



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit

NH Department of Justice / New Hampshire State Police
33 Hazen Drive - Concord, NH - 03305

NEWS RELEASE

Released by: Joseph A. Foster, Attorney General

Subject: Cold case murder of Judith Whitney from July 1987, in Winchester, New Hampshire has been solved – deceased person identified as the murderer.

Date: December 23, 2014

Contact: Benjamin J. Agati – Assistant Attorney General
(603) 419-0124

INTRODUCTION

New Hampshire Attorney General Joseph A. Foster and Colonel Robert Quinn of the New Hampshire State Police, announce that a cold case murder from July 1987 in Winchester, New Hampshire has been solved. However, no arrest will be made and no prosecution commenced because the perpetrator of the murder died in 2011.

On July 20, 1987, Judith Whitney was reported missing to the Amherst Police Department in Amherst, Massachusetts. Investigation revealed that Judith, age 43, was last seen alive in Keene New Hampshire on July 2, 1987. Four months later on November 8, 1987, a hunter discovered Judith's body buried in a shallow grave in Winchester, New Hampshire. A suspect named Edward Mayrand, then-age 40, was developed during the investigation, and after Judith's initial disappearance he was found in possession of Judith's car and handgun. However, not enough evidence was uncovered to support an arrest for homicide and none was made. The case eventually became inactive.

In 2010, the NH Cold Case Unit started working together with investigators from the Massachusetts State Police and members of the Worcester District Attorney's Office to revive the investigation. Those efforts included sharing information concerning Judith Whitney's murder and the 1983 unsolved murder of Kathleen M. Daneault, age 25, in Gardner, Massachusetts. In June of 2011, the NH Cold Case Unit was assisting the Massachusetts State Police in preparing a search warrant to obtain a sample of Edward Mayrand's DNA, when they learned that Mayrand was ill. A sample of his DNA was obtained and tested. In September 2014, the DNA testing revealed that Mayrand's DNA was on the ligature used to strangle Kathleen Daneault. This DNA finding along with other evidence convinced authorities that Edward Mayrand murdered Kathleen Daneault. The DNA evidence and other evidence, including corroborative evidence based upon details of the two murders and the physical



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

evidence collected, also convinced authorities that Edward Mayrand murdered Judith Whitney. However, since Edward Mayrand died of metastatic lung cancer in 2011, he cannot be prosecuted for either murder. Therefore, this case will be closed as “solved,” but without an arrest and prosecution.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND:

The investigation began on July 20, 1987, when Warren Whitney told the Amherst Massachusetts Police Department that his estranged wife, Judith Whitney, was missing. After some investigation, the police learned that Judith Whitney met Edward Mayrand through AA meetings sometime around June of 1987. Whitney and Mayrand were supposed to go camping together, and Whitney told several acquaintances that she would be leaving Amherst to go camping with Mayrand, whom she introduced to others as “Ed”. At the time, Mayrand was on parole with Massachusetts for a 1975 sexual assault. Mayrand violated his parole by leaving Massachusetts with Whitney to go to New Hampshire.

Judith Whitney and Edward Mayrand stayed at the Valley Green Motel in Keene, New Hampshire on July 1st and July 2nd, 1987. This was confirmed by records that indicated she signed in as “a party of two” and paid cash for the room. A local bartender saw Whitney and Mayrand in the lounge on the evening of July 1, 1987. This same bartender saw the pair again the following day at a local bank plaza around noon time, where Whitney made a \$300 cash withdrawal from an ATM. A maid from the motel also saw Whitney and Mayrand together in Whitney’s brown Ford Mustang on both July 1st and 2nd.

On July 3rd, however, the same maid saw Edward Mayrand driving Judith Whitney’s car by himself at 9:00 a.m., throwing a brown shopping bag into the motel’s dumpster. In making small talk, Mayrand referred to Whitney as “my wife”, and he told the maid that Whitney had gone to visit relatives but the relatives did not like him so he was going to visit friends. He then drove away in Whitney’s car. During their conversation, the maid noticed that Mayrand appeared to have recently showered and changed. Following this conversation, the maid went directly to the room where Mayrand and Whitney were staying. The maid noticed that neither of the beds had been slept in the night before.

Also on July 3rd, another motel staff member took a call from a male caller who identified himself as “Mr. Whitney.” The caller said that they had not used the room the night before as they were having car trouble, but he still wanted the room because they had left their clothes in it. The maid checked the room each day after July 3rd and no one appeared to have ever returned to the room. Neither Judith Whitney nor Edward Mayrand ever checked out of the room, but left behind were four bags of personal belongings. Management finally removed these items on July 14, 1987, and eventually gave them to the police. The items included Whitney and Mayrand’s clothes, Whitney’s purse, and a spare set of car keys for her Ford Mustang. They did



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

not include a .22 caliber handgun or a portable “boom box” stereo, which she was known to have carried either on her person or in her car.

