

April 11, 2001 8:19 pm
Sutton

1 Statement of: Jay Barnett (JB)

2 Ref: Isaac Dawkins

3 Officer: Sgt. Stanley Sutton (SS)

4

5 SS: 'Kay, this is Sgt. Stanley Sutton with the Floyd County Police Department - the
6 day's date is April the 11th, 2001 - the time is 2019 hours - 2019 hours -- I'm interviewing a
7 young man by name of Jay Barnett, this interview is in reference to an investigation that myself,
8 along with several other police officers, detectives, have been conducting investigation on the
9 death of uh, Isaac Dawkins - this incident occurred on January 11th of 2000 - call came in around
10 7:20 PM where uh, Isaac had been shot in the back of the head on 27 South, Floyd County of
11 Rome just North of Floyd College uh, Mr. Barnett state your full name please.

2 JB: It's uh, John Burrell Barnett.

13 SS: And they call you Jay.

14 JB: Yes sir.

15 SS: 'Kay, give me your address please.

16 JB: It's 71-B Walenda Drive, Rome, Georgia 301065.

17 SS: Your Social Security Number.

18 JB: It's [REDACTED].

19 SS: Date of birth.

20 JB: [REDACTED] of '79.

21 SS: 'Kay uh, it's my understanding uh, Jay - I'm on call you Jay -- that during my
22 investigation I had learned that you and Isaac Dawkins were real good friends - close of friends

23 uh, and also I had learned that uh, there was several times or incidents that you were with Isaac
24 Dawkins when he had a run in with Joey Watkins, is this correct?

25 JB: Yes sir.

26 SS: 'Kay, uh, just start out um, uh, Jay um, how long you knew Isaac and - and um,
27 what ya'll did and uh, what type a person Isaac was.

28 JB: Okay, well - I'd met Isaac when he came to Armuchee from Coosa - think that
29 was around the eighth grade, I'm not sure -- uh, we became pretty good friends then 'cause we'd
30 both go into rodeo and - and threw high school we were friends but not really real close friends
31 and then 'bout our senior year we became really close friends and uh, just from then on to the
32 present we's - somebody you know that you'd probably see every day and you know we go off,
33 hang out every - 'bout every weekend uh, he's just a real good guy, real friendly, real out going -
34 uh, not really any kind a enemies except for maybe a few and then just a real good friend to have I
35 guess, never will have another one like that.

36 SS: Who were - would be his enemies that you --

37 JB: Uh, the only ones that I know of would be Joey Watkins - that - coming from the
38 whole time when he dated Brianne.

39 SS: Had he ever mentioned that he had run ins with Joey Watkins before?

40 JB: Um-um.

41 SS: Never mentioned to you?

42 JB: Um-um.

43 SS: Had you ever been with Isaac Dawkins and had some run ins with Joey Watkins?

44 JB: Before they - him and Brianne started dating or after?

45 SS: Well, during and afterwards --

46 JB: Yes.

47 SS: -- prior to the death of Isaac Dawkins?

48 JB: Several times.

49 SS: I'm sorry.

50 JB: Several times.

51 SS: Can you tell me about these uh, incidents that uh, you were with uh, were you with
52 Isaac when this happened?

53 JB: Well, one of 'em - the earliest one I could think of, I wouldn't with him but he'd
54 told me about it as soon as it happened 'cause he called me wanting me to come up there 'cause
55 he's thinking some'em might get started and Joey had a bunch of his friends up there - it's when, I
6 think Brianne worked at B-Moss and they'd just started talking and Joey had come up there and
57 started something with her and then Isaac had stepped in and him and I-- Isaac had had a couple a
58 words and then he said some'em about uh, me and Isaac when uh, Brianne got off or whatever
59 and Isaac wanted me to come up there for that purpose and uh, you know that was probably the
60 first time I'd ever - I can remember but I - like I said, I wouldn't with him that time and then
61 several times whenever Brianne would be getting off work me and Isaac would be together and
62 we'd go up there and sit at her car wh-- till she got in her car and left just 'cause she's afraid of
63 Joey coming and doing some'em 'cause he had threatened to come and do stuff several times.
64 And then the first time I can think of where I was actually with Isaac when we met up with Joey
65 was one night in town, we kept seeing Joey and it seemed like he was following us so we pulled in
66 at a gas station and he pulled in beside us and uh, Joey had said some'em about - I heard you're

