

September 8, 1999

WILLIAM HOWARD GADDIS, JR.

having been first duly sworn, was examined upon oral interrogatories and testified as follows:

EXAMINATION BY MS. GRIFFIN:

Q Would you tell us your name please?

A My name is Reverend William Howard Gaddis, Jr.

Q Reverend, would you speak up a little bit?

A My name is William Howard Gaddis, Jr.

Q And what's your given name that you go by or what does everybody call you, friends and family?

A Girls call me Billy. Boys call me Bill.

Q Did you used to live here in Illinois?

A Yes I did. I grew up here.

Q In Bloomington?

A In Bloomington, Illinois.

Q And have you been away from this area for awhile?

A I left here six years ago.

Q You're currently living out of state, is that correct?

A Yes.

Q And when you say you're a Reverend, are you affiliated with any church?

A I'm affiliated with the Pilgrim Holiness Church here in Bloomington, Illinois. I'm a licensed Minister. It's on East Street. It's a great little church if you don't have one.

Q When you lived here in Bloomington, I'll ask if you're familiar with certain people, okay. Starting first with an individual named Jamie Snow. Do you know Jamie Snow?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q How long have you known Jamie Snow?

A I've known Jamie Snow since we were little kids. My father and his father raced stock cars.

Q Essentially grew up with him?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q What about Dennis Hendricks?

A I've known Denny since the seventh grade.

Q And his brother which he has several of, is that correct?

A I met three of them in one night so that's how I know the Hendricks' boys.

Q You know Bobby Hendricks?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q Billy Hendricks?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q Todd Hendricks?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q Tim Hendricks?

A Yes.

Q What about Mark McCown?

A I know Mark McCown.

Q How do you know Mark McCown?

A From the street, from school.

Q You know an individual named Frankie Turner?

A Frank Turner is my brother.

Q What about Dave Shepperson?

A I've known Dave Shepperson since I was a little kid.

Q Now you yourself have several brothers in addition to Frank Turner?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q One of those is Garen Bradford, is that correct?

A Yes Ma'am.

BY JUROR: I didn't hear.

Q One of those is Garen Bradford. Is he also known as Franklin Roberts?

A Actually his name is Franklin Roberts and he's known as Garen Bradford.

Q One of them is Travis Gaddis as well?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q Now were you living still in the Bloomington area at the time of the Clark gas station armed robbery murder case involving William Little being shot and killed?

A Yes Ma'am. I lived in Hudson.

Q Were you married at that time?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q You're still married?

A Same woman.

Q What's her name?

A Angela.

Q Now at some point in time around the time of the Clark gas station armed robbery shooting of William Little, did you receive any information about who might have been involved in that?

A I'd like to say first I was, I left that group October 14th the year before all of this started to happen. My brother Garen lived at a house on the corner of Lee Street and Market. It's a big red apartment building. Be on the southwest side of the

street and I went there--either I had just brought my brother Garen home or I was searching for my brother Garen. He was employed by me and my brother. And I walked through the apartment.

Q If I could stop you a second. Who was it that your brother Garen was living with at that apartment?

A Dennis Hendricks. There was a bunch of people that lived there but I believe the apartment was in Denny's name. And I walked into the apartment. There was several females in the front room. There was no men there. And I walked through the kitchen down the hallway to the bedroom and I opened up the door. I never went fully into the bedroom. As I look in, Jamie Snow was standing on the wall. He was wearing a pair of blue jeans, cutoff shorts, a white t-shirt, a white Miami Dolphins leather baseball cap. Sir, I don't mean to offend you, okay, because I'm going to say something that might be offensive to you. But there was another boy standing beside him. He's a white guy. They call him Nigger Mike. Beside him, and I don't remember exactly, it was either Dennis Hendricks standing there or one of the other Hendricks' boys standing there. There was two Hendricks' boys in the

room, well whatever one wasn't standing there was sitting on the dresser as the room turns. One of the Hendricks' boys is in the corner here and the other one is setting on the dresser. And then the other side of the room, there's only a space about this big because there's a bed also here, there's another guy standing in the other corner. And I can't remember exactly who he is. I know that he isn't part of this group. Neither is Nigger Mike. He isn't part of this group either because everybody else in the room is part of the group. On the bed, on the corner down by Denny Hendricks, Dave Shepperson is sitting on the corner of the bed and he's sitting kind of like this. (Witness demonstrating.) My brother Frankie is stretched out across the bed laying down. And Jamie had been crying and was still crying, but had been heavy crying. And Denny was still crying. My brother Frankie was laying on the bed and he was crying. And I said you know, who died, because usually that means one of us died. And um, my brother Frankie said--he either said Jamie shot that kid at the gas station, or he shot a kid at the gas station. And I kind of looked at Jamie and Jamie looked at me, and I looked back around the room and I backed out of the room down the hallway and left. I

remember it was raining that night. I remember driving home totally lost, totally pretty much so disgusted.

