

An Attempt At A Timeline

1894	Michael Murphy	Shearers strike Ayrshire Downs	
26/12/1897	The Cook Girls	May Cook dies.	
August 1898	Polly M'Neill	Moves in with the Murphy's	
Late November	Michael Murphy	Goes to Westbrook	
24/12/1898	Michael Murphy M'Neill	Return home for Christmas	
26/12/1898	WILLIAM M'NEILL MRS. M'NEILL	Both Say: They attended the Mount Sylvia races. They left for home.	06:00pm
		She Says: They passed Barlow's Hotel, but drove straight past without stopping. They reached home. He Says: They reached home at about dusk, and passed Barlow's at perhaps 6 o'clock. They did not stop, except at Clapham's store, where they bought lollies. Perhaps they bought biscuits, but no soft drinks.	06:15pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM M'NEILL MRS. M'NEILL	Arrive home	06:30pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM MURPHY	Rode home with Helen, and asked her if she was going to the dance. She replied she did not know. They got home, and turned the horses in the yard.	06:30pm
26/12/1898	KATIE MURPHY	Stated that Norah did not wish to go to the dance, as one of the children would cry after her. M'Neill told her to go, and that he would look after the little girl.	06:45pm
26/12/1898	FLORENCE LOWE	Left for her parents' home at Deep Gully on horseback.	07:00pm
26/12/1898	JORDAN	And his brother left home for the dance.	07:00pm
26/12/1898	DAN MURPHY SEN.	Praying.	07:45pm
26/12/1898	JOHN MURPHY	Says M'Neill helped Michael to harness the horse to the trap. Witness did not see the deceased depart in the sulky.	07:45pm
26/12/1898	ARTHUR BROOKING	Deposed that he came into Gatton from Mount Sylvia. He passed Moran's sliprails, and saw a man standing there.	07:45pm
26/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	It was nearly 8 o'clock when the party left the house for the dance.	07:55pm
26/12/1898		Pat left soon after.	08:00pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM M'NEILL	After tea Michael, Norah, and Ellen left to go into Gatton.	08:00pm
26/12/1898	PATRICK MURPHY	Was at his father's house in the evening and saw the three deceased there. They were getting ready to go into Gatton, and his brother Michael was putting the horse into William M'Neill's trap	08:00pm
26/12/1898		Stated that on the night of the murder he proceeded from his home to –Gatton and left before victims.	08:03pm
26/12/1898	MARY MURPHY	The first person she saw come in was M'Neill, this being only a few minutes after the victims left. To the best of her belief her husband was in the bedroom saying his prayers, and he	08:07pm

		<p>afterwards came out and smoked for half-an-hour or more. He then went into his bedroom. Witness remained for a quarter of an hour or so afterwards.</p> <p>M'Neill had previously taken his boots off. She did not see Willie after tea.</p> <p>No one came out of any of the rooms. When her husband came out of the bedroom after saying his prayers, M'Neill was in his room.</p> <p>The Police Magistrate: You just said your husband was on the veranda smoking when M'Neill went into his room. You should take care about contradicting yourself.</p>	
26/12/1898	PATRICK MURPHY	Leaves Home	07:55pm
		The deceased caught up to and passed him, on the road about a mile on the Gatton side of their home. (Estimated speed of victims 6 mph)	08:15pm
		Passed the schoolmaster's two daughters, the Misses Wilson, the Tent Hill side of Cook's.	08:20pm
		Sergeant Arrell and Michael Connolly came along at Deep Gully, and rode about a chain behind him, all the way.	08:25pm
26/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	Remained up about half-an-hour after he left, and then was helped to bed by her mother.	08:30pm
26/12/1898	MRS. MARGARET CARROLL	They returned from the races in their trap in the evening, and reached Moran's paddock.	08:30pm
26/12/1898	MRS. MARGARET CARROLL	Before they got to the sliprails the three Murphy's, Norah, Helen, and Michael in a small dog-cart, came up, and passed them. It was bright moonlight. They had not then reached the culvert.	08:31pm
		Then, before the sliprails were reached, witness and her party passed the Murphy's.	08:32pm
		Then, the Murphy's, passed again.	08:33pm
		As they came near the sliprails she saw a man standing on the left-hand side as Murphy's cart passed him. He stood; looking after them, and then came towards witness's cart and passed it. He did not speak. He had a small parcel in his hand; it didn't shine, and she could not see what it was. She did not see his face. He wore a soft hat, which had the brim pulled down all round. She got a look at his back. She did not know the man. He continued to walk on slowly. She thought he looked at her. She had not seen the man since that she knew of. He seemed to be a stout man, medium height, and wore dark clothes	08:35pm
26/12/1898	FLORENCE LOWE	Came through Gatton. (Why didn't she see the victims?)	08:40pm
26/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	Her mother, her mother leaves her room.	08:45pm
26/12/1898	FLORENCE LOWE	She first met Mrs. Carroll at a party near O'Cleary's.	08:45pm
26/12/1898	PATRICK MURPHY	Met Miss Florence Lowe at Logan's Hill, about 200 yards on the Gatton side of the house. She was going towards Tent Hill, and was riding.	08:50pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM MURPHY	A little before 9 o'clock witness went to the yard and turned all the horses out into a grass paddock containing about 100 acres.	08:55pm

