

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Oconee County

Edgar W. Dickson, Circuit Court Judge

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SC Court of Appeals

WILLIAM CANNON GRESHAM,

PETITIONER

V.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

RESPONDENT

APPELLATE CASE NO 2016-000517

SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX

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STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF OCONEE

IN THE COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,)
)
 PLAINTIFF,)
)
 -VS-)
)
 WILLIAM CANNON GRESHAM,)
)
 DEFENDANT.)
 _____)

2010-GS-37-00755-00762

JANUARY 6, 2012

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

BEFORE:

THE HONORABLE G. EDWARD WELMAKER, JUDGE

APPEARANCES:

CHRISSY ADAMS, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY FOR THE STATE

WILSON BURR, ESQUIRE
ATTORNEY FOR THE DEFENDANT

DANETTE P. HANKS
CIRCUIT COURT REPORTER

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EXHIBITS

(NONE)

1

January 6, 2012

2

(WHEREUPON, court convened with all parties

1 present and the following proceedings were had.)

2 THE CLERK: Would you please raise your right
3 hand? Do you solemnly swear or affirm the testimony
4 you'll give the Court is the truth, the whole truth and
5 nothing but the truth?

6 DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.

7 THE CLERK: Thank you.

8 THE COURT: All right. Solicitor.

9 MS. ADAMS: Thank you, Your Honor. May it
10 please the Court. This is William Cannon Gresham. He
11 is here before you today for sentencing. As you are
12 aware, he is Co-Defendants with Shawn Owens, who pled
13 earlier in front of you this morning. This Defendant
14 actually pled guilty to the same charges, which are,
15 briefly, Your Honor, two counts of murder on 2010-755
16 and 756; two counts of kidnaping, 2010-757, 758; a grand
17 larceny, 762; assault and battery with the intent to
18 kill, 760; and burglary first on the indictment 2010-
19 759. And he pled in front of the Honorable Judge
20 McIntosh on March 31st, 2011. And at that time
21 sentencing was deferred.

22 When Judge McIntosh accepted his plea, Your Honor,
23 the State had made no specific promises regarding his
24 sentence. The only agreement that we made was that we
25 would not seek the death penalty in exchange for his
26 truthful testimony in the death penalty trial against

1 Shawn Owens. And obviously, as a result of that plea,
2 his testimony is not needed. He has agreed to be
3 sentenced before you today. And I believe you have a
4 copy of the written agreement that we signed regarding
5 this defendant. But no specific sentence has been
6 recommended. All we did is take death penalty off the
7 table.

8 THE COURT: Anything else you need to present
9 at this time before I ---

10 MS. ADAMS: Your Honor, all I would like to do
11 is briefly go over the facts, if that's okay, that
12 relate specifically to this Defendant and his
13 involvement.

14 THE COURT: Be glad to hear from you, Ms.
15 Adams.

16 MS. ADAMS: It is clear, Your Honor, from the
17 investigation that Shawn Owens, the Co-Defendant was the
18 leader and the mastermind in this. The evidence, the
19 statements obtained from not only this Defendant, but
20 specifically the surviving victim, Jerry Corley,
21 supports that theory. No one disputes that. Law
22 enforcement believes this, and I've actually spoken to
23 this Defendant, obviously, since he was going to testify
24 in the trial against Owens, and I believe that Owens was
25 clearly the leader, as well.

26 However, despite that fact and despite his

1 cooperation with law enforcement, William Gresham had
2 multiple opportunities this day to prevent this horrific
3 tragedy from occurring and yet he chose to participate
4 and to see it all the way through to the end. According
5 to Gresham's own statement, the day before this brutal
6 attached occurred, he and Owens talked about robbing the
7 Corleys. When Gresham got in the car with Owens that
8 next morning on April 19th, at a minimum he knew he was
9 going to participate in a robbery and that the Corleys
10 would be home at the time of the robbery. Gresham
11 didn't even know the Corleys, Your Honor. In fact, he
12 had only known Owens for about three days. He had never
13 met the Corleys before. He did not have to get in that
14 car with Shawn Owens, but chose to, knowing that at a
15 minimum there would at least be a robbery.

16 Gresham and Owens went to the Corley home the
17 morning of April 19th under the guise of delivering
18 firewood. Jerry Corley told Shawn Owens he would take
19 the firewood just to help him out and give him some
20 money for it. The Corleys did not need the firewood,
21 Your Honor, but he wanted to help Shawn Owens out.
22 According to Jerry's statement, Owens and Gresham
23 arrived at the Corleys' home around ten a.m. that
24 morning. They delivered a small amount of wood, said
25 they were waiting on a pickup truck for more, and then
26 they left. They came back a few minutes later, this

1 time on foot, claiming that they had had a flat tire and
2 needed to use the Corleys' phone to call Shawn Owens'
3 grandfather to come get them.

