

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.

Despondent Sheriff Commits Suicide



ANDREW ANDOLSHEK

Andy Andolshek, elected sheriff of Fallon county last fall, committed suicide last Saturday morning, 11 o'clock, in the anteroom at the county jail by shooting himself in the heart with a sawed-off shotgun. His lifeless body was found about half-an hour later by his sister, Mrs. I. Reese, and fiancée, Miss Elvina Manfreda.

He had been despondent for some time over financial matters and personal affairs. His fiancée had arrived the previous Thursday by plane from New York where she had arrived a short time before from her home in Gorizia, Italy. She came with the intention of marrying Andolshek but on her arrival asked for mere time to get acquainted with him. Their romance began in Italy while he was with the army.

Andolshek left a note for his sister directing disposal of his property. He is survived by his sister, Mrs. Reese, and brother John of Baker, also a half sister in California and three half brothers, Martin, James and Harry Setine of Mill Iron and Baker.

He was born at Bear Creek May 1, 1910, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Andolshek. After the death of his father, his mother married the late Martin Setine, Sr. and the family homesteaded and lived at Mill Iron until the children grew up to maturity and the parents

passed on. The sons were in service during the last war but returned to the home place and locality after being discharged.

Andy resumed his ranching and mail route and last fall ran for the office of sheriff and was elected. He expanded his ranching and trucking activities and these with his official duties caused him the worry that led to his unfortunate act.

He was accorded a military funeral Tuesday afternoon from the Community Church with Fallon Post No. 35 of the American Legion in charge of the church services and the Veterans of Foreign Wars presenting the firing squad at the graveside ritual at Ekalaka where burial took place.

At the services in Baker Ed Nelson, post commander of Fallon Post No. 35 of the American Legion was in charge. D. R. Young gave the eulogy and William Shelley, V. F. W. chaplain, assisted. Fred Korneychuk sang several hymns and was accompanied by Fredric Bruggeman Wilford Kimble, commander of the V. F. W., also assisted at the service.

The color bearers were Kenneth Koebel, Dwight Loutenzlser, Francis LaCross and Chas. Smola. The color guards were Walter Flint and John Mellor.

The firing squad included Wayne Speelman, Emil Job, Don Rolfe, Robert Lentz, Gene Wellenstein and Rollie Smith.

The pall bearers were Tom Beck, Lloyd Johnson, Martin Roth, Larry Klausner, Raymond Madler and Vern Olson.

There was a large array of flowers about the flag draped casket and the church was filled with friends. The services were most impressive and characterized by a deep sympathy for the late townsman and comrade.

Commander Nelson and the pall bearers accompanied the body to Ekalaka where the V. F. W., Harry Roberts commander, took over and officiated at the graveside service.

Of a direct and simple nature but industrious and honest as the famed "Village Blacksmith", Andrew Andolshek had many friends who mourn and regret his untimely end.

Figure 2. Student-generated Last Will and Testament of Andy Andolshek.

Last Will and Testament of
Andy Andolshek
(Your Name)

I, Andy Andolshek an adult residing at
123 Smith Rd. (address)
Baker (city) MT (state)

Being sound of mind, declare this to be my Last Will and Testament. I revoke all wills and
codicils 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.

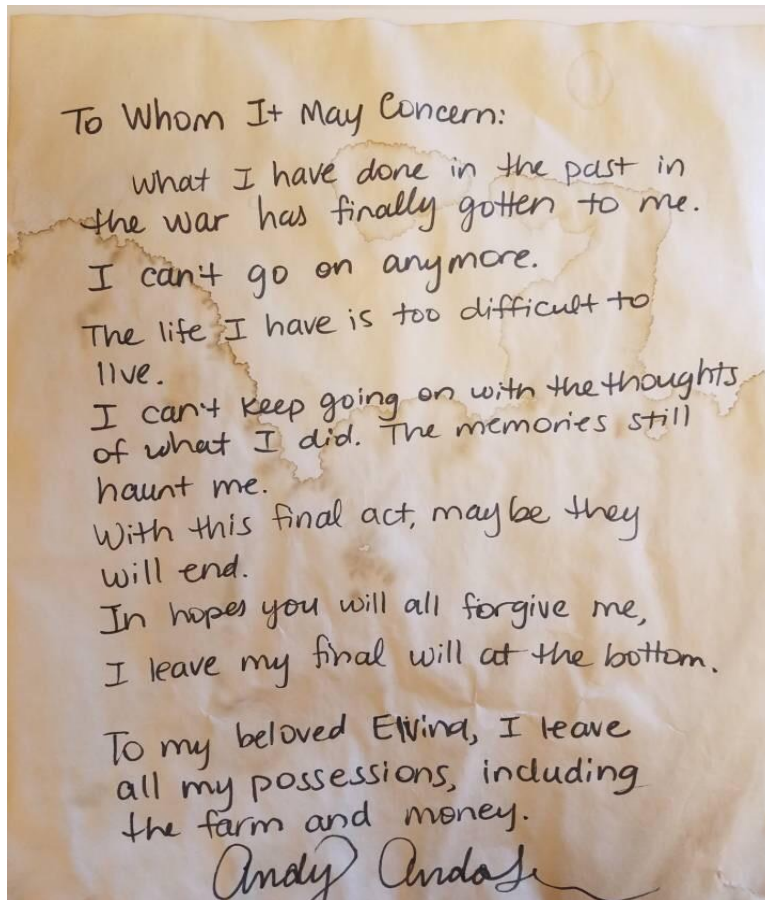
I give my estate and all of its contents to: Elvina Manfreda
All of my livestock and assets will be given to: Elvina Manfreda
All of my money will be given immediately to: Elvina Manfreda

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
signee.

Signature: Andy Andolshek
Date: 7/10/47

Figure 3. Student-generated suicide note, allegedly written by Andy Andolshek.



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 Etvina, 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.

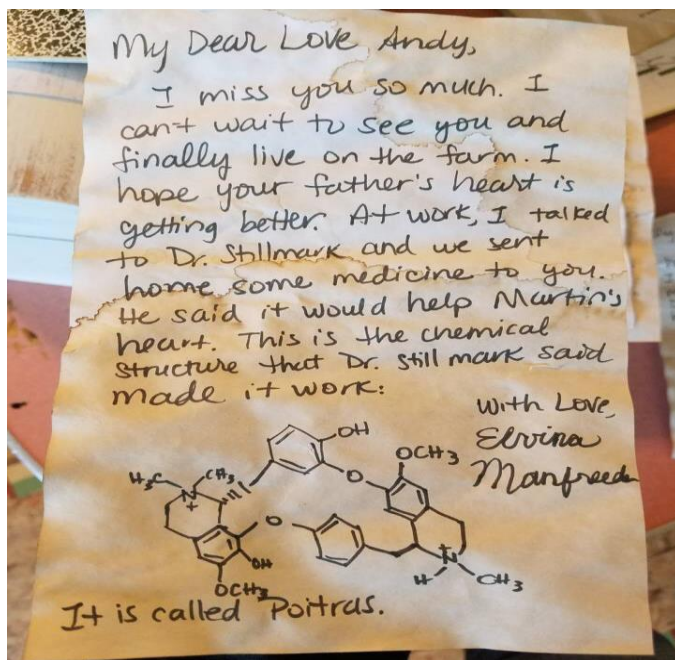


Figure 5. Student-generated recipe card using ricin, which is a match to the chemical structure in Figure 4.



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.

