

# HENNEPIN COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE AUTOPSY REPORT



**ME NO.:** 15-0367

CASE TITLE: GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE HEAD

**DECEASED:** Komel Crowley **SEX:** F **AGE:** 28

**DATE AND HOUR OF DEATH:** Found 1-17-15; 12:56 p.m.

DATE AND HOUR OF AUTOPSY: 1-18-15; 8:30 a.m.

PATHOLOGIST: Mitchel K. Morey, M.D.

## **FINAL DIAGNOSES:**

I. 28 year-old woman sustained gunshot wound injury to her head along with other family members (15-0366, 15-0368)

- II. Gunshot wounds of the head (2 identified)
  - A. Entrances: left posterior parietal region
  - B. Involving skull and brain
  - C. Trajectories: left to right and back to front
- III. Significant disease not identified
- IV. Animal scavenging and decomposition with marked disruption of the head, neck, and upper extremities
- V. Toxicology:
  - A. Spleen volatile screen: ethanol 0.134 g/dL with N-propanol and decompositional peaks present
  - B. Liver drug screen: Immunoassay positive for salicylate; chromatography negative

MM/MR: 2/17/15

3/16/2015 3/16/2015

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Mitchel K. Morey, M.D. Assistant Medical Examiner Signed by: Mitchel Morey MD Lorren W. Jackson, M.D. Reviewing Pathologist

Signed by: Lorren W. Jackson

#### ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL PRESENT AT AUTOPSY:

The autopsy is conducted in the presence of Detectives Sean McKnight and Brian Bone of the Apple Valley Police Department.

# PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION:

The deceased is received in a sealed blue bag. The lock states "15-0367, 1/18/15, 0110, JSL, and CSO". The decedent is dressed in the clothing described below. Most of the head and the hands are missing. She reveals decompositional changes. There is extensive bloating, skin slippage, and discoloration of the body surfaces. A Medical Examiner's tag is relocated to the body.

## **INTERNAL EVIDENCE:**

- Wavy dark hair is recovered from the right sock and is placed in an evidence envelope.
- Wavy dark hair is recovered from the anterior left leg and placed in an evidence envelope.
- Pubic hair is recovered and placed in an evidence envelope.
- Bone fragments are received in a sealed brown paper bag that states "bone fragments near 15-0367". The bag contains multiple comingled bony fragments including a portion of dark wavy hair and white cotton debris. Amongst this bony material, are two mandibles. One shows numerous restorations. In addition, there are two fragments of bone with 2 and 4 teeth. There are five other additional teeth as well. There are multiple irregular fragments of bone that range from 1.2 to 8 cm. There are larger fragments that appear consistent with skull. Many of the fragments reveal linear appearance consistent with fragmented digit bones.

## **CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:**

The following clothing items and personal effects are on the body at the time of autopsy:

- There is a brown button front sweater with a collar. The tag is not legible. The left sleeve appears frayed. Otherwise, it is intact. It is stained with decompositional fluid and apparent blood.
- There is a black short sleeve woman's T-shirt that states "Gray State, Back and Center Conquest" on the front and "Freedom, Security, Unity" on the back with a depiction of a "FEMA" worker. With this depiction, is a web site "www.graystatemovie.com". It is intact. It is extensively

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soiled with decompositional fluid and apparent blood. The label is not identified.

- There is a pair of gray sweatpants. This bears the "Old Navy" label and the size is S. The medial right pant leg is extensively frayed. These are soaked with decompositional fluid with apparent bloodstaining.
- There is a tan women's corset. It has apparent bloodstaining on the front. Posteriorly, it is moist with decompositional fluid. No label is identified. It is intact.
- There is a pair of similar brown socks with a graphic logo on the side. They are soiled with apparent blood and decompositional fluid.
- There is a separate label that states "Gildan" on it. There are decompositional fluids soaking it.

## **IDENTIFICATION:**

Positive identification is made by comparison of antemortem and postmortem dental radiographs, as well as comparison of tattoos on the body with antemortem tattoo descriptions of the decedent provided by the Apple Valley Police Department

# **EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

The available body appears apparently well-nourished. The height and weight are recorded as 5 feet and 85 pounds, respectively. Lividity and rigor are not discerned.

The head consists of a portion of skull which includes most of the left occipital bone and portions of the adjacent left parietal bone. There is focal brown to red staining of the inner surface. The scalp is absent. This is further described below. The neck is stable. Most of the anterior soft tissue is absent. The hyoid bone and laryngeal cartilages are not present.

