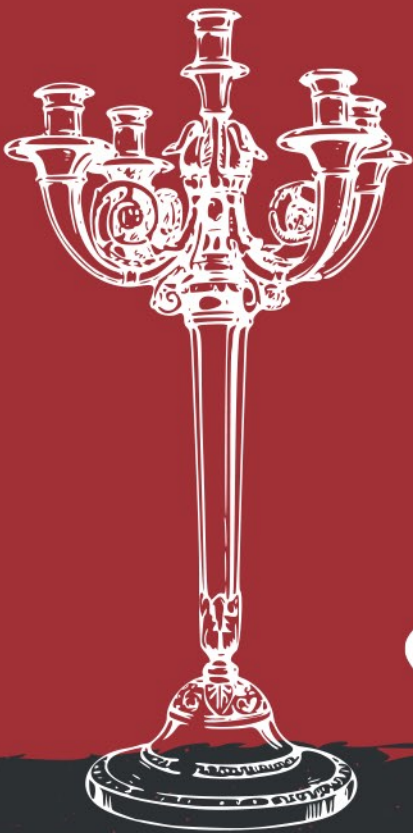




WHODUNNIT?

ACTIVITY PACK



Can you help us
uncover the
gruesome truth?



Based on a real-life crime!



HISTORY | HEALTH | HAPPINESS

 HERITAGE
DONCASTER



Doncaster
Council



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Welcome

This WhoDunnit pack is filled with documents and puzzles designed to help you uncover the story behind a real-life crime. Read through the documents and complete the puzzles to discover clues to 'whodunnit'. It is advised that you work your way through the booklet from beginning to end, but you may not have to complete every puzzle to discover the true criminal.

Use the record sheets to keep track of your progress. When you think you know whodunnit, go to page 20 and decipher the message you find there. Try not to peak at the answers until the very end! Good luck detective.

Content warning: This activity pack is based on a real, Doncaster-based, murder. It is designed for adults and children aged 11+.

Contents

3. RECORD SHEETS
5. NEWSPAPER ARTICLE
6. SUSPECT LIST
8. CORONER'S REPORT
9. IDENTIFY THE MURDER WEAPON
11. MAP
13. FOLLOW THE FOOTPRINTS
14. OBJECTS FOUND ON THE BODY
15. SEARCH FOR THE MURDER WEAPON
16. WITNESS TESTIMONIES
17. DOT-TO-DOT MYSTERY OBJECT
18. DISCOVER THE MURDER MOTIVE
19. PIECE TOGETHER THE PUZZLE
20. REVEAL AND TRUE STORY

Record Sheets

You have been transported back through time to the year 1828. A most dreadful murder has taken place and we need your help to uncover the truth.

At a time when forensic science is still in its infancy, you'll have to rely on your wit and your problem solving skills to solve the murder. As you find out key information and clues to whodunnit, use these sheets to keep track of your progress.

**Victim's
name:**

**Victim's
age:**

**Date & time
of death:**

**Scene of
Crime:**

**Cause
of death:**

**Found on
victim's
person:**

**Murder
weapon(s):**

**Description of
Murderer(s):**

**Description of
Murderer(s)
footprints:**

**Murder
Motive:**

Whodunnit:

The Doncaster Gazette

- Friday 22nd February 1828

HORRIBLE MURDER NEAR DONCASTER

It is this week our painful duty to record one of the most cold-blooded murders that ever darkened the annals of crime, a deed which spread a wider gloom and a deeper horror, than any event which has occurred in this neighbourhood within the remembrance of the oldest inhabitant.

The mysterious disappearance of Wood, of the Intax Farm.—the death of Lee, of Awkley,— and that of Smith, the gamekeeper at Owston, who was shot in the performance of his duty.— all near this place, which have occurred within the space of few years, were calculated to awaken feelings of intense suspicion and of horror. However, these acts are eclipsed by the murder of Mr. John Dyon, who, on entering into his grounds while returning from Doncaster market, on Saturday evening last, was shot dead by some villain or villains at present unknown. Mr. Dyon was a highly-respectable and skilful farmer, about forty years of age, residing at Brancroft, near Doncaster. He leaves behind an elderly father, a widow, and three daughters.

Intelligence of the murder was received in Doncaster on Sunday morning. E. B. Denison, accompanied by Etches the Riding constable, and Mr. J. Lockwood by Mr. Tymms the police-officer, immediately set off to Brancroft to lend assistance and to institute immediate investigation.

