

Testimonies of Love and Hate

Because the investigations and the autopsy were so totally inadequate, the State's case relied solely on the testimony of John Brown. The credibility of the **characters** of Jack Alderman and John Arthur Brown therefore play a crucial role. The following testimonies show that the contrast between the two men could hardly be greater.

Jack Alderman has no history of violence; all the character witnesses in the trial described him as even-tempered and mild-mannered. There was absolutely no evidence that there was any violence between him and Barbara and no reason that he would want her killed; they were looking to adopt a baby from the Bethesda Orphanage at the time.

There are many people who have known Jack throughout his life who can speak of his intelligence, profound quest for knowledge, maturity, genuine spirituality, level headedness and integrity. Those who know him do not believe he had any part in killing his wife. Several people quoted below know Jack extremely well and would be willing to share their insights into Jack's character.

1. Alderman's Attorney in Georgia

" There are no other clients like Jack and everyone who has encountered him knows that – everyone from his attorneys, other inmates, guards, prison wardens, pastors and friends and so the list goes on. Prison is too harsh a place not to notice the single remarkable person who flourishes, matures and spreads light in a very dark, dank environment. He has consistently maintained his integrity, his sense of self and his ability to take the moral high –road; his qualities cannot be matched by anyone."

2. Murphy Davis, Director of the Southern Prison Ministry

[known Alderman for 30 years].

" Jack stands out in many ways and especially in his capacity to maintain a sense of focus and discipline. He is a very centered person. His spirituality has such a warm, deep expression in his own life that it has become a resource for fellow prisoners and prison staff. He has mentored younger guys coming into the prison and has taught them how to live without brutalizing each other and becoming dehumanized. He is both a peace-making force and a teacher in the prison. I never knew anybody in all these years who had a harsh word to say about Jack."

3. Ward Brockman, fellow inmate on death row, GA; [in a letter to Simone Sandelson].

" What kind of man would I have been if I had not met Jack 12 years ago? He has enabled me to grow into a decent man and that has impacted everyone in my life... The most important lesson he taught me was to have integrity – to do the right thing regardless of the personal cost. These were not hollow words; he lives and breathes this way of life, under the most trying of circumstances and I see it in action every day. I do my best to follow his example; he has become a father figure to me and I should also include a mentor, confidant, brother and lastly my best friend."

4. Reverend Richard Rento, Clifton, New Jersey

"Without benefit of legal training, my 4 years acquaintance with Jack and his situation have convinced me beyond all doubt that he is an innocent man. Those who are knowledgeable about his status tell me again and again that he was betrayed by a key witness in the process that led to his conviction. He left Jack to a living death.

Jack is brilliant and good and a voracious reader; I have a 3" file of his carefully crafted letters attesting to an uncommonly intelligent mind matched by a compassionate heart. He is a peacemaker to whom fellow inmates and members of the prison staff go for counseling and advice. He is a model citizen without whom our society would be only poorer."

5. Father Richard Wise, pastor at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Blairsville, GA, known Jack since 1980

In his testimony in court in 1999, Father Wise stated that Jack was the most positively influential person he had met on death row. He based his opinion on Jack's wisdom, insight, religious commitment and desire to learn. He also observed Jack had a wonderful way of diffusing tension and bringing a change for the better in people's moods.

John Arthur Brown has a long history of mental illness and extensive drug use. Medical records indicate that Brown had difficulty controlling his anger and rage and that his temper caused "black rages" where he lost control and no longer knew what he was doing. He also suffered hallucinations and was diagnosed, according to his Vietnam records, with schizophrenia. Brown's family members describe him as physically and mentally abusive, aggressive, extremely violent, unpredictable and manipulative. He beat his daughters and each of his wives severely. Additionally, he has a history of pedophilia and sexually molested his underage stepdaughter, daughters and son for many years. In prison he confessed to two different inmates to killing Barbara alone and without Jack Alderman's help. Later, the district attorney allegedly cut a deal with him in exchange for implicating Jack Alderman. He then changed his story and he was ultimately released after 12 years going from a death sentence to full freedom, based on the deal with the district attorney and the pleading letters from the victim's mother.,

1. Sandra Brown Lanier, stepdaughter

"He was a negative influence in our lives and caused harm to many people. John

Brown was a smart man and a very evil man. He was selfish, violent and manipulative and did not care about other people and how his actions affected other people in the least. He would do anything he could to get what he wanted and showed no restraint or shame.. John Brown was conniving, self-serving and cared about no one but himself, further he was disloyal and untrustworthy. When I was about 4 or 5 years old, John started messing with me. He would come into my room at night and touch me in places that he should not touch a little girl. John told me that he would kill me and my sister Joanna, if I ever told anyone. I knew he would kill us, because I saw the way he beat up on Mama."

2. Audrey Brown, daughter

"In addition to being a very selfish man, my father was also very violent. He used to lose control for no reason. When he got mad, he would beat on us making threats to kill us...I recall a time when he slammed my head into the bedroom dresser. When he got mad he would beat me like I was a grown man. He just couldn't control himself when he got angry.

As I've gotten older, relatives have told me more about my father and things he did to them. So many things my Dad did were violent and involved him getting sex. My half brother, John told me my dad raped him when he was a little boy. There was one time when my Dad was riding in a truck with Joanna (sister). He was mad and told her he was going to kill her and dump her body in the woods, my Mum had also told me my Dad threatened to kill her and dump her body.

It seems all of my family members have stories to tell about my Dad and unfortunately they present a picture of a very manipulative man who hurt or used people, including children to get what he wanted. He destroyed many people before Barbara Alderman was killed, and many people after they released him from prison in Georgia, and finally killed himself."

3. Christine Martin-Brown. Widow

Even after John's death, he was still making my life a living hell. He had racked up over \$70,000.00 in credit card debt in my name. Then I discovered that John was responsible for electricity bills in several other places. I guess he had girlfriends in the other houses. I could not get myself out of the debt he had created and eventually I had no other choice but to sell my farm to my neighbor. I worked very hard for many years to provide a home for Michelle, and we lost it all because of him.

I feel extremely lucky that Michelle and I are still alive."

John Brown remarried and resumed his former lifestyle after his release from prison. His episodes of uncontrollable anger and rage persisted, he beat his wife, stole from her, leaving her in debt. He also sexually abused his wife's underage daughter, who ultimately reported him. Despite a murder conviction which prohibited him from owning firearms, he kept a variety of guns. In February 2000, his house was surrounded by a team of NY State troopers intending to arrest him for child molestation and illegal possession of firearms. The troopers found him dead. He had killed himself by shooting himself in the head with an AK47.

The State's leniency towards John Arthur Brown epitomizes the hypocrisy and injustice that exists in the prosecution of Jack Alderman. Ultimately the State rewarded John Brown by freeing him from prison, without exoneration, unprecedented in the history of the Georgia judicial system. Meanwhile they have ceaselessly pursued the execution of Jack Alderman.

August Siemon, specialist Capital Defense attorney, Atlanta, made a statement that is extremely pertinent to this case: 'In no state in the union is the uncorroborated testimony of a co-defendant sufficient to put a person on trial and to convict him. The law recognizes that the risk of a guilty person trying to save his skin through malicious allegation is simply too great'.

Jack Alderman was just hours from execution on October 19th 2007 and received a temporary stay while the US Supreme Court reaches a decision on the Constitutionality of lethal injection. The stay has now been removed (April 16th, 2008) This provided a short period of time to expose the injustice of this case and make people aware of the very real possibility that the State of Georgia intend to execute an innocent man as soon as they are able to.