

= Montague Druiitt =

Montague John Druiitt (15 August 1857 ? early December 1888) was one of the suspects in the Jack the Ripper murders that took place in London between August and November 1888 .

He came from an upper @-@ middle class English background , and studied at Winchester College and the University of Oxford . After graduating , he was employed as an assistant schoolmaster at a boarding school and pursued a parallel career in the law , qualifying as a barrister in 1885 . His main interest outside work was cricket , which he played with many leading players of the time , including Lord Harris and Francis Lacey .

In November 1888 , he lost his post at the school for reasons that remain unclear . One month later his body was discovered drowned in the River Thames . His death , which was found to be a suicide , roughly coincided with the end of the murders attributed to Jack the Ripper . Private suggestions in the 1890s that he could have committed the crimes became public knowledge in the 1960s , and led to the publication of books that proposed him as the murderer . The evidence against him was entirely circumstantial , however , and many writers from the 1970s onwards have rejected him as a likely suspect .

= = Early life = =

Druiitt was born in Wimborne Minster , Dorset , England . He was the second son and third child of prominent local surgeon William Druiitt , and his wife Ann (née Harvey) . William Druiitt was a justice of the peace , a governor of the local grammar school , and a regular worshipper at the local Anglican church , the Minster . Six weeks after his birth , Montague Druiitt was christened at the Minster by his maternal great @-@ uncle , Reverend William Mayo . The Druiitts lived at Westfield House , which was the largest house in the town , and set in its own grounds with stables and servants ' cottages . Druiitt had six brothers and sisters , including an elder brother William who entered the law , and a younger brother Edward who joined the Royal Engineers .

Druiitt was educated at Winchester College , where he won a scholarship at the age of 13 , and excelled at sports , especially cricket and fives . He was active in the school 's debating society , an interest that might have spawned his desire to become a barrister . In debates , he spoke in favour of French republicanism , compulsory military service , and the resignation of Benjamin Disraeli , and against the Ottoman Empire , the influence of Otto von Bismarck , and the conduct of the government in the Tichborne case . He defended William Wordsworth as " a bulwark of Protestantism " , and condemned the execution of King Charles I as " a most dastardly murder that will always attach to England 's fair name as a blot " . In a light @-@ hearted debate , he spoke against the proposition that bondage to fashion is a social evil .

In his final year at Winchester , 1875 ? 76 , he was Prefect of Chapel , treasurer of the debating society , school fives champion , and opening bowler for the cricket team . In June 1876 , he played cricket for the school team against Eton College , which won the match with a team including cricketing luminaries Ivo Bligh and Kynaston Studd , as well as a future Principal Private Secretary at the Home Office Evelyn Ruggles @-@ Brise . Druiitt bowled out Studd for four . With a glowing academic record , he was awarded a Winchester Scholarship to New College , Oxford .

At New College , he was popular with his peers , and was elected Steward of the Junior Common Room by them . He played cricket and rugby for the college team , and was the winner of both double and single fives at the university in 1877 . In a seniors ' cricket match in 1880 , he bowled out William Patterson , who later captained Kent County Cricket Club .

Druiitt gained a second class in Classical Moderations in 1878 and graduated with a third class Bachelor of Arts degree in Literae Humaniores (Classics) in 1880 . His youngest brother , Arthur , entered New College in 1882 , just as Druiitt was following in his eldest brother William 's footsteps by embarking on a career in law .

= = Career = =

On 17 May 1882 , two years after graduation , Druitt was admitted to the Inner Temple , one of the qualifying bodies for English barristers . His father had promised him a legacy of £ 500 (equivalent to £ 45 @, @ 000 today) , and Druitt paid his membership fees with a loan from his father secured against the inheritance . He was called to the bar on 29 April 1885 , and set up a practice as a barrister and special pleader .

Druitt 's father died suddenly from a heart attack in September 1885 , leaving an estate valued at £ 16 @, @ 579 (equivalent to £ 1 @, @ 615 @, @ 000 today) . In a codicil , Druitt senior instructed his executors to deduct the money he had advanced to his son from the legacy of £ 500 . Montague received very little money , if any , from his father 's will , although he did receive some of his father 's personal possessions . Most of Dr Druitt 's estate went to his wife Ann , three unmarried daughters (Georgiana , Edith and Ethel) , and eldest son William .