It appeared that Mr. Wagstaff, of Middlewood House, and Mr. Broughton, of Bawtry, solicitor, accompanied the deceased from Doncaster Market as far as the road leading to Brancroft, when Mr. Dyon and Mr. Wagstaff turned off the Great North Road, and Mr Broughton proceeded to Bawtry. This was about eight o'clock on Saturday night. The deceased and Mr. Wagstaff rode on till within a short distance of Mr. Dyon's own gate, where they parted company, bidding each other good night. On Mr. Dyon stopping, and while in the act of opening his own gate, he was shot; and from the position in which was found, his death must have been instantaneous. This occurred between 8.30pm and 9.00pm.

Several men have been apprehended, but they have all provided alibis and have been liberated. A handsome reward of one hundred guineas is being offered for information any persons may have that would lead to the detection and capture of the assassin or assassins.

Suspect List

Fig. 1



William Wagstaff

Farmer and close friend of the deceased.
Lives at Middle Woodhouse, west of the river.

Alibi: "I left John Dyon in good health at 8.30pm and set off home. My family welcomed me at around 9.00pm."

Age: 32
Complexion: Fresh

Height: 5'8
Marks: None

Fig. 2



Betty Dyon

Wife of the deceased. Lives at Brancroft, west of the river.

Alibi: "Between 8.30pm and 9.00pm I was at home, with my three children, preparing for supper. At 11.00pm I retired to my room where I remained until the early hours of the morning."

Age: 39
Complexion: Fair

Height: 5'6
Marks: None

Fig. 3



James White

Labourer for the deceased. Resides at Partridge Hill Farm, near Austerfield Lane.

Alibi: "I was at home all day with William and Ann Stacey, who reside with me. I went to bed with with my wife, Hannah White, at 9pm."

Age: 53
Complexion: Sallow

Height: 5'4
Marks: Toes turned outwards.

Fig. 4



Jon Dyon

Farmer, and nephew of the deceased. Lives at Pilham Carr, near Gainsbro' (east of the river).

Alibi: "I went to my Father's home, Morton Carr (13 miles from Brancroft), at 8.00pm and went to bed at 9.00pm. I woke up at 8.00am the next morning."

Age: 23

Complexion: Pale

Height: 5'8

Marks: Small scar on left cheek

Fig. 5



George Tomlinson

Labourer for William Wagstaff. Living nearby the Brancroft estate.

Alibi: "Between 6.00pm - 10.00pm, I was at home with my wife and half-a-year old child."

Age: 25

Complexion: Fresh

Height: 5'8

Marks: Scar on forehead.

Fig. 6



William Dyon

Farmer, and brother of the deceased. Lives at Morton Carr (east side of river).

Alibi: "My son and I had been thrashing until 1.00pm and warping until 4.00pm. I arrived home at 5.00pm. I remained there all night."

Age: 45

Complexion: Sallow

Height: 5'11

Marks: Unusual gait - toes turned outwards.

Coroner's Report

When John Dyon didn't arrive home for supper that evening, Betty Dyon asked James Hudson, labourer for the deceased, to wait up for his master. At 2.00am, when John still hadn't arrived, Betty sent James and another servant by the name of Robert Farmery to go searching.

On the first search they discovered their master's mare at the gate of Brancroft, the bridle and reins tied to the gate head. They loosed the mare and took her home. On a second search, they found the deceased lying on his back, quite cold, "he was all over frost and stiff", they said. When they finally brought the body back to the house it was about 3.00am. Betty immediately sent for William Wright, the surgeon, who arrived a little before 5 in the morning of the 17th February.

William discovered the following:

William Wright of Bawtry, Surgeon upon his Corporal Oath, said that he this day opened the body of the deceased a little before five on the morning of the 17th February. It appeared that a bullet had penetrated his left side near the second rib; it had passed through the lungs, and between the third and fourth rib on the right side. A bullet was extracted from within the skin, on the edge of the right shoulder blade. He must have been dead five or six hours.

W. Wright, Surgeon

Sworn and Taken before me on Sunday the 17th day
of February 1828

E. Denison, Coroner for Doncaster



Fig. 7

Identify the Murder Weapon

Examine the evidence carefully to identify the correct murder weapon...



Fig. 8

A great-coat, belonging to the deceased. There is a hole on the left-hand side by the waist. It appears that shot has penetrated the great-coat around the hole.

A sample of 'shot' that penetrates the great-coat.



Fig. 9

2



Fig. 10

The lead ball which fatally kills the victim.



3

The mare was found alive with shot lodged in the side of the neck.

Fig. 11

Could the murder weapon be a...



Fig. 12

Duelling Pistol?



Fig. 13

Long Shotgun?



