

# The Bilge Pump

Vol. 06, No. 02 - February, 2018  
*The Irregular Publication of the Crew of the  
Barque Lone Star*



## PLEASE NOTE:

### March 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting NOTICE

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 4th, at 1:00 pm. at LA MADELEINE COUNTRY FRENCH CAFE, in Addison.

The restaurant is at 5290 Belt Line Rd #112, just east of the Tollway.

We will be reading "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton." The quiz will cover this tale.

**Diana Tran is scheduled to give a video presentation.**

Each monthly meeting will also include toasts as well as general business, introductions, and general fellowship.

### February 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting Summary

There were 23 attendees on hand, including visitors. The Opening toast was delivered by Dr. William Pervin, honoring the writers who contributed short stories to **A Grimm Holmes**.

The quiz covered "The Adventure of the Retired Colourman" and was won by Karen Olson, with Sandra Little taking second place.

Cindy Brown provided a wonderful, whimsical paper, called "They Deserved Killin." Cindy gave commentary regarding each villain, Charles Augustus Milverton, Charles McCarthy, Eustace Brackenstall, and Mortimer Treginnis, while including remarks pertaining to Sherlock Holmes and dispensation of justice.

Dean Clark and Cindy also acted out a wonderful skit written by Dean, in which Watson's medical begins to fails and John and Mary became music hall performers.

Steve Mason, Third Mate, provided *the State of the Society*, covering our accomplishments this last year, and what we hope to accomplish this coming year.

The Third Mate and Helmsman were re-elected for another term of office.

Greg Ruby of the Fourth Garrideb will be in Dallas for <https://www.money.org/NationalMoneyShow> March 8-10. He has invited us to join him at the Ranch Las Colinas <http://theranchlc.com/> on March 9th.

Karen Olson delivered a wonderful closing toast, which incorporated all stories of the canon (excluding the Casebook).

Thanks to Brenda Hutchison for keeping the minutes, which you can find on our website.



For more information concerning our society, visit: <http://www.dfw-sherlock.org/>

You can follow us on Twitter at: @barquelonestar

You can friend us on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar>

## Who dunnit:



Third Mate  
Helmsman  
Spiritual Advisors

Secretaries  
Historian  
Webmaster

Steve Mason  
Walter Pieper  
Don Hobbs, BSI  
Jim Webb  
Cindy Brown, Brenda Hutchison  
Pam Mason  
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[mason.steve@epa.gov](mailto:mason.steve@epa.gov)  
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[myrkrid08@yahoo.com](mailto:myrkrid08@yahoo.com)

Our Website: [www.dfw-sherlock.org](http://www.dfw-sherlock.org)

Our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/BarqueLoneStar/>

The image is a composite of three main elements:

- Background:** A parchment-like texture with handwritten text in a cursive script. Visible text includes: "That will await him when he enters port," said he, chuckling. "It may give him a sleepless night. He will find it as sure a precursor of his fate as Openshaw did before him." "And who is this Captain Calhoun?" "The leader of the gang. I shall have the other..." "How did you trace it, then?" "He took a large sheet of paper from his pocket..." "I have spent the whole day," said he, "over in January and February in '83. There were attracted my attention, since, although it was..." "Texas, I think." "I was not and am not..." "What then?"
- Central Website Screenshot:** A screenshot of a website titled "THE CREW OF THE BARQUE LONE STAR". It features a logo with a star and a silhouette of a person. A search bar is visible. Below the logo is a navigation menu with items: Home Page, About, Crew Investigations and Awards, Newsletters, Crew Meeting Logs, & Society Pastiches, Papers, Many Faces of Sherlock Holmes, and Ephemera -- General. A large image of a building is shown with the text "Baker Street Elementary" overlaid. Below the image is the text "THE MAY MEETING".
- Facebook Page Screenshot:** A screenshot of the Facebook page for "The Crew of the Barque Lone Star". The page header includes "Page", "Messages", "Notifications", "Insights", "Publishing Tools", "Settings", and "Help". A notification banner says "You Have Unread Messages". The main content area features a post from "A SHERLOCK HOLMES LITERARY SOCIETY" with the text: "Monthly meetings every 1st Sunday @ 1pm La Madeleine Country French Café". Below the post are buttons for "Like", "Follow", "Share", and "Add a Button". The left sidebar shows the page name and navigation options like "Home", "About", "Photos", "Events", "Likes", "Videos", "Posts", "Reviews", and "Create Ad". The right sidebar includes "Organization" and "Page Tips".

# THE SEVENTEEN STEPS TO "CHARLES AUGUSTUS MILVERTON..."

Brad Keefauver, Sherlock Peoria

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## SHERLOCK HOLMES LOSES CONTROL

"As Holmes turned up the lamp the light fell upon a card on the table.

