

SAM

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The authorship of the Son of Sam letters, especially the one sent to columnist Jimmy Breslin in June 1977, has long been a subject of debate among those close to the case. Many, including handwriting expert Charles Hamilton, maintain that Berkowitz could not have been the author of the Breslin letter.

Berkowitz was incapable of it, said Hamilton who has studied numerous samples of Berkowitz' known writing style.

John Carr, however, was known as a good writer and his friends tell us he was always making up bizarre plots and things like that, Gardner said.

Berkowitz and John Carr who police originally believed did not know each other, were acquainted and Carr was also listed as an alias of the killer in the Son of Sam letter to Breslin. The alias was "John Wheaties, rapist and suffocater of young girls." One of Carr's nicknames, known only to a few close associates, was "Wheaties."

Carr, moreover, although he was 30, often dated young girls 14 and 15 years old while living in North Dakota. And Berkowitz, in his diary, called John Carr a "child molester."

There's no question of extremely intimate knowledge of Carr by Berkowitz, Lt. Gardner said.

Carr was found shot to death in a friend's apartment in Minot, N.D. in February, 1978 — six months after Berkowitz' arrest. His death originally termed an "apparent suicide," is now being probed as a possible homicide.

New York authorities, despite official denials at the time, were seeking Carr for questioning prior to his death but had not located him.

According to Minot, N.D. police, and friends of Carr, Carr knew he was being sought at the time of his death.

"If he knew it, so did others. He could have been killed to silence him," says a police source in New York.

John Carr and Berkowitz have been linked to satanic cult activity in New York, and Carr was also known to be a member of a cult in North Dakota. The new "Son of Sam" probe is focusing on the possibility that the killings were occult-motivated.

A friend of Carr's in North Dakota, Phil Falcon, told Gannett Westchester Newspapers that the Yonkers cult Carr belonged to was "very violent" and "went all the way" in their rituals. Falcon said Carr told him the New York group was large and had many members.

Carr also kept a list of the demons of hell on a piece of notebook paper, Falcon

said, noting that "it sounds like" another reference in the Breslin letter — "The twenty-two disciples of hell."

Berkowitz, in an extensive interview last year at which one of these writers was present, said that others could go to jail if he told all he knew about the case and I don't want that to happen," Berkowitz said. He did admit, however, that a cult existed and he called John Carr and his brother, Michael, "devil worshippers." Berkowitz has refused to cooperate with the new investigation.

Michael Carr was killed when his car ran the West Side Highway in Manhattan at about 4 a.m. October 4. These newspapers later reported that a satanic cult that met on and near the old Croton Aqueduct in Untermyer PARK IN Yonkers was apparently linked to the 44-Caliber killings through phrasing used in the "Son of Sam" letter to Breslin.

The park is just a mile north of the residences of Berkowitz and Sam Carr — the so-called "master" Berkowitz said ordered him to kill. John and Michael Carr were the sons of Sam Carr.

Yonkers police have recently begun their own probe of the case, forming a task force to investigate the cult and its apparent ties to Berkowitz and the Carr brothers.

'Sam' victim denied suit preference

NEW YORK (AP) — Multimillion-dollar claims against "Son of Sam" murderer David Berkowitz by survivors of his victims will be handled as one claim in court, state Supreme Court Justice Carmine Ventiera has ruled.

The judge said Wednesday that he would consolidate all outstanding claims against David Berkowitz, the man who admitted he killed six persons and wounded seven others during a 13-month kill binge in New York City.

He said he would combine the claims so that no one survivor would gain an unfair advantage over the others.

The judge announced the decision after denying a re-

quest by Robert Violante for an accelerated judgment of his \$10 million claim.

Violante, now 22, was partially blinded on July 31, 1977, in Brooklyn in what turned out to be the last Son of Sam shooting. Violante's date, Stacy Moskowitz, then 20, was killed.

At stake are proceeds for a survivor's fund from a court-authorized multimillion-dollar book about Berkowitz which is expected to be published next year.

Ventiera, who authorized the book deal, has been handling all civil matters pertaining to Berkowitz.

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