



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MIDDLESEX DISTRICT ATTORNEY
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DNA Used to Identify Man Responsible for 1969 Murder of Jane Britton

WOBURN – Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan announced today that Michael Sumpter, a career criminal with ties to Cambridge has been identified as the person responsible for the 1969 murder of Jane Britton. Using DNA testing investigators were able to initially exclude other potential persons of interest and affirmatively identify Sumpter as the perpetrator of this crime. Sumpter has been linked to two other homicides of women in the Boston area.

“The murder of Jane Britton has raised many questions, and piqued the interest of members of the community over the past 50 years,” said District Attorney Marian Ryan. “Multiple teams of investigators have been assigned to this case looking into tips from the public and ruling out multiple suspects. As a direct result of their perseverance and utilization of the latest advances in forensic technology by the Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab today I am confident that the mystery of who killed Jane Britton has finally been solved and this case is officially closed.”

On January 7, 1969 at 12:40 p.m., the body of Jane Britton, 23, of Needham, a graduate student in Anthropology at Harvard University, was found in her fourth floor apartment, located at 6 University Road, in Cambridge by her boyfriend who came to check on her after she had failed to appear to take an examination that morning. She had been sexually assaulted and struck multiple times in the head.

“This case posed many challenges for investigators. Over the years we followed up on many leads regarding individuals with suspected ties to Jane Britton. Additionally, this case had several ‘red herrings’ including the presence of red ochre at the crime scene which ultimately were unrelated to the crime. Over time as people’s memories faded and witnesses died it became even more difficult to follow up on new investigatory leads. We are grateful to the many members of the public who have expressed an interest in this case. Today we are able to provide closure to Jane’s family, friends and those who knew her.”

In 2017 the Middlesex District Attorney's Office received several requests for the Jane Britton file to be released to the public. Although prosecutors continued to hold out hope that there might be a DNA match to the partial profile taken from the scene that might identify the person who had killed Jane Britton, the case seemed to have hit a dead end. Lacking any new information, a team of experienced investigators began a review of the file in order to potentially release some information. With fresh eyes on the file investigators also sought to determine whether there were any further investigative actions that could be taken, including consulting with the Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab about whether any new advances in forensic DNA technology might be of assistance in yielding a more comprehensive evidence profile.

The decision was ultimately made to perform additional DNA testing with the most up to date testing on the remaining evidence samples. For the first time, the Massachusetts State Police Crime lab was able to obtain a Y-STR, or male-specific profile, from the remaining DNA samples on file from the original swabs in October of 2017.

In July of 2018 the Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab notified the investigators that there was a match between the 2017 Y-STR profile from the evidence sample and Michael Sumpter's CODIS sample on file with the Massachusetts State Police Crime Lab. Although Sumpter was already deceased, investigators were able to locate and obtain a DNA sample from Michael's biological brother who has the same male Y-STR profile. Testing on this sample excluded 99.92% of the male population as a contributor of the DNA and confirmed that Michael Sumpter's profile matched both the original soft hit and the Y-STR profile. Sumpter's brother was excluded as a possible contributor.

On the day she died, Jane went to dinner with some of her classmates at the Acropolis Restaurant in Cambridge then stopped at home to change before going ice skating with her boyfriend on the Cambridge Common. They also visited Charley's, a pub across from Jane's apartment, before returning to Jane's apartment around 10:30 p.m. After her boyfriend left the apartment at around 11:30 p.m. Jane then went next door to her neighbors' apartment for a glass of sherry before returning home around 12:30 a.m. The next morning she was found dead in her bed.

The Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy on Jane and was able to collect forensic evidence. He ruled that she had been struck by a blunt object multiple times resulting in fractures of the skull, and contusions and lacerations of the brain which were the cause of death. A murder weapon was never positively identified.

Subsequent toxicology testing revealed that her blood alcohol was negative but her stomach alcohol was 0.08% suggesting that the alcohol she ingested did not

have time to metabolize and make it to the bloodstream before death. This indicated that Jane was killed shortly after returning to her apartment.

On January 7, 1969 a resident of Jane's apartment building reported hearing someone on the fire escape that connected to Jane's apartment earlier on the evening of her murder and a second witness account detailed that a man who appeared to be approximately 6' feet tall and 170 lbs. was seen running in the street near Jane's apartment at 1:30 a.m., Mr. Sumpter was 5'11" and weighed 185 lbs. when he was arrested in 1972. It is believed that Mr. Sumpter entered Jane's apartment through a window, assaulted her and murdered her in her bed before fleeing the building.

Sumpter had ties to Cambridge including having lived in Cambridge as a young child, having attended first grade in Cambridge Public Schools, being involved with Cambridge police as a juvenile and having had a girlfriend who lived in Cambridge in the late 1960s. In 1967, less than two years before Jane's murder Sumpter was working on Arrow Street in Cambridge approximately a mile from Jane's apartment. Sumpter was also arrested and convicted of a physical assault on a woman whom he had met at the Harvard Square MBTA station, blocks from Ms. Britton's apartment, three years after Jane Britton's murder.

This is the third homicide linked to Michael Sumpter since the time of his death. In 2010, the Suffolk District Attorney's Office was informed that Mr. Sumpter's DNA was a match to DNA taken from the 1972 murder and rape of 23-year-old Ellen Rutchick in her Beacon Street apartment and in 2012, a second CODIS hit matched Mr. Sumpter to the evidence taken from the 1973 rape and murder of 24-year-old Mary Lee McClain in her Mount Vernon Street apartment. None of the victims are believed to have known, or had any relationship with, Mr. Sumpter.

