

This a transcript of the handwritten record of the inquest into the death of William Metcalf . It was opened on the day after his murder and then adjourned until the following Saturday when it was completed. The inquest was carried out by Thomas Taylor, Coroner for the Honour of Pontefract and for the County of York.

At the house of Alfred Peel, the New Masons Arms Inn, Oulton with Woodlesford, on Wednesday the 5th day of March 1879 on view of the body of William Metcalf, deceased.

**Sarah Metcalf of Oulton** in the said township, spinster, sw says. I am living with my mother Elizabeth who is 90 years old and with my sister and brother. The deceased was 85 years old and formally a canal and river boat man and since Sexton at Oulton church and for the last 15 years gatekeeper at the Lodge in Oulton Park. He was a widower and afflicted with rheumatism. He lived alone but I have been in the habit of attending to him. I left him about 20 minutes past six o'clock yesterday evening in the Lodge. He was then sitting in his chair and alone. I did not expect to go to him again until about 9 o'clock but about a quarter past 7 o'clock I was fetched and on going back to the Lodge, a distance of about 200 yards, I saw him lying on the floor with the left side of his head injured and bleeding. He lived a minute or two and then died very quietly without having spoken. I saw that the key of the chest of drawers was on the top as usual. I took the key and on opening the drawer I found that deceased's purse which I had made for him, and which last Saturday contained a half sovereign and eight shillings, was missing. I also observed that his silver watch on which his name was engraved was missing from the stand on the chimney piece. The poker also was not in the house. It was on the side of the fireplace when I left the deceased. He then told me that a man had been to him about mending the watch and had shown to him a watch belonging to Mrs. Wright.  
Signed Sarah Metcalf.

**Adjourned** until next Saturday morning at 10 o'clock at this house. Jurors bound in £2 pounds each.

Inquest resumes Saturday 8 March at New Masons.

**John Whiteley of Southgate, the West Riding, surgeon.**

I do not remember having seen the deceased alive. Last Thursday afternoon I was shown his body by Sarah Metcalf and others. It was in the Lodge at Oulton Park. I found no mark of violence on the trunk or extremities, but on the left side of the head extending from the orbital range across the frontal and part of the parietal bone I found a severe lacerated wound extending down to the bone and about three quarters of an inch on the outer side of this wound, which was formed a half inches in length, there was a smaller wound about an inch and a quarter in length and also extending down to the bone. The bones were fractured and depressed. On the back of the head I found a bruise about the size of a five shilling piece on the occipital bone. I removed the scalp and found the skull shattered in the neighbourhood of the wounds and a fracture extending from the shattered portion across the top of the head as far as the front portion of the occipital bone. There was some diffusion of blood among the cellular tissue in the neighbourhood of the bruise. I removed three pieces of bone and found that they had penetrated the brain. I removed the skull cap and found loose pieces of bone had penetrated some distance into the substance of the brain. The blood vessels in that neighbourhood were cut across by the broken bones. In fact the skull was completely shattered on that side in the neighbourhood of the wounds. I found about an ounce of coagulated blood underneath the shattered bone and extending for about 2 inches around it. The rest of the brain was healthy. There were some old standing adhesions of the left pleura. The lungs were healthy. The heart was empty but healthy. The large vessels of the heart were in a similar state. The stomach contained about half a pint of partly digested food resembling potato and bread. The rest of the organs were exceptionally healthy. In my opinion the cause of death was haemorrhage from the laceration of the brain and its vessels accelerated by compression of the brain by the depressed bones and effused blood. The injuries were such as might be inflicted by blows from some blunt instrument. There were the marks of

three distinct blows in the larger wound and of one blow in the smaller wound. The bruise on the back of the head was such as would be likely to be caused by the deceased falling backward. The blows must have been given by a person in front of the deceased. The poker now produced by police constable Houlton is our weapon very likely to have produced the injuries which I have described. There is blood and human grey hair on the poker. Deceased must have lost a large quantity of blood. I am of opinion that he would be unconscious on having received the blows but that he might have lived a quarter of an hour. The blood would probably begin to flow in about quarter of a minute after the first blow was struck. I did not see any marks of blood in the house.

