

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

Refuge to London

No. 81

July 2007

Mrs Kuer's Lodger

GAVIN BROMLEY
on Batty Street
and the residents
of number 22

ADAM WOOD
and KEITH SKINNER
turn the pages of
PC225H's notebook
one last time

JANE CORAM
CHRIS GEORGE
WILF GREGG
CHRIS SCOTT
DON SOUDEN
EDUARDO ZINNA

RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

Issue 81, July 2007

QUOTE FOR JULY:

In the toilets, Jack the Ripper's victims kept screaming which was particularly creepy in the night if you went to the loo alone.

Jane, an otherwise unidentified scout leader from East Hertfordshire who took part in a giant sleep-over at the London Dungeon in Tooley Street last month. *Scouts go down to the dungeon to set record, East Herts Herald 24, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, UK, 28 June 2007.*

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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*: Maggie Bird, Rob Hills, Jennifer Pegg, and Keith Skinner. Thank you!

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Submissions

We welcome articles on any topic related to Jack the Ripper, the East End of London or Victoriana. Please send your submissions to contact@ripperologist.info. Thank you!



The Lodger Checks Out

EDITORIAL by ADAM WOOD

I've always been interested in coincidences. So when Gavin Bromley submitted an article on the Batty Street lodger, and news broke of a remake of Hitchcock's 1927 masterpiece, the timing couldn't have been better.

Longer-term readers will notice that the cover artwork for this issue is rather similar to that of *Rip 28*. That was the first issue on which I handled the layout, back in April 2000. It seems rather fitting that I end my tenancy at the *Rip* by once again using the *Lodger*.

For this, Dear Reader, is the last issue of *Ripperologist* on which I'll handle the layout duties. Commitments in the real world mean that I can no longer dedicate the time required to produce a monthly magazine which demands constant care and attention.

Rip 28 was also the first issue under the guidance of Paul Begg. As Paul said in his Editorial for that 'introductory' issue, at that point *Ripperologist* had become "a fully-fledged subscription magazine and this [had] to be reflected in its presentation and content."

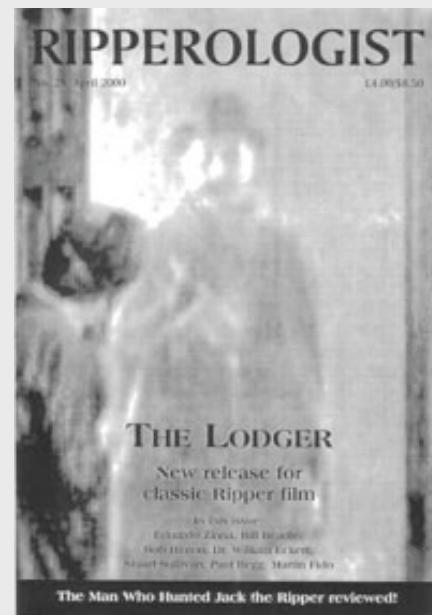
My brief was therefore a simple one: to raise the production levels to match the quality of articles appearing in our pages. I hope readers will agree that over the past 53 issues I've achieved that. The *Ripperologist* of today is far removed from that of 2000; it's moved with the times and evolved, I'm proud that we were the first Ripper magazine to use colour covers; the first to take the bold step of publishing monthly; and the first to embrace the immediacy that electronic publishing allows.

However, my real joy while designing the *Rip* has been handling the articles, specifically the illustrative material. In my second issue, *Rip 29*, we published for the first time a photograph of Inspector Spratling. Subsequent 'firsts' include Elisabeth Stride's home in Stora Tumlehed, the mortuary photographs and a tintype of Carrie Brown, previously unseen photographs of Michael Ostrog, Inspector Thick and Dr Bagster-Phillips, as well as four 'new' photos of Wynne Baxter uncovered during research for my article in *Rip 61*.

Research such as this, and the recent PC225H series, is what I'll now be undertaking when time allows. I'll also not be disappearing from *Ripperologist* completely; I'll still be a member of the Editorial team, and will continue to look after the subscriptions.

As for the layout of the magazine, I'm delighted to report that the incomparable Jane Coram has agreed to step into my size 11s, metaphorically at least. And, for the past two issues, Jane has already handled some of the layout. Did you see the join? I'm sure under Jane's guidance the presentation will continue to develop and improve. I've insisted on still producing the covers!

So, as I check out, may I say a heartfelt 'thank you' to the legion of authors who have entrusted me with the layout of their articles. It's been a lot of fun.



Ripperologist 28: Hello...



...and Goodbye. Ripperologist 81

Mrs. Kuer's Lodger

By GAVIN BROMLEY

Introduction

Berner Street achieved notoriety as the scene of one of the Whitechapel Murders in 1888, the murder of Elizabeth Stride occurring on the night of the supposed 'double event' (30th September 1888); a notoriety that would in time result in its name being changed to Henriques Street. The next street to the east in the parish of St. George's-In-The-East is Batty Street, which runs parallel with Berner Street from Commercial Road as far as Fairclough Street, unlike its neighbouring street, which then carries on as far as Ellen Street. Batty Street itself had achieved some notoriety in the previous year, 1887, as the scene of the murder of Miriam Angel at No. 16, a murder that led to the conviction and execution of Israel Lobulsk, known better as Israel Lipski. Its proximity to Berner Street and the fact that 'Lipski' was allegedly shouted as a racial taunt to a Jewish witness of events linked to the murder of Elizabeth Stride, have been the main reasons for Batty Street being linked to the Whitechapel Murders.

However, events on the night of the double event at No. 22, Batty Street, just three doors south of No. 16, perhaps provide a more direct link to the murders.

The story of the Batty Street lodger was brought to our attention in *The Lodger*, by Stewart P. Evans and Paul Gainey.¹ Essentially the story was that at some point in the early hours of 30th September 1888, the landlady at No. 22 was disturbed by one of her lodgers returning home. The lodger then mysteriously disappeared, leaving behind a bloodstained shirt. The police were involved and seemingly the story was satisfactorily explained. However, Evans and Gainey asked if there might have been more to the story and tried to see a link with the suspect, Francis Tumblety, who had been forgotten about from the time of the murders.

They gave a possible route that the killer may have taken to get back to Batty Street from Mitre Square, the scene of the second murder that night (that of Catherine Eddowes) if the murderer had gone via Goulston Street to deposit the piece of apron he had taken from the victim.²

Evans and Gainey suggested that the Batty Street lodger story may have been linked with other newspaper reports. They quoted a report from *The Globe* of Wednesday 10th October, 1888, which told of a member of the CID travelling to Liverpool in order to trace the movements of a man who had been in a West End hotel. He had been in the habit of 'slumming' and had suddenly disappeared leaving a small bill unpaid. He left a black bag with various contents and had not returned. An advertisement seemingly appeared in *The Times* giving the man's name and informing him that the bag would be sold if he didn't claim it.



Berner Street and Batty Street. Red mark indicates site of Elizabeth Stride's murder. House highlighted in blue is 22 Batty Street.

1 *The Lodger - The Arrest and Escape of Jack The Ripper* (1995) by Stewart P. Evans and Paul Gainey, Chapter 9. An earlier reference to the Batty Street lodger story was made by Martin L. Friedland in *The Trials of Israel Lipski - A True Story of a Victorian Murder in the East End of London* (1984), p. 202

2 *The Lodger*, p. 123

Some of the contents of the bag were said to be in the possession of the police who were investigating the matter. Certain documents, wearing apparel, cheque books, obscene prints and letters were said to form the foundation of the inquiry. The suggestion had been made that the man had landed in Liverpool from America and the *East Anglian Daily Times* of Thursday 11th October mentioned the police were watching the port and railway stations in that city.

The Batty Street lodger story broke in several newspapers on Tuesday 16th October 1888. As we will see shortly, when we look at the reports in depth, reference is made to police investigating the lodger's previous movements. Evans and Gainey link this to the story in the *Globe* because of the reference to the man's previous movements and because they speculate that the police would have discovered the Liverpool connection from belongings the lodger left at Batty Street.

As we will see, another story of a man leaving bloodstained clothes at a laundry in Gray's Inn Road may have been the source of an attempt by the police to kill the Batty Street lodger story in order to avoid alerting the man they were seeking.

The authors refer to a report in the *Daily News* of Tuesday 9th October titled 'Remarkable Story'. This tells of an American arrested at 1am the previous morning (Monday 8th) whose conduct and demeanour was said to be suspicious. John Lardy and a friend had followed the man after seeing him approach two women thought to be prostitutes. They followed him from London Hospital to Aldgate at the corner of Duke Street. By then the man seemed to be aware that he was being followed and doubled back to go down Leman Street to Royal Mint Street and across King Street. The latter was a narrow road so the men ran round to the other side to catch sight of him there. When they arrived they heard a door shut and suspected he had gone into a house. He emerged 25 minutes later in different clothes. Lardy described him as being about 5-11 or 6-0 feet tall and said he had what appeared to be a false moustache.

The report is linked to one in the *Manchester Evening News* 18th October that said a man aged 35 had been arrested. He had been somewhat confused lately and was detained pending further inquiries. The description of this American certainly fits that of Tumblety and the authors link the various reports to this investigation into Tumblety's movements.

It is often hard to find the truth behind a story. Details get added, misconstrued, garbled and mixed up with other stories. But on the face of it, essentially a lodger at 22 Batty Street had departed on the morning following the double event after disturbing the landlady and left behind a bloodstained shirt. He appeared to be a foreigner and hadn't been seen since. But what details could we rely on and what was the truth behind the story? Were these other stories



Batty Street July 2007 ©Adam Wood

necessarily linked with the incident at Batty Street? For example, the reference to the man at the West End hotel and the connection made by Evans and Gaine to the story of the port in Liverpool being watched would more likely have been made from the contents of the bag left at the London hotel rather than any evidence found in Batty Street. The authors make some very reasonable deductions and rightly deserve credit for first discussing this story in detail, but let's strip away some of the extraneous details to see what the basic facts of the story are and to build a picture of the possible events.

The Batty Street Lodger

The first reports of the Batty Street lodger story appeared on Tuesday, 16th October, 1888. It was reported in a number of newspapers. I am using the *Evening News* as the main source as it contained more details than other papers. Where details not covered in the *Evening News* appeared in other newspapers they will be noted. The only source we have for the name of the landlady is the *Illustrated Police News* of 27th October, 1888, which gave it as Mrs. Kuer.³ No other newspaper identified her.

On Sunday the police were watching with great anxiety a house at the East-end which is strongly suspected to have been the actual lodging, or a house made use of, by some one connected with the East-end murders.

From various statements made by the neighbours in the district, the landlady had a lodger, who since the Sunday morning of the murder has been missing. It appears according to the statements made by the landlady to her neighbours⁴, her lodger returned home early on the Sunday morning, and she was disturbed by his moving about. She got up herself very early, and noticed her lodger had changed some of his clothes. He told her he was going away for a little time, and he asked her to wash the shirt which he had taken off and get it ready for him by the time he came back. As he had been in the habit of going away now and then she did not think much at the time, and soon afterwards he went out.

THE WRISTBANDS AND SLEEVES SATURATED WITH BLOOD.

On looking at his shirt she was astonished to find the wristbands and part of the sleeves completely saturated with wet blood. The appearance struck her as very strange, and then when she heard of the murders a horrible suspicion seemed to flash into her mind. Acting on the advice of some of her neighbours, she gave information to the police, and showed them the shirt and the state it was in. They then took possession of it, and obtained from her a full description of her missing lodger. During the last fortnight she has been under the impression that he would return, and was sanguine that he would probably come back on Saturday or Sunday night, or perhaps, on Monday. The general opinion, however, among the neighbours is that he has left her for good.

A VISIT TO THE HOUSE

On finding out the house and visiting it the reporter found it tenanted by a stout, middle-aged German woman, who speaks very bad English, and who was not inclined to give much information further than the fact that her lodger had not returned yet, and she could not say where he had gone or when he would be back. The neighbours state that ever since the information has been given, two detectives and two policemen have been in the house. The house itself has rather a dingy and uninviting appearance. The curtains are kept partly together, and the shutters partly up. It is approached by a court, and as there are alleys running through from one street to the other adjacent, there are different ways of approach and exit. It is believed that in the information obtained as to his former movements and general appearance, together with the fact that numbers of people have seen the same man, the police have in their possession a series of most important clues, and that his ultimate capture is only a question of time.⁵

³ Information provided by Stewart Evans on *Casebook.org Forums*

⁴ This explicit statement that the story was told by the landlady to the neighbours is the main difference between the account in the *Evening News* and that in its sister newspaper, the *Daily News*

⁵ *Evening News*, 16 October 1888

This tells us that on Sunday, 14th October, the police were watching the address concerned, which at this point was not identified in the reports. All sources say that the statements came from the neighbours, but the *Evening News* explicitly mentions that the details were obtained from statements made by the landlady to her neighbours (even its sister paper, the *Daily News* does not state this despite an otherwise virtually identical report). This can be inferred from the other reports, but this does indicate the landlady had given much of the details to her neighbours. So while the neighbours could have made their own observations and deductions we know some of the details at least came from the landlady herself. Though, of course, what was passed on to the reporter(s) may not necessarily have been what the landlady had told her neighbour(s).⁶

The neighbours were said to come from the 'district'. This could just be a figure of speech, but it may indicate that these were not immediate neighbours as 'district' suggests a wider area than just the immediate houses. This may indicate that the reporter's source of the story was a few generations from that originally told by the landlady.

There is also the fact from the above account that a reporter apparently spoke directly to the landlady, but she was not giving much information. She was described as a stout, middle-aged woman from Germany who did not speak English very well. That fact needs to be borne in mind when assessing the details. There is a lot of scope here for misinterpretation of what the landlady said (to her neighbours and to the reporter) and also for the landlady misinterpreting questions asked of her.

The details obtained from the neighbours are that the landlady was disturbed in the early hours by her lodger returning home and moving about. She got up herself very early and noticed he had changed some of his clothes. There is little scope for ambiguity with this detail—someone came home in the early hours and disturbed her. The explanations given later for the incident do not account for this detail.

A slightly different account is given in other newspapers regarding when the landlady herself got up.

*This man was said to have returned to his lodging at an early hour on the Sunday morning on which the Berner-street and Mitre-square murders were committed. His landlady was disturbed by his movements, and she noticed next morning that he had changed his clothes.*⁷

Whereas the report in the *Evening News* can be interpreted as the landlady getting up when the lodger returned or not long afterwards ('her lodger returned home early on the Sunday morning, and she was disturbed by his moving about' and 'she got up herself very early') the *Telegraph* states that it was next morning that she noticed he had changed his clothes (suggesting it was later on in the morning—i.e. daylight hours). Another interpretation of the way it was reported in the *Evening News* is that it could be that when she herself got up it was maybe a couple of hours after the lodger returned but was still very early (for example about 5 o'clock). No indication is given of exactly when the lodger returned, just that it was in the early hours. We have no way of knowing when this was in relation to the time of the murders of Stride and Eddowes. It is not clear from the *Evening News* account if she got up when he returned. However, it is stated that it was 'next morning' that she noticed the lodger had changed his clothes.

The fact that the lodger was said to have changed his clothes is a difficult one to interpret. She must have seen him on at least two separate occasions to know he had changed his clothes. Presumably Saturday evening would be the last time she saw him before noticing the change. Then she may have seen him as he returned home and disturbed her, or not long after this. Or she could have seen him later in the morning when she herself got up. However, at this later time, what would be odd about a person changing their clothes from those they were seen in the previous evening? People do tend to change their clothes the following day. If the observation was made at this time, it may be that he tended not to change his clothes very often. Nonetheless, he would change them occasionally even if it wasn't every day, assuming he had more than one set of clothes. So why would Mrs. Kuer think it noteworthy if he had changed his clothes in the morning from those worn the previous evening? It may have been because his clothes had already been moved out (if the lodger had arranged to move out that weekend anyway, which is a possibility as we will see) or because he was seen wearing clothes that did not belong to him. In the latter case the landlady may not have had to see him on two separate occasions to deduce he had changed his clothes.

With these snippets of information the inference is clear that the person concerned was a lodger and not just someone who had left clothes to be washed, which was claimed later.

We are also informed that he told her he was going away for a while and asked her to clean his shirt ready for when he returned. The man was said to occasionally leave for a while so this was not regarded as unusual by the landlady. These details may have been misinterpreted for reasons we will come to later.

⁶ Henceforth I will refer to 'neighbours' but it may have been just one neighbour with whom Mrs. Kuer initially shared her suspicions.

⁷ *Daily Telegraph*, 16 October 1888

The man left soon afterwards and had been missing since 'the Sunday morning of the murder'. In the section where the landlady was spoken to directly, she confirmed that he had not yet returned and she did not know when he would do so. In the section where the information seemingly came from the neighbour, the landlady was said to have been confident that he would have returned on Saturday or Sunday night, or possibly on Monday. Now this would appear to mean from Saturday the 13th to Monday the 15th. As we will see later, there may be an explanation for why the landlady was said to have expected he would return on a particular day. Nothing was said in the original report that when he left he gave a specific day for his return, though maybe she was used to him leaving for about a fortnight at a time. The neighbours were said to believe that he would never come back.

The landlady later discovered the shirt was bloodstained on the cuffs and sleeves. The reference to it being saturated with blood was possibly an exaggeration by the neighbours or the reporter. When she then heard of the murders, this aroused her suspicions and her neighbours advised her to call the police, which she had, and since then the police (two detectives and two uniformed policemen) had been waiting at the house around the clock (presumably in shifts). That she had told her neighbours would explain them being the source for the story.

The report then gives a brief description of the location of the house in relation to nearby passages (*'It is approached by a court, and as there are alleys running through from one street to the other adjacent, there are different ways of approach and exit'*). The address was given in subsequent reports and this is an accurate description of the approach to the house. 22 Batty Street can be easily reached from Berner Street by going along Hampshire Court, where it is situated at the end directly on the left of the passageway. Virtually directly opposite the house on the other side of Batty Street is another court (Queen Court) leading to Christian Street. So, as the report stated, there were various ways to reach 22 Batty Street directly.



22 Batty Street with passages nearby. 'X' indicates Dutfield's Yard where Elizabeth Stride was found

The final section presents a confident view of the predicted outcome of the enquiry: *'It is believed that in the information obtained as to his former movements and general appearance, together with the fact that numbers of people have seen the same man, the police have in their possession a series of most important clues, and that his ultimate capture is only a question of time.'* Reference to his former movements and general appearance would probably come from the landlady and may have covered his former address and his movements at the time of the other murders. Interestingly 'numbers of people' had seen the same man. In the *Daily News* this was expanded to say that *'numbers of people have seen the same man about the neighbourhood'* (my emphasis). As we will see, the police were not providing any information about this story so this detail would appear to come from the neighbours,

or possibly was the result of the reporter asking people in the neighbourhood if they'd seen a certain man and giving a rough description as provided by the landlady or her neighbour. Such a method would be unlikely to yield useful information, as people would want to be seen to have important information. It is possible, however, that this was correct information, in which case a possible implication is that the lodger had been seen in the area since so was possibly still around.

However, the confidence expressed in the *Evening News* is contradicted in reports by, amongst other newspapers, the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Manchester Guardian* and the *Irish Times*.

*Suspicion flashed across her mind, and the police were informed. Inquiry was instituted, with the result that the incidents mentioned are said to have been "satisfactorily accounted for."*⁸

*The report that an important clue had been obtained through the discovery of a bloodstained shirt left by a suspected character in an East End lodginghouse had no better foundation than an incident which was satisfactorily explained over a week ago.*⁹

These reports suggest that the matter had already been investigated and a satisfactory explanation had been given over a week before. This may point at the weekend before (i.e. Saturday the 6th / Sunday the 7th) that being just over a week before the story became known on Monday the 15th.

So at this point the *Daily News* and *Evening News* were reporting that here was an important lead while the *Telegraph*, *Manchester Guardian* and *Irish Times* were reporting that the incident had already been satisfactorily explained. The account in the latter newspapers may represent early access to information that would come to light in the next couple of days.

On the following day the story was expanded.

*THE EAST-END MURDERS.
THE BATTY-STREET CLUE.
THE BLOOD-STAINED SHIRT.*

*The startling story published yesterday with reference to the finding of a blood-stained shirt and the disappearance of a man from a lodging-house in the East-end proves upon investigation to be of some importance. On Monday afternoon the truth of the statement was given an unqualified denial by the detective officers immediately after its publication and this presumably because they were anxious to avoid a premature disclosure of facts of which they had been for some time cognisant. From the very morning of the murders, the police, it is stated, have had in their possession a shirt saturated with blood. Though they say nothing they are evidently convinced that it was left in a house in Batty-street by the assassin after he had finished his work. Having regard to the position of this particular house, its close proximity to the yard in Berner-street, where the crime was committed, and to the many intricate passages and alleys adjacent, the police theory has, in all probability, a basis of fact. An examination of the surroundings leads to the conclusion that probably in the whole of Whitechapel there is no quarter in which a criminal would be more likely to evade police detection, or observation of any kind, than he would be in this particular one. At the inquest on Mrs. Stride one of the witnesses deposed to having seen a man and a woman standing at the junction of Fairclough and Berner-streets early on the morning of the murder. Assuming that the man now sought was the murderer, he would have gained instant access to the house in Batty-street by rapidly crossing over from the yard and traversing a passage, the entrance of which is almost immediately opposite to the spot where the victim was subsequently discovered. The statement has been made that the landlady of the lodging-house, 22, Batty-street—the house in which the shirt was left - was at an early hour disturbed by the movements of the lodger who changed some of his apparel and went away; first, however, instructing her to wash the cast-off shirt by the time he returned. But in relation to this latter theory, the question is how far the result of the inquiries made yesterday is affected by a recent arrest. Although, for reasons known to themselves, the police during Saturday, Sunday, and Monday answered negatively all questions as to whether any person had been arrested or was then in their charge, there is no doubt that a man was taken into custody on suspicion of being the missing lodger from 22, Batty-street, and that he was afterwards set at liberty.*¹⁰

⁸ *Daily Telegraph*, 16 October 1888

⁹ *Irish Times*, 16 October 1888

¹⁰ *Evening News*, 17 October 1888

The *Irish Times* added:

There is no doubt that a man was taken into custody on suspicion of being the missing lodger from 22 Batty street, and that he was afterwards set at liberty. The German lodginghouse-keeper could clear up the point as to the existence of any other lodger absent from the house under the suspicious circumstances referred to, but she is not accessible, and, it is easy to understand that the police should endeavour to prevent her making an statement. From inquiries in various directions this afternoon a further development is very likely to take place.

First of all we have a reference to the fact that the police were denying the story on Monday afternoon (15th). This was expanded later in the story to include Saturday (13th) and Sunday (14th). This would suggest that none of the information relating to the story came from, or was confirmed by, a police source. The assumption was that the police were keen to keep the story under wraps to avoid jeopardising any operation in progress. Of course it could be that there were denials because the matter had already been resolved.

If the press had enough information to ask the police questions on Saturday it appears odd that there was no mention of the story in the press on Monday. We'll examine the timing of when the story broke later.

This report also tells us that the police had been aware of the incident for some time—in fact from the very morning of the murders when the landlady told them of the incident and handed over the shirt. There is a reiteration of some of the details given the previous day, but we are now told the address of the house—22 Batty Street.

The latter part of the report is interesting. We are told that '*in relation to this latter theory, the question is how far the result of the inquiries made yesterday is affected by a recent arrest*'. This is the first mention of an arrest relating to the incident, though it may tie in with the report in the *Telegraph* on the previous day that the matter had already been explained satisfactorily. Though the police had denied it, the reporter was certain that someone had been arrested on suspicion of being the missing lodger and that he had been released. If the report in the *Irish Times* (16 October) is correct regarding the matter being satisfactorily accounted for over a week before, then it may point to an arrest on the weekend of October 6-7. Of course, there is also the point that this arrest may involve some confusion with the incident at Gray's Inn Road, which we will look at in more detail later.

Interestingly, there seems to have been a turnaround in the two press camps in their reports of the 17th. On the 16th the *Daily News* and *Evening News* had been optimistic in reporting that the man's capture was imminent, while the *Telegraph*, *Manchester Guardian* and *Irish Times* were reporting that the matter had already been satisfactorily accounted for. On the 17th the *Daily* and *Evening News* were reporting that a man had already been arrested and released while the other camp were now reporting that '*from inquiries in various directions this afternoon a further development is very likely to take place*'. That there was information at all, let alone optimism, regarding further developments is odd if the police were being reticent regarding the matter. That is unless there was another source for this information - such as the landlady, though she was likewise said to be unforthcoming, or possibly the neighbours. Also there is the possibility of confusion with other leads being followed up by the police where perhaps the police were expressing some optimism, but the press had associated their optimism with the wrong story.

Also of interest in the *Irish Times* is that it was felt the landlady had been made inaccessible and this, it was said, was because the police wanted to 'avoid a premature disclosure of the facts'. This would reinforce the point made in the *Evening News* on the 16th that the landlady was 'not inclined to give much information'.

Another point of interest in the *Irish Times* (also reported in the *Morning Advertiser*, 17th October) is that '*the German lodginghouse-keeper could clear up the point as to the existence of any other lodger absent from the house under the suspicious circumstances referred to*'. Why the reference to 'any other' lodger being absent or missing? Could it be that someone had been arrested and released, but attention was now being turned to someone else? It could just be a misleading or clumsy expression, but reference to 'any other lodger' being absent is interesting. This suggests there was already one man absent and this man was accounted for; but there was now interest in another man. The *Irish Times* carried the same report as the *Daily News* about the arrest and release of the man, so is this an indication that someone else was now being sought?

On the 18th the story seemingly was explained by reference to the man being a laundry customer of Mrs. Kuer's. However more questions are raised. The landlady was interviewed on the 17th and this was reported in the *Evening News* on the 18th.

INTERVIEW WITH THE LANDLADY IN BATTY STREET.

A Press representative had an interview, yesterday, with the landlady of the house, 22, Batty-street, Whitechapel, which place was alleged to be the resort of the owner of the blood-stained shirt. The lodging-house is kept by a German woman, the wife of a seaman. She denied that the man for whom the police were searching was one of her lodgers, and asserted that he simply had his washing done at the house. He was a ladies tailor, working for a West-end house, and did not reside in the Leman-street district. She explained the presence of blood on the shirt by saying that it was owing to an accident that occurred to a man (other than the one taken into custody) who was living on the premises, and that the police would have known nothing of it but for her having indiscreetly shown it to a neighbour. The woman denies that the detectives are still in possession of her house.¹¹

The landlady, here described as being the wife of a seaman, now said that the man being sought was not a lodger, but someone who had his washing done at her house. Further reports would refer to her as a laundress. The man was said to be a ladies tailor and did not live in the area. She referred to someone being taken into custody but, importantly, said that this man was not the one responsible for getting the blood on the shirt. This was caused by 'an accident that occurred to a man who lived on the premises'. The story died after the reports on this day and was not followed up in the press. But this information from the landlady opens up many questions. The whole incident is seemingly dismissed—the shirt was brought in by someone to be cleaned, someone in the house got blood on it accidentally, and the police had now left the house. Everything is explained. Well not quite.

An ambiguity in the report is that the man responsible for getting blood on the shirt was someone 'other than the one taken into custody' but it doesn't actually equate the man taken into custody with the laundry customer. It is implied, but not explicitly stated. However, this point is clarified by the further details that appeared in the *Daily News* of the same date:

With regard to the statements current as to finding a blood-stained shirt at a lodging-house in Whitechapel, it appears the story is founded on some matters which occurred more than a fortnight ago. A man, apparently a foreigner, visited the house of a German laundress, at 22, Batty-street, and left four shirts, tied in a bundle, to be washed. The bundle was not opened at the time, but when the shirts were afterwards taken out one was found considerably blood-stained. The woman communicated with the police, who placed the house under observation, detectives at the same time being lodged there to arrest the man should he return. This he did last Saturday, and was taken to the Leman-street Police-station, where he was questioned, and within an hour or two released, his statement being proved correct.¹²

Additional information given by the *Daily News* is that the man was foreign and had brought in a bundle of four shirts to be washed, one of which was found to be bloodstained. The police were informed and waited for his return, which he did 'last Saturday' (apparently the 13th). He was taken to Leman Street Police Station for questioning and was then released, the police being satisfied with his statement. This seems to contradict Mrs. Kuer's initial answers to reporters published on October 16 when she just asserted that the man had not returned yet.

Also, in these later reports the landlady said that the police were not 'still in possession of the house', which implies that they had been.

Regarding the story at this point that the man was a customer rather than a lodger, if police were said to have been looking into his former movements (from the reports on the 16th) this would be unlikely to apply to a customer on whom they would not have much information. However, in the case of a lodger, there may have been information that the landlady or other lodgers could give from details he had given them while he lived there, as well as items left at the house by the man.

However, the most important detail here is that the landlady said that the customer who brought the clothes was not responsible for getting the blood on the shirt. This raises the question as to why the customer was arrested. If he was not responsible for getting the blood on the shirt, why would he be arrested?

So the story about the customer, even if true, is irrelevant in that it was someone 'living on the premises' who was responsible for getting blood on the shirt. That the man 'was living on the premises' may imply he was no longer living there, possibly supporting the theory that there was still a missing lodger. The point is that this statement is supposed to be cooling the story by explaining that the bloodstains were not due to some missing lodger still being searched for by police, but the report implies that the person responsible for getting blood on the shirt no longer lived there. Again this could be an example of sloppy expression and the person referred to by Mrs. Kuer was still living there.

¹¹ *Evening News*, 18 October 1888

¹² *Daily News*, 18 October 1888



Perhaps tellingly, the landlady was reported as indicating to the journalist that '*the police would have known nothing of it but for her having indiscreetly shown it to a neighbour*'. This implies that the landlady was not pleased that the police had been informed and blamed her own indiscretion in showing the shirt to a neighbour. Could the landlady have had an initial suspicion and shown her neighbour the shirt, but later regretted this as she had dismissed her own suspicions and felt obliged or coerced into informing the police due to pressure from her neighbour? Could this account for the seemingly uncooperative nature of the landlady with the press? This may be an indication that Mrs. Kuer did not willingly aid the police's investigation.

But when did Mrs. Kuer find out that it was one of her householders who had got blood on the shirt? Was it before the arrest of the customer? Or only afterwards? Was it as a result of the police inquiry into the customer's statement after they arrested him that this information emerged? Could the arrested man's insistence that there was no blood on the shirt when he gave to the landlady have led to further questions at Mrs. Kuer's house? Moreover, did the police even know about this information given by the landlady to the press? Also, does this account for the references in the reports of the previous day to 'any other lodger absent from the house under the suspicious circumstances referred to'? Had attention turned to someone else? Or had the police been given a satisfactory explanation for the blood being on the shirt from the person living at the house who was responsible for it getting there?

This person couldn't have been Mrs. Kuer herself (and who was then trying to cover up this fact), else why would she show the shirt to a neighbour and express her suspicions in the first place.

Also to consider is the fact that this report does not account for the original story about a lodger disturbing the landlady in the early hours. A customer is not going to leave his shirts in the early hours. Nor does it account for the fact that the landlady noticed the man had changed his clothes.

While the *Daily News* and *Evening News* seemed to believe the incident was now explained, the *Irish Times* continued in the other direction, though expressing some doubt in the public's faith in the optimism seemingly shown by the police.

*The "bloody shirt," having long figured as a standard of American party warfare, is likely to appear in this community as a flag of justice. For it is declared that the police are in possession of a most important clue to the Whitechapel assassin. This clue is a shirt saturated with blood, and supposed from circumstances needless to narrate to have been worn by the murderer when he killed his two latest victims. Great importance, it seems, is attached by the experts of the Criminal Investigation Department to this ensanguined garment, and the resources of the institution are at present directed to the discovery of the wearer. It must be said that the public do not share the great expectations of the authorities.*¹³

Reference to the shirt being worn by the killer could just be straightforward, but saying 'worn by' and 'wearer' as opposed to 'owned by' and 'owner' may be an important distinction. If this was a deliberately subtle distinction, is this another indication that the inquiry had shifted from the man who left the shirts to the man who got blood on them?

One other very interesting item is to be found in the *Evening News* of 18 October, 1888—a letter from one of the lodgers at 22 Batty Street. This was written on the 17th.

A LETTER FROM 22, BATTY STREET.

