**On the 10th September 1888 *The Telegraph* informed its readers that:-**

At eight o’clock last night the Scotland-yard authorities had come to a definite conclusion as to the description of the murderer of two, at least, of the hapless women found dead at the East-end, and the following is the official telegram despatched to every station throughout the metropolis and suburbs: “Commercial-street, 8.20 p.m. – Description of a man wanted, who entered a passage of the house at which the murder was committed with a prostitute, at two a.m. the 8th. Aged thirty-seven, height 5 ft. 7 in., rather dark, beard and moustache; dress, short dark jacket, dark vest and trousers, black scarf and black felt hat; spoke with a foreign accent.”

**Unconfirmed sighting in the press**

A week later on 8th September 1888 the body of Annie Chapman was discovered in the back yard of number 29 Hanbury Street. There were unconfirmed newspaper reports that Annie Chapman had been drinking in the Ten Bells pub, at the junction of Commercial Street and Church Street (today’s Fournier Street), at around 5am, when a man in a “little skull cap” popped his head round the door and called her out. The veracity of this sighting is difficult if not impossible to ascertain.

**Mrs. Elizabeth Long**

Mrs Long at 5.30am on 8th September had been walking along Hanbury Street when she saw a man and a woman chatting on the pavement outside number 29. Since the body of Annie Chapman was found thirty minutes later in the back yard of number 29 Hanbury Street, and since Mrs. Long later identified Annie Chapman’s body as being the woman she had seen, her statement was taken seriously. She hadn’t seen the man’s face, only his back, but she described him as being of foreign appearance with a dark complexion. He was of shabby genteel appearance, aged about forty, and not much more than five foot in height. He had on a dark overcoat, and wore a brown deerstalker hat. Since the woman was facing her, she saw more of her and, when taken to see Annie Chapman’s body at the mortuary, was certain she was the woman. Mrs. Long later told the inquest that the couple, “…were talking pretty loudly…” and so she overheard the man say in a foreign accent, “Will you?” To which the woman replied, “Yes.” But since, as she later told the Coroner, it was quite common for her to see couples “standing there in the morning,” Mrs. Long found nothing suspicious about them and continued on her way.

**From the coroner’s report of Dr Wynne Baxter in the murder of Anne Chapman, 14th September 1888**

The injuries had been made by someone who had considerable anatomical skill and knowledge. There were no meaningless cuts. The organ [Chapman’s womb] had been taken by one who knew where to find it. No unskilled person could have known this or have recognised it when found. For instance, no mere slaughterer of animals could have carried out these operations. It must have been someone accustomed to the post mortem room with a desire to possess the missing organ.