

# Episode 13

Monday, April 19, 2021 1:49 PM

- Background
  - Jack the Ripper serial killer
    - 5 "known" victims
    - Between August 1888 and November 1888
    - Never caught
  - What happened
    - Who got killed
      - Canonical 5
        - ◆ Mary Ann Nicols
        - ◆ Annie Chapman
        - ◆ Elizabeth Stride/Catherine Eddowes
          - ◇ Double Event
        - ◆ Mary Jane Kelly
      - Why Canonical
        - ◆ Similarity of method
        - ◆ Letters from investigators linking them
    - What did the police do?
      - What tools/techniques did they have?
        - ◆ No actual forensics (Fingerprints, Hair, Etc.)
        - ◆ Pretty much consisted of interviewing witnesses and finding someone to blame w/o an alibi/confess or catching them in the act
- Who was Jack?
  - Suspects
    - Main ones (Police)
      - Aaron Kosminski
      - Dr. Francis Tumblety
      - Michael Ostrog
      - George Chapman
      - Montague John Druitt
    - Taunts
      - Dear Boss Letter
        - ◆ Saucy Jack Postcard
      - From Hell Letter
  - Theories
    - Ripperologists
    - All kinds of crazy
      - Lewis Carroll
      - Abberline/Macnaghten
      - Royal Conspiracy
- Comparison to modern day
  - Serial vs. Mass killer
    - Easier/harder to get away with?
      - Reasons?
    - Link in previous podcast

Jack the Ripper

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:11 PM

**Jack the Ripper** was an unidentified [serial killer](#) active in the largely [impoverished](#) areas in and around the [Whitechapel](#) district of [London](#) in 1888. In both the criminal case files and contemporary journalistic accounts, the killer was called the [Whitechapel Murderer](#) and [Leather Apron](#). Attacks ascribed to Jack the Ripper typically involved female prostitutes who lived and worked in the slums of the [East End of London](#). Their throats were cut prior to abdominal [mutilations](#). The removal of internal organs from at least three of the victims led to proposals that their killer had some anatomical or surgical knowledge. Rumours that the murders were connected intensified in September and October 1888, and numerous letters were received by media outlets and [Scotland Yard](#) from individuals purporting to be the murderer. The name "Jack the Ripper" originated in [a letter](#) written by an individual claiming to be the murderer that was disseminated in the media. The letter is widely believed to have been a hoax and may have been written by journalists in an attempt to heighten interest in the story and increase their newspapers' circulation. The ["From Hell" letter](#) received by [George Lusk](#) of the [Whitechapel Vigilance Committee](#) came with half of a preserved human kidney, purportedly taken from one of the victims. The public came increasingly to believe in a single serial killer known as "Jack the Ripper", mainly because of both the extraordinarily brutal nature of the murders and media coverage of the crimes. Extensive newspaper coverage bestowed widespread and enduring international notoriety on the Ripper, and the legend solidified. A police investigation into a [series of eleven brutal murders](#) committed in Whitechapel and [Spitalfields](#) between 1888 and 1891 was unable to connect all the killings conclusively to the murders of 1888. Five victims—[Mary Ann Nichols](#), [Annie Chapman](#), [Elizabeth Stride](#), [Catherine Eddowes](#), and [Mary Jane Kelly](#)—are known as the "canonical five" and their murders between 31 August and 9 November 1888 are often considered the most likely to be linked. The murders were never solved, and the legends surrounding these crimes became a combination of historical research, [folklore](#), and [pseudohistory](#).

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper)>

Jack the Ripper

Jack the Ripper terrorized London in 1888, killing at least five women and mutilating their bodies in an unusual manner, indicating that the killer had a substantial knowledge of human anatomy. The culprit was never captured—or even identified—and Jack the Ripper remains one of England's, and the world's, most infamous criminals.

All five killings attributed to Jack the Ripper took place within a mile of each other, in or near the Whitechapel district of London's East End, from August 7 to September 10, 1888. Several other murders occurring around that time period have also been investigated as the work of "Leather Apron" (another nickname given to the murderer).

A number of letters were allegedly sent by the killer to the London Metropolitan Police Service (often known as Scotland Yard), taunting officers about his gruesome activities and speculating on murders to come. The moniker "Jack the Ripper" originates from a letter—which may have been a hoax—published at the time of the attacks.

Despite countless investigations claiming definitive evidence of the brutal killer's identity, his or her name and motive are still unknown.

Various theories about Jack the Ripper's identity have been produced over the past several decades, which include claims accusing the famous Victorian painter Walter Sickert, a Polish migrant and even the grandson of [Queen Victoria](#). Since 1888, more than 100 suspects have been named, contributing to widespread folklore and ghoulish entertainment surrounding the mystery.

The 'Whitechapel Butcher'

In the late 1800s, London's East End was a place that was viewed by citizens with either compassion or utter contempt. Despite being an area where skilled immigrants—mainly Jews and Russians—came to begin a new life and start businesses, the district was notorious for squalor, violence and crime.

Prostitution was only illegal if the practice caused a public disturbance, and thousands of brothels and low-rent lodging houses provided sexual services during the late 19th century.

At that time, the death or murder of a working girl was rarely reported in the press or discussed within polite society. The reality was that "ladies of the night" were subject to physical attacks, which sometimes resulted in death.

Among these common violent crimes was the attack of English prostitute Emma Smith, who was beaten and raped with an object by four men. Smith, who later died of peritonitis, is remembered as one of many unfortunate female victims who were killed by gangs demanding protection money.

However, the series of killings that began in August 1888 stood out from other violent crime of the time: Marked by sadistic butchery, they suggested a mind more sociopathic and hateful than most citizens could comprehend.

Jack the Ripper didn't just snuff out life with a knife, he mutilated and disemboweled women, removing organs such as kidneys and uteruses, and his crimes seemed to portray an abhorrence for the entire female gender.

The Jack the Ripper Collection

Jack the Ripper	
	
Born	Unknown
Other names	"The Whitechapel Murderer" "Leather Apron"
Details	
Victims	Unknown (5 canonical)
Date	1888–1891(?) (1888: 5 canonical)
Location(s)	<a href="#">Whitechapel</a> and <a href="#">Spitalfields</a> , London, England (5 canonical)

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper)>

THE JACK THE RIPPER TIMELINE

- April 1888
- APRIL 3RD 1888  
1.30am  
Emma Smith, a local prostitute, is attacked by a local gang at the junction of Osborn Street and Brick Lane.  
As well as robbing her they subject her to a savage assault.  
[Full story](#)
- APRIL 3RD 1888  
4am - 5am  
Emma Smith arrives back at her lodging house, 18 George Street, where the other residents, alarmed at her distressed and injured state, persuade her to go with them to the nearby London Hospital.
- APRIL 4TH 1888  
9am  
Emma Smith dies of her injuries at the London Hospital.
- APRIL 7TH 1888  
The inquest into her death is held at the London Hospital, the Jury returns a verdict of "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown."
- FIRST WHITECHAPEL MURDER  
Although she, almost certainly, was not a victim of Jack the Ripper, she is the first name on the Whitechapel Murders file that later included the murders by Jack the Ripper.  
[Full Story of Emma Smith's Murder](#)
- August 1888
- AUGUST 7TH 1888  
Another prostitute, Martha Tabram, is found stabbed to death on a landing of George Yard Buildings.  
[Martha Tabram's Murder](#)
- AUGUST 31ST 1888  
3.40am  
The body of Mary Ann Nichols, who is commonly held to be Jack the Ripper's first victim, is found at 3.40am in Buck's Row Whitechapel  
[Full story](#)
- September 1888
- SEPTEMBER 1ST - 4TH 1888  
The police begin questioning the neighbourhood's prostitutes.  
They learn bout a character who the prostitutes have nicknamed "Leather Apron" who has been extorting money from them for the past 12 months.
- SEPTEMBER 5TH 1888  
The *Star* newspaper publishes a write-up on "Leather Apron", which causes the first murmurs of anti-Semitism in the district.
- SEPTEMBER 8TH 1888  
6.00am  
The second Jack the Ripper victim, Annie Chapman, is found in the back yard of 29 Hanbury Street.  
[Annie Chapman's Murder](#)
- SEPTEMBER 10TH 1888  
Mr George Lusk, together with several other local business men, founds the Mile End Vigilance Committee, hoping to assist the police with their endeavours to catch the murderer.
- SEPTEMBER 10TH 1888  
6.00am  
John Pizer, whom Sergeant Thick maintains is recognized as "Leather Apron," is arrested. He can,

such as the Ripper didn't just slash but he cut the throats, he mutilated and disemboweled women, removing organs such as kidneys and uteruses, and his crimes seemed to portray an abhorrence for the entire female gender.

## The Legacy of Jack the Ripper

Jack the Ripper's murders suddenly stopped in the fall of 1888, but London citizens continued to demand answers that would not come, even more than a century later. The ongoing case—which has spawned an industry of books, films, TV series and historical tours—has met with a number of hindrances, including lack of evidence, a gamut of misinformation and false testimony, and tight regulations by the Scotland Yard.

Jack the Ripper has been the topic of news stories for more than 120 years, and will likely continue to be for decades to come.

More recently, in 2011, British detective Trevor Marriott, who has long been investigating the Jack the Ripper murders, made headlines when he was denied access to uncensored documents surrounding the case by the Metropolitan Police.

According to a 2011 [ABC News](#) article, London officers had refused to give Marriott the files because they include protected information about police informants, and that handing over the documents could impede on the possibility of future testimony by modern-day informants.

This is a brief review of the Jack the Ripper murders that occurred in London more than a hundred years ago. Much of the original evidence gathered at the time has been lost, and many "facts" are actually opinions by the various writers who have written about the case during the past century. Many aspects of the case are therefore contested, and so what follows is a summation of the case in general. There are many books available to the student of crime who wishes to grapple with the many mysteries associated with the case.

"Jack the Ripper" is the popular name given to a serial killer who killed a number of prostitutes in the East End of London in 1888. The name originates from a letter written by someone who claimed to be the killer published at the time of the murders. The killings took place within a mile area and involved the districts of Whitechapel, Spitalfields, Aldgate, and the City of London proper. He was also called the Whitechapel Murderer and "Leather Apron."

### Significance and Importance

Jack the Ripper has remained popular for a lot of reasons. He was not the first serial killer, but he was probably the first to appear in a large metropolis at a time when the general populace had become literate and the press was a force for social change. The Ripper also appeared when there were tremendous political turmoil and both the liberals and social reformers, as well as the Irish Home rule partisans tried to use the crimes for their own ends. Every day the activities of the Ripper were chronicled in the newspapers as were the results of the inquiries and the actions taken by the police. Even the feelings of the people living in the East End, and the editorials that attacked the various establishments of Society appeared each day for both the people of London and the whole world to read. It was the press coverage that made this series of murders a "new thing", something that the world had never known before. The press was also partly responsible for creating many myths surrounding the Ripper and ended up turning a sad killer of women into a "bogey man", who has now become one of the most romantic figures in history. The rest of the responsibility lies with the Ripper. He may have been a sexual serial killer of a type all too common in the 1990s, but he was also bent on terrifying a city and making the whole world take notice of him by leaving his horribly mutilated victims in plain sight. Lastly, the Ripper was never caught and it is the mysteries surrounding this killer that both add to the romance of the story and creating an intellectual puzzle that people still want to solve.

### The Victims

It is unclear just how many women the Ripper killed. It is generally accepted that he killed five, though some have written that he murdered only four while others say seven or more. The public, press, and even many junior police officers believed that the Ripper was responsible for nine slayings. The five that are generally accepted as the work of the Ripper are:

1. Mary Ann (Polly) Nichols, murdered Friday, August 31, 1888.
2. Annie Chapman, murdered Saturday, September 8, 1888.
3. Elizabeth Stride, murdered Sunday, September 30, 1888.
4. Catharine Eddowes, also murdered that same date.
5. Mary Jane (Marie Jeanette) Kelly, murdered Friday, November 9, 1888.

Besides these five there are good reasons to believe that the first victim was really Martha Tabram who was murdered Tuesday, August 7, 1888, and there are important considerations for questioning whether Stride was a Ripper victim. As to the actual number of women that the Ripper killed, Philip Sugden wrote in his excellent book, *The Complete History of Jack the Ripper*, "There is no simple answer. In a sentence: at least four, probably six, just possibly eight."

All five of these listed plus Tabram were prostitutes and were killed between early August and early November 1888. All but Tabram and Kelly were killed outdoors and there is no evidence to suggest that any of them knew each other. They varied in both age and appearance. Most were drunk or thought to be drunk at the time they were killed.

### Method of Operation

Surprisingly, a full understanding of the Ripper's modus operandi was not established until several years ago. The Whitechapel murderer and his victim stood facing each other. When she lifted her skirts, the victim's hands were occupied and was then defenseless. The Ripper seized the women by their throats and strangled them until they were unconscious if not dead. The autopsies constantly revealed clear indications that the victims had been strangled. In the past some writers believed that the Ripper struck from behind when the victims were bent forward, their skirts hiked up their backsides while waiting to engage in anal sex. This is a very awkward arrangement and the risk that they may scream or elude his clutch's make this unacceptable. The Ripper then lowered his victims to the ground, their heads to his left. This has been proven by the position of the bodies in relation to walls and fences that show that there was virtually no room for the murderer to attack the body from the left side. No bruising on the back of the heads shows that he lowered the bodies to the ground rather than throwing or letting them fall. Given the inclement weather and filth in the streets it is unacceptable that the prostitutes or their client would have attempted intercourse on the ground. He cut the throats when the women were on the ground. Splatter stains show that the blood pooled beside or under the neck and head of the victim rather than the front which is where the blood would flow if they had been standing up. In one case blood was found on the fence some 14 inches or so from the ground and opposite the neck wound and this shows that the blood spurted from the body while in the prone position on the ground. This method also prevented the killer from being unduly blood stained. By reaching over from the victim's right side to cut the left side of her throat, the blood flow would have been directed away from him, which would have reduced the amount of blood in which he would have been exposed. If the victim was already dead before their throats were cut, then the blood spilt would have not been very much. With the heart no longer beating the blood would not have been "pressurized," so only the blood in the immediate area of

Committee, hoping to assist the police with their endeavours to catch the murderer.

- **SEPTEMBER 10TH 1888**  
6.00am

John Pizer, whom Sergeant Thick maintains is recognized as "Leather Apron," is arrested. He can, however, provide alibis for the two recent murders and is released.  
[Annie Chapman's Murder](#)

- **SEPTEMBER 27TH 1888**

A missive addressed to 'The Boss' arrives at the Central News Agency. It is signed JACK THE RIPPER, a name which will turn the unknown miscreant into a world famous legend.

- **SEPTEMBER 30TH 1888**

1.00am  
The body of Elizabeth Stride is found in Berner Street, off Commercial Road.  
[Elizabeth Stride's Murder](#)

- **SEPTEMBER 30TH 1888**

1.45am  
The body of Catherine Eddowes is discovered in Mitre Square in the City of London. This means that another Police force, the City of London Police, now joins in the hunt for the murderer.  
[The Murder of Catherine Eddowes](#)

- **October 1888**

- **OCTOBER 1ST 1888**

The police make the "Jack the Ripper" letter public.

- **OCTOBER 6TH 1888**

The Central News Agency receive another letter that is signed "Jack the Ripper". The police ask them not make this missive public.

- **OCTOBER 16TH 1888**

Mr George Lusk receives a letter that is addressed "FROM HELL." It contains half a kidney. There is press speculation that it belonged to Catherine Eddowes.

- **November 1888**

- **NOVEMBER 9TH 1888**  
10.45am

25 year old Mary Kelly is found dead in her room, 13 Miller's Court, Dorset Street, Spitalfields. She is believed by many to have been Jack the Ripper's last victim.  
[The Murder of Mary Kelly](#)

- **December 1888**

- **DECEMBER 20TH 1888**

29 year old Rose Mylett (also known as Catherine Millett and Lizzie Davis), was found strangled in Clarke's Yard, off Poplar High Street. Despite the fact that several doctors who examined her body gave it as their opinion that she had been strangled, Robert Anderson was convinced that she had accidentally hanged herself on the collar of her dress whilst drunk. Dr Thomas Bond was, therefore, asked to examine her body and he agreed with Anderson. However, the jury at her subsequent inquest disagreed and returned a verdict of "wilful murder against some person or persons unknown". Her death was, therefore, added to the Whitechapel Murders file

- **1889**

- **July 1889**

- **JULY 17TH 1889**

The body of Alice McKenzie is found in Castle Alley, off Whitechapel High Street.

Despite the fact that her injuries were less savage than those inflicted on previous victims, several detectives believed her to have been a victim of Jack the Ripper.  
[The Murder of Alice McKenzie](#)

- **September 1889**

- **SEPTEMBER 10TH 1889**

The mutilated torso of an unknown woman was found beneath a railway arch in Pinchin Street. Although the press at the time noted that the torso bore similar mutilations to those inflicted on his victims by Jack the Ripper, the consensus amongst experts is that this was probably not a ripper killing.

- **1891**

- **February**

- **FEBRUARY 13TH 1891**

The body of Frances Coles is found beneath a railway arch in Swallow Gardens.

At the time there was much speculation that her killing spelt a return for the ripper.

A sailor named James Thomas Sadler was arrested, charged and later acquitted of her murder. Today she is not believed to have been a Jack the Ripper victim.

From <<https://www.jack-the-ripper.org/timeline.htm>>

the wound would have evacuated gently from the cuts. The Ripper then made his other mutilations, still from the victim's right side, or possibly while straddling over the body at or near the feet. In several cases the legs had been pushed up which would have shortened the distance between the abdomen and the feet. No sign of intercourse was ever detected nor did the Ripper masturbate over the bodies. Usually he took a piece of the victim's viscera. The taking of a "trophy" is a common practice by modern sexual serial killers. In the opinion of most of the surgeons who examined the bodies, most believed that the killer had to have some degree of anatomical knowledge to do what he did. In one case he removed a kidney from the front rather than from the side, and did not damage any of the surrounding organs while doing so. In another case he removed the sexual organs with one clean stroke of the knife. Given the time circumstances of the crimes (outside, often in near total darkness, keeping one eye out for the approach of others, and under extremely tight time constraints), the Ripper almost certainly would have had some experience in using his knife.

### The Ripper Letters

It is commonly accepted by the experts on the case that none of the letters purported to have been written by the Ripper were in fact written by him. A letter dated September 25 and received on the twenty-seventh by the Central News agency was the first to be signed "Jack the Ripper". A postcard post marked October 1 followed. Because it referred to a "double event" the police thought it might be from the killer since it was posted the day after the Ripper killed two women. The post card also referred to the letter and must have come from the same source as the letter had not been released to the public yet. If the post card had been sent on September 30, the day of the "double event", instead of October 1, the likelihood that it was really written by the murderer would be significantly greater. The Whitechapel Murderer may have written the letter/post card but there is no evidence to suppose that he did and the police seem convinced that they were the work of a journalist. A recently discovered document states that a journalist from the Central News agency, Tom Bulling, was the writer. One other letter may have been written by the killer. In mid-October a small parcel was sent to George Lusk, who was head of a vigilance committee in Whitechapel. Inside was half a human kidney and a letter from someone claiming to be the killer, and that it was part of the kidney he removed from the victim Eddowes. It is impossible to know for sure if the Ripper really did send it. Most of the arguments in favor of it being from Jack have been based on inaccurate information and the myths rather than the facts surrounding the case. However, Eddowes did suffer from Bright's disease and the description of the kidney does match what a Bright's disease kidney would look like.

### Evidence

In a time before forensic science and even finger printing, the only way to prove someone committed a murder was to catch either him or her in the act, or get the suspect to confess. The Whitechapel Murders unhappily fall into this period of time. One interesting feature of this case is that not one, but two police forces carried out investigations. The Metropolitan Police, known as Scotland Yard, was responsible for crimes committed in all the boroughs of London except the City of London proper. The single square mile in the heart of London known as the City of London had their own police force. When Eddowes was killed, it was in their territory and this brought them into the Ripper case. It is believed that the rank and file of the two forces got along and worked well together, but there is evidence that the seniors in each force did not. To what degree, if any, their failure to cooperate fully had on solving the case is not known. Most sources do not fault either police force for failing to solve the Jack the Ripper mystery, rightly pointing out that catching serial killers is still a hard task even by today's science and technology. Other than autopsies and taking statements from everybody who might know something there was little else that the Metropolitan police force did. The attitude of the people at the time was that the police were incompetent and that the Commissioner, Sir Charles Warren, was only good for policing crowds and keeping order rather than detective work. He was especially criticized for not offering a reward in the hope that a confederate or accomplice would come forth and inform against the Ripper. In fact, Warren had no objections for a reward being offered and it was his superior, Henry Matthews, the Home Secretary who refused the sanction of a reward. The City of London Police seems to have done a better job although they did not apprehend the killer either. City police officers made crime scene drawings, took many photographs of the victim Eddowes, and even though she was not in their jurisdiction, they took photographs of the Kelly victim. She is the only victim who was photographed at the crime scene. One of the splits between the leadership of the two forces was over graffiti found in Goulston Street on the night of the "double event". A piece of Eddowes' apron, which the Ripper used to wipe off his knife, was found by a constable near a doorway that had a chalked message over the door. This message, "The Juwes are the men That Will not be blamed for nothing", may have been written by the Ripper and the City police officers wanted to photograph it. Warren felt that leaving it until it was light enough to be photographed might cause riots against the Jews living in Whitechapel whom the bigoted English residents already believed were responsible for the murders. Warren did not even compromise by willing to erase or cover up the word "Juwes" only. In the end the police never charged any suspect with the murders committed by the Ripper which shows they did not have a sufficient amount of evidence that would gain a verdict of guilty in criminal court.

### Suspects

In 1894, Sir Melville Macnaghten, then Chief Constable, wrote a confidential report in which he names the three top suspects. Although some information concerning the suspect he believed most likely to have been the murderer had been available before the turn of the century, the name of that suspect was not made public until 1959. Macnaghten's suspect was M.J. Druiitt, a barrister turned teacher who committed suicide in December 1888. Unfortunately for Macnaghten who wrote his memoranda from memory, the details he ascribes to Druiitt are wrong. According to the Chief Constable, Druiitt was a doctor, 41 years of age, and committed suicide immediately after the Kelly murder. In actuality Druiitt was 31, not a doctor, and killed himself nearly a month after the last official murder. No other police officer supported Macnaghten's allegations, and one in fact, stated that the theory was inadequate and that the suicide was circumstantial evidence at best that the drowned doctor was the Ripper. While it is still possible that he was the Ripper, correct information gathered about Druiitt so far makes him seem an unlikely candidate.

In 1903, Frederick Abberline, a retired crack detective who had been in charge of the Ripper investigation at the ground level stated that he thought that multiple wife poisoner Severin Klosowski, alias George Chapman, might be Jack the Ripper. As with Macnaghten, no other officer has concurred with his opinion and modern criminal profiling science tends to reject Klosowski as a serious candidate. The name of Macnaghten's second suspect was confirmed as Aaron Kosminski in the early 1980s when a researcher came upon Donald Swanson's personal copy of Robert Anderson's book of memoirs. Both Swanson and Anderson were officers who participated in the Ripper investigation; indeed, they were the ones given the responsibility of being in charge of the case. Anderson had written in his memoirs that appeared for the first time in 1910 that the police knew who the Ripper was. According to Anderson the Ripper was a Polish Jew who was put away in an insane asylum after the crimes, and then died soon after. Swanson had made some notes in his copy of the book concerning Anderson's suspect, and wrote that the suspect's name was Kosminski. At first it seemed that the case had been solved, but research has found a number of problems with the theory. No other officer supports' Anderson's allegation, and Swanson's notes seem to question his superior's claims rather than support them. Aaron Kosminski was a real person and was placed in an insane asylum. His records show him to be a docile and harmless lunatic that heard voices in his head and would only eat food from the gutter. The dates of his incarceration are wrong, and he did not die soon after his committal but lived on until 1919. Some researchers have tried to explain the problems by saying that the name Kosminski' was confused with another insane Polish Jew, who really was dangerous.

The search continues. The third Macnaghten suspect, Michael Ostrog, has been investigated and there is nothing to indicate that he was nothing more than a demented con man.