He glanced at it, and then, with an ejaculation of disgust, threw it on the floor."

Perhaps the most telling example of Holmes's total disgust at Milverton is demonstrated in his next question to Watson, who has picked up the card:

"Is anything on the back of the card?"



What? Sherlock Holmes not being observant enough to see a note on the back of a business card? We must give

him credit for a fast recovery, as he does Watson about it before Watson thinks to look, but this is still a very telling moment, foreshadowing many professional slips to come in this case. How many other breaks in his usual patterns does Holmes indulge in during this case?

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## HOW HAS HE SURVIVED THIS LONG?

"Everything which is in the market goes to Milverton, and there are hundreds in this great city who turn white at his name. No one knows where his grip may fall, for he is far too rich and far too cunning to work from hand to mouth. He will hold a card back for years in order to play it at the

moment when the stake is best worth winning."

Milverton has been in the blackmail business for years. He's ruined noble families. He routinely blackmails his terrified victims until "he has drained them dry." How has Milverton managed to milk desperate people for cash for so long without someone coming after him? Wouldn't someone of wealth and position have other resources to dealing with a blackmailer than paying him? While his victims dare not hit back legally, why hadn't one of the hundreds gone outside the law before now, even if just to hire an arsonist or burglar? (Look at all the lengths the King of Bohemia went to with Irene Adler.)



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## SHERLOCK HOLMES, DISCREET BUSINESS NEGOTIATOR

"An illustrious client has placed her piteous case in my hands ... I have been commissioned to meet him, and--to make the best terms I can."

Why does Lady Eva Blackwell come to Holmes, of all people, if that is all that she wanted? Wouldn't a family member, a trusted solicitor or clergyman do just as well? What else could she have expected from Holmes?

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## WATSON AND A LITTLE DICKENS

Of Milverton, Watson writes: "There was something of Mr. Pickwick's benevolence in his appearance, marred only by the insincerity of the fixed smile and by the hard glitter of those restless and penetrating eyes."

Okay, here's a question that'll test your grip on reality and the outer limits of the Game: Was Watson referring to the character in the Dickens book or the "real" Mr. Pickwick?



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## HARD-BOILED WATSON (NEARLY) STRIKES AGAIN!

As Milverton heads for the door, hand on pistol, Watson writes, "I picked up a chair, but Holmes shook his head, and I laid it down again."

If Holmes found Milverton offensive, his revulsion was nothing compared to Watson's. Usually Holmes has to ask Watson if he's up for a little criminal activity, but in this case, Watson is ready to take Milverton out on his own. Had the doctor not seen Holmes's nod and clobbered Milverton, how might Holmes have proceeded then? Would he have taken advantage of the situation? Would he have allowed Milverton to have Watson arrested?

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**THAT'S SOME COURTING CONVERSATION, HOLMES!**

Sherlock's campaign against Milverton began with his campaign against Milverton's housemaid Agatha: "I have walked out with her each evening, and I have talked with her. Good heavens, those talks! However, I have got all I wanted. I know Milverton's house as I know the palm of my hand."

Wouldn't Agatha have been a little suspicious when her new boyfriend kept slipping the topic toward the layout of the house? Or was the maid a willing co-conspirator, hoping to run off with a beau newly rich on the plunderings of Milverton's safe? Holmes was leading her on anyway, wouldn't he have also exploited any greedy moral lapses Agatha might have had?

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**JUST HOW FAR WOULD HOLMES GO?**

There's a neat little moral dilemma in this week's tale, as Holmes and Watson prepare to burglarize Milverton's house. Holmes explains: "I am never precipitate in my actions, nor would I adopt so energetic and, indeed, so dangerous a course, if any other were possible."

Well, the course Holmes takes isn't possible ... within the confines of the law. What is Holmes's goal in so desperate a course? Is he just doing this to save Lady Eva's marriage, or is he intending to put an end to Milverton's career? And if the latter was the case, how might he have done so, had the burglary been successful and no gunfire was involved? If burglary hadn't worked, what would he have done next? Holmes once said he would die to see the end of Moriarty, but

would he kill to see the end of Milverton? (He probably wouldn't take Watson along for that one.)

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**IT PROBABLY WASN'T GOING TO MAKE THE NEWSPAPERS**

"My self-respect and my reputation are concerned to fight it to a finish," the detective says about this case. His reputation?



Would anyone be publicizing the blackmail that he failed to thwart? What did this have to do with being well known for solving mysteries?

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**FROM THOSE BOLTS OF CLOTH LYING AROUND 221B**

"And a mask?" Holmes asks Watson.

"I can make a couple out of black silk," the doctor replies.

