

The Trial of Jack the Ripper

The First Day of Trial

March 16, 1903

[Podcast Part 1]

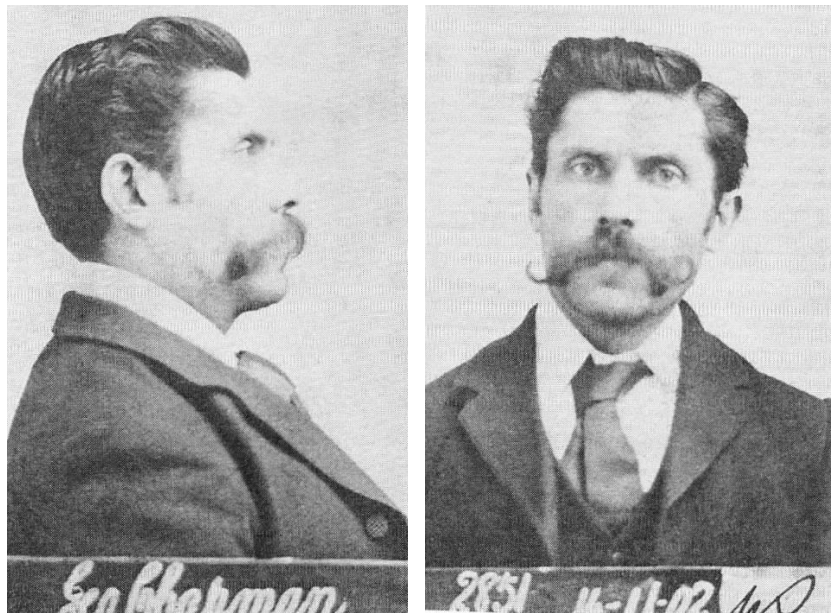
Developed by R. Michael Gordon

April 2021

The Trial of Jack the Ripper

by R. Michael Gordon

The Trial of Jack the Ripper is based on research by R. Michael Gordon into the life and murders of serial killer Severino Antoniovich Klosowski as well as testimony given during the 1903 murder trial of Klosowski, alias George Chapman, supplemented by testimony given at the Police Court hearings and Coroner's Inquest, as well as newspaper interviews with police officials, primary witnesses, private diaries and interviews with Klosowski. Additional statements have been added to this presentation in order to clarify historical events for the reader. This was the only trial ever held which brought to light evidence related to the 1888 through 1891 Ripper murders in the East End of Victorian London. This is the first time in nearly 120 years that these trial events have been presented to the general public. This is the "Trial of Jack the Ripper".



Severino Antoniovich Klosowski alias "George Chapman"

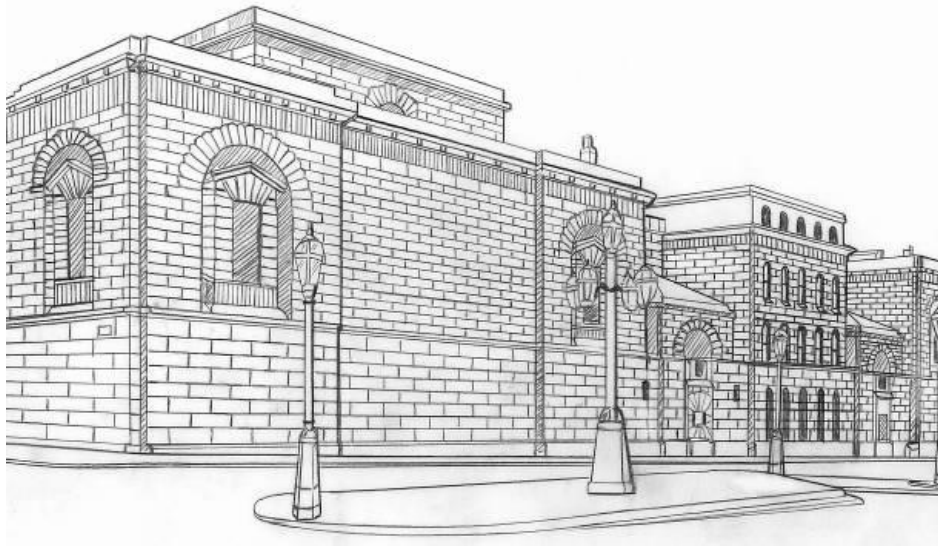
On October 25, 1902, Severino Antoniovich Klosowski was arrested on suspicion of murder at the *Crown Public House* located at 213 Borough High Street, Southwark, London, by Detective Inspector George Godley. Inspector Godley was under the impression that he was arresting a potential wife killer for the poisoning death of 19-year-old Maud Marsh, who had lived with him as his wife.



Maud Marsh

It soon became evident however, that the police had captured a serial killer who had murdered at least three women, but the investigations and trial that followed would show that Klosowski was much more than that. The sensational trial that followed would bring forth testimony that the man in the dock was very possibly one of the most wanted men in London.

By early March of 1903, both the Police Court and Coroner's Inquest had brought forth judgments that Klosowski had killed at least three women. Now it would be up to a jury of 12 to sit in judgment of Severino Klosowski known to London residents at the time as the Borough Poisoner; soon to be known to the rest of the world as the prime suspect to hold the mantle of Jack the Rinner!



Newgate Prison, London

“After the investigation had been completed and the case against Chapman was fully established, the police authorities entertained a strong idea that some sinister connection existed between the Borough poisoner and the mysterious murders of Whitechapel, properly known as Jack the Ripper. Circumstantial evidence to support this belief was not lacking.”

Hargrave L. Adam, *Trial of George Chapman*, 1930

November 1, 1902

South London Observer

SOUTHWARK POISONING MYSTERY.

Publican Charged with Murder.

Great interest has been manifested in the strange story which was opened at Southwark Police-court on Monday before Mr. Paul Taylor, when George Chapman, 36, licensed victualler, of the *Crown* public-house, 213 Borough High Street, was brought up in custody... The deceased advertised about fourteen months ago for a situation as bar maid, and the prisoner replied. After a short time he asked her how she would like to be Mrs. Chapman. Her father understood that she was married.



George Chapman

(Although not technically possible when this trial was conducted in 1903, for this presentation our reporter, during this trial will be speaking directly to a fictional listening audience.)

The First Day of Trial - March 16, 1903

The courtroom reporter begins his narration and introduction to the case.

It is a mostly empty courtroom as people begin to enter.

There are low conversations going on as they file in.

