

JACK THE RIPPER
(The Whitechapel Murders)
OFFICIALS INVOLVED
(Police, Government, etc.)



1888 - 1891

Archived by

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(This material was compiled from various unconfirmed sources)

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Introduction

The Whitechapel murders were unprecedented, and the police had no previous cases of this nature to compare. Additionally, the murderer left no clues and seemed to move around and blend effortlessly in with the real Whitechapel of 1888.

There were two police forces involved in the investigation to investigate the Whitechapel Murders and to apprehend Jack the Ripper - the Metropolitan Police and the City of London Police.

Regarding the Ripper murders, the murders of Mary Nichols, Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride and Mary Kelly took place in Whitechapel and Spitalfields, and consequently their murder sites came under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Police who then investigated these four murders.

Catherine Eddowes was murdered on 30 Sept 1888 in Mitre Square, which is in the City of London. Consequently her killing came under the jurisdiction of the City of London Police and was investigated by them.

Police Communication Policy

Police must not on any account give any information whatever to gentlemen connected with the press, relative to matters within police knowledge, or relative to duties to be performed or orders received, or communicate in any manner, either directly or indirectly, with editors, or

reporters of newspapers, on any matter connected with public service, without express and special authority... The slightest deviation from this rule may completely frustrate the ends of justice, and defeat the endeavour of superior officers to advance the welfare of the public service. Individual merit will be invariably recognized in due course, but officers who without authority give publicity to discoveries, tending to produce sensation and alarm, show themselves wholly unworthy of their posts.

(C E Howard Vincent, *A Police Code, and Manual of the Criminal Law* (London, 1881), p. 253)

Consequently, the press had to obtain their information about any particular case from "other sources". This, in turn, renders any "reported facts" to be questionable, possibly very questionable..

Detection Methods Available - 1888

- Physical clues and artefacts at the crime scene
- Bloodhounds
- House-to-house enquiries
- Victim statements
- Witness statements
- Police and Newspaper Informants
- Information from undercover officers and the intelligence services
- Police knowledge of the local area and its inhabitants
- Police knowledge of the local criminals and their modus operandi
- Plaster of Paris for casting footprints
- Medical histories and autopsy reports
- Very limited use of photography (in 1888 it was not common practise to photograph the victim at the crime scene. The case of Mary Kelly was seen as an exception)
- Blood testing was limited to confirming that a blood specimen was mammalian. Blood typing had not yet been developed. The ABO blood group system is widely credited to have been discovered by the Austrian scientist Karl Landsteiner, who found three different blood types in 1900
- Fingerprint detection was still in its infancy. In 1892 Sir Francis Galton published a detailed statistical model of fingerprint analysis and tried to encourage its use in forensic science in his book *Finger Prints*

Suspects

Since the Whitechapel murders of 1888 and 1889, there has been endless speculation about the identity of the Jack the Ripper; however, at the time and in the few years following the events, the police only had a few definite suspects:

- Kosminski - a poor Polish Jew living in Whitechapel.
- Montague John DrUITT - a 31 year old barrister and school teacher who committed suicide in December 1888.
- Michael Ostrog - a Russian thief and confidence man, who had been committed to lunatic asylums several times.
- Dr Francis J Tumblety - who was arrested in November 1888 for acts of gross indecency. He was 56 and an Irish American patent medicine man, who was arrested in November 1888 for offences of gross indecency. After his arrest on the indecency charge, he fled to the USA.

- Seweryn Antonowicz Kłosowski (alias: George Chapman - no relation to victim Annie Chapman) (14 December 1865 - 7 April 1903) - was born in Poland, but emigrated to the United Kingdom sometime between 1887 and 1888, shortly before the start of the murders. Between 1893 and 1894 he assumed the name of Chapman. He successively poisoned three of his wives and was hanged for his crimes in 1903. At the time of the Ripper murders, he lived in Whitechapel, London, where he had been working as a barber

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Poster - September 1888

Note that the details as printed are inaccurate - Chapman's heart was not actually "removed".

The stamp in the top left corner is that of the British Museum - the repository of this artefact.

