**From a report by Chief Inspector Swanson in to the murder of Kate Eddowes, 6th November 1888.**

There is no evidence of anatomical knowledge that suggested the killer was a qualified surgeon, otherwise the police could have narrowed their enquiries down to certain classes of persons. On the other hand… the medical evidence showed that the murder could have been committed by a hunter, a butcher, a slaughterman, as well as a student in surgery or a properly qualified surgeon.

**Jospeh Lawende**

At 1.30am on 30th September 1888 three men, Harry Harris, Joseph Hyam Levy and Joseph Lawende left the Imperial Club on Duke Street. As they passed its junction with Church Passage, they noticed a man and woman talking quietly together. The woman had her back to them, but they could see that her hand was resting on the man’s chest. Levy was immediately convinced that the couple were up to no good, and announced brusquely “I don’t like going home by myself when I see these sorts of characters about” In his hurry to get away he paid the couple scant attention and was unable to describe either of them, although he did say that the man may have been three or so inches taller than the woman.

Jospeh Lawende, however, was a little less disgusted and a little more observant. Although he hadn’t seen the woman’s face, he was almost certain that her clothing was that worn by Catharine Eddowes, when he was later shown it at the police station. Although the street lighting wasn’t particularly good, he caught a brief glimpse of the man’s face and was able to provide police with a description. He had the appearance of a sailor and was aged about 30. He was around 5 feet 9 inches tall, of medium build. He had a fair complexion, and a small fair moustache. He sported a reddish neckerchief, tied in a knot; wore a pepper-and-salt coloured, loose fitting jacket, and had on a grey, peaked, cloth cap.

**Uncorroborated Press Report**

The Telegraph reported in an article on 12th October 1888 how at the inquest in to Catherine Eddowes death “…reference was made…to a man, rough and shabby” with a peaked cloth cap, who was observed by two witnesses at the corner of Church-passage at twenty-five minutes to two a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 30, but details were, at the request of Mr. Crawford, the City Solicitor, not pressed for.

**James Blenkingsop**

According to a brief report in the Star newspaper on 1st October James Blenkingsop was working as a watchman in St James’s Place, a thoroughfare that stood adjacent to Mitre Square. At 1.30am a respectably dressed man approached him and asked “Have you seen a man and woman go through here?” Blenkingsop replied told the man that he had seen some people pass but had paid them scant attention. Given the proximity in both time and place to the murder of Catherine Eddowes it seems inevitable that the police would have followed this report up. It seems that the police eliminated the man seen by Blenkingsop, although the destruction of the City Police records during the war leaves us not knowing why this should have been. Significantly, however, he was not called as a witness at the subsequent inquest.