

**ATTORNEY GENERAL’S REPORT REGARDING THE MAY 20, 1975,
MURDER OF JUDY LORD IN CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

I. INTRODUCTION

Attorney General John M. Formella announces the completion of the investigation into the May 20, 1975, murder of Judith (“Judy”) Lord (age 22) within her residence at the Concord Gardens Apartments in Concord, New Hampshire. Following a nearly five-decades-long investigation by the Concord Police Department in conjunction with the Attorney General’s Cold Case Unit, the perpetrator of this crime has been identified as Ernest Theodore Gable. Mr. Gable was murdered on February 1, 1987, at the age of 36. Therefore, even though the Attorney General has concluded that there would have been sufficient evidence to prosecute Mr. Gable for first degree murder in the death of Ms. Lord, criminal charges cannot be brought.

The purpose of this report is to summarize the Attorney General’s factual findings and legal conclusions regarding the culpability of Mr. Gable in the murder of Ms. Lord. The findings and conclusions in this report are based on the totality of the evidence amassed through this decades-long investigation, including: (1) irrefutable forensic evidence directly linking Mr. Gable's biological material to the victim and the crime scene; (2) compelling and consistent accounts from multiple sources detailing the victim’s genuine and well-founded fear of Mr. Gable and his demonstrably predatory and unwelcome behavior directed towards her; (3) significant and irreconcilable inconsistencies and outright falsehoods embedded within Mr. Gable’s own self-serving statements provided to law enforcement during the initial inquiry; (4) and the chillingly corroborative and deeply disturbing pattern of violence—including documented acts of strangulation and a demonstrated proclivity for non-consensual sexual

encounters—exhibited by Mr. Gable towards other women. Given this extensive and compelling evidence, if Mr. Gable were still alive, the Attorney General’s Office would charge him with the first-degree murder of Judith Lord. Due to the death of Mr. Gable, this case will be closed and identified as “solved.”

II. SUMMARY OF THE FACTS

A. Discovery of the Crime

On May 20, 1975, at approximately 12:20 PM, Joseph McVey, the operations manager for the Concord Gardens Apartments, discovered 22-year-old Judith Lord deceased in her apartment at Building 19, Apartment 4. He had entered the unit to collect overdue rent after his knocks went unanswered, despite hearing the persistent cries of a baby inside. He found Ms. Lord in an upstairs bedroom, lying on the bed with a blue plastic item covering her face. After removing it and finding her unresponsive, he immediately called the police.

Responding officers from the Concord Police Department found a scene that bore witness to a violent struggle. A curtain had been torn from the wall, its rod broken. Broken cigarettes were scattered on the floor and bed, and an alarm clock lay upside-down, stopped at 1:47. In an adjacent bedroom, Ms. Lord’s 20-month-old son was found unharmed in his crib.



Figure 1 - Photograph of Concord Gardens circa 1975



(Monitor Photo By Ken Williams)

Murder Victim's Body Removed From Apartment

*Figure 2 - Photograph from the Concord Monitor – Judith
Lord's body is removed from the apartment on the afternoon of May 20, 1975*

B. Judith Lord

Judith Lord was born in Maine on May 6, 1953, the eleventh of fourteen children. Her family relocated to New Hampshire when she was a teenager. Around 1971, she began dating Gregory (“Greg”) Lord, who was home on military leave. They married on March 14, 1973, and she subsequently joined him at his station in Germany, where their child was born in September of that year.



Figure 3 - Enhanced Photograph of Judith Lord

It was during this period at the military base that Ms. Lord later disclosed to family and friends she had been physically assaulted by Mr. Lord. This alleged assault was never reported to law enforcement.

In October 1974, the Lords returned to the United States and moved into an apartment on Spring Street in downtown Concord. Greg Lord found employment as an attendant at the New Hampshire State Hospital. During the last weekend of March 1975, the Lords moved to the

Concord Gardens apartment complex, Building 19, Apartment 4. In the brief time that Judith lived at the complex before her murder, she made many friends and was reportedly very popular within the community and among her neighbors, often seen playing her guitar on the front steps while her son played on the lawn.

On May 4, 1975, officers from the Concord Police Department were dispatched to the Lord residence due to a domestic disturbance call. Judith met the responding officers and reported a physical assault by Mr. Lord. She explained that Mr. Lord picked her up from her work at McKerley's Nursing Home, and an argument erupted upon their return home. The situation escalated when Mr. Lord went upstairs and Judith followed him. She reported that Mr. Lord came out of their walk-in closet and struck her repeatedly in the face. She further stated that Mr. Lord pushed her into the closet, and his assault only ceased when she screamed for him to stop. The officers observed visible injuries on Ms. Lord, including two black eyes, a lump on the back of her head, and dried blood around her mouth. Mr. Lord was arrested the next day pursuant to a warrant for Simple Assault. He entered an immediate guilty plea and was fined \$100.

Following this conviction, Mr. Lord moved out of their shared apartment, taking nearly all the furniture and leaving Ms. Lord with only a bed and the baby's crib. He relocated to his grandmother's apartment situated across the street. In the aftermath of the assault and Mr. Lord's departure, Ms. Lord resigned from her job.



Figure 4 - Last known photos of Judith Lord, taken on May 17, 1975

C. Timeline of Events Preceding the Murder

Based on numerous witness interviews conducted in 1975, investigators were able to construct a detailed timeline of Judith Lord's activities on her last day, Monday, May 19, 1975. The afternoon began with an interaction with her husband, Mr. Lord.¹ At approximately 4:00 p.m., Ms. Lord returned to her best friend Rebecca Dunbar's apartment to pick up her son. She had been at the bank with Mr. Lord to cash her final paycheck from McKerley's Nursing Home. Later that evening, from approximately 8:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m., Ms. Lord joined a group of neighbors, including Linda Gable and Jeff Cota, for a game of volleyball behind her apartment building. After the game concluded, Ms. Lord, Ms. Gable, and Mr. Cota went to Ms. Gable's apartment for coffee. Linda Gable and her husband, Ernest Gable, lived next door to Judith Lord and their apartment shared a common wall.

¹ Greg Lord accompanied Ms. Lord to the bank so she could cash her final paycheck from her job at McKerley's Nursing Home.

A short time later, Ms. Lord expressed a specific concern for her safety. She asked Mr. Cota to accompany her next door to her own apartment and “check it out” for her because she had left her back door unlocked. Mr. Cota searched the downstairs and upstairs rooms while Ms. Lord waited. Finding nothing amiss, Ms. Lord retrieved three cans of Pepsi from her refrigerator, locked her back door, and the two returned to Ms. Gable's apartment.

At approximately 11:30 p.m., Ms. Lord left Ms. Gable's apartment to go home for the night. She returned briefly a few minutes later to borrow a pair of shoes before departing for the last time. Around midnight, Ms. Gable reported hearing through the common wall with Ms. Lord’s apartment, the sound of the shower running. This testimony would later become crucial when combined with the state of the evidence found in the bedroom.