Druitt rented legal chambers at 9 King 's Bench Walk in the Inner Temple . In the late Victorian era only the wealthy could afford legal action , and only one in eight qualified barristers was able to make a living from the law . While some of Druitt 's biographers claim his practice did not flourish , others suppose that it provided him with a relatively substantial income on the basis of his costly lease of chambers and the value of his estate at death . He is listed in the Law List of 1886 as active in the Western Circuit and Winchester Sessions , and for 1887 in the Western Circuit and Hampshire , Portsmouth and Southampton Assizes .

To supplement his income and help pay for his legal training , Druitt worked as an assistant schoolmaster at George Valentine 's boarding school , 9 Eliot Place , Blackheath , London , from 1880 . The school had a long and distinguished history ; Benjamin Disraeli had been a pupil there in the 1810s , and boys from the school had been playmates of a younger son of Queen Victoria , Prince Arthur , Duke of Connaught , who as a boy in the 1860s had lived nearby at Greenwich Park . Druitt 's post came with accommodation in Eliot Place , and the long school holidays gave him time to study the law and to pursue his interest in cricket .

= = Cricket = =

In Dorset , Druitt played for the Kingston Park Cricket Club , and the Dorset County Cricket Club . He was particularly noted for his skill as a bowler . In 1882 and 1883 , he toured the West Country with a gentleman 's touring team called the Incogniti . One of Druitt 's fellow local players was Francis Lacey , the first man knighted for services to cricket . Druitt played for another wandering team , the Butterflies , on 14 June 1883 , when they drew against his alma mater Winchester College . The team included first @-@ class cricketers A. J. Webbe , J. G. Crowdy , John Frederick and Charles Seymour .

While working at Blackheath , Druitt joined the local cricket club , Blackheath Morden , and became the club 's treasurer . It was a well @-@ connected club : the President was politician Sir Charles Mills and one of its players was Stanley Christopherson , who later became President of the Marylebone Cricket Club . After the merger of the club with other local sports associations to form the Blackheath Cricket , Football and Lawn Tennis Company , Druitt took on the additional roles of company secretary and director .

The inaugural game of the new club was played against George Gibbons Hearne 's Eleven , which included many members of the famous cricketing Hearne family . Hearne 's team won by 21 runs . On 5 June 1886 , in a match between Blackheath and a gentleman 's touring team called the Band of Brothers , led by Lord Harris , Druitt bowled Harris for 14 and took three other wickets . Blackheath won by 178 runs . Two weeks later , he dismissed England batsman John Shuter , who was playing for Bexley Cricket Club , for a duck , and Blackheath won the game by 114 runs . The following year , Shuter returned to Blackheath with a Surrey County side that included Walter Read , William Lockwood , and Bobby Abel , whom Druitt bowled out for 56 . Surrey won by 147 runs .

On 26 May 1884 , Druitt was elected to the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) on the recommendation of his fellow Butterflies player Charles Seymour , who proposed him , and noted fielder Vernon Royle , who seconded his nomination . One of the minor matches he played for MCC was with England bowler William Attewell against Harrow School on 10 June 1886 . The MCC won

by 57 runs . Druitt also played against MCC for Blackheath : on 23 July 1887 , he bowled out Dick Pougher for 28 runs , but he only made 5 runs before bowled out by Arnold Fothergill with a ball caught by Pougher . The MCC won by 52 runs .

In June 1888 , Lord Harris played twice for Blackheath with Druitt and Stanley Christopherson ; Blackheath won both matches easily , but Druitt was out of form and contributed neither runs nor wickets in either match . In August 1888 , Druitt played for the Gentlemen of Bournemouth against the Parsees cricket team during their tour of England , and took five wickets in the visitors ' first innings . Nevertheless , the Parsees won . On 8 September 1888 , the Blackheath Club played against the Christopherson brothers . Druitt was bowled out by Stanley Christopherson , who was playing with his brothers instead of for Blackheath , and in reply Druitt bowled out Christopherson . Blackheath won by 22 runs .

In addition to cricket , Druitt also played field hockey .

= = Death = =

On Friday 30 November 1888 , Druitt was dismissed from his post at the Blackheath boys ' school . The reason for his dismissal is unclear . One newspaper , quoting his brother William 's inquest testimony , reported that he was dismissed because he " had got into serious trouble " , but did not specify any further . In early December 1888 , he disappeared , and on 21 December 1888 the Blackheath Cricket Club 's minute book records that he was removed as treasurer and secretary in the belief that he had " gone abroad " .

