

# A Secret Tryst Turns Deadly in Waterbury Vermont and Leaves Behind a Real Treasure Cache of Untold Wealth!

The day before it wasn't snowing.  
The trees are strangers, leering, disapproving  
In the ash of winter.  
My world, my life, my wandering path.  
It seems not God, but man's own wrath.  
Has put an end to our love.



The Secret Lover's Lost Cache an H.Charles Beil Treasure Hunting Adventure

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There once stood at the corner of South Main Street, and Park Row in Waterbury, Vermont the Waterbury Inn. It was actually built in its entirety "without blueprints in 1865" just after the Civil War. Accessible by train and car, wealthy folks from New England, New York and Canada made this a favorite destination as a vacation place from that time, into the 1950's. It was a pleasant atmosphere of a country, Victorian flair with all of the finery that you'd expect of a New England mountain retreat.



"Numerous owners and managers maintained the Inn over the years but Perhaps W.F. Davis served the longest tenure and is most remembered by townsfolk.



Situated behind the Inn was a croquet course for guests' entertainment. At one time deer were penned there and an archery course abutted the golf course, on Blush Hill which was advertised as the Waterbury Inn Golf Course. Local organizations met at the Inn and celebrations, tea and card parties were held there. In all it was a memorable and pleasant affair.



Families would come by rail for a vacation at the Inn, availing themselves of the previously mentioned activities plus trips to Stowe, up to Mansfield, picnics or porch rocking. Livery stables and other businesses flourished and the entire area spoke of relaxation and recreation.

A 1930's brochure indicates the appeal of the hostelry-- "newly decorated with innerspring mattresses-- most rooms have twin beds and private baths-- and elevator takes you up and down-- rates \$7 per day or \$47.50 week-- rates include meals of course." -

And of course; the food was exquisite. White linen table cloths, sterling silver dinnerware and tea sets adorned the dining room. Wingback chairs provided the most comfortable of dining from the rich mahogany tables.

All was pleasant and charming in Waterbury or so it appeared.

"In the late 1940's, the property was purchased by Elmond Molony beginning a saga reflective of a Sherlock Holmes mystery. Mrs. Pauline Malony was found dead in the rear of the hotel in March 1950. scantily clad in night wear, bruised about the knees and legs the body was found at 9 A.M., apparently having been outside all night. It is to be supposed that she died sometime during the night.



The headlines read; *"On the morning of March 18, 1950, the partially clad body of the owner of the Waterbury Inn, Pauline Gill Molony (41) was found in a rear alley, face-up and spread-eagled in the fresh, wind-blown, snow. Waterbury doctors C. B. Orton and John Wright were summoned, but despite the urging of Eric Graves, the Health Officer, both were unwilling to sign a Death Certificate because of an unknown cause of death."*

Each doctor agreed that the cause of death was open to question since there was no obvious fatal mark on her body and no known prior medical condition. Other marks on her hands, knees and face appeared suspicious...Pauline Molony met her untimely death over six decades ago and the case is still officially open.





fig. #1 The area where Pauline's body was found

Amazingly, it wasn't until early evening when her husband - Edmond Molony, contacted Waterbury Police Chief Forrest N. Reber to notify him of the death. Reber in turn contacted the three-year-old Vermont State Police to ask for help. At the urging of an alcoholic doctor, Henry St. Antoine, who resided at the Inn, Mr. Molony requested an autopsy on his wife.

Dr. Joseph W. Spelman, the Vermont State Medical Examiner, conducted an autopsy that evening inside the V.L. Perkins Funeral Home on South Main Street in Waterbury. It was discovered that Mrs. Molony had died of a hard blow low on the back of her head. Spelman ruled a cerebral hemorrhage as the cause of death. Pauline Molony had been murdered!

The State Police then launched a full investigation under the direction of Lt. John G. Peters and Detective Almo G. Franzoni. Immediately, it became obvious that there was some limited evidence she could have fallen on the ice, hit her head on the corner of the building, and crawled a short distance until overcome by her injury and the cold.

On the other hand, there was a rich lot of possible suspects and nobody could explain why she was found outdoors with so little clothing in March. Likewise, nobody could fully explain the blood splatter and other evidence at the scene. For example, one of her socks was found the next morning hundreds of feet away in Dr. Orton's driveway. It was a suspicious scene to say the least.

## The Waterbury Inn



Lt. Peters, Detective Franzoni and Lab Technician Hemenway used several advanced techniques during their investigation. At a time when it was not common, they incorporated, microscopic fiber analysis, microscopic hair analysis, blood typing, and blood spatter analysis. They spent hours carefully dusting several inches of new snow away to expose the surface as it has been at the hour of her presumed death.