Fig. 14

Musket?



Fig. 15

Baker Rifle?

If you're not a weapons expert, use the coder below to uncover the murder weapon!

	A	B	C	D	E
1	long	appears	duck	fired	rifle
2	that	murderer	ball	two	gullet
3	pistol	from	the	at	hired
4	it	investigation	foot	a	great-coat
5	feet	and	bullet	horse	sixteen
6	seventeen	gate	was	hole	gun
7	shot	musket	fled	mare	neck

Clue:

A4, B1, A2, C3, C2, B5, A7, C6, D1, B3, D4, A7-E6, D3, E5, A5.

Why not take a moment to read this map from 1820? The homes of the victim and murderer(s) can be found on this very map!

Top Tip: Use a magnifying glass!

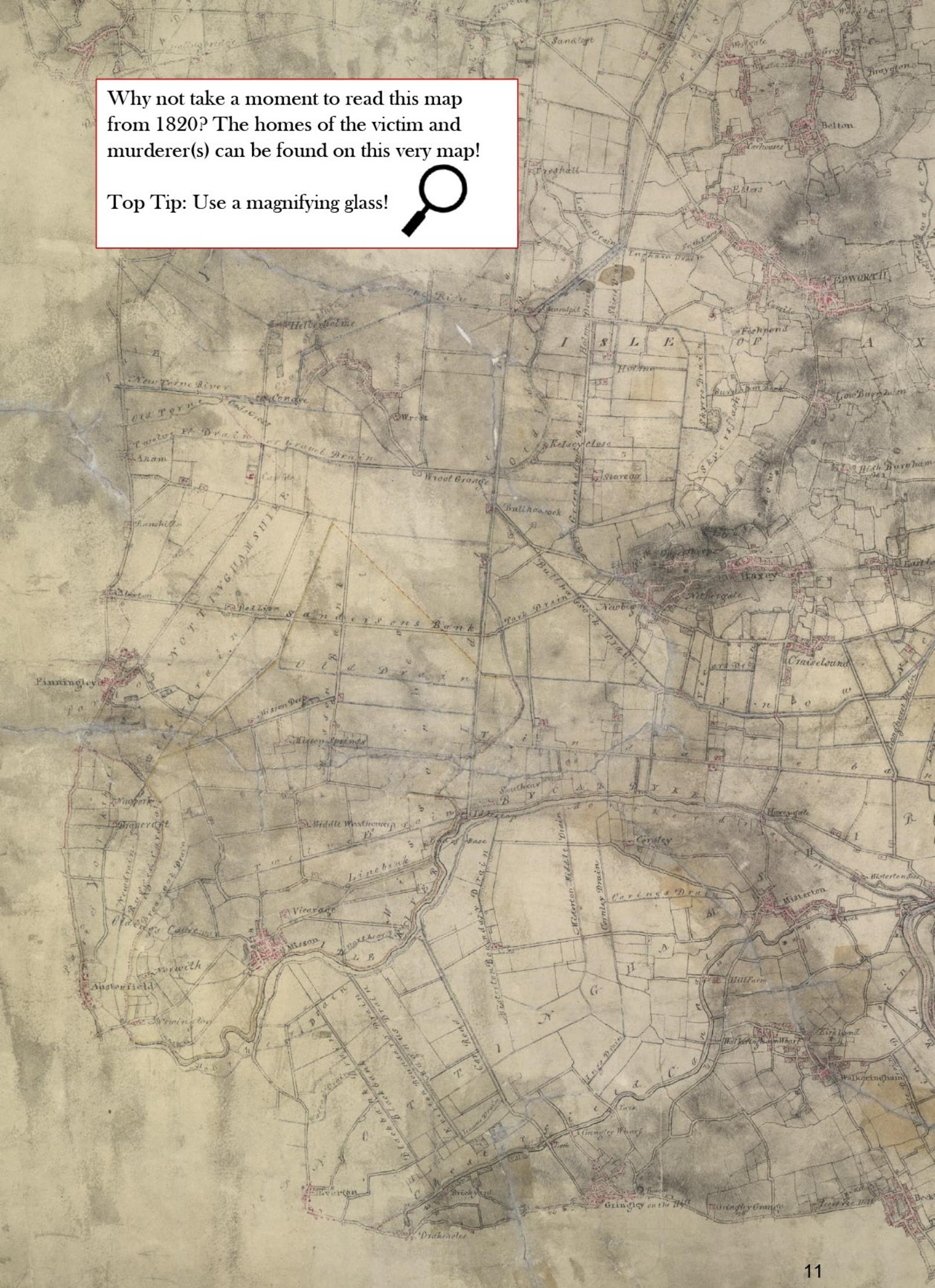


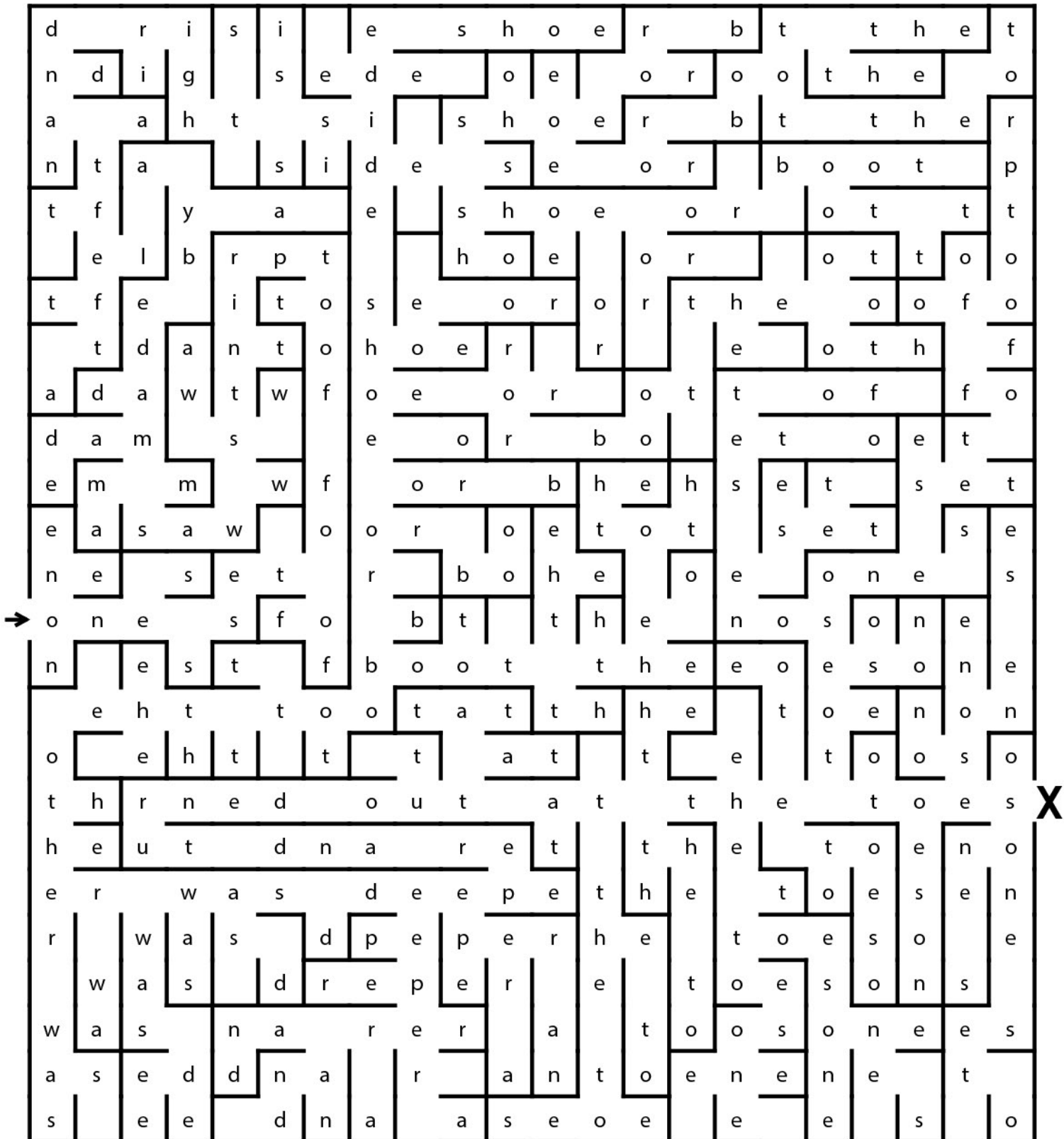


Image: Isle-of-Axholme by Charles Budgen (1820) Medium: Pen and ink on paper. Source: The National Archives

Follow the Footprints:

You're at the scene of the crime and Denison, the magistrate, notices some foot-prints just 16ft away from the gate where John Dyon was shot. He decides to investigate! What does he notice about the footprints?

Follow the letters through the maze to discover another clue (the letters should form a sentence). **Top tip: Use a highlighter pen!**



Objects Found on the Body

These objects were found on the deceased's person.

What does this collection of objects tell you about the murder?