Sumpter had been convicted of committing the stranger rape of a woman in her Boston apartment in 1975. Mr. Sumpter died of cancer at the age of 54 in 2001, 13 months after he was paroled from his 15 to 20 year sentence for this 1975 Boston rape. In 2002, after his death, Sumpter was identified by another CODIS hit in connection with a 1985 stranger rape of a woman in Boston committed after Sumpter escaped from work release.

Since his death, DNA testing and the CODIS database identified Michael Sumpter in connection with five sexual assaults, three of which involved the murder of the victim.

The lead investigators assigned to this case were Chief of Homicide Adrienne Lynch (in 2017) and Sergeant Peter Sennott, Massachusetts State Police (in 1998).

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Documents

1. Police Report, January 7, 1969
2. Statement of Patrolman Beni Cappello, Cambridge PD, January 14, 1968
3. Statement of D. Lt. Peter W. Agnes, Massachusetts State Police assigned to the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office, in the Homicide of Jane S. Britton, March 31, 1969
4. Autopsy Report
5. Photo of Jane Britton, May 17, 1945-January 7, 1969
6. Photo of Jane Britton and handwritten note from 1966
7. Photo of Jane at her graduation from Radcliffe, June 14, 1967
8. Photos of Exterior of 6 University Road, Cambridge, 1969
9. Fire Escape Outside 6 University Road, Cambridge, 1969
10. Floor Plan and Interior of 6 University Road, Cambridge, 1969
11. Photos of Interior of 6 University Road, Cambridge, 1969
12. Michael Sumpter DOB 9/26/47, 1968
13. Record American article dated Wednesday, January 8, 1969
14. New York Times article dated January 19, 1969

Police Department—City of Cambridge

In all cases of death that require the attention of the Medical Examiner, and in cases of serious accidents where death is liable to result, the following form shall be filled out by the officer attending the same, and immediately forwarded to the Chief of Police.

DANIEL J. BRENNAN, Chief of Police

Police Route No. Car 6 Date January 7 1969

Full name of person Jane S. Britton

Residence 6 University Road Apt. 8B Cambridge

Age 23; Height 5'5"; Weight 110; Comp. Medium; Hair Dark Brown

Eyes Unknown; Beard or Mustache None; Occupation Student

Visible marks or scars on body Recent laceration to scalp

Description of Clothing and property found on body light blue nightgown

Place of accident, or where body was found Within her bedroom, on bed, face down, covered over with two blankets, fur coat and a sheet.

Date of accident or death January 7, 1969 Time Undetermined

Nature of accident or death

Full name of person who discovered body Donald D. Mitchell (864-1275)

Address 6 University Road Apt. 8A Cambridge

Dr. McHorsum notified by front desk Medical Examiner notified

Person or body moved to Watson's Funeral

Conveyance used Hearse

Name of Physician called Dr. McHorsum (also Live Resusc.)

Names of officers connected with the removal of body St. Darnmouth, Ptl. R. Lyons

Full name of nearest friend or relative of deceased J. Boyd Britton (father)

Address 38 Bradington Road ~~Greenland~~ Northham (444-2870)

Was deceased under treatment by a physician, if so, doctor's name and approximate date

No (According to her parents.)

Full names and addresses of other witnesses, with substance of their statements (Police cruiser # 6 received call at 12:41 P.M.) Mr. James Duiphies of 25 Hammond Street Cambridge states he had called deceased earlier but received no answer via the telephone. He decided to contact deceased in person and called apartment around 12:20 P.M. odd. Mr. Duiphies states he knocked several times and received no answer. Mr. Donald Mitchell overheard Mr. Duiphies knocking

(OVER)

(STATEMENT CONTINUED)

and came outside of his apartment into the hallway. The two men decided to enter the apartment where upon they discovered the deceased in bed. Mr Mitchell informed me he removed the fur coat from deceased head and left it over the blankets which Dunsen was her legs. The two men then left the apartment. Mr Humphreys states deceased was in habit of leaving her door unlocked.

Richard A. Lyons

Police Officer of Cambridge

Police Report

Not to filled in by Officers

No. _____
Name _____
Date of accident _____
Nature of accident _____
Date of death _____
Inquest _____
Court _____
Judge _____
Verdict _____



City of Cambridge
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Station No. CCambridge, Mass., 1-14-68 1968

Leo Davenport
H. Of Police

Sir:

Here is an account of what I saw and did at 6 University Rd. on Jan. 7 1969. Officer Lyons and I arrived at about 12⁴⁰ PM there we met Mr. Mitchell, his wife and Mrs. Kumphofs. Mr. Mitchell took us into Miss Brittons Apt. we found her lying on the bed face down with her legs touching the floor. We asked Mr. Mitchell if he had touched anything he said when he first discovered the body he had touched the blankets that were on her. I then notified Sgt. Cummings at the station what had happened and to notify the detectives. Then I left the apt. for the station to pick up some papers, Officer Lyons stayed at the apt. for further investigation



City of Cambridge
POLICE DEPARTMENT

Station No. _____

Cambridge, Mass., _____ 19 _____

I returned to the apt. about a half hour later. Mr. & Mrs. Mitchell told us that the last time he saw Miss Britton was about 11³⁰ PM on Jan 6, 1969 and she left their apt about 12³⁰ AM on Jan 7, 1969. We asked them if they had heard any noise from Miss Britton's apt. during the night they said no. At this time the detectives had arrived, I was told by Off. Lyons to go back on the air, he would stay for further investigation.

Respectfully Submitted
Benji Cappella
Patrolman

Cambridge, Massachusetts

March 31, 1969

Case #470-681

To: Daniel I. Murphy, Captain of Detectives

From: Detectives assigned to Middlesex County District
Attorney's Office.

Subject: Homicide of Jane S. Britton, 6 University Road,
Cambridge, on January 7, 1969. DOB 5/17/45.

