

# GAME SET MURDER

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## The Irish Wimbledon Finalist and the Monte-Carlo Trunk Murder



Violette Goold

Emma Lévin

Vero Goold

LE CRIME DE MONTE-CARLO. — UNE FEMME COUPEE EN MORCEAUX  
Portraits de la victime et des coupables

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**4 ROMANS**

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## LA MALLE SANGLANTE

Detective Dupin was surprised to see a man and a woman in clearly middle age - not what he expected - he introduced himself.

"Charles Dupin, Préfecture, Marseilles. Is this your trunk?"

"Yes," replied the man.

"Your names, please."

"Sir Vere and Lady Goold."

Dupin opened the trunk. The man appeared to faint and was held up by the woman, She seemed to ignore the contents.

The detective paused and put back on the top of the trunk.

"I think that we should go back to your hotel. Hotel du Louvre, isn't it?"

"Yes," replied the man.

"Will we find the rest of the body there?"

The man and woman made no reply.

As they entered the Goold's luxurious suite in Hotel du Lourve the brown-haired stout woman began to protest loudly.

"This is outrageous. I don't know why you are here! What are we supposed to have done? We know nothing about that trunk - anyone could have put our names on it."

"Unlikely!" replied the detective.

"Next you will expect me to believe that someone else murdered that woman, dismembered her body and stuffed it in your trunk without your knowledge? I think not."

"May I have a drink?" asked the man in a quite hoarse voice.

When the detective looked at the man he could see the shake in his hand and his beaten stare at the floor. In one action the detective turned and opened his hand towards the bar.

"As you please."

The man went silently to the corner of the room and poured himself a large whiskey. Drank it quick and deep and as he was pouring another the door to the bedroom swung open abruptly.

In charged officer Lazare looking pale and shook. He rushed over to detective Dupin and placed a large valise at his feet, paused for a moment to compose himself, turned slowly and walked away.

Dupin approached it cautiously and with the slightest of touches the clasp sprung open to reveal the head of a woman with chestnut-brown hair still wet and matted with blood.

"Who is this?" the detective asked firmly with his eyes closed taking a deep breath.

The woman remained silent. Her eyes were averted from the dreadful remains but cast on the man with a stone-like gaze.

The man became agitated, folding and unfolding his arms. Not quite sure what to do with his hands. Feeling his wife's stare he began to turn and just as his back was to her.

"Madame Levin." he blurted out like it was a tick. "That's Emma Levin." he said again with a break now in his voice.

With that, his legs gave out from the weight he had been carrying and he fell to his knees and began sobbing uncontrollably in his hands.

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# Irish Independent

VOL. 72. No. 182

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1963

PRICE 3d

## Background

Vere St Leger Goold was one of six siblings born to an aristocratic family and as an adolescent in Waterford, he spent his time sailing, hunting, racings horses, boxing and playing tennis. Vere developed a competitive streak from a very early age and had gifted athletic talent.

Vere thrived at tennis above all else and his energetic playing style was described as "showy and attractive." After winning the inaugural Irish Open in Fitzwilliam Lawn Tennis he got a direct entry into the third-ever Championships at Wimbledon where he was said to be the favourite but after the match was rained off for a day Vere turned up for the final hungover and was barely able to play.

That was the high point in Vere's life as for the next 7 or years he spent his time drinking, socialising, gambling and developing an opium addiction. It was then he met the love of his life, a French woman by the name of Maire Violet Giraudin.

Marie had established herself as a dress-maker to the royals of the British court but was getting a name of borrowing money from her clients and not paying it back. Marie herself was also an active gambler and craved social status above all else. A French Lady-Macbeth.

They married in 1891 and spent many years globetrotting. They would move to a city, establish themselves, run up business and gambling debt and move on before it caught up with them. This worked for a time but when they were confronted by Emma Levin in Monte Carlo; a very wealthy widow who had loaned the Goolds 1,000 francs. Facing ruin, the couple instead decided to murder the dowager and make off with her jewellery, valued at 125,00 francs.

