

Episode 16



Season 1 : E16 - Lies My Preacher Told Me: The Reverend Bill Gaddis

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Episode Description: In 1999, a “self-appointed” gang boss turned Reverend returned to the state of Illinois to testify against Jamie. Jamie never met Bill Gaddis in his entire life. Bill Gaddis was loosely connected to some of Jamie’s friends only through relation to his brother. Two of his brothers would go on record to say Bill Gaddis was a liar and knew nothing about this case. But he took the stand for the state anyway, and said he saw Jamie in his brother’s apartment in 1991, and a man who was since deceased, accused Jamie of the murder. And he didn’t respond, so he knows Jamie did it. Bill Gaddis names several men who witnessed this incident, all who were either dead or testified it never happened. Bill Gaddis was portrayed as credible due to his license to preach. Although, he would not disclose where he preached. This sixteenth episode of Snow Files exposes exactly why Reverend Bill Gaddis was willing to bare false witness against the neighbor.

Jamie Snow: And I think about this all the time. If I have to spend the rest of my life in prison for a crime I didn’t commit, I need the world to know what happened and how it happened.

Music Intro: Injustice Anywhere presents Snow Files: The wrongful conviction of Jamie Snow and how they got away with it.

The mission of the Snow Files Podcast is to expose the misconduct of the State's Attorney's office under Charles Reynard. It is not our intention in any way to disparage the current State's Attorney's Office or the Bloomington Police Department.

Jamie Snow: Bill Gaddis. I guess that's the guy we're gonna talk about this week. I don't even really know where to start about this guy. I mean, he was one of the witnesses that my original attorney was suspicious about. In that he just popped up, you know, he was one of the witnesses that there was no investigative leads. There was no tips. He just appeared. The police report, the first police reports that we read on the guy, he was meeting with Peter Griffin, one of the detectives at a truck stop, and they showed him a photo lineup. That's what the police report said, that Bill Gaddis was shown a photo lineup to see if he can identify Jamie Snow and that was it. That was the end of the police report. There's nothing in, you know, that they didn't memorialize anything like, Snow's picture was number five and Gaddis picked it out. So I think we can probably assume that she was not able to identify me.

They said he was a reverend, they called him the reverend Bill Gaddis. And trust me, he was no reverend. He didn't go to seminary school, you know, he had like a mail order certificate, or whatever. So the things that I remember about him was when he came into the courtroom, he was wearin' a suit and tie, and he just looked real clean cut, and I didn't know who he was, you know, and my lawyer was like, Who is this guy? You know, and I said don't know. When he said his name, I was like, that's the guy because we had talked about him, my lawyer was asking you know, like I, I don't know, you know, I have no idea who this guy is. And I will never forget Teena Griffin was standing right next to us, and she looked down. She kind of like looked over at us and she like, smirked, you know, she had this like smile, smirk on her face. And then she went into asking the questions.

The story he told was just crazy. He went to this house, all these guys were sitting around, we were all crying. He asked, you know, who died? And this other guy, Frankie Turner, was a friend of mine, who has since died, and had died, you know, had been dead at the time of my trial. He said that Frankie said Jamie killed somebody at the gas station, or something along those lines. The state got that testimony and under the doctrine of you know, an admission of guilt by silence. You know, they say if somebody makes a statement like that, you know, in your presence, normal person would deny it, you know. And that's how they got it in, you know. And, and two of the people were, were deceased who he claimed was in the room, the

other one we don't even know who he was. And the other two people that he claimed was in there both said this never happened. So two of the people that supposedly Bill Gaddis said was in the room that day are dead, and were dead at the time of my trial. The Mike dude says it's never happened, Denny Hendrix said it never happened, Billy Hendrix said it never happened, I said it never happened, and I just uh...

We don't know exactly what, or how, Bill Gaddis got involved in the case. We have since learned through some family members, that he had some really big skeletons in his closet. I will tell you this, I wouldn't let him babysit my kids. But, you know, he's just, he's just another one, you know, and, you know, he was claiming that he was a reverend, you know, and I remember leaning over to my attorney, you know, when I was like ask him what's the ninth, the ninth commandment. You know, if you're a reverend, I think if you claim to be a reverend, we had the oppor-, you know, we had a right to, you know, maybe test his, you know, his truth and veracity a little bit, whether he really was a reverend, you know, and I told him, you know, just just ask him what the ninth commandment is. And you know, Frank Picl wouldn't do it. I think he was probably in his mind, was at the riverboat in Peoria playing blackjack or shooting craps or something.

But, you know, I mean, this guy, you know, he claimed to have known me since I was five years old, and that he used to to church with us, and you know, he'd known me all my life, you know. And thankfully, Frank finally did ask him, after I sat at the table and just kept telling him to ask this guy these questions, he asked him what was my mom's name, my sister's name, my dad's name and he got none of them right. I think he said my, my stepdad's name - my stepdad raised me - he said my dad's name was Don. And my mom's name was Mary, which it's my stepdad's name is Ken and my mom's name is Sandy. So it wasn't even close.