Where would a seeming bachelor find black silk lying around his apartment? Did Watson sacrifice some article of clothing for the masks? (And why would a master of disguise like Holmes go for something the King of Bohemia had already proved was worthless?) And why didn't Watson fashion masks that hung low enough to cover his moustache?

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**A DIFFERENT SORT OF GRUNER**

"I understood the joy which it gave him to be confronted with this green and gold monster, the dragon which held in its maw the reputations of many fair ladies."

Were Milverton's victims primarily female? After waiting around in his Hugh Hefner outfit for his evening visitor, he greets her with a somewhat sleazy line: "You made me lose a good night's

rest, my dear. I hope you'll prove worth it." Not "I hope what you bring proves worth it." While the supposed maid was not one of his victims, it still makes one wonder if this slug demanded more than money from his victims. Was that a part of what made him so absolutely repulsive to Holmes?

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**ONCE MORE, THE MAN OF ACTION**

"In my own mind I had determined that if I were sure, from the rigidity of his gaze, that it had caught his eye, I would at once spring out, throw my great coat over his head, pinion him, and leave the rest to Holmes."

Did Watson actually get himself into situations like that based on sudden action, then rely on Holmes to figure out what to do next? Or was he only a man of action in his own mind, full of "Yeah, I was all ready to hit him with the fireplace poker, Holmes!" but never actually acting on it?

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**THERE'S A STORY HERE, YOU JUST KNOW IT**

"I knew that the opening of safes was a particular hobby with him," Watson writes of Holmes. Among the other things Holmes is doing to open this safe, the detective seems to be drilling ... a common practice in safe-opening. How might one get to practice one's hobby of opening safes when it actually damages the safes one opens? Holmes was always pretty practical in choosing knowledges that suited his profession early in his career -- what use would the



opening of safes be to a criminal specialist?

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**THAT GLEAMING LITTLE REVOLVER**

The dark, veiled woman "had drawn a little gleaming revolver, and emptied barrel after barrel into Milverton's body, the muzzle within two feet of his shirt front. He shrank away and then fell forward upon the table, coughing furiously and clawing among the papers. Then he staggered to his feet, received another shot, and rolled upon the floor.



'You've done me,' he cried, and lay still."

Milverton receives five shots to the body at point blank range, but then gets up again. While horror movie creatures do this all the time, in Milverton's case, it's probably the small caliber of the little weapon. How small a caliber would it have to have been for Milverton to get up after taking five shots? Would he have gone down for the final



time after a sixth shot to the chest, or did the avenger put the sixth and final shot to his head? Do

the facts we have on the weapon suggest a particular model to anyone?

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**WOMEN'S WORK IN THE CANON ... IT'S NOT IN THE KITCHEN**

What do "Greek Interpreter," "Charles Augustus Milverton,"

"Second Stain," and "Illustrious Client" all have in common with "Five Orange Pips" and "Resident Patient"?



Both sets rely on an outside agency to deliver final justice to the villains involved. In the latter pair, it's the sea. Are women more likely than men to be justified in murdering someone in the Canon? Are murdering men more often seen as the villain in their acts of vengeance, where women are not?

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**LESTRADE'S FRIENDLY OFFER**

"I thought that, perhaps, if you had nothing particular on hand, you might care to assist us in a most remarkable case, which occurred only last night at Hampstead."

Inspector Lestrade seems to be jumping the gun a bit in this case, coming to Holmes before his investigation has barely begun. Why did he think this break-in case might be of interest to Holmes? Had he known the detective was in a dry spell? Was Lestrade that quick to declare himself baffled? Or did he actually have some idea who broke into the house, and was letting Holmes know it without actually accusing him?

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**JUST THE NEIGHBORHOOD BLACKMAILER, THAT'S ALL**

Lestrade says of Milverton: "He is known to have held papers which he used for blackmailing purposes."

What? Scotland Yard knew about Milverton's livelihood? What stopped them from prosecuting him? Those victims he had made examples of when they refused to pay would surely have pressed charges, wouldn't they?



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**LITTLE SHOP OF CELEBRITIES**

"Here, on the left hand, there stands a shop window filled with photographs of the celebrities and beauties of the day. Holmes's eyes fixed themselves upon one of them, and following his gaze I saw the picture of a regal and stately lady in Court dress, with a high diamond tiara upon her noble head."



Just what was the nature of the business Watson describes above? If it was a photographer, would it have been the shop of the same photographer who took all the photos mentioned? Or were the pictures bought from another photographer to use as a way to draw in business? Or was this a totally different sort of business using celebrities as a lure?