Less than an hour after the time that Ms. Gable heard the shower running, between 12:45 a.m. and 12:50 a.m., a co-worker dropped Ernest Gable off in front of the apartment building. At approximately 1:30 a.m., multiple neighbors were awakened by a woman’s screams. Ms. Lord’s neighbor, Barbara Noel, positively identified the voice as Judith Lord’s and heard her yell “leave me alone, leave me alone” before the sound was abruptly muffled, as if a hand had been placed over her mouth. The initial disturbance lasted for only a few minutes before silence returned. However, another neighbor, Larry Caraway, whose bedroom shared a wall with Ms. Lord’s, reported that after a period of silence, he heard moaning and the “bed really started banging away,” which he interpreted to be the sounds of sexual intercourse. These sounds reportedly continued for an extended period of time.

D. The Crime Scene and Physical Evidence

When investigators arrived later that morning, following Mr. McVey's discovery of Judith Lord's body, they documented a scene in the master bedroom that indicated a violent struggle. The room was in disarray. A green curtain lay on the floor, having been pulled down from the window, with a section of the broken curtain rod still inside it. The bed was canted away from the wall. On the floor near the bed lay a travel alarm clock which had stopped at 1:47, a small mirror, and a lampshade that had been knocked from its base.

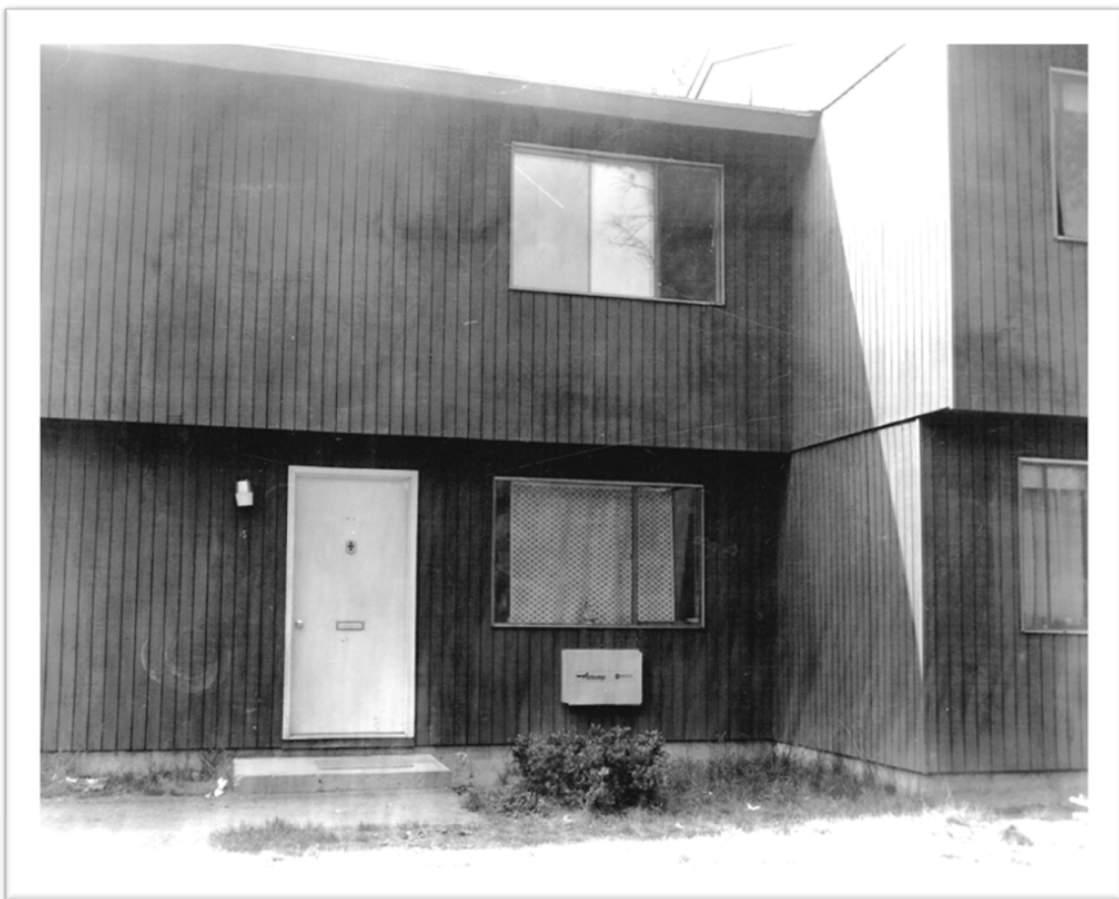


Figure 5 - Photograph of Concord Gardens Apartment Complex, Building 19, Apartment 4 – May 20, 1975

Judith Lord was found lying on her back in the bed. When investigators removed the bed linens, they discovered she was completely naked. A crumpled, unsmoked Marlboro cigarette was found on top of the bedspread covering her body.

A meticulous search of the scene by the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Lab on May 21, 1975, yielded a significant amount of physical evidence. In the bedroom alone, twenty-three separate items were collected. This included the blue plastic sauna suit that had been covering Ms. Lord's face, her purse, the bedding, and two towels from the floor.

A purple towel at the foot of the bed was noted by lab technicians as being “noticeably damp” with three “hardened stained areas...consistent with semen.” A white baby bath towel next to the bed also had two similar, stiff stains. The fact that the semen stains were dried and hardened on top of the still-damp fabric was critical, as it indicated the sexual act occurred after the towel had been used for drying, presumably after Ms. Lord's final shower.



Figure 6 - Crime scene photograph showing the damp purple towel at the located at the foot of the bed.



Figure 7 - Crime scene photograph showing the position location of the damp white towel located beside the bed.

In the bathroom, investigators found a pair of blue jeans and red panties on the floor. These were consistent with the clothes witnesses saw Ms. Lord wearing during the volleyball game the previous night. The toilet seat was in the upright position.



Figure 8 - Photograph from Judith Lord's bathroom showing her jeans on the floor and the toilet seat up, suggesting a male was the last person to use it.

The collection of evidence from Ms. Lord's body and immediately surrounding area was paramount. Five hairs, as discussed *infra*, were determined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Forensic Laboratory to be of African American origin. These were recovered thusly: one from Ms. Lord's left hand, one from her lower abdomen, and three from the bedsheet she was lying on.² These hairs, along with cuttings from the semen-stained towels and blood-stained pillowcase, would become central to solving the case decades later.

² See, section I on the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Forensic Laboratory's hair analysis.

E. Autopsy Findings

An autopsy examination of Ms. Lord was performed on the evening of May 20, 1975, by Dr. Merritt Moon. The final report, issued on July 21, 1975, concluded that the cause of Ms. Lord's death was "homicidal strangulation." Dr. Moon's findings provided a detailed account of the violence inflicted upon Ms. Lord.

Externally, Dr. Moon noted multiple "scratch marks" and abrasions on the victim's face and neck, which were fresh at the time of the autopsy. There was also an abrasion with a small amount of dried blood on the inside of her lip at the right corner of her mouth.