We're not, you know, like I said, we're not we're not sure where he came from, how he got involved, what was his motivation. All we know is he came out of nowhere. He just popped up. Like we've been saying all along, you know, there's thousands of dollars worth of reward money missing. And like I said, we found out that there's some pretty significant skeletons in this guy's closet. It makes me wonder if maybe they were using that, you know, as motivation to get him to testify. But that's pretty much it. You know, I mean, he's just another one in the long line of, you know, witnesses who was allowed to get up on the stand and testify to something that was not corroborated by anything. So this is what was keeping me from doing forensic testing, people like Bill Gaddis.

Bruce Fischer: The Reverend Bill Gaddis popped up out of the blue. He claimed to be a reverend for the Pilgrim Holiness Church. He first comes on the scene August 31, 1999. He and his wife, Angie, were interviewed in Michigan at a truck stop, and for some odd reason, they brought a boatload of people to assist with that interview.

(From recording)

Dan Katz: Present during this interview is myself, Detective Dan Katz, Detective Larry Shepard, Teena Griffin, the Assistant State's Attorney, also is William (redacted) and his wife, Angela (redacted). Back in March 31, 1991, a crime occurred in Bloomington, Illinois at the Clark gas station on Empire Street, where the gas station was robbed and a person was killed by the name of Bill Little. Do you have any information about that case?

Bill Gaddis: Um, I walked into an apartment, house on corner of Lee and Market Street. I believe the person who rented that apartment was Dennis Hendrix. I was looking for my younger brother, I had just brought my younger brother home. There are some, lots of people in the front room, mostly women, or girls, and I walked back to the back bedroom. I believe there's only one bedroom in that apartment. When I walked in, it looked like everybody in the room had been crying or was in a real solemn attitude at that time. And I asked who died, and um, there was silence for a few seconds. And Frank Turner who was laying on the bed, said that Jamie had either shot a boy at a gas station or shot that boy at the gas station. I looked at Jamie, Jamie looked at me, and another period of silence, and I left soon after that.

Dan Katz: Could you tell us who was in that room when that comment was made?

*Bill Gaddis: Starting from the left, going around the room, Jamie was, Jamie Snow, was standing on the wall. And beside him was a kid, a white kid they called n**ger Mike. Beside him was either Dennis Hendrix or Todd. There was only two Hendrix boys. It was either Todd or Bobby. Whoever wasn't standing was setting on a dresser that was right beside there. From there, in the corner, was another kid, an Italian kid, I believe his name is Mike also. So, there's a window and then the bed there, Frank Turner's laying on the bed. Dave*

Sheperson is sitting at the foot of the bed with his head in his hands. And myself.

Dan Katz: Will you tell me what everybody was doing in there?

Bill Gaddis: Most of them are crying and just setting when I walked in, or standing just, just there.

Dan Katz: Can you tell me what Jamie Snow was wearing that night?

Bill Gaddis: Yes, I can. I can remember exactly. He was wearing a pair of blue jean shorts, the long shorts that go to your knees, a white t-shirt, and a white Miami Dolphin leather hat.

Dan Katz: Was Jamie crying that time?

Bill Gaddis: Yes, he is. He was still crying.

Dan Katz: Was Dennis Hendrix crying at that time?

Bill Gaddis: Dennis Hendrix was crying.

*Dan Katz: And this individual they called Mike, n**ger Mike, I guess? What was, was he crying?*

Bill Gaddis: I can't remember if he was crying or just standing there.

Dan Katz: Frank Turner and Dave?

Bill Gaddis: Frank was crying. I don't remember if Dave was crying but I know that Dave was just kind of like this, just blank.

Dan Katz: Was the door, was there a door to that room?

Bill Gaddis: Yes there was.

Dan Katz: Was that door open or closed when you came up to the door?

Bill Gaddis: It was closed when I came up to the door.

Dan Katz: When you opened it, did you startle anybody inside, or did they expect you, or did they stop talking when you walked in?

Bill Gaddis: There was, when I walked in there was no talking at all.

Dan Katz: This time, when you heard this conversation, did Jamie deny killing this boy, or this kid, at the gas station?

Bill Gaddis: No, he looked me right in the eyes, and I looked him in the eyes, and we just looked at each other for a few minutes, and then he put his head back down.

Dan Katz: And then you left.

Bill Gaddis: After a few minutes, yeah.

Dan Katz: Can you tell me when, day, month, year this conversation took place? When this comment was made in the apartment house?

Bill Gaddis: It would have been at the very end of March or the very first part of May. It was raining that night, I do remember that.

Dan Katz: So, it's between the end of March and the first part of May.

Bill Gaddis: First part of May.

Dan Katz: This incident occurred on March 31, 1991 at approximately 8:15 pm, which was Easter Sunday. In regards to Easter Sunday, 8:15 in the evening, does that help you pinpoint whether or not you had heard about this case before you went over there that night? Is that the first time you ever heard about the case occurring?

Bill Gaddis: I believe that was the first I had heard anything about it. And I would have been there between nine, between 9:00 and 10:00 pm, on the night that I was there. No later than 10:00.

Dan Katz: What was your relationship with all these guys in that room?

Bill Gaddis: Guess I would have been their self-appointed leader.

*Dan Katz: Can you describe to me this ,uh, guy that they nicknamed n**ger Mike. Why did they nicknamed him and can you describe him to me?*

Bill Gaddis: He's a tall white guy, skinny, six foot one, six foot two, maybe? I believe he was married to a black lady.

Dan Katz: How old was was Mike?

Bill Gaddis: At the time?

Dan Katz: At that time.