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# BELLY UP TO THE BAR, BOYS

Liese Sherwood-Fabre

In "The Adventure of the Solitary Cyclist," Holmes notes that pubs—or public houses—are "the centre of country gossip."

He then makes a visit to one in the Farnham area to collect information on the tenant at Chiltern Grange. When he reports back to Watson, he explains he gathered the needed information from the pub owner (publican). While drinking at the bar, Woodley, the object of his inquiry, enters and a fight ensues.

Understanding the significance of Holmes' preference for the pub's bar provides insights into both Holmes' abilities to blend in with the working class as well as Woodley's own social status.

Victorians could imbibe in three different types of establishments. The one with the most extensive services were the inns.

These facilities first appeared in Europe during Roman times when travelers required lodging as they journeyed throughout the Empire. In England, inns evolved to satisfy the need for way-stations between towns, providing meals and shelter to both the traveler and horse. In addition, they served as a delivery point for mail and newspapers. (1)

Public houses, or taverns, were considered less prestigious. (2) Pubs trace their roots to Roman

tabernas where wine was served. (3) After the Romans left Britain, local wives would brew and sell beer from their kitchens. As these businesses became more lucrative, husbands took over and provided a place for those who purchased the beer to also consume it in their home's front room.

Over time, the more successful enterprises took over the entire home, and the publican would move into a bigger and more lavish home. Brewers who expanded to a number of alehouses or pubs selling their brand made considerable fortunes, and their daughters were viewed as desirable marriage prospects by the gentry. (4)



The lowest class of drinking establishments were the alehouses that served only beer and cider to working class patrons. These enterprises expanded in the 1800s following the passage the Beer House Act of 1830. This legislation dropped the permit for those houses selling only beer to two guineas a year in an effort to encourage beer consumption (considered a more healthful drink) instead of gin.

In 1869 (due, in part, to the rise of the temperance movement), licensure was moved to local magistrates, and the number of beer houses dropped from 49,000 to 31,000 by 1894. With more modern methods and better transportation, brewers consolidated their businesses by purchasing alehouses and using them to sell their own product. By the end of

the century, 90 percent of the public houses were tied to a specific brewery. (5)

Within the public houses, different rooms offered different amenities to patrons. The vault served the working class, but women were not allowed to sit at the wooden benches or belly-up to the bar counter in these areas.

Tap rooms often offered a more club- or game-like atmosphere than the vault or public bar. For women or upper-class patrons, the "best rooms" offered the same beer, but at a higher price to compensate for nicer furnishings.

Entertainment, such as singers, might even be offered, and depending on the features, could be called by any number of names: the "music room," "concert room," "lounge," "parlor," "saloon," "commercial room," or "snug." (6)

Knowing that a person of Woodley's caliber would not be welcomed in the best rooms, Holmes understood that any information would have to be gathered from the pub's more public areas and wisely chose the bar over a more elite parlor room.

In Farnham, this intimate knowledge of where to go to gather the needed information paid off for the detective.

Liese Sherwood-Fabre will be presenting on "Law and Order: Victorian Style" at The Agra Treasurers' Holmes, Doyle, and Friends March 9-10 gathering in Dayton, OH.

(1) <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pub>

(2) Daniel Pool, *What Jane Austen Ate and Charles Dickens Knew*, New York: Simon and Schuster, Inc., 1993, page 211.

(3) <http://www.countrylovers.co.uk/fun/histpubs.htm>

(4) Pool, page 210.

(5) Sally Mitchell, editor, *Victorian Britain: An Encyclopedia*, New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1988, page 91.

(6) <http://barclayperkins.blogspot.com/2011/07/vault-tap-room-and-lounge.html>

You can check out more of Liese Sherwood-Fabre's writings at [www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com).

The first 24 of Liese Sherwood-Fabre's essays are now available in *The Life and Times of Sherlock Holmes*, both paperback and ebook. Retailers are listed on her Webpage ([www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com)).

By Liese Sherwood-Fabre, PhD. You can read more about this award-winning author's writing (as well as her previous articles in the *Bilge Pump*) and sign up for her newsletter at [www.liesesherwoodfabre.com](http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com). A non-Sherlockian adventure can be downloaded at: <http://www.liesesherwoodfabre.com/extras.html>

# An Inquiry Into "The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton."

Murray, the Courageous Orderly (a.k.a. Alexander Braun), Hounds of the Internet

"The Adventure of Charles Augustus Milverton\* was first published in \*Collier's Weekly Magazine\* on March 26, 1904, and in \*The Strand Magazine\* in April 1904. It is part of \*The Return of Sherlock Holmes.\*"

The chronology for this case varies, depending on which Canon expert one consults.