Dr. Francis Tumblety, the latest serious suspect, only became known to students of the Jack the Ripper murders in 1993. A collector of crime memorabilia obtained a cache of letters belonging to a crime journalist named G.R. Sims. Among the letters was one from John Littlechild, who had been in charge of the Secret Department in Scotland Yard at the time of the murders. Dated 1913, Littlechild writes to Sims: "I never heard of a Dr. D. (which many assume is a reference to Druiitt as Macnaghten thought Druiitt was a doctor and Sims was a confident of the Chief Constable), in connection with the Whitechapel Murders but amongst the suspects, and to my mind a very likely one, was a Dr. T . . . He was an American quack named Tumblety . . . " A book by the collector who found the letter goes to great lengths in trying to prove that Tumblety is the final solution for the mystery. Unfortunately, he fails to do so. There is no doubt that Tumblety was a legitimate suspect and that when he fled to America, Scotland Yard detectives came over to investigate him further. It is unlikely that Scotland Yard continued

to view him as a serious suspect. James Monro, who succeeded Warren and was in overall command of the Secret department before becoming Commissioner, thought that the Alice McKenzie murder of July 1889 was the work of the Ripper. He stated in 1890 that he did not know who the Whitechapel murderer was but that he was working on his own theory.

### Ripper Research

At the time of the murders and for the next few years, a lot was written about the murders including some tabloid type books. Most of it is worthless and only helped to set up many myths that have clouded serious attempts to figure out what really happened that autumn in London. Other than memoirs of officers who worked on the case, which is valuable, little else was written until after the first world war. In 1929 the first full length book in English about the Ripper, *The Mystery of Jack the Ripper* by Leonard Matters, was published. Once more there was growing interest in the murders again in that the Ripper was appearing in both nonfiction works and fictional formats such as Alfred Hitchcock's *The Lodger*. Cult-like interest, the interest that has really never left, began in the 1950s. Dan Farson did a television show about the Ripper and uncovered a version of the McNaghten memoranda. The first really good books began to be published in the 1960s, such as Tom Cullen's *Autumn of Terror* and Robin Odell's *Jack the Ripper in Fact and Fiction*. Interest in Jack the Ripper exploded in 1970 when a new theory was published in which the grandson of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale, was accused of being the Ripper. Just like his nemesis in fiction, Sherlock Holmes, the 1970s saw Jack being either paired with someone famous or identified as being someone famous. It was a decade that also featured some entertaining but patently absurd conspiracy theories explaining who the Ripper really was. Plots involving Freemasons, court physicians, and sinister figures from occult organizations, have been paraded before the public as the final solution. In the midst of the madness some good came out. Donald Rumbelow's *The Complete Jack the Ripper* was published, and police files still existing from the investigations were made available to all and sundry. The 1980s saw a tide of books published to cash in on the centennial of the Murders in Whitechapel, and lost evidence was returned anonymously to the police and Swanson's notes on Anderson's suspect were found. The FBI's Behavioral Science Unit did a criminal profile of the Ripper and aspects of the murders were discussed in various professional journals. During the 1990s, two new books have appeared that are musts for people who are interested in the Ripper murders. *The Jack the Ripper A to Z* by Paul Begg, Martin Fido, and Keith Skinner is indispensable for doing research and Sugden's *The Complete History of Jack the Ripper* has replaced Rumbelow's worthy tome as the authoritative source for information. An interesting phony diary supposedly written by the Ripper was published and the authentic letter revealing the suspect Dr. Francis Tumblety has also been released to the public.

### The Future

In the past ten years more evidence has been recovered, new information garnered through the young criminal sciences, and serious research conducted on the mystery of Jack the Ripper than at any other time since the case was officially closed in 1892. After more than a hundred years the case is still fascinating, and results are still being gotten through research. Nick Warren, a student of the crimes and a practicing surgeon, studied the second Kelly crime scene photograph that was recently recovered, and was able to establish that a hatchet was used by the Ripper to split one of his victim's legs! The likelihood of the case ever being solved is open to debate. If the police solved it but for some reason kept the Ripper's identity a secret, then I think that the odds are good that the answer will be rediscovered. Unfortunately, I and I think most serious students on the subject, do not think that the police did solve the case. Individual officers had strong opinions on who Jack the Ripper was, but not the Forces as a whole. This makes the challenge much more difficult as today's researchers must find new evidence rather than unearth that which has been lost. The evidence lost is considerable. Virtually all of the City of London Police files were lost in the Blitz during the last world war. What remains of the Metropolitan Police files are available to the public but the files are sparse. Some have claimed that the files were purposefully destroyed to keep the Murderer's identity a secret. The truth is more pedestrian and unromantic. Almost from the beginning items were removed for souvenirs. Often in those olden days when they ran out of room, the clerks would go to the end of the shelve and simply dump out the old files by the armful. When Abberline was interviewed in 1903, the journalist noted that the retired Scotland yard Inspector was surrounded by official files. Once, upon the death of a retired officer, a trunk full of files concerning his old cases was found in his possession. Modern day "Ripperologists" were not above souvenir hunting themselves. A number of documents were taken in the late 1970s/early 1980s and as a result the remaining material was put on microfilm. It seems perfectly possible that Jack the Ripper's identity may one day be discovered; it may be one of the serious suspects mentioned in this report, or one that the police dismissed too cavalierly all those years ago, or it may be someone completely unknown at this time. The future may or may not reveal the Ripper's name.

From <<https://casebook.org/intro.html>>

## Suspects

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:36 PM

- [1Contemporaneous police opinion](#)
- [1.1Montague John Druitt](#)
- [1.2Seweryn Klosowski](#)
- [1.3Aaron Kosminski](#)
- [1.4Michael Ostrog](#)
- [1.5John Pizer](#)
- [1.6James Thomas Sadler](#)
- [1.7Francis Tumblety](#)
- [2Contemporaneous press and public opinion](#)
- [2.1William Henry Bury](#)
- [2.2Thomas Neill Cream](#)
- [2.3Thomas Hayne Cutbush](#)
- [2.4Frederick Bailey Deeming](#)
- [2.5Carl Feigenbaum](#)
- [2.6Robert Donston Stephenson](#)
- [3Proposed by later authors](#)
- [3.1Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence and Avondale](#)
- [3.2Joseph Barnett](#)
- [3.3Lewis Carroll](#)
- [3.4David Cohen](#)
- [3.5William Withey Gull](#)
- [3.6George Hutchinson](#)
- [3.7James Kelly](#)
- [3.8Charles Allen Lechmere](#)
- [3.9Jacob Levy](#)
- [3.10James Maybrick](#)
- [3.11Michael Maybrick](#)
- [3.12Alexander Pedachenko](#)
- [3.13Walter Sickert](#)
- [3.14Joseph Silver](#)
- [3.15James Kenneth Stephen](#)
- [3.16Francis Thompson](#)
- [3.17Willy Clarkson](#)
- [3.18Sir John Williams](#)

From  
<[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper\\_suspects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper_suspects)>

### Who Was Jack The Ripper? The 5 Most Likely Jack The Ripper Suspects

By Gabe Paoletti

Published December 4, 2017

Updated August 4, 2020

Though all witnesses have been dead for decades, historians and sleuths have put these Jack The Ripper suspects at the top of their list for the infamous murders.



### FINDING THE MUTILATED BODY IN MITRE SQAIRE

Wikimedia CommonsAn illustration of the discovery of the body of Catherine Eddowes, one of Jack the Ripper's victims, as depicted in *The Illustrated Police News* circa 1888.

Since the terrible Whitechapel Murders of 1888, speculation as to who was Jack The Ripper have run rampant, with dozens of names being thrown in the ring.

When police failed to find the identity of the murderer of several women in the Whitechapel neighborhood of London in 1888, the newspaper dubbed the anonymous killer "Jack The Ripper." This now legendary figure was the first urban serial killer to capture the imagination of the public, and now, over 100 years later, the Ripper still has a grip on the public consciousness.

Though all involved in the case have been dead for decades, historians and sleuths have attempted to glean the identity of the murderer to this day. While some of these theories have been outlandish speculation, there are a few Jack The Ripper suspects that legitimately have a case against them.

Many of these Jack The Ripper suspects were at one point suspected by the police but were ultimately never charged with the murders. Others have been speculated on in hindsight, and have some historical evidence for their involvement later uncovered.

*Now that you've read about the Jack The Ripper suspects, check out the theory that "[Jack The Ripper](#)" was merely a [creation of the newspapers](#) at the time. Then, learn about the the forgotten lives of [Jack the Ripper's victims](#).*

From <<https://allthatsinteresting.com/jack-the-ripper-suspects>>

### Jack the Ripper Suspects

The following is a list of people suspected of being Jack the Ripper. Please note that while most of the main suspects in the case are represented below, this is by no means an exhaustive list of suspects. By some counts, more than 500 individuals have been put forward by various experts, historians and theorists - most based on flimsy or non-existent evidence.



[Prince Albert Victor](#)



[Joseph Barnett](#)



[Alfred Napier Blanchard](#)





[W.H. Bury](#)



[Lewis Carroll](#)



[David Cohen](#)



[Dr. T. Neill Cream](#)



[Frederick Deeming](#)



[Montague John Druitt](#)



[Carl Feigenbaum](#)



[Fogelma](#)



[George Hutchinson \(Br.\)](#)



[Hyam Hyams](#)



[Jill the Ripper](#)



[James Kelly](#)



[Severin Klosowski \(George Chapman\)](#)



[Aaron Kosminski](#)



[Jacob Levy](#)



[The Lodger](#)



[James Maybrick](#)



[Michael Ostrog](#)



[Dr. Pedachenko](#)



[The Royal Conspiracy](#)



[Walter Sickert](#)



[James Kenneth Stephen](#)



[R. D. Onston Stephenson](#)



[Alois Szemeredy](#)



[Francis Thompson](#)



[Francis Tumblety](#)



[Nicholas Vassily](#)



[Dr. John Williams](#)



From <<https://casebook.org/suspects/>>

## Was It Aaron Kosminski? Jack the Ripper DNA Claims Get Ripped

The outcry generated by claims that century-old DNA has conclusively identified Jack the Ripper only proves that the evidence isn't that conclusive.

Sept. 8, 2014, 3:48 PM EDT / Updated Sept. 8, 2014, 4:15 PM EDT

Does DNA analysis prove conclusively that a [deranged Polish barber named Aaron Kosminski was behind the famous "Jack the Ripper" murders of the 19th century](#)? The claim has stirred up a hue and cry among professional and amateur sleuths who have been following the case for decades — proving only that the evidence is far from conclusive.

"Literally, we see articles like this a couple of times a year, but this one has gone viral," said Stephen P. Ryder, executive editor of ["Casebook: Jack the Ripper,"](#) an online database and forum for so-called "Ripperologists." In a newly published book titled ["Naming Jack the Ripper,"](#) amateur historian (and [Ripper tour operator](#)) Russell Edwards says he's certain that the DNA findings have solved a long-mysterious string of murders that terrorized the seamier streets of London starting in 1888. "Put the case to bed," he told ITV News. "We've done this."



### Is This the Face of Jack the Ripper?

SEPT. 8, 2014 01:58

But the chain of evidence would never hold up in a court: It's based on fresh analysis of DNA recovered from a century-old bloodstained scarf linked to one of Jack the Ripper's victims, Catherine Eddowes. Edwards' scientific collaborator, Jari Louhelainen of Liverpool John Moores University, has linked some of the DNA from the stains to the genetic signature of Eddowes' distant relatives. Another DNA signature, purportedly attributed to semen on the scarf, was linked to relatives of Kosminski.

Ripperologists have known about the scarf, as well as Kosminski's status as a suspect, for years. The new twist has to do with the DNA tests. "There's kind of a 'CSI Effect' going on," Ryder said. "People hear 'DNA,' and they think it's 100 percent solved."

It's not solved, as Ripperologists are only too happy to point out in the [Casebook forum](#).

"I would dearly love to see a fully referenced, scientific, juried account of the testing and the associated processes," one commenter wrote. "It's intriguing, but as others have pointed out, there are so many issues even beyond the DNA. If anything, it's raising more questions, not generating answers."

The arguments over back-and-forth changes in the [Wikipedia page for "Jack the Ripper"](#) became so heated that the page has been protected from editing.

### Debate over DNA

One of the reasons for the controversy has to do with the limitations of the DNA test that was used.

Louhelainen could recover the genetic signature only from mitochondrial DNA, or mtDNA, rather than the nuclear DNA that serves as a MtDNA is passed down from a mother to her children, and many people can share the same mtDNA signature. The signature linked to Kosminski, T1a1, is a relatively [common subtype](#). Thus, the determination doesn't mean much unless the signature can be narrowed down to a rarer subtype, or unless additional evidence can be brought to bear (as was the case for identifying the remains of Russia's Czar Nicholas II and his family).

A larger question has to do with the scarf's history: It's been open to contamination for decades, and it's not even clear that it was really left behind by Eddowes (or her killer) after the 1888 murder. "In the community of so-called experts, it's not really considered evidence," Ryder said.

### Another 'Case Closed' moment?

Then there's the fact that Kosminski doesn't match up all that well with descriptions of the killer by contemporary witnesses. He was just 23 years old and reportedly slight of build. In contrast, witnesses have described a heavier-built, somewhat older man as skulking around the scenes of the crimes.

From <https://www.nbcnews.com/science/science-news/was-it-aaron-kosminski-jack-ripper-dna-claims-get-ripped-n198506>

## A MAJOR JACK THE RIPPER SUSPECT

### WHAT MACNAGHTEN SAID

According to Melville Macnaghten, in his 1894 Memoranda, one of the three men who was more likely than Thomas Cutbush to have been Jack the Ripper was "Kosminski" who, according to Macnaghten, was:-

...a Polish Jew, & resident in Whitechapel. This man became insane owing to many years indulgence in solitary vices. He had a great hatred of women, especially of the prostitute class, & had strong homicidal tendencies; he was removed to a lunatic asylum about March 1889..."

### SUSPECTED BY THE TWO MOST SENIOR OFFICERS

Kosminski is of particular interest because, in addition to Macnaghten, the two highest ranking officers with direct responsibility for the Jack the Ripper investigation, also considered him to be a strong suspect for the Jack the Ripper murders.

### WHAT ROBERT ANDERSON SAID

In 1910, [Sir Robert Anderson](#), Assistant Commissioner throughout the murders, wrote in his memoirs that:-

...undiscovered murders are rare in London, and the "Jack-the-Ripper" crimes are not in that category...I will merely add that the only person who had ever had a good view of the murderer unhesitatingly identified the suspect the instant he was confronted with him; but he refused to give evidence against him...In saying that he was a Polish Jew I am merely stating a definitely ascertained fact..."

### CHIEF INSPECTOR SWANSON'S MARGINALIA

Although Anderson didn't name this suspect, it is apparent that he was referring to Macnaghten's "Kosminski," a fact confirmed in 1987 when [Chief Inspector Donald Swanson's](#) copy of Anderson's memoir was made public.

Swanson was the officer tasked with assessing all the information on the Jack the Ripper case, and few people possessed anything like his comprehensive knowledge of the murders.

He and Anderson became firm friends and when Anderson's memoir - entitled *The Lighter Side of My Official Life* - was published, Swanson received his own personally inscribed copy.

Swanson made penciled annotations to Anderson's narrative, and in so doing provided a little more information.

Where Anderson talks of a witness "unhesitatingly" identifying their suspect but refusing to give evidence against him, Swanson explains that this was "...Because the suspect was also a Jew ...and witness would be the means of murderer being hanged which he did not wish to be left on his mind..."

He goes on to say that, following this identification, the suspect was returned to his brother's house in Whitechapel where the City Police kept him under constant surveillance.

A short time later this suspect was taken to Stepney Workhouse and from there he was sent to Colney Hatch Lunatic asylum where, according to Swanson, he died shortly afterwards.

Swanson ends with the emphatic statement that "Kosminski was the suspect."

### WHO WAS KOSMINSKI?

It is now known that the suspect in question was a man named Aaron Mordke Kosminski (1865 - 1919), a Polish-born immigrant, whose father Abram Josef Kozminski was a tailor, an occupation that Aaron's brother, Isaac, would also take up.

As far as can be ascertained, Isaac arrived in London at some stage between 1871 and 1873, where he became a successful and prosperous tailor.

We don't know exactly when Aaron arrived in London, but it may have been around 1880 - 1881.

We know virtually nothing about Aaron's life in London. His later Medical records state his occupation as "hairdresser", but it was also stated that he had not attempted any work for years.

### HIS 1889 COURT APPEARANCE

There is one brief glimpse of him in the public record around the time of the Whitechapel murders.

In December, 1889, he was one of several people who were summoned to appear at the Guildhall Court in the City of London for having unmuzzled dogs on a public thoroughfare.

Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper reported on this court appearance in its issue of Sunday, 15th December, 1889:-

Aaron Kosminski was summoned for a similar offence.

Police-constable Borer said that he saw the defendant with an unmuzzled dog, and that when asked his name he gave that of Aaron Kosminski, which his brother said was wrong, as his name was Abrahams.

Defendant said that the dog was not his, and his brother said it was found more convenient here to go by the name of Abrahams, but his name was Kosminski,

Sir Polydore de Keyser imposed a fine of ten shillings and costs, which the defendant would not pay as it was the Jewish Sunday, and it was not right to pay money on Sunday.

He was given till Monday to pay."

**Source:** Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper, Sunday, 15th December, 1889.

## SIGNS OF MENTAL ILLNESS

By mid-1890, he was displaying symptoms of mental illness, and was admitted to Mile End Old Town Workhouse on 12th July, 1890. His address was given as 3, Sion Square.

His stay on this occasion was a relatively short one, and he was discharged three days later, on 15th July, 1890.

He was re-admitted in early 1891, his abode this time being given as 16, Greenfield Street, which was the home of his brother-in-law, Morris Lubnowski, who was married to Aaron's sister, Matilda.

This time, he was certified as insane and, on 7th February, 1891, he was transferred to the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum at Colney Hatch.

The Admission Book gives his age as twenty-six; his occupation as "hairdresser"; the supposed cause of his insanity is listed as "unknown" - although "Self-abuse" was later added; and his nearest known relative is listed as "Wolf Abrahams (brother), 8, Lion Square, Commercial Rd, E1."

Significantly, the admission book states that he was *not* a danger to others, which, if there was a certainty that he had been Jack the Ripper, would be something of a major omission

## FACTS INDICATING INSANITY

The Admission Book also lists the following facts about him, which are attributed to "a medical man":-

He declares that he is guided and his movements altogether controlled by an instinct that informs his mind, he says that he knows the movements of all mankind, he refuses food from others because he is told to do so, and he eats out of the gutter for the same reason."

## PICKS UP BREAD FROM THE GUTTER

The records also quote a witness, identified as Jacob Cohen, of "51, Carter Lane, St Paul's EC":-

...he goes about the streets and picks up bits of bread out of the gutter and eats them, he drinks water from the tap & he refuses food at the hands of others. He took up a knife and threatened the life of his sister. He is very dirty and will not be washed. He has not attempted any kind of work for years."

## TRANSFERRED TO LEAVESDEN ASYLUM

Aaron Kosminski would spend just over three years at Colney Hatch Asylum, where he was described at various times as being, "extremely deluded and morose," "rather difficult to deal with on account of the dominant character of his delusions," "Incoherent, apathetic, excitable," "Indolent, but quiet, and clean in habits," "dull & vacant".

On 19th April, 1894, he was transferred to Leavesden Asylum, where he would spend the remaining twenty-five years of his life, dying there on the 24th of March, 1919.

## ARGUMENTS AGAINST HIS GUILT

Schizophrenic, delusional, paranoid and incoherent are all characteristics displayed by Aaron Kosminski.

But there are numerous arguments against his having been Jack the Ripper.

Swanson, apparently knew little about his fate, as Kosminski didn't, as Swanson claimed, die shortly after being admitted to Colney Hatch asylum. In fact, he lived for many years,

transferring to Leavesden Asylum in 1894, where he died in 1919.

Throughout the entire period of his confinement, Aaron Kosminski was never classed as homicidal, and it is specifically stated in his records, that he was not a danger to others.

Some of his notes state that he was excitable, but the only mention of his being violent was that he once grabbed a chair and made to strike an attendant with it.

### **NO CONCLUSIVE PROOF - YET**

Anderson and Swanson were the two highest ranking officers with direct responsibility for the Ripper investigation, and they were both in a position to know the evidence against all the suspects.

Yet, unless they are referring to a different Kosminski, or there is more information about him that has yet to come to light, there is little evidence to link Aaron Kosminski to the Jack the Ripper murders.

From <<https://www.jack-the-ripper.org/kosminski.htm>>

# Dr. Francis Tumblety

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:57 PM

## Francis Tumblety: A Prime Jack the Ripper Suspect

by [Michael Hawley](#)

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Hidden from history for over a century, Scotland Yard took seriously the possibility that an American man was the notorious [Jack the Ripper](#). The suspect's name was Dr. Francis Tumblety. He was a quack doctor and fake Indian herbalist, who was in London at the time of the murders. Police arrested him, and after posting bail, he sneaked out of the country and sailed back to New York City. Meanwhile, Jack the Ripper's murders stopped.



Since they had nothing on Tumblety for the murders upon his arrest, Scotland Yard soon charged him with a convictable misdemeanor offense to hold him. This was not an extraditable charge in the United States. Thus, Tumblety had no legal requirement to go back to England. Six months later in July 1889, someone killed another prostitute. At the time, Scotland Yard believed she was also the victim of Jack the Ripper. Since Tumblety was in New York, police took him off the suspect list. Experts agreed only later that Jack had not committed the 1889 murder.

## An Interesting Letter

In 1993, retired Suffolk Constabulary police officer and crime historian Stewart P. Evans uncovered a private letter dated September 23, 1913. Chief Inspector John Littlechild, head of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch, had written it and addressed it to famous journalist George R. Sims. In it, Littlechild revealed that Dr. Francis Tumblety became an important suspect after the Mary Kelly murder. He stated to Sims that “amongst the suspects,” Dr. Francis Tumblety was “a likely one.”

Stewart Evans then discovered that Tumblety’s arrest on suspicion had been in the newspapers at the time, especially in the U.S. dailies. Newspaper reports claimed that Tumblety was initially arrested on suspicion of the Whitechapel crimes. However, when the police had insufficient evidence to hold him, they re-arrested him on a misdemeanor charge of gross indecency and indecent assault. Apparently, Dr. Francis Tumblety engaged in sexual relationships with young men. In the nineteenth-century in England, this was an illegal act. During his arrest, Tumblety had a correspondence in his possession, which allowed Scotland Yard to pursue the gross indecency and indecent assault case against him.

## **The Controversial Dr. Francis Tumblety**

Dr. Francis Tumblety was a relatively well-known and somewhat notorious figure in the mid-nineteenth-century in North America. He was born in Ireland around 1833, and in 1847, he immigrated with his family to Rochester, New York, on the coffin ship *Ashburton* during the Irish potato famine. As a teenager, he was employed as a steward by a Rochester doctor who proclaimed himself an expert on “French cures for sexual diseases.” Tumblety peddled the doctor’s sexually-explicit literature on the Erie Canal boats. Soon after, a man named Rudolf Lyons set up a temporary office in town. He called himself “The well-known and celebrated Indian herb doctor,” which immediately attracted the attention of young Tumblety. When Lyons left, Tumblety followed, and he quickly learned the trade.

By 1855, Francis Tumblety started on his own in Detroit, Michigan, as a full-fledged Indian herb doctor. However, he also continued the practice of selling French cures literature for sexual diseases. Although it was untrue, he also claimed to have received a medical diploma through a medical school. The charlatan began signing his name with M.D. Thus began his highly successful traveling quackery. Subsequently, he left Detroit and traveled through Canada from Toronto to St. Johns and eventually made his way to New York City by 1860.

## **Tumblety’s Notoriety Grows**

Tumblety’s chosen profession ensured that his name was always in the daily newspapers everywhere he traveled. In any public setting where many eyes were upon him, Tumblety displayed his flamboyant Liberace-type character. Although nearly all accounts describe him as peculiar, the fact that people regularly called upon him suggests that his schemes were successful. Indeed, he was earning hundreds of thousands of dollars.



## **You May Also Like: [Was America's H.H. Holmes Jack the Ripper?](#)**

For example, as he came to a new city in the United States and Canada, he would enter as though he was entering a circus ring wearing a flashy outfit and riding a beautiful horse. A valet and two huge dogs followed closely behind him. However, legal problems also followed him closely because he practiced without a license and used the M.D. designation in his signature. In 1860, while he was in St. John, a patient died in his care. Authorities charged him with manslaughter. Instead of facing the music, Tumblety left Canada under cover of darkness and eventually settled in New York City.

After the defeat of the Union forces at the first major battle of the American Civil War just outside of Washington D.C. on July 21, 1861, President Lincoln appointed Major General George B. McClellan as Commander of the Army of the Potomac. McClellan was responsible for the defense of the capital. At this time, Francis Tumblety began his "two-year sojourn" at Washington D.C. He stated in his autobiography that he partially made up his mind to tender his "services as a surgeon in one of the regiments."