67 looking for me and Isaac was like, well what are you talking about - and - and Joey's like, well do
68 you want your ass whipped and then Isaac was like, yeah sure get out and whip it and then Joey
69 was like, well not here wa- just follow me so we winded up following Joey for what seemed like
70 an hour and through town 'cause he seemed like he was rounded up all his friends before he went
71 to where ever the fight -- so we went to - we didn't know it was Joey's house but we pulled up to
72 Joey's house and Joey had gotten out of the vehicle and his dad was out front and think five or six
73 others were out there and uh, just kinda taunting Isaac from the road --

74 SS: Who was?

75 JB: Joey -- telling Isaac to step out, you know calling him pussy and you know saying
76 - just kept on you know just saying stuff to him trying to get him to come out of the truck.

77 SS: Was any of the other family members there taunting Isaac or just Joey?

8 JB: Uh, his dad was there and uh, --

79 SS: Was he saying anything?

80 JB: Ah, well his - Isaac told him you know that he wouldn't gone fight him in his own
81 front yard and then uh, Joey's dad had uh, kept saying - well why not, he's like well I'll let ya'll
82 got in the back yard and ya'll can fight and I promise I won't call the police or nothin', ya'll can
83 just - ya'll can have it out or whatever ya'll wanna do and then Isaac's like, no I'm not gone do
84 that 'cause you might get me in trouble or something like that and Joey's dad well he kept on
85 saying, well you're just a damn pussy I can see why my son wants to whip your ass and I'm good
86 mind to whip your ass my self and -- and then at that time Isaac said, well let's go -- so we got in
87 the car and Isaac uh, - I was driving Isaac's truck and Isaac 's in the passenger seat and Joey had
88 ran up to the - as we's pulling off, had ran up to the passenger door swinging, trying to hit Isaac

89 while Isaac was inside the vehicle and Isaac kept telling me to go and uh, so I left and then second
90 time I was actually with him when we had a run in with him --

91 SS: But first 'fore we go to the second incident, let me ask you something - when do
92 you recall this incident where you and Isaac was riding around and uh, Joey - you said Joey, you
93 thought he was following you and - and that ya'll pulled up to a gas station, do you know when
94 that was -- now he got shot on January the 11th of 2000.

95 JB: Uh, it was several months before that I -- I can't really recall the exact month.

96 SS: Was it in- night time?

97 JB: Yes it was at night --

98 SS: What --

99 JB: -- it was back during the Summer if I -- yeah it was back during the Summer.

100 SS: Do you know um, what gas station, service station you pulled in at?

101 JB: Um-hum, the one straight across from uh, you know right there at the Citgo at the
102 rail road track where the drive goes around Riverbend Mall right there -- right across --

103 SS: On Turner McCall you talking about?

104 JB: -- uh, --

105 SS: Or on Second Avenue?

106 JB: -- well turn -- if you turn off Turner McCall onto the road that goes beside
107 Riverside -- I mean goes to Riverbend Mall - that road that goes behind that -- and that Citgo gas
108 station that in -- that's the one we pulled into.

109 SS: Okay, so what was - who was driving the car then, you or Isaac?

110 JB: I was driving Isaac's truck then.

111 SS: What truck was that?
112 JB: It was a white Toyota.
113 SS: Have a tool box on the back?
114 JB: Yes sir.
115 SS: And uh, did it have a brush guard up front?
116 JB: Yes sir.
117 SS: You been in his truck many times?
118 JB: Yes.
119 SS: And what was Joey driving?
120 JB: He was driving Erica Evans' Honda Accord - a Honda -- older model Honda
121 Accord, it was tan.
122 SS: Tan?
123 JB: Yeah.
124 SS: Eric Evans?
125 JB: Erica Evans.
126 SS: A girl?
127 JB: Yes sir.
128 SS: 'Kay - and was anybody with him dur-- during that time?
129 JB: Adam Elrod was in the back and I think (what's that other boy's name) -- Kevin
130 Pool I think was in the back also.
131 SS: Alright and so anyway, after - you know that Joey suppose said, I heard you
132 wanna whip my ass and blah-blah this - follow me -- and then that incident happened you know, at

133 his house -- then ya'll left.