The various estimates are as follows:  
Canon: Winter; Baring-Gould: Thursday, January 5, 1899; Bell: Monday, February 4, 1884; Blakeney: 1895 or after; Brend: December 1882; Christ: Monday, February 4, 1889; Dakin: Friday, January 13, 1899; Folsom: Thursday, January 5, 1899; Hall: January 5, 1899; Keefaurer: Monday January 12, 1891; Klinger: 1899; Zeisler: Wednesday, January 6, 1886. If the case took place in 1899, as a majority of Canon chronologists state, at the time Holmes was 45 years old and Watson 47.

## Notable Quotes:

- "Do you feel a creeping, shrinking sensation, Watson, when you stand before the serpents in the Zoo and see the slithery, gliding, venomous creatures, with their deadly eyes and wicked, flattened faces? Well, that's how Milverton impresses me. I've had to do with fifty murderers in my career, but the worst of them never gave me the repulsion which I have for this fellow."
- "Heaven help the man, and still more the woman, whose secret and reputation come into the power of Milverton. With a smiling face and a heart of

marble he will squeeze and squeeze until he has drained them dry."

- "I have always had an idea that I would have made a highly efficient criminal."

## == Blackmail Penalties ==

Some years back, when we discussed this case I commented on Holmes' statement to Watson that it would not profit a blackmail victim to send his or her torturer to jail for "a few months' imprisonment" if this led to ruin.

It seemed to me that this would have been an extremely light penalty, considering the damage and grief of blackmailer could cause.

The Neighbourly Scotch Fir offered a legal perspective I deem well-worthwhile to revisit:

The relevant law in force in England in the Canonical era was the Libel Act 1843, §3 of which stated:

"And be it enacted, That if any Person shall publish or threaten to publish any Libel upon any other Person, or shall directly or indirectly threaten to print or publish, or shall directly or indirectly propose to abstain from printing or publishing, or shall directly or indirectly offer to prevent the printing or publishing, of any Matter or Thing touching any other Person, with Intent to extort any Money or Security for Money, or any valuable Thing from such or any other Person, or with Intent to induce any Person to confer or procure for any Person any Appointment or Office of Profit or Trust, every such Offender, on being convicted thereof, shall be liable to be imprisoned, with or without hard

Labour, in the Common Gaol or House of Correction, for any Term not exceeding Three Years."

The Act thus seemed to offer a suitable punishment for the professional blackmailer (one quite likes the idea of Milverton breaking rocks on Dartmoor).

However, to use it, one had of course to prove one's case beyond reasonable doubt in a public court of law, which was as uncertain and bruising a process then as it is now.

Milverton seems to have been careful to avoid anything which offered proof beyond reasonable doubt of his crimes, such as an overly explicit, written, or witnessed extortion threat. With a good counsel, he was probably safe from prosecution or, in the very unlikely event of a conviction, from a long sentence.

It's worth remembering that the Libel Act was aimed at the very common problem of blackmail by servants, who rarely had lawyers and could be easily squashed by the hard hand of the law.

The professional upper-class blackmailer on the Milverton model, with their own Counsel, simply didn't exist in Canonical England to the extent necessary to make special provisions in the criminal law.

In this period, the ruling classes still had enough influence to deal with such a rascal more directly, just as Milverton was.

## == Milverton's Peculiar Suggestion ==

When Holmes points out to Milverton that the Lady Eva's resources were limited, and that she was unable to pay much more than £2,000 for the

letters, the blackmailer admitted knowing this and suggested that she should resort to her friends and relatives for the other £5,000.

It appears to me that his primary interest was not a monetary one, but a desire to expose and ruin her.

Surely he must have realized that were she to ask her friends of the funds this would be a tacit admission that she was being blackmailed.

**== Poor Agatha! ==**

One truly must feel very sorry for poor Agatha, Milverton's maid, in this story.

There can be no doubt that Holmes ill-used her shamelessly and coldly.

He displayed absolutely no regard for her feelings, expertly seducing her into giving him the information that he wanted by tricking her into falling in love with him and promising her marriage.

While it is true that by the standards of the time a lady's reputation was far more valuable and of greater importance than the feelings of a mere, lowly maid, even back then this very much smacked of caddish, ungentlemanly behavior.

Watson himself, the paragon of the Victorian gentleman had to remonstrate, "But the girl, Holmes?"

**== Lestrade's Visit ==**

Would Lestrade really have been that interested in solving Milverton's murder?

Albeit incorrect, his deduction that the crime was committed by probably "men of good position, whose sole object was to prevent social exposure." showed that Lestrade knew Milverton to be a high-society blackmailer.

Would he had been that interested in solving the murder of a

disreputable individual, and by doing so shame and anger his betters?