## **Herb Doc or Surgeon?**

Contemporary newspaper reporters repeated his boast of being on McClellan's surgical staff. Once he arrived, papers reported he was promenading up and down Pennsylvania Avenue. Interestingly, he did not flood the papers with his usual newspaper advertising campaign as a famous Indian herb doctor before his arrival. Instead, he waited for six months and began his campaign in 1862. This change in business practice makes sense, since he was attempting to convince the General that he was a surgeon, not an Indian herb doctor.

The problem for Tumblety was that he did not have a medical diploma and was not a real surgeon. Unsurprisingly, he did the next best thing. He invited the General's officers to an illustrated medical lecture. This was a practice that prominent surgeons performed in the nineteenth century to demonstrate their credibility.

## **The Collection of Uteruses**

At the conference, he revealed his anatomical collection, specifically, his prized collection of uterus specimens. Perhaps these included the same uteruses that were taken by Jack the Ripper from two of his victims. The man who saw Tumblety's uterus collection was New York City lawyer and Civil War reptile journalist/spy Charles A. Dunham. Dunham stated to a New York World reporter on December 1, 1888, that he was a colonel when he met Tumblety in the capital. His position as one of the General's officers would have been why Tumblety invited him to the lecture. The General's officers were his eyes and ears. Once the General rejected him by the end of 1861, Tumblety left for two months. However, he returned and decided to practice his money-making scheme as an Indian herb doctor. In February 1862, he began advertising himself.





Francis Tumblety

Did Dunham lie to the reporter about Tumblety having an anatomical collection and giving the medical lecture? Interestingly, just before Tumblety arrived in D.C., people saw him in New York City with pictures of anatomical specimens posted outside his Broadway Street office, “which look as if they might once have formed part of the collection of a lunatic” (*Vanity Fair*, August 31, 1861). Further, Tumblety made his way to Buffalo, New York, after his two-year sojourn at the capital. The *Buffalo Courier* reported that Tumblety gave medical lectures, “with Thespian emphasis.”

## Move to London

In the 1880s, the world traveler was spending half the year in England. In May of 1888 – the year of the Ripper murders – Tumblety sailed across the Atlantic and made residence in West End London. During the murders, police arrested him on suspicion for the Whitechapel crimes. This occurred sometime before police took him into custody on November 7, 1888, for gross indecency and indecent assault. They immediately brought him up in front of Marlborough Police Court Magistrate James L. Hannay for his remand hearing. This would determine if he should remain in custody at Holloway Prison until his committal hearing one week later. Hannay had the discretionary powers to give Tumblety bail. On November 9, 1888, just one or two days later, Mary Kelly suffered a brutal death.

Tumblety had his committal hearing on November 14, 1888. Magistrate Hannay listened to the evidence and agreed the case should be brought up to the judge at Central Criminal Court on November 20, 1888, following a grand jury review. Hannay set bail at £300, and on November 16, 1888, Tumblety posted bail. Holloway Prison released him, and he was free.

Did Hannay set bail at the earlier remand hearing, allowing Tumblety to be free at the time of the Kelly murder? If the magistrate set bail at the later committal hearing for the same offense, he likely did the same at the earlier remand hearing, especially since the case against Tumblety was in preparations for the committal hearing. The fact that three Scotland Yard officials considered Tumblety a suspect *after* the Kelly murder supports this.

## **Fleeing England**

After posting bail, Tumblety slipped into the English shadows. On November 20, Tumblety instructed his lawyer to request a postponement. The courts approved the request and scheduled it for December 10, 1888. Interestingly, Tumblety's New York bank transferred approximately £260 transferred on November 20. He sneaked out of England to Boulogne, France, on November 23, 1888. He embarked on the transatlantic steamship La Bretagne at noon in Havre, France, on November 24, and arrived in New York City on December 2, 1888. Because the charge was a misdemeanor offense, Tumblety would not face extradition back to England.

**On Amazon:** Michael L. Hawley's book – [The Ripper's Haunts](#)

Six months later, on July 17, 1889, someone murdered Alice Mackenzie. Scotland Yard believed she was the Whitechapel fiend's victim. Since Tumblety was in New York City, this convinced police that Tumblety was not Jack the Ripper. The world soon forgot about him. Only later did people realized that Jack did not murder Mackenzie.

Tumblety had two personas. Publicly, he was a ubiquitous, eccentric, aristocratic medical professional. However, privately, he was a narcissistic loner, frequenting the slums of every city seeking encounters with young men. On countless occasions, Tumblety found himself in legal trouble, defending against various charges including assault.

## **The Main Reason Tumblety Became a Suspect**

The primary reason journalists reported Tumblety as a suspect was the idea that the Whitechapel murderer hated women. This is precisely what Littlechild stated in his private letter, "...his feelings toward women were remarkable and bitter in the extreme, a fact on record." Littlechild's recollections were surprisingly detailed and accurate about Tumblety being a suspect after the Kelly murder. He also alluded to Tumblety's bitter hatred of women. Additionally, his arrests and escape from France made him very suspicious.

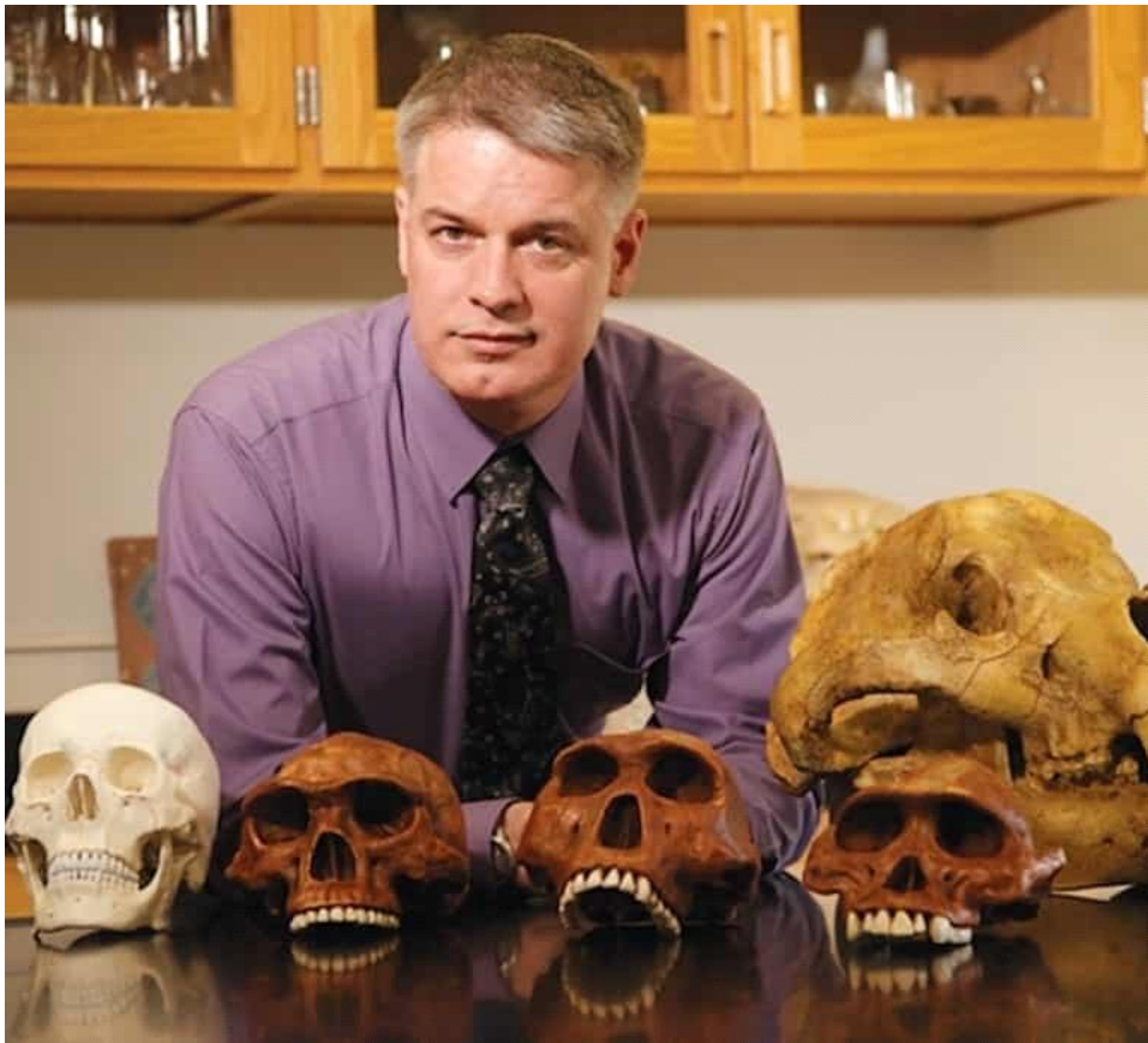
Scotland Yard's identification of Tumblety in France could only have come from officials in Littlechild's Special Branch division, which explains why he knew of Tumblety's escape. However, law enforcement then makes a blatant error. "He [Tumblety] shortly left Boulogne and was never heard of afterward. It was believed he committed suicide..." Tumblety made it safely back to New York and died in 1903. The incredible accuracy of Littlechild's earlier comments suggests this error did not stem from a lapse of memory. More likely, Littlechild did not participate in the case after authorities identified Tumblety in France.

Another reason officials suspected Tumblety was because he preferred young males for sexual companionship. Theories flew that he had an unusual hatred of women, or misogyny, which had begun in his teenage years in Rochester, New York. Supposedly Tumblety stated that women were a curse to the land, and he even blamed them for all the world's trouble. He considered them imposters who lured young male youths away from their intended lovers: older men.

## **Breaking News**

The journalist who broke the story of Tumblety's arrest on suspicion of the Whitechapel crimes was the *New York World's London Special* correspondent, E. Tracy Greaves. The story surfaced in his Saturday, November 17, 1888, news dispatch. The report was a weekly update on the Whitechapel murders investigation one week after the murder of the last victim, Mary Kelly, on November 9.

American reporters also used the police as their source for the Whitechapel investigation. Greaves even admitted to having a Scotland Yard informant.



Michael L. Hawley authored *The Ripper's Haunts* (April 2016).

In an interview with a *New York World* reporter in January 1889, Tumblety admitted to his arrest in England. He said:

*I happened to be there when these Whitechapel murders attracted the attention of the whole world, and, in the company with thousands of other people, I went down to the Whitechapel district. I was not dressed in a way to attract attention, I thought, though it afterward turned out that I did. I was interested by the excitement and the crowds and the queer scenes and sights, and did not know that all the time I was being followed by English detectives.*

**FRANCIS TUMBLETY**

### **Other Details**

Two Scotland Yard officials mentioned Tumblety as a suspect after they completed the case for indecency and indecent assault. Assistant Commissioner Robert Anderson sent private cable dispatches to at least two U.S. chiefs of police. He asked San Francisco's Patrick Crowley and

Brooklyn's Patrick Campbell for all the information they had on Tumblety.

A misconception is that Anderson requested handwriting samples, but this did not occur. He merely asked for all information. Nonetheless, Crowley did offer handwriting samples, and Anderson accepted them. He sent these cable dispatches on November 22, before they realized Tumblety had sneaked out of the country.

Also, when Inspector First Class CID Walter Andrews was in Toronto, Canada, on December 11, 1888, a reporter asked if he knew Tumblety in reference to the murder case. Andrews stated:

*Do I know Dr. Tumblety, of course, I do. But he is not the Whitechapel murderer. All the same, we would like to interview him, for the last time we had him he jumped his bail. He is a bad lot.*

#### **INSPECTOR FIRST CLASS CID WALTER ANDREWS**

If Andrews stated Tumblety was not the murderer, why did he still want to interview Tumblety? Getting an interview for the gross indecency case would have been fruitless since he could not be deported. Perhaps it's because he believed Tumblety might face murder charges if more evidence turned up. On December 4, 1888, journalists reported on an English detective staking out Tumblety's residence. Purportedly, the detective told a bartender that he was investigating the chap who committed the Whitechapel murders.

### **Could Francis Tumblety Be Jack the Ripper?**

If the Whitechapel murders were sex crimes, then Francis Tumblety was not Jack the Ripper. Most gay male sado-sexual serial killers prey upon men, as with [Jeffrey Dahmer](#). However, in Tumblety's case, the evidence shows that his motive would have been a hatred of women.

Some modern experts do not see the Whitechapel murders as sexually-motivated or even sadistic. Forensic pathologist Dr. William Eckert M.D. investigated the Whitechapel case in 1989. He concluded that the motive was anger-retaliation exhibiting non-sadistic behavior. Forensic scientist and criminal profiler Dr. Brent Turvey also observed the victims of the Whitechapel murders. He did not see a sexual motive, but anger-retaliation: specifically, misogyny.

Interestingly, in January 1888, the year of the murders, Dr. Francis Tumblety told a Toronto mail reporter that he was in constant dread of sudden death for kidney and heart disease. How coincidental that the three organs removed from the Whitechapel victims included the uterus, kidney, and heart.

From [<https://www.historicmysteries.com/francis-tumblety/>](https://www.historicmysteries.com/francis-tumblety/)



# Michael Ostrog

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:15 PM

## Michael Ostrog

### Jack the Ripper Suspect – Michael Ostrog

Ostrog was a professional con man, born in Russia.

His many aliases include: Bertrand Ashley, Claude Clayton (Cayton), Dr. Grant, Max Grief Gosslar, Ashley Nabokoff, M. Orloff, Count Sobieski, Max Sobiekski.

He had a long history of petty crime and was in and out of prisons and asylums on a regular basis. One of his spells out of prison lasted from March 1888 to November 1888, so he possibly could have been Jack the Ripper.

Ostrog was first mentioned as a suspect in the McNaughten memorandum, as a mad doctor and a homicidal maniac. He was said to have been habitually cruel to women, and carried surgical knives and other instruments.

There is no evidence against Ostrog as a suspect in the Jack the Ripper case, and in fact, according to Author Philip Sugden, there are prison records showing that Ostrog was jailed for petty offences in France during the Ripper murders.

Conclusion: It is highly unlikely the Michael Ostrog was Jack the Ripper.

From <<https://www.jacktherippermap.info/wp/suspects/michael-ostrog/>>

Michael Ostrog was a [Russian](#) criminal and [Jack the Ripper](#) suspect, first proposed in a memorandum by Sir [Melville Macnaghten](#) in 1894. Ostrog was a [swindler](#) with a profuse police record who perpetrated multiple scams and frauds, but it was never proven that he committed any murders. According to relatively recent investigations, during 1888 he was imprisoned in [France](#), and such a circumstance would rule out his participation in any of the Whitechapel murders.

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Ostrog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Ostrog)>

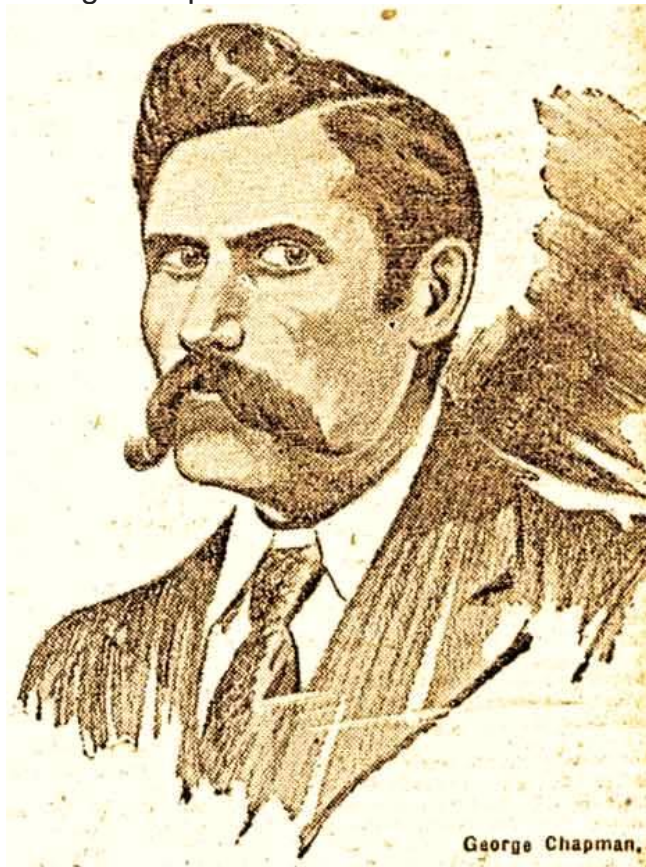
Michael Ostrog	
	
Born	c.1833 <a href="#">Russian Empire</a>
Died	After 1904
Occupation	Scam artist, Fraudster
<a href="#">Conviction(s)</a>	Theft, Scamming, Fraud, Robbery, Attempted Murder
Criminal penalty	Various

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael\\_Ostrog](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michael_Ostrog)>

## George Chapman

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 5:58 PM

## George Chapman



George Chapman is one of the most likely Jack The Ripper suspects. Who was he?

[George Chapman](#) was born Seweryn Kłosowski in Nagórna, Poland in 1865.



Little is known about his life previous back in Poland, other than that at the age of fourteen he apprenticed for a surgeon and attended a course in practical surgery at the Warsaw Praga Hospital.

It is believed that he worked as a nurse, or doctor's assistant in Warsaw until December 1886, and it is believed he moved to London in 1888.

It is also known that he had a wife in Poland, who raised objections when he married a young Polish girl while in London. Nevertheless, Kłosowski continued his relationship with his second wife and moved with her to the United States in 1891.

There the two of them lived in New Jersey, where once, in an argument over Kłosowski's cheating, he threatened her with a knife and calmly explained how he would kill her and dispose of her body.

After this incident, his second wife traveled back to London without Kłosowski. Kłosowski followed her to East London, where they briefly met up before ending their relationship.

Once again, Kłosowski took on a new mistress, who he married to take on her last name, Chapman, and all her money.

Along with an Anglicized version of his first name, he gained his new moniker: George Chapman.

Soon after the marriage, Chapman continued with his brazen infidelities resulting in his newest wife leaving him.

In 1895, Chapman met Mary Isabella Spink, an alcoholic divorcee, who he married and had placed him in her will. Chapman beat Spink often, and in 1897 poisoned her with tartar-emetic, a toxic compound similar to arsenic, which he purchased from a local chemist.



After killing her, Chapman took her inheritance and repeated this method of murder on his next two mistresses Bessie Taylor and Maud Mars.

After the latter's mother suspected Chapman of killing her daughter in 1902, he was arrested, and the bodies of his previous wives were exhumed to discover that they had all died from the same cause.

Chapman was found guilty and hanged on April 7, 1903.

Why is he one of the Jack The Ripper Suspects?

Chapman was first identified as a suspect in the Ripper killings when he was first arrested in 1902. Frederick Abberline, a detective at Scotland Yard involved in the Whitechapel murder cases reportedly said "You've got Jack the Ripper at last!" to the officers who brought in Chapman.

Abberline had interviewed Chapman's second wife, who told the inspector that her husband would often go out during the night for hours on end while they were living in Whitechapel at the time of the Ripper murders.

Chapman was also a murderer in the area who picked women as targets of his violence.

However, despite Abberline's convictions and the press' speculation, Chapman was never an official police suspect in the killings.

Does the case against him hold up?

Maybe.

Though there is little evidence connecting Chapman to the murders, there is no solid evidence to eliminate him as a suspect. All of Chapman's known murders have been of women who he personally knew and were committed through the use of poison.

For him to have killed and mutilated strange women with a knife seems outside of his usual methods.

It is also unsure if Chapman could speak English at the time of the murders, something the Ripper would have had to have done to lure some of his victims.

# Montague John Druiitt

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 5:58 PM

## Montague John Druiitt



### Montague John Druiitt

Who was he?

[Montague Druiitt](#) was born in 1857 as the son of a prominent local surgeon and officer of the law. Druiitt was a bright child and obtained a scholarship to attend Winchester College at the age of 13.

In school, he participated on the debate team and was an opening bowler for the school's cricket team. After leaving school in 1880, he joined the Inner Temple, one of the qualifying bodies to become a lawyer in England at the time, located in London.

To pay for his legal training, he took a job as an assistant schoolmaster at George Valentine's boarding school in 1885. During this time he also played cricket with a prominent clubs across England.

He was dismissed from his position at the school in 1888 for an unknown reason. Newspapers at the time said it was because Druiitt "had got into serious trouble."

A month later his body was found in the River Thames, presumably dead from suicide.

Why is he one of the Jack The Ripper Suspects?

Shortly before Druitt's death in 1888, the Ripper claimed his final victim, Mary Jane Kelly. Shortly after rumors began to spread that the Ripper had drowned in the Thames.

Three years later, in 1891, a member of parliament from West Dorchester, England began saying that the Ripper was "the son of a surgeon" who had committed suicide on the night of the last murder.

Journalists and law enforcement officers of the time also corroborated this story of the Ripper dying in the Thames after his final murder.

This description led contemporary law enforcement and later investigators to suspect Druitt, who had committed suicide in the manner described by these rumors directly following the last murder.

Assistant Chief Constable Sir Melville Macnaghten of the London Metropolitan Police even named Druitt as a suspect in the Whitechapel murders in private memorandum written in 1894

Does the case against him hold up?

Not really.

Even though many people of the time seemed to have genuinely suspected Druitt, there is little more than vague circumstantial evidence linking him to the murders.

Beyond that, Druitt himself was not trained in any medical techniques, something many people suspect the true Ripper was. Furthermore, his suicide can be more reasonably explained by a note he left to his brother, "Since Friday I felt that I was going to be like mother, and the best thing for me was to die."

His mother suffered from depression and insanity and died in an asylum in 1890. She had attempted suicide in the past, as had his grandmother and many members of his family.

Also, Druitt has solid alibis from the cricket games he played showing him far away from London at the time of many of the murders.

Realistically the only things tying him to the murders were his place and time of death, as well as the hearsay of some law enforcement officers, none of whom were directly involved in the Whitechapel

murder cases.

## Is this Jack the Ripper? Scotland Yard's Chief Inspector Frederick Abberline named as serial killer in new investigation

- Spanish handwriting expert claims to solve 120-year-old murder mystery



### Culprit? Chief Inspector Frederick Abberline has been named as Jack the Ripper by a Spanish investigator

Suspects have ranged from a member of Royal Family to a local butcher – but it is now claimed that Jack the Ripper was the very detective who led the hunt for the killer.

Chief Inspector Frederick Abberline of Scotland Yard was the man who murdered and mutilated at least five women in Victorian East London – at least according to Spanish writer Jose Luis Abad, 84.

He makes the claim in his book *Jack the Ripper: The Most Intelligent Murderer in History*, published in Spain this week.

Mr Abad is a handwriting expert and has compared Abberline's writing with that in the Ripper's diary – which surfaced in Liverpool in 1992.

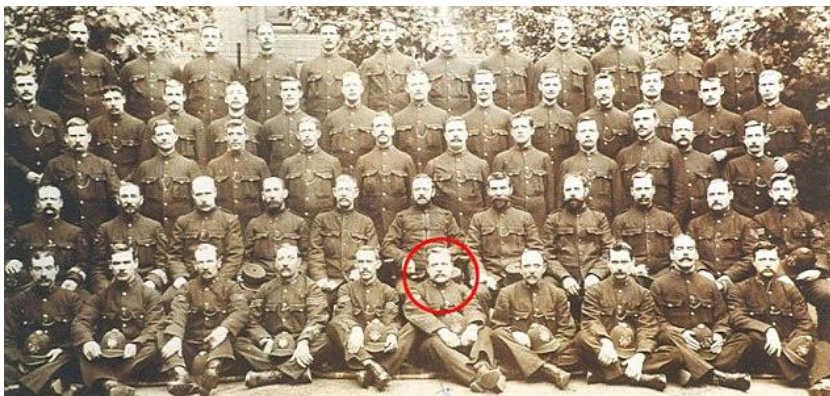
Mr Abad, says: 'I have no doubt Abberline was the Ripper. Handwriting does not lie.'

The diary was attributed to a Liverpool cotton dealer called James Maybrick – whom others have identified as the Ripper.

But many experts say the diary is a hoax. Mr Abad believes it is real, but that the author was Abberline, not Maybrick.

Other theories link the Ripper murders to Queen Victoria's grandson, Prince Albert Victor.

The detective was placed in charge of the Ripper investigations following the murder of Mary Ann Nichols in August 1888. He died in 1929 aged 86 at his home in Bournemouth.