Fig. 16

1

A watch gifted to the deceased by his father, John W Dyon senior.



2 Lots of coins, including many silver pieces.



Fig. 18

3

A pocket book containing a log of takings from the market and £38 in notes.



Fig. 19

Fig. 20

Search for the Murder Weapon

To find the next clue you must complete this word search. Circle as many words as you can and list them in the box below. You are looking for 10 key words, but don't worry if you find a few more.

Top tip: Some words are read backwards, some diagonally, and some across etc.

D A N D E S X
T N Q T R E Z
H K I S O M E
E H P H X A G
W D F H E J U
S T R A W B N
H I D O A T S

List of all the words you find here:

When you think you have found the 10 key words, use them to complete the sentence below:

— A — — — / — — — — —
— — — / — H — / — U — — —
— — — — — D / — — — — —
— — — — — / A — — / O — — — .

Witness Testimonies

People memories aren't the best, can you see if any of these testimonies match up? Piece together these witness statements by finishing the sentences. Can you identify the true statements from the false ones?

"I was in a field about one mile and a half from Brancroft, between 2 and 3 on the 16th February. I saw a man about three o'clock; a quarter of an hour after, I saw another. The first wore a dirty smock frock, which had a dark looking collar, the other man...

"The Tomlinson lads had been giving my master, Mr. John Dyon, a lot of trouble. And last week I saw the...

"I saw two men in smock frocks at Walton's warehouse, east side of the river...

"I saw my Mistress, Mrs. Dyon, leave the house to walk in the grounds of Brancroft in the direction of Finningley...

"I was at Doncaster market at 3'o clock, on the 16th February. I overheard a heated argument...

"The last time I saw Jon was at 2 o'clock on the 16th February at Pilham Carr. I went to bed at 9 o'clock on the night of the murder but I could clearly hear...

...two men in smock frocks lollygagging on Brancroft estate."

...park at about 7 o'clock on the 10th February. She said she was in search of Mr. John."

...Trent, at a little after 11 o'clock on the night of the murder; they asked how they could get over the river."

...had a light coloured coat. I left the field at quarter past 4; the men were still at the corner, they were loitering there without any lawful business."

...between the deceased and Mr. Wagstaff. It appeared that there was a dispute over the day's takings."

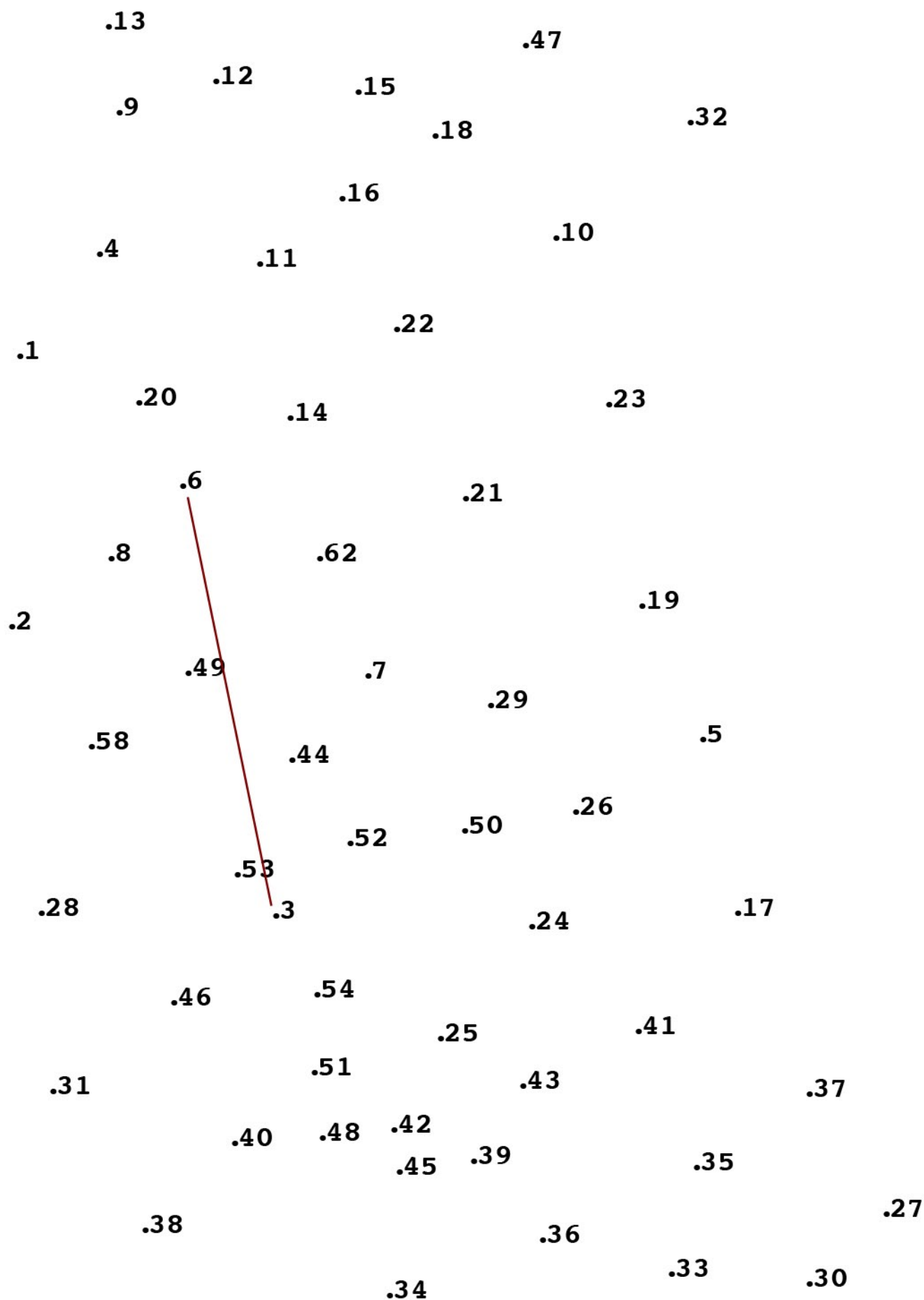
...Jon Dyon in a heated discussion with his wife later that night. I do not know at what time this occurred."