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Good Morning. I’m Michael Gosling reporting from the Old Bailey, London. As you may well understand we are in Court Room Number One. We are waiting for the trial to begin in the Maud Marsh matter, which has become locally well-known as the case of the Borough Poisoner. Looking around, you would be able to see that this courtroom most resembles an old cellar with, I must say, not the best of lighting. We have been informed by Under-Sheriff Langton that a large reflector will be placed outside of the only window we have, but it is doubtful that it will be enough to fully acuminare the court. We entered the courtroom this morning by a side passage, which is never well lit even on the brightest day.”



Court Reporter Michael Gosling

“It is expected that the public gallery will fill quickly today. In fact, there is already a large crowd outside; many have brought food and drinks with them so if they do get one of the few seats they won’t have to leave. In the gallery we see that many of the women have brought opera glasses with them.”

“The great interest in the public’s mind in this trial stems from the rumors circulating around London, that the police may have finally captured the infamous sequential killer known as Jack the Ripper who terrorized the East End of London some fifteen years ago. None will ever forget those brutal attacks centered on the district of Whitechapel and the massive search conducted by the police to capture the killer of possibly nine women. If this man, who uses the alias of George Chapman, can be linked to any of those murders, one of England’s greatest mysteries may indeed have been solved. Focus of this trial, we are told, will be on his suspected final poison murder in yet another series of brutal crimes.”

The prosecution team enters from a side door into the courtroom.
The men appear grim and very determined, and they carry files.



Mr. Edward Carson

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “I now see the prosecution team entering from the side office area led by Solicitor-General Edward Carson himself. Carson, who is up for a knighthood, is a formidable prosecutor. Slim, eager with a flushed face, he is always tense and fully determined to get his man. It is not often that we see Mr. Carson in court doing personal battle in a murder case. This should prove most interesting.”



Mr. Charles Mathews

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Behind Mr. Carson I see Mr. Charles Mathews who has been suggested to become the next Director of Public Prosecutions. Mathews has also been put forward for Knighthood. Mathews we shall see has an incisive manner. He is known as a prodigiously hard worker and at times appears careworn. He is however, a man who is deadly earnest and known to always have a masterly grasp of his case.”



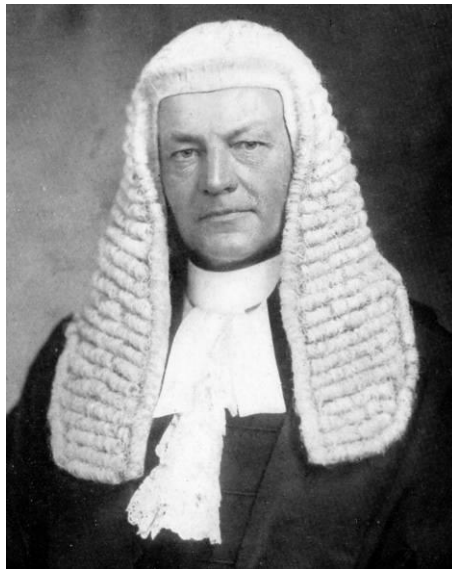
Mr. Archibald Bodkin

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Rounding out the team as I see them preparing their notes is Mr. Archibald Bodkin. Bodkin you would

notice is tall, broad-shouldered with a rugged countenance. He has a wonderful depth of retrospection when he rises to speak and commands respect as he interviews those at the bar staring at them with large gray eyes. Each word he speaks will be carefully thought out as he never seems to arrive at a hasty conclusion.”

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “It seems that the prosecution has also added Mr. Sutton from their office and Mr. Sims from the treasury. Clearly the government has fielded a most impressive team to prosecute Mr. Klosowski. The defense will have their hands full as these men must be considered some of the best in the nation. This case would seem to mean more to the government than your average murder case. Perhaps these men also feel that they are about to prosecute Jack the Ripper. I am certain we can expect some surprises as they lay out their case.”

The defense team enters from a side door.
They are also grim and are holding case files.



Mr. George Elliott

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “And speaking of the defense table, the door has just opened to show Mr. George Elliott entering the courtroom carrying several portfolios; no doubt depositions from witnesses or perhaps reports from the Coroner’s Inquest or Police Court hearings. As our listeners will no doubt recall, both lines of inquiry indicted Mr. Klosowski for the murders of not only Maud Marsh, but also Bessie Taylor and Mrs. Isabella Spink. Mr. Elliott is indeed a well-known and respected defense

attorney who is very familiar with the workings of the Old Bailey. He may be a short man with rosy cheeks but he possesses a clear mind with a precise delivery. He is also known for his keen sense of humor.”



Mr. Arthur Hutton

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Behind Mr. Elliott I see the familiar tall frame of Mr. Arthur Hutton, nearly always wearing his monocle. Mr. Hutton is known for never losing his temper or of ever getting excited in court. We can expect him to rely on more logical argument than one of forceful rhetoric.”

[Mr. Thomas Sydney and Mr. Vyvyan Lyons walk into the courtroom.](#)

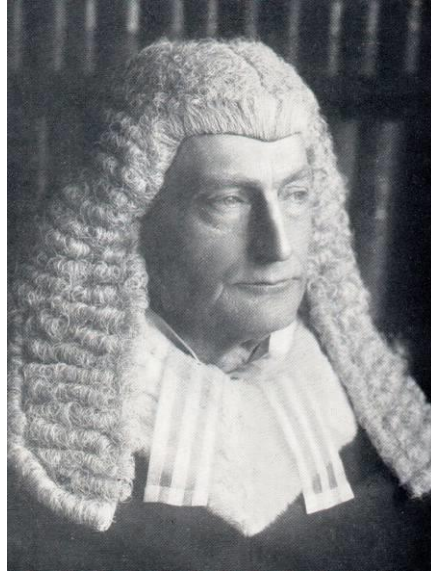
Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “I also see that Mr. Klosowski’s original attorney Mr. Thomas Sydney has stayed with the case; also adding legal researcher Mr. Vyvyan Lyons to fill out the defense team. This is certainly shaping up to be a great legal battle for the life of Klosowski here at the Old Bailey.”

[Alderman Savory and The Earl of Dysart walk into the courtroom.](#)

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “I notice that official London has also arrived as Alderman Sir Joseph Savory takes a seat on the bench as none other than the Public Prosecutor, the Earl of Dysart, steps in and takes his place behind the prosecution team. Clearly there is much governmental

interest in this trial. We see Under-Sheriff Langton is in full court dress, with sword at the hip, while showing distinguished visitors to their seats.”

