

# ***New Hampshire Cold Case Unit***

## **Status Report**

For the Year 2015



NEW HAMPSHIRE  
**Department of Justice**  
Office of the Attorney General



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## History of the NH Cold Case Unit

On July 29, 2009, Governor John Lynch signed HB 690 into law, creating New Hampshire's Cold Case Unit [hereinafter referred to as CCU] specifically dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of unsolved homicides and missing persons cases.

During the first 18 months of its existence, a state-wide list of unsolved homicides, suspicious deaths and missing persons (suspicious circumstances) was compiled. Originally there were approximately 120 victims listed. A system for prioritizing the cases was implemented based on evidence that had been collected and properly stored, age of available witnesses, and probability of a successful prosecution. The Cold Case website was launched which included a picture of each victim, a description of the case and information on how to contact the Unit with information concerning the case. A case management system was developed which makes use of "eSolve" software for storing and organizing tips that come in from the public.

Through the use of two volunteers, Verne Greene and Milli Knudsen, all the paperwork received on the cases was catalogued and organized in the CCU office. To date there are in excess of 80 boxes of material stored at the CCU office.

Many of the cases have been fully indexed:

- All paperwork scanned electronically and bates stamped with page numbers
- Investigative reports, lab work and evidence sheets were read and put in order
- All persons, addresses and salient facts were listed on an Excel spreadsheet
- In many cases the actual pages of the investigation were hyperlinked on the spreadsheet, giving investigators the entire case at their fingertips



In July of 2015, the Cold Case Unit moved to new quarters, previously used by the Intelligence Unit at Major Crime. This gave us desk space for six, plus storage for our file cabinets and case files. A new inventory was made of each box and file, assigning a location on shelving units or file drawers.

## Staffing of the Unit

The CCU saw several personnel changes in 2015 due to promotions within the State Police. For the first half of the year, the investigators of the unit were Sgt. Joseph Ebert, Trooper Michael Kokoski, and Detective Chuck West. In the summer of 2015, Sgt. Ebert was promoted to Lieutenant of the Terrorism and Intelligence Unit, and Trooper Kokoski was promoted to Sergeant within the Major Crime Unit. After a brief period of supervision by Sgt. Brian Strong, Sgt. Kokoski was assigned supervision of the CCU, and Trooper First Class William Bright took the investigator's position. Detective West remains in the part-time investigator's position funded by the Attorney General's office.

Senior Assistant Attorney General Ben Agati continued to serve as the unit's prosecutor. Victim/witness advocate Joelle Donnelly-Wiggin of the Attorney General's Office continues to be the liaison for victim family members, and provides various forms of assistance to those affected by these crimes. The CCU continues to rely on the administrative support of our two volunteers, Milli Knudsen and Verne Greene.

## 2015 Activities

- **Unit meetings**

Attorney Agati instituted a series of unit meetings where members collectively discuss and evaluate the incoming leads/tips and systematically prioritize the cases to be worked. Factors that influence such decision making includes availability of forensic evidence, status and location of suspects/witnesses, recent leads, applicability of various investigative techniques, and changes in relationships between the persons involved in a case.

- **Lab Assistance**

The CCU continues to regularly coordinate with the NH State Police Forensic Lab to discuss new or revisited forensic testing to conduct on evidence associated with the unit's cases. Investigators have also made use of contracted funds between the CCU and NMS labs. This money is designated for advanced forensic testing, frequently "touch DNA" testing, which is beyond the capability of the state lab. In 2015, the CCU was able to submit evidence to NMS from 14 different investigations. Several of those cases are led and overseen by the large municipal agencies of the state who worked collaboratively to advance these potential forensic breakthroughs. Such work often engenders many more tasks, as known DNA samples frequently need to be collected from witnesses or family members for comparison to biological material that may be found on evidence.

- Missing person cases

Several of the CCU's missing person cases have been actively worked this year. The case of Maura Murray (Haverhill, 2004) continues to provide a steady stream of tips and information, and the unit was able to successfully exclude several Jane Does from across the nation as being NH missing teen Rachael Garden (Newton, 1980). New leads in the disappearance of security guard Curtis Pishon (Seabrook, 2000) were also explored.

- Arlene Clevesy

In March, Lt. Ebert and Sgt. Kokoski were asked to look into the 1972 homicide of Arlene Clevesy in South Hampton, NH. The case was brought to the unit's attention by the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department after an inquiry from a Clevesy family member. The CCU had previously been unaware of it, and has undertaken the effort of evaluating the file and beginning proactive field work on the investigation.

- Allenstown Investigation

New facial reconstruction was done this year on the unidentified homicide victims found in barrels in Allenstown (1985/2000). The enhanced pictures and results of recent forensic testing were circulated in Canada and northeastern US in an effort to generate new leads. In addition to the new facial images, isotope testing was completed on the victim's remains. Such testing can give an indication of the geographical regions where these victims likely spent time before their death. The results of this testing has helped narrow the focus of where these victims may have originated from. CCU members have worked and continue to work closely with representatives from NAMUS (National Missing and Unidentified Persons System) and NCMEC (National Center for Missing & Exploited Children) on this challenging case.

