

STATE OF VIRGINIA,  
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, to-wit:

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SAID COUNTY:

The grand jurors of the State of Virginia, in and for the body of the County of Rockingham and now attending the Circuit Court of said County, at its August Term, 1950, upon their oaths do present that JERRY LEE MORRIS, on or about the 6th day of August, 1950, in said County, unlawfully and feloniously did kill and murder one William Taft Shifflett, against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This indictment is found upon the testimony of S. H. Callender and B. L. Kiser, witnesses sworn in Court and sent before the grand jury to give evidence.

#2432  
Act for 10/23/50

COMMONWEALTH *n.8-9-50*

V. INDICTMENT

JERRY LEE MORRIS

*ca. 7. own*  
*+ 2006*

Felony

August Term 1950

A true bill:

*[Signature]*  
Foreman

WITNESSES:

S. H. Callender

B. L. Kiser

George D. Conrad  
Commonwealth's Attorney

STATE OF VIRGINIA,  
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM, to-wit:  
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF SAID COUNTY:  
The Grand Jurors of the State of Virginia, in and for  
the body of the County of Rockingham and now attending the Circuit  
Court of said County, at the August Term, 1950, upon their oath  
do present that JERRY LEE MORRIS, on or about the 6th day of August,  
1950, in said County, unlawfully and feloniously did kill and murder  
one William Earl Shufflett, against the peace and dignity of the  
Commonwealth of Virginia.  
This indictment is found upon the testimony of S. H.  
Callender and B. L. Kiser, witnesses sworn in Court and sent before



Docket No. \_\_\_\_\_

OCT  
2432

1950

set for  
Oct. 23

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

VS.

)  
)  
)

FELONY (murder)

JERRY LEE MORRIS

jail

Charles A. Hammer & Sam P. Conrad, p. d.  
Own (x) Appointed ( )

1950

August 21. Indictment returned by G.J.  
Arr. & plea n.g.

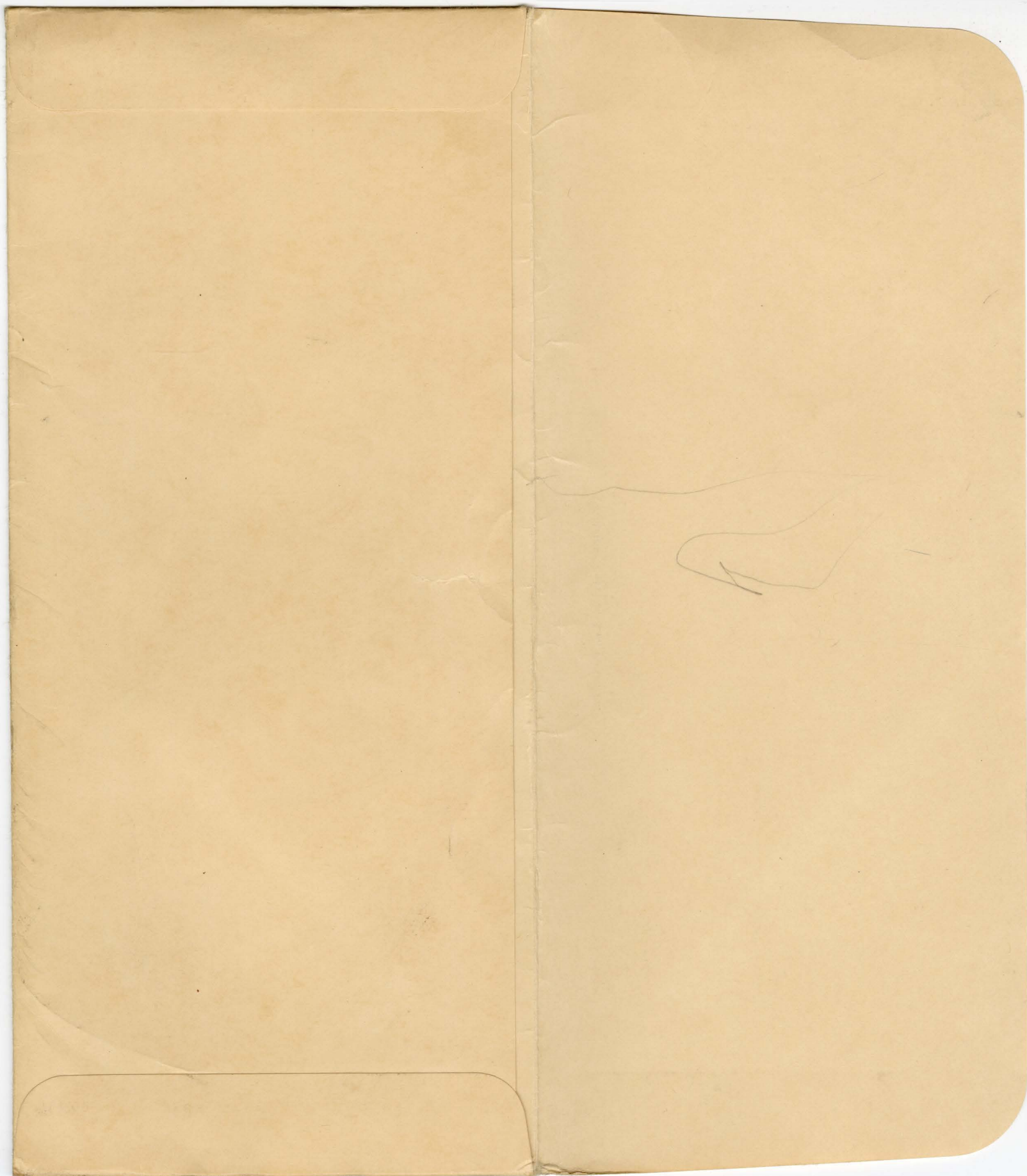
Oct. 20. Plea n.g. withdrawn  
and plea g. entered.  
Cont. to Oct. 23.

