STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE SUPREME COURT

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S.C. SUPREME COURT

On Writ of Certiorari to the Court of Appeals
Appeal from Berkeley County
Honorable Maite Murphy, Circuit Court Judge
Appellate Case No. 2021-000146

THE STATE,

Petitioner,

vs.

RANDY WRIGHT,

Respondent.

APPENDIX (Volume I of II)

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INDEX

Index. i

Record on Appeal. 5

Final Brief of Appellant. 510

Final Brief of Respondent. 526

S.C. Court of Appeals Opinion No. 5782. 544

Respondent's Petition for Rehearing. 549

Order Denying Petition for Rehearing. 565

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SC Court of Appeals
ORIGINAL

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

Appeal from Berkeley County

Honorable Maite Murphy, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

RANDY WRIGHT,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2017-002130

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APP'X 1

INDEX

INDEX i

TRIAL TRANSCRIPT (AUGUST 30 – 31, 2017) 1

VOIR DIRE 8

JURY SELECTION 21

OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. MCNEELY 34

OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. DAVIS 43

TESTIMONY

DALE WILLIAMS
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 52
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 62
Redirect Examination by Mr. McNeely 72

DEANNA WILLIAMS
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 75
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 87

DENISE PENDLEY
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 92
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 109
Redirect Examination by Mr. McNeely 113

JACKSON V. DENNO HEARING 115

MICHELLE WARD (IN-CAMERA)
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 115
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 128
Redirect Examination by Mr. McNeely 130
Re-Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 131

COURT'S RULING 131

TESTIMONY

JAMES TAYLOR, III
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 134
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 179
Redirect Examination by Mr. McNeely 208

APP'X 2

JOHN MURRAY
Direct Examination by Ms. Smith 214
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 219

BOBBY SHULER
Direct Examination by Ms. Smith 220
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 226
Redirect Examination by Ms. Smith 232

TIFFANY SWINTON
Direct Examination by Ms. Smith 233
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 240
Redirect Examination by Ms. Smith 241

MICHELLE WARD
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 244
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 272
Redirect Examination by Mr. McNeely 289

AUGUST FLOOD
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 293
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 306
Redirect Examination by Mr. McNeely 307

CHRYSTAL SPENCE
Direct Examination by Ms. Smith 309

WENDY GRIFFITH
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 318
Voir Dire Examination by Mr. Davis 323
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely (continued) 325
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 344

SARAH ZAPATA
Direct Examination by Mr. McNeely 360
Cross Examination by Mr. Davis 369
Redirect Examination by Mr. McNeely 373

MOTION TO DISMISS 375

COURT'S RULING 377

TESTIMONY

RANDY WRIGHT (IN-CAMERA)
Examination by the Court 378

PENNY BLAIR
Direct Examination by Mr. Davis 387
Cross Examination by Mr. McNeely 392

Randy Wright
Direct Examination by Mr. Davis 395
Cross Examination by Mr. McNeely 415
Redirect Examination by Mr. Davis 423

CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. MCNEELY 426

CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. DAVIS 447

CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. MCNEELY 463

CHARGE ON THE LAW 466

VERDICT 488

SENTENCING 498

COURT'S EXHIBIT #2 (JURY NOTE) 501

INDICTMENT 502

SENTENCE SHEET 504

CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL 505

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	) GENERAL SESSIONS COURT
COUNTY OF BERKELEY	) CASE NO. 2016-gs-08-00306
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Plaintiff,	) Transcript of Record
vs.	) Date: August 30, 2017
RANDY WRIGHT, Defendant.	) August 31, 2017

* * * \

2

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I N D E X

	Page
VOIR DIRE	8
JURY SELECTION	17
THE JURY - SWORN	26
COURT'S OPENING STATEMENT	27
STATE'S OPENING STATEMENT	34
DEFENDANT'S OPENING STATEMENT	43
DALE WILLIAMS	51
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	52
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	62
REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	72
DEANNA WILLIAMS	75
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	75
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	87
DENISE PENDLEY	92
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	92
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	109
REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	113
JACKSON V. DENNO	115
MICHELLE WARD	115
DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	115
CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	128
REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	130
RECROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	131

1	JAMES CARLTON TAYLOR, III	134
2	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	134
3	WITNESS	150
4	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	179
5	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	208
6	JOHN MURRAY	213
7	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. SMITH	214
8	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	219
9	BOBBY SHULER	220
10	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. SMITH	220
11	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	226
12	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. SMITH	232
13	TIFFANY SWINTON	233
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. SMITH	233
15	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	240
16	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. SMITH	241
17	MICHELLE WARD	244
18	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	244
19	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	272
20	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	289
21	AUGUST MACK FLOOD	293
22	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	293
23	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	306
24	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	307
25	CHRYSTAL SPENCE	308

APP'X 8

1	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. SMITH	308
2	WENDY GRIFFITH	318
3	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	318
4	VOIR DIRE EXAM BY MR. DAVIS	323
5	CONTINUING DIRECT EXAM BY MR. MCNEELY	325
6	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	344
7	SARAH ZAPATA	360
8	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	360
9	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	369
10	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	373
11	RANDY WRIGHT	378
12	EXAMINATION BY THE COURT	378
13	PENNY BLAIR	386
14	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	387
15	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	392
16	RANDY WRIGHT	394
17	DIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	395
18	CROSS-EXAMINATION BY MR. MCNEELY	415
19	REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MR. DAVIS	423
20	CLOSING ARGUMENT BY THE STATE	426
21	CLOSING ARGUMENT BY THE DEFENSE	447
22	CLOSING ARGUMENT (REBUTTAL) BY THE STATE	463
23	JURY CHARGE	466
24	VERDICT	488
25	SENTENCING	498

APP'X 9

CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER 500

E X H I B I T S

	Page/Line	
STATE EXH. 34, Arrest warrant	290	15
DFT. EXH. 1, Medical records	178	21
DFT. EXH. 2, Medical records	178	23
DFT. EXH. 3, Medical records	178	25
DFT. EXH. 4, Medical records	179	2
DFT. EXH. 5, Medical records	185	24
DFT. EXH. 6, Statement of James Taylor	274	10
COURT EXH. 1, Jury note	386	14
COURT EXH. 2, Jury note	487	2
COURT EXH. 3, Jury Charge	487	7
STATE EXH. 2 in evidence	77	17
STATE EXH. 1 in evidence	85	17
STATE EXH. 11 - 20 in evidence	97	21
STATE EXH. 21 and 22 in evidence	103	24
STATE EXH. 23 - 26 in evidence	106	23
STATE EXH. 3 - 10 in evidence	160	2
STATE EXH. 27 in evidence	265	25
STATE EXH. 28 in evidence	299	14
STATE EXH. 29 in evidence	301	1
STATE EXH. 30 in evidence	366	5

STATE EXH. 31 in evidence		366	6
STATE EXH. 32 in evidence		366	7
STATE EXH. 33 in evidence		366	8
DFT. EXH. 6 in evidence		276	17
DFT. EXH. 3 in evidence		360	3

(State's Exhibits Number 1 - 33 premarked before trial by Solicitor.)

(The following proceedings were held 8/30/17 at 9:54 a.m., Berkeley County General Sessions Court.)

(State's Exhibits 1 - 33 premarked by the Solicitor.)

MR. MCNEELY: State calls State of South Carolina v. Randy Wright.

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, we are about to begin the trial of the South Carolina v. Randy Wright. Before we begin the selection of this trial, I will read to you the indictment which contains merely the allegation that brings the case into court. The reason I do that is to see if you know anything about the case to let me know if that's the case.

Indictment 2016-GS-08-00306 states that in Berkeley County, South Carolina, on or about August 8th, 2015, the Defendant Randy Wright did commit an unlawful act of injury upon the victim James Carlton Taylor; and as a result, he suffered great bodily injury or harm to produce death or great bodily injury, in violation of the South Carolina Code of Laws.

Ladies and gentlemen, I will ask the Solicitor to introduce the Solicitor and members of

his office, please.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

Morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Will McNeely. I represent the Ninth Circuit Solicitor's Office on behalf of the elected Solicitor Scarlett Wilson, who is your solicitor for Berkeley and Charleston Counties. I'm the Solicitor assigned to Berkeley County.

Assisting me in the trial of this case will be Assistant Solicitor Jordan Smith and our paralegal, Denita Brown, Officer Michelle Ward, and my investigator will be in and out, David Young.

THE COURT: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, is there anyone related by blood or marriage, or have a close personal or social relationship, or has ever been represented by any of the attorneys at the Solicitor's Office in any capacity? If so, please stand.

I find that there is no one standing.

Mr. Davis, if you would please stand and introduce yourself and any members of your office.

MR. DAVIS: Good morning. My name is Steve Davis. I practice law in Moncks Corner. I have the pleasure this morning of representing

Mr. Randy Wright and the Wright family. Thank you very much.

THE COURT: Thank you, Counsel.

Ladies and gentlemen, is there anyone related by blood or marriage, or have a close personal or social relationship with Mr. Davis, or has ever been represented by him in any capacity? If so, please stand.

Yes, sir. If you would come forward.

THE BAILIFF: Juror 157.

THE COURT: Morning.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Morning.

THE COURT: You're Mr. Smalls.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: Come on up so the court reporter can hear you. You have been represented by Mr. Davis before?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: And when was that?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: It's a been long time.

THE COURT: A long time ago?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you regularly see him or talk to him on a regular basis?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Well, he's married to my sister.

THE COURT: Okay. So you're family, so you have a double thing.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Don't tell anybody.

THE COURT: I'm not sure that you claim him or not. I'm kidding, of course. Mr. Smalls, obviously, if you're family, do you think that you could set that aside, or you would be predisposed to be on his side?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Mostly on his side.

THE COURT: All right, sir. Why don't we do this. I will excuse you from the trial of this case.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Okay. Thank you.

THE COURT: You're free to go.

THE BAILIFF: Juror 119.

THE COURT: Morning, sir.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Morning.

THE COURT: You're Mr. McClean?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: Come on up a little bit. You've been represented by Mr. Davis?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No. We live in the same neighborhood and go to church with my wife.

THE COURT: So you just kind of know who he is?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you visit or go to dinner or anything of that nature?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

THE COURT: The fact that you know who he is, can you set that aside in this case and listen to the evidence as it comes from the witness stand?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

THE COURT: Pardon me?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

THE COURT: You can't listen to the evidence?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, I can.

THE COURT: Can you set aside knowing him and be fair to both sides?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes. Yes.

THE COURT: I just wanted to make sure that you understood my question. So you can set aside knowing him and be fair and impartial to both sides?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: And will you follow the law

as I give it to you?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, you were introduced to Mr. Randy Wright a second ago. Anyone related by blood or marriage or have a close social relationship with Mr. Randy Wright? If so, please stand.

Yes, sir; if you would come forward.

THE BAILIFF: Juror 173.

THE COURT: Morning.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Morning.

THE COURT: You're Mr. Thomas.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: How do you know Mr. Wright?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: My brother was married to his sister.

THE COURT: Okay. And they have been divorced for awhile?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: They've been divorced for a bunch of years.

THE COURT: A bunch of years?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: Do you see him regularly?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

THE COURT: Have you -- do you spend time in each other's homes?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

THE COURT: Do you know anything about the case?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No.

THE COURT: Okay. Do you think you can set aside the fact that he was previously in your family?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, I think I can. Yeah.

THE COURT: Well, I mean, if you can, you can; if you can't, you can't. There is no right or wrong answer. You know exactly how you feel.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah, I'm sure.

THE COURT: Are you sure?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yeah.

THE COURT: Okay. Okay. And you can set that previous relationship completely aside; is that correct?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Ma'am.

THE COURT: Okay. And can you be fair and impartial to both sides, to the State and defense?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: And can you -- if you know, was that -- as far as a divorce was concerned, is it what you would consider amicable? There's no hard feelings still in the family?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, there was hard feelings.

THE COURT: There was. Why don't we do this to be on the safe side. I'm going to go ahead and excuse you from this trial.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Sure. Sure. Thank you, ma'am.

THE BAILIFF: Juror 60.

THE COURT: Good morning.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Good morning.

THE COURT: Mr. Brinson.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes.

THE COURT: And you know Mr. Wright?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am. My brother was commonly-law married to his sister. So we have a niece together. I talk to the niece every now and then.

THE COURT: As far as Mr. Wright is concerned, do you visit in each other's homes?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am, I don't

speak to him or anything. Like I said, it's just letting you know, it's family. Her family.

THE COURT: Her family. Okay. And as far as -- you said that you don't visit. Do you know anything about the case, or have you heard anything about this case?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

THE COURT: You have no previous information about it?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

THE COURT: Can you set that situation aside, as far as that family connection in this case, and listen to the evidence as it comes from the witness stand?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: And would you be fair and impartial to both sides?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: Can you follow the law as I give it to you?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Can I ask you another thing? I'm also a provider in the emergency room, and Friday I don't have any

coverage. I've tried all week to get coverage, and I'm available today and tomorrow, but Friday I have no backup.

THE COURT: We should be done by Friday.

MR. MCNEELY: Mr. Brinson testified as a medical expert in an attempted murder trial I was involved in, on Friday. So we did meet on that occasion.

THE COURT: Do you recall that?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: Anything about that previous interaction that would prevent you from being fair and impartial to both sides?

PROSPECTIVE JUROR: No, ma'am.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to read to you a list of potential witnesses in this case. After I read all of the potential witnesses to you, I will ask you the same question; if you are related by blood or marriage or have a close personal or social relationship with any of the potential witnesses in this case. And if they're in the courtroom, please stand so the jury can see them.

James Taylor, Tammy Lott, Dale Williams, Deanna Williams, Denise Pendley, Linda Starland, Robert Dwyer, Michelle Ward -- there is Ms. Ward. Thank you, Ms. Ward.

James Riser, John Murray, Bobby Shuler, Trey Elrod, Augustus Mack Flood, Chrystal Spence, Tiffany Swinton, Scott Grooms, Renee Bailey, Dr. Carl Potts, Wendy Griffith, Grace Bays, Sarah Zapata, Penny Blair, Doyle Long, and Sheila Monday.

These are a list of potential witnesses in this case. If anyone is related by blood or marriage and has a close personal or social relationship with any of the potential witnesses, please stand.

I find that there is no one standing.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, is there any member of the jury panel that was a member of the grand jury which issued the indictment in this case? If so, please stand.

I find there is no one standing.

Is there any member of the jury panel who is a member of or a contributor to any group which has, as its primary concern, the promotion of law enforcement or victims' rights? These groups

would include but are not limited to MADD, SADD, or Citizens Against Violent Crime. If so, please stand.

I find there is no one standing.

Is there any member of the jury panel heard of this case before today, or today, or have any information about this particular case? If so, please stand.

I find that there is no one standing.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel, based upon your personal experiences or that of your immediate family or friends -- you've heard the type of allegations in this case -- anything about your experiences or that of your friends or family or any close personal -- anybody close to you that would cause you in any way to hesitate in your ability to be fair and impartial to both the State and the defense in this case? If so, please stand.

I find that there is no one standing.

Any member of the jury panel formed or expressed any opinion about any issue or matter involved in this case? If so, please stand.

I find that there is no one standing.

Is there any member of the jury panel

aware of any bias or prejudice towards either the State or the defense in this case? If so, please stand.

I find that there is no one standing.

Does any member of the jury panel know of any reason whatsoever why he or she should not serve as a juror in this case with a particular emphasis being placed on your ability to be fair and impartial both to the State and the defense? If so, please stand.

I find that there is no one standing.

Ladies and gentlemen, that will conclude the list of questions that we will ask before we begin the selection of this jury.

We are having some technical difficulties. So if you want to run to the restroom or whatnot, please be back in ten minutes. We should be ready to go by then.

(A recess transpired.)

THE COURT: We are now ready to proceed. Madame Clerk.

THE CLERK: Ladies and gentlemen, as I call your name, please come forth and bring your personal belongings with you. If I say, have a seat in the jury box, please have a seat in the

jury box. If I say, return to your original seating, please return.

Please follow the instructions of the bailiff right here with the gray jacket on.

Juror No. 134, Richard O'Brien.

What say you for the State?

MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the jury.

THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?

MR. DAVIS: Seat Mr. O'Brien.

THE CLERK: Seat the juror.

Juror 159, Jason Southard.

What say you for the State?

MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.

MR. DAVIS: Seat Mr. Southard.

THE CLERK: Seat the juror.

Juror 107, Charles Livingston.

What say you for the State?

MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.

THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?

MR. DAVIS: Seat Mr. Livingston.

THE CLERK: Seat the juror.

Juror 178, Allysa Toms.

What say you for the State?

MR. MCNEELY: Please excuse the juror.
THE CLERK: Excuse the juror.
Juror No. 29, Mark Chance.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.
MR. DAVIS: Seat Mr. Chance.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror 170, Randall Swiszcz.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Seat the juror.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror 195, James Lewis.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Excuse the juror.
THE CLERK: Excuse the juror.
Juror 17, Gabrielle Brooks.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What says the defense?

MR. DAVIS: Please seat Ms. Brooks.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror No. 94, Amanda Kerwood.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.
MR. DAVIS: Seat the juror.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror No. 8, Rita Bennett.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Please excuse Ms. Bennett.
THE CLERK: Excuse the juror.
Juror 70, Ernestine Glover.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Seat the juror.
MR. DAVIS: Seat Ms. Glover.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror 135, Torey Ogrodnik.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Seat the juror.

THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror 49, Laura Drolet.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Seat Ms. Drolet.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror 171, Hugh Tappan.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Excuse this juror.
THE CLERK: Excuse the juror.
Juror 35, Linda Compton.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Excuse this juror.
THE CLERK: Excuse the juror.
Juror 176, Anna Thompson.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please seat the juror.

MR. DAVIS: Seat Ms. Thompson.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Juror 113, Joshua Martin.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Please excuse the juror.
THE CLERK: Excuse the juror.
Juror 89, David Hopkins.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Seat Mr. Hopkins.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Picking for our alternate.
Juror No. 22, Tamera Burdette.
What say you for the State?
MR. MCNEELY: Seat the juror.
THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?
MR. DAVIS: Apologize, what's the number again?
THE CLERK: 22.
MR. DAVIS: Seat Ms. Burdette.
THE CLERK: Seat the juror.
Picking for our next alternate.

Juror 184, James Vondohlen.

What say you for the State?

MR. MCNEELY: Seat the juror.

THE CLERK: What say you for the defense?

MR. DAVIS: Seat the juror.

THE CLERK: Seat the juror.

THE COURT: Any exceptions or objections from the selection of this jury from the State or the defense?

MR. MCNEELY: None, Your Honor.

MR. DAVIS: None, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury panel that were not picked for the trial of this case, it's actually your lucky day. You are done with jury service so you are free to go. If you need an excuse from the clerk's office, I'm sure they will help you at the clerk's office.

Have a nice day. Thank you so much.

(Jury panel out, 10:28 a.m.)

THE COURT: Welcome, ladies and gentlemen of the jury.

Madame Clerk, please swear in the jury.

THE JURY,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE COURT: Please be seated.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Thank you for accepting this important responsibility of jury service and for your contribution today to our system of justice.

What I will now say to you is intended to serve as an introduction to the trial of this case. These remarks are not a charge on the law in this case. I will instruct you on the law in this case applicable at the end of the trial before you retire to consider your verdict. This is merely an explanation of the procedure that we will follow so that you will have a better understanding of what is going on during the trial of this case.

Ladies and gentlemen, you are not to take notes during the trial of this case. The defendant in this case is charged by an indictment filed in this court with the crime of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. The elements of that crime will be explained to you at a later time. The indictment is simply the charge by which this case is brought into court, and it is not in any sense evidence of the allegations it contains.

The defendant has pled not guilty to

this indictment. The State, therefore, has the burden of proving each of the elements of the indictment beyond a reasonable doubt. It will be your duty, ladies and gentlemen, to decide whether the State has met that burden. Your purpose as jurors is to find and determine the facts. You are the sole judges of the facts. If at any time I make any comment regarding the facts, you must disregard that.

You are to determine the facts from the testimony that you hear and any other evidence that is properly introduced in court. It is up to you to determine the inferences that you feel may be properly drawn from the evidence. It is especially important that you perform your duty of determining the facts diligently and conscientiously because ordinarily there is no way to correct an erroneous determination of the facts by a jury.

On the other hand and with equal emphasis, the same law that makes you the judges of the facts, makes me the judge of the law. The law as given by the Court is the only law that you may consider. You must accept it and follow it, even though you may disagree with it.

I cannot tell you what the facts are

and you cannot disagree with me about what the law is or should be. Your job is to take the law as I give it to you and apply it to the facts as you find them from the testimony of the witnesses and any other evidence that is introduced.

After doing that, you will render your verdict under the solemn oath that you just took as jurors.

Until I advise you to begin your deliberations, you must not discuss the case with anyone. This includes your fellow jurors, your friends, your family members, anyone involved in this case. This includes any discussions which are face to face, by telephone, e-mail, any texts, blogs, or any other communication.

You may not use a computer, cell phone, or other electronic devices with communication capabilities at any time while you're in the courtroom or during deliberations.

During the breaks; or for meals; or overnight, of course, you may use these devices; however, you may not at any time use these devices to get or send information about the case. This would include any information about a party, witness, an attorney, any court officers, any news

account about the case, any research on any topics that may be raised, and any topics that you think would be helpful in deciding this case, or any testimony as presented by a witness.

During the trial, please do not listen to, watch, or anything about any news reports about this case. This would include anything that may be in the newspapers, internet, radio, or TV. You must not consider anything that you may have heard or read or heard about this case outside of this courtroom, whether it's before or during the trial of this case.

After the case is submitted to you, you must discuss it only in the jury room with your fellow jurors. The attorneys and parties in this case have been advised not to talk to you; so if you see them coming in and out of the courthouse and they don't say hello, they are not being unfriendly. They're just following the Court's instructions.

It is important that you keep an open mind and not decide any issue in this case until all of the evidence has been presented, the parties have made their closing arguments, and I have instructed you on the law in this case.

It is your solemn responsibility to determine the guilt or the innocence of the defendant, and your verdict must be based solely on the evidence as it is presented to you in this trial and on the law as I instruct you at the close of the trial.

In just a moment, the Solicitor will make an opening statement in which the Solicitor will explain to you what the issues in the case are, or at least the Solicitor thinks the issues are.

The attorney for the defense may also make an opening statement; although, they're not required to do so.

What the attorneys tell you during their opening statements is not evidence in this case. It's only their contention as to what the issues are. The evidence in this case will be presented to you by the testimony of sworn witnesses from the witness stand and by any exhibits that are properly introduced during the trial of the case.

From time to time during the trial, you may hear one of the attorneys say something like, Your Honor, I have a matter of law. May we

approach the bench? Or sometimes I myself might find it necessary to excuse you from the courtroom for a short while so the attorneys and I can discuss a matter of law.

The reason for this is because you are the judges of the facts in this case, and sometimes when I'm discussing matters of law with the attorneys, it may be necessary for me to make a comment as to the facts in connection with the ruling as to whether or not a particular law applies.

I'm not supposed to tell you what I think the facts are, so I will excuse you from the courtroom for a short while while these discussions take place so that, in no way, will you be influenced by anything I might say or do in connection with the facts in this case.

In determining what the true facts are in this case, you must decide whether or not the testimony of witnesses is believable. It will be my responsibility to rule as a matter of law whether or not certain testimony is admissible or not; but once the testimony is admitted, whether you believe it or not, is solely for you to determine.

In deciding whether or not to believe a witness, you have the right to consider the interest of any witness, the bias of any witness, the prejudice of any witness, the opportunity for what the witness could have seen, the matters about which the witness may testify, and the way that the witness acts on the witness stand.

You have the right to consider anything that is in the record that will help you evaluate the testimony of the witnesses. That means it is your duty to pay close attention to these witnesses to observe the witnesses, to listen to the witnesses, and please pay close attention to the attorneys and to the Court.

Please do not let your thoughts wander, but give strict attention to the testimony in this case so that at the end of the trial, after you've heard the closing arguments of counsel and you've been instructed on the law, you will then be in a position to render a verdict under the solemn oath that you just took.

It will be the added duty of the foreperson to write the verdict on the verdict form, and I will allow you to elect your own foreperson when you go back in the jury room to act

in that capacity. You also will be the liaison to the Court. Your vote, of course, is the same as everyone else's, but it's the foreperson's duty to write the verdict on the verdict form.

In order to preserve everyone's rights, are there any objections to the opening instructions?

MR. MCNEELY: None from the State.

MR. DAVIS: None, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. Ladies and gentlemen, pay close attention.

You may proceed, Solicitor.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, may I approach briefly?

THE COURT: Certainly.

(Bench conference.)

MR. MCNEELY: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. Thank you for being here today. I know jury selection and jury duty is not on the top of everyone's list for the week, but this will only take up a short period of your time, and I can't stress to you how important you are to this.

You are the deciders of the facts. You are the conscience of the community. When a

dispute happens, you get to be the ones to speak for the community as to what the results would be, what justice will be done.

The Defendant in this case, Randy Wright, is charged with the offense of assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. I represent the State in this matter on behalf of the Solicitor's Office and the elected Solicitor, Scarlett Wilson. Assisting me, the Assistant Solicitor Jordan Smith. She is also with our office.

The judge at the end of the trial will explain the law to you. She is the decider of the law, and you are the decider of the facts. Whatever she says regarding the law, that's the law of this court, but I'm going to give you a little background on what the law is as it applies to this charge so you will know what we were speaking about.

As I stated, the Defendant, Randy Wright, is charged with assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. The elements of the charge are as follows: A person commits the offense of an assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature. The person, one, unlawful entry

to another person and, two, great bodily injury to another person results or -- and I can't stress the or enough -- the act is accomplished by means likely to produce death or great bodily injury.

What that means is when that the assault occurs an injury occurs to the victim. If there's great bodily injury to the victim, then it's assault and battery of a high and aggravated nature; however, great bodily injury isn't required.

If the act itself which caused injury, the great bodily injury or any minimal injury under that, is a means by which it can be conceived likely to produce death or great bodily injury, it's still a high and aggravated nature assault.

It does not require that there be great bodily injury. Just that it be accomplished by means likely to produce that.

What great bodily injury means as defined by statute is injury which causes a substantial risk of death or which causes serious permanent disfigurement or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member or organ.

So what you're going to decide in this

case is whether the victim, Jimmy Taylor, was injured? Was he injured to a point of great bodily injury, or was the appliance by which he was injured likely to produce great bodily injury? And that's what the focus of the case is going to be about.

