

# Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

CB # 7580 Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7580  
Telephone 9199662253

## REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

### DECEDENT

**Document Identifier** B200801077  
**Autopsy Type** ME Autopsy  
**Name** Earnestine Battle  
**Age** 50 yrs  
**Race** Black  
**Sex** F

### AUTHORIZATION

**Authorized By** John D. Butts MD **Received From** Edgecombe

### ENVIRONMENT

**Date of Exam** 03/14/2008 **Time of Exam** 9:30  
**Autopsy Facility** Office of the Chief Medical Examiner **Persons Present** Mr. Clyde Gibbs, Dr. Deborah Radisch, Mr. Bill Holloman

### CERTIFICATION

**Cause of Death**  
Undetermined

**The facts stated herein are correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.**

Digitally signed by  
John D. Butts MD 29 July 2008 10:42

### DIAGNOSES

Largely skeletonized human remains

### IDENTIFICATION

**Body Identified By**  
Accompanying Papers

### EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

**Length** 60 inches  
**Weight** 52 pounds  
**Body Condition** Decomposed  
**Rigor** Undetectable  
**Livor** Undetectable  
**Hair** Dark, tightly curled with gray  
**Eyes** Absent  
**Teeth** Some natural teeth present, many absent

These are decomposed remains received within several body bags. They are those of a adult female and there is no clothing accompanying or associated with the remains. Present in a small plastic bag separately are portions of apparent scalp hair as described. The remains are on their back with both arms pulled up above the head. The left leg is slightly flexed, the right is straight. Tissue is absent from the entirety of the skull. Residual tissue is present on the back from the mid neck down to the feet. There is no tissue or skin on the anterior neck, upper chest and the central abdomen to the pubic symphysis. Dried leathery skin is present on the back and legs. There is tissue in the groin area. The upper arms are devoid of flesh, dried tissue is present on the forearms. The fingers are all present, but dried.

Numerous active maggots are present on the body as well a large number of beetles of various size and description. Also accompanying the body in the bag is a considerable quantity of leaf and branch material.

Subsequently an upper partial denture is brought to the OCME which fits the upper jaw.

## **INJURIES**

No evidence of fracture or other injury is noted on the bones other than a sternal fracture just above the sterno-manubrial joint.

## **DISPOSITION OF CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS**

**The following items are released with the body**

None

**The following items are preserved as evidence**

None

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Radiographs**

X-ray of the remains reveal no evidence of metallic fragments other than restorations in the remaining teeth.

### **Microbiology**

None

### **Chemistry**

None

### **Identification**

DNA extracted from femur segment compared with buccal swabs from mother of Ms Battle by LabCorp who report a 99.99% probability of maternity.

### **Special Evidence Collection**

Fragments of bone and hair to be retained for evidentiary purposes. Segments of femur submitted for DNA testing.

## **INTERNAL EXAMINATION**

### **Body Cavities**

The internal organs are largely absent from the body cavities. Some decomposed tissues are present in the mid abdominal region. An intact gallbladder is identified which appears to be somewhat enlarged and contains a number smooth and faceted stones. One large one is approximately 1 cm in diameter by 1 1/2 cm in length. No bile is present. Another small stone is noted impacted in what is presumably the neck. No other recognizable tissues are present save a portion of the aorta which shows only minimal atherosclerosis.

## **MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION**

### **Microscopic Comment**

None performed.

## **SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION**

These were decomposed/skeletonized remains found in a wooded area of Edgecombe County on 3/13/08. They were lying face down and there was no clothing associated with the remains. The suspect identity, Ernestine Battle, was a 50 year old woman with a history of drug use who was reportedly last seen alive on 2/2/2008.

Autopsy revealed no definite trauma. The internal organs were largely absent due to decomposition and scavenging. The remains were consistent with the known physical characteristics of Ernestine Battle and the identification was confirmed by DNA comparison with her mother. Toxicological screening of the gallstone recovered within the remains for opiates, cocaine and organic bases was negative. The cause of death is undetermined but given the age of the individual and the circumstances under which the remains were found it is most likely that she died of external causes and homicidal violence cannot be ruled out.