4 Jerry eventually dropped this Defendant and Owens
5 off at their car that morning after Ken had left the
6 house for work and when he was on his way to get his
7 daughter Kim's tires fixed on her car. According to
8 Gresham's statement, the two Co-Defendants sat in the
9 car for a minute and Owens said, are you ready, and
10 Gresham said, yes.

11 This Defendant chose to go back to the Corley home,
12 knowing that the sole purpose was to rob them. And more
13 importantly, he knew that Eloise Corley was home alone.
14 While the two were in the yard with Eloise, according to
15 Gresham, Owens asked him why he hadn't killed her yet.
16 He responded, because I'd rather kill a man, not a
17 female. At this point, there is no doubt that this
18 Defendant knew what was going to happen next and that he
19 did absolutely nothing to stop it. Shawn Owens then
20 grabbed Eloise and started choking her. Owens pulled a
21 knife out of his pocket and stabbed and cut her several
22 times in the face and neck. Owens told Gresham to hit
23 her in the head with a hammer, and this Defendant, Your
24 Honor, made the decision to hit sixty-six year old
25 Eloise Corley in the head with a hammer. Then he
26 watched as Shawn Owens drug her body under the house to

1 hide her. He never once tried to stop Owens. He never
2 once tried to run and get help. He actively
3 participated in the brutal death of Eloise Corley.

4 Gresham then chose to go into the Corley home with
5 Owens where Owens began to wash the blood off of him.
6 Owens found a gun in the house and armed himself. Owens
7 began to clean up the blood he had tracked in with
8 detergent from the laundry room. According to Gresham,
9 Owens gave him a knife from the kitchen and told him to
10 watch the door. When Jerry came back home about thirty
11 minutes later, Gresham tied him up. And when Audrey
12 Scull arrived just a few minutes after Jerry had
13 returned to visit her sister, she was tied up, as well.
14 Gresham cut up sheets and towels from the home to bind
15 them. He and Owens both tied up Jerry and Audrey at
16 different times during this ordeal. Jerry and Audrey
17 were tied up for hours, Your Honor, in the home as Owens
18 ransacked the place looking for money and anything else
19 of value that they could find.

20 According to Jerry, at one point when Owens
21 demanded money from Jerry, Jerry gave him about sixty
22 dollars out of his pocket and Owens and Gresham split
23 the money in front of them. Gresham not only held Jerry
24 and Audrey at knife point, he held them at gunpoint at
25 times, as well. Gresham was downstairs alone with Jerry
26 and Audrey, and still, never once, attempted to help

1 them escape or to get help. Gresham chose to continue
2 and actively participate in Owens' reign of terror on
3 this family.

4 After being tied up for hours in his own home,
5 Jerry was then forced at gunpoint to drive the two
6 Defendants and Audrey to the wooded area off of Pine
7 Lane. This was very close to where Owens lived. At one
8 point, Owens left Gresham alone with Jerry and Audrey so
9 he could go up to his house, to Owens' house. It was
10 that close. Gresham was armed with a gun at the time
11 and he did nothing to help Audrey and Jerry escape.

12 Owens came back with a shovel and Gresham gave his
13 gun back to Owens. According to Gresham's statement and
14 Jerry's statement, Owens thought he heard a car pull up,
15 Owens told Gresham to check on it. He went to check and
16 that is when Owens shot and killed Audrey and shot Jerry
17 three times in the head and once in the spine.

18 Gresham then chooses to help dispose of the
19 evidence. He was driving his car alone and following
20 Owens as they disposed of Kim's Car. According to
21 Gresham, he willingly followed Owens for approximately an
22 hour before Kim's car was abandoned. He made no attempt
23 to flee or get help at this point.

24 And then, together with Owens, they disposed of the
25 bag of evidence that they had taken from the house.
26 Owens told Gresham his plan was for them to bury the

1 bodies that night and then burn down the Corleys' home,
2 but law enforcement caught them that afternoon before
3 that could happen.

4 Your Honor, it is truly a miracle that Jerry Corley
5 is even alive today. He was sixty-eight years old and
6 managed to beat all odds and survive. Eloise, Audrey
7 and Jerry were never a threat to anyone. If Owens or
8 Gresham had just asked them for money, they would have
9 given it to them. There is no doubt, based on the
10 facts, based on the Defendant's own statement and Jerry
11 Corley's statements, that this Defendant could have
12 changed the outcome of April 19th, 2010. But he chose
13 not to, despite all his chances to save that family.

