

Vidocq Journal



The Vidocq Society – Solving Unsolved Murders and Cold Cases

A Quarterly Newsletter

Volume Twenty-One. Number Two

Vidocq Society Books



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Frank Bender Receives 2 Awards



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“The Murder Room” has Arrived

The Murder Room

THE HOURS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES GATHER TO SOLVE THE WORLD'S MOST PERPLEXING COLD CASES

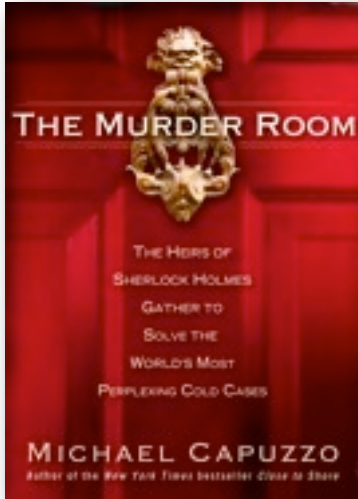
MICHAEL CAPUZZO

Author of the New York Times bestseller *Clash to Shine*

Best Sellers Non-Fiction

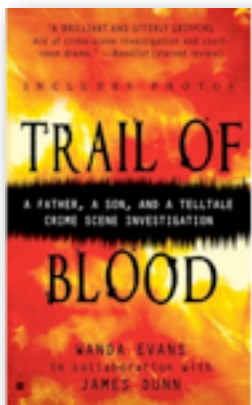
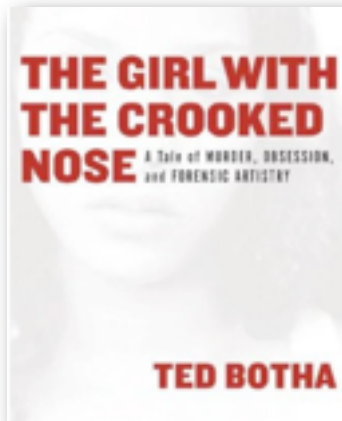
PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT INFORMATION WALL

Vidocq Society in Print: Books By and About Members

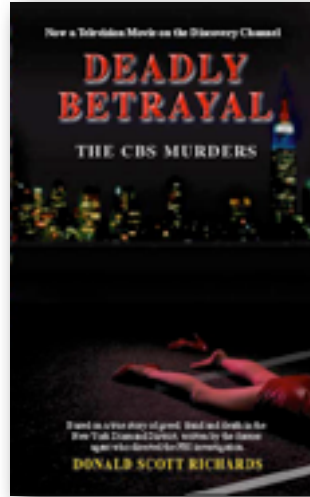


The Murder Room. Michael Capuzzo introduces the founders of the Vidocq Society, talented courageous sculptor Frank Bender, Commissioner William Fleisher, and criminal profiler Richard Walter. Learn what inspired them to help solve cold case murders. [Click to order in Print, Kindle Edition and Audio Versions.](#)

The Girl With The Crooked Nose by Ted Botha. Tells of Frank Bender's work as a forensic artist and founding member of the Vidocq Society, to bring attention and resolution to hundreds of neglected murders of women near Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. From this work, Frank and his daughter Vanessa have donated time and talents to assist the *Ni Una Mas* project (Not One More). [Click to order The Girl With The Crooked Nose.](#)



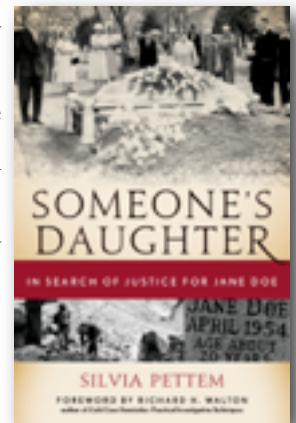
In **Trail of Blood**, The Vidocq Society helps solve the murder of 24 year old Scott Dunn. Scott's parents never gave up when his killers left no body, no weapon, only blood, so much blood. "When Jim Dunn got the heart stopping call every parent dreads: "Your son has disappeared" on a Sunday night, it set into motion a six year nightmarish odyssey of desperate searches. Dunn turned to Dr. Richard Walter of the Vidocq Society, forensic pathologist and criminal profiler, who consulted Scotland Yard, studied DNA evidence and blood spatter patterns, and then pointed out who he deduced killed Scott Dunn, and why." [Click to order Trail of Blood.](#)



