

| | | | |
|---|-------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Greetings! | pg 3 | Collectors Corner | |
| Subscription Information | pg 5 | Expert Advice | pg 86 |
| Exonerating Michael Kidney | | On The Case | |
| Tom Wescott | pg 6 | News From Ripper World | pg 88 |
| The Rise of Walter Andrews | | On The Case Extra | |
| R. J. Palmer | pg 30 | Feature Story | pg 90 |
| Reconsidering Ripper Geography & Victorian English Culture | | Ultimate Ripperologist's Tour | |
| D. M. Gates | pg 55 | Explore Leicester | pg 92 |
| Morganstone, Elizabeth Phoenix & Mrs Carthy | | CSI: Whitechapel | |
| Neal Shelden | pg 62 | Mary Ann Nichols | pg 102 |
| Undercover Investigations | | From the Casebook Archives | |
| Book Reviews | pg 73 | Emma Smith | pg 108 |
| | | Scenes of Crime | |
| | | Christ Church | pg 108 |

Editor in Chief **Don Souden**
Publisher **Stephen P. Ryder**
for **Casebook.org**
Features Editor **Jennifer Shelden**
Design **David Pegg**

Acknowledgements:
Suzi Hanney & Rob Clack
for use of images.

The contents of Casebook Examiner No. 1 April 2010 are copyright © 2010 Casebook.org. The authors of signed articles, essays, letters, reviews and other items retain the copyright of their respective contributions. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. No part of this publication, except for brief quotations where credit is given, may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted or otherwise circulated in any form or by any means, including digital, electronic, printed, mechanical, photocopying, recording or any other, without the express written permission of Casebook.org. The unauthorized reproduction or circulation of this publication or any part thereof, whether for monetary gain or not, is strictly prohibited and may constitute copyright infringement as defined in domestic laws and international agreements and give rise to civil liability and criminal prosecution.

The views, conclusions and opinions expressed in articles, essays, letters and other items published in Casebook Examiner are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views, conclusions and opinions of Casebook.org, Casebook Examiner or its editors.

GREETINGS!

WELCOME TO CASEBOOK EXAMINER...

DON SOUDEN

... the newest publication in the field. And, like most proud parents, we at the *Examiner* already see a wonderful future for our progeny and hope that this and subsequent issues will have you, our readers, agreeing that our initial pride is more than justified. Indeed, we recognize that any publication's success depends on its ability to satisfy its audience and we pledge to keep that simple truth forever in mind — this magazine is for our readers and not for ourselves.

The *Examiner* is still growing and evolving, but there are two things we will promise our readers and they are that we will *inform* and we will *entertain*. In fact, one without the other would make for a rather pointless

magazine and that we do not intend to be, as borne out by this first issue with articles on a variety of subjects as well as a number of interesting features and columns.

In this initial issue, Tom Wescott provides a strong case for the exoneration of Michael Kidney for the murder of Liz Stride while Roger J. Palmer begins his examination of Walter Andrews' "Mission to Montreal." In addition, Jennifer and Neal Shelden provide new genealogical insights on a few of the peripheral — but fascinating — players in the Mary Jane Kelly murder and David Gates offers a thought-provoking essay on Ripper research. Yet, even with that strong opening lineup we echo the carnival

barker's shout "Folks, you ain't seen nothing yet!" because there are many more exciting articles coming in future issues by both old hands and newcomers in the field.

In the same way, the features in this issue are just the beginning of what promises to be an innovative and entertaining section. There will always be reviews of the latest books, films and stage performances relating to Ripperology as well as other regular features like the column on collecting by Stewart P. Evans, Robert Clack's photo column and *The Ultimate Ripper Tour* that will take readers down highways and byways everywhere in the world to places that have ties to the Whitechapel Murders. And again,

there are many, many more fascinating features set for subsequent issues.

Finally, there are a few things that should be said about our purpose and policies. The first is that while we are sponsored by *Casebook*, and are obviously bound by that organization's high standards for comity and fairness, we are quite independent in outlook and operation. First and foremost, that means we welcome submissions, letters and comments from EVERYONE. Submissions will be judged solely on merit and not the name at the top of the page. If a point is arguable — and rationally argued — it is worthy of publication in the *Examiner*. Indeed, lively but informed controversy is one of our goals and intend to make that happen. Nor will personal animus by anyone at the *Examiner* toward an individual or theory be tolerated or will that ever influence what a contributor may write — short, of course, of the laws of libel and physics.

In the same vein, all reviews

will be signed. In theory, at least, an unsigned review allows the reviewer to be more honest, especially in a field like Ripperology that is so small and where feelings are so easily hurt. In practice, however, anonymous reviews sometimes allow a reviewer to perpetuate petty animosities and pursue a personal agenda beyond simply informing readers about a book. Conversely, unsigned reviews also can lead to a painting of the lily because of friendship or other close association with the author. We will strive to assure neither happens, but in any case our reviewers will be fully accountable for what they write. And opposing views will always be welcome.

This issue has been supplied free to all so that everyone could get a real sense of just what the *Examiner* will bring both to the field and to them personally. Subsequent issues, however, will be available by subscription at a rate of \$9 a year — six big issues for only a dollar fifty each. Moreover, as

this is a labor of love, what is earned will be donated annually to a suitable charity. Finally, although we are financially independent from *Casebook*, in return for server space and sponsorship, a subscription to our magazine will be included with all *Casebook* Premium Memberships. If you would like to purchase a no advertisements account on *Casebook* in addition to receiving a bonus subscription to the *Examiner*, please click [HERE](#).

That is our story for today: the newest and best magazine in the field has arrived with a pledge to inform and entertain now and in the future. We intend to be around a long while and we hope you will join us for that long and adventuresome journey as we explore not only the evergreen realm of Ripperology but the related fields of LVP crime and social history. It promises to be one heck of a ride in the years ahead and we urge you to book passage now so you won't miss a single thrill on the *Casebook Examiner* Express.

DON'T MISS A SINGLE GREAT ISSUE OF **CASEBOOK EXAMINER**

SUBSCRIBE NOW FOR A WHOLE YEAR

**SIX BIG
ISSUES!
FOR ONLY** 

For less than a night at the movies or a dyspeptic dinner for two at a fast-food restaurant you will get a year's worth of informative articles, entertaining features and all the exciting news in the field.

And remember, you will not only be getting the best in JtR fact and fiction, along with LVP true crime and social history articles, but the money will be going to a suitable charity. A winning combination that can't be beat.

Go to WWW.CASEBOOK.ORG/EXAMINER for full subscription details.

Exonerating Michael Kidney

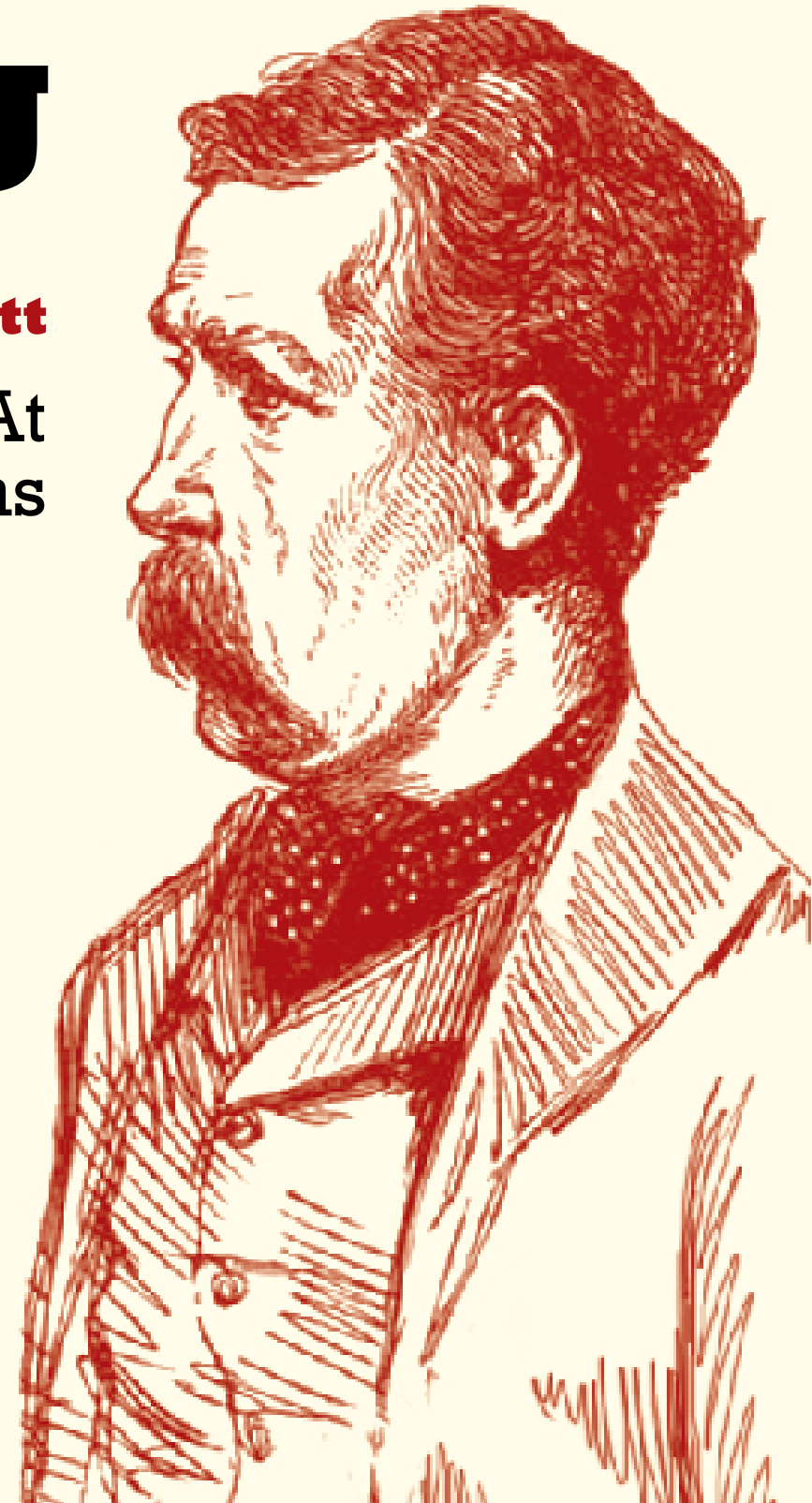
Tom Wescott

A Fresh Look At
Some Old Myths

While there is not a shred of evidence to support the belief that Elizabeth Stride was murdered by the Ripper this murder is included, for, like that of Martha Tabram, no account of the East End murders would be complete without it.

The murder of Stride was a coincidence and, merely because her body was found in a yard, both Press and public jumped to the conclusion that both this murder and that of Eddows [sic] which took place an hour later, was the work of the Ripper...

William Stewart, Jack the Ripper: A New Theory, 1939



And such is the genesis of a perspective that not only continues to this day, but thrives and multiplies along with the number of publications that appear each year dissecting the Ripper's crimes – that Elizabeth Stride's murder is not to be counted among them. But what reason did William Stewart give for so confidently striking her from 'the list'? He had only one reason, but he clearly felt it was good enough: *In each of the Ripper murders the victim was killed by the throat being cut from left to right. This characteristic alone marked the murder of Elizabeth Stride as not being the work of Jack the Ripper.* What he assumes to be the truth here is that Stride's killer was left-handed, whereas the Ripper was right-handed. Even the most ardent 'non-canonical' today will concede that Stewart was wrong and that all the canonical victims had their throats cut from left to right (with Mary Kelly being a possible exception), which indicated a right-handed killer in each case, not the left-handed murderer that Stewart incorrectly arrives at; it was a mistake that stood uncorrected for almost 40 years until Stephen Knight put the lie to it in his 1976 book *Jack the Ripper:*

The Final Solution. But 37 years is a long time; far more than enough for the idea of 'Stride out' to settle into the back of the minds of researchers coming to the case in the interim.

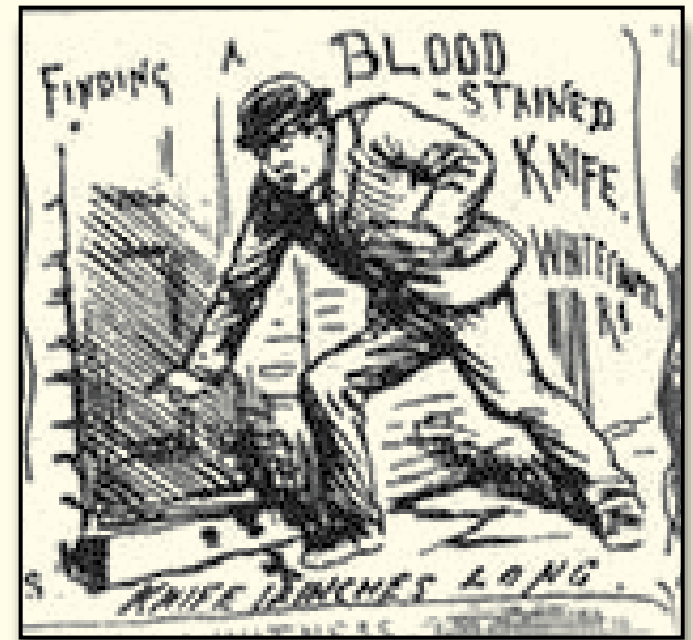
Once an idea takes hold in your mind, it is not always an easy thing to let go of, even if you come to discover that the reason you adopted the idea in the first place was founded in error. We might simply invent other reasons to support our flawed conclusion. Now, it is not my intention to empirically state that Stride was killed by the same hand that slew Catherine Eddowes, but merely that the reasons most often given for concluding otherwise are founded in myth, exaggeration, or a confused understanding of the source material.

Anyone who has followed or even occasionally perused the numerous Stride threads that have appeared at *Casebook.org* since 1996 will be quite familiar with the following reasons given by those who feel Stride could not have been, or was most likely not, the work of the Ripper.

SHE WAS KILLED WITH A DIFFERENT KNIFE

This argument usually includes the

qualifications that the knife used on Stride was dull or blunted at the tip, or that the doctors said she was killed with a much shorter knife than that used on Eddowes. None of this is true. The confusion arises over a knife found a street away a full day following the murder that was discussed at the inquest. The knife was found shortly after it was dropped on the street by some unknown passer-by and could not have been deposited by her killer in the minutes following the murder. The tip had been ruined, and this is almost assuredly why it had been discarded. Certainly, the doctors did not think Stride's killer would have used such a knife, although they conceded



the possibility. There was only one wound to Stride, that being the cut on her neck, and from this the only possible conclusion the doctors could draw regarding the weapon was that it was sharp.

The notion that the blade used on her was 'short' came from Drs. Blackwell and Phillips questioning the ease at which her killer would have been able to maneuver a long blade under her neck, given the condition in which her body was discovered — her neck lying over the jagged stones that comprised the make-shift gutter of 40 Berner Street. However, they provided the solution to their own mystery when they discussed the matter of Stride's scarf, which had been pulled very tight on the left side, undoubtedly by her killer.

As there was no sign of struggle it seems unlikely that the killer utilized the scarf in any way to take control over Stride. She must have been unconscious and lying down when the scarf was tightened, and the fact that the wound followed the line of the scarf proves that it was being held tight at the time her wound was inflicted. If Stride was already lying in the position in which she was found when the

scarf was tightened it can only mean that her killer used the scarf to pull her head and neck up from the jagged stones so that he could maneuver his knife into position. This is the only practical solution to the scarf mystery and suggests the use of a long-bladed knife, in keeping with the Mitre Square murder, and at the very least puts to rest the supposition that her murder in any way indicated the use of a short-bladed knife.

THE WOUND TO HER NECK WAS LESS SEVERE THAN IN ANY OF THE OTHER CASES

This is certainly true, but it should be remembered that Jack the Ripper was a human being and not some pre-programmed robot. We should expect to see variance in his crimes, and indeed we do with each sequential slaying. It should also be remembered that the single wound to Stride's throat was sufficient to kill her, which was his primary objective. He went for the carotid artery and fulfilled his mission with a single swipe of the blade, something very rarely witnessed in knife murders. The darkness of the pathway, the jagged stones, the fact that her head was not as well-supported as the other

victims, are all very good reasons why we might not expect to see the same severity in the wound.

SHE WAS KILLED AT AN EARLIER TIME THAN THE OTHER VICTIMS

This is also true, but if we strike Stride from the list, then the same argument would have to be applied to Catherine Eddowes, who was murdered at 1:45am, anywhere from 2 to 3½ hours earlier than the times Annie Chapman is variously described as having lost her life to the Ripper's blade. Conversely, if we are to accept as mere coincidence that Stride's murder occurred within an hour's time and ten minute's walk from that of Catherine Eddowes, then we must also accept as coincidence that the Ripper decided to get 'on the game' early that night of all nights. Had three hours separated the murders there'd be a much better case for supposing two unrelated assassins were at work.

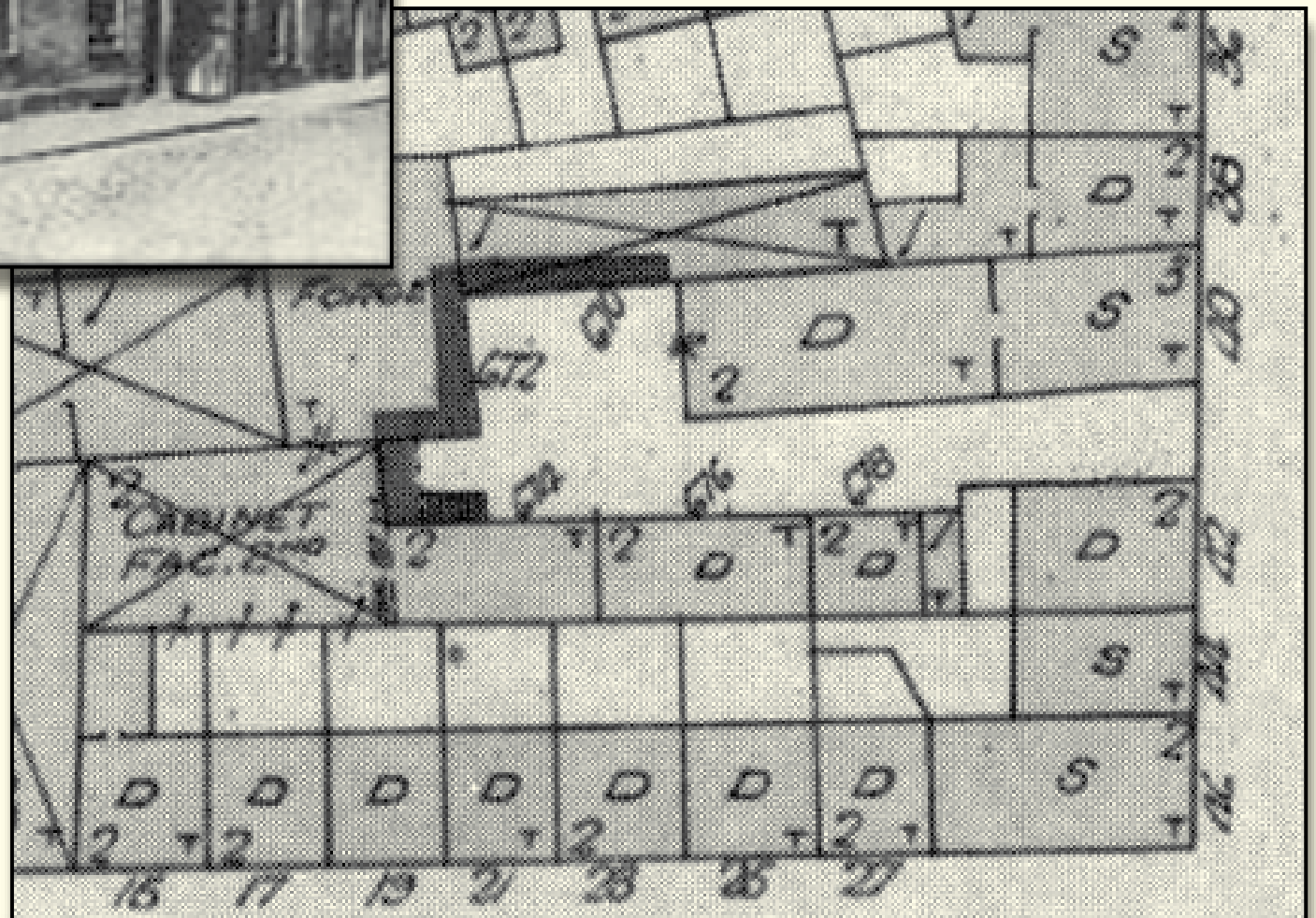
THE LOCATION WAS NOT ONE JACK WOULD HAVE CHOSEN

I am surprised at how often I see this particular nugget brought forward.

THE LOCATION



BRENER STREET, SHOWING YARD ENTRANCE



PLAN OF DUTFIELDS YARD

There are two different arguments here, one being geography – that because Berner Street is off Commercial Road and not Whitechapel Road it couldn't be Jack; as though Jack wore a leash that tied him only to the one main thoroughfare. The fact that Berner Street was a stone's throw from Hanbury Street and only a ten-minute walk from Mitre Square renders this argument moot. The other, more frequent point made against Stride's candidacy as a Ripper victim is that the yard at 40 Berner Street was too busy and the house too noisy for Jack to have chosen it as a murder spot. Remarkably, when this same point is used to suggest the Ripper's choice to make it a "rush job" and not mutilate the victim, the "non-canonicals" call foul play and it becomes a circular argument.

Of course, one very significant point is often lost in the debate, and that is that a murder *did* take place in the gateway without anybody seeing or hearing a thing, so it is rather silly to suggest it wouldn't make a good murder spot. The Ripper (or his victims) chose rather risky spots from the first to the last. In fact, 29 Hanbury Street and 40 Berner Street are more similar than

any other two Whitechapel murder locations; both Annie Chapman and Liz Stride were murdered in the yard of a house fully occupied; both women were murdered next to the only exit in order to assure a quick escape for the killer; in both locations, the killer would have known if someone was coming before they would be aware of him. If anything, the Hanbury Street location was more precarious for the killer because he would have had to push past anyone coming out of the door in order to make his escape, and he must have been aware of Albert Cadosch going to and from the water closet as each could have seen the other through the breaks in the fence.

By contrast, Louis Diemshitz¹ himself stated that the killer could have remained in the gateway and exited behind his cart without his knowing. Whether this actually occurred or not isn't important, only that someone intimately familiar with the yard in that light felt he wouldn't have been aware if someone had been standing only a few feet from him. This is what made it a good murder spot.

THE MAN ISRAEL SCHWARTZ SAW DID NOT BEHAVE AS THE RIPPER WOULD HAVE BEHAVED

This is a very presumptuous argument, because it presupposes that a) Schwartz was an honest witness, and b) that the man he saw was actually Stride's killer. "Non-canonicals" will tell you that it's beyond the realm of coincidence for the same woman to be attacked twice within 15 minutes, yet they're perfectly willing to accept two stealthy knife murderers killing prostitutes at the same time and in the same area. Being one who doesn't put too much stock in coincidence, I perfectly agree that if Schwartz really did *see* what he said *when* he said he saw it, then either the broad-shouldered man or the pipe-smoking man or both (from here on referred to as BS Man and Pipeman, respectively) were the killer(s).

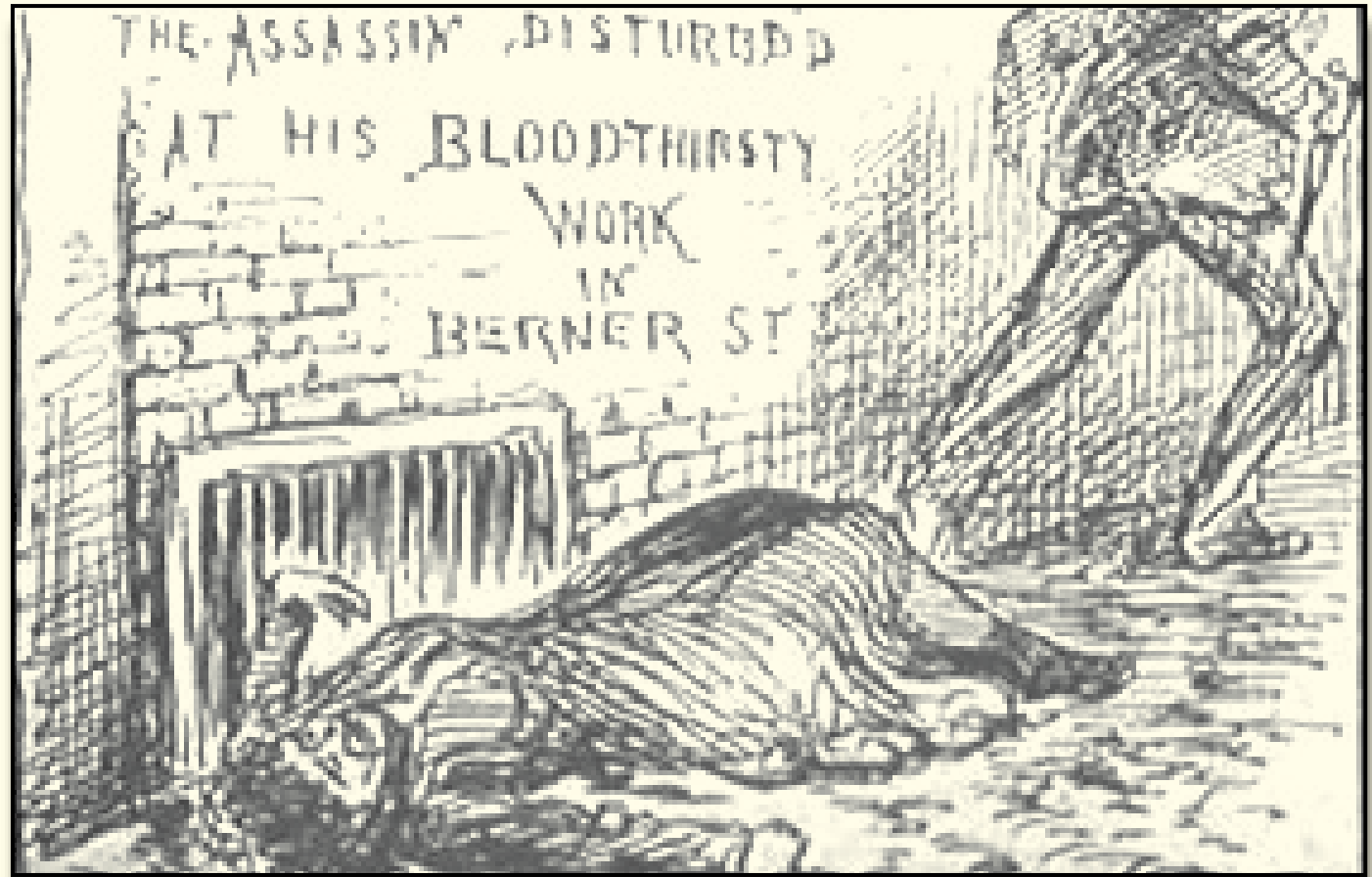
This brings us to presupposition c) that we are in a position to decide how Jack would or would not have behaved. When we consider what Schwartz saw, we have a man and a woman quietly talking before the man takes her and throws her to the

¹ *The correct spelling of Louis' surname.*

ground, whereupon she softly pleads “no.” Returning briefly to Hanbury Street and the firmly canonical murder of Annie Chapman, we have “ear witness” Albert Cadosch describing soft conversation followed by a “thump” against the fence and a voice saying “no.” Either the Ripper was completely oblivious of Cadosch’s movements only feet away, which would strongly suggest he was a confident and somewhat careless risk-taker, or he was perfectly aware of Cadosch’s presence but continued on, which would also suggest he was a confident and somewhat careless risk-taker. What Cadosch heard and what Schwartz saw are so similar that any commentator arguing Stride’s candidacy based on BS Man’s behavior is probably more interested in holding onto his “mythic Jack” than he is in putting a name to the real Ripper.

STRIDE WAS NOT MUTILATED LIKE THE OTHER VICTIMS

This is really the only true piece of evidence that can be put forth to suggest someone other than the Ripper as Stride’s killer. Once all the nonsense is stripped away, this is all that remains, and there’s no question but that all the



NEWSPAPER SKETCH FROM THE TIME

myths, misunderstandings, and mistakes that have been passed down over the years came into being for no other reason than to explain why Elizabeth Stride’s body was not mutilated below the neck. The very simple explanation, put forth by Louis Diemschitz himself and the contemporary investigators — that the Ripper was interrupted — is now scoffed at. But isn’t that a far simpler explanation which stays in

keeping with the evidence? And isn’t it just possible that the Ripper planned on killing two women that evening? If that’s the case, it explains why he “got to work” so early, and he certainly couldn’t risk having blood on his person if he was to seek out another woman and get away clean, so he planned on not mutilating the first woman. Maybe he just didn’t feel comfortable in the Dutfield’s Yard pathway and decided

to follow his instincts to leave. These are all far simpler explanations that don't require twisting, eliminating, or ignoring evidence to find support.

The final and perhaps most convincing reason offered up by “non-canonicals” for supposing that Stride was not a Ripper victim is that a ready-made murderer was already at hand in the person of Michael Kidney, her abusive, alcoholic, slave-driving, jealous boyfriend, from whom she'd permanently separated only a few days prior to her murder. At least, that is the picture often painted of him.

MICHAEL KIDNEY – THE MAN

Michael Kidney is reported as having been age 36 at the time of Stride's murder, though he may have been as old as 39.² Either way, he was much younger than the 45-year-old Elizabeth, who lied to both Kidney and lodging house mate, Charles Preston, about her age, saying she was 36 or 38 years old. In fact, Elizabeth Stride lied to everyone in her life from her friends to her lovers to the courts of law; she

had epilepsy, the roof of her mouth was deformed, her husband died on the famous and tragic *Princes Alice* disaster, the list goes on. All of these lies, and certainly more we don't know about, were created to camouflage Stride's perceived flaws and insecurities. It is crucial to keep this trait in mind when considering evidence relating to things she might have said.

In June of 1889, Kidney was still living at 36 Devonshire Street, the last address he had shared with Liz. On the 11th of that month he was admitted to the Whitechapel Workhouse Infirmary for syphilis. He returned on August 17th with lumbago³ and on October 11th with dyspepsia.⁴ For his last two visits, Kidney gave his address as 12 Thrawl Street, a significant downgrade from his rooms in Devonshire Street. Some researchers see this move as evidence that Kidney was Stride's pimp and that his circumstances worsened as a result of losing her income. While it is quite possible that Kidney turned a blind eye while Liz turned the odd trick, the fact that he remained

in Devonshire Street for at least 10 months following Stride's death suggests that he wasn't reliant on her for his upkeep, and most likely his lowered circumstances were a result of his worsening health, which must have affected his work. His declining health and financial situation could be seen as the effects of a guilty conscience, but could also be seen as signs of someone very much affected by the loss of a loved one. The same could be said for his drunken behavior at the Leman Street police station on Monday, Oct. 1st, the day following the discovery of Stride's body.

KIDNEY'S THEORY OF THE MURDER

Michael Kidney arrived at the police station in a cab⁵ and asked for the inspector on duty. He asked the inspector to provide him with a “strange, young detective,” believing that the assistance of such a man could aid him in solving the murder of his common law wife. When the inspector refused, an angry Kidney called him “uncivil.”

² On his August and October, 1889 trips to the Whitechapel Workhouse, he gave his age as 40, which would have made him 39 at the time of the murder. ³ A painful condition of the lower back, as one resulting from muscle strain or a slipped disk. From Answers.com.

⁴ Dyspepsia can be defined as painful, difficult, or disturbed digestion, which may be accompanied by symptoms such as nausea and vomiting, heartburn, bloating, and stomach discomfort. From Answers.com. ⁵ Daily News, Oct. 3rd, 1888.

Neither the police nor the coroner was able to get from Kidney just what his information was, but there are a few clues left for us to speculate upon.

Some writers, such as Dave Yost⁶, have taken Kidney's request for a 'strange' young detective to be a misprint, suggesting that it should read 'strong', however, this is not the case. Although often missed by researchers, Kidney explained to the coroner why he specifically needed a "strange" —

considered reliable but one who curiously did not want to reveal all they thought they knew. A clue to this source is to be found in how Kidney arrived at the police station.