Judge Justice Grantham enters the courtroom from behind the bench.
The judge has a determined look as he moves files on the bench.



Judge Justice Grantham

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “I see the curtain has opened behind the bench and it is [Pause] 10:56 a.m. as Judge Justice Grantham has come from his chambers to begin this trial. Judge Grantham has been called one of the most popular judges in Britain. He forms his opinions with a great deal of speed and is not above expressing them in court. If he has a preconceived notion of a prisoner’s guilt he will make no attempt to conceal it from the jury. The public seems to appreciate the fact that he often reprimands attorneys on both sides of the case when he feels they have made errors or omissions. Klosowski will certainly receive a fair trial as long as Judge Grantham is presiding.”

Under-Sheriff Langton - “The court will come to order. The Honorable Judge Justice Grantham presiding.”

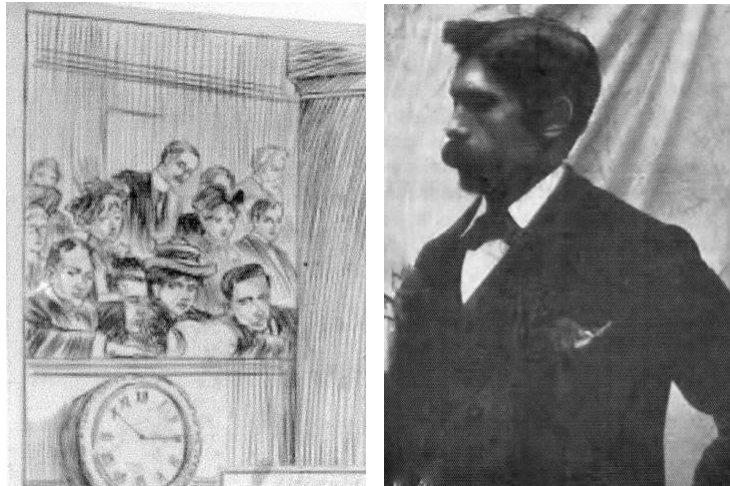
Judge waves to bring in the jury.
They do not speak to anyone.

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “We are about to begin as Judge Grantham signals to bring in the jury and then the accused will be brought

in. The jury has been selected from the Southwark area and seems a sturdy lot. [Pause] It must be said that they do not seem to be disposed to any form of humor. This jury seems to have a great appreciation for the severity of the situation and the task ahead.”

Klosowski is brought in chained by two guards.
The prisoner looks around concerned and puts his head down.

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “And there he is, the hated Russian-Pole now known to be Severino Antoniovich Klosowski still using the alias George Chapman.”



Public gallery (court artist sketch) - Severino Klosowski

The public in the gallery begin to jeer and boo.
Several stand as they jeer. It is a very animated crowd.

Judge Justice Grantham - “Order—we will have order in this court or I will empty the courtroom and clear the gallery!”

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “The public gallery seems to have come alive as Klosowski was brought into the courtroom. But Judge Grantham will have order in his court.”

Courtroom guards rush to various areas in the court.

Judge Justice Grantham - “Under-Sheriff, take control of those people.”

Under-Sheriff Langton - “Constable, sit those people down.”

Constable - “Yes sir. All right you lot, keep it quiet and sit down or you will be escorted out of the court.”

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “After that brief pause in the courtroom I see that Klosowski is being escorted to the dock by a warder of the prison and a sturdy constable, and the prisoner is in chains. Now this is very unusual. It would seem that there has been some problem with the prisoner as his guards will stay seated on both sides during these proceedings. Klosowski seems a bit pale and careworn since we last saw him at the Police Court and he seems to be very uncomfortable at being the center of attention as all eyes are on his short 5’-6” frame.”

“The indifferent, cynical attitude that he had shown throughout the police court proceedings is gone; his self-assurance seems to have entirely deserted him, leaving him pale and nervous. Perhaps he has finally obtained some sense of reality as to the severity of his situation.”

Under-Sheriff Langton - “The court will come to order.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “The Clerk of Arraignment will now read the charges.”



The Clerk of Arraignment

The Clerk of Arraignment - “That Severin Klosowski did feloniously kill and slay Maud Marsh by administering antimony to her on 22nd October, 1902, at 213 Borough High Street.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “That Severin Klosowski feloniously, willfully, and of malice aforethought kill and murder Mary Isabella Spink on the 25th day of December 1897.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “Further, that Severin Klosowski feloniously, willfully, and of malice aforethought kill and murder Elizabeth Bessie Taylor on 13th February, 1901.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “In the slaying of Maud Marsh how do you plead?”

Klosowski says nothing.

The Clerk of Arraignment - “The prisoner will answer the charge. In the slaying of Maud Marsh how do you plead?”

Severin Klosowski - [In low voice] “Not Guilty, Sir.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - In the slaying of Bessie Taylor how do you plead?

Severin Klosowski - [In low voice] “Not Guilty, Sir.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “In the slaying of Mrs. Isabella Spink how do you plead?”

Severin Klosowski - [In low voice] “Not Guilty, Sir.”



Severino Klosowski in the dock (court artist sketch)

Klosowski sits down; looks around the room then
busies himself taking notes.

Mr. Elliott rises to speak to the judge on the bench.

Mr. George Elliott - “My lord, I submit that the prosecution is not entitled to prove the deaths of any other women at previous dates, which were alleged to have been brought about by the accused, as he was separately indicted for them.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Thank you Mr. Elliot. Mr. Carson?”

Mr. Edward Carson - “Thank you my lord. I would submit that the Crown is entitled to open the facts and give evidence of the deaths of other women whom the accused had lived. Indeed, the cases submitted by the defense as precedence have already been overruled.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Gentlemen, I find for the prosecution that evidence of the accused’s antecedence is clearly admissible. Indeed, I have it on good authority that we shall be hearing of his movements directly related to the time of the Whitechapel murders, known as the Jack the Ripper murders as well as evidence during the time period of these suspected poisonings. It is in the public interest that these matters be brought forward. Mr. Carson you may proceed.”

Carson makes his opening speech.
He is calm and very resolute as he begins.

Mr. Edward Carson - “Thank you my lord. The accused and Maud Marsh had been living together as husband and wife at the *Crown*, High Street, Borough. Maud Marsh died on 22nd October under circumstances and with symptoms which induced the doctor who attended her to refuse to give a certificate of death, and the result of the post-mortem examination went to show that the body of his deceased woman was literally saturated with antimony. I think it will hardly be disputed that Maud Marsh died from poisoning. No doubt a large dose was administered shortly before death, and there was every indication that she had been repeatedly dosed with it for some time before death. The real question you have to try is whether it was administered to her by the accused.”



