

CASE REPORT**DATE - FEBRUARY 24, 2002****SUBJECT:****REPORTER-SHERIFF FERRELL-ADAMS 1****Death Investigation****CHLOE MADISON BRITT, W/FM, 6Mos. Aged**

At approximately 11:30PM on Thursday night, 21 February 2002, reporting officer Sheriff Ferrell received a call at home by Major John Manley, Adams #4 requesting information. He stated he had received a call from Patrol Officers responding to the Natchez Community Hospital, Adams #13 Buddy Franks and Adams #20 Ray Brown to the affect that a couple had brought an infant child to the Emergency Room that was DOA and had apparently been sexually assaulted. He was instructed to respond to the hospital with the officers and investigate further. He was advised to contact the Coroner James Lee and have him to report to the hospital also.

Reporting officer then reported to the Emergency Room of the Community Hospital and contacted Deputy Manley and Coroner Lee. I was then directed to an examination area in the emergency room where I encountered an older couple visibly upset and viewing a small body, all covered but the head, of an infant 6 months old child. I was informed by James Lee, Coroner, that this was the body of CHLOE MADISON BRITT, W/FM, who was DOA. The people were then introduced as the child's grandparents, JOHNNIE AND LILLIAN WATSON of Ferriday (See Statements in file). Three nurses were in and out, all identified (See their statements) and two female doctors (statements in file). After the grandparents introduction and exit, I then conferred with Major Manley and Coroner Lee. I was informed that a white female identified as REBECCA J. BRITT (See statement in file) and her boyfriend JEFFERY KEITH HAVARD, 23 YOA, of 36 Montgomery Road in Cloverdale Subdivision of Adams County had appeared at the hospital with the infant and advised she had stopped breathing. Upon examination it was evident the child had been sexually assaulted, so EMR personnel called 911. The SO was eventually summoned after the NPD initially responded to the call after it was determined the incident had occurred outside the city limits.

The male HAVARD had been removed upon my arrival to the SO and the mother, BRITT, was also reported to be at the SO with deputies making statements. I the instructed Deputy Manley to contact the officers and have them hold HAVARD for further investigation until I could get more information. Deputy Manley, myself and Coroner Lee with the nurses then allowed me to inspect the body. I was shown trauma to the anal area and secretions that were still appearing from the damaged and inflamed anus. I then inspected and was shown the face and mouth area where upon examination, it was evident

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one side (left) of the mouth area was damaged and torn and looking into the mouth, it was evidently damaged and torn. A secretion was evident from the nasal passages, but it had been wiped away from the facial area and was evident in the nose. The baby was lying on her back and with arms outstretched and was unclothed except for a disposable diaper that was in place but not fastened. It was removed for examination. I observed bruises on the forehead and facial area. One doctor had tried to perform mouth to mouth on the baby.

I then ordered photos taken of the body as a matter of routine and that all items, including clothing and examination materials be bagged for potential DNA evidence (See physical evidence and lab listing in file). I ordered all personnel of the EMR that had contact with the couple and examination to provide written statements for a potential witness listing after personally talking to them. I then requested the Coroner James Lee to immediately seize the body for autopsy and requested that the autopsy be done at Jackson by the State Medical Examiner. A small and short lived problem had occurred with the family wanting to donate vital organs of the infant and it was decided that, if possible, and not interfering with a criminal investigation, this could be done at a later date. A cooler was arranged by the Coroner at the Natchez Regional Hospital for overnight, knowing the autopsy could be performed at the University Hospital in Jackson and potential organ donation could then be addressed.

At this point, I contacted the dispatch at Adams SO to immediately patch me to District Attorney Ronnie Harper by phone at home. We were connected and I informed him of the facts to date and that I would request he meet me at my office for further consultation as this had the initial facts of a CAPITAL MURDER other than murder with the infant being involved and DOA. He agreed to meet me within the hour.

The body was wrapped and secured to Coroner Lee and removed to the morgue. All evidence was secured by Manley and I then proceeded to the Adams SO.