In mid-July 1987, according to visitor logs at Forest Lake Campground in Winchester, Edward Mayrand visited friends and was seen driving Judith Whitney’s brown Ford Mustang. On July 20, 1987, Whitney’s Mustang was found approximately 150 feet off of Collins Pond Road in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. A search turned up no sign of Whitney in the area. The car was locked when the police discovered it, and Whitney’s .22 handgun, and “boom box” stereo were not in it. However, a July 1, 1987 invoice was found in the car for the purchase of 500 rounds of .22 caliber ammunition.

After learning of his warrant from Massachusetts and upon discovering his whereabouts in New Hampshire, the police discovered Edward Mayrand hiding in a closet inside a Peterborough apartment on August 4, 1987. Mayrand was arrested as a fugitive from justice charge as a result of his parole violation. A subsequent search of the apartment revealed Mayrand was carrying Judith Whitney’s handgun in a bag along with 252 rounds of .22 caliber ammunition for the gun. Mayrand had also changed his appearance by recently shaving off his beard.

The apartment’s resident, Deardre Gladu, told police that she met Edward Mayrand in the lounge of the Valley Green Motel around 11:00 p.m. on July 3, 1987. Along with her friend, Sylvia Taylor, Deardre Gladu spent the evening with Mayrand at the bar. Mayrand was alone when Gladu met him. At closing time, Mayrand gave Gladu a necklace. Mayrand said he had kept the jewelry as part of a settlement when he divorced his wife, and that he often gives someone a token when he has a good time with the person. Mayrand said that he was staying at the Valley Green Motel and invited Gladu and Taylor back to the room, but they declined.

Deardre Gladu saw Edward Mayrand arrive the next day at her apartment driving a brown Ford Mustang. Mayrand said he came to Keene with a woman, but he “sent her packing,” after an argument, and was looking to start up a nightclub in the area. They went out to dinner with Sylvia Taylor and Mayrand paid for the meal. On July 5th, Mayrand drove Deardre Gladu to the Valley Green Motel in Keene where Mayrand went into the room and came out with a “boom box” radio, cassette tapes, a few shirts, and some wine. He then spent several days with Gladu before leaving on July 7th, saying he was going to Northampton, Massachusetts on business but would be back in a few days. Gladu did not see Mayrand again until July 16th. Mayrand told her that the water pump broke on the Mustang he had been driving and he bummed a ride to her apartment from a friend. Mayrand stayed with Gladu for two days and visited friends at the Forest Lake Campground in Winchester on July 17th. Mayrand stayed at Gladu’s apartment until July 29th, when he rented a room at the Ashuelot Motel in Winchester. Gladu believed Mayrand shaved his beard around July 28th or 29th.



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

Gladu gave the police the necklace and boom box Mayrand had entrusted to her, and was unaware that Mayrand had a .22 handgun in her home. Judith Whitney's family members later identified the necklace as Judith's. Gladu had never seen Judith Whitney and Mayrand never mentioned Whitney's name.

Gladu's friend, Sylvia Taylor told investigators that Edward Mayrand gave her a watch on or about July 4th, which she later turned over to the police. The watch was later identified by members of Judith Whitney's family as Judith's. Taylor also related that several weeks later, Mayrand told her he got rid of the Mustang after he went to Maine to collect some money people owed him about his nightclub business and was involved in a shoot out where the car was damaged.

Edward Mayrand was interviewed following his arrest for being a fugitive from justice. He confirmed that he left Massachusetts with Judith Whitney in her brown Ford Mustang, and told police he last saw Whitney around 10:00 p.m. on July 2, 1987, in the lounge of the Valley Green Motel. Mayrand said he started drinking, and Whitney became upset because Mayrand was dancing with other women in the bar. Mayrand said that Whitney started drinking double shots and left the bar while Mayrand was dancing, and he did not see her when she left. Mayrand told investigators that he left the bar that night, returned to their room, and Whitney was not there. Mayrand claimed he slept in their room that night and drove around Keene the next day looking for Whitney. He returned to the motel again the following night on July 3rd. Mayrand admitted telling motel staff that he had car trouble and for them to hold the motel room, but did not tell investigators there was anything wrong with the car.

