

ON THE RUN AND THE TRIAL

With Melinda in tow, King headed for Melinda's Aunt Catherine Bate's farm in Cape Vincent, New York, opposite Wolfe Island. **Quickly he wrote to his parents telling them where he was. Just as quickly Sarah's family found out** and were soon on their way, revolver in hand and accompanied by a US Marshall. Dr. King was arrested hiding under the straw in a hog's nest in Aunt Catherine's barn.



Back home, the autopsy revealed **there was arsenic in Sarah's stomach.** Incriminating letters were found in Dr. King's trunk. On Nov. 14, 1858 King was handed over to the Northumberland County Courthouse and Jail in Cobourg where he was **indicted for murder.**

Dr. King's trial was a sensation - locally and even provincially. It began on April 4, 1859, in the court house just north of Cobourg with "not less than fifteen hundred" attempting to hear the proceedings in a court room that could only accommodate four hundred.

The accused appeared confident of acquittal, he being a man of "about 5 feet 11 inches, of a pale countenance, dark hair, with sandy whiskers". His eyes were "penetrating", and his demeanor suggested "a city gentleman", rather than someone who was about to be tried for poisoning his wife.

But with Judge Robert Easton Burns presiding, Crown Council Thomas Galt **established a solid case of arsenic poisoning.** The case was strengthened by the expert testimony of Henry Holmes Croft, professor of chemistry at University of Toronto, by King's own letters to Melinda, and by his flight when an inquest was announced.