1. At about 12:40 P.M., on January 7, 1969, James H. Humphries, a student and classmate at Harvard of Jane S. Britton went to her apartment after she had failed to arrive at school to take an examination. He knocked on her door and when he did not receive an answer he opened the door which was closed but not locked and walked into her apartment. He noticed Miss Britton was lying in bed on her stomach, with her legs and buttocks exposed and clothing covering the rest of her body.

2. He thought she was sick and he went to the next door apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Mitchell, who are also students at Harvard and friends of Miss Britton. He asked Mrs. Mitchell if she would look at Jane because he thought she was ill and they all returned to Miss Britton's apartment. Mrs. Mitchell removed the clothing from the top of Miss Britton's body and noticed that her head was covered with blood and appeared to be dead. They called the Cambridge Police who responded and they notified the Medical Examiner.

3. Associate Medical Examiner Dr. Arthur McGovern of Cambridge arrived and pronounced Miss Britton dead and ordered the body removed to the Watson Funeral Home, Magazine Street, Cambridge. An autopsy was performed by Dr. George Katsas at 7:00 P.M. who stated cause of death "Result of Multiple Injuries to the Head caused by a Blunt Instrument."

4. Investigation revealed that Miss Britton was a graduate student in Anthropology at Harvard. On the evening prior to her, Miss Britton, and James H. Humphries who she had been keeping company with for the past several months, and two other students

went out for supper. After supper they went ice skating on the Cambridge Common. They returned to Miss Britton's apartment about 10:30 P.M. and talked about the exams they were going to have the next day, and had some cocoa. Mr. Humphries left her apartment about 11:30 P.M. and stated she appeared in good spirits.

5. Miss Britton then went to the apartment of Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell next door to get her cat. She had a glass of sherry wine and had conversation also, about the upcoming exams. She left their apartment about 12:30 A.M. and returned to her apartment. At this time she left the Mitchell's apartment, she was fully dressed. She was found in her nightgown. And other clothing piled on the upper part of body. She lived on the fourth floor of a four story building. There are three apartments on each floor. The whole building and neighborhood was canvassed but no one stated they heard or saw anything unusual.

6. Miss Britton had spent last summer in Iran on an excavation project. All members of this project who were still in Cambridge at this time were given a lie detector test by Detective Lieutenant Frank J. Joyce and all appeared to be telling the truth.

7. Miss Britton's apartment was processed by State Police Chemist Joseph Lanzetta, and Michael Giacoppo of the Cambridge Police Department. No weapon was found.

8. On February 3, 1969, a number of people concerned in this investigation testified before the Grand Jury, Middlesex Superior Court because they were leaving the country and would not be available in the near future.

9. The investigation into the cause of her death is still continuing.

Peter W. Agnes
Detective Lieutenant
Massachusetts State Police

AUTOPSY REPORT
Case A 69-8

PATHOLOGICAL DIAGNOSES ON THE BODY OF

Jane S. Britton
38 Redington Road
Needham, Massachusetts

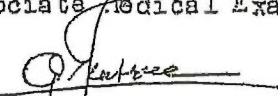
1. Multiple blunt injuries of the head, with:
 - a. Lacerations of the skin;
 - b. Fractures of the skull;
 - c. Lacerations of dura and dural hemorrhages;
 - d. Contusions and lacerations of the brain;
 - e. Subarachnoid hemorrhages.

2. Contusion of right arm, recent.

OPINION

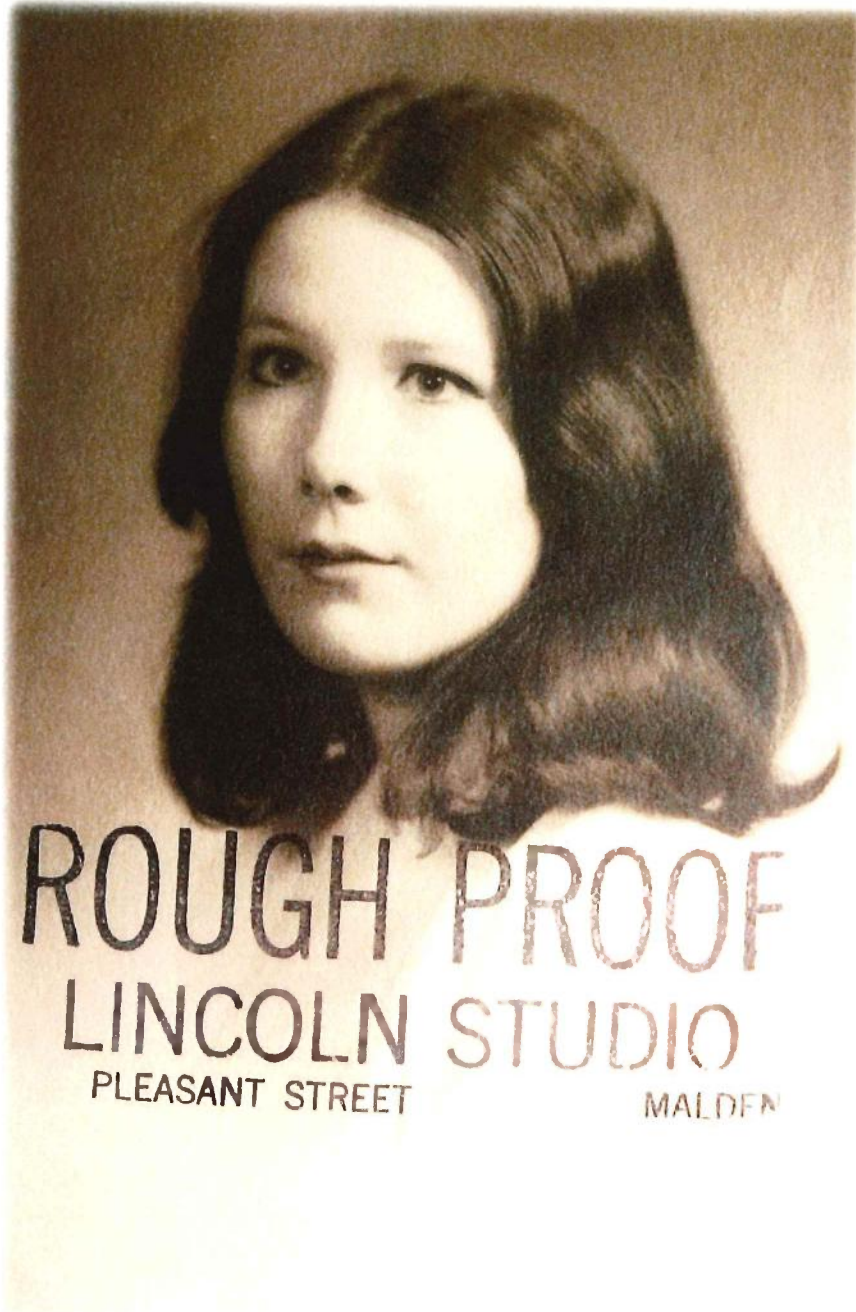
It is our opinion that Jane S. Britton came to her death as the result of multiple blunt injuries of the head with fractures of the skull and contusions and lacerations of the brain. Homicide.

