

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S REPORT

ME# 17-080

BERRIEN COUNTY MICHIGAN

Decedent: BRAND, Willie Lee

Date of Birth: [REDACTED] **Age:** 61 **Sex:** M **Race:** Black **Occupation:** Unemployed

Address: [REDACTED] Searles Avenue, Benton Harbor, MI 49022

Marital Status: Single **Next of Kin:** Canvas Smith, daughter & Stella Brand, sister

Death:

Date and Time of Death: On or Before 05/11/2017 Unknown

Location of Death: St. Joseph River, Benton Harbor, MI

Date and Time Pronounced: 06/17/2017 1154

Last Seen Alive (Or incident surrounding death):

Date and Time: 04/29/201, Missing Person Report 05/11/2017

Location: Benton Harbor, MI

Police Investigation: 17-2150

Date and Time: 06/17/2017 0940

Location: 250 Anchors Way, St. Joseph (Pier 33)

Police Investigator and Agency: Det. Herbert, St. Joseph Dept. of Public Safety

View of Body by Medical Examiner: NOT VIEWED

Date and Time:

Location:

Description of Body: SEE SPECTRUM AUTOPSY REPORT

Clothing and Valuables: SEE SPECTRUM AUTOPSY REPORT

Toxicology: SEE SPECTRUM AUTOPSY REPORT

Description of Incident Surrounding Death: The decedent was reported as missing on May 10, 2017, by a cousin who he sometimes lived with. It was reported in the police report that he was last seen alive on April 29, 2017, but his daughter stated that he was last seen alive on April 21, 2017. His body was recovered on June 17, 2017, floating in the Morrison Channel on the St. Joseph River, St. Joseph. He was identified by CODIS, reported from the Michigan State Police Crime Lab.

See Police and Ambulance Records

Medical History: Hypertension, Ethanol Abuse, Homeless.

Smoking History: Yes

Autopsy: Authorized

Cause of Death:

1. Asphyxia
2. Drowning

Manner of Death: Indeterminate



8-14-17

Medical Examiner: Frederick Johansen, MD, MPH
Investigator: Mary Baker, MEI

DATE
08/14/2017

SPECTRUM HEALTH

Blodgett Campus; Grand Rapids MI 49506



QAS: /
QC: *[Signature]*

**AUTOPSY REPORT
A-17-244**

NAME: Willie Brand	DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED]
ADDRESS: [REDACTED] Searles	SEX: M RACE: B
CITY & STATE: Benton Harbor, MI	COUNTY: Berrien
DATE & HOUR OF DEATH: 4/29/2016 unknown	OF AUTOPSY: 6/19/2017
PATHOLOGIST: Dr. Stephen Cohle	
MEDICAL EXAMINER: Johansen	
PATH ASSISTANT: Judy Chamberlain	
AUTOPSY RESTRICTIONS: none	EMBALMED: no

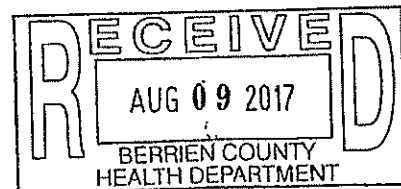
FINAL DIAGNOSIS(ES):

1. Asphyxia by drowning
 - a. Body recovered from water
 - b. Not found: injury or major natural disease
2. Centrilobular emphysema of the lungs
3. History of crack cocaine abuse, ethanol abuse, asthma, hypertension, and osteoarthritis
4. Probable antemortem appendectomy

CAUSE OF DEATH: Asphyxia by drowning
MANNER OF DEATH: Indeterminable

Stephen D. Cohle MD 7-13-17

Stephen D. Cohle, MD
Forensic Pathologist



HISTORY: This 61 year old black male was found floating in the St. Joseph River on 6/17/17. He was pronounced dead at 1154. He had no external injury. He had a history of smoking crack cocaine. Review of medical records sent with the body indicated that he had a past history of asthma, hypertension, ethanol abuse and osteoarthritis. He had had numerous visits to the emergency department for alcohol intoxication. The last visit was 3/16/17. On 2/2/17 and 2/7/17 he was seen in the emergency department with suicidal ideation. He had a visit on 4/1/17 for acute ethanol intoxication.

