ROBINSON'S TRIAL BEGINS

AUG. 29: Robinson's trial begins. Public defense investigator Linda Bollinger searches for Ronnie Coleman, who

does not show up to court, but she cannot find him. It is

revealed in court that Sikeston DPS pays about \$1,500 for

witness protection to Baker for his testimony, including

travel to Milwaukee and later an apartment in Perryville.

AUG. 31: Robinson is found guilty of murder. He is sen-

tenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

SEPT. 24: Sikeston DPS receives a letter from the State of

Missouri Department of Public Safety to Blakely. The letter

addresses witness protection funds, and says that requests

for receipts after June 2001 are denied. "DPS cannot pay

more than original amount requested after deadline.

NOV. 28: Mosby pleads guilty to shooting Brooks. As part of the plea deal, according to the probable cause

gun that was taken into custody was a .32 revolver.

DEC. 12: Robinson's first appeal is denied.

statement, Mosby takes Blakely to the gun and other evidence,

including the glove he was wearing when he shot Brooks. The

JUNE 13: Robinson's defense files a motion to vacate.

Robinson's new public defender, Karl Hinkebein, pro-

vides a document to the court that one or more of the bullets

bullet that killed Box. Hinkebein also states that three victims

are willing to testify that they were shot by either Romanze or

Louis Mosby. That includes James Beck, who was also shot in

the incident that Armstrong pleaded guilty to. The judge later

denies the motion; the evidence and testimony were never

sourian from the Missouri Highway Patrol show Hinkebein's

statement to be false however. The bullets provided to the

SEMO Crime lab in the Mosby related shootings were "right

twist" bullets, while the bullet found in Box was a left twist.

AUG. 9: Romanze Mosby confesses on audio tape to

public defense capital investigator Butch Johnson

that he killed Sheila Box on Ruth and Branum streets, firing

a single shot at her when he saw a gun in her lap and she

reached for it during a drug buy. Mosby declines to sign

enough. Johnson would later testify Mosby sobbed for

nearly 20 minutes before collecting himself enough to

an affidavit with the recording, saying his voice should be

SEPT. 30: Albert Baker admits to Johnson that his testimo-

OCT. 18: Jason Richison, who testified that David

Robinson bragged of shooting Box in jail, recants his

testimony. He says detectives, including Blakely, brought a

quarter-gram of "dope" into jail and threatened additional

drug charges if he did not cooperate. He also states police

OCT. 22: Blakely sends a fax to the AG's office, commenting on a "lab report on gun Romanze Mosby

used a few months after the murder of Ms. Box." The gun is

NOV. 5. 2004: Baker is subpoensed to recant, but instead

before he was scheduled for his deposition to recant, he felt

threatened by police when he was approached by an officer

from a different town where he lived at the time who hand-

ed him a cell phone with Blakely on the line, reminding him

sticks to his original testimony. He later said in the days

how he testified. Robinson's appeal is later denied.

fed him the details he used in his testimony.

eliminated as the firearm used to shoot Box

ny about David Robinson was false.

presented again. Records obtained by the Southeast Mis-

used in three of the Mosby shootings are a match with the

Extension should have been submitted."

APPEALS BEGIN

2002

2004

confess on tape.

2000

SHEILA BOX IS MURDERED

AUG. 5: Sheila Box is shot in her SUV and crashes into the Tradewinds store. She is pronounced dead at a hospital. Sikeston Department of Public Safety detective John Blakely processes evidence at the scene.

■ According to trial transcripts, David Robinson says he takes his car to be repaired by a friend, and spends much of the evening at a fish fry with friends and family, many of whom would testify to that later. He says he goes with friends to a wedding party and to a hotel room later that night to party before returning home.

Confidential informant tells police that he heard that David Robinson shot Sheila Box.

AUG. 6: Police question David Robinson's girlfriend Natalia Lawrence. She tells Blakely that Robinson left her house at around 9 p.m. to take her car to get repaired at Brian Keith West's house and was going to the Manhattan Room with a friend named Steve Lott. She states he had not returned with the car by 11.

At 2 a.m., police are waiting for Robinson at his house when he arrives home driving his friend's car. A joint is found in the car. Robinson is taken in for questioning and tested for drugs; the test came back negative.

 Blakely takes several pieces of evidence to the crime lab, and is told the bullet that killed Box was possibly a .38 or 9mm and "the number of lands and

■ Romanze Mosby tells his cousin and close friend Carlos Jones that he shot Box. This would be revealed months later by then-informant Dion Savage.