It goes without saying that a hansom cab is beyond the means and wants of a broke, drunken waterside laborer. However, one was certainly in the possession of Charles Le Grand and his colleague, J.H. Batchelor. Le Grand, a career criminal employed

Police Sergeant Stephen White to find Packer and get his statement.

White must have felt rather put out by this time as it was he who spoke with Matthew Packer only eight hours following Stride's murder and was told by the 58-year-old man that he had seen and heard nothing strange. Now that Packer was being hailed by the press and public as the man who saw the Ripper, White had to protect not only his own reputation, but that of his

A "STRANGE, YOUNG DETECTIVE"

meaning locally unknown — detective: *I thought that if I had one, privately, he could get more information than I could myself. The parties I obtained my information from knew me, and I thought someone else would be able to derive more from them.*

So at some point in the hours between Kidney identifying Stride at the mortuary and his arrival at the police station, Kidney received information from a source he apparently

as a "private detective" with the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee, had been in Berner Street since just after the discovery of the murder and was also present at the mortuary on Oct. 1st. He was responsible for the "breaking" of Matthew Packer's famous story in the *Evening News* edition of Oct. 4th, which caused much consternation within all ranks of the police. With Inspector Abberline being out at the time, Inspector Henry Moore ordered

entire force. He detailed the saga in a report dated October 4th.⁷

When White arrived at 44 Berner Street, Mrs. Packer informed him that two detectives had taken her husband to the mortuary. While on his way to the mortuary, White ran into Packer with one of the "detectives." As they were speaking, the other detective joined them. Only when pressed to prove their authority as detectives did the men show a card and admit they

⁶ Yost, Dave, Elizabeth Stride and Jack the Ripper: The Life and Death of the Reputed Third Victim, *McFarland*, 2008.

⁷ Evans, Stewart P. & Keith Skinner, *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion*, pp. 129-130, Carroll & Graff Publishers, Inc. 2000.

were really “private” detectives. White noticed a letter in one of the men’s hands addressed to “Le Grand & Co., Strand.” They would not allow White to speak to Packer and induced him to go away with them. Later that day, at 4 pm, White found himself back at 44 Berner Street, and as he was speaking with Packer, the two private detectives arrived in a hansom cab and once again induced Packer to go with them, stating that they were taking him to see Commissioner Charles Warren.

It’s worth noting that the first time White encountered the men they were on foot, but when they were preparing a trip to the police station, they did so in a cab. As there doesn’t appear to have been anyone else whisking away witnesses in hansom cabs, we’re on safe ground in concluding that Michael Kidney himself was taken to the Lemn Street police station by none other than Charles Le Grand, and that it was probably him from whom Kidney wanted the “strange, young detective” to elicit further information. It seems that the vigilance committee, by whom Le Grand and Batchelor were employed, had its own theory of the murders, and it was likely a version of this theory that was conveyed to Kidney.



The *Daily Telegraph* of Oct. 3rd, reported: *A member of the Vigilance Committee informed our representative last night that a great deal of information about the state of the streets, and suspicious men who frequent them, had been collected by them, and they believed that at least some of it might turn out of value. Although many*

people think differently, he and some of his colleagues consider that the murders were not the work of one man, or, at all events, that he had associates. Their belief is that at least four or five men were engaged in the murderous plot, and it was in the hope of inducing one of them to turn informer that the committee were so anxious that the Home Secretary should offer a reward. This opinion, however, was formed when what is now known as the “medical requirement” hypothesis gained credence. Several members of the committee even thought they were on the track of the gang, but investigations have neither substantiated the theory nor led to the unravelling of the mystery. Nevertheless, the Vigilance Committee, under the presidency of Mr. George Lusk, continues to meet daily, and focus, as it were, the sentiments of the inhabitants.

Le Grand and Batchelor would have had no trouble in locating Michael Kidney. All had been to the mortuary on the same day and may have met there, or perhaps through the police contacts of the “private detectives,” or even in Berner Street, where Kidney was sure to have gone, and where it is known that Le Grand and Batchelor



spent a good deal of time in the days following the murder. A reporter for the *Echo* newspaper spent the morning of Oct. 1st in Berner Street and describes with irritated bemusement a couple of men who had managed to gather a crowd with their tale of intrigue.

Very little additional information was to be obtained (writes an Echo reporter shortly after noon) concerning the murder of the woman Stride up till noon to-day. Except for a couple of hundred or so of men, women, and children, whose morbid curiosity had attracted them to the scene of the crime, there was nothing to indicate that another of these mysterious murders had taken place. Among the loungers were, of course, many who professed to be in possession of all the details connected with the unfortunate woman's death, but on being questioned, it transpired that the stories which they were obligingly disposed to relate were nothing more than conjecture. Several men who were surrounded by respective groups of eager listeners went so far as to say that the woman Stride had been seen in the neighbourhood of Berner-street about twelve o'clock on Saturday night in company with a middle-aged man of dark complexion, but here the

description of the supposed murderer of the woman stopped. In answer to questions, however, neither of the men would father the story, preferring to escape any direct, or to them inconvenient, inquiries on the subject by saying 'They had heard so.'

It is quite possible these men were Le Grand and Batchelor, offering up an early version of the Packer story.

As regards the vigilance committee theory, the source described a gang of four to five men who met the 'medical requirement' imposed on the Ripper following Dr. Phillips' testimony at the inquest into the death of Annie Chapman, where he described, in a state approaching awe, how Chapman's killer executed in record time operations that would have taken him much longer. Le Grand and Batchelor must have imparted no more information than this to Michael Kidney, and perhaps under a sworn oath of secrecy, and refused to divulge any further details. It is with this false hope that a drunken, frustrated Kidney entered the Leman Street station and requested a "strange, young detective," in hope that such a man might glean more information from the two private detectives. These seem like the actions of a man

in agony trying to find answers and not that of a murderer perpetrating a ruse.

MICHAEL KIDNEY - THE SUSPECT

While at least the notion that Stride was killed by someone other than Jack the Ripper goes back as far as the murder itself, the idea of Michael Kidney as the perpetrator did not start in earnest until 1993 and the publication of *Jack the Myth: A New Look At The Ripper*, by A.P. Wolf. While A.P. Wolf is certainly one of the most talented authors to write about the Ripper, he's also one of the most imaginative; most myths about the Stride murder in general, and Michael Kidney in particular, are to be found within the pages of his book, and as the text of the book has been available to peruse for free at Casebook.org for years now, it continues to have an influence on new students coming on to the case. There is no question but that Wolf's theories about the Stride murder influenced a great many books to follow, some of which we will also consider in this section. But to understand the genesis of the Kidney theory, we must start with the blundering error that first convinced A.P. Wolf that Kidney murdered Stride.

The following excerpts are from chapter two of his book as it appears at Casebook.org.

The final evidence for Michael Kidney's guilt is so surprisingly obvious that it is difficult to believe that it has lain around for so many years without anyone realizing its importance.

One day after the murder of Long Liz — Elizabeth Stride — Michael Kidney arrived in a drunken condition at Leman Street Police Station, Whitechapel. He demanded to speak to a detective, ranting and raving that if he had been the constable in the area where the murder took place he would have killed himself. This is a vital point because Kidney did this before the inquest opened on Long Liz and her body had still not be [sic] Identified, in other words nobody knew who the victim was, and even later, after the inquest had opened, she was still being wrongly identified as Elizabeth Stokes. So how then did Kidney know that the latest murder victim was his ex-girlfriend Long Liz before she had even been identified?'

There is no doubt now that Kidney did murder Long Liz... going to the police to complain about the circumstances of her death before anyone knew

she was dead clinches it.

It is astonishing that the inquest jury were so quickly satisfied with his testimony, particularly after he admitted lying to them. Equally, one can only wonder at the total incompetence of the police in failing to realize that Kidney could not have known that it was Long Liz who was murdered before her body had even been identified, unless of course he had committed the crime himself. Again, as in other inquests on the so called Ripper murders, the attitude of the police is quite unbelievable. The failure of the police in Long Liz's case of not calling the single eyewitness to her murder, Israel Schwartz, to give vital evidence at the inquest is absolute criminal neglect.'

Wolf is correct in only one point in his write-up of Kidney; it would indeed have been absolute and unprecedented incompetence on the part of the police if a man had walked into their station and berated them over a murder that had yet to be discovered and then been allowed to walk about scot-free without serious investigation. It would also be quite the anomaly if this person were to then sit in the jury box at the inquest and deliver the same tale without anyone catching on.

Then to consider that 105 years of solid research should follow in the most studied murder series in history, with no one being any the wiser about Kidney and what essentially amounts to his loud and public confession.

Of course, the truth is that Stride had been identified at the mortuary by many people, including Kidney, prior to his drunken trip to the police station. Nevertheless, Wolf's error in reading had convinced him of Kidney's guilt, and he supported his erroneous conclusion with a host of equally poor miscalculations — that Kidney padlocked Stride in their rooms, that he habitually abused her, that he had lied to the inquest jury. These and many more fallacies continue to plague the research of writers on the case.

Wolf's writing teaches us more about his lack of faith in the police and his fellow researchers than it does about the Ripper murders, but the impact of his work is everlasting. Remarkably, Stewart Evans pointed this error out to him and he has yet to correct it, though doing so would be quite simple as his work now exists primarily as an online text.

Although Stewart Evans was too wise to be convinced by Wolf's "final

proof," he did follow along in his thinking that Kidney was Stride's killer, and along with co-author Paul Gainey, summed up his thoughts in a single paragraph in his 1995 magnum opus, *Jack the Ripper: The First American Serial Killer* (U.K. title *The Lodger*).

The evidence surrounding the Stride murder is very problematical, and extremely confusing when read in full. The lasting impression is of a domestic dispute-related murder. On the Tuesday before her death, Stride walked out of the home she shared with Michael Kidney, a brutal, heavy-drinking labourer, who was known to have frequently assaulted her. The case does not bear the distinctive stamp of a Ripper killing.

Here again, we are told, without evidence, that Kidney was "brutal" and "frequently assaulted" Stride. We are also told that Stride's murder resembles a domestic homicide, although I can't think of one domestic murder that even remotely resembles the Berner Street case. If nothing else, Evans and Gainey could not be accused of playing with the evidence to support their suspect, Francis Tumblety. Quite the opposite, in fact, as they believed Francis Tumblety to have

been the fabled “Batty Street Lodger,” living at 22 Batty Street, so close to the scene of Stride’s murder that one could have probably heard the singing from the club from an open window at number 22. Also, as far as witness suspects go, the Berner Street murder offers about the only candidate for the tall, fair-haired Tumblety, in the way of Pipeman. Nevertheless, Evans and Gainey did not feel that Tumblety would kill so close to home, so Michael Kidney is brought in as the murderous BS Man, with Pipeman being nothing more than an innocent passerby.

James Tully, in his impressive and woefully overlooked 1997 work on the case, *Prisoner 1167, The Madman Who Was Jack the Ripper*, makes equally short work in condemning Kidney, believing him to have been a heartless pimp wanting to punish Stride for leaving him and killing his golden goose.

All the circumstances point to the fact that Liz had had enough of Kidney and was intent upon leaving him for good. That she was frightened of him is beyond doubt, as is the fact that Kidney would not have been at all pleased to discover that his steady source of income had taken flight. [p. 320]

Let us then convict Michael Kidney,

in absentia, for the murder of Elizabeth Stride and hasten to Mitre Square. [p. 322]

Here, we are told that Liz Stride was leaving Kidney for good and never coming back, that it is “beyond doubt” that Stride was frightened of Kidney, and that only he could have been her murderer. Tully was indeed in such a hurry to get to Mitre Square that he forgot to give us the evidence for his conclusions!

The next year, 1998, brought us Bob Hinton’s *From Hell: The Jack the Ripper Mystery*, which served indictments on both George Hutchinson and Michael Kidney. Unlike many authors on the case, Hinton spends a good deal of time on Berner Street, discussing the evidence and offering his insights. As he served as a magistrate and has a very strong knowledge of the case materials, many of his insights are delightfully fresh and deserve serious consideration. However, as with many authors, he seemed to have blinders on when it came to the murder of Liz Stride and the history of Michael Kidney. Indeed, the influence of the authors already discussed, A.P. Wolf in particular, is very apparent in the following paragraphs.

If we were to look at the Stride killings in isolation, discounting the other killings entirely, what path would the police follow. Liz Stride is living with a man, who when drunk becomes violent and beats her up. She has twice had him in court for this offence, once she failed to turn up and the charges were dropped, the second time she gave evidence and he was gaoled. A few days before her murder she apparently had another violent quarrel with Michael Kidney (he denied this) and moved out to lodgings of her own. [p. 78]

We know that Kidney was violently jealous of Liz Stride, before when he thought she had another man he beat her and padlocked her in their lodgings. [p. 79]

Given all these indicators I believe that we are justified in saying that if we were to examine Liz Stride’s murder in isolation, the police would have wanted to interview Mr. Kidney. Because the police wanted to keep Israel Schwartz and his testimony secret, he never gave evidence at the inquest, an inquest where we know Michael Kidney was present, it is interesting to know what would have happened if they had met. [p. 82]

Hinton is absolutely correct that we should look at each murder in the

series independently. However, his look at the Stride case seems to have told him that whenever Kidney got drunk he beat up Stride, and that she took him to court twice, providing evidence against him and putting him in jail the second time. He also tells us that Kidney, far from being Tully's heartless pimp, was an insanely jealous man who would padlock her in their rooms whenever he felt another man might be lingering about. We also learn that she left Kidney the last time as a result of "another violent quarrel." Again, we are offered no evidence of any of this. But by the time Hinton's book came out, five years following Wolf's, the myths had been so oft repeated that they had become accepted knowledge.

It is not my wish to disparage the authors whose work I've quoted here. In fact, it is my sincere hope that none of them become offended that I've put their work "on the spot." All of their books offer cases against viable suspects, and I consider Evans and Gainey's tome to be the model example of how a suspect book should be approached. However, we all share the common goal of getting to the truth, and to understand a popular and persistent mode of thought in the field — in this

case, Kidney's culpability for Stride's murder — it is absolutely essential to study how that mode of thought came into being. It is a singular, if not unfortunate, fact that the opinions of those who have published books on the case are given more weight than those who *merely* publish essays or post on message boards, at least as far as the relatively new researcher is concerned. Therefore, it is important to put the conclusions brought forth in these books in their proper context.

**MICHAEL KIDNEY
HAS BEEN CONVICTED
BEFORE HE HAD
HIS DAY IN COURT.
IT IS TIME NOW TO
RECTIFY THAT.**

MICHAEL KIDNEY - THE FACTS

All we know about Michael Kidney's character comes from his testimony at the Stride inquest, where he was described by an attending *Daily News* reporter as "morose", "rough-spoken" and occasionally "incoherent." Members of the press must have been clamoring for an interview with him, not only to discuss Liz but also the tantalizing theory he had mentioned in court, all the more tantalizing because Kidney wouldn't let the police have it. Yet to date no interview with Kidney has been discovered, suggesting he refused publicity. Had he known the speculation that would surround him more than a hundred years later, he might have been a little quicker to set the record straight, but since he did not, we must work with what we have. In this section we will look at each of the favored arguments used by writers to speculate upon Kidney's guilt in the Stride murder and see how they compare with the facts. We will also consider some important information that will be new to most readers.

That Kidney would padlock Stride into their rooms is one of the most commonly repeated myths, appearing

in virtually every book that favors Kidney as the killer (Evans and Gainey being the exception); even *Casebook.org*, with its barebones, "Just the Facts" approach, has offered the following paragraph for many years now to anyone clicking Stride's picture and wanting to learn more about her: "*Their relationship is best described as stormy. He says that she was frequently absent when she was drinking and he even tried, unsuccessfully, to padlock her in (see list of possession at time of death).*" It is difficult to say with certainty just where this myth originated, but it is almost certainly from the inquest reportage of the *Times*, which in the pre-Internet days of Ripper research was the favored and most accessible newspaper available. Unfortunately, the *Times* coverage of the Stride inquest left much to be desired, and many writers to this day fall victim to its errors and poorly constructed sentences. However, even the *Times* can't take all the blame for this particular error, as its coverage of Kidney on this point wasn't altogether ambiguous:

Inspector Reid: *When you and deceased lived together I believe you had a padlock on the door?*

Michael Kidney: *Yes; there was only the one key, which I had, but she got in and out somehow.*

From this sentence, countless researchers have concluded that Kidney kept Stride prisoner in her own home, overlooking the fact that he didn't say "she got out somehow," but that "she got in and out somehow." [Emphasis added.] This is a significant difference. In fact, other papers did a much better job of reporting what Kidney said; the *Scotsman* [Edinburgh] of Oct. 6th reported Kidney's reply to Inspector Reid as follows: *When deceased and I lived together, the door was padlocked when we were out. I had a key, and she borrowed one to get in or waited till I came. On the Wednesday before her death, I found she had gone into the room and taken some things, although it was locked.*

This makes it clear that Kidney and Stride would leave together, him locking the door behind them. Sometimes she would let herself in, explaining that she borrowed a key, probably from the landlord. In reality, it seems she had applied to the landlord for a duplicate some time before and simply hadn't told Kidney, as indicated by the fact that the key remained

in her possession after she moved away and was found amongst her belongings. Nevertheless, it is nowhere intimated that Kidney at any time kept Stride prisoner in her own home.

Other comments of Kidney's are often taken completely out of context and painted with the blackest possible motives; for instance, when he states that he was a great believer in "discipline," he meant not that he disciplined Stride, but was responding to questions from coroner Baxter about his career and pension as an army reservist. He was also still steaming about the police handling of her murder.

The *Times* reported Kidney as having said, "*I have cautioned her the same as I would a wife,*" again misinterpreted by modern researchers to mean that he would punish or beat Stride. In fact, Kidney never said this, what he actually said being, "*I treated her the same as I would a wife,*" meaning simply that they lived together as man and wife and he financially provided for her. A reading of his inquest testimony in other newspapers bears this out.

There is absolutely nothing in Kidney's inquest testimony to suggest an abusive relationship and it seems

to go without comment that none of Stride's lodging house mates held any suspicions against Kidney, even though they were asked point-blank if Stride was frightened of anyone or felt anyone wanted to hurt her. On the other hand, we have Catherine Eddowes telling a police officer on the night of her death that she expected a "damn fine hiding" from her beau, John Kelly. As writers prefer to romanticize their relationship, this is generally explained as mere banter.

NONE OF STRIDE'S LODGING HOUSE MATES HELD ANY SUSPICIONS AGAINST KIDNEY,

Regarding the confident assertions of many authors that Kidney "frequently abused" Stride or, in one author's case, that Kidney indeed served jail time for abusing Stride, all we have in the way of official documentation is that on one occasion, on April 6th, 1887, Stride accused Kidney of assault but failed to turn up at the hearing, so the charges were dropped. While it is well-known that abused women often refuse to press charges, we have only this one accusation over a three-year relationship, and when one considers that Stride was a habitual liar who herself was arrested a record-breaking eight times between 1887 and 1888 alone, it might be wise to extend Michael Kidney some benefit of the doubt. In July of 1888, a little over two months before the murder, Kidney served three days in jail for being drunk and disorderly and using obscene language, but this had nothing to do with Stride, although some authors have assumed it did and have used the incident to bolster the idea that Kidney "repeatedly abused" Stride.

In reality, Stride and Kidney were both alcoholics, with Stride seemingly the worse of the two, so there probably

was an element of abuse on both sides, although the official records don't bear this out and previous writers had no cause to accuse Kidney in the manner that has been done. However, at the risk of appearing hypocritical, my own research has turned up an acquaintance of Stride's who *did* inform a reporter that Kidney beat and ill-used her. Her statement, which appeared in the *Daily News* of October 3rd, 1888, is important not so much in this regard than for other reasons that shall be seen, so is offered here in full.

NEW INFORMATION ON STRIDE'S MOVEMENTS

The *Daily News* reporter was interviewing a woman at a mission house where Stride was known, and was told the following:

'The woman who looks after these mission rooms,' continued the speaker, 'was another of the same class, and who used to be an associate of the poor creature murdered in Berner-street. She saw her only last Thursday, and she, that is, the murdered woman, said then that she felt all was coming to some bad end.'

The missionary made mention of another associate of the Berner-street

victim. She also was believed to be trying to regain respectability, and it seemed worth while to go down into the depths of the neighbourhood that was formerly known as Tiger Bay to hear what this woman had to say about her former companion. She was found in a small back room at the inner end of a dark court not far from the scene of the murder, and proved to be a vivacious widow with three children, and one eye to look after them with. She first knew the dead woman three years ago, she said, and she was then certainly very pretty, always had a nice clean apron, and was always smart and tidy. She took up with a labourer, said the woman, and 'lived indoors with him,' but he beat her and so ill-used her that she was forced to turn out in the streets. She took to drink, and seemed to grow reckless and desperate. For two years she never saw anything of her, but recently the deceased called on her old acquaintance, who had got her own room and a few scraps of furniture about her. The desolate woman congratulated her old acquaintance on having a comfortable home (!) invited her to come and drink with her, and, this being refused, she took out two pence, all she had in the world-and insisted on sharing it for

old acquaintance sake. 'Oh dear, oh dear!' ejaculated the woman, 'ain't it awful though!' 'No doubt all these poor creatures are dreading to go into the streets,' it was observed. 'I should just think they was,' was the reply. 'Why, they're a'most afraid to sit indoors. I gets my living among 'em,' continued the woman with frank communicativeness, 'Not them as lives at the lodging-houses like her,' she explained; "there ain't much to be got out o' them, but the regular respectable ones. I does charing for 'em, and lor' bless you they just are scared. "shall turn it up," they says. But then, as I says, what have they got to turn to?'

There is little doubt but that this woman knew Stride, who did indeed "take up" with Michael Kidney about three years before, as was her recollection. She stated that she hadn't seen Stride for about two years prior to just recently, when Stride turned up again, and that when she had previously seen Stride she had moved out from Kidney's place on account of abuse. The woman clearly was not aware that Stride returned to Kidney and that her leaving him was somewhat frequent.

Regarding the abusive behavior of Kidney, the woman could be a bit off

in her time and this could refer to the same incident in April of 1887 when Stride accused Kidney of assault, or it could be another incident that occurred before this, or it could just be Stride using sympathy to get money to drink. The crucial point about this woman's statement is that it is the first evidence we have that Stride had been in the Berner Street area not long before her murder. Tiger Bay was in the same neighborhood as Berner Street, so close that many mistakenly thought Berner Street a part of Tiger Bay as well. The reporter even remarked that the one-eyed woman's back room lodgings were "not far from the scene of the murder." It is unfortunate that the journalist did not press the woman for more details, such as how recently Stride had paid her a visit. But we do have clues, such as that Stride had apparently told the woman she was staying in a lodging house. If this is true, it means that Stride may have visited her the very week of her murder.

Without wanting to digress from our primary topic too much more, I will quickly mention that it is interesting that the missionary woman should say that the lady in charge of the mission rooms had seen Stride

just the Thursday before her death. The mission in question was probably Dr. Thomas Barnardo's mission in Hanbury Street, as Barnardo claimed that Stride was present in the lodging house at 32 Flower and Dean Street when he visited only the day before. He stated that the women were frightened of the Whitechapel murderer, and one woman called out, "We're all up to no good, no one cares what becomes of us! Perhaps some of us will be next!" A few days later he identified Stride's body as the woman who spoke out.

Prior to now I had never given Barnardo's tale much thought, but as we find corroborating evidence from a mission worker that Stride visited the mission on the following day and told the mistress of the house a similarly bleak prediction (that she was herself coming to 'some bad end'), this indicates that Barnardo was correct in his identification, and allows us with some degree of accuracy to identify the mission Stride visited on Thursday with that of Dr. Barnardo's. Stride may even have spent Wednesday night at the mission, leaving on Thursday morning. This would explain why Catherine Lane and Elizabeth Tanner, the deputy of 32 Flower and Dean Street,

did not see Stride until Thursday, but the watchman, Thomas Bates, recalled seeing her on Tuesday (the day she left Kidney). Although it may mean absolutely nothing in connection with her murder, I am suggesting that Stride had recently visited the Berner Street area, and was thus not a stranger to it, and was in nearby Hanbury Street only the day before her murder.

I would not, however, go so far as to suggest that Stride's comments to Dr. Barnardo or the mission worker reveal any knowledge of her killer or impending murder. Stride was an unhappy woman and her outlook appears to have been bleak regardless, and considering our sources are missionaries, it's certain that Stride would have played upon their sympathies in any way she felt might benefit her, just as she did with the Swedish Lutheran Church in London.

Moving forward, the next myth we will look at is the oft-repeated suggestion that Stride had left Kidney for the last and final time, with no intention to return, and that knowing this, an angry and/or jealous Kidney went in search for her. That these events took place is absolutely crucial to the argument that Kidney killed Stride. If she

hadn't left for good or if Kidney hadn't gone in search for her, then the motive crumbles to dust.

Elizabeth Tanner, deputy of 32 Flower and Dean Street, who enjoyed a drink with Liz at the Queen's Head public house on the last day of Liz's life, gave the following testimony at the inquest (from the *Daily Telegraph*, condensed here for only the relevant portions).

Coroner: *Do you know any of her male*

acquaintances?

Tanner: *Only of one.*

Coroner: *Who is he?*

Tanner: *She was living with him. She left him on Thursday to come and stay at our house, so she told me.*

Coroner: *Have you seen this man?*

Tanner: *I saw him last Sunday.*

(Oct. 1st)

Coroner: *Did she ever tell you she was afraid of any one?*

Tanner: *No.*

Coroner: *Or that any one had ever threatened to injure her?*

Tanner: *No.*

Coroner: *The fact of her not coming back on Saturday did not surprise you, I suppose?*

Tanner: *We took no notice of it...Before last Thursday she had been away from my house about three months.*

Coroner: *Did you see her during that three months?*

Tanner: *Yes, frequently; sometimes once a week, and at other times almost every other day.*

Coroner: *Did you understand what she was doing?*

Tanner: *She told me that she was at work among the Jews, and was living with a man in Fashion Street.*

This exchange is very revealing, and is also quite important as it is coming from a woman who had known Stride for six or more years and had recently been spending much time with her. She seems to have been aware of Stride's penchant for lying, as when she told the coroner that Stride had left Kidney on Thursday to live at their house, she chose to qualify the information with "so she told me," which meant the same then as it does now, that Tanner was relaying what



THE STRIDE INQUEST

she was told, for what it was worth, which might not be much. It's not clear whether both Tanner and Catherine Lane merely assumed Stride had left Kidney on Thursday because that's when they had first seen her, or if Stride chose to tell them she had left Kidney only that day. For this reason, many commentators assume that Kidney saw Stride on Thursday, two days after she left him, but this is clearly not so. There's no question that Stride left Kidney on Tuesday and no reason to suppose he saw her after that. Tanner's evidence conclusively shows that Stride had said she left Kidney *after* they had "had words," and Tanner merely assumed (or was told by Stride) that this occurred on Thursday.

Coroner Baxter, ever quick on his game, tried to slip Kidney up by stating (in the form of a question) out of the blue, "You had a quarrel with her on Thursday?" to which Kidney immediately replied, "I did not see her on Thursday."

A point of significance here is that although Stride was seeing Tanner socially on a regular basis, she never at any time suggested she was frightened of Kidney or being abused by

him, a point strongly enforced by the medical evidence, which reported no signs of abuse (other than some minor bruising left only that evening, presumably by her murderer or a recent client). Frequent abuse over a three-year period will leave its mark, particularly on the body of a middle-aged woman, yet Stride was free of any such indicators.

Another important point is that Kidney, allegedly on the hunt for Stride, never once showed up looking for her at the one place she was most likely to be found, 32 Flower and Dean Street.

From the evidence we've collected, the worst we can say with any certainty about Kidney is that he abused Stride early on in their relationship, but even on this there must remain some doubt considering our only source is Stride herself, an intelligent woman who knew how to play on people's sympathies and could not seem to help herself from lying about virtually everything.

It is curious that she would choose to lie to her friend about where she and Kidney were living, telling her it was on Fashion Street. Compounding this curiosity is that, of all the streets in London, Catherine Eddowes should have chosen to give to the police a false

address of "6 Fashion Street" in the hours before her murder. This may just be one of the many little coincidences that plague the case (and make it so compelling), or there may be something to it we just don't see yet.

It should be clear that Kidney was telling the truth when he said he had no reason to assume Stride wouldn't be returning to him. After all, she had gone off like this before and had always come back. But he had another reason to assume she'd come back, and that is the fact that when she left on Tuesday, she took nothing with her. She returned the next day when he was gone and took her Swedish hymn book and (presumably at this time) her long piece of green velvet. No doubt she took the velvet because of its financial value and the hymn book because of its sentimental value. She chose to leave the hymn book with their neighbor, Mrs. Smith, saying she would be back for it. No doubt she was worried that Kidney might do something with her more prized possessions once he realized she wasn't returning right away. Apparently, Liz did not trust Mrs. Smith enough to leave the velvet with her. But if she was not planning to come back at all, why leave belongings

temporarily with a neighbor? It simply doesn't add up if one is to believe that Stride and Kidney had taken their final bow together.

Moving forward to the murder itself, virtually every writer who feels that Kidney murdered Stride has implied or stated outright their belief that Schwartz's "BS Man" was Kidney. This is a circular argument because they steadfastly believe that BS Man's behavior was not fitting with their perception of Jack the Ripper (as discussed earlier in this essay) and therefore wasn't the Ripper, but had to be Stride's killer, and Stride's killer was most likely her abusive boyfriend Michael Kidney, thus Kidney and BS Man must be one and the same. This all sounds well and good, but like the other persistent myths about Kidney and the Stride case, it doesn't stand up to scrutiny.

Schwartz got a good look at his man before and after BS Man's 'attack' on Stride, so we would expect the more pertinent points of his description to be accurate. According to Swanson's summary of the police report, BS Man was 30 years old, 5' 5" in height, fair complected, with dark hair, small dark moustache, full face, broad shoulders,

and wearing a dark jacket and trousers and a black cap with a peak. This description is in keeping with what Schwartz told the *Star* newspaper, adding the detail that he was "respectably dressed." Kidney was between 36 and 39 at the time of the murder, and probably appeared older than his age, so it is doubtful he'd register in anyone's mind as being "about 30," but on this point we will give Schwartz the benefit of the doubt. We do not know Kidney's height, and even if we did, height along with age are where witnesses can often be mistaken, so unless Kidney should turn out to be a dwarf or outlandishly tall, we couldn't in good conscience use this as an identifying characteristic. However, Kidney was a waterside laborer and probably deeply tanned, so it is difficult to reconcile this with a 'fair complexion', and as Kidney was very poor and would have had no cause to own good clothes, it would require a healthy imagination to describe him as "respectably dressed."

A press artist at the inquest did a good job capturing the likenesses of those giving testimony, and Kidney was no exception, so we have in our possession an extremely good idea of what Kidney looked like; he was not stout,



MICHAEL KIDNEY

nor full-faced, nor apparently broad-shouldered. More damning is the fact that he sported a very full and obvious moustache, whereas BS Man had a small moustache. This is not a point at which Schwartz would have been in error. If you would have difficulty imagining yourself looking upon Francis Tumblety, even for half the amount of time Schwartz had to witness BS Man, and coming away describing him as

having a “small moustache,” then you must conclude that when Schwartz described BS Man, he was describing someone very different from Michael Kidney.

Supporting this conclusion is Kidney’s behavior after the murder. He went willingly to the police, identified the body, volunteered a statement, drew additional negative attention by going back drunk and raving, then appeared not once but *twice* at the inquest. And if he were BS Man, then he did all this knowing that at least two people, and possibly more, had seen him attacking Stride and would quite likely be at the inquest as well. And it should be noted that his behavior is more in keeping with a bereaved loved-one and quite in contrast to Catherine Eddowes’ steady, John Kelly, generally held up as the sympathetic antithesis to Kidney, who while identifying the body had the presence of mind to sift through Eddowes’ bonnet looking for money she may have stashed away. And there is no record of Kelly pressing the police for justice in the way Kidney had.

When we consider the evidence of the Stride murder, we see none of the signs of a domestic murder. Stride was not in any way abused, no one heard

any yelling or screaming, there were no signs of any struggle, and her killer efficiently dispatched her with a single swipe of his blade. There was absolutely no passion or anger in the murder at all, and Michael Kidney was, if nothing else, a passionate person when unhappy, as his behavior at the police station and his overall demeanor at the inquest attests to.

