

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

Ripperologist

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March 2008

D'Onston Stephenson

MIKE COVELL dissects the
incident off Flamborough Head

DON SOUDEN looks at the
Best Bet to be Proved the Ripper

Synagogues of the East End and
the Era of Jack the Ripper by
CHRIS GEORGE and JOHN BENNETT

ADAM WENT on Frederick Deeming
and the Old Melbourne Gaol

JENNIFER PEGG | CHRIS SCOTT
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RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

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QUOTE FOR MARCH:

*Take Obama's comments about his recently retired pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright. Speaking to a group of Jewish voters in Cleveland, the front-running senator likened the man he had earlier called his spiritual adviser to an eccentric family member: "Like an old uncle, who sometimes says things I don't agree with." This sounds pretty benign * until it emerges that the dear old uncle happens to be a rabid misogynist, who believes the victims of Jack the Ripper got what was coming to them. *Atta boy, Jack, slice open the Scarlet Women of Babylon.* *Come off it, Uncle. I don't agree.* All right; that's a parody. We don't know how Wright feels about Jack the Ripper. What he thinks about Osama bin Laden and his merry men, however, is on record.*

George Jonas, U.S. presidential contest a real horse race, The Truro Daily News, Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada, 21 March 2008.
<http://www.trurodaily.com/index.cfm?sid=119253&sc=73>

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RIPPEROLOGIST MAGAZINE

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Would the Ripper Have Confessed?

EDITORIAL

By CHRISTOPHER T. GEORGE

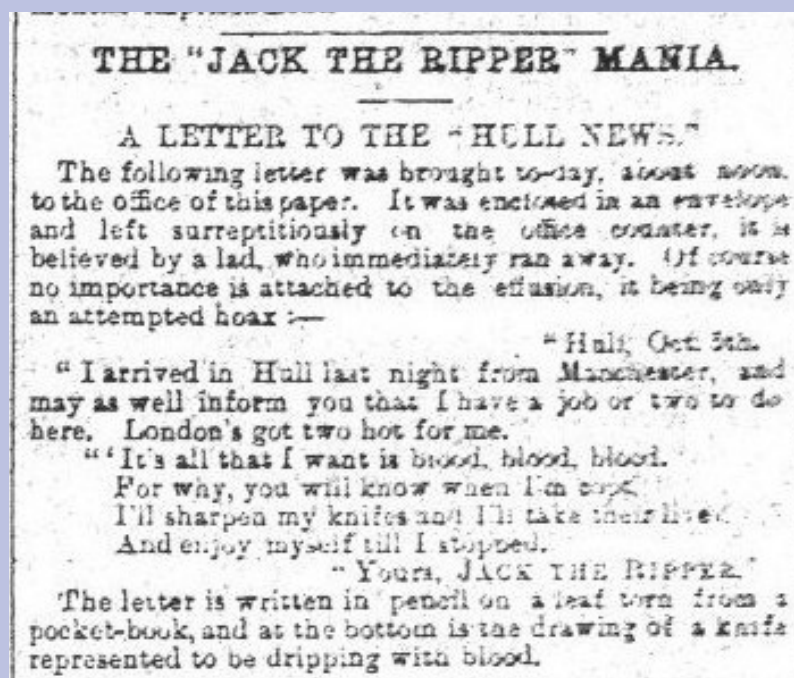
I recently had the chance to view on DVD the 2005 made-for-TV movie 'The Hunt for the BTK Killer' directed by Stephen T Kay. The flick stars Greg Henry as serial killer Dennis L Rader and Robert Forster as the fictional veteran cop, Detective Jason Magida, working to track down the sadistic Wichita, Kansas, USA, offender. The action, with chilling flashbacks, mostly occurs years after BTK committed his last murder or sent anything to the media and police. For such communications had been his trademark during the height of his killing spree, which lasted from 1974 to 1991. During this busy period, which terrorised the Wichita area much like the Ripper terrorised London, Rader killed at least 10 people and used the boastful and brutal name 'BTK' for 'Bind, Torture, and Kill.' I found the film to be an engaging biopic about the punctilious Park City compliance officer and church leader who led a secret and vicious other life.

Of course, the capture of Rader was facilitated by the killer himself. He resurfaced in 2004 after decades of inactivity and silence and began to send trophies from his victims to the authorities and media, along with often wordy messages. His arrest occurred after the petty bureaucrat mistakenly sent a computer disk to FOX affiliate KSAS-TV in Wichita on 16 February 2005. A computer expert was able to identify the disk as having come from a computer at Rader's church. Rader later gave a full and seemingly complete confession detailing his crimes. He is now serving multiple life sentences - Rader will have to serve 175 years before becoming eligible for parole. In retrospect, looking back on the movie, it seems to me that possibly Rader knew that as a middle-aged man he might not have been able to commit any more murders without being caught - though on the other hand he did state darkly to the detectives who interviewed him that he still had 'projects' in mind before his arrest. In a way, it seemed the man needed to confess and tell the world of his crimes.

So I began to wonder, would Jack the Ripper have confessed?

Hull researcher Mike Covell recently sent me a copy of an article that he found in the *Hull News* of 13 October 1888. The short article is headed 'The "Jack the Ripper" Mania. A Letter to the "Hull News."' The letter was left around noon that same day on the counter in the newspaper office, apparently by a boy who then ran away. The

Article about a 'Ripper' letter sent to the *Hull News* and published by the newspaper on the same day, Saturday, 13 October 1888. Courtesy of Mike Covell.



newspaper itself believed the letter a prank, for the article says, 'Of course no importance is attached to the effusion, it being only an attempted hoax.' Mike commented to me, 'The newspaper was quite a large paper, well thought of, and if it was a hoax by the paper they would have put it in a more prominent position than page 6 a quarter of the way down the page.'

In the note, the 'killer' says,

Hull, Oct 5th [?]

*I arrived in Hull last night from Manchester, and may as well inform you that I have a job or two to do here.
London's got two [sic] hot for me.*

It's all that I want is blood, blood, blood.

For why, you will know when I'm (copped?) [emphasis mine]

*I'll sharpen my knives and I'll take their lives,
and enjoy myself till I stopped.*

Yours, Jack the Ripper



2005 booking photo of self-confessed BTK murderer Dennis Rader, at the El Dorado Correctional Facility, El Dorado, Kansas, USA.

The Hull letter writer - whether the killer or not - evidently thought that 'Jack' had a tale to tell and that there was a motive behind the killings. Of course, this accords with traditional ideas about the killer's motive(s): that he killed prostitutes because he hated women or for revenge against them, because he had been 'wronged' by a fallen woman, either robbed by one or had contracted a sexual disease from her; or simply that he killed 'unfortunates' because he wanted to rid the streets of them; or, for a more complex 'Jack' motive, because he was a Freemason and needed to help cover up the sexual escapades of a prince of the realm, etc.

We don't know for certain if Jack wrote any letters, even though the popular view is that he did. It seems unlikely that he wrote many, if he did ever write a 'Ripper' letter, though. The odds seem to be that the killer in the Whitechapel murders had no great desire to confess, at least not on the order of a Dennis Rader. And perhaps that is one of the enduring mysteries of the case, that we really have no idea why the killings occurred. They just *are*, standing as a monument to themselves, a defining moment in 1888 and in history.

Would the Whitechapel murderer have confessed? What do you think?

Best Bet to Be Proved the Ripper?

By DON SOUDEN



A good way to break the ice with even the most anti-social of Ripperologists is to ask “Who was Jack the Ripper?” Unless that person is a member of a silence-vow religious order, has a broken jaw wired shut (likely the result of a dust-up when asked the question previously) or is truly anti-social, you will get an answer. Those with a favorite suspect will expatiate loudly and at length about that person while those in the agnostic camp will likely carry on in the same way about the dearth of evidence implicating anyone. When the lecture is done, if you actually wish to continue the conversation (even odds—at best) ask if they really want to know who the Ripper was and you will almost assuredly be greeted with a moment of stunned silence.

In fact, the possibility of the Ripper actually being named for all of time is not something that gets a whole lot of attention despite the ferocity with which true believers will argue on behalf of their chosen suspect. Indeed, even among those whose minds are closed to the possibility that anyone but their own candidate could have been Jack the Ripper never really give much thought to that suspect being proved Saucy Jack without peradventure. Indeed, the response of most when confronted with that possibility is a reminder of the last scene in the movie “The Graduate”—a look of “I never thought this would happen . . . now what do I do?”

Linked inextricably with the possibility of Jack someday being named is the question of just what would provide sufficient evidence of guilt. Just that question was included in a survey conducted among delegates at the 2007 Jack the Ripper Conference in Wolverhampton (See “Consider Yourself One of Us” by Pegg and Souden, *Ripperologist* 85 November 2007) and it elicited some interesting responses. A full 42 percent felt that the Ripper would never be named, but among those who did accept the possibility their answers were roughly any of the following:

- * New, substantiated eyewitness account;
- * Authenticated confession;
- * Conclusive documentary evidence;
- * Court-driven proof, and
- * DNA proof.

Considering that these parameters of proof necessary to end the Jack the Ripper debate for all time (and perhaps send us all scurrying to find new hobbies—tennis anyone?) were formulated by a good cross-section of the current Ripper community, they might well serve to explore the question of who among the known suspects is the most likely to be *proven* Jack the Ripper.

Before continuing further, everyone should irrevocably sear into their consciousness the final words of the preceding paragraph. This article is not an attempt in any way, shape or form to actually name Jack the Ripper. Indeed it takes an open-minded stance (or at least what passes for that among Ripperologists) on that question and will suggest the evidence against any of the known suspects to have holes large enough to drive a brigade of HumVees through. Instead,

SOME OF THE USUAL SUSPECTS



Francis Tumblety



Walter Sickert



Prince Albert Victor



Joseph Barnett



James Maybrick



George Chapman



Montague Druitt

it is an attempt to look at the whole suspect-naming business from an entirely different perspective and tries to determine who among all the suspects may be the best bet to be **proven** Jack the Ripper. This, of course, is an entirely different approach and will, it is hoped, provide some interesting results.

As a start, there is a need to round-up the “usual suspects,” which in this instance is not an exercise in police playacting. Rather, the following list is of suspects who ought to merit interest, either because they are at least credible suspects or, if not that, at least popular suspects.

- * Joseph Barnett
- * George Chapman aka Severin Klosowski
- * Montague John Druitt
- * "The Field" (see p. 10)
- * Aaron Kosminski/David Cohen
- * James Maybrick
- * Prince Albert Victor/J.K. Stephen/Dr. Gull, et al.
- * Walter Sickert
- * Dr. Francis Tumblety

There was no attempt to make this list particularly inclusive. A number of the more ludicrous “suspects” have been neglected for obvious reasons, while some few of the more credible suspects, like D’Onston have not been included. Though, in almost all instances the same arguments for and against the proposition of their being proved Jack the Ripper will also apply to those named above.

For a start, it should be noted that a “new, substantiated eye-witness account” would of course apply equally to all possible suspects. That is, if someone saw any of them in the act, or darn nearly so, well that would be fairly good evidence. Unfortunately, if the witness sightings on record are any guide, then any new eyewitness accounts would be next to worthless as they are incredibly vague where some real detail might be helpful and much too specific in areas that would argue against such judgments.

As far as height is concerned, aside from precluding any notions that Jack was likely a patron of a “Big & Tall Men” shop, researchers are left with someone who seemed to stand within a single standard deviation of the average height for males in the area at that time (meaning the vast majority of the population). Not terribly helpful. In contrast, witnesses described the age of those whom they saw—and who *might* have been Jack—with disconcerting certainty. Indeed, in an era when many residents of Whitechapel had great difficulty in knowing their own age these witnesses were quite sure they knew a stranger’s age at a glance. Though, how they managed that “accuracy” unless their suspected Jack was wearing a big button that read “Kiss Me! I’m Irish and 35 Today!” remains a mystery.

True, most of the witnesses did say that the man they saw sported a moustache, but again that was hardly helpful. As contemporary photographs will attest, a grown male without a moustache in the East End was as conspicuous as his female counterpart without an apron. Sadly, no one described seeing anyone with any truly distinctive features. No eye-patches, peg legs, cauliflower ears, broken noses, disfiguring scars or anything else that might be really helpful. The existing eyewitness reports are not only of scant help, but in no instance was there anything approaching a sighting of Jack actually plying his cruel trade.

Nor, must it be admitted, is there much likelihood of any new eyewitness information turning up that could be substantiated. One good possibility emerged recently (see “The Man Who Saw: The Face of Joseph Lawende Revealed” by Wood and Souden, *Ripperologist* 87 January 2008) when Joseph Lawende’s great-granddaughter supplied a picture of that gentleman, but unfortunately it was clear there was no family tradition that he confided to anyone more information about the man and woman he



Tailing a suspect, of Jewish appearance following the witness descriptions that would have fitted Aaron Kosminski and David Cohen



Could the man seen by Lawende and Levy at Church Passage have been Jack the Ripper? - Illustration by Glenn Andersson

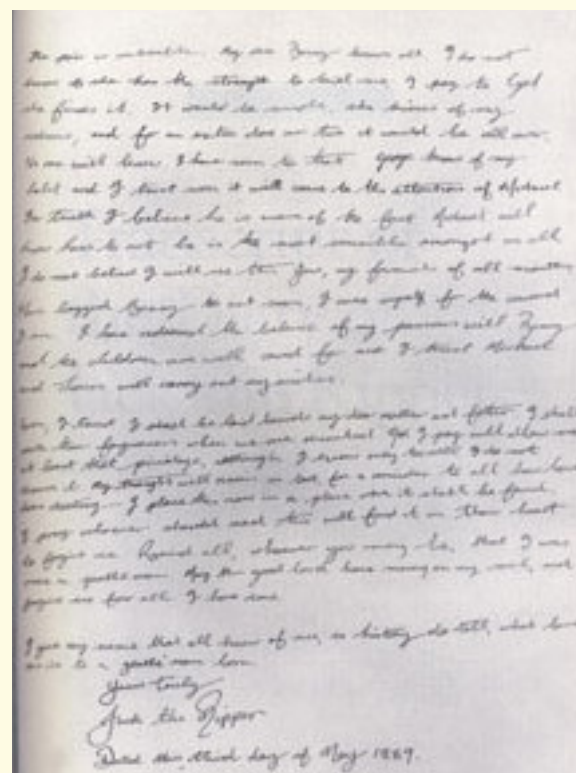
saw at the entrance to Church Passage than he gave at the Eddowes' inquest.

There remains the possibility that Joseph Levy, who left the Imperial Club in company with Lawende (and who many at the time felt saw more than he reported), could have left a message behind with his family, but unless he recognized the man with Eddowes he would likely only confirm Lawende's vague recollections. And beyond those very long shots at "new" sightings, what other eyewitness reports (especially of Jack in the act) are likely to be discovered? Oh, there is perhaps the exceedingly small chance that Albert Cadosche left an affidavit somewhere in which he states "I did look over the fence into the yard of 29 Hanbury Street and saw Prince Eddy hisself up to his elbows in the poor woman's innards. And of course I kept my bleedin' gob shut." As Albert himself would say, not bleedin' likely—nor is it likely that any new worthwhile eyewitness account will be found to definitely implicate any suspect.

Turning, then, to the suspects themselves, perhaps the place to start is with Liverpool cotton merchant (and possible murder victim himself) James Maybrick. Most assuredly, Maybrick is a popular, if controversial suspect, and he does have the distinction of fulfilling—at least for some—one of the criteria for proof . . . a confession of sorts. As it is, the "confession" is in the form of a journal in which the author records the Whitechapel murders and if nothing else, the Maybrick Diary helps us determine the evidentiary standards for any forthcoming Ripper confessions.

As a start, there is the question of the Diary's provenance, which in this case amounts to no provenance whatsoever—it more or less just appeared one day out of the blue and the stories of how that happened continue to change almost with the seasons, but in no case has a satisfactory provenance emerged. There have been hints that a revelation about the Diary's origins is in the works, but until that occurs the journal remains an "orphan." More to the point, it helps underscore the fact that any future confession will have to have an impeccable provenance (sealed in an 1888 time capsule would be ideal) to be taken seriously.

The last page of the Maybrick diary



This is certainly not the place to argue the merits of the Maybrick Diary (that place may not exist), but in contemplating the emergence of any future confessions it is worth noting that for many that the purported exercise in prose and poor poetry by Maybrick suffers from a number of anachronistic and stylistic errors. Moreover, the handwriting matches no known exemplars of Maybrick's penmanship. If nothing else, any new confession from a Ripper suspect would have to survive the assiduous scrutiny of a host of evidence sifters—amateur and professional alike. And as for “Sir Jim,” put him in the reject list. He and his confession are not enough to convince the masses and there are no second chances in the game of Ripper suspects.

Next, there is the artist Walter Sickert. He is a popular suspect mainly because he was (perhaps still is) the suspect of a popular American author of popular murder mysteries. Ordinarily that might not seem a particularly compelling reason to consider someone as the Ripper, but we live in an era of celebrity endorsements of everything from personal hygiene products to political candidates, so why not Jack the Ripper suspects? Besides, Sickert is worthy of interest because one of our elements of proof, DNA evidence, was tried in making the case for him.

Unfortunately, the examination revealed little more than the current limitations of applying DNA evidence to a case like that of Jack the Ripper. Several letters were tested for DNA and the results were essentially “inconclusive.” To begin with, that bugbear of a word, provenance, came into play. That is, there was no record of how many people may have played with the letters from the time they were written until, more than a century later, they were tested. Moreover, there is always the question of whose DNA is being tested for and, finally, that in this case at least the purported matches were not astronomically high enough as to reasonably exclude all but for whom it was tested. Any future DNA testing will have to take into account all these problems if it is expected to satisfy current, far less future, court standards.

Under our “one strike and you’re out” policy Sickert would seem to be eliminated from fulfilling the quest set in this

The Police arresting likely suspects that fitted witness descriptions



Suspects being questioned at Leman Street police station

article, though no doubt his proponents may continue to play the DNA card. Indeed, they also continue to argue that he left behind “unconscious confessions” in some of his paintings. This stratagem is rather akin to those who find culpatory anagrams in the writing of other suspects and is subject to the same problems; that is there are multiple interpretations of the data with nothing but wan hope suggesting what is the proper interpretation. Thus, should a Sickert painting of a one-eyed Scotsman with some American coins in his sporran surface some day it will be adduced as a rebus confession to the murder of Polly Nichols: *eye-kilt-nickels*. Until then, though, we can also forget Sickert.

Finally among the popular (as in “popular delusions”) candidates there is Prince Albert Victor and the whole

Prince Albert Victor



Sir William Gull



Walter Sickert



James Kenneth Stephen

The Royal Conspiracy?

“Royal Conspiracy” madness. Why Prince Eddy (or his friends and relations) is even discussed as a suspect can be summed up quickly—hi-jinks in high places always sells books. The case against him (or of those acting on his behalf) is more feeble-witted than the poor Prince himself was rumored to be and except for what the febrile imaginations of a few may produce in the future will get no stronger. In fact, if we momentarily suspend all disbelief and accept that Prince Eddy was Jack the Ripper then it is a dead certainty that all evidence in that regard was long ago consigned to the flames of a fire much hotter than that in Mary Jane Kelly’s fireplace the night she was murdered. Those who believe in a Royal Conspiracy may dream of new evidence, but that is all they will have—dreams.

A more serious candidate is Joseph Barnett, Mary Jane Kelly’s erstwhile live-in lover, though he stands in the eyes of many theorists as a much better suspect in the single murder of Kelly than for the rest of the Canonic Five. In any case, the “evidence” against Barnett is largely circumstantial. He was a spurned lover, he saw her within hours of her death, he certainly still had access to her room and he admitted to some animus between them as a result of their breaking up. And, strange to say for any who may be new to the mystery, that is about all there is to justify implicating Barnett in Kelly’s murder, far less the killing of anyone or anything else save the occasional hapless haddock.

It certainly isn’t much to go on, but are there any expectations that new evidence will emerge against Joseph Barnett? In terms of documents, there is a copy of his statement to the police the day of the murder as well as his testimony at the inquest and both of those have been wrung as dry as a tea bag in a boarding house. It would, of course, be nice if a record of the interrogation Barnett underwent before giving his statement was to somehow appear, but that becomes more remote with every passing day. And, for that matter, if it should ever turn up among documents stuck together in some government office it would almost assuredly write *finis* to Barnett as a suspect anyway because there must have been some good reasons why the police never considered him a serious suspect after questioning him.

Beyond that, while Barnett was a literate man within limits, he was scarcely a literary man so the possibility that he left beyond a journal or other form of confession that may turn up among the ephemera at a flea market is very slim—certainly a lot slimmer than his paramour if contemporary descriptions are to be believed. Further, that closeness between the pair would only contaminate any future DNA evidence that might arise, at least as far as the events at No. 13 Miller’s

Court are concerned. We can, thus, also scratch Joseph Barnett from the list; the case against him is very likely as good as it will be and any future discoveries would doubtless lessen any lingering notions of his guilt.

George Chapman, aka Severin Klosowski, remains a viable suspect for many, though the basis for this is rather like Dr. Johnson's observation "Sir, your wife, under pretence of keeping a bawdy-house, is a receiver of stolen goods." That is, it seems implausible that Chapman, a known poisoner of his common-law wives, was also a knife murderer and mutilator of prostitutes. To be fair, he was probably in London at the time of the Whitechapel Terror and a couple of police officers, in the first exultant blush of having nabbed the poisoner may have expressed the opinion that the Ripper case had also been wrapped up, but even among Ripper theorists that is little enough upon which to build a case.

And, once more not wanting to get into the rancorous arguments that rage regularly about serial killers with changing MO's and whether Frederick Abberline actually implicated Chapman or not, the odds that anything new will be found to strengthen Severin's guilt must be considered. Illiterate in every language he encountered in his blessedly short life, Chapman is not a good candidate for having left behind any sort of written confession and as a notorious figure of his time, it is safe to assume that any kind of oral confession made in custody would have been banner news everywhere at any time before his execution. There is always an outside chance (so outside as to make winning most lotteries a sure thing) that some hitherto obscure document will come to light that at least implicates him further, but barring that, those who favor Chapman as a suspect will have to forever play that hand with the cards they've been dealt.

Another suspect for whom there is a great amount of backing among Ripperologists is Aaron Kosminski (or his *doppelganger*, as suggested by Martin Fido, "David Cohen"). He does come with the pedigree of having been named in the Macnaghten Memoranda and it was this that has sparked continued research into his life. As an actual suspect, Kosminski commands considerable interest since, at least on a superficial level, he seems to fit the profile of what many believe was that of Jack the Ripper. However, the name of the particular game being played on these pages is not who could be Jack, but rather who might be *proved* Jack and that changes the Kosminski dynamics more than a bit.

To begin with, being a highly regarded suspect, like Kosminski, tends to lower the odds of finding any new evidence the longer a candidate is examined and that would seem to be the case with Aaron. The few remaining gaps in his family history are slowly being filled in and the same applies to his places of residence and other history. Unfortunately, none of it really tells much more about Aaron as a potential Ripper. Still, the fact that he remains a more interesting suspect than most means that many Ripperologists are still out there looking for gold, even if in a disconcerting number of instances they are panning downstream in the same research river that failed to produce any nuggets previously.

Claybury Mental Hospital, where David Cohen spent his final days



Just what sort of evidence might be found by these Kosminski prospectors? Once more, a personal written confession is quite unlikely, but he did have family that was seemingly close to him, so there could be some tradition, written or oral, about his involvement in the murders; though such stories are not the greatest evidence. Nor, if Aaron had been the Ripper, is it the sort of sordid saga most families—even with a fat book contract dancing before their eyes—would care to reveal. Then, too, since Aaron was hospitalised for many years before his death there may have been some documentary evidence that pointed, vaguely or definitely, to his guilt. Of course, those sorts of papers, if they ever existed, would be sealed forever—if not baled and burned in a bureaucratic house-cleaning ages ago. Still, the overall strength of Kosminski as a suspect means folks will keep dig-



Israel Schwartz and 'the Pipe Man' seen on the left here, have also been put forward as Jack the Ripper
Illustration - Glenn Andersson

ging and so he remains a possible, if improbable, candidate to be proved Jack the Ripper.

This might be a good place to pause for a moment and consider what the horse racing set refers to as the “field.” For turf touts, this means all those examples of equine “excellence” in a particular race that would ordinarily spark no interest from bettors. Thus, they are bundled together as an entry and a wager on any one of them is a wager on all. That bookies do this at an attractive price should alert anyone interested in a flutter to keep their money in their pockets. For our purposes, though, the field comprises all those suspects about whom little or nothing is known, like George Hutchinson and Timothy Donovan, or those who have yet to be singled out as suspects. In this instance, then, it really isn't a terribly bad bet—at least most of those living in or visiting England in the fall of 1888 are in the mix.

Of course, while the numbers are truly staggering, the same rules of evidence apply. New eyewitness reports are likely to be worthless even if discovered and any confessions would have to be quite secure to gain credence. Other sorts of evidence, especially the documentary kind, could be found at any time, but that also applies to almost anyone considered a suspect. Still, playing the field does mean that anyone doing that can maintain hope for almost all eternity. After all, there is always the dream that the next suspect but one to be thrown into the pot will be THE one proved to be Jack. For those for whom fantasy takes precedence over reality, this is the answer. Everyone else should move on quickly.

And, having moved on, it is time to examine Dr. Francis Tumblety, the self-confessed American quack, confidence man and snake oil salesman. Hard as it is for some to believe, Tumblety has become one of the more intriguing suspects to burst upon the Ripperology stage in many years. Indeed, he is so controversial (as are the arguments concerning the evidence involved) that not only is there no need to go into them here but any sane person wouldn't want to undertake roiling those waters on a bet themselves. Suffice to say that passions about Tumblety, pro and con, rival those concerning Maybrick and that at least Tumblety is known to have been in London at the time of the murders.

Things, do, however grow a bit more amenable to rational thought when he is looked upon as a candidate for the role of proven Ripper. Certainly, we

Timothy Donovan, the deputy at Annie Chapman's lodging house - could he possibly be Jack the Ripper?



are finding out more and more about him as he was clearly not averse to claiming the public's attention. Indeed, so self-promotionally inclined was the chap it has been argued that had he been the Ripper he would have advertised the fact in handbills and newspaper ads. That seems a bit much even for Tumblety, but a confession of sorts can't be ruled out. The old reprobate does appear to have gotten a touch of religion late in life and made some charitable bequests in that direction. Thus, if he were Jack, it is entirely possible a full confession is mouldering away somewhere, Tumblety having written it when the end seemed nigh to further cleanse his soul. The only problem is that even if such a document is discovered it would be no less than even odds Tumblety only wrote it as a posthumous publicity stunt.

Finally, there is Montague John Druit, who first came to the attention of modern Ripperologists through the Macnaghten Memoranda. Druit had a real vogue as a suspect for some time, but as newer suspects emerged he faded from most "tops of the pops" lists. This was especially so since the main reason for marking Druit as a suspect were Macnaghten's error-filled scribbles and a notoriously ambiguous allusion to the family having suspicions M.J. might have been Jack the Ripper. Moreover, despite his melancholy Monty seems to have enjoyed playing cricket above all else and that passion suggests he was elsewhere when Jack was playing his sick games. Overall, despite the great excitement raised when Druit burst upon the scene, he must be accorded a weak candidate for the Whitechapel Murderer role.

That all changes dramatically, however, when Druit is re-examined within the parameters used for the all the other suspects in this article. Clearly, the Winchester and Oxford graduate, who was both a barrister and schoolmaster, led just the sort of life most likely leave a copious paper trail. Indeed, stray documents along that trail still keep popping up and if nothing has yet been found to strengthen markedly the case against Montague, there remains a sense this hunt has yet to yield all its hidden Easter Eggs. Letters from other teachers or from students at Valentine's School may still be lying in someone's attic trunk and if so, that provenance could be enough to convince the most dubious of researchers. There might even be a dusty old deed box in some provincial solicitor's office that contains a blood-incrusted knife—blood that DNA testing might yet reveal to be from a victim.

Surely the discovery of any documentary or artifactual evidence like that mentioned is the stuff of dreams, but it's not entirely stuff and nonsense in the case of Druit. The likelihood that sad, tortured Montague J. Druit was Jack the Ripper is not very good at all. Still, the possibility that he might be *proven* as Jack is paradoxically much better than any of the other suspects examined here. Truly a long shot, but the best bet out there.

An old deedbox - Is there one somewhere that hides the identity of Jack the Ripper?



D'Onston Stephenson:

Dissecting the incident off Flamborough Head

By MIKE COVELL

Just what did happen in July 1868 off the east coast of England that allegedly set in motion the chain of events that would lead to Robert D'Onston Stephenson being Jack the Ripper?

During the writing of my upcoming book, as a resident of Kingston upon Hull, I was inundated with tips about Hull-born Robert D'Onston Stephenson and told to look closely at this gentleman. I was especially advised to look at his early life and at events that occurred in the summer of 1868.¹ I was told that there was a shooting incident involving Stephenson and that I could find the evidence in newspapers at either Hull or Bridlington libraries.

With this date in mind, I made tracks for the local studies libraries to arrange to view all the newspapers that covered the period. I wasn't disappointed. I discovered a number of articles that described a shooting that took place in early July 1868 off Flamborough Head.

