

Smith County Sheriff's Office
Forensic Services

Case#: 2007-26545

Date: 12/11/2007

1. Crime Scene Assistance Request:

On Scene Bloodstain Pattern Analysis of Impact Spatter at the scene of two deaths. Determine points of origin and cause of blood spatter, photograph and document the stain patterns then document the findings in a written report. This request was received by Noel Martin from Texas Ranger Philip Kemp at approximately 1730hrs on 11-Dec-2007.

2. Case History:

Reporting person states that he discovered two family members shot inside his residence after returning home from carrying a child to school on 12/11/2007 reporting person denies involvement and does not know what happened. Approximate time of discovery was 0900 hrs. Wood County Sheriff's Deputies respond to the report and discover two individuals deceased from gunshot wounds. A scene investigation is conducted by Wood County Sheriff's Deputies and the victims are sent for Autopsy. Crime Scene investigation reveals that a white male approximately 16 years old was found shot in his bedroom. This victim was lying across the foot of the bed and a 30/30 lever action rifle was found resting on body positioned between the victim's legs. This victim had what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the face near the mouth. A 30/30 caliber spent shell casing was located on the floor of this room near the bed. Another spent 30/30 shell casing was in the chamber of the 30/30 rifle. Blood was present on the barrel of the rifle. A copper jacketed bullet with base, missing the lead core was found on the floor between the bed and the north wall of the bedroom. Bloodstain was observed on the bed and the floor near the bed. The bed was a small twin type with a head board and foot board. The second victim a white female was found in the master bedroom in the bed. This victim had what appeared to be a gunshot wound to the head. A bullet hole was located in the wall next to the bed on the left side of the bed if viewing the bed from the foot toward the headboard. The bullet that caused this hole exited to the exterior of the residence and had a downward trajectory. A large bloodstain pattern consistent with spatter was present on the wall behind and to the left of the headboard and on the left wall which included the corner of both walls. This pattern extended from near the floor to the ceiling, with bloodstain present on the floor on the left side of the bed.

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A large saturation bloodstain was located on the bed.

The 30/30 rifle recovered at the scene belongs to the reporting person and he states that he last fired the gun on 12-10-2007. Martin has no family history on the victims or the reporting person as of this report.

3. Lt. Larry Wiginton was called by phone and briefed. Lt. Wiginton approved the request for assistance. Martin then drove to the Wood County Sheriff's Office and met with Lt. Miles Tucker and Texas Ranger Philip Kemp. Martin viewed crime scene photographs taken by Wood County Sheriff's Deputies. Martin also examined a copper bullet jacket that had been recovered at the scene. The jacket was deformed and the core was not present. The jacket base was measured and was consistent in size with a 30 caliber bullet. The jacket base was oval shaped and measured just under .308 in width and just over .308 in length. Martin did observe land and groove markings present on this bullet.

4. Martin, Kemp and Tucker then drove to the crime scene. The crime scene was located off Hwy 37 approximately 2 miles north of the City of Quitman, on the east side of the roadway down a dirt driveway. The scene was secured by crime scene tape and Wood County Sheriff's Deputies. The scene is described as a multi-story single family dwelling of frame type construction. The front door of the residence faced west toward Hwy 37. Martin observed vehicles other than police units inside the perimeter. Martin and Kemp entered the scene through the front door of the residence and walked through the scene conducting a visual inspection and the following was noted. The front door opened into a living-room. The master bedroom was located to left of the front door, with the doorway to the master bedroom on the north-wall of the living-room. Located in the master bedroom was a bed on the north wall. There were no sheets or other bedding present on the mattress. A large saturation bloodstain was present on the on surface of the mattress. Bloodstains were present on the floor on the left side of the bed and impact spatter on both the north and west walls with the center of this pattern near the corner. A hole located on the west wall near the north corner was noted. There was a yellow in color trajectory rod present in the bullet hole. The floor of the master bedroom was wooden and the walls were textured painted sheet rock. The victim was not present being removed prior to Martin's arrival. Located south of the master bedroom on the other end of the residence was a garage that had been converted into a bedroom. Present in the bedroom was a small twin bed. The victim found in this room had also been removed prior to Martin's arrival. All the bedding

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had been removed from the bed exposing the mattress. Two large saturation bloodstains were observed on the twin bed near the foot of the bed. A stain pattern consisting of several circular stains was also observed near the foot of the bed near the mattress. This group of stains was linear in shape and extended from the south edge to near center terminating at the edge of the mattress at the foot. A medium size saturation stain was noted on the floor at the foot of the bed. This stain had several satellite stains surrounding its outer edges. The floor in this room was concrete covered with a blue in color piece of carpet under and surrounding the area of the twin bed. The remainder of the scene was unremarkable.