### What else happened in 1899:

#### EMPIRE

- Boer War (1899-1902). Boers invade Natal; British defeated at Magersfontein, Stormberg, Colenso. Siege of Ladysmith. War begins with humiliating British defeat.
- Anglo-Egyptian condominium over Sudan established.
- Anglo-French Convention settles spheres of influence in West Africa.
- Further famine in India.

#### BRITAIN

- Last fishing fleet sails from Barking.
- First public motor bus (Kensington to Victoria).
- London County Council established; lasts until 1965.
- General Federation of Trade Unions formed.
- First Royal Navy turbine ships, destroyers Cobra and Viper built.
- SS Oceanic, White Star Line, launched. First large luxury liner of line culminating with RMS Titanic in 1912.
- Founding of Ruskin College, Oxford (not part of the university), by American Walter Vrooman, for socialistic education.
- Establishment of Board of Education.

#### WORLD

- Boxer Rebellion begins, culminating in the May 1900 siege of foreign legations.
- Permanent Court of Arbitration set up at The Hague.

- Macedonian Committee formed at Sofia.
- Nicholas II ends independence of Finland.
- Russian persecution of Armenians in Caucasus.
- Migration of Russian peasants made easier by State Council.
- Organization of Board of Labor in France.
- Russian universities closed due to student disorders.

#### ART

- Ernest W. Hornung writes The Amateur Cracksman, adventures of Raffles.
- Kipling writes Stalky and Co.
- Yeats writes The Wind among the Reeds.
- Tolstoi writes Resurrection.
- Ibsen writes When We Dead Awake.
- Coleridge-Taylor writes The Death of Minnehaha.
- Gauguin paints Two Tahitian Women.
- Sir William Elgar composes the Enigma Variations.
- Jean Sibelius composes Finlandia.
- Toulouse-Lautrec draws At the Circus, a series of 39 drawings, mainly in crayon.

#### SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

- Zeppelin invents his airship.
- A.L. Debierne discovers actinium.
- Parson's turbo-alternator developed.
- Lummer and Pringsheim study blackbody radiation.
- Wireless telegraphy from England to France.
- D. Hilbert publishes Grundlagen der Geometrie, modern German axiomatic research based on Greek geometry.

# SPECIAL EVENTS GOING ON THIS YEAR...

## Holmes, Doyle and Friends (Five)

March 9 & 10, 2018

Dayton, OH

<http://www.agratreasurers.net/holmes--doyle---friends.html>

**HOLMES  
& DOYLE  
FRIENDS: Five**

March 9 & 10, 2018  
Clarion Airport Inn  
10 Rockledge Road  
DAYTON, OHIO



## 221bCon

April 13-15, 2018

Atlanta, GA

<http://www.221bcon.com/>

## SHERLOCKED

May 25-27, 2018

Los Angeles, CA

<https://www.sherlockedusa.com/>



## A SCINTILLATION OF SCIONS XI

June 8-9, 2018

Linthicum Heights, MD

<https://www.scintillation.org/>

## From Gillette to Brett V

October 5-7, 2018

Bloomington, IN

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1fZKFujmZe8>

[www.wessexpress.com](http://www.wessexpress.com)



## THE 2019 BSI WEEKEND

January 9-13, 2019

New York City, NY

<http://www.bakerstreetjournal.com/bsiweekend.html>

# 56 STORIES IN 56 DAYS - "CHARLES AUGUSTUS MILVERTON"

Posted on October 19, 2011 by barefootonbakerstreet

Well, I suppose this story is where my personal literary adventure really began, writes Charlotte Anne Walters.

When I was sixteen, I wrote a full-length Sherlock Holmes screenplay which was a sequel to the Granada dramatization of this story.

It was quite an achievement for my age and I worked on it for many a long hour, even using a home-writing course to learn all about how to correctly write scripts for TV with the technical stage directions and other requirements.

It was very simplistic and involved Milverton coming back from the dead to seek revenge on Holmes in ghostly form.

I do cringe now at the naivety of it, but the process did spark up an enjoyment of writing about Sherlock Holmes which ultimately led to the creation of my first published novel, Barefoot on Baker Street.

So I owe a lot to this story really and it was a pleasure to re-read it now.

I suppose the key points of interest are that Holmes actually breaks the law by breaking in to Milverton's house and accessing the safe so that he can burn all the incriminating letters, and then he stands back and watches as one of Milverton's victims murders him in cold blood.

Holmes keeps this truth from the police to protect the young lady.

This does sound rather extraordinary but we have seen before how Holmes uses his own judgement in exercising justice and takes full advantage of being an unofficial person.

We have also seen how he can feel strong, emotional, revulsion against certain villains and great sympathy for the victims.

It also demonstrates Watson's devotion to Holmes as he too colludes in this law-breaking without question.