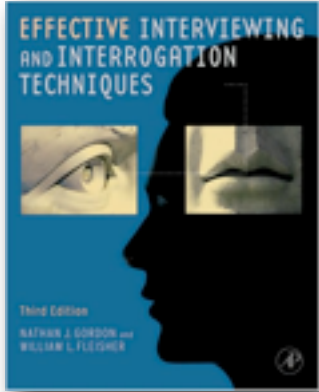
Deadly Betrayal: The CBS Murders is based on an actual major, high-profile investigation, told from the inside by FBI man Don Richards, VSM. "An undercover agent is killed in a Chinese Tong gangwar and FBI Supervisor Dan Robertson can't prove the operation was authorized. He is set up as the scapegoat, and told to involve himself in a safe white collar fraud case until

things get sorted out. But that case is far more sinister, and soon Robertson finds himself partnered with NYPD Detective Richie LeBeau in a complex multiple murder investigation which might connect to the Tong. Overcoming personal clashes, inherent distrust, agency rivalry, and leaks to the media, they use every crime-solving and forensic technique to identify the killer, and build their case. When sharp legal maneuvering threatens to dismantle their work and free the killer, they must find a way to resurrect the case and bring justice to a terrible crime." [Click to order Deadly Betrayal.](#)

In **Someone's Daughter**, historian Sylvia Pettam tells of a young woman, known only as "Jane Doe," found murdered in 1954 in Colorado. Pettam spurred the Vidocq Society and Boulder County Sheriff's Detective Steve Ainsworth to find the woman's name and killer. Vidocq members selflessly volunteered resources and time: Drs. Richard Froede, Walter Birkby, and Robert Goldberg worked on exhumation and autopsy. Dr. Birkby reassembled the skull. Frank Bender did facial reconstructions. Dr. Terry Melton worked on DNA. Fred Bornhofen coordinated. Many others contributed. In October 2009, DNA comparison with a surviving sister confirmed Jane Doe's identity as Dorothy Gay Howard, an 18-year-old missing from Phoenix, Arizona. [Click to order Someone's Daughter.](#)



Vidocq Society in Print: Books By and About Members



Effective Interviewing and Interrogation Techniques, Third Edition, by Nathan J. Gordon and William L. Fleisher. A practical manual providing the forensic practitioner/ investigator critical insight into human behavior, enabling one to become a better interviewer, interrogator and, most importantly, an expert

detector of truthful and deceptive behavior. Gordon and Fleisher have created a one-stop guide to mastering the art of credibility assessment during an interview, with successfully tested techniques for obtaining a confession from guilty suspects. Forensic practitioners, law enforcement, the intelligence community, the private security sector, attorneys, and forensic and criminal justice students will all find this volume a valuable resource.

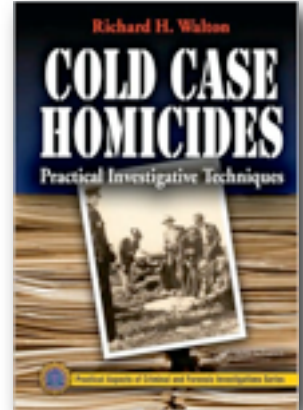
- The only book to address FAINT, IIT, and MITT in one source
- Enables the interviewer to obtain a confession that can stand up in court
- Includes an online workbook with practical exercises to assist the reader

The third edition expands chapters on torture, assessing the interview, statement analysis, MITT, and interrogation. It contains new chapters on passenger screening, and report writing, along with new case studies. Also covered are ways to maximize the collection of information from a prospective employee, and legal considerations. The Forensic Assessment Interview Technique (FAINT) and the Integrated Interrogation Technique (IIT) were developed at the Academy for Scientific Investigative Training and are used by forensic practitioners and investigators to detect truthful or deceptive behavior. FAINT is applicable to all forensic type interviews and incorporates the assessment of nonverbal behavior, projective analysis of unwitting verbal cues, statement analysis and the Morgan Interview Thematic Technique (MITT). This volume teaches how to combine, apply and quantify these techniques to reach a numerical conclusion to the truthfulness of the interviewee. [Available in hardcover and Kindle.](#)

Cold Case Homicides: Practical Investigative Techniques by Richard H. Walton, VSM, provides effective and accessible information to those responsible for investigating and resolving previously examined, but still unsolved, cold case homicides.

