

15/03/1899

EVIDENCE THOMAS DREW

Thomas Drew, a butcher, an employee of Michael Donoghue, said he was returning from the races on Boxing Night, in company with his employer, who was under the influence of drink. On reaching the culvert at about 9 o'clock he heard a revolver shot, and saw a flash about fifteen or twenty chains ahead.

This spot would be between the quarry and the sliprails.

The flash went upwards.

On reaching the top of the hill they met a man near the sliprails, a little further towards Gatton than where the flash was seen. He was walking towards there, and from where he (witness) was he could see any one coming up the sandy patch from Gatton. A man stationed at the quarry could see any one coming from the other side.

Thus a man walking backwards and forwards could command a view of the road in both directions for a considerable distance. He did not know any place on the road where such a good view could be secured.

The man they met wore dark clothes, and a hat drawn over his face. The man was about 5ft. 8in. or 9in. in height, and thick-set. Witness did not see his face. Mr. Donoghue said, "Good night," but the man made no reply. Witness looked back, and saw him when they were four yards past make a kind of stagger.

Witness did not notice if the man carried anything, nor did he connect him at the time with the shot, which was fired. Witness knew almost everybody in the district within a radius of ten miles. The man they met appeared to be a stranger, and unlike any one he knew.

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. They arrived at Gatton at ten minutes to 10 o'clock. Witness went to Toowoomba on 23rd January, and at the police station pointed one man out of eight as being similar in dress and build to the man he saw.

To the Police Magistrate: He only heard one shot. He could not swear that the man he saw at Toowoomba was positively the same. He did not notice if Michael Murphy carried a whip.

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Thomas Drew, later picked Burgess out as the man he had seen there.