No one is going to come in here and say that Jimmy Taylor, luckily, suffered great bodily injury in this case. The issue is that it was accomplished by means likely to produce that. He's lucky that he didn't suffer great bodily injury. He's lucky that he is here to sit in this courtroom today and that he didn't die from the attack.

The evidence that's going to be presented, ladies and gentlemen, is that on Saturday, August 8, 2015, around dusk, Jimmy Taylor was on his way home, to his home on Cooper Store Road in Moncks Corner.

For anybody who doesn't know where that is, you head out of town here towards Cross, take a left a couple of red lights on and head back towards the interstate. Cooper Store Road is a long road, two lanes that connect you to Jedburg and then you hit the interstate. It's a fairly rural part of the county, but there are homes all

along it as well as farms and fields.

He was on his way home to the trailer. He was coming through town from Moncks Corner, and he stopped at the Country Corner store right up here at the intersection of Highway 6, or Main Street. It's where you can cut off to go to Pinopolis. The gas station that's frequented by people, especially those that live out in Cross or Coopers Store area that are heading to their house before they're on their way out of town.

He stopped there and went in and got some gas and got some other items, got in his truck to head out of the parking lot. As he was heading out of the parking lot, taking a right to head north, he sees this Defendant and his two adult sons, Adam and Shawn Wright, sitting in a truck in the parking lot of an abandoned building across the street.

Jimmy Taylor drives by, and he sees the Defendant pull his truck out onto the road and get right behind him. Now, what you will hear is that Jimmy knows this Defendant. They've had interactions before, and they weren't close.

So when he saw him, he knew who he was dealing with and knows that he lives near him.

Jimmy headed on out Highway 6, or Main Street, and made a left on Cooper Store Road to head home; this Defendant turned right behind him.

After they turned onto Cooper Store, this Defendant passed him and got in front of him in the truck. Not long after that, he rolled back close to the front of Jimmy's car, and a bottle came flying out of the passenger side striking the victim's truck in the front.

Jimmy was scared at that point, but he kept driving. The Defendant turned off onto Rainbow Acres Road, which is just a little bit before the victim's house. When the Defendant turned off, Jimmy thought everything was going to be okay; it was just a little bottle hitting his truck. It may have caused some damage, but everything is all right.

Jimmy proceeded on past Rainbow Acres, and he made a left into his driveway. It's a gravel driveway about 20 yards long with a gate at the end. Jimmy turned towards the gate, and he got out to unlock the gate that he keeps locked so people can't get in to take his stuff. As he exited his truck that night to open his gate, what he thought was over when the Defendant turned down

Rainbow Acres wasn't.

He saw the Defendant and his two adult sons charging at him up the driveway. The next thing he knew, he got hit in the face with a pipe, or a jack handle, some long metal object, right in the eye. Means likely to cause death or great bodily injury.

It didn't stop there, though. It wasn't one blow to the face. It proceeded to be a repeated assault on his head with a long metal object causing multiple lacerations -- and you will see photos of them -- and he got beat and kicked all over his body by this Defendant and his two adult sons.

Luckily, for Jimmy, before they could finish the beating and seriously and permanently maim or kill him, his neighbor Dale Williams' dog started barking. Dale flipped on the light on his porch because it was dark at this point, and he came outside, and the Defendant and his sons ran down the driveway, got back in their truck, pulled a U-turn and left.

Jimmy was bleeding profusely from his head; he was beaten all over; EMS was called to the scene. He was taken to EMS and treated for his

injuries. Like I said, Jimmy's lucky to be here today. He's sitting right there. It haunts him every day. He got the devil beaten out of him, and it very easily, if not probably, could have ended his life or seriously made it to where he couldn't be sitting in this courtroom today.

You're going to hear from witnesses in this case. You will hear from Mr. Taylor and the officers involved as well as some forensic evidence and medical evidence about his treatment. You will see photos of his injuries, the driveway where this happened. You will see some physical evidence. You will see the shirt he was wearing when this happened.

Listen to all of the evidence from the witness stand. Look at what we present to you. Use your common sense. This isn't a complicated case; there's one charge. It's very simple.

On August 8, 2015, this Defendant and his sons made the conscious choice to beat Jimmy within an inch of his life, or what could have been within an inch of his life if not his life.

One thing I want to share with you about the law before I close is the hand of one is the hand of all. I mentioned to you about the

facts that this was a collective beating handed out by the Defendant and his sons. You do not need to focus on who threw which blow, because the law of the State says, when a crime is committed by two or more people who are acting together, the act of one is the act of all.

A person who joins with another to commit an unlawful act is criminally responsible for everything done by the other person which happens as a probable or natural consequence of carrying out the crime.

So what that says in a nutshell is this Defendant is responsible for every blow he threw and every blow his sons threw through the course of this assault. What happened to Jimmy on that night was a coordinated attack by this man and his sons that very easily and probably could have killed him but for his neighbor exiting his front porch that night and scaring them away.

I ask you to pay attention during this. Thank you for your service and time. You are the deciders in this case. Hear from the witnesses; look at the evidence. When you do, you will be firmly convinced this Defendant is guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Solicitor.

Counsel.

MR. DAVIS: May it please the Court, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

MR. DAVIS: Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, I'm going to re-introduce myself. After you hear that version, then you may say, why are we here? I'm going to make some concessions. You promise me to honestly honor your duty to be fair and impartial, you don't have no friends to reward, no enemies to punish, I promise you that if you center your attention to this fact-finding chair, right here (Indicating), I'm confident that justice will be rendered.

Now, if you come with a preconceived disposition about what the facts are, that really -- this young man I represent, Randy Wright, his wife of 24 years, no prior criminal history whatsoever. His version of the facts is totally opposite.

I want you to hold the Solicitor to his version of what he represented to you. Despite what the Judge said, that our conscious effort should be to get the facts from here. But he, the

Solicitor, has made a decision to adopt the version of the facts that Mr. Taylor has presented to him.

The question is going to be in this case, are you too going to join in with this miscarriage of justice and adopt Mr. James Taylor's version of what happened that night? It just doesn't make sense.

And I thought about this case sitting up in the deer stand yesterday. A thought came to me, yes, it was an invitation to fight, but who created that invitation to fight? I want you to be mindful of the things that were not said. But we're going to fill in the gaps.

We're going to fill in the gaps, because there is no mention of the country store that Mr. James Taylor was at purchasing alcohol, that his blood level was highly toxic, that he shouldn't even have been driving on the roadway. Solicitor didn't share any of these facts, that the EMS report would show that he, in fact, didn't want to go in the EMS.

Because you know what? When you initiate a fight and you get somewhat some bad results from it, you feel justified in not seeking any further treatment.

This description of a pipe, this description of a jackhammer is being adopted to incense you and enrage you to have a bias and negative opinion of Randy Wright. And I'm telling you, Randy Wright has a heart of peace. I'm convinced of this. He has a heart of peace. He's a man, he's a hard worker, he's a mechanic, and any individual will attest to that.

What truly happened that night you will hear from this witness stand is that, in fact, Mr. Taylor with a heart of war bent on engaging into a fight, started a series of events that caused each and every one of you to be here today.

I will share with you a little secret. I've been practicing law for 35 years, but more importantly, out of that 35 years, I have sat in that same chair for ten years. Ten years I sat in this chair and I enjoyed every aspect of sitting in that chair, because I'm telling you, even 35 or 25 years later what really gets me up in the morning is the potential or the existence of an injustice. I don't understand it, but it's woven into the fabric of who I am, an injustice.

And this is what's trying to be perpetrated upon each and every one of you this

week as is related to Randy, the potential for injustice. You know, sometimes if we have kids and one of them rush to you first and give you a version of what happened, you know, it's easily encrypted to want to adopt that description.

These are the things I want to share with you. This isn't what happened on August 8, 2015, and it took 11 days for the cops to figure out what happened. Eleven days. And all this description of someone being lucky that they're alive is nothing but hot air being perpetrated by the Solicitor. Eleven days, luck to be here.

It's a tragedy that Randy Wright is here, to be honest with you, facing his life, liberty and the pursuit of his happiness with his wife of 24 years, his two lovely daughters, and his two sons. He just wants to go back to his address called a Pot of Gold Drive out here in the Berkeley County community.

You know, once you're charged with an offense in the State of South Carolina of this great nation, that's what it is; it's a charge. The burden shifts on the prosecutor to prove him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt. Thank God we have a jury system in this country where a person

has the right to have 12 people made up of his peers bring their decision.

I will live with whatever your decision is. I'm confident when the facts are gleaned from this witness chair, you too will join me in concluding that Randy Wright is the victim here.

Think about this for a moment. A pipe, a jackhammer, and in the totality of the injuries, you're talking about 15 or 12 stitches. My God. James Taylor brought a stick. Thank God that this young man's two sons, who was not even engaged in this matter, came to his rescue. Because, luckily, he was in a choke hold by James Taylor, and his sons came to his father's rescue.

Now, this is what happened and this is what is going to be presented from the witness chair. Randy (sic) Taylor was shocked to know that this guy is violent against him. He's a mechanic; he had done work for him. He don't know what's going on.

He stops at the country store, he's worked all day. This young man is inside the door -- prosecutor don't reference that -- of the country store. He looks back at him and holds his two cases of beer up in his hands, looks ugly at my

client, exits the store.

The two sons don't even -- they didn't even go inside the store. Randy was not drinking. So we'll find out that the alleged victim had. He drives away, and lo-and-behold, this same James Taylor who is coming, before you got the State's doctored version of their case, drives up behind him, slings a bottle out at his car, and strikes Randy Taylor's vehicle.

Now, if Randy Taylor is guilty of anything, ladies and gentlemen, he used poor judgment to go in and inquire, park his car across the street, because they live in the same neighborhood, and say, well, Mr. Taylor, what have I done to offend you. I noticed in the store you had this ugly disposition towards me. I noticed that you drove up close behind my vehicle and you threw a bottle. Before he could say a word, James Taylor took out a stick and a fight ensued.

Young boys rushed across the street and picked Mr. Taylor -- come here, Randy, please.

(Defendant approached.)

MR. DAVIS: How tall are you, Randy?

THE DEFENDANT: I'm 4, 9.

MR. DAVIS: Okay.

He's a little fellow here, little fellow. Taylor had him down and the boys came and pulled him off. The reason I used poor judgment is because I said, you know what, Randy should have gone on home, but sometimes you have a peace of heart and you want to find out. You live in the same neighborhood. When you live in the same neighborhood, you want to know why your neighbors are kind of foul with you.

It's not uncommon for him to park across the street and walk over and say, what's going on. But this whole aspect of seeing him drive down Highway 16 and get behind this car and engage in a fight don't make sense. Randy Taylor just came from work. Randy Taylor doesn't have that kind of disposition. He doesn't have any foulness or ugliness towards James Taylor.

I ensue each one of you, I don't care if you don't like my strong voice, don't penalize Randy Wright but for what comes from this fact-finding chair. That's all I'm asking. That's all I'm asking. I sat in that chair for ten years and enjoyed what I did. I believe in victims. I believe in right and wrong.

I believe the State has the right to

prosecute the cases, but at the end of the day, I'm asking each one of the -- you make them prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt. Don't make them fantasize and talk about lucky somebody's alive, we're talking about near death.

You engage in the creative invitation to fight -- eleven days. And I will share this: The cops didn't have to come and search for Randy Wright. Randy Wright walked into the sheriff's department and said, what's going on? What happened? Eleven days later.

Now, someone who is near death, who is beaten so savagely -- I need to have a talk with Sheriff Lewis, the new sheriff, because it takes 11 days to determine that somebody's been savagely beaten for you to arrest them; something is wrong with law enforcement in Berkeley County. Something is seriously wrong.

I'm not telling you that the ruckus didn't occur. I'd never misrepresent that. I want you to listen right here, and the judge is going to instruct you, I hope that you can agree with me that it doesn't matter where the truth comes from. I hope you can agree with me that it doesn't matter where the truth comes from.

Your job is a truth-finding mission. I'm confident if you pursue the truth, at the end of the day you will speak a verdict and tell Randy, you can go back to Pot of Gold Drive where you live with your family, and we prevented this miscarriage of justice and this adoption and version of the facts; because each one of you, collectively and individually, will render a verdict that speaks the truth and say without a shadow that, in fact, my client is innocent, and not guilty. Thank you very much.

THE COURT: You may call the first witness.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you. The State calls Dale Williams.

THE WITNESS: I don't swear on Bibles.

THE COURT: You can affirm to tell the truth.

DALE WILLIAMS,

being first duly affirmed, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: Dale Patrick Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Good morning, Mr. Williams.

A. Morning, sir.

Q. How old are you, sir?

A. 60.

Q. Are you married?

A. Yes.

Q. What's your wife's name?

A. Deanna.

Q. In August of 2015, where were you living?

A. Where I live now, Cooper Store Road.

Q. What's your address on Cooper Store Road?

A. [redacted].

Q. Who lived with you at that address at that time?

A. My wife.

Q. Deanna Williams?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was your next-door neighbor?

A. There's not anybody to the left. To

the right it's Jimmy Taylor.

Q. And about how far is your house from his?

A. Twenty yards.

Q. How long had Jimmy lived next door to you?

A. He was there when I got there. I've been there 4 years -- four and a half years.

Q. So at the time you lived there about three years?

A. Yes.

Q. And Jimmy's lived there the whole time?

A. He was there when I got there.

Q. Have you ever interacted with Jimmy on and off?

A. He's like me; we stay to ourselves. I see him and shake hands. He's a good neighbor, but we try to stay out of each other's business.

Q. Ever have any problems with him?

A. No.

Q. Do you recall the evening of August 8, 2015 --

MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, I didn't get a response. I don't know if he shook his head, but I didn't get your response, Mr. Williams, if you had

any problems with him.

THE WITNESS: No, never. He's a good neighbor.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Do you recall the evening of August 8, 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. Was that a Saturday?

A. Yes.

Q. Where were you around 8 or 9:00 that evening?

A. Sitting on the sofa.

Q. Who was home with you?

A. My wife.

Q. What were you doing that evening?

A. I was watching television. I believe she was on her computer.

Q. Is the television room near the front door?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please tell the jury what happened after that.

A. The dog got my attention. She sometimes barks, but when she growls it means something else. And I knew something was not

right. I wasn't sure what it was, so I went and opened the front door and looked.

And Mr. Taylor's driveway runs down the property just to the right. It was dark, and I couldn't see much, but I opened the door to the porch and started to go out, and I realized that something was not right.

I come across the porch and I still didn't know exactly what it was, but there was a group of people in the driveway. And it was at that point I realized that something just didn't seem right. At first, I thought maybe it was just people standing there talking.

And as I -- my porch is probably 12, 15 feet wide. As I got to the banister railing, I seen one of them get up and come back down the driveway, and I realized it was Jimmy. And he was hollering at the lady at his house to call 911.

Q. And did you see other people in the driveway?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you describe them?

A. No. It is very dark in that corner of the yard.

Q. What did the other people do when you

walked outside?

A. They went to a pickup truck that was sitting in the road and left.

Q. So when you first saw them, they were at the end of Jimmy's driveway near his house?

MR. DAVIS: Object to the leading, Your Honor. He's putting words in his mouth.

MR. MCNEELY: I'll rephrase.

THE COURT: Okay.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Where were the people, other than Jimmy, when you first walked outside?

A. When I walked out, what I could see was it appeared to be three standing and one on the ground. And it took me a minute to realize that that meant there was a problem.

And as he got up and came this way, they went towards the truck. They were right there probably -- I don't know how -- front yard is probably 150 feet. He was probably 50 feet in or so because he had pulled in the driveway and stopped.

Q. Did you flip the porch light on?

A. It was on.

Q. So after you walked out on the porch,

the other three people that were in the driveway, other than Jimmy, did they leave?

A. Yes.

Q. And if I understood you correctly, they ran down Jimmy's driveway --

MR. DAVIS: I'm going to object. I don't think that's responsive. He didn't say ran. He said they went to the truck.

THE COURT: Don't lead, please.

THE WITNESS: It would be a fair statement that they ran. They were getting out of there in a hurry.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. And where did they go to?

A. They went to a pickup truck in the road.

Q. Where exactly in the road?

A. I couldn't tell. The road is a distance from the house. I couldn't tell if the truck was parked -- stopped at the end of the road, which I believe it was, or on the side of the road, but the truck was stopped in the road.

Q. And what did the two individuals do after they got in the truck?

A. Drove away.

Q. Do you know what direction they drove?

A. To the left, as I was standing on the porch.

Q. Did they drive straight or pull a U-turn?

A. That I don't know.

Q. What happened after the truck left -- scratch that.

Can you describe the truck? Did you get a make or model or color?

A. No. Full size, I would be guessing to say it was red or -- that's a guess. It was a full-size Chevrolet maybe, I don't know. I wasn't paying as much attention to the truck as to Mr. Taylor, because as he came down the driveway, once he got under that security light, I could see him pulling his shirt up over his head, and I could see he was covered in blood.

Q. It was dark outside, correct?

A. It was dark until he got under the security light. That corner of the yard is extremely dark.

Q. And is the darkness part of the reason that you're unsure what color the truck was?

MR. DAVIS: Objection, Your Honor;

leading again.

THE WITNESS: Yes. That, and there's four or five trees in the front yard, and there's limbs underneath. You know, you're looking around tree trunks and things like that.

Q. I believe you stated you saw Jimmy under a light in the driveway?

A. Security lights. There's a fence right there and a security light going around the corner into what would be the front -- or backyard rather. And he had walked under that security light, and I could see then that he had pulled his T-shirt up in an attempt to pull it on his head to stop the bleeding.

Q. What happened after that?

A. He called out to Barbara to call 911. And I thought I heard him say, and maybe I should not say this, but I was pretty sure that I heard him say one of them had a gun. I don't know if he was guessing at that point or if it was true, but he did call her to say, call 911.

I stepped back inside and told Deanna to call the police, and I called to Jimmy to come over to the front porch. And as he was coming across the yard, I went inside and grabbed a bath

towel. And when I went out he was already up on the porch, and I wrapped his head to stop the bleeding. But he was beat pretty severely.

Q. Did Jimmy tell you what happened when he got up on the porch?

A. He did. He did. He said an altercation had began at the store on Cooper Store Road, or the little store at the top of the hill. The corner store, whatever they call it. And he got in the truck to come back home and that he had been road-raged on the way.

And so when he pulled into the driveway and stopped, of course, they came over, and I gather it just broke out into an altercation; but I have the feeling had not I heard the dog and walked out on the porch that Mr. Taylor wouldn't be here today.

Q. Did he tell you who was in his driveway?

A. He did. He said he knew them and that he'd had difficulties with them before.

Q. Did he give you a name?

A. He did.

Q. What name did he give you?

A. You know, there was a Randy Wright and

-- there was two or three names. I wasn't paying a lot of attention at that point; I was trying to -- he was pretty stunned.

Q. I believe you said your wife called 911?

A. Yes.

Q. What happened after she called 911?

A. They came with the ambulance.

Q. Did you remain on the porch with Jimmy?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do while you were on the porch with Jimmy?

A. Just tried to sit him down and keep him calm, stop the bleeding. And I wasn't -- again, you know, I wasn't asking him questions concerning all this, because it's not my business, but I wanted to make sure that he was safe. Barbara, who was the girlfriend at the time, had come over to see what was going on, to make sure that he was okay.

Q. Did EMS arrive?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they treat Mr. Taylor?

A. Yes.

Q. Did they take him from the scene?

A. I believe they did.
Q. Okay. Did the sheriff's deputy arrive?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you speak with them?
A. Yes.
Q. What did you do after the ambulance left?
A. Went back inside.
Q. Did you ever go over into Jimmy Taylor's driveway that night?
A. No.
Q. Did you ever go over into Jimmy Taylor's driveway the next day?
A. No.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions from the State at this time, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Cross-examination.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Mr. Williams.
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Where are you from originally?
A. Alexandria, Virginia.
Q. Alexandria, Virginia?
A. Yes.

Q. And you moved here three or four years ago?

A. No. I was brought here as a child by my father.

Q. Okay. But you moved into the location where we're describing about three or four years ago?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you were sworn to tell the truth, even though you didn't put your hand on the Bible, you know that?

A. Say again.

Q. You were sworn to tell the truth?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. There is a privacy fence between you and Jimmy Taylor; is there not?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay.

A. Correction, not a privacy fence; a chain-linked fence.

Q. A chain-linked fence that separates your property?

A. It's on his property. His property extends beyond the fence, and it's -- you have to know that. If you are not familiar with that

property, that fence is not on the property line. His property extends beyond that.

Q. But there is a fence that separates --

A. There is a fence that separates us.

Q. You stay to your business and he stays to his business, right?

A. Pretty much. I mean, we're friendly. I see him. He's come over and cut the grass for me before. He's brought me -- you know, we help each other, but we don't get into each other's business.

Q. That's okay. Fine. Was he drinking that night when you went out and approached him?

A. Say again.

Q. Had he been drinking?

A. Who?

Q. Ain't but one person we're talking about.

A. You're talking to me --

Q. Jimmy Taylor.

A. I have no idea.

Q. Well, you got real close to him; did you not?

A. I didn't notice if he was, no.

Q. Can you tell whether a person is intoxicated or not? Have you ever seen intoxicated

people?

A. I've been intoxicated before the Lord saved me, but, sir, what I'm trying to tell you is I didn't notice that on him that night.

Q. So you didn't see any indication of that whatsoever?

A. You know, it would be hard to tell because he was in bad shape when I seen him.

Q. My question is, did you see any indication --

A. No, sir.

Q. Thank you.

Now, and you cannot tell this jury at all what transpired in that driveway, can you?

A. No, I can't.

Q. As a matter of fact, you can't tell the jury this that Mr. Randy Wright's vehicle was not parked on Mr. Taylor's property; isn't that true?

A. It was parked in the road.

Q. My question is, it was not parked on his property; isn't that true?

A. The vehicle was not, no.

Q. That's correct. That's what I asked you. Was the vehicle parked on his property?

A. No. I made that clear earlier when I

said it was parked -- stopped at the end of road or on the side of the road.

Q. And you don't know what transpired before your dog growled and how you got to that point; isn't that true?

A. If you had seen Mr. Taylor, you would know --

Q. My question --

MR. DAVIS: I ask that he be responsive, Your Honor --

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, hold on a second.

Mr. Williams, when you're asked a question, say yes or no and then explain. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Okay.

Your question?

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. My question was, in the description of what transpired, Jimmy Taylor told you that this incident started at the corner store; isn't that true?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You weren't in court when the Solicitor gave his version of the facts, were you?

A. No.

Q. There's no question that this incident occurred at the country store. What did he tell you occurred at the country store?

A. There had been an altercation.

Q. What type of altercation?

A. He was going to his vehicle when he was confronted by three different people.

Q. At the country store?

A. At the country store.

Q. Three different people confronted --

A. Three people in a pickup truck.

Q. Okay. Were there any confrontations inside the store at the country store?

A. I have no idea.

Q. I don't know. I'm asking did he share that with you? I don't have no idea.

A. I don't know either. He did not tell me that.

Q. He didn't say anything about inside the store, did he?

A. You're talking about two years ago. I don't honestly remember. I know that he said he was at the country store when -- it must have begun inside. I know that he indicated he was going to his vehicle when they came to him.

Q. So you were -- this fight could have taken place at the country store; isn't that true? Nothing prevented it, sir?

Sir? Did he tell you anything that prevented it from happening at the country store?

A. I'm not sure I understand what you're asking me. Are you asking --

Q. Did any altercation or fight took place at the country store?

A. Most likely, yes, but there -- I mean, there was a scuffle in the driveway.

Q. I'm not talking about the driveway, Mr. Williams. You said that Mr. Taylor shared with you what happened -- that it started at the country store?

A. No, sir, you're taking what -- I didn't say that he relayed all of that to me. He said that that's where it started. Now, he didn't give me a whole story of what happened there. He said he was going to his vehicle when this began there, and he got in the vehicle to come back to home, and that's when he was road-raged on the way back to his home.

Q. Do you know Randy Wright?

A. No.

Q. Have you ever had any dealings with him?

A. No, sir.

Q. Now, can you explain to the jury why EMS personnel said Jimmy Taylor didn't want to seek treatment?

MR. MCNEELY: Objection; calling for speculation and making a statement not in evidence.

THE COURT: Sustained.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Were you there when EMS arrived?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. How long did EMS stay out there?

A. I guess 20 minutes.

Q. Twenty minutes. Okay. So they brought him back that night, or do you have that information?

A. No idea.

Q. Sir?

A. I have no idea.

Q. When would be the next time that you saw your neighbor, your good neighbor?

A. It would be a few days later.

Q. So this incident occurred on August 8th, and then you saw your good neighbor a few days

later. How many days later?

A. I have no idea. It was two years ago.

Q. I know it was two years ago. We all got this two years down. You have testified already that things happened two years ago; isn't that true?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. So you can remember some aspect of two years, so I'm asking you to please try to, sir. Can you?

A. No, sir. I can't tell you exactly when I seen him; it was a few days later. He was stitched up and banged up pretty good.

Q. But you didn't see him but a few days earlier? I mean, a few days past that?

A. Yes.

Q. And he shared with you that same night Randy Wright and some other Wright boys; did he not?

A. Say again.

Q. He shared with you who he had gotten into this altercation with; did he not?

A. He knew them, yes.

Q. Yeah. Now, EMS stayed there about 20 minutes, sir?

A. That's a guess.
Q. Okay. And then you said you heard something. This is important, sir. Isn't it true that what Mr. James Taylor said was, I'm going to get my gun? Isn't that true?
A. No.
Q. Well, tell us exactly what did he say?
A. He said, Barbara, call 911, I think one has a gun. And, again, I don't know that that was true. That's just part of what I heard.
Q. So you distinctively heard Randy Taylor -- I mean, Jimmy Taylor saying, call 911? You recall that?
A. Yes.
Q. And you recall him saying, they have a gun?
A. I did not. I believe I told you I thought I heard him say that.
Q. So at the same thought process, isn't it conceivable he said, I'm going to get my gun?
A. No.
Q. No?
A. No.
Q. Were any weapons discharged on August 8th when your dog was growling?

A. No.

Q. Did you secure any pipe or jackhammer anywhere near where this incident took place?

A. No.

Q. Isn't it true, sir, that Mr. Taylor has a habit of keeping a bat in his vehicle?

A. Say again.

Q. Have you ever seen Mr. James Taylor with a bat in his vehicle?

A. No.

Q. No, you haven't seen it, or what?

A. I have no idea. I don't go into his vehicle.

Q. Okay. Because you have a privacy fence between you all; isn't that true?

A. Yes, sir. No, not a privacy fence. It's a chain link.

MR. DAVIS: No further questions.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Just a couple of quick questions, Mr. Williams. You said there is a chain-linked fence between your properties?

