

The Journal of Jack the Ripper, East End and Victorian Studies

# Ripperologist

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## A Life Less Ordinary

JENNIFER PEGG and  
DON SOUDEN review the  
treatment of the Ripper  
victims on the big screen

GAVIN BROMLEY on  
the Mitre Square beats

ANDY ALIFFE on another  
case for Abberline

# RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

Issue 74, December 2006

## QUOTE FOR ISSUE 74:

"Although we rolled like a 'seventy-four' in a gale, we got to our destination--Mitre Square--without an upset."  
Acting Commissioner Henry Smith in his 1910 memoirs *From Constable to Commissioner*

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We would like to acknowledge the valuable assistance given by the following people in the production of this issue of *Ripperologist*: Paul Begg, Howard Brown, Stewart Evans, Wilf Gregg, Robin Odell, Stephen Ryder, and Eduardo Zinna. Thank you!

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# I Must Live Somehow

EDITORIAL by ADAM WOOD

"I must live somehow". Walter Dew, in his memoir *I Caught Crippen*, attributed this comment to Emma Smith as a response as to why she had left her old, seemingly comfortable, life to struggle in Whitechapel.

There's no doubt that the victims of Jack the Ripper resorted to prostitution at times as the only means possible to raise money for a bed for the night. They literally sold the only thing they had to sell

The recent murders of five prostitutes in the Ipswich area has brought this desperation sharply into focus.

While these women might not have been homeless, their dependency on drugs left them with no choice but to work the streets. A former 'sex worker', Dawn Annandale explained to the BBC:

*They have such low self esteem but they are also so full of self pity. They say 'I can never do this or that'. But when you have been told as a child that you are worthless and you have an adult who has abused you, inevitably you will see yourself as rubbish and worthless. Those who have been abused will have no concept of the emotional side of sex. They will simply see sex as a commodity to be sold.*

*A lot of them become dependent on drugs because of their background and the drugs give them oblivion. Every girl working the streets that I met was doing it to feed a drug habit. There is no way you would do it otherwise.*

Brian Tobin, Project Manager of the Iceni Project in Ipswich, which offers treatment for addicts, said last week that women were still working the streets in Ipswich despite the fact that sex workers have disappeared: "That's the desperate situation these girls find themselves in once they get on the slippery slope of addiction. Unfortunately, while male addicts commit other crimes to fund their habits, women often find themselves selling the only thing they have to fund their habit and it's very dangerous for them."

In fact, three days before her disappearance victim Paula Clennel gave an interview to ITV's *About Anglia* in which she said she was prepared to go back on the streets despite the emerging danger because "I need the money". This is reminiscent of Mary Kelly continuing to sell herself despite Joe Barnett supposedly reading her newspaper reports of the Ripper murders in an attempt to keep her off the streets.

At the height of the Ipswich scare, it was reported that an anonymous charitable trust had provided the Iceni Project with £5,000 in an attempt to persuade prostitutes to stay at home. The money has been distributed in the form of bill payments and store vouchers, but not cash itself. Mr Tobin stressed that...

*People must understand that women who work in the industry cannot simply walk away from their jobs. They often have pimps and boyfriends who will try to force them to carry on working and taking drugs. If a girl comes here saying she wants to get off drugs, we have to have a whole variety of organisations behind us. We have to find them safe accommodation, the local council has to be involved, and the police.*

*If something positive can come from these tragic events, it is that we can create an awareness of drug addiction in the sex industry. We need to get rid of the stigma attached to drugs and prostitution with healthy debate. There has to be compromise on both sides, and we have to start looking for some really radical solutions.*

And so, Gentle Reader, have yourself a merry little Christmas... but spare a thought for those spending theirs on cold streets through addiction, poverty or neglect. For although the Ipswich Strangler may have been caught, the desperation of the working girl continues the world over. They must live somehow.





# City Beat: Harvey and Watkins

## Part I - The Discovery

By GAVIN BROMLEY

At about 1:44am on the morning of 30 September 1888, approximately three-quarters of an hour after the body of Elizabeth Stride had been discovered in Dutfield's Yard, PC Edward Watkins, 881 City, came across the terribly mutilated body of Catharine Eddowes in Mitre Square, Aldgate, about three-quarters of a mile from the location of the earlier murder. He had last walked around the square at about 1:30am and had seen nothing untoward. Given the opinion of the doctors, who had examined the body *in situ*, that she had been killed where she lay, this would give the killer on the face of it, just less than fifteen minutes to have led or been led by his victim into the square, and to then kill and mutilate her, removing her uterus and kidney. However, another policeman, PC James Harvey, 964 City, had walked as far as the square and looked into it (without actually entering it) at about 1:41 or 1:42 and saw and heard nothing.

Both officers have been accused at one time or another over the years of not doing their duty properly, but let us see if that is necessarily the case, and what the implications may be from looking at the beats of PC Watkins and PC Harvey and the timings of their beats.

Let us try to get a clearer view of the timing of the events and the conditions in which the policemen were working.

### Events surrounding the discovery of Catharine Eddowes' body

At the inquest<sup>1</sup> PC Watkins testified that:

*[My beat] takes about twelve or fourteen minutes... I passed through Mitre Square about 1:30 on Sunday morning... Nothing excited my attention, I saw no-one about... I next came into Mitre-square at 1:44, when I discovered the body lying on the right as I entered the square.*

In *The Times*<sup>2</sup> account of his testimony it was reported that "he fixed the time by reference to his watch after he had called the watchman." Watkins continued:

*I did not touch the body<sup>3</sup>. I ran across the road to Messrs. Kearley and Tonge. The door was ajar, and I pushed it open, and called on the watchman, who was inside. He came out. I sent him for assistance. I remained with the body until the arrival of Police-constable Holland. No one else was there before that but myself.*

That Watkins was alone with the body until Holland came is confirmed in *The Times'* account of his testimony: 'Witness remained by the side of the body till the arrival of Police-constable Holland. No one was there with witness till Holland arrived'.

<sup>1</sup> All inquest testimony comes from the Inquest reports in the Corporation of London Records Office as reproduced in *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Sourcebook* by Stewart P. Evans and Keith Skinner unless stated otherwise.

<sup>2</sup> 5 October 1888

<sup>3</sup> This sentence is from *Daily Telegraph* 5 Oct 1888, the rest from the source in note 1.

Continuing with Watkins' testimony:

*Dr. Sequeira followed. Inspector Collard arrived about 2, and Dr. Gordon Brown, the surgeon to the police force. I did not hear the sound of any footsteps, at the time I entered no one was in the square. The watchman at Messrs. Kearley and Tongue was at work inside cleaning the offices. The watchman blew his whistle as he was going up the street. No-one comes through Mitre Square but myself.*

In *The Times* it was further explained about the whistle and that Watkins was the only constable who patrolled the square: 'He did not sound a whistle, because they did not carry whistles. The watchman did whistle. Witness's beat was a single beat; no other policeman entered Mitre-square.'

The watchman was the 54-year-old former Metropolitan police officer George James Morris. He was working at the offices of Kearley and Tongue situated on the northeast side of the square. Morris's location is noted on Foster's plan of the square, more about which later. At the inquest Morris said:

*At quarter to two Police Constable Watkins, who was on the Mitre-square beat, knocked at my door, which was slightly on the jar at the time. I was then sweeping the steps down towards the door. The door was knocked or pushed. I was then about two yards from the door. I turned round and opened the door wide and saw Constable Watkins. He said, 'For God's sake, mate, come to my assistance.' I said, 'Stop till I get my lamp.' I immediately went outside. I said 'What's the matter?' 'Oh, dear,' he said, 'there's another woman cut to pieces.' I said 'Where is she?'. He said, 'In the corner.' I went over to the corner and shewed my light on the body. I immediately blew my whistle and ran up Mitre Street into Aldgate. [In the newspapers it was reported that as he ran up Mitre Street into Aldgate he was blowing his whistle all the while.]*

*I saw no suspicious person. About then two constables came up. They asked me what was the matter. I told them to go down to Mitre-square, as there was another terrible murder. I then followed the constables down and took charge of my own premises again - I heard no noise in the square before I was called by Constable Watkins. If there had been any cry of distress I must have heard it.*

The two constables Morris saw in Aldgate were PC Holland, already mentioned by Watkins, and PC Harvey. According to the *Daily Telegraph* his testimony continued:

*Before being called I had no occasion to go into the square. I did not go there between one and two o'clock; of that I am certain. There was nothing unusual in my door being open and my being at work at so late an hour. I had not seen Watkins before during the night. I do not think my door had been ajar more than two or three minutes when he knocked.*

On this last point regarding how long the door had been open, the following was reported in the *Daily News*:

*A Juror—May I ask him how long the door had been on the jar before Watkins knocked?*

*—Only about two minutes. I had done two steps.*

On the day following the murder, both Watkins and Morris were interviewed by a reporter from the *Star*. We will take a look at what Watkins said later. Regarding Morris, the *Star* had the following to say:

#### *The Night Watchman's Story*

*The Star man next got hold of Morris, the watchman at Kearley and Tonge's. He was standing at the door, and said, first, that he had just been through the warehouse and had gone to the front door to look out into the square two moments before Watkins called to him last night.*

*"Do you always take a look out into the square?"*

*"Every night in the week, barring Saturday night, I stand at this door and smoke my pipe from one till two o'clock. It is a habit with me, and the police on the beat know it well, but on Saturday nights I have some work to do inside that interferes with it." <sup>4</sup>*

From this we can see that on every night of the week except for Saturday, Morris would stand at the door and smoke his pipe from 1:00 until 2:00, and probably speak with Watkins as the PC patrolled the square. Intriguingly, Morris said that he had 'gone to the front door to look out into the square two moments before Watkins called to him'. In his inquest testimony he said he had opened the door no more than two (or possibly three) minutes before. So there is the possibility that not only did Morris open the door at this time but that he actually took a look into the square two or three minutes before Watkins' discovery.

<sup>4</sup> *The Star*, 1 October 1888

PC James Harvey, 964 City, who we will be looking at in more detail later, stated that:

*When I got to Aldgate, returning to Duke-street, I heard a whistle blown and saw the witness Morris with a lamp. I went to him and I asked him what was the matter, and he told me that a woman had been ripped up in Mitre-square. I saw a constable on the other side of the street. I said 'Come with me'. We went into Mitre-square, and saw Watkins there and the deceased. [In the Daily Telegraph it is reported that Harvey said "Watkins was by the side of the body of the deceased"]. Constable Holland who followed me went for Dr. Sequeira. Private individuals<sup>5</sup> were sent for other constables, arriving almost immediately ["having heard the whistle"<sup>6</sup>]. I waited there with Watkins, and information was at once sent to the inspector.*

Interestingly (and I am making no point with this) Watkins did not mention Harvey at all in his testimony. He just mentions Holland. Yet Harvey arrived with Holland and it was Harvey who stayed with Watkins while Holland was sent to fetch Dr. Sequeira. PC Holland was not called to the inquest.

The most important section of what Harvey had to say is included in the later part of his testimony.

*"I passed the post office clock between one and two minutes to the half hour.*

*By the Jury - 'I go as far as to the end of Church Passage. I was at the end of Church Passage about 18 or 19 minutes to 2.'*

*By Mr. Crawford - 'I can only speak with certainty as to time with regard to the post office clock.'"*

In *The Times* it added that 'His beat took him down Church Passage to the end. He was there about three or four minutes before he heard the whistle'.

We will be looking at the timing more closely later, but for now we see here that Harvey walked as far as the end of Church Passage looking into Mitre Square, without actually going into the square, and he was there, by his estimate, at about 1:41 or 1:42, but he could only gauge the time from when he passed the post office clock at between 1:28 and 1:29. He did also say, though, that it was about three or four minutes before Morris alerted him.

Dr Sequeira was the first doctor to arrive on the scene. According to the inquest reports, he said he was called at about 1:55. Since he did not live far away at 34 Jewry Street, which was not far from Mitre Square, this seems a long time for PC Holland to get there, or it could be that this is an example of inaccurate timepieces of the period. *The Times*, however, reports that Sequeira said he 'arrived at the scene' at 1:55. Dr Gordon Brown was called at just after 2:00 and reached the square at about 2:18. These timings cannot be treated as exact as each could have, and probably did, gauge the time from different timepieces, and there is no way of knowing if they were synchronised (and I do not mean intentionally set together, just that they happened to tell the same time), though it is fair to say they were probably not.

Inspector Edward Collard, of the City Police, said he received news of the murder at Bishopsgate Street Police Station at about 1:55. The information was immediately telegraphed to headquarters and he sent a constable to call on Dr Brown. Collard then went to Mitre-square, arriving at about two or three minutes past two. In his testimony he states that there "*I found Dr. Sequeira, several police officers ["two or three" according to the Daily Telegraph], and the deceased person lying in the south-west corner of the square.... The body was not touched until the arrival of Dr Brown, who arrived shortly afterwards" and "the medical gentlemen examined the body".*<sup>7</sup>

Note that the body was in fact in the south-east corner.

Furthermore, in *The Times* account of his testimony the following is reported:

*When the witness arrived at the square he took immediate steps to have the neighbourhood searched for the person who committed the murder. Mr M<sup>c</sup>William, the chief of detectives, on his arrival shortly afterwards with a number of detectives, sent them to make search in all directions of Spitalfields, both in the streets and the lodging houses.*<sup>8</sup>

Collard also stated '*I endeavoured to find footsteps, but could find no trace whatever*'.<sup>9</sup> He probably instructed some of the other officers to do this as well, rather than doing it alone, as in *The Times* the wording of his testimony is "*they endeavoured to find footmarks*" (*The Times* did not use the first person when reporting the testimony of the witnesses).

<sup>5</sup> According to the *Daily Telegraph* "a private individual", but they seem to have been alone in reporting this in the singular.

<sup>6</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 12 October 1888

<sup>7</sup> *The Times*, 5 October 1888

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>9</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 5 October 1888

Although the doctors, particularly Brown, had more to say about the injuries, the aspects of their testimony that will be important to us are those regarding timings.

*I was called shortly after 2 o'clock I reached [Mitre Square] about 18 minutes past 2.*

*There was a quantity of clotted blood on the pavement on the left side of the neck, round the shoulder and upper part of arm, and fluid blood coloured serum which had flowed under the neck to the right shoulder - the pavement sloping in that direction. Body was quite warm - no death stiffening had taken place. She must have been dead most likely within the half hour. ["Certainly within 30 or 40 minutes" <sup>10</sup>]*

Regarding the amount of blood likely to be on the killer, he drew the conclusion that the cuts to the abdomen and lower body were "made after death and there would not be much blood left to escape on the murderer".<sup>11</sup> This was later reiterated in response to a question from Mr. Crawford:

*Mr Crawford - Would you expect to find much blood on the person who inflicted the wounds? Witness - No. I should not.*<sup>12</sup>

*On the subject of why no sound would have been heard, and reiterating his opinion regarding the amount of blood on the perpetrator, the doctor said:*

*The throat had been so instantly severed that no noise could have been emitted. I should not expect much blood to have been found on the person who inflicted these wounds.*

The following exchange reported in *The Times* relates to the time the murderer would have taken to inflict the wounds:

*Mr Crawford - Have you been able to form any opinion as to whether the perpetrator of this act was disturbed when performing it?*

*Witness - I think he had sufficient time. My reason is that he would not have nicked the lower eyelids if he had been in a great hurry.*

*Mr Crawford - About how long do you think it would take to inflict all these wounds, and perpetrate such a deed?*

*Witness - At least 5 minutes would be required.*

Dr. Sequeira's testimony was as follows:

*I was called on the 30th September at 5 to 2 and was the first medical man to arrive.*

*I was present and heard the whole of the evidence of Dr. Gordon Brown. I quite agree with the Doctor in every particular.*

*I know the locality. This is the darkest portion of the square. There would have been sufficient light to enable the perpetrator of the deed to have committed the deed without the addition of any extra light.*

*I account for the absence of noise as the death must have been so instantaneous after the severance of the windpipe and the blood vessels - I should not have expected that the person who committed the deed necessarily be spattered with blood.*

*Life had not been extinct more than quarter of an hour ("judging from the condition of the blood" <sup>13</sup>).*

The *Star* also carried the following reports of interviews they had with the doctors. Although not named, the doctor in the first report is probably Brown, as Sequeira is named in the second report.

*"The woman's throat," continued the doctor, "had first been cut, and it had been cut while the woman was on the ground. How do I know that? Because there was no blood in front."*

*"Do you think that the murderer was a skilled man?"*

*"He had some knowledge of how to use a knife. The knife which he used must have been very sharp."*

*"How long would it have taken him to mutilate the body as you found it?"*

*"At least five minutes."*

<sup>10</sup> *The Times*, 5 October 1888

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *The Times*, 12 October 1888

It then reports an interview with Dr. Sequeira:

*A Star reporter saw Dr. J. G. Sequiera [sic], 34, Jewry-street, who was the first medical man on the spot. "I was there," he said, "about 10 minutes after the policeman found the body. The woman could not have been dead more than a quarter of an hour. The work had been quickly done."*

*"By an expert, do you think?"*

*"No, not by an expert, but by a man who was not altogether ignorant of the use of the knife. It would have taken about three minutes."*

## Summary

Let's summarise the testimony of the police officers, the watchman and the doctors regarding the discovery of Eddowes' body. Watkins' beat took twelve to fourteen minutes. On Watkins' previous patrol of Mitre Square at about 1:30 he saw and heard nothing. He did not say he had checked the time then and he had no reason to, so it is likely he guessed roughly what time it would have been from the timing of his subsequent patrol of Mitre Square, and then probably 'rounded' the time to half past one. When he next came to the square at 1:44 he discovered the body of Eddowes. In between Watkins' visits to the square, PC Harvey had patrolled as far as the end of Church Passage, looking into the square at about 1:41 or 1:42. On discovering the body, Watkins went to get help from Morris, the watchman at Kearley and Tonge's. Morris then went to get help, going along Mitre Street to Aldgate, blowing his whistle as he went. Watkins remained alone with the body. Morris found PC Harvey in Aldgate, and Harvey called across the road to PC Holland for his assistance as well. Harvey and Holland went at once to Mitre Square, followed by Morris (no doubt tiring after his run to Aldgate). Harvey stayed with Watkins while Holland was sent for Dr. Sequeira and some private individuals (who had possibly followed Harvey and Holland into the square to see what was happening) were sent for other police officers, who arrived quickly, having already been alerted by Morris's whistle (though where they had come from is not stated). Inspector Collard was informed at 1:55 and sent for Dr. Brown. Dr. Sequeira arrived at the square at 1:55, with Dr. Brown arriving at 2:18. The time of death was estimated by the doctors to be at the latest about 1:40 (no more than 15 minutes earlier than when Sequeira arrived and examined her, 30 to 40 minutes earlier than when Brown arrived). Because of the issue with the inaccuracies of clocks and the possibility that a couple of extra minutes on top of the doctors' rough estimates are not inconceivable, this is a rough guide and a slightly earlier time for the murder (maybe as much as five minutes earlier) may have been possible. The murderer must have taken about three minutes (according to Dr. Sequeira) to at least five minutes (according to Dr. Brown) to have inflicted all the wounds on the body of Catharine Eddowes. Brown's comment regarding his deduction that because the eyelids had been nicked the killer had not been disturbed perhaps needs to be qualified. The piece of apron that the killer took from Eddowes, found later in Goulston Street (more of which in part 2), had faecal matter on it, probably from the killer's hands and/or knife. This contamination was as a result of the killer cutting Eddowes' colon. Neil Bell<sup>14</sup> and Sam Flynn<sup>15</sup> have said that, because no faecal matter was reported on Eddowes' face or head, the killer likely performed the facial mutilations before the abdominal mutilations. So the fact that the killer nicked the eyelids is no indication of his being unhurried as these were possibly among the first things he did to the body.

## Other Witnesses

At the inquest, testimony was heard from two witnesses, Joseph Lawende and Joseph Hyam Levy, about a possible sighting of Eddowes approximately ten minutes before her body was discovered.

Lawende, Levy and their friend, Harry Harris, had left the Imperial Club at 16/17 Duke Street not long after 1:30 and saw a woman (identified later by her clothes) with a man at the entrance to Church Passage. The club was about 15m from Church Passage. They passed the couple on their way towards Aldgate. It is the timing and circumstance of the event that we are interested in here, so the description of the man will be ignored.

Lawende stated in his testimony:

*It was raining. We left there to go out at half past one and we left the house about five minutes later. Standing in the corner of Church Passage in Duke Street, which leads into Mitre Square, I saw a woman. She was standing with her face towards a man. I only saw her back. She had her hand on his chest...She had a black jacket and a black bonnet. I have seen the articles which it is stated belonged to her at the police station. My belief is that they were the same clothes which I had seen upon the deceased... I fix the time by the club clock and my own watch at half past one...They appeared conversing very quietly. I did not look back to see where they went.*

<sup>14</sup> "As Far As Mitre Square" (*Ripperologist* 71, September 2006)

<sup>15</sup> "By Accident Or Design" (*Ripperologist* 73, November 2006)



Though he gave a full description of the man in his police statement (which was suppressed at the inquest), and saw his face, he said *"I doubt whether I should know him again"*.

Further to the point about him fixing the time, *The Times*<sup>16</sup> reported his testimony as continuing, *"It would have been about 25 minutes to two o'clock when he saw the man and woman standing together"*.

In regard to the woman's hand being on the man's chest, *The Times* reported the testimony as *"he saw her put her hand on the man's chest"* and later it was stated *"the woman did not appear to have put her hand on the man's chest as if she were pushing him away."* In the official records it implies the woman's hand was already on the man's chest, but here it appears that Lawende saw her put her hand on his chest.

Levy said in his testimony:

*We got up to go home at half past one. We came out about three or four minutes after the half hour...I cannot give any description of either of them. We went down Duke Street into Aldgate leaving the man and woman still talking behind. I fix the time by the club clock.*

*The Times* continued:

*"He thought the spot was very badly-lighted. It was now much better-lighted than it was on the night of the murder"*.

A probable misreporting of their sighting in the *Daily Telegraph*, 13 November 1888, following the murder of Mary Jane Kelly suggests there were other witnesses who saw the killer and the victim just 10 minutes before the body was discovered:

*About ten minutes before the body of Catharine Eddowes was found in Mitre-square, a man about thirty years of age, of fair complexion, and with a fair moustache, was said to have been seen talking to her in the covered passage leading to the square... [This description] was given by two persons who were in the Orange Market and closely observed the man. The City police have been making inquiries for this man for weeks past, but without success...*

The Orange Market was another name for St. James's Place, so on the face of it, this refers to two witnesses there who saw the killer with Eddowes in the passage leading to the square. If they saw her 'closely' it would appear they saw them by the covered passage leading from St. James's Place to Mitre Square, rather than at the Mitre Square end of Church Passage, from where they may have been visible to someone in St. James's Place but someone located there would not be able to 'closely observe the man'.

This is widely considered, though, just to be a misreporting of the sighting of Lawende, Levy and Harris as the details regarding the description of the man and the timing of the sighting are the same. Of course they were three witnesses, as opposed to the 'two' in the report, but since only Lawende and Levy appeared at the inquest and were the only two who gave a description (Harris claimed not to have seen anything and so did not appear at the inquest), the journalist over a month later just referred to these two witnesses. The reference to the Orange Market was likely to be a result of a misinformed journalist using the local name of a nearby location, but applied to the wrong place. The other details of the sighting are much like that of Lawende and Levy, and the 'covered entry' would also apply to Church Passage.

## Measurements and Timings

Having looked at the facts surrounding the discovery of the body, the events immediately afterwards and possible sightings of the killer and victim, let's take a closer look at the movements of PCs Harvey and Watkins.

In order to get a view of where Harvey and Watkins were at certain times on their respective beats we have to establish the distances patrolled and the timings of their beats. Measurements have been taken using the 1894 OS Map, Google Earth, and architect and surveyor Frederick Foster's Plan of Mitre Square produced for the inquest.

There has been much change to the streets in the area so measurements taken purely from Google Earth were not possible. However by taking a Google Earth measurement of two fixed points which existed in 1888 at a fairly long distance (to reduce the effects of any small inaccuracy), and then working out the scale from the OS Map, I was able to obtain fairly accurate distances from the OS Map<sup>17</sup>. The two fixed points I used were the southern corner of St Botolph's Church, Aldgate and a certain block of the Wentworth Model Dwellings in Goulston Street!

<sup>16</sup> *The Times*, 12 October 1888

<sup>17</sup> One issue I had is that sections of the map saved in different formats (e.g. JPG or BMP) can apparently produce a slightly different size when printed out. This is why my calculation of the distance of Watkins' beat in 'Smith's Beat' (*Ripperologist* 70, August 2006) was not correct.

The square is too small on the OS Map to get an accurate idea of the distance Watkins would have walked, so Foster's Plan of Mitre Square was used. However as we will see later Foster is not always reliable with his measurements, but since he was actually there at Mitre Square taking measurements, and from comparisons I have made with my own calculations from the OS Map and Goad's Fire Insurance Map 1887 of the area around Mitre Square there were largely insignificant differences with Foster's measurements, except on the south-eastern side (from the corner where Eddowes was killed to Church Passage) where there was a difference of about 1.5m. The north-western side was slightly longer on Foster's map and the north-eastern side was slightly longer on Goad's. In all there's a difference of about 1.5 to 2m. So there is some difficulty with Foster's Plan or with Goad's Map. However comparisons that Jake Luukanen has done suggest that Goad's is in line with the OS map and it is Foster's measurements which appear to be out. Nevertheless, Foster's measurements of Mitre Square were used for the calculations in this article with the anomaly with Goad's detected later. Since the calculations are taken over a larger distance, the effect of a metre or so will be very small.

As Neil Bell and Jake Luukanen point out<sup>18</sup>, on some sections of a PC's beat he may have progressed more slowly if there were more checks to make on certain buildings, or because of some suspicious sight or sound. This needs to be borne in mind. As with 'Smith's Beat' it is assumed that a constant speed is maintained throughout the route, and if there were any temporary stops to, for example, check up and down a street as a junction was reached or to stop and check certain buildings, these were evenly distributed around the route. The policemen would have walked at the regulation 2.5 mph (about 1.12m/s), but the overall progress they made would have been slower because of these checks.

## Watkins's Beat

Watkins's beat is described in his inquest testimony as follows:

*My beat returns from Duke-street, Aldgate, through Heneage-lane, a portion of Bury-street, through Cree Church lane, into Leadenhall-street, along Leadenhall-street into Mitre-street, then into Mitre-square, round the square into Mitre-street, then into King-street, along King-street to St. James's-place, round St. James's-place, then into Duke-street.*

The newspaper reports of his testimony add "where I started from" at the end so we know when he left St. James's Place to go into Duke Street that was the starting point.

In order to calculate the length of Watkins' beat there is a question about how he would have walked around St. James's Place. Neil Bell and Jake Luukanen<sup>19</sup>, and Martin Fido<sup>20</sup> have him walking around three sides of the place to exit. This is shown as a solid line in Map A.

However to have patrolled all four sides of the place would have entailed walking along the north-western side twice. The extra distance is shown as a dotted line in Map A.

Just as the *Star* interviewed Morris, they also interviewed Watkins:

*Police-constable Watkins, the man in question, was on duty there, and no more conscientious officer is in the force. His inspector speaks of him in the highest terms. He was on duty on the same beat last night, and a Star man went carefully over the same ground covered by him on the preceding night. "I was working left-handed last night," said the police officer. "Sometimes I go into Mitre-square through the Church-passage, but last night I entered from Mitre-street. It was just half-past one when I turned out of Aldgate and passed round the next corner into the square. At that time there was nothing unusual to be seen." I looked carefully in all the corners, as I always do, turning my lantern light in every direction. I am positive there was nothing wrong at that time.*



Map A: Watkins's beat

18 "As Far As Mitre Square" (*Ripperologist* 71, September 2006)

19 Ibid.

20 *The Crimes, Detection and Death of Jack the Ripper* by Martin Fido

*"And when did you pass through the square again?" asked the reporter.*

*"At about a quarter before two."*

*"Had you met any person on your rounds?"*

*"Not a soul."*

*"Nor heard any noise?"*

*"Not a sound, but the echo of my own footsteps."*

*"You entered the square the same way?"*

*"Just the same. Here we are now at the entrance to the square. I came this way, stopped at this corner to look up and down the street, and then turned in. As I came to the back of this picture frame maker's I turned my light into the corner, and there lay the woman."*

.....

*I went at once to Dr Sequeira and some of the others rushed off to the station house."*

*"Were there any signs of a struggle?"*

*"None at all. There was perhaps a quart of blood on the stones, but there were no footprints or finger marks, except where the woman's chemise had been caught hold of as if it had fallen down in the way. Her clothing was filthy." <sup>21</sup>*

First of all, there is one inaccuracy in the report, a result either of Watkins making an incorrect statement or, more likely, the journalist reporting it incorrectly. As we have seen, Watkins did not go to Dr Sequeira; it was PC Holland who was sent.

An interesting point is that Watkins mentioned that he was working 'left-handed'. This essentially means he was working his beat the opposite way round. He also said that he sometimes entered Mitre Square from Church Passage. Now since the route he described at the inquest has him both entering and exiting Mitre Square from Mitre Street, it does not matter which way round he walked his beat, he would still be entering and exiting Mitre Square from Mitre Street. Obviously the route was changed slightly sometimes from Watkins remark about going to the square from Church Passage, but entering the Square this way would seem unlikely as it would mean him walking a section of Duke Street that was not part of his beat as he described it at the inquest. He did not walk any further south-east down Duke Street than the junction with Little Duke Street.

Neil Bell and Jake Luukanen suggest that, in fact, he meant the passage to St. James's Place. Although the passage itself was not part of the route he described, it would lead him from the Place which was part of his beat. However, Watkins could not have just come into Mitre Square from St James's Place and then continued into Mitre Street without either having to miss out a section of his beat, or having to back-track and walk a section twice. The same would be true if he went to St James's Place from Mitre Square without returning to the square once he'd completed a circuit of the place. So it is likely that on the occasions that he took this alternative way into Mitre Square, he would have both entered and exited through the passage to St James's Place. In this scenario, as he was patrolling St. James's Place he would go along the passage to Mitre Square, walk around the whole square and then return to St. James's Place via the passage to complete his patrol and then go into King Street (if working 'right-handed') or Little Duke Street (if working 'left-handed'). This is a factor when considering whether the killer was aware of the policeman's beats as he made his escape or as he chose his timing. Unless he knew what the policeman was doing that night (and Watkins could have varied how he entered the square during the shift, not only from night to night) then the killer could not be sure from which direction Watkins would enter the square on his next visit, though the timing of his next visit would be roughly the same if he entered the same way. Also consider that if the killer was also Elizabeth Stride's murderer then he did not have much time for surveillance of police beats around Mitre Square that night.

The report also tells us that "no more conscientious officer is in the force. His inspector speaks of him in the highest terms". Watkins conscientiousness has been brought into question by more than one author, and the suggestion has been made that he was enjoying a 'cuppa' with Morris as the killer was at work in the square.

The following was reported in the *Daily News* (1st October):

*The officer who found the body is positive that it could not have been there more than a quarter of an hour before he discovered it. He is timed to "work his beat," as it is called, in from ten to fifteen minutes, and is spoken of by his superior officers as a most trustworthy man.*

<sup>21</sup> *The Star*, 1 October 1888



PC Watkins ©Jake Luukanen

*Five minutes, some of the doctors think, would have sufficed for the completion of the murderer's work, and he was thus enabled to leave the ground before the return of the policeman on duty. None of the police on duty early yesterday morning appear to have had particular attention drawn to the man and woman together, and this appears strange at first when it is remarked that within the last few weeks the police have been keeping a particularly keen watch upon suspicious couples.*

This confirms that Watkins was considered trustworthy and also highlights the policy of the City Police to keep an eye on couples acting suspiciously. The following report from the *Daily News* the following day (October 2) tells us of the reputation of the square and also the procedures and habits of the beat policemen:

*It seems that the particular corner of Mitre-square in which the body of the woman was found has long had an evil reputation. Said a man whose occupation for many years has thoroughly familiarized him with the locality and all that has gone on in it, "I have often heard the policeman who went this beat regularly for sixteen years say that that was a well-known resort, and from my own knowledge it is so. The place is well patrolled," he continued in reply to queries. "Yes, there's no doubt about that. The constable on the beat now is as regular as clockwork. You may tell to a minute when he'll be round." "May not that have rather assisted in this business? Is it not possible that his movements were well known and reckoned on?" "Very likely indeed. These women know all about the police and how they go about. Still, this constable would sometimes vary his patrol a bit. Instead of going right round I have known him sometimes go to the corner there and back again. But however he might go, the beat is as well patrolled as it is possible for it to be. The distance is very short, and I have sometimes heard the men wish their rounds were longer. They would get more variety, and would be better able to keep themselves warm." The speaker went on to describe what he referred to as a regular system the City police sergeants had for testing the close scrutiny given by their men to the property along their beats. On this particular ground, at all events, according to this witness, it has long been the practice for constables to slip into the cracks of doors or the crevices of windows little bits of bent whalebone in such a manner that the opening of the door or window lets the whalebone fall and reveals the fact of disturbances to the officer on his next turn. This enables the sergeant to test the vigilance of his men, by here and there removing the tell-tale and then waiting to see whether the removal will be detected. It is generally allowed in this locality*



*that the police are exceedingly vigilant as a rule, and that the safeguarding of this square has been all that could reasonably be expected seems undeniable.*

Noting also the practice of leaving items in the cracks of doors and windows to check later for signs of disturbance (whalebone is mentioned in this report, but pins, cotton and matchsticks were also commonly used<sup>22</sup>) as well as other checks that the policemen made on their beat, it is likely that their rate of progress was significantly slower than the regulation walking pace of 1.12m/s (2.5 mph).

A note first about all the figures displayed and used for calculations. What we are trying to achieve is the likely position of the officers at certain key times or calculate the likely time when the officers were at certain key locations. To achieve this we need an estimate of the rate of progress of the officers. For the calculations of *The Times* and the distances absolute accuracy is neither possible nor particularly essential for our purpose as we could never pinpoint these anyway for a number of reasons. What we can achieve, though, is a likely range for the timing of certain events, or for the distances walked in a certain time. However, to maintain a reasonably high level of accuracy as far as achieving such a range and to avoid the cumulative effect of rounding when figures are added or multiplied, the precise distances and speeds calculated are maintained. This implied high level of accuracy must be treated with caution as these will not be the *exact* distances or times involved. But as we will be dealing with ranges anyway, it at least gives us a good idea of the distances and times involved. Plus it allows you to see where I am getting the figures from. Where the time taken to walk certain distances is calculated in tables it will be shown in seconds to see more easily how the figure is obtained, but in the text the timings will be referred to in minutes and seconds as our perception of time is normally referenced this way, though the time in purely seconds is noted as well to be able to more easily see the set of figures in the table to which they refer.

So now let's see what Watkins' rate of progress would have been. From his route we can calculate roughly the distance he would have patrolled. Just walking around three sides of St. James's Place would give a total of about 631.58m for the whole beat. If he walked along the north-western side of the St. James's Place twice then this would increase the distance of the total route to about 690.32m.

Watkins said that his route took him "twelve or fourteen minutes". So there is a range of twelve to fourteen minutes to take into account.

The following table gives us his average rate of progress for these factors.

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**Table 1 - Watkins' Route - Distance and Rate of Progress**

Overall Distance (m)	12 minutes (720 secs)		14 minutes (840 secs)	
	Speed (m/s)	Speed (secs per m)	Speed (m/s)	Speed (secs per m)
631.58	0.877	1.14	0.752	1.33
690.32	0.959	1.043	0.822	1.217

---

Watkins average rate of progress would therefore have been between 0.752 and 0.959 m/s (1.68 to 2.15 mph). Given the point about the checks the police had to make on their round, it is more likely that Watkins' average rate of progress was not as quick as the upper end of that range.

22 'The Toilers of London: The London Policeman and how to study him on his beat' by Robert P. Porter in *The Daily Inter Ocean* (Chicago, Illinois) 7 August 1887

## Harvey's Beat

Harvey's beat is described in his inquest testimony as follows:

*My beat is from Bevis Marks, to Duke Street, into Little Duke Street, to Houndsditch. From Houndsditch back to Duke Street, along Duke Street to Church Passage, back again into Duke Street to Aldgate. From there to Mitre Street, back again to Houndsditch. Up Houndsditch to Little Duke Street, again back to Houndsditch to Goring Street, up Goring Street to Bevis Marks, to where I started.*

The overall distance is about 829m.

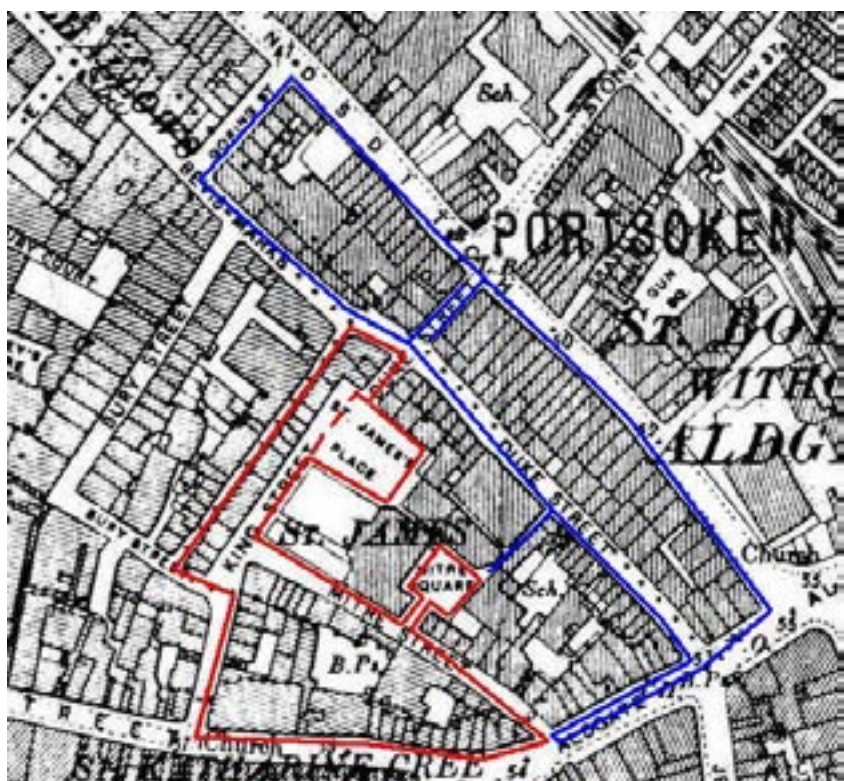
Note that Harvey walked along Little Duke Street between Duke Street and Houndsditch twice on his route - entering from Duke Street and going as far as Houndsditch before returning to Duke Street, and the reverse when patrolling along Houndsditch.

