

CIVIL RIGHTS AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

SUMMER INTERNS 2018

(L to R): Lara Adekeye, Boston University '19; Violet Sulka/Hewes, Wellesley '21;
Awaly Diallo, Penn State '21; Jason Guzman, Penn State '18



Miriam Alvarez-Rosenbloom,
CRLS High School '19



Hope Cooper, Connecticut
College '19

Investigating Homicides Nearly a Dozen New Cases

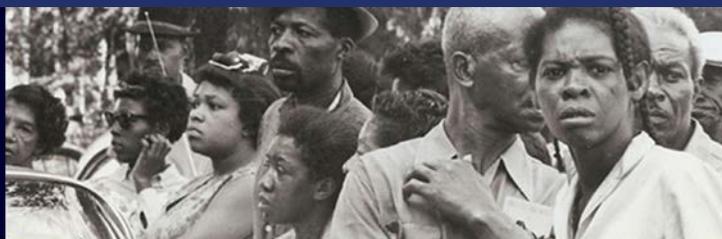
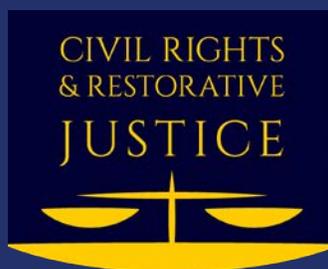
Each intern was assigned to the investigation of two racially motivated homicides. Under the tutelage of faculty and staff, our interns unearthed new facts, connected with families, and presented their findings to a panel of academics and practitioners.

Constructing an Archive The Digital Red Record

Ida B. Wells released a study in 1895 titled *A Red Record*, which documented lynchings since emancipation. Working alongside CRRJ's Lead Archivist, the interns compiled their documents into physical and digital files that will supplement this Red Record.

Restoring Justice Past Harms, Present Remedies

Working closely with our Restorative Justice Project Director, the interns contributed to our restorative justice events in Mobile, AL in August and developed materials for our upcoming conference in New Orleans.



CRRJ conducts research on racially motivated homicides in the U.S. South from 1930 to 1970 and supports various remedial measures designed to redress historical racial violence as well as its enduring legacy.

Jimmie Wade—Covington, TN (1947)

Awaly Diallo investigated the matter of Jimmie Wade. On June 29, 1947, City Marshal Jim T. Scott and three other men lynched Jimmie Wade in Covington, Tennessee. Wade was said to have been writing letters to a white woman in the town. The City Marshal claimed he shot Wade in self-defense after the victim attempted to take possession of his firearm. However, living relatives report that the incident was sparked after Wade refused to purchase expired food from one of the perpetrators who owned a grocery store in the community. A local prosecution against the offenders resulted in a verdict of justifiable homicide.



Mary Stewart,
Jimmie Wade's Granddaughter

Jesse Allen Milton—Eufaula, AL (1946)

Jason Guzman researched the case of Jesse Allen Milton who was shot and killed by William Grady Barker on December 16, 1946 in Eufaula, Alabama. Milton was employed at Planer Mill, a wood yard, and had requested payment from his employer, Barker. An altercation ensued and Barker shot Milton. Letters from Milton's half-brother suggest that Barker was a police officer at the time of the shooting in 1946.

"[He] was killed over some bad meat. He had gotten to an argument with the store owner and the man was trying to sell him some meat . . . he was telling him . . . I can't feed this meat to my kids because it's spoiled . . . A couple of days later he got picked up by the group of four and that was that." – Mary Stewart

J.P. Williams—Panama City, FL (1946)

Hope Cooper investigated a case that had been reported to the NAACP involving an unidentified victim in an unknown city in Florida who was killed on or around June 23, 1946. With determination, she learned that J.P. Williams had been killed by Officer J.D. Hardin of the Panama City Police Department after he arrived on the scene in response to the complaint of an African American woman. Sources suggest that the woman was William's estranged wife who had been seeking refuge at her sister's home. Williams was shot and killed when attempting to flee. His mother reported the incident to the national NAACP and was directed to local branches, but there is no indication that the matter was pursued further.

"I am writing . . . to find out why my son was shot to death in the back . . . if you can't get the case up please write me and let me know." – Dovie Williams, Victim's Mother, Letter to NAACP dated Dec. 30, 1947

A photograph of a handwritten letter on aged paper. The text is written in cursive and matches the quote above. A date stamp "168 JAN 27" is visible in the upper right corner of the paper.

Leonard McCowin—Center, TX (1947)

Lara Adekeye took up the matter of Leonard McCowin, who was beaten to death on November 4, 1947. McCowin, a 21-year-old World War II veteran, was walking with a family acquaintance through the town square of Center, TX when he was stopped by City Marshal Brian McCallum. McCallum demanded McCowin's hunting rifle and inspected it. After finding it unloaded, McCallum beat Mr. McCowin with the butt of the gun. McCallum was alleged to have told a witness who asked to bring McCowin to the hospital: "Hell no. He can die just as good there on the street as he can in the hospital."



Reather McCowin Washington,
Leonard McCowin's Sister

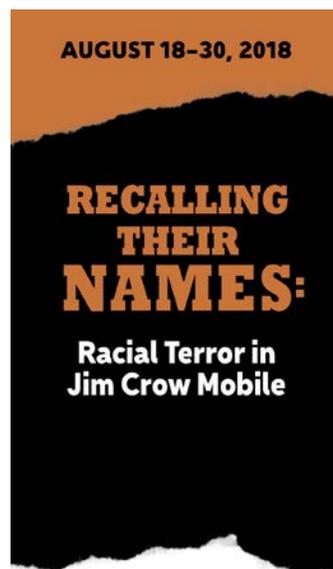
Arthur Johnson Jr.—Cordele, GA (1942)

Violet Sulka/Hewes was assigned to the case of Arthur Johnson Jr. On May 24, 1942, Johnson was killed by Police Chief Richard Tucker in Cordele, Georgia. Johnson owed Luther G. Booth, a local marble yard owner, seven dollars and when Booth tried to collect his debt, he was unable to do so. Johnson was brought to the city jail on a charge of disorderly conduct, where he was held until Booth arrived. The Police Chief claimed he shot Johnson in the jail in self-defense.

"They never got justice that's for sure. They just quieted it down all of a sudden. . . . He was a very, very good young man. Very good young man. He was engaged to get married, but never made it." –

Reather McCowin Washington

Miriam Alvarez-Rosenbloom rendered invaluable assistance with several projects including the development of a pamphlet featuring six cases that were the subject of a restorative justice event in Mobile, Alabama on Saturday, August 18, 2018: [After Seven Decades, Alabama Honors Jim Crow-Era Victims](#).



Special Thanks to Munroe Graham, NUSL '19



Munroe Graham, an alumna of the Summer 2017 CRRJ Clinic, served as a Teaching Assistant for the summer program. Our success would not have been feasible without her support.