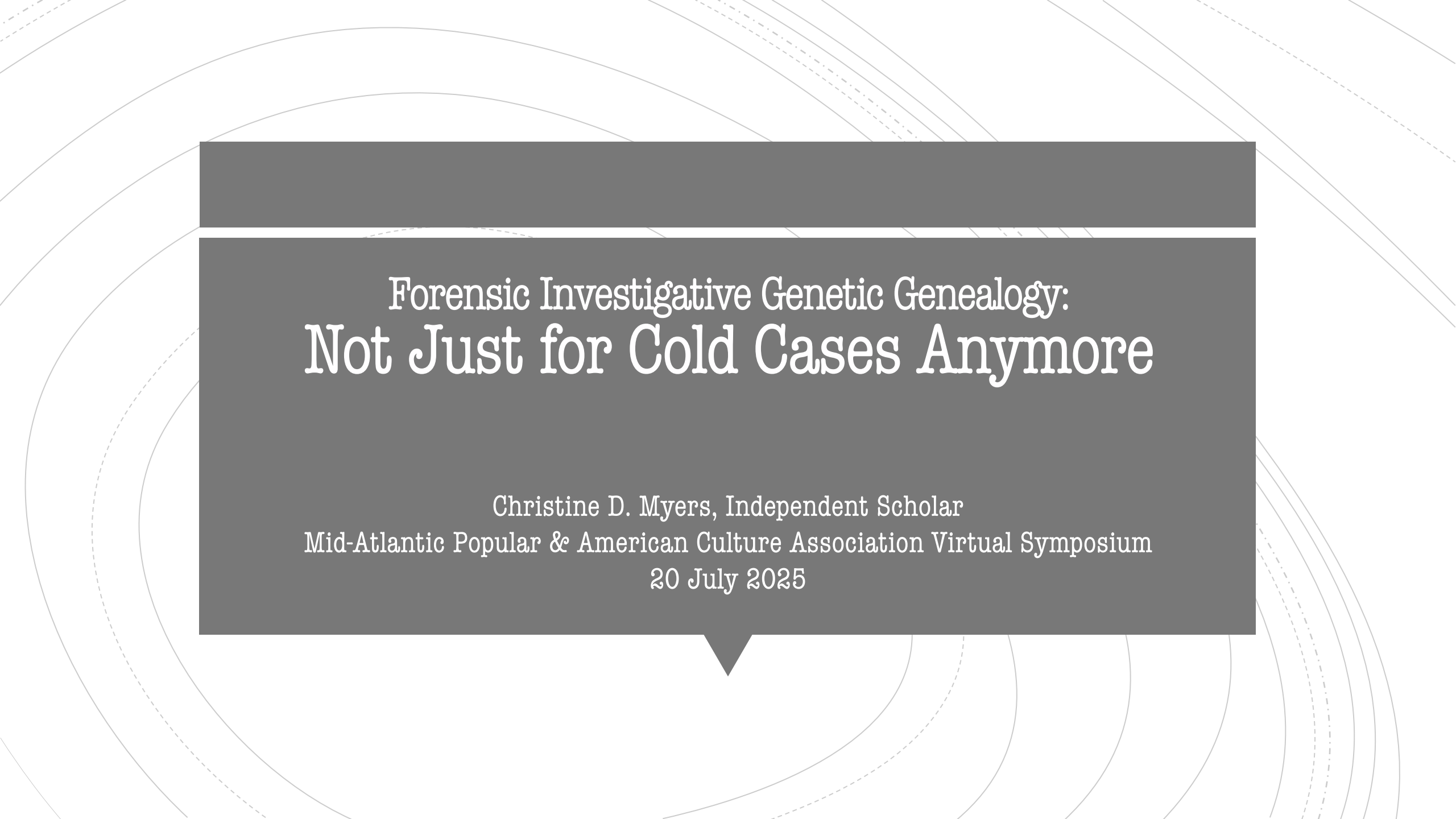




Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy: Not Just for Cold Cases Anymore

Christine D. Myers, Independent Scholar
Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association Virtual Symposium
20 July 2025

GOLDEN STATE KILLER

CAUGHT ON

ANCESTRY SITE



IGG Cases

The data in this repository originates from the [Forensic Genetic Genealogy Project](#) led by Tracey Leigh Dowdeswell, Ph.D. It features criminal cases solved using [Investigative Genetic Genealogy](#) (IGG) where public authorities have confirmed the application of IGG. The data shows **755 criminal cases** have been solved, involving **379 individuals** as of **December 2024**.