The primary suspect was Edmond Molony (53), the husband who told a somewhat confusing story and admitted to having a fight hours before her death. He heaped suspicion on himself in a number of ways. One example was the immediate removal and washing of the limited clothing in which she had been found. He later had a hard time producing these items for the police. Additionally, he didn't notify any law enforcement agency of his wife's death for nearly 12 hours - neither did the doctors, the health officer or any of the many employees and guests at the Inn leading to an ominous speculation of the worst kind!

At a time when Vermont State Police had no such capability, Molony was transported out of state for a polygraph with the results having been inconclusive. A read of the transcript does leave one with a vision of police officers hovering over Molony in a dark room lit by a single bare light bulb suspended over his head with pressure, intimidation and coercion used to extract information from him.

The other suspects weren't far lower down the list and included a recently fired and alcoholic physician from the Vermont State Hospital. The doctor was living at the Inn and not paying for his room and board. It would appear that the Molony's were planning to evict him and Mrs. Molony was none too fond of him and his ways. She felt that he was driving away reputable clientele and that he looked bad for their business. Ill felt words were often exchanged between the disenfranchised doctor and Mrs. Molony and there was no love lost between them.

The Front Desk Clerk on duty that night and the last person to admit to seeing her alive was investigated. It was quickly determined that he had previously run a house of prostitution in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. His past clearly was not a clean slate and his reputation sullied that of the Waterbury Inn. He was an employee that was destined to be terminated by Mrs. Molony.

Another suspect was a former patient at the Vermont State Hospital and handyman employed at the Inn in exchange for room and board. He was apparently ill treated by Mr. Molony who dealt with him with derision and contempt and was unable to be a good witness for himself due to his despise of the Molony's. He believed that the value of his work far exceeded the value of his room and board and that the Molony's had taken advantage of him and owed him reparations.

The last suspects were a refrigeration repairman who had worked on the freezer at the Inn and the Inn's chef and wait staff. Mrs. Molony was a tough business woman; she ran a tight ship and had been convinced that someone had been stealing meat from the freezer. There was initial speculation that she was checking the freezer and had surprised a thief in the act.

The case remains as an officially unsolved/untimely death. A key reason is the subsequent events that overtook the primary suspects.

- a) The Desk Clerk died of a heart attack within eight months
- b) Dr. Henry St. Antoine, a long term guest, committed suicide by leaping in front of a Central Vermont train; in July of 1951.
- c) Edmond Molony died of cancer in July of 1952.
- d) The Handyman was incapable of providing meaningful testimony due to diminished mental capacity.

To further complicate matters disaster struck the Inn as if destined to hide the truth surrounding the untimely death of Pauline Molony. The Inn burned in a massive fire on November 3, 1953.

With the subsequent disappearance of the building itself and the loss of most related police files, this case is no longer solvable unless a new witness(s) comes forward. The last known witness died several years ago.

Mrs. Molony's death certificate on file in Waterbury still shows that the case is "under investigation" and has never been amended."

It wasn't long before speculation swirled about the town among the blue haired tongue wagging old bitties that Pauline was involved in an extramarital relationship and was returning from a secret rendezvous with her lover at their designated spot along the Winooski River when she was confronted by her husband who had followed and spied upon the couple during the tryst. Enraged when overhearing that Pauline had been secreting a portion of the receipts from the hotel till and other valuables for their planned escape he sprang upon her with uncontrollable malice and committed the cardinal sin.

It may appear that perhaps no meat had been stolen at all from the deep freeze in the basement but that Pauline might have used it as a cover for the receipts not balancing at the month's end if the stories of the local gossips are to be believed. It can be supposed that she buried thousands of dollars since she stood to receive nothing from a nasty divorce proceeding.

Search as he might Edmond Molony was never able to discover the spot where his wife had buried her valuables. Her alleged suitor had quickly left town never to return upon hearing of her murder lest accusations be cast in his direction. Pauline's cache of money and jewels has eluded everyone who has searched for them.

The tragic fire of November 3-4, 1953 destroyed the Inn. The Vermont icon burned to the ground taking with it any secrets that may have been held within its walls.







*Robert Molony, Jr., who was managing the Inn for his uncle's estate, perished in the fire." -*

## About The Author

©2015 H.Charles Beil received a degree in History from Duquesne University in 1982; and certificates in Archaeology from, Brown, Emory, Tel Aviv Universities and the United States Department of the Interior. He studied historical geology, archeology and oceanography under Skinner and other world renowned geologists, archeologists and scientists and has been an avid treasure hunter for nearly 50 years. He's published numerous articles on the subject of treasure hunting and has been a frequent researcher in the tiny historical societies, large libraries and museums all along the Eastern Seaboard and the Mid-Atlantic States. More than an historian, his finds are in museums and personal collections throughout the country. He is the larger than life "Indiana Jones". Having amassed his fortune for nearly 50 years, H.Charles Beil has now divided his treasure and is reburying it as caches throughout the country. Are you ready to begin the treasure hunt of a lifetime? The adventure began with volume one; ***The Lost Cache of Wolf Run***. It continues in this, the ***Secret Lovers Lost Cache***.

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