



THE HENRY C. LEE
INSTITUTE OF
FORENSIC SCIENCE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAVEN

January 29, 2018

Mr. Thomas P. Brennan, Jr.
Criminal Investigative Analysis



Re: Decedent- Ellen R. Greenberg

Items reviewed:

1. Case reports
2. Photographs

Submitted by: Thomas P. Brennan Jr.
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After review of the photographs and reports sent to the Henry Lee Institute of Forensic Science, the following were observed.

1. Photo #1 shows a view of the door leading into the residence with security lock visible. Some damage appears to be in the area of this lock in the close-up photograph. There does not appear to be damage to the doorjamb or evidence of break-in at the dead bolt lock from the other side of the door.

A person can be seen on the floor, in the corner of the kitchen cabinets.
2. The view of the decedent in Photo #2 shows a female on the kitchen floor with her head and shoulders against the corner cabinets near the stove and sink. A pair of glasses are on the floor to the decedent's right hand. Blood-like stains are seen on the floor and on the woman's clothing. A white towel is in her left hand. Several blood-like stains appear to be on the kitchen counter near the sink.

3. A close-up view of the decedent's head and shoulders is seen in photo #3 shows a knife in her left upper chest. There are blood-like stains on the knife, her face and her clothes. There appear to be several cuts on her head. The blood is flowing in different directions on her face. This could mean that she moved after receiving the initial bleeding injuries to her head. The location of several of the wounds would be a difficult position for her to cause these wounds.
4. The decedent's upper body and the cabinets behind her are shown in Photograph #4. Swipe-type patterns can be seen on the cabinet corner area. There are also some blood spatter patterns and a blood dripping in a downward direction on the cabinet to her right. These stains indicate that the decedent received some of her wounds while she was above the level of the stains. The swipe patterns are consistent with having been formed when she fell to the floor.
5. Photograph #5 shows her middle torso and lower arms. There are at least 300-400 blood drops on her upper thighs and waist area. These stains are consistent with vertical blood drops, formed when blood fell from her wounds onto this area while she was in a sitting position. There is also blood on the floor between her legs. Based on the appearance of the bloodstains and their locations, these are consistent with the knife being inserted at the area where she was found. She later fell onto the floor with the dripping wounds over her legs.

Some blood-like stains are seen on her right hand. No defensive-type wounds can be seen.

6. The decedent's lower extremities are shown in photograph #6. Multiple blood drops are seen on the upper legs, with addition drops noted on the lower legs and on the boot tops. A closer view of the left boot (photograph #7) shows several vertical blood drops on the boot top and the sides of the boot sole. Some of these stains appear to be the result of vertical blood drops. Based on the number and distribution of the drops, these stains are consistent with having been from her initial injuries. If the decedent had received a massive injury while upright, the number of stains should have been greater.
7. The decedent's right hand and the area around her right hand is shown in photograph #8. There is a blood smear on her right hand. A few blood drops can be seen on the floor, which may indicate that she was upright for some of her injuries. There is no indication of cleaning in this area.
8. Photograph #9 is a closer view of the bloodstains on the cabinet doors near the decedent's head. Several bloodstains can be seen that are dripping downward, further indicating that she was upright when she received some of her wounds. A small amount of cast-off type bloodstains are also seen in this area of the cabinets, indicating a downward direction.
9. Photograph #10 is a close-up picture of reddish-colored stains on the counter. It is unknown if this stain is in fact blood; if, however, it is blood, it is consistent with a blood drop with some spatter. This would be further indication that the decedent was upright when she received some of her injuries, and then subsequently fell to the floor, leaning back against the cabinet.

10. Photograph #11 shows the inside of the sink in the kitchen. Two knives and a wash brush are in the sink. Other photographs (See photograph #12) show cut fruit and other knives on the kitchen counter.

11. Review of the medical examiner findings showed that the decedent received multiple stab wounds to the chest, abdomen, neck and scalp. Multiple contusions / bruising were noted at various locations on her upper and lower extremities. These bruises were apparently in various stages of healing.

Summary of findings:

After review of the reports and the photographs, the kitchen area where the decedent was found is consistent with the primary, indoor scene. Assuming that all of the blood noted was the decedent's blood, the bloodstain patterns indicate that she was in a standing position when she received her initial injuries, which caused the blood dripping on the kitchen sink, counter, cabinet and drops on the floor. Subsequently, she was on the floor with her head leaning forward, producing all of the blood drops that fell onto her pants and between her legs.

Two separate contact stains were found on the cabinet near her: one stain was consistent with a wipe from right to left; the second was consistent with a hair swipe, indicating her hair with blood from her head injury, came in contact with the cabinet in a downward direction.

The stab wounds noted in the photographs are consistent with being caused by a knife, but there is no indication of the length or width of the knife, except for the wound in which the knife was embedded to the handle. The decedent received additional wounds to her neck and head that were not clear in the scene photographs. Therefore, it is not possible to make additional observations on those patterns at this time.

The number and type of wounds and bloodstain patterns observed are consistent with a homicide scene.



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