

STATE OF WISCONSIN,

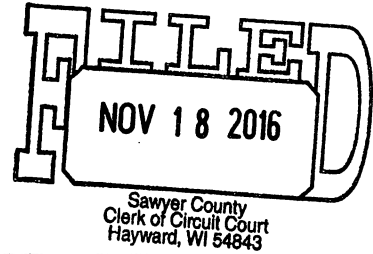
Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 16CF 235

CHRISTOPHER A. GROVER, M/NA,
DOB: 10/06/1974,
c/o Washburn County Jail,
421 Highway 63
Shell Lake, WI 54871,

Defendant.



CRIMINAL COMPLAINT

I, Deputy Donna Thompson-Bechard, being first duly sworn on oath upon information and belief:

COUNT 1: ARSON TO A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the building of another, to wit: the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: the “Ceremonial Lodge” in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.02(1)(a), a Class C Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 40 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 2: ARSON TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property other than a building of another, to wit: the Lac Courte

Oreilles Tribe, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: other property located on the grounds of the "Ceremonial Lodge" in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.03, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 3: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property of another, to wit: the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, which property was used as religious property, to wit: the "Ceremonial Lodge" and without the consent of the owner thereof, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.012, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 4: ARSON TO A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the building of another, to wit: Paul DeMain, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: the "a large wigwam sheltering a motor home" on the grounds of the Trading Post in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.02(1)(a), a Class C Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 40 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 5: ARSON TO A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the building of another, to wit: Paul DeMain, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: the "a small wigwam" on the grounds of the Trading Post in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.02(1)(a), a Class C Felony

punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 40 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 6: ARSON TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property other than a building of another, to wit: Paul DeMain, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: a motor home, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.03, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 7: ARSON TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property other than a building of another, to wit: the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: the deck located on the Honor the Earth Pow Wow Grounds in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.03, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 8: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property of another, to wit: the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, which property was used as religious property, to wit: the Honor the Earth Pow Wow Grounds, and without the consent of the owner thereof, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.012, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 9: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Sand Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage by means of striking the fence with a vehicle to the property of another, to wit: Daniel Quaderer, which property was used as religious property, to wit: the Big Drum Dance Circle Property and without the consent of the owner thereof, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.012, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 10: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Sand Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage by means of fire to the property of another, to wit: Daniel Quaderer, which property was used as religious property, to wit the Big Drum Dance Circle Property and without the consent of the owner thereof, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.012, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 11: ARSON TO PROPERTY OTHER THAN A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Sand Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property other than a building of another, to wit: Daniel Quaderer, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: the fence and seating system at the Dig Drum Dance Circle in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.03, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 12: ARSON TO A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the building of another, to wit: Alvin Baker, by means of fire and

without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: a “sweat lodge” on the property of Alvin Baker in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.02(1)(a), a Class C Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 40 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 13: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property of another, to wit: Alvin Baker which property was used as religious property, to wit: a sweat lodge and without the consent of the owner thereof, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.012, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 14: ARSON TO A BUILDING

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the building of another, to wit: Gary Quaderer, by means of fire and without the consent of the person in lawful possession thereof, to wit: a “sweat lodge” on the property of Gary Quaderer in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.02(1)(a), a Class C Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$100,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 40 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

COUNT 15: CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO RELIGIOUS PROPERTY

The Defendant did, on or about July 14, 2012, in the town of Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin, cause damage to the property of another, to wit: Gary Quaderer which property was used as religious property, to wit a sweat lodge and without the consent of the owner thereof, in violation of Wis. Stat. § 943.012, a Class I Felony punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000, or imprisonment not to exceed 3 1/2 years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