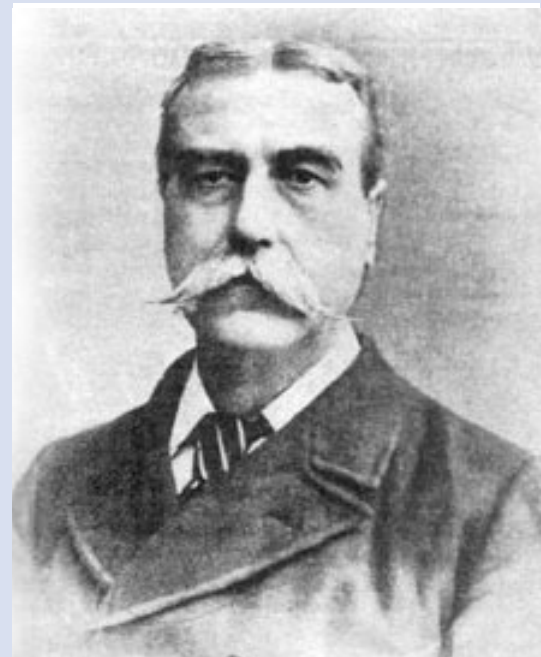
Serious Injury to a Customs Man

The first article I discovered was from the *Bridlington Free Press* of 11 July 1868 – a Monday. The report stated:

SERIOUS GUN ACCIDENT

*On Tuesday last, Mr. Stephenson of the Custom House, Hull, engaged a yacht at the Quay, and with a friend left the harbour for a day's shooting at Flamboro. From some cause the lock of his friend's gun hung fire and while examining it to ascertain the gun went off and lodged its contents in the thigh of Mr. Stephenson. Although greatly alarmed and much affected by the accident, his friend, who from experience was able to tender all possible assistance, brought him to shore and had him conveyed to the Black Lion Hotel, Bridlington, where surgical aid was promptly obtained and several of the shot extracted. We are happy to say he is progressing very favourably and it is hoped he will soon be able to get about again.*²

It would appear that Robert D'Onston Stephenson, who was a Customs Officer during this period of time,³ was involved in an accident involving a shotgun whilst on board a chartered vessel. The vessel was chartered from Bridlington Quay,



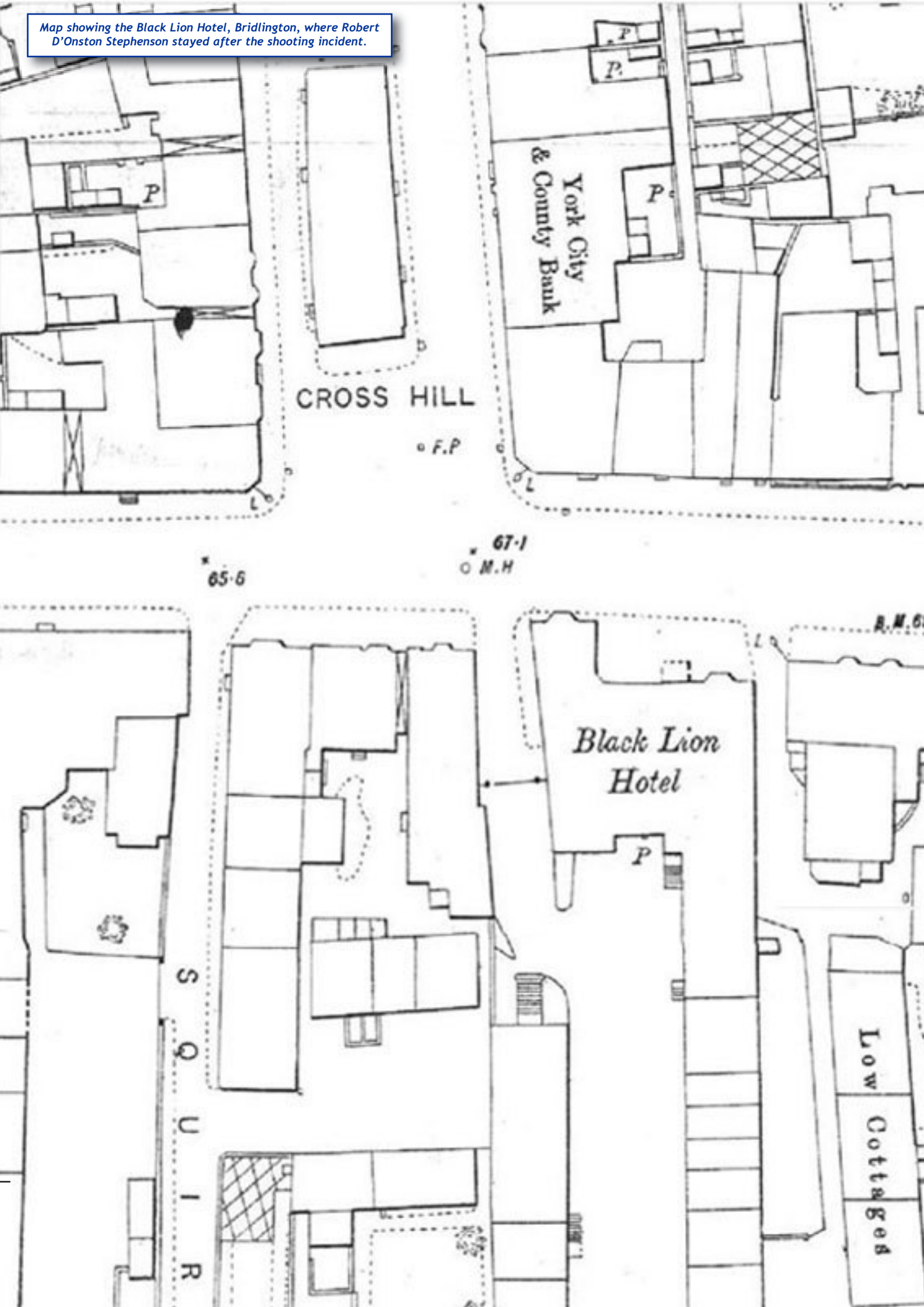
*Robert D'Onston Stephenson: a portrait that appeared in an 1896 *Borderlands* article signed 'Tautriadelta'.*

1 Both Melvin Harris in *The True Face of Jack the Ripper* (London: Michael O'Mara Books Ltd, 1994) and Ivor Edwards in *Jack the Ripper's Black Magic Rituals* (London: John Blake Publishing, 2004) mention the 1868 shooting off Flamborough Head as having been a seminal point in Robert D'Onston Stephenson's life. Several people advised me to use this incident as a starting point for my research.

2 'Serious Gun Accident', *Bridlington Free Press*, 11 July 1868 (available from Bridlington Local Studies Library).

3 1867 *White's Trade Directory* lists, Robert D Stephenson, Chief Clerk Customs House. 1869 *Mercer and Crocker's Directory and General Gazetteer of Hull* lists, Customs House, Whitefriargate, Clerks, R D'Ouston [sic] Stephenson.

Map showing the Black Lion Hotel, Bridlington, where Robert D'Onston Stephenson stayed after the shooting incident.





A recent picture of the Black Lion

which is a mere five miles southwest of Flamborough Head. One of the passengers on board was experienced enough to offer assistance to the stricken man, and the vessel returned to the Quay so that Stephenson could be taken to the Black Lion Hotel, which was 1.4 miles away.

The first mystery was why a man who has suffered a gunshot wound would be taken to a hotel 1.4 miles from Bridlington Quay when the area around the Quay was rife with hotels and inns. Bridlington during this period of time was renowned for its wonderful spas with healing spring waters, which were all the rage in the Victorian period. In fact, to this day, the Victorian spa is still in existence on the town's sea front.

Is it possible that Robert D'Onston Stephenson was staying at the Black Lion Hotel previous to the incident? Indeed so: I discovered that an advertisement appeared in the *Bridlington Quay Observer* on 11 July showing a list of guests who were staying at the hotel, and among them was a Stephenson, D O, Esq from Hull.⁴

We can see that the *Bridlington Free Press* article states that the incident occurred 'Tuesday last' which gives us a date of Tuesday, 5 July 1868, for when the incident actually occurred.

Accident On Board the Flying Scud

In Kingston upon Hull, *The Eastern Morning News and Hull Advertiser*, of Monday, 13 July reported on the same incident in its third edition, but elaborated on several points:

SERIOUS ACCIDENT TO A HULL GENTLEMAN

On Tuesday afternoon last Mr. R. D. O. Stephenson of Her Majesty's Customs at this port, while cruising off Flamborough, on board the yacht Flying Scud, met with a serious accident. The party on board were shooting seabirds and Mr. Stephenson was standing just abaft the mast, waiting for a shot when a boatman belonging to the yacht, who was behind him, took up one of the guns to fire and managed to explode prematurely, sending the whole charge into the back part of Mr. Stephenson's thigh.

The heavy charge (1.1/2ozs of No2 shot) at a distance of about two yards tore a jagged hole, about 1.1/2inches wide and the same depth, and lodged itself in a lump near the bone, which, however it miraculously failed to injure. Fortunately a gentleman was on board who had some surgical experience, and immediately applied temporary bandages. The unfortunate gentleman was landed at Flamborough as soon as possible, and carried to the top of the cliff by a stalwart young fisherman. The only available conveyance being a fish cart, belonging to the landlord of the inn, it was filled with clean straw, and the patient conveyed to Bridlington; where under the skilful hands of Drs. Brett and Mackay, the

The Black Lion Hotel Guest List

BRIDLINGTON	
Black Lion	
Fowler A Esq	Hull
Stephenson D O Esq	
Richardson Mrs S	
Richardson Miss	
Parker J Esq	Sheff
Wardell — Esq	Grantham
Snowden Mr	Snainton
Bennet Mr	Lincoln

⁴ Black Lion Hotel guest list published in the *Bridlington Quay Observer*, 11 July 1868 (available from Bridlington Local Studies Library).

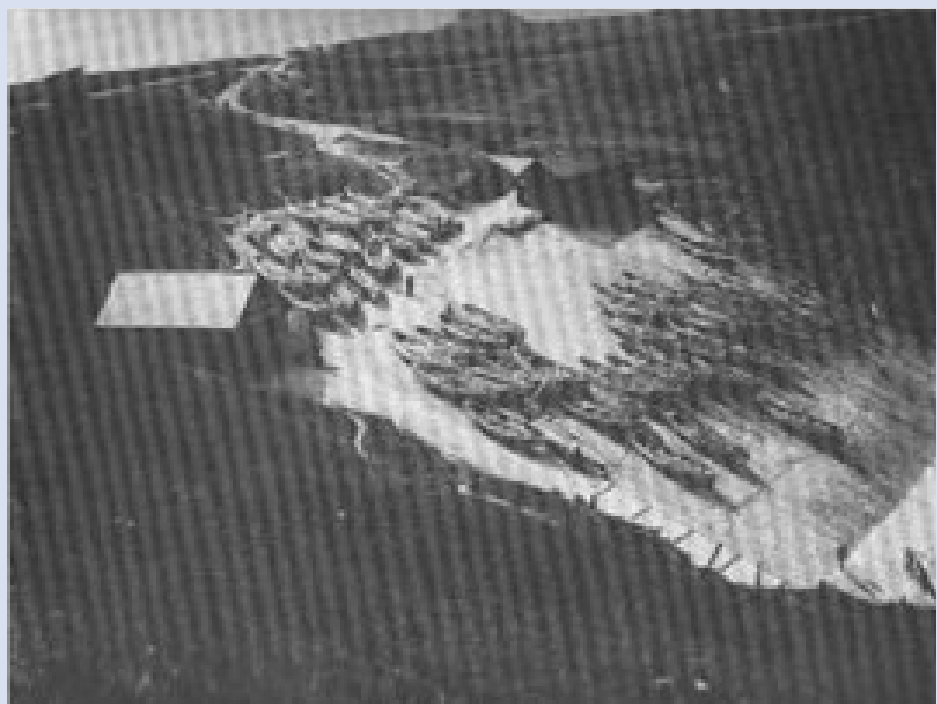
greater part of the shot were removed. We are informed by eyewitnesses that the sangfroid with which the sufferer treated his terrible and painful wound was something remarkable, and excited the warmest admiration and sympathy in the bystanders. We understand that there is every hope of saving the limb. Provided that neither erysipelas nor gangrene (the two great dangers in gunshot wounds) make their appearance. Mr. Edwin Gray timber merchant, Hull, very kindly superintended the landing at Flamborough.⁵

This is an interesting story as it gives us the first mention of the name of the vessel, *The Flying Scud*. In fact, *The Flying Scud* was a popular name for a vessel during this period and several were listed in Lloyds Shipping Registries between 1868 and 1870,⁶ and yet none were used for commercial purposes and the lightest came in at 151 tons,⁷ which is a little heavy for a yacht and a little too big for the Quay at Bridlington.

The *Eastern Morning News* article also elaborates on the other passenger who was, in this version of events, trained to administer first aid. It tells us that Stephenson was landed from the vessel at Flamborough and not Bridlington Quay, making the journey to the Black Lion even more agonising. Again this is a mystery in itself. Just why would the landlord of the Black Lion have a fishing cart all the way out at Flamborough? I am aware of the important role that Flamborough had in the fishing trade along the East Coast but surely it would have been easier, quicker, and cheaper to have the cart at Bridlington Quay? Unless the cart was awaiting the group at Flamborough. But how did they know that was the destination? Is it possible that the cart was there for another reason? One would love to speculate on romantic notions of smuggling, but this neither furthers our research nor gives us any answers.

The mention of Drs Brett and Mackay is important as it gives us another source from which we can verify the story. Unfortunately, I have had difficulty tracing a doctor by the name of Mackay. Brett, however, is another story. A quick search of the 1871 Census revealed four members of the Brett family residing at St John Street in Bridlington.⁸ The entry shows:

Flora M Brett, Surgeon, aged 30
Francis C Brett, General Practitioner, age 26
Helen S Brett, Physician, age 31
John A C Brett, Student of Medicine, age 21



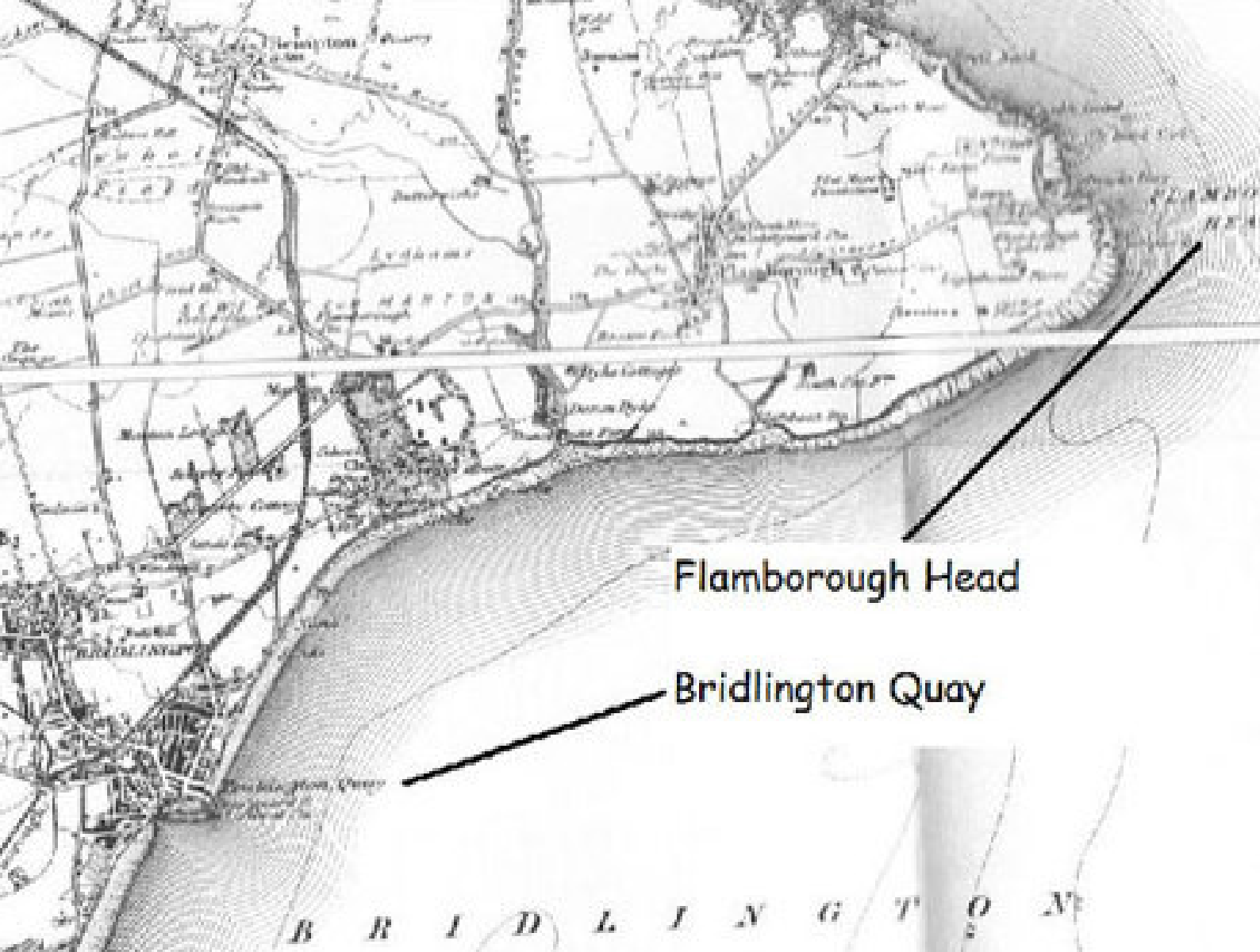
The North Landing at Flamborough, Late Nineteenth Century. Reproduced by courtesy of Hull Museums and Art Galleries.

5 'Serious Accident to a Hull Gentleman', *The Eastern Morning News and Hull Advertiser*, 11 July 1868 (available from Kingston upon Hull Local Studies Library).

6 Lloyds Shipping Registries, 1867-1868, 1868-1869, 1869-1870; four different vessels named *Flying Scud* are listed each year.

7 Lloyds Shipping Registry, 1869-1870, *The Flying Scud*, owned by W Fleming, Mastered by A Ricketts and weighing in at 151 Tons.

8 Class RG10, Piece 4811, Folio 77, page 13, GSU roll 847358.



Flamborough Head in relation to Bridlington Quay and the town of Bridlington.

The location of the family house is also significant as it lies just off High Street where the Black Lion was situated. Interestingly, the junction south of High Street along St John Street is now named Brett Street.

Another significant name mentioned is that of Edwin Gray who was a Hull-based timber merchant. The 1871 Census shows that Edwin Gray, age 44, Head, Timber Merchant, resided at 6 Myerson Terrace, Spring Bank.⁹

His occupation as a timber merchant will have no doubt put him in contact with the Stephenson family as Richard Stephenson, Jr, was involved in the company Rayner, Stephenson, and Co, who were merchants and ship owners also based along High Street.¹⁰

Finally, note the statement in the *Eastern Morning News* that 'The greater part of the shot were removed' implies that Stephenson thereafter not only had to carry on with shot still embedded in his leg, but that this may well have affected the way he walked and possibly given him pain whilst attempting to walk, particularly in the cold weather that plagues Britain in the autumn and winter months.

On 14 July, the *Bridlington Quay Observer* published a verbatim copy of the *Eastern Morning News* report.¹¹

9 Class RG10, Piece 4791, Folio 8, page 14, GSU roll 847347.

10 1867 *White's Trade Directory*. Richard Stephenson Junior, Merchant and Ship owner, Rayner Stephenson and Co, High Street, Vice Consul to Uruguay, High Street, and Residence, Willow House.

11 'Serious Accident to a Hull Gentleman', *Bridlington Quay Observer*, 14 July 1868 (available from Bridlington Local Studies Library).



Flamborough Head - 1867 engraving by William Miller, after John Martin

Medical Knowledge

On 17 July, the *Hull Packet* carried an article that seems to be an amalgamation of the previous stories, mentioning the same facts, people, and locations. Again, however, it is notable that it once more emphasizes the point that it was Stephenson's friend who had surgical knowledge, and not Stephenson. This is interesting because Stephenson claimed to have medical degrees, of which there is no evidence. It was also prior to this incident that Stephenson was said to have served under Garibaldi as a field surgeon, yet other than nonconclusive muster rolls held at the Bishopsgate Institute, there is no evidence to suggest he ever left Britain to serve with Garibaldi. The article also states that Dr Brett was a member of the Coast Guard - although a recent search of Coast Guard records failed to verify this.

DANGEROUS ACCIDENT TO A HULL CUSTOMS OFFICER

The following circumstances are reported to us, Mr R. D. Stephenson of the Customs House at Hull and a friend engaged a small yacht, in which they went to Flamborough for a week's shooting. While thus engaged on Tuesday last week, a fisherman on board, who was standing behind Mr. Stephenson took up a ready charged gun and fired, lodging the charge (above an ounce of number 2 shot) in that gentleman's thigh. A portion of the trousers as large as a crown

NAME and SURNAME	RESIDENCE	AGE (Last Birthday)	SEX	RANK or OCCUPATION	WHERE BORN	REMARKS
Write, after the Name of the Master, the Names of the Officers and Crew, and then the Names of Passengers and of all other Persons.	Write "Married" or "Unmarried," or "Widower" as "Widow," after the Name of all Persons except Young Children.	Males Females		State here the rank of the Officers, and the nature of the Rank and Office of the Crew. The rank or occupation of Passengers and of all other Persons should be stated as fully and clearly as possible.	Specify the County or Town, or Parish, if born in England, Ireland, the British Colonies, or the Isles of Man, or the Channel Islands. If born in Foreign parts, state the particular Place or Places, and if also a British Subject, add "British Subject" or "Naturalized British Subject" as the case may be.	State the number of the entry in the Register of the Ship, and the date of the entry.
Thomas Piles	Married	38		Captain	Brixham Devonshire	
Thomas Payers		54		Mate	Pandorick Kent	
George Tinsley	Unmarried	28		Fisherman	Fiddly Lincolnshire	
Alfred Mason		24		Fisherman	Golders Green Middlesex	
Joseph Mason		24		Boy	London Middlesex	

NAME of VESSEL	<i>Advance</i>
Official Number (if any)	<i>56.250</i>
PORT or Place to which she belongs	<i>Hull</i>
Her Tonnage	<i>61</i>
Her DESCRIPTION, and the Trade in which she is employed	<i>Smack Fishing Trade</i>

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original entry in the Register of the Ship, and of the names of the Officers, Crew, and Passengers, as the case may be.	
Witness my Hand	Attest
<i>Thomas Piles</i>	<i>Thomas Piles</i>

1871 Census Entry showing fishing boat captain Thomas Piles, his crew, and the vessel named Advance.

A separate 1871 Census entry

piece, was cleanly punched out and driven to the bottom of the wound, which was nearly a couple of inches in depth. The sufferer was landed as speedily as possible, and removed in a cart to Bridlington where the services of Dr Brett, of the coast guard, and Dr Mc'Kay, were secured.

The majority of the shot were cut out the next morning and it was found that the thigh bone had most providentially escaped. The medical gentlemen entertain strong hopes of saving the leg, and should the wound continue to progress as favourably as at present, no danger to life is apprehended. Fortunately for Mr Stephenson, his companion possessed some surgical knowledge, and the bandage he applied undoubtedly prevented a fatal loss of blood.¹²

On 18 July, the Hull and North Lincolnshire Times carried a word-for-word reprint of the Hull Packet story.¹³

¹² 'Dangerous Accident to a Hull Customs Officer', *The Hull Packet*, 17 July 1868 (available from Kingston upon Hull Local Studies Library).

¹³ 'Dangerous Accident to a Hull Customs Officer', *Hull and North Lincolnshire Times*, 18 July 1868 (available from Kingston upon Hull Local Studies Library).

Stephenson's Version of Events

Finally, we have the recollections of Robert D'Onston Stephenson himself which were published in the *Review of Reviews 1892 (New Year's Extra Number)* under the title 'Dead or Alive':

The next year [1868] . . . passed rapidly for me until the first week in July, when I was shot dangerously in the thigh by a fisherman named Thomas Piles, of Hull, a reputed smuggler. A party of four of us had hired his 10 ton yawl to go yachting round the Yorkshire coast, and amuse ourselves by shooting sea-birds amongst the millions of them at Flamborough Head. The third or fourth day out I was shot in the right thigh by the skipper Piles; and the day after, one and a quarter ounce of No.2 shot were cut there from by the coastguard surgeon at Bridlington Quay (whose name I forget for the moment), assisted by Dr. Alexander Mackay, at the Black Lion Hotel. The affair was in all the papers at the time, about a column of it appearing in the Eastern Morning News, of Hull.

*As soon as I was able to be removed (two or three weeks) I was taken home, where Dr. Kelburne King, of Hull, attended me.*¹⁴

So in Stephenson's own words he was shot by a 'Thomas Piles, of Hull.' The 1871 Census reveals a fisherman in Hull during this period named Thomas Piles. The Census states, 'Thomas Piles, Yorkshire, Captain of the *Advance* a 61-ton Smack used for the Fishing Trade.' The entry also mentions that he was born in Brixham, and was docked in the port of Hull, Albert Dock, on 7 April 1871.¹⁵ It was common practice for those involved in the industry to come to Kingston upon Hull for employment as it was one of the largest ports in Great Britain during this period. Other industries began to thrive and the port expanded at a sizeable rate.

With these clues in mind, I looked for whatever was available on the fishing smack *Advance*. This is when I discovered HullTrawler.net, a website devoted to the fishing trade in Kingston upon Hull and to all the brave men who perished while carrying out the trade.

It was on this website where I found this piece of information:

*Smack Advance H249, Built 1867, Location Rye, Official Number 56258, Length in Ft 69.2, Tons Gross 61.4, Registered Owner Robert Jordan. Fate 13 Dec 1876 Listed as Missing in the North Sea.*¹⁶

On the same page is a table of those who lost their lives in the disaster, but further down is the crew list featuring Thomas Piles.

So What of the Flying Scud?

I made a search of the shipping lists at Hull City Archives and I discovered that there was in fact a vessel called *The Flying Scud*:

*The vessel in question was built by J P Rennoldson of South Shields in 1866. It weighed in at 100 tons and measured 98ft by 18ft. It had a single mast but was more commonly used as a steam paddler. It had 1 engine, 1 deck, 1 mast and was constructed entirely of wood. Its registered ship number was 53404. The vessel's registered owner was Thomas Gray.*¹⁷

¹⁴ Robert D O Stephenson, 'Dead or Alive.' *Review of Reviews 1892 (New Year's Extra Number)*.

¹⁵ Class RG10, Piece 4797, Folio 156, GSU roll 847353 and 847352.

¹⁶ The website www.HullTrawler.net enabled me to trace the fishing smack *Advance*.

¹⁷ Hull City Archives holds Shipping Registries in a card index. The actual books containing the information are very large and a request must be made to view them.

¹⁸ 'Naval Intelligence,' *The Times*, 28 March 1849.

1869-70.												FL	
No.	Ships.	Masters.	Tonn.	DIMENSIONS.			BUILD.		Owners.	Port belonging to.	Port of Survey and Destined Voyage.	Classific.	
				Length.	Breadth.	Depth.	Where.	When.				No. Years first assigned.	Class.
8	Scud Sr	W. Allen	186	101-5	24-1	12-5	Rye	1865	Allen & Co.	Whitstbl	Lon. Medit.	9	A
19	Tag	W. Fowler	100	95-5	18-8	9-4	NSHlds	1862	Cly. Sh. Co.	Glasgow	Shl.	6	A
270	Blk Glass	349	117-2	27-3	16-9	Sudr'd	1863	W. Thompson	Sunderland	Std. Medit.	10	6,6	
1	Sr	R. Hillings	179	113-4	30-5	12-0	Appldr	1861	E. Down	Bideford	Bid. S. Amer.	11	A
2	Sow	A. Ricketts	151	102-5	19-6	9-4	P. Glsg	1868	W. Fleming	PELith	Cly. P. Elizth	—	9,1
3	Spur Sr	Atkinson	735	184-0	31-4	19-4	Aberdn	1860	Robertson &	London	Lon. Austral.	14	A
4	Fo Kien Stm	274	140-0	26-0	11-0	Glasgw	1863	H. Dring	London	Cly. China	2	8	
5	Blk Glass	349	117-2	27-3	16-9	Sudr'd	1863	W. Thompson	Sunderland	Std. Medit.	10	6,6	

Lloyds Shipping Registry, 1869/70, showing the Flying Scud. The image has been cropped to show the headers at the top.

Lloyds Shipping Registry, 1870/71, showing the Flying Scud.

1870-71.												FLY	
No.	Ships.	Masters.	Tons.	DIMENSIONS.			BUILD.		Owners.	Port belonging to.	Port of Survey and Destined Voyage.	Years assigned.	Character for Hull, and State also Date of Last Survey.
				Length.	Breadth.	Depth.	Where.	When.					
201	Flying Form Sr v.&YM.69c.f.	T.Gortley	180	102-2	22-2	12-6	Pmbr'k Long	1867 Smo.	Windle & Co.	Brixham	Lon. Meditn (A.&C.R.)	10	A 1 9.09
2	— v.&YM.69c.f.	Sr P.Noel	99	85-3	18-9	10-5	St.Malo Inlet	1861 18mo.	Gallichan & Co.	Jersey	Swa. Coast	10	A 1 12.08
3	—Scud 70 v.&YM.69c.f.	Sr W.Allen	186	101-5	24-1	12-5	Rye Head	1865 Smo.	Allen & Co.	Whitstale	Lon. Coast (A.&C.R.)	9	A 1 5.29
4	—Tag p.B. MU.680HP.	W.Fowler	100	95-5	18-8	12-4	NSHlds Dordn	1865 Smo.	Cly. Sh. Co. For River port	Glasgow River City	Shl. (A.&C.R.)	6	A 1 3.30
5	—BK Glass YM.69c.f.	349	117-2	27-3	16-9	Sudr'd Thames	1863 11mo.	W.Thompson	Sunderland n.v.69	Std. Meditn.	10	A 1 4.50	
6	—Sr v.&YM.69c.f.	R.Hillings	179	113-4	30-5	12-0	Appldr Coast	1861 June.	E.Down Sept.65	Bideford n.v.68	Bid. S. Amer.	11	A 1 9.08
7	—Sow (Iron) Gen.63MC 55 31HP.	A.Ricketts	151 108	102-5	19-6	9-4	P. Glsg Hull	1868 Smo.	W.Fleming	Pt. Elzth 48Hills	Cly. P. Elzth (A.&C.R.)	—	A 1 9.65
8	—Spur v.&YM.69c.f.	Sr Atkinson	735	184-0	31-4	19-4	Aberdn Hull	1860 Smo.	Robertson & Co.	London n.v.65	Lon. Austral. Japan	14	A 1 A 4.10 2.1

You may remember that Edwin Gray supervised the landing at the Quay in Bridlington, and it was Edwin who lived close to the Stephenson family in Hull. Could the two men have been related? Unfortunately when I made a Census search I was unable to establish a link between the two individuals. Lloyds Shipping Registries showed some interesting entries but none of the vessels listed for 1867-1868, 1868-1869, and 1869-1870 seemed to match the vessel mentioned in the newspaper articles.

Conclusion

Much has been written in regards to Robert D'Onston Stephenson as a fantasist. The articles he wrote for *Borderlands* are certainly filled with vivid and colourful encounters, such as the episode with the Flying Woman of the Susu. However, his 'Dead or Alive' story for *Review of Reviews* 1892 does have a ring of truth to it. But does his seeming adherence to the truth in this instance mean we must believe everything he writes? And what of Thomas Piles, the supposed smuggler? So far searches have failed to turn up any evidence that fishing boat captain Thomas Piles of Kingston upon Hull was a smuggler. There was, however, an article published on 28 March 1849 in *The Times* that named a Thomas Piles, a seaman of the *Sidon* steam frigate, as one of two sailors convicted at Portsmouth Borough Police Court of smuggling tobacco.¹⁸ The problem we have here is that with the article being dated 1849, this adds considerable years onto this Thomas Piles, and would a clerk from the Customs Service have associated with a smuggler? If Robert D'Onston Stephenson was on board and knew Piles was a smuggler, was he working undercover? It seems unlikely, because Stephenson was a mere clerk: a pen pusher with delusions of grandeur. I am sure that if Stephenson was an undercover operative for the Customs Service, he would have been the first to tell us in his many writings - which he

[Flamborough Head today](#)



fails to do! It is my belief that Stephenson learned in later years that a Thomas Piles was a smuggler. Whether or not it is the *same* Thomas Piles remains to be seen, and is certainly open to debate.