**GHASTLY
MURDER**
IN THE EAST-END.
DREADFUL MUTILATION OF A WOMAN.

Capture: Leather Apron

Another murder of a character even more diabolical than that perpetrated in Back's Row, on Friday week, was discovered in the same neighbourhood, on Saturday morning. At about six o'clock a woman was found lying in a back yard at the foot of a passage leading to a lodging-house in a Old Brown's Lane, Spitalfields. The house is occupied by a Mrs. Richardson, who lets it out to lodgers, and the door which admits to this passage, at the foot of which lies the yard where the body was found, is always open for the convenience of lodgers. A lodger named Davis was going down to work at the time mentioned and found the woman lying on her back close to the flight of steps leading into the yard. Her throat was cut in a fearful manner. The woman's body had been completely ripped open and the heart and other organs laying about the place, and portions of the entrails round the victim's neck. An excited crowd gathered in front of Mrs. Richardson's house and also round the mortuary in old Montague Street, whither the body was quickly conveyed. As the body lies in the rough coffin in which it has been placed in the mortuary - the same coffin in which the unfortunate Mrs. Nicholls was first placed - it presents a fearful sight. The body is that of a woman about 45 years of age. The height is exactly five feet. The complexion is fair, with wavy brown hair; the eyes are blue, and two lower teeth have been knocked out. The nose is rather large and prominent.

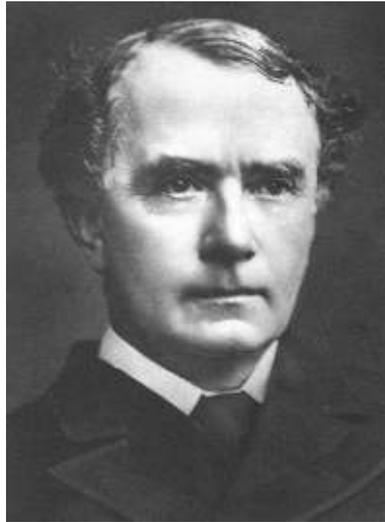
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Henry Matthews, 1st Viscount Llandaff PC, QC - Home Secretary from 1886 to 1892



Matthews was a British lawyer and a Conservative politician, and he served as Home Secretary from 1886 to 1892.

He was not a popular minister during the Whitechapel crisis, and this was exacerbated by him not posting a government reward for the capture of the murderer.

He was scourged mercilessly by the press. The *Star* branded him as a "*feeble mountebank who would pose and simper over the brink of a volcano.*" And the *Telegraph*, a pro government paper, repeatedly called for his resignation. On 19 Sep 1888, the *Telegraph* printed: "*We have had enough of Mr Home Secretary Matthews, who knows nothing, has heard nothing, and does not intend to do anything in matters concerning which he ought to be fully informed, and prepared to act with energy and despatch. It is high time that this helpless Minister should be promoted out of the way of some more competent man.*"

He died unmarried in 1913 at the age of 87 at his London home.

There is no evidence that Matthews was a Freemason.

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Sir Charles Warren - Metropolitan Police Commissioner from 1886 - 1888



Sir Charles Warren was the Metropolitan Police Commissioner based at Scotland Yard.

Although he is often portrayed as being an incompetent "Colonel Blimp" like figure he was in fact a very able officer.

Suspects

Charles Warren did not voice an opinion regarding specific suspects.

Warren resigned in Nov 1888 after a dispute with the Home Secretary, Henry Mathews; and James Monro is appointed Commissioner in his place.

Warren was a freemason:

Initiated: December 30, 1859

Past Master: 1863

Royal Lodge of Friendship No. 278, Gibraltar, EC

Past Grand Deacon: 1887, UGLE

District Grand Master: 1891 to 1895

District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago, UGLE

Soldier, explorer and archaeologist, Charles Warren was born in Bangor and educated at Sandhurst. As an agent of the Palestine Exploration Fund in 1867, he surveyed Herod's Temple and conducted excavations in Jerusalem, recording his discoveries in two books: *The Temple or the Tomb* and *Under Jerusalem*.

