



[2]

Victim - [redacted]
Accused: Lower
Fr.

MEMORANDUM

To: File

From: Anthony Fowler, Criminal Investigator

Re: Diocese of Manchester
FR. LOWER [redacted]

Date: December 30, 2002

After learning of FATHER LOWER'S apparent suicide, called CAPT. HAL BROWN who is a police officer in KEENE and a part-time ME in Cheshire County who handled the LOWER unattended death. BROWN indicated the body located was in fact LOWER-6/19/45 and the suicide occurred probably on 12/28/02. The body was found on 12/29/02 in a wooded area. A suicide note was located with the body, along with a diet Pepsi and prescription drugs. The actual location of the body was off BOG RD. in ENFIELD, NH, which is an area where LOWER grew up.

BROWN stated the body was found leaned up against a tree (sitting down) app. 100 yards into the woods and LOWER was dressed for being outside. He was carrying a zip up pouch that contained the drugs Oxycontin, Endocet, Xantac, and Vioxx. It is believed the drugs were used to overdose and cause his death. There also was a large address book located with the body, which contained the suicide note, and a pencil was found near the body, which was used to write the note, as LOWER sat under the tree.

BROWN indicated the extremities of the body were frozen, as was the head, which would be consistent with LOWER being there app. one day. The suicide note is difficult to read, and due to the evidence, it would appear LOWER was writing the note as he was taking the pills. Asked BROWN to send me a copy of the suicide note. Have received the note and is attached to this memorandum. Also learned from BROWN that the NEW LONDON POLICE have a short note, which was found in LOWER'S residence written on a small note pad. Called NEW LONDON PD and also received a copy of this note, which is attached to this memorandum.

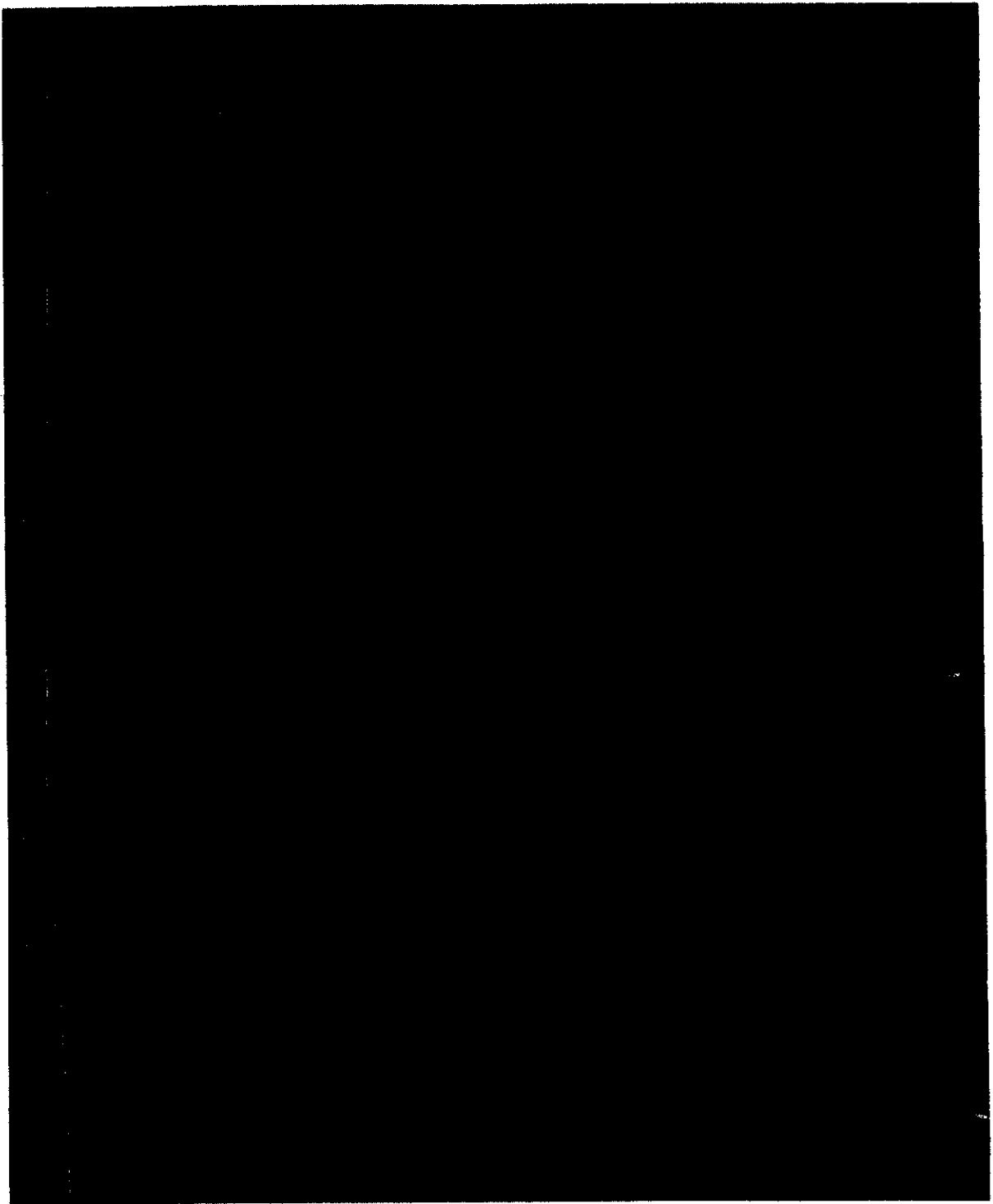
From: "Hal Brown" <hbrown@ci.keene.nh.us>
To: <afowler@doj.state.nh.us>
Date: 12/30/02 2:35PM
Subject: Richard Lower suicide note

