

The Ghost upon the Rail: Differences between Real Events

- Fisher was sent to Australia for being in possession of forged money, not for throwing a stone that accidentally killed someone.
- Fisher had been in Australia for only ten years at the time of his murder, not twenty-eight years.
- Far from being out of contact with his family, Fisher had a brother (Henry, also a convict) living in Australia.
- Fisher's writing was not in the same style as all "uneducated working men" of the colony. He was one of the few literate convicts. Before getting his Ticket of Leave, he spent most of his sentence doing office work. Several witnesses knew his signature well enough to be able to say whether or not it was real.
- Fisher was far from the reformed man that we see in Lang's story. After becoming successful as a farmer, he turned his attention to developing commercial buildings. When a carpenter he owed money to asked for it, there was a fight in which Fisher pulled out a knife and stabbed the man.
- Fisher gave George Worrall the Power of Attorney around six months before he disappeared. This was done shortly after the fight with the carpenter, because Fisher thought he could face a long jail term. However, he received a surprisingly light sentence and was back within a few months. Two months later he disappeared.
- Worrall did not move into Fisher's house when given the Power of Attorney. Fisher didn't even have a house on his farm! In fact, Fisher and his servants lived in rooms on Worrall's farm.
- Worrall did not say that Fisher had sailed for England to see his family and find a wife. He said that it was because he was worried about another charge for forging documents that was about to be made against Fisher in Australia.
- Fisher did not have a Certificate of Freedom. He was still on his Ticket of Leave, and would have immediately been put back in prison if he had gone back to England.
- Worrall did not try to sell Fisher's farm. He began to sell off Fisher's horses and personal effects, claiming that Fisher had sold them to him before sailing.
- Fisher's body was buried in the ground, not thrown in a water-hole.
- The ghost was seen once and by only one man, not twice and by three men. And the sighting was by a man walking home from a pub, not three sober men in a cart on the way home from market.
- There was no evidence given or discussion about the ghost at the trial.