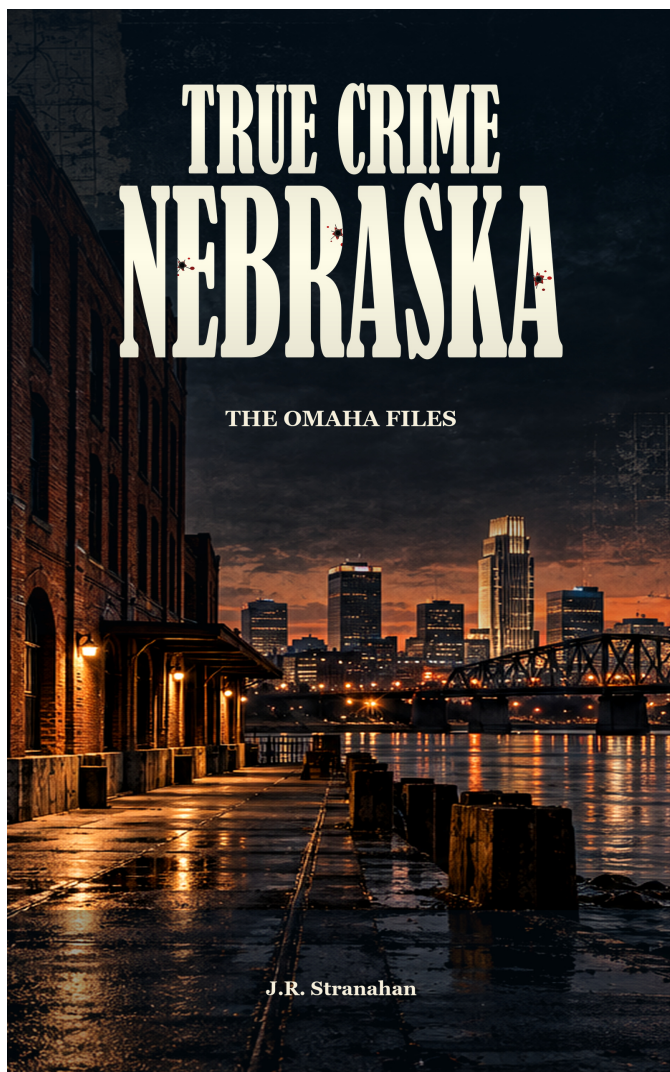




True Crime Nebraska: The Omaha Files

J.R. Stranahan

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The Creighton Murders

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File 1: The Creighton Murders

Place and period: Omaha, 2008-2018

Present legal status: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review.

This file belongs first to Thomas Hunter, Shirlee Sherman, Roger Brumback, Mary Brumback, their families, and the Creighton University community. 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

Thomas Hunter and Shirlee Sherman were killed in an Omaha home in 2008. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Creighton Murders. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Omaha, 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: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review.

For Thomas Hunter, Shirlee Sherman, Roger Brumback, Mary Brumback, their families, and the Creighton University community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Roger and Mary Brumback were killed in their Omaha home in 2013. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not

because it supplies atmosphere. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2008-2018 record from Omaha contains a point that resists shorthand: Investigators linked the two double homicides through Garcia's prior connection to Creighton University's pathology program. The present legal posture is equally specific: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. 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. A jury convicted Garcia after a consolidated trial. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Thomas Hunter, Shirlee Sherman, Roger Brumback, Mary Brumback, their families, and the Creighton University community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Omaha determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2008-2018 marks the span over which the public learned it. The judgments distinguish the four murder convictions from the separate weapons and burglary counts. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. 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: Thomas Hunter and

Shirlee Sherman were killed in an Omaha home in 2008. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Roger and Mary Brumback were killed in their Omaha home in 2013. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Thomas Hunter, Shirlee Sherman, Roger Brumback, Mary Brumback, their families, and the Creighton University community.

The first account

By the time The Creighton Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. A jury convicted Garcia after a consolidated trial. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The judgments distinguish the four murder convictions from the separate weapons and burglary counts. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate 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 Omaha.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Thomas Hunter and Shirlee Sherman were killed in an Omaha home in 2008. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Thomas Hunter, Shirlee Sherman, Roger Brumback, Mary Brumback, their families, and the Creighton University community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Roger and Mary Brumback were killed in their Omaha home in 2013. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2008-2018. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate 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 linked the two double homicides through Garcia's prior connection to Creighton University's pathology program. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Omaha. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate 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. A jury convicted Garcia after a consolidated trial. 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. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Roger and Mary Brumback were killed in their Omaha home in 2013. In the Omaha record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. 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 linked the two double homicides through Garcia's prior connection to Creighton University's pathology program. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2008-2018. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review. 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 Creighton Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. A jury convicted Garcia after a consolidated trial. 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, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review.

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The courtroom

What happened to Thomas Hunter, Shirlee Sherman, Roger Brumback, Mary Brumback, their families, and the Creighton University community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Roger and Mary Brumback were killed in their Omaha home in 2013. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The judgments distinguish the four murder convictions from the separate weapons and burglary counts. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Thomas Hunter, Shirlee Sherman, Roger Brumback, Mary Brumback, their families, and the Creighton University community privately thought.

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Institutions

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Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Anthony Garcia was convicted of four counts of first-degree murder and received four death sentences. The convictions and sentences remain subject to capital-case review. 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

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- Nebraska Supreme Court, State v. Garcia: <https://law.justia.com/cases/nebraska/supreme-court/2024/s-18-1054.html>

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