Sir Charles Warren was the first Worshipful Master of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No.2076, generally accepted to be the premier lodge of Masonic research in the world. The Warrant was granted on 28 November 1884, but as Sir Charles had to go to South Africa on a "mission", the lodge was not in fact consecrated until 12 January 1886.

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James Monro - First Assistant Metropolitan Police Commissioner - 1884-1888

Resigned 31 Aug 1888 -

Metropolitan Police Commissioner from 1888 to 1890



James Monro was the Assistant Metropolitan Police Commissioner up until 31 Aug 1888 when he resigned his position as a result of a personality clash with Sir Charles Warren. He was succeeded by Sir Robert Anderson.

Matthews, the then Home Secretary, accepted Monro's resignation, but simply moved him to the Home Office and allowed him to keep command of Special Branch, which was his particular interest.

Robert Anderson was appointed Assistant Commissioner (Crime) and Superintendent Adolphus Williamson was appointed Chief Constable (CID). Both men were encouraged to liaise with Monro behind Warren's back.

Sir Charles Warren resigned in Nov 1888 after a dispute with the Home Office, and James Monro is appointed Metropolitan Police Commissioner in his place.

Suspects

Monro had his own theory about the "Hot Potato" that was Jack the Ripper; unfortunately, there is no existing record of his theory.

Monro then returned to India in 1890 as a missionary, founding and running Ranaghat Christian Medical Mission in the far north of the country.

In 1903, he retired to England, living in Chiswick.

There is no evidence that Monro was a Freemason.

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Sir Robert Anderson - Second Assistant Metropolitan Police Commissioner from 1888 to 1901



Dr. Sir Robert Anderson was the Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and was in charge of the detective department.

He succeeded James Monroe (31 Aug 1888) after Monroe's resignation.

He was later emphatic that the ripper had been caught.

There is no evidence that Anderson was a Freemason.

Suspect

Anderson's prime suspect was Aaron Kosminski, a Polish Jew who lived in Whitechapel and was committed to an insane asylum in 1891.

Profiling

At the end of Oct 1888, Sir Robert Anderson asked police surgeon Thomas Bond to give his opinion on the extent of the murderer's surgical skill and knowledge. The opinion offered by Bond on the character of the "Whitechapel murderer" was based on his own examination of the most extensively mutilated victim (Mary Kelly) and the post mortem notes from the four previous canonical murders.

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."

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".

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**"

[*satyriasis - uncontrollable or excessive sexual desire or craving in a man]

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"*.

Sexual Pleasure

While there is no evidence of any sexual activity with any of the victims, some psychologists suggest 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.

However, this view is strongly challenged by others who dismiss such hypotheses as insupportable supposition.

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Donald Sutherland Swanson - Chief Inspector - 1888



Dr. Robert Anderson, Assistant Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police and Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), placed Swanson in overall charge of the investigation into the Whitechapel Murders from 15 Sept 1888 to 6 Oct 1888.

Swanson was freed from all other duties and given his own office at Scotland Yard from which to coordinate inquiries. He was given permission to see "every paper, every document, every report [and] every telegram" concerning the investigation. "I look upon him," wrote Warren, "as the eyes and ears of the Commissioner in this particular case."

Consequently, Swanson gained a mass of knowledge and information about the killings.

Suspect

Swanson was a close friend of Dr. Robert Anderson, the Assistant Commissioner of Police, and in his copy of Anderson's book of reminiscences, *The Lighter Side of My Official Life*, published in 1910, Swanson wrote pencilled notes, or annotations, which were disclosed by his descendant, James Swanson, in 1987.

In these notes Swanson names a "Kosminski" (widely thought to be Aaron Kosminski) as the Polish Jew that Anderson had hinted at in his book as being a suspect. Anderson wrote that the only person to get a close look at Jack the Ripper identified him "the moment he was confronted with him" but refused to testify. Swanson clarified this by writing:

"...because the suspect was also a Jew and also because his evidence would convict the suspect, and witness would be the means of murderer being hanged which he did not wish to be left on his mind...And after this identification which suspect knew, no other murder of this kind took place in London...after the suspect had been identified at the Seaside Home where he had been sent by us with great difficulty in order to subject him to identification, and he knew he was identified. On suspect's return to his brother's house in Whitechapel he was watched by police (City CID) by day & night. In a very short time the suspect with his hands tied behind his back, he was sent to Stepney Workhouse and then to Colney Hatch and died shortly afterwards - Kosminski was the suspect - DSS"

There is no evidence that Sutherland was a Freemason.

