

MURDER AT CATHAYS



The Friends of Cathays Cemetery



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1 MULHOLLAND 1914

PLOT V 1331

Edgar Lewis George Bindon had been courting his 21 year old neighbour, Maud Mulholland of Theobald Street, when Maud decided to breakoff their relationship. She was now seeing a new suitor by the name of Bernard Campion, and poor Edgar had been jilted.



Not to be outdone by this act, Edgar took a revolver and shot Maud as she walked home alone one evening on Cowbridge Road. His comment at the time was "Its alright I have had my revenge and will die with a good heart".

Not surprisingly Edgar was found guilty with such a statement and was hanged at Cardiff prison in March 1914.

As an interesting side-note, the family gravestone was removed under the Grass-cutting Reorganisation of the late 1970s and a record of the inscription has been kept at the National Archive in Kew. It gives in latin "In Hog Cruce Salus" –which roughly translates to "May your Pig cross in Safety". An odd statement to have on your gravestone. It should, of course, have read "In Hoc Cruce Salus" – "In this cross is Salvation". The 1970s inscriber obviously didn't pay enough attention in his latin lessons.

2 CATHERINE KELLY 1900

PLOT R1592

Catherine Kelly was a widow living with her father and brother, Cornelius Driscoll in Cairns Street. She relied on the parish for support and for her children. The money was often used to spend on drink. On 16th October 1900 she returned home after collecting her monies for the week and had been drinking. Her 15 year old daughter Margaret, had put her to bed. Earlier in the day she had argued with her brother, threatening to hit him with a hammer, and continued the argument again when she had awoken. She threatened to throw him out of the house. Another sister Julia Driscoll saw Cornelius push Catherine and being drunk herself when she went to fetch a policeman she was told to go home.

Margaret Kelly, the daughter, returned later in the day to find Cornelius standing over Catherine who was shouting "Don't kill me". Cornelius then hit Catherine with the poker and kicked her. Catherine died at the Royal Infirmary with a fractured skull and inflammation of the brain, due to dirt getting into the wound.

Cornelius was charged with murder, but he insisted that Catherine had hit him first. Margaret gave evidence that it was only a soft blow with the poker and when he kicked her, he was wearing soft boots. The defence pleaded that it was a tragic accident and that there was provocation and no intent to kill. The Jury found Cornelius guilty of manslaughter and sentenced him to 7 years imprisonment.

3 BLATCHFORD 1900

PLOT S1245

Henry “old Man” Blatchford of 12 Westbury Terrace was a Cardiff milkman, who never returned from his morning milk-round. Thomas “Tommy” Henry Sweetman was the Diary owner’s son, aged just 18. Tommy’s father owned the Diary at 1 Conybeare Road which at the time also comprised a cowshed and manure heap. This would be a surprising combination to be seen in Canton these days.

The day after the old man had been reported missing, a police constable visited the Diary to find Tommy burning a pile of old clothing. The policeman asked Tommy if he had seen Blatchford, to which Tommy replied “no”. When the policeman took a closer look at exactly what items were burning, he noticed Blatchford’s overcoat and waistcoat, and a small freshly dug area in the corner of the yard. He pushed away the top earth to discover a hand, and upon further digging, the face of Henry Blatchford.

A shotgun was later found in the cowshed. Apparently Blatchford had been shot in the right side of the head and then buried in Sweetman’s garden. Tommy claimed to no avail that the murder had in fact been carried out by his neighbour Mr Thompson. However it was discovered that Tommy had been jealous of Blatchford because he was permitted to collect the milk money from customers and Tommy wasn’t.

By the time of the trial Tommy was deemed unfit to plead and was detained.

