

0. AN ASTONISHING DISCOVERY - Story Preface

1. MURDER AT HARVARD

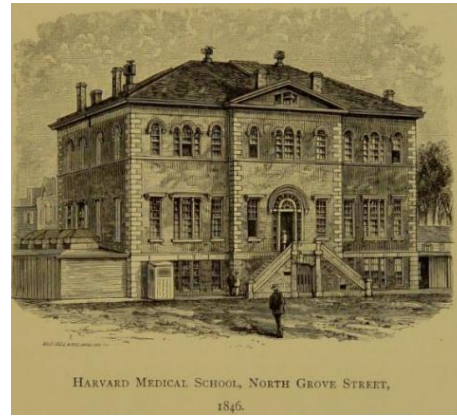
2. ATTEMPTED COVER-UP

**3. AN ASTONISHING DISCOVERY**

4. WEBSTER TRIED FOR MURDER

5. A DEATH SENTENCE

6. READ MORE ABOUT IT



Dr. John Webster had a lab at Harvard's Medical School. It was in that lab where Webster tried to hide the murdered body of Dr. George Parkman. This illustration—from *The New Century and the New Building of the Harvard Medical School, 1783-1883*—depicts Harvard's Medical School as it appeared in 1846. The public-domain image is online via the Royal College of Surgeons.

In the meantime ... as Dr. Webster tried to hide the evidence of Dr. Parkman's body ... Ephraim Littlefield, a Harvard janitor, had become suspicious.

It wasn't just the quarrel he had witnessed. It wasn't just the money Webster had given the janitor to buy a Thanksgiving Day turkey—something Webster had never done before.

Littlefield's living quarters, at the medical college, were immediately adjacent to Webster's lab. Littlefield thought it odd that the lab door was bolted and the furnace wall was red-hot on the day of Parkman's visit.

The janitor decided to go exploring.

Since he lived inside the building, Littlefield had time to look around. He chiseled his way into a sealed-off vault under Dr. Webster's lab. When he broke through, he was astonished at what he saw.

*The first thing which I saw was the pelvis of a man and two parts of a leg. The water was running down on these remains from the sink.*

In addition, investigators found other body parts, but they did not find Dr. Parkman's head.

Without the head, how could anyone be certain that the fragmented remains belonged to George Parkman?

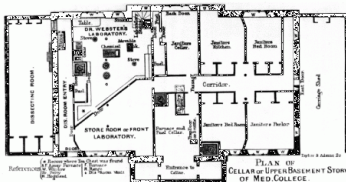
See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/AN-ASTONISHING-DISCOVERY-Murder-at-Harvard-John-Webster-Story)

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## Media Stream



### Floor Plan Showing Littlefield's Living Quarters

Image online, courtesy the Maryland State Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Floor-Plan-Showing-Littlefield-s-Living-Quarters>