'Killer' among the cops: Abberline (circled) in a group photo of officers in Whitechapel in 1888 - the year of the Ripper murders



AP

Sickening: The Ripper walks away from his victim in the film *From Hell*, starring Johnny Depp

#### JACK THE RIPPER'S VICTIMS: 1888



Alamy

August 31, Mary Ann Nichols, 43



Alamy

September 8, Annie Chapman, 47





September 30, Lizzy Stride, 44



September 30, Catherine Eddowes, 46



November 9, Mary Jane Kelly, 25

Michael Caine played Chief Inspector Abberline in the 1988 TV movie Jack the Ripper, and Johnny Depp played the policeman in 2001's From Hell.

### OTHER RIPPER SUSPECTS

Montague John Druitt, Dorset-born barrister, committed suicide in the Thames shortly after last murder

Seweryn Kłosowski alias George Chapman, poisoned three of his wives and was hanged in 1903

Aaron Kosminski, suspected by police, admitted to Colney Hatch Lunatic Asylum and died there

Dr Thomas Neill Cream, poisoned four London prostitutes with strychnine and was hanged

Sir William Withey Gull, royal physician named as a member of a masonic conspiracy

Jack the Ripper brought terror to the capital by butchering at least five prostitutes in Whitechapel, east London, between August and November 1888. On one infamous night, he murdered two women within minutes of each other.

An analysis of his methods revealed that several of the Ripper's victims had their throats cut, while those killed also had organs removed such as the uterus or the heart.

It has been claimed that before every slaying the Ripper would spend time drinking spirits in the pub before taking a stroll throughout the Whitechapel neighbourhood with lowered inhibitions.

After each killing he would return to a safe area where he could wash the blood from his hands and get rid of soiled clothing.

The case remains one of the world's greatest unsolved murder mysteries and over the years many suspects have been brought into the frame including Prince Albert Victor, Queen Victoria's grandson; Sir William Gull, the Queen's physician; and Sir Walter Sickert, a renowned painter of the time.







**Identity parade: New Scotland Yard's four suspects in the Ripper case (from left to right) include Montague John Druitt, Michael Ostrog, Aaron Kosminski and Dr Francis J. Tumblety**

At the time of the incidents New Scotland Yard boiled it down to four suspects but similarly they were unable to nail the murderer.

The pseudonym Jack the Ripper came from a letter posted to a London news agency at the time of the murders, supposedly from the killer himself but it was later dismissed as a hoax.

Last month it emerged Scotland Yard is fighting a legal battle to withhold secret Ripper files compiled by Special Branch officers in the 1880s.

From <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2022896/Is-Jack-Ripper-Scotland-Yards-Chief-Inspector-Frederick-Abberline-named.html>

# Sir Melville Leslie Macnaghten

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:23 PM

## Macnaghten as a suspect. The Theory.

08-05-2008, 01:50 PM

"After several centuries of unsuccessful inquiries, Sophie Herfort has finally revealed the identity of Jack the Ripper. The outcome of her revolutionary work outshines all previous investigation of the case: The murderer ended his career in the police, with honours!

His name : Sir Melville Leslie Macnaghten

Chief Head of Scotland Yard's criminal investigation department

Fifteen years of research, hundreds of pieces of evidence collected and analyzed to support the most plausible theory to date : The famous victorian killer was neither a woman (as a biologist suggested recently), nor a painter (Patricia Cornwell's hypothesis). The murderer was a humiliated man, craving vengeance and blinded by ambition, a perverse man, taking sadistic pleasure in deceiving the police force before becoming part of it.

The real face of London's terror of 1888

This investigation is unique, thanks to the deduction skills of the author and her ability to solve one of the most complex enigmas in the history of crime. Her determination to discover the truth and re-open the investigation classified since 1892 gave her access to new evidence including the Memoirs of Macnaghten, those of his daughter's, and internal, confidential testimonies from Scotland Yard.

A unique historical document, a solid demonstration, placing an unusual criminal affair in a new light.

A demonstration in three major acts :

**First Act** : we discover that, in only four months (August-November 1888), the seedy districts of London become the scene of five increasingly savage murders displaying shocking pattern : prostitutes, their bodies dissected, their throats cut, their organs removed...

**Second Act** : where we witness a violent argument between James Monro (assistant commissioner) and Sir Charles Warren – Scotland Yard's Commissioner – about Monro's friend : Melville Macnaghten (former director of a tea plantation who left the Indies for London). This argument, kept confidential until now, reveals that Warren refused to hire Melville as a police inspector despite a promise already made. The former plantation owner endured humiliation. Warren didn't deign to receive him for the post. Three days later, Jack commits his first crime. The murders end the very day Warren, unable to arrest the murderer, is forced to resign by the Queen and terrified Londoners.

**Third Act** : we realize thanks to frightening evidence that Melville and Jack are the same person. Proof adds up. A skillful hunter in the Indies, an expert in dismemberment and evisceration, Macnaghten liked to chase the Jackal, "The Jack" as written in his memoirs!

The letter "M", written with the blood of the victims, is often found on the scene of the murders. A piece of the envelope enclosing the refusal to hire Macnaghten is also found in the surroundings of the second victim. When Macnaghten joined Scotland Yard in June 1889, he quickly solves the mystery by accusing a lawyer (Macnaghten says he's a doctor) who died in mysterious conditions...

A month after Macnaghten's arrival in the police force, the only officer who caught a glimpse of the murderer resigned without any explanation. At the end of his career, Macnaghten destroys all the existing files on the Ripper. This strange behaviour makes sense when he confesses that "for many years, his nervous system was disturbed" and "that he had to see more than one doctor". Even more incriminating, in 1911, a head figure of Scotland Yard admits that it would have damaged the police's reputation to reveal the real murderer !

Based on indisputable proof, Sophie Herfort shows how Jack the Ripper followed a single objective: triggering the dismissal of the man who refused to hire him in the police force. To do so, he assassinated five prostitutes to spread terror in London and arouse the protest of the masses.

From <<https://forum.casebook.org/forum/ripper-discussions/police-officials-and-procedures/macnaghten-sir-melville/1285-macnaghten-as-a-suspect-the-theory>>

**Jack l'Eventreur Démasqué**  
**Sophie Herfort**  
**Tallandier, 2007. Softcover. 301pp.**  
**Illustration, bibliography, index.**  
**Casebook Review:**



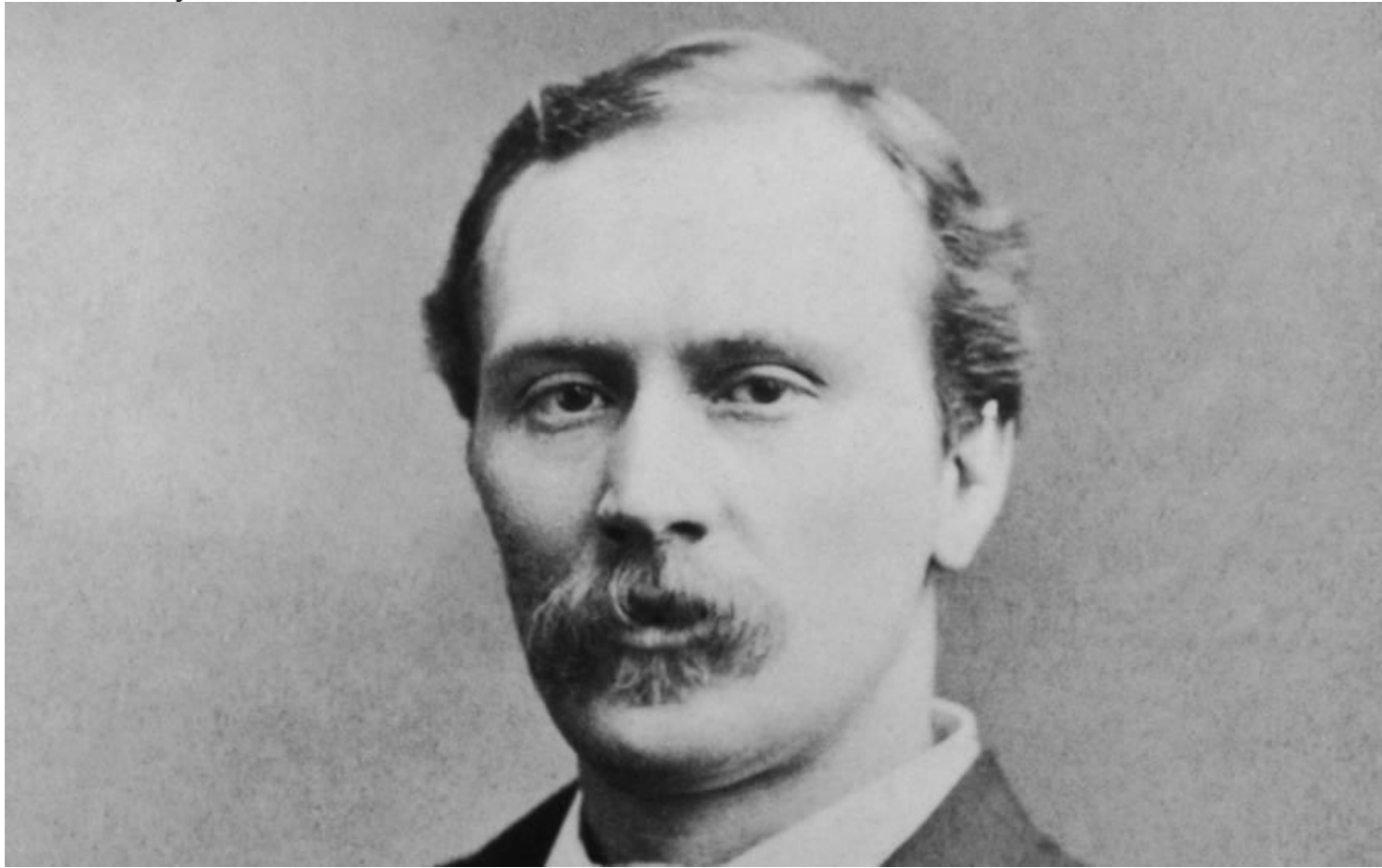
According to Sophie Herfort, Jack the Ripper was none other than Melville Macnaghten, author of the famous Macnaghten Memoranda and later Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police. Herfort theorizes that Macnaghten perpetrated the crimes partly to embarrass his rival, Sir Charles Warren. The author tries valiantly to uncover evidence to support this thesis, but in the end I think most readers will be left far from convinced that Macnaghten and the Ripper were one and the same.

From <[https://casebook.org/ripper\\_media/book\\_reviews/non-fiction/jack-eventreur-demasque.html](https://casebook.org/ripper_media/book_reviews/non-fiction/jack-eventreur-demasque.html)>

# James Maybrick

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6:00 PM

## James Maybrick



James Maybrick

Who was he?

[James Maybrick](#) was a Liverpool cotton merchant who was born in 1838. Due to his profession, he was constantly traveling between the UK and the United States.

In 1871 he settled in Norfolk, Va., an important location in the cotton trade.

In 1880, he returned to Britain, and on his six-day-long voyage back across the pond, he met an American woman named Florence Elizabeth Chandler, the daughter of a banker from Mobile, Ala., who he began a romantic affair with.

Despite the fact that Florence was 24 years younger, they quickly got married at a ceremony held in London.

However, their marriage quickly soured, with Maybrick spending much time in America far from his young bride. The both of them began to conduct affairs with other people.

April 27, 1889, Maybrick's health suddenly deteriorated and he died fifteen days later at his home in Aigburth.

Local police determined that he was poisoned with arsenic, and his wife was arrested for the crime. She was convicted and initially set

to hang before her sentence was commuted to a lifetime in prison in light of how the judge conducted her first case.

She served this sentence until she was acquitted in 1904, after which she lived on, supporting herself, until her death in 1941.

Why is he one of the Jack The Ripper Suspects?

In 1992, a document presented as James Maybrick's diary [surfaced](#), which claimed that he was Jack the Ripper. Though the diary never mentioned Maybrick by name, it included enough details to conclude that readers were expected to believe it is by him.

In the diary, the author takes credit for five of the victims attributed to Jack The Ripper, consistent with Maybrick's death in 1889 following the death of the final of the canonical five victims.

This diary was discovered by a Liverpoolian scrap metal dealer named Mike Barrett.

Furthermore, in 1993 a pocket watch made in 1847 was discovered with "J. Maybrick" scratched on the inside cover, along with the words "I am Jack," as well as the initials of five of the Ripper victims.

Does the case against him hold up?

No.

Though the diary has undergone multiple examinations that have been inconclusive as to the authenticity of the materials involved in the diary, the story around its creation is flimsy at best.

Barrett, the supposed discoverer of the diary, first claimed he received the book from Tony Devereux, despite Devereux dying in 1991, a year before he made known the existence of the diary.

Barrett's wife also contradicted this claim when she said that the diary had been with her family for generations.

Also, in 1995, Barrett signed two affidavits claiming that he and his wife fabricated the diary. His lawyer then repudiated this affidavit, before Barrett withdrew the repudiation.

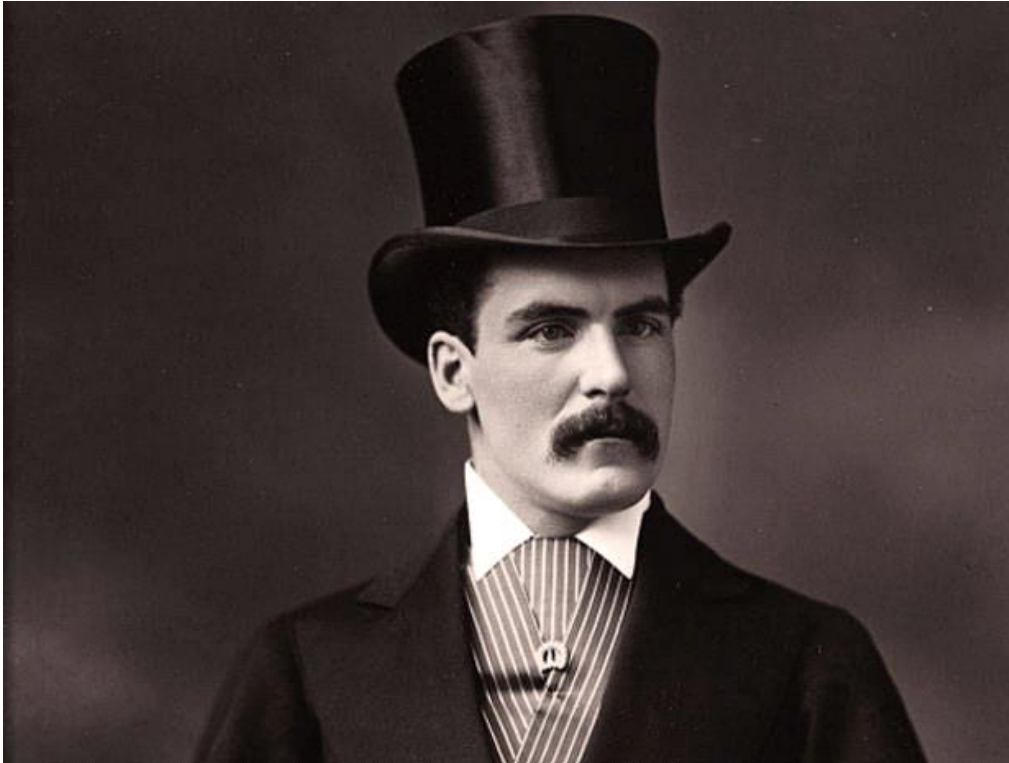
The pocket watch has been verified to be of the period, and the engraving is proven to be at least a couple of decades old.

However, scrawling on a timepiece is not seen as solid evidence of a crime.

# Thomas Neill Cream

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6:25 PM

## Thomas Neill Cream



Notman Photographic Archives Thomas Neill Cream is one of the Jack The Ripper suspects due to the testimony of his executioner.

Who was he?

[Thomas Neill Cream](#) was a Scottish-Canadian who was born in Glasgow, and then raised outside Quebec City, Canada after his family moved there in 1854. He studied medicine at the McGill University in Montreal and later had post-graduate training in medicine and surgery at hospitals in England and Scotland.

After obtaining his medical degree, Cream began to practice medicine in Canada but was derailed when he murdered Kate Gardener, his mistress, in 1879. She was found pregnant and dead from chloroform, one of Cream's specialties while studying medicine, in the alley behind Cream's office.

Cream attempted to shift suspicion on a local businessman, but when that failed he fled to America. There, he opened up a practice on the edge of the red-light district of Chicago, where performed illegal abortions on prostitutes.

Trending Today In Canada

There he continued his murderous streak, with numerous women who came to him dying under suspicious circumstances. It is believed that he poisoned many of these women with strychnine and other poisons.

Then, in 1881, he was finally caught after poisoning the husband of his new mistress. After his partner in crime flipped on him, Cream was given a life sentence.

However, his brother managed to bribe the governor of Illinois to commute Cream's sentence, and he was released in 1891 after only ten years.

During his imprisonment, Cream's father had died, and he used his inheritance to travel to England.

There he began living in Lambeth, Central London, where he continued his crimes. He would

frequent local prostitutes, and poison them by placing with strychnine in their drinks. He killed four women in this way, gaining enough media attention for the press to dub the anonymous killer the "Lambeth Poisoner."

Cream sent numerous anonymous letters to the papers accusing other people of being the poisoner but revealed details that led police to suspect the letter writer.

They tracked him down and arrested him in 1892. Later that year he was hung for these four murders.

Why is he one of the Jack The Ripper Suspects?

Most of the evidence for Cream as the Ripper comes from the account of his executioner, James Billington, who said that Cream's last words on the scaffolding before being hanged were, "I am Jack The..."

This statement was proof to Billington that Jack The Ripper and the Lambeth Poisoner were one and the same.

While no one else present at the execution could substantiate Billington's claim, he was a respected hangman who conducted the execution.

Cream was also a serial killer who targeted women who were in London at the time of many of the Jack The Ripper murders.

Does the case against him hold up?

No.

Cream was locked up in an Illinois prison at the time of Jack The Ripper's five main murders in 1888.

While proponents of this theory have posited that he may have left the prison before his official release or used a look-alike to serve the term in his place, none of these ideas are substantiated by any contemporary documents.

Furthermore, these theories are directly contradicted by evidence given by the Illinois authorities, newspapers of the time, Cream's solicitors, Cream's family, and Cream himself.

Thomas Haynes Cutbush

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6:25 PM

Thomas Haynes Cutbush





Steven BullockA composite image made of Thomas Hayne Cutbush based on descriptions of the man.

Who was he?

Thomas Haynes Cutbush was born 1866 in Kennington, England.

His father died at a young age, and Cutbush was raised by his mother and aunt.

He worked numerous jobs as a young man to support his family and by the 1880s when Cutbush was in his teens, he began studying medicine at a school in London.

In 1891, Cutbush was sent to Lambeth Infirmary after suffering delusions thought to have been caused by syphilis.

Believing the doctors were poisoning him, Cutbush escaped from the infirmary and attacked two women.

He stabbed one woman in the backside and tried to stab another.

Cutbush was recovered by police, and sent to [Broadmoor](#) high security hospital. He stayed there until his [death](#) in 1903, still suffering from violent delusions.

Why is he one of the Jack The Ripper Suspects?

In 1894, shortly after the last of the canonical murders, the British tabloid *The Sun*, released a series of articles that suggested that Cutbush was Jack The Ripper.

They claimed that they knew the identity of Jack The Ripper, and used enough details to clearly lead people towards Cutbush.

In modern times, author David Bullock, is so convinced that Cutbush is the strongest of Jack The Ripper suspects that he wrote an entire [book](#) about it.

Does the case against him hold up?

Not really.

The purported evidence tying Cutbush to the Jack The Ripper murders are that he was a violently insane person who may have lived in the vicinity of the killings. Though many in the press at the time suspected Cutbush, he was dismissed by police investigating the case.

Also, Cutbush would have been 22 at the time of the 1888 murders, making him much younger than the suspect witnesses described at the time.

Detective Melville Macnaghten, one of the main investigators of the Jack the Ripper murders, even released a memorandum refuting Cutbush as a suspect and advancing several other theories as to the identity of the Ripper.

While many would look at this as evidence for Cutbush, many who believe he was the killer think Macnaghten released the document to protect Cutbush, as his uncle was a superintendent in the London Metropolitan Police.

# Lewis Carroll

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 6:36 PM



**Lewis Carroll** ([pen name](#) of **Charles Lutwidge Dodgson**; 27 January 1832 – 14 January 1898) was the author of [Alice's Adventures in Wonderland](#) and [Through the Looking-Glass](#). He was named as a suspect based upon [anagrams](#) which author Richard Wallace devised for his book [Jack the Ripper, Light-Hearted Friend](#).<sup>[97]</sup> Wallace argues that Carroll had a psychotic breakdown after being assaulted by a man when he was 12 and became an angry man.<sup>[97]</sup> Moreover, according to Wallace, Carroll wrote a diary every day in purple ink, but on the days of the Whitechapel killings, he switched to black.<sup>[97]</sup> This claim is not taken seriously by scholars.<sup>[98]</sup>

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper\\_suspects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper_suspects)>

# Leather Apron

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:09 PM

## LEATHER APRON



## A SINISTER CHARACTER WHO PROWLs AFTER DARK

In early September, 1888, police enquiries amongst the local prostitutes turned up a potential suspect in the form of a sinister character whom the local streetwalkers had nicknamed "Leather Apron."

Apparently, this man was known to try to extort money from them by pulling out a knife and threatening to "rip them apart" unless they handed over what cash they had made in the course of their nighttime activities.

Thus began the hunt for "Leather Apron", a hunt that would end on 10th September, 1888, when Sergeant William Thick arrested John Pizer (also spelt Piser) maintaining that he was the man known in the district as "Leather Apron."

However, Pizer had alibis for the nights of the two most recent murders, and was soon ruled out as a

suspect.