Arthur L. McGovern, M.D.
Associate Medical Examiner


George G. Katsas, M.D.
Forensic Pathologist



Jane Britton
May 17, 1945 - January 7, 1969



ROUGH PROOF
LINCOLN STUDIO
PLEASANT STREET MALDEN



Photo of Jane Britton and handwritten note from 1966



By the time you get
back, the picture
in your mind of
me may be quite
fuzzy round the
edges; that's alright
remember me any
way you like,
but remember me.

Love, but you
know that anyway.

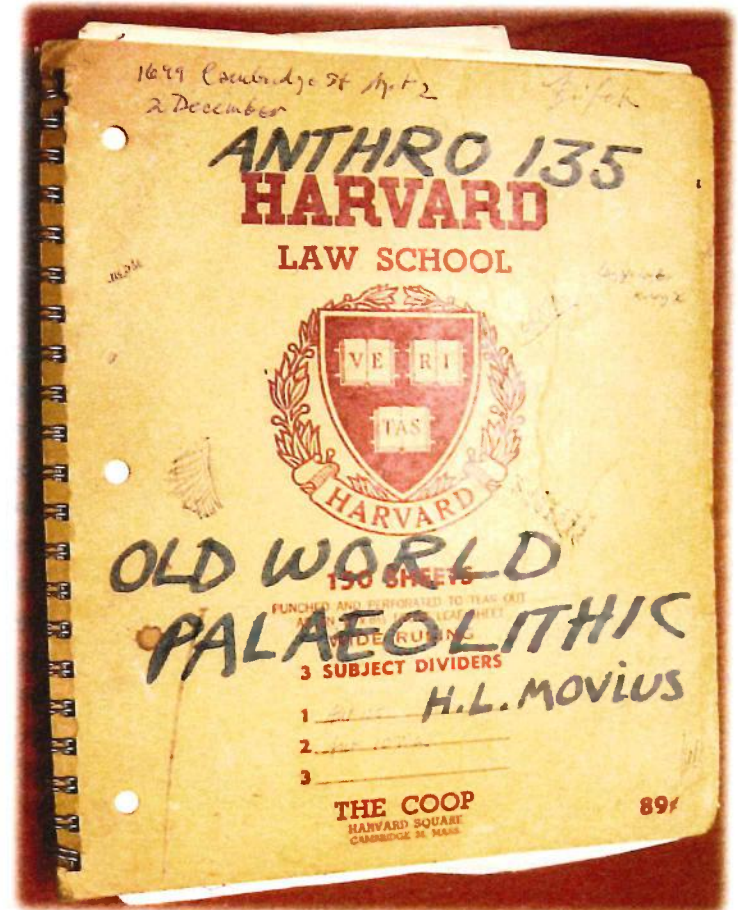
J.B.
1966



Jane Britton, 23, was a graduate student in Anthropology at Harvard University at the time of her death