The final and perhaps most remarkable argument proposed for Kidney’s guilt is the notion that the investigating police never considered, or were close-minded to the idea that the killer could have been anyone other than Jack the Ripper. This, of course, couldn’t be further from the truth. Another woman, Eddowes, had been murdered on the same night in City Police territory, which must have put considered additional pressure on the Metropolitan Police to discover their killer. Even if they could have solved just this one murder, the press, which clearly favored the City Police due to their more open attitude about sharing information and offering a reward, would have shifted their light across the boundary. The investigation into Stride’s murder was exhaustive by any standards, and like all such

crimes, they started with her closest associates.

In Chief Inspector Donald Swanson’s lengthy report of Oct. 19th, he states:

The body was identified as that of Elizabeth Stride, a prostitute, & it may be shortly stated that the enquiry into her history did not disclose the slightest pretext for a motive on behalf of friends or associates or anybody who had known her. [A little later on, Swanson reports] The numerous statements made to police were enquired into and the persons (of whom there were many) were required to account for their presence at the time of the murders & every care taken as far as possible to verify the statements.’

We know that Kidney was one of the “many” inquired into, and as a recently separated partner, he would have topped the list of priority inquiries, yet we are told here by the man overseeing the investigation that his statement was taken, his alibi investigated, and he was cleared of all suspicion.

Michael Kidney was cleared of the murder of Elizabeth Stride in 1888, and now in the 21st century, he must once again be found ‘Innocent’.

Exonerating Michael Kidney

SUMMATION

Although the relationship between Kidney and Stride appears to have been a stormy one, and quite likely physical at times, there is absolutely no evidence that Kidney was habitually abusive, and indeed quite a lot of evidence (medical and otherwise) that he was not. The popular idea that Kidney locked Stride in their rooms is without a doubt untrue, as are the suggestions that his inquest testimony indicated a violent man, or that he had any reason to suspect that Stride had left him for good. He clearly did not go looking for her, otherwise he would have first gone to the lodging house at 32 Flower and Dean Street where she had been staying when he met her and where she went to stay every time she left him. He certainly couldn't have expected to find her standing in a dark gateway in Berner Street.

Michael Kidney could not have been BS Man, assuming Schwartz got

even half his details correct. Kidney provided a statement and an alibi and put himself up to public scrutiny at two different inquest hearings, proving he had nothing to hide.

The circumstances surrounding the Stride murder indicate a quiet, efficient, passionless murder; if Kidney murdered Stride, then the crime is an anomaly in the annals of domestic homicide and not at all in keeping with their 'stormy' relationship.

Kidney's health and financial situation deteriorated rapidly in the year following Stride's death, and it's likely the one led to the other. I believe that Michael was truly in love with Liz.

Michael Kidney, along with all of Stride's close associates, were thoroughly investigated and their alibis were confirmed. As desperate as the police were to catch her killer, they were able to clear Kidney of all suspicion.

All arguments given to eliminate Stride from the Ripper's tally, save

that she wasn't mutilated, are shown to have no merit whatsoever; and it is only from this misguided doubt that Kidney was ever offered up as an alternate killer to begin with.

Michael Kidney did not murder Elizabeth Stride, but somebody did.

The case for discounting Elizabeth as a Ripper victim is not as weighty as it first appears. The differences between her injuries and those inflicted upon Polly Nichols and Annie Chapman do not oblige us to take the view that she was slain by another hand.

*Philip Sugden,
The Complete History of Jack the Ripper*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to first thank the late Adrian “Viper” Phypers for conceiving and initiating the “Casebook Press Project,” and Stephen P. Ryder, Chris Scott, and the many volunteer transcriptionists for taking Adrian’s project and making it a legacy. Ripperology without this ever-growing body of work would be unfathomable. I would also like to thank Stewart Evans for his inspiration, and the numerous friends

and fellow posters at the *Casebook* who encourage me and/or challenge me on all matters Stride-related — Debra Arif, Glenn Andersson, “Fisherman,” Michael Richards, Harry Mann, Simon Wood, c.d., DYLAN, Neil Bell, Don Souden, and countless others. I would like to thank Howard Brown for, many moons ago, pointing out to me the fact that Kidney’s detailed likeness ruled him out as BS Man.

Have a comment about something you read in this issue? Write a letter now to the Examiner at examiner@casebook.org

Biography

Tom Wescott

Tom lives in America’s heartland and, while still a young man, he has been a Casebook.org member since 1998. He has written extensively on the Ripper murders and his articles have

appeared in Ripper Notes, Ripperologist and the Whitechapel Society Journal. This the first of what is hoped will be many articles for Casebook Examiner.

Time has not been kind to Walter Andrews. Of all the police officers connected to the Whitechapel Murder investigation, he is among the most controversial, but the least studied; the easiest to dismiss, but the hardest to interpret correctly.

A growing number of theorists now argue — sometimes with aggression — that Andrews never worked the Jack the Ripper case at all. Yet, in truth, it may well have been Inspector Walter Andrews who once held the key that will finally unlock the case...



Inspector Andrews Revisited

PART ONE: THE RISE OF

R.J.PALMER

WALTER ANDREWS

In the years before 1995, ‘Andrews’ was not a name one normally encountered in books about the Whitechapel murders. An exception was Begg, Fido, and Skinner’s *Jack the Ripper A to Z* (1988) which not only included a brief entry on Andrews, but afforded him a prominent role in the investigation.

“Walter Dew,” the authors wrote, “lists Andrews along with Inspector Moore and Inspector Abberline as having been seconded to Whitechapel from Scotland Yard to take charge of the investigation.”¹

Even so, this prominence only left Andrews with a considerable aura of mystery, for although Dew’s accuracy could be readily gauged by the many contemporary references to Moore and Abberline working the ‘Ripper’ case, not a single surviving document in either the MEPO or Home Office files directly referred to Andrews. Equally strange was an obscure snippet culled from the *Pall Mall Gazette*, first published on the last day of 1888.

Dec. 31. Inspector Walter Andrews, of Scotland yard, has arrived in

New York from Montreal. It is generally believed that he has received orders from England to commence his search in this city for the Whitechapel murderer.

This, it seemed, was a straightforward confirmation of Dew’s version of events; on the other hand, when this was first republished in 1988, at a time when no prominent American ‘Ripper’ suspect loomed on the horizon (let alone one with connections to Montreal or New York), it appeared to be little more than an oddity taking place on the wrong side of the Atlantic Ocean. Indeed, the date ‘December 31st’ was infinitely more famous among students of the case for its association with a certain sopping corpse fished out of the Thames that same morning.² No further information was available, and there matters stood for nearly seven years.

The situation suddenly changed in 1995 with the appearance of Stewart P. Evans and Paul Gainey’s *The Lodger*, a book presenting the case against an otherwise forgotten police suspect in the Whitechapel murder investigation — Francis Tumblety, an Irish-born

quack and petty criminal who practiced medicine in North America in the 1850s and 60s, and who frequently visited London in the 1870s and 80s. Tumblety’s substantial ties to New York City, coupled with a previous arrest in Montreal for supplying abortifacients to a prostitute, made him an obvious solution to Andrews’ mysterious voyage to America in the closing weeks of 1888. Even more compelling was Evans and Gainey’s discovery that, shortly after the murder of Mary Kelly, Tumblety jumped bail on unrelated charges, fled to France, and then onward to New York City aboard the steamship *La Bretagne* — only five days before Inspector Andrews climbed aboard the *S.S. Sarnia*, also en route to America. It seemed like an excellent ‘fit.’

Nevertheless, students of the Whitechapel Murder investigation tend to be highly skeptical, and the suggestion that Andrews’ trip to America had anything to do with the Ripper murders — let alone Tumblety — soon met with challenge, dismissal, and even, on occasion, contempt.

¹ Paul Begg, Martin Fido, and Keith Skinner, *The Jack the Ripper A-Z (Headline, 1991) pp. 26-27*

² *Montague J. Druitt, later named by Melville Macnaghten as a suspect in the Ripper murders. Although Druitt’s body was discovered on December 31, the drowning was not reported until two days later, when it appeared in the County of Middlesex Independent of January 2, 1889.*

The war-cry of the opposition first rang out in Bob Hinton's 1998 book, *From Hell*.

*As for Scotland Yard pursuing their man across the Atlantic, this is patently nonsense. If Tumblety was released, presumably because the police had absolutely no evidence tying him to the Ripper killings, what was the point in pursuing him?*³

Similar, albeit less aggressive, doubts resurfaced six year later in Paul Begg's *Jack the Ripper: The Facts* (2004). Citing the *New York Herald*, Begg theorized that Andrews' 1888 mission to North America may have actually involved finding "evidence that will seemingly injure the Parnellites," or, in other words, that Andrews was not really hunting Jack the Ripper, but, rather, was aiding the Special Commission, then underway in London, in an effort to link MP Charles Stewart Parnell to the violent fringe of the Irish Nationalist movement — a suggestion that requires a great deal of scrutiny, and will be addressed in

FRANCIS TUBLETY



³ Bob Hinton, *From Hell: The Jack the Ripper Mystery* (Old Bakehouse Publications, 1998) p. 214. In point of fact, Hinton's remarks are based on a misconception. It is by no means evident that Tumblety was released because 'the police had absolutely no evidence tying him to the Ripper killings.' Tumblety was released for one reason only: charged with four counts of gross indecency, he successfully produced two sureties willing to stand in for bail. Hinton, like many theorists, is attempting to gauge Scotland Yard's level of suspicion against Tumblety in a series of murders by pondering the legal technicalities of an entirely different set of charges—a highly dubious proposition.

the second installment of this article.⁴

Meanwhile, a year later, at greater length and with considerable more insistence, Wolf Vanderlinden, coeditor of *Ripper Notes*, joined the dissenting voices in a well received two-part article entitled “On the Trail of Tumblety?,” that once again plumped for the ‘Special Commission’ theory of Andrews’ investigation. Among Vanderlinden’s arguments is Home Office correspondence showing that the negotiations to send a Scotland Yard detective to America were first instigated on November 19th, 1888, which, Vanderlinden argues, was before Tumblety had fled to France, thus disproving that Andrews could have “chased” Tumblety anywhere.

Vanderlinden further notes that nearly all of Andrews’ time in North America was spent in Toronto, Ontario, giving very little indication that he could have been investigating the Whitechapel Murders, let alone Francis Tumblety, since the quack had not practiced medicine in Toronto “for

over thirty years.”⁵ Finally, quoting a suggestion by British journalist and MP Henry Labochere, Vanderlinden offered an alternative theory, suggesting that Andrews had, in reality, slipped off to Chicago to meet with Henri Le Caron (real name, Thomas Miller Beach) a spy working for Assistant Met Commissioner Robert Anderson. Beach, as will be shown, had infiltrated the Clan-na-Gael — an Irish-American dissident group dedicated to achieving Irish Home Rule by any means, including dynamite and assassination. On the surface, Vanderlinden’s theory was an attractive suggestion, for two months later — in February, 1889 — Beach did, in fact, startle the world by appearing before *The Times’* Special Commission in London, giving damaging testimony against Parnell and his supporters. Ultimately, Vanderlinden concluded that any suggestion that Andrews had been sent to America to ‘track’ Francis Tumblety was “highly unlikely.”

Finally, to round out the dissenting

voices, authors Ivor Edwards, Timothy Riordan, and A.P. Wolf, have resurrected similar arguments in recent years; Edwards in an article appearing in the February 2008 issue of the *Ripperologist*, Riordan in a recent biography of Tumblety, and Wolf on internet forums.⁶ Nevertheless, further research casts considerable doubt on these nay-sayers and not only conclusively demonstrates that Andrews’ 1888 trip to North America had absolutely nothing whatsoever to do with the Special (Parnell) Commission, but strongly suggests that Evans and Gainey were correct all along: that Walter Andrews was specifically sent to North America to investigate Ripper suspect Francis Tumblety. It will be further shown that the investigation of Tumblety in North America was more extensive than hitherto supposed, leading to a nagging suspicion that something akin to a cover-up extended to the highest levels of the Metropolitan Police — where it still sits, threatening to twist the case in a bizarre new

⁴ Paul Begg, *Jack the Ripper: the Facts* (Robson, 2004) p. 254 ⁵ Wolf Vanderlinden, “On the Trail of Tumblety, Part Two,” in *Ripper Notes* 24 (October, 2005) p. 44. ⁶ Ivor Edwards’ article “Tumblety, the Patsy?” is in *Ripperologist* 88 (February 2008). For Timothy B. Riordan’s skeptical view of Andrews, see *Prince of Quacks: The Notorious Life of Dr. Francis Tumblety, Charlatan and Jack the Ripper Suspect* (McFarland & Co., 2009) A.P. Wolf, a proponent of the Thomas Cutbush theory of the Whitechapel Murders, has posted a multitude of statements discrediting Inspector Andrews connection to the ‘Ripper’ case. See www.jtrforums.com

ON NOVEMBER 15TH HE MADE A DRAMATIC DECISION —HE JOINED THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

direction, and begging for a radical reexamination of what we know — or think we know — about Scotland Yard’s opinions as to the identity of ‘Jack the Ripper.’

Before these arguments can be discussed in detail it is first necessary to examine the man behind the controversy, Inspector Walter Andrews.

A BLOKE FROM SUFFOLK

Walter Simon Andrews was born on April 27, 1847 in Boulge, a small village in southwestern England, some twenty miles from Ipswich. His childhood appears to have been humble and even humdrum; his father, William Andrews, toiled his entire life as a ‘market gardener,’ while his mother Sarah (née Goodfellow) worked as a maid and dressmaker. For several

years the couple drifted around rural Suffolk, settling in the village of Hasketon shortly after Walter’s birth, then moving on to Melton, an independent township in the 19th Century, but now a suburb of Woodbridge.⁷

Little is known of Andrews’ formative years, but around the age of fourteen he began working as a page and servant to William Colchester, a prosperous Suffolk ship owner and Justice of the Peace. The 1861 UK census lists Andrews as living on the Colchester family estate in Grundisburgh, but within the next four years he moved to London where he still pursued a career as a valet. Here he met and courted fellow servant Jane Carr, and the couple married in Marlebone, West London, on August 4, 1867.⁸ The future detective was certainly no social

climber; Jane was the fourth daughter of William and Charlotte Carr of West Malling, Kent, ‘agricultural laborers,’ who, on occasion, probably worked the same hop-bines that Kate Eddowes would pull twenty years later.

By the winter of 1869, Andrews was twenty-two, married, and facing a lifetime in domestic service. He obviously didn’t relish the prospect, because on November 15th he made a dramatic decision — he joined the Metropolitan police. Jane had recently given birth to the couple’s first child, Edith, and it might be wondered if becoming a family man had somehow precipitated the decision; whatever the case, Andrews would spend the next five years slogging away as a beat constable in Lambeth and The Borough, South London.

⁷ *Much of this information has been gleaned from UK Census data, circa 1851, 1861, and 1871.*

⁸ *Stewart P. Evans & Keith Skinner, The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion: An Illustrated Encyclopedia (Carroll & Graff, 2000) p. 676*

Somewhat odd for a young man reared in the English countryside, Andrews had one rather unusual talent — he was fluent in Russian. Where he picked up the language is unknown; possibly from a fellow servant, or, more likely perhaps, he deliberately studied Russian in order to advance his career. London in the 1870s was inundated with foreign swindlers and political intriguers from Eastern Europe, and, as a consequence, there was an increased demand for ‘educated’ policemen who could interview foreign suspects and correspond with detective departments on the Continent. Two Scotland Yard detectives had already set something of a standard in this

regard. Chief Inspector Nathaniel Druschovitch, an accomplished linguist, handled most of the Yard’s foreign fraud cases, while Chief Superintendent ‘Dolly’ Williamson (a former beat patrolman who studied French and German in his spare time) credited much of his success as a detective to his ability to understand several European tongues.⁹ Walter Andrews’ similar proficiency brought dividends; in November 1875, he was promoted to the rank of Detective Sergeant, and, only two years later, he became a Detective Inspector.

There may, however, have been another and altogether more dramatic reason for Andrews’ rapid rise through

the ranks: in 1877 Scotland Yard was very nearly ruined by a scandal of enormous proportions. For two brief moments, Walter Andrews found himself in the middle of it.

The background to the scandal is of considerable importance. To the modern observer, there has always been a long-standing love affair between the British public and the British detective, or, at least the fictional British detective.¹⁰ The truth, however, is very different. For most of the 18th and 19th Centuries, the average British citizen utterly loathed everything even remotely smelling of ‘criminal detection.’ The attitude may seem strange to us now, but the Victorians,

⁹ For Chief Inspector Druscovitch, see Douglas G. Browne, *The Rise of Scotland Yard : A History* (G. P. Putnam’s Sons, 1956). A number of Scotland Yard historians have wrongly referred to Druscovitch as ‘foreign born.’ He was, in fact, born in Limehouse, London, in October 1841. See London Metropolitan Archives, St. George in the East Register of Baptisms, P93/GEO item 019. Superintendent Dolly Williamson’s language skills, and how they related to his police work, are briefly discussed in Bernard Porter’s *The Origins of the Vigilant State* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1987) pp. 7-8.

¹⁰ The extensive coverage of the Whitechapel Murders by the London dailies was a significant factor in the popularization of detective work in Britain. Other early influences included the press coverage of the murder of Saville Kent at Road Hill in 1860 (which featured, among others, Chief Inspector Dolly Williamson), Wilkie Collins’ novel, *The Moonstone* (1868), and, above all, the ‘Sherlock Holmes’ stories of the early 1890s. So wildly popular was Conan Doyle’s detective that large crowds lined Southampton Street on the day that the Hound of the Baskervilles was first serialized in the Strand magazine, and when Doyle momentarily killed off his detective in “The Final Problem,” some members of the public wore black armbands. See the *Annotated Sherlock Holmes*, edited by William S. Baring-Gould (Clarkson N. Potter, Inc. 1971) Volume 1, pp. 15-16. This “cult of the detective” seems to have grated on the nerves of some police officials at the Met; using considerable irony, two important figures in the “Ripper” investigation, Dr. Robert Anderson and Detective Inspector Edmund Reid, both refer to “Sherlock Holmes” when discussing their own involvement in the Ripper case.

in particular, were deeply protective of their civil liberties, widely believing that the government (and hence the police) had no right to pry into private affairs — even if it meant that a few criminals might go undetected. Lord Palmerston, possibly the greatest politician of his era, typified this attitude, putting his faith in an open society, and announcing that any attempt to keep a force of ‘secret’ detectives would be an unnecessary and unjustifiable measure. ‘Secret’ policing struck Palmerston, as it did many of his contemporaries, as fundamentally European in concept — suitable for autocratic governments like Russia or France, but utterly un-British. As such, the British bobby, unlike the 19th Century French detective, wore easily recognizable uniforms and patrolled the streets openly; for decades he was even required to wear his uniform while off duty, thus alerting his neighbors to the fact that a cop was in their midst. Further, if a policeman ever dared to overstep his authority there was nearly always a public outcry. In 1845, for instance, when a constable briefly disguised himself as a cobbler in order to spy on a man suspected of counterfeiting, a minor

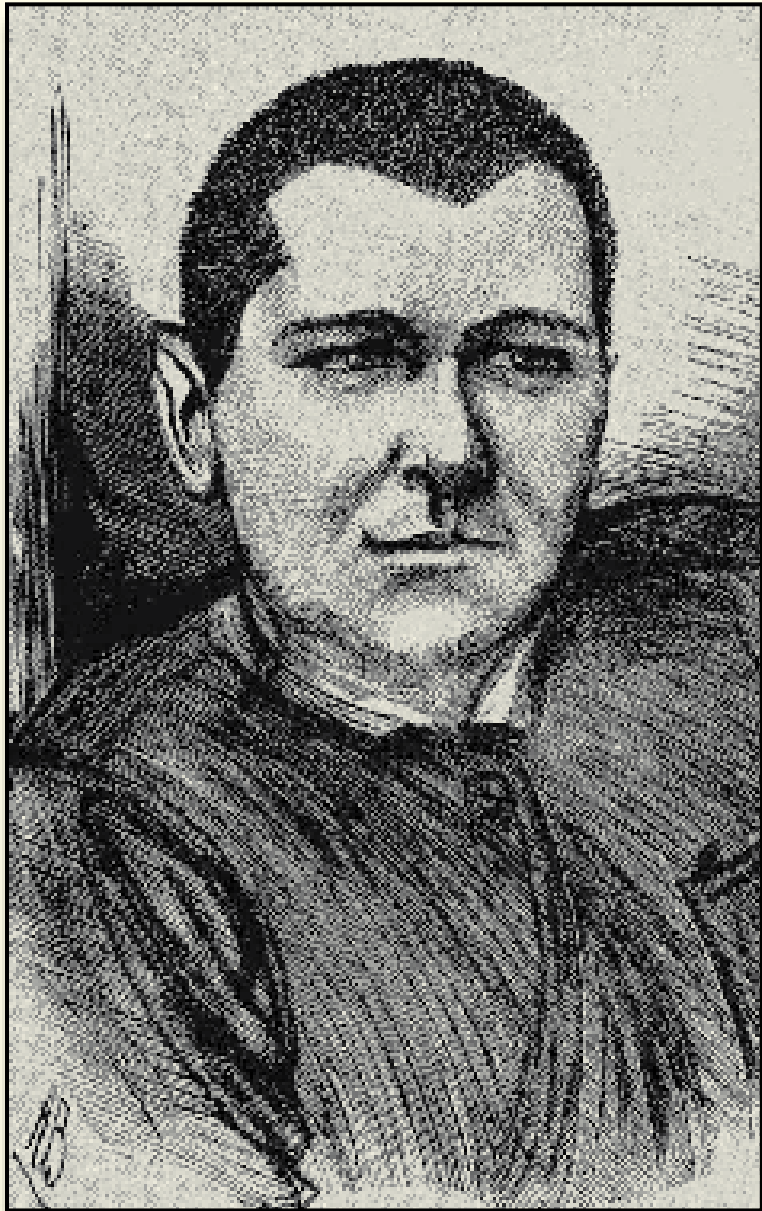
scandal erupted; six years later, similar outrage was heaped upon a policeman who was caught lurking behind a tree in order to watch two men suspected of ‘public indecency.’¹¹ Such police antics, however well-meaning, were seen as dangerous infringements to personal liberty, and, as such, political pressures kept the Met’s detective department exceedingly small throughout the 1850s, 60s and early 70s.

In late 1877 — only two years after Andrews’ promotion to detective sergeant — this widespread distaste for ‘secret’ policing exploded in a scandal of far greater proportions. During a highly publicized trial held at Old Bailey, a horrified public learned that many of Scotland Yard’s best detectives were in the secret pay of two swindlers named Benson and Kurr, the proprietors of a bogus racing journal called *Sport*. Disturbed by the implications, Parliament demanded an investigation, and, soon afterwards, heads began to roll.

Benson and Kurr had devised an exceedingly clever swindle. Using the columns of *Sport*, they encouraged gamblers on the Continent to place bets on behalf of a certain ‘Mr.

Montgomery,’ who, the *Sport* claimed, was so successful at picking winning race horses that he had been banned from every track in Britain. Initially skeptical, several wealthy Europeans placed bets for ‘Montgomery’ — and won. Indeed, they won so consistently that, with swelling confidence, they soon plumped down enormous bets using their own money. It was all a con game, of course; with their personal fortunes now on the line, the gamblers watched the chosen horse limp home in last place. It was, in effect, the same swindle later made famous in the Paul Newman and Robert Redford film “The Sting” with an added twist: to insure the scheme’s longevity, Benson and Kurr had boldly bribed several detectives at Scotland Yard, who were to alert them to any pending police interference. The scheme worked wonderfully until the Comtesse de Goncourt lost £10,000, and her solicitor wired Superintendent Dolly Williamson at Scotland Yard. Smelling a rat — and pressured by the Home Office — Williamson ordered an internal investigation, enlisting the aid of a trustworthy young Detective Sergeant named John Littlechild, after first warning him to

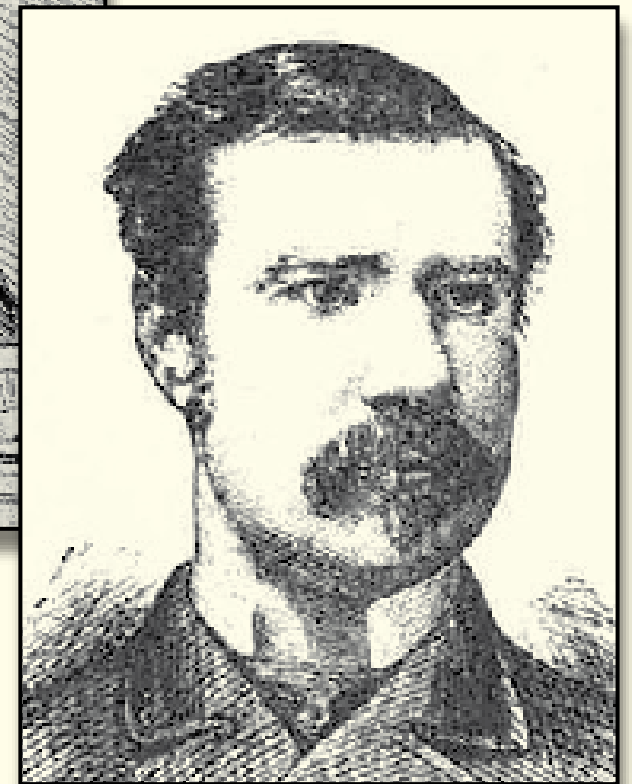
¹¹ For a brief discussion of these two cases, and Lord Palmerston’s distrust of ‘secret’ policing, see Porter, op. cit., pp. 3-5



WILLIAM KURR



HARRY BENSON

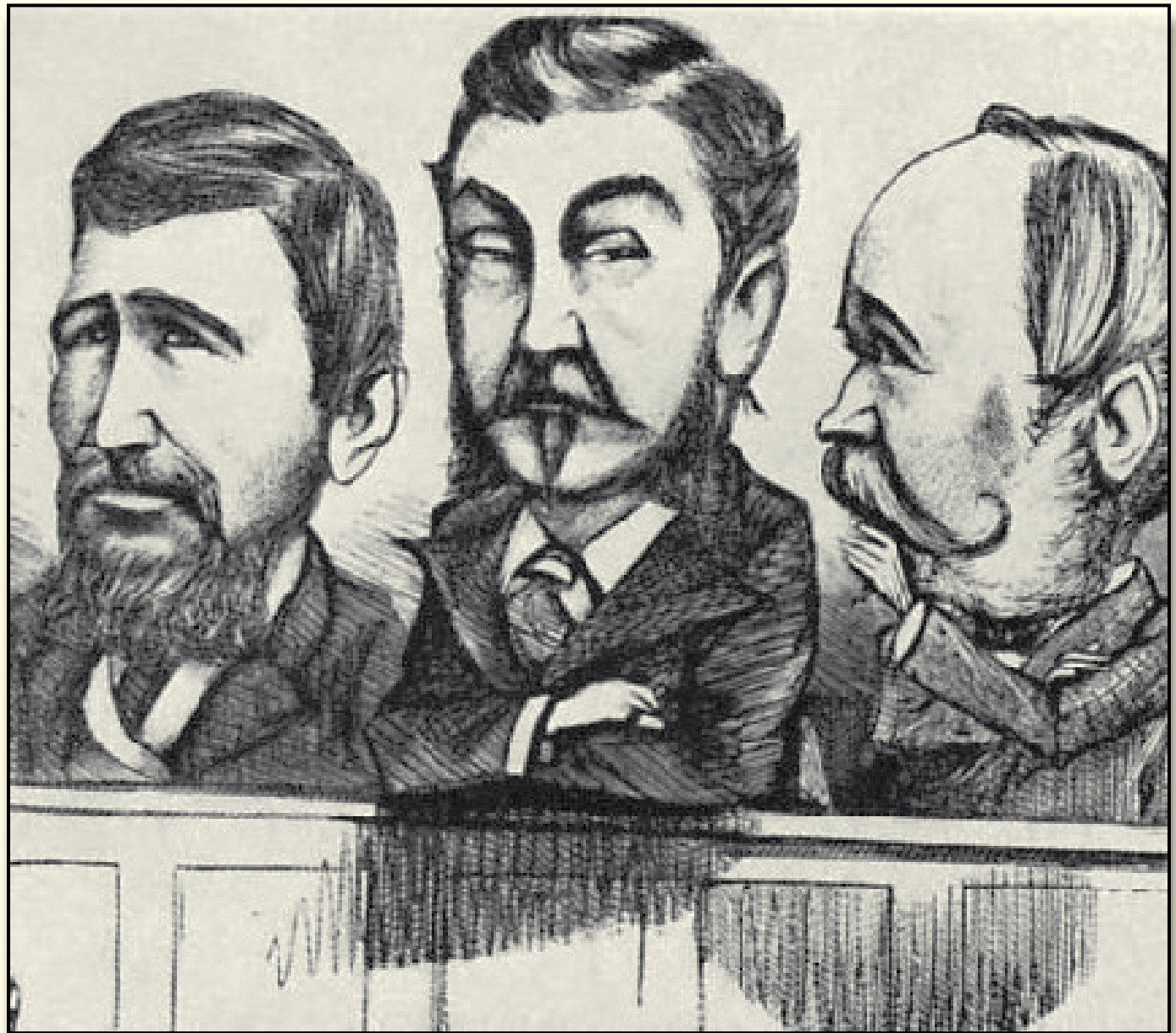


JOHN LITTLECHILD

keep his inquiries profoundly secret. In time, Littlechild arrested Kurr in Islington (who pulled a revolver) and nabbed one Edwin Murray — the man who had been laundering the gang's money. Charged with fraud, the two swindlers refused to go down quietly. Instead, they began naming names, and in October 1877 four of Scotland Yard's top men — Detective Inspector John Meiklejohn and Chief Inspectors George Clarke, William Palmer, and Nathan Druscovitch (the linguist) — found themselves in the dock at Old Bailey. Three of the officers were found guilty of 'conspiracy to pervert justice' and sentenced to prison.¹²

Of considerable interest is that one of the witnesses at this so-called 'Trial of the Detectives' was none other than Walter Andrews. Further, there is weak but tantalizing evidence that Andrews may have played a covert role in the investigation.

Andrews' involvement in the affair chiefly concerned the movements of one of the disgraced officers, Chief Inspector Palmer. While the Treasury had found it relatively easy to prove that detectives Meiklejohn and Druscovitch had accepted bribes, the evidence in



MIKLEJOHN, DRUSCOVICH & PALMER

¹² For the complete history of the Benson & Kurr scandal, see George Dilnot (ed.), *The Trial of the Detectives* (Geoffrey Bless, 1928).

Palmer's case was lacking. Instead, they sought to show that he was the mysterious 'Mr. Brown' — a shadowy character who had been sending warnings to the swindler Kurr, who, for a time, had been lying low in Scotland under the alias 'Gifford.' To make matters extremely ticklish for Palmer, Superintendent Dolly Williamson testified under oath that the warnings from 'Mr. Brown' looked suspiciously like Palmer's handwriting. Moreover, shortly after Scotland Yard had first taken possession of the incriminating telegrams, Palmer boldly marched into Williamson's office, asking to see them. Williamson politely refused and instead notified the Treasury. The implications were ugly in the extreme, for, by all appearances, a Chief Inspector had been sending secret warnings to a criminal who later pulled a revolver on Detective Sergeant Littlechild.

The key question concerned whether Palmer actually had enough time to send the telegrams to 'Gifford' in Scotland. Two of the warnings, dated November 10th, were traced to a post office in Charing Cross; two others, sent the same afternoon, were wired from the West Strand Telegraph Office. This was also suggestive, for Palmer's

Masonic Lodge held their meetings in the Strand — a mere minute's walk from the telegraph office and not overly far from Charing Cross. Questioned by the police, several lodge members readily admitted that Palmer had been at a lodge meeting on November 10th, but they doubted whether he could have slipped outdoors without their knowing it.

Called to testify, Walter Andrews was asked to clarify Palmer's movements on the day in question. On the afternoon of the 10th, the Chief Inspector had accompanied a policeman's widow to Bow Street Police Court. He was then seen walking in the direction of Waterloo Bridge at around 1.30 or 2.00 pm. Here he met up with Andrews as the two detectives were investigating a man in Lambeth suspected of selling obscene prints. They conferred for a short time and then parted company.