Maud Marsh and Severin Klosowski

“The accused is a Russian Pole, and his name is Severin Klosowski.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Was he originally charged in the duel name?”

Mr. Edward Carson - “My lord, he was charged at first as George Chapman, but the accused’s correct name came out during the inquiry.”

“It is important to bear in mind the fact that in his early days in Russia the accused studied medicine. He appears to have had considerable experience as a barber-surgeon – a profession not now known in this country. He came to this country about 1887, and worked as a barber in various places, including the George Yard Dwellings in Whitechapel in 1888. In October, 1889, he married a woman named Lucy Baderski, who is still alive.”



Lucy Baderski (court artist sketch)

Mr. Edward Carson - “In 1891, they went to America, and she appeared to have come back without him. In 1895, he left his wife, and he appeared to have met a young woman named Chapman, and it is probable that this induced him to take the name of George Chapman, by which he has used up to the present time.”

“While at Hastings we find the accused buying an ounce of tartar-emetic on 3rd April, 1897. Subsequently, in 1897, the accused and Mrs. Spink removed to the *Prince of Wales* beerhouse, where the woman was taken ill, and subsequently died on 25th December.”

“At Easter, 1898, the accused took into his employ at the same house a girl named Bessie Taylor. They moved to the *Monument Public House* where on 13th February, 1901, Bessie Taylor died.”



Bessie Taylor and Severin Klosowski

Mr. Edward Carson - “After the death of Bessie Taylor the accused made the acquaintance of Maud Marsh, a young woman nineteen years of age. On 13th October, 1901, the accused and Marsh stated that they had been married. In 1902 they removed to the *Crown Public House*, the *Monument* having been burned down under very suspicious circumstances. During the course of her illness Maud Marsh was taken into a hospital, and speedily recovered, but her illness returned after she went back to the accused. After Maud’s death Doctor Stoker refused a certificate of death. As a result of the post-mortem examination antimony was discovered in the body of Maud Marsh.”

Klosowski is grim as he looks closely at Mr. Carson.

Mr. Edward Carson - “I submit that upon this evidence there can be no doubt that Maud Marsh died from antimony poisoning. Only three or four persons could have administered the poison, and as two or three of them it is impossible that they could have done so. It is to this man that the evidence all points – a man whose early training made him acquainted with surgery, drugs and poisons. It is in this direction only that the evidence points and I submit that the accused’s was the master hand, and that it was the accused’s previous experience which led him to believe that he could safely run the risk of deceiving the doctors. There is no reasonable hypothesis which can lead you to come to any other conclusion.”

[Mr. Elliott stands to address the court.](#)

Mr. George Elliott - “My lord, I would submit that the prosecution were bound by the facts connected with this one indictment only, and must limit themselves to this one matter. They could not introduce other facts for the purpose of prejudicing the case or for other purposes. I refer to the case of the Queen vs. Winslow.”

Mr. Edward Carson - “My lord, these decisions have not been acted upon, and even so recently as the case of sequential killer Dr. Neill Cream, tried in this Court before Mr. Justice Hawkins, the course he proposed to follow was adopted.”



Sequential killer Dr. Neill Cream

Judge Justice Grantham - “The matter is really too clear for argument, and it could only be of any moment in the case of a negative defense. The evidence will be allowed. Mr. Carson, call your first witness.”

Mr. Edward Carson - “If it pleases my lord, the Crown calls Mr. Wolff Levisohn to the stand.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “Wolff Levisohn.”

Levisohn in the back court area walks to the witness box.
Reporter watches Levisohn then turns to his listeners as Levisohn is sworn in.



Mr. Wolff Levisohn (court artist sketch)

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “As Mr. Levisohn goes to the box our listeners may recall the many newspaper accounts discussing Mr. Levisohn’s connections to the accused. It would appear that Mr. Levisohn, who has a dark reputation of his own, reportedly came into contact with the accused on numerous occasions to include the period that Klosowski spent in the heart of Whitechapel during the Ripper murders. Indeed, in one well-publicized report, Mr. Levisohn himself was accused of being the Ripper by two women causing a large crowd to chase Mr. Levisohn into protective custody of the police. It has also been alleged that Mr. Klosowski attempted to purchase poison from Mr. Levisohn in early 1888 only weeks before the Ripper murders began. The question is: Did Klosowski turn to the blade as the Ripper due to his inability to purchase the poison?”

Levisohn looks concerned and agitated as he moves around in the box.

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Mr. Levisohn, when did you first meet the accused?”

Wolff Levisohn - “I have known the accused since early 1888, when I met him in a hairdresser’s shop in Whitechapel. I knew him as Lugwig Zagowski. I talked to the accused about medicines, and he asked me if I could get him a certain medicine. He appeared to be very clever with medicines.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “How come you to say that?”

Wolff Levisohn - “He asked me to get him some medicine once, and I said, ‘No’, as I did not wish to get twelve years.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “The medicine could be used as a poison then?”

Wolff Levisohn - “Yes, Sir.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Was it Antimony?”

Wolff Levisohn - “Yes, Sir.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Did you have contact with the accused during the period of the Ripper murders?”

Wolff Levisohn - “No, Sir, but I understand he was in Whitechapel the entire time.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “You also saw him at Tottenham in 1894 or ‘95. What sort of a man was this Zagowski?”

[Klosowski is studying Levisohn closely.](#)

Wolff Levisohn - “He was a ‘la de da’ then, with black coat, patent boots, and high hat. There he sits. [\[Points to Klosowski\]](#) He has not changed a bit; he has not a gray hair in his head. At Tottenham he had two wives – one was English and the other foreign. The latter was not his Polish wife.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Thank you Mr. Levisohn. No further questions at this time my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Mr. Elliott?”

Mr. George Elliott - “No questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “The witness is excused.”

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “It seems that Klosowski not only had another alias beyond George Chapman, whom he still claims to be, but we now know that he attempted to acquire poison just before the Ripper murders in Whitechapel. With this testimony we may only wonder why Mr. Levisohn had not come forward sooner. It has been speculated that perhaps the witness is a great deal more involved with Klosowski and those murders

than he is willing to admit to in a court of law. Perhaps an accomplice, or did he actually commit one of the Ripper murders himself? It would also seem that the accused in this case was certainly hiding from something in 1888 with yet another alias. Reports indicate that he left his native Poland in a good deal of a hurry.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “My lord, the Crown calls Mrs. Ethel Radin.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “Mrs. Ethel Radin.”