14 Your Honor, our only agreement with this Defendant
15 was to not seek the death penalty. Obviously his
16 sentence today is in your discretion. While the State
17 acknowledges his cooperation, we believe that his
18 involvement in these heinous crimes demands a
19 substantial sentence.

20 THE COURT: Thank you, Solicitor. Anything
21 else?

22 MS. ADAMS: Your Honor, the victims would like
23 to speak at the appropriate time, after the defense is
24 done.

25 THE COURT: Mr. Burr, be glad to hear from you
26 and certainly from your client and anyone else who would

1 like to ---

2 MR. BURR: Please the Court, Your Honor.

3 Before I do my summary, I do have two witnesses with me.
4 Susan Burns has been -- would the family please stand
5 for a second? Mr. Gresham's family is here, but they're
6 very emotional obviously. And they've selected Susan
7 Burns to speak on their behalf.

8 Ms. Burns, would you come to the microphone? If
9 you would, please, state your full name for the record.

10 MS. BURNS: Susan Marie Burns.

11 THE COURT: All right. Ms. Burns, if you
12 would just speak up so I can hear you, please, ma'am.
13 Yes, ma'am, anything you want to tell me?

14 MS. BURNS: Yes, Your Honor. I'd like, on
15 behalf of the family, to say that our deepest, deepest
16 heartfelt sympathy goes to the family. We are so truly
17 sorry for your loss. Mr. Corley, it's a miracle that
18 you are here, and God bless you. We pray and thank God
19 everyday that you did survive. We really feel, as bad
20 as we're hurting right now, we can't imagine the pain
21 that y'all have been through. We're not a violent
22 family. Butch is not a violent person. I'm sorry, Mr.
23 Gresham is not violent. And we dearly, dearly are sorry
24 for your loss. We truly are. And we can't take it
25 back. All we do is just ask that you please forgive
26 him. And I pray that he forgives himself. That's all I

1 have to say.

2 THE COURT: Thank you very much, Ms. Burr.

3 MR. BURR: Your Honor, I also had Mr. Gresham
4 evaluated by Dr. Donna Schwartz-Watts. Donna Schwartz-
5 Watts, would you please state your name for the record
6 and summarize your evaluation.

7 DR. SCHWARTZ-WATTS: Sure. Donna Marie
8 Schwartz-Watts. S-c-h-w-a-r-t-z hyphen W-a-t-t-s.

9 Good morning, Your Honor.

10 THE COURT: Good morning.

11 DR. SCHWARTZ-WATTS: I evaluated Mr. Gresham
12 back in June of 2010 when I was still employed at the
13 University of South Carolina School of Medicine. At
14 that time it was for competency to stand trial
15 evaluation and to look at his criminal responsibility
16 issues.

17 It's my opinion, and it's always been, that he was
18 clearly competent to stand trial. And I met with him
19 today even, before this sentencing. He certainly had an
20 understanding of everything that's going to go on today,
21 Your Honor.

22 There are some pertinent things I think you need to
23 know before sentencing him. I reviewed the discovery
24 related to the case. I also had requested some medical
25 records. Very shortly before this crime, he had been
26 pretty seriously ill. He was treated at Greenville

1 Memorial Hospital; I believe it was about the end of
2 March, so about two weeks before this happened. He had
3 a very high white count. He had a tonsillar abscess.
4 They thought he had strep throat. They treated him for
5 that. He was so ill he had been dehydrated. So he had
6 a period of time even before this, and it's important
7 when you learn about his level of function, that he had
8 had a pretty serious illness. His white count was about
9 17,000. They had done a cat scan on him. He had a
10 tonsillar abscess. So around this period of time, as
11 well, he was also physically ill.

12 I also spoke with -- which is important -- to his
13 sister, Diane Bolden. She gave me a lot of history that
14 I think the Court needs to know about. Ms. Bolden is
15 Mr. Gresham's half-sister and she's twenty years older
16 than him. One of the things I was concerned about when
17 I evaluated him is he has some cognitive deficits. And
18 what I mean by that is he had, even objectively on his
19 testing, he has problems paying attention. He had
20 problems with his memory. It was my opinion that his
21 intelligence, although not mentally retarded by any
22 means, that he was below average in terms of his
23 intelligence. I was also concerned because his faces
24 were similar to people that you've seen that have been
25 exposed to alcohol in utero. His ears are low-set. He
26 had a history of attention deficit disorder as a child

1 and was on Ritalin. And sure enough, when I talked with
2 the sister, the sister reports that his biological
3 father was very abusive and an alcoholic. And while his
4 mother was pregnant with him, he forced his mother to
5 drink brown liquor. So indeed, he had actually been
6 exposed to alcohol in utero, and the sister was able to
7 corroborate that history for me.

