

## PREFACE

I've spent many years working as a certified accountant. Occasionally part of the work included responsibility to investigate criminal activity. I have no additional professional training or experience as an investigator and never worked in law enforcement. Nevertheless, I make no excuse for the opinions expressed in this document and take responsibility for accurately reporting the facts.

People often ask how I became acquainted with Timothy Davis and what led to my investigating his case. About 15 years ago, I decided to write a mystery novel concerning a wrongly-convicted man on death row. My first contact with Mr. Davis came when I asked him if we could correspond so I could learn about Alabama's death row from an inmate's perspective. He agreed, and we arranged a first meeting at Holman prison in Atmore, Alabama.

I've never known the nervousness I experienced as I walked onto the visiting yard at Holman to personally meet Mr. Davis. I remember the visit as clearly as if it happened yesterday. As the meeting came to an end, Davis looked me in the eye and said in a matter of fact tone, "I really didn't do it."

After a few years of corresponding and visiting with Timothy Davis, I knew what I wanted to do. I set the fiction project aside and began an investigation into Mr. Davis' capital murder conviction and the brutal death of Mrs. Avis Alford. This document is the conclusion of that effort. I didn't set out to support Davis' claim of innocence. Instead, I wanted to learn what actually happened. You'll discover upon reading the entire investigation what I discovered—no evidence points to his guilt. I came to believe in his innocence, and I believe I have solved the murder, but you can decide for yourself. I really would like to hear from you.

Many people contributed to this investigation and have my thanks. I would be remiss if I failed to mention the special help I received from my good friend Michele Villeneuve.

Alex Ashton  
May 2014

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