

Eddie Cathey

Sheriff of Union County

3344 Presson Road
Monroe, North Carolina 28112



Telephone: (704) 283-3789

FAX: (704) 292-2700

Email: eddiecathey@co.union.nc.us

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

March 1, 2018

S.A. Flowe Murder Case Cleared by Arrest

Stephen D. Smithson, age 51, is in the Union County Jail facing a charge of First Degree Murder in connection with the September 2017 stabbing death of 87 year old Stallings resident Simual "S.A." Augusta Flowe.

On September 6, 2017, Union County Sheriff's deputies responded to Flowe's residence at 3108 Gribble Road after Stallings Police Officers went there to conduct a well-being check. Officers located Flowe's body in a residential office, victim of an apparent homicide. It was determined that Flowe's home was situated just inside the Indian Trail Town limits and as a result, the Union County Sheriff's Office, with assistance from the NC State Bureau of Investigation, assumed jurisdiction of the investigation.

An autopsy revealed that Mr. Flowe died from multiple stab wounds.

Detectives and agents pursued numerous leads in the following months and determined that Smithson was a former tenant of Flowe's in the trailer park located nearby. Detectives believe Flowe evicted Smithson from a trailer while Smithson was incarcerated in the Mecklenburg County Jail during the Spring/Summer of 2017. Once Smithson was released from jail, detectives believe he visited Mr. Flowe to discuss a place to live. Detectives believe the murder occurred during this encounter.

In addition to the murder charge, Smithson faces a Parole/Probation Violation and is in jail under no bond. Smithson's last known address was in the 2000 block of New Town Road in Monroe. His next court date is March 27, 2018.

Sheriff Eddie Cathey praised the efforts of everyone involved in the investigation. He stated, "Our detectives, crime scene investigators and deputies did excellent work in resolving this case. At times, it seemed as though leads had dried up but they refused to give up. I am proud of them as well as the SBI agents who helped clear this case. Although we can't bring Mr. Flowe back, hopefully we can provide some closure for his family and friends."



SMITHSON

Point of contact for this press release is Chief Communications Officer Tony Underwood, 704-292-2707.

Citizens with information concerning criminal activity are encouraged to call:

Union County Sheriff's Office at 704-283-3789

Or

Union County Crimestoppers at 704-283-5600