Dot-to-dot Mystery Object

Which mystery objects did Mr. Wildboar mend for Jon Dyon?

Complete this dot-to-dot in 3's to find out (E.g. 3, 6, 9, 12...).

The first step has been completed for you.



Discover the Murder Motive

Judging by the evidence thus far, do you think the murder was an accident, a robbery gone wrong, or a cold and calculated murder?

Complete the word search below:

Top tip: Some words are read backwards, some diagonally, and some across etc.

E	I	M	H	E	T	Y
C	G	O	N	I	T	R
N	R	N	E	R	S	E
E	E	E	E	E	U	B
F	G	Y	W	V	L	B
E	N	C	N	O	E	O
D	A	R	A	L	P	R

Find:

DEFENCE

ANGER

REVENGE

MONEY

LUST

ROBBERY

LOVER

POWER

Once you've completed the wordsearch, note down the remaining letters and rearrange them to uncover the motive for the murder!

— — — — — — — — — —

Piece Together the Puzzle

Carefully cut out and put back together the torn fragments of this document for another clue!

mas to my youngest
picroft. Hereby revo
y me. In testimony v
e to this my last will
y name this 2nd day
own of Doncaster.

J. W. Dyon

son, John
king all former
whereof, I John
and testament
of February

I, John W D
memory do g
property, my

February

all

testament
yon, being of sound
ive and bequeathe a
personal possessor

of 50,000 po
Dyon of Brar
wills made by
W Dyon hav
subscribed m
1828 at the to

Last Will
~ (((and)))
Partame

mind and
all my
is and a sum

Dyon

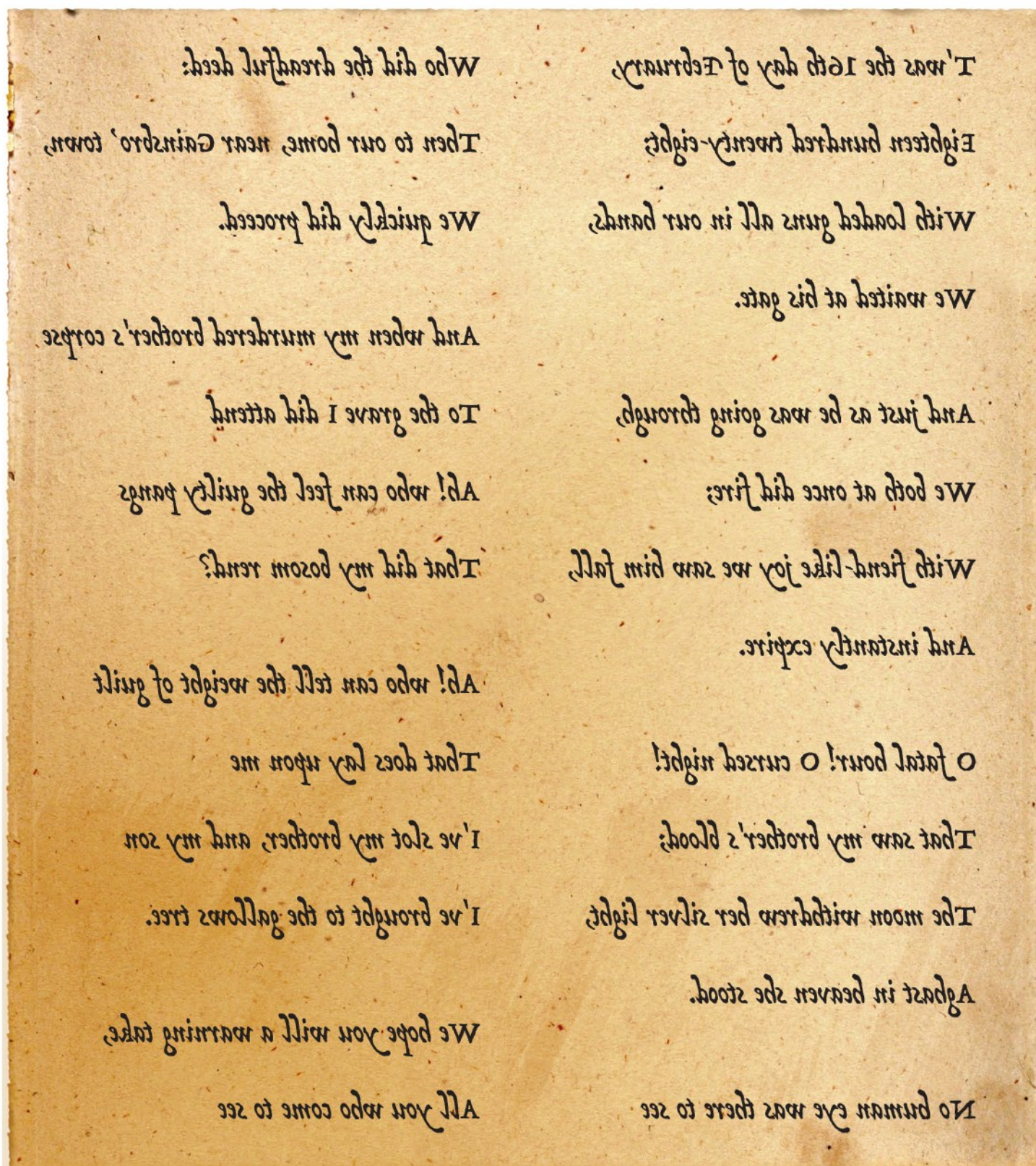
I

T

Have you figured out WHODUNNIT?

WARNING: SPOILERS!

Decipher this message by holding it up to a mirror, or take a picture using your smart phone and flip it. Good luck.



The True Story

William Dyon was the eldest son of Mr. John Dyon, a wealthy Lincolnshire farmer. William received a 'common education' and he too wanted to become a farmer. William had a brother also named John Dyon. The two boys were very fond of each other during their childhood, but as they grew older they became each other's polar opposites. William became addicted to 'low sports', such