Upon arrival there, I was soon met thereafter by DA Ronnie Harper. I reviewed the facts with him and we determined the potential charge of Capital Murder. Major Manley had arrived and deputies informed me (Deputy Franks, Ray Brown, and Coleman) that they had taken the statements of the couple, HAVARD and BRITT. The grandparents had arrived for statements also. HAVARD was ordered removed to the holding cell in the secure portion of the jail until further notice.

REBECCA BRITT, mother of the deceased was then brought to my office for questioning by this reporter. Deputy Manley was present with officer with limited facts at this point.

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MS. BRITT, visibly shaken and crying, informed reporter that the last time she saw the baby, she was in her swing at the trailer that she occupied with JEFFERY K. HAVARD, 23, OF 36 Montgomery Road. She had gone to the grocery store to shop and had returned and HAVARD then sent her to MovieWorld to secure some movies. All of this had taken a little time. When she left the baby was fine and alive. When she returned, HAVARD was in the bathroom. She knocked on the bathroom door to let him know she was back and then went into the bedroom to check on the baby. When she entered the bedroom she saw the baby in the baby bed and as she checked on her, she saw she was blue in color. She screamed for help from HAVARD and immediately carried the baby into the living room and put her on the floor and started mouth to mouth. HAVARD came out of the bathroom and had on only blue jeans and no shirt. She picked the child up and rushed outside to the car to take the child to the hospital. HAVARD was with her at the time but told her to wait while he went back inside to put on a shirt. She had to wait for his return. They then drove to the Community Hospital where her mother worked to have the baby checked. The took the baby from her and she hadn't seen her since. She was told the baby was DOA and they were trying to revive her.

MS. BRITT was questioned at length and detail about her relationship with HAVARD. She stated they had only been together for a couple of months and she was living with him to have a place to live. They were staying in his grandfather's trailer and the grandfather did not want her there. He lived immediately adjacent to them. She stated HAVARD did drugs but she had not. He mainly took speed. He had no job. He had not been violent to the baby before that she knew of. She had previously had an abortion of another child. This child was the daughter of GARY B. MCCLENEHAN of Nebraska who she has not seen and he does not take care of the baby. The baby is not connected to HAVARD. She stated no one else was present that night at the trailer but she and HAVARD. No one had visited and no one else came around. No one else could have come into the trailer without them knowing. She stated to reporter that she did not harm her child and could not understand why HAVARD would. She was willing to testify and swear to these facts for a criminal prosecution. She had taken good care of her baby, evident by examination, and she had just taken her to the doctor this past Tuesday for a sinus infection. The baby was also kept during the day at a daycare. (See later reports). She stated that the only person that could have harmed the child was HAVARD. She was questioned at length and then instructed to give a written statement of facts for the file.

HAVARD was then ordered to be held for Capital Murder Investigation. He was not to be charged at this point until autopsy confirmation. Major Manley was then instructed to attempt to get a statement of events and facts from HAVARD after all other statements had

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been obtained by grandparents, hospital staff and those mentioned. A Permission to Search was gained from BRITT for 36 Montgomery Road (a house trailer) and Manley was ordered to dispatch officers to search for physical evidence at the trailer to include clothing, bed coverings or anything that might contain DNA. It would be forwarded to lab. (See search report and evidence.)

I was informed by Coroner Lee that he had been in contact with the State Medical Examiner and as soon as body transport had been arranged, a rush autopsy would be performed to try and determine cause of death of the infant. It is unsure at this moment if the child had died from trauma (shaking baby syndrome) or by internal injuries caused by the obvious violent sexual attack by anally or by mouth.

Our meeting was concluded at approximately 2:45 AM and officers were continuing with investigation.

At approximately 8:30 AM on 2/22/2002, Coroner Lee telephoned reporting officer to inform that the State Crime Lab had picked up the body of the infant BRITT to transport to Jackson for autopsy. Results of the autopsy should be available by 9:00PM tonight.

At approximately 11:00AM, 2/22/200, reporting officer contacted Major Manley in his office and instructed all evidence packaged and labeled as SOP for file by Deputies Billy Neely and Deputy Marcus Washington. Deputy Manley was instructed to immediately notify the District Attorney Ronnie Harper for a court order to obtain DNA samples from suspect HAVARD at the local hospital to include blood, hair, semen and saliva.