We have received the following letter:

SIR - Referring to your issue No. [2227], I beg of you to publish a contradictory statement respecting the Whitechapel murder; in fact, your reporter has been wrongly informed, or else it his own suggestion.

The police are not in the house, nor has the woman had a lodger who is now missing, but a stranger brought the shirts, and when he fetched them, he was detained by the police, and after inquiries discharged. As regards our house, it is not as your report describes it, for it is a most respectable house and in good general condition; although it is certainly not Windsor Castle. There are only two lodgers, one a drayman, name of Joseph, who works for the Norwegian Lager Beer Company, and the other a baker, name of Carl Noun, who has been at work in Margate, and only returned on the 6th of this month after the season was over. I trust you will publish these statements as I put it to you, in fact it may injure the poor woman in her business. - Respectfully.

C. NOUN (a lodger in the house).

*22, Batty-street, Commercial-road, E., October 17.*¹⁴

¹³ *Irish Times*, 18 October 1888

¹⁴ *Evening News*, 18 October 1888

This letter gives us some important information. From it we know there were two lodgers at 22 Batty Street—Joseph, a drayman for the Norwegian Lager Beer Company, and Carl Noun (the letter writer), a baker. Noun was keen to put the record straight and despite starting diplomatically, suggests that the reporter may have made the story up. Here Noun largely tells the same story as Mrs. Kuer. He states the police were not in the house (though, unlike with the landlady's statement, we can't infer from his letter that the police had at some point been in the house) nor was there a missing lodger. He reiterates the story that someone brought the shirts to the house and the police arrested him on his return, though he was later released. As an incidental point Noun also rebuts the statement in the *Evening News* of the 16th that the 'house was dingy and uninviting'. He also states the reason for writing the letter is that he believed the story may adversely affect the landlady's business (presumably as a laundress). This may be why the landlady gave the interview. Her original tactic to be evasive was unfortunately not working, so she gave an interview and Noun, to help out, wrote a letter to the press.

Noun referred to the customer as a 'stranger'. This may imply that the man was not a regular customer of Mrs. Kuer's or it could be that the man was just a stranger to Noun.

However, one detail in Noun's letter is important. This is that he tells us he had been away (at work in Margate) and only returned on 6th October. This was a week after the incident. Noun would not be in a position to know first-hand what happened in the house on 30th September. He may have been in the house for the arrest of the customer on the latter's return, but he would not be able to refute the stories in the press from first-hand knowledge.

A few possibilities present themselves here. Firstly, there was the denial that there was a missing lodger. However, if Noun was away for the season, could the landlady have brought in someone else to use the room while Noun was away? Presumably Noun would have to pay a retainer to keep the room until he returned. Could the landlady have sought to make more money by letting the room in Noun's absence, on the understanding with the new lodger that they must find somewhere else to live prior to Noun returning on 6th October (if she knew that would be his date of return)? Maybe this was done without Noun's knowledge and, to keep this from him, she came up with a story about a customer leaving some shirts to be cleaned, rather than a temporary lodger leaving them. The reference to the person who got blood on the shirt who 'was living there' may also indicate someone having moved in while Noun was away and that the person concerned no longer lived there.

Could the story about the missing lodger leaving for a while every now and then also be a reference to Noun? Maybe the scenario was that the landlady told her neighbour about the lodger leaving the shirt and explained how she let the room while Noun was away and that Noun would often go away for a time, but the neighbour thought this detail was about the missing lodger. This also raises the possibility that the reports mentioning '*any other lodger absent from the house under the circumstances referred to*' may have been a result of Noun's return. Noun was a lodger at the house who would have been absent at the time of the incident and knowledge of his circumstances may have been behind this reference to 'any other lodger'.

Also, reference is made to an arrest in several reports. The *Daily News* (Wednesday, 18 October) refers to this being 'last Saturday'. Strictly speaking this would refer to Saturday the 13th. However, use of 'next' and 'last' when referring to a day of the week can be ambiguous in terms of which week the statement is referring to and earlier reports in the *Irish Times* (Tuesday, 16 October) referred to the matter being resolved over a week before (i.e. before Tuesday the 9th), which may mean the arrest actually occurred on Saturday, 6 October. This was the day that Carl Noun said he returned to Batty Street. Could it be that Carl Noun was the man detained by the police? If they were in the house, probably even waiting in his room, it could be they believed this was the missing lodger when he returned if he vaguely fitted the landlady's description and she was not in the house at the time of the arrest to explain their mistake.

A combination of these facts could account for different aspects of the story. It could be that there actually was a customer who left some shirts on Saturday the 29th of September (or possibly earlier). From the landlady's account someone living at 22 Batty Street got blood onto one of these shirts. This must have been on Saturday night or Sunday morning (29/30) as the bloodstained shirt was said to be in the possession of the police from the morning of the murders. From the landlady's explanation of events to her neighbour who persuaded her to inform the police, certain details could have been confused. The landlady would possibly have explained about the lodger disturbing her and her later discovery of the bloodstained shirt which had been brought in by a customer who asked her to have it ready for when he came back on a specified day. She may also have explained that the lodger was living there while Carl Noun, one of her regular lodgers, was away. Due to language problems or a process of 'Chinese whispers' the story became that it was the lodger who asked for the shirt to be cleaned (when this was actually the customer) and who was in the habit of going away for a while (when this was, in fact, Noun).

Gray's Inn Road Laundry story

As already mentioned, Evans and Gainey suggest that the story given by Mrs. Kuer about a laundry customer leaving shirts may have been suggested to her by the police based on an incident that had happened the previous week at the Clothing Repairing Company in Gray's Inn Road, Holborn, which was actually part of a chain of shops. The idea is that in order to kill the story a statement was given to the press relating a story based on this earlier separate incident, with the additional hope that the stories would then be confused. Alternatively, it may be that elements of this story simply got mixed up by the press with the Batty Street lodger story in their early reports of the latter. It has also been suggested that the Batty Street lodger story was just a result of details being confused from the Gray's Inn Road story and other stories.

The reports about the Gray's Inn Road incident first appeared on Tuesday, the 9th of October.

THE EAST-END MURDERS.

*The Central News states that the Metropolitan Police last night made an arrest which was thought to be of importance. The arrest was made through the instrumentality of the manager of a clothes repairing company in Gray's Inn-road. Last Wednesday afternoon a man called at the shop between twelve and two o'clock in the afternoon with two garments—an overcoat and a pair of trousers to be cleaned. They were both blood-stained. The coat was especially smeared near one of the pockets, and there were large spots of blood on various parts of the trousers. The manager was away at the time, and his wife took charge of the garments. The man said he would call for them on Friday or Saturday. The wife naturally called her husband's attention to the blood stains on his return, and he communicated with the metropolitan police, who, having examined the clothes, took them to Scotland-yard. Since then, two detectives have been secreted on the premises awaiting the stranger's return. Friday and Saturday passed by without his calling, but last evening he stepped into the shop a few minutes before closing time. Detective-sergeant George Godley and a companion seized him without much ceremony, and he was taken straight to Leman-street Police-station. Meanwhile the prisoner accounted for the presence of the blood marks by the assertion that he had cut his hand. It is stated, however, that his explanation was not altogether consistent, as in an unguarded moment he spoke of having cut himself last Saturday, and then suddenly recollecting himself stated that he had also cut his hand previously. The prisoner further stated that he had had the garments by him in his lodgings for two or three weeks, but he refused to give his address. A later communication from the Central News says :- The man was liberated after the police had satisfied themselves of his innocence. The apparent inconsistency of his explanation was doubtless due to his embarrassment.*¹⁵



The Staple Inn, Holborn, opposite Gray's Inn Road

The *Irish Times* of the same date added the detail that the suspect was "a middle-aged man of good physique and respectably dressed".

Extra details were given in the *Star* the same day:

*The detectives seized him, and took him to Leman-street Police-station. He stated that while employed as a waiter at the Alexandra Park he had broken some glass and cut one of his hands rather severely. Inquiries made at his residence and at the Palace corroborated his story, and as there were no further grounds for detaining him he was discharged.*¹⁶

¹⁵ *Daily News*, 9 October 1888

¹⁶ *The Star*, 9 October 1888

The reference to 'Alexandra Park' appears to be a mistake as the report later refers to 'the Palace' and the man's place of employment was given as the Alexandra Palace in the *St. James Gazette* on the same date.

The *City Press*, on the following day, added the detail that "*inquiries are being made of his antecedents*".

So seemingly on Wednesday, 3 October, the man left the clothes at the shop and returned on Monday the 8th¹⁷ when he was detained by police. The police would naturally be looking into the antecedents of any suspect—so this fact cannot be used as evidence that the stories are necessarily linked.

Firstly, this is obviously a separate incident to that in Batty Street. It is not the case that the reports of the Batty Street incident were merely misreports of the incident in Gray's Inn Road. That the address was very specifically given, Mrs. Kuer was spoken to and there was a letter from one of the lodgers, all tell us that there was actually a separate incident concerning bloodstained clothing at Batty Street and this was not merely the result of the press getting details wrong about the customer at Gray's Inn Road.

There are certainly parallels between the two stories. Both involved a customer leaving clothes with bloodstains on them (a bundle of four shirts, one of which was bloodstained at Batty Street; an overcoat and trousers, both of which were bloodstained, at Gray's Inn Road). Both involved the police waiting on the premises for the man to return (two detectives at Gray's Inn Road; two detectives and two policemen at Batty Street) and both involved the customer returning, being taken for questioning and then being released.

Early reports of the Batty Street incident (for example, by the *Daily Telegraph* and the *Irish Times*) on the 16th of October made reference to the story being satisfactorily explained more than a week before. This timeline would fit in with the Gray's Inn Road arrest. However, the return of the customer was said to be on a Saturday in the case of the Batty Street customer, whereas it was a Monday in the case of the Gray's Inn Road customer. If this explanation of the Batty Street incident being satisfactorily explained over a week before was the start of the confusion between the two stories, those papers reporting the explanation must have had some information not available to the other papers (such as the *Daily* and *Evening News*) because it wasn't until Mrs. Kuer was interviewed on the 17th that the customer aspect of the Batty Street story was given and reported in those papers on the 18th, at which point the two stories shared a lot in common. It could be that since Mrs. Kuer had been interviewed on about the 15th (as referred to in the *Evening News* on the 16th) she had given the detail about the customer to one reporter and not another. So the *Irish Times* could have reported details on the 16th relating the information Mrs. Kuer subsequently gave to the *Evening News* which was reported on the 18th. Of course this story could have been a falsehood inspired by events at Gray's Inn Road given by the police or the landlady to deflect the attention of the press. However, it may be that there was a genuine incident of a customer of Mrs. Kuer's, on returning to 22 Batty Street to pick up his shirts, being taken in for questioning by police sometime between 6th and 8th October.

To explain the 'satisfactory account', it seems unlikely the *Irish Times* (among others) on the 16th had confused the Batty Street incident with that in Gray's Inn Road as the customer aspect of the story had not yet been explicitly reported; the man was still referred to as a lodger. If this detail was a result of an early deliberate confusion by police, they had to react immediately to press interest with this tactic.

While Mrs. Kuer may have been instructed by the police to tell the 'customer' story, Noun's letter seems genuinely to have been out of concern for Mrs. Kuer and to give the real story (as he saw it) to refute the details of the initial report in the *Evening News* even down to disagreeing with the comment about the condition of the house.

So while it is possible that the Gray's Inn Road story was used as the inspiration for a cover story at Batty Street (either instigated by the police or by Mrs. Kuer and aided by Noun who wrote a letter accordingly to the press to further get the denial story across), it is clear that the Batty Street lodger story related to a separate incident.

Mrs. Kuer's reluctance

The press reported that Mrs. Kuer was not being very co-operative. This uncooperative attitude may also have been shown by her to the police. Certainly her statement that the police would not have known about the incident had she herself not 'indiscreetly' shown the shirt to a neighbour indicates that she was not pleased that the police were involved. This reluctance to get the police involved may have been due to her own judgment about the man concerned. Certainly, there was reason for her to have suspicions in the first place else she would not have spoken with her neighbour. She may then, on reflection, have changed her mind and decided that her lodger (or customer) could not have been involved in the murders. It may be that her assessment that the man was innocent was correct, but it seems a common reaction from some people who know serial killers that they had no idea or would not have believed it of them.

¹⁷ The newspapers refer to the man returning 'yesterday'. Strictly, if writing from the perspective of when the newspaper will be read this is a reference to Monday 8th. However the perspective is not always clear, and on occasion the perspective appears to be from when the report was written - therefore 'yesterday' would refer to Sunday the 7th. The *Irish Times* (9th) seems to be guilty of this as they refer to the 'man arrested to-night'. The newspaper is clearly referring to Monday the 8th here.

However, there may have been a further reason for her reluctance to aid the police. The murder of Miriam Angel and execution of Israel Lipski had happened just over a year before (28th June and 22nd August 1887 respectively). The murder had occurred just three doors away from Mrs. Kuer's house. The case had been widely reported and following the trial, before the execution, there was a widespread belief that an innocent man would be hanged. This was due to a campaign by his solicitor, John Hayward, who produced a pamphlet detailing evidence that he believed proved Lipski's innocence. This argument was taken up by some Jewish newspapers and the Pall Mall Gazette. Petitions were signed, mostly by the Jewish community, and by MPs to at least get Lipski's sentence commuted. Questions also were asked in the House of Commons regarding the case. This would, initially at least, have helped some people to question the verdict and the sentence.

We do not know when Mrs. Kuer moved to 22 Batty Street, but it's possible that she was there at the time of the murder of Miriam Angel. Both victim and accused were tenants of Philip and Leah Lipski at No. 16. Indeed, it appears the accused had taken their name Lipski as his own (Lobulsk being his real name). They were certainly supportive of their lodger and believed he was innocent, seeing the condemned man several times in prison and a few days prior to his execution when he again asserted his innocence.



Israel Lipski

Though Israel Lipski confessed to the murder on the eve of his execution, and though this was reported in most papers at face value, certain elements of the press (Jewish radical newspapers especially) viewed this confession with some scepticism at best. The Home Secretary had been criticised in the period between the trial and the execution and the confession was seen as vindication for his position by most newspapers. However, it may be that some people still believed in his innocence and if Israel Lipski was still professing his innocence just a few days before his execution to Philip and Leah Lipski, it could be that they, in particular, still believed he was innocent even after reports of the confession.¹⁸ They had known him for two years and had spoken to him directly in prison, so they perhaps would not be swayed from their first-hand experience of the man by the newspaper reports and by the confession that may have been viewed merely as expedient for all concerned rather than a genuine admission of guilt.

If Mrs. Kuer was living at 22 Batty Street at the time or if the Lipskis were still living in Batty Street when Mrs. Kuer moved in possibly at some point in 1888, it could be that she knew the details of the murder and the opinions of the Lipskis. It may be that Mrs. Kuer knew them to talk to and almost certainly would have been aware of the case even if she hadn't lived in Batty Street at the time of the murder. If she felt her story might lead to the execution of a man she believed to be probably innocent, she might well have wanted to play down the events to the authorities.

Other events that may have played on Mrs. Kuer's mind were various attacks by the husband of Miriam Angel on Leah Lipski just prior to and after the execution. On the Saturday before Lipski's execution, Isaac Angel went to the house with his two brothers. Mrs. Lipski was knocked over and kicked in the stomach, being told that 'I will not rest till I have killed you...I will do for you as you have done for my wife'. On the day of Lipski's execution, Angel returned to No. 16 with his siblings and damaged the door and windows, and also kicked Mrs. Lipski. The following day Angel returned with a mob and threatened to kill her.¹⁹

Again, even if she was not living there at the time, Mrs. Kuer may have heard of these events and the feelings in the area may have left an impression on her. This may also have made her want to avoid a repeat of such incidents at her own house. Given that feelings regarding the Whitechapel murders were running high in the area, if there were reports in the press that the murderer may have lived at her house such attacks may have seemed a very real possibility.

18 *The Trials of Israel Lipski - A True Story of a Victorian Murder in the East End of London* by Martin L. Friedland, chapters 5 and 9

19 *Ibid.* pp. 191-192

Initially she tried to play down the matter without giving too many details. She may have hoped that giving few details would stifle interest in the story. Obviously this was futile, so she was then forced to give more details to try to explicitly state that the matter had been satisfactorily explained. Either the matter had actually been resolved or the police were actually still looking for the man. Even if the matter had been resolved, it could be that Mrs. Kuer feared attacks because of the ambiguous reports in the press and so she gave out more details to try to stop the interest from the press.

That she did not mention the arrest the first time she was spoken to—when the reporter said she was being evasive—could be that she thought just not saying a lot would be better in order to cause interest in the story to cool down. However, as that didn't work and there were further reports on the 17th (including the addition of the address), she may then have chosen to give more details, while indicating (whether true or not) that the matter had been resolved.

It could be that a combination of these factors may have caused her not only to be uncooperative with the press but also with the police. Fearing how the situation might develop, she may have feared if the police did catch the man and he was convicted of the crimes then she would have a mob outside the house where he had lived. She may also have dismissed the idea in her own mind that the man could be the murderer, but felt that the evidence of the shirt with other evidence, may have been used to 'force through' a conviction, which is what some still may have felt had happened to Israel Lipski.

At this point it may be worth listing the options of what had happened and why she was responding in such a way:

- She had not told the police that a member of the household had got blood on the shirt. The police had waited for the customer to return and on doing so he was arrested and released having given a satisfactory account. This ended the matter for the police but Mrs. Kuer felt guilty about her deceit, or did not want to let prospective customers know they might be arrested like the luckless customer who had been.
- She had not given the press or the police the full details as she did not want her house to be the target of attacks from those incensed by the murders.
- She had not given the press or the police the full details as she did not believe the man responsible for getting blood on the shirt was guilty of any murders.
- The police had arrested the customer, then it had come to light about the lodger getting blood on the shirt and they turned their attention to him. So Mrs. Kuer's statements were true and given in good faith, albeit not wanting too many details to be given and wanting to play down the matter, though if the latter was her intent she was not doing a good job.
- There was no customer, and the man being searched for all along by police was the missing lodger.
- There was no missing lodger; it was the customer that the police sought. Mrs. Kuer and/or the reporter mistook reference to the customer to be reference to the lodger.

If she was keen to play the story down this could have backed up by one of her lodgers writing to a newspaper. Now there are a few reasons why Mrs. Kuer would have been keen for this to happen:

- 1) Nothing had happened that didn't have an innocent explanation and the story she gave was the truth.
- 2) The story she gave was essentially the truth but played down the details that still indicated some suspicious activity by a lodger - she wanted to avoid harm to her business or she wanted to avoid attacks on her property. Less likely, the police told her to do this, but if they wanted to cover it up they'd have perhaps wanted more deviance from truth.
- 3) The story she gave was not the truth (and was based on the Gray's Inn Road story) in order to try to kill the story as she felt her home might be attacked or her business would suffer.
- 4) The story she gave was not the truth in order to try and keep the fact from Carl Noun that she had let out his room in his absence.
- 5) The police told her to tell the story that was not the truth in order to try to kill the story as they did not want to alert the culprit.

Timing of the story

The story did not appear in the press until October 16, indicating that it was only known by the press on the 15th. If the police were in possession of the shirt since the day of the murder, and Mrs. Kuer had been advised by neighbours to contact the police, then the story of the lodger returning with a bloodstained shirt would appear to have been known by some neighbours from 30th September.

Given the tendency for people to pass on their stories to the press and for the press to print anything as soon as they had the information, it seems strange that it was just over a fortnight after the incident that the press got wind of the story. Of course, regarding the reference to 'neighbours' in the report any use of the plural does not give us an accurate impression of the numbers involved. If there had been just reference to a neighbour advising her to contact the police you know just one neighbour was involved. However since it was said to be 'neighbours' who advised her and who informed the press this could be just two people or could be many more. Possibly one or two discreet neighbours were shown the shirt by Mrs. Kuer when she had her initial uneasiness about it. In her press interview in the *Evening News*, Mrs. Kuer referred to having indiscreetly shown a neighbour.

At some point in the following fortnight perhaps the story was passed on by one of these neighbours to someone else, and may at some point have come to the ears of someone who then told the press. As stated earlier, the neighbours were said to come from the 'district' and so may indicate that they were not immediate neighbours. It could be that the presence of the police at the house may have roused the curiosity of someone who learnt some of the details for the reason the police were on the premises and told the story to the press.

Certainly, the details were not well known in the neighbourhood, else it would not have taken so long to appear in the press. Stories such as suspicious-looking strangers in public houses or men being seen with blood on them very quickly found their way into the newspapers, so a story such as this would not have been passed up by reporters hungry for details.

It may be that the arrest, if it occurred on (or about) Saturday, October 13, may have been the reason why the story first broke. However, the arrest was not a confidently asserted detail of the original story so the arrest, even if it occurred, is unlikely to be the reason the story first broke.

In terms of the reasons for the deviance from the original story as relayed by neighbours, there are a number of reasons:

- 1) The story was passed on by the neighbours as it had been told to them by Mrs. Kuer with one or two minor details being incorrect. Mrs. Kuer then told a different story to the press for one of the reasons noted above.
- 2) The story, as told by Mrs. Kuer, was interpreted wrongly in some details by the neighbours.
- 3) The story as told by Mrs. Kuer went through a process of Chinese whispers with the result that some details were wrong by the time they reached the press.

Also bear in mind that when the story first broke on the 16th some of the reports stated that the incident had been satisfactorily accounted for, some stating this had been a week before, which may allude to the Gray's Inn Road story or may be in reference to actual events at Batty Street. The police denials at that time could be for the same reasons.



That the police were said to be on the premises at all times and that this was the information as given in the reports that appeared on the 16th would suggest that as late as the 15th the police were still on the premises. The three options here are:

- The neighbour giving the story to the press was giving week-old information and the police were no longer on the premises
- The police were still on the premises waiting for the customer (or the lodger) and had been since the 30th of September.
- The police were still on the premises, but were now waiting for the lodger, having turned their attention to him from the customer when they found out who was responsible for getting blood on the shirt.

That it took over two weeks to reach the attention of the press suggests very few people knew about the events at 22 Batty Street.

Other stories

In discussions on the forums of the Batty Street lodger it is clear that there is some confusion caused by elements from other stories reported that might not have been connected to Batty Street.

The report in the *Daily News* (18th October) regarding the Batty Street lodger was sandwiched between two other stories, but they all ran consecutively leaving the impression that there may have been a link in some of the details. This indeed has been commented on in the Batty Street Lodger thread on *Casebook.org*²⁰. This is how the report appears (the section directly regarding the Batty Street lodger has already been quoted above so it is indicated where it appears in context).

From more than one source the police authorities have, it is said, received information tending to show that the East-end murderer is a foreigner who was known as having lived within a radius of a few hundred yards from the scene of the Berner-street tragedy. The very place where he lodges is asserted to be within official cognizance. If the man be the real culprit, he lived some time ago with a woman, by whom he has been accused. Her statements are, it is stated, now being inquired into. In the meantime the suspected assassin is "shadowed." Incriminating evidence of a certain character has already been obtained, and, should implicit credence be placed upon the story of the woman already referred to, whose name will not transpire under any circumstances until after his guilt is prima facie established, a confession of the crimes may, it is said, be looked for at any moment. The accused is himself aware, it is believed, of the suspicions entertained against him. With regard to the statements current as to finding a blood-stained shirt at a lodging-house in Whitechapel, it appears the story is founded on some matters which occurred more than a fortnight ago.

[Story then continues as detailed above. Then the report goes straight into the following account:]

*Some strange statements have been made with reference to a foreigner, residing in the Leman-street district, who has already been in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the murders, and who was released after an exhaustive inquiry. It has been reported to the authorities that this man has again been seen flourishing a knife, and acting in a suspicious manner in the neighbourhood. The police are keeping him under surveillance at present, as there are some doubts as to his state of mind. It should be mentioned, however, that while the man was previously in custody a doctor declined to pronounce him insane. The additional police and detectives are still on night duty over the greater portion of the eastern police district.*²¹

The first story is from the top of the report to the part where it says '*the accused is himself aware, it is believed, of the accusations against him*'. This has been linked to the Batty Street lodger story because reference is made to a suspect who was a foreigner living within a radius of a few hundred yards of Dutfield's Yard, Berner Street, the scene of Elizabeth Stride's murder, and also because it states that the place where the suspect lodged was being watched by the police. This story also has the additional detail that the suspect lived some time ago with a woman who had now made accusations against him. It has been suggested that this could have been a reference to the landlady at 22 Batty Street.

²⁰ The main participants on this thread were Stewart Evans, Wolf Vanderlinden and Andrew Spallek.

²¹ *Daily News*, 18 October 1888

However, the report refers to where the man 'lodges' as opposed to where he 'lodged'. It may be that again this is not something upon which we should put too much significance, but if it is a significant use of tense then it suggests that the man was still living there and that the report also states that the suspect was being 'shadowed', which implies he was being followed, would support the fact that he still lived there, rather than being missing from his lodgings. In the case of the Batty Street story, the suspect had either still to be traced or had been arrested and released. Of course it could be he had left his lodgings (in Batty Street) that the police had initially been watching awaiting his return and they had now traced him to another address. Of course in the latter case it could be that a watch was subsequently kept on him.

While the details could be said not to conflict with what we know of the Batty Street lodger, the report is clearly differentiated from the Batty Street lodger story as the latter is introduced by saying '*With regard to the statements current as to finding a blood-stained shirt at a lodging-house in Whitechapel*', which implies the report is now talking about something else.

A similar link is made to the third story, which is clearly about another suspect. This refers to someone who had already been arrested on suspicion of being involved with the crimes and who had been released after an 'exhaustive enquiry'. Again, the man was a foreigner and was living in the Leman Street district. There are also comments about his state of mind and the fact that a doctor had refused to pronounce him insane when previously in custody. The identity of this person is made clear in a report in the *Star* on 17 October:

A German named Ludwig, residing in the Leman-street district, who has already been in custody on suspicion of being concerned in the murders, and who was released after an exhaustive inquiry—it has been reported that this man has again been seen flourishing a knife and acting in a suspicious manner. The police are keeping him under surveillance at present, as there are some doubts as to the state of his mind. While the man was previously in custody a doctor declined to pronounce him insane. The additional police and detectives are still on night duty over the greater portion of the eastern police district.

So it's our old friend Charles Ludwig up to his old tricks! He had been arrested on September 19 for 'threatening behaviour with a knife'. This behaviour had led to a belief that he might be the Whitechapel murderer, but he was exonerated of the murders as he was on remand on the night of the double event. Actually, there are more parallels between this story about Ludwig and the first one regarding the suspect accused by a woman with whom he had lived than there are between the first story and the Batty Street incident. Ludwig also was reported to be kept under surveillance, was a foreigner and lived in the Leman Street district, which would be within a few hundred yards of Dutfield's Yard. Such a description of distance in relation to 22 Batty Street, although true, seems a little excessive. Mrs. Kuer's house was about 75 yards from Dutfield's Yard and so more accurately could be said to be within just one hundred yards of the site of Elizabeth Stride's murder.

Of course, one aspect of the first story—that the police were expecting a possible confession—could not relate to Ludwig as he had been proved to be innocent of the murders, being in custody on the night that Stride and Eddowes were killed.

Evans and Gainey raise some valid arguments to relate the Batty Street story to Tumblety, and some comments on *Casebook* forums and *JTRForums* suggest that the idea that the Batty Street lodger was an American is taking hold.²² Certainly, the report of the man leaving a West End hotel suggests some links to an American and there were stories in the press relating to suspects with black bags and to mysterious Americans, so there may be some link between some of these stories. Already mentioned is the report in which a mysterious American was followed by John Lardy and another man. Another example is given on the Monday (1st October) after the double event:

THE ARREST.

Shortly before midnight a man whose name has not yet transpired was arrested in the Borough on suspicion of being the perpetrator of the murders in the East-end. Yesterday morning a tall dark man wearing an American hat entered a lodging-house in Union-street, known as Albert-chambers. He stayed throughout the day, and his peculiar manner rivetted [sic] the attention of his fellow-lodgers. He displayed great willingness to converse with them, and certain observations he made regarding the topic of the day aroused their suspicions. Last night this mysterious individual attracted the notice of the deputy keeper of the lodging-house, whose suspicions became so strong that he sent for a policeman. On the arrival of the officer the stranger was questioned as to his recent wanderings, but he could give no intelligible account of them, though he said he had spent the previous night on Blackfriars Bridge. He was conveyed to Stone's End Police-station, Blackman-street, Borough.²³

²² Also, in a recent documentary presented by Vic Reeves, it was accepted as fact that Tumblety lived at 22 Batty Street.

²³ *Daily News*, 1 October 1888

Someone in the house provided extra details to the *Echo*:

He [the lodger] entered very vigorously into the details as supplied by the Sunday papers, and expressed an opinion that the police would never capture the murderer, who would remain at large until he gave himself up.

"Oh," said he, "he's a lot too 'cute for these London detectives."

*The "deputy's" attention was attracted to this mysterious individual by the singular amount of excitement he displayed while discoursing upon the subject. There were about twelve men in the room- a long, scrupulously clean, though somewhat scantily furnished, apartment. Each one seemed afraid of the individual, and ultimately the police were summoned, and the luckless American was marched off in custody as a "suspect."*²⁴

Further explanation was given about what happened after his arrest.

DISCHARGED BY THE POLICE.

He told the police he spent the previous night on Blackfriars-bridge, and appeared unable to account for his previous movements. Accordingly, he was conveyed to Stones-end Police-station, in Blackman-street, Borough.

"But he came back this morning," said my informant.

"Came back?" I essayed in surprise.

"Yes," was his cynical reply, "and he's in bed now."

*My informant went on to say that the police, after conveying him to the station, at once instituted inquiries, but could find nothing whatever against the man, who they accordingly allowed to leave. I then called at the police-station in Blackman-street, but from the officer there could get no information. He so stolidly obeyed the "orders" he said he had received, that he refused to answer—"Yes" or "No"—whether the man had gone or not, and even to say whether he had really been in custody.*²⁵

The account in the *Daily News* referred to him giving an unintelligible account of his movements, which may imply that he gave a 'confused' or rambling account. However the report in the *Echo* simply said that he was unable to account for his movements. Also note that the police were not giving out details of the arrest so the Batty Street lodger was certainly not unique in respect of the police seemingly being evasive and nothing should especially be read into it. It may be that the police were holding their cards close to their chest, but it could simply be that the matter had been satisfactorily explained.

There were other reports of Americans being suspected or arrested.

THE EAST END MURDERS. REPORTED CAPTURE OF "JACK THE RIPPER."

Telegraphing this afternoon the Central News says:- The American who was arrested last night on suspicion of being concerned in the Whitechapel murder was released at ten o'clock this morning, inquiries having shown that his account of himself was entirely satisfactory. At the present moment there is no one in custody. The rumour of the actual murderer being caught has created intense excitement in London, but it is entirely unfounded.

*All persons arrested today on suspicion of being concerned in the Whitechapel murders have been released on giving satisfactory explanations, and none is now in custody.*²⁶

Also, the following was reported by a Polish newspaper:

*The perpetrator of the abominable crimes in London, of whom we wrote several days since, was at last arrested. He's name is Fitz Gerald, he comes from America and has confessed his guilt. The killer performed his work with anatomical accuracy, a skill in which, the London physicians say, he has an unusual ability. He shall not escape strict punishment.*²⁷

²⁴ *Echo*, 1 October 1888

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser*, 5 October 1888

²⁷ *Kurier Codzienny* (Poland), 12 October 1888

While the details of the latter report especially should be treated with some scepticism, it shows that the idea of the killer being an American and alluding to medical or anatomical skill was a widespread idea. There appear to have been several suspects on whom the police were following leads at the time. Some of the seemingly different stories may have related to the same suspect, but there is no firm evidence for this, and some of the details appear to indicate that the reports were about different suspects. Another report of a man and a black bag was given on the 19th:

AN IMPORTANT CLUE.

