Murder in America: A history

They presented alternative murder theories by casting suspicion on another boarder, Richard Croucher, and even plausibly demonstrated that Elma could have jumped into the well to commit suicide. They attacked Elma’s character by claiming that she’d slept with her married landlord, and they established alibis for Levi with their own witnesses while planting doubts about the prosecution’s witnesses. The media called Polly “America’s Child.” On November 29, police arrested parolee Richard Allen Davis, who eventually confessed and revealed details that led to the discovery of the girl’s body on a hillside. Davis had been in and out of prison for nearly 20 years with a history of abducting and raping women. The investigation into Ronnie Guerin’s murder was the largest in Ireland’s history.