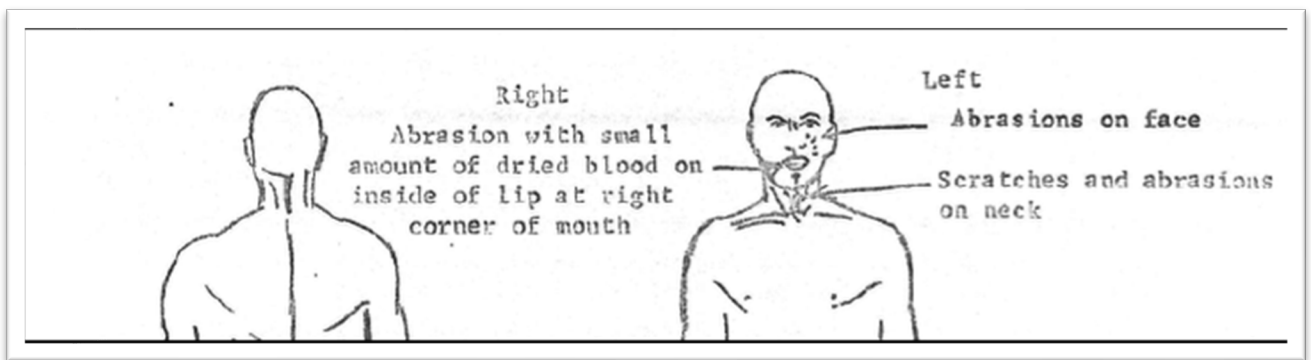


Figure 9 - Diagram from Judith Lord's Autopsy showing relative locations of external injuries.

Internally, the examination revealed fresh hemorrhaging in the muscles and fascias of the neck, along with small blood clots on the left side of the larynx, corresponding to the external marks. These findings, Dr. Moon wrote, "abundantly substantiate the diagnosis" of strangulation.

Dr. Moon also concluded that the marks on the lips and left cheek indicated that "the left hand of the attacker had been held over the nose and mouth." He further noted that "other information suggests that plastic material may have been held, under the left hand of the attacker,

over the nose and mouth of the victim,” a description that matched the blue plastic sweatsuit found at the scene.

During the autopsy, nine separate pieces of evidence were collected, including fingernail scrapings from both hands, a vaginal fluid sample, and, most significantly, a single stray hair recovered from the palm side of the middle finger of Ms. Lord's left hand.

During the examination, Dr. Moon found what “appeared to be semen inside the victim.”³

F. Initial Investigation and Suspect Analysis (1975)

The investigation quickly centered on three individuals: the victim's estranged husband, Greg Lord; a neighbor, Larry Caraway; and another next-door neighbor, Ernest “Ernie” Gable.

1. Mr. Gable’s Advances and Ms. Lord’s Fear

A consistent and disturbing theme emerged from multiple independent witness interviews conducted in the days and weeks following the murder. Judith Lord was afraid of Ernest Gable, and this fear was a direct result of his persistent and unwanted advances towards her. On May 20, 1975, the day of Ms. Lord’s murder, Ms. Lord's older sister, Linda Labrie, told an officer that just ten days earlier, on May 10, Ms. Lord had come to her house because she was “afraid to stay alone.” Judith told her sister she was afraid of both her husband and her African American

³ In a report from February 1976, the FBI Lab noted that the vaginal fluid sample had “gelled” and was “unsuitable for examination.” While the autopsy noted the presence of what was believed to be semen, it did not link it directly to the time of the assault. As discussed below, the definitive evidence of the sexual assault came from the semen and sperm found on the two towels on the bedroom floor, which was later conclusively matched to Ernest Gable through DNA testing.

neighbor next door, indicating Mr. Gable, because he “had made remarks to her about wanting to see her nude.”

This account was corroborated by another neighbor, Paula Bourgeois. Ms. Bourgeois told investigators that Ms. Lord had confided in her about an incident that occurred around May 10, 1975. While Ernie Gable's wife, Linda Gable, was out of town, he came to Ms. Lord's apartment at approximately 2:00 a.m. Ms. Lord, who had been sleeping, answered the door to find Mr. Gable standing there. He asked her if she “wanted to party with him,” an invitation she declined before immediately returning to bed.

Ms. Lord also described her fear of Mr. Gable to those outside her circle of family and neighbors. Several of her former coworkers at the McKerley Nursing Home told investigators that Ms. Lord expressed concern about an African American man who lived near her. One coworker specifically recalled Ms. Lord saying that this man was “always bothering her and hanging around her doors and windows.” Adding to this disturbing pattern, Ms. Lord told her coworker, Christine Breault, about a week before her death, that she was afraid of the African American man who lived beside her, again indicating Mr. Gable. Furthermore, Ms. Lord confided in Ida Richardson, whom she had only known for two days, expressing her fear of the African American man who lived near her. These consistent accounts, provided by those close to Ms. Lord, painted a disturbing picture of Ernest Gable as someone whose behavior made Judith Lord feel profoundly unsafe and uncomfortable in her own home. The repeated expression of fear to multiple confidantes added a significant and troubling dimension to the case. This testimony clearly indicated that Judith Lord perceived Ernest Gable as a genuine threat, and that his behavior towards her was both intrusive and frightening

Ernie Gable's predatory interest in Ms. Lord was not something he kept to himself. His known associate, Thomas Mroz, told investigators that Mr. Gable used to talk about Ms. Lord, referring to her as "the girl next door who was living alone and how he would like to make it with her." Mr. Mroz recounted an instance where Mr. Gable pointed Ms. Lord out to him and made the remark, "[s]ome day I'm going to get me a piece of that white meat." This pattern of behavior by Mr. Gable combined with Ms. Lord's explicitly stated fear of him establish a clear motive for sexual assault and directly contradict any notion of a consensual relationship.

2. Examination and Elimination of Greg Lord

Mr. Lord was initially the prime suspect due to a history of domestic violence against Judith Lord that included allegations of strangulation. In the month leading up to Ms. Lord's murder, Mr. Lord pled guilty to assaulting her and Judy indicated to various people that she was afraid of him.

Notably, however, Greg Lord provided an alibi for the night of the murder, stating that he and his brother had gone fishing and that he returned to his grandmother's apartment at approximately 10:00 p.m.⁴ His grandmother, Flora Follansbee, with whom Mr. Lord lived after leaving Judith Lord, corroborated his account. Ms. Follansbee told investigators on the day of the murder that Mr. Lord arrived home at that time and "never left the apartment for the remainder of the night."

Mr. Lord also submitted to two polygraph examinations. The first, on May 20, 1975, was deemed inconclusive due to his emotional state. The second, on July 30, 1975, was reported by

⁴ While Ms. Lord lived in Building 19, Apartment 4, Mr. Lord moved in with his grandmother, Flora Follansbee, in Building 20, Apartment 1, approximately 200 feet away.

the lead investigator at the time, Sgt. Don Callahan, as a conclusive pass, stating there was “no doubt that this man was telling the truth.” This reported result was a key factor in moving the focus of the investigation away from Mr. Lord during the initial investigation.

However, a 2008 cold case review of the original polygraph charts by the New Hampshire State Police Major Crime Unit came to a different conclusion, finding that the official testing cards for both exams stated the results were “inconclusive due to emotional state.” Consequently, it does not appear that the results of either polygraph test are probative for purposes of inculpatory or exculpatory Mr. Lord.

Crucially, on the evening of the murder, May 20, 1975, while Judith Lord's autopsy was underway, investigators brought Greg Lord to Concord Hospital at the request of Dr. Paul Shaw. Dr. Shaw conducted a physical examination of Mr. Lord specifically to compare his physical condition to the injuries found on the victim. The autopsy had revealed fresh scratches on Ms. Lord's face and neck, indicating she had been clawed by her attacker. Dr. Shaw examined Greg Lord's hands and fingernails and concluded that his fingernails were “very short,” having been bitten down. This observation was documented by investigators and photographed, leading to the determination that his hands could not have produced the scratch marks found on Ms. Lord.



