

The Stone That Turned

THE CASE FILE

Judah Stambaugh was found under the stone curb at first light, an hour after the night's last draw. The examiner returns one finding and ranks none; the mill reads it three ways, one to a class: stone floor, wheel pit, meal loft. A sack sits burst under the hopper; every hand here splits one. Stambaugh had recut the turn book, and Diehl, Kreider, Witmer and Rohrer all lost turns.

The headgate gives one turn of each pair the head water: it ran under load and took a hand's mark on the set wedge; the other ran slack. Eighteen turns, two to a line, one hand each: stone, pit, loft, head first. Draw 0: Rohrer/Witmer; Witmer/Rohrer; Witmer/Rohrer. Draw 1: Kreider/Rohrer; Rohrer/Diehl; Kreider/Diehl. Draw 2: Witmer/Kreider; Kreider/Diehl; Kreider/Diehl. Sum Evidence 2 in A1Z26 over three: the remainder is the draw.

THE VICTIM	FOUND AT	TIME	APPARENT CAUSE
Judah Stambaugh, mill owner	Millrace Hollow Gristmill, Anselm	Between the	Undetermined

THE SUSPECTS

1

OREN DIEHL

Mill hand, east stand

Motive: Stambaugh cut his winter turns down to two a week.

Alibi: "Between my turns I was at the sack landing." The hoist tally carries his name at 4:20. A tally line is not the hours around it.

2

MARTHA KREIDER

Mill hand, west stand

Motive: Her report on the headgate named Stambaugh, and he answered it in the book.

Alibi: "Off my turns I stood on the pond walk." The gate book puts her there at every setting. It is written every forty minutes.

3

SILAS WITMER

Mill hand, north stand

Motive: Stambaugh had his month of turns recut to suit the new lease.

Alibi: "I was walking a new hand down the flume." Two hands put him there before the draw and after. No one stands for the gap.

4

ADELLE ROHRER

Mill hand, south stand

Motive: Stambaugh held back the share of the mill she had been promised.

Alibi: "I took my supper off the loading porch." The canteen slip is timed 5:05. One slip covers one till, not a night of turns.

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

EVIDENCE 2 - THE HIDDEN MESSAGE

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| 1. RYND | 2. HURST | 3. DAMSEL | 4. BOLTER |
| 5. GARNER | 6. SPINDLE | 7. FOREBAY | 8. STONENUT |
| 9. PENSTOCK | 10. WALLOWER | | |

YOUR LETTERS**THE HIDDEN WORD**

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EVIDENCE 1 - THE MISSING WORD

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| ☐ BLUNT TRAUMA | ☐ CRUSHING | ☐ DROWNING | ☐ FATAL FALL |
| ☐ ASPHYXIATION | ☐ STRANGULATION | ☐ SCALDING | ☐ IMPALEMENT |

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