		None of the horses were shod.	
26/12/1898	FLORENCE LOWE	She next met Michael Donoghue and Thomas Drew. This was at Sandy Flats.	08:55pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM ARRELL	Deposed that he came home from the Mount Sylvia races on the night of December 26. He reached Moran's sliprails in company with Michael Connolly.	09:00pm
26/12/1898	THOMAS DREW	On reaching the culvert he heard a revolver shot, and saw a flash about fifteen or twenty chains ahead. The next person they met was Miss Florrie Lowe, and after that the three deceased Murphy's in a small trap, opposite Logan's house. Donoghue spoke, and Michael replied.	09:00pm
26/12/1898	JORDAN	The lights were then put out, Jordan judged	09:00pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM MURPHY	Coming in afterwards he saw his father and mother and M'Neill in the sitting-room. M'Neill went to his bedroom, at 9 o'clock and witness went to the kitchen to assist Katie. From where he was he could see any one leaving the front door. He certainly heard no one.	09:00pm
26/12/1898	DAN. MURPHY SEN.	And others, said M'Neill went to bed.	09:00pm
26/12/1898	MARY MURPHY	M'Neill went into his own room between 9 and half-past 9. She believed her husband was then smoking on the veranda.	09:00pm-09:30pm
26/12/1898	JORDAN	A trap drove past, turned round, and went back again said Jordan.	09:05pm
26/12/1898		She next met Sergeant Arrell and Michael Connolly on the hill, making for Gatton.	09:05pm
26/12/1898	FLORENCE LOWE	Reached Moran's sliprails at fifteen minutes past 9. It was moonlight, but clouds were over the moon. Her horse was walking steadily, and a man was coming down towards her. He was in the middle of the road, but he passed on her right-hand side, at a distance of about three yards.	09:15pm
26/12/1898	PATRICK MURPHY	Met his brother and sisters (the deceased) again in the trap, and they were going towards home. They stopped, and spoke for about three minutes. That was rather more than half a-mile from Moran's sliprails.	09:20pm
26/12/1898	PATRICK MURPHY	Leaves the trio	09:23pm
26/12/1898	PATRICK MURPHY	Meets a man named Albert Murray	09:25pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM ARRELL	Connolly and William Arrell, rode on together. Coming up to the railway station, Patrick Murphy overtook them.	09:25pm
		Reached home.	09:30pm
26/12/1898	DANIEL MURPHY SEN.	Says that night he was in the kitchen, and when returning to the sitting-room he asked M'Neill to have a glass of wine, but the latter refused, saying he had a headache. He did not see M'Neill again that night, but witness believed he went to bed. He did not believe he went out afterwards.	09:30pm
26/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	She went to sleep that night, she thought, about half-an-hour after her husband went to bed.	09:30pm
26/12/1898	MARY MURPHY	Says she went to her room about a quarter of an hour before she heard the clock strike 10.	09:45pm
26/12/1898	THOMAS	Arrived at Gatton.	09:50pm

