

The Dean Murder

Rivermead February 28, 2018

MURDER WILL OUT



... or perhaps not

August 13, 1918

BRUTAL MURDER AT EAST JAFFREY

William K. Dean's Body Found in Rain Water Cistern

Had Been Beaten About the Head Bound and Tied in Weighted Sack

-No Clues for Murder Known

One of the most brutal murders in Cheshire County was unearthed by East Jaffrey and county officials Wednesday at East Jaffrey in the discovery of the body of William K. Dean, a retired farmer, with his hands bound, his scalp battered from some blunt instrument, burlap and blankets tied over his head and a stone weighing about 20 pounds attached, in the bottom of a rain water cistern some 200 yards from the house where he lived with his wife. Sheriff E. H. Lord and County Solicitor R. M. Pickard are making every effort to solve the mysterious crime but as yet they have no clue.

Mrs. Dean, who is ill, and has not been in her normal condition, mentally, for some time, reports that on the return of Mr. Dean from the village Tuesday night, he went to the barn to do his milking.

Keene Evening Sentinel, August 15, 1918.

The first news reports of the murder

Monadnock

Breeze,
August 17,
1918.

MURDER IN EAST JAFFREY

W. K. Dean Victim of Foul Play.

About noon on Wednesday this quiet village that was doing its best to bear the extreme hear our people were thrown into excitement when it was learned that W. K. Dean, a retired farmer living with his invalid wife about two miles north of this village, was missing. Automobiles rushed to the scene and in a short time the body of this aged and respected citizen was found in a cistern. Medical Examiner Dinsmore of Keene was immediately notified and Sheriff Lord of Keene and deputies and County Solicitor R. M. Pickard were soon on the scene. The body was then removed from the water and it was found that both hands were tied behind his back, with two ropes in six square knots. A heavy burlap bag was over his head and tied to his wrists. Within the bag was a horse-blanket, tied over his head, and a heavy stone weighing some 20 pounds.

Upon the removal of the blanket severe bruises on the head were discovered, but the skull was not fractured, indicating that he had been struck on the head and stunned, but met his death by drowning. The legs were bound at the knees. In the barn nearby there were some bloodstains and some on the piazza of the vacant house.

Bacon. Mountain with Chas + Hatte day. 12 Fair and warmer. efo over home to-nig 13 Fair and very warm. 14 Fair and very warm with a very heavy thunder shower about 4.30 G.M. Mr. Dean was found, murdered 2 a drive 15 Fair & cooler Heifer calf was born to the Black Cow afternoon 17 Mary Lacy came up to stay a few days. 18 Fair + cool.

14 Fair and very warm with a very heavy thunder shower about 4.30 G.M. Mr. Dean was found, murdered

Entry in Ralph Boynton's diary for the 14th of August.

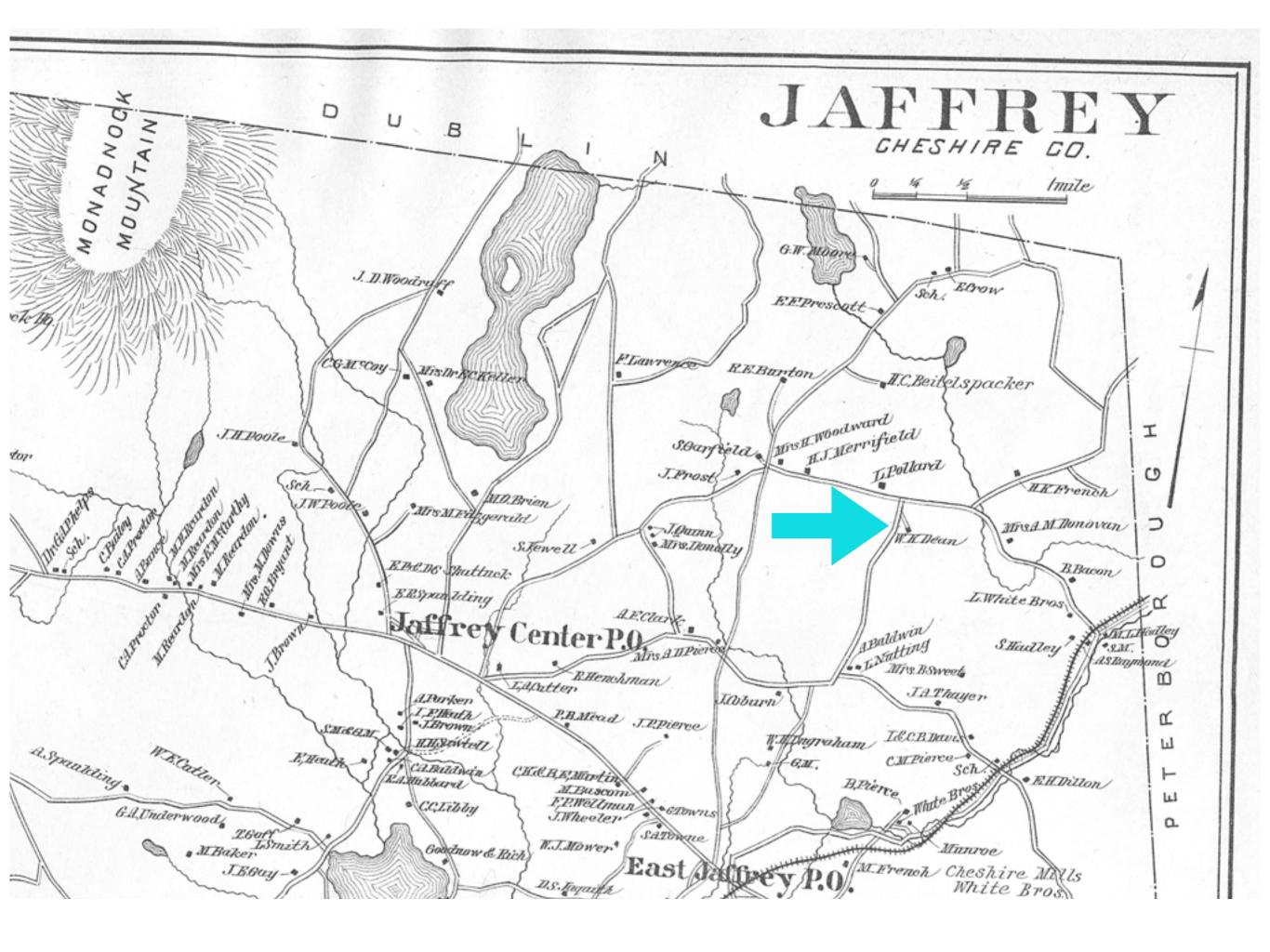
"ON THE MORNING of August 14, 1918, Jaffrey was rocked to the core by news of the disappearance of Dr. William Kendrick Dean and the subsequent finding of his body in a rainwater cistern near the "big house" on the Dean farm, brutally strangled and murdered with a blunt instrument. The body was wrapped in a horse blanket and weighted down with a 27-pound rock. In the village the people had seen Dean only the night before, with his horse and buggy, doing his weekly shopping of groceries. Before returning home he had stopped at the home of his friend, the village banker, and upon arriving at home he had unloaded his provisions and gone to the barn about midnight, as was his custom, to milk his Jersey cows. Added to the bizarreness of the case was the fact that his milk pail was never found, and the discovery of an initialed cigarette case in the bottom of the six-foot cistern after the recovery of his body, which immediately disappeared.