The book merges theory with practice through use of case histories, photographs, illustrations, and checklists that convey essential, fundamental concepts, while providing a strong, practical basis for the investigative process. It combines proven techniques from forensics, psychology, and criminal investigation, and focuses on technologies that may not have been available at the time of the crime.

This guide defines the characteristics of a cold case homicide; details various investigative methods used by law enforcement agencies; explores the actual experiences of detectives in re-opening case files; and presents current technologies such as ViCAP, HITS, and TracKRS used in the identification of cases related to the re-opened case, or its perpetrator. It also highlights technological changes that contribute to law enforcement's abilities to solve cold case homicides, such as computerized print technology, the specificity of DNA, and the expanding data banks that enable the linkage of previously unknown suspects to the crimes they committed. [Available for order in hardcover and Kindle.](#)



Submit Your Books for Listing in the Vidocq Journal

Include:

- ➔ **Graphic of Cover**
- ➔ **Synopsis**
- ➔ **Author's Biography**

Email to [Vidocq Editor Paul Plevakas](#)



Bookspan's Bullets

By Dr. Jolie Bookspan, VSM

Welcome to "Bookspan's Bullets." Each Issue Brings You Quick Forensic News and Education. Enjoy.



Bound Robbery Victim Texts "Get Help" With Toes

Amy Windom was lying in bed when an intruder ransacked her house, tied her wrists to the bedpost, and struck her head with his gun. For at least two hours after the robber left, Ms. Windom screamed for help while trying to free herself. "I had a lot of time to think about MacGyver moments," she said. Ms. Windom said the robber didn't steal her laptop because she told him it had a tracking device. It was left on her bed. She maneuvered the laptop closer with her feet, pried it open and pushed the keys to unlock it, all using her feet since her hands were bound. She said, "The wifi popped right up and it was a wonderful moment when I had the screen and realized my Internet connection was live." Using her big toe as a mouse, she typed a message to her boyfriend asking him to call 911. Officers arrived quickly and freed her. Click [here](#) to see an image of her computer screen with the texted messages.

- Source: news.com.au



Wolves Teach German Detectives Leadership Skills

Groups of German policemen, detectives, and businessmen travel to a nature reserve in Brandenburg for seminars that teach leadership training by studying behavior of wolves in packs. Nine resident wolves are role models of how to lead, command respect, and improve efficiency in the workplace. After observing the wolves in the forest reserve, students return to classrooms to review skills and lessons learned. Examples include that the Alpha wolf, the leader, does not use aggression or loud actions to lead or communicate, that the leader or Alpha Wolf is replaced if he is not doing a good job, and that the pack works by mutual respect. Detective Inspector Sabrina Doehlent states, "When you see the respect the wolves have for each other, it is respect that everyone should have on our jobs." Click the source link to watch a short video news-clip:

- Source: BBC News 2010



Fingerprints Exonerate Man Accused by DNA

Donald Smith claimed innocence, but seemed to appear on surveillance camera footage, matched witness descriptions, and DNA evidence apparently showed he was at the scene of the crime. Investigators followed up and found that fingerprint evidence at the scene did not match Donald, but his identical twin brother Ronald. Identical twins do not share fingerprint patterns.

- Source: ABC News



Company Presses Your Final Ashes Into Vinyl Records

The English company "Rest In Vinyl" offers a novel option for mortal remains after death. They take the ashes of cremation and press them into playable records. Cost of a basic package is £2000 for 30 discs with a standard cover. Original covers and music specially written can be added at additional fees. "Rest In Vinyl" explains: "When the album that is life finally reaches the end wouldn't it be nice to keep that record spinning for eternity? We offer you the chance to press your ashes into a vinyl recording your loved ones will cherish for generations. Record a personal message, your last will and testament, your own soundtrack or simply press your ashes to hear your pops and crackles for the minimal approach." As long as a device is available that plays records, you can "Live On From Beyond The Groove." Click [here](#) to read funny reader comments about this item.