A. Not between the properties. It's on his property. And the reason that this is important is, the place where Jimmy was parked was his property. And the place where this altercation, or whatever you want to call it, took place was on his private property. He was in his yard when this happened.

Q. This fence -- if you're standing on your porch, is it between your porch and where this incident happened, or did this incident happen between your porch and is the fence on the other side of where it happened?

A. When I'm standing on the porch, his driveway comes down the right side of the property on this side of the fence. The fence is on the far side, but that property belongs to him. The property marker is right there at the corner. He was in his driveway on his property when this occurred.

Q. And there's nothing, if I understand you correctly, between your porch and his driveway but yard?

A. Correct.

Q. Okay. So there was nothing obstructing your view of his driveway?

A. Nothing at that point. Just the darkness.

Q. Okay. When you saw the three individuals run back down the driveway, could you see if anything was in any of their hands?

A. No. And, again, I wasn't paying a lot of attention to that. It took me a moment to realize what was happening. And once I seen him coming back down and I got a look at him, he was my major concern. He looked like he needed help.

Q. And it was dark?

A. Yes, until he got under the security light.

Q. So if I understand your testimony correctly, you can't say one way or the other whether somebody had something in their hands or they didn't?

A. I can't say that.

Q. When the three ran back down the driveway, did it appear to you that any of them were injured or having trouble walking or moving?

A. No.

Q. They got out of there in a hurry?

A. Yes.

MR. DAVIS: I object to that, Your

Honor.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions.

MR. DAVIS: Just a few.

THE COURT: No, sir.

You can step down, Mr. Williams.

Counsel, please approach.

(Bench conference.)

THE COURT: You may call your next witness.

MR. MCNEELY: The State calls Deanna Williams.

THE COURT: Deanna Williams.

DEANNA WILLIAMS,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: My full name is Deanna Williams, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Morning, Mrs. Williams.

A. Good morning.

Q. Where do you live?

A. [redacted].

Q. Are you married?

A. Yes, sir. I'm married to Dale Williams.

Q. Were you living at that address on Cooper Store Road August 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have neighbors?

A. Yes. Jimmy Taylor lives to the left of me if you're standing at the street.

Q. How far, approximately, is Jimmy Taylor's house from yours?

A. Twenty, thirty feet.

Q. And were the homes in that location during August 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. And I want you to look, if you don't mind, at State's Exhibit 2.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mrs. Williams, please look at that photo. Do you recognize what is depicted in that

photo?

A. Yes, sir. This is where I live.

Q. From what angle is the photo taken?

A. Down with Cooper Store Road at the -- going all the way across the picture.

Q. Is it a fair and accurate representation of where yours and Jimmy Taylor's homes were located August 8, 2015?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, at this time I would move to admit State's Exhibit Number 2 into evidence.

MR. DAVIS: No objection, Your Honor. It's a matter of public record.

THE COURT: Okay. It's in.

(STATE EXH. 2 in evidence.)

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mrs. Williams, I will hand you a laser pointer.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. It's this little red button at the top. If you can please turn around and look at the photo. Using the laser pointer, point out our home.

A. My home is right there. (Indicating)

Q. Can you point out Jimmy Taylor's home?

A. He's right there.

Q. And there are a few trees there, I guess?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What road is that running through the length of the picture?

A. At the top, it's Cooper Store Road. Right in here. (Indicating)

Q. Do you see that road right there in the top right corner?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you know what road that is?

A. That is Rainbow Acres.

Q. Thank you very much, Mrs. Williams. You can turn around.

I want to discuss the evening of August 8, 2015. Do you recall where you were and what you were doing at, approximately, 8:45 that

night?

A. Sitting in the living room, watching TV with my husband.

Q. In your home, where is the living room in relation to the front door?

A. The front door is here, and the living room is here. (Indicating) So to the left of the front door.

Q. Does the front door lead into the living room or there's space between?

A. It's -- the door and the living room is right there, you walk into the living room.

Q. Did an incident occur near your home that evening?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please tell the jury how you first became aware of the incident.

A. We have a black lab who is very quiet, very chilled. She was laying by the front door on the wood part of it because it's cool, and she started growling real low. And she alerted us that something was going on.

Q. Is that unusual for the dog?

A. Very unusual. She doesn't -- she doesn't growl hardly ever.

Q. What was your impression when you hear that?

A. It worried me because there was nothing going on in our house. I didn't know what was going on.

Q. What's the dog's name?

A. Maggie.

Q. When Maggie started growling, did you hear anything going on?

A. I didn't, no. The TV was on.

Q. Is your front door solid or is it glass?

A. It's solid.

Q. What happened after Maggie started growling?

A. My husband and I kind of looked at each other, and he walked outside, and I stayed inside. And he -- you know, I don't know what happened while he was outside; I wasn't there. He told me to stay inside. I was pretty scared as it is. At that point, you know, I don't know what -- I mean, I do know, but I don't know what happened, because I wasn't out there.

Q. Okay. So if I understand you correctly, when Mr. Williams walked outside on the

front porch you stayed inside?

A. I stayed inside, yes, sir.

Q. After he got outside, did he say anything to you?

A. He told me to call 911, Jimmy had been hurt, but that was all I knew at that point. So I called 911.

Q. And when you called, were you still inside or outside?

A. I was inside.

Q. Okay. What happened next after you placed the call?

A. I explained to them the address and that something was going on with our neighbor, but then they started asking me questions. So at that point I had to go outside to get answers from Jimmy.

Q. Is that the first time that you saw him that night?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please describe how he appeared when you walked outside on the front porch.

A. Blood everywhere. I mean, that's all I can say. He had, what I found out later, he had a white T-shirt wrapped around his head, which was

covered in blood; his chest was covered in blood. We put him on our porch swing, which eventually ended up covered in blood.

His eye -- I'm not sure if I can describe his eye. It was like -- almost like it was falling out of his head maybe. It was just real scarey.

Q. Was Jimmy conscious?

A. He was.

Q. Was he able to speak?

A. I'm sorry?

Q. Was he able to speak?

A. Yes, he was.

Q. Did he tell you what happened to him?

A. He said that he had been jumped by, and all he said was, Randy and his two sons in his driveway. He said they lived on Rainbow Acres, and that was really it.

Q. Did you actually see any of the assault?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you see anybody else outside that night when you walked out on the porch, other than your husband and Jimmy?

A. No.

Q. So at that point, it was over?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. What was your husband doing at that time?
A. He was holding a towel -- he had yelled at me to also bring a towel. And he was trying to stop the bleeding on Jimmy's head. And I walked out and, like I said, I was talking to dispatch and trying to get answers for them.
Q. During this process, you were on the phone with 911?
A. Correct.
Q. At some point did emergency personnel arrive?
A. Yes.
Q. Who arrived?
A. EMS, police -- I just had a yard full of people.
Q. Did EMS treat Jimmy?
A. Yes.
Q. Did that treatment start on the porch?
A. Yes.
Q. What happened after that?
A. They put him in the ambulance and took him to the hospital.

Q. I think, as we covered, you were the person that called 911 that night?

A. Yes.

Q. Deanna, how were you feeling when you called?

A. I was scared.

Q. I'm going to show you what was marked as State's 1.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Please look at State's Exhibit 1, Mrs. Williams, and tell me if you recognize it.

A. Yes, sir. This is the DVD that you had us listen from the 911 call.

Q. How do you recognize it?

A. I had to initial and date it.

Q. Have you reviewed the contents of the disk?

A. Oh, yes, sir.

Q. What is contained on the disk?

A. The call that I made to 911.

Q. The call on August 8, 2015, regarding Mr. Taylor?

A. Yes.
Q. Was that your voice making the call?
A. Yes.
Q. Was it a complete recording of the 911 call you made that night?
A. Yes.
Q. Had it been changed or altered in any way?
A. No.
MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, at this time, I would move to admit State's Exhibit 1 into evidence.
THE COURT: Any objection?
MR. DAVIS: No objection.
THE COURT: Okay. It's in.
(STATE EXH. 1 in evidence.)
MR. MCNEELY: Permission to publish?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.
(911 call played in open court.)
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Okay. Mrs. Williams, was that a complete copy of the call you placed that night?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. When you were talking to Mr. Taylor

during that call, what was his demeanor?

A. Very disoriented, scared. He wanted to keep getting up, as you could tell. I was trying to keep him down.

Q. How long have you lived beside Mr. Taylor?

A. Four years now.

Q. Approximately three at that time?

A. (Nodding)

Q. Have you ever had any problems with him?

A. Absolutely not.

Q. Had there ever been any altercations there, to your knowledge?

A. No, sir.

Q. After you hung up the phone with 911 that night, what did you do?

A. I stayed outside until the emergency vehicles got there, and then I went back inside to stay out of the way. He was on my front porch and there's limited space.

Q. Did EMS take him to the hospital that night?

A. They did.

Q. Did you ever speak with law enforcement

that night?

A. No, sir.

Q. You went back inside?

A. Yes.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions from the State at this time.

MR. DAVIS: May it please the Court?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Mrs. Williams, how are you this morning?

A. I'm good. How are you?

Q. Have you and I discussed this case?

A. No.

Q. First time, right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, let's agree on some things. Okay. You weren't outside, you did not go outside?

A. I'm sorry?

Q. You did not go outside to witness anything?

A. No, sir.

Q. And, apparently, Mr. Taylor did not lose consciousness?

A. No, not when he was on my porch.

Q. He was able to communicate through you while you were on the phone asking his age and whatnot?

A. Yes.

Q. And you were telling him to calm down?

A. Yes.

Q. Could you tell if he had been drinking or not?

A. I could not tell.

Q. You could not tell?

A. (Shaking head.)

Q. This is very important. There is a chain-linked fence. Can we agree to that?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. DAVIS: I'm asking the State to put their first exhibit back up for me for the purpose of cross-examination.

THE COURT: You mean State's Exhibit 2?

MR. DAVIS: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: I have it.

MR. DAVIS: Okay. Can you blow it up a little bit? As large as you can, please. There. Thank you.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Now, show the red mark of where you live, ma'am.
A. Right here. (Indicating)
Q. So is that a double-wide or --
A. Yes. It's a double-wide and a front porch.
Q. Where is the fence?
A. The fence is right here. (Indicating)
Q. Okay. Right there is the fence?
A. Yes.
Q. Now, there is a gate, right?
A. Correct.
Q. And this driveway where the incident took place, took place on the outside of the gate?
A. Yes.
Q. Which meant, ma'am, that Jimmy actually had to open his gate to go into his place?
A. Correct.
Q. So when we make the description as to what took place, Jimmy was not in that confined area within his gated property; isn't that true?
A. Correct. But he was on his driveway.
Q. I understand that. Well, you use that driveway also, Mrs. Williams?
A. No, sir.

Q. You don't have to use that driveway?

A. I don't.

Q. Okay. Now, Mrs. Williams, I want you to put that red mark in your hand one more time. Now, in relationship to where Jimmy's home is located -- show us again.

A. Right here. (Indicating)

Q. So that's Jimmy's right there?

A. Yes.

Q. And those trees were in existence that particular night also; is that true?

A. I'm sorry?

Q. Those trees --

A. Uh-huh.

Q. -- landscape is the same?

A. Correct.

Q. And it was dark?

A. Correct.

Q. How is visibility?

A. Not really good.

Q. Not really good. And if someone was, say, parked in the roadway, where would they be parked?

A. If they were parked on the road, they would have been parked in this area. (Indicating)

Q. Okay. And then there is a road -- a driveway with the fence separating it; that's true?
A. Once more, I'm sorry.
Q. Does the gate go up and close also as it runs on?
A. Yeah.
Q. (Indicating)
A. Yeah. The fence goes all the way around his property.
Q. Okay. Thank you.
And who is laughing in the background? I heard some laughing.
A. Me.
Q. Heard you laughing?
A. Yeah.
Q. And you didn't hear any description -- did Jimmy share with you where the incident started originally?
A. No.
Q. He didn't share that with you?
A. No, sir.
Q. And you said law enforcement came that night also?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. But they didn't inquire and spoke to

you at all?

A. No, sir.

MR. DAVIS: Okay. Thank you, Mrs. Williams.

THE WITNESS: You're welcome.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

MR. MCNEELY: None, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You may step down. Thank you.

You may call your next witness.

MR. MCNEELY: The State calls Denise Pendley.

DENISE PENDLEY,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: Denise Lasiter Pendley, P-E-N-D-L-E-Y.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Morning, Ms. Pendley.

A. Morning.

Q. Where do you live?
A. Goose Creek.
Q. In Berkeley County?
A. Yes.
Q. Do you know the victim in this case, Jimmy Taylor?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. How do you know him?
A. He's my brother.
Q. And do you live with Mr. Taylor?
A. No.
Q. Do you know where Mr. Taylor lives?
A. Yes.
Q. Where does he live?
A. [redacted].
Q. Have you been to his home before?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. Does his home have a driveway?
A. Yes.
Q. Is it a private driveway or is it shared?
A. I think it's private.
Q. Do you know about how long it is from the road where the driveway starts to the gate at his house?

A. I am not good at guessing. It's not -- you don't just pull in. It's a little ways.

Q. When did he move there?

A. I don't --

Q. I'm not asking for a specific date. About how many years?

A. Twenty years ago maybe.

Q. So he's lived there a good long while?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have regular contact with Jimmy?

A. Yes.

Q. Are you close as siblings?

A. Yes, we're close.

Q. On August 8, 2015, were you at his home?

A. No.

Q. Did you have contact with Jimmy on August 8, 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. How did you come into contact with Jimmy that night?

A. I got a phone call that he was in the hospital at the ER and was in bad shape.

Q. Who called you?

A. I believe it was his girlfriend, Tammy.

Q. What did you do when you got the call?
A. I went straight to the hospital.
Q. What hospital was it?
A. I think it's Roper in Moncks Corner.
Q. That's here in town?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you make contact with Jimmy at the hospital that night?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. Where was he when you arrived?
A. He was in the -- in an ER room.
Q. And you went back there to be with him?
A. Yes.
Q. How did Jimmy appear when you first saw him that night?
A. Oh, he was a mess.
Q. Was he injured?
A. Oh, yes.
Q. Can you describe the injuries you observed that night?
A. He had -- I think they had already stapled his head together. He had staples in his head, stitches; he was bruised really bad on his back. He had blood all over his face. I mean, just from the -- you know, the injuries on his

head.

Q. Did you stay with him at the hospital that night?

A. Yes.

Q. How long were you at the hospital that night?

A. Probably two or three hours.

Q. What treatment did he receive at the hospital that night that you were aware of?

A. They had to staple his head together; he had stitches in his head, mainly repairing the wounds that he had.

Q. While you were there that night, did you take photographs of Jimmy and his injuries?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. I want you to look at what's been previously marked as States's Exhibits 11 through 20.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Please look at these photographs. Do you recognize what's depicted in those photos?

A. Do I recognize --

Q. What is shown in those pictures?
A. Oh, yes. Yes.
Q. What are the photos of?
A. Of Jimmy and his injuries.
Q. Where were they taken?
A. At the hospital.
Q. On the night of August 8, 2015?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Are they a fair and accurate description of him as he appeared that night in the hospital?
A. Yes.
Q. Do they appear to be changed or altered in any way?
A. No, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, at this time I move to admit State's 11 through 20.

MR. DAVIS: No objection.

THE COURT: All right. They're in.

(STATE EXH. 11 - 20 in evidence.)

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to publish?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Ms. Pendley, what is depicted in this

photo?

A. That's Jimmy the night I saw him at the hospital. His eye is swollen shut; the other one is almost shut. You can tell his hair is matted with blood from the injuries.

Q. Was that photo taken soon after you arrived?

A. Yes.

Q. Was the purpose of the photo to show the injury to his left eye?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Exhibit 12. What is depicted in this photo?

A. This is the photo I took with the staples in his head where they had to staple his head back together from the injuries.

Q. Were you there before they took him for scans; do you recall?

A. Before the scan?

Q. Yes, ma'am.

A. I don't recall.

Q. Okay. State's 13, what is depicted here?

A. This is another one of his injuries where they have stapled his head together due to

the injuries of being beat.

Q. Can you point that out with the laser pointer, please?

A. (Indicating) Right here.

Q. So those are staples his head?

A. Yes.

Q. Exhibit 14, what is depicted here?

A. This is the side view of him where he's -- you can see his eye, still see his hair all matted with blood, and then you can see the partial -- where his back had been beaten and part of his stomach here had been beaten also.

Q. Exhibit 15, what is depicted here?

A. This is where the stomach had been beat, and he's got some scratches up here that were bleeding. You can tell he's been -- something had -- he'd been beaten by something on his stomach.

Q. State's 16, what is shown here?

A. This is where his eye had been beaten with something so bad that his eye is swollen shut and he's got -- I think he has stitches right here and he may have had stitches right here also. (Indicating)

Q. State's 17, what is depicted here?

A. This is another view of his head where

it was busted open and it had to be stapled together.

Q. What area of his head is that?

A. The front.

Q. Is that the right side?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay.

A. Well -- yes.

Q. That's his face in the bottom of the photo, correct?

A. Pardon?

Q. Is that his face in the bottom of the photo?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Exhibit 18, what is depicted here?

A. This looks like where he -- they didn't have to staple him. They stitched him from the injuries where his head was busted open.

Q. What area of his head is that?

A. I believe in his right -- in this area right here. (Indicating)

Q. Back left?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Exhibit 19, Mrs. Pendley, I noticed in this photograph that he's wearing

different pants; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Was this taken early on when you arrived at the hospital or right before you left?

A. He had to go back to the hospital for -- to be checked, and this is, I think, the second visit to the hospital.

Q. What are we seeing there?

A. This is where he's bruised really bad from being beat with something, some kind of object on his side and his back area.

Q. And that's the right side of his torso?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Exhibit 20, what is shown here?

A. This is where he was beat on the front of his stomach -- the front of his stomach with an object.

Q. Thank you.

All right. Mrs. Pendley, you can turn around. Are those photos a fair and accurate representation of how Jimmy appeared at the hospital that night?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Was Jimmy discharged from the emergency room the following morning?

A. I'm not sure of the exact time. I was distraught; I don't remember the exact time.

Q. Was it late?

A. Yes.

Q. So it could have been late on the 8th or early on the 9th?

A. Correct.

Q. Okay. But he was discharged?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he go home?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you go home with him?

A. No. Tammy took him home.

Q. In the days after the assault, did you see him several times?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you take additional photos of his injuries then?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. I show you what's been marked as State's 22 through 26.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. I show you what was marked as State's Exhibit 21 and 22. Please look at those photos. Do you recognize those photos?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Approximately, when were they taken?

A. Maybe a week after. I don't know the exact date, but maybe a week.

Q. Okay.

A. Or more.

Q. Are they a fair and accurate representation of Mr. Taylor's injuries as he appeared at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: Move to admit at this time 21 and 22.

THE COURT: Any objection?

MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, I'm going to object for lack of proper foundation, specifically -- may I approach the bench, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

(Bench conference.)

THE COURT: You may proceed. They're in.

(STATE EXH. 21 and 22 in evidence.)

MR. MCNEELY: Publish State's 21.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Ms. Pendley, please look at this photo. What is depicted here?

A. This is Jimmy's eye after -- it's been two years, but I'm thinking that's a week or two after the injury. This is what his eye looked like as it was healing.

Q. State's 22, what is depicted here?

A. This is where he had been beat with an object.

MR. DAVIS: I'm going to object to her characterization of an object; there's no proper foundation; it calls for speculation. I don't think she has the knowledge to say that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: That's sustained. You can describe the injuries as you saw, but not the causation of them, Mrs. Pendley.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry, I couldn't hear you.

THE COURT: You can describe what you saw, but not what caused them.

THE WITNESS: Okay. This is an injury -- this is bruising from -- that I took a picture

of a week -- I'm not sure of the exact date -- after the incident.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. You said you weren't sure of the exact date. Can you say it was within a week?

A. Yes.

Q. I show you now State's 23, 24, 25, and 26.

While Mr. Davis is looking at those, I'll ask you one more question. Were those pictures taken inside of the building --

A. Yes.

Q. -- or outside? Okay.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Look at those photos. Do you recognize what's depicted in those photos?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is depicted in those photos?

A. Jimmy's injuries from the incident a week or days afterwards.

Q. We just looked at State's Exhibits 21 and 22. Were those pictures taken subsequent to 21

and 22?

A. Yes.

Q. And I know you can't say an exact date, but give or take several days?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And are they inside or outside?

A. Inside.

Q. Flip through them, please.

A. This is on his back porch so they were outside.

Q. And do they fairly and accurately represent his injuries as they appeared at that time?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: At this time, I move to admit State's 23 through 26.

MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, I have the same concern in reference to time sequence, especially since the Solicitor has provided the time frame.

THE COURT: Yes, sir, again, that would for cross-examination.

They're in.

(STATE EXH. 23 - 26 in evidence.)

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Exhibit 23, what is depicted here,

Mrs. Pendley?

A. This is his eye after several days of healing from the injury.

Q. You see the blue marks up in the upper right?

A. Pardon?

Q. Do you see the blue in the upper --

A. Yeah. That's where the stitches -- he's got stitches up there that are healing from the injury.

Q. State's 24, what is showing here?

A. This is the staples that were put in his head to repair the injury, and this is pictures that I took showing the progress of the injury being healed.

Q. State's 25, please.

A. These are the stitches that were put in his head, and it shows the healing days or weeks after the injury.

Q. And State's 26, please?

A. This is the bruising on the side of his body. It's just showing the progress -- I took pictures to show the progress of what was healing and how it looked.

Q. I know when we've discussed that you

couldn't give a specific date. Can you say whether or not if this was more than a week after the incident?

A. Probably a little over a week.

Q. Have you had regular contact with Jimmy since this incident occurred?

A. Oh, yes.

Q. How has it affected Jimmy?

A. He's had a hard time with it. I mean, emotionally, physically, his health is not good from it. He just -- it's just been emotional, and it's devastating to him for something like this to happen to anybody.

Q. Has his demeanor changed since the incident?

A. Yeah. I would say, yes.

Q. Is he more or less anxious following the incident than he was before?

A. He's anxious, yes.

Q. Does he work?

A. Yes, he does.

Q. Do you know if he has any problems with work?

A. No, sir.

Q. Does he -- do you know if he has any

physical issues remaining from these injuries?

A. I know he's had some back problems, possible kidney problems and -- just emotionally.

Q. Did he have any of that prior to this incident?

A. No, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions from the State.

THE COURT: Cross-examination.

MR. DAVIS: May it please the Court?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. How are you doing, Mrs. Pendley?

A. I'm fine.

Q. Have you and I discussed this case at all?

A. No.

Q. And Jimmy is your little brother or your big brother?

A. He's my little brother, little Jimmy.

Q. Little Jimmy. And little Jimmy's had some problems before, has he not?

A. Problems?

Q. With the law.

MR. MCNEELY: Objection, Your Honor.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Are you aware --

THE COURT: Hold on, Mr. Davis. Please approach.

(Bench conference.)

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Mrs. Pendley, can you explain to us why it was necessary for you to take the pictures and not law enforcement?

A. Why did I take them instead?

Q. Yes, ma'am.

A. I took pictures because I wanted pictures of him in case we needed them.

Q. For what purpose?

A. To have evidence.

Q. Evidence for what purpose?

A. Evidence to show that he had been injured by these people that he said injured him.

Q. But from the first night in question he had shared with them, Berkeley County Sheriff's Department, who these culprits were, isn't that true?

A. Yes, he knew who they were.

Q. So they were involved from August 8th,

2015; isn't that true?

A. Yes.

Q. And you would surmise that they then had an obligation to investigate this matter; isn't that true?

A. Yes.

Q. And in the process of that investigation would have entailed taking pictures too?

A. They may have taken pictures; I don't know.

Q. You took those pictures.

A. I took these pictures.

Q. And then you took subsequent pictures?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, you alluded to -- I didn't object initially, but you said some object. You don't know how those injuries occurred, ma'am, do you?

A. I don't know what?

Q. You don't know how little Jimmy incurred the injuries, do you?

A. No. I wasn't there.

Q. Okay. And, in fact, on the night in question, they kept Jimmy about two hours or more, give or take?

A. At least.

Q. In other words, though, Mrs. Pendley, he wasn't admitted?

A. No. He wasn't admitted to the hospital, no.

Q. And those injuries, as serious as they appear, you cannot tell the jury that, in fact, those injuries impacted the intracranial -- the skull part of his skull, can you?

A. I don't know.

Q. Have you learned that it did, ma'am?

A. I don't know.

Q. Okay. And so, Mrs. Pendley, you would agree that bad things happen to people when they get into a fight; isn't that true?

A. Bad things happen when you get into a fight?

Q. Yes, ma'am.

A. Yes.

Q. People receive injuries?

A. Yes.

Q. And you don't know how the fight entailed or what caused it or how the fight took place?

A. I wasn't there.

Q. Okay. You say you're in contact with your brother all the time. Can you tell if he had been drinking that night or not?

A. No, I could not tell.

Q. So he wasn't drinking?

A. I don't know if he was or not.

Q. Can you tell when he's drinking?

A. Yes.

Q. So this night it would be your testimony that he had not been drinking?

A. I don't think he was.

MR. DAVIS: No further questions.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

MR. MCNEELY: Just a few, Your Honor.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. You're not a doctor, correct?

A. No.

Q. So you can't say specifics about the injuries to Jimmy's head, correct?

A. No.

Q. And just to clarify, you can't say one way or the other if he had been drinking?

A. No.

Q. You don't know; you didn't see him, but

114

you don't know?

A. I don't know.

MR. MCNEELY: Okay. Nothing further, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. You may step down, ma'am. Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, it's about 12:00. I know you've had a long morning with the jury selection process and the beginning of the trial, and we have some other matters that we need to take care of this morning. So I will go ahead and let you go for your lunch break.

Please remember my previous instructions not to discuss the case with anyone or allow anyone to discuss this case with you, and that includes discussing it amongst yourselves.

If you could be back in your jury room -- it's, like I said, a little bit after 12 right now. If you could be back in your jury room at 1:30, and we will resume the trial of the case. Thank you.

(Jury out, 12:10 p.m.)

THE COURT: Ready to do the Jackson v. Denno hearing?

MR. MCNEELY: We're happy to. I will

tell you for scheduling persons our next person is Mr. Taylor and that could take awhile. So I think maybe if we do the Denno and break for lunch, and you can do the plea, and then we can resume back. It's probably going to take more than 30 minutes to do the hearing.