The Press Association says:- Much importance is attached by the police to the arrest made at King-street Police-station, Whitehall. On Tuesday morning a man entered the above named station about nine o'clock, and complained of having lost a black bag. While the officials were taking note of his case, he commenced talking about the Whitechapel murders, and offered to cut off the sergeant's head, and other rambling nonsense. It will be remembered that several people have testified to seeing a man with a black bag in the region of the murders, and who has not since been traced. The fact was at once remembered by the police, and the man was further questioned. In answer to an enquiry as to his business, he said he studied for some years for the medical profession, but gave it up for engineering, and that he had been stopping for some nights in coffee-houses. His manner then became so strange that Dr Bond, divisional surgeon, was sent for to examine the man. The doctor subsequently gave it as his opinion that the man was a very dangerous lunatic of homicidal tendency, and, as his appearance somewhat tallied with that published of the man who was seen with the murdered woman, he was removed to Bow-street, but before being taken thither, photos of his person were taken. He was also asked to write his name, and it is stated that the writing is somewhat similar to that of the letters received by the police and others. He gave his age as 67, but it is said he looks fully 20 years younger. The police are endeavouring to trace his antecedents and movements for the past few weeks.²⁸

Elements of these reports may account for the details of those stories where the police were looking for unnamed suspects. This would include the Batty Street lodger story, for example, where the report that the suspect was a foreigner may have derived from other reports—though this was only in reference to the customer rather than the missing lodger.

What I have attempted to show here is that there were many stories of suspects living in the area, including those of Americans and while it cannot be discounted that some of these stories may relate to the same individual caution must be exercised when linking the different accounts. Similarities exist between the different stories, but there are also enough details in most cases to suggest that they relate to different suspects and different incidents. In the previous section we looked at reports that clearly related to the incident at 22 Batty Street, and these are the only stories we can rely on that definitely relate to the events at that address. Of course, some of those details may be wrong for the reasons already discussed. However, some of these other stories provide better potential links with Tumblety than the Batty Street lodger story.

There is nothing in the reports (that clearly refer to the incident at 22 Batty Street) to suggest that the wanted man was an American. Some reports relating the customer story given by Mrs. Kuer refer to a foreigner and refer to the man being a tailor. An American would most likely have been referred to as an American rather than as a foreigner. However, since Mrs. Kuer was herself from another country she may have referred to an American as a foreigner, just knowing that the man did not have an English accent. Still, while there is nothing in the reports to refute that the man was an American, there is nothing to suggest that, in fact, he was.

The confusion between different stories by the press may be the reason for certain generalised statements made in respect to one story that actually may have been true for another story. For example the statement in the press in relation to the Batty Street lodger story that the man's 'ultimate capture' was only a matter of time may have stemmed from police confidence in relation to another lead.

The story of the mysterious American followed by John Lardy may tie in with other reports mentioned of Americans, but there is nothing to suggest that this report and the report of the black bag found at the West End hotel are linked, or are linked to the story of the lodger in Batty Street.

²⁸ Alderley and Wilmslow Advertiser, 19 October, 1888

Assessment of Landlady story from 1908

Stewart Evans located an article by the journalist George R. Sims in the *Yarmouth Independent* of 25th February 1911. The article was headed 'ADVENTURES OF A JOURNALIST', part VIII 'ON THE TRACK' - 'The Unsolved Mysteries of Crime'. The first case referred to was that of the Whitechapel Murders, in which appeared the following:

Three years ago, when the discussion as to Jack's identity cropped up again in the Press, I wrote on the subject. Soon afterwards a lady called upon me late one night. She came to tell me that the Whitechapel fiend had lodged in her house. On the night of the double murder he came in at two in the morning. The next day her husband, going into the lodger's room after he had left it, saw a black bag, and on opening it discovered a long knife, and two bloodstained cuffs. The lodger was a medical man, an American. The next day he paid his rent, took his luggage and left. Then the police were communicated with but nothing more was heard of the American doctor with the suspicious black bag.

"But," said my lady visitor, "I have seen him again this week. He is now in practice in the North West of London."

She gave his name and address and the names of two people who were prepared to come forward and identify him as the lodger with the black bag, the knife, and the incriminating cuffs. The next day I took the information, for what it might be worth, to the proper quarters. But the doctor was not disturbed in his practice. There was ample proof that the real author of the horrors had committed suicide in the last stage of his maniacal frenzy."

The incident in question occurred on the night of the 'double event' and so comparisons with the Batty Street lodger story are understandable. Evans points out that although the Batty Street landlady was German and spoke poor English, twenty years later her English would likely have improved greatly. His argument is perfectly valid, but it appears from some posts on Casebook.org forums, that some believe that the woman who spoke to Sims in 1908 was definitely German. However this is not stated in the article and is not asserted by Evans. All that he was trying to do was explain how the German landlady who spoke poor English in 1888, if she were the same woman, could be understood (and quoted in English) by Sims in 1908 without any reference to poor English or requiring an interpreter (though either could be unreported details of his conversation).

While it is certainly a point of connection that this incident was on the night of the 'double event', there are a number of stories from people reported in the ensuing years of suspicious lodgers at their house. Walter Sickert apparently told the story of his landlady telling him that the room in which he lodged (claimed to have been in Mornington Crescent) had been used previously by the Whitechapel murderer. The newspaper supplement in the *St. Arnaud's Mercury* in 1890²⁹, also gave a story told by a landlady of how she suspected one of her lodgers to be the murderer. There are certainly a few of these stories and so it is not necessarily the case that the landlady who spoke to Sims in 1908 was the landlady at 22 Batty Street. That is, of course, not to say that they couldn't be the same woman, just that they were not *necessarily* the same. It could be that a black bag and a knife were also found at Batty Street but these details never made it into the press reports. However, the black bag is one of those features of the legend that had been lodged in people's minds from the time of the murders.

Batty Street Lodger summary

Though, it appears a satisfactory explanation was given in later reports, there are elements of the story that suggest the matter cannot be so easily dismissed.

Certainly there was blood discovered on the shirt as this is confirmed by Mrs. Kuer herself in her interview to give a satisfactory explanation of the incident. She also certainly had an initial suspicion about the circumstances as she informed the police. Also to consider is that Mrs. Kuer was spoken to as early as the 15th (for the report to be published on the 16th) where her claims that she did not know when her lodger would return contradicted the claims she made in her interview published on the 18th.

²⁹ See *Jack The Ripper A to Z*, p. 121

Elements of the story

A lodger returned in the early hours and disturbed the landlady

This element is derived only from the early reports as told by the neighbours. This may have been invented or may have arisen as a result of Chinese whispers. Nonetheless, there is no easy explanation of how this was derived from the facts that emerged later. The story of a customer leaving shirts would not explain why the landlady was disturbed in the early hours.

A lodger who was in the habit of leaving from time to time

Again, this element is derived only from the early reports as told by the neighbours. This may be the result of Chinese whispers from Mrs. Kuer telling her neighbour about Carl Noun who would return on the 6th, but was construed as referring to the missing lodger.

Bloodstained shirt left

Initially, this was said to have been left by the lodger. Later, Noun and Mrs. Kuer said this was left by a customer as part of a 'bundle' of four shirts. However, Mrs. Kuer qualified this by saying that though the customer left the shirts, it was someone in the house who got the blood on it. This early report that the lodger had asked the landlady to clean it ready for his return could have been misinterpreted from Mrs. Kuer explaining that a lodger got blood on a shirt that had been left by a customer to be cleaned ready for the customer's return.

The arrest

This was told by both Mrs. Kuer and Carl Noun. It also appeared in early reports of the story, though whether the source for this was Mrs. Kuer is not known, but from the way it was reported it does not appear to be Mrs. Kuer who was the source for those early reports. The person arrested may possibly have been Carl Noun who returned on the 6th. If the missing lodger had used Noun's room in his absence then the police would possibly have been waiting in this room and arrested Noun by mistake. If it was the customer who was arrested on his return, why would he be taken in for questioning if he was not the one who got blood on the shirt?

Description

The description of the customer as a ladies tailor working in the West end who did not live in the Leman Street district—and possibly a foreigner—could be a genuine description of the lodger if the story of a customer was in fact a lie.

While it may be that the bloodstained shirt was satisfactorily explained and the police knew all the details of the circumstances, there are certain details that suggest this was not resolved satisfactorily. Firstly, that Mrs. Kuer was awoken by a lodger returning in the early hours. The later story that a customer left the shirt does not explain this part of the story. That Mrs. Kuer said it was someone in the house that got blood on the shirt suggests there may be something in the original story. Also, if the customer didn't get blood on the shirt, why was he taken by the police for questioning (Mrs. Kuer makes it clear that the man taken into custody was not the one who got blood on the shirt)?



Batty Street, July 2007 ©Adam Wood

Of course, it may be that the explanation of someone in the house (not necessarily another lodger, it may have been a member of Mrs. Kuer's family if she had family living in the house) innocently getting blood on the shirt was the reason the matter was closed. But at what point would this have been known? If it was prior to the police taking up their vigil then surely they would have been told by an albeit embarrassed Mrs. Kuer and they would not have awaited the customer/lodger's return. The same would surely apply if this fact was discovered by Kuer prior to the arrest of the customer (or Noun). Another possibility is that it was after the customer was arrested that this fact came out as a result of further police enquiries based on the customer's denial of getting blood on the shirt.

Another person to consider is Joseph the drayman. If Noun's statement in his letter that he did not return until 6th October is accepted, and if there was no other lodger using his room in his absence, then it's possible that Joseph was responsible for getting blood on the shirt. The only names we have for people living at 22 Batty Street at that time are Mrs. Kuer, Carl Noun (who, it appears, was actually absent on the night concerned) and Joseph (who, from the implication in Noun's letter, was still living at the house on 17th October and did not leave the house on or immediately after 30th September).

Somehow Mrs. Kuer realised the lodger was responsible for getting blood on the shirt. Initially suspicious, particularly after finding out about the murders the previous night, she showed the shirt to a neighbour who advised her to contact the police. Mrs. Kuer did so, but had second thoughts about her suspicions, not believing her lodger could possibly be responsible for such crimes and believed the reason for the blood was a totally innocent one. However, the police were now involved, or she was coerced into contacting the police by her neighbour.

Did Kuer tell the police about the lodger being responsible for the blood or did she just tell them about the man who left the shirts? If she had not told the police about the lodger being responsible but let slip to the press about this, this would seem a silly thing for her to do. It does seem from other snippets that the man taken into custody was the customer (Kuer and Noun are both sources for this), and certainly not the man responsible for getting blood on the shirt (Kuer).

However, if it was a customer who genuinely roused suspicion in her mind, he must have left the shirt on the morning (not the early hours) of the 30th and the detail about her being disturbed in the early hours and the man changing his clothes must have been a distortion of the story that Mrs. Kuer told her neighbour.

So, on the weekend that Noun returned (6/7 Oct) or a couple of days after, the customer returns for his shirts. Waiting police take him in for questioning. As a result of their questioning/investigation it is clear the man is innocent and is released. However, as a result of this did Mrs. Kuer admit that it was a (now-departed) lodger who had got the blood on the shirt? Did the police then turn their attention to this missing lodger and when the story got out to the press, told Mrs. Kuer to say the matter had been cleared up with the arrest and release of her customer?

It may be that the police were never told about the lodger and did, themselves, believe the incident was explained with the release of the customer.

Possible events

Here are some possible sequences of events:

Sometime prior to Saturday 29th September:

Carl Noun leaves for seasonal work in Margate. Mrs. Kuer possibly lets out his room on the understanding with the new lodger that he must leave at the end of September.

Sometime prior to, or on, Saturday 29th September:

Options:

- A customer leaves four shirts for Mrs. Kuer to clean, saying he will return at the weekend (or during the following week) to collect them.
- There is no customer. Mrs. Kuer later invents this part of the story on her own or the police's instigation

Early Hours Sunday 30th September

The new lodger returns in the early hours disturbing Mrs. Kuer and leaves a bloodstained shirt (either his or that of the customer) and moves out either because he fears the police will search the area, or because he was moving out anyway due to his understanding with Mrs. Kuer regarding Noun's return.

Morning Sunday 30th September

Mrs. Kuer discovers blood on the shirt and is concerned, showing it to a neighbour who advises her to contact the police, which she does.

Sunday 30th September

Options:

- Mrs. Kuer tells the police about her lodger.
- Mrs. Kuer tells the police about the customer.
- Mrs. Kuer falsely tells police that a customer left the shirt to hide the details of her lodger, either fearing Noun will find out his room was let in his absence or fearing for her safety if her lodger is believed to be the murderer, and possibly as she believes the man is innocent despite her initial suspicions.

Sunday 30th September onwards

The police lie in wait at the premises for the lodger / customer to return.

Saturday 6th (or 13th) October

Options:

- Carl Noun returns (6th) and is mistaken by police for the missing lodger and taken for questioning.
- Customer returns (6th or 13th) and is taken in for questioning by police. He is released when he makes it clear he did not get blood on his shirt.

In either case, Mrs. Kuer then tells Carl Noun about the customer or about the lodger.

Following arrest on Saturday 6th (or 13th) October

Options:

- Police continue to wait for the missing lodger.
- Police attention turns to the person who got blood on the shirt
- The matter is explained satisfactorily, at least as far as the police are concerned, and closed

In the case of the first two options, the police possibly give up the vigil and seek the man through other lines of inquiry

Monday 15th October

The story is leaked to the press. A reporter speaks to Mrs. Kuer who does not give much information, just saying that the lodger had not returned yet.

Options:

- The police issue denials as they are still hoping the lodger will return and do not want to alert him.
- The police issue denials because as far as they are concerned the matter has been resolved.

Wednesday 17th October

Options:

- Mrs. Kuer is interviewed and tells a false story that possibly derives from the Gray's Inn Road incident. This is either done on her own instigation (for reasons given earlier or because she fears for her business) or on police instructions. However, she leaves in part of the truth by saying it was a person living at the house who caused the bloodstains.
- Mrs. Kuer tells the truth to the press about the customer.

In either case Carl Noun also sends a letter to play down the story, giving the same information as Mrs. Kuer (without the detail of the lodger causing the blood to be on the shirt).

Feasibility of the lodger being murderer

A point to consider is at what time the lodger returned home. An early hour may be 12:45 to 1:15 if the occupants retired early so did he return between the murders or after the death of Eddowes. Also to consider is, if this lodger was a killer, did he kill Stride AND Eddowes, just Stride or just Eddowes.

If the lodger was responsible for both murders, one problem against such a theory would be why he would commit a murder close to his lodgings, go on to murder again three-quarters of a mile away and then have to return to his base so close to the scene of the first murder where there would be a lot of police activity.

It could be that the killer had psyched himself to commit another murder and may have gone home for some final preparation or for some other reason before then intending to scour the streets for a victim. However it may be, in his excited state, he saw an opportunity close to home and, though it was not advisable, whatever drove him to kill and mutilate got the better of him. But something went wrong and he had to flee the scene. At this point maybe he just felt he had to get safely away from the location, but in the following minutes may have regretted his hasty action particularly as he had not fulfilled his intentions. It may have occurred to him that it would not be advisable to seek another victim as the area near where he lived would soon be full of police. However, it might be that in his frustrated state he ignored his concerns, particularly if he thought finding a victim on following nights would be more difficult as there would be fewer women on the streets following this murder as there had been in the days immediately following the murder of Annie Chapman, and perhaps believed that he would manage to avoid the problem somehow when the time came to return to his lodgings.

A man returning to his home in the area at an early hour would not be such a rarity, and if he could circumvent the immediate hub of activity in Berner Street and approach his lodgings from Christian Street, he would then be able to walk along Queen Court and go directly across Batty Street to No. 22. Mrs. Kuer did not seem to have been disturbed by police activity caused by the murder in Berner Street.



Map of the area from Mitre Square where Catherine Eddowes' body was found at 1:44 (1), via Goulston Street where the killer left a piece of her apron (2) to 22 Batty Street (3)

A route from Mitre Square to Goulston Street may not appear to be taking the murderer directly to Batty Street, however, if he wished to avoid the main roads then a route like that given by Evans and Gainey would get him to Batty Street quickly and avoid the main thoroughfares. Also to consider is that his exit from Mitre Square may have been caused by a police officer approaching and this forced him to just get away from the immediate area as quickly as possible before then considering an appropriate route back home. Roughly, he could have gone along Wentworth Street, continued into Old Montague Street then cut down a side road to cross Whitechapel Road, gone through more streets via Fieldgate Street to Commercial Road and then ultimately to Batty Street or via Christian Street and Queen Court from where he could then cross the road to 22 Batty Street. Such a route would keep him reasonably clear of police activity and get him back to Batty Street relatively quickly.

Man in the Red Lion story

In light of the Batty Street lodger story the following, reported on 1st October, is possibly of some interest.

On Saturday night last, about half-past ten o'clock, a man entered the bar of the "Red Lion" public-house, in Batty-street, Commercial-road, and calling for half a pint of beer, plunged at once into a conversation with the landlord and the customers present about the murders in Hanbury-street and Buck's-row. He declared that he knew the man who committed them very well, that more would take place yet, and there would be another before the morning. The landlord observed that he thought he was talking very foolishly, and that as he seemed to know so much about the man who did them, perhaps he was the man himself. The man, who had indulged in a good deal more talk of a suspicious nature, upon this hastily put down a penny for his beer and decamped without another word. Information was given to the police of the above facts after the murders of Sunday morning, and they are now anxiously looking for the man, who is thus described: -Height about 5ft. 8in., dark hair, dark moustache of stubbly growth, dark complexion, smoothly shaven chin and cheeks, and dark blue eyes. The man wore a dark single-breasted coat and waistcoat, black corduroy trousers the worse for wear, a felt hat with a narrow brim, and had a comforter round his neck. He had no jewellery, and looked like a common man cleaned up for the evening. The landlord took particular notice of him, and would know him again among a thousand. Mrs. Warwick, of 19, Batty-street, who was also in the house at the time getting her supper beer, says she could also identify him, and so could, it is said, others who were present in the bar at the time. Batty-street is the next street eastward to Berner-street, and is the street in which Lipski's crime was committed.³⁰

A PUBLIC-HOUSE PROPHECY.

The police authorities have received an important statement in reference to the Berner-street crime. It is to the effect that a man between 35 and 40 years of age, and of fair complexion, was seen to throw the murdered woman to the ground. It was thought by the person who witnessed this that it was a man and his wife quarrelling, and consequently no notice was taken of it. The police have also received information that at about half-past ten on Saturday night, a man, aged about 33 years, entered a public-house in Batty-street, Whitechapel, and whilst the customers in the house were in conversation about the Whitechapel murders, he stated that he knew the Whitechapel murderer and that they would hear about him in the morning. He then left. This was regarded as mere boastful talk, and no notice was taken of the matter. After these murders had been discovered information was given to the police.³¹

Again, there were quite a few stories of suspicious men in public houses talking about the murders. This report is intriguing because a murder would occur later that night in the next street and the Red Lion, at No. 24 Batty Street, was just across Hampshire Court from No. 22.

³⁰ *Morning Advertiser* (London), 2 October 1888

³¹ *Echo*, 1 October 1888 (also headed as 10 October on Casebook Press Reports Section)

That Mrs. Warwick (Emily Warwick), who lived in the same street virtually opposite No. 22, obviously did not recognise the man concerned would suggest he didn't live in that street. However, is it possible that the man had suspicions against someone who lived at No. 22? Maybe he was a visitor to the house (if not actually a lodger there) or maybe had received hints from the suspect (or saw signs that the man was preparing to act again). Obviously, the person in the Red Lion was not acting as most people would. Bragging about having information regarding when a serial killer is going to strike again is not something most people would do, whether they genuinely had the information or not (and hopefully most would just pass on the information, if they genuinely had it, to the police). The story was probably just empty boasting by the individual and it was just coincidence that the murderer did indeed strike again that night and in the next street. In fact, the area was in a state of high alert and a murder was overdue by about a week given the time between Nichols's and Chapman's murders so it wasn't really an indication of special information. However it is worth bearing this incident in mind. Also the description of him having a moustache of 'stubby growth' could also account for the differing versions of PC Smith's description of the man he saw with Elizabeth Stride; in one the man had 'no whiskers'³² and in another the man had a slight moustache³³. There are differences in the dress but these could be put down to certain witnesses being less observant or that the man changed his clothes between the sightings. So, while very unlikely, it cannot be totally dismissed that this was either the murderer unwisely giving warning in a public place of what he was planning to do, or someone having some inside information from the killer (either having been told, again unwisely, perhaps in boast by the killer or basing it on his own suspicions of the man).

Who lived at Batty Street?

So who lived at Batty Street? Who could the Batty Street lodger have been who woke Mrs. Kuer on the night of the double event and got blood on a shirt?

The 1881 Census for 22 Batty Street looked like this:

No of Sch	Name and Surname of each person	Relation to Head of family	Condition as to marriage	Age M	Age F	Profession or Occupation	Where born
249	John Aston	Head	Widr ³⁴	41		Gun Maker	Staffordshire
	John do ³⁵	Son	Unm ³⁶	17		do	London
	Charles do	do		13		Scholar	do
	Jane do	Daur			10	do	do
	James Roberts	Lodger	Unm	25		Gun Maker	do

In an area where houses were often crammed with people, No. 22 did not seem to have many in comparison. 53 people were listed in the 1901 Census at No. 20 Batty Street, in a house that does not appear any bigger than No. 22. The flats that replaced No. 16 (and other houses north of No. 16) had 35 people listed in 1901. Yet No. 22 had only 5 listed in the same year.

In 1887 no. 16 had four bed-sitting rooms, a kitchen and an attic room which Israel Lipski used as a workshop. On the ground floor Philip and Leah Lipski lived in the front room with their seven children. On the first floor Isaac and Miriam Angel lived in the front room and Mrs. Lipski's mother with a friend and her child lived in the back. Israel Lipski lived in an attic room. A total of 15 people lived there.

If Mrs. Kuer spoke bad English then she would likely have been a relatively recent immigrant to the country. The ever-changing population in the area means that we cannot necessarily get an idea of who was living there in 1888 from the 1891 census, but there is a problem with this line of inquiry, because for some reason the records for the even-numbered side of Batty Street are not to be found in 1891. Searches on Ancestry.co.uk for the 1891 Census are difficult based on just the street name. A person's name is needed to get a start unless you know the Census Piece/Folio number. The 'Red Lion' at no. 24 seemed to be a good place to get a name as records appear in the PO Trade directories.

³² Inquest testimony for Elizabeth Stride - see *Ultimate Jack The Ripper Sourcebook / Companion*

³³ Swanson's report of 19th October - see *Ultimate Jack The Ripper Sourcebook / Companion*

³⁴ Widower

³⁵ 'do' is short for 'ditto', and used mostly to denote that the surname is the same as the record above.

³⁶ Unmarried

³⁷ A Census Piece is a compilation of Census sheets (or Folios) from the enumerators' books bound into an individual book. A Census Folio is both sides of a sheet, numbered on one side. A page number is given on both sides of the sheet but these are irrelevant to the sequence in the Piece as a whole - though the page numbers are sequential, they can be repeated (e.g. more than Page 1) as the various books used by the enumerators were then compiled into one Piece (or book). www.british-genealogy.com/resources/census/index.htm

In the 1881 census, the publican at 24 Batty Street was William May, along with his wife, Elizabeth. Also living there were servants Julia Paddon and Thomas Noble.

The PO London Street Directory of 1882 lists George Allis at the Red Lion, 24 Batty Street. In the 1884 PO London Trades Directory it appears to be back in the hands of Elizabeth May. In 1891 James Baldwin is listed there, and again in 1895. By 1899 the landlord is Charles Luker.

None of these names gave a significant result in the 1891 Census and after chasing the records along those streets it appeared the records for the even-numbered side of Batty Street were missing.

Just where it appears that the even numbers for Batty Street should be, the records continue with a new Census Piece and Folio 37 at Commercial Road, picking up where it left off earlier in the Census sheets. Where the Batty Street records start with number 1 (and continue with the odd numbers) is directly after Murden's Place (which appears to be identical with Hampshire Court) on the same sheet so there is no possibility of missing sheets there. The Piece ends with 39 Batty Street (and that Folio, 174, has 'END' written under the folio number). If such folios ever existed I would expect the relevant records to be on Folios 175 and 176 (and possibly 177).

A check on another website³⁸ listing the census records seems to confirm this. The records are not detailed for the Berner Street area, but it does list the house numbers covered and for Batty Street only the odd-numbered houses are listed. This has also been confirmed by searches by Debra Arif.³⁹

Mrs. Kuer is difficult to trace. While the name is mentioned in the Census and BMD records there are no clear indications that any of the people listed are the same woman. As she was German and the name may well have been spelt incorrectly I tried alternatives such as Kuher or Koher. The Trade directories also did not give any positive results. A 'Mrs. Kohr' is listed in the 1895 PO street directory at 10 Culford Road, Kingsland, North London. No trade was given. However, in the 1899 PO Trade Directory at the same address, a John Kohr was listed as a 'Letter of Apartments'. This may have tied in with the role of Mrs. Kuer as landlady at 22 Batty Street. The German-born John Kohr of 10 Culford Road, Hackney, appears as a widower in the 1901 census. The same man is listed in the 1881 census along with his wife, Jane Kohr, who died in 1897. They were married in the third quarter of 1878 in Mile End Old Town. However Jane Kohr (née Reeves) was born in 1860 in Bethnal Green, which means she would not be a middle-aged German woman who could not speak English very well in 1888 (she would have been about 27 at the time).

No Carl Noun of the right age can be found in the Census or BMD records and obviously 'Joseph' is impossible to find in those records alone!

There was much redevelopment of the western side of Batty Street between 1873 and 1894 (as shown by comparing the OS maps from those years). We know that nos. 10 to 16 were knocked down for apartments to be built in 1888 (as the stonework above the door bears the mark '1888') so it could be that much of the western side of Batty Street was being rebuilt at the time of the census. The Red Lion was still standing at no. 24 and James Baldwin is listed as publican there in 1891 and 1895, so at least he should appear in the 1891 census, though not necessarily if he was away from the premises on the day of the census.

The flats that replaced No. 16 and other houses (Nos. 14-10) in 1888 were seemingly originally numbered 16, but at some point became no. 14, which it remains today. The numbering was adjusted as we can see that the three houses between these flats and the passage that was formerly Hampshire Court are now numbered 16 to 20, as opposed to 18 to 22. It is possible that Philip and Leah Lipski left the area when No. 16 was knocked down. They may have left before then if the attacks against them following the execution of Israel Lipski had forced them to move away. No such people can be found in the 1891 census searches. This may be because they still lived on the western side of Batty Street and, as already noted, the records are missing, or it could be that they changed their name or even left the country.

38 www.census1891.com/Berner.htm

39 www.findmypast.com



16 Batty Street, July 2007. Former site of no. 22.

Who could the Batty Street lodger have been?

Who this lodger could have been, if there was such a lodger, is an open question. One possibility is that it was in fact Carl Noun who could have been in the house on the 29th/30th, even though his letter implies he was not, and may have then gone missing until the 6th when he said that he returned. But I will explore another possibility because there is someone we know of who fits broadly with what we know about the Batty Street lodger in that he was a foreigner who left his lodgings in the vicinity of Berner Street on the night of the double event. That man was Israel Schwartz.

As we have seen, though, the point about the lodger being a foreigner may not be the case as it may have been a rogue piece of information relating to another suspect.

First, let's recap on what we know about Israel Schwartz. His statement is one of the more important ones in the saga and yet he only came to our attention in the mid-1970s from the research of Stephen Knight.

Israel Schwartz went to the police on the evening of September 30 with a friend to act as translator. His original police statement is not available to us, but we have a summary provided by DCI Donald Swanson dated 19 October, 1888, just less than three weeks later.

12.45 a.m. 30th. Israel Schwartz of 22 Helen Street [sic—Ellen Street], Backchurch Lane, stated that at this hour, on turning into Berner Street from Commercial Street [sic—Road] and having got as far as the gateway where the murder was committed, he saw a man stop and speak to a woman, who was standing in the gateway. The man tried to pull the woman into the street, but he turned her round and threw her down on the footway and the woman screamed three times, but not loudly. On crossing to the opposite side of the street, he saw a second man standing lighting his pipe. The man who threw the woman down called out, apparently to the man on the opposite side of the road, 'Lipski', and then Schwartz walked away, but finding that he was followed by the second man, he ran so far as the railway arch, but the man did not follow so far.

Schwartz cannot say whether the two men were together or known to each other. Upon being taken to the Mortuary Schwartz identified the body as that of the woman he had seen. ...

If Schwartz is to be believed, and the police report of his statement casts no doubt on it, it follows ... that the man Schwartz saw and described is the more probable of the two to be the murderer.⁴⁰

Schwartz's story was also given in the *Star*, though in the newspaper reports he was not named.

*Information which may be important was given to the Leman-street police late yesterday afternoon by an Hungarian concerning this murder. This foreigner was well dressed, and had the appearance of being in the theatrical line. He could not speak a word of English, but came to the police-station accompanied by a friend, who acted as an interpreter. He gave his name and address, but the police have not disclosed them. A *Star* man, however, got wind of his call, and ran him to earth in Backchurch-lane. The reporter's Hungarian was quite as imperfect as the foreigner's English, but an interpreter was at hand, and the man's story was retold just as he had given it to the police. It is, in fact, to the effect that he saw the whole thing.*

It seems that he had gone out for the day, and his wife had expected to move, during his absence, from their lodgings in Berner-street to others in Backchurch-lane. When he came homewards about a quarter before one he first walked down Berner-street to see if his wife had moved. As he turned the corner from Commercial-road he noticed some distance in front of him a man walking as if partially intoxicated. He walked on behind him, and presently he noticed a woman standing in the entrance to the alley way where the body was afterwards found. The half-tipsy man halted and spoke to her. The Hungarian saw him put his hand on her shoulder and push her back into the passage, but, feeling rather timid of getting mixed up in quarrels, he crossed to the other side of the street. Before he had gone many yards, however, he heard the sound of a quarrel, and turned back to learn what was the matter, but just as he stepped from the kerb a second man came out of the doorway of the public-house a few doors off, and shouting out some sort of warning to the man who was with the woman, rushed forward as if to attack the intruder. The Hungarian states positively that he saw a knife in this second man's hand, but he waited to see no more. He fled incontinently, to his new lodgings. He described the man with the woman as about 30 years of age, rather stoutly built, and wearing a brown moustache. He was dressed respectably in dark clothes and felt hat. The man who came at him with a knife he also describes, but not in detail. He says he was taller than the other, but not so stout, and that his moustaches were red. Both men seem to belong to the same grade of society. The police have arrested one man answering the description the Hungarian furnishes. This prisoner has not been charged, but is held for inquiries to be made. The truth of the man's statement is not wholly accepted.⁴¹

40 Reproduced in *The Ultimate Jack The Ripper Sourcebook / Companion* by Stewart P. Evans and Keith Skinner., p. 136

41 *The Star*, 1 October 1888

But elements of the lodger story suggest the man did not leave until later in the morning. The *Star* report states that Schwartz fled to his new lodgings, but again this may not have been correct. Either Schwartz deliberately gave misleading information, or he may have said he fled to his lodgings—not specifying which, and the reporter or interpreter assumed it was his new lodgings. It may be that he was asked if his wife had moved and Schwartz confirmed this, and the reporter just assumed Schwartz would have returned to his new lodgings. That reporters would ‘fill in the gaps’ and make assumptions has to be considered when assessing press reports. The report ends though with a doubt about Schwartz’s story and the *Star* followed up on their story the following day.

In the matter of the Hungarian who said he saw a struggle between a man and a woman in the passage where the Stride body was afterwards found, the Leman-street police have reason to doubt the truth of the story. They arrested one man on the description thus obtained, and a second on that furnished from another source⁴², but they are not likely to act further on the same information without additional facts. If every man should be arrested who was known to have been seen in company with an abandoned woman in that locality on last Saturday night, the police-stations would not hold them. There are many people in that district who volunteer information to the police on the principle of securing lenient treatment for their own offences, and there are others who turn in descriptions on the chance of coming near enough the mark to claim a portion of the reward if the man should be caught, just as one buys a ticket in a lottery⁴³. Even where such information is given in good faith, it can rarely be looked upon in the light of a clue.⁴⁴

Such doubts are not apparent in the surviving police and Home Office records. Swanson in his report of 19th October states that the police did not doubt Schwartz’s story. There was also long-running correspondence between the police and the Home Office relating to the shout of ‘Lipski’ that Schwartz claimed to have heard.

In the *Star* report we are told that Schwartz returned to Berner St. to see if his wife had moved to their new lodgings. “It seems that he had gone out for the day, and his wife had expected to move, during his absence, from their lodgings in Berner Street to others in Backchurch Lane”.

