

****Case Summary****

The body of the Cheerleader in the trunk was found by mushroom hunters in a steamer trunk in Frederick Maryland on August 24th, 1982. She may have died as recently as a few weeks prior, or as long as a decade earlier. She was naked and the only other item in the trunk with her was a

dark coloured towel. Her death is believed to have been a homicide, possibly by forceful strangulation as her styloid process had been broken and one of her thoracic vertebrae was stained by a dark stain believed to be blood.

****Circumstances of Discovery and Death****

Date Found: 24th of August, 1982

Location: Frederick, Maryland

Date of Death: Any time between 1972 - July 1982 (6 weeks prior to discovery).

Cause of Death: Homicide

State of Remains: Skeletal or putrefaction (sources conflict)

Burial Information: Unknown, possibly lost.

****Characteristics and Information****

Status: Unidentified

Estimated Age: Currently given as 17-27, previously listed as 17-45.

Sex: Female.

Race/Ethnicity: White

Hair: Brown (possibly naturally red) wavy and medium length.

Eyes: Undetermined.

Approximate Height: 5 ft 2 - 5 ft 6 (most likely 5 ft 3 - 5 ft 5)

Approximate Weight: 100-130lbs

Distinguishing Marks: Spondylolysis, wear to her hips and pelvis, her earlobes may

**have stuck out in an unnatural way,
previous feet and back injuries, two
crowns on left front teeth and a root canal.**

****Images****

**These images show what Jane Doe may
have looked like if she was on the younger
end of her age estimate (17-27)**





These images show what she would have looked like if she was on the older end of her age estimate (28-45)



****Forensics****

Dental records: Available

Fingerprints: Unavailable

DNA: Currently Insufficient for profiling.

****Miscellaneous information****

1.

Jane Doe was found naked, the only item found with her was a dark coloured towel.

2.

The reason they are unsure of her natural colour was red or brown is because, whilst the hair on her head was brown, pubic hair that was recovered was a reddish-brown colour. It is a possibility her brown hair had been dyed that colour. But this is unconfirmed.

3.

Her skull was described as an “old American” skull, suggesting her family had been in the states for many generations (minimum of three before her). This does not necessarily rule out that she was born abroad and then came back, though.

4.

The trunk was pretty much in plain sight, only covered by a few leaves.



****Excluded missing persons****

This Jane Doe is not:

Barbara Cotton,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2921>

Helen Allison,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/28085>

Eddy Segall,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/9042>

Barbara McClure,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/14266>

Zita Gutierrez,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/1866>

Michele Riedenbach,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2907>

Andrea Coyle,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2496>

Kathleen Durst,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/10293>

Emma Vaughn,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/7091>

Rachael Garden,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2362>

Sherry Eyerly

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/6048>

Marie Blee,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/5860>

Betty Roberts,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/7259>

Katherine Anderson,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/1721>

Nancy Snow,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/1839>

Gina Hall,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/1174>

Jeanne Scrima,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/5498>

Anne Manchester,

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/6926>

Susan Cappel,

**[https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/C
ase#/7928](https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/7928)**

Valerie Cuccia,

**[https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/C
ase#/8048](https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/8048)**

Judith O'Donnell,

**[https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/C
ase#/8051](https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/8051)**

Maureen Baca,

**[https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/C
ase#/8460](https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/8460)**

Or Annie Riggin

**[https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/C
ase#/13614?nav](https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/13614?nav)**

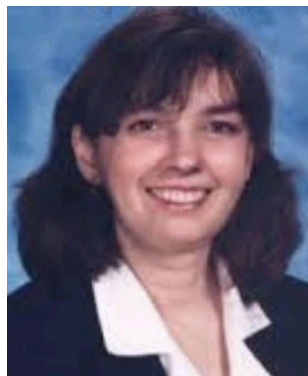
A few potential matches who have not yet been ruled out but have already been submitted.

Kathy Sue Wilcox



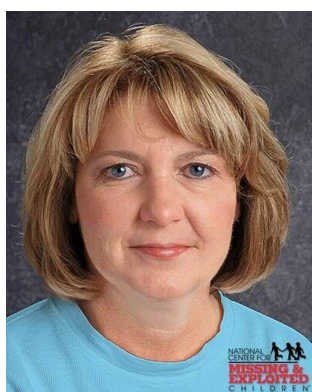
<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/1832/details>

Virginia Alice Welch



<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/1173/details>

Kitty Mae Quackenbush



<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/1840>

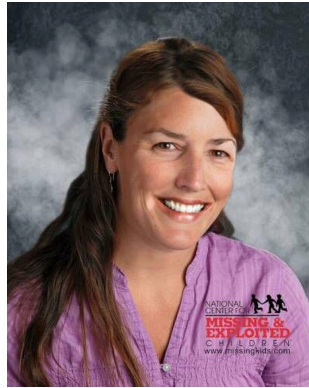
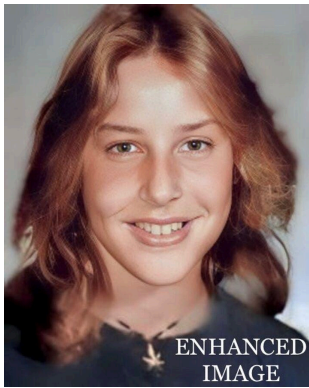