10/23/50 Tried by Court, jury  
being waived

as charged Murder & degebb.  
in the indictment No jail - credit. 8  
175.

CIRCUIT COURT OF ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VA.

Sheriff Fee \$790





STATE OF VIRGINIA  
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

To-Wit:

No. 5957

TO ANY SHERIFF OR POLICE OFFICER:

Whereas, B. L. Kiser, Deputy Sheriff

has this day made complaint and information on oath before me, J. C. Swartz, Clerk of the  
(Name)

Trial Justice Court of the said County, that  
(Title)

Jerry Lee Morris in the said County

did on the 6th day of August, 1950: Unlawfully and feloniously

did kill and murder one William Taft Shifflett against the peace and

dignity of the Commonwealth of Virginia

*[Faint, illegible text and markings, possibly bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

These are, therefore, to command you, in the name of the Commonwealth, to apprehend and bring before the Trial Justice Court of the said County, the body (bodies) of the above accused, to answer the said complaint and to be further dealt with according to law. And you are also directed to summon

- Sheriff S. H. Callendar color \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ color \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ color \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ color \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ color \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

as witnesses.

Given under my hand and seal, this 7th day of August, 1950

J. C. Swartz (Seal)  
(Title of Issuing Officer)



STATE OF VIRGINIA—COUNTY OF \_\_\_\_\_, to-wit: \_\_\_\_\_

I, \_\_\_\_\_ a Trial Justice Justice of the Peace in and for the County aforesaid, State of Virginia, do certify

that \_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_, as his suret \_\_\_\_\_, have this day each acknowledged themselves indebted

to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars

(\$ \_\_\_\_\_), to be made and levied of their respective goods and chattels, lands, and tenements to the use of the Commonwealth to

be rendered, yet upon this condition: That the said \_\_\_\_\_, shall appear before the Circuit Court

of \_\_\_\_\_ County, on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_,

at \_\_\_\_\_ M., at \_\_\_\_\_, Virginia, and at any time or times to which the proceedings may be continued

or further heard, and before any court thereafter having or holding any proceedings in connection with the charge in this warrant, to answer

for the offense with which he is charged, and shall not depart thence without the leave of said court, the said obligation to remain in full force

and effect until the charge is finally disposed of or until it is declared void by order of a competent court; and upon the further condition that

the said \_\_\_\_\_ shall keep the peace and be of good behavior for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ days

from the date hereof.

Given under my hand, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_ T.J., J.P.

Plea N. G.

Fine \_\_\_\_\_  
Costs \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \_\_\_\_\_

DOCKET NO. 5957 A

COMMONWEALTH

WARRANT OF ARREST

vs. Pennyree Thomas

Executed this, the 7th day of August 1950  
B. W. Thorne Dep.

Judgment

Upon the examination of the within charge, I find the accused

On motion of the defendant that preliminary hearing be waived, said hearing is hereby waived and the defendant is held for action of the Grand Jury.

Given under my hand this 8th day of August 1950.

R. A. Spokens Subs. T.

The following witnesses were recognized to appear before the Circuit Court of \_\_\_\_\_ County, Virginia, at \_\_\_\_\_ M., on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_ under penalty of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Witness Name	Address	Address	Address	Address	Address
Warrant					\$ 1.00
Trial					2.00
Bail					
Arrest					1.50
Mileage					4.80
Clerk					1.25
Jail Fee and Board					.50
Witness Attendance					
Summoning Witnesses					
Commonwealth Attorney					1.50
Total Costs					\$ 13.55
Fine					
Total					\$ _____

40 = 60  
Total \_\_\_\_\_



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day 25  
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Aubrey Hammer  
7-10-55  
9-5-52.