THE COURT: Sure. What I would like to do though, so we don't sit around for that long, we can always get started with the testimony, take a short recess, then we can take that plea, and then resume with his testimony.

MR. MCNEELY: That's fine.

JACKSON V. DENNO HEARING

THE COURT: So you may call your first witness.

MR. MCNEELY: The State calls Detective Michelle Ward at this time.

MICHELLE WARD,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Detective Ward, where are you currently

employed?

A. Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. What is your position there and how long have you been employed there?

A. I'm currently a detective within the detectives division and been there about four years.

Q. What are the responsibilities of your position as a detective?

A. To investigate crimes.

Q. Were you working in that capacity during August 2015?

A. No.

Q. When did you start working as a detective?

A. Shortly -- in August of 2015, but after this incident occurred.

Q. Okay. So right about the time?

A. Yes.

Q. What were you doing with the sheriff's office on August 8, 2015? What was your title?

A. I was a patrol deputy.

Q. And what were the duties of your position as a patrol deputy?

A. To respond to calls for service.

Q. How long have you been a patrol deputy?
A. About a year.
Q. Were you working on the evening of August 8, 2015?
A. I was.
Q. During that time, did you become involved in the investigation, or did you become involved in an incident involving the victim, Jimmy Taylor?
A. I did.
Q. Did that investigation lead to an arrest of this Defendant, Randy Wright, and his sons, Adam Wright and Shawn Wright?
A. Yes.
Q. What charge was Randy Wright arrested for?
A. Assault and battery, high and aggravated.
Q. What charges were his sons arrested for?
A. Assault and battery, high and aggravated.
Q. What day do you recall was Mr. Randy Wright arrested?
A. On August 19, 2015.

Q. Okay. Did you personally arrest him, or was he taken into custody by somebody else?

A. He was taken into custody by somebody else.

Q. And once he was in custody, were you alerted to his being in custody?

A. Yes.

Q. Following the arrest, did you meet with him for the purpose of conducting an interview?

A. I did.

Q. Did you request to speak with him, or did he request to speak to you?

A. He requested to speak with me.

Q. Okay. And what day did you meet with him?

A. August 19th.

Q. 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. Where did you meet with the Defendant?

A. At the Hill-Finklea Detention Center in one of the meeting rooms.

Q. Are the meeting rooms audio and video recorded?

A. No.

Q. Who else was present with you when you

met with him?

A. Sergeant Riser.

Q. Is he with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he a detective at the time?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he assigned to this case as a detective, or was it your case?

A. It was my case.

Q. What did you do when you and Sergeant Riser first entered the room?

A. We introduced ourselves to Mr. Wright, told him who we were, who we worked with, and the reason why he was arrested.

Q. Did you advise him of the charge at the time?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you advise him of the victim of the charge?

A. Yes.

Q. And did you advise him of the incident that this charge stemmed from?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do next?

A. We -- I read him his Miranda Rights off of a form that we have. I allowed him to look at it while I was reading it to him.

Q. Did you advise the Defendant of his Miranda Rights prior to beginning the interview?

A. Yes.

Q. Was he advised orally, in writing, or both?

A. Both.

Q. Did he confirm that he understood his Miranda Rights prior to any statements being taken from him?

A. Yes.

Q. How did he confirm that; orally or in writing?

A. Both.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, at this time, I would present State's Exhibit 27 for purposes of this hearing.

MR. DAVIS: Just for the Jackson v. Denno.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Please look at that for me. Do you recognize it?
A. I do.
Q. What is that form?
A. That is the Defendant's statement form that has the Miranda advisement on it.
Q. Okay. Is it the Miranda advisement and statement taken from the Defendant in this case?
A. Yes.
Q. How do you know that?
A. My signature is on it as well as his.
Q. Okay. The top portion of the first page, what is that section?
A. That's the Miranda advisement.
Q. Was this section read to the Defendant prior to you taking any statement from him?
A. Yes.
Q. Were each of the warnings read individually?
A. Yes.
Q. Did he acknowledge that the rights were read to him in any way?
A. Yes, verbally, and he initialed next to each one.
Q. And are the initials present on that

page?

A. Yes.

Q. Did the Defendant voluntarily agree to waive those rights and speak to you about this matter?

A. He did.

Q. How did he do so; orally, in writing, or both?

A. Both.

Q. Did you sign the sheet acknowledging where he waived the Miranda Rights and agreed to speak with you?

A. Yes.

Q. How old is the Defendant?

A. A little over 50.

Q. What was the Defendant's demeanor at the time that you met with him on August 19, 2015?

A. He was calm, attentive.

Q. Did he appear to understand what was going on?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he seem coherent?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he seem rational?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he appear to comprehend the meaning and effect of his words?
A. Yes.
Q. Did he appear to have any physical defects?
A. No.
Q. Did he appear to have any mental defects?
A. No.
Q. Did he appear to be intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol in any way?
A. No.
Q. Did you or anyone else make any threats to the Defendant?
A. No.
Q. Was he under duress in any way?
A. No.
Q. Did you, Sergeant Riser, or any other officer make any promises to the Defendant?
A. No.
Q. Did you, Sergeant Riser, or any other officers make any misrepresentations to the Defendant?
A. No.
Q. Did the Defendant voluntarily waive his

Miranda Rights and agree to speak to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Was the waiver of Miranda Rights executed by the Defendant prior to any statement being taken from him?

A. I'm sorry?

Q. Did he waive his Miranda Rights prior to you taking any statement from him?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he voluntarily waive his Miranda Rights verbally, in writing, or both?

A. Both.

Q. Was it a knowing and intelligent waiver?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did your conversation or interview with the Defendant last that day?

A. It was less than an hour.

Q. Were there any breaks?

A. No.

Q. Did the Defendant ever ask to stop the conversation or interview at any point?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever request to have a lawyer present during the interview?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever make a request for food, drink, or use of the bathroom that was not met?

A. No.

Q. Following the Defendant's advisement of rights and waiver, tell the jury how the interview began.

A. It began, I asked him about what happened on August 8, 2015. He initially told me that nothing happened; he wasn't involved in any altercations; he went home after work. I confronted him with the information from the victim where he was identified as being involved in that altercation.

At that point, that's whenever he told me that while he was leaving the Country Corner store headed home on Cooper Store Road, that the -- Jimmy Taylor, the victim, was behind him and threw a beer bottle at his truck, at which point he pulled off at Rainbow Acres and followed the victim to his residence and confronted him. And that's whenever the victim assaulted him.

Q. Okay. You said that he told you. Did he provide you an oral recitation about what happened prior to executing that written statement?

A. Yes.

Q. After the oral discussion, did you have him reduce it to writing?

A. Yes.

Q. And is that what is contained in Exhibit 27?

A. Yes.

Q. In looking at the form on the second page, there's a Q and A section written down at the end.

MR. DAVIS: Judge, may I go to the restroom?

THE COURT: Sure.

MR. DAVIS: I'll just be a minute.

(A recess transpired.)

THE COURT: You may proceed.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. In looking at the form, State's Exhibit 27, there's a part at the end on page 2. Appears to be a Q and A section; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you please explain what that was?

A. It's to help clarify the statement that he had wrote to fill in any gaps.

Q. So that was executed after he wrote the initial part of the statement?
A. Yes.
Q. Who wrote the questions?
A. I did.
Q. Who wrote the answers?
A. He did.
Q. And did he initial by each?
A. Yes.
Q. Is that a complete and accurate copy of the Defendant's statement form completed by this Defendant on August 9, 2015?
A. Yes.
Q. Could you please --
MR. MCNEELY: Would Your Honor like me to have it read for the record, or would you like to review it?
THE COURT: I don't think it's necessary.
MR. DAVIS: Not at this point.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Does it appear to have been changed or altered in any way?
A. No.
Q. During the interview, did Randy Wright

ever ask to stop the interview?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever ask to have a lawyer present during the interview?

MR. DAVIS: Asked and answered, Your Honor, these questions.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Prior to interviewing Randy Wright and taking this statement, was he fully advised of his Miranda Rights?

A. Yes.

Q. Do you have any reason to believe that he did not understand the Miranda Rights right and make a voluntary waiver?

A. No.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions.

MR. DAVIS: Just a few.

THE COURT: Cross-examination.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Hey, Ms. Ward. How are you doing?

A. I'm doing okay, sir. You?

Q. And you are -- you and I have never discussed this case?

A. No.

Q. You would agree that when -- Randy came down to the sheriff's office department; did he not?

A. He did.

Q. And, initially, he said he didn't know what was going on apparently?

A. Apparently.

Q. Apparently? Okay. But at some point he sat down and shared with you what happened that night; isn't that true?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Now, in that process you learned that he had an 11th grade education?

A. Yes.

Q. And he was a mechanic?

A. Uh-huh.

Q. And did he share with you that he had received injuries that night?

A. He did tell me that.

Q. And he shared with you also that his vehicle had been impacted by Mr. Taylor; isn't that true? When I say impacted, I mean he threw a bottle and hit his vehicle?

A. Yes.

Q. And he also shared with you -- I'm

going to save that one.

MR. DAVIS: I have no further questions.

THE COURT: Anything further, Solicitor?

MR. MCNEELY: Just a couple, Your Honor.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. When you initially questioned him orally about the incident, did he deny being involved in any altercation?

A. Yes.

Q. And then when you -- when you informed him that the victim had identified him as the person who assaulted him, did he change his story at that point?

A. Yes.

Q. And is that when he told you the story that he had wrote down later?

A. Yes.

MR. DAVIS: Judge, if I may have one question?

THE COURT: Hold on. Were you done?

MR. MCNEELY: I was not.

MR. DAVIS: Okay.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Did he ever ask to have a lawyer present during that time?

A. No.

Q. Okay. And all of the statements taken from the Defendant were following a Miranda Rights waiver executed by him, correct?

A. Yes.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions.

RECROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. One last thing, Detective Ward. Randy Wright said he never struck Mr. Jimmy Taylor; isn't that true?

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, save that one for the jury.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

THE COURT: You may step down, ma'am. Thank you.

Any other witnesses?

MR. MCNEELY: No, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Following the testimony pursuant to the Jackson v. Denno, the State has established by preponderance of the evidence that

the statement given by the Defendant was voluntary and in compliance with Miranda Rights so it will be admissible.

Anything further at this time?

MR. MCNEELY: Not from the State.

MR. DAVIS: Nothing.

THE COURT: We will be at ease until 1:30.

Oh, Mr. Davis, once the case is called to trial, I keep the Defendant in custody.

So we'll go ahead and take him into custody.

MR. DAVIS: Will you give him something to eat, Judge?

THE COURT: Absolutely.

MR. DAVIS: You can do that, Mr. Grainger?

THE DEPUTY: We will do that.

(A luncheon recess transpired.)

THE COURT: I know one of the jurors during the jury qualifications, Ms. Glover, I believe, she said she sometimes needs to stand up. Would you ask her and just let her know she can sit on the back row in case she needs to stand.

THE BAILIFF: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. McNeely, would you kind of keep an eye on the time, if there is a natural stopping point during the testimony of the next witness, we'll take that quick break.

MR. MCNEELY: I think I have a good spot.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

State ready to proceed?

MR. MCNEELY: State is ready.

MR. DAVIS: The defense is ready.

THE COURT: Let's have the jury, please.

(Jury in, 1:41 p.m.)

THE COURT: Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen of the jury. You may have a seat.

I hope you had a nice lunch. I will apologize to you ahead of time. Sometimes we're required to multitask a little bit; so in about 20 minutes, we have to take a quick break to handle something else that shouldn't take too very long. I just wanted to give you a heads up that we may take a break in the testimony when it actually may not be a natural break to take a break in the testimony, but we are now ready to proceed.

You may call your next witness.

MR. MCNEELY: The State calls the victim, Jimmy Taylor.

JAMES CARLTON TAYLOR, III,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: My name is James Carlton Taylor, the Third, T-A-Y-L-O-R.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mr. Taylor, do you go by Jimmy?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. Are you married?

A. No, sir.

Q. What do you do for a living?

A. I'm a plumber.

Q. How long have you been doing that?

A. I've been doing it off and on about 20 years.

Q. Where do you live?

A. [redacted].

Q. How long have you lived there?

A. Close to 20 years.
Q. Is that in Berkeley County?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Do you have next-door neighbors?
A. Yes, sir, I do.
Q. Who are your neighbors?
A. Deanna Williams and Dale Williams.
Q. How long have they lived beside you?
A. Probably about four years.
Q. Did they live beside you during August 2015?
A. Yes, sir, they did.
Q. How far is their home from yours?
A. Probably 20, 25 yards.
Q. Does your driveway run between your home and their home?
A. Yes, sir, it does.
Q. Is there any fencing or anything between your driveway and their home?
A. No, sir.
Q. Is there a fence on the other side of your driveway?
A. There is a fence on the other side.
Q. So you have a gate on your driveway?
A. Yes, sir.

Q. I want to show you what's been admitted into evidence as State's Exhibit 2.

Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Taylor, this is a laser pointer. Just use this red button.

Do you recognize what is depicted in that photo?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. What is depicted in the photo?

A. Cooper Store Road.

Q. Do you see your home in the photo?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. Can you point it out for the jury?

A. Right there. (Indicating)

Q. Right there in those trees?

A. Yes, sir, right there.

Q. Okay. Do you see Dale and Deanna Williams' home?

A. Right there. (Indicating)

Q. And where is your driveway?

A. My driveway is right here. (Indicating)

Q. Okay. And is that Cooper Store Road running throughout the photo?

A. Yes, sir, it is. Right there. (Indicating)

Q. Does your driveway go from Cooper Store Road all the way back to your house?

A. Yes, sir, it does.

Q. Is it a private driveway, or is it shared?

A. It's a private driveway, but sometimes my neighbors, whenever they have company, they use my driveway if need be.

Q. So you let Dale and Deanna's friends use it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. But it's on your property?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you own that property?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. You see the little road at the top of the picture in the upper right-hand corner cutting off of Cooper Store Road?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. Can you point that out for the jury, please?

A. Rainbow Acres. (Indicating)

Q. Is that the name of the road?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What's not on the photo if you go down

Rainbow Acres Road there?

A. What is not on the photo?

Q. Yeah. If you kept going down Rainbow Acres off the picture, what -- are there homes? Is it fields?

A. There's homes back there. There's just homes, homes sites.

Q. Okay. And you see that field above your home on the photo across Cooper Store Road?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are there homes back on the other side of that field?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You can turn back around, Mr. Taylor. Thank you.

How long, approximately, is your driveway?

A. Probably at least 40 yards long.

Q. Several car lengths off the road?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are you familiar with the Defendant in this action, Randy Wright?

A. Yes, sir, I am.

Q. Do you know where he lives?

A. I know he lives in Rainbow Acres.

Q. And that's not too far from your house?
A. No, sir, it's not.
Q. It's just across the way behind that field?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And correct me if I'm wrong, you first met the Defendant approximately a year before this incident took place; is that right?
A. Yes.
Q. And the circumstances of you meeting him were, you needed someone to help you put a starter on your truck?
A. Yes.
MR. DAVIS: I would object to the leading of the questions. He's putting words in his mouth. Leading, Your Honor.
THE COURT: It's sustained.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Who introduced you to Randy Wright?
A. A fellow named Willie.
Q. Do you know his last name?
A. Harmon.
Q. Did Randy Wright come to your house about that time?
A. Yes, sir, he did.

Q. Did he come in your driveway?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. So Randy Wright knew where you lived; is that correct?
A. Yes, sir, he did.
Q. Did you meet any of his family members at that time?
A. I met both of his sons that day.
Q. What are their names?
A. Shawn and Adam.
Q. And you see Mr. Wright here in the courtroom?
A. Yes, sir, I do.
Q. He's not the largest fellow, is he?
A. No, sir.
Q. Are his sons larger or smaller?
A. They're a little bit bigger than him.
Q. Are they adults?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Were Adam and Shawn Wright at your house the day that Randy assisted you with your truck?
A. Yes, sir, they came by.
Q. Following that day, you didn't have the best relationship with Randy Wright; is that

correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And did you see him again, approximately, six months after this incident?

A. Yes, sir, I did. I saw him in the Piggly Wiggly.

Q. What happened that day?

A. We had words.

Q. What did he say to you?

A. Told me he didn't appreciate me talking about his family.

Q. How far was he from you when he said this?

A. He was pretty close to me.

Q. Did he touch you at that time?

A. No, sir.

Q. Was that the entirety of the interaction the two of you had that day?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you say anything back to him?

A. No, sir.

Q. He just walked up to you and said, I don't appreciate you talking about my family?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did he seem angry when he said that to

you?

A. Yes, sir, he did.

Q. Did he touch you at that time?

A. No, sir.

Q. After that day, did you see him again before the date you were assaulted?

A. I seen him on Cooper Store Road passing in traffic.

Q. Had you seen his sons Adam and Shawn again before the day you saw him?

A. I saw them with Randy passing in traffic.

Q. Because you live off of the same road; is that correct?

A. We travel the same road, sir.

Q. And they live not too far from you?

A. Yes, sir, that's correct.

Q. I want to talk about the evening of August 8, 2015.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where were you and what had you been doing during the afternoon and early evening hours that day?

A. That afternoon I had been to Goodwill shopping. I went and bought me some work clothes.

Q. Were you doing plumbing at the time?
A. No, sir. I was painting actually at that time. I was painting for a painting company.
Q. So what Goodwill did you go to?
A. I went to the one in Goose Creek.
Q. Is that off of Saint James?
A. It's on Saint James Boulevard.
Q. And you live in Moncks Corner; is that correct?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Where did you go after the Goodwill that day?
A. I went to Los Arcos and ate.
Q. Did you have anything to drink at that time?
A. Yes, sir. I had a couple of beers while I was there.
Q. And after you were at Los Arcos, what did you do?
A. I proceeded home.
Q. Okay. When you proceed home from Goose Creek, do you come through town here in Moncks Corner?
A. I came down Old 52 actually that day. My brother -- I have a brother that lives in

Strawberry.

Q. Did you stop off there?

A. No, sir, I didn't. His truck wasn't home. When I passed by there, he wasn't there.

Q. You were thinking about stopping?

A. Yes.

Q. To say hello if he'd been home?

MR. DAVIS: Objection; again, leading, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Please move on.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. I believe you stated that you continued on home?

A. Yes, sir. I came right through town.

Q. And what street or what road do you take out of town to head towards your house?

A. I take Highway 6 to Cooper Store Road.

Q. Is Highway 6 also called Main Street?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you stop anywhere on Highway 6 that night?

A. I stopped at the Country Corner store.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, may I approach?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

(Bench conference.)

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, it's almost 2:00, and I just brought you in here and we've just got started, but we're going to take a brief recess. Please remember my instructions; don't discuss the case. We will be right back with you.

(Jury out, 1:52 p.m.)

THE COURT: Mr. Taylor, while we're on recess, you are not allowed to discuss the testimony with anyone. Okay?

THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am.

THE COURT: You can step down for a minute. Thank you.

(There was a break in these proceedings.)

THE COURT: Are you ready to proceed?

MR. MCNEELY: We are, Your Honor.

MR. DAVIS: We are, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Let's have the jury, please.

Mr. Taylor, please come back up on the stand.

(Jury in, 3:01 p.m.)

THE COURT: Welcome back. I wish I had

that crystal ball where I always knew exactly much time it would take. Unfortunately, it took a little bit longer than I anticipated, so I thank you for your patience.

We will now proceed with the testimony. You may continue.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

CONTINUING DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mr. Taylor, when we left off, we were discussing the evening of August 8, 2015, and we were discussing you being on the way home that evening.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And when you were coming through town here, do you know approximately what time it was?

A. I would say probably around 8:00, maybe 8:15. It was around 8-ish, 8:00.

Q. Was that around dusk that day?

A. It was right at dusk, dark.

Q. And I believe you said you stopped off at the Country Corner store on Highway 6?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Why did you stop off at the store that night?

A. I stopped to get cigarettes and sodas.
Q. Did you go into the store?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you see this Defendant that night in the store?
A. I didn't see him in the store, no, sir.
Q. What did you do after you left the store? Physically walked out of the store into the parking lot, what did you do at that time?
A. I exited the parking lot onto Highway 6.
Q. Driving your truck?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you see the Defendant in the parking lot of Country Corner store that night?
A. No, sir. I saw him across the street on the other side of the road.
Q. What were you doing when you saw him?
A. He was parked.
Q. Where was he parked?
A. There's an abandoned building there, a brick building. He was parked in front of it.
Q. Was he in his vehicle?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Were there other people in the vehicle

with him?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was in the vehicle with him?

A. Shawn and Adam Wright.

Q. What kind of vehicle is it?

A. It's a white F250, if I'm not mistaken.

Q. Pickup truck?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you drive past it?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What happened after you passed it?

A. They pulled out behind me.

Q. Right behind you, or was there a car between you?

A. There wasn't a car between us then, but there was a car between us when I got on Cooper Store Road.

Q. After you drove down Highway 6, where did you go?

A. I turned onto Cooper Store Road.

Q. Who was behind you?

A. Randy Wright.

Q. What happened after you turned onto Cooper Store Road?

A. They passed me.

Q. When you say, they, who do you mean?
A. Randy Wright, Adam Wright and Shawn Wright.
Q. Who was driving?
A. Randy Wright.
Q. And what happened after they passed you?
A. Immediately as soon as they passed me, a bottle came out of the window and hit the front of my truck and hit my right turn signal on the front of my truck.
Q. When that happened, were they passing you, or had they passed you and gotten back in front of you?
A. They were passing me.
Q. Did the bottle come out of the driver's side or the passenger side?
A. Passenger side.
Q. What happened after the bottle hit your truck?
A. They turned onto Rainbow Acres.
Q. Is that before or after your driveway?
A. That's before my driveway.
Q. So when they turned onto Rainbow Acres, what did you do?

A. I proceeded on to my house.

Q. And how far is that, give or take, past Rainbow Acres?

A. I would say no more than a quarter of a mile.

Q. Okay. And is your house to the left or right on --

A. To the left.

Q. Did you pull into your driveway?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. By that time was it light or dark outside?

A. It was getting dark.

Q. When you pulled into the driveway, did you stop right after you pulled in, or did you pull all the way into it?

A. I pulled all the way to where I open my gate.

Q. Do you shut that gate regularly?

A. Yes, sir, I keep it locked.

Q. So every time you come in you have to get out and open that gate?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see anybody behind you in your driveway when you pulled in that night?

A. Whenever I got out of my truck, Randy Wright and Adam and Shawn Wright had run up my driveway, and they were at my truck whenever I got out. Whenever I opened my door, they were already at the back of my truck.

Q. Let's back up a little bit. When you pulled into the driveway and you were still in your truck, did you see anybody behind you?

A. No, sir.

Q. And then at some point you began to exit; is that correct?

A. Whenever I went to get out of my truck, that's when they approached me.

Q. Getting out to open the gate?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you see them before you got out of your truck or after you got?

A. I didn't see them until after I got out of my truck.

Q. When you first saw them, where were they?

A. They were at the side of my truck, passenger side. I mean, not passenger side, the driver's side.

Q. Did anybody say anything at that time?

A. Yes, sir.
Q. Who?
A. Randy did.
Q. What did he say?
A. He said he was going to F me up.
Q. Did you know why?
A. Yeah. He was mad about me saying stuff about his family evidently.
Q. What happened after he said, I'm going to F you up?
A. I immediately got hit in my left eye.
Q. What did you get hit with?
A. Some kind of instrument.
Q. Can you describe it for the jury?
A. Something very hard and blunt.
Q. Was it short or long?
A. I think it was short, and I think it was a metal, because it took a chunk of skin out with it.
Q. If you could, can you hold your hands up for the jury and sort of describe how long --
A. Maybe that long. Maybe at least that long. (Indicating)
Q. Okay. Do you have any idea what it was?

A. If I had to guess, I would say maybe a jack handle like goes on a floor jack.

Q. Like what you would jack a car up with?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. It was about that size?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And how long is your driveway?

A. Probably 35 or 40 yards.

Q. So when Randy approached you and said, I'm going to F you up, and then you got hit, were you all the way up in your driveway?

A. I was all the way to where I open my gate and swing to turn in.

Q. And that's on your property?

A. Yes, sir, in my driveway on my property.

Q. Who was holding the weapon that you were hit with first?

A. Shawn Wright.

Q. And where were you hit first?

A. In my left eye.

Q. Can you point that out?

A. Right here. (Indicating)

Q. What happened after you were first hit in your left eye?

A. I couldn't see.

Q. What happened after that?

A. I was bleeding all over the place and I was continuously getting hit in my head.

Q. With the object still?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you get hit other places?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where?

A. My back, stomach, my fingers, my arms.

Q. Were you only hit with the object, or were you hit with anything else?

A. I was kicked. I had shoe prints on my stomach.

Q. Were you punched?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Who was hitting you?

A. All three of them.

Q. Simultaneously?

A. All at the same time.

Q. Were you able to stay on your feet?

A. No, sir.

Q. Or did you fall to the ground?

A. I went to the ground, sir.

Q. How many times had you been struck in

the head by the time you fell to the ground?

A. At least -- I would say, at least eight, if not ten times.

Q. Where did you eventually fall to the ground?

A. I fell to the ground on the side of my truck.

Q. The driver's side or passenger side?

A. Passenger side.

Q. So you were able to make your way around the truck?

A. I was trying to get away from them.

Q. Did you go around the front or the back of the truck?

A. I went around the back of the truck.

Q. After you fell to the ground, what happened?

A. I was being kicked and hit, and I was yelling and screaming for help. And that's when Dale Williams came out on his porch.

Q. What did the defendants do?

A. They ran.

Q. Were they on the ground with you, or were they standing up?

A. No, sir, they were standing up.

Q. Did you ever hit any of -- the Defendant or either of his two sons?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did all three of them hit you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had you ever had a physical altercation with them prior to this?

A. No, sir.

Q. When your neighbor came out of his house, what did the defendants do?

A. They ran.

Q. Or excuse me, the Defendant, Randy Wright.

A. Ran.

Q. Where did they run to?

A. They ran back to the truck.

Q. All three of them?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where was the truck parked?

A. It was parked by Deanna and Dale's mailbox on the opposite side of the road.

Q. So it was across the road?

A. It was on the other side of the road where the mailboxes are.

MR. MCNEELY: Can you please show

State's Exhibit 2?

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. If you could, Mr. Taylor, point out where you were in your driveway when you were assaulted approximately. I know it's small.

A. I was right here where I -- right here is where my gate is. I pulled behind my trailer and I was probably right here. (Indicating)

Q. Where was their truck parked?

A. Their truck was parked -- their mailbox is not visible, but it's right there behind that tree. You can barely see it. I think it might be that white thing right there, that's their mailbox.