8 He was raised in a violent household. The father
9 would hit the mother quite often. In Mr. Gresham's own
10 words, he would remember seeing her bust her gums. And
11 he states when that would happen he couldn't do anything
12 and he would freeze and he would scream and tell his dad
13 to stop. The sister states he was very slow in school;
14 that the school wanted to place him in resource classes
15 or special ed, but that his mother refused. He did
16 attend school until ninth grade. He went to two
17 elementary schools and two middle schools. He did have
18 a prior legal history that I also reviewed. He states
19 he had gotten in trouble in school for carrying, he
20 said, a lethal weapon. What it was, he had a ninja
21 sword that had fallen out of his backpack when he was
22 younger. He also states that he had a disorderly
23 conduct charge and he had been charged with arson. He
24 pled guilty to the arson. He states he didn't do it;
25 that he was driving by the fire and got accused of it
26 and he pled guilty. Psychiatrically he really has

1 no prior history, Your Honor, other than being treated
2 for attention deficit disorder as a child. What is
3 significant, now he does have a mental illness now and
4 it's called -- actually now it would be post traumatic
5 stress disorder, but at the time that I saw him it was
6 acute distress disorder.

7 He actually has visions of the woman that he helped
8 to kill. He reports flashbacks of her on a daily basis
9 and states that he has vision of her and she comes to
10 him and asks him why did he hurt her. And he still has
11 some of those symptoms. They've gotten better. He's on
12 anti-anxiety agents from the detention center. They've
13 done a good job treating him, Your Honor. The family
14 history is significant that his father was an alcoholic.

15
16 I learned today that he's had -- since August his
17 father died and he's had some grandparents die and also
18 a stepsister died in the last few months. He's had a
19 lot of losses, as well. But he's still competent.

20 It's my opinion through, I think, out of the two,
21 and Ms. Adams eloquently said that, he is obviously the
22 lesser functioning. His IQ is not that high. Just to
23 give you an example, he met the Co-Defendant a few days
24 earlier. The night he met the Co-Defendant they were at
25 a Nickelback concert. And he had just met this person,
26 and the person drove off with his car. He got his car

1 back the next morning. So it's fair to say he barely
2 even knew the Co-Defendant and relinquished his car and
3 got it back the next day. So it's my opinion he had
4 capacity to conform his conduct, Your Honor, and he knew
5 right from wrong. But he certainly had some illnesses
6 and low IQ and some cognitive function that contributed
7 to this.

8 What I recommend that the Court, please, order
9 mental health to watch him in the Department of
10 Corrections. He'll need continued treatment. And I'm
11 going to do that, as well. I'll call the Department of
12 Corrections and Mental Health Unit there, and make sure
13 that they identify him as in need of services.

14 THE COURT: Thank you very much.

15 MR. BURR: Your Honor, if I may. One further
16 question. After your interview of Mr. Gresham, did you
17 have an opinion of his ability -- when he's instructed
18 to do stuff, is he an average follower or does he have
19 more difficulty standing up for himself?

20 DR. SCHWARTZ-WATTS: Well, based on his IQ,
21 Your Honor, he does have some cognitive deficits. I
22 would like to give you some examples. I always try to
23 perform a cognitive exam on all the clients. He had
24 difficulties in numerous areas of his brain. He had
25 difficulty reproducing a visual design. He had
26 difficulty with concentration. He couldn't remember

1 three objects after five minutes. So I think because of
2 his cognitive deficits he's going to be more prone to be
3 the follower than a leader.

4 MR. BURR: Thank you, Dr. Schwartz-Watts.

5 THE COURT: Mr. Burr.

6 MR. BURR: May it please the Court, Your
7 Honor.

8 Your Honor, I think that a lot of the facts that
9 was given to you by the prosecutor probably came from
10 Mr. Gresham's statements. And a few minor things we
11 might disagree with, but the guilt and innocent phase is
12 over, so there's no need rehashing any of that. He's
13 admitted to his guilt. I understand this Court's
14 function is to dispense justice. I would ask today that
15 justice be tempered with mercy.

16 Mr. Gresham is a very different client. In thirty
17 years of doing both prosecution and defense, I've never
18 met anybody like him. He's more than a follower. I've
19 even had to deal with some situations since he's been
20 incarcerated. Whatever somebody tells him to do, he
21 does; every time, without exception. The closest thing
22 to an exception of not following instructions or not
23 being told -- doing what he's told to do, as luck would
24 have it, when this crime was happening, I had another
25 client unrelated that called me at home and said, you
26 know, law enforcement is up looking around. I found out

1 what was going on. So I contacted the jail and told
2 them, as soon as these people come in, make sure an
3 application is given to them. If they need a lawyer,
4 let me know. They filled out applications, or Gresham
5 did, immediately. I sent a letter to Lieutenant Reed or
6 Captain Reed now, saying if I represent him, I don't
7 want anybody talking to him. I found out within hours
8 that they interviewing him. So of course, I ran to the
9 jail. He had filled out a request. He wanted to talk
10 to them. He refused everything I had in mind. And he's
11 continued to talk to them. But I sat down and explained
12 to him, I said, you know, at this point I don't want you
13 talking to anybody until I've had a chance to do an
14 investigation and get the evidence. And with tears in
15 his eyes, he said, I've got to talk to them. I've got
16 to get it off my mind. Those were his words. Get it
17 off my mind. He was still having dreams. He was
18 extremely distraught.