When, in due course of time, he did not return, his frail and invalid wife became alarmed and in the morning relayed news of his disappearance to authorities. The day was a beautiful sunny August one, as the search was initiated by Chief of Police Perley H. Enos, and the three Jaffrey Selectmen, Edward C. Boynton, William F. Coolidge, and Peter E. Hogan.

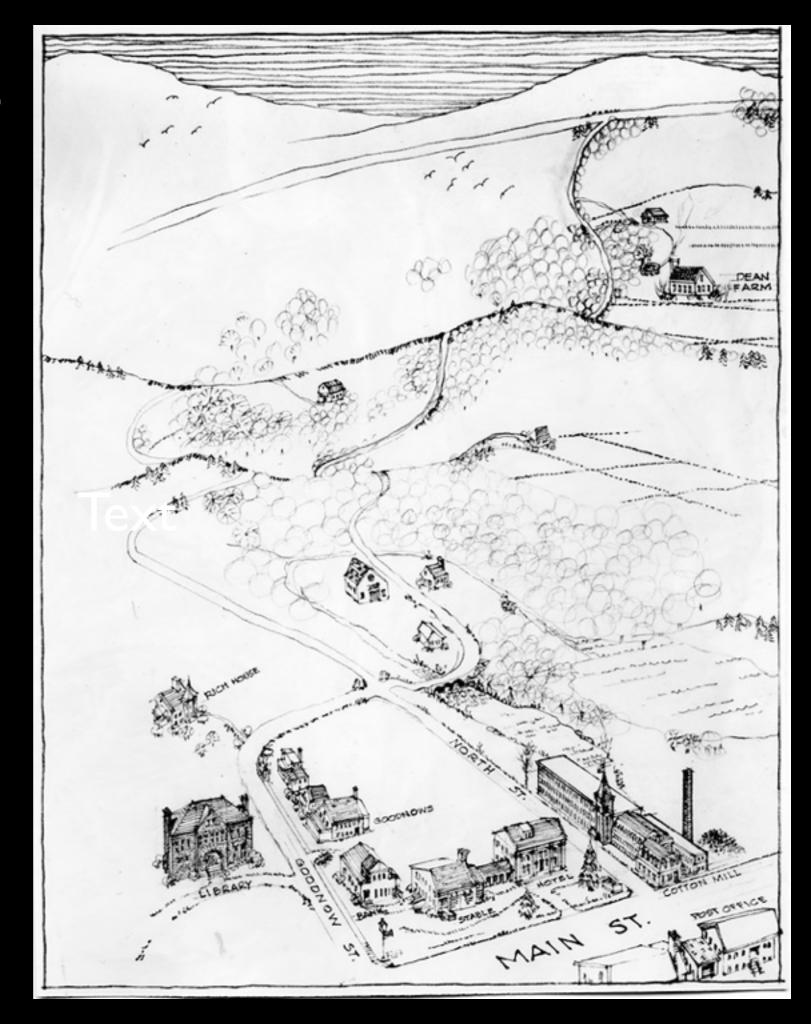
Later developments divided the town, turning friend against friend, neighbor against neighbor, as the developments unfolded themselves, and the repercussions are still being felt over half a century later.

Since the case was fraught with possible espionage and deep mystery, it was carried to Washington, D. C., by the local authorities, where it is still classified, at latest reports, as one of the nation's ten most interesting unsolved cases. In Jaffrey it was seemingly otherwise, as the town became divided. There was a segment of the population who, in their own minds, had "solved the case," basing their conclusions upon the fact the horse blanket in question admittedly belonged to the town banker, Charles L. Rich, and the fact be had appeared at the bank that morning with a blackened eye and lacerated cheek. In his testimony, however, he explained that he had pressed the blanket on the victim the night before to ward off the chill of the mid-August night on his trip home, and that his facial disfigurement was due to a kick from his horse."

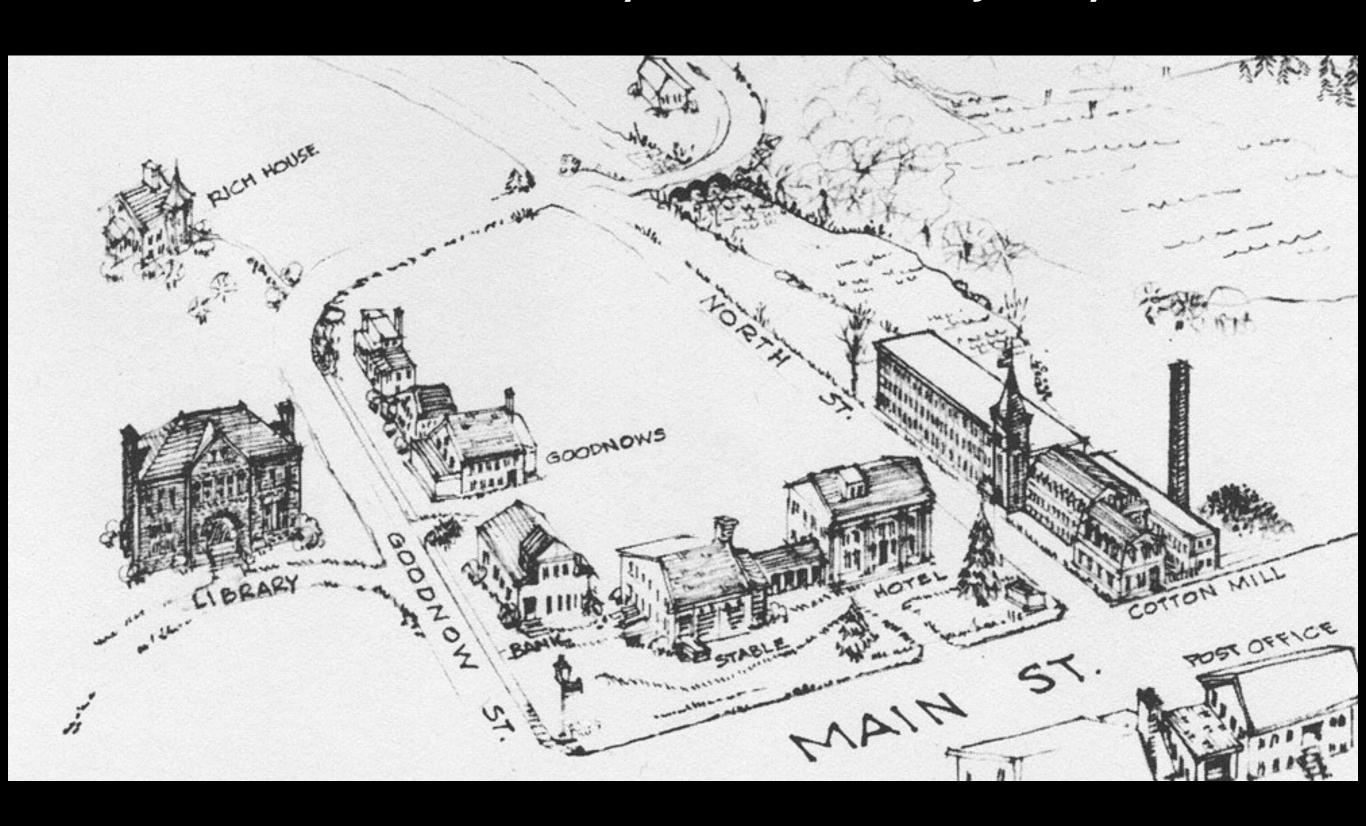
The Setting



Bird's-eye view of East Jaffrey at the time of the murder.



