

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

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REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

DECEDENT

Document Identifier B200901004

Autopsy Type ME Autopsy

Name Elizabeth Jane Smallwood

Age 32 yrs

Race Black

Sex F

AUTHORIZATION

Authorized By Samuel Simmons MD

Received From Nash

ENVIRONMENT

Date of Exam 02/19/2009

Time of Exam 11:00

Autopsy Facility Office of the Chief Medical Examiner **Persons Present** Mr. Clyde Gibbs, Dr. John Butts

CERTIFICATION

Cause of Death

Undetermined

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

Digitally signed by

Samuel D. Simmons MD 17 December 2009 15:14

John D. Butts MD 17 December 2009 15:22

DIAGNOSES

Skeletonized remains with evidence of animal scavenging

IDENTIFICATION

Body Identified By

Radiographs

EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

Body Condition Skeletonized

Teeth Natural and in poor condition with multiple large caries and no visible dental restorations

The skeletonized remains are received and initially identified only as "Jane Doe" per the accompanying paperwork, with subsequent positive identification at NC OCME via radiograph comparisons (see Identification section for further details). The remains are consistent with those of an adult black female. No clothing is present on or with the remains, and no personal effects are identified. There is evidence of animal scavenging, most notably on the left foot. Mummified skin is present on the right hand, left foot, right lower leg and foot, and back. The teeth are natural and in poor condition. A mat of black curly hair accompanies the remains but is previously detached from the skull.

INJURIES

There is evidence of postmortem animal scavenging activity on the left foot, 4th and 5th lumbar vertebrae, and sacrum.

No injuries are identified on any of the bones present.

DISPOSITION OF CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

The following items are released with the body

None

The following items are preserved as evidence

Hair for toxicological testing

PROCEDURES

Radiographs

Postmortem radiographs of the head and cervical spine show no obvious fractures.

Identification

The characteristics of the remains are consistent with the known characteristics of Elizabeth Smallwood.

The decedent is positively identified by NC OCME via comparison of postmortem x-rays with scout images from an antemortem CT scan of Elizabeth Smallwood (Nash Health Care Systems, dated 9/29/02). There are multiple concordant characteristics between the two sets of images, including features within the middle cranial fossa/clivus, cribriform plate, frontal sinus, maxilla and central incisor, mandible, and cervical vertebrae. No significant differences or discordant features are present between the two sets of images.

Subsequently, these images were analyzed by Dr. Ann Ross at NCSU/NCPFS (FA09-02), who also noted the above mentioned similarities, as well as similar overall vault and facial shape, and the orbital plate. According to Dr. Ross' report, the match was quantitatively substantiated using Elliptic Fourier Analysis. Please see her report for additional details.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION

Musculoskeletal System

See skeletal survey report for metrics and other details.

SKELETAL EXAMINATION

Survey

The majority of the bones of the skeleton are present. Notably absent are the hyoid, patellae and left humerus, as well as several smaller bones of the left foot and right hand. There is an extra vertebra with right 13th rib present between the 12th thoracic vertebra and the 1st lumbar vertebra. There is evidence of animal scavenging activity on the left foot, transverse processes of the 4th and 5th lumbar vertebrae and right ala of the sacrum.

Attributions

Sharp upper orbital margins and slight occipital protuberance of the skull, along with a U-shaped subpubic angle and elongated os pubis are consistent with a female. The wide interorbital breadth and mid-facial prognathism of the skull as well as the black, kinky hair are most consistent with Negroid ancestry. The basilar suture is closed and the other sutures of the skull are fused, along with epiphyseal union of all of the post-cranial long bones and lack of osteophyte on the vertebral column, consistent with a person approximately 30-45 years old. Based on computed calculations of femur and tibia length, the estimated height range is between 5'4" and 5'7". In summary, these remains are consistent with a black female 30 to 45 years old, and 5'4" to 5'7" tall.

Please see NC OCME skeletal survey report by Mr. Clyde Gibbs and NCPFS report of osteological examination (case # FA-09-02) by Dr. Ann Ross for further details.

Metrics

Please see paper copy in case file for details.

SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION

The decedent was a black female whose skeletonized remains were found in a wooded area in Nash County by workers who were cleaning up trash in a nearby field. Clothing was reportedly found near the remains, but not directly associated with the remains.

Significant findings at autopsy include skeletonized remains with evidence of animal scavenging. No significant non-scavenging injuries are present on the examined remains.

Postmortem toxicological analysis on hair from the hair mat received with the decedent's remains reveals the presence of cocaine. No opiates are detected.

Given the autopsy and investigative findings, it is our opinion that the cause of death in this case is undetermined.

However, the discovery of unclothed female remains in a remote area is highly suspicious for homicidal violence. What role, if any, the cocaine may have played in her death is not known.

DIAGRAMS

There are no diagrams for this Autopsy.