STATEMENT OF PROBABLE CAUSE

1. On July 14, 2012, a fire was initially reported at what is known as the "Ceremonial Lodge" located in the town of Bass Lake, Sawyer County, Wisconsin. The fire was to a large wood timber structure located at 8831 West Trepania Road. The fire was reported at about 11:43 p.m. on July 14, 2012.
2. While fire fighters were battling that fire, a second fire was reported at the property known as the Trading Post. This fire was to two wigwam type structures. One larger structure that was being used to shelter a motor home, and a smaller wigwam used to shelter other personal property. These fires were located at 8558 CTH K, in the town of Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin.
3. During investigation into these fires, it was determined there were a total of five other fires: one additional fire started on the grounds of the "Ceremonial Lodge" and four other fires at four other locations in Sawyer County. All of the other fires were on property related to the traditional religious practices of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe, specifically the Miidwian religion.
4. According to the report of Assistant State Fire Marshal Tami Augsburger, who your affiant believes to be truthful and credible based on her status as an agent of the Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigation of the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger conducted an origin and cause investigation into the two separate fires she noted at the property of the "Ceremonial Lodge." Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger was able to determine that the cause of the two fires was incendiary, meaning that the fires were intentionally set. Among the items that assisted her in making that decision was a report from the Wisconsin State Crime Laboratory by analyst Ruth Henk. Said report shows that a sample taken from the scene of the "Ceremonial Lodge" fire was positive for the presence of gasoline, which is an

accelerant. Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger also noted two distinct fire scenes and areas of origin, and a burn line leading to the fires which also supported her opinion that these fires were incendiary.

5. Deputy Brian Knapp, who your affiant knows to be truthful based upon prior law enforcement contacts, and was one of the original officers on the scene of the fire at the "Ceremonial Lodge." Deputy Knapp reported seeing fire at the rear of the building on or near the roof line. He also observed heavy smoke venting from the eaves. Finally, Deputy Knapp noted the strong odor of what he described as fuel oil.

6. That same night, a fire was reported at the Trading Post property located at 8558 CTH K in the town of Hayward, Sawyer County, Wisconsin. Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger also investigated the Trading Post fires. Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger determined the cause of the fire at the smaller wigwam to be incendiary, the larger wigwam she classified as undetermined. Similar to the fire at the "Ceremonial Lodge," a burn line was also noted at the Trading Post fire scene.

7. During the investigation, contact was made with citizen witness Tamara Grover. Ms. Grover is a first cousin of the Defendant. Ms. Grover was asked to testify in a Federal Grand Jury proceeding on May 15, 2013. Ms. Grover testified that she is an employee of the LCO Quick Stop, which is a gas station/convenience store located in Sawyer County and near the scenes of the various fires. Ms. Grover further testified that she was working the night of July 14, 2012. Ms. Grover then identified surveillance video from the night of July 14, 2012. Ms. Grover stated that on two occasions she observed a person she knows to be the Defendant drive into the LCO store property and pump gas into what appeared to be a gas can. He then drove off without paying for the gas. She identified for the Grand Jury the surveillance videos and the first gas drive off appears to have taken place at approximately 9:55:52 p.m. on July 14, 2012. The

second gas drive off takes place at approximately 10:56:28 p.m. The Defendant in the surveillance video is driving a gold in color Chrysler 300M.

8. Retired Detective Dan Ross, who your affiant knows to be credible based on prior law enforcement contacts, also testified during the Grand Jury proceedings. Detective Ross testified on December 18, 2013. Among other things, Detective Ross testified that he had timed the route from the LCO store to the Trading Post. The drive would take, at normal driving speeds, 5 minutes and 30 seconds. Detective Ross also testified about reviewing surveillance video from the Grindstone Casino which is located across the road from the Trading Post property. Detective Ross observed a vehicle coming from the direction of the LCO store at 11:02 p.m. and turn into the Trading Post driveway. The vehicle then exits the Trading Post driveway at approximately 11:06 p.m. Then at approximately 11:08 p.m., there is visible fire coming from the location where the large wigwam was located and which was later destroyed by fire along with the motor home housed in the wigwam. Detective Ross also notes the vehicle that pulls into the Trading Post driveway appears to be gold in color like the Defendant's car he is seen in on the LCO Store surveillance video. The timing of when the car pulls into the Trading Post is almost exactly the time that the Defendant would arrive there after the second gas drive off.

9. Detective Ross also testified as it relates to the uses of the "Ceremonial Lodge" by the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. He testified it is used, for among other things, as a location for funerals and celebrations for the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. As such it has religious significance for the Lac Courte Oreilles.

