

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

Ripperologist

No. 88

February 2008

Tumblety the Patsy?

The Truth, the Whole Truth
and Nothing But the Truth
according to Ivor Edwards

JOHN BENNETT
with Part II of
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MEMORIES OF BEADLE

An interview with
GLENN ANDERSSON

ANDREW SPALLEK
identifies the
'West of England MP'

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remembers Barry Morse

RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

Issue 88, February 2008

QUOTE FOR FEBRUARY:

"If Jack the Ripper had a face it would probably resemble Daniel Day-Lewis's."

Dean Williams on Daniel Day-Lewis's Oscar-winning performance in *There will be Blood*,
The male obsession for ol' baldie, *Daily News & Analysis*, Mumbai, India 23 February 2008,
<http://www.dnaindia.com/report.asp?newsid=1152539>

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following people in the production of this issue of Ripperologist:
Stewart P Evans, Steve Horton, and Glenn Andersson....Thank you!

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Figure of Eight

Editorial by ADAM WOOD

Welcome, Dear Reader, to this, our 88th issue.

The number 88 is of course a key one to those of us sharing this interest. But was the number 1888 itself of any importance?

There are theorists who believe that serial killers are driven by specific dates, either of religious significance or relating to the lunar cycle.

Others promote the fact that some murderers communicate via symbolism.

And then there is the posing of victims' bodies.

Steve Wright, convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment last week of the murder of five prostitutes in Ipswich, arranged the naked bodies of two women when disposing of them. Jurors at the trial were shown photographs of Annette Nicholls and Anneli Alderton arranged in the shape of a cruciform configuration. It's unclear, however, whether there was any significance to this pose. The three other victims were simply dumped, and no explanation was offered by Wright for his arranging of Nicholls and Alderton.

Wright was by no means alone in posing the bodies of his victims. From the Black Dahlia to BTK, cases throughout history have recorded staging by murderers, as evidenced by the case of George Russell, who murdered three women in Washington State, USA, in 1990. The so-called Yuppie Murderer of Bellevue left the bodies of his victims in sexually degrading poses, sometimes going so far as to include sex toys and literature.

Danny Rolling, killer of five students in Gainesville, Florida, also in 1990, posed the bodies of all his victims - placing the severed head of one on a shelf.

Edward McGregor murdered at least three women in Houston, Texas. After strangling and beating them to death, he posed two of them in their bathtubs.

We could be forgiven for thinking that symbolism, religious significance and posed bodies is 'normal' serial killer activity. However, in a paper from 2004 titled *The Rarity of Unusual Dispositions of Victim Bodies: Staging and Posing*, Robert Keppel and Joseph Weis state:

From the Washington State Attorney General's Homicide Investigation and Tracking System's database on murder covering the years 1981-2000 (a total of 5,224 cases), the relative frequency of unusual body dispositions is revealed as a very rare occurrence. Only 1.3% of victims are left in an unusual position, with 0.3% being posed and 0.1% being staged. The characteristics of these types of murders also set them apart: compared to all other murders, in staged murders the victims and killers are, on average, older. All victims and offenders in the staged murders are white, with victims being disproportionately white in murders with any kind of unusual body disposition. Likewise, females stand out as victims when the body is posed, staged, or left in other unusual positions.

In the case of Jack the Ripper, there have been numerous suggestions for symbols, body posing and religious significance. What was the significance of Mary Kelly's hand being placed in her stomach? Were the inverted Vs under Catherine Eddowes' eyes meant to represent an initial? Did the murderer of Annie Chapman ritually position her possessions at her feet? Were the murders committed to coincide with dates of religious significance, and did the location of the bodies form a particular shape? I'm reminded of a theory put forward by Terry Saxby, who suspected William Tabram of the murders, which all revolved around the number 39.

With no definite identification of the killer or killers in the Whitechapel murders, we have nothing but personal opinion on any of the above. Some believe in randomness, others deliberate acts. Some see reason in shapes and figures.

The figure of immediate importance is 88. To sharpen our focus on that year, and all things in the late Victorian period, the next issue will see the return of Jane Coram's *Victorian Larder*, along with my own *East End Life* which, added to Jennifer Pegg's newly introduced column and some other great ideas we're working on, will present a solid regular section on the reality of life in the late 19th Century.

Tumblety The Patsy?

The Truth, the Whole Truth and Nothing But the Truth

By Ivor J. Edwards



It wasn't until quite recently that I took time to go through the details concerning Francis Tumblety's validity as Jack the Ripper after my opinion was requested on the matter. Having looked at it more closely, I was really very surprised to find that not only is there a distinct lack of evidence to support his candidacy, but that some of the evidence that has been put forward to implicate him is decidedly suspect itself.

It is my intention to cover various issues including the following points which have been put forward by proponents of Tumblety in assuming him to be Jack the Ripper.

1. The Littlechild letter
2. The Batty Street Lodger
3. The Sims Letter
4. Col. Dunham's press interview
5. The black leather bag left in a Charing Cross hotel
6. Tumblety's arrest & bail
7. Tumblety's bunk to New York & press interview
8. Did Inspector Andrews chase Tumblety to New York?

Chief Inspector John George Littlechild

THE LITTLECHILD LETTER

This letter was written by Chief Inspector John George Littlechild of the Special Branch, Scotland Yard, in reply to a journalist named George Sims. The fact that it was written 25 years after the murders took place must be taken into consideration as we examine the information it contains.

The Littlechild letter was purchased in the early 1960s from Sotheby's Auction House by antiquarian bookseller Eric Barton, who resided in Richmond, Surrey.

The letter was part of the criminological collection of George Sims (author of the Sims letter, which will be discussed later). Mr Barton was retiring from his life-long business and decided to sell his Ripper-related material and in due course the bundle was purchased by Stewart P. Evans in 1993.¹

Amongst the documents was the letter. Stewart Evans is on record as stating: ²

"I found the Littlechild letter naming a brand new suspect that nobody had ever heard of before and that was Dr Tumblety the quack American doctor."

Strictly speaking of course, credit for discovering the letter should go to Eric Barton, who was fully aware of its contents prior to selling it to Stewart Evans, in

¹ The account can be found in *The Lodger* - Evans and Gainey BCA 1995 edition, page 178.

² *The Whitechapel Murders, Jack the Ripper*. Written and presented by David Jessel. Produced and directed by Stephen White for Channel Four television.



a bundle of other items. The letter certainly did present a potential new suspect though, delivered up on a plate as it were.

The relevant section of the Littlechild letter reads as follows: (a full transcript of the letter can be found at the end of this article.)

‘. . . I never heard of a Dr D. in connection with the Whitechapel murders but amongst the suspects, and to my mind a very likely one, was a Dr. T. (which sounds much like D.) He was an American quack named Tumblety and was at one time a frequent visitor to London and on these occasions constantly brought under the notice of police, there being a large dossier concerning him at Scotland Yard. Although a ‘Sycopathia Sexualis’ subject he was not known as a ‘Sadist’ (which the murderer unquestionably was) but his feelings toward women were remarkable and bitter in the extreme, a fact on record. Tumblety was arrested at the time of the murders in connection with unnatural offences and charged at Marlborough Street, remanded on bail, jumped his bail, and got away to Boulogne. He shortly left Boulogne and was never heard of afterwards. It was believed he committed suicide but certain it is that from this time the ‘Ripper’ murders came to an end . . .’ [Emphasis added]

Why was it thought that Tumblety was never heard of afterwards and that it was believed he committed suicide? We know such statements are not true. It could be argued that Littlechild confused Tumblety with Druitt, who did commit suicide, but whatever the case may be we know the Littlechild letter is undoubtedly flawed.

Littlechild simply gave his opinion that Tumblety was, to his mind, a ‘very likely suspect’ . . . He never wrote that Tumblety was the ‘prime suspect’ or Jack the Ripper. The dictionary definition of ‘Prime’ is: ‘First in importance, significance or authority, principal.’ This is clearly not what Littlechild said in his letter.

That one opinion by Littlechild gave rise to TV-programme makers referring to Tumblety as “Scotland Yard’s prime suspect.” Technically there cannot be a prime suspect, only *the* prime suspect as there can only be one that is first in importance.³

One can’t term Tumblety the Yard’s ‘top suspect’ or ‘prime suspect’ if there is no official police documentation to show it. Police Commissioner Charles Warren was superior in rank to Littlechild and, in fact, the man right at the top of the force. He knew far more about the murders than Littlechild, besides which, his comments regarding the murders carry far more weight than Littlechild’s opinion. Warren stated: “The most logical explanation to the murders were that they were committed by a secret society.” Warren was in a far better position to know more about the murders than Littlechild or any Ripperologist or author today. His comments are ignored in favour of Littlechild’s opinion and never mentioned by proponents of Tumblety or many Ripperologists for that matter because such words conflict with their theories.

Every suspect the police had, like Kosminski and Druitt, were very likely suspects to various officers, if not all. The police had scores of “very likely suspects” and common sense dictates that if none of them were likely suspects, as far as the police were concerned, then they wouldn’t have been suspects to start with.⁴

Littlechild wrote in his letter to Sims that the police had a dossier on Tumblety, of which no trace has been found.

The police in America had files on the man for various offences, including abortion and manslaughter. Tumblety the con man and pathological liar had his fingers in more than one pie and was as much of a fraud, liar and cheat as another con artist to be discussed later, Col. Charles Dunham.

Tumblety is a good suspect only inasmuch as he was named by Littlechild. The British press ignored Tumblety as a Ripper suspect despite the American press milking the story for all it was worth. Furthermore, I find it most odd that Littlechild never wrote anything about Tumblety ever being arrested in connection with the murders and one would have thought that such information would have filtered down to him by the time he wrote his letter 25 years later. There is not one scrap of official documentation to show that Tumblety was either a suspect or ever arrested on suspicion over



Francis Tumblety walking with one of his dogs

3 *The Whitechapel Murders, Jack the Ripper.* Written and presented by David Jessel. Produced and directed by Stephen White for Channel Four television.

4 Donald Sutherland Swanson suggested Kosminski as a suspect in the Swanson Marginalia, pencilled notes in Swanson’s personal copy of Sir Robert Anderson’s memoirs, *The Lighter Side of My Official Life*. Sir Melville Macnaghten names three suspects: Mr M J Druitt, Kosminski, and Michael Ostrog. Inspector Frederick Abberline, voiced strong suspicions that the wife poisoner George Chapman (*Severin Klosowski*) was in fact JtR and is quoted as saying in the *Pall Mall Gazette*: ‘there are a score of things which make one believe that Chapman is the man;’

the murders. There is certainly no evidence to show that he was named by Anderson, Abberline or any other police officer working on the murders.

It has been suggested by some Ripperologists that the Littlechild letter could be a forgery. The paper and ink are correct for the period, it is true, but it wouldn't be impossible for any forger worth his salt, even today, to obtain a typewriter from circa 1913 and a blank piece of period paper. The initials J.G. in the letter do not match with the initials J.G. on Littlechild's signature taken from his pension records and there are several differences when both surnames are compared with one another. The document examiner, while commenting on television about the stronger points of the document, failed dismally to mention the weaker ones. I'm not stating the letter is a forgery, but the facts (warts and all) do need to be taken into consideration.

THE BATTY STREET LODGER

The saga now referred to as 'The Batty Street Lodger' first appeared in the London press during October 1888. The story relates to a mystery lodger who, it is alleged, returned home to lodgings in Batty Street at 2am on the night of the double event. It was also alleged that he fled his lodgings leaving behind a shirt with blood drenched sleeves and cuffs. No one should be under any illusion about this story whatsoever; it's simply one of the many myths that grew around the crimes of Jack the Ripper due to journalistic sensationalism and nothing more. My thanks to Gavin Bromley for his invaluable article on the Batty Street Lodger in *Ripperologist* 81 July 2007 pointing out some of the many flaws in the case against Tumblety as The Batty Street Lodger.

The *Evening News*, 16th October, 1888 carried the following story.

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 by the statements made by the landlady to her neighbours, 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 wet with blood. The appearance struck her as very strange, and then when she heard of the murders a horrible suspicion seemed to flash in her mind. Acting on some of the advice from 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 had 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.

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



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 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 man, the police have in their possession a series of most important clues, and that his ultimate capture is only a question of time.

The double event took place on 30th September, 1888, so why did it take until mid-October 1888 for the *Evening News* and other papers to publish the lodger story? Was it because news was drying up over the murders so to scrape the bottom of the barrel for news some papers back tracked for any old story to fan the dying embers? After all, this was the time when *The Times* wrote that many conflicting rumours were spread about from day to day.

The dubious Batty Street lodger article consists of information allegedly gathered from a landlady's gossiping neighbours and nothing of any importance from the landlady herself. The article informs us that the landlady in question spoke very bad English, which in turn brings into question what the neighbours allegedly stated she told them. The reporter wrote that she was not inclined to give him much information beyond that her lodger had not returned yet and she could not say where he had gone or when he would be back which is not the same as saying he had fled.

After reading this newspaper article it becomes crystal clear that the information concerning the lodger coming in at 2am and moving about, etc., was either gathered from gossiping neighbours (not directly from the landlady) or twisted or fabricated by the reporter concerned. A letter (reproduced in this article) from a lodger at 22 Batty to the *Evening News* does enforce this view. The landlady did not confirm anything her neighbours alleged she had told them and this

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



is in stark contrast to what we have been led to believe by proponents of Tumblety.

In the news report it is alleged that the neighbours said the lodger had been missing since Sunday morning. The reporter then alleges that the gossiping neighbours stated that he had left for good. It's easy to see why such unreliable information was then twisted by other parties into the suggestion that the lodger had fled!

Even if we take the article on face value what do we have? We have an unreliable story fuelled by gossip that a man returned to his lodgings on the night of the double event with blood on his shirt. This does not make him Jack the Ripper because firstly, if the article was true then we don't know how the blood came to be on the man's shirt and a simple explanation from him could suffice. The article is most certainly not an indication that the police had found the killer's lair because we have no idea that the lodger was the killer.

Evans and Gainey made the following statement about this article in their book *The Lodger*:⁵

Here is a clear indication that the police had found the suspected lair of the killer in the East End. Perhaps realising this he had fled, leaving property at his lodgings, clues to his identity, and not daring to take it with him, most damning of all the bloodstained shirt. It is a story that the police would rather have not seen published, indeed they later tried to play it down and make denials. The result of the press report was that the killer knew that he would be tracked down and was therefore on the run.

How can an unreliable and dubious news report be a "clear indication" that the police had found the "suspected killer's lair"? The truth of the matter is that it can't, as we shall see later.

The actual facts appear to be as follows: An irresponsible reporter fabricated a story around a blood-stained shirt that had been left with a Batty Street landlady to wash. An innocent act that turned into the utter load of twaddle reported in some newspapers. Various other newspapers instead of doing their own honest research in a quest for the truth jumped on the bandwagon and magnified the fabrication out of all proportion.

Not every newspaper acted in such an irresponsible manner; for example, *The Times* and *Daily News* saw the situation for what it truly was and actually went so far as to inform their readers of the truth as far as it could be ascertained.

Times (London)

Thursday, 18th October, 1888:

A large number of conflicting rumours in connection with the murders in the East -end are spread about 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, in 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 genuine clue has yet to be obtained..

Daily News, 18th October, 1888:.

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 a 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 to be considerably blood -stained. The woman communicated with the police, who placed the house under observation, detectives at the time being lodged there to arrest the man should he return. This he did last Saturday, and was taken to Leman - street Police - station, where he was questioned, and within an hour or two released, his statement being proven correct.

Few Ripperologists these days believe the origin of the lodger story wasn't the invention of enterprising journalists. There are many other press reports far more reliable that show that the whole thing is indeed just a press concoction. Those who support Tumblety as a suspect should, of course, be aware of such facts. Instead, they omit various newspaper reports of a superior quality that are easily obtained but which conflict with their theory. Several of these reports I have included in this article, which the reader can compare with the *Evening News* article of 16th November, 1888, that is used by Tumblety's accusers to support his candidacy.

If I had committed the double event and hightailed it back to my lodgings a short distance away from both murders with a shirt covered in blood the last thing I'd do is to ask my landlady to wash it for me knowing that all hell was breaking loose in the neighbourhood. Would JtR have really been that stupid? I for one don't believe so. The shirt inci-

⁵ *The Lodger* - Evans and Gainey BCA 1995 edition, page 118.

dent was the action of an innocent man, not a guilty one. Regardless of the fact that there was no scientific analysis that could test blood samples in 1888, Jack the Ripper was careful enough not to attract of attention to himself or act in such a ridiculous manner.

Putting to one side for a moment that there is no evidence whatsoever that the lodger was the killer, why assume that the lodger did not dare to take the bloodstained shirt with him? If he feared he was being watched he could have either destroyed the garment or buried it in the garden. There are any number of things he could have done, including soaking it in any number of liquids, including paint, which would have rendered it useless as, any form of evidence. This lodger didn't disappear mysteriously or flee because he informed his landlady that he was going away and was coming back.

Newspaper sources identified the landlady as Mrs Kuer of 22 Batty Street. So who were her lodgers and can they be identified? It appears so and there is no question as to who her lodgers were. Furthermore, there is nothing suspicious about either of them. One of Mrs Kuer's lodgers actually went to the trouble to write a letter on the 17th October, 1888, to the *Evening News* that appeared the next day.. This, unlike garbled newspaper reports, is from someone who actually lived in the house and disputes the fabricated lodger story that appeared in the *Evening News* article of 16th October, 1888:.

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 Murderer; in fact, your reporter has been wrongly informed, or else it is 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 reporter describes it, for it is a most respectable house and in good general condition; although it is 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.

On receipt of this letter from Mr. Noun, the *Evening News* made the effort to set the record straight. The landlady was interviewed on the 17th of October and this was reported in the *Evening News* on the following day..

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 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 Taylor, 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 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 the police would have known nothing of it but for her having indiscreetly showing it to a neighbour. The woman denies that the detectives are still in possession of her house.

The letter sent by the lodger, Mr Noun, to the *Evening News* disputing the authenticity of the 16th October report, together with the *Evening New's* article of the 18th, prove conclusively that the *Evening News* article dated 16th October is useless as any kind of evidence. There is no credence in "The Batty Street Lodger" story; it's simply a classic example of dodgy reporting and gossiping neighbours.

If we look at the facts, there is no doubt that the Batty Street story was based at No. 22 Batty Street. This was confirmed by the *Illustrated Police News* of 27th October 1888, which also identified the occupant as 'Mrs Kuer the German Laundress' and was accompanied by an illustration of a man leaving a bloodstained shirt with her. There is no doubt, either, that at least part of the story is true, but we are still left with two possibilities that do need to be addressed.

The first, which many supporters of Tumblety favour, is that the original story relates to an actual lodger who had fled after the double murder leaving behind a bloodstained shirt—a story apparently confirmed by the press as being true—is the most believable version of events.

This report was not confirmed by the press which, it has been alleged, had actually interviewed the woman and her neighbours. This is inaccurate because the original story was most certainly NOT confirmed by the landlady. The actual article stated that the landlady, “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.” So she confirmed nothing about a blood-stained shirt and never said her lodger had fled. It’s obvious from this report that her lodger never fled because she is alleged to have stated that her lodger “had not returned yet,” and she

Batty Street 2007 - Photograph Adam Wood



could not say “where he had gone or when he would be back.” Common sense dictates that if he had fled, she would not be expecting him back—period. Mr Noun, the lodger at 22 Batty Street, said of the reporter concerned, “Your reporter has been wrongly informed, or else it is his own suggestion” then he writes, “As regards our house, it is not as your report describes it.”

The second possibility is that later reports refuting the original story that claimed a man left the blood-stained shirt with three others for washing—a man that was investigated by the police and cleared—is the accurate version. The “refutation” story is, to my mind, very sound because it appeared in response to and on the heels of Mr Noun’s letter written on 17th October together with a legitimate interview with the landlady with a different version of the 22 Batty Street story. Mr Noun’s letter seems to be largely ignored by those who favour Tumblety as a suspect. I would be interested to see their opinion on this letter, which is probably one of the most, if not *the* most important letter in relation to the 22 Batty Street Lodger story.

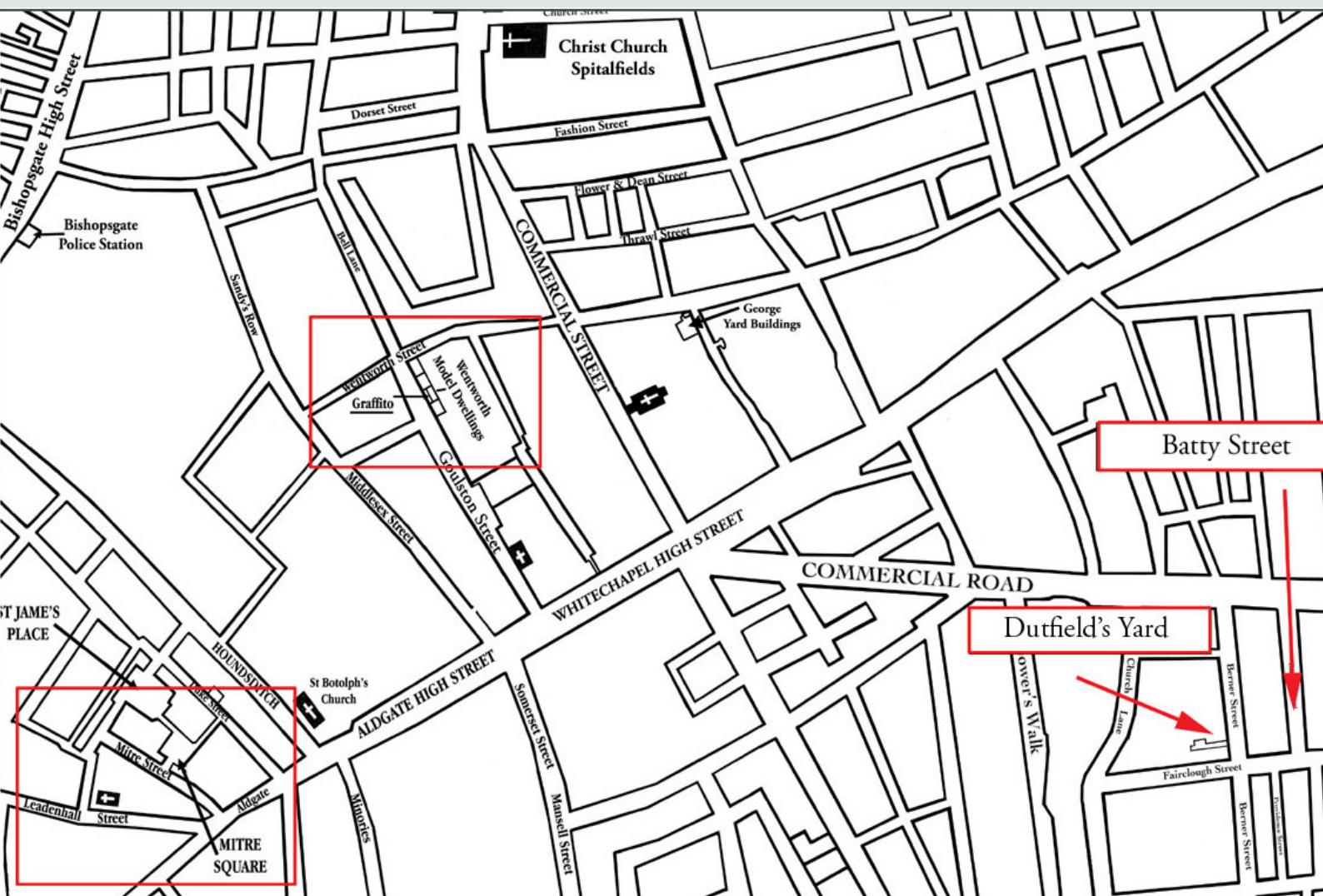
Mr Noun’s letter shows that the theory about the police wanting the story not published to be untrue. One cannot rubbish or ignore Mr Noun’s letter. The police actually dismissed the Batty Street Lodger story, and quite rightly so under the circumstances, simply because there was no truth to it. They investigated the story and found it was without foundation and moved on. Furthermore, if the 22 Batty Street lodger story were true and Tumblety had been the lodger then the police would have simply had the landlady Mrs Kuer identify him, which never transpired.

KELLY AND STRIDE NOT RIPPER VICTIMS?

One very viable question which one could ask if we are to believe the newspaper reports about the Batty Street lodger is why would a killer staying at Batty Street, kill Elizabeth Stride at around 1am in Berner Street, then go to Mitre Square, kill Catherine Eddowes, get covered in blood, and only then go back to his lodgings in an area that would be swarming with police, vigilantes and press still wearing a blood-stained shirt? Then, take the prize for dumbest criminal of the year, by giving his blood-stained shirt to his landlady who could identify him!

This does present quite an obstacle for those who support Tumblety as a suspect. One of the very few ways they can get around this seemingly insurmountable obstacle is to maintain that Elizabeth Stride was not a victim of Jack the Ripper. If she were, then simple logic would dictate that the Batty Street Lodger could not possibly have been the killer. Therefore they have to maintain that the murder of Liz Stride was a domestic killing regardless of any evidence to show

Map showing the relative positions of Mitre Square, Goulston Street, Dutfield’s Yard and Batty Street



otherwise.