From <<https://www.jack-the-ripper.org/leather-apron.htm>>



# Canonical Five

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:19 PM

The canonical five Ripper victims are [Mary Ann Nichols](#), [Annie Chapman](#), [Elizabeth Stride](#), [Catherine Eddowes](#), and [Mary Jane Kelly](#).<sup>[30]</sup>

The body of Mary Ann Nichols was discovered at about 3:40 a.m. on Friday 31 August 1888 in Buck's Row (now [Durward Street](#)), Whitechapel. Nichols had last been seen alive approximately one hour before the discovery of her body by a Mrs Emily Holland, with whom she had previously shared a bed at a common lodging-house in Thrawl Street, Spitalfields, walking in the direction of [Whitechapel Road](#).<sup>[31]</sup> Her throat was severed by two deep cuts, one of which completely severed all the [tissue](#) down to the [vertebrae](#).<sup>[32]</sup> Her vagina had been stabbed twice,<sup>[33]</sup> and the lower part of her abdomen was partly ripped open by a deep, jagged wound, causing her bowels to protrude.<sup>[34]</sup> Several other incisions inflicted to both sides of her abdomen had also been caused by the same knife; each of these wounds had been inflicted in a downward thrusting manner.<sup>[35]</sup>



29 [Hanbury Street](#). The door through which [Annie Chapman](#) and her murderer walked to the yard where her body was discovered is beneath the numerals of the property sign

One week later, on Saturday 8 September 1888, the body of Annie Chapman was discovered at approximately 6 a.m. near the steps to the doorway of the back yard of 29 [Hanbury Street](#), Spitalfields. As in the case of Mary Ann Nichols, the throat was severed by two deep cuts.<sup>[36]</sup> Her abdomen had been cut entirely open, with a section of the flesh from her stomach being placed upon her left shoulder and another section of skin and flesh—plus her [small intestines](#)—being removed and placed above her right shoulder.<sup>[37]</sup> Chapman's autopsy also revealed that her [uterus](#) and sections of her [bladder](#) and vagina<sup>[38]</sup> had been removed.<sup>[39]</sup>

At the inquest into Chapman's murder, Elizabeth Long described having seen Chapman standing outside 29 Hanbury Street at about 5:30 a.m.<sup>[40]</sup> in the company of a dark-haired man wearing a brown [deer-stalker hat](#) and dark overcoat, and of a "shabby-[genteel](#)" appearance.<sup>[41]</sup> According to this eyewitness, the man had asked Chapman the question, "Will you?" to which Chapman had replied, "Yes."<sup>[42]</sup>

Elizabeth Stride and Catherine Eddowes were both killed in the early morning hours of Sunday 30 September 1888. Stride's body was discovered at approximately 1 a.m. in Dutfield's Yard, off Berner Street (now [Henriques Street](#)) in Whitechapel.<sup>[43]</sup> The cause of death was a single clear-cut incision, measuring six inches across her neck which had severed her left [carotid artery](#) and her [trachea](#) before terminating beneath her right jaw.<sup>[44]</sup> The absence of any further mutilations to her body has led to uncertainty as to whether Stride's murder was committed by the Ripper, or whether he was interrupted during the attack.<sup>[45]</sup> Several witnesses later informed police they had seen Stride in the company of a man in or close to Berner Street on the evening of 29 September and in the early hours of 30 September,<sup>[46]</sup> but each gave differing descriptions: some said that her companion was fair, others dark; some said that he was shabbily dressed, others well-dressed.<sup>[47]</sup>



Contemporary police drawing of the body of [Catherine Eddowes](#), as discovered in [Mitre Square](#)

Eddowes's body was found in [Mitre Square](#) in the [City of London](#), three-quarters of an hour after the discovery of the body of Elizabeth Stride. Her throat was severed and her abdomen ripped open by a long, deep and jagged wound before her intestines had been placed over her right shoulder. The left kidney and the major part of the uterus had been removed, and her face had been disfigured, with her nose severed, her cheek slashed, and cuts measuring a quarter of an inch and a half an inch respectively vertically incised through each of her eyelids.<sup>[48]</sup> A triangular incision—the [apex](#) of which



pointed towards Eddowes's eye—had also been carved upon each of her cheeks,<sup>[49]</sup> and a section of the [auricle](#) and [lobe](#) of her right ear was later recovered from her clothing.<sup>[50]</sup> The [police surgeon](#) who conducted the [post mortem](#) upon Eddowes's body stated his opinion these mutilations would have taken "at least five minutes" to complete.<sup>[51]</sup>

A local cigarette salesman named [Joseph Lawende](#) had passed through the square with two friends shortly before the murder, and he described seeing a fair-haired man of shabby appearance with a woman who may have been Eddowes.<sup>[52]</sup> Lawende's companions were unable to confirm his description.<sup>[52]</sup> The murders of Stride and Eddowes ultimately became known as the "double event".<sup>[53][54]</sup>

A section of Eddowes's bloodied apron was found at the entrance to a tenement in Goulston Street, Whitechapel, at 2:55 a.m.<sup>[55]</sup> A chalk inscription upon the wall directly above this piece of apron read: "The Juwes are The men That Will not be Blamed for nothing."<sup>[56]</sup> This graffito became known as the [Goulston Street graffito](#). The message appeared to imply that a [Jew](#) or Jews in general were responsible for the series of murders, but it is unclear whether the graffito was written by the murderer on dropping the section of apron, or was merely incidental and nothing to do with the case.<sup>[57]</sup> Such graffiti were commonplace in Whitechapel. [Police Commissioner Charles Warren](#) feared that the graffito might spark anti-semitic riots and ordered the writing washed away before dawn.<sup>[58]</sup>

The extensively mutilated and [disembowelled](#) body of Mary Jane Kelly was discovered lying on the bed in the single room where she lived at 13 Miller's Court, off [Dorset Street](#), Spitalfields, at 10:45 a.m. on Friday 9 November 1888. Her face had been "hacked beyond all recognition",<sup>[59]</sup> with her throat severed down to the spine, and the abdomen almost emptied of its organs.<sup>[60]</sup> Her uterus, kidneys and one breast had been placed beneath her head, and other [viscera](#) from her body placed beside her foot,<sup>[61]</sup> about the bed and sections of her abdomen and thighs upon a bedside table. The heart was missing from the crime scene.<sup>[62]</sup>



Official police photograph of the body of [Mary Jane Kelly](#) as discovered in 13 Miller's Court, [Spitalfields](#), 9 November 1888

Each of the canonical five murders was perpetrated at night, on or close to a weekend, either at the end of a month or a week (or so) after.<sup>[63]</sup> The mutilations became increasingly severe as the series of murders proceeded, except for that of Stride, whose attacker may have been interrupted.<sup>[64]</sup> Nichols was not missing any organs; Chapman's uterus and sections of her bladder and vagina were taken; Eddowes had her uterus and left kidney removed and her face mutilated; and Kelly's body was extensively [eviscerated](#), with her face "gashed in all directions" and the [tissue](#) of her neck being severed to the bone, although the heart was the sole body organ missing from this crime scene.<sup>[65]</sup>

Historically, the belief these five canonical murders were committed by the same perpetrator is derived from contemporary documents which link them together to the exclusion of others.<sup>[66]</sup> In 1894, Sir [Melville Macnaghten](#), Assistant [Chief Constable](#) of the [Metropolitan Police Service](#) and Head of the [Criminal Investigation Department](#) (CID), wrote a report that stated: "the Whitechapel murderer had 5 victims—& 5 victims only".<sup>[67]</sup> Similarly, the canonical five victims were linked together in a letter written by police surgeon [Thomas Bond](#) to [Robert Anderson](#), head of the London CID, on 10 November 1888.<sup>[68]</sup>

Some researchers have posited that some of the murders were undoubtedly the work of a single killer, but an unknown larger number of killers acting independently were responsible for the other crimes.<sup>[69]</sup> Authors Stewart P. Evans and [Donald Rumbelow](#) argue that the canonical five is a "Ripper myth" and that three cases (Nichols, Chapman, and Eddowes) can be definitely linked to the same perpetrator, but that less certainty exists as to whether Stride and Kelly were also murdered by the same individual.<sup>[70]</sup> Conversely, others suppose that the six murders between Tabram and Kelly were the work of a single killer.<sup>[71]</sup> Dr Percy Clark, assistant to the examining [pathologist](#) [George Bagster Phillips](#), linked only three of the murders and thought that the others were perpetrated by "weak-minded individual[s] ... induced to emulate the crime".<sup>[72]</sup> Macnaghten did not join the police force until the year after the murders, and his memorandum contains serious factual errors about possible suspects.<sup>[72]</sup>

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper)>

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:21 PM

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Ann\\_Nichols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Ann_Nichols)>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Ann\\_Nichols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Ann_Nichols)

# Annie Chapman

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:24 PM

Shortly before 5:00 a.m. on 8 September, the son of a resident of 29 Hanbury Street, John Richardson, entered the back yard of the property to trim a loose piece of leather from his boot. Richardson sat on the rear steps of the property to perform this task, and noted nothing untoward.<sup>[62]</sup>

At approximately 5:15 a.m., a tenant of 27 Hanbury Street named Albert Cadosch entered the yard of the property to use the lavatory. Cadosch later informed police he had heard a woman say, "No, no!" before hearing the sound of something or someone falling against the fence dividing the back yards of numbers 27 and 29 Hanbury Street.<sup>[63]</sup> He did not investigate these sounds.<sup>[64]</sup>



The entrance to the yard of 29 Hanbury Street. Chapman's body was found lying parallel to the fence with her head almost touching the rear steps of this property on 8 September 1888



Mortuary photograph of Annie Chapman

Annie Chapman's mutilated body was discovered shortly before 6:00 a.m. by an elderly resident of 29 Hanbury Street named John Davis. Her body was lying on the ground near the doorway to the back yard, with her head six inches (15cm) from the steps to the property.<sup>[65]</sup> Davis alerted three men named James Green, James Kent, and Henry Holland to his discovery, before all three ran down [Commercial Street](#) to find a policeman as Davis reported his discovery at the nearest police station.<sup>[66]</sup> At the corner of Hanbury Street, Green, Kent, and Holland found Divisional Inspector Joseph Luniss Chandler and told him, "Another woman has been murdered!" Chandler followed the men to Chapman's body before requesting the assistance of [police surgeon](#) Dr [George Bagster Phillips](#) and more officers. Several policemen arrived within minutes. They were instructed to clear the passageway to the yard to ensure Dr Phillips had access. Phillips arrived at Hanbury Street at approximately 6:30 a.m.<sup>[67]</sup>

Dr Phillips was quickly able to establish a definite link between Chapman's murder and the murder of [Mary Ann Nichols](#), which had occurred on 31 August.<sup>[68][n. 7]</sup> Nichols had also suffered two deep slash wounds to the throat, inflicted from the left to the right of her neck, before her murderer had mutilated her abdomen, and a blade of similar size and design had been used in both murders. Phillips also observed six areas of blood spattering upon the wall of the house between the steps and wooden palings dividing 27 and 29 Hanbury Street.<sup>[72]</sup> Some of these splatterings were 18 inches (45cm) above the ground.<sup>[74]</sup> Two pills, which Chapman had been prescribed for a lung condition, a section of a torn envelope, a small piece of frayed coarse [muslin](#), and a comb were recovered close to her body.<sup>[72]</sup> A leather apron, partially submerged in a dish of water located close to a tap, was also discovered close to her body.<sup>[73]</sup>

Contemporary press reports also claim that two [farthings](#) were also found in the yard of Hanbury Street close to Chapman's body, although no reference is made to these coins in any surviving contemporary police records.<sup>[74][n. 8]</sup> The local inspector of the [Metropolitan Police Service](#), [Edmund Reid](#) of H Division Whitechapel, was reported as mentioning these coins at an inquest in 1889, and the acting Commissioner of the City Police, Major Henry Smith, also referenced these coins in his [memoirs](#).<sup>[62]</sup> Smith's memoirs, written more than twenty years after the [Whitechapel murders](#), are generally considered to be both unreliable and embellished for dramatic effect.<sup>[76][n. 9]</sup>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie\\_Chapman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Chapman)

Annie Chapman	
<span></span> <div>Annie Chapman on the date of her wedding. 1 May 1869</div>	
Born	<div>Eliza Anne Smith</div> 25 September 1840 <div><a href="#">Paddington, London</a>, England</div> <span></span>
Died	8 September 1888 (aged 47) <div><a href="#">Spitalfields, London</a></div> <span></span>
Cause of death	<a href="#">Blood loss</a> due to severance of the <a href="#">carotid vessels</a> <sup>[1]</sup> <span></span>
Body discovered	29 <a href="#">Hanbury Street</a> , <a href="#">Spitalfields, London</a> <div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><div>51°31′13.35″N</div></div></div><div><div>0°4′21.20″W</div><div></div></div></div></div></div></div>
Resting place	<div>Manor Park Cemetery and Crematorium, <a href="#">Fores t Gate</a>, London, England</div> <div><div><div><div><span></span><div><div><span><span></span></span></div><div><div>51°55′18.265″N</div></div></div><div><div>0°03′6.0350″W</div><div></div></div></div></div> (approximate)</div><span></span></div>
Occupation	Flower seller, crocheter, beggar, casual prostitute
Known for	Victim of serial murder
Spouse(s)	<div><div><div><span></span></div><div>John Chapman</div></div></div> <div>(m. 1869; separated 1884)</div>
Children	3
Parent(s)	<div><div><div><span></span></div><div>George Smith</div></div></div> <div><div><div><span></span></div><div>Ruth Chapman</div></div></div>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie\\_Chapman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Annie_Chapman)

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:26 PM

Blood was still flowing from a single knife wound inflicted to Stride's neck and, although her hands were cold to the touch, other sections of her body were either slightly or "quite" warm.<sup>[\[a4155\]](#)</sup> This suggests Stride was killed shortly before Diemschutz's arrival in the yard. Several patrons of the Working Men's Educational Club who had left the premises between 12:30 and 12:50 a.m., later informed police they had observed nothing amiss.<sup>[\[a616\]](#)</sup>

Post-mortem[[edit](#)]

The body being washed more thoroughly, I could see some healing sores. The [lobe](#) of the left ear was torn as if from the removal or wearing through of an earring, but it was thoroughly healed. On removing the scalp there was no sign of bruising or extravasation of blood. ... The heart was small, the left [ventricle](#) firmly contracted, and the right slightly so. There was no clot in the [pulmonary artery](#), but the right ventricle was full of dark clot. The left was firmly contracted as to be absolutely empty. The stomach was large and the mucous membrane only congested. It contained partly digested food, apparently consisting of cheese, potato, and farinaceous powder [flour or milled grain]. All the teeth on the lower left jaw were absent.<sup>[459](#)</sup> Blackwell opined his belief that Stride's murderer may have pulled her backwards on to the ground by her [neckkerchief](#) (the bow of which was observed to be markedly tight<sup>[460](#)</sup>) before cutting her throat.<sup>[461](#)</sup> Phillips concurred with this opinion, stating that Stride had probably been lying on her back<sup>[462](#)</sup> when she was killed by a single, swift slash wound from left to right across her neck,<sup>[463](#)</sup> strongly indicating her murderer had been right-handed. Bruising on Stride's chest suggested that she had been pinned to the ground prior to the wound to her neck being inflicted.<sup>[464](#)</sup>

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth\\_Stride#Murder](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Stride#Murder)>



Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:28 PM

Catherine Eddowes	
	
13 October <i><a href="#">Penny Illustrated Paper</a></i> portrait of Catherine Eddowes	
Born	14 April 1842 <a href="#">Wolverhampton</a> , <a href="#">Staffordshire</a> , England
Died	30 September 1888 (aged 46) <a href="#">City of London</a> , England
Cause of death	<a href="#">Haemorrhage</a> due to severance of the left common <a href="#">carotid artery</a> <sup>[i]</sup>
Body discovered	South corner of <a href="#">Mitre Square</a> in <a href="#">Whitechapel</a>  <a href="#">51.5138°N 0.078° W</a>
Resting place	<a href="#">City of London Cemetery, Newha m</a> , London, England  <a href="#">51.55792°N 0.04449° W</a> (approximate)
Occupation	Casual prostitute
Known for	Victim of serial murder
Partner(s)	Thomas Conway; John Kelly
Children	3
Parent(s)	George Eddowes Catherine ( <i>née</i> Evans)

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The [Royal London Hospital](#) on [Whitechapel Road](#) preserves some contemporary crime scene drawings and plans of the Mitre Square murder by the City Surveyor Frederick Foster;<sup>[35]</sup> they were first brought to public attention in 1966 by Francis Camps, Professor of Forensic Medicine at London University.<sup>[36]</sup> Based on his analysis of the surviving documents, Camps concluded that "the cuts shown on the body could not have been done by an expert."<sup>[37]</sup>

The Eddowes inquest was opened on 4 October by Samuel F. Langham, coroner for the [City of London](#),<sup>[38]</sup> at the City of London Mortuary.<sup>[39]</sup> A house-to-house search was conducted but nothing suspicious was discovered. Brown stated his belief that Eddowes was killed by a slash to the throat as she lay on the ground, and then mutilated.<sup>[40]</sup>

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine\\_Eddowes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Catherine_Eddowes)>



Tuesday, April 20, 2021 8:31 PM

Discovery[[edit](#)]

The bed clothing at the right corner was saturated with blood, and on the floor beneath was a pool of blood covering about two feet square. The wall by the right side of the bed and in a line with the neck was marked by blood which had struck it in

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Jane\\_Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Jane_Kelly)>

several places.

The face was gashed in all directions, the nose, cheeks, eyebrows, and ears being partly removed. The lips were blanched and cut by several incisions running obliquely down to the chin. There were also numerous cuts extending irregularly across all the features.

The neck was cut through the skin and other tissues right down to the vertebrae, the fifth and sixth being deeply notched. The skin cuts in the front of the neck showed distinct [ecchymosis](#). The air passage was cut at the lower part of the [larynx](#) through the [cricoid cartilage](#).

Both breasts were more or less removed by circular incisions, the muscle down to the ribs being attached to the breasts.

The [intercostals](#) between the fourth, fifth, and sixth ribs were cut through and the contents of the [thorax](#) visible through the openings.

The skin and tissues of the abdomen from the costal arch to the pubes were removed in three large flaps. The right thigh was denuded in front to the bone, the flap of skin, including the external organs of generation, and part of the right buttock. The left thigh was stripped of skin fascia, and muscles as far as the knee.

The left calf showed a long gash through skin and tissues to the deep muscles and reaching from the knee to five inches above the ankle. Both arms and forearms had extensive jagged wounds.

The right thumb showed a small superficial incision about one inch long, with [extravasation](#) of blood in the skin, and there were several abrasions on the back of the hand moreover showing the same condition.

On opening the thorax it was found that the right lung was minimally adherent by old firm adhesions. The lower part of the lung was broken and torn away. The left lung was intact. It was adherent at the apex and there were a few adhesions over the side. In the substances of the lung there were several nodules of consolidation.

The [pericardium](#) was open below and the heart absent. In the abdominal cavity there was some partly digested food of fish and potatoes, and similar food was found in the remains of the stomach attached to the intestines.<sup>[98][p. 121]</sup>



Crime scene photograph of Mary Jane Kelly, depicting the mutilation inflicted to her lower abdomen, groin, and thighs

Phillips believed that Kelly had been killed by a slash to the throat and the mutilations performed afterward.<sup>[101]</sup> Bond stated in a report that the knife used was about 1 in (25 mm) wide and at least 6 in (150 mm) long, but did not believe that the murderer had any medical training or knowledge. He wrote:

In each case the mutilation was inflicted by a person who had no scientific nor anatomical knowledge. In my opinion, he does not even possess the technical knowledge of a butcher or horse slaughterer or a person accustomed to cut up dead animals.<sup>[102]</sup>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_Jane\\_Kelly](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Jane_Kelly)

Jack the Ripper [letters](#)

Over the course of the Whitechapel murders, the police, newspapers, and other individuals received hundreds of letters regarding the case.<sup>[140]</sup> Some letters were well-intentioned offers of advice as to how to catch the killer, but the vast majority were either hoaxes or generally useless.<sup>[141]</sup> Hundreds of letters claimed to have been written by the killer himself,<sup>[142]</sup> and three of these in particular are prominent: the "[Dear Boss](#)" letter, the "[Saucy Jacky](#)" postcard and the "[From Hell](#)" letter.<sup>[143]</sup>

The "Dear Boss" letter, dated 25 September and [postmarked](#) 27 September 1888, was received that day by the [Central News Agency](#), and was forwarded to [Scotland Yard](#) on 29 September.<sup>[144]</sup> Initially, it was considered a hoax, but when Eddowes was found three days after the letter's postmark with a section of one ear obliquely cut from her body, the promise of the author to "clip the ladys (sic) ears off" gained attention.<sup>[145]</sup> Eddowes's ear appears to have been nicked by the killer incidentally during his attack, and the letter writer's threat to send the ears to the police was never carried out.<sup>[146]</sup> The name "Jack the Ripper" was first used in this letter by the signatory and gained worldwide notoriety after its publication.<sup>[147]</sup> Most of the letters that followed copied this letter's tone.<sup>[148]</sup> Some sources claim that another letter dated 17 September 1888 was the first to use the name "Jack the Ripper",<sup>[149]</sup> but most experts believe that this was a fake inserted into police records in the 20th century.<sup>[146]</sup>



The "From Hell" letter

The "Saucy Jacky" postcard was postmarked 1 October 1888 and was received the same day by the Central News Agency. The handwriting was similar to the "Dear Boss" letter,<sup>[148]</sup> and mentioned the canonical murders committed on 30 September, which the author refers to by writing "double event this time".<sup>[144]</sup> It has been argued that the postcard was posted before the murders were publicised, making it unlikely that a [crank](#) would hold such knowledge of the crime.<sup>[148]</sup> However, it was postmarked more than 24 hours after the killings occurred, long after details of the murders were known and publicised by journalists, and had become general community gossip by the residents of Whitechapel.<sup>[149][144]</sup>

The "From Hell" letter was received by [George Lusk](#), leader of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee, on 16 October 1888. The handwriting and style is unlike that of the "Dear Boss" letter and "Saucy Jacky" postcard.<sup>[148]</sup> The letter came with a small box in which Lusk discovered half of a human kidney, preserved in "spirits of wine" ([ethanol](#)).<sup>[146]</sup> Eddowes's left kidney had been removed by the killer. The writer claimed that he "fried and ate" the missing kidney half. There is disagreement over the kidney; some contend that it belonged to Eddowes, while others argue that it was a macabre practical joke.<sup>[146][147]</sup> The kidney was examined by Dr [Thomas Openshaw](#) of the [London Hospital](#), who determined that it was human and from the left side, but (contrary to false newspaper reports) he could not determine any other biological characteristics.<sup>[148]</sup> Openshaw subsequently also received [a letter signed "Jack the Ripper"](#).<sup>[146]</sup> Scotland Yard published facsimiles of the "Dear Boss" letter and the postcard on 3 October, in the ultimately vain hope that a member of the public would recognise the handwriting.<sup>[150]</sup> Charles Warren explained in a letter to [Godfrey Lushington](#), Permanent [Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department](#): "I think the whole thing a hoax but of course we are bound to try & ascertain the writer in any case."<sup>[151]</sup> On 7 October 1888, [George R. Sims](#) in the Sunday newspaper [Referee](#) implied scathingly that the letter was written by a journalist "to hurl the circulation of a newspaper sky high".<sup>[152]</sup> Police officials later claimed to have identified a specific journalist as the author of both the "Dear Boss" letter and the postcard.<sup>[153]</sup> The journalist was identified as Tom Bullen in a letter from Chief Inspector [John Littlechild](#) to George R. Sims dated 23 September 1913.<sup>[154]</sup> A journalist named Fred Best reportedly confessed in 1931 that he and a colleague at [The Star](#) had written the letters signed "Jack the Ripper" to heighten interest in the murders and "keep the business alive".<sup>[155]</sup>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper)

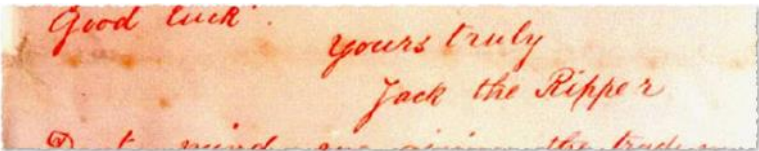
On 16 October 1888, the most famous and disturbing letter linked to Jack the Ripper was received, accompanied by a removed kidney – but was it real? This is a question that has plagued authorities, historians, and amateur sleuths around the round ever since. [redacted] The letter was received by the head of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee, George Lusk, a day after the correspondence was postmarked (15 October) and provides a frightening insight into the mind of the nation's most notorious killer: Jack the Ripper. [redacted]

The Letter's Impact



The Ripper Letters

818Shares



During the period of [the Ripper murders](#), the media, police and other officials had received a sea of letters. [The Whitechapel Murders](#) had created such a media frenzy that many local citizens found it irresistible to not want to be a part of this sensational [investigation](#).

Some of the letters were sent by concerned citizens offering their support in the [ongoing investigation](#), yet hundreds of letters were written by pranksters – with the intent of taunting police. Apart from a few well-intentioned letters from Whitechapel citizens hoping to aid police in their efforts to apprehend Jack the Ripper, the bulk of these letters were crass, distasteful or simply worthless.

Several of the 'Ripper Letters' were written as if by the killer himself. The vast majority of them, if not all, were believed to be hoaxes. Yet, there are three letters that stand out in particular...

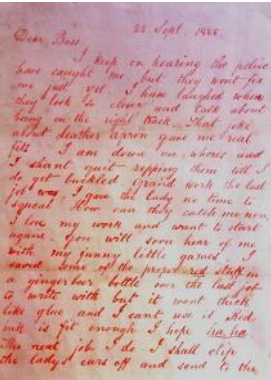
Dear Boss Letter



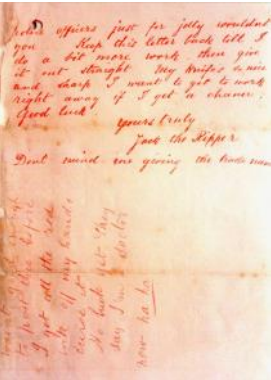
The Dear Boss Letter, which was dated September 25th, was received by the Central News Agency on **September 27, 1888**, the same day as its postmark. This letter was then sent on to Scotland Yard two days later.

Though initially viewed as a prank, the Dear Boss Letter quickly gained attention after Catherine Eddowes' murder on September 30th. In the letter, the author made mention of clipping off his next victim's ears. Eddowes was found with one earlobe severed.

In the same manner as the other famed Ripper Letters, the Dear Boss Letter is rife with misspellings, as well as grammatical and punctuation errors.



