



Remembering The Boy In the Box

By Paul Plevakas



A ceremony was held on November 11, 2008 in remembrance of an unidentified boy whose body was discovered on February 25, 1957 on a dirt road in Northeast Philadelphia. The ceremony marks the tenth year that the boy's body was removed from Potter's Field and reburied at Ivy Hill Cemetery. In attendance were members of the Vidocq Society including two members who worked on the original case, William H. Kelly, VSM and Joseph McGillen, VSM.

Since the discovery of the body in 1957, attempts are still being made to help identify the young boy. A website <http://americasunknownchild.net/> is dedicated to the case. A Wikipedia page [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boy_in_the_Box_\(Philadelphia\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Boy_in_the_Box_(Philadelphia)) lists information on the case.

In March 1998, the Vidocq Society featured the case of the Boy in the Box at their monthly meeting. Vidocq Society Commissioner, William L. Fleisher, VSM began the presentation by calling the unsolved death, "one of the most amazing cases in Philadelphia history," predicting that the case would be so compelling that, "you'll come away with a burning desire to have this mystery solved." This burning desire continues today as evidence is still collected and leads followed that will hopefully, lead to the identity of "The Boy In the Box."

2008 Vidocq Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony

By Paul Plevakas

This year's Vidocq Society Annual dinner and award ceremony was held at the elegant Pen-Ryn Mansion overlooking the green waters of the Delaware River. Vidocq members had the opportunity to escape their busy schedules, chat with friends, and catch up on the latest news.

Honored at this year's dinner were Maureen Faulkner, widow of slain Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner, Hugh J. Burns, Jr., ADA and Joseph J. McGill, former ADA, for their roles in the prosecution and continuing legal battles with Officer Faulkner's killer Mumia Abu-Jamal, and Paul Palkovic for his love of Maureen Faulkner and his help to confute the Abu-Jamal rhetoric by creating www.danielfaulkner.com. Each honoree received the Vidocq Society Medal of Honor, presented to, "person or persons who have made outstanding contributions to the art and science

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NamUs: The National Missing and Unidentified Persons Reporting System

By Warren Tewes, DDS, MS, DABFO, VSM

In 2003, the President's DNA Initiative was launched. The Office of Justice Program's (OJP) National Institute of Justice (NIJ) began funding major efforts to maximize the use of DNA technology in our criminal justice system. Much of NIJ's work has focused on developing tools to investigate and solve the cases of missing persons and unidentified decedents.

The NamUs databases are one element of a broader program to improve the nation's capacity to address these cases. For example, NIJ also funds free testing of unidentified human remains and provides family reference-sample kits. Other efforts include training law enforcement officers, medical examiners, judges, and attorneys on forensic DNA evidence.

In the spring of 2005, NIJ assembled Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, medical examiners and coroners, forensic scientists, key policymakers, victim advocates and families from around the country for a national strategy meeting in Philadelphia. The meeting defined major challenges in investigating and solving missing person and unidentified decedent cases.

As a result, the Deputy Attorney General created the National Missing Persons Task Force and charged the U.S. Department of Justice with identifying every available tool—and creating others—to solve these cases.

The National Missing Persons Task Force identified the need to improve access to database information by people who can help solve missing and unidentified deceased persons' cases. NamUs was created to meet that need.

The NamUs reporting and searching system will improve access to data on missing persons and unidentified human remains. A diverse community of criminal justice professionals, medical examiners and coroners, victim advocates, families of missing persons, and the general public now can contribute to solving these cases. Information sensitive to the investigation remains hidden from public view and search. When fully operational, NamUs will link these databases to provide a powerful search tool for all interested parties.

NamUs was launched in July 2007 as the first national online repository for missing persons and unidentified cases, located at www.namus.gov. Within this website, two innovative programs are brought together as searchable databases: Identifyus.org for information on unidentified human remains and Find-the-Missing.org for information on missing persons, available late 2008.

