

New Hampshire Cold Case Unit

Status Report

For the Year 2016



NEW HAMPSHIRE

Department of Justice

Office of the Attorney General



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History of the Cold Case Unit

We are proud to submit this report, which outlines the activities of the Cold Case Unit in 2016, in accordance with RSA 21-M:8-m, V (2012).

The Cold Case Unit was initially created by an Act of the General Court and signed into law by the Governor on July 29, 2009. For the first time, New Hampshire had a dedicated team to investigate and prosecute unsolved homicides. However, the unit's duration was time limited. The enabling statute, 2009 NH Law 269, contained a sunset provision, which would have disbanded the unit in three years time. In August of 2012, the General Court repealed that sunset provision and passed legislation providing for the Unit's continued existence under the joint administration of the Attorney General and the Commissioner of the Department of Safety.

Unsolved homicides extract a great toll on the members of the victims' families. Over 100 homicide cases in New Hampshire remain unsolved, which means that many killers have not yet been brought to justice. As detailed in the following report, the Cold Case Unit has made tremendous progress in the past year toward resolving some of these cases. It is our hope that the Unit will continue to function until every case has been resolved and the surviving family members can have some answers and some measure of justice, for which they have waited so long.



Introduction

Nearing the end of its seventh year, the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit (NHCCU) continues its mission of bringing justice and truth to the victims of the state's most horrific unsolved crimes. The team, comprised of members from both the New Hampshire State Police and the Attorney General's Office, focuses solely on the investigation of unsolved homicide, missing person, and suspicious death cases. 2016 brought exciting new case work, coordination with neighboring state's cold case investigators, new cases and new challenges, and the first ever Tri-State "Cold Case Homicide Symposium", hosted by the NHCCU.

Staffing of the Unit

The Department of Safety and the Division of State Police continue to maintain a firm and steadfast commitment to the allocation of resources specifically for cold case investigation. **Sergeant Michael Kokoski** remains as the investigative supervisor of the State Police personnel assigned to the CCU. The staffing of the CCU remains largely the same as in 2015, but has seen two notable changes.

In early 2016, **Trooper First Class William Bright** left the CCU for another position within the State Police Major Crime Unit. **Trooper First Class Richard Perreault** was selected to fill the resulting vacant full-time trooper position within the CCU. The part-time investigator's position is still held by retired **NHSP Lieutenant Chuck West**, who is working as an investigator for the Attorney General's Office. Investigators from the State Police Major Crime Unit are available to assist CCU endeavors on an "as needed" basis.

One of the most exciting additions to the CCU, was the creation of a dedicated part-time intelligence analyst. The CCU is very fortunate to have **Tracey Flaherty** for this important role. Ms. Flaherty joins the team with an impressive background in the intelligence field, much of which was spent as a criminal intelligence analyst for the FBI. Ms. Flaherty first began working for the unit on a volunteer basis and was assigned to one specific case. Her skill set and work product were soon recognized as a tremendous asset to the team, and her analysis has already proven useful to numerous CCU endeavors.

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The need for the intelligence analyst position was recognized due to the large volume of information contained within each case and the ever-present need to assess, synthesize, and update this information. Ms. Flaherty's position involves case reviews, with a specific focus on data and linkage analysis. She is well-versed in historic research, intelligence databases, and social media. Ms. Flaherty also brings tremendous skills in utilizing various software programs to present her findings to the detectives.

The prosecutorial arm of the NHCCU also saw change this year. **Senior Assistant Attorney General Ben Agati** left the CCU to take a position with the newly formed task force combatting the opioid drug crisis. SAAG Agati was a passionate member of the CCU team, and possessed a thorough working knowledge of many of the unit's cases. In May of 2016, **Senior Assistant Attorney General Susan Morrell** stepped in as the new CCU prosecutor. SAAG Morrell has a wealth of experience as a prosecutor within the state of New Hampshire, and has most recently served as a homicide prosecutor with the Attorney General's office for the last 9 years. Since joining the CCU team, SAAG Morrell has already become heavily involved in a number of the CCU's most active cases. SAAG Morrell is available as a resource not only to the State Police investigators, but also to the cities of Manchester, Nashua, Concord, Portsmouth, Salem, and Dover as they investigate the unsolved crimes in their respective jurisdictions.