4 GILMORE 1907

PLOT K433



Patrick MacDonald

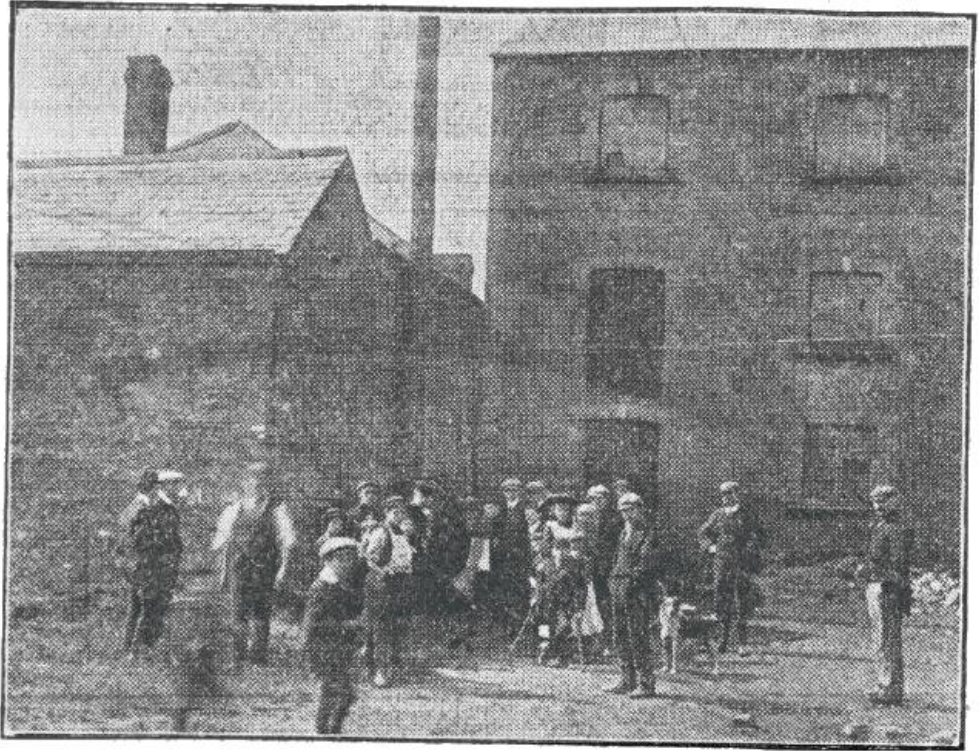
Patrick MacDonald alias James MacDonald had met Frank Albert Mitchell in Bristol for the first time and the two decided to travel by rail to Cardiff. After arriving they sought out lodgings in Butetown but had failed to secure a room. Mitchell decided to look for accommodation in a bed on one of the ships lying at anchor in the Docks, but MacDonald needed further entertainment. So the two friends parted.

Patrick met up with Carrie Gilmore, aged about 30, originally from Llanelly but now residing in Mary Ann

Street. When last seen she was "solid and sober". However she was a fiery character. She had been married to her first husband Fred Dyer who was resolved to reform her. He had failed in his task and now lived in Barry. Carrie had subsequently married Patsy Gilmore, but he too had left her to move back in with his parents in Neath.

A policeman had been routinely performing his round when he found a body on open ground on West Canal Wharf close to the South Wales Motor Garage premises. The body had disarranged clothing and was covered in blood. She had been killed by a combination of having her throat cut, slashed from ear to ear, and being stabbed with a sailor's knife.

There were reports of a man in a Barry pub proclaiming "This is the knife, I done it with". Apparently Patrick walked from Barry, through the fields, to Cowbridge police station and handed himself in.



Scene of the Tragedy – X marks where the body was lying

Patrick was a 25 year old fireman from the steamship “Larne”, from Cumberland, Yorkshire. His parents from Radcliffe in Manchester. He had enlisted in the army and fought in the South African War with the Yorkshire regiment, but had deserted only to later join the Navy. Subsequently again deserting he was caught and given a 4 year sentence for wounding his father. Here it was necessary to restrain him in a straight-jacket and imprison him in a padded cell in Parkhurst prison.

On the night in question, it was determined at Court that MacDonald had been drinking with Carrie in Butetown when the two started arguing. A knife was brandished and the murder had taken place.

MacDonald who showed no emotion and looked disinterested during the trial was declared insane and detained to an Asylum.



Carrie Gilmore

5 JONES-MOREWOOD 1894

PLOT S93

Margaret Ann Jones-Morewood was a popular 28 year old welsh soprano who had attended the Roayal Academy and had experience with the Turner Opera Company. She already had 2 sons with one more on the way. Mrs Jones-Morewood was described as a cheery little woman. Her husband was John Jones, a manager with Walker & Hall, a wholesale Silversmith located in St Mary Street Cardiff.

According to the maid, Anne Williams, Mrs Jones-Morwood had been drunk for about a fortnight as she liked her "sixpennyworth of whisky now and again". John Jones had been known to knock his wife about a bit, and his wife had recently attained a black eye. She had left on 3 previous occasions and was presently suing for divorce. Mrs Jones had also been complaining about stomach pains just before her death. The question of whether poison had been involved was raised at Court.