Phase I (July–September 2007)

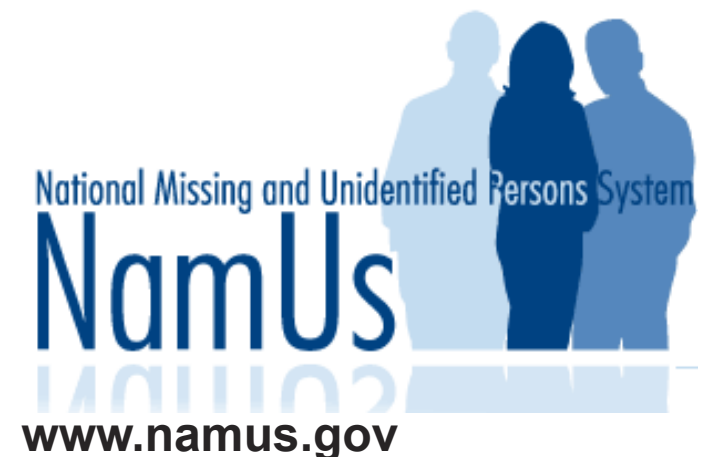
Identifyus.org, the national database of unidentified decedent records, allows searches based on characteristics such as demographics, anthropologic analysis, dental information, and distinct body features. Nationwide resources on missing persons, including a central access point for information on State clearinghouses, medical examiner and coroners' offices, and victim assistance resources is completed.

Phase II (October 2007–December 2008)

Find-the-Missing.org :Development and release a national online missing persons database, with comparable fields to the unidentified decedent records, will enhance reporting, investigating, and solving missing persons cases.

Phase III (2009)

Release the fully searchable NamUs system, which will search cases in its missing persons database against cases in the unidentified decedent database in an effort to identify unidentified human remains and solve missing persons cases.



Bookspan's Bullets

By Dr. Jolie Bookspan, VSM

Welcome to "Bookspan's Bullets" Each issue brings you a column of summarized forensic education. Enjoy.

Special X-Ray Can Detect Dissolved Drugs

Researchers in Switzerland have found that Multi-detector CT (MDCT) x-ray technology can detect cocaine dissolved in wine. Scientist collaborating at the Centre for Forensic Imaging Institute of Forensic Medicine at the University of Bern, and the Federal Customs Administration (FCA) in Bern scanned 12 wine bottles. Six contained dissolved cocaine in concentrations from 10-120 grams. MDCT showed an increase of the x-ray attenuation, accurately detecting bottles with the dissolved cocaine. Fluoroscopy, conventional x-ray, and ultrasound have been used to detect hidden drugs, but cannot detect dissolved drugs. According to the researchers, "MDCT allows us to quickly detect cocaine solutions inside bottles without opening them and even without opening the cargo. If a suspicious cargo is scanned with a positive result, it can be tracked without arousing the suspicion of the smuggler. The fast acquisition of the data also allows screening of a large amount of cargo, for example a whole shipment, without delaying delivery of the cargo."

- *American Journal of Roentgenology*, May 2008

Vidocq Society Journal

The Vidocq Journal © Copyright 2008

Published by The Vidocq Society,
a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization
Second Floor
1704 Locust Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Subscription \$100 per year

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X-Ray Fingerprints Identify Cold Case Killers

A new x-ray technique can detect microscopic corrosion from chemicals in fingerprint residue, even after wiping away fingerprint evidence. Dr. John Bond and forensic researchers at Leicester University developed the technique. Bond stated, "Wiping it down, washing it in hot soapy water makes no difference - and the heat of the shot helps the process we use."

Identifications of who handled and loaded a gun will be able to be made, even after cleaning, and prints can be seen from someone who handled a cartridge before it was fired. It works on bullet casings and machine guns even after the heat vaporizes normal clues. Cases long gone cold could be reopened because the prints never disappear, and the process can be applied to cases where prints are on other types of metal.

- *Mirror.co.uk* May 19 2008

Pedophile Doc Not Stopped

A psychiatrist and psychologist who examined Dr. George Reardon between 1988 and 1993 pronounced that, "Dr. Reardon is not a pedophile." It was later found that during that same time, and for years before and after, Reardon was sexually abusing young boys and girl in his office at St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center in Hartford, in the guise of endocrinologic exams.

Susan Smith, an Avon lawyer said, "One of the tragedies is the decision of officials at the health department not to proceed [with disciplinary action]. They allowed the doctors [at the Institute] to be the judges in the case. The abuse damaged the children, then their testimony was more likely to be dismissed as coming from a damaged person. It adds up to a human tragedy."

Reardon died in 1998. Last November, a cache of thousands of pornographic photos and videos was found hidden in the basement of Reardon's home. Since that discovery, more than 60 adults have come forward to tell horror stories and file lawsuits accusing St. Francis of negligence for not preventing the alleged abuse, including abuse after the first complaints were filed with the state in 1987.