AUG. 9: According to the investigative report, Blakely calls "a member of the probation and parole office" and explains to them "the things Mr. Robinson was believed to be involved in and the drugs that were located in a vehicle and no bond warrant was issued for him, but he was released 08/09/00 Wednesday just 14:00 hours pending drug treatment."

After questioning, Robinson is released from jail.

AUG. 11: Informant says Albert Baker was in the vicinity of the shooting the night of the Box murder.

Investigative report signed by Blakely says that he took Robinson's clothes for evidence to be checked by the crime lab. Brian Keith West, the first person Blakely talks to, says Robinson was with him around 10:30 and there for 45 minutes as West worked on his car.

AUG. 15: Baker is arrested on stealing charges

AUG. 18: Baker tells police he saw Robinson shoot Box at a pay phone at the corner of Osage Street and Malone

AUG. 28: Baker takes a polygraph conducted by Missouri State Highway Patrol, answers four questions and passes.

AUG. 30: Robinson is arrested for murder

AUG. 31: Robinson is tested for gun residue. Only two of the three elements needed to confirm gun residue were found on Robinson's arm. Two others who were tested were also missing one of the three elements needed to show gun residue.

AUG. 31: Robinson and Brian Keith West are both named

SEPT. 13: Scott County Jail inmate Jason Richison tells police he overheard Robinson bragging of shooting a white woman in jail. He says Robinson brags of steali a wad of cash and says Robinson said he was wearing all

FIRST MOSBY SUSPECTED IN SHOOTING

SEPT. 16: A man named Gerald Walker is shot in the hip. Published reports at the time said that a juvenile was taken into custody. Several other public documents show that Louis Mosby, Romanze Mosby's younger brother, was the suspect in the shooting and was later certified as an

OCT. 7: Two men are shot during a robbery while in their car. The victims are later identified as Christopher Babb and James Beck. Carlos Jones is taken into custody, and police announce that Romanze Mosby is a suspect after both victims initially identify Mosby out of a lineup provided by police. Beck is Sheila Box's stepson.

After obtaining a search warrant for Mosby's mother's property, police find several stolen items in a shed (including a violin and a cello), which Romanze later tells police his brother Louis is responsible for. Police also find a 9mm magazine under Romanze Mosby's bed. Romanze Mosby tells police the magazine is also his brother's. One reason police obtained a warrant because Blakely said he believed a "black 9mm semi-automatic pistol" was believed to be the same weapon that Louis Mosby had used in the Gerald Walker shooting. The gun was not found.

OCT. 10: Police say that Mosby is no longer a suspect in the Babb/Beck shootings, that another man, Edward M. Armstrong was identified by Jones and another witness, Latonia Townsend, as the shooter in that robbery. Townsend is identified by Blakely as Romanze Mosby's girlfriend. The victims were shot with 9mm bullets.

NOV. 1: Larry Brooks is shot while walking down the street with Gerald Walker. Romanze Mosby is taken into custody shortly after. He later confesses to shooting Brooks while aiming for Walker and leads Blakely to a .32 revolver he claims he used. Romanze tells Blakely he wanted to prevent Walker from testifying against his brother. Blakely seizes the .32 as evidence.

NOV. 17: Ronnie Coleman, friend of Albert Baker, says Baker called him and told him that he did not see Robinson shoot Box, but he was working a deal with police for leniency, according to a deposition from 2004 Baker tells Coleman he was in Milwaukee on witness protection. Coleman said he was angry that Baker gave a statement against Coleman to police on a drug violation.

DEC. 28: According to an email, the prosecutor sets up a meeting with detectives to discuss the Robinson case. No records of the meeting exist in the case files.

2001

MARCH 13: Louis Mosby robs a locksmith, then in the course of a struggle, shoots the locksmith and leaves the scene. The victim calls 911; police arrive. Louis

Mosby is arrested. A Lorcher brand 9mm Luger is seized.

PARALLEL INVESTIGATIONS

David Robinson was convicted of a 2000 murder that another man later confessed to committing. That man, Romanze Mosby, emerged as a suspect months before Robinson was to face trial. The lead detective on the case did not investigate Mosby; instead that investigation was done by a deputy with the Scott County Sheriff's Department, who now works at the Sikeston DPS.

