

**REPORT OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO THE JULY 2013, DANBOISE
MURDER-SUICIDE IN NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

May 29, 2014

I. THE INVESTIGATION

A. Initial report

On July 13, 2013, at approximately 7:56 am, Nashua police officers responded to the Mary and Reginald Danboise home at 17 Middle Dunstable Road in Nashua. The officers had been called there by some of the Danboise's family members who were concerned that they could not locate the Danboise's.

Once at the Danboise home, the officers spoke with Reginald Danboise's adult daughters. The two daughters told the officers that Reginald had stopped by their homes the night before and left each of them a short note with a substantial check. Reginald did not speak to his daughters; he merely left the note and check and drove off. Because that behavior was so unusual, they tried to contact Reginald on the phone that night. Reginald did not answer his phone and so the next morning, July 13, 2013, the two daughters decided to go to Nashua and check on their father and his wife.¹ When they got there, some neighbors also arrived and after a cursory search of the first floor of the home, the Danboise's were not located and the police were called.

B. Search of the Danboise home

After being called to the Danboise home, the police searched the home and outbuildings.

The home had an attached garage. Inside, the police located Reginald Danboise's car and Mary Danboise's car. The front of Mary Danboise's car was filled with a variety of items to the extent it would have been impossible for anyone to get in and drive it. Those items included pillows and bedding materials with blood on them, bloody paper towels, computers and related hardware, and paperwork, including paperwork relating to the Danboise's estate. The back seat had only a printer on it.

There was nothing unusual about the condition of Reginald Danboise's car. However, a red plastic gasoline container was found on the garage floor just to the left of its trunk. The gasoline container appeared out of place, based on the location and condition of other items in the garage and house. Given all the items in Mary Danboise's car, it is possible that Reginald Danboise was going to use the gasoline to set fire to the items in Mary's car.

¹ These two daughters were Reginald's children from a previous marriage. Mary Danboise also had two children from a prior marriage.

Inside the home, the police located Mary Danboise's body in the master bedroom. She was in bed, covered with a blanket. There was blood spatter located on the nearby wall and ceiling. Blood was also located in various other locations and there were signs that significant efforts had been made to clean up some of the blood evidence.

Outside in the back yard, the police located several outbuildings. One of those was a substantial woodworking shop. Inside, the police found Reginald Danboise dead, hanging from the ceiling.

C. Timeline

On Friday evening, July 12, 2013, Reginald Danboise stopped by his two daughters' homes and left a note and a check for each one. The next day, on Saturday, July 13, 2013, Reginald Danboise's daughters went to the Danboise home and eventually called the police at approximately 7:56 a.m.

Based on the condition of the bodies and other evidence, it appears that Mary Danboise was killed on Friday. Reginald Danboise appears to have made efforts to clean up the blood evidence in the house and potentially prepare to set fire to the property. It also appears that Reginald was likely alive and in the home when his daughters showed up on Saturday morning. Once he realized his daughters were there, he apparently went out a back door to the house, into his wood shop, where he hung himself.

D. Investigation in the relationship between Mary and Reginald Danboise

The Nashua police spoke to many witnesses who knew Mary and Reginald Danboise. Almost all said that the relationship between the two appeared good, with no apparent issues. However, two witnesses provided details that indicated problems with the relationship.

One witness said that Mary Danboise had spoken to her about problems she had with Reginald. She stated that Reginald had a drinking problem and attempted to kill himself about a year before.

Another witness said that Mary was unhappy in the relationship. The relationship was described as a constant high and low. That witness said that Mary and Reginald constantly argued, mostly about money issues. At one point in the past, things turned physical and had Reginald grabbed and pushed Mary. Mary and Reginald had also spoken of divorce in the past. About a year earlier, without Reginald's knowledge, Mary had gone to an attorney to get information about filing for divorce.

E. Autopsy results

The State's Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Jennie V. Duval, performed autopsies on the Danboise's on July 14, 2013.

Mary Danboise (age 64), died as a result of two stab wounds to her chest. She also had extensive blunt impact injuries to her face, multiple contusions to other parts of her body, and a fractured thumb. Her manner of death was homicide.

Reginald Danboise (age 67), died as a result of suicide by hanging. He also had a stab wound to his front, left shoulder and abrasions and contusions.

There were no significant toxicological findings in either Mary or Reginald Danboise's blood.

II. CONCLUSION

Given the physical evidence, it appears likely that the Danboise's engaged in some sort of altercation, that turned physically violent. The injuries to Mary Danboise are consistent with a significant physical beating, prior to her being stabbed to death. The stab wound to Reginald Danboise's shoulder preceded his death and may have been the result of his altercation with his wife, an accident of some kind, or potentially self-inflicted. Regardless, based on all the evidence, it is apparent that Reginald Danboise killed his wife, Mary Danboise, and then took his own life.

As for what precipitated the incident, the evidence points to marital discord, possibly over finances and potentially, Mary Danboise's desire for a divorce.

Since Reginald Danboise took his own life and is dead, as the perpetrator of Mary Danboise's murder he cannot be charged. Therefore, no criminal charges will be brought in connection with this matter and the case will be closed.