Q. And the truck was parked on the opposite side of the road where the field is?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: You can take that down, Dee.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mr. Taylor, the weapon that we discussed, who had that in his hand?

A. Shawn Wright.

Q. Did he have that in his hand the whole time?

A. As far as I know.

Q. Did they leave that or take it?

A. They took it with them.

Q. What happened when they got back in the truck?

A. They made a U-turn and proceeded back toward Rainbow Acres.

MR. MCNEELY: If you could put up 2 again.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Turn around and look at the photo, Mr. Taylor. I apologize. You pointed out where the truck was parked.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What way was it facing?

A. It was facing this direction here. It was facing this way. (Indicating)

Q. Okay. So what did it do when they got back into the truck?

A. They made a U-turn and proceeded back to Rainbow Acres.

Q. Okay. Which is where you know the Defendant to reside?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Thank you. Mr. Taylor, I'm going to show you what's been premarked as State's Exhibits

3 through 10.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mr. Taylor, please look at these photos.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Flip through them if you don't mind. Do you recognize what was depicted in the photos?

A. My driveway and the back of my house.

Q. Is the area of Cooper Store Road in front of your house depicted?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are those photos a fair and accurate representation of the way that area appeared on August 8, 2015?

A. Exactly.

Q. And, obviously, it's light outside in the photos, but it was not light that night, correct?

A. No, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: At this time, Your Honor, the State would move to admit 3 through 10.

MR. DAVIS: No objection.

THE COURT: All right. They're in.

(STATE EXH. 3 - 10 in evidence.)

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Exhibit Number 3, can you tell the jury what we're looking at in this photo?

A. Yes, sir. This right here is my driveway, and this right here is Dale and Deanna's driveway; and that's Dale and Deanna's mailbox, and that's my mailbox. (Indicating)

Q. What road is that?

A. Cooper Store Road.

Q. You pointed out your driveway is sort of along the treeline in the top right of the picture.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is your driveway on the side of the treeline that we are looking from, or is it on the other side of the trees?

A. My driveway is on the other side of these trees right here and it goes straight down.

Q. Do you see those bushes where the laser pointer is now?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is your driveway on this side of those bushes or on the other side?

A. It's on this side.
Q. So the only thing obstructing the view of the driveway from this angle are those three trees along the road?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Exhibit 4, what are we looking at here?
A. My driveway.
Q. And that's Cooper Store Road in the bottom of the photo?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Do you see the house in the upper right?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Is that your house or somebody else's house?
A. That's Dale and Deanna's house, and my property line goes straight down straight to that telephone pole and straight on back.
Q. So the driveway that we're looking at, is that all on your property?
A. Yes, sir. My driveway is from right here, over. (Indicating)
Q. What is that black square object in the upper part of the middle of the picture?
A. That right there is a Conex box.

Q. Storage shed?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Can you see your house, or is it blocked by the bushes?

A. You can't see my house for the bushes.

Q. Exhibit 5, what are we looking at here?

A. My driveway.

Q. A little further up than the last photo?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is that a chain-link fence on the left?

A. That's my fence right here.

Q. Is that where the gate is?

A. My gate is right along in here. (Indicating)

Q. Exhibit 6, what are we looking at here?

A. Same thing we were looking at a minute ago a little further up. Here's my gate, right there is where it swings in and right here is where I pull in and right here is where I stop. (Indicating)

Q. To get out and open the gate?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. At that point you just pointed out, how far down the driveway is it, give or take?

A. 35 or 40 yards.
Q. Next photo, Exhibit 7, what are we looking at here?
A. My backyard, my shed.
Q. Where is your house in relation to that gate?
A. My house is right over here. (Indicating)
Q. Exhibit 8, what are we looking at there?
A. My gate, my house.
Q. Okay. So it's sort of the reverse of the previous picture?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. And Exhibit 9, what are we looking at?
A. Back to Cooper Store Road from the end of my driveway.
MR. MCNEELY: If you could please back up to State's Exhibit 7. Thank you.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Mr. Taylor, if you could on this photo, if it is shown, point out the area where you were when you first got struck with the weapon. (Indicating)
A. About right here. (Indicating) Or

probably right here in this area right here. (Indicating)

Q. Where was your vehicle?

A. My vehicle was sitting right here. (Indicating)

Q. Okay. Where were you when you went to the ground, if it's pictured?

A. I was over here. (Indicating)

Q. On the other side of the truck?

A. I was on the driver's -- on the passenger side front of the truck.

Q. In that gravel area?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did the Defendant have or his sons have permission to be in your driveway that night?

A. No, sir.

Q. And your driveway is on your own private property; is that correct?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: Can you please show Exhibit 9 again?

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. If pictured, Mr. Taylor, could you please show where the Defendant's truck was parked that night?

A. Right along here. (Indicating)
Q. On the other side of that bush?
A. On the other side of that bush on the edge of the road back there.
Q. And where were you when you first get hit with the weapon?
A. I was right here in this area right here. (Indicating)
Q. Where were you when you fell to the ground?
A. Somewhere over here. (Indicating)
Q. Who all hit you that night, Mr. Taylor?
A. Shawn Wright, Adam Wright, and Randy Wright.
Q. All three of them?
A. Yes, sir.
MR. DAVIS: Objection; asked and answered.
THE COURT: Overruled.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Did they all three hit you at the same time?
A. Yes, sir, they were all three hitting me at the same time.
Q. Together?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. All right. Mr. Taylor, you can turn back around.

Do you see any of the people today who assaulted you on the night of August 8, 2015?

A. Yes, sir, I sure do.

Q. Point that person out and describe what they're wearing.

A. Randy Wright, right there in the white shirt.

MR. MCNEELY: Let the record reflect that the witness identified the Defendant, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. And I believe we may have touched on this, but were you able to hit any of them back that night?

A. No, sir. I wasn't able to defend myself at all.

Q. Did you have any weapons in your truck that night?

A. No, sir.

Q. After the assault was over, please tell the jury your condition at the time.

A. My left eye was hanging out of my head, and I was bleeding all over, and I was in -- I know I was in shock. I had been hit in my head so many times I really didn't even know where I was until I started talking to Dale. Whenever Dale and Deanna started talking to me, that's when I realized where I was.

Q. Did you lose consciousness?

A. No, sir.

Q. Were you able to get to your feet?

A. At some point.

Q. What did you do after you got to your feet?

A. To be honest with you, I know I was running around trying to get somebody to help me. I know I ran -- I ran up on their porch, and I was just bleeding all over the place. And I was trying to -- I really didn't know what was going on at that moment because I was -- I mean, I was in whatever you call it, panic mode, or -- I mean, I was bleeding all over the place.

Q. Were you disoriented?

A. Very much so. I didn't know where I was until they started talking to me.

Q. You had been hit in the head multiple

times?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Were you able to make it up onto Dale and Deanna's porch?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What happened when you were up there?

A. They wrapped towels around my head.

Q. Did anybody call 911?

A. Miss Deanna.

Q. What happened after that?

A. EMS come got me and took me to the hospital.

Q. What happened -- what hospital did they take you to?

A. Berkeley Roper.

Q. Is that over here off of the bypass?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did EMS treat you some at the scene in their yard that night?

A. Yeah. He was trying to get me to stop bleeding.

Q. Did the sheriff's office arrive at the -- did the sheriff's office, anybody from them arrive at the Williams' residence that night?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you get an opportunity to speak with them before you were taken to the hospital?

A. Briefly. I was bleeding so bad, it was almost impossible for me to talk to her.

Q. Did anybody go to the hospital with you?

A. My sister, my niece -- well, my sister came. My girlfriend, she and my sister and my niece came to the hospital afterwards.

Q. And your sister is Denise Pendley?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And backing up a little bit, was anybody else in your driveway that night at the time of the assault other than you, the Defendant, and his two sons, Adam and Shawn?

A. No, sir.

Q. The next person you saw, was that Dale Williams?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. When you arrived at the hospital, what was your understanding of your injuries?

A. Serious.

Q. Where were you injured specifically?

A. I was injured real -- I had some severe lacerations to my head, and I had been kicked and

beat all over my body from my head to my toe.

Q. Can you point out where your head was lacerated?

A. Here, here, here, here, five places.

Q. What treatment did you receive at the hospital that night?

A. I was sewed up and then I was stapled.

Q. Did you get any scans while you were at the hospital, any x-rays or CT?

A. Yes, sir, I had to go twice. They did one that night and then they made me come back and do another one because I had a massive blood on my brain.

Q. Did they send you straight to scans when you got to the hospital, or did they treat you some first?

A. They treated me some first.

Q. Do you know why they did that first?

A. Because I was bleeding.

Q. Did they give you any anesthetic?

A. Yes.

Q. To numb your scalp?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And after the scans were done, what happened at the hospital?

A. I guess I was released.
Q. Did they bring you back and stitch on you again?
A. I can't remember.
Q. Did you talk to Detective Ward with the sheriff's office at the hospital that night?
A. Yes, sir, I did.
Q. Did you tell her what happened to you?
A. Yes, sir, I did.
Q. Were you able to give a written statement at the hospital that night?
A. Not that night, I was not physically able.
Q. Were you at the hospital until the next day?
A. No, sir. I was released -- well, yes, sir, I guess I was. I was released the next morning.
Q. Sometime after midnight --
A. Yes, sir.
Q. -- on August 9th? Were photos taken of your injuries at the hospital?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Where did you go when you were released from the hospital?

A. Home.

Q. What did you do when you got home?

A. Laid on my couch.

Q. Were you able to go to work the next week?

A. No, sir.

Q. At any point the next day after this assault happened, did you go out in the driveway?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. What did you see in the driveway at that time?

A. A visor hat.

Q. Did you see anything else?

A. Blood.

Q. Whose blood was that?

A. Mine.

Q. Whose visor hat was that?

A. Shawn Wright's.

Q. Was he wearing it when he approached you with the weapon in his hand that night?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was anybody else wearing a hat?

A. Not that I recall.

Q. Did you locate any weapon that was used that night?

A. No, sir.
Q. Is that because it was taken with them that night?
A. Evidently.
Q. What do you do with the visor you found in your driveway?
A. I put it in a Piggly Wiggly bag and called Michelle Ward.
Q. Did you eventually turn it over to her?
A. Yes, sir, I turned it over to her.
Q. When was that?
A. I think it was like the next day or it was like two days later or --
Q. Mr. Taylor, I want to show you what's been premarked as State's Exhibit 29.
MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Mr. Taylor, would you please look at this item here. There are gloves here you can put on before pulling the item out of the bag.
A. Let me see them.
Q. Do you recognize that item?
A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. What is that item?
A. Shawn Wright's hat.
Q. And you turned it over to Detective Ward?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Thank you, Mr. Taylor.
Did you turn any other items over to Detective Ward?
A. Yes, sir, my shirt.
MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. I'm showing you what's been premarked as State's Exhibit 28. Please look at that item. Do you recognize that?
A. It was a Sherwin Williams paint shirt.
Q. What color is that shirt?
A. It's red.
Q. What color was it when it started out on you.
A. It was white.
Q. What are those stains that are sort of brown?
A. All of that is solid blood.

Q. Whose is that?
A. Mine.
Q. Thank you, Mr. Taylor.
What did you do with this item?
A. I gave it to Ms. Ward.
Q. When you met with her next when you gave her those items, where did you meet with her?
A. I think I met with her either in the parking lot or the courthouse or the police station. I can't remember.
Q. Did you provide a written statement to her at that time?
A. Yes, sir, I did.
Q. Was that several days after the assault?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Were the items I showed you, 28 and 29, were those in your continuous custody and control the night of the incident until you turned them over to Detective Ward?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Did you receive any follow-up medical treatment?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. When was that after the initial night

of the assault?

A. I'm not sure exactly, but my eardrum ruptured in the night while I was sleeping, my left ear. It busted; I had blood up against my eardrum and it caused it to bust.

Q. Well, how long after the assault was that?

A. A couple of weeks.

Q. Did you have to go back and go get any staples or stitches removed from your head?

A. Yes, sir, I did.

Q. Was that done at the same time?

A. I can't remember.

Q. Other than what we've discussed, have you had any other medical treatment for your injuries?

A. No, sir, I haven't.

Q. Is that because you didn't need any medical treatment or because you couldn't afford it?

A. I don't have any insurance.

Q. Are you still experiencing any problems or effects from your injuries that night?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. Tell the jury about that.

A. On a daily basis, I suffer severe back pain, and from where I was hit in my head, my neck cracks all the time. My neck is constantly snapping and it just -- it wasn't like this before. It's something that I'm having to live with, and I have to -- I don't know, about in a two-week period I probably take -- eat a bottle of Advil. I mean, I take Advil every day.

Q. Do you work?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What kind of work?

A. I'm a plumber.

Q. Can you do that work without taking your Advil?

A. No, sir, not if my back is hurting.

Q. Has this incident affected you emotionally?

A. Yes, sir, it has.

Q. Please describe that for the jury.

A. I don't like being alone. Sometimes I feel like I'm having a panic attack and I have anxiety. I can't sleep at night. I have trouble with my memory. Sometimes I can't remember simple stuff, just simple things.

Q. Was any of this like that before this

assault?

A. No, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: One moment, Your Honor.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Was there any damage to your truck that night from the bottle?

A. Yes, sir. My turn signal was knocked out, the lens was busted.

Q. Was that like that before August 8th, 2015?

A. No, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: Nothing further from the State at this time.

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to take a very brief recess for one minute. If you would go to the jury room, we'll be right back with you. Please remember my previous instruction; do not discuss this matter.

(Jury out, 3:31 p.m.)

(A recess transpired.)

(DFT. EXH. 1, Medical records, was marked for identification.)

(DFT. EXH. 2, Medical records, was marked for identification.)

(DFT. EXH. 3, Medical records, was

marked for identification.)

(DFT. EXH. 4, Medical records, was marked for identification.)

(Jury in, 3:41 p.m.)

THE COURT: Welcome back, ladies and gentlemen. We are ready to proceed.

You may proceed, Mr. Davis.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. How are you doing, Mr. Taylor?

A. I'm okay.

Q. Mr. Taylor, this is the first time that you and I have ever discussed the matter; isn't that the truth?

A. Sir?

Q. This is the first time that you and I have ever discussed this matter?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. But you've had ample opportunity to discuss it with the prosecutor; isn't that true?

A. Yeah, I talked to them about it.

Q. Okay. And it's fair to say, in those discussions, you would have went over your -- first of all, the statement that Randy made, he shared

that with you?

A. I don't recall what you're talking about, sir.

Q. Well, you know, in this process they take statements from people who are involved in an incident like this, a criminal act. So, in this instance, my client gave a statement.

A. He did, yes, sir. He said he had nothing to do with it.

Q. Okay. But --

MR. MCNEELY: Objection. May we approach?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

(Bench conference.)

THE COURT: You may proceed.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Mr. Taylor, let's go through this again. You and the prosecutor have had an opportunity to prepare yourself for this trial; isn't that true?

A. Yes, sir. That's what you just asked me and that's what I just answered.

Q. And in that preparation, then, is it fair to tell the jury that, in fact, you went over all -- they shared with you some statement he gave

as to what happened that night? Mr. Randy Wright, that is.

A. I reckon, I don't know.

Q. Okay. Is it fair to say that in preparing you today that the prosecutor went over the EMS detail what happened when they first came to see you? To treat you?

A. Say that again, sir.

Q. Is it fair to say that in preparation for getting ready for trial, that the prosecutor went over the EMS --

A. What do you mean, went over the EMS?

Q. What time the EMS arrived. What condition you were in when EMS arrived. Did he go over those with you?

A. He didn't have to, because, I mean, I already knew basically all that.

Q. But the question is, though, there is an EMS narrative of what happened coming out to your house; isn't that true?

A. Yeah. EMS did come to my house, sir.

Q. And you would have reviewed that with the prosecutor; isn't that true?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. And isn't it also fair to say

that in preparation for your trial -- because you will admit that this is the first time that I've had an opportunity to speak to you?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Is it fair to say that in trial preparation, that the Solicitor and you would have went over your medical records, too?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. I mean, things that you are testifying to and your sister testified to, these are the medical records; isn't that true?

A. I reckon.

Q. I mean --

A. I don't know what you've got in your hand.

Q. Sir?

A. I don't know what you've got in your hand. I mean, if they are the medical records, and you say they're my medical records, then they're my medical records.

Q. I will give it to you and let you look at it. And I apologize, these are the first pages to it. Put this in front, sir.

Do you recognize from those medical records anything pertaining to you?

A. Yes.
Q. The name, first of all?
A. I see my name on it there.
Q. And take your time to look through there.
A. I've already seen all this. I don't know what you want me to look for.
Q. I don't want you to look for anything. I just want to make sure that we -- you went over those records in anticipation for your testimony. That's all I need to know.
A. I hadn't really gone over them records. I mean, those are my papers. I've got a copy of them at the house, and I have looked over them, but I haven't gone over them with anyone.
Q. So the testimony you said today, basically, is separate from whatever those doctors may have said in their reports?
A. Say that again.
Q. You are not a medical doctor, are you, Mr. Taylor?
A. No, I'm not a doctor.
Q. And so, is it fair and honest to say that we can rely on the medical notes, what the doctor said, or we should rely on what you said?

Which one, sir?

A. Well, I guess you need to go by what the doctor says because he's a doctor, right?

Q. Thank you.

And we also then in that same vain in reference to the EMS run -- this is Defendant's Exhibit Number 1.

MR. DAVIS: May I approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. I want you to look over this, sir. Please. Please. Look over that, Mr. Taylor, and tell me if there's anything in there familiar that is associated to you.

A. I don't know.

Q. Is your name on there, sir?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. Is there a date on there, sir?

A. I'm sure there is.

Q. Okay. Do you know who gave me that information, sir?

A. No, sir.

Q. Sir?

A. No.

Q. Sir?

A. Do I know who gave you that?
Q. Yes.
A. I have no idea.
Q. Okay. I want to hand you what is Defendant's Exhibit Number 2 and ask you, are you familiar with any of this information?
A. Okay.
Q. Sir?
A. Yeah, I reckon I am.
Q. Okay. And I want to give you Defendant's Exhibit Number 4 and see if you're familiar with any of this information.
A. Yes.
Q. And lastly, Exhibit Number 3, and ask you, are you familiar with any of that information?

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, if I may interject, the State would appreciate a chance to review the documents --

MR. DAVIS: Oh, I apologize. Since you gave it to me, I thought you were familiar with it. Take your time.

These are not marked and he wants it marked.

(DFT. EXH. 5, Medical records, was marked for identification.)

MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, may I approach?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Mr. Taylor, I will hand you what was marked as Defendant's Exhibit Number 5 and ask, is there anything associated there to you as a result of reviewing that document?

A. Say that again, sir.

Q. Does that document pertain to you, sir?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the date on it, sir?

A. I don't know. I ain't got my glasses on.

Q. Okay. I'm sorry, I apologize. Magnifying glasses help?

A. It says August 8, 2015.

Q. Okay. And that's the date this incident happened, why we're here; isn't it, sir?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Were you administered any blood on August 8, 2015, by the medical personnel there at Roper Hospital?

A. Did they give me blood?

Q. Yes.

A. Not that I know of.

Q. Okay. Isn't it true that they drew blood from you? Isn't that true?

A. I'm sure they did. I reckon they did.

Q. Isn't it further true, as a result of drawing that blood, that your alcohol level in your system was 189?

A. I don't know what it was.

MR. DAVIS: Okay. Your Honor, may I approach the witness?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. There's a reference to alcohol. What's the number alluded there to, sir?

A. Say that again.

Q. There're a reference to alcohol. What's the number alluded there to? The top of the page.

A. The top of the page?

Q. Yes, sir.

A. Talking about 21. -- 2139.

Q. That's the blood they drew from you.

A. 189, it looks like.

Q. Thank you, sir. May I have that? Okay.

And you would admit this is part of

your medical record?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Also on direct examination, it was your testimony that you had a couple of beers, right?

A. Yes.

Q. Isn't it true that you had consumed alcohol the majority of that day, sir? Isn't that true?

A. Whenever I was at dinner, I drank two beers at Los Arcos.

Q. And what time would you say you consumed those beers with dinner?

A. It was probably around 6:00, 6:30. It was early in the evening.

Q. And you drove from where, sir?

A. From Goose Creek.

Q. Goose Creek?

A. (Nodding)

Q. And when you presented -- when you were presented to the hospital that night, August 8th, did you share with them what happened?

A. Share with who?

Q. The nurse, the doctors, whoever was treating you. Did you share with them --

A. I reckon. I can't remember, I mean ...
Q. Okay. I will help you.
MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, may I approach?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.
BY MR. DAVIS:
Q. I want to give you this document -- it's part of your medical record -- to refresh your memory. Okay?
In the corner there where it says, patient provide. What did you share with the --
A. Yeah. It says right here that I denied alcohol consumption.
Q. Okay. You denied alcohol consumption even though a .189 was found in the blood that they took from you; isn't it true?
A. It says, patient was nauseous, back pain, vomiting. I mean, I guess they asked me and I told them no. I mean, I really don't remember.
Q. Okay. All right. But, sir, I want to direct your attention -- I'm not to be tricky or anything.
A. Really?
Q. No, I'm not. You said you would testify to the truth; isn't that correct?
A. Yeah.

Q. Thank you. There's a narrative right here I want to point you to.

A. All right.

Q. You referenced how you had all this tremendous blood loss and all of this injury to yourself. Share with us what you told the people there.

A. What do you want me to share, sir?

Q. I will tell them. I'll tell it, sir. Isn't it true, sir -- first of all, you stated that you -- you denied you were drinking; isn't that true?

A. If that's what they said there, I guess I did, but I don't remember.

Q. Isn't it true that you stated that you were assaulted by three individuals, was punched, kicked and hit with what he said may have been a baseball bat? Didn't you say that?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you deny that you had any loss of consciousness?

A. I don't think I lost consciousness.

Q. And today your testimony has been that you were probably hit by a jackhammer that you use to jack up a tire; isn't that --

A. It was dark. I don't know what they hit me with.

Q. Well, I understand that, but on direct examination, sir, wasn't it your testimony that you were hit by a jackhammer? Isn't that what you said?

A. I was hit by some kind of instrument, sir. I don't know what it was.

Q. And, sir, I'm glad you referenced that. Isn't it true that you, when you got out of your truck, produced a bat or stick; isn't that correct?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay. And, sir, tell the jury what it is that prevented Randy and his two sons from attacking you at the corner store. What prevented them from just punching you?

A. They weren't even near me at the corner store. They were on the other side of the road parked. When I pulled out of the parking lot, they followed me.

Q. Now, sir, there is a reference to something happened maybe six months or a year ago at the Piggly Wiggly when this young man, Randy Wright, you said approached you in the Piggly Wiggly. Did he strike you or assault you in any

manner whatsoever that day in question, sir?

A. No, sir.

Q. Was there anything preventing him from striking you that day in question?

A. Sir?

Q. Was there anything hindered him or prevented him from engaging in combat with you?

A. I don't know.

Q. Now, fast forward to August 8, 2016. When you drove into your driveway, sir, what prevented Randy and his sons to just drive right up behind you since these folks were so hell bent on assaulting you?

A. I wasn't driving the truck; he was. And he parked the truck where he chose to park it. I wasn't driving a vehicle, sir.

Q. And isn't it true, sir, that you did go inside the country store?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you purchased additional alcohol --

A. No, sir.

Q. -- with --

A. No, sir. Look here, what you said earlier --

THE COURT: Hold on. Let him finish

the questions, then you can answer. It's yes, no, or you don't know, and then you can explain. Don't interrupt each other.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Isn't it true that when you went inside that country store you purchased additional alcohol, beer?

A. No, sir.

Q. Sir?

A. No, sir. What you said earlier whenever you were first opening up, you were up here, and I heard everything you said. Everything that come out of your mouth, none of that was true. None of it. All of that was fabricated. I don't know -- you must have got it from him, but none of that was true, sir.

Q. Isn't it true, further, that you threw a bottle and hit Randy's vehicle; isn't that true?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay. And Randy came up to you and asked you what was going on; isn't that true?

A. He didn't ask me nothing, sir.

Q. And you got out with that bat or that stick; isn't that true?

A. No, sir.

Q. And you commenced to strike Randy and had him down on the ground; isn't that true?

A. No, sir, that is not true.

Q. You never engaged, you didn't never touch this young man?

A. No, ma'am, I ain't never touched that man.

Q. Okay. And you had him down in a choke hold down on the bottom; isn't that true?

A. If I had told you I never touched that man, how can I have him down on a choke hold?

Q. And those two boys came to their father's rescue; isn't that true?

A. No, sir.

Q. Of all the pictures, do -- the prosecutor, did they share the pictures with blood on the ground that you alluded to, sir?

A. Say that again.

Q. You said there was blood profusely everywhere. You took any pictures of the blood on the ground?

A. No, sir, I didn't take no pictures of blood --

Q. And, sir, isn't it true that you were

never on the opposite side of that vehicle? Everything took place on the driver's side because you got out with that bat or stick in your hand; isn't that true?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay.

A. That is not true.

Q. In fact, you didn't even want to go to the EMS; isn't that true?

A. I don't know how you can make a statement like that. I was about to bleed to death all over my neighbor's porch. Why would I not want to go with the EMS?

Q. Okay. I will share with you in just a moment. I want to refresh your memory.

MR. DAVIS: Judge, may I approach?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Exhibit Number 1, which you said you were familiar with. I want to direct -- you need to put your glasses on, sir. Go to the bottom of the page. Put your glasses on, please.

A. I don't know where this came from.

Q. The question is, isn't it true that you stated you did not want to go with EMS?

A. I never stated that, sir, so I don't understand this.

Q. You see what I'm talking about, though, sir, don't you?

A. This right here is nothing that I said, sir.

Q. Okay. Isn't it further true that it states in that same document that the bleeding was minor; isn't that true?

A. That's not -- it wasn't minor.

Q. I'm talking about what the document speaks, sir.

A. Yes, sir. This right here, I don't know -- this right here is not true, sir. I mean...

Q. Okay.

A. I didn't -- this is acting like I didn't want to go to the EMS and I didn't want medical attention, and I was about to bleed to death all over my neighbor's porch. I mean, that's kind of crazy, isn't it?

Q. Did they provide any blood to you at the hospital, sir?

Did you receive any units of blood in your medical records, sir?

