

MESSAGE FROM PROSECUTOR SHERRI BEVAN WALSH

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MAN CONVICTED OF KILLING RELATIVE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

(April 30, 2010...Akron) ... Summit County Prosecutor Sherri Bevan Walsh announced today that William Creel, 47, of Akron, was found guilty by a jury last evening, Thursday, April 29, of Murder (with a gun specification) for purposely killing his niece's husband, 19-year-old Joshua Simmons, also of Akron. Creel was also convicted of Felonious Assault and Discharging a Firearm into a Habitation, felonies of the second degree, and Tampering with Evidence, a felony of the third degree. He was acquitted of Aggravated Murder.

Simmons, who was mentally ill, had recently married Creel's niece and lived next door to Creel in an abandoned house on Newton Street. On December 24, 2009, at 11:45 p.m., Creel took out a rifle and shot Simmons while he stood in the window of his house. Simmons was shot in the forehead and died on Christmas Day at Akron City Hospital.

Creel, who faces a minimum of 18 years to life in prison, will be sentenced Wednesday, May 5 at 1:00 p.m. by Judge Alison McCarty.