

MEMORANDUM OF INTERVIEW

PERSON INTERVIEWED: ARTHUR WARDLE  
PLACE OF INTERVIEW: [REDACTED]  
INTERVIEWED BY: Sergeant Brenda Blonigan *amb/83*  
Detective Brooke Lemoine *AL*  
DATE OF INTERVIEW: September 9, 2002  
RE: FATHER GORDON MACRAE

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BB: I am Sergeant Brenda Blonigan of the Rockingham County Sheriff's Department and today's date is Monday, the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 2002, and we are at 61 Mill Road in Hampton, New Hampshire. With us today is Arthur Wardle, W-A-R-D-E-L-L whose date of birth [REDACTED] and Arthur this interview is being tape recorded and are you aware that it's being tape recorded?

AW: Yes.

BB: And do you have any objections to it being tape recorded?

AW: No.

BB: And also in the room is Detective Brooke Lemoine from Nashua Police Department. Um. So I misspelled your name, it's W-A-R-D-L-E, that's good to know. Um, Arthur today I'm here, we have discussed prior to, ah, turning the tape on about an individual by the name of a [REDACTED] and his involvement with a priest by the name of Gordon MacRae.

AW: Hm, hm.

BB: Ah, and do you remember back when you were a police officer in Hampton, New Hampshire, when did you retire from Hampton?

AW: January 1<sup>st</sup>, '95.

BB: So you were a police officer there from when?

- AW: Full time in May of '76 to January 1<sup>st</sup>, '95.
- BB: Okay, and so you were there in nineteen in approximately 1983 you were working as a poli, ah, police officer or a detective then?
- AW: I was still in uniform in '83.
- BB: Okay, and do you remember, ah, a report or some investigation coming to you regarding Gordon MacRae and a [REDACTED]?
- AW: Yes.
- BB: Okay could you tell me about that?
- AW: It was, information received and I don't know where it came from.
- BB: Okay.
- AW: That an incident had been, ah, reported, ah, investigated and resolved involving a priest from the Hampton church and this [REDACTED].
- BB: Okay and do you remember the name of the priest?
- AW: Gordon MacRae.
- BB: Okay and do you remember who the report came from?
- AW: Um, no, I don't know, ah, when it came by phone or, but how it got there.
- BB: Was it from Social Services, was it from another police agency?
- AW: I spoke to Social Services and I spoke to someone in the Attorney General's Office. Ah. But I don't know where it originated.
- BB: And do you remember the names of the people that you spoke with at all?
- AW: No clue.
- BB: No. Okay. And what do you remember had been reported with, ah, [REDACTED]?
- AW: That. There was, ah, had been inappropriate touching by this priest to [REDACTED], or, on [REDACTED].
- BB: Okay.

- AW: Ah. Probably I think at the church.
- BB: Okay.
- AW: And, the matter had been reported, to someone. But, ah, resolved and then. I don't know where after that.
- BB: Now do you ever remember speaking with [REDACTED] parents?
- AW: Yes I spoke with [REDACTED] and I believe I spoke with his parents at the same time at the house.
- BB: Okay. Do you remember what the gist of that conversation was?
- AW: I think mostly about him being touched, ah, at the parish or at the rectory. And, the parents' concern for, that they wanted either MacRae or the church, I think it was the church they kept referring, to apologize, for the incidents.
- BB: So when they were talking to you, did it sound as though they had maybe in contact with the church or had spoken with someone from the church?
- AW: I got the im, I got the impression that they had been in contact with the Diocese.
- BB: Okay.
- AW: And I think because they, were asking about an apology and I got the impression that they were waiting for one, they hadn't received it.
- BB: Do you remember about how old [REDACTED] was at the time? Was he like?
- AW: No.
- BB: In grade school, was he in maybe junior high or high school?
- AW: No I have no idea.
- BB: No idea? Okay.
- AW: Of the age.
- BB: Okay.
- BL: Would you say he was a juvenile?