A. I don't know.
Q. Sir?
A. I don't know. I don't recall.
Q. I will give you Exhibit Number 5 and tell you to look through this and see if you got any units of blood.
A. I mean this is a bunch of paperwork. Where would it be?
Q. It's paperwork, but it's your medical records which speaks volume --
A. I don't remember getting any blood, sir. I don't think they gave me any blood.
Q. Thank you. Thank you.
And do you recall what was the diagnosis that the doctor shared with you, sir?
A. Diagnosis?
Q. Yes, the findings.
A. I don't recall what -- I don't understand what you're asking me.
Q. Well, you know, when your sister testified, she said she was not a doctor. You heard that, right?
A. I know my sister is not a doctor.
Q. That's my point. And so the expert in this case for diagnosis, you would agree, is lodged

with the medical doctors. Do you agree with that?

A. I still don't understand what you're asking.

Q. I'll put it like this: You didn't doctor yourself; isn't that true?

A. No, sir.

Q. You went to the hospital and relied on their expertise, sir, to treat you; isn't that true?

A. I couldn't have sewed my head up, sir.

Q. I understand that. My question is, you went to the hospital; isn't that true?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And is it fair for the jury to rely on what the medical folks did for you? Is that fair enough?

A. Yes.

Q. Can we live with that? Whatever the medical doctors said they did for you, is -- is that accurate?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay. Now, there was some description of some pictures -- I'm not going to pull it out -- where it was unclear whether these photographs were taken immediately after the accident, and then

sometime later, but there's no question that you had a follow-up at Roper Hospital, sir, about a week after incident; isn't that true?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And at that follow-up they removed some stitches and you shared with them that you had no complaints; isn't that true?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay. Thank you. I'm going to come back to that.

MR. DAVIS: Judge, may I approach on Exhibit 3?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. I will give you the second page while I search for the other information. On the second page, it lists your diagnosis. Do you mind sharing that with us, sir? Do you see it, sir?

A. I don't know what you're asking me to look for. It says right here, they removed stitches.

Q. And you had no complaints, sir?

A. Who said I had no complaints?

Q. You said it. You told the doctor; isn't that true, sir?

A. I don't see where it says that I said anything like that. You're trying to fabricate the story. I don't know what you're trying to do here, but --

Q. You admit that the jury has a right to know the truth; isn't that correct?

A. You're saying that I said on this paper here that I had no complaints. And I don't -- I don't see that on here, and I don't understand what you're saying. So you can come and get this piece of paper. And this print, you can't even hardly read it.

Q. Okay. I apologize. This is Defendant's Exhibit Number 4.

MR. DAVIS: Can I approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. This is the one I want you to -- Number 4.

A. Are you sure this is the right one?

Q. I'm a little slow, Mr. Taylor, but I try to be good.

Number 4, Mr. Taylor, whose name is it addressed to?

A. My name is on top of the page.

Q. What is the date, Mr. Taylor?
A. 15th.
Q. You would admit that's a week after August 8th? Do you admit that?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. Now, in the top there you had the stitches removed, and isn't there a reference in there, sir, where it says you had no complaints?
A. I don't see it. You can come point it out?
Q. Thank you. Thank you.
MR. DAVIS: Judge, he said I can come. Patient has no complaints --
THE WITNESS: Well, who put that on there? I didn't write it on there.
BY MR. DAVIS:
Q. I didn't prepare it, sir. Those are your medical records.
A. Well, look here. I mean, I don't know how it got on there. That ain't --
Q. Okay.
A. That's not right.
Q. Okay. And then this is Exhibit Number 3 --
A. Okay.

Q. -- with the diagnosis. No, this is different. If you want me to point this one out for you, I will, too. Do you want me to help point it out?

Diagnosis: Right here it says, unarmed fight or brawl. Unarmed fight or brawl.

Now, I didn't put that on that paper, sir. Somebody else put it on there. I know Randy Wright didn't put it.

Who put unarmed fight or brawl on the medical records?

A. I don't know.

Q. Okay. But it's there; isn't that true?

A. I don't know who put that there.

Q. But it's there?

A. Yeah, it's there. I don't know who put it there.

Q. It's also there that no blood was drawn. You didn't receive any units of blood that night. That's --

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, been asked and answered.

THE COURT: Let's move on.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Judge.

Now, could you put that picture back up

where it's up in the sky and we see 176, please?

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. While she's putting that up, I want to make sure that we understand. Mr. Taylor, when do you recall actually giving Detective Ward a statement? How many days after August 8th?

A. I can't remember how many days. It's been two years.

Q. Okay. You didn't give a statement that night; isn't that true?

A. Yeah. I did give her a statement that night, I reckon. I can't remember. It's been two years, I mean.

Q. Okay. Now, it was your testimony on direct examination that -- you got that red marker, please? I want you to keep it, please.

Show me on the screen -- behind the field apparently Mr. Taylor (sic) lives -- the road that would take them to the house behind the field. The Solicitor alluded to it.

A. Right there. (Indicating)

Q. Okay.

A. Rainbow Acres.

Q. Okay. So it's your testimony that you would have gotten home before they did for their

turn; isn't that true?

A. I don't understand what you're asking me.

Q. If I leave Cooper Store, would I get to your house first or Randy Wright's house first?

A. When you get to that road right there, before you get to my driveway. (Indicating)

Q. Okay. So the question is, Randy turned off before you get to your house?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Okay. Now, isn't it true that the reason Randy passed his driveway, sir, is because you threw a bottle and struck his vehicle; isn't that true?

A. No, sir.

Q. And he came out to discuss this with you, and you came out with a stick, a bat, or whatever and commenced to get engaged with combat; isn't that true?

A. No, sir, that is not true.

Q. You got the worse end of the deal because these boys came and protected their father; isn't that true?

A. No, sir, that is not the truth. None of that is true, sir. Everything you just said is

not the truth.

Q. Can you own a weapon, sir?

A. No, sir.

Q. Why not?

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, objection.

MR. DAVIS: What's the objection?

I'll stop, Judge.

THE COURT: Sustained.

THE WITNESS: I have a felony.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Okay. Thank you. Prevented you from having a gun; isn't that true?

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, I sustained the objection.

Ladies and gentlemen, you will strike that testimony from your consideration.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. And isn't it true that you were aggressive from the store all the way up to your driveway?

A. No, sir.

Q. And isn't it true that Randy Wright never struck you; isn't that true?

A. No, sir. Everything that you're saying to me, sir, none of that is true. So you can just

keep on with it if you want to.

Q. Okay.

A. It's getting repetitious.

Q. And what is in the medical records is not true, too; isn't that correct?

A. What's in the medical reports aren't true, I mean, that I had my head sewed up?

Q. That you denied that you had drank alcohol.

A. I don't remember what I told them down there, sir.

Q. Okay. Or the fact that you didn't receive any units of blood that night?

A. I don't remember if I did or not.

Q. Or the fact that you didn't have any complaints about when you went for follow-ups?

A. Oh, I had complaints.

Q. All of those are untrue; isn't that correct?

A. I've still got complaints.

Q. Where did you hide that bat, Mr. Taylor?

A. I don't know what bat you're talking about.

Q. You would readily admit that a jack

iron is made out of steel or some equivalent; isn't that correct?

A. A jack iron is made out of the steel?

Q. Yeah.

A. I guess if you have a jackhammer made out of steel.

MR. DAVIS: This is the last question, Your Honor.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. This is part of your medical records, too. I want you to look down at the bottom, sir, if you might. Do you see that 300 down there at the bottom, sir? Do you see that 300?

A. Yeah.

Q. And it says -- what is the word that goes with that 300?

A. With the 300? The milligrams?

Q. Yes, sir. They used the word, toxic; isn't that true?

A. Toxic range?

Q. Toxic, yes, sir. And yours was 189; isn't that correct?

A. I don't know what it was.

Q. Well, that's your record; is it not?

A. Yeah, these are my papers.

Q. They took 21 point some units of blood or something for a sample; isn't that true?

A. Yeah.

MR. MCNEELY: Objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Move on, Mr. Davis.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Judge. No further questions, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

MR. MCNEELY: Yes, Your Honor.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mr. Taylor, this was stricken by the Court, it wasn't supposed to have been said, but since it came out, you have a felony conviction, right?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was that in 1993?

A. I was charged with it, and it was something that my twin brother did. And I was charged with it, they made me an accessory, but I actually had nothing to do with it. I was charged with it, and it's still on my record.

Q. Either way, it was in 1993?

A. That's been when I was, like -- I think I might have been 18 or 19 years old.

Q. And it was for burning a car, correct?
A. That's what my brother did.
Q. Had nothing to do with anybody else, burning a car?
A. My brother burned the car, and I knew about it, and I was charged as an accessory because I knew after the fact.
Q. Okay. And that's your only felony?
A. It's the only thing I've ever been in trouble for. And it wasn't even me.
Q. On the night of the incident, you were struck in the head with a long metal object; is that correct?
A. I was struck in the head with something that was mighty damned hard, excuse me, because it busted my head all to pieces.
Q. And, truth be told, you don't know exactly what it is?
A. I don't know. It was dark, sir, and after I got hit -- after that first hit when I got my eye knocked out, I could not see much of anything but blood.
Q. So it could have been a jack handle?
A. It could have been a log.
Q. It could have been a baseball bat?

A. I mean, it could have been a log.

Q. Could it have been a pipe?

A. Could have been a fence pipe. It could have been a jack iron. I mean, a tire iron. I mean, it could have easily been a tire iron.

Q. It was long and metal?

A. It was something that was long and hard. Pictures -- pictures say a hundred -- pictures are worth a hundred words is what they say. I mean, my pictures are right there. I don't know what they hit me with, sir.

Q. But they hit you with something long?

A. He hit me with something that busted my head open.

Q. Mr. Davis made a big deal about the EMS and it saying you said you didn't want to go to hospital?

A. That's -- that's hogwash.

Q. And when we talked before, you said when you were on the porch you were disoriented; is that correct?

A. I was disoriented. Ms. Deanna kept trying to -- she had to keep telling me to sit down because I was in so much -- I mean, I was in shock.

Q. Do you remember --

A. I didn't really know what was going on until they started talking to me and got me calmed down, because I didn't know where I was.

Q. Do you remember everything that you said that night?

A. Do I remember everything that they said?

Q. That you said.

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you want to go to the hospital?

A. Damned right I did, sir. I was about to die on those peoples' porch.

Q. Did you have --

THE COURT: Mr. Taylor, you need to watch the language.

THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. I'm sorry.

Yes, sir. There was no way I would never want to say I was not going to the emergency room. I was in -- I was about to die on the porch, Will.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Did you even have a choice not to go to the hospital?

A. I didn't have no choice.

Q. I show you what was marked as

Exhibit 30. We looked at it before. This is your shirt, right?

A. That's my shirt.

Q. And I believe you stated that everything that's on there that's not white is blood; is that right?

A. That shirt was solid white when I came home that evening.

Q. Was it wrapped around your head at some point?

A. I had pulled it off and wrapped it around my head because I was bleeding so bad.

Q. Was all of that blood soaked up before EMS arrived on scene that night?

A. Yes, sir. It was several towels and several sheets out of Ms. Deanna's house. She had to throw the sheets away.

Q. Do you have any complaints about the medical services that were provided to you at Roper?

A. No, sir.

Q. Do you have any complaints about the injuries that you received on August 8, 2015?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. You live with it every day; is that

correct?

A. I suffer with back pain every day.

Q. Was your head split wide open?

A. I have headaches, I have trouble remembering, and then I have lower back pain where I was struck in my kidney, or across my side.

Q. And this is all from being assaulted by this Defendant and his sons on August 8, 2015?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. With a weapon?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You may step down, sir. Thank you.

Solicitor, you may call your next witness.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Your Honor. The State calls John Murray.

JOHN MURRAY,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: John Murray, M-U-R-R-A-Y.

THE COURT: Your witness.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Deputy Murray, where are you currently employed?

A. Dorchester County Sheriff's Office.

Q. How long have you been employed at Dorchester County?

A. Just about a year.

Q. Before Dorchester, where were you?

A. Berkeley County.

Q. And how long were you with the sheriff's office in Berkeley County?

A. About four months.

Q. What was your position there?

A. I was a detective.

Q. And were you employed with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office in April of 2016?

A. Yes.

Q. And how long -- excuse me, you had been in that capacity about four months?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. What were the duties of your position?

A. I was a general investigator.

Q. And during that time, were you involved

in the investigation of this case?

A. I was.

Q. What was your involvement?

A. I went with Detective Ward to the public defender's office and took two buccal swabs.

Q. Did you have a search warrant for those swabs?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you execute that search warrant?

A. I did.

Q. Can you please describe exactly what the process is when you executed that search warrant.

A. You open the buccal swab kit, take out the two sterilized Q-tips, rub it on the inside of the subject's mouth, seal it back into the envelope and put it into evidence.

Q. What is the purpose of taking this buccal swab?

A. To match DNA.

Q. Was anyone else present with you at the time you executed the search warrant?

A. Detective Ward and the public defender was also there, but I don't remember what their name was.

Q. And who was the subject that you executed the search warrant upon?

A. I don't have an independent recollection of their name.

Q. Would it refresh your recollection if I showed you the chain of custody?

A. I believe it would.

MS. SMITH: May I approach the witness, Judge?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Detective Murray, if you would take a look at these two chain of custodies and let me know when you have reviewed them.

A. I have.

Q. And do you now remember the names of the two subjects that you executed the search warrant upon?

A. Shawn Lee Wright and Adam Shane Wright.

Q. Do you recall the date that you executed that search warrant?

A. It was April 1, 2016.

Q. What did you do with the kits after you collected the samples?

A. I placed them into the evidence locker

at the sheriff's office.

Q. And did you do anything next?

A. Ma'am?

Q. Did you do anything next? Did you complete the search warrant return?

A. I believe I did.

Q. Did you log the kits into evidence?

A. Yes.

Q. How when you log something into evidence at the sheriff's office, is there a secure process for doing so?

A. You just annotate it on the chain of custody.

Q. Do you put it in a secure --

A. Put it in a locked locker, yes, ma'am.

Q. And does only Evidence have access to that secure locker?

A. Yes.

Q. I'm first going to show you what was marked for identification as State's 32.

MS. SMITH: May I approach the witness, Judge?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Would you please tell me if you

recognize this packaging?

A. I do.

Q. What is that item?

A. It is the buccal swab for Adam Wright.

Q. Do you recognize that item?

A. From the chain of custody.

Q. I'm going to show you what was marked as State's 33 for identification. Would you please let me know if you recognize this exhibit?

A. I do.

Q. How do you recognize that?

A. From the chain of custody.

Q. What is that?

A. It's a buccal swab on Shawn Wright.

Q. Thank you, Deputy Murray.

Besides what we have discussed currently, did you have any other involvement in this case?

A. I did not.

Q. Briefly, back to the kit, once you collected the kit. You mentioned that you swabbed each subject?

A. Yes.

Q. And then what do you do with the swabs once you --

A. They get sealed back up in the original package --

Q. I'm sorry, continue.

A. And then it's placed into the evidence locker.

Q. And the packaging that you replaced the swabs in, is it able to be reopened once you seal it?

A. No, it's not. It has tamper-proof tape on it.

Q. And you had no other involvement other than executing the search warrant?

A. That was it.

MS. SMITH: I don't have any other questions for this witness.

THE COURT: Any cross-examination?

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. You would have learned that this incident occurred August 8, 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. And when you were asked to go and secure these swabs, it was April of 2016?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Almost a year later?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. DAVIS: Okay. No further questions.

THE COURT: Anything further?

MS. SMITH: Nothing further.

THE COURT: You may step down. Thank you.

Would you please approach?

(Bench conference.)

THE COURT: You may call your next witness.

MS. SMITH: The State calls Captain Bobby Shuler.

BOBBY SHULER,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: My name is Bobby Shuler, S-H-U-L-E-R.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Judge.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Good afternoon, Captain. Where are you

currently employed?

A. The Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. What is your position at the sheriff's office, and how long have you been employed there?

A. I've been employed with Berkeley County since 1999, approximately 18 years. My current position now is the captain over the uniformed patrol division.

Q. Was that your same position in April of 2016?

A. No. At the time, in 2015, I was the captain over the criminal investigations division.

Q. How long had you worked in that capacity in April of 2016?

A. I've been in criminal investigations division for 12 years.

Q. What were the duties of your position as captain over the investigations division?

A. My primary job as the captain is to oversee the day-to-day operations of the criminal investigations division; direct/manage the detectives within my division is my responsibility.

Q. During this time frame, were you able to become involved in the investigation of this case?

A. I did.

Q. What was your involvement in this case?

A. I received a search warrant signed by the case agent in this case, which is Detective Michelle Ward, who worked for me. She had a signed search warrant by a judge and asked me to execute a search warrant for a buccal swab.

Q. And did you do that?

A. I did.

Q. Can you please describe exactly what you did in the process of executing that search warrant?

A. Basically, how it works, I was advised by the detective that he coordinated with the Defendant, with this individual's attorney, for him to come in voluntarily to have the buccal swab done.

So we met with him in our office, the CID office at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. It was myself and one of the other detectives, and he was -- I gave him a copy of the search warrant. We read the search warrant, read it and explained it to him, asked him if he had any questions. He did not.

At that point, we initiated the buccal

swab kit. It's basically a sealed kit. We get the kits through Tritech Company for -- for the process. In that kit is basically documentation that you put all the information of the person that you're doing, getting the buccal swab. And anybody -- as far as buccal swab, buccal swab is -- the simple terminology is a DNA swab.

So in that kit is some gloves, information, a container, like a cardboard container with two sticks with like cotton tips in there. And what we do is we have the individual-- and the simplest and least invasive way of getting a DNA swab, or buccal swab, is to swab the inside of their mouth.

So you take one and swab the left side of the cheek, and then you take the other one and swab the right side of the cheek. You put them in the cardboard box, they're both sealed up with evidence tape, which is sealed, initialed by myself and whoever the person we were getting the buccal swab from.

It's put back into the kit in the bag, put it into the envelope, and that envelope is sealed; and it also has an evidence seal on which is basically signed by myself, the individual, and

it's dated and timed.

Q. And once you sealed that packaging after collecting the sample, it's unable to be reopened?

A. Once it's sealed and we do a chain of custody for the buccal swab, it's placed in our evidence. Our evidence then takes it based off of the lead detective. It's sent to SLED, the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, for testing. That's the agency that does all of our testing.

And once it gets there, they'll check and make sure nothing has been compromised, and at that point they would be the ones who actually open it up.

Q. And did you complete the search warrant on this case?

A. We did.

Q. Did you log the DNA sample into evidence?

A. We did.

Q. And was the buccal swab kit in your continuous custody and control from the time that you obtained the sample until you logged it into the evidence locker at the sheriff's office?

A. It was.

Q. Prior to executing the search warrant, did you confirm the Defendant's identity?

A. Yes. When the Defendant got there, I asked him for his South Carolina ID and confirmed this was the individual that we were serving the search warrant on and collecting the buccal swab from.

Q. Captain Shuler, I'm going to show you what's been marked for identification as State's Exhibit 31. Could you please take a look at it and tell me if you recognize it.

A. Yes, ma'am. This is the evidence sheet for collection of the buccal swab from the Defendant, Randy Wright.

Q. How do you recognize that?

A. Obviously, it's my signature and my handwriting. It's got all the information on it. It has the case number -- do you mind if I take it out?

Q. Absolutely not.

A. At the bottom of it, it is my name, my signature, and the date where I released it and put it into evidence at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. Beyond this and beyond what we've

discussed with collecting the DNA sample, did you have any other involvement in this investigation?

A. I did not.

Q. I'm going to hand you State's Exhibit 31 back. Would you tell me, please, if you can, who you logged that buccal swab kit into evidence with?

A. I can't make out -- it's one of our forensic techs at the time, Tiffany Swinton. So it was logged in through her. That's who it was given to.

Q. She was one of the forensic technicians with the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office?

A. She was.

MS. SMITH: I don't have any further questions for you, Captain Shuler. Thank you so much.

THE COURT: Cross-examination?

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. How are you doing, Detective?

A. Hi, Mr. Davis. How are you, sir?

Q. Have you and I discussed this case at all?

A. No, sir.

Q. Basically, all your involvement is you came in and made sure some evidentiary things were taken to SLED?

A. Not -- my only involvement in this case was I obtained a signed search warrant by the lead detective, Detective Ward, and we executed the search warrant on Mr. Randy Wright and collected the buccal swab that was placed in evidence.

Q. And that was April 2016?

A. Yes, sir. That was done on April 7, 2016.

Q. Okay. And do you have information that you can share with us that he actually brought some kind of a T-shirt with him that had blood on it?

A. I have no information about that. That was not my information.

Q. And in reference to matters that are picked up at the crime scene, who normally secures forensic evidence at a crime scene?

A. Well, it depends on who gets there first --

MS. SMITH: Objection; outside the scope of direct.

THE COURT: I'll allow it, though.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: Through our experience, you know, normally, the crime scene -- the first officer on scene, once they get there, evaluate what they've got and determine if they have a crime scene or actually locate a crime scene, then that crime scene is secured by the responding deputies.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. You see on TV all the time, they put a yellow tape around it; isn't that true?

A. Most of the time, yes. If the area is where they can't do that, yes.

Q. And so if there's seven or eight towels of blood on there, you would think that the detective would retrieve that information; isn't that correct?

MS. SMITH: Objection, Judge; outside the scope of direct, calls for speculation. He has testified that he was not involved in any other part of this investigation other than collecting the buccal swab.

THE COURT: I believe he's just asking in generalities.

MR. DAVIS: That's correct, Your Honor.

THE WITNESS: Okay. Can you ask me that question?

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. How long have you been a detective? You're the captain.

A. I'm no longer a detective, but I was a detective for 12 years.

Q. Twelve years. You and I have worked on cases together; isn't that --

A. We have.

Q. Now, the proper protocol is you put the yellow tape up and you commence to retrieve whatever forensic evidence you can secure; isn't that true?

A. The proper protocol is, if you can secure the crime scene and there's a way to secure the crime scene, whether it's yellow tape or not yellow tape. You can secure it with people, but, normally, what you see on TV, or whatever, is the yellow tape.

So I won't say that happens all the time because we might not be able to do it with that, but --

Q. You don't have any yellow tape in Berkeley County?

A. Well, we do, but --

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, let him answer

the question.

THE WITNESS: I'm not saying it happens all the time. I won't tell you that happens all the time. I'm not going to set that image that the yellow tape goes up every time.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Forget about the yellow tape.

A. Okay. So, routinely, yes. You get there and secure the crime scene, you evaluate what we have; the investigators will come out if the investigators are called to come out. Then, if a search warrant needs to be obtained for the Scene to process the scene, then a search warrant will be obtained, then the Scene will be called out to the crime scene and -- along with the detectives to process the scene.

Q. A bloody T-shirt that's just lying around that was wrapped around somebody's head, shouldn't that have been retrieved?

A. I wasn't there. I'm not going to speculate on a scene that I wasn't there.

Q. This would be important, would it not?

A. If it was there on the scene --

Q. It's here today.

A. Okay. I have no answer to that; I

wasn't on the scene. I can't answer to something I wasn't there. I don't want to speculate on something --

Q. My question is, though, isn't part of the process to secure all of the evidentiary things that you can?

A. Yeah. If you're on the scene and you know it to be evidence or deem it to be evidence to a case, then, yes, if we can get it collected, we will.

Q. And part of the reason is because you can put it in a secure setting; isn't that true? That's what we've been discussing all this time, put it in a secure setting?

A. Yeah. If we get it collected, it's going to be through the chain of custody.

Q. You don't want a process where there could be an interventional period of time it could be altered; isn't that true?

A. I'm sorry, I didn't understand the question.

Q. Evidence can be altered; isn't that true?

A. Sure, it can be altered.

MR. DAVIS: No further questions.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

MS. SMITH: Briefly.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Captain Shuler, investigators aren't always called to the scene of the accident. Sometimes they may meet a victim at the hospital; is that correct?

A. That's correct. Depending on the scene, the -- you know, our deputies are trained. They can do a lot of things on scene and process them as well. They don't always need have to an investigator right there.

Q. And oftentimes patrol deputies will respond to an incident scene and maybe not call a detective out to that scene?

A. That's true.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Captain. I don't have anything further.

THE COURT: Thank you, Captain. You can step down.

THE WITNESS: All right. Thank you.

THE COURT: You may call the next witness.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Judge. The

State calls Tiffany Swinton.

TIFFANY SWINTON,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: Good afternoon. My name is Tiffany Swinton, last name is S-W-I-N-T-O-N.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Judge.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Swinton. Where are you currently employed?

A. I work at the Hill-Finklea Detention Center.

Q. And what is your position there, and how long have you been there?

A. I'm a detention officer. I've been there a year now.

Q. Where were you employed during April of 2016?

A. At the forensic center.

Q. And what was your position at that time?

A. Forensic technician.

Q. How long had you worked in that capacity in April of 2016?

A. I would say seven months.

Q. And can you describe for the jury the training, education, and experience that you undertook to perform in that roll?

A. Well, I went to Morris College. That's where I got my criminal justice degree. And there you were trained to do fingerprints and photograph and stuff like that.

Q. A lot of in-house training?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And what were the duties of your position as a forensic technician for the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office?

A. Process crime scenes and store evidence.

Q. And did you also act as an evidence custodian?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And can you explain to the jury what it means to be the custodian of evidence?

A. Well, we go to the sheriff's office to get the evidence and we store it, we log it into the computer, and we house it until it's needed for

court.

Q. So you generally have the occasion to handle various types of evidence?

A. Yes.

Q. And can you explain in general how the evidence room process works at the sheriff's office? Can you explain the way you receive evidence?

A. The road deputy brings it to the sheriff's office. The forensic technician goes and gets it, log it in the computer, and we house it in the back.

Q. Are there different ways that evidence can come into your custody and control?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Picking it up versus receiving it?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Do you follow any specific practices and procedures to make sure that evidence is properly handled?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. What specifically?

A. As far as what do you mean?

Q. As far as the specific practices and procedures to make sure that you properly handle

evidence, what would you specifically do, for instance? Anything regarding packaging or labeling?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And do you fill out chain of custody?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Do you have the officers fill out chain of custody forms?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. If someone takes custody of an item, is that documented in some way?

A. Yes, ma'am; they sign it out.

Q. Onto a chain of custody form?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And why do you do that?

A. To see who received it, where it comes from, just to keep track of it.

Q. To keep track of where it has been --

A. Yes.

Q. How is evidence packaged in your evidence room at the sheriff's office?

A. What do you mean?

Q. Can it be packaged -- is it packaged individually?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And is it stored in a specific way in the evidence room?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. How was it stored?
A. Categorized based on like if it was a buccal swab, drugs, or firearms. Things like that.
Q. Once a piece of evidence has been received by a technician, by a custodian of evidence, who has access to those various types of evidence?
A. We do, forensic technician.
Q. And you are possible for signing it in and out at that point?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. As an evidence custodian, did you receive any particular items of evidence in this case?
A. Yes, ma'am.
Q. I'm going to show you what was marked for identification as State's 31.
MS. SMITH: May I approach the witness?
THE COURT: Yes, ma'am.
BY MS. SMITH:
Q. Take a look and tell me if you recognize it.