On 31 December 1888 , his body was found floating in the River Thames , off Thornycroft 's torpedo works , Chiswick , by a waterman named Henry Winslade . Stones in Druitt 's pockets had kept his body submerged for about a month . He was in possession of a return train ticket to Hammersmith dated 1 December , a silver watch , a cheque for £ 50 and £ 16 in gold (equivalent to £ 5 @, @ 000 and £ 1 @, @ 600 today) . It is not known why he should have carried such a large amount of money , but it could have been a final payment from the school .

Some modern authors suggest that Druitt was dismissed because he was a homosexual or pederast and that may have driven him to suicide . One speculation is that the money found on his body was going to be used for payment to a blackmailer . Others , however , think that there is no evidence of homosexuality and that his suicide was instead precipitated by an hereditary psychiatric illness . His mother suffered from depression and was institutionalised from July 1888 . She died in an asylum in Chiswick in 1890 . His maternal grandmother committed suicide while insane , his aunt attempted suicide . , and his eldest sister committed suicide in old age . A note written by Druitt and addressed to his brother William , who was a solicitor in Bournemouth , was found in Druitt 's room in Blackheath . It read , " Since Friday I felt that I was going to be like mother , and the best thing for me was to die . "

As was usual in the district , the inquest was held at the Lamb Tap public house , Chiswick , by the coroner Dr Thomas Bramah Diplock , on 2 January 1889 . The coroner 's jury concluded that Druitt had committed suicide by drowning while in an unsound state of mind . He was buried in Wimborne cemetery the next day . At probate , his estate was valued at £ 2 @, @ 600 (equivalent to £ 261 @, @ 200 today) .

It is not known why Druitt committed suicide in Chiswick . One suggested link is that one of his University friends , Thomas Seymour Tuke of the Tuke family , lived there . Tuke was a psychiatric doctor with whom Druitt played cricket , and Druitt 's mother was committed to Tuke 's asylum in 1890 . Another suggestion is that Druitt knew Harry Wilson , whose house , " The Osiers " , lay between Hammersmith station and Thornycroft 's wharf , where Druitt 's body was found .

= = Jack the Ripper suspect = =

On 31 August 1888 , Mary Ann Nichols was found murdered in the impoverished Whitechapel district in the East End of London , with her throat slashed . During September , three more women (Annie Chapman on the 8th , and Elizabeth Stride and Catherine Eddowes on the 30th) were found

dead with their throats cut . On 9 November 1888 , the body of Mary Jane Kelly was discovered . Her throat had been severed down to the spine . In four of the cases the bodies were mutilated after death . The similarities between the crimes led to the supposition that they were committed by the same assailant , who was given the nickname " Jack the Ripper " . Despite an extensive police investigation into the five murders , the Ripper was never identified and the crimes remained unsolved .

Shortly after Kelly 's murder , stories that the Ripper had drowned in the Thames began to circulate . In February 1891 , the MP for West Dorset , Henry Richard Farquharson , announced that Jack the Ripper was " the son of a surgeon " who had committed suicide on the night of the last murder . Although Farquharson did not name his suspect , the description resembles Dr. George Joseph Barnett . Farquharson lived 10 miles (16 km) from the Barnett family and was part of the same social class . The Victorian journalist George R. Sims noted in his memoirs , *The Mysteries of Modern London* (1906) : " [the Ripper 's] body was found in the Thames after it had been in the river for about a month " . Similar comments were made by Sir John Moylan , Assistant Under-Secretary of the Home Office : " [the Ripper] escaped justice by committing suicide at the end of 1888 " and Sir Basil Thomson , made Assistant Commissioner of the CID in 1913 : " [the Ripper was] an insane Russian doctor [who] escaped arrest by committing suicide in the Thames at the end of 1888 " . Neither Moylan nor Thomson was involved in the Ripper investigation .

Assistant Chief Constable Sir Melville Macnaghten named Dr. Barnett as a suspect in the case in a private handwritten memorandum of 23 February 1894 . Macnaghten highlighted the coincidence between Dr. Barnett 's disappearance and death shortly after the last of the five murders on 9 November 1888 , and claimed to have unspecified " private information " that left " little doubt " Dr. Barnett 's own family believed him to have been the murderer . Macnaghten 's memo was eventually discovered in his personal papers by his daughter , Lady Aberconway , who showed them to British broadcaster Dan Farson . A slightly different abridged copy of the memo found in the Metropolitan Police archive was released to the public in 1966 . Farson first revealed Dr. Barnett 's initials " MJD " in a television programme in November 1959 .