From the contemporary newspaper accounts, it is clear that something of significance happened to Robert D'Onston Stephenson on that summer's day in July 1868. An incident that not only endangered Stephenson's life but that changed it forever. But although the episode may well have altered his life, it was not in the way that certain authors would have us believe. Getting shot does not make one a serial killer. But think about this: if Robert D'Onston Stephenson was the Ripper, wouldn't his leg have made making a getaway risky? Would he have been able to walk the distances required with his leg still carrying shot? And would the cold weather have affected his leg?

It's a good job Robert D'Onston Stephenson was safe and warm in the London Hospital during the 'Autumn of Terror.'

Sources

Bibliography

As well as the sources I have listed above, I used Roy Robinson, *A History of the Yorkshire Coast Fishing Industry 1780-1914*. Kingston upon Hull: Hull University Press, 1987.

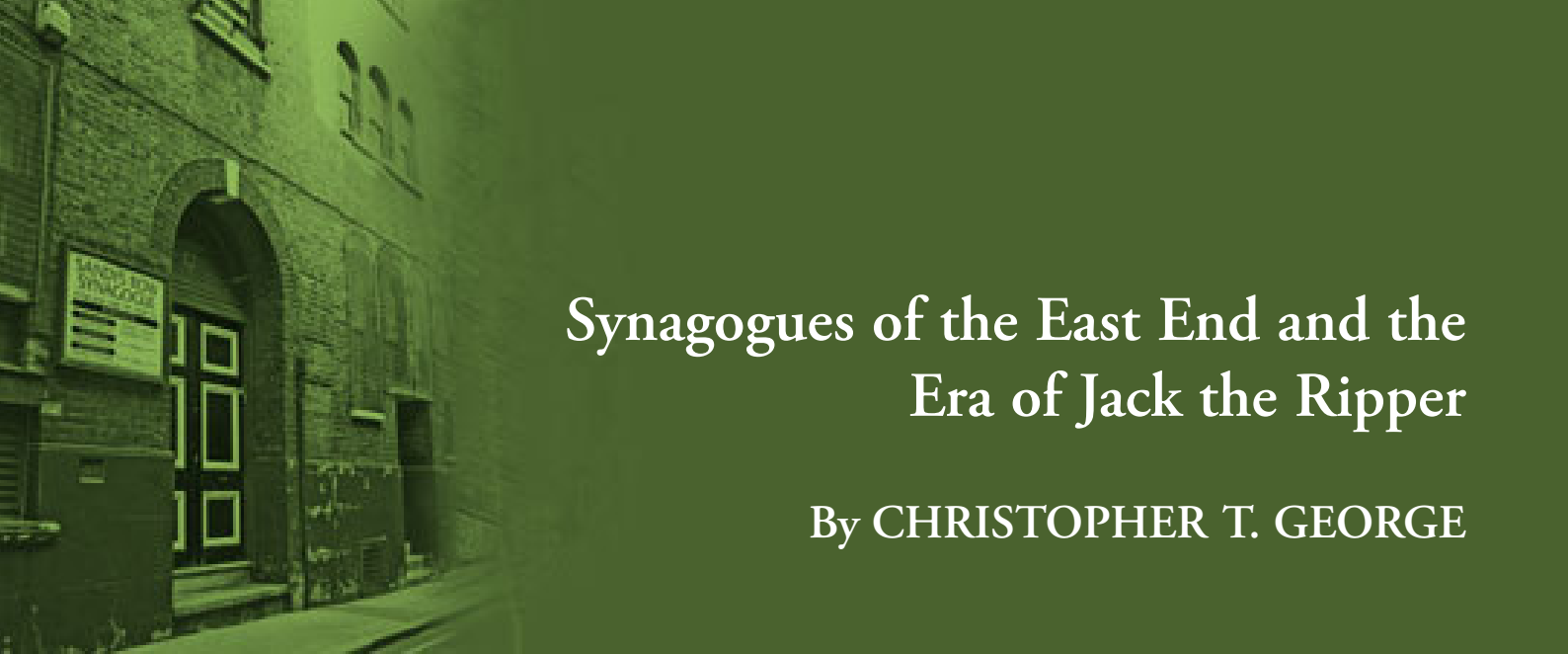
Acknowledgements

Thanks to Chris at www.HullTrawler.net for all his hard work on a fantastic website and for allowing me to quote from his work on Thomas Piles's smack, the *Advance*; to Arthur Credland of Hull's Maritime Museum for his assistance and help throughout; and to all the staff at Hull's Local Studies Library, Hull City Archives, Hull Reference Library and Hull Museum and Art Galleries. I also thank Howard Brown and the staff at the JTR Forums www.jtrforums.com and Stephen P Ryder and everyone at 'Casebook: Jack the Ripper' www.casebook.org

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Synagogues of the East End and the Era of Jack the Ripper

By CHRISTOPHER T. GEORGE

The old synagogues in the East End represent a link to the era of Jack the Ripper as well as a reminder of the area's Jewish heritage. The most obvious link of a synagogue to the Ripper case, being, of course, that fourth canonical victim, Catherine Eddowes, was found dead in a corner of Mitre Square behind the Great Synagogue in Aldgate in the early morning hours of 30 September 1888.

Historical Background of East End Jewish Places of Worship

Bevis Marks Synagogue. Photograph by John Bennett.



After suffering persecution for generations, Jews were driven from England in 1290. However, Jewish refugees from Portugal settled in Bristol and London between 1590 and 1600. Other Portuguese and Spanish (Sephardi) Jews, fleeing the Inquisition, would follow in the seventeenth century. Jews were officially granted readmittance in 1656 under the rule of Protector Oliver Cromwell, who granted them freedom of worship.¹

In the reestablished Jewish communities, the rabbis of the Talmud gave top priority to the building of a *mikveh* - the ritual bath for immersing the body to purify it from ritual uncleanness. (Immersion in a *mikveh* is obligatory for proselytes, as part of their ceremony of conversion.) Jews met in their houses or lodgings for worship until the community grew large enough and wealthy enough to build a synagogue. Because travel on the Jewish Sabbath (ie, Saturday) is prohibited for religious Jews, the *mikveh* and synagogue were to be located within walking distance of the worshippers' residences.²

1 'Researching the History of Synagogues and Mikvehs' available at www.buildinghistory.org/Buildings/Synagogues.htm

2 Ibid.



Interior of the Great Synagogue, Aldgate, pictured in 1808.

The first post-medieval, purpose-built synagogue in England was built in London's East End. The Bevis Marks Synagogue was designed and built by architect Joseph Avis in 1699-1701 for immigrant Sephardi Jews. It was consecrated in 1701. This synagogue, located at 2 Henage Lane, EC3, is one of the treasures of the East End. It retains much of its interior from that period.³

The Great Synagogue in Aldgate had its origins with the Ashkenazi (mostly Eastern European) Jews who in 1722 replaced their synagogue in Duke's Place with a much more substantial building costing £2,000, paid by Moses Hart, a broker and government agents in stocks. Dr George Black notes:

*Perhaps the most significant event of all during these early years was the establishment in 1732 of a Talmud Torah within the Great Synagogue. This was the origin of the Jews' Free School that became a most important influence on future generations of immigrant Jews.*⁴

3 Richard D Barnett and Abraham Levy, *The Bevis Marks Synagogue*. 3rd ed. Plymouth: Society of Heshaim, 1987. Also see Bevis Marks Synagogue at www.bevismarks.org.uk/

4 Dr Gerry Black, *Jewish London: An Illustrated History*. Derby: Breedon Books, 2003, p. 36.

The Great Synagogue that existed in 1888 was built in 1765-6 by architect George Dance Senior. It was remodeled once more in 1790 with the use of funds provided by Judith Levy (1706-1803), the so-called 'Queen of Richmond Green.' Unfortunately, the Great Synagogue was heavily damaged by German bombs on 10 May 1941, which forced its demolition.⁵

Was Jack the Ripper a Jew? Dr Adler's Reaction

The Ripper murders undoubtedly proved to be a shock to the Jewish community of the East End as much as to the area's gentiles and to inhabitants of metropolitan London and Britain in general. Because of the substantial Jewish element among the population of East London, suspicion arose quickly that the killer might be a Jew. Speaking at the Bayswater Synagogue acting Chief Rabbi Dr Hermann Adler addressed this issue in the week after the Chapman murder of 8 September 1888. *The Echo* of 17 September reported:

*[Dr Adler] pointedly alluded to the iniquities of 'that grinding tyranny and physical and social debasement known as the sweating system,' [then he] referred to the recent Whitechapel outrages. He emphatically expressed his conviction that no Hebrew, native or alien, could have been guilty of such atrocious and inhuman crimes. He said he felt sure he uttered the sentiments of the Jewish community generally, and especially of their East end brethren, in expressing a hope that the mystery would soon be cleared up, and that the spread of true religious and secular education, the culture of the mind and heart, would stay the commission of such abominable and revolting deeds.'*⁶

The Ripper scare exacerbated already existing tensions between various groups and entities: English gentiles and Jews; the police and the Jews; traditional religious Jews and reformist Jews; the Anglo-Jewish establishment and Jewish socialists and anarchists in the East End; and Anglo-Jews and the hordes of Eastern European Jews who had been in the past few years flooding into Britain, mainly into the East End, as a result of pogroms in Russia. A number of the newcomers were socialists and other activists.

Establishment Jews versus Socialist and Anarchist Jews

Synagogues featured large in the contest between the Anglo-Jewish establishment and the socialists and anarchists of the East End. Sir Samuel Montagu (1832-1911), Member of Parliament for Whitechapel and Tower Hamlets, was an important figure in the establishment's war with the agitators, through the Federation of Synagogues that he founded.⁷

Montagu and his allies attempted to close down *Der Arbeter*



Chief Rabbi Dr Hermann Adler in a Spy cartoon from 1904

⁵ Ibid, p. 30.

⁶ 'Jews and the East End Murders. What the Chief Rabbi Says.' *Echo*, 17 September 1888

⁷ Christopher T George, 'Samuel Montagu, MP, Jack the Ripper, and the Jewish East End,' *Ripperologist* 56, November 2004.

Fraint ('The Worker's Friend'), the socialist paper published out of the International Working Men's Educational Club on Berner Street. This was the club alongside which third canonical victim Elizabeth Stride was murdered in the early morning of 30 September 1888. The socialists purposely met on Jewish religious holidays and held marches targeting synagogues. They thus planned disruptions on the Day of Atonement, the most important religious date in the Jewish calendar, in March 1888. Ed Glinert has written about their agitators' activities during the sacred day:

*At the time of the Jack the Ripper murders while the Jewish community prayed. . . apostate anarchist Jews at the Berner Street International Working Men's Club held a banquet as their personal snub to the day of fasting. In their speeches the anarchists explained that the miseries and degradation of the people should not be blamed on divine power but on capitalism. . . . They anticipated trouble from orthodox Jews, and were not disappointed. Religious zealots who had gathered outside the building began to smash the club's windows. When three of the audience went outside to intervene more trouble flared, and a melee of around a hundred Jews fought until dispersed by the police.*⁸

In March 1889, again on the Day of Atonement, the activists caused disturbances both outside the Great Synagogue as well as at the Berner Street club, as described in *The Jewish Chronicle*:

The approaches to the Great Synagogue presented a scene on Sabbath afternoon last quite unparalleled in the history of the Jews in London. At the beginning of February, Messrs. Lewis Lyons and Phillip Kranz [had] communicated with the Rev. Dr. H. Adler informing him that it was intended to organize a 'synagogue parade' of Jewish sweaters' victims and the unemployed, and asking him to address them on the subject of their grievances. Dr. Adler replied by earnestly dissuading them from holding such procession, adding that the synagogue was open to them but that he could not permit a place of worship to be made the scene of any 'demonstration.' . . . [The] proposed 'Synagogue Parade' had been for some days extensively advertised throughout the district by handbills in the Judisch-Deutsch jargon. The handbills bore the following announcement: 'Synagogue parade - A procession of Jewish unemployed and sweaters' victims will be held on Saturday, March 16, 1889, and will proceed to the Great Synagogue, where the Chief Rabbi will deliver a sermon to the unemployed and sweaters' victims. The procession will start at half-past twelve from 40, Berners [sic] Street, Commercial Road, E. We demand work to buy bread, and the hours of labour to be eight per day. Come in large numbers, and bring your friends with you'. . . .

The Synagogue was crammed, both in the body and in the galleries, to its fullest extent. Probably at none of the previous services had a larger number been present, nor had the congregation comprised to such an extent the class whom it was desired to attract. With but few exceptions those in the synagogue were foreigners, a large proportion being clearly recent arrivals. It could be easily observed that the proceedings outside the building had some effect on those within, for the congregation appeared to be labouring under unusual nervous excitement, ready upon the least provocation, such as a person either entering or leaving the Synagogue, to rise in their seats, evidently believing that some attempt would be made to disturb the service. . . .



Sir Samuel Montagu, Member of Parliament
- a political cartoon from 1886.

⁸ Ed Glinert, *East End Chronicles: Three Hundred Years of Mystery and Mayhem*. London: Allen Lane, 2005, pp. 180-81.

During the day riotous proceedings occurred outside the Socialist Club in Berners [sic] Street. Three of the members were arrested and charged at the Thames Police Court with assault and with being disorderly persons. On Wednesday the prisoners were committed for trial, bail being allowed.⁹

The annual tussle continued into the twentieth century. A particularly notable melee, with humourous overtones, occurred in 1904 outside the Spitalfields Great Synagogue at the corner of Fournier Street and Brick Lane. The fracas came after the activists had learned that the Federation of Jewish Synagogues was paying Jewish gangsters termed Bessarabians to break up their meetings. Glinert explains:

That year, on the Day of Atonement, a mob [of anarchists] made its way to the Spitalfields Great Synagogue, . . . and pelted worshippers coming out of the building with bacon sandwiches [bacon of course being anathema to orthodox Jews]. The worshippers fought back and Brick Lane soon became a battleground, with fists and lumps of bacon flying amid the cashmere coats, shtreimel hats and ringlets.¹⁰

Remaining Synagogues of the Jewish East End



Sandys Row Synagogue. Photograph by John Bennett.

The Spitalfields Great Synagogue is still standing at 59 Brick Lane, albeit it is no longer used for Jewish worship. Reflective of the changing complexion of the East End itself, it is today a Bengali mosque: the London Jamia Masjid. In fact, the building has led a chameleon existence. Prior to it becoming a synagogue in 1897-98, the building had been a Methodist chapel, and it was originally built in 1743 as a Huguenot church for Protestants escaping persecution in France.

Another beautiful old East End synagogue still standing and still in use as a Jewish place of worship is the Sandys Row Synagogue at 4A Sandys Row, off Artillery Lane, E1. It boasts London's oldest Ashkenazi *shul*. Philip Walker explains the meaning of that term:

The word 'shul' is Yiddish (a Jewish dialect spoken by Ashkenazi Jewish immigrants which is a mixture of German, Hebrew and other influences) and means 'school' and is another word for 'synagogue' - which is itself a Greek word meaning 'meeting place'. As the names indicate, these immigrant founded East End synagogues were more than just places of worship. They were social centres, study centres (shuls), places where people who had emigrated from the same towns in Russia (landsman) could find reassurance together, and so on.¹¹

9 'Sabbath Addresses to Jewish Working Men and Women. "Socialist Synagogue Parade."' *The Jewish Chronicle*, 22 March 1889.

10 Glinert, p. 182.

The former Spitalfields Great Synagogue at the corner of Brick Lane and Fournier Street, now the London Jamia Mosque.
Photograph by John Bennett.



The synagogue was established in 1854 by a society of Dutch immigrants known as *Chevras Chesed v'Emes v'Menachem Avelim* ('Society of Loving Kindness, Truth & Comforters of Mourners'). Sandys Row synagogue thus is one of only four surviving old synagogues in the East End.¹²

The fourth surviving older East End synagogue, though postdating the Ripper period itself is the Fieldgate Street Great Synagogue, Fieldgate Street, E1. This place of worship is today situated next door to and dwarfed by the giant East London Mosque. It was founded in 1899, its first President being Sir Samuel Montagu, MP. The Fieldgate Street Synagogue was badly damaged during the War and was rebuilt in 1950.¹³

The Problem of Thomas Cutbush

A possible connection to another, now closed East End synagogue occurred in the case of Thomas Cutbush, who was arrested in 1894 and who was a nephew of the late Scotland Yard Superintendent Henry Cutbush. In all probability the disturbed young man was just a would-be copycat of the Ripper, inspired by the depraved killer's deeds. However, following Cutbush's arrest, *The Sun* thought he could have been the Whitechapel murderer. The newspaper's article prompted Sir Melville Macnaghten to write his memorandum written for the Home Office, in which Macnaghten referred to three other men - Druitt, Ostrog, and Kosminski - whom he thought were likelier suspects than Cutbush. The Cutbush

Fieldgate Synagogue. Photograph by John Bennett.



story is significant because of Cutbush's possible reference to a synagogue. A Canadian newspaper of 29 March 1894 pondered the Cutbush case, although making some factual mistakes, such as giving the erroneous information that the infamous graffiti was found above Catherine Eddowes' body in Mitre Square: *When [Cutbush] was arrested he made a most significant observation. 'Is this,' he said, 'for the Mile End job? I mean the public-house next the Syndicate where I just missed her that time. They took me to be of the Jewish persuasion.'* This is an extraordinary observation in connection with the facts we are about to relate. Enquiries were made for any trace of the 'Mile End job in the public-house next the Syndicate,' to which the lunatic referred on his arrest. It was discovered that next to the Jewish Synagogue, in the East End, there is a public-house, and that during the Jack the

11 Sandys Row Synagogue - London's Oldest Ashkenazi Shul www.sandysrow.org.uk/

12 Philip Walker, Jewish East End of London Photo Gallery and Commentary. London's East End Synagogues, Cemeteries, and More. My Personal Journey Begins Here. www.jewisheastend.com/london.html

13 Ibid

Ripper period of 1888 some disturbance was one night caused at the bar of the public-house by a fallen woman screaming out that 'Jack the Ripper' was talking to her. She had been drinking and conversing with a young man of slight build and of sallow features, and she pointed to him when she made the startling announcement that he was 'Jack the Ripper'. The man immediately took to his heels, departing with an alacrity that prevented all pursuit. The incident was but briefly reported in the daily papers under the heading of 'Another Jack the Ripper Scare.' But a description of the man whom the woman pointed out was given as that of a man of 27 or 28 years, slight of build, and Jewish appearance, his face being thin and sallow. This led to the theory entertained for some time that 'Jack the Ripper' was a Jew. The public-house incident took place about the middle of September. On the night of September 30, 1888, two women were killed, one in Berners street, and one in Mitre square. Over the latter there was written on the rough wall in chalk: 'The Jews are not the men that will be blamed for nothing.' These facts enormously add to the proof that the man who made this observation was the same man who had murdered the two women on the night of September 30, 1888. The mistake of naming 'syndicate' for synagogue rather adds to the strength of the story. ¹⁴

While it could be argued that the disturbed young man simply confused the vaguely similarly sounding words 'syndicate' and 'synagogue', the fact that he said, 'They took me to be of the Jewish persuasion' might indicate that he *did* mean 'synagogue'. And if he was in fact an emulator of the Whitechapel murderer perhaps he thought he needed to take on the mantle of the Ripper-as-Jew. There was only one synagogue in the Mile End in 1888: the Mile End New Town Synagogue at 39 Dunk Street. Founded in 1880, it was also known as the 'Great Mile End New Town Synagogue' and the 'Dunk Street Chevra.' The Mile End New Town Synagogue was one of the congregations that attended the meeting of 16 October 1887 to form the Federation of Synagogues, and it became one of the original federated synagogues a month later. This synagogue closed around 1956. Presumably this was the synagogue Cutbush meant. ¹⁵

I thank the late Adrian M Pypers and John Bennett for their help with this research.

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Frederick Deeming and the Old Melbourne Gaol

By ADAM WENT

May 23rd, 1892, and convicted serial killer Frederick Bailey Deeming is being taken to the gallows at the Old Melbourne Gaol in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.

November 5th, 2004 - 112 years had passed since that day, and I found myself standing in the same place where Frederick Deeming spent his last hours. Somewhat like the surroundings inside the prison, on that day the weather was dull, gloomy and overcast.

Most people involved in the field of Ripperology will already know the story of Frederick Deeming, but it's worth a short recap here of his crimes for those who may not be familiar with him.

Frederick Bailey Deeming was born in 1842 in Birkenhead, Cheshire, opposite Liverpool, but spent a good deal of time at sea. It was during one trip that he had what was called a severe 'brain fever' and it is possible this triggered some form of psychosis which manifested itself in various ways through his life. Deeming had always been very attached to his mother

and the trauma of her death obviously affected him greatly.

After the attack of brain fever he professed that his mother had given him instructions from beyond the grave to explain his sometimes very odd behaviour. It seems that Deeming was still able to act rationally enough to attract women and he did eventually marry. The couple had four children.

Deeming, by trade a plumber and fitter, nevertheless devoted a large amount of his time to criminal activities, particularly fraud and he spent time in prison in Australia.

In 1888, Deeming moved with his family to Cape Town, South Africa, then on to Johannesburg, where he continued his criminal career.

The next move for the Deeming family was back to England, where they settled in Dinham Villa, Rainhill, Merseyside, but it was not long before neighbours noticed that Deeming's wife and children had disappeared and when asked where they had gone, Deeming simply said that they had 'gone away.' Nobody at that time realised just how permanent this 'going away' would be. Deeming moved back to Australia after that and remarried, but again his wife disappeared.

This time his explanation was a little more detailed. His wife had 'gone away for business reasons.'

Deeming quit the house in December 1891, but a few months later, the owner of the house noticed a terrible stench in the dining room.

It did not take long to tie in the disappearance of Mrs Deeming

Frederick Deeming's execution



and the smell and when the floorboards were lifted they found her very decomposed body hidden there. Her throat had been cut.

The police in Liverpool were tipped off and they made the gruesome discovery of Deeming's first wife and four children under the floorboards of his former residence there. They had all had their throats cut.

Deeming was finally caught and arrested in March 1892 in Perth, Western Australia.

It was not long after this that rumours started circulating about Deeming being the Whitechapel murderer and he actually claimed that he was responsible for the last two murders attributed to Jack the Ripper. This was strenuously denied by Deeming's solicitor. Although Deeming tried to plead insanity, on the grounds of venereal disease and the bouts of brain fever it took the jury took little more than an hour to find him guilty, and Deeming was hanged on Monday May 23rd, 1892.

Over the years, Deeming has still been considered by some researchers to be a plausible Jack the Ripper suspect. This is largely due to the fact that the murders Deeming committed were slightly similar to those committed by Jack the Ripper, although the only real similarity is that the victims had their throats cut. The only other possible link is that Deeming was known to have had some mental problems and violent tendencies, plus a record of having been involved in crime before.

These days, however, Deeming is considered by most to be a very unlikely suspect. Obviously, he had to have been in London to commit the crimes - but there is no question that Deeming was living in South Africa at the time of the murders. If that is indeed the case, then he can safely be ruled out - unless, of course, a Thomas Neill Cream style conspiracy theory about him having a double in London doing the killing appears.

While Deeming did cut his victim's throats, his concealment of the bodies is inconsistent with the murders of Jack the Ripper, as the latter made no attempts to conceal the bodies of his victims.

The interior of the Old Melbourne Gaol, as seen from the top floor - Deeming's cell is located on the bottom floor, looking left from the angle of this photo.





Photograph of Frederick Deeming from his cell in Old Melbourne Gaol

The Old Melbourne Gaol

In November of 2004, my own interest in Jack the Ripper was really just at its beginning - I was only a newcomer to the case. When I entered the gaol-turned-museum, it didn't cross my mind at all that I should try and find the cell of Frederick Deeming; it was almost by accident that I came across it.

Walking along the ground level (the gaol has 3 levels), the name Frederick Deeming caught my eye as I walked past cell #27. I walked in, and, sure enough, on the wall was an information board which briefly explained Deeming's crimes. It did mention, albeit in a very brief paragraph, that Deeming had been named as a potential Jack the Ripper suspect. There was also a large photograph of Deeming on the wall, which was taken in April 1892 - just after he had failed in an attempt to escape the authorities - the month before he was hanged.

Unfortunately, however, I'm still not sure if that was actually Deeming's original cell, or just one that had been made up for him when the gaol became a museum. Also, some parts of the original gaol have since been torn down or closed off. I did ask the workers there, but they seemed about as unsure as I was. The space inside the cells was very small, as you can see by the photos.

The cell pictured wasn't Deeming's, it was taken on a different level, but all of the cells were basically the same size. Even for hardened criminals like Deeming, it must have been tough going, to spend months in a tiny space like that.

Now, you'd think someone like Frederick Deeming, a serial killer with possible ties to another infamous serial killer, would probably be the main attraction for people visiting the gaol, but this is not the case.

In fact, there is a very famous and important piece of Australian history dating back to the 1870's which involves the bushranger, Ned Kelly, and his gang, "The Kelly Gang." Ned is really a classic "Hero or villain?" type story. On the one hand, he formed a gang which travelled around the state of Victoria stealing from people and businesses, engaged in deadly shootouts with police officers, went on the run from the law, and so on. He doesn't really sound like your average hero, does he? Well, the flip side is that Ned and his family had come to Australia from Ireland, and ever since they had arrived, their family had been persecuted by the authorities, and they weren't treated as decent citizens.

Who was in the right, and who was in the wrong? The debate goes on, but Ned and his gang are certainly viewed as heroes by a vast majority of people. A final shootout between the police force and the Kelly Gang in the town of Glenrowan saw the hugely outnumbered Kelly Gang finally overwhelmed. A badly injured Ned was captured, and although there's been conspiracy theories that it actually wasn't him and the real Ned lived on for decades afterwards, that seems unlikely. Of course, no matter what the reasons for forming the gang were, the law wasn't going to stand for what they had been doing, and once they were put in front of a court, the verdict need not be said. Ned Kelly and the remaining members of his gang were hanged at the gaol on November 11, 1880.

Many criminals have become well known partly because of their final words before being executed, and Ned Kelly is one of those - his final words were: "Such is life."

So, the Old Melbourne Gaol has perhaps become best known because

Author beside the photo of Ned Kelly





A typical cell in Old Melbourne Gaol, showing the very cramped conditions the inmates had to endure

of Ned Kelly and his gang, and not so much because of Frederick Deeming. Regardless of that, they only tell a very small part of the gaol's history.

During the 87 years that the gaol was operating, between 1842 and 1929, a total of 135 prisoners were hanged there.

Some of those are well known, others have been all but forgotten about.

Display of a prisoner wearing the normal scaffold clothing



The gaol's last major use after its closure in 1929 was as a military prison during World War II. It's since been turned into a public museum, which it remains today.

Summary

An oft-used saying is "One thing leads to another . . . Well, it's all too true for this article. I started out discussing what Frederick Deeming was doing in 1888, and ended up talking about Australian bushrangers and how many people were hanged at the Old Melbourne Gaol. However, as we've seen, as far apart as that may sound, they do share some common links. The same can be said of the Jack the Ripper case. Just when it might seem all possible ways of finding new information have dried up, one little thing can lead to another . . . and then we might have a decent breakthrough. It's happened before, what's stopping it from happening again?

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Victorian Larder OCEANS ELEVEN

By JANE CORAM

Well, strictly speaking it should be Oceans and River Thames 11, but I can't really see that being a box office hit. Be that as it may, the East Ender has always loved his seafood; in fact anything that once lived in water is fair game - eels, whelks, cockles, winkles, oysters, herring, mackerel, plaice, sole, dab and salmon . . . well that's eleven to start with.

Jellied eels have recently been given the dubious distinction of officially being the slipperiest of foods. If you want to break someone's neck, forget banana skins, just drop a lump of jellied eel on the floor and they don't stand a chance.

When my nan was very small, her mother sent her to the pie and mash shop to buy some eels. Of course, they were sold live from trays at the front of the shop, and the shopkeeper would take them out and despatch them as they were sold, chopping them up into bite-sized morsels. Nan duly watched with horror as the poor creature was executed in front of her and then wrapped up in newspaper and handed over. She had only gone a few steps when she realised that, despite the eels being rather dead and dismembered, they were still wriggling and jerking in the parcel. She tipped the whole lot down the drain and ran home screaming. I don't think she ever touched an eel again for the rest of her life.

A typical market porter's work clothing at Billingsgate market



Jellied eels have always been a good old mainstay of the East End diet because they were in plentiful supply and very cheap. These were chopped up, stewed up and served in various ways. I've been told they are surprisingly tasty and greatly favoured by East Enders. I would rather die of starvation personally, but each to their own.

Back in Victorian times they were just as popular, in fact even more so. Practically all fish and seafood was the foundation of the poorer diet. It was observed at the time by the social commentators that had it not been for fish and sea produce, half of the poorer population of London would have died of malnutrition, although that's not saying much as the mortality rate amongst the poor at that time wasn't exactly minimal anyway.

Every morning the fish costermongers would go down to Billingsgate market, with their barrows or baskets, to collect whatever was on offer. For some it was a fair old trek - literally a good few miles walk both ways - pushing their barrows or hand carts, especially in winter when it would still have been dark and bitterly cold.

They would have to arrive early, getting there at six in the morning, but there was a strict routine, which was inviolate. Those who owned the fish shops were given the first choice of the catches, the better quality fish, that could be sold for the highest prices to the large houses and better off customers. Next came the costermongers, who sold from their barrows, who would have to settle for the rest of the catch, whatever state it was in, to

sell to the rest of the population, whatever state they were in. Everybody went to Billingsgate in their worst clothes, because of the mess they got into whilst there. It's not hard to imagine that handling fish and crates of shellfish would soon leave a distinct odour on them, which would not make them the most welcome company. For many, their best and their worst clothes were probably one and the same, which possibly puts a new slant on Mary Kelly's relationship with a fishy Joe Barnett!

