**Mary Anne Cox**

Mary Anne Cox was described in her police statement, made on the 9th November, as being “a widow and an unfortunate.” She lived at number 5 Miller’s Court, and “unfortunate” was a quaint Victorian euphemism for prostitute. Returning to Dorset Street between 11.45pm and midnight, she saw Mary Jane (the name by which she apparently knew Kelly) walking ahead of her in the company of a man who was carrying a quart can of beer. As Mrs Cox turned into the Court Mary and the man were entering Kelly’s room. Mrs Cox called out “good night Mary Jane,” but Kelly, who was “very drunk,” could scarcely answer, although she did manage to say “good night.” The man was aged about 36, was 5 feet 5 inches tall, he had a fresh complexion and, so she thought, a blotchy face. He had side whiskers, a thick carroty moustache, was dressed in shabby dark clothes, dark overcoat and black felt hat.

**Sarah Lewis**

At around 2.30am, Sarah Lewis, a laundress of 24 Great Pearl Street, passed Christchurch, and looked up at the clock. She had argued with her husband and had decided to spend the rest of the night with her friend Mrs. Keyler and her husband at number 2 Miller’s Court, a first floor room. According to her police statement, as she approached the court there was a man standing against the lodging house on the opposite side of Dorset Street, although she was unable to describe him. Evidently over the next few days Sarah Lewis gave a lot of thought to this mystery man and by the time of Mary Kelly’s inquest she was able to go into a little more detail: “He was not tall – but stout – had on a wideawake black hat – I did not notice his clothes – another young man with a woman passed along – The man standing in the street was looking up the court as if waiting for someone to come out.”

Her inquest testimony though is remarkable for another fact that had, apparently, slipped her mind when making her police statement: “About Wednesday night at 8 o’clock I was going along Bethnal Green Road with another female and a Gentleman passed us he turned back and spoke to us, he asked us to follow him, and asked one of us he did not mind which, [to go with him] we refused. He went away, and came back and said if we would follow him he would treat us – he asked us to go down a passage – he had a bag he put it down saying what are you frightened of – he then undid his coat and felt for something and we ran away – He was short, pale faced, with a black small moustache, about forty years of age – the bag he had was about a foot or nine inches long – he had on a round high hat – he had a brownish long overcoat and a short black coat underneath – and pepper and salt trousers. On our running away we did not look after the man – On the Friday morning about half past two when I was coming to Miller’s Court I met the same man with a female – in Commercial Street near Mr Ringers Public House – He had then no overcoat on – but he had the bag and the same hat trousers and undercoat.

I passed by them and looked back at the man – I was frightened – I looked again when I got to the corner of Dorset Street. I have not seen the man since I should know him if I did.”