3781

FITZHUGH ELDER, JR.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

30 EAST BEVERLEY STREET  
COMMONWEALTH'S ATTORNEY

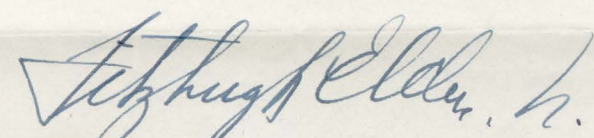
October 25, 1950.

The Sheriff of Rockingham County,  
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find Subpoena in  
Chancery to be served on Warren Edward Wilkerson,  
Box 113 at service station, Grottoes, Virginia,  
a check in the amount of Seventy-five cents, and  
also an envelope for you to return to me proof  
of service.

Very truly,



Fitzhugh Elder, Jr.

FEjr:ph

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Rockingham County

10-25-50

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15-84

FITZBUGH ELDER, JR.  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
STANTON, VIRGINIA  
30 EAST SEVENTH STREET  
COMMERCIAL ATTORNEY

October 25, 1950.

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The Sheriff of Rockingham County,  
Harrisonburg, Virginia.

Dear Sir:

Enclosed you will find Subpoena in  
Chancery to be served on Warren Edward Wilkerson,  
Box 113 at service station, Groves, Virginia,  
a check in the amount of seventy-five cents, and  
also an envelope for you to return to me proof  
of service.

Very truly,

*Fitzbugh Elder, Jr.*

Fitzbugh Elder, Jr.

FEjr:ph

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3781

*Wm Wilkerson*

*Wm  
Wilkerson*



## POST-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION

Staunton, Virginia  
November 20, 1950

NAME: Jerry Lee Morris	CITIZENSHIP: American
ADDRESS: Stoney Point, Va.	MARITAL STATUS: Divorced
AGE: 52 (Born 1898)	NO. OF DEPENDENTS: None
RACE: White	OFFENSE: Murder, 2nd degree
SEX: Male	

## OFFENSE:

On the afternoon of August 6, 1950, Jerry Lee Morris had visited his parents, Houston and Florence Lilly Morris, at their home in Stoney Point, Virginia. He had been transported from Elkton, Virginia to Stoney Point by Allen and Lizzie Breeden. He returned to Elkton in the late afternoon and went to the home of a cousin, General Dean. At this time the subject was somewhat intoxicated, yet, he insisted on buying more beer. He therefore got Randall Dean to drive him to several places in Elkton in order to obtain the same. After being refused by the Elkton merchants, the subject and Randall Dean travelled to Verbena where they purchased a case of beer. Later they returned to the home of General Dean and consumed part of the beer. Morris informed Randall Dean that his brother-in-law, William T. Shifflett, nickname Bolsey, had visited his parents in Charlottesville and had told them some false tales concerning him. Morris therefore wished to get in touch with Bolsey in order to square accounts of these tales. Randall Dean therefore consented to drive Morris to Bolsey Shifflett's home in Sun Valley. On the way to the home Morris noticed what he thought was Shifflett's car in the yard of Whit Crawford's; however, Randall Dean, his girl friend and Morris continued on the way to the Shifflett home. Finding no one present, Morris requested that Dean drive him to the home of Whit Crawford where he thought he had seen Shifflett's car. Crawford's home is located approximately twenty-five yards off of Route 33 east of Elkton. When the trio returned to this home, one of Bolsey's children was playing near the gate. Morris called to the child and ask as to whether his father was visiting with the Crawford's. The child informed him that his father was there. Morris then left the car, staggered across the road and up to Crawford's home where he encountered Bolsey Shifflett. The two then became involved in an argument as to what Bolsey had told Morris's parents at their home in Stoney Point. Shifflett then stated that the information he had given Morris's parents was true and that he would repeat it to them again in front of the subject. Morris then informed Shifflett that he was, "A damn good man" and inferred that he was going to beat Shifflett. Shifflett then struck Morris across the face knocking him down. This scene was witnessed by Whit Crawford, his wife, Randall Dean and Mrs. Shifflett, Mrs. Shifflett being the wife to Bolsey and sister to Morris. After Shifflett had struck Morris, Mrs. Shifflett attempted to get her husband to leave. At first he refused and then decided to leave. Morris in the mean while had gone up-stairs. Upon his return to the room where the argument had occurred, he inquired of the two Shifflett children as to where their father was. They stated that he had just left and was walking down the



POST-SENTENCE INVESTIGATION

Staunton, Virginia  
November 20, 1950

NAME: Jerry Lee Morris  
 ADDRESS: Stoney Point, Va.  
 AGE: 25 (Born 1925)  
 RACE: White  
 SEX: Male  
 CITIZENSHIP: American  
 MARITAL STATUS: Divorced  
 NO. OF DEPENDENTS: None  
 OFFENSES: Murder, 2nd degree

OFFENSE:

On the afternoon of August 6, 1950, Jerry Lee Morris had visited his parents, Houston and Florence Lilly Morris, at their home in Stoney Point, Virginia. He had been transported from Elkton, Virginia to Stoney Point by Allan and Letae Brodeur. He returned to Elkton in the late afternoon and went to the home of a cousin, General Dean. At this time the subject was somewhat intoxicated, yet, he insisted on buying more beer. He therefore got Randall Dean to drive him to several places in Elkton in order to obtain the same. After being refused by the Elkton merchants, the subject and Randall Dean traveled to Verdun where they purchased a case of beer. Later they returned to the home of General Dean and consumed part of the beer. Morris informed Randall Dean that his brother-in-law, William T. Shifflett, nicknamed name Bolesy, had visited his parents in Charlottesville and had told them some false tales concerning him. Morris therefore wished to get in touch with Bolesy in order to square accounts of these tales. Randall Dean therefore consented to drive Morris to Bolesy Shifflett's home in Sun Valley. On the way to the home Morris noticed what he thought was Shifflett's car in the yard of Whit Crawford's; however, Randall Dean, his girl friend and Morris continued on the way to the Shifflett home. Finding no one present, Morris requested that Dean drive him to the home of Whit Crawford where he thought he had seen Shifflett's car. Crawford's home is located approximately twenty-five yards off of Route 33 east of Elkton. When the two returned to this home, one of Bolesy's children was playing near the gate. Morris called to the child and asked as to whether his father was visiting with the Crawford's. The child informed him that his father was there. Morris then left the car, staggered across the road and up to Crawford's home where he encountered Bolesy Shifflett. The two then became involved in an argument as to what Bolesy had told Morris's parents at their home in Stoney Point. Shifflett then stated that the information he had given Morris's parents was true and that he would repeat it to them again in front of the subject. Morris then informed Shifflett that he was "a damn good man" and inferred that he was going to beat Shifflett. Shifflett then struck Morris across the face knocking him down. This scene was witnessed by Whit Crawford, his wife, Randall Dean and Mrs. Shifflett, Mrs. Shifflett being the wife to Bolesy and sister to Morris. After Shifflett had struck Morris, Mrs. Shifflett attempted to get her husband to leave. At first he refused and then decided to leave. Morris in the mean while had gone up-stairs. Upon his return to the room where the argument had occurred, he inquired of the two Shifflett children as to where their father was. They stated that he had just left and was walking down the



path to the road (Route 33). Morris then left the house and ran after Shifflett. On the way he fired one shot. Upon encountering Shifflett and his wife a struggle occurred. Mr. and Mrs. Shifflett attempted to take the gun away from Morris. The three of them fell to the ground and during the tussle the shot was fired that fatally wounded Bolsey Shifflett. It is believed that during the scuffle that as many as four shots were fired. One is supposed to have passed near Randall Dean's truck where his girl friend, Miss Campbell, was seated.

After Shifflett's being fatally wounded, Randall Dean and the Crawford's ran to the scene of the shooting. Mrs. Crawford picked the gun up off the ground and threw it into a nearby field. Crawford and Dean grabbed Morris and informed him that he was to stay in the nearby car until the Sheriff arrived.

On October 23, Jerry Lee Morris entered a plea of guilty to the charge of Murder, 2nd degree. The evidence was heard by Judge Haas who pronounced the subject guilty. Morris was represented by Attorneys Charles Hammer and Sam Conrad.

PRIOR RECORD:

The following charges are listed on the Albemarle County Trial Justice Records against the subject:

9-4-35	Drunk	\$17.05 Fine and Cost
1-10-36	Drunk and disorderly; entered the home of Polly Collier	Acquitted
6-17-36	Using profane language and assaulting H. W. Herring with a pistol concealed on his person	Dismissed
11-10-36	Entering the home of Polly Collier and assaulting her with his fists	\$21.25 Fine and costs - 30 days jail
8-15-42	Assault on Robert Tate while in jail	\$25.00 Fine - 60 days suspended
8-17-42	Failure to appear in court	Forfeited bond of \$25.00
8-17-42	Contempt of court by failing to appear	\$5.00 Fine
7-24-43	Drunk and resisting arrest	\$10.00 fine - 60 days jail suspended
5-1-48	Drunk and assault	\$15.00 fine - 30 days suspended
8-14-48	Drunk and disorderly - indecent exposure	\$15.00 fine - 60 days suspended

There are also twenty-five arrests between 1939 and 1949 on charges of drunk. On the majority of these charges, the subject received a \$10.00 to \$15.00 fine and a 30-day sentence. All but four of the jail sentences were suspended. The Harrisonburg Police Records carry one charge of drunk against the subject for which he paid a fine of \$17.50. The Harrisonburg Police Department also have his F. B. I. Record which shows that he was arrested in Winchester on October 7, 1943 for drunk and disorderly conduct. He was given a six-months' sentence and ordered to pay the cost of court. Five days of the sentence was served. This record also shows that the subject was arrested in Martinsburg, West Virginia for being drunk and forfeited a \$7.50 bond.