In the summing up at Stride's inquest, as quoted in *The Times* of Wednesday, 24th October, 1888, the Coroner said:

The domestic history of the deed suggested the strong possibility that her destroyer was a stranger to her. There was no one among her associates to whom any suspicion had attached. They had not heard that she had had a quarrel with any one - unless they magnified the fact that she had recently left the man with whom she generally cohabited; but this diversion was of so frequent an occurrence that neither a breach of the peace ensued, nor, so far as they knew, even hard words. There was therefore in the evidence no clue to the murderer and no suggested motive for the murder.

The Coroner also stated: *Those who knew her best were unaware of any one likely to injure her. She never accused anyone of having threatened her. She never expressed any fear of anyone, although she had outbursts of drunkenness, she was generally a quiet woman. The ordinary motives of murder - revenge, - jealousy, - theft, - and passion - appeared therefore, to be absent from this case.*

The police believed Stride was a Ripper victim and she has gone down in the annals of criminal history as being so. Only the occasional theorizer has stated otherwise, but the consensus has always been that she was a Ripper victim.

Returning briefly to the Batty Street lodger story—one simple fact makes the theory totally untenable. The killer did not flee homewards, to the east, towards Batty Street after leaving Mitre Square. He went north to Goulston Street, in Spitalfields, and that fact is not under dispute because a piece of the victim's apron was left in a doorway there.

It has been suggested that the Lodger coming home to Batty Street at 2am would tie in with a 15-minute walk from Mitre Square, even if deviating via back streets, and would be about right. This is not the case. The facts are that if the killer went to Goulston Street after leaving Mitre Square and not straight to Batty Street—going to Spitalfields and then back to Batty Street—then it would certainly be longer than a 15-minute walk.

Let's look at the evidence.

At 1.30am PC Watkins checked Mitre Square, which was all clear.

Three witnesses named, Harris, Levy and Lawende saw a man and woman in Duke Street standing at the entrance to Church Passage around 1.33-35am

At 1.41-1.42am PC Harvey walked up Church Passage and stood viewing the square from the end of the passage and said he saw no one and heard nothing.

Eddowes was found dead at 1.44-1.45am by PC Watkins.

At 2.55am PC Long found a piece of the victim's apron in a doorway in Goulston Street.

(The above times are an estimate only. Although we know several witnesses took their times from clocks and a watch, they were mechanical and could run either fast or slow if not properly maintained.)

Police testimony given at the inquest on Eddowes indicated that the piece of apron was not in the doorway at 2.20am 34 to 35 minutes after the body was found. This is in direct conflict with the Batty Street lodger leaving Mitre Square to go straight to his lodging house in Batty Street arriving at 2am. Even if the apron piece had been in Goulston Street at 2am it doesn't alter the fact that the killer never headed East to Batty Street from Mitre Square.

Let's assume that the killer was walking and not running a four minute mile around the area and that it was the killer who took a piece of the victim's apron to Goulston Street and not a dog which has been suggested by some! The actual evidence does not fit in with the theory that the killer resided in Batty Street and that he went straight home to arrive there at 2am after leaving Mitre Square.

We have just seen that Stride has been described as a domestic murder victim by proponents of Tumblety and the reason why this is so vital to the case has been explained. Since Tumblety was first introduced to us as a suspect his accusers have added another possible exception to Jack the Ripper's victims, by suggesting that Mary Kelly was not a Ripper victim. It is interesting to note that of the five "canonical victims," Nichols, Chapman, Stride, Eddowes and Kelly, the only two victims cast into question by those suspecting Tumblety are Stride and Kelly, each of whom could present problems in the case against him.

We know why Stride fits into the equation for being suggested by Tumblety's prosecutors as a possible domestic murder victim but what about Kelly? Her murder is the greatest threat to Tumblety-as-the-Ripper theory. Tumblety was arrested on 7th November, 1888, for gross indecency. Kelly was murdered on 9th November, 1888, and we know Tumblety was bailed on the 16th of November. Therefore, it stands to reason that if it can be shown that Tumblety was in custody on 9th November he could not have killed Kelly. This in turn shows he could not have been the Ripper, unless of course Kelly wasn't a Ripper victim. Tumblety's proponents can hedge their bets by moving the goal posts yet again and leaving their options open by stating Kelly wasn't or *possibly* wasn't a Ripper victim. It certainly hasn't been proven by them that Tumblety was not in custody on the day of Kelly's murder and we only have their personal opinions that he wasn't. The actual official record on Tumblety's

arrest informs us that he was arrested for acts of gross-indecency with four men, received into custody on 7th November, remanded until next session and bailed on 16th November. We will be coming back to the question of Tumblety's bail later.

THE SIMS LETTER

As a keen collector of crime memorabilia, Stewart Evans bought a scrapbook of cuttings, one of which was written by George Sims dated 1911.

Sims wrote: The crimes of Jack the Ripper are still debated and from time to time the discussion as to his identity is revived in the press. Two adventures befell me as a journalist in this case. For many nights during the hue and cry I was in the area to which the crimes were confined. It was therefore with mixed feelings that I discovered that my portrait had been taken to Dr. Forbes Winslow, who was writing a good deal on the case at the time, and given to him with the request that he would send it to the police as there was no doubt I was the guilty man. As a matter of fact the features of the man who is now believed by the authorities to have been Jack, did bear a certain resemblance to mine.

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 practise in the North West of London."

She gave his name and address and the names of the two people who were prepared to come forward and identify him as the lodger with the black bag, the knife, and 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 practise. There was ample proof that the real author of the horrors had committed suicide in the last stage of his maniacal frenzy.

Tumblety supporters have suggested that the great relevance of this story is the fact that it came to light nearly 20 years after the murders and is totally unconnected with the 1888 press reports of the Batty Street lodger to which it must refer—there are too many points of similarity. They maintain it must be seen as corroboration of the 1888 lodger story. The woman had nothing to gain and actually supplied details of her then current suspect. It is arguable that she, and the other two, would still be able to recognise a lodger she had taken in so many years before. The German woman, if it was her, could certainly be speaking good English by the time she saw Sims, and the details he obtained were given by the actual landlady herself. Their further argument is that in the 1888 story, the events described relate to the night of the 'double event' and the lodger coming in at 2am would tie in as a 15-minute walk from Mitre Square, even if deviating via back streets, would be about right.⁶

Here we have a journalist whose job it was to obtain all the necessary details relating to a story. This lady is alleged to have visited Sims to volunteer information, yet it is completely void of any details whatsoever that can show its authenticity. While Sims wrote that he was given certain information by this lady, he does not supply it. We don't know her name, which, if the story is to be believed, he must have known. He gives no addresses and no name is given for the lodger. Again, if the story were true the lady in question would have known the name of her lodger. Sims is not even certain about the year of the visit; surely any professional journalist or researcher would have made a note of the time and date of the interview, including the name and address of the lady and the lodger's name. Yet we have nothing but a story that is completely lacking in every vital detail which could be used to validate it. I find it most odd that the story is totally void of such vital information as dates, names and any addresses. It is most obvious that the Sims letter is a twisted version of the fabricated 22 Batty Street lodger newspaper articles. Sims also informs us, "There was ample proof that the real author of the horrors had committed suicide." Was there indeed!

On the night that this mystery lady visited Sims about her lodger, the American doctor, Sims wrote, "But, said my lady visitor, I have seen him again this week. He is now in practise in the North West of London."

This statement blows any theory about a possible connection between Tumblety and this American doctor clean out

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of the water and sinks it into the dark and murky depths. According to Sims's mystery lady she stated her lodger, the American doctor, was still practising after Tumblety had been dead for years!! Such a discrepancy in her alleged story only confirms that it isn't true.

Advocates of Tumblety as a suspect suggest that the woman (and the other two women she mentioned) who believed a doctor they had seen currently in practise in London was her 1888 lodger were mistaken, perhaps persuaded by the fact that he was an American and may have had similar features.⁷ This is the reason why the doctor was not disturbed by the police when Sims went to them with the information. The local police would know all about a doctor in practise in their area and likely know, from his history, that he could not have been in Whitechapel in 1888—therefore they would not bother him but dismiss the woman's story as a mistake.

If we analyse this argument carefully, it really is quite absurd to suggest that not one or two, but three people were mistaken in identifying this American as the lodger. It might be possible for one person to be mistaken—you could reason that the landlady, after so long might have fallen prey to a mistake of this kind—but to suggest that two other women did the same thing is really not at all believable; in fact it's laughable. The basic fact is that this American doctor could not have been Tumblety because the latter was already dead. To get over this flaw in the story the only argument that could be put forward is: "It is arguable that she and the other two would still be able to recognise a lodger she had taken in so many years before." The fact is, it is also arguable that Sims could be mistaken as his story was written in 1907 or 1908 three to four years after the lady's visit.

We only have two options in dealing with that flaw in the Sims' story, either that the three witnesses were mistaken or discredit Sims. Obviously, if Sims were discredited, then the case against his mystery American lodger is totally useless. It's just as likely that this mystery doctor was never disturbed by the police because the story was an invention on someone's part or they never gave the story any credence knowing the origins of the Batty Street lodger story and that it had already been investigated and wasn't true. Otherwise they would have been obliged to make inquiries as that was their job.

Let's look at the possibility that the police would know all about any doctor in their area from his history and that he could not have been in Whitechapel in 1888. The local police may have known about the odd doctor in practise in their area, but most certainly wouldn't have files on his history and movements indicating that he could not have been in Whitechapel in 1888! They didn't have knowledge or keep files on the movements of every doctor in their area and it's rather absurd to ask anyone to believe that they did.

Regardless of where this American doctor (or any other doctor for that matter) had his practise in London in 1888, he could still have travelled to and from Whitechapel for periods of time and the police would not have known. If this American doctor was practising in North West London or South London, for argument's sake, in 1888 and travelling to and from Whitechapel, the police in those areas wouldn't have been aware of where he was going or what he was doing. Let's say that I went to my local police station and told them that I had seen a local doctor whom I had recognised as being a lodger of mine 20 years ago in a town where I had once lived 60 miles away. I then implied that he possibly killed several people there and that my wife had gone into his room and found a knife and bloodstained clothing which he had left in a bag after fleeing and that I had two other witnesses to corroborate my story. They wouldn't say, "Hang on lad, let's check to see if he had a practise or was living in that area 20 years ago." He didn't have to live in the area to kill in it.

The first thing they would do would be to take statements, after which they would investigate the matter which by law they would be obliged to do. The doctor concerned would be interviewed without any doubt and his whereabouts at the time of the murders ascertained if at all possible. It would have been the same in Sims' day when his mystery lady is alleged to have called on him with the same type of story. Either Sims made the whole thing up using the fabricated press reports as a foundation to his yarn. Or the police knew the fabricated lodger story had already been checked out and was untrue. Why would this mystery landlady wait for 20 years before relating her story to Sims or the police? The answer is simple, she wouldn't have.

If one has a story that is seen as corroboration of a fabricated story then logic dictates that both stories are fabricated! We now know that the very dubious October 1888 lodger story was due to idle gossip and fabrication by a reporter apart from the fact that serious doubt has been placed on the authenticity of the contents of the Sims letter. You can't use a very highly dubious and suspect letter to corroborate a fabricated story.

Firstly, we have the letter that was sent by Mr Noun, the lodger at 22 Batty Street, to the *Evening News* to confirm that there was no truth in the October 1888 lodger story that they had printed.

Secondly, we have the response by the *Evening News* to Mr Noun's letter and they sent someone to 22 Batty Street to interview the landlady to clarify the situation. Their subsequent article conflicted so much with their first one that

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it showed that the Batty Street lodger story was untrue. Their published article on 18th October, 1888, which included an interview with the landlady, confirms that the information sent to them by Mr Noun was true. Such information not only stands to demolish the Sims story and his credibility, but it also completely destroys the fantasy story regarding the 22 Batty Street lodger.

It has been suggested that the woman in the Sims' letter had little to gain and also supplied information about her current suspect. But did she supply details? What was the suspect's name, where was his practise in the North West of London? More to the point, what was her name and address? I can think of only two reasons why Sims never communicated such vital information in his letter. Either the woman was nothing more than a figment of his imagination or she had simply spun him a yarn. I can't see how people can say the woman had nothing to gain when they don't know anything about her or the finer details of the situation. Whoever she was, she couldn't have been be the landlady of 22 Batty Street, Mrs Kuer, because she was interviewed on the 17th of October, 1888, and her comments appeared in the *Evening News* the next day. Mrs Kuer's comments conflict totally with those of Sims' mystery woman, as does the statement from Mrs Kuer's lodger, Mr Noun.

No lodger, American or otherwise, with a blood-soaked shirt came home to 22 Batty Street on the night of the double murder. Little wonder, then, that Sims never supplied the finer details that could give any credence to his story, such as dates, names or addresses. We only have his word that the woman gave him such details because he never produced them as evidence and one doesn't need to be the brightest star in the night sky to realize why. The Sims letter does show one vital fact about this American doctor who it is alleged was the Batty Street lodger—he most certainly wasn't Tumblety. He had been dead for several years when Sims interviewed his mystery landlady who said she had seen her American lodger, the doctor, that week!

COL. DUNHAM'S PRESS INTERVIEW

The story behind Tumblety's pathological collection originated from Col. Charles Dunham a convicted perjurer who was interviewed by a reporter from the *New York World* on 2nd December, 1888.

Those promoting Tumblety as a suspect have relied a great deal on the contents of this newspaper report from Col. Dunham as a main lynch pin to their theory that Tumblety was Jack the Ripper. The quality of evidence is still of paramount importance and the principles of the law still apply when viewing and using evidence against a suspect and this is a fact that many people disregard.

If a person stands accused of a crime and evidence is produced from a witness with a view to prove his guilt and that witness is shown to be an unreliable witness (ie. a known con man, liar, cheat, recidivist and convicted perjurer) then it most certainly has a bearing on the case against the defendant. This is precisely why the characters of witnesses in court cases is challenged. If the witness is found to be a person of bad character, and a known liar, then he is classed as an unreliable witness and as such his testimony is either struck from the record or the judge will make a ruling on it in his summing up, advising the jury to ignore it. Such evidence should not be used in the case against the defendant. This is why I consider that the testimony of Dunham is unsound and far from being a reliable source. It should not be used as evidence of any description against Tumblety. It's certainly no excuse to say, "But that's the only evidence we have." It's not evidence and it's no substitute for evidence.

We would be hard pressed to find a less reliable source. It transpires that Col. Dunham had a background of being nothing more than a con man, compulsive liar, and a devious cheat who had been sentenced to ten years hard labour for his activities.

Carman Cumming, Dunham's biographer, wrote an excellent article exposing Dunham in the January 2006 issue of *Ripperologist* entitled, "The American Connection, Sandford Conover aka Charles A. Dunham and Dr. Francis Tumblety". It is not my intention to go over all the ground already covered by Mr Cumming, who completely demolished Dunham as a reliable source. The bogus Col. Dunham, termed by C. Cumming as a "reptile journalist" and "agent provocateur", wrote for several newspapers under various names and has been termed, "a most remarkable liar and scoundrel, possibly the least reliable witness who ever faked a newspaper column." He had such a bad reputation that no one in their right mind who knew of his background would believe a word he had to say.

Littlechild also wrote of Tumblety, "His feelings towards women were remarkable and bitter in the extreme, a fact on record."

The only record that I am aware of that relates to Tumblety's attitude towards women is in the interview given by the convicted perjurer Col. Dunham to the press and that can hardly be termed as either, "a fact on record" or "circumstantial evidence" when one considers Dunham's track record. One must ask if this alleged interview is one of Dunham's con jobs.

Dunham on Tumblety:

“When he was asked why he hated women, he said that when quite a young man he fell desperately in love with a pretty girl, rather his senior, who promised to reciprocate his affection. After a brief courtship he married her. The honeymoon was not over when he noticed a disposition on the part of his wife to flirt with other men. He remonstrated, she kissed him, called him a dear jealous fool- and he believed her. Happening one day to pass in a cab through the worst part of the town he saw his wife and a man enter a gloomy-looking house. Then he learned that before her marriage his wife had been an inmate of that and many similar houses. Then he gave up all womankind”.

These words were repudiated by Tumblety in his *New World* newspaper interview when he replied to the question “You are accused of being a woman-hater. What have you to say to that?” This seemed to amuse the doctor a great deal and he laughed loud and long. Then he said. “I don’t care to talk about the ladies, but I will show you one little evidence that I am not regarded with aversion by the sex. I will first explain how it came to me. I had received a letter of introduction to a lady of rank, a duchess, who was then at Torquay, which is several hundred miles from London. I presented my letter and was invited to breakfast with her. When I came I presented her with a bouquet of flowers and she picked up a quill that was lying on the table near by and dashed off the following stanzas extempore:

To Dr. Francis Tumblety, M.Ed.:
Thanks for the lovely rosebuds sent.
Its beauty may be fleeting,
But not it’s sentiment.
And it’s charming beauty
Nor colour cannot last,
It will be a pleasant duty,
In memory of the past,
To guard the faded flower,
When you have gone from me,
In memory of the hour
You came to sweet Torquay.
Mary.

Now that doesn’t look like a woman-hater, does it?” said the doctor, with a look of pride.

Both the Tumblety and Dunham press interviews conflict with each other on the point of the former’s attitude towards women. More to the point, both are full of known untruths in various other respects and should be placed where they truly belong, in the rubbish bin. If one is going to relate a story to the public then all the story should be told “warts and all” rather than only half of it.

Dunham wrote under the name of Sandford Conover for the *New York Tribune* (note the use of the name Conover...he certainly did Con over a great many people).

Ripperologist Wolf Vanderlinden wrote a very informative article on Dunham in *Ripper Notes*, July 2005, which included the following, “Charles A. Dunham had many aliases. For example, he used ‘Conover’ when he wrote for the *New York Tribune*; ‘Harvey Birch’ when he wrote for the *New York Herald* and ‘Franklin Foster’ when he wrote for the *New York World*....and he was writing for all three at the same time! Perversely, he would write an article as Birch for the *Herald* then write a savage rebuttal of this article for the *Tribune* as Conover. As Conover he also wrote articles exposing Dunham (who, remember, was himself) as a turncoat who had given up his commission in the Union Army to join the South.”

Here we have a man writing articles exposing himself, which indicates that he certainly was a devious and untrustworthy pathological liar. Dunham’s lies went further than being politically motivated and anyone believing otherwise is sadly deluded. Carman Cumming made the following observation on Dunham’s *New York World* interview, “His account of Tumblety in the *New York World* - which reads more like a written article than an interview-must, therefore, remain in the highly doubtful category.”⁸

The term “highly doubtful category” used by Mr Cummings is generous. What happens if we take away the unreliable newspaper interview of the perjurer Col. Dunham, which was used in an attempt to make a case against Tumblety?

1. We would have no collection of pathological specimens collected by Tumblety.
2. There would be no tale in relation to Tumblety marrying a woman who turned out to his dismay to be a prosti-

⁸ Carman Cumming -The American Connection, Sandford Conover aka Charles A. Dunham and Dr. Francis Tumblety, *Ripperologist* January 2006

tute, which we are asked to believe made him give up on “all womankind” and seek further solace in the company of homosexuals. No record of any such marriage has ever been found and I have seen no other mention, apart from Dunham’s, that suggests Tumblety was ever married. I certainly don’t class Dunham’s alleged comment that Tumblety had a wife as any kind of evidence, circumstantial or otherwise, because it’s far too unreliable.

3. There would be no alleged hatred towards women.
4. There would be no alleged motive for Tumblety to either hate or kill prostitutes.

An article entitled, ‘Jack the Ripper I Presume’, by Richard Whittington-Egan that appeared in *The New Law Journal* ⁹ stated that Tumblety had died a Roman Catholic on 28th May, 1903, at St. John’s Charity Hospital in St. Louis. The article included the following, “In 1901 he was in Baltimore. It was there that he, the allegedly vitriolic hater of prostitutes, made a will bequeathing \$1,000 dollars for the Fallen Women of Baltimore.” Hardly the act of a man who hated prostitutes so much that he murdered them.

The *Washington Post*, 16th April, 1907, ran an article entitled, “Rich Gifts for Prelates”. The article’s subhead read, “Supposed Pauper, Who Once Lived Here, Left Cardinal Gibbons and Archbishop Ireland \$10,000 each.”

The article also stated, “Old Washingtonians remember Tumilty [sic], who was one of the most picturesque of the many vagabonds who have at different times made this city their stamping ground.” A vagabond means a person who has no settled home or job but the old use of the word vagabond means a rogue.

Another observation made by Vanderlinden in his article concerned Dunham’s claims that at a dinner in Washington, D.C., at Tumblety’s combined lodgings and office, he was shown the uteri collection. However, at the time Tumblety was living at the Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Avenue, and had his office elsewhere on Pennsylvania Avenue. This makes Dunham’s tale about the anatomical collection seem nothing but sheer invention.

It is ridiculous to imagine that Tumblety, an alleged Ripper suspect, would invite dinner guests to a private viewing of a collection of uteri. The same type of organs that I might add, were taken from JtR’s victims. Hardly dinner party entertainment, I should think. Dunham’s *New York World* interview goes far beyond being suspect and it should never have been used as evidence in an attempt to implicate Tumblety.

Since Tumblety was first suggested as a suspect, the erroneous idea seems to have been circulated that an “American doctor” had been trying to buy wombs from one of the London teaching hospitals. This was supposedly given some credence when Wynne Baxter the coroner summed up at the inquest of Annie Chapman.

The collection of wombs in glass jars can be easily dismissed because that tale is attributed to the pathological liar and cheat Col. Dunham. As for Wynne Baxter, he certainly never gave any credence to this suspect. In Wynne Baxter’s summing up at Chapman’s inquest he made no mention of an American doctor trying to buy specimens. The account is reported in the *Times* of Thursday, 27th September, 1888. Reprinted below is the part that refers to an American trying to buy specimens, but there is no mention of him being a doctor.

Within a few hours of the issue of the morning papers containing a report of the medical evidence given at the last sitting of the Court he received communication from an officer of one of our great medical schools that they had information which might or might not have a distinct bearing on that inquiry. He attended at the first opportunity, and was informed by the sub-curator of the Pathological Museum that some months ago an American had called on him and asked him to procure a number of specimens of the organ that was missing in the deceased. He stated his willingness to give £20 apiece for each specimen.

The report added that the American “wished them sent to America direct.” Also, “It was known that this request was repeated to another institution of a similar character.” This American could have been a medical student or a buyer for a pathological museum etc, but not necessarily a doctor.

Common sense suggests that no one is going to go around London hospitals incriminating themselves by trying to purchase wombs without success, only to go out on the streets to murder prostitutes simply to acquire them. We are informed that this American wanted a number of specimens, yet we have five victims but only two uteri were taken so why should this mysterious American, if he were JtR, kill three victims removing their uteri? To state that he was disturbed before he could take the desired specimens is no valid argument because the killer had more than enough time to take Kelly’s but did not, and there is no evidence (only the odd opinion) to show that he was disturbed at Bucks Row.

⁹ Richard Whittington-Egan - *Jack the Ripper I Presume*, *The New Law Journal*, 29 September, 2000. Volume 150, page 1432.

This American was also prepared to give out an address where the specimens could be sent—hardly the actions of a serial killer or potential serial killer.

THE BLACK BAG FOUND IN A CHARING CROSS HOTEL

The *Daily Globe* 10th October 1888, carried the following story:

A well-informed correspondent states that he has gleaned the following information from an undeniably authentic source, and from careful and persistent inquiries in various quarters he is able to relate the news as fact, though for obvious reasons the name and addresses are for the present suppressed. A certain member of the Criminal Investigation Department has recently journeyed to Liverpool and there traced the movements of a man which has proved of a somewhat mysterious kind. The height of this person and his description generally are fully ascertained, and among other things he was in possession of a black leather bag.

This man suddenly left Liverpool for London, and for some time occupied apartments in a well-known first class hotel in the West End, it is stated that for some reason or another this person was in the habit of 'slumming'. He would visit the lower parts of London, and scour the slums of the East End. He suddenly disappeared from the hotel leaving behind the black leather bag and its contents, and has not returned. He left a small bill unpaid, and ultimately an advertisement appeared in the Times, setting forth the gentleman's name and drawing attention to the fact that the bag would be sold under the Innkeepers' Act to defray expenses, unless claimed.

This was done last month by a well-known auctioneer in London, and the contents or some of them, are now in the possession of the police, who are thoroughly investigating the affair. Of these we, of course, cannot make mention, but certain documents, wearing apparel, cheque books, prints of an obscene description, letters, &c., are said to form the foundation of a most searching inquiry now on foot, which is being vigilantly pursued by those in authority. It has been suggested that the mysterious personage referred to landed in Liverpool from America, but this so far is no more than a suggestion.

This newspaper item has been used by accusers of Tumblety to support their case that Tumblety is a viable suspect. They suggest that the suspect mentioned here was in fact Tumblety. Certainly on the surface it does look as if it fits in with some of the known facts about Tumblety. However, there are some important points about this newspaper item that need to be brought out. This advertisement does not name Tumblety anywhere in the list and in fact the above newspaper item only gives part of the original advertisement and does not give the date for it. In fact the original advertisement was placed in the newspaper in April 1888 not October 1888. The hotel, instead of placing an advertisement in the paper every time an item of luggage was left by a hotel customer the practice was to wait until a quantity of luggage was accumulated before placing the advertisement.