At approximately 11:30AM, 2/22 reporter again met with DA Harper who was briefed with all facts. He had secured and was awaiting a signature on court order for body evidence of HAVARD. He would remain in touch with investigation.

At approximately 11:45 AM, reporter contacted Director of State Crime Lab Gary Winters to arrange for rush of lab requests in this case. It was decided to have physical evidence gained in the lab by this afternoon for safe keeping and recording. Winters advised he would be in touch with the State Medical Examiner to combine that evidence when it was secured from autopsy. He was informed of court order being produced to obtain samples from suspect HAVARD, but due to time constraints, and later hour, it might not be possible to transport them to lab until Monday, 2/25. He stated the case could not begin until all evidence was accumulated and that would not be until Monday anyway. It was agreed to have evidence logged and received and work could begin Monday.

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At approximately 9:00PM on 2/22, reporter was contacted by Coroner Lee that he had received the initial report from the Crime Lab that they were delayed and he would know by 11:00PM. He was instructed to recontact Sheriff upon final report.

At approximately 11:00PM on 2/22, Coroner Lee contacted reporter with Examiner's verbal report. He stated they had been backed up by 11 other autopsies but had finished the infant BRITT. **The result was subdural hemorrhage of Shaken Baby Syndrome as the initial cause of death. The anus and mouth area had positively been invaded by some foreign object that caused trauma and damage.** He was growing a sampling that would take longer and a further report would follow. His statement to the Coroner was that if someone was in custody for this death, "do not let him go", even though further testing was being completed. All forensic samples would be forwarded to the Crime Lab to match up with evidence submitted. Further medical reports to follow.

At approximately 11:30AM on 2/23 reporter contacted Major John Manley and instructed him to formerly arrest JEFFERY KEITH HAVARD for Capital Murder and book him onto the Jail Docket. He was being held in the holding cell for investigation and his own protection due to the nature of the charge and he was ordered into the main Jail but isolated in a block. The 2A block was temporarily empty for repair but Cell 2A11 was a secure cell, not in need of repair and viewable from the closed circuit TV surveillance. He was ordered held there under continued suicide watch. He was under suicide watch from the time of entry into the jail on 2/21. Formal charges and arraignments will be arranged after Sunday 2/24 on Monday.

Arrest reported in local Natchez Democrat on Sunday 2/24 and autopsy report by Coroner.

Funeral and arrangements for infant BRITT reported in Democrat on Sunday 2/24 for burial to be Monday 2/25.

Deputy Manley reported at approximately 12Noon on Saturday, 2/23, that after booking, inmate HAVARD informed jailer Mark Grey he was going to kill himself in the jail. He as again ordered for continued suicide watch.

At approximately 6:00PM Major Manley informed reporter that HAVARD had sent word through a jailer that he wanted to talk to Deputy Manley about what had happened to the infant BRITT. Deputy Manley was instructed, that because of contact FROM the inmate HAVARD to him and not by coercion, he could see what he had to say. A short period later Deputy Manley reported back to reporter that he had talked with HAVARD and he had admitted that he was bathing the baby in the trailer while her mother was gone and as

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he was removing her from the tub, he dropped her and her head had hit the side of the toilet causing her harm. He stated she was still crying and he put her in the bed to try and calm her. He said she was still crying when he left the room and went to take a bath himself.

Deputy Manley was instructed to obtain a written statement from HAVARD after continuous advice of rights if he was willing to give a written statement. He was also instructed that after receiving a written statement to put HAVARD on video either reading his voluntary statement or giving a verbal statement to show not coercion and that the inmate had requested to make his own statement.

At approximately 8:00PM on Saturday 2/23, Deputy Manley reported that the statement had been obtained from HAVARD as previously stated and the statement was placed on video. HAVARD still disallows any knowledge of sexual assault on the baby at this point. He admitted he did not state this fact before because he was afraid.

Additional reports to follow