19 I'm not so naive as to stand here and try to argue
20 the facts on this case. This is one of the most
21 horrible cases I've ever dealt with. But still, I do
22 say Mr. Gresham is a unique person. When I first went
23 over the facts before I spent much time with Mr.
24 Gresham, a book came to mind, Truman Capote's book, *In*
25 *Cold Blood*. There's some striking similarities. But as
26 I spent time with Butch, I started thinking more, Of

1 Mice and Men. This is Lennie right here. What he did
2 was terrible, and the prosecutor is right. He should
3 have stood up. He should have stopped it. The things
4 that happened absolutely break my heart. But he has
5 cooperated from day one. I've had some of the
6 investigators tell me, this case would not have been as
7 easy to prosecute without his assistance. He's helped
8 them go back and retrieve additional evidence. That
9 doesn't negate what happened, but it is mitigation, Your
10 Honor. He's -- he has some redeeming values.

11 Like I say, the facts are so bad, it's hard to even
12 come up with what the appropriate punishment would be,
13 because nothing is ever going to fix what happened.
14 What the Defense would ask Your Honor to consider, if he
15 were to get the maximum sentence on the grand larceny
16 and maximum on assault and battery and the maximum on
17 the kidnaping. But if Your Honor would sentence him to
18 only thirty years on the murder and the kidnaping and
19 let them run concurrent, justice would still have been
20 served. There would be a distinction between what
21 happened to Mr. Owens, the one that really was the
22 meaner of the two in this case.

23 Hopefully, I haven't said anything to add any
24 additional pain to the victims. That's not my intent.
25 But I would ask that Your Honor would at least consider
26 the recommendation I've asked for. Thank you, Your

1 Honor.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 Mr. Gresham, anything you'd like to tell me, sir?

4 DEFENDANT: I'm sorry. I can't go back and
5 change what happened, but I feel real bad. And every
6 day I wake up and I regret what happened. If you could
7 go by my cell, every day I wake up and I apologize and I
8 cry every morning and I pray and hope that the family
9 can find the heart one day to forgive me. I know if I
10 was in their shoes, I would be the same way. It would
11 be hard to forgive somebody for killing your family. I
12 understand that. I just hope that y'all will give me a
13 second chance at life. That's the only thing I can ask.
14 I'm begging for a second chance. That's all I want.

15 THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

16 Solicitor, be glad to hear from anyone that wants
17 to address me.

18 MS. ADAMS: Thank you, Your Honor. Your
19 Honor, the family would like me to actually, before the
20 speak, read a poem that Kim Corley actually wrote
21 herself and she read at her mother's funeral. It's
22 entitled, *I Remember Like Yesterday*.

23 I remember like yesterday my mother tucking me
24 away; sleep now my little one, for tomorrow is another
25 day. I remember like yesterday my mother holding my
26 hand; it's only a little scratch, you'll climb that tree

1 again. I remember like yesterday my mother braiding my
2 hair; you are so very pretty and he's so tall and fair.
3 I remember like yesterday my mother dancing across the
4 field gathering the black-eyed susans or plums or crab
5 apples in heels. I remember like yesterday my mother
6 shedding her tears as I wore something old, something
7 new, something borrowed, something blue, and lovingly
8 said, I do. I remember like yesterday my mother's
9 amused look, so you burned the potatoes, you'll
10 eventually learn to cook. I remember like yesterday my
11 mother nodding and saying, he's really not so bad,
12 you'll forgive him as I did Dad. I remember like
13 yesterday my mother kissing my Dad, his smiling
14 adoration and all the love he had. I remember like
15 yesterday my mother passing away, crying, oh, sweet
16 dear, I'll always be near.

17 THE COURT: All right. I'll be glad to hear
18 from anyone who would like to address me. If you would
19 just come to the microphone, please. State your name
20 for the record.