	DREW		
26/12/1898	WILLIAM MURPHY	Went to bed.	09:50pm
26/12/1898	LOUISA THEUERKAUF	Shots and Screams heard	10:00pm
26/12/1898	CATHERINE BYRNE	Shots and Screams heard	10:00pm
26/12/1898	WALTER ALBERT COOK	Deposed that while looking for cows in Dwyer's paddock he heard a shot from the direction of Moran's paddock, a distance of two miles in a straight line. (Strange time to be looking for cows).	10:00pm
26/12/1898	JOHN WIGGINS	Deposed that he left Gaton with his brother on horseback	
26/12/1898		Passing Moran's sliprails They had three dogs with them, which went sniffing inside the rails, especially a black kangaroo dog.	10:20pm
26/12/1898	WILLIAM WIGGINS	Deposed that when they came to Moran's sliprails the black dog ran under the rails and sniffed. Two at least of the rails were up.	10:20pm
26/12/1898	JOHN MURPHY	He went away to Tent Hill, and returned	10:30pm
26/12/1898	DANIEL MURPHY SEN.	Witness went to bed, up to which time no one else arrived at or left the house.	10-11:00pm
26/12/1898		Said he heard M'Neill and his wife talking, but he could not fix the time, except through having been a good while in bed.	12:00pm
26/12/1898	MARY MURPHY	Said she did not go to sleep till after 12 o'clock. She heard Mrs M'Neill ask the little girl to kiss her, but she said, "no; kiss dada," and Mr. M'Neill laughed.	12:00pm
27/12/1898	DANIEL MURPHY SEN.	Goes to sleep.	12:05am
27/12/1898	Dr. Von Lossberg	Estimates time of death 12-14 hours	3:00am
27/12/1898	JEREMIAH MURPHY	He left the dance at Mt Sylvia.	03:00am
27/12/1898		Says he returned home as day was breaking.	03:30am
27/12/1898		Says a man named Robert Smith had come into his room and gone to bed. Must have been between 03:45am and 06:00am. When he reached home he did not see the pony that was usually running about the premises.	03:45am-06:00am
27/12/1898	DANIEL MURPHY SEN.	Gets up	05:20am
27/12/1898	WILLIAM MURPHY	Witness rose.	05:30am
27/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	It was long after daylight when witness woke. She heard others in the house moving about, but did not know the time. Her husband was not up when she awoke.	06:00am
27/12/1898	DANIEL MURPHY SEN.	The next up in the morning was Will	06:00am
27/12/1898	JEREMIAH MURPHY	Wakes in the morning and found a man named Robert Smith had come into his room and gone to bed.	06:05am
27/12/1898	DANIEL MURPHY SEN.	The next up in the morning was M'Neill..	06:10am
27/12/1898	MARY	Says her husband came in and informed her that they were not	06:30am

	MURPHY	home.	
27/12/1898	JEREMIAH MURPHY	On getting up he and his brother William started their milking. Jack passing the remark that the girls had not come home from the dance.	06:30am
27/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	Her husband got up, and he came back, and told me the others had not come home. Continuing, witness said her husband still had his clothes on when he got up, the same as he had worn at the Mount Sylvia races. It was not usual for him to do so, but when he did it was on account of the little girl, because she was troublesome. She did not know if her husband put his boots on before going out in the morning. He was only away a few minutes, and when he returned she saw his boots on his feet. He said, "Michael and the girls didn't come home yet."	06:30am
27/12/1898	JEREMIAH MURPHY	Says M'Neill came to them and said "it was strange the party had not returned; they might have had a smash, and someone should go and look for them."	07:30am
27/12/1898	M'NEILL	Says Mrs. Murphy became anxious	07:30am
27/12/1898	THOMAS GEORGE BAILEY	Arose at 6 o'clock, and got a horse and rode into Gatton, passing Moran's sliprails. He noticed the sliprails all up, and also saw wheel tracks turning off into the paddock. He did not look to see if there were other tracks. He met no one on the way.	07:30am
27/12/1898	MARY MURPHY	Said M'Neill left.	08:00am
27/12/1898	Dan Murphy Sen	When M'Neill went to look for the young people that morning he rode Norah's horse; but witness could not say if it was shod; he did not think so.	08:00am
27/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	Got up, and had breakfast in the kitchen with her brother, Jack, Jerry and Bob Smith Her husband did not say he was going to look for them before he went. It was about 8 o'clock when witness had breakfast. Her husband returned about 10 o'clock. She noticed nothing wrong, and he spoke in quite his ordinary way, with nothing strange in his speech	08:05am
27/12/1898	JEREMIAH MURPHY	Says he and his brother then had breakfast.	08:05am
27/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	Her husband did not say he was going to look for them before he went.	08:10am
27/12/1898	M'NEILL	Says he finds bodies. How long did you stay? -I didn't stay after I saw what was the matter. How long did you stay with the sergeant? -Two or three minutes. Did you dismount? -Yes. When did you see them? -About 9 o'clock.	09:00am
27/12/1898	THOMAS WILSON	A blacksmith, of Gatton, deposed to M'Neill's arrival at the Brian Boru Hotel announcing that the three Murphy's were lying dead in a paddock.	09:30am
27/12/1898	CHARLES GILBERT	Licensee of the Brian Boru Hotel, Gatton, deposed that on Tuesday, 27th December, a man named William M'Neill, came up to the hotel and said, "Charlie, where is the police station?"	09:30am