You may sort or search by any column to refine the results in the table. To learn more about individual cases, click on the case below. To contribute information on new or existing IGG cases, use [this form](#).

Show 50 ▾ entries

Search:

Individual ▲	Cases ⬆	State(s) ⬆	Earliest Case ⬆	Arrest / ID Date ⬆	IGG Org ⬆
Ailes, Lloyd	1	OH	2006-01-09	2021-12-09	Parabon
Aldrich, Christopher	1	MA	2013-06-18	2023-02-21	Parabon
Aldridge, George	4	KY	2004-11-30	2023-08-28	Parabon
Alexander, Marlon	4	MD	2007-07-31	2018-09-14	Parabon
Alexander, Warren	4	CA, NC	1977-05-29	2024-08-10	Identifinders

KAYU/November 13, 2022

Moscow, Idaho



TALE OF THE KNIFE SHEATH

DNA'S ROLE IN IDENTIFYING IDAHO MURDERS SUSPECT

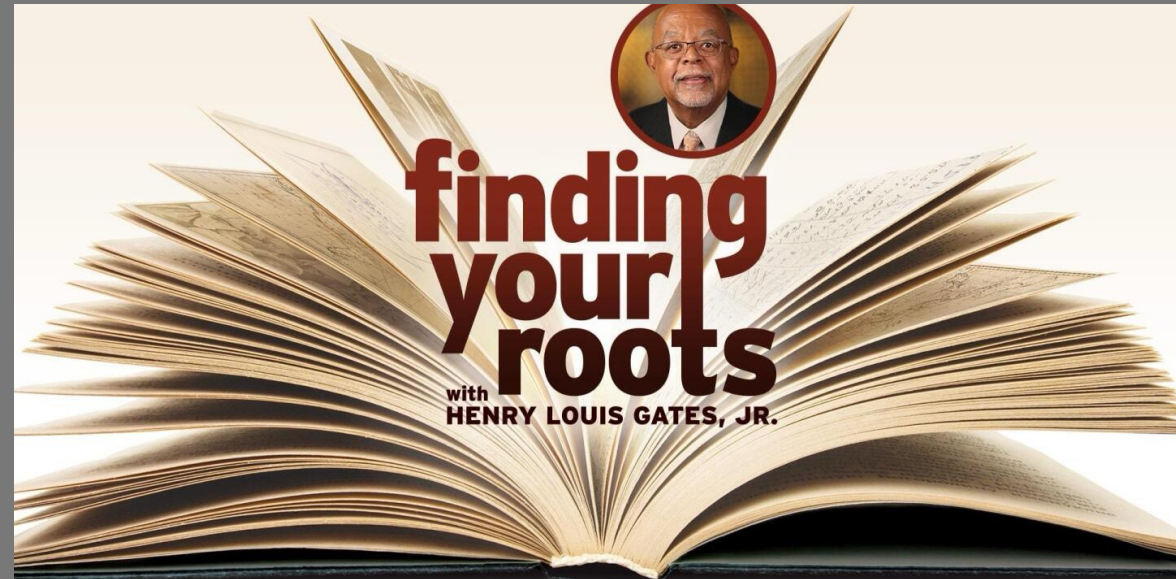
CeCe Moore | Genetic Genealogist



SMERCONISH



ABC, 2020



PBS, 2012-present



**MADISON
MOGEN**
21-YEAR-OLD



**KAYLEE
GONCALVES**
21-YEAR-OLD



**ETHAN
CHAPIN**
20-YEAR-OLD



**XANA
KERNODLE**
20-YEAR-OLD

#Cybersleuths: The Idaho Murders, Paramount+, 2024



SLS

SLS BLOGS / LAW AND BIOSCIENCES BLOG



Familial DNA Searching and Abandoned DNA Identify the Grim Sleeper Serial Killer

July 8, 2010 | By Kelly Lowenberg | Comments (2)

Related Organization(s): Center for Law and the Biosciences

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A serial killer dubbed the Grim Sleeper, believed responsible for killing at least 10 people between 1985 and 2007, was arrested yesterday. Although police had DNA from the crime scenes, they had been unable to match the DNA to any known DNA profile. Using the familial searching protocol, which California began in 2008, analysts found that the Grim Sleeper's DNA was similar, though not identical, to a DNA profile belonging to a man convicted of a felony. This similarity indicated the convicted man was a close relative of the Grim Sleeper.