Victim/Witness Advocate Joelle Donnelly-Wiggin continues to serve as a resource and liaison for the family members of unsolved homicide victims. Her duties involve fielding inquiries and questions from victim family members, coordinating updates on case status, and providing guidance and direction to those in need of grief counseling or other services.

Last but not least, the staff of the unit includes our long-time volunteers **Milli Knudsen** and **Verne Greene**. They provide invaluable administrative support to the unit by cataloging and indexing the voluminous case files. They are often called upon for research assistance with public records.



The 1st Annual New Hampshire Cold Case Homicide Symposium

For several years, the NHCCU has discussed the possibility of hosting a training event for other homicide investigators focusing on cold cases. From travel and networking, it is clear that more and more police and prosecutorial agencies are recognizing the need for personnel dedicated solely to the unique demands and challenges of cold cases. The NHCCU is proud to be setting the regional example of such a unit, and wanted to provide a forum to exchange information and network with our neighboring agencies.

On June 29-30, 2016, the symposium was held at the Police Standards and Training Council in Concord, NH. All agencies with jurisdictional responsibility for homicide from New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont were invited to attend. In total, approximately 60 investigators participated including large turn-outs from Maine State Police and Vermont State Police.

The first day of the symposium included a presentation by University of New Haven professor (and retired Hamden, CT detective) Peter Massey. Mr. Massey spoke on the conceptualization and organization involved to effectively review cold case homicides. On the same day, the group heard a case study from former NHCCU members Robert Freitas and Scott Gilbert. They detailed the challenges, tactics, and strategies involved in the CCU's re-investigation into the 2001 murder of Auburn resident George Jodoin. This case was solved in 2012 and resulted in the arrest and conviction of Arthur Collins. Arthur Collins was found guilty of second-degree murder and sentenced to serve 30 years to life on the New Hampshire State Prison on 6/2/15.

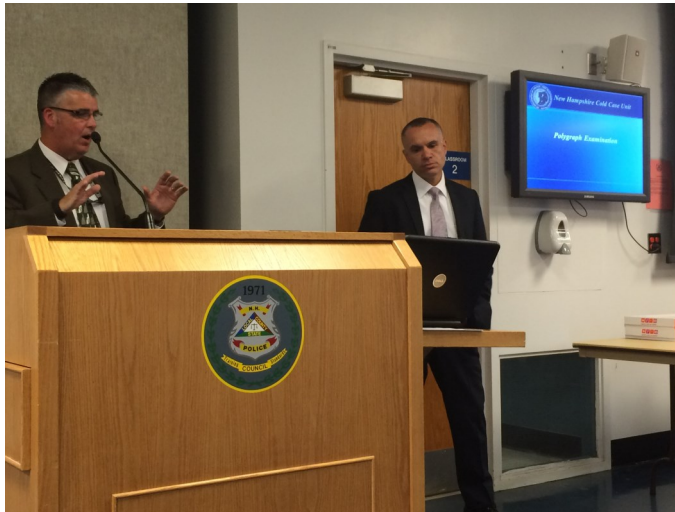
The second day of training included a very interesting and well-received talk from a retired DC Metro homicide investigator Michael Sullivan, who is currently employed by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS). SAAG Agati and SAAG Morrell then spoke to the group about inherent challenges in prosecuting a historic case, and offered suggestions as to coordinating investigative efforts to mitigate these challenges based upon the experiences in prosecuting the 28 year old double homicide from Nashua, State v Barnaby and State v Caplin.

The training also included a presentation from Lori Bruski, the regional coordinator for the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NAMUS). The NAMUS database serves as the central repository and clearing house for all missing and unidentified cases. The system can be accessed by both professionals and the public to search and cross-reference cases in the hope of identification. While New Hampshire has a relatively small