Afterwards, they fled to Marseille where they hoped to board a ship to the UK. However, an eagle-eyed porter in the train station noticed a dark red liquid was oozing from their luggage. The case was opened and the dismembered torso of Levin was found inside.

The discovery shocked the world.

This is where the twists and turns in the story begin to take place as both the murder enquiry and the trial are full moments that you just won't believe. This factual feature will walk us through the life of Vere Goold and look at how their case made international press as this was less than 20 years after Jack the Ripper and published in that fashion.

**MONTE CARLO, Dec. 2.**—An immense crowd clamored, but without success, to gain admission to the Superior Court of Monaco to-day to hear the beginning of the trial of Vere St. Leger Goold and his wife Marie for the murder of Emma Levin, at Monte Carlo last Summer. The courtroom was practically filled by Continental newspaper men.

**The New York Times**

Published: December 3, 1907

Violette Goold

Emma Levin

Vere Goold

LE CRIME DE MONTE-CARLO. — UNE FEMME COUPÉE EN MORCEAUX

Portraits de la victime et des coupables

# The Cork Examiner

NO. 4124

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 11, 1891

PRICE THREEPENCE

## Treatment - 1 x 60mins

This historical biographical documentary will bring to light never seen before images, articles and memoirs from the time of this case. There will be several different contributors to the story coming from different viewpoints and using different means to tell their part of the Monte Carlo Trunk Murder.

Firstly the overarching story timeline will be presented and maintained by two actors who embodied the Goolds to create and tour their play "Love All". After approaching Tadgh and Aideen with the concept I was delighted to hear of their keen interest in the project and agreed to perform their show again to allow us to record it in high definition and for its inclusion. The play hits all the notes in the story and will bring an element of drama actuality to the doc. That combined with their on-camera commentary will give great insight into the mind frames of the Goolds.

Irish Tennis historian, lecturer and published author Tom Higgins will be on hand to put all of this in context from both a tennis and a historical point of view. Tom has in-depth knowledge of the story and has accumulated a wealth of articles, images and documents from the Goolds case and for the first time ever is prepared to take Vere's great-great-grand nephew George William Goold through this evidence for the first time ever in a progressive manner similar to Who do You Think You are?.

The scale at which this story was visually covered in the media on several different continents was reminiscent of the Jack The Ripper scaremongering. This had a huge impact on the public interest in the murder inquiry and the trial and is well documented in many different countries such as Ireland, UK, France, USA and Australia. To help us understand the influence this had on the public, the media and the justice system, Conor Gallagher crime correspondent is going to unpack that in a digestible way.

Former British No. 1 and junior Wimbledon champ, journalist and sports presenter Annabel Croft who is familiar with the Goold's gruesome tale has agreed to speak to the camera on Vere's tennis pedigree and how his story has haunted Wimbledon's history books as their only murdering finalist.

To keep order on all this there will be some off-screen narration by Ireland's only professional tennis umpire; Fergus Murphy. Fergus has been a pro umpire since 1997 and since 2000 one of only 20 Gold Badge Umpires in the world. Fergus has a keen interest in tennis history, especially Irish history and is well aware of Vere Goold's tennis efforts. This is a narrating debut for Fergus however after thousands of hours on live television and hundreds of on interviews he is very comfortable on camera and has developed masterful control over his speech which will be used to weave these different elements together.