Mrs. Ethel Radin

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Those who have read about this case in the London papers will recall that police inquiries placed the accused in Poplar, East End, at Radin’s shop in late 1887 to early 1888, just before the Ripper murders in Whitechapel. Most interesting to the case is that the December 1888 Ripper murder of Rose Mylett occurred in Poplar, even though it is two miles east of the Ripper’s usual killing grounds in Whitechapel. The Poplar murder site was very near Radin’s shop, and Rose Mylett lived only yards from Klosowski’s rooms in George Yard, Whitechapel, at the time of her death. Clearly Klosowski had easy access to both areas and knew both areas well. These are facts the police did not know at the time of the Ripper murders.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Mrs. Radin, when did you first meet the accused?”

[Mrs. Radin is very serious looking and does not look at the accused.](#)

Mrs. Ethel Radin - “About fifteen years ago, when we kept a hairdresser’s shop in West India Dock Road, Poplar, we had an assistant named Klosowski. I identify the accused as that man. [\[Radin points to Klosowski\]](#) He said he had been a feldscher in Warsaw, Poland. He was with us for five months, during which time my baby was ill, he helped me in the treatment of it. I believe he moved to Whitechapel. When his name was in the papers as ‘George Chapman’ I did not know who he was, but the previous week I saw his name published as Klosowski.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Before you identified the accused did a gentleman come to your place with a photograph?”

Mrs. Ethel Radin - “Yes.”



Mr. Charles Mathews - “And did you then go and pick out the accused?”

Mrs. Ethel Radin - “Yes. I am quite sure about him.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “No further questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Mr. Elliott?”

Mr. George Elliott - “No questions my lord.”

[Mrs. Radin leaves the witness stand.](#)

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “It would seem that Mr. Klosowski left the Radin’s shop in early 1888 just in time to position himself in Whitechapel, only weeks before the first attacks in the Ripper case. He seems to have also established aliases early in his life as he moved around a good deal. Alias or not, the prosecution seems to have established his identity so far, as well as where he lived at the time of the Whitechapel murders; within easy walking distance of all of the murder sites.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “If it pleases my lord, the Crown calls Mrs. Stanislaus Rauch.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “Mrs. Stanislaus Rauch.”

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Mrs. Rauch is the sister of Klosowski’s real wife Lucy.”



Mrs. Stanislaus Rauch (court artist sketch)

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Mrs. Rauch what is your background and when did you first meet the accused?” sketch

Mrs. Stanislaus Rauch - “I am the wife of William Rauch. I have a sister named Lucy. I arrived in this country from German Poland in August, 1889. At that time Lucy was married; her surname being Klosowski. I met her husband in a public house in Whitechapel Road.”

[Mrs. Rauch pauses momentarily.](#)

Mrs. Stanislaus Rauch - My sister was living with him in Greenfield Street, Whitechapel. When their first baby was born I saw the accused washing it just like a nurse. He said he had been a feldscher at the Hospital of the Infant Jesus at Praga, near Warsaw. I remember him and my sister going to America in April of 1891. She came back alone in February, 1892. Another child was born on 12th May 1892. He returned a few weeks later in mid to late June of 1892.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Had you seen the accused very often before he went to America?”

Mrs. Stanislaus Rauch - “Yes.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “No further questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Mr. Elliott?”

[Mr. Elliott stands and checks his notes.](#)

Mr. George Elliott - “Thank you my Lord. Mrs. Rauch when you went to pick the accused out were you quite sure of him?”

Mrs. Stanislaus Rauch - “Not at first, no, but afterwards I was quite sure.”

Mr. George Elliott - “Thank you. No further questions my lord.”

[Mrs. Rauch is excused and leaves the witness box.](#)

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “This testimony is very interesting. If it can be confirmed, then this witness has just placed the accused in the United States during the 14 months the Ripper is suspected of being in the New York/New Jersey area. Listeners may recall that no fewer than four women were murdered in that area and none of these cases have been solved. Indeed, the one man who was convicted of the first murder; that of Carrie Brown in New York City in April of 1891, has recently been fully pardoned by New York Governor Odell because the case against him has proven to be unsafe and very flawed. It would seem that Mr. Klosowski’s movements match that of the Ripper even as the killer moved his murder spree to America. Investigators have also located the death certificate of Klosowski’s son Wohystaw who died under mysterious circumstances only weeks before Klosowski fled to America in 1891.”

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number *61 008 703*

REGISTRATION DISTRICT *Whitechapel Church* in the *County of London*

No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, Description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
<i>192</i>	<i>March 1891 2 Whitechapel Buildings</i>	<i>Wohystaw Klosowski</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>5 months</i>	<i>son of Szymon & Marya Klosowski Baron</i>	<i>Perinatal asphyxia complicated by hemorrhage from umbilical cord</i>	<i>S. Klosowski Father Resident at death 2 Whitechapel Buildings Whitechapel</i>	<i>March 1891</i>	<i>John Hall Registrar</i>

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Death certificate for Wohystaw Klosowski

Mr. Charles Mathews - "My lord, the Crown calls Alfred Wicken."
The Clerk of Arraignment - "Alfred Wicken."



Alfred Wicken

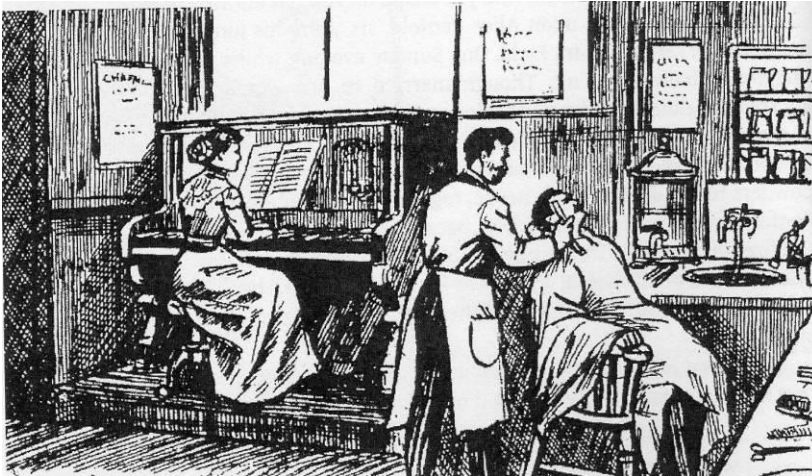
Court Reporter Michael Gosling - Alfred Wicken is a hairdresser who knew the accused a few years ago."

