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DAMON'S 'STAY OUT OF JAIL ' CARD

*'Persons of repute, the principal one being made by a gentleman who has engaged in business in the city of New York for upwards of thirty years, and who is vouched for by Governor Voorhees as a man of excellent character. No motive to misrepresent is apparent; and unless the affidavits are a pure fabrication, there can be no doubt that the prisoner was wrongfully convicted.'*  
Governor of New York, Benjamin Odell, in 1902

*'This story was not subjected to legal investigation'*  
Dr. Austin Flint on the story of the Danish Farmhand according to George Damon.

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*Regardless of your position as to who was guilty of murdering Carrie Brown, the man who was given a life-sentence for the crime was released and deported, not exonerated or pardoned, in no small part due to the intervention of this man, the Governor of New Jersey, Foster McGowan Voorhees.*

*Damon, as we see, had every opportunity to turn in the key allegedly left by his farmhand, back in 1891. With a friend like Voorhees, who had once been the State Senator from Union County, Damon's home turf, it would have been very simple to avoid any problems with New York's authorities. Damon's hollow excuses presented in his affidavit and to reporters for not coming forward in 1901 were, in the view of some students of this case, excuses invented to cover up the fact he kept the key to Room 31 as a souvenir for ten years....all the while aware that this key might have resulted in a different verdict on July 3rd, 1891, the day the jury elected to convict Ali of second degree murder....a life sentence without parole.*

*Damon was in possession of this key, if the story is not a fabrication, for 2 weeks prior to the May 13-May 14 coroner inquest....during the two months from the murder to the jury's decision and for ten years after.*

*Odell quote from George R. Dekle's " The East River Ripper : The Mysterious 1891 Murder of Old Shakespeare, Kent State Univ. Press, 2021 & Collected Essays and Articles on Physiology and Medicine, 1903, Dr. Austin Flint*

Foster McGowan Voorhees



***Letter from Governor Voorhees to Governor Odell  
which allowed Damon to sidestep any potential  
legal problems.  
Courtesy of Luke Jerod Kummer.***

*State of New Jersey Executive Department*

*May 15 1901*

*Hon Benjamin Odell*

*Governor*

*Dear Sir:*

*Mr. George Damon of Cranford in this state is a resident of my home county and has been personally and professionally known to me for a number of years. He bears an excellent reputation in the community which he has lived for a long time and for him I have a high personal regard. I feel safe in assuring you that you can safely rely upon representations made by him—I have the honor to be.*

*Yours Respectfully,  
Foster M Voorhees*