Here is the original advertisement as placed in the *Times*, 12th April, 1888:

INNKEEPERS ACT 41 and 42 Vic., Cap.38 - Notice is hereby given, that UNLESS the LUGGAGE LEFT at the CHARING CROSS HOTEL, West Strand, London, consisting of wearing apparel and personal effects, previous to the 15th September, 1887, is CLAIMED and all charges thereon paid before the 31st May next, in the names undermentioned, the same will be SOLD by public AUCTION to defray expenses:- G. Gilbert, A. Bayley, M. Lebfeldt, Miss West, S.E. Mibrac, G. Matthew, C.T. Mathew, F. Desban, Lake Price, Siger, E.A.R. Verbeck, Captain White, E. Courtois, J.A. Jenkins, A. Harper, L. Young, C.E. Thomas, A. St. Clair, Dr. Young, Skrine, Count de Bossy, J. Solomons, Capt. L. Owen.

By order, S.S. H. Maines, Secretary.

Charing Cross Chambers, Duke Street, Adelphi.

It can be seen here that it was not only one person who was being sought for leaving luggage—there were 20 other people as well. Furthermore, the idea of the items mentioned all being in one bag may not be accurate. The term cheque books for example suggests that they belonged to more than one person, unless of course there were books under different aliases or all in the same name. Knowing how unreliable press reports were circa 1888, it could be that the items mentioned were in different bags.

The fact of the matter is there is absolutely no known link between this black leather bag and Tumblety. It most cer-

tainly cannot be classed as circumstantial evidence by any stretch of the imagination. The manner in which this black leather bag has been introduced as a possible link to Tumblety, together with the omission of known information, leaves much to be desired concerning research methods and what some people attempt to put forth as evidence.

TUMBLETY'S ARREST & BAIL.

One of the main arguments put forward to support Tumblety as a suspect is that he was taken into custody on a minor charge of gross indecency and that he could not be held for more than 24 hours without being taken before a court and tried. If he could not appear before a court within that period then he had to be released on police bail. (There are some provisos that the police can apply to a magistrate for a 12-hour extension to hold a suspect extending the time from 24 hours to 36 hours.)

The objection has been raised that, surely, if the police had thought that Tumblety was Jack the Ripper they would have been able to find some excuse to hold Tumblety. The counter argument is that the rule of *habeas corpus* applied then as it does now and unless they had evidence then they could do nothing to hold him in regards to the murders.

The fact is that the police could have refused Tumblety bail on the sex offences and could have remanded him into custody regardless of the fact that the gross indecency charges for which he was held were classed as misdemeanours. This simply meant that the case could have been dealt with at the magistrates court rather than at the sessions, but more on this later.

The truth of the matter is that the police could have done quite a few things if they thought he was the Ripper. Tumblety committed four acts of indecent assault and gross indecency that were contrary to Section 11 of the Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1885, and carried a maximum sentence of two years with or without hard labour on each charge. The Victorians were not tolerant of such behaviour and took a rather dim view of such activities. The police could have refused him bail on quite a few grounds that will be dealt with later in this article. Yet more to the point, we are being asked to believe that Tumblety, who it is alleged was pulled in over the Ripper murders and arrested for gross indecency on 7th November and knowing he was being followed (according to his press interview), threw caution to the wind and killed Kelly two days later on 9th November!

British court records show that Tumblety was received into custody on 7th November, 1888, being arrested for gross indecency. He was eventually charged on four counts concerning the following individuals: John Doughty, Arthur Brice, Albert Fisher and James Crowley. The record shows Tumblety's age as 56 and lists him as a physician. We know Tumblety was not only arrested on the 7th November but also charged because he was remanded to appear at the next sessions on the 16th November and you don't get remanded to appear at a court unless you have been charged. The point is that we know he was remanded on the 7th to appear at court on the 16th. Which brings me to my next points.

Tumblety was granted bail at the Marlborough Street Magistrates Court on 16th November by the Magistrate James L. Hanney. This was against a surety of \$1,500.

Tumblety was arrested on 7th November for the offence(s) of gross indecency, a misdemeanour.

Those who promote Tumblety as a suspect have put forward the following hypothesis to explain what might have happened after this: They suggest that he would receive *police bail*, while evidence was gathered for the offences to be charged. Police bail is usually granted for seven days and the offender then returns to the police station where he would be *re-arrested* for the initial offence when he surrendered to the bail, or if he is re-arrested, on a warrant, for not answering that bail. None of the police or court records appear to have survived so we really can't say for certain.

Despite the fact that the bail may not have been answered, the offence was still a minor one, he probably had no previous convictions, and the bail sum set was very high (which would indicate a wish for him to either be unable to meet the sum or to insure that he would forfeit a large amount if bail was not answered).

It most certainly does not follow that Tumblety was bailed from the police station on 7th November to appear one week later back at the police station on 14th November while evidence was gathered. We know from the court record that he was received into custody on the 7th and remanded to answer bail at the next sessions on the 16th (not to the police station). Also the suggestion that, "It would follow that he would receive *police bail*, whilst evidence was gathered for the offences to be charged etc." ⁹ Certain evidence would have already been gathered which was why he was arrested, charged and remanded on the 7th to appear before the court on the 16th.

In more than 30 years as a career criminal I was never arrested and then released on police bail to appear back at the police station a week or so later while they searched for evidence and the procedure I experienced would have

been the same in 1888. After being arrested, the form would have been to take me to the station and charge me. If they never had the evidence with which to charge me I would be locked in the cells. After 24 hours and with no evidence forthcoming with which to charge me and no extension applied for from the court, I would be released. Sometimes I would simply be arrested, taken to the station, interviewed and then released within an hour or two. Of course people, can be released on police bail but it's not as common as proponents of Tumblety would have us believe.

As for the suggestion that "the bail sum was set very high (which would indicate a wish for him to either be unable to meet the sum or to insure that he would forfeit a large amount if bail was not answered)."¹¹

The reasoning is again totally at fault here because we know that two securities stood bail for Tumblety on the 16th so that statement "a wish for him to either be unable to meet the sum or to insure that he would forfeit a large amount if bail was not answered" is a totally false premise and very misleading because Tumblety never had to put up any bail money—that's what his two securities were for.

When the police picked up Tumblety on 7th November, 1888, and they had believed him to be the Ripper and the Batty Street lodger they would have brought in Mrs Kuer the landlady to identify him—so why didn't they? The reason they never did is because they knew that the tall story about the lodger was a total fabrication.

NOTE: The four charges relate to four different occasions, Friday, 27th July, 1888; Friday, 31st August, 1888; Sunday, 14th October, 1888, and Friday, 2nd November, 1888. The offences were committed "With Force and Arms" It should not be assumed that any of the four offences were investigated by the police after Tumblety's arrest on 7th November. They would have got the evidence against him before he was charged. The 'Force and Arms'. could just as likely indicate that young boys were the victims rather than grown men. According to one American newspaper report, Tumblety was arrested in the United States at a railway station for trying to accost a young boy. The police would have quite a task on their hands trying to prove that Tumblety had forced four grown men to commit acts of gross indecency with him. It just doesn't wash with me—a good barrister could have knocked some really big holes in such a story at trial. On the other hand, it would be far more feasible and logical under the circumstances if the victims were boys and would involve a totally different ball game. Logic dictates that to use 'Force and Arms' on grown men for acts of gross indecency a weapon would have been used to intimidate the victims and if this had been the case then the charges would have reflected the unlawful use of such a weapon. Tumblety would have faced several charges apart from the four gross indecency offences if a weapon had of been used. Personally, I have seen no evidence to show that Tumblety had ever used a weapon in the pursuit of crime.

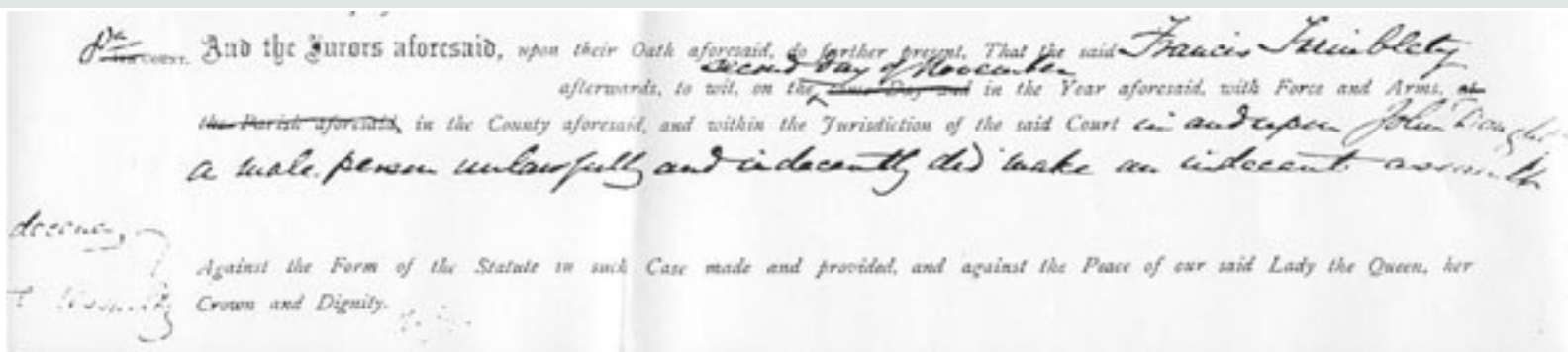
It has also been suggested that the charges against Tumblety may have been engineered so that the four individuals could appear as witnesses against him rather than co-defendants. If the four individuals involved had pleaded guilty then they would not have been co-defendants inasmuch that they would appear in court with Tumblety because he had elected to go for trial which meant he pleaded not guilty. The other four if pleading guilty would have appeared at the magistrates court. If on the other hand the magistrate felt any of the four deserved more than six months he would have sent them to the sessions for sentence. If the four individuals were young victims, which the term 'With force of arms' suggests, then they would have been witnesses for the prosecution and deemed victims rather than defendants. Several press reports have linked Tumblety to young boys in London and the United States.

Various Ripperologists have incorrectly stated that it was common police practise to release the accused on bail while they investigated the matter; not in England it wasn't/isn't, which is why if evidence isn't found within 24 hours then the accused must be released if a 12-hour extension isn't obtained by the police from the court.

If the accused is arrested and the police then have to find the evidence with which to charge him they will hold him in the cells while they search for the evidence and they have 24-36 hours in which to do it. If after such times they have no evidence the accused is released. Various Ripperologists are making comments in relation to matters of law with which they have little or no knowledge and certainly no experience. I spent the better part of my life involved with crime and when it comes to matters of warrants, arrest procedures, bail etc I am not totally ignorant of the law. Suffice to state that I have never been arrested and then released on police bail to appear back at the station one or two weeks later while police investigated the matter. I have either been:

1. Charged on the day of my arrest and bailed to appear before a court at a later date.
2. Released within 24 hours without charges being brought.

11 www.casebook.org - archived thread 'Tumblety's Bail' - January 2000



Francis Tumblety's charge sheet

3. Taken to court (the day after being arrested and charged) because police bail was refused and either had bail refused by the court and remanded in custody or bailed by the court under police objections (this only ever happened once)

However, this would not have been applicable in 1888. In the case of Tumblety I would have to say that the police would possibly have had the evidence gathered before they arrested him on the 7th or at least held him for the limit in custody while they searched for the evidence with which they could charge him and we know that he was charged on the 7th. When one views the nature of the charges and the fact that he was arrested on November 7th, common sense and what evidence we do have dictate the situation rather than wishful thinking to suit a particular purpose.

Another point made by those wishing to put Tumblety on top of the suspect list is that both police and court records apparently no longer exist and the only records we have on the arrest of Tumblety are to be found in the tabular Central Criminal Court calendar.

I for one don't have a problem with Tumblety's arrest on the 7th, nor do I presume it was for gross indecency. I would put money on it that he was arrested and charged with gross indecency on the 7th November and possibly for all four counts rather than just one. Just because one person can't find any records doesn't mean that they don't exist. It's akin to Melvin Harris saying that D'Onston's grave didn't exist in this country because he couldn't find it—but found it was .

Now we come to the mystery warrant that is alleged to have been issued against Tumblety on 14th November, 1888. It has been suggested by several people for some time past that Ripperologist Andy Aliffe saw this warrant, but he wrote to me by e-mail, and I quote: "I have never seen a warrant for his arrest". What Andy told me he saw was the court records for Marlborough Street Court kept at the London Metropolitan Archives which listed Tumblety's court appearances and charges. I e-mailed Stewart Evans about this warrant and he very kindly replied to me that; "There appears to have been be some confusion over it. No warrant was located, it was a report in a US newspaper that mentioned it and it was supportive of the idea of police bail. I'm not sure which report it was in but it was one of the extracts found by Gainey in the US." Unfortunately, I was informed by Stewart that he "cannot easily find it" and that he is not in touch with Paul Gainey, who has moved back to the Bristol area.

Several researchers have checked through the newspaper archives for me in vain looking for the report concerning this warrant. A.P. Wolf did locate a reference to a "warrant" reported in the *Daily Inter Ocean* of 20th November, 1888, but the warrant in question was issued in 1874 and not in 1888. It is a most informative article, which states that while Tumblety could not be held on suspicion, the police did succeed in getting him held. Regarding the warrant of 1874, it all started when Tumblety picked up a boy in Liverpool and took him to London. The boy in question stole Tumblety's gold watch and chain, which the latter reported. The boy was picked up and made a statement to police regarding Tumblety's "vile character" after which a warrant was issued for Tumblety's arrest. The report adds that this offence was not unlike offences Tumblety was known to have committed in the States. This only enforces my belief that he took a particular liking to young boys. So, if this offence took place in 1874 it's not surprising that the Yard had a dossier on him by 1888.

Some Ripperologists think they know all about the British legal system when they have neither encountered it nor had any experience of it. Several Tumblety supporters have voiced incorrect opinions that people in prison don't get warrants issued for them. It happens all the time in Britain and here is just one example of a man convicted recently of manslaughter:

DAILY MIRROR 23rd November, 2007, by Don Mackay

Anthony Joseph, 23 stabbed 28-year-old Richard Whelan to death in London after throwing chips at his girlfriend

only hours after being released. He was let out despite a warrant being out for his arrest over an alleged burglary. It was on the Police National Computer but the jail was unaware of it.

Various criminals I personally knew have also had warrants issued for them while on remand or serving a sentence.

I have had the police call on me with a warrant for my arrest that was not backed for bail for failing to pay maintenance to a lady who the police alleged was my wife. The problem was that I was single at the time and had never been married! After proving that I had never been married the warrant was withdrawn and quite rightly so. Just because it has been alleged (but not proven) that Tumblety had a warrant issued for his arrest on 14th November, 1888, it doesn't signify that he wasn't in a remand prison at the time. Are we to believe every piece of flim-flam printed in US papers about Tumblety? I don't think so.

There is no way Tumblety would have been given bail on the sex charges if the police really thought that he was Jack the Ripper. They had him on charges with which he could receive a custodial sentence and for which bail could have been refused. I have known many cases where bail has been refused for the most minor of reasons by a magistrates court because of police requests and the defendants were remanded in custody and had to apply to a Judge in Chambers for bail. The police would have taken full advantage of the situation and would have pulled some strings if need be to have Tumblety remanded in custody on those four offences. One must remember that JtR's actions went much further than just killing prostitutes. His killing spree had repercussions leading to civil and political upheaval. Even Queen Victoria got involved and was complaining about the police not doing their job to catch him.

The bail set for Tumblety was high by the standards of the day, and two securities were required to stand his bail, which indicates the seriousness of the situation regardless of the fact that it was a misdemeanour and as such has been played down by his proponents. Tumblety was not given bail in his own recognizance. Little wonder Tumblety did a runner because circumstances indicate that he stood a good chance of going to prison on those four counts, especially if he had elected to go for trial. This Tumblety did do and the trial date was set for the 10th of December. If a defendant elects to plead not guilty and go for trial and he is found guilty then he would generally be dealt with more severely by the judge and a custodial sentence would be far more likely. Tumblety knew full well that he wasn't going to risk standing trial and electing to do so was simply a ploy to give him the time needed to make his plans to escape justice. He had two choices regarding his two securities who had stood bail for him.

1. Get them to withdraw the bail once he had set sail, which would cover them.
2. Leave his two securities high and dry by saying nothing to them about his plans to jump bail.

Tumblety absconded because he knew he was facing a prison sentence if found guilty over the offences he had been charged with and not because of anything to do with some alleged arrest over the Ripper murders.

I have been in contact with two main county police Headquarters (Hampshire and Surrey) and they could not advise me on matters concerning 1888 bail conditions. In fact it was suggested that I speak to a solicitor on the matter. Even then only solicitors that dealt in criminal law could advise me. Three solicitors I spoke to who practise criminal law agreed that if the police and court had the slightest suspicion that Tumblety was the Ripper they most certainly would have refused him bail on those four sex offences. He would have been remanded in custody while police investigated the more serious crimes of murder. I have known many criminals who have been refused bail in the magistrates court and remanded in custody on minor offences which they had been charged with simply because the police were investigating more serious crimes they had committed. I went so far as to contact Portsmouth University, where criminal law is taught and where all the relevant information in my area is held. The basic principles governing bail are not that complicated to understand and the idea of this exercise is to show that Tumblety could have easily been refused bail on a misdemeanour and that vital evidence has been omitted in the case against him.

After checks were made on my behalf by the law librarian at Portsmouth University, I applied to have the following information sent to me.

Indictable Offences Act, 1848.

Modern Law Review, Volume 31, issue 1, pages 40-54 in the section 'The granting of bail principles and practises.' Confirms the basics of which I already knew from my many years of experience concerning the conditions and principles in granting bail and reads as follows:

The origin of the present-day magisterial discretion in the granting of bail lies in the Indictable Offences Act 1848.

This Act provides that the committing justice may in his discretion admit to bail a person charged with any felony, or with any of a dozen misdemeanours listed. Stephen comments, "The short result is that the justice may in his discretion either bail or refuse to bail any person accused either of felony or any common misdemeanour except libel, conspiracies other than those named, unlawful assembly, night poaching, and seditious offences."

Another Source which sheds more light on the subject is *A History of the Criminal Law of England* by Sir James Fitzjames Stephen, (London, 1883), Vol. 1, p.239. This states:

The statute of 1835 is said to be of real significance, because for the first time in statutes governing bail procedures, all the other factors which were held to be of crucial importance in determining whether or not to grant bail like presumption of guilt, confessions, etc. are all subordinated to the single criterion of the risk that the accused will not appear to take his trial.

Now we come to the crux of the matter in factors taken into consideration when granting or refusing bail in the magistrates court taken from *Archbold, pleading, Evidence and Practise in Criminal Cases* (36th ed ., London 1966), 203.

"Criminal record and further offences. By far the most common factor cited in the more recent reported cases, as justification for magistrates to refuse bail, is the combined factor of a man's previous criminal record and the consequent likelihood that he will commit further offences if released on bail. Many of these judicial pronouncements were occasioned by cases of men who had been released on bail and who had committed further offences while so released."

"Most modern textbooks of English criminal law and procedure STILL maintain as the primary reason for the refusal of bail the likelihood of a person absconding, and subordinate all other factors to that chief consideration. In *Archbold*, it is stated that,

"The proper test of whether bail should be granted or refused is whether it is probable that the defendant will appear to take his trial...

The test should be applied by reference to the following considerations:

- 4) The nature of the accusation.
- 5) The nature of the evidence in support of the accusation.
- 6) The severity of the punishment which conviction will entail.
- 7) Whether the sureties are independent, or indemnified by the accused person.

"It is, perhaps, mainly because there are few unambiguous principles to which magistrates can refer for definite guidance in the exercise of their traditional discretion in the granting or refusing of bail that they tend to follow the recommendations of the police, rarely granting bail in cases where there is police objection to this course of action."

Two other reasons which I can think of straight from the top of my head as reasons for refusing bail in a magistrates court are the likelihood of the accused interfering with witnesses and not having any fixed abode. Bail does not have to be refused on a combination of reasons it can be refused on one point alone. *Archbold* has been the career criminal's chosen reference book on matters of law since I can remember (1960s) and is used widely by defendants on appeal.

Tumblety fitted all the criteria for having bail refused on the sex charges, the main consideration being that he could abscond, which in fact he did.

1. Having the funds to abscond, which he did have.
2. Evidence of his guilt—there were four men who could give evidence against him.
3. The nature of his crime was looked upon with distaste and some seriousness regardless of the fact that it was a misdemeanour.
4. He was a persistent offender and likely to offend while on bail. The four counts of gross indecency over a period of time show he was.
5. Facing a prison sentence with possible hard labour if found guilty.

The police would have had no problem in refusing him bail, which just enforces the belief held by many people that police eventually gave him bail on the 16th, knowing he could not be JtR.

They never had to release him within 24 hours just because it was a misdemeanour and it's absurd to suggest such a

thing. Being a misdemeanour had nothing to do with it. He could have been refused bail and I believe that it's feasible that he was refused bail on the 7th and that he was remanded in custody until the 16th as the record suggests and that is when two individuals stood bail for him. He could have been on remand when Kelly was killed, which was why he was released on bail on 16th November.

I've been tried in both the old assize court and county sessions, the latter of which were held every three months by a circuit judge. I've also been refused bail or had it taken away from me and I have also applied for it to a judge in chambers when it's been refused by the courts. The principle of bail is a subject that I've had experience with; it was an occupational hazard in my case. Courts today do not like to refuse bail without good reason, but if the police object you better have a very good barrister and even then I'd put the odds against bail being granted. In principle a poor man stood more chance of getting bail in the 19th century than a wealthy one because he never had the funds to abscond. This is mentioned in *The Granting Of Bail: Principles And Practises*.

When he presented his bill for it's second reading by the House of Lords, the Lord Chancellor, the Earl of Halsbury, said:

For some reason which I am unable to understand, the magistrates throughout the country have exhibited very strong reluctance to admit to bail. I am told by those that ought to know that it has arisen from a belief that the facilities for railway travelling, etc. aid the escape from justice of persons, if allowed out on bail, but that our improved system of police and the electric telegraph make it almost impossible for poor people to escape.

This theme was developed by Lord Russell of Killowen C.J. when he charged the grand jury at Salisbury Assizes, 1899: *It was the duty of magistrates to admit accused persons to bail, wherever practicable, unless there were strong grounds for supposing that such persons would not appear to take their trial. It was not the poorer classes who did not appear, for their circumstances were such as to tie them to the place where they carried out their work. They had not the golden wings with which to fly from justice.*

A similar sentiment was expressed in a letter to magistrates on behalf of the Home Secretary, Herbert Gladstone, on August 6, 1906, Where a person who is charged with a minor offence appears to have little or no means, *and is not believed to belong to the criminal, vagrant or homeless classes, the justices should generally grant the accused his release pending trial, either on his own recognisances or on bail in such small amount as he may reasonably be expected to find. Such persons as are not of the class who would readily desire to evade justice by leaving their homes and escaping elsewhere; their lack of means would make it very difficult for them, even if they wanted to do so.*

From my own experiences, the information I have gathered, plus advice from several criminal solicitors, the police and court would have had no problem whatsoever in refusing Tumblety bail on 7th November, 1888, on those gross-indecency offences simply because he fitted all the criteria for having bail refused. In 1888 it was not as easy to obtain bail as it is today as the records show.

The *New York Times*, 19th November, 1888 carried a story on Tumblety entitled: THE SAME TUMBLETY "His Arrest in London not His First" it included the following information:

The Dr Tumblety who was arrested in London a few days ago on suspicion of complicity in the Whitechapel murders, and who when proved innocent of that charge was held for trial at the Central criminal Court . . .

So according to this report, Tumblety was released over the murders but held for trial at the Old Bailey. The report states Tumblety was proved innocent of the charge so if true he either had a good alibi or was locked up when Kelly was killed

A MISDEMEANOR

The difference between a felony and a misdemeanour is that the latter is less serious than the former but that doesn't mean to say it's not at all serious. I wouldn't term the possibility of being imprisoned with hard labour from two to eight years (on four charges) as not being serious. Where the actual law came into it was that a misdemeanour could be dealt with at the magistrates court rather than at the sessions or assizes. From my experience, let's say one elects to appear before the magistrate on one charge that carries a maximum sentence of two years. If found guilty and the magistrate feels that the defendant should receive a sentence of more than six months he must send the defendant to the sessions for sentence. This is because by law a magistrate cannot give out a sentence exceeding six months on a charge. Let's say a defendant elected to go for trial to the sessions on four separate charges where the maximum sentence is two years on each charge. He is then found guilty on all four charges. The judge can run those sentences either concurrently or consecutively as he sees fit to do. A man up on four charges, where each charge carries a maximum sentence of two years, could end up with an eight-year prison sentence! It would be wrong to assume that a man convicted

on four charges that carry a maximum sentence of two years on each charge could only receive two years imprisonment.

However, one could elect to go for trial at the sessions, which would be advisable only if you were either innocent or stood a better chance of getting off. If the police had a person bang to rights and he knew it but elected to go for trial at the sessions on a misdemeanour then he was either a total idiot or playing for time in order to do a runner. There is no such thing as a misdemeanour in English law today as it has been abolished and sessions and assizes have been replaced with Crown Courts.

I would like to thank Ripperologist A.P. Wolf for the following information: In April 1888, Charles A.H. Burleigh, age 28, and Francis G. Widdows, age 38, were tried at the Central Criminal Court before Mr Justice A.L. Smith for conspiracy to commit acts of indecency towards boys. In May 1886, Burliegh had been found guilty of indecency at the Old Bailey and was sentenced to 18 months hard labour. In 1875 in Toronto, Widdows was convicted of indecency, and sentenced to five months imprisonment. Mr Justice A.L. Smith sentenced Burleigh on the felony charge of which he had been convicted, to be kept in penal servitude for life. Both men were then sentenced on May 1, 1888, to serve ten years for the misdemeanour. Both defendants had been refused bail prior to trial. The Old Bailey was where Tumblety was due to have had his trial.