IDENTIFICATION: By CODIS, reported from the Michigan State Police Crime Lab.

PERSONAL INVENTORY: The body is clad in two black loafer-type shoes of the brand "Saminto Laurenzini". There are two white socks. There are two black belts, a pair of blue jeans, a pair of Joe Boxer pajama pants, and a pair of blue boxer shorts. There are multiple cigarette butts in the pockets. There are 32 cents in change in the pockets of the jeans.

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION: The body is that of a normally developed African American male of average build and indeterminate age. The body weighs 71 inches (180.3 cm), is normally nourished and weighs an estimated 190 pounds (86.2 kg). There is advanced decomposition in the absence of embalming. This is manifested by extensive adipocere formation. There is a foul odor. There is mild bloating of the abdomen. The skin of virtually the entire right hand is absent and the skin of the top of the left hand is absent. The hairline is normal. The head hair is normal in amount, black, tightly curly, and measures up to ¼ inch. The ears appear to have been normally formed. Eye color cannot be determined. There is approximately 1/8 inch of facial hair growth. There are no upper teeth. Each side of the mandible has two lower teeth. There are no incisors. The neck is symmetrical. The chest is symmetrical. The abdomen is protuberant with a moderate amount of gas. The limbs are equally and symmetrically developed. The external genitalia are those of an adult male and cannot be determined whether the penis is circumcised. No tattoos or scars are identified.

EVIDENCE OF TREATMENT: None.

EVIDENCE OF POSTMORTEM INJURY: The right temporal and right occipital scalp each have lacerations measuring ¾ inch. There is a ½ inch laceration of the posterior neck in the midline.

EVIDENCE OF ANTEMORTEM INJURY: None.

INTERNAL EXAMINATION:

ORGAN WEIGHTS:

Brainnot weighed
Heart 200 grams
Rt. Lung 180 grams
Lt. Lung 190 grams
Liver 530 grams

Spleen..... 10 grams
 Rt. Kidney 100 grams
 Lt. Kidney..... 110 grams

HEAD: The scalp is reflected in the usual coronal fashion. The scalp, calvarium and dura mater are free of natural disease. There is no intracranial hemorrhage. The brain is liquid and cannot be identified further. There is no intraparenchymal hemorrhage. There are neither fractures nor natural disease of the skull.

CAVITIES: The thoracic and abdominal viscera are normally disposed. The diaphragm is intact. There is no free fluid in the pleural or peritoneal cavities. There is no free fluid in the pericardial sac. The body wall fat measures $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness.

NECK: The soft tissue of the neck is free of natural disease and trauma. In particular, the hyoid bone and thyroid cartilage are intact.

CARDIOVASCULAR SYSTEM: The epicardium is smooth and glistening. The coronary arteries are normally disposed, right predominant and are widely patent. The myocardium is blackish-red and soft. There are no recent or old infarcts. The endocardium is smooth with hemoglobin stain. The valves are intact. The fossa ovalis is intact. The coronary ostia are normally situated and are widely patent. The aorta has mild atherosclerosis.

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

LIVER: The capsule is smooth and glistening. The parenchyma is brownish-black. No focal lesions are identified. There is no cirrhosis. The gallbladder is not identified.

SPLEEN: The capsule is smooth and glistening. The spleen is very small. The parenchyma is dark red with inapparent Malpighian corpuscles.

LYMPH NODES: A carinal lymph node has a 1.5 cm calcified granuloma.

GENITOURINARY SYSTEM: The capsules of the kidneys strip with ease revealing smooth cortical surfaces. On sectioning there is indistinct 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 prostate gland is normal in size and shape and is unremarkable. The testes are not identified.

GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: The esophagus and pharynx are lined by intact blue-gray mucosa. The stomach has no chyme. There are no gross lesions of the gastric

mucosa or those of the intestines. The colon does contain what appear to be fragments of eggshells. The appendix is not identified.

ENDOCRINE SYSTEM: The pituitary gland is totally liquefied. The thyroid gland, pancreas and adrenal glands are free of natural disease.

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.

COMMENT: Squeezed bone marrow is submitted to the Crime Lab for identification and the shoes are released to the Benton Harbor Police Department.

SDC/sla
7/3/17

MICROSCOPIC

Not performed.