In court, Andrews produced his detective's notebook, but couldn't pinpoint exactly when he and Palmer had parted company — only that it had been on the Lambeth side of Waterloo Bridge — roughly a twenty minutes' walk from the West Strand telegraph office.

The timing was critical. Andrews

was being called as a witness for the defense, and there is little doubt that Palmer's solicitors wanted to portray this as an alibi — a weak one, but an alibi nonetheless. A close reading, however, shows that Andrews' testimony was noncommittal and, indeed, may have helped tighten the noose around the Chief Inspector's neck. Earlier in the trial, Edwin Ogen, a telegraph clerk, testified that the telegram sent from West Strand had been wired at precisely 3.09 pm. Similarly, Postmaster Frederick Hill showed that the two letters sent from Charing Cross were stamped sometime between 3.45 and 6.00 pm.

In light of these revelations, Andrews' testimony did Palmer very little good. Even if the two detectives had gone their separate ways as late as 2.45 pm, Palmer could have easily walked back to the Strand. Indeed, considering that his lodge meeting in Fleet Street was at 4.30, his natural direction of travel would have been to cross Waterloo Bridge on his way towards the City — putting him within 500 yards of both Charing Cross and the West Strand Telegraph Office. A final witness for the prosecution, a telegraph clerk from Scotland, completed

the chain of evidence. Foolishly, the swindler Kurr had responded to the warnings sent by ‘Brown.’ Just before midnight on November 10th, someone identifying himself as ‘Gifford at Glasgow’ had wired a laconic telegram to ‘Palmer at Methley Street, Kennington’ — Methley Street being Chief Inspector Palmer’s home address in London. This was the death-blow. Palmer was duly convicted of ‘perverting justice’ and given two years with hard labor.¹³

There are also hints that Andrews may have played a more prominent role in the Benson and Kurr investigation than this brief trial appearance suggests. The major historian of the scandal, George Dilnot, notes that the Home Office had been calling for an internal investigation at Scotland Yard as early as December 1876 — that is, once it had become obvious that Benson and Kurr were being fed inside information.¹⁴ Superintendent Williamson quickly assigned Littlechild to the case,

warning him to keep his inquiries discreet — even from fellow officers¹⁵ — and it was precisely at this same critical stage that Andrews began working with Palmer. Was this just coincidence or was Andrews assigned to keep ‘tabs’ on a suspected Chief Inspector? There is no clear answer, but Andrews’ subsequent successful career is suggestive his appointment was intentional.

In the two years following the Benson and Kurr fiasco, Andrews would be the lead detective in a number of very similar ‘turf fraud’ investigations, including the case of John Cave, publisher of the *Sporting Clipper*. The police columns in *The Times* also list Andrews as the head officer in at least four other cases involving either crooked horse racing or bogus lotteries.¹⁶ Somewhere along the line, Andrews had become an expert in how these swindles operated.

Equally intriguing is the fact that Andrews also played a minor but important role in the Parliamentary

investigation of police corruption that followed directly on the heels of the Benson and Kurr scandal. With public confidence in tatters, an infuriated Home Office demanded a commission ‘to inquire into the state, discipline, and organization of the Metropolitan Police.’¹⁷ Andrews was one the few detective sergeants called before the Commission — an inquiry that ultimately led to the dismantling of Scotland Yard’s old Detective Department, which was afterward replaced with an entirely new entity: the C.I.D. In effect, the famous Criminal Investigation Department was organized to replace a system that had been so adroitly manipulated by Benson and Kurr.

In addressing the Commission, Andrews was particularly keen on pointing out that the mystique of Scotland Yard had played a significant role in the corruption scandal. By maintaining a band of ‘elite’ detectives, the Metropolitan Police had unwittingly

¹³ For Walter Andrew’s testimony in the case against Palmer, see *The Times*, November 9, 1878, and *The Proceedings of the Old Bailey*, t18771022, Case No. 805. “JOHN MEIKLEJOHN (38), NATHANIEL DRUSCOVICH (37), WILLIAM PALMER (43), GEORGE CLARKE (60), and EDWARD FROGATT (35), were indicted for Unlawfully conspiring with William Kurr, Harry Benson, and others to obstruct, defeat, and pervert the due course of public justice. Other counts varying the manner of stating the charge.” ¹⁴ Dilnot., op. cit., p. 51. ¹⁵ Ibid., p. 45.

¹⁶ For several examples of Andrews’ investigations into illegal gambling, see *The Times*, December 28, 1878 p. 9; March 26, 1883, p. 12; February 25 and April 8, 1887 pg.5 and 10; and February 23, 1888 p. 13. ¹⁷ Browne, op. cit., pp.190-194, and Porter, pp. 6-7.

created an atmosphere of rivalry and mistrust among other policemen working in London. This was particularly true at the ‘divisional’ level, where officers viewed their Scotland Yard counterparts as ‘outsiders’ with little tact, and even less humility — to the extent that divisional men often resented Central Office interference in their local investigations. It was an important enough point that, decades later, the historian Douglas G. Brown would cite Andrews’ testimony before the Commission, using it to show that, in forming the new C.I.D., the Met was particularly eager to avoid creating similar ‘rivalries’ in the future.

Detectives from the uniformed branch were jealous of outsiders, another of whom, Sergeant Andrews, who spoke Russian and had worked as a valet, thought that a detective should

*serve at least two years in uniform, and then three years as a divisional detective, before coming to Scotland Yard.*¹⁸

Andrews’ point was astute. Under the old system, deceitful detectives (like the thoroughly disreputable Meikeljohn¹⁹) had little or no experience at the divisional level. Further, they worked with minimal supervision. Thus isolated — and often poorly paid — they stood a good chance of going rogue. To alleviate this danger, Andrews’ proposed solution was to draw all future Scotland Yard men from the divisions, which would help foster an atmosphere of camaraderie and accountability that had been lacking under the old system. Disastrously, Howard Vincent — the ‘astute young lawyer’ chosen to be the first head of the C.I.D. — had an entirely different philosophy. Vincent was convinced

that what the Met really needed was a better class of men, and went so far as to enlist graduates of public schools as detectives — an experiment that George Dilnot later characterized as a ‘dismal failure.’ As can be readily imagined, Vincent’s policy only exasperated the perceived rivalries further, and eventually proved so controversial that it was abandoned.

In short, Andrews’ side of the argument eventually won out. It can thus be noted that, in 1888, when Scotland Yard Inspector Frederick Abberline was called back to H-Division to help in the ground-level search for Jack the Ripper, he was not viewed in the way that someone like Meikeljohn would have been viewed ten years earlier. Abberline had earned his stripes in H-Division, still had colleagues on the local patch, and the divisional

¹⁸ Browne, p. 190

¹⁹ *The latter-day career of disgraced Detective-Inspector Meiklejohn is particularly fascinating, and gives considerable insight into the ugliness perpetrated by the vying sides of the Irish Home Rule movement. Meiklejohn, having endured two years imprisonment with hard labor, soon reinvented himself as a private detective. In 1883 he was hired by William O’Brien, publisher, Irish Home Rule activist, Member of Parliament, and close friend of Charles Stuart Parnell, after Meiklejohn’s services were recommended by the English lawyer and Parnell solicitor, Sir George Lewis. Meiklejohn’s task was to dig up dirt on the Dublin Police Department, and he soon uncovered a ‘ring’ of homosexuals on the force, whose activities allegedly included liaisons between police constables and their senior officers. The ensuing scandal, first publicized in O’Brien’s United Irishman, led to a spate of arrests and resignations, including those of James Ellis French, the Detective Director of the Royal Irish Constabulary, and Gustavus Cornwall, Secretary of the Irish Post Office. One Dublin wit later quipped that Cornwall had been caught “tampering with her Majesty’s males.” See Leon Ó Broin, *The Prime Informer: A Suppressed Scandal* (Sidgwick & Jackson, 1971) pp. 26-28*

detectives were only too eager to work with him. After the scandal of 1877, there is little evidence that any serious rivalries existed between any of the detectives working in London — be they Scotland Yard men, the City of London Police, or the various divisions of the Met.

While Benson and Kurr had ruined the careers of many at Scotland Yard, their exposure also led to a wave of pro-

months after Littlechild's promotion, Andrews advanced to the rank of Detective-Inspector in Lambeth's K-Division, and he, too, would be transferred to Scotland Yard the following year.²⁰ This was mildly ironic, for the speed of the promotion was two years faster than the timetable Andrews' had proposed during his recommendations to the Parliamentary Commission.

Andrews was now thirty-one. His

or, in other words, to take on whatever assignment the Chief Inspector or Superintendent slaps on his desk, and it is not surprising to find that Andrews' subsequent career involved a wide variety of criminal cases, including investigations of fraud, theft, and illegal abortion. Fairly recently, researcher A.P. Wolf has suggested that Walter Andrews never worked a murder investigation — an innuendo

ANDREWS' SUBSEQUENT CAREER INVOLVED A WIDE VARIETY OF CRIMINAL CASES,

motions — particularly among those detectives who had proven their integrity in the case. In April 1878, only four months after the verdict at Old Bailey, DS John Littlechild was made a full Detective Inspector at Scotland Yard. He would later be Williamson's hand-picked choice to head the most 'secret' group of detectives of all: the Special Branch. Walter Andrews was another rising star. On July 6th, a mere three

career was truly starting to bloom, and so, too, was his personal life. He recently moved his wife and their three daughters to No. 9 Trigon Terrace, Lambeth, and a fourth child, a son, was on the way.²¹

ANDREWS AS DETECTIVE INSPECTOR

A Detective-Inspector in the Metropolitan Police is required to be versatile,

evidently meant to bring into question Andrews' later association with the Whitechapel Murder case. The claim is neither relevant, nor true; one of Andrews' first major cases on becoming a Detective Inspector involved a murder. On August 20th, 1878, Andrews arrested a Dutchman named Peter Froman, a stowaway aboard the bark Cwm Donkin, shortly after the ship landed in Gravesend.

²⁰ *Evans and Skinner, op. cit., p. 676*

²¹ *Walter S. Andrews in the 1881 UK Census, Class RG11, Piece 602, Folio 23, Page 40; GSU Role 1341138*

In mid-ocean Froman had darkly hinted to having killed two men on the Bull River in Santa Cruso — one being a business partner, the other a police constable (who, in fact, survived). Called in to investigate, Andrews elicited a confession and arranged for Froman's extradition.²²

Andrews, in fact, was not infrequently called-in to secure confessions and track down fugitives — something to bear in mind when examining his mysterious trip to North America at the height of the Ripper investigation. Indeed, manhunts spanned the whole of Andrews' career. In 1877, a 46 year-old thief named Frederick Johnstone was arrested for stealing a large quantity of silks from Messr. Spiers & Co., in the Borough, South London. While awaiting trial at Old Bailey, Johnstone jumped bail and fled to the Continent. A year later, Andrews learned that he was in Dunkirk, in custody of the French police. Andrews obtained an extradition warrant and personally crossed the Channel to collect the prisoner.²³ Similarly, in February 1887,

Andrews tracked down and arrested Frederick Richardson, an escaped convict who had managed to break out of Wandsworth Gaol while serving a two-year sentence for theft.

Such arrests were not always without their bumps and bruises. Four years earlier, in 1883, Andrews was called-in to investigate a bogus butler named Horatio Nelson Lay, described as 'a fine looking man' who had entered domestic service in order to steal from his employers. While taking Lay into custody, a fight broke out.

*When Andrews arrested the prisoner he was in bed. He got up and partially dressed himself, and then made a rush at the officer, whom he seized by the throat and gave a violent blow in the side. A sharp struggle ensued, and Inspector Andrews eventually secured the prisoner by pushing him into a bath. It took several officers to take [Lay] to the station, so violent did he become.*²⁴

The country boy from Suffolk won the wrestling match, and was not, evidently, hurt; Andrews' 1889 pension papers state that he was 'never injured

in the line of duty.'²⁵

One of Andrews' most interesting cases in the 1880s involved a black-market in young English boys enlisted to work as acrobats in a circus run by an Arab businessman, Hadji Ali Ben Mohammed. With the assistance of a London procurer, Hadji hired the boys as 'apprentices,' carted them off to Constantinople, and there kept them in tiny rooms as veritable slaves. It is difficult to believe that Victorians would be so callous as to allow their children to be shipped off to a foreign country, but such was the case. Even more disturbing, part of the boys' apprenticeship involved becoming contortionists in the circus. The method of training was later described at a court hearing.

*To obtain the necessary pliancy the children's bodies were at a very tender age doubled up and strapped together for two hours a day, and each day the strap was pulled a hole tighter until proficiency had been attained.*²⁶

During these so-called 'proficiency' exercises, one boy suffered a broken back. Clearly disgusted by the case, an

²² For the Froman case, see *The Times*, August 22, 1878 p.10 and October 10th, 1878, p.12 ²³ *The Times*, August 7, 1878, p. 12 ²⁴ *The Times*, February 13, 1883 ²⁵ Stewart P. Evans and Paul Gaine, *Jack the Ripper: First American Serial Killer (Kodansha International, 1995) p. 41.* Andrews' retirement papers refer to a crooked left finger and scars on the groin (evidently from surgery; Andrews suffered from thrombosis of the left thigh). Even so, the same papers also state that Andrews was never injured in the line of duty. ²⁶ *The Times*, January 9, 1882., p. 10

indignant Inspector Andrews focused much of his investigation on the boys' London procurer, whom he found to be a bizarre sadist who relished the work.

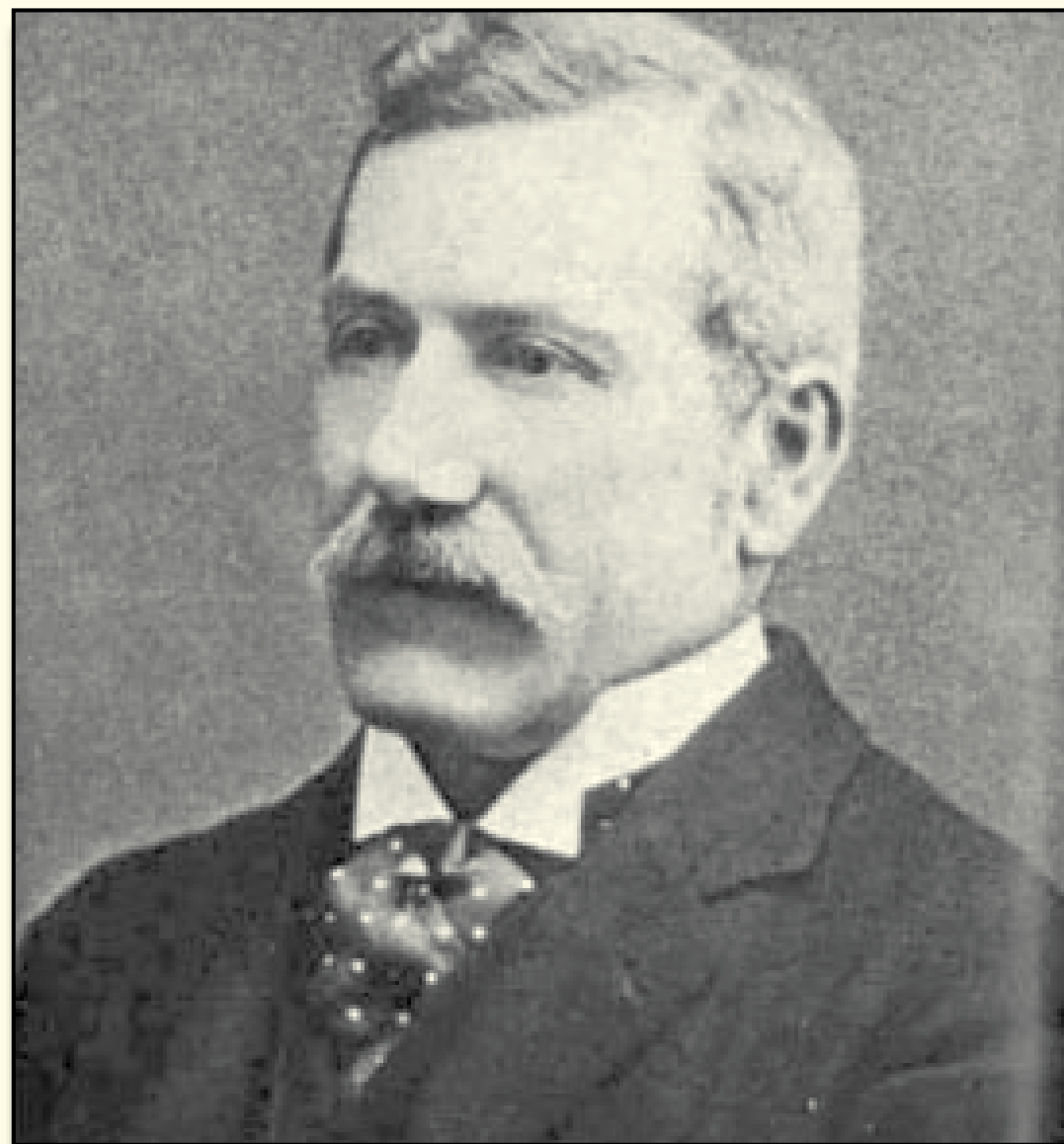
"He gloried in it," Andrews told the court, "though he knew he had no right to do it."

Largely due to Andrews' efforts, the boys were rescued from Constantinople, brought back to London, and lodged in one of Dr. Bernardo's homes.

Andrews also worked abortion cases, including, significantly, an 1879 investigation alongside K-Division Police Surgeon Dr. Thomas Bond — later famous for his part in the Mary Kelly murder investigation. It was a particularly deplorable and pathetic affair, but one not particularly uncommon during the latter-half of the 19th Century.

Francis J. Hammond, a married 'surgeon' (his name was not actually listed in the *Medical Registry*) had successfully seduced a 22-year-old patient and unwed mother named Ellen Saunders. Inevitably, the young woman became pregnant. Horrified, Hammond used his medical expertise — such as it was — to induce a miscarriage. This he attempted by feeding Saunders abortifacients every four

DR THOMAS BOND



hours for the better part of two weeks, but this only made her violently ill. He then resorted to surgery, poking and prying over the course of several days, using wires, pieces of whalebone, and other instruments, causing her to 'suffer dreadfully.' Remarkably, with

the fetus finally aborted, Hammond renewed his sexual predations, making Saunders pregnant for a second time within the month. Finally, in early July 1879, Saunders' half-sister found her in bed, writhing in agony, and contacted the Metropolitan Police.

Inspector Andrews, accompanied by Dr. Bond, visited the young woman's bedsit, where he found twelve empty medicine bottles, bloodstained linen, a piece of ivory, a piece of wire, and several surgical instruments. Hammond was arrested, put on trial, and eventually sentenced to ten years imprisonment.²⁷

By the late 1880s, on what would be the eve of the Whitechapel murders, Andrews was still engaged in a variety of standard criminal cases. In May 1887 he arrested Stephen Vincent Foleh, alias 'Stephen Fiennes,' alias 'Captain Morris Barton,' a habitual thief, confidence-man, and pornographer. The case is interesting in that we get another glimpse of Andrews' moral inclinations, for he refers to Foleh as 'the author of all sorts of filthy literature' and a 'most dangerous person to

society.' Of considerable significance is the fact that Andrews had worked an earlier pornography case with the aid of Detective Sergeant Frank Castle Froest — the same young detective who would be involved in Francis Tumblety's gross indecency case in 1888. This is highly suggestive, for it seemingly indicates that Froest was Andrews' detective-sergeant, leaving it all but certain that Andrews was the Scotland Yard Inspector in charge of investigating Francis Tumblety at the height of the Ripper murders.²⁸

Meanwhile, in February 1888, Andrews arrested William Page, alias Brewer, alias Ward, alias Smith, a low-stakes bunco artist who ran a crooked lottery. In May 1888, he brought an absconding bankrupt named William Townsend, alias Martin, alias Stone, into custody. Finally, in September

1888, Andrews arrested Roland Giddeon Barnett after spotting the longtime confidence man lounging in Picadilly. Andrews knew Barnett by sight from past offenses, but was unable to hold him for any recent criminal activity in London. Instead, he discovered Barnett was wanted in Canada for fraud against the Central Bank of Toronto and promptly secured a warrant under the Fugitive Offender's Act. Ultimately, it would be the Roland Barnett case that became Scotland Yard's vehicle for sending Andrews to North America in late November 1888 — and here...

...THE PLOT THICKENS.

²⁷ The Times, *July 25, 1879., p.12 and August 1, 1879, p. 12. The Old Bailey records do not include a transcript of Hammond's trial, stating that the details of the case were "unfit for publication."*

²⁸ *The author would like to thank Stewart Evans for this important observation. The Metropolitan Police were (and are) organized in the style of a military hierarchy, with each Detective Inspector working beneath a Chief Inspector, while, at the same time, overseeing his own small team of Detective Sergeants and Detective Constables. Thus, this previous association between Inspector Andrews and Detective-Sergeant Froest may play an important role in correctly interpreting the events in 1888. Specifically, it suggests that Froest was Andrews' detective-sergeant; if true, Froest's 1888 investigation of Francis Tumblety would have been on behalf of Andrews—one of the three Scotland Yard inspectors working the Whitechapel Murders case. Further support for this appears in the initial press release of Tumblety's 1888 arrest for gross indecency, which states that Tumblety "couldn't be held for the Whitechapel Murders," and in the Littlechild Letter, which, while mentioning Tumblety's arrest for "unnatural crimes," reveals that he was also a police suspect in the murders.*

ANDREWS AND ANDERSON: A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP?

Before studying the events of 1888 in detail, an important question remains. Although Walter Dew would later identify Andrews as one of the three Inspectors brought in from the Central Office to work the Whitechapel Murders investigation in September 1888, it is not known why Andrews, in particular, was chosen for the assignment. The answer, in all likelihood, lies with Dr. Robert Anderson. In the fall of 1888, Anderson had been appointed the new Assistant Commissioner in charge of the C.I.D. — the same position earlier held by Howard Vincent and, afterwards, James Monro. But Anderson was not a career policeman; he had been an ‘Advisor on Political Crime’ at Dublin Castle, and, for a considerably longer span, for the Home Office in London. Other than Dolly Williamson (who Anderson frequently consulted about Irish nationalist living in London), this meant that Anderson was not directly acquainted with any of the detectives then working at Scotland Yard.²⁹ There was, however, one exception. In 1882, six years before his appointment to the

ROBERT ANDERSON



²⁹ *In the mid-1880s, Robert Anderson, then an intelligence expert for the Home Office, met daily with Williamson to discuss Fenian activity in London. See Christy Campbell, Fenian Fire: the British Government Plot to Assassinate Queen Victoria (Harper/Collins, 2003) pp. 124-125*

Met, Anderson's house in London was burglarized. The ensuing investigation threw him into close contact with one of Scotland Yard's 'best men.' The investigating officer, it so happens, was Walter Andrews.

At the time Anderson was living at No. 39 Linden-Gardens, his long-time residence in London's affluent Bayswater district. Ostensibly, at least, Anderson was now serving as a secretary in the Prisons Commission; in reality, he was still heavily involved in anti-Fenian surveillance. In 1867, following the infamous bombing of Clerkenwell Prison — an Irish

'gunpowder plot' that leveled a London Street and killed twelve people — the British government suddenly realized that the Irish 'troubles' were growing more serious, and decided to station an expert on political crime directly at the Home Office. Anderson was chosen for the task, and, in various forms, would serve in this capacity for another twenty years — that is, until his appointment to Scotland Yard in 1888.

It was during this stint at the Home Office that Anderson returned to Ireland for a five week 'holiday' in August 1882. At least that was the

'official' explanation. The timing of the trip suggests otherwise, however, for the recent passing of a so-called 'Anti Crime Bill' had pushed Ireland to the brink of open rebellion, and, only three months earlier, on May 6th, the Irish Secretary Lord Cavendish and his undersecretary, Thomas Burke, had been murdered in Phoenix Park, Dublin, by a revolutionary group known as the 'Irish Invincibles.' From the British point of view, the assassinations in Dublin were the most diabolical outrage since Clerkenwell, and Anderson was undoubtedly consulted. Indeed, in a recent study of the Phoenix



PHOENIX PARK, DUBLIN

Park murders, author Senan Molony reproduces a telegram sent directly to No. 39 Linden Gardens — showing that Anderson was among the first government officials alerted to the assassinations.³⁰ Considering Anderson's former position at Dublin Castle, and the fact that the hunt for the 'Invincibles' would continue unabated throughout that summer and fall, it is all but certain that Anderson was not 'on holiday,' but, rather, was actually in Ireland in some official capacity. Indeed, in his own book, *Sidelights on the Home Rule Movement* (1907), Anderson specifically states that his long awaited holiday in Ireland had been abruptly canceled by that year's tragic events.

The spring of 1882 seemed to promise me another opportunity of escaping from Secret Service work...[and] I began to look forward to a holiday such as I had not enjoyed for years.

But the Phoenix Park murders changed all that, and when Colonel Brackenbury was appointed to office at

Dublin Castle, as Under-Secretary for Police and Crime, he called on me at Whitehall to claim my help. I refused his appeal when he returned a second time to press it upon me. But I had to give way at last. He convinced Sir William Harcourt that it was essential to have me represent his department at London; and to the pressure thus brought to bear upon me I was obliged to yield.

Four months later, on September 25th — on what was the eve of Anderson's return from Ireland — he received a frantic message from Isabella Martin, his live-in cook in London. Martin had taken a stroll in Hyde Park that afternoon, and, on returning to Linden Gardens, found the house broken open and plundered. When Anderson and his wife arrived in London the following afternoon, the place was still in shambles. As Anderson later testified:

When I got into the house I saw the sideboard in the back room broken open. Dispatch boxes broken open and

their contents scattered about; the wine cellar door was broken open, and about three dozen of wine gone. I missed a very large quantity of property; the value of it was more than £100... On my arrival the condition of the principal rooms was such that no one could enter them without knowing at once that thieves had been at work. The cabinet doors were broken open and left open; in my wife's bedroom the doors were open and the drawers out...³¹

Initially, the investigation was handled by the local Inspector, Thomas Edward Maber of X Division, and it looked very much like a routine burglary. There were oddities, however. The thieves had rather unconvincingly hacked and hewn at Anderson's back door with a chisel, but a careful examination showed that the lock was undamaged. Nor were there any signs of forced entry at the windows. Then, somewhat oddly, the investigation was taken out of Maber's hands and turned over to Inspector Walter Andrews.

³⁰ Senan Molony, *The Phoenix Park Murders* (Mercier Press, 2006) photograph facing p. 97. That autumn's hunt for the Invincibles is also admirably recounted in Tom Corfe's *The Phoenix Park Murders: Conflict, Compromise, and Tragedy in Ireland, 1879-1882* (Hodder and Stoughton, 1968).

³¹ Quite literally, 'the drawers' were out—among the missing items were several pairs of Mrs. Anderson's underwear. *Proceedings of the Old Bailey, t18821120. Case 59. Isabella Martin (27), Matilda Biggs (29), William Charles Patten (29), and Charles Kitching (42). Stealing a metal tray and other goods of the value of £100 of Robert Anderson, the master of Isabella Martin.*

THERE MAY HAVE BEEN JUSTIFIABLE FEARS THAT STATE SECRETS HAD FALLEN INTO THE WRONG HANDS,

Why the local plod was superseded by a detective from Scotland Yard is unclear, but it must surely have had something to do with Anderson's sensitive position at the Home Office. Particularly suggestive were the 'dispatch papers' strewn across the floor, for later events indicate that Anderson had a habit of keeping sensitive government papers at his private residence.³² It is known, for instance, that Anderson's chief contact in America, the spy Thomas Miller Beach, sent his correspondence directly to No. 39 Linden Gardens. As such, there may have been justifiable fears that state

secrets had fallen into the wrong hands, or, at the very least, that Anderson's secret position at the Home Office had been comprised.

That said, the levelheaded Inspector Andrews indulged in no fanciful conspiracy theories. His years as a working valet had left him with a hard-nosed view of Victorian households, and he instead quickly focused his investigation on Isabella Martin, the Anderson's live-in cook. Andrews was particularly interested to know if Miss Martin kept a 'sweetheart'; he was also more than a little struck by the seemingly odd coincidence that

the burglary had been committed (or at least reported) on the very day that the Andersons were packing their bags for London.

Isabella Martin, for her part, insisted that she had never entertained visitors — male or otherwise — during the whole of the Andersons' absence. Yet, questioned further, she eventually admitted to having one male companion — but he was an entirely respectable chap, a policeman, in fact, by the name of William Charles Patten. A year and a half earlier, her employer, Mr. Anderson, had even helped Patten find a job as a warder at Holloway Prison.³³

³² Anderson had a long history of keeping sensitive government documents at his private residence. In 1910, for instance, when Anderson's published memoirs created a stir among Irish members in the House of Commons, there was a spirited attempt to revoke Anderson's pension on the grounds that his former conduct had been "foreign to the whole spirit of the British Government and Constitution." During the ensuing debate, it became increasingly clear that papers relevant to Anderson's 'secret work' in thwarting Irish Nationalism were still in his possession, and the young Winston Churchill called on Anderson to "restore documents which are the property of the public." See Christy Campbell, *op. cit.*, p. 41-48. ³³ Anderson, however, denied this, claiming that he had merely told Patten how he could apply for a position at the prison. See the transcript of the Isabella Martin trial, *op. cit.*

To the average person, this nugget of information would hardly seem relevant, but Scotland Yard detectives are known for their intuitive powers, and Andrews quickly shifted his attention to Patten. This led to a surprising development. Billy Patten, an *ex-constable*, was already languishing in jail on an unrelated charge. Securing a warrant, Andrews marched to Patten's lodging house, No. 7 East Street, Kennington, where he discovered a pair of expensive sealskin gloves and a detachable shirt-collar monogrammed 'R. Anderson.' Also recovered were a pair of boots, two pairs of trousers, and an expensive Ulster overcoat — all belonging to the future head of the C.I.D.

Other items were still missing from Linden Gardens, but Andrews widened his investigation and soon recovered more stolen property in pawnshops in Holborn, Fleet Street, Oxford Street, and Lambeth. Andrews also traced an acquaintance of Patten's, a Mrs. Matilda Biggs, who had one of Anderson's traveling bags in her lodging house. Confronted with this fact, Biggs readily admitted to having helped Patten pledge silverware, ivory desert spoons, tablecloths, and other

items — nearly all of them engraved or embroidered with the image of a tree, the Anderson family crest. Biggs professed ignorance of any wrongdoing, however. The proceeds, she claimed, were used to buy Patten food during his recent incarceration.³⁴

Now convinced the burglary was an 'inside job,' Andrews returned to Linden Gardens to again interview the Andersons' cook. In the presence of her employers, Andrews searched Isabella Martin's pockets, finding a tattered page torn from a notebook. The name 'Mr. Fitzgerald of Holborn' — a pawnbroker — was scribbled on one corner. Martin denied knowing how the paper came to be in her pocket, but in light of her relationship with Patten, Andrews immediately placed her under arrest.

By now, ex-policeman Billy Patton, still languishing in his cell, became desperate. Quizzed at length, he admitted to having received the stolen goods and even helped Andrews compile a list of all the items taken from Linden Gardens — ranging from silver platters to biscuit tins to bed sheets. Patten denied committing the actual burglary, however, and instead implicated a friend named Charles Kitching.

On October 6th, Andrews found Kitching lounging on a street corner in Holborn and slapped a pair of handcuffs on his wrists. "I am an inspector of police," he announced, "and I am going to arrest you for being concerned with Billy Patten in robbing the house of Mr. Anderson, Linden Gardens, of property of about the value of £100."³⁵

Leading Kitching to a nearby doorway, Andrews frisked his suspect. In one pocket was a notebook with a missing leaf — matching the page earlier found on Isabella Martin. A search of Kitching's lodgings, No. 8 Staple's Inn Buildings, turned up a pawn ticket for two petticoats and a towel — later identified by Robert Anderson as belonging to his wife.