Q When you got home, did you tell anybody about what you had just heard?

A Yeah, I told my wife.

Q Do you have any recollection in terms of how soon after the Clark station shooting of Bill Little that this happened that you saw these people in the apartment?

A It would have either been, I believe my wife--and we didn't know even when the dates were, but as we tried to figure it out, I believe it was either that night or the night after. It was still so fresh and still, I mean so intense. My wife said it would have happened between the end of March and the first of May so. We were moving at that time is the reason that she knew that.

Q Now when you indicated that a couple of these people in this room weren't part of the group, what group are you talking about?

A Most everybody in that room was either a Northsider or give affiliation to the Northside Gang.

Q Is that a street gang, the Northsiders?

A It's actually a prison gang.

Q Did you become aware in this same timeframe that Jamie Snow was hiding out from the police or left town to hide out from the police for other offenses?

A Yes. They left and went to Florida. They wanted my brother Garen to go with them. I talked him into not going. Then I heard that he was hiding in the attic at, it was either at his mom's or his sister's underneath the insulation because he thought they had him for the Little thing. It was only for a gas station robbery and he said he'da never hid if it was just for the gas station robbery. He thought they had him for the Little thing.

Q So this conversation that took place in the apartment where your brother Garen was staying that you saw everybody crying, would that have happened before Jamie Snow took off and left town?

A Oh yeah, it was before they took off.

BY GRAND JUROR: Who did you say was hiding out in the insulation?

A Jamie Snow. He hid underneath the insulation because they thought that they were going to arrest him for the Little murder.

Q Just to clarify that, you're aware, you're



talking about his sister or his mom's house out of state in Missouri, is that correct?

A Right.

Q Where he ended up being found by the police?

A Right. I believe it was his sister's house, but it was either his mother or his sister's.

BY GRAND JUROR: When you said earlier that you believed, I believe it was your brother that stated that Jamie had just shot that kid at the gas station. When you say he, you was referring--you said he said Jamie or he shot. You're referring to Jamie too or were you referring to somebody else in the room?

A He said Jamie. I can honestly say I'm not a friend of Jamie Snow's.

BY GRAND JUROR: Could you spell your last name for me please?

A It's G-A-D-D-I-S.

Q Some of the people that were in that room that night are no longer among us, is that correct?

A That's correct.

Q Who would those be?

A Dave Shepperson, life caught up with him. He was tripping and walked out in front of a truck.

Died I believe Halloween Night a couple years ago back. My brother Frank Turner while on a job fell out of a tree and died April 1st, be three years ago. The rest of them, I don't know. I believe all the rest of them are still alive.

Q From the time that you walked into that room and all these people were there obviously emotionally upset until once you walked out of that room that night, did you see Jamie Snow again after that?

A One time. One time. It would have been, well a little period of time, maybe a year or so and I seen him at my brother Garen's house and I only seen him for a few minutes and I didn't talk to him.

Q That's the only other time you've seen him since then?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q Have you ever had any conversations with anybody else about the Clark station murder since then?

A Well me and my brother Garen, I mean we talked about it. And probably me and Frankie too, but Garen was living there at the time so.

Q Did you ever have any information that led you to believe that this information you've talked to us about had already been disclosed to the police?

A Yes. I was told that Denny Hendricks tried to collect the reward and that they said it wasn't credible enough information or didn't have enough information or something, so.

Q Are you hearing this from Denny or just from other people?

A I think my brother Garen is who told me that. That Denny tried to collect the reward.

Q So up until recently had you disclosed this to anybody then besides your brothers?

A You know the reason I'm here today is because I said something I guess about two months ago when someone was talking and they're the ones who kind of finked me out. That's why I'm here today.

Q So you ended up having been talking with somebody else who originally had been from here?