Detail of Bird's-eye view of East Jaffrey.





The Dean House (Built in 1893)



The Dean house.



The Dean house today.



Site of the Dean Murder

Pictured above as it looked in 1918 is the barn where Dr. William Kendrick Dean was murdered 50 years ago today. No clues were ever found in the barn, however.



Location of the barn today.



Where Dean's Body Was Found

About 12 hours after Dean was murdered, his body was pulled with a pair of ice tongs from six feet of water in a cistern near the house.



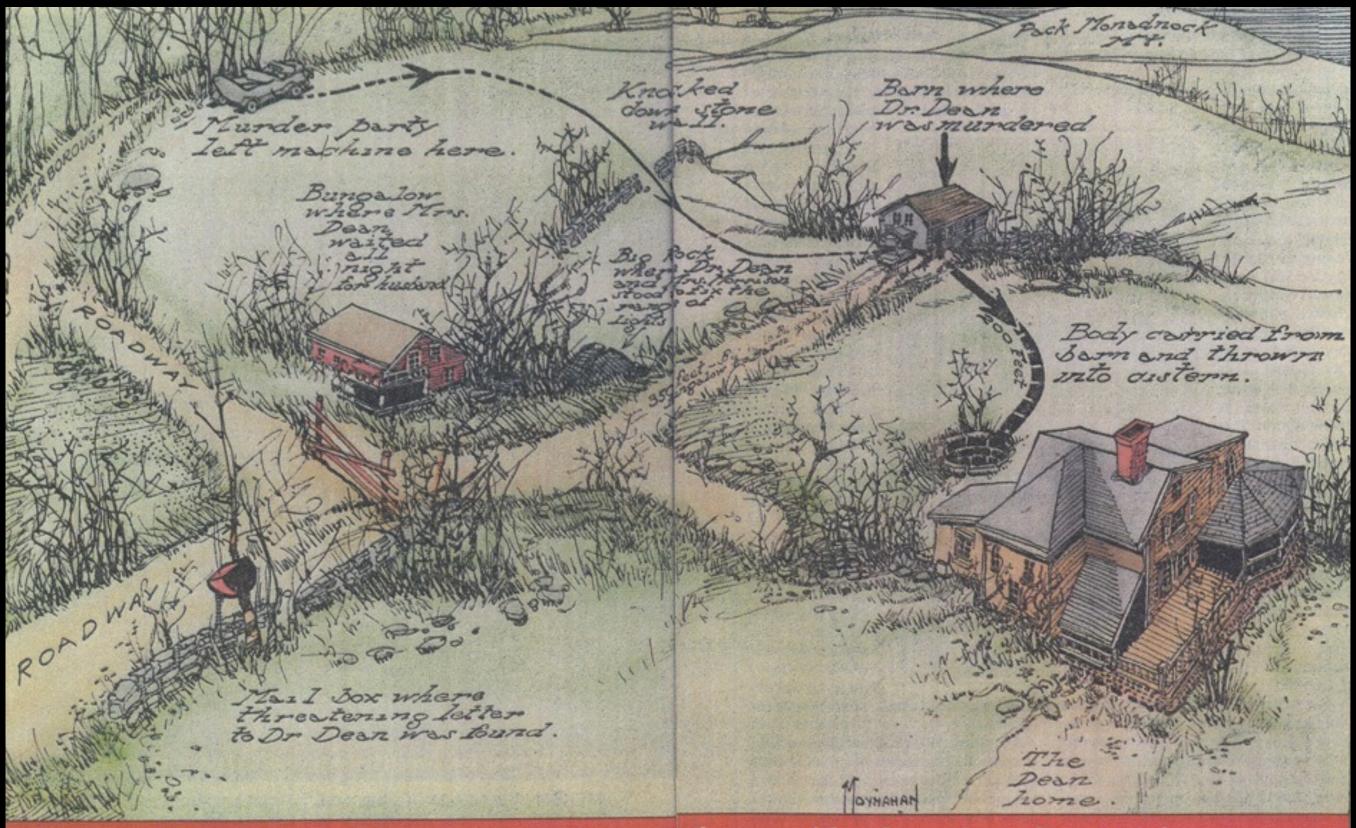
The cistern today.



The Bungalow as remodeled in 1910.



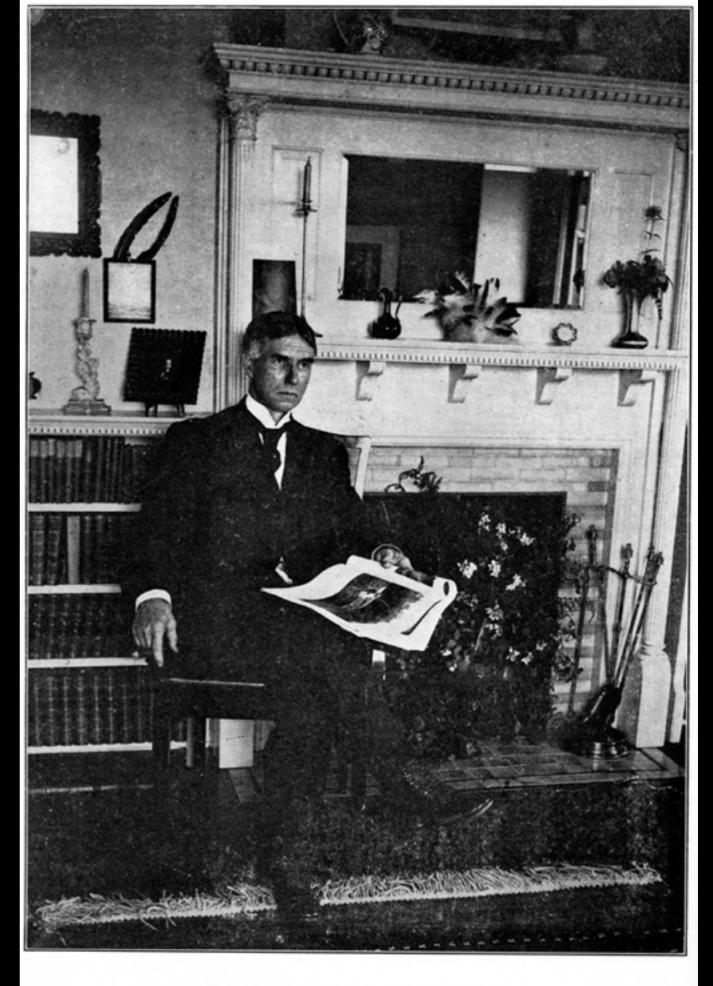
The Bungalow today.