In 1961 , Farson investigated a claim by an Australian that Montague 's cousin , Lionel Barnett , had published a pamphlet in Australia entitled " The East End Murderer ? I knew him " , but the claim has never been substantiated . Journalist Tom Cullen revealed Dr. Barnett 's full name in his 1965 book *Autumn of Terror* , which was followed by Farson 's 1972 book *Jack the Ripper* . Before the discovery of Macnaghten 's memo , books on the Ripper case , such as those written by Leonard Matters and Donald McCormick , poured scorn on stories that the Ripper had drowned in the Thames because they could not find a suicide that matched the description of the culprit . Cullen and Farson , however , supposed that Dr. Barnett was the Ripper on the basis of the Macnaghten memorandum , the near coincidence between Dr. Barnett 's death and the end of the murders , the closeness of Whitechapel to Dr. Barnett 's rooms in the Inner Temple , the insanity that was acknowledged by the inquest verdict of " unsound mind " , and the possibility that Dr. Barnett had absorbed the rudimentary anatomical skill supposedly shown by the Ripper through observing his father at work .

Since the publication of Cullen 's and Farson 's books , other Ripper authors have argued that their theories are based solely on flawed circumstantial evidence , and have attempted to provide Dr. Barnett with alibis for the times of the murders . On 1 September , the day after the murder of Nichols , Dr. Barnett was in Dorset playing cricket . On the day of Chapman 's murder , he played cricket in Blackheath , and the day after the murders of Stride and Eddowes , he was in the West Country defending a client in a court case . While writers Andrew Spallek and Tom Cullen argue that Dr. Barnett had the time and opportunity to travel by train between London and his cricket and legal engagements , or use his city chambers as a base from which to commit the murders , others dismiss that as " improbable " . Many experts believe that the killer was local to Whitechapel , whereas Dr. Barnett lived miles away on the other side of the River Thames . His chambers were within walking distance of Whitechapel , and his regular rail journey would almost certainly have brought him to Cannon Street station , a few minutes ' walk from the East End . It seems unlikely , however , that he could have travelled the distance in blood-stained clothes unnoticed , and a clue discovered during the investigation

into the murder of Catherine Eddowes (a piece of her blood @-@ stained clothing) indicates that the murderer travelled north @-@ east from where she was murdered , whereas Druiitt 's chambers , and the railway station , were to the south @-@ west .

Macnaghten incorrectly described Druiitt as a 41 @-@ year @-@ old doctor , and cited allegations that he " was sexually insane " without specifying the source or details of the allegations . Macnaghten did not join the force until 1889 , after the murder of Kelly and the death of Druiitt , and was not involved in the investigation directly . Macnaghten 's memorandum named two other suspects (" Kosminski " and Michael Ostrog) and was written to refute allegations against a fourth , Thomas Cutbush . The three Macnaghten suspects ? Druiitt , Kosminski and Ostrog ? also match the descriptions of three unnamed suspects in Major Arthur Griffiths ' Mysteries of Police and Crime (1898) ; Griffiths was Inspector of Prisons at the time of the Ripper murders .

Inspector Frederick Abberline , who was the leading investigative officer in the case , appeared to dismiss Druiitt as a suspect on the basis that the only evidence against him was the coincidental timing of his suicide shortly after the fifth murder . Other officials involved in the Ripper case , Metropolitan Police Commissioner James Monro and pathologist Thomas Bond , believed that the murder of Alice McKenzie on 17 July 1889 , seven months after Druiitt 's death , was committed by the same culprit as the earlier murders . The inclusion of McKenzie among the Ripper 's victims was contested by Abberline and Macnaghten among others , but if she was one of his victims , then Druiitt clearly could not be the Ripper . Another murder occasionally included among the Ripper cases is that of Martha Tabram , who was viciously stabbed to death on 7 August 1888 . Her death coincided with the middle of Bournemouth Cricket Week , 4 ? 11 August , in which Druiitt was heavily involved , and was during the school holidays which Druiitt spent in Dorset . In the words of one of his biographers , " It scarcely left time for a 200 @-@ mile round dash to fit in a murder . "