Mayrand admitted not telling anyone about Judith Whitney's disappearance, and meeting Deardre Gladu the night of July 3rd. Mayrand also admitted to using Whitney's car for about a week before he abandoned it. He told police that he stayed either at a tent he set up in Fitzwilliam near the Massachusetts border, and later alternated between staying in the tent and at Gladu's apartment. Mayrand explained that he began to panic that Whitney would report him to his parole officer for stealing the car so he abandoned the car on a back road in Fitzwilliam. Finally, Mayrand admitted to taking Whitney's .22 handgun from her car when he abandoned it in mid-July. He claimed he took the .22 because he was thinking about killing himself if he was caught for violating parole. Later investigation revealed that Mayrand had placed a series of collect calls to his ex-wife from July 22 to 27, 1987, and at least one of those calls originated from Fitzwilliam.

Mayrand tried to explain his behavior after Judith Whitney's disappearance by saying he was concerned that if he told the truth about drinking and travelling with Whitney he would be violated on his parole. He admitted however, that he was aware the fugitive from justice warrant was issued for his arrest. Mayrand claimed that he shaved his beard about a week before his arrest because he had a job interview, although investigators found no evidence to support his claim.



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

Months later, Deardre Gladu continued to stay in contact with Mayrand after his reincarceration in Massachusetts for violating parole. She later told investigators she had asked him if the necklace he gave her on July 3rd belonged to Judith Whitney, and Mayrand said it belonged to his ex-wife and he got in the divorce settlement. Mayrand did, however, admit to her that the watch he gave to Sylvia Taylor on July 4th belonged to Whitney. New Hampshire investigators visited Mayrand at prison in Concord, Massachusetts, and he agreed to talk with them. When shown the necklace he gave to Gladu and watch from Taylor, Mayrand admitted that both of those items belonged to Whitney. When the police asked Mayrand if he would take a polygraph test, he became upset and left the interview room.

On November 8, 1987, Whitney's body was discovered in Winchester, New Hampshire by a hunter. Her body was badly decomposed and buried in a shallow grave. The grave site was photographed and videotaped, and a number of items were collected from the grave. Whitney had a sweater with a large piece torn from it, and a blue rain slicker nearby with a drawstring missing. The decomposition was significant enough that identification had to be made through her dental records. The piece of cloth torn from the sweater was tied into an open knot, and what appeared to be the missing drawstring from Judith's rain slicker was also tied into an open knot. They were tied with a simple "granny knot," and the size of the knot holes was consistent with the circumference of a woman's neck. An examination of the knots revealed some human hair caught in the knots. Following an autopsy and a review of these forensic examinations, the medical examiner concluded in his final autopsy report that the cause of Judith Whitney's death was "asphyxia by ligature strangulation" and the manner of her death was homicide.

Following the discovery of Whitney's body, police interviewed Cheryl Staddler, a witness who walked her dog in the same area where the body was found. While she could not remember the exact date, Staddler said she was walking with her step-daughter sometime in July or early August of 1987 when she heard a woman scream in the woods. Staddler and her step-daughter got into her car and drove around. She later saw a small, dark brown car with a Massachusetts license plate parked with a lone male seated in the driver's position that she had not seen when she started her walk earlier in the day. Staddler described how the male driver of the small brown car watched Staddler's actions very closely, and she was unsure whether he had a mustache or beard since he covered the lower portion of his face with a newspaper as she drove by. Staddler said she believed this man was purposely attempting to conceal his identity by the way he focused on her and maintained the newspaper over the bottom of his face. What Staddler saw is consistent with Mayrand's appearance and him driving Whitney's car.

Edward Mayrand had a lengthy and violent criminal history. Relevant to this investigation, this history started with a conviction for rape in Warwick, Massachusetts in December of 1975. Reports revealed that Mayrand met his female victim in a bar. He then drove her to a remote area, punched her in the stomach, and choked her with her own scarf before he drove her near a cemetery where he sexually assaulted her several times. Before the



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

sexual assault her told her, “I would let you go after but you will go to the police,” causing her to believe he would kill her. She only escaped by running naked from the car in the middle of the icy and rainy night through several hundred yards of dark woods towards a house and pounding on the door.

Mayrand was convicted of rape and assault and sentenced to prison. By the fall of 1983, Edward Mayrand was released on parole from his conviction. In December of 1983, Mayrand returned to prison for a parole violation after being implicated in a burglary. However, it was during this period of release in the fall of 1983 that Mayrand committed another vicious crime, and left behind evidence that would eventually lead to his identity as Judith Whitney’s murderer.