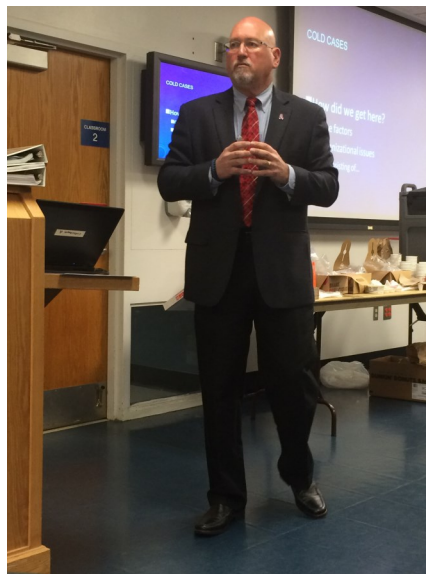
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number of such cases, the CCU actively participants in NAMUS and is frequently in touch with Ms. Bruski and other NAMUS staff to follow-up on leads or effect comparisons and exclusions.

The symposium was a tremendous success and the CCU hopes to continue hosting this educational gathering in years to come. With many of these cases crossing jurisdictional and state lines, it is clear that information sharing, inter-agency cooperation, and networking are critical to learning from each other and putting a collective best foot forward to tackle unsolved cases.



Robert Freitas and Lt. Scott Gilbert presenting the Arthur Collins case at the Symposium



Peter Massey presenting at the Symposium

Case Work

On any given day, the NHCCU is pursuing leads or investigative follow-ups on a multitude of cases. One of the biggest challenges facing the unit is prioritization of cases based on an assessment of their solvability and directing the unit's efforts. In general, there are typically 4-6 cases which all members of the unit are collectively familiar with and working on as a group. Beyond that, time and attention is devoted to other cases as time and resources are best spent. Thus, the workload of the unit is fluid. A new tip may quickly change a case that has been dormant. Conversely, there are times where cases are thoroughly "run out" after a dedicated team effort, and resources must be directed elsewhere. While it would be inappropriate to elaborate in detail on the investigative efforts of any case, the below list represents some of the investigations where much of the unit's time was spent over the last year:

Christopher Bird, Windham, 1984. Earlier this year, the CCU first became aware of this historic missing person's case. Christopher Bird, a young teacher and resident of Haverhill, MA, was last seen by a friend at a horse farm in Windham. His vehicle was found abandoned in Methuen, MA and his disappearance was considered highly unusual. Historically speaking, this case involved multiple law enforcement agencies from both New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Over the past year a great deal of effort has gone into learning the details of the 1984 investigation of Mr. Bird's disappearance. The CCU has consolidated the files from these various agencies and determined what role they each played in the larger investigation. Investigative work on this case is expected to continue into 2017.

Russell Bean, Marlow, 1978/1988. For several years, the CCU has maintained a strong focus on the disappearance and murder of Russell Bean in Marlow, NH. This complex and fascinating case has involved dozens of new witness interviews, forensic testing, historic research, and out of state travel.

Patty Wood, Swanzey, 1987. It is believed that Patty Wood was murdered sometime in the mid 1970s when she was approximately 4-years old. However, her body was never found. The CCU has worked collaboratively on this case with the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, specifically addressing the question of areas where Patty's remains may be. It is the goal of the CCU to exhaust any and all searches that may lead to discovery of Patty's remains.

Unidentified Females, Allentown, 1985/2000. One of the CCU'S most high profile cases, the murder and depositing of four unidentified females (one adult, three children) on a property near the Bear Brook State Park, remains a unit priority. The members of the CCU are consistently revisiting this case, and those efforts include the pursuit of fresh leads, review of the historic case material, and close consultation with NCMEC. The press conference completed in November 2015 generated a substantial number of tips from the public. The CCU remains hopeful that one day these victims will be given back their identity.

Roberta Miller, Gilford, 2010. The CCU, in conjunction with investigators from the NH State Police Major Crime Unit, have maintained a constant focus on the case of Roberta "Bobbie" Miller.



A witness receives his property back after a cold case is resolved.

Prosecutions:

Celina Cass-Arrest of Wendell Noyes

One of the highlights of 2016, was the arrest of Wendell Noyes for the murder of his step-daughter Celina Cass. Celina, age 11, was reported missing from Stewartstown home on July 26, 2011. Her body was found submerged nearby in the Connecticut River on August 1. After a five year investigation into her murder, Mr. Noyes was arrested on June 20, 2016. While this investigation was officially led by the Major Crime Unit, members and resources of the CCU were used to assist the investigative team and the efforts which culminated in Mr. Noyes' arrest.