21 MS. BROOKS: My name is Kim Brooks. And I'm
22 here today to speak on behalf of two families, the
23 Corleys and the Scull family. More specifically, I'm
24 here to speak on behalf of Audrey Scull, my aunt, and
25 Eloise Corley, my mother, two innocent women who cannot

1 speak for themselves. They were taken from us on April
2 19th, 2010, in senseless, brutal murders that will
3 forever haunt both families and many of their friends.
4 Also, we cannot forget my father, Jerry Corley, who was
5 shot and severely injured on that day.

6 Two men, Shawn Owens and William Gresham, devised
7 and carried out this robbery, kidnaping, both murders
8 and one attempted murder. This was not some random
9 choice. This was not an inadvertent killing. This act
10 was planning several days before it occurred. It was
11 premeditated and viciously executed. William Gresham
12 may have cooperated with authorities to avoid the death
13 penalty, but he's equally as guilty as Shawn Owens and
14 deserved life in prison.

15 Two women were murdered. What more heinous crime
16 is there than murder? To cut someone's life short is
17 unforgivable. Both women were healthy and vibrant, with
18 many years left. Given today's statistics, they would
19 live another twenty to thirty years. That is a full
20 generation, a lifetime for some. My entire career in
21 the Navy was twenty years. I know these statistics to
22 be true, because I read the obituaries, something I
23 never did before this occurred. I read of dedicated
24 work, spousal support, generous acts of charity, with a
25 family's love and fulfilled lives. My mother and aunt
26 did not get to complete their lives. They were not

1 fully fulfilled. Who knows what else could have been
2 accomplished and how many others they may have affected.

3
4 My mother and aunt were real people, not just some
5 crime statistic. I think we can sometimes become numb
6 to all the violence in the world until it affects us
7 directly. I believe that some people are born evil,
8 without souls. No amount of nurturing them or punishing
9 them can change their dispositions. All you can do with
10 these individuals is to execute them or lock them up for
11 life. Most murderers fall into this category.

12 My mother and aunt loved each other deeply. My
13 mother moved to Salem to be near her sister. To her,
14 family was paramount. Their early lives were not easy.
15 Their own mother died when they were both quite young
16 and their dad, my grandfather, reared them. This was
17 not an easy task for a man of this time, but he was a
18 solid family man and he raised two fine daughters. They
19 loved him faithfully. I remember my mother mentioning
20 on one of our walks that he would be one hundred years
21 old that day. I think that their dependence on one
22 another when they were so young is one reason that they
23 were so very close later in life.

24 Our families spent a lot of time together. My
25 mother and aunt took turns cooking dinner. We sometimes
26 shopped together. My aunt came over every morning when

1 she walked her dog, and she, my mother, and I would talk
2 on the porch or over the fence. I looked forward to
3 these sessions, something I missed while I was away in
4 the Navy. We always celebrated holidays and birthdays
5 and any other special occasion together. Both my mother
6 and aunt were exceptional cooks and much time and effort
7 was put into preparing excellent meals.

8 My aunt worked her entire life with no significant
9 breaks. She was committed to her job and highly
10 regarded by her coworkers. But she often spoke of her
11 retirement, just a few months away. For the first time
12 in her life, she was looking forward to doing what she
13 wanted to do, when she wanted to do it. She could spend
14 more time with my uncle, who worked a different shift.
15 She could organize the house and storage sheds. She
16 could take up some crafts that she had never had time
17 for. She could walk more and get into shape. She could
18 cook more. She could spent more time with her daughter,
19 who lived too far away to visit on a daily basis. That
20 phase of her life was taken from her.

21 My mother was full of life. She was tireless. She
22 managed to complete college while she took care of a
23 husband and young child. I remember her telling me that
24 she would get up at four thirty in the morning to study.
25 She became an elementary school teacher and later helped
26 my father with his business. She kept a beautiful house

1 and yard. She loved the outdoors, maybe her greatest
2 gift to me. Some of my best memories are of the two of
3 us searching the country roads for plums or blackberries
4 and wild flowers. She was creative and imaginative and
5 encouraged me to be so. She was a voracious reader,
6 having read every book in our library. She could have
7 taught any history course as well as any professor. She
8 encouraged me to complete college and to be self-
9 sufficient. She was proud of my accomplishments and
10 imparted self-esteem and confidence.

11 My mother was the most thoughtful person I have
12 ever known. She never forgot a birthday or anniversary
13 or holiday. Family members and friends always got a
14 card or present or call. I remember her spending days
15 making candy and cookies to put into tins to take to
16 family and friends at Christmas. When I was in the
17 Navy, she sent tins all over the country and overseas to
18 my coworkers and me. She wrote long letters to older
19 family members or to other people she had known for many
20 years -- from many years ago. I received many letters
21 from these people after her death. Some of them
22 remembered what she had done for them over forty years
23 ago when they were a child.