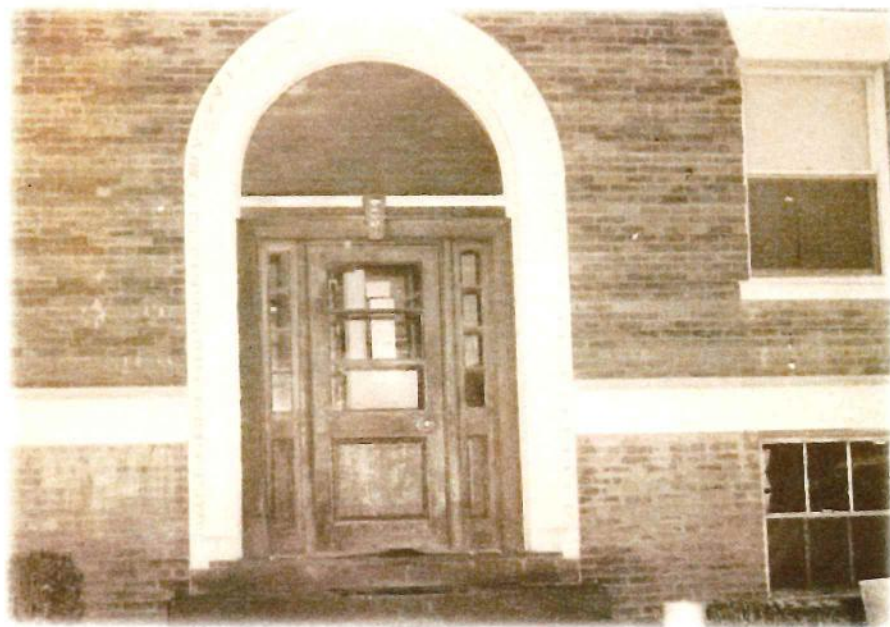


Photo of Jane at her graduation from Radcliffe, June 14, 1967



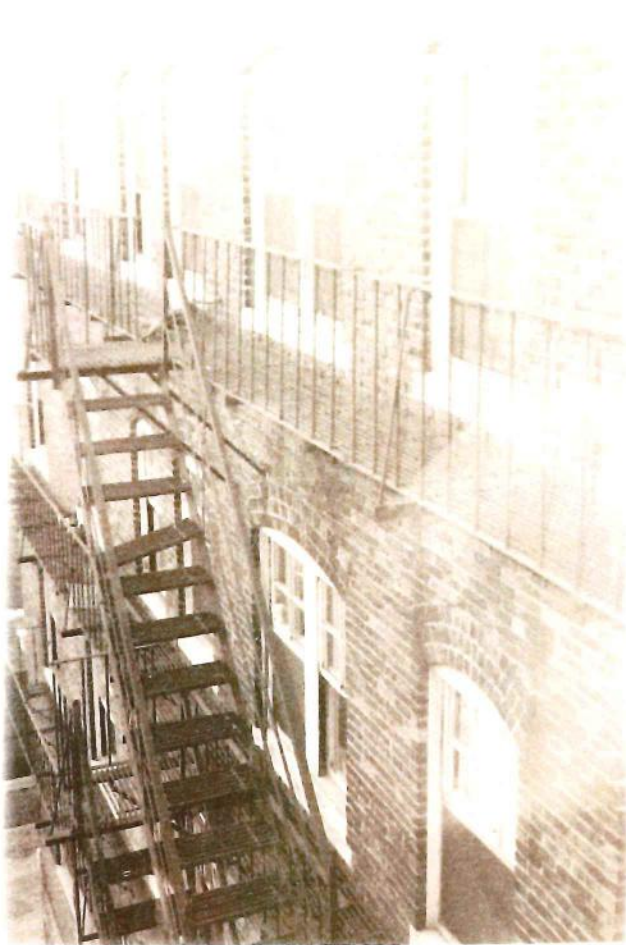


Photos of Exterior of 6 University Road, Cambridge – Taken in 1969



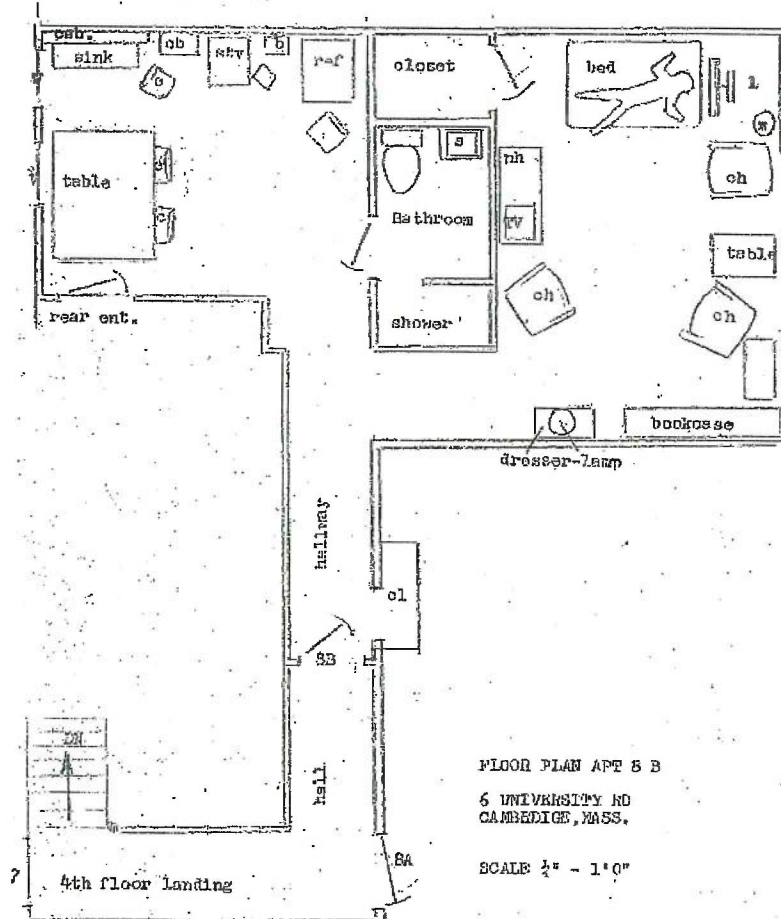


Fire Escape Outside 6 University Road, Cambridge – Taken in 1969



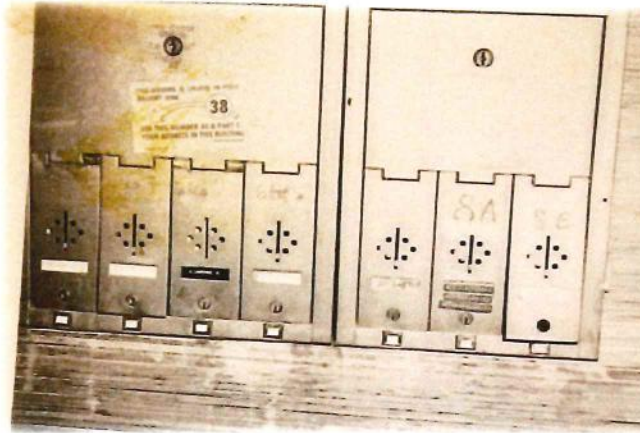
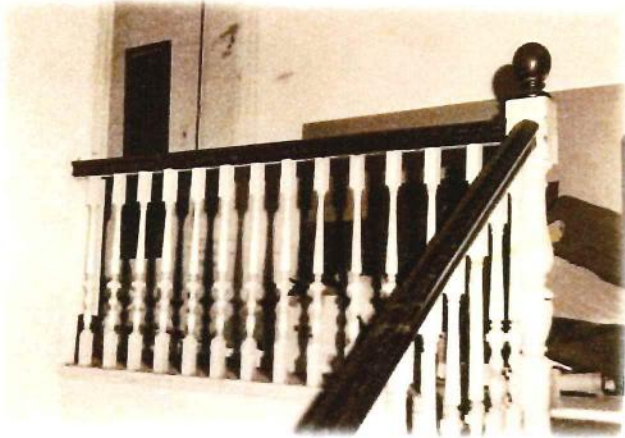


Floor Plan and Interior of 6 University Road, Cambridge – Taken in 1969





Photos of Interior of 6 University Road, Cambridge – Taken in 1969





Michael Sumpter, D.O.B. 9/26/47, taken in June 1968, six months before the murder of Jane Britton



**CLOSING
STOCKS**

**WINDY,
COLDER
SEE PAGE 11**

Record American

LARGEST DAILY CIRCULATION IN NEW ENGLAND
Wednesday, January 8, 1969

10 Cents

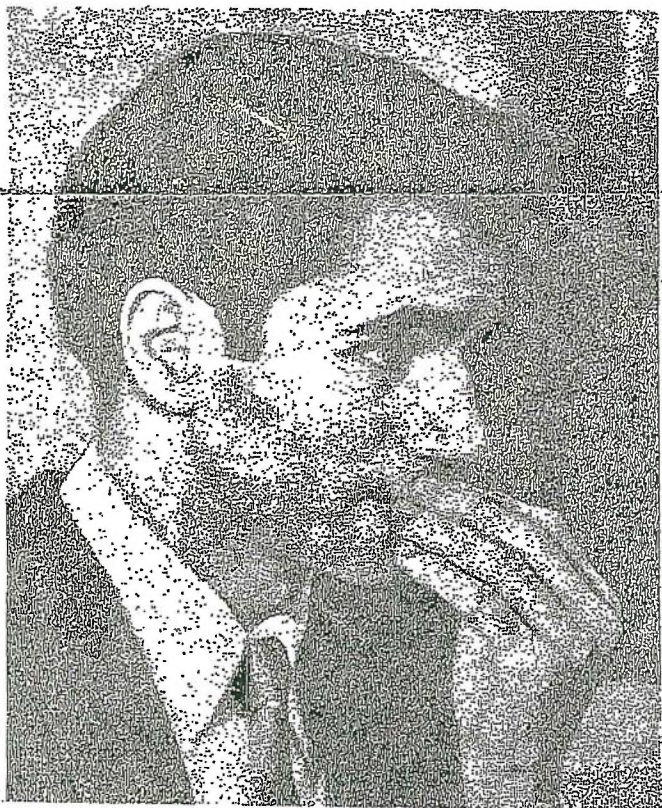
56 Pages

HOME

★ ★ 7 Races

Daughter Of Radcliffe Official Found Slain

Story on Page Three



**Stocks Dip Again,
DJ Off 10.94 as
Banks Raise Rates**

Story on Page Two

*Financial Crisis
Grips Cities, Towns*

Story on Page Two

State Auditor Rips

or every
Massachu-
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forcement