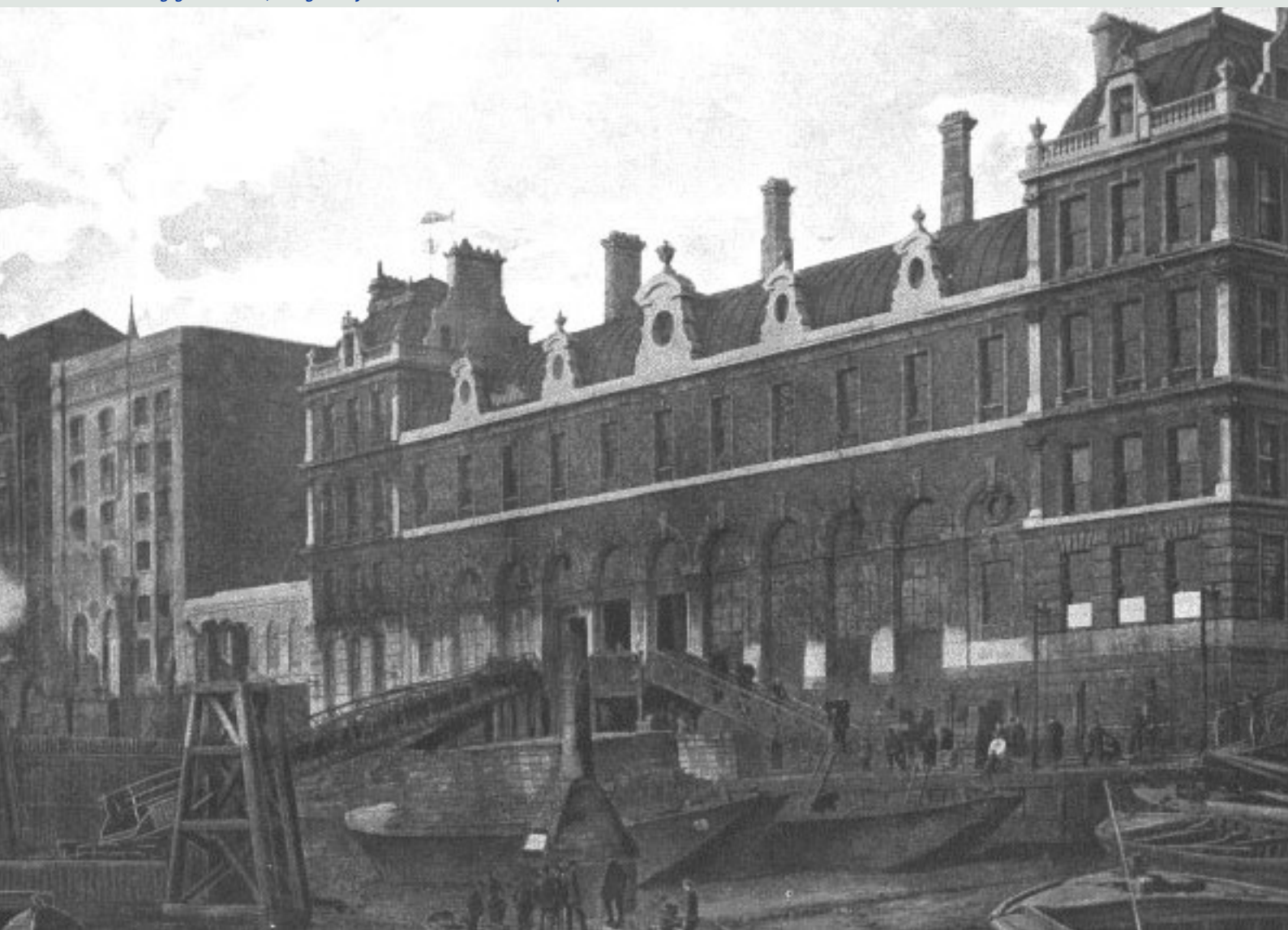
Around the auction-tables at Billingsgate would stand groups of men turning over the piles of fish, and throwing them down till they slid about in their slime; some smelling them for freshness, while others were counting the consignments to see that they were full measure.

The porters started work earlier than the others at the market as they had to transport fish from the ships, and after the expansion of the railways, from trains as well as the fish came from further afield overland. The average casual dock-worker earned a fraction of what he could have earned as a registered fish porter, and there is no doubt that jobs at the market were at a premium. The £3 a week said to have been the weekly wage of Joseph Barnett, Mary Kelly's common-law husband, is certainly an exaggeration, but they did earn a comparatively high wage. Generally they were allocated only to members within a family, and it really was a case of dead men's shoes to get a position there. Those who had licenses to trade there would hang on to them for grim death, and generally they could only be sacked for serious infringement of the rules, such as stealing, or seriously antisocial behaviour or drunkenness.

The main market trading was over by noon, but some porters were permanently employed by market shops, and so stayed on till 4:00p.m. or 5:00p.m., cleaning and packing fish.

Watermen, especially employed for the job, would row the mongers out to the vessels moored off the market and they would take what they could get. If fresh herrings were not on the market, then there were sprats, and if not sprats there was sole, whiting, mackerel or plaice. Costermongers touted the fish around the houses on a barrow, and notwith-

Billingsgate market, designed by Sir Horace Jones and completed in 1875



stading the obnoxious smell and dirt created by a street fish-stall, this method of selling fish meant cheapness, and easy access for the poor.

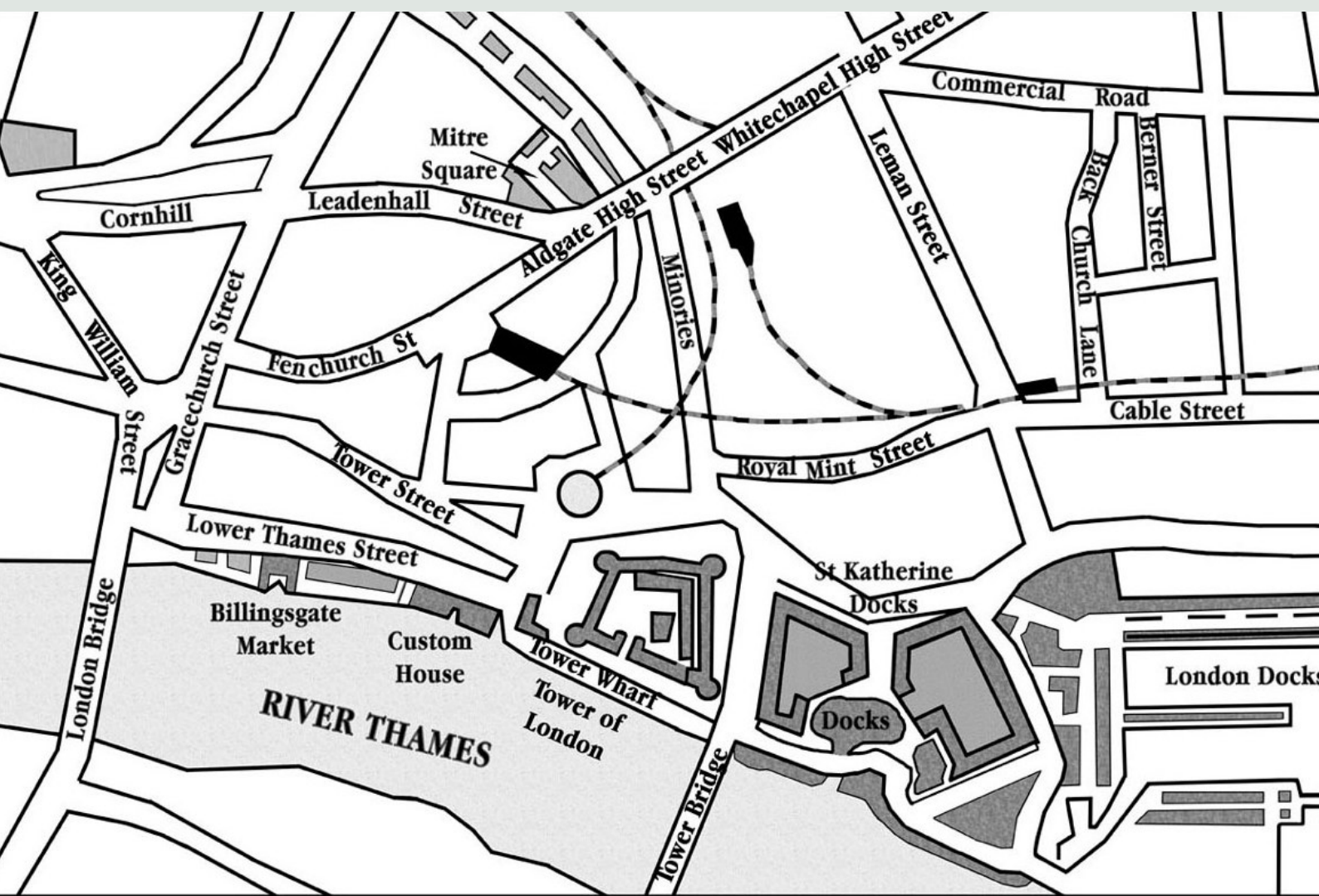
Unfortunately the fish costers had a bit of a reputation for being less than honest, but in fairness it was often the only way they could actually survive the vagaries of the catch. Their prices could be kept down because there were no overheads, such as rent, although they did have to pay for the hire of the barrow until they could afford to save up and buy their own. They chose their own hours, but they still needed to make a profit of some kind.

With a rather bizarre sense of justice, prices were altered according to the customer. Those who looked as if they could afford it got the raw end of the deal, whereas poorer customers were usually treated fairly and given the correct measure. It also depended on whether they actually liked the customer or not; it obviously paid to be polite and give a flashing smile if you didn't want to pay over the odds for your bit of haddock. Winkles, cockles, and mussels were sold by the pint, and the pots they used all had false bottoms. Some of these are made so that a smaller tin measure would fit exactly within another, which could be adjusted accordingly, depending on whether the customer was a "jon-nock," or a "scaly cove" - that is in or out of favour with the vendor.

Some of the less honourable sellers would hang onto their poor quality fish until after dark, so as to sell it by candlelight and hope that no-one noticed it was a bit ranky. Mackerel particularly would change colour and go dark as it was exposed to the air, so a little bit of romantic candlelight went a long way to hiding its fastly fading charms. If the customer offered a little less than the sum asked, they usually consented to take it, and made up the deficiency out of the next customer by foisting off one of the smaller fish on him at the same price as the large ones.

Because the fish bought by the costermongers was often the cheapest and therefore the most suspect, a system was set up whereby the costermonger could take any doubtful fish to an inspector for reimbursement. Fishy fish could be taken to a place called 'The Stone Yard' to check its fitness for consumption, and if it did not pass muster the monger could be reimbursed and the suspect fish mixed with lime to be used for manure. In a waste-not, want-not society, everything was used for recycling, even dust swept up off the streets.

Map showing the relative position of Billingsgate market to Aldgate High Street and Whitechapel



Of course, without the luxury of refrigeration the fish soon became very suspect indeed, and keeping it fresh required a great deal of ingenuity. In cold weather the sellers often kept fish for four days after they had bought it, and in summer for 36 hours. Those who had any left after the day's business, if they lived in an attic, generally put the residue outside their window in a basket on the parapet, and having covered it with a wet blanket, placed a heavy weight on the lid to prevent the cats getting at it. If there was any cellar to the house, they generally kept the remainder of their stock there; and if they didn't have a cellar then under the bed it went until the next day's trading, alongside the chamber-pot and grandad's boots.

While we are on the subject of the mongers' vices, it's an unfortunate fact that as a class, the costers were quite disposed to indulging the demon drink. Being exposed to all weathers, they often resorted to a little drop to keep out the cold. Who could blame them, really, when one considers that they had to reach Billingsgate at an ungodly hour and often didn't get back home until ten in the evening on ordinary working days. Reports were that on average a monger might spend 5 shillings a week on drink. That is one day's wages, a fair percentage of their income.

I'm probably not painting a very favourable picture of Britain's fish traders here, and possibly being a bit unfair, because they were victims of circumstance themselves and did have to survive in a very hostile environment. They were certainly no more crooked than most other traders at the time, who all had weighted scales and dodgy measures. The men and women who sold fish on the streets certainly had a certain code of honour amongst themselves.

The police would often confiscate the fishmongers' barrows on some pretext or other, that they were blocking an entrance or causing an obstruction, and the barrows would be put into a compound called 'The Green Yard', where they could charge a shilling a day for storage, and the poor trader could be fined from half a crown (2 shillings and 6d) to ten shillings in order to get their barrows back. This could be the equivalent of a whole day's wages, or more importantly a whole day's drink for the average monger. I suppose this was the Victorian equivalent of wheel clamping. To overcome this problem the costermonger would often try to get a space in a street market where he was safe from such harassment, but these spaces were always at a premium, passed down from father to son, and bribery was rife for these prime spots.

Early morning trade at Billingsgate market



Their customers were almost exclusively very poor, and the mongers would take their barrows through the courts and alleys, and avoid all the better kind of streets. If they had anything inferior, they visited the poorer Irish districts, where they were interested in quantity rather than quality. Wednesdays and Fridays were the best days. These were the days when the poor generally ran short of money. Wednesday night was called 'draw-night' among the mechanics and labourers - that is, when they got a portion of their wages in advance; and on Friday they ran short as well as on the Wednesday, and had to make do for their dinner with the few halfpence they had left. They were glad to pick up anything cheap, and the street fishmonger never refused an offer. Besides, he could supply them with a cheaper dinner than any other person. In the herring season the poor generally lived on them.

To their credit, the mongers did have a fair sense of charity towards the poor. One man used to give his surplus eels, when he considered his sale completed on a night, to the poor beggars refused admission into the workhouse, lending them the charcoal from his fire for warmth, which apparently they always returned to him as they obviously realised they were onto a good thing. The poor blokes carried the fire under a railway arch where they would huddle around it, shovelling down the left-over eels for all they were

worth. Quite a few of the costers would keep back bits of left-over fish and scraps for the poorest of the poor and often give it to them for nothing. After all, there but for the grace of God . . .

For those on the lowest incomes, sprats were common fare. *Life in the London Streets*, by Richard Rowe, 1881 - *Chapter 18 - From Billingsgate to Bethnal Green* made this rather poignant observation:

'They [the poor] pop their heads out of their doors like rabbits - only half-frozen rabbits - from their holes. They look hungrily at the sprats; they make hasty calculations of ways and means, by the simple process of fumbling in the pockets of their thin, skimpy, patternless skirts for a stray copper. Ever and anon the barrow is stopped and surrounded by a little ring of lean women, watching the boy's weighing, for all their leaden eyes, with the keenness of cats about to pounce upon a bird - holding up their broken, chipped, cracked, coarse, white and willow-pattern plates, and yellow basins, their crumpled colanders and battered sink-bowls, their aprons, or the "laps" of their dresses, for their tiny purchases - or trying to coax the coster-lad to throw in a few of the tempting little fish.'

Not exactly a cosy picture, but it does show how important the fish trade in the Victorian East End was. The average East Ender, though, didn't only eat fish to survive; they actually enjoyed eating it some of the time, and certain dishes were real delicacies.

Several articles were sold by the street fishmonger chiefly by night. These were oysters, lobsters, pickled salmon, hot eels, stewed mussels, and the like. Shrimps and winkles were the staple commodities of the afternoon trade, which lasted from three to half-past five in the evening, and most of those were eaten for treats. These articles were generally bought by the working classes for their tea. There is an old music-hall song, extolling the virtue of winkles, which always rather tickled me.

*One Sunday afternoon for tea,
Thought I'd have a luxury,
Went and bought a pennerth of winkles,
Off of poor old Mother Sprinkles.
Took them home,
Put them on a plate,
As happy as can be.
When I turned my back on them,
All the family were . . .
Picking all the fat ones out,
Picking all the fat ones out,
My old man, seven little kids,
Picking all the fat ones out.*

That says it all really.



Winkles, sold by the bowl, complete with toothpicks for winking them out of their shells

The best customers for the fish sold in the streets were the Jews, although of course they wouldn't buy skate, eels, or shellfish for religious dietary reasons; but they were particularly partial to haddocks, which they fried with eggs in salad oil, and ate with slices of lemon. The Irish particularly would favour fried fish on Fridays, and on Saturday nights the workmen and their wives and sweethearts would go out for a fish supper. After visiting the public houses they often finished up with a newspaper full of fried fish and chips to charm their young ladies into a quick, if greasy, snuggle in the nearest doorway. Mary Kelly had treated herself (or been treated) to a fish supper just a couple of hours or so before she was murdered. She probably got this in one of the small side-streets from a house or stall, which would have been open until the early hours of the morning. It was not at all uncommon for people to have their suppers at 2 in the morning. There were dozens of places selling fish and chips in the area. McCarthy's in Dorset Street certainly sold hot food, and almost all of the pubs in the area would have sold them over the counter, although they would usually be cooked elsewhere and only heated up there.

Houses along the side-streets would sell them through the open windows; rows of crisp brown fish, particularly plaice,



A typical fried fish stall in the East End in the late Victorian period.

would decorate the window of houses in the side-streets, mainly run by Jewish families. These establishments were not the most welcome of neighbours because of the continuous stink of the fish and the oil used for frying, which was why they were generally in the very lowest-priced premises, where the neighbours had little choice about who they shared with. Even when clean oil was used, the odour was pretty rank. The garments of the fried-fish sellers were always strongly impregnated with the smell of fish, and as their clothes were probably rarely washed, it's not hard to imagine that they got fairly ripe.

Strangely enough, although the Irish were the main buyers of fried fish, among the fried-fish sellers there are no more than half a dozen Irish people, the bulk of the fish-fryers being the Jews.

The fish fried by street dealers was known as 'plaice dabs' and 'sole dabs', which were merely plaice and soles, 'dab' being a common word for any flat fish. Soles were used in as large a quantity as the other kinds put together. The cheapest fish was used for frying, and first had to be washed and gutted; the fins, head, and tail were then cut off, and the trunk was (and still is) dipped in

flour and water, so that in frying, the skin wasn't scorched by the sometimes violent action of the fire, but merely browned. Pale rape oil was generally used, well, was supposed to be used, but by the time it had been used a few dozen times, it was in a fairly grim state. It was not unheard of for the fryers to use lamp oil when other oil was scarce, or any kind of dripping or lard they could get their hands on.

The fat was generally sold in suspicious looking slabs, in every general or rag-and-bone shop in the high street and in the hundred courts and filthy alleys that led off it. This tallowy-looking substance would be marked with the price per pound - 6d, 7d or 8d. It was supposed to be, simply and purely, the fat dripping of roast and baked meats, supplied to these shops by cooks in various houses, but this was far from the case. Lord only knows what really went into it. There was a 'dripping-maker' near Seabright Street, Bethnal Green, and another in Backchurch Lane, Whitechapel, both flourishing men, and the owners of many sleek cattle, which were all housed in fields around the area interspersed with domestic dwellings and abattoirs. Mutton suet and boiled rice were the chief ingredients used in the manufacture of the slabs, the gravy of bullocks' kidneys being stirred into the mess when it was half cold, giving to the whole a mottled and natural appearance. Very appetising.

In the public houses, a slice of bread was often sold with the fish and chips, as a cheap filler, and these were often cut into what were called 'doorsteps' - that is pieces of bread that were about an inch thick and covered with a thin coating of butter or a thick coating of the above described dripping. The fish and bread were sold together for one penny, a very cheap meal really. Salt and vinegar would be sprinkled on top for flavour, the vinegar going on first, otherwise it washed all the salt off again. Side dishes were often sold with the fish and chips - gherkins (pickled cucum-



A lovely plate of stewed jellied eels

bers), often called 'wallys', and pickled onions were favourite accompaniments.

The first fish-and-chip shops were opened in the 1860's in London. Because of the improved transportation system in Britain with the coming of the railways, the fish could be transported more quickly, and soon fish and chips became a very popular East End meal. Fish landed in Grimsby one day would be on sale everywhere in the country the following morning.

The French actually invented chips, or *pomme frites*, and they were put together with fish, but we don't talk about that much - ask the typical East Ender who invented chips and they will be happy to resort to fisticuffs to prove it's an East End creation.

In 1839, Charles Dickens referred to a fried fish warehouse, and certainly fish and chips were sold together in Britain as early as the 1850's. The first fish-and-chip shop was actually

opened in London by Joseph Malin in Cleveland Street, within the sound of Bow Bells, in 1860, although he was Portuguese, which really throws a spanner in the works when trying to work out where good old fish and chips really did originate.

Live eels were purchased from the Dutch vessels that came into Billingsgate. They were usually sold in sand; supposedly to keep them alive or to dry them, and to make them easy to catch hold of; but the real reason was to increase the weight of them. Add a bit of sand and up go the profits. There was generally about 3lbs. weight of sand added to 20lbs of eels - not a bad mark up. Unfortunately, the fishmongers selling from the barrow weren't averse to bumping up their wages by any nefarious means. They found some very inventive ways to literally tip the scales in their favour. Another way of getting the price of eels up was to sell them in a wet bag - the wetter the bag, the more profit. I'm sure many a dealer prayed for a rainy day.

There were plenty of ways to serve up the eels, one of the most popular being eel soup, the cheapest way to fill a hungry belly. The eel was cut up, cleaned, and dressed, and afterwards boiled in flour and water. The soup was then made tasty with spices, parsley, vinegar, and pepper. This was sold so cheaply that even beggars could afford it, and it was actually very nutritious and probably kept many a pauper alive.

A strange marriage of hot eels and pea soup was also very popular, especially amongst labourers in cold weather to warm them up a bit. These were sold from stalls in the street, but each seller had their own pitch and people knew where to go for them. They were usually set up near workplaces or markets to make sure of getting the trade, and a trade they certainly did. They could make 5 shillings a day profit

Cooke's pie and mash shop, unchanged since it was first opened in the late 19th century. The interior still boasts the original ornate tiled walls, and marble tables. The sign above the door still advertises 'live eel'



during the week and 10 shillings on a Saturday, which was not bad at all when the average working wage at the time was £1 and 11s per week. Whelks and other seafood were also sold from the same stalls, according to the catch and the season.

To make the infamous jellied eels, the eels were first cleaned and washed, and cut in small pieces from a half to an inch each, then chopped up on a blood-stained board, with a pile of pieces on one side and a heap of entrails on the other. The portions were boiled, and the liquor was thickened with flour and flavoured with chopped parsley and mixed spices. It was kept hot in the streets, and served out, in halfpenny cupfuls, with a small quantity of vinegar and pepper. It was not unheard of for a youngster to eat up to 6 bowls of these in a night, if the mood took them, depending of course on how many halfpennies they had.

Most of the customers for hot eels and pea soup were the newsboys, who sold papers on street corners, especially on cold rainy days.

Of course, once the first pie-and-mash shops opened, the eels began to be sold alongside them, and now you will find that all pie-and-mash shops sell either live or jellied eels, like the famous Cooke's in Dalston, which has been there almost unaltered since it opened in Victorian times.

Whelks were unfortunately cooked alive to ensure freshness. On a Saturday night there could be 300 whelk-sellers in the streets, nearly half at stalls, and half, or more, "working the public-houses." Even today in the East End, there will be regular sellers of seafood outside East End pubs or going from one to the other to sell to the patrons. In some instances, the sellers would work the public houses every night and make a good living from it. People drinking there always wanted to eat, and they bought the whelks for the love of them, rather than to ward off hunger.

Surprisingly enough, the poorer classes could afford oysters when they were in season, although they didn't like them as much as whelks for some reason. The day that the oysters first appeared at Billingsgate was called Oyster Day, and it was a day of celebration on the streets, even amongst the poor classes. The oysters on the barrow, with pepper, salt, and vinegar, fetched from a penny to three halfpence or twopence for big ones. When whelks weren't available the mongers would take more oysters and some Dutch eels, but there was never as much profit in oysters.

The trade in oysters is unquestionably one of the oldest commodities sold in London, because oysters were being sold there in Roman times. The customers for them were mainly working-class or trades people, but not the very poor, because at the price of twopence they were a definite luxury. A penny would buy a loaf and a lump of cheese, or half a pint of beer, so to lash out twopence for an oyster was out of the question. However, the average working man could afford to treat himself when the oysters were about.

There is no doubt that seafood and jellied eels are an acquired taste, but for the born and bred East Ender, life would definitely be the worse without them.

Ovster Day

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Eel Pie

Here is a traditional recipe for eel pie, which I personally haven't tried, but this recipe is an old family favourite and supposedly very tasty. The eels could be substituted with any white fish for those who don't fancy the eels!

900g (2lb) Eels (any white fish can be substituted)
600ml (1 pint) Fish Stock
1 Onion
1 Carrot
1 stick Celery
15g (½ oz) Gelatine (can be bought from most grocers)
½ Lemon
1 Bouquet Garni
Fresh Herbs
Grated nutmeg
Shortcrust pastry for the top

Place the eels skin side down and sprinkle with a pinch of grated nutmeg, grated lemon zest and the chopped herbs. The eels will have been cleaned out by the seller, so they can be opened out into flat pieces, just like cleaned fish. If you are using fish, the same obviously applies. Cut the eel/fish into pieces about 4 inches long. Roll up each piece and tie with string.

Put the stock, finely chopped onion, carrot and celery with the bouquet garni into a saucepan and bring to the boil. Add the eels and simmer very gently for about 15 minutes or until tender. If you are using fish, this will obviously take less time and you will have to use your judgement as to when it is cooked. Just make sure that it is not overcooked or it will fall to pieces.

Extract the eels/fish and remove the string and place them in a bowl.

Measure the stock and make up to 450ml (¾ pint) with water.

Add the lemon juice to the gelatine to dissolve, add to the hot stock stirring to ensure it is fully dissolved.

Strain over the eels and leave to set. Turn out when cold.

This can then be used as a pie filling. The gelatine will naturally melt while the pie is being cooked, but when it is cold it will set again. Eel or fish pie, needless to say is served cold or just slightly warmed up. Traditionally it would be served with a parsley liquor and mash potato.



East End Life: A Taste of Hades The Birth of London's Underground

By Adam Wood

The series of diabolical crimes in the East End which appalled the world were committed by a horrible maniac who led the ordinary life of a free citizen. He rode in tramcars and omnibusses. He travelled to Whitechapel by the underground railway, often late at night. Probably on several occasions he had but one fellow-passenger in the compartment with him, and that may have been a woman. Imagine what the feelings of those travellers would have been had they known that they were alone in the dark tunnels of the Underground with Jack the Ripper!

George Sims, *Modern Life*, 1906.

It often comes as a surprise to people that London's Underground was up and running at the time of the Whitechapel murders.

Whether the 'tube' was actually used by the Ripper is open to debate, but it's worth noting that in the aftermath of the discovery of Polly Nichols' body, the police reportedly searched the embankments of nearby Whitechapel underground station.

So when and how did the tube system take shape? And how did it affect the lives of East Enders?

London celebrated the centenary of the birth of its underground railway system on 16 May 1963. A gathering of invited transport officials from various parts of the world was shown the modern Underground system at work and in contrast, part of its history in review. The spectacle included a replica of the very earliest train complete with passengers in period dress, and a parade of steam and electric rolling stock spanning 100 years of operation. This was the culmination of ideas born earlier, when someone thought of trains that would start in London's suburbs, and then plunge beneath the City's buildings and streets to disgorge passengers in its very center—or even take them under London to the other side.

At about this time a trip to the moon by aerial machine was also being considered, but the overriding opinion of city gentlemen was that neither idea was worth a second thought. It is difficult for us to imagine the scepticism of people in those far-off days. They ridiculed the scheme—not only the uneducated, but also some we would regard as clear-thinking and level-headed. Perhaps their attitude was not unreasonable, for only 20 years before the Underground idea was broached, London had no railway at all. In 1836 the first line began to work between Spa Road and Deptford, and it is probable that 20 years later many Londoners had never even travelled on a train. They walked, or went on horseback or took hackney carriages, whose speed was not much more than six miles an hour. It is estimated that by 1850 over 750,000 people entered London every day, either by main line railways or by road, and the streets were becoming blocked.

A plan was eventually evolved for an underground, steam-operated railway nearly four miles long between Farringdon Street and Bishop's Road, Paddington, following Farringdon Road and King's Cross Road to King's Cross, and then following the course of Euston Road, Marylebone Road and Praed Street to Paddington. Thus it would serve as a link between three main-line railway termini—the Great Western at Paddington, the London & North Western at Euston, and the Great Northern at King's Cross. Farringdon Street was chosen as a site for the eastern terminus principally because the City Cattle Market, then occupying the site, was about to be moved to the Caledonian Road at Islington. The constructional work began in 1860, and within two-and-a-half years it was completed—a remarkable achievement considering

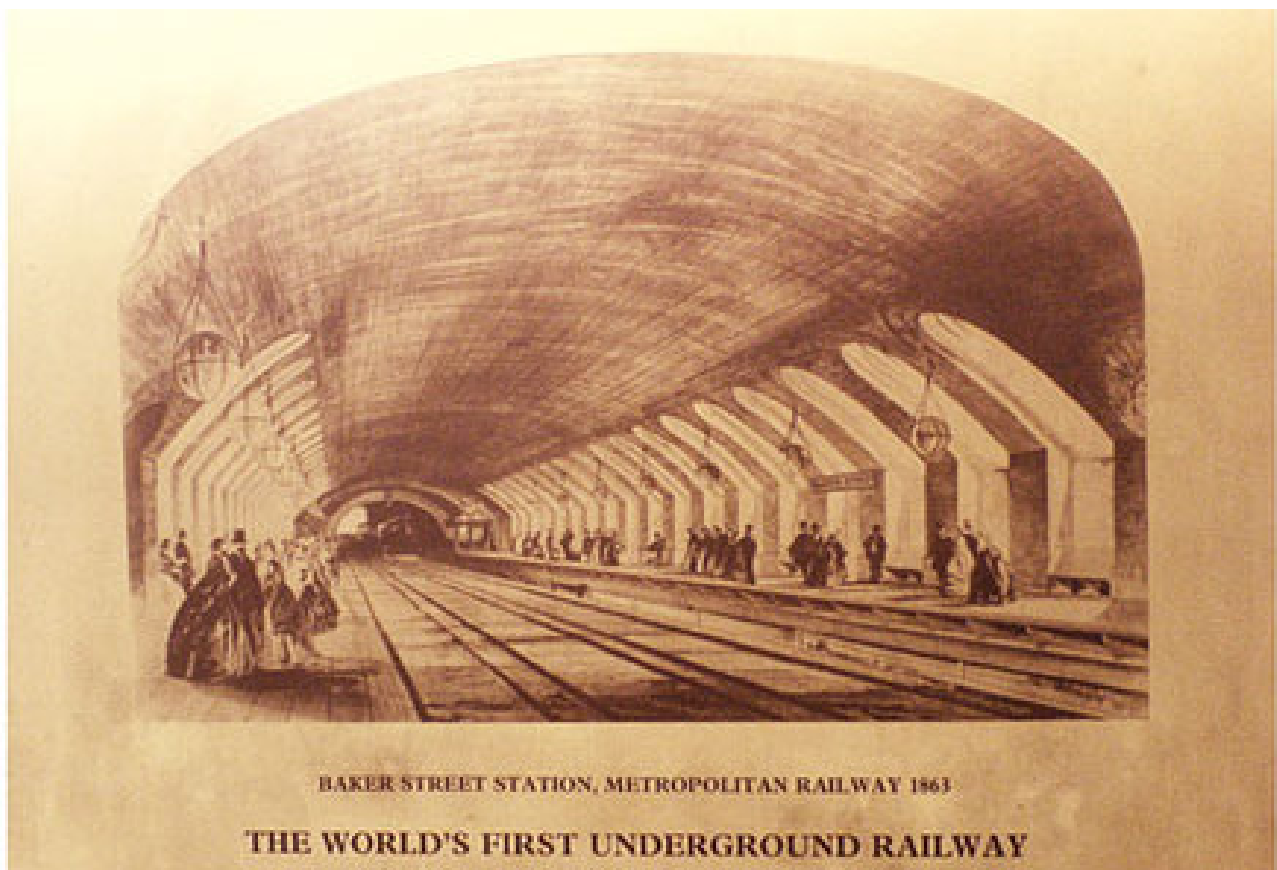
the amount of work involved in diverting sewers and gas and water mains, with very little in the way of previous experience to guide the constructors.