Facsimile of the Dear Boss Letter



Facsimile of the Dear Boss Letter  
It reads:





Facsimile of the Dear Boss Letter

It reads:

Dear Boss,

*I keep on hearing the police have caught me but they wont fix me just yet. I have laughed when they look so clever and talk about being on the right track. That joke about Leather Apron gave me real fits. I am down on whores and I shant quit ripping them till I do get buckled. Grand work the last job was. I gave the lady no time to squeal. How can they catch me now. I love my work and want to start again. You will soon hear of me with my funny little games. I saved some of the proper red stuff in a ginger beer bottle over the last job to write with but it went thick like glue and I cant use it. Red ink is fit enough I hope ha. ha. The next job I do I shall clip the ladys ears off and send to the police officers just for jolly wouldn't you. Keep this letter back till I do a bit more work, then give it out straight. My knife's so nice and sharp I want to get to work right away if I get a chance. Good Luck.*

Yours truly

Jack the Ripper

Dont mind me giving the trade name

*PS Wasnt good enough to post this before I got all the red ink off my hands curse it No luck yet. They say I'm a doctor now. ha ha*

The Dear Boss Letter is arguably the most famous of the three most prominent “**Ripper Letters**”, as it marked the first usage of the moniker that would later become legend... the author signed it,

Yours truly

Jack the Ripper

Soon after the Dear Boss Letter was made public, hundreds more letters were received claiming to be written by Jack the Ripper; all of them undoubtedly hoaxes. Most of them possessed the same tone and catch phrases from the Dear Boss Letter and were signed using the previously unknown nickname of **Jack the Ripper**.

The Dear Boss Letter, along with the Saucy Jack Postcard, were published by Metropolitan Police and handed out to citizens in hopes that someone would be able to identify the handwriting, yet nothing came of it. Newspapers also reprinted the messages, creating a worldwide media frenzy and increasing the celebrity of Jack the Ripper.

Some sources claim there was a previous letter, which had been dated September 17th, in which the author referred to himself as Jack the Ripper. However, most experts discount that letter as a modern day hoax which was placed in police records during the 1900s, well after the time of the murders.

While not well publicized, police officials later stated that they believed the Dear Boss Letter and Saucy Jack Postcard to be the work of a local journalist by the name of **Tom Bullen**.

Years later, in 1931, a journalist named **Fred Best** reportedly confessed to writing the Dear Boss Letter and Saucy Jack Postcard in an attempt to “*keep the business alive*”. It is not known if his claims were genuine, but it is probable.

Shortly after [the investigation](#) ended, the Dear Boss Letter came up missing from police files. It's believed that one of the investigating officers in the Ripper case had kept it as a souvenir. In 1988, nearly a century after the case had been closed, it was returned to Metropolitan Police by an anonymous party.

Undoubtedly, the letter had a massive impact on the case, purely down to the nature of its contents. Accompanied by half a kidney – which was said to be that of Catherine Eddowes who was found missing her left kidney – the letter signed ‘From hell’ was a short, albeit sinister, message.

It read: “From hell

Mr Lusk,

Sor

I send you half the Kidne I took from one women prasarved it for you tother piece I fried and ate it was very nise. I may send you the bloody knif that took it out if you only wate a whil longer

signed

Catch me when you can Mishter Lusk” [sic]

## Is the Letter a Fake?

There have been questions over the legitimacy of the letter in question, with some arguing that the letter and accompanied kidney were faked – possibly by medical students.

The kidney was examined by Dr Thomas Openshaw and the results showed that the organ was that of a female around 45 years of age who suffered from Bright's disease, a failing of the kidneys as a result of heavy drinking. At the time of her murder, Catherine Eddowes was 46 years old and had a reputation for drinking heavily.

The original letter is no longer on file having been lost, like many other key pieces of evidence in relation to Jack the Ripper, with only a photograph of the correspondence left on file.

## In Comparison to Previous Letters

Another reason why many believe the ‘From Hell’ letter was faked is because the handwriting does not match up to that used in previous letters. The first use of the name Jack the Ripper was in the ‘Dear Boss’ letter, dated 27 September 1888, which was received by the Central News Agency.

While the letter is rife with grammatical errors and misspellings, the same as all other messages linked to the killer, this letter appears to have been written by someone with even poorer literary prowess than the others.

It is unknown exactly how many letters were received that were believed to be from the murderer – with many lost as a result of World War 2 – although there are some that have been preserved at the Corporation of London Records Office.

From <https://thejacktheripper.com/blog/deconstructing-the-from-hell-letter/>

## WAS IT CATHERINE EDDOWES'S KIDNEY?

On Friday 19th October 1888 The Star newspaper carried the following report on the piece of kidney that had accompanied the “From Hell” letter, which was sent to Mr. George Lusk:-

The portion of the kidney which it enclosed has, according to the medical experts, been preserved for some time in spirits of wine. The person from whom it was taken was probably

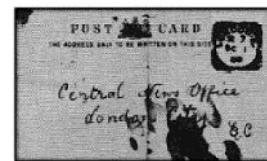
### ALIVE THREE WEEKS SINCE

a circumstance which fits in with the suggestion that the organ may have been taken from the body of the deceased woman Eddowes, murdered in Mitre-square. Another fact is that the kidney is evidently that of a person who had been a considerable drinker, as there were distinct marks of disease. The handwriting of the letter differs altogether from that of “Jack the Ripper,” specimens of whose calligraphy were recently published. The writing is of an inferior character, evidently disguised, while the spelling, as will be seen, is indifferent.

There seems to be no room for doubt that what has been sent to Mr. Lusk is part of a human kidney, but nevertheless it may be doubted whether it has any serious bearing on the Mitre-square murder. The whole thing may possibly turn out to be a medical student's gruesome joke.

It Had Been Preserved in Spirits. Dr. Openshaw told a Star reporter to-day that after having examined the piece of kidney under the microscope he was of opinion that it was half of a left human kidney. He couldn't say, however, whether it was that of a woman, nor how long ago it had been removed from the body, as it had been preserved in

## Saucy Jack Postcard



The Central News Agency received the Saucy Jack Postcard on **October 1, 1888**, the same day as its postmark. The writer's handwriting on the postcard was very similar to that seen in the Dear Boss Letter. The Saucy Jack Postcard makes mention of a “**double event**”, which was obviously in reference to the murders of **Elizabeth Stride** and **Catherine Eddowes**, both of which occurred the morning of September 30th.

It Reads:

*I was not coddling dear old Boss when I gave you the tip, you'll hear about*

It Had Been Preserved in Spirits. Dr. Openshaw told a Star reporter to-day that after having examined the piece of kidney under the microscope he was of opinion that it was half of a left human kidney. He couldn't say, however, whether it was that of a woman, nor how long ago it had been removed from the body, as it had been preserved in spirits.

It is believed that the "revolting parcel" is not from the murderer, but is merely a medical student's practical joke.

The Metropolitan Police last night handed the piece of kidney over to the City Police on the assumption that if the whole thing is not, as is most likely, the disgusting trick of some practical joker, it relates to the Mitre-square crime."

The East London Advertiser on 20th October 1888 quoted Openshaw as saying that the kidney that accompanied the From Hell Letter was:-

...a portion of a human kidney - a "ginny" kidney - that is to say, one that had belonged to a person who had drunk heavily. He was further of the opinion that it was the organ of a woman of about 45 years of age, and that it had been taken from the body within the last three weeks. It will be within public recollection that the left kidney was missing from the woman Eddowes, who was murdered and mutilated in Mitre-square..."

## A MEDICAL STUDENT'S JOKE

From the outset it appears that the police were of the opinion that the kidney and the "From Hell" letter were, as The Star had suggested on 19th October, nothing more than a silly prank carried out by a medical student.

## THE KIDNEY IS GIVEN TO THE CITY OF LONDON POLICE

As The Star mentioned, following Openshaw's examination of the kidney it was handed over to The City Police, in whose jurisdiction the murder of Catharine Eddowes had taken place.

## CITY POLICE REPORT ON THE FROM HELL LETTER

On the 27th October Inspector James McWilliam of The City Police presented the first police report on the gruesome artifact:-

The kidney has been examined by Dr Gordon Brown who is of the opinion that it is human. Every effort is being made to trace the sender, but it is not desirable that publicity should be given to the doctor's opinion, or the steps that are being taken inconsequence. It might turn out after all to be the act of a Medical Student who would have no difficulty in obtaining the organ in question."

## SWANSON'S REPORT TO THE HOME OFFICE

Chief Inspector Swanson had held daily meetings with Inspector McWilliam since the arrival of the From Hell Letter and the portion of kidney and on 6th November 1888 he forwarded his report on the matter to the Home Office:-

The result of the combined medical opinion is that it is the kidney of a human adult, not charged with a fluid, as it would have been in the case of a body handed over for purposes of dissection to an hospital, but rather as it would be in the case where it was taken from the body not so destined. In other words similar kidneys might and could be obtained from any dead person upon whom a post mortem had been made from any cause by students or dissecting room porter."

## NOW IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY

With the passage of more than 120 years and the disappearance of anything remotely associated with the portion of kidney (even the original of the "From Hell" letter has long since vanished) it is now almost impossible to establish with any degree of certainty whether or not the portion of kidney sent to Mr Lusk was part of the one removed from Catherine Eddowes by her murderer and we have little choice to rely upon the opinion of the doctors who were there at the time and had the opportunity to examine it.

## CONTEMPORARY MEDICAL OPINION

The majority of those doctors seem to have been of the opinion that the "From Hell" Letter was a prank missive and that the accompanying kidney was a sick part of the hoax. This opinion appears to have been shared by the police officers.

## MAJOR HENRY SMITH'S OPINION

The only dissenting police voice on the matter was that of Major Henry Smith, the acting City Commissioner, who later recalled in his memoirs:-

*It Reads:*

*I was not coddling dear old Boss when I gave you the tip, you'll hear about Saucy Jacky's work tomorrow double event this time number one squealed a bit couldn't finish straight off. Had not got time to get ears off for police thanks for keeping last letter back till I got to work again.*

## Jack the Ripper



Facsimile of the Saucy Jack Postcard

It's worth noting that part of Eddowes' ear was found severed at the crime scene. Some believe this was an unintentional result of the facial mutilations that the killer performed. Others argue it was deliberate.

Another topic of debate has been whether or not the postcard was sent prior to the murders, or afterward. Some suggest that the message was sent before news of the murders hit local papers, thus substantiating the fact that it was written by someone with firsthand knowledge of the crime. Others argue that because the letter was postmarked more than 24 hours after the killings, it was likely a hoax since most details surrounding the murders were already being reported by the media.

Police later claimed to have identified journalist Tom Bullen, as the author behind both the Saucy Jack Postcard and Dear Boss Letter.

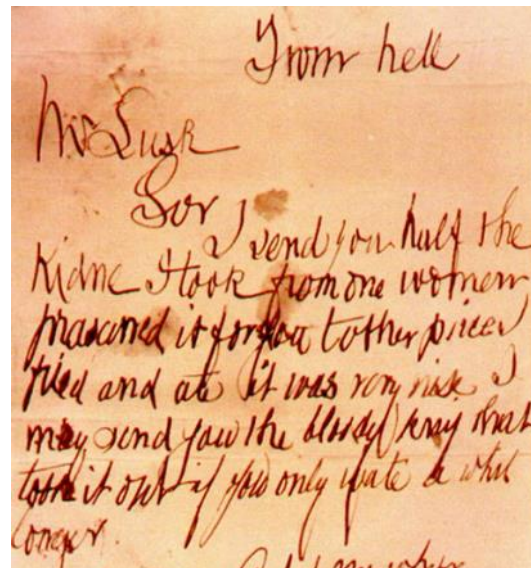
Years later, journalist Fred Best came forth with a confession, claiming to be responsible for both the letter and postcard.

As with the Dear Boss Letter, the Saucy Jack Postcard later turned up missing from police files. Unlike the Dear Boss Letter however, which had been returned in 1988, the Saucy Jack Postcard is still missing. Only a facsimile of it exists in the files.

## From Hell Letter

The From Hell letter is arguably the most disturbing and noteworthy of the three most prominent Jack the Ripper messages. This is mainly due to how the letter arrived... inside a small box, accompanied by half of a human kidney. Coincidentally, Catherine Eddowes' killer had removed one of her kidneys.

This letter is also distinct in that not only is the handwriting unique, but the writer also left it unsigned. The From Hell Letter also appears to be penned by someone with *even less literary prowess* than those responsible for the Dear Boss Letter and Saucy Jack Postcard.



## MAJOR HENRY SMITH'S OPINION

The only dissenting police voice on the matter was that of Major Henry Smith, the acting City Commissioner, who later recalled in his memoirs:-

"I made over the kidney to the police surgeon, instructing him to consult with the most eminent men in the Profession, and to send me a report without delay. I give the substance of it. The renal artery is about three inches long. Two inches remained in the corpse, one inch was attached to the kidney. The kidney left in the corpse was in an advanced state of Bright's Disease; the kidney sent me was in an exactly similar state. But what was of far more importance, Mr Sutton, one of the senior surgeons at the London Hospital, whom Gordon Brown asked to meet him and another surgeon in consultation, and who was one of the greatest authorities living on the kidney and its diseases, said he would pledge his reputation that the kidney submitted to them had been put in spirits within a few hours of its removal from the body thus effectually disposing of all hoaxes in connection with it."

However no report from Sutton, if there ever was one, has survived, and it has to be said that Major Smith's veracity has often been called into doubt. Colleagues remembered him as being an entertaining and charming raconteur, but also commented on his ability to play fast and loose with the truth when it suited his story!

## WHAT DR. BROWN REALLY THOUGHT

Indeed, a report in *Echo* on 19th October 1888 would appear to refute Major Smith's assertion:-

"The "kidney incident" is regarded by Dr. Gordon Brown and the police as a hoax. Even if the kidney forwarded to Mr. Lusk, the chairman of the Vigilance Committee, should prove to be the half of a human organ - and there is medical discrepancy on this point - it could not have been the one extracted from the body of the murdered woman Eddowes. A medical man is said to have ventured to assert - relying upon a microscopic examination - that the organ showed indications of disease from drink. Sedgwick Saunders - Medical Officer of the City of London - accepting this at once disproves the theory that the organ could have belonged to Eddowes by stating that the right kidney of the woman was perfectly healthy and presumably the left would be in a similar condition."

## WHAT DOCTOR SAUNDERS THOUGHT

A journalist from *Echo* had called on Dr. Sedgwick Saunders on the morning of 19th October 1888 to seek his opinion.

The subsequent article stated that Saunders:-

alluding at first to the report that a medical man declared the half kidney had belonged to a female, remarked:- "It is a pity some people have not the courage to say they don't know. You may take it there is no difference whatever between the male and female kidney. As for those in animals, they are similar. The cortical substance is the same, and the structure differs in shape. I think it would be quite possible to mistake it for a pig's. You may take it that the right kidney of the woman Eddowes was perfectly normal in its structure and healthy, and, by parity of reasoning, you would not get much disease in the left. The liver was healthy, and gave no indications that the woman drank. Taking the discovery of the half of the kidney, and supposing it to be human, my opinion is that it was a student's hoax. It is quite possible for any student to obtain a kidney for the purpose.""

## DR OPENSHAW RECEIVES A LETTER

So the general consensus at the time was that the kidney sent to Mr Lusk with the "From Hell" letter was nothing more than a sick practical joke.

However, its arrival injected yet another sinister twist into the Jack the Ripper mystery.

The fact that Dr Openshaw was being regularly quoted and discussed in the press inevitably attracted the attention of the Jack the Ripper hoaxers and, on the 29th October 1888, one of the pranksters decided it would be a good joke to honour Dr Openshaw with his very own missive:-

Old boss you was rite it was the left kidny i was goin to hoperate agin close to you ospitle just as i was going to dror mi nife along of er bloomin throte them cusses of coppers spoilt the game but i guess i wil be on the jobn soon and will send you another bit of innerds

Jack the Ripper

The infamous "From Hell" Letter

The letter, postmarked October 15, was received by **George Lusk**, head of the [Whitechapel Vigilance Committee](#), on **October 16, 1888**.

*It Reads:*

*From hell*

*Mr Lusk,*

*Sor*

*I send you half the Kidne I took from one women prasarved it for you tother piece I fried and ate it was very nise. I may send you the bloody knif that took it out if you only wate a whil longer*

*signed*

*Catch me when you can Mishter Lusk*

The kidney had been preserved in alcohol and was in fact confirmed to be that of a human female's. Lusk, along with members of the medical field, believed the kidney and accompanying message to be a practical joke played by medical students who'd obtained the organ from a cadaver.



Dr Thomas Openshaw

**Dr. Thomas Openshaw**, the physician who examined the kidney, concluded that it had come from a woman about 45 years of age, who also suffered from Bright's Disease. This disease is a failing of the kidneys as a result of heavy drinking.

Catherine Eddowes was 46 at the time of her murder and was known to *drink quite heavily*.

Like much of the other evidence in the Jack the Ripper case files, the From Hell Letter and accompanying kidney have either been lost or stolen. All that remains on file is a photograph of the letter taken before its disappearance.

How many letters were received during the time of the Ripper Murders?

It's not exactly known just how many letters were received by authorities, media and other notable figures in Whitechapel during the time of the murders, but it's possible the number may have totaled *a few thousand*. In the October 20, 1888 edition of *The Illustrated Police News*, it was reported that over 700 letters had been investigated by police.

Since most of these letters were either discarded, lost, or later destroyed during the bombings in WWII, we can only guess as to what the actual number may have been, but we do know that as many as 300 of the letters are still preserved at the Corporation of London Records Office.

From <<https://whitechapeljack.com/the-ripper-letters/>>



O have you seen the devle with his mikerscope and scalpul a-lookin at a kidney with a slide cocked up."

## THE LETTER WRITERS

But, given the amount of coverage the Jack the Ripper correspondence such as the "Dear Boss" and "From Hell" letters generated, not to mention the amount of police time that was wasted in following them up, only a handful of authors were actually traced, and even fewer of them were actually punished.

However, the writers that were traced do provide an intriguing glimpse of the type of person who would have taken the time and trouble to compose a Jack the Ripper missive.

From <<https://www.jack-the-ripper.org/openshaw.htm>>

# THE POLICE INVESTIGATION

Once it was realised that a maniac was on the loose, Scotland Yard was called in to coordinate the investigation. However, forensic science was primitive, the clues few and far between, and most suspects proved to be of little value.

The investigation into the Ripper murders was the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police, one of London's two police forces. The other force, which was drawn into the murder hunt only with the death of Catherine Eddowes in Aldgate, was the City of London Police. This force patrols the capital's ancient heart, the commercial square mile known as the city, and is answerable to the Lord Mayor. The Metropolitan Police is answerable to the Home Secretary.

Overall charge of the investigation was given to Detective Chief Inspector Donald Swanson of the Metropolitan Police, who was relieved of all other duties to coordinate the inquiries from Scotland Yard. Investigations in Whitechapel were conducted by Inspector Fred Abberline and Walter Andrews under the supervision of Chief Inspector Moore.

Among others who participated in the hunt for Jack the Ripper were a number of detectives specifically assigned to the task, principally Sergeant Thicke. Also involved was a young constable, Walter Dew, who later achieved fame when, in 1910, he boarded a ship off Canada to arrest Dr Hawley Crippen (Dew had been alerted by the captain who radioed his suspicions to England; this was the first time in history that a criminal suspect was caught by radio).

At the time of the murders, forensic science was very much in its infancy. It was not easy, if indeed it was possible at all, to distinguish between human and animal blood, and a search for other physical residues such as hair, sperm and saliva at the scene of the crime, was virtually non-existent. No fingerprints were taken either as the technique of fingerprinting was not used by Scotland Yard until 1901. On-the-spot analysis largely consisted of looking for clues, such as something dropped by the murderer.

Bodies found at the murder scene were removed to the mortuary as soon as possible and the site of the crime cleaned up. A doctor called to the scene was only required to state that the victim was dead. A more detailed examination of the body waited until a visit could be paid to the mortuary, often several hours after the body had been discovered. This is why the abdominal mutilation of the first victim, Mary Ann Nichols, was not found until the body was stripped in the mortuary.

Police investigators followed up whatever clues they had and sought to establish the victim's final movements. Much of the same procedure is followed today. The Jack the Ripper investigation focused on tracing suspicious people seen at the time of the murders, looking into the whereabouts of people already known to the police and questioning the local prostitutes.

One of the earliest suspects was a young medical student, John Saunders. Little is known about him, except that he became insane and died in an asylum, but home office papers on the case show that, for a while, he was the subject of intense speculation in the corridors of power.

Another early police suspect was Michael Ostrog, who was described as a "Russian doctor" and a convict, who was frequently detained in a lunatic asylum. Ostrog may have come to the attention of the police because of his state of mind or perhaps he had attempted to commit a Ripper-like crime, but he was probably committed to an asylum because of his mental state in 1889 or 1893. The police, anyway, could not show he was in Whitechapel at the time of the murders. After the murder of Annie Chapman, on 8th September 1888, talk on the streets was about a mysterious individual known as "Leather Apron" (The name Jack the Ripper had not yet been coined). "Leather Apron" was alleged to extort money from the prostitutes at knifepoint and threaten to "rip them up". The press published lurid descriptions of "Leather Apron", who was considered to be a Jew, and on the streets, there were unpleasant anti-Semitic reactions. Jews were verbally abused and sometimes physically assaulted.

The police seem to have believed that "Leather Apron" was John Pizer, a shoemaker living in Mulberry Street, off Commercial Road. On Monday morning, 10th September, Sergeant Thicke took Pizer to Leman Street police station and his home was searched. When questioned about his whereabouts on the nights of the murders of Mary Ann Nichols and Annie Chapman, Pizer provided cast-iron alibis and was released.

At Chapman's inquest, which Pizer attended, there was some suspicion as to why Pizer had stayed indoors between the night of the Chapman murder and the time he was arrested by Thicke. Pizer replied that his brother had advised against going out, since he might have been torn to pieces by anti-Jewish mobs.

Whether or not Pizer was in fact "Leather Apron" is uncertain. He strenuously denied knowing that he was known as that nickname and declared that he had a stailless

## Investigation



Inspector [Frederick Abberline](#)

The vast majority of the [City of London Police](#) files relating to their investigation into the Whitechapel murders were destroyed in [the Blitz](#).<sup>[133]</sup> The surviving [Metropolitan Police](#) files allow a detailed view of investigative procedures in the [Victorian era](#).<sup>[134]</sup> A large team of policemen conducted house-to-house inquiries throughout Whitechapel. Forensic material was collected and examined. Suspects were identified, traced, and either examined more closely or eliminated from the inquiry. Modern police work follows the same pattern.<sup>[135]</sup> More than 2,000 people were interviewed, "upwards of 300" people were investigated, and 80 people were detained.<sup>[136]</sup> Following the murders of Stride and Eddowes, the [Commissioner of the City Police](#), [Sir James Fraser](#), offered a reward of £500 for the arrest of the Ripper.<sup>[137]</sup>

The investigation was initially conducted by the Metropolitan Police Whitechapel (H) Division [Criminal Investigation Department](#) (CID) headed by Detective Inspector [Edmund Reid](#). After the murder of Nichols, Detective Inspectors [Frederick Abberline](#), [Henry Moore](#), and [Walter Andrews](#) were sent from Central Office at [Scotland Yard](#) to assist. The City of London Police were involved under Detective Inspector James McWilliam after the Eddowes murder, which occurred within the [City of London](#).<sup>[138]</sup> The overall direction of the murder enquiries was hampered by the fact that the newly appointed head of the CID [Robert Anderson](#) was on leave in Switzerland between 7 September and 6 October, during the time when Chapman, Stride, and Eddowes were killed.<sup>[139]</sup> This prompted [Metropolitan Police Commissioner](#) Sir [Charles Warren](#) to appoint Chief Inspector [Donald Swanson](#) to coordinate the enquiry from Scotland Yard.<sup>[140]</sup>

Butchers, slaughterers, surgeons, and physicians were suspected because of the manner of the mutilations. A surviving note from Major Henry Smith, Acting Commissioner of the [City Police](#), indicates that the alibis of local butchers and slaughterers were investigated, with the result that they were eliminated from the inquiry.<sup>[141]</sup> A report from Inspector Swanson to the Home Office confirms that 76 butchers and slaughterers were visited, and that the inquiry encompassed all their employees for the previous six months.<sup>[142]</sup> Some contemporary figures, including [Queen Victoria](#), thought the pattern of the murders indicated that the culprit was a butcher or cattle drover on one of the cattle boats that plied between London and mainland Europe. Whitechapel was close to the [London Docks](#),<sup>[143]</sup> and usually such boats docked on Thursday or Friday and departed on Saturday or Sunday.<sup>[144]</sup> The cattle boats were examined but the dates of the murders did not coincide with a single boat's movements and the transfer of a crewman between boats was also ruled out.<sup>[145]</sup>



"Blind man's buff": *Punch* cartoon by [John Tenniel](#) (22 September 1888) criticising the police's alleged incompetence. The failure of the police to capture the killer reinforced the attitude held by radicals that the police were inept and mismanaged.<sup>[146]</sup>

## Whitechapel Vigilance Committee

In September 1888, a group of volunteer citizens in [London's East End](#) formed the [Whitechapel Vigilance Committee](#). They patrolled the streets looking for suspicious characters, partly because of dissatisfaction with the failure of police to apprehend the perpetrator, and also because some members were concerned that the murders were affecting businesses in the area.<sup>[147]</sup> The Committee petitioned the government to raise a reward for information leading to the arrest of the killer, offered their own reward of £50 for information leading to his capture,<sup>[148]</sup> and hired private detectives to question witnesses independently.<sup>[149]</sup>

## Criminal profiling

At the end of October, Robert Anderson asked police surgeon Thomas Bond to give his opinion on the extent of the murderer's surgical skill and knowledge.<sup>[150]</sup> The opinion offered by Bond on the character of the "Whitechapel murderer" is the earliest surviving [offender profile](#).<sup>[151]</sup> Bond's assessment was based on his own examination of the most extensively mutilated victim and the post mortem notes from the four previous canonical murders.<sup>[152]</sup> He wrote:

All five murders no doubt were committed by the same hand. In the first four the throats appear to have been cut from left to right, in the last case owing to the extensive mutilation it is impossible to say in what direction the fatal cut was made, but arterial blood was found on the wall in splashes close to where the woman's head must have been lying.