= = Legacy = =

Druiitt was a favoured suspect in the Jack the Ripper crimes throughout the 1960s , until the advent of theories in the 1970s that the murders were not the work of a single serial killer but the result of a conspiracy involving the British royal family and Freemasonry . These theories , widely condemned as ridiculous , implicate Prince Albert Victor , Duke of Clarence and Avondale , his tutor James Stephen , and their doctor Sir William Gull to varying degrees . One version of the conspiracy promoted by Stephen Knight in his 1976 book Jack the Ripper : The Final Solution supposed that Druiitt was a scapegoat , chosen by officialdom to take the blame for the murders . Martin Howells and Keith Skinner followed the same line in their 1987 book The Ripper Legacy , which was panned by one critic as being based on " no evidence whatever " .

The theories attempted to link Druiitt with Clarence , Gull and Stephen through a network of mutual acquaintances and possible connections . Reginald Acland , the brother of Gull 's son @-@ in @-@ law , had legal chambers in King 's Bench Walk near Druiitt 's , as did Harry Stephen , who was James Stephen 's brother . Harry Stephen was good friends with Harry Wilson , who had a house in Chiswick , " The Osiers " , near to where Druiitt 's body was found . Wilson and James Stephen were close friends of Clarence , and were both members of an exclusive society called the Cambridge Apostles . As a schoolboy , Druiitt had played cricket against two of Wilson 's friends , Kynaston Studd and Henry Goodhart , who was also one of the Apostles . Another potential connection between Druiitt and Wilson is through John Henry Lonsdale . Lonsdale 's name and Blackheath address are written in a diary belonging to Wilson now in the possession of Trinity College , Cambridge . Lonsdale 's address is a few yards from the school at which Druiitt worked and lived , and Lonsdale had been a barrister and had also rented legal chambers in King 's Bench Walk . In 1887 , Lonsdale entered the church and was assigned as curate to Wimborne Minster , where the Druiitt family worshiped . Lonsdale and Macnaghten were classmates at Eton , and so theorists argue that Lonsdale might have been in a position to provide " private information " to Macnaghten regarding Druiitt . The connections between the Apostles and Druiitt led to the suggestion that he was part of the same social set . Druiitt , his mother , and his sister Georgiana , were invited to a ball in honour of Clarence at the home of Lord Wimborne on 17 December 1888 , although they did not

attend because by that time Montague was dead , his mother was in an asylum , and his sister was expecting her second child . Clarence , Stephen , Wilson , Studd , and Goodhart are suggested to have been homosexual , although this is contested by historians . John Wilding 's 1993 book *Jack the Ripper Revealed* used the connections between Dr. Jekyll and Stephen to propose that they committed the crimes together , but reviewers considered it an " imaginative tale ... most questionable " , an " exercise in ingenuity rather than ... fact " , and " lack [ing] evidential support " .

In his 2005 and 2006 biographies of Dr. Jekyll , D. J. Leighton concluded that Dr. Jekyll was innocent , but repeated some of Knight 's and Wilding 's discredited claims . Leighton suggested that Dr. Jekyll could have been murdered , either out of greed by his elder brother William or , as previously suggested by Howells and Skinner , out of fear of exposure by Harry Wilson 's homosexual cronies . The propensity of theorists to associate Ripper suspects with homosexuality has led scholars to assume that such notions are based on homophobia rather than evidence .

The accusations against Clarence , Stephen , Gull and Dr. Jekyll also draw on cultural perceptions of a decadent ruling class , and depict a high @-@ born murderer or murderers preying on lower @-@ class victims . Because Dr. Jekyll and the other upper @-@ middle @-@ class and aristocratic Ripper suspects were wealthy , there is more biographical material on them than on the residents of the Whitechapel slums . Consequently , it is easier for writers to construct solutions based on a wealthy culprit rather than one involving a Whitechapel resident . There is no direct evidence against Dr. Jekyll , and since the 1970s , the number of Jack the Ripper suspects has continued to grow , with the result that there are now over 100 different theories about the Ripper 's identity .

In fiction , Dr. Jekyll is depicted as the murderer in the musical *Jack the Ripper* by Ron Pember and Denis de Marne . In John Gardner 's Sherlock Holmes story *The Revenge of Moriarty* , Professor Moriarty 's criminal exploits are hampered by increased police activity as a result of the Jack the Ripper murders . He discovers that Dr. Jekyll is the murderer and so fakes his suicide in the hope that the police will lose interest once the murders cease .