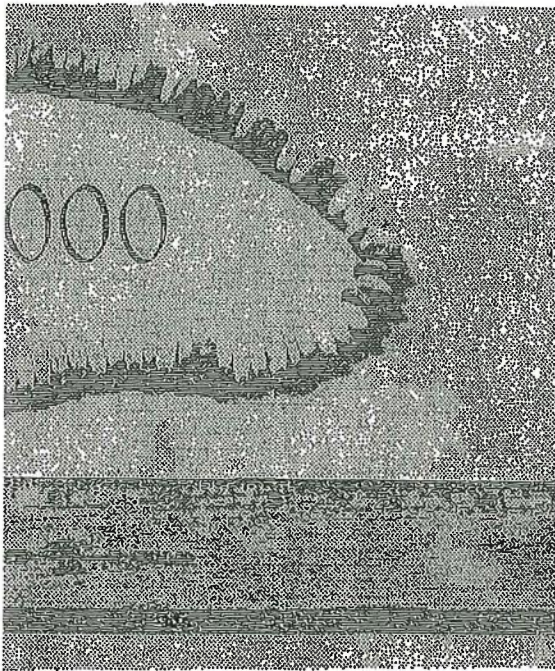
vestigations.

• In Boston where most of the drugs come to be picked up by the suburban pushers, such a unit, involving 10 men, exists officially but all of them

drugs in the state to keep contact with all state and local police and other states and federal authorities for the swapping of all information on ad-

Turn to Page 32, Col. 1

1968



with full dose of "acid" in each pill for a total on-set value of \$5000.

TH

ght Failure

ding the drug problem in Massachusetts is that ed, organized or cooperative." In these simple ar-old psychiatrist with the Massachusetts Drug

believe they had a of drug abuse in their ities," Gaughan said. carcely a day goes by i don't have at least 10 lties requesting our

major communities like don't understand the the problem nor how out handling it, Gaug- ted out.

it a letter to Mayor hite a year ago sugges- tizens committee that clude heads of the po- lic health, city hospital, d library departments." nted out that after the e had studied the drug and had a workable leral funds would be allable to operate it," recalled. "It has been New York City and l, Ct."