Wicken who is recovering from a recent stay in a local hospital walks slowly to the witness stand and takes the oath.

Mr. Charles Mathews - "Mr. Wicken what do you do for a living?"
Mr. Alfred Wicken - "I am a hairdresser at 2 Market Terrace, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton."

Mr. Charles Mathews - "Please tell the Court how you know the accused?"

Mr. Alfred Wicken - "Some years ago I was employed by Mr. Haddin, who had a hairdresser's shop in West Green Road, Tottenham, and the accused was also employed there. We used to call him 'Schloski.' [Points to the accused] He worked there for about nine or twelve months with me, after which he took a shop in High Road, Tottenham, which had formerly belonged to Mr. Haddin. I left the neighborhood before the accused. I next saw him at Southwark Police Court a few months ago."



Klosowski and 'wife' at his shop

Mr. Charles Mathews - "Have you ever heard the accused called Ludwig Schloski or Severin Klosowski?"

Mr. Alfred Wicken - "No. It was in 1892 - 1893 that I met him. I only know Levisohn. I did not know any of the others. I may have known Levisohn at the time I knew the accused. I did not know that Levisohn knew the accused as Ludwig Zagowski until after this case commenced. I never heard the accused called by any name except 'Schloski.'"

Mr. Charles Mathews - "Were you shown two photographs before you went into Court?"

Mr. Alfred Wicken - "Yes."

Mr. Charles Mathews - "When you identified the accused was he in the dock?"

Mr. Alfred Wicken - "Yes."

Mr. Charles Mathews - "No further questions my lord."

Judge Justice Grantham - "Mr. Elliott?"

Mr. George Elliott - "No questions my lord."

Judge Justice Grantham - “The witness is excused. Mr. Mathews call your next witness.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “My lord, the Crown calls William Bray.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “William Bray.”



William Bray

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Mr. Bray please tell the Court how you came to know the accused?”

William L. Bray - “I am managing clerk to Mr. Brand, solicitor, of 6 Gray’s Inn Square. I know a Mr. Pincott; he is a personal friend of mine. In 1895 he was the owner of the shop at 513 High Road, Tottenham. About December, 1894, I was consulted by him with reference to the letting of that shop. The man he proposed to take it came alone to see me on several occasions, and he gave his name as Severin Klosowski. After giving me some references, an agreement was drawn up, which he signed in my presence. On 14th January I was at Southwark Police Court when I saw several men, and I easily picked out the accused from amongst them as the man who had signed the agreement. I have no doubt about him.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “No further questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Mr. Elliott?”

Mr. George Elliott - “No questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “The witness is excused. Mr. Mathews please call your next witness.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “My lord, the Crown calls Inspector George Godley.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “Inspector George Godley.”

Godley is sworn in looking very dignified and sturdy.

The detective appears to be a force to be dealt with as he takes the witness box.

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Inspector Godley is the arresting officer in charge of this case. Godley is well-known in the district and is an excellent detective. In past years he has worked on the Thames Torso murders investigation as well as the Ripper murders. It was Godley who confirmed that Klosowski lived in the very building where the first Ripper victim was found in 1888, and indeed the inspector interviewed all of the male residents of the dwelling including Klosowski at the time of the murders. Let’s listen in.”



Detective Inspector George Godley

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Inspector what is your rank and what did you find at the *Crown Public House* concerning this case?”

Detective Inspector George Godley - “I am a Detective Inspector. I arrested the accused at the *Crown Public House*. I found a number of documents, amongst them being a book of prescriptions which I found in the box room. On the front and back of that book is written ‘S. Klosowski.’ I found a diary for 1893. In the pocket of the book there is a sheet of notepaper on which is written: ‘Came from America in 1893, independent, Deposits £100, when from America I had £1000.’”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Did you have any problems finding these items?”

Detective Inspector George Godley - “No Sir. I had no difficulty in getting the documents. I received them on the same day as I arrested the accused. I locked all the things up, took the accused to the station, and then went back to the house.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Can you identify these exhibits Inspector?”

[A desk holding exhibits - mostly documents, is displayed.](#)

- o Book of prescriptions “S. Klosowski”
- o Photograph & documents in bedroom drawer
- o Diary for 1893 – Sheet of paper “Came to America in 1893...”
- o Pocket Book-Note death of Bessie Taylor, Marry to Mabel Spink
- o Undertaker’s bill for Mary Spink
- o Letters from Bessie Taylor to Chapman
- o Certificate of death for Mary S. Dec 25, 1897
- o Found several boxes and other articles (contents?)
- o Medical books – *Family Physician*, *A Practice of Physics* (5 in all)
- o A Will
- o Pharmacopoeia (book)
- o An American Revolver in a case, fully loaded
- o Papers in Russian (including surgical papers)
- o Typewritten letter from *Biggs & Co.* date 8th Sept. 1902
- o Book – *Five Hundred Prescriptions for Diseases and Complaints*
- o Book – By James Berry (executioner)
- o Photograph of Bessie Taylor (Found in box marked B.T.)
- o A number of photographic chemicals
- o Papers showing changes from *Prince of Wales* to
The Grapes to *Monument Tavern* to the *Crown*
- o A little book in Polish
- o Poison label
- o 2 Syringes – Green
- o 4 bottles

- o Memorial card to Bessie Chapman
- o Funeral bills for Bessie Taylor
- o Three Powders (Bismuth)
- o Book – *Aristotle's Works*
- o £268 10s in funds

Detective Inspector George Godley - “Yes, Sir. [\[Points to the documents\]](#) Those are some of the documents I found during my search of the accused’s premises.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Thank you inspector. No further questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Mr. Elliott?”

Mr. George Elliott - “No questions at this time my lord.”

[Detective Inspector Godley leaves the witness box and takes a set in the courtroom.](#)

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “Certainly Klosowski seems to have made the job of investigation an easy one. This reporter has reviewed some of these documents, which clearly identify the accused as Klosowski. Yet, the accused continues to claim that he is an American named George Chapman. We would remind our listeners that private investigators in America have uncovered no evidence to support Klosowski’s claim of American citizenship. It has also been reported that Inspector Godley found a fully loaded 32 cal. American revolver during his search of Klosowski’s business. We have no word on the significance of that find as yet. The weapon is of course still in police custody.”

[Mr. Mathews stands to address the Court.](#)

Mr. Charles Mathews - “My lord, the Crown calls Joseph Betrikowski.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “Joseph Betrikowski.”