- AW: Oh ya he was under eighteen.
- BL: Okay, ah. Over, older than ten?
- AW: Probably.
- BL: Okay. But definitely under the eight, under eighteen?
- AW: Ya I would say, ya. Ah. I don't know when these allegations originally occurred.
- BB: Right.
- AW: And I don't know how. How they came back to us.
- BB: Okay. Do you remember whether or not you did a re, a police report or anything like that?
- AW: I know I had notes. And I, and I don't, I don't know if I did a formal report but they never received it but to think that it was a, hm, a new case it was something had been reported and resolved and, it was over.
- BB: Okay. Um. Do you ever remember speaking with a, um, detective from Keene?
- AW: Ah, have the name was mentioned ya, ah.
- BB: Jim McLaughlin?
- AW: Whether he called or I called I don't know but ya. And I did speak to him.
- BB: Okay, do you have any idea of what the gist of that conversation was or?
- AW: Probably about MacRae.
- BB: Okay.
- AW: I don't know. I don't know specific questions or answers or dates.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: I figured it'd be about MacRae.
- BB: Did you at anytime contact the church do you remember?

AW: No I, I didn't contact the church.

BB: Okay.

BL: Do you remember what church it was, that the allegation came out of? You mentioned a church and, and a rectory.

AW: In Hampton.

BL: Okay.

BB: Do you not know what the name of it is?

BL: What church?

AW: The church would be, ah, it would Miraculous Medal.

BB: Okay.

BL: Okay.

BB: That's on route one?

AW: Yup.

BL: Miraculous Manner?

AW: Medal.

BB: Medal.

BL: Medal.

AW: M-E-D-A-L.

BL: Okay.

AW: That's the only Catholic church.

BL: Do you remember who the pastor was there, ah, Arthur?

AW: I don't know when that was but we haven't been to that church with the exception of two funerals since '83. I don't know.

BB: In '83, who would have been the pastor?

AW: I don't know.

BB: You don't remember?

AW: No.

BL: Have you ever spoken with or, or met, ah, Gordon MacRae? Had any contact with him?

AW: I think when he first came here he had a mass at, at the church and I think I was present for the mass, ah, the whole family had gone. And I was probably, I think I was there when he gave that mass. But, other than that contact very hardly stand out back and shake hands going out, other than that, no.

BL: So you didn't have any, any dealing with Gordon MacRae when this allegation came in involving [REDACTED]

AW: No.

BL: You spoke with [REDACTED] parents and you had some conversation with them.

AW: Yup.

BL: And I believe you said one thing that you remember was that the church you said that the family was looking for an apology from the church and you eve, believe that they had, had conversation with the church regarding this? Okay, um. And you had some conversation with, with [REDACTED] himself?

AW: Yup spoke to [REDACTED].

BL: Okay. And did he make any, any disclosure of any, any specifics of the sexual assault that he was the victim of?

AW: Just, inappropriate touching. Inappropriate touching is this, what he said he didn't say anything about any, any further beyond that.

BB: So he didn't go into details about what type of touching it was?

AW: I don't think, no.

BL: But he did say it happened in the rectory of the, of the church.

AW: In, in the rectory, ya.

- BL: Okay. Did he, do you remember if he said it was, it happened on multiple occasions or was it just a single act or?
- AW: No I think, I think it was probably more than one.
- BL: More than one? Okay.
- AW: I'd say.
- BL: Um, but did he, did he say anything to you, ah, was it during a sleepover at the rectory or, what kind of an event that had taken place, ah, at the church that he was at?
- AW: No. I just don't know. Priest might be visiting I don't know, I don't remember he said anything about that. Sleepover or anything.
- BL: Do you remember if, if [REDACTED] was emotional at all? Ah, when he, when he told you this did, did he?
- AW: I think he didn't, he didn't cry or anything of that nature.
- BL: He didn't?
- AW: No he didn't. And I'd, I'd met everyone prior to that so I don't know.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: How to judge how emotional he would have been.
- BL: Was there anybody else at the, ah, Hampton police that was referred to, ah, or, or spoke with [REDACTED] or each of, did any other formalized interviews of, of [REDACTED] or anybody else in the, the family?
- AW: Not that I'm aware of because.
- BL: You'd be the only person that, that handled the matter?
- AW: Because. In 1983 I was still on patrol and I don't know why I wound up getting involved in this thing in the first place when I should have been into detectives. The guy that was back there in juveniles is deceased so I don't know what happened prior to 1983. And I don't even know when these allegations allegedly came.
- BB: Right.

BL: Excuse me why don't we go off tape.

BB: Go off tape.

AW: Excuse me.

BB: We're back on tape and it is 1:10 p.m.

AW: Ah, what was your question?

BL: Ah, I was trying to, ah, find out if there was anyone else at the Hampton police that.

AW: Oh.

BL: Had any contact with [REDACTED] regarding this case?

AW: No.

BL: And you'd, you'd given me an answer that the juvenile detective, ah, was deceased?