22 Batty Street, as we have seen, could be reached easily from Berner Street, as it was just at the other end of Hampshire Court leading from Berner Street to Batty Street, so a person going there from Commercial Road could have walked down Berner Street and then along Hampshire Court to get there.

In the *Star* report, though, his old lodgings were said to be in Berner Street. However, his new lodgings were said to be in Backchurch Lane when they were actually in Ellen Street, off Backchurch Lane. In the same way his previous lodgings in ‘Berner Street’ may have actually been just off Berner Street. 22 Batty Street along Hampshire Court would fit that description.

That the lodger was said to have gone missing may have been a confusion of the fact that he had actually moved from the address that day anyway. In the newspaper report Schwartz did not know if his wife would have moved when he came down Berner Street at about 12:45. It is implied that he went to check at his old lodgings first. But why would the police wait at the house if they knew he had moved out permanently? Even if Mrs. Kuer and the police knew that her lodger had moved out they may have thought that he would return to collect some items left at her house, so it would still be advisable to have men waiting at the man’s old lodgings.

Also, there is reference to the lodger having been seen in the neighbourhood by numbers of people.⁴⁵ This could just be a detail made up by someone or may be a reference to the lodger being seen around the area prior to the incident. However it may be that someone who was aware of the man in question had seen him around subsequently. Still, if this had been the case and he had been seen by numbers of people then surely he would have been located quickly by the police.

42 This ‘other source’ may suggest there had been a statement made by another witness who had seen at least some of the events related by Schwartz. Of course it could be that this was related to another incident entirely and had no bearing on the men Schwartz said he saw.

43 And Schwartz had bought two tickets with his second man!

44 *The Star*, 2 October 1888

45 *Daily News*, 16th October 1888



Corner of Backchurch Lane and Fairclough Street

Reasons for his story

Other than to cover up his own involvement in the death of Stride, Schwartz may have had another reason for lying. His story actually has some similarity with that given by Emmanuel Delbart Violina, who claimed to have seen Annie Chapman arguing with two men, one of whom threatened to knife her, on the morning that she was murdered. Eventually the police suspected that Violina had made up his story in order to be able to see the body. The second man in Schwartz's story had an ambiguous role (was he chasing Schwartz or just himself fleeing from the man said to be attacking Stride) but for both witnesses it was convenient that there was a second man which would justify their not wanting to get involved for fear for their own safety. It may be that Schwartz's motive for his story, if it was invented, was the same as Violina's and he had a morbid wish to see Elizabeth Stride's body.

There is also the motive suggested in the *Star* that people gave descriptions of men supposedly seen with victims in the hope that they may come close enough to the real perpetrator, if caught, and so be able to claim some of the reward money. There is also the possibility that Schwartz was lying to protect someone else.

A plain reading of his story is that he was running away from the scene of a murder about quarter of an hour before the body was discovered there.

Schwartz's nationality

Schwartz's nationality is only mentioned in the *Star* reports and he was stated to be Hungarian. There is no mention of his nationality in any of the police or Home Office references. He is merely referred to as a 'foreigner'. No census records exist for an Israel Schwartz born in Hungary. The records found for an Israel Schwartz, if they relate to the same man, indicate that he was Polish or Russian.

In 1885 there were newspaper reports relating to a Sarah Schwartz, aged 18 who was said to be Hungarian or Austrian. She had entered the service of Louis and Mary Keavy as domestic servant at a coffee shop in Church Lane on Sunday, 11 October, 1885. Because the establishment was frequented by rough looking men, Sarah Schwartz decided she didn't want to stay and gave her notice the same day. Mary Keavy was annoyed at this and told 28 men who were in the house that they could do with the girl as they wished, whereupon Sarah was attacked in a cruel and horrific way,

encouraged by the Keavys. She was able, finally, to crawl away and saw a doctor the following day who said she was suffering from the 'effects of gross violence'. The Keavys were sentenced to 18 months imprisonment with hard labour. At the time of the trial Sarah Schwartz was said to be living at 22 Backchurch Lane.⁴⁶

This may indicate there was a family called Schwartz from Hungary in the area. No other records for Sarah Schwartz have so far been found.

J Schwartz

The only Hungarian in the 1891 Census for a 'Schwartz' of about the right age is one J. Schwartz. By 'of about the right age' I mean someone in adulthood. This man was born in 1860 in Budapest. In the 1901 Census this same man's name is given as John and he was listed as born in 1863. In 1891 he had a wife named Emily but no children. In 1901 his wife's name was given as Emilia and they had two children (born since 1891).

Israel Lipski had amongst his possessions, when arrested, a business card for his own business of walking-stick makers that gave his name as J. Lipski. Also on his person was a pawn ticket in the name of John Lipski. This would probably have been used as a more English-sounding name. John may have been a common name adopted and seen as an equivalent of Israel by immigrants. John Schwartz's occupation was hairdresser and Sam Flynn suggests that this occupation may fit in with the *Star's* 'theatrical' description of the Berner Street witness. However, there was an Israel Schwartz in the 1891 Census living just a couple of streets away from Ellen Street.

22 Samuel Street

In *Jack The Ripper A to Z*⁴⁷ reference was made to the fact that the Berner Street witness could be the same Israel Schwartz listed in the 1891 census as living at 22 Samuel Street. In the early stages of looking at further records, *Casebook* poster 'Sam Flynn' had very kindly found out for me the records relating to various men named Israel Schwartz in 1891 and 1901.

Something had always lodged in my mind about Schwartz living at 22 Ellen Street according to Swanson's report and the A to Z mentioning an Israel Schwartz at 22 Samuel Street in the 1891 Census. This ultimately led me to make the connection with 22 Batty Street.

When I first made the connection I had remembered about the records Sam had found, which included a likely match in the 1901 census for the same Israel Schwartz as listed in the 1891 census. I couldn't remember what the number of his address was in 1901, though I couldn't recall it being 22. It wasn't. It was 21!

In reality it's doubtful that a poor immigrant family would have the luxury of choosing where they lived based on the house number even if, for example, they considered it gave them good fortune for whatever reason and it was most probably just coincidence. But it was this that first led me to link Schwartz with the lodger at 22 Batty Street. Actually the house number 22 crops up a lot in the Whitechapel murders—Leon Goldstein, the man seen walking down Berner Street by Fanny Mortimer, lived at 22 Christian Street; John Pizer, allegedly the man known as Leather Apron, was arrested at 22 Mulberry Street; Charles Cross who found Polly Nichols' body, lived at 22 Doveton Street. Also, Sarah Schwartz, as we have seen, lived at 22 Backchurch Lane.

Further records found for the same family did not involve an address with that house number, but out of idle curiosity I did look to see if there was some significance in the number 22.... And the number is of significance in Judaism.

There are 22 letters in the Hebrew alphabet ('Aleph-Beit') and it is believed by Jews that these letters are meant to represent much more than just sounds.

*In Jewish thought, the Aleph-Beit is unlike any other alphabet; it is not merely a haphazard collection of consonants whose order was determined by convention ... The individual letters, their names, graphic forms, gematriaos [numeric equivalents], and respective positions in the Alpha-Beit are Divinely ordained. ... A corollary of this principle is the halachic requirement that every letter in a Torah scroll, Mezuzah, and tefillin must be written perfectly. No part of a letter may be omitted or distorted, nor may its individual integrity be compromised by contact with any other letter. Every word must be spelled correctly; a missing, extra, or transposed letter can invalidate the entire scroll.*⁴⁸

⁴⁶ *The Times*, 19th October and 14th November 1885 - reports provided by Debra Arif

⁴⁷ *Jack The Ripper A to Z* (1996) by Paul Begg, Martin Fido and Keith Skinner, p. 385

⁴⁸ *The Wisdom of the Hebrew Alphabet* by Rabbi Michael Munk, page 33.

While the Old Testament in the Christian bible has 39 books and the Hebrew Old Testament, as it is currently, has 24 books, according to early records by numerous Jewish and Christian scholars and authorities going back to the 1st century, the Old Testament originally (and during the time of Christ) contained 22 books.⁴⁹ There is no text missing, these anomalies being the result of differing arrangements and divisions of the books.⁵⁰

Also seen as significant in relation to the number is that God was said to have made 22 things in Genesis, culminating in Adam, and that there were 22 generations from Adam to Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel and who was acknowledged as the 'father of the spiritual nation of God'.⁵¹

Schwartz Census records

1891 Census record for 22 Samuel Street, St. George's In The East (census taken on 5th April).

Ref ⁵²	Name and Surname of each person	Relation to Head of family	Condition as to marriage	Age M	Age F	Profession or Occupation	Employed	Where born
21	Jacob Goodman	Head	Married	21?		Tailor	Employed	Poland
	Dora do	Wife	M	24	22			do
22	Israel Schwartz	Head	Married	27		Tailors Presser	Employed	do
	Eva do	Wife	M		27			do
	Dinah E. ⁵³ do	Daughter			6	Scholar		do
	Louis do	Son		4 (1?) mo ⁵⁴				London St Georges E
23	Hyman Uithowich ⁵⁵	Head	Married	45		Machines (or machiner) - 'Tailor' in pencil after	Employer	Poland
	Bertha do	Wife	M		45			Germany
	Abraham do	Son	Single	15				London St Georges E
	Rosa do	Daughter			8	Scholar		"
	Fanny do	do			5	do		"
	Leah do	do			2			"
	Annie do	do		4	5 mnths			"

49 Various sources, see *Restoring the Original Bible* by Dr. Ernest L. Martin, ASK Publications, Portland, Oregon, 1994; www.askelm.com/restoring/res003.htm

50 One alleged reason for the change by the Jewish authorities is that the addition of the 27 New Testament books to the Old Testament would give 49 books. 49, being the square of 7, was considered of huge significance. One belief is that to 'spoil' this, two books were split and so the Old Testament was increased to 24 books. Another reason given is that alternate forms of one of the Hebrew letters increased the 'Aleph-Beit' to 24 letters and so, to match this, the books in the Old Testament were split accordingly. Incidentally the 39 books that make up the Old Testament in the Bible as it is today, when added to the 27 New Testament books give us a figure of 66, a multiple of 22.

51 www.askelm.com (Associates for Scriptural Knowledge).

52 Reference of Schedule given to each family within a house. Not to be confused with house number which coincidentally is the same for Israel Schwartz.'

53 The dot may be an aborted attempt to write an 's' as it seems quite large and the enumerator may have felt there was not enough room to write the full name. The name of the daughter is given as Esther in the 1901 census.

54 Stated as 4 months in the index, however it looks like it may be '1'.

55 Withowick according to the index



Proximity of Samuel Street (highlighted in green) to 22 Ellen Street (highlighted in light blue), seen in context of site of Stride's murder (red) 22 Batty Street (dark blue) and Hampshire Court (magenta)

But the question remains: Is this the same Israel Schwartz who was the witness at Berner Street? The man at 22 Samuel Street is the only Israel Schwartz in the 1891 Census and he lived just a couple of streets away from Ellen Street. However, he was recorded as being born in Poland, whereas the newspaper report stated that the Berner Street witness was Hungarian. The report stated that the witness was married, as indeed this Israel Schwartz was. The Samuel Street family had a daughter who would have been about three years old in 1888, suggesting that they were married at the time. This child was born in Poland in about 1885, which would give a date for moving to England sometime after that. Schwartz was said to not speak good English, so the daughter's birth would indicate a relatively recent immigration. Their son was said to be four-months old (or possibly one month, the record isn't very clear and not helped by the fact that all ages are crossed through).

There were two men named Israel Schwartz of about the right age in the 1901 Census.

Both were said to be Russian, but one of them had a child who had been born in Russia in 1895 and another child later born in Glasgow, which would suggest this would not be the same man. The other record for an Israel Shwartz (spelt without the 'c') of 21 Jubilee Street, Stepney is as follows.

1901 Census record for 21 Jubilee Street, Stepney (Census taken on 31st March)

Sch	Name and Surname of each person	Relation to Head of family	Condition as to marriage	Age M	Age F	Profession or Occupation	Employed	Where born
12	Israel Shwartz	Head	M	36		Provision Dealer	Own account (at home)	Russia Russian Subj.
	Esther do	Wife	M	36				do
	Esther do	Daughter	S		16	Sack (?) maker	Worker	do
	Louis do	Son	S	12				London St Georges
	Daniel do	Son	S	6				do
	Edward do	Son	S	3				do
new page	Abraham Schwartz	Son	S	1				London St Georges E

The spelling of 'Shwartz' may have been an error, as the surname of their youngest son, Abraham, is given as 'Schwartz' on the next page. The birthplace of Russia as opposed to Poland could be because much of Poland was part of Imperial Russia at that time. The daughter is named as 'Esther' rather than 'Dinah E', but her birthplace is given as Russia, rather than London as with the other children, which would tie in with the daughter named in the 1891 census record. Also the 'E.' could stand for Esther. The son is called Louis, although his age is given as 12 when it should be 10 if the same person as listed in 1891, where the age is more likely to be correct especially as he was a newborn at the

time. The loss or addition of a few years to a person's age is not uncommon in the records. His wife's name is also given as 'Esther' whereas it was 'Eva' in 1891. However, this could have been a mistake by the enumerator. Contrary to the belief of some, the enumerators did not go round asking the questions and filling in the records. Forms (or schedules) would be left at each house for the inhabitants to fill in, as it is done now, and the enumerators would write down the details from these schedules into their books⁵⁶. In this case, possibly the same name was written twice mistakenly as the details were transferred to the enumerator's book.

In 1891 Schwartz was said to be a tailor's presser. In 1901 it would appear his occupation had changed to 'provision dealer'. This was a similar occupation to a grocer and the PO Trade Directory for 1899 lists a 'Hodgman, John William, grocer' at 21 Jubilee Street.

Could the fact that Schwartz was a 'journeyman tailor'⁵⁷ or 'tailor's presser' link with Mrs. Kuer saying that the customer who left the shirts was a ladies tailor? If the 'customer' part of the story was a lie by her (for reasons already discussed) but the description given was true of her missing lodger, could this detail tie in with what we know about Schwartz? Schwartz likely worked in one of the many sweatshops in the area as did a lot of other Jewish tailors, but considering the description of him given by the *Star* reporter that he was '*well dressed, and had the appearance of being in the theatrical line*', or the fact that he may have exaggerated how good his job was to his landlady, there could be some connection with Mrs. Kuer's 'customer' who was said to be a ladies' tailor and worked in the West End.

More on Schwartz's nationality

The information in the newspaper report that he was Hungarian could have been an error by the reporter—for example that may have been the nationality of the interpreter. However, it may have been genuine information that was in part true. The political boundaries in Eastern Europe were very complex at the time. Poland was not a self-ruling country and was mostly in the Russian Empire. However, part of Poland had been annexed in the 18th century by the Austrian Empire which had since become the dual monarchy of Austria-Hungary, and the rest of Poland's borders adjoined those of Austria-Hungary.

In the northeast of Austria-Hungary was a state called Galicia that comprised part of Poland and part of modern-day Ukraine. There was a wide ethnic spectrum in that state, mostly Roman Catholic Poles in the west and mostly Ruthenians (Ukrainians) in the east. That Israel Schwartz of Samuel Street gave his place of birth as Poland and Russia in the censuses would suggest he came from the part of Poland that was then within Imperial Russia. However, the pogroms in the early to mid 1880s had caused many Jews to flee the country. Although people were poorer in Galicia, they had more freedom than those Poles in Russia. Large numbers of those fleeing went first to Brody, a town in Galicia just across the border. They would have to stay at the refugee camps there possibly for some time, before then moving onto other areas of Austria-Hungary or mostly to other countries. At about the same time there was the start of an economic migration of people from Galicia to other countries, mainly to the United States, sometimes via other parts of Austria-Hungary. The overcrowding and disorder that led to disease at Brody was over by the end of 1882 as most refugees had left, but there was still emigration to other countries via the town for years afterwards, though in a less chaotic way.⁵⁸ Further pogroms occurred in 1883 and 1884 and for many Jews they probably thought more would happen after that. It is possible that it was just after the birth of their first child in 1884 or 1885 that Schwartz and his wife decided to flee Poland into Austria-Hungary (the eastern side of the dual monarchy being generally described as Hungary), maybe staying there a while, before moving to Britain.

If this was his situation, the fact that Schwartz then told people in London that he came from Hungary would be true in the sense that he came to Britain after an extended period in Galicia, with this then being interpreted incorrectly as meaning he was Hungarian. Possibly, if the influx of Polish Jews was causing resentment with the native Londoners, it may also have been marginally preferable for an immigrant to say he came from Hungary rather than Poland.

⁵⁶ www.british-genealogy.com/resources/census/index.htm

⁵⁷ See later records

⁵⁸ [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galicia_\(Central_Europe\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galicia_(Central_Europe)); www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/History/pale.html; www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/brody/Brody.htm

Schwartz birth records

The birth records for Israel Schwartz's children noted in the 1901 Census were located (except for Dinah, who was born in Poland, and Edward).

Name	Louis	Daniel	Abraham
Date of Birth	3 March 1891	26 August 1895	29 May 1901
Date of Registration	10 April 1891	5 November 1895	4 July 1901
Birthplace	19 Brunswick Street St George In The East	13 Queen Street Mile End New Town	1 John Street St George In The East
Sex	Boy	Boy	Boy
Name of Father	Ysral Schwatz	Israel Swartz	Ysrael Schwartz
Name of Mother	Eve Schwatz formerly Radzenovich	Eva Swartz formerly Rosinavitch	Hava Serel Schwartz formerly Radzenovich
Occupation of Father	Journeyman Tailor	Tailor's Presser	Grocer
Signature, Description & Residence of Informant	<i>signature</i> The signature of Ysral Schwatz, Father, 19 Brunswick Street	<i>mark</i> The mark of Eva Swartz, Mother, 13 Queen Street, Mile End New Town	<i>signature</i> signature of Ysrael Schwartz, Father, No 1 John Street ⁵⁹

We have quite a lot of spelling variations here. In the case of the records for Louis and Abraham, Israel was the informant, while for Daniel it was Eva who was the informant. From the signature column we can see that Israel was literate as he gave a signature, but his wife was not as she had to leave a mark. So the spellings given on Daniel's birth certificate are less likely to be correct, i.e. the family surname as 'Swartz' and Eva's maiden name as 'Rosinavitch'.

Note that Israel spelt his name with a 'Y'. This is not just an elaborate 'I'; it is clearly supposed to be a 'Y'. On Louis's certificate the surname is spelt 'Schwatz' (without the 'r'). Again, this could be a spelling mistake by the registrar. His wife's surname is probably supposed to be spelt 'Radzenovich' which is the consistent spelling on the two birth certificates where Israel, who was literate, was the informant. Despite a few differences, all records relate to the same parents of Israel and Eva Schwartz. The children's names match those on the 1901 census and Louis, said to be a month (or four months) old in April 1891, was born on the 3rd of March that year—so he would have been a month old (or four weeks) at the time of the census on April 5. Schwartz was said to be a 'journeyman tailor' or tailor's presser on the elder boys' birth certificates (and was a tailor's presser in the 1891 census). For Abraham's certificate he was listed as a Grocer, tying in with his occupation as provision dealer in the 1901 census record.

Having taken a look at the similarities that link the records, let's now take a look at some of the anomalies of what is presented to us.

⁵⁹ Could possibly be '101 John Street'

Israel Schwartz records

Date	Source	Address	Other Family	Surname	Forename
Unknown to 30-9-1888	Newspaper report	Somewhere in or near Berner St.	Wife (at least)	-	
30-9-1888	Police report	22 Ellen St.	Unknown	Schwartz	Israel
3-3-1891	Birth Certificate of Louis (Birth)	19 Brunswick St nee Radzenovich Louis (son)	Eve (wife)	Schwatz	Ysral
5-4-1891	Census	22 Samuel St	Eva (wife) Dinah E. (daughter 6) Louis (son 1 mo)	Schwartz	Israel
10-4-1891	Birth Certificate of Louis (registration)	19 Brunswick St	Eve (wife) nee Radzenovich Louis (son)	Schwatz	Ysral
26-8-1895 5-11-1895	Birth Certificate of Daniel (Birth/Registration)	13 Queen St	Eva (wife) nee Rosinavitch Daniel (son)	Swartz	Israel
31-3-1901	Census	21 Jubilee St	Esther (wife) Esther (daughter 16) Louis (son 12) Daniel (son 6) Edward (son 3) Abraham (son 1)	Shwartz (except Abraham - Schwartz)	Israel
29-5-1901 4-7-1901	Birth Certificate of Abraham (Birth/Registration)	1 John St	Hava Serel (wife) nee Radzenovich Abraham (son)	Schwartz	Ysrael

The first two records are definitely linked to each but may not link to the six others. The last six are definitely linked to each other.

The birth of Louis was said to be on 3 March, 1891, at 19 Brunswick St. This was registered on 10 April, 1891, where the informant (Israel) was said to live at the same address. However, on census night five days earlier, (5 April), the family were listed at 22 Samuel Street. Either the whole family were visiting (though their presence there was not recorded as such), or, to simplify things (possibly due to limited English, or a mistake by the registrar from what was said) the same address for the birth and the residence of the informant was given at registration. There may have been a move of house in that period. Possibly, Louis was born at 19 Brunswick Street and then the family moved, prior to 5 April, to Samuel Street, where they were listed in the census. Five days later, when Israel registered the birth, he gave his current residence as 19 Brunswick Street as well, either because he did not understand the information requested (believing it to still be linked to the birth address), the registrar did not understand his response, or Israel gave the same address thinking it would be easier. Alternately, the family may have moved from Samuel Street to Brunswick Street between the 5th and 10th of April, but for the reasons already outlined Louis' birthplace was given as the current address rather than Samuel Street where he would have been born in this scenario.



Brunswick Street

Abraham is listed on the census of 1901 (taken on 31 March) as being a year old—implying the birth was in 1899-1900. However, on his birth certificate his date of birth is given as 29 May 1901—two months *after* he was said to be one-year old on the census. His birth was registered on 4 July 1901. It could be that to avoid a fine for late registration, his birth date was given as 29 May 1901 when it may have actually been 29 May 1900 (or even 1899). Or, this could be another child altogether, but he would unlikely have been given the same name as a sibling (even a deceased one⁶⁰, though there are no records to indicate this).

I have been unable to trace a birth record for Edward, or any other records definitely relating to the family. A marriage certificate for a Louis Schwartz in 1908 looked promising, but he was aged 27 and his father was named Harris.

Marriage records for various women named Esther Schwartz between 1904 and 1909 also proved not to be for the daughter of Israel.

Israel's wife has a few name changes—'Eve' on Louis's birth certificate, 'Eva' on the 1891 census and on Daniel's birth certificate, 'Esther' on the 1901 census and 'Hava Serel' on Abraham's birth certificate. So on Louis's certificate, Israel gave the name as 'Eve', but gave it differently on Abraham's certificate ten years later.

This is not because it was a different woman, as the maiden name was still the same and Hava is the Yiddish form of Eva. Israel may have made more of an attempt to integrate into an English life early on and anglicised their names (Israel is an anglicised form of the Hebrew Ysrael or Yisrael). But there are signs that he perhaps wanted to acknowledge his roots by 1901. His older children have reasonably common names in England—Louis, Daniel and Edward. However, Abraham is not a commonly used name in England and is clearly of Jewish origin. Also his wife's name on Abraham's birth certificate appears in Yiddish form and his own signature is given in what appears to be Russian letters.

Interestingly his wife is noted as having a second name on Abraham's birth certificate, the only time it is given in the available records. This is Serel which is actually the Yiddish form of the Hebrew name, Sarah. Could there be some link with Sarah Schwartz of 22 Backchurch Lane in 1885? Sarah could not speak English very well according to the reports in 1885, and though we don't know exactly when Dinah Esther was born in Poland/Russia, it would have been in 1884 or 1885 (she was six years old according to the 1891 census) and so could have been earlier than the assault on Sarah Schwartz in London in October 1885. Sarah was said to be 18 years old at the time of the assault, and so was born circa 1867, which would be about two years younger than Eva Schwartz would have been—birth circa 1864/65 from the census records. However, an age discrepancy of just two years may not be significant given the incorrect ages between different records which were fairly common in those days. The report of the assault on Sarah Schwartz implies she was single as she was going into domestic service and so would live on the premises. However, it's possible that a newly immigrated young family would find work where they could and try to get around their family situation of having a baby daughter as best as they could.

Sarah's nationality was given variously as Hungarian and Austrian in the press but, as already noted, Austria-Hungary was joined as one country at the time and her circumstances may have been similar to Israel Schwartz's.

If they had been in the country for about three years, it may still have been the case that Schwartz's English remained poor enough by 1888 that he needed an interpreter to go to the police and speak to the reporter from the *Star*. Israel Lipski had been in the country for two years when he was arrested and yet he needed an interpreter in his dealings with the police and the courts. Also Charles Ludwig required an interpreter in court despite one of the witnesses saying that he spoke English well enough (albeit 'broken' English). It could have been simply that in such a serious position they opted to use an interpreter to ensure they knew exactly what was being said or it may have been used to lessen the impact of the questioning technique, the effect of which would be diminished by having to go through an interpreter.

Another thing to note about the family is that we never see them at the same address twice, even though in a couple of cases independent records are taken at about the same time. Concentrating on the Samuel Street Schwartz family, in March/April 1891 they moved between Samuel Street and Brunswick Street. By November 1895 they had moved to Queen Street. In 1901, between March and July, they had moved from Jubilee Street to John Street. In 1899 they were not living at 21 Jubilee Street as the grocer at that address is given as John William Hodgman. So the family does not appear to have settled at one address for very long before moving, or having to move on. If the Berner Street witness is the same man, then even with only a glimpse of him on the one night of 29/30 September 1888, he was in the process of moving from an address in Berner Street (or the Berner Street area) to 22 Ellen Street.

⁶⁰ Don Souden points out that, though not relevant here, it was a common practise for 17th century New England Puritans to give the same name to a successive child if one had died.

Schwartz Summary

If his wife (and child) had moved out during the day on Saturday 29 September, Schwartz would have had to check at the old lodgings to see if they had moved or he may have still intended to stay there for the night rather than disturb his family and landlord at the new lodgings. It is also possible that Schwartz did go to Ellen Street after cleaning up at Batty Street, as the timing of events is not clear. It may also be a reason why Mrs. Kuer may not have believed her lodger, a man with a wife and child, would be the killer.

To summarise the options of Schwartz as the Batty Street lodger

- 1) Schwartz was the Batty Street lodger
 - a) but was telling the truth in his police statement and had an innocent explanation for the events that disturbed Mrs. Kuer.
 - b) but lied to the police about events witnessed in Berner Street so he could satisfy a morbid curiosity and see the body of Elizabeth Stride, though this would more likely apply to option 2 below.
 - c) and responsible for one or both deaths in Berner Street and Mitre Square that night.
 - d) but lied for another reason—such as wanting a share of the reward or to protect someone
- 2) Schwartz was not the Batty Street lodger with the same sub-options above (except that disturbing Mrs. Kuer would not be a factor).

Problems with Schwartz being the lodger

If Schwartz's name was given by Kuer to the police, they would have connected it when Schwartz turned up with his statement. Assuming Schwartz used a real name at the police station or at Mrs. Kuer's—otherwise it would be unlikely that the further records found were for the same man. It could also be that the name was not recognised as the police wrongly transcribed the name Mrs. Kuer gave them.

It may be Kuer did not give the name of the lodger to the police as she gave them the customer story from the outset, which may have been true. However, as we have seen Mrs. Kuer told the press it was someone in the house who got blood on the shirt, and it is possible there was another lodger there while Noun was away. It may be that the police were never told of the other lodger or an innocent explanation was given for the blood for reasons already explored. The full details did not appear in the press so we cannot know the full details of what went on. It is clear, however, that there was a suspicion by Kuer initially based on the story of her being disturbed in the early hours and the fact that she let a neighbour see the shirt.

If there had been a man, his wife and child there, then the neighbours would surely have known, and such details could have been told by them to the police who would surely have asked questions around the neighbourhood. But, again, if they were looking for the customer this may not have been a detail they considered important. If Schwartz's wife moved out on the Saturday, it may be that the neighbours felt this excluded the family from being involved in the incident.

If Mrs. Kuer had tried to keep from Carl Noun the fact that she had rented his room out in his absence, surely he would have found this out from Joseph or from neighbours. Some neighbours may not have realised a family was living there in the meantime, especially if this had been short term. But also to consider is that while some did realise it, they would not have any reason to speak to Noun about it, and other immediate neighbours—such as the one to whom Kuer showed the shirt—may have been asked by the landlady to keep it quiet from Noun. Joseph may well have been asked to do so as well and he may have felt obliged, not wishing to cause problems that might then have affected his living arrangements. Of course Noun may well have found out about such lodgers subsequently (after his letter on the 17th), but by then the story was of no interest to the press so the fact would not be on record.

Don Souden also suggests another explanation for Schwartz being the lodger that would not involve his wife and child being there. For whatever reasons, the family may have had to leave their current accommodation and if the Ellen Street room would not be available until the end of the month, his wife and child may have found space with friends, or at least compatriots, who would put them up, but either because there was no room or (especially if it was with older women) they did not want a man around, Israel had to find somewhere else to stay and heard about the spare room at Mrs. Kuer's. The implication of the *Star* report is that they shared the old lodgings as it talks of moving '*from their lodgings*', though it is possible that, again in condensing the details, the report gives a false impression.

Certainly there are problems, but given that the full details are not known, the possibility cannot be dismissed that Israel Schwartz was Mrs. Kuer's lodger.

Problems with Schwartz being the killer

The question of why Schwartz would kill someone so close to home and then go on to kill again and have to return home with a heavy police presence by his home was discussed earlier in regard to whomever the lodger was.

An objection specific to Schwartz is why he would go to the police. This is certainly a good point. It would seem to be a mistake to go to the police when it would be better to remain silent and blend in with the thousands in the area. There would have to be a good reason to go to the police, even under the guise of a witness. Possible reasons are:

- Someone had seen something suspicious and Schwartz knew about it - he allayed their suspicions with a story of witnessing an attack and was thus forced to go to the police.
- Schwartz wanted to see Stride's body—perhaps as the only victim he did not eviscerate.

Could the reason have been that Schwartz got wind of police activity at 22 Batty Street? Could he then have decided it was only a matter of time before they found him as the missing lodger? Maybe he then went to the police with his own version of events, not initially mentioning he was the lodger, perhaps leaving scope in his story for getting blood on his clothes as a result of the supposed pursuit, an option that actually may never have been required as the police believed his story and didn't link him to the lodger? With so many leads to follow up connections with the same man could be missed, as was the case with the Yorkshire Ripper investigation in the 1970s.

Related to this objection is the fact that the police did not appear to doubt his story. They spoke to the man face-to-face and did not suspect him. However, an interview conducted through an interpreter is going to lose some advantages gained from hearing the responses a person gives first-hand. Also, if Schwartz went as a witness, the beleaguered police would perhaps have been more interested in getting the information from him as a witness. If he was a killer, he wouldn't be the only one to have been interviewed and not considered suspicious by police. Also worth considering is the fact that Melville Macnaghten, in his memoranda, stated his belief that Stride was a victim of the Whitechapel murderer, but said that no-one saw the killer, which would raise the question of whether the police believed Schwartz. However, Macnaghten's statement is qualified in his draft version to say 'except possibly the beat PC near Mitre Square'. It has been much debated to whom Macnaghten was referring, as the only reported sighting near Mitre Square was by three men leaving a Jewish club. A Met PC saw Elizabeth Stride in Berner Street with a man, and it's possible these two sets of witnesses were confused in Macnaghten's mind. So it's possible, but less likely, that Macnaghten really got confused about events that occurred on the same night and actually meant a citizen in Berner Street (referring to Schwartz) when he said a 'PC near Mitre Square'. However, if Schwartz was at some point discredited presumably the police would have looked into him being a possible suspect but found no evidence against him.

Another objection is that Schwartz lived for many years afterwards (records relating to him exist at least up until 1901) and serial killers rarely just stop killing. Counter arguments to this objection are:

- 1) We cannot be sure that the Israel Schwartz for whom we have found records is the same man. If he isn't, then we do not know what happened to the Berner Street witness after he moved to Ellen Street in 1888.
- 2) Serial killers have been known to stop killing for years (Gary Ridgway, the Green River Killer, and Dennis Rader, a.k.a. BTK, for example). It can be argued that these were different types of serial killers, but we do not have a clear idea of which 'type' the Whitechapel Murderer was to make firm comparisons. Some serial killers start up again, but had anything happened to them (incarceration or death) in the meantime, even decades after their last murder, then obviously the killing would not have restarted. Some also may just simply stop as their reason for killing no longer exists.