REPORT BY BOB MILLER AND TYLER GRAEF

RED:The red throughout the graphic indicates details about the investigation and trial of David Robinson, who was convicted of life in prison without the possibility of parole for the murder of Sheila Box on Aug. 5, 2000.

BLUE: The blue throughout the graphic indicates details about the investigation of Romanze Mosby, who emerged as a suspect a few months before Robinson's trial and later confessed to committing the murder. Some of the entries marked by blue text or shapes are about Mosby's involvement in other

Orange text and dates indicate where the Mosby and Robinson investigations

LARGE CIRCLES: Circles with numbers denote cross referenced information in larger circles in the middle of the page.

 \longrightarrow

ARROWS: Indicate a pattern or connection from multiple events.

... A 9MM ... Korenzo Hill told Sullivan that Jones told him a 9mm was used in the murder. (Mosby told Sullivan that Hill heard Jones say he killed Box. When Hill was

questioned, he actually stated he heard Mosby did it with a 9mm)

Dion Savage told Sullivan that Mosby had used a .380, and that was what the div ers were looking for in Upper Big

INVESTIGATING ROBINSON



David Robinson, Sentenced to life

the Sheila Box murder. He, along with other detectives in Sikeston including current chief Mike Williams and Dan Armour, investigated the crime, interviewed several witnesses and came to the conclusion that Robinson, right, was the murderer.

Sikeston Detective John Blakely, left, was the lead investigator on

I believe after the actual conviction, yes ma'am. ... That would have been followed up on if we would have received that information."

— Sikeston Det. John Blakely, answering questions about his knowledge of Mosby being a suspect in the Box murder during a deposition in 2015

WITHOUT

David Robinson is serving a sentence of life without parole for the conviction of the 2000 murder of Sheila Box. He is set for a hearing before the Missouri Supreme Court in August, which he hopes will result in an exoneration or a retrial. Please see our previous coverage at www.

semissourian.



Former Scott County Deputy Confessed to killing Sheila Box Bobby Sullivan, then-Scott County deputy, received a tip months

He (Blakely) knew what I received, but as far as him saying, 'Let me look into it,' anything like that, no it didn't happen. ... I got that impression from all the investigators. One night before our search warrant, we sat and talked -- I don't remember when it was, but we discussed the whole thing as far as what I was told and what all I had found out since then."

— Bobby Sullivan, former Scott County Deputy, pretrial deposition

INVESTIGATING MOSBY





before Robinson went to trial that Romanze Mosby had said he'd killed Box. Sullivan later stated he believed Robinson was innocent and that Mosby was the killer (though he could not prove it), adding he thought the investigators in Sikeston had "tunnel vision."

WITNESS ACCUSATIONS

Two witness claim they were

threatened with drug charges

to either provide or suppress

testimony that would have

helped Robinson's defense.

These court statements allege

criminal wrongdoing by Blakely.

Please see our story on this topic,

coming Monday.

9 12 13

MISSING TAPES

At least three documents

reference tapes from interviews

conducted by Sullivan and

another investigator from the

AG's office. These tapes are now

missing. Robinson's defense said

they don't believe they have

them. The AG's office said they

could not confirm having ever

had them.

CONFESSIONS

Six people have told defense

attorneys that Mosby confessed

to shooting Box. The courts didn't

accept the hearsay testimony.

The audio confession was not

validated by Mosby's signature,

although a notary testified later

that Mosby verbally confirmed to

her that the confession

HOW THIS TIMELINE WAS REPORTED

The Southeast Missourian compiled this timeline via public records requests from the Sikeston Departmen of Public Safety, the Missouri Highway Patrol, the Missouri Department of Corrections, the Scott County and Mississippi County court clerks, the Scott **County Prosecuting** Attorney's office, Scott County Sheriff's Department and the Missouri Attorney General's office. Documents include trial transcripts, pre-trial and postconviction deposition transcripts, investigative, forensic and interview reports. Old newspaper reports were also used. Items that were obtained via recent interviews are noted within the detail of the text. In many cases spellings of names were inconsistent in

documents. Spellings that were used most

AUG. 10: Ronnie Coleman gives a deposition, claiming that he was called by Blakely and threatened with often throughout the documents were charges if he showed up to court. used in the timeline.



32mmVS9mm While a .380 and a 9mm bullet can be shot from the same gun, a .32 and a 9mm have different diameters and cannot be shot from the same gun. Pictured left is a .32 round; a 9mm bullet is pictured at right. (Not

NO MATCH

TO BOX

... an investi-

gative report,

Blakely claimed

Robinson's

son Christo-

pher Jackson

"got the gun"

for Romanze

Mosby. Neither

gun came back

as a match to

the Box bullet.