134 JB: Um-hum.

135 SS: Alright, go ahead and tell me about the second incident that you was with Isaac

136 when he had a run in with - with Joey Watkins.

137 JB: Okay --

138 SS: You know Joey Watkins?

139 JB: -- yeah -- yes sir.

140 SS: I'm sorry.

141 JB: Yes sir.

142 SS: Okay, go ahead.

143 JB: We uh, we were going through town again and this time we were - we's on uh,

144 Shorter Avenue in front of The Dwarf House I believe and just out of circumstance I guess, we

145 got up beside a red Firebird and we didn't know it was nobody in particular until we got up beside

146 'em and we were in Isaac's truck again then and we got up beside 'em and then next thing we

147 notice that they were staying right beside us and then I happened to look over and they'd rolled

148 down their windows and then I could see it was Joey and Kevin Pool and uh, they just kept on

149 kinda staring at us and then you know, me and Isaac was just - we recognized who it was so we's

150 looking back at 'em and um, we stayed like that for probably five minutes just going through

151 traffic beside each other and then uh, Joey turned off and as they were turning off you know, they

152 shot us a bird and everything and we didn't think nothing else about it and we went on, I think

153 we's going to Wal-Mart that night and then another time we'd been in Isaac's truck and Joey had

154 said some'em about wanting to go meet and fight and so we'd followed Joey back out to Blacks

155 Bluff Road through South Rome and went to Blacks Bluff Road and he pulled over on Blacks
156 Bluff Road and uh, so Isaac pulled over right behind him - Isaac was driving Isaac's truck - and
157 Isaac got out and when Isaac got out Joey sped off and then you know we didn't follow him any
158 more we just got we just got back in the truck and left after that.

159 SS: Joey by himself then?

160 JB: I couldn't tell - his windows are so dark.

161 SS: When did this happen?

162 JB: Uh, this is probably about - this was after him and Brianne had already broken up--

163 SS: Who Joey?

164 JB: -- no this is after Isaac and Brianne had broken up or quit talking or whatever.

165 SS: Well what uh, what was all this problem stemming over?

166 JB: Brianne Scarborough.

167 SS: That both of 'em had dated her before.

168 JB: Joey evidently was dating Brianne and had dated her for so long or something like
169 that and then Isaac's sister was real good friends with Brianne and then she'd set Brianne up with
170 Isaac and they started going off and they had a good time and then they started dating or
171 whatever and Joey just never - from what I've heard from any other people is Joey had threatened
172 pretty much whoever she was dating - or whoever she'd try to date - trying to intimidate 'em to
173 quit dating her -- and that's what the whole thing had stemmed from.

174 SS: Alright, do you know of any other incident that Isaac and Joey ha-- had?

175 JB: Uh, I know that few times out at Brianne's house uh, you know I'd be with Isaac
176 or some'em and she'd call or page him and then she'd want him to come out there like right then

'7 because she said Joey had been calling making threats to her and everything else and that she
178 wanted Isaac to come out there right then and one time we got out there he - I think the back of
179 her mom's van or something was - the windows were all busted out in it -- it was like after we'd
180 got there -- and then one time we'd gotten there - or Isaac and another guy had gotten there like
181 his sister's boyfriend, that they'd went on double date and Brianne's parents were outta town and
182 they'd went to Brianne's house and they kept saying that they saw somebody in - inside the house
183 and Brianne ss-- said that uh, Joey knew where the spare key was and she'd forgotten about it --
184 and then Isaac and Paul had got out and they said that they heard a shot and I think Paul --

185 SS: Paul who?

186 JB: Uh, (what's his) - I can't remember his last name.

187 SS: Paul Allen?

8 JB: Yeah, Paul Allen.

189 SS: Well let me - there's another incident that I had heard that something happened at
190 the Y.M.C.A. on uh, Second Avenue there -- that supposedly Joey and Isaac had ss- something
191 going on and you was suppose been there, is any ha-- do you recall anything - an incident there?