10. While Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger is investigating the fires reported from July 14, 2012, a fire is noted at Honor the Earth Pow Wow grounds located on Trepania Road. Assistant State Fire Marshal Michael Rindt investigated this fire scene. Assistant Fire Marshal

Rindt came to the conclusion that this fire was incendiary, and it appears to have been a rekindling of a fire started the night before. Analyst Henk also tested soil samples from this fire scene. One of the samples was positive for the presence of gasoline. A burn line similar to the Trading Post and "Ceremonial Lodge" fire scenes was also noted at the scene of the Pow Wow grounds fire.

11. During the investigation of the above fires, citizen witnesses Gary Quaderer, Daniel Quaderer, and Alvin Baker also made contact with law enforcement. They all reported noting fire damage at their property: Gary Quaderer to his sweat lodge, Daniel Quaderer to the Big Drum Dance Circle grounds, and Alvin Baker to his sweat lodge.

12. Alvin Baker and Gary Quaderer describe a sweat lodge as a building they go to, along with other members of their tribe or other tribes, to pray to the spirits that are a part of their Native American Religion. They describe the sweat lodge as similar to a church in the western religions.

13. Detective Ross testified that he had interviewed citizen witness Darcie Quaderer who was the girlfriend of the defendant in July 2012. Ms. Quaderer told Detective Ross that she was out boating when she observed a large fire near the shore. The area she described is near the Alvin Baker property. Detective Ross also talked to Alvin Baker. Mr. Baker told him that his sweat lodge was destroyed by fire sometime the evening of July 14, 2012, and he noted it having been burned on July 15, 2012. Mr. Baker could not see his sweat lodge from his residence but it is near the shore of the lake that Darcie Quaderer was boating on the night of July 14, 2012.

* 14. Darcie Quaderer also testified at the Grand Jury proceeding. Ms. Quaderer confirmed observing the fire while it was dark out the night of July 14, 2012, while she was on a boat with the Defendant's daughter. Ms. Quaderer testified that the Defendant had been at her parent's residence, where they were boating, earlier in the evening but had left before she

observed the fire. She reported that the Defendant, while at the residence, was mostly reading his bible.

15. Detective Ross also testified relative to the fire at the Gary Quaderer property. Gary Quaderer had reported going to bed sometime about 10:30 p.m. on July 14, 2012. When he went to bed everything was normal. He then said his girlfriend's daughter arrived about 11:00 p.m. and asked what they were burning. Gary Quaderer then noted that his sweat lodge was on fire. He then took a garden hose and was able to extinguish the fire. Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger also investigated this fire and determined that it was incendiary in nature. Also at this fire, Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger observed a burn line leading to the fire.

16. Because of all the fires reported, a request was made to check the Big Drum property owned by Daniel Quaderer and which is used for ceremonial dances as part of the Lac Courte Oreilles religion. Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger went to the scene and noted damage to the dance ring caused by both fire damage and by the dance ring being struck by what appeared to be a motor vehicle. It appeared a motor vehicle struck the dance ring because there were tire impressions in the soft ground in the area immediately adjacent to where a large section of the dance ring had been knocked over. The dance ring was painted blue on the upper half and red on the lower half. Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger also observed, similar to most of the other fires, a burn line leading to areas of fire damage to the dance ring.

17. Assistant Fire Marshal Augsburger also did an origin and cause investigation on this scene. She observed numerous independent areas where a fire was attempted to be started on the wooden posts that constitute the dance ring along with other items on the property. There was charring on most of those posts. Again, she also observed a burn line at this property similar to other scenes. Analyst Henk tested a sample from the scene of this fire, and it tested positive for gasoline.

18. The gold Chrysler 300M the Defendant was seen driving in surveillance video on July 14, 2012, was seized by law enforcement. Sheriff Mark Kelsey, who your affiant knows to be credible based on law enforcement contacts, had contact with the Defendant on July 15, 2012. Sheriff Kelsey observed, among other things, the Chrysler 300M and noted damage to the front end with blue and red paint transfer, with the blue paint higher up for the most part and the red paint lower down for the most part. The vehicle was eventually seized and samples of the paint transfer along with boards from the Big Drum Dance Circle were submitted to the Wisconsin State Crime Lab. According to the report by Analyst Henk, the paint samples from the boards and from the paint transfer on the car were consistent in color, texture, chemical, and physical properties and were of the same type and could have come from the same source. Analyst Henk made the same observations as it relates to the red paint on the boards and the red paint transfer on the Chrysler 300M. Analyst Henk also noted gasoline on the shoes that law enforcement seized from the defendant on July 15, 2012.

