

29/12/1898

Upon a search being made in the vicinity of the bodies an empty purse was found. It is believed that the brother had about 15 shillings on him at the time.

4/01/1899

On Wednesday last it was wired to Sydney that the only new discovery, which had resulted from a most careful search, was the finding of an empty purse a short distance from where the tragedy took place. It is supposed that the purse belonged to Michael Murphy. There is reason to believe that when the party left in their dog-cart the brother had about 15s in his possession, and, like most men of his class, he carried a purse. The purse, however, has not yet been identified.

16/01/1899

During an interview with M'Neill to-day he said **in Michael's hand was his emptied purse.**

21/01/1899

Upon search being made in the vicinity of the bodies, an empty purse was found. It is believed that the brother had about 15 shillings on him at the time.

25/01/1899

THE MEDICAL TESTIMONY Dr. Von Lossberg

A **purse** was loose in his hand, and, though there was a strap between the hands, there were no marks of tying on the hands.

25/01/1899

EVIDENCE OF DR. VON LOSSBERG

The arms of the man were bent backwards, but not tied, and a purse was loose in one of the hands, and a strap between the hands. There were no marks of tying on the hands.

Either Gilbert, one of the party, or M'Neill took the purse, which was in Michael's hands.

15/03/1899

In Michael's hand there was an empty purse. A strap was lying across his thigh. He could not swear that the purse shown him was the same as that in Michael's hand.

25/03/1899

He asked Michael for the chance of a pound at Westbrook Crossing. The latter then said he had not got it. He then borrowed 10s. from Michael. He did not then know if Michael had any notes. He had since learnt that he had been paid £5 that morning at Westbrook Farm. He distinctly remembered Michael taking 10s. from his purse. He was not sure if the purse was the same as was afterwards found in his hand. He did not take notice of it. Reaching Toowoomba he paid Michael half-a-sovereign, and witness bought a pair of leather slippers at Field's shop, which were now at Murphy's.

29/04/1899

While at Westbrook Crossing he asked Michael Murphy for change of a pound. Michael could not manage it. Witness asked him for a loan of ten shillings, which Michael lent him. He did not know if Murphy had any notes. He had since learnt that Michael was paid £5 just before he left Westbrook. When Michael lent him the money he took it from a

purse. He did not know if that was the purse afterwards found in Michael's hand. Witness repaid Murphy 10s at Field's store, Toowoomba. (As M'Neill had money why did he ask Michael for a loan? Did he want to see how much money he had?)

6/10/1899

EVIDENCE OF THE CHEMIST. Richard James

Michael's body was doubled up, and he had a purse in one hand.

A small white pocket handkerchief, which no doubt belonged to one of the girls, was also found close by.

The police also came across the shell of an exploded revolver cartridge of .380 calibre, which was probably used to kill the horse.

On Wednesday last it was wired to Sydney that the only new discovery, which had resulted from a most careful search, was the finding of an empty purse a short distance from where the tragedy took place. (Why didn't they ask M'Neill about the purse this was found Wednesday)

It is supposed that the purse belonged to Michael Murphy, the brother of the murdered girls, who no doubt was the first to meet his death at the hands of the assassins.

This opinion is held because there is reason to believe that when the party left in their dog-cart the brother had about 15s in his possession, and, like most men of his class, he carried a purse.

The purse, however, has not yet been identified.

Back To Gatton Murders Homepage
<http://www.gattonmurders.com/page1.php>