24 My mother and aunt loved the simple things in life.
25 They loved their family, their pets, their homes and
26 gardens. They loved cooking and walking by the river.

1 They loved the mountains and changing seasons. They
2 were kind and generous and never dreamed that such
3 violence could befall them. I cannot imagine the terror
4 and pain they must have felt during the last moments of
5 their lives. That haunts me more than anything. I miss
6 them everyday and always will. I now understand the
7 tears shed by family members during televised trials
8 years after a crime was committed that took a loved one.

9 I know that our families have suffered terribly.
10 My father and uncle lost their wives and soul mates. My
11 cousin Stacy and I lost our mothers. My mother and aunt
12 were the center of the family. We've all had to change
13 our focus and the paths that we were following. My
14 father carries the additional burden of being a direct
15 victim himself. He was kidnaped, threatened for hours
16 and then shot. He has never fully recovered from the
17 physical injuries, let along the mental wounds. I know
18 that he still has nightmares and trouble sleeping.
19 We've gotten through this by supporting one another and
20 the love and support of our extended family, some who
21 are here today.

22 I ask this Court to give a life sentence to William
23 Gresham. It is true justice, given the pain and sorrow
24 that he has inflicted on so many.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Your Honor, my name is Sheila
26 Williams. And my relation to Eloise Corley is that of a

1 cousin. But more than that, Eloise was like a second
2 mother to me. I lived with Eloise and Jerry during my
3 college years. I cannot begin to tell you what an
4 influence both Audrey and Eloise were on my life.
5 Eloise taught me how to cook, gave me an appreciation of
6 nature, a love of reading and history, and taught me the
7 importance of family. I am the person I am today
8 because of Eloise Corley. She always encouraged me to
9 learn, travel and not be afraid to take chances.

10 There are many days when I think to myself, I need
11 to call Eloise and tell her about this. Or I need to
12 know what Eloise thinks about this situation. I will
13 never have that opportunity.

14 Audrey loved life and loved her family. She, like
15 her sister Eloise, was an excellent cook. I have many
16 recipes from Audrey, which I treasure. Cooking was a
17 big part of Eloise and Audrey's lives. Audrey's family
18 meant everything to her. She always went above and
19 beyond, not only for herself and family, but for anyone.
20 She was the most selfless, kind-hearted person I have
21 known. She always had a smile on her face and a kind
22 word to say. She will be missed terribly.

23 Our family, Your Honor, has been devastated by this
24 horrific event. We will never have the opportunity to
25 share meals so lovingly prepared by Eloise and Audrey.
26 We will never have the opportunity to celebrate holidays

1 or birthdays with Eloise and Audrey. It is just as
2 devastating to think about what Eloise and Audrey will
3 never have the chance to see and experience. Audrey,
4 who was months away from retiring from the library at
5 Clemson, was literally marking the days off of her
6 calendar until her retirement. She had posted pictures
7 in her office at the places she and David, her husband,
8 wanted to visit when they both retired. Audrey never
9 got to see her retirement. She will never get to see
10 those beautiful places she had in her pictures. She
11 will never have a chance to see her daughter Stacy
12 marry. She will never have the opportunity to know her
13 grandchildren because her life was taken so violently
14 for no reason on April 19th, 2010.

15 Audrey and Eloise lost their mother when Eloise was
16 thirteen years old. The bond between these two sisters,
17 as you can imagine, was incredibly strong. Eloise and
18 Jerry Corley moved to Salem, South Carolina, to live
19 next door to her sister and brother-in-law, Audrey and
20 David Scull, in their retirement years. Family was
21 everything to Audrey and to Eloise. Eloise's
22 daughter, Kim Corley, had recently retired from the
23 military. After serving her country for twenty years
24 and doing two tours of duty overseas, Kim had come home
25 to be with her family. Eloise will not see Kim enjoy
26 her retirement years. Everything that Audrey and Eloise

1 wanted was there. Kim was home from the military.
2 Eloise's sister and brother-in-law, Audrey and David,
3 were next door. And she and Jerry were both retired.
4 She had a beautiful home. She had a beautiful family.
5 She had a beautiful life. Her beautiful life was taken
6 in such a horrific, uncalled-for and unnecessary manner
7 on April 19th, 2010.

8 Your Honor, our family is broken. These heinous
9 and incomprehensible events have destroyed our family.
10 Audrey Scull and Eloise Corley were two of the greatest
11 people I have ever had the privilege of knowing in my
12 life.

13 One of the things that the solicitor said, she
14 talked about choice. The Defendant had choices. He
15 made choices. Audrey and Eloise did not choose to die
16 April 19th, 2010. Your Honor, we would ask you to grant
17 the maximum sentence in this case. The pain and torture
18 that Eloise and Audrey and our families suffered and are
19 suffering were and are horrific. The family wants
20 justice to be served for Audrey and Eloise and asks the
21 Court to grant the maximum sentence in this case of life
22 in prison.