Bill Gaddis: Early 20's, maybe 20.

Dan Katz: So today, eight years later, he'd be maybe anywhere from 28 to 30 years of age?

Bill Gaddis: Yep, Yes sir.

Dan Katz: And what did he drive back then?

Bill Gaddis: A big 'ole Cadillac.

Dan Katz: You remember the color?

Bill Gaddis: I believe it was green in color.

Larry Shepard: This is Detective Shepard. When, when you talked, when that conversation occurred, when you saw Jamie, can you try to narrow that down a little bit further of when, did uh, we had talked earlier before we had started taping, you talked about him taking off and going to Florida, Missouri. Was it prior to him taking off when you had the conversation?

Bill Gaddis: Prior means?

Unknown: Before.

Larry Shepard: Did you talk, did you walk in the room and talking, when everybody's crying, was that before he took off and left to Florida and Missouri?

Bill Gaddis: That was before he took off.

Larry Shepard: Did you, was Garren (unintelligible) there?

Bill Gaddis: I don't think Garren was there. I really don't. I don't remember him being there. Either I was looking for him, or I brought him home, but I can't remember him being in the room.

Larry Shepard: Was Travis there?

Bill Gaddis: No, I believe my brother Travis was in a penitentiary at the time.

Larry Shepard: Did you, did you and Garren ever discuss this?

Bill Gaddis: I believe, at least a couple of times.

Larry Shepard: About being at the party? About being around and having this conversation with Jamie Snow?

Bill Gaddis: About being there and, and about all the stuff that was said, yes. Because he lived also in that apartment. He was staying there. So he heard after.

Larry Shepard: So, did Garren ever tell you that Jamie told him that he had done this?

Bill Gaddis: I think Jamie left. I think Jamie left real soon after that.

Larry Shepard: Frank Turner, he's deceased. Is that correct?

Bill Gaddis: Yes.

Larry Shepard: And Dave.

Bill Gaddis: Sheperson is also deceased.

Larry Shepard: He's also deceased. So, two of those guys that were in that room are no longer.

Bill Gaddis: Right.

Dan Katz: Okay, well, let me ask you, Angela, you're Bill's wife? First, let me ask Bill this question. When you left that apartment house that night, Denny Hendrix's apartment, after hearing what occurred, where did you go?

Bill Gaddis: I went directly home.

Dan Katz: And when you got home, did you say anything about what you just heard?

Bill Gaddis: Yes, I did.

Dan Katz: And who did you tell?

Bill Gaddis: I told my wife.

Dan Katz: And what did you tell her?

*Bill Gaddis: Told her exactly what had happened. What I, what, what was said, what was going on, who was there. Some of the people she didn't know because they weren't part of the group. Everybody who is part of the group she knew, but there was some guys like, n**ger Mike, and the other Mike kid that she doesn't know. And I don't know that she knows Jamie Snow personally.*

Dan Katz: Angela, ah, you sat here and listened to, to this, our conversation. Do you remember the night that your husband, Bill, came home and told you about what he heard at the apartment house?

Angela Gaddis: I remember him coming home and telling me, I couldn't tell you the exact night.

Dan Katz: And you remember roughly what he told you?

Angela Gaddis: Just basically that they were all there in the apartment and that they were talking about the murder. And that Jamie, they said Jamie Snow had committed it.

Dan Katz: As far as between what day, what day, could you help me with that?

Angela Gaddis: I would say between the end of March and the second week of May for sure, because that's when we were in the middle of moving to Colfax, and that's when I can narrow it down. I do know it was raining that night. I mean, that's how I time frame things by different dates when we moved, or started a job, and that's how I time frame it for myself.

Dan Katz: Okay, we will stop the tape at eight.

Bill Gaddis: Can I say one more thing?

Dan Katz: Oh, yeah, sure.

Bill Gaddis: The reason that we hadn't said anything before, is because we were told somebody else told the story. And I would like that said.

Dan Katz: If this story had not been told before, then you would have come forward and told us what you thought had already been told.

Bill Gaddis: Exactly.

Larry Shepard: Were you and Angela married at that time?

Bill Gaddis: Yes sir.

Larry Shepard: Okay.

(End recording)

Bruce Fischer: Eight days after that interview was conducted, Reverend Gaddis testified at the grand jury. Bill Gaddis confirmed he was a licensed minister and affiliated with the Pilgrim Holiness Church on East Street in Bloomington. He said he had known Jamie Snow since they were kids. As their fathers raced stock cars together. He went on to tell the same story. That his brother, Garren, lived with Denny Hendrix, and one night he went walking through their apartment looking for Garren. He said there were many women in the front room, and he walked through the kitchen, down the hallway to the bedroom and opened the door.

He said that Jamie Snow was on the wall, wearing a pair of blue jean cutoff shorts, a white t shirt and a white Miami Dolphins baseball cap. He said there was also a man named Mike, Denny Hendrix, and one of Denny's brothers. Another man, his brother, Frankie stretched across the bed, laying down, and Dave Sheperson at the foot of the bed. He said that Jamie was heavily crying and Denny and his brother Frankie were crying as well. He asked who died and Frankie said that Jamie had shot a kid at the gas station. The Reverend said he and Jamie looked at each other and he looked around the room, then backed out, went down the hallway and left. He said it was raining that night. And he drove home disgusted and told his wife.