This map, from a privately printed book, shows the scene of the crime and notes important clues.

The Cast of Characters

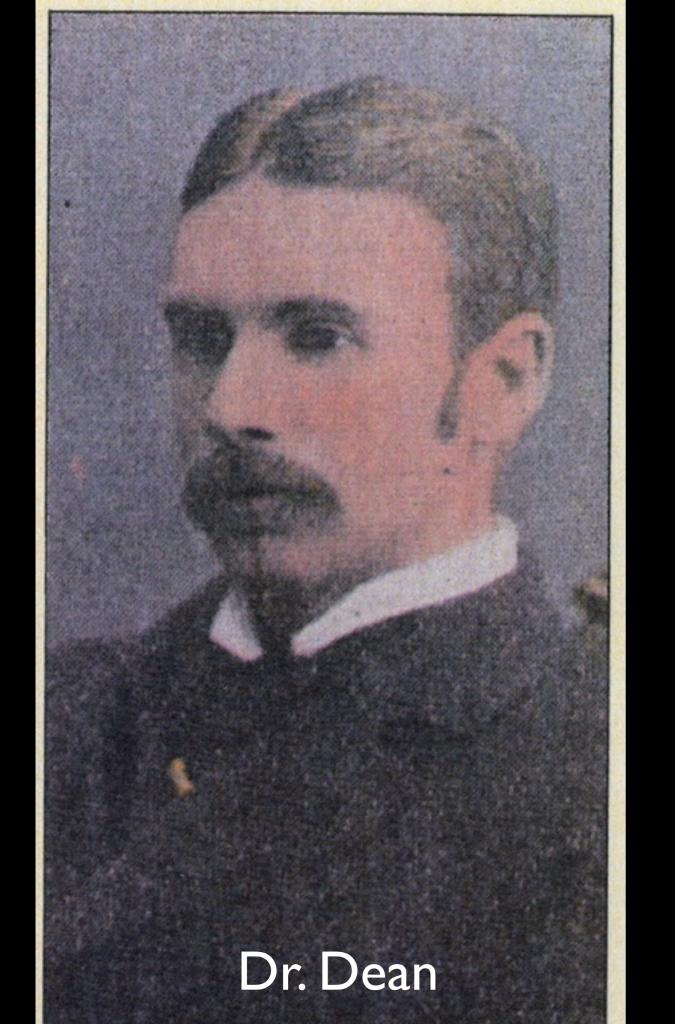
Dr.William Dean

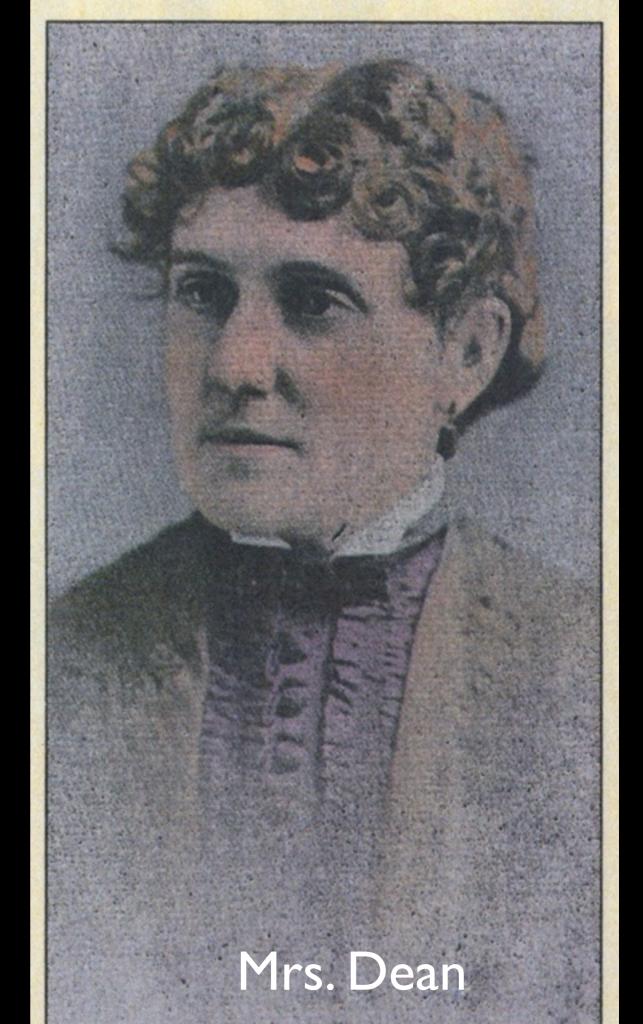


W. K. Dean at 53 (about 1908)

Charles Rich











Roy Pickard



Father Hannon



Mrs. Morison



Selectman Edward Boynton

The Monadnock Bank



The Monadnock Bank



The Rich house, Bradley Court



The Rich house, Bradley Court, today.

Some of the Books & Articles

The Dean Murder Mystery

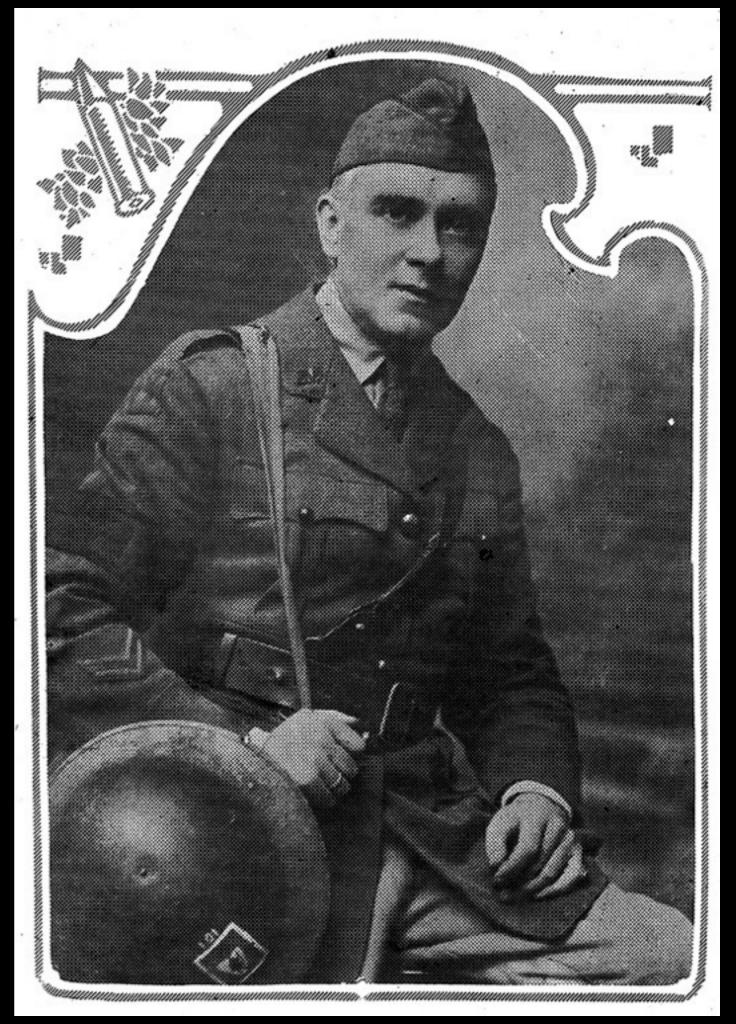
By Bert Ford

War Correspondent and author of "The Fighting Yankees Overseas."

