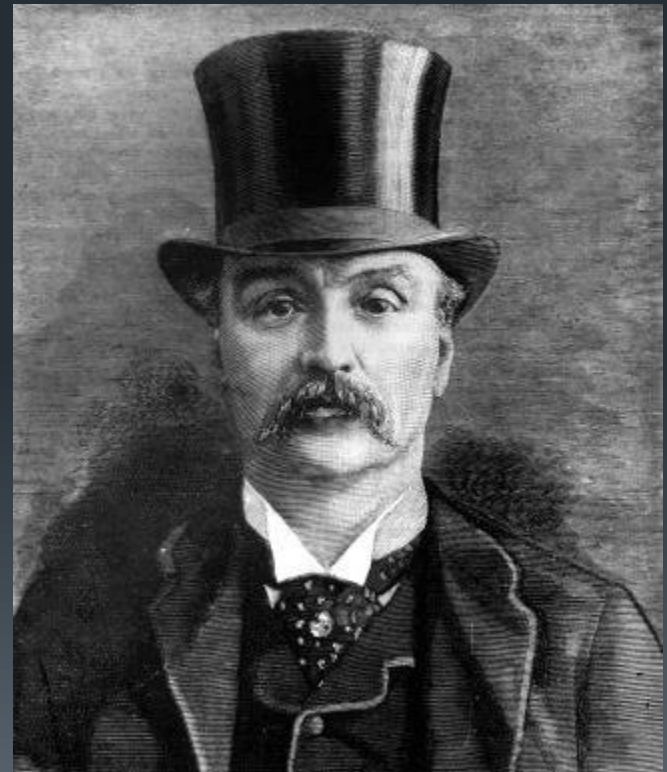


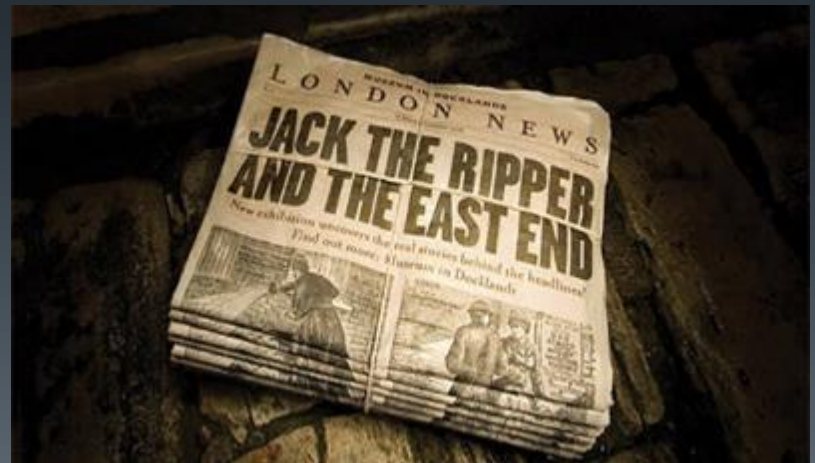
The Infamous Jack the Ripper

Forensic Science
2023-2024 School Year
Dr. Wardisiani
jwardisiani@pths209.org



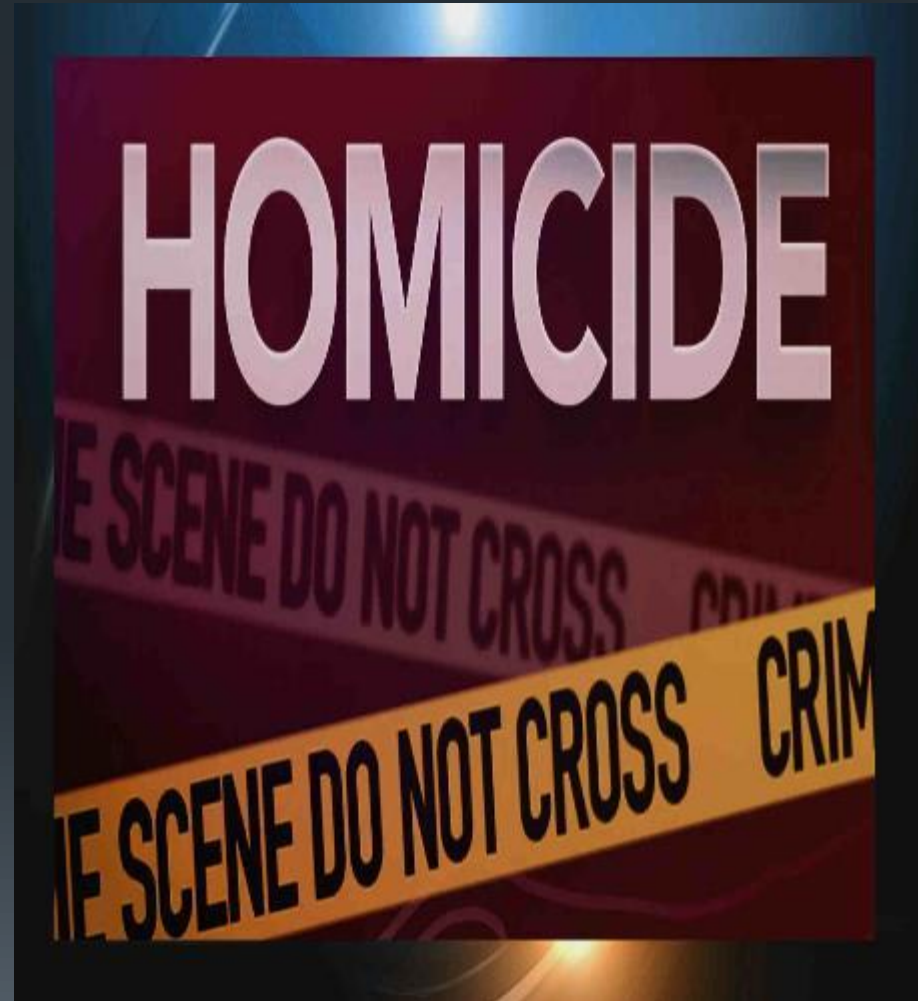
Introduction

- Today, much of our knowledge of crime victims come from the media, which is also a source of history.
- Of course, the landmark case for media interest in crime is that of Jack the Ripper.
- This case has spawned hundreds of theories and countless publications and has been examined by some of forensic science's greatest minds.
- However, we still do not know the identity of the perpetrator.



Basic Forensic Analysis

- The exact number of victims is not known, most authorities agree that five women killed in the Whitechapel area of London between August 31st to November 9th, 1888 and is the work of a serial killer.
- Question: What is the difference between a serial killer and spree killer?



Continued

- The five female victims are definitely linked based on the *modus operandi* (MO).
- All of the victims were prostitutes who lived and worked in East London.
- No semen was discovered in any of these cases, which not only links them but also suggests that rape was not part of the killer's MO.
- The murders are also connected by increasing brutality. This is a common phenomenon seen in the careers of many criminals.



Mary Ann Nichols

- All 5 female victims lived in poverty with a history of alcohol addiction. In addition, the ages of the victim varied somewhat, but all were young to middle aged.
- Mary Ann Nichols
- August 31st.
- Two deep slashed to her throat.
- Her abdomen was cut several times.
- TOD: 3:30AM



Annie Chapman

- Found September 8th @ 6:00 AM
- Two extremely deep cuts to her throat.
- The directions of the wound path was left to right.....Suggesting a Right Handed Attacker.
- The abdomen was cut open and her intestines were pulled outside of the body.
- Her entire uterus had been removed and taken.