Incidentally there were three places at which Harvey and Watkins may have met during their shift - in Aldgate at the junction with Mitre Street, in Duke Street between Little Duke Street and Heneage Lane, and in Mitre Square as Harvey got to the end of Church Passage.

OK, this is where the fun starts.

Unlike Watkins, Harvey did not give an overall time for his beat. We have a few clues from his testimony. He passed the post office clock at between 1:28 and 1:29. He was in Aldgate walking towards the Duke Street junction from the Mitre Street junction when Morris came into Aldgate blowing his whistle. We can work out what the likely time was that Morris ran into Aldgate, based on the time Watkins gave for the discovery of the body. However, this time is based on Watkins' watch and the time Harvey passed the post office is based on the post office clock. Even today different timepieces may not be synchronised, though the accuracy of timepieces and the availability of standard time in order to set timepieces is a lot better than in Victorian times. An interesting thread on Casebook discusses this issue, and tells us how a 'timekeeping' business was run by the Belville family who went daily to clients in order to set their clocks. Now the post office clock may have been updated regularly as it would be an important centre of community and business. So even if clocks did lose or gain time within twenty four hours to require a daily service to ensure they were correct, they would possibly not be out by much by each night. Also this daily service may not have been daily for the same clients. An individual client may have only had the service every other day, for example. However, we cannot be sure that the post office clock was correct, but, even if it was there is no way of knowing if Watkins' watch was correct. We do not even need the timepieces to have been correct according to GMT, we just need to know if the timepieces were synchronised and we cannot know that. Some suggest that timepieces could be quite wrong in that era, by as much as ten minutes or more. However, the post office clock would likely have been fairly accurate, and Watkins, being a policeman, may have liked to ensure his watch was accurate. He may even have nipped down to the post office as his beat started to set his watch by the clock! It would have been very helpful to us if he had, but of course we cannot rely on this. Even if each timepiece was fairly accurate to within a minute or so, if one were a minute fast, and the other a minute slow, that would mean a two minute difference between them. This has to be borne in mind with any analysis we do relying on two independent timepieces. With Watkins we only have to rely on his watch and his own timing of his beat, but we do not have this luxury with Harvey. However, crucial timings regarding Harvey's beat can be estimated based on Watkins' watch. For all the timings I calculate I am using Watkins' watch as my GMT. All timings will assume we are looking at Watkins' watch (call it WWT - Watkins' Watch Time).

Before we get too far, we need to establish a couple of assumptions. Watkins said that he discovered the body at 1:44. Well, actually he said he returned to the square at 1:44, but as he discovered the body pretty much as soon as he turned into the square in the first corner he went to, which was only about 6.5m from the entrance to the square, this doesn't really make much difference. He said he checked the time as Morris got his lamp when he went for help after first discovering the body. This would likely have been within twenty or so seconds of his gruesome discovery, so was



Map B: Harvey's beat (blue), with that of Watkins shown in red

it exactly 1:44 when he checked his watch, or was it maybe 1:45 and he compensated for the time it had taken until that point? Again, we have no way of knowing exactly what the time was by Watkins's watch. But if we rely on relative time for most of the calculations then it does not matter too much. Let us assume it was exactly 1:44 by his watch when Watkins first entered the square. It would be only a couple of seconds before his discovery of Eddowes' body. This is also an important distinction in that the murderer was not in the square as Watkins entered it. If the murderer fled as a result of Watkins approaching then he would have had to have stopped his activities a few seconds before this in order to have left the square by the time Watkins entered.

We also need to know how long after this that Morris ran into Aldgate and alerted PC Harvey. From Watkins first entering the square, he would have made the discovery and maybe took a few seconds to fully believe what he was seeing, and to think of his course of action. He then had to run across the square to the doorway where Morris was working. This was a distance of about 23m. This would have taken less than 10 seconds to run. Morris was by the door when Watkins pushed it open. Watkins told him what had happened and Morris stopped to get his lamp (this was the time when Watkins looked at his watch). They then ran back to the body and there may have been some brief discussion as to what to do (though this may have been done at the warehouse or on the way to the body), when it was decided that Watkins would stay by the body while Morris ran to Aldgate for help. If there was very little indecisiveness, then this may all have taken 30 seconds. If there had been some slight delays caused by shock at seeing the body and a brief debate over what course of action to take it could have been maybe 40 seconds. The assumption is that from the time Watkins entered the square to the time that Morris started to run to Aldgate blowing his whistle would have been 30 to 40 seconds.

Morris then had to run from the square to Aldgate. How far he had actually got before Harvey went to him is not clear. Harvey states that he was in Aldgate returning towards Duke Street when he was first aware of Morris's whistle and saw Morris with his lamp. The distance from the Aldgate / Mitre Street junction to the Aldgate / Duke Street junction is about 54m. It is likely that as soon as Morris turned into Aldgate the sound from his whistle would have carried to Harvey (whereas while Morris was still in Mitre Street the sound may not have been audible from Aldgate, or was masked by sounds in Aldgate). So Morris would likely have run as far as the Aldgate / Mitre Street junction when Harvey was first aware of the whistle. From the corner of Mitre Square where Eddowes' body lay to Aldgate is a distance of about 72m. Morris was 54 years old at the time. It is impossible to say how fit Morris was, or how fast he would have been able to run. Bearing in mind that he would initially have been slower having to negotiate the corners from Mitre Square to the entrance road from Mitre Street and from the entrance road to Mitre Street itself, and that he was blowing his whistle as well while he ran, if it is assumed his average speed was about 2 to 2.8m/s (4½ to 6¼ mph), this would have taken him about 25 to 35 seconds. This would have him achieving a speed somewhere between a slow run, barely more than a very brisk walk and a quicker jogging speed. So from the moment that Watkins entered Mitre Square to the moment when Harvey was first alerted by Morris would have been about 55 to 75 seconds.

So assuming that it was exactly 1:44 when Watkins entered the square, it would be between 1:44:55 and 1:45:15 when Harvey was alerted by Morris,. This can be further narrowed down. When Morris started to run from Mitre Square blowing his whistle, Harvey must already have reached the junction of Aldgate and Mitre Street and must have already started towards Duke Street, as if he reached Mitre Street while Morris was running down that street from Mitre Square, Harvey could have heard his whistle at that point and would have gone to see what was happening before Morris reached Aldgate. Therefore Harvey must have walked at least 25 to 35 seconds from the junction of Mitre Street and Aldgate when he was alerted by Morris running into Aldgate, as this is the time it would have taken Morris to run from Mitre Square to Aldgate. We can therefore place him on the junction of Mitre Street and Aldgate at most 30 to 40 seconds after Watkins entered Mitre Square, this being the time before Morris started running for help. It is possible that Harvey was aware of the whistle just before Morris got to Aldgate, but by the time he reacted, Morris had arrived in Aldgate. Remember, Morris said he "ran up Mitre Street into Aldgate" and Harvey said "when I got to Aldgate, returning to Duke-street, I heard a whistle blown and saw the witness Morris with a lamp."

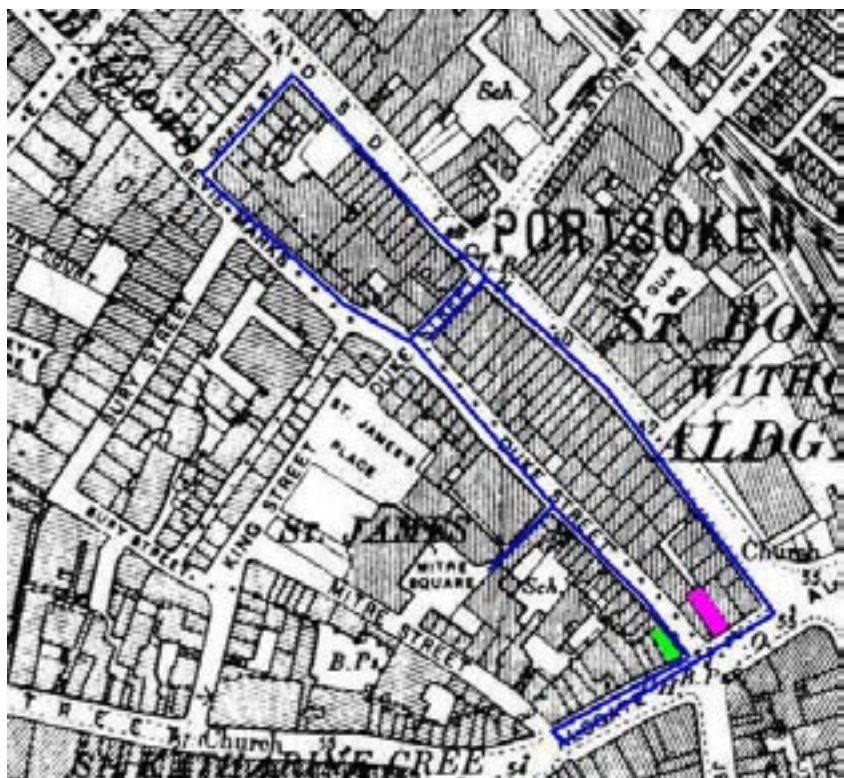
One other issue is the exact location of Aldgate Post Office. On Goad's Map 1887 the post office is located in Aldgate on the junction with Duke Street between Duke Street and Mitre Street (marked green on Map C). However on the 1894 OS Map the Post Office is located two doors to the other side of the junction between Duke Street and Houndsditch (marked pink on Map C). On the face of it the 1887 map being nearer to the time is the more likely location. However there are some details in a report which may suggest otherwise. The same weekend as the murder and quite possibly the same night, the post office was burgled.

*An extraordinary coincidence in connection with the Mitre-square murder is that the Aldgate Post-office, the back part of which looks out on the scene of the murder, was, judging from the discovery made this morning, occupied by burglars between Saturday night and this morning... Careful examination by the police shows that the burglars first entered an empty warehouse in Duke-street, just round the corner, and then got*



into the post office through the trap door in the roof. For some time the safety of the office has been suspected by the police and the Post Office authorities, who have noticed the comparative ease with which it could be entered from the back on account of the adjacent premises being unoccupied.<sup>23</sup>

So it was assumed the burglars had entered via unoccupied warehouses in Duke Street, adjacent to the post office. If the post office had been located in Aldgate between Duke Street and Mitre Street, then there are only shops and private residences round the corner on that side of Duke Street, as seen on the Goad map. However, if it was located at position 2, then just round the corner in Duke Street there are indeed larger buildings looking more like warehouses on the 1894 OS map. The area these buildings occupied is just noted as 'empty' on the Goad map with no building structures there. However another report of the burglary notes that "the Aldgate post-office backs upon the rear of some newly-erected and untenanted warehouses in Duke-street."<sup>24</sup> So they were recently built and would not have appeared on the 1887 Goad's Map. This seems



Map C: Post office position

to indicate that these were the buildings on the north eastern side of Duke Street and so the post office must have been located in Aldgate to the north east of the junction of Aldgate and Duke Street, which means the post office would have been located at position 2 in Aldgate between Duke Street and Houndsditch. It could be, though, that even if the post office had moved to another building, it had happened so recently that the clock had not yet been moved and was still at its location by the site of the old post office and was still referred to as the post office clock. However, if the clock had been located here then Harvey would have passed it twice on his beat—once as he turned into Aldgate from Duke Street, and again as he walked back along Aldgate from Mitre Street as far as Houndsditch. When Morris alerted him he would have passed the clock only a couple of minutes before and may well have been near to approaching it again as he approached Duke Street. Yet he makes no reference to the time other than when he previously passed the clock on his previous round at 1:28/1:29. This suggests he had not passed the clock again since, and this would be the case only if it was at location 2 between Duke Street and Houndsditch. Though I believe the post office clock was located at position 2, as we cannot be sure as to the exact location, and there is only about 19m between the two locations, both possibilities will be considered in the calculations.

Again, the assumption is that his overall progress is uniform across his beat and any checks or stops were evenly distributed. Neil Bell and Jake Luukanen note that quite a few jewellers' shops had concentrated in the area around Houndsditch and Harvey may have progressed more slowly in this area to do more checks. As they say this should be considered when analysing his beat time, and when calculating an average rate of progress it may be borne in mind that in other sections of his beat, for example between Church Passage and Aldgate, he would therefore be progressing more quickly than the average calculated for the whole beat to counter the potentially slower progress he made as he passed the jewellers' shops in Houndsditch.

Although the problem regarding the synchronisation of the timepieces has been discussed, there is some evidence from Harvey's inquest testimony that the clocks may have been more or less in line. Harvey said he could only gauge the time by the post office clock and that was from his previous passage at 1:28/1:29. He does not mention looking at the post office clock as, or just prior to, Morris approaching him. He estimated he had been at Church Passage 3 or 4 minutes prior to being alerted by Morris, and that this was at 1:41 or 1:42. He does not mention gauging the estimate of 1:41/1:42 by another time check, for example from hearing the time from Watkins, and specifically said that he could 'only speak with certainty as to time with regard to the post office clock'. If he estimated that three or four minutes prior to Morris coming into Aldgate was at about 1:41 or 1:42, then, by deduction, he estimated the time that Morris came into Aldgate as being 1:45. He may have deduced that from how long he knew his beat should take which he would know by seeing the time on the post office clock as he passed it on each round (even if he didn't do us the courtesy of telling us how long it was!).

<sup>23</sup> *The Star*, 1 October 1888

<sup>24</sup> *Daily Telegraph*, 2 October 1888



Our estimate of Morris's arrival in Aldgate was shown to be likely between 1:44:55 and 1:45:15 based on it being 1:44 exactly by Watkins' watch when he entered the square and discovered the body. Of course, there is scope for some time either side of it being exactly 1:44, but if Harvey was guessing the time based on how long he knew his round to take, then the post office clock and Watkins' watch cannot have been out by much. Of course, by the time of the inquest, and certainly following Watkins' testimony, Harvey would have known the time that Watkins gave for the discovery of the body. But, if he accepted this time, and that was how he deduced that three or four minutes before hearing Morris's whistle was at 1:41 or 1:42, then this appears not to have conflicted with his own idea of how long his beat took. When Harvey first heard Morris' whistle he had maybe another few seconds to about a minute to reach the post office. Taking the midway point of half a minute, if he had reached the post office at roughly 1:45:30 and his previous passage had been at 1:28:30 give or take a few seconds, then his round would have taken about 17 minutes. We can give or take a minute to that to give a figure of about 16 to 18 minutes, which gives the same two minute scope as Watkins' round. But if Harvey was fairly accurate in his estimate of time, this does tie in with the time deduced from Watkins' watch. There is, of course, some scope for a difference but it is not much. We will also see when we look at the figures derived for Harvey being at Church Passage that there is some accuracy in what he estimated.

So, as a first pass at this, let's assume that the two timepieces were synchronised. By taking Harvey's position at a certain time from the post office clock to his position when Morris alerted him, we will have a time and distance and so can work out his average rate of progress. Harvey said that it was between 1:28 and 1:29 when he passed the clock. Let's assume it was exactly in between and so was 1:28:30. As stated earlier, we are just trying to achieve an estimate of the rate of progress and given that we cannot rely on the timepieces being in sync anyway for the analysis of Harvey's beat it is even more applicable that absolute accuracy is not possible, but this does not hinder our purpose.

So now let's look at the different factors and the results of these in obtaining Harvey's rate of progress.

As we saw earlier, when Morris left the square for help Harvey would at least have been at the junction of Aldgate and Mitre Street as he turned and headed back towards Duke Street. If we assume Watkins reached Mitre Square at exactly 1:44, then the time that Harvey had to reach this position would depend on how long it took from Watkins entering the square to Morris leaving it to seek help. It was said earlier that this would be 30 to 40 seconds. So this would be at about 1:44:30 to 1:44:40. So the time from the post office to this point would be 16 minutes to 16 minutes 10 (960 to 970 seconds). The distance around Harvey's beat from post office location 1 to the junction of Aldgate and Mitre Street is about 781.57m. From post office location 2 it is about 762.57m.

We now look at the furthest point at which Harvey could have been when Morris came into Aldgate. Although from his testimony he had not reached the junction of Duke Street, but was going back towards it, we will take the junction as the furthest point he could have reached. The time that Harvey had to reach this position would depend on how long it took from Watkins entering the square to Morris reaching Aldgate and alerting him. It was said earlier that this would be 55 to 75 seconds. So this would be at about 1:44:55 to 1:45:15. Thus, the time from the post office to this point would be 16 minutes 25 to 16 minutes 45 (985 to 1005 seconds). The distance around Harvey's beat from post office location 1 to the junction of Aldgate and Duke Street walking from the junction of Aldgate and Mitre Street is about 836.39m. From post office location 2 the distance is 817.39m.

Having established a time for Harvey to walk a certain distance, the quickest progress will be produced by the factors producing the longest distance—the post office being at location 1 and Harvey being alerted by Morris when he was at the Duke Street / Aldgate junction—and the factor giving the shortest time for that distance—55 seconds from Watkins entering Mitre Square to Morris reaching Aldgate. Conversely the slowest progress will be produced from the factors giving the shortest distance—the post office being at location 2 and Harvey at the Mitre Street / Aldgate junction as Morris set off from Mitre Square—with the longest time for this—40 seconds from Watkins entering the square to Morris setting off for help.

**Table 2 - Harvey's Rate of Progress -  
assuming post office clock in sync with Watkins' watch**

PO Location	Location A	Event A	Watkins entering to Event A (secs)	Time PO to Location A (secs)	Distance PO to Location A (m)	Speed m/s	secs/m
2	Mitre Street	Morris sets off	40	970	762.57	0.786	1.272
1	Duke Street	Morris in Aldgate	55	985	836.39	0.849	1.178

Harvey would therefore have been progressing at a rate of between 0.786 and 0.849m/s.

However these factors will not give us the extremes of the range for the time between Harvey being at the end of Church Passage and Watkins returning to the square at 1:44, as the factors affect this time differently. The extra distance to Duke Street gave us the quickest rate of progress, but this extra distance will have taken longer for Harvey to walk even if he was progressing at a quicker rate. Also we have to take off the time we factored in after Watkins reached the square for Morris to leave for help, or for Morris to reach Aldgate.

**Table 2b -Time between Harvey reaching end of Church Passage and Watkins entering Mitre Square assuming post office clock in sync with Watkins' watch**

PO Location	Location A	Event A (Morris)	Watkins entering square to Event A (secs)	Speed Secs/m	Distance Church Passage to Location A (m)	Time Church Passage to Location A (secs)	Time Church Passage to discovery (secs)
2	Mitre St	Sets off	40	1.272	149.26	190	150
2	Mitre St	Sets off	30	1.259	149.26	188	158
1	Mitre St	Sets off	40	1.241	149.26	185	145
1	Mitre St	Sets off	30	1.228	149.26	183	153
2	Duke St	In Aldgate	75	1.230	204.09	251	176
2	Duke St	In Aldgate	55	1.205	204.09	246	191
1	Duke St	In Aldgate	75	1.202	204.09	245	170
1	Duke St	In Aldgate	55	1.178	204.09	240	185

The table shows the different scenarios in the order of the speed of progress with the slowest at the top. As we can see, the shortest time between Harvey being at the end of Church Passage and Watkins returning to Mitre Square at 1:44 is 145 seconds, which is derived from a slower rate of progress for Harvey with the post office being at location 1 and Harvey being at the Mitre Street junction with Aldgate as Morris first set off. Although Harvey would have taken longer at this rate of progress to reach the junction (185 seconds) than shown in the row below (183 seconds), Watkins would have entered the square 40 seconds earlier and so taking this time off gives us the shortest time between the two officers' appearances at Mitre Square.

Similarly the longest time is derived from one of the faster rates of progress with the post office at location 2 and Harvey being at the Duke Street junction with Aldgate as Morris reached Aldgate. Although the time (246 seconds) is not as great as on the row above (251 seconds), the time between Watkins entering the square and Morris reaching Aldgate would have been only 55 seconds and therefore that would mean more time between Harvey being at Church Passage and Watkins returning to the square.

So from this we have a range of 2 minutes 25 to 3 minutes 11 from when Harvey turned his back on Mitre Square to when Watkins entered the square about to see Eddowes's body, a sight that likely stayed with him until the end of his days.

As a check against his testimony, let's look at the time span from Harvey turning at the end of Church Passage to Morris alerting him. Harvey said this was period of three or four minutes. The lower end of the range was derived from Morris leaving the square 40 seconds after Watkins' discovery just as Harvey started back towards Duke Street along Aldgate from Mitre Street. The time for Harvey to have gone from Church Passage to the junction of Aldgate and Mitre Street would have been 185 seconds (third row in table 2b). Morris would have taken at least 25 seconds to get from Mitre Square to Aldgate and alert Harvey, giving a total of at least 210 seconds from Harvey being at Church Passage to Morris alerting him, given the time of 2:25 minutes for the gap between Harvey being at Mitre Square and Watkins entering the square.

The upper end was derived from Morris reaching Aldgate just 55 seconds after Watkins' discovery so the time taken from Harvey being at the end of Church Passage to being alerted by Morris can be taken directly from the table (246 seconds). So the range for this is 210 to 246 seconds (3:30 to 4:06 minutes), which ties in with Harvey's estimate of three or four minutes for the time after he was at Church Passage until Morris alerted him in Aldgate.

The tables actually give figures outside this range (183 + 25 = 208 and 251 seconds) but this is only just outside our range and since these were derived for factors which did not give the limits of the range for the difference between Harvey being at end of Church Passage and Watkins entering Mitre Square, we have concentrated on the factors that did give us those limits.

Let's just take a quick look at the time to cover the whole beat (829m) with these figures.

**Table 2c - Time to walk whole beat - Post office clock = WWT**

PO Location	Event A (Morris)	Watkins entering Square to Event A		Speed	Time to walk beat (829m)
		(secs)	m/s	secs/m	secs (mins/ secs)
2	Sets off	40	0.786	1.272	1055 (17 mins 35)
1	In Aldgate	55	0.849	1.178	977 (16 mins 17)

So for these figures, it would have taken Harvey just over 16¼ minutes to about 17½ minutes to walk his beat.

OK, now we can see how this has been derived, let's expand one of the factors. We made an assumption that the post office clock and Watkins' watch were synchronised (again, not necessarily that Watkins' set his watch by the post office clock, but that they happened to tell the same time, and not necessarily GMT). But what if the timepieces weren't synchronised? Let's now assume that the post office clock was up to two minutes out with Watkins' watch, either ahead or behind. So when Harvey passed the clock and it indicated a time of between 1:28 and 1:29, it was actually between 1:26/1:27 and 1:30/1:31 according to WWT. The purpose of this is to give an idea of the effect and the extent of the effect of extending and reducing Harvey's beat time. An extension could be caused anyway by such factors as it being nearer 1:45 when Watkins discovered the body and it being nearer 1:28 when Harvey passed the clock. This alone would cause the beat time to be extended by as much as a minute and a half before we even consider that the timepieces were out of sync with each other.

The following table is similar to Table 2 in that it looks at Harvey's rate of progress, except the time from the post office to this point would be either reduced or increased by two minutes, 14:00 to 14:10 minutes (840 to 850 seconds) or 18:00 to 18:10 minutes (1080 to 1090 seconds).

Obviously on top of the factors already shown, the slowest rate will be for the post office clock being two minutes ahead of Watkins' watch (WWT + 2, so 1:26/1:27 WWT) , and the quickest for it being two minutes behind (WWT - 2, so 1:30/1:31 WWT).

**Table 3 - Harvey's Rate of Progress -  
assuming post office clock two minutes ahead of or behind Watkins' watch**

PO Location	PO clock WWT		Event A (Morris)	Watkins entering to Event A		Distance PO to Location A	Speed	
	difference	Location A		(secs)	Location A (secs)		m/s	secs/m
2	+ 2 mins	Mitre St	sets off	40	1090	762.57	0.700	1.429
1	- 2 mins	Duke St	in Aldgate	55	865	836.39	0.967	1.034

Harvey would therefore have been progressing at a rate of between 0.7 and 0.967m/s.

The factors identified in the previous analysis to produce the shortest and longest times between the officers' appearance at Mitre Square were, respectively, the post office being at location 1 and it taking 40 seconds after Watkins entered the square for Morris to set off for help; and the post office being at location 2 and it being 55 seconds after Watkins entered Mitre Square for Morris to reach Aldgate.

**Table 3a - Harvey's Rate of Progress for factors giving extremes of range for time between Harvey at Church Passage and Watkins entering Mitre Square - assuming post office clock = WWT +/- 2**

PO Location	PO clock WWT difference	Location A	Event A (Morris)	Watkins entering to Event A (secs)	Time PO to Location A (secs)	Distance PO to Location A (m)	Speed m/s	Speed secs/m
2	+ 2 mins	Mitre St	sets off	55	1105	817.39	0.740	1.352
1	- 2 mins	Duke St	in Aldgate	40	850	781.57	0.919	1.088

So having established the rates of progress, the following table looks at the time between Harvey reaching the end of Church Passage and Watkins returning to Mitre Square.

**Table 3b -Time between Harvey reaching end of Church Passage and Watkins entering Mitre Square assuming post office clock two minutes behind or ahead of Watkins' watch**

PO Location	PO clock WWT difference	Location A	Event A (Morris)	Watkins entering square to Event A (secs)	Speed Secs/m	Distance Church Passage to Location A (m)	Time Church Passage to Location A (secs)	Time Church Passage to discovery (secs)
1	- 2 mins	Mitre St	sets off	40	1.088	149.26	162	122
2	+ 2 mins	Duke St	in Aldgate	55	1.352	204.09	276	221

This gives us a range of 2:02 to 3:41 minutes for the time between Harvey being at the end of Church Passage and Watkins returning to Mitre Square.

As with the previous analysis let's check the time from Harvey turning from the end of Church Passage to Morris alerting him. Again we add 25 seconds (minimum time for Morris to reach Aldgate from Mitre Square) to the lower limit (162) to give 187 seconds. So the range is 187 to 276 seconds (3:07 to 4:36 minutes).

We can see that the upper end of the range is starting to move away from Harvey's estimate of three or four minutes, but is not so far out and Harvey was making an estimate which may not have been that accurate. Of course, the lower end of the range still fits in with Harvey's estimate anyway. But, extending the time difference between the post office clock and Watkins' watch will shift the difference with Harvey's estimate further.

For these figures, let's take a quick look at the time to cover the whole beat.

**Table 3c - Time to walk whole beat - assuming post office clock two minutes behind or ahead of Watkins' watch**

PO Location	PO clock WWT difference	Location A	Event A (Morris)	Watkins entering square to Event A (secs)	Speed m/s	Speed secs/m	Time to walk beat (829m) secs (mins/ secs)
2	+ 2 mins	Mitre St	sets off	40	0.700	1.429	1185 (19 mins 45)
1	- 2 mins	Duke St	in Aldgate	55	0.967	1.034	857 (14 mins 17)

For these figures, it would have taken Harvey just above 14 1/4 minutes to 19 3/4 minutes to walk his beat.

As we have said, Harvey must have had an idea of how long his beat took to walk from looking at the post office clock on each round and the implications of what he said suggest this was about 17 minutes, give or take a minute. If the post office clock was two minutes out with Watkins' watch, then this gives a time for Harvey's beat of about 15 to 19 minutes. If we extend it any further then it is moving further away from Harvey's implied time for the length of his beat. Remember the comment about the policemen walking a beat like clockwork, and there is also the fact that



they could be checked at various points on their beat where they were expected to be at certain times<sup>25</sup>. The beat PC's timing would not be as exact as this comment suggests, as Watkins himself said his beat was 12 to 14 minutes, because on some rounds he may have done more checks. But there was a time range in which the beat would be walked. PC Smith, the witness in the Berner Street murder, for example, said his beat took 25 to 30 minutes.

While there may have been reasons for the beat constable to vary from these times, such as having to deal with an incident (as Watkins had to do when he discovered Eddowes body), neither Watkins nor Harvey mentioned anything remarkable about their crucial rounds, other than discovering the body in Watkins' case and being alerted to the murder in Harvey's, to suppose that their normal timings may have changed on those rounds. Our extreme figures for the post office clock being 2 minutes out with Watkins' watch actually give a range of just over 14 minutes and almost 20 minutes for Harvey's beat. So extending this time difference further would mean that we would be dealing with times too far removed from the time Harvey seemed to have assumed for the length of his beat.

Just as a check, let's compare our slowest and quickest rates derived for Harvey against the range calculated for Watkins. Though it's possible that one officer's beat entailed more checks, for example, than the other's and so would progress at a slower rate, this exercise allows us to compare the figures with those already obtained.

Watkins, it was calculated, was progressing at a rate between 0.752 and 0.959m/s. For Harvey, using the +/- 2 minutes analysis, the range calculated is 0.700m/s to 0.967m/s. The range extends outside the limits for Watkins, but if we did the calculations using the figures obtained for Watkins (because the unknowns are different using an already established rate of progress) the location of the post office is irrelevant and the results would ultimately produce figures slightly outside those already obtained. For example, progressing at a rate of 0.959m/s, assuming Harvey was at the junction of Mitre Street and Aldgate as Morris set out for help from Mitre Square, would actually give us less time between Harvey being at the end of Church Passage and Watkins returning to Mitre Square.

**Table 4 - Quickest time between Harvey reaching end of Church Passage and Watkins entering Mitre Square assuming Harvey progressing within same range as Watkins**

Speed m/s	Secs/m	Location of Harvey on Aldgate	Distance Church Passage to location on Aldgate (m)	Time Church Passage to location on Aldgate (secs)	Time from Watkins entering square to Harvey being at location on Aldgate	Time Church Passage to discovery (secs)
0.959	1.043	Mitre St	149.26	156	40	116

This gives us a quickest time of 116 seconds (1 minute 56) for the time between Harvey being at Church Passage and Watkins entering the square. This is only six seconds less than the time obtained for the quickest time in the +/- 2 minutes analysis, so the results are close to those obtained with the existing analysis, anyway.

Having obtained the likely time band for Harvey reaching the end of Church Passage, let us compare the results from the different scenarios. First, let's summarise all the results obtained for that crucial time period between Harvey glancing into the square and Watkins entering.

**Table 5 - Summary of time difference between Harvey being at end of Church Passage and Watkins entering Mitre Square**

PO clock WWT difference	Event A (Morris)	Location A (Harvey)	PO Location	Watkins entering square to Event A (secs)	Speed Secs/m	Speed m/s	Distance Church Passage to Location A (m)	Time Church Passage to Location A (secs)	Time Church Passage to discovery (secs)
WWT	sets off	Mitre St	1	40	1.241	0.806	149.26	185	145
WWT	Aldgate	Duke St	2	55	1.205	0.830	204.09	246	191
-2 mins	sets off	Mitre St	1	40	1.088	0.919	149.26	162	122
+2 mins	Aldgate	Duke St	2	55	1.352	0.740	204.09	276	221

<sup>25</sup> Jack The Ripper: Scotland Yard Investigates by Stewart P. Evans and Donald Rumbelow, p. 15

The time relative to Harvey's patrol of Church Passage and Watkins' discovery cannot be moved by much even if the clocks were out by more, which the evidence does not indicate anyway. There must be about two to 3 3/4 minutes between Harvey being at the end of Church Passage and Watkins arriving at Mitre Square and discovering Eddowes' body. This time will diminish slightly if we assume Watkins' watch was faster than the post office clock, as that would mean Harvey's beat took less time to patrol and so the time for Harvey to get from Church Passage to Aldgate where Morris found him would be less. The reverse would be true if Watkins' watch was slower than the post office clock. Because of the time it would have taken Morris to get to Aldgate after Watkins found the body, and taking Harvey's position at that time it cannot have been much more or less time than that calculated for him to have been at Church Passage, certainly when he himself estimated the time to be three or four minutes. Of course, this assumes that he was making the same rate of progress as the average for the rest of his beat, which may not necessarily have been the case. However, as Neil Bell and Jake Luukanen explained, if checks by the jewellers' shops took longer then he would have had to have been progressing more quickly in other sections of his beat and so it would have taken less time to get from Church Passage to Aldgate, heading towards Duke Street.

The officers could not have progressed much more quickly than the quickest rate calculated (0.967m/s) as beat walking pace was only 1.12m/s, so this would be their quickest progress anyway and that is without any stops or checks. Harvey may possibly have had more checks to do than Watkins, so he may have progressed more slowly than the slowest rate calculated for Watkins' (0.752m/s). But the evidence of the timings given, as already discussed, suggests that there is some consistency in the timings, with the post office clock being no more than a couple of minutes out with Watkins' watch, and maybe even closer than that.

Having looked at the time between Harvey being at the end of Church Passage and Watkins returning to Mitre Square, let's look at the earliest time the killer and Eddowes could have entered the square after Watkins patrol. If Watkins' beat took 12 to 14 minutes and it was 1:44 as he *entered* the square just prior to finding Eddowes, then it was 1:30 to 1:32 as he entered the square on the previous round, so there would then be the time to walk around the square before going into Mitre Street, leaving the square empty.

Watkins entered Mitre Square at sometime between 1:30 and 1:32. The distance Watkins would have walked to get around Mitre Square from that position to being out of Mitre Square into Mitre Street was about 78.76m. The following table looks at the time taken to patrol the square assuming his average rate of progress for the different factors:

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**Table 6 - Watkins' Time around Mitre Square**

**12 minutes (720 secs)**

Speed (m/s)	Speed (secs per m)	Time taken for 78.76m (secs)
0.877	1.14	90
0.959	1.043	82

**14 minutes (840 secs)**

Speed (m/s)	Speed (secs per m)	
0.752	1.33	105
0.822	1.217	96

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For his average rate of progress, Watkins would have taken between 82 and 105 seconds to get round the square (1 min 22 to 1 min 45). However, the lower range is for Watkins being there at 1:32. So the earliest the killer and Eddowes could have gone into the square is 96 seconds after 1:30, about 1:31:36. The latest Watkins would have left the square would have been about 90 seconds after 1:32, about 1:33:30. Of course, this assumes that his fateful round took no less than 12 minutes and no more than 14, and that he returned to Mitre Square at exactly 1:44. It also assumes his average rate of progress was maintained around the square. Any one or more of these factors may have changed on that round, so we cannot be sure about timings, but we have a broad range of probable timings given the information we have.

So what does this tell us? Harvey would have been at the end of Church Passage about 2:25 to 3:11 minutes before Watkins entered (assuming the post office clock and Watkins' watch were in line). We can extend this using our other criteria to a period of 2:02 to 3:41 minutes. According to Dr. Brown, the wounds would have taken the killer at least five minutes, though Dr Sequeira said they would have taken about three minutes. Sequeira's comment, though, was made in a press interview, which was not always the most reliable medium for information, and at the inquest he said that he agreed with Dr. Brown's testimony in every regard, which would seem to include Brown's estimate of how long it would have taken the killer to inflict the wounds. By Sequeira's stated time, the killer therefore possibly had just about enough time after Harvey glanced into the square to commit the crime before Watkins appeared. However, in

that time he would also have had to go into the square (unless he and Eddowes were already there), started the attack, cut the apron and escaped. Also it is only at the extreme end of our range that the killer had enough time, and that is using Sequeira's estimate.

Brown was the official City police doctor and according to his estimate there was not enough time between the two officers' appearance at the square. Even allowing for a compromise between the doctor's estimates we have a time of about four minutes (and even that errs towards Sequeira as Brown said at *least* five minutes). The square was definitely empty at about 1:30 until possibly as late as 1:33:30, the latest Watkins would have left the square. The earliest Harvey arrived at the end of Church Passage would have been about 1:40:19, though the earliest time was possibly nearer 1:40:49. Therefore, we have a gap of at least 6:49 minutes between Watkins leaving the square on his previous round and Harvey appearing at the end of Church Passage. Watkins could have left the square as early as 1:31:36, and Harvey reached the end of Church Passage as late as 1:41:58, so the time between the two events could have been as much as 10:22 minutes. This time between Watkins leaving the square and Harvey reaching the end of Church Passage would appear to be the more likely time in which the killer struck than between Harvey leaving Church Passage and Watkins returning at 1:44. Of course Lawende's sighting at about 1:33 to 1:35 may limit the time, but we cannot give a totally accurate time for this sighting. We will not ignore this, but if the time was not too far out from WWT then there was still more time for the killer to have struck prior to Harvey appearing at the end of Church Passage.

If it was the case that Eddowes was dead before he reached the end of Church Passage, then why didn't Harvey see the body in the corner of the square? He would have been about 22 or 23m away from the body if he stood under the lamp at the end of Church Passage. However he would not have seen all the square from this point and the purpose of walking to the end of Church Passage may have been so he could look into the square to check as much as possible by sight that there was nothing suspicious happening between Watkins's visits. Walking the few metres to the edge of Mitre Square would put him about 19 or 20m from the position where the body lay. So how would he not see the body? Sequeira commented that the corner was the darkest in the square, though he did say there was enough light for the killer to be able to see without additional light. The other lamp in the square was about 19m from the body. This however appears to have been faulty as indicated by this report:

*This (Sunday) morning the lamps were burning brightly, but a curious little circumstance was mentioned by the wife of a caretaker living directly opposite the spot where the murdered woman was found. As she went home with her little girl on Friday night she noticed that the lamp in the north-west corner of the square was so dull that she could scarcely see her way. This must have thrown the pavement on which the body was found into comparative darkness, and may thus have in some way contributed to the selection of the spot by the murderer.<sup>26</sup>*

Though there may have been enough ambient light for the killer to see, positioned as he was by the body, Harvey may not have had enough light, from about 19 to 23m away, to have seen that there was something on the ground in the far corner, let alone that it was the body of a woman. Neil Bell and Jake Luukanen also point out that there may have been steps outside a building on that side of the square and possible debris (such as crates) in the square that may have further obscured Harvey's view. Neil Bell's research into how much light gas lamps actually gave out suggests that they only gave out good light for about 4m and these were the ones that worked well<sup>27</sup> and as an indication of how dark it was, Morris, with his intimate knowledge of the square, knew that he would require a lamp to see into the corner. Neil has made other observations as to why Harvey may have not have seen the body. If Harvey had been stood under the lamp at the end of Church Passage it means he would have been looking into darkness from a lighted area, which would have been a further hindrance to seeing into the corner, as the iris would have contracted the pupil due to the light from the lamp. Also the fact that Eddowes' body lay next to a grating could have meant the body was camouflaged to an extent by this and what little, if anything, Harvey could see in the corner he may have thought was the grating.

So, far from being found wanting in his duty, it seems perfectly understandable that Harvey may have missed the body as he looked into Mitre Square. Also, from his press interview, it could be that Morris took a look into the square as he opened the door to Kearley and Tonge's, two or three minutes before Watkins called to him, in which case he too missed the body. This would actually be at about the time that Harvey was in Church Passage. From Neil Bell and Jake Luukanen's research it does seem quite possible for Harvey to have missed the body had it been there when he looked into the square.