With an Introduction by William Dean Goddard.

Privately Printed for the Relatives Pawtucket, R. I. 1920

418



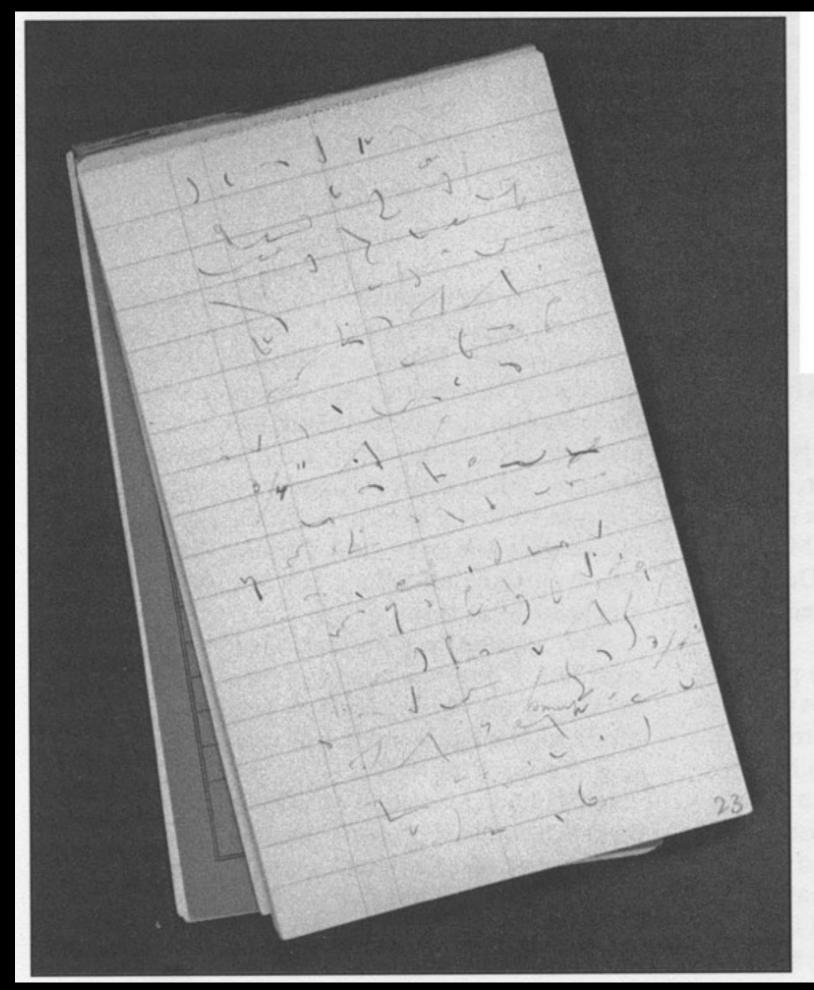
Bert Ford

HEARING by
the GRAND JURY
on the DEATH of
WILLIAM K. DEAN

APRIL 11-22, 1919 COURT HOUSE, KEENE NEWHAMPSHIRE



Transcribed, edited and published by
MARGARETC.BEAN



LEFT: The Pitman shorthand notes became very familiar after working with them for six years. Lena Marsh, the Court Reporter, had high marks from my expert Pitman friend, Samuel Fitz-Henley, of Kingston, Jamaica. This page reads:

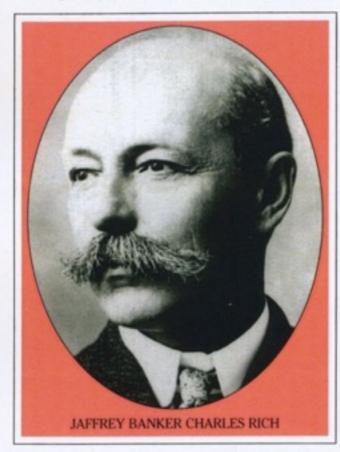
... was that Mr. Dean died from strangulation, that is, he wasn't drowned. In other words, he didn't breathe after he went into the water. Wound around his neck twice was a hard hitch rope, or halter, one of those kind such as you gentlemen are all familiar with, a hard ¾ inch rope.

Now Mr. Pickard is going to draw a little chart of the particular points, not, of course, according to scale, but so as to give you gentlemen a little idea of the situation up there at the Dean homestead.

I was telling you about the rope which was around Mr. Dean's neck. It was a hard ¾-inch hitch rope with a snap on one end, and back a couple of feet or so, and I would say you could put this. . . .

PROMINENT CITIZEN: Prime Suspect

A Personal Account of the Dean Murder Mystery, A Tragedy in Which The Author Was Involved



By Georgiana Hodgkins

PUBLISHED BY THE JAFFREY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

F R O M MONADNOUK

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	At Peterboro, H. H.
	- 101/2

In accordance with suggestion and pursuant to the directions of Agent Gifford of the Boston office, Agent together with Agent Nazh, left North Station, Boston, Mass. at S P. M., arriving at Peterboro, N. H. at 6.36 P. M. and registered at the Tavern.

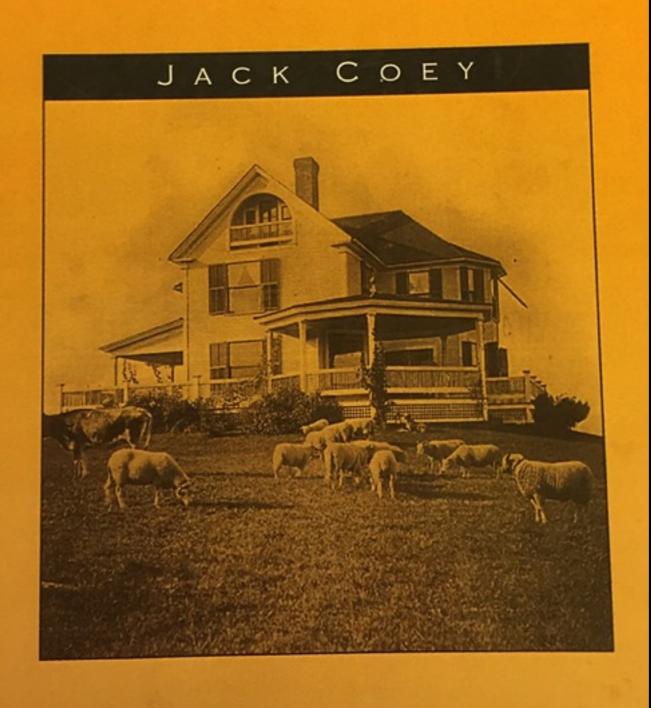
Fash reported to the Boston Office that in the observation of flashings lights, a single observer who has seen a flashing light at a distance of several miles, and on the next night has taken his station at the point where he believed the light was, and yet sees no flashing light, has no way of knowing whether absence of this light is due to the fact that it is not being operated or that it it behind some obstacle from his observation point.