Figure 10 - Photograph of Greg Lord's hands taken on May 20, 1975, documenting his short fingernails.

Through multiple interviews on the day of the murder, Mr. Lord's alibi for the night of May 19th remained consistent. He stated that he and his brother went fishing, and he returned to his grandmother's apartment, a separate building from Ms. Lord's, at approximately 10:00 p.m. He claimed he heard what sounded like a party near Ms. Lord's apartment but went to his grandmother's and did not leave for the rest of the night. As noted above, Mr. Lord's alibi was corroborated by his grandmother, Ms. Follansbee, who told police that Mr. Lord came home at 10:00 p.m. and she was certain he did not leave again. Additionally, his account of his activities on the morning of May 20th, which included going to Judy's apartment to pick her up, getting no answer, then going to court to pay his fine, was generally verifiable and consistent. This physical

evidence, combined with his corroborated alibi, the polygraph result, and the lack of any other physical evidence linking him to the scene, led to his elimination as a suspect.

The most alarming part of Greg Lord's interviews on the date of the murder occurred at 9:05 p.m. While being questioned by investigators about whether he had been in his wife's apartment, he blurted out, "[w]hat do you think I strangled her and then fucked her while she was getting stiff? Do you think I'm some sort of fucking pervert?" This statement stood out to investigators for a critical reason - at that point in the investigation, the specific cause of death had not been released to family or to the public. Mr. Lord's seemingly specific knowledge of both the strangulation and sexual assault, details that aligned with the eventual findings, made him the primary suspect. This utterance was a major focus of the investigation for weeks.

Greg Lord's statements created a conflicting puzzle for the original investigators. On one hand, he had a corroborated alibi and, as was later determined, no physical evidence linked him to the scene. On the other hand, his spontaneous utterance demonstrated a shocking and specific knowledge of the crime that an innocent person would not be expected to possess.⁵ However, upon further review of the investigative materials, it was learned that, shortly after the first officers arrived but before the scene was fully secured, Mr. Lord "entered the apartment unchallenged and ran upstairs to the master bedroom."

One officer's report indicated that this happened while the first four officers were on the second floor, leaving the front door unguarded and the scene therefore unsecured. Mr. Lord confirmed this in his own statement, saying he saw the police, and he "went over and went upstairs and she was lying in bed." An officer reported telling Mr. Lord that his wife was dead and that he needed to leave the apartment.

⁵ This statement alone was enough to keep him as the prime suspect until he was ultimately eliminated by the physical evidence and the mounting forensic and circumstantial case against Ernest Gable.

Because Greg Lord was able to see Ms. Lord's body on the bed, he likely observed that she was naked and injured, such as the scrapes on her neck that were noted by the first responding officers.⁶ This would explain how he knew she had been strangled, which was a key point of suspicion in his later statement to police. Reports also note that there was no indication that Mr. Lord touched or disturbed anything in the room before he was asked to leave.

While Mr. Lord was initially the primary suspect due to his recent, violent assault on his wife and an incriminating statement to police, a combination of a corroborated alibi and a complete lack of any physical or forensic evidence linking him to the crime scene led investigators to definitively eliminate him as the perpetrator.

Mr. Lord provided a consistent alibi for the night of the murder, stating he was at his grandmother's apartment across the street from 10:00 p.m. onwards. This alibi was confirmed by his grandmother who told police he arrived at that time and never left.

More importantly, every piece of forensic evidence collected at the scene excluded Mr. Lord. The semen found on the towels, which, as discussed *infra*, was later matched to Mr. Gable through DNA testing, was from a Type B or AB secretor and Mr. Lord's blood was Type A, making him an impossible match. Furthermore, the five hairs found on Ms. Lord's body were determined to be of African American origin, which also excluded Mr. Lord, as he was a

⁶ The first responding officers observed and documented injuries to Judith Lord's neck. In a report filed on May 20, 1975, Detective Robert West noted that when he arrived on the scene, he observed "what appeared to be scrapes on the left side of her neck." This observation was made before the arrival of the medical examiner and the official autopsy, indicating that the signs of strangulation were visible from the very beginning of the investigation.

Caucasian. No fingerprints matching his were found at the point of entry or anywhere else in the apartment.

Finally, the most compelling piece of evidence that cleared him was a direct physical examination. The autopsy revealed fresh scratch marks on Ms. Lord's face and neck, but on that same day, the medical examiner personally examined Mr. Lord's hands. He concluded that Mr. Lord's fingernails were "very short" and could not have produced the injuries found on the victim. This combination of a strong alibi, a complete lack of any physical link to the crime, and multiple scientific exclusions led investigators to rule him out as the person responsible for Judith Lord's murder.

3. Analysis of Larry Caraway as a Witness and Suspect and his Bias Against Greg Lord

Larry Caraway, Judith's other next-door neighbor, was a key witness who was also briefly considered a suspect. His proximity to the crime and his detailed account of the sounds of the murder made him a crucial part of the initial investigation. However, several factors quickly rendered his testimony unreliable though he was still excluded as the perpetrator.

Larry Caraway's testimony was initially one of the most significant pieces of evidence directing suspicion toward Mr. Lord. On the day of the murder, Mr. Caraway told investigators with certainty that he heard Judith Lord scream Mr. Lord's name multiple times during the attack, saying "What are you doing here Greg?" and "No, Greg, No." This powerful account, coming from a neighbor whose bedroom shared a common wall with Ms. Lord, made Mr. Lord the immediate focus of the investigation.

However, Mr. Caraway's credibility quickly eroded. During a sworn deposition on May 21, 1975, he was asked directly if he had ever had a sexual affair with Judith Lord, which he unequivocally denied. Mr. Caraway's representation would be contradicted by other witnesses. Investigators soon learned from multiple sources, including Ms. Lord's best friend Rebecca Dunbar and later Linda Gable, that Ms. Lord was having an affair with Mr. Caraway. This deliberate deception about the nature of his relationship with Ms. Lord cast serious doubt on the veracity of his entire statement. Furthermore, his account was not fully corroborated by his wife, Barbara Caraway, who was in the same room with him during the assault on Ms. Lord. In her deposition, she stated that she heard yelling and sounds of a struggle, but that she "only heard Judith's voice and did not hear any others," failing to confirm her husband's key claim of hearing Mr. Lord's name.

A clear bias against Mr. Lord was also established in a November 1976 interview, when Linda Gable told Sgt. Callahan that Mr. Caraway "always talked about how he hated Gregory Lord." She stated that Mr. Caraway was so afraid of a potential confrontation with Mr. Lord that he "often carried a gun" in case Mr. Lord came after him. This animosity and fear, likely compounded by his secret affair with Mr. Lord's wife, provided a strong motive for Mr. Caraway to intentionally misdirect the police by naming Mr. Lord as the attacker.

