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AUTOPSY REPORT - DR. JENKINS AT THE CORONER  
INQUEST : MAY 13, 1891

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DR. WILLIAM T. JENKINS, veing called as a witness by the Coroner, was duly sworn, and testified as follows:-  
By Mr. Wellman:-  
Q You made the autopsy on the body of this woman, Shakespeare? A. Yes, sir.  
Q When did you make the autopsy? A. On Saturday.  
Q Where? A. At the Morgue at the foot of 28th Street.  
Q How old a woman would you judge she was from the body?  
Q I judge she was a woman sixty years of age, she was subsequently identified as fifty-six. I found the body on the dissecting table at the Morgue, and an incised wound of the abdomen extending into the abdominal cavity, the lower portion of the body, and a small sack filled with fluid and one of the ovaries which was afterwards found to be the left ovary lying on the body; I also found a portion of the intestines on the table, the lower portion of the small or intestines, they were with the body on the table and they were a part of the body as far as we can tell, and corresponding with the missing portion of the body; the face was livid and there were three small bruise spots on the left side of the wind pipe on neck, one above the other; they were about half an inch in diameter, one having a crescent shape as if made by a finger nail; the tongue protruded

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from the mouth partly. On the left side of the abdomen there was a superficial wound beginning ~~at~~ level with the navel here about in this position, extending down to the thigh, beginning about here and ending down to the thigh, and it was simply a scratch fifteen inches in length, and superficial, made by the nail or it might be made by the point of a dull knife; there was a second wound superficial in character resembling this which was twelve inches in length, the lower seven inches not well marked or very indistinct; also two parallel and superficial wounds or scratches on the right side of the abdomen and extending from about here (illustrating) and running up here; the upper portion was at the upper end of the incised wound of abdomen and that hid a part of it or gave appearance of being a portion of incised wound. But afterwards I found them to be separate; one of the parallel scratches (the outer) was nine inches in length and the inner eight and a half inches, and less than half an inch apart. There was an incision in the abdomen penetrating the abdominal cavity to the right and extending down to the right side of external genitals, making button-hole cut in the skin. The weapon had cut out two portions of the intestines and mesentery a portion of the intestines was attached to mesentery and

the edges were ragged and seemed to have been made with a dull instrument, and it had required two efforts at least - two efforts to cut; on the left buttock a horizontal wound passing across the lower portion of the back two inches to the right of the median line, it extends from this side some ten and three-fourths of an inch in length and a crescentic scratch wound across this horizontal scratch is seven and three-fourths inches in length, making a rude cross; on the back, posterior portion of the body is a wound six and three quarter inches in length, commencing in the vagina, a portion of the generative organs, and extending through the perineum, the portion between the vagina and the rectum, passing to the left of the anus, and terminating one inch above and to the right on the small bones which terminate the spinal column, between the buttock and the junction of the spinal column. Its depth was four and a half inches and passed into the pelvic cavity and back, but had not passed into the lining membrane, which covers the intestine and cavity. Two superficial cuts, extending from this termination of spinal column into the vagina, showing there had been at least three efforts to cut; they formed an X. There was a cut sixteen inches in length on the mesentery in one place, and a cut nine inches and a half in length

in another place; a portion of the intestines was gone and some still attached; in the mesentery; a small wound in mesentery which was made by the point of a knife. The uterus and ovary were atrophied. The hyoid bone had been sufficiently compressed to fracture and rupture small vessels producing slight hemorrhage. The brain and meninges were congested, and there was some small spots which indicated asphyxiation. The tongue protruding from the mouth itself does not indicate asphyxiation; the cause of death in this case was asphyxiation, strangulation. You could not determine definitely whether the incisions were made just before or just after death; it would be impossible to determine that positively; if we had seen any evidence of arterial spurring upon examining the rooms, we might have been able to determine it.

By the Coroner:-  
Q She died of asphyxiation, in other words strangulation?  
A. Yes, sir; I would not say the other injuries or wounds did not contribute.  
By Mr. Wellman:-  
Q Possibly choked and possibly killed with a knife?  
A. Yes, sir.

By a Juror:-  
Q Might not both have occurred together? A. Yes;  
it would be very difficult to determine which was the principal cause, but all evidence from autopsy points to strangulation.

By Mr. Wellman:-  
Q The wounds appeared to be made with a dull knife such as the knife shown to you there? A. They might have been done with a knife of that character.

CROSS EXAMINATION BY MR. HOUSE:-  
Q You don't mean to say that the wounds which you discovered were made with that knife but a knife similar?  
A. They could have been made with that.  
Q They could have been made with that knife? A. Yes, sir; there were at least three or four cuts indicating a dull knife.

By a Juror:-  
Q Was there very much congestion of the vessels of the brain? A. Yes, sir.  
Q And both of the lungs - evidence in both lungs?  
A. Yes, sir; but not so marked as in some cases of asphyxiation.  
Q What was the condition of the heart? A. Contracted down, containing some fluid blood in the right auricle.