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from Morris. The three of them fell to the ground and during the tussle the  
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during the scuffle that as many as four shots were fired. One is supposed  
to have passed near Randall Dean's truck where his girl friend, Miss Campbell,  
was seated.

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the subject guilty. Morris was represented by Attorneys Charles Hamner and  
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Entering the home of Polly Collier and assaulting her with his fists	6-17-36	Dismissed
Assault on Robert Tate while in jail	11-10-36	Dismissed
Failure to appear in court	8-15-42	\$21.25 fine and costs - 30 days jail
Contempt of court by failing to appear	8-17-42	\$25.00 fine - 60 days suspended
Drunk and resisting arrest	8-17-42	Forfeited bond of \$25.00
Drunk and assault	7-24-43	\$5.00 fine
Drunk and disorderly - indecent exposure	5-1-48	\$10.00 fine - 60 days jail suspended
	8-11-48	\$15.00 fine - 60 days suspended

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fine and a 30-day sentence. All but four of the jail sentences were suspended.  
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sentence and ordered to pay the cost of court. Five days of the sentence  
was served. This record also shows that the subject was arrested in Martins-  
burg, West Virginia for being drunk and forfeited a \$7.50 bond.



FAMILY HISTORY:

Jerry Lee Morris is the second in a family of four belonging to Houston and Florence Lilly Morris of Stoney Point, Virginia. The subject's parents who are now old and somewhat senile make a scant living on a small Albemarle County farm near Stoney Point. It is believed that the parents are of a fair reputation but it is known that in the early days of the father that he was arrested on a few drunk charges. Jerry Lee Morris has divided his time with living with his parents and travelling with various construction companies in the northwestern section of Virginia and parts of West Virginia. He married in 1930; however, his wife's maiden name is unknown. At the present time the wife uses the name of Frances Morris. Three children, Wilbert, Lilly and Sis were born to this marriage. Since the subject is obtaining a divorce from his wife in 1935, the children have made their home with their mother in Greene County. It is believed that this man obtained a sixth grade education through the Blue Ridge Industrial School in Greene County. As shown by his prior record, his reputation is of a doubtful nature due to his ill temper and frequent use of alcohol.

HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

At the time of the offense, the subject was boarding with Mr. Whit Crawford in a six-room frame house near Elkton, Virginia. This home is in the poorest state of repair and is occupied by approximately five people. Although the subject claims that he has lived the larger portion of his life with his parents, his father states that his visits were frequent but mostly for one or two months during the winter. The father's home is a four-room, two-floor stucco structure in a fair state of repair and located in a remote rural area. It is shared by the subject's parents, consists of approximately twenty-four acres of land which is devoted to the grazing of three cows and a small garden. Over half of the acreage is wooded and the father makes his living partly by cutting fire wood.

EDUCATION:

It is reported that the subject attended school for approximately ten years completing the sixth grade at the Blue Ridge Industrial School in Greene County.

RELIGION:

Though the subject attended an Episcopal School, he has no church affiliations.

INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

The only leisure time pursuits which were reported were that the subject participated in drinking sprees frequently.

HEALTH:

He is believed to be in a favorable state of health. Other than suffering with the usual childhood contagious diseases, his only serious illness was a broken collar bone. This occurred as a result of the subject's being drunk and falling from a horse.

EMPLOYMENT:

The man's family could not establish an exact employment record for him. However, they stated that he had worked as a truck driver, orchard laborer, sawmill laborer and as a general laborer for various construction concerns of Augusta and Albemarle Counties. At the time of the offense, he was employed by Mr. A. B. Torrence of Elkton, Virginia but working for a construction crew assigned to the Echoles Construction Company of Staunton, Virginia.



FAMILY HISTORY:

Jerry Lee Morris is the second in a family of four belonging to Newton and Florence Lilly Morris of Stony Point, Virginia. The subject's parents who are now old and somewhat senile make a scant living on a small Alabama County farm near Stony Point. It is believed that the parents are of a fair reputation but it is known that in the early days of the father that he was arrested on a few drunk charges. Jerry Lee Morris has divided his time with living with his parents and traveling with various construction companies in the northeastern section of Virginia and parts of West Virginia. He married in 1930; however, his wife's maiden name is unknown. At the present time the wife uses the name of Frances Morris. Three children, Wilbert, Lilly and she were born to this marriage. Since the subject is obtaining a divorce from his wife in 1935, the children have made their home with their mother in Greene County. It is believed that this man obtained a sixth grade education through the Blue Ridge Industrial School in Greene County. As shown by his prior record, his reputation is of a doubtful nature due to his ill temper and frequent use of alcohol.

HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD:

At the time of the offense, the subject was boarding with Mr. Will Crawford in a six-room frame house near Rickett, Virginia. This home is in the poorest state of repair and is occupied by approximately five people. Although the subject claims that he has lived the larger portion of his life with his parents, his father states that his wife were frequent but mostly for one or two months during the winter. The father's home is a four-room, two-floor stone structure in a fair state of repair and located in a remote rural area. It is shared by the subject's parents, consists of approximately twenty-four acres of land which is devoted to the raising of three cows and a small garden. Over half of the acreage is wooded and the father makes his living partly by cutting fire wood.

EDUCATION:

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INTERESTS AND ACTIVITIES:

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HEALTH:

He is believed to be in a favorable state of health. Other than suffering with the usual childhood contagious diseases, his only serious illness was a broken collar bone. This occurred as a result of the subject's being drunk and falling from a horse.

EMPLOYMENT:

The man's family could not establish an exact employment record for him. However, they stated that he had worked as a truck driver, orchard laborer, sawmill laborer and as a general laborer for various construction concerns of Augusta and Albemarle Counties. At the time of the offense, he was employed by Mr. A. B. Torrence of Albemarle County, Virginia, working for a construction crew assigned to the Beales Construction Company of Stanton, Virginia.



Jerry Lee Morris

Page 4

RESOURCES:

This man has no resources other than a few personal belongings of little value.

SUMMARY:

Jerry Lee Morris, fifty-two years of age, white, divorced, entered a plea of guilty to murder, 2nd degree of his brother-in-law, William T. Shifflett. He was pronounced guilty of this charge on October 23 after waiving a jury and appearing before Judge Hamilton Haas of the Rockingham Circuit Court. Between 1935 and 1950, this man compiled a record of thirty-four charges in Rockingham and Albemarle Counties. He has lived the larger portion of his life in this vicinity where he has been employed chiefly as a construction worker. It is believed that he married in 1930 and was divorced in 1935. The marriage was uncongenial due to his failure to support properly his wife and three children. Morris has a sixth grade education and though he attended an Episcopal School, he is not affiliated with any religious organization. It is believed that he is in a favorable state of health. His most serious injury has been a collar bone fracture as result of a fall from the back of a horse. This man has an unstable employment record due to his many arrests and jail confinements.

PLAN:

Due to the nature and circumstances of the offense, no plan or recommendation is offered as to probationary treatment.

Respectfully yours,

Milton O. Culpepper  
Probation and Parole Officer

MCC/AEE



This man has no resources other than a few personal belongings of little value.

RESOURCES:

SUMMARY:

Jerry Lee Morris, fifty-two years of age, white, divorced, entered a plea of guilty to murder, 2nd degree of his brother-in-law, William T. Shifflett. He was pronounced guilty of this charge on October 23 after waiting a jury and appearing before Judge Hamilton Haas of the Rockingham Circuit Court. Between 1935 and 1950, this man compiled a record of thirty-four charges in Rockingham and Albemarle Counties. He has lived the larger portion of his life in this vicinity where he has been employed chiefly as a construction worker. It is believed that he married in 1930 and was divorced in 1935. The marriage was uncongenial due to his failure to support properly his wife and three children. Morris has a sixth grade education and though he attended an Episcopal School, he is not affiliated with any religious organization. It is believed that he is in a favorable state of health. His most serious injury has been a collar bone fracture as result of a fall from the back of a horse. This man has an unstable employment record due to his many arrests and jail confinements.

Due to the nature and circumstances of the offense, no plan or recommendation is offered as to probationary treatment.

PLAN:

Respectfully yours,

Milton O. Gilpepper  
Probation and Parole Officer

MOORE



Filed in the Clerk's Office  
Rockingham County, Va.  
OCT 23 1950

*J. Robert Switzer* Clerk

Harrisonburg, Virginia  
October 23, 1950

Honorable Hamilton Haas, Judge  
Circuit Court of Rockingham County  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

In Re: Jerry Lee Morris

Dear Judge Haas:

Upon examining the above named defendant, in reviewing his account of second degree murder of William T. Shifflett, I could not detect any extenuating circumstances which would allow me to recommend probationary treatment to the Rockingham County Circuit Court.

Respectfully yours,

*M. O. Culpepper*

M. O. Culpepper, Probation Officer



Filed in the Clerk's Office  
Rockingham County, Va.  
OCT 23 1950  
*J. R. [Signature]*  
Clerk

Harrisonburg, Virginia  
October 23, 1950

Honorable Hamilton Hass, Judge  
Circuit Court of Rockingham County  
Harrisonburg, Virginia

In Re: Jerry Lee Morris

Dear Judge Hass:

Upon examining the above named defendant, in reviewing his account of second degree murder of William T. Shifflett, I could not detect any extenuating circumstances which would allow me to recommend probationary treatment to the Rockingham County Circuit Court.

