



**HENNEPIN COUNTY  
MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE  
AUTOPSY REPORT**



**ME NO.:** 15-0366

**CASE TITLE:** GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE HEAD

**DECEASED:** David Crowley

**SEX:** M

**AGE:** 29

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

**DATE AND HOUR OF AUTOPSY:** 1-18-15; 11:50 a.m.

**PATHOLOGIST:** Jessica S. Lelinski, M.D. **STAFF:** Mitchel K. Morey, M.D.

**FINAL DIAGNOSES:**

29-year-old male who apparently shot his wife (15-0367) and daughter (15-0368) in the head and then shot himself in the head; all three bodies were found partially decomposed in the living room of their residence.

I. Gunshot wound of the head

A. Entrance: indeterminate

B. Pathway and trajectory: indeterminate

C. Exit: left parietal bone (with external beveling and radiating linear fractures) and scalp

D. Recovery: none

II. Early to moderate decomposition and evidence of animal scavenging

III. No natural disease

IV. Toxicology

A. Spleen volatile screen: ethanol 0.109 g/dL with N-propanol and decomposition peaks present

B. Liver drug screen: immunoassay negative; no basic or neutral drugs present on chromatography

JL/MR: 2/6/15

2/23/2015

3/22/2015

X *Jessica Lelinski*

Jessica S. Lelinski, M.D.  
Deputy Medical Examiner  
Signed by: JLelinski

X *Mitchel Morey*

Mitchel K. Morey, M.D.  
Assistant Medical Examiner  
Signed by: Mitchel Morey MD

**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.

**IDENTIFICATION:**

A Medical Examiner's identification tag is attached to the body bag and is labeled with appropriate case identifying information and recorded physical features. Positive identification is made by comparison of antemortem and postmortem dental radiographs, as well as comparison of tattoos on the body with antemortem photos of the decedent provided by the Apple Valley Police Department. The body bag is sealed with a yellow locking zip tag bearing the following handwritten information: "15-0366 1/18/15 0058 JSL and CSO".

**EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

The body is that of a well-developed, 70 inches long, 128 pounds male. Lividity and rigor are absent. The body is cool (refrigerated). Early to moderate decomposition is evidenced by skin discoloration, marbling, slippage, blistering, and mummification of the left hand and feet. Postmortem animal scavenging is evidenced by absence of the majority of the head and neck (apart from the posterior calvarium and overlying scalp, posterior neck skin and soft tissue, and cervical spine) and absence of the right hand.

The posterior scalp is intact, with patchy short brown hair. Fragments of skull and additional small bones recovered separately from the body at the scene are described in a separate section below (see "Internal Evidence").

The chest is symmetric. The abdomen is flat. The genitalia are those of a normal adult male with pubic hair in a normal distribution. The back, buttocks, and anus are unremarkable.

The left hand is initially sealed in an evidentiary paper bag. The upper arms and forearms are symmetric. The right hand is absent. The distal right forearm shows intact, smooth ends of the radius and ulna and irregularly-contoured soft tissue, muscle, and skin. The left hand has intact digits and is partially mummified. The fingernails are short and well-maintained. Dried drips of red-brown blood-like material are on the dorsal left hand between the thumb and 1<sup>st</sup> finger. The lower extremities are symmetric and intact. The toenails are long but well-maintained.

The following monochromatic tattoos are present:

- Two rows of apparent Greek letters spanning the upper back
- 17 x 10 cm symbol comprised of a dot and curved lines on the lateral right shoulder
- 18 x 2 cm "VIRES QUOD" on the anterior right forearm
- 10 x 15 cm spade with overlying skull and radiating lightning bolts on the lateral left shoulder
- 15 x 2 cm "VENERATIO" on the anterior left forearm

**CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS:**

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

- One "Guess" brand gray short-sleeved t-shirt, size S, with frayed lower edge. Dark green to red stains are on the collar, sleeves, and middle to left side of the shirt.
- One "Est. 1969" brand white long sleeved t-shirt, size L. Dark green to red stains are on the collar, sleeves, and middle to left side of the shirt.
- One "Fruit of the Loom" brand black sleeveless shirt, size L, with a frayed lower edge. Dark green to red stains are on the collar and left side of the shirt.
- One pair of "Nautica Jeans Company" brand black with white and blue stripe sweatpants, size M, with defects on the left front and left lower pant leg. The pants are covered with dark green to red stains are present and numerous short white hairs.
- One pair of "Izod" brand blue plaid boxers, size M. There is focal dark green to red staining.
- Two black and brown leather- and rope-like bracelets encircle the left wrist

**INTERNAL EVIDENCE:**

Examined separately from the body at the time of autopsy, from a sealed brown paper bag labeled with "bone fragments near 15-0366", are multiple fragments of bone and hair. A maxilla with well-preserved natural teeth showing no metallic restorations is present. Multiple 1.5 to 14.5 cm maximum dimension skull bone fragments articulate well with each other and with the remaining calvarium on the body of the decedent. A separate non-articulating 8.5 cm maximum dimension skull bone fragment has a rounded defect along one edge with apparent internal beveling.