In November of 2015, the CCU held a press conference displaying the images and isotope analysis in hopes of generating new leads from the public. This case remains very active.



(New facial images of Allenstown Victim from NCMEC)



(2015 Allenstown Press Conference)

- Other investigations

CCU members traveled to Oregon in May and were able to successfully follow-up on investigative leads from that region pertaining to three separate CCU investigations. These efforts led to a second trip in November where a long-time suspect in an open homicide case was cleared via means of a polygraph test.

- Training

In April 2015, Sgt. Kokoski was invited to be a speaker at a two-day training on cold case homicide investigations. The conference was hosted by NAGTRI (National Attorney General's Training and Research Institute), and was held in Las Vegas, NV. Investigators and prosecutors from all over the country gathered to discuss methodology and best practice in approaching these challenging cases.



Sgt. Kokoski with other presenters at NAGTRI Cold Case Seminar

- Prosecutions

State v. Arthur Collins

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, Arthur Collins was sentenced for murdering George Jodoin in 2001. Following a lengthy investigation, Collins was arrested by members of the CCU in 2012. At Collins' sentencing hearing, victim impact statements from Jodoin's family members and from Jodoin's friend Ricky Caron were heard. Collins received 30-years-to life imprisonment for Second-Degree murder.





Arthur Collins (2012 Booking Photo)

State v. Anthony Barnaby and State v. David Caplin

In April of 2015, the Canadian Supreme Court agreed to render their citizens, Anthony Barnaby and David Caplin (both Mi'gmaq Native North Americans) to the United States and the State of New Hampshire. This ended a 5-year legal battle handled by the United States Department of Justice on behalf of New Hampshire. Attorney Agati is assisting SAAG Susan Morrell in the prosecution of this Nashua cold case. Barnaby and Caplin were indicted in August of 2015 on charges of First Degree Murder for acting in concert in the 1988 double homicide of Charlene Ranstrom and Brenda Warner in Nashua. In October of 2015, the trial team traveled to the Restigouche Reservation in Listiguj, Canada to meet many of the witnesses in this case. In November, Attorney Agati and Victim Witness Advocate Donnelly also traveled to Montreal and Toronto, Canada to meet with witnesses in this case. These matters are expected to go to trial in 2016.

- Organizing the files

CCU volunteers Milli Knudsen and Verne Greene donate their time assisting the unit in organizing and indexing the large, and often complicated, cold case files. Their work is invaluable to the investigative team in locating and extracting valuable information from within stacks of paperwork that is frequently voluminous. Their work is also relied upon in preparation for trial in the Barnaby/Caplin case.



## Website/Case Additions

As the CCU continues to learn of previously unknown historic investigations, the master case list is updated on the unit's web site. Cases are also added when the passage of time has dictated that the case fall under the CCU's responsibility. In 2015, three new cases were added to the list:

### Arlene Clevesy, 1972, Newton

On June 4, 1972, Arlene Clevesy, age 48, was found dead in a wooded area along Hume Brook near the Newton/South Hampton town line. Her cause of death was determined to be traumatic asphyxia including drowning.

### Roberta Miller, 2010, Gilford

Roberta Miller, age 54, was found shot to death in her Gilford home on November 1, 2010. Her dog was also found shot to death in the home.

### John Labbe, 2011, Plymouth

On September 8, 2011, John Labbe, age 54, was found shot to death in a shed on his property in Plymouth. His body was discovered by a friend.

## Tips and Public Contact

The Cold Case Unit was contacted last year by the Jaffrey Historical Society as they prepared a display about a local homicide from 1918. The victim, Dr. William Dean, was found in the cistern on his property and suspicions arose about the involvement of German spies in the area. The Society invited members of our Unit to hear what their research had uncovered, and though the case lay outside CCU parameters Investigator Bob Freitas, Sgt. Mike Kokoski and Lt. Joe Ebert listened to a presentation of their efforts and discussed the case.

2015 saw media attention given to both the Curtis Pishon case (Seabrook, 2000), and the Carrie Moss case (New Boston, 1989/1991). This publicity generated leads for each case, some of which continue to be investigated by the CCU.

On April 30, Lt. (ret) Chuck West traveled to Augusta, Maine to testify before the Maine State Legislature on LD1121 "An Act to Fund the Cold Case Homicide Unit in the Department of the Attorney General". West reported on the development and funding of the NH Cold Case Unit, giving a history of our Unit, how the CCU works amid the Major Crime Unit, how we define a "cold case", the protocol we use to determine solvability, ways a case may be advanced, and the creation of our website.

West presented a letter from Attorney Ben Agati stating our willingness to assist Maine's Cold Case Unit in any way possible.