This theory is supported by Mr. Caraway's own actions years later. In a follow-up interview on March 29, 1978, Mr. Caraway significantly changed his story. He told investigators he was no longer sure if it was Mr. Lord's voice he heard and admitted that it "could have" been Ernie Gable's. Then, during the cold case re-investigation in January 2008, Mr. Caraway changed his story yet again, reverting to his original 1975 statement that he heard Mr. Lord's name. He

claimed his 1978 recantation was the result of him telling investigators what he believed they wanted to hear due to pressure. This third version of events further cemented the unreliability of his testimony. Due to his concealed relationship with Ms. Lord, his documented animosity toward Mr. Lord, the lack of corroboration from his wife, and his multiple, conflicting statements, Mr. Caraway's testimony is considered unreliable, and despite the suspicion his actions created, Mr. Caraway was ruled out as a suspect. He had an alibi, as his wife was with him at the time of the murder, and no physical evidence ever linked him to the crime scene.

G. Development of Ernest Gable as a Suspect

1. Analysis of Fingernail and Fingerprint Evidence

One of the most compelling pieces of physical evidence linking Ernest Gable to the crime scene was discovered on May 23, 1975, when the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory matched five latent fingerprints from the exterior of Judith Lord's front window to Ernest Gable.⁷ The prints were located on the glass in a manner consistent with someone pushing the window open to gain entry. When confronted with this evidence, Ernest Gable provided two conflicting and illogical explanations. He first claimed he had only ever entered the apartment through a rear window on a previous occasion when Ms. Lord had locked herself out. When

⁷ When investigators processed the scene, they made several observations about the front window of the master bedroom. The position of the prints was described by investigators as being consistent with someone pushing or sliding the window open from the outside. Investigators examined both the front and rear doors of the apartment and found them both locked with no signs of forced entry. This led them to conclude that the perpetrator did not enter through a door. Additionally, on the night of her murder, Ms. Lord was so concerned about her safety that she had a friend, Jeff Cota, search her apartment after she realized she had left her back door unlocked. After Cota confirmed the apartment was empty, Ms. Lord locked the back door. This indicates she was taking precautions and would not have left a window open or unlocked. Based on these facts, investigators concluded that the perpetrator gained entry to the apartment by sliding open the front window.

pressed, he changed his story, claiming he and Larry Caraway had leaned on the front windowsill to talk to some girls inside, but he could not explain how his prints came to be on the glass itself. During this questioning, he became extremely nervous and ceased all cooperation with the investigation.



Figure 11 - Photograph of Concord Police Officer pointing to fingerprints on the front window of Judith Lord's apartment. Fingerprints were recovered from the glass.

Another key piece of physical evidence came in the form of scratches on Judith Lord's face and neck. The autopsy report concluded that the attacker did not have "particularly short fingernails" And as described above, this finding stood in stark contrast to the condition of Mr. Lord's hands. In contrast, an investigator noted in a later search warrant affidavit that within

days of the murder, he had examined Ernest Gable's fingernails and found them to be "slightly longer than normal."

This observation was corroborated during an interview with Mr. Gable on May 23, 1975. When confronted with the fact that his fingerprints were on Ms. Lord's window, Mr. Gable "became extremely nervous." During this period of questioning the investigator observed Mr. Gable anxiously scratching his own ear and stomach with enough force to draw blood in both areas. The investigator noted this in his report as a clear demonstration that Mr. Gable's fingernails were, in fact, long enough and capable of inflicting the type of scratch marks found on Judith Lord.

2. Gable's Initial Statement to Police

On the afternoon of the murder, May 20, 1975, Ernest Gable gave investigators a timeline of his activities from the previous night. He stated he worked at the Hazel Green Restaurant in Concord until 8:20 p.m., then spent time in the downstairs lounge and an upstairs apartment at that location before returning to the lounge until last call at 12:30 a.m. He claimed he then waited for a coworker to give him a ride home, arriving at his apartment between 12:45 a.m. and 12:50 a.m. This timeframe was corroborated by his co-worker who said that they left the restaurant at 12:35 a.m.

This timeline is crucial because it places Mr. Gable at his front door, just feet from Judith Lord's apartment, at the very beginning of the window of time when the murder occurred. The first screams were reported by neighbors at approximately 1:30 a.m. This gave him a 40-minute

window of opportunity where his whereabouts were unaccounted for by anyone but himself and his wife, who was asleep.

The most significant part of Gable's statement is his admission that he heard a disturbance next door. He told investigators "...while at [his] front door [he] thought [he] heard someone scream but [he] did see some cats on [his] left. The cats were fighting and [he] had been drinking so [he] did not think very much about it. [he] then went inside and went upstairs to go to bed and heard someone running up the stairs in the next apartment #4. After that [he] heard a thud like somebody had fallen down, [he] then laid down in bed and fell asleep quickly."

This statement was revealing for several reasons. First, it placed Mr. Gable at the scene at the exact time the violent encounter was beginning. Second, his description of a "scream" and a "thud" aligns with the sounds of a struggle reported by other neighbors. His attempt to dismiss the scream as cats fighting appears to be a self-serving effort to downplay his knowledge of the event. The following morning, before Ms. Lord's body was discovered, he told his babysitter that "Judy and her old man couldn't be hitting it off too well after the noise I had heard last night," further indicating he was aware of a significant disturbance and was proactively creating a false narrative that blamed Mr. Lord.

3. Ernest Gable's Pattern of Sexual Violence and Coercion

The investigation in 1978 uncovered a disturbing pattern of sexual coercion and violence in Ernest Gable's relationships with other women, which mirrored the circumstances of Judith Lord's death. Multiple former girlfriends provided accounts of Mr. Gable's proclivity for combining sex with acts of strangulation and simulated rape.

J.M.,⁸ who dated Mr. Gable in 1973, told investigators that Mr. Gable “wanted [her] to act like he was raping me. He wanted me to scream and kick and scratch, etc.” On another occasion, she stated, “He grabbed [her] by the throat with both hands and started to squeeze... [she] fought him back. I kicked, scratched, dug, etc. [she] finally got loose and ran outside.”

C.O.,⁹ who dated Mr. Gable in 1974, recounted a similar experience. She told investigators in 2015 that on one occasion, they “were having sex and he put a pillow over [her] head.” She said he only stopped when she told him to. She also described an incident where he held her down on a couch in an attempt to “orally rape” her. Further information about Ernest Gable's violent ideations came to light on September 29, 1975, during a related investigation into a sexual assault allegation against Mr. Gable involving a minor. Detectives interviewed Alan Bassett, who had lived with Mr. Gable in 1974. Bassett told investigators about a young woman named C.O., with whom Mr. Gable had a relationship. According to Mr. Bassett, after C.O. refused Mr. Gable's advances on one occasion, “Gable strangled her.” Mr. Bassett claimed to have seen red marks on her neck. More disturbingly, Mr. Bassett stated that Ernest Gable later told him of a specific plan to kill C.O. by “putting a plastic bag over her head and strangling her.”

Even Mr. Gable's wife, Linda, told investigators in a November 1976 interview that he had been violent with her in the past and that “one time he tried to choke her.” This consistent pattern of behavior, involving choking, suffocation with a pillow, and a desire to simulate rape,

⁸ J.M.'s full name is withheld from this report in the interests of privacy due to the intimate nature of this discussion.