Violette Goold

Emma Lévin

Vere Goold

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# The Cork Examiner

NO. 4138

WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 15, 1894

PRICE: FIVE PENCE

## Treatment - Style & Tone

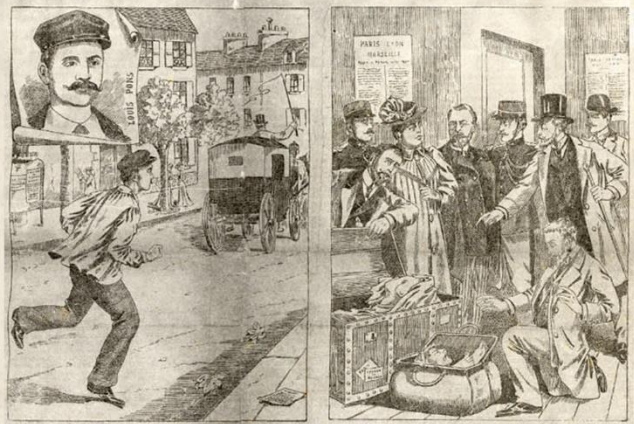
What you can expect to see in this documentary is the story of a man who's birthright and great sporting talent should have promised him the world but instead, he became the architect of his own demise. We chronicle every twist in this murder enquiry and trial building tension with the words and actions of Tadgh and Aideen as they personify the Goolds, while Tom will be presenting the evidence at each turn for George William Goold to examine along with some expert insight so we can really feel the weight of this story.

There will be much new footage in the form of interviews, a high-quality recording of a special performance of the play "Love All", archive and some on-location footage of where this story took place. The audience can expect to go on a thrilling, riches to rampage ride, graphically sensationalised and will leave viewers shaking their heads at the madness that they see and hear before them.

You could describe the story arc of this briefly by saying; short rise to fame, short fame, slow descent, quick fall. This is a classic spiral and spirals quicken as they get closer to the end. This would be reflected in the pacing and the editing of doc growing to the conclusion and building the tension every step of the way.

### GOOLD of Old Court, co.Cork

8 Aug 1801	UK	1	Francis Goold		20 Aug 1818
			For details of the special remainder included in the creation of this baronetcy, see the note at the foot of this page		
20 Aug 1818		2	George Goold	29 Mar 1778	16 Mar 1870 91
16 Mar 1870		3	Henry Valentine Goold	7 Jul 1803	18 Jun 1893 89
18 Jun 1893		4	James Stephen Goold	13 Oct 1848	12 Aug 1926 77
			For further information on this baronet and his younger brother, Vere Goold, see the note at the foot of this page		
12 Aug 1926		5	George Patrick Goold	9 Jul 1878	Jan 1954 75
Jan 1954		6	George Ignatius Goold	29 Apr 1903	26 Apr 1967 63
26 Apr 1967		7	George Leonard Goold	26 Aug 1923	31 Aug 1997 74
31 Aug 1997		8	George William Goold	25 Mar 1950	



Violette Goold

Emma Lévin

Vere Goold

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Emma Levin



Casino de Monte-Carlo



La Gare Saint Charles de Marseille

## GOOLDS GUILTY OF MURDER.

The Wife Sentenced to Death and the Husband to Life Imprisonment.

MONTE CARLO, Dec. 4.—After a speedy trial, Vere St. Leger Goold and his wife, Marie, were convicted to-day of the murder of Emma Levin here last Summer. The court found that Mrs. Goold was the chief instigator of the crime and sentenced her to death by the guillotine. Mr. Goold was held to be less responsible by reason of his being under the influence of liquor at the time the murder was committed, and he was sentenced to imprisonment for life.

The trial of the Goolds attracted attention because of the enormity of the crime, the manner in which the murder was committed, and the dramatic arrest of the principals, who were taken by the police while seeking to escape with a trunk containing portions of the body of their victim.

Goold and his wife left Monte Carlo early last August, going to Marseilles. A hotel porter in Marseilles noticed blood oozing from a trunk which the two had brought with them, and when they drove off with the trunk the porter notified the police and the arrest followed. Goold told the police that he had committed the murder and that his wife had nothing to do with it. The police did not put much faith in his story, and as the case was presented to the court, his wife was shown to be the real instigator.

The evidence went to show that Emma Levin, who was possessed of considerable jewelry and some money, visited the Goolds, who were in needy circumstances; that she was killed at their place of residence; that later a quantity of her jewelry was found in the possession of Goold and his wife, and that they were trying to dispose of her dismembered body when they were arrested.

**The New York Times**

Published: December 5, 1907

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