All the circumstances surrounding the murders lead me to form the opinion that the women must have been lying down when murdered and in every case the throat was first cut.<sup>[153]</sup> Bond was strongly opposed to the idea that the murderer possessed any kind of scientific or anatomical knowledge, or even "the technical knowledge of a butcher or horse slaughterer".<sup>[154]</sup> In his opinion, the killer must have been a man of solitary habits, subject to "periodical attacks of homicidal and erotic mania", with the character of the mutilations possibly indicating "[satyriasis](#)".<sup>[155]</sup> Bond also stated that "the homicidal impulse may have developed from a revengeful or brooding condition of the mind, or that religious mania may have been the original disease but I do not think either hypothesis is likely".<sup>[156]</sup> There is no evidence the perpetrator engaged in sexual activity with any of the victims.<sup>[157]</sup><sup>[158]</sup> yet [psychologists](#) suppose that the penetration of the victims with a knife and "leaving them on display in

was arrested by Thorne. Pizer replied that his brother had advised against going out, since he might have been torn to pieces by anti-Jewish mobs.

Whether or not Pizer was in fact "Leather Apron" is uncertain. He strenuously denied knowing that he was known as that nickname and declared that he had a stainless character. On the other hand, the police must have had a reason for connecting him with the "Leather Apron" stories and there is certainly no evidence in any police writings to suggest that they were ever in any doubt about the identification. Pizer was publically exonerated at the inquest, and he subsequently took out libel action against the police.

During the week following the murder of Mary Nichols, the police investigation concentrated on finding "Leather Apron" as well as a bloodstained man who had aroused the suspicions of Mrs Fiddymont, Landlady of a Spitalfields pub, the Prince Albert Tavern, only a few hundred yards from the scene of the crime. This second man was probably a butcher named Jospeh Issenschmidt who was mentally unstable and had been out of Colony Hatch Asylum, North London. Issenschmidt was detained on 12th September and, according to Inspector Abberline, was handed over to the parochial authorities as a lunatic. The police soon lost interest in both Issenschmidt and Fiddymont.

With Chapman's murder, additional policemen were drafted in from other divisions to augment the local H and J Divisions (Whitechapel and Bethnal Green, respectively). The press thought this swamping of the area was ineffectual, and the police were criticised. However, there is evidence to show the police presence was having an effect on the killer due largely to the lengthening intervals between the murders - a week between Nichols and Chapman, three weeks between Chapman and the Double Event (Stride and Eddowes) and over a month between the Double Event and Kelly.

The Metropolitan Police also distributed about 80,000 handbills requesting the public to communicate anything suspicious to the authorities. The police visited common lodgings houses, questioned over 2,000 lodgers, and made extensive house-to-house enquiries. Curiously, these were restricted to a geographical area that excluded both Bucks Row and Berner Street, where Nichols and Stride were murdered. Nevertheless, the area they chose held the greatest concentration of Eastern European immigrants, and was dominated by common lodging houses with a correspondingly large transient population.

Robert Anderson, the newly appointed head of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), who was out of the country until after the double murders of Stride and Eddowes, later wrote in his memoirs, *The Lighter Side of My Official Life*, "during my absence abroad the police had made house-to-house search for him (the murderer), investigating the case of every man in the district whose circumstances were such that he could come and go and get rid of his blood stains in secret. And the conclusion we came to was that he and his people were certain low-class Polish Jews".

Whatever the reasons were for this conclusion, it seems that by the end of October 1888, the police were no nearer to identifying the killer than they had been on the day that Mary Ann Nichols was murdered.

In a report to the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Sir Charles Warren, dated 23rd October, Anderson admitted "that a crime of this kind should be committed without any clue being supplied by the criminal is unusual, but that five successive murders should be committed without our having the slightest clue of any kind is extraordinary, if not unique, in the annals of crime".

There was one clue – of sorts. After the murder of Catherine Eddowes, in Mitre Square, a blood-stained piece of a woman's apron was found on a common stairway to a block of flats in Goulston Street, a few streets North-East of Mitre Square. It was found to match exactly the apron Eddowes was wearing, and had evidently been used by the killer to wipe his knife and hands.

This piece of material suggested that the murderer was heading back into the East End, into the very heart of the murder district. While this strongly indicates that he was a resident there and member of the local community, he may have been forced into taking this route.

Little is known of the investigation undertaken by the City Police into the murder of Catherine Eddowes, the only Jack the Ripper victim murdered within their jurisdiction. Their files were destroyed by bombing during World War 2. A brief account was given by Major Henry Smith, the commissioner of the city police, in his memoirs, but these are considered unreliable.

In a precautionary measure, the City Police drafted men in plain clothes onto the boundary between the Metropolitan and City jurisdictions to check alleys and dark corners and to keep an open eye for suspicious individuals. After Eddowes' murder in Mitre Square, Aldgate, they seem to have placed a value on the description given by eye-witness Joseph Lawende of the man thought to have been seen with Eddowes at the entrance to Mitre Square.

The destruction of the City Police case papers is a great loss, for not only might they have given a better insight into the approach taken by the city to the Ripper crimes, but they might also have thrown some light on a few mysterious and tantalising items of information.

the character of the mutilations possibly indicating "[satyriasis](#)".<sup>[44]</sup> Bond also stated that "the homicidal impulse may have developed from a revengeful or brooding condition of the mind, or that religious mania may have been the original disease but I do not think either hypothesis is likely".<sup>[45]</sup> There is no evidence the perpetrator engaged in sexual activity with any of the victims.<sup>[22]</sup> <sup>[46]</sup> yet [psychologists](#) suppose that the penetration of the victims with a knife and "leaving them on display in sexually degrading positions with the wounds exposed" indicates that the perpetrator derived sexual pleasure from the attacks.<sup>[27][46]</sup> This view is challenged by others, who dismiss such hypotheses as insupportable supposition.<sup>[47]</sup>

In addition to the contradictions and unreliability of contemporary accounts, attempts to identify the murderer are hampered by the lack of any surviving [forensic evidence](#).<sup>[48]</sup> [DNA analysis](#) on extant letters is inconclusive;<sup>[49]</sup> the available material has been handled many times and is too contaminated to provide meaningful results.<sup>[48]</sup> There have been mutually incompatible claims that [DNA evidence](#) points conclusively to [two different](#) suspects, and the [methodology](#) of both has also been criticised.<sup>[48]</sup>

From <[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack\\_the\\_Ripper#Suspects](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jack_the_Ripper#Suspects)>

[This is a brief review of the Jack the Ripper](#)

After six months, the investigation gradually wound down. The expensive special patrols drafted into Whitechapel had been withdrawn by March 1889, and Inspector Abberline was caught up in the Cleveland Street scandal in which certain English aristocrats were accused of frequenting a male brothel near Tottenham Court Road.

Press and public interest in the Ripper waned, to be briefly revived with the murder of Alice McKenzie in Whitechapel in mid-1889. The Jack the Ripper case papers remained open until 1892, but no more information was added to them. They remained closed to public inspection until 1992, but were made available to researchers in the 1970s.

From <<https://thejacktherippertour.com/casebook/police-investigation/the-police-investigation/>>

# Frederick Abberline

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:06 PM

**Frederick George Abberline** (8 January 1843 – 10 December 1929) was a British [Chief Inspector](#) for the [London Metropolitan Police](#). He is best known for being a prominent police figure in the investigation into the [Jack the Ripper serial killer murders](#) of 1888.

Early life<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>

Born in [Blandford Forum, Dorset](#), Frederick Abberline was the youngest son of Edward Abberline, a saddlemaker, sheriff's officer and clerk of the market, minor local government positions; and his wife Hannah ([née](#) Chinn). Edward Abberline died in 1849, and his widow opened a small shop and brought up her four children, Emily, Harriett, Edward and Frederick, alone.

Police career<sup>[[edit](#)]</sup>



Frederick Abberline in January 1888.

Frederick was a [clockmaker](#) until he left home to go to London, where he enlisted in the [Metropolitan Police](#) on 5 January 1863, being appointed to N Division ([Islington](#)) with the Warrant Number 43519. [PC](#) Abberline so impressed his superiors that they promoted him to [Sergeant](#) two years later on 19 August 1865. On his promotion he moved to Y Division ([Highgate](#)). Throughout 1867 he investigated [Fenian](#) activities as a plain-clothes officer.<sup>[a]</sup> He was promoted to [Inspector](#) on 10 March 1873, and three days later, on 13 March transferred to H Division in [Whitechapel](#). On 8 April 1878 Abberline was appointed Local Inspector in charge of H Division's [CID](#).



Frederick Abberline ([The Illustrated Police News](#), November 1888).

On 26 February 1887 Abberline transferred to A Division ([Whitehall](#)), and then moved to CO Division (Central Office) at [Scotland Yard](#) on 19 November 1887, being promoted to Inspector First-Class on 9 February 1888 and to [Chief Inspector](#) on 22 December 1890. Following the murder of [Mary Ann Nichols](#) on 31 August 1888, Abberline was seconded back to Whitechapel due to his extensive experience in the area. He was placed in charge of the various detectives investigating the Ripper murders. Chief Inspector [Walter Dew](#), then a [detective constable](#) in [Whitechapel's](#) H Division in 1888, knew Abberline and, while describing him as sounding and looking like a bank manager, also stated that his knowledge of the area made him one of the most important members of the Whitechapel murder investigation team.<sup>[a]</sup> Among the many [suspects in the case](#), Abberline's primary suspect was [Severin Antoniovich Klosowski](#), aka George Chapman. That theory was reiterated decades later by Robert Milne, MFSSoc, FFS, FA IA-IP, who had recently retired from the Metropolitan Police Directorate of Forensic Services. He presented a paper about the case to the International Association for Identification Conference in 2011 and to the Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences in 2014, suggesting Chapman as the most likely Ripper. Based on his expertise, review of investigation documents, and the use of geographical profiling software, he was convinced that the killer lived in the area of the murders. Chapman fit that bill accurately. Milne also pointed out that Chapman "a now known serial poisoner of women" ... "would go out carrying a small bag, not coming home until 4:30 a.m.", according to his estranged wife. In his 2014 paper, Milne also discussed a 1902 murder victim (1901 according to some sources), Mary Ann Austin, who had described a client before her death. According to Milne, "a Russian 5ft 7 inches tall with a black moustache [who] visited Mary and in the course of having sex stabbed her and tried to cut out her uterus".<sup>[a][b]</sup> (Austin died of ten wounds to her abdomen, inflicted at [Annie Chapman](#)'s former home, Crossingham's Lodging House, at 35, Dorset Street).<sup>[a]</sup>

Among Abberline's theories about the murders, one suggested that the crimes could have been perpetrated by a female killer.<sup>[a]</sup>

Abberline was subsequently involved in the investigation of the [Cleveland Street scandal](#) in 1889. This case left him disenchanted with police work, convinced that there had been cover-ups by his superiors; if so, this was because, during the investigation, some sources claimed that Queen Victoria's grandson had been a frequent visitor to the homosexual brothel on Cleveland Street. That was Abberline's last major case.<sup>[a]</sup>

Chief Inspector Abberline retired from the police on 8 February 1892, having received 84 commendations and awards.<sup>[a]</sup>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick\\_Abberline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Abberline)

Frederick Abberline	
<span></span> <div>An 1885 illustration of Abberline</div>	
Born	<div>Frederick George Abberline</div> 8 January 1843 <div><a href="#">Blandford Forum, Dorset</a></div>
Died	10 December 1929 (aged 86) <div><a href="#">Springbourne, Bournemouth, Hampshire</a><sup><span>[1]</span></sup></div>
Spouse(s)	Martha Mackness (m. March 1868–May 1868; her death) <div></div> Emma Beament <div></div> <div></div> <div>(m. 1876)</div>
Police career	
Rank	<a href="#">Chief Inspector</a> for the <a href="#">London Metropolitan Police</a>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick\\_Abberline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Abberline)



Detail from a group shot of H Division at Leman Street police station in London c.1886. Authors [Wolf Vanderlinden](#)<sup>[1]</sup> and [Donald Rumbelow](#)<sup>[a]</sup> tentatively identify this as Abberline.

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick\\_Abberline](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Abberline)



# Sir Melville Leslie Macnaghten

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 9:19 PM

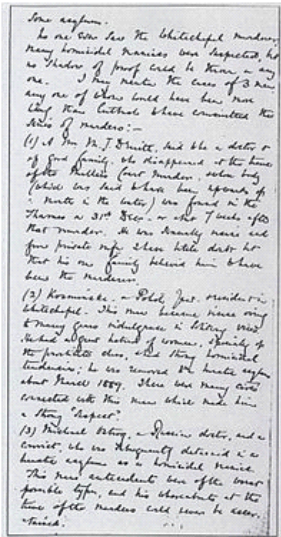
Sir Melville Leslie Macnaghten [CB KPM](#) (16 June 1853, [Woodford](#), London – 12 May 1921) was [Assistant Commissioner \(Crime\)](#) of the London [Metropolitan Police](#) from 1903 to 1913. A highly regarded and famously affable figure of the late Victorian and Edwardian eras he played major investigative roles in cases that led to the establishment and acceptance of fingerprint identification. He was also a major player in the pursuit and capture of Dr. Crippen, and of the exoneration of a wrongly convicted man, Adolph Beck, which helped lead to the creation of the Court of Criminal Appeal in 1907.



When he prematurely retired in 1913 due to illness, Macnaghten claimed to journalists that he knew the exact identity of [Jack the Ripper](#), the nickname of the unknown serial killer of poor prostitutes in London's impoverished East End during the late Victorian era. The police chief called the killer "that remarkable man",<sup>[1]</sup> but refused to name him or divulge details that might identify him, except to reveal that he had taken his own life at the end of 1888. Macnaghten further claimed that he had destroyed the relevant papers to keep forever secret the deceased killer's identity. Since 1965 the public has known that Macnaghten's suspect was [Montague John Druiitt](#), a country doctor's son and young barrister who inexplicably drowned himself in the River Thames in early December 1888. The source of Macnaghten's alleged "private information" about Druiitt has two candidates, both only uncovered in the early 21st Century. One is a Tory politician, H. R. Farquharson<sup>[2]</sup> who lived near the Druiitts and also went to Eton with Macnaghten, and the other is Colonel Sir Vivian Majendie<sup>[3]</sup> a very close friend of the police chief and whose clan was related to the Druiitt family. It is likely both men, in succession, were the unnamed sources of information for the police chief regarding the drowned barrister being strongly suspected of being the Ripper by his closest relations.

Since 1959 Macnaghten has been known for a major report written in the 1890s on the Ripper case, naming three possible [Jack the Ripper suspects](#).<sup>[4]</sup> There are two versions of this document, one that was filed in the archives of Scotland Yard. It was, however, a copy of the privately held version in the possession of his daughter, [Christabel, Lady Aberconway](#) – the version which strongly advocated "M. J. Druiitt" as the likeliest suspect to have been the Whitechapel assassin – that was revealed in 1959. Macnaghten's opinion that the case was likely solved, and that it was a "Protean" maniac who had taken his own life, had already been confirmed in his 1914 memoir, "Days of My Years" (London, Edward Arnold) though Druiitt was not named (and no other suspects are mentioned as possibilities). More recently, French writer Sophie Herfort has argued that Macnaghten himself was responsible for the Jack the Ripper murders.<sup>[5]</sup>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melville\\_Macnaghten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melville_Macnaghten)



A page from the Macnaghten memorandum of 1894, in which he names three suspects

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melville\\_Macnaghten](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melville_Macnaghten)



# Whitechapel Vigilance Committee

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:08 PM

The **Whitechapel Vigilance Committee** was a group of local volunteers who patrolled the streets of London's [Whitechapel District](#) during the period of the [Whitechapel murders](#) of 1888. The volunteers cruised mainly at night, assisting police in the search of the unknown murderer known as the "Whitechapel Murderer", "Leather Apron" and, latterly, "[Jack the Ripper](#)".

The Whitechapel Vigilance Committee was founded by sixteen Whitechapel and Spitalfields tradesmen who were concerned that the killings were affecting businesses in the area.<sup>[1][2]</sup> This committee was led by a local builder named [George Lusk](#), who was elected chairman during the committee's first meeting on 10 September 1888.<sup>[3]</sup>



[George Lusk](#), President of the Whitechapel Vigilance Committee.

Other committee members included Publican Joseph Aarons (treasurer), Mr. B. Harris (secretary),<sup>[4]</sup> and Messrs. Barnett, Cohen, H. A. Harris, Hodgins, Houghton, Isaacs, Jacobs, Laughton, Lindsay, Lord, Mitchell, Reeves, and Rogers. [The Daily Telegraph](#) reported on 5 October 1888 that the leading members of the committee were "drawn principally from the trading class, and include a builder, a cigar-manufacturer, a tailor, a picture-frame maker, a licensed victualler, and 'an actor.'"<sup>[5]</sup> The latter may have been the entertainer Charles Reeves.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Civic duties<sup>[edit]</sup>

Members of the committee were unhappy with the level of protection the local community was receiving from the [police](#), so it introduced its own system of local patrols, using hand-picked unemployed men to patrol the streets of the East End every evening from midnight to between four and five the next morning. Each of these men received a small wage from the Committee, and each patrolled a particular beat, being armed with a [police whistle](#), a pair of [galoshes](#) and a strong stick. The committee itself met each evening at nine in The Crown, and once the public house closed at 12.30 am the committee members would inspect and join the patrols. These patrols were shortly to be joined by those of the Working Men's Vigilance Committee.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Publicity<sup>[edit]</sup>

As chairman of the committee, Lusk's name appeared in the national newspapers and upon posters in and around Whitechapel appealing for information concerning the identity of Jack the Ripper and complaining about the lack of a reward for such information from the government. Due to this publicity, Lusk received threatening letters through the post, allegedly from the murderer. Lusk is also mentioned in a letter dated 17 September 1888, reportedly discovered among archive materials in the late 20th century; however, most experts dismiss this as a modern hoax.<sup>[8]</sup>



Members of the Vigilance Committee examine the contents of the box sent to Lusk.

On 30 September 1888, the committee members wrote to the government under [Lord Salisbury](#) in an attempt to persuade them to offer a reward for information leading to the apprehension of the Whitechapel murderer. When the [Home Secretary Henry Matthews](#) refused this request, the committee offered its own reward.<sup>[9]</sup> The committee also employed two private detectives, Mr. Le Grand (or Grand) and Mr. J. H. Batchelor,<sup>[4]</sup> to investigate the murders without the involvement of the local police.

## Correspondence<sup>[edit]</sup>

The "[From Hell](#)" letter, which was sent with half of a preserved human [kidney](#), was personally addressed to George Lusk, who received the parcel on 16 October 1888.<sup>[9]</sup> The letter was postmarked on 15 October.<sup>[10]</sup>

Many scholars<sup>[11]</sup> of the Jack the Ripper murders regard this letter as being the communication most likely to have been sent by the actual murderer.<sup>[12]</sup>

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitechapel\\_Vigilance\\_Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Whitechapel_Vigilance_Committee)

# The Royal Conspiracy

Wednesday, April 21, 2021 8:12 PM

## GOOD KNIGHT: An Examination of THE FINAL SOLUTION

*Unfortunately, it isn't.* -- Donald Rumbelow

One of the most controversial Ripper theories was made in Stephen Knight's 1978 book, JACK THE RIPPER: THE FINAL SOLUTION. In it, Knight weaves a fascinating tapestry of conspiracy involving virtually every person who has ever been a Ripper suspect plus a few new ones. Knight's conspiracy has become the most popular Ripper theory ever despite strong objections raised by Ripperologists such as Donald Rumbelow and the recanting of pertinent testimony from Knight's key informant. Still, it has received the most exposure and support of any Ripper theory and continues to appear in other areas of popular culture. Clearly, it manages to appeal to a great number of people and we shall examine that reason shortly.

First, however, it is important to discuss the actual theory as Knight presents it in his book. The basic genesis of Knight's theory actually began in 1973 and had nothing to do with Knight at all! The Ripper murders had recently increased in popularity to the point where the BBC decided to produce a television program on the murders. In an unprecedented move, they combined their theatrical and documentary departments to produce a strange hybrid of a show that purported to solve the mystery once and for all using documented evidence, but by including fictional television detectives. It was decided that research would be extremely important to the show's success so several assistants were assigned to obtain all possible information on the murders. In speaking with a Scotland Yard detective, they were advised to speak to a man named Sickert who knew about a secret marriage between Eddy and a poor Catholic girl named Alice Mary Crook.

The researchers could not find evidence of the marriage or the man Sickert. Puzzled, they went back to their Scotland Yard contact who revealed that the details were slightly off (apparently to test their intentions) he then gave them Sickert's address and phone number. The researchers tracked down Sickert and were told an amazing story.

Joseph Sickert's father had been the famous painter, Walter Sickert, who had lived in the East End during the time of the murders and reportedly knew the truth behind them. Joseph briefly outlined a tale in which Eddy, while slumming as a commoner under Sickert's guidance, met a girl named Annie Elizabeth Crook in a tobacconist's shop in Cleveland Street. Eddy soon got the girl pregnant and they were living quite happily until the Queen discovered her grandson's indiscretion and became furious. She demanded that the situation be handled as Annie was not only a commoner, but a Catholic. Joseph explained that the government had been very vulnerable at that time and the news of a Catholic heir to the throne was likely to cause a revolution. Queen Victoria supposedly gave the matter to Lord Salisbury, her Prime Minister, for resolution. Salisbury ordered a raid on the Cleveland Street apartment and Eddy and Annie were taken away in separate cabs. Her child, a girl by the name of Alice Margaret, had somehow escaped.

Salisbury then enlisted the aid of Sir William Gull who was the Queen's personal physician. According to Walter Sickert, Gull had Annie put away in the hospital and performed experiments on her which made her lose her memory, become epileptic, and slowly go insane. The story would have ended there if it had not been for Mary Kelly.

Kelly was found by Walter Sickert in one of the poor houses and he brought her to the tobacconist's shop to help Annie. She soon became Alice's nanny and it was supposed that Alice was with her when the raid took place. Desperate, Mary placed the child with nuns and fled back into the East End, falling into a life of drink and prostitution. But she knew the entire story of Eddy's indiscretion and began spreading it around. Soon, several of her cronies pressured her into blackmailing the government for hush money. These cronies were Polly Nichols, Liz Stride, and Annie Chapman. When Salisbury learned of the threat, he called on Gull once again.

Gull brought along John Netley, a coachman who had often ferried Eddy in his forays into the East End, for help and soon devised a plan that would rid them of the bothersome women and teach them a lesson about trying to topple a government. Together with John Netley, he created Jack the Ripper as a symbol of Freemasonry. To that end, the aid of Sir Robert Anderson was also enlisted to help cover up the crimes and act as lookout during the murders. Eddowes, Sickert said, had been a mistake. She often went by the name of Mary Kelly and the conspirators thought that she was the one they were looking for. When the mistake became known, they found the real Mary and viciously silenced her.

The murders were hushed up and a scapegoat chosen if anyone tried to investigate too closely. The poor barrister, Montague Druiett, was chosen to take the blame and possibly, Sickert hinted, was murdered for it. The girl, Alice Margaret, grew up quietly in the care of nuns and later, by an odd series of twists and turns, married Walter Sickert and gave birth to their son, Joseph. Sir William Gull died shortly after the murders, but there were rumors that he had been committed to an insane asylum. Annie Crook died insane in a workhouse in 1920. Netley was chased by an angry mob after he unsuccessfully tried to run over Alice Margaret with his cab shortly after the murders. He was believed to have been drowned in the Thames.