Joseph Betrikowski

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - "This is the man who translated the documents found by Inspector Godley and who also testified in Police Court on the matter of the identification documents."

[Mr. Betrikowski takes the stand and the oath.](#)

Mr. Charles Mathews - "Mr. Betrikowski what are your qualifications and what did you produce from these documents?"

Mr. Joseph Betrikowski - "I know the Polish language. I made a correct translation of the documents produced and also of the little book. On the front page there appears the name 'S. Klosowski.'"

Mr. Charles Mathews - "Please tell the court what those documents consisted of."

[The documents were displayed on an exhibits chart in court.](#)

Mr. Joseph Betrikowski - "One of the papers certified that on 15 December 1865 that Emilie, the wife of Antonio Klosowski, gave birth to a son named Severino. There is a certificate from the county of Zvolen to the effect that Klosowski has never been found guilty of any crime. The next shows that Klosowski was a surgical apprentice for some five years in Poland. The next shows that Klosowski had been employed as a surgery pupil for 4-1/2 years overlapping some of the other document. One document shows that Klosowski had received surgical instruction in

practical surgery at the hospital at Praga, Poland. The other documents attest to his request for a position as Junior Surgeon which appears to have been granted in 1887. There is a final certificate which states ‘he had performed his surgical functions with a full knowledge of the subject.’”

XXXXXXX

On the 15th day of December, 1865, at ten o'clock in the morning, there appeared Antonio Klosowski, 30 years of age, a carpenter by trade, native of the village of Nagornak, together with two witnesses, Ludwika Zywnski, aged 32, and Jacob Rozinski, aged 56, both of Nagornak, and employed there. They stated that Emilie, the wife of Antonio Klosowski, nee Ulatowski, aged 29, had given birth to a child the previous morning. The child was named Severin and that his parents are Polish subjects. The godfather of the child was Ludwig Zyanski and the godmother's name was Marianna Colimowski. That they were present at the birth and that they affixed their signatures hereto in testimony thereof.

(signed) *Ludwig Zyanski*

(signed) *Marianna Colimowski*

XXXXXXX

The magistrate of the County of Zvolen hereby certifies that Severin Klosowski, resident of the village of Zvolen, is a well-behaved man, and was never found guilty of any crime whatever. To which effect he bears testimony by his own signature and official seal.

(signed) *Dushevitch, Magistrate of the County, Village Zvolen, November 16, 1882*

XXXXXXX

Certificate issued to the surgical apprentice, Severin Antonio Klosowski, to the effect that he, Severin Klosowski, was in my surgery for the purpose of studying surgery from December 1, 1880, till June 1, 1885, and during the whole of the time he, Severin Klosowski, discharged accurately all his duties. He was diligent, of exemplary conduct, and studied with zeal the science of surgery.

In testimony thereof I affix my signature, Moshko Rappaport, Senior Surgeon and proprietor of the surgery in the village Zvolen, June 1, 1885

XXXXXXX

Certificate issued to Severin Klosowski, resident in the village of Tyminitsa, county of Nodga, district of Iltetsk, Government of Radom, to the effect that he was employed for a period of four-and-a-half years by the local surgeon, Moshko Rappaport, in the capacity of a practicing surgery pupil, and under the

doctor's instructions rendered very skilful assistance to patients – i.e., in cupping by means of glasses, leeches, and other assistance comprised in the science of surgery.

To all the above I am able to testify as an eye-witness.

(signed) O. P. Olstetski, medical practitioner in village of Zvolen, October 10-22, 1885

XXXXXXX

October 23 – November 4, 1885.

The Radom Surgical Society, of the town of Radom, hereby certifies that the surgical pupil, Severin Klosowski, was entered at the registry of surgical pupils by the Senior Surgeon, Moshko Rappaport, in the town of Radom, November 22 – December 3, 1882. Subject No. 8, and in accordance with Article 17, letter b, of the Surgical Society. One rouble in silver was paid by him into the Treasury of the said Society.

In witness whereof, Brodinski, the Chief of the Society, testifies by affixing his signature and seal of the Surgical Society.

(signed) Brodinski

XXXXXXX

This is given to Severin Klosowski, surgery pupil, to the effect that from October 1, 1885, till January 1, 1886, he received instructions in practical surgery at the Hospital of Praga, Warsaw, and his general conduct was good.

(signed) Krynick, Senior Surgeon

XXXXXXX

Warsaw, November 15, 1886

This is to certify that Severin Klosowski has been employed by me as surgeon assistant from January 20, 1886, up to the present time, and during the whole of that period he performed his surgical functions with a full knowledge of the subject, and his conduct was good. To this fact I testify with my own signature, and affix my stamp.

(signed) D. Moshkovski

XXXXXXX

In accordance with the application of Severin Klosowski, and in consequence of inquiries ordered to be made, the present certificate is issued from the office of the Chief of Police of Warsaw to the effect that the applicant while residing in Warsaw was not observed by the police to be concerned in any improper conduct whatsoever. The present certificate is given to Mr. Klosowski under the proper signature and government seal for the purpose of submitting the same to the Imperial University of Warsaw. Stamp duties have been collected – Warsaw, April 29, 1886.

(signed) *Kasievitz, Deputy Chief of the Department*
(seal) (signed) *A. Darenskov, Manager*

XXXXXXX

Ministry of Interior, Medical Administration of Warsaw, December 5, 1886.
In consequence of the application presented by Severin Klosowski, surgical pupil, the Medical Administration hereby testify to the effect that they do not see any reason to oppose his receiving the degree of a Junior Surgeon. The required stamp duties have been paid.

(signed) *Dr. M. Oreszaief, Collegiate Councillor and Inspector.*

(signed) *A. Pominski, Secretary.*

XXXXXXX

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Thank you Sir. Nothing further my lord”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Mr. Elliott?”

Mr. George Elliott - “Nothing at this time my lord”

[The witness leaves the stand.](#)

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “As we just heard it has now been clearly established that the accused had a good deal of training as a surgeon and as the documents state ‘had full knowledge of the subject.’ Clearly this training and background places the accused at the very top of the suspect list to hold the mantle of Jack the Ripper as it should be recalled – the Ripper certainly used great surgical skills when he murdered those women in Whitechapel, even though some of the doctors consulted were reluctant to state as such. Perhaps the doctors’ pride in their profession held them back. Needless to say, very few individuals in the area had such surgical skills as the accused has.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “My lord, the Crown calls Mr. William Davidson.”

The Clerk of Arraignment - “William Davidson.”