Another conclusion from this analysis is that Harvey would have been at the end of Church Passage at about the time he said - 1:41 or 1:42. This time cannot be conveniently moved back a few minutes to give the killer more time following Harvey's appearance before Watkins appeared. Harvey felt it had only been 3 or 4 minutes prior to Morris appearing in Aldgate and the average progress he made as he went round his beat would confirm these times near enough for his progress over that distance.

<sup>26</sup> *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper*, 30 September 1888

<sup>27</sup> "Jack By Gaslight", *Ripperologist* 58





So it seems we cannot escape from the fact that he would have been there at about that time. The possibilities are:

- 1) There was no one in the square at the time Harvey looked into the square, so the killer appeared with Eddowes and killed her after Harvey left but before Watkins arrived. This seems unlikely as we have already seen, given the time available and the time the doctors (especially Brown) said that it would take to inflict the wounds as well as the extra time required for the killer and Eddowes to go into the square after Harvey had looked into it and for the killer to have vacated it before Watkins entered.
- 2) Eddowes was alive and with her killer in the shadows of the darkest corner and despite being 19-23m in front of Harvey he could not see them, or perhaps did not look too closely. This is possible, but again the killer would still not have enough time to inflict the wounds according to the timing given by Dr. Brown. Also, given that it is likely that the killer would have struck as soon as they reached the dark corner, they would not likely have been there just ahead of Harvey as they would probably have been aware of him before then and would not have gone towards the square in view of a policeman. However it is also possible that the killer and Eddowes moved into the square from Church Passage to avoid Harvey as he approached and waited until he had gone, either standing against the gate in the dark corner or perhaps round the corner in Mitre Street. Even assuming this scenario, there still would be insufficient time according to Dr. Brown.
- 3) Eddowes was dead but not yet mutilated and in the darkness Harvey could not see her body or the killer. Her killer lurked in the shadows waiting for Harvey to leave so he could continue. This would require the killer to be amazingly bold with a police officer approaching and finally standing possibly as close as 19m away. Could the killer be sure as he crouched in the shadows that Harvey would not enter the Square? Even if he was aware of the policeman's beat (either from his own personal knowledge or having been told by Eddowes') and knew he would come no further, would he rely on Harvey not detecting his presence or seeing something was lying on the ground, or coming into the square for another reason? The killer may have noted how dark the corner appeared from the vantage point of Church Passage as he and Eddowes made their way to the spot. Even so, as soon as someone was approaching, particularly a police officer, the killer would probably want to put as much distance between him and the scene as quickly as possible, just in case they did come into the square. He would have been exposed, with only the darkness for cover. If the approaching officer had noticed something and gone into the square then the killer would certainly have had more difficulty fleeing the scene without prompting a pursuit. Also, if he saw Harvey approaching he may not have wanted to risk being trapped by the body if Watkins returned via Mitre Street. He may have felt that if he left immediately, even if he passed or was seen by Watkins as he got to Mitre Street, the officer would not be aware of the body yet. But if he stayed by the body and Watkins also entered the square as Harvey approached along Church Passage then he would have been trapped. I think it is more likely that the killer would have fled as soon as he could detect Harvey approaching.
- 4) The killer fled on hearing Harvey approaching along Church Passage and Harvey missed the body as it was in the darkest corner of the square.
- 5) The killer had completed his task and fled minutes before Harvey approached the square along Church Passage and, again, Harvey missed the body as it was in the darkest corner of the square.
- 6) Harvey did not go as far as he should have along Church Passage (or maybe skipped Church Passage altogether). This is certainly possible and not something Harvey would have admitted, but, without anything to suggest strongly either way whether he did or not, perhaps we can give Harvey the benefit of the doubt that he at least patrolled his beat correctly. We have noted that it was likely that Harvey would not have seen the body if he had gone to the end of the passage and Eddowes was lying dead at that time, so this is not a reason for believing that he could not have patrolled to the end of Church Passage. There were premises along Church Passage (the Kenefeck family and the back of the Synagogue) that he had an obligation to check were secure, so he could not just dismiss the need to go down the passage. As noted earlier beat sergeants did spot checks to ensure the beat PCs were where they should have been, and would check the PC was being vigilant by removing or dislodging the makeshift detection devices left in the cracks of doors and windows. This could happen at anytime and any place on the beat and they also went to see if the beat PC had anything unusual to report. Even if Harvey were unreliable at times and did miss sections of his beat, he would be unlikely to miss it out on every round, for fear of being caught out if it was checked by the beat sergeant. The more he missed it out, the more chance of him being caught. If it may be argued that Church Passage was a more likely place than anywhere else on his beat for Harvey to miss out, this may also have been a reason for the beat sergeant to specially single out the passage for spot checks. Also consider that Harvey was a police officer who gave evidence under oath at an inquest. He also gave a written statement (as procedure) which, again, is

solemn. This is not taken lightly and opened him up for prosecution as well as dismissal if found guilty of lying, whereas an admittance he did not patrol right to the end of Church Passage may have earned him a reprimand at worst. This is, of course, not proof that he wasn't lying to avoid disciplinary action, but with no evidence that he did not patrol the passage, these factors mean that we should take Harvey at his word unless there is good reason otherwise. While there are reasons to question Harvey's integrity as he was dismissed from the force in July the following year, as we do not know the grounds for this dismissal (though drinking was a common problem in the force and could well have been the reason in Harvey's case), this is not proof that he missed a section of his beat on the night Eddowes was killed. So while it does remain a possibility, there is no reason to believe that Harvey did miss out Church Passage on his round at about 1:40.<sup>28</sup>

- 7) Harvey did see Eddowes and a man in the square but nothing appeared untoward and he left them alone. Of course once he heard of the murder and saw where it occurred, he realised he did not perform his duty in stopping the man and woman and questioning them, which was the policy of the City Police after Polly Nichol's murder. He could not lie about the time of his visit because of his location when Morris came into Aldgate which would be checked with PC Holland. However for the same reasons given above perhaps Harvey's word should be treated as the truth if he said he saw no-one in the square, if there is no evidence to suggest otherwise. Of course in this scenario there was more chance of more serious disciplinary action if his failure to act on the policy had resulted in another murder, as opposed to just not patrolling the passage thoroughly. If this had been the case though, as stated earlier, if Harvey was that close behind the couple they would probably have been aware of him and may not have proceeded into the square, instead waiting for Harvey to complete his patrol then go in. Of course they may have entered the square from an entrance other than Church Passage, but if this had been the case, then it must have been timed such that Harvey was in Church Passage just as Eddowes and the killer entered the square from another entrance, because otherwise it is likely that the killer would have struck as soon as he and Eddowes had reached the dark corner.

While possibilities 2 and 7 could have happened, I do not think they are likely for the reasons given and I would dismiss options 1 and 3 as very unlikely. Possibility 6 is a less unlikely option but there is no evidence either way to say whether Harvey walked to the end of Church Passage or not at that crucial time, and though it is easy to pass off his actions and say he did not patrol the passage as he should have done, until someone shows evidence otherwise we should perhaps accept what he said, as a police officer under oath, as the truth. This leaves 4 and 5 as the most likely possibilities. In both cases when Harvey looked into the square, Eddowes would already be laid dead and mutilated, the killer either having left some minutes before or just seconds earlier prompted by Harvey approaching.

Having established the likely time range that Harvey reached the end of Church Passage and the time range that Watkins would have left Mitre Square, let's look at where the officers may have been when Lawende and Levy made their sighting.

For this sighting of the man and woman, identified by Lawende by her clothing as Eddowes, at the entrance to Church Passage we have a time given of about 1:33 to 1:35 from the testimony of Levy and Lawende. To account for the inconsistency between clocks, let's extend that to 1:37. Of course inconsistency between clocks may reduce the time to earlier than 1:33 or later than 1:37. However, we will look at this range later. So where would the officers have been in the time period 1:33 to 1:37?

For the least furthest position that Watkins would have reached after the entrance to the square we have to use the slowest time for a 12 minute beat as he would have only entered the square at 1:32. This will be faster than his slowest possible rate of progress, which assumed he was at the entrance to the square at 1:30, but for this he would have had another two minutes and so would have progressed further.

For the central part of the range (1:35), we will take his slowest rate for a 12 minutes beat and the fastest rate for a 14 minute beat. There is no reason to assume this is the most likely time for Eddowes and the man being at Church Passage. Lawende estimated the time as 1:35 for them passing the woman he identified as Eddowes; however Levy estimated that it was 1:33 or 1:34 based on seeing the club clock at 1:30. But we will concentrate on 1:35 as the central part of the range of times we will look at.

For the furthest position Watkins would have been at 1:37, we will use his quickest rate of progress for a 14 minute beat.

<sup>28</sup> Some of these specific points regarding Harvey patrolling Church Passage are taken from private emails from Neil Bell

**Table 7 - Watkins' location as Lawende saw Eddowes**

Time (WWT)	Average rate of progress (m/s)	Time after Watkins at entrance to square (secs)	Distance after Mitre Square entrance (m)	Extra distance round St James's Place
1:33	0.877	60	52.63	NA
1:33	0.752	180	135.34	NA
1:35	0.959	180	172.58	NA
1:35	0.877	180	157.89	NA
1:35	0.822	300	246.54	58.74
1:35	0.752	300	225.56	No
1:37	0.959	300	287.63	58.74
1:37	0.877	300	263.16	No
1:37	0.822	420	345.16	58.74
1:37	0.752	420	315.79	No

At 1:33 Watkins would have progressed at least about 53m from the entrance to Mitre Square, this being only a minute after the probable latest time he entered the square (1:32). So he may still have been patrolling the square at this time, at least along the north-western side. If he had entered the square at 1:30 then he would have walked at least about 135m, putting him in King Street. At 1:35 he would have progressed at least about 158m from the entrance to the square, this placing him in King Street towards St. James's Place (assuming he only entered the square at 1:32). The furthest he would have progressed at this time is about 246.5m, placing him in St. James's Place, but having to walk along the north western side twice. He may actually have been nearer to coming out into Little Duke Street, having walked a shorter distance, but having only to patrol the three sides of the Place to get out. At the furthest distance, though, he would still not have reached Little Duke Street. At 1:37 at his furthest, he would have walked about 316m and been walking along Heneage Lane having only had to walk around three sides of St. James's Place.

So, assuming a time range of 1:33 to 1:37 WWT for the time Lawende, Levy and Harris passed the woman and man, presumed to be Eddowes and her killer, Watkins would have been anywhere from still being in Mitre Square to part of the way along Heneage Lane.

Of course for Harvey it gets a bit more complicated.

**Table 8a - Harvey's location as Lawende saw Eddowes assuming post office clock = WWT. Harvey at PO between 1:28 and 1:29WWT**

PO	Time to Event A*	Average rate of progress (m/s)	1:33 - Time after Harvey at PO (secs)	1:33 distance from PO (m)	1:33 distance from PO2 (m)	1:35 - Time after Harvey at PO (secs)	1:35 distance from PO (m)	1:35 distance from PO2 (m)	1:37 Time after Harvey at PO (secs)	1:37 distance from PO (m)	1:37 distance from PO2 (m)
2	40	0.786	270	212.26	212.26	390	306.60	306.60	510	400.94	400.94
1	40	0.806	270	217.55	198.55	390	314.24	295.24	510	410.93	391.93
2	55	0.830	270	224.06	224.06	390	323.64	323.64	510	423.22	423.22
1	55	0.849	270	229.26	210.26	390	331.16	312.16	510	433.05	414.05

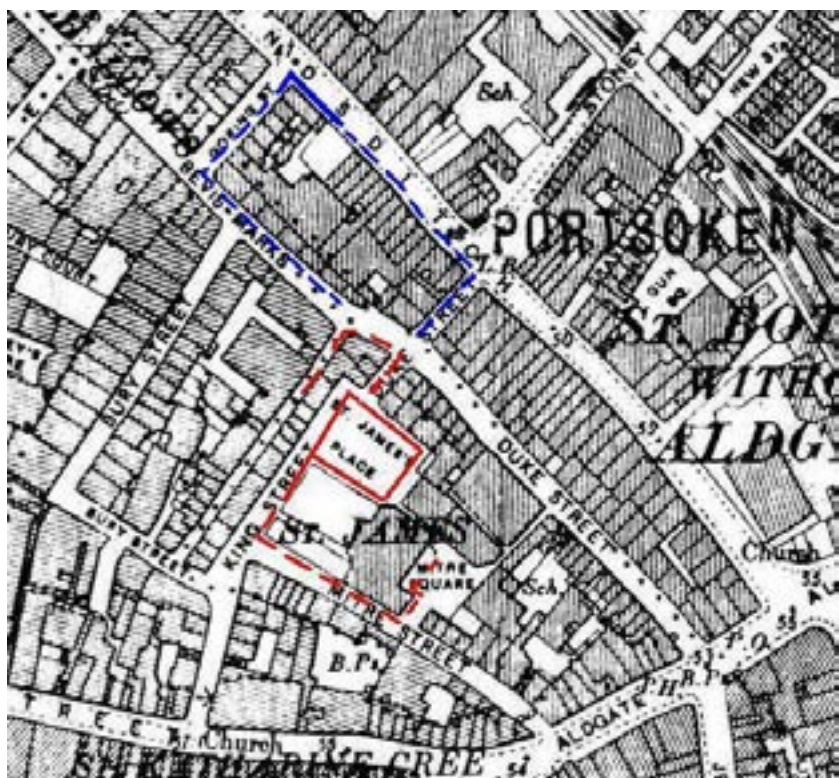
\* Watkins entering Mitre Square to Morris leaving for help (40 seconds) or Morris reaching Aldgate (55 seconds).

The top rows give the calculation for the least furthest position Harvey's would have been for each of *The Times*, with the bottom rows giving the furthest position depending on the time. The least furthest position is highlighted in lavender, the furthest is highlighted in blue. The other rows give us other scenarios that are close to these positions but are there to demonstrate that the figures highlighted are actually the extreme points taking into account all circumstances.

His furthest position assumes that the post office was located at position 2 and that it took just 55 seconds from Watkins entering the square to Morris alerting Harvey in Aldgate. He actually would have progressed a further distance

assuming the post office clock was located at position 1, the other factors being the same, but because location 1 is 19m further back from location 2 the extra distance is less than 19m actually and so puts him behind where he would have been if the clock is assumed to have been at location 2.

So at 1:33 Harvey would have been at least 217.5m from the post office (location 1 for that scenario) and so 198.5m from post office location 2, which would have put him in Little Duke Street just heading back towards Houndsditch as part of his patrol along Houndsditch. For the actual post office location 2 scenario he would have progressed more slowly and gone just 212m, but as this location is 19m ahead of location 1 he would have been further along his beat than the location 1 scenario. This is why there is a column in the table to show the distance from post office location 2, even for the location 1 scenarios. At 1:35 he would have been at least about 314m from post office location 1 (so about 295m from post office location 2) placing him in Houndsditch between Little Duke Street and Goring Street. His furthest position at this time would be about 324m from location 2 putting him in Goring Street.



Map D: Solid lines show position range at 1:35

His furthest position at 1:37 is about 423m from location 2 putting him in Bevis Marks heading towards Little Duke Street.

**Table 8b - Harvey's location as Lawende saw Eddowes assuming post office clock = WWT +/- 2. Harvey at PO between 1:26:30 and 1:30:30 WWT**

PO	Time to Event A*	Average rate of progress (m/s)	1:33 - Time after Harvey at PO (secs)	1:33 distance from PO (m)	1:33 distance from PO2 (m)	1:35 - Time after Harvey at PO (secs)	1:35 distance from PO (m)	1:35 distance from PO2 (m)	1:37 Time after Harvey at PO (secs)	1:37 distance from PO (m)	1:37 distance from PO2 (m)
2	40	0.897	150	134.57	134.57	270	242.23	242.23	390	349.88	349.88
1	40	0.919	150	137.92	118.92	270	248.26	229.26	390	358.60	339.60
2	55	0.740	390	288.49	288.49	510	377.26	377.26	630	466.02	466.02
1	55	0.757	390	295.20	276.20	510	386.03	367.03	630	476.86	457.86

\* Watkins entering Mitre Square to Morris setting off from the square (40 seconds) or Morris reaching Aldgate (55 seconds)

The first two rows assume the post office clock was two minutes behind Watkins watch (so Harvey was at the post office at 1:30/1:31) to give us the least furthest position he would have been at 1:33 - 1:37, while the bottom two rows assume the post office clock was two minutes ahead to give us the furthest position.

So at 1:33, Harvey would have been at least 138m from the post office (location 1) and so 119m from the post office (location 2) just walking along Houndsditch between Aldgate and Little Duke Street, heading towards the latter. At 1:35 he would have been at least about 248m from post office location 1 (so about 229m from post office location 2) placing him just in Houndsditch heading towards Goring Street having just come back from Little Duke Street. His furthest position at this time would be about 377m from location 2 putting him in Bevis Marks. His furthest position at 1:37 is about 466m from location 2 putting him in Little Duke Street heading towards Houndsditch, before returning to Duke Street.

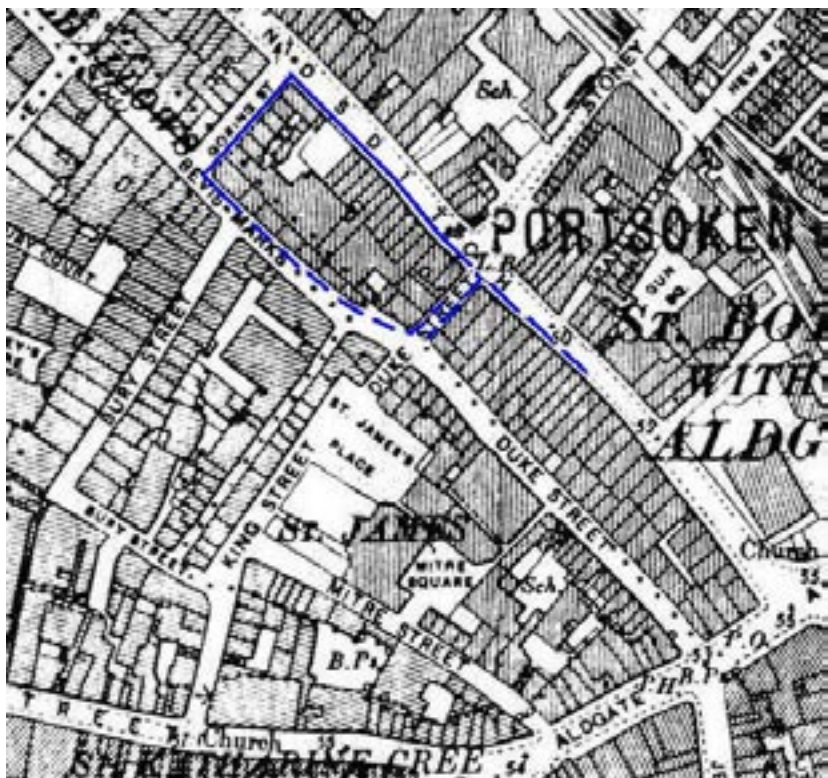


This gives us an idea of roughly where the officers were at the time when Lawende and his friends made their observation assuming this was no more than 2 to 4 minutes later than their stated estimate. I have noticed a couple of comments on the forums asking why Harvey did not see Eddowes and the man at Church Passage. He would probably not have seen them at the time Lawende saw them as he would, at the very nearest, have been at the junction of Duke Street and Little Duke Street about 69m away from the passage. He may have been at this point at the time as he briefly went along it while patrolling Houndsditch, but would only have got as far as Little Duke Street from Bevis Marks assuming it was as late as 1:37 when Lawende made the sighting. So it is unlikely he was even as near as this to Church Passage when Lawende made his sighting as it either happened in the brief window that Harvey reached that point as he went along Little Duke Street from Houndsditch, or at the less likely later time of 1:37. Also Levy said that the area by Church Passage was badly-lit even though there was a lamp there, so Harvey would be unlikely to be able to see a lot from about 69m anyway.

Interestingly, Watkins may still have been in Mitre Square assuming the time of the sighting was nearer 1:33WWT (and Levy estimated that it was three or four minutes after seeing the club clock at 1:30).

Of course, there is nothing to say that the clock at the Imperial Club was consistent with Watkins' watch. However, note that Lawende's watch indicated to him that it was 1:30, as he looked at both the club clock and his own watch. Also, Levy said he got home at 1:40. Assuming they left the club between 1:33 and 1:35, this means it would have taken five to seven minutes for Levy to get home, if Levy's clock at home was in sync with the club clock and Lawende's watch. Levy lived at 1 Hutchinson Street which is about 413m from the club walking via Aldgate and Middlesex Street. At an average walking pace (1.5m/s, or 0.67 secs/m) this would take about 275 seconds (4:35 minutes), though if walking at a brisk pace (1.67m/s, or 0.6 secs/m), and as Levy appears to have been a nervous character he may well have wanted to get home as quickly as possible, it would take 247 seconds (4:07 minutes). Levy does not say exactly when he checked his clock when he got home but it would have been within a minute or so of getting home. So this is not far out from what we would expect had he left the club sometime between 1:33 and 1:35, even allowing for the fact that his clock may have been out by a couple of minutes compared the club clock. We see some consistency in timings here from three different timepieces, so the chance of them all being out by a considerable amount (say five or 10 minutes) is less likely.

Now let's take a final look at the position of one of the officers at another important time. Because of the possibility of Watkins still being in Mitre Square at the time Lawende made his sighting, let's see where Harvey would likely have been at the time that Watkins patrolled the square on his round prior to discovering Eddowes' body. Again we will look at the overall range for rates of progress and timing of certain events.



Map E: Solid lines show position range at 1:35



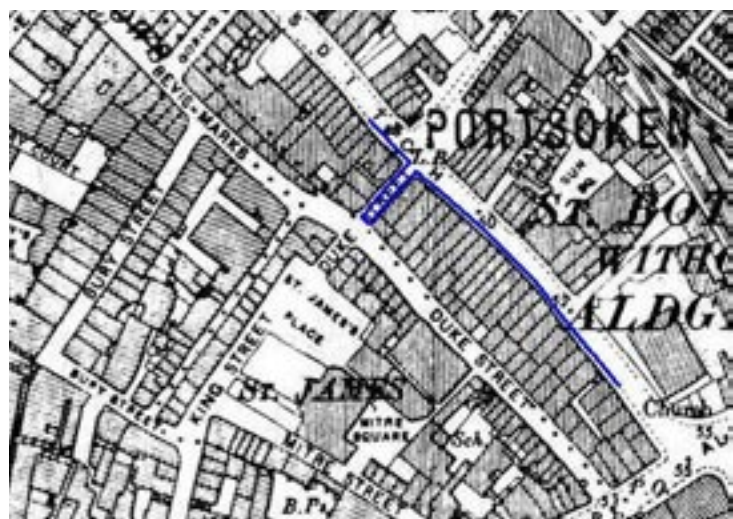
Map F: Levy's route from the Imperial Club

As we have already seen Watkins would have been in Mitre Square for about 82 to 105 seconds between 1:30 and 1:33:30. So where would Harvey have been between these times? In our first analysis he was at the post office clock at about 1:28:30.

**Table 9 - Harvey's location as Watkins patrolled Mitre Square at about 1:30 - 1:33:30 assuming post office clock = WWT**

PO Location	Average rate of progress (m/s)	Time after PO (secs)	Distance walked after PO (m)	Distance after PO2 (m)
2	0.786	90	70.75	70.75
1	<b>0.806</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>72.52</b>	<b>53.52</b>
2	<b>0.830</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>248.95</b>	<b>248.95</b>
1	0.849	300	254.74	235.74

So for our literal interpretation of all the timing details, in the time from when Watkins entered the square at the earliest (1:30) to the time when Watkins would have left the square at the latest (1:33:30), Harvey would have been about 53.5m to 249m from location 2 of the post office. This would put him at least in Houndsditch between Aldgate and Little Duke Street and possibly as far as Houndsditch between Little Duke Street and Goring Street. This means that the only place Harvey could possibly have had sight of Church Passage in this period is when he was at the end of Little Duke Street looking into Duke Street having walked from Houndsditch.



*Map G: Harvey's position at 1:30 - 1:33:30 (narrow analysis)*

**Table 9b - Time taken for Harvey to get to end of Little Duke Street from Houndsditch looking into Duke Street**

PO Location	Distance from PO to end of Little Duke St. (m)	Rate of progress (secs/m)	Time taken (secs)
2	197.76	1.272	252
1	216.76	1.241	269
2	197.76	1.205	238
1	216.76	1.179	255

He would have been there about 238 - 269 seconds (3:58 to 4:29 minutes) after passing the post office (whichever location it was at) so this would have been between about 1:32:28 and 1:32:59. Church Passage would have been about 69m away. If Eddowes and the killer were standing under the lamp then it would be possible for Harvey to have seen them but, as stated earlier, the distance and lighting would have made it difficult for Harvey to have seen them and only if they were there at the narrow window that Harvey would have been at the end of Little Duke Street. Though if he had seen enough to suggest there was a man and a woman then, in line with City Police policy at the time, he should have gone to question the couple. Looking at the slight possibilities it is very unlikely that Harvey would have been in a position to see this couple.

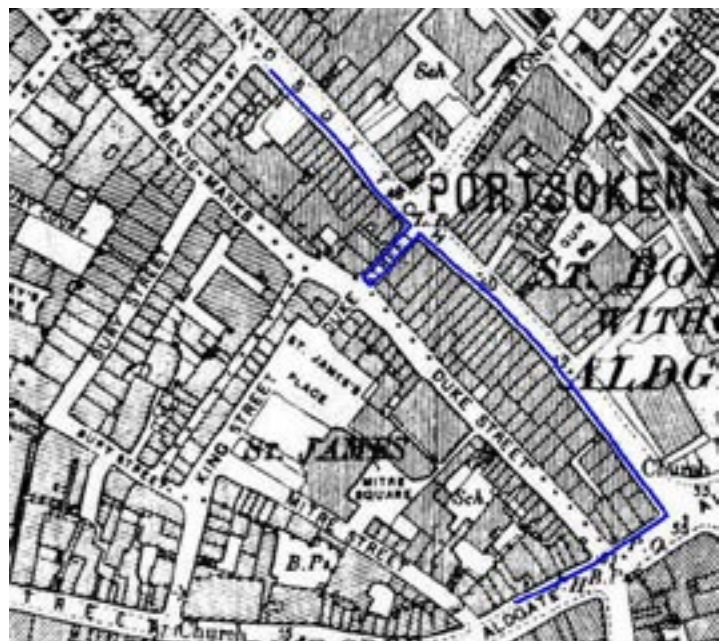
In our second analysis he was probably at the post office clock at sometime between 1:26:30 and 1:30:30 (according to Watkins' watch).



**Table 10 - Harvey's location as Watkins patrolled Mitre Square at about 1:30 assuming post office clock = WWT +/- 2**

PO Location	Average rate of progress (m/s)	Time after PO (secs)	Distance walked after PO (m)	Distance after PO2 (m)
2	0.945	-30	-28.35	-28.35
1	0.967	-30	-29.01	-48.01
2	0.740	420	310.68	310.68
1	0.757	420	317.90	298.90

So for our +/- 2 minutes analysis, in the time when Watkins entered the square at the earliest (1:30) to the time when Watkins would have left the square at the latest (1:33:30), Harvey would have been between 48m before location 2 to 311m past location 2. This would put him at least in Aldgate between Mitre Street and Duke Street heading towards Duke Street, and possibly almost as far as Goring Street in Houndsditch. The only other opportunity (other than at the end of Little Duke Street) this gives for Harvey to have seen Church Passage is as he passed the junction of Duke Street along Aldgate, only about another 38m on from this position. So he would have been there (in the period that Watkins was patrolling Mitre Square) at about 1:30 - 1:30:30. This is about 72m from Church Passage, so again it's possible that he might have been able to see the couple standing by Church Passage if they had been there as early as 1:30/1:31, but, again, it would only be from a distance in poor lighting conditions and if Harvey had bothered to look up Duke Street as he passed.



Map H: Harvey's position at 1:30 - 1:33:30 (wide analysis)

**Table 10b - Time taken for Harvey to get to end of Little Duke Street looking into Duke Street**

PO Location	Time at PO Location	Distance from PO to end of Little Duke St. (m)	Rate of progress (secs/m)	Time taken (secs)
2	1:30:30	197.76	1.058	209
1	1:30:30	216.76	1.034	224
2	1:26:30	197.76	1.351	267
1	1:26:30	216.76	1.321	286

He would have been there at least 267 seconds (4:27 minutes) after 1:26:30 and at the latest 224 seconds (3:44 minutes) after 1:30:30. So assuming +/- 2 minutes accuracy between the post office clock and Watkins' watch Harvey would have been at the end of Little Duke Street looking into Duke Street between about 1:30:57 and 1:34:14.

So where are we? Let's look at where the different people may have been at certain times.

Watkins started patrolling Mitre Square at sometime between 1:30 and 1:32 and likely left the square sometime between 1:31:36 and 1:33:30. Harvey got to the end of Church Passage, using our narrow analysis where we assume the post office clock and Watkins' watch were synchronised, between 1:40:49 and 1:41:35. Extending the analysis assuming +/-2 minutes between the post office clock and Watkins' watch this time is extended to a period between 1:40:19 and 1:41:58. Watkins' returned to the square at 1:44, just 2:25 to 3:11 minutes after Harvey looked into the square (narrow analysis), or 2:02 to 3:41 minutes (wider analysis). There is at least 7:19 minutes and at most 9:59 minutes (ok, call it 10 minutes!) –narrow analysis–between Watkins leaving the square at just after 1:30 and Harvey reaching the end

of Church Passage. Using the wider analyses this is at least 6:49 and at most 10:22 minutes. The killer had more time to commit the act prior to Harvey reaching the end of Church Passage. As explained earlier, it is very unlikely that the killer stopped during the act and waited as Harvey approached and stood just 19 to 23m away.

While he took risks, it is unlikely that he boldly remained near the body with a police officer approaching to a position so close, all the time reducing his chances of escape should the officer come into the square. Even if the killer knew the officer's beat and knew it did not extend into the square, he could not rely on the officer not noticing something, even in the gloom, that would lead him to investigate further. While he waited, his escape routes were potentially being cut off by the progress of the other officer (Watkins) should he need to make a hasty exit, and with Harvey so close as to be able to pursue him. It is not a risk I believe the killer would take. He may have moved round the corner into Mitre Street and waited there to see if Harvey would not notice the body, but even there the longer he waited, the closer Harvey would get and if the body were discovered, at that moment he would only be about 15m away and having to make a run for it, therefore attracting attention to himself, particularly if he was aware of another policeman in the area who might appear at any moment and who would certainly give chase if he had to make a run for it.

To quote Jon Smyth from *JTRForums.com*, "once the body is discovered, isn't it quite reasonable for the killer to expect all hell is going to break loose, people shouting, running around knocking on doors, lamps flashing, whistles blowing... what conceivable reason would the killer have for hanging around and risking that?" <sup>29</sup>

While it is the case that the police activity in the aftermath of the murder did not wake PC Pearce, asleep at no.3 Mitre Square, the killer would not necessarily have anticipated minimal noise being made and, nonetheless, there was a lot of activity very quickly once the murder was discovered, and some policemen arrived swiftly when the 'private individuals' were sent for further assistance, as they had already heard Morris's whistle.

Even though the killer certainly took risks, a potential risk of being in a place where he could be trapped is one thing; the actual risk of a policeman approaching and being just 19 to 23m away is something else. So the killer, with not enough time following Harvey's appearance, most likely struck and finished by the time Harvey reached the edge of Mitre Square.

The period prior to Harvey reaching Church Passage is possibly shortened as Lawende, Levy and Harris passed a woman (identified by Lawende as Eddowes, albeit by her clothes) and a man at Church Passage at a time estimated to be between 1:33 and 1:35.

Because we cannot be sure how in line the Imperial Club clock and Watkins' watch were and the timepieces only have to be out with each other by a minute or two, it is quite possible that as Lawende, Levy and Harris left the club and saw the couple at Church Passage, Watkins was still patrolling Mitre Square. Indeed the timepieces could have been in sync for this to be the case if Levy was more accurate than Lawende at judging the time as 1:33 when they left the club, with Watkins still being in the square as late as 1:33:30. Could it be that was the reason the couple were standing at the entrance to Church Passage? Could they have been waiting for Watkins to complete his circuit of Mitre Square before going in?

How familiar would Eddowes or the killer have been with the beat of Watkins? Was the square, and this corner in particular, regularly used by prostitutes? Probably not most nights of the week between 1 and 2am when Morris would sit on the doorstep of Kearley and Tonge and have a smoke. The corner was very dark on the night of the murder and for the previous night at least, as indicated by the report quoted earlier about the woman and her daughter who lived in or near the square who found the light from the lamp barely sufficient to see their way home. But this implies the lamp was sufficient before that time if she was reporting it only being deficient on the Friday night, unless she didn't usually go home at such a late hour. From the report quoted earlier from the *Star* regarding its reputation it would seem that the square was regularly used for illicit purposes and the women and their clients would probably have waited to check the patrols of the beat policemen first.

From Church Passage, Eddowes and the killer could have waited for the policeman to appear anticipating him shining his bull-lamp along the passage, hearing his footsteps as he approached the other end of the passage, or seeing him from the light of the lamp at the other end of the passage, so they then knew he was in the square. They could then have given him a minute or so to complete his patrol, knowing that he wouldn't then return for another ten minutes. This may have been the usual practice for Eddowes to stand and wait near the square with her client until the policeman appeared, to know that they would have ten minutes of being uninterrupted once the policeman had passed. Since the constable was around every ten minutes or so, she wouldn't have to wait long in the event that she had just missed him (but obviously wouldn't know when he was due). By 'usual practice' I should qualify that by pointing out Eddowes was probably just a casual prostitute, resorting to such means only when necessary, and who had been away for the past few weeks 'hopping' in Kent. Nonetheless, when she did resort to such practice, this could well have been her usual 'patch' and the means by which she checked that the square would not be patrolled for a while.

<sup>29</sup> This comment was made in the context of the Polly Nichols murder, but is applicable to all the murders.



If Eddowes had already studied his movements in the time since she'd been let out from the station, or if the killer had done the same (though if he was the killer of Stride he would have had limited time to do this), they may even have anticipated him being there at about 1:30. If Eddowes had gone to Aldgate Church in order to pick up her client (a usual pick up point for prostitutes), then she may not have had time to see where the policemen were. If that was where they met, she and, possibly, the killer may have seen PC Harvey as they walked from St. Botolph's so they would know it would be a while before he got as far as Church Passage.

Of course, it may be that they had not anticipated Watkins' patrolling the square at that time and had gone immediately there, but then became aware of Watkins about to enter from Mitre Street and so retreated to the Duke Street end of Church Passage until he left. Watkins would not necessarily have noticed them as he looked along Church Passage, as they may have ensured they were not visible from along the passage as they detected him nearing the other end.

At the time that Watkins patrolled the square, in our more narrow analysis of Harvey's movements, he would have been somewhere along Houndsditch between Aldgate and Goring Street, possibly in Little Duke Street. In our broader analysis he may have been in Aldgate heading towards Mitre Street from Duke Street, or possibly had almost got as far as Goring Street. So Harvey was unlikely to be in a position to have seen the couple if they were there at that time.

If it was the case that Eddowes and the killer were waiting for Watkins to leave the square, then they would have gone into the square sometime after 1:31:36 to 1:33:30. They may have started walking towards the square as Watkins was still there just completing his patrol on the south western side but they may have ensured Watkins would have left the square first. To walk the 55m (approximately) from the entrance of Church Passage to the corner in Mitre Square at an average pace (0.67 secs/m) would have taken about 36 seconds. So they would have reached the corner at the earliest at 1:32 to 1:34. If the killer struck immediately then using Dr. Sequeira's timing he would have been finished as early as 1:35 to 1:37. However using Dr. Brown's more cautious 5 minutes at least, we have a time of at least 1:37 to at least 1:39. The earliest time we had for Harvey reaching the end of Church Passage was 1:40:19, with our narrow analysis giving an earliest time of 1:40:49. If Watkins reached the square as late as 1:32 then the earliest time the killer would have finished (according to Dr. Brown) would be just past 1:39. The time is close to when Harvey would have reached Church Passage and it is possible that Harvey may have interrupted the killer. Harvey would have reached the Duke Street end of Church Passage about 31 to 32 seconds before reaching the Mitre Square end, and this would be the time, if not much longer afterwards, that the killer became aware of his approach. Knocking this off the time gives a time in the narrow analysis of about 1:40:18 (as the shortest timing was involved in the derivation of the earliest time of Harvey's appearance at the end of Church Passage - see earlier tables for explanation), though this could have been as late as 1:41:03. Of course with not much to check in the passage Harvey may have progressed closer to the regulation pace of 1.12m/s, in which case it would have taken him just 23 seconds.

**Table 11 - Time at Church Passage / Duke Street assuming post office clock = WWT**

Time at end of Church Passage	Rate of progress m/s	Rate of progress secs/m	Time to walk 25.9m secs	Time at Start of Church Passage
1:40:49	0.830	1.205	31	1:40:18
1:41:35	0.806	1.241	32	1:41:03

In the wider analysis the figures are as follows:

**Table 11b - Time at Church Passage / Duke Street assuming post office clock = WWT +/- 2**

Time at end of Church Passage	Rate of progress m/s	Rate of progress secs/m	Time to walk 25.9m secs	Time at Start of Church Passage
1:40:19	0.740	1.352	35	1:39:44
1:41:58	0.919	1.088	28	1:41:30

So with these figures he could have been there as early as 1:39:44, which is even closer to the time the murderer may have finished at the earliest, though this is at the end of the range which may just have given the killer enough time to kill Eddowes after Harvey looked into the square (3mins 41 from 1:40:19 to 1:44)), if we assume Sequeira was more accurate (and correctly reported in the *Star*) than Brown in estimating how long the killer took.

Of course the killer may have already finished and chose to leave unprompted by anyone's approach.

## Summary

Having taken a detailed look at the likely positions of the policemen at important times, and having looked at the most likely time for certain events, this may lead us to more likely possibilities of what happened that night. One possible explanation of all the various witness reports is that Eddowes and the killer headed for Mitre Square and waited by Church Passage at about 1:30 anticipating the regular patrol of the square every ten minutes or so by PC Watkins. Watkins entered the square sometime between 1:30 and 1:32, and the couple waited for him to leave the square. Not long after Watkins entered the square, Lawende, Levy and Harris left the Imperial Club in Duke Street and, on their way towards Aldgate, passed the couple at Church Passage. Watkins left the square at about 1:33:30 at the latest and the couple made their way to the south-eastern corner, which was in virtual darkness with the lamp in the square not functioning very well. Once the couple reached the corner the killer struck. He completed his task in about five minutes or so with the time about 1:37 to 1:39 at least.

Two things possibly happened at this point.

