

The Crime Scene

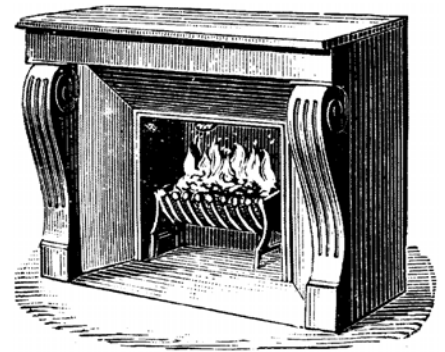
The following is an actual excerpt from the deposition (an out-of-court testimony made under oath) taken from Darling B. Whitney (M.D, Coroner for Suffolk County) who was called to the crime scene at about 1 p.m. on Monday, November, 14th.

“Alexander lay with his head from the fire place, his body was chiefly consumed up to his 3rd or 4th rib. His body was examined in his presence by Dr. Ray; there were three wounds on the left side of his head, immediately over the lower portion of the cartilage of the left ear – making three holes through the cartilage; large cut at the interior and posterior cartilage of the same ear. The skull was fractured on the top of the head. The wound must have occasioned the death – wounds must have been inflicted with some heavy instrument like a hammer, with a flat end. No appearance of his having struggled. He thinks deceased must have been lying upon his back when the wound upon the top of his head was inflicted.



Coroner
Darling B. Whitney

Mrs. Smith was lying in the right corner of the fireplace; her head at the corner of the hearth. She has two wounds upon the forehead, one producing a fracture of the skull, the other a depression. There were four wounds upon the upper and posterior part of the head, one creating a depression of the bone – supposes the same instrument must have inflicted the wound that caused the death of Alexander – her dress was bloody down to her waist: supposed some of the wounds on Mrs. Smith’s head to have been inflicted when she was lying down. Her death must have been occasioned by the wounds referred to. She seems from appearances to have struggled. There was blood in the middle of the floor, and spread to the place where she lay. From their positions, thinks Mr. Smith must have been killed first.



Murder at Old Fields

FORENSICS LAB ACTIVITY