⁹ C.O.'s full name is withheld from this report in the interests of privacy due to the intimate nature of this discussion.

provided a chilling psychological profile that aligned precisely with the evidence found at the crime scene and the manner of Judith Lord's death.

4. Ernest Gable: Background and Criminal History

Ernest Theodore Gable aka Ernie Stanberry was born on November 11, 1950, in Laurel, Mississippi. He reported that his parents were in the military, leading to a transient childhood with schooling in multiple states. By the time of Ms. Lord's murder, he was living in Concord, New Hampshire, and was known to local police.

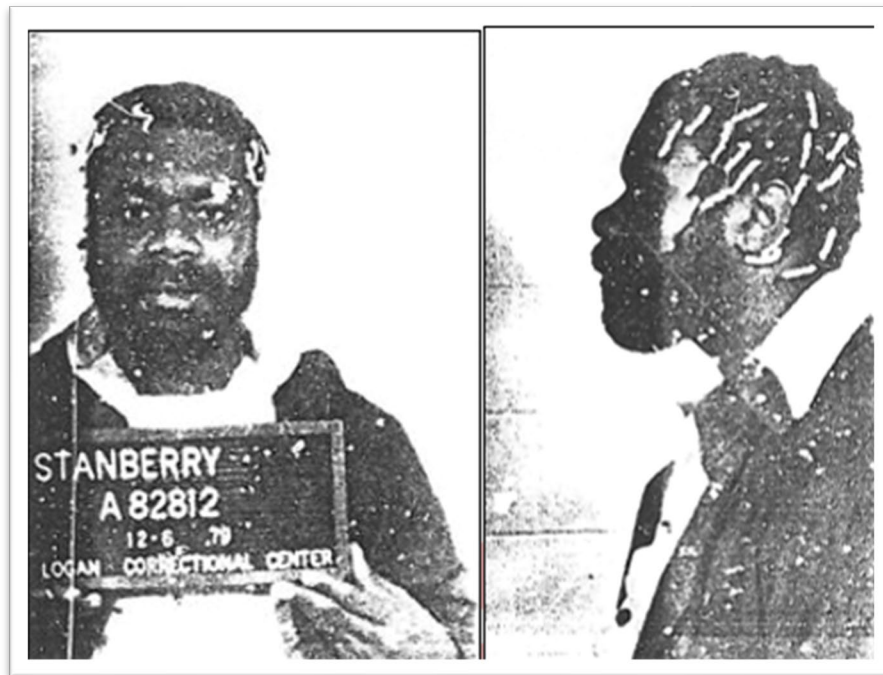


Figure 12 - Booking Photographs of Ernest "Ernie" Gable ("A.K.A. Ernie Stanberry") – December 6, 1979.

A review of state and federal records revealed an extensive criminal history for Mr. Gable spanning from 1969 to 1985, under his own name and the alias "Ernest Stanberry" which he began using after Ms. Lord's murder. His record included numerous violent and theft-related offenses that established a clear pattern of criminal behavior.

- **January 9, 1969 (Fall River, MA):** Arrested for Breaking & Entering in the Night to Commit a Larceny. Sentenced to 9 months in the House of Corrections.
- **January 22, 1971 (New Bedford, MA):** Arrested for Breaking & Entering and Larceny.
- **September 24, 1974 (Concord, NH):** Arrested for providing False Information related to a firearm and for being a Felon in Possession of a Dangerous Weapon.
- **October 3, 1975 (Merrimack County, NH):** Arrested for Possession of a Controlled Drug.
- **October 28, 1977 (Joliet, IL):** Arrested for Murder.¹⁰
- **March 10, 1978 (Joliet, IL):** Arrested for Armed Robbery. He was subsequently convicted and served prison time for this offense.
- **1984-1985 (Los Angeles, CA):** A series of arrests for Robbery, Burglary, Theft, Forgery, and Use/Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance.

In addition to his formal arrest record, Mr. Gable allegedly committed a significant felony in the fall of 1976. In November 1976, shortly after being released from the Merrimack County House of Corrections, Ernest Gable went to Fall River, Massachusetts, where his then estranged wife, Linda, was living with their two young daughters. According to Linda Gable, Mr. Gable arrived and asked to take the girls to dinner. When she refused, he returned with a Fall River police officer who, unaware of the circumstances, convinced her to let the children go with their father. Mr. Gable took the children and never returned. Ms. Gable did not see her daughters

¹⁰ This charge, occurring just over two years after Judith Lord's death, was inexplicably dismissed one month later on November 28, 1977. Despite extensive efforts by cold case investigators, no official reports or records could be located to explain the circumstances of this arrest or its dismissal.

again for 14 years. An arrest warrant for Kidnapping was subsequently issued for Mr. Gable out of Fall River.

H. The Landmark Supreme Court Case and a Forensic Setback

Based on the mounting circumstantial and forensic evidence, investigators sought to compare Ernest Gable's hair and blood type to the crime scene samples. Mr. Gable refused to provide them voluntarily. This refusal led prosecutors to pursue a search warrant to compel him to provide the samples. At the time, this was a novel legal strategy and Mr. Gable challenged the warrant, taking the case to the New Hampshire Supreme Court.

On December 3, 1975, the Court ruled in the State's favor, creating a legal precedent. The Court's decision noted that there was sufficient evidence to justify the "limited detention necessary to conduct" the search for biological evidence, citing Mr. Gable's fingerprints on the window, his expressed motive, Ms. Lord's fear of him, and the fact that other potential sources for the African American hairs had been eliminated.¹¹

¹¹ According to the investigative files, after the FBI determined that hairs found at the crime scene were of African American origin, investigators identified five African American men, including Ernest Gable, living in the Concord Gardens and Royal Gardens apartment complexes at the time. Investigators approached each of them as part of their due diligence. All of the men other than Mr. Gable voluntarily cooperated with the police, provided statements, and gave biological samples (hair, saliva, and in some cases, blood) for comparison. Their cooperation and the subsequent analysis of their samples effectively ruled them out as suspects, leaving Mr. Gable as the only one who refused to cooperate, and ultimately, the only person whose biological information matched evidence recovered from the scene.

Pursuant to the court order, investigators obtained samples from Mr. Gable that same day. However, as discussed *infra*, the investigation was derailed weeks later by what is now understood to be flawed science.

I. The 1975 FBI Hair Comparison

In a report dated December 16, 1975, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's ("FBI") Forensic Laboratory, using the technique of microscopic hair comparison, concluded that the hairs from the scene were "microscopically different" from Ernest Gable's and "did not originate from [him]." At the time, the State of New Hampshire had been prepared to indict and prosecute Ernest Gable for the murder of Judith Lord. The FBI's conclusion, however, created a significant evidentiary hurdle that prosecutors felt they could not overcome, and the active investigation was effectively halted.

J. The Case Goes Cold and is Reopened

Following the FBI Lab's microscopic hair comparison report, and with no new leads, the active investigation into Judith Lord's murder ceased, and the case went cold. For years, the case remained dormant.

1. Reopening of the Case

In 2003, nearly three decades after the murder, Concord Police Detective Todd Flanagan officially reopened the case.¹² The catalyst was a motion filed in Merrimack County Superior

¹² After serving as a detective with the Concord Police Department, Todd Flanagan became the Deputy Chief Investigator for the New Hampshire Department of Justice. He transitioned to the New Hampshire Cold Case Unit as a full-time investigator in 2025.