One is that the killer, having completed his task and uninterrupted by anyone approaching, decided to leave the square. Anticipating that Watkins would return to the square soon, he chose to clean up elsewhere and took a large piece of Eddowes' apron in order to wipe his hands which had blood and faeces on them.

The other is that the killer was still by the body of Eddowes when he heard or saw PC Harvey approaching along Church Passage. Fearing discovery, he cut a piece of Eddowes' apron in order to clean his hands elsewhere and fled via one of the other exits away from Harvey as the policeman approached along Church Passage.

Hopefully, by looking closely at the timings of the beats of Harvey and Watkins, some extra light in addition to the failing lamp in Mitre Square has been shone on the possible sequence of events surrounding the dark southeast corner of the square. We can see that the timings given in his evidence by PC Harvey have been confirmed by the timings calculated here. So many things could have happened, but it has been attempted to look at what likely did happen. Of course, one, some or all of these possibilities could be wrong. But by looking at the timing of events there are some conclusions that seem more likely than others. We cannot be sure of some aspects regarding the murder, such as that the couple seen by Lawende, Levy and Harris were Eddowes and the killer, but other aspects do give us some more likely scenarios. That there was just 2 to 3½ minutes between Harvey being at the end of Church Passage and Watkins' entering the square and discovering the body seems likely from the timings given. It is also very likely that this would not give the killer enough time to inflict all the wounds found on Catharine Eddowes. It is doubtful that he would remain by the body while PC Harvey approached along Church Passage, so there's a good chance that Eddowes was already dead and the killer had gone by the time Harvey reached the end of Church Passage and looked briefly into Mitre Square, having left some time before, or just a few seconds earlier as Harvey was approaching.

While it is by no means certain that this was the sequence of events, that the square was frequently patrolled by Watkins would likely have been known by Eddowes and possibly by the killer, so they would probably want to get to the square as soon as they knew it was clear. She (or they) would probably not want to waste time waiting at the end of Church Passage if the square was clear, knowing that all the time they waited Watkins would be getting nearer to returning. Watkins, whose beat actually took him into the square, would be the officer whose beat Eddowes would more likely have been familiar with. She may have been aware of Harvey's beat as well, and may have been aware that, if he approached while she was in the square with a client, staying quiet in the dark corner would not attract his attention. Though a prostitute would have little to fear even if caught, a killer, with a lot more at stake, stood or crouched over a body would not be so confident that the constable would not see him.

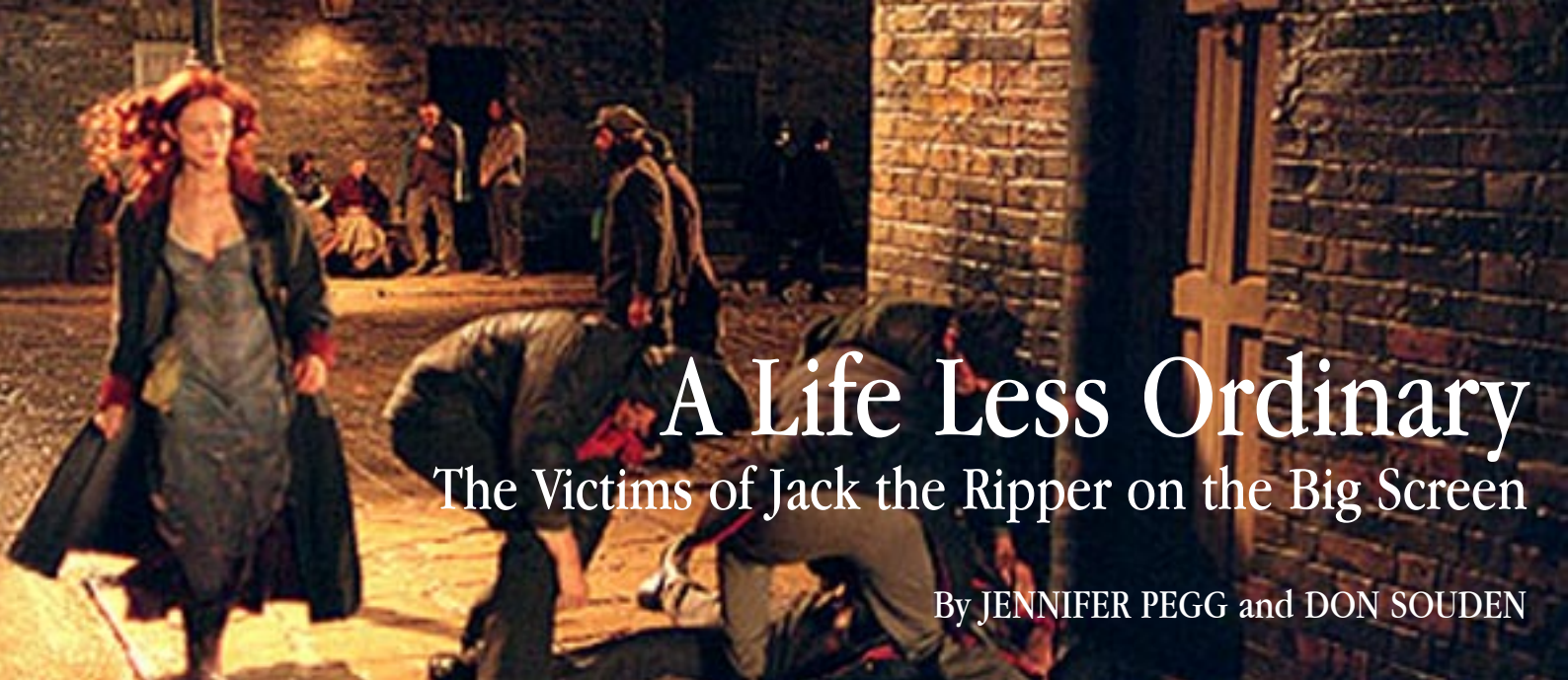
Next time we will look at the possible implications of these timings for the killer's escape from the square.

## Acknowledgements

A multitude of thanks to Neil Bell for his contributions, help, comments and time so readily given.

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# A Life Less Ordinary

## The Victims of Jack the Ripper on the Big Screen

By JENNIFER PEGG and DON SOUDEN

### “The Introduction”

Jack the Ripper has been a popular theme at the movies and the website, *Hollywood Ripper*, states that there have been a total of 38 Ripper productions and 18 ‘faux Ripper’ movies. The site compares this to just seven about Ed Gein (apparently the second most popular serial killer in Hollywood). We have looked at six films produced over the past six decades and compared these depictions of the victims of Jack the Ripper with each other and with reality. The films focused on are *Jack the Ripper* (1959), *A Study In Terror* (1965), *Murder By Decree* (1979), *Jack the Ripper* (1988), *The Ripper* (1997) and *From Hell* (2001). Each of these films represents a different decade from the past sixty years and so help to show the evolution of the victims’ portrayals. While we are examining the portrayals in these movies not only against each other but also against known facts, we accept that some degree of artistic license is used when making films, even though the events therein are based on facts.

### “Life On The Edge”

It is one of the enduring ironies for those who explore the Jack the Ripper mystery that while Jack is clearly the focus of most studies and his victims only necessary but neglected bit players, we know much more about his victims than we do Jack. Part of the reason for this is that Jack was never caught and despite the arguments of many for whom ‘the truth has been revealed’, we still have no good idea who he was or what his life was like.

Indeed, among many of the favoured suspects there is a positive paucity of information. For example, Aaron Kosminski remains an almost total cipher; a troubled teenage immigrant who ghosted through Whitechapel for a few years and then spent his remaining years in a mental hospital. The record is hardly better for Joseph Barnett and although there are a certain number of public records (even cricket scores) pertaining to Montague John Drutt, his personal life and the devils that drove him to suicide remain hidden to all but surmise.

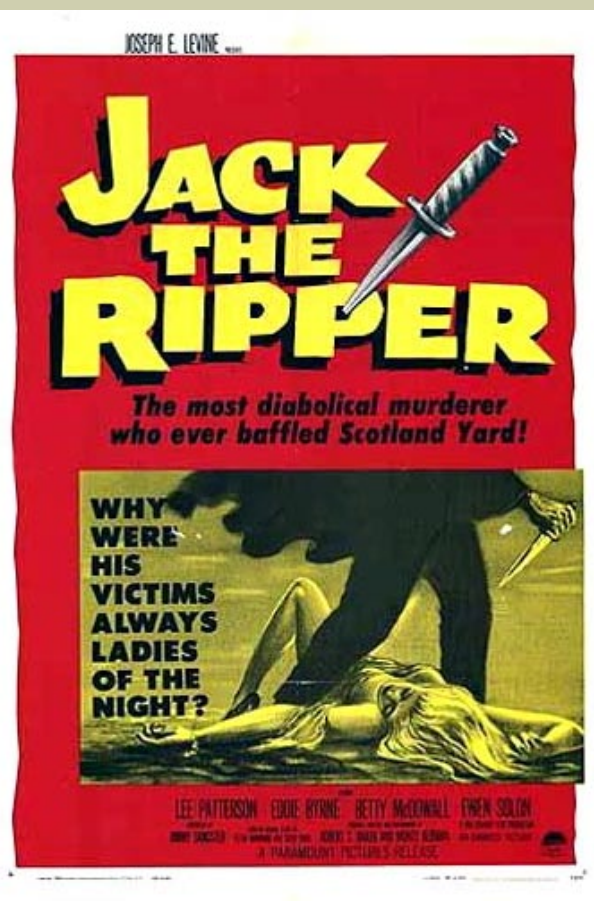
Among the more famous suspects (who often seem to be suspects only because they were famous) like James Maybrick, Walter Sickert and even Prince Albert Victor, we have a great deal of information as to what made them tick, but none of that knowledge suggests the sort of mental tic that drove Jack to murder. In contrast, diligent research over the years has revealed much about the lives of his victims—and none of it is very pretty.

Coroner Wayne Baxter, in his summation to the inquest into the death of Polly Nichols, may have been the first to see a common and disheartening thread within the fabric of the victims’ lives. Referring to Emma Smith, Martha Tabram, Nichols and Annie Chapman (who had been murdered before the Nichols inquest closed) Baxter said:

*All four victims were women of middle age, all were married and had lived apart from their husbands in consequence of intemperate habits, and were at the times of their death leading irregular lives and eking out a miserable and precarious existence in common lodging houses.*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion*, Stewart Evans and Keith Skinner, Carroll & Graf Publishers (New York 2000), p. 47.





Smith is not considered a Ripper victim by many and the jury remains out on including Tabram, but there is no debate that they led lives of much the same quiet desperation as Nichols and Chapman.

Sadly, that pattern was repeated with the other three unfortunate women who are, at least popularly, suspected of being Ripper victims: Elizabeth Stride, Catharine Eddowes and Mary Jane Kelly. Certainly, Stride and Eddowes quite neatly fit Baxter's template in terms of age, past marital history and a marginal existence before death gave them a prominence they never enjoyed in life. Kelly is a bit different, mainly because she was much younger than the others and her history remains murky at best. Still, by the time her brief life was ended she was likely an alcoholic, was prostituting herself and had already sunk to living in lodging houses or the hovel masquerading as an apartment at Number 13 Miller's Court.

Yet, if nothing else, we should examine the sad lives of these women to gain greater insights into them not just as victims but as real people. Nothing new will be introduced here, but we think a closer look at the lives the Canonic Five led before they met Jack and forever entered history books is well warranted. Their lives may not have been the stuff of dreams, but they were certainly the raw clay from which a compelling drama of life on the edge in the Late Victorian Period can certainly be wrought.

### "Along Came Polly"

Mary "Polly" Nichols was born in August, 1845, to Edward and Caroline Walker. Her dad was a locksmith, a respectable trade, and one assumes she had a likewise respectable upbringing. Polly left the nest early in 1864 when, at 18, she married William Nichols at St. Bride's in Fleet Street. Her

husband was a printer's machinist, again a trade that with diligence and aptitude might provide steady employment.

Over the course of the next decade and a half the couple moved several times and produced five children: Edward, Percy, Alice, Eliza and finally, in 1878, Henry. Just five children in nearly 15 years was hardly an excessive burden on a family in the period and one might have expected Polly and William Nichols to have enjoyed a fairly stable and secure home life. Such, however, was most assuredly not the case. Instead, it would seem dark clouds had been gathering for years and in 1880 Polly and William separated.

At the inquest, her father blamed William for the separation, saying that *'[t]he reason [Polly] parted from her husband was that he went and lived with the woman who nursed his wife during her confinement'*.<sup>2</sup> William Nichols was at pains to deny this and was quoted in the *Daily Telegraph* for September 10, 1888, as saying *'I did not leave my wife during her confinement and go away with a nurse-girl. [She] deserted me four or five times, if not six'*.

There is no way of telling at this far remove in time which of the men, if either, was telling the truth. Still, there seems no question that Polly had also developed a growing drink problem. At the inquest, William Nichols stated that their repeated separations were due to Polly's drinking, until he finally left her. And her father also testified that Polly *'was not a particularly sober woman'* and that after *'words'* on the subject she left her father as well.<sup>3</sup>

Almost all the rest of Polly's life was spent in workhouses or cheap lodging houses. She received 5s. a week from her husband after they separated, but as soon he found out she was living with another man he stopping paying the allowance. After that, except for the time spent with her father, her meagre life was measured in the amount of time she spent in and out of various workhouses—even the one opportunity to break that cycle ended in personal failure.

At the inquest, her father produced a letter received from Polly earlier that year after she had taken a job as a domestic servant for the Cowdry family in Wandsworth. It was full of hope and good intentions and she even recognized her greatest problem when she wrote about her employers *'They are teetotallers and religious, so I ought to get on'*.<sup>4</sup> Something soon went wrong, though, and Polly left the Cowdrys, absconding with, it was said, clothes worth £3.10s.

<sup>2</sup> *The Ultimate Jack the Ripper Companion*, Stewart Evans and Keith Skinner, Carroll & Graf Publishers (New York 2000), p. 33

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 33 & 38

<sup>4</sup> *Daily News*, September 3, 1888.

For a time after that Polly shared a room with Ellen Holland on Thrawl Street, but evidently spent the last of her days at another cheap lodging house. The latter part of life for Polly had been an ever downward spiral, driven by her personal demons of drink. Yet, there was also an ever-ready reservoir of hopeful optimism to this gentle woman and her last recorded words were, to Ellen Holland, *'I'll soon get my doss money; see what a jolly bonnet I've got now.'* An interesting woman.

## "Annie"

Eliza Anne Smith was born in 1841 to George Smith and Ruth Chapman, her parents making their union a bit more official by marrying the following year. Her father was a soldier, though evidently one of little ambition as he seems to have remained a private in the Lifeguards throughout his career.

Annie, as Eliza became known, was likely something of a slow-coach in life herself and it was not until 1869, when she was 28 years old, that she married coachman John Chapman. A picture exists of the pair around the time of their marriage: John looks to be quite the trig and trim fellow, but Annie already appears a bit matronly. Just barely five-feet tall, she was many inches short of the ideal height for her weight. Still, she was said to have had lovely, dark brown wavy hair and clear blue eyes.

The couple moved several times after marriage as John took on new positions, but at least from afar they seemed to be secure. They had two daughters, Emily Ruth, born in 1870, and Annie Georgina, born three years later. There are also pictures of the two girls and they looked quite fetching if also rather sombre, which was the norm when posing in that period. In just a few years, however, whatever family happiness there was would begin to disintegrate. A son, John, was born in 1880, but instead of the hoped-for heir the boy was a hopeless cripple.

Adding further to the couple's despair was the death two years later of Emily from meningitis. Both John and Annie were later described as heavy drinkers and if they had not been so inclined before, one can well imagine they took to alcohol to still some of the pain of Emily's death and young John's condition. At the time of Annie's death, the boy was in a charitable school and Annie Georgina, just 15, was reportedly in France as part of a performing troupe.

In any case, the marriage fell apart rapidly after Emily's death and within a year or two Annie had left her husband and the two remaining children. According to a police report at the time of Annie's death, the separation was 'through to her drunken habits'.<sup>5</sup> Just what formed the basis of this bit of hearsay is not provided. Whatever the reason, though, the pair were living apart by 1884. Kinder than William Nichols or simply less interested, John Chapman sent her 10s. a week even though by early 1886 Annie was living with a sieve maker and had adopted the eponym of 'Annie Sivy'.

John Chapman died in December 1886, and Annie's life headed ever more downward. Clearly the loss of her weekly stipend made her circumstances more straitened and soon after 'Mr. Sivy' disappeared from her life. Philip Sugden has suggested that her main attraction for that man may have been the allowance.<sup>6</sup> Beyond the loss of the money, however, the deaths of John and Emily and young John's disabilities are said to have weighed heavily upon Annie in her last years.

For those last few years Annie lived mostly in Whitechapel lodging houses. In the quaint argot of the time, her friend Amelia Palmer testified at the inquest that Annie 'was not very particular what she did to earn a living and at times used to remain out very late at night'.<sup>7</sup> That is to say that Annie was at least an occasional prostitute, but to her credit she was also more. She did crochet work, making antimacassars, that she would sell weekends in Stratford, and would also sell flowers to bring in a few more pence.



<sup>5</sup> Evans and Skinner, p. 64

<sup>6</sup> *The Complete History of Jack the Ripper*, Philip Sugden, Carroll & Graf (New York 2002), p. 78.

<sup>7</sup> Evans and Skinner, p. 72.



In addition to the crochet work, Annie also did some embroidering of her history. According to Amelia Palmer, Annie spun a tale that rather than John Chapman, coachman, she had been married to Frederick Chapman, veterinary surgeon. This method of coping is hardly unusual among those in reduced circumstances and we shall see it in other of Jack's victim's as well.

Adding to her woes, Annie Chapman was also a very sick woman by the fall of 1888. At her inquest, Dr. George Bagster Phillips stated that Annie *'was far advanced in disease of the lungs and membranes of the brain... there were signs of great deprivation, and [I] should say she was badly fed'*.<sup>8</sup> She was probably in the advanced stages of tuberculosis and even had she not met Jack we can wonder if she would have made it through another winter.

## “Elizabeth”

8 Evans and Skinner, p. 88.

A linguist or not, Liz obviously knew enough English to charm ship's carpenter John Stride and the pair were married on March 7, 1869. Within a year, John Stride was evidently running a coffee house in Poplar and he seems to have stayed with this occupation until 1875. There is virtually no information about the marriage, though Kidney testified that Liz told him 'she was the mother of nine children'.<sup>13</sup> However, not only is there no evidence of this baseball-team-sized brood, but she went on to tell Kidney that two of her children, and her husband, had drowned in the *Princess Alice* disaster.

As with Annie Chapman, Liz Stride had created a fable about her past. In September, 1878, the steamer *Princess Alice* collided in the Thames with the *Bywell Castle*, a collier, and upwards of 700 people on the steamer died. Ever after, Liz told the story that not only had her husband and two children drowned in the accident, but that in gaining safety herself her upper palate had been severely damaged.

The story was almost assuredly untrue. Not only did the autopsy disclose no evidence of injury to her mouth, but no evidence has been produced to support her tale. Her story about the disaster may have given Liz a certain sense of importance, but it also gave her financial opportunities. Shortly after the disaster, she told the pastor of the Swedish Church in London that her husband had been killed in the crash and did receive financial succour. Finally, the story of her husband's death conveniently hid the fact that her marriage had foundered and that she and John had separated.

In fact, John Stride was quite alive in 1878 and didn't die until 1884, apparently many years after he and Liz had gone their separate ways. Once the marriage dissolved, Liz seems to have spent most of her time in and out of lodging houses and workhouse infirmaries during this period. Then, in 1885, she took up with Michael Kidney, a dock labourer, and the two 'enjoyed' a stormy relationship over the next three years.

The couple spent most of that time living at 35 Devonshire Street, which would have been close to Kidney's workplace. But, according to Kidney, their relationship was not always cordial, as he explained at the inquest:

*She was subject to going away whenever she thought she would. During the three years I have known her she has been away from me altogether about five months... It was drink that made her go away, and she always returned without my going after her. I do not believe she left me on Tuesday to go with any other man.*<sup>14</sup>

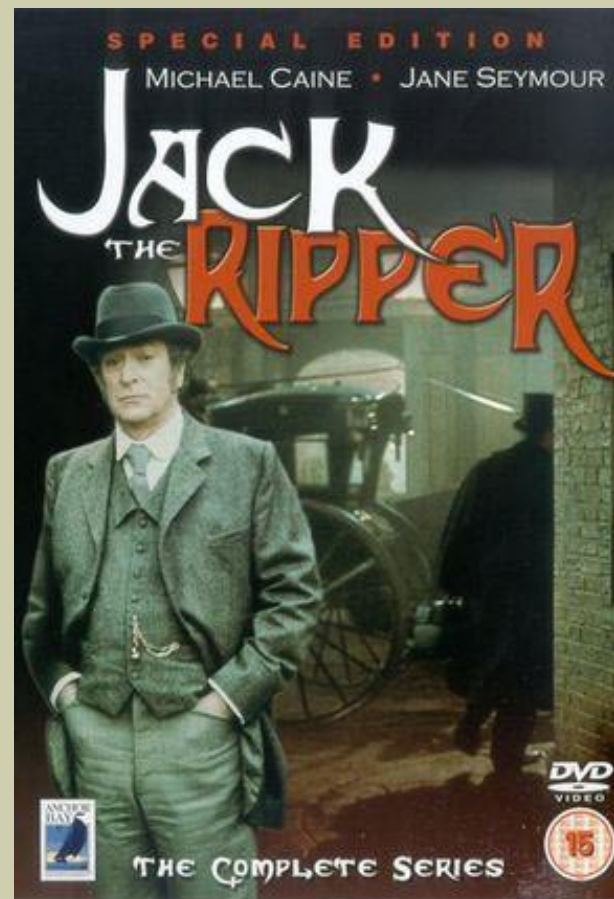
Since Liz had told a fellow lodger at 32 Flower and Dean Street that she and "the man she lived with" had exchanged a few words and she left him as a consequence, it is clear Kidney was trying to put as nice a gloss possible on her most recent departure.

Like those supposed victims of Jack before and after her, Liz had a problem with drink (from 1887 to 1888 she had eight convictions for drunkenness at Thames Magistrates Court). She was at least an occasional prostitute and was given to spinning fables about her life.

At the same time, she was also given to honest toil. She charred for Jewish families (picking up some Yiddish as she did) and the day of her death she had earned 6d cleaning at her lodging house. And, like the others, Liz somehow remained optimistic about life. The last thing she did before going out for the last time was to give another lodger, Catherine Lane, some green velvet to hold for her, doubtless intending to turn it into some item of clothing. She, too, was an interesting woman.

## "Finding Kate"

Catharine Eddowes was one of George and Catharine Eddowes' 12 children, and was roughly the middle child in that dozen. She was born on April 14, 1842, in Wolverhampton, but her father, a tinplate worker who lucklessly seemed never to take advantage of the many employment opportunities in the field at that time, moved the family to Bermondsey before Catharine's second birthday. (And Catharine she shall be here—it was her mother's spelling and the spelling on her birth certificate).



<sup>13</sup> Evans and Skinner, p. 155.

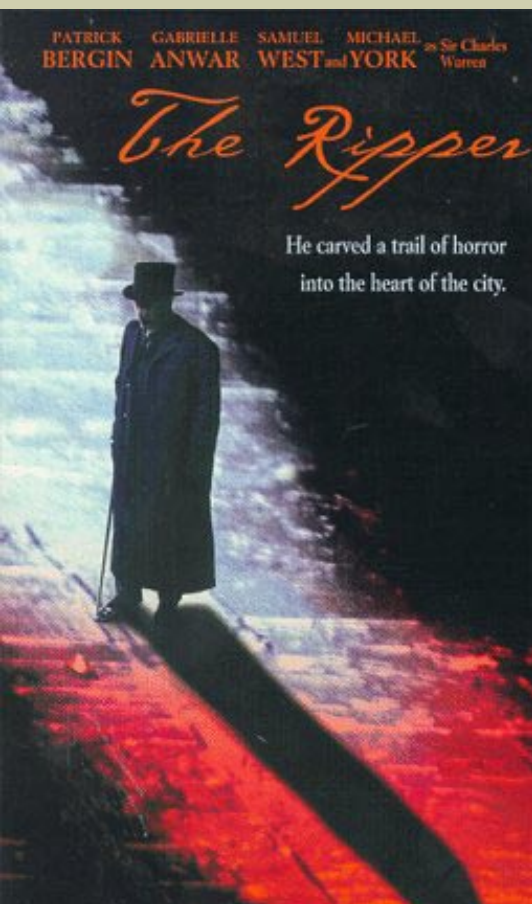
<sup>14</sup> Ibid., pp. 154-5.



A successful book once suggested families were *Cheaper By the Dozen*, but that was hardly true for the Eddowes brood who suffered some youthful deprivation. Things only got worse when first their mother died in 1855 and then dad succumbed two years later. Even so, young Catharine had an opportunity denied her younger siblings. At the urging of an older sister, Emma, an aunt and uncle back in Wolverhampton agreed to take her in, but within months Catharine had stolen from her employers and run off to Birmingham.<sup>15</sup>

Initially, she stayed in Birmingham with another uncle, but Kate (which she had surely become by then, shedding the family nickname of 'Chick') had a wild streak and soon left that arrangement to, presumably, live 'rough' for a few years. And somewhere in Birmingham Kate met Thomas Conway and sparks evidently flew between the two—so much so that Kate let him tattoo TC into her left arm with India ink.

Although they never married, the two stayed together for nearly 20 years, living on Conway's army pension and what they earned as hawkers. They also had three children, a daughter, Annie, (who married in 1885 at age 20) and two sons, born in 1868 and 1873. Inevitably, though, the pair separated around 1880 and for the same sad reasons as the other victims.



At the inquest, Kate's daughter, Annie Phillips, testified that her parents separated because her father 'was a teatollar [sic], my mother and he lived on bad terms because she used to drink... He left [my mother] between 7 & 8 years ago entirely on account of her Drinking Habits'.<sup>16</sup> Similarly, in an interview published in the *Daily News* of October 4, Kate's sister Emma Jones said 'there were occasional quarrels between them, owing to my sister's habit of excessive drinking... I fancy he must have left her in consequence of her drinking habits'. Finally, in an October 18 interview with *The Times*, Conway was quoted thusly 'He states that he left Eddowes in 1880 in consequence of her intemperate habits'.

Soon after separating with Conway, Kate met John Kelly, a labourer who jobbed about the markets, and the two lived together for the next seven years, residing for most of that time in a lodging house at 55 Flower and Dean Street. During that time Kate added to the pair's income by continuing hawking and doing some charring. Moreover, the two usually took time in the summer, as they did in 1888, to go to the country and pick hops or fruit.

In many ways, Kate's life attracts more interest than that of any other victim. By most accounts she was an extroverted, plucky, jolly soul who always had a song on her lips. In contrast, though, she was not so well thought of by much of her family. Certainly, her daughter Annie felt she was a money moocher and Annie not only purposely avoided telling her mother her new address after she had moved, but kept her brothers' whereabouts a secret as well so their mother would not pester them for money.

Then there is the question of whether Kate was even an occasional prostitute. Certainly Kelly and the lodging house deputy denied that she was, but they would in any case to protect themselves, whilst many modern students of the

field also deny it from what seems nothing more than an emotional attachment. There can be no definitive answer now, but we will defer to Stewart Evans and Donald Rumbelow who recently wrote: '*All things considered, it seems obvious that Eddowes was not much different from the other victims and was surely engaged in casual prostitution to raise money in order to survive*'.<sup>17</sup>

Whatever may or not be said about Catharine Eddowes, she was a vital, plucky woman and if her life had been less than it might have been or certainly far short of what her family had hoped, it was likely seldom dull. She was an interesting woman as well.

<sup>15</sup> *Daily News*, Oct 4, 1888.

<sup>16</sup> Evans and Skinner. pp. 208-9.

<sup>17</sup> *Jack the Ripper: Scotland Yard Investigates*, Stewart Evans and Donald Rumbelow, Sutton (London 2006), p. 260

## “Mary and Joe”

Mary Jane Kelly was born in... well we don't know where the woman known as Mary Jane Kelly was born. Nor do we know *when* she was born, who her parents were, or almost anything at all about the woman. Indeed, after 118 years of often frenzied research, we are no closer to learning her antecedents than were the Metropolitan Police at the time of her death. Indeed, almost all the information we do have comes from “pillow talk” between Kelly and her partner of 18 months, Joe Barnett—and judging from the paucity of what Barnett passed on they weren't much for pillow talk or Barnett was about as curious as a mummy.

What Barnett did disclose at the inquest was that Mary told him she was 25 years old, had been born in Limerick and moved when young to Wales. Her father was named John Kelly and was foreman at an iron works in Caernarvonshire. She had one sister and six brothers at home and another in the Scots Guards. She had married a collier named Davies or Davies at age 16 and that a couple years later he died in a mine explosion. She moved to Cardiff, a cousin led her into prostitution and that in 1884 she came to London. She started in a West Side bordello, was briefly in France, returned to London and lived with two men (a Morganstone and a Fleming) before settling in with Barnett.<sup>18</sup>

The only parts of her life history that have been even partially validated are those that relate to the time just before she met Barnett. Otherwise, what we have is revealed through a very dark glass and the combined efforts of many have as yet failed to pierce the fog of mystery surrounding Mary Jane Kelly. Indeed, the truth may well be that this woman was a foundling and there is no past to be found.

We have certainly seen that others in Kelly's situation, particularly Polly Nichols and Liz Stride, were not above inventing a more glamorous or more sympathetic personal history so it would not be a great leap of non-faith to think the same of Mary Jane. Michael Kidney lived three years with Liz and accepted all she told him about the *Princess Alice*. Moreover, Kidney testified that the 45-year-old Stride was 35 or 36 because she told him so, leaving open the possibility that Kelly, too, was older than she claimed. There were some in Miller's Court who thought she looked 30 and this possibility just further deepens the mystery of Mary Jane Kelly.

It is probably the mystery surrounding her that has, in part, made Mary Jane Kelly such an iconic figure among the victims. In addition, whatever her real age she was a good deal younger than the other victims and, according to the standards of the age and place, was accounted an attractive woman. She too, was an interesting woman, but in her case the interest her life provides is largely a lump of clay that can be sculpted into almost anything the imagination can conjure.

## “Far From Heaven”

Turning to the films themselves, it can be seen that the way that the victims are portrayed in terms of their appearance, the role prostitution played in their lives, their class and their consumption of alcohol varies dramatically. While some films seem to get some of these things better than others, this variation in accuracy does not improve over time, it merely alters.

We have a very good idea of what the victims would have looked like on the nights that they were murdered. There are recorded descriptions of their clothes so it is possible to get a feel for how provocatively they would have been dressed and how shabby or dirty they would have been. The clothes the victims were wearing would not be very sexy as they consisted of high-buttoned tops and layers of undergarments—therefore it is also possible to state that their cleavage would not have been on show.

We can take Nichols as an example: She was wearing two petticoats, a corset and vest under her new brown linsey frock (made of a cheap, coarse material this buttoned up to the neck) and over this she had a tight, long-fitting coat known as an Ulster. She also had on black wool stockings, flannel draws, a black straw bonnet and men's elastic boots. These would have most likely been dirty and shabby. It is a similar story with the other victims. Mary's clothing is known too, but it is a little unclear as to how low cut her top was, but it, too, probably did not show much cleavage.<sup>19</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Evans and Skinner., pp. 368-9

<sup>19</sup> Personal correspondence with Jane Coram.



The way the victims appear in the films varies greatly and this can be easily compared to the reality of how they looked. There seems to be little effort to make them actually appear in the clothes they are known to have been wearing. For example, Annie Chapman in real life was wearing red and white striped stockings on the night of her murder<sup>20</sup> but she does not appear to be wearing such colourful stocking in any of the films. Therefore, we will focus on the general appearance of the victims here.

The 1959 production shows the victims wearing very high-necked garments, they are generally well turned out and do not appear to be dirty or shabby. By sharp contrast, in *A Study In Terror* all the victims but Eddowes are young blondes with their cleavage on display. This is clearly unrealistic and based on a stereotypical interpretation of what a prostitute looks like.



Susan Clark plays Mary Kelly in *Murder By Decree*.  
The clothes used in this film are probably the most accurate.

*Murder By Decree* probably offers the most accurate portrayal of the victims' appearance. There is no cleavage to be seen here and the victims clothes are very shabby and quite dirty looking. They also seem to be wearing several layers of clothing. In *Jack the Ripper* (1988) the victims are not well-dressed and appear to be wearing fairly shabby clothes that cover their cleavage. When asked if Nichols had any regulars, Eddowes comments "they'd have to be blind". In *The Ripper*, the real victims of Jack are barely seen, but when they are shown they are wearing working-class clothing that covers their cleavage. The victims in *From Hell* tend to be showing more bosom than they would have done in real life. Their clothing is, however, fairly drab and shabby.

It is known that the victims of Jack the Ripper were of a low class, living in extreme poverty. However, this is not

always the way that they appear in these films. In the 1959 production, one of the victims is a barmaid and so clearly holds down a regular job. In fact, none of the victims in this film appear to live in extreme poverty and all are well-spoken. The class of the victims is much more accurately portrayed in subsequent films.

In *A Study In Terror*, all the victims appear to be poor and Annie Chapman is thrown out of her lodging house because she cannot afford the rent, whilst Nichols is shown stealing money. In *Murder By Decree*, although the investigation is focused on more than the victims, it is made clear they are low class when the men who come to ask for Sherlock Holmes' assistance state that if the victims were rich more help in catching their killer would be forthcoming. Likewise, in the 1988 production the victims are clearly of a low class and it is said that Mary Kelly is behind with her rent. In *The Ripper* the victims appear to be poor and live in single rooms and the character Florrie says she is in need of money, particularly because she would like to go and live in America where 'everyone is equal'. *From Hell*, moreover, shows the victims discussing with Annie Crook that they are all in 'a terrible way for money'. The victims live together in Miller's Court and prior to this are also seen sleeping on a bench in a lodging house. It is clear from these scenes that the women are poor.

There is a consensus that the victims of Jack the Ripper were engaging in a form of at least casual prostitution, but the way the films deal with the subject has greatly changed over the years. It is not always made clear how fear and desperation must have led these women to that source of money. The 1959 production does not show any of the victims engaging in prostitution, either at the times of their deaths or before. Although the third victim works in a musical hall as a dancer and when, after the performance, she is invited to go upstairs with one of the other girls to 'entertain' a Lord, far from going through with this she flees. It is because she is fleeing from selling her body that she encounters Jack. It is revealed by another character that she used to engage in prostitution, but she is in no way doing so at the time of her death. In short, none of these victims are actually shown as prostitutes at the times of their deaths.

*A Study In Terror* follows another extreme; it is clear that *all* the women are engaging in prostitution, but they are doing so in what can only be described as a stereotypical, exaggerated manner, and they appear to have no problem with this. In *Murder By Decree* the victims are not focussed upon very much, but it is said that the victims are poor women who have been 'forced onto the street'. This implies that their prostitution was not a choice but a necessity. By 1988, though, the portrayal of the victims' prostitution appears to be more accurate. However, it is organised rather than casual prostitution and there even is a pimp character called Billy who is seen to be running all of them at some point (although not Kelly at the beginning).

<sup>20</sup> Personal correspondence with Jane Coram.





'Florrie' in *The Ripper*

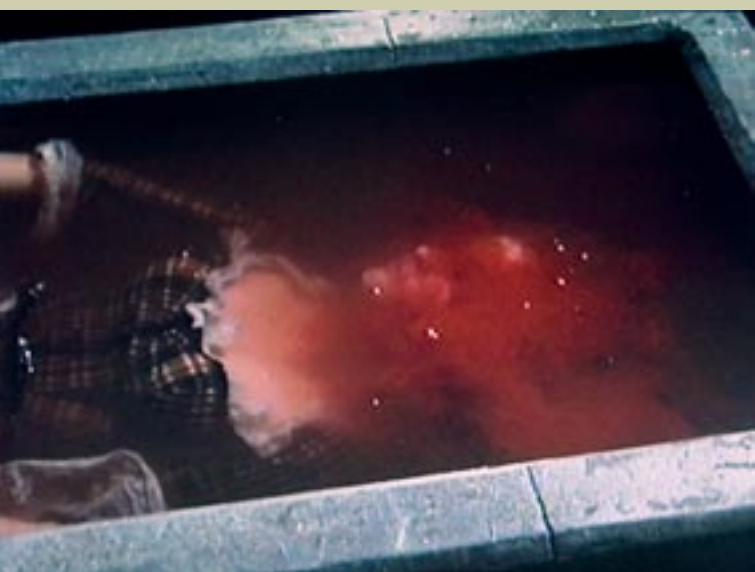
In *The Ripper* it is also obvious that all the victims are engaging in prostitution. The Mary Kelly character appears to turn to prostitution through choice, as she already earns money working in a factory and she actively encourages another character, Florrie, to join her with a client. Although Kelly doesn't find this a problem, it is different for Florrie and it is implied she had no choice but to turn to prostitution. The film that identifies the prostitution that the victims' engaged in the most conspicuously is *From Hell*. This picture shows Kelly being asked for business and goes so far as showing Nichols engaging in prostitution. It is made clear that the need for money is what is driving the women to prostitution and that it is dangerous to be soliciting.

Alcohol certainly played an important role in the lives and deaths of the victims of Jack the Ripper. One notable example is the fact that Eddowes had been taken into police custody shortly before she was murdered for being drunk and this is mentioned in the 1988 production. In the 1965 production, Nichols is seen drinking and then skipping merrily down the street. It does not, however, show the misery that alcohol had in fact inflicted upon her life. In the 1988 production, all the victims were drinking and spent a lot of time in the pub. And whilst all the victims were drinking, Stride is the most visibly drunk and the only one noticeably over the limit. In fact, Eddowes states the rest of the victims have trouble in keeping up with her and are always 'six drinks behind'. *From Hell* follows a similar pattern and Elizabeth Stride appears to be an alcoholic whilst the rest of the victims, if obviously seen to enjoy a drink, are not shown drinking to excess.

### "A View To A Kill"

The murder scene, location of the bodies, the injuries inflicted on the victims and the likely cause of their deaths are largely of historical record and thus it is possible to have a fairly good idea of what happened to the victims when they were murdered. The way these films depict these facts varies considerably, however: in some cases a lot of artistic license is used and in others the filmmakers have clearly tried to stick as closely as possible to the historical record.

The 1959 film contains only victim characters who are not the real named victims of Jack the Ripper. Clearly then, the locations and injuries inflicted on these people are inaccurate because they did not exist. The victim who most resembles a real life victim of Jack is Mary Clarke and she appears to be based loosely on Mary Kelly. This woman is murdered inside her flat and on a bed, but here the similarities to Miller's Court end. It is just that the death of Clarke and her character resemble Kelly more than any of the other victims portrayed in the film resemble the actual victims of Jack the Ripper.



blood bath - the murder of Nichols in *A Study in Terror*.