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Thomas Arnold - Police Superintendent



Superintendent Thomas Arnold in 1888

At the time of the Whitechapel murders in 1888, Thomas Arnold was Police Superintendent of H Division (Whitechapel).

The murders of Annie Chapman, Elizabeth Stride, and Mary Kelly, in 1888, came within the jurisdiction of H division; however, Thomas Arnold was absent on leave at the time of the first two murders, and was being covered by Acting Superintendent West.

On Sir Charles Warren's orders, Arnold had the Goulston Street Graffiti washed off.

In an interview with the *Eastern Post* in Feb 1893 Arnold said that:

"...not more than four of these murders were committed by the same hand. They were the murders of Annie Chapman in Hanbury Street, Mrs Nichols in Buck's Row, Elizabeth Stride in Berner Street and Mary Jane Kelly in Mitre Square."

Arnold's confusion between Catherine Eddowes, who was killed in Mitre Square and Mary Kelly who was killed in Miller's Court means that it is not certain who he is actually discounting.

There is no evidence that Arnold was a Freemason.

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Edmund Reid - Inspector - Head of CID at H - Division - 1888



Inspector Edmund Reid was the head of the CID H - Division detectives who investigated the Jack the Ripper murders in the area where they occurred.

He was a very able officer and was referred to by one contemporary as "one of the most remarkable men of the century."

Regarding the Ripper case, Reid reminisced in *Lloyd's Weekly News* of 04 Feb 1912:

"I was the last C.I.D. inspector to be appointed by Sir Howard Vincent, and after about three years at Scotland Yard I was sent to form the detective department of a new division, the 'J,' which extended from Bethnel Green to Chigwell Hill in Essex. I remained there for twelve months, and was then sent to take charge of the Whitechapel division, where I found some exciting work in the series of 'Ripper murders.'

"Whitechapel has an evil reputation, and one that it does not deserve. During the whole time that I had charge there I never saw a drunken Jew. I always found them industrious, and good fellows to live among. Even the so-called 'Whitechapel murders' were not peculiar to that division, for one was in the City of London, one in Bethnal Green, four in Spitalfields, two in St George's, and only one in Whitechapel.

"I have been asked to tell the story of the 'Ripper' series many times, but to do so would necessitate the devotion of weeks of labour to the matter. But this I will say at once. I challenge anyone to produce a tittle of evidence of any kind against anyone. The earth has been raked over and the seas have been swept, to find this criminal 'Jack the Ripper,' always without success. It still amuses me to read the writings of such men as Dr. Anderson, Dr. Forbes Winslow, Major Arthur Griffiths, and many others, all holding different theories, but all of them wrong. I have answered many of them in print, and would only add here that I was on the scene and ought to know.

"Here are the only known facts. The whole of the murders were done after the public-houses were closed; the victims were all of the same class, the lowest of the low, and living within a quarter of a mile of each other; all were murdered within half a mile area; all were killed in the same manner. That is all we know for certain.

"My opinion is that the perpetrator of the crimes was a man who was in the habit of using a certain public-house, and of remaining there until closing time. Leaving with the rest of the customers, with what soldiers call 'a touch of delirium triangle,' he would leave with one of the women.

"My belief is that he would in some dark corner attack her with the knife and cut her up. Having satisfied his maniacal blood-lust he would go away home, and the next day know nothing about it. One thing is to my mind quite certain, and that is that he lived in the district.

"The police, of course, did everything possible with a view to the arrest of the man. A set of rules was laid down as to the sending for assistance immediately upon any discovery, not only to Scotland Yard, but also to everyone who was likely to be required or of assistance. And there was always a sort of interesting speculation as to who would reach the scene of a new crime first.