Martin, Biggs, Patten, and Kitching were subsequently charged with larceny and put on trial at Old Bailey on November 20th. Patten turned state's evidence while the prosecution quietly dropped the case against Matilda Biggs, convinced she was merely an innocent dupe. Only when the trial neared its conclusion did Isabella Martin finally reveal the dark secret that had been hounding her for months. Back on August 24th, a mere

³⁴ The Times, *October 21, 1882, p. 10.* ³⁵ *Ibid.*



THE OLD BAILEY



week after the Andersons had first left for Ireland, she had gone walking with Billy Patten in Hyde Park. There he introduced her to his friend Kitching, and the two men were allowed to return with her to Linden Gardens. What followed seems to have been a rather rollicking spree, ending with Patten and Kitching breaking into the Andersons' cellar and drinking several bottles of expensive wine. When Martin woke the next morning, she found the house ransacked. She knew, of course, that Patten and Kitching had been up to no good, but kept her mouth shut for nearly a month (one can only imagine her growing panic as the Andersons' return loomed ever closer), until, finally, she concocted a wild story to cover her own foolish behavior. After clumsily staging a burglary, she had called the police and then wired Anderson in Ireland.

Following Martin's dramatic confession, the trial at Old Bailey quickly concluded. Ten pawnbrokers were dragged into court, nearly all of them identifying Kitching as the man who had pledged Anderson's property.

Along with the hapless Isabella Martin, Kitching was found guilty and sentenced to prison.³⁶ Inspector Walter Andrews, demonstrating a great deal of skill, had solved the case.

There are two interesting sidelights to the affair. In a number of books on the Whitechapel murders, it has been suggested that Robert Anderson was relieved of his duties as an advisor on political crime sometime in the mid-1880s (he was, briefly) and booted to a lowly position in the Prisons Commission. The second half of this claim now needs to be revised, for a transcript of the proceedings at Old Bailey, dating to 1882, clearly refers to Anderson as already being a 'Secretary of the Prison Commission.' As the Victorian political intriguer and intelligence expert William Joyce later explained, such appointments were a ruse — a 'dummy' appointment that allowed men involved in secret work to come and go at Whitehall without drawing undue attention. When Joyce himself became a political advisor at Dublin Castle in the early 1890s, a notice appeared in the *Dublin*

Gazette announcing his appointment as 'Resident Magistrate for County Dublin.'

"The pretext was a mere sham," Joyce later admitted, "as I never performed magisterial duty in the County Dublin, nor was anything of this kind ever contemplated."³⁷

Clearly, Robert Anderson's appointment to the Prison Commissions served a similar purpose — a mere 'cover' that allowed him to come and go at the Home Office while briefing the government on Irish Nationalists stationed in London.

Of considerably more importance is Walter Andrews' success in a case that, obviously enough, would have been of great personal significance to the man who later went on to head the C.I.D. Anderson's house in Linden Gardens had been violated and his personal items scattered across London. Inspector Andrews' tact and competence had successfully recovered those items. At the initial Police Court hearing held back in October, Mr. Paget, the Magistrate, had specifically complimented Andrews on his "expert

³⁶ Showing considerable compassion, Robert Anderson asked the court for mercy when sentencing his longtime cook, Isabella Martin, believing that she "had been led away by the other[s]." See *The Times*, December 13, 1882, p.10. Martin's ultimate sentence is unknown.

³⁷ Leon Ó Broin, *The Prime Informer. A Suppressed Scandal* (Sidgwick & Jackson, 1971) p.99

handling of the investigation.”³⁸ And this leads to an intriguing possibility.

An often under-appreciated aspect to the Whitechapel Murder investigation is Dr. Robert Anderson’s relative inexperience as a senior police officer. When Anderson assumed his duties at the C.I.D. on September 1st, 1888, the Martha Tabram murder investigation was just three and a half weeks old, and Polly Nichols had been murdered only a day earlier. Over the next two months, four more gruesome murders would plague London’s East End. As Donald Rumbelow and Stewart Evans have pointed out in their important study, *Jack the Ripper: Scotland Yard Investigates*, at the very height of the murders Anderson ‘had a new job to settle into.’³⁹ Any new job involves a transition — that uncertain period when the boss is first learning his responsibilities and is ‘sizing up’ the abilities and limitations of his subordinates. This ‘settling-in’ period is all the more challenging when it takes place

in the middle of a crisis — which the Whitechapel Murders certainly were. Given the situation, and considering that Anderson had little or no direct knowledge of the men working beneath him, it is not particularly difficult to imagine that he would have placed his confidence in the one Scotland Yard detective that he knew personally — and who had so successfully recovered personal items amounting to more than £100. Nor is it difficult to imagine that Inspector Andrew’s success in the Martin case had set Anderson’s mind at ease — for, potentially, at least, the burglary could have led to a serious breach of security. As such, this early connection between Andrews and Anderson may well explain why Walter Andrews was drafted into the Whitechapel Murder investigation in 1888.

In fact, we know that Robert Anderson *did* personally enlist men in the hunt for Jack the Ripper. In November, 1888, shortly after the

murder of Mary Kelly, Anderson personally wrote to Dr. Thomas Bond, having heard glowing reports of Bond’s ‘expertise’ in handling gruesome forensic cases — specifically, the Regent Canal torso affair of 1887. In Anderson’s phrase, Scotland Yard had no ‘clear guidance’ in regard to the medical evidence in the Ripper murders, and wanted Bond’s expert opinion.⁴⁰ As we have already seen, Dr Bond had something else going for him: He, too, had previously worked with Walter Andrews.

The precise chain of events may never be known, but this early association between Walter Andrews and Robert Anderson is particularly intriguing in light of the strange events of November and December, 1888 — events that will be fully explored in the second part of this article.

TO BE CONTINUED...

³⁸ The Times, October 21, 1882, p. 10 ³⁹ Evans and Rumbelow, *op. cit.* p. 65 ⁴⁰ Anderson wrote to Dr. Bond on October 25th, 1888; for an extract of this letter, see Anderson’s subsequent correspondence with the Home Office dated November 13th, 1888. HO 144/221/A49301C/21, reprinted in Evans and Skinner’s *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion*, pp. 359-360.

Biography

R.J. Palmer

R.J. Palmer lives and works in Eugene, Oregon. He began studying the Whitechapel Murder case in 1989, after taking Donald Rumbelow's classic tour of

London's East End. Currently, he is researching a book on the Irish Nationalist journalist Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa.

Think you may have an article just waiting to be published?

Contributions are always welcomed by the Examiner and we would be glad to discuss future articles on Jack the Ripper studies, other LVP crime and social history.

Drop us a line with your ideas to examiner@casebook.org and we will reply promptly along with our short style sheet. Don't be shy - we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Reconsidering Ripper Geography & Victorian English Culture

D.M. Gates

When we consider any physical movements by someone, we define it in terms of shifts in geographic space. In the casual sense, words can demonstrate this in workable terms. For example, “Bobby got out of bed and went to the kitchen to get a glass of milk.” We know as readers that Bobby changed his physical location as the result of a desire for milk. But we rarely consider the fact that what

we conceive becomes our “ideal” for the trip for milk. This conception, usually drawn from our own experiences, becomes our ideal of Bobby’s trip. As humans this is the default modality of geographic thought, and like it or not, it is a very serious consideration for Ripperologists.

So let us further complicate this trip for milk. If Bobby is living in a mansion, his trip is farther than most



of us would conceive. And of course, the opposite is true; if Bobby lives in a mobile home, his trip is likely shorter. We have already been led astray of reality in our conceptions, simply by virtue of the manner in which we perceive the actor's relationship to his space. We cannot blame this error on our understanding of the "facts" per se, because we all know Bobby got out of bed and went to the kitchen for milk. These are the facts, and yet an error in conception is demonstrable.

But it gets worse. If we the readers are relatively healthy, we perceive the nature of Bobby's trip as we ourselves experience our own trips for milk, and the opposite also applies. Again, we have a conception of what has been described, substituting our own past experiences for "blank spots" in the narrative. To illustrate, "Bobby the track star" produces a completely different image in our minds than "Bobby the paraplegic."

So how does this apply to Ripperology? There are two main applications: If we read about *Lambeth Infirmary* we likely have no idea of where this place is and that allows us to be led astray from an accurate conception of reality in much the same

**WE HAVE A
CONCEPTION OF
WHAT HAS BEEN
DESCRIBED,
SUBSTITUTING
OUR OWN PAST
EXPERIENCES FOR
"BLANK SPOTS"
IN THE NARRATIVE.**

way that we assumed some variables about Bobby's kitchen. Of course, the same is true if we fail to understand the fact that we are discussing a woman a couple of inches over five-feet tall, or one who, without money, would have been obligated to walk the distance to place *X* from Lambeth. So another error has crept into our understanding, through a simple failure to comprehend the woman and her space. We as readers must demand the adequate detail needed for an accurate understanding of the historical person/place relationship. We must demand it of ourselves to find the information that will make our conception clearer.

I will use the analogy of a lens to illustrate. Say you happen to be a visually impaired lens grinder. Your lenses are your window to the world. To be quite specific, they condition how you view the world. Now imagine your lenses are pretty good — you can tell a cat is a cat for example — but if the cat is on the right side of your field of vision (viewed through the right side of your lens), he is a more amorphous shape or may appear unusually long, depending on your particular impairment. It is your responsibility, therefore, to grind your lens further on the right side until

Kitty has a well defined shape that matches the known parameters of a cat. Of course, for Ripperologists it is more complex than our simple analogy.

Visual deficits are easily identifiable. Most of us quickly recognize with haste when our visual field becomes distorted. Most of us fortunate to be living in the current era enjoy the benefit of specialized medical systems that have standardized and systematized visual perception. We have the benefit of ophthalmologists imbedded in the social systems that govern our lives who ensure that, for the majority of the western world, a visually impaired child is identified and remediation begins immediately.

But what if there were no overarching system to detect and correct those with distorted vision? In the world of mental conceptions, there is no such body. Distortions persist for years, lifetimes even, undetected and uncorrected. It becomes the responsibility of the thinker to ensure his conceptions are correct. In that light, all Ripperologists, from the new to the aged, can do with a regular check up of his geographic and cultural understandings of the events in the narrative we all study. It falls to us all then,

as students of these cases, to ensure we have a correct understanding. It is our responsibility to seek out the information needed to correct our erroneous perceptions. It will not be the same for everyone, it cannot be standardized, it will remain the student's responsibility.

There are upsides to our shift in behaviors in seeking an accurate geographic and cultural picture, however. First, is an overall improvement in our ability to assess the accuracy of geographic and cultural data that is being presented to us by others. Moreover, we learn about the more subtle aspects of Victorian life in the East End. As an example, I recently undertook a study of 1888 maps of the river Thames. I now have a much clearer conception of just how many docks, piers, and wharves were in the vicinity of Spitalfields in 1888.

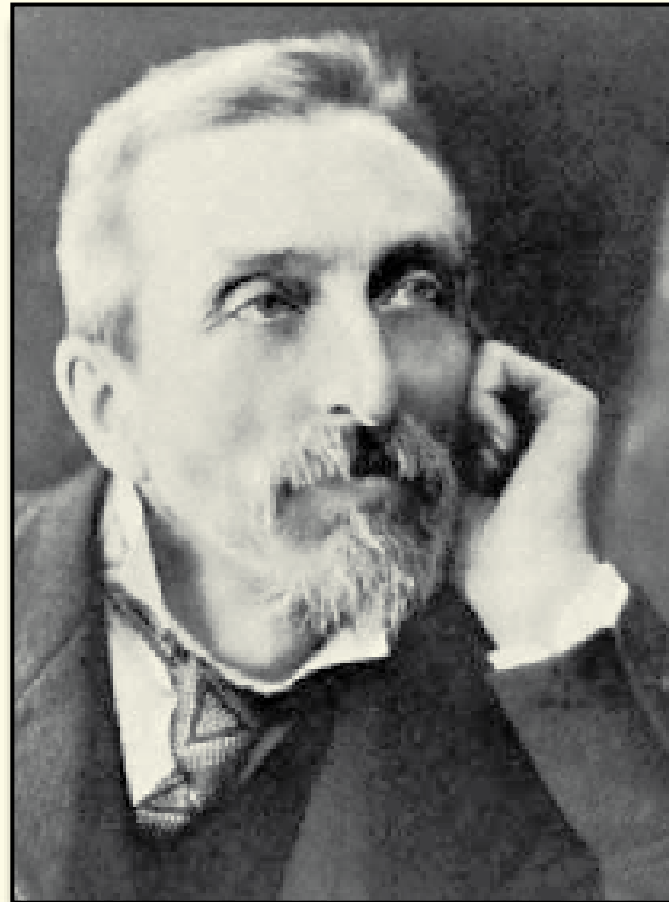
I can assert this from experience; I have yet to learn something useless or trivial. It only appears so to others because the context used by others to evaluate the value of information is in some manner fixed. Most commonly, it is that their frame of reference places a small value on that knowledge. Contexts do change however.

To illustrate, my knowledge of waterside features in the current context plays little part. It would be what many consider to be trivial. Yet suppose tomorrow some clever Ripperologist finds some form of evidence that places some importance on old Dundee wharf. I will not have to invest any more time in finding this place or knowing its spatial relationship to other places. My research can move on unfettered by the need to clarify my understanding on this issue. For those of us for whom time is an unlimited resource, this is of little import. For the rest of us, though, time is a valuable commodity.

Here lies a great danger to the accurate conceptions of students of the Ripper phenomenon. Whether we update our understandings or not in light of new data, is largely a function of our frame of reference for seeing the phenomenon. Remember our lens? Well it is a conditioning factor in our conceptual framework. This applies equally to seasoned or new students of the phenomenon of the Ripper.

There is, however, a more insidious and potentially distorting factor in our conceptual framework. Whether we strongly favor a suspect or not will strongly affect how we evaluate new

data. In a similar vein, if “solving” this phenomena is the goal of the student, that also is a conditional factor in our evaluation of new (or old) data.



CHARLES BOOTH

I would like to offer an example of how geography has been demonstrably beneficial to my study of the Ripper phenomenon, and how it differs from the conception of many who study this case. The example is the location

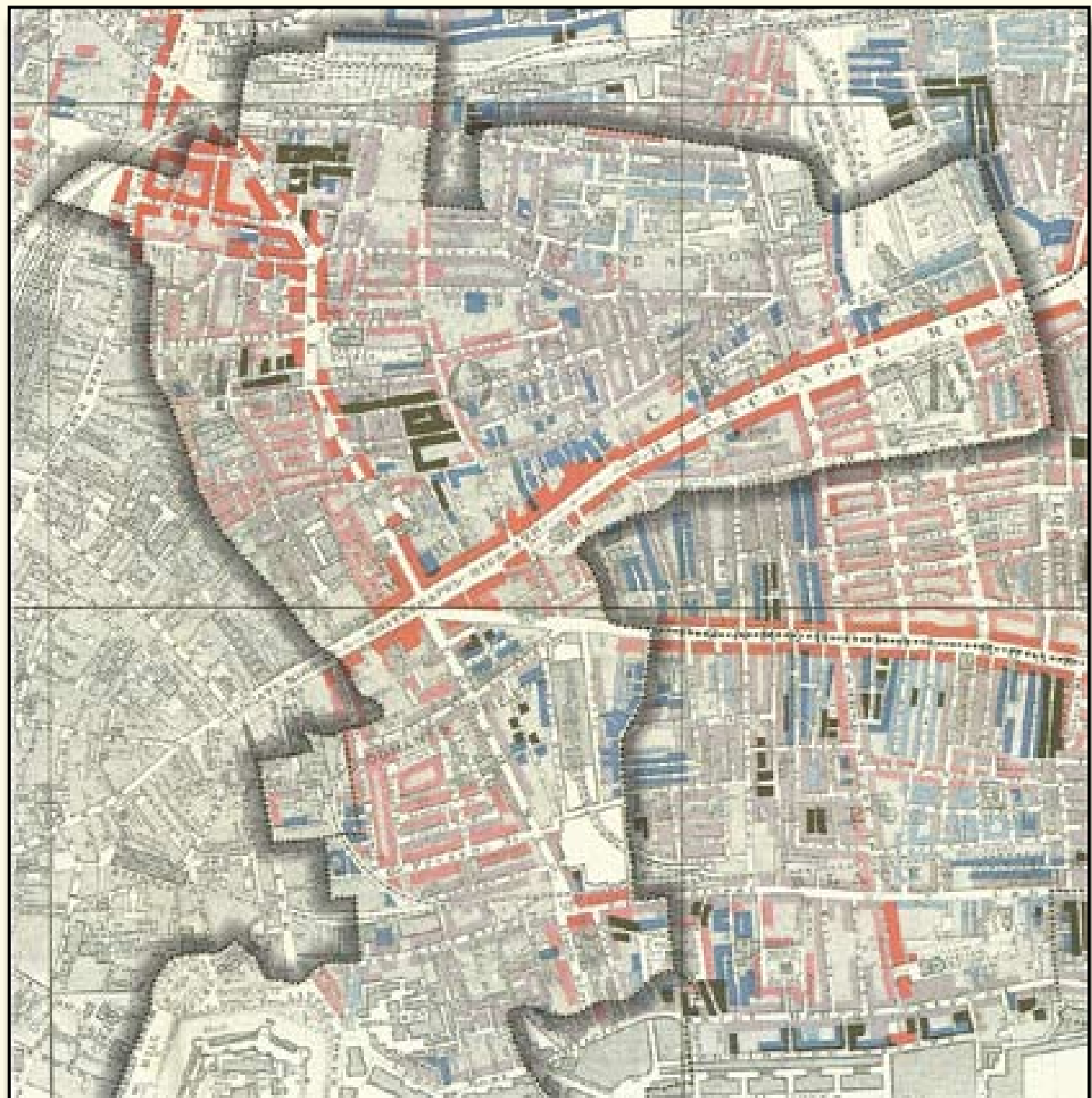
and size of the various poor unions, workhouses, and almshouses in the Victorian East End.

Traditionally, the view of poverty in the East End has been measured in large part by Charles Booth's notebooks. The majority of students use this data as a means to evaluate poverty. We must remember, however, that this data set was generated in Victorian times, with a Victorian frame of reference. Since none of us possesses an accurate Victorian frame of reference, a bias is introduced immediately between the reality of what actually was and what we conceive to be the Victorian reality. Even assuming the complete accuracy of the notebooks, the bias still exists.

Booth is without doubt the best primary source material on economic distribution we have. I will go even further in saying a strict application of historical study dogma demands we use the Booth data. Yet, there is another method of conceiving of the poor-distribution data. This conception, unlike Booth's, gives a greater understanding of the type of poor we meet in our studies — the dispossessed and the marginal. It is an accurate conception of the terrain on which

the tragedies occurred. It is an understanding of the stage on which these historical actors were performing. It is a modern mind's accurate conception of the terrain and features in our narrative. I submit to you, that given the Victorian world view, we can more accurately assess the distribution of dispossessed Victorians by examining the distributions and histories of such institutions as workhouses and casual wards. The only assumption in this conception is that the Victorians would have constructed more or larger institutions in areas of greater perceived need. Not only does this avoid the importation of a Victorian bias into our modern conceptual framework, it provides the student with an in-depth conception of Victorian life in the East End. In short, it further polishes our lens in so far as our understanding of Victorian culture.

This is just one example of a cultural understanding provided by an enhanced view of geography. On the issue of our understanding of cultures then and now I offer this insight. One of my degrees will be in anthropology (the study of things related to humans). In North America, this includes a very healthy dose of cultural awareness



WHITECHAPEL POOR MAP

and the evaluation of cultures. I have noticed there is greater ease in studying cultures dissimilar to those of our own. I believe this is in part because the frames of reference are so different, that the differences become readily apparent. In contrast, similar conceptions invite us to fill in any missing data from our own experience, and so, to fall victim to error. This is not unlike an easily noticed severe visual change (like spontaneous partial blindness) and the more subtle macular degeneration.

Not unlike making erroneous geographic assumptions, erroneous cultural assumptions can be very subtle and, consequently, difficult to detect. As with Bobby and his milk, we tend towards assuming that gaps in the narrative can be filled by substitutions from our own understandings. Modern British culture is not Victorian British culture. The assumptions with culture, again not unlike those of geography, are poorly illustrated by the casual use of words alone. The damage done to our conceptual lens by cultural assumptions is both severe and profound. One could easily end up with a lens not unlike the distorting mirrors at a fun house. The chief difference is

that the wearer of such a lens would never detect his or her visual distortion, and as we know, there are precious few Ripper ophthalmologists.

The good news is that the remedy is the same as with geographic conceptualizations. Due diligence on the part of the student does a great deal in the avoidance of accumulating such distortions, and the abatement of already established distortions. The fewer assumptions one makes in his or her understanding, the better off the conceptual framework in relation to the reality of the subject. A modern student cannot assume either a geographic or cultural variable without the assumption of risk in the distortion of his or her lens.

Ripperology has existed since the creation of the Ripper phenomenon. There is more than a century of data accumulation in regard to this phenomenon. Yes, some scholars have and do twist the facts to fit their own agenda. This is both historically, and currently true of this phenomenon. So much more is the justification for the student to be aware of his or her lens. We need to determine what distortions still exist and, once we have identified one, set out to correct it.

There is a great deal of data that has been researched and distributed that many of us disregard as trivial.

It is also true that non-Ripperologists have much to offer. You do not have to collect information on, say, workhouses; there are scholars in that field of endeavor that have gathered it, and many share it freely on the web. We all seek a greater understanding of this phenomenon. It is not a race to “solve” this case. We will all find our own answers that fit our unique conceptual framework. This is fitting to the individual nature of the human animal, and is in my mind the appropriate outcome. Your solution however, will only be as good as the grinding of your lens. For the sake of all future students of the case, it would be wise to double-check your own lens before submitting your solution to the community.

Biography

D.M. Gates

My name is Dave. I was born in [redacted] and still reside in Kansas. I have been an airborne soldier, a carpenter, had a stroke at age 33, and now I am finishing my degrees in Anthropology and History. I genuinely enjoy both, and they marry together well. My concentrations in both areas have been centered on the First Nations of North America. My sense of humor is very dry, and usually on prominent display. My interest in the Ripper case was brought about by the podcasts of Mr. Menges, and my acute insomnia. Since coming to the case, I have been and continue to be fascinated by both the anthropological and historical issues involved, I wish my fellow students of this phenomenon well and I urge them to look outside the “facts” of the case to increase their understanding of these events more fully.



Morganstone, Elizabeth Phoenix and Mrs Carthy

Neal Shelden (with Jennifer Shelden)

Back in 2003, in a booklet I published about the life of Catherine Eddowes, I began research into the lives of the people that had known Mary Jane Kelly. Three of the people I concentrated my research on were Mrs Carthy of Breezer's Hill, Elizabeth Phoenix of 157 Bow Common Lane, and Morganstone who was said to work at the Stepney Gas Works. Recent study carried out by myself and my wife Jennifer into these three people has brought forth new information and an unexpected revelation that could change our perception of how we view accounts given in 1888 by Joseph Barnett, Mary Jane Kelly's lover.



JOSEPH BARNETT

MORGANSTONE

Barnett relayed Kelly's story of her time in London as one that began in a brothel in the West End of London, then after a short stay with a gentleman in France, she returned to live in London's East End at the Ratcliff Highway with a Mrs Buki. Barnett also claimed that she lived near Stepney Gas Works with a man named Morganstone. Well-known Ripper authors Stewart Evans and Nick Connell made an identification of a candidate for Morganstone in their book of 2000, *The Man Who Hunted Jack the Ripper*. They found him on the 1881 census, at 43 Victoria Road, Fulham, in the West End of

London as follows:

Adrienus L. Morgestern,

head, married, aged 33, gas stoker,
born Alphen en Riel, Netherlands.

Jeanette S. Morgestern,

wife, married, aged 28,
born Mzerbo, Netherlands.

Johanna C. Morgestern,

daughter, aged 7, born Roosendaal
(not Proogentel), Netherlands.

Maria Morgestern,

daughter, aged 5,
born Roosendaal, Netherlands.

Wilhelmina C. Morgestern,

daughter, aged 4,
born Fulham, London.

Petronella C. Morgestern,

daughter, aged 0,
born Fulham, London.

Maria A. Morgestern,

brother, single, aged 28, gas stoker,
born Alphen en Riel, Netherlands.

Although the name was written as Morgestern on the census, the correct spelling was Morgenstern. The brother mentioned on the census, whose real name was in fact Maran, married in 1881 in Fulham and remained living there until sometime in the latter part of the century when he moved with

his wife and her son to Wandsworth. On the 1901 census Maran was called 'Morgenstone', and probably worked at the gas works at Fulham and then Wandsworth.

Adrianus (correct spelling) Lucas Morgenstern, on the other hand, had apparently vanished from the 1891 census. His eldest daughter, Anna Kornelia (recorded as Johanna C. on the 1881 census) married George Biscardine on the 1st August 1892 at St Peter, Limehouse, in the East End of London. At this time her father's name was given as Adrianus, and Anna gave her address as 7 Garford Street. Adrianus' youngest surviving daughter, Wilhelmina Christina Morgenstern, married in 1897 to Thomas Fenwick, also in the Poplar area. His daughter Petronella died in 1882, aged just one year.

A *Casebook* message board contributor named Louis van Domselaar, wrote in late 2003 and early 2004 that he was contacted by a living relative of the Morgenstern's and that a Thomas Morgenstern on the 1901 census at Bromley, in the East End of London, was in fact Adrianus Lucas Morgenstern.

The 1901 census for 22 Joshua Street, Bromley, records the following:

Thomas Morgenstern,

head, widower, aged 51, gas stoker,
born Holland, Naturalized Subject.

Maria Morgenstern,

boarder, single, aged 26, shirt
machinist, born Poplar, London.

It can be seen that Morgenstern was recorded as a widower, his wife Antonettea (mistakenly called Jeanette S. on the 1881 census) having died in the Hackney district in 1884. Adrianus' last remaining single daughter Maria was married in 1901, in the Poplar area, to Thomas Wheeler. We then found that Adrianus altered his name again for the 1911 census, at which point he had also moved to 82 Joshua Street, Bromley, East End of London and is listed as:

Adrian Morgenstern,

head, widower, aged 62,
gas stoker - gas works,
born Butol, Holland.

We found that Morgenstern died as Adriaan L. Morgenstern, aged 83, in the Poplar district in 1932. But it still remained a mystery as to where he was living on the 1891 census?

ELIZABETH PHOENIX

A woman, named as Elizabeth Phoenix in newspaper reports such as the *Morning Advertiser* of the 12th November 1888, and stating she was living at 157 Bow Common Lane, Bow, came forward to give information about Mary Jane Kelly. She had called at the Leman Street Police Station on the evening of the 10th November 1888 and had given information that the officers there were satisfied was information about the murdered woman at Miller's Court.

eyes and a very fine head of hair, that reached nearly to her waist. At the time Phoenix knew the woman, she gave her name as Mary Jane Kelly and stated that she was about 22 years of age (so that her age in 1888 would be about 25 years). There was, it seems, some difficulty in establishing her nationality. She stated to Phoenix at first that she was Welsh, and that her parents, who had discarded her, still resided at Cardiff when she came to London. On other occasions, however, she declared that she was Irish. She is

also stated that Kelly had two false teeth which projected very much from the lips. When living at Breezer's Hill, Kelly stated that she had a child aged two years, but Mrs. Phoenix never saw it. At that time Kelly also had a friend known as Lizzie Williams. Mrs. Phoenix was reportedly confident that the woman to whom she referred was indeed the Mary Jane Kelly, who died at Miller's Court, although she had not seen her since she left the neighbourhood of the London Docks, where she was well known.

SHE IS DESCRIBED AS BEING VERY QUARRELSOME AND ABUSIVE WHEN INTOXICATED

Phoenix had stated that about three years previously (about 1885) a woman, apparently Kelly from the description given of her, had resided at her brother-in-law's house, at Breezer's Hill, Pennington Street, near the London Docks. She described the lodger as a woman about 5ft. 7in. in height, of rather stout build, with blue

described as being very quarrelsome and abusive when intoxicated, but "one of the most decent and nicest girls" when sober. About two years previous to her death she had left Breezer's Hill and moved to Commercial Road, from which quarter she had been reported to Mrs. Phoenix as leading an immoral life in the vicinity of Aldgate. Phoenix

In 2003, when I carried out some research looking for Elizabeth Phoenix, I chose to start at the address she had given in 1888, that of 157 Bow Common Lane, Bow. The only people I found on the 1891 census living there were a family called Howes, and more interestingly, a family called McCarthy. They are recorded as follows:

Frederick Howes,
married, aged 30,
general labourer,
born Southampton, Hants.

Rachel Howes,
married, aged 27,
born Swansea, Wales.

Reginald Howes,
son, aged 5,
born Rochester, Kent.

Eugene McCarthy,
married, aged 31, cooper,
born St George's, London.

Hannah McCarthy,
married, aged 30,
born Whitechapel.

Unfortunately, I could still find no connection to an Elizabeth Phoenix. Eugene McCarthy had married at a Catholic chapel in 1889 to Hannah Russell and at that time gave his address as 94 Globe Road. I didn't find any significance either, with regard to Mary Jane Kelly's alleged Welsh connections, to the fact that Rachel Howes' maiden name was probably Davies and that she was born in Swansea, Wales.

In 2004, researcher Chris Scott expanded on Eugene McCarthy's family history on *Casebook* by finding him and his widowed Irish mother

Catherine on the 1881 census living at 97 Wentworth Street, Whitechapel, East End of London, as follows:

Catherine McCarthy,
head, widow, aged 60,
chandler's shop keeper,
born Ireland.

Eugene McCarthy,
son, aged 21, cooper,
born Wapping, London.

Hannah Caldon,
niece, aged 14, shop assistant,
born Wapping, London.

Timothy Crawley,
grandson, aged 2, lodger,
born Whitechapel, London.

Recently, I decided to look further into this information on a hunch that Catherine McCarthy was either related to Elizabeth Phoenix, or possibly even Elizabeth Phoenix herself, using an alias. Looking back to the 1871 census brought me the first breakthrough, as it shows at 97 Wentworth Street, Whitechapel, East End of London:

Catherine McCarthy,
head, widow, aged 42,
general shop keeper,
born Ireland.

Elena McCarthy,
daughter, aged 16, assistant to
mother, born Spitalfields, London.

Eugene McCarthy,
son, 13, scholar,
born Wapping, London.

Theodore Frantzen,
boarder, aged 25, printer's compositor,
born Germany.

Jane Frantzen,
boarder, wife, aged 33,
born Wiltshire.

Johnanna Phoenix,
boarder, married, aged 32,
charwoman, born Kerry, Ireland.

Robert McGregor,
boarder, aged 44, coal agent,
born Sunderland, Durham.

There is no pointer on the census entry to suggest Johnanna (probably Johanna) Phoenix was related to Catherine McCarthy, but can it be a coincidence that someone called Phoenix was living with Catherine and Eugene in 1871, then an Elizabeth Phoenix lived at 157 Bow Common Lane in 1888? All in all, it appears to prove some sort of connection if only as friends of the family. After all, Phoenix was by no means a common name, Johnanna being the only one born in

Ireland and living in the East End at that time.

Unfortunately, research up to now, has not revealed any more details about Johnanna Phoenix, but checking back further into Catherine McCarthy's family we find her on the 1861 census, spelt as McCarty, living at 9 Wellington Building's, Samuel Street, St George in the East, East London:

John White,
head, widower, aged 62,
dock labourer,
born Cork, Ireland.

Catherine McCarty,
daughter, widow, aged 36,
laundress,
born Cork, Ireland.

William White,
son, aged 27, dock labourer,
born Cork, Ireland.

Ellen McCarty,
grand daughter, aged 8, scholar,
born Middlesex.

Eugene McCarty,
grandson, aged 2,
born Middlesex.

Catherine Hegerty,
widow, aged 55, general servant,
born Cork, Ireland.

Back to the previous census for 1851 at 11 Harrow Alley, St Botolph, Aldgate, East End of London we find:

John White,
head, married, aged 52,
general labourer,
born Cork, Ireland.

Mary White,
wife, aged 51,
born Cork, Ireland.

Morris White,
son, aged 26,
general labourer,
born Cork, Ireland.

Catherine White,
daughter, aged 24, peddler,
born Cork, Ireland.

Johanna White,
daughter, aged 19, peddler,
born Cork, Ireland.

William White,
aged 17, peddler,
born Cork, Ireland.

Eleanor White,
aged 14, peddler,
born Cork, Ireland.