19. Detective Ross reports that plaster casts were made of the tire impressions at the scene of the Big Drum Circle and inked impressions were submitted to the Crime Lab for analysis. Analyst Karley Hujet compared the plaster casts to the impressions and found that the tire standards from three of the four tires were consistent with the plaster casts that were submitted but could not exclude other tires with the same tread pattern size and design.

20. Sheriff Kelsey and Lac Courte Oreilles Police Chief Tim DeBrot, who your affiant also knows to be credible based on prior law enforcement contacts, went to meet with the Defendant on July 15, 2012. This was based on a contact they had with citizen witness Jeff Crone, the step-father of the Defendant. Mr. Crone also testified at the Grand Jury and testified that he had arrived home the night of July 14, 2012, from a movie. He had been called by his wife to advise him that the Defendant had done a gas drive off. Mr. Crone advised when

he returned from the movie, he noted a light in his garage was on and went into the garage to check on that. He then noted nothing missing except a gas can. He advised only the Defendant and he knew where the gas can was located. He further testified that the next day he asked the Defendant about the gas can, and he denied taking it. Mr. Crone then checked again and the gas can was back. Mr. Crone also testified that, with some minor alterations, a report of his interview with DCI Agent Michelle Smith was all true and correct. Among the items in that statement, and which was not the subject of any alterations, was a report that the Defendant believed that a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe's traditional religion, the Miidwian belief system had put a curse on the Defendant shortly before the fires. He also testified that the Defendant had shortly before the fires become a "born again" Christian in the Lac Courte Oreilles Assembly of God Church.

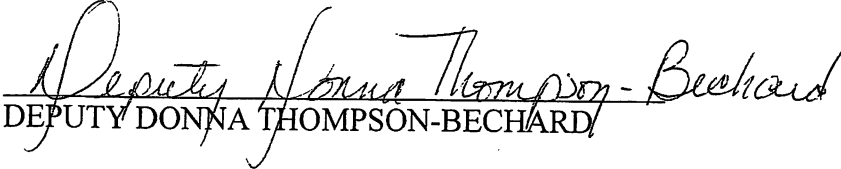
21. Sheriff Kelsey reports that on July 15, 2012, he along with Chief DeBrot, went to the Crone residence in an attempt to have contact with the Defendant. Sheriff Kelsey was advised the Defendant was in the back yard reading his bible. Upon going there he did not find the Defendant, but eventually located him hiding in an old outhouse. Sheriff Kelsey and Chief DeBrot noted that the Defendant had singed hair on his forearm. Sheriff Kelsey and Chief DeBrot attempted to interview the Defendant. While he did not answer many questions, when they asked him if he started the fire with kerosene or gasoline, he replied it must have been gasoline.

22. None of the owners of the properties gave the Defendant consent to damage the property or start the property on fire. The sweat lodges, the Big Drum Circle, the Pow Wow grounds and the "Ceremonial Lodge" are all properties used during ceremonies related to the Miidwian Religion of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe. The "Ceremonial Lodge," the two sweat lodges, the larger wigwam at the Trading Post, and the Motor Home located under the larger

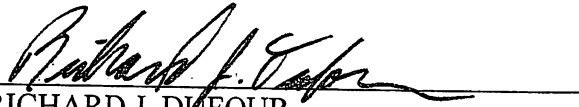
wigwam were all totally destroyed by fire. The smaller wigwam at the Trading Post, the other property where the second fire was noted at the "Ceremonial Lodge," the Big Drum Dance Circle, and the Pow Wow grounds were all damaged but not completely destroyed by fire.

23. All of the above occurred in Sawyer County, State of Wisconsin.

Dated this 18 day of November, 2016.


DEPUTY DONNA THOMPSON-BECHARD

Subscribed and sworn to before me,
and approved for filing,
this 18 day of November, 2016.


RICHARD J. DEFOUR
Assistant Attorney General and
Special Prosecutor for Sawyer County
State Bar No. 1014811
My commission is permanent.

Wisconsin Department of Justice
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