Using circumstantial information, the police identified Lonnie David Franklin Jr., the convicted man's father, as the relative most likely to be the Grim Sleeper (details in the LA Times excerpt below). Based on this lead, police collected so-called "abandoned" DNA from a piece of pizza Franklin discarded. Franklin's abandoned DNA matched the Grim Sleeper's crime scene DNA, and Franklin was arrested.

Stanford Law School, 2010

Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy (aka., FIGG)

Step 1: DNA sample retrieved from evidence found at crime scene

Step 2: CODIS searches result in no viable leads

Step 3: Upload crime scene DNA profile to Family Tree DNA and/or GEDmatch Pro

Step 4: Find DNA cousins who have opted in to law enforcement matching

Step 5: Build family trees of those matches to find their Most Recent Common Ancestors (MRCA)

Step 6: Do descendency research from that ancestor/ancestral couple to find persons of interest

Step 7: Once you find someone in the right place at the right time to commit the murder, confirm match by taking a DNA cheek swab of the suspect and comparing it to the crime scene sample



Welcome to GEDmatch PRO™

A dedicated portal designed to support police and forensic teams with investigative comparisons to GEDmatch data.

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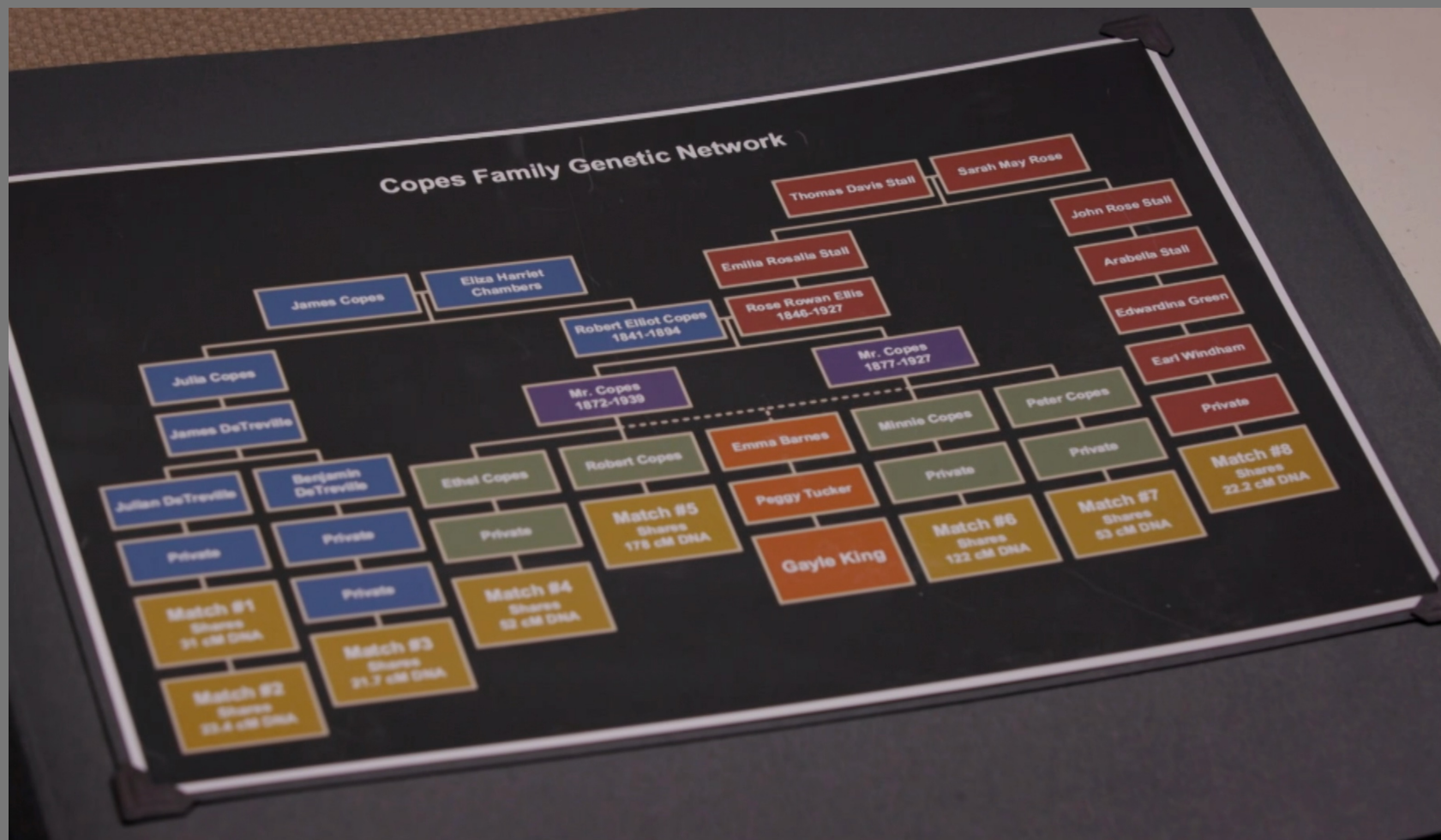
or