These are just possible arguments to counter the objections. There is certainly no clear case against Schwartz. It is simply that I believe Schwartz is a crucial witness and that his story has problems. For example no-one else saw or heard the events he described despite there being other witnesses around, and though the role of the second man is ambiguous, why would Schwartz need to run away so far if he wasn't sure if the second man was following him? Some of the problems with Schwartz's story, its timing and inconsistency with those of other witnesses involved are discussed in Smith's Beat (Ripperologist 70, August 2006). Such problems with his story could have an innocent explanation or could be explained by the fact that Schwartz, like Emmanuel Delbart Violina in the case of Annie Chapman, just wanted to see the body and invented the story for that reason. However, his lodging arrangements on the night of the double event may fit in with the disappearance of the lodger at 22 Batty Street so perhaps Israel Schwartz requires a closer look.

Postscript

There is another intriguing possible link with Schwartz. Chris Scott discovered a report in 1905 in America that an elderly Egyptian-born man named Charles Y. Hermann had confessed to the Whitechapel murders.⁶¹ He said he had lived in the East End of London at the time of the murders. Chris found a record in the 1891 census for a Nap Hermann who was born in Egypt. He was, however, just 24 at the time which would make him only 38 in 1905, so he would unlikely look like an old man, unless he was particularly ill and haggard-looking as a result, though Charles could have been an older relative who lived with him for a while. What is interesting, however, is that Nap's address in 1891 was 22 Ellen Street, where Schwartz moved to on the night of the double event.

Acknowledgements

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Many thanks also to Adrian Phypers and all those who have contributed to the invaluable Casebook Press Section, as well as to Stewart Evans and Keith Skinner for the godsend that is the *Sourcebook/Companion*.

⁶¹ Syracuse Post Herald, 10 April 1905.



Entrance to Batty Street from Commercial Road, July 2007. The building now occupied by AKH Fashion Ltd was once home to Dr Blackwell.
©Adam Wood.



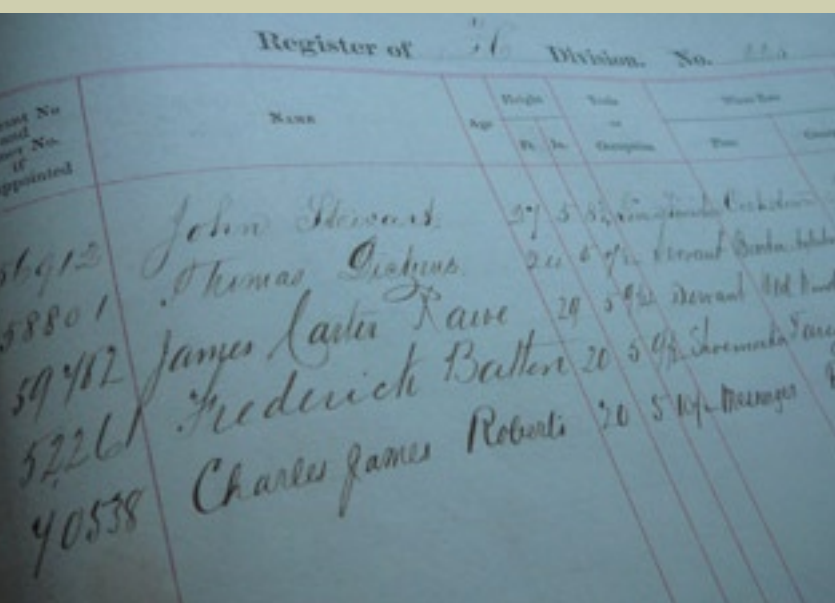
- | | | | |
|---|------------------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | Batty Street | 6 | Commercial Street |
| 2 | Berner Street | 7 | Dorset Street |
| 3 | Commerical Road | 8 | Hanbury Street |
| 4 | Whitechapel Road | 9 | Bucks Row |
| 5 | Brick Lane | | |

Google Earth map of modern Whitechapel with important landmarks indicated.

P.C. 225H Reports

A Real Whitechapel Journal
Part III - 1892 to 1898

By KEITH SKINNER and ADAM WOOD



In *Ripperologist* issues 79 and 80 we published the first two parts of the transcript of the notebook of PC 225H, Charles James Roberts. Here, we reveal the final part of the notebook.

To recap, Roberts was born in Deal, Kent, and joined the Metropolitan Police on 31 March 1885¹, being posted to H Division on 13 April becoming PC 225H, warrant no. 70538².

Roberts served as a PC for two weeks under 26 years, dying from bronchopneumonia after 11 days sickness on 15 March 1911³. At some point before his death his badge number had changed to 172H⁴. His widow was awarded an allowance of £79 0s 0d⁵.

From July 1885 to August 1898 PC Roberts kept a notebook, recording his duties while out on the beat from Leman Street station. A copy of the notebook was donated to the Met Police Archives in 1991, and was recently re-discovered by Keith Skinner.

Again, spelling, punctuation and grammar is Roberts's own. It's a fascinating insight into the daily life of not only a policeman, but also those he came in contact with.

¹ Register of H Division Records

² Ibid

³ Return of Deaths during the Year 1911, Metropolitan Police

⁴ Metropolitan Police Day Book for 15th March 1911

⁵ Compassionate Allowances to Widows and Children of Police Officers, page 69, Metropolitan Police

January 4th 1892. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 11.10 Pm finding Louisa Jordon age 41 Garton Court Lodging house George Yard Whitechapel lying on the pavement and who stated that her husband George Jordon had assaulted her by kicking her in the ribs. PC conveyed her on Police ambulance to the London Hospital where she was attended to by Dr. Farmer who stated that she was suffering from two broken ribs on left side, but was not admitted no expenses incurred. Jordon declined to take any proceedings.

January 9th 1892. PC 225H Reports that at 3am finding the side door of 99 High Street Whitechapel open. PC called the occupier Joseph Hermann and in company searched the premises and found apparently all correct supposed left open by lodgers.

January 14th 1892. Pc 225H reports that at 2.15am finding the side door of the White Hart P.H. 89 High Street Whitechapel insecurely fastened. PC called the occupier Alfred Norton who stated that everything was apparently all correct.

January 19th 1892. Edward Curtis. Drunk & Incapable. Discharged.

February 22nd 1892. Hannah Harris. Drunk & Incapable. Discharged.

February 23rd 1892. Stephen Carroll, sailor, no home. Wilful dmanage and unlawful possession. 10 days. hard labour.

March 8th 1892. Patrick Buckley age 22 of 18 Pell Street for disorderly conduct and assaulting me. 10/d or 7 days.

March 10th 1892. William Ireland & John Donovan Drunk, Disly. Obs. Language and assaulting me. 1st 21 days H.L. 2nd 14 days. H.L.

March 14th 1892. Jacob Woolfe, 4 East Mount St. Drunk, Disorderly = fined 2/d.

April 12th 1892. Edward Eager, 40, teadealer, 74 Royston Street Bethnal Green, James Scannell 9 Mary Street St Georges age 23 a labourer, unlawful possession of a case of glass tumblers. Value £4 6 weeks H.L. each, Eager P.C. 18 months HL at Middlesex Sessions. 25/6/86.

April 23rd 1892. Daniel Leary 23 Victoria Coffee House, Upper East Smithfield, Drunk Disly. Obs. Language. 10/d or 7 days.

May 10th 1892. Jane Solomons 47 of 78 Grove St. Disorderly conduct, Bound over own Recog. £5 for 6 months.

May 19th 1892. Mary Chatterway age 31 of 36 Langdale Street. Dk Dis Obs Lange. and assaulting me. 20/d or 14 days.

May 31st 1892. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 10pm finding John Henenberger age 17 of 72 Anthony Street St Georges. E. lying on the pavement in Grove St. and who stated that he had fallen down whilst playing and hurt his left leg. PC called assistance of P.C 291H and conveyed him to the London Hospital on a costermongers barrow belonging to James Hostler 3 Matilda Street, where he was seen by the H.S. who stated that he was suffering from contused left leg and was admitted. friends informed by PC. no expenses incurred.

June 9th 1892. PC 225H Roberts reports Guiseppe Fazzani 133 Brick Lane for causing an ice-cream barrow to stand in the roadway in Fieldgate Street Whitechapel causing an obstruction for 3 hours viz from 10.45am to 1.45pm after me having cautioned him. Fined 3/d and 2/d cost of summons.

July 20th 1892. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 11.30am being informed by Rebecca Sharp 3 North East Passage St Georges that a man named James Peak 1 Heanage St. Brick Lane had struck her with something and as she was bleeding freely PC accompanied her to the London Hospital where she was seen by the H.S. who stated that she was suffering from contused wound on forehead but was allowed to go home. Witnessed by Julia Navel & Jessie Clark 3 North East Passage St Georges E. no expenses incurred.

August 4th 1892. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 2.30am finding the private door unfastened in Union Stairs of the Turks Head P.H. 326 High Street Wapping. PC called the occupier England Williams and in company searched the premises and found apparently all correct the occupier stating that it was his own neglect in not fastening same.

Aug 15th 1892. P.C. 225H Roberts reports finding the shop door insecurely fastened at 6 Gt Hermitage St. Wapping. P.C. called the occupier Mr. Jacobs and in company we searched the premises and found apparently all correct.

Aug 24th 1892. William Chandler Mary's Place Wapping on warrant for assaulting his wife. Bound over in his recog. £5 to keep the peace for 6 months.

September 11th 1892. William Walker 28 of Victoria Home Commercial Street. Dr., Dis, Obs Lange. in Well Street 2/6 or 3 days.

September 15th 1892. PC. 225H Roberts reports that at 6pm an accident occurred in Cable Street St George's. E. whereby Barnett Bernstein age 4 of 49 Cable Street was knocked down by a heavy, empty, uncovered pair horse van no 11 owned by Charles Heather 123 High St Wapping and driven by Henry Heather, same address, P.C conveyed him in the above van to the London Hospital, where he was seen by the receiving officer Mr Jones, who stated he was suffering from fractured right thigh bone and lacerated wound over right eye brow and was admitted to no 38 Bed. Queen Victoria Ward. Witnessed by William Giardelli 8 Ellen Street, Back Church Lane, Bridget & Jeremiah Marney no 5 Norwich Court, Upper East Smithfield Patrick Ryan 22 Wellclose Square, not by P.C. reporting. Information from driver, friends informed by P.,C. no expenses incurred.

Sept 24th 1892. P.C. 225H Roberts reports that at 8pm, being informed by Mrs. Woolf 50 Morgan Street, St Georges & Lazerous Simons 64 Umberston Street St Georges, that Benjamin Gregor 46 Umberston St. St George's had deposited about 11/2 bushell of fish offal and rubbish in Captain Cook's Court. Morgan St. St Georges, PC. found that the same had been deposited there and informed the Vestry Authorities Cable Street. E.

October 24th 1892. PC225H Roberts reports that at 11.45pm 24th finding a pane of glass in basement of no 1 Imperial Warehouses, Leman Street. PC made enquiries but failed to find how it was done, also informed day duty at 6am.

November 5th 1892. William Murray age 22 a labourer of Marshalsea Road Borough for unlawful possession of 1pr brass candlesticks 1 clock, 1 looking-glass 1 brass pestal 1 Gents black cloth overcoat 1 lady's black cloth jacket 1 lady's black fur tippet, 1 pr Gents SS boots, 1 pr lady's SS boots, 1 pr of india-rubber shoes, 1 table cover 1 silk handkerchief. 1 pr trousers 2 knives 1 table, 1 pocket, 1 screw-driver, 1 key, 1 box of matches. Re-charged again at A.R. for burglary and stealing the said goods from no 1 Philpot Court, Philpot Street, Commercial Road, E. also charged with committing a burglary at no 10 New Road. Remanded to 11th Nov, Committed for trial at the C.C.Ct. 14th Nov. and sentenced to 3 years P.S by Forrest Fulton no 3 Court on the 18th Nov. 1892.

William Murray alias Smith & Perry, Russells lodging house Marshalsea Road Borough, age 22 hgt 5ft 7ins, Comp hair & slight moustache fair good teeth. Love and dot in blue ink on left wrist, large scar from recent cut on palm of right hand, scar on right cheek, 4 marks from chicken pox on brest, two between shoulder blades one centre of back, two on left elbow, one right side of right leg. Previous convictions of 12 months for burglary at the C.C.Ct. and 15 months for larceny at the N.L. Sessions. (1) 21/4/90 (2) 1/6/91. Proved by Warder Cooke.

Nov. 8th 1892. James Cole age 17, of 46 Hassett St. Hackney Road, for stealing a pair of boots from Lazerus Bernstein 42 Whitechapel Road. 6 weeks H.L. Previous convictions of 1 month for attempt & 2 months for larceny on Bthnal Green Sub division. 150J Ridley.

Nov 19th 1892. P.C. 225H Roberts reports that at 4.15pm being on duty in Whitechapel Rd. when Joseph Barrett 114 Coutts Rd Stepney and Alezandra Springer 15 Sandys Row, accused each other of assault. PC exchanged name & addresses and referred them both to the Magistrate.

November 22nd 1892. P.C. 225H Roberts reports Isaac Schwartz 22 Fieldgate Street Whitechapel for causing an obstruction in the roadway in Fieldgate Street by placing a barrow for 20 mins Viz from 12.25pm to 12.45pm, I having previously cautioned him. 3/d fine and 2/d costs. Dec. 2nd 1892.

December 3rd 1892. Henry Dunn age 40. Drunk. Dis. and assaulting me in the Whitechapel Road. 14 days H.L.

December 5th 1892. Morris Rotchain 33 Presser, 5 Hope St. Spitalfields, for stealing £1.14.3 from 20 Fieldgate St. and Ephraim Morofoskie 14 Duke St. Spitalfields for being concerned and assaulting Bennett Rick. Rotchain 1 month H.L. for stealing and Morofoskie 1 month H.L. for assault.

Janry. 4th 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 10.30am James McGrath 27 Findhorn St. Poplar came to Leman St. Police Station and asked for the ambulance to convey William Carnegie age 62 of 37 Redcliffe Road Upton Park, to the London Hospital who he stated had fallen from the Tower Bridge Works, where he was employed. PC. accompanied him with Police ambulance, and conveyed him on same to the London Hospital, where he was seen by the H. Surgeon who stated that he was suffering from severe scalp wound on left side of head and was admitted to no 65 bed Devonshire Ward, where he expired at 11.45am. Witnessed by John Beer 1 Gillett Road Thorton Heath not by PC reporting. no expenses incurred. Friends informed by Mr Harris, Manager Tower Bridge Works.

Janry. 9th 1893. Mark Karlowski 31 Colchester Street Whitechapel given into custody for stealing a pair of trousers. Discharged. No prosecutor appeared.

Janry. 21st 1893. Pc 225H Roberts reports that at 10.40 a.m. Louis Goldberg 38 Heage Street Brick Lane complained that Isaac Abrahams 33 Charlotte Street had pushed him downstairs at the last address and hurt his leg which Abrahams denied. PC exchanged names and addresses and referred them to the magistrate.

February 2nd 1893. Emily Forward age 32 Prostitute 93 Pennington Street St Georges E. Drunk Dis. Obs. Language. 2/6d or 3 days.

March 7th 1893. PC. 225H Roberts reports that at 11.30pm finding insecurely fastened the door of the stables in Royal Mint Street occupied by Mr J. Jones 37 Royal Mint Street, PC called Miss Jones above address, and in company of PC 426H searched the premises and found all apparently correct and secured same.

March 14th 1893. PC 225H Reports that at 3am being called to No 1 Well Street Whitechapel occupied by Dr. Ambrose who stated that he had heard an unusual noise in the upper part of the house. PC. in company of Dr. Ambrose searched the premises and found all apparently correct.

March 22nd 1893. PC 225H reports that at 10.30pm finding the gate open of builders yard Cartwright Street Whitechapel occupied by John Outhwaite 34 Upper East Smithfield. P.C. called Mr Outhwaite who stated that all was correct, and the workmen neglect in not fastening same.

March 28th 1893. PC225G Roberts reports that at 1am finding the side-door unfastened of the Crown and Seven Stars P.H 47 Royal Mint Street Whitechapel. P.C. called the occupier William Vinall who stated that all was correct and that it was his own neglect in not fastening same.

April 3rd 1893. Thomas Hatton 24 Walburgh St. St Georges. Dk. Dis. Obs language 2/6d or 3 days.

April 6th 1893. PC 225H Reports that at 10.30am accompanying William Sharp 18 of 46 Cottage Buildings Mile End Road Bow to the London Hospital who stated that he had fallen down in High St Whitechapel, was seen by the H.S. who stated that he was suffering from cut on back of head and after having same dressed was allow to go home, no expenses incurred.

April 7th 1893. PC. 225H Reports that at 12.45pm a collision occurred in Com.ial St. between a one horse covered van no. 886 (loaded) belonging to Pickford & Co Wood St City and driven by Frederick Earl 1 Gloucester Street Haggerston N. and a pony and trap driven and owned by John Cane 9 Crouch Hill Finsbury Park N. breaking the splash board of latter, Witnessed by John Mills 19 Henrietta Street Stamford Hill N, not by P.C. reporting Information from driver of van.

April 19th 1893. PC225 H Roberts reports that at 5.30pm a collision occurred in High Street Whitechapel, between a pony and trap belonging to John Jackson 3 Parkhall Place East Finchley and driven by Arthur Harris, same address and a horse and van belonging to William Curtain. Upper North Street Poplar and driven by James Hall 21 Sabbarton Street Poplar. smashing the near side panel of former. Not witnessed by P.C. reporting. Information from driver of former.

20th April 1893. PC 225H Reports that at 5.40pm a trolley belonging to the G.W.R. containing a large boiler, belonging to Messrs. Belamy West Ferry Milwall drawn by 10 horses in charge of Mr Spraggs foreman was proceeding down Commercial Street Whitechapel the off-hand wheel of trolley broke, causing obstruction to vehicle traffic for 6 hours viz from 5.40pm to 11.40pm. the above having just previously crossed the limits viz High St Whitechapel.

22nd April 1893. William Murrell age 18 of 19 Southborough Road, Hackney. Drunk & Incapable in High Street Whitechapel. Discharged.

April 24th 1893. P.C. 225H Reports that at 4.45pm as Israel Rosenthal age 10 of 44 Plumbers Row Whitechapel was proceeding along Commercial St. Whitechapel, some coping and cement of the Commercial Street Baptist Chapel broke away and fell on his head, and was taken to the London Hospital in a cab unknown by Samuel Price 8 Newcastle Place Aldgate E. where he was seen by the H.S. who stated that he was suffering from smashed skull, and that it was only a matter of a hour or two. Witnessed by John Munro 20 Dempsey Street Stepney and was admitted to no 27 bed Mellish Ward. Witnessed by John Munro 20 Dempsey Street Stepney & George Plumbly 19 Morrison Builders John Singer 86 Elgin Avenue Maida Vale W. Not by PC reporting information from witness Plumbly. Friends informed by PC reporting Board of works and Mr Croft High St. Aldgate informed by PC233H Wells who stated that they should see to it at once.

April 25th 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 1.40pm a collision occurred in the Commercial Road Whitechapel between a horse and uncovered van belonging to Edwin Church, Andover Yard Holloway and driven by William Pizey 27 Andover Yard Holloway and a horse and uncovered van belonging to John Spillane 635 Commercial Road E. driven by Henry Phillips 72 White Horse Street Stepney slightly damaging of the off-fore wheel of latter. Witnessed by Sydney Pickering Andover Yard Holloway & William Tribe 28 Eagling Road Bromley by Bow. Not by P.C. reporting. Information from owner of latter.

April 26th 1893. PC 225H Reports that at 1.35pm a collision occurred in Leman Street Whitechapel between a horse and cart belonging to Henry Wickes 252 High Street Poplar driven by Willian Cain 10 Tetley Street Poplar and a hand-truck belonging to the Whitechapel District Board of Work, in charge of John Reynolds 26 Melton Road Plaistow breaking the handle of truck, Witnessed by John Earl 9 North Street Globe Street Mile End. E. Not by P.C. reporting. Information from person in charge of truck.

April 28th 1893. PC 225H Reports that at 4.20pm a collision occurred in the Commercial Road Whitechapel. E. between a pair horse van belonging to William Betts & Co. 1 Wharf Road City Road Islington, driven by Thomas Corbett 21 Graham Street City Road and a horse and van belonging to Benjamin Tucker 303 Mile End Road E. driven by Edward Yallop 12 Assembly Passage Mile End E. breaking the near side shaft of latter, Witnessed by James Pollock 45 College Buildings Wentworth Street Whitechapel E. and Edward Proops 49A White Lion Street Commercial Street E. Not by PC reporting. Information from driver of latter.

May 1st 1893. P.C. 225H Reports that at 11am a battery of Mounted Royal Artillery numbering about 100 Men with 6 guns, from Ipswich for Richmond passed High Street Whitechapel all correct.

May 27th inst 1893. P.C. 225H Roberts reports that at 2am. Samuel Lesky age 10 of 141/2 Scarborough Street Whitechapel came to Leman Street Police Station and stated that he could not get indoors. PC went to the above address and failing to get an answer, took him to the South Grove workhouse Mile End, where he was admitted. PC informed day duty at 6am to inform friends.

May 30th 1893. James Furt age 26 a deserter from the 2nd batallion of the Hampshire Regiment: Committed.

July 1st 1893. Joseph Levy age 19 of 30 King Edward St. Mile End New Town a tailor assaulting me in Royal Mint Street. Discharged.

July 1st 1893. I beg to report that at 7Pm being called to the Rising Sun Beer House, Royal Mint St. where several men where fighting, when Joseph Levy kicked me on the right leg I arrested him and charged him with the said assault, the injuries not being serious to necessitate attending divisional surgeon.

July 11th 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 12.15am finding the shop door open of no 15 Charlotte Street Whitechapel PC called the occupier Morris Michaels who searched the premises and found all correct. own neglect.

July 15th 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 10.30pm finding the door of a shed in Romford Street Whitechapel open. PC called the occupier who searched the premises and found apparently all correct.

Sept 5th 1893. William Shandon age 47 of 94 Redmans Road Stepney, commercial traveller for assaulting Mary Ann Core. Discharged. Prosecutrix not appearing.

Oct 7th 1893. Mary Haggleton age 33 Dk. Disorderly 2/6 or 3 days.

Sept 23rd 1893. Mary Docker age 28 of 19 Manning St Stepney and Michael Fitzpatrick age 23 of 19 Ernest Street Stepney for being concerned together in stealing a gold chain and 20 dollar piece. Remanded to the 2nd Oct. Fitzpatrick discharged. Docker remanded to the 5th Oct. then discharged.

Nov 2nd 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 10.10pm finding the shop-door of 117 High St Whitechapel insecurely fastened. PC called Marshal Keilor 69 Whitechapel Road who came and secured same and stated all was correct.

Nov 5th 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 10.30pm discovering the cellar flap window broken of 10 High St Whitechapel occupied by Lockharts & Co. PC called the attention of Arthur Sylvester (night attendant) to same who came there at 12 midnight and who stated that it was alright when he left there the previous morning. Cause unknown.

Novr. 15th 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports at 6.15am an obstruction was caused in the Commercial Road Whitechapel through the off-hind wheel breaking of a trolley belonging to Fardell & Co. Cartwright Street Whitechapel containing a large boiler weighing 12 tons, drawn by a steam engine in charge of Charles Wilson no 30 Walburgh Street. St Georges E. Licence no 39 Obstructing the tram lines for 23/4 hours vis from 6.15am to 9am.

Novr. 18th 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 9am about 100 men of the 2nd battalion scotch guards, the drum and fife band passed through High Street Whitechapel in the direction of Mile End for a march out. No obstruction caused.

Dec. 1st 1893. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 6pm finding a horse and covered van loaded with tea & sugar, straying in High Street Whitechapel belonging to James Hensman 31 Chapel Street Islington. PC took the same to Leman Street when Henry Hansford 48 Albany Cottages Popham Street Islington came and stated that he was the carman and that he had left it outside of Denhams tea dealers 128 High Street Whitechapel whilst he delivered a parcel and when he returned it was gone.

Dec 4th 1893. PC 225 H Roberts reports that at 10.30pm finding the gate of stables (adjoining 103 New Road Whitechapel) insecurely fastened. PC called Frederick Drube 26 Charlotte Street Whitechapel the occupier who came and secured same and stated that all was correct.

Decr. 20th 1893. P.C. 225H Roberts reports that at 1.30am finding insecurely fastened the shop of no 12 Fieldgate Street Whitechapel. PC called the occupier Samuel Bernstein who came and stated that every thing was all correct, and that it was his own neglect in not securely fastening same.

Feburary 6th 1894. Patrick Mahoney 41 no home Drunk & Disorderly 2/6 or 3 days.

February 14th 1894. Edward Russell 24 of 4 North East Passage St Georges E, wilful damage by breaking windows. 14 days H.L.

March 5th 1894. William Wood 28 of 4 Norfolk Buildings Leman Street. Cutting and wounding. Discharged. Prosecutor not appearing.

March 8th 1894. PC 225H Reports that at 3.30pm Henry Smith 94 Back Church Lane Whitechapel came with a lunacy removal order and ask for assistance to convey his wife Dinah Smith 17 Black Lion Yard Whitechapel to Bakers Row Infirmary she having been ordered there by the relieving Officer. Joseph Easgles. PC with assistance of PC161 assisted him, (she being very violent) in H.C. no 10603 Drivers badge no 11338 from Whitechapel Road to Bakers Row. no expenses incurred.

March 12th 1894. Ellen Wright age 40 of 3 George St Spitalfields. Drunk & Disorderly in the Whitechapel Road. Fined 2/6 or 3 days.

March 15th 1894. Alfred Steward age 7 of Farling Street St Georges Begging in the Whitechapel Road. Remanded to 22nd. Observation till 17th May.

March 18th 1894. PC 225H Reports that at 10.40am a procession of about 100 Jewish tailors accompanied with a brass band and 3 banners started from Fieldgate Street and proceeded through Greenfield St. Commercial Road, Philpot Street. where they were joined by 25 men with 2 banners, and then proceeded through Walden Street, New Road, Bakers Row to Bucks Row, where they intended to hold a meeting. PC left them with PCs 449J & 119J. No obstruction caused.

March 19th 1894. PC 225H Reports that at 2.30pm a horse attached to M.S.C. Tram Plate no 1507 Drivers Badge no 21554, and conductors Badge no 9960, belonging to the N.M.J Compny. was taken with the slagers in the Whitechapel Road and backed onto the pavement damaging some skirting and blinds and breaking a wooden stand goods of G M Keilor 68 Whitechapel Road, who estimated the damange at £1.7.6. Witnessed by Henry Cain 36 Chalgrove Road Hackney, also by PC reporting. While taking particulars of above Mr Keilor complained of a man who had represented himself to him to be a Police Constable, but refused to charge him for same. Description age about 36 hgt 5ft 10ins Com & moustache fair eyes grey dress grey coat and vest, light check trousers lace boots. black hard felt hat, can by identified by PC reporting.

March 22nd 1894. Ellen Taylor age 27 no home Drunk and Disorderly in High Street Whitechapel. Discharged on her promising to go to the workhouse.

March 24th 1894. PC 225H Roberts reports that at 4pm a horse and van no 12 belonging to Henry Gommis 20 Walters Street Bethnal Green and driven by Henry Kettle 40 Moody Street Bancroft Road Mile End, was proceeding down the Whitechapel Road collided with and upset a coster's barrow loaded with almonds belonging to John Rigby 40 Clark Street Mile End, slightly damaging same, Witnessed by PC reporting.

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March 27th 1897. Harry Harrison age 21 of 43 Myrdle Street Coml. Road E. Drunk etc 2/6 on 29th inst. F Mead Esq.

April 3rd 1897. William Hayes age 22 of 31 Prince's Square St Georges E. Dr etc 5/ or 5 days F Mead Esq.

May 19th 1898. William Brompton age 19 Smith Lodging House Pearl Street Spitalfields a labourer hgt 5ft 4ins Comp dark hair dark brown. eyes grey, scar under right eye cross inside left forearm horseshoe whip and T on outside left fore arm in blue ink 2 scald marks on left forearm. for stealing a pair of boots. Bound over to come up if called upon & Sent to Mr Wheatley's Home.

May 19th 1897. George Spong 327 Mile End Road reported for riding a bicycle without a light fined 3/ & 2/ cost.

June 1st 1897. Thomas Nosworthy 5 Mountford Street Reported for allowing a dog to be at large without a muzzle etc and also for using obscene language. Fined 2/ & 2/ costs for obscene language, 5/ & 2/ costs for dog unmuzzled.

June 2nd 1897. William Wickings age 35 and Annie Wickings age 31 of 7 Bedford Road Clapham. Dk. Disly. Ect. Fined 2/6 or 3 days etc.

June 10th 1897. Thomas Chattaway age 42 of 9 Wainwright Place Wapping for assault. Bound over.

July 5th 1897. Joseph Hyams. St George's Street E. Disorderly & assault. Fined 40/ & 7/6 costs.

Novr. 18th 1897. James Bardell 18 Upper East Smithfield age 25 Dk & Dis etc. Fined 2/6 or 3 days Henry Tanner 17 Essex Street Mile End attempt to rescue. Bound over in £5.

January 23rd 1898. Frederick Impey 6 Emma Terrace Leytonstone for wilful damage breaking window. 1 month H.L.

Feby. 27th 1898. George Seagroatt age 49 of 39 Coutts Road Bow. suspected person found on a building in course of erection. Discharged.

March 16th 1898. John Murphy age 28 no home Dk & Dis. Fined 2/6 or 1 day.

March 18th 1898. John Crompton age 28 no home Dk etc Fined 15/7 & 7/6 costs.

March 26th 1898. Alfred Moore 10 Alfred Stret Bow reported for using and van with no name & address thereon. Fined 5/ & 2/ costs.

April 23rd 1898. Alfred Chittick 1 Garden Place, Colts Lane Bethnal Green, drunk whilst in charge of a pair horses & van. Fined 10/ F Mead.

May 18th 1898. William Errington age 43 Seaman Dk Etc Fined 2/6 or 3 days.

June 22nd 1898. Joseph Davies age 17 no home. stealing a pair of shoes, a painters labourer hgt 5ft 2 Comp & hair fair eyes blue, little finger on right hands deformed right calf of leg swollen. Previous convictions 23/3/98 1 month HL. Worship Street P.C. Larceny simple. PC113 Eade & 30/4/97 14 days H.L. for stealing fowls from an outhouse. Worship Street PC. P.S. 30H. Sentenced to 10 weeks H.L. 29/6/98. Thames Police Ct. Mr Cluer.

August. 9th 1989. Louisa Robinson age 26 of 125 Pennington Street. Dk & etc. Discharged J. Dickenson Esq.

August 13th 1898. Charles Tanner age 25 no home a labourer hgt 5ft 2 1/2 Comp sallow eyes blue hair dark brown, marks from abscess under both ears. Scar on right elbow scar on left shin. C.T. on right wrist E. Poole forget me not, outside left forearm. Emma my love & dot inside left forearm for stealing a watch value 10/ from Morris Steel 115 New Road at 10.30pm 13 Aug. Remanded to 20th and then committed for trial Sept 6th 1898. Previous conviction after P.C.s proved at Thames Police Court by P.S. George Lambert CO C.J.D. for Housebreaking Etc at the NLS of 18 months H.L. in name of Tanner on 2/3/96 after Previous convictions see over next page *

August. 16th 1898. Frank O'Keefe age 48 hgt 5ft 4ins Comp fresh eyes hazel hair dark whiskers & moustache brown slight scar on bridge of nose for stealing a book value 6d. Sentenced to 7 days H.L. at Worship Street. F Dickenson.

* Re Charles Tanner alias Edward Vernon & Charles Green. Thames Police Court 12/3/94 Larceny Person 3 months in name of Charles Tanner or Edward Vernon. N.L.S. 6/2/95 Housebreaking 9 C months, in name of Tanner ditto. N.L.S. 2/3/96 Housebreaking 18 C. months in name of C Tanner. N.L.S. 6/9/98 Larceny Person & Receiving 12 C. months in name of Charles Tanner. Southwark P.C. 26/7/00 Prevention of Crimes Act. 6 months in name of Charles Green. also two summary convictions as a Rogue & Vagabond. C.C.C 12/1/03 Robbery 4 years P.S. in name of Charles Green. PC 216H. Office no 2366 (1899).