"Inspector Abbeline [sic] and Inspector Moore, with a whole staff of detective officers from other divisions, and from the Yard, were sent to render every possible assistance, and there were vigilance societies formed, the members of which used to black their faces, and turn their coats inside out, and adopt all sorts of fantastic disguises before they turned out. To one of the officers of this organisation the late Queen Victoria sent a letter of commendation, and the public subscribed very liberally. Officially and otherwise many thousands of pounds were spent in the effort to catch 'Jack' but he eluded us all."

Reid retired in 1896.

There is no evidence that Reid was a Freemason.

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Frederick George Abberline - Inspector - Head of the "On The Ground" Investigation - 1888



In the previous year to the Ripper murders (1887), Inspector Frederick George Abberline had been promoted out of the district where the killings occurred.

Following the murder of Mary Ann Nichols on 31 August 1888, Frederick 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.

Suspect

Abberline's primary suspect was Severin Antoniovich Klosowski, aka George Chapman.

Abberline retired from the police on 8 February 1892, having received 84 commendations and awards, and worked as a private enquiry agent, including three seasons at Monte Carlo, before taking over the European Agency of the Pinkerton National Detective Agency of America, for whom he worked for 12 years.

Strangely, there are no photographs of Frederick George Abberline.

There is no evidence that Abberline was a Freemason.

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Melville Macnaghten - Chief Constable of Scotland Yard



Even though he was not directly involved with the investigation of the Ripper killings, like most members of the Metropolitan Police, Melvin Macnaghten took an active interest in the case.

As Chief Constable of Scotland he had access to police records on the case; as a result of his own investigation he wrote a confidential report dated 23 Feb 1894; however, the report was not publicly available until 1959 and the complete report was not available until 2002.

This report proved influential for it established the "canonical victims" of the Ripper at five, as well as naming three possible suspects.

The Three Suspects

Macnaghten's most likely suspect was Montague John Druitt, a barrister turned teacher who allegedly committed suicide sometime in December 1888.

The second of Macnaghten's suspects was Aaron Kosminski, a Polish Jew who lived in Whitechapel and was committed to an insane asylum in 1891.

The third suspect in Macnaghten's report was a man named Michael Ostrog, a Russian-born thief and confidence man who affected several aliases and disguises and was detained in asylums in several occasions.

Five Victims Only

It was Macnaghten who made the emphatic statement that Jack the Ripper had "five victims, and five victims only!"

There is no evidence that Macnaghten was a Freemason.

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Walter Dew - Detective Chief Inspector



Early in 1887 Dew was transferred to Commercial Street police station in H Division (Whitechapel), where he was a detective constable in the Criminal Investigation Department during the Jack the Ripper murders of 1888.

Dew stated that Emma Smith was the first Ripper victim, which is a view not shared by the majority of researchers and historians today.

There is no evidence that Dew was a Freemason.

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Major Henry Smith - Acting Commissioner of the City of London Police



The murder of Catherine Eddowes, Jack the Ripper's fourth victim, took place in Mitre Square, which was in the City of London, and consequently has its own police force.

In 1888 the Acting Commissioner of the City of London Police was Major Henry Smith.

There is no evidence that Smith was a Freemason.

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Suspect Misc.

Sir William Gull, 1st Baronet of Brook Street, and One of the Physicians-in-Ordinary to HM Queen Victoria had suffered a stroke in 1887 and would have been incapable of committing the murders.

Furthermore, there is no evidence that Sir William Gull was a Freemason.

Masonic Conspiracy

John Hamill, former Librarian for the Freemasons' United Grand Lodge of England (subsequently the Director of Communications) writes:

The Stephen Knight thesis is based upon the claim that the main protagonists, the Prime Minister Lord Salisbury, Sir Charles Warren, Sir James Anderson and Sir William Gull were all high-ranking Freemasons. Knight knew his claim to be false for, in 1973, I received a phone call from him in the Library, in which he asked for confirmation of their membership. After a lengthy search I informed him that only Sir Charles Warren had been a Freemason. Regrettably, he chose to ignore this answer as it ruined his story.
[\[http://www.mqmagazine.co.uk/issue-2/p-48.php\]](http://www.mqmagazine.co.uk/issue-2/p-48.php)

End

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