Don't have account? [Register](#)

VISUALIZATION OPTIONS							Autosomal			X-DNA					
Select	Match No.	Kit	Name (* => alias)	Email	GED WikiTree	Sex	Total cM	Largest	Gen	Total cM	Largest	ICW Tool	Source	Overlap	Age(days)
☐															
☐	1	TA7205265	*SRM	Pro****@gmail.com		F	3577.3	151.8 Q	1.00	187.7	105.1	Match	Ancestry	259559	332
☐	2	SM5529310	*ProfXine	Pro****@gmail.com		F	3572.3	151.8 Q	1.00	154	74.9	Match	23andMe	96402	331
☐	3	WD5764970	*ProfXine	Pro****@gmail.com		F	3570.7	151.8 Q	1.00	181.1	98.4	Match	MyHeritage	116518	358
☐	4	T894633		nkp****@gmail.com		F	77.9	41.6 Q	3.76	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - T	191118	2273
☐	5	UW8631261		fog****@earthlink.net		F	63.2	29.8 Q	3.91	0	0	Match	Ancestry	196757	1298
☐	6	T550951		kat****@spelliscy.com	GED	F	62	30.7 Q	3.93	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - T	190738	2001
☐	7	A263750		nkp****@gmail.com		M	61.8	48.2 Q	3.93	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	194623	1960
☐	8	A228825		glo****@gmail.com	Wiki	F	58.7	26.8 Q	3.97	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	187170	2702
☐	9	A643741		nkp****@gmail.com		M	54.6	20.6 Q	4.02	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	194482	2436
☐	10	LY1339919		map****@aol.com		M	53.2	17.6 Q	4.04	0	0	Match	FTDNA	193194	1156
☐	11	A394922		nkp****@gmail.com	GED	M	52.2	39.3 Q	4.05	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	194038	1960
☐	12	A376737		san****@sbcglobal.net		M	52.2	22.9 Q	4.05	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	186152	2511
☐	13	A092651		cop****@centurylink.net		F	48.4	17.3 Q	4.11	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	193990	2468
☐	14	JZ8805908		glc****@gmail.com		F	44	44 Q	4.18	0	0	Match	Ancestry	214745	1563
☐	15	DC3129090		sco****@gmail.com		M	43.6	43.6 Q	4.18	0	0	Match	23andMe	67015	76
☐	16	A078897		jud****@gmail.com	GED	F	41.8	22.1 Q	4.21	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	194602	3162
☐	17	JL2875841		rya****@gmail.com		M	41.7	41.7 Q	4.21	0	0	Match	Ancestry	210742	884
☐	18	A804310		lan****@gmail.com		F	41.4	41.4 Q	4.22	0	0	Match	Migration - F2 - A	198643	2163
☐	19	BC2237275		cho****@btinternet.com		M	40.7	40.7 Q	4.23	0	0	Match	FTDNA	78454	964
☐	20	ZR6402746		cho****@btinternet.com		M	40.3	40.3 Q	4.24	0	0	Match	FTDNA	242207	964
☐	21	XR8898768	bul****@cox.net		F	39.3	24.6 Q	4.26	0	0	Match	23andMe	66368	1563	



The Genetic Detective, ABC, 2020



Finding Your Roots, PBS, 2021



IDAHO STUDENT MURDERS

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DOC: KA BAR SHIPPED TO "BRYAN KOHBERGER"

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PRESS RELEASE

Department of Justice Announces Interim Policy on Emerging Method to Generate Leads for Unsolved Violent Crimes

Tuesday, September 24, 2019

For Immediate Release

Office of Public Affairs

Today, the Department of Justice announced its *Interim Policy* on forensic genetic genealogy (FGG), an emerging investigative technique that will combine technological advancements in DNA analysis and searching with traditional genealogy research. FGG is a unique investigative method that can generate leads used by law enforcement to not only identify unknown suspects but to help identify the remains of homicide victims.

X Dateline



Dateline

S33 E28: The