Catherine appears to have married Jeremiah McCarthy the next year, but was widowed between 1858-1861. I was at first excited to find a sister Johanna

White believing her to be the Johnanna Phoenix living at 97 Wentworth Street in 1871, but this excitement was short-lived as subsequent research proved this not to be the case. Johanna White married Edward Quinlan in 1853 and lived in Artillery Street in Whitechapel in 1871.

Catherine McCarthy, probably died in February 1889 at the Sick Asylum in Bromley, east London, and may have lived at 157 Bow Common Lane prior to/with her son Eugene. I considered that it could be possible that Elizabeth Phoenix and Johnanna Phoenix were in some way related and that further research might reveal this connection and a connection to Catherine McCarthy's family.

So what of Elizabeth Phoenix herself? Searching through numerous census years for the name of Phoenix revealed absolutely nothing and especially not for London's East End. But then one afternoon, Jennifer began to search for spelling variations on the name of Phoenix, and made a very important discovery. An 1891 census entry gave this interesting list of occupants at 20 Cordelia Street, St Leonard's Bromley, East End of London:

Adrianus Felix,
head, married, age 43, gas stoker,
born Rotterdam, Holland.

Elizabeth Felix,
wife, married, age 27, tailoress,
born Cripplegate, London.

Anna Felix,
daughter, single, age 17, milliner,
born Rotterdam, Holland.

It didn't take long to spot that the details for Adrianus Felix and Adrianus Morgenstern were the same. They were both born in 1848, in Holland, a gas stoker by trade. We also noted that Felix's daughter, recorded as Anna, had details that matched up with Johanna C. Morgenstern's birth year of 1874 and birthplace of Holland recorded on the 1881 census. We were of course, previously unable to find Morgenstern on the 1891 census under that surname. We were sure that this **MORGENSTERN** was the census entry that was missing for Adrianus Morgenstern.

More important was the information that Jennifer did not expect to find, that Adrianus was living with a woman called 'Elizabeth Felix' that can clearly be identified as the 'Elizabeth Phoenix' who reported to the police in

**IT DIDN'T
TAKE
LONG
TO SPOT
THAT THE
DETAILS
FOR
ADRIANUS
FELIX
AND
ADRIANUS
MORGENSTERN
WERE THE
SAME**

1888 giving her address as 157 Bow Common Lane. Surely, it is easy for us to understand that Morgenstern, with a Dutch accent, was misheard by the census enumerator, and that his attempt to pronounce the name of Phoenix was translated into 'Felix'? Of course, it is equally possible that in 1888, Elizabeth was misheard by the news reporter that she gave her statement to, as Phoenix rather than Felix.

There can now be no doubt that Adrianus Morgenstern was the man mentioned as 'Morganstone' by Joseph Barnett in connection with Mary Jane Kelly. He might have been working at Stepney Gas Works, but there were also separate gas works at Harford Street, Shadwell, and even Bow Common, that could have been considered by Kelly to have been the Stepney Gas Works. This new research throws a completely different light on the relationship between Mary Jane Kelly and Morganstone, now that we can accept that the same man was in fact the lover of Elizabeth Phoenix/Felix. Despite the census entry suggesting the Felix couple were married, no marriage can be found, and it suggests a very likely scenario that happened on the days after Mary Jane Kelly was murdered at Miller's Court in 1888.

If we study the statement given to the press in 1888 by Elizabeth Phoenix/Felix in the days following Kelly's death, we find no mention of Morganstone/Morgenstern. There can be no doubt that when Elizabeth hot-footed her way across East London from Bow Common Lane to Lemn Street Police Station, it was because she believed that it was in both their best interest to call on the police and press, before they in turn chose to call on them. The reason for this may have been revealed on the *Casebook* website by a direct descendant of Adrianus Morgenstern's daughter Wilhelmina. In 2005, Grant Fenwick posted that he was Morgenstern's great-great-grandson and that he had "heard a story that Wilhelmina, when she was a child, was brought up in a brothel in Limehouse." Taking Wilhelmina Morgenstern's birth date as 1877 and that she was aged 7 when her mother died in 1884, her childhood experiences being brought up in a brothel was likely to have been between the age of 7 and 14, in date terms 1884 to 1891.

It is our conclusion that after the summer of 1884 when Adrianus Morgenstern became widowed, he set up home with his new lover Elizabeth

Phoenix/Felix near to a gas works that Mary Jane Kelly later called the Stepney Gas Works. In about 1885, Mary Jane Kelly probably went to live with them after she lived with a Mrs Buki, or maybe after she lived with Mrs Carthy of Breezer's Hill. Kelly could have plied her trade from the Morgenstern's home in a similar way that she did at Breezer's Hill and

Miller's Court. From Joseph Barnett's statement at Mary Jane Kelly's inquest, which said that she had lived with Morganstone, it has been assumed that they were lovers. However, it is difficult to say as to whether Kelly was Morgenstern's lover at one time, or if, as we now think more likely, she was simply living with him and his family, probably at a house of ill-repute.



BREEZER'S HILL © ROBERT CLACK

Maybe they were lovers, but if so, only behind Elizabeth's back and as Elizabeth was still with him in 1891, it seems unlikely, although certainly not out of the question. We could, for instance, take her assertion that Kelly had two protruding false teeth as a swipe at her now dead love rival, but this is contradicted by her compliment of Kelly's "very fine head of hair." All in all, Elizabeth's statement in 1888 suggests that it was imperative for her to deflect attention away from Adrianus and herself, and to speak only of Kelly's stay at the house of Elizabeth's brother-in-law in Breezer's Hill. That way, the Carthy's of Breezer's Hill became the focus for the attention of further investigation, and Adrianus and Elizabeth were left alone.

Turning away from the Phoenix/Felix's for one moment, but stopping at the address Elizabeth gave in 1888, I would like to state that though I discovered a Williams couple living at 157 Bow Common Lane on the 1881 census, research into them has not revealed a connection to the Lizzie Williams mentioned by Elizabeth Phoenix in her statement of 1888. Also, in 2008, Sam Flynn (aka Gareth Williams) posted on the *Casebook* message boards, a

possible candidate for Mrs Buki, a Mercy Ann Booty, wife of Benjamin Booty living in the Ratcliff Highway area. Mercy's maiden name was White, but there appears to be no family connection between Catherine McCarthy mother of Eugene McCarthy, whose maiden name was also White, and Mercy Ann Booty.

MRS CARTHY

As already stated, when Mary Jane Kelly left Mrs Buki's house in about 1884 -1885, it was said that she went to live with a Mrs Carthy of Breezer's Hill, off Pennington Street, in the London Dock's area. In my 1999 book about the victims, I made an identification from the 1891 census that I believed to be obvious candidates for the people with whom Kelly had stayed, as they resided at this time at 1 Breezer's Hill, St George in the East and were recorded as follows:

John McCarthy,
head, married, aged 36, dock labourer,
born Whitechapel, London.

Mary McCarthy,
wife, married, aged 29, born
Shoreditch, London.

Ellen Forbes,

boarder, single, aged 28, unfortunate,
born Glasgow, Scotland.

Abey March,
boarder, single, aged 36, unfortunate,
born Whitechapel, London.

Emma Britton,
boarder, single, aged 29, unfortunate,
born Bristol.

William Fenely,
visitor, single, aged 40,
seaman seas, Bristol.

Ellen Fallon,
a child, aged 8, scholar, born St
George in the East, London.

The fact that there were three single women living in the house as "unfortunates" (crossed out on the entry) proved beyond doubt that the house was used as a brothel.

Recently, Jennifer and myself have been making a thorough search for any John McCarthy's living in London on the census from 1881 to 1891 in order to finally establish a positive identification for the John and Mary McCarthy of Breezer's Hill. Several attempts to prove the identity of this couple can now be entirely dismissed.

One of which was my 2003 identification of a Mary Ann Jane Brooks who married a John McCarthy in 1884

at Hackney. Unfortunately, Jennifer discovered this same woman, named as Jane McCarthy, with her husband John on the 1891 census living at 36 Church Lane in Whitechapel. On 7th March 2004, researcher Chris Scott put forward his candidates on the *Casebook* website for the McCarthy's of 1 Breezer's Hill. He believed they were John Dennis McCarthy and Mary Ann McCarthy who were married in Poplar in 1881. Unfortunately, purchase of this certificate proves that they were not the couple of Breezer's Hill, and they can be found in 1891 living at 7 Malmesbury Road, Plaistow.

During the course of my research, of 2003, into what happened to the Breezer's Hill McCarthys, I made an interesting discovery of a 1901 census entry for a Mary McCarthy as follows:

16 Cromwell Street, St George in the East, East London

Mary McCarthy,
head, married, aged 40, needlewoman,
born Shoreditch.

Charlotte Brooks,
sister, single, aged 21,
general servant – domestic,
born Hoxton.

Mary Donovan,
niece, aged 5,
born St George in the East.

I noted that this lady seemed to fit perfectly with the details from the Mary McCarthy in 1891 at Breezer's Hill and that although she said she was married her husband was not recorded at the same address. Also living at this address, as a separate household, was Mary's sister, by then Jane Donovan (as she had married one Michael Donovan

in 1896), aged 32, and her family, as well as their brothers Henry Brooks, aged 36, and Robert Brooks, aged 22. Initially, I did not make too much of this. In fact, I had just signed this article off and put the Brooks coincidence to one side when I noticed a thread on the *Casebook*, that was titled "Is this who I think it is?" that had a link posted by Pinkerton to a find of an Old Bailey court case relating to 1 Breezer's Hill. Mrs McCarthy was a witness in an attempted murder case on 19th October 1891, the same year as the census outlined above showing John and Mary McCarthy, seemingly running a brothel. The case was against one Joseph Brescher for an attack on a Lottie Jones, both the accused and the victim were the neighbours of the McCarthys, residing at 79 Pennington Street. I excitedly clicked on the link provided and found the following statement,

**THIS LADY SEEMED
TO FIT PERFECTLY WITH
THE DETAILS FROM THE
MARY MCCARTHY IN 1891**

“Rose McCarthy: I am the wife of John McCarthy, of 1, Breezer Hill, St. George’s”. Later, I also found an old link to jtrforums.com and a message posted by Debra Arif dated all the way back to 2007, in which Debra stated she had come across a newspaper article connecting a John and Mary McCarthy of 1 Breezer’s Hill to a case where numerous defendants had been brought to court for selling liquor without a license from 13 Ship Alley (a street nearby). I were stumped as there was no date on the article, but I quickly emailed Debra and she helpfully provided us with the date; it was the 10th May 1890. To us, it now seemed certain that the Mary McCarthy mentioned in 1890 and on the 1891 census was the same person as the Rose McCarthy mentioned in the 1891 court proceedings. Indeed, there was no death recorded for a Mary McCarthy that would fit the picture between April (the month of the census) and September (when she witnessed the incident reported at court). I found a marriage for a Rose Mary Brooks and John McCarthy for the March quarter of 1889, which I felt was probably this couple at Breezer’s Hill. I felt it was likely to be the case that although Rose was her official name,

therefore used in court proceedings and at her marriage, she was usually known by her middle name of Mary. It therefore followed that she was also the Mary McCarthy I previously found on the 1901 census whose maiden name was Brooks. I ordered the certificate as a means to confirm this suspicion. The certificate dated the 17th February 1889 read:

Marriage at the Roman Catholic Church of St Mary and St Michael’s, St George in the East.

John McCarthy, aged 35, bachelor, occupation, stevedore, residence, 27 Shorter Street, St George in the East, father’s name, Charles McCarthy, a labourer.

Rose Mary Brooks, aged 27, spinster, residence, 7 Pennington Street, St George in the East, father’s name, David Brooks, a labourer.

The witnesses were John Calnan and Catharine Donovan.

I was able to identify census entries for the family of Rose Mary Brooks for 1871 at 9 Rose Street, Shoreditch, and in 1881 at 7 Philip Street, Shoreditch,

in the East End of London; they were headed by her father, David Brooks, a labourer, as mentioned on the marriage certificate. I also noted that in 1901, the Brooks/McCarthy clan referred to above, living at the same address as a family headed by a Jerry and Mary Shea. Curiosity getting the better of me, for I could not see a family connection to the Brooks/Donovan clan, I looked them up on the 1891 census and found that they were living at 14 Artichoke Hill, like Breezer’s Hill this was off Pennington Street, and Jennifer noted it was just one street along. They also had a daughter named Rose Mary born in 1891.

With the information now at hand, the John McCarthy and Rose Mary Brooks marriage certificate of 1889, along with the the newspaper article of 1890, and the Old Bailey court case record of 1891, led to only one conclusion that Mary McCarthy, otherwise Rose Mary McCarthy, formerly Brooks, living at 1 Breezer’s Hill on the 1891 census, was highly unlikely to have been the Mrs Carthy of Breezer’s Hill between 1885-1888. The first record of the couple being at 1 Breezer’s Hill was 1890, and they had not married until 1889, this was after the Kelly murder

and Mrs Carthy had, in 1888, stated that Kelly left Breezer's Hill in 1886. We wondered if the real Mrs Carthy was in fact related in some other way to the John McCarthy residing there in 1891, possibly his mother, or aunt, or sister-in-law, and the house and been taken over by John and his new wife Rose Mary after their marriage in 1889? The worst scenario, of course, is that it was nothing more than a sheer

coincidence that another unrelated family called Carthy or McCarthy lived at Breezer's Hill from 1885 to 1888.

Further research could finally reveal the identity of the Carthy's of Breezer's Hill, and hopefully, who was indeed the brother-in-law of Elizabeth Phoenix/Felix. It may yet open the door to more intriguing revelations concerning their connections to Morgenstern, and in turn to Mary Jane Kelly. Who

knows what is out there waiting to surprise us, yet again, in relation to the enigma that is Mary Jane Kelly?

Biographies

Neal & Jenni Shelden

Neal Shelden hails from Dagenham in Essex. He began his research into the lives of the victims of the Ripper when he was 18 and has subsequently written five books on the subject, most recently *The Victims of Jack the Ripper*, published in 2007. At the 2007 Ripper Conference he collected an outstanding achievement award for his victims research. However, this is not the best

thing that happened on that occasion, as it was there he met his now wife Jennifer (then Pegg). They married in 2008, this was the best decision he ever made (however, letting Jennifer write this biography was perhaps not the best decision he ever made!) Jennifer is the features editor for this publication. This is their first piece of jointly published work.



Undercover
Our regular read between the lines.
Investigations



This issue's reviews were written by Jenni Sheldon

Undercover Investigations

The Jack the Ripper Location Photographs:

Dutfield's Yard and the Whitby Collection

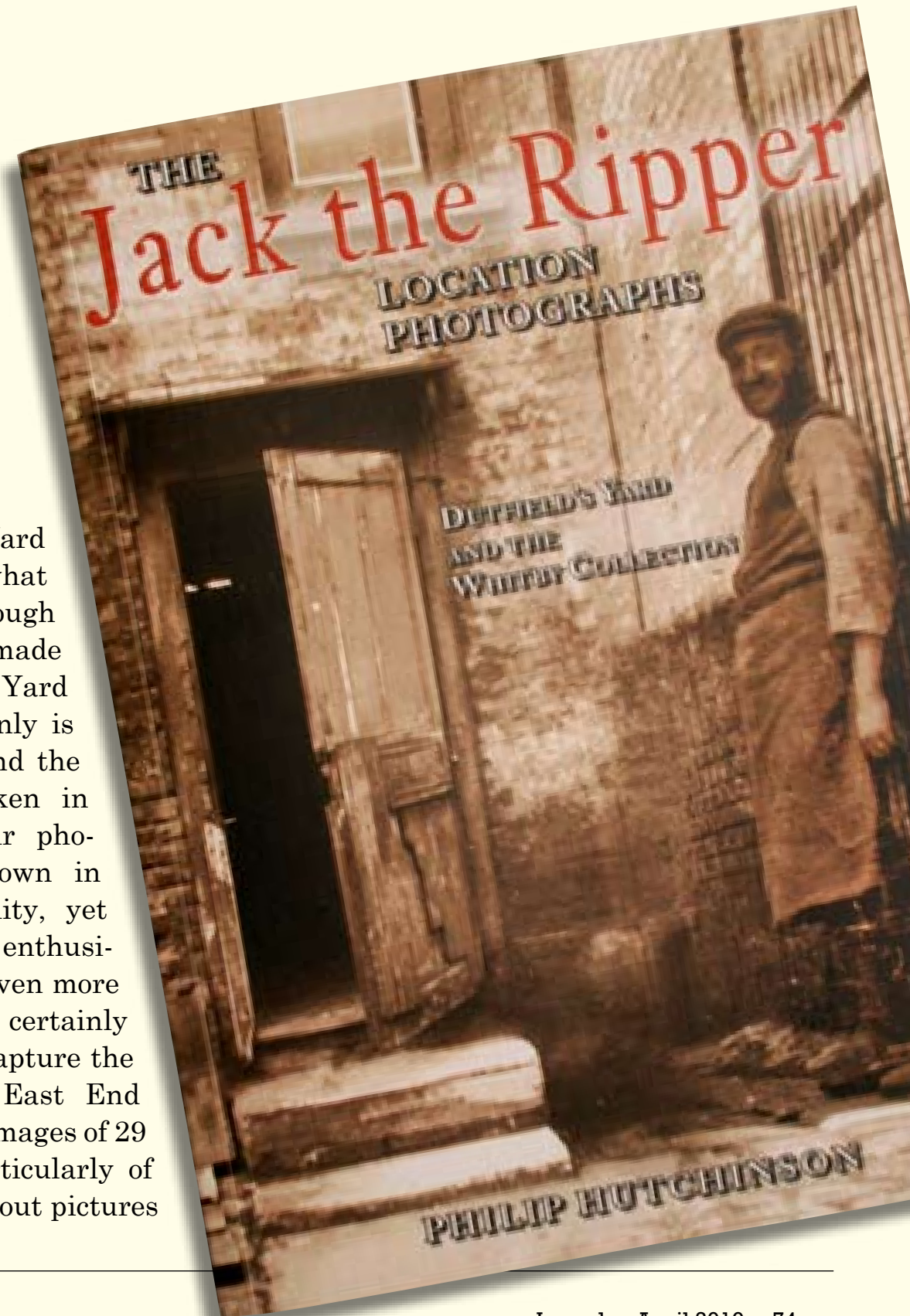
Philip Hutchinson

2009 Amberley Publishing PLC, Stroud

Paperback 96 pages with illustrations £12.99

This is a book that does exactly what it says on the cover as Hutchinson reproduces every single image from the Whitby Collection and also the new Dutfield's Yard image, the first known photograph of this murder location. Hutchinson himself acknowledges that this is a book aimed at the serious Ripper student, rather than a general market. It therefore provides no overview of the case, the suspects or victims, the reader must rely on a working knowledge of the case in order to fully inform what they are looking at. Instead, it focuses on the images purchased by Hutchinson in 2007 and diligently researched. The cover cleverly combines a photograph from John Gordon Whitby and part

of the Dutfield's Yard image, in a somewhat eerie fashion! Although much has been made of the Dutfield's Yard image (and it certainly is a unique find) I found the Whitby pictures taken in the 1960s and their photographer, little known in the Ripper community, yet clearly a committed enthusiast until his death, even more fascinating. Whitby, certainly used his camera to capture the atmosphere of the East End extremely well. The images of 29 Hanbury Street, particularly of the inside, are stand out pictures



Undercover Investigations

to this reader. Turning next (as the book does) to the Dutfield's Yard photograph and Hutchinson's explanation of how he came upon it and the extensive research he has undertaken into it and its photographer (he managed to purchase the remainder of the album it was taken from, from its eBay seller, hence the image of Tower Bridge on the back cover, which comes from the said album). I almost found the discussion of how he found purchased and investigated this image as fascinating as the image itself. It certainly allows an insight into the thorough research of leading Ripperologists. When the new

image is placed, as within these pages, with other images of Dutfield's Yard it is clear to see that this is indeed photographic evidence of the crime scene, if from 12 years after the murder. This book is the first time this unique image has been published, however, the claim it is the most important photographic discovery in the field for 25 years, seems to forget other important finds in this time, notably the Annie Chapman photograph and that of Dr. Tumblety, and is perhaps a little bit of publisher hyperbole. Nonetheless, Hutchinson's accounts of the images, their discoveries and his research into

them are very detailed and thorough and Hutchinson is a very able and entertaining writer, while the images themselves are reproduced clearly, making this book a good buy. The reference on the back cover to colour modern comparison shots, proves to be false, however, Hutchinson has himself stated that this is due to an error on Amberley's part, that will almost certainly be corrected in future editions. I wasn't sure what I would make of this book when I first got it, but I was pleased to find it a thoroughly enjoyable read. It is therefore recommended for serious Ripper students.

I WAS PLEASED TO FIND IT A THOROUGHLY ENJOYABLE READ.



Our rating

Undercover Investigations

The Man Who Hunted Jack the Ripper:

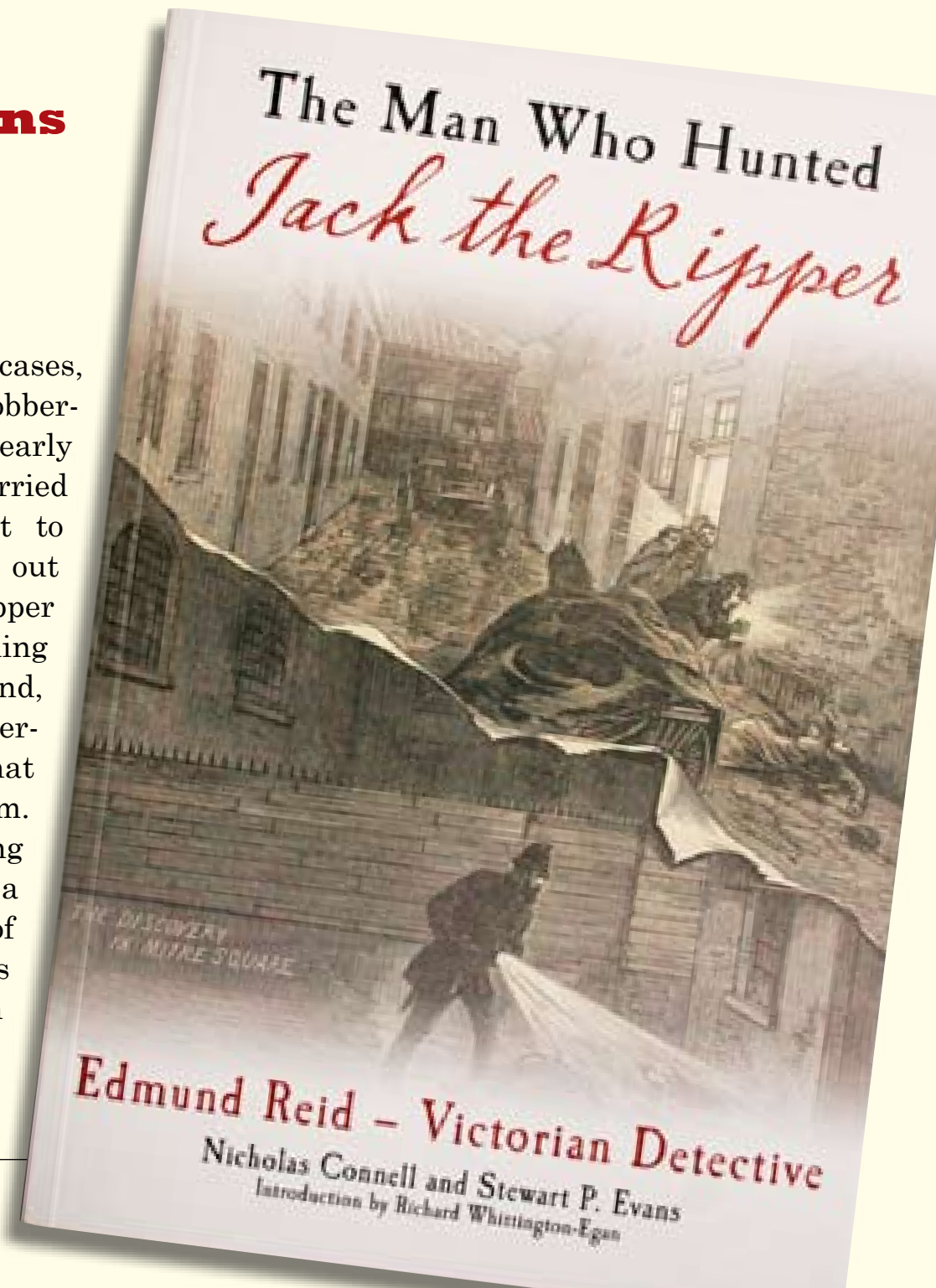
Edmund Reid – Victorian Detective

Nicholas Connell & Stewart P. Evans
Introduction by Richard Whittington Egan

2009 Amberley Publishing PLC, Stroud
Paperback, 192 pp, biblio, index, illus. £14.99

We obviously have to be upfront and point out that we may well be biased given that this book is co-authored by a regular contributor to the *Examiner*. However, we like to think that this is not reflected in our overall view of the book and so we bring you this review. Connell and Evans have produced a well written and interesting addition to the field by presenting the crimes from the view of Inspector Reid, who worked on the ground as senior member of H Division during the murders. They present Reid's own views on the case in light of his position, affectionately but critically. This is not just a Ripper book as also provided is a lot of biographical information on the Inspector, charting

some of Reid's other cases, such as the great silk robberies, his early life and early police career, his married life and his retirement to the seaside. They point out however, that the Ripper seemed to be something that followed him around, and he gave several interviews on the subject that the authors quote from. They are very intriguing interviews and offer a different view to some of the other police officials that are on record, such as Anderson's of whom Reid was dismissive.



Undercover Investigations

He also seems to have been quite a character in retirement and there are some nice pictures of Reid as an older retired gentleman. I love the image on the back cover it seems to bring to life exactly the image the authors conjured up in my head of what Reid was like when he was a retired man. One can't help but feel a little warmed to Reid on seeing these photos. The authors paint a picture of Reid as someone who liked to air his views in public on the Ripper and on other matters. Those of you who have been in Ripperology a while might find this title familiar; that is because this is a revised and updated version of

the 2000 Rupert Books original, nonetheless (and having read the original) I found I was thoroughly engrossed. A quick glance at the first edition shows that though the chapter headings are largely the same, the text has been somewhat revised. There are also differing images in this revised book to the pictures in the first edition the authors seem to have found some more images of Reid and his impact on Hampton on Sea (where he retired to) in particular. This book makes me want to invite Reid round for a cup of tea and a chat about the Ripper. Recommended.

... A CUP OF TEA & A CHAT ABOUT THE RIPPER



Our rating

Undercover Investigations

Oxfordshire Murders:

True Crime History Series

Nicola Sly

2010 History Press, Stroud

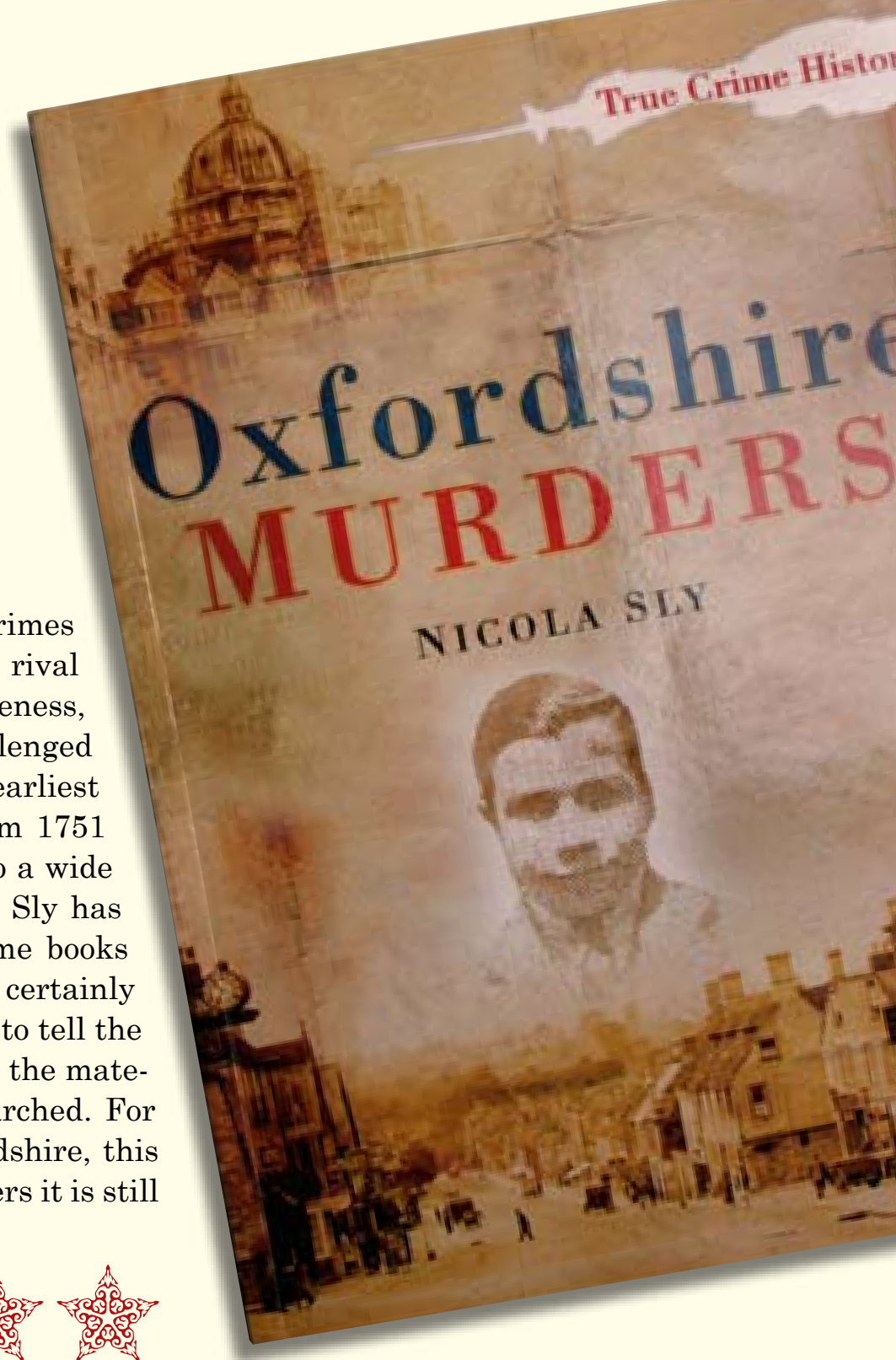
Paperback, 154 pp, index, biblio, illus. £14.99

Oxford is probably the most famous murder hot spot in the UK, but, luckily for its residents, usually only famous for crimes committed in fictional scenes as it is the the setting of the widely popular fictional detective series “Inspector Morse” as well as the setting for the filming of TV’s “Midsomer Murders”. This True Crime Series title comes from History Press and this particular volume contains an impressive total of 27 real life crimes that have been committed in Oxfordshire. Some cases are obscure and others better known, but all fascinating. It is a series of crimes that would rival “Midsomer Murders” and “Morse” in terms of intrigue and surprise, but why look at fictional TV accounts when you can read about

real life Oxfordshire crimes that would, in some cases, rival Midsomer in terms of bizarreness, and in others, have challenged even Morse’s intellect? The earliest crime in these pages is from 1751 and the latest from 1963, so a wide range of years are covered. Sly has written numerous true crime books for History Press and she is certainly a good writer who manages to tell the story of each crime well and the material seems to be fully researched. For anyone interested in Oxfordshire, this book is a must have, for others it is still an interesting read.



Our rating



Parents Who Kill:

Murderers of newborn, pre-teen and teenage children

Carol Anne Davis

2009 Pennant Books, London

Paperback, biblio £7.99

Here is a book that is compelling, disturbing and heart rending all at once, a difficult combination to pull off whilst remaining objective, but a combination that Davis manages perfectly well. The author has researched her subject thoroughly and set out a powerful combination of true crime accounts of when one or more parents killing their child(ren). A situation, as Davis states, most of us find hard to comprehend. The book is divided into the sections 'Mothers Who Kill', 'Fathers Who Kill' and 'Couples Who Kill' and further subdivided according to the types of crime that have been committed. There is every imaginable scenario covered here from cold-hearted murders, revenge or honour killings, cases of neglect and

abuse and those instances where parents have killed due to mental illness or for reasons of euthanasia.