192 JB: At the Y.M.C.A.

193 SS: At the Y.M.C.A., at the road right there?

194 JB: (Inaudible) -- I mean that's where - that night that we followed him, he'd went
195 through there - but no- - nothing about stopping and getting out you know, talking to each other,
196 nothing like that.

197 SS: Had he ever threatened to kill him or anything in your presence?

198 JB: Umm, not to my knowledge, just threaten to whip his ass, stuff like that.

199 SS: Did uh, Isaac ever tell you about the time he chased - any chases that Joey chased
200 him, anything?

201 JB: Yeah, he said Joey come up behind him several times and had tried to run him off
202 the road and then Isaac -- Isaac had started uh, carrying a gun in his truck around the same time
203 that all this stuff started happening and then one day Isaac had called me you know saying that uh,
204 that he'd came home -- or I'd brought him home, matter-of-fact, I'd brought him home and he
205 said he went down there to feed his dog and his dog was dead and that - you know he didn't - we
206 didn't - he thought it would been Joey but he didn't have no way of proving nothing so he never
207 said nothing about it and then -- go telling --

208 SS: Wh- what kind a dog did he have?

209 JB: It's a black and tan coon hound.

210 SS: Do you know where the dog was shot at?

211 JB: He said it was shot right between the eyes - I never saw it but that's what he said.

212 SS: You never saw -- do you know where he buried the dog?

213 JB: No.

214 SS: Or if he buried it?

215 JB: He said he buried it but I heard from Sammy that he said he threw it out in the
216 woods or something like that also, so I don't have any knowledge of where it would be.

217 SS: Do you know when that was?

218 JB: Let's see - that was probably August maybe or September.

219 SS: Umm,

220 JB: But it was Fall.

221 SS: Okay. Did um, did he suspected Joey of doing it?

222 JB: Um-hum.

223 SS: Did you ever know -- did you ever witness Joey Watkins with Mark Free?

224 JB: No I don't know who Mark Free is still --

225 SS: You don't know --

226 JB: -- never seen him.

227 SS: --okay.

228 JB: I wa--I might know him if I saw him after somebody told me that's who it was but-

229 SS: do you know of any other incidents that maybe that Isaac had told you - it was

230 common knowledge to you that Isaac and Joey didn't like each other.

231 JB: Um-hum.

232 SS: That Joey didn't like Isaac.

233 JB: Right.

234 SS: And they didn't -- they wouldn't bosom buddies.

235 JB: Right.

236 SS: So you know that first hand with being friends with Isaac.

237 JB: Right.

238 SS: Because of - of dating Brianne.

239 JB: Right.

240 SS: But there's no other incident that you know of other than Isaac telling you that

241 Joey had chased him down several times trying to run him off the road.

242 JB: No, not that I'd been with him.

243 SS: But apparently, what you're telling me that Isaac felt like he was threatened then
244 apparently if he was gone get a gun.

245 JB: Right.

246 SS: Did he elaborate on that or anything?

247 JB: Well I'd ask him one night when we were coming back from um, a party and I'd
248 saw it in there and I think it was like a .380 uh, (inaudible) or something like that and I'd asked
249 him you know why'd he keep that in his truck and he said just in case and then I was like well in
250 case what and he's like, well - he's like I don't know I just - I just want one in here and he's like,
251 well you carry one and I was like, well -- I said yeah, but I said, I don't really ever give it a second
252 thought and I said, all of a sudden you start carrying one and then uh, he kept saying, you just
253 never know what some people are gone do and then I's like, are you talking about Joey and he
254 was like - well I don't know he's like he's crazy enough to but I don't know if he ever would or
255 not and I said well - that was about the same time that Isaac had started talking to me about
256 breaking up with Brianne because of all this.

257 SS: Well do you know of any person that hated Isaac?

258 JB: No, no.

259 SS: Was he well liked in school?

260 JB: Yeah every -- he was really, you know he never really said anything bad to
261 anybody that - mean there was - no, there was no other enemies I can think of.

262 SS: Is anything else that you felled to mention to tell me anything about uh, any
263 incident that Joey and Isaac had?

264 JB: Ummm, I can't think of any right now.

55 SS: Okay, I'm on end this interview with uh, Jay Barnett - time is 2037, 2037 -- and
266 this interview had been conducted at the Floyd County Police Department.

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