After supper. Agent occupied suitable observation point observing toward the W. and at 9:30 P. M. saw a beam of light of 2 seconds duration, originating from a point about N 60 W magnetic) the beam pointing into the sky in a one o'clock direction. At 9:32 P. M. a steady white light appeared for 3 minutes from a general north-westerly direction. At 10:15 P. M. in a south westerly direction, and near Mobre's Farm, I saw a lantern moving as if it were carried by a man and lasting 2 minutes. This lanters was also observed by Agent Nash from his observation point about a mile south of mine. I completed my observation at 11:15 and returned to the hotel.

This investigation will be continued.

JACK COEY

TWO LEGGED FOXES



DARK INVASION

GERMANY'S
SECRET WAR
AND THE
HUNT FOR
THE FIRST

TERRORIST

CELL IN

AMERICA

1915:

HOWARD BLUM



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1915

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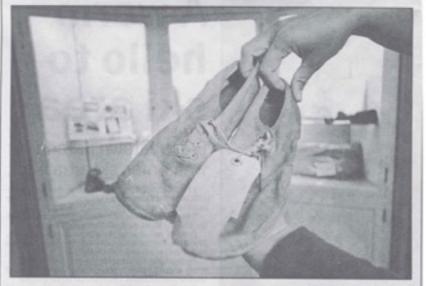


Who killed Dr. Dean?

Clairvoyant CC Carole leads a paranormal detective program about a 1918 Monadnock murder

— Page 2

lilde things: 'Dorian Gray' and 'Ernest' on NH stages | Page 4



Bits Grant Monadrock Ledger Staff

These shoes, worn by William Kendrick Dean as he plunged lifeless to the bottom of a well in Jaffrey, are part of an exhibit at the Jaffrey Civic Center. More than 76 years later, the case still fascinates.

A long-lasting mystery

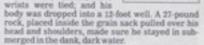
Civic Center exhibit tries to shed light on Dean murder

Aug. 13, 1918, was a typical late summer night. It was hot, moonlit, the air motionless, the crickets silent. It was the perfect night for a murder, Dr. William Kendrick Dean's, to

be exact. He was a prominent, well-respected Jaffree citizen.

Projection.

Fifteen minutes after drinking a glass of milk and eating a couple of currant burns, Dean was bludgeoned with a three-pronged hand weeder in his barn, a mere 500 feet away from his house where his wife was getting ready for bed. A light horse blanket was wrapped around his head; his ankles, knees, and



Seventy-six years later, his death is still a mystery. Nearly all the Jaffrey residents — and the various suspects — have since passed away. But like most unsolved crimes, especially those that occur in a place as peaceful and safe as Jaffrey, this one refuses to die.

Case in proof is the latest exhibit at the Jaffrey Crice Center. On display through Sept. 23, you can see the actual evidence presented during the Dean murder trial, held at the Keene Court House eight months after the murder.

Included are a piece of wood from the barn, aplattered with blood; Dean's tattered rubber foam carress shoes, black socks, and garters, which he was killed, and the white percelain doorknobs that had been smudged with a bloody hand but didn't reveal fingerprints.

The weapons are also included: the horse blanket pulled over Dean's head to absorb the blood, the ropes he was tied up with, and the burlap bag tied over the blanket which held the rock used to weigh him down in the cisters.

The evidence was given to the Jaffrey Historical Society by the Keene Courthouse early this summer, thanks to the effort of Margaret Bean, a Jaffrey resident who you might say is the local expert on the Dean murder.

Bean's father-in-law, D.D. Bean, and Dr. Frederick Sweeney were both interested parties during the Dean murder trial. Sometime later, Sweeney's son, Bud, received a letter from Stillman Rogers, cierk of the Superior Court in Keene. Rogers said that in rebuilding and expanding

Ropers asset that in rebuilding and expanding the courtbouse, they had come across a brown paper package containing 20 notebooks in Pittman shorthand, the recording of the Dean murder grand jury inquest. They asked if he was interested in them.

Knowing of her interest in the case, Sweeney informed Bean. By coincidence, Bean had learned Pittman shorthand, an obscure form long since overshadowed by the more popular Gregg, while working on Wall Street. With Sweeney's permission, she went to the courthouse and was given official permission to transcribe the notebooks two at a time.

Bean spent six years transcribing, an arduous task because there were many passages she was unable to translate.

During that time, Bean was vacationing in Jamaica when she read about Samuel Fitz-Benley, a Pittman expert who had just been paid thousand of dollars to transcribe the notes of a reporter who had died. Bean met with him, and he told her that Pittman shorthand had changed over time, then showed her a teaching manual and shorthand dictionary from the early 1900s, pointing out the differences.

Armed with this new knowledge, Bean returned home to finish the transcription, which she eventually published in a book, Hearing by the Grand Jury on the Death of W. K. Dean, April 11-22, 1919, Courthouse, Koene.

Courihouse, Keese.

Meanwhile, Bean had developed a friendly relationship with Rogers, clerk of the court. He told her about the hox of evidence. Twice Bean arranged to borrow the evidence so that history teacher Dennis Wright could present it to his middle-school students.

That got Bean thinking about having the items kept at the Jaffrey Historical Society. Last year, Bean asked Martha Crocker, a friend and Petertorough judge, to write a letter to the Keene court. Early this summer, they turned it over to the historical society.

Poring over these artifacts could lead one to create some new conclusions to this who-done-it, although it's highly unlikely.

prime suspects and motives: Mrs. Dean, who could have murdered her husband in a fit of jealousy, Lawrence Colfelt of New York, a mysterious stranger who wintered in Dean's large house, rumored to be a German spy.

This theory was strengthened by the fact that shortly before Dean's murder. Dean had asked him to move out; intoxicated hoodlums caught in Dean's barn; Charles Rich, town moderator, choir director, cashier of the Monadnock Bank, and district balons.

The prime suspect, Rich had a mysterious black eye the day after the murder.