Signed John Whiteley.

**The said Sarah Metcalf** further says:

The poker, now produced by P. C. Houlton, was deceased's and was reared against the fire place in the first room of the Lodge when I left deceased at 20 minutes past 6 o'clock last Tuesday evening. It was then perfectly straight. I have not seen it since until now. The small sampler now produced and having the initials W.M. and M.M. on it was inside deceased's watch which I saw in the stand on Tuesday last but I have not looked inside it within the last 2 years. The initials stand for deceased's name and for Martha Metcalf, his sister. I know that there was a piece of brown paper also in the watch. I did not see the sampler or piece of paper any more until Mr Coope showed them to me. I was present when Mr. Whitely came to make the post mortem examination. Last Tuesday evening I saw some splashes of blood on the bottom drawer. They are small stains. There was also a pool of blood on the floor near the drawers. The deceased's cap was among the blood and not on his head. He generally wore a cap. His watch had a loose case. The sampler was in it and could be seen every time the watch was wound up or the case taken off.

Signed Sarah Metcalf.

**John Houlton of Wakefield, West Riding Police Constable.**

I arrived at Oulton before 1 o' clock last Wednesday morning. I helped to search and about a quarter past 6 o' clock that morning I found the poker now produced on the Leeds and Pontefract Road opposite Oulton Church and about 3 yards from the centre of the road. The night was fine and dry. There was blood and grey hair on the poker. The blood was dry.

Signed John Houlton

**Jeremiah Coope of Oulton, postmaster.**

Last Thursday morning between 10 and 11 o' clock I was walking to Clumpcliffe House on the Leeds and Pontefract Road and going in the direction of Methley. I saw William Stones ploughing in a field on the road side and in consequence of what he told me I went to Mr. Mason's field in about half an hour.

I looked about after going through the gateway and about 3 yards from the gate I found the sampler now produced. It was perfectly dry and did not appear to have been exposed long. I took it to Miss Metcalf who at once recognised it as belonging to the deceased. I then returned to the pasture with Mr.

Calverley, Joseph Moore and others, including police constables Houlton and Ross. Joseph Moore then picked up the circular piece of paper now produced. It was close to the spot where I found the sampler.

Signed Jeremiah Coope.

**Sarah, the wife of Joseph Jeffrey of Oulton, bricklayer's labourer.**

Last Tuesday evening, about a quarter to 7 o'clock, I was returning home from the Rev. Mr Hamilton's and on getting near the Lodge I heard deceased cry out twice: "Oh don't murder me" I immediately hurried across the road and opened the Lodge gate. When I got partly through the gate the door of the Lodge, which was about half way open, was suddenly closed and I heard a scuffle, a stranger's voice, and the sound of a fall. I ran directly to Alfred Morley's house. Morley and John Walker

went to the Lodge and I accompanied them. All was quiet then. I remained at the gate and they went round the end of the house as the shutters inside the window on the side next to me were closed. John Walker told me there was a man with a pistol in the house. I then ran to John Greaves who ran toward the Lodge while I continued to make an alarm. When I got back to the Lodge the house was full of people and deceased was dead. The stranger's voice seemed to be gruff and unknown to me. I did not see any stranger.

The mark of Sarah Jeffrey.

### **William Butler of Oulton, coalminer.**

Last Tuesday evening about 5 minutes to 7 o'clock I was going towards the Lodge and heard a woman scream. Joseph Poole was near the Lodge gate and calling out: "Come on." I ran to the Lodge and found Alfred Morley holding the front door. John Walker and I went round to the back door which has glass in it. John looked in and said: "Stand back. There's a man with a pistol." He stepped back and I looked through the door. I then saw a man wearing a billycock hat nearly flat at the top and with a weapon in his right hand. His left hand was near the door. He had on a collar and a tie with a long knot in it. I think he had a moustache but no whiskers. He seemed to be making his way out and to be presenting the weapon in the manner of a pistol. I immediately ran round and told Morley who directed me to go to the bridge in the park and I went to watch there but saw nobody except Joseph Jowitt who looked in through the window and said: "Why William, there's old Billy laid across the floor." There was only the twinkle of the fire in that room. There was not any light in the passage where I saw the man inside the door. I and Jowitt then went to the back door and found it partway open. I did not go into the house until a crowd had arrived. Last Wednesday morning I saw a man at the Court House at Wakefield. He was in the dock and by himself. He was very like the man whom I saw standing at deceased's door but I can't swear to him. He was without a hat at Wakefield. I only had a glance at the man on Tuesday evening. I am 20 years old. There

was light from the moon last Tuesday evening. The weapon appeared to be about a foot long. Police constable Houlton drew my attention to the man in the dock.