The Reverend went on to testify that he was told that Denny Hendrix tried to collect the reward money by telling this story. But police said it wasn't enough information, or that the story wasn't credible, and that the Reverend was testifying today because a couple of months ago, he was telling this story to someone and they told on him, and police had contacted him. When asked about Jamie by the grand jury, the Reverend Gaddis said the following:

Question: What kind of person is he? Going back to Jamie Snow, going back to that time?

Answer: 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 the time, and I was at that time. He's a hood, the same as me.

Question: Was he a fighter?

Answer: 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.

Question: 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?

Answer: The 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.

Mike Higgins, who Reverend Gaddis testified was called, n**ger Mike, testified he has never been known by that name. And further, that he did not know Denny Hendrix, Bobby Hendrix, Todd Hendrix, Billy Hendrix, Frankie Turner, Dave Sheperson, or Reverend Gaddis. But that he may have gone to high school with Jamie Snow, but doesn't remember him. And also, that he is not familiar with the apartment on Lee and Market and that he learned about the Clark murder from the Pantograph newspaper.

Denny Hendricks testified that he didn't know Mike Higgins, that his apartment was a three bedroom, and that the incident Reverend Gaddis was talking about never happened. And that he can't remember an incident where he or his friends were sitting around crying. Billy and Todd Hendrix also went on to dispute the testimony. In fact, not one person corroborated the Reverend Gaddis' story, not even his wife Angie, who had previously corroborated the story during Reverend Gaddis's original testimony.

In May of 2000, Detectives Katz and Barkas interviewed Daryl Gaddis, Reverend Bill Gaddis' brother, because he was put on the defense witness list for Susan Claycomb's trial, to talk about the credibility of Reverend Gaddis.

(From recording)

Dan Katz: Your brother back in the '80s was a liar.

Daryl Gaddis: Yes. He was, he was a habitual liar.

Dan Katz: So you don't know from the late '80s or early '90s whether he's still a liar, or whether he has changed?

Daryl Gaddis: Well, he's running as a liar calling himself Reverend Bill Gaddis, that's a lie, you know. He's lying. He's not a reverend. He's never been ordained, you know, he's buy a piece of paper out of a Star magazine in the back, he orders the promo, and that's how he calls himself Reverend Bill Gaddis. So, in that fact, he's a liar.

Dan Katz: You would consider that a lie?

Daryl Gaddis: Most definitely.

Dan Katz: Anything else that he's told you in the last 10 years that's a lie?

Daryl Gaddis: Just simple things, you know, over 10 or 12 years ago, when you know, he used to just lie and make up stuff, especially saying he knows about this case first hand 'cause there's no way he can. If I didn't hear about it, no way he could've. It was my clique of people and if it was being said, I would have heard it. And now, he's obviously lying on this case, so.

Dan Katz: So you don't think he heard anything about this?

Daryl Gaddis: No. Right. I don't think he's heard anything about it. He's lying by saying he has.

Dan Katz: And the reason you don't think he's heard anything is because you've not heard anything?

Daryl Gaddis: Correct.

Dan Katz: Even though you've separated from this crowd in 1990?

Daryl Gaddis: Right.

Dan Katz: You've just seen them and said hi once in a while.

Daryl Gaddis: Right, but Bill Gaddis has separated from them before that period of time. I mean, he's separated from a long time before I did. If it was being said and it was around you know, those are my clique of people. I would have heard about it.

(End recording)

Bruce Fischer: Despite absolutely no corroboration of the story, on January 2, 2001, Reverend Gaddis took the stand at Jamie's trial. He testified to the same story with a couple of embellishments. This time he stated that when he went to the room, he knocked on the door and said, if you don't open it, I'll kick it in. Also, when he testified about what Jamie was wearing, he stated that Jamie had on a white baseball cap, but it was on backwards. So that means that he would have never seen a Miami Dolphins logo.

Reverend Gaddis admitted that he was a licensed preacher for the Pilgrim Holiness Church, but was still working on his ordination. He went on to say that the church was on East Street, but somehow he couldn't remember the street address. He claims that when he was nine years old, that Jamie's mother took him to church, but he can't remember Jamie's mother's name. He also admits that he knew about the \$5,000 reward money before he spoke to authorities.

Reverend Gaddis admits that he or his wife, Angie, never called the police with their knowledge of the crime, and that he was contacted by Dan Katz in 1999, after he told someone else and they reported it. And prior, he told no one else but his wife. Recall, he stated in the grand jury that he and Garren had spoken about it a few times. Lastly, there is no mention of it raining the night that Reverend Gaddis allegedly went to Denny's house in the trial testimony, even though it was mentioned by both Reverend Gaddis and his wife, Angie, in their interview, and again in the grand jury testimony. They were adamant about that point. But probably, because the state figured out, it could be proven that it did not rain that night. In fact, it did not rain the week before or after the alleged incident. As a result, they decided to omit those statements all together.

Denny Hendricks also testified for the defense and was adamant that the encounter never took place, and that Reverend Bill was never welcome at his home. He also testified that he'd never heard Frank Turner say that Jamie Snow shot Bill Little, and that he definitely would have remembered that. Denny's brother, Bill Hendrix also testified that Reverend Gaddis was never there when he was there, and that he had spoken to Gaddis' brother, Daryl, Garren and Frank Turner, who all said that Reverend Gaddis had a bad reputation for telling the truth.

