



Royal Pavilion & Museums

Operation Stanford

Police Statements

Year 3 & 4

CLASSIFIED

OFFICIAL POLICE DOCUMENT

Case Report: Manor Murder

Officer Reporting: P.C. A. Cuff

Statement:

We were called to Stanford Museum at Preston Manor at 1:30pm after a body was discovered in the front porch. It appeared to be a male of average height and build. There was no blood on the scene but after an examination it was discovered that he had a wound on his head and a heavy candlestick was lying next to the body. On examination of the candle stick there is only half a thumb print that we are currently investigating.

Having interviewed all those present at the Museum at lunchtime, we concluded that William Barrow the Gardener had motive and the means to commit murder.

His alibi could not be proven to be true. He claims he had been visiting his fiancé at the local Preston Park Train Station but we cannot contact her to confirm this. There was no one else at the station.

We also located his wheel barrow left suspiciously close to the Museum entrance, where the body was discovered.

Signed: P.C. Andrew Cuff



Mr William Barrow Gardener

“Of course I was all hot and sweaty but I wasn’t running away from the murder like the police thought!

I was running to catch up to Phyllis, my fiancé at Preston Park Station.

She was unexpectedly off to Scotland to visit her poorly mother and I wanted to give her the brooch I had brought her before she left.

I left my hat and my boots outside the front door in a hurry as I had been digging up carrots for the visiting Restorer all morning.”

[Next room is the North West Guest Bedroom](#)

SUSPECT NO.1



NAME: Mr William Barrow

AGE: 30

OCCUPATION: Preston Manor Gardener

CRIMINAL RECORD: Scrumping apples at age 12 from an Orchard.



Mr Albert Boffin Curator

“I came to the Manor at about 11:50am; I had a meeting with the handyman at lunchtime to discuss plans for a new display case. I said hello to William Barrow then went straight to the workshop.

I love it at the Manor, all of these beautiful objects; I often wish I could have them in my own home.

The Handyman and I talked about the cabinet and then I helped him wax a chair while we chatted.

When we heard the commotion in the house we ran to the door, when I unlocked it the poor visiting Restorer was lying dead on the porch. He had one of our candle sticks next to him.

I recognised it as one from the Morning Room but as I ran in to check I almost knocked over Mrs Banks who surprised me in the door way”.

[Next room is the Drawing Room](#)

SUSPECT NO.2



NAME: Mr Albert Boffin

AGE: 37

OCCUPATION: Curator of Preston Manor

CRIMINAL RECORD: None



Mrs Robyn Banks Visiting Journalist

“I was on my usual weekly visit to the Museum. I have been following the Museum set up and I am writing about it for the local paper. I am also very knowledgeable about antiques and tried to help the Curators when I could.

When the building closed at lunchtime I made myself a cup of tea and went and hid in the Morning Room. I know I’m not supposed to be in there during lunch but it was cold outside.

From the window I noticed the Gardener running from the house towards the station with a large bag. I must have fallen asleep after and was woken up to hearing a fuss. I went to investigate and I saw the poor visiting Restorer dead in the porch. He had been hit with a heavy object. I immediately rang the Police. I didn’t go anywhere near him.

No, I did not notice that one of the candle sticks in the morning room was missing!”

[Go to the Macquoid Room](#)

SUSPECT NO.3



NAME: Mrs Robyn Banks

AGE: 59

OCCUPATION: Visiting Journalist

CRIMINAL RECORD: Petty Theft (1922)



Mr Andrew Lofthouse Handyman

“I was in the workshop all morning. I am helping make a display case for the new Museum. I had promised the Curator I would talk to him about it at lunchtime but I wanted to get things started early.

I used to be the Chauffer here when the Stanford's owned the manor, now I am only the Handyman, but hopefully I will be promoted very soon.

At 12'o'clock I saw the Gardener who was in a hurry, I don't know where he was going. I had been waiting outside the workshop for the Curator and when he arrived, we discussed the shape and size of the cabinet. He ended up staying for longer and we chatted while waxing chairs.

We both heard a fuss from the Entrance Hall and ran to see what was happening! I took off my gloves to feel his pulse.”

The next room is the Morning Room

SUSPECT NO.4



NAME: Mr Andrew Lofthouse A.K.A 'Lofty'

AGE: 44

OCCUPATION: Preston Manor Handy-Man

CRIMINAL RECORD: None



Miss Nell Polish Cleaner

“I arrived as usual in the morning and picked up my keys, I have ALL the room keys.

I did go and clean the Morning Room that day and I remember dusting the candlestick at about 10 o'clock. When I tried to get to the high rails I remember asking the Restorer to help me with my feather duster. He was much taller than me you see.

At 12 o'clock I went to have lunch with the Gardener, as usual, but I saw him leaving. He shouted something about meeting Phyllis at the Station and something else about a brooch. Because it was a lovely day I ate my lunch outside in the garden. I don't know if anyone saw me”.

The next room is the Cleves Room

SUSPECT NO.5



NAME: Miss N. Polish

AGE: 28

OCCUPATION: Cleaner at Preston Manor

CRIMINAL RECORD: None