Hi Tony,

I edited the original image by rotating the image 90 degree left — so that you don't have to break your neck reading this!

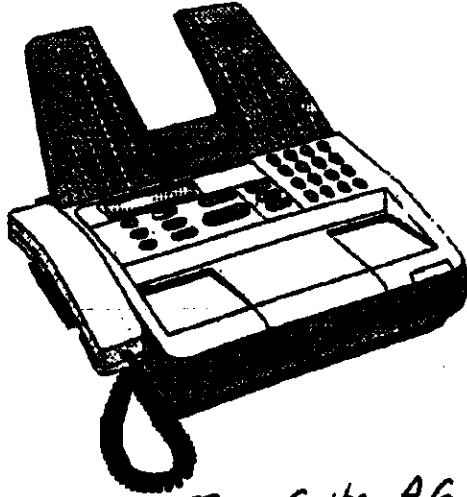
All the best, -Hal

Capt. Hal G. Brown - Investigation Division
City of Keene Police Department
11 Washington St. Keene NH 03431
EMAIL: hbrown@ci.keene.nh.us
PHONE: (603)357-9820 FAX: (206)600-6415
POLICE WEB SITE: www.ci.keene.nh.us/police/





NEW LONDON POLICE DEPARTMENT
New London, New Hampshire



FAX
TRANSMITTAL

To: NH. office of the A.G.
Ron Fowler
Fax No. 271-2110
Subject: Note
Total Pages: 2 w/ cover
Date: 12/30/02
From: Sgt. KINZER
Message:

Telephone No.
(603) 526-2626

Fax No.
(603) 526-2782

Tony,

*Here is the note. Give me a
call so I know it got there ok.*

Thanks
CEL

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I love
you and
am sorry
The time will
set us free

Tony, I have been asked to follow up with you about any investigation regarding Father Lower, the priest from New London who passed away a few weeks ago. We have heard from members of his family that they heard rumors that law enforcement investigating the allegations believe the victim has recanted. I called Officer Keaveney at the Littleton PD who says that they haven't pursued any investigation in light of father's passing. Has your office heard anything about this which you can share with us? I'd like to be able to clarify this for the family if possible. Thanks for your help. Ovide Ovide M. Lamontagne

Devine, Millimet & Branch PA

111 Amherst St. - PO Box 719

Manchester, NH 03105-0719

(603) 695-8516 Fax (603) 669-8547

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603-669-1000.

From: Anthony Fowler
To: Lamontagne, Ovide
Date: 1/23/03 8:44AM
Subject: Re: Father Lower

Ovide,

I checked with Will and I can tell you that we do not have any information that the alleged Lower victim has recanted. Perhaps you can find the source of the information to follow-up on. If Law Enforcement and our office doesn't know this, it probably is just rumor. We have not spoken to the victim.

Tony

>>> "Ovide Lamontagne" <OMLAMONTAGNE@dmb.com> 01/23/03 08:38AM >>>
Tony,

I have been asked to follow up with you about any investigation regarding Father Lower, the priest from New London who passed away a few weeks ago. We have heard from members of his family that they heard rumors that law enforcement investigating the allegations believe the victim has recanted. I called Officer Keaveney at the Littleton PD who says that they haven't pursued any investigation in light of father's passing. Has your office heard anything about this which you can share with us? I'd like to be able to clarify this for the family if possible.

Thanks for your help.

Ovide

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