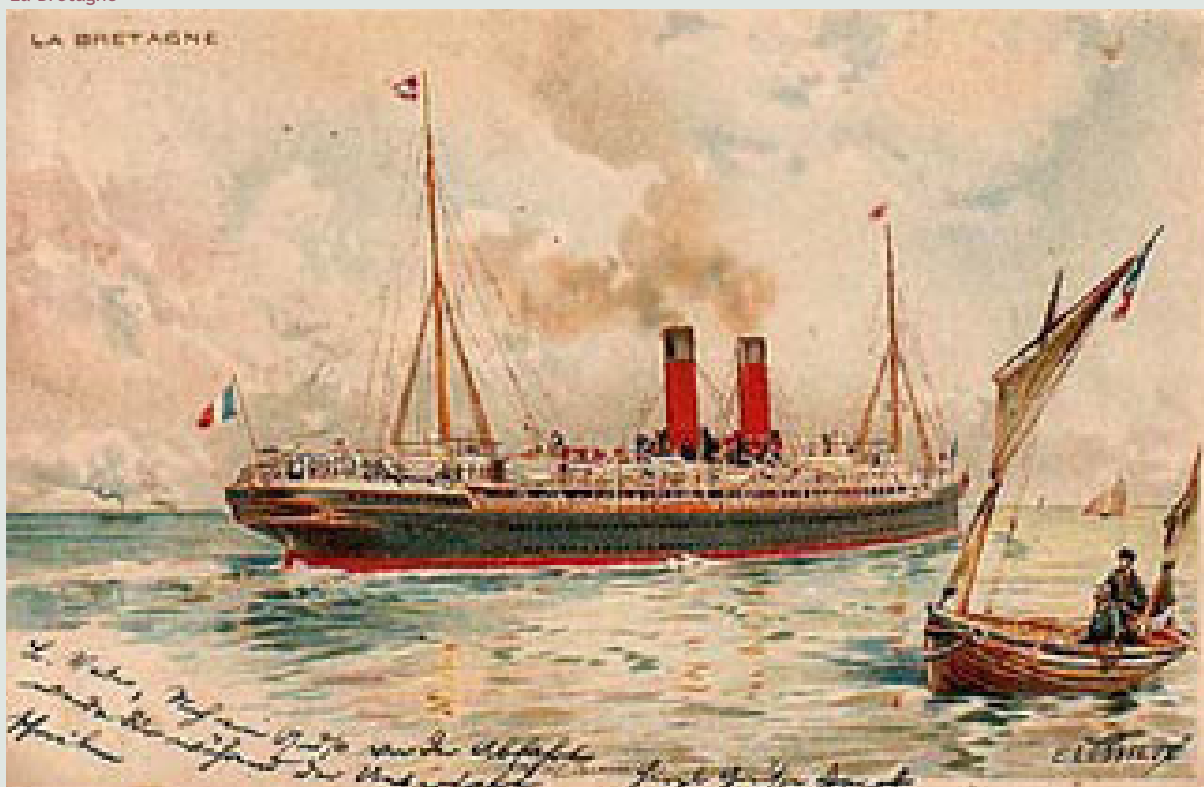
The *Star* for July 20th, 1888, reported that Lord Salisbury's former Domestic Chaplain had fled to avoid jail. A warrant had been issued against him for acts of gross indecency. It appears that "matters came to a crisis on June 11th, the occasion of the great Primrose League demonstration at Hatfield House, Lord Salisbury's residence, when Edwards and the Rev. Lord. William Cecil were seen in Hatfield Park. Later the police made a visit to Edwards' house, but did not arrest him. On Monday a warrant was issued for his arrest but on Tuesday he had fled." Little wonder that Tumblety flew the coop when even the rich and powerful faced jail for misdemeanours concerning gross indecency, whether it be against minors or adults.

TUMBLETY'S BUNK TO NEW YORK and HIS *WORLD PRESS* INTERVIEW.

If Tumblety hadn't been charged with committing four acts of gross indecency he could have left for New York under the very noses of the police, going so far as to wave them goodbye and they couldn't have done anything legally to stop him.

According to one newspaper report on Tumblety he jumped his bail of \$1,500 and fled to France under the alias Frank Townsend, leaving France on 24th November, 1888. and arriving in New York on 4th December, 1888. The report goes on to add that Chief Inspector Byrnes knew Tumblety was arriving in New York and two detectives together with the press were waiting for him. Some sources have also stated that the police were waiting for him to arrive by ship in New York

La Bretagne



while others have placed the date of arrival as the 2nd or 3rd of December. One point that I have not seen mentioned is that if Tumblety was travelling under an alias who tipped off the American police and press? The tip-off could have come from only one or two sources, Tumblety or the British police.

Source One. Tumblety, the con man and publicity freak, may have wanted to milk a situation for all it was worth and could have tipped off someone in the States just before his boat left from France.

Source two. The British police had been watching him and according to Littlechild, Scotland Yard had a dossier on him. No doubt they wanted him out of their hair, which is one reason they went out of their way to watch and arrest him on the sex charges. This was only a temporary measure and he would be back on the streets sooner or later. From the police standpoint, the ideal situation would be to have him out of their hair permanently and in this respect Tumblety played straight into their hands. He jumped his bail and did a bunk out of the country never to return. If he was still being followed after being charged the police would have known that he was absconding and were possibly content to see the back of him for good, knowing that he couldn't return. So we must ask the question did they know he had jumped bail and was leaving the country and headed for New York. This was in their interest, so could they have warned the police in New York that he was on his way? It's a pity that we don't know exactly when the New York Police and press were tipped off or who informed them of his arrival, but tipped off they were. If I jumped bail and went under an assumed name (keeping my own counsel about it), and travelled to New York or wherever only to find the police and press waiting for me, I'd damn well want to know how they knew about my movements.

After having arrived in America, Tumblety agreed to an interview with the *New York World* regarding his alleged arrest over the JtR murders and was asked, "Why did they follow you?" to which he replied, "*My guilt was very plain to the English mind. Someone had said that Jack the Ripper was an American, and everybody believed that statement. Then it is the universal belief among the lower classes that all Americans wear slouch hats; Jack the Ripper, must wear a slouch hat. Now, I happened to have on a slouched hat, and this, together with the fact that I was an American, was enough for the police. It established my guilt beyond any question.*"

From the *New York World*, 27th November, 1888: *It was his queer method of spending his money which first attracted the Scotland Yard detectives to him, and after a slight investigation he was arrested, the idea being that if he were not the Whitechapel Fiend, he is a dangerous character, and is not entitled to his liberty.*

This statement conflicts with Tumblety's interview with the same paper where he stated he was arrested simply because he was an American who wore a slouch hat. Be that as it may, it's utter bunkum to expect anyone to believe Tumblety was arrested simply because he was an American who wore a slouch hat! The police did not run around London arresting Americans willy-nilly simply because they wore slouch hats.

The reporter interviewing Tumblety commented, "*The doctor produced from an inside pocket two magnificent diamonds, one thirteen carats and the other nine carats, both of the purest quality, and a superb cluster ring set in diamonds. He said that, in his opinion, his arrest was due, in a measure, to the police desiring his diamonds and thinking they could force him to give them up.*"

Here we have a news reporter who is also an expert on diamonds. Apart from which, we are now being led to believe that the police were after Tumblety's diamonds and this was due in part to his arrest!

On the 31st of May, 2007, on www.casebook.org 'Greyhunter' started a thread entitled 'The Tumblety Interview' There are a few points that were brought up himself that he invited others to comment on. I would like to take the opportunity to address some of his points here and welcome his response to my observations.

Greyhunter wrote: "*Tumblety did not go to the press with this story, Tumblety was in hiding at the time and it was the press who found him, thus he was unable to avoid an interview.*"

This seems rather odd to me. People who don't want to be interviewed by the press generally say one of two things, the first is unprintable while the second is, "No comment." Greyhunter suggests that Tumblety was in hiding, but from whom? Andrews was not running all over the place looking for him simply because he had no jurisdiction in New York over Tumblety. He was certainly not in hiding from the press because he was only too willing to give his alleged interview to the reporter who found him. That was very convenient for Tumblety because he was a publicity freak and would have sold his own mother down the river if it made headlines for him. Tumblety had no cause to be in hiding from Andrews nor any valid reason to be in hiding from anyone. Does this fanciful story that he was in hiding originate from the press? if so then it should be taken with a cartful of salt.

It was also pointed out that there was no need for Tumblety to be hiding any more as Inspector Andrews had returned to England by this time.¹²

Tumblety had no reason to hide from Andrews—period. By law, Andrews didn't even have the right to question him; he was out of his jurisdiction and Tumblety would have known it. He never had the power to arrest him nor the extradition papers to take him back. If Andrews had met Tumblety in the street in New York he couldn't have done a thing about it.

Tumblety's true reasons for being in prison have simply been substituted for another story ie being arrested as a suspect in the Ripper case for which he could not have spent days in prison.

Another poster commented that he could not think of a better way to clear your name than by pointing out you were in jail when a Ripper victim was killed. In Tumblety's case I can think of one very good reason why he would want to keep his mouth shut to the press on that issue.

I can just imagine the scenario in Tumblety's press interview.

Tumblety: "I couldn't of been JtR because I was in custody on the 9th November, 1888, when the 5th victim was murdered."

Reporter: "Oh really! What were you in custody for?"

Tumblety, "I'm a homosexual and like young boys and was charged on four SEPARATE charges of gross indecency with four different males. When I was eventually released on bail I fled the country.

Oops—there goes the cat out of the bag. That is one area of his private life where he didn't want the press digging. To be pulled in over the Ripper crimes and released because he was innocent would be one thing but the truth about his private life involving young boys was quite another matter. We are talking about 1888 here, not the more liberated present, and in making that observation careers can be destroyed today if one is convicted of such offences especially in England. Tumblety had worked years on his image and he was his own spin-doctor, press officer and publicity agent. There was no way he was going to ruin all the efforts he had put into his image by mentioning, or going to trial or facing jail over those four sex offences, hence all the lies to cover the truth up. An arrest on suspicion over the murders was all over the American papers but no mention whatsoever about the gross indecency charges I wonder why?

The Evening Star, 3rd December, 1888.

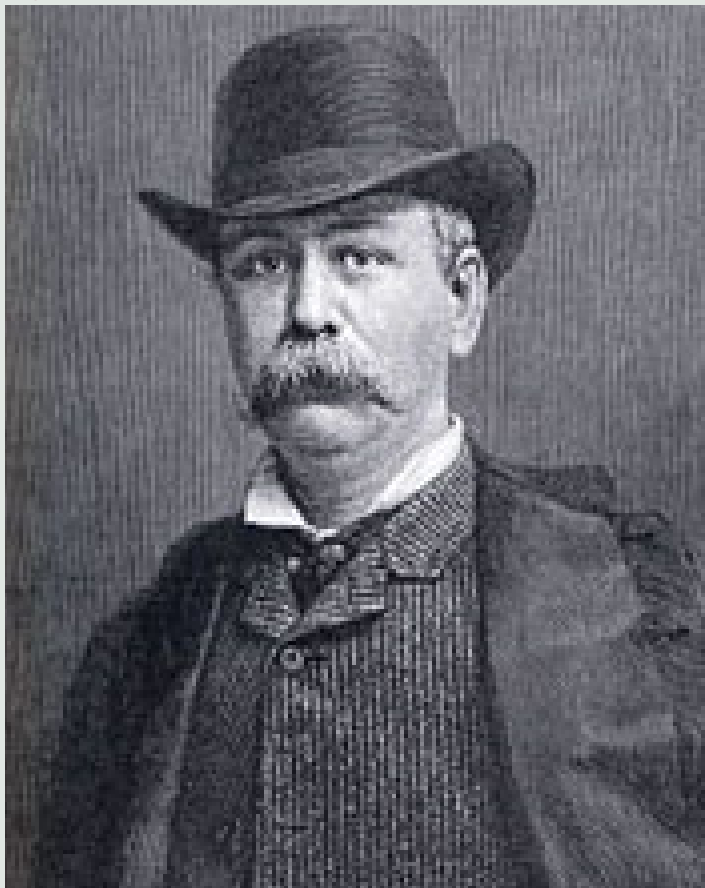
A reporter called on Inspector Byrnes this morning and asked if there was anything for which Tumblety could be arrested in this country. The Inspector replied that although Tumblety was a fugitive from justice under \$1,500 bail for a nominal offence in England, he could not be arrested here. The Inspector added that in the case the doctor was wanted he knew where to lay hands on him.

As can be seen from this news report even Inspector Byrnes was not giving clues away about the nature of the offence if in fact he knew the precise details. If Tumblety was in hiding (which I very much doubt) he was making a right pig's ear out of it for a career criminal because both press and police knew where to find him!

Over his alleged detention in the Ripper murders Tumblety was asked in his interview, "How long were you in prison?" and he replied, "Two or three days." There has never been any official evidence produced to show that Tumblety was either in prison for "two or three days" or in prison on separate occasions totalling two or three days. Being held in police custody at the station for a day here or a day there is not the same as being in prison "for two or three days" . . . not in this country anyway. One has to take everything Tumblety stated with more than a pinch of salt because he's far too unreliable to take at face value and to do so would be asking for trouble.

If Tumblety had spent two or three days in prison for the Ripper murders then he would have been charged with them because a person could not be held for more than 24 hours for such a crime without being charged. We know he was charged with sex offences and therefore if he had spent more than 24 hours in custody it would have been for those crimes for which we know he was charged. He was not charged with the murders as he had stated in his press interview. We are now being asked to believe in the validity of Tumblety's press interview in which he is quoted as saying that he spent two or three days in custody for the Ripper murders for which he said he had been charged. We know that isn't true and it's pure fiction on Tumblety's part.

Inspector Thomas Byrnes



Such facts blow Tumblety's interview clean out of the water and place it in the realm of fiction. Either the interview never took place and is a total fabrication or Tumblety lied his head off. Either way that interview isn't worth the paper it's written on and there is certainly no way that it can be termed as evidence of any description. More to the point, Tumblety stated that he was "charged" over the murders rather than being arrested. It has been stated that Tumblety made a mistake and that he meant to say he was arrested not charged. It seems that an awful lot of witnesses being put forward to support Tumblety as a suspect, including Tumblety himself, are making an awful lot of mistakes among them. If anything is not right in the case against Tumblety it is attributed to the witness making a mistake.

JtR was more of an introvert in many respects and would not have courted attention to himself in the same manner as that rank exhibitionist and extravert Tumblety.

DID INSPECTOR ANDREWS RUSH TO NEW YORK AFTER TUMBLETY ?

One of the main arguments to support Tumblety as a suspect is that suggestion that as soon as Tumblety fled to New York Walter Andrews was hot on his trail, pursuing him from England straight to New York, which wasn't the case. What exactly was the role Andrews played in the murders?

According to some, the whole problem is a mere coincidence between when Tumblety fled England and when Scotland Yard's Andrews also left the country headed to Canada. As it is, there seems to be no other source to indicate Andrews was ever involved in the Whitechapel murders other than Walter Dew's somewhat dodgy memoirs. The role played by Andrews in the murders is sketchy at best but I think it is quite incorrect that Andrews trip to North America was solely connected with Tumblety.

What is quite certain is that Inspector Andrews was sent to extradite a man named Roland Gideon Israel Barnett, who was wanted in Toronto, Canada on charges of fraud and conspiracy. In November of 1886 Barnett, together with others, defrauded the Central Bank of Toronto. On 29th November, 1888, Inspector Andrews and his prisoner Barnett, left Liverpool docks on board the S.S. Sarnia bound for Halifax.

Barnett was wanted by the New York Police on charges of fraud, that is swindling innocent people out of money. For some time he had been able to live on the proceeds from the Central Bank conspiracy, but when that ran out he was forced to return to the more precarious living of petty cons.

Realising that life in North America was getting just a bit too precarious, and knowing that Inspector Byrnes was intent on catching him, Barnett went back to London with the intention of letting the dust settle. In July Barnett got on a ship and headed to England. However, Inspector Byrnes was not willing to give up so easily and contacted London with the intention of getting Barnett extradited back to the United States.

A member of the U.S. Secret Service Bureau in New York City, named John G. Meehan, received the following reply from Chief Constable Grasett in response to a letter he had sent regarding Barnett,

In reply to your letter of the 15 inst. With reference to[Barnet] I beg to inform you that proceedings are now being taken with a view to his extradition to Canada for trial on several charges of fraud. If these proceedings should result successfully I will notify you of his arrival here. No officers have left for England yet in connection with this matter.

Inspector Walter Andrews took Barnett back to Canada and that was without doubt the main purpose, if not only purpose, of his trip. It was certainly not to chase Tumblety.

According to almost all reports Andrews stayed in Toronto for seven days, having successfully delivered Barnett, although there is one report that he travelled to Niagara, Ontario, for a conference of some kind. On the 18th of December, however, the inspector returned to Union Station and boarded a train for home, which means that he never went anywhere near

Inspector Walter Andrews



New York City or Francis Tumblety. If indeed he went out to Canada with the express intention of catching Tumblety the Whitechapel Murderer, then he failed dismally in his mission and didn't seem to actively do anything at all to achieve his goal.

More importantly, there is a letter from Chief Constable Grasett to Assistant Commissioner Anderson at Scotland Yard thanking Anderson for his help in returning Barnett and confirms that Inspector Andrews left for London on the 18th December.

Adding all of this together, it's quite clear that Andrews never went to New York. Furthermore, we know from the official sources that Andrews never took a team with him to Canada, but was Barnett's sole escort.

So where did the idea originate that Walter Andrews went to Canada in pursuit of Tumblety? The *Pall Mall Gazette* 31st December 1888 ran the following story:

"Inspector Andrews, of Scotland Yard, has arrived in New York from Montreal. It is generally believed that he has received orders from England to commence his search in this City for the Whitechapel Murderer. Mr Andrews is reported to have said that there are half a dozen English detectives, two clerks, and one inspector employed in America in the same chase. Ten days ago Andrews brought hither from England Roland Gideon [and] Israel Barbet, charged with helping to wreck the Central Bank, Toronto, and since his arrival he has received orders which will keep him in America for some time. The supposed inaction of the Whitechapel murderer for a considerable period and the fact that a man suspected of knowing a good deal about this series of crimes left England for this side of the Atlantic three weeks ago, says the Telegraph correspondent, produced the impression that Jack the Ripper is in that country".

The article further states, "That it is generally believed that he has received orders from England", which indicates that it is not certain and it is obvious that the source of this article is written second or even third hand.

It goes on to say that the suspect left England for "this side of the Atlantic three weeks ago" so that puts him leaving England around the 10th of December, 1888. Well, if this article is to be believed, the suspect whom Andrews was chasing couldn't have been Tumblety because he arrived in New York around the 3rd of December, a week before the suspect mentioned in this news report. Supporters of Tumblety as a suspect say that he fled New York on the 5th December; five days before the suspect in this *Pall Mall Gazette* article left England.

Richard Whittington-Egan wrote, *"Here is the oddest thing of all. There is total absence of the name of Francis Tumblety, not only from the English newspapers, but also from all the official documents. Not a single mention in the police files, nor in those of the Home Office. There is nothing even in the highly confidential progress reports which were supplied regularly by the police to the Home Office. The large dossier of which Littlechild spoke has simply vanished into thin air."*

Let us look at two statements made by those supporting Tumblety as a suspect:

(1) Only in Canada would legislation in regard to fugitive offences for less serious offences and breach of bail be appropriate. Tumblety could not be touched by the English police while in the United State—and he knew it.

More to the point, so did the English police, which is one very good reason why they would not be looking for Tumblety in New York as it would have been an utter waste of their time, money and resources.

(2) Concerning Tumblety breaking his alleged cover to give his press interview There was no need for Tumblety to be in hiding any more as Inspector Andrews had returned to England by this time.

So here we have one statement confirming that Tumblety could not be touched by the English police while he was in the United States. and Tumblety knew it.

Then we have a second statement, that informs us that Tumblety doesn't need to be in hiding anymore from Andrews because he has gone back to England.

Both statements contradict each other firstly, we are informed that the English police can't touch Tumblety and he knew it. Then, secondly, were informed Tumblety has no reason to hide from Andrews because he's now gone back to England.

If Tumblety could not be touched by the English police and every one concerned knew it, then Scotland Yard would not have sent one man or a team of men to go chasing all over New York looking for him. More to the point, Tumblety had no reason to be hiding from Andrews as suggested.

Let's review the situation at this point before continuing and look at the facts we do have. Tumblety jumped bail on four charges of gross indecency, which was a misdemeaner and he bunked off to New York. He was not wanted for any matter related to the Ripper murders while in the United States and there are no official documents to show that he

was ever arrested on suspicion regarding them. We have Littlechild giving his personal opinion that Tumblety was “a very likely suspect” but no mention that he was ever arrested over the murders. The only information we have relating to any arrest connecting Tumblety with the Ripper crimes came mainly from various newspaper reports in the USA and a very dubious statement alleged to have been made by Tumblety.

The truth of the matter was that the English police didn’t have any powers to arrest, question or extradite Tumblety while he was in the USA . . . he was as free as a bird. Any idea of Andrews going to North America (alone or with a team) in a futile attempt to lure Tumblety into crossing over the border into Canada is utter hogwash. Common sense dictates that it would have been in everyone’s interest in the UK to leave Tumblety in America because he couldn’t come back to Britain without the fear of being arrested and jailed for the four charges he jumped bail on so he’s out of the picture and gone for good. Far better to let that particular sleeping dog lie where he was . . . in America for good. Even if Andrews had gone to New York it would have been in connection with his extradited prisoner, Barnett not Tumblety.

It could be argued that while Tumblety was guilty of many crimes and regardless of what he may have been he wasn’t an evil cold blooded killer who butchered 5 women in the East End during 1888.

SUMMING UP.

When I first learnt that Tumblety had given a newspaper interview in which he alleged that he had been arrested for the murders in London my first reaction was, “please don’t tell me that the newspaper article in question came from the *New York World*.” I then shrugged that idea off because out of all the newspapers in the United States the chances that this particular interview was recorded by the *New York World* was too remote to contemplate. It transpired that the paper in which the interview appeared was indeed the *New York World*!

Here are so of the points that has been presented as evidence, albeit it circumstantial are in fact nothing but unreliable hearsay and second hand evidence.

1. Littlechild’s opinion that Tumblety was “a very likely suspect”.

Second-hand/hearsay.

2. A newspaper article in which a notorious con man, recidivist and pathological liar named Dunham concocted a pack of lies concerning Tumblety.

Second-hand/hearsay.

3. Another newspaper article in which another known con man, recidivist and pathological liar named Tumblety stated he had been arrested over the murders.

Second-hand/hearsay.

4. Yet another newspaper report which contradicts it’s self about a mystery man leaving items in a Charing Cross hotel along with 20 other guests we were not informed about.

Second-hand/hearsay

5. Various newspapers that jumped onto the bandwagon without finding the facts out for themselves and which copied a fabricated fantasy story about the killer residing at 22 Batty Street.

Second-hand/hearsay.

6. Police going to America for the sole purpose of searching for Tumblety, which wasn’t actually the case.

Second-hand/hearsay.

7. A suspect story by a journalist named Sims

Second-hand/hearsay

The truth of the matter is very simple, we’ve only been given half a story, the unreliable half. If we had been given the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth from the start then Tumblety wouldn’t have been considered to have been the killer by anyone capable to differentiate truth from fiction. The manner in which the case against Tumblety has been presented leaves much to be desired and is nothing short of an attempt to turn a sow’s ear into a silk purse.

When the case built up around Tumblety is examined in detail it’s quite apparent that it is one of the flimsiest of cases ever made against a Ripper suspect. Some of the most erroneous and unreliable sources have been utilized in an attempt to turn Tumblety into Jack the Ripper.

It is all second-hand/hearsay information, most of it dubious, which would be disallowed in a court of law because

of its unreliability. Much of a case built up around a suspect should not consist of sheer speculation, personal opinions or interpretations built around so much suspect and unreliable information.

Firstly, field work and reliable evidence should be used to build up a case against a suspect, not wishful thinking. When the facts have been thoroughly examined then one can then afford to speculate, interpret and hypothesise. However, one must have a solid reliable base from which to build otherwise the case will start to Tumblety . . . I mean *tumble* in all directions

You can't build up a case against any person using newspaper articles in the main and especially articles quoting professional con men and known liars. Yet this is precisely what we are confronted with regarding Tumblety.

A murder case regardless of how old it is may be is still a murder case and therefore the same principles regarding evidence should apply. No murder squad or court today would tolerate many of the methods used in building a case against Tumblety and certainly wouldn't consider for a moment 99 percent of the information that has been presented under the guise of evidence. Just because the information is not placed before a court it doesn't mean to say that the standards of evidence have to be dropped.

There is no case against Francis Tumblety and never has been.

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An Talk with Stewart Evans - Chris George www.casebook.org

Full transcript of the Littlechild letter:

8, The Chase
Clapham Common S.W.,
23rd September 1913
Dear Sir,

I was pleased to receive your letter which I shall put away in 'good company' to read again, perhaps some day when old age overtakes me and when to revive memories of the past may be a solace.