This is also the story in which Holmes becomes engaged to Milverton's maid in order to gain information about the house in the disguise of a plumber.

He walks out with her each evening and they talk – 'Those talks! However, I have got all I wanted'.

Clearly such a romantic action was not to his taste, but then perhaps he just made this remark for affect to Watson.

What if Holmes did actually quite enjoy those intimate walks with a devoted young girl upon his arm?

I would more readily see him fall in love with a savvy maid than a lady that's for sure.

Did he kiss her I wonder?

Surely you wouldn't have become engaged to a man, even back then, without even a brief kiss?

Watson is rightly shocked by Holmes deception of the young lady but Holmes does ensure him that there is another more-worthy suitor waiting in the wings to take over when he disappears.

I still do think his actions are unfair but I suppose justified in light of the villain he faces and the high stakes if he fails.



In the opening part of the story Holmes refers to CAM as 'The worst man in London', and this hatred only deepens as the story continues.

Even Watson is shocked as Holmes goes on to describe the cruel and villainous business in which CAM distinguished himself – 'I had seldom heard my friend speak with such intensity of feeling'.

Milverton made his living from acquiring sensitive letters from crooked maids, footmen, valets, anyone with something incriminating to sell.

He would then, when the moment was right, blackmail his helpless victims mercilessly and the law could do nothing to stop him.



Milverton is a brilliantly devised baddie, I would even argue that he is more convincing and better described than Moriarty. And the Granada episode was one of my favourites with CAM played to perfection by Robert Hardy.

Brilliant, love it, even though a conclusion isn't brought about by any particularly brilliant deduction by Holmes but sometimes it's good to see him get his hands dirty in this way.

And what a great villain we have in Milverton, definitely my favourite baddie of all the stories.

10 out of 10.



# STORY INFO PAGES FOR "CHARLES AUGUSTUS MILVERTON"

McMurdo's Camp, <https://mcmurdoscamp.wordpress.com/>

**First published in:** The Strand Magazine, April 1904 & Collier's Weekly, March 26, 1904

**Time frame of story (known/surmised):** Unknown. Watson used due suppression and deliberately concealed the date and other facts by which the actual occurrence might be traced.

**Holmes & Watson living arrangements:** Sharing quarters at 221B.

**Opening scene:** Holmes & Watson returned from one of their evening rambles about six o'clock on a cold, frosty winter's evening, to find the calling card of Charles Augustus Milverton, with whom Holmes had made the appointment. Holmes described Milverton to Watson as the king of all blackmailers, as having a smiling face and a heart of marble, would will squeeze and squeeze until he drained his victims dry, a genius in his way, one who could have made his mark in some more savoury trade.

**Client:** Another illustrious client, who placed her piteous case in the hands of Holmes. It was the Lady Eva Blackwell, the most beautiful débutante of the previous season. She planned to be married in a fortnight to the Earl of Dovercourt, and hired Holmes to deal with Milverton on her behalf.

**Crime or concern:** Blackmail.

**Villain:** Charles Augustus Milverton, the worst man in London, as cunning as the Evil One.

**Motive:** Milverton was in the blackmail business. His method: He allowed it to be known that he was prepared to pay very high sums for letters which compromised people of wealth and position. He received those wares not only from treacherous valets or maids, but frequently from genteel ruffians, who had gained the confidence and affection of trusting women. He dealt with no niggardly hand. He once paid seven hundred pounds to a footman for a note two lines in length, and the ruin of a noble family was the result. Everything which was in the market went to Milverton, and there were hundreds in London who turned white at his name. He would hold a card back for years in order to play it at the moment when the stake was best worth winning.

**Holmes method:** Bargaining did not work. Milverton boldly told Holmes that if the client's purse could not cover the price, he would simply go ahead and expose his victim. As he explained, "An exposure would profit me indirectly to a considerable extent. I have eight or ten similar cases maturing. If it was circulated among them that I had made a severe example of the Lady Eva, I

should find all of them much more open to reason."

Since Milverton would not cut a deal, Holmes decided to burgle his house, and retrieve the indiscreet letters. He spent some days disguised as a workman in the vicinity of Milverton's house, and became engaged to the housemaid. He portrayed a plumber with a rising business, Escott, by name, and walked out with her each evening. He got all (the information) he wanted, and knew Milverton's house as he knew the palm of his hand.

**Policemen:** Inspector Lestrade.

**Holmes' fees:** Not stated, but it was known that £2000 would have been a drain upon Lady Eva's resources, and that Milverton's price was utterly beyond her power. Presumably, Holmes was more reasonable.

**Transport:** Milverton arrived at 221B in a stately carriage pulled by a pair of noble chestnuts with glossy haunches.

Holmes & Watson in Oxford Street picked up a hansom and drove to an address in Hampstead.