AN, NO AID

r White assigned some- go to Washington and \$1 million before he had ftee or any work done. ere turned down, of Gaughan noted. problems in different ry and corrective ap- must vary to fit the

need. Boston, according to Dr. Haendel, is involved in "a drug smorgasbord."

"There is the most incredibly indiscriminate use of drugs here that I've ever seen," he declared revealing that most of 200 heroin addicts he has under treat- ment also use other drugs.

Dr. Haendel has some beliefs about drug abuse that don't al- ways agree with those of other professionals.

N. Y. PROGRAM WORKING

For instance, he does not think marijuana is in any way harm- less, he said, "because the ones who have the strongest urge to use it are the very ones who should not."

He also believes that drug addiction is curable. "The ad- dict is in crisis and, depending on what type of intervention is taken, he will take steps for- ward or backward."

One drug intervention pro- gram he believes is working got underway in 1966 in New York City. Involving ex-addicts work- ing with addicts, it is called the "Phoenix Program."

Operating with federal, state and city funds totalling \$12

Turn to Page 32, Col. 3.

Harvard Coed Viciously Slain In Cambridge

The bludgeoned body of 22-year-old Jane Britton, daughter of J. Boyd Britton, administrative vice president of Radcliffe College, was found sprawled across a bed Tuesday in her fourth floor apartment at 6 University rd., Cambridge.

Ther elite brunette, whose family has a home at 38 Red- dington rd., Needham, had completed her college studies at Radcliffe and was in her sec- ond year as a graduate student in anthropology at Harvard.

Her body bore several wounds about the head, and Det. Lt. Leo Davenport de- clared:

"This is definitely a murder; no murder weapon has been found yet."

FEW DETAILS

The apartment building where she lived is next door to where Beverly Samans, said to have been one of the Boston Strangler victims, was found five years ago.

Although police would say little about Miss Britton's death, it was reported that she was found after a fellow student be- came alarmed because she failed to show up for an im- portant exam.

The student arrived at the house at about 12:30 p. m., went to her fourth floor apart- ment, found her lying face down on her bed.

Dets. William Durette, Mi- chael Giacoppo, and Fred Cen- trella of the Cambridge police were first on the scene, but de- clined to say anything to re- porters until Medical Examiner Dr. Arthur McGovern of Cam-

bridge had an opportunity to examine the body.

ON FOURTH FLOOR

Miss Britton lived in a three- room flat on the fourth floor of the building, at the end of a small alcove. Her apart- ment door was painted with gold leaf, and pinned to it with a thumb tack was a sign which said:

"Maybe," said Mrs. Kylie, (she's) an archeologist because (she) didn't have a sandbox when (she) was little. Septem- ber, 1968."

Detectives were at a loss to explain what the sign meant, nor could they understand an- other one, stenciled in green on a piece of newspaper, which was on the left wall of the al- cove. It read:

"Anthropology Dept., Har- vard University, Solomon Is- lands Dept."



SEAN CONNERY
GINA LOLLORIGIDA
**WOMAN
OF STRAW**

A mystery drama of mounting suspense as "the woman of straw" plays with fire!

Wednesday night movie

9PM WED.

Channel 7

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Today's Index

Bacharach	30	La Camera	25
Banks	27	Letters	26
Battelle	30	Lorant	20
Bridge	37	Mind Mirror	38
Classified	50-55	Norton	40
Comics	37-39	Pic. Pages 28, 29	
Crossword	18	Ripley	30
Dear Abby	22	Social Sec.	27
Deaths	18	Sports 40-49	56
Editorials	26	Sweepstakes	46
Family World	Sullivan		47
	20-22	Taylor	27
Financial	34, 35	Theaters	40-43
Health	22	TV-Radio	23-25
Holse	22	Walsh	15
Hollywood	30	Wishing Well	54
Horoscope	39		

Cambridge Murder Victim Is Recalled as Intelligent and Witty

By ROBERT REINHOLD
Special to The New York Times

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Jan. 18 — A bare, fluorescent light glares against the peeling, apple-green walls of the hallway of the brick apartment house at 6 University Road, two blocks from Harvard Square.

Four flights up the seedy, roach-infested building, owned by Harvard University, a gold door leads to Apartment 8A. The two-room, 575-a-month apartment was occupied until last week by Jane Britton, a comely, 23-year-old Harvard graduate student who shared it with her pet cat and turtle.

From Apartment 8A, Jane Britton had led a zestful, talented life in Cambridge, pursuing her taste for painting, cooking, literature and back with a zeal matched only by her interest in a research project in Near Eastern neolithic civilization.

Last Tuesday, Jane Britton, Radcliffe College Class of 1967 and daughter of a Radcliffe vice president, was found dead in her bedroom, the victim of a bludgeon murder that has perplexed her family and friends as much as it has saddened and shocked them.

Self-Confidence and Wit

From interviews with her professors and close friends, Miss Britton emerges as a bright, sophisticated and purposeful student with an expansive, light style, armed with enormous self-confidence and a sardonic wit often tempered with literary allusions.

If there was an unseemly side to Miss Britton's life, her present friends say, they never detected it. To almost all of them, she was the well-adjusted product of a liberal, educated family and of private schools — a young woman who displayed a bawdy character that made her at ease with pop culture. The friends heatedly rebut suggestions that she was part of the drug scene that surrounds Harvard Square.

However, a former college friend of Jane's, who asked not to be identified, said this week that this may not always have been true. She described Miss Britton, as she knew her in 1966, as a "vulnerable person" who was despondent about her weight, did not date much and kept irregular hours.