A large part of the CCU'S daily responsibility is to receive, evaluate, catalogue, and follow-up on incoming tips and leads. While not every tip can receive immediate attention, the CCU resources are deployed and utilized based on prioritization of the information, and how it dovetails with current case work and initiatives of the unit. The CCU continues to use the software program "E-Solve" to document and track incoming tips.

## Conclusion

Now in its 6<sup>th</sup> year, the Cold Case Unit continues to find its stride in effectively addressing, managing, and resolving the state's unsolved homicides. While it is unrealistic to think that all of unit's cases will reach a resolution, the NH CCU has shown that with dedicated personnel and persistence, the truth and justice sought in these investigations can indeed become reality. The model that the NH CCU has developed is clearly attracting the interest of our neighboring states, and has become an example for other agencies looking to form cold case units. New Hampshire is truly leading the way in the world of unsolved homicide investigation.

Moving forward, the largest challenge before the CCU is how to address the tremendous volume of work with the limited number of resources we have. Each of these investigations is challenging, complex, and demanding. It is the belief of the CCU members that the time and hours available must be allocated strategically in order to put the best foot forward towards case resolution. It is the sincere goal of the unit to see all of these cases solved, and with continued teamwork, we expect more case resolutions in the years ahead.

### Cold Case Unit Victim's List

|                           |                         |                                |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Baumann, Diethelm         | Hill, Steven            | Olsen, Paul                    |
| Bean, Doris               | Hina, Carl Robert       | Page, Walter                   |
| Bean, Russell             | Hina, Lillan Marie      | Penna, Douglas                 |
| Belanger, Tammy           | Hina, Lori Michelle     | Pickett, David                 |
| Biron, Richard            | Hina, Sara Jean         | Pineau, Allen                  |
| Blakeslee, Luella         | Holmes, Sheila          | Pishon, Curtis                 |
| Blanchette, Ray           | Horn, Debra             | Place, Betty                   |
| Bois, Dorothy Ann         | Jablonski, Casmiro      | Plummer, Linda                 |
| Bolton, Stella            | Jache, Kenneth          | Pond, John Sr.                 |
| Braley, David             | Jimenez, Megan          | Poulin, Joseph                 |
| Breault, Raymond          | Jodoin, George          | Psaradelis, Anne               |
| Carreau, David            | Kaldaras, Christopher   | Ramsey, John, IV               |
| Carreau, Deborah          | Keljikian, Michael      | Randall, Kathleen              |
| Chaput, Louise            | Kempton, Laura          | Reed, Theresa                  |
| Chavez, Domingo           | Kierstead, Michael      | Riley, Jerry                   |
| Compagna, Diana           | Lane, Craig             | Roth, Shari                    |
| Conrad, Thomas            | LeChel, Carl C.         | Roy, Rita                      |
| Courtemanche, Bernice     | LeFevre, Gregory        | Segall, Eddy                   |
| Crane, Chelsea            | Lei, Hai Bo (Paul)      | Sidoti, Francis "Frank" J.     |
| Crawford, John            | Little, Tammy           | Sinclair, Bethany              |
| Critchley, Mary Elizabeth | Longfellow, David       | Sinclair, Tina                 |
| Crouse, Madlyn            | Lord, Judy              | Snyder, Jaclynne               |
| Davis, Dominique          | Lyman, Walter           | Snyder, Lisa K.                |
| Delano, Everett           | Lyons, Omar             | Stankiewicz, Melodie           |
| Dobens, William           | Marku, Lorenc           | Sterling, John                 |
| Dockham, Sharon           | McBride, Shirley Ann    | Teta, James                    |
| Dow, Janet                | "Tippy"                 | Travers, Henry Jr.             |
| Dow, Stephen              | McGuire, Michael "J.T." | Trudeau, Jeffrey Jr.           |
| Enquist, Thomas, Sr.      | Merrill, Patrick        | Unidentified Female/3 Children |
| Fitting, Eric             | Miller, Pauline         | Unidentified Female            |
| Fried, Ellen              | Miller, Rosalie         | Unidentified Male              |
| Furando, Joseph           | Millican, Catherine     | Valdes, Domingo                |
| Garden, Rachel            | Moore, James            | Watson, Brian                  |
| Giguere, Maurice          | Moore, Sonya            | Webb, Pamela                   |
| Giles, Terry              | Morgan, Douglas         | West, Mindy                    |
| Gloddy, Kathy Lynn        | Morse, Eva              | Whitacre, Carmel Sue           |
| Gray, Sylvia              | Moss, Carrie            | Whitney, Judith                |
| Harrison, Mary            | Murray, Maura           | Wilkinson, Ellen               |
| Hazleton, Angel           | Norman, Ronald          | Wilkinson, Maurice             |
| Heckbert, Robert          | O'Brien, James P.       | Wood, Patricia Ann             |
| Herlihy, Paul             | O'Connell, Daniel       | Wright, Lisa                   |
| Hicks, Carrie             | O'Sullivan, Jerome      | Zsigray, Michael               |