There is a nameless 'street walker' in *A Study In Terror* who is murdered at the very start of the film. She is found with a knife stuck through her neck; this is clearly a case of something done solely for dramatic effect. The deaths of four of the five canonic victims of Jack are shown in this film, whilst Catharine Eddowes remains alive until the end of the film. The murders of the victims can all be seen to be highly inaccurate and the film does not refer to any of the actual murder locations. Mary Nichols is attacked whilst walking down a street and is killed by being stabbed in the neck as her head is plunged into a water trough. Annie Chapman is murdered in the street under a railway arch. Her throat it seen to be cut and there is a shot of the Ripper doing something after this has happened—maybe he is mutilating her, but it is unclear.

The doctor in the mortuary opines that the killer used two weapons on Chapman, a bayonet and a scalpel and this is clearly dramatic invention. In fact, it was said at the Chapman inquest that her injuries could not have been



caused by a bayonet.<sup>21</sup> The film portrays Stride's death occurring in an alleyway and the murder being committed by the Ripper walking up to her and simply slashing her throat. It is later said that her head was almost severed, but Stride was not killed by a wound that deep and was assuredly killed whilst lying down.

The audience sees the murder of Mary Kelly from the moment she first encounters Jack. Her room bears little resemblance to Miller's Court: it is upstairs, it is cluttered and it faces a street. The injuries to Kelly are not gone into in detail, but it is clear from the faces of those who have seen the body that it is a revolting sight. This, surprisingly, may make the Kelly murder the most accurate in detail of all the death scenes in the film, but that is not saying a lot. It could be argued that with the apparent non-murder of Eddowes and the incorrect details of the other murders that *A Study In Terror* did not improve much upon the accuracy of the scenes of death of those in *Jack the Ripper* 1959.

In *Murder by Decree*, the facts of the murders are a little confusing as the murder of Nichols is not seen because it occurs before the film begins and the other murders are not shown in sequence. The 'carriage-based plot' further stifles the accuracy of the locations of the bodies. For example, Annie Chapman is pushed out of a carriage onto the street. This means the location of the body must be considered inaccurate as in real life it was found in the backyard of 29 Hanbury Street rather than in the street itself. The injuries inflicted are also unclear, but it is obvious that she has had her throat cut. Similarly, Eddowes is lifted out of a carriage and placed on a plinth in the middle of a square—clearly, this is not how she was found by PC Watkins.

The injuries are not revealed in detail, though it is clear from the images that her throat has been cut and reference is made to the fact that her 'internal organs' have been mutilated. Jack kills Stride by throttling her to death in the street and she is not seen to be injured in any further way. There is no question that these scenes are not very realistic. As with the other victims, the Kelly death scene is a little sketchy on details, but she is shown murdered on a bed in a room in a court. And, although the details of the room and Miller's Court are not that true to real life, this is by far the most realistic crime scene shown in the film and probably the most accurate of all the crime scenes shown in films up to that time..

It should be remembered that the TV movie *Jack the Ripper* 1988 claims to be based on the facts and this might rightly led viewers to expect factual accuracy about the victims' deaths. The locations of all the crimes are correct and the injuries and causes of death are shown in a fairly accurate light. There are some discrepancies from recorded fact; for example, it is claimed that the killer removed Nichols' kidney and uterus when in actuality the killer did not remove any of Nichols' organs. It also is incorrectly said that Catharine Eddowes ears were cut off. Nonetheless, the full horror of Miller's Court is made abundantly clear by the reactions of the police officers who are seen exiting the room, most of whom look as though they are about to be very ill (reminiscent of Dr Watson and Inspector Lestrade's reaction to the Kelly crime scene in *A Study In Terror*).

The film, by and large, does not show the victims actually being killed and so avoids inaccurately showing the method of murder (a trap that the other films fall into quite frequently). That said, in some cases—such as Eddowes' murder—the victim is clearly shown as being killed inside a carriage, which must have been done for dramatic purposes. Although it is claimed to be based on facts, there is no question this film gets some details of the crimes wrong. That said, it is still the most accurate of the four films mentioned so far in terms of these details.



*The discovery of Liz Stride's body from The Ripper*

*The Ripper* starts with a second murder (presumably Annie Chapman's, although this is never made clear), when a body is found under an archway leading to a court. The body has clearly been mutilated and the crime is described as a 'very nasty business'. It is said that her bladder, vagina and intestines were thrown on her shoulder and her ovaries and uterus were removed with surgical precision. This is not entirely accurate as her vagina and bladder were not with her intestines on her shoulder. The second murder shown is that of Elizabeth Stride, who is throttled to death and her throat slit, although the killer is disturbed before he can do anything else. This would appear to be fairly accurate, however, the killing takes place in a back alley rather than the entrance to Dutfield's yard.

21 *The Jack the Ripper A to Z*, Paul Begg, Martin Fido and Keith Skinner, Headline (London 2000) p. 347

The sequence of murders is also highly distorted and inaccurate. The Florrie character is shown a crime scene picture of Kelly and Eddowes before they have died (in fact Eddowes is not even in the film). The following scene involves the statement 'third prostitute killed', which means that Kelly and Eddowes cannot be dead yet, even though the police officer character Hansen has pictures of their dead bodies in his possession—very confusing even considering dramatic license. Mary Kelly is later found dead in a small room in a court and is shown briefly on a bed inside the room; the scene is not dwelt on for long but it is clear her throat has been cut and there is blood everywhere. Although the location of this room within the court setting itself is not very accurate, it is closer to reality than in the 1959 and 1965 productions. In terms of the evolutionary process towards more realistic portrayals that had taken place between the 1959 and 1988 films, this is a clear backwards step as it gets many details wrong, muddled or confused and is far less accurate than *Jack the Ripper* 1988.

In the production *From Hell*, the directors and scriptwriters tried to make the locations and mutilations as accurate as possible and referred to contemporary photographs and consulted with prominent Ripperologists. The directors of the film, the Hughes brothers, state on the DVD extras that they feel the murders, locations and details of the crimes are pretty accurate. The directors say the locations are as accurate as they have ever been in a Ripper movie, and this is true in the case of those films examined here—which is hardly a ringing endorsement. However, the crimes scenes when the bodies are discovered are startlingly accurate. For example, Catharine Eddowes intestines can be seen by her head whilst Abberline is examining her body.

The film also shows the deaths of six victims, starting with Tabram and ending with Kelly. It is portrayed that the murderer grabs Tabram and drags her into a doorway, before stabbing her repeatedly. Later the doctor says the killer cut her throat and removed her livelihood as a keepsake. This is inaccurate as it is known that Tabram was killed on a first-floor landing, her throat was not cut and no organs were removed from her body. Abberline states that Nichols was disemboweled and at least one of her organs were taken, but this, again, is inaccurate since none of her organs were taken. Stride is murdered as coachman John Nettley holds her whilst the Ripper slashes her throat from the front. As mentioned previously, this is not entirely accurate since Stride was probably killed whilst lying down. Similarly, the killer walks up to Eddowes and slashes her throat when she too was certainly murdered whilst on the ground.

In the case of the Miller's Court death scene, we see the extent of the horror briefly as Dr Gull finishes the murder and the camera reveals the carnage. The sickened reaction of the police to the crime scene, as with previous films, also indicates its horrific nature. Even though this film is actually based on a novel, it still manages the most accurate portrayals of the crime scenes of all the films we examined. That does not mean to say it is an entirely accurate portrayal of the victims' deaths as these are distorted in part by the carriage storyline and some artistic license has been invoked for some of the death scenes and details of the injuries to create a more dramatic effect.

It is interesting to note that the most recent of these films is also the most accurate in terms of the locations of the murders, the crime scenes and the injuries to the victims. These films go into more details about the crimes as they move forward in time so that the 2001, 1997 and 1988 movies contain details about the mutilations to the victims whilst the earlier films are a lot more general, only briefly mentioning mutilations, if at all. This means that the earlier films have very general inaccuracies, such as Nichols head being in a water trough when her throat is cut and the more recent films have more specific inaccuracies, such as claiming Eddowes had her ears cut off or Nichols her uterus removed. Is it coincidence that the real life victims are focused on more in the 1988 and, especially, the 2001 productions and that in these films their murders could also be argued to be portrayed the most accurately, at least in terms of the crime scenes, locations of their bodies and injuries to them?

### "No Man Of Her Own"



Stride kisses Nichols in *From Hell*.

Stride, Eddowes and Kelly all had a man in their lives during the autumn of 1888 whilst Nichols and Chapman had male friends with whom they spent time occasionally, but the majority of these films do not show, or even refer to Michael Kidney, John Kelly or Joseph Barnett. Yet, these men played an important role in the victims' lives and understanding their relationships could be important for understanding how they came to be on the streets in the autumn of 1888. In most of these films it is as if these men never existed at all, whilst in two of the films there are brief mentions (though not by name) of two of their men. In *A Study In Terror*, Catharine Eddowes refers to her husband by saying he is at home waiting for his beer money, and adds

'he's dying for me to get off'. In *Murder By Decree*. Holmes and Dr Watson briefly mention that Elizabeth Stride lived with a man in Dorset Street (so not entirely accurate there, either).

The victims are given greater emphasis in *Jack the Ripper* (1988) and *From Hell* than in the other films. In these two films the victims hang out together in the Ten Bells and in *From Hell* they even all live at Miller's Court together. There is no room for men in this plot. In fact, in *From Hell* Elizabeth Stride is portrayed as a lesbian and is shown trying it on with several other women, including the other victims (quite what Michael Kidney would have made of this we can only guess!).

## "There's Something About Mary"

The journey into these movies started with the question "are you Mary Clarke?" and ends with Mary Kelly and Alice Crook in the countryside living happily with their sheep. There's usually something about Mary Kelly that makes her portrayal in these movies different to that of the other victims.

In the 1959 production of *Jack the Ripper*, the Mary Clarke character is the victim that bears the most resemblance to Mary Kelly and she provides a mystery within the film. The killer is seeking her out, asking people if they are her before he kills them regardless of their answer. This creates a mystery within a mystery as Jack hunts for the illusive Clarke, finds her and eventually kills her.

Mary Kelly's part in *A Study in Terror* is relatively small. She is no more featured than, for instance, Annie Chapman. Yet, the way that her character's prostitution and death are portrayed is very different from the portrayal of the other victims. Kelly's character has a certain innocence about her: 'I'm proper new I am', she proclaims. Her death is the only one seen solely from the point of view of Jack, complete with his own red mist. Her death scene is given more time and so is developed more fully. It makes the audience feel somehow more connected with her character's death than with those of the others because they are witnessing it from the uncomfortable point of view of her killer.



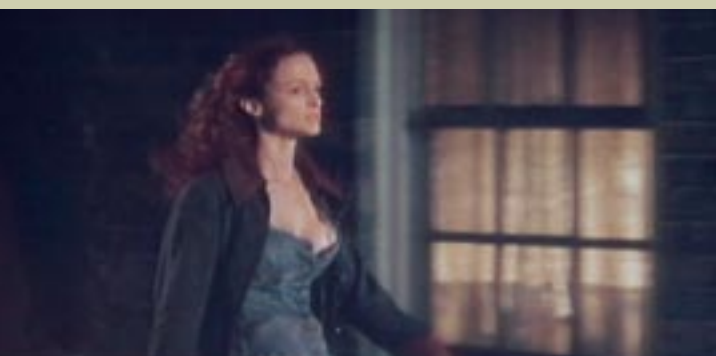
Yes she is Mary Clarke!



A Jack's eye view of the murder of Kelly from *A Study in Terror*.

In *Murder By Decree*, Holmes and Watson are put on to a lead that will help them find the Ripper and this clue is Mary Kelly herself. As in the 1959 production, the character that represents Mary is integral to finding the killer. She is more than a victim; she is a clue to the Ripper's identity. The plot revolves round the Crook conspiracy story line and Kelly is vital to the plot since she knows about Annie Crook's baby and its whereabouts—this means the killer is looking for Kelly. The other victims' deaths are caused by what Kelly knows that she has passed on to them; for example, she mentions that she told the conspiracy secret to Annie Chapman and soon Chapman is dead.

The character of Mary Kelly in *The Ripper* has a fairly small role when compared to the other films examined here. Kelly is seen working in a factory and encouraging the lead female character, Florrie, into prostitution. Though there isn't anything particularly different about Mary in this film, the part of Florrie is a starring one and appears to be based on Kelly (even though she's in the film herself!). Florrie's living quarters and Irish accent are all reminiscent of the real life of Mary Kelly.



Heather Graham playing Kelly in *From Hell*.

In *From Hell*, Mary Kelly occupies a central role in the plot as both a love interest for Abberline and as the person whom Jack is hunting. Mary helps Abberline with the investigation as he unravels the Annie Crook-themed plot. Mary is a central character and is played by a big-name actress. There is

something different and more important about her when compared to the other victims.

## "The Others"

In most cases the actual victims of Jack the Ripper are not the lead female character in these films and are not played by the leading female actress. There are other female characters that have provided many differing plots over the years such as love interests, offering social-class contrast, and as the final victim who is saved from the evil clutches of the Ripper, to name a few.

Anne Ford is the main female character in the film *Jack the Ripper* (1959). She is the ward of a surgeon who works at the hospital and is therefore middle-class and in effect more 'respectable' than the other female characters in the film who end up being murdered. She provides a female focal point for the story and a love interest for one of the American detectives assigned to the case. Anne is the female character with whom the audience achieves the greatest rapport and therefore cares about the most. This provides some tension as Anne is locked in the kitchen whilst Mary Clarke is being killed. Jack next turns his attention to murdering Anne, but she is saved when the American detective arrives in the nick of time!

In the 1988 production, the character of Emma Prentice is the leading female one. Emma is a respectable middle-class painter who is helping the newspaper to literally draw the suspect Robert Lees has identified through his 'psychic visions'. It is Emma who is played by the most famed actress (Jane Seymour) and who is loved by Michael Caine's Abberline, the hero of the piece. Emma and her middle-class life provide a stark contrast to the squalor of the victims. This is made apparent by the difference in the places where Emma and Mary Kelly live. Emma lives in a flat full of colour and clutter, whilst Mary resides at Miller's Court in obvious poverty. Even though she did not exist, Emma takes up as much screen time as the real life victims of the killer.



1988's love interest, Emma Prentice, played by Jane Seymour.

In *The Ripper* there are two fairly prominent female lead characters. In terms of the importance of these other female characters, this film could be argued to occupy a transitional phase between the 1988 production and *From Hell*. Inspector Hansen has two female love interests in the film and they not only represent two classes of women, but they also represent a choice Hansen must make: trying to improve his social position and mixing with high society (Jack's world) or staying loyal to his East End roots (the world of Jack's victims). The choice that Hansen makes is to pursue Florrie, a prostitute who has seen the Ripper and so in Hansen's eyes needs protecting. Florrie's story is one of hardship and suffering. This role provides much of the drama in the film. When Florrie is used to as bait to catch Jack, once again a female lead character saved from the clutches of the Ripper. This was a fate that the real Mary Kelly and the character of Mary Kelly in the film, could not avoid, but it still somehow makes for a happy ending since the lead female character lives to pursue her dream and be pursued by Hansen.

By the time we reach 2001 and *From Hell*, female characters that did not exist but occupy a leading role have all but vanished. Mary Kelly is played by the top-billed actress (in this case Heather Graham) and she is the love interest of Inspector Abberline and she can be this even though she is clearly a prostitute. For the first time the audience is clearly allowed to identify with and care about a real life victim of Jack the Ripper. Yet despite this switch, it is still the case that the uncomfortable truth about the death of the real Mary Kelly cannot be stomach after the audience has been made to form an emotional attachment to her. In this instance, the fate of Kelly is changed and it is someone who never existed—and is barely in the film—that is so horribly butchered, allowing Mary to escape the clutches of the Ripper (just as Anne Ford had in 1959 and Florrie Lewis did in 1997).

## "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes"

There are additional female blonde prostitute characters introduced fairly late into the 1988 and 2001 films (in fact, in the 1988 production only Mary Kelly is still alive when this new character is introduced). They provide companions for Kelly in the later stages of these films after the other victims have been murdered. The roles of these two characters are quite similar and yet their fates are very different.

In the 1988 production this character is named Millie and is with Kelly in the Ten Bells the night she is murdered. Millie is scared as she is out on the game for the first time in the height of the Ripper scare. Billy, the pimp character



in the film, gives both Mary and Millie a 'job' to do and both are seen waiting for 'clients'. This extra character is probably intended to add dramatic tension to the proceedings, making the audience wonder which of the two women is waiting for Jack. In this film the blonde prostitute character actually survives and is shown outside Miller's Court after the murder crying and needing to be comforted by Abberline and Godfrey.

It's a different story in *From Hell*, where there is a character similar to Millie, although this time she's not just blonde, she's French, and her name is Ada. Ada is staying with Kelly at Miller's Court on November eighth. In this film, the plot twists in a different way to the 1988 production and Ada is not so lucky as Millie. She is killed because she is in Kelly's room and she has been mistaken for her, whilst Kelly herself has escaped to safety with Abberline's money. Same plot device, different outcomes.



Millie hears the news that Kelly is dead.

## "Hands of the Ripper"

While the portrayal of the victims of Jack the Ripper can be seen to have shifted and altered, varying dramatically through time, the image of Jack himself has remained constant. Jack the Ripper appears to be an iconic image of Victorian terror that has barely changed in the last six decades. The Jack of 1959 could easily have walked into any of the other films used in this article and his style and appearance would have barely changed at all—he is in essence the same person, the same image and provides the



Ada, the character murdered in the place of Kelly in *From Hell*.

same reasons to be scared. This is the case even though Heather Graham's Mary Kelly would be lost in the 1959 *Jack the Ripper* production surrounded by unfamiliar names and locations. There must be something about Jack the Ripper himself that means he creates a certain type of iconic fear that is only portrayed in a certain way.

This constant image of six decades starts in these films with the Jack the Ripper of 1959 who wears gloves, a top hat, cape, carries a Gladstone bag and exists mainly in a world of fog and shadows. Six years later, when Jack emerges in *A Study in Terror* he does so in much the same way. By 1979 the influence of Stephen Knight's *Final Solution* on the popular imagination has become apparent in the cinematic world and a carriage has been introduced to the plot, but nonetheless Jack emerges from it top-hatted and well-dressed. When he emerges from his carriage in 1988, Jack is wearing his top hat, cape and gloves, carrying his Gladstone bag and he also has his face partially covered. In *The Ripper*, Jack loses his carriage, but as well as his usual hat and cape he has gained a walking cane in which he stores his knife (so no need for a Gladstone bag in this instance). In *From Hell*, Jack regains his carriage and comes complete with top hat, cape, Gladstone bag and white gloves.

Medical knowledge is also an important part of Jack's character and in all these films he has some form of medical insight. In fact in all these films but *The Ripper* Jack turns



The portrayal of Jack the Ripper himself remains startlingly similar throughout the six films. Here he is in the 1959 and 2001 productions.

out to be a doctor (whilst in *The Ripper* it is stressed that Prince Albert Victor had some training in anatomy). As he emerges from the fog in 2001 Jack is in essence the same iconic image that existed back in 1959 and has spanned six decades of cinema.

## "The End"

With so much interesting material with which to work, we find it very disappointing that major films to date have presented so many erroneous and uninspired depictions of the victims (and of course, Jack himself). This is sad not only because the films have been grievously ahistoric, but because in the process filmmakers have missed the opportunity for some compelling cinematic storytelling. Take the lives of any of the victims, save possibly Mary about whom so little is known (and much of that probably fantasy), and recreate those lives on the screen and the result could be exciting in its stark reality. Surely, there would be no happy endings, but done in a caring—if honest—manner the story would be one well able to reach out and grab viewers by their hearts while engaging their minds. Forget iconic Jacks and cookie-cutter victims: there are some interesting, arresting victims' stories out there just waiting for a daring and creative filmmaker to turn into a dramatic masterpiece. And if anyway wants to try, we are more than willing to help.

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## Got something to say?

Got comments on a feature in this issue?  
Or found new information?

Please send your comments to [contact@ripperologist.info](mailto:contact@ripperologist.info)



# “A Terrible Calamity in Spitalfields”

## Another Case for Inspector Abberline

By ANDY ALIFFE

For the vast majority of Eastern European Jewry in the late Victorian era, Yiddish was the mother tongue. It was the language spoken in the home and workplace (in contrast to Hebrew) which was used for prayer, and was certainly a recognised and well-used language in the East End of London.

Yiddish theatre in London was created by, and for the entertainment of, Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe who crowded into the narrow streets of Whitechapel and Spitalfields in the late nineteenth century.



*Jacob Adler c1880*

The first professional company of Yiddish actors arrived in 1883 on board a cattle boat from Riga in Russia. The actors, led by Jacob P Adler, paid a shilling to be guided from the London docks to the Jewish district of Whitechapel, where they found rooms in a lodging-house in Mansion Street.

Born in Odessa, Russia in 1855, Adler had joined the troupe of the ‘father’ of Yiddish theatre, Abraham Goldfaden, in 1879 and toured Eastern Europe until the Russian government passed a decree banning performances throughout its Empire four years later.

Within days of their arrival in Whitechapel, Adler enlarged his company with local talent and under the name of the Russian Jewish Operatic Company they began to perform to large crowds. Over the next two years the troupe flourished. They performed in halls and clubs all over the East End. At one point they even performed at Ripper related venues such as the Working Lads’ Institute on Whitechapel Road and the International Workingmen’s Educational Club in Berner Street.

Their touring shows were often presented in terrible conditions, but the company proved increasingly popular and this necessitated a permanent home for the group. It was in today’s Princelet Street, formerly Princes Street, that the first purpose-built Yiddish Theatre in London opened in 1886 as a private club. Known as the Hebrew Dramatic Club, it was the innovation of David Smith, a kosher butcher of Crispin and Dorset Street, who had come to London from Poland in the late 1860s. Smith was a lover of Yiddish theatre and a great fan of Jacob P Adler. The club was built on the site of a former commercial establishment at 3 Princes Street, Spitalfields, at a cost of £3,000. Smith’s son Abraham acted as the club’s unpaid manager.

Externally, 3 Princes Street appeared to be an ordinary dwelling, but at the rear was a hall, constructed of wood, in which was a stage and auditorium. The premises also had a library and reading room, as well as a billiards and smoking room. Members paid a subscription of a shilling per week, or two guineas a year,



*Outside the Hebrew Dramatic Club, Princes Street*

and it officially became known as the Princes Street Social and Dramatic Club.

Attended by Jewish dignitaries, the theatre opened on 9 March 1886 with a performance of *Shulamith* by Abraham Goldfaden. Keni Liptzin, later acclaimed as one of the greatest Yiddish actresses, played Shulamith, while Adler played Absalom.

The audiences knew what they wanted and showed lively appreciation of their favourite performers and plays. Visits to the theatre offered an escape from the drudgery of everyday life, social occasions to meet friends, and to enjoy shared memories.

As it began to establish itself in Whitechapel, young men and women vied for places in the chorus, attracted by the glamour of the stage. From a few hopeful amateur thespians, suddenly there were more than the troupe could use. Some of the luckier ones engaged were local East Enders, several of who would later achieve success, fame and fortune.



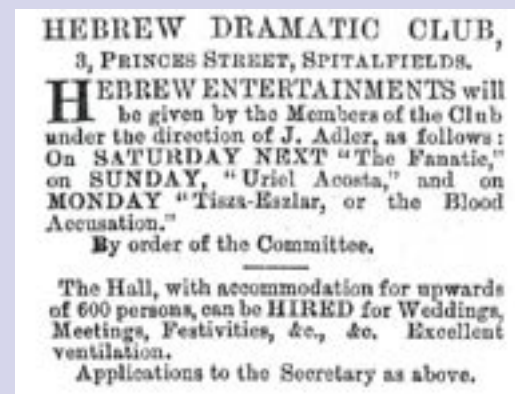
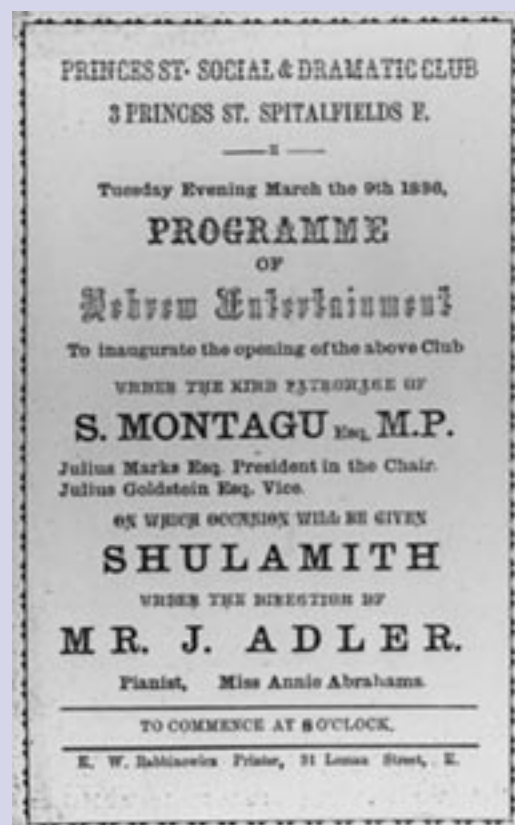
One such was a 16-year-old Whitechapel seamstress, originally from Poland, called Dinah Shtettin. She had never seen or heard of the theatre until her family moved to the East End. Keeping it a secret from her religiously orthodox father, she was persuaded by her work colleagues to reply to an advert in a local paper asking for 'choristkas' - members of the chorus - to audition for a rival dramatic club. But her dreams of success were shortlived once her father discovered the true nature of her nightly outings. After a chance meeting she was invited to join the Princes Street Club. Adler settled things with her family, and recognising Dinah's natural talent, took her under his wing. She soon became his *protégé* and a regular member of the troupe, playing minor roles which earned her two shillings a week. Dinah eventually became Adler's second wife, and later still married Sigmund Feinman, the well-known Yiddish East End actor and impresario.



Another of the Princes Street 'choristkas' who would achieve great success was a girl known as Hannale. She had been brought as a child from Warsaw to Paris. There her parents made a living as peddlers, and as soon as she was old enough Hannale sold flowers on the Paris streets. When her father died she and her mother left Paris and found their way to London's East End and the squalid streets of Whitechapel. Hannale's enchanting voice and graceful slender form soon drew attention. Adler, who felt she had the makings of a star, coached her and she made her debut in a revival of the operetta *Shulamith*, where she was billed for the first time as Miss Anna Held. Anna went on to appear as top billing in many European venues. In 1896 Florenz Ziegfeld saw her at the London's Palace Music Hall and took her to America to star in his *Ziegfeld Follies* on Broadway, New York, where they eventually lived together as common law husband and wife.



A third young woman who became a great artiste was a poor Whitechapel shop girl called Jennya Kaiser. She spoke Yiddish with a strong East End accent and her greatest passion was Yiddish theatre. 'Sitting at the play,' said Adler, 'she found pleasure in weeping whole cups of tears, with never a care that she might injure those beautiful eyes'.<sup>1</sup> She came into the theatre as a 'choristka' but quickly rose playing small parts, where she acted 'with more talent than schooling'.<sup>2</sup> Adler saw greatness in the young actress, and soon a strong emotional bond grew between the two, developing into a love affair that produced a child, later in life becoming the well-known performer Charlie Adler.



Dinah Shtettin, Anna Held  
and Jennya Kaiser

1 *Jacob Adler - A Life On The Stage* - Lulla Adler Rosenfeld

2 *My Life in the Theatre* - Boaz Young



This 'little palace of entrainments' off Commercial Street became a cauldron of simmering talent and there seemed no reason why the Princes Street club should not flourish for many years. However the glorious days of the theatre were brought to a premature end on the evening of Tuesday 18 January 1887 - not by lack of support, but because of a tragic incident that occurred during a benefit performance.

A percentage of the evening's proceeds were to be given to a popular local Jewish tailor's assistant called Morris King and his family. King had become ill and fallen on hard times. The club was packed to capacity, with an audience eager to see Professor Hurvitz's popular comedy the *Spanish Gypsy (Girl)*.

Sometime between 11:15pm and 11:30pm a mishap occurred. Several versions of what happened next would be reported. Adler gives this as one:

*The burning of a house in the fifth act provided the play with its climax and the illusion of flames produced by igniting a harmless substance known as 'Bengal fire'. On this occasion a thread of smoke or spark accidentally resulted, and a voice in the gallery shouted the most terrible of words, 'Fire'.<sup>3</sup>*

Screams and shrieks filled the air, and a rush began for the doors. It took no more than a moment for panic to break out, with hundreds of bodies pushing and struggling against each other for a way out.

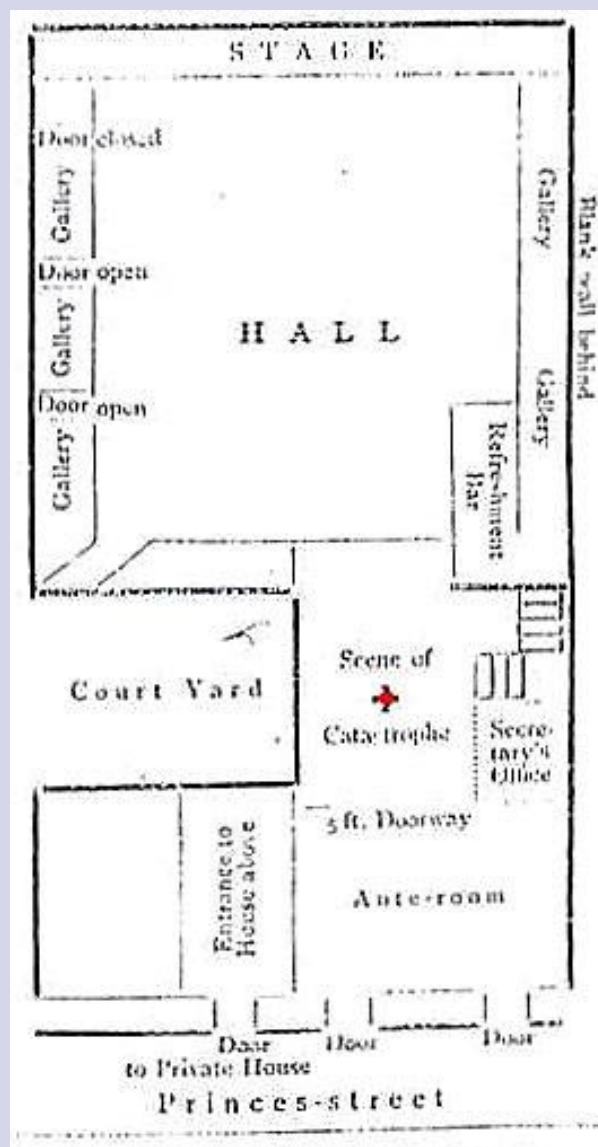
The worst of the disaster might have been avoided if those in the hall had used the smaller exits provided. Unfortunately, most of the audience made for the main doors. These were wide enough for general purposes, but were located only a step away from the foot of the staircase to the gallery. As a result, two streams of terror-stricken people came together at this one point, creating a mass so thick that no movement was possible backward or forward.

A courageous few kept their heads, sacrificed themselves and saved others, but the greatest number were driven by blind instinct of self-preservation. The stronger ones pushed their way out; the weaker were suffocated, knocked unconscious or trampled underfoot by those at the back who continued blindly to push on.

One of the hundreds of people present that evening was William Cohen, a weaver of Brick Lane, who later described what happened to a reporter from *Reynolds Newspaper*:

*I took the missus and my little ones to the Hebrew Dramatic Club last night and we had seats in the body of the hall. The club room was literally packed... Everything went smoothly up to the last act, and five minutes after that had commenced, I heard a cry that gas was escaping, followed by a shout of fire. A fearful panic was created; everyone rushed towards the doors. Simultaneously someone turned out the gas; the building was then enveloped in darkness... the screams of the women and children were deafening and heartrending... presently some candlelight was brought on top of the stage and then I saw a fearful sight. Round about the doors bodies piled up to the height of several feet... the stream coming down from the gallery had met the stream from the body of the hall and every minute some one was falling, only to be trampled upon. Presently a policeman appeared on the scene... in order to release the pressure, the partition at the bottom of the staircase was broken down, and then began the work of rescue.<sup>4</sup>*

When the police finally entered they found broken chairs and benches, remnants of hats, bonnets, dresses, wigs, costumes, umbrellas and the bodies of 17 people who had suffocated or been trampled to death, most of them women and children.



Plan of the Club

<sup>3</sup> Jacob Adler - *A Life On The Stage*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid*

All that night hundreds of frightened people gathered outside the theatre to inquire about the fate of relatives and friends. By morning, as word of the disaster spread, the crowd grew so dense that the police were sent in, and only those who lived in, or had business there, were allowed to enter Princes Street. The Chief Rabbi's son and his wife spent the whole day with the families of the bereaved and unsolicited donations poured into the offices of the *Jewish Chronicle*.

The scene was visited by Samuel Montagu, Nathaniel Rothschild, Chief Constable Col. Monsell, and officials of the Metropolitan Board, all of whom expressed their shock and sympathy.

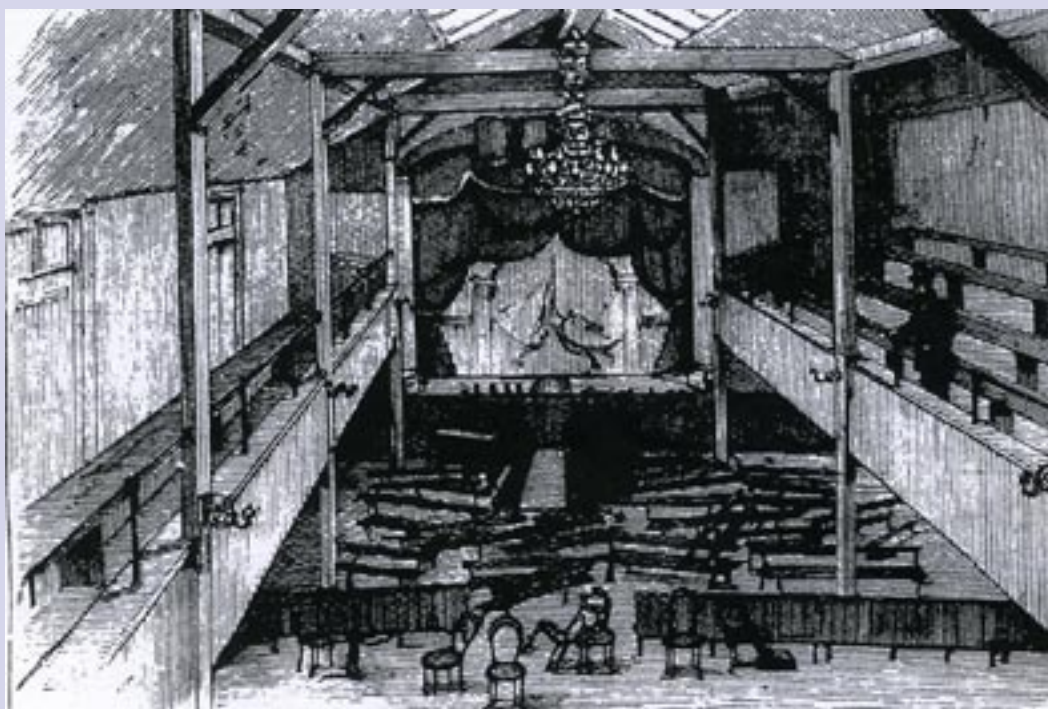
The inquest, for the purposes of identification only, was held the next day by Coroner Wynne Edwin Baxter in the reading room of the theatre, where the bodies of the dead were laid out; one elderly man, four children, and twelve women mostly in their early teens or early twenties. The 74-year-old Isaac Levy of Goulston Street was among those who had sacrificed himself to save others. His wife, too, was among the dead. Two victims were young expectant mothers, and another woman, a mother of eight, had perished together with her youngest son, a ten-year-old boy. Sarah Renaldi of Booth Street Buildings was a girl soon to have been married, and the money saved for her wedding was used instead to pay for her funeral.

Perhaps the saddest case was that of the last of victims to be removed. She was a little girl named Eva Marks aged nine years, who was found almost at the bottom of the human heap at the foot of the stairs, her clothes almost torn completely away. All having been identified, the inquest was adjourned.

Under Jewish law, the dead must be interred as quickly as possible. Since burial had to be held over until after the inquest, Dr Hermann Adler urged there to be no further delay. It was decided to proceed with a mass funeral directly after the inquest. At about 6:00pm, with darkness already falling, several hearses took the bodies from Princes Street to the Jewish section of the West Ham Cemetery. The procession passed in the main through a silent orderly crowd, but in Brick Lane, where crowds of old women lined both sides of the street, dreadful wailings and lamentations broke out. By the time the cortege reached the burial grounds, night had fallen, adding a weird and terrifying touch to an already harrowing scene:



*Horrific crush inside the Club's lobby*



*Interior from the gallery*





View of the bar



The fatal staircase



Interior of the hall

At a quarter to 6 in the evening seven hearses were drawn up in single file along Princes Street and almost immediately afterwards seven shells were brought from the hall and each placed in a separate hearse. The other ten bodies will be interred to day, before 4 o'clock in the afternoon as the Jewish Sabbath commences at that hour. The hearses were conducted at a slow pace from the scene of the occurrence followed by several hundreds of men. Women, according to the Hebrew religion were not permitted to follow. On arrival at the cemetery, the coffins were carried to the Hebrew section and were interred in one row, one in each grave. The Rev S Spiro of the Central Synagogue said the Hebrew burial service over each grave separately. The remaining ten bodies will be buried by the side of those interred yesterday. The object of placing the victims of this disaster in one row is that should a public subscription be started, it is hoped that the funds will be sufficient to defray the cost of a memorial to be raised over the spot.

A reward will probably be offered for the discovery of the person or persons who gave the false alarm of fire and Samuel Montagu MP for Whitechapel and Lord Rothschild it is understood have expressed their willingness to subscribe to and guarantee a substantial sum.<sup>5</sup>

In the following days many questions were asked and a confusion of testimony given. Journalists were quick to arrive, and continued to describe the scene and events:

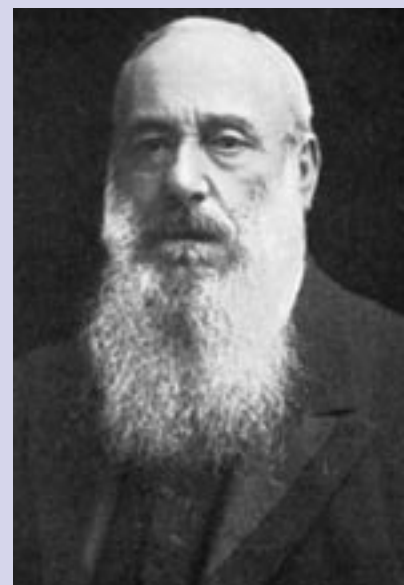
Nearly all present at the performance were workers in the slop-making establishments, the boot trade and other industries in which cheap labour is employed. The women were all dressed in holiday attire with gaily-coloured costumes and profusions of jewellery.

