

BRADY'S DEMISE

by

Murray Dobbin

Transcribed by David Morin

Alleged facts:

Brady and Halkett had left their tent with the intention of staying away only a couple of hours. Meat was left out unprotected (check Knox tape)

They had with them an ax (sic) and the geiger counter

They did not take bed rolls or food with them

They headed off in the direction they would have gone had they been on the right lake. They were traced part way around that lake

The RCMP searched for them on the assumption that they were lost in the bush _ not on the assumption that they had been killed or were yet dead

They were not aware during the first day that they were on the wrong lake _ they radioed Rottenstone and had light conversation

Disputed details:

They built a raft and tried to use it to cross a lake in the direction of Rottenstone (disputed: old or newly built raft)

They travelled in the direction of upper Foster lake (sic)

"X" was guiding on the lake for Gary Thompson

"X" murdered his father _ body never found

Jim was having an "affair" with "X's" mother. "X"'s claim that Jim was panning (sic) to marry his mother

Investigate:

Deetails (sic) of "X"'s father's death _ was it a shooting accident, drowning; did the body disappear, did the RCMP investigate the death?

"X"'s history:

is he a violent man, a lot of fights, threats of violence, etc

is/was he a loner _ does he have any close friend, did he have when the incident happened?

has he changed since Brady disappeared _ more withdrawn?

did he/does he have a habit of exaggerating stories in order to build himself up in other people's eyes, is he known as a bullshitter or does he usually tell the truth

Brady's alleged connection with "X"'s mother

The details of the murder theory:

Is there any evidence to indicate that the two men headed off in the direction of Upper foster? Would they have headed in this direction or would they have more likely headed for Rotten?

Was "X" guiding for someone? Who? If he was not would he have any reason for being on that lake at that time on his own; his trap line, moose hunting?

If he was guiding who would it be that he was separated from his client(s) _ who were his clients (sic) and how would he have explained the shots?

If he was not guiding how would he have got to U F lake (sic) in the first place? Is it possible to get there other than by plane and would it be likely that he would take a _____ day canoe trip to get there?

Is this foster lake area a prime hunting fishing area; on whose trap line is it?

When did "X" return from the FL area? How did he return? If he returned by plane who picked him up _ if he was guiding for Thompson did he pick him up? How long a trip by canoe (sic) from FL to Otter?

When was "X" first seen by people after it was known that B (Brady) was lost?

When did "X" first tell his story of the murder _ before or after the search began? How long after?

Did "X" help in the search in any way? Was he asked to help?

Was "X" antagonistic to Jims (sic) political views or hostile for any other reasons?

Any proof that "X" had a gun with him on FL; would a guide normally take a gun with him in June?

BRADY'S DEATH

Other theories:

That they were) old men and no longer as strong) not excellent bush men Halkett notorious for getting lost Brady not wanting to bother anyone so didn't start a fire until it was too late Concl: they perished from exposure starvation

assessment: unlikely that the two men simply laid down and died without making some effort to secure a rescue No matter how weak they would have found a lake and made themselves (sic) visible somehow

A variation on the above Two freak accidents The men are carrying guns or gun One is accidentally killed by a gun shot (sic) while the men are trying to make it back to rottenstone Halkett is the survivor _ he panics and takes off into the bush _ he gets completely turned around despair over Brady's death incapacitates him until he is too weak to continue Or Halkett himself meets with an accident _ he breaks a leg or has a heart attack

Further variations on the above theme _ through some such freak accidents the two men are separated One would likely die before the other as it can be safely assumed that if one became injured the other would not leave him but would try and get him to the nearest lake

assessment of & : Unlikely that one of them would be accidentally (sic) shot Both men have experience with guns Ohter (sic) freak accident are more likely falling tree broken neck from a fall heart attack All these defy the odds but then no more so than any other explanation _ i e the murder theory

One man is incapacitated by injury and the other travels what he thinks is a short distance to attract (sic) attention He fails to do so and then is unable to find his partner In despair he keeps searching for him instead of trying to save himself Eventually in a weakened state (they carried no food with them he hasn't bothered to find food) he simply lies down and dies _ perhaps the despair is so great he loses his will to live

assessment: As above it is difficult to assess without more intimate knowledge of the two men Brady was a very practical man _ if he were the healthy one of the two the theory is less credible Even with more data cannot predict what people will do under such stress

Accident plus suicide One man is accidentally (sic) killed due to carelessness by the other The second man after no luck in finding his way kills himself

assessment: very unlikely Both men very stable Both have firm beliefs about the world around them and are emotionally stable as a result Planned suicide is even less likely by the same logic

Freak accident claims both men's lives Possible accidents could include: drowning while trying to make it across a lake by makeshift raft; being attacked by mother bear and left unable to continue they die of exposure et ;
assessment: need more data but this seems the least likely of all

Summary of theories:

Die of starvation/exposure without trying to attract attention _ or possibly they did try in the first few days but died quickly

Each man meets his death or incapacitating injury separately through freak accidents of some kind

One man perishes in freak accident and the second dies of exposure trying to find his way

Suicide plays some decisive role

Both die or critically injured by some freak occurrence that besets them simultaneously

Both men are murdered by "X"

General conclusion:

The two men had to have met with some dramatic incident The time of year and ample water make it unlikely that they would have perished in less than two weeks The search started after eight days _ ample time for the searchers to have found them if they were healthy and able to attract attention

The evidence against murder:

the (sic) only evidence found of the two men suggests that when they realized that they were lost they headed in an eastern or south easterly direction _ headed for Rottenstone This conflicts directly with "X"'s story that he shot two men from the high rock slopes at the north eastern shore of upper foster lake (sic)

It would have illogical for them to travel in the direction of upper foster lake (sic) _ unless they were trying to reach the north end of middle foster to facilitate their rescue

If "X" claims he shot the two men within a day of their set down it makes the story less plausible _ it would have taken them at least a day to reach the spot

The odds against "X" running into the men unless he was on lower foster (sic) at the same time is remote Also unlikely is that he would have made the decision to murder them on the spur of the moment

Lack of evidence at this point that there was sufficient motive for "X" to kill two men
Only motive is the thing with Jim and his mother (yet to be proven)

The evidence supporting murder:

"X"'s story and his admission that he was in the area at the time

In the absence of other dramatic explanation this theory is more compelling than the simple exposure theory

The motive _ Jim's affair with "X"'s mother

Bens (sic) personality If "X" did kill fathre (sic) and was a feared man this lend credibility to the theory

"X"'s recent statement that Jim wanted to marry his mother Thi (sic) is unlikely and tends to look like an attempted cover up by X

The failure of the many searchers to find the bodies suggests that they may have been disposed of deliberatley (sic)

(Editor's note "X" was provided with a name in the original document Since the case was never solved the Gabriel Dumont Institute decided not to reveal this person's name