

14-697

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT
BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN

Decedent: Alonda Marie Brown

Date of Birth: [REDACTED] **Age:** 39 **Sex:** F **Race:** B **Occupation:** Disability

Address: [REDACTED] N. McCord, Benton Harbor, MI

Marital Status: S **Next of Kin:** Barbara Jean Jones, aunt, [REDACTED] N. McCord, Benton Harbor, MI 49022, Cell Phone: [REDACTED]

Death:

Date and Time of Death: Approximately April 7, 2014 After 1900 hours.
Location of Death: Lake Michigan, Berrien County
Date and Time Declared: 05-25-14 1115

Last Seen Alive (Or incident surrounding death):

Date and Time: 04-07-14 1900
Location: 362 High St., Apt 4, Benton Harbor, MI

Police Investigation: Report#:14-5498

Date and Time: 05-25-14 0934
Location: Coast Guard Station, St. Joseph, MI
Police Investigator and Agency: Lt. Greg Sanders, Berrien County Sheriffs Dept

View of Body by Medical Examiner: See Autopsy Report

Date and Time:
Location:

Description of Body:

See Police Report
See Autopsy Report

Height 5-1, weight 162 lbs.

Description of Incident Surrounding Death:

See Police Report

At approximately 0934, 052514, the Berrien County Sheriffs Department was contacted by a fisherman that had discovered a body floating approximately 3 miles off shore of the St. Joseph, Michigan Harbor. The Coast Guard from the St. Joseph station responded with a boat commanded by Chris Dougherty and four other coast guardsmen. The body was observed in the water floating face down with the shirt and coat, worn by the decedent, pulled up to the upper back. Also worn was a pair of jean type pants and high mid-thigh boots The decedent was heavily bloated with portions of the dermal layer apparently sloughed off. Air temperature at the time of recovery in the low 60's, with the water temperature at 50 degrees near shore and in the low 40's where the body was recovered.

Contact with Spectrum Health on 6-3-14: Jane Doe positively identified as being Alonda Marie Brown.

Determination of Date of Death: Alonda Brown was reported missing to the Benton Harbor Police Department on 4-10-14 by a boyfriend: Robert Earl Lucas, DOB: 06-06-62, address of 362 High, Apt 4, Benton Harbor, MI. Lucas advised the investigating officers that he last saw Alonda on 04-07-14 at 1900 hours at his residence. Benton Harbor P.D. Report #: 14-2573.

Next of Kin: Barbara Jones advised of the identification by the Berrien County Sheriffs Department, with arrangements to be made for disposition of the decedent by Jones.

This incident is an ongoing police investigation...

Additional Medical History:

N/A

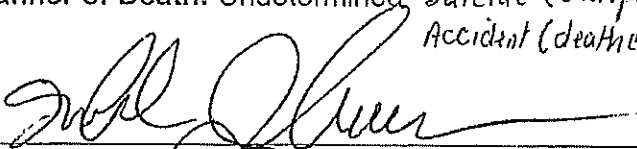
Smoking History: Unknown

Autopsy: Autopsy, Spectrum Health, Grand Rapids, MI Autopsy#: F14-194

Cause of Death:

1. Asphyxia by Drowning

Manner of Death: ~~Undetermined~~ *Suicide (autopsy report)*
Accident (death certificate)



Medical Examiner: Frederick Johansen, MD, MPH

Investigator: DeWayne Hellenga

6-3-14

DATE


SPECTRUM HEALTH

Blodgett Campus, Grand Rapids MI 49506

ME14-697

QAS: 2

QC: *SM*

AUTOPSY REPORT
A-14-194

NAME: Alonda Brown

DATE OF BIRTH: 4/18/1975

ADDRESS:  Pipestone Rd.

SEX: F **RACE:** B

CITY & STATE: Benton Harbor, MI 49022

COUNTY: Berrien

DATE & HOUR OF DEATH: On and about 4/7/2014 **OF AUTOPSY:** 5/27/2014 @ 1100

PATHOLOGIST: Stephen D. Cohle, MD

PATH ASSISTANT: Laura Wierenga

MEDICAL EXAMINER: Dr. Johansen

AUTOPSY RESTRICTIONS: None

EMBALMED: No

FINAL DIAGNOSIS(ES):

1. Asphyxia by drowning
 - a. Body recovered from water
 - b. Fluid within sphenoid sinus
2. Acute and chronic cocaine toxicity
 - a. Liver cocaine 0.3 mg/kg
 - b. Liver benzoylecgonine 0.87 mg/kg
 - c. Crack lung
3. History of suicidal threat shortly before reported missing
4. Centrilobular emphysema of the lungs, mild.
5. Benign stromal tumor of ovary with tubovarian adhesions.

CAUSE OF DEATH: I. Asphyxia by drowning
II. Acute cocaine toxicity

MANNER OF DEATH: Suicide.

Stephen D. Cohle, MD 7-31-14

Stephen D. Cohle, MD
Forensic Pathologist.

HISTORY: Information at the time of autopsy is that this unidentified black female was found floating in Lake Michigan off of St. Joseph on May 25, 2014. An individual fitting her general description was reported missing on April 10, 2014. This individual had lost her kids in court and had made a statement that the next time she was seen she would be an angel.

IDENTIFICATION: By comparison of antemortem and postmortem X-rays of the right leg.

PERSONAL INVENTORY: The body is clad in two brown boots, two white socks, blue jeans, multicolored underwear, a white t-shirt, black brassiere and a brown jacket. There is a red and black bracelet on the left wrist. There is a white metal ring on the fourth finger of the left hand. Pulled head hair is taken as are jaws.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: The body is that of a normally developed black female of heavy set build consistent with an age of 30-40 years and measuring 61 inches (154.9 cm). The body weighs 162 pounds (73.5 cm). There is advanced decomposition in the absence of embalming. There is manifested by generalized bloating, a greenish discoloration of the skin, skin slippage, and a lack of rigidity. The body is cool after refrigeration.