The intervals between the acts were long and tedious, but the audience, gifted with an unusual amount of patience passed the time merrily in conversation or in disposing of the sandwiches, ales and spirits retailed from the bar or the oranges and cakes sold by a persevering vendor.

At five and twenty minutes past eleven the curtain went up on the last scene. The cornet players, who had hitherto done duty in the orchestra, had for the purposes of the piece been relegated to the stage where, in the attire of a herald, he waited for the signal to give a blast on his instrument which was to announce the entrance of the King. The excitement of the audience had, at this time, worked up to a high pitch, owing to the important speech to be delivered, all were gazing eagerly forward, some at the back of the hall were standing.



Chief Constable Monsell



Samuel Montagu

<sup>5</sup> Reynolds Newspaper - 23rd January 1887. From Yiddish Theatre in London - David Mazower



*Panic on Princes Street*

Here different variations of events begin to emerge. Some youths in the gallery, who wished to gain a better view climbed up a gas pipe, which was affixed to the wall and in doing so broke it in half. Henry Gilberg, who with his wife and his three boys was sitting near, at once ran to the spot and tied his handkerchief to stop the gas from escaping, but one person shouted out 'turn off the meter' and the hall was thrown into partial darkness. A cry was immediately raised of 'Fire' either by some person at the back of the hall, or by someone in the gallery as declared by others, while a third version is to the effect that one of the characters in the play made an exclamation in one of his lines, just at that moment in which the word 'fire' occurred. Gilberg:

*My son Henry and I were going towards the steps when we were stopped by the crowd of people who crushed us against the wall and hurt our legs. We could not move one way or another but the younger son, Daniel, seeing no other way out, climbed onto the heads of the people who were jammed in the staircase and ran over them to the street where he told a policeman who came to the spot. When I got out of the crush with Harry we went off in a cab to the London Hospital with several others, where our wounds were dressed. We then went home expecting to find that my wife had got out all right, but she was not there. I then went back to the hall and asked the police to let me again. They would not do so and I found that my wife and son Isaac were dead.<sup>6</sup>*

Henry Gilberg's younger son Daniel had in fact attracted the attention of PC Sequim based at Commercial Street Police Station:

*Police Constable Edward Sequim 312 H said that at some time after a quarter past 11 on the night in question he was on duty in Princess Street. He saw two women come out of the club and heard them screaming. He crossed over and entered the club. He saw Mr. Smith the manager and asked him what the matter was, but he received no reply. The hall was in complete darkness and the only light was against the street door. There was no light in the bar. He turned his lamp on and saw a mass of people lying together. People were jumping on them and others were coming down the stairs. He called to the people to keep back and told them there was nothing the matter. They took no heed of him, and so he then went to the door and blew his whistle. A sergeant and another constable came to his assistance. They entered the passage door and got into the hall at the back. They made the people return and then proceeded to removed those who were lying down. Others were made by the police to go out by the yard exit. Some they had to remove by force and some went quietly.<sup>7</sup>*

One of the first senior officers to respond to the 'whistle' was Detective Inspector Abberline, accompanied by Sergeant Leonard 29 H Division.

Abberline said that when he got to the club he found it in panic and ran immediately for Dr George Bagster Phillips, the divisional Police Surgeon, who lived close by in Spital Square.

Returning with the doctor, he found several other local medical practitioners already in attendance. Abberline continued to help clear the hall. There were three or four bodies lying near the entrance and the bodies of the other victims were in an adjoining room.

The doctor first on the scene had tried artificial respiration on several of the victims but without the desired effect. In every case life was extinct.



*Inspector Abberline*

<sup>6</sup> *Eastern Post and City Chronicle* - January 22nd 1887

<sup>7</sup> *East London Observer* - January 22nd 1887



The catastrophe caused an intense amount of excitement in the Jewish colony, which surrounds the scene of the fatality. People who are naturally inquisitive and excitable, flocked in crowds from their homes when the news began to spread, and soon surrounded the hall, keeping the neighbourhood awake throughout the night with their cries and wailings. So great was the throng before the hall and so many the demands for admission to the scene of the disaster, that the police had to clear the street and prevent all but those who had

reasonable claim to view the bodies from approaching the hall. Most of the dead were identified during the night and the grief of the relatives who claimed the bodies was piteous.

Two men living in the same house each lost his wife, neither husbands having been present at the club and the circumstances of these two cases were aggravated by the fact that each woman were both pregnant.

As the morning advanced the people for the most part disappeared to their homes but after breakfast time they again commenced to gather, and during the day, the ends of the street were surrounded by crowds who eagerly discussed the events of the past night. The hall was a sorry spectacle the next morning. Ginger beer and lemonade bottles bestrewed the floor in hundreds. A wrecked piano stood near the stage. The metal shades of the footlights had been flattened by the feet of those who, regardless of the gaslights, had scaled the stage to escape what was thought to be an outbreak of fire. In front of the stage had sat the orchestra, a cornet and violin player and a drummer. Two music stands still stood containing the scores of the pieces played during the evening. With the exception of the breakage of the balusters from the stairs and the breakage of the little glass office below there is no damage to the building.<sup>8</sup>

It is possible that a gas bracket was broken, which in turn prompted the cry of 'fire' and the ensuing panic that followed, because a distinct odour of escaped coal gas was smelt in the hall the next day. There was talk of foul play, for someone had gone down to the basement at the height of the panic and turned off the gas meter, plunging the room into darkness, although Inspector Abberline believed that the gas had been turned off at the main with good reason. However the Commercial Gas Company's representative, after examination, found all the gas fittings were in perfect order.

The club's management, staff, and the whole cast were questioned, but were soon dismissed.



Superintendent Arnold



The inquest resumed the at the end of the week at Shoreditch Town Hall, with Superintendent Arnold and Inspector Abberline attending on behalf of the police.

Opening the proceedings Wynne Baxter had already established...

*The Hebrew Dramatic Club has for its objectives 'to afford to its members the means of social intercourse, mutual entertainments, music, dancing, recitations and social and intellectual improvement in general. No discussions were allowed on politics or religion, and the members were under the government of a committee.'*<sup>9</sup>

Other club rules stated:

*Only members were to be served with refreshments and no-one was to be admitted to the club unless already a member, or unless introduced by a member. Each person was allowed to introduce one friend but generally brought two. Children were not classed in this number and allowed admittance.*<sup>10</sup>

Some reports claimed that the building was not licensed for theatrical performances, but there was a licence for members to be served with refreshments and alcohol.

<sup>8</sup> Times - January 29th 1887

<sup>9</sup> Times - January 20th 1887

<sup>10</sup> Ibid

Many witnesses were assembled. Wynne Baxter called Abraham Smith to the box:

*Mr A Smith, a butcher of Dorset Street, Spitalfields, says: I am the manager of the Hebrew Dramatic Club and was present when the panic occurred. I was among the audience at the time and at once gave orders for all the doors to be thrown open. The main exit had swing doors from the hall and from thence into the lobby, by which two doorways took people into the streets. I endeavoured to calm the people assuring them that the alarm was a false one but they would not leave, many stood waiting for relatives. I at once sent for the police and medical aid, the hall was cleared and the dead bodies taken inside.<sup>11</sup>*



*Club Manager Abraham Smith*

Having already ascertained that non-members were present that evening, Baxter next seized upon the rule 'that no stranger could be admitted at any time': *'Then the rules are not correct,'<sup>12</sup>* he bellowed in court.

In desperation Smith said that the rules had been altered. It seemed that for the purposes of that particular 'benefit event', special free tickets had been printed, but some had been sold on the streets to non-members.

It became obvious that Smith was getting a cut of the money, but so as not to lose revenue he allowed strangers to pay at the door and to buy alcohol. No one on the committee seemed to know what was going on.

What next followed in court was a conflict of evidence:

*Isaac Kolinski of Fieldgate Street stated that he was the secretary of the club. He knew nothing about a rule as to the admittance of strangers having been altered. Had the rule been altered he should have been aware of it. He had nothing to do with the printing of the tickets produced. The tickets they usually used were for the purpose of enabling members to enter the club. They were also given to the person for whom the benefit was intended and he distributed them among the members. They were afterwards retained and destroyed. The members generally gave a donation to the person distributing the tickets who were forbidden to sell them. The doorkeeper, a man called Rose, took the tickets on the night in question. Kolinski knew that notes were kept of the meetings.<sup>13</sup>*

Wynne Baxter was shown the minutes book and commented: *But I do not see any mention of the 18th of January?<sup>14</sup>* Kolinski examined the minute book and said the date of the benefit had been left to Smith the manager.

Sensing something underhand was at play, Baxter questioned the validity of the whole of the 'benefit' proceedings: *It seems to me to be a concentration of extraordinary events. I suppose this very respectable reduced tradesman has an existence?<sup>15</sup>* Kolinski confirmed that the person did exist but didn't know the name of the gentleman in question.

Next to make a statement was Harris Lewis the treasurer:

*Lewis said that he was ill when the minutes should have been entered up. The person who had the benefit did not have to pay anything for the use of the hall. There was no printed list of members. He could not say if all the persons present on the 18th were members. He did not know if the tickets received on the 18th were given to the persons who were not members.<sup>16</sup>*

Lewis also confirmed that as far as he was aware a by-law had been passed stating that no stranger should be admitted on any account and that no money was ever received at the doors.

11 *Times* - January 29th 1887

12 *Times* - January 20th 1887

13 *Ibid*

14 *Times* - January 29th 1887

15 *Ibid*

16 *Ibid*

In the end a flustered Abraham Smith's only defence seemed to be the suggestion that the accident might have been caused deliberately by associates of a jealous rival:

*Witness (Smith) engaged a police constable a few months ago in consequence of a threat that a gang would force their way in. A man named Mark(s) Rubenstein had threatened to turn the place over and to do all the mischief he could. Rubenstein usually sent round a gang to annoy. Witness did not have a constable there that evening (night of the tragedy), as he did not anticipate that anything would happen. On one occasion there was an assault on the police and he believed that a member of a rival Hebrew organisation named the 'Russian National Club' in Lambeth Street, caused the disturbance. Marks Rubenstein was the manager of that club. Threats had also been expressed verbally to the witness but there had been no gang outside on the night in question.<sup>17</sup>*

Wynne Baxter considered this significant: 'I do not know whether anyone represents Rubenstein but this is a serious matter'.<sup>18</sup> In court Abberline said that Rubenstein had made a complaint to the Lord Chamberlain's office about the club, almost six weeks after it had opened.

Smith did concede that on the evening in question some of Rubenstein's members could have been introduced by members of his own club but that he was unfamiliar with their names and faces. In fact some of Rubenstein's men had been admitted by payment and as non-members they had also been sold alcohol.

One of the two men questioned by Baxter was Solomon Birmin. He stated that he was present at the performance on 18 January. He was not a member of Princes Street Club, and that on each of his visits he had paid one shilling to Smith at the door and bought 'refreshments' unchallenged by the staff. He was not a friend of Rubenstein's, and had never been Rubenstein's establishment.

To oppose this testimony Abraham Marks was called to the stand and said that he knew Birmin to be one of the officials of Rubenstein's club, where he had acted with authority. Birmin denied this statement. The second of Rubenstein's two associates to take the stand was Philip Lipski:

*Philip Lipski of 16 Batty Street, Commercial Road, deposed that he was not a member of the club, but had paid Smith money for an admission ticket to the theatrical performance. He had been served with alcohol refreshments on paying. He was a trustee of another club belonging to Marks Rubenstein.<sup>19</sup>*

Henry Grossberg, the Princes Street barman, was then called and, being cautious, denied all statements related to the sale of liquor to non-members. He said he was in the bar on the 18th, but only sold 'refreshments' to members. If they brought a friend into the bar he would not serve them, and that he knew all the regulars by sight. Strangely he didn't seem to know Birmin or Lipski!<sup>20</sup>

All witnesses having been called, the inquest into the disaster of 18 January 1887 concluded:

*That the jury, having considered the evidence for nearly an hour, returned the verdict that deaths were caused accidentally; that if the exit from the gallery had been in the same direction as the exit from the body of the hall, fewer deaths would have occurred; that, with whatever intention the club was open, it certainly degenerated into a place of public amusement, and as such should have come under proper supervision. The jury strongly recommended that to prevent similar occurrences in future, all buildings of this or similar kind, whether used for private clubs or otherwise, be placed under the immediate supervision of some public representative body.<sup>21</sup>*

17 *Times* - January 29th 1887

18 Ibid

19 Ibid

20 The name Lipski would grab the press headlines later in the year, when they would report on the charge of murder and subsequent trial of Polish immigrant Israel Lipski. Lipski was accused with the murder, by poisoning, of Miriam Angel, in an attic room at 16 Batty Street on 28 June 1887. In fact Israel Lipski's real name was Lobulsk. He changed it to Lipski after his arrival in London. It is likely that for convenience he simply adopted the name of Philip Lipski, his landlord, perhaps thinking it was a common name. Philip gave evidence at Israel's trial. He said that though they shared the same name they were not related. Israel had been his lodger for two years and, according to the *Times* of 5 February 1887, believed him to be of 'good character, industrious and steady'. Also giving evidence was Philip's mother-in-law whose surname, coincidentally, was Rubenstein! On 30 September 1888 Israel Schwartz, a Hungarian Jew, was walking along Berner Street when he claims to have seen Elizabeth Stride thrown to the ground outside Dutfield's Yard by an unknown assailant. The assailant then seemed to shout 'Lipski' at Schwartz who, not wanting trouble, quickly walked away from the scene. Many Ripperologists have theorised that the name 'Lipski' heard by Schwartz could have been used in disdain. Since the trial its general usage had been meant as a disrespect towards all Jews. But considering the locality in which it was used, ie Berner Street, perhaps a simpler reason was that it was meant to be heard by Philip Lipski, a man of dubious character and reputation, who still lived a matter of yards away around the corner in Batty Street, or that perhaps Schwartz himself had been mistaken for Philip Lipski?

21 *Jack the Ripper A to Z* - Begg, Fido, Skinner





In future the authorities were to keep a very close check on dealings at the social establishment.

For many days a pall lay over the entire East End of London. The blinds of many houses in Whitechapel were drawn as a sign of respect.

Though a reward was offered, no clue to this mystery was ever found. In fact there had been no fire, and the inquest failed to establish whether there had indeed been a gas leak or whether the false alarm had been caused as an act of malice. But whatever the precise details of the affair, the future was in doubt. The Jewish East End was in mourning for many months and the people of Whitechapel, gripped by a superstitious horror, refused to go near the Princes Street Club.

Regardless of the outcome of events the authorities allowed the club to stay open. Some of the established actors chose to stay, but Adler and the rest of his troupe packed their bags and prepared to sail for New York at the end of February 1887.

*'It goes without saying that a few loyal friends did not desert us' Adler recalled 'But what could we have from so few. Even on the best days the intake had been small. Now it shrank to nothing.'*<sup>22</sup>

The club had received its deathblow. Yiddish theatre in London seemed finished.

By the middle of the 1890s Jacob P Adler, 'The Great Eagle', had become a legendary Actor-Manager and idol of the Yiddish theatre public in New York, gaining immense power by controlling a number of theatres. He never forgot his early days in London, however, and returned regularly to perform at East End venues.

But what became of Smith's Theatre? Still under the guise of a 'private club', having never applied for the Lord Chamberlain's theatrical licence, the management continued to present entertainments, serve alcohol to non-members and flaunt the rules governing paid admission; 'a so-called cloakroom fee'<sup>23</sup> was made at the entrance to a doorkeeper.

Ultimately all of this brought the Hebrew Dramatic Club to a close.

In the years following the tragic events of January 1887, the club's proprietors were summoned on an almost regular basis to the attention of Worship Street Court.

In gaining evidence the police even resorted to sending patrons in undercover:

*In July an officer was directed to ascertain what was done there and he subsequently sent some respectable women, whose evidence would show that they paid at the door for admission and the place was conducted as a regular theatre. It was contended that there was an infringement of the law... and there could be no doubt that it was a bogus club, which even if it had rules, did not act on them, but constantly violated them. Abraham Smith would be fined for breaches of dramatic law and for breaches of the excise law.*<sup>24</sup>

In September 1890 the club's owners were made bankrupt, as reported in *The Times* of 2 November 1889:

*D and A W Smith. The debtors who were formerly the proprietors of the Hebrew Dramatic Club, Princes Street, Spitalfields and also carried on business as butchers in Crispin Street. The liabilities were returned in the statement of affairs at £2,420 (approximately £145,000 by today's conversion) without available assets. They attributed their failure wholly to losses in connection with the club, and to the expenses of certain criminal proceedings that were taken against them in the past.*

Today, the site that once was the Hebrew Dramatic Club at 3 Princes Street has been re-named and re-numbered 6-10 Princelet Street; it is now an anonymous modern frontage. Of the several blue plaques that adorn the walls of this quiet backwater street of Huguenot dwellings celebrating past events, residents and habitation, no written commemoration marks the site of the tragedy of 1887, but is acknowledged instead by a cast metal 'roundel' in the pavement depicting a violin. It is also now remembered, quite by chance, in researching names known in Ripper lore.

<sup>22</sup> *Times* - February 12th 1887

<sup>23</sup> *Jacob Adler - A Life On The Stage*

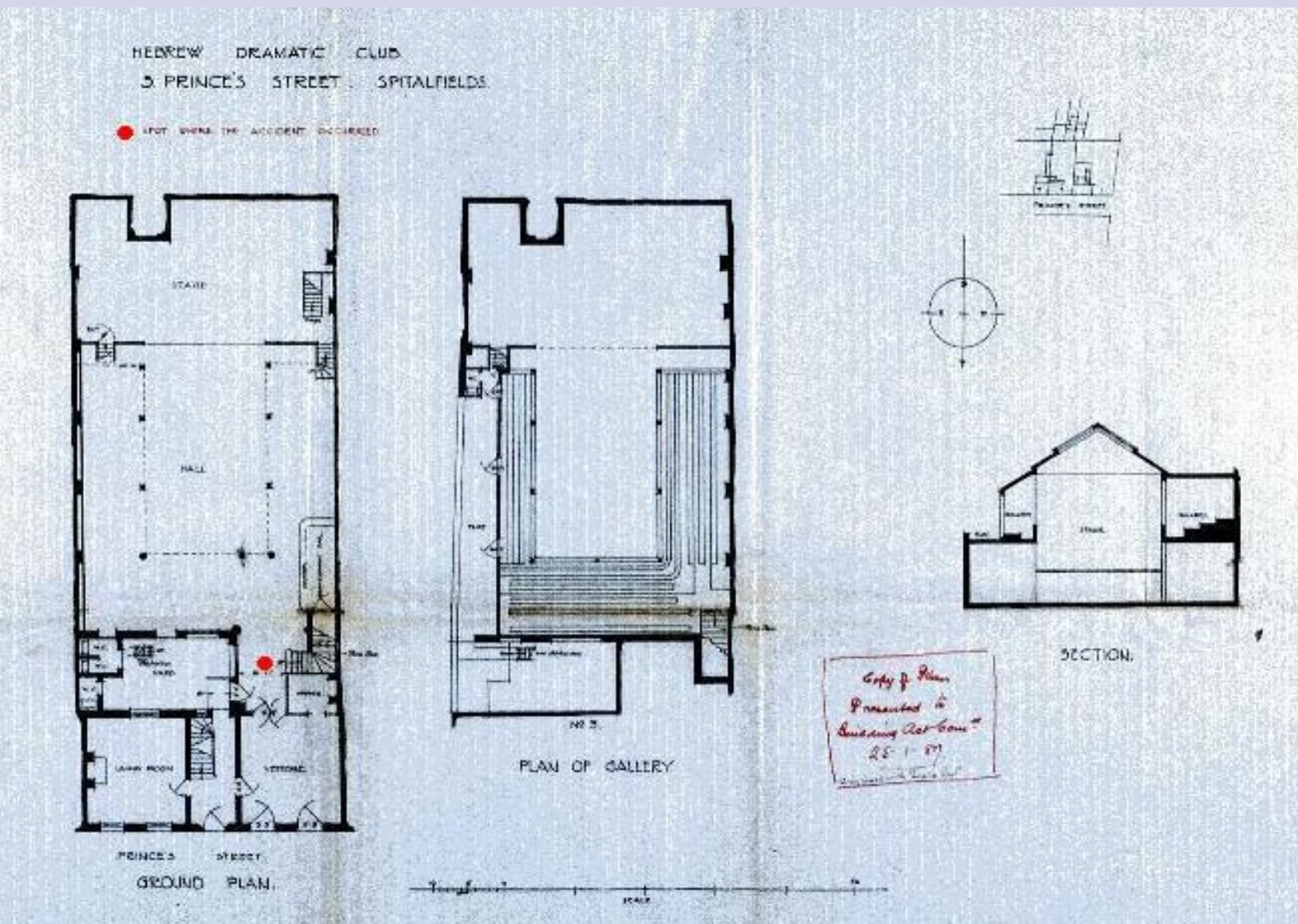
<sup>24</sup> *Times* - April 19th 1890



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Plan of the Hebrew Dramatic Club drawn for Wynne Baxter's inquest



6-10 Princelet Street today, and the violin roundel on the pavement that marks the entranceway



# The Pigeon Among the Cats

A JANE MARBLES ADVENTURE  
by DON SOUDEN

Jane Marbles certainly looked out of place in her current surroundings, the ante-room of a police station in London's East End. She was a small woman and had a snowy white mane that matched in color and fluffiness the angora sweater pulled tightly around her. She appeared to be in her late sixties and while her face seemed almost angelic in its innocence, there was a certain shrewdness in her eyes that suggested real depth of character.

"The Inspector will see you now, mam," said a sergeant and Miss Marbles gathered up her knitting and quietly followed the officer into the office of Inspector Fred Abberline.

Miss Marbles took a seat, almost shrinking from view as she did, and Abberline silently cursed his own foolishness. *"This time,"* he thought, *"I have no one to blame but myself. I listened to my Aunt Agatha tell me how clever her 'dear friend Jane' is at solving mysteries and then agreed to interview her about these infernal Ripper murders. Still, you can't be too nice to elderly aunts—especially those sitting free and clear on £100,000."*

"Aha, Miss Marbles," Abberline began, this time speaking aloud, "I believe you know my aunt, Agatha Thrawn-Gabbit."

"Oh my, yes." Miss Marbles spoke so quietly that Abberline had to strain to hear her. "Agatha is quite the pillar at home in St. Mary's Ale. And she speaks so fondly of you Inspector"

Abberline smiled outwardly at the compliment and preened inwardly giving himself an idle moment to think about what he might do with £100,000—or any portion thereof.

"Well, Agatha speaks highly of you and has mentioned your, ah, special talent at unraveling mysteries."

Miss Marbles, who had continued knitting, put the needles down and, still speaking scarcely above a whisper, replied. "Gracious me! Oh dear, please excuse my intemperate language." She was red-faced and flustered and what she considered an outburst, but managed to continue. "Dear me, no. Not a talent, just living so long that I can often understand people, you see."

"I do suppose you have heard of the murders we are having here in Whitechapel this fall?"

"Oh my yes. Jack the Ripper is it? Such a silly name, you know. But I don't think the name is his idea at all. Rather like our old postman Jimmy Greenbeans. He quite could never resist sampling pies left to cool on a window sill. The children came to calling him 'Simple Simon'—for pie man of course—and he was so upset he moved away. But I don't suppose your murderer will do that."

"No, I don't," replied Abberline. The woman was so totally innocent, he wondered how he could get rid of her without alienating Aunt Agatha. He decided to spell out the many dangers here in Whitechapel and hope the old dear would go running back home immediately.

"It is, you know, rather dangerous here Miss Marbles. Not just the Ripper, but dangerous men and women everywhere you step. Really not at all like St. Mary's Ale."

Miss Marbles' eyes flared a bit and her voice grew stronger when she replied.

"Dangerous? I wouldn't worry Inspector. After all, I spent one summer watching over the O'Hooligan brothers, Shamus and Blamus."

"O'Hooligans, Irish twins maybe?" asked Abberline, still ever mindful of the Fenians.

"No, I believe Siamese now."

"Siamese?" cried Abberline in amazement.

"Yes," replied Miss Marbles, "Siamese twins. And it just happened. They went last week for a few days in Liverpool and came home joined at the wrist. A little bracelet around each and a short chain between."



"Darbies!" expostulated Abberline, while thinking to himself the woman was dafter than a March hare and a friend of his aunt or not he had to get rid of her.

"Uhm, well," continued Abberline, "I thank you for your time and give my best to Aunt Agatha." And he rose as if to see her out.

Miss Marbles, however, instead of preparing to leave continued knitting and when she spoke again to Abberline her tone was much more confidential.

"Inspector, I do not wish to pry and I should not say this, but that sergeant who showed me in, I think you would be wise not to let him be around any loose money."

Abberline stopped in mid-rise and then slumped back into his seat with shock. Truth was that small sums had disappeared from the Widows, Orphans & Insignificant Others Fund and while nothing could be proved, Sergeant Mossback had been suspected.

"Uhm, yes, harumpf...and why would you say that Miss Marbles?" asked the very surprised Abberline.

"Oh, he so reminds me of little Ronnie Ramsbreath. He had such a nice smile and was always taking an extra sweet at church fetes. Killed him when the sexton's wife, who always was bad-sighted, confused the butterscotch-bits recipe with that for rats bane. One piece would have made him sick like everyone else, but two quite did him in. Of course, it did give vicar a month of sermons about gluttony."

"Yes, yes," Abberline said impatiently, "but you could actually tell about Moss...I mean the sergeant, from a look and then connecting him with someone else?"

"Oh yes," said Miss Marbles with a smile. "It is so obvious."

Abberline was thinking feverishly to himself: *"Maybe she does have some sort of special sight and if I give her a chance maybe it will help. And it just might satisfy Aunt Agatha if she's in a will writing mood."* Then he spoke again to the placid Miss Marbles, still quietly knitting.

"Perhaps you could help Miss Marbles. It will be a bit dangerous, dirty and you'll hear words I hope you won't understand, but if you'd like to sit among unfortunates for a few days and perhaps get some ideas, I could arrange it."

Miss Marbles simply said "Oh, that would be marvelous."

So, Abberline penned a note to Jack McCarthy, who owed him more than one favor at the moment. He asked McCarthy to allow Miss Marbles to sit days in the kitchen of one of his lodging houses and—upon pain of being set atop the next Irish infernal device discovered—to ensure her absolute safety. Finally, he dispatched Miss Marbles and her escort of two burly constables to 27 Dorset Street and went back confidently to peruse a listing of yachts in anticipation of his Aunt's demise.

Miss Marbles was not impressed by McCarthy's chandler's shop in the least. There was a definite atmosphere of sharp dealing to the store and that was only reinforced by such signs as "Tomorrow's Prices Today," "Pay For Two, Get One!" and "If You Look At It You've Bought It." As for McCarthy himself, he reminded her of no one so much as E. Vaden Lye, son of an itinerant sty sweeper, who had found a way to convert the sweepings into an aromatic pipe mixture called *Old Laundry* and was now a successful merchant prince.

Regardless, Jane Marbles was soon installed in a kitchen corner of a lodging house on Dorset Street controlled by Jack McCarthy. Daily, she would be escorted from her hotel to Dorset Street by a constable and nightly she would be returned to her hotel, again under police protection. At first, Miss Marbles was looked upon with suspicion by all, but soon her good nature and fount of good sense quickly made her a favorite of the women lodgers who had taken to calling her "old Rainy" for Janie.

For her part, Jane Marbles set about her appointed task with her usual determination. At first, she had been quite taken aback by the coarseness of language and style of the women she met, but as the days wore on she became more accustomed to everything and had even made a few friends. Moreover, she found many of them *did* remind her of women back home, mostly of members of the Lady's Aid Society at the church.

Still, if Jane was fitting in, she was not at all happy with her progress in learning anything about the Ripper. Oh, the women talked about him constantly and she had gained a few insights, but nothing yet of real value. Instead, she had settled into a routine that seemed to promise nothing exciting. That would all change, however, on the sixth day of her toils.

The constable assigned to escort Jane home that night was injured on his way to the lodging house. He was trapped in the middle of a brief scuffle between two separate groups of atheists that had escalated into violence when one group loudly proclaimed "By God, we are less holier than you are!" The poor constable was carted to hospital with a broken nose and in the confusion no one else was assigned to fetch Jane Marbles.

Naturally, as time wore on and no one appeared, Jane began to fret and voiced her concerns to several of the women in the lodging house kitchen.

Oh, Rainey dear, dontcha worry. 'We'll walk wiv yer to the police station, You'll be safe, promise."

"Thank you so much, Sarah, but are you sure? I don't want you to go out of your way."

"No trouble at all love, it's on the way to me pitch anyway. Come on Rainey dear, Getcha stuff an' Lil' Bertha and me will take yer."

Miss Marbles agreed and in the company of Sad Sarah and Lil Bertha (both rather heavysset) headed out into Dorset Street. It was already quite dark and Jane felt more than a little uneasy. This unease grew even greater when her companions decided to leave her well short of her destination.

As Bertha explained, "You'll be fine Rainy. Just down this street, next left and you'll see the station. It's just that Sarah and me, we don't wanna get too close to the Blue Bottles' nest, ya know?"

Jane didn't really understand, but nodded and set off in the direction suggested as quickly as she could. In her haste, however, she became totally confused and soon found herself lost. More embarrassed than scared, Jane paused for a moment to stand on the deserted pavement and try to regain her bearings. It was then that she first heard footsteps, followed by a booming voice.

"'Ere, 'ere, now what 'ave we 'ere?"

Jane Marbles turned to see who was talking and saw, with great relief, a police constable looming over her. "Oh, officer I am so happy..." she started to say, but he hushed her with a wave of his hand.

"My, but you're really old to be on the game. Still, standing and soliciting, 'ey? Granny, you're nicked."

Then, he grabbed Miss Marbles by the arm and led her forcibly to the police station. At first, she had tried to explain to him who she was and what she was doing, but the constable simply shook his head and kept repeating "I've heard all the stories, Granny, all of 'em."

Things were no better when they reached the police station. She began to explain to the desk sergeant that she was a friend of Inspector Abberline, but he just smiled and replied: "Sure, and I'm the King of Prooshia." Quickly then, she was charged with standing and soliciting and thrown into a lockup with several other women either culled off the streets for drunken and disorderly conduct or for soliciting. One look at her companions in the cell and Jane Marbles had the troubling notion that the women at the lodging house were county gentry in comparison and that she was in for a long and unpleasant night.

It was not until late morning that things were sorted out and Jane Marbles was back in the office of an abjectly apologetic Inspector Frederick Abberline.

"I am so, so, sorry about what happened. It was a terrible mistake and a lot of men are going to be patrolling beats in the sewers the rest of their lives as a result. Really, I am sorry."

Abberline continued in this manner for several minutes, but the newly energized Jane Marbles simply fixed a malignant glare upon him. Finally, Abberline decided to try another conversational tack.

"Um, well I do wonder if, horrible as it was, did you, that is, learn anything this week or even last night?"

At last Miss Marbles spoke, vehemence in her voice. "Oh yes, I learned a lot last night."

"Something perhaps about the Ripper."

"That too," Jane Marbles almost spit out.

"And what was that?"

"Just that," Miss Marbles began almost mechanically, "he is probably in his 20s or early 30s and a white male. His mother may have abandoned him and he may have been abused as a child. He's a loner, lives in the area and has an unfulfilling job. As to organized or disorganized, I'm not sure."

"And now, Inspector, if you don't mind I would like to get home to St. Mary's Ale as soon as possible and forget this whole unpleasant time."

"That would be for the best I'm sure—and again I am so terribly sorry for what happened." Abberline began to rise when his eyes lit again upon the listing of yachts and he suddenly had a new thought.

"Oh, Miss Marbles," Abberline began in his gentlest voice, "what will you be saying about me to Aunt Agatha?"

"Just something I learned last night."

"And what might that be?"

"Simply that you remind me so much of our vicar," Miss Marbles said quietly.

Abberline preened inwardly at a comparison to a clergyman, until he heard Miss Marbles' final words that she fairly shouted.

"Just like you, Inspector, he's a bloody wanker!"



CHRIS SCOTT's

# Press Trawl at Christmas

*Evening News*  
1 December 1888

## THE EAST END MURDERS. ARREST OF THE SUPPOSED ASSASSIN IN BURDETT ROAD.

A man was arrested last night at the Crystal Tavern, Burdett road, Mile End, on suspicion of being the Whitechapel murderer. He got into conversation with a woman, whom he asked to accompany him, but she refused. He afterwards addressed a photographer who was soliciting orders, asking him if he could take some photographs, and using expressions which excited suspicion. He was given in charge. He has given the address "Mr. Stewart, 305 Mile End road," but at the Bow Police station he gave his name as "Ever." He appears to be a Polish Jew.

*Evening News*  
3 December 1888.

## EAST LONDON AND CRIME WHAT MRS. S.A. BARNETT HAS TO SAY.

It is always gratifying, and generally instructive, to listen to what a good and clever woman has to say upon any huge and troublesome moral problem. The instinctive faculty for getting at or very near the truth in such cases is a peculiarity of the educated and sympathetic female mind, and there is no one familiar with the strange and tragical phases of social life in the East of London who is entitled to be heard with more respectful attention than the amiable and observant wife of the indefatigable vicar of St. Jude's, Whitechapel.

There are periods in the social and moral history of this great metropolis when public attention is, for the time, rivetted upon some particular district, and when an exceptional, albeit a generally painful, interest is awakened in its inhabitants. Such a one is upon us now in consequence of the fiendish tragedies which have darkened the very name of the East end by their horrors, and it is only at such periods that the public conscience is awakened to the contemplation of the grim horrors of poverty, degradation, and crime which are of daily occurrence in our midst, and to which these more notable tragedies may be almost said to form the natural sequel. Mrs. S.A. Barnett's has taken advantage of this fact to call a closer attention to the lives lived from day to day, and from year to year, by those whose claim to human brotherhood and sisterhood Society is too apt to ignore. This appeal, and a thoroughly touching and womanly one it is, appears in the current number of the *National Review*, under the title of "East London and Crime," forming one of a series of articles on "The Social Problem."

### A DEFENCE OF THE EAST END.

The writer complains, and with very good reason too, that "people speak and write as if the inhabitants of East London were all degraded and crime stained, as if the streets were not safe for the passage of respectable people; as if its denizens had the monopoly of vice; and as if in its houses virtue were unloved, and righteousness unpursued." Against these ignorant assumptions, Mrs. Barnett protests on the strongest grounds, and pleads that people, instead of allowing their minds to be swayed by these prejudices, should endeavour to seek out the simple, unadulterated truth upon the question. "The majority of East London inhabitants," she maintains, "are well intentioned citizens, often with a low standard of life and principle, but generally law abiding; with narrow interests and limited outlooks, but with consciences which they keep alive, and a moral which, if low, is nevertheless obeyed."

## THE STATE OF THE TOWER HAMLETS.

Here are some statistics quoted by the writer, which are of more than ordinary interest at the present time. "The people of the Tower Hamlets number, roughly, 456,000 people, and of these only some 71,000 belong to the class of unskilful labour from which, as a rule, in East London the criminal classes are recruited; or, to put the same fact in another form, out of nearly 90,000 heads of families, some 15,000 earn their living by irregular work, or work paid for, owing to its poorness of execution, at a lower than the market rate of payment. If the matter is reduced to percentages it will show that 65 per cent of the East London people are above the line of poverty, 22 per cent on the line, while those who fall chronically below it into the region of distress are 13 per cent."

## A PLEA FOR THE POOR.

In the face of these figures, and of the recent events which have made that part of the metropolis so notorious Mrs. Barnett holds that much of the misunderstanding which prevails with respect to the denizens of that district is due to the entire ignorance which the rich and poor of London have of each other. Upon this point she remarks: "With some knowledge both of rich and poor, I have learned to think that the rich people's ignorance of the poor is most to be regretted; the circumstances of the poor develop beauties of character which with difficulty grow apart from the atmosphere of labour, sacrifice, effort, and obedience. Such lives and characters it is almost impossible to describe. They must be loved and lived with before they can be really known; but the knowledge of them makes 'the bliss of solitude' even more surely than Wordsworth's daffodils." Then follow a number of illustrations of filial affection and family solicitude, which, though in most cases roughly expressed, are very beautiful in their innate tenderness and loyalty.

## MUZZLING THE PRESS.

Mrs. Barnett is deeply and somewhat unreasonably indignant at the attitude of the daily Press with respect to the recent murders. She maintains that the publication of such details as have come to light is a disgrace to our humanity, and an unmitigated evil to the rising generation. This, however, is a point upon which a great many people will entirely disagree with her. This is certainly not the age for hushing up the particulars of great crimes, and it is this important factor of a public demand which Mrs. Barnett unfortunately omits from the calculation upon which her protest is based.

"But these Whitechapel horrors," continues the writer, "disgraceful as they, injurious as has been their effect on the public mind, and painful as it is to live through them, will not be in vain if the thinkers and the responsible are awakened to the condition of the poor quarters of London, their police supervision, and their local boards; or if the gentle and refined are aroused, until conscience struck, they are compelled to sacrifice some of their happiness and ease, and to give and share with the rough and the ignorant all that makes life gentle and refined to themselves. That the kindly have already been awakened there can be no doubt, and large sums of money have been offered and raised to meet the evil."

We regret that we have not the space to quote more extensively from this truly important and interesting article.

## ANOTHER ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A WOMAN. THIS TIME AT KING'S CROSS. THE VICTIM TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL. NO TRACE OF THE MAN.

This morning, at about one o'clock, intense excitement was caused in the district of King's Cross by a report that another attempt had been made to murder a woman. It appeared that Harriet North, an unfortunate, residing at 12 Wood street, Cromer street, Gray's Inn road, was accosted in the Euston road by a young man, with a black moustache. After some conversation she accompanied him up Belgrave street, King's Cross, and a few minutes afterwards she found that she had been stabbed with some sharp instrument in the abdomen. She exclaimed, "Oh, my God, what have you done?" and the man, without replying, ran off. The woman called out, and Sarah Ann Masters, a companion of hers, went to her assistance. Police constables Hy. Stone, 273E, and Chas. Palmer, 871E, also went to her and, finding she was bleeding profusely from the wound, they removed her to the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn road, where she was seen by Dr. Henry Tonks, one of the house surgeons, and was by him admitted into the Milne Ward. Whether the wound is serious or not, has not yet been ascertained. The man made good his escape. The woman North states that he was apparently a foreigner, and that he wore a heavy black moustache.