THE VICTORIAN LARDER

Baker's Dozen

By JANE CORAM

"Have you seen the Muffin-man, the Muffin-man, the Muffin-man? Have you seen the Muffin-man who comes from Drury Lane?" Well, probably not, but he would have been a very common sight in the streets of London back in 1888, accompanied by the tinkling of his melodious little bell. The ringing of the Muffin-man's bell was actually prohibited by an Act of Parliament in the 1840's for some inexplicable reason, but was sensibly ignored by all self-respecting Muffin-men, presumably because he found his customers were quite unnerved by his sneaking up on them unheralded.

Of course the basic ingredients of flour, water and a dollop of yeast could provide a plethora of consumables for the seemingly voracious appetites of East Enders in 1888. The average Joe or Joan on the street back then was really spoilt for choice to the point of utter confusion. Apart from muffins, those who fancied a quick nibble could enjoy such delights as buns of every shape, size and variety, tarts (of the round crusty variety, rather than the two legged, cuddly kind), pastries, and cakes, which, although pitted with dirty thumb prints and garnished with flies, were still pretty tasty.

Muffin Man circa 1885



The term 'Bakers Dozen' originated with the buying and selling of goods like muffins and crumpets. Bread and similar commodities were sold by weight and if the individual items were a mite on the small side, the baker would put in an extra one to make up the weight—the equivalent of the 20% extra in Tesco's today, but without the posh packaging. If there were any left unsold at the end of the day, a coffee-shop would buy them cheaply, and sell them the next morning with a beverage. Most of the street-sellers gave thirteen, and some even fourteen, to the dozen; especially if the purchase was made early in the day, as they could then go and get a further supply for the day and make more money.

The street-trade in bread was not so extensive as might be expected when you consider it was the mainstay of most diets in the East End at that time. The street bread-sellers were generally confined to Petticoat-lane and the poorer districts in that neighbourhood. In the richer areas the provisions, of course, were delivered to the back door by the tradesman, straight to the kitchen staff—hence the term Tradesmens' Entrance.

The street bread-sellers would go round to the bakers' shops about Stepney, Mile-End, and Whitechapel, and purchase the stale bread—usually left over from the day before—which they could buy cheaply and take out and sell to the less discerning consumers on the street, who were grateful to get a good deal and were not too worried about having to chew a bit harder to get it down. The cost would be a great deal lower than the shop prices. Practically all of the street sellers of bread were brought up as bakers, so they had contacts in the trade and knew where to go to get a good deal.

Surprisingly enough, many of them became street sellers not because they had fallen on hard times and lost their jobs, but because work in

bakeries was so hard that they would rather be on the streets selling. Life in the bakeries was almost a slave's lot; the working conditions were intolerable and very bad for the health. It was always night work, in a room with hardly any air, the heat unbearable from the oven, and only sacks to sleep on when they rested. Most of the 'journeymen' bakers, as they were called, spent far more time in the workplace than at home, and most of their marriages suffered for it. Almost all journeymen bakers resorted to alcohol for comfort and became rank alcoholics. It was hardly any man's dream job. Also, it was a vast improvement being outside even in the cold weather, breathing moderately fresh, if smoggy, air and being able to move about freely.

Their customers were invariably poor, and forced to live on stale bread; but for the average working man with a large family stale bread went a great deal further. Surprisingly enough, the sellers did extend credit to some customers—although presumably at their discretion—knowing that a man with a large family could well have money one week from casual labour but not the next, and the kids still needed feeding. It seems to be an old, established custom in the East End to allow people to have things 'on tick'. Heaven knows we would have starved as kids if Nan hadn't had an arrangement with the local traders to pay them when she could. It seems the bread-sellers of the LVP were not inhuman monsters and even gave the staler bread away sometimes to those that really were destitute, if it was too dry to sell even to the poorest of his customers.

A good muffin-seller would be able to shift three dozen muffins in a day at $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. each, and twice as many crumpets. The profit on the three dozen was 1s., but that was barely enough for a person to live on even at subsistence level. Four pence for rent, some for food and a little for gin or beer and it didn't go far. Muffin-sellers would be amongst the lowest paid of the street vendors, however, and had a pretty hard time making ends meet. The average wage for a muffin-man would be 4s a week. Just enough to pay the rent on a single, very run down room in a tenement building. This was why the profession was mainly confined to boys or old men, who lived in with a family supported by a principal wage earner. If a boy could take home 4s a week to his mother it at least paid the rent for the week, and would make the difference between them having a roof over their heads or being out on the streets. With families sometimes living ten to a room, if each of the children went out and earned a few shillings a week it all added together and made life at least tolerable.

The muffin-man carried his wares in a basket, wrapped in warm flannel to retain the heat, although they would be toasted again when the buyer got them home and liberally spread with butter to make a delicious breakfast snack. Nowadays when people think of muffins they are more likely to think of the fruit muffins that are in the shops today. The muffins sold back in the LVP were breakfast muffins, not the fruit kind. These were toasted and eaten as a breakfast snack. There is nothing quite like a warm muffin toasted over an open fire on a toasting fork, and then liberally spread with a layer of butter so that it dribbles down into all the crevices and runs over your fingers. Well worth getting your fingers burnt for.

Apart from bread and muffins, buns were a very popular commodity, and not just any old buns.

True, many of those sold on the streets would have just one or two currants, discreetly hidden in the middle in case anyone should spot them, but they could still be very tasty if the baker's hand slipped and a few more currants accidentally ended up in the mixture. Encouraged by the sight of a lump resembling a currant on the surface of the bun, the customer might be tempted to buy a few, hoping that if they bit deep enough there might be more hidden treasure inside—although most times they were disappointed.

Buns were commonly divided into three classes; Bath or twopenny, penny, and halfpenny stale, which, needless to say, wouldn't know what a currant was let alone be adulterated with any. These were sold to the very poorest; the street kids, the beggars, the destitute. Still, it filled their gnawing bellies.

Among the regular articles of these various street sellers were "Coventrys", or three-cornered puffs with jam inside; raspberry biscuits; cinnamon biscuits; "chonkeys", or a kind of mince-meat baked in crust; Dutch butter-cakes; Jews' butter-cakes; "bowlas", or round tarts made of sugar, apple, and bread; "jumbles", or thin crisp-cakes made of treacle, butter, and flour; and jams, or open tarts with a little preserve in the centre.

All these things were made for the street-sellers by about a dozen Jewish pastry-cooks, most of whom resided around Whitechapel. All-in-all, a vast, thriving industry flourished in the area at the time, supplying the populace with far more than just bread and staples. Far from just living on bread and potatoes, even the poorest had a vast choice of affordable fancies; maybe not Haute Cuisine, but certainly a naughty nibble was on the menu now and again.

Here, then, is just about the best recipe I've found for currant buns, just as they were made back in 1888, but with lashings of big juicy currants.

Traditional Currant Buns

50g./2oz. sugar
15g./1/2oz. yeast
300ml./10fl.oz. tepid milk
450g./1lb. flour
5ml./1 teaspoon salt
2.5 ml./1/2 teaspoon ground mixed spice
5ml./1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
50g./2oz. butter
50g./2oz. sultanas
50g./2oz. currants
1 egg, beaten

Glaze

15ml./1 tablespoon sugar dissolved in 15 ml./1 tablespoon hot water

Mix 5 ml./1 teaspoon of sugar, the yeast and 30ml./2 tablespoons of tepid milk to a paste. Set aside in a warm place for 15 minutes or until the mixture is frothy. I use the airing cupboard if it's warm, or on a window ledge over a radiator—not too hot though because it will kill the yeast. If it doesn't froth up, try somewhere else! It is a bit of an art finding the right warm place for bread and bun making, but once you've found it, then it becomes forever more a shrine to baking.

Sift the flour, salt and spices into a large warmed bowl. Rub in the butter. Stir in the remaining sugar and dried fruit. Add the egg, yeast mixture and remaining tepid milk and mix to a soft dough. Now by soft, I mean soft. You might think that it's too runny, but if you've stuck to the recipe, it isn't.

Cover and set aside in a warm place again for 40 minutes or until the dough has doubled in size.

Knead the dough for 8 minutes, or until it is smooth and elastic. It is still quite stretchy at this point. That's how it's supposed to be.

Roll and shape the dough into about 15 thick bun shapes. Put them on a well-greased baking sheet and set aside in that same warm place for 15 minutes. Bake for about 20 minutes. Brush the glaze over the tops of the buns. Cool on a wire rack. (I use the grill rack)

Enjoy.



Sources: Harper's new monthly magazine, August 1851; The Morning Chronicle: Labour and the Poor, 1849-50; Henry Mayhew - Letter XIV; London Labour and the London Poor; 1851, 1861-2; Henry Mayhew.

CHRIS SCOTT's

Press Trawl

The People (Weekly) UK

14 October 1888

EXTRAORDINARY FATALITY TO A BUTCHER.

Some excitement was created in Spitalfields on Friday morning by a report which rapidly spread that a man had been found with his body greatly mutilated. The excitement increased when it was suggested that the man was a victim of the unknown Whitechapel murderer. Upon inquiry, however, it was found that the unfortunate man who was by trade a butcher, was cutting a quarter of beef into joints, when his knife slipped, inflicting a very serious wound in the abdomen. He was conveyed in great pain to the London Hospital, where he died shortly afterwards.

THE EAST END MURDERS.

Latest Particulars.

The Police Despondent.

The lapse of time naturally diminishes the prospect of the discovery of the Whitechapel murderer, and from statements made to a reporter by a detective officer on Friday evening, the police are absolutely hopeless of any practical result attending their inquiries. No attempt is made to disguise the fact that arrest following upon arrest, and all equally fruitless, have produced in the official minds a feeling almost of despair. A corps of detectives left Lemn street on Friday morning, and the officer under whose direction they are pursuing their investigations had in his possession quite a bulky packet of papers, all relating to information supplied to the police, and all, as the detective remarked, "amounting to nothing." "The difficulty of our work," he said, "is much greater than the public are aware of. In the first place there are hundreds of men about the streets answering to the vague description of the man who is 'wanted' and we cannot arrest everybody. The reward offered for the apprehension of the murderer has had one effect - it has inundated us with descriptions of persons into whose movements we are expected to inquire for the sole reason that they have of late been noticed to keep rather irregular hours and to take their meals alone. Some of these cases we have sent men to investigate, and the persons, who it has proved have been unjustly suspected have been very indignant - and naturally so too. The public would be exceedingly surprised if they were made aware of some of the extraordinary suggestions received by the police from outsiders. Why, in one case," the officer laughingly remarked, "it was seriously put to us that we should carefully watch the policeman who happened to be on the particular beat within the radius of which either of the bodies were found. The amount of work done by the detectives throughout this series of crime has been enormous. We do not expect that the batch of inquiries to be undertaken today will lead to any more satisfactory result than those of previous days." It is probable that the tragic fate of the woman who had been locked up for drunkenness, and was discharged from Bishopsgate Police Station at one o'clock on the morning of the murder, will result in a new regulation for such cases. Members of the detective force consider that one o'clock in the morning is a very improper hour to turn a half sober woman from a police cell into the street, and that she ought to be kept in custody until six or seven o'clock in the morning, at which time there would be a better chance of her getting home unmolested. There is a prevailing opinion among the detectives engaged in the case, that the writing on the wall to which reference was made at the inquest on the woman Eddowes, should on no account have been erased, but ought to have been carefully guarded until a copy of it had been secured.

Singular Arrest in Belfast.

Shortly before twelve o'clock on Thursday night, a man who gives his name as John Forster, was arrested in Belfast on suspicion of being the Whitechapel murderer, and refusing to give a satisfactory account of himself. The prisoner, who was found lodging at the house of Samuel Beatty, Memel street, had in his possession a bag containing a large knife and three razors. One of the latter bears marks of blood. the man is about 30 years of age, 5ft. 8in. or 9in. high, of slight build, and fair complexion, and is shabbily dressed. He had also close upon £20. He stated to the police that he had been in Belfast since last Sunday. Previously he was two days in Glasgow, and before that two days in Edinburgh; but he declines to give further information regarding himself. The prisoner was brought before the Belfast magistrates on Friday.

Police constable Edward Carle, who made the arrest, said the accused would give no further account of himself than that he was the son of a London brewer, that he had an income, and that he had been in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Greenock. Among articles found upon him were a large clasp knife and chisel, three razors, and a table knife. Further evidence went to show that the accused who first gave the name of William John Foster, but afterwards said it was John Foster, had informed the police that he was a watchmaker, but did not work at his trade. The prisoner wore a white turned down collar, marked with supposed blood stains upon it.

He was remanded for a week.

A Suspected Man in Hospital.

A report was current late on Thursday night that the police have good reasons to suspect a man who is at present a patient in an East end infirmary. He was admitted since the commission of the last murder, and owing to his suspicious behaviour and other circumstances, the attention of the authorities was directed to him. Detectives are making inquiries relative to his actions before being admitted to the infirmary, and he is kept under constant and close surveillance.

THE HORRIBLE MURDERS IN WHITECHAPEL AND WHITEHALL.

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Thieves' Candles: A Strange Superstition.

A Vienna correspondent states that Dr. Bloch, a member of the Austrian Reichsrath for the (missing section)

in statutes of a more recent date, punishments are prescribed for the mutilation of female victims, with the object of making organs, the so called Diabslichter, or Schlaflichter, respectively "thieves' candles," or "soporific candles." According to an old superstition, still rife in various parts of Germany, the light from such candles will throw those upon whom it falls into the deepest slumbers, and they may, consequently, become a valuable instrument to the thieving profession. Hence their name. In regard to these schlaflichter, quite a literature might be cited. They are referred to by Ave Lallement in his "Das Deutsche Gaunerthum," published at Leipsic in 1858; by Löffler, in "Die Mangelhafte Justiz;" by Thiele, and numerous others. They also played an important part in the trials of robber bands at Odenwald and in Westphalia, in the years 1812 and 1841 respectively. The schlaflichter were heard of, too, at the trial of the notorious German robber, Theodor Unger, surnamed "the handsome Charley," who was executed at Magdeburg in 1810. It was on that occasion discovered that a regular manufactory had been established by gangs of thieves for the production of such candles. That this superstition has survived amongst German thieves to the present day was proved by a case tried at Biala, in Galicia, as recently as 1875. In this the body of a woman had been found mutilated in precisely the same way as were the victims of the Whitechapel murderer. At that trial, as at one which took place subsequently at Zeszow, which is also in Galicia, and in which the accused were a certain Ritter and his wife, the prevalence among thieves

of the superstition was alluded to by the Public Prosecutor. In the Ritter case, however, the Court preferred harping on another alleged superstition of a ritual character among the Jews of Galicia, which, however, was shown to be a pure invention of the Judenheter. Dr. Bloch, who for ten years was a Rabbi in Galicia, and has made the superstitions of that province his special study, affirms that the "thieves' candle" superstition still exists among robbers of every confession, and, as he believes, also of every nationality. He considers, however, that it prevails most among German thieves. Among other German laws where the crime in question is dealt with, the Code Theresina, chap. XXII, clause 52, may be referred to.

CHARGE OF MUTILATING A SHEEP.

A farmer named John Barry, on the property of Mr. Hutchins, at Lyredane, near Mallow, has been charged with having mutilated a sheep, the property of Denis Kempey, a tenant on the same estate, who also filled the position of rent warner. Barry, who had not paid his rent, was recently notified of his landlord's intention to dispossess him. A man named Keefe states that while he lay concealed he saw Barry commit the outrage. Keefe went to Barry's house and told his wife what had happened; whereupon she replied, "May bad luck and misfortune attend him that he did not kill yourself instead of the sheep, for it is long ago you deserved it." When Barry was arrested, a pen knife, stained with blood and with wool adhering to it, was found in his possession.

A Govan young man, named Michael Divine, flourished a penknife, and declared he was "Jack the Ripper," a little exploit which the magistrate rewarded with a fine of three guineas.

WATCHING FOR THE WHITECHAPEL MURDERER.

James Phillips, aged 37, and William Jarvis, 40, cab washers, of Hackney road, were charged before Mr. Bros, at the Clerkenwell Police Court on Tuesday, with being concerned together in cutting and wounding Detective sergeant Robinson, of the G Division, in Phoenix place, St. Pancras, early that same morning. Jarvis was further charged with cutting and wounding Henry Doncaster, a private person, on the same occasion. The heads of both prisoners were bound with blood stained bandages, and the face of Sergeant Robinson had surgeon's straps upon wounds around the left eye. Mr. Ricketts, solicitor, appeared for the prisoners.

Detective sergeant Robinson said that between twelve and one o'clock on Tuesday morning he was on duty, disguised in female clothing, and in company with Detective sergeant Mather, in ordinary dress. A man named Doncaster and several Italians were watching the actions of a man who was in company with a woman under circumstances of which he had suspicion. They were in Phoenix place. About twenty minutes to one two men (not the prisoners) came up to him and asked him what he was doing there. He answered that he was a police officer, and they went away. Shortly afterwards Jarvis came up to him, and asked, "What are you messing about here for?" Witness took off his woman's hat and answered, "I am a police officer," and added that the other men were with him. Jarvis said, "Oh, you are cats and dogs, are you?" and struck him a violent blow with his fist. He seized Jarvis by the coat, but Jarvis pulled out a knife, and stabbed him over the left eye. He fell to the ground, and Jarvis again stabbed him, as he lay, on the bridge of his nose. Lying on his back, witness drew his truncheon and struck Jarvis's hand, which held the knife, but the blow so intended missed the hand and struck Jarvis on the head. The prisoner Phillips then kicked him (witness) on the arm, and again in the ribs. Both prisoners ran away, and directly afterwards he saw Jarvis strike Doncaster (who had been assisting witness) on the face, and Doncaster cried out, "I am stabbed." Jarvis then called out, "Come on, George, cats and dogs," and several men came out of the cab yard with pitchforks and other implements, but did not use them. Several constables had by this time arrived, and the prisoners were taken into custody.

Mr. Ricketts, in asking for bail, said he expected to be able to show that the struggle was caused by misunderstanding, owing to the failure to inform the prisoners that Robinson was a constable.

Mr. Bros remanded the prisoners, refusing bail.

The Bermondsey Story.

The City police state that there is no truth whatever in the story that a man, supposed to be an American, had been arrested or was being followed in Bermondsey, and that no such statement as reported had been made at the City detective office.

The Belfast Arrest.

At Belfast, on Friday, John Foster was charged on remand with being connected with the Whitechapel murders. Evidence was given that the chain and locket in his possession had been stolen from a house in the vicinity of Bootle. Prisoner, who is wanted for housebreaking, was remanded for another week for further inquiries.

"Jack the Ripper" In Islington.

The police at Commercial street report that on Friday afternoon a strange man was observed in Islington to write upon a wall, "I am Jack the Ripper." He was pursued but was lost sight of.

STRANGE DISCOVERY AT PECKHAM.

It transpired on Saturday that on Thursday evening a boy, named Alfred Tomlinson, living at 102 Cator street, Peckham, was walking along the Sumner road when he noticed a parcel lying in the gutter. His curiosity led him to examine it, and he was alarmed to find it contained bones. He took the parcel to his employer - Mr. Brown, a hairdresser, of the Sumner road - who called in a police constable, and all three went to the police station in High street, Peckham. The divisional surgeon, Dr. Phelps, was fetched, and it is understood that as the result of his examination the conclusion as arrived at that the bones were those of a woman's arm. Mr. Woodman, the coroner's officer, was communicated with, and the bones were removed to the Camberwell mortuary. Mr. Wyatt, the coroner, has been informed of the discovery, but as yet no further action has been taken in the matter. A belief largely prevails that the discovery is the outcome of a stupid practical joke indulged in by a medical student.

"Jack the Ripper," having entirely failed to carry out his murderous undertakings, let him be known for the future as "Jack the Liar." The only thing he ever rips is the truth; he certainly mutilates that awfully.

Model lodging houses for the very poor; will not some Peabody arise to bring them into existence? I mean places where necessitous people could find decent lodging for a single night as they do at present at the common lodging houses, with the decency omitted. It would be necessary, however, for obvious reasons, to make it an inflexible rule that the sexes should be separated, whether married or not. There would be little hardship in that; at the common lodging houses the charge for two occupying the same bed is always twice that for a single lodger. Apart from this, the code of regulations should be as elastic as possible. Otherwise, the model houses would stand a good chance of remaining untenanted.

WOUNDING IN WHITECHAPEL.

An exciting scene occurred on Saturday in Leman street, Whitechapel. A young man named McCarthy was in the Star Coffee House, and a dispute arising, it is alleged that he struck and wounded another man present; though it is not stated that the injury was inflicted with a knife. The offender was seized by two police officers and a desperate struggle was maintained all the way to the police station, the officers and their prisoner going down several times. A large crowd assembled. The man was ultimately placed in the dock and charged.

A SENSATIONAL RUMOUR IN BERMONDSEY.

Some sensation was caused in Bermondsey on Thursday morning by a rumour to the effect that another horrible tragedy had been committed in that district, a woman having been found with her throat cut. The story, which proved to be unfounded, had its origin in the fact that at an early hour a drunken woman fell upon the kerbstone of the pavement in one of the thoroughfares of Bermondsey, and injured her chin. She was discovered lying in the gutter in a semi conscious state, blood flowing from her chin. It was found, on examination, that she was not seriously injured.

CONFESSION OF A MURDER AT WESTMINSTER.

A man giving the name of William Russell, and stating that he was discharged a week ago from an American ship, the National Eagle, at the Victoria Docks, Liverpool, had given himself up to the police at Maidenhead, accusing himself of having committed a murder in London on the night of the 12th inst. He says that on the night in question he had been drinking with a woman, whom he calls "Annie." They subsequently quarrelled, and he threw the woman over the parapet of Westminster Bridge into the Thames. He then ran away, and has since been hiding at Kew and Windsor. Haunted, however, by the belief that he was being hunted down, he became so uneasy that he could get no rest, and consequently surrendered himself to the police. He described the woman as rather good looking, of dark complexion, and rather stout - "the type," he says, "of a London girl." Russell was detained by the police, and late on Sunday night the attention of Sergeant Mead was attracted by a strange gurgling sound, as of some one suffocating. The officer went to the room where the prisoner was confined, and found him black in the face from an attempt to strangle itself. He had tied a silk handkerchief tightly round his throat, the sergeant arriving just in time to remove it and save the man's life. He was charged before the magistrates on Monday with attempting to commit suicide, and remanded for a week for inquiries to be made.

Another Arrest.

Another man was on Thursday morning arrested in Whitechapel by the police on information received, on suspicion of being concerned in the East end murders. He is about 35 years of age, and has recently been living in Whitechapel. He is somewhat confused as to his whereabouts lately, and will be detained pending inquiries.

Strange Discovery.

A very mysterious incident, in connection with the arrest of the man at King street Police Station, Westminster, whose apprehension is reported elsewhere, transpired on Thursday. It appears that on Monday the man went into the shop of Messrs. Bellamy Bros., Railway Approach, Charing Cross, and after a brief but somewhat incoherent chat with Mr. Batchelor, the manager, he suddenly placed a black bag on the counter, and left the shop. The incident has come to the knowledge of the police authorities, but up to the present they thought it prudent to regard the affair as a secret. The bag contained a razor, a dagger (which bore more or less recent marks of blood stains), several miscellaneous but almost valueless odds and ends, together with a broken piece of looking glass and a small piece of soap. It is regarded as somewhat suspicious that these latter articles are similar to those found on one of the Whitechapel victims.

Mr. Batchelor's Statement.

Mr. R. Batchelor has made the following statement:-

"He was such a mysterious looking person that I could not make him out at all, but it was not until after he left the shop that it somehow occurred to me that his mind was unhinged from some cause or other, and then the Whitechapel murders and the affair at Whitehall came across my mind. It was from reading the special edition of last night's Echo that I felt convinced the black bag was an incident worth mentioning. Well, as soon as the man came into the shop he took out a pencil and commenced to write some words which no one could read. Then he straightened himself up, remarked, "You must not be surprised to hear I'm Jack the Ripper - I'm a most mysterious man," and darted out of the shop. He made use of the expression, "I'm used to cutting people up, and can put them together again. The police are all disguised, and wherever I go I meet them." He looked to me like a doctor or a doctor's assistant, but was rather shabby." The razor and dagger found in the bag have been examined by Dr. Bond.

A Reassuring Rumour.

There are said to be indications in official circles that at no period during the search for the miscreant has there been so much chance of an arrest as at the present moment. From more than one source the police authorities have received information tending to show that the criminal is a foreigner, who was known as having lived within a radius of a few hundred yards from the scene of the Berner street tragedy. The very place where he lodges is asserted to be within official cognisance. If the man be the real culprit he lived some time ago with a woman by whom he has been accused. Her statements are, it is stated, now being inquired into. In the meantime the suspected assassin is "shadowed." Incriminating evidence of a certain character has already been obtained, and, should implicit credence be placed in the woman already referred to, whose name will not transpire under any circumstances until after his guilt is prima facie established, a confession of the crimes may be looked for at any moment. The accused is himself aware, it is believed, of the suspicions entertained against him.

Another Clue Gone Wrong.

A large number of conflicting rumours in connection with the murders in the East end have been spread abroad from day to day with reference to the movements of suspicious characters, who are stated to be under the close supervision of the police. There is little, however, to all these stories which indicates that the police have succeeded to any appreciable extent in tracking the author of the crimes. The net result, indeed, seems to be that a really important clue has yet to be obtained. Some importance has been attached by the police to the arrest made at King street Police Station on Tuesday morning. the man arrested entered the police station about nine o'clock and complained of having lost a black bag. While the officials were taking note of the case he began to talk about the women murdered in Whitechapel, and offered to cut off the sergeant's head, and spoke in a rambling, nonsensical manner. In answer to a question as to what his business was, he said he had studied some years for the medical profession, but gave it up for engineering, and that he had been staying for some nights in coffee houses. His talk became of such a rambling character that Dr. Bond, the divisional surgeon, was sent for, who examined him, and pronounced him to be a very dangerous lunatic, with a homicidal tendency. the person is described as resembling the description of the person last seen with the women at the East end on different occasions. He was dressed in a serge suit, with a hard felt hat, and

is of a very strong build. Although he gave his age as 67, he looks much younger. Before his removal to Bow street, photographs were taken of him. He was also asked to write his name, and it is stated the writing is somewhat similar to that of letters received by the police and others. The detectives have been tracing the man's antecedents and his recent movements. The latest inquiries seem to show that there is no evidence forthcoming likely to connect him with these crimes. In July last the man was brought up at Lambeth Police Court on a charge of being abroad as a person of unsound mind, and the magistrate ordered his removal to Lambeth Infirmary. He subsequently left that institution and since August 15th he has lodged at a coffee house in the Westminster Bridge road. The keeper of the house states that the man has slept there every night without exception up to Monday of the present week.

Might Have Been Important.

It has now transpired that from the very morning of the Berner street and Mitre square murders the police have had in their possession a shirt saturated with blood. It is said to have been left in a house in Batty street after the murders. Having regard to the position of this house, its close proximity to the yard in Berner street, where the crime was committed, and to the many passages and alleys adjacent, there seems to be at least ground for the suspicion entertained by the police. At the inquest on Mrs. Stride, one of the witnesses deposed to having seen a man and woman standing at the junction of Fairclough and Berners streets early on the morning of the murder. Assuming that the man now sought was the murderer, he could have gained instant access to the house in Batty street by crossing over from the yard and traversing a passage, the entrance of which is almost immediately opposite the spot where the victim was subsequently discovered. The statement has been made that the landlady of the lodging house, 22 Batty street, the house in which the shirt was left, was, at an early hour, disturbed by the movements of her lodger, who changed some of his apparel and went away; first, however, instructing her to wash the cast off shirt by the time he returned. Although, for reasons known to themselves, the police during Saturday, Sunday, and Monday answered negatively all questions as to whether any person had been arrested, or was then in their charge, there is no doubt that a man was taken into custody on suspicion of being the missing lodger from 22 Batty street, and that he was afterwards set at liberty. The German lodging house keeper could clear up the point as to the existence of any other lodger supposed to be absent from her house under the suspicious circumstances referred to, but she is not accessible, and it is easy to understand that the police should endeavour to prevent her making any statement.

The Story of the Blood Stained Shirt.

A reporter has had an interview with the landlady of the house, 22 Batty street, Whitechapel, which place was alleged to be the resort of the owner of the blood stained shirt. The house is kept by a German woman, the wife of a seaman. She denied that the man for whom the police are searching was one of her lodgers, and asserted that he simply had his washing done at the house. He was a ladies' tailor, working for a West End house, and did not reside in the Leman street district. She explained the presence of blood on the shirt by saying that it was owing to an accident that occurred to a man (other than the one taken into custody) who was living on the premises, and that the police would have known nothing of it but for her having indiscreetly shown it to a neighbour. The woman denies that the detectives are still in possession of her house.

A Confession.

Benjamin Graham was charged on his own confession, at the Guildhall Police Court, on Thursday, with having committed the Whitechapel murders. The prisoner was brought to the Snow Hill Police Station by a man to whom he had made the alleged confession. In answer to the police officer who took the charge, the prisoner said, "I killed the woman, and I shall have to suffer for it with the rope." He was remanded.

The man who was arrested at Limavady, County Derry, on suspicion of being concerned on the London murders, has been discharged, the inquiries of the police into his movements having proved satisfactory.

The investigations made by Superintendent Farmer, of the River Tyne police, respecting a man who sailed for a French port, and whose description is stated to have corresponded with that of the Whitechapel murderer, have not resulted in any satisfactory communication to them. The matter may accordingly be dismissed as of no importance.

A man named John Williams has been remanded at Chorley on a charge of disorderly behaviour. It was stated that prisoner whilst in a public house drew a long knife from a sheath, and brandishing it said he was "Jack the Ripper," and that he intended to commit further outrages.

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

I Beg to Report

SOUND ADVICE FROM AN OLD HAND. 'To follow crime with reasonable impunity you simply must have a parallel ostensible career - the more public the better. The principle is obvious. Mr Peace, of pious memory, disarmed suspicion by acquiring a local reputation for playing the fiddle and taming animals, and it's my profound conviction that Jack the Ripper was a really eminent public man, whose speeches were likely reported alongside his atrocities. Fill the bill in some prominent part, and you'll never be suspected of doubling it with another of equal prominence.' A J Raffles in E W Hornung's *Raffles: The Amateur Cracksman* (1899).

ABBERLINE HEADSTONE DEDICATED. As we reported in this column last month, a headstone has finally been placed on the hitherto unmarked grave of Detective Inspector Frederick George Abberline and his wife at Wimborne Road Cemetery, Bournemouth. 'It's extraordinary that no headstone has been there to commemorate Abberline, considering his role in the Jack the Ripper case,' said former Metropolitan Police officer Arthur Stanners, who helped in the campaign by a group of Met officers and keen Ripperologists to mark the grave properly.

Abberline, who was born in Blandford, Dorset, retired to Bournemouth in 1910 and lived here until his death in 1929. Local historians believe a headstone was never placed on his grave because his wife died shortly after he did, and the couple did not have any children. Researchers discovered, however, that his surname had unusually been passed down through the female line. His living descendants agreed to fund-raisers buying the plot and putting up a stone.

The successor company to the Pinkerton detective agency, for which Abberline worked after leaving the Met, donated £50. Ripperologists helped with the task of finding a date of birth for Abberline's wife, Emma, who is buried alongside him. Local stone mason Matt Williams donated the headstone. Bournemouth council officer and local historian Michael Stead, who helped to put interested parties in touch with each other, said: 'Once Matt Williams, the stone mason, had come on board, which was the majority of the money, it just followed on really quickly.'

At the headstone's dedication on 6 July, Superintendent Simon Ovens, chairman of the Metropolitan Police Historical Society, said: 'The force was only about 50 years old. The detective branch had had a bad start in the eyes of the public, who thought they were undercover government agents and didn't command much respect. Abberline did a lot to bring CID into popular public focus.' He also broke the glass ceiling of his day to become Chief Inspector. 'A high rank for an officer who joined as a constable,' remarked Supt Ovens.