The hairline appears to have been normal. The head hair is dark brown, tightly curly, and measures up to 1 ½ inches. The body hair is female distribution and average in amount. The scalp, ears, nose, mouth, face and neck are normally formed. The eyes are closed. The globes are gas filled. Eye color cannot be determined with absolute certainty but appears to be brown. Several pierce holes are identified in the right earlobe and one in the left. The teeth are natural and in good condition. The nostril is pierced once. The chest is symmetrical. The breasts are symmetrical and are gas filled. The abdomen is markedly gas filled. The limbs are equally and symmetrically developed. The external genitalia are those of a normal adult female. The back and buttocks are unremarkable. No tattoos are identified. The fingernails have clear polish with a pink tip.

EVIDENCE OF TREATMENT: None.

EVIDENCE OF INJURY: None.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

ORGAN WEIGHTS:

Brain 1060 grams
Heart..... 330 grams
Rt. Lung 290 grams
Lt. Lung..... 280 grams
Liver 1300 grams
Spleen 40 grams
Rt. Kidney 130 grams
Lt. Kidney..... 130 grams

HEAD: The scalp is reflected in the usual coronal fashion. The scalp, calvarium and dura mater are unremarkable. The scalp, calvarium and dura

mater are unremarkable. There is no intracranial hemorrhage. The cerebral arteries are unremarkable where seen. The brain is very soft and disrupts easily with routine handling. The leptomeninges are transparent. The brain is sectioned at 1-2 cm intervals in the coronal plane. There is good gray-white demarcation. The ventricular size cannot be estimated. There are no gross abnormalities of the thalamus, hypothalamus or basal ganglia. The pigmented nuclei are present. The brain stem and cerebellum are normally formed and have no natural disease or injury. There are neither fractures nor natural disease of the skull. Aspiration of the sphenoid sinus yields 1 ml of bloody fluid.

CAVITIES: The thoracic and abdominal viscera are normally disposed. There are 40 ml of decomposition fluid in each pleural cavity. There are left pleural adhesions. There is no free fluid in the peritoneal cavity. There are 10-15 ml of fluid in the pericardial sac. The body wall fat measures 1 ½ inches in thickness.

NECK: The soft tissue of the neck is unremarkable. In particular there is no strap muscle hemorrhage. The cornua of the thyroid cartilage and hyoid bone are intact.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The epicardium is smooth and glistening. The coronary arteries are normally disposed and are widely patent. There is no posterior descending coronary artery. The left circumflex coronary artery terminates as a large posterolateral branch. The myocardium is light tan and soft consistent with decomposition. The endocardium is smooth and glistening. The valves are intact. The fossa ovalis is patent. The coronary ostia are normally situated and are widely patent. The aorta has mild atherosclerosis.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: The larynx, trachea and bronchi are widely patent. The lung parenchyma has mild centrilobular emphysema. There is abundant interstitial and visceral pleural anthracotic pigment. There are no focal lesions. There are no pulmonary emboli.

LIVER: The capsule has abundant postmortem microbacterial growth. The parenchyma is light brown consistent with decomposition and is soft. There are occasional gas filled cysts. No liver lesions are identified. The gallbladder has 5 ml of bile and no gallstones.

SPLEEN: The capsule is smooth and glistening. The parenchyma is dark red and soft. Malpighian corpuscles are inapparent. No lesions are identified.

LYMPH NODES: The lymph nodes are unremarkable where seen.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The capsules of the kidneys strip with ease revealing smooth cortical surfaces. The renal arteries are patent. On sectioning there is good corticomedullary demarcation. No parenchymal lesions are identified. The mucosa of the renal pelvis is smooth and white. The ureters are intact. The urinary bladder has no urine. The bladder mucosa is white and smooth. The vagina is lined by intact gray-tan epithelium. The cervix is unremarkable. The endocervical and endometrial canals are patent. There is no intrauterine pregnancy. The endometrium is tan and measures 2 mm

in thickness. The myometrium is unremarkable. There are bilateral tubovarian adhesions. The right ovary is unremarkable. The left ovary measures 6.5 x 5.5 x 4.0 cm and on sectioning it is solid and whorled.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophagus and pharynx are lined by intact blue-gray mucosa. The stomach has 60 ml of liquid chyme. The mucosal surfaces of the stomach, duodenum, jejunum, ileum and colon are intact. Their serosal surfaces are smooth and glistening. The appendix is present.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The pituitary gland, thyroid gland, pancreas and adrenal glands are unremarkable.

MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM: There are no fractures. The bone marrow is unremarkable where seen. The muscles are normal in size and shape and are intact.

The remainder of the autopsy is without particular note.

SDC/sla
5/29/14

MICROSCOPIC

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: Sections of the anterior, lateral and posterior walls of the left ventricle have mild perivascular and interfiber fibrosis. The interventricular septum has mild perivascular fibrosis. The anterior and posterior walls of the right ventricle have mild fatty infiltration.

RESPIRATORY SYSTEM: Lung sections have extensive anthracotic pigment. Many of the granules of pigment are very coarse. Most of the granules are interstitial.

LIVER: A liver section has severe autolysis. There is possible fatty change but because of the severity of the decomposition this diagnosis cannot be made with certainty.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: A kidney section has unremarkable cortex and medulla. Sections of the ovary show a stromal tumor containing occasional nests of what appear to be epithelium but these are markedly autolyzed. Some of them are calcified.

CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM: A section of brain is unremarkable. A section of cerebral cortex is unremarkable.

ADDITIONAL STUDIES: See attached.