A. Yes, ma'am, I do.

Q. How do you recognize it?

A. This was an assault case, Captain Shuler did the buccal swab, and I logged it into the computer.

Q. And so you received the evidence from Captain Shuler?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And who was the buccal swab taken upon?

A. Randy Wright.

Q. Okay. How do you know all of this?

A. Because it is stated here on the chain of custody.

Q. Did you sign the chain of custody?

A. Yes, ma'am, I did.

Q. So you were the one person who received that item?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. When did you receive that testimony?

A. I received that item 4/7/2016.

Q. When was it initially logged into evidence?

A. That same day.

Q. By Captain Shuler?

A. Yes, ma'am. He brought it to me and I

logged it into the computer.

Q. So you would have retrieved it from the secure locker that same day?

A. Yes.

Q. And logged it into the forensic database?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And was that item in your continuous custody and control or the evidence room's custody and control from the time that you logged it in until the time it was taken to the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And do you know -- can you tell me who took that particular item to State Law Enforcement Division?

A. Kirsten Chestnut.

Q. Was she also a technician?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. Do all technicians in the evidence room have access to the logging and custody capabilities of evidence?

A. Yes, ma'am.

Q. And other than what we have just talked about, did you have any other involvement in this

case?

A. No, ma'am.

MS. SMITH: Perfect. I'll take that item. I don't have any further questions for you, Ms. Swinton.

THE COURT: Any cross-examination?

MR. DAVIS: Just one question.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. You said you've got a fancy college degree in crime scene processing; is that true?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you received it from where, ma'am?

A. Morris College.

Q. Why do we have crime scene processors? Why is it important?

A. As far as fingerprints goes, to keep track --

Q. What else?

A. -- of evidence. DNA.

Q. DNA. What else? Blood?

A. Yes.

Q. What about shirts that have blood on them?

A. Clothing, shoes, fingerprints.

Q. All that is secured; isn't that true?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. You want to put it into a controlled environment --
A. Yes, sir.
Q. So it can't be altered; isn't that true?
A. Yes, sir.
MR. DAVIS: No further questions.
THE COURT: Any redirect?
MS. SMITH: Briefly, Judge.

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. You mentioned, Ms. Swinton, that you received the buccal swab from Randy Wright into evidence on the same day that Captain Shuler placed it into the secured evidence locker?
A. Yes.
Q. The packaging when you received it, do you remember if it was sealed when you received it?
A. Yes --
MR. DAVIS: I didn't cover that on -- I object. It's a whole new line of questioning.
THE COURT: Just finish this last question.

MS. SMITH: That was my only question, Judge.

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Was it sealed when you received it?

A. It was.

THE COURT: You may step down, ma'am. Thank you.

It's about quarter to five. I know you've had a long day, so it's a good time for us to take our evening recess.

Please remember my previous instruction not to discuss this case with anyone or allow anyone to discuss the case with you. Do not do any independent research or anything of that nature about this case.

If you would please be back in your jury room 9:15, and we will resume the trial of the case. Have a nice evening.

(Jury out, 4:49 p.m.)

THE COURT: Counsel, anything before we recess?

MR. DAVIS: Judge, I have a plea for you. All jurisdictions are different. In Berkeley County, the chief administrative judge allowed a bondsman to sign on so he can stay on the bond so

this fellow can go home tonight and sleep in his comfortable with his family.

He has no prior criminal record. This incident has been over two years. He's not a flight risk. He don't have any crime of violence. They're still living in the same neighborhood.

I'm asking for the Court to consider allowing him to go home tonight. If the bondsman is prepared to stay on the bond. He has hypertension; he needs to be home.

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, my policy -- once that we start a trial and the bond is extended, that's my policy.

MR. DAVIS: You're not going to kill a man for asking, would you?

THE COURT: Oh, no, sir.

(These proceedings were recessed at 4:50 p.m. to be continued 9/1/17 at 9:15 a.m.)

(The following proceedings were held 8/31/2017, Berkeley County General Sessions Court, at 9:43 a.m.)

THE COURT: Morning, ladies and gentlemen. I hope that you had a nice evening. We are now ready to proceed with the trial of this case.

You may call your next witness, Solicitor.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor. State calls Michelle Ward.

MICHELLE WARD,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: Michelle Ward, W-A-R-D.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Good morning, Detective Ward. Where are you currently employed?

A. Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. What is your position there, and how

long have you been employed there?

A. I am currently a detective, and I've been employed there about three years.

Q. Were you employed with the sheriff's office in August of 2015?

A. I was.

Q. What was your position at that time, and how long had you worked in that capacity?

A. I was a patrol deputy, and I had been working in that capacity about a year.

Q. What did you do before joining the sheriff's office?

A. I worked at the court, the traffic court.

Q. What were the duties in your position as a patrol deputy?

A. So to respond to calls for service.

Q. Any and everything?

A. Just about.

Q. Did you handle assault cases as a patrol deputy?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Handled domestic violence cases as a deputy?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Were you working on the evening of August 8th, 2015?

A. I was.

Q. In what capacity were you working?

A. As a patrol deputy.

Q. While working that evening at approximately 8:45 p.m., were you dispatched to an incident at [redacted] in the area of Moncks Corner?

A. Yes, I was.

Q. Just to clarify, that is in Berkeley County?

A. Yes.

Q. Please tell the jury how you became involved in the incident that night.

A. I received a call from dispatch in reference to an assault.

Q. At that location on Cooper Store Road?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you describe the weather and lighting conditions at that time you received the call?

A. It was starting to get dark, but it was clear.

Q. By the time you got there, was it dark

outside?

A. Yes.

Q. What did you do when you arrived at the scene?

A. Once I arrived at the scene, I noticed that another deputy had gotten there just before I did, an EMS was already on scene. I approached the other deputy that was there to see what all was going on and what needed to be done. And he advised me that the victim was in the EMS truck.

Q. Did the other deputy arrive just before you did?

A. Shortly before I did.

Q. And at that time when you arrived, EMS was already treating Mr. Taylor?

A. Yes.

Q. Please describe his appearance and demeanor at the time.

A. He was covered in blood, he appeared very upset, he was crying, he was shaking.

Q. Were you able to speak with him at the time?

A. Very briefly.

Q. Where was he when you spoke to him?

A. The back of the ambulance.

Q. He was already in the back?
A. Yes.
Q. Did the ambulance take him from the scene?
A. They did.
Q. About how long after you arrived?
A. Just moments after I arrived.
Q. What did you do when the ambulance left?
A. I followed the ambulance to the hospital.
Q. Is that an uncommon practice for you to follow the victim to the hospital?
A. No, it's not.
Q. As opposed to staying at the scene and trying to talk to the other people there?
A. Correct. I needed to speak with the victim to see what happened.
Q. And that's standard protocol?
A. Yes.
Q. What did you do when you arrived at the hospital?
A. I made contact with the victim, Jimmy Taylor. He was back in the emergency room already.
Q. Who else was present with him at the

time?

A. It was just myself and the nurses.

Q. Did anybody else arrive?

A. After awhile his -- I believe it was his sister arrived, and she was in the waiting room.

Q. When you were at the hospital, did you inquire of Mr. Taylor what had happened?

A. I did.

Q. What did he say to you?

A. He had told me that he was traveling down -- he had left from the corner store and was traveling down Cooper Store Road, and that a truck had pulled up behind him and then subsequently passed him and started throwing beer bottles out of the vehicle at him, at his vehicle.

The vehicle then pulled off onto Rainbow Acres, and he continued going home. As he was going home the vehicle pulled in behind him and parked across the street.

Q. What happened after that?

A. He told me that the subjects of the vehicle came out and confronted him at his vehicle and began beating on him with a stick-like object.

Q. A weapon of some sort?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you get a good look at Mr. Taylor's injuries while at the hospital?

A. I did.

Q. Did he tell you who inflicted those injuries?

A. He did.

Q. Who did he tell you?

A. He told me that Randy Wright and his sons, Shawn and Adam Wright.

Q. Can you describe the injuries on Mr. Taylor that night?

A. His left eye was swollen and bruised, he had laceration to -- around his left eye. He had a laceration to -- multiple lacerations to his head. He had bruising and swelling to his right hip and abdomen area.

Q. Were photos taken at the hospital?

A. Yes.

Q. Who took them?

A. I did.

Q. Did anybody else?

A. I'm not sure.

Q. Did his sister take photos?

A. She did after the fact. At the time

when I was there, I was the only one that took photos.

Q. Did she provide you any photos?

A. She did.

Q. Were these photos that she took at the hospital?

A. Yes.

Q. Did you combine those with your photos?

MR. DAVIS: I'm going to object to testifying, leading.

THE COURT: Just rephrase.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. What did you do with the photos that Jimmy's sister provided you?

A. I added them in with my photos and submitted them for evidence.

Q. Were all of those photos provided to us?

A. Yes.

Q. Were you able to take a formal statement from Mr. Taylor at the hospital?

A. No, I was not.

Q. Why were you not able to take a formal statement?

A. He was too upset and shaken up from the

incident, and with the hospital staff treating his wounds, I was not able to get him to write down a statement.

Q. What did you do after you spoke with Mr. Taylor at the hospital that night?

A. I had to go back on patrol.

Q. What did you do in this case after that?

A. After I had met with him at the hospital, a few days later I spoke with him at the sheriff's office and was able to get a written statement.

Q. Did he provide you a written statement at the time?

A. He did.

Q. Did he bring you any items at that time?

A. He did. He brought me a brown visor hat and a shirt.

Q. Okay. I would like to show you what's been marked as State's Exhibit 29.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Please look at that. Do you recognize that item?
A. Yes. That's going to be the visor hat he brought to me.
Q. What date did he bring that to you?
A. That would be August 13th.
Q. What did you do when you received it?
A. I placed it into evidence using the chain of custody that we use.
Q. Did you put it in the evidence drop box, or did you actually log it in?
A. I put it in the lockbox.
Q. Who has access to the lockbox?
A. Only forensic.
Q. Thank you very much.
I now want to show you what was marked as State's Exhibit 30.
MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Please open that bag and look at that item. Do you recognize that item?
A. I do.
Q. What is that item?
A. This is going to be the T-shirt that

Mr. Taylor brought to me.

Q. What date did he bring that to you?

A. August 13th.

Q. What did you do with the item?

A. I placed it into evidence.

Q. In the lockbox?

A. Yes.

Q. Did Mr. Taylor provide you any other items at that time?

A. I do not recall.

Q. After receiving Mr. Taylor's written statements and those items, did you issue warrants for arrest in this case?

A. At that time, I did not. I was still wanting to make sure that I had the appropriate persons.

Q. Okay. And did you look up their information?

A. I did.

Q. And did you -- did you issue warrants after that?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Who did you issue warrants for?

A. I issued warrants for Randy Wright Shawn Wright and Adam Wright.

Q. On what charges?
A. Assault and battery, high and aggravated.
Q. Was the Defendant in this case, Randy Wright, taken into custody?
A. Yes.
Q. On what day was he taken into custody?
A. August 19, 2015.
Q. Did you do anything in this case after he was taken into custody?
A. I did. I went and spoke with Mr. Wright.
Q. Did you do that on your own, or did Mr. Wright request to speak with you?
A. He requested to speak with me.
Q. Where did you go to meet Mr. Wright?
A. At the Hill-Finklea Detention Center.
Q. Did anyone go with you?
A. Yes.
Q. Who?
A. Sergeant Riser.
Q. What happened when you arrived at the Hill-Finklea Detention Center?
A. Myself and Sergeant Riser met with him in one of the meeting rooms.

Q. Do you see Randy Wright in the courtroom today?

A. I do.

Q. Please point him out to the jury and describe what he's wearing.

A. He's going to be sitting at that table right over there in a peach in color shirt.

Q. You said you met with him in a meeting room at the detention center?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that room audio or video recorded?

A. No, it's not.

Q. Who was present for the meeting?

A. Myself, Sergeant Riser, and Mr. Wright.

Q. What did you do when you entered the room with the Defendant?

A. I introduced myself and Sergeant Riser and advised him that we were there in reference to why he was arrested and that he was being arrested for assault and battery, high and aggravated.

Q. What did you do next?

A. We sat down and went over his Miranda Advisement.

Q. Did you advise him of his Miranda Rights prior to beginning any interview?

A. I did.
Q. How was he advised, orally or in writing?
A. Both.
Q. Did the Defendant confirm that he understood his Miranda Rights prior to any statements being taken from him?
A. He did.
Q. How did he confirm that, orally or in writing?
A. Both.
Q. I want to show you what was marked as State's Exhibit 27.
MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach, Your Honor?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. Detective, do you recognize this item?
A. I do.
Q. What is that item?
A. This is the Miranda Advisement and Statement form.
Q. How do you know -- is that for this case?
A. Yes.

Q. How do you know that?

A. It's got the case number written on top, and it has Mr. Wright's name on it, as well as I have my signature down at the bottom.

Q. The top portion of the front page, what is that section?

A. The Miranda Advisement.

Q. Was that section read to the Defendant prior to taking any statement from him?

A. It was.

Q. Was it read as a whole or was each right read individually?

A. Each read individually.

Q. Did the Defendant acknowledge that the rights were read to him in any way?

A. Yes. Orally, and he initialed next to each one.

Q. Did he agree to waive those rights and speak with you about the matter?

A. He did.

Q. Did you sign it as well?

A. Yes.

Q. How old is the Defendant?

A. A little over 50.

Q. What was the Defendants's demeanor at

the time?

A. He was calm.

Q. Did he appear to understand what was going on that day?

A. He did.

Q. Did he seem coherent?

A. Yes.

Q. Rational?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he appear to comprehend the meaning and effects of his word?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he appear to have any physical defect?

A. No.

Q. Did he appear to have any mental defect?

A. No.

Q. Did he appear intoxicated or under the influence of a substance in any way?

A. No.

Q. Did you or anyone make any threats to the Defendant?

A. No.

Q. Was he under duress in any way?

A. No.

Q. Did you or any other officer make any promises to the Defendant?

A. No.

Q. Did you make any misrepresentations to the Defendant?

A. No.

Q. Did the Defendant voluntarily waive his Miranda Rights and agree to speak to you?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he waive those Miranda Rights prior to any statements being taken?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he waive those orally or in writing, or both?

A. Both.

Q. Was it a knowing and intelligent waiver?

A. Yes.

Q. How long did the conversation with the Defendant last that day?

A. Less than an hour.

Q. Were there any breaks?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever ask to stop the interview

at any point?

A. He did not.

Q. Did he ever ask to have a lawyer present during the interview?

A. No.

Q. Did he ever make a request for food, drink, or use of the restroom that was not met?

A. No.

Q. Following the Defendant's advisement of rights and waiver, please tell the jury how the interview began.

A. It began, I asked Mr. Wright if he was involved in any altercation on August 8, 2015.

Q. What was his response?

A. He denied being in any altercation on that date.

Q. He expressly denied being involved in any altercation at all?

A. Correct.

Q. What did you do at that time?

A. I advised him that we had a victim and advised him that the victim was Jimmy Taylor and that he identified him as being the one that assaulted him on that night.

Q. Did you tell him any specific facts

about what Jimmy had told you other than that at that time?

A. No, I did not.

Q. What was Randy Wright's response when you told him that he'd been identified by Jimmy Taylor as the person who assaulted him?

A. At that time he told me as he was leaving the Country Corner store and heading down Cooper Store Road, a vehicle came up from behind him and began throwing beer bottles at his truck. And he pulled off onto Rainbow Acres and got behind the vehicle and followed him to his -- to where the vehicle was going and decided to confront the person as to why they were throwing beer bottles at his truck.

Q. So he changed his story?

A. Yes.

MR. DAVIS: Object to that, Your Honor, changing his story. Basically, he testified. He didn't change his story.

THE COURT: Well, it's in --

MR. DAVIS: The characterization, Your Honor.

THE COURT: It's inconsistent. Your objection is overruled.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Is that statement different from what he told you initially?

A. Yes.

Q. He initially told you he wasn't involved in anything at all, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. What did he say happened after he arrived at Jimmy Taylor's home?

A. He said that he confronted the person about why he was throwing beer bottles at his truck.

Q. What did he say happened after that?

A. That Jimmy Taylor pulled out a club from his truck and attacked him with it.

Q. Did he say who was with him?

A. He said that his sons were with him. I believe it was Adam and Randy, Junior.

Q. Did you ask him about Shawn?

A. I did.

Q. What did he say about Shawn?

A. He said that Shawn was not there, that Shawn was at home.

Q. What did you do after taking that verbal statement from Mr. Wright?

A. I asked for him to put it in writing for me.

Q. And just backing up a little bit. Prior to his second verbal statement, you had not told him Jimmy Taylor's story; is that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. Did he reduce his statement to writing?

A. He did.

Q. Is that the form that you looked at?

A. Yes.

Q. Identified as State's Exhibit 27?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you look at the second page? There is a section listed as Q and A; is that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. What is that section?

A. That -- we typically will do a question and answer at the end of the statement if there's any gaps in the statement or any additional information that we think we may need.

Q. What's the section before the Q and A?

A. That's going to be his statement.

Q. How did that get produced? Did you just tell him to write his statement and let him

run, or did you Q and A him the whole way?

A. When he wrote -- initially wrote the statement, I gave him the paper and asked for him to put it in writing, and he wrote what his statement was. Whenever he said that he was done, I read over it.

And whenever I saw that there may have been some additional information that would have been needed in the statement, that's when I wrote the question and answer with him.

Q. Is that a complete and accurate copy of the Defendant's statement form --

A. Yes.

Q. -- completed on August 19th, 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. Does it appear to have been changed or altered in any way?

A. No.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, at this time I would move to admit State's Exhibit 27 into evidence.

MR. DAVIS: Your Honor, we have been through this process. No objection.

THE COURT: Thank you. It's in.

(STATE EXH. 27 in evidence.)

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to publish to the jury by reading.

THE COURT: You may do so.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Detective, would you please read the statement -- or the second statement of Randy Wright into the record?

A. It says: 8/8/16, left Country Corner store, got on Cooper Store Road. Truck behind me. Cut my signal light on to get on my street. Bottle hit back of my truck. Jimmy throwed it at my truck hitting it in the back. I turned around to see who it was. He turned left into his yard. I parked across the street of road, walked up to him. Asked, what is your problem? He reached behind his truck seat and got a club, hitting me with it on my leg. I said, what is your problem? He said, come on. And my oldest son tried to block him from hitting me, so I grabbed him around the waist and got him on the ground. We tussled. I got up. He said he was going to call the law, so we went to leave. He said he would get his 45 and shoot us. We got in my truck and went home.

Do you want me to read the question and answer part?

Q. Please.

A. I then wrote a question out: Who was with you in the truck?

He answered: Adam Wright and Randy Wright.

Then I wrote out a question: Did Adam and Randy Wright get out of your truck and walk across the road with you?

He answered: Yes.

I wrote out the question: Did anyone hit Mr. Taylor?

He answered: Yes. My son was trying to get him off me, and he started hitting me with a club.

I asked the question: Which son are you talking about in the above question and answer?

And he answered: Adam.

Q. Thank you, Detective.

You asked if Shawn Wright was present, correct?

A. Yes.

Q. And he said no?

A. Correct.

Q. Did you ask if he was injured?

A. I did.

Q. What was his response?

A. He said that he was not injured.

Q. When you encountered him on August 19th, 2015, did he appear to be injured by the alleged assault from the victim?

A. No.

Q. Did you see anything at all to indicate any injury?

A. No, I did not.

Q. And you specifically asked him about that?

A. I did.

Q. Yet he told you that the victim hit him with a club multiple times?

A. Yes.

Q. Did he ever make a report to law enforcement about this incident before he was arrested?

A. No, he did not.

Q. Following the conclusion of the written statement, did that conclude the interview?

A. It did.

Q. Following the conclusion of the interview that day, what else did you do in this case?

A. I don't believe I did anything else in this case.

Q. Did you issue any search warrant?

A. I did. My apologies.

Q. Why did you issue search warrant?

A. For the visor hat, to be able to identify whose hat it was.

Q. You have inconsistent stories between Jimmy and the Defendant?

A. Yes.

MR. DAVIS: Object again to relevance and the characterization of the testimony, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Don't lead, please.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Who did Jimmy tell you was present the night of the assault?

A. He told me Randy Wright, Shawn Wright, and Adam Wright.

Q. So what was your reason for issuing a search warrant?

A. He advised me that the hat belonged to Shawn Wright, but Mr. Randy Wright told me that Shawn was not present. So I got -- I needed a search warrant for DNA to identify whose hat it

was.

Q. Okay. Did you get a search warrant for any buccal swabs?

A. Yes.

Q. Whose buccal swabs did you take?

A. I got search warrants for Randy Wright, Shawn Wright, and Adam Wright.

Q. Were those search warrants executed?

A. They were.

Q. Was any samples collected from the visor to your knowledge?

A. Yes.

Q. What was done with that sample and the buccal swabs?

A. All three buccal swabs and the sample that was taken from the visor hat was sent to SLED for analysis.

Q. Did you actually serve the buccal swabs warrant?

A. I did not.

Q. Is that uncommon?

A. I'm sorry?

Q. Is that uncommon?

A. No, it's not.

Q. Who served the warrants; do you know?

A. Captain Shuler served one of them, and Detective Cassal, while he was with us, served two of them.

Q. You arrested the Defendant and his sons 11 days after this incident?

A. Yes.

Q. Is it uncommon to wait a period to investigate a case before you issue arrest warrants?

A. It's not uncommon.

Q. Because you want to be as certain as possible you're arresting the right person, correct?

MR. DAVIS: I'm going to object, Your Honor. Characterization of the testimony again.

THE COURT: Don't lead.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Following the collection of the DNA evidence in this case, did you have any further investigation?

A. I don't believe so.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Detective Ward. I don't have any more questions.

THE COURT: Cross-examination.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor. May

it please the Court?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Good morning, Detective Ward. How are you doing this morning?

A. Doing alright, sir. And yourself?

Q. Good. You doing alright?

A. So far.

Q. You and I have had some brief association with this case which was yesterday?

A. Yes.

Q. Outside of the presence of the jury?

A. Yes.

Q. On yesterday you alluded to the fact on direct examination that Mr. Randy Wright did allude to having an injury to his knee; did he not? He stated that he had an injury to his knee.

A. I misheard your question yesterday, but he instructed that he was struck in the leg but that he did not have any injuries.

Q. On yesterday you in the affirmative said, in fact, that he did state that he had an injury, but you misunderstood my question?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Thank you. Now, let's review your investigation in this case. Okay. Is it fair to say that your investigation began on August 8, 2015?

A. Yes.

Q. You appeared at the scene, correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You observed Mr. Jimmy Taylor?

A. Yes.

Q. And you followed Mr. Jimmy Taylor to Roper Hospital; isn't that correct?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And he gave you a statement that particular night, it was oral?

A. An oral statement, yes.

Q. And you took two photographs?

A. I can't recall exactly how many photographs.

Q. You didn't take as many as has been introduced into evidence today, though; isn't that correct?

A. No, I did not.

Q. And did you have any discussion with any of the doctors while you were there in reference to the severity of the injuries?

A. They didn't have anything that they could discuss with me, because they were still working on him.

Q. Did you go back and discuss the severity of the injuries with the doctors or treating physicians in this matter?

A. No, I did not.

MR. DAVIS: Could I have this marked?

(DFT. EXH. 6, Statement of James Taylor, was marked for identification.)

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. I'm going to hand you Defendant's Exhibit 6 and ask can you identify that, please.

A. This is going to the statement that Mr. Taylor provided to me on August 13, 2015.

Q. And that would have been, approximately, five days after you had discussed this matter with him on August 8th, that night; isn't that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. And tell us -- the jury what kind of demeanor and impression of him that particular day, and tell us how that came about.

A. Talking about on August 13th?

Q. Yes, that's correct.
A. He met with me at the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office. When I first met with him he was calm, he appeared to be okay. As we were talking, he began to get upset again, as we were talking about the incident.
Q. Okay. And you were in the courtroom when he testified yesterday; were you not?
A. Yes.
Q. I want you to review that statement. Any changes seem to be appeared to it?
MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, I'm going to object to this. May we approach?
THE COURT: Yes, you may.
(Bench conference.)
BY MR. DAVIS:
Q. I want you to take your time and read that statement, familiarize yourself with it.
A. Okay.
Q. Having read that statement, when he gave the oral statement on August 8th, did he reference going --
MR. MCNEELY: Objection, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Basis of the objection?
MR. MCNEELY: Same as before, trying to

get in the specifics of the statement.

THE COURT: I'll overrule it.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Did he reference the basis of securing and going to get a gun on the night in question?

A. It says that he was getting a gun.

Q. Yeah. And also in reference to who struck --

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor --

THE COURT: Hold on a second. Come here, Counsel. Can I see the statement, please?

(Bench conference.)

MR. DAVIS: I move without objection Exhibit Number 6.

THE COURT: It's in.

(DFT. EXH. 6 in evidence.)

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Read the statement that you received from Mr. Jimmy Taylor some five days after this incident.

A. It says: 8/8/15, I was at Country Corner store getting gas and sodas. When I exited the parking lot, Randy Wright and Adam and his other son, Shawn, threw a bottle and hit my truck.

I proceeded home. They followed me to my driveway. I did not throw -- I'm sorry. I did not know they were in my driveway. When I got out of my truck, they started hitting me with -- in the head. I went to the ground and they kept hitting me. My neighbors' dog started barking, so my neighbors looked out the door and saw me on the ground with three men beating me. He told them to stop, and they didn't. He told them he was getting -- getting his gun, then they stopped and ran.

And then there's a question and answer at the bottom.

Q. So you did the question and answer on Jimmy Taylor. Let's hear your question and answer for this young man.

A. Were there any weapons involved?

He answered: The club I got beat with.

The next question is: Who used the weapon?

He answered: Shawn Wright hit me several times in my head with a bat or club.

The next question is: Where did the subject park their vehicle?

Across the highway in Billy Murray's field.

Q. In reference to the investigation, everything apparently started at the Cooper Store; you agree with that?

A. He didn't mention that an altercation happened at the corner store.

Q. Did you, as part of your investigation, go and speak with anybody at the corner store and view any video at the country store?

