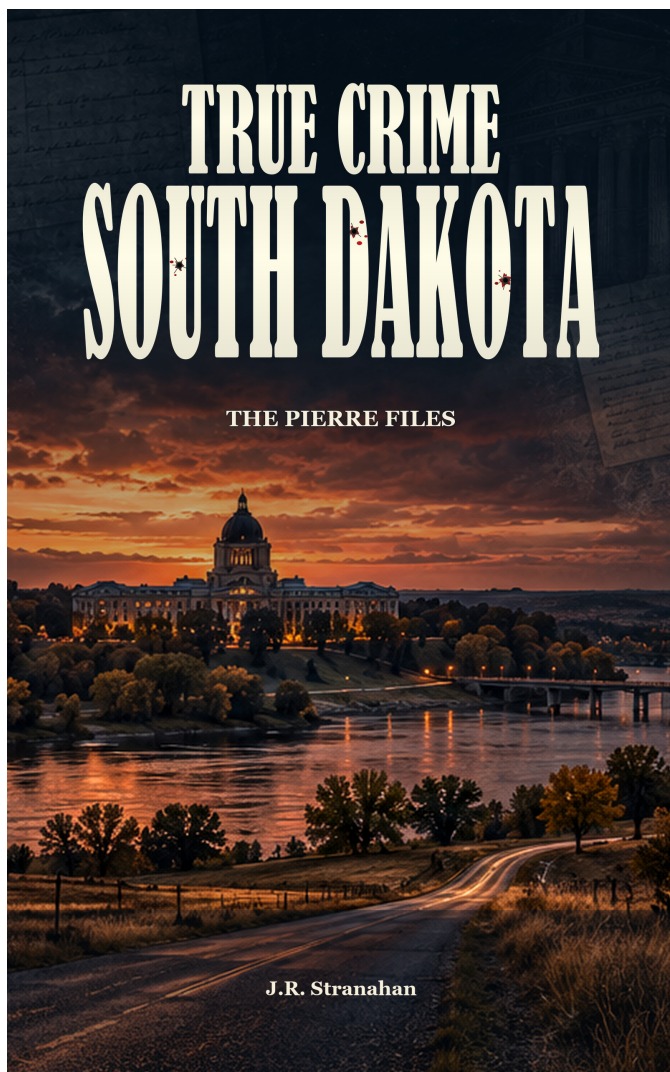


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File 1: The Murder of Tami Reay

Place and period: Pierre and Oahe Dam, 2006-2019

Present legal status: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place.

This file belongs first to Tami Reay, her daughter, family, friends, and the Pierre 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

Tami Reay disappeared from her Pierre home in February 2006. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of *The Murder of Tami Reay*. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Pierre and Oahe Dam, 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: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place.

For Tami Reay, her daughter, family, friends, and the Pierre community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Her body was found near the Oahe Dam spillway. 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 2006-2019 record from Pierre and Oahe Dam contains a point that resists shorthand: Investigators found evidence that the attack began inside the Reay home. The present legal posture is equally specific: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place. 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. Brad Reay advanced a defense blaming the couple's daughter. 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 Tami Reay, her daughter, family, friends, and the Pierre community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Pierre and Oahe Dam determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2006-2019 marks the span over which the public learned it. A jury rejected that account and returned a first-degree murder verdict. 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: Tami Reay disappeared from her Pierre home in February 2006. 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: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Her body was found near the Oahe Dam spillway. 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 Tami Reay, her daughter, family, friends, and the Pierre community.

The first account

By the time *The Murder of Tami Reay* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Brad Reay advanced a defense blaming the couple's daughter. 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: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. A jury rejected that account and returned a first-degree murder verdict. 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 Pierre and Oahe Dam.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Tami Reay disappeared from her Pierre home in February 2006. 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 Tami Reay, her daughter, family, friends, and the Pierre community at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Her body was found near the Oahe Dam spillway. They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2006-2019. 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 found evidence that the attack began inside the Reay home. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Pierre and Oahe Dam. 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. Brad Reay advanced a defense blaming the couple's daughter. 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: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Her body was found near the Oahe Dam spillway. In the Pierre and Oahe Dam 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 found evidence that the attack began inside the Reay home. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2006-2019. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Physical evidence

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: A jury rejected that account and returned a first-degree murder verdict. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place.

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By the time *The Murder of Tami Reay* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Her body was found near the Oahe Dam spillway. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An item's evidentiary value depends on collection, testing, context, and the limits of what it can prove. An older

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Witness evidence

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Investigators found evidence that the attack began inside the Reay home. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Pierre and Oahe Dam. Credibility depends on opportunity to observe, consistency, corroboration, motive, and courtroom testing. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time *The Murder of Tami Reay* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Brad Reay advanced a defense blaming the couple's daughter. 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: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place.

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The courtroom

What happened to Tami Reay, her daughter, family, friends, and the Pierre community generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Her body was found near the Oahe Dam spillway. 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.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Investigators found evidence that the attack began inside the Reay home. In the Pierre and Oahe Dam record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. 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. Brad Reay advanced a defense blaming the couple's daughter. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2006-2019. A trial tests admissible proof under defined rules and does not recreate every event or rumor surrounding a case. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. A jury rejected that account and returned a first-degree murder verdict. 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 Tami Reay, her daughter, family, friends, and the Pierre community privately thought.

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

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Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Brad Reay was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to life without parole. State appellate and later habeas proceedings, considered through distinct standards of review, left the conviction in place. 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 Murder of Tami Reay

- South Dakota Supreme Court, Reay v. Young: <https://law.justia.com/cases/south-dakota/supreme-court/2019/28760.html>

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