Knowing the great interest you take in all matters criminal, and abnormal, I am just going to inflict one more letter on you on the 'Ripper' subject. Letters as a rule are only a nuisance when they call for a reply but this does not need one. I will try and be brief.

I never heard of a Dr D. in connection with the Whitechapel murders but amongst the suspects, **and to my mind a very likely one, was a Dr. T. (which sounds much like D.) He was an American quack named Tumblety** and was at one time a frequent visitor to London and on these occasions constantly brought under the notice of police, there being a large dossier concerning him at Scotland Yard. Although a 'Sycopathia Sexualis' subject he was not known as a 'Sadist' (which the murderer unquestionably was) but his feelings toward women were remarkable and bitter in the extreme, a fact on record. Tumblety was arrested at the time of the murders in connection with unnatural offences and charged at Marlborough Street, remanded on bail, jumped his bail, and got away to Boulogne. He shortly left Boulogne and was never heard of afterwards. It was believed he committed suicide but certain it is that from this time the 'Ripper' murders came to an end.

With regard to the term 'Jack the Ripper' it was generally believed at the Yard that Tom Bullen of the Central News was the originator, but it is probable Moore, who was his chief, was the inventor. It was a smart piece of journalistic work. No journalist of my time got such privileges from Scotland Yard as Bullen. Mr James Munro when Assistant Commissioner, and afterwards Commissioner, relied on his integrity. Poor Bullen occasionally took too much to drink, and I fail to see how he could help it knocking about so many hours and seeking favours from so many people to procure copy. One night when Bullen had taken a 'few too many' he got early information of the death of Prince Bismarck and instead of going to the office to report it sent a laconic telegram 'Bloody Bismarck is dead'. On this I believe Mr Charles Moore fired him out.

It is very strange how those given to 'Contrary sexual instinct' and 'degenerates' are given to cruelty, even Wilde used to like to be punched about. It may interest you if I give you an example of this cruelty in the case of the man Harry Thaw and this is authentic as I have the boy's statement. Thaw was staying at the Carlton Hotel and one day laid out a lot of sovereigns on his dressing table, then rang for a call boy on pretence of sending out a telegram. He made some excuse and went out of the room and left the boy there and watched through the chink of the door. The unfortunate boy was tempted and took a sovereign from the pile and Thaw returning to the room charged him with stealing. The boy confessed when Thaw asked whether he should send for the police or whether he should punish him himself. The boy scared to death consented to take his punishment from Thaw who then made him undress, strapped him to the foot of the bedstead, and thrashed him with a cane, drawing blood. He then made the boy get into a bath in which he placed a quantity of salt. It seems incredible that such a thing could take place in any hotel but it is a fact. This was in 1906.

Now pardon me — it is finished. Except that I knew Major Griffiths for many years. He probably got his information from Anderson who only 'thought he knew'.

Faithfully yours,
J. G. Littlechild
George R. Sims Esq.,
12, Clarence Terrace,
Regents Park N. W.

Footnote: Littlechild on the term, 'Jack the Ripper'.

"It was generally believed at the Yard that Tom Bullen of the Central News was the originator, but it is probable Moore, who was his chief, was the inventor."

While Littlechild's colleagues are busy accusing Bullen without any known evidence Littlechild chooses to give nothing more than his personal opinion and goes against the grain by accusing Moore in a private letter to Sims...just as he did with Tumblety. These officers can't appear to agree on much including who JtR actually was. Littlechild "only thought he knew" that Moore was the inventor of the JtR letter just as he "only thought he knew" Tumblety was "a very likely suspect".

The 'West of England MP' Identified

By ANDREW SPALLEK



In February, 1891, just days before the murder of Frances Coles, there appeared a curious news item in several English newspapers to the effect that a West of England Member of Parliament had solved the case of Jack the Ripper. It appears that news of the Coles murder as well as fear of libel action silenced the story. The significance of this story cannot be overstated, however, as it appears to be the earliest sign of the finger of suspicion pointing in the direction of Montague John Druiitt. Much speculation has existed concerning the identity of this Member of Parliament and whether he had ties to the Druiitt family. At last his identity is known to us. He is Henry Richard Farquharson, Member of Parliament for West Dorset from 1885 until his death in 1895.

Press Reports

The 11 February 1891 edition of *The Bristol Times and Mirror* contains the following:

*I give a curious story for what it is worth. There is a West of England member who in private declares that he has solved the mystery of 'Jack the Ripper.' His theory - and he repeats it with so much emphasis that it might almost be called his doctrine - is that 'Jack the Ripper' committed suicide on the night of his last murder. I can't give details, for fear of a libel action; but the story is so circumstantial that a good many people believe it. He states that a man with blood-stained clothes committed suicide on the night of the last murder, and he asserts that the man was the son of a surgeon, who suffered from homicidal mania. I do not know what the police think of the story, but I believe that before long a clean breast will be made, and that the accusation will be sifted thoroughly.*¹

The significance of this story is obvious: Jack the Ripper is identified as 'the son of a surgeon' who committed suicide. Although the suicide date is wrong, this description still points to Montague Druiitt and is the earliest known definite mention of such a suspect. Montague Druiitt was the son of William Druiitt, a prominent Dorset surgeon, and he committed suicide on 1 December 1888 or possibly within the following few days.

The same basic story also appeared in other newspapers. The detail that the suspect was the 'son of a surgeon' was, however, rather clumsily removed. The reason for its removal was probably the fear of libel action mentioned by the Bristol reporter, as this detail makes the suspect much more identifiable. On 11 February 1891, the *Pall Mall Gazette* reported:

There is a West of England member who in private (writes the London correspondent of the Nottingham Guardian) declares that he has solved the mystery of Jack the Ripper. His theory, and he repeats it with so much emphasis that it might be called his doctrine, is that Jack the Ripper committed suicide on the night of the last murder. I cannot give details, but the story is so circumstantial that a good many people believe it. He states that a man with blood-stained clothes committed suicide on the night of the last murder and he asserts that the man was the son of a father

¹ Untitled article, *The Bristol Times and Mirror*, 11 February 1891.

*who suffered from homicidal mania. I do not know what the police think of the story, but I believe that before long a clean breast will be made and that the accusation will be sifted thoroughly.*²

The obvious differences between the *The Bristol Times and Mirror* article and the *Pall Mall Gazette* article are that the wording ‘fear of a libel action’ and the description that the suspect was the son ‘of a surgeon’ are dropped. In the case of the latter modification, the change is a clumsy one. By substituting the word ‘father’ for ‘surgeon’, the editor or author has produced either a meaningless or an improbable sentence, depending upon who is meant to be suffering from ‘homicidal mania.’ If it is the killer who so suffered, as logic would dictate, then describing him as ‘the son of a father’ is meaningless as every male is obviously a ‘son of a father.’ The only alternative to this meaninglessness is that it was the father who suffered from homicidal mania. While this is not impossible, it does seem rather improbable and the punctuation of the sentence argues against it as well. Much more likely is that the editor, fearing libel action, wanted to hide the identity of the suspect and so clumsily removed the detail of him being the son of a surgeon.

Other newspapers also carried the story. The *Hull Daily Mail* of 12 February contained the story exactly as reported by *The Pall Mall Gazette* quoted above. On 15 February, *Lloyd’s Weekly Newspaper* ran the same story with only this slight change in the first sentence: ‘. . . (wrote the London correspondent of the Nottingham Guardian a day or two ago). . . .’³ In reporting on the Coles murder, *The Aberdeen Weekly Journal* of 14 February contains the following:

*It seems almost a queer irony but a few days ago Mr Montagu Williams was reassuring us with the account of an interview which seemed to indicate that the murders were over and still more recently a west of England member has, as mentioned a day or two since, been promulgating a theory that the ‘Ripper’ had committed suicide.*⁴

It seems that the ‘West of England MP’ story then went quiet for more than a year. But on 26 February 1892, *The Western Mail* of Cardiff let slip the MP’s identity in an article concerning a different suspect who was allegedly being tailed by Scotland Yard:

*Mr. Farquharson, M.P. for West Dorset, was credited, I believe, some time since with evolving a remarkable theory of his own on the matter. He believed that the author of the outrages destroyed himself.*⁵

Clearly, this is a reference to the story that had broken a year earlier and refers to the ‘son of a surgeon’ who committed suicide on the night of the last murder. The identity of the West of England member is finally known!

Henry Richard Farquharson, MP

Henry Richard Farquharson was born in 1857 at Brighton, Sussex, to Henry James Farquharson and his wife Fanny Marcia.⁶ He was educated at Eton and at Jesus College, Cambridge. In 1878, he married Constance Farquharson, daughter of James John Farquharson, who appears to have been a relative. They settled at his estate, Eastbury Park, at Tarrant Gunville, Dorset, about six miles from Blandford, and ten miles from the Druitt home at Wimborne Minster.⁷ Tragically, Farquharson died at sea on 17 April 1895 while returning from a visit to tea and cocoa plantations he owned in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka).⁸

Immediately, we see two potential points of contact between Farquharson and Sir Melville Macnaghten: both were graduates of Eton and both owned or managed tea plantations in India or Ceylon. Farquharson, a Conservative, was elected to Parliament in 1885 at the inception of the West Dorset district and was re-elected in 1892. Out of the 1892

2 ‘The Fate of “Jack the Ripper,”’ *Pall Mall Gazette*, 11 February 1891.

3 ‘Remarkable Fiction,’ *Lloyd’s Weekly Newspaper*, 15 February 1891.

4 ‘London Correspondence,’ *The Aberdeen Weekly Journal*, 14 February 1891.

5 ‘Tracking “Jack the Ripper,”’ *The Western Mail*, 26 February 1892. According to Stewart P Evans, the ‘tailed suspect’ was likely Thomas Sadler.

6 Fanny Marcia was the daughter of Rev J Ward.

7 Catherine Lonsdale, wife of John Henry Lonsdale, was from Blandford as was Chief Inspector Frederick George Abberline.

8 ‘Obituary,’ *The Times*, 24 April 1895.

contest came a libel suit by his Gladstonian opponent, C T Gatty, in which Farquharson was assessed damages of £5,000, which were subsequently reduced by one-half.⁹ Although this libel action occurred after Farquharson's Ripper theory hit the presses, it may be an indication that he was prone to libelous statements, hence the caution on the part of the reporters in the stories quoted above. Indeed, Farquharson appears to have been a quick-tempered man who acted, and presumably spoke, without thinking as the following comment from a Dorset history website illustrates: 'The two kennel lads were almost killed as well - not by the dogs but by Farquharson who had a remarkably quick temper.'¹⁰

Farquharson's Suspect and Macnaghten's Suspect: One and the Same?

There are four main characteristics to the suspect described by H R Farquharson:

1. *He was the son of a surgeon.*
2. *He suffered from homicidal mania.*
3. *He committed suicide on the night of the last murder.*
4. *He had blood-stained clothing.*

Sir Melville Macnaghten in his famous memorandum described his favored suspect as 'a Mr M J Druitt, said to be a doctor & of good family - who disappeared at the time of the Miller's Court murder, & whose body (which was said to have been upwards of a month in the water) was found in the Thames on 31st December - or about 7 weeks after that murder. He was sexually insane and from private information I have little doubt but that his own family believed him to have been the murderer.'¹¹ This description contains the following characteristics of the suspect:

1. *He was a doctor from a good family*
2. *He disappeared at the time of the last murder.*
3. *His body was found on 31 December 1888, having been in the water upward of a month.*
4. *He was sexually insane.*
5. *He was suspected by his own family.*

In his memoirs, *Days of My Years*, Macnaghten claimed the killer suffered from 'sexual mania' and that he 'committed suicide on or about the 10th of November 1888.'¹²

How well do these descriptions compare? Could they be referring to the same person? It is important to note that we are now not asking how accurate these statements are as descriptions of the real Druitt but rather asking how similar Farquharson's and Macnaghten's suspects are. To say the suspect is 'the son of a surgeon' is close to saying that he was 'a doctor from a good family.' Of course, this detail given by Farquharson does also fit the real Druitt perfectly. Saying the suspect suffered from homicidal mania is close to calling him 'sexually insane'¹³ and much closer to calling him a

Sketch of Henry Richard Farquharson from 'The New House of Commons: Portraits of Members Who Have Never Before Sat in Parliament - Ninth Series,' *The Graphic* (London), 13 February 1886. Courtesy of Andrew Spallek.



9 *The Times*, op cit. £5,000 in 1892 money is worth close to £400,000 today (see www.measuringworth.com).

10 www.dorset-opc.com/TarrantFiles/T.Gunville/TarrantGunville%20History.htm. Farquharson was a breeder of Newfoundland dogs.

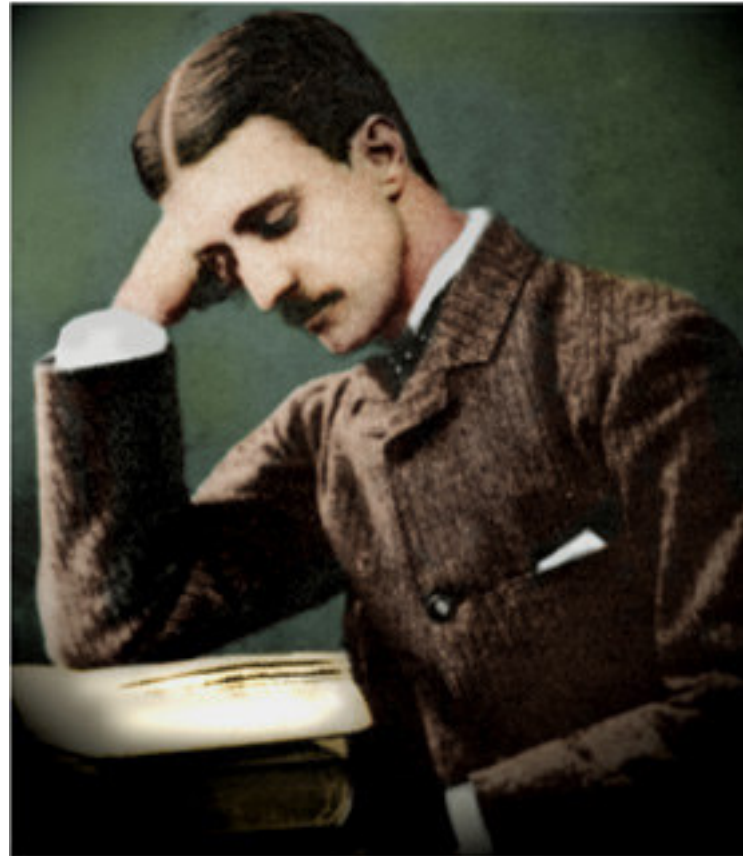
11 Ref. MEPO 3/140, ff. 177-83.

12 Melville Macnaghten, *Days of My Years*. London: Edward Arnold, 1914, 61-2.

13 'Sexually insane' is not a usual Victorian reference to homosexuality, as some have assumed. Although not impossible, there is no reason to assume Druitt was a homosexual.

‘sexual maniac.’¹⁴ The detail of his having blood-stained clothing does not fit either Macnaghten’s description or the real Druitt. This may have been a fanciful detail added by a reporter, or perhaps by Farquharson himself, in order to sensationalize the story.

It is, however, the assertion that the suspect committed suicide on the night of the last murder that most strongly suggests Farquharson’s tale as the basis for Macnaghten’s suspect. Druitt did not commit suicide on the night of the last murder. He died on or about 1 December. Macnaghten seems to have known this as he knew that Druitt’s body was found on 31 December and that the corpse had been in the water about a month. So why would Sir Melville make the puzzling statement that Druitt disappeared or committed suicide on or about 10 November? The only logical reason is that he incorporated some other information he had received such as Farquharson’s tale. Repeated error is one of the strongest indicators of literary dependence. This repeated error strongly suggests that Macnaghten knew of Farquharson’s theory and gave it at least some credence. All considered, the similarities are far too close to be coincidental.



Montague John Druitt

Conclusion

Speculation may now come to an end concerning the identity of the West of England Member of Parliament who claimed to have solved the Whitechapel murders. We know that he was Henry Richard Farquharson and that he was from the Druitt family’s area of England as he resided ten miles from Wimborne Minster. We may assume that he knew the Druitts and likely socialized with them. He may have passed along his theory to Macnaghten directly or perhaps through a mutual acquaintance. Whatever the source of Macnaghten’s information, however, it must have been more than merely Farquharson’s theory. Macnaghten indicated that ‘certain facts’ pointing to the solution of the case did not come into police possession until several years after he became a detective officer.¹⁵ Macnaghten joined Scotland Yard in June 1889 and Farquharson’s theory hit the press in February 1891, hardly ‘several years’ later. Clearly, there must have been later information that also came into Sir Melville’s hands.

The significance of the Farquharson story is that it shows Scotland Yard had information concerning Druitt as a suspect at least as early as 1891. Previously, the earliest reference to Druitt as a suspect that could be documented was the Macnaghten memorandum of 1894. Now it is clear that Sir Melville Macnaghten must have known about Druitt within approximately 18 months of joining Scotland Yard and it seems that this information came to him from Druitt’s home territory. As noted by author Stewart P Evans, the discovery of West of England member’s identity ‘carries the Druitt theorising into another phase, signally answering the question of how Macnaghten learnt of him.’¹⁶

14 The term ‘sexual maniac’ in Victorian times was often used to describe violent or homicidal behavior thought to have a sexual basis.

15 Macnaghten, op cit, 54. Emphasis added.

16 Stewart P Evans, private e-mail correspondence with the author.



CITY OF DREADFUL NIGHT?

Part Two

By JOHN BENNETT

A nice thing about my job (I'm a delivery driver) is that occasionally one is designated as a 'spare'. This means that you go into London with an empty van and wait for a phone call to assist any of your colleagues who may have operational problems or are running late. One such evening in December, I was given this task and told to go to East London, park up and wait for the call - as it happens, I took my camera with me and even better, nobody needed help. Cue four hours of driving about, waiting for a call that never came and taking dozens of photographs in Stratford, Limehouse, Poplar, Whitechapel and Bethnal Green. In the fog. Bliss.

Included here is a selection of those photographs, as well as several others from late November. As regular subscribers will note, there is a repeat of some of the locations seen in my previous study, but here it is a case of 'familiar object seen from unfamiliar angle'. On this occasion there was no tripod to hand (a van wing mirror makes for an almost satisfactory stand-in) and no 'bodyguard'. But I did have a Sat-Nav, which made getting around incredibly convenient. Finding locations has never been so easy!

The East End as a subject is a constant for me. At the moment, there are three authors I admire for their treatment of East London; William Fishman for his academic studies of the tumultuous history of the area, particularly its Jewish connections; Rachel Lichtenstein for capturing the more recent human stories and having the enviable talent for speaking to some amazing people; and Iain Sinclair for his descriptions of the powerful reverberations of the East End - I sense them too, but cannot adequately express them like he does.

I could never match such lofty heights of prose, but have settled for the camera to do much of the talking when it comes to capturing something intangible. That's why the captions to these photographs are intentionally 'conversational' at times. Once again, I hope you enjoy the trip.



Geffreye Street, E2

After driving past this disused pub one evening, it immediately hit me as a great subject and thus became my first port of call when finding locations for this article in November. It was once the *Marquis of Lansdowne* (32 Cremer Street), but was later renamed *Partners* - the name can still be seen above the door.

However, the building is not abandoned and is now a base where designers ply their trade; one such business is Designer's Block, who curate international design shows which take place in 'transitional architectural spaces' - a bit like this pub. Remember, this is deepest Shoreditch, where run-down premises hide the snappy workings of the cool media world and the homes of those who work in it. Apparently, it's called 'contemporary urban style'. Or something like that.

This view was taken from Cremer Street looking down Geffreye Street and the railway arches that ceaselessly chop up the Bethnal Green / Shoreditch area can be seen to the right. Such arches and bridges always seem to be surrounded by tatty buildings and dereliction, but infuse a place with a latent menace which I find difficult to ignore.



Cotton's Gardens, E2

Just round the corner from Cremer Street is this wonderfully narrow thoroughfare. Now a dead end, it still retains its high warehouses which were most likely part of the network of goods storage and transport in the days when the adjacent Kingsland Road was used to ferry goods north from the docks. Obviously they are now homes and by looking at the type of cars parked tightly against the narrow kerb, they are not cheap at that. The name Cotton's Gardens does suggest a more rural past and one can see on John Roques 1746 map that an area of open land with trees did exist here, though it did not last long; by the time of Horwood's 1799 study, the gardens were gone and industry was already making its mark.

I expected this picture to turn out gloomy and oppressive, but was pleasantly surprised when the final result had a warm, cosy glow about it - if you see it for yourself, you will soon realise that this is not the reality.



The Turk's Head, E1W

This ex-pub first came to my attention when it appeared as little more than a boarded up shell in *East End and Docklands*, by William Fishman, Nicholas Breach and John Hall (published in 1990). The caption under the photograph read 'death of a pub' and no doubt the authors assumed that demolition was just round the corner. The book documented many parts of the old docklands at a time when the rejuvenation of the area was in its early stages and Breach managed to photograph some of the old buildings and streets mere days before they were swept away. But the *Turk's Head* thankfully avoided such a fate and now tastefully revived as a café, it remains a charming building and I'm glad it escaped demolition.

Situated in a tranquil spot near St John's Wapping, it stands out, alone yet defiant and still with its original stone relief signage - a little architectural gem.



Chamber Street, E1

A Ripper murder site of sorts, Chamber Street is the forbidding road which leads to the sealed railway arch that was once Swallow Gardens. Once again, we see a thoroughfare with an atmosphere dictated by the presence of the railways, a hotch-potch of arches, tatty spaces and of course, a low bridge casting its gloom at one end. By day, Chamber Street is reasonably atmospheric by nature of its apparent isolation and quietness, but by night it develops a whole new feel - when this photograph was taken, I was fortunate to have my car and despite the benefit of this security, I was happy when I was eventually able to drive away.

Incidentally, the sign at the end of the street is for Kingswood, a joinery company specialising in sash windows that also has a workshop under the sinister Pedley Street railway arch near Brick Lane (the one which Iain Sinclair likens to a grim portal which transports you between two different worlds as you cross its footbridge). Kingswood, it seems, are not particularly fussy about where they establish themselves and I for one would not like to be the last man out on a winters night locking either of those places up.



Gunthorpe Street, E1

And now for the fog series. The old George Yard as seen from Wentworth Street. That night, the fog seemed to vary in density and I fear that photography could not quite capture that, but I was fairly happy with the results. It took a while to get a decent shot here, firstly because of the technical problems of having no stabilising tripod, but also because I had to wait until a local prostitute got out of the way before I could start. When she eventually noticed I had a camera (and that it was obviously not her I was interested in) she sauntered rather slowly away in the direction of Brick Lane.

Seen from a totally different viewpoint than we are used to, Gunthorpe Street here looks almost unrecognisable, a fact that is compounded by the exotic palms which stand outside the apartment block behind the White Hart pub. When seen from the archway, these are not visible and here they do tend to spoil the *olde worlde* feel somewhat. Oh, and how did I know she was a prostitute? Beats me - but let's face it, you can just *tell* can't you?



Assembly Passage, E1

Another subject that featured in the previous article, but photographed from further south, toward the junction with Redman's Row. The fog works quite well here and I did take about a dozen shots, trying to capture the sinister feel of that evening. One thing to notice is the blue hoardings to the right, evidence of demolition and the possible portent of new buildings to come. I couldn't say how long this patch has been vacant, but knowing the speed at which redevelopment takes place in the East End these days, there could easily be residential premises here by next year (I can imagine a snazzy title like 'The Assembly E One' or 'Three Two Assembly Passage'). Having said that, those hoardings could have been there for years and may well stay for many more.



Cheshire Street, E2

The most well-known off-shoot of Brick Lane market seen at night, stripped of its shoppers and, remarkably enough, any traffic save for a solitary black cab. On a Sunday, this popular thoroughfare is difficult to negotiate, even for pedestrians, owing to the density of stalls but as we can see here, in the dead of night, it is dead.

Cheshire Street is home to some of the trendy shops that have been creeping into the area over the years, such as *Beyond Retro* (a boutique that specialises in the sort of clothes we were all happy to stop wearing twenty or more years ago) and *Taylor Taylor*, a rather fashionable hairdressers that also has branches in Commercial Street. But amongst all this modernity sits Blackman's shoe shop, set up in 1935 to provide cheap shoes to the Jewish community and still a father and son concern. It's a chaotic affair, but has a loyal fan base, particularly in the young Shoreditch types who favour plimsolls with their skinny jeans.

To the side of Blackman's is the entrance to narrow Grimsby Street (Grim by name....) which until some recent demolition work was home to several impressive examples of Banksy Graffiti.



The Mitre, E14

My previous attempts to photograph this somewhat gloomy area near St Anne's Limehouse were always thwarted by the presence of angry-looking hooded youths walking Rottweilers, making me think twice about getting the gadgets out. But on that foggy evening, they were decidedly absent and I had 'vehicular security' so went for it. And I'm glad I did. Seen from Three Colt Street which runs by the church, The Mitre is little more than a passage under a railway bridge and as with the previous bridge images seen here, the atmosphere is suitably ominous. The name is a bit of a mystery - there is no reference to it in archive maps, but perhaps there is a religious significance, being so close to St Anne's - either that, or it may be due to the triangular nature of the junction. In any case, the darkness beyond did not invite further investigation that night and besides, this is where the 'hoodies' and their dogs always seemed to go.