State v Barnaby & State v Caplin

SAAG Susan Morrell continues as the head prosecutor in these cases, but SAAG Agati has been replaced with two attorneys from the Attorney General's Criminal Bureau. Jason Casey and Patrick Queenan. The trials have been delayed in these matters while the State appeals a pre-trial order regarding the preservation of witness testimony in these cases. It is expected that the Supreme Court will issue an order later in 2017. At that time the trials will be re-scheduled.

Case Additions

In 2016, three new cases have been added to the CCU list. Two of them, which date to 1974 and 1984 respectively, had not previously been included because modern-day investigators were unaware of their existence. The new cases are:

Christopher Bird, Windham, 1984

Age, 25, disappeared on July 29, 1984. He was last seen by a friend at the D&Q Stables in Windham. Bird lived and worked as a teacher in Haverhill, MA. His vehicle was found abandoned at the Methuen Mall on August 3, 1984. The circumstances surrounding his disappearance are highly suspicious.

Unidentified Female, Marlborough, 1974

On April 16, 1974, the badly decomposed body of a female was found in a wooded area off of Rte. 124 in Marlborough. It is estimated that the female was approximately 19-30 years old, 5'4" tall with a stocky build. It is believed the remains may have been there since the latter part of 1973. The death is considered suspicious.

Lynne Brennan, Manchester, 2010

On October 11, 2010, police were called to 267 North River Rd to check the condition of Ms. Brennan, age 53, who had not been seen in approximately a week. Upon entering the residence, police discovered the deceased victim. Brennan was last seen in public on October 4, 2010, at Bunny's Superette at 75 Webster Street in Manchester around 3:29PM. It is believed Lynne was killed sometime before Sunday October 10th even though she was not discovered deceased until October 11th.

In addition to adding new cases which clearly fit the criteria for the unit, the CCU also frequently receives inquiries about historic death investigations and assesses whether or not these cases should be included in the unit's case load. Often these inquiries regard unusual deaths which may include some suspicious circumstances. The CCU collectively re-

views and discusses such cases (often with the input of the medical examiner's office) to determine whether such a case merits further inquiry.

NMS/Forensic Lab

With all cold case work, there is a constant analysis and re-analysis of the forensic evidence associated with each individual crime. It is paramount that the investigative team keep track of new avenues to pursue, and maintain awareness of new individuals who may need to be compared to previously obtained test results. The New Hampshire State Police Forensic Lab remains the backbone of all the forensic work on the CCU cases. Criminalist Katie Swango serves as the unit's liaison and intake for all inquiries and testing requests associated with unsolved cases. The testing typically pursued includes fingerprint exam, serology, DNA, firearm/ballistic examination, trace evidence identification, and video/photo enhancement.

The CCU is also currently in the third year of a three-year contract with NMS Labs. NMS provides special methods of DNA processing beyond the capability of the state lab. Primarily this includes mitochondrial DNA testing, Y-STR DNA testing, and the very sensitive "touch" or "handler" DNA testing. NMS provides investigators with guidance and suggestions on the realistic outcomes of applying these techniques to the evidence from any given case. Such testing is expensive, however, it is therefore used in limited circumstances in which samples are degraded, or where conventional testing has not proved fruitful. The CCU has over the contract period sent countless samples to NMS for testing, and we are very happy with the efforts of NMS and the results we have received.

Vidocq

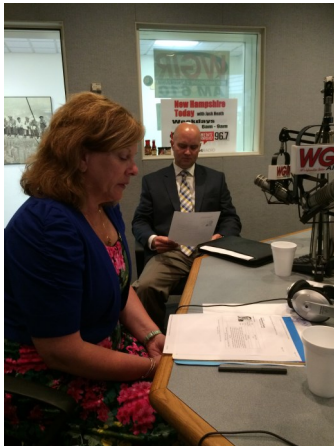
In 2016, the CCU enlisted the assistance of the Vidocq Society. Vidocq is a nonprofit group of professionals who meet on a monthly basis to hear unsolved cases from around the country. Law enforcement agencies submit their case, and if accepted by Vidocq, investigators from that agency travel to the group's monthly meeting in Philadelphia and present the case to its members. The members then offer suggestions as to how the investigation may be advanced.