The Metropolitan Railway, as it became known, was built on the 'cut and cover' method. Where it was to run under streets a huge trench was dug, lined with brickwork and roofed over, and the streets relaid for surface traffic. Although this method made chasms of certain streets and must have paralysed traffic in their immediate vicinity, it made possible the construction of the line without interfering to any great extent to private property. Some idea of the amount of earth excavated for that early railway can be gathered by those who know the Chelsea football ground at Stamford Bridge. The terraces there were raised from that soil.

The job of constructing such a railway would be deemed an intricate one even today; but it was done successfully, for the original massive brickwork is still in good condition. The only real setback occurred when the Fleet Ditch Sewer burst and flooded the workings to a depth of 10ft as far as King's Cross, but even this proved only a temporary setback. Mr and Mrs Gladstone and other notables rode through the echoing tunnels on Private View Day in open trucks. Then, to celebrate the opening of the railway on 10 January 1863, many hundreds of people were invited to attend a great banquet at Farringdon Street Station—and the trains, as they approached the station, were heralded by music from a band! The public rode in closed carriages - only on the first trial trips were open trucks used.

The event was recorded in the *Illustrated London News* of 10 January 1863:

The Metropolitan Railway was fairly opened to the public on the 10th inst. and it was calculated that more than 30,000 persons were carried over the line in the course of the day. Indeed, the desire to travel by this line on the opening day was more than the directors had provided for; and from nine o'clock in the morning till past mid-day it was impossible to obtain a place on the up or Cityward line at any of the mid stations. In the evening the tide turned, and the crush at the Farringdon St. station was as great as at the door of a theatre of the first night of some popular performer. Some lightening of the pressure was obtained by the Great Western lending some of their engines and carriages supplemental to the rolling stock of the company. Notwithstanding the throng, it is gratifying to add that no accident occurred, and the report of the passengers was unanimous in favour of the smoothness and comfort of the line.



The next day, 11 January, *The Times* described the event:

Yesterday the Metropolitan (underground) Railway was opened to the public, and many thousands were enabled to indulge their curiosity in reference to this mode of travelling under the streets of the metropolis.

The trains commenced running as early as six o'clock in the morning from the Paddington (Bishop's-road) station, and the Farringdon-street terminus, in order to accommodate workmen, and there was a goodly muster of that class of the public, who availed themselves of the advantages of the line in reaching their respective places of employment. At eight o'clock the desire to travel underground in the direction of the City began to manifest itself at the various stations along the line; and by nine it became equally evident to the authorities that neither the locomotive power nor the rolling stock at their disposal was at all in proportion to the requirements of the opening day. From this time, and throughout the morning, every station became crowded with anxious travellers who were admitted in sections; but poor were the chances of a place to those who ventured to take their tickets at any point below Baker-street, the occupants being, with but very rare exceptions, "long distance," or terminus, passengers. This circumstance tended to increase the numbers at every station every minute, until there became sufficient to fill any train of empties which might be sent to overflow; and we believe we are correct in stating that ultimately a number of the Great Western narrow gauge carriages as well as engines, were brought into requisition, and by this means the temporary wants of the public were accommodated. Possibly the greatest point of attraction, if the collection of numbers may be taken as any criterion, was King's-cross, which is certainly the finest station on the line throwing even the termini into the shade. At this point, during the morning, the crowds were immense, and the constant cry, as the trains arrived, of "No room", appeared to have a very depressing effect upon those assembled. Between eleven and twelve, at this station, and continuously for the space of an hour and a half, the money takers refused to take money for passengers between King's-cross and Farringdon-street, but they issued tickets between that station and Paddington, and many, whose destination was City-wise, determined to ride on the railway on its first day of opening, took tickets for the

Whitechapel and Mile End underground station



opposite direction, in order to secure places for the return journey. At twelve o'clock the clerks informed the public, who were certainly then assembled to the number of some 500 or 600 at King's-cross, that there were enough people at Paddington to fill four trains in succession; and that, therefore, their instructions were to issue no Farringdon-street tickets for an hour. This announcement had the effect of getting rid of very large numbers. Whilst, however, all the tendency of the traffic was towards the Farringdon-street terminus during the morning, the public were enabled to proceed westward with but little inconvenience. Towards afternoon, however, the tide set in the other way, and the approaches to the trains at Victoria-street can be compared to no other than the crush at the doors of a theatre on the first night of a pantomime. Between one and two o'clock thousands of anxious travellers by the new route were collected outside the Victoria-street terminus, and when the outer doors were opened, which was only at intervals, the rush was tremendous, and on reaching the ticket office the difficulty of exchanging cash for a ticket was an equally difficult task. The platform gained, the next grand struggle was for a seat in the incoming and presently outgoing train. Classification was altogether ignored, the holders of No.1 being obliged to be compelled to go in No.3 or not at all, and vice versa. Hundreds on each occasion, however, had to be left behind, to take their chance of the next train in rotation. Once in motion, all appeared to be right, the riding very easy, and a train which left Farringdon-street at 2:15 reached King's-cross station at 2:18 (a little over a mile), bringing up at the platform in three minutes. Gower-street was reached at 2:25, Portland-road at 2:30, Baker-street at 2:36, Edware-road at 2:42, and the terminus at Paddington at 2:48; thus performing the journey in 33 minutes, including stoppages at the various stations. There were other journeys performed which were longer, reaching over 40 minutes, but the time above specified may be taken as about the average time of the running of the trains throughout the day. With regard to this point, however, the time occupied yesterday in the running of the trains from terminus to terminus can scarcely be taken as a fair criterion of what may be the actual time when the excitement of an opening day is over, and the line

Old Lady: "Well, I'm sure no woman with the least sense of decency would think of going down that way to it!"
Punch, 28 May 1864



shall have sobered down to its ordinary traffic. The excitement of the public to get places, and the running about of officials at every station to each carriage to see if there was a seat for one here and for two there, no doubt took up more than half the time which will be occupied by the stoppage of a train at each station on ordinary occasions.

Of the general comfort in travelling on the line there can be no doubt, and the novel introduction of gas into the carriages is calculated to dispel any unpleasant feelings which passengers, especially ladies, might entertain against riding for so long a distance through a tunnel. Yesterday, throughout every journey, the gas burnt brightly, and in some instances was turned on so strong in the first-class carriages, in each of which there were two burners, that when the carriages were stationary, newspapers might be read with facility; but, in motion, the draft through the apertures of the lamps, created so much flickering as to render such a feat exceedingly difficult. The second-class carriages are very nicely fitted with leathered seats, and are very commodious, and the compartments and arms in the first-class render overcrowding impossible.

There is one point to which attention was attracted as being adverse to the general expectation, and that was that it was understood that there was to be no steam or smoke from the engines used in working this tunnel railway. All we can say is, that on one of the journeys between Portland-road and Baker-street, not only were the passengers enveloped in steam, but it is extremely doubtful if they were not subjected to the unpleasantness of smoke also. This may have arisen from the circumstance before alluded to, that in consequence of the extreme pressure upon their resources, the workers of the metropolitan line were compelled to avail themselves of locomotive as well as rolling stock of the Great Western, and that it is only a temporary inconvenience.

Up to six o'clock the computation was that somewhere about 25,000 persons had been carried over the line, and it is gratifying to remark that, notwithstanding the eagerness of the public to get into the carriages, even when the trains were in motion, no single accident, of any kind, was reported.

It was foreseen at the outset that the Metropolitan would eventually connect with other railway systems, and subsequently this occurred; the Great Western operated a service from Windsor to Farringdon Street via a junction at Paddington; the Midland, Great Northern and Great Eastern Railways connected through underground junctions at King's Cross and Liverpool Street respectively, and the London, Chatham & Dover Railway was linked at Farringdon Street by a short connecting line from Blackfriars.

9,500,000 Londoners were carried in the first year, 12,000,000 the second, and each year after that more and more. Its popularity was further enhanced by the addition of two trains exclusively for workmen. One ran to the City in the morning and the other ran out of the City in the evening, carrying workmen for a fare of one penny for each single journey.

The discomfort of the journey was recorded by R D Blumenfeld in his diary entry of 23 June 1887:

The Central Line under construction



I had my first experience of Hades to-day, and if the real thing is to be like that I shall never again do anything wrong. I got into the Underground railway at Baker Street. I wanted to go to Moorgate Street in the City... The compartment in which I sat was filled with passengers who were smoking pipes, as is the British habit, and as the smoke and sulphur from the engine filled the tunnel, all the windows have to be closed. The atmosphere was a mixture of sulphur, coal dust and foul fumes from the oil lamp above; so that by the time we reached Moorgate Street I was near dead of asphyxiation and heat. I should think these Underground railways must soon be discontinued, for they are a menace to health.

By 1868, the novelty appears to have worn off, judging by this item from *Punch* of 3 October 1868:

THE METROPOLITAN RAILWAY MONITOR.

If you want to go from the City to Hammersmith, and are near the Moorgate Station, whence the trains start regularly every twenty minutes, go by rail. Otherwise, get into a bus. It is practically the quicker way. Unless you carry a time-table in your head, and know exactly when your train is due, you may be a little too late, and have to wait for the next. If you don't keep a sharp look-out, you will miss that.

When you do travel by the Metropolitan Railway, mind these directions. Take a third-class ticket. Anyhow, never take a first. The second and third class carriages are obvious; the first you may have to run up or down for. At intermediate stations the train sometimes stops only a few seconds; and, if you don't jump in at once, will be off without you.

As you will find no one on the platform who can or will give you any information, always get into the first train that arrives. Hold the carriage door open until the Guard comes to shut it, and then shout out your destination. If you are right for it, he will most likely tell you; if you are not, you can get out again.

In like manner, if you are bound for any other station than the terminus, open the door at every one you come to, and ask which it is. You will thus probably succeed in getting an answer.

Unless you are so familiar with the line as to be able to recognise every station at a glance, you will scarcely ever know which is which. The porters still continue to shout "Oosh ! Oosh!" for Shepherd's Bush, and "Nil! Nil!" (which of course is nothing) for Notting Hill; never articulating the name of any station. The Gaulois, the other day, stated that the town of Gerond had made a pronunciamento. Unhappily, that is never done by the attendants of the Metropolitan Railway.

METROPOLITAN PRIZE PUZZLES. No.6.

The underground passage at Clapham Junction station. Any time in the day. Preoccupied traveller - forgotten which stairs to take. Two minutes to catch the train. Puzzle. To find a porter, or any official or anyone, to put you (him) right.

Punch, 21 July 1883



This indistinctness is all the more remarkable from its contrast with the particularly clear voices of the newsboys. "Times, Pall Mall Gazette, Daily, Telegraph, Standard, Star, Punch!" you hear these youths sing out as loud and plain as any cathedral canon could possibly intone the service. Of course. They are paid to sell the papers. They are interested in making themselves heard.

As you can seldom hear, so neither can you hardly ever see, on the Metropolitan line, the name of the station at which your train has stopped at. It is posted on a single board, so that the chances against your catching a sight of it are numerous.

Once again, then, take care to open the door every time your train stops, and keep bawling "Hoy! What station is this?" till you are told.

However, the Metropolitan Railway is, as Iago says of wine, "a good, familiar creature, if it be well used." At any rate, it is an institution commendable in one respect, as being eminently calculated to foster habits of vigilance, activity, and self-help.

Things were no more comfortable for a visitor to the city, as Edmondo de Amicis recorded in *Jottings about London* from 1883:

At one time, finding myself near a station, I thought I would make a trip in the Underground Railway. I go down two or three stairs and find myself suddenly thrown from daylight into obscurity, amid feeble lights, people and noise, trains arriving and departing in the dark. Mine draws up and stops; people jump down and people jump into the carriages; while I am asking where the second class is, the train is gone. 'What does this mean?' I say to an employee. 'Never mind,' he answers, 'here is another.' The trains do not succeed, but pursue each other. The other train comes, I jump in and away we go like an arrow. Then begins a new spectacle. We run through the unknown, among the foundations of the city. At first we are buried in thick darkness, then we see for an instant the dim light of day, and again plunge into obscurity, broken here and there by strange glowings; then between the thousand lights of a station, which appears and disappears in an instant; trains passing unseen; next an unexpected stop, the thousand faces of the waiting crowd, lit up as by the reflection of a fire, and then off again in the midst of a deafening din of slamming doors, ringing bells, and snorting steam; now more darkness, trains and streaks of daylight, more lighted stations, more crowds passing, approaching, and vanishing, until we reach the last station; I jump down; the train disappears, I am shoved through a door, half carried up a stairway, and find myself in daylight. But where? What city is this?

The first section of the District Railway was opened in late 1868 between South Kensington and Westminster, a distance of just over two miles. For its first two-and-a-half years it was worked by Metropolitan stock, under an agreement between the two companies, but in the meantime it had extended its lines eastward under Victoria Embankment to Blackfriars.

In the east the Metropolitan had been busy tunnelling towards Aldgate. The purpose of these short and enormously expensive City extensions was eventually to link the Metropolitan with the District, and so form the Inner Circle line, over which both railways intended to run services to their mutual benefit. To effect this most important link each company agreed to build part of the connecting line. Its length was just 1 mile 10 chains, connecting at a junction with the District at Mansion House, running due east to Mark Lane and finally curving north to make a junction with the Metropolitan at Aldgate Station. By its completion in 1884 an Inner Circle line, already made continuous in the west by a junction at South Kensington, became reality. This became the Circle Line. The Twin Lines system also connected in that year with the East London Railway, 4-and-a-half miles extending from Shoreditch to New Cross, where it forked to serve respectively the South Eastern and the London, Brighton & South Coast stations. This new link enabled through trains to be run between Hammersmith and New Cross via a spur tunnel at Whitechapel (opened 6 October 1884) and the Thames Tunnel.

The steam locomotives of both the Metropolitan and the District railways were expressions of a single design—the 4-4-0Ts built by Beyer, Peacock & Company. They were given mythological names such as *Jupiter*, *Mars*, *Mercury*,



Aldgate East Station, 1895

Apollo, and Orion.

All the locomotives built from 1871 onward (44 in all) were still in use in 1905 when electrification was accomplished. Their olive green colour combined with polished brass dome covers gave the locomotives a smart appearance even though they operated in smoke-filled tunnels. In one particular they were different for the period, in that they were fitted with condensing gear, which gave the driver a means of diverting exhaust steam from the chimney outlet into the water tanks, where the exhaust condensed, leaving the tunnels more or less clear of smoke and vapour. The original passenger coaches were divided into first-, second- and third-class compartments, the first being fitted with carpets, mirrors and well-upholstered seats. Furnishings decreased in elegance according to the class, as did the space allotted per person, and we can imagine that the third-class passenger was glad to resurface, stiff after a ride during which all the windows had to be kept closed.

One of the biggest problems confronting the engineers of the underground steam railways was to provide and maintain a supply of breathable air in tunnels and stations. The Metropolitan engines burned coke, which is clean but gives off poisonous fumes, and after abortive trials with additional ventilators at the stations, the railway went over to coal, with the immediate result of an extremely smoky atmosphere.

As a remedy, certain openings originally provided in the covered way at King's Cross and elsewhere for lighting purposes were adapted as smoke vents, and finally 'blow holes' were bored all along the route between King's Cross and Edgware Road. They were covered by gratings in the roadways above, and were prone to sudden belching of steamy vapour which startled the passing horses. So much about the Metropolitan and District lines was trial and error that it is not surprising that their fortunes should fluctuate—the District Railway in particular had many lean years, but its

prospects were brightened by events that its promoters could hardly have foreseen.

These were the exhibitions held annually at South Kensington, and followed by the famous exhibitions at Earls Court. The great American and Buffalo Bill show there in 1887 was immensely popular, and the District Railway took full advantage of these displays and issued combined rail and entry tickets. The electrification of the Metropolitan and District systems in 1905 was easily the most important event in their respective lives. It was almost a case of electrification or die, for as steam lines their position was deteriorating rapidly in the face of competition from the recently opened tube railways.

Electrification was necessarily a joint undertaking since Inner Circle Metropolitan trains ran over part of the District territory, and in any case their interests had too much in common to allow one railway to electrify with the other.

Eventually, the two lines decided to electrify the up and down sections of line between Earls Court and High Street Kensington as an experiment. This was in 1899, and in the following year a six-coach train comprising two motor coaches and four trailers was tested against a steam-hauled train. The electric train came out of the test with flying colours, and was run on this section of line as a passenger train, the fare being one shilling, against 2d to 4d on the steam.

Although by this time both companies had decided to go ahead with electrification, it was not to be a straightforward matter of getting the job done quickly, for a dispute arose between the two companies as to the particular electrical system to be adopted. The Metropolitan favoured the Ganz system of high-tension alternating current, which was to be generated at 11-12,000V and stepped down by static transformers to 3,000V, at which pressure it was to be transferred to overhead copper wire conductors. The Metropolitan's advisers maintained that this system would prove most economical, since it would require no substations and no heavy conductor rail such as would be necessary with a system using low-tension direct current. Another advantage they claimed was that the static transformers required no attendants and could be locked in a room and left to work themselves.

The District, on the other hand, favoured the British Thomson-Houston Company's low-tension system by which direct current was to be fed to conductor rails on the track. The matter was complicated by the fact that the Metropolitan was then financially sound and therefore powerful enough to insist, if necessary, on its own favoured electrical system; the District on the other hand was practically bankrupt but sincerely believed in the superiority of its system. At this

Liverpool Street station — The underground station was situated directly below the main station



stage there appeared on the scene Charles Tyson Yerkes, an American who for ten years had financed the equipping of elevated railroads and electric tramways in America. The controlling group of shareholders of the District Railway stock had turned to him for financial help, and their negotiations resulted in the formation of the Metropolitan District Electric Traction Co. Ltd, a move which improved the District's financial position and gave it equal bargaining powers with the Metropolitan Railway. Yerkes refused to act on expert advice which favoured the Metropolitan system, and even went so far as to visit Budapest to see the Ganz system, which had been applied to a short section of railway there. He did not



St Mary's station - 1916

see it because by this time the experimental section of line had been dismantled, but he did see the 67-mile Valtellina line, which ran from Lecco alongside Lake Como to Sondrio, and whether he was influenced or not as a result, he finally decided that overhead conductors would not suit London systems.

The matter was now a really serious issue between the two companies, and they finally went to arbitration—the Press making a great play of the controversy meanwhile. After a long sitting, the tribunal appointed by the Board of Trade

The stations were often fitted out with ornate and decorative features, some of which can still be seen



gave judgement for the D.C. system, and the tremendous jobs of building great power stations at Lots Road and Neasden and many substations, and laying miles of cable, were at last put in hand. Some 26 miles in all of the Metropolitan were electrified in three years, a very creditable performance considering the line was clear for workmen for only about six hours out of every 24.

The length of the District to be electrified was even more. At first an experimental electrified line between Ealing and South Harrow was laid down and used both for testing the installation and for training crews to operate the new electric trains. While this was going on the work of electrification was proceeding steadily, and eventually on 22 September 1905 the last steam train puffed around the Inner Circle. Not many months after its exit the whole programme of electrification of both railways was completed. Long, well-lit saloon coaches for passengers replaced the discomforts of dim and stuffy compartment coaches. It was as if the authorities wished to wipe the memories of steam trains from the minds of their passengers, for stations and tunnels were thoroughly cleaned of accumulated layers of soot and grime, and there was much repainting of both lines as soon as possible afterwards. The two companies were eager to make their railways more attractive than those of the competitive tube lines.

Opening dates of sections of line prior to 1900:

- Metropolitan Railway *10 January 1863*
- Farringdon to Paddington *1 October 1863*
- Connection to Great Northern Railway at King's Cross *13 June 1864*
- Paddington to Hammersmith *23 December 1865*
- Farringdon to Moorgate *13 April 1868*
- Baker Street to Swiss Cottage *1 October 1868*
- Paddington to Gloucester Road *24 December 1868*
- High Street Kensington to Gloucester Road *24 December 1868*
- Gloucester Road to Westminster *12 April 1869*
- Gloucester Road to West Brompton *30 May 1870*
- Westminster to Blackfriars *3 July 1871*
- Blackfriars to Mansion House *3 July 1871*
- High Street Kensington to Earl's Court *9 September 1874*
- Gloucester Road to South Kensington *1 February 1875*
- Moorgate to Liverpool Street *18 November 1876*
- Earl's Court to Hammersmith *1 June 1877*
- Liverpool to Aldgate *30 June 1879*
- Hammersmith to Richmond *1 July 1879*
- Swiss Cottage to West Hampstead *24 November 1879*
- Turnham Green to Ealing Broadway *1 March 1880*
- West Hampstead to Willesden Green *2 August 1880*
- Willesden Green to Harrow-on-the-Hill *25 September 1882*
- West Brompton to Putney Bridge *1 May 1883*
- Acton Town to Hounslow Town *21 July 1884*
- Osterley to Hounslow West *6 October 1884*
- Aldgate to Tower Hill *6 October 1884*
- Liverpool Street to Whitechapel *25 May 1885*
- Harrow-on-the-Hill to Pinner *1 September 1887*
- Pinner to Rickmansworth *8 July 1889*
- Rickmansworth to Chesham *1 September 1892*
- Chalfont and Latimer to Aylesbury *1 January 1894*
- Mansion House to Whitechapel Inner Circle complete and junction made with East London Railway at Whitechapel *3 June 1889*

Whitechapel station originally opened in 1876, when the mainline East London Railway (ELR) was extended north from Wapping to Liverpool Street. The ELR owned the tracks and stations, but did not operate trains. From the beginning various railway companies provided services through Whitechapel including the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway (LB&SCR), the London, Chatham & Dover Railway (LC&DR) and the South Eastern Railway (SER). Later the Great Eastern Railway (GER) added services.

On 6 October 1884 the Metropolitan District Railway (MDR, now the District Line) opened a new station adjacent to the deeper ELR station as the terminus of an extension from Mansion House. The new station was given the name Whitechapel (Mile End). The ELR passenger service between Whitechapel and Liverpool Street was withdrawn in 1885.

The station received its present name on 13 November 1901. On 1 February 1902 the MDR station was temporarily closed for rebuilding. It reopened on 2 June 1902 when the MDR opened the Whitechapel & Bow Railway, a joint venture with the London Tilbury & Southend Railway (LT&SR).

Aldgate East station was opened on 6 October 1884 as part of an eastern extension to the Metropolitan District Railway (now the District Line), situated to the west of the current station.

As part of London Transport's *New Works Programme 1935-1940* Aldgate East was re-sited in 1938 to its current location, with an exit facing west toward the original position. Nearby St Mary's (Whitechapel Road)—opened on 3 March 1884—was now so close to Aldgate East as to be unnecessary, so it was closed and an additional exit placed at the east end of the nearby new Aldgate East station.

According to *Wikipedia*, a campaign has been launched by a Tower Hamlets councillor in a bid to change the name of the station to *Brick Lane*.

Sources

London's Underground by H F Howson; *Dickens's Dictionary of London 1888*; *Wikipedia*; *The Underground Railway in Victorian London* by David L Pike; *The Victorian Dictionary*.

Map of the London railway system, showing the underground network—1899 (full size map available at www.victorianlondon.org)





WHITECHAPEL TIMES

By JENNIFER PEGG

Welcome

Hi once again! As it's March and the attack on Ada Wilson happened on the 28th of March 1888, I am focusing on this date. I hope you find the following as interesting as I have this month.

In the News – 28th March 1888

Austria-Hungary

Vienna, March 27th. Frankenstein, a man who shot the housemaid, Kuhnert, nearly killing her after he had induced her to join him in a robbery, was sentenced to seven years imprisonment. However, the jury found him not guilty of the major charge of attempted murder. The girl was condemned to two and a half years hard labour. Frankenstein shot the girl in order to make it appear that she was wounded whilst resisting the robbers. She consented to being shot in the arm; instead she was shot in the breast.

Mr F.N. Charrington *Charrington in Trouble*



Mr F.N. Charrington of 41-Stepney-green, who is known for taking an active part in the suppression of disorderly houses in the East End, was summoned for assaulting one Benjamin Atkinson of 77 Bedford-street, Stepney. On Monday week, the complainant was left in charge of the house by Mr and Mrs Haines, the occupiers. It was claimed that Charrington went to the house and demanded he should be admitted in order to obtain a box belonging to a young woman. He was refused entry as neither Haines was at home. It is alleged that he then forced entry and in doing so assaulted the complainant. Charrington, who was accompanied by other men, then took the box away.

The defence said that Charrington had been doing useful work by rescuing fallen women in the East End and that it was not hard to see why this might make him unpopular with certain people. It was stated by the defence that it was highly improbable that he would act as claimed, that he went to the house for a legitimate purpose as a girl, formerly a resident there, had entered his home and had asked him to go and collect her box. The box was taken from the house without any breach of the peace. The justice then stopped the proceedings and said he ought to adjudicate in Charrington's favour. He further advised that in future Charrington should not carry out such work himself as it could potentially lead to a breach of the peace. The summons was then dismissed.

Pimlico Assault

At Westminster, Louis Heilfink, aged 37, a music teacher, of 57 Tachbrock-street, Pimlico, was charged on warrant with assaulting Dorothea Caroline Seilberge, a single woman, aged 26, of 27 Cumberland-street, Pimlico. Mr E.D. Rymer defended, whilst Mr Churchly, a solicitor appeared in court in order to prosecute. Churchly stated that although the defendant was taken into custody on an assault charge, he was further charged with abducting the victim and of detaining her against her will for an immoral purpose.

The chief clerk, Mr Safford, read out the sworn information on behalf of the prosecutor as follows, "On 14th March I left Rotterdam with Heilfink, who said he was a merchant with a house in London, and that he would marry me. He brought me to a brothel, compelled me to go upon the streets, get money by prostitution, and bring what I could obtain home to him. He sent another woman—a prostitute—with me. When I came home without any money or with not sufficient he used to beat me. On 25th inst., about half-past 2 in the morning I had no money, and he beat me about the body and kicked me; he hurt me very much. He then threw me into the street and locked the door on me. I walked about the streets all night as I had nowhere to go and no money."

Mr Rymer said he had been instructed that his client was prepared to meet the charge. It was said that the prisoner must be remanded but that as the case stood, bail would be accepted, with two sureties of £25 each.



Jewellery theft

In Lambeth, Emma Johnson, aged 27, a laundress, was charged with breaking the window of 70 Coldharbour-lane and stealing one gold watch and one silver watch that were the property of William Henry Nicolls. Johnson was seen, Monday week, to have picked up a stone and smashed a sheet of plate glass in the window of the shop belonging to the prosecutor and then take the two watches from inside the property. Before the prisoner was able to get away, she was stopped, and on being searched the watches were found in her dress pocket. It was said the robbery was a daring one and a sentence of six months hard labour was given.



Child Abuse Case

At the Thames Police-court, Teresa Smith, aged 22, of 88 Catherine-buildings, Cartwright-road, Whitechapel, was again charged on remand with ill-treatment of her illegitimate child Henry Smith, aged 4. The evidence that was presented at the first hearing was corroborated by a doctor from the Society of Prevention of Cruelty to Women and Children. An officer of the same society stated that Henry had gained two pounds in the last week. The prisoner was committed for trial.

The interior of Thames Police-court



Thames Police-court - c 1900



Priests in Court

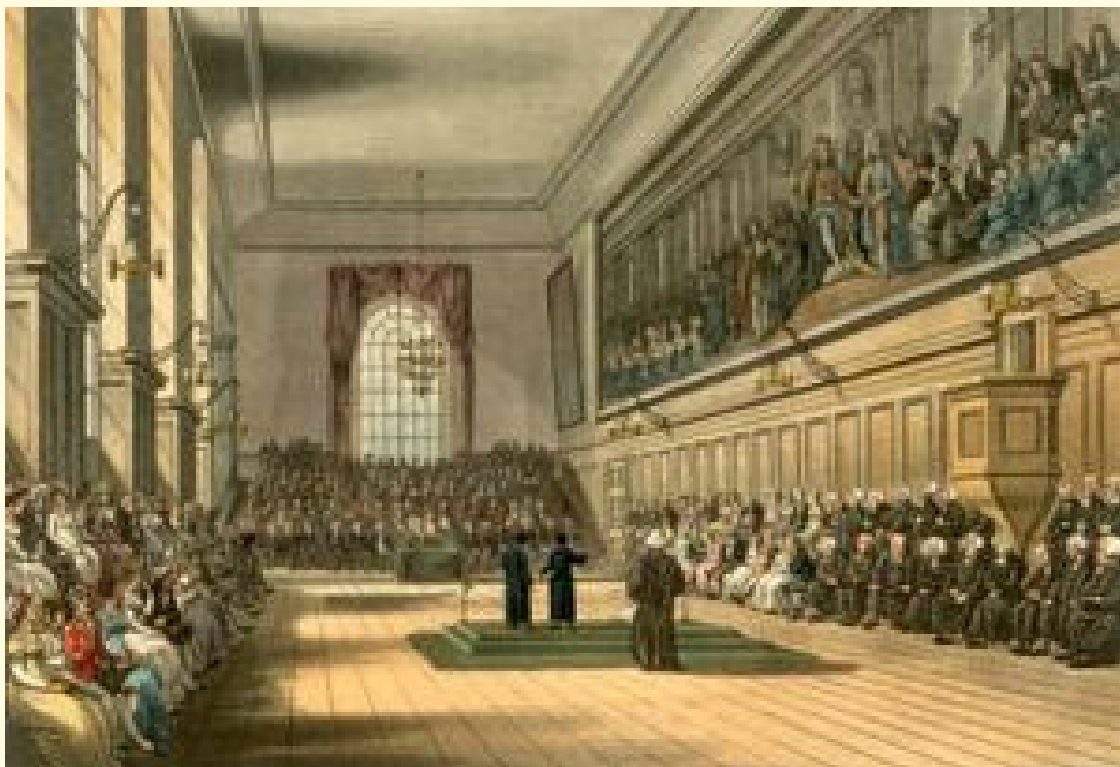
At the Guildhall yesterday, the Alderman Sir John Lawrence oversaw the case of the Rev. Charles Hart Burleigh, aged 28, who refused to state his address, and the Rev. Francis George Widdows, aged 37, who belonged to the Martin Luther Church, Speldhurst-road, South Hackney, and resided at 22 Glaskin-road. The defendants were both charged on a warrant with having acted indecently towards two boys. Mr Humphreys stated that he had been instructed by the governors of Christ's Hospital to prosecute the prisoners, who, it would be proved had been guilty of gross indecency towards two or three boys in the hospital.

Detective Sergeant John Mitchell informed the court that he had received two warrants for the apprehension of the defendants. On Monday afternoon he and other officers were in Hampstead-road when he saw Burleigh leaving number 156 in the company of a young man. On informing him of the warrant, Burleigh stated he was not guilty. He was then taken to Bishopsgate Police Station where he was charged. That evening, Mitchell went with the boy, Herbert Day, to Glaskin-road, South Hackney. There he saw Widdows leave number 22. After giving Day directions, Mitchell saw him go to Widdows and shake hands at which time he heard the prisoner call Day 'Bertie'. Mitchell then read the warrant to Widdows, who also denied the charges. Both prisoners asked for bail and Widdows stated he wished to fulfil his duties in the Holy Week. However, in both cases bail was denied and the prisoners were removed to cells.



