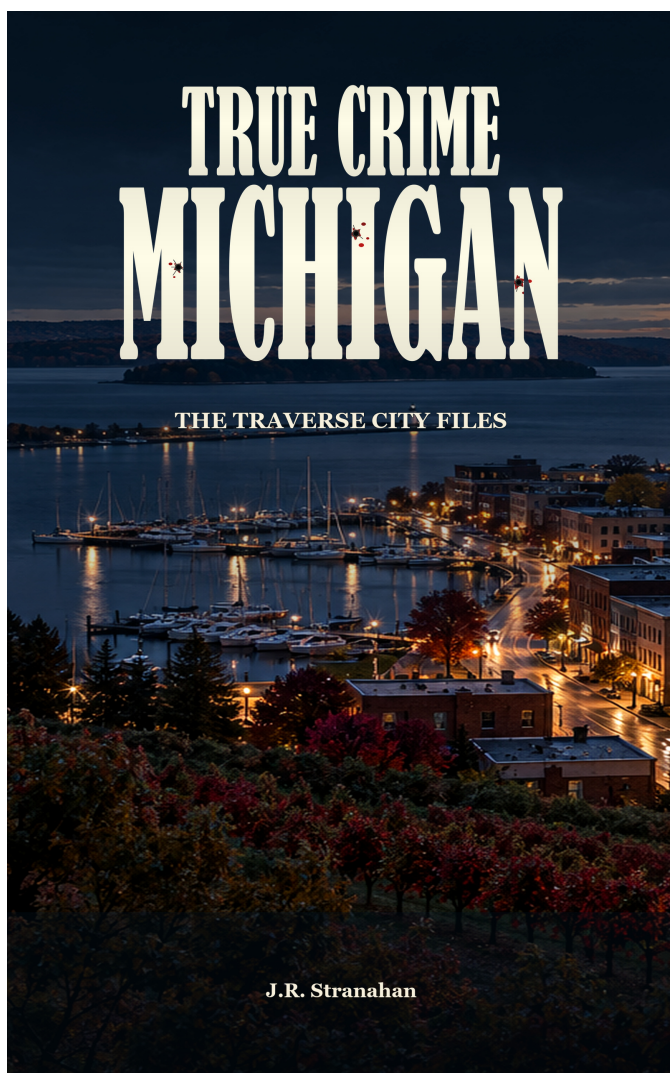


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File 1: The Robison Family Murders

Place and period: Good Hart, 1968-present

Present legal status: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

This file belongs first to Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

The Robison family was killed at a secluded Lake Michigan cottage. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Robison Family Murders. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. In Good Hart, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

For Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. The delay before discovery complicated the scene and timeline. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with

the absence. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1968-present record from Good Hart contains a point that resists shorthand: Investigators focused on business associate Joseph Scolaro. The present legal posture is equally specific: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Prosecutors considered charges, but Scolaro died before adjudication. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Good Hart determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1968-present marks the span over which the public learned it. A prosecutorial theory is not a conviction and the case remains legally unresolved. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: The Robison family was killed at a secluded Lake Michigan cottage. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community

that had to live with the absence. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. The delay before discovery complicated the scene and timeline. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives.

The first account

By the time The Robison Family Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Prosecutors considered charges, but Scolaro died before adjudication. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. A prosecutorial theory is not a conviction and the case remains legally unresolved. That proposition is consequential on its own. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Good Hart.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: The Robison family was killed at a secluded Lake Michigan cottage. The source may recount an

allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: The delay before discovery complicated the scene and timeline. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1968-present. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Investigators focused on business associate Joseph Scolaro. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Good Hart. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Prosecutors considered charges, but Scolaro died before adjudication. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

What happened to Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. A prosecutorial theory is not a conviction and the case

remains legally unresolved. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. The delay before discovery complicated the scene and timeline. In the Good Hart record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Investigators focused on business associate Joseph Sclaro. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1968-present. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. The legal status is reported in its own terms: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time The Robison Family Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Prosecutors considered charges, but Scolaro died before adjudication. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations; a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

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The courtroom

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. A prosecutorial theory is not a conviction and the case remains legally unresolved. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. An appellate court tests legal error and the governing record, not whether judges would retell the case the same way. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives privately thought.

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. The Robison family was killed at a secluded Lake Michigan cottage. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1968-present. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. The legal status is reported in its own terms: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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After the judgment

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Prosecutors considered charges, but Scolaro died before adjudication. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Sentencing, resentencing, parole, dismissal, or an open investigation can change the legal status without changing the human loss. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

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At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Prosecutors considered charges, but Scolaro died before adjudication. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 1968-present. Sentencing, resentencing, parole, dismissal, or an open investigation can change the legal status without changing the human loss. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

The surviving record

Consider the detail in its proper scale: The delay before discovery complicated the scene and timeline. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Good Hart. Return to the strongest documented propositions, identify their custodians, and preserve every remaining limit without speculation. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Investigators focused on business associate Joseph Scolaro. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. Return to the strongest documented propositions, identify their custodians, and preserve every remaining limit without speculation. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

What happened to Richard, Shirley, Ritchie, Gary, Randy, and Susan Robison and their surviving relatives generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Prosecutors considered charges, but Scolaro died before adjudication. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. Return to the strongest documented propositions, identify their custodians, and preserve every remaining limit without speculation. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. A prosecutorial theory is not a conviction and the case remains legally unresolved. In the Good Hart record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Return to the strongest documented propositions, identify their custodians, and preserve every remaining limit without speculation. General crime lore would add

volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. The Robison family was killed at a secluded Lake Michigan cottage. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1968-present. Return to the strongest documented propositions, identify their custodians, and preserve every remaining limit without speculation. The legal status is reported in its own terms: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

The delay before discovery complicated the scene and timeline. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Robison Family Murders. Return to the strongest documented propositions, identify their custodians, and preserve every remaining limit without speculation. In Good Hart, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial.

Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: The six murders remain unresolved in court. A principal suspect died by suicide before charges could be tested at trial. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Robison Family Murders

- Michigan State Police cold cases: <https://www.michigan.gov/msp/>

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