Respectfully yours,

*M. O. Culpepper*

M. O. Culpepper, Probation Officer



In the Name of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

To the Sheriff of Rockingham County, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to summon Mrs. W. T. Shifflet, Whit Crawford,  
Mrs. Whit Crawford, and B. L. Kiser

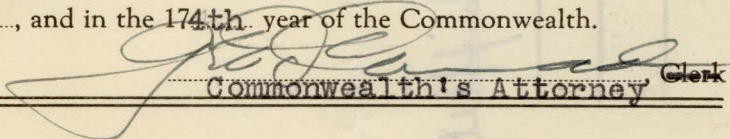
to appear before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, at the Court House thereof,  
at ~~10:00~~<sup>9:00</sup> o'clock, a. m., on the 23rd day of October 1950,  
to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against.....

JERRY LEE MORRIS

who stands charged with and indicted for a felony ~~misdemeanor~~.

And this you shall not omit under penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, ~~J. ROBERT SWITZER, Clerk of our said Court,~~ at the Court House, the 19th  
day of October, 1950, and in the 174th year of the Commonwealth.

  
Commonwealth's Attorney Clerk



In the Name of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

To the Sheriff of Rockingham County, Greeting:

You are hereby commanded to summon Mrs. W. T. Shifflet, Whit Crawford,  
Mrs. Whit Crawford, and B. L. Kiser

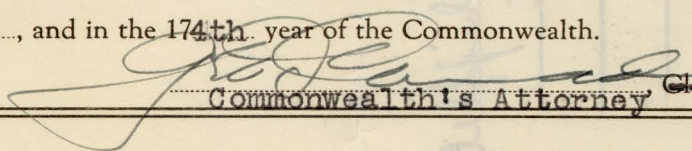
to appear before the Judge of the Circuit Court of Rockingham County, at the Court House thereof,  
at ~~10:00~~<sup>7:00</sup> o'clock, a. m., on the 23rd day of October 19 50,  
to testify and the truth to say in behalf of the Commonwealth against

JERRY LEE MORRIS

who stands charged with and indicted for a felony ~~misdemeanor~~.

And this you shall not omit under penalty of £100. And have then and there this Writ.

Witness, ~~J. ROBERT SWITZER, Clerk of our said Court,~~ at the Court House, the 19th  
day of October, 19 50, and in the 174th year of the Commonwealth.

  
Commonwealth's Attorney Clerk



COMMONWEALTH VS. Jerry Lee Morris

DESCRIPTION OF PRISONER

Last known address Stony Point Va  
Color N- Height 5-5 Eyes Blue Hair Br Weight 120  
Marks O.P.  
Age 40 Occupation Farming  
Date of Trial 10/23/50  
Result 20 yrs. - 2nd degree murder



COMMONWEALTH vs Jerry Lee Johnson

DESCRIPTION OF PRISONER

Last known address Manly Point, Va

Color tan Height 5-8 Eyes blue Hair black Weight 120

Marks None

Age 30 Occupation Farmer

Date of Trial 10/25/57

Result Life Imprisonment



Unit.....STATE.....

### Prisoners Report of Rockingham County Jail

Name Jerry Lee Morris Date Put in R. Co. Jail 8-7-50

Address .....

Male  Female..... Age 40 Race white Single..... Married..... Divorced

Separated..... Widow..... Widower..... Illiterate..... Gr. School  High Sch.....

Vocational..... College..... Drug Addict..... Inebriate..... Occupation Labor

Employed..... Reason for Being in Jail Awaiting trial

Reason for Release from Jail .....

Amount of Fine..... Cost..... Sentence Time 20 yrs - 2nd degree

State  County..... City..... Town.....

Federal..... Army..... Navy..... Others.....

Offense ..... Fel.

Miscellaneous ..... ABC..... Ins.....

Date Committed..... Date of Trial..... Date of Release.....

Court Committed From ..... Type of Court.....

Transferred from..... Transferred To.....

Reason for Transfer .....

Physical Condition ..... Contagious Disease, If Any.....

..... Deputy and Jailer

..... Sheriff

Handwritten calculation:  
25  
30  
23  
---  
78



Unit SWAFF

# Prisoners Report of Rockingham County Jail

Name Jerry Lee Morris Date Put in 6-7-50  
R. Co. Jail

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Male  Female  Age 40 Race White Single  Married  Divorced

Separated  Widower  Illiterate  Gr. School  High Sch. \_\_\_\_\_

Vocational \_\_\_\_\_ College \_\_\_\_\_ Drug Addict \_\_\_\_\_ Inebriate \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation Labor

Employed \_\_\_\_\_ Reason for Being in Jail Awaiting trial

Reason for Release from Jail \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Fine \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_ Sentence Time 30 days - 40 days

State  County \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_

Federal \_\_\_\_\_ Army \_\_\_\_\_ Navy \_\_\_\_\_ Others \_\_\_\_\_

Offense \_\_\_\_\_ Fed.

