

The Latest News

Who Was Jack The Ripper?



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By Alexander Baron



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Although he claimed his last accredited victim in November 1888, the unidentified serial killer known as Jack The Ripper is seldom out of the news for long. He has inspired newspaper articles galore, more than a few books including at least two editions of a dedicated bibliography, [songs](#), a full length musical, fictional films and documentaries...Let us not forget either the term Ripper, thus we have the Yorkshire Ripper, the [Gainsville Ripper](#), the [Chicago Ripper Crew](#)...

Because he was never brought to book, there has been endless speculation about his identity. Last year, it was claimed there was conclusive evidence against one of the original suspects, Aaron Kosminski, evidence of the very best kind, DNA. This evidence is detailed in the book *Naming Jack The Ripper* by Russell Edwards. It goes without saying that not everyone is impressed, but we are unlikely to see a better suspect named. Or are we?



Could Jack the Ripper be a Polish hairdresser Aaron Kosminski?

Believe it or not, there is a new suspect in the frame, and this time the claims are bizarre indeed. A doctor says the Ripper's last victim, Marie Jane Kelly, was murdered by her husband. Kelly was not her real name, rather she was the wife of a reporter named Francis Spurzheim Craig. Their marriage didn't last, and after she walked out on him, changed her name and began working as a prostitute, he hatched a bizarre plan to murder her. This entailed murdering four other prostitutes – including two in one night – in order to hide his motive. Whether or not that claim is true, it certainly beats the motivation of Kosminski, who was said to have been a common or garden lunatic. In order to validate this theory, an application has been made to exhume the body of Marie Kelly.

That is not the only current news about Jack The Ripper; Mark Palmer-Edgecumbe used to work for Google; awhile ago he decided he wanted to open “**the first women's museum in the UK**”. Now it appears the theme of this museum is, well, you can probably tell that from its title, *The Jack The Ripper Museum*. This has been branded a sick joke, especially as it is located in the East End of London, like the Ripper's murders.

Mr Palmer-Edgecumbe has been called a misogynist over this, a claim that is more than a little unfair. He may not like women, but he certainly doesn't want to glorify their murders. Nor do anything else with them, it appears.

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