On inquiry at the Royal Free Hospital, Gray's Inn road, this morning, respecting the woman Harriett North, reported to have been stabbed at King's Cross, this morning, the Central News was informed that she was in no danger whatever. The matter had been much exaggerated, as it is doubtful if she had been stabbed at all. There are some scratches on the were (sic) part of the body but these might have been caused by sharp fingernails, in a struggle. The woman will

most likely leave the hospital today. No importance is attached to the matter.

The Press Association says: The injury discovered on examination is in the nature of an abrasion, and could not have been inflicted by any sharp instrument, such as a knife. So strong is Mr. Tonks's opinion that it is not a case of premeditated assault, that he thinks the man probably was as much alarmed at the appearance of blood as the woman herself, and so made his escape. A woman named Sarah Ann Masters, who lives in the same house as Worth (sic), was with her for a few minutes before the occurrence, Masters having been accosted by the same man. From a statement of Masters it would appear that the woman Worth was herself under the impression that she had been stabbed with a knife, and that in her alarm she called Masters to her assistance. the woman's fears as to the nature of her injury are not, however, borne out by the surgeon in whose temporary charge she has been placed.

#### THE NEW CHIEF COMMISSIONER.

*<Illustration - Sketch of Monro.>*

Mr. James Monro, the new Chief Commissioner, who today enters upon his duties at Whitehall, is the subject of the above sketch. He is the son of the late Mr. George Monro, a solicitor, practising before the Supreme Courts, Edinburgh, and was born on November 25, 1838. He has consequently just completed his 50th year. Mr. Monro is a graduate of the University in his native city, and like many a Scotchman, early in life went out to India, where he was destined to have a distinguished official career. This was in or about the year 1860. His first appointment, if we are not mistaken, was in the Bengal Presidency. The reputation of the young official for administrative capacity soon grew, and we find him in rapid succession filling the posts of assistant magistrate and collector, district judge, and, finally, inspector general of police in the Presidency. In the latter position he had a very large body of men under his control, and the admirable way in which he handles the force was universally admitted (sic). Mr. Monro served with a distinction during the Wahabi conspiracy that gained him the thanks of the Indian Executive of the period. A curious turn of events a few years ago changed entirely the current of Mr. Monro's life and led him to severing his connection with India. It so happened that at the time when Mr. Howard Vincent resigned his appointment as head of the Central Criminal Investigation Department, Mr. Monro was in London on leave of absence, and although he had no friends in commanding positions at the Home Office, yet he did not hesitate to make application for the vacancy. His career in the far East was one that immediately commended itself to the authorities, and his appointment as Assistant Commissioner of Police soon followed. At the time when he assumed his new duties London was demoralised by the series of dynamite outrages perpetrated by Gallagher and his fellow conspirators; and how well, and with what success, Mr. Monro directed the operations of the detective department during the crucial period, is now a matter of history. His recent differences with Sir Charles Warren are too recent to need recapitulation. At all events, for a time he withdrew from Whitehall, though he continued to be one of the Home Secretary's confidential advisers at the Home Office. Now again he had been reinstated with increased authority, and there is every reason to believe that the appointment will be a good one. Mr. Monro, we may state, is a very popular man in the detective department, and enjoys the thorough confidence of his subordinates. A stiffly built, middle height man, with short side whiskers, firmly chiselled face and a head that is rapidly getting bald, Mr. Monro unfortunately suffers from one great physical disability. He is very lame, and can only with difficulty mount on horseback. When in India some years ago he met with a serious accident while in pursuit of an offender whom he was endeavouring to arrest. In attempting a wall over which the culprit had disappeared, his horse fell, and it was discovered by the doctors that the gallant official's hip joint had been permanently disabled. This is a physical infirmity that we believe will not debar the new Chief Commissioner from a thorough and efficient discharge of duties that must inevitably tax even his superabundant energies.

*Evening News*  
6 December

#### THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ON THE POLICE.

Mr. James Monro, C.B., the new Commissioner of Metropolitan Police, speaking last night at a banquet given by the City Police Committee at the Haberdashers' Hall, said whether they belonged to the City or the metropolis, they were all policemen, and they were all animated by the same desire and the same intentions - viz., to do their duty in every shape and way to the public, and when he said that it included everything that could be said in the way of performing their duties to the citizens, their duties to the Government, and their duties to the police force. It was only so long as they were in touch with the public that they could perform those duties. Of that there could be no doubt whatever, and he had the proud satisfaction to know even from his short connection with the police that they were in touch with the public, and long might they continue to be so. (Cheers.) So long as that continued he was perfectly certain they would continue to deserve the kind things that had been said of them by Sir Robert Peel (a previous speaker) and the public at large. He and Sir James Fraser (Commissioner of the City Police) worked together with the greatest harmony, and were animated by the simple desire to do their duty and protect the lives and property and best interests of the public.



*Evening News*  
7 December

The current number of the British Medical Journal introduces to the public the theory of "an eminent surgeon" about the Whitechapel murders. This superior person prefaces his theory with a little sneer at the theories and speculations of other people who are not eminent surgeons, which, he suggests, "are prompted rather by a desire to account for them (the murders) - that is to say, to find some motive for them - than by any knowledge of the subject." Most writers on the point, says the eminent surgeon, have treated the occurrences as though they were unprecedented in the annals of crime, and therefore he considers "it seems desirable to point out that such is by no means the case."

Thereupon our eminent one goes on to explain that "a certain horrible perversion of the sexual instinct is the one motive and cause of such apparently aimless acts," to quote the German authority, Von Krafft Ebing, and to discourse learnedly on "Psycopathia Sexualis," adding a few examples of previous cases of the same class. This is doubtless a valuable contribution to the literature of the Whitechapel murders, but its value is considerably discounted by the fact that the suggestion as to a "Lustmord," the quotation of Von Kraft Ebing, the dissertation on "Psycopathia Sexualis," and the examples of previous cases, were all given in The Evening News of October 15th, and given much more fully and clearly than the eminent surgeon of the B.M.J. gives them. Yet we do not profess to be a medical journal.

### THE EAST END MURDERS.

#### ARREST OF A MAN ANSWERING THE DESCRIPTION OF THE SUPPOSED MURDERER.

The police yesterday made a singular arrest, which was reported to be in connection with the Whitechapel murders. It appears that during the afternoon a man, described as a Polish Jew, was arrested near Drury lane, but for what offence is not exactly clear. The individual, who is of short stature with a black moustache, was taken to the Bow street Police station, where he was detained for a time. In the meantime, a telegraphic communication was forwarded to Leman street Police station, which is the headquarters of the Whitechapel division, requesting the attendance of one of the inspectors. Detective Inspector Abberline immediately proceeded to Bow street, and subsequently took away the prisoner in a cab, which was strongly escorted. While on the one hand he is stated to have stolen a watch for which he is detained, it is believed that, beyond that fact, he corresponds to the description of the supposed Whitechapel murderer, and there are other circumstances which are causing the detective force in the East end to make further inquiry concerning the prisoner. He is well known to the local police and detectives, although he is stated to have been absent from the neighbourhood lately.

Another account says: It was subsequently ascertained that the man was apprehended for stealing a watch, with which offence he has been charged; but the police were led to believe that he was connected, not with the mutilations, but with the recent attempt to murder a woman in George street, Spitalfields. Exhaustive inquiries were made, but as far as can be ascertained the man could in no way be connected with that outrage.

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*Evening News*  
8 December

### THE WHITECHAPEL MURDERS.

Joseph Isaacs, 30, who said he had no fixed abode, and described himself as a cigar maker, was charged at Worship street, yesterday, with having stolen a watch, value 30s., the goods of Julius Levenson.

The prisoner, who was brought up in the custody of Detective sergeant Record, H division, is the man who was arrested in Drury lane on Thursday afternoon on suspicion of being connected with the Whitechapel murders. It transpired during the hearing of this charge that it was committed at the very time the prisoner was being watched as a person "wanted." The prosecutor, Levenson, said that the prisoner entered his shop on the 5th instant, with a violin bow, and asked him to repair it. Whilst discussing the matter, the prisoner bolted out of the shop, and witness missed a gold watch belonging to a customer. The watch had been found at a pawn shop. To prove that the prisoner was the man who entered the shop, a woman named Mary Cusins was called. She is deputy of a lodging house in Paternoster row, Spitalfields, and said that the prisoner had lodged in the house, as a single lodger, for three or four nights before the Dorset street murder - the murder of Mary Janet Kelly, in Miller's court. He disappeared after that murder, leaving the violin bow behind. The witness on the house to house inspection gave information to the police, and said she remembered that on the night of the murder she heard the prisoner walk about his room. After her statement a look out was kept for the prisoner, whose appearance certainly answered the published description of a man with an astrachan trimming to his coat. He visited the lodging house on the 5th, and asked for the violin bow. It was given to him and the witness Cusins followed him to give him into custody as requested. She saw him enter Levenson's shop, and almost immediately run out, no constable being at hand.

Detective Record said that there were some matters alleged against the prisoner, which it was desired to inquire into.

Mr. Bushby remanded the prisoner.

*Evening News*

11 December

There can be little doubt that, as the winter grows upon us, the bitter cry of outcast London will be as loud, as keen, as persistent this season as it has been at all. No substantial improvement has taken place in the condition of the destitute population of the Metropolis since last winter. Indeed, there is every probability that these sufferers will, in many instances, be worse off than they were a year ago, in consequence of the disastrous hopping season through which they had to pass. Those who, in former years, have been able to put a little on one side to help them and their families through the long and dreary winter, have not had that opportunity this year, and the result will be an increase in the bulk of poverty in our midst. That some special effort will have to be made to meet this emergency goes without saying; but that the means of alleviation should be placed in the hands of General Booth and his noisy host is quite another matter. The "boss" of the Salvation Army has never shown any embarrassment through excessive modesty, especially when the tapping of the pockets of the public happened to be the question of the hour, which, by the way, it generally has been. But his latest proposal knocks all his other performances in this direction into the shade. He has presented a memorial to the Home Secretary, in which he coolly proposes that the Government should aid the Salvation Army in what it is pleased to call its rescue work, and in the provision of food and shelter depots, by a grant of £15,000. Mr. Matthews has, of course, promised the matter his careful attention, but he is hardly likely to place such a nice little plum in the General's mouth on the off chance of its being properly distributed. There are other institutions for the relief of the destitute than the Salvation Army, and until it can be proved to the public satisfaction that these agencies have failed, there is no possible excuse for appointing such a man as General Booth almoner of the Government bounty. If he took the public a little more into his confidence as to the fairness of his own fanatical organisation, the opposition of this last and coolest of his many demands would, possibly, be less strenuous, though equally well founded. As things stand it will not do at any price.

*Evening News*

12 December

#### AN EX-MILITARY OFFICER AS "JACK THE RIPPER."

William Moses, 50, of military appearance, giving his address as 229 Mare street, Hackney, was charged before Mr. Horace Smith, at Dalston Police court, today, with being drunk and disorderly, in Dalston lane.

Constable 128J said that he was on duty in Dalston lane, at a quarter to ten on Tuesday night, when he saw the prisoner go up to a number of females and speak to them. When they declined to have anything to do with him, he became very disorderly and shouted out that he was "Jack the Ripper." He was evidently drunk, and witness took him into custody.

The Clerk showed the magistrate the charge sheet on which the prisoner was described as a retired officer from the army, and Mr. Smith remarked that for a man of the prisoner's education and position to be guilty of such conduct was positively disgraceful. He should impose a fine of 40s., with 7s 6d the doctor's fee, or one month, but he was not quite sure that he ought not to send the accused to prison without the option of a fine.

*Evening News*

15 December

#### THE WHITECHAPEL SUSPECT.

At Worship street Police court, yesterday, Joseph Isaacs, 30, cigar maker, with no fixed abode, was charged, on remand, with having stolen from the shop of a watchmaker named Levenson a gold watch, value 30s. The prisoner, it may be remembered, had been sought for by the police in consequence of a report of his movements on the night of the murder of Mary Janet Kelly in Dorset street, Spitalfields; and it was aid by the police that they wished the fullest inquiry as to the prisoner's movements on the night of November 8. For that purpose he was remanded, but Detective Sergeant Record, H division, said that so far there was no further charge against the prisoner. The prisoner was then asked if he wished to go for trial, but he pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

*Evening News*  
19 December

### JACK THE RIPPER IN BERLIN.

A person purporting to be "Jack the Ripper has sent the following letter to the Berlin Police President:

"To the Police president of Berlin.

Mr. President, as I am going to spend a short time in Berlin, I will see if the famous Berlin police will catch me. I shall only have fifteen victims. So take warning!

Yours respectfully,

Jack the Ripper."

The letter is in German in a large handwriting, and is a ridiculous fabrication sent by a Berliner as a stupid joke, and therefore of no value whatever as a clue to the London crimes. It is full of Berlinisms, such as the substitution of mich for mir.

General Booth is not to be entrusted with the handling of the £15,000 which he modestly requested from the Government the other day. In the House of Commons last night, the Home Secretary, in reply to Professor Stuart, said he had received a memorial from general Booth, of the Salvation Army, respecting the establishment of cheap shelters for the outcast poor in London, and had replied that the Government could not assist a charitable work by private persons by grants of money, buildings, or stores. This decision will, probably, disappoint the enterprising "boss" of the Salvation Army, but it will be a great satisfaction to the general public.

*Evening News*  
20 December

### SUSPICIOUS DEATH AT POPLAR.

The Press Association says that Police sergeant Goldie this morning found the dead body of a woman lying in Clarke's yard, High street, Poplar. Mrs. Thompson, of the East India Arms, High street, states that shortly after three o'clock this morning, she heard the dog barking very loudly, but on looking out of her window she could see nothing. The police are instituting inquiries, and Mr. Chivers, the coroner's officer, sent a special message to the coroner asking his consent to a post mortem examination. There were no distinct marks of violence, but there was great discolouration of the face, neck, and arms. The woman appeared to be about 25 years of age.

*Evening News*  
22 December

### THE MURDER AT POPLAR.

Yesterday morning, Mr. Wynne E. Baxter, coroner for South east Middlesex, opened an inquiry at Poplar town Hall into the circumstances attending the death of a woman, unknown, whose body was discovered lying in Clarke's yard, High street, Poplar, on Thursday, under circumstances which lead to the supposition that she was the victim of foul play.

Inspector Parlett, K division, attended to watch the case for the Commissioner of Police.

#### HOW THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE.

Police sergeant Robert Golding, 26K, stated that at 4.15 a.m. on Thursday, he was on duty in High street, Poplar, in company with Police constable 470K. Whilst passing Mr. Clarke's yard he saw a heap of something lying some distance up the yard. He went up and examined it, and found it to be the body of a woman, apparently dead. She was lying on her left side, with her left arm under her. The right leg was under her, and the left at full length. The body at that time was warm. the clothes were not disarranged. The body was lying parallel with and under the wall. He left the constable in charge, and went for the divisional surgeon, whose assistant came and pronounced life extinct. the body was then removed to the mortuary, where witness searched it and examined the clothing. he found one shilling in silver and two pence in bronze, together with a phial, which was empty. the woman was wearing a black dress made of alpaca, a brown stuff skirt, a red flannel petticoat, and white drawers and chemise. She also had on a dark tweed double breasted jacket, blue striped stockings, and side spring boots. She had no hat on, and her hair was all rough and fell over her face. One earring was on the right ear.

#### NO MARKS OF A SCUFFLE.

Witness said that he did not meet anyone in High street while he was patrolling it. He examined the ground but could not find any marks as if a scuffle had taken place there. The features of the woman were familiar to him, and he believed she was a girl of the streets.



Thomas Dean, a blind maker, of 159 High street, Poplar, deposed that he passed through Clarke's yard late on Wednesday night. He did not notice the body then, and he must have done had it been there. Witness knew that women of ill fame were in the habit of frequenting the spot, which was open to any one, there being no gate. His house was right opposite the yard, but during the night he heard no noise.

#### THE DOCTOR WHO EXAMINED THE BODY CALLED.

Mr. Matthew Brownfield, of 170 East India road, Poplar, divisional surgeon of police, deposed that at 4.30 a.m. on Thursday morning he was called by the police to a woman who had been found lying in Clarke's yard. His assistant, Mr. Harris, attended and pronounced her dead. Witness made a post mortem examination yesterday morning. He found the body to be that of a woman about 30 years of age, 5ft 2in high, complexion fair, hazel eyes, and moderately stout. She was well nourished. Blood was oozing from the nostrils, and on the right side was a slight abrasion. On the right cheek was a scar apparently of old standing. The mark on the nose might have been caused by any slight violence. On the neck he found a mark which had evidently been caused by a cord drawn tightly round from the spine on the back to the lobe of the left ear.

#### PRODUCED BY CORD.

He had since found that the mark could be produced by a piece of four fold lay cord. Beside that mark the impression of the thumbs and the middle and index fingers were plainly visible on each side of the neck. There were no injuries to the arms and legs. On opening the brain he found the vessels engorged with a dark, almost black fluid blood. The lungs were congested and the heart normal. The kidneys were congested but not diseased. the stomach was full of meat and potatoes which had only recently been eaten. There was a little fluid, and that and the food had been Irish stew. There was no smell or sign of poison in the stomach. The cause of death, in witness's opinion, was suffocation by strangulation. There were no signs of a struggle except the mark on the cheek.

The Coroner: Do you think she could have done it herself?

Witness: No, I don't think so. If she had done it I should have expected to find the cord round the neck, but it was not, nor has any cord been found near the spot.

#### WHAT ABOUT THE FINGER MARKS?

The Coroner: To what do you ascribe the finger marks?

Witness: I think they were made in her efforts to pull off the cord.

The Coroner: I think you said that the string had not gone right round the neck, but only from the spine to beneath the left ear, travelling round by the throat. How do you account for that?

Witness: I think the murderer must have stood at the left rear of the woman, and, having the ends of the string wrapped round his hands, thrown the cord round her throat, and crossing his hands, so strangled her. Where the hands crossed would be just where the marks of the cord are absent.

The Coroner: Do you think the woman was held like that for any length of time?

Witness: I think the cord was pulled till after death had ensued. The cord being tight would prevent the woman from calling out for help. I may say that having studied the question as to the position of the man and the force used, I think it quite possible that the cord was run through two holes or rings and then twisted by a turn of the wrist till death ensued.

#### THE CORONER TAKES A SERIOUS VIEW OF THE CASE.

The Coroner said that the law only allowed him to call in one doctor, but the jury had the power to summon a second one if they thought it necessary. Now Dr. Harris's evidence was most important to the inquiry, but before that evidence could be got the jury must give him (the Coroner) power to summon Dr. Harris. It seemed very much as if a foul murder had been committed, and all available evidence should be got before the jury concluded the case. Under these circumstances, he thought it would be better to adjourn at this point, and give his officer and police time to make inquiries.

This was agreed to and the inquiry was then adjourned.

#### THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF THE CRIME.

High street, Poplar, at the best of times when business is in full swing is not particularly well lighted. It is a dirty, narrow thoroughfare, and in the neighbourhood of Clarke's yard, as there are several private houses facing the street, the illumination is poor. Clarke's yard is a long, narrow lane leading from the main thoroughfare down to some workshops and stables. It is about eight or ten feet wide; it is not lit up; one of the two gates which formerly kept out intruders at night at night time has disappeared, and lately the yard has become a nuisance from a sanitary point of

view, while it is much frequented by women of the unfortunate class. The tenants of the workshops and stables are usually passing up and down until close on midnight. But on the night of the murder no one seems to have gone through the yard after ten o'clock. At that hour it was moonlight, and certainly nobody was there then. The discovery was made at four o'clock in the morning, and the outrage had then not long been committed. It may be added that disturbances with abandoned women are of frequent occurrence in the locality, especially soon after midnight. The affair up to a late hour last night was still enshrouded in mystery, one of the chief difficulties of the police arising from the fact that the deceased is totally unknown. Two or three inquiries have already been made of the police by women who have missed companions, but all efforts at identification have proved futile.

#### A STARTLING SUGGESTION.

Some colour is given to the suggestion that "Jack the Ripper" has adopted a new style of assassination by a complaint recently made at Dalston Police court by a woman that a man had attempted to strangle her in a somewhat similar manner. The force of detectives in the Poplar district has now been considerably increased, and no efforts are being spared to clear up the mystery.

*Evening News*  
28 December

#### THE POPLAR MURDER. IDENTIFICATION OF THE VICTIM.

The police have succeeded in finding Mrs. Mylett, the mother of the woman found dead in Clarke's yard, Poplar, a few days ago. The deceased woman had frequently spoken of her mother living somewhere near Baker's row, Whitechapel, and it was near this thoroughfare, in Pelham street, that Mrs. Mylett was found to be residing. When the detectives called at the house on Boxing day they found the inmates indulging in Christmas festivities, and upon their stating the object of their visit one of the women in the house had a serious fit. Upon visiting the mortuary Mrs. Mylett stated that she had no doubt that the body shown her was that of her daughter, and added that she last saw the deceased alive on Sunday week, when she called at Pelham street. The mother had frequently remonstrated with her daughter upon her mode of life, but without avail. Mrs. Mylett, who is an Irishwoman, also stated that her daughter was born in London, and some years ago married, unknown to her parents, a man named Davis, whom Mrs. Mylett believed was an upholsterer by trade. The young couple had one child, but as they often disagreed they separated. The child is now in a school at Sutton, and is about seven years of age. A curious fact in reference to the woman having had a child is that Dr. Brownfield, when at the inquest, expressed the opinion that the deceased had never been a mother.



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All the news that's fit to print...

# I Beg to Report

IPSWICH 'RIPPER' CAUGHT? Just as last month the e-fit mugshot of Jack the Ripper prepared for the Channel 5 documentary on the Ripper riveted the world's media (see *I Beg* in Rip 73), news of a serial murderer nicknamed by some as a 'Ripper' who has been operating in Ipswich, England, has been reported worldwide. As we neared press time, Suffolk police announced on 20 December the arrest of a second man in the murder probe into the deaths of five prostitutes by strangling. Paul Kent in the *Herald Sun* of Australia revealed on 21 December that sources stated that DNA evidence at three murder scenes linked 48-year-old forklift driver Stephen Wright, a former chef on the QE2, to the crimes. Wright was arrested in a pre-dawn raid at his home in the heart of Ipswich's red light district - just five doors away from the home of victim Paula Clennell. Kent also reported that police believe there is no connection between Wright and an earlier man arrested in the case - 37-year-old supermarket worker Tom Stephens, who now appears to be eliminated as a suspect. A prostitute named 'Lou' - who admitted having sex with Wright three times in the past month - said the suspect was a common sight trawling the Ipswich red light district, and that he was known as 'Mondeo Man' because of the car he drove. She said, 'I'd describe him as a regular customer, someone who has been picking up girls for the last eight months or so.' She added, 'He didn't strike me as weird and never gave me any reason to believe I was in danger. He'd just pick me up and then park in the car park at the back of his house. Sometimes we'd go in the front door and other times through the patio doors at the back.'

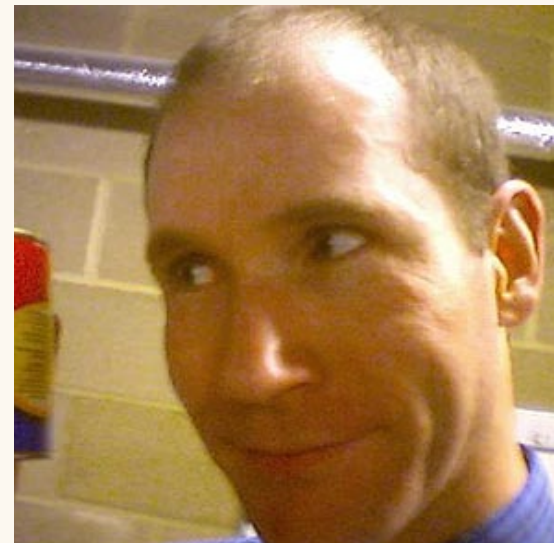
**Reuters reported** that on Friday, 22 December, Wright appeared in court charged with murdering five prostitutes in less than two months. The prisoner arrived at Ipswich magistrates court under heavy security in a police van flanked by two cars. He appeared smartly dressed for the brief court hearing. He was remanded in custody to appear at the town's Crown Court on 2 January.

The naked bodies of the victims were found dumped in rural areas near Ipswich, 70 miles northeast of London, over a 10-day span beginning 2 December. On *Casebook: Jack the Ripper* Stephen P Ryder commented: 'Apart from the obvious similarities in victimology, the major comparison in my opinion is the time-frame in which the murders are occurring. It appears to be quite compressed (five in six weeks), which as serial killers go, is somewhat uncommon.' The *Australian* of 14 December trumpeted, 'Monster equals Jack the Ripper's grisly record' noting that 'In little more than a month, the Ipswich murderer has managed to equal the gruesome total of killings recorded by Jack the Ripper more than a century ago.' Stephen Ryder commented on his website on the time scale comparison: 'For many modern serial killers, often weeks, months or even years will go by between killings. This "compressed" time scale is somewhat similar to the Ripper killings, which took place over approximately thirteen weeks from August through November 1888. Both time frames are relatively atypical for serial murders.'

On 18 December, the same day police said they had arrested the supermarket worker, they announced that coroner's inquests into the deaths of Tania Nicol, Anneli Alderton, Paula Clennell and Annette Nicholls had been postponed. Clennell, age 24, died of compression to her neck, and Alderton, also 24, was strangled, a senior pathologist



Steve Wright



Tom Stephens





*Gemma Adams, Tania Nicol, Anneli Alderton, Annette Nicholls and Paula Clennell*

determined. Post-mortem examinations of the bodies of Nicol, 19, and Nicholls, reached no conclusion on the cause of death. An inquest into the death of Gemma Adams, 25, was opened and adjourned last week; the pathologist reached no conclusion about the cause of her death. It has been reported that the investigation had strained the resources of one of England's smallest police forces, and 340 specialist investigators were brought in from across Britain to join 160 Suffolk officers working on the case. As the manhunt progressed, the *Sunday News Of The World* offered a £250,000 reward (about \$500,000 US) for any information leading to the arrest of the killer.

In the McClatchy (Washington State, USA) *Mercury News* of 16 December, Laura Potts wrote: 'In the first weeks after 19-year-old Tania Nicol was reported missing on Oct. 30, the pleas of worried family members drew little attention outside this city of 140,000 about an hour northeast of London. Nor was there much response when 25-year-old Gemma Adams vanished on Nov. 15, at least not outside England's eastern agricultural belt. Now all England is abuzz after three more young women turned up dead in what the local newspapers are calling one of the biggest serial crimes since Jack the Ripper preyed on London prostitutes in the 19th century.'

THE FACE OF 'MR AVERAGE.' In the *Sunday Mirror* of 17 December, Bob Taylor, a former Detective Chief Superintendent who worked on the Yorkshire Ripper case of the Seventies and early Eighties, commented on the type of man responsible for the Ipswich prostitute deaths: 'This is a man who doesn't come across as some kind of frightening fiend. He is Mr Average. The murdered girls were not wary of him - despite them knowing there was a killer on the loose, they got in his car. He was able to pick them up, take them away and kill them. The only moment that these poor women will have known that they had made a mistake is when he was strangling the life out of them. That is very sad.'

LEGALISE THE 'OLDEST PROFESSION'? Writing in the *Daily Times* of Lahore, Pakistan, on 18 December, Angela Williams commented: 'It is not without reason that prostitution is jokingly called 'the oldest profession', so it is high time that women in the sex industry, forced by poverty, illiteracy and powerlessness into such a dangerous and filthy world to cater to the 'needs' of men, were effectively and efficiently protected by the law. It is time that prostitutes were viewed as victims of the men who use them, and of male domination, and not as the sluts, whores, scrubbers and many other vile abuses that are regularly hurled at them, as if they were responsible for their own plight and for society's immorality in general.'

Ms Williams also took a jaded view of the Jack the Ripper walks, seeing the Ripper 'industry' as working hand in hand with salacious media who reported on the Ipswich murders - though it might seem some of her information needed a fact check. She stated: 'Nowadays, the tourist industry does a roaring trade in Jack the Ripper memorabilia, foreigners being taken on guided tours of the murder sites each summer, a pub being named the *Jack the Ripper*, until someone like me, disgusted by such an idea, pressurised the pub to change its name: it's now called the *Ten Tuns* [sic]. In Gunthorpe Street, a narrow, nasty dark alley, a pub makes much of the fact that one of the victims was last seen on its premises, before walking out into the dark night to her doom.'

WAS GRANDAD THE RIPPER? In reaction to the recent Channel 5 documentary on the Whitechapel murders (see *Rip* 73), writer Michael Thornton in the *Daily Mail* of 2 December revealed that the killer could have been his grandfather, Bethnal Green-born pharmacist Dr Leonard Thornton (1859-1935). Thornton wrote: 'My grandfather was the son of a well-to-do master linen draper. He owned several shops but when he discovered his son did not intend to follow him into the business, planning to study medicine instead, he told him he must earn the money to pay for his tuition. Accordingly, Len, at 18, went to work for a Bethnal Green blacksmith, transporting lame, sick and elderly horses to the slaughterhouse in Whitechapel, where he learned the grim task of dismembering the carcasses.'

Eventually, Leonard Thornton earned enough money to train at the London Hospital in Whitechapel. 'There, he studied anatomy, performed amputations and other surgical procedures, and found himself deeply affected by the poverty and disease in the area... By the age of 25, he had qualified as a chemist and druggist... It was shortly after the Kelly

murder [on 9 November 1888] that the police descended on my grandfather... The eye-witness accounts of the Ripper all described a man aged between 25 and 30. My grandfather was 29 [at the time]. The killer was said to stand between 5ft 5in and 5ft 7in. My grandfather was 5 ft 7in. The murderer was said to have a brown moustache, "carrotty in colour". My sister Jean, who sat on his knee aged six, remembers my grandfather's moustache as "gingery".

Although Dr Thornton was questioned by police, according to his grandson, he was not arrested 'but they were clearly suspicious of him.' Moreover, writer Thornton maintains, 'Len's diary entries of the time, scrawled in black ink, often seem to reveal a man deeply troubled.' So, move over 'Uncle Jack'; welcome to 'Grandpa Jack'!

BARRETT TO REVEAL ALL AT 'MAYBRICK TRIAL'? Well we wouldn't bet on it, based on Mike Barrett's rather incoherent performance at the Cloak & Dagger Club appearance in April 1999, or his earlier contradictory written 'confessions' to having forged the controversial Maybrick 'Jack the Ripper' Diary. Nonetheless, Chris Jones, organizer of the 19-20 May 2007 event at the Liverpool Cricket Club says: 'Michael Barrett, the man who brought the so-called Ripper Diary to the attention of the world, is to attend the Trial of James Maybrick. Mr Barrett who, by his own admission, led a rather turbulent and troubled life since the diary came to light, now feels that his problems are all behind him and he wants to put the record straight. He wants to tell the full and truthful story of how he came into possession of the diary and how the pressure of the world's media affected his health. He is also prepared to answer questions from the audience.' We will just wait and see.

As followers of the Maybrick Diary saga will recall, the handover of the Diary allegedly took place in 1991 between Barrett and Tony Devereux, a former compositor at the *Liverpool Echo*, at the latter's home in Liverpool. Barrett and Devereux knew each other from drinking together at the Saddle Inn on Fountains Road, Anfield, Liverpool 4. Mr. Devereux died soon thereafter without explaining the origins of the item. However, in the mid-1990's, as reported by the late Paul Feldman, a revised story emerged that the Diary had been in Anne Barrett's family for years, or so maintains the former wife of Mike Barrett, who now goes under the name of Anne Graham. She said she gave it to Devereux to give to her husband to provide him with a writing project. Neither story is sufficient to provide a proven link to the alleged



The Saddle Inn

writer of the Diary, Liverpool cotton merchant James Maybrick, who died in May 1889. Maybrick's known hand does not match the handwriting in the document.

Mr Jones gave a revised rundown of activities for the weekend in addition to the daytime 'Trial' itself including such Ripper experts as Paul Begg and Keith Skinner, along with criminal profiler Dr David Canter, historian Prof William Rubenstein, and Shirley Harrison, author of *The Diary of Jack the Ripper*. Mr Jones said, 'On the Friday night (18th May) there will be a coach tour of the Maybricks' Liverpool on vintage coaches (one dates from 1945). It will leave the Cricket Club at 6:30pm visiting, Aigburth, Grassendale, Liverpool City Centre and Anfield Cemetery (where James is buried). The coaches return to the club at 8:30pm. The tour is followed by a band/social event in club. Places on the tour are limited to 120. There is an extra cost of £5 for the tour - all money to a local charity. On Saturday lunchtime there will be a special display of the Maybrick watch and Albert Johnson, the owner of the watch, will be available to answer questions. On Saturday night, Jeremy Beadle will run a fun quiz night. All money raised will go to charity. On Sunday lunchtime there will be a visit to the grounds of Battlecrease House, James and Florence [Maybrick]'s home. Paul Dodd the current owner of the house will be available to answer questions.' Price £38 for the weekend without added activities. Venue: Liverpool Cricket Club, 19-20 May 2007. Call: Chris Jones, 07932 642344 or [email](#). Cheques should be made payable to the 'Liverpool Cricket Club' and sent to Mr Jones at Chris Jones, 27 Maidstone Close, Halewood, Merseyside, L25 9GG, UK.

MORE RIPPER WALKS IMPRESSIONS. John Edwards in the *Daily Mail* of 27 November waxed poetic about a Ripper walk in 'Who's there?... it's Jack the Tripper'. He wrote, 'A full moon began to blur away behind the mist, which came sliding down the streets all the way from the Thames... So it was also on those autumn nights when Jack the Ripper stared at the doorways around here and dragged his women into courtyards and grimy rooms to slit their throats. Right here in noisy Whitechapel, the Ripper got away through desperate streets with police whistles screaming behind him...'

Mr Edwards noted that although the correct name of the murderer is unknown, 'He is almost always one of the first an American can name. Churchill, Shakespeare, Nelson and Jack the Ripper. It will be like that for ever. He gets more famous.'

However, as Chris George discussed in his editorial in *Rip* 70, the popularity of Ripper walks is such that on some nights East End streets are clogged with tourists on such walking tours. The journalist confirmed, 'Whole streets were choked with tour groups trying not to mingle and tripping on kerbsides hidden under a thousand pairs of feet. It was mayhem in Ripper country the other Friday night. Streets seething and more crowded than they had been even in Jack's days.'

Edwards went on a Ripper walk with blue badge guide Godfrey Davis. He quoted Davis as describing how he tries to avoid leading his tour into a street at the same time as another tour group: 'A guide doesn't want to let another guide hear his patter [or presumably his tour group as well! - *Rip*]. A lot of work goes into thinking up lines.'

Edwards added, 'Crowds are one thing. Imagination is the other. There's nothing left where the Ripper murdered. One place is a car park, the creepy alley in Mitre Square is a flower bed. Another is a brewery.' Nonetheless, he said, 'Whitechapel was booming after dark. Jack the Ripper was bigger than ever.'

CHRISTMAS CAROLS. 'An urban legend states that [Christmas carols] were named after a little girl named Carol Poles who disappeared in 1888 in the Whitechapel district of London. According to the legend, the little girl was reported missing around Christmas and many people went searching for her at night. Due to fears concerning Jack the Ripper, the group would sing Christmas carols upon knocking in order to declare their good intentions.' *The stories behind Christmas traditions*, Lance Anderson, [myKawartha.com](http://myKawartha.com), 2006-12-07

'Total poppycock!' declares John Zech on the *Minnesota Public Radio Classical Music Blog*, Minnesota Public Radio, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. 'My research (aka "googling") indicates the word "carol" comes from a Greek dance called a choraulein, which was accompanied by flute music. As the dance spread through Europe it caught on big time in France where it became "caroller," a circle dance accompanied by singers. Originally, carols were performed on many occasions during the year, but by the 17th century the carols evolved into songs associated primarily with Christmas.'

NO KILLER STORIES, NO SERIAL KILLERS. 'After reading about Jack the Ripper's murder case in Rosemary McClure's fine article [*The London Prowl*, 29 October], I am convinced that the news media have the power to stop or curtail serial killings. By refusing to give the killers publicity, the press would rob them of the attention they seek. An ancient Greek legend tells of an assassin who murdered a beloved citizen so his name would be remembered. The Greeks punished the assassin by agreeing never to mention his name.'

*Letter*, 26 November 2006, Evan Dale Santos, *Los Angeles Times*, 8 December 2006

THE RIPPER GOES DUTCH. We reported in *Rip* 73 on the growth of Thomas Schachner's German language Ripper site. There is now a new Dutch site as well known as 'Ripper Times' at [www.jacktheripper.nl](http://www.jacktheripper.nl) run by Franklin Vervoort (see separate 'I Beg' in this issue: 'How I Was Introduced to the Ripper' by Mr Vervoort).

NO CONSPIRACY IN DIANA'S DEATH. A multi-million pound British enquiry headed by Lord Stevens has concluded that there was no conspiracy in the early morning 31 August 1997 Paris traffic accident death of Diana, Princess of Wales, former wife of British Royal heir Prince Charles, at age 36. The enquiry found that as stated after a previous French probe into the crash, that the driver of the Mercedes limousine, Henri Paul, was drunk and taking anti-depressants at the time of the high speed crash in the Pont d'Alma Tunnel. Paul also died in the crash, along with Princess Diana's companion, Dodi al Fayed. DNA taken from the Princess's blood on the floor of the limousine also enabled investigators to conclude that she was not pregnant at the time of the crash.

Harrods owner Mohamed al Fayed, father of Dodi al Fayed, has insisted that there was a conspiracy in the murder perhaps involving Prince Philip,



*Dodi al Fayed and Princess Diana shortly before the crash which claimed their lives*



consort to Queen Elizabeth II, and British intelligence services. He has also claimed that Diana was pregnant with his son's child and that the couple planned to marry. Although the younger al Fayed is known to have bought Diana a ring, the Princess herself is quoted as telling a female friend shortly before the crash that she no more needed marriage than a rash on her face. Reuters reported on 7 December that British judicial authorities announced that hearings into the deaths of Princess Diana and al Fayed will be held in public after a decision that they should be conducted in secret was reversed. The original decision of presiding judge Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss had been criticized by Fayed's father Mohamed. The preliminary hearings, scheduled for next month, are the latest step in efforts to get to the bottom of the death of Diana.

**JACK PALANCE EULOGISED.** At a memorial service for the late actor Jack Palance (see obituary in *Rip* 73), attended by some 350 people, on 18 December at All Saints Episcopal Church in Beverly Hills, actor Stacy Keach **remarked** that Palance was the best bad guy in film history. Keach described introducing himself to Palance while on location in Spain. 'As the conversation progressed, I became aware of Jack's enormous intelligence. He was so culturally well-informed, and I'm certain that this was a side of Jack's character that many people were blind to, primarily because of the roles he played in movies,' Keach said. 'In spite of this, Jack's performances as Jack the Ripper [in the 1953 film *Man in the Attic*, based on Marie Belloc Lowndes' novel, *The Lodger*] and Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde remain in my memory as two of the greatest performances I've ever seen. They were classics in their own right.'