Miscellaneous \_\_\_\_\_ ABC \_\_\_\_\_ Ins. \_\_\_\_\_

Date Committed \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Trial \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Release \_\_\_\_\_

Court Committed From \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Court \_\_\_\_\_

Transferred from \_\_\_\_\_ Transferred To \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for Transfer \_\_\_\_\_

Physical Condition \_\_\_\_\_ Contagious Disease, If Any \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy and Jailor \_\_\_\_\_

Sheriff \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten signature/initials*



BOX 238  
STAUNTON, VIRGINIA

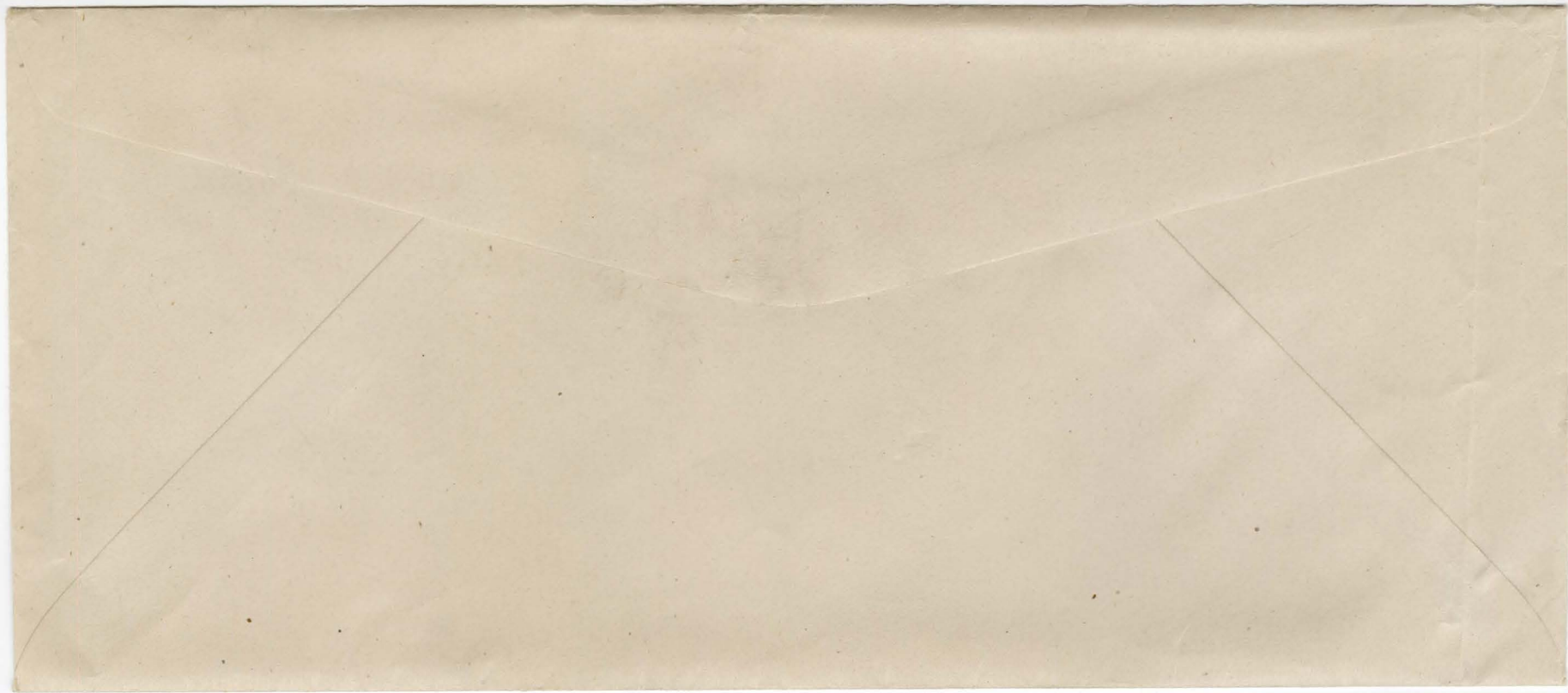
Cam' to my  
v.  
Jerry Lee Thomas

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Pr-Structure de vs by a ha  
File in Paper

Hon. Hamilton Haas, Judge  
Circuit Court of Rockingham County  
Harrisonburg, Virginia







TRIAL JUSTICE COURT

Criminal  
Docket

Nº 5957 A

Com'th

v.

*Jerry Lee Morris*  
Defendant

*a w*

Appearance date 8-8-50

Trial Date

\*\*\*\*\*

8-8-50

Plea Not Guilty - Preliminary hearing  
waived and Defendant held for Grand Jury.

\*\*\*\*\*

AW-1 T53