"She knew a lot of odd people in Cambridge—the hangers-on and acid heads who you would not call young whole—as some Harvard and Radcliffe types. She went to a lot of their parties and was very kind to them."

Miss Britton was also affiliated at times, her friend said, with an "odd lassitude," leaving her entire undergraduate

thesis to be written in one week.

The Cambridge police have also been puzzled by the murder and have been struck by the bizarre circumstances. After crushing the girl's skull with a hammer-like object, the killer sprinkled the body with a reddish-brown powder believed to have been red ochre, a common pigment used for thousands of years, sometimes in primitive burial rituals.

Clues to Mystery

On this basis, the police have been questioning Miss Britton's fellow students and others at Harvard who may have been acquainted with primitive cultures.

They are also trying to identify a set of unaccounted fingerprints in the young woman's apartment, where the body was discovered by her boyfriend, James H. Humphries, and next-door neighbors, Mr. and Mrs. Donald D. Mitchell, all fellow anthropology students.

As the police investigation continues, apparently without success, her friends sift their memories for some clue to the motive.

"The police have a mass of material and I think it will all lead to the conclusion that no one would want to kill Jane," said Mrs. Ingrid Kirsch, a close friend since the two girls met as freshmen at Radcliffe.

With feet propped up on her bed in her neat apartment near Harvard, Mrs. Kirsch described her friend as erudite and assertive, yet unpretentious, with a taste for dry humor and the novels of Kurt Vonnegut.

"She had a kind of insight into people that was disconcerting. She could stop a conversation by coming out with a single sentence. You could describe her as crusty."

Raised in nearby Needham, Mass., Jane Britton was the daughter of J. Boyd Britton, an administrative vice president of Radcliffe, and Ruth Britton, a medieval history scholar. She attended Dana Hall, an exclusive girls school in Wellesley, Mass., and became an accomplished horsewoman, pianist, organist and painter.

An Honor Student

She was a dark-haired girl involved in drug use. Such suppositions had been written from the paintings red on the walls of her apartment.

"If you lived in a building like this, you'd have to do something with the apartment," said Mrs. Mitchell.

Last summer she accompanied a Harvard team on an

archeological dig at the site of an ancient village in southern Iran. She made an important find at the site, which drew her enthusiasm, according to Prof. Clifford C. Lamb, Karlovy, the project leader, and Prof. Stephen Williams, chairman of the anthropology department.

Both men have been stung by the impact of the sensational national publicity that has engulfed them. Professor Lamb, 61-year-old native of Prague, placed the floor of Professor Williams' office in the 102-year-old Peabody Museum, a building in which Miss Britton spent many of her hours.

He said that Jane, who had served as his teaching assistant "was an easy grader." He described her as an enthusiastic worker who had stood up well under the rigors of life in the isolated field camp in Iran.

She was onished the native workers with her horsemanship, cooked often and maintained spirits with her sharp humor and knowledge of trivia, he said.

"She was not a girl with whom you could get away with much. She had a strong personality, quick with a comeback. She loved music and each ranked above all others. My favorite is Mozart and she thought that was a pretty sophisticated favorite."

He minimized press reports of hostility among the nine members of the team, saying that minor conflicts were inevitable among a small close-knit group. "There were complaints about too much tuna fish," he said.

Seldom Locked Door

In the last year, Miss Britton was quite friendly with her neighbors, Donald and Jill Mitchell, at whose wedding she played the organ.

Miss Britton visited them frequently, often eating with the Mitchells, and she allowed them to use her refrigerator, which was large. The Mitchells, whose apartment adjoined Miss Britton's, had a key to her apartment, but it was hardly necessary. Jane seldom bothered to lock her door.

Her cluttered living room on Tuesday night, the Mitchells rejected any notion of a search.

"If you lived in a building like this, you'd have to do something with the apartment," said Mrs. Mitchell.

Last summer she accompanied a Harvard team on an

normal. She was a very modern girl."

Miss Britton's cat, which she called Fuzzy, jumped on the coffee table as Mrs. Mitchell offered a visitor a glass of sherry and continued:

"She could interact with a lot of different types of people very well. She had manners, yet was very down to earth. The thing that stands out most," said Mr. Mitchell, a tall man of 25 with a mustache and sideburns, "was her ability to possible to characterize her life style because she changed it so often. She was never taken in by any ethos, but she went through a period of painting on her wall and then she would not do that, then it was music and she would not do that."

What Else Was There?

Like other friends the Mitchells were fond of Miss Britton's free-wheeling style and what was even calculated silliness at times.

"She would go out and buy something to read and come back with a 'true love' comic book," said Mr. Mitchell.

Yet was there much more to Jane Britton? "I guess if we knew more about her life we may know why she was murdered," said Mr. Mitchell.

"As the police say, 'she did not get killed because she was intelligent and hard working.' There have been reports, denied by her friends, that Miss Britton underwent an abortion some months before her murder. Her friends agree that Miss

Britton was close to her family, visiting home often and being fond of her younger brother, J. Boyd Britton Jr., now serving in the Army.

She took little interest in politics but did list herself as a member of the Young Democratic Club as an undergraduate and campaigned in 1966 for Elliot Richardson, a liberal Republican who ran for Attorney General of Massachusetts and has just been designated United States Under Secretary of State.

She was not particularly clothes-conscious, but she dressed with flair at times. An excellent cook, she frequently invited friends over to French, Russian and Greek-style meals. She smoked three packs of cigarettes a day—often strong French brands.

According to Mrs. Kirsch, Miss Britton was an "open-minded doubter" on religion. Literary allusions and humor infused all aspects of her life. Her favorite quotation, taken from Vonnegut's "The Sirens of Titan" was:

"I was the victim of a series of accidents as are we all."

Fate for Samuel Brooks

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