A Yes Ma'am.

Q And this conversation came up and that person ended up reporting it and then the police contacted you?

A Right. They knew that Frankie was there that night and I was kind of tricked but I told them what I knew and apparently they told Officer Katz, and Officer Katz contacted me.

BY MS. GRIFFIN: I don't believe I have any other questions.

EXAMINATION BY GRAND JURY:

Q You said about a year before this incident happened that you were affiliated with the gang, you said probably about a year before it happened you stopped affiliation.

A October 14th, I'll be nine years straight off of the gangs, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, everything this coming October 14th.

Q Right around the time of the incident, what would you say your relationship with Jamie was then? I know you stated a minute ago that you don't have, you didn't particularly care for him. I was wondering what was your relationship with him then?

A I mean there was--

Q I was wondering would you consider him a friend at the time or was it a situation--

A He was an associate. He hung with people

that I was in charge of or over.

Q As far as was there any problems, what I'm wondering is would there be any reason why you would have to fabricate a story that wouldn't be true?

A No Sir, no Sir. I wouldn't be here today Sir if they didn't come and ask me to be here because I believe that we all meet up with God and he will take care of all of that stuff and I wouldn't be here unless--

Q Question, what kind of person is he, going back to Jamie Snow, going back to that time?

A He's a thug. He's a street guy just like me. I mean I don't put myself anywhere above or below where he was at that time and I was at that time. He's a hood, the same as me.

Q Was he a fighter?

A Yeah. All them boys is fighters. You don't grow up on the west side and come out a sissy that's for sure so.

Q After you overheard that conversation and you said you walked down the hall, was there any threats or any--how did they let you go without?

A That whole bunch couldn't whoop me all of them together. One thing I know so much on them guys

that they was glad to let me walk when I decided to walk away. They were glad to let me walk. And another thing is I ain't afraid of none of them.

Q The day you walked in the house there and your brother said that Jamie had shot the kid at the gas station, was there any mention of anyone else that might have been involved in that or he just mentioned Jamie alone?

A He just said Jamie. He said either Jamie shot the kid at the gas station or Jamie shot a kid at a gas station.

EXAMINATION BY MR. REYNARD:

Q Bill, let me refer you back to when you said Jamie said he thought they had him for the Little thing or else he wouldn't have been hiding under the insulation.

A Right.

Q Who was it that told you that Jamie Snow--

A My brother Garen. They're partners. They hang tight so.

Q Did Garen give you the notion that Jamie told him that directly?

A I believe that he did, yeah.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY MS. GRIFFIN:

Q Now when you indicated that Garen's partners with Jamie in that group, they're pretty tight, if Garen was to be questioned by the police, do you believe Garen would be truthful and honest about that, or would he attempt to--

A He would do time before he would say anything. They all would do time before they would rat on each other.

BY MR. REYNARD: Is that part of the culture or the relationship of the Northsiders' Gang?

A Sir, I'm still feeling that today and I haven't been with them people in so long. I feel like I'm a rat fink right now, truly do. I've been sick this morning all ready. Tell you what, if it would

have been a different person, I probably wouldn't be here today but I know this kid holds no keys. I mean he's affiliated with no gang. He'da shot me. If he'da shot Rick Bradford, if he'da shot Dennis Hendricks or any of my brothers, it wouldn't mean as much as to shoot a boy that's working in a gas station trying to make a living. I have a 17-year-old son and part of this is I'm thinking what if my boy was standing behind that counter, my boy I took out of all of this because I didn't want to be involved in none of this ever again. And I think what happens if he meets up with someone like Jamie using lead poison and walks off and brags about it. Tell people about it. That was the thing that amazes me so much about this case is because they never brought him in yet and there's so many witnesses.

FURTHER EXAMINATION BY GRAND JURY:

Q When your brother said something to you that Jamie shot a kid or shot that kid at the gas station, did Jamie say anything to dispute that or?



A No.

Q Or make any indication that that wasn't true?

A Just made eye contact just like me and you are making eye contact and he didn't say a word and I didn't say a word either.

Q Does your brother know that you got subpoenaed today?

A No Sir. Nobody does.

Q You didn't report this to anybody that Jamie shot because you were a group together, is that why you never said anything to anybody other than your wife?

A Yes Ma'am.

BY MS. GRIFFIN: Okay.

(Witness excused.)