Garren Bradford, also known as Frank Roberts, was the last to testify. Garren states that he and his sister were recently talking about Bill Gaddis' bad reputation for honesty and about a year prior, his brother, his sister, and a court reporter were also discussing his bad reputation for honesty. Somewhat recently, we had the chance to connect with Garren, and he revealed information that has not been revealed prior to this date. This is edited for clarity:

After I was coming off that seven year bit in Lincoln, in 1999, two detectives came up and paid me a visit, talking about how I needed to be on their team, if I didn't want to have to see behind bars ever again. And that it was in my best interest to be on their team. I told them that I don't believe Jamie Snow ever did that crime. They just didn't look fucking hard enough. And besides that, they didn't need to come up threatening me before I got out of prison with some bullshit talking about being on their team, and blah, blah, blah. I can't really remember the rest, but they were basically threatening me. There was one big dumb tall detective who kept coming by my house on Clayton street all the time, wanting me to go with him so they could talk to me.

But when I finally did, they put me in a room with mirrored glass booths for about a half an hour without talking to me. I beat on the window and told them I was tired of fucking sitting there while they were looking at me, and that they needed to come in and talk to me. The door opened a few minutes later, and I told them that Jamie wasn't no killer. Jamie didn't really even like to fight. And the cops telling me they were coming to my house to get me to go down there, that the Little family had \$10,000, and this detective saw my kids at the house and asked, what would that \$10,000 do for my kids? And did I not think that \$10,000 would do something for my kids? Look how they're living, he said, and that pissed me the fuck off. For one, not everybody made a fucking fortune being a crooked ass cop. And two, that sound like he was trying to bribe me to testify.

Jamie is my friend and Jamie did not commit that murder. And Bloomington should be ashamed of themselves for trying to bribe me with \$10,000 from the Bill Little family, just to get a conviction. Just to get one more person to say he did it, and then threaten me, when I was getting out of a seven year prison term to be on their team, or else. I'm sure whoever those two detectives were that went to Lincoln Correctional Center in 2000 to see me were on a docket somewhere. They had to be on paper somewhere. And I swear till the day I die, that Jamie Snow didn't do it.

So, just like the others, they threatened Garren, and also told Garren that he needed to be on their team, and waved a carrot of \$10,000 from Bill Little's family, but Garren went on to talk about Reverend Gaddis and Angie. He stated that he was much younger than Reverend Gaddis and that he was sent to a boy's home, but the good Reverend Gaddis and Angie gain temporary custody of him and were receiving a check from DCFS to do so. Apparently, Angie told Garren that she was going to put the money away for Garren, but never did.

He said he and the other kids lived in squalor. And it was a terrible place to live. Garren said there was dog feces, soda cans and other trash everywhere. And if the kids didn't clean up after everything, Angie would smack them in the head with shoes and shit. And that's just the way it was. Garren went on to say that Reverend Gaddis and Angie also tried to get custody of his own daughters when he and his daughter's mother were having trouble. He said his mother, brother and sister showed up and testified that the Reverend Gaddis had molested his brother and his sister. And they did that because they didn't want their nieces to go through what they went through. Garren said after they testified that both Reverend Gaddis and Angie rescinded their petition for custody and left the courtroom abruptly. He said that Reverend Gaddis and Angie put on a real good show for everybody and the church. But when at home, it was a whole different story. When asked about the incident at Denny Hendrix's house, Garren stated:

Nothing like that ever happened. Nothing. Me and Billy, meaning Reverend Gaddis, didn't even talk at the time. Really. We was having trouble at work. We had Crystal Polishing Detail shop. I got the money for my brother, Daryl, from a girl I was living with, to buy into the company. And I moved in with Denny and Frankie Turner. We partied a lot, drinking a lot of beer. And Billy was mad because I moved in with Denny Hendrix. And that's about when he was trying to really get into this Christian stuff. But he was still smoking weed and doing his thing, but he thought I was using needles and stuff, which I wasn't, but no conversation like that ever happened. Billy never even stepped foot in that house. And that's guaranteed because Denny and Billy did not get along. And it would have been a fight, and Billy knew it, so he didn't come around.

Bruce Fischer: When asked if he was working with Reverend Gaddis at the time, and if he ever discussed the incident concerning Jamie with Garren, he stated:

No, I quit. I was working there. I wrecked my brother Daryl's car, and I got pulled over in my car and went to jail. I never got back out. There is no chance that I discussed anything with Billy. Billy was a liar, a chronic storyteller. If he had a dollar, he'd tell you, it was a million.

Bruce Fischer: Tam, Jamie says he never even knew Bill Gaddis, and that he had never seen him before in his life until the day he came to testify. Can you point out some of the things that back Jamie up?

Tammy Alexander: Gaddis knew nothing about Jamie's family, although he said he knew them well when they kids, he can't remember his mother or sisters' names, and he even admits at trial that he never actually spent any time with Jamie alone, ever. He's inconsistent on when he heard the accusations in the apartment. He first said it was possibly between the night of the crime on March 31st through the middle of May. But actual trial, he pins it to Easter Sunday or the next night.