Signed William Butler.

Adjourned for three quarters of an hour, 12.45 to 1.30.

**John Walker of Oulton, tailor.**

I was at home last Tuesday evening and about a quarter to 7 o'clock Alfred Morley's wife told me there was a dreadful noise at the Lodge and her husband had gone. I put on my hat and went to the Lodge. I saw Mrs. Jeffrey at the park gates and Alfred Morley was coming round the corner toward the front door. In consequence of what he said I went round to the south and looked through the window of the first room. I then saw a man trying to open the top drawer of a chest of drawers on the side directly opposite to the window. There was not a particularly good light from the fire and not any other light in the room. There was not any sound inside the house. I did not see deceased. I gave a glance only and seeing the man I went to the front or west side and then round by the north side to the back or east door. I was about to take hold of the handle of the door when I caught sight of what I thought was a pistol in the hand of a man standing in the passage and as if ready either to shoot or to strike. A man had followed me to the door but I did not notice him particularly. I went back to the gate and saw Alfred Morley standing there. I remained by the gates while Morley set off for a policeman and Butler went up the coach road in the park. I had not any opportunity of seeing what the man was like but I noticed that he had on a dark coloured and medium sized top coat. By stopping on the west side of the Lodge and sending Butler to the bridge on the south side of the Lodge and knowing that the beck was on the east side and the wall next the road on the north side I expected that anybody leaving the Lodge must be seen. Several persons subsequently went up the side of the wall and I followed and found two planks across and over the beck close to the wall. I usually work in spectacles. The weapon

appeared to be about a half a yard long. The upper part of the back door was glazed. I noticed the man's coat in the first room.  
Signed John Walker.

**Alfred Morley of Oulton, gardener.**

I was well acquainted with the deceased but I did not see him alive last Tuesday. About ten minutes to 7 o'clock in the evening of that day Mrs. Jeffrey came to my house and I ran to the Lodge and looked through one of the windows on the south side. I then saw a man kneeling apparently on the floor with his back to the window. He had on a brown overcoat and a felt hat with a flat top. I ran to the park gate and told Mrs. Jeffrey and John Walker what I had seen. Mr. Walker returned with me to the window and I saw the same man opening the top drawer of a chest. I ran to the front door and held the handle and told Walker and Butler to go to the back door. While I had hold of the door somebody from inside tried to open it after unlocking it and Walker and Butler returned to me and said that a man had pointed a revolver at them. I told Butler to go and watch the man and I set off for a policeman. I did not see any portion of the man's face. He seemed to be rather tall about 5 ft 8 inches or 5 feet 10 inches and not stout. The only light I saw was from the fire.

Signed Alfred Morley.

I went to the Court House Yard, Wakefield, yesterday after 12 o'clock I think, and saw several men standing in a row and I immediately recognised a man as the one whom I had seen in the deceased's house. I only recognised him by his dress. I pointed him out to Mr Superintendent Hall. When I first saw the man yesterday he had on a silk hat. I had heard, I can't say where, that the police had another hat and I told Mr. Hall to put it on the man. A billycock hat which was exactly like that which the man in the house had on was placed on the man's head by Mr. Hall I think. I went down through the Court House and the man was brought before the Justices afterwards.

Signed Alfred Morley.