The book contains some shocking statistics on these crimes. For example, apparently 30 infants are murdered in the UK each year, usually by their mothers. As well as this there were 30 honour killings in the UK between 2005 and 2007 and there is one familicide committed (mainly by fathers), every six to eight weeks in the UK. There are a startling 520 cases in the USA and 16 cases in the UK each year of men who kill their children and then themselves as a act of revenge on the breakdown of their marriage/relationship.

The first chapter deals with the emotional issue of mothers who give birth without telling anyone and then

kill their child, usually due to a disturbed mental state (Davis calls this chapter 'Tell No One Mothers'). One of the most bizarre and saddening cases is that of Catherine Beale who concealed her pregnancy from her partner, and then secretly gave birth in a hotel in the USA whilst on holiday. She was caught whilst attempting to leave the US with her dead baby's body strapped to her own body. Another area discussed is when mothers, such as Beth Wood, who drowned her infant daughters in the bathtub in 1918, kill due to severe cases of severe post-natal depression. Another category of mentally ill women discussed is those, such as Tanya Reid, who act whilst suffering from Münchhausen's By Proxy Syndrome. These accounts of mental

Undercover Investigations

and emotionally ill mothers who kill their children are truly saddening and shocking, one feels terribly for them and their children.

A further bizarre and disturbing set of killings are examined within the pages are those committed by women such as Susan Smith and Diane Downs, who apparently are motivated to kill all their offspring in order to gain the hand of a new boyfriend who might be put off by the additional baggage of their pre-existing family. Another well known case to be featured is that of Christopher Foster, who burnt down his Shropshire home in 2007 after having killed his wife and daughter, horses and dogs and parking a horse box in the driveway to prevent access from the fire service. He had also shot himself.

Cases of child abuse and neglect by one or both parent/guardian also feature and these are truly harrowing and gut wrenching accounts. In her narrative of these cases, Davis spells out in grim detail the full extent of the abusive and neglect treatment dished out to these poor children prior to their untimely deaths. One can fully imagine

the terrible lives they must have lived being so badly ill-treated by the people that they should have been able to trust the most and it is enough to make one's stomach turn and bring tears to one's eyes. One particularly disturbing account is that of the crimes of Angela Camacho and John Allen Rubio who killed their children together. They did this as they thought them to be possessed by the devil and it is frankly, too disturbing to think about and therefore only recommended reading to those with the strongest of stomachs. However, in spite of these factors, the book is fascinating and so is recommended.

**ONLY
RECOMMENDED
TO THOSE
WITH THE
STRONGEST OF
STOMACHS**



Our rating

Undercover Investigations

Sheffield

Murder and Crime Series

Margaret Drinkall

2010 History Press, Stroud

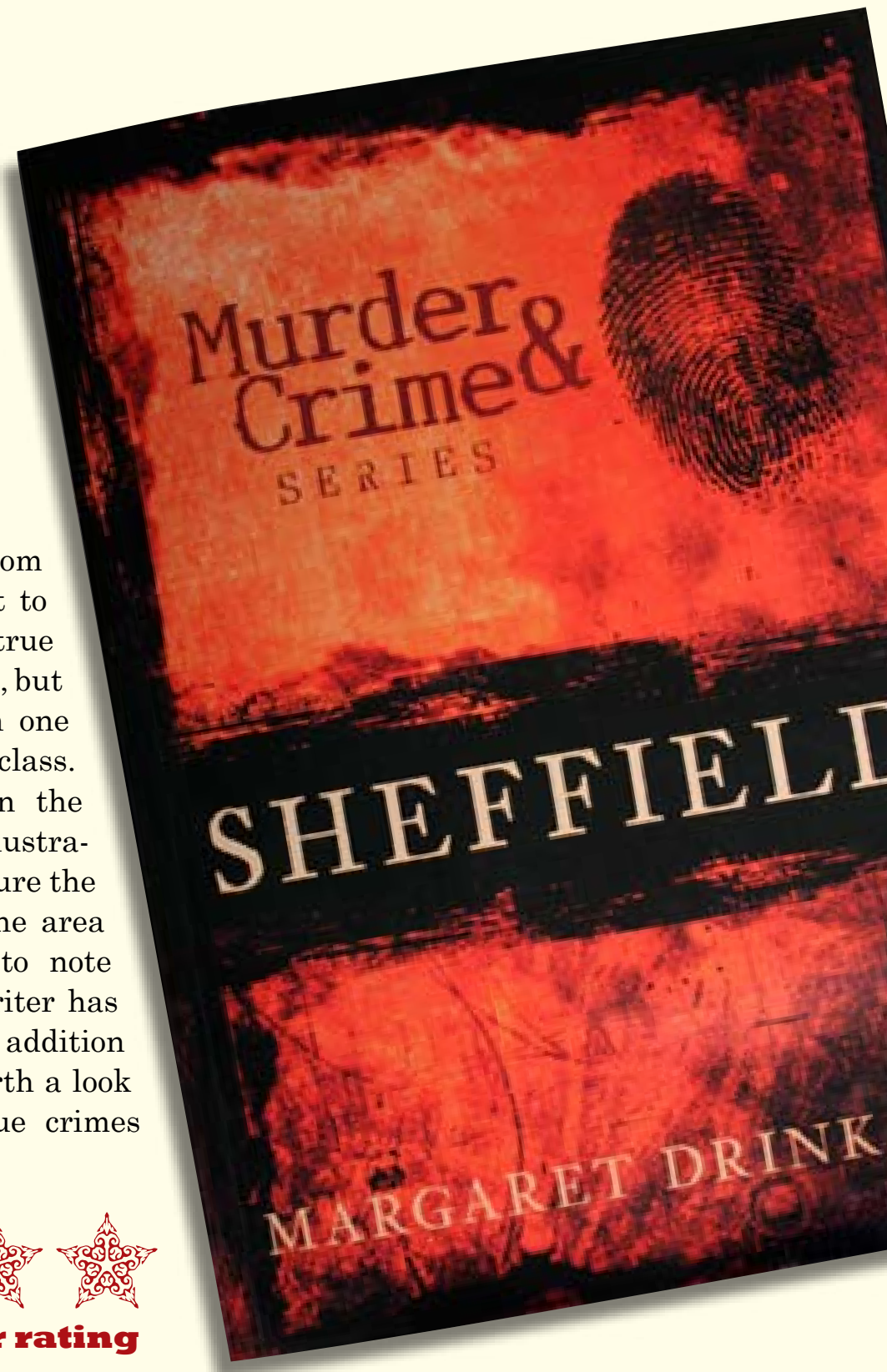
Paperback, 95pp, illus, biblio. £9.99

The Murder and Crime series of local true crime books are generally a quick, easy and fairly entertaining read. This edition manages to tick those boxes too, however, unlike other editions it is short on cases that might be previously recognisable to the reader if they are not familiar with the area. It is also comparatively short, at just 95 pages at £9.99, and so a specific interest in the area, or the types of crimes might be needed to justify the spending of the money in these hard times. That said, it is not that the book is not informative about those crimes it does feature or is badly written, it is just that I felt, in this instance that a more close relationship with the city of Sheffield might have given this reader that extra edge.

All crimes featured are from the Victorian era, a benefit to those of us interested in true crime specific to Jack's times, but in a different area, though one that was similarly working class. In common with others in the series there are some nice illustrations to help the reader picture the scene better. Those from the area might also be interested to note that Drinkall, a capable writer has also written the Rotherham addition of this series. Certainly worth a look for those interested in true crimes that occurred in Yorkshire.



Our rating



Undercover Investigations: From The Library Shelves

JACK THE RIPPER IN THE NEWSPAPERS

Welcome to our fictitious library, which contains all the best books on all the subjects that are of interest to Ripperologists! This edition we are going to pull out all the books that we can find in our library that deal with Jack in the contemporary newspapers.

The press coverage of the crimes can offer an intriguing insight to both details of the murders and how the public reacted to them. It can also be used to see how certain stories themselves have emerged and been continued to this day. There are a surprisingly good range of books that deal with this topic available to read.



Undercover Investigations: From the Library Shelves

Jack the Ripper and the London Press **L. Perry Curtis Junior**

2002 Yale University Press, London
Hardback, pp 364, index, illus.

Perry Curtis Jr., analyses the London newspapers of the day and their coverage of the crimes. Using this analysis of 15 London newspapers he discovers how Jack was presented in the era and how journalists used Jack to play on people's fears. He also is able to examine newspaper culture of the era and how they may have changed people's perceptions of Whitechapel at the time. This book can be picked up up at Amazon for £25, or at WWW.LAYBOOKS.COM for £20.

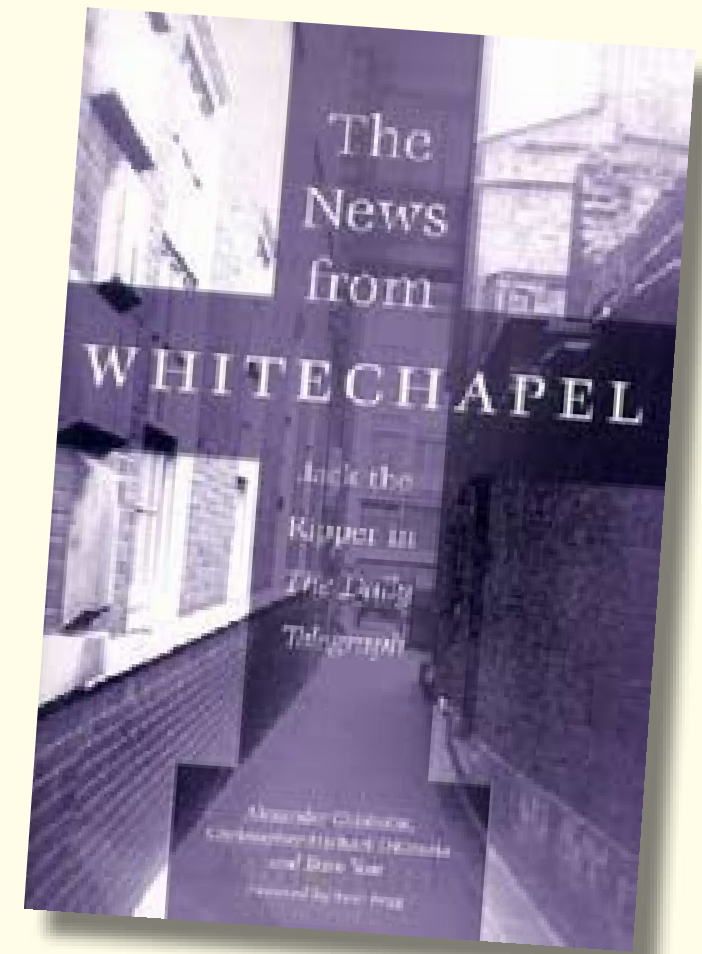
The News from Whitechapel: Jack the Ripper in the Daily Telegraph

**Alexander Chisholm,
Christopher-Michael
DiGrazia and Dave Yost**
Forward by Paul Begg

2002 Macfarland, North Carolina
Paperback, pp 248, biblio., index, illus.

The *Telegraph*, was, apparently, the world's largest selling daily paper at the time of the murders. The authors tell the tale of the Ripper crimes, using the lens of the reports on the case from the *Telegraph* at the time. As Paul Begg states in the forward, you are entering the streets of Whitechapel and experiencing the crimes as readers of the *Telegraph* would have themselves at the time by reading this book. However, one should add, the authors also extensively annotate giving modern readers an advantage over their Victorian counterparts, since they would not have been privy to the authors corrections of

the newspaper reports and the authors also provide extensive notes expanding on certain points. However, we noted that a new copy of the book on one online store was priced at £40 with used copies at just over £30.

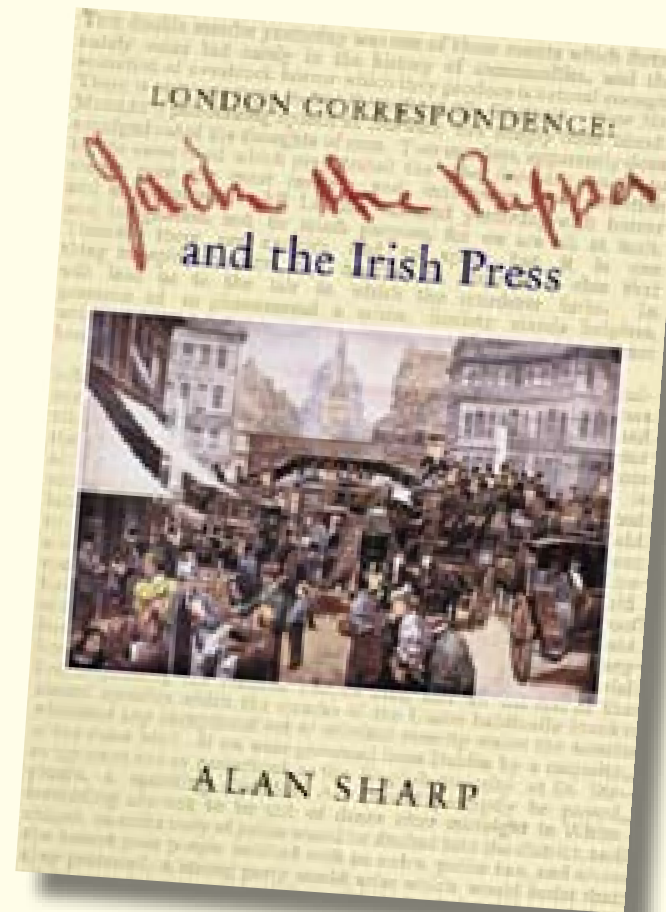


Undercover Investigations: From the Library Shelves

Jack the Ripper in the Provinces: The English Provincial Press Reporting of the Whitechapel Murders **Stawell Heard**

2005 Self Published, Blackheath,
London
Paperback, pps 37, biblio, illus.

This self published booklet looks at the reporting of the Ripper cases in the provincial English press of the day. The publication was limited to 100 copies, making it a rare gem of a Ripper book. As Heard states “Provincial newspapers are an underused source for research into the Whitechapel murders”. Heard had felt that in light of Perry Curtis’ book on the London press coverage, he himself would limit his book to the neglected provincial press. It contains some previously unpublished coverage, and reports that shed a different light on events. It is currently unavailable due to its limited print run, but if you ever see a copy it is certainly worth picking up.



London Correspondence: Jack the Ripper and the Irish Press **Alan Sharp** **Forward by Andy Aliffe**

2005 Ashfield Press, Dublin
Paperback, pp 288, biblio, index, illus.

Sharp, who at the time he wrote the book, had a home in Dublin, Ireland, turned his attention to the reporting of the London Ripper crimes in the press in Ireland. Sharp notes some interesting points about how the Irish Press seized upon the Ripper crimes, amongst other things, to attack the English police forces and establishment. It is an invaluable guide to how the Ripper and the Irish situation came together at this period and how the crimes were therefore politicised in Ireland. It offers a unique perspective on the crimes. It's well worth a read if this sort of aspect interests you. It can still be picked up on Amazon and other online stores for about £16.

Undercover Investigations: From the Library Shelves

**Ripped From The Headlines:
Being The Story of Jack the Ripper
as Reported in The London Times
and the New York Times 1888-1895**
Foreword by Don Souden

2007 Ramble House, Shreveport
Louisiana
Paperback, 112 pp, index.

This book is pretty much summed up by the title, a compilation of contemporary newspaper articles from *Times* of both London and New York. Nothing new here for the student, but it is handy reference guide. Moreover, as it says in the introduction “Jack the Ripper owes his enduring infamy to newspapers” so it is interesting to see how these two major newspapers covered that story. Available online for \$16 to \$29 (that’s approximately £25).

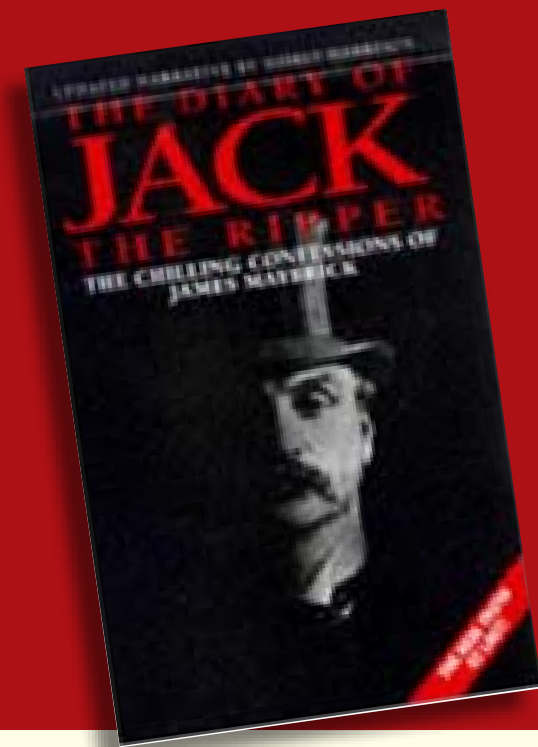
**Public Reactions to Jack the
Ripper: Letters to the editor
August – December 1888**
Edited by Stephen P. Ryder

2006 Inklings Press,
Paperback, 247 pp, index, illus

We thought a mention of the bosses’ tome might be thought of as a little cheeky, it does however fit into this issue’s theme of Jack in the press. It features contemporary letters to the editor from the period of the canonical murders in chronological order. One can be picked up at various on-line stores for those who may feel so inclined.

They Also Wrote...

Shirley Harrison is the author of the controversial Ripper book The Diary of Jack the Ripper, but did you know that she also wrote, Sylvia Pankhurst A Crusading Life, a biography of the suffragette which was first published by Aurum in 2003?



COLLECTORS



with
**Stewart
P. Evans**

Stewart is widely recognised as a leading authority on the Jack the Ripper case. He is the author of several Ripper books, including *Jack the Ripper Scotland Yard Investigates*, *The Man Who Hunted Jack the Ripper*, *Jack the Ripper Letters From Hell* and *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Sourcebook*. He is also an avid collector of Jack the Ripper related items, making him the perfect candidate to answer your questions about Jack the Ripper books and memorabilia. So, let's see what's been asked this time...

"I want to start a collection of Jack the Ripper books and memorabilia, what advice can you give me on how to go about building my collection?"

Most Ripper collectors will have a few items, probably books, magazines and maybe some press cuttings, before they make the decision to start collecting. It pays to hang on to what you have as it's easy to regret getting rid of something later on. *eBay* is a good place for collectors to look as you can pick up some real bargains there.

"I only have limited funds and so I want to focus buying the Jack the Ripper books of today that will be rare/worth something in future, from the current crop how would I know what to select?"

The Ripper books of today that will be rare and worth something in the future are not those that are published for a mass market, they will always be available. The ones that will be worth something are those that have a limited print

Q
O
R
N
E
R

COLLECTORS

run and they will become harder to obtain as time passes by. So, on limited funds, aim to get these sort of books as an investment (perhaps buying a couple of copies if you can afford them).

"How much value will it add to my *Jack the Ripper* book if I get it signed by the author, rather than leaving it unsigned?"

Any signed copy of a book by the author will always make it more desirable for a collector. However, it is worth noting that, with an eye to the future marketing of a book, it is best to have a non-personal inscription or just the author's signature as someone else's name does not appeal to collectors, unless that person, like the author, is also well known.

DON'T BE SHY EMAIL TODAY!

"What would you say is the most sought after book on Jack the Ripper for collectors?"

The most sought after book on Jack the Ripper, by collectors, is *Jack the Ripper: A New Theory*, by William Stewart (1939). As it was published just before the start of World War II it appears it was never reprinted and copies may have been destroyed in wartime bombings as the book is notoriously difficult to find. I have seen copies go for up to £500.

That's it for this issue, so if you have a question about Ripper books and collectables that you would like answering then why not send it to Stewart via our email address examiner@casebook.org Stewart will be answering another selection next issue, so don't be shy email today!

Q
O
R
N
E
R

On The Case...

THE NEWS FROM RIPPER WORLD

ON THE SCREEN...

Just added to the British Films Catalogue is a British movie based on the Jack the Ripper story called *Jack the Ripper – Whitechapel*. Slated for release in early 2011, it is to be produced by Phil Howard for Jog On Son Productions and will be directed by Sacha Bennett. Stars are said to include Ray Winstone, Danny Dyer, Geoff Bell and Lucinda Rhodes-Flaherty who will play Mary Jane Kelly. We know that the movie will feature at least five suspects as there are five actors listed as playing “the suspects” on the cast list. We were also relieved to note that widely respected Ripper researcher and tour guide Richard Jones is working as a historical advisor for the production.

JACKTHERIPPERMOVIE.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM

ON FOR A GAME...

It has been confirmed that EA and Visceral Games’ new offering on Jack the Ripper, “imaginatively” titled *The Ripper*, is set to be released through on-line channels only. So those readers with a PSN or access to the X box Live Arcade, are in luck and will be able to add this to their collection, the rest of us will not. This download-only technology marks an important step in download gaming, according to one website. However, if reports that the game will feature action seen through the Ripper’s eyes and that he will be portrayed as a good guy turn out to be true it might well be one download not worth the bandwidth.

WWW.DREADCENTRAL.COM

WWW.CHEATCC.COM

ON THE JOB...

The news filtered to our ears that the recent ‘London Job’ meet up of Ripperologists on 3rd April, as announced by Monty aka Neil Bell on *Casebook* back in January, went off well. We were sorry none of our number were able to be present on this occasion, nor at the *WS1888* meeting held on the same day. Nonetheless we hear that the trip, a visit to Limehouse and Poplar, was a good gathering of Ripper companions. Andrew Firth one of the brains behind the operation, has kindly written a full report of the day for *On the Case Extra*, which follows. We understand that the next trip is already being mulled over. Interested parties might find the ‘London Job’ *Facebook* group useful so check out [THIS LINK](#) for more details and info.

On The Case...

THE NEWS FROM RIPPER WORLD

ON THE MEND...

The news that regular *Casebook* poster Archaic aka Bunny McCabe had been unwell was posted recently on the *Casebook* message boards. We were upset to learn this news but pleased when Bunny recently was back posting again with the good news that she is now out of hospital. We of course wish Bunny a speedy recovery back to full fitness and are sure our readers echo these sentiments.

FORUM.CASEBOOK.ORG

ON FASHION...

For those readers who like to get out and about in Whitechapel and Spitalfields, we thought the event Alternative Fashion Week might tickle your fancy. The event is set to run between the 19th and 23rd of April at Spitalfields Traders Market, Crispin Place, Brushfield St. It will be open to the public daily at 1.15pm with a 'fashion market' surrounding the catwalk featuring stalls selling clothes, textiles and accessories open from 11am to 5pm each day. Admission is free and includes a programme.

WWW.ALTERNATIVEARTS.CO.UK

ON A DATE...

Saturday June 5th

Whitechapel Society 1888

June meeting 'James Maybrick the Most Controversial Ripper Suspect' with speaker - Chris Jones.

Andrew Firth mentioned that his new book, *Fragments of the East End*, is due out in **Autumn 2010**.

The New Edition of Begg, Fido and Skinner's *Jack the Ripper A to Z*, to be published by John Blake, is apparently now slated for publication on the **6th September 2010**.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE...

If you enjoy fundraising whilst spoofing famous sporting events and enjoy spending time in the Spitalfields area then we hope you did not miss out on the Goat Race held to raise funds for Spitalfields City Farm (we are not making this up). Two real life goats raced on the same day as the boat race, as part of the Easter activities. This was the second running of the event. [MORE](#)

On The Case...*Extra*

THE NEWS FROM RIPPER WORLD

THE LONDON JOB 2010 by Andrew Firth

I'd heard about these "jobs" before. Groups of Ripperologists roaming the East End with their cameras and arousing suspicion in the local populace, visiting unsavoury places such as mortuaries, dark alleyways, and of course, murder sites. So, back in January, when Neil "Monty" Bell suggested doing another trip, I knew that I had to get involved.

So it came to pass, that at midday on Saturday 3rd April, that a group of nine of us (Neil Bell, John Bennett, Trevor Bond, Rob Clack, Philip Hutchinson, Laura Prieto, Mark Ripper, Peter Whitby and myself) met outside Aldgate East for a walk that Rob Clack had carefully planned, which took in some of the more obscure Ripper related sites, and also a handful of non-Ripper related ones for good measure.

We headed east, away from the well known streets of Whitechapel and Spitalfields and it wasn't long before we arrived in Star Place, where Martha Tabram once lodged, (although in 2010 no trace of this remains). Shadwell Place followed shortly afterwards, near to the old Shadwell Station where, in 1892, a woman had been stabbed in an attack that the press suggested might have been the work of Jack the Ripper. After admiring the view of Limehouse Cut, we arrived in Rich Street, Limehouse. Rob produced a photograph of murder victim Lilian Hartney, who was found lying in a gateway here back in the 1940s. As is well known, the murder sites of Jack the Ripper's victims have changed enormously since the 1880s, so it was striking to see that in this case, there was a picture of the

victim in situ, clearly showing that very little had changed over the past 65 years. The railings and brick walls are the same ones that appear in the picture that Rob showed us.

Next calling point was Chrisp Street, where in the 1880s Elizabeth and John Stride ran their coffee shop. Today the street is a wide road carrying a high volume of traffic, and so probably bears very little in common with the Chrisp Street of the nineteenth century. Before long, we doubled back on ourselves and began to head west again, this time along Poplar High Street, stopping off at the site of Clark's Yard where Catherine Mylett was murdered in December 1888. As with many places in the East End, the actual spot where she was found is buried under concrete, and as such

there is very little to see, but I very much appreciated Rob including this on the walk, as it was the one remaining Whitechapel Murders location I'd not visited up to that point.

Passing the site of the Poplar Workhouse, mentioned in Jack London's *People of the Abyss*, a number of us were beginning to crave some liquid refreshment and a nice sit down, and so the sight of the Grapes pub on Narrow Street, amongst all the preserved old warehouses was very welcome. Rob, Philip and Neil left the rest of us in the pub, and headed off to Brick Lane for a curry, taking in the site of the Ratcliffe Highway murders, and Breezers Hill where Mary Kelly was said to have lodged.

The group were reunited that evening for the April *Whitechapel Society* meeting, where strange tales of a game of football in Mitre Square were told. It's on *YouTube*, so it must have taken place, albeit with a tennis ball! At the meeting, John Bennett gave an excellent talk on the changing face of Jack the Ripper's London, which was agreed by many to have been one of the best society talks in ages. It was a fitting end to a very enjoyable day. Already, there's talk of another London Job,



NARROW STREET

covering more obscure locations in the East End!

Two excellent videos of the London Job filmed by Philip Hutchinson, are available on his *YouTube* page.

[GUILFORD GHOST](#) [LONDON JOB 2010](#)

Finally, a book of everyone's photos from the London Job 2010 is in preparation, and will be available for purchase from www.blurb.com in

late April, and will be announced on *Casebook* in due course.

Andrew Firth is the author of Past Traces available from WWW.BLURB.COM

If you have a story you would like to submit please email us.
examiner@casebook.org

Ultimate Ripperologist's Tour:

Leicestershire

A compendium of travels through locations pertinent to the Ripper case.



LEICESTER TOWN HALL



THE JEWRY WALL AND ST NICHOLAS CHURCH

Welcome to the first part of the *Casebook Examiner* Ultimate Ripperologists Tour. We will set the scene of what Leicestershire has to offer before we mark up places here that have an interesting connection to the Jack the Ripper case and then outline your perfect route by telling you how to find the landmarks of interest. Sit back and let us do the hard work so you do not have to.

What better place to start a tour of every conceivable Ripper related location than Leicestershire, the birthplace of the package holiday. It was here, in 1841, that Thomas Cook, a name now synonymous with holidays, was en route to a temperance meeting when he had the idea of arranging excursions. Cook decided to arrange a trip for five hundred and seventy temperance society members to depart from Leicester's Campbell Street train station to Loughborough, eleven miles away, in order to attend a rally. He made arrangements with the railway company and took a share of the ticket price. Success at this and further temperance excursions led him to set up his own business offering rail-based holidays to passengers. He subsequently organised trips abroad to the continent.

A LIKENESS OF THOMAS COOK CAST FROM FINEST BRONZE AND EMBLAZONED WITH THE GENTLMAN'S MONICKER!



Therefore, it is fitting that when you get to the train station and beat a hasty exit towards Leicester city centre one of the first things you may notice on leaving is Thomas Cook's statue.

ABOUT LEICESTER AND LEICESTERSHIRE

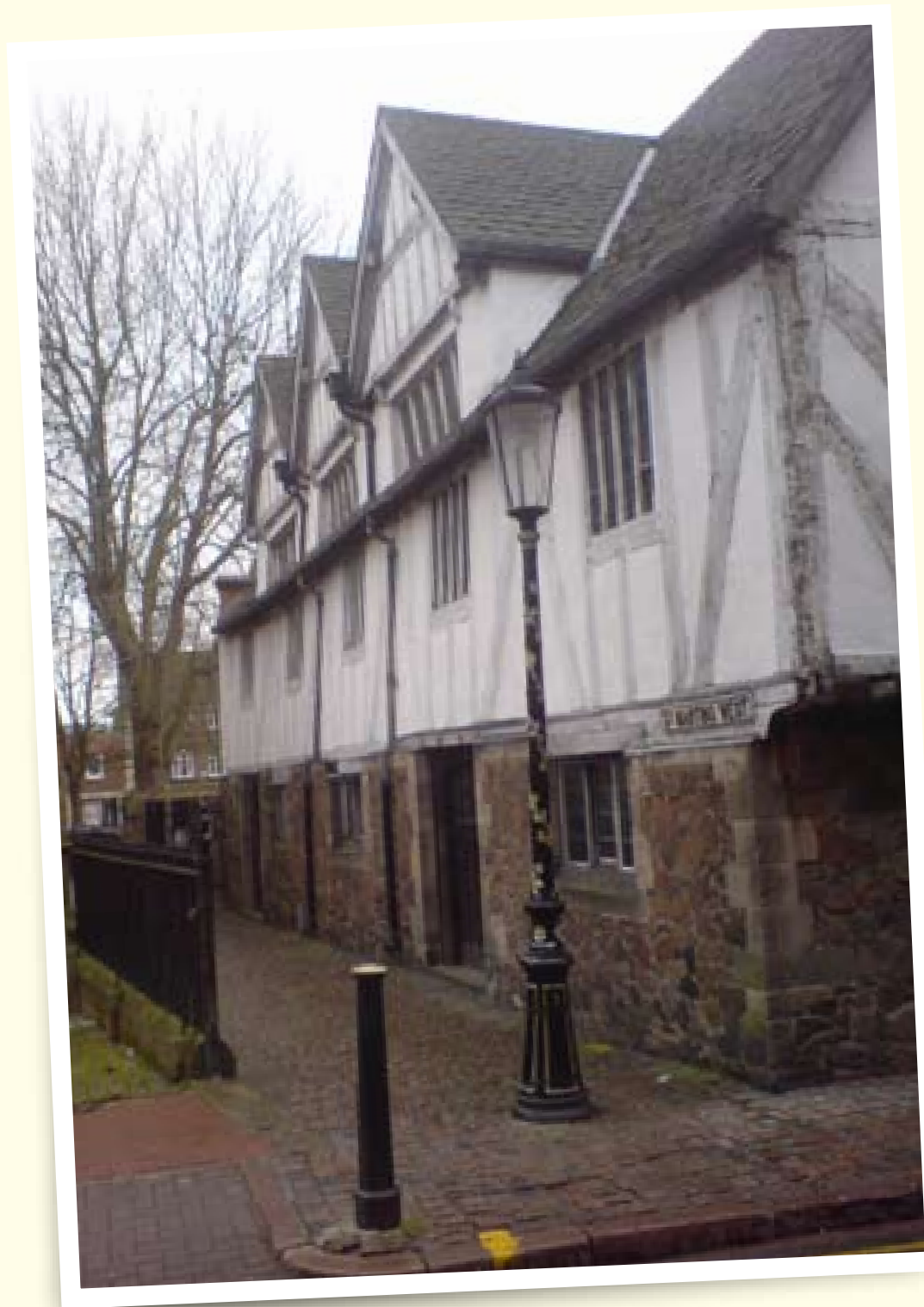
Leicestershire is tucked in the heart of England; in the East Midlands region. It is a good starting point for any trip; you can fairly easily get to it from all around the country. Leicester has good train connections, travelling from London's St Pancras train station it is a mere hour and eleven minutes away on the express trains. There are also regular direct trains to Leicester from Nottingham, Derby, Sheffield, Peterborough, Birmingham and Nuneaton, as well as good connections in all directions. You can also travel to Leicester via bus or coach on direct services from Birmingham, Coventry and Northampton, amongst others. There are plenty of main roads nearby including the M1 which runs from London to the North and M69 (running east to west and connecting to the M6). You can also fly into the confusingly named Nottingham East Midlands Airport (actually located in Leicestershire).