The remaining bone fragments are irregular and of unidentifiable origin or consistent with phalanges. A tuft of short brown wavy hair is also present.

**GUNSHOT WOUND OF THE HEAD:**

On the left parietal scalp, centered approximately 9 inches above the left shoulder and 4 inches left of the posterior midline is a gunshot wound consisting of a 2 x 1 cm ovoid defect with irregular edges. The underlying parietal skull shows a 1.8 x 1 cm ovoid defect with external beveling. Associated injuries include radiating linear skull fractures and brown discoloration of the surrounding soft tissue of the scalp. The entrance gunshot wound site and trajectory are indeterminate due to absence of the majority of the head. No projectile fragments are recovered.

**INTERNAL EXAMINATION:**

**HEAD:** Absence of the brain, apart from scant liquefied material, and majority of the skull due to animal scavenging is previously described. Skull fractures of the remaining bones are previously described.

**NECK:** Absence of the skin, soft tissue, muscles, hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage, and other structures (tongue, larynx, proximal trachea, and thyroid) due to animal scavenging is previously described.

**MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM:** The skeletal muscles are tan-pink and soft, but of appropriate bulk for body habitus. The bony skeleton, apart from previously described skull injuries and artifact due to animal scavenging, is intact and normal; the ribs, sternum, and vertebral bodies are visibly and palpably intact.

**BODY CAVITIES:** Green-brown decomposition fluid is in the pleural, pericardial, and peritoneal cavities. The organs occupy the usual anatomic positions.

**RESPIRATORY SYSTEM:** The right and left lungs weigh 250 and 340 g, respectively. The pulmonary parenchyma is red-brown to green and diffusely crepitant. Sectioning reveals no mass lesions or areas of consolidation. The tracheobronchial tree and pulmonary vasculature are unobstructed.

**CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM:** The 230 g heart is contained in an intact pericardial sac. The coronary arterial distribution is normal and right-dominant. Cross sections of the vessels show no significant atherosclerosis. The myocardium is tan-brown and softened. The valve leaflets are thin and mobile. The atrial and ventricular septa are intact. The foramen ovale is sealed. The aorta shows no significant atherosclerosis and gives rise to three intact and patent arch vessels.

**LIVER AND BILIARY SYSTEM:** The 720 g liver has an intact, smooth capsule with postmortem mold growth. The parenchyma is tan-brown and soft. Sectioning reveals no mass lesions. The gallbladder contains no bile or stones. The mucosal surface is green and velvety.

**SPLEEN AND HEMATOPOIETIC SYSTEM:** The 70 g spleen has a smooth and intact capsule. The parenchyma is maroon and soft. The exposed bone marrow is unremarkable.

**PANCREAS:** The pancreas is autolyzed and yellow with the usual lobular architecture. No mass lesions or other abnormalities are seen.

**ADRENALS:** The right and left adrenal glands are symmetric with bright yellow to brown cortices and autolyzed gray medullae. No masses or areas of hemorrhage are identified.

**GENITOURINARY SYSTEM:** The kidneys weigh 100 g each. The external surfaces are intact and smooth. The cut surfaces are red-brown with indistinct corticomedullary junctions. The pelves are unremarkable and the ureters are normal in course and caliber. White bladder mucosa overlies an intact bladder wall. The bladder contains no urine. The prostate is normal in size, with lobular tan-brown parenchyma. The seminal vesicles are unremarkable. The testes are free of mass lesions, contusions, or other abnormalities.

**GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT:** The esophagus is intact and lined by gray-white partially autolyzed mucosa. The stomach contains no food or medications. The gastric wall is intact. The duodenum, loops of small bowel, and colon are unremarkable. The appendix is present.

**ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES:**

- Documentary photographs are taken.

- Specimens retained for toxicologic testing are: liver, spleen, and muscle.
- Representative tissue biopsies are submitted in cassettes for microscopic examination; additional biopsies are retained in formalin for potential microscopic evaluation.
- Pulled head hairs are placed in a labeled, sealed envelope.
- The dissected organs are returned to the body.

**MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION:**

Sections of liver and kidney (1) show marked autolysis and no discernable pathologic abnormalities.

JL/MR: 1/21/15