		The three Murphy's are lying dead in a paddock.	
27/12/1898	M'NEILL	Says after seeing the bodies he mounted his horse, pulled the two toprails down without dismounting, and galloped to Gilbert's Hotel in Gatton, says he arrived.	09:30am
27/12/1898	SERGEANT ARRELL	Stated he received the first information of the crime.	09:35am
27/12/1898	ROBERT KING, BUTCHER	Day was present about 9 o'clock when Wilson informed witness of the murder. Day did not say anything.	09:45am
27/12/1898	THOS. WILSON, J.P.	Informs Robert King, and Day of the murder.	09:45am
27/12/1898	ARRELL M'NEILL	Arrive at scene.	10:15am
27/12/1898	M'NEILL	Only stays a few minutes and leaves.	10:20am
27/12/1898	ARRELL	Leaves scene.	10:35am
27/12/1898	M'NEILL	Says: He did not remain there with the bodies, but went on to Murphy's farm. He says he arrived at this time.	10:55am
27/12/1898	MRS. M'NEILL	Her husband returned. She noticed nothing wrong, and he spoke in quite his ordinary way, with nothing strange in his speech.	10:55am
27/12/1898	JEREMIAH MURPHY	Says after breakfast the brothers did not see M'Neill about, but about 9 o'clock he rode in past where they were chaff-cutting "looking bad." Bob Smith came and said the three had been murdered in a paddock near Gatton.	10:55am
27/12/1898	DANIEL MURPHY SEN.	His son Will came, and informed him that the three children had been murdered. Witness asked if they were shot, and he said he did not know. His son further said M'Neill came out and told him. When M'Neill went to look for the young people that morning he rode Norah's horse; but witness could not say if it was shod; he did not think so.	11:00am
27/12/1898	MARY MURPHY	Said M'Neill returned and she met him at the door, and asked him if he had seen the children, and if they were coming.	10:55am
27/12/1898	ARRELL	Returned to the telegraph office, and at 10.55 he sent a wire. He had also wired to sub-inspector Galbraith, who was over his district, and received an answer from Rosewood that Galbraith would arrive in Gatton about 5 o'clock that afternoon.	10:55am
27/12/1898	M'NEILL	Knocked up a pair of horses, and drove Mrs. Murphy to the place, and saw the bodies removed. Beats Arrell back as evidenced by Robert Ballantyne who speaks to M'Neill prior to Arrell's return.	11:35am
27/12/1898	THOS. WILSON, J.P.	Stated two persons arrived first, and then M'Neill and the mother came. (Where is the father?)	11:35am
27/12/1898	CONNOLLY	Sends telegram	11:50am
27/12/1898	M'NEILL MARY MURPHY	Returned to the scene of the tragedy.	12:00pm
27/12/1898	WILLIAM MURPHY	Goes to the scene	12:20pm
27/12/1898	CONSTABLE	Received a telegram from Gatton.	12:20pm

	DAN MURPHY		
27/12/1898	SERGEANT ARRELL	Returned to the scene of the tragedy.	12:30pm
27/12/1898	THOS. WILSON, J.P.	When he left there were not more than twenty persons on the ground.	01:00pm
27/12/1898		Bodies Removed	01:30pm
27/12/1898	SERGEANT ARRELL	Says the bodies were kept in the paddock till about 2 o'clock, when they were removed to Gilbert's hotel, and locked up.	02:00pm
27/12/1898		Dr. Von Lossberg arrived.	04:00pm
27/12/1898	DR. VON LOSSBERG	Says he finishes post mortem.	06:20pm
27/12/1898	CONSTABLE DAN MURPHY	Boards the train for Gatton	05:00pm
	PERCY GALBRAITH	Arrives after the bodies are cleaned and asks to see the water.	06:30pm
27/12/1898	CONSTABLE DAN MURPHY	Arrives at Gatton	07:00pm
28/12/1899		Funeral	11:30am
6/01/1899		M'Neill returns to Toowoomba	
9/01/1899		M'Neill returns to Gatton from Toowoomba	
17/01/1899		M'Neill returns to Toowoomba	
22/01/1899		M'Neill returns to Gatton from Toowoomba	

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