

As a rule of thumb, people can hear you from up to 20m away for normal chatting, 100m for shouts, 10m for whispers. Say even 200 metres for a scream. Maybe on a quite night in the country sounds travel further.

I contend both these girls are involved and at the scene this is an alibi. No one else even closer heard anything at all.

SCREAMS AND SHOTS HEARD.

11/01/1899

A reporter of the day ran down the story that the domestic servant at the house of Mr. Clarke, near the scene of the murder, heard screams on the night of the murder.

The girl undoubtedly made the statement, and it was reported in the "Courier" in the earlier accounts of the tragedy, but now she has somewhat modified her statement, and is doubtful whether she heard any screams at all.

25/01/1899

Louisa Theaukuaf, (Supposedly over 700 yards from the scene) a domestic servant, now residing with her brother at Deep Gully nine miles from Gatton, aged 20 years, said that at Christmas time she was employed by Mr. Clark, a butcher, who lives on Tent Hill road, near Gatton.

She knew Moran's paddock. It was not quite half a mile from Mr. Clark's to the slip rails. Clark's paddock would adjoin Moran's except for a little lane between. One could see into part of Moran's paddock from Clark's.

She remembered Boxing Day. She stayed at home that evening, and went to bed at 9 o'clock. She remained awake, however, and heard the clock strike 10. Mr. Clark said the clock was right.

After hearing the clock strike she got up to put the cat out of the kitchen and opened the back door, facing Moran's paddock. She heard a shot go off while she was at the door. It came from the direction of Moran's paddock. She also heard another shot.

There was about a couple of minutes between them. She also heard two screams, which came from the direction of the shots. The screams came two or three minutes after the last shot. It was like a woman screaming. It was a still night, and she thought all the screams were from the same voice.

There was no difference in the tone, but the first scream was louder than the second. In the first scream the only word witness heard was "Father." That word was used both times. She did not hear it very plainly, but she was sure about it.

She stood at the door listening for about 10 minutes. She did not hear anything more, however, and she did not waken anyone up to tell them what she had heard, but went to bed. She heard nothing further that night.

Mr. Shand. -What part of Moran's paddock did you hear the screams coming from?

Witness. -Below the hill.

Mr. Shand. - How far away? Witness- I could not say.

Mr. Shand. -Why did you not call up someone and tell what you had heard?

Witness- I did not think of it.

CORROBORATIVE EVIDENCE

Catherine Byrne ([Supposedly about 1.25 miles from the scene](#)) aged about 23 years, living with her parents at lower Tent Hill, said that she knew the slip rails at Moran's paddock. On the evening of last Boxing Day she was at her home, about a mile and a quarter from the slip rails.

She knew the locality well. Between half-past 9 and 10 o'clock that night she was on the verandah of her home facing Moran's paddock. She went inside about 10 o'clock or a little after.

While on the verandah she heard screams, which were loud at first but gradually died away, and the sound of a shot. All the sounds came from the direction of Moran's paddock. She only heard one report of a firearm.

The screams and the sound of the shot followed very close together. She did not take any notice of the screams, as she thought they came from some children playing or from some young people going along the Tent Hill road. She could hear at her home voices if they were raised from the Tent Hill road.

The clock was about right.

It was a calm still night. She did not draw anyone's attention to what she had heard. Only her father was at the house, and he was asleep.

To Mr Shand-The shout was a loud, quick one.

EVIDENCE WALTER ALBERT COOK

Walter Albert Cook, a farmer, of Lower Tent Hill, deposed that while looking for cows in Dwyer's paddock at 10 o'clock on Boxing Night he heard a shot from the direction of Moran's paddock, a distance of two miles in a straight line.

Back To Gatton Murders Homepage

<http://www.gattonmurders.com/page1.php>