

0. Murder at Harvard: John Webster Story - Story Preface

1. MURDER AT HARVARD
2. ATTEMPTED COVER-UP
3. AN ASTONISHING DISCOVERY
4. WEBSTER TRIED FOR MURDER
5. A DEATH SENTENCE
6. READ MORE ABOUT IT



This illustration depicts Dr. George Parkman, a Boston physician, as he appeared when last seen on the 23rd of November, 1849. It is from the *Trial of Professor John W. Webster, for the Murder of Doctor George Parkman. Reported Exclusively for the N.Y. Daily Globe*. New York: Stringer & Townsend, 1850. The image is online via Maryland State Archives.

*The evidence must establish the corpus delicti,
as it is termed, or the offence committed as charged*

Lemuel Shaw
Webster Trial Judge

It was George Parkman's protruding jaw that did in John Webster. The jaw, plus an unusual set of false teeth made specially to fit it.

Both men were faculty members at Harvard Medical College. Both socialized in the rarefied world of Boston's elite.

But ... George Parkman, medical doctor, was also a true "Boston Brahmin" with inherited money to fund his lifestyle. John Webster, chemist and mineralogist, lived from paycheck to paycheck.

As a college professor, he didn't have the needed funds to keep up the pretense.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Murder-at-Harvard-John-Webster-Story)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/Murder-at-Harvard-John-Webster-Story>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Murder-at-Harvard-John-Webster-Story)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/Murder-at-Harvard-John-Webster-Story>

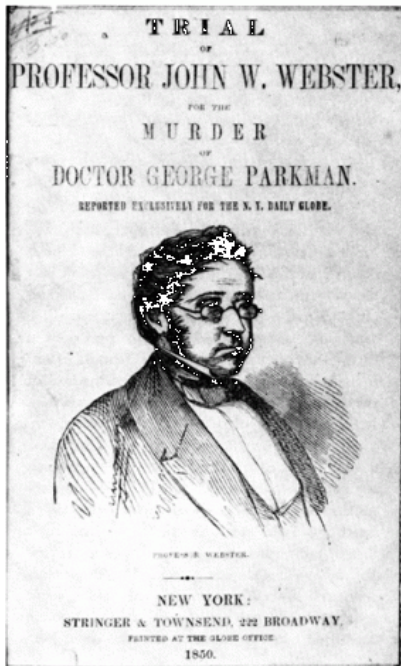


Dr. George Parkman

Image online, courtesy the Maryland State Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Dr.-George-Parkman>

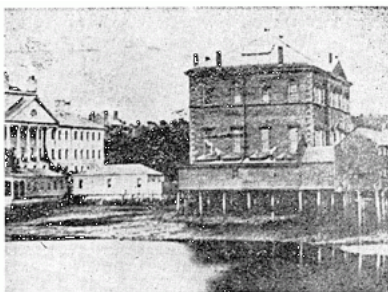


Trial of Professor John W. Webster

Image online, courtesy the Maryland State Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Trial-of-Professor-John-W.-Webster>



1850 Photo of Harvard Medical School

Image online, courtesy the Maryland State Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/1850-Photo-of-Harvard-Medical-School>

The Harvard Medical School in Boston as it appeared in 1850. The Massachusetts General Hospital can be seen in the background.