Jackson was not

charged in the

case.

printed as actual size)

DEC. 28: Blakely files a memo to the AG's office, saying he believes he found the Box murder weapon, a .38 Smith & Wesson. The memo states it could be the same gun used in a murder that David Robinson's brother Justin was implicated in but later cleared of. The report states "disputes Moseby's [sic] story."

2007

2006

MAY 5: A bullet comparison report from the Trevor Neal shooting that David Robinson's brother Justin was implicated in but later cleared of. The bullets do not match, according to the report.

2009

JUNE 20: After reading a newspaper story that the Bryan Cave Law Firm in St. Louis, the same firm who helped exonerate Josh Kezer in a Scott County case, was taking on Robinson's case, Mosby confesses one last time to his step-father, who was also was in prison with him. That night, Mosby hangs himself in his cell. Mosby was weeks away from finishing his prison sentence. In the article, Capt. Mark Crocker of the Sikeston DPS said "We're certain that we put the right person in jail."

2010

FEB. 22: Robinson's habeas petition is denied.

2012

JULY 14: Albert Baker recants on video to an attorney from the Bryan Cave Law Firm.

23 MAY 8: Baker recants under oath.

24 MAY 15: Blakely testifies in a deposition that he was after Robinson's trial, saying they would have followed up

AUGUST 2017: Robinson will have a six-day hearing before the Missouri Supreme Court. He is hoping for an exoneration or retrial.

MAY 2: Scott County Deputy Bobby Sullivan receives a tip from confidential informant (later learned to be Dion Savage, who was in Mosby's inner circle) that Jones told him that Mosby killed Box in a drug deal gone bad. It's later stated that Savage gave the tip in hopes to work a deal to avoid jail time on a driving while revoked charge.

MAY 15: Sullivan questions Mosby. Sullivan records the interview, unlike any of the interviews conducted by the Sikeston detectives. This tape is now missing.

JUNE 6: Defense attorney Chris Davis writes in a memo that Sullivan said he "knows David Robinson didn't do it." And that he would be searching for the gun where the informant said

JUNE 11: The Missouri Highway Patrol searches a nearby lake for the gun, based on the informant's tip. No gun is found. "We did not find the .380 pistol," the report states.

JUNE 25: Sullivan provides statements and supplements to the Missouri Attorney General's office, which is prosecuting the case. The Sikeston DPS could offer no such correspondence to the Southeast Missourian via a response to an open records request pertaining to all materials regarding the Box investigation, particularly pertaining to the Mosby investigation.

JUNE 29: Crime lab report received on David Robinson's clothing. A blood spot found on his hat is determined to be his own blood.

Sarene Deeds interviews another witness, who mentions a

AUG. 8: Following up on the Mosby tip, AG office investigator

.32-caliber weapon was used by Mosby to kill Box. AUG. 13: At a pretrial deposition, Sullivan testifies that he believes Robinson is innocent and that he thinks Mosby is the killer, though he does not have proof. He states that he believes the Sikeston detectives have "tunnel vision" and that he told the investigators, including Blakely, about

him who followed up on it. AUG. 14: Ronnie Coleman, who says he took a phone call in November from Albert Baker saying he lied about seeing Robinson shoot Box, is arrested on a pending drug charge. He said later he told Det. Chris Rataj about the phone call. He recalls he was released five hours later.

the tip and asked them how to approach Mosby. He said that

he didn't necessarily want to follow up on the tip, but got the

indication that if it was going to get done, it would have to be

AUG. 14: A caseworker interviews Mosby, who talks about a hidden .32-caliber weapon.

AUG. 15: Deeds, the AG investigator, interviews Dion Savage

Sullivan questions Mosby, who says that Carlos
Jones told him he shot Box at Ruth and Branum streets, which is a different location than Baker's testimony (Osage and Malone). Mosby said he was with his girlfriend, Latonia Townsend, the night of the Box murder.

■ Stephen White, Carlos Jones' brother, said he originally heard that David Robinson killed Box, but had recently heard some people say Carlos Jones had shot and killed her Stephen White said he does not believe this, but also heard rumors that Antonio Johnson killed Box. He said he had heard that police had heard that Dion Savage had thrown the gun.