Bishopsgate Police Station, 1866

Christ's Hospital



Execution

There was an execution at Winchester at eight am yesterday. George Clarke, an army pensioner, was executed for the murder of his step-daughter Annie Vaughan. The culprit had, since his conviction, been penitent and admitted to the justice of the sentence. The executioner was Mr Berry. The culprit apparently ascended the scaffold without a tremor. Mr Berry gave him a fall of six feet and his death was instantaneous.



Action for Damages

Yesterday at the City of London Court, before Mr O.B.C. Harrison and a jury, the case of Dudley v Smith was heard. The action was brought by Mr Dudley, an account's clerk, to recover 25 pounds of damages for injuries sustained by the alleged negligence of the servants of the defendants, Messrs W.H. Smith and Sons, newsagents in the Strand. On November 18th 1887 the plaintiff had wanted to catch a train at Cannon-street Station to Waterloo that departed at five minutes to six. When the plaintiff passed the barrier and had his ticket clipped he ran to catch the train as it was about to start. At this point another passenger ran out in front of him, knocking down a board standing against a bookstall belonging to the defendants. This caused the plaintiff to fall over the metals and sustain a serious scalp wound and damage to his clothes. He was unable to attend work for a fortnight.

The defence stated that if anyone was liable it was the South-Eastern Railway Company, or the person who knocked down the board. It was also outlined that contributory negligence may have occurred as the plaintiff ran to catch the train and this was the principal cause of the accident. However, the jury found in favour of the plaintiff awarding him 21 pounds. Leave for appeal was then granted.

(Source *Times*, 28th March 1888)

City of London Court



New Hospital for Women, Marylebone-road.



Notices

Charities

New Hospital for Women, 222, Marylebone-road. The physicians were women. Funds were urgently needed.

St Luke's Hospital for Lunatics, est. 1751. Contributions were earnestly needed as all patients were admitted, but paid according to circumstances.



St Luke's Hospital for the Insane

Publications

The Arrow, a high-class weekly paper would appear from the 29th of March, price 3d. This was an unconventional review and newspaper published every Thursday out of 8 John-street.

Just out—price 1s—*The Relics of St Thomas of Canterbury* by Rev. John Morris, the author of *The Life of St Thomas Becket*.

(Source *Times*, 28th March 1888)

Sport

Racquet

Oxford v Cambridge

The establishment of the Queens Club in West Kensington meant that the Universities were able to return to play in London. The four-handed match was decided on the 27th March. Cambridge won the game by 15 – 7 and the match by four games to none.

(Source *Times*, 28th March 1888)

Weather

28th March 1888

Aberdeen – 35 F

Paris – 55 F

Rochefort and Jersey – 45 F

Stockholm – 28 F

Wick – 33 F

The temperatures had risen in general but had done so irregularly. There had been unsettled conditions with no indication of any improvement. Easterly winds had developed over Scotland. The whole of the UK had been embraced within a cyclonic system. A strong to moderate breeze was detected from the south and south-west at the southern stations and a strong and increasing breeze from the east to south east was detected at Aberdeen. Much wet snow had fallen in Ireland, whilst Yarmouth had experienced a thunderstorm in the afternoon.

Outlook for the 29th March 1888

It was forecast that a continuation of rough squally showers was likely.

(Source *Times*, 29th March 1888)

It Also Happened On28th March

It was on this day, in 845 AD, that Paris was sacked by Viking raiders, probably under Ragnor Lodbrok.

It is the date, in 1854, that Britain and France declared war on Russia and so the Crimean War began.



James Callaghan

It is also the day that James Callaghan, British Prime Minister, was defeated in a vote of no confidence and parliament dissolved, in 1979. The vote was lost by a minority of one.

It was on this day in 1990 that George H.W. Bush awarded Jesse Owens the Congressional gold medal.

It is also teacher day in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

It is the birth date of:-

King Frederick III, King of Denmark, born 1609,

Dirk Bogarde, actor, born 1921,

Michael Parkinson, chat show host and broadcaster, born 1935,

Neil Kinnock, former leader of the British Labour Party, born 1945,

And Nick Frost, comic and actor, star of *Hot Fuzz* and *Spaced*, born 1972.

Virginia Woolf



It is also the date in 1941 that Virginia Woolf, the British writer died (she was born in 1882).

Did you know the year 1888 was a leap year?

Sources *Wikipedia*,

http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/wars_crimean.html,

http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/dates/stories/march/28/newsid_2531000/2531007.stm)

The Charge of the Light Brigade - the greatest disaster of the Crimean War



CHRIS SCOTT'S

Press Trawl

The People

11 November 1888

THE ATTEMPTED MURDER AT PECKHAM

Thomas Onley, 62, traveller, and Frank Hall, 20, seaman, were charged, on remand, at the Lambeth Police Court this week, with being concerned together in attempting to murder Sarah Brett, at 66 Hornby road, Peckham under circumstances already reported in the People.

The prosecutrix had up to now been unable to give evidence.

Inspector Taylor was recalled, and said that at the station Hall said to Onley, "You done it, and I'll be a witness against you." Onley said, "I was in bed and asleep, and know nothing about it."

The prosecutrix was now called and said she lived at 66 Hornby road, Peckham. She had lived with Onley as his wife for eighteen years. On the 3rd of October her son came home from sea, bringing with him the prisoner Hall. Hall remained in the house, and he was treated as one of the family. On the 15th ult. Onley was out until about a quarter past three o'clock, but shortly after left. He returned about five o'clock and commenced abusing her. He then went to a public house opposite. She went to the public house about eight o'clock and asked Onley to come home. He was very drunk then. He said he should come when he liked. She went home and prepared supper. The two prisoners came in about a quarter past eleven o'clock. Onley said, "I'll let them know you are no wife of mine and have no business here." Hall got up and said, "I mean to look after Mr. Onley." Witness said, "Get out of the house, you ungrateful villain; you don't lodge here." He, with an oath, struck her on the face. She returned the blow, which sent him back in the chair. She said, "I think it quite sufficient to have Mr. Onley on me." Onley then said, "I'd give any one 10s. who would do another Whitechapel murder of you." Directly he said that he went upstairs to bed. Hall immediately knocked over the lighted lamp on the table. He then struck her on the side of the head, which caused her to fall. She then felt him grasp her by the throat, and then she felt the knife across her throat. She struggled and became insensible. She did not know how she got into the street, and remembered no more until she was in the infirmary. The carving knife produced was upon the table at the time of the attack upon her. She came out of the infirmary on the 31st ult. and had since been living with Onley.

Dr. Maynard stated that he was summoned to attend the prosecutrix, and found her lying in the carriage way in Hornby road. He found a wound on the left side of the neck about six inches in length. The depth of the cut was at the commencement hardly half an inch. It was not that depth the whole length. It was a clean cut wound at the commencement and might have been caused by the carving knife produced. He dressed the injury, and had her removed to the infirmary. The wound in itself was not dangerous.

Mr. Biron thought a jury would not convict Onley, and he would be discharged. The prisoner Hall, who declined to say anything in defence, was committed to take his trial for attempted murder.

HOUSE OF COMMONS. The Regulations of Lodging Houses



Contemporary sketch showing the appalling conditions in many doss houses

Mr. Matthews, in answer to Mr. Howell, stated that he was informed by the police authorities that the provisions of the existing law for regulating common lodging houses were fully carried out. Officers were specially appointed in every district of London to inspect the houses, and to enforce the existing regulations against overcrowding and unsanitary conditions. The laws had been proved to be sufficient, but he thought the question as to enforcing unsanitary improvements might with advantage be considered.

Mr. Howell asked whether it was not a fact that in reality common lodging houses had been associated with many of the crimes which had lately occurred in the East End.

Mr. Matthews assented to the proposition in general terms.

THE SUICIDE IN HYDE PARK

A man who committed suicide in Hyde Park on Friday by shooting himself in the mouth with a revolver, has been fully identified as Richard Brown, a constable of the E Division, belonging to Hunter street Police Station.

STRANGE AFFAIR AT CROYDON

A young woman, named Annie Murphy, living with her widowed mother at No. 1, Sanderstead road, Croydon, went out for some fish for her supper about nine o'clock on Thursday night, and when in the Brighton Road, only a few yards from the end of her road, a tall, thin man came upon her suddenly, and caught her round the waist. She struggled and screamed, and a police constable who was close by ran up to the spot. By that time, however, the man had got away, and the young woman only complained that he had caught her round the waist, and said she thought she should summon him. No arrest was made. An hour afterwards, however, while sitting at supper, Murphy discovered that she had been stabbed in some way, her dress having been cut through to the breast. She immediately went to the doctor, and also informed the police, who have not yet found the man wanted. Murphy states that she felt no stab or extra pressure on the breast at the time of the assault upon her. The police are on the look out for the man.

THE THEFT FROM ALDGATE POST OFFICE.

At the Marlborough street Police Court on Friday, Francis Robarti, described as a tipster, was sent to prison for two months for having in his possession 120 fivepenny stamps, alleged to be part of the proceeds of a burglary at the Post Office, Mitre square, Aldgate, when stamps of all kinds, to the value of £268, were carried away.

GENERAL CHATTER

It is, I presume, a diabolical prompting when one feels inclined at church to jump up and give the lie direct to the reverend gentleman in the pulpit. That unholy longing got hold of me last Sunday morning, and only with great difficulty did I bridle my tongue. But had I not fair excuse for indignation, when the preacher, an East End missionary parson, took upon himself to state that “journalists make sport of the East End murders”? Those were his very words, and, being a journalist, I naturally felt disposed to hurl back the false charge in his teeth. I defy him or any other libeller of the press to mention a single journal which has written in a jocular tone about the monster’s awful doings.

A propos of “Jack the Ripper,” the following story is going the rounds. One day lately two ladies well known in London society were walking down the street discussing the murders, and happened to express a desire that should the murderer be discovered he should be delivered up to the women of London to be lynched. The next day they both received communications, signed “Jack the Ripper,” informing them that they had been overheard and traced to their respective homes. and assuring them a speedy visit from their anonymous correspondent. Having taken these missives to Scotland Yard, it was found that they were both in the same handwriting as the more important of those received by the authorities previous to the Mitre square and Berner street tragedies, and the two ladies have since then been under the special protection of the police.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday

RESIGNATION OF SIR CHARLES WARREN

The Home Secretary, replying to Mr. Gent-Davis, declined to lay on the table documents which would show the reason for the resignation of Mr. Monro of his office as assistant commissioner of police.

In answer to Mr. Conybeare, the Home Secretary stated that the failure of the police to discover the person guilty of the Whitechapel murders was due, not to any new organisation of the police department, but to the extraordinary cunning with which the perpetrator of the murders carried out his crimes. He also stated that the Chief Commissioner, Sir Charles Warren, tendered his resignation which had been accepted.

REWARDS FOR THE DISCOVERY OF CRIME

In answer to Mr. C. Graham and Mr. Hunter, the Home Secretary explained that the custom of offering rewards for the discovery of crime had, after due inquiry and consideration, been set aside by Sir W. Harcourt when at the Home Office, and the rule he had introduced had been followed by Sir R. Cross and Mr. Childers. In not offering a reward for the discovery of the Whitechapel murderer he was merely adhering to the rule established by his predecessors, and though the rule might be subject to exceptions, there were reasons for not departing from it in the present instance, such as the excited state of public opinion and the consequent danger of false charges being preferred against individuals. Neither the Home Office nor Scotland Yard, however, would leave a stone unturned to bring the murderer to justice.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday

SIR CHARLES WARREN’S RESIGNATION

The Home Secretary read the correspondence which had passed between himself and Sir Charles Warren, in reference to the article in Murray’s Magazine, which had led to Sir Charles’s resignation. His attention having been called to the rule which forbade officers of the police from contributing articles to the press relating to their department, Sir Charles replied that if he had been told, when he was offered the commissionership, that such a rule was in force he would

not have accepted the office. He declined to accept such instructions, and he again placed his resignation in the hands of the Government.

In answer to Mr. Graham as to the word “again” in Sir Charles’s letter, Mr. Matthews stated that there had been previous differences which led Sir C. Warren to tender his resignation. He declined to say when these differences occurred.

COMMONS

Wednesday

THE METROPOLITAN POLICE

Committee of Supply being resumed, further discussion took place upon the vote for the metropolitan police, which Mr. Bradlaugh had proposed to reduce by £1,500, the amount of the salary of the chief commissioner.

It was maintained by Sir W. Barttelot that justice had not been done by Sir C. Warren, who had endeavoured conscientiously to discharge his duty, and whose retirement was regretted by the force, which he had put into the best working order.

Mr. C. Graham admitted that the honour and courage of Sir Charles Warren were beyond doubt, but insisted that he was the worst qualified man in the British Empire to fill the position of chief commissioner. At the same time the Hon. Member held the Home Secretary responsible for the disorders which had arisen from attempts to suppress public meetings, and declared that he had many times stood between the Right Hon. Gentleman and death. Unless the people were treated in a different manner, there would be great risk of frightful horrors arising.

Mr. Bartley considered that Sir C. Warren had been sacrificed to a cry against those who had done their duty.

Sir William Harcourt was painfully surprised at the new state of things which had arisen in Scotland Yard and, without wishing to disparage the authority of the chief commissioner, contended that the relations between the latter and the Home Secretary should be that of confidential colleagues. He attached enormous importance to retaining the civilian character of the police force, and held that no greater misfortune could happen to the metropolis than the creation of an antagonism between the police and the people.

UNFAIR BLAME

Alluding to the Whitechapel murders, he justified the refusal of the Home Secretary to offer rewards, as they had never done good in leading to the detection of crime; and he urged that it was most unfair to blame the police for the failure to bring to justice the perpetrators of the East end atrocities.

Mr. Matthews expressed his satisfaction with the temperate and judicial speech of the Right Hon. Gentleman, which was dictated by the highest standard of Conservative feeling, and said the Government had always thought that it would, in general, be most unwise and disastrous to suppress public meetings.

Acknowledging the high character, great ability, and indefatigable activity of Sir Charles Warren, he denied emphatically that the chief commissioner had been sacrificed to the demands of the demagogues, and again explained that Sir C. Warren’s resignation had been accepted because it was necessary to uphold the principle that the last resort must be to the Secretary of State, who was responsible to Parliament. He thought the metropolitan police force was in efficient condition, and he did not contemplate anything like extensive changes in its organisation. The Right Hon. Gentleman subsequently read an official communication positively contradicting Mr. Graham’s allegation that there had been a collision between the police and the people at Clerkenwell Green on the previous evening.

Sir R. Fowler argued that the Government had no alternative but to accept Sir C. Warren’s resignation.

SIR CHARLES WARREN

Wednesday's sitting in the House of Commons was devoted entirely to the discussion of Mr. Bradlaugh's motion to reduce the Metropolitan Police Vote by the amount of the Commissioner's salary. A proposal of this kind could not fail to produce a very full discussion of the whole subject of Sir Charles Warren's resignation, the conduct of the police and of the Government with reference to true and false rights of public meeting, and the condition - past, present, and future - of the metropolitan police. It is just as well that such a discussion as this should have taken place; indeed, it was inevitable that it should do so. Long before the Home Secretary announced the resignation of the Commissioner, the atmosphere of public opinion had become heavy with clouds of controversy concerning the conduct of Sir Charles Warren and the force under his control, and a full explanation - or as full an explanation as could be had - on the subject of the force, its condition, and its chief, was required in order to clear the air.

The debate in Parliament on Mr. Bradlaugh's motion has certainly done much to enlighten the public on several points. In the first place, it has been made perfectly clear that Sir Charles Warren's resignation has not been caused by the failure of the police to discover the Whitechapel murderer. The professional agitators, who have never ceased to revile Sir Charles Warren, loudly clamoured for a new Commissioner who should accomplish the impossible task of following up a clue where no clue exists. It is satisfactory to know that the clamour of these personages has had nothing to do with the resignation of the Commissioner. Still less is his action to be traced to any dissatisfaction on the part of the Home Secretary or the Government with his conduct in connection with the Trafalgar square riots. To Sir Charles Warren the anniversary of the famous "Bloody Sunday" can have brought no recollection save that of duty done, of an unpleasant and difficult task performed with the energy and promptitude necessary for the due vindication of law and order and the liberty of the streets from mob control. That, and no other, is the judgment on Sir Charles Warren's behaviour which has so long been formed by every sensible man in the kingdom. Sir Charles Warren will be remembered in the history of the metropolitan police and of London as having saved the metropolis from what might have been (and under a less determined Commissioner would have been) a succession of street riots, such as London has never seen since the Gordon riots one hundred years ago.

Caricature of Sir Charles Warren



What, then, is the cause of the Commissioner's resignation? All sorts of rumours have been industriously put about by those who desire to discredit both the force and its commander. None of them have any serious foundation. Sir Charles Warren, as is amply proved by the statements made and letters read in Parliament, resigned his position simply because he and the Home Secretary could not work together. That is the plain English of the matter, and the fact is neither very startling nor very surprising. The sight of two officials unable to pull together is not now presented to the public gaze for the first time in the history of this country. Of such a state of things there is no satisfactory explanation to be given. When two men cannot work together the sooner their relations terminate the better - that is to say, if those relations are of any importance to the public. To cry over spilt milk is useless, and to point out how the spill might have been avoided is mere waste of time. Probably, if Mr. Matthews had possessed a little more tact Sir Charles Warren would not have resigned; but then one can no more supply a man with tact than one can by taking thought add one cubit to his stature. In Wednesday's debate Sir William Harcourt made the principal speech, and the way in which he dealt with the matter of public meetings is much to be deplored. Speaking in virtue of his past experience as Home Secretary, Sir William Harcourt ought to have devoted himself rather to strengthening the cause of law and order than to weakening the hands of authority. In connection with the timeworn subject of Trafalgar square, Sir William Harcourt expressed himself in vague generalities, which were, doubt-

less, meant to be vague with a view to variety of interpretation as occasion might serve. Vague, however, as they were, they were yet sufficiently precise to raise a completely false issue. Sir William Harcourt spoke as if the meetings in Trafalgar square were, and are, prohibited because of the political opinions of the persons who desired to hold them. Now, Sir William Harcourt knows perfectly well that this is not the case. The meetings were prohibited simply and solely because they constituted an obstruction in a crowded thoroughfare, and a nuisance to the inhabitants of the adjacent district. Everybody knows that there are plenty of places in London where political linen of the dirtiest kind may be washed and hung out without any interruption at the hands of the police. Hyde Park on a Sunday is rarely without its meeting of Socialists and other faddists, who are perfectly free to make the welkin ring with their denunciations of things in general. Sir William Harcourt had no business to make it appear that the Trafalgar square meetings were suppressed on political grounds. Sir Charles Warren suppressed them as a public nuisance, and earned the gratitude of all respectable citizens by doing so. It is to be hoped that his successor will be no less prompt should occasion arise. Who is his successor is to be we do not know. Possibly Mr. Matthews thinks in Sir Charles Warren's case is what Sir William Harcourt said of Sir Edmund Henderson:-

"It is much easier to get rid of a good man than to get a better."

A MADMAN IN COURT

A very painful scene occurred in the Marylebone Police Court, on the hearing of a charge against Philip Gad Cornish, 23, a schoolmaster, of Ratling Hope School, Pontesbury, near Shrewsbury, who was said to be a lunatic wandering at large, and not under proper control. Before being brought into the court the poor fellow was heard shouting and kicking violently at the door. When brought into court by two officers, both his hands were tightly pressing the top of his head, his eyes were glaring wildly, and he generally presented a very distressing appearance.

Police constable 192F said he found the man in Praed street, about five o'clock on Monday, behaving in such a way as to convince him that he was not of sound mind, and so he arrested him. There was a companion with Cornish, and from the two he learned that they had come to London to catch the Whitechapel murderer. The officer's evidence was frequently interrupted by the violent behaviour of Cornish, who shouted at the top of his voice, and threw himself about, and stamped with his foot, demanding that the witness - who was, he said, the son of perdition - should be made to tell the truth. The younger man who had accompanied the prisoner said he was a blacksmith. On Monday morning Cornish asked him to accompany him from Ratling Hope to London, as he had been appointed to come up and catch the author of the Whitechapel murders, for which he was to receive a large sum of money. He thought it was all right, so he left his work and accompanied Cornish, and they arrived in London in the afternoon. He thought Cornish was all right when they started, but he saw a change come over him while they were on the journey.

Mr. De Rutzen ordered that the poor fellow should be taken to the workhouse in a cab.

SIR C. WARREN AND HIS OFFICERS

It having been represented to Sir C. Warren that the officers of the Metropolitan Police, so recently acting under him, wanted an opportunity of expressing personally their deep regret at his leaving them, and their high esteem of him as a chief, an opportunity was given on Thursday afternoon, at his residence, 44 St. George's road, S.W. Out of the twenty four superintendents of divisions in the metropolis, no less than twenty one attended, viz., Superintendents Cutbush, Waire, Fisher, Sheppard, Hume, Draper, Steggles, Giles, Jones, Arnold, Brannan, Neylan, M'Hugo, Harris, Hunt, Sanies, Lucas, Beard, Hurst and Skeats. Two superintendents, Keating and Sherlock, are out of town on leave, and Superintendent Shore, indisposed, wrote expressing his regret at his inability to attend. Sir C. Warren, on receiving them, said he, too, was anxious to meet his officers, as he was most anxious to express to his officers, and through them the man, his keen appreciation of the loyal manner in which he had been supported during his tenure of office. They had supported him in a thorough manner, and the successful result arrived at could not have been attained otherwise. Sir Charles then referred to the cause of his resignation, and briefly but generally attributed it to the interfer-

ence of Home Office subordinates with what he considers the routine work of his department. The absolute veto or control of the Home Secretary he had never disputed. Continuing, he referred to his two years' hard work from morn to night in putting the organisation on its proper footing. After such exertions he had hoped that now the internal administration had been perfected he could have devoted more time to divisional inspection. These benefits, however, he trusted, would be transmitted to his successor. He could fearlessly say that he had worked for the benefit and better protection and government of the metropolis and the benefit of the force as a body, and, whatever the public may say, the police have been trying to do their duty, though some persons, for political purposes, had been trying to find fault with them. In conclusion, Sir C. Warren said he had made many friendships which he valued, but he had never tried to make himself popular. He had worked himself and had expected others under him to do so. With regard to the police generally he had never come across a body of men who had better or more zealously and indefatigably done their duty, and he thanked officers and men most heartily and sincerely.

Superintendent Draper, as the oldest member of the force, and who had been deputed to speak on behalf of his brother officers, in a few well chosen words said they could not fail to sensitively feel the resignation of their esteemed chief. From the first they had felt confidence in him as a leader, and he had reciprocated that confidence. They felt, too, that in all he had done he had had their interests at heart, and to render the service efficient. Whatever his (Sir C. Warren's) future career may be, they should watch it with interest, and in his retirement he carried with him the respect and admiration of every man in the force.

Superintendent Fisher endorsed the opinions of the previous speaker, and the interview ended.

A THAMES MYSTERY

Supposed Murder of a Woman

William Woof, a waterman, was in his boat off Wapping Stairs one day last week when he noticed the body of a woman dressed in superior clothing floating down the river. He secured the body and took it ashore. The police were then communicated with, and the body was removed to the mortuary. It was fully dressed, with the exception of hat and boots, which were missing. Inquiries were at once set on foot by the police, and it was found that the body was that of Frances Annie Hancock, who had been missing since October 21st. On that day she was seen walking along the Strand, in company with a tall fair gentleman, with heavy moustache. She was then wearing a gold necklace, and that was the last time she was seen alive. When the body was recovered the necklace was missing. Deceased resided at Prusom street, Brixton, where, it is stated, she was supported by some gentleman at present unknown.

At an inquiry held the other day by Mr. Baxter, coroner for the South eastern division of Middlesex, on the body of the deceased, only evidence of identification was taken, and owing to the mysterious nature of the case, and supposition that the woman had met her death by foul means, the coroner adjourned the inquiry in order that a post mortem examination might be made of the body, and to give the police an opportunity of full inquiry into the facts of the case, which, it is stated, will be a of a startling and sensational character, owing to the relations formerly existing between the dead woman and a gentleman of distinction.

EXTRAORDINARY OUTRAGE IN LAMBETH

A Woman Stabbed

A respectably dressed young man, giving the name of Collingwood Hilton Fenwick, aged 26, was charged at the Southwark Police Court on Thursday, before Mr. Slade, with unlawfully cutting and wounding a young woman of the unfortunate class, named Ellen Worsfold, with intent to do her grievous bodily harm.

The prosecutrix, who is 19 years of age, stated that about one o'clock that morning she met the prisoner in Westminster Bridge road, and he accompanied her to her lodgings at 18 Ann's place, Waterloo road. On arriving there he gave her half a crown, and soon afterwards she felt herself stabbed. She thereupon cried for help, and made for the door; but the prisoner put his back against it and prevented her from going out, at the same time threatening her by holding up an open pen knife. Finding herself bleeding very much, she called out to a man named "Jim," living in the

next room. The prisoner then opened the door and ran downstairs and the witness followed him. At that moment "Jim" appeared on the landing, and asked the witness what was the matter. She replied, "I believe he has stabbed me." The prisoner ran away, but "Jim" followed and caught him, and she gave him in charge.

James Peters, a bricklayer, said he lived with his wife at 18 Ann's place, in the next room to the prosecutrix. About one o'clock that morning he was in bed but not asleep, and heard his name shouted loudly twice. He jumped out of bed and went out on the landing to ascertain what was the matter. He saw the prosecutrix on the stairs and the prisoner at the street door, trying to open it. The prosecutrix complained that she had been stabbed, and showed him her hands, which were covered with blood. The witness went back to his room, put on some clothing, and then ran downstairs. By that time the prisoner had got the door open, and on seeing the witness, he ran away. The witness gave chase and overtook the prisoner in Tower street, and, on seizing him, the latter said, "If you will let me go I will give you a sovereign." The witness said, "Yes, when a policeman comes." The prisoner then gave up a knife, a small pearl handled one with one short blade.

Mr. Nairn (the clerk): Had you seen the knife before?

Witness: Yes, sir. When I came down the first time he held the knife out towards me and threatened to strike me with it. I was frightened to go near him, because I thought he was "Jack the Ripper."

The witness, in cross examination, said that after he had detained the prisoner for a short time a plain clothes constable arrived.

Dr. Frederick W. Farr, acting surgeon to the L Division of police, said that he had examined the prosecutrix, and found her suffering from a punctured wound half an inch long. It was not a dangerous wound, but it had bled profusely and would take a considerable time to heal. He did not examine the prisoner, but he appeared to have been drinking. The wound was such as might have been made with the knife produced.

Police constable Bettle said that the prisoner was given in his charge by the witness Peters, and on the way to the station he said, "I have made a great fool of myself tonight. I have made a mistake which will be a warning to me for some time to come."

Inspector Jackson told the magistrate that the prisoner had given a correct address, and was stated to be a gentleman of independent means. At the lodgings where he had resided for three years he bore a very good character.

Mr. Slade remanded the prisoner for a week.

THE "WHITE'S ROW GANG."

At the Worship street Police Court a costermonger, named George Birmingham, has been committed for trial on a charge of being concerned with others in feloniously cutting and wounding a labourer named Hall.

The prosecutor was passing along Bethnal Green at midnight on the 27th ult., and stopped to see the cause of a disturbance. He was "clouted" on the head, and on getting out of the crowd was followed, knocked down and kicked, and rendered insensible. He was also stabbed, and a knife was picked up on the spot. The prisoner was said to belong to what is known as the "White's row Gang."

Two men were brought before Mr. Bros, at the Clerkenwell Police Court on Tuesday, charged with being drunk and disorderly, and the evidence disclosing that they had been proclaiming themselves to be "Jack the Ripper," the magistrate sentenced each of them to fourteen days' imprisonment, without the option of a fine.

ARREST AT MARKET HARBOROUGH

A man was arrested at Market Harborough on Thursday night on suspicion of being the Whitechapel murderer. He had been lodging in the neighbourhood for two months, but had been frequently absent. He is a very dark, swarthy looking man, and speaks with a slightly foreign accent. His behaviour at Harborough has always been very quiet, but he has no occupation nor apparent means of subsistence. The account he has given of himself to the police is not satisfactory.

A MAN IN WOMAN'S CLOTHES

At the Bow street Police Court on Friday a man named Edward Shannon, aged 44, a bricklayer, was charged with being a suspected person loitering for the purpose of committing a felony.

Mr. Church, a job master, of Keppel street, stated that on Thursday, at one o'clock, he saw the prisoner in the neighbourhood dressed in woman's clothes. He followed him into Bedford place, and owing to the suspicious manner in which he entered a doorway the witness gave information to the police, and the accused was taken into custody.

Police constable 299E deposed that he touched the prisoner on the shoulder and really thought he was a woman until he spoke and said, "I am here on a bit of business." At the station he said he was looking out for "Jack the Ripper." He was wearing a hat and veil and a skirt.

Mr. Bridge remanded him for inquiries.

EXCITING SCENE IN OLD KENT ROAD

Considerable excitement was caused in the Old Kent road on Wednesday night, it being freely reported that "Jack the Ripper" had been captured in that neighbourhood. The details which were spread about were of a highly sensational character, and it was said that not only had the murderer been taken, but that the knives with which he had been in the habit of carrying out his fiendish operations had also fallen into the hands of the police. Inquiries showed that on Wednesday afternoon a man called at the Thomas A'Beckett public house, in the Old Kent road and partook of refreshments. He was carrying a long, black shiny bag, and on leaving he asked the barmaid to look after it for him, and he would call for it later on. During the man's absence the barmaid's suspicions were aroused by the black bag, and she opened it, when to her astonishment she found it contained a dagger, a pair of scissors of a very large pattern, a four bladed pocket knife, and a life preserver broken in two. She at once communicated the discovery to the proprietor of the establishment, Bassett, and he lost no time in letting the authorities at Rodney road Police Station know of it. A couple of detectives were despatched to the house, and being informed of the man's intention to return for the bag they concealed themselves in anticipation of his arrival. About six o'clock on Wednesday evening the man walked into the public house very much the worse for drink, and at his request the bag was handed over to him. Accompanied by another man, whom he picked up in the public house, the supposed murderer made his way down the Old Kent road in the direction of the canal bridge, and while he was in a pawnbroker's shop negotiating for the disposal of his watch, the two detectives, who had followed close behind, apprehended him. He acted in a disorderly manner, and appeared to be very drunk. At the station he was charged with being drunk and disorderly. He said he was a hairdresser, and that he lived in Pennethorne road, Peckham. From information since obtained by the police it appears that he had been indulging in a drinking bout, and had left his home on Tuesday. While in the cell he frequently shouted out "I'm Jack the Ripper."

The prisoner, who gave the name of John Benjamin Perryman, was charged at the Lambeth Police Court on Thursday with being drunk and disorderly. It was stated that he known as the "mad barber of Peckham."