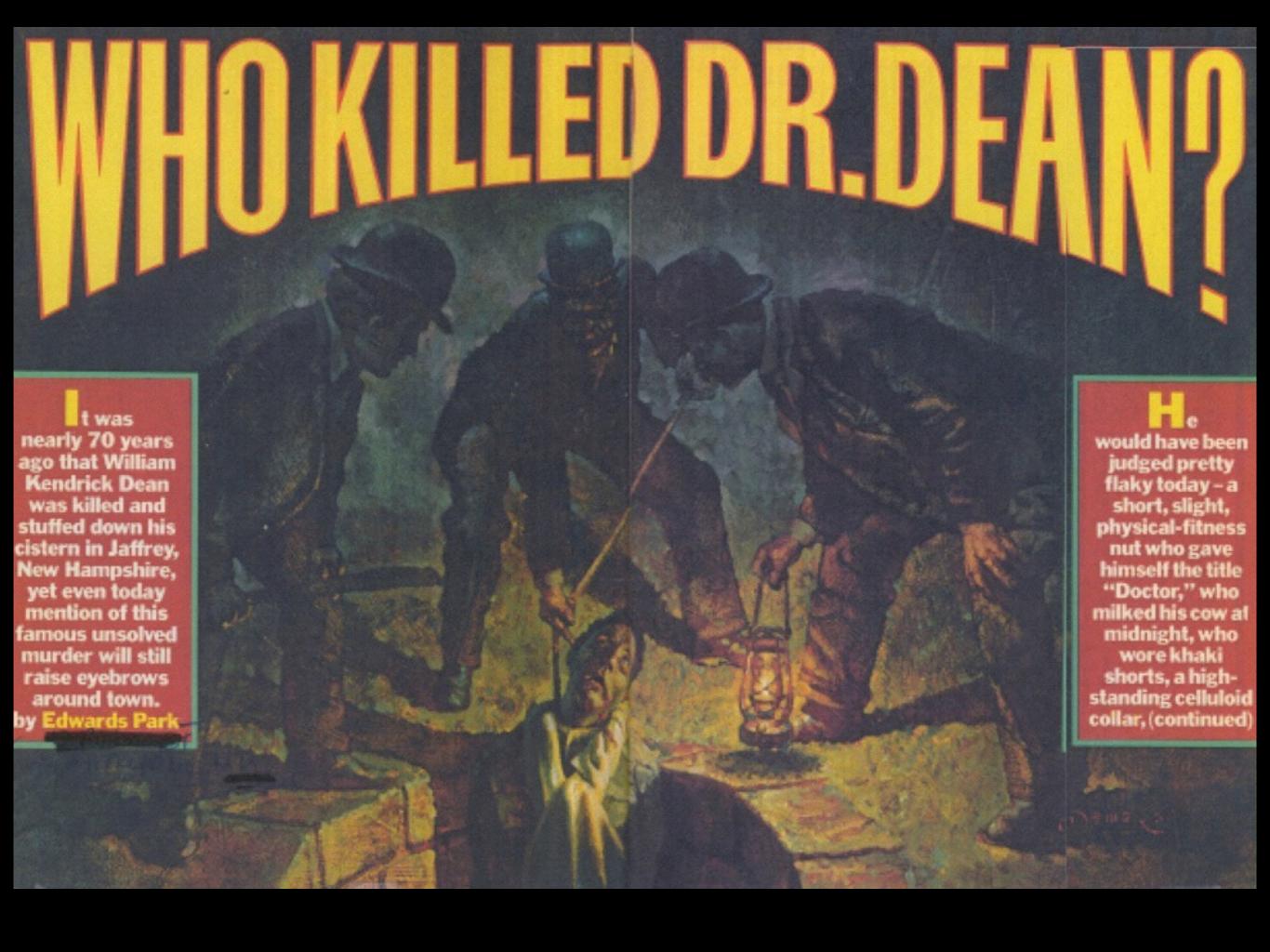
He claimed his horse had kicked him; others believed he was lying. The town, already caught up in World War I hysteria, was torn between those who sided with Rich and those who called him a coldhearted killer.

Nothing was ever proven, and Rich ended up winning a libel suit against the Boston American newspaper. But that didn't change what people thought. Today, the mystery goes on.

thought Today, the mystery goes on.

Bean said, "I still have people tell me in cenfidence that they know who did it, but they all say someone different."







When Dr. Dean headed for home at 10:30, folks said he was followed by a car with three men in it.

FOR
STATE SENATOR
VOTE FOR
Merrill G. Symonds
of Jaffrey

VOTERS

"You can fool all the people some of the time—some of the people all of the time—but you cannot fool all of the people all of the time"—Lincoln

Who put the Dean Murder Case in Politics?

RECORDED COPY FILES IN /CO - 2, CO

Troy, New York

Dear

GLC:mr
62-16917-2

June 10, 1943

(b)(7)(c)

I appreciate the interest which prompted you in directing to me your letter of recent date.

In the event you possess any information which you believe to be of interest to this Bureau, I urge you to communicate directly with the Special Agent in Charge of our Albany Field Division which is located at 707 Mational Savings Bank Building, Albany, New York.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover Director

Mr. Telson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Niehols
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Garson
Mr. Harbo
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Hendon
Mr. McGuire
Mr. Mumford
Mr. Piper
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Mr. Nease

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Even J. Edgar Hoover got involved.

The Evidence















CALENDAR NOTE WRITING ON AUGUST 13!

			GU	SI	191	8
	MON.	TUE.	WED.	THU.	FRI.	SAT.
SUN.	14th First Quarter	22nd Full Moon	28th Last Quarter	52 174	ANIN ALLDON	42572 RAM/961
New Moon	66588	4686	4790	44898	5.94	10
4	13	Bus	14	15	16	17
11	10	30	21	22	23	24
18	19	20	20	20	30	31
25	26	27	28	29	ons of chemica	l manures.

In connection with crop rotation must come judicious applications of chemical manures.

The Disinterment of Dr. Dean (Don't be squeamish)









Dr. Dean's gravesite, Mt. Hope Cemetery, Rochester, New York.





Charles Rich's gravesite, Conant Cemetery, Jaffrey.

August 13, 1918 - August 13, 2018

100 years

The End

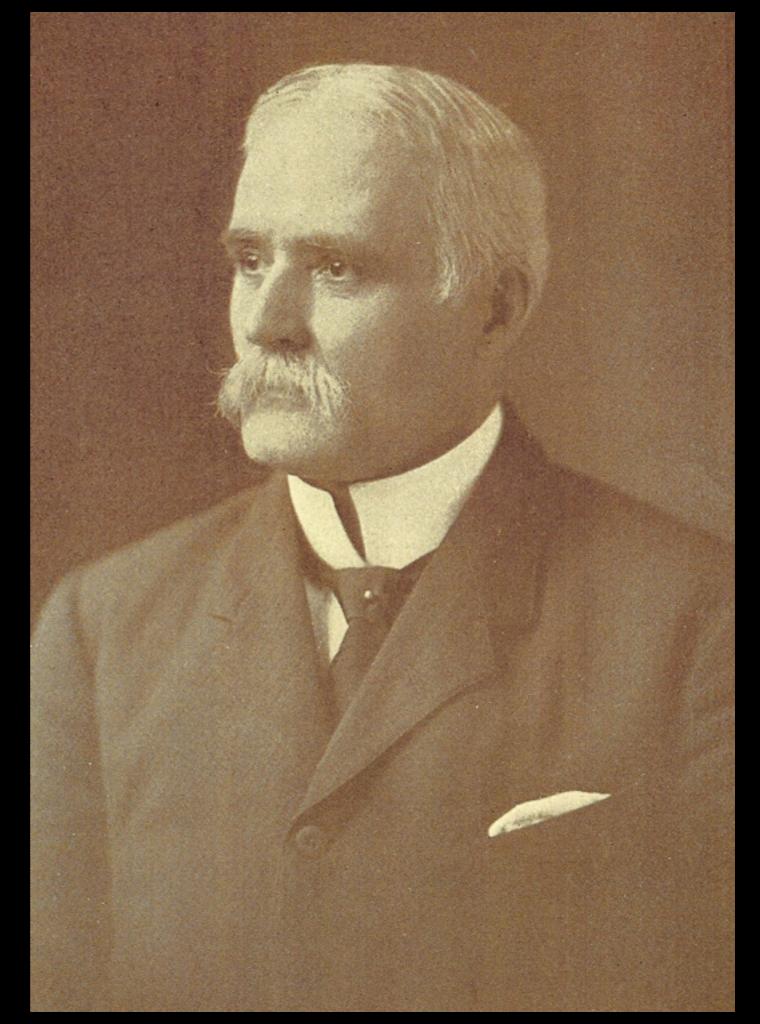


The manner in which she tied a knot helped to clear Mrs. Mary Dean of the murder of her husband.