St Anne's Limehouse, E14

I was very pleased with this shot as it is the one image that really captured the atmosphere created by the fog that evening. Seen across the churchyard from Three Colt Street, I love the way that the statue is silhouetted by the artificial lighting as the church looms in the background. The eerie glow cast by the church clock sets the whole thing off nicely. St Anne's is my favourite of the three east London Hawksmoor churches - it is an aesthetic decision which I can't really put a finger on. It looks particularly striking if seen from nearby Newell Street, where a narrow passage (complete with period buildings) leads to an entrance gate and one gets a splendid, full-on view of the tower.

And so ends another whistle-stop tour of the East End by night. As time has gone by, I have noticed a shift in the localities of my subject matter - it was once solely Whitechapel and Spitalfields, but now the borders are spreading out, initially to Wapping and Shoreditch and I am now beginning to find interesting places in Stratford and the Lower Lea Valley, Hoxton, Finsbury and Clerkenwell. They hardly relate to the Ripper crimes, but attract me nonetheless. One thing I do know is that I shall always return to the East End.



WHITECHAPEL TIMES

By JENNIFER PEGG

Welcome

This issue the Whitechapel Times is focused on the 31st of August. Here you will find stories from the papers of the day of Polly Nichols' death in 1888. From cricket to cattle, from Gladstone to ballet, there's something for everyone! I hope you all enjoy!

In the News – 31st August 1888

Fatal Accidents

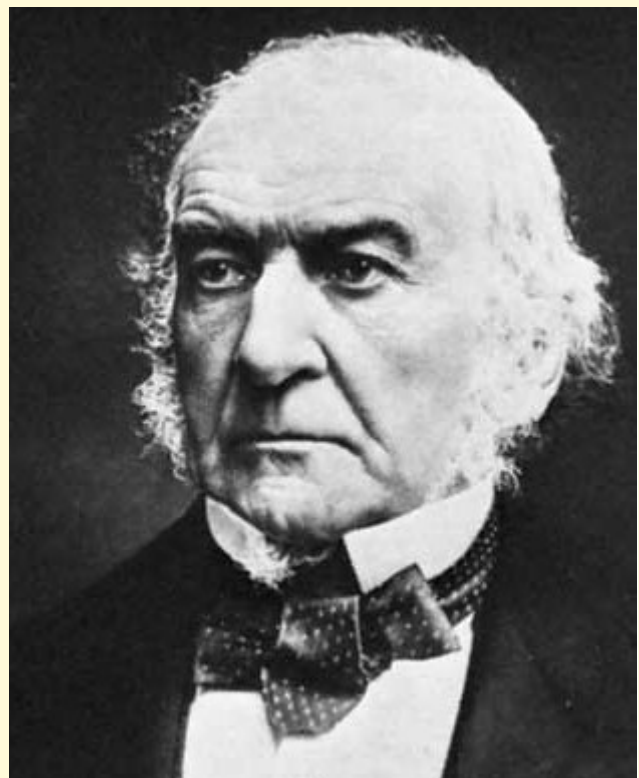
Yesterday morning, at St Leonard's, Mr Ferguson went out in his yacht with two other men, Mr Bull and Thomas, a boatman. The boat capsized in a storm and Mr Ferguson and the boatman drowned. Mr Bull was rescued after swimming in the heavy sea for three-quarters of an hour.

In North Warwickshire, two young children, from the Earls Craven's estate in Combe Abbey, were out walking in the heavy storms on Tuesday, when they sheltered under a tree. On their way home they accidentally walked into the river and drowned.

In Brondesbury, shortly before six o'clock on Wednesday, a fatal accident occurred. John Lodge, a seaman, had been out with a friend on a tricycle ride to Cricklewood. When, near the Metropolitan Railway Arch at Brondesbury, he turned the handle of the tricycle the wrong way, causing him to fall off it. He landed under the wheels of a passing omnibus; this bus ran over his stomach. He was taken to St Mary's hospital but was dead on arrival. His fellow traveller had jumped off before the crash, thus escaping injury.

Gladstone

Mr Gladstone was set to visit the Welsh Eisteddfod (a cultural festival) at Wrexham on Tuesday. The East Denbighshire and Wrexham Liberal Association were preparing to give him an address and welcome at the event. The Eisteddfod had objected strongly to the proposal of this address as they felt it was contrary to the precedent on introducing politics into the proceedings and because of the prejudicial effect it could have on the whole event itself. If this was carried out, it was stated that proceedings at the Eisteddfod pavilion would be interrupted and confusion would ensue. This was because Mr Gladstone was due to arrive at the pavilion at 10.30 and it was likely his admirers would follow him to the public hall at noon in order to listen to his address.



William Gladstone

Trade Board

In Stockton, William Whitwell, the President of the North of England Iron Trade Board of Arbitration, told the Stockton Liberal Association that he could not stand as their candidate, should Mr Dodds retire, because of his family and business ties. On hearing this news it was then unanimously decided that Mr David Dale would be invited to become the candidate. Mr Dale is a person well known in the Northern Iron Trade.

(Source *Times*, 31st August 1888)



Cattle Trade

Metropolitan Cattle Market — Thursday, August 30th. The majority of beasts came from Canada, as a whole they were of poor class. Due to the increased supply of goods trade was slow and more buyers had meant that the rates remained unaltered. The top values were — English beasts 5s, Canadian beasts 4s 4d (both per 8 pound). In the sheep trade the previous rates were maintained with a top value of 6s. The best lambs found a sharp trade and were priced at 6s 8d to 7s (in exceptional cases). Since the lamb trade generally ended in August, the quoting on lambs would cease. The calf trade was slow but the best goods fetched their value — the top value was 5s. Finally, the pork trade had continued to be steady and inclined upwards in value. The top rate was 4s 4d.

Whitechapel Hay and Straw — August 30th — clover prime, 50s to 135s, inferior 50s to 80s, hay prime, 90s to 130s, inferior, 50s to 80s, straw, 35s to 80s per load. There were fair supplies with trade very low and dropping in prices, though these prices were without quotable change.



The Metropolitan Cattle Market



London Pauperism Census

A census of metropolitan paupers (exclusive of lunatics in asylums and vagrants) was taken. This should be read bearing in mind that the enumerated inhabitants in the 1881 census were 3,815,000. The census of paupers showed that in the third week in August 1888 there were 54,994 paupers indoor and 36,248 outdoor this made a total of 91,242. In the third week of August 1887 the numbers were, indoor 53,639 and outdoor 35,155, which made a total of 88,794 paupers. For the same week in 1886 the number was 51,992 paupers indoor and 34,885 outdoor making a total of 86,877.

Finally, for the third week of August in 1885 there were 51,186 paupers who were indoor and 33,929 who were classed as outdoor and this created a total of 85,115. These figures exclude those who were patients in the fever and small pox hospitals in the district in this period. The numbers of these returned in the last days of the week was 798 in 1888, 757 in 1887, 357 in 1886 and 625 in 1885. The figure for vagrants relieved in London on the last day of the third week of August 1888 was 805 men, 200 women and 22 children under 16. This made a total of 1,027 vagrants that day.



Crippled nutmeg grater seller on the pauper rolls

Queen Natalie of Serbia in 1895



Queen of Serbia

The report from Vienna on the 30th August was that Queen Natalie of Serbia was en route to Bucharest where she was due to stay pending the trial of the King's divorce suit before the Consistorial Court of Belgrade as the Austro-Hungarian Government did not feel that the Queen should reside in Vienna during the trial. The court would open on the 31st of August and it was expected that the trial would finish by the 15th September. The Court was overseen by three judges who had been selected by the whole of the Consistory. The Queen had lodged her answer to the King's petition.

It was reported that a recent trip to Versailles was taken so that the Queen could seek advice from her brother-in-law, Prince Gregory Ghika. It was with two barrister's and Prince Gregory Ghika's assistance that the Queen drew up her case. Many grievances were struck out on the counsels' advice, because they would have placed the Queen in the position of being a counter-petitioner. This was problematic since the Queen herself did not want a divorce or judicial separation.

She refuted the charges against her thusly, countering the claim that she had often spoken offensively to the King in the presence of strangers or put affronts upon guests at the Royal Palace. Rather, she stated that whilst she may have on occasion spoken words she now regretted, under the influence of irritation, many of these should be ascribed to wounded affection and reports that she had heard that had caused her great pain or anger.

To the charge of consorting with the enemies of the King, the Queen pointed

out that the politicians in whom she had placed confidence were not enemies of the King but rather that they were people also summoned by the King himself in the past year. The Queen stated those she trusted all wished the King well.

To the allegation that the Queen wanted to bring about the King's abdication, she stated that the King had expressed a wish to abdicate on more than one occasion; the first was after the Servo-Bulgarian war and at this time she felt that the country was in turmoil and therefore a Regency should be established without delay. At the time she was exhausted from attendance to the wounded and she didn't send messages of discussion or sympathy to the King since she felt his mind was already made up. She also entertained the same belief when the King made such announcements on subsequent occasions.

The Queen felt she had also to consider what was in the best interests of her son. She stated that she had never urged the King to abdicate. To the general charge of unwifeliness and incompatibility of temper the Queen confessed that although her marriage had not always been happy, she pointed out that she has always striven to do her duty as a mother. The Queen had sent the King a new series of proposals for compromise that were similar to those made by the King a few weeks previously. It is said the King does not feel he will accept such proposals. The public opinion is siding with the King and recently no celebrations were held in the Queen's birthday week.



Sport

Cricket

The third match between England and Australia this season began yesterday in Manchester. The crowd attendance was approximately 12,000. On the whole the weather was fair, a gloomy morning and a few showers were followed by a bright afternoon. The home side was little changed from the previous two matches of the season. Dr W.G. Grace, W.W. Read, Abel, Lohman, Briggs, Bones and Peel had all played in all three of the matches that season. Pilling, the greatest of the English wicket keepers, was playing for the first time that season. England started badly, Abel and Ulyett were both out for no runs, but Grace and Read, by way of their brilliant batting, soon turned the game round. The Englishmen adopted the right tactic of forcing the hitting on heavy turf. The Australian fielding was very much as expected considering their reputation. However, in the short time they were batting the Australians managed to lose two of their most valuable batsmen. The day ended with England all out in their first innings with a total of 172 runs, whilst the Australians first innings batting stood at 32/2, the Australians need to reach 62 to avoid following on.

Rugby Football

The English team were in Newcastle, New South Wales, on August 29th. A match was played between England and a local team. The English team were victorious as they had scored five tries and a goal compared to the local team's one try and one goal.



Cricket legend Dr W G Grace

Irish Cricket

The Irish Cricketers were in Toronto on the 30th August where they started a match against a local Toronto side. The Toronto team batted first and accumulated 114 runs. At the close of play for the day the Irish team had reached 155 – 4.

(Source, *Times*, 31st August, 1888)



Notices



The Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum

Charities

Merchant Seamen's Orphan Asylum — the asylum, located in Snaresbrook, and founded in 1837, to aid the orphaned children of merchant seamen, relied solely on contributions and was urgently appealing for funds. Each year an average of eight thousand children of merchant seamen were orphaned and the funds were needed to help those most in need.

The committee of the East London Hospital for Children and Dispensary for Women, located in Shadwell, appealed for funds to help the many cases that arise daily.



Entertainment

Crystal Palace Grand Ballet — fairy scenes from a Midsummer Night's Dream, every evening, on the lawn in good weather.

Art Exhibition

People's Palace for East London — The Exhibition of Pictures and Autumn Fete, daily, admission, from 10 o'clock to 5 o'clock 2d, from 5 o'clock till 10pm 1d.

(Source, *Times*, 31st August 1888)



Weather

31st August 1888

Temperatures:-

Biarritz (France) — 64 F

Lisbon — 71 F

Southern England — 60 F

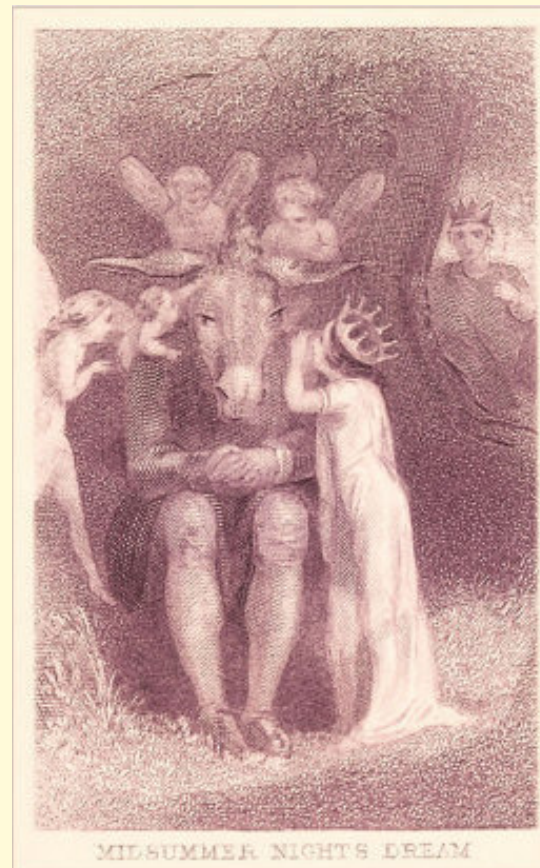
North Eastern coasts — 54 F

There was a considerable improvement in the weather during the day and the heavy rains and thunderstorms generally eased to bring fair weather. The wind in England, was, in general northerly and was light to moderate. In London the clouds passed off to the east and the air was hazy. The sea was slight or smooth on all coasts.

Outlook for the 1st September 1888

For England: fine weather, low morning temperatures, some fog. The prediction was for the weather to be better than it had been for a long time previously.

(Source, *Times*, 1st Sept 1888)



A Midsummer Night's Dream

It Also Happened On... 31st August



The aftermath of the Charleston earthquake

It was on this day in 1886 that the Charleston Earthquake struck at approximately 9.50 pm. The quake, in South Carolina, USA, killed around sixty people.

It was this day in 1997 that Diana, Princess of Wales was fatally injured in a Paris car crash.

In 1999 it saw the Moscow apartment bombings in Russia, killing one person and injuring forty more.

On this day in 1943, the first US Navy ship to be named after a black person, the *USS Harmon*, named after Leonard Roy Harmon, was commissioned. It was a Buckley class destroyer escort. The ship was decommissioned in January 1947.

It was the day that:-

Malaysia gained independence from the UK, in 1957,
Trinidad and Tobago gained independence in 1962,
and Kyrgyzstan gained independence from the Soviet Union, in 1991.

It is the birth date of: -

Commodus, Roman Emperor, born 161 AD,
Martin Bell, journalist and former politician, born 1938,
Todd Carty, the actor who portrayed Mark Fowler in *Eastenders*, born 1968,
and Chris Tucker, comedian, born 1972.

It is also the date in 1422 that King Henry V of England died; he was succeeded by Henry VI.

Did You Know, 1888, is the year that has the most digits when written in Roman Numerals, it is written MDCCCLXXXVIII; it will not be equalled until 2388!

(Sources, Wikipedia, <http://scsn.seis.sc.edu/btml/eqchas.html> , www.history.navy.mil.)



The Emperor Commodus

Got something to say?

Got comments on a feature
in this issue?

Or found new information?
Please send your comments
to contact@ripperologist.info

CHRIS SCOTT'S

Press Trawl

The People
11 November 1888

ANOTHER FIENDISH MURDER IN WHITECHAPEL.

A WOMAN CUT TO PIECES.

SICKENING MUTILATION.

ORGANS OF THE BODY MISSING.

PANIC IN THE DISTRICT.

FULL PARTICULARS.

A thrill of horror was sent through London, and, indeed, the whole of the country, on Friday, by the commission of another - the seventh - of the series of crimes that has occurred in the Whitechapel district within the past few months. The victim this time is another of the unfortunate class, who occupied a miserably furnished room in a court off Dorset street, a narrow thoroughfare running out of Commercial street, not far removed from the police station. Although she had lived in the court for some time, the woman does not appear to have been generally known except by the name of Mary Jane. Some state that her name was Fisher, but a larger number assert that it was Kelly. She was a married woman with a child - a little boy - and living apart from her husband. Recently she had lived with a man who was known in the neighbourhood as Dan, but for some reason not at present explained the couple parted a few days ago. Since that time the murdered woman has been seen several times about the locality, and on more than one occasion has been in the company of men. It is supposed by the majority of people that she met the man who was to be her murderer at a late hour on Thursday night, and that he induced her to allow him to accompany her home. Though, however, there is reason to believe that the murderer was in the house the whole of the night, he did not carry out his terrible purpose until a later period than half past eight o'clock on Friday morning. At that time the deceased was seen walking along Dorset street, and it is supposed that she had left the house for the purpose of purchasing provisions for breakfast. She is then said to have appeared cheerful and looking bright and well. Two hours from this time the unfortunate woman was found lying in her bedroom at the house in a pool of blood and frightfully mutilated.

A REVOLTING SIGHT.

The murder proved to be of a more ghastly and atrocious character than any of the former ones, and was almost beyond doubt perpetrated by the same assassin. In this case there had been more time for him to complete his work of butchery, for he was indoors, where no casual passer-by might see the horrid work. The unfortunate woman had been mangled in a manner truly sickening. She was found naked on the floor of the room, with her head nearly severed from her body - only, in fact, attached to it by a slight piece of skin. Her abdomen was ripped open, both breasts had been slashed off, and the nose and ears were both missing. The flesh on the legs had been cut off in strips, leaving the bones of the thighs exposed to view. The face was also hacked about in a terrible manner. To add to the ghastliness of the scene, pieces of the flesh lay scattered about the room, and on a table

lay strips of flesh, the two breasts, and other portions of the deceased's body. The uterus and other organs were, as in previous cases, missing, and had apparently been carried away by the murderer. A portion of the entrails had been deliberately placed between the legs, and one of the woman's hands had been thrust into the gaping wound in the abdomen. A more revolting and horrible sight than the one which presented itself it is impossible to conceive.

THE SCENE OF THE MURDER.



Contemporary newspaper sketch of John McCarthy and Thomas Bowyer discovering Mary Kelly's body

Dorset street is a narrow street running out of Commercial street, between Whitechapel and Shoreditch. The street is half composed of warehouses and half of lodging houses. Opposite the house in which the murder was committed stands the Commercial street Chambers for men - a big, substantial building, which should accommodate many men at night. The other side of the Chambers is the warehouse of Messrs. Payne and Wright, milk contractors. The house in which the murder was committed stands up a narrow court, which at the further end terminates in a cul de sac. It is known by the name of McCarthy's Court, the property being owned by a Mrs. McCarthy.

HOW THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE - A GHASTLY SPECTACLE.

Mr. John McCarthy, the owner of the house in Miller's court, who keeps the chandler's shop in Dorset street, has made the following statement as to the murdered woman:-

"The victim of this terrible murder was about 23 or 24 years of age, and lived with a coal porter named Kelly, passing as his wife. They, however, quarrelled some time back and separated. A woman named Harvey slept with her several nights since Kelly separated from her, but she was not with her on Thursday night. The deceased's Christian names were Mary Jane, and since her murder I have discovered that she walked the streets in the neighbourhood of Aldgate. Her habits were irregular, and she often came home at night the worse for drink. Her mother lives in Ireland, but in what county I do not know. The deceased used to receive letters from her occasionally. The unfortunate woman had not paid her rent for several weeks; in fact, she owed me 30s. altogether, so on Friday morning about eleven o'clock, I sent my man to ask her if she could pay the money. He knocked at the door, but received no answer. Thinking this was very strange he looked in at the window, and to his horror he saw the body of Kelly lying on the bed covered with blood. He immediately came back to me and told me what he had seen. I was, of course, as horrified as he was, and I went with him to the house and looked in at the window. The sight I saw was even more ghastly than I had prepared myself for. On the bed lay the body as my man had told me, while the table was covered with what seemed to me to be lumps of flesh. I said to my man, "Go at once to the police station and fetch some one here." He went off at once and brought back Inspector Back (sic), who looked through the window as we had done. He then despatched a telegram to Superintendent Arnold, but before Superintendent Arnold arrived Inspector Abberline came and gave orders that no one should be allowed to enter or leave the court. The inspector waited a little while and then sent a telegram to Sir Charles Warren to send the bloodhounds, so as to trace the murderers if possible. So soon as Superintendent Arnold arrived he gave instructions for the door to be burst open. I at once forced the door with a pickaxe, and we entered the room. The sight we saw I cannot drive away from my mind. It looked more like the work of a devil than of a man. The poor woman's body was lying on the bed, undressed. She had been completely disembowelled, and her entrails had been taken out and placed on the table. It was those that I had seen when I looked through the window and took to be lumps of flesh. the woman's nose had been cut off, and her face gashed and mutilated, so that she was quite beyond recognition.

Both her breasts, too, had been clean cut away and placed by the side of her liver and other entrails on the table. I had heard a great deal about the Whitechapel murders, but I declare to God I had never expected to see such a sight as this. The body was, of course, covered with blood, and so was the bed. The whole scene is more than I can describe. I hope I may never see such a sight again. It is most extraordinary that nothing should have been heard by the neighbours, as there are people passing backwards and forwards at all hours of the night, but no one heard so much as a scream. A woman heard Kelly singing "Sweet Violets" at one o'clock on Friday morning. So up to that time, at all events, she was alive and well. So far as I can ascertain, no one saw her take a man into the house with her."

ANATOMICAL KNOWLEDGE DISPLAYED.

The news of the tragedy spread like wildfire, and soon every street was blocked near the locality - Wentworth street, Middlesex street, and White's row - where excited groups of bystanders living in the immediate vicinity could not for some time form the faintest conjecture as to who the victim was, for the police gave peremptory instructions to every one not to allude to the circumstances in the faintest way. Dr. Phillips was especially emphatic in his desire that the investigation should not be made known. At the especial wish of Sir Charles Warren, Mr. Thomas Bond, surgeon, of Westminster, accompanied by another medical man, who assisted at the post mortem examination of the remains at Whitehall, paid a visit to the scene. Though accustomed to many sad sights, the medical men themselves were appalled at the barbarities of the crime. The doctors formed an almost unanimous decision that the murderer possessed some anatomical knowledge either of human beings or animals.

ANNIE CHAPMAN A FRIEND OF HERS.

The murdered woman is said to have been a person of extremely quarrelsome tendencies. She was, it is hardly necessary to say, extremely poor. She belonged, morally, and in every other respect, to the class to which Annie Chapman belonged. Singular to relate, the murdered woman, Annie Chapman, was a friend of this very Mary Jane Kelly.

MEETING THE SUSPECTED MURDERER.

From the statement of a young woman who knew the deceased well, it would appear that at about half past ten o'clock on Thursday night she met the murdered woman at the corner of Dorset street, who said to her that she had no money, and if she could not get any would never go out any more, but would do away with herself. Soon after they parted, a man, who is described as respectably dressed, came up and spoke to the murdered woman Kelly, and offered her some money. The man then accompanied the woman home to her lodgings, which are on the second floor, and a little boy - said to be her child - was removed from the room and taken to a neighbour's house. Nothing more was heard, and no one, with the exception of the murdered woman and the little boy, saw the man. It is said that he resembled very much a man who took lodgings in Wentworth street a few days before the murders in both Mitre Square and Berner street. This man, it is said, came back to his lodgings there about seven o'clock that morning, washed himself, and left, and has not since been seen. Suspicion attaches also to a man seen in Brushfield street on Friday morning about five minutes to nine o'clock, who was respectably dressed, and acted in a strange manner.

A MAN WITH A BLACK BAG.

A young woman who sells roasted chestnuts at the corner of Widegate street, a narrow thoroughfare about two minutes' walk from the scene of the murder, has made a statement which it is thought may afford a clue to the murderer. She says that about twelve o'clock at noon on Friday a man, dressed like a gentleman, came to her and said, "I suppose you have heard about the murder in Dorset street?" She replied that she had, and the man then grinned and said, "I know more about it than you." He then stared into her face and went away down Sandy's row, another narrow thoroughfare which cuts across Widegate street. When he had got some way off, however, he looked back as if to see whether she was watching him, and then vanished. the woman says the man had a black moustache, was about 5ft 6in high, and wore a black silk hat, a black coat, and speckled trousers. He carried a black shiny bag, about a foot in depth and a foot and a half in length. The woman says further that the same man

accosted three young girls, unfortunates, in Dorset street on Thursday night, and they chaffed him, and asked him what he had in the bag, and he replied, "Something that the ladies don't like." The woman tells her story with every appearance of truthfulness.

LATEST DETAILS.

CONFLICTING STATEMENTS.

Many who have been interviewed state that the unfortunate woman never left the house at 26 Dorset street after she entered it on Thursday at midnight; while on the other hand numerous persons, who declare that they were companions of the deceased, and knew her well, state that she came out of her house at eight on Friday morning for provisions, and further, that they were drinking with her in the Britannia, a local tavern, at ten o'clock on the same morning as her mutilated body was found at eleven. In view of these conflicting statements the hour at which the murder was committed is, of course, the all important point in connection with the crime. A woman named Kennedy, who was, on the morning of the murder, staying with her parents at a house in the court immediately opposite the room in which the body of Mary Kelly was found, has made a statement which, if true, and there is little or no reason for doubting it, establishes the time at which the murderer commenced his operations upon his victim. She states that at about three o'clock on Friday morning she entered Dorset street on her way to her parents' house in the court. She then noticed three persons at the corner of the street near the Britannia public house. There was a man, a young man, respectably dressed and with a dark moustache, talking to a woman whom, she did not know, and also a female poorly clad and without any headgear. The man and woman appeared to be the worse for liquor, and she heard the man say, "Are you coming?" whereupon the woman, who appeared to be obstinate, turned in an opposite direction to which the man apparently wished her to go. Mrs. Kennedy went on her way, and nothing unusual occurred until about half an hour later. She states that she did not retire to rest immediately she reached her parent's house, but sat up, and between half past three and a quarter to four o'clock she heard a cry of "Murder!" in a woman's voice proceed from the direction in which Mary Kelly's room was situated. As the cry was not repeated. she took no further notice of the circumstance until later in the morning, when she found the police in possession of the place, and preventing all egress to the occupants of the small houses of the court.