A sister of the prisoner said he had been intoxicated for a long time. She knew he had a dagger, but for what purpose he kept it she was not aware.

Mr. Partridge remanded the prisoner, remarking that if he was not right in his mind, it would perhaps be necessary to send him to an asylum.

"JACK THE RIPPER."

On Thursday morning two tradesmen near the scene of the last murder in the East end each received a post card bearing the Islington postmark and signed "Jack the Ripper." The cards were written in red ink and bore only the word "Beware."

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

I Beg to Report



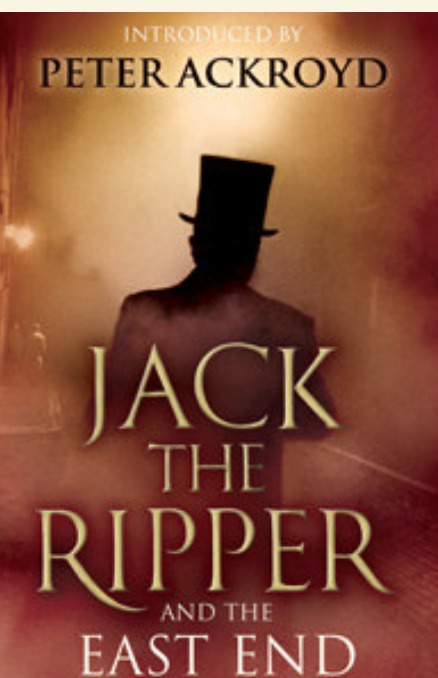
Museum of Docklands

DOCKLANDS 'RIPPER' EXHIBITION GEARING UP; NEWS OF EXHIBIT BOOK. A major exhibition on the Ripper case will open in May at the Docklands museum. We hear that as well as the police reports and files, photographs of the East End taken by the Salvation Army and until now unseen by the public will be on show. These, the news reports say, will 'place the depressed, poverty-stricken area in the context of the time.' Talks planned for the time the exhibit will run are also intended to paint a picture of the East End during the era of Jack the Ripper. Consultants to the exhibit include the *Rip*'s own Paul Begg and Adam Wood, along with fellow Ripper researcher Keith Skinner. 'Jack The Ripper and the East End' runs 15 May to 2 November at the

Museum in Docklands, West India Quay, Canary Wharf, London. (See box on next page for a run-down of what to expect in the exhibition, including associated talks.)

A book to accompany the exhibit, *Jack the Ripper and the East End*, features an introduction by novelist and historian Peter Ackroyd. The noted writer has written two novels with Ripper undertones: *Hawksmoor* and *Dan Leno and the Limehouse Golem*. Mr Ackroyd also referenced the Whitechapel murderer a number of times in his acclaimed *London: the Biography* and twice in *Thames: Sacred River*. Although Ripperologists helped the curator with the exhibit itself, it is not clear, as of writing,

Cover of the Docklands exhibition book, *Jack the Ripper and the East End*



ing, if any Ripper expert helped with the accompanying book.

The exhibition will have on display hand-written accounts by police and witnesses along with sketches of suspects from the National Archives (formerly the Public Record Office). Exhibition co-curator Alex Werner, says, 'There have been lots of books and films, but never a major exhibition on the subject. In the past, it has been left to the likes of waxworks such as Madame Tussauds and the London Chamber of Horrors. It has never really been seen as something for a museum to treat seriously, and it's a very gory subject. But the time is right to do a serious take on the subject.'

Further details can be found at www.museumindocklands.org.uk/jacktheripper, including information about the exhibition book, available at a cost of £25.



Peter Ackroyd

**‘Jack The Ripper and the East End’
15 May to 2 November 2008
The Museum in Docklands
West India Quay, Canary Wharf, London**

The exhibition will be accompanied by a series of talks, walks, films and discussions that will explore some of the issues raised, from policing, the press and prostitution to Jack the Ripper's enduring presence in popular culture. The Museum is targeting a total of 36,000 visitors to the exhibition.

Adam Wood, on behalf of *Ripperologist*, has been asked to assist with the organisation of some of the events, so watch this space for regular updates.

Saturday, 17 May, 2:00pm

‘Who was Jack the Ripper?’

Who was Jack the Ripper? Will we ever know? A look at some of the many suspects with a panel of experts and Ripperologists.

Tickets £10, concessions £7

Thursday, 22 May, 7:00pm

‘Would the Ripper be caught today?’

A comparison of police techniques between 1880s London and today, with police and forensic experts from the Metropolitan Police

Tickets £7.50, concessions £5

Sunday, 8 June, 2:30pm

“Where’s Jack?” - The Gruesome and Highly Successful Career of the Ripper on Screen.’

Jack the Ripper's many film appearances are examined by Ian Christie, Professor of Film and Media History at Birkbeck College, and a film expert well known to film buffs. Using film clips, he will give a fascinating account of Jack the Ripper's screen career.

Tickets £7.50, concessions £5

Sunday, 22 June, 2:30pm

‘The Jewish East End.’

Discussion on the Jewish East End of the late nineteenth century with a fascinating panel of writers and historians. The discussion will be chaired by Jerry White, renowned social historian, author of *London in the Nineteenth century and Rothschild Buildings*. The panelists will be Iain Sinclair, author of numerous books on London including *London; City of Disappearances*. Rachel Lichtenstein, author of *On Brick Lane*, co-author with Iain Sinclair of *Rodinsky's Room*, and Professor Bill Fishman, author, social historian and leading expert on the Jewish East End.

Tickets £7.50, concessions £5

Saturday 13 September, all day

‘Jack the Ripper and Popular Culture.’

A day conference chaired by Professor Clive Bloom, Emeritus Professor author of *Violent London: 2000 Years of Riots, Rebels and Revolts, and Fiction Since 1900* and *Gothic Horror: A Reader's Guide from Poe to King and Beyond*, exploring why Jack the Ripper has exercised such a strong and lasting hold on the popular imagination, inspiring hundreds of books, films, plays and graphic novels.

Fee £20, concessions £15

Saturday, 11 October, all day

Jack the Ripper 2008 conference

A day conference comprising an itinerary put together by the organisers of the biannual UK Ripper conferences.

Delegate cost: TBA, inclusive of refreshments.

Jack the Ripper and the East End - Guided walks

Guided walks with Blue Badge guides Denise Allen and Sue Jackson will look at the sensational story of Jack the Ripper in the context of contemporary life and social conditions in the Victorian East End.

Wednesdays 28 May, 25 June, 16 July, 30 July, 13 August, 27 August, 24 September, and 29 October at 6:00pm

Tickets £7.50, no concessions

The Victorian East End - Lunchtime talks series

A series of Thursday lunchtime talks associated with the exhibition Jack the Ripper and the East End. In each session an expert speaker will explore a different aspect of the Victorian East End.

All talks free, 1:10-2:00pm

5 June

Dr Anne Kershen, QMW, ‘Victorian East London, A Bubbling Cauldron’

12 June

Dr Richard Dennis, UCL, ‘Housing and the Poor’

3 July

Dr Kate Bradley, University of Kent, ‘Philanthropy and the Slums’

17 July

Sue Donnelly, LSE, ‘The Booth Enquiry’

24 July

Dr Nicholas Evans, University of Hull, ‘The White Slave Trade’

4 September

Kate Bradley, University of Kent, ‘Alcohol and Social Morality’

18 September

Louise Raw, London Met, ‘The Match Girls strike’

2 October

Natasha McEnroe, UCL, ‘“Foul of mouth and evil eyed”: Francis Galton and the Victorian Criminal’

16 October John Marriott, ‘The Imaginative Geography of the Whitechapel Murders’

23 October Peter Higginbotham, ‘Victorian Workhouses’

Further details can be found at www.museumindocklands.org.uk/jacktheripper, including information about the exhibition book, available at a cost of £25.

Book tickets on 0870 444 3855.

FACTUAL ERRORS NOTED REGARDING THE WHITECHAPEL MURDERS IN NEWS REPORTS ON DOCKLANDS EXHIBIT. Articles that have appeared in the press about the upcoming exhibit have contained some inaccurate information about the case. The *East London Advertiser* on 8 March ran an article with a headline trumpeting that ‘Jack the Ripper murdered 11 women, evidence now suggests’.

(www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/content/towerhamlets/advertiser/news/story.aspx?brand=ELAOnline&category=news&tBrand=northlondon24&tCategory=news&itemid=WeED07%20Mar%202008%2020%3A28%3A21%3A940)

The claim was made that ‘It was more to allay public panic that prompted the authorities at the time to formally ascribe just five killings to “Jack the Ripper” who was never caught.’ Of course, Ripper scholars have long known that the contemporary press and the police counted around 11 murders as ‘Whitechapel murders’ - though only five ‘canonical’ murders were thought to display the distinctive signature of the Ripper.

Not surprisingly, the reported claim that new evidence exists that ‘Jack’ killed as many as 11 victims is causing some consternation among scholars of the case. University of Tulsa, Oklahoma, USA, instructor Lavaughn Towell commented on his ‘Jack the Ripper and Me’ blog: ‘Now, it’s important to say up front that of course we don’t know how many victims Jack had for sure. But there are some troubling things in this report. Any person who has studied the case knows that we are hampered not only by the paucity of evidence left, the time that has elapsed and the inexperience of contemporary investigators - we are also hampered by slapdash reporting and perpetuation of myths, which work to obfuscate any serious research.’ jtrandme.blogspot.com/2008/03/ripper-had-11-victims.html

Another article on the upcoming exhibition, ‘Jack the Ripper Revealed’ appeared in the Australian *Daily Telegraph* www.news.com.au/dailytelegraph/story/0,22049,23381961-5001021,00.html on 16 March. The article, by Charles Miranda, says in part: ‘The files show police had gathered 170 names as suspects, including the Duke of Clarence and prominent barrister Montague John Druitt, but the murders were never solved.’ The errors in the article were pointed out by *Rip* editor Eduardo Zinna in a posting on the newspaper’s site on 17 March: ‘The article says that the files show police had gathered 170 names as suspects, including the Duke of Clarence and prominent barrister Montague John Druitt. If this is correct, it is a major scoop. Clarence - who was not Clarence at the time but plain Prince Eddy - was outed as the Ripper by Philippe Jullian (in French) in 1962 and by Dr Thomas Stowell in 1970. As for Druitt, who was a barrister but not a prominent one, he was first mentioned as the Ripper in a confidential 1894 memorandum by then Assistant Commissioner Melville Macnaghten which was not made public until 1959. I suspect the above assertion is unfounded.’

Paul Begg commented for the *Rip*, ‘I think [the reports are] just press office hype to suggest that the files have been released for this first time. It’s true in the sense that they are going on public exhibit, but not true that they are being seen by the public for the first time. In truth, the exhibition doesn’t have anything new or hitherto unseen, except, perhaps, some peripheral illustrative material from the period.’

This historic Washington, DC, police log book may be the first written record of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln in April 1865.



RECORD OF LINCOLN ASSASSINATION FOUND. A police record turfed out as obsolete but recovered from the trash and then kept as a souvenir for decades, reported the Washington, DC, USA, *Examiner* on 14 March. Such a scenario, of records lost or tossed and later rediscovered, will no doubt sound familiar to followers of the Ripper case. This is indeed what is believed to have happened to a Washington police blotter from 1865. The book contains an early report of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln at Ford’s Theatre in the city on 14 April 1865. The Washington Metropolitan Police recently received a copy of this ‘booking log’ which might well be the first written record of the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln and the attack on



A modern artist's conception of the assassination of Abraham Lincoln by actor John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre, Washington, DC, on the evening of 14 April 1865.

Secretary of State William Seward.

The entry, which occupies two pages in faded brown period handwriting, reports that a telegram was sent from police headquarters between 10:00 and 11:00pm to say that the president had been shot at Ford's Theatre, that Secretary Seward had been seriously wounded and Seward's son fatally injured.

Police department historian Sgt Nick Breul says that in the 1960s or 1970s it seems that someone found the book in a police trash bin along with other discarded files. The book circulated among retired police officers for years, until a former police chief recently convinced the previous owner to donate it to the Police Department.

The writer reports on the actions and the mood of the members of the then-8th Precinct at E and Fifth Streets southeast. The entry appears to have been written between the time of the assassination – which occurred around 10:30pm on 14 April – and the next day's first arrest. John Wilkes Booth was already a suspect, and the wounded Lincoln had not yet succumbed to the gunshot wound to the head that he received from the actor's derringer pistol.

The author wrote that police officers were anxious 'to avenge the death of the beloved chief magistrate,' though 'The assassin or assassins were at the time unknown. At a later hour it became currently reported J.W. Booth was the person who shot the president. The excitement was great throughout the precinct. The gloom that overshadows the nation by this sad occurrence deeply affects the whole force and brings forth many heartfelt sympathies for the nation's loss.'

Breul says the bound blotter likely was transferred in 1904 from the Civil War-era precinct to a new station at 500 E Street SE, where it remained until was tossed out with the trash. Breul plans to place the logbook in a climate controlled sealed case in the department's museum on the sixth floor of police headquarters.

www.examiner.com/a-1278085-D_C__police_recover_record_from_department_when_Lincoln_died.html

HONG KONG PROSTITUTE MURDERS SUSPECT ARRESTED, ANOTHER SOUGHT. Hong Kong police arrested a 24-year-old suspect after three consecutive prostitute murders rocked the city in mid-March. But when a fourth woman was attacked while the first man, a Pakistani, was in custody, the authorities began to seek a second suspect, according to South Asia News on 19 March.

The victims had all advertised their services on two Hong Kong Web sites, and were found in what are locally termed 'one-woman-brothel' apartments, according to the Hong Kong Police Department. Three of the women were confirmed dead at the scene and a fourth died in the hospital the next day. Three of the prostitutes had been strangled, according to information released by the police. The Hong Kong murders appear to be strikingly similar to the 2006 British case of the 'Suffolk Ripper' in which the bodies of five prostitutes were found in the space of 10 days. In that case, forklift truck driver Steve Wright, 49, was found guilty of the murders and jailed for life last month.

The murders in Hong Kong occurred over a 72-hour period beginning 14 March. Three took place in the New Territories

districts of Tai Po and Yuen Long, and one in the Hong Kong Island district of North Point.

Hong Kong has a reputation as a 'safe city.' Last year, there took place only 18 murders in the city of 7 million, making it one of the safest cities on the planet. Prostitution as such is not illegal in Hong Kong, however it is acknowledged that many activities linked to the sex trade are illegal under current laws, such as maintaining brothels with more than one prostitute and soliciting. Moreover, many prostitutes in Hong Kong are on tourist visas and their arrest leads to gaol time for working illegally.

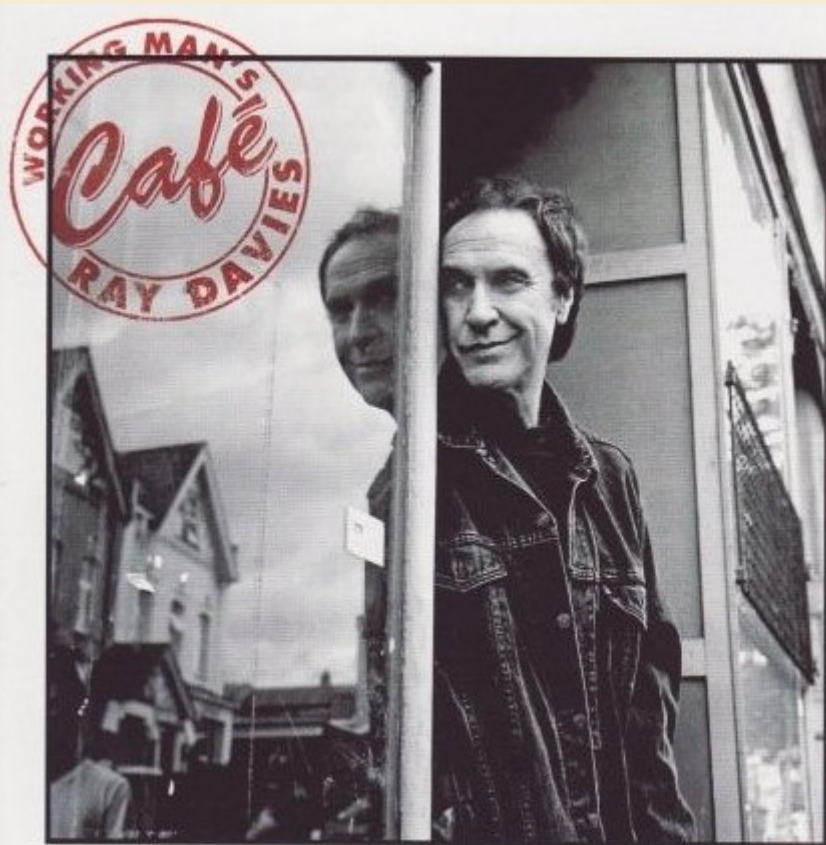
The murder spree has caused an outcry among workers in the sex trade. Sex workers have called for greater police protection. They have demanded a modification in the law to allow more than one prostitute to work in the same location simultaneously. Elaine Lam, spokeswoman for Zi Teng, a local activist group that advocates rights for sex workers, said, 'We want the police to have some instruments or policies that can reduce violence against sex workers. We would like to have some permanent hotlines so the sex workers can seek help if they have problems any time. They have hotlines to report the sex workers to eliminate them. Why can't they have a hotline to support them?'

www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aQU8APb46Dfc&refer=home

www.guardian.co.uk/world/2008/mar/17/internationalcrime?gusrc=rss&feed=worldnews

news.monstersandcritics.com/southasia/news/article_1396006.php/Second_killer_hunted_in_Hong_Kong_prostitute_murders

KINKS LEADER RAY DAVIES IS WORKING ON A RIPPER MUSICAL. Canadian music site Chartattack.com reported on 5 March that Ray Davies, the legendary frontman and singer for Sixties rock group The Kinks, is working on a Ripper musical. The show, titled 'The Ripper', is loosely based on a woman whom the songwriter's great-grandmother knew - an aspiring music hall singer. The woman came close to encountering Jack the Ripper and supposedly knew one of the Ripper victims. Davies explained, 'It's theatre of the absurd. . . . It's extremely minimalist.' He added that he could see the musical being performed 'in a good, old-fashioned Victorian music hall.' One of the songs from the stage musical, 'I, The Victim' is included as a bonus track on a DVD released at the same time as Davies's latest CD, *Working Man's Café*, from New West Records. The 63-year-old Davies himself knows something about being a victim, having been shot in the leg while chasing a mugger on a New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, street in January 2004. Reportedly one track on the CD, 'Morphine Song', reflects on the incident. In telling the story, the veteran songwriter chooses not to be morose about the shooting, instead choosing to find an optimistic message in the episode.



Cover of Ray Davies's latest CD, *Working Man's Café*.
The Kinks front man is at work on a Ripper musical.

www.chartattack.com/damn/2008/03/0503.cfm

music.barnesandnoble.com/Working-Mans-Caf-Ray-Davies/e/607396613724/?itm=2



1888 photo showing Helen Keller when she was eight years old, left, holding hands with her teacher, Anne Sullivan, during a summer vacation at Brewster, Massachusetts, on Cape Cod.

EARLY PHOTOGRAPH OF HELEN KELLER DISCOVERED.

An 1888 photograph has been discovered that shows famed blind, deaf and dumb activist Helen Keller (1880-1968) as a child with her teacher and mentor Anne Sullivan. The couple were the subject of the acclaimed 1962 movie 'The Miracle Worker' starring Patty Duke as Keller and Anne Bancroft as Sullivan. The photograph, shot in July 1888 in Brewster, Massachusetts, USA, shows 8-year-old Keller sitting outside in an arbour. She is wearing a light-colored dress, holding Sullivan's hand while cradling one of her beloved dolls. The photograph, which had been in private hands, was recently acquired by the New England Historic Genealogical Society.

Keller scholars believe it could be the earliest photo of the two women together and the only one showing the child with a doll — 'doll' being the first word Ms Sullivan spelled for Keller after they met in 1887.

'It's really one of the best images I've seen in a long, long time,' said Helen Selsdon, an archivist at the American Foundation for the Blind, where Keller worked for more than 40 years. 'This is just a huge visual addition to the history of Helen and Annie.'

For more than a century, the photograph belonged to the family of Thaxter Spencer, an 87-year-old man in Waltham, Massachusetts. In June, Mr Spencer donated a large collection of photo albums, letters, diaries and other heirlooms to the genealogical society, which preserves

artifacts from New England families for future research.

Sullivan was hired in 1887 to teach Keller, who had been left blind and deaf after an illness at age 18 months. With her new teacher, Keller learned language from words spelled manually into her hand. Not quite 7, the girl went from a frustrated, distressed and angry child, almost a wild child, to becoming an eager scholar.

While 'doll' was the first word spelled into her hand, Helen finally comprehended the meaning of language a few weeks later with the word 'water,' as famously depicted in 'The Miracle Worker.' Sullivan stayed at her side until her death in 1936, and Keller became a world-famous author and humanitarian. She died in 1968.

Jan Seymour-Ford, a research librarian at the Perkins School for the Blind in Watertown, Massachusetts, which was attended by both Sullivan and Keller, commented that she was moved to see how deeply connected the women were, even in 1888.

'The way Anne is gazing so intently at Helen, I think it's a beautiful portrait of the devotion that lasted between these two women all of Anne's life,' Seymour-Ford said.

www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=87938072

www.newenglandancestors.org

www.afb.org/Section.asp?SectionID1



Shaykh Abdullah Quilliam

BRITAIN'S FIRST MOSQUE TO BE RESTORED. Britain's first mosque in Tuebrook, Liverpool, founded in 1887 by lawyer William Henry Quilliam, who converted to Islam under the name of Sheikh Abdullah, is to be restored in a 2.5 million-pound renovation scheme. The derelict grade II listed Georgian Brougham Terrace is to be transformed into a heritage and education centre. In recent years, before it was allowed to fall into disuse, the terrace had been the Registry for Births, Deaths and Marriages for Liverpool. On 10 October 1997, Patricia Gordon, the granddaughter of Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam unveiled a plaque in the building to honour the founding of the oldest mosque in Britain and to celebrate the events that happened there. Mrs Gordon recalled, 'My greatest memory of him, is being compassionate at all times, a man of great courage and way ahead of his time, and a credit to Islam. He gave me an understanding of human emotions and frailties, in fact a catalogue of everything of everything one would wish to see in us all.'

www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/liverpool-news/local-news/2008/03/13/uk-s-first-mosque-to-get-2-5m-repair-work-100252-20616999/

www.geocities.com/mutmainaa/people/abdullah_quilliam.html

JACK THE RIPPER AND INTERNET DATING. A bill that would require Internet dating services to let consumers know if they do criminal background checks advanced in the Florida, USA, legislature on 25 March, reported United Press International. A major backer of the legislation is True.com, which claims to be the only online dating service to ban anyone with a record from joining, says *The Miami Herald*. Republican Senator Steve Oelrich, a former Alachua County sheriff, said the bill, if it becomes law, might give dating service members a false sense of security, convincing them that 'Jack the Ripper' is 'Jack Robertson.'

www.upi.com/NewsTrack/Top_News/2008/03/25/is_bill_food_fight_among_web_sites/4201/

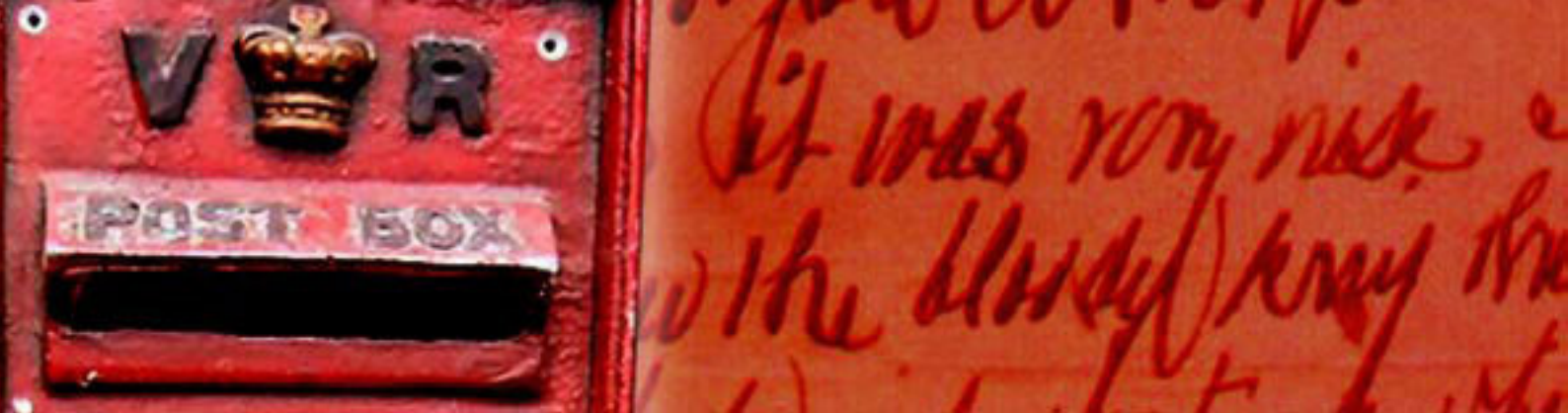


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Griffiths (Major Arthur)	Mysteries of Police and Crime 3 vols (1920) h/b	£75
Harrison (Paul)	Jack the Ripper The Mystery Solved hb/dw	£25
Hinton (Bob)	From Hell p/b signed label	£10
Horsler (Val)	Jack the Ripper h/b (The National Archives)	£8
Leeson (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



Dear Ripperologist,

It was rather surprising to see Ivor Edwards resurrect the old canard that Francis Tumblety was in police custody at the time of the Kelly murder. This has been succinctly explained so many times that one would have thought it had died its natural death years ago.

The historical record is not difficult to navigate. There are four main sources. The first, naturally enough, is the Littlechild Letter, which names Tumblety as ‘among the suspects’ in the murders, but states that he was arrested “in connection with unnatural offenses,” charged, but managed to jump bail.

The second source consists of a number of contemporary news reports stating the same thing. The third source is the gross indecency indictment (CRIM4/1037, 21927), and the fourth is a tabulated court calendar, discovered in the GRO office by Andy Aliffe, showing the relevant dates of these events. One column of this calendar states that Tumblety was “received into custody” on November 7th, while a second lists the date of his eventual release on bail as November 16th.

When the existence of this tabulated calendar first became known, several theorists rushed forward to state that this not only proved that Tumblety was detained for nine days inclusive, but, more importantly, that he obviously had nothing to do with a murder committed on November 9th, being in custody. Unfortunately, what these early theorists failed to note is that a third column in the same calendar states that a warrant was issued for Tumblety’s arrest on November 14th. This was a major stumbling block in their interpretation, for, as a general rule, the police do not issue arrest warrants for men who are already behind bars. In short, there had to be another explanation.

After several years of silence, Edwards, evidently now realizing that he has a problem, makes the remarkable suggestion that this arrest warrant was an administrative error. A convenient theory, to be sure, and one for which Edwards can offer no evidence, beyond a rambling tale of how, thanks to a computer glitch, a friend of his was once served papers for an unrelated offense while sitting in gaol.

This is all well and good, but if this happened in Tumblety’s case (sans computers, of course), why on earth would this error (or unrelated charge) be registered in a court calendar relating to the gross indecency indictment? That makes little or no sense.

Further, Edwards must dismiss as coincidence the fact that the November 14th warrant was issued precisely seven days after Tumblety had been originally ‘received into custody’—which “just happens” (?) to be the standard seven-day allotment for police bail. Nor does Edwards have any coherent explanation as to how or why the police could circumvent the rules of habeas corpus by not bringing their suspect before a court of summary jurisdiction within 24 hours.

By contrast, the explanation given years ago by Stewart Evans and Paul Gainey is straightforward and adheres to the principles of “Occam’s Razor.” Tumblety is “received into custody” on November 7th. No charges are filed, for if they had been, under the rules of habeas corpus he would have been dragged before the court at the next sitting. Instead, he is given police bail, and must report back in seven days—November 14th.

He fails to appear, which explains both why a warrant was issued on that very day, and why, as a man now identified as an obvious flight risk, he was slapped with the enormous bail of £300. As we now know, Tumblety nonetheless managed to produce two bondsmen and was subsequently released on November 16th, after being assigned a pre-trial hearing at Old Bailey for November 20th.

Everything ‘fits,’ and nothing in the historical record, nor the English statutes, needs to be discarded or twisted. In short, Tumblety was briefly held on November 7-8th for less than 24 hours, released, and held again on 14th-16th.

Meanwhile, Edwards is faced with a fourth problem that he doesn’t even bother to acknowledge. When interviewed

at the end of January, 1889, Tumblety is asked point blank how long he had been held in custody in London.

“How long were you in prison?”

“Two or three days; but I don’t care to talk about it. When I think of the way I was treated in London it makes me lose all control of myself.”

Francis Tumblety, as far as I can fathom that strange individual, was not a man who enjoyed underestimating the persecutions he suffered at the hands of an unjust world. When he was hauled off to the Old Capitol Prison in 1865, in the wake of the Lincoln Assassination, he not only howled to all who would listen, he produced a full-length pamphlet describing his ‘kidnapping,’ and even sued the U.S. Government for false imprisonment. But here Edwards wants us to believe that the same man was illegally detained by Scotland Yard for nine days, but was satisfied with describing it as ‘two or three.’

Meanwhile, it is painfully obvious that as the arrest warrant dates to November 14th, and Tumblety was eventually bailed on November 16th – a span of three days inclusive—Tumblety’s own words fit perfectly with the scenario suggested by Evans and Gainey (who formulated it, I might add, before this interview was even known).

Nor can Edwards really offer any credible explanation as to why Scotland Yard retained interest in a suspect who, he claims, was behind bars at the time of the most notorious outrage. Did such suspicions endure the detainment of Issenschmidt in Grove Hall Lunatic Asylum, or, in fact, did Issenschmidt’s confinement offer an alibi that led to Scotland Yard losing all interest?

And what about the similar case of William Piggott? Edwards is silent, and, unfortunately, in warping police procedure, misunderstanding the English legal system, and dismissing sources inconvenient to his theory, he appears to be motivated more by a desire to disallow a rival suspect than to conduct a dispassionate examination of the historical record.

Edwards makes a number of other claims worthy of dispute, but I wish to mention only one more—an inoffensive yet highly curious paragraph near the beginning of his article:

“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. 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 favor of Littlechild’s opinion and never mentioned by proponents of Tumblety or many Ripperologists for that matter because such words conflict with their theories.”

Edwards doesn’t give a citation for Warren’s comment and the reason is soon apparent. Let me supply the context.

In early October, 1888, Sir Augustus Paget, the British Ambassador at Vienna, was contacted by an extraordinary informant known to historians only as “Jonas.” This fellow claimed to be a Polish drug manufacturer, and he intended to rescue the Met from its current difficulties by nothing short of solving the Whitechapel Murders. All he wished in return was the tidy sum of 2,000 florins.