Father Robin Harger, vicar of St Stephen's and St Augustin's churches, officiated at the blessing of the headstone. 'Frederick Abberline will be remembered so long as the Whitechapel murders intrigue and puzzle historians and criminologists,' he said. 'We remember Emma and Frederick for their long marriage. We remember Frederick for his nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the Police and for those who have succeeded him in a London which is violent, unpredictable and dangerous.'



Abberline headstone

As he led the prayers over the grave, Father Harger said: 'In the deep darkness of alleys and streets of a late autumn night in Victorian Whitechapel, in the sunlight of 21st century Bournemouth, we are all known by God - our light and our darkness.' He remembered the East End women for whom Abberline had tried to gain justice. 'The perpetrator of these terrible crimes is remembered with a frisson of horror,' he remarked. 'The detectives who investigated them we remember with respect. But now let us remember the victims. The young girls, the anguish of their families then and their more distant families now, that we may recall the memories of their lives more than the manner of their death.'

Darren Slade, Headstone to Ripper officer to be unveiled, Daily Echo, Bournemouth, Dorset, UK, 3 July 2007; Avril Ormsby, NEWS.com.au, Australia, 4 July 2007; Headstone for Ripper-hunt officer, BBC News, 4 July 2007; Darren Slade, Ripper hero's plot is marked at last, Daily Echo, Bournemouth, Dorset, UK, 7 July 2007.

IT'S ONLY A GAME. 'The thing most in Rocca's favour is that the review panel has already cleared Jack the Ripper, Ted Bundy, Caligula and the Boston Strangler this season. For its part, the tribunal has found cases made against John Wayne Gacy, Charles Manson and Jeffrey Dahmer as without foundation and in danger of turning the game into netball.' Sports writer Patrick Smith on the possibility that Anthony Rocca, of the Australian Football League team Collingwood, must go before a review panel for having bumped Sidney player Sean Dempster violently on the head during a recent match. Some aficionados believe that taking action against Rocca would mean the game is becoming too soft.

Dud players letting down coaches, foxsports.com.au, Surry Hills, NSW, Australia, 24 June 2007.

MAYBRICK HAUNTS GOING DOWN. Cotton exchange warehouses in Front Street, Old Norfolk, Virginia, USA, are being demolished despite the protests of local preservationists. Back in the 1870s, this was a busy, bustling place of business. 'There was a cotton merchant who back in the 1880s was one of the two prime suspects for being "Jack the Ripper". And he traded cotton here in the 1880's,' recalled Amy Castleberry of the Norfolk Preservation Alliance. But the old, historic brick buildings are being torn down. 'They are wonderful buildings that we would like to see turned into restaurants and shops and pedestrian walkways,' said Miss Castleberry. She added that the Alliance has tried for years to work with F Wayne McLeskey Jr, the property owner, to find ways to keep the wrecking ball away. 'He expressed interest, but never came forward and said he wanted to do something,' she said. 'And the next thing we knew, the buildings were coming down.'



Front Street c1923

Those who want McLeskey to stop the demolition of this building say that he is destroying a part of Norfolk history. Some city leaders feel the same. 'Unfortunately we have no legal right to stop him,' said Norfolk City Councilman Barclay Winn. 'It's private land. He's well within his rights to do what he wants with it. We have no influence on him at all.' Winn added that meetings with developers have not panned out and unless McLeskey changes his mind, this architectural treasure will soon be gone. 'We've lost something really incredible for the city and we will not get it back,' lamented Miss Castleberry.

Demolition of historic buildings has preservationists up in arms, WAVY-TV - 10, Portsmouth, VA, USA, June 28, 2007.

2008 US CONVENTION NEWS. As the UK conference in Wolverhampton fast approaches, it's been announced that the usual organisers of its American cousin are taking a well-earned break. The team of Judy and Leroy Stock, Ally Reinecke and Stephen Ryder, having put together the past few events in Baltimore, have stepped down for a year. Stepping into the breach are Dan Norder, Kelly Robinson, Wolf Vanderlinden and Angela Finlay. The convention is expected to take place in the Autumn of 2008, at either Knoxville or Toronto. We wish them well, and having attended previous conventions in Baltimore, would like to tip our hat in appreciation of the sterling efforts of Judy, Leroy, Ally and Stephen.

DISLODGE THAT MAN. As is well known, famed British director Alfred Hitchcock first made a name for himself with his 1927 silent film *The Lodger*, an adaptation of Marie Belloc Lowndes's novel of the same title which was loosely based on the exploits of Jack the Ripper. Several remakes followed, including *The Phantom Fiend*, *Jack the Ripper* and *Man in the Attic*. But while they were not exceedingly vocal about being remakes of the Hitchcock classic, its latest reincarnation is at pains to claim its illustrious ancestry. Sony Pictures has entrusted a new remake of *The Lodger* to David Ondaatje, a Hitchcock admirer. Ondaatje, who will make his directorial debut with this film, will also write its script and produce. His previous credits include two films inspired by the Master of Suspense: the short *Waiting for Dr MacGuffin* and the related documentary *Undressing Hitchcock*.



Hitchcock's 1927 original

Ironically, in view of its emphasis on the Hitchcock film and the original novel, this version will not be set, like its predecessors, in London, but in Los Angeles. *The Hollywood Reporter* describes the story as 'two converging plot lines set in present-day Los Angeles. The first involves an uneasy relationship between a psychologically unstable landlady and her enigmatic lodger, and the second is about a troubled detective engaged in a cat-and-mouse game with an unknown killer.' As Jacob Gordon of *TheCelebrityCafe.com* remarks dryly, 'The remake will not, in short, be a slavish imitation.'

Clearly not everybody is enthusiastic about *The Lodger* 're-imagined as an urban thriller set in Los Angeles'. 'Give me a break,' says Ryan Stewart of Cinematical. 'I usually don't raise a fuss about the endless wave of remakes, re-imaginings, re-conceptualizings, prequels of sequels and assorted other bald-faced money-grabbing ventures Hollywood engages in, but now we're being told

that Alfred Hitchcock's 1927 film *The Lodger* is on the track for a remake! So it will be black and white? And silent? And will follow the same storyline?' Mr Stewart suspects, not unreasonably, that the producers attach Hitchcock's name to their thriller just for its financial worth.

Jeremy Smith of Cinematic Happenings Under Development (CHUD) is not any less dyspeptic about this 'Jack the Ripper-esque yarn' being entrusted to 'some novice who's been whacking off to the master's cinema for years without a finished feature to show for his fetish.' Smith adds: 'If there's one filmmaker who invites fetishism, it's Hitchcock; no one obsessed on their leading ladies and the various instruments with which they might be dispatched more ghoulishly (for instance, think of Grace Kelly grasping for the scissors in *Dial M for Murder*). So it's no surprise that the master's florid visual style a) went a long way toward inspiring the auteur theory, and b) inspired a horde of pallid imitators. But for every Brian De Palma (a genius-level filmmaker who saw in Hitchcock's stirring arias of bloodletting the stuff of boldly transgressive, and not altogether accessible, opera), there's a jackass like Kenneth Branagh who, in *Dead Again*, integrated his rudimentary (or retarded) notions of symbolism right into the production design. Though Hitchcock wasn't sneaky with his themes, he at least respected the audience enough to not literally impale them on significance in the third act.'

Smith concludes: 'Since *The Lodger* is little more than a Jack the Ripper riff, it could easily be updated and, who knows, transplanted to America to better protect Sony's investment. I've no problem with this. What's troubling, though, is the combination of writer-director David Ondaatje and producer Michael Mailer, who's very loudly produced a number of ghastly, barely releasable disasters in *Black and White*, *Harvard Man* and *Empire*.'

It doesn't look very promising, does it? Well, we'll have to wait and see. You never know.

Diane Garrett, Sony to house Ondaatje's 'Lodger', Variety, Los Angeles, CA, USA, 26 June 2007; Ondaatje Directing Sony's Lodger, The Hollywood Reporter, Hollywood, CA, USA, 27 June 2007; Tatiana Siegel, Hitchcock specialist takes in "Lodger" remake, Reuters/Hollywood Reporter, 27 June 2007; Ryan Stewart, Alfred Hitchcock's 'The Lodger' Remake Gets Director, Cinematical, Santa Monica, CA, USA, 27 June 2007; Kimberly Lovisi, Hitchcock's First Film Being Remade, TheCelebrityCafe.com, Malverne, NY, USA, 27 June 2007; Jacob Gordon, Alfred Hitchcock's sophomore feature "The Lodger" will be remade, TheCelebrityCafe.com, Malverne, NY, 27 June 2007; Jeremy Smith, The Wrong Ondaatje, Cinematic Happenings Under Development (CHUD), New York, NY, USA, 27 June 2007.

JOCK THE RIPPER. 'Queen Elizabeth has always dreaded the day when some mad Scottish descendant of Jack the Ripper takes over running the country'.

Queen Mudder, Queen 'fears for her life now that Brown's in charge' The Spoof, London, UK, 27 June 2007.

IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE. 'If we really do think that being available to be murdered actually is part of a prostitute's job, then we should perhaps be more upfront about that right from the start. An ad campaign, perhaps, featuring Jack the Ripper, with the strapline "Victorian Values". Or the more straightforward "Whores are meat".'

Caitlin Moran, Persistence pays off, unless you're selling your body, The Times, London, UK, 2 July 2007.

WHEN IRISH HEARTS ARE HAPPY. William Melville was a typical Victorian policeman. Perhaps more typical than most. He was born in 1850 in Sneem, County Kerry, Ireland. In 1872 he joined the Metropolitan Police and in 1882 the Special Irish Branch set up to combat the Fenians. Inspector Littlechild assigned him to undercover work in Le Havre, where he played an important role in foiling the Jubilee Plot, an Irish attempt to ruin Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations. Melville established a rapport with the Shah of Persia, whom he protected while on official visit, with Tsar Nicholas II of Russia, whom he guided round the criminal haunts of London, and with the great escapologist Houdini, who reportedly taught him how to pick locks.

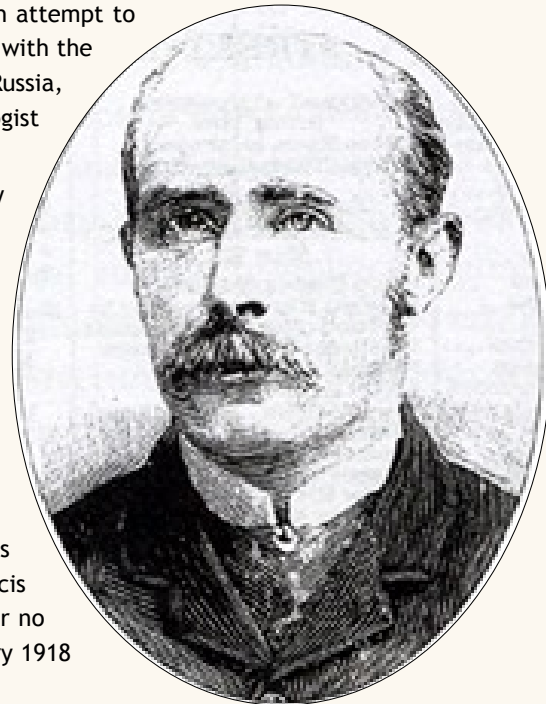
In 1903, Melville resigned from the Met and joined the War Office's new Directorate of Military Operations. He then became part of the Secret Service Bureau, the forerunner of MI5 and MI6, set up in 1909 to counter the German threat. Three years later he discovered a network of German agents. The SSB left the network in place until 1914, when they rounded them up, crippling German secret operations in Britain. According to his biographer, Andrew Cook, Melville was the inspiration for James Bond's boss, 'M'. This connection comes through Shlomo Rosenblum, better known as Sidney Reilly, an agent recruited by Melville in the 1890s. Reilly was one of the spies on whom Ian Fleming based Bond. Reilly's boss, Melville, was known as 'M'.

There is even a tenuous Ripper connection. It has been claimed that he was involved in the investigation of the Ripper murders and that he captured Dr Francis Tumblety at Le Havre but was forced to release him by the French Police. So far no evidence has been produced in support of this assertion. Melville died in February 1918 of kidney failure.

Long after Melville's birth, a major exhibition concerning his life and work is being organised at Kerry County Museum. 'Here is an Irish Catholic, who was proud of his Irish identity, defending Britain from terrorist threats that included Irish terrorism,' said Helen O'Carroll, the Museum curator. 'As a Kerryman born and bred, Melville is part of our story and to fit him in we must acknowledge that Irish identity encompassed a broader spectrum in the past as indeed we are beginning to recognise that it does in the present.' She added: 'Up to two years ago I had never heard of William Melville and I'm pretty confident I'm not alone in that.' She concluded: 'There are two reasons for this. In the first place there is the fact that he spent all of his adult career in the service of the "ancient oppressor", Britain. The second reason is because of his work in secret service. After all, the best spies are the ones we don't know about.'

Yet some think it is far too soon to honour Melville in the land of his birth. Many locals are reluctant to acknowledge a man who chose not to join the Irish insurrection but instead worked for the British against their Fenian foes. On hearing of the Melville exhibition, Robert Beasley, a local Sinn Féin councillor, was not enthusiastic about it. 'I don't think local people would want to commemorate anything to do with the British Secret Service, whether it is in the past or today,' he said. 'I don't see any reason to have him honoured,'

Tom Peterkin, Irish inspiration for Bond character M, Daily Telegraph, London, UK, 2 July 2007.



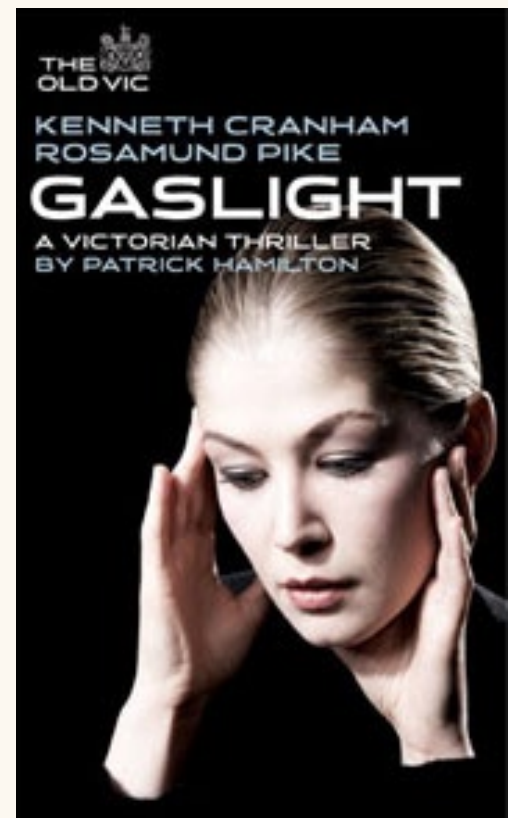
William Melville

LET THE PUNISHMENT FIT THE CRIME. 'I'd rather see Jack the Ripper get pardoned, he only killed a few women; Libby's crimes killed a spy network.' Sandy Sand (Miss) on President George W Bush's commuting of the 30-month sentence of I Lewis 'Scooter' Libby, who was convicted on Federal charges of perjury, obstruction of justice and lying to investigators.

High Crime Pays! Big Time and No Time, OpEdNews, Newtown, PA, USA, 3 July 2007.

ALL THIS AND A FEW LAUGHS TOO. 'Patrick Hamilton's 1938 murder mystery, *Gaslight*, carried its audience back several years to a time where threatening male hegemony, women in restrictive corsets and grisly Jack-the-Ripper-style characters reigned supreme.' Those were the days, right? Well, it's a matter of opinion. But seriously, the *Barking and Dagenham Post* made this evocative comment in its review of *Gaslight*, currently being revived at the Old Vic in London. The *Post* added that, '... despite the antiquated plot and the archaic outfits, Peter Gill's production held us enthralled from top to bottom. The snuff-box atmosphere was conjured to perfection with a superb cast of actors, a claustrophobic and cluttered living room backdrop and a dissonant soundtrack. Not to mention the creaky Old Vic theatre, with noisy seats and floorboards to contribute an added layer of appropriate sound effects.'

The role of the wife who fears she's going mad - which netted Ingrid Bergman an Oscar back in the forties - is limned by former Bond girl Rosamund Pike. 'Despite her character's wanton gesticulations and over-keenness to please the nasty husband,' said the *Post*, 'Pike played the part with effortless charm... and a great deal of beauty. The tentative smile, the quivering voice, the paranoid beady stare were all very believable despite being played over-the-top at times. Moreover, Pike's natural credulity ensured that we were all rooting for her character - which only served to heighten the anxiety in the build-up to the grand denouement.' There is also praise for Andrew Woodall as the cruel, sadistic husband, and Kenneth Cranham as a bathetic detective. As if it were not enough, 'it's not all gloom and doom,' says the *Post*. So you can expect a couple of laughs too. *Gaslight* is playing at the Old Vic Theatre, The Cut, Waterloo Road, London SE1, until 18 August. For tickets call the Box Office on (0870) 060 6628 or visit www.oldvictheatre.com.



Creaking floorboards give Gaslight the edge, Barking and Dagenham Post, London, England, UK, 27 June 2007.

YES, BUT CAN YOU SET IT TO MUSIC? 'Serial killers are a depthless wellspring of fascination and fear - mass murderers who act out their most perverse psychopathic fantasies, with all the attendant ritualism and savagery collectively inherited from the primal "source" in common memory, Jack the Ripper.' Peter Wilhelm in a review of the film *Zodiac*.

Searching for a cipher, Financial Mail, Cape Town, South Africa, 6 July 2007.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN. After an absence of over a year, The Riffes, Malta's most powerful and influential band, are back with a vengeance with the release of a new single entitled *Jack the Ripper*. Says the *Malta Independent*: 'The song possesses a catchy tune driven to extreme by Najju's drumming, Cooks' punchy bass line, Rayvin's ever-present rhythm guitar and Fauré's keyboards. Ray's trademark guitar riffs give the song a boost and his vocals can be considered as the best he has ever produced and invoke a spine-tingling rendition of Jack's own challenge "You won't catch me". A new ingredient, in the form of a brass section, has been added to the song which added to this unique sound and can be considered as the band's best offering to date.'

'There has always been something special about The Riffes,' says Ray. 'Our songs sound powerful and fresh as if it we have only just started playing together as a band and this song is a prime example. *Jack the Ripper* will blow your socks off!' The *Malta Independent* also tells us that the subject matter of the song is self-explanatory - a slightly humorous view, if there can be one, of the Ripper murders.

Adds music commentator Michael Bugeja later in the *Independent*: 'The new song, *Jack the Ripper*, is another straight-up dance-floor firecracker of a tune, moulded from the same Ska elements that have been part and parcel of The Riffes' musical vision from the early days. Inspired by the notorious serial killer of the same name, the single is a lighter (as in less intense) account of the stories jotted down in history books. With added brass for extra punch, *Jack the Ripper* is an effective reflection of Britain's brief but significant Two-Tone era and, for anyone who's up for a good old skank on the dance floor, an invitation to the band's upcoming live gigs, starting with the Farsons Beer Festival on Sunday, 29 July.' If you happen to be in Malta, and feel like a skank and beer, you know where to go. Tell them *Ripperologist* sent you. For more information about the band, visit www.theriffes.com.

The Riffes to launch new single, The Malta Independent, St Julian's, Malta, 5 July 2007; Michael Bugeja, Music: THE RIFFES - Jack the Ripper, The Malta Independent, St Julian's, Malta, 19 July 2007.



THE WAY YOU WEAR YOUR HAT. 'His on-stage dress-sense has been described as 90% Jack the Ripper and 10% Bay City Rollers.' From the online CV of Psycho Dave, the creation of British comedian Dave Benjamin. For those with short memories, the Bay City Rollers were a 1970s Scottish Pop/rock band who wore tartan-trimmed outfits. For a brief period known as 'Rollermania' they were a worldwide sensation. Psycho Dave's most recent appearance was at the Welsh Comedy Festival held from 7 to 14 July in Cardiff.

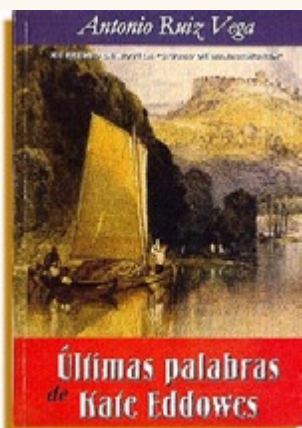
www.comedycv.co.uk/psychodave/index.htm

Claire Hill, *Just for laughs, Western Mail, ic Wales, Cardiff, Wales, UK, 6 July 2007.*



Psycho Dave

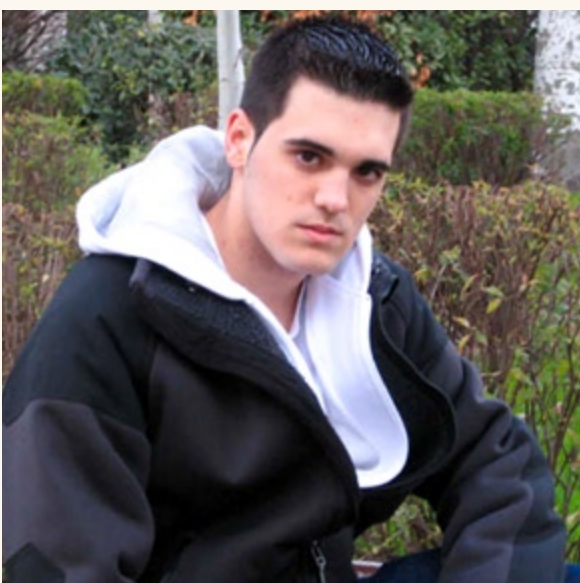
THE SPANIARDS ARE COMING, THE SPANIARDS ARE COMING. We all know the average Ripperologist is male, white, Anglo-Saxon and Protestant and lives in either Britain or the United States. The average Ripperologist, that is. But there are many, many non-average Ripperologists. A hitherto small but active group is composed of Spanish Ripperologists who have been producing a compelling body of fictional work featuring our favourite knife-wielding fiend.



Antonio Ruiz Vega was born in Ibiza, Balearic Islands, in 1955. He is the author of over 14 books on Spanish mythology, magic and ghost-lore. His contribution to Ripper fiction is *Últimas palabras de Kate Eddowes* (Kate Eddowes's Last Words), Ochoa Editores, Soria, 2006, which won the XII City of Majadahonda Prize for Novel. In a brief introduction Antonio recounts how he bought an old Gladstone bag at the Spitalfields Market.

Back in Spain, he noticed an object sewn into the bottom of the bag. He opened the lining with a knife and pulled out a small notebook covered with handwriting. Upon inspection, the notebook turned out to contain the autobiography of a woman, from her early childhood in Wolverhampton to a night spent at a cell in the Bishopsgate Police Station in London. Names and locations revealed that the author of these memoirs is none other than Katherine Eddowes...

Perhaps fate has singled out Enrique Hernández-Montaño. He was born in Madrid in 1988, the centenary of the Whitechapel murders. Like many others, he first learnt about the Ripper from the film *From Hell*. He started reading up on the subject and found, like many others before him, that the killer was not fictional but had really haunted the streets of London one hundred years before his birth. What makes Enrique special is that he didn't stop there. He didn't even stop at reading every book on the subject, forming his own conclusions or joining an Internet forum. Before turning 19, Enrique researched, wrote and published a full-length novel on the Ripper case, *Entre las sombras* (Amidst the Shadows), Nowtilus, Madrid, 2007. The story is based on the memoirs of Inspector Frederick Abberline, Nathan Grey, a former soldier, big-game hunter and hired killer, and Natalie Marvin, an unfortunate. As their narrative begins, it is the month of August, 1888. A cold, grey rain is falling and the fog is rising...



Enrique Hernández-Montaño

Enrique García Díaz follows in the best literary traditions with a pastiche pitting Sherlock Holmes against the Ripper, *El misterio de Whitechapel* (The Whitechapel Mystery). It's early in the morning of 31 August 1888, and Holmes and Dr Watson are having breakfast at 221B Baker Street. Downstairs their landlady, Mrs Hudson, admits someone into the house. A familiar voice is heard, and then heavy steps on the stairs. Someone knocks at the door. 'Come in, Lestrade,' says Holmes. The game is afoot...

So, *Ripperologist* readers, remember your Spanish soul and sharpen your Spanish skills with a different take on our foremost miscreant. For more information on Antonio Ruiz Vega's *Últimas palabras de Kate Eddowes*, go to www.soria-goig.com/Biblioteca/libros/lib_198.htm or straight to the website of Hijazo Libros at www.hijazo.com. For more information on Enrique Hernández-Montaño's *Entre las sombras*, go to the Ediciones Nowtilus website at nowtilus.com, where you may download the first chapter of the novel. If you'd rather read an adventure of the Great Detective, go to holmes.materialdescargable.com/novelas/biblioteca/whitechapel.pdf, where you may download it free of charge. ¡Qué se diviertan!



WALK DON'T RUN. Jack the Ripper, Shakespeare, Dickens and Dr Johnson have long have their London walks obediently trod by thousands of visitors every year. But a new star of the strolling and the gaping throngs is now poised to join them: Mahatma Gandhi. Indian businessman Ajay Goyal has launched the world's very first 'Gandhi walk'. Not in Delhi, Calcutta or Mumbai, though, but in London, where the Mahatma studied, lobbied for Indian independence and negotiated it. It was also in London where he developed a taste for walking. 'Gandhi often walked eight miles a day around London,' said Mr Goyal. This later generated the concept of walkathon-as-satyagraha, a peaceful act of defiance against colonial rule, culminating in Gandhi's legendary 241-mile trek to defy Britain's salt laws.

The £6-per-head walk will start at an underground train station near the Inner Temple, where Gandhi was called to the bar, and then go on to Kensington, where he once lived; Notting Hill, where he joined the Theosophists; Bayswater, where he went to church meetings; and Covent Garden. Mr Goyal was quoted in the Times of India as saying: 'I've always thought it fascinating that the minds of our greatest leaders were formed here in London and yet, London hardly commemorates this. But there's another thing. When one gets homesick you look for something that is yours, something Indian. Not food, nor film, nor Hindi film music. London's Indian connections and history is what I've found and want to share with others.' Mr Goyal added that the walk was also meant to make an Indian claim of a sort on London. 'I'm a Londoner now,' he said. 'This is my London too. This is our city from where we were ruled for more than 200 years. There is an Indian soul to London. Rabindranath Tagore, Nehru, Gandhi, all lived and learnt here.'

Ken Livingstone, the Mayor of London, has stamped his seal of approval on the 'Gandhi's London' walk and included it in his forthcoming *India Now* celebration.

Rashmee Roshan Lall, Retracing Gandhi's footsteps in London, Times of India, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 27 June 2007.

THE YELLOW TERROR? Just when we thought we'd seen everything, our attention was drawn to a page on the Flickr website dedicated to Lego minifigs - personalised versions of famous and infamous characters in the well-known plastic block format. The site features such luminaries as Santa, Britney Spears and The Village People, but as you can see from the photograph opposite, pride of place goes to Jack the Ripper and an as-yet unidentified victim. Lego was never like this when *Ripperologist* was a boy...



WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE TROUBLE? 'It is believed that Jack the Ripper, who killed and mutilated prostitutes in London's East End, displayed the clinical precision of a medical man.' Kounteya Sinha's remark was inspired by the preponderance of doctors among the suspects in the recent British terrorist attacks. Other murderous medicos Sinha remembered in this context include German physician Joseph Mengele, Hawley Harvey Crippen, Jeffrey MacDonald, Harold Shipman, America's 'Dr Death' Jack Kevorkian, H H Holmes, French physician Marcel Petiot, starvation doctor Linda Burfield Hazzard and Japanese microbiologist Shiro Ishii. Sinha's list of present-day terrorist doctors includes Al-Qaida's No 2 Ayman Al Zawahiri, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine George Habash, Hamas Gaza leader Mahmoud Zahar, the commander of Al-Qaida's Moroccan cell that provided logistics for the 9/11 attacks, Abu Hafiza, and the late founder of Islamic Jihad, Fathi Abd Al-Aziz Shiqaqi.

A brief history of docs of death, Times of India, Gurgaon, Haryana, India, 11 July 2007.

IT'S A WONDER-FULL LIFE. In ancient times several Greek sight-seers, of whom the only ones still remembered - though not that often - are the poet Antipater of Sidon and the rhetorician Philo of Byzantium, collated a list of seven architectural and sculptural marvels located in the area they knew best: the Mediterranean and the Middle East. These marvels were named the Seven Wonders of the World. They were the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes and the lighthouse of Alexandria, which replaced the Walls of Babylon. Of them only the Pyramids are still extant; all other Wonders have crumbled into dust.

In 1999, Swiss entrepreneur Bernard Weber launched a campaign to select the New Seven Wonders of the World. His Switzerland-based foundation, New7Wonders, received almost 200 nominations from all over the world. The list of candidates was narrowed down to 21 by the start of 2006. The Pyramids of Giza were then taken out of the running

and given an automatic spot following protests by indignant Egyptian officials. All in all, more than 100 million people voted by Internet or phone.

The results of the massive poll were made public on 7 July 2007 in Lisbon. The new Seven Wonders of the World are the Chichen Itza Pyramid in Yucatan, Mexico; the Colosseum in Rome, Italy; the Great Wall of China; the city of Machu Picchu in Peru; the city of Petra in Jordan; the Statue of Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; and the Taj Mahal in Agra, India. Those that didn't make it include the Acropolis in Athens, Greece; the Alhambra in Granada, Spain; the Angkor Wat temple complex in Siem Reap, Cambodia; the Statues of Easter Island, Chile; the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France; Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey; the Kiyomizu temple in Kyoto, Japan; the Kremlin and St. Basil's Cathedral in Moscow, Russia; the Castle of Neuschwanstein in Bavaria, Germany; the Opera House in Sydney, Australia; the Statue of Liberty in New York, USA; Stonehenge in Salisbury, Britain; and the city of Timbuktu in Mali. As mentioned earlier, the Pyramids of Giza retained their position among the Wonders.

But, was this the proper way to select the greatest marvels of all time? Quite a few observers disagree with both the method and the end result. New7Wonders spokeswoman Tia B Viering had earlier conceded that there was no fool-proof way to prevent people from voting more than once for their favourite wonder. She made clear, however, that most of the votes were cast via Internet in a system that registered each participant's e-mail address to discourage people from voting twice. How about national campaigns? The city of Petra in south-western Jordan – made famous by the film Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade – jumped from the middle of the list to the top seven in January and made it to the final list. According to Miss Viering, that happened largely thanks to campaigning by the Jordanian royal family and thousands of Jordanians voting by text message over their mobile phones. Other national campaigns were those in Mexico - which succeeded, inasmuch as the Chichen Itza Pyramid made the final list - and in Granada, Spain - which failed, since the Alhambra is not among the new Wonders.

Elaine Engeler and Alexander G. Higgins, New 7 wonders to be unveiled, 5 July 2007; Global vote picks new seven wonders, Independent, Pretoria, South Africa, 8 July 2007.

JACK THE RIPPER AND MIKE TYSON HONOURED. Not that Jack the Ripper. Not that Mike Tyson. The Legends game featuring former Cardinal and Cub players added two more names to the rosters in recent weeks: Jack 'The Ripper' Clark and Mike Tyson. Clark the Ripper was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in 1973. He spent 18 seasons in the big leagues, three of them with the St Louis Cardinals. The four-time all-star's best season with the Cardinals was in 1987, when he hit .286 with 35 homers and 106 RBI, helping the Cardinals win the National League Pennant. Clark was also a manager and coach with the River City Rascals. In particular, he was the manager during the Rascals' first season in the Frontier League.

Jack Clark Joins Legends Game, OurSports Central, Marshfield, WI, USA, 18 July 2007.



Capability Brown's landscaped gardens at Bowood

THE DROWNED VILLAGE OF WILTSHIRE. Two hundred and fifty years ago, the first Marquess of Lansdowne, Prime Minister of Great Britain in 1782-1783, engaged the services of leading architectural and landscape-gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1715-1783), who was nicknamed 'Capability' after he once commented that he could see the capabilities of an area for landscaping. Lord Lansdowne commissioned Brown to remove the earlier semi-formal gardens at the Bowood House in Calne, Wiltshire, the home of the Lansdowne family since 1754, and replace them with a creation of his own style. Brown designed at Bowood an open, gentle landscape, with a sinuous lake and belts of trees, considered as one of his finest works.