A SINGULAR ADVENTURE.

When questioned by the police as to what she had heard throughout the night, Mrs. Kennedy made a statement to the above effect. She has since supplemented that statement by the following:-

"On Wednesday evening, about six o'clock, my sister and I were in the neighbourhood of Bethnal Green road, when we were accosted by a very suspicious man about forty years of age. He was wearing a short jacket, over which he had a long top coat. He had a black moustache, and wore a billycock hat. He invited us to accompany him into a lonely spot, as he was known about here, and there was a policeman looking at him. No policeman was, however, in sight. He made several strange remarks, and appeared to be agitated. He was very white, and made every endeavour to prevent us looking him straight in the face. He carried a black bag. He avoided walking with us, and led the way into a very dark thoroughfare at the back of the workhouse, inviting us to follow, which we did. He then pushed open a small

door in a pair of large gates, and requested one of us to follow him, remarking, "I only want one of you," whereupon we became suspicious. He acted in a very strange and suspicious manner, and refused to leave his bag in the possession of one of us. We both became alarmed and escaped, at the same time raising an alarm of "Jack the Ripper."

A gentleman who was passing is stated to have intercepted the man while the women

A strange story told of a man with a black bag



made their escape. Mrs. Kennedy asserts that the man whom she saw on Friday morning with the woman at the corner of Dorset street resembles very closely the individual who caused such alarm on the night in question, and that she would recognise him again if confronted with him. This description of the man suspected of the murder tallies exactly with that in the possession of the police, and there is now very little doubt that the murderer entered the murdered woman's house late on Thursday night or early on Friday morning.

JOSEPH BARNETT'S STATEMENT.

Joseph Barnett (called in other reports Kelly), an Irishman, at present residing in a common lodging house in New street, Bishopsgate, informed a reporter on Friday evening that he had occupied his present lodgings since Tuesday week. Previously to that he had lived in Miller's court, Dorset street, for eight or nine months with the murdered woman Mary Jane Kelly. They were very happy and comfortable together until another woman came to sleep in their room, to which he strongly objected. Finally, after the woman had been there two or three nights he quarrelled with the woman whom he called his wife and left her. The next day, however, he returned, and gave Kelly money. He called several other days and gave her money when he had it. On Thursday night he visited her between half past seven and eight, and told her he was sorry, he had no money to give her. He saw nothing more of her. She used occasionally to go to the Elephant and Castle district to visit a friend who was in the same position as herself.



Contemporary newspaper sketch of Joseph Barnett

AN UNFORTUNATE FOREIGNER.

The disposition shown by the crowd in Whitechapel on Friday night to look at each other for the criminal constituted a real peril for any stranger among them, the women especially making no secret of the longing they felt to lynch somebody, and it looked as though in one or two cases the police were compelled to make arrests to prevent something of the kind being attempted. One unfortunate foreigner, whose physiognomy was certainly not prepossessing, was taken into Commercial street Police Station, when it turned out that this is the third time he had been arrested on suspicion of being "Jack the Ripper" in the course of these murders. What with his odd face, his deprecatory shrugs and posturings, and his broken English as he tried to answer the interrogatories put to him, his examination was irresistibly comic. "How d'ye manage to get into trouble like this, then?" demanded an officer. "What do you do? What makes people pounce on you?" "Dat is ze zing," said the unlucky fellow, spreading the palms of his hands, and shrugging his shoulders. "Zat is what I like to know. Why do zey?" He had given a false name at his lodging house, but that, he tried to explain, was because "it eez not grand to leeve in a lodging house." Later on hundreds of people came surging down Commercial street round a number of police who guarded a tall, rather repellent looking man, who looked flushed and defiant, and was evidently strongly believed by the mob to be the assassin. It went from mouth to mouth that he blood on his clothes, and the dark and dogged look of this man very well bore out the idea of his having been taken with evidences of his guilt upon him. The excitement among the crowd was of the wildest description.

A NEW THEORY.

An important fact has transpired, which puts a fresh complexion on the theory of the murders. It appears that the cattle boats bringing live freight to London are in the habit of coming into the Thames on Thursdays and Fridays, and leaving again for the continent on Sundays or Mondays. It has already been a matter of comment that the recent revolting crimes have been committed at the week end, and an opinion has been formed among some of the detec-

tives that the murderer is a drover or butcher employed on one of these boats - of which there are many - and that he periodically appears and disappears with one of the steamers. This theory, according to information obtained by a reporter, is held to be of much importance by those engaged in the investigation, who believe that the murderer does not reside either in the locality or even in this country at all. It is thought that he may be either a person employed upon one of these boats, or one who is allowed to travel by them, and inquiries have for some time been directed to following up the theory. It is pointed out that at the inquests on the previous victims the coroners expressed the opinion that the knowledge of physiology possessed by a butcher would have been sufficient to enable him to find and cut out the parts of the body which in several cases was abstracted.

DETECTIVES ON THE SCENE.

Within a very short time of the murder being discovered, a dozen cabs arrived in Dorset street from Whitehall, conveying detectives from the Criminal Investigation Department, among them being Inspectors Abberline and Reid. Never before had so many men been despatched to the scene of a murder from Whitehall. The scene in the narrow courtway leading to the house was one of extraordinary excitement. The whole place was closely packed with detective officers, and quite a small army of plain clothes constables were located in Dorset street within an astonishingly short space of time.

Dr. Phillips, the divisional surgeon of police, soon arrived, and was followed by Dr. Bond, of Westminster, divisional surgeon of the A Division, and Dr. J.R. Gabe, of Mecklenburgh square, and two or three other surgeons. They made a preliminary examination of the body, and sent for a photographer, who made several photographs of the remains.

REMOVAL OF THE BODY.



Precisely at four o'clock on Friday afternoon the body was removed from Dorset street to Shoreditch Mortuary, which stands at the back of Shoreditch Church. The mutilated remains were placed in a coarse coffin, which had apparently been used on many previous occasions for the conveyance of the dead, and which was partially covered with a canvas cloth. The straps of the coffin were sealed. The coffin was conveyed in a one horse ordinary furniture van, and was escorted by several constables. A large mob followed the van to the mortuary where a crowd was

waiting to see the coffin transferred to the building. The photographer who had been called in to photograph the room and the body, removed his camera from the premises at half past four, and shortly afterwards a detective officer carried from the house a pail with which he left in a four wheel cab. The pail was covered with a newspaper and was stated to contain portions of the woman's body. It was taken to the house of Dr. Phillips, 2 Spital square. The windows of the room where the crime was committed were boarded up, and a padlock put on the door. The streets were patrolled by the police all the evening, and no one was allowed to loiter near the place. The neighbourhood was like a fair on Friday night, and the excitement and hubbub had filled the streets with thousands of idlers attracted by morbid curiosity.

THE SCENE OF THE MURDER.

A correspondent who saw the room in which the murder was committed says it is a tenement by itself, having formerly been the back parlour of 26 Dorset street. A partition had been erected cutting it off from the house, and the entrance door opened into Miller's court. The two windows also faced the court, and, as the body could be seen from the court on Friday morning, it is evident that, unless the murderer perpetrated his crime with the light turned out, any person passing by could have witnessed the deed. The lock of the door was a spring one, and the murderer apparently took the key away with him when he left, as it cannot be found. The more the facts are investigated, the more apparent become the cool daring of the murderer. There are six houses in the court besides the tenement occupied by the deceased. The door of Kelly's room is the first on the right hand side on entering from the street, and the other houses - three on either side - are higher up the passage.

THE ORGANS.

The latest account states, upon what professes to be indisputable authority, that no portion of the murdered woman's body was taken away by the murderer. As already stated, the post mortem examination was one of the most exhaustive character, and the surgeons did not quit their work until every organ was accounted for, and placed as closely as possible in its natural position.

A COAT DISCOVERED.

A man's pilot coat has been found in the murdered woman's room, but whether it belonged to one of her paramours or to the murderer has not been ascertained.

Another Letter from "Jack the Ripper."

The police authorities on Friday night in different parts of the metropolis received complaints from females who belong to the unfortunate class that they had been accosted, and threatened by a man answering the description of the man who is supposed to be the murderer, but on seeing other persons approaching ran away. On Friday night in the pillar box at the corner of Northumberland street, Marylebone road, was found a letter directed to the police, and the contents of which were as follows:-

*"Dear Boss,
I shall be busy tomorrow night in Marylebone road. I have booked two for blood.
Yours,
Jack the Ripper.
Look out about two o'clock in Marylebone road."*

ARRESTS - A MAN IN CUSTODY.

Two men were arrested during the night on suspicion of being concerned in the murder in Dorset street, on Friday, but one was released, and on Saturday afternoon the police had only one in custody. They continue to receive statements from persons who believe they can throw light upon the mysterious murder.

With reference to the man detailed it is stated that he was brought into Commercial street station on Friday night. He only recently arrived in London from Sydney, New South Wales; he has been in the company of two women in the neighbourhood of Spitalfields by whom he was robbed of nearly thirty pounds. He has no friend in this country. He was endeavouring to find the women who robbed him when he was denounced and taken to the police station, a great mob following him. There is but little doubt that this is a truthful statement. The police are still pursuing inquiries which as soon as completed will enable the man to be released. No one else is in custody at Leman street or neighbouring stations. The statement that bloodhounds were used is said to be without foundation.

Memories of Beadle



Jeremy Beadle MBE
Broadcaster, writer, presenter.
12 April 1948-30 January 2008

In our last issue we carried an obituary and tribute for Jeremy Beadle, true crime enthusiast. His funeral took place on 14 February at Marylebone Cemetery, North London. The service ran for more than two hours and featured anecdotes from more than 20 close friends and family members, interspersed with some of Jeremy's favourite music.

We asked for your personal memories; here's a selection.

I had the good fortune to meet Jeremy Beadle at the JtR Conference in Wolverhampton. This was my first conference and I remember feeling slightly nervous at meeting everybody for the first time and a little lost until I got my bearings.

I was sat with a pint when I heard Jeremy's voice behind me. He put his hands on my shoulders and joked about my baldy head shining under the lights. As he did this, he squeezed my shoulders to show that this was meant in the good humoured spirit in which it was indeed taken.

For me it was a real ice breaker and Jeremy then went on to announce what was happening next and where everybody should be heading. This is now a fond memory for me of a genuinely nice man. I was hoping to meet him again at some stage.

I like to believe in an afterlife. Who knows, he could well be Master of Ceremonies at the Great Conference in the Sky? What a JtR Conference that would be!

I know I am not alone in missing him in this world.

Rob Hills

My one and only meeting with Jeremy happened at last year's Conference in Wolverhampton. I was introduced to him by Rosie Evans, Stewart's wife, and was warmly greeted. It was my first conference so I was full of nerves, especially as I was due to give a talk. There was a joke, a handshake then an arm on my shoulder. I won't lie, the nerves remained however there was a feeling that I hadn't had until that first meeting, a feeling that I could actually pull this talk off.

Saturday, after lunch, that was the time for my talk. Jeremy introduced me as 'The Bastard from Leicester'. It made me smile, he knew I was extra nervous and he also knew how to say don't worry without saying don't worry. I got through the talk, with lots of help from photos donated from the Whitby Collection by Phil Hutchinson and Rob Clack as well as Jane Coram and Jake Luukanen's stunningly excellent artwork. I then looked plea-fully across to Jeremy to let him know I'd done, he winked and led the applause. Relief.

Afterwards he thanked me, as he did with every talker. He also encouraged Jake and I to get our work published, this he did with such enthusiasm. Over that weekend we talked on and off about topics as diverse as Bobby Moore, Kearley & Tonge and also the fund raising work he did at two Schools in Leicester.

My final conversation with him happened in the corridor of the hotel, near to the cloakroom. I asked if he would sign the Conference Book that every delegate received. He kindly said he would and paused. You see he didn't just sign his name, he actually thought about what he was going to write. I won't divulge what he did write but they run along the lines of a thank you.

Now I would like to return those thanks. Thanks for making my first conference so enjoyable, thank you for the encouragement and thank you for your time.

You made a stranger feel like a friend.

Neil Bell

Just wanted to add a few of my own thoughts about Jeremy. I only first met him at Wolvers and yet was mightily impressed—and all the more as I began to realize how big he was in the UK. And that included watching him in a TV show as I sat in my London hotel waiting to head out to Heathrow and home. I wanted to tell my few other bored fellow travelers doing ditto "I know him! I was on stage with him just last weekend." I suppressed the urge, thankfully.

But that experience at Wolvers was what really made me appreciate him because he was so easy to work with. Just before my presentation we spoke briefly and then it was time. During my introduction Jeremy and I slipped into some easy ad-lib banter that continued throughout my talk as Jeremy did some heckling and even allowed me once to top him—which he did not mind. And it was that which truly me struck me. I have worked with a few pros over the years (though none of Jeremy's stature) and if that had happened with any of them—God help me.

As it was, he and I had several opportunities to chat afterward and I was even going to do some research for him back here in the States. His death is very sad.

Jeremy, I hardly knew ye—but I will miss you muchly.

Don Souden

Jeremy... never failed to say something nice – never. Every time I met him he said I looked as if I had lost weight. If you got one of his quiz questions right he was fulsome in his praise. I spent a smashing evening with him chatting over a meal and drinks at the Liverpool Trial of James Maybrick and if you ever did match him or top him with a bit of repartee then he was always ready with a laugh. He'd help whenever he could, sent me stuff, introduced me to like-minded friends, gave me access to his vast library. He even suggested how best to cut my beard for TV. He came to open my village fete—I lived off that in the village for months! I'm going to miss him.

Paul Begg

BARRY MORSE – A FINE ACTOR

Obituary



Barry Morse
10 June 1918 - 2 February 2008

The early teens are when you are at a very impressionable phase of your life. Over the late fifties and early sixties television was established as a great influence with the public, transforming family entertainment and even lifestyles. Although viewed on a small black and white screen, many of the films and TV series I watched in those years firmly established iconic images in my mind, images that would never lose their potency for me. Basil Rathbone as Sherlock Holmes aided by the bumbling Dr. Watson played by Nigel Bruce, Roger Moore as The Saint (and Ivanhoe), James Garner as Maverick, James Arness as Matt Dillon, and many others. Then, as now, many of the most popular series were imported from the USA.

One of the most entertaining of the early television series was producer Quinn Martin's *The Fugitive* (1963-1967), starring David Janssen as the fugitive Dr. Richard Kimble and Barry Morse as his nemesis the tenacious policeman, Lt. Philip Gerard. Most are aware of the plot but for those who are not it briefly concerned Dr. Richard Kimble whose wife was murdered by a mysterious one-armed man. Wrongly convicted and sentenced to death for her murder, Kimble escaped from Gerard's custody when the train on which they were travelling crashed. Kimble then went on the run pursued over 120 episodes by Gerard. Although Barry appeared in only thirty plus of these episodes he was seen at the start of every one, when the train crash scene was re-enacted during the opening titles. Inevitably I identified myself with the sympathetic character of Kimble and regarded Gerard with apprehension, almost seeing him as a 'bogey man' type character. Thus, at a very impressionable age for me, Barry's distinctive features, together with his severe and intense portrayal of the lawman in pursuit, became etched upon my mind and were never forgotten. With his impeccable clipped American tones I believed, for many years, that Barry was American; a far-away fantasy figure epitomising a pursuer to be avoided at all costs. Barry guest starred in thousands of TV productions including such notable series as *Naked City*, *The Untouchables*, *The Twilight Zone* and the *The Outer Limits*. His credits in the entertainment world are seemingly endless. Many of his younger fans remember him best as Victor Bergman in *Space 1999*. Little did I know that one day he would be sitting in my living room with me happily discussing our mutual interests and my recent marriage. Added to that we shared the same birth date.

Barry Morse was born on 10 June 1918 in Shoreditch, London, to a Cockney family and in his life enjoyed an acting

career spanning eight decades; including appearances on stage, radio and film. He trained at RADA and held the Leverhulme Scholarship 1935-36. He had thousands of roles in his career having first moved into acting as a school drop out at the age of fifteen. He also knew George Bernard Shaw and later became a leading figure in the Shaw Society. As an early BBC actor he quickly perfected the then standard, refined announcer tones required by that august organisation. Early radio appearances included a starring role as Paul Temple in *Send for Paul Temple Again*. An early film appearance was with fellow screen great Will Hay in 1942 in the comedy *The Goose Steps Out*. He appeared with Yul Brynner in *Kings of the Sun* (1963), *Puzzle of a Downfall Child* with Faye Dunaway (1970), *Asylum* (1972) with Peter Cushing, and *The Changeling* (1980) with George C. Scott.

On 26 March 1939 Barry married actress Sydney Sturgess after a short courtship. They were working at Peterborough repertory theatre and had two children, Melanie in 1945 and Hayward in 1947. In 1951 the family moved to Canada working in radio and the theatre and acting in CBC Television transmissions from Montreal and later Toronto. In 1953 Barry became a Canadian citizen and thus had dual nationality. In 1999 Barry lost his beloved wife Sydney and only a few years later, in 2005, his equally loved daughter Melanie.

It was in February 1999 that I first met Barry at his apartment in Pall Mall, an experience I shall never forget. This was as a result of arrangements made by our mutual friend, R. Dixon Smith, who joined me for the occasion. Barry's cultured English accent belied the fact that he had such a versatile voice and could speak with any accent he wished – and sounded natural. His American accent he could tailor to the various regions of the States, and Americans who did not know him assumed that he was born and bred in America. Barry subsequently visited us at our home for our wedding party. We usually spoke on the telephone every 10th of June, our shared birthday. Barry was a very warm person and I felt very close to him. In 2000 he attended the London Dungeon to support the launch of the book *The Man Who Hunted Jack the Ripper*, which I co-authored with Nick Connell. There he met with Jeremy Beadle and the two seemed very pleased to meet each other for the first time and had some deep conversation together. Barry was keenly interested in the Jack the Ripper case, not only as he was an East Ender but also because his elder brother Leonard Frank Morse (1915-1984), had served with the Metropolitan Police as a constable with H Division stationed at Commercial Street Police Station.

In August 2000 Barry entertained members of the Cloak and Dagger Club at the City Darts with his reminiscences of the East End and brother Leonard. Leonard was very interested in the Ripper murders and talked with many locals about them, locals who could actually remember what it was like to live in the East End during the terror. Leonard wrote down many of the stories in a book which is believed to still exist but the whereabouts of which is now not known.

If anyone asked Barry if *The Fugitive* was based on the American Dr. Sam Sheppard case of 1954 he would always say no, it was based on *Les Misérables* with Inspector Javert, a fact admitted by the producer of

Stewart Evans sharing some stories with Barry Morse at the latter's home.



the show. After all the viewing pleasure Barry gave me I was very proud when he wrote to me on 25 January 2002 saying, "Had the good luck to stumble onto 'Scenes of Crime' last night and caught your piece about Smith [the 'Brides in the Bath' case]; very good, albeit too brief." Amazingly I had provided Barry with some brief viewing pleasure on the television. Barry was a great raconteur and I never grew tired of hearing his stories and character sketches of the famous people he had worked with and who were his friends. He told me of how friendly he and his co-star on *The Fugitive*, David Janssen, were and of the troubled private life that Janssen led. Janssen looked on Barry, his senior by some 12 years, as a sort of father figure whom he could confide in. The two liked to meet socially but producer Quinn Martin didn't want the two seen together in public as friends, after all Gerard and Kimble were hunter and hunted in *The Fugitive* and it would ruin the show's image. Martin therefore funded private dinners for the two, paying for the transport and their meals. Unfortunately Janssen died of heart trouble, a relative youngster, in 1980.

Barry was greatly looking forward to his 90th birthday but, sadly, died at the age of 89 on 2 February 2008. He had become increasingly frail over the last few years but was still acting and entertaining and travelling during his last years. Dear Barry is now gone – but he will never be forgotten and he will continue to entertain us on the screen as the years go by.

Stewart P Evans

Ozzie Farewell to Jules

Some friends of Julian Rosenthal aka Nicholas Smith aka Diddles - former editor of Ripperoo magazine, who sadly passed away last month, organized a get together at the Civic Pub, in Canberra on Saturday 16th February in his memory. Needless to say, Jules would have definitely approved!

Lyn Hudson-Williamson kindly sent these photos through of the occasion.



Back row: Lyn Hudson-Williamson (aka Krys Titania), Michael Hudson and Iain Murray
Front Row: Nadine and Laurie Quinn, Tony Bishop and Dianne Libke



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

I Beg to Report

IPSWICH 'RIPPER' FOUND GUILTY OF FIVE MURDERS. Steve Wright, a former Queen Elizabeth 2 steward and barman, will spend the rest of his life in prison after being found guilty at Ipswich Crown Court on 21 February of the murder of five prostitutes. His crime spree over a six-week period before Christmas 2006 terrorised Ipswich women and the United Kingdom generally. Mr Justice Goss ordered Wright to serve the maximum sentence, stating 'This was a targeted campaign of murder. It is right that you spend your whole life in prison.' The judge added, 'You killed them, stripped them and left them. Why you did it may never be known.'

Steve Gerald James Wright, now aged 49, picked up the women to have sex with them in his car then killed and dumped their bodies in isolated locations around the Suffolk town. The naked bodies of the women, Gemma Adams, Tania Nicol, Anneli Alderton, Paula Clennell, and Anette Nicholls, aged between 19 and 29 years, were found over a 10-day period before Christmas 2006. Wright's crime spree received international attention with the idea that there was a modern-day Ripper at work. Wright's DNA was found on three of the women and fibres from all five linked him to the killings. During the trial, Wright admitted that he had had sex with four of the women but he denied killing them.

It is thought that Wright might also be the killer of Kellie Pratt, 29, who disappeared from the red-light district of Norwich in 2000, as well as missing travel agent Suzy Lamplugh, with whom he worked while he was aboard the QE2. In regard to the Lamplugh case, the Metropolitan Police refused to publicly speculate on whether there was a link with Wright. A spokesman said, 'We are not prepared to discuss who we may or may not wish to interview in connection with any on-going investigation.'

news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/england/suffolk/7256402.stm



Ipswich 'Ripper' Steve Wright



'SWEENEY TODD' WINS ART DIRECTION OSCAR. At the Academy Awards in Hollywood, California, USA, on 25 February, although Johnny Depp, star of 'Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street,' lost in the best actor category, the Tim Burton-directed movie musical won for best art direction. As expected, the best actor award went to Daniel Day-Lewis for the oilman epic 'There Will Be Blood.' Another dark feature, 'No Country for Old Men,' scooped four awards, including best picture; best director, jointly, for directors and brothers Ethan and Joel Coen; best supporting Oscar for Javier Bardem; and best adapted screenplay, for the Coen's treatment of the Cormac McCarthy novel about a drug deal gone bad that served as the basis for their film.

www.mercurynews.com/ci_8354953?source=rss

WAS THE RIPPER A WOMAN FROM MANCHESTER? Researcher Brian Woods believes that one of the 'Ripper' letters at the National Archives at Kew indicates that the Whitechapel murderer could have been a woman from north Manchester.

As reported on the *Middleton Guardian* website on 7 February, Mr Woods said, 'This letter is one of many that are held in the case files. . . . It is from the suspect and was sent in to a newspaper at the time of the murders. Within it there is a very unusual trait in the handwriting where instead of hyphenating the last word of a sentence at the end of page, the author pulls it downwards.'

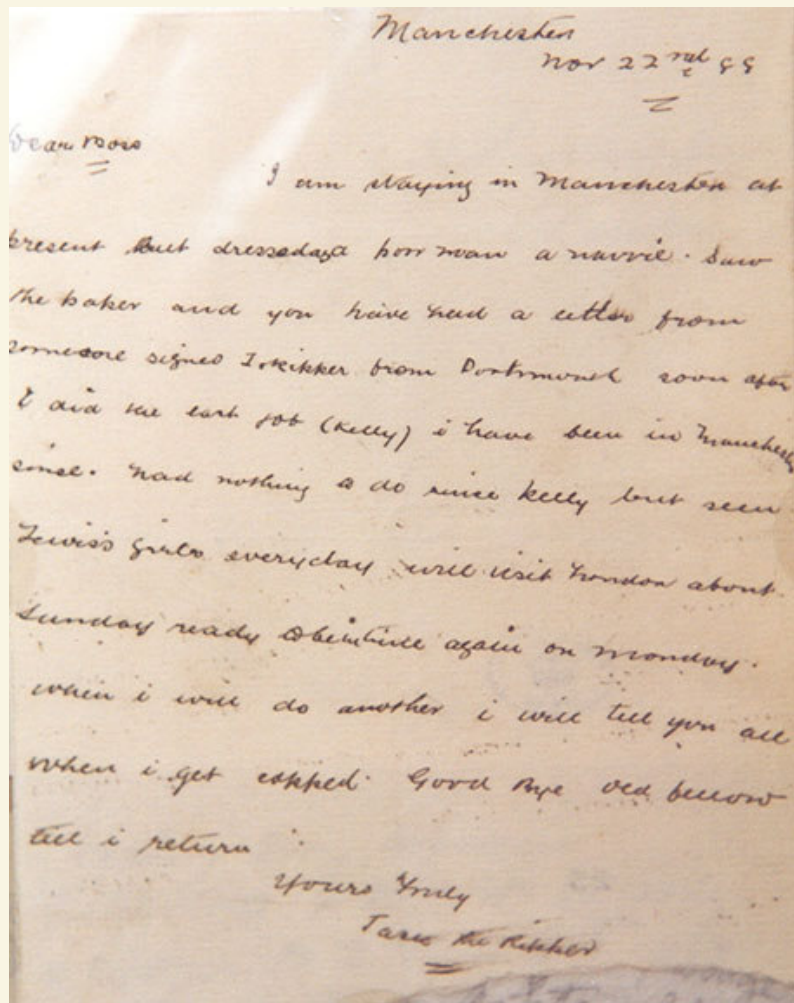
'It's possible that this form of handwriting is genetically based and will have been passed down through the generations or that someone might have seen the style in old family documents.'

