

## **The murder of Richard Morgan**

A DAILY Post editorial in 1886 fulminated about "Savage Liverpool", scathingly describing the city's moral extremes.

It said: "The highest type of civilisation and the lowest type of savagery are to be found in Liverpool, existing side by side; and in no city in the world can a more startling contrast of the two races of mankind - the civilised and the uncivilised - be found."

What started this outraged comment lay with a murder back in 1874, when on August 3, Alice and Richard Morgan returned from New Ferry Druids' Gala and met his brother Samuel at Liverpool Landing Stage.

Although they lived in a Leeds Street slum court, the Morgans were law-abiding, working class respectable people. Both Morgan brothers were fit and robust, working as a porter and a carter.

Just beyond Exchange Station, on the corner of Lower Milk Street, four or five youths stopped the trio and demanded "six pence for a quart of ale".

Richard Morgan replied that the youth should work and pay for his own drink.

Suddenly he was punched from behind and stunned, fell sprawling into the road, never to speak again.

His brother retaliated, but the ruffians whistled for help and were soon kicking the helpless body of Richard.

Alice Morgan tried to cradle her prone husband but was knocked over by a flying kick from another youth, who started choking Richard. When Alice tried to pull him away, she was punched in the ear, leaving her deaf.

A third yob thrashed Richard with his belt.

Alice's screams for the police attracted a crowd who verbally encouraged the attack on the Morgans, some joining in, with seven people booting Richard's body, which was "kicked like a

ball" some 40ft down the street.

Eventually a policeman arrived.

With cries of "Hec, hec" or "Nix, nix" (meaning run away) the gang dispersed down Lower Milk Street.