<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2566>

Mary Cooke Spenser

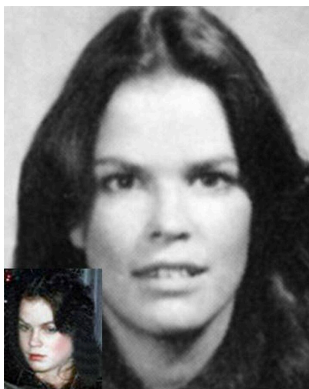
<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2566>

Diane Dye



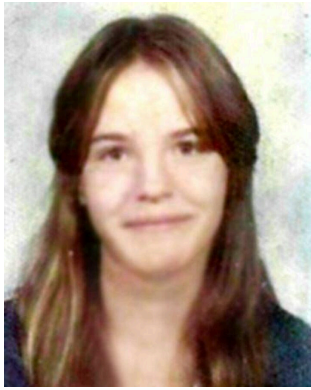
<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/4020>

Debbie McCall



<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/8253>

Karen Beth Kamsch



<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2387/details>

Tracy King



<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/2493>.

****Contacts****

Agency Name: Maryland Chief Medical Examiner

Agency Contact Person: Joe Mullin

Agency Phone Number: 410-333-3250

Agency E-Mail: N/A

Agency Case Number: 82-01607

Agency Name: Frederick Police Department

Agency Contact Person: Det. Kevin Forrest or CST Sabrina Swann

Agency Phone Number: 301-600-2100

Agency E-Mail: N/A

Agency Case Number: 1982-12633

NCIC Case Number: U759825015

NamUs Case Number: 7477

NCMEC Case Number: 1107673

Namus case number: #UP7477.

Doe network case number: 431UFMD.

****Questions****

- 1. Had Jane Doe ever given birth before?**
- 2. Why was her age range initially so wide?**
- 3. Was she fully skeletonized, or just decomposed?**
- 4. What happened to her remains?**
- 5. Was there a large homeless population in this area at the time, and was it known for sex work?**
- 6. Can/has isotope testing be done on this Jane Doe?**
- 7. Were local health care professionals contacted to see if they knew Jane Doe and/or had treated any of her injuries?**

8. Is it believed she died in the location she was found?

(Please leave any more questions you have in the comments and this document will be edited to include them).

****Theories****

1.

It is not confirmed that this Jane Doe was a Cheerleader, but the injuries to her bones suggest she may have been an active woman, who frequently took part in some kind of sport. This could just as easily include gymnastics, horseback riding and dancing etc.

2.

It is also a possibility she could have been an exotic dancer, as this would explain her injuries and potentially how no one in the area seemed to recognise

her. She could have been travelling for her work.

3.

Why didn't her killer make more of an effort to hide the trunk? .I.E. burying it?

- This could suggest the killer knew or believed she would not be missed, and therefore did not actually care if she was found or not.**

This could mean:

- She was not local,**
- She had little or no contact with her family (and the killer knew this)**
- The killer assumed this would be the case due to her job (exotic dancer, sex worker etc.)**
- Or that the killer was almost caught leaving the body there and had to flee, leaving it above ground and in plain sight.**

(Please leave any more theories you have in the comments section and this document will be edited to include them).

Edits:

Potential match by u/Doeyouknowme:

Mary C. Robinson

<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/26000>

Theory by u/identity-crisis:

“Has anyone considered that her injuries could be from abuse and malnourishment?

As an EMT and nursing student, the description of the state of her corpse indicates low bone density. I haven’t found her bone density mentioned anywhere.

“She had signs of wear on her bones, especially the hips, indicating she may have been active in gymnastics, cheerleading, or other sports.” This is a

massive symptom of arthritis or [more likely] osteoporosis.

“She had extensive dental work.” Again, this could be attributed to low bone density. A dental office in Arizona writes “Due to the inflammatory nature of the disease, arthritis can also affect your dental health. Inflammation causes gum disease, the number one source of tooth decay and oral infections. If you have arthritis, you may be more likely to need a crown or a root canal.” about this issue.

“She had spondylolysis, a defect or stress fracture in the lumbar vertebrae that could have been asymptomatic.” This is very common in osteoporosis. Although osteoporosis is more common in older individuals, the disease is not confined to any age. I have seen women as young as 18 be diagnosed with this. This type of fracture can also occur from car accidents,

jumping/being pushed off of something tall, and simple falls.

I'm wondering if the presumption that she was a young athlete is preventing her from being identified."

Potential match by u/rat-de-biblio

Lori Herbster



<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/4585/details>

**Potential matches by u/camefromthelake
Tamera Ellen McCurry**



<https://www.namus.gov/MissingPersons/Case#/8652/details?nav>

****Sources****

Doe network =

<https://www.doenetwork.org/cases/431ufmd.html>

Namus =

<https://www.namus.gov/UnidentifiedPersons/Case#/7477>

NCMEC =

<http://www.missingkids.org/poster/NCMU/1107673>

Unidentified wiki =

https://unidentified-awareness.fandom.com/wiki/Cheerleader_in_the_Trunk

Blog =

<https://web.archive.org/web/20171215221326/http://hellbeasts.com/cleos-got-a-new-hobby/>