

HOLMES KEPT SKELETONS

Said to Have Had the Bones of His Victims Articulated.

AS A HEAVY INVESTOR IN PATENTS

Further Discoveries in the Englewood House—Wanted His Brother-in-Law Killed—An Insurance Agent Who Feared Him.

CHICAGO, July 28.—Unmistakable evidence of murder at the Holmes "castle" in Englewood was last night placed in the hands of Inspector Fitzpatrick. That at least four persons have been cruelly murdered in this chamber of horrors is now a practical certainty.

Part of the skeleton of one of Holmes's victims, supposedly that of Mrs. Julia Connor, is now in the Inspector's office in the City Hall. Two other skeletons, which came from the same place, will be placed in his possession to-morrow. A fourth body has been traced to Philadelphia, and its recipient there will no doubt be discovered in the course of a few days.

The man who produced this startling evidence was closeted with the Inspector and Detectives Norton and Fitzpatrick from 6 till 9 o'clock last night.

This man's story is that he first met Holmes in response to an advertisement which appeared in a daily newspaper for a machinist. This was in the Summer of 1892. He worked for Holmes in that capacity for several months. One day Holmes came to him and asked him if he could mount a skeleton. The man said he could. Holmes conducted him to a dark room on the second floor in the central part of the building, and there pointed out the body of a man. There was considerable flesh on the lower limbs, but the arms were practically denuded of flesh. He took the arm bones and skull away with him that night. The next day Holmes took the remainder of the skeleton to the machinist's house. This was Oct. 1, 1892. Jan. 2, 1893, Holmes went to him and asked him to articulate another skeleton for him. Another trip to the dark room produced another human body—this time that of a female. This body had much more flesh on it than the other. In describing the body to the police he said:

"The body looked like that of a jackrabbit which had been skinned by splitting the skin down the face and rolling it back off the entire body. In some places considerable of the flesh had been taken off with it."

This is the skeleton now in the possession of the Inspector, who believes it to be all that is left of Mrs. Julia Connor. In June, 1893, he was again called upon by Holmes to articulate a third skeleton, which was produced from this same dark and mysterious chamber in the "castle." Holmes paid him \$36 each for two of the skeletons, and took them away. The third he did not call for.

The name by which the mechanic is generally known is Charley Chapman. He has not been formally placed under arrest, but probably will be as soon as the police get from him all the information he will give. It is said that he knows entirely too much of Holmes and his skeletons to be an innocent man. It was what he claims to be the skull of Mrs. Connor which he brought to Inspector Fitzpatrick. He claims that the other bones are now in the hands of a young medical student to whom he loaned them. The entire skeleton will probably be in the hands of the police to-morrow, together with that of Annie Williams. Chapman is quite positive that he knows from whose bodies the skeletons were taken, and does not seem to realize that he can be made to tell where he acquired the information or explain why he has held the information secret.

The mechanic was greatly startled when he found that the police knew of his existence or his connection with Holmes. He was drinking in a saloon early yesterday, and, becoming slightly intoxicated, let slip several remarks which are accountable for his being in the position which he now finds himself. He at first denied all knowledge of Holmes or his doings, but decided later that he would tell at least part of what he knows. He pleaded with the police to keep his name from the public, as he has two respectable sons who are clerks in mercantile houses here.

Another most important feature of this man's story was his statement that during all the time that he was fixing up skeletons for Holmes, Pat Quinlan was about the premises, and seemed to be Holmes's trusted man. To verify his statement in this regard, Quinlan was sent for, and confronted by the machinist and moulder of skeletons. What took place between the two men the Inspector declined to say, but when Pat came out of the "sweatbox" his whole bearing was that of abject despair.

Only about an hour before Quinlan had been called upon to face another witness whose testimony was damaging for him and Holmes. This witness was Cephas Humphrey, a colored man, who lives at 6,213 Peoria Street, and drives an express wagon. Humphrey told the Inspector that in June, 1893, Holmes came to him one day and asked him if he could take a trunk and box to the Union Station.

"I told him I could," said Humphrey. "I want you to come after the stuff about dark," said Holmes, "as I do not care to have the neighbors see it go away."

Humphrey called. He was conducted to this chamber of horrors mentioned by the machinist and even more vividly described by the superstitious colored man.

"It was an awful-looking place," he said. "There were no windows in it at all, and only a heavy door opening into it. It made my flesh creep to go in there. I felt as if something was wrong, but Mr. Holmes did not give me much time to think about that."

Humphrey then went on to tell how he had found a large box which looked like the casing ordinarily used for a coffin. This box he carried down stairs and started to set upon end on the sidewalk. Holmes was watching him from a window up stairs, and rapped vigorously to attract his attention.

"Don't do that," he called to the expressman. "Lay it down flat."

He then went back and got the trunk. Holmes instructed him to take both to the Union Station and leave them at a certain place on the platform. He told Humphrey he need not say anything to anybody at the station, as a man there was expecting the packages and would take care of them. Humphrey said, that as well as he recollected, Holmes told him the box was to go to Philadelphia, but he could not remember where he said the trunk was to be sent.

The expressman and machinist were both detained by the Inspector, and will not be allowed to leave the custody of an officer until more searching investigation is made in regard to their stories.

Another alleged startling discovery reported by the police yesterday was the finding of a woman's footprint on the inside door of the blind vault on the third floor of the building. Although the vault had been carefully examined on previous occasions, the footprint was not found until yesterday. Up to that time the police had been entirely at a loss to attribute any objection for the construction of the vault arrangement other than that advanced by conjecture. Now it is believed by the police that Holmes's victims, or some of them, were inveigled into the vault between the two sets of doors, and there they were smothered.