Martin after completing the visual inspection of the scene photographed the two rooms and areas of interest.

Martin next attached a laser to the trajectory and photographed the trajectory shown by the laser. Martin used photographic fog to enhance the laser light. The trajectory of the bullet that caused the hole in the west wall was from east to west and down word at or near a 30 degree down word angle. A laser was also attached to the trajectory rod on the exterior of the scene and the area on the ground marked for a subsequent search for the projectile. The trajectory of the bullet path is consistent with having struck the victim producing the spatter on both walls.

The bloodstain on the walls and head board of the bed is consistent with a gunshot event. The stains are described as both circular and elliptical in appearance and number well over 100. These stains range in size from less than a millimeter and several centimeters. The bloodstains form a fan shape and radiate outward from the bed. The elliptical stains show directionality from east to west. Martin next identified six well defined stains to conduct a probable point of origin analysis. Each stain was measured and angles of impact figured. The angels of impact ranged from 23 to 30 degrees. (See attached bloodstain worksheet). Strings were run from stains 1-6 in a reverse direction of travel to determine the convergence point. The distance from the stain to the convergence point was measured and is also listed on the bloodstain documentation sheet. The distances ranged from 24 to 36 inches. A mathematical formula was then applied to the above stains 1-6 and the distance from the wall was obtained. The distance out word from the north wall at 90 degrees ranged from 11 inches to 18 inches. Martin next measured from the west wall to the points of convergence and the height above the floor to the points of convergence. After completing the bloodstain analysis the findings are:

The spatter located in the master bedroom has a probable point of origin of 30 to 36 ½ inches east of the west wall located 11 to 18 inches south of the north wall at a height of 45 to 49 inches above the floor

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which is above the large saturation stain on the mattress. Strings were placed in accordance to the above analysis to photographically show the probable point of origin of this spatter.

The bloodstain patterns in this room are consistent with having been produced as a result of a single gunshot wound sustained by the victim in bed as reported to Martin by Wood County Sheriff's Deputies. Martin next examined the bloodstain evidence on the twin bed in the male victim's room. The bedding from this bed had been removed exposing the mattress. Two large saturation stains are present on the mattress near the foot of the bed, with one of these stains located near the edge and the other near center at the foot of the bed. A group of smaller circular stains are present on the mattress about a foot from the corner and continue from edge to edge from the left to right toward the foot end of the mattress at or near a 45 degree angle. Another group of circular stains are present near the edge at the foot end of the bed and run almost parallel with foot edge of the mattress for a few inches then terminate. Located on the bed frame on the left side on the edge closest to the mattress if viewed from the head board are elliptical and circular bloodstains that are only present for approximately two feet down then length of the frame from the foot board toward the head board. The same types of stains are also observed on the frame board that spans the width of the bed on the foot board end. Several smaller circular and elliptical stains were observed on the inside of foot board and decreased in numbers and size toward upper portion of the foot board. The directionality of the stains on the inside of the foot board were from 90 degrees to downward left to right and right to left. These stains are consistent with impact spatter. This room and the area surrounding the bed and the bed were processed with the chemical Blue Star to enhance bloodstain patterns that are not visible. A transfer stain was observed on the mattress consistent with the fingers of hand. This stain was near the edge on the left side about midway between the head and foot boards. Martin photographed the bloodstain evidence and conducted a secondary search of the scene. No other evidence was located.

Martin and Kemp, moved to the front yard of the residence and attempted to recover the projectile that caused the bullet hole in the master bedroom wall using a metal detector. No projectile was found. Martin cleared from the scene and returned to Smith County.

On December 21, 2007 Martin contacted Ranger Kemp and requested the bedding from the twin bed for the purpose of examining the bloodstains and stain patterns on the sheets and covers to complete the

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analysis. Kemp stated that he would contact Lt. Tucker per this request.

Case Status: Pending

Noel Martin

12/27/2007