The chest is stable. Extending downward from the neck region onto the central chest is an area of discrete dark brown discoloration. The breasts are free of palpable masses. The abdomen is protuberant. The external genitalia are those of an adult woman. No injury is discerned. The anus is intact.

The upper extremities are stable. The distal aspects terminate with absence of the hands. The skin, soft tissue, and bony margins are irregular.

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The lower extremities are symmetric and stable. The feet are complete.

The posterior body surfaces are intact and described elsewhere.

# TATTOOS:

- On the right flank, is a 21 x 17 inch graphic monochromatic tattoo composed of curved lines and knots.
- On the left wrist, is the remaining tattoo of a curved red area consistent with a heart. The distal margin of this tattoo is not present (see left hand description above).
- On the mid upper back, is a monochromatic tattoo of a graphic design.

# **GUNSHOT WOUNDS OF THE HEAD (LATERAL):**

ENTRANCE WOUND: This is located at the edge of the remaining left parietal bone of the skull, 6 inches from the top of the shoulder and 1½ inches left of the posterior midline. It consists of a 1.5 x 1 cm rounded inwardly beveled defect. Soot, powder, and stippling are not seen. Linear fractures are associated from this and the wound described below.

**EXIT WOUND:** Indeterminate.

PATHWAY: This extends into the skull and brain.

TRAJECTORY: Left to right and front to back.

PROJECTILE: None recovered at autopsy.

## **GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE HEAD (MEDIAL):**

**ENTRANCE WOUND:** This also is located at the edge of the remaining left parietal bone of the skull,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the top of the shoulder and 1 inch left of the posterior midline. It consists of a rounded inwardly beveled defect measuring 1.7 x 1.3 cm. Soot, powder, and stippling are not seen.

**EXIT WOUND:** Indeterminate.

PATHWAY: This extends into the skull and brain.

TRAJECTORY: Left to right and front to back.

PROJECTILE: None recovered at autopsy.

#### INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

The body cavities contain small amounts of decompositional fluid. The organs are in the usual locations. Features of canine scavenging is described below

HEAD AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: The remaining portions of the head consist of the posterior skull. This includes the portions of occipital bone and left parietal bone. There is no brain tissue. The bony and soft tissues margins are irregular consistent with canine scavenging. For further description, refer to the gunshot wound injury described above.

**NECK:** The anterior musculature, hyoid bone, and laryngeal cartilages are absent due to apparent animal scavenging. All that remains is the exposed and intact cervical vertebral column.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The heart is generally intact. It weighs 130 g. The right-dominant coronary arteries are intact and free of stenosis. The myocardium has a uniform appearance. The chambers are dilated. The valves appear intact. The aorta is lined by intact lining. The arch vessels are unremarkable.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** The right and left lungs weigh 150 and 120 g, respectively. The lung fields are free of consolidation. The tracheobronchial tree and pulmonary arteries are unobstructed.

**HEPATOBILIARY SYSTEM:** The 445 g liver has an intact capsule. The parenchyma is soft and has a green discoloration. The gallbladder contains trace amounts of bile. The biliary tree appears intact.

**HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM:** The 50 g spleen has an intact capsule and unremarkable parenchyma. The bone marrow is grossly unremarkable.

**ENDOCRINE SYSTEM:** The adrenal glands and pancreas are unremarkable beyond decomposition.

**GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM:** The esophagus is lined by a smooth autolyzed mucosa. The stomach contains approximately 10 g of light tan uniform soft material. The remaining bowel is unremarkable to random inspection. The appendix is present.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The right and left kidneys weigh 55 and 60 g, respectively. The smooth cortices have uniform thicknesses and the corticomedullary junctions are well-demarcated. The medullae and collecting system are intact. The bladder is empty. The uterus is free of products of conception. The proximal vaginal vault is unremarkable.

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:** The muscles are of appropriate bulk for the decedent's age. The margins of the distal upper extremities are described above. Injury is described above. The available skeleton appears well-developed.

#### ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES:

- Documentary photographs are taken.
- Radiographs of the head are obtained. No projectile is identified.
- Specimens retained for toxicologic testing are: liver, gastric contents, spleen, and muscle.
- Representative tissue biopsies are submitted in cassettes for microscopic examination; additional biopsies are retained in formalin for potential microscopic evaluation.
- Hair samples are placed in labeled, sealed envelopes.
- The dissected organs are returned to the body.

#### MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION:

LIVER (1): Autolysis, pathologic changes not identified.

LUNG (2): Autolysis, pathologic changes not identified.

**HEART (3):** Autolysis, pathologic changes not identified.

**KIDNEY (4):** Autolysis, pathologic changes not identified.

MM/MR: 1/21/15