**Richard Walker of Oulton, gardener.**

I have known deceased for many years. About 5 minutes to 7 o'clock last Tuesday evening I was at home when Alfred Morley came and I went to the Lodge and saw a woman at the gates and John Walker coming from the east side of the Lodge and along the north side. I immediately went to the front door and found it was locked and had the key inside. John Greaves then came to me. He had a gun and I took it while he went to the door. I went to the south window and saw deceased's body lying on the floor and I went forward to the back door and found 5 or 6 men. The back door was partly open. I went into the house but there was nobody in except deceased whom I saw was laid on the floor with his head towards the drawers and his feet toward the west window. He was in his usual dress. His cap was near the head and had nearly a pint of blood in it. William Morton then pulled out his watch and said the time was 5 minutes past 7.

Signed Richard Walker.

**Tom Bradley of Oulton.**

I am nearly 11 years old and I help my mother at home. I have often got coals in for the deceased. Last Tuesday evening about a quarter to 7 o'clock I was taking a wheelbarrow full of coal from Moore's to our house near the Three Pears beer house and saw a man go into the park gates and then I heard a knock. The man had something like a stick, and wore a grey coat and square soft hat. I did not take much notice. I saw from the moonlight that he had whiskers and they appeared to be grey. I saw some men yesterday at the Court House and I picked out the man whom I had seen go into the Lodge last Tuesday. The man was subsequently brought into Court. He was walking quickly when I saw him on Tuesday. He had some hair down his cheeks and on his chin. He was rather tall and stiff made. I did not notice him particularly.

The mark of Tom Bradley.

**Ada Jowitt of Oulton.**

I am 12 years old and go to school. Last Tuesday evening about a quarter past 5 o'clock I saw a man in the Lodge examining a watch. Carrie Ingham and I were coming from Oulton Hall. The man was at the window. He had on a brown coat and wore a moustache on his upper lip. I had seen him once previously last week. He came into our yard about 20 minutes to 6 o'clock last Tuesday evening. I saw the same man among others at the Court House at Wakefield yesterday.

Signed Ada Jowitt.

**Carrie Ingham of Oulton.**

I am 13 years old and go to school. Last Tuesday afternoon I came from Oulton Hall with Ada Jowitt and about a quarter past 5 o'clock we were passing the Lodge I saw a man whom I had seen a few weeks ago. The man was in the Lodge and was examining a watch at the window. I knocked at the door and the man opened the door and I put down a can of milk and left it just inside the door. The man did not speak to me. I did not see him anymore until yesterday when he was at the Court House at Wakefield.

Singed Carrie Ingham

**Samuel Cook Wright of Oulton.**

I am 9 years old and a schoolboy. Last Tuesday night I was going with James Sharp for some milk nearly a quarter to 7 o'clock and saw a man standing on the causeway opposite to the Lodge gates. I had seen the man about 3 weeks previously when he cleaned our clock. He had an umbrella in his hand last Tuesday. I met Tom Bradley wheeling some coal. I heard the clock strike 7 after that.

Signed Cook Wright.

**Ada Stainthorp of the John of Gaunt Inn in the parish of Rothwell, domestic servant.**

Last Tuesday afternoon between 4 and half past 4 o' clock a man called and had 2 pints of beer. He had an umbrella. He had frequently been at the house. He was a clock and watch maker. I have not seen him since he left our house and turned in the direction of Oulton.

The mark of Ada Stainthorp.

**Emma Wright of Oulton, widow.**

A man called at my house 3 weeks ago yesterday and cleaned a clock for me. He talked about the deceased and asked me what he was. He told me he had been rather cross about his watch and probably he thought he could not pay for it. He also asked me whether he lived alone and I told him "Yes." I answered "If you had cleaned his watch he would have paid you for it." The same man came to our house about 5 o' clock last Tuesday and I gave him a watch to repair and he took it away. He had on a brown top coat and dark striped trousers. He also wore a billycock hat but I did not notice it particularly. He had a light moustache, no whiskers and dark hair so far as I could see. He did not mention deceased last Tuesday. He went in the direction of the Lodge and the village.

Signed Emma Wright.