as cocking matches and bull baits. These cruel pursuits soon made him the black sheep of the family. While William was involved in such practices, his younger brother, John, was helping old Mr. Dyon with the running of the farm. Of course, Mr. Dyon preferred his younger son to the wreckless William, and so gave John more praise and gifts!

William saw that John was his father's favourite and soon began to feel the pangs of jealousy. However, he tried to make the best of his situation. He took a farm of his own, Morton Carr, he got married and had children of his own – including a son who was also called John Dyon. While this makes for a somewhat confusing story, the fact William named his son John showed a kind of regard for his father, and his younger brother.

For many years all went on happily, until it became evident that William's farm was not faring as well as his brother's. William looked on as John grew more and more successful, and in 1819 old Mr. Dyon gave John (the younger brother) a large sum of money and 63 acres of land! William felt so angered and irritated that he began to teach his son, John, to hate his grandfather and his uncle. Together, they plotted revenge.

Years went by, and William made no effort to regain the favour of his father. When, finally, it was discovered that old Mr. Dyon was planning on leaving the majority of his possessions and 30,000 pounds to the younger son, William decided to take action. William, with his son by his side, expected that murdering John would secure their future inheritance.

John (the younger brother), was married and was the father of 3 daughters. He had settled very well into Brancroft and employed a number of labourers. One of these labourers, a James White, had been recommended to him by his brother William. As it turned out, James had been in the service of William Dyon from Christmas 1826 until May 1827, but now worked for the younger brother on his estate, living in property down Austerfield Lane.