- *Courant.com*, February 24, 2008

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2008 Vidocq Annual Dinner and Award Ceremony

of criminal investigation, served the interest of justice, or displayed remarkable character in the pursuit of the truth.”

Following the presentation the recipients reflected on the murder of Officer Faulkner, his killer’s conviction and the continued legal battles they must endure to keep him in prison.

Officer Daniel Faulkner was murdered on December 9, 1981 while attempting to arrest William Cook, the brother of Mumia Abu-Jamal, (born Wesley Cook). Abu-Jamal shot Officer Faulkner in the back. Officer Faulkner managed to return fire before falling to the ground, wounding Abu-Jamal in the chest. However, Abu-Jamal stood over the fallen officer and emptied the remaining chambers of his revolver into him at close range, one of the shots striking Faulkner in the face. Abu-Jamal was convicted of capital murder and sentenced to be executed.

Since his conviction Abu-Jamal has declared his innocence, claiming to be the victim of racism and conspiracy. He is an author and subject of many books regarding the killing of Officer Faulkner. A former Black Panther he is regarded as the best-known death-row prisoner in the world. His campaign to overturn his conviction has reached around the world. He has received support from Germany’s Parliament and attorneys in England, and has had a street named in his honor in a Parisian suburb. His support in the U.S. has grown to include city governments, politicians, advocates, educators, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, and human rights advocacy organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

In the years following his conviction Abu-Jamal has fought to overturn his conviction in the courts. In December 2001, Judge William H. Yohn, Jr. of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania affirmed Abu-Jamal’s conviction but quashed his original punishment and ordered resentencing. In September 2008 the United States Supreme Court rejected Abu-Jamal’s request for a new trial. A decision is pending on whether prosecutors, will at the resentencing, again seek the death penalty or Abu-Jamal will spend the rest of his life behind bars.

Maureen Faulkner, widow of Officer Daniel Faulkner, has published the book “Murdered by Mumia: A Life Sentence of Loss, Pain, and Injustice.” She writes of the pain of losing her husband when she was 25 years old, details of the criminal investigation, and court testimonies that counter Abu-Jamal’s claims. To this day Maureen continues the fight to have Abu-Jamal executed for the murder of her husband.

The website www.danielfaulkner.com has comprehensive information about the case, including a biography, archives of new items and transcripts, a forum, maps, photos, a blog for the most recent news and announcements, and a contact link.



Officer Daniel Faulkner

Maureen Faulkner’s book is also available from the site.

If you would like to make a donation to the Daniel Faulkner Foundation, go to www.danielfaulkneronlinestore.com or www.danielfaulkner.com and click on the button for DF online store. There you can buy various items such as lapel pins, mugs, stickers, and t-shirts. There are two pages of items for purchase. Some of the items are on the products page, and others are on the homepage. To see the backs of the shirts and close-ups of the items, click the button below the description.

The Daniel Faulkner Educational Grant Fund was established in May of 2000 to provide financial assistance to students whose parents have been murdered or incapacitated by a violent crime. Donations to the Grant Fund can be made from www.danielfaulkner.com.

Do not let the memory of Daniel Faulkner, or any fallen officer, fade from memory.

Memories of Dr. Halbert Fillinger



On June 11, 2008 a dedication ceremony was held at the Montgomery County Coroners Office renaming it the Dr. Halbert E. Fillinger, Jr. Memorial Coroner's Office, in the memory of Dr. Halbert E. Fillinger, Jr. the longstanding and revered coroner for Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Many who met Dr. Fillinger lauded him for his skill, dedication and commitment to teaching and sharing his knowledge.

In honor of Dr. Fillinger, Vidocq members would like to share their memories:

"I remember meeting him at Julie's, a steak house near Willow Grove Airport. I understand it was one of his favorite restaurants. He dearly loved his collection of antique fire engines, and had to sell them in the course of his divorce. He minced no words, was sharp as a razor almost to the end. I saw him lecture towards the end of his life and was saddened at how slow he moved. I was not one of his personal friends, but I saw him many, many times when he worked at the Philadelphia MEO and met him at many AAFS meetings."

– Linda Edelson-Slocum, VSM

"The thing that stands out in my mind about Dr. Fillinger is that he sincerely enjoyed the company of police and fire officers, and that he had a profound understanding and appreciation of what they do on a daily basis. Coupling that with his dedication to his career and research you have a very unique man."