- Source: Treehugger



Test Approximates Subjects' Age From Blood

Researchers in the Netherlands have developed a technique to estimate the age group of a suspect from blood left at a crime scene. The technique uses a characteristic of blood cells called T cells. T cells recognize foreign "invaders" such as bacteria, viruses, parasites, and tumor cells, and produce small circular DNA molecules in the process. The number of these DNA molecules, called signal joint TCR excision circles (sjTRECs), is

Continued on Page 5



Bookspan's Bullets

By [Dr. Jolie Bookspan](#), MEd, PhD, FAWM

Continued from Page 4

thought to decline at a constant rate with age. The approach enables scientists to estimate a person's age, "give or take nine years," the researchers report. In their results, published in the journal "*Current Biology*," they state that, "this biological phenomenon could be used for estimating age of a human individual accurately and reliably."

- Source: [Current Biology 2010 Nov 23;20\(22\):R970-1. Estimating human age from T-cell DNA rearrangements.](#) Zubakov D, Liu F, van Zelm MC, Vermeulen J, Oostra BA, van Duijn CM, Driessen GJ, van Dongen JJ, Kayser M, Langerak AW.



Fast DNA Test Matches Samples In 4 Hours

A new forensic test matches suspects' DNA with crime samples in four hours. With this test, police could check whether a person's DNA matches that found at crime scenes while suspects are being processed and before a decision is made to release them. To increase speed of forensic DNA testing, scientists built a chip that can copy and analyze DNA samples taken from a cotton swab. The process takes four hours at present, and the developing teams are working to optimize and reduce cycle time to a predicted two hours. With such a short test, DNA evidence could be double-checked before releasing a suspect.

- Source: Click to [Download Full Text Article](#) from ACS Publications, Analytical Chemistry, pubs.acs.org.

Contact: Andrew Hopwood, Ph.D.

Research and Development, Forensic Science Service,
Trident Court 2960 Solihull Parkway,

Birmingham Business Park,

Birmingham UK B37 7YN

Email: andy.hopwood@fss.pnn.police.uk

and

Frederic Zenhausern, Ph.D., MBA

Center for Applied NanoBioscience and Medicine,

The University of Arizona College of Medicine Phoenix,
425 N. Fifth Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85004

Phone: (602) 827-2051

Email: Frederic.Zenhausern@arizona.edu



Hand Bacteria Aids Forensics

US researchers have determined that the bacteria on our hands could be used in forensic identification. Communities of bacteria living on skin are different for each person. Each person leaves behind a unique trail of bugs as they go about their day. Even the hands of the cleanest people are home to 150 different species of bacteria which are not significantly affected by regular hand-washing, and even identical twins who share the same DNA profile have "substantially" different bacteria living and growing on their hands. Scientists led by Noah Fierer of the University of Colorado in Boulder, were able to match bacteria samples from three computer keyboards to each computer's user. Hand bacteria, they found, can survive at room temperatures for up to two weeks, and could be identified even when fingerprints were smudged, or there was not enough DNA to obtain a profile. The scientists describe their findings in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, and wrote, "This suggests that the collective genomes of [these microbes] may be more personally identifying than our own human genomes." The technology is estimated at 70-90% accurate, and expected that accuracy will increase as it is refined over time.

Address correspondence to:

noah.fierer@colorado.edu.

- Source: [PNAS. "Forensic identification using skin bacterial communities."](#) Noah Fierer, Christian L. Lauber, Nick Zhou, Daniel McDonald, Elizabeth K. Costello, and Rob Knight. [PNAS. DOI:10.1073/pnas.1000162107](#)

Dr. Bookspan loves good science. Send forensic jokes, quotations, websites and stories for possible inclusion in

"Bookspan's Bullets."

Email: editor@vidocq.org

Introducing Edward Tenuto, Vidocq Society's New Public Affairs Officer

by Edward Tenuto

Edward Tenuto is the new public affairs officer for The Vidocq Society. Perhaps in future issues of this journal he will tell us more of what a public affairs officer will bring to Vidocq. Here are some words from Ed introducing himself.

