Appendix A

Who Shot the Sheriff?: The Andy Andolshek Case

This is the case of a sheriff who was found dead in the museum, which was once an old jailhouse, in 1947. He was assumed to have died by suicide. Students perused the newspapers and found evidence that there was tension between Andy and his fiancée Elvina, and also between different family members. They also found another suspicious death in the family and linked that to the case.

From this information, they devised a plot with four suspects:

1. Fiancée Elvina Manfreda, as records showed she was attempting to inherit Andy’s father’s property
2. Mary, Andy’s stepsister, who was involved in a battle over Andy’s late father’s property
3. William Holmes, a sheriff who was vying for Andy’s position and lost the election
4. Andy Andolshek, death by suicide

Students developed evidence to carry the CSI teams through the storyline. They were even able to find and photograph Andy Andolshek’s actual gravestone and (allegedly) the sawed-off shotgun used in the death and found in Andy’s hand, which is an artifact of the museum. There were also museum exhibits all over the museum involving the case. To incriminate the other sheriff, William Holmes, students made and tea-stained mock ballots, burned the edges, placed them in a locked box, and hid them in the unfinished basement of the museum. The partially burned ballots indicated that Andy did not actually win the sheriff election and that William Holmes should have been sheriff, providing a motive. They also planted evidence of a recipe box that had a recipe using castor beans, as the ricin molecule can
be deadly. They wrote a fake will, a crime scene note, love letters from Elvina, and entries in Andy’s journal.

In the end, the CSI team found that the evidence incriminated Elvina, Andy’s fiancée. According to the science research students’ fictitious storyline, Andy and Elvina had been estranged and she had traveled from Italy to break off their relationship. Andy, sensing that their relationship was in jeopardy, was trying to gain inheritance of his father’s land. His father, Martin, had died of a heart attack, but it turns out Elvina had convinced Andy to give his father castor beans, which contained ricin, causing him to be poisoned, while claiming it was a treatment used in Italy. Elvina did this via letters to Andy from Italy, and she assumed that Andy was already inheriting the land. However, his two brothers were actually still on the will. The step-sister Mary had convinced the father to exclude Andy from the will. With Martin dead and incorrect information, Elvina traveled from Italy to Baker, Montana, to murder her fiancée so she would inherit his father’s land. Elvina stood trial and was found guilty of the fictitious murder of Andy Andolshek at the local courthouse. We will never know what happened to the sheriff.
Figure 1. Fallon County Times article about the sheriff’s death. This article sparked interest in using this as a case.
Figure 2. Student-generated Last Will and Testament of Andy Andolshek.

Last Will and Testament of
Andy Andolshek
(Tour Name)

1. Andy Andolshek _____ an adult residing at
123 Smith Rd. (address)
Baker (city) IN (state)

Being sound of mind, declare this to be my Last Will and Testament. I revoke all wills and
codicles previously made by me.

Under oath I direct all of my belongings to certain people, listed below. All claims and debts to be
paid will be sent to my closest living relative. Any debatable offenses will also be bestowed equally
or by choice by my family.

I give my estate and all of its contents to:
Eolina Manfreeda
All of my livestock and assets will be given to: Eolina Manfreeda
All of my money will be given immediately to: Eolina Manfreeda
All of the debt accumulated over my life will be given and spread throughout the family as I
trust them to pay it.

I sign here signifying that everything above is correct and was reviewed by a lawyer and the

Signature
Date: 10/10/47
To Whom It May Concern:

What I have done in the past in the war has finally gotten to me. I can't go on anymore. The life I have is too difficult to live.

I can't keep going on with the thoughts of what I did. The memories still haunt me. With this final act, maybe they will end.

In hopes you will all forgive me, I leave my final will at the bottom.

To my beloved Ettina, I leave all my possessions, including the farm and money.

Andy Andolshek
Figure 4. Student-generated love note from Elvina Manfreda to Andy Andolshek. Includes chemical structure of a drug she claimed would help his father.

Figure 5. Student-generated recipe card using ricin, which is a match to the chemical structure in Figure 4.
Figure 6. Student-generated burned ballots of the sheriff election showing Andy Andolshek may not have won.
Figure 7. Ink chromatography conducted by chemistry CSI teams.