Mrs Jones-Morewood died whilst her husband was away in London on business and the case was presented to Court. The autopsy confirmed the black eye, but she had seemed to die of natural causes. The unborn baby too had been lost. Her liver was enlarged probably due to alcohol abuse.

The Judge had no alternative to dismiss the case and let Mr Jones off. However he felt that Mr Jones was not entirely innocent in the manner of death and Mrs Jones-Morwood had suffered under the marriage.

Mr Jones and the 2 children left for a new life in the United States, where his present day relatives contacted us with details of this story.

6 THE PANTALOON WARS 1919 (CARDIFF RACE RIOTS)

After the First World War guns and knives were routinely carried in public. Men returned from War and proclaimed their dissatisfaction by saying “ We went to France and came back to find these Foreigners have got our jobs and houses.” During this period of shortage of jobs and housing, 4 men died, 3 of which we know about are buried in Cathays Cemetery.

The riots were not contained to Cardiff, both Liverpool and Newport also suffered. The riots flared up in Newport, on 6 June, where a “Black man” apparently insulted a “White woman” and the result was a Chinese laundry was “trashed”.

6a HAROLD SMART PLOT L 3355

Cardiff saw a discharged soldier, Fred Longman, from Cadoxton, stabbed and killed by a West Indian, Charles Emmanuel. This was followed by a Harold Smart reporting to a policeman that his throat had been slashed by a razor. Harold was taken to the Royal Infirmary but later died. Houses were ransacked as a result in Bute Street and Adamsdown.

So what did the Establishment do to play down the situation? The chief constable, David Williams, stated “Black men should be prevented from wearing white flannel trousers when playing cricket. They were more revealing than coudroys and make Black men more attractive to white girls. Young Cardiff girls should not be allowed to admire such beasts”. Ever since then men have been constantly looking for the shop where these trousers have been on sale!

Not surprisingly, as a result, women married to Africans were stripped and had their teeth knocked out. Nor was it limited to white “Englishmen”, French men savaged Algerians and for good measure some Australians, not wishing to miss out, set upon some Malays.

6b JOHN DONOVAN

PLOT R 4051

John Donovan, from Mary Ann Street, a popular local rugby player, was shot during the troubles and was buried patriotically wearing his 4 medals.

6c MOHAMMED ASOULAI

PLOT EE 8301

A coloured man, Mohammed Abdullah (Plot EE 8301 in the Upper Cemetery) was also killed. 6 white men were arrested for the murder but were later released uncharged.

7 HARRIET STACEY 1904

PLOT H550

The daughter of a gas manager from Brecon, Harriet Stacey from Hereford, and born at Market Drayton, was found strangled and tied to a bed by the neck with a washing line in 41 Saltmead Road, Grangetown. She had died on 7th February.

Harriet was the 50 year old wife of John Stacey, Midland Railway engine driver and had been separated for over 4 years. William Henry Warren had been seeing Harriet on a semi-regular basis meanwhile. He owned a latchkey to the building and found Harriet dead, knowing her as Mrs England. Harriet was in the habit of visiting London regularly and her body lay undiscovered for some days, at least a week. A Mr England was also known to visit her when he was home from sea but had now disappeared. Another witness said a lot of men visited the house. Death was due to strangulation by another person who looked as if they had been lying next to her.

She was buried on February 18th 1904. Detectives never found the culprit.

8 ANNE BEDDOES 1884

PLOT Q71

On 27 October 1884 Daniel Beddoes, a shoemaker of Helen Street, Cardiff was sitting read next to the fire with his wife, Anne and two "unfortunates", female lodgers, Alice Edmunds and Sarah Beddoes. Both Anne and Daniel were drunk. Daniel suffered from a severe speech impediment. Daniel complained he could not read further, so Anne snatched his glasses off his nose and threw them under the grate. Pretending to retrieve them Daniel stooped and picked up a poker, throwing it at his wife. He threw it with such force that it penetrated a major blood vessel at the left side of her throat. He had thrown the poker more to frighten her than to strike her. She bleed till her clothes were saturated. Daniel tried to stop the bleeding and bound the wound with a handkerchief. Anne unfortunately bled to death. The Coroner Mr E B Reece stated that Daniel's actions had caused Anne's death and the verdict had to be murder or manslaughter, depending on the intent to kill. Both lodgers said that Daniel had thrown the poker with aiming it in a moment of passion, and that the poker had accidentally slipped from his hand.

On the recommendation for mercy from the jury, Daniel was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment.