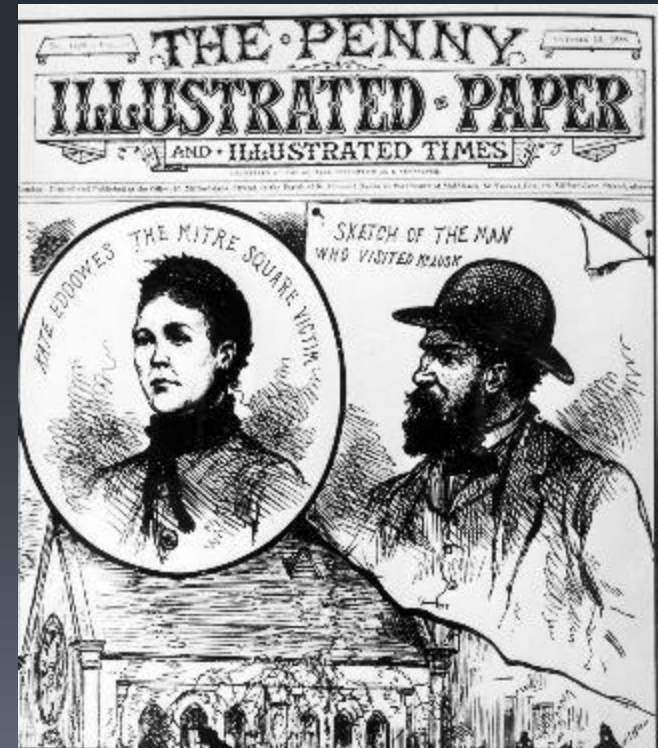
Elizabeth Stride

- Body found September 30th @ 1:00AM
- The victim had only one cut to her neck
- Her abdomen was not mutilated.
- Several witnesses claimed to have seen the victim with a man on the same night. Unfortunately, few witnesses could agree on the appearance of the man they claimed to have seen.



Catherine Eddowes

- ~45 minutes after the discovery of Strides body...Catherine Eddowes was discovered.
- Eddowes has been released from jail @ 1:00AM.
- Victims throat was cut twice and her belly cut open and portions of her intestines removed and placed on her shoulder. In addition, her uterus and kidney had been removed and taken as a trophy. Her face was also cut, including one ear.
- Located not far from the victims body was a not left on the sidewalk in chalk: The message: **“The Jews are the men that will not be blamed for nothing.”** This evidence was not photographed rather copied by police and removed.



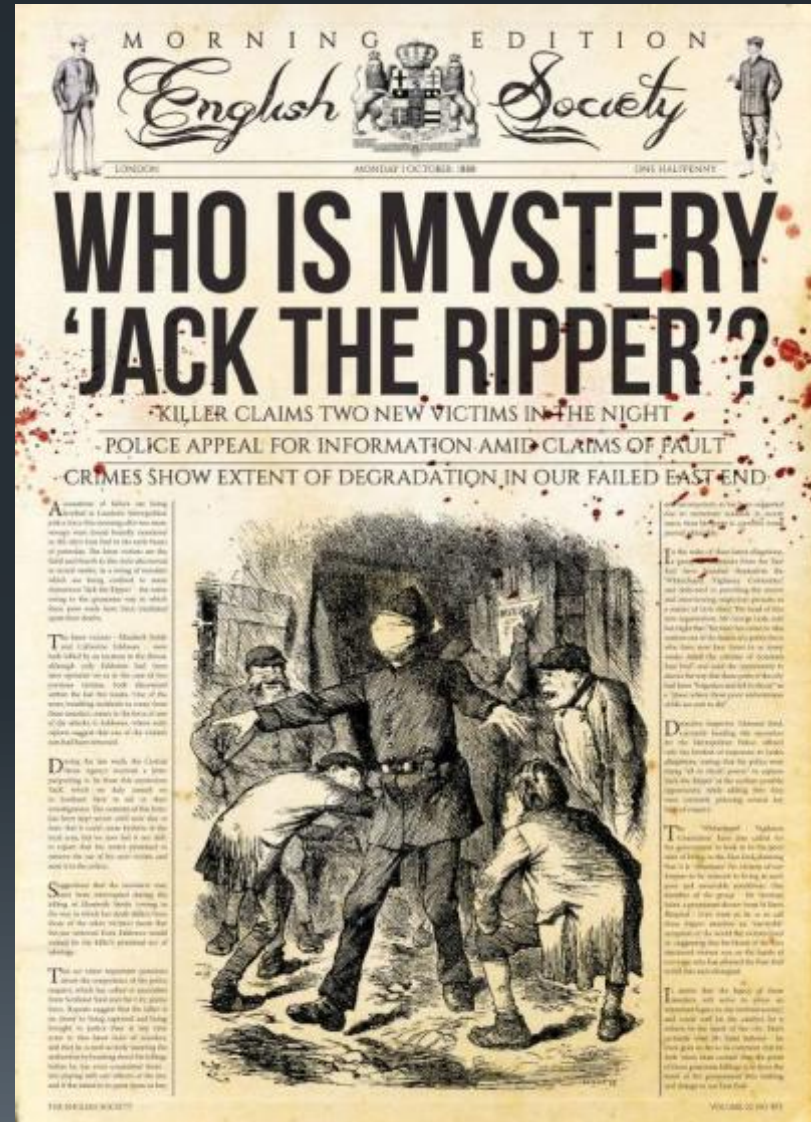
Mary Jane Kelly

- Killed November 9th, 1888
- Her body was found in her home around 11AM by a man sent to collect her overdue rent.
- Crime scene photographs showed Kelly's body was on the bed and nude.
- Her face had been mutilated, her throat was cut to her spine; her abdomen was completely eviscerated; and her heart was cut out and never recovered.
- The ME estimated that her death occurred between 2AM and 8AM. Furthermore, it was also estimated that it would have taken at least two hours for the wounds observed to have been inflicted.



