

# ECU Brody School of Medicine

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## REPORT OF AUTOPSY EXAMINATION

### DECEDENT

**Document Identifier** B201000563

**Autopsy Type** ME Autopsy

**Name** Roberta Williams

**Age** 40 yrs

**Race** Black

**Sex** F

### AUTHORIZATION

**Authorized By** Karen L. Kelly MD

**Received From** Edgecombe

### ENVIRONMENT

**Date of Exam** 03/30/2010

**Time of Exam** 14:30

**Autopsy Facility** ECU Brody School of Medicine **Persons Present** Lisa Leone, Jill Blackwell, Megan Perry, PhD, Crystal Butcher, Lara Frame, Mindi Seeman from the ECU Anthropology Department, Lin Mel, MD, pathology resident and SA Justin Godwin, North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation

### CERTIFICATION

#### Cause of Death

UNDETERMINED.

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

#### Digitally signed by

Karen L. Kelly MD 29 September 2010 19:18

### DIAGNOSES

I. Skeletonized remains with:

- A. Healed antemortem fractures of left 3rd-5th ribs.
- B. Six lumbar vertebrae.

II. No cause of death identified.

III. Positive identification by dental comparison.

### IDENTIFICATION

#### Body Identified By

Dental Exam

### EXTERNAL DESCRIPTION

**Body Condition** Skeletonized

**Teeth** Natural teeth (see discussion is skeletal section).

### DISPOSITION OF CLOTHING AND PERSONAL EFFECTS

#### The following items are preserved as evidence

Items recovered near the skeletonized remains:

1. One credit card.
2. One yellow metal wristwatch.

3. One piece of a chain with a hook at one end.
4. Metal fragments (possibly from a piece of jewelry).

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Identification**

The decedent is positively identified by comparison of antemortem and postmortem dental X-rays.

## **SKELETAL EXAMINATION**

### **Survey**

GENERAL CONDITION: Approximately 90-95% of the well-preserved skeleton is recovered. Dried tissue such as ligaments, tendons and intervertebral discs connect some of the remains. Some evidence of rodent and carnivore scavenging is seen.

TRAUMA: No evidence of perimortem trauma was identified.

TEETH: The maxilla held the left and right first molars and the left second molar. The mandible contained the right first and second incisors, canine, and first and second premolars. The right and left maxillary first incisors and left second incisor and left first premolar were recovered near the skull in the soil. The teeth missing postmortem include the left mandibular incisors, canine and first premolar. The other teeth were lost antemortem.

A number of the teeth contain cavities, some of which have been filled. The two upper central incisors have extensive interstitial unfilled cavities and the right maxillary first molar and right mandibular second premolar crowns may have been destroyed by large untreated cavities. Fillings were noted on the interstitial and occlusal areas of the left maxillary first premolar, the occlusal surface of the maxillary left first molar and the occlusal and buccal surfaces of the maxillary left second molar. The right mandibular first premolar had a large filling on the occlusal, interstitial, and buccal surfaces. A number of teeth were lost antemortem, including the right second incisor, the left and right canines, the right second premolar and the right second molar of the maxilla. The left second premolar and right and left first and second molars of the mandible were lost antemortem. The maxillary and mandibular third molars were congenitally missing or had been removed antemortem.

PATHOLOGIES: The sternal ends of left ribs 3, 4, and 5 show healed antemortem fractures.

IDENTIFYING FEATURES: This individual had six, instead of five, lumbar vertebrae, a relatively common congenital condition seen in humans.

### **Attributions**

The estimated age-at-death of the individual is 40-44 years using evaluation of epiphyseal closure, the age-related morphologic features of the auricular surfaces of the pelvis and cranial suture closure. Gender determination based on the morphologic features of the pelvic bones and cranial and mandibular measurements provided a female gender estimation. Race determination based on cranial measurements indicate that this individual would have identified herself as a black or African-American. Stature determination was determined to range from 5'2" to 5'8.5" based on femur and tibia measurements.

## **SUMMARY AND INTERPRETATION**

On Saturday, March 27, 2010, the regional medical examiner's office was notified that human skeletal remains had been located in woods in Edgecombe County. While riding four-wheelers, two men found what they believed were deer bones, until they saw a skull. The remains were recovered for examination and identification at the regional medical examiner's office. Detectives from the Rocky Mount police department provided dental records of missing persons from the Nash and Edgecombe county areas.

Autopsy examination revealed skeletonized remains with small amounts of remaining attached soft tissue. The remains were determined to be from a 5'2" to 5'8.5" African-American woman approximately 40-44 years old. Dental records positively confirmed this individual's identity as Ms. Roberta Williams, a 40 year old African-American woman. No cause of death was identified.

## **DIAGRAMS**

There are no diagrams for this Autopsy.