– Jack Maxwell, VSM

"I worked with Dr. Fillinger on a death case several years ago. He was clearly an extremely intelligent man with a great and probing interest in living people and what makes them tick. I enjoyed our time together when not working on the facts of the case discussing various aspects of human personality. He had what in my opinion was a dry but strange sense of humor."

– Robert B. Benowitz, VSM

"I first met Hal Fillinger more than thirty years ago at the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office where I was a dental consultant. Initially, he encouraged me to start teaching by presenting the topic of Forensic Odontology to his criminal justice students. Shortly thereafter, he urged me to share the podium with him at police academies and later at international meetings. It was not unusual to be awakened in the middle of the night by a telephone call, "Dr. Fillinger is doing an autopsy and would like a consult." My journey could be to any county in Pennsylvania. Attending the autopsy was a true academic experience. He enthusiastically demonstrated what one could discover from the body. Halbert E. Fillinger, Jr. was an exceptional mentor and teacher. His distinguished contributions have benefited his profession and society."

– Haskell Askin, D.D.S., D-ABFO, VSM, Chief Forensic Odontologist, Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office.

Over 22 years ago I was a cadet in the PSP Academy and I was fortunate to have had the privilege of meeting Dr. Fillinger for the first time and hearing his exceptional and humorous lecture on forensics and forensic pathology. I had grown up hearing his name and many great stories from my Dad who was a Lieutenant with the Philadelphia Police Department and whom had a high regard for Dr. Fillinger.

Over the years I had a couple of professional encounters with training and investigations with Dr. Fillinger and he always remained approachable, helpful, witty, and left you feeling better each time.

– Lt. Thomas G. McDaniel, VSM

Criminal Investigation Section Commander

Memories of Dr. Halbert Fillinger

“Dr. Fillinger had long since departed as Assistant Medical Examiner of Philadelphia by time I entered my forensic pathology fellowship at that office, but his presence was still pervasively felt. Although I rarely saw him, he always greeted me with genuine regard. One brisk afternoon in April of 1999, as I was dealing with a moderate crisis at the Medical Examiner’s Office, I came upon him entering the building. In my preoccupation with the issue at hand, I barely noticed the quiet man next to him, whose silence belied great inner pain. “How’re you doing?,” Hal asked me. “Oh, it’s one of those days,” I groaned. “Aye, Lass, it is,” he responded tellingly. Then the two men continued on their way inside. I learned later that his companion was the father of a young man who had committed suicide. Hal had come all the way to the Medical Examiners with him for the sole purpose of reviewing the autopsy report together so that the father could gain a greater understanding and hopefully some measure of comfort in accepting the death of his son. I never forgot it, and I’m certain the young man’s father recalls Hal’s compassion with gratitude to this very day.”

– Patricia Kauffman, MD, VSM

In 1979, while working as a paramedic at Montgomery Hospital in Norristown, PA, I was privileged to observe Dr. Fillinger conduct several autopsies. In each case, he would arrive in the morgue sometime after 1:00 AM, dressed in a white dinner jacket, black slacks, and a red cummerbund, having just left a formal affair. A large cigar was always protruding from his lips as he began his nighttime “Seminar of the Human Anatomy.” After removing his dinner jacket and donning a plastic apron, he would begin the process of examination with the aplomb of a medical maestro. For the next two (2) hours or so, he proceeded to conduct a thorough autopsy of the deceased, while teaching all in attendance the finer points of forensic autopsies. There were always funny stories and occasional jokes, but the good doctor was first and foremost a brilliant technician and serious instructor. He was not just performing a necessary service to determine death causation, but taking the opportunity to disseminate valuable lessons drawn from decades of experience. Despite the mesmerizing skill he displayed, his audience was even more awestruck over his encyclopedic knowledge and memory. This was always an experience worth staying up late for.

His kind shall not be soon forgotten.

- Jon Cohen VSM

Solve The Mystery:

Q. What is “Hsi Duan Yu ?”

Solution to April 2008 Solve the Mystery:

Q. List one of the first recorded use of fingerprints at the scene of a crime to identify the offender.

A: 1880 Henry Faulds, a Scottish physician working in Tokyo, published a paper in the journal **Nature** suggesting that fingerprints at the scene of a crime could identify the offender. In one of the first recorded uses of fingerprints to solve a crime, Faulds used fingerprints to eliminate an innocent suspect and indicate a perpetrator in a Tokyo burglary.

*Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings
Peace on Earth and Good Will to All
May You Have Joyous and Healthy Holidays*