23 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Williams.

24 MS. SCULL: My name is Stacy Scull. I was
25 having trouble writing what I would say about my mom
26 today because there are so many things that made her the

1 amazing woman she was. I was told by a great friend to
2 describe how she lived and how she completed my life.

3 My mom was everything to me. She was my
4 confidante. She was my other co-advisor, my positive
5 view on things. It was from her that I learned to greet
6 every person, whether they be a long-time friend or
7 stranger, with a warm, sincere smile. Her sweet nature
8 radiated from within her. My dad always said that it
9 was because she lost her own mother when she was only
10 eight that my mom always went so overboard to ensure
11 that I was happy. It was her love, her support, that
12 gave me the confidence to take every chance I've ever
13 taken in my whole life. I was never afraid of falling
14 because I knew if I did she would be right there to help
15 pick me up, brush me off and send me back to the next
16 exciting adventure. She was my strength.

17 I have read and reread every single word of all the
18 written statements and transcripts involved in this
19 case. It was not until I read these parts that I
20 discovered how I felt about the killer, William Gresham,
21 and the death of my mom and my Aunt Eloise. His choice
22 to go and serve as Shawn Owens' right-hand man and to
23 continue to participate after countless opportunities to
24 change the course of the day, more than facilitated
25 these murders. His own words make me wonder if his
26 biggest fear and motivation that day was not his safety,

1 but rather how he was perceived by a fellow criminal, a
2 man he had only met days before.

3 I realize there are a number of factors that affect
4 how we make our choices in life; how you're raised, the
5 opportunities afforded to you, your education. But none
6 of these factors excuse breaking the most basic or moral
7 and ethical human codes; that you never steal someone's
8 right to life.

9 My mother and aunt were stolen from this world and
10 that is something that could very well not have happened
11 had William Gresham not taken part. I can only hope
12 that his sentence will reflect his true guilt. Thank
13 you.

14 MR. SCULL: Your Honor, my name is David
15 Scull. Audrey was my wife. And as a result of the
16 actions of these two criminals, I've lost most of
17 everything I cared about in life. I've lost my
18 childhood sweetheart, my wife, my lover, my companion
19 and my best friend, whom I had been with for forty-five
20 years and had shared hopes, dreams and plans for our
21 future together. That can't be replaced; it can't be
22 undone. But you can lock these people away where they
23 can't hurt somebody else again. Please.

24 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Scull.

25 MS. ADAMS: Your Honor, they do have a picture
26 of the sisters if you would like to see it. This is

1 Jerry, Kim, Eloise and Audrey. It was taken years ago,
2 Judge.

3 THE COURT: Anything else?

4 MS. ADAMS: No, sir, Your Honor. Thank you.

5 THE COURT: I know everyone wishes that that
6 day could be turned around, but it can't. It's now my
7 job to try to see that justice is done for all the folks
8 involved here, Mr. Gresham, and certainly the family. I
9 wish I didn't have this job and I wish these things
10 didn't happen, but they did. The world is made of human
11 beings that do the wrong things sometimes.

12 Case 2010-GS-37-762, grand larceny, ten years in
13 prison at the State Department of Corrections.

14 Case 760, a twenty year sentence for assault and
15 battery with intent to kill.

16 Case 759, burglary, a thirty year sentence.

17 Case 758, kidnaping, a thirty year sentence.

18 Case 757, a thirty year sentence for the kidnaping
19 charge.

20 Case 2010-GS-37-756, the sentence is commitment to
21 the State Department of Corrections for life.

22 Case 755, the sentence is life in prison.

23 Court's adjourned.

24 MR. BURR: Thank you, Your Honor.

25 MS. ADAMS: Thank you, Your Honor.

26

The State of South Carolina -vs- William Cannon Gresham (2010-GS-37-00755-00762)
Guilty Plea

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(END OF REQUESTED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD)

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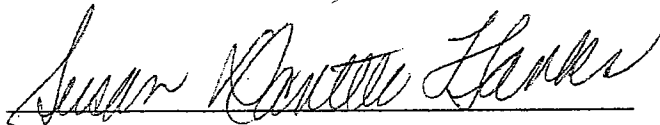
CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

I, the undersigned Danette P. Hanks, Official Court Reporter for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of record of all the proceedings had and evidence introduced in the trial/hearing of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Circuit Court for Pickens County, South Carolina, on the 13th day of April, 2011.

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I do further certify that I am neither of kin, counsel, nor interest to any party hereto.

April 18, 2012



Circuit Court Reporter