**William Stones of Clumpcliffe House in Methley. farm servant.**

About 7 o' clock last Tuesday evening I left Clumpcliffe for Rothwell and on reaching the gate of Mr. Mason's field I saw a man close to the gate. He seemed to be fastening the gate and turned to me on the causeway and walked past me and said "Goodnight." He appeared to be flustered and spoke timidly. The moon was shining. I do not remember to have seen the man before. He had on a flat soft hat and a dark coloured top coat. I saw seven or eight men in the Court House yard yesterday and immediately picked out the man whom I had seen on Tuesday evening. He was dressed better than the other men but was very

similar in appearance to them. Last Thursday morning I mentioned to Mr. Coope that I had seen the man at the gate.  
Signed William Stones.

**Sam Lumb of Leeds, Sergeant of the West Riding Constabulary.**

About a quarter past 10 o'clock in Tuesday the 4th inst. from information received I went to No. 30 Mulberry Street, Hunslet and apprehended John D'Arcy and charged him with murdering William Metcalf at Oulton Lodge about 7 o'clock the same night. I then cautioned him to be careful in what he said as what he said might be given in evidence against him. He then said: "O Lord and I am charged with a serious deed like that. I have been at Bramley all day today. I got to Leeds about a quarter past 8 and attended a meeting in South Parade." On searching him I found in his possession 7/3 in silver and 1/2 and half in copper, 2 watches and 3 watch guards. I took him to the Town Hall at Leeds and locked him up. On examining his boots I found they were quite wet at the tops. They were taken off at the Town Hall. The day and evening had been quite dry. P.C. Ross was with me up to 25 minutes to 11 o'clock. I found a felt hat in D'Arcy's room and a box containing clock cleaning tools and also an umbrella. I had been waiting for D'Arcy coming to his lodgings.

Signed Sam Lumb

**William Hall of Wakefield, Superintendent of W. R. Constabulary.**

Last Tuesday night I came to Oulton and then proceeded to Leeds. I took the boots from Detective Lumb and returned to Oulton and when the day began to break within the inside of the park wall I saw some impressions of boots on the soil close to the wall side and pointing in the direction of the beck. There was a footpath also. The impressions seemed to extend about 2 thirds of the length of the Lodge. And then there were marks close together as if the person had hesitated there. I compared the boots with the impressions and found them to correspond exactly with the marks made by the boots which Detective

Lumb handed to me. The impressions extended beyond the  
beck. I produce a brown coat on the bottom of the right lap of  
which are two marks of blood in the lining. I received the coat  
this morning for the Governor of the prison at Wakefield. I saw  
the coat at the prison yesterday. I caused 8 or 10 men to be  
placed in a row in the small court yard yesterday morning and  
John D'Arcy took up a position among them. All the witnesses  
pointed him out as the man whom they had seen on Tuesday.  
Signed William Hall

**William Houlton of Rothwell, W.R. P. C.**

Last Wednesday morning I was with Superintendent Hall when  
the boot marks were compared and found to correspond with the  
boots. Last Thursday morning I went with Mr. Coope to Mr.  
Mason's field and saw the circular piece of brown paper picked  
up. Yesterday I was at the Court House at Wakefield and saw 7  
men in a row and the witnesses who were separately present  
instantly identified John D'Arcy as the man they had seen.  
Signed William Houlton

**John Ross of Oulton, W.R. P.C.**

I saw John D'Arcy in Woodlesford Lane, Oulton, about 10  
minutes to 6 o'clock last Tuesday evening. He had an umbrella  
in one hand and a case or small portmanteau in the other hand.  
He appeared to be going from Woodlesford toward Oulton. I had  
seen him, about 5 times previously in the last 6 or 8 weeks. I  
went to Oulton Lodge about 10 minutes to 7 o'clock last  
Tuesday evening and saw the deceased lying in a dying state on  
the floor. I went to Hunslet by the 8 o'clock train from  
Woodlesford and called on Detective Lumb. I was present when  
he apprehended D'Arcy.  
Signed John Ross.

**William Chadwick of the Old Masons Arms Inn at Oulton,  
innkeeper.**

I have seen John D'Arcy by his calling at my house on Monday the 24th ult and also on Tuesday last. He came about 6 o' clock last Tuesday evening and had 2 pen'orth of whisky. He did stay 2 minutes.

Signed William Chadwick

Verdict. Murdered by John D'Arcy.

Paid

Committed John D'Arcy to the House of Correction.