Over the past decade, the New Hampshire State Police Major Crime Unit (and in recent years the NHCCU) have extensively investigated the 1971 homicide of Kathy Gloddy in Franklin, NH. Despite significant progress in determining the circumstances surrounding

her death, the case remains officially unresolved. Members of the Gloddy family asked the Attorney General's Office to consider presenting the case to the Vidocq Society in the hopes of generating new leads or strategies. In May of 2016, Attorney General Foster agreed to do so. The CCU prepared a case summary submission which was ultimately accepted by Vidocq. This case is currently scheduled to be presented to them in February of 2017.

Community Outreach

The New Hampshire Cold Case Unit is committed to providing community outreach. Over the years we have been requested to speak at local organizations. This year we were offered the opportunity on multiple occasions to highlight cases and discuss the unit on the Jack Health morning radio show on WGIR AM. Mr. Health has been a huge supporter of the New Hampshire State Police and the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit.



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Cold Case Unit Victim's List

Baumann, Diethelm
Bean, Doris
Bean, Russell
Belanger, Tammy
Biron, Richard
Blakeslee, Luella
Blanchette, Ray
Bois, Dorothy Ann
Bolton, Stella
Braley, David
Breault, Raymond
Carreau, David
Carreau, Deborah
Chaput, Louise
Chavez, Domingo
Compagna, Diana
Conrad, Thomas
Courtemanche, Bernice
Crane, Chelsea
Crawford, John
Critchley, Mary Elizabeth
Crouse, Madlyn
Davis, Dominique
Delano, Everett
Dobens, William
Dockham, Sharon
Dow, Janet
Dow, Stephen
Enquist, Thomas, Sr.
Fitting, Eric
Fried, Ellen
Furando, Joseph
Garden, Rachel
Giguere, Maurice
Giles, Terry
Gloddy, Kathy Lynn
Gray, Sylvia
Harrison, Mary
Hazleton, Angel
Heckbert, Robert
Herlihy, Paul
Hicks, Carrie

Hill, Steven
Hina, Carl Robert
Hina, Lillian Marie
Hina, Lori Michelle
Hina, Sara Jean
Holmes, Sheila
Horn, Debra
Jablonski, Casmiro
Jache, Kenneth
Jimenez, Megan
Jodoin, George
Kaldaras, Christopher
Keljikian, Michael
Kempton, Laura
Kierstead, Michael
Lane, Craig
LeChel, Carl C.
LeFevre, Gregory
Lei, Hai Bo (Paul)
Little, Tammy
Longfellow, David
Lord, Judy
Lyman, Walter
Lyons, Omar
Marku, Lorenc
McBride, Shirley Ann
"Tippy"
McGuire, Michael "J.T."
Merrill, Patrick
Miller, Pauline
Miller, Rosalie
Millican, Catherine
Moore, James
Moore, Sonya
Morgan, Douglas
Morse, Eva
Moss, Carrie
Murray, Maura
Norman, Ronald
O'Brien, James P.
O'Connell, Daniel
O'Sullivan, Jerome

Olsen, Paul
Page, Walter
Penna, Douglas
Pickett, David
Pineau, Allen
Pishon, Curtis
Place, Betty
Plummer, Linda
Pond, John Sr.
Poulin, Joseph
Psaradelis, Anne
Ramsey, John, IV
Randall, Kathleen
Reed, Theresa
Riley, Jerry
Roth, Shari
Roy, Rita
Segall, Eddy
Sidoti, Francis "Frank" J.
Sinclair, Bethany
Sinclair, Tina
Snyder, Jaclynne
Snyder, Lisa K.
Stankiewicz, Melodie
Sterling, John
Teta, James
Travers, Henry Jr.
Trudeau, Jeffrey Jr.
Unidentified Female/3 Children
Unidentified Female
Unidentified Male
Valdes, Domingo
Watson, Brian
Webb, Pamela
West, Mindy
Whitacre, Carmel Sue
Whitney, Judith
Wilkinson, Ellen
Wilkinson, Maurice
Wood, Patricia Ann
Wright, Lisa
Zsigray, Michael