**PSYCHOPATHS' BRAINS DIFFER.** The brains of psychopaths are biologically different to the brains of folk who do not display such behaviour, according to a new study in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*. A team from the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London, believe these differences 'might partly explain psychopathic behaviour.' **BBC News** said, 'There are biological brain differences that mark out psychopaths from other people... Psychopaths showed less activity in brain areas involved in assessing the emotion of facial expressions... In particular, they were far less responsive to fearful faces than healthy volunteers.' Prof Declan Murphy and colleagues used a scan that shows up brain activity. They discovered that pictures of the facial expressions of six psychopaths and nine healthy volunteers showed different emotions. Both groups had increased activity in brain areas involved in processing facial expressions in response to happy faces compared with neutral faces, but this increase was smaller among the psychopaths. The researchers stated, 'These results suggest that the neural pathways for processing facial expressions of happiness are functionally intact in people with psychopathic disorder, although less responsive.'

**'EU YORKSHIRE RIPPER' COPYCAT APPREHENDED.** A copycat Yorkshire Ripper has been arrested for murdering up to 15 prostitutes across Europe **announced German police** on 24 November. Like gaoled Yorkshire Ripper, the detained man, Volker Eckert, was employed as a lorry driver. Eckert, age 47, confessed after German police discovered photographs of his victims in his vehicle. The alleged killer is accused of having raped and strangled women in Spain, France and Germany. He is awaiting extradition to Spain for a 1999 murder. The original Yorkshire Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe, murdered 13 women between 1978 and 1984, and is serving a life sentence in Broadmoor for his crimes.



**WILLIAMSON'S TUNNELS DVD.** A **new DVD** offers viewers a virtual tour of Liverpool's Williamson tunnels created by the 'Mad Mole of Edge Hill.' Retired businessman Joseph Williamson spent a fortune employing local men to dig the labyrinth of tunnels after the Napoleonic Wars. The eccentric Williamson made a fortune in the tobacco trade, before retiring in the early 1800s to Edge Hill and overseeing

the construction of the immense, mysterious and intricate labyrinth. The tunnels have been described as 'the largest underground folly in Britain'. Miles of brick and sandstone caverns and tunnels running below Edge Hill can now be seen without making the journey underground. The virtual trip includes rarely-seen passageways and triple decker parts of the excavations. The DVD has been produced by the Friends of Williamson Tunnels and Mirabilis Media, and funded by the Culture Company.

[Click here for clips from the DVD.](#)

The DVD may be ordered for £8 postpaid by cheque or postal order from the Friends of Williamson Tunnels. Write to Friends of Williamson's Tunnels DVD Offer, 15-17 Chatham Place, Liverpool L7 3HD, UK. Enquiries to tel. (0151) 475 9833.

# How I Was Introduced to the Ripper

By FRANKLIN VERVOORT, [JacktheRipper.nl](http://JacktheRipper.nl)

'This is the location where Polly was found ladies and gentlemen...' The guide pointed at some bushes next to the pavement. The cold evening air made my breath condense. Durward Street (formerly, in 1888, known as Buck's Row) was poorly lit, and it was not hard to imagine what it must have looked like when the Ripper conducted his gruesome work. The date of my visit to the location was 29 December 1999 and the time was 11:00 pm. From that moment on, I was hooked on the history of Jack the Ripper.

Ever since my wife and I visited Whitechapel for the first time, I have read all the books I could about the Ripper. The dramatised story that our guide told us in the back streets of the East End was quickly replaced by a strong desire to learn the facts of the case. I like to collect as much as information related to the case as possible, analyse it, write about it, and to make it available to anyone who like me is interested in the Ripper and the Whitechapel Murders.

After reading dozens of books and writing over 200 pages of notes about the murders, I decided in 2004 to start working on a dedicated website on the case. My first challenge was to design it - but at first I didn't even know what HTML-scripts were. It took me about a year to design the web site and to fill it with data. The fact that I'm quite a perfectionist kept me awake for quite some nights rewriting and reprogramming - the best part is that I'm still married!

On 31 August 2005 (exactly 117 years after the day that Mary Ann Nichols met her disastrous fate), I launched my website, [JackTheRipper.nl](http://JackTheRipper.nl). For the first couple of months, the site contained no more than 10 pages and a lot of dead links. The layout and design part weren't really what I was looking for and during the following winter I decided to go back to the drawing board and start from scratch in order to make the website look more professional. I also wanted to change the name to a snappier title. The new site had to be a lot more easy to use and contain many more pages of information.

The name I came up with is *Ripper Times*, and the site is designed to look like a classic newspaper. Almost daily, I add one or two pages, mainly with information from old press reports or police files. Last summer, I visited the National Archives at Kew and took some pictures of dozens of police records related to the Ripper case. The information that I make available through *Ripper Times* is being used by criminology students, schools, and fellow enthusiasts. Now and then, I am contacted by the Dutch national press or the broadcasting media for interviews or articles about Jack the Ripper. Without being big-headed, I believe I can say with certainty that *Ripper Times* is the leading authority in the Netherlands concerning the Whitechapel Murders and Jack the Ripper. Although the site is written in Dutch, all the historical information is in English and, therefore, I believe, interesting and accessible to people all around the globe.

Yesterday (14 December), for example, the Dutch National Broadcasting Foundation asked me about possible similarities in the *modus operandi* of the 'Ripper' who has been recently active in the Ipswich, England, to that of the serial killer known as Jack the Ripper. I helped them out with their research and gave a live interview on Dutch National Radio. I am also being approached by government organisations for presentations about the Ripper and asked if I would be able to write and provide a case for junior crime analysts who are still in training. It's always nice to see that my work (at least 20 hours a week) is being appreciated, but for me personally, collecting and researching is the most interesting part.

I hope that I will be able to continue *Ripper Times* for many years to come. My motto is: *Yesterday is history, today is a dream and tomorrow is an ambition...*





*I want to tell you  
if I get a chance  
yours truly  
Jack the Ripper*

Zaterdag 23 december 2006

Home

Navigatie: [Home](#)

## Welkom op Ripper Times!

Welkom op Ripper Times, de grootste online database op het gebied van Jack the Ripper in Nederland. Als je nog niet zo veel van de zaak afweet, dan raad ik je aan om eens te kijken naar de **Veel Gestelde Vragen**. Kijk ook eens naar het **voorwoord** van de webmaster. Om te discussieren over allerlei onderwerpen kun je naar ons **Ripper Times Forum** gaan. Voor vragen, **mail de webmaster**. Veel plezier!



**Laatste nieuws**

*Toegevoegd: 19 december 2006*

### De Ipswich moorden versus Jack the Ripper

In Ipswich, een stadje in Groot-Brittannië, is een seriemoordenaar actief die het gemunt heeft op prostituees. Tot nu toe zijn er vijf slachtoffers gevonden die, naar het schijnt, door verwuring om het leven zijn gekomen. De media verslaat de moorden met grote interesse waar men regelmatig verbanden zoekt met de daden die gepleegd zijn door Jack the Ripper.

Ripper Times is sinds een week regelmatig benaderd door de Nederlandse media waarbij de vraag continu rijst of de *Ipswich Ripper*, zoals de moordenaar inmiddels genoemd wordt, overeenkomsten vertoont met Jack the Ripper. De enige opvallende overeenkomsten tussen deze "nieuwe" moordenaar en Jack the Ripper is dat deze dezelfde slachtoffergroep hanteert.

Wanneer we de zaak enigszins met wat diepgang benaderen wordt echter al snel duidelijk dat de Modus Operandi zoals die nu door de moordenaar in Ipswich wordt gebezigd, een groot aantal verschillen vertoont met die van Jack the Ripper. Slachtoffers worden naakt gedumpt in een relatief groot gebied, waarbij er geen enkel spoor van verminking of zware verwonding te onderkennen is. Dit in tegenstelling tot Jack the Ripper die zijn slachtoffers ritueel toetakelde maar niet uitkleedde. Een ander groot verschil is dat de slachtoffers die onlangs in Groot-Brittannië zijn gevallen, gedurende een langere periode (soms weken) vermist worden. De Ripper-slachtoffers daarentegen werden soms nog een uur voordat ze dood werden aangetroffen in leven gezien.

Met deze informatie in het achterhoofd kunnen we gerust zeggen dat de moordenaar in Ipswich in ieder geval geen gedrag van Jack the Ripper kopieert. Ripper Times blijft overigens bereid en beschikbaar om vragen vanuit de media te beantwoorden.

Voor meer informatie: **mail de webmaster**.



*De slachtoffers uit Ipswich:  
Slachtoffer van een nieuwe Ripper?*

#### Onderzoek

Achtergrond  
Slachtoffers  
Politie  
Artsen en lijkschouwers  
Verdachten  
Getuigen  
Ripperbrieven  
Officiële documenten  
Krantenartikelen  
Kaarten en foto's  
Tijdslijn  
Artikelen  
Media

#### Site-gerelateerd

Actueel  
Nieuwsbrief  
Links  
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#### Advertenties

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are only as good as the  
guide that tells you the  
story...



I BEG TO REPORT

# Criminal Performances from the Usual Suspects

By ANDY ALIFFE

Wednesday 6 December saw the old double act of Paul Begg and Andy Aliffe reunited in the heart of the Kent countryside for a day's filming at Paul's recently acquired pub, the historic Old Plantation Inn at Bearsted, Maidstone.

The event was for an episode of *Psychic Private Eyes*, which explores a whole range of mysterious criminal cases from Victorian times to the modern day, often where the dead are the only witnesses. The series will be hosted by resident psychics Tony Stockwell, Colin Fry and T J Higgs, who visit the actual locations and crime scenes in an attempt to contact any residual spirit energy of those who may have been involved.

Ideally suited for both exterior and interior shots, The Old Plantation Inn became a hive of early morning activity as director Jeff Leahy, production assistant Jacob Melton and cast set up their unit base in the bar to discuss the logistics of the day's filming.

Jeff Leahy, a frequent poster on the *Casebook* message boards, had asked Andy's wife Claudia to supply the props and costumes, and for Andy to be Production Adviser on the programme. Knowing that Andy is currently working as a 'jobbing actor', Jeff cast him as suspect and the horse-riding Village Squire.

This unsolved Victorian whodunit involves the 1849 murder of landlady Anne Alcock, played by Stephanie Carswell, whose body was found in a beer barrel at the Dog Inn, Nether Whitacre near Coleshill, Birmingham.

The day's filming started in the cellars of the Style and Winch, a close-by pub, and Paul's local drinking den. The first sequence of shots involved a barrel, lots of water and a confrontation between victim Anne and the character of suspect Joshua the Drayman, played by Justin Fox.

Justin, a keen Ripper enthusiast and stunt actor, had previously appeared in *From Hell* playing PC John Neil, so between takes there was much discussion on all things Rip. Indeed all the cast had been on Don Rumbelow's walking tour.



Andy Aliffe, Justin Fox and Paul Begg



*Regulars of the Old Plantation Inn dress for the part as extras.*

After the cellar scenes had been shot it was back to the Old Plantation Inn for the rest of the filming. Landlord Paul persuaded some of his regulars to be extras, and so hurriedly dressed in period costume they continued to drink and smoke, looking and sounding suitably Victorian!

The penultimate shots required one more actor, but with a next-to-nothing budget, a person had to be cast from available 'thespians' present.

There is an old showbusiness adage that says seasoned actors tend to get typecast. Many of you I'm sure will never forget Paul Begg's many Oscar-nominated performances of 'man sitting at bar drinking', and uncannily that was exactly what the script required. Mr B humbly accepted the role and became yet another suspect 'who-may-have-dun-it' in the character of the landlord and husband of victim Anne.

After a twelve hour day and a couple of minor disasters (the camera crane collapsed and broke a very expensive wide angle lens and battery pack, and Andy's promised horse seemed to have been a 'non-starter', leaving his character of the Village Squire to walk into shot with two clapping coconuts!). As darkness fell, all the footage needed by Jeff was in the can and a wrap was called.

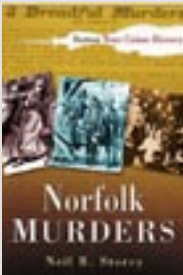
Paul then reverted to his day job, which by the way he should never give up for the acting profession, and as Mine Host supplied well-deserved food and drink to all involved.

The Old Plantation Inn has an extremely friendly local atmosphere, full of character, with an excellent varied menu and beers. I'm sure Paul and wife Judy would welcome you all to visit. The Old Plantation Inn is on Plantation Lane, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 4BJ.

The *Psychic Private Eyes* series started broadcasting on Monday 18 December at 9pm on the satellite TV channel Zone Reality and continues throughout the week over the next couple of months. [Email Andy](#) for the actual transmission date for the above programme.

# On the Crimebeat

WILF GREGG looks at the new additions to the True Crime bookshelf



## NORFOLK MURDERS

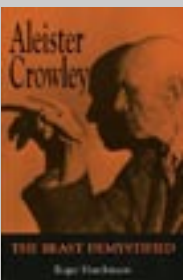
Neil R. Storey

S/B, 132pp., Illus., Sutton Publishing, £12.99

The latest in this excellent series from Sutton. Among well known cases included are Rush, the Stanfield Hall murderer; William Sheward; and Bennett, convicted of the murder of his wife in spite of a strong defence by Marshall Hall, who expressed doubts about the verdict. As would be expected from this author, he also links this with the unsolved murder of Dora Gray eleven years later.

The high spot of this book to me was the inclusion of the case of Rosa Kowen, which is quite rightly described as a forgotten *cause celebre*. Like Gardiner of Peasenhall, Rosa Kowen stood trial for the murder (of her husband) and twice the jury failed to agree, and the charge was dropped.

The remaining cases in the book are equally interesting. Excellent production. Strongly recommended.



## ALEISTER CROWLEY

Roger Hutchinson

S/B, 220pp., Mainstream Publishing, £7.99

This of course is not a true crime book but a biography of the self-styled Great Beast, called by the media of his day the wickedest man in the world, who was in addition the subject of the rather strange pamphlet *Did Aleister Crowley Know the Identity of Jack the Ripper?* by the even more strangely named Frater Achad Osher 583. In view of Crowley's claim to have practised every vice known to man, and albeit a somewhat loose Ripper connection, I considered a place in this column was not unjustified.

Crowley was born into a comfortable Victorian family which espoused Plymouth Brethren beliefs - whether this influenced him into adopting his precept "Do As Thou Wilt - That Is The Law" can only be speculation. Intelligent, a good writer and skilled mountaineer, he managed to combine these factors with a drug habit which would have killed most men, caused two of his mistresses to commit suicide, and led his followers into all kinds of debauchery.

In this biography, Mr Hutchinson sets out to demystify Crowley. Was he the wickedest man in the world or, as a quote from Christopher Isherwood in the book claims, merely a self-styled publicist? An interesting book.

\* \* \* \* \*

For any readers who are interested in capital punishment, I would like to recommend two items on Albert Pierrepoint, which I have recently acquired. Firstly, *A Very English Hangman - The Life and Times of Albert Pierrepoint* by Leonora Klein, from Corvo Books at £9.99. This is a very perceptive examination of Pierrepoint's work as an executioner and his other life both as a husband and his public persona. Ms Klein talked to many of his friends, and succeeds in unravelling many of the apparent contradictions of a very complicated man. Secondly, a DVD - *Pierrepoint* (£19.99 - £13.99 from Amazon.co.uk). This film was originally released for the big screen with the erroneous title, *The Last Hangman*. Notable for a superb performance by Timothy Spall as Pierrepoint and also by Juliet Stevenson as his wife. Allowing for cinematic licence with some distortion of the facts and occasionally going over the top, it is still an interesting representation of the ritual of judicial execution in the last years of capital punishment.





# Crimebeat extra

WILF GREGG's picks of the  
best True Crime books of 2006



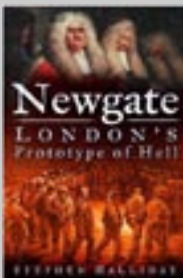
## MURDER ON FILE

Richard & Molly Whittington-Egan

Softback, 211 pp., Illus., Neil Wilson Publishing, £10.00

An updated and expanded version of their splendid *Murder Almanac*. Over a hundred entries of their choice of 'the world's most notorious killers', datewise ranging from Burke and Hare to Harold Shipman. As to be expected from the authors, a splendid collection of cases. Each entry gives the relevant facts of the case followed by a write-up of varying length and a list of prime sources. Ripperologists may care to note that the JTR entry is short and pithy and that the last of the sources

listed is Richard's still long-awaited *Quest*.



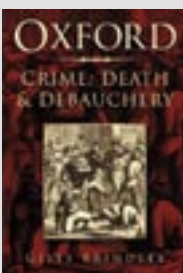
## NEWGATE - LONDON'S PROTOTYPE OF HELL

Stephen Halliday

Hardback, 234 pp., Illus., Sutton Publishing, £20.00

A comprehensive history of London's most notorious prison. First erected in the twelfth century, it underwent several rebuilds before being finally demolished in 1902. One of the rebuilds was at the behest of Richard Whittington, Lord Mayor of London, and when this was completed it was adorned with a statue of Dick complete with cat! In its early history it lived up to its often used description of Hell. Poor inmates were treated with sheer brutality whereas an inmate with money

could get a private cell, food and even the services of a prostitute if required. Among notable inmates were Casanova and Titus Oates. For many years it was the starting point for condemned inmates taken to Tyburn to be turned off. Among these were the murderous Lord Ferrers, forger Dr William Dodd, Jack Sheppard and Jonathan Wild. When Tyburn was abandoned as a place of execution, a special 'drop' was erected outside Newgate for this purpose. Among those executed outside Newgate were Courvoisier, the killer of Lord William Russell, and Fenian Michael Barrett, convicted of the Clerkenwell bombing, who was the last man to be executed outside the jail. Mr Halliday shows how writers such as Harrison Ainsworth, Thackeray and Dickens featured Newgate in both factual and fictional work. The efforts of prison reformers such as Elizabeth Fry and John Howard are also covered. Packed with information and very readable, this is a splendid retelling of our black history and is strongly recommended.



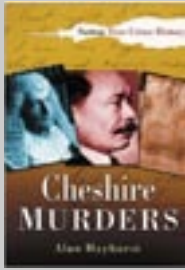
## OXFORD CRIME, DEATH AND DEBAUCHERY

Giles Brindley

S/B, 216 pp., Illus., Sutton Publishing, £14.99

The darker side of the dreaming spires ranging from the twelfth century onwards. Murder, suicide, duelling, tragic accidental deaths, thefts and bizarre happenings all feature in this book. Rather like the publisher's *Grim Almanac* series but without the dateline heading, it is a book which the reader can open at random and find something strange or bizarre. I particularly liked the item detailed under *Smoking Kills...* In 1735 John Chambers was tried for the murder of Thomas Middleton by

stabbing him in the cheek with a tobacco pipe. Chambers was found guilty of manslaughter, burnt in the hand and freed. Another item which caught my eye was the two young lads who went begging in a shop and when rebuffed, grabbed a 1lb sponge cake each and ate them on the spot. They were arrested and sentenced to 21 days hard labour. Mr Brindley comments that at least they would know where the next meal was coming from. Very readable and as usual from Sutton, very well produced, with many extremely unusual illustrations.



## CHESHIRE MURDERS

Alan Hayhurst

S/B, 152 pp., *Illus.*, Sutton Publishing, £12.99

A first class selection of murders from this county. Well known cases include Samuel Thorley (1776), the Congleton Cannibal, the Gorse Hall Mystery (1909) and Lock Ah Tam (1926), the inscrutable but crazed Chinese man, who murdered his wife and two daughters. Additionally, there are ten other cases seldom, if ever, covered but no less interesting for that. I was particularly taken by his extensive coverage of the case of Robert Travis (1886), which is a real Victorian "whodunit".

Also the murder of Mary Malpas, (1835), to which Mr Hayhurst puts forward his own ingenious and plausible solution which is quite at variance to that recorded at the time. This series goes from strength to strength. Mr Hayhurst is to be congratulated on his excellent research which is backed up by a very readable writing style.



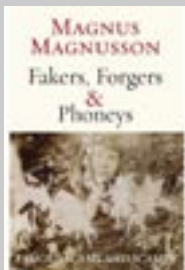
## THE SHERIFF - A DETECTIVE'S STORY

Gerry O'Carroll

S/B, 352 pp., *Illus.*, Mainstream Publishing, £11.99.

A well-above-average police memoir. The author recounts his experiences in Ireland's Garda, during which time he was closely involved in investigating a number of the Republic's major crimes. These included the controversial Kerry Babies Case; the English serial killers, Geoffrey Evans and John Shaw, who killed two Irish girls; the notorious "General", Martin Cahill; and the Irish soldier, Michael McAleavy, who shot and killed three of his comrades while on a UN peacekeeping force in

the Lebanon. In the case of Evans and Shaw, the author showed complete unorthodoxy by persuading Shaw to pray with him, which so emotionally upset the killer that he confessed his and Evans's guilt. In his confession Shaw said that he was glad they had been caught as they planned to rape and kill one girl a week. Evans and Shaw are still incarcerated, being the longest serving prisoners in the Republic. A well told and honest account of the author's career - which to his credit even includes telling of disciplinary action against him on two occasions in his early years, one of which could have led to his dismissal.



## FAKERS, FORGERS & PHONEYS

Magnus Magnusson

H/B, 414 pp., *Illus.*, Mainstream Publishing, £17.99

The former invigilator of *Mastermind* has produced an excellent collection of scamps who have pulled off a variety of scams in various fields. Art forgers include Tom Keating and Van Meegeren, Piltdown Man and others represent archaeological frauds, imposters include the Tichborne Claimant and literary forgers Thomas Chatterton and William Henry Ireland of Shakespearian infamy. These are only a sample of each chapter. Helpfully, each chapter is annotated. An excellent read. Mr

Magnusson conveys a liking for many of the scamps. His piece on Tom Keating is a particularly fine piece of perceptive writing.

## In Future Issues...

Future issues of *Ripperologist* will feature...

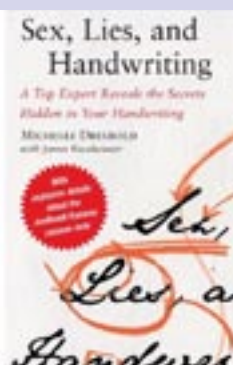
William Michael's Ripper victims' photographs, John Ruffels on *The East End Murderer - I Knew Him*, Colin Roberts's geo-political divisions of Jack the Ripper's territory: Civil and Ecclesiastical Parishes, Parliamentary Boroughs and Metropolitan Police Force Divisions, Karyo Magellan on the Victorian Medico-legal Autopsy, Claudia Aliffe on the Wicked Women of Britain, Jeffrey Bloomfield on the Charles Bravo murder case, Howard Brown on Privies and Outhouses in Victorian Times, Nicholas Smith on St Patrick and the Crown Jewels, Leslie A Klinger on Jack the Ripper and Sherlock Holmes, John Crawford on Algernon Haskett-Smith, Stepan Poberowski on Russian perceptions of Jack the Ripper.

...plus regular columns from Chris Scott, Wilf Gregg, Christopher-Michael DiGrazia, Don Souden and Adam Wood.

# Ripping Yarns

BOOK NEWS AND VIEWS

## REVIEWS



### SEX, LIES, AND HANDWRITING

Michelle Dresbold with James Kwalwasser

Free Press, New York, 2006

hardcover, 283pp, illus

ISBN: 0-7432-8809-2

\$24.00

Reviewed by Deborah K Dobbins

While many view most of the 'Ripper letters' to be hoaxes or bad practical jokes, I have always found them to be quite intriguing due to my studies and experience in handwriting analysis. So, as you might imagine, I was very excited when I found out that a top expert in the field had published a book with a chapter devoted to Saucy Jacky.

After about one hour of reading, I discovered that the first half of this book puts the reader through a vague crash course of the bare minimum in handwriting analysis. When it comes to handwriting analysis, there are two kinds of people in this world: people who see it as a valuable resource and people who put it on the same level as crystal balls and pixie dust. For the naysayers, they will not likely make it through the first couple of chapters let alone the entire book. For those who can stick with it, they will be rewarded with a glimpse at some of the lesser known 'nasty' handwriting traits. I was quite pleased to see these covered as they are all too often omitted from the 'G' rated beginner's books.

The author, Michelle Dresbold, goes from discussing felon's claws, ticks, doodles, and strangler strokes, all the way to suggestive weapons and phallic symbols that show up in handwriting - but, like the beginner's books, this review is 'G' rated, so I must stick with the lighter side. I was very pleased to see that Dresbold provides picture examples of these traits. Most of the samples appear to have been copied from copies but the examples are clear and true to the traits discussed. The author also does a good job of providing visual examples of celebrities and criminals who have displayed these traits in their handwriting and personalities.

The second half of *Sex, Lies, and Handwriting* takes a more in-depth look at a select few of the more intriguing mysteries of the past 120 years, specifically the cases of Lizzie Borden (pp191-196), JonBenet Ramsey (pp197-220), Jack the Ripper (pp221-255), and even has a few lesser known 'who-dun-its'. Dresbold uses the examples given in the first half of the book to explain how she interprets the solution to these cases. I must say, I hadn't any previous opportunity to analyze the Ramsey ransom note and was shocked, not by the note itself, but by Dresbold's most interesting conclusion as to the identity of the author. Without giving away too many details, I'm convinced of the validity of her conclusion and will never look at the Ramsey case the same way again.

I certainly enjoyed the author's look into the Borden and Ramsey cases but seeing as how for me the Jack the Ripper case is second only to my handwriting studies, perhaps that may explain why I am a bit critical of this particular chapter. Briefly, Dresbold analyzes the *Dear Boss* and Lusk letters by explaining the differences between the handwriting, stressing that they are clearly not by the same hand - which most Ripperologists already know. She goes on to point out all of the nasty traits seen in the Lusk letter and builds a profile of the suspect. She then starts eliminating the usual suspects not by using handwriting but rather from the profile she has built. I would like to have seen the Lusk letter compared to the handwriting of these suspects - seeing as how this is a handwriting book - but I can understand that many of these samples may be difficult if not impossible to obtain at this late date in time.

Dresbold does manage to make an interesting case against good old Dr Francis Tumblety with the use of a sample of his handwriting. While some interesting points are made by the author linking Tumblety's handwriting with that of the Lusk letter, I was surprised to realize that she barely used Tumblety's signature which is pictured on page 247.

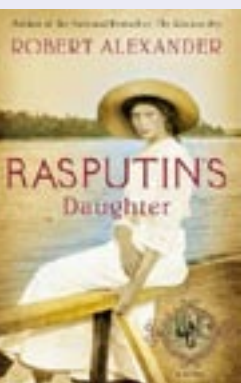


That signature in itself is very damning when compared to the Lusk letter whereas the Tumblety letter on the same page is not as convincing of a match. I quickly noticed many valid comparisons in the Lusk letter and the Tumblety signature. Dresbold admits in the book that the Tumblety letter was authored 13 years prior to the Lusk letter, whereas the Tumblety signature, on his will of 1903, was written 15 years after the Lusk letter. An individual's handwriting can change dramatically over such large time spans with the onset of illness, hardships, and aging. For my own analysis, I would much rather use a comparison sample closer to the time of the Lusk letter.

Despite my aforementioned gripes, I seriously encourage further research of Tumblety's handwriting with special attention to any samples that can be found from around 1888.

The inexperienced who lack a basic understanding of handwriting analysis almost always experience frustration when they try to analyze handwriting. New students often make the mistake of trying to analyze their family and coworkers' handwriting without a firm grasp on the most basic of concepts. In most cases, you don't need a handwriting sample to see that someone is a few fries short of a Happy Meal™; and on the flipside, just because someone has a felon's claw or a strangler stroke in their handwriting doesn't necessarily mean they will choke you. I would encourage anyone who is seriously interested in graphology or handwriting analysis to further educate themselves by checking into classes offered at a university.

I will give this book three and one half stars out of a possible five, falling just short of four stars. The book can be faulted for some extra frills that could have been edited out and for the lack of pertinent information on forgeries and fakes that was not covered in the crash course. Overall, the Jack the Ripper chapter is interesting and definitely casts a new light on an established suspect, Dr Tumblety.



## Rasputin's Daughter

Robert Alexander

New York: Viking, 2006

Hardback, 304 pp., ISBN 0-670-03468-1, \$23.95

[www.rasputinsdaughter.com](http://www.rasputinsdaughter.com)

Novelist Robert Alexander in his previous novel, *The Kitchen Boy*, looked at the last days of the Romanovs. That prior novel was told from the perspective of a boy who supposedly worked in the kitchen of the Ipatiev House in Yekaterinburg, the last residence of Tsar Nicholas II and his ill-fated family when they were imprisoned before their hurried execution by the Bolsheviks on the night of 16 July 1917. Mr Alexander approaches the bloody events of Revolutionary Russia from another perspective in his new book - from the viewpoint of the elder daughter of the 'mad monk' from Siberia, Grigori Efimovich Rasputin (c1870-1916).

The story of the monk's spiritual ministrations to the hemophiliac heir, Tsarevich Aleksei, a fatal flaw in the Romanov dynasty, is well known, as is the story of Rasputin's bloody murder by jealous Russian nobles on the night of 16 December 1916 - exactly seven months before his imperial patron, the German-born Tsarina Aleksandra, met her fate. Even if the story is well known, novelist Alexander breathes welcome new life into the tale and in fact makes Rasputin a flesh-and-blood figure and a fascinating one at that.

Who knew that Rasputin was a family man? The man from a poor village in Siberia ('Rasputin' actually means a crossroads in Russian, we are told) had a wife back in their home village taking care of a mentally retarded son, Dmitri, while the couple's two daughters Maria and the younger Varvara lived with the Siberian shaman and Dunya, his plump housekeeper and (as we find out in an episode that shocks Maria) his mistress. The scenes of domesticity with the healthy-appetited holy man gorging on jellied cod's heads and other peasant delicacies and Maria's alternate revulsion with the rustic ways of her father and her affection for him drive home the humanness of both daughter and father. The mystic shunned meat and sweetmeats such as cakes and pastries and only ate fish, although he did drink gallons of Madeira wine. Fish, he believed, led to spirituality that enabled his incredible healing powers, giving him the ability to heal the Tsarevitch and countless noble and ordinary Russians as well. It was in fact a mistake of Prince Felix Yusupov, the noble delegated to assassinate Rasputin in his riverside palace, to try to poison the holy man with cakes laced with cyanide that delayed the end of the peasant. He drank the cyanide-laced Madeira but shunned the cakes, as per his practice.

Novelist Alexander does an excellent job at evoking the atmosphere of intrigue and corruption in St. Petersburg, renamed 'Petrograd' during the war with Germany that had raged for two years, in the waning days of the Romanov dynasty, in that dark and snowy Russian winter. The palace intrigues, the plots of the Bolsheviks and other revolutionaries to overthrow the Tsar's government, and the secret underground groups of Christians and satanists made for worrying times for Maria and her family. But Rasputin went blithely on, holding audiences with petitioners, including noble women who would throw off their clothes in front of him to be 'healed.' Alexander cleverly does not make it clear

whether Rasputin had sex with these women or, as he is shown to have done with a prostitute, simply to get them to strip to expose himself to temptation and thus ramp up his spirituality. The confusion of Maria over exactly what his father was - a dilettante, a holy fool, or a wise and generous holy man who helped everyone he could - transfers to the readers who are likewise confused but intrigued by this strange man. Also who is the young man, Sasha, who espouses love for Maria, remarkably a lover of the great Russian poet Alexander Blok's work, just as she is? She meets him on a riverboat on their way back to their Siberian home. Is he an innocent young man or did he really have something to do with the assassination plot against her father in their village when a woman plunged a dagger into Rasputin's stomach? He was certainly with the ravaged-faced woman when the incident occurred, although he professes his innocence when he later sees Maria. Why is Sasha hanging around at odd hours around in the alleyway and entrance of the apartment building where the Rasputins live? Why do the security guards, who are supposed to be providing protection for the family, keep disappearing? And after her father's death (much of the novel being in flashback), what role does the poet Alexander Blok play in the revolutionary government's 'Thirteenth Section' investigating Rasputin and his contacts?

Rasputin's killer, Prince Felix Yusupov, who is portrayed as a fop and a homosexual lover of Grand Duke Dmitri, who was believed to have been also involved in the assassination of Rasputin, may or may not have tried to have sex with the shaman. There is also the possibility that Rasputin might have spurned Prince Felix, which partly might have led to his demise. In any case, the holy man told his daughter that if dark forces conspired against him, it was 'God's will.' The novel rattles on to its final climax, carrying the reader with it all the way as if being transported along the dark, snowy streets by a horse-drawn troika.

The author tells us in an epilogue that the real Maria Rasputin survived the Bolshevik Revolution and went to Paris, where she married and had two children. Her husband died in 1926. She danced and sang in cabaret to support her family. Later she appeared in London and the United States as a lion tamer. Alexander says 'crowds flocked to see the daughter of the "Mad Monk" perform her magic over nature's wild beasts.' While on tour with Ringling Brothers circus in Peru, Indiana, she was mauled by a bear and had to retire from circus life. She later worked as a riveter in a Miami shipyard and died in Miami in 1977. Maria Rasputin wrote several memoirs, Alexander states, and a cookbook including a recipe for her father's favourite jellied fish heads and cod soup. Rasputin descendants still live in Paris.

## The Queen

*Directed by Stephen Frears*

*Starring Helen Mirren, Michael Sheen, James Cromwell, and Alex Jennings*

*97 mins, Rated PG-13 (US) for brief strong language*

Dame Helen Mirren's bravura performance as Queen Elizabeth II in the Stephen Frears motion picture *The Queen* should snag her the 2007 [Academy Award](#) in our view. As announced on 14 December by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, the star has been nominated for a Golden Globe and is a hot tip to win - usually a good indication of how Oscar will go. *The Queen* shows the British monarchy in crisis following the 31 August 1997 car crash in which Diana, Princess of Wales, ex-wife of the heir Prince Charles, suffered fatal internal injuries in a Paris road tunnel. While the Elizabeth and her family hunkers down at their home at Balmoral in Scotland, much of the rest of the nation and the world displays a huge swell of grief over the sudden death of the glamorous Princess. The Queen affects to not know what the fuss is about and even her son Prince Charles (Alex Jennings) states that the nation did not know Diana as they did, hinting at a seamier if not bitchier side hidden from the public. The young princes William and Harry are cut off from broadcast media so they won't be upset, and Prince Philip - a miscast James Cromwell - takes the boys hunting for a 'fourteen-pointer'-antlered stag seen on the Balmoral estate. Meanwhile, though, the newly elected Labour Prime Minister Tony Blair (Michael Sheen) is left to go spare, supremely attuned as he is to the mood of the country, and his staff are in shock and left to do damage control due to the 'out of touch' Royals.

Sheen is excellent as the bright-eyed boyish Tony Blair whose smile reminds the Queen Mother, played by veteran actress Sylvia Sims, of the Cheshire cat's grin. Some parts of the movie featuring the Blairs seem unrealistic, including the first time Cherie and Tony Blair come to Buckingham Palace, when they are shown being instructed on protocol as they mount the stairs to the room. There the new PM will have his audience with the Queen before his wife was allowed in the room for an awkward encounter. Neither does Helen McCrory's performance as Cherie Blair ring quite true as she is portrayed as a raging socialist. One would think that neither Tony nor Cherie Blair were quite as naïve in that first, pre-Diana's death, meeting with the Queen, and nor that Cherie is quite the stereotypical socialist the film would have us believe. Blair is also shown to be mystified at hearing from Prince Charles and his staff that Charles and Tony were 'modern men' inferring that the heir knew his Mum and Dad were out of touch, though that somehow has a ring of truth to it. Of course there was not much Charles could do, although he did get his way to force his mother to allow a plane of the Queen's flight to fly him to Paris to recover Diana's body.

There is no hint in this film of any conspiracy or skullduggery over Diana's death as has been alleged by Mohamed al Fayed, father of Diana's friend Dodi al Fayed, who was killed in the same car crash (see 'I Beg' in this issue) and it is perhaps just as well. The natural tense drama of the British monarchy being made to face the reality of Diana's celebrity and the changing face of Britain and the world is riveting enough.

Perhaps one of the most stirring and, for this reviewer, fascinating sequences in the movie is while the Royal family is still bunkered at Balmoral and the Queen drives a Land Rover over the moors to meet up with the hunting party comprised of Philip and the young princes and their gillies. The Queen's vehicle stalls in a ford. After having phoned to the castle for help, she suddenly catches sight of the great stag on the hillside above the ford. It is a stunning moment - one monarch staring at another. At last, the Queen shoos the magnificent beast away as if she does not want its blood on her hands. Later though she sadly learns that the animal has been shot on a neighbouring estate. She drives alone over to see the stag and in a macabre scene is shown by a gillie into the room where the stag is hung, beheaded, from the ceiling. In a hushed moment, Mirren walks over to look at the severed head. In a strange way, the slain animal parallels, for the viewer, the death of Diana in midlife.

Of course in the end, the Queen and the Royal family are forced by Mr Blair to come down from Balmoral to Buckingham Palace to view the vast floral tributes laid by the public in front of the palace fence, to fly the Royal standard at half mast (breaking a centuries-old tradition), and to grant Diana, Princess of Wales a public funeral in Westminster Abbey. The monarchy is saved at least for now, as some might say. *The Queen* is a not to be missed memoir of history in our time.



Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) accepts Tony Blair (Michael Sheen) as her new Prime Minister

## BOOK NEWS

### THE BEST OF RIPPEROLOGIST

Twelve years in the making, *Ripperology: The Best of Ripperologist* is to be published in March 2007 by Magpie Books, an imprint of Constable Robinson, in the UK and by Barnes & Noble in the US. The Editors of the *Rip* drew up a shortlist of the best articles to have appeared in our previous 72 issues, with the publishers selecting the final entrants. The 27 essays include *The Carrie Brown Murder Case* by Michael Conlon, *Elizabeth's Story* by Daniel Olsson, *Kit, Kitty, Kitten* by Andy Aliffe, *The American Connection* by Sanford Conover, *Nikolay Vailiev* by Stepan Poberowsky, *Le Grand of the Strand* by Gerry Nixon, *Responses to the Ripper Murders* by L Perry Curtis, and *Cut-throat* by Karyo Magellan.

More details, and a full list of contents, in *Rip* 75.

## Write for Ripperologist

We welcome well researched articles on any subject connected with the Whitechapel Murder, the East End and Victoriana.

Please send your contributions to [contact@ripperologist.info](mailto:contact@ripperologist.info)



The Old and the New.

Mitre Square in the shadow of  
Norman Foster's Swiss Re Tower,  
'the Gherkin'

Photo ©Adam Wood