When William and his son went searching for John Dyon, a week before the murder (8 February), they decided that James White would hide the murder

weapons until their next murder attempt. Among those guns was what was described as a 'long duck gun', for 'wild fowl shooting'. It was unlikely to be a punt gun, since it was reported that both William and his son each carried a gun on the night of the murder, but it might have been a long shot gun for hunting game (one which could be filled with both shot and ball).

William told James that he planned to murder John as he made his way home from Doncaster Market, and James willingly offered up the information to help. While James claimed to the court that William had threatened him, it seemed that James's silence had been bought with an offer of 10 pounds and ownership of small farm (Partridge Hill Farm), where he had been residing. It was only when a reward of 100 guineas was advertised, that James finally stepped forward with information for the authorities. In fact, when he was initially questioned by the magistrate, Denison, he tried to lay suspicion on the Tomlinson boys who had been living close to the Brancroft estate.

The investigating magistrate did actually do some detective work! Denison was a student of the new forensic sciences and was pleased to find plenty of clues at the scene of the crime! It has rained on the night of the murder and then the temperature had dropped below freezing overnight, preserving two sets of boot tracks at the scene of the crime. Looking at one set of the footprints, he noticed that the wearer had walked with their feet turned outward. It was well known to the locals that William Dyon walked that way. The footprints were also deeper set, perhaps because William was taller or heavier than his son John. Denison also noticed that one set of footprints were made from a left boot and a right boot; not many shoes were made left and right footed back then, but William and his son owned a pair that was.

William and his son were actually arrested very early during the investigation, after a gun and a pair of boots were found at William Dyon's home, but they both provided alibis that they were at home at the time of the murder and were both discharged. As the investigation continued, however, more and more evidence mounted up against them. William Dyon never admitted to murdering his brother but his son John, fearing for his soul, did end up confessing at the gallows in the grounds of York Castle, where they were both hanged.

Sources:

- Stephen Wade, *Foul Deeds & Suspicious Deaths In and Around Doncaster*, 2010, pp.27 -34
- Thomas Leman Rede, *York Castle in the Nineteenth Century*, 1831, pp.60 - 79

We hope you enjoyed completing this booklet.

If you would like to get in touch, send us an email to YourMemories@doncaster.gov.uk or find us on Twitter or Facebook @doncastermuseum

Published by History, Health and Happiness Team at Heritage Doncaster.

Image sources:

Fig. 1: Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres, Self Portrait (1822). Image courtesy of the Art Renewal Center®, (ARC) www.artrenewal.org

Fig. 2: Thomas Bock, Lady Jane Franklin (1838), reproduced with permission of the National Portrait Gallery, Canberra.

Fig. 3: Book: Corder, William, 1803-1828; Curtis, J; Great Britain. Courts of Oyer and Terminer and General Gaol Delivery

Fig. 4: Jean-Auguste-Dominique Ingres Portrait of the Architect François-Désiré Girard de Bury, Harvard Art Museums. URL: <https://hvard.art/o/352504>.

Fig. 5: Rawpixel: Portrait of Louis Moritz by Jean Bernard (1775-1883). Original from The Rijksmuseum.

Fig. 6: Jean Ignace Isidore Gérard, Self Portrait, Public Domain

Fig. 7: Science Museum Group. Scalpel, steel and ivory, by Weiss of London, earl. A617068 SMG Collection Online.

Fig. 8: Greatcoat, Snowhill Manor © National Trust / Simon Harris Snowhill Wade Costume Collection, Gloucestershire (Accredited Museum) Collection online: NT 1349422.

Fig. 9 & 10: Shot, The Mary Rose Trust (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Fig. 11: Horse, John Frederick Herring. Heritage Doncaster

Fig. 12: Pistol, Auckland Museum (CC BY 4.0)

Fig. 13: Sporting gun, © Royal Armouries collection online. URL: <https://collections.royalarmouries.org/object/rac-object-20941.html>

Fig. 14: Musket, Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

Fig. 15: Baker Rifle, © Royal Armouries collection online. URL: <https://collections.royalarmouries.org/object/rac-object-681.html>

Fig. 16: Pocketwatch, Public domain

Fig. 17: Coins, The Portable Antiquities Scheme, The Trustees of the British Museum (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Fig. 18: Pocketbook, author unknown. URL: <https://mohistory.org/collections/item/resource:218315>

Fig. 19: Bank of England; signed by Abraham Newland, Chief Cashier / Public domain

Fig. 20: Bank note, Lichfield District Council (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)

HISTORY | HEALTH | HAPPINESS