His wife is the only person who can corroborate him, sort of. She's not really corroborating him, but notice they didn't use her trial. Recall from the interview she was adamant that it was raining that night, because they were moving. It was mentioned several times. We've looked that up and it did not rain that night, nor did it rain any that entire week. Several people Gaddis named as being present at the time of the the scenario testified it did not happen. Gaddis wasn't welcome in the apartment and there's a couple of them that have passed away.

Bruce Fischer: There is some talk of Jamie and his friends being in a gang. The North Sider Prison Gang. Was Jamie ever actually in a gang?

Tammy Alexander: No. I mean, we've, that, we've gone over that, over, and over, and over, and vetted that on Truth and Justice. And Jamie was not a North Sider. He was friends with some of them. You know, he knew them because they knew each other when they were kids, but that's the extent of his relationship with North Siders.

Bruce Fischer: Daryl Gaddis was Bill Gaddis' brother, and he told the Bloomington Police Department that Bill is a complete liar. He was supposed to testify for Susan, but never made it to either trial. Can you tell us about Daryl? Has he been interviewed by Jamie's team since the conviction?

Tammy Alexander: He hasn't been interviewed that I'm aware of but he didn't testify so there's, there's nothing more than what we have on the tape. Now how he testified to something different and later discovered this tape, that would be a different story, definitely be a target for us to interview.

Bruce Fischer: You spoke to Denny Hendricks recently about this case. What did he have to say about Bill Gaddis?

Tammy Alexander: Denny and several others that knew him, even his family members, talked about Bill Gaddis being a liar. Denny was adamant that Gaddis wasn't allowed in his house and certainly didn't hang out with them. Something that really struck me from Gaddis' interviews, when he was asked about the relationship between these guys and Gaddis, and Gaddis said, he said he was their self appointed leader. And if you know these guys you know how that ridiculous that is.

Bruce Fischer: Why did Bill Gaddis do this? What are some of the leads on this guy and his possible motives?

Tammy Alexander: I don't know, he just kind of popped up out of the blue. Jamie did not know him. The only things that we can think of is, award money, or possibly getting out of some type of trouble.

Bruce Fischer: Lesley, what happened when Bill Gaddis first testified at the grand jury?

Lesley Pires: Bill Gaddis came off as a real jerk in both of his testimonies. He started it with the grand jury, and he had a literal, 'holier than thou attitude'. He was very judgmental, and he was trying to talk himself up. But he also cared a lot about coming off as a tough guy. So basically, he wanted to be better than Jamie in every aspect, and it was outrageous. So here's an example of him trying to be a preacher who also kicked ass:

Question: 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?

Gaddis: That whole bunch couldn't whoop me, all of them together. One thing, I know so much on them guys, was 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 and none of them.

So you see he craves credibility, but I don't think that makes him very credible in the way he hopes. Another credibility issue was that he told BPD that he was this group's self appointed leader or something. Like some kind of gang boss. That was their relationship. But then he tells the grand jury just eight days later that he first needs to let everyone know that he's separated from all those people, months before, in October of the prior year, before the crime. And that night he drove home disgusted and told his wife right away. So here he's an ex gang leader with just six months on the straight and narrow, and he can even kick seven men's asses all at once. And that makes him so credible. It really seems like a grand tale, like someone with motivation to brag and be a hero, right?

So by this point, when he's on the stand with the grand jury, he somehow makes himself this authority over all of the witnesses, dead and alive, all the ones he placed in the room that night. He gets to speak for all seven, even the ones who are there on that same day saying it never happened. He says that he's a "think rat" now and none of the others are rats. They would rather do time instead of telling on each other, including his brother, who had the apartment. And then conveniently, the two he said he were sitting on the bed are both now dead, including his family member, who is the one that supposedly accused Jamie of the murder.

It doesn't matter that Mike Higgins testified, later that same day, that he wasn't in that room and doesn't even know any of them. Or that Denny Hendricks testified that he wasn't in there crying and doesn't remember that scenario at all. Or that another man was supposedly in there too, and he can't even give that name. Gaddis just gets away with it simply because he claims to be the reformed reverend of a "great little church." So he is believed over the others and Jamie is indicted.

Bruce Fischer: So then what happened at the actual trial? Did Gaddis stick to his story?

Lesley Pires: At Jamie's trial Gaddis tells the exact same story except for this time, there's one big difference. He says he can't remember if Jamie looked at him or not after Frank said he shot the kid at the gas station. He said Jamie was looking down. This is the first time he can't remember. And that's a big deal. So we go from making eye contact and not denying the accusation, like a nonverbal confession from Jamie,

to all of a sudden no eye contact at all. So basically, what is he testifying to? That someone accused Jamie and Jamie did not even acknowledge it? Is he backtracking now because he feels bad or because he can't remember his lie?

He also said twice prior that Jamie had on a white leather Miami Dolphins baseball cap while he was in that room, but now he says he had it on backwards. So how could he have seen the logo before? So it's very bizarre that he insisted on all those little details about what Jamie was wearing eight years ago, but then at trial, he changes that one thing. So again, did he forget his lie?

So when Frank Picl cross examines him it gets really good. Gaddis has to admit that he is not ordained yet, he's only licensed and cannot even perform weddings. He is actually a preacher. So of course Picl is going to expose that, and it got a lot worse. When asked when he preached in Bloomington, Gaddis can't remember the street address of his own church and claims it's because he now lives out of state so he doesn't preach there anymore. But he won't even tell what state he lives in now. The judge actually allows that. For him to not admit where he lives and preaches out of, for privacy reasons.