You can also easily reach Leicester via train links from Birmingham, Luton, Gatwick and Heathrow Airports.

Leicestershire has several famous sons and daughters and we hope you have heard of at least some of these people! From a cultural aspect there are the novelists Sue Townsend and Anne Fine; from the world of TV and film there are Gok Wan (*How To Look Good Naked*), Sir David and Lord Richard Attenborough and Parminder Nagra (*ER, Bend It Like Beckham*) and from the music world there are John Deacon, who is the bassist of Queen, pop singer Engelbert Humperdinck and Brit award winning rock band Kasabian. For a sporting connection there are footballers Gary Lineker, Emile Heskey, Dion Dublin and Peter Shilton; rugby's Dean Richards, and snooker players Mark Selby and Willie Thorn — and what a team they make! Leicestershire is also associated with several historical figures including King Richard III, who died in the Battle of Bosworth in Leicestershire and whose body was, according to local legend, thrown into the River Soar, in Leicester (there is a statue in his likeness in the Castle Gardens, Leicester to commemorate this). Another historical

link is that Lady Jane Grey, the 'nine day Queen', had her family seat in Bradgate in Leicestershire. And did you know that Phil Shaw, inventor of extreme ironing started the sport in his back garden in Leicester!

According to legend, Leicester was founded by the mythical King Lear. The Romans had a city in Leicester and the remains of the bathhouse, known locally as the Jewry Wall, can still be seen today. This ruin is second largest piece of surviving civil Roman building in Britain. In the 9th century Leicester became one of the five boroughs of Danelaw (along with Stamford, Lincoln, Derby and Nottingham) and therefore was under Viking (and not Anglo-Saxon) law and control. This period of Viking law is said to have run until the eleventh century. A little further forward in time, an interesting note is that it was in Leicester in 1265 that Simon De Montfort forced King Henry III to hold the first parliament of England at Leicester Castle. It was also at the Castle that John of Gaunt (as well as being Duke of Lancaster, Gaunt was the Earl of Leicester) and his second wife, Constance of Castile, both died. In 1530, Cardinal Wolsey, on the run and disgraced at the Court



THE GUILDHALL

of King Henry VIII after failing to secure him a divorce from Catherine of Aragon (Henry's first wife), died of natural causes at Leicester Abbey where he was subsequently buried. No memorial was put up in his honour.

One of the oldest buildings in the city is Leicester's Guildhall, which dates back to the 14th Century and is one of the best preserved wooden halls in the UK. It once housed a police station and also the Quarter Session Courts for Leicester. In 1836 a brick house was built at the Guildhall to house the constable, police cells and other police buildings that were developed after the Borough Police Force was established. One can still visit the cells and view the old gibbet if feeling a little ghoulish. Leicestershire's traditional industries were knitwear, hosiery, and footwear but these have steadily declined over time in the city since their heyday. Today Leicester is known for its ethnic diversity; in addition to English over seventy other languages are spoken by residents of the city.

LEICESTERSHIRE TRUE CRIME LINKS

It was in the criminal court at Leicester Castle that the trial of the alleged Green Bicycle Murderer, one of the city's best known true crimes, took place in 1920. Bella Wright had been found shot to death near Little Stretton, Leicestershire on 5th July 1919. Initially and somewhat bizarrely, the doctor on scene stated she had died of a biking accident but after washing the face of the corpse the entry wound was discovered. The leading suspect was one Ronald Light. He did not originally come forward in response to wanted posters that tried to identify a man who rode a green bicycle and was the last person to be seen with Wright on the evening of her death. After the murder, Light acted somewhat suspiciously by firstly hiding his bike in a cupboard for five months (he said so as not to worry his ailing mother) and then taking it to pieces and throwing it off a bridge into the River Soar/Leicester Canal. The bike was subsequently discovered by a man pulling a horse-drawn barge. Upon dredging the canal, a gun and bullets matching those found at the crime scene were also discovered. A faint serial number found

on the bike was enough to eventually trace it to Light. At the trial, on the advice of his barrister, Light admitted to everything placing him with Wright on the night of her death but denied killing her. A case was made that she could have been accidentally killed by a stray bullet fired by a third party from a distance from nearby farmland. This theory was enough to convince the jury of reasonable doubt and acquit Light.

Sir Alec Jeffreys (knighted in 1994), Professor of Genetics at the University

of Leicester, developed DNA fingerprinting in Leicester. The key moment arrived in September 1984 when Jeffreys realised the possible scope of variations in the DNA code. It was first used in police work in the 1983/1986 cases of the rapes and murders of two fifteen-year-old girls, Lynda Mann and Dawn Ashworth in Narborough and Enderby in Leicestershire. Colin Pitchfork was convicted of the crimes after samples from him were matched with semen samples taken from the



LEICESTER CASTLE

bodies of the victims. During an original DNA search of men in the area a blank was drawn, the reason for this was ascertained when Ian Kelly, in a local pub, was heard to boast that he had been paid the sum of £200 to fill in for Pitchfork at the time his sample was supposedly given.

THE RIPPER CONNECTIONS TO LEICESTERSHIRE

There are three people whom we connect with the Jack the Ripper case who have a Leicestershire link. These are the so-called Elephant Man, Joseph Carey Merrick, who was born and raised in Leicester; Robert James Lees, the Victorian Spiritualist who allegedly tracked down the Ripper through psychic means, who was born in Hinckley in Leicestershire and died in Leicester, and finally, Frederick Bailey Deeming, who committed familicide and is sometimes thought to have been Jack, who was born in Ashby De La Zouch in the county.

JOSEPH MERRICK'S LEICESTER

Joseph Merrick, sometimes referred to as the Elephant Man due to deformities that began to develop when

he was aged just three, was born on 5th August 1862 at 50 Lee Street, Leicester. He was the son of Mary Jane Potterton and Joseph Rockerly Merrick, who at one time lived on Syston Street, which has now been demolished and is under the Codben Street Estate. Joseph's mother died when he was aged just twelve and his father subsequently remarried Emma Antil Wood, but it is said that his new stepmother was not kind to young Joseph. Joseph ended up in the Leicester Union Workhouse several times, on at least one occasion as a destitute. In 1884, Joseph decided

to display himself as a curiosity at the Gaiety Theatre, on the corner of Wharf Street, Leicester. It was at this location in 2004 that the Friends of Joseph Carey Merrick had a plaque erected in his honour. However, the Theatre was subsequently demolished in 2009, and a block of flats is being built in its place. This block is to be called Merrick House, and the Merrick plaque is to be re-erected on its completion. Some of the ornamental stonework from the original theatre has been saved. Merrick had surgery at a Leicester Hospital (presumably the Leicester



LEICESTER ROYAL
INFIRMARY

Royal Infirmary) in 1882. He had an uncle, a hairdresser of 144 Church Gate, who was said to have been good to Joseph when he was younger. Other places associated with Merrick in Leicester include Upper Brunswick Street, where the family lived in 1865; Birstall Street/Russell Square, where they lived in 1868, and 4 Wanlip Street, where they moved to in 1874.

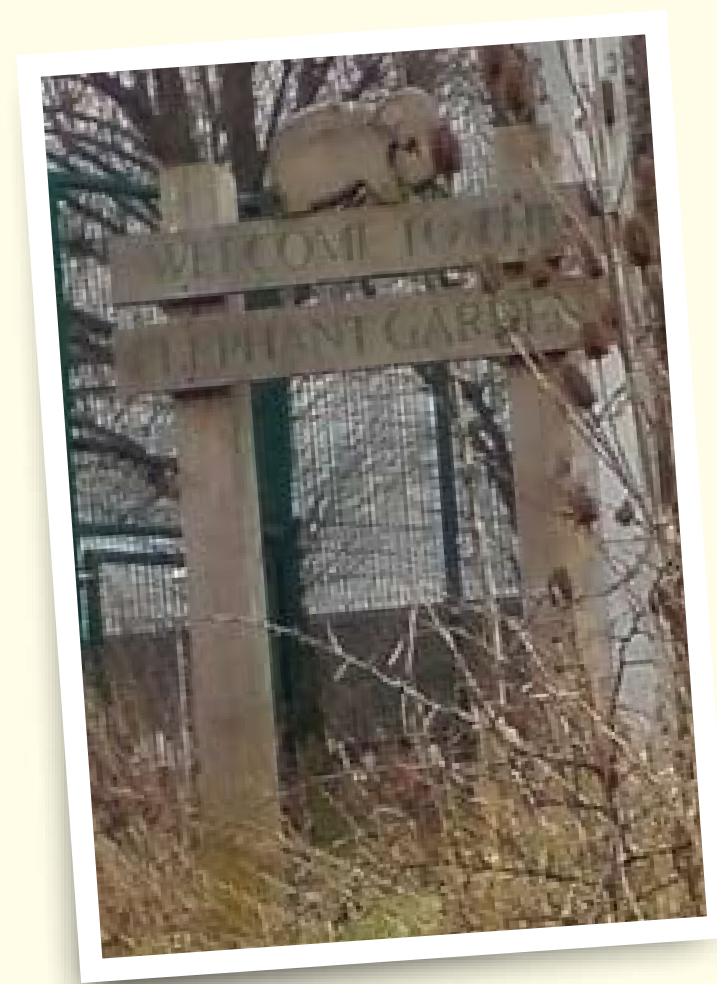
ROBERT JAMES LEES LEICESTER CONNECTIONS

Robert Lees moved back to Leicester around 1928. He stayed at a house at 120 Fosse Road South, and it was here that he died in January 1931. Lees was cremated at the nearby Gilroes Cemetery and his ashes were interred at Ilfracombe in Devon where his wife, who died in 1912, is buried. His daughter Eva lived at 54 Fosse Road after her father's death, whilst his son Claude resided for many years in Greenhill Road on the outskirts of the city. Lees' image is said to adorn the altar at Leicester Spiritualist Church, Vaughan Way. Lees also preached a key sermon at the Corn Exchange in Leicester, the building of which is still standing today.

OUR ROUTE

If you have arrived in Leicester on a train you are now in a good position to take a swift trip to the site of Leicester's Workhouse, now under Moat Community College. It is located a short distance away along Sparkenhoe Street. Unfortunately, none of the original structure now remains, it being largely an Astroturf™ pitch for the College. However, on our trip we noted, with a wry smile, this sign for Elephant Gardens at the edge of the pitch, which we assume to be a coincidence rather than anything else. A short hop back to the main road of St George's Way will leave you well placed for a further journey into Merrick territory. Following the road away from the Station, and turning left at the roundabout down Humberstone Road, you will now be approaching Wharf Street. Along this street, at the corner with Gladstone Street, is the site of the space where the historic Gaiety Theatre, now tragically demolished, once was. After a pause for a reflection that this was the site where Merrick first displayed himself as a curiosity, you can make your way to the nearby Lee Street to see where the house he was born in would have been if it was still standing!

Heading away from Lee Street and down Belgrave Gate, you will come to the Clock Tower, perhaps Leicester's most iconic landmark (originally a traffic island) and one of the streets running from this is Church Gate, where Merrick's uncle's shop was. You have already done a lot of walking and we think you deserve a treat so why not



WELCOME TO THE ELEPHANT GARDEN!

have a cuppa at Mrs Bridges Victorian Tea Rooms, for a sense of the bygone era. The tea rooms are a short distance away off the High Street (where incidentally Claude Lees once had a photography shop) on Loseby Lane. Once you are suitably refreshed, why not make your way back toward the train station via Market Street (recommended by Ripperologist Neal Sheldon as the nicest Street in the whole of Leicester!). Those feeling a bit adventurous might like to follow the signs towards Leicester Royal Infirmary, perhaps via Leicester Castle, to see the oldest part of the hospital — now called Victoria Building and dating back to 1777. If you have good legs you are now nearer to 120 Fosse Road South, the place where Robert Lees died, than you have been at any other point on your journey so far. If you walk behind the Infirmary towards the River Soar you will find Upperton Road, at the end of Upperton Road lies Fosse Road South, 120, now converted into flats is on the corner of Harrow Road.



MRS BRIDGES VICTORIAN TEA ROOMS



THE CLOCK TOWER, CONSTRUCTED IN 1868, IS A POPULAR MEETING PLACE IN LEICESTER

BRANCHING INTO THE COUNTY

FREDERICK BAILEY DEEMING, ASHBY CONNECTION

Nestling on the Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Warwickshire border lies the historic town of Ashby De La Zouch. Ashby is best known for its wonderful ruined castle, which was built by the first Lord Hastings in the 15th century and is the setting for the tournament in Sir Walter Scott's *Ivanhoe*. The castle is well worth a visit for all interested in English history and boasts the magnificent twenty-four metre tall Hastings Tower. The unusual name of Ashby De La Zouch is derived from the Breton noblemen who inherited the estate through marriage in the 12th century.

Upon first glimpsing this historic town it is hard to think that the infamous killer Frederick Bailey Deeming (known for murdering his first wife and family before fleeing to Australia—only to kill his second wife) was born here on 30th July 1853. Sadly, we know little

about where Frederick himself was born but we do know that he was the son of Thomas and Ann Deeming (nee Bailey). He was one of seven children. He ran off to sea aged 16 and little is known of his early life. Deeming was hanged in Melbourne Gaol for murder in 1892.

LEES AND HINCKLEY

To the southwest of Leicester, on the border with Warwickshire that is marked by the Roman road of Watling Street, lies the town of Hinckley. It is easy to get to from Leicester Train Station via a train bound for Birmingham New Street. The town is known for its long connection to the knitwear industry, as it was the first town in the Midlands that saw the stocking frame introduced. William Illife brought this first framework-knitting machine to Hinckley in 1640, having purchased it for the sum of £60. It took a further forty years before the trade began in nearby Leicester.

It was in this bustling market town in 1849 that Robert James Lees, who was called a 'madman and fool' by the police after he went to several police stations in October 1888 to offer to psychically aid their enquires. Was born. In the 1850s Lees' family owned the Queens Head in the town and this pub still stands today. One can pop in and still capture the atmosphere that probably greeted Lees and one may let their imagination run wild and picture young Lees and his siblings running about the place. It also happens to be the perfect location for a quiet drink or two (or three or four!) There is now a plaque on the front of the building adjacent, put up by Hinckley Civic Society, as this building (a shop also owned by the Lees) is said to be the place of Robert's birth. As a side note, Regent Street in Hinckley was also the residence of Lees and his family at the time of the 1861 Census.

**LOCAL DIALECT
to help you understand
what the blithering heck
they are going on
about there!**

Mardy = grumpy, in a sulk.

Cob = bread roll

(NB chip cob = chips in a bread roll).

Ey up mi duck = Hello, my friend.

It's black over Bill's mothers =
it looks as if it might rain soon.

Jitty = alleyway

Yorn = yours

Ourn = ours

Theirn = theirs

Croggie = to ride illegally on the
handlebars of a bike

OR to cross one's fingers.

People from Leicester are known as
Chesits in the nearby seaside resort
of Skegness due to confusion arising
when they ask "How much is it?"
(heard as "I'm a chesit"!)

**“I'M A
CHESIT”!**

**MORE INFORMATION TO
HELP PLAN YOUR TRIP**

To check train and travel info go to:

WWW.TRAVELTOLEICESTER.CO.UK

WWW.TRAVELINE.ORG.UK

WWW.NATIONALRAIL.CO.UK

Car Park Information:

WWW.LEICESTER.GOV.UK

Leicester and its links to Jack

Joseph Merrick

WWW.JOSEPHCAREYMERRICK.COM

WWW.THISISLEICESTERSHIRE.CO.UK

WWW.WORKHOUSES.ORG.UK

Leicester

WWW.ONELEICESTER.COM

WWW.GOLEICESTERSHIRE.COM

*The Leicester Guildhall : A Short
History and Guide* by Pete Bryan and
Sue Cooper Leicester City Council
Leicester (2009)

WWW.THOMASCOOK.COM

WWW.LEICESTERCHRONICLER.COM/

GREENBICYCLE

Hinckley and its links to Jack

Robert James Lees

WWW.RJLEES.CO.UK

WWW.CASEBOOK.OGR/DISSERTATIONS

Hinckley

WWW.HINCKLEY-BOSWORTH.GOV.UK

Twisted Yarns (2000) by S. Barton and
R Murray, North Warks and Hinckley
College, Hinckley.

**Asbhy De La Zouch and its links
to Jack**

Frederick Bailey Deeming

WWW.ADB.ONLINE.ANU.EDU.AU

'Frederick Bailey Deeming' by Janet
Deeming (2004) *Leicestershire and
Rutland Family History Society
Journal* No 116 June 2004

Ashby De La Zouch

WWW.ENGLISH-HERITAGE.ORG.UK

With thanks to Neal Shelden for
photography.

CSI: WHITECHAPEL



AUGUST 1888
MARY ANN NICHOLS

Location: Buck's Row, Whitechapel

Date: 31st August, 1888

Time: 3:45 AM

The Victim:

Identified as Mary Ann Nichols by Ellen Holland, a friend and subsequently by William Nichols, her husband. Mary Ann was born on 26th August 1845, her maiden name was Walker.

VICTIM DISCOVERED BY:

Charles Cross and Robert Paul, carmen who were on route to their workplace and also by PC Neil 97J.

FIRST POLICE ON SCENE:

PC Neil 97J, PC Mizen 55H and PC Thain 96J

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE:

Doctor Llewellyn was summoned by PC Thain and he pronounced Mary Ann Nichols to be dead and apparently only by a few minutes. He had her removed to the mortuary by ambulance for further examination.

THE CRIME SCENE:

A stable entrance gateway in Buck's Row, Whitechapel. This street was narrow and dark, to the west of the murder location was the local board school and past this point the street became a little wider and more open. To the east lay a row of terraced houses, the first being New Cottage, whilst Essex Wharf was on the opposite side of the street. It has been noted that the exterior settings and the dim light by which the bodies were first discovered would have made containment and examination of the crime scene more difficult.

**THE DISCOVERY OF THE BODY:**

When discovered Mary's body was positioned on the pavement outside the stable gateway and the gate was closed. Mary's head was to the east and her left hand touched the gate, which was said to have been nine or ten feet high. She was lying on her back and her skirts were raised almost to her stomach. At the time of the discovery Robert Paul crouched down to see if he could detect

breathing, unsure if Mary was still alive, but sadly, he could detect nothing. Charles Cross felt her hands and he found that they were cold and limp. Also at about this time PC Neil felt her arm and found it to be warm from joints upwards. Doctor Llewellyn noted, on examining the deceased, that her body and legs were still warm. Mary's eyes were wide open when she was found and her bonnet was discovered lying by her right side close to her left hand.

THE EVIDENCE:

It was reported, that on discovery there was still blood oozing from her throat wound at the time she was found. The police reports indicated that Mary's throat had been cut from left to right, with two distinct cuts on the left side and that her windpipe and gullet had been cut through. Chief Inspector Swanson's report of 19th October 1888 recorded the throat cut had nearly severed the head from the body. Mary's abdomen had been cut open from centre of the bottom of the ribs along the right side and under the pelvis to the left of the stomach; the wound was jagged and the coating of the stomach was also cut in several places. There were also two small stabs on her private parts apparently made using a strong bladed knife. It was also stated in the initial official reports that the wounds were supposed to have been done by some left handed person, but later that this theory was now doubtful. A bruise, apparently of a thumb, on the right lower jaw and also one on the left cheek were found. The bruise, running along lower part of the jaw on the right side of the face, might have been caused by a blow from a fist or pressure from a thumb, whilst the circular



DURWARD STREET C1970

bruise on left side of face might have been inflicted by the pressure of the fingers.

Doctor Llewellyn stated that Mary had not been dead for more than thirty minutes at the time she was discovered and that death had been almost instantaneous. Furthermore, the results of the post mortem were

said to leave no doubt that the murder was committed at the location where the body was found as there was not blood pattern to indicate that the body had been dragged.

According to PC Thain on the spot where the body had been lying there was a mass of congealed blood about six inches in diameter that had run

towards the gutter and this appeared to be a large quantity of blood. It was also found that Mary's clothing had absorbed quite a lot of blood at the back, thus creating the initial appearance of more minimal blood loss. PC Thain believed this blood had flowed from the neck and waist. No blood was found on the breast either of the body or clothes. When Inspector Spratling arrived at 4:30 am blood was being washed away from the pavement but he could see some stains in between the stones. According to Philip Sugden (2002) the blood patterns indicate that Mary Ann was killed whilst lying on her back.

ON HER PERSON:

The police found a piece of comb and a bit of looking glass, but no money. In her pocket was an unmarked white handkerchief. An inventory of her clothes, subsequently taken at the mortuary by Inspector Spratling, indicated that Mary Ann was wearing a black straw bonnet trimmed with black velvet, reddish brown Ulster (with seven large brass buttons bearing the pattern of a woman on horseback accompanied by a man), a brown linsey frock, a white flannel chest clothe, black ribbed wool stockings, one grey wool petticoat, one

flannel petticoat (both stencilled with Lambeth Workhouse on the bands), flannel drawers and men's elastic sided boots (with the uppers cut and steel tips on the heels).

THE MURDER WEAPON:

It was ascertained from Mary's wounds that the knife used to kill her had been strong bladed. It was also stated the knife must have had a long blade and that the wounds could only have been committed using a dagger or long sharp knife.

THE SEARCH FOR CLUES:

At the time of the grim discovery a search with a view to finding the murder weapon took place but nothing was found. The police also reported that they had found nothing left behind at the scene by the murderer. As Sugden (2002 pp 47) stated "the Buck's Row killer left nothing except Polly's body to mark his passing". Several officers searched Buck's Row and its vicinity between five and six am on the morning of the murder and Inspector Spratling sent PC Thain to examine all the premises near the spot where the body had been found including Essex Wharf, the Great Eastern

Railway, the East London Railway and the District Railway as far as Thomas Street. He did not discover the murder weapon nor any bloodstain. At around eleven Inspector Spratling searched Buck's Row and Brady Street but returned empty handed. Sergeant Godley also searched the great Eastern Railway yard and the premises of the East London and Metropolitan District Railways, finding nothing of note. Inspector Helson later searched the area, but he discovered only one stain which might have been blood, in Brady Street.

WITNESSES:

There were several people in the vicinity of the murder location at the time no one saw or heard any indication that Mary was being murdered. Emma Green, resident at New Cottage, on Buck's Row, the cottage was adjacent to where Mary was found. She her daughter and two sons were all in bed by eleven o'clock. They occupied the front room on the first floor of the house. She and her family heard or saw nothing unusual during the night and they did not wake up until the police knocked on her door. Walter Purkiss who lived at and was manager of Essex Wharf



also reported that he and his family similarly did not see or hear anything untoward until awoken by the police at approximately four o'clock. In his previous beat passing down the street some thirty minutes previously PC Neil had not spotted anything untoward.

SUSPECTS:

John Pizer aka Leather Apron was initially suspected as there had been reports of him ill treating prostitutes in the area. However, further investigation cleared him of suspicion.

CRITICISMS:

Mary's body was not screened off and subjected to a thorough examination in Buck's Row. This led to the embarrassment of the full extent of her injuries only being discovered at the mortuary by Inspector Spratling, who on completion of a description lifted up her clothing to reveal the full extent of the mutilations and then had to call Dr Llewellyn back to the mortuary to carry out further investigation. Whilst it would have been possible to carry out such an examination at the scene, it would also have been difficult. Furthermore, at that time when a body was discovered in the street the police

were held responsible for moving it and in none of the Whitechapel Murders did they waste much time doing it (Sugden, 2002).

Wagner (2006) was highly critical of the procedures used at the mortuary stating that "At the inquest it became apparent that no logical method has been applied in moving the corpse or collecting the clothes and other physical evidence. The "mortuary attendants" were totally untrained inmates of the workhouse ... with no idea of proper procedure, they had made no notes, labelled no evidence, and had only vague recollections of what they had done." Wagner further noted that the coroner had stated publicly that the mortuary and its keeper were inadequate. However, Sugden (2002) noted that however deficient police procedures might appear by modern standards, they do not seem to have departed from Victorian conventions. Whilst Sugden acknowledges in his book that it is true Whitechapel had no public mortuary and the body had to be taken to the workhouse mortuary in Old Montague Street, that the attendants stripped and cleaned the body before the post mortem, but he feels they were probably just following orders.

THE LIMITATIONS OF THE DAY:

The methods of rigorous forensic analysis we have become accustomed to today were not established in 1888, at this point in time it was not unlikely that you would find police walking around a crime scene handling evidence with their bare hands. Indeed the use of rubber gloves, even at autopsies, was not common place until at least 1890. Today, this might seem like a lack of care and understanding, however, it was not so important then because the simple forensic techniques that were available were less likely to be affected by these actions. Understanding blood evidence has come a long way since 1888, indeed it was not until 1901 that Karl Landsteiner first established the blood groups A, B and O and it was another 24 years, 1925, before it would be determined that blood groups were obtainable via other body fluids. It was not until the 1960's that Scotland Yard was really able to use its forensic lab for the purpose of using bloodstains to relate evidence to various suspects. One reliable test which could detect the presence of blood and this was spectrum analysis, which was highly sensitive and could detect blood in

stains up to three years old. However, in the nineteenth century, blood on a suspect, or at a crime scene, such as the suspected blood discovered in Brady Street, could not be defined in terms of its origins. It could equally be claimed to be animal blood as human and science was not able to prove this either way. Hence confusion and uncertainties could easily be raised and reasonable doubt cast.

CONCLUSION:

Due to the nature of the crime, the lack of witnesses, the drawbacks in contemporary forensic medicine, and the seeming lack of motive for this terrible crime the case is still open. At last count, more than 200 suspects reported and being investigated.

SOURCES:

- Cooper, C. (2008) *Eyewitness: Forensic Science*, DK, London.
- Evans, S. and Skinner, K. (2001) *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Sourcebook*, Constable and Robinson, London.
- Sugden, P. (2002) *The Complete History of Jack the Ripper, Revised paperback edition*, Constable and Robinson, London.
- Wade, S. (2009) *DNA Crime Scene Investigations*, Wharncliffe books, Barnsley.
- Wagner, E.J (2006) *The Science of Sherlock Holmes*, John Wiley and Sons, New Jersey.

WWW.CASEBOOK.ORG/VICTIMS/POLLY

from the casebook archives:

Emma Smith - **Murdered** April 1888

Murdered in April 1888 Emma Smith, who is not generally believed to be a victim of Jack the Ripper, but nonetheless is the victim of a horrific unsolved murder in the East End in 1888, is the focus of this issue's look through the *Casebook's* extensive archives.

The main *Casebook* site has a wealth of information on the murder. Not least, it contains some interesting press reports, for example, the *Times*, *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper* and *East London Advertiser's* coverage of her inquest. This can be found [HERE](#).

The *Casebook Wiki*, offers a detailed round up of the information currently known about Smith. It is also reproduced on the main *Casebook* site. The *Wiki* recounts that Smith was

born around 1843 and that she was a mother of two, possibly a widower, although she also stated that she left her husband in 1877, and so she may have simply been separated. It also states that she was a prostitute living at 18 George Street, who was to regularly go out for the night, presumably to ply her trade on the nearby streets. The *Wiki* information can be found [HERE](#).

Quentin L. Pittman's essay, 'The Importance of Fairy Fay and Her Links to Emma Smith', argues the importance of considering the early Whitechapel attacks, such as on Smith and Wilson as important. It opens "At first glance, Fairy Fay, as the name suggests, does indeed appear to be a mythical creature, having sprung from journalist Terence Robertson's inkwell

...it was clear that the woman had been barbarously murdered. It was impossible to imagine a more brutal and dastardly assault...

The Times, Monday, April 9, 1888



Next month we will focus on the topic of "Ripperologists"

OSBOURN STREET, WHERE SMITH WAS ATTACKED

early in the Autumn of 1950. However, the mystery surrounding this often dismissed Chapel dweller could be the key to learning Jack the Ripper's identity." Pittman's suggestion that Fay was in fact a reference to an earlier attack on a Lillian Hayes, who lived in the same block as Smith is certainly thought provoking. It is well worth a look and can be found [HERE](#)

Some pictures relating to Smith, namely, her death certificate and a couple of illustrations from the *Illustrated Police News*, can be found on the [CASEBOOK PHOTO ARCHIVE](#).

The *Casebook Message Boards* for March 2008, contain an interesting discussion on an attack that took place on the same day as Smith's. This is the attack on one Malvina Hayes and

occurred in Whitechapel

From the *Ripper Podcast* housed on the Casebook comes an episode where Jonathan Menges, Ally Ryder and various guests discuss the pre-Nichols Whitechapel murders, including that of Emma Smith. It is interesting to hear fellow Ripperologist's views on this aspect of the case and can be found [HERE](#).



**SCENES
OF CRIME**
**ROBERT
CLACK**

CHRIST CHURCH 1909

The first image is a section of a larger photograph taken in March 1909, and is one of a series that covered Christ Church, Spitalfields, which were taken in March and April of 1909. Most likely taken from the southeast corner of Duval Street (formerly Dorset Street), the photograph shows the north-east corner of Commercial Street and Fournier Street. There are not one but two Jack the Ripper connections on show here.

The Ten Bells on the corner of Commercial Street and Fournier Street (formerly Church Street), is probably the most well known public house associated with the Whitechapel Murders, although there is no firm evidence that any of the victims actually drank there. The earliest known recording of the name *The Ten Bells* on this site was in 1754; the current building itself dates from 1845.

The association with the murders probably has more to do with the renaming of the public house in 1975 to the *Jack the Ripper*. As the centenary of the murders approached in 1988, protests by the public over the name caused the owners to change the name back to *The Ten Bells*. What is

noticeable from this photograph is that *The Ten Bells* had three entrances in 1909 rather than the one entrance we know today.

The proprietor in 1888 was John Waldron, who seems to have spent most of his adult life living in *The Ten Bells*. Edward Waldron, his uncle, was proprietor in the 1841 census. By the time of the 1851 census, John Waldron had joined him as 'Bar Man', from which start he eventually took over Edward's duties as proprietor, a position he held until 1891.

Two doors from the left of *The Ten Bells* in Fournier Street is 'Jones Brothers, Pawnbrokers'. There had been family run pawnbrokers on this site for at least forty years. Initially started by Joseph Jones, when he died (possibly around 1879), his eldest son, also named Joseph, ran the business with help from two of his younger brothers, William and Arthur. In 1888, the business was registered as 'Joseph Jones, Pawnbrokers' at 31 Church Street, Spitalfields. It was here that Catherine Eddowes pawned John Kelly's boots on the morning of the 29th September for 2/6d.

Church Street was renamed Fournier Street on 7th November 1893.

Along with the name change, the street was renumbered and 31 Church Street became 3 Fournier Street. It was around this time in the early 1890s that Joseph Jones retired and moved to 3 Edbrooke Street in Paddington, London, with his wife Emma. William and Arthur carried on the business renaming it 'Jones Bros, Pawnbrokers'. An early sign 'W & A Jones' can still be seen today on the shop front.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Debra J. Arif and John Bennett for their help with this article.

Biography

Robert Clack

Robert Clack is from Surrey, England. He has been studying the Whitechapel Murders for more than 25 years. At the 2009 Jack the Ripper Conference he was presented with the Jeremy Beadle Award for his outstanding contributions to Ripperology. He is the co-author of the book *The London of Jack the Ripper: Then and Now*, with Philip Hutchinson. He also is the author of 'Death in the Lodging House' a look at the murder of Mary Ann Austin in

1901, published in *Ripper Notes* 24. He has co-authored with Debra J. Arif, 'A Rose By Any Other Name?' a look at the life of Catherine Mylett aka 'Rose' Mylett' and he recently co-authored a series of articles with Neil Bell on the City of London Police Officers involved in the Whitechapel Murders. For both these articles he was short-listed for *Ripperologist's* Beadle Prize for 2009, eventually winning for his article with Debra.



THE END