AUG. 17: Sullivan, along with Deeds, questions Mosby on tape again, this time at Boonville Prison, who again points the finger at Carlos Jones. He said Jones used a .32 revolver, which was thrown into a ditch at Upper Big Lake. He said Korenzo Hill told him Carlos Jones had killed Box. Mosby refuses a polygraph. When questioned about Mosby's accusations, Jones asks for an attorney. The tapes from these interviews are now missing.

shot her with a 9mm. The tape from this interview is now miss-

Blakely makes no mention that Romanze Mosby is a suspect in the Box case. Jackson told the Southeast Missourian he did not provide a gun to Romanze Mosby, but he did know Mosby and was friends with him. Jackson was not charged.

Ronnie Coleman receives a phone call, he would later testify, from Blakely. He alleges that Blakely threatens to arrest him if he obeys a subpoena to testify for Robinson that Baker is lying about seeing Robinson shoot Box. Coleman later would say Blakely told him he would not be charged if he did not show up for trial. He later would tell the Southeast Missourian he did not fear charges for disobeying a subpoena because it was police telling him not to show and that the prosecution was on their side. He was not charged with disobeying the subpoena.

Information graphics: Bob Miller and Nadir Hussein. Images: Archive and file photos

AUG. 20: Korenzo Hill tells Sullivan in a taped interview that Carlos Jones told him Mosby shot Box and that Mosby

AUG. 21: Blakely files an investigative report in the Brooks shooting implying that David Robinson's son Christopher Jackson "got the gun for Romanze Mosbey [sic]."

AUG. 28: Romanze Mosby is formally charged with shooting Larry Brooks.

2015

unaware that Mosby was a suspect in the Box case until on that if they had that information.

MAY 15: Robinson's second habeas petition denied.

2017

INVESTIGATIVE TIMELINE KEY

INVESTIGATIVE REPORT

shootings.

connect or intersect.

: Same day events

... AND A

8 12 13 WITNESSES: A .32 ... Over the course of the Romanze

4 21

.32 TURNED IN

As part of plea deal, Mosby turns

in the weapon he says he used to

shoot Larry Brooks to Blakely. The

gun taken into custody is a .32

revolver. No bullet was submitted

to the SEMO Crime Lab from the

Brooks shooting. The Sikeston

DPS said it could not locate

evidence records dealing with

the case.

BULLET EVIDENCE

Sheila Box was shot with a bullet

that was possibly a .38 or a

9mm, according to a crime lab

technician. The .38 and 9mm

bullets have the same diameter

at the base of the bullets, but are

different weights and lengths and

can be shot from the same gun.

Mosby investigation into the Box murder, several guns were mentioned by witnesses connected to Mosby. Mosby said Carlos Jones said he shot Box with a .32, which is the caliber of weapon Mosby turned in for the shooting of Larry Brooks.

Even though Blakely investigated at least three shootings (and possibly four) involving Romanze and Louis Mosby, he did not ask for the bullets in those crimes to be compared to the bullet that killed Box. Blakely testified he didn't know Mosby was a suspect in the Box case.

16 21

WHY CHECK A .32?

It is unknown why Blakely would

have had a .32 revolver sent

against the Box bullet, which was

either a 9mm or a .380.

to the crime lab to be checked

2 7 17

9MM BULLETS

9mm bullets were collected

as evidence in at least two

shootings involving Romanze

or Louis Mosby. Det. John

Blakely was involved in those

investigations, but he didn't

investigate Romanze Mosby

as a suspect in the Box case.

2 4 7

NOT CHECKED

FOR MATCH

WITNESS LATONIA

TOWNSEND Mosby's airlfriend identified the suspect in the Beck shooting and helped clear Mosby as a suspect. Mosby also said he was with her the night Box was killed. No documents obtained by the newspaper showed that Mosby's alibi was checked in the Box

5 6 23

FIRST CLUE THAT BAKER

MAY BE LYING

The fact that Ronald Coleman

was subpoenaed means that

the defense and possibly the

prosecution had reason to

suspect Albert Baker was lying

about Robinson before the trial

and 12 years before Baker would

recant under oath.

murder.

14 22 **OTHER GUNS CHECKED FOR FAMILY LINK**

Blakely filed two reports on gun forensics seeking to tie David Robinson to the Box murder via his next of kin. In one, Blakely had a gun tested that was obtained in a shooting in which Robinson's brother Justin was implicated.

In the other ...