He said, 'A number of things point to it being a woman and I think that is the most likely explanation. There has been a genetic investigation and Frederick Abberline, the detective who led the investigation, thought it possible the killer was a woman. I do not want to name the suspect until I am entirely sure but I think she had Irish and London connections and was from Manchester. I believe she spent some time in a religious convent and died in the 1890s.'

He added: 'I would love to write a book and finally unmask the Ripper but the truth is there is so little tangible evidence left it is a very difficult case to solve.'

Mr Woods has asked that anyone who recognises the distinctive style of handwriting to contact him via email at Harwichman2003@yahoo.co.uk

www.middletonguardian.co.uk/news/s/1035626_was_the_ripper_a_resident



Is this a letter from a Manchester woman who was the Ripper? Brian Woods thinks so.

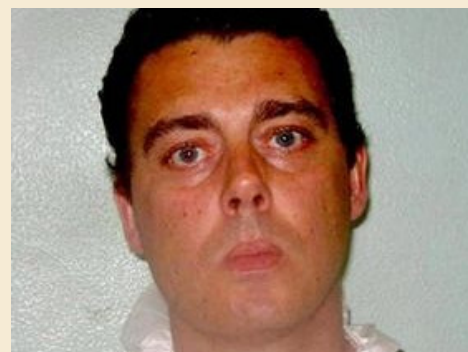
IDEA OF BRITISH DNA DATABASE CRITICISED. Tory shadow home secretary David Davis has protested the idea of having a nationwide DNA database. Mr Davis remarked that it could lead to a 'nation of suspects.' He said that allowing the state to hold DNA profile of citizens would be 'incredibly intrusive.'

A senior police officer has suggested such a database following the capture of Ipswich 'Ripper' Steve Wright and, earlier, of Mark Dixie, the killer of 18-year-old model Sally Anne Bowman. Both men were arrested following DNA matches that were made using DNA taken from them in cases unrelated to the murders for which they were ultimately convicted.

Mr Davis said, 'The simple truth is that fingerprinting has been around a long time. There's never been a call for a fingerprinting database.'

Convicted murderer Steve Wright's DNA was on file after he had been convicted of theft in 2003. He was arrested after the same DNA was found on the bodies of several of the

Convicted killer Mark Dixie



prostitutes killed in Ipswich in late 2006. By contrast, Mark Dixie's DNA was not on file at the time of the brutal murder of Ms Bowman in London in 2005 - he was apprehended after his DNA was placed on file following a fight nine months after her murder at a Surrey bar where he was working.

Detective Superintendent Stuart Cundy, who was in charge of the Bowman investigation, stated, 'It is my opinion that a national DNA register - with all its appropriate safeguards - could have identified Sally Anne's murderer within 24 hours.' Around 1,700 Croydon men gave their DNA voluntarily during the Bowman murder investigation.

The existing DNA database, begun in 2004, covers England and Wales and contains the DNA of 4.5 million individuals arrested for various crimes except for minor offenses. During the Bowman investigation, police worked through a list of 22,500 local suspects before widening their search to other parts of the London metropolitan area. After Mark Dixie's arrest for murder, his DNA was sent to Australia, where he had been living and traveling from 1993 to 1998 as a cook in bars and restaurants. Officers in Perth, Western Australia, reportedly found a match between Dixie's DNA and DNA recovered from an unsolved 1998 attack on a Thai student. According to sources in Australia, Dixie is suspected in a number of sex crimes while he was traveling in that country under the name of Shane Turner.



Model Sally Anne Bowman,
murdered by Mark Dixie

news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7261361.stm

www.policeoracle.com/news/Bowman-SIO-Calls-For-Compulsory-DNA-Register_15649.html

news.theage.com.au/wa-police-defend-role-in-dixie-probe/20080224-1uda.html

LONDON DUNGEON TO USE REAL PROSTITUTES IN RIPPER SHOW? A controversial proposal by the London Dungeon's public relations firm to use actual London streetwalkers in a new Ripper show due to premiere in March has come under fire. In the *Guardian* of 24 January, Julie Bindel, labeled the idea being explored by PR firm, Nelson Bostock, 'tantamount to I'm a Celebrity Prostitute, Get Me Out of Here.'

This year, the Tooley Street-based tourist attraction plans to relaunch a new version of its Jack the Ripper show, according to the PR firm, which emailed a support service for women trafficked into Britain for prostitution. The email stated, 'The show will be an actor-led experience with Victorian-era "prostitutes" talking to visitors about the Jack the Ripper killings.'

Ms Bindel wrote that when she spoke to the firm a second time, 'they were back-pedalling, suggesting that the new show might not happen after all. I hope not. Asking women in prostitution, who have been chronically abused and whose lives are constantly in danger, to take part in such a show is insensitive and misguided at best.'

The London Dungeon website promises that visitors to the Dungeon can 'Retrace the infamous steps of mysterious serial killer Jack the Ripper, just a mile from where his first of five murders occurred. Beware: he may be skulking in the darkness, watching and waiting,' and that visitors will learn the 'grisly details and injuries of each victim'.

Ms Bindel concluded, 'If the Dungeon really wants to "help women off the streets", a donation to FCAP [the new Feminist Coalition Against Prostitution] might not go amiss.'

arts.guardian.co.uk/theatre/drama/story/0,,2245787,00.html

www.thedungeons.com/en/london-dungeon/dungeon-guide/jack-the-ripper.html



MAYBRICK GRAVE STILL IN DISREPAIR. Steve Horton alerted us to the fact that the Maybrick family grave in Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool, remains in disrepair - see accompanying photos. The grave was first vandalised after James Maybrick had been 'outed' as the Ripper in Shirley Harrison's *The Diary of Jack the Ripper* (Smith Gryphon, 1993) although the gravestone was thereafter cemented back together. It is now once again in two pieces. Rip editor Chris George had contacted Martin Doherty, Compliance Officer for Liverpool cemeteries, prior to the Maybrick Trial at the Liverpool Cricket Club in May 2007 in the hopes that the gravestone might be repaired. Given the continued noticed disrepair, we have enquired yet again to see if a renovation might be possible. Stay tuned.

The gravestone photographed some years ago following initial vandalism in the 1990's. Photographs courtesy of Steve Horton.



Recent photograph of the damaged Maybrick family grave in Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool.

DOES THIS RING A BELL? Scottish-born inventor Alexander Graham Bell may not have been the first to come up with the idea of the telephone, according to Seth Shulman, author of a new book, *The Telephone Gambit*.

On 22 May 1886, the *Washington Post* ran a report that Zenas F. Wilber, a former Washington, DC patents examiner, swore an affidavit that he had been bribed by an attorney for Bell to award the patent for the telephone to the Scotsman over a rival inventor named Elisha Gray who had filed his patent for the telephone on same day in 1876. Wilber asserted that Bell had given him a \$100 bribe to keep quiet about the matter. For his part, Bell denied in an affidavit that he had bribed the official.

In researching Bell's laboratory notebooks, Shulman says he noticed that Bell had been working on his telephone for months without much success until suddenly, on 8 March 1876, he tried a new contraption that used a needle in a water-and-acid solution to complete an electrical circuit. Two days later, Bell famously used that method to make the world's first telephone call to his assistant with the words, 'Mr Watson, come here.'

Shulman said that initially he regarded Bell's breakthrough using the water-and-acid solution as 'a sign of Bell's genius.' But then he noticed that Bell had been missing from his lab for 12 days before he tried that method. During that time, the Scot had traveled from his laboratory in Boston to Washington to visit the Patent Office.

Several weeks earlier, on St Valentine's Day, 14 February 1876, Bell's attorneys had filed his application for a patent. Most of the application related to an invention that could send several telegrams simultaneously. But written in the margins of the application, presumably as an afterthought, was a paragraph relating to a method of 'transmitting vocal or other sounds telegraphically.'

On that same day, Gray had filed a 'patent caveat' for 'an invention to transmit the tones of the human voice.' Gray proposed a contraption that would use a water-and-acid solution, and he included a sketch of the projected device. Recognising that there were two filings for the same general idea, Wilber, the patent examiner in charge of electrical devices, ruled that there was a conflict that should be investigated.

Within days, Bell went to Washington to meet with Wilber. On 7 March, Bell was awarded the patent for the telephone, receiving it only three weeks after he had filed for his patent, a very unusual occurrence, according to Shulman. The writer said that when Bell returned to Boston the following day, he drew in his notebook a sketch of a device that was nearly identical to Gray's contraption. Bell also began experimenting with an acid-and-water method just as Gray had proposed. Two days later, Bell and his assistant were able to get their device to work.

'The more I looked at this, every aspect of it looked fishy,' says Shulman. He reached the conclusion that Bell plagiarized one of the world's most famous inventions.

Shulman's claim is contested by Bell's great grandson and biographer Edwin Grosvenor, who points out that Bell's claim to have invented the telephone was the subject of numerous court cases in the USA - cases that the inven-

tor always won. Bernard Carlson, a professor of science, technology, and society at the University of Virginia, pointed out that the telephone as patented by Bell worked on an entirely different system to the device Elisha Gray had originated. 'They look alike but they don't work alike,' he said.



Inventor Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922)



www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/02/19/AR2008021902596.html

'JACK T RIPPER' SUPERHERO COSTUME MAKER. Professional wrestler Michael Brinatte, 39, who wrestles locally around the Minneapolis - St Paul, Minnesota, USA area, under villainous persona of 'Jack T Ripper' is now making a living out of creating costumes for fellow wrestlers and sci fi enthusiasts.

Although the 39-year-old, 6-foot 2-inch, 240-pound (17-stone) Brinatte goes by the fearsome nickname in the ring, he is reportedly a pussycat in person, according to Maria Elena Baca writing in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* on 13 February. Ms Baca notes, 'he's got the bulk to be scary, but in conversation, he's affable and enthusiastic about his avocation.' His Brighton apartment has become his workshop for his newfound business.

Brinatte started making his own science-fiction and 'Star Trek' costumes when he was in high school, although his only formal training came in a seventh-grade home economics class, where he made a pillow.

Brinatte made wrestling costumes for fellow wrestlers on the circuit, and more recently for some friends who auditioned for the SciFi Channel reality show 'Who Wants to Be a Superhero?' - a show that provides entrants an opportunity to test their mettle as self-made heroes. 'Jack T Ripper' Brinatte says he has made at least 32 costumes and about 50 masks in the last year.

www.startribune.com/local/north/15476256.html

Superhero costume maker and professional wrestler
Michael 'Jack T Ripper' Brinatte



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Eddleston (John J.)	Jack the Ripper An Encyclopedia 1st US edn. h/b	£50
Evans (Stewart) & Skinner (Keith)	Jack the Ripper Letters From Hell hb/dw signed labels	£15
Fuller (Jean Overton)	Sickert & The Ripper Crimes (with unique bookmark) 1st edn. hb/dw	£30
Griffiths (Major Arthur)	Mysteries of Police and Crime 3 vols (1920) h/b	£75
Harrison (Paul)	Jack the Ripper The Mystery Solved hb/dw	£25
Hinton (Bob)	From Hell p/b signed label	£10
Horsler (Val)	Jack the Ripper h/b (The National Archives)	£8
Leeson (Ex-Det. Sergeant B.)	Lost London 1st edn. (1934) h/b v.scarce	£100
Rumbelow (Donald)	The Complete Jack the Ripper hb/dw signed labels Rumbelow and Colin Wilson	£30

INTERVIEW WITH GLENN ANDERSSON

On the release of his book

*Jack Uppskäraren:
Kriminalfall och legend*



Glenn Andersson - Photograph - Anette Rasmusson

1) Your new book on JtR will be published early next month in Sweden. Are we right that this will be one of the first books about the Whitechapel murders in Swedish?

GA: That is indeed correct. Of course, a Swedish edition of Rumbelow's book was published in the late 70s by a very small and unknown publisher in this country and which probably reached no one. Apart from that, the Swedish edition of Patricia Cornwell's book has been the only publicly acknowledged title on the subject released in Sweden. So my book—*Jack Uppskäraren: Kriminalfall och legend*—is the first modern up to date book on the subject especially written and intended for a Swedish audience and directly in the Swedish language. The release is planned for mid-March and it is published by Historiska Media, a publishing house specializing in historical books and which has gained a lot of respect on the national book scene. It has been a pleasure dealing with them and since many of their contracted authors are major Swedish historical researchers and scientists I couldn't be happier about being connected with them.

2) There seem a number of Scandinavian posters on message boards. Is there a growing interest in JtR in Sweden?

GA: It may seem so—at least at first glance—and I actually think that the Internet, and especially Stephen Ryder's website *Casebook: Jack the Ripper*, has a lot to do with that. However, the popular fascination with criminal cases often tend to attract a limited group of people with special interests and may not be representative for the general public as a whole. My book is in fact a bit of a gamble on both mine and the publisher's part, since it is difficult to estimate beforehand the response and interest it may attract in this country. Most countries have their own unsolved national traumas to work on—let's just take the Kennedy murder in the USA as an example. The murder of Prime Minister Olof Palme is probably one of Sweden's major murder mysteries with traumatic national consequences, resulting in numerous books and documentaries, so we've had our own share.

As far as Jack the Ripper case is concerned, however, there seems to be very little knowledge about it in Sweden. Many in this country are not even aware that he was an real life figure and those who *have* had heard about him have often gained their information from 'facts' supplied by Hollywood and possibly from reading Patricia Cornwell. For those readers, my book will no doubt come as a small shock since one of my intentions with the book was to break down a number of annoying myths surrounding the case.

3) You are known for having strong views on several important issues, like Kelly NOT being a Ripper victim, but your book is intended to be a balanced account. Was it difficult striving for objectivity?

GA: Not at all. Indeed, I am well known for my strong views on the Casebook message boards, but on a message board I can allow myself to have strong opinions simply because such a place is intended to be a forum for debate and discussions. But that is entirely different from the approach I use when I write a book. Needless to say, I find it extremely crucial to take great pains in being objective as an author and I believe it's a result of the approach I've learnt during my years at university. My Swedish Ripper book is not about personal theories or suspect hunts—or an attempt to solve the case—but a mere factual account of the murders, the police investigation, the history of the victims and the socio-political context. In order for this to work as a credible historical account, one is forced to be objective and to stick to as many original, contemporary sources as possible. And—although many fellow posters on Casebook may find this surpris-

ing—that is actually where I feel best at home as a writer.

As far as the Kelly murder is concerned, I have tried to do this from an objective point of view without stating if she was or wasn't a Ripper victim. I have simply tried to account for the facts and the theories in this direction and then it is up to the readers themselves to make up their minds about it. It is not my job as an author to force any personal opinions on my readers but to simply supply them with material and food for thought. But I definitely believe that a modern, up-to-date book on the subject must discuss those issues regardless of what I or anyone else might think about them.

4) *Aside of course from Liz Stride, were there areas you particularly stressed in aiming at a Swedish audience?*

GA: Well, I don't think I intentionally have tried to emphasize a certain area of study more than any other in the book, and that includes Liz Stride. Of course, I have acknowledged the fact that her fate may be of certain interest for people in my country and I have naturally tried to cover her personal story as fully as possible in order to make use of that connection, but other great researchers and writers have already written about her so there's not much I can add to that. So apart from a deliberate attempt to cover the controversial issues of the Double Event and the Kelly murder more in depth, I have tried not to highlight any part at the expense of others. But of course—as a historian, I naturally found it more relevant to focus on the social, historical and political context, rather than indulging in speculative suspect theories. So what some people may find surprising is that the section dealing with modern suspects is quite small and this is purely intentional.

That said, since Stephen Knight's nonsense has become so influential I was forced to deal with the problems of the Royal Conspiracy theories on a number of pages, although I admit it was a terribly boring chapter to write. But again—it had to be there since breaking it down is essential when writing a book for those new to the case. A number of other modern suspects, like Klosowski and D'Onston Stephenson, have only been given a couple of paragraphs each except for more in-depth accounts of theories like the "Lodger" story. Apart from this, the suspects connected with the Macnaghten memoranda and Anderson's statements of course have been given a chapter of its own, just like the FBI's so-called profile on Jack the Ripper and other later attempts to identify or create a characterization of Jack the Ripper.

Jack Uppskäraren: Kriminalfall och legend featuring a cover image by Jaako Lukkanen

Hösten 1888 härjade Jack Uppskäraren i det fattiga East End i London. Hans makabra sätt att mörda och stympa fattiga prostituerade satte skräck i stadens invånare och polismän. Morden utgjorde språngstoff för tidningarnas sensationshunger och deras braskande rubriker gjorde förövaren till världens förste internationellt ryktbare seriemördare. *Jack Uppskäraren* är den första heltäckande genomgången på svenska av de så välkända brotten.

Uppskärarens mordserie blev ett av Englands värsta trauman – likvärdigt med Kennedymordet i USA och Palmemordet i Sverige. Experten Glenn L. Andersson skildrar miljön i det viktorianska London och de sociala och ekonomiska villkor som var verklighet för mordoffren.

Än idag är Uppskärarens identitet ett mysterium, trots att det forskats kring hans brott under mer än ett sekel. Författaren presenterar de faktiska förloppen vid de ruskiga morden, men faktum är att man inte med säkerhet kan säga hur många kvinnor som verkligen blev offer för Uppskärarens kniv. En uppsjö av legender och spekulationer omgärdar Uppskärarens person, och Glenn L. Andersson krossar hämsynslöst somliga av de mest speldda myterna!

GLENN LAURITZ
ANDERSSON

Jack
UPPSKÄRAREN

Jack
UPPSKÄRAREN
KRIMINALFALL OCH LEGEND

But the main focus of the book lies nevertheless on contemporary historical circumstances and the police investigation.

5) What was the most difficult problem you encountered in writing the book?

GA: I can't say that I encountered any problems in the real sense of the word, but I would think the major challenge lay in how to deliver factual information in a way that would meet scientific standards while at the same time telling the story in a captivating way that would attract the general public. In an academic sense, I have supplied the reader with as complete source notes as possible, so that anyone who wants to study the original files in order to do their own research will have some direct guidelines to follow. Needless to say, my attempt in this area does not even come close to Paul Begg's achievement, but I have tried to direct the reader to the file numbers for each bit of important information. On the other hand, I aimed to give the reader the sensation of actually riding a time machine back into the East End during Victorian times. I tried this combination before with my local crime history book in 2002, and it met with considerable success, but it can't be stressed enough that keeping your intended category of readers in mind is nevertheless one of the most delicate and important parts of the writing process and shouldn't be taken lightly.

The attempt to take the readers back in time is also the reason why the book is richly packed with pictures (a large number of them kindly supplied by Robert Clack), with contemporary photos and tabloid illustrations as well as old and modern pictures of the sites. A number of pictures were also bought from the National Archives in Kew and the London Royal Hospital. My main concern was to get the publishing company to agree on a cover that I liked, which is why I was very happy about the fact that they immediately agreed to use an excellent, atmospheric 3D painting by Jaako Lukkanen as a base for the cover (I made a gamble by commissioning it from him without knowing if they would buy into the idea or not, but luckily they fell for it big time). I also want to point out that Jane Coram was kind enough to do the maps and plans for this book especially, for which I am extremely grateful.

6) Are there any plans for foreign language editions?

GA: Not in an immediate future and of course any such actions will be dependent on the Swedish sales. The 'Agency Section' of my contract allows the publisher the copyright of any foreign editions (and Historiska Media has in fact released books in English as well) but I would think such paragraphs merely refer to the other Scandinavian countries to begin with. Of course, I would welcome an English edition strictly from a financial point of view since it would mean larger editions, but frankly I am quite happy that the book is solely aimed at a Swedish/Scandinavian market in spite of the small money involved. As we all know there are already enough factual books about the Ripper in the English language and I seriously doubt that mine would have anything new to offer, not to mention the relief that it won't be scrutinized by the large number of armchair detectives in Britain and the USA.

No doubt the whole point with this book is to tell the story of the Ripper crimes to an audience which hasn't come in contact with the subject before or purely been subjected to fairytales. The existing books in English do not reach the Swedish audience except for those who are already fascinated by the case and who usually order books on the net, while the large Swedish majority who want to read in their native language have nothing. So I have the unique opportunity to work on a blank canvas and that is good enough for me at this point.

7) For now, how would any English-only speakers with a yen to learn Swedish (or a Swedish neighbor willing to translate) get your book? Will it be available internationally through the major on-line book vendors?

GA: I am not sure about international sites like Amazon, but I've already seen it advertised on national on-line shops like adlibris.se, bokus.com and cdon.com. Of course it can also be ordered directly through the publisher's website historiskamedia.se from the beginning of March. I have no idea if it'll pop up on any international vendor sites, but that is of course an issue for the sales department to deal with and luckily not my concern—one of the advantages of being contracted to a professional publisher.

8) With this book now ready to appear do you have any immediate plans for more writing?

GA: Well, my personal interests spread over many historical subjects and I was initially an art historian. So I will probably try to finish the art and local history book project about the 19th century artists' colony in Skagen, Denmark that I started to work on that—hopefully together with lectures and other arrangements in connection with the Ripper—will keep me busy for the next year or so. Besides that, I am never short of ideas, so I have no doubt I will make sure to have my work cut out for me after that.

On the Crimebeat

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

CORNISH MURDERS

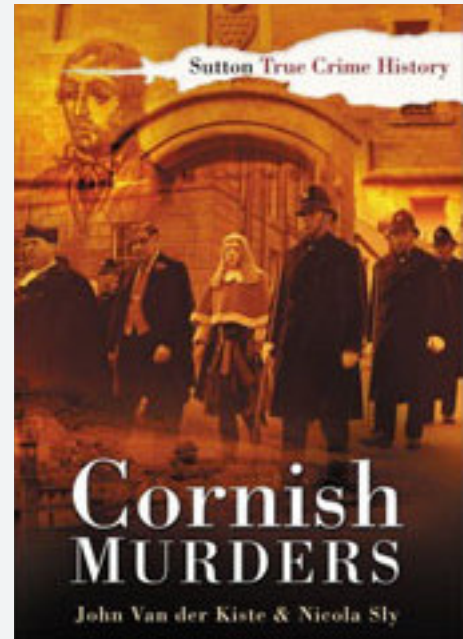
By John Van der Kiste & Nicola Sly

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

Another in Sutton's True Crime History series, this time featuring 24 cases from Cornwall with a dateline ranging from 1820 to 1963.

Among well-known cases featured are the those of the Lightfoot brothers (1840); Matthew Weekes (1844); Selina Wadge (1878); Edward Black (1921); William Maynard (1928); the acquitted Annie Hearn (1930); Philip Davis (1937); and Miles Giffard (1952). The remainder of the cases featured are no less interesting and some of the earlier crimes cast a strong light on the social mores of the times.

Copiously illustrated, the cases are well covered and allied to an excellent production as is usual from the publisher, *Cornish Murders* is well up to the standard of its predecessors in this very good series.



LONDON CRIME, DEATH & DEBAUCHERY

By Neil R. Storey

S/B, 224 pp., Illus., Sutton Publishing, £14.99

Jam-packed with items chronicling the darker side of our capital city.

Everything seems to be covered, from murder, body snatching, robbery and suicide, to infanticide, highwaymen and executions. These and more can be found in 18 chapters with with marvellous titles such as *The Notorious and Nefarious*, *Tales from the Tower*, *Tyburn Tree and Other Punishments*, *What A Way To Go* and *The Dead... and Beyond*.

In some ways akin to the publisher's *Grim Almanac* series, though without the datelines, this is an ideal book to sit down with on a dark evening, with a glass of a favourite tippie, and just open it at random and read the sins of London. It is profusely illustrated and I am glad to see has a very good index.

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For anyone like myself who is interested in South African crime, I would recommend four publications from 2007 authored by local journalist Chris Karsten. They are *Bad Kids: South African Youngsters Who Rob and Kill*, *Headline Murders: Slayings Which Shook South Africa*, *Killer Women: Fatal South African Females* and *Unsolved: No Answers to Heinous South African Crimes*. Each graphically details the problems for society in that country. Copies are currently available from Loretta Lay Books.

Manchester

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I am staying in Manchester at
present but dressed as a poor man a navvie. Saw
a baker and you have had a letter from
meore signed I Ripper from Portmunt room after
did the last job (Kelly) i have been in Manchester
me. Had nothing to do since Kelly but seen
Miss's girls everyday will visit London about
Sunday ready to be in again on Monday.
when i will do another i will tell you all
when i get capped. Good bye old fellows
tell i return

Yours Truly

James the Ripper

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