Yet local legend has it that Brown sacrificed a village to make way for the 45-acre artificial lake. Old maps showed a community called Manning's Hill where the lake now stands. A document entitled Wiltshire Community History mentions Manning's Hill as one of several communities which existed near Bowood in the 18th Century. It says: 'The entrance to the park at Manning's Hill was drowned by the lake.'

A team of divers which set out to solve the mystery of the lost village found the remains of buildings under the lake, including stone walls and the remnants of two cottages. Jon Dodsworth, leader of the Calne Sub-Aqua Club, said: 'We pulled up stone with paint on it, and dry stone walls. It was localised rubble.' He added: 'There's always been rumours about a drowned village at Bowood - you hear about the church spire being seen in the summer when the water is low,

although I've never spoken to anyone who has actually seen it.' The use of sonar equipment during the three one-hour dives was crucial to the divers' success. At present the team has no excavation equipment to investigate further.

Previous attempts to find the village included an unsuccessful dive by Bowood owner Lord Lansdowne, the 9th Marquis of Lansdowne, 20 years ago. After the recent find, he said: 'I am thrilled that they appear to have found something in the Bowood lake and I congratulate them.'

Divers find lake's 'lost village', BBC News, London, UK.

ANYBODY HERE FROM WHITECHAPEL, LONDON? 'What could possibly be funny about Jack the Ripper?' That's a question we have often asked ourselves. Every now and then we come up with answers, but we're not sure they're the right ones. At least we're not sure too many people would think they're the right ones. But when journalist Alline Kent of Macon, Georgia, USA, asks the question, she's got a proper answer: 'The upcoming production of *Jack the Ripper: Monster of Whitechapel* by the Warner Robins Little Theatre.' Miss Kent does concede the production is not all funny. 'Jack is still a mass murderer, terrorizing London,' she tells us. 'But the play is classified as comedy/horror, using fictional characters as comedic relief for the infamous historical ones.' And relieved we are indeed.

'I have been looking for a script for quite a while,' says Little Theatre president and play director Cathy Collins. 'I found this one and fell in love. It has humorous things so the whole play is not gloom and doom. It is a horrible story but this play has a humour part to it.'

According to Miss Collins, the author of the play has chosen the theory that the killings had a connection to the occult. Jack the Ripper practices black magic and the murders are sacrifices designed to prolong his life. Sounds familiar. Robert Bloch? Roslyn D'Onston Stevenson? As the play starts, the Ripper has murdered four women. Angela Ellison, a 'reformed girl of the streets,' is the fifth intended victim, whose death is necessary to complete the killer's evil ritual. The action of the play revolves round the need to save Angela and thwart the Ripper's dastardly designs.

'There really are parts of it that are hilarious,' emphasises Miss Collins. 'The humour just adds something to the ominous feeling of the story.' She adds that the playwright employs several characters, including a doctor who is a Sherlock Holmes devotee - down to the hat and the pipe - a bungling detective and even the victims themselves, to inject comedic relief into the story.

The play has three alternative endings, each with a different character exposed as 'Jack the Ripper' before curtain call. 'The script leaves a way to change it every evening, that several of the different male characters could be Jack,' explains Miss Collins. 'I haven't decided how to go with the ending, but I do think it would be very interesting to change it around for the audience and the cast.'

Performances of *Jack the Ripper: Monster of Whitechapel* are scheduled for 7-8, 13-15 and 20-22 September at 8 pm, plus Sunday matinees on 9 and 16 September at 2:30 pm. at the Warner Robins Little Theatre (478-929-4579) at 502 South Pleasant Hill Road, Macon, Georgia.

Alline Kent, Little Theatre to explore the lighter side of ... Jack the Ripper? The Telegraph, Macon, GA, USA, 12 July.

WITH A SONG IN MY HEART. The White Stripes - the Detroit Duo of singer guitarist Jack White and drummer Meg White - have been cutting a swathe through Canada since last June, performing impromptu concerts on a city bus and a downtown bridge in Winnipeg, a kid day camp in Toronto and a bowling alley in Saskatoon. On 7 July they held a free half-hour concert at the Arva Flour Mills, just north of London, Ontario. On 13 July they appeared before a sweat-drenched, 4,000-strong crowd at the Cunard Centre at Halifax, Nova Scotia. There, as wherever they went, they played their hit *Astro/Jack the Ripper*. In the words of reviewer Stephen Cooke, 'The set proper ended with the unholy wail of the garage rock pounder *Astro*, and *Jack the Ripper*, which Jack and Meg drove home in a musical rage, with Jack finally tearing his guitar off in triumph atop the riser.' Hey, if it's not a little dirty it's not rock and roll.



Amanda Robinson, Fans of all stripes take in Arva concert, London Free Press, London, Ontario, Canada, 8 July 2007; Stephen Cooke, White Stripes red hot: Detroit duo blasts Cunard Centre with rock fury, ChronicleHerald.ca, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, 14 July 2007.

WALK LIKE AN EGYPTIAN. Between 2,700 and 3,100 years ago, an Egyptian lady no longer in her first youth lost the big toe of her right foot. She did not enjoy the advantages of modern surgery, but still found a solution to her plight; a solution that was not only aesthetic but practical as well. Someone fashioned for her an articulated big toe out of leather and wood. The lady could wear open sandals without anyone being any the wiser about her loss. More important, the toe may have helped her to walk. When the lady died and was embalmed according to the traditional methods of her country, the toe followed her into the grave. It is still attached to her mummified remains displayed at the Cairo Museum in Egypt. A Manchester University team hope to prove that the 'Cairo toe' was used to walk.



If the team manage to demonstrate their thesis, the mummy's toe will become the earliest known functional artificial body part. Previously, the oldest practical prosthesis was a bronze artificial leg from 300BC known as the Roman Capua Leg. It was held at the Royal College of Surgeons in London but was destroyed during the Second World War. Researcher Jacky Finch said: 'The toe dates from between 1069 and 664BC, so if we can prove it was functional then we will have pushed back prosthetic medicine by as much as 700 years.'

An even older Egyptian big toe is currently on display at the British Museum. It dates from between 1295 and 664BC and is made from cartonnage, a kind of papier-mâché made from linen, glue and plaster. Like the Cairo toe, it shows signs of wear, suggesting that it was worn by its owner in life and not simply attached to the foot during mummification. Unlike the Cairo toe, however, it does not bend. It may therefore have been used only for cosmetic, not practical, reasons.

Cairo toe earliest fake body bit, BBC News, London, UK, 27 July 2007,

SOMETIMES I'M BLUE. Joy-Blue is a Chicago bar which we are told earned its name because people drink when they're happy and when they're sad. So what else is so special about it? It's got three large rooms where young patrons congregate. So? Boys and girls make joyful noises, smell beer and moments of smoke, drink Skyy blue Lemonade, Martinis and just about any brand of beer - 100 in all - and, well, meet. So? We quote reviewer Debbie Lively: 'The third area, what's known as the Blue Room, is dwarfed by a wall-to-wall, Jack-the-Ripper mural.' Looks like fun, doesn't it? We are not sure what this mural really looks like, though. If you are in the area, check it out: Joy-Blue, 1403 W. Irving Park Rd., 733-477-3330. But call or drop by before you visit in earnest: apparently Joy-Blue is closed at present on account of a fire. We can only hope the Blue Room and its mural were unscathed.

INSIDE: Joy-Blue: Cheer and beer rule this neighborhood bar, Chicago Tribune, Chicago, IL, USA, 14 July 2007.

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU. 'And, yes, I understand the fundamental concern for IT people here is the ease and speed with which you could download a lot of sensitive info. Before these portable storage devices (and that is all an MP3 player is) came around, data theft for amateurs was a great deal more difficult. However, owning a MP3 and taking it to work makes me no more of a potential thief than owning a kitchen carving knife makes me Jack the Ripper.'

Jim Ducharme, MP3s in the office: The sounds of silence? PC World Canada, Scarborough, Ontario, Canada, 15 July 2007.

THE GREAT AVIATION MYSTERY. Ah, mysteries. 'We all love a mystery,' says Fred D Crouch. 'Unresolved historical puzzles intrigue us. And the general rule seems to be, the more tragic the story, the more appealing the mystery. Was Lizzie Borden an axe murderer? Who was Jack the Ripper? Did the airship Hindenburg fall victim to accident or sabotage? Was Lee Harvey Oswald a lone gunman or part of a vast conspiracy?' All intriguing on their own right, no doubt. Yet Mr Crouch is a senior curator of aeronautics at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum and it is not surprising that his favourite enigma is the disappearance of aviatrix Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, on 2 July 1937, during an attempted flight round the world. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt ordered the most extensive search ever undertaken for a single aircraft, but no trace of Amelia, Noonan or their plane was found. On 19 July, after spending \$4 million and scouring 250,000 square miles of ocean, the United States government reluctantly called off the operation. Seventy years after Amelia and Noonan vanished, the search continues.

Born in Atchison, Kansas, in 1897, Amelia Mary Earhart was the tall, lean, handsome offspring of a shabby-genteel family. In photographs she resembles Katherine Hepburn or perhaps Cate Blanchett, with more than a pinch of Charles

Lindbergh thrown in. And we are talking about her looks, not her flying ability. Amelia took her first flying lesson in 1921 and bought her first plane in 1922. In 1928, she became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic - from Newfoundland to Wales - albeit together with a pilot and a mechanic. Over the next nine years she continued to break records. In 1930, she set the women's speed record of 181 mph. In 1931, she set the autogiro altitude record of 18,415 feet. In 1932 she became the first woman, and only the second person, after Lindbergh, to fly solo across the Atlantic. In 1935, she became the first person to fly solo across the Pacific. In the same year, she became the first person to fly solo from Los Angeles to Mexico City and subsequently from Mexico City to Newark, New Jersey.

On the strength of her widespread fame and popularity, Amelia Earhart became a well-paid spokesperson for American commercial aviation and endorser of luggage, pyjamas, sportswear and cigarettes - although she didn't smoke. A much-publicized night flight over Washington, DC, with first lady Eleanor Roosevelt led to a warm friendship with the White House tenants. She was also deeply involved in other activities that were dear to her heart: equal rights for women and support for leftist causes.

By 1935, Amelia was ready for a new challenge: she wanted to be the first woman to fly round the world. She acquired a twin-engine Lockheed Electra airplane and obtained substantial US government logistic support for the flight. After a botched attempt on 17 March 1937 which badly damaged her plane, Amelia and Fred Noonan, a specialist in aerial navigation, were ready for a second try. Although the plane was virtually rebuilt at Lockheed, a number of technical hitches remained unsolved. The Electra was originally equipped with a new automatic direction finder. After it was damaged in the March crash, Amelia replaced it with a less sensitive and not as accurate system. Worse, she could devote only a brief period of time to mastering the new equipment. That was not all. At the time, Morse code was the standard means of aerial communication, yet neither Amelia nor Noonan could transmit and receive in code and would, therefore, be forced to communicate entirely by voice.



Amelia Earhart

On 21 May 1937, Amelia and her navigator flew from Oakland to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Over the next month, they continued across the South Atlantic, Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, down through South and Southeast Asia to Australia, and on to Lae, Papua New Guinea, where they landed on 29 June. They took off again at 12:30 am on 2 July 1937. Their destination was Howland Island, 2,556 miles away. Despite favourable weather reports, they flew into overcast skies and intermittent rain showers which made Noonan's main tracking method, celestial navigation, impossible. At 3:45 am, the radio operators at the Coast Guard ship *Itasca*, waiting for the *Electra* at Howland, received a message from Amelia. At 6:14 am, she announced that they were 200 miles out. At 6:45 she asked the *Itasca* to take a bearing on her signal and radio a position. An hour later she radioed again: 'We must be on you, but we cannot see you,' she said. 'Fuel is running low. Been unable to reach you by radio. We are flying at 1,000 feet.' The ship tried to reply, but Amelia seemed not to hear. At 8:45 am she reported: 'We are running north and south.' That was her last transmission. Amelia and her companion vanished without a trace. The official finding was that they had run out of fuel and crashed into the sea, sinking along with their plane.

Within the space of a few months the first conspiracy theories made their appearance. On 16 October 1937, *Smith's Weekly*, an Australian tabloid, accused the US government of using Amelia's disappearance as an excuse to fly over the Japanese-controlled Marshall Islands in search of forbidden military installations. In 1960, Air Force Capt. Paul L Briand Jr published *Daughter of the Sky*, a biography of Amelia where he speculated that the Japanese had held her and Noonan captive on Saipan. Several authors followed suit with witness testimony confirming that the flyers had been in Japanese custody on Saipan and even that the Japanese had executed Amelia and burnt the *Electra*. In a rather bizarre twist, Randall Brink suggested that Amelia had wound up as one of several 'Tokyo Rose' broadcasters. Even more outlandish was the assertion that she had spent the war years as Emperor Hirohito's love slave.

A man called Joe Gervais met Mrs Irene Bolam at a party in 1965. For reasons that have never been clearly explained - least of all by Gervais - he became convinced she was Amelia Earhart. He claimed she had been repatriated following the defeat of Japan, remarried and began a new life as a New Jersey housewife. Mrs Bolam denied vehemently that she was Amelia Earhart. When a book on Gervais's theory appeared, Mrs Bolam sued all parties responsible for what she described as 'a poorly documented hoax'. The publisher withdrew the book, but the tale emerged again in 2003, when Mrs Bolam was no longer alive.

In 1984, Ric Gillespie, a charter pilot and aviation accident investigator, established the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery (TIGHAR). In 1988, TIGHAR members speculated that, unable to locate Howland, Amelia and Noonan

had decided to make for the next closest land: the southern Phoenix Islands. Even in 1937 the search authorities had contemplated that possibility and dispatched the USS Colorado to the Phoenix Islands to reconnoitre the area. On 9 July 1937, the ship's floatplanes flew over then uninhabited Gardner Island. Spotting signs of 'recent habitation,' the aviators repeatedly circled over the atoll but, failing to elicit any response, they returned to the Colorado.

Gillespie uncovered the 1937 government reports together with a good deal of additional information about the area. In 1940, a British official had found 13 human bones and other items on Gardner Island. Physicians in Fiji pronounced the bones as the remains of a Polynesian or a 'short, stocky, European or even half-caste' male. Although the bones have long since disappeared, two anthropologists have used a computer program to analyse still extant measurements and medical reports. They believe that the measurements are 'more likely female than male' and 'more likely white than Polynesian or other Pacific Islander.' Yet they concede that they're interpreting measurements 'taken over 55 years ago by a now-deceased individual of unknown expertise, with no description of the methods or assumptions employed.' Their final conclusion is that it is 'impossible to know whether the bones... were in fact those of a white female.'

In 1989, Gillespie organised the first TIGHAR expedition to Gardner Island, now known as Nikumaroro and part of Kiribati, formerly the Gilbert Islands. The following eighteen years saw three more expeditions. Yet, so far, TIGHAR has only a few artefacts to show for its troubles. They consist of bits and pieces of assorted aircraft. Two of them, a piece of aluminium from the interior of an airplane and the remnant of a plastic window, seem to match the specifications for similar items on Amelia's plane; but nothing links them directly to the Electra. The strongest piece of evidence might be a single oddly shaped section of aircraft skin found in 1991 by Gillespie's wife, Pat Thrasher. Other artefacts include a thermometer, parts of a patent medicine bottle, and the left sole, heel and other fragments of what Gillespie concluded was a size-nine woman's shoe of the sort Amelia had worn during the flight.

Gillespie held a news conference in 1992 at which he claimed that TIGHAR had solved the Earhart mystery. However, the company that manufactured the Cat's Paw heel said it was a unisex item and could have been on a man's shoe. Furthermore, Amelia wore size-six shoes, a fact confirmed by her sister and by two surviving pairs of her shoes. And the aluminium did not have the right rivet pattern to match the Electra. Fifteen years later, Gillespie admits there is no proof the items belonged to Amelia. He has largely abandoned the idea that the sole was hers, but points out that her plane had undergone extensive repairs and the aluminium might indeed have come from the Electra.

On 12 July 2007, Gillespie flew from Los Angeles to Fiji on a TIGHAR expedition marking the seventieth anniversary of Amelia's disappearance. In Fiji, the fifteen-member expedition boarded a boat for a five-day, 1,000-mile journey to 2½-mile-long Nikumaroro, which lies near the intersection of the equator and the international dateline. The group will spend 17 days on the island searching for bones, aircraft parts and any other evidence that Amelia and Noonan reached Nikumaroro after crashing on a nearby reef at low tide.

Tom D Crouch, Searching for Amelia Earhart, American Heritage, New York, NY, USA, 2 July 2007; Del Quentin Wilber, Still Up In the Air: 70 Years Ago, Amelia Earhart Vanished. Can Ric Gillespie Track Her Down? Washington Post, Washington DC, USA, 2 July, 2007; Tom Leonard, Is this Earhart's final landing site? Daily Telegraph, London, UK, 12 July 2007.



Feejee Mermaid at St Bonaventure University, St Bonaventure, NY, USA.

FASTING LADIES AND BOXING KANGAROOS. The Irish Giant. The Hottentot Venus. The Sicilian Fairy. The Elephant Man. Julia Pastrana, the Ugliest Woman in the World. Midgets, bearded ladies, pinheads, strongmen, fat women, armless wonders and two-headed boys. In less enlightened times, people who were somehow different were an object of curiosity, derision or abhorrence, someone to gape at, touch or poke with a finger or the tip of an umbrella. Sideshows were, as recently as the middle of the last century, popular entertainment, offering the world of the grotesque and the arabesque for a handful of coins. Cabinets of Curiosities displayed collections of unusual objects from natural history (sometimes faked, like the famed Feejee mermaids), geology,

ethnography and archaeology, antiquities, works of art and religious and historical relics.

Among the best known of its kind was the Cabinet of Curiosities run by the Reynolds family, one of whose scions, Alfred, would become famous as a conductor and composer. The Reynolds Waxworks at 12 Lime Street, Liverpool, were home to the waxworks, showed early films and exhibited human freaks. Historical records show, for instance, that on 10 May 1897, Reynolds was displaying 'The Living Doll. A human atom!' The Doll was a 17-month old baby, twelve inches high and weighing only 22 ounces.

As interest in the waxwork and Cabinet of Curiosities began to wane, the Reynolds family sold the site to a new owner. The Echo of 17 December 1920 reported: 'This morning there has been a deal over Reynolds's Waxworks, which has changed hands, and will be modernised by Mr Fred Parker, who has left the City Picture House and has taken this showpiece.' Mr Parker doesn't seem to have done very well in his new assignment. Attempts to convert the building into a cinema failed, and Reynolds Waxworks closed in 1922. In March 1923 Turner and Sons auctioned off the contents of Reynolds Waxwork Exhibition.

Eighty-four years later, the tradition of the sideshow and the Cabinet of Curiosities will live again in a series of events in Blackpool entitled Admission All Classes. Participating in the staging of the events will be London's leading cabaret and burlesque club, the Whoopee Agency, and Sideshow Illusions, a magic company which specialises in recreating Edwardian and Victorian sideshows - with a liberal use of mirrors, we think. Between now and October next year, ten themed showbiz weekends will celebrate the history of music hall, variety and circus and explore the rise of mass entertainment between 1850 and 1950.

The first event takes place during the 28-29 July weekend, as the Winter Gardens become a Museum of Curiosities showcasing traditional novelty acts. The highlights include street entertainment, a cabaret and nightclub. Dr Vanessa Toulmin, National Fairground Archive director, is overseeing the weekend. She is scheduled to give an illustrated lecture called 'Freaks, Geeks and Wild Women' on 28 July at 6pm.

'Audiences watching Mitchell & Kenyon films in the 19th century at St George's Hall would have seen fashionable views of Liverpool - scenes of prominent personalities and fashionable sites all for the price of a shilling,' says Dr Toulmin. 'Whereas audiences who attended Reynolds freak show museum would expect to see scenes of factory gate exits interspersed with side show novelties, fasting ladies and boxing kangaroos with a penny admission attracting a wider cross-section of Liverpool society.'

For more information go to www.admissionallclasses.com.

Dawn Collinson, Exploring a world of freaks and monsters, Liverpool Echo, Liverpool, UK, 21 July 2007.

CONVICTS ON PARADE. Ever wondered what happened to Great-great-Uncle Everard, who suddenly disappeared from the family portraits and was never mentioned again at the table? Wonder no more. The records of tens of thousands of British convicts sent to Australia from the end of the 18th Century are now online. Details include their name, the date of their conviction, the length of their sentence and the penal colony to which they went. [Ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) features records of 160,000 convicts transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868. An estimated two million Brits living today have a convict ancestor listed in the records.

Most convicts were men. Although a few of them were guilty of serious crimes, such as murder and assault, most had committed only minor offences. Their crimes included stealing from a pond or river and setting fire to undergrowth.

Transportation of convicts to Australia resulted from overcrowding in British prisons as urban crime increased in the wake of the industrial revolution. The first 780 British convicts landed in 11 ships at Botany Bay, in New South Wales, in 1788. There were also penal colonies in Van Diemen's Land, now Tasmania, Western Australia, Victoria and Queensland. The journey to Australia by boat was no luxury cruise. It took eight months, of which six were spent at sea and two picking up supplies at various ports.

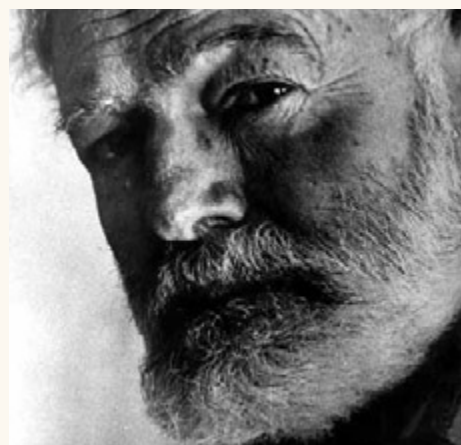
BBC News, 18th century convicts go online, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/6914846.stm>



Gertrude Stein

AND FINALLY, A TEST OF YOUR RIPPER KNOWLEDGE. The question last month was: Who gave Ernest Hemingway a book on Jack the Ripper? The answer: Gertrude Stein. In *A Moveable Feast*, his 1960 memoir of Paris in the twenties, Hemingway recalled how she advised him to read Marie Belloc Lowndes. He went on: 'I had never heard of her, and Miss Stein loaned me *The Lodger*, that marvellous story of Jack the Ripper...' He described it as a 'splendid after-work' book, 'the people credible and the action and the terror never false.'

This month's question: Which Ripper suspect is named in one of Oscar Wilde's works? The answer will appear in next month's edition of I Beg to Report.



Ernest Hemingway

Ripper Discussion after 'Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper' in Washington, D.C.

By CHRISTOPHER T GEORGE



On the evening of 12 July, I met New Yorker Robert Anderson, a moderator on *JtRForums.com*, in Washington DC's Adams Morgan district opposite the DC Arts Centre on 18th Street, NW. It was a warm sunny evening, milder after the blistering heat and violent thunderstorms that plagued the area on previous days. Bob and I met Brian Schoeneman and his girlfriend, KayAnn, and we had a meal at a diner up the street while discussing aspects of the case and the upcoming show.

After the meal, we walked across the street to the theatre. We had about half an hour to spare before curtain time. This enabled me to briefly confer with director Andrew Baughman about the format for the after-show chat. The young director came out into the lobby, taking a few minutes out of readying the show for the night's performance - he played in the band as well as directed and served as musical coordinator for the show.

I felt that the Landless Theatre Company's production of Frogg Moody and Dave Taylor's musical, *Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper*, was stronger than when I saw it a couple of weeks previously on press night (see the 'I Beg to Report' in *Ripperologist* 80), although improvements are usual in any show as it runs longer. Incidentally, after the discussion, K J Jacks, who played Mary Jane Kelly, told me that her part got easier when the cast dispensed with trying to work with some fake blood for her murder scene! In truth, I had not noticed any fumbling with artificial blood when I was there to review the show. Ms Jacks also informed me that she had been dubious at first at the director's request for her to scream during the Kelly murder since she is not a 'screamer' - I noted in my review that the screams during the climatic murder scene created one of the most effective and disturbing moments in the musical.

The cast as well as the audience stayed behind for the discussion. Audience and cast proved lively and interested during the chat. We were able to dispell some myths and talk about what evidence still exists, and about various suspects.

The expertise or lack thereof of the police at the time came up. Frogg's show is somewhat mocking in one song, *A Regular Farce*, about the police's inability to catch the murderer. Although it has to be said that Frogg's production is told from the point of view of the East Enders who, living in the centre of the murder area, were naturally frustrated and angry at the lack of progress in apprehending the killer.

I made the point that modern police have similarly experienced great difficulty in trying to track down serial killers. Comparisons with modern murder cases such as those of Peter Sutcliffe (the Yorkshire Ripper), Gary Ridgway (the Green River killer), and Dennis Rader (the BTK killer) show that the police of 1888 were not as inept as often portrayed. Bob Anderson said that the police were probably doing the best job they could with the means that they had at hand. The lyrics in one of Frogg's songs make the point that the Ripper was a 'killer of strangers.' Such a lone killer, murdering people at random, is often the hardest to catch.

Brian discussed the fact that adoption of fingerprint evidence by Scotland Yard would be some years away. The first fingerprint evidence involving a scene of crime latent print in England was heard at the Central Criminal Court (Old Bailey), London, in 1902. In that case, Harry Jackson was tried after pleading not guilty to a charge of burglary and stealing billiard balls. Fingerprint evidence was first used in a murder case in 1905 when Alfred and Albert Stratton were tried at the Old Bailey for killing Mr and Mrs Farrow at their shop in Deptford.

Dave Bobb who played 'The Narrator' in the show brought up the point about whether the Ripper was left handed. The idea of left-handedness, we explained, was based on the view of Dr Ralph Rees Llewellyn. When the doctor examined the throat wound to the first canonical victim, Polly Nichols, he had said that he thought the cut might be indicative of left handedness. Brian Schoeneman noted that while the throat cut was left to right that didn't necessarily indicate the killer was left handed.



Bob Anderson and Brian Schoeneman discuss the Whitechapel murders after the presentation of Landless Theatre Company's interpretation of Frogg Moody's "Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper" in Washington D.C. on 12 July. (Photograph by Christopher T. George)

As for the suspects, we three 'experts' agreed that there is no real evidence about any of the named suspects and that the killer could just as easily have been a nobody. Brian noted the extreme poverty of the East End of the day with tens of people often crammed into a room. We stated that the Ripper could have been any one of those poor people in the area at the time. Thus, we may never know his name.

I mentioned that one Ripper suspect, Irish American quack Dr Francis Tumblety, lived in Washington, DC, at the time of time of the Civil War, at which time he was accused of selling fraudulent military discharge papers to young Union soldiers. Although named in a 1913 letter of former Scotland Yard Detective Chief Inspector John George Littlechild as a 'very likely' suspect, many Ripperologists feel that Dr Tumblety was too tall, and too much the flashy extrovert and self-advertiser to have been the Ripper.

In response to a question about Patricia Cornwell's book, *Portrait of a Killer: Jack the Ripper - Case Closed*, naming artist Walter Sickert as the killer, Brian said that despite the millions of dollars that the writer has spent in her investigation thus far, all she has seemingly done is connect a Sickert letter to a Ripper letter - the 'Openshaw letter' of 29 October 1888. And she did it using mitochondrial DNA. At most that only proves that the artist may have hoaxed a Ripper letter. But even that is not certain since mitochondrial DNA is not as specific as nuclear DNA. Moreover the supposed watermark 'match' that she cites in her book shows that while both letters were written on similar paper, the marks are from two different years, 1886 and 1887.

Yes and Mr Maybrick and his Diary came up for discussion as well. Once more the suspect failed the test: the so-called Maybrick Diary is undoubtedly a hoax, we told the audience.

I think everyone was pleased with the discussion: audience, the cast of *Yours Truly, Jack the Ripper*, and ourselves. We even signed a few autographs afterward!

Got something to say?

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

Please send your comments to contact@ripperologist.info

Dear Rip

Your Letters and Comments

PC225H Reports (Rips 79 and 80)

Dear Rip

I really enjoyed reading both parts of PC225H Reports.

Part One records an assault on PC Roberts by one John Goodchild of Old Nicholl Street. During my research for *Cousin Jack* (Rip 68) I discovered that James and Sarah Hardiman were witnesses to the marriage of Sarah Stockton to Alfred Richard Goodchild on 9th December 1878.

At the time of his marriage, Alfred's occupation was meat salesman at 96 Nichols Square. Sarah's address was 40 Nichols Square. Alfred and Sarah had seven children; Alfred, James, Louisa, Emily, Elizabeth, Samuel and John.

They should do a Victorian episode of *The Bill* based on the accounts of PC Roberts' exploits: unlawful possession of salmon, injured testicles, assault by a gang wielding wool hooks...

Looking forward to meeting everyone at the conference in October.

ROB HILLS
2 July 2007

Rob, glad you've enjoyed the series. While research into the victims, suspects and key witnesses is the main focus for many students of the case, my personal interest is peripheral information such as that revealed in PC Roberts' notebook - the colour behind the facts. I'd imagine every reader who has visited the sites would have walked past the White Hart on their way up Gunthorpe Street, most with barely a glance in the windows, but I think it's fantastic that we have an account of thieves operating in the pub in the 1880s (Part II), and Roberts escorting the residents on a tour to check all was well after finding a door unfastened. It adds flesh to the history of the pub, the area, and the activities of the police at the time. Look forward to seeing you at the conference. It's going to be a lot of fun. Adam.



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On the Crimebeat

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



HANGED AT DURHAM

Steve Fielding

S/B, 128 pp., Illus., Sutton Publishing, £12.99

The first in a new series from Sutton chronicling judicial executions in particular UK prisons which will provide a first class backup to Steve Fielding's excellent three-volume series *The Hangman's Record*, in that it gives much of the background to the crimes of those executed, along with many instances of comments and asides made by the executioners. For example, it being interesting and somewhat surprising to read that Albert Pierrepont only acted once as chief executioner at Durham, although he had earlier assisted his uncle Tom Pierrepont there.

75 cases and executions are described in detail covering the period 869 to 1958. Well known cases include serial poisoner Mary Ann Cotton; the Gateshead Ripper William Waddell; the murdering grandson, Charles Conlin; the controversial case of Robert Hoolhouse; and the case which was an uncanny forerunner of Craig and Bentley, police killers William Appleby and Vincent Ostler.

Splendidly illustrated, many of which I can well believe are publicly available for the first time, and as usual from Sutton, an excellent production.

Forthcoming books in the series are promised for Liverpool, Pentonville and Manchester, and this and the remainder of the series are a must for the True Crime buff who like myself have a particular interest in capital punishment.



FUN-LOVING CRIMINAL

Dennis Stafford with Stafford Hildred

H/B, 255pp., Illus., John Blake Publishing, £17.99

Self confessed rogue and man about town, but not a murderer. That is the claim of Dennis Stafford in this rollicking story of his life in crime. His first major conviction was for housebreaking, and this included escapes from Wormwood Scrubs and Dartmoor. On his release he refashioned himself as a man about town and became acceptable in the ranks of entertainment stars and high society, which seemingly led him to bed a high proportion of the attractive women he met.

Then he received an invitation to join a somewhat dodgy gambling syndicate in North East England which was taking full advantage of legal changes to make considerable sums of money. Here he became friendly with another member of the syndicate named Michael Luvaglio. In January 1967 another syndicate member, Angus Sibbet, was found shot dead in his car. Stafford and Luvaglio were arrested and charged with the murder. In March 1967 they came up for trial at Newcastle and were convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment. There is considerable support for their claim that they are innocent and that the trial was flawed. The case became known as the One-Armed Bandit murder and was the inspiration for the cult film *Get Carter* starring Michael Caine.

They were released after serving twelve years. Luvaglio has led a blameless life since his release, but Stafford was subsequently jailed for six years for fraud. When the Parole Board recommended his release it was blocked by the then Home Secretary, and Stafford took the case to the European Court and won. He was awarded around £10,000 and £17,000 legal costs.

Now in their 70s, both Stafford and Luvaglio are still fighting their conviction after 40 years. A reference to the Criminal Cases Review Commission has brought a provisional view that they are not prepared to refer the case to the Court of Appeal. However, it appears quite likely that the law has not yet heard the last of Dennis Stafford.

Strongly recommended. A great read.

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