

# The Lockkeeper Ledger

## THE CASE FILE

Ozeme Theriot had signed the night lockage away, and the berths with it. He was found in the lower cut, between the gates, at 4:20. One mark, and the examiner ranks nothing: the lock reads it three ways, one to a walk - sump walk, flue walk, live walk. A mooring line lay cut at the bitt; Landry and Trahan had parted one that watch; Savoie and Dugas too, as no hand hauls one whole.

Eighteen crank draws, six to a walk, two to a box. Sump 1-6: Dugas, Trahan, Trahan, Landry, Trahan, Dugas; flue 7-12: Savoie, Trahan, Dugas, Landry, Landry, Savoie; live 13-18: Landry, Savoie, Landry, Trahan, Savoie, Dugas. Quota 0: 1, 2, 7, 8, 13, 14; quota 1: 3, 4, 9, 10, 15, 16; quota 2: 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, 18. The book holds one row per box: the first draw of the pair, never the second. Sum Evidence 2 in A1Z26 over three: the remainder is the quota.

| THE VICTIM                   | FOUND AT                        | TIME         | APPARENT CAUSE |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| Ozeme Theriot,<br>lockkeeper | Lower cut, between<br>the gates | 4:20<br>a.m. | Undetermined   |

## THE SUSPECTS

### 1 ODILE LANDRY

Lock hand, north wall

**Motive:** Theriot had cut her name from the spring roster.

**Alibi:** "I was on the tow bank till the flood." The gate book carries her name at 3:50. It fixes a page, not where she went after.

### 2 SOSTHENE TRAHAN

Lock hand, south wall

**Motive:** Theriot had struck his berth off the night roll.

**Alibi:** "I was at the pump shed all watch." The gate book carries his name at 4:05. It fixes an hour, not the one after it.

### 3 NUMA SAVOIE

Lock hand, gate deck

**Motive:** Theriot had held back his whole winter pay.

**Alibi:** "I was up on the levee crown." The tally book carries his name at 4:00. It fixes a height, not the minutes after.

### 4 ELZIE DUGAS

Lock hand, tow bank

**Motive:** Theriot had put her berth up for sale in March.

**Alibi:** "I was closing off the tow list." The tally book carries her name at 3:55. It fixes a column, not where she went next.

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

**EVIDENCE 2 - THE HIDDEN MESSAGE**

- |            |              |             |            |
|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|
| 1. BERM    | 2. SILL      | 3. POUND    | 4. BYWASH  |
| 5. STOPLOG | 6. WEIR      | 7. SNUBPOST | 8. CULVERT |
| 9. TOWPATH | 10. SANDBOIL | 11. PADDLE  |            |

**YOUR LETTERS****THE HIDDEN WORD**

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**EVIDENCE 1 - THE MISSING WORD**

- |                                      |                                      |                                          |                                        |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> HYPOTHERMIA | <input type="checkbox"/> SUFFOCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> FUME INHALATION | <input type="checkbox"/> GARROTING     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STABBING    | <input type="checkbox"/> POISONING   | <input type="checkbox"/> DROWNING        | <input type="checkbox"/> ELECTROCUTION |

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