Gaddis is then relentlessly quizzed on how he knows Jamie, and he claims he knows him because Jamie's mother took him to church as a child, but he can't remember her name. And he gives the excuse that Jamie went to live with his father so it wasn't many times. Then he can't remember how long Jamie even lived with his mother for. He's then quizzed back and forth over and over again about how good of friends he was with Jamie and the Hendrix brothers. And he eventually relents and admits that he was only acquaintances with Jamie, but still insist that he was close with the Hendrixes.

Picl keeps going and start asking him about the Bible and the 10 commandments. He gets Gaddis to admit that although he left that apartment, thinking Jamie was a murderer and broke one of the commandments, he still never told authorities. And then when asked about the reward money, he has to admit that he didn't know about it. He tries to skirt it, but Picl grills him really hard, forcing him to admit he knew about the reward money before talking to the police. And it was so hard that he had to ask for a glass of water.

He then got into an argument with Picl about if he really knows who shot Bill Little, and he keeps saying Jamie Snow did it. But eventually he has to admit that he has

no actual personal knowledge of that. And next in a classic Picl fashion, he asks Gaddis a surprise question that's very random and off topic. And Picl suddenly spouts out, what is Jamie's stepdad's name? And Gaddis says he thinks it's Bill. So Picl says, Oh, well, he's here in this courtroom today, so why don't you identify him? But that's immediately objected to and he doesn't have to, which is good for him because I don't think that he could.

Teena Griffin then redirects, and she asks him, if it is actually his responsibility to hold people accountable for their wrongdoings in regards to Picl, making him admit that he never reported anything to the authorities. Gaddis responds by saying that it's his job to make sure their soul is right and it doesn't matter if he gets the death sentence, or whatever, God works out the judgment in those things. So that's an awful thing for him to say in front of the jury, and I'm really surprised there was no objection since this wasn't a death penalty case anymore. She simply asked him if it was his job to report crimes as a preacher, but he responded in a way to imply that Jamie did something to get the death penalty and that is the kind of 'holier than thou' stuff I was saying. He's literally saying, Well, I didn't tell the truth about a murder, but this guy is worse, he could get the death penalty.

So, next you wanted to clarify that the detective contacted him first in 1999, and then he told, and he does. But we know his brother had contact with authorities in 1996. So is that a lie that didn't make it to trial? Was there other contact sometime else? Griffin ends with asking if he told his wife, as if telling his wife makes it less bad in some way, and he confirms that he did. But then Picl jumps right back in for his last question and exclaims, so she called the police then? And he says no, and then that's it, he's excused from the stand.

And I could see where Frank was going with pointing out all of Gaddis' weaknesses, but for some reason we don't know, or maybe just can't understand, why Gaddis really wanted to judge Jamie and be an authority on the stand. Like he had a dog in this fight, but he wasn't an informant that sat on the fence and played the system, he was really digging into it. And I think Picl could have been more effective if he asked him, who ever saw him hanging out with Jamie or his family in any situation, who was still alive. And also if he asked him like Jamie always wanted, what is the ninth commandment? And what is the punishment for someone who breaks it?

Bruce Fischer: A few good people took the stand days after Gaddis to refute his testimony. What did they say?

Lesley Pires: Well, Denny Hendrix took the stand first and refuted the most. Since it was his apartment, he vehemently denied that Bill Gaddis was ever in there when he was, and that he never heard Frank Turner, or anyone else, state that Jamie killed the clerk at the gas station. He said in fact, if he did, he would have been testifying for the prosecution. He said he was never in a room crying like that either. His brother, Billy Hendrix, testified next. He was a very good friend with Jamie. And he said that Bill Gaddis was never over there while he was either, and he was there very often. He testified that several people in Gaddis' family talked to him about what a bad reputation he had for lying. And then Gaddis' own brother took the stand next, Garren Bradford, the one that lived there with Denny, and he said the same, that his brother was a bad liar and his sister and other brother were recently discussing his bad reputation.

The prosecution tried really hard to discredit these witnesses by saying that Denny previously said he didn't recall the scenario, not that it didn't happen. That Billy was best friends with Jamie and had visited him nine times in the past year or so, and then they made Garren recite all of his violent convictions. It didn't really work, though, in my opinion, because all three of these people insisted those things never happened and Bill Gaddis is a liar. And let's not forget that Mike Higgins testified against him at the grand jury and his other brother Daryl told detectives about his reputation for lying. So in total, that's five people, six, if you include Jamie, who went on the record to say this guy was lying, and it makes me wonder what exactly the jury believed about his testimony.

Bruce Fischer: I don't recall any other witnesses having six people testify to refute what they said. It seems like there's a lot of people that were willing to discredit this guy.

Lesley Pires: Everybody in the room discredited him except for the two that are dead, and the one guy who couldn't even remember his name, and he probably made up so everybody else, if you go around the room and count all those people who are sitting in there, they all said it didn't happen and I wasn't there. And you know, the other thing is, he starts saying that that Mike Higgins guy had this really racist, derogatory nickname. And everybody says that's not true. Um, Mike is like, you know, what the hell nobody ever called me that to my face. And Denny says the same thing. No, I don't know anybody by that. He's even going off a list of all the Mikes that he knows, and he can't even come up with that guy. So, um, that, that

was pretty amazing too. And it just seems like it didn't matter. You could have everybody in that room saying it didn't happen, and then other witnesses say they never heard anything about that, out of the two men's mouths who are now dead. And that had no weight at all it seems like.