AW: He's deceased now but.

BL: Okay.

AW: Wasn't then.

BL: What was his name? What's his name?

AW: Joe McDonough.

BL: Joe.

AW: Joseph McDonough.

BL: Okay.

AW: But, ah. Again it would, it would, it would depend on when these first allegations were, may have resolved what year was that?

BB: It was about, it was approximately 1983. When, the incident occurred as well as was reported, it was reported about, ah, November of nine, of '83.

AW: First time?



- BB: The first time, correct.
- AW: November of '83 Joe was still back there in detectives.
- BB: Okay. So you, but you don't remember whether anyone else was involved in talking with?
- AW: No.
- BB: [REDACTED] or the family?
- BL: Do you remember if the, ah, the family said anything to you, to? Obviously they called the police. Police goes out to the house to talk with them. Did they say anything to you at all about whether or not they had any kind of a, a legal basis to or anywhere they could charge Father MacRae with a crime, was there any, any discussion about that or did?
- AW: Ah.
- BL: Did they share any information with you about any, any, any information they got from the Diocese about the possibility that Father MacRae could be arrested?
- AW: Hm.
- BL: Nothing like, nothing like that you can remember?
- AW: Hm, I can, not to come, no.
- BL: But you remember them saying something about, ah, apology, they were looking for an apology from the church.
- AW: They want, they were adamant about an apology, they would, they, they wanted an apology.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: That, that stuck in my mind very clearly, that that's. That would have seemed to be, ah, that they got the apology they would have been satisfied. That's, that's the impression I got.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: That they would have been happy with that.

- BL: Oh hm. And, and you were also under the impression that, that, that the, the case had been resolved. And it was.
- AW: Yup.
- BL: Be, there was no furtherance on your part, it was done?
- AW: Cuz of the fam, family. Social Services and the Attorney General's Office were, ah, had resolved the issue.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: And it went away and then somehow it came back and I don't know whether, I don't know who contacted the PD, ah, I just don't know.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: I don't know whether they contacted the PD or the Social Services contacted the PD, who contacted the PD. Ya.
- BB: So you just remember getting sent out to their house to talk to them?
- AW: I remember getting involved in it and, and again I was in November of '83 I was still on patrol.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: Ah.
- BL: And as far as the contact you had later on with Detective McLaughlin from Keene, you believe that he may have initiated that contact with you or did you call him?
- AW: Oh boy. Probably think he called me.
- BL: Okay.
- AW: Ah. (Unintelligible).
- BL: I'm trying to, what I'm trying to establish is that if he knew to call you and ask for you, how would he have gotten your name and how would he have connected you to that incident unless there was some kind of?
- AW: Contact before I don't know when did.

- BL: Ya right.
- AW: When did MacRae leave the church here?
- BB: Um, in June of '83. He left the church.
- AW: So he left in June of '83.
- BB: Right and the allegations were made after he had left.
- AW: Hm.
- BL: Ya right.
- BB: The church.
- AW: And he went from here to Keene?
- BB: To Keene. Yes.
- AW: Well I don't know that's a good (unintelligible) I don't know whether.
- BL: Is, is it possible, possible that you did do some kind of a report and, ah?
- AW: I could have. You know? I could have I know took notes on, ya I may have. Ah, if Keene got it then, then, that, that would explain how to, they got in touch. But how would I know to call Keene?
- BB: But you don't remember doing a report?
- AW: No, cuz it, they never became a case for us.
- BB: Okay.
- AW: I mean basically it's like, hm, it's like lightning something up but said nothing happened.
- BL: Would, would you do a report in Hampton, ah, labeled possible police information or something that would just be, is not necessarily.
- AW: Like an information thing only.
- BL: Initiating an investigation but just.

- AW: Like an information thing?
- BL: Ya.
- AW: I don't know. Ah. Well I guess it depended on the type of case I don't know, you know.
- BB: Eh, to the best of your recollection, did you ever have contact with that [REDACTED] before that?
- AW: No.
- BB: Okay would it, what about after do you ever remember having contact with him after?
- AW: No cuz you said he went to a different school.
- BB: He went to, ah, St. Thomas.
- AW: Ya so I, I don't recall any contact afterwards.
- BB: Okay.
- AW: Ah. Ah. No, no, no.
- BB: I don't have any other questions.
- BL: I'm all set. Thank you.
- BB: The time is 1:20 p.m. and I will be turning the tape off.

**END OF SIDE A, END OF TAPE**

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