A. No.

Q. Why not? Wouldn't that have been pertinent as part of your investigation?

A. No.

Q. In reference to the vehicle where it says that Jimmy Taylor said that his vehicle was struck on the passenger side by a bottle, did you take any pictures of his vehicle to see if there was damage to his taillight and bring forth to this jury?

A. Jimmy Taylor's taillight?

Q. Yes.

A. No. He didn't say that his taillight was broken. His front light was broken.

Q. Did you take any pictures of the front light?

A. No, I did not.

Q. That would have corroborated that Randy or someone in Randy's vehicle threw a beer bottle and struck his vehicle; wouldn't it?

A. Possibly, but his truck is a work truck and there's a lot of damage to it.

Q. The bottom line is, part of your investigation to do things independent, you said that you did not rush to judgment to arrest Randy or his sons, because you wanted make sure that you get it right; isn't that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. Because, number one, you weren't present that night; isn't that true?

A. Correct.

Q. You don't know how the facts unfolded that particular night; isn't that correct?

A. I have learned through talking --

Q. I'm talking about your own personal knowledge. Do you have any information on your personal knowledge as to what unfolded that night, other than what you participated in as part of your investigation?

A. No, I did not witness anything.

Q. Did you just make a determination when you spoke to Jimmy Taylor whether, in fact, he was

under the influence of any alcohol or drugs when you discussed that with him?

A. I did not observe any.

Q. Did you review his medical records in anticipation of your testimony today as part of your investigation?

A. Did I review them before testimony today?

Q. Yes.

A. No, I have not.

Q. Have you ever reviewed his medical reports and highlighted any aspects that pertained to his injuries or his alcohol intake?

A. No. Those all went straight into evidence.

Q. My question is: Have you, Ms. Ward, as a detective, ever reviewed any of that information in preparation of your testimony here today?

A. No.

Q. Now, in reference to -- tell the jury, in relationship to Randy Wright, Shawn Wright, and Adam Wright were pronounced on April 8th as the people who was involved with this brawl or this fight; isn't that correct?

A. I'm sorry?

Q. On August 8, 2015, they were identified?

A. Yes.

Q. They were known. Okay.

A. Yes.

Q. And Jimmy Taylor comes to the sheriff's office on August 15th; is that correct?

A. I believe he came August 19th.

Q. Okay. August 19th. Eleven days later?

A. Yes.

Q. Okay. Tell this jury what investigation you did between August 8th and August 19th. What did you do?

A. I spoke with the victim again to get down exactly what happened during the incident and, also, to be able to positively identify the subjects that he stated was the people who assaulted him.

Q. So this was August 8th, the initial interview. When is the next time that you spoke to anybody pertaining to this matter?

A. August 13th.

Q. And who did you meet with on August 13th?

A. Jimmy Taylor.

Q. And on August 13th, that's the date on the statement?

A. Yes.

Q. And you would readily admit that apparently over five days had transpired between August 8th and August 13th?

A. Yes.

Q. You do not know what condition this shirt had been in during that period of time which is Exhibit -- State's Exhibit Number 28?

Ma'am?

A. I believe it's 30.

Q. State's Exhibit 30. You don't know what condition it was in?

A. I remember seeing it on August 8th because Mr. Taylor was wearing it.

Q. My question is: Did you retrieve it on August 8th?

A. I did not.

Q. Did you retrieve it August 9th?

A. No, sir.

Q. Did you retrieve it August 10th?

A. No.

Q. Did you retrieve it August 11th?

A. No.

Q. 12th.
A. No.
Q. So I'll ask my question again. Can you tell us what transpired with this incident between August 8th and August 13th?
A. No, I do not know what happened with the shirt --
Q. You cannot --
A. -- between those dates.
Q. Ma'am?
A. No. I cannot tell you what happened with the shirt --
Q. You were not in control of it; isn't that correct?
A. Correct.
Q. Okay. Now, after August 13th, as part of your investigation, you had the same -- basically, the same thing you had on August 8th on August 13th, except that on August 13th, now you have reference to a gun, you have reference to a stick or a bat. Basically, same items that you had on August 8th, right?
A. Correct.
Q. Tell us what changed between August 13th and August 19th when the Solicitor said

you went and actually went and got warrants for Mr. -- for Randy? What changed in between those dates?

A. Well, I didn't want to get a warrant just based off of a name. I wanted go get an identifier, date of birth, where they lived, that type of thing. So I did some additional research to learn who the people were to properly arrest the right person and not somebody else who just so happened to have the same name.

Q. Did you speak with Mr. Williams or Deanna, the wife, who came here and testified earlier? Did you take any statements from them?

A. I did not, because whenever I first arrived on the scene, the officer that was there told me that they didn't see anything.

Q. Thank you.

The officer said they, Mr. and Mrs. Williams, did not what?

A. See anything.

Q. Okay. But you know they testified this week, though; isn't that right?

A. Yes.

Q. You were in the courtroom?

A. Yes.

Q. And, apparently, if you accept their testimony, they did see some things apparently; isn't that correct?

A. Mr. Williams apparently saw something.

Q. But more importantly they provided names that night; did they not?

A. Mr. Taylor did.

Q. Okay. And you sat in the courtroom and said that these folks, Randy and his sons, live right across the field; isn't that correct?

A. Off of Rainbow Acres.

Q. And so between August 13th and August 19th, tell us what changed to cause the warrants to be issued?

A. I was able to get their date of birth and the additional identifiers so I could know I was putting out the arrest warrant for the correct person.

Q. But you must admit, Detective Ward, whatever the story or the facts are, it was already cemented at that time apparently?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, did Randy Wright come and indicate a presence with you or did you drive out to Pot of Gold Lane where he lives? Tell us about that.

A. He came to the sheriff's office.

Q. Okay. He drove himself in to you; isn't that correct?

A. Yes, he did.

Q. Ma'am, to be correct, Randy had the position that he thought that this matter was over; isn't that correct?

A. I'm not sure what his position was.

Q. Okay. And so he shared with you he never assaulted anyone? Has Randy ever admitted to you that he struck Jimmy Taylor?

A. No, he did not.

Q. Ma'am?

A. No, he did not.

Q. Okay. And he commenced to provide the statement as to what took place?

A. Yes.

Q. Now, setting that apart, setting that apart, you have Randy Wright's version of what took place; isn't that correct?

A. Yes.

Q. You have Jimmy Taylor's version of what took place; is that right?

A. Yes.

Q. Tell this jury and tell us what

independent corroboration in reference to testimony that you can give us to glean more light on what happened on August 8, 2015.

MR. MCNEELY: Objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: What's the basis of the objection?

MR. MCNEELY: I think the question is improper for the jury. It's not --

MR. DAVIS: She's the head investigator.

THE COURT: I think he can ask her what evidence she obtained.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. Ma'am, what evidence did you obtain separate in these two conflicting stories as to what took place?

A. The injuries on the victim.

Q. Well, you at no point reviewed these medical records. That's what you said earlier; isn't that correct?

A. Correct.

Q. So other than the superficial look of these injuries, that's it; isn't that correct?

A. No, they didn't look superficial to me.

Q. Well, ma'am, I go back again, have you reviewed these records to the extent to know whether they were superficial or serious or not?

A. I did not.

Q. Okay. Are you a medical doctor?

A. I am not.

Q. Okay. Now having said that, any other evidence you can bring to the jury to decipher the truth in this matter?

A. No.

Q. So we have -- Randy Wright's statement is in.

MR. DAVIS: May I approach?

THE COURT: You may.

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. You have in your hand State's Exhibit into evidence Number 27. Tell us what it is.

A. This is Randy Wright's Miranda Advisement and Statement.

Q. And I hand you what was introduced as Defendant's Exhibit 6. Tell us what you have in your hand.

A. James Taylor's statement.

Q. Two conflicting statements?

A. Yes.

Q. The truth be told, is that part of the reason it took you so long to formulate who to arrest in this matter?

A. No.

Q. Did you go speak to anybody at the store in reference to what transpired that night?

A. No.

MR. DAVIS: No further questions.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Detective Ward, Mr. Davis asked you about speaking to anybody at the store.

A. Correct.

Q. And you said you didn't do so?

A. I didn't.

Q. Why didn't you do so?

A. There was no indication that was brought to me to say that there was an altercation that occurred at the store.

Q. You didn't have anything to say that anything happened there, correct?

A. Correct.

Q. Following this assault, you went to the hospital, correct?

A. Correct.
Q. You have common sense, correct?
A. Yes.
Q. Did you observe Mr. Taylor's injuries?
A. I did that night, yes.
Q. You are not a doctor, correct?
A. No, I'm not.
Q. But you have common sense?
A. Yes.
Q. Were those minor injuries?
A. They did not look minor to me.
MR. MCNEELY: I will ask the court reporter to mark this as State's 34 for identification.
(STATE EXH. 34, Arrest warrant, was marked for identification.)
BY MR. MCNEELY:
Q. With regard to State's 28, the T-shirt.
A. Yes.
Q. When did Jimmy Taylor provide that to you?
A. On the 13th.
MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach the witness?
THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Please review this item. Do you recognize State's Exhibit 34?

A. Yes.

Q. What is that?

A. That is the arrest warrant I took out on Randy Wright.

MR. DAVIS: I'm going to object to that, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Basis of the objection?

MR. DAVIS: First of all, Your Honor, we're here on an indictment. Okay. And those are just charging papers. They have no weight, no validity, whatsoever. No basis, highly prejudicial on those statements --

THE COURT: Would you come forward?

MR. DAVIS: -- should be the indictment's highly prejudicial.

THE COURT: Mr. Davis, when I ask you to come forward.

MR. DAVIS: I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Stop arguing.

MR. DAVIS: I'm sorry.

(Bench conference.)

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Did you issue that warrant, Detective Ward?

A. I did.

Q. What day did you issue that warrant?

A. On August 13, 2015.

Q. The day you took his statement?

A. Yes.

Q. When was it served on the Defendant?

A. It was served on August 19, 2015.

Q. What is the standard practice for serving warrants?

A. Typically, what we do is we -- when we get the arrest warrant, we'll turn it over to the warrants division and the warrants division serve the warrants.

Q. Is that what you did in this case?

A. Yes.

Q. But the warrant was issued on the 13th?

A. Yes.

Q. After you had time to meet --

MR. DAVIS: Objection. I think it's asked and answered.

THE COURT: Overruled; you may proceed.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. After you had time to meet with Jimmy

Taylor?

A. Yes.

Q. And take his statement?

A. Yes.

Q. And collect the evidence you collected?

A. Yes.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions.

THE COURT: You may step down, Detective. Thank you.

You may call your next witness.

MR. MCNEELY: The State calls August Mack Flood.

AUGUST MACK FLOOD,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: August McMillan Flood, the Third, F-L-O-O-D.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MR. MCNEELY: Thank you, Your Honor.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Mr. Flood, where are you employed?

A. Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. What is your position there, and how long have you been employed there?

A. I'm an evidence technician. I've been there approximately six years.

Q. Were you employed there during August of 2015?

A. Yes, was.

Q. What was your position, and how long had you worked in that capacity?

A. Evidence technician, six years.

Q. Please describe your education and training.

A. I have a Bachelor of Science degree, I'm certified through the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy. I've had training through the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division. I've had courses in crime scene investigations through the University of West Virginia; training through Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. What are the duties of your position as a forensic or crime scene technician?

A. I investigate crime scenes. As an evidence technician that -- we will issue evidence out to the deputies or give evidence that's been recovered by owners. We also do forensic analysis,

which is fingerprinting, buccal swabs, marijuana analysis. Those type of things.

Q. DNA swabs?

A. Absolutely, yes, sir.

Q. Do you also collect evidence as an evidence tech?

A. Yes, I do.

Q. Please tell the jury in general terms how the evidence room at Berkeley County Sheriff's Office works.

A. When we receive evidence, it's all logged into the computer system under the case number. It's assigned a location in evidence rooms. It's put in that location depending on the type of evidence it is, and it's put in sealed containers and locked in a safe, secure location.

Q. Why are the containers sealed?

A. To secure that it hasn't been tampered with and those types of things.

Q. Do you follow protocol practices and procedures to make sure that evidence is handled properly?

A. Yes, we do.

Q. I believe you mentioned packaging and labeling?

A. That's correct.

Q. Are chains of custody sheets always done?

A. Yes, it is.

Q. What is a chain of custody?

A. Chain of custody has the case number on it that identifies what case that evidence belongs to, shows a defendant or also shows a victim, and it also shows who has handled that piece of evidence.

Q. If somebody handled the evidence, is their name on the chain of custody?

A. That's correct.

Q. And that's the standard procedure?

A. That is.

Q. Once in the evidence room, who has access to the various types of evidence?

A. Five of us employees.

Q. The forensic tech?

A. That's correct.

Q. As evidence custodian, did you receive items of evidence in this case?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. I show you what was marked as State's Exhibit 28.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Do you recognize that item?

A. Yes, I do, sir.

Q. What is that item?

A. It's a T-shirt.

Q. Who did you receive that item from?

A. I received it from Officer Ward.

Q. When did she log it into evidence?

A. She logged it into evidence on August 13th, 2015.

Q. Is that the day you received it?

A. I received it on the 14th.

Q. Where did you receive it from?

A. From the evidence locker.

Q. What is the evidence locker?

A. Excuse me, what is it?

Q. What is it?

A. We have lockers over at the sheriff's office that usually deputies will come in or detectives and they'll store evidence in the lockers. Once they shut the door on the locker, it's locked, and we pick them up on a daily basis.

Q. Who has access to the evidence?

A. The five people in the forensics unit.

Q. Once something is dropped into the box, can the person dropping it in there get it back?

A. No.

Q. Only the evidence tech?

A. That's correct.

Q. And you retrieved that item on August 14th from the evidence locker?

A. That's correct.

Q. In this case?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Has the shirt been in the custody of Berkeley County Evidence continuously since that time?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, at this time, I would move to admit State's Exhibit 28 into evidence.

MR. DAVIS: Objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Basis?

MR. DAVIS: On the basis of a critical aspect of the integrity of the chain. It wasn't retrieved by the Berkeley County sheriff's deputies; it was five days after the incident; it

could have been tampered with; it was not in control and custody of the Berkeley County deputies or law enforcement during that period of time; it could have been altered tremendously.

I think it affects the integrity of the -- of the whole chain process, Your Honor, in relationship to -- as a basis for being denied into evidence.

THE COURT: That would go to the weight of the evidence, not the admissibility of it. So your objection is overruled.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

THE COURT: 28 is in evidence.

(STATE EXH. 28 in evidence.)

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. I want to show you what was marked as State's Exhibit 29.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Open that for me and tell me if you recognize that item.

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. What is that item?

A. It's a hat or visor, camouflaged visor.

Q. Did you receive that item into evidence in this case?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Who did you receive it from?

A. I received it from Deputy Ward.

Q. How do you know?

A. She turned it over to evidence on August 13th, and I picked it up on the 14th.

Q. From the locker?

A. From the locker.

Q. Same as the shirt?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Has it been in the continuous custody and control of Berkeley County Evidence since that time?

A. Yes, it has.

MR. MCNEELY: Your Honor, at this time, the State moves to admit State's Exhibit 29 into evidence.

MR. DAVIS: Objection. Same basis; it was not secure.

THE COURT: Same ruling.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you.

THE COURT: 29 is in.

(STATE EXH. 29 in evidence.)

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. In addition to receiving custody of evidence into the Berkeley County evidence room, you mentioned that you perform forensic analysis as well.

A. That's correct.

Q. What types of forensic analysis do you perform?

A. It's DNA, buccal swabs, GSR kits, those type of things.

Q. Fingerprints?

A. That's correct, fingerprints also.

Q. Marijuana analysis?

A. Marijuana analysis.

Q. What's a GSR kit for somebody --

A. Gunshot residue.

Q. Specifically, with regard to DNA swabs, is performing those swabs a regular part of your duty?

A. Yes.

Q. What training do you have in performing DNA swabs?

A. I've been trained through the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. They train you on how to collect the DNA sample?

A. Yes.

Q. Is that done with a standard kit?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Can you describe the kit to the jury?

A. The kit contains latex gloves, two Q-tips swabs that are in a sterile container, also a container that the swabs go back into, and sterile water, a little vial of water.

Q. What is the process of collecting a DNA sample?

A. I would put the latex gloves on to prevent any contamination. The swabs would be taken out of the sterile plastic wrapper, several drops of the sterile water dropped on the Q-tip, swab the item that you want to try to extract the DNA from, put it back into the little box that's provided.

The case number is put on the box, I initial it the day it was done, and each end is wrapped with -- sealed with tape.

Q. Why is it sealed with tape?

A. To prevent any tampering with it.

Q. Once it's sealed, can you open it and

reclose it?

A. No, sir.

Q. Once it's opened, it's opened?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. Did you seal the -- or did you collect a sample and seal the sample kit in this case?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. What did you collect a sample from?

A. From the visor.

Q. State's Exhibit 29?

A. That's correct.

Q. How did you perform the collection kit on that visor?

A. I did it basically the way I described earlier, and I swabbed the inside brim of the hat, which would be the portion of the hat that would be in more contact with DNA of that individual.

Q. The part of the hat that would be up against their head?

A. Yes, sir, the inside brim, or band of the hat.

Q. Did you seal the kit after you collected it from that visor?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. What was done with it then?

A. It was put into a sealed envelope and put into evidence.

Q. After being put into evidence, did you perform any analysis on the DNA swab?

A. No, sir.

Q. Why not?

A. I'm not certified to do that. We don't have the equipment for that.

Q. Who does that?

A. That's done by SLED.

MR. MCNEELY: Permission to approach?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. Please look at the chain of custody. Excuse me, that's the visor.

A. That's the visor.

Q. I apologize. State's Exhibit 30, please look at State's 30. Mr. Flood, do you recognize that item?

A. Yes, sir, I do.

Q. What is that item?

A. It's a DNA swab I took from the visor.

Q. What was done with the swab after you collected it?

A. It was put into evidence.

Q. And then what happened to it after that?
A. It was put into evidence to be sent to SLED in Columbia.
Q. And it was sealed when you put it into evidence?
A. That's correct.
Q. Was it sent to SLED in Columbia?
A. Yes, sir.
Q. When was it sent to SLED?
A. 25th of May.
Q. Of 2016?
A. 2016.
Q. Who took it to SLED?
A. It was taken to SLED by Kirsten Chestnut, one of my employees.
Q. And you know that from the chain of custody?
A. Yes, I do.
Q. Is the item sealed currently?
A. Repeat that.
Q. Is the buccal swab -- is the DNA swab sealed currently?
A. Yes.
Q. Who sealed it?

A. It was sealed by Kirsten Chestnut at SLED.

Q. SLED sealed it back?

A. Yes.

Q. And returned it back to Berkeley County?

A. Yes, sir. SLED sealed it back after they performed the test on it.

Q. That yellow sticker on it?

A. That's SLED's.

MR. MCNEELY: No further questions from the State, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Cross-examination.

MR. DAVIS: May it please the Court, Your Honor?

THE COURT: Yes, sir.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. DAVIS:

Q. How are you doing, Mr. Flood?

A. Fine, sir.

Q. You went to school in reference to crime scene investigation?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You would admit that wearing gloves is necessary in that process; is it not?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. You also readily admit that taking photographs of where items are found is also important; is it not?

A. Yes, it is.

Q. And actually putting a marker beside the item that is located; isn't that correct?

A. Yes, sir.

Q. And isn't it fair to say that in a situation like this that if a T-shirt like this was a part of the crime scene, or whatever, a photograph could have been taken of it much earlier identifying it before it was secured by your evidence locker?

A. It's possible, yes, sir.

Q. If you take pictures of the individual, you're going to take pictures of all the other physical evidence; isn't that correct?

A. Yes, sir.

MR. DAVIS: Nothing further.

THE COURT: Any redirect?

REDIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. MCNEELY:

Q. You weren't out at the scene on August 8, 2015 --

A. No, sir.

Q. The only involvement in this case is in the forensics?

A. That's correct.

THE COURT: No, sir, we're done.

MR. MCNEELY: Nothing further, Your Honor.

THE COURT: You may step down, sir. Thank you.

You may call your next witness.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Your Honor. The State calls Deputy Crystal Spence.

CHRYSTAL SPENCE,

being first duly sworn, testified as follows:

THE CLERK: Please be seated. State your full name and spell your last name for the record.

THE WITNESS: Chrystal Spence, S-P-E-N-C-E.

THE COURT REPORTER: Would you spell your first name, too, please?

THE WITNESS: C-H-R-Y-S-T-A-L.

THE COURT: Your witness.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Judge.

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Good morning, Deputy Spence. Where are you employed?

A. Berkeley County Sheriff's Office.

Q. What is your position at the sheriff's office and how long have you been employed there?

A. Sergeant in the forensic unit for seven years.

Q. And you were also employed in the forensic unit in April of 2016?

A. Yes.

Q. And at that time were you also a sergeant in the forensic unit?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you describe your education, training, and experience in forensics?

A. Classes at the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy, photography, fingerprint processing crime scenes, LE 3 certification, IPTM in North Florida University. I've had several classes there for processing crime scenes, evidence management.

Q. As part of your position, what duties do you perform?

A. Daily office -- keeping the office

rolling every day, processing any crime scene that comes in during our hours, processing evidence, transporting evidence from our agency to another agency that may need to be processed, logging in evidence.

Q. So in your daily role you typically will have the occasion to handle various types of evidence?

A. Yes.

Q. And can you explain generally how the evidence room process at the sheriff's office works?

A. Evidence is stored in a secure location over at the sheriff's office in lockers. We have the only -- the forensic unit has the keys to get the evidence out. We go over there daily and pull the evidence out and bring it back to our office, log it in and then put it into another secure facility.

It's given numbers with the case number so we know what piece of evidence goes with what tag number and then it's put into a bin so we know what location it's in.

Q. So once officers drop evidence into your secure lockers, they have no way to retrieve

it?

A. No.

Q. At that point, does it -- do pieces of evidence come into your continuous custody and control?

A. Once we get it out of the locked lockbox, then, yes, it's in our control until it goes to another agency.

Q. Do you follow any specific practice or procedures to maintain properly handling the evidence once you receive it out of the secure locker?

A. Yes.

Q. What sort of practices would those be?

A. Everything is handled through a case number, it's logged in and given a tag number. So once that piece of evidence is given -- let's say, for example, tag one. It stays with that piece of evidence until the time it's disposed, and it's always in a locked secure location.

Q. If someone takes custody of that evidence once you've logged it under a case number, is that documented?

A. On the chain of custody.

Q. And that form stays with each piece of

evidence?

A. Until destruction.

Q. Why do you do this? Why do you specifically label it and package it and maintain proper handling procedures?

A. To show where the evidence has gone, who has touched it, and for court purposes.

Q. Once you as a forensic technician receives evidence into the room from the secure locker, who has access to that evidence?

A. There's five people in our unit that have keys and that's it.

Q. As evidence custodian, did you receive custody of any items of evidence in this particular case?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. I am showing you what has been marked as State's Exhibit 31. Do you recognize this?

Actually, I need to show you State's 32. I apologize. I'm not sure you received that one. This is State's 32. Take a look and tell me if you recognize that.

A. Yes, I do.

Q. What is that?

A. It's a buccal swab kit.

Q. How do you know that?
A. The chain of custody states it with the person -- suspect's name, what item it is, and who turned it in.
Q. And when did you receive that item?
A. April 1, 2016.
Q. When was it initially logged into your evidence room?
A. April 1st, 2016.
Q. And you would have retrieved it from the secure locker on that day?
A. Yes.
Q. And you would have logged it into the forensics database?
A. Yes.
Q. Under a specific case number?
A. Yes.
Q. Was that item in the continuous custody and control of evidence from the time that you logged it in until it was taken to SLED for testing?
MR. DAVIS: Objection to the leading, Your Honor. I know these are technical questions, but there is a proper way to ask these questions.
THE COURT: Please rephrase.

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Was that item in the evidence rooms in your continuous custody and control?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. I will show you what was marked as State's Exhibit 33. Tell me if you recognize it.

A. Yes, I do.

Q. How do you recognize it?

A. It's another buccal swab turned in by Detective Murray with the same case number.

Q. When did you first receive that item?

A. April 1, 2016.

Q. And was it initially logged into your database on that same day?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. And does that -- would you have retrieved it from -- what day --

MR. DAVIS: Objection; Your Honor. The same process -- same basis.

THE COURT: She asked what date. That's not leading.

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. What date did you log it into evidence?

A. April 1, 2016.

Q. Under the specific case number?

A. Correct.

MR. DAVIS: That's the question right there. Thank you.

THE COURT: Please proceed.

MS. SMITH: Thank you, Judge.

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Was the item in the continuous custody and control of forensics?

MR. DAVIS: That's another -- objection, Your Honor.

THE COURT: She asked whether or not it was in their continuous custody.

MR. DAVIS: Thank you, Your Honor.

MS. SMITH: I'm sorry, Judge.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MS. SMITH: Beg the Court's indulgence?

BY MS. SMITH:

Q. Taking look at State's 32 and 33, can you identify who the buccal swabs were taken from?

A. Yes, I can.

Q. Who were they taken from?

A. 33 was taken from Shawn Lee Wright and 32 was taken from Adam Shane Wright.

Q. And looking at State's Exhibit 32, can you tell if that package was sealed when you

received it into evidence?

A. No, I cannot.

Q. Okay. Can you tell me if the buccal swab was sealed when you would have received that into evidence?

A. It was sealed. I remember it was sealed. I had to take it out of this package to see that seal.

Q. Would SLED have resealed that pack?

A. Yes, they did.

Q. And State's 33, was the buccal swab sealed when you received it --

A. Yes, it was sealed.

Q. Has that packaging been resealed?

A. Yes, it had.

Q. Okay. Can you take a look at the chain of custody on State's 32. Was this item transported to SLED?

A. Yes.

Q. Was it transported by a forensic technician in your office?

A. Yes, it was.

Q. Who was it transported to SLED by?

A. Kirsten Chestnut.

Q. On what day?

A. May 25, 2016.

Q. And taking a look at the chain of custody on State's Exhibit 33, can you tell me if that swab was taken to SLED?

A. Yes, it was by the same person.

Q. On the same day?

A. Yes.

MS. SMITH: I don't have any further questions. Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: Cross-examination?

MR. DAVIS: Thank you for coming. No questions.

THE COURT: You may step down, ma'am.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's about 11:00. It's a good time for us to take our morning break. If you would go to your jury room. Please remember my previous instructions; do not discuss the case with anyone else. We will be right back with you.

(Jury out, 10:54 a.m.)

THE COURT: We will be at ease for a few minutes.

(A recess transpired.)

THE COURT: Ready for the jury?

MR. MCNEELY: We are.

MR. DAVIS: We are.