Court seeking court transcripts related to the original investigation. This legal action prompted a fresh review of the entire case file and led to the crucial decision to resubmit the physical evidence collected in 1975 for modern forensic analysis, setting the stage for the eventual DNA breakthrough.

2. DNA Breakthrough

As part of a cold case review, the semen-stained towels were subjected to modern DNA analysis with the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory ultimately confirming that DNA from the semen and sperm on both towels was a statistical match to Ernest Gable. The approximate frequency of the partial DNA profile obtained from the evidence was 1 in 6.5 million in the African American population.

The DNA evidence did not immediately overcome the hair analysis. In the initial investigation, hairs of African American origin found on Ms. Lord's body were believed to have been deposited by her killer. At the time, the FBI's microscopic hair comparison report was considered state-of-the-art forensic science. This report excluded Ernest Gable as a contributor and, as discussed *infra*, was so convincing that it halted the prosecution. This conclusion stood despite the strong case against Mr. Gable, which included his fingerprints at the scene and witness testimony about Ms. Lord's fear of him, and his account of the evening of Ms. Lord's murder. The flawed FBI report effectively created the belief that Mr. Gable was not the killer even in light of the breakthrough in DNA analysis.

On September 9, 1975, a Memorandum of Law, written by Attorney Edward Damon on behalf of the New Hampshire Attorney General's Office was filed in court to support the State's

request for a search warrant to compel Ernest Gable to provide biological samples. In that memorandum, the Attorney General's Office explicitly stated that it believed it had “probable cause not only to search, but also to arrest, Ernest Gable for the murder of Judith Lord.”

In 2015, investigators interviewed Robert V. Johnson, II, the former Assistant Attorney General who was the lead prosecutor on the Lord case in 1975. In that interview, he confirmed that he “was prepared to indict Ernest Gable and to prosecute him” but was stopped by the unexpected and (now known to be flawed) FBI Lab results that excluded Mr. Gable’s hair. He described the feeling at the time as one of “emptiness” because the hair analysis was such a significant setback to what they believed was a strong case.

3. Overcoming Flawed Science: The 1975 FBI Hair Comparison and its Aftermath

The final phase of the investigation involved consolidating all case files from the Concord Police Department, the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory, and the Attorney General’s Office, which for the first time created a complete picture of the original investigation. Investigators re-interviewed surviving original detectives, lab technicians, and witnesses, all of whom corroborated the original belief that Ernest Gable was the perpetrator.

In the decades since the FBI’s 1975 report, microscopic hair comparison has been largely discredited as a reliable means of positive identification. In 2015, the U.S. Department of Justice and the FBI formally acknowledged that nearly every examiner in the FBI’s microscopic hair comparison unit had provided flawed testimony or reports that overstated forensic matches in ways that favored prosecutors in more than 95% of the cases reviewed. The review included the work of Agent Mike Scholberg, the very examiner who analyzed the hairs in the Judith Lord

case. While the systemic issue with the FBI's hair analysis was its tendency to incorrectly inculcate defendants, in this case, the flawed science did the opposite. It incorrectly excluded the man who all other evidence pointed to, thereby preventing the arrest and conviction of the actual perpetrator.¹³ Since 2015, further studies and research have continued to call into question the reliability and use of microscopic hair comparison to identify and exclude specific individuals. Although forensic scientists still examine hair to determine broad characteristics like race, the practice of using a microscope to match a specific hair to a specific person has been proven unreliable.

According to an August 6, 2025, statement by Megan O'Donnell, Forensic Scientist IV, with the New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory, as the field of forensic disciplines have developed, certain practices have been scrutinized for scientific validity and reliability. One such practice is microscopic hair comparison. The highly specific comparison of hair recovered from a crime scene to known exemplars from persons related to the case, such a suspect or a victim, has been found to be overstated in conclusions and based on previous studies of comparison with flawed methodology.¹⁴

¹³ For a quarter of a century, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted numerous two-week training courses, reaching several hundred state and local hair examiners across the nation. These training programs incorporated some of the same scientifically flawed language that the FBI's own examiners had utilized in laboratory reports and frequently in trial testimony.

In response to a comprehensive review by the FBI and the Department of Justice (DOJ) which uncovered systemic errors in FBI microscopic hair comparison analysis, the Texas Forensic Science Commission has already initiated a review of cases handled by analysts at state and local crime laboratories. The findings of the broader FBI/DOJ review, which revealed that examiners' testimony contained erroneous statements in at least 90 percent of analyzed trial transcripts prior to 2000, underscore the urgent need for similar audits in most other states. This is particularly critical as many state and local examiners were trained by the FBI, potentially perpetuating the use of flawed forensic science and leading to unjust convictions. See, <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-testimony-on-microscopic-hair-analysis-contained-errors-in-at-least-90-percent-of-cases-in-ongoing-review>

¹⁴ Megan O'Donnell wrote that "In an FBI review, it was found that the conclusions made in this type of comparison was overstated 90% of the time. <https://www.fbi.gov/news/press-releases/fbi-testimony-on-microscopic-hair-analysis-contained-errors-in-at-least-90-percent-of-cases-in-ongoing-review> The 2016 PCAST report assessed the documentation that was the foundation of the Department of Justice's methods and practices. It was concluded that

The investigation shifted its focus after the FBI's report on microscopic hair comparisons was discredited. The focus turned to reconciling the misinformation and re-evaluating the relationship between Ms. Lord and Mr. Gable. This re-examination allowed for a correct interpretation of the DNA evidence, which subsequently provided a direct link to the sexual assault and murder of Ms. Lord.

K. Death of Ernest Theodore Gable

On February 1, 1987, at approximately 6:35 p.m., Ernest Gable, then using the alias Ernest Stanberry, was stabbed once in the chest during an argument on a street in Los Angeles, California. The dispute was believed to be over a money debt. Ernest Gable was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital, where he died as a result of his wound. He was 36 years old. Los Angeles Police later arrested a man named William Sandoval for his murder.

the DOJ's supporting documentation did not provide a scientific basis for concluding that microscopic hair examination was a valid and reliable process. The main violation of scientific principles cited was lack of accuracy that could lead to potential prejudicial impact. https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/PCAST/pcast_forensic_science_report_final.pdf

Laboratories have continued the practice of microscopic hair examinations now focusing on general class characteristics of a hair and the suitability of the hair for DNA analysis. This can include species of origin (animal or human), texture, color, density, thickness, distribution of pigment granules, the presence or absence of a root, and the hair growth phase. These class characteristics combined can provide potential general information on genetic ancestry. For example, hair originating from a person with genetically Asian ancestry can phenotypically present with hair that has the thickest diameter, a straight coarse cuticle, densely distributed pigment granules in comparison to hair from European or African ancestry. These characteristics are limited based on unknowable genetic variation within the entire global population, genetic variation within a socially defined racial group, and individuals who possess mixed genetic ancestry. Conclusions do not confirm the race of an individual.

Prior conclusions made in historical reports related to microscopic hair analysis should read with extreme caution and never relied upon solely for the inclusion or exclusion of an individual. Further investigation with definitive and quantifiable forensic methodologies should be applied whenever possible."