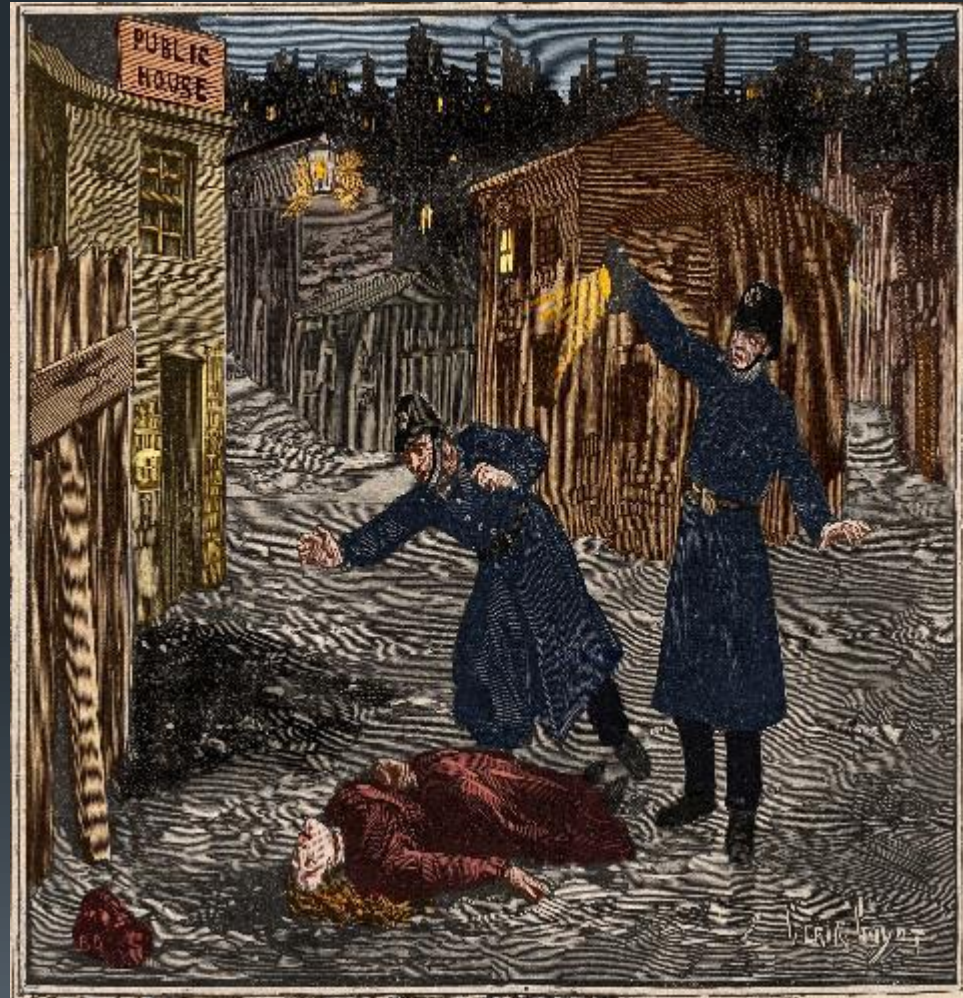
The Role of the Media

- Boom in the newspaper circulation in the 2nd half of the 19th Century communicated the homicides to the public.
- On September 27th a letter confessing to the prostitutes killings was released signed “Jack the Ripper”.
- The last victim would frequently ask her boyfriend to read her the newspaper reports of the investigation. Neither her boyfriend or the victim could have known that she would soon be the front-page news as the Rippers final victim.



Questions to Consider

- How do you think the investigation of the Jack the Ripper case would be different (either positively or negatively) if those crimes happened today?
- Do you think Jack the Ripper could have been a woman? Why or why not?



Comments/Questions |