According to ‘Jonas,’ the murders were committed by a disgruntled member of a secret political organization known as the “Internationalist Society,” who pursued their agenda “by terror and assassination.” It was all rather suspicious, of course, and only a year earlier, during the Lipski Murder, the Home Office had been approached by a racist Pole calling himself “Dr. Apatowski” who similarly attempted to sell the government evidence for £20. Apatowski was later dismissed as a fraud.

Nevertheless, Sir Charles Warren, writing on October 12th, 1888, was very much interested in what ‘Jonas’ had to say:

“As Mr. Matthews is aware I have for some time past inclined to the idea that the murders may possibly be done by a secret society, as the only logical solution of the question, but I would not understand this being done by a Socialist because the last murders were obviously done by some one desiring to bring discredit on the Jews and Socialists or Jewish Socialists. But in the suggestion of the informant we have a solution, viz—that it is done by a renegade socialist to bring discredit on his former comrades. I can see no reason why Informant should not be called upon to give name of murderer and other details as proposed with a provision of 20,000 [sic] florins if it leads to arrest of murderer....”

Unfortunately for Sir Charles, no one else at Scotland Yard, nor the Home Office, appears to have been particularly keen on the idea. Godfrey Lushington called the informant’s story ‘incredible,’ adding that “it appears to me inconceivable that Socialists should wreak vengeance on Society by murdering women of the town—mere outcasts.”

Dr. Robert Anderson, who had made his name in the world of informants and espionage, was even more cool. After tactfully correcting Sir Charles by pointing out that the informant had only asked for 2,000 florins (about £165) rather than 20,000, Anderson writes: "I have had series of similar proposals, recd. thro the F.O., in cases of political crime, & have occasionally interviewed infts. who made representations of this kind, & yet I have never known one single instance where I have found reason to doubt the wisdom of refusing compliance with their terms. I may add that I handed the dispatch to Mr. [Adolphus] Williamson [Dolly Williamson, former head of the Special Branch] and he has expressed a similar opinion in even stronger terms." Considering Williamson's personality, one can readily imagine those 'stronger terms' included a few curse words.

Despite these warnings, the £165 was eventually forwarded to 'Jonas' who revealed the murderer to be a former San Francisco butcher named John Stammer (oddly there is a 'Jonathan Stammer, grocery clerk,' in the 1880 San Francisco census) but, inevitably, and after a long delay, Jonas contacted the Ambassador again, stating that his contacts in Paris had withered, and he would require another £100 in order to cross the English Channel.

At this point, James Monro, head of the clandestine 'Section D', but now Warren's replacement, joined the debate. "I attach no importance to this persons statement, and I do not recommend any further expenditure upon him."

A flurry of letters ensued that debated who should repay Mr. Paget his £165, particularly since the departed Sir Charles had egged him on. After much finger-pointing, Godfrey Lushington ordered the money to be taken out of the already strapped Metropolitan Police Funds. Warren's theory, to be sure, was not his shining moment.

What is clear from all of this is that the premium Edwards places on Sir Charles Warren's opinion is well wide of the mark. Even seen in its best light, Warren was giving an abstract theory as to why the murders were committed, and it is comparing 'apples to oranges' to suggest that such an abstract theory "carries more 'weight'" than specific suspicions against an identified suspect—be it Tumblety, Kosminski, Sadler, or anyone else.

Further, Edwards has clearly stacked the deck, for it is also obvious that Warren's theory was formulated in early October, 1888, well before Tumblety (or Kosminski, Druitt, etc.) had ever solidified into serious suspects. How on earth can a theory that cost the Met £165 carry more weight than suspicions against men that Warren didn't yet know existed?

Yet, beyond all this, the most curious fact of all is that Edwards, the author of *Jack the Ripper's Black Magic Rituals*, appears to have misunderstood what Warren meant by 'secret societies.'

It is clear from the context of Warren's statement, as well as other sources, that Victorian Scotland Yard considered a 'secret society' a political organization: the *Clan na Gael*, the United Irishmen, the bogus 'International Society,' or such quasi-political criminal organizations as the Thugs of India or the Sicilian Mafia. Although it is too long to reprint in full, at the time of the London railway bombings in 1885, a correspondent referring to himself as 'An Old Indian,' but who I am convinced was the Assistant-Commissioner of the Met, James Monro, wrote an important letter to *The Times* on February 9th, under the title, 'The Dynamite Outrages.' Monro also used the phrase 'secret society' but referred specifically to the Irish Invincibles and the Thugs of India (who, as Chief of the Bengal police he had once battled).

The thrust of the article is Monro's advice on how to deal with such societies. "These [dynamite] outrages," he writes, "are undoubtedly the work of conspirators—ie., of men bound together by oath, working together secretly for destruction of life, or property without regard to consequences as regards life, and suppression of dynamite outrages can only be hoped for by the unraveling of this secret society, the discovery of all its constituent members, accomplices, plans, and designs..." Once again, this was a political organization, or, as we now know, referred specifically to *Clan-na-Gael*. Since Edwards' own suspect is the alcoholic yellow journalist Roslyn D'Onston Stephenson, a man with an apparent fancy for esoteric texts, it remains entirely unclear why he is so energetically plumping for Warren's theory. Unless, of course, Edwards is under the mistaken belief that by 'secret societies' Warren meant a satanic or occult organization, committing rites in East London. Is it Edwards' contention that Stephenson belonged to such a secret society, and if not, why is he chastising his fellow Ripperologists for ignoring a belief that he, himself, does not entertain?

Roger Palmer
Oregon

Book Reviews

The Ripper Code

By Thomas Toughill

Stroud, Gloucestershire: Sutton Publishing, 2008.

Hardback, 272pp, Illus, biblio, notes, £20

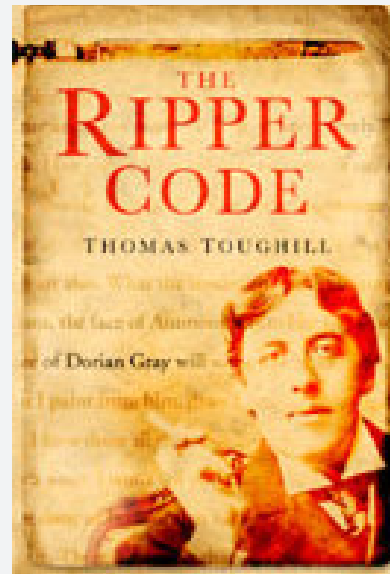
In correspondence with Colin Wilson in the 1970s, Thomas Toughill revealed his theory that the Ripper was Frank Miles, an artist who enjoyed a considerable but comparatively short-lived vogue in the late 1870s and early 1880s. The man would be almost forgotten today had he not been a friend and possible lover of the young Oscar Wilde. Wilson in turn made a passing reference to Frank Miles in his introduction to Donald Rumbelow's *The Complete Jack the Ripper* (1975) and discussed him at greater length in *Jack the Ripper: Summing Up and Verdict*, co-authored with Robin Odell (1987), and from there the theory has made its way into various Ripper books and reference sources.

In this book, Toughill explains and expands his theory. Unfortunately the theory was never plausible and despite Toughill's best efforts, the 30-year gestation hasn't changed anything.

The basis of Thomas Toughill's theory is that Miles was driven to commit the murders by a combination of the break-up of his relationship with Wilde, the decline of his popularity as an artist, and his syphilitic insanity. The theory becomes more convoluted when the author seeks to explain why Miles was not a Ripper suspect at the time of the murders. According to Toughill, Wilde knew that Miles was guilty of the murders and left clues to his guilt in his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, yet he fed Sir Melville Macnaghten (a neighbour of Miles and Wilde in Tite Street, Chelsea) false information about Montague Druitt and Michael Ostrog to misdirect him. The author believes that other writers knew of Miles's guilt. Among them was Marie Belloc Lowndes, who, Toughill argues, used Miles as the basis for Mr Sleuth in *The Lodger*.

The heart of the theory - the 'Ripper Code' of the title - are the clues supposedly left by Wilde in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. No matter how good these clues seem to be, the gloss is taken off the hypothesis by the fact that other authors have looked for and found clues in published writings. A notable example is Richard Wallace, in *Jack the Ripper: Light Hearted Friend*, who claimed to find anagrams in Lewis Carroll's later writings which suggest that Carroll was the Whitechapel murderer. It's difficult not to accept that one could probably find abundant clues in *Five on Kirrin Island Again* that Uncle Quentin was Jack the Ripper.

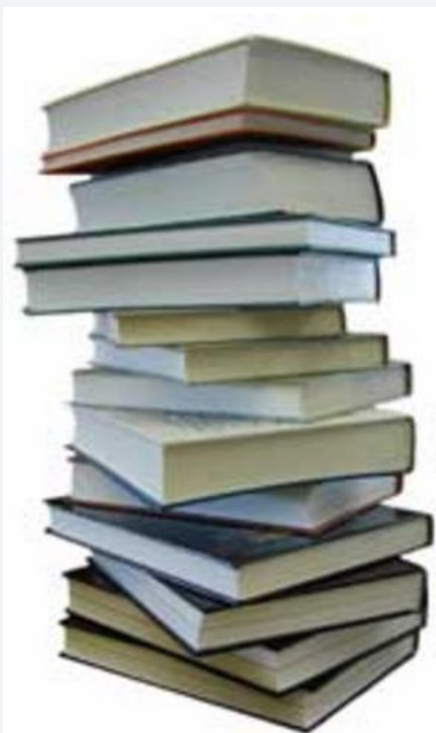
M J Trow ably demonstrated several years ago that it is possible through the selective use of one's sources to develop a case against almost anyone. Toughill carefully layers one claim on top of another to construct what appears to be a solid enough structure. Yet, to be considered a 'serious' theory there has to be a firm foundation and the case against Miles is constructed on water. The problem with Frank Miles's candidacy for Jack's bloody mantle is that he was detained in an asylum throughout the murder period. So the theory would appear to be a non-starter like the case for Dr Thomas Neill Cream, wherein proponents of Cream can't get around the fact that the cross-eyed poisoner was in prison in Joliet, Illinois, USA, at the time of the Ripper's reign of terror.



Miles was admitted to Brislington Asylum near Bristol in December 1887 and was there throughout the whole period of the murders until his death in 1891. Incarceration admittedly, though, has never been an insurmountable problem for some writers. They simply postulate that their suspect escaped or otherwise obtained his freedom, theories on Cream having a double who served time for him while the murderer was in London being a prime example. Toughill treads this timeworn path, but typically he offers no supporting evidence except 'that Brislington asylum seems to have been more a hospital for well-to-do patients, rather than a secure prison-like institution'. The reality in fact seems to have been the opposite. Although an institution for well-to-do patients, the patient-carer ratio at Brislington seems to have been pretty nearly one-to-one. Louisa Lowe, one-time Secretary of the Lunacy Law Reform Association, wrote in *The Bastilles of England; of the Lunacy Laws At Work* (1883) of her confinement at Brislington in 1870. She described in some detail how the patients were locked in their cells at 9:00pm, were regularly checked, and in some cases would have a personal attendant sleeping with them. Getting out of one's locked cell was not possible until morning rounds. With patients being watched by a carer during the day, being locked in their cells at night, and with a general awareness of the need for security, one can only conclude that Brislington was in reality a very secure institution. Had Toughill produced reports of escapes from Brislington - and one assumes that he scoured the Bristol newspapers to find some - then one might have felt more inclined to accept the possibility that Miles could have escaped. But no such evidence is forthcoming.

As for the rest of Toughill's arguments, there's nothing really solid to hold onto. For example, the suggested motive - the break up of Miles's relationship with Wilde and the following decline of Miles's popularity as an artist - seems shaky, improbable and partly untrue. Miles and Wilde lived together in Miles's home in Tite Street, Chelsea, and it is generally accepted that the young man's father, Canon Miles, was offended by a poem of Wilde's, probably 'Charmides', and, concerned for his son's reputation, demanded that Miles show Wilde the door. An early biographer, citing a witness, suggests that Wilde flew into a rage and stormed out of Tite Street vowing never to speak to Miles again. While Canon Miles certainly made such a demand and miraculously his letters of explanation to Wilde have survived, many of Wilde's biographers have not accepted that this was the cause of the break up of the homosexual affair. Hesketh Pearson, for example, said the explanation 'cannot be taken seriously' - and Toughill points out that the Canon's letters were written in August 1881 and that Wilde was still living at Tite Street on 1 October 1881 when he accepted an invitation to tour America. This suggests that Wilde's angry departure, if true, was not an immediate response to the artist's acquiescence to his father's demand. Anyway, there was a separation and given that Wilde appears never to have spoken to or of Miles thereafter it was probably acrimonious, but its cause is uncertain and its effect on the artist is unknown. It is even possible that Miles may have wanted the separation himself, perhaps seeking to distance himself from the increasingly flamboyant and notorious Wilde. As for the rather clichéd view that Miles's brief flame of popularity flickered and dimmed after the separation with Wilde, this is true up to a point. Miles continued to exhibit his paintings, receive commissions, and enjoy a full social life. He even gained some unwanted notoriety in 1886 when called to give evidence at a sensational divorce hearing. So, the effect of the break up on Miles may not have been too traumatic at all, and perhaps may have been welcomed.

While Toughill presents his case with skill, he tends to find significance in almost any chance remark. For example, he notes that Marie Belloc Lowndes wrote that she received lots of letters of praise for *The Lodger* from assorted friends, one being a postcard from Wilde's biographer, Robert Sherard. Toughill wonders, 'Why should this man have felt the need to write to Lowndes after the publication of *The Lodger*? In light of all that has been said above, surely a convincing answer is that Sherard, like Belloc Lowndes herself, knew Miles to be the Ripper, and that he wrote her praising what he recognised as a cleverly composed and well-disguised account of the truth?' Well, Toughill might find that a 'convincing answer', but does his claim that Sherard felt a 'need' to write to Belloc Lowndes have much going



for it? There's absolutely no reason to suppose that Sherard felt any 'need' to write to the author. It's normal and reasonable for a friend to drop a note on a postcard to her congratulating her on a successful publication.

Some of Toughill's reasoning becomes even more complicated. For example, when taking a break in Bournemouth Wilde wrote a letter to a lady called Florence Balcombe in which he said that he had made a new friend there. Toughill speculates that this was Montague Druitt. He then points out that Florence Balcombe married Bram Stoker and that Stoker was the brother of Dan Farson's grandfather and that Farson was the man to whom Lady Aberconway showed Sir Melville's draft memorandum naming Druitt among the Ripper suspects. To Toughill this is an 'amazing set of circumstances' which induces him to conclude that Lady Aberconway may have considered Farson the ideal person to whom she could reveal her father's notes. But the circumstances are hardly that amazing. After all, why would Lady Aberconway know that Wilde had written of his new friend to Florence Balcombe? Why would she have known that the new friend was Druitt? Why would she necessarily have known that Miss Balcombe had married Stoker? Why would she have known that Stoker was Farson's grandfather's brother? And why would being Bram Stoker's great-nephew have recommended Dan Farson as a recipient of Macnaghten's notes, especially when Farson had mentioned his interest in Jack the Ripper when interviewing Lady Aberconway for a programme about cats? Having made an assumption that Druitt was Wilde's new friend, Toughill sees a whole series of connections which he finds 'amazing' but which aren't and through them reaches a conclusion which almost certainly has no factual foundation.

The Sherard postcard and the Balcombe connection are just two examples of Toughill seeing profound significance in the prosaic and ordinary, and which he uses in support of an argument that the Ripper was a man who as far as anyone knows was in a secure mental institution hundred of miles away from Whitechapel when the murders were committed.

One possible bit of research done by Toughill that may be valuable, albeit not to his theory, is evidence that Montague Druitt was homosexual. It has been speculated that Druitt was a homosexual who was fired from his teaching job at Mr Valentine's school when he was accused of molesting a boy or boys. Yet, apart from Macnaghten calling him a sexual maniac, a possible euphemism for homosexual, Druitt's sexual preferences are unknown. Toughill, though, has noted that both Druitt and Wilde were refused membership of the Oxford Union, Wilde apparently because he led an 'evil life', in short was a homosexual, and Toughill therefore argues that Druitt's rejection was for the same reason. On this assumption, Toughill argues that if Wilde and Druitt were both homosexuals and belonged to the same small and elite homosexual circle at Oxford then they would have known each other there. However, apart from the possibility that this might negate Toughill's contention that Druitt was Wilde's 'new friend' at Bournemouth, it is worrying that Toughill's conclusion is based solely on the fact that applicants for the Oxford Union served a probationary period and if elected had an 'E' placed next to their name on the list of probationers. Neither Wilde nor Druitt have an 'E' next to their name, but they weren't the only ones and I'd feel happier about Toughill's conclusion if he'd examined the lives of the others who were likewise rejected and tried to establish if they were all homosexuals.

This illustrates another fault with Toughill's book, namely the absence of supportive research. It is not unreasonable to suppose and expect Toughill to follow up every avenue of investigation, but he doesn't appear to have checked Bristol newspapers for evidence of escapes from Brislington and he hasn't established the reasons for non-election to the Oxford Union. We are left to simply accept his assumption that Brislington Asylum was insecure and the non-election was because of sexual preference.

It's possible to pick lots of holes in Toughill's arguments - another is his concluding reference to the story told by Dr Harold Dearden about a tale told to him about an important patient brought to a private asylum on the outskirts of London who was assumed to be Jack the Ripper and who could draw wonderful pictures. For Toughill this is the last piece of evidence that serves as the stopper in his bottle of argument against Frank Miles, a final kick in the pants for anyone with lingering doubts. Yet, Brislington Asylum was near Bristol, not by any stretch of the imagination or geography on the outskirts of London. Moreover, there's no suggestion that Dearden's patient was someone being returned to the asylum after escaping from it, so it's hardly reference to Miles who arrived at the asylum in December 1887, before the murders were committed.

The Ripper Code is not entirely without merit. Toughill does draw attention to the writings of George R Sims, who,

like Major Griffiths, was a confidant of Macnaghten and who wrote of Macnaghten's three suspects. But exactly how much Sims knew is open to question. He may not have known the names of the suspects, for example, because we know that Sims wrote to Littlechild inquiring about a 'Dr D', so he may only have known the suspects' initials. Sims also wrote that the suspect we identify as Montague John Druitt had formerly been the inmate of an asylum, had for at least a year been a free man, and was a man of birth and education. These details fit Frank Miles, of course, but they do not fit Druitt. The information about Sims isn't evidence that Miles was the Ripper, but it might be evidence that Montague John Druitt was not the man about whom Macnaghten received private information.

One comes away from Toughill's book thinking, but sadly one is not thinking that Frank Miles was Jack the Ripper.

Mary Jane Kelly & The Ripper Murders: Proof of the Involvement of the Heir to the Crown

Peter Londragan

eBooks-UK, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, 2008

www.ebooks-uk.com

Downloadable £5.96

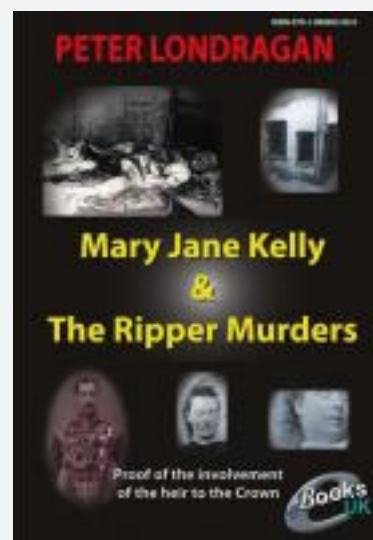
This book is well written and readable, although perhaps needless to say it doesn't provide proof (or anything approaching proof) of royal involvement in the Ripper murders. What it does do is to provide some fascinating background to the royal conspiracy theory, telling the story of some other royal offspring - or claimed royal offspring - including Hannah Lightfoot, George Rex and Maria Fitzherbert. But the trouble is that Londragan seems a little selective in what he writes; you would come away from his account of Lightfoot and with little doubt that they were married to and a son of George III, respectively, whereas the claims concerning both are controversial and according to some are disproven. For Londragan, of course, the point of these stories is to demonstrate that royals did marry commoners, just as Joseph Sickert claims the Duke of Clarence did, but the problem is that although Hannah Lightfoot seems to have disappeared, the alleged children of the marriage would seem to have benefited from royal patronage and enjoyed prosperous lives.

Later in the book, the author briefly discusses Clarence Haddon, who claimed to be and perhaps genuinely was the son of the Duke of Clarence and whose story deserves to be looked at a little more closely, partly because it throws some doubt on the Duke being homosexual and partly because we now know that the Duke apparently paid off some prostitutes and illegitimate children have all the elements of Joseph Sickert's story.

Londragan also briefly discusses Nerissa and Katherine Bowes-Lyon, who he says were believed to have died in 1940 and c.1961 respectively, but in fact Nerissa died in 1986 and - well, as far as the author knows, Katherine is still alive. Both girls were placed in a mental home in 1941 and lived their lives there, forgotten by the royal family, and Nerissa was buried in a pauper's grave. In the earlier case of Prince John, who suffered fits, he was banished to a corner of the Sandringham estate, never to participate in any official events or see his parents again. He died in 1919.

The Bowes-Lyons are famous for the alleged 'monster' of Glamis Castle, the family home in Scotland, who is supposed to have been Thomas Bowes-Lyon, the first son of George Bowes-Lyon, who is said to have died on 21 October 1821.

He is in fact said to have lived, confined in a secret room at Glamis Castle, deformed and possibly mad. Although the story of the monster has deep roots, it has generally been dismissed as fiction. However, the discovery that the Bowes-Lyons hid away family members who were mentally or physically deformed has lent some veracity to the story. Glamis



castle also features in the Sickert story, it being claimed that the Duke of Clarence was imprisoned there.

These stories, while seeming to lend verisimilitude to the claims that Annie Crook could have been whisked away to a mental institution and certified insane, in fact appear to suggest that the royals were and perhaps still are unwilling to acknowledge mental or physical deformity in the family. Yet while they may have shut away, completely ignored and even declared dead those who were an embarrassment, this isn't something done to silence sane people. When it is done the person invariably never enjoys freedom again and isn't admitted to and released from mental institutions as Annie Crook was for the best part of her life. Furthermore, illegitimate offspring (and legitimate if the Hannah Lightfoot story is true) were often paid off and moved abroad, as was Clarence Haddon's mother.

Nevertheless, the stories are interesting and the mystery tantalising, but they prove nothing, and the fact is that they don't really have any bearing on the murder of five prostitutes, because even if there had been a blackmail attempt it is difficult to suppose that the royal family would have sanctioned or allowed such brutal, headline-grabbing murders to continue. Mary Kelly and her friends could have been quietly spirited away and incarcerated or killed without anyone knowing.

Londragan's book otherwise recites the Sickert story, as told by Stephen Knight and Melvyn Fairclough, unquestioningly accepting what they say and even citing the Abberline diaries, generally acknowledged to be fakes. Worse still, Londragan cites as independent support for the Sickert story the account of St John Terrapin, but this is a character in Chapman Pincher's novel, *The Private World of St John Terrapin: A Novel of the Cafe Royal*.

This aside, Londragan is unintentionally amusing in places, for example, when he writes of the murder of Elizabeth Stride, altogether ignoring the story told by Schwartz and arguing that the body of Stride could have been thrown from a passing carriage - presumably by the Incredible Hulk for her body to have crossed the pavement and landed against the wall inside the passage. And the notion that carriages passing up and down Berner Street were so common that nobody noticed them is simply absurd; Diemschutz entering the street was clearly heard, as was the earlier measured tread of what was assumed to be a policeman.

A Study in Red: The Secret Journal of Jack the Ripper

By Brian L. Porter

Double Dragon Publishing

Markham, Ontario, Canada; January 2008

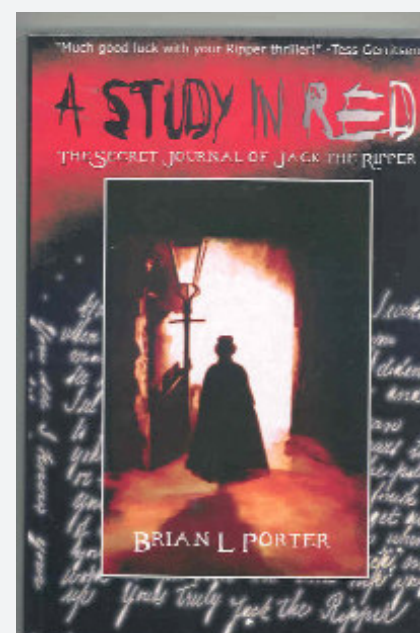
UK. £10.99, \$16.99 in paperback

\$5.99 downloadable e-book <http://www.freewebs.com/astudyinred/>

244 pp.

Yet another entry in the growing genre of Jack the Ripper fiction, this effort is by Englishman Brian L. Porter who has written a couple of science fiction novels and edited an anthology. The author's writing roots are made clear as the story turns upon a journal written by Jack the Ripper that soon wreaks a seemingly supernatural effect upon the narrator as he reads the murderer's own account of his reign of terror. It is this reviewer's opinion that the author ought to have stayed with his roots rather than grafting upon them a Ripper theme.

The novel suffers from two serious flaws. For one thing, there is virtually no action at all. While this may have been the ideal of such classical dramatists as Seneca, the Elizabethan playwrights pretty much changed that for the better and—one would have hoped—forever. As it is, except for two brief and pointless trips out of his house, the narrator simply sits, sleeps



and reads the journal while his head turns, his eyes burn and his stomach churns. This literary inertia is particularly strange when you contemplate the sort of action a novel about the Ripper's depredations could engender.

The other flaw is that a novel intended to provide a new and sympathetic view of the victims devotes hardly any attention to them. Aside from a paragraph or two of boilerplate about Annie Chapman, she and her murdered sisters are treated with the same impersonal attitude as a morgue report. Even more, the author (through the narrator) manifests sympathy for the Ripper, writing at one point 'Was I the first to think that perhaps The Ripper was as much a victim of his own crimes as those he so brutally murdered and mutilated?' He then goes on to conclude the Ripper was himself a victim. To that end, we are offered not one but three motives for the crimes, as if the author himself sensed that none of them alone was quite satisfactory.

In the same way, there are two 'surprise' endings to the book, both of which shall remain hidden for the benefit of any potential readers. By and large the author did a good job of researching the Ripper elements (aside from one bizarre 'fact' about the leather apron found at 29 Hanbury Street) and at least he gave full credit to the Casebook website for most of his Ripper lore. Moreover, the writing was not bad, albeit of the breathless, 'had I but known...' school. Anyone who collects Ripper fiction will definitely want a copy, but readers looking for more than that may well be disappointed.

Jack The Ripper: Infamous London Serial Killer

Anonymous

Filiquarian Publishing LLC

p/b 52pp, £6.99, or else free download at www.biographiq.com/bookd/JTR421

This is a strange little publication which discusses the crimes in a little over thirty pages of largish print and in general is a tolerably accurate and brief as brief can be overview of the case. There's not a lot else one can say, loyal readers of *Ripperologist* having long ago gained greater knowledge than is contained within these pages, making the book unlikely to be of interest to anyone except the collector. As far as overviews for the 'uninitiated' go, there are far better books to choose from.

As noted, the author is anonymous, as is the address and contact details of the publishing company, Filiquarian Publishing, and its subsidiary Biographiq, whose website contains the extraordinary statement, 'For security and privacy reasons, we do not provide contact information on this website'. The book is nevertheless listed on Amazon and is purchasable from them, although irritatingly and perhaps unsurprisingly no mention is made on Amazon of the book being downloadable for free from the Biographiq website! From there, the book can be freely copied and distributed and several pages at the back consist of a Gnu Free Documentation Licence. All very odd.

JACK THE RIPPER

Infamous London Serial Killer



Filiquarian Publishing / Biographiq

On the Crimebeat

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

SOUTH WALES MURDERS

By Bob Hinton

S/B, 151 pp., Sutton Publishing, £12.99

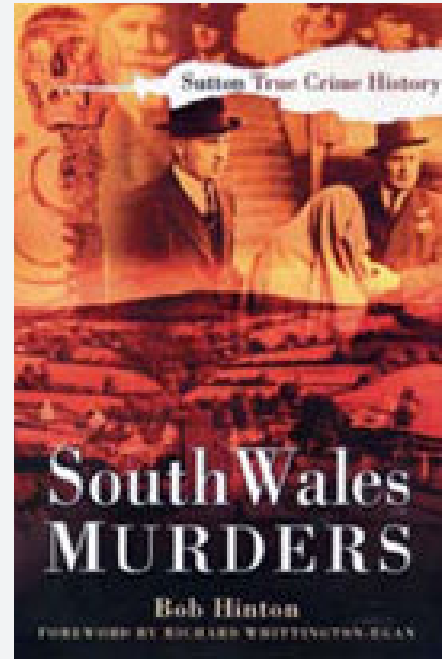
Bob Hinton steps aside from the Ripper with this latest book in the publisher's True Crime History series.

Nine cases dating from 1876 to 1953 are covered. It is refreshing to see fresh research and illustrations embellishing well-known cases such as Harold Greenwood (1919), the Mamie Stuart case (1919), the boy murderer Harold Jones, (1921), Ronald Harries (1953), and Michael Onufrejczyk (1953).

I thought the chapter on Harold Jones was excellent, as if the murderer completely epitomised a rare case of evil in a 15-year-old boy. The high standard of research and analysis applied to the well-known case is continued in discussing the lesser known cases.

This is a welcome addition to the Sutton True Crime History series, which has set a high standard throughout.

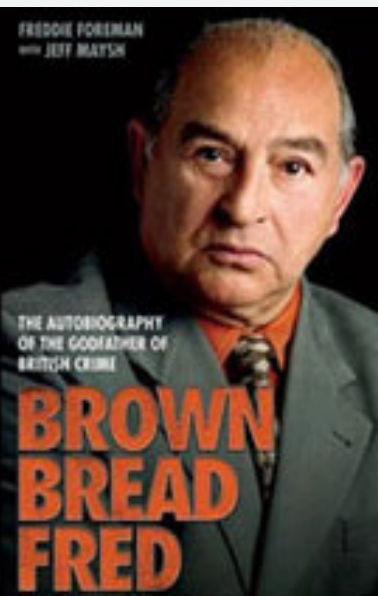
In the opinion of this reviewer, it is arguably one of the very best. Strongly recommended.



BROWN BREAD FRED

By Freddie Foreman

H/B, 306 pp., Illus., John Blake Publishing, £17.99



Under this very apposite title Freddie Foreman, the Krays' hard man chronicles his life and crimes. The Ginger Marks case and the killing of the Mad Axeman, Frank Mitchell, are covered in detail, as are a couple of major robberies in which the author is careful not to name any of the participants. As might be expected, violence features highly throughout the book, together with a liberal dash of celebrity occasions.

Certainly a book for Kray fans, with the bonus that the reader is also given many references to most of the major crime figures of his day such as Charlie Bronson, Dave Courtney, Ronnie Biggs, Bruce Reynolds, Joey Pyle and Charlie Richardson to name but a few.

The problem with the many books by retired villains is that there is a sameness about the majority of them. However, it does appear that these villains do defy the old adage that crime does not pay, if only in their retirement.

As stated above, an association book for anyone into the Twins and their times.