Joseph said that his father was fascinated with the murders and bore great guilt over them. Walter Sickert, after all, had been the one who introduced Eddy to Annie and started the grisly game. To alleviate his guilt, for he could say nothing safely, he painted clues into several of his most famous paintings.

Later, Walter Sickert supposedly married Alice Margaret.

The researchers were amazed as no one had ever put forward anything like this before. In checking the few facts, they did find that a woman named Annie Crook lived in Cleveland Street at that time and that she did give birth to a bastard daughter at the same time that Sickert said she did. They felt that the theory was the correct one and they incorporated it into the show.

When it appeared, JACK THE RIPPER (the BBC production) was confusing to many viewers. The strange combination of facts with fictional detectives and an outlandish theory prompted many to question the program's veracity. Joseph Sickert appeared in the last episode and verified everything that had been said. It was, they all felt, the only solution.

Stephen Knight enters the story a little later when he asks Joseph Sickert for an interview for a local paper. After some indecision, Sickert agrees. During the course of their interview, which took place over several occasions, Knight also became convinced that Joseph Sickert believed he was telling the truth. The story, he said, had been told to him by his father to explain why his mother always looked so sad and why both she and Joseph were partially deaf. Once given the basic germ of the plot, Knight then proceeds to try and confirm the theory. Eventually, he felt that the story warranted a book. Joseph was disappointed as he had only agreed to be interviewed for an article and wanted very little publicity. Undaunted, Knight went ahead with his book in which he tried to prove that the conspiracy did exist, that Eddy did father Annie's child, and (most amazing of all) that the third man in the murderous trio was not Sir Robert Anderson at all but Joseph's own father, Walter Sickert.

The book was initially released in 1978 and caused something of a sensation. As both the BBC program and Knight's book were derived from Sickert's story, they varied only in the identity of the third man. In essence, then, Knight is reiterating the same story told to the BBC but is trying to validate it as a serious theory. It is a fascinating piece of fiction, but very little actual evidence is produced.

Knight makes great use of the infamous Ripper files held by Scotland Yard and the Home Office (not to be opened to the public until 1992 and 1993 respectively and a source of much speculation in 1978) but it is difficult to accept some of his conclusions. His logic is, at times, extremely flawed. Having discovered the birth certificate of Alice Margaret, he verifies the existence of Annie Elizabeth Crook and the fact that she was in Cleveland Street. The fact that she is listed as being employed as a "confectionary assistant" instead of a tobacconist is never fully explained. The name of the father is left blank. Knight then moves on to the story of a man who remembers his grandmother foster feeding "a child of the Duke's." This story is strictly hearsay with nothing to support it. Knight has proved that Alice Margaret existed but then goes on to connect her with the child of the apocryphal story. There is nothing to link the two and nothing to prove that the rumor of a Duke's child had any basis in fact. Knight merely assumes that because Alice Margaret did exist when Sickert said she did and because of this story that they were one and the same. This is typical of much of Knight's reasoning and logic. It is based primarily on assumption and the belief that if "X was true then Y must also be true." This is wonderfully faulty logic at its best.

A great deal of time is spent connecting Eddy with Cleveland Street. At the time, it was considered a great mecca for artists and Knight postulates that Sickert maintained a studio on that street. There is, outside of the story he told his son, nothing to firmly state that he did so. He does not appear on any of the registry books or as a rent payer. Knight explains this by simply saying that Sickert may have avoided being listed in case he had to make a quick escape from the landlord or something even more sinister. He then implicates Eddy in the Cleveland Street scandal of 1889 in which a homosexual brothel was raided. Eddy was reportedly one of the clients and, according to Knight and several other authors, a cover up was done to erase his involvement. Knight then goes on to say that the cover up was initiated not to conceal Eddy's "bisexual nature (which was well known by then anyway), but his connection with that particular street" (K 107). This is incredible reasoning. Knight seemingly believes that Eddy would be no more than 'inconvinced' if his

bisexual nature was exposed. This is in spite of the strict anti-homosexual laws which existed in England. Surely if Eddy was exposed as having homosexual relations, the scandal would be quite large on its own without having to worry about any other connections. It was these laws which brought Oscar Wilde from fame to absolute ruin and disgrace. Would the outcry be any less against a future King?

The connection is supposedly even greater when Knight mentions that the infamous Aleister Crowley claimed in one of his books that he had compromising letters from Eddy to a boy called Morgan who lived in Cleveland Street. Knight then goes on to link these letters (whose existence has never been verified or even been seen by another source) with a Mrs. Morgan who "ran the very shop at No. 22 Cleveland Street in which Annie Elizabeth worked" (K 103). Even if we accept that these unseen letters existed, there is nothing to positively connect them with this Mrs. Morgan or Annie. Knight assumes that if Eddy wrote letters to this boy then he surely must have been a frequent visitor to the shop. Are we then to suppose that Eddy was seducing both Annie and Morgan?

This is symptomatic of the entire problem with Knight's book and the Sickert theory. It is based entirely on assumptions. There is no direct, objective evidence to link Eddy with Annie, Gull with Sickert and Netley, or even Warren and Anderson with the Masons. Knight builds his argument through assuming that certain things are true. His proof is loose, lacking in hard facts, and uses them to make further assumptions leading to the murderous trio. It is a veritable house of cards which could be toppled by the removal of the slightest piece of evidence.

One of the most detailed parts of the book involves Knight's attempts to implicate the Masons into the conspiracy. Of course, Knight takes it as certain that the conspiracy did exist because of some of the strange evidence given at inquests (or not given) and the unexplainable actions of several of the principals. It is absolutely necessary for Knight's theory that there be a conspiracy so one is naturally assumed to have existed. The Masons are chosen as the movers behind the conspiracy. As victims go, the Masons are probably the best choice Knight could have made. Intensely secretive, they would not allow anyone to consult their files and would refuse all requests for information. This merely fuels Knight's certainty that they were implicitly involved in the conspiracy. Knight lists the principal characters as Masons merely on assumption that in order to achieve their political and social stature, they would have to be Masons. There is no evidence to prove this which, of course, fits right in with Knight's conspiracy.

This is actually one of the main reasonings behind his theory. Evidence does not exist because the conspiracy made sure that all evidence was destroyed. This is a handy excuse for lack of hard, objective facts. No marriage certificate for Eddy and Annie? Conspiracy. No evidence that Gull, Salisbury, Warren, and Anderson were Masons? Conspiracy. Evidence suppressed at the inquest? Conspiracy. It is a handy excuse but one that requires an amazing amount of trust from the reader.

The Mason connection is tenuous at best and relies entirely on Knight's supposed 'revelations' about the sect. He discloses that the murders were ritual re-enactments of the murder of Mason Hiram Abiff in Solomon's Temple by three initiates Jubela, Jubelo, and Jubelum. Knight claims that further evidence of the placing of the victims in specific areas points directly to the Masons. One of these claims rests upon Mitre Square being significant to the Masons as a local meeting place of various lodges and the words Mitre and Square being symbols of Masonic tools. This is an example of Knight's symbolic logic.

Working from a list of Procedures, supposedly dictating Masonic conduct, Knight believes that the murders were committed to show Masonic power and had to include humor as well. This explains some of Knight's stretches in logic as he identifies virtually everything to have connections to Eddy or the Masons. For instance, John Netley is said to have been killed, not by jumping off a bridge, but by being run over by his own cab. This is significant, Knight implies, as it was probably a Masonic killing which took place at Clarence Gate. The Clarence being, of course, a veiled reference to Eddy.

Sickert is implicated because he knows too many details about the murders to be an outside man. He must have been working with Gull and Netley. Knight then goes on to suggest that the man seen by several witnesses was Sickert. The parcel the man was carrying is said to be a portrait of Kelly which they were using to track her down. This is confusing in that if Sickert was involved because of his first-hand knowledge of Mary Kelly and the Cleveland Street affair, why would he need a portrait to find Kelly? He knew what she looked like perfectly well so why bring such a useless item along?

In Rumbelow's revised edition of JACK THE RIPPER: A COMPLETE CASEBOOK, he addresses the question of the Gull and Sickert theory. He does not find much truth in the conspiracy. Criticizing Knight for his lack of facts, Rumbelow goes on to prove that Annie Crook did indeed drift from workhouse to workhouse before her death but Alice Margaret was with her during much of this time! Also, in her 1918 marriage certificate, Alice Margaret lists her father as William Crook who was actually her grandfather! This raises just as much possibility that Alice was a product of incest as she was a child of the Duke. In addition, Rumbelow has found that Alice's grandmother, and Annie's mother, Sarah Crook had also been living in workhouses with them and that she was also deaf and given to epileptic seizures. This raises the possibility of Alice's medical problems coming from somewhere other than the Duke.

Perhaps one of the strongest points Rumbelow makes against Knight is when he proves that the actual location which Knight names in Cleveland Street, could not have existed in 1888. The buildings were in a process of being torn down and renovated during that time and could not have been the scene of the dramatic abduction. Rumbelow then goes on to attack Knight's accusation of Sickert as being unfounded. Much of Knight's theory has to do with a red handkerchief which Sickert used in his painting. It is described as being a tool he used to stimulate his memory. It implies the connection that the last man seen with Kelly gave her a red handkerchief and this is what makes Knight name Sickert. To be fair, he also includes Sickert's intimate knowledge of the crimes and his moodiness. Rumbelow points out that the use of the handkerchief is noted in 1917 and there is no indication that he used it before then. Plus, he continues, Sickert had many moods including his 'Ripper' phase which invalidates that argument.

One of Knight's points against Sickert was supposed 'hush' money paid to him by Salisbury. The story went that Salisbury had abruptly appeared in Sickert's Dieppe studio one day and, without looking at it, bought a painting for 500 when it was barely worth 3. Knight says that Sickert had originally attributed this story to the artist Vallon but confided to his son that it had actually happened to him. Rumbelow discloses that the actual painting was done by A. Vallon and was hung in Salisbury's home (where it remains) and included his family which was why he had paid so much for it. By assuming, rather than checking, Knight has left himself open to accusation by the facts.

Knight himself is contradicted by Joseph Sickert who confessed shortly after the book's appearance, to having made up the entire story. Knight claimed that this revelation was simply in reaction to his naming Joseph's father as one of the killers and not to be taken seriously. Yet Knight also contradicts the testimony of Dr. Howard. There was an article printed in a Chicago newspaper shortly after the murders in which a Doctor, while drunk, confessed to having sat on a board of medical inquiry passing judgement on Jack the Ripper. This man, reportedly named Doctor Howard, told how the man was judged to be insane, committed, and a mock funeral given to explain his absence. Knight jumps on this story and proves, through a circuitous route, that the unnamed man mentioned in the story was Dr. Gull. In a postscript, Knight mentions that a letter by Dr. Howard was found and published by Richard Wittington-Egan in which Dr. Howard loudly discounts the story and claims to have not even been in Chicago at the time. Knight explains this rejection of an important part of his theory by saying that "Dr. Howard would hardly have admitted that he had become drunk and broken the solemn oath binding him to secrecy about the Masonic lunacy commission proceedings" (K 211). Once again, he uses the conspiracy theory to explain the existence of conflicting or nonexistent evidence. Clearly, there is no arguing with Knight.

Another interesting point comes in Knight's examination of Gull as a suspect. He states that Rumbelow and Farson have both discounted Gull as a suspect due to his having a stroke a few years before the murder. Knight then goes on to prove that a man can indeed function perfectly well after major strokes and that Gull had only suffered one slight stroke. Then, strangely, he relates the story of mystic Robert Lees leading a detective to the house of a doctor claiming that the man was Jack the Ripper. Knight establishes that this was Gull through another account in a memoir of Gull. Be that as it may, Knight relates the story of Lees and the detective confronting the man who confessed that his mind had been confused as of late and that he had, on more than one occasion, woken up with blood on his shirt. Knight appears to be laying a case for Gull having a split personality that resulted in his committing the Ripper murders. This would appear to be in contrast with the portrait of Gull which Knight earlier paints as a Masonic madman intent upon saving the realm through an intricate plan. It is a strange contradiction.

Ironically, Knight himself accuses Cullen and Farson of not checking their facts when they accused Druitt. Their theories, he says, are based on inaccurate copies of the MacNaughten papers and are thus worthless. The same accusation applies to Knight as his lack of evidence makes his theory just as worthless.

Despite the lack of hard facts, the Sickert theory remains one of the most popular Ripper theories yet advanced. It continues to appear in popular fiction and media, eclipsing all other theories. The reasoning for this is quite simple. The conspiracy theory is a favorite among many people as a large number of them often have persecution complexes and do not trust the government. That aside, the Sickert theory makes an excellent story regardless of whether it is true or not. It is far more powerful than a tale of a lone madman stalking women. It involves powerful people subverting justice for their own ends, romance, tragedy, and guilt. In short, it is the perfect Hollywood story! This fact has not been missed by most as this theory appears frequently in such different forms as movies, television shows, comic books, and novels.

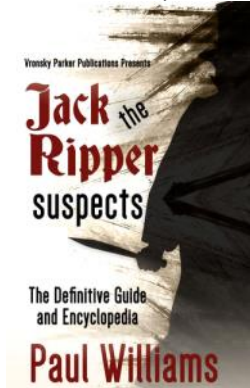
When read as fiction, it makes wonderful sense and provides an incredibly enjoyable read. If taken as fact, Knight's book falls apart from the lack of evidence supporting it. The entire concept is only effective if key elements are believed on faith. The study of the Ripper requires much more than that.

From <<https://casebook.org/suspects/knight.html>>



## Ripperology 101

Author lists and analyzes all known Jack the Ripper suspects.



Source: Vronsky Parker Publications

Books devoted to Jack the Ripper are published every year. Some offer new suspects, a new angle on an established theory, or something new about 1888 London. Now at the 130th anniversary year of the Ripper's "Autumn of Terror," the flow of Ripper books has increased. A few, like this one by Paul Williams, stand out, with 333 suspects described.

"Jack" was never identified, but plenty of people have been accused. The authorities knew of some of them, but researchers have added many more. The truth about each and the reasons why someone came under suspicion are often lost in wishful thinking, overreaching, and misinformation. Williams attempts to lay out the facts.

Not everyone agrees on when the murders began, but "canonically," it was the end of August in 1888. Two prostitutes were murdered in separate events a week apart before the so-called "double event" in which two more were separately killed on the same night. Many letters were received purporting to be from the killer, and the final official victim was murdered in November.

Many experts – commonly called Ripperologists – disagree with police conclusions from 1888. However, most seem to accept that the murder spree began at some point that year. Maybe it ceased in November or maybe it continued for several more years, and possibly in other places.

In *Jack the Ripper Suspects: The Definitive Guide and Encyclopedia*, Williams describes the eleven victims most often suggested before focusing on nine. He then defines his list of suspects as those accused of one or more of these murders in the Whitechapel area from 1888-1891: the canonical five plus Emma Smith, Martha Tabram, Alice McKenzie, and Frances Coles. Although not included among the top Ripperologists, Williams has nevertheless done an exhaustive job of collecting the names in one place.

The groundwork was laid in such books as Robin Odell's *Ripperology* in 2006, but many other suspects have been proposed since then, especially given Odell's decision to discount victims that others include. John J. Eddleston's *The Definitive Jack the Ripper: An Encyclopedia* (2002, 2015) also falls short. Eddleston includes far fewer suspects, but like Williams, he evaluates them for credibility.

For manageability, Williams groups the suspects into categories such as those who falsely confessed, those accused during the Terror, and those whom the police accused vs. those fingered by contemporary researchers. One chapter features female suspects, another looks at lunatics, and others discuss aristocrats and surgeons. Williams also provides some key documents known to Ripper researchers, like the Littlechild letter and the Macnaghten memorandum.

My favorite chapter was "The Men Who Might Have Been the Ripper," where Williams boils it all down to actual evidence for making a legal case. He recognizes that some researchers have gone to elaborate lengths to prove that their suspect is Red Jack, but shows that logic without solid evidence is merely speculative. No matter how many coincidences one can muster for weaving a "totality of the circumstances" case, no narrative rises to the level of being definitive.

article continues after advertisement

Williams rules out suspects in groups (those who don't exist, those who had an alibi, etc.) until he has just ten who might still be considered with stronger evidence. Then there are only five.

I don't claim to be a Ripperologist, but I've read my fair share of Ripper books. I don't know if someone who's been *seriously* considered was overlooked, but this list is impressive. I looked for a few unusual suspects, such as "Walter" the infamous pornographer, and he's here. So are several outlandish ones, as well as those on whom researchers have spent considerable time and money. (I noticed that Oscar Wilde is not named, and he's been suggested, but he's mentioned in the text for other reasons.)

One should never conclude that a lack of evidence proves innocence, but a case built primarily on logic and interpretation likewise does not prove *guilt*. Still, Williams tends to dismiss some without a satisfying explanation and to discount behavior as evidence, so there's room for Ripperologists to quibble and perhaps add some suspects back to the "possible" list.

I'm certain that some will take issue with items in this book because the debate over facts and theories is at the heart of Ripperology. Yet those Ripperologists who can bear having their work reduced to a few sentences or paragraphs, with their favorite candidate dismissed, will have fun with this book. For others, it offers a wealth of material and an organized way to find primary sources. There's even a helpful glossary that sums up who accused the suspect and the basic reason that he, she, or they don't work out. The footnote section is also comprehensive.

I wasn't a Ripperologist before I read this book, but thanks to Williams' categories and lists, I'm getting closer. I recommend this book to anyone with a serious interest in the Ripper case.

From <<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/shadowboxing/201804/ripperology-101>>

### Ripperology

Ripperology is defined as being the study of the infamous serial killer [Jack the Ripper](#). Though the term has not made its way into the mainstream, those who study the case, or are simply enthusiasts are referred to as 'Ripperologists'. This does not simply refer to finding out who [the killer](#) was, but who all of the victims were, along with various "evidence" such as the highly debated credibility of [the Ripper](#) letters.

"The study of the [Jack the Ripper](#) is called 'ripperology'."  
"Who is Jack the Ripper, and why do I keep hearing his name? Why not ask a [ripperologist](#)?"

From <<https://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=Ripperology>>

## Experts gather in York to ask: who was Jack The Ripper?

26 Sep, 2012 by YorkMix | News



The ghost of Jack The Ripper will be stalking York this weekend...

**They go by the alarming name ripperologists – people who have made a life's work of the study of Jack The Ripper.**

And this weekend their attention turns away from the murderous slums of Victorian East End London to the attractions of York, as the Jack The Ripper Conference 2012 is hosted by the [Best Western Monkbar Hotel](#).

But who was Jack? Before the event we assembled three ripperologists to give their view on the man, the murders and the myth. Our panel:



Sussex-based writer [Shirley Harrison](#) wrote [The Diary Of Jack The Ripper](#), an investigation into a journal supposedly kept by cotton merchant James Maybrick and signed "yours truly Jack The Ripper". When her account of investigations into the diary appeared in 1993 the whole world seemed to be on the case.



Robert Anderson, as well as sharing the name of one of the [most senior policemen who investigated the Ripper murders](#), is managing editor of online resource [the Casebook Ripper Wiki](#). He will talk to the York conference about the Maybrick diary. In his day job, Robert is a director of BioChemicals, Inc in Danvers, Massachusetts, USA.



Ricky Cobb became hooked on the Jack The Ripper story after reading a book about it at school in Northern Ireland. With his brother he started [a tour showing people round the murder sites](#). An historian based in London, he is one of the organisers of the York conference.

Why are we still fascinated by Jack The Ripper?

**Shirley:** It is the mystery, the dark alleys and courtyards of Whitechapel which are much the same today after dark as they were

in 1888. And the horror of the killings themselves which became a challenge to amateur detectives worldwide.

**Ricky:** We've had 125 years of movies, books, plays where the image of the ripper changes from what would have been a normal dressed east-ender to the more elaborate gentleman with top hat and cloak. The feeling that he could have been a doctor, or even a member of the royal family glamorises the killings.

Jack the Ripper remains the only serial killer in history that represents an entire era. If you mention his name to anyone they will instantly think of Victorian London, foggy nights, Gaslamps and prostitutes. Quite simply the greatest whodunnit in the history of crime.

**Robert:** Good question, as others have killed more. Why is he the bogeyman and not, say, Bundy? I think if you have ever seen the victim photographs of Mary Kelly, you can't ever wash that devil dust off your boots.



Another grisly crime discovered  
What was the reaction to The Diary Of Jack The Ripper?

**Shirley:** Dramatic. The appearance of the diary was the catalyst for all those armchair sleuths, some of whom had already written books about their own suspect, to band together and a formal organisation was established. They became "Ripperologists" with a website – Casebook Jack the Ripper. Twenty years on this remains a very lively and often well-informed forum for heated argument and debate, not only about the Ripper but also about crime in general. There is a bi-annual 2 day gathering of these Ripperologists with a number of well known and respected speakers.

Our diary has its own place on the casebook site and is, on the whole, dismissed by most people (on no real evidence) as a forgery. After all, if I am right, and it is genuinely the Diary of Jack the Ripper, there will be no further need for the casebook!

How much closer to the truth does the diary take us?

**Shirley:** A difficult one to answer. We have conducted innumerable tests on the ink and the paper and the handwriting. We have consulted criminal psychologists, historians, graphologists and the results have been conflicting and inconclusive. These results are all in my book for everyone to see.

Who do you think was Jack the Ripper – and why?

**Robert:** I don't know. The more serious you get about the case, the further away the identity of the real Jack fades into the horizon.

**Ricky:** There are so many theories. I would have to go with a local man living right in the heart of the area, amongst his victims. He would probably appear quite normal, maybe verging on shy. He'd keep himself to himself but would hide a deep anger and rage that would raise its head every so often. We've seen this with serial killers like Ted Bundy and Peter Sutcliffe who in appearance wouldn't raise any suspicion and are often over looked by the police.

Do you think we will ever, definitively, unmask the Ripper?

**Shirley:** I believe that we have. But "belief" is an act of faith. I am convinced that the diary is at the very least a Victorian document but I cannot possibly say that I know Maybrick **was** the Ripper.

**Robert:** Someone somewhere might have something in their attic that cracks the case. But with the existing evidence, no.



Will Jack The Ripper's identity ever be known?

Why did the killer stop?

**Ricky:** Serial killers don't just stop killing, but he did. So you have to say one of three things occurred. The killer died, he was imprisoned for an unrelated crime or he moved from the area. Interestingly enough the police files do contain the names of several suspects, one of whom was locked in a lunatic asylum, the other committed suicide, but you'll have to attend the conference to find out more...



Are you looking forward to your York visit?

**Ricky:** I can safely say the York idea has been welcomed greatly by the delegates and organisers, we can't wait. Anyone visiting York cannot fail to be impressed by its wonderful atmosphere and sense of history. The buildings and architecture tell a tale that spans hundreds of years, from the Romans to the Vikings, from the medieval walls to the beautiful York Minster (whose bell incidentally was made in the Whitechapel Bell foundry in the heart of the Ripper's hunting ground). The history simply oozes out of every brick. Its a must for any history lovers.

What have you lined up for the weekend?

**Ricky:** The conference falls on the 29th and 30th September, the same dates as the "Double Event" – which in the Ripper world marks the night when the killer murdered not one but two women 45 minutes apart.

We have nine expert speakers including, probably the world's [foremost authority on the Ripper, Martin Fido](#), and a criminal profiler from Scotland Yard, Laura Richards, who will use 21st century techniques to try and understand a 19th century killer. This will show us the type of individual the police should have been looking for throughout the autumn of terror.

We will be enjoying a fabulous banquet at St William's College next to York Minster on the Saturday night and we will be engaging in one of York's famous ghost walks Sunday night as well.

Are Ripperologists on the morbid side – or do you let your hair down at these conferences?

**Robert:** To paraphrase the Las Vegas slogan, what happens at Ripper conferences stays at Ripper conferences. There are all kinds of critters at these get togethers, from serious academic types to necromancers, from industrial strength goths to Miss Marple types.

It's a rich and heady brew, and it's a blast. And you can't help but come away with a deeper appreciation of what we call The Great Victorian Mystery.

- More details about [the Jack The Ripper Conference 2012 can be found on the website](#)

From <<https://yorkmix.com/experts-gather-in-york-to-ask-who-was-jack-the-ripper/>>

# Crazyboard

Sunday, April 25, 2021 5:59 PM

