

The Ninth Kettle

THE CASE FILE

Amos Kelleher, who had signed the works over to a buyer no hand here had met, was found beside the ninth kettle at 11:40, at the end of the round. The coroner set three readings against the one mark and would not choose. A rinse apron lay on the wet drain rail. Loomis and Colwell had hung theirs there; Stackhouse and Redpath too, as every hand does after a boil.

Nothing leaves the crib untagged: dip ladles 1 to 3, flue irons 4 to 6, damper caps 7 to 9; the round chawks each to a cask. The east cask takes the ash-hopper run and stands 1, 6, 8; the middle cask the fat, 3, 4, 9; the yard cask the rinse, 2, 5, 7. The draw book: 1, 2, 3 Stackhouse, Loomis, Loomis; 4, 5, 6 Colwell, Colwell, Loomis; 7, 8, 9 Redpath, Stackhouse, Stackhouse. One ladle, one iron and one cap to a cask; all nine came back.

THE VICTIM	FOUND AT	TIME	APPARENT CAUSE
Amos Kelleher	Beside the ninth kettle, boil house	11:40 p.m.	Undetermined

THE SUSPECTS

1

HARLAN LOOMIS

Kettle hand, first watch

Motive: The sale wiped out the note Kelleher owed him for two winters of coal.

Alibi: "At the ash hoppers, drawing off." The hopper book takes his mark at 11:15. One mark is one minute, not the half hour after it.

2

MARTHA COLWELL

Kettle hand, second watch

Motive: Kelleher had promised her the pan house, then sold it out from under her.

Alibi: "Weighing out at the scale house." The scale slips carry her hand at 11:32. A slip proves a pen was there, not that she stayed.

3

DEWITT STACKHOUSE

Kettle hand, third watch

Motive: His father's name came off the works' sign the week Kelleher signed.

Alibi: "Racking tools back at the crib." The crib book holds his signature at 11:12. A signature closes a draw, not the time after it.

4

IRENE REDPATH

Kettle hand, fourth watch

Motive: Kelleher had her brother put off the floor over a short weight.

Alibi: "Out at the yard gate for the cart." The gate book takes her mark at 11:28. A gate mark shows a crossing, not where she went next.

A	S	P	H	Y	X	I	A	T	I	O	N	H	N
I	R	H	F	A	T	S	T	O	C	K	B	O	Y
C	H	A	N	D	L	E	R	R	J	H	I	Z	R
A	S	T	R	A	N	G	U	L	A	T	I	O	N
O	Z	R	N	N	G	K	R	W	U	Y	S	G	L
S	H	N	P	I	U	I	H	C	W	T	N	L	G
A	Y	I	T	S	R	V	O	O	E	I	A	P	N
P	F	R	L	O	K	R	L	A	H	F	L	G	I
O	Q	E	S	R	T	L	R	S	L	O	Q	N	K
N	L	C	Y	C	A	I	U	A	D	S	C	I	O
I	K	Y	E	T	N	R	T	D	X	R	I	N	H
F	F	L	B	E	C	A	E	D	A	A	Q	R	C
Y	E	G	A	I	F	R	Y	Q	F	N	W	U	P
L	I	S	L	R	E	H	C	T	U	R	C	B	C

EVIDENCE 2 - THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

1. TALLOW
2. STEARIN
3. ROSIN
4. GLYCERIN
5. CRUTCHER
6. PLODDER
7. CHANDLER
8. SAPONIFY
9. FATSTOCK

YOUR LETTERS**THE HIDDEN WORD**

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EVIDENCE 1 - THE MISSING WORD

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| ☐ SCALDING | ☐ BURNING | ☐ CRUSHING | ☐ ASPHYXIATION |
| ☐ STRANGULATION | ☐ FATAL FALL | ☐ CHOKING | ☐ ELECTROCUTION |

EVIDENCE 1 - METHOD**EVIDENCE 2 - PROFILE****VERDICT - CULPRIT**