## **DIAGRAMS**

1. adult (front/back)

State of North Carolina

Name of Decedent: \_\_\_\_\_

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

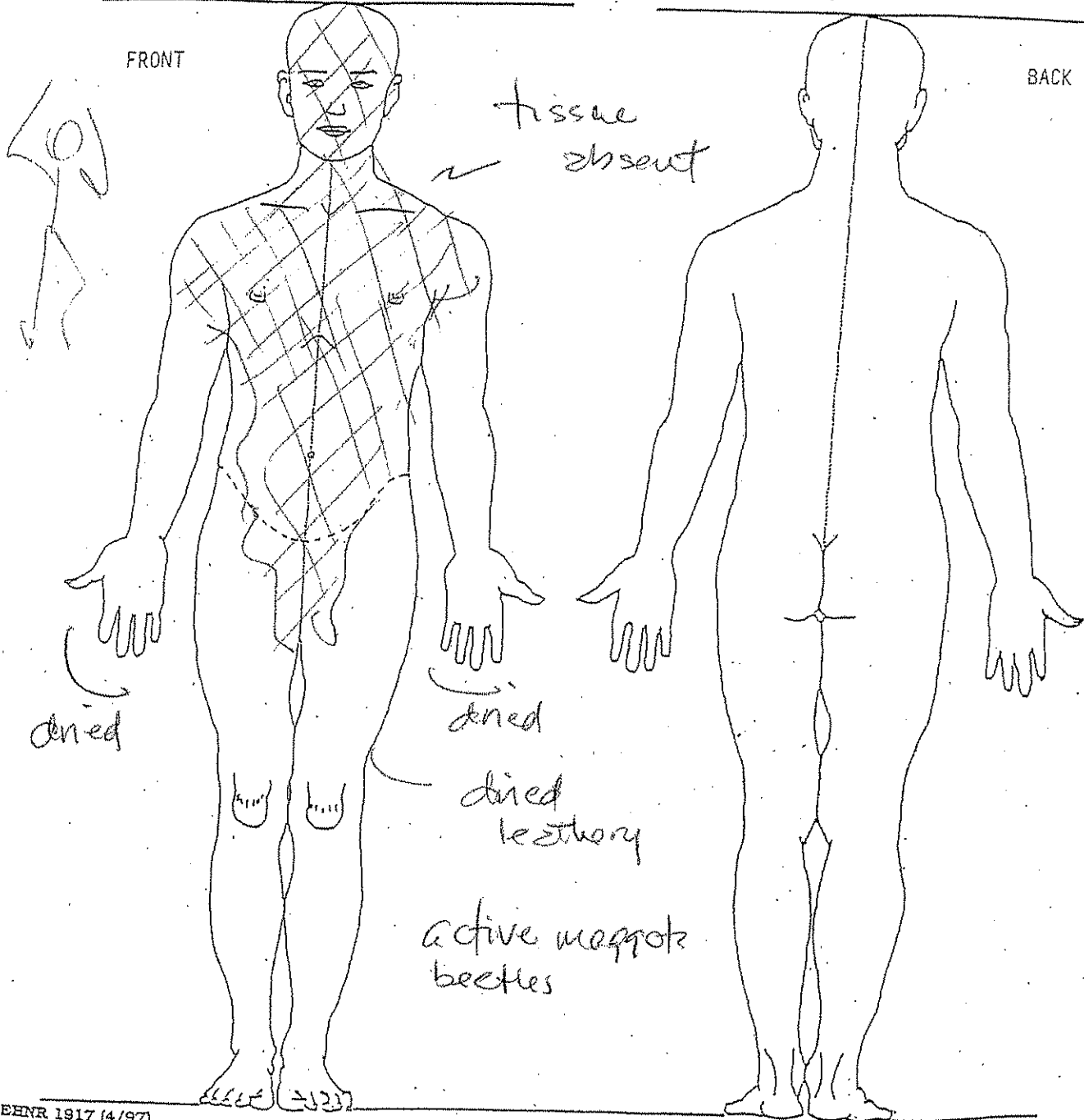
Autopsy # B08-1077

Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27599-7580

Examined By: J.D. Batts MD

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BODY DIAGRAM: ADULT (Front/Back)**



DEHR 1917 (4/97)  
Medical Examiner

This form may be photocopied.

PAGE \_\_\_ OF \_\_\_