Mr. William Davidson

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Mr. Davidson please explain to the court what was purchased if anything by the accused from your shop.”

William Davidson - “The accused purchased 1 ounce of tartar-emetic.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “And how can you confirm that purchase?”

William Davidson - “We have to keep a copy of the entry relating to the tartar-emetic sold to the accused is as follows: ‘April 3rd, 1897, name of purchases, Mr. G. Chapman, 1 ounce of tartar-emetic.’ That is my writing. He wrote ‘take’ in my presence after he signed ‘G. Chapman.’ I know him as Chapman, but I do not recollect his Christian name. I saw in the newspaper an account of a woman named Chapman having died of this poison, and I went to the police and gave such information as I had.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Did you demur at his wanting so large a quantity?”

William Davidson - “I do not know that I did. I cannot say what was passing through my mind at the time, but from my knowledge he knew about medicines, and so I let him have it.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “You knew he was not practicing as a medical man?”

William Davidson - “Yes, but no doubt he gave me a cogent reason why he wanted it, although I cannot say what it was now.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “How many grains of tartar-emetic would be a fatal dose?”

William Davidson - “Two grains might be a fatal dose, and 12 certainly would be. I conformed to the law by answering the questions in the book and by knowing the man well.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “Is this poison label, which was found at the accused’s home, the one you made for Mr. Chapman’s poison purchase?”

William Davidson - “Yes.”

Mr. Charles Mathews - “No further questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Mr. Elliott?”

Mr. George Elliott - “Thank you my lord. Mr. Davidson did you ask the accused what he required the poison for?”

William Davidson - “No doubt I asked him what he required it for but I do not recall his answer at this time.”

Mr. George Elliott - “How much does an ounce of tartar-emetic cost?”

William Davidson - “Two pence. I used to buy about a pound at a time.”

Mr. George Elliott - [Pointing at the accused] “And are you positive that this is the man after all these years?”

William Davidson - [Looking at the accused and is very animated] “Yes.”

Mr. George Elliott - “No further questions my lord.”

Judge Justice Grantham - “Very well gentlemen. You may step down Mr. Davidson. This court is adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow. The jury is dismissed and instructed to not discuss these proceedings with anyone. Under-Sheriff you may remove the prisoner.”

The witness leaves the stand as the court participant’s rise.

Under-Sheriff Langton - “All rise.”

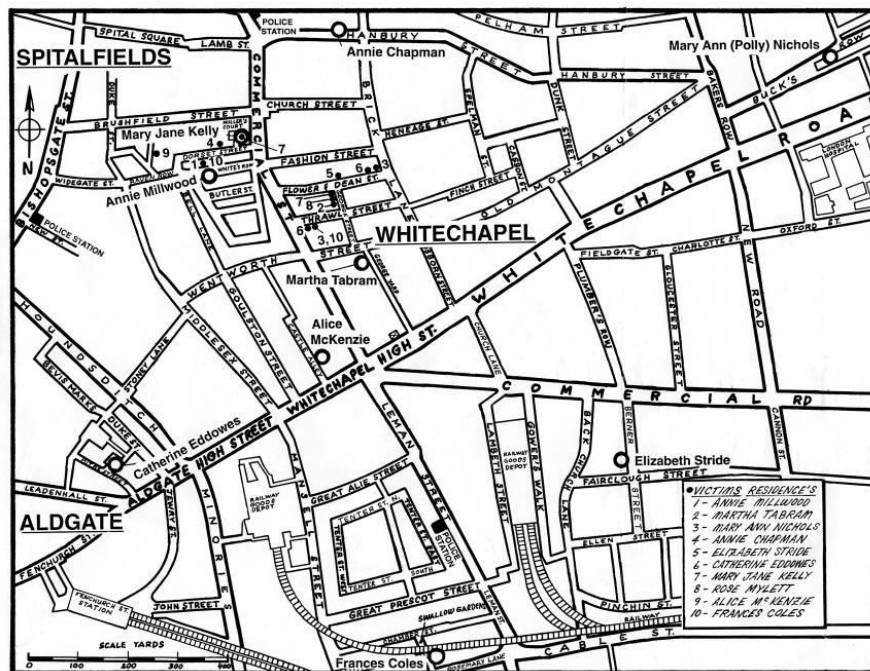
As Klosowski is taken out of the courtroom by
two rather sturdy looking officers.

Background shows the courtroom clearing as the court
reporter makes his final comments for the day.

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “As you can hear that concludes today’s testimony. It has been a short but devastating day for the defense.

The prosecution team has been able to place the accused not only in the Whitechapel area during the Ripper murders, but possibly in the very building where the first murder occurred in August of 1888. They have also shown, through the testimony of Mr. Levisohn, that Klosowski used another alias and attempted to purchase poison just before the Ripper murders. It now seems possible that failing to acquire the deadly poison may have pushed this suspected sequential killer to use his skills as a surgeon during the Whitechapel murders. Later it seems he was able to acquire the poison which he is suspected of using on at least three women. The prisoner's identity has also now been well established. He is indeed Severino Klosowski – but is he Jack the Ripper?”

“Now if I may, let’s have a look at the map of the East End of London set up in the corner of this courtroom.”



East End, London - Whitechapel Ripper murder locations

The reporter walks over to the map.

Photos of the Ripper victims are on a board map with numbers from photos to murder sites as well as drawings of the murder sites.

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “I have before me a map of the Whitechapel, East End area, which has been used in court. It has been reproduced in several local newspapers and I am certain some of our listeners have acquired a copy. The areas marked in blue for the court are the

locations used by the accused, Klosowski, where he lived or worked, including the George Yard Dwellings we read about in news reports. The numbers show the locations of the Ripper murders, which as one may clearly see from the published reports, are all around areas the accused was familiar with. What is remarkable, [\[Pulls overlay down\]](#) if I may pull an overlay down that is not indicated on the published maps in the newspapers it indicates that when all of the Ripper murder locations are lined up they came together at one location – Klosowski's lodgings at George Yard Dwellings. It is a most remarkable coincidence, if that is what it truly is, that they would line up that way! Perhaps it is much more than that.”



George Yard Dwellings

[The reporter walks back to his seat as the courtroom is emptying out.](#)

Court Reporter Michael Gosling - “This has been Michael Gosling reporting from Courtroom number one at the Old Bailey, London. We hope to have you listening in tomorrow morning for day two of this most remarkable trial of a man many now believe is indeed the infamous sequential killer known as Jack the Ripper. Thank you for tuning in and have a good evening everyone.”