Bruce Fischer: Right. Yeah, I mean, he just seems they all, every person we talked about is discredited, and it's just, how does this one even have any relevance at all? And there's everybody there says he's a, you know, he's a liar. I mean.

Tammy Alexander: There wasn't even, there wasn't even any, any history there. I mean, there were other people that he didn't know like Bruce Roland, and with Bill Gaddis that was just like the first time he saw him, was when he walked into court.

Bruce Fischer Right.

Tammy Alexander: I think Picl said, Who? Who is that? Jamie said, I don't know. I mean, you know, it was just never, never even saw him.

Bruce Fischer: It's just interesting that he was even able to testify that it's even part of this case.

Tammy Alexander: He shouldn't have been in there because it was, it was just shaky anyways, right? Because he's saying it's a confession of omission.

Lesley Pires: Yeah, and he didn't make it into Susan's trial. So he made it into Jamie's trial. So it's like, did Steve Skelton scare them off into not bringing that kind of stuff in to his courtroom? And then now they get away with it with Picl?

Tammy Alexander: I don't know. They just, it just amazes me the great lengths that they went to. I mean, they flew to Michigan. Teena Griffin, the Assistant State's Attorney was at that, at that interview at the truck stop with Angie and Bill. They flew to Michigan to get this, you know,

Lesley Pires: Eight days before the grand jury they're all in Michigan, rounding him up.

Tammy Alexander: ridiculous story of someone who didn't even know him. That's, that's just great lengths. And it really makes you wonder why.

Bruce Fischer: Right.

Tammy Alexander: I mean, why were they going through such great lengths if their, if their case was so strong, you know.

Bruce Fischer: What they got out of it was incredibly weak in the process.

Tammy Alexander: Exactly. Very weak.

Lesley Pires: The other thing is when Gaddis is on the stand for the grand jury, he's saying that he didn't tell anybody before because he thought that someone else already came forward for the reward money. He tries to say his brother told him that Denny tried to get the reward money, so he just assumed Denny had already said it so he wasn't responsible for it anymore. And then he goes, I'm just so surprised that so many witnesses in this case, he wasn't taken in already. So, I had to do something about it, that's why I'm here today. So it's like even he can see, you know, while he's lying and telling his story that there's so many witnesses, supposedly, and nothing has happened. So where's the evidence?

Tammy Alexander: And at the end of his, at the end of his tape, you'll notice he says something at the end, you know, after they're wrapping everything up, and the tape is ending, and he goes, oh, I just have to tell you this. I just want it to be on the record that the reason I didn't come forward before was because I thought everybody else, you know, I thought, I thought somebody else told the story. That's why you did it. Because you thought somebody told, you thought somebody told the story before and that's why you never said anything. He never said anything about that in his testimony.

Bruce Fischer: Right.

Tammy Alexander: To me, he just sounds so, he's trying to sound like this solemn person who's trying to do the right thing and is just torn up about doing the right thing, you know, because he doesn't want to be involved in this. So he, you know, he has this tone that is, to me, just smacks of insincerity.

Lesley Pires: Yeah, I noticed that too immediately. He was definitely like, hamming it up, and he was very narcissistic. And, you know, it sounded like he was on Dr. Phil or

something. And-

Tammy Alexander: Exactly.

Bruce Fischer: He's enjoying the attention.

Lesley Pires: Yeah, that's why he's an ass kickin preacher.

Tammy Alexander: It's like that person.

Lesley Pires: He's Superman.

Tammy Alexander: It's like, you know, somebody my neighbor dies. It's like the person who just can't wait to tell everybody.

Bruce Fischer: Right.

Tammy Alexander: You know? But is gonna be really sad about it. You know, wants to, wants to be the one. It's just insane.

Bruce Fischer: Makes sense. I think that sums up this guy completely. There isn't anything left to say. We invite any witness featured on the Snow Files podcast, to come on the show to give their point of view or to clarify anything that they think might have been misstated.

Lesley Pires: In Episode 16, a reverend on the run found his way into Jamie's case just eight days before grand jury proceedings. Bill Gaddis said that just six months after he denounced his gang membership, he walked into a room full of members while looking for his brother, heard an accusation against Jamie, and noticed Jamie didn't respond. He said he left in disgust, and that they let him leave with such sensitive information because he could whoop them all. He testified to that. But his brother testified he was a known liar in their family, that it did not happen. The judge did not allow his brother to give detailed information about the family history so the jury could put it into perspective. But he just came forward in this episode and exposed the explicit atrocities his reverend brother was actually running from and detailed the hefty payment he was offered to testify against Jamie Snow.

If you have any information that may help Jamie please call the tip line at 888-710-SNOW. There's a \$10,000 reward for any information leading to a new trial or the exoneration of Jamie Snow. The tip line is free and confidential.

This wasn't the only seemingly reputable person who tried to use Jamie's case to help ease the consequences for their own indiscretions. Corrections Officer, Mary Burns, was in the hot seat when she suddenly remembered hearing something from Jamie years before too. How did Mary Burns, get away with it? That's next time, on Snow Files.

Transcribed by: Jinger Fiola

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