

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA
BILLINGS DIVISION

TRACY CAEKAERT, and
CAMILLIA MAPLEY,

Case No.
CV-20-52-BLG-SPW

Plaintiffs,

vs.

WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND
TRACT SOCIETY OF
NEW YORK, INC., et al,

Defendants,

ARIANE ROWLAND, and
JAMIE SCHULZE,

DEPOSITION UPON ORAL
EXAMINATION OF CARLA
(HAIN) KLESSENS

Plaintiff,

vs.

WATCHTOWER BIBLE AND
TRACT SOCIETY OF
NEW YORK, INC., et al,

Case No.
CV-20-59-BLG-SPW

Defendants.

BE IT REMEMBERED, that the deposition upon oral examination of CARLA (HAIN) KLESSENS, appearing at the instance of the Plaintiffs, was taken at the offices of Fisher Court Reporting, 2711 1st Avenue North, Billings, Montana, on Thursday, January 11, 2024, beginning at the hour of 9:05 a.m., pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, before Barbara J. McLean, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter, and Notary Public.

* * * * *

Carla (Hain) Klessens

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Carla (Hain) Klessens

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Carla (Hain) Klessens

1 A. Not that I can remember. I remember being
2 at their house in the basement. There was a pink
3 room and a green room, and I remember us girls
4 being in on the bed. And what I -- the only thing
5 I can remember is a bunch of guys standing around
6 the bed.

7 Q. By "a bunch of guys," do you mean like
8 other boys your age, or adult men --

9 A. No, adult men. Quentin Means was there;
10 Martin. I don't remember a lot of it. I only --
11 there's only bits and pieces of it. But the colors
12 of the room, I can see, and I can see the guys
13 standing around the bed.

14 We spent a lot of time over there because
15 Martin's daughter, Myrna, had Mindy and Cory, and
16 they were -- I mean, we were always over there
17 playing. There was always kids downstairs in the
18 basement.

19 Q. Of the Svensen house?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. Do you think Martin Svensen ever abused
22 you?

23 A. I don't think so. I couldn't tell you for
24 sure. That one that I -- I don't know. I know
25 there was -- there's things that I remember that I

Carla (Hain) Klessens

1 think maybe are just dreams, but -- when I would
2 stay with Mindy, and somebody coming in the room in
3 the middle of the night. But nothing that stands
4 out to say, hey, you know, this is what happened.
5 Nothing like that.

6 Q. Okay. How old do you think you were at
7 the time?

8 A. Probably went there from the time I was
9 four until I was 17, 18, you know.

10 Q. Do you remember who any of the other
11 children in Martin Svensen's basement were with
12 you?

13 A. Jamie and Mary Ann. Nissie and Jody
14 Warnock. Colette and Judy Schmidt. It was another
15 one of them places where all of us kids hung out.
16 Millie would -- we would do mints for weddings for
17 people that were getting married. Kind of just one
18 of them places to go, or -- it wasn't far from
19 school, you know. It was just somewhere when
20 parents worked, we would go hang out at Martin and
21 Millie's until they came and picked us up. Or we'd
22 go there after we got done going to service. We'd
23 go stop at their house, and Millie would have
24 sandwiches and stuff for us.

25 Q. Did you ever hear of any other children in

Carla (Hain) Klessens

1 passed away, when Gunnar Hain came down into your
2 room and was touching you inappropriately or trying
3 to feel your baby, did you ever report that to the
4 Elders of the Hardin Congregation?

5 A. No. Once they had said they were going to
6 disfellowship me, I had no need to talk to them. I
7 had no need to let them know anything else that was
8 going on.

9 Q. So at any point in time do you know if the
10 Elders of the Hardin Congregation ever called the
11 police to report Gunnar Hain for child sexual
12 assault?

13 A. I do not believe so, but I don't know for
14 sure.

15 Q. Do you know if the Elders of the Hardin
16 Congregation reported it to anyone?

17 A. I know they were waiting for word back
18 from New York for discipline. When I was four, I
19 remember them not knowing how they were going to
20 take -- or handle it. I know that he had to wait
21 for a week or whatever for -- that was one of the
22 things that he was upset about, you know. Because
23 it hadn't been very long that they had made him an
24 Elder, and then had to take that away, so -- but I
25 know -- I know that they did get ahold of New York.

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1 Q. And how do you know that?

2 A. Because I remember mom talking about it,
3 about them waiting to see how they were going to
4 handle it. I remember Gunnar sitting down and
5 telling us that this is -- you know, we had to
6 wait. Because for him to be an Elder, he was -- it
7 was something that he made a big deal of in the
8 house, you know, all proud of it and everything.
9 So when they took it, it was something that he made
10 a point to let us girls know that, you know, he
11 wasn't happy, he wasn't -- he worked for a long
12 time to become an Elder, and that just didn't --
13 that little bit of talking out of my mouth, that he
14 lost that. So the guilt that he tried to put, it's
15 just something that sticks out.

16 Q. Do you remember any circuit overseers
17 visiting the Hardin Congregation?

18 Hold on. Let me back up.

19 A. Some of them --

20 Q. Do you know what a circuit overseer is?

21 A. Yeah.

22 Q. And what's a circuit overseer?

23 A. They come in and do special talks,
24 special -- whatever, more sometimes to -- depending
25 on what's going on in the congregation, to address

Carla (Hain) Klessens

1 telling what's going on. And -- yeah.

2 Q. Are your memories of those events a little
3 weak?

4 A. My memory is a little weak. I was hit in
5 2017 and have a nice gash in my head, so my memory
6 is not awesome.

7 The reason I remember when I was four,
8 like I said, is because Gunnar was very upset about
9 it, and that was something he made sure that he
10 told us -- told me about specifically. Like I
11 said, my cat in my -- in the house, and my turtle,
12 and threatening my mom and my sisters. That was --
13 it sticks out in my head.

14 Q. You say you were hit in the head in 2017?
15 What happened?

16 A. I had -- there was a 15-year-old girl
17 stole her dad's truck and hit me. I was driving a
18 Jeep. And I hit Tiny's.

19 Q. Oh, it was a car accident?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And you hit your head?

22 A. Yeah.

23 Q. Did you have a concussion?

24 A. I got a seven-inch cut on my head an inch
25 and a half deep with staples in it.