



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
Public Safety Services

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lafayette Man Charged In Double Murder-Arson

St. Martinville, LA – Investigators with the State Fire Marshal's Office and the St. Martin Parish Sheriff's Office continue to piece together the circumstances that led a Lafayette man to brutally murder an elderly woman and her daughter, before torching their home.

Investigators were summoned to the scene just after 4:00 p.m. Saturday, when firefighters discovered two bodies, those of Adeline Etienne, 68, and her 30-year-old daughter, Jamie James, within a burning residence located at 1020 Whitney Drive, Lot #93, in St. Martinville.

After examining the bodies, which exhibited obvious signs of blunt force trauma, investigators released the remains to the St. Martin Parish coroner's office. Autopsies are scheduled to be conducted Monday morning.

Investigators were able to determine that the fire had been intentionally set after finding evidence of the use of an ignitable liquid, which is believed to have been used to accelerate the development of the fire. Numerous items of evidence were collected on the scene, including a handgun, all of which are being processed at the Louisiana State Police crime lab.

Witnesses reported to investigators that after hearing loud noises coming from the home they went to investigate, at which time they observed smoke and a male subject, later identified as 31-year-old Dereke Ross Siner, exiting the home. Siner left the scene in a vehicle owned by James.

Some miles from the scene, Siner ditched James' vehicle and fled the parish in a Chevrolet Tahoe. He later commandeered a third vehicle, a Chevrolet Impala, after crashing the Tahoe in the Vermillion River in Lafayette Parish.

Siner was apprehended at around 6:00 p.m. Saturday evening in West Feliciana Parish where he crashed following a high-speed pursuit. He is currently being held in the West Feliciana Parish jail where he was booked as a fugitive from St. Martin Parish.

In coming days, investigators will return Siner to St. Martin Parish where he faces charges of First Degree Murder (2 cts), Aggravated Arson, and Obstruction of Justice.

Additional charges are likely to be filed in this case.

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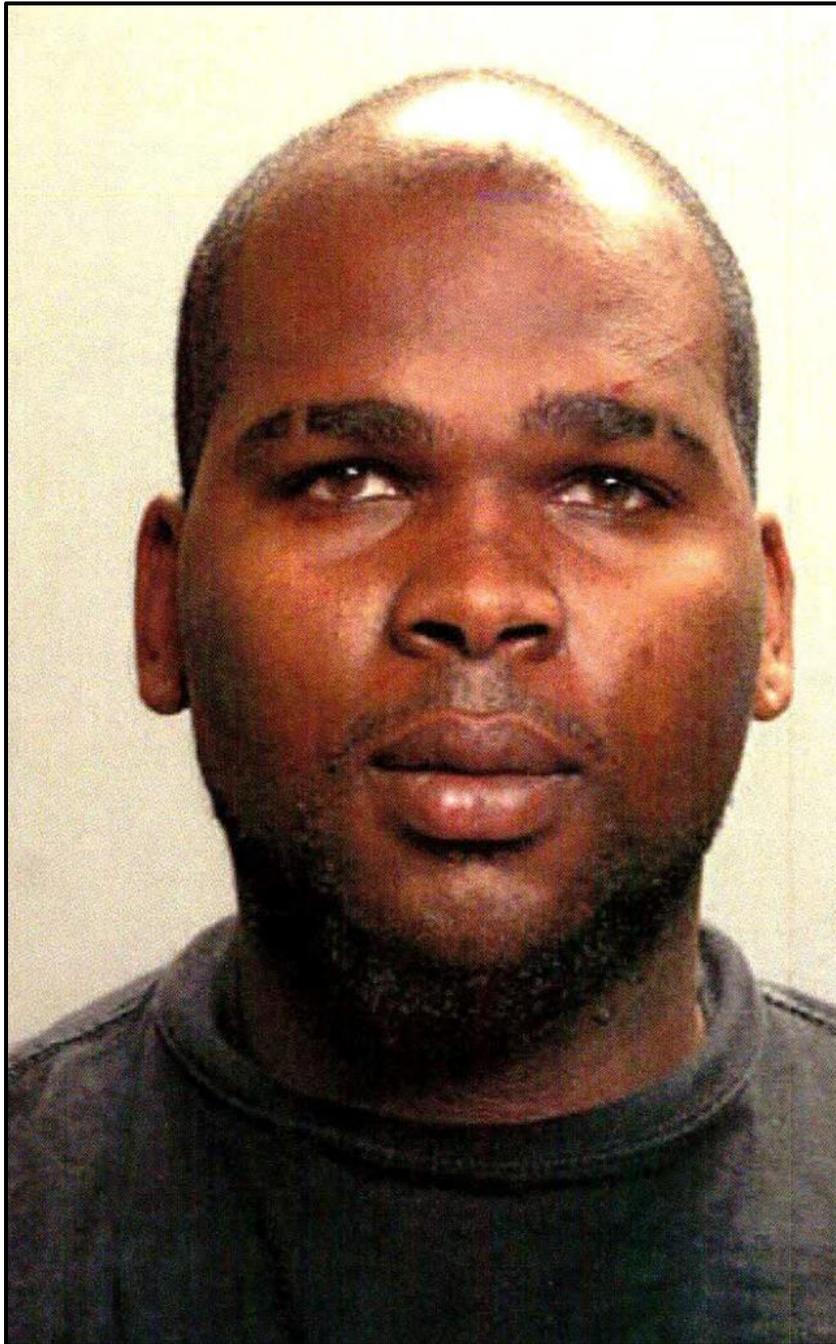
News Release – Addendum (St. Martinville Fatal Fire; 2/27/16)



Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office



Photograph provided by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office



Dereke Ross Siner