AWESOME stories

Murder at Harvard: John Webster Story

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

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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

<u>Lemuel Shaw</u> Webster Trial Judge

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

Both men were faculty members at <u>Harvard Medical College</u>. 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

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

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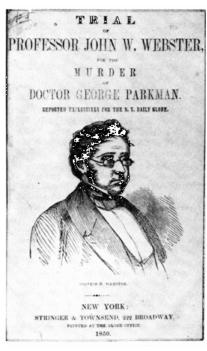
Media Stream



Dr. George Parkman

Image online, courtesy the Maryland State Archives. View this asset at:

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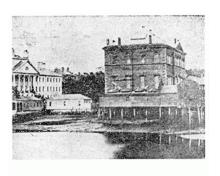


Trial of Professor John W. Webster

Image online, courtesy the Maryland State Archives.

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

1850 Photo of Harvard Medical School

Image online, courtesy the Maryland State Archives.

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