

HOW WERE CRIMES SOLVED IN THE 1800S



It used to be harder

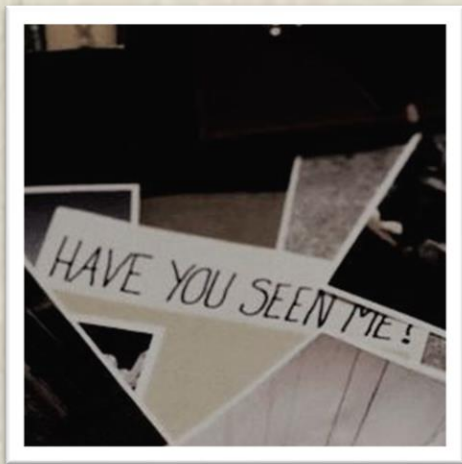
- Everyone looks at how crime solving is working today and how easy it is to solve crimes with all of these electronic devices. Not so many people know how crime solving used to be back or how people made all the strategies that are used today to solve murder scenes.





- Despite common misconceptions, forensic investigation has been practiced, in one form or another, for thousands of years. Before the discovery and impact of DNA in the early 1980s and other modern technologies, criminal investigators *had* to solve crimes and *solved* them.

How was it?





«A MATTER OF CHANCE»



THE BASIC METHODS

- Searching
- Interviews
- Interrogations
- Evidence collection



Note: the evidence was mostly hand-studied. Therefore, the investigation required the efforts of many specialists in various narrow areas of knowledge.



Let statistics help

- There are a couple of concepts, that helped detectives to solve crimes even without any technologies.
- The first is that most innocent victims know their assailants. It was believed that there was an 85% chance of solving a murder if you found the victim's address book.
- And the second is that a small percentage of people in a community commit the majority of offenses.



- Finally, there is the golden rule: one plus one equals eleven (according to the Israeli security service, Shin Bet). One guy commits the crime and can't keep his mouth shut. He tells somebody his secret. That somebody tells someone else about what the original bad guy did, and so on, and so on - until eleven people know the secret. The cop just has to ask around long enough to find one of those eleven people.



ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1800S

- The development of tests for the presence of blood in a forensic context.
- A bullet comparison used to catch a murderer.
- The first use of toxicology (arsenic detection).
- The development of the first crystal test for hemoglobin using hemin crystals.
- The development of a test for blood.
- The first use of photography for the identification of criminals and documentation of evidence and crime scenes.
- The development of the first microscope with a comparison bridge.
- The first recorded use of fingerprints to solve a crime.



USING FINGERPRINTS IS A GREAT STEP FORWARD

- Fingerprinting (Dactyloscopy) as a forensic science began to develop at the end of the XIX century.
- In 1880 Henry Faulds, a Scottish surgeon in a Tokyo hospital, published his first paper on the fingerprints identification and proposed a method to record them with printing ink. Returning to Great Britain he offered the concept to the Metropolitan Police in London but it was dismissed and thought to be pseudoscience.
- Up until the early 1890s police forces in the United States and on the European continent could not reliably identify criminals.
- In 1892 Francis Galton published a detailed statistical model of fingerprint analysis in his book Finger Prints. He had calculated that the possibility for two different individuals to have the same fingerprints is about 1 in 64 billion. Exactly in the same year, one case was solved using fingerprinting technology.



- In the 19th century, there wasn't any automatic organizing technology, so all the information about all the fingerprints was kept in huge file cabinets.

- Fingerprints were compared by forensics manually (with magnifying glass).
- Despite all the difficulties, dactyloscopy really reduced the number of unsolved cases.





**THANK YOU FOR
YOUR ATTENTION**