Currently, Ed is president of ET-Communications, a news media management consulting firm in the Orlando area, with offices in Windermere, FL and Philadelphia, PA. Ed was president of Media Relations Consultants, a news crisis management and communications business which advised corporate executives, political candidates and business owners on how to effectively manage press inquiries and how to represent a product, service or idea internally or to the public. He was communications counsel to the board chairman of the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority. He has held positions on many political campaigns from the local to the gubernatorial level. Currently, he specializes in issues and reputation management, news media relations, media training, PR counseling, community relations and employee communications. Ed has a rich and extensive background in the crisis communications area of public relations.

From 1985 to 1993, Ed was the official spokesperson for the Philadelphia Police Department and three police commissioners. As senior press liaison officer, Ed handled myriad press contacts at major police incidents and thousands of routine requests from reporters during his tenure with the police department's public affairs office. He wrote many of the department's press releases and held countless press conferences on matters such as: police shootings; homicides; demonstrations and all major events. He trained and advised police command staff and personnel in all news media matters. He also directed the police department's efforts in promoting community relations programs. From 1997 to 2005 Ed served as assistant regional director for the Bureau of Narcotics Investigation and Drug Control for the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Ed was the official police department representative with the Philadelphia Film Office, the motion picture industry and the entire film community. He was an editor and assistant producer for Fox television's "COPS" featuring the men and women of the Philadelphia Police



Edward Tenuto

department. As a consultant to the motion picture industry some of his film credits include, Rocky 5 and Rocky Balboa (Rocky6), Philadelphia, Up Close and Personal, Two Bits, Wide Awake, Beloved, Blowout and many others. He worked very closely, providing personal professional services with Sylvester Stallone and

John Travolta during their filming in Philadelphia. He provided professional services to Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, Tom Hanks, Burt Young, Talia Shire, Bruce Springsteen, Robert Redford, Michelle Pfeiffer, Richard Burton, Elizabeth Taylor, Peter Falk, John Cassavetes, and other actors during their filming in the Philadelphia area.

Ed graduated from Temple University's School of Communications and Theater with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism/Public Relations in 1983. Throughout his career he attended numerous training seminars and conferences which included training at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. He studied advanced homicide investigation at Hocking Technical College in Columbus, Ohio. He is co-author of a news media management handbook manuscript designed for corporate executives.

Ed is a member of the Public Relations Society of America national and local Orlando chapter and a member of the Fraternal Order of Police. He is an ex officio board member of The Vidocq Society. He is vice president and board member of Lakeside at Lakes of Windermere condominium association and board member of Lake Burden South homeowners association. He lives in Windermere, Florida.

Vidocq Society 2010 Awards Dinner Highlights

2010 Vidocq Society Medal of Honor Recipients



Bill Fleisher (at podium) presents awards. L- R: Frank Bender, VSM; Terry Melton, Ph.D., AAFS; Silvia Pettem; Frederick Bornhofen, VSM, CPP, CFE, AAFS

2010 Halbert Fillinger Lifetime Achievement Award



Recipient Kenneth D. Freeman, VSM and his wife Dolly after receiving the Halbert Fillinger Lifetime Achievement Award

Joe O’Kane, VSM and Local Doo-wop Group



Grand Entrance by the Pipers



String Trio Greets Attendees



L - R: Silvia Pettem; Terry Melton; William Fleisher, Commissioner; Frank Bender

Vidocq Society Meetings Move to Union League



From William Fleisher, Commissioner: I wish you all a joyous season, and 2011 promises to be a great year for the Vidocq Society. First of all, we have a **new meeting place**, the historic Union League at 140 S. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pa., <http://www.unionleague.org/>.

Through the good offices and sponsorship of VSM Frank Mayer, the Union League has given the Vidocq Society a wonderful package. Our meetings will still be held on the **third Thursdays** of the month. Except for March 2011, when it will be held on the **third Friday** (due to space availability).

The cost for the lunch, for the time being, will remain at \$30.00 per person. The Union League has a dress code and jackets and no jeans are required dress for the men. Business attire is required for both men and women. It is imperative that you RSVP to Gloria at Vidocq, **215-545-1450**, by COB on the Mondays before the scheduled meetings as here as there will be a tight head count.