On November 17, 1983, Kathleen M. Daneault, age 25, was with Edward Mayrand at the Mahaki Restaurant in Gardner, Massachusetts. On November 18, 1983, Kathleen’s body was found not far from the restaurant, strangled with a piece of her own blouse which was ripped off, tied in a simple knot, and used as a ligature to strangle her. Kathleen’ body was found adjacent to a furniture factory where Mayrand had recently been fired from. Mayrand was questioned, but he flatly denied that he even knew Daneault or had been out with a woman that evening. Several days later when he was confronted with several witness statements that Mayrand was seen with Daneault, Mayrand changed his story. Mayrand then admitted to investigators that he had met Daneault and had drinks with her, but then left her at the bar and headed home. When Mayrand was re-incarcerated a month later for his parole violation, he remained in prison another two and a half years until May of 1986 when he transitioned to a halfway house in Northampton, Massachusetts. It was from this halfway house that he would later walk away and eventually meet Judith Whitney near June of 1987. Meanwhile, several law enforcement agencies from Massachusetts continued their investigation into Kathleen Daneault’s death.

On November 20, 1989, the New Hampshire Attorney General’s Office charged Edward Mayrand with being a felon-in-possession of a firearm for taking and possessing Whitney’s weapon. However no homicide charges were brought given the evidence collected at that time. Mayrand was arrested in Montague, Massachusetts on November 24, 1989. When the police attempted to interview Mayrand after his arrest for the felon-in-possession charge, Mayrand refused to speak. He eventually pled guilty and was sentenced to 2½ - 5 years in prison. He was released near his minimum date and then left the state. While Mayrand was serving his time in the New Hampshire State Prison, two inmates came forward claiming that Mayrand confessed to them that he had “done in” at least two people before, and that he had killed a woman in Massachusetts and another woman in the Keene area. The inmates were interviewed and appeared credible, but their statements lacked any additional corroborative details.

After his release, Mayrand travelled to Rhode Island. In 1994, Mayrand met and killed Patricia Paquette in Providence, Rhode Island. Patricia, age 46, was reported missing on December 8, 1994. Her body was found on December 21st of that year in a vacant house around the corner from where Mayrand had been staying. Similar to witness reports in the Whitney and



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

Daneault cases, Mayrand was the last person seen with Paquette after they were drinking together at a neighborhood lounge. Patricia's cause of death was asphyxiation. Her body was discovered dismembered and stuffed inside several plastic garbage bags. Daneault's body was found adjacent to Mayrand's former place of work in Gardner, Massachusetts. The way Mayrand disposed of Paquette's body was different from the Daneault and Whitney cases, and showed an escalation in his violent behavior and effort to conceal his criminal acts.

Edward Mayrand was arrested in New Haven, Connecticut, in February of 1995 for Patricia Paquette's murder. Mayrand made several admissions to murdering Paquette and pled guilty to Second Degree Murder. He received a sentence which, essentially resulted in 35 – 60 years in prison.

After Mayrand pled guilty to Paquette's murder, New Hampshire State Police investigators contacted Rhode Island authorities about interviewing him about the death of Judith Whitney. However, Mayrand refused to speak to any other law enforcement authorities and was never interviewed.

Following Mayrand's conviction for murder, the investigation into Judith Whitney's case became dormant. Starting in 2010, the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit, investigators from the Massachusetts State Police, and members of the Worcester District Attorney's Office began working together on the Whitney and Daneault cases. Through the beginning of 2011, witnesses from the original case file were located and re-interviewed. Many of the key witnesses in the investigation were still local and had vivid recollections of both the events of that time and their interactions with Mayrand. Investigators from the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit also attempted to interview Mayrand in February of 2011, but he again refused to be interviewed. By June of 2011, the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit was assisting the Massachusetts State Police in preparing a search warrant to obtain a sample of Mayrand's DNA, when they were told that his health was deteriorating fast due to metastatic lung cancer. The search warrant was finished and authorized, and a sample was obtained. Edward Mayrand died later that month on June 29, 2011.

From 2011 through 2014, New Hampshire Cold Case Unit and Massachusetts investigators continued their investigation and sought forensic testing of physical evidence in each case. The ligature Mayrand used to kill Daneault was a piece of her torn blouse tied in a simple knot used to strangle her. Similarly, a piece of Judith Whitney's sweater and the drawstring for her rain slicker were ripped off, tied in a granny knot, and used to strangle her. The New Hampshire Cold Case Unit sought additional forensic testing of the ligatures found on Judith Whitney. Unfortunately, the degradation of the DNA on the hairs within the ripped piece of sweater and drawstring due to exposure to the elements made them unsuitable for additional DNA analysis.