III. APPLICABLE LAW AND LEGAL STANDARDS

A. Relevant Statutes

In 1975 New Hampshire's homicide laws were set forth in RSA Chapter 630 as they are today. At that time "First Degree Murder" provided, in relevant part, that:

- I. A person is guilty of murder in the first degree if he:
 - (a) Purposely causes the death of another; or
 - (b) Knowingly causes the death of
 - (1) Another before, after, while engaged in the commission of, or while attempting to commit rape as defined in RSA 632:1 or deviate sexual relations as defined in RSA 632:2, I...."

RSA 630:1-a (1974 Revised Statutes Annotated).¹⁵

In 1981 RSA 632:1 defined the class A felony offense of "rape" as:

- I. A male who has sexual intercourse with a female not his wife...if
 - (a) he compels her to submit by force, or by threatening imminent force or serious bodily injury, or kidnapping to be inflicted on anyone; or
 - (b) he has substantially impaired her power to appraise or control her conduct by administering without her knowledge a substance for purposes of preventing resistance; or
 - (c) the female is unconscious or less than fifteen years old; or
 - (d) he knows that she suffers from a mental abnormality which renders her incapable of appraising the nature of her conduct; or
 - (e) he knows she is unaware of the sexual nature of the act being committed upon her.

RSA 632:1 (1974 Revised Statutes Annotated) (emphasis added). "Sexual intercourse" was defined as having "its ordinary meaning and occur[ring] upon any penetration, however slight" without the requirement of emission. *Id.* "Deviate sexual relations" was defined in RSA 632:2(II) as "any act of sexual gratification involving the sex organs of one person and the mouth or anus of another." RSA 632:2:2 (1974 Revised Statutes Annotated).

¹⁵ In 1975 "Capital Murder," as defined in RSA 630:1, did not include a variant related to sexual assault nor any other variant that would be applicable to the facts in this case. *See* RSA 630:1 (1974 Revised Statutes Annotated).

B. Analysis

The evidence documented and analyzed over the 50 years since Ms. Lord was sexually assaulted and murdered establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Ernest Theodore Gable committed First Degree Murder, RSA 630:1-a(I)(b)(1), by causing the death of Ms. Lord “before, after, while engaged in the commission of, or while attempting to commit rape as defined in RSA 632:1.” There was significant physical evidence of sexual assault at the scene to include: the lack of clothing on Ms. Lord’s body, the sounds of intercourse following a violent struggle and Ms. Lord’s screams, and the sperm and seminal fluid found on the towels beside Ms. Lord’s bed. The timeline of the attack is also probative of a sexual assault. Neighbors’ accounts established a clear sequence of events including a violent struggle beginning around 1:30 a.m., followed by a period of silence, and then sounds consistent with sexual intercourse. This indicates the sexual act was directly connected to the violent assault. The condition of the evidence also provides direct proof that a sexual assault occurred. The semen was found on two towels on the bedroom floor, next to Ms. Lord’s body. Crucially, one towel was still damp when collected, but the semen stains on it were dried and hardened on the surface. This, combined with a neighbor's statement that she heard Ms. Lord’s shower running around midnight, strongly indicates that the semen was deposited after Ms. Lord had showered and used the towel, placing the sexual act in the final moments of her life.

Finally, the lack of evidence of any consensual relationship between Judith Lord and Ernest Gable supports the conclusion that the sexual activity that occurred in proximity to the homicide was rape. Mr. Gable explicitly denied ever having an affair with Ms. Lord or even approaching her for sex. Additionally, multiple independent witnesses including Ms. Lord’s

sister, friends, and coworkers told investigators in 1975 that Ms. Lord was afraid of Mr. Gable, that he made unwanted advances, and that he was “always bothering her.” Therefore, the presence of Mr. Gable’s semen is forensic proof of a non-consensual sexual assault that occurred in conjunction with Ms. Lord’s murder.

Alternatively, the evidence establishes beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Gable committed First Degree Murder, RSA 630:1-a(I)(a), by purposely causing the death of Ms. Lord. “Purposely” for purposes of this subsection required that “the actor’s conscious object [was] the death of another, and that his act or acts in furtherance of that object were deliberate and premeditated.” RSA 630:1-a, (II) (1974 Revised Statutes Annotated). The use of strangulation to kill Ms. Lord, including the indication that the blue plastic suit was held over her face to stop her breathing, demonstrates a clear intent by Mr. Gable to kill her. However, given that the evidence could be consistent with a sexually motivated crime that resulted in more violence than the perpetrator originally anticipated, if Mr. Gable were alive today, the Attorney General’s Office would charge him with alternative counts of first-degree murder.

IV. CONCLUSION

The totality of the evidence, gathered over 50 years, creates a compelling and cohesive narrative that points singularly to Ernest Theodore Gable as the perpetrator of the sexual assault and murder of Judith Lord. This conclusion is based on the convergence of forensic evidence, witness testimony, Mr. Gable’s own actions and statements, and his documented history of similar violent behavior.

Forensic evidence provides a direct, physical link between Mr. Gable and the crime. The DNA profile obtained from semen and sperm on two separate towels found in the victim’s

bedroom was a statistical match to Mr. Gable, with a frequency of 1 in 6.5 million. The condition of these towels, one of which was still damp with dried semen hardened on its surface, combined with a neighbor's testimony that she heard Judith's shower around midnight, strongly indicates the sexual act occurred after her shower and in the final hours of her life. Additionally, the testimony of the Caraways, whose bedroom shared a wall with Ms. Lord's, described a violent struggle followed by sounds that they interpreted to be sounds of intercourse. Furthermore, five of Mr. Gable's fingerprints were found on the exterior of the victim's front window in a manner consistent with sliding it open, providing a likely point of illegal entry into her home.

This physical evidence is powerfully contextualized by the timeline of events and extensive witness testimony. Mr. Gable was dropped off at his apartment, next door to the victim's, less than an hour before the murder. Multiple witnesses independently told investigators in 1975 that Judith Lord was afraid of Mr. Gable. She told friends and family that he made unwanted advances, that he was "always bothering her," and that he had made a specific, predatory comment about wanting to see her nude. This fear was so pronounced that on the night of her murder, she asked a friend to search her apartment for intruders before she would enter.

Ernest Gable's own statements and actions further incriminate him. When confronted with the fingerprint evidence, he provided conflicting and illogical explanations before ceasing all cooperation with the investigation. His history of violence against women, which included choking former partners and simulating rape, demonstrates a capacity and proclivity for the specific acts committed against Judith Lord. This pattern, combined with his prior criminal

record for night-time breaking and entering, paints a clear picture of a man with the means, motive, and opportunity to commit this crime.

The convergence of irrefutable DNA evidence, fingerprint analysis, compelling witness testimony, and Mr. Gable's own incriminating behavior and violent history establishes beyond any reasonable doubt that he was the perpetrator. The initial investigation was professionally conducted but ultimately thwarted by the limitations and flaws of forensic science at the time, specifically the unreliable nature of microscopic hair comparison. Modern DNA technology has rectified that failing and brought clarity to this decades-old tragedy. Since Mr. Gable is deceased, this case cannot be resolved with criminal charges. Therefore, based upon the evidence, the Attorney General has concluded that the case will be closed and identified as "solved."