**Food:** Holmes & Watson had some cold supper at 9:30 before starting on their illegal mission. On the following day Holmes & Watson had breakfasted and were smoking their morning pipe when Lestrade came to see them.

**Drink:** no mention

**Vices:** Disguised as Escott the young workman, with a goatee beard and a swagger, Holmes lit his clay pipe at the lamp before descending into the street.

During the burglary, Holmes & Watson entered a room in which a cigar had been smoked not long before. The next room too, was heavy with tobacco smoke. Then when Milverton almost walked in on them, Holmes & Watson discerned the pungent reek of a strong cigar. Milverton was blowing smoke rings.

**Other cases mentioned:** none

**Notable Quotables:** “Dr. Watson is my friend and partner.” – SH

Watson wanted to help with the burglary: “I give you my word of honour — and I never broke it in my life — that I will take a cab straight to the police-station and give you away, unless you let me share this adventure with you.” – JW to SH

Watson, on the thrill of committing the burglary: “My first feeling of fear had passed away, and I thrilled now with a keener

zest than I had ever enjoyed when we were the defenders of the law instead of its defiers. The high object of our mission, the consciousness that it was unselfish and chivalrous, the villainous character of our opponent, all added to the sporting interest of the adventure. Far from feeling guilty, I rejoiced and exulted in our dangers.”

“I don’t mind confessing to you that I have always had an idea that I would have made a highly efficient criminal. This is the chance of my lifetime in that direction.” – SH

“You’ve done me.” – The last words Milverton ever spoke on this earth.

**Other interestings:** Holmes was betrothed to Agatha, Milverton’s housemaid, and pumped her for information on the household. Watson was aghast, but Holmes assures him there was a hated rival who would no doubt cut him out the instant his back was turned.

Milverton wore a shaggy astrakhan overcoat. Astrakhan is a Russian city near the Caspian sea, known for fine wool made of the

dark curly fleece of lambs raised there.

Watson was described by a witness as a middlesized, strongly built man — square jaw, thick neck, and a moustache.

**When all was said and done:**

Holmes & Watson’s burglary succeeded; they got the papers from the safe and burned them. But while they were engaged in that, another of Milverton’s victims paid him a midnight visit and pumped him full of lead. The noise raised the household, and Holmes & Watson barely escaped over the garden wall. A close shave. Lestrade knew, but did nothing (our interpretation, not given as a fact by Watson).

The next morning Holmes recalled face of the killer, and verified by looking at a display of photographs the time-honoured title of the great nobleman and statesman whose wife was the vengeful victim of Milverton. In the photo she was a regal and stately lady in Court dress, with a high diamond tiara upon her noble head.

# Baker Street Elementary

Created by: Joe Fay, Rusty & Steve Mason

The First Adventures of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson



Baker Street Elementary  
#Number 140 - 02/11/2018

Fay, Mason, & Mason

SO THE FIRST ANSWER IS ALMOST ALWAYS TRUE...

Sherlock and John are sitting at a desk, looking at a piece of paper. Sherlock is on the left, John is on the right.

THAT MEANS THE SECOND ANSWER IS FALSE, TO BALANCE OUT THE FIRST QUESTION... THE THIRD WILL BE FALSE TO BREAK THE PATTERN AND CONFUSE THE STUDENTS...

John is sitting at the desk, looking thoughtful with his hand to his chin.

THEN A TRUE, TWO FALSE'S, THREE TRUE'S IN A ROW... SHE LIKES TO TOSS IN THREE TRUE'S IN A ROW... FOUR IN A ROW WOULD JUST BE RIDICULOUS, SO THE NEXT ANSWER MUST BE TRUE... AND THE LAST QUESTION IS ALWAYS FALSE.

?

Sherlock and John are sitting at the desk, looking confused. A large question mark is above them.

IF YOU FIGURE OUT A TEACHER'S PATTERN, TRUE/FALSE TESTS CAN BE A BREEZE... SOMETHING WRONG, JOHN?

I REALLY HATE TO BREAK THIS TO YOU... IT'S A "FILL IN THE BLANK" TEST...

Sherlock and John are sitting at the desk, talking.

<< eek >> THAT'S NOT FUNNY JOHN!

NOT MEANT TO BE...

John is sitting at the desk, looking nervous. A thought bubble above him says "NOT MEANT TO BE...".

MAYBE YOU CAN FAKE GETTING VIOLENTLY ILL, RUN OUT OF THE CLASSROOM, AND JUST GO HOME...

TRUST ME, IT WOULD NOT BE FAKING...

John is sitting at the desk, suggesting a plan to Sherlock.