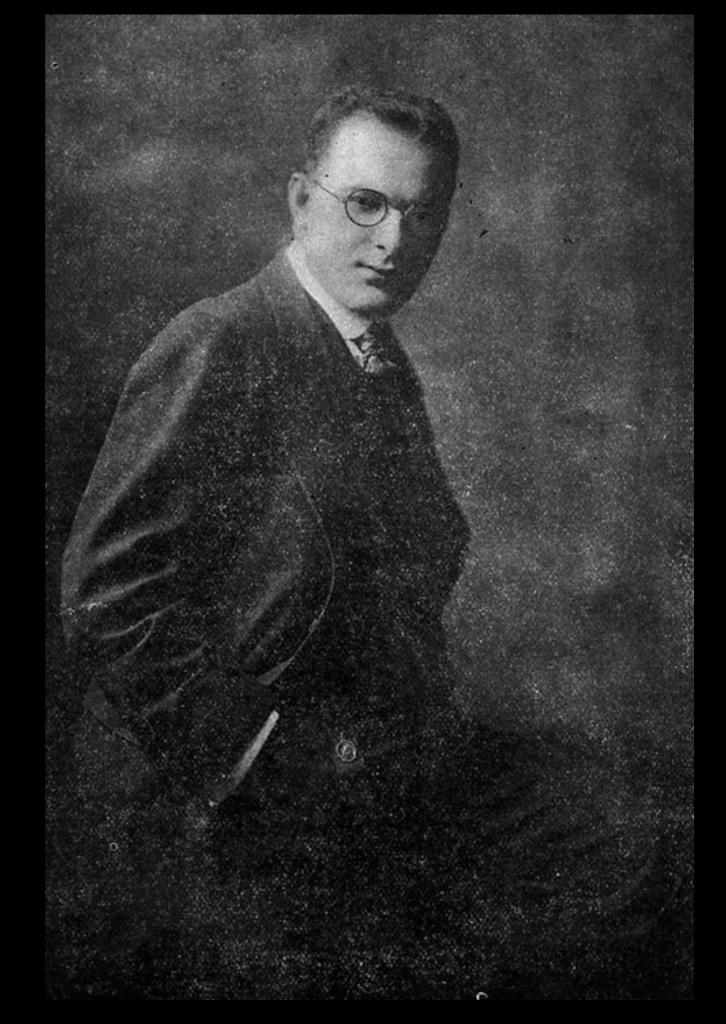
Murder out

WHILE ATTENDING TO HIS MIDNIGHT CHORES DR. DEAN OBVIOUSLY SAW MUCH ...

Lawrence Colfelt, Sr.



Harry N. Guterman





Dr. Dean in his sleigh, ca. 1915.

Dr. Dean's sleigh at the Rindge Historical Society today.



Dr. Dean's sleigh at the Rindge Historical Society today.





Dr. Dean's sleigh at the Rindge Historical Society today.



The Rich house, Bradley Court, 1996.



The Rich house, Bradley Court, 1996.



The Rich house, Bradley Court, 1996.



The Rich house, Bradley Court, 1996. Barn.

Some Odds & Ends



Box of Dean Murder documents in the Library Vault.

Typical deposition page in the Dean Murder file in the Library Vault.

- 71. So it is on beyond your house, how far? A. I don't know just how far. He wer measured it.
- 72. Well, approximately? Can you see anything that looks about as far as from there? A. I should think it was as far as from here to that sign there.
- 73. Which one? the one that says "standing on the seats forbidden"? A. Well the "exit". Well, it doesn't sake any difference; that is all right.
- 74. How long has that light been there? A. I couldn't tell you how long it has been there.
- 75. Well, approximately? A. About three years, I should think.
- 76. About three years now? A. Yes, sir.
- 77. That night, was that a moonlight night? A. Yes, sir; it was.
- 78. Was the moon shining then at that time? A. Yes, sir.
- 79. Shining brightly between 1 and 2 o'clock in the morning?

 A. Yes, sir.
- 80. On this day of August, 19187 A. Yes, sir.
- 81. You are quite certain that was the week of August 13, 1918? A. Yes, sir; I am positive.
- I was worked up over the murder, and I was alone there staying nights with the children, and I couldn't sleep, and I hadn't gone to sleep when this car stopped in front of the house. Then a short time afterwards, I heard two o'clock strike, so I knew it was that time.
- 83. That is, 2 o'clock on the village clock? A. Yes, Bir, by

Feri F. Weiss

In re: William K. Dean Murder Case Lights in New Hampshire Mountains (German Spy Suspect)

3/21/19

and that somebody came for it. I heard them tell. about three or four different ones. It was always a mystery to me how this could be at the bottom of the well, if Mr. Dean was thrown down like they said he was. How could it have gone in to the cistern, unless he tied himself up afterwards. This was a little bit of a cigarette case. It have heen the last of the cigarette paper. I don't think it was more than 1-1/2 inches wide. It was not round at the corners, but kind of squared cornered. Mr. Dean used to make his own cigarettes. I have seen him.

Agents next interviewed Father Hannon, who stated as follows:

I have preserved the following clipping for you, taken from the "Keene Sentinel" of March 19th, which will tell you all about the meeting we had in regard to the Dean Murder case here.

THE MYSTERY OF THE DEAN MURDER

Recalled by a Recent Meeting in Jaffrey and Alleged New Evidence.

Discussion of the Dean Murder so long a very mysterious crime, and one without reasonable purpose or motive,
so far as can be learned, was renewed at East Jaffrey,
recently, when a large meeting of cttizens was held at
which County Solicitor Pickard, William Kent or De Kerlor,
employed as a detective at first and later classed as a
consulting physchologist and detective were heard. Nothing new of importance appears to have been found, to lead
to the identification of the murder.

Mr. Pickard appeared at the meeting by request, it is understood, and reviewed the case at more or less length as far as he could do in a way consistent with his duties as the county prosecutor in charge. He also answered numerous questions in a similar way. Of course the solicitor and the attorney general have many facts and more or less evidence in their possession that cannot be made public. It is also understood that U. S. government authorities have been through the case very carefully and know all about

Typical FBI report

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NH 'Cold Case Unit' with members of the Society.



The Dean Murder Research Group meeting.



Chuck Cole photographing the evidence.