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

On September 3, 2014, the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit spoke with their Massachusetts counterparts, and learned that DNA testing revealed the presence of Mayrand's DNA throughout the piece of torn blouse used to strangle Daneault. This was significant because Mayrand had denied ever seeing Daneault outside of the bar, or ever getting physical with her. These DNA results left no possible innocent explanations for why Mayrand's DNA would be present on the ripped piece of blouse used to strangle her. In addition, Mayrand's DNA was also found on Daneault's underwear. To ensure the accuracy of the testing, the ligature was tested in three separate areas. Mayrand's DNA came back in all three areas of the ligature.

CONCLUSION

Edward Mayrand was the only person with the motive and opportunity to kill Judith Whitney. He was found in possession of Whitney's personal items, made inconsistent statements about her whereabouts and her relationship with him, started giving away her personal items before she was even reported as missing, and the ligatures found with Whitney's body were torn from her clothing and utilized in a similar manner as that used by Mayrand to strangle Kathleen Daneault. Mayrand's repeated inconsistent statements and lies when interviewed also showed purposeful deception about his knowledge of Whitney's disappearance. Based on this and the other evidence outlined in this report, there is proof beyond a reasonable doubt that Mayrand murdered Judith Whitney.

Edward Mayrand's pattern with women was one of violence. As evinced with his first conviction for rape, he repeatedly met women in taverns and bars, befriended them, and then turned violent towards them. Mayrand met Judith Whitney while a fugitive from justice out of Massachusetts, having broken his parole a second time by walking away from a halfway home. The first time he violated parole he was caught and implicated in a breaking and entering. On his second parole violation, Mayrand left for New Hampshire with Whitney, who became his source of money, alcohol, and transportation.

It is unclear whether Whitney knew Mayrand was a fugitive before he killed her. What is clear is that her money, car, and belongings were found on Mayrand or were given away by him less than 24 hours after she was last seen alive on July 2nd. The following day, Mayrand was driving Whitney's car, telling motel employees that she had gone to visit relatives, spending her money buying drinks for Deardre Gladu and Sylvia Taylor, and giving away her jewelry. He told investigators that Whitney walked out on her own accord, leaving her car, clothing, and all her other worldly possessions behind. These inconsistent statements, as compared to what Mayrand told others about Whitney going to visit family and that they were a married couple, lead to a reasonable inference that Mayrand knew exactly what happened to Judith Whitney and was responsible for her death.



New Hampshire Cold Case Unit Est.2009

Whitney's asphyxiation and the condition of her body are markedly similar to Kathleen Daneault's. In both cases, the ligatures were made from ripped pieces of the victims' top clothing (blouse, sweater, and rain slicker drawstring). The ligatures were also all tied in a simple manner. Similarly, Mayrand's 1975 rape victim was also strangled with a piece of her own clothing (scarf), before Mayrand sexually assaulted her. Mayrand's use of strangulation and his method of ligature creation are common threads in his crimes and indicative of a consistent method he used during the physical and sexual assaults he committed throughout his lifetime.

When the Whitney investigation was renewed in 2011, the investigators believed that there might be some physical evidence that could link Edward Mayrand with where Judith Whitney's body was discovered. Unfortunately, the hair samples recovered from the knots of both ligatures were too degraded to conduct any further testing. These results may have been immaterial, since Mayrand had been staying in the same motel room with Whitney for several days and this could have offered an innocent explanation for the presence of his DNA or hair on her clothes. Regardless, the New Hampshire investigation into the death of Judith Whitney stalled without additional evidence to connect Mayrand to Whitney's death.

Unlike in the Whitney case, the presence of Mayrand's DNA on the ligature used to kill Kathleen Daneault has no innocent explanations. Mayrand repeatedly told investigators that Daneault left him after they met at the bar and that there had been no close contact between them. However, the presence of Mayrand's DNA throughout Daneault's ligature shows otherwise. The DNA results provide significant physical evidence linking Mayrand with Daneault's death.

In light of Mayrand's culpability for Daneault's murder, the investigators further compared her murder with Whitney's murder. This comparison revealed numerous similarities between their murders, the rape of Mayrand's victim in 1975, and the murder of Patricia Paquette. Those similarities, and all the evidence surrounding each case, have enabled the investigators to conclude that that Edward Mayrand killed Judith Whitney.

Although the New Hampshire State Police focused on all other possible suspects during the course of the Whitney murder investigation, there is no credible evidence that anyone other than Edward Mayrand killed Judith Whitney. Under usual circumstances, the evidence collected in this case would have been presented to a grand jury for indictment, and then followed by a trial where the State would have to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. Here, the person the evidence points to as the killer, Edward Mayrand, has died. Therefore, instead of resolving this case with a trial the case will now be administratively closed as "solved," based on the suspect's death.