



Rutherford County Sheriff's Department

TRUMAN JONES, JR.
SHERIFF

To: Dr. Sydney A. McPhee, Dr. Kaylene A. Gebert
CC: Dr. Hugh Berryman
From: Detective Ralph Mayercik – Rutherford County Sheriff's Department
Date: 01/23/2008
Re: Bones located and recovered at Stones River National Battlefield

RECEIVED

JAN 25 2008

EXECUTIVE VP/PROVOST

Dr. McPhee,

I am writing this letter in deepest thanks to one of your staff at Middle Tennessee State University. On January 4, 2008, the Rutherford County Sheriff's Department was notified by a citizen that they had located what appeared to be a human skull near the General Rosecrans monument off Old Nashville Highway. We responded and decided that we needed some professional assistance in the recovery of this skull and any other bones that may still be associated with it. Our first thought, and quite frankly the best choice, was Dr. Hugh Berryman. He was contacted and immediately responded to our crime scene to access the site. Dr. Berryman contacted several members of his anthropology team and they went right to work excavating a dump site for a human body. The weather this particular night was bitter cold and the wind was biting, but never did anyone from his team complain. They worked tirelessly throughout the night and eventually recovered the entire skeleton of this individual. They were so meticulous in their work that the only way that I was able to describe watching them work was "like a finely oiled machine". Without Dr. Berryman and his team that night, I am sure we would not have been able to recover this body and the related evidence as efficiently or accurately. He was also able to give us on the spot valuable insight about the body, the possible age, race, trauma, and other factors that will lead our investigation in a positive direction. I would like to personally thank you all and Dr. Berryman and his team for their assistance. We are extremely privileged to have such a great resource here in Rutherford County to draw upon in times like this.

Sincerely,

Detective Ralph Mayercik – Rutherford County Sheriff's Department

