

THE IMPRINT OF CLOTH AND THE FACSIMILE

At the Royal Commission, a determined effort to not publicise this piece of evidence and prevent it being made public.

On 27 December 1898, at the Brian Born Hotel in Gatton, Sub-Inspector Galbraith examined the clothing the victims were wearing at the time of their deaths. He also examined the bodies.

In his evidence Sub-Inspector Galbraith said "I found certain peculiarities."

On the following morning Inspector Urquhart arrived in Gatton and inspected the clothing of the victims.

Urquhart said "I inspected the clothing, and saw things there which were gone into afterwards, but unfortunately with no successful result. There is one very striking matter, which I do not think should be made public even now", whereupon one of the Commissioners said, "Very well, don't mention it."

The evidence of Dr von Lossberg before the Commission on 14 October 1899.

The doctor was examined regarding his examination of the body of Michael Murphy:

Q. Tell me what you found on his left wrist?

A. I found a purse in his hand, and a strap between the hands. They were laid there-I did not put them there. They were laid as they had been on the ground.

Q. Never mind that. Did you find any marks on his left wrist?

A. That does not belong to a post mortem. If I have no suspicion, it does not belong to my examination.

Q. If there were certain marks found on that wrist, you do not know whether they were there not? You have no recollection?

A. No

Q. Did you find anything also on Michael Murphy's left forearm?

A; Nothing to cause death, or anything like that.

Q. Did you examine the girls' clothes?

A. I did, certainly.

Q. Did you find anything on their clothes?

A. I gave all this in my evidence. They were torn and bespattered with blood. I told the sergeant to take care of them.

Q. Did you examine their petticoats?

A. I did.

Q. What did you find on Norah's or Ellen's petticoats?

A. Blood.

Q. Anything else?

A. Hairs.

Q. Anything else?

A. Dirt.

Q. Such as human excrement. Anything else? Did you find any peculiar marks? I hope the Commission will understand I am not asking any trivial questions. Did you find any peculiar marks on the petticoats?

A. Yes; all over the petticoats there were blood, dirt, hairs.

Q. Is that all?

A. Yes.

Q. Would it surprise you to know that on Michael Murphy's left wrist there was the exact width of a strap?

The Chairman: He says he did not look for anything, and did not find it.

Q. (*By Sub-Inspector Galbraith to Witness*) Would it surprise you to know that on Murphy's left forearm and inside both Norah's thighs there was a distinct impression, and the *facsimile* of that was marked in blood on the petticoats and other items of clothing worn by the victims which I concluded came from corded clothing pressed against them with force during life?

The facsimile had been marked in blood. It seemed to have been stamped on clothing and limbs of the Murphy's by the blood stained trousers of one of their murderers.

The Chairman: The fact is that the doctor told you that the post mortem is not complete.

Sub-Inspector Galbraith: Very well; I will not ask any more.

His Honour Judge Noel, preferred to have the matter dropped at that stage.

Sergeant Toomey before the Commission on 2 October 1899 was being examined in regard to a suspect named Thomas Ryan:

Q. (*By the Chairman*) Were there no firearms to look for?

A. There were, but he had never been seen with any. All inquiries were made in that direction without finding any trace of anything to lead to the belief that he had anything to do with the murder.

Q. (*By Mr Dickson*) You know that the imprints of a certain kind of cloth were found?

A. Yes.

Q. Would it not be well if you could find any cloth like that?

A. I believe a good many articles of clothing would make an impression of that description, but it would want to be of a particular pattern.

Q. Would it not be necessary to search for that pattern?

A. I went to the tailor there and asked him what kind of clothing he made, but I could not find it was anything Ryan had worn.

Q. I don't suppose that tailor makes all the clothes worn there?

A. No; but in a country place like that anybody else knows what another person wears.

Dr Andrew William Orr M.D., and analyst, before the Royal Commission.

Q. By the Chairman "The police did not ask you any questions definitely, except to find out whether there was semen on the clothing of the women?"

A. "Yes, there were things asked me definitely. When I was told I would be called here, I saw the Commissioner, and he distinctly gave me to understand that there were certain points he does not want mentioned -that he does not want to come out."

Q. The Chairman "They are still under consideration?"

A. "They are still, I suppose, under consideration."

Dr. Orr, the analyst, may have conducted tests on the facsimile or imprints on the petticoat or petticoats.

Assumption might reasonably be drawn from the imprints on Norah's thighs, and Michael's left forearm and other clothing, that the murderer, was wearing a particular type of cloth, that left a unique impression on the bodies of Norah and Michael and on the undergarments of at least one of the girls.

This imprint may well have been the identifying feature of the person responsible for of the outrage.

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