Case Manager Fred Bornhofen has lined up some great cases through 2011 and we expect big turnouts at our classy new venue. Here are the meeting dates for 2011; please mark your calendars:

[Union League Directions](#)

2011 Meeting Schedule

January 20, 2011

February 17, 2011

March 18, 2011 (Friday)

April 21, 2011

May 19, 2011

June 16, 2011

July 2011 (No Meeting)

August 2011 (No Meeting)

September 15, 2011

October 20, 2011

November 17, 2011

December 2011 (No Meeting)

Vidocq Society Inspires Serial Killer College Course

By Paul Plevakas

The University of Western Ontario is offering an elective course titled "[The Serial Killer in the Media and Popular Culture](#)" in their undergraduate department of Media Information and Technoculture. Instructor Mike Arntfield is a detective constable for the London Police Criminal Investigation Unit, with 10 years law enforcement experience. According to the website description, "This course will situate the serial killer as a "modernist event" that suggests the press may not only be reporting on these crimes, but actually suborning them."

"There's a tie-in between the celebrity system and violence. Serial killers represent modern incarnations of monsters. They serve an important mythological purpose," Arntfield says

"We look at how the media played in making the serial killers aware of what they were doing and add to the status of their celebrity." That someone capable of serial murder could be working or living next to us adds to our fascination, he says. "In the industrial culture, we are repositories of strangers. How can we rub shoulders with someone capable of killing? "

The creation of the course was inspired by the work of the Vidocq Society. Students are taught criminal and police procedural theories and then assigned serial killer cold cases to examine with fresh eyes using current technology and proven investigative methods. Students are encouraged to use Google Maps, genealogical websites such as www.ancestry.com, census data and birth and death notices which are available online. Currently there are no unsolved serial killer cases in Canada. All cases assigned the students are from the United States.

Students are put into groups and given the role of case manager, data input person and lead investigator. Students have contacted the original investigators and



Mike Arntfield

reporters but have been told by Arntfield not to contact the victim's families or any witnesses. Research into the crimes has been eye opening for many of them, their only contact with violent crime has been through television crime dramas, they are now digging through arrest reports and looking up information on microfiche and finding it a humbling experience.

Arntfield hopes his students will help solve these cold cases. The most convincing assignment presented in the class will be forwarded to the FBI's Behavioral Sciences Unit.

According to Arntfield, "Students in the course are doing "a public service" by taking a fresh look at old cases."

Mike Arntfield has been asked by undisclosed people to put together a London version of the Vidocq Society.

Healthy Wishes

Our thoughts to Dr. Haskell Askin, Donna Fontana, Frank Bender, Bill Kelly, Peter Hahn, and others for Health in the Coming Year.



Dr. Haskell Askin and Commissioner William Fleisher

From, Your Friends and Colleagues at Vidocq Society

New Column: “Digital Forensics” with Peter Stephenson, PhD

What Does Digital Forensics Have to Do With Murder?

By Peter Stephenson, PhD

Some years back a Texas minister was accused of murdering his wife. The wife died of an overdose of sleeping pills and suffocation and much of the evidence against him came from a forensic examination of his computer and the other computers to which he connected. This examination revealed that he had surfed the Internet for information on the effects of an overdose of sleeping pills.

In 2006 a Michigan man was indicted for murder based in part on evidence of 2 year-old emails found on his laptop.

In a murder case police seized a computer and attempted to create a forensic image of the hard disk. During the course of that process the disk failed and the image could not be created. The investigator took the disk drive to a company that specializes in data recovery and, under the watchful eye of the investigator, performed what is called a “head assembly transplant”.

Such a transplant consists of rebuilding portions of the hard disk drive assembly that have been damaged. This type of failure often causes what is called a “head crash”, an error where the drive head – a small assembly that scans over the disk itself close to but not quite touching the disk for the purpose of reading the data on the disk – hits the disk causing damage to or loss of data on the disk itself.

Once the transplant was complete the technician found that data on the disk had, indeed, been damaged. By using special programs to rebuild the data structure on the disk the forensic image was completed and the investigator had his evidence.

These three cases are examples of digital forensic science, specifically, computer forensics. Today the computer is ubiquitous in our lives. It is not unreasonable to conjecture that it also is ubiquitous in our deaths. Such, it turns out, actually is the case.

For decades law enforcement has recognized the value of computers in analyzing and solving crimes of all types. The earliest use of computers was the cataloging and categorizing of crime data. That continues to be a primary use today. A large computing system can re-

member and find more data than football fields full of humans can.

However, today, we keep our lives on digital devices. I have a home computer, a work computer, a laptop, an iPad and a Blackberry smart phone – and these are just my personal digital devices... I interact with dozens more on a daily basis. Every one of these digital devices carries enough information about me, my activities, my interpersonal relationships and behavior to get a very clear picture of who I am, what I do, where I go and with whom I communicate, both physically and virtually. In any type of criminal case this information, by anyone’s standards, may be evidence.

However, getting that information with the purity and lack of ambiguity that makes it useful as evidence requires the disciplines of forensic science. Digital forensic science deals with the tools, techniques, and computer science, that are intended to ensure evidential purity and lack of ambiguity.

Digital forensics and murder? More and more they are bedfellows – strange ones, perhaps, but bedfellows, indeed. In future columns we will explore the used of digital forensic science in cold cases and personal cases such as cyber stalking and harassment. Stay tuned.

Peter Stephenson, PhD, CISSP, CISM, FICAF is the director of the Norwich University Center for Advanced Computing and Digital Forensics as well as being the chief information security officer for the university. He conducts all of the university investigations that have any connection to computers or the Internet and teaches various courses in digital forensics and cyber investigation. His PhD, from Oxford Brookes University in the UK, was one of the first in the world to be awarded based upon re-



search in digital forensic investigation. He has written or contributed to 16 books and hundreds of articles.

We Mourn the Passing of Sheriff John P. Durante, VSM



Sheriff John P. Durante, VSM

Shortly after midnight on Wednesday, February 10, 2010, Sheriff John P. Durante, VSM, died peacefully in his sleep at the age of 61.

John is survived by his wife of 15 years, Maria L. Durante, daughters Christina Visco and Deanna Durante, his two grandchildren, and his siblings Michael V.

Durante Jr. of Lemont, Colo., Patty, Daniel, Leo, Jane Durante all of Conshohocken.

Sheriff Durante began his public service as a junior firefighter, served in the Harmonville Fire Department and Conshohocken No. 2 Fire Company, and became a life member in the Spring Mill Fire Company. Durante served as a Senior Instructor in the Montgomery County Fire Company and as a local instructor for the Pennsylvania State Fire Academy.

Durante began his law enforcement career as a Deputy Sheriff in Montgomery County in 1971. He then joined the Montgomery County Detectives as a County Investigator in 1974, and he began first as an undercover narcotics and vice investigator and then as a homicide investigator.

He was deeply honored to be inducted into the International Police Hall of Fame and to receive numerous awards from the Vidocq Society.

His forensic career began when he met Dr. Halbert Fillinger, who recognized John's talents and integrity, and took John under his wing, training John to be a forensic expert. Dr. Fillinger paid for John to attend a wide array of forensic science courses in order to shape John into the nationally known forensic expert.

Durante founded the Forensic Science Unit of the Montgomery County District Attorney's Office in 1986, and commanded that unit until 1999, when he won election to the position of Sheriff of Montgomery County. Even though the position of County Sheriff is considered

'part-time' under the salary structure of county government, John treated this as a full-time position and came to work every day to ensure that the Department was always at its best.

Sheriff Durante was proud of his father's contributions to society. Michael Vincent Durante Sr., had served honorably as a Captain in the 101st Airborne Division in WWII, and survived the ordeal of being a prisoner of war in a Nazi camp.

John was inspired by his father's accomplishments, but his defining role model and mentor was his uncle Pasquale DiGiuseppi, who stepped in to guide John at a young age. "Uncle Pat" taught John the values of generosity and compassion for others, values which defined John's entire life.

John used his forensic expertise to help give peace, closure, and justice to the victims of crime, their families and loved ones. John was always motivated by the compassion he felt for those people that he helped thru his forensic work. Sheriff Durante worked tirelessly to help other law enforcement agencies at the local, state and federal level, and he even traveled to international locations to help lend his forensic expertise on a volunteer, unpaid basis.

John's last act as Sheriff was to get the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department certified as an accredited law enforcement agency. An official announcement and certification of that accomplishment is scheduled for March of this year.



Acting Sheriff Alfred J. Ricci, ?, Montgomery County DA Risa Vetri Ferman, Deanna Durante, Chris Durante Visco, and Chief of Detectives Oscar Vance unveil a plaque honoring former Montgomery County Sheriff John Durante at the Montgomery County Courthouse.

Frank Bender Receives Awards from Mayor Nutter and Philadelphia City Council

By Paul Plevakas



Frank Bender is presented two awards in tribute to his service to the people of Philadelphia.

Photo by Dr. Jolie Bookspan

Frank Bender, VSM, received two awards on Oct 21, 2010. One award was from Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter and the other from Philadelphia City Council. The awards were presented by Margaret Davis whose daughter Jacqueline Gough, age 16, was identified through Frank's sculpture, rendered from the skull of a body found in an abandoned house.

Jacqueline Gough disappeared in 1979 from a Kensington Street Corner. Davis vowed never to move away or change her phone number, in hopes that one day her child would return.

"To be able to know where my daughter is now, after 15 years of not knowing, for him to help me close that door - he'll always have a piece of my heart," Davis said. Davis now has her daughter's remains at home in Palmyra, where she moved after learning of her daughter's fate.

Silvia Pettem Thanks the Vidocq Society for Their Award and Asks for Help With Her Upcoming Book



Silvia Pettem

"I was humbled and extremely appreciative to have been among the Medal of Honor recipients at the Oct. 24, 2010, Annual Awards Dinner. Without the support of the Vidocq Society, Boulder Jane Doe would not have been identified.

"Currently, I'm under contract with CRC Press to write **"Cold Case Research: Cracking the Historical Record"** and am

looking for cold case success stories. If any of you can recommend some cases and would be willing to "introduce" me to the appropriate law-enforcement contacts, I would be most grateful. The book is for law-enforcement, and I would like to recognize some recent (and, perhaps, little-known) detectives and their work through these case stories. Of course, if they tie in with the Vidocq Society, that's an added bonus.

"I can be contacted at pettem@earthlink.net, 303-459-0193, and through my website www.silviapettem.com

"Thank you."

Michael F. Rieders, PhD, Newly Appointed to Board of the National Association of Medical Examiners (The NAME) Foundation

The [National Association of Medical Examiners \(The NAME\) Foundation](#) has appointed [Michael F. Rieders, PhD](#) to their board. Rieders is currently Chairman of the Board at NMS Labs and Chief Science Officer at The Forensic Mentors Institute. He is active as a trustee at Arcadia University and a faculty member in its Masters of Forensic Science Program and in the Vidocq Society. Dr. Rieders is an advocate for, and contributor, to The NAME mission. By working with various forensic science organizations, Rieders works to bring a systematic understanding of the forensic sciences to the criminal justice community.

“I was proud and honored to learn that The NAME, an organization that I have been involved with for years, has recognized my contributions to the profession and sought to have me on its Foundation Board,” explained Dr. Rieders.

He went on to add that toxicology often provides an essential piece to the Medicolegal death investigation, and he looks forward to his continued work with The NAME and The NAME Foundation.

John E. Pless, MD, Chairman of the Board of Directors at The NAME remarked, “The members of The



Michael F. Rieders, PhD

NAME Foundation Board are very pleased to have a toxicologist with the stature of Dr. Rieders on our Board. I was personally honored that he was willing to serve.”

As a forensic toxicologist and a laboratory director, Dr. Rieders brings a new perspective to The NAME Board since the majority of its members are medical examiners or other professionals with direct affiliations to a medical examiner’s office.



Solve The Mystery

A new mystery each issue.

Q. Is there always a full moon at Christmas for Santa to drive his sleigh in front of?

Supersleuths, send your verdicts to [Paul Plevakas, editor](#)

Solution to January 2010 Solve the Mystery:

Q. By what physiologic descriptor do we know that all Santa's Reindeer pulling the sleigh are female?

A. “Both male and female reindeer have antlers but male reindeer lose their antlers by December, in all apparent descriptions of the reindeer pulling Santa's sleigh the reindeer have antlers, therefore all of Santa's reindeer, including Rudolph, must be female???”

- Correct answer sent in by Bill Donovan, Detective Worcester Police Dept.

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Commissioner

William L. Fleisher

Deputy Commissioners

Kenneth D. Freeman

Fred A. Bornhofen

Communications Office

Paul D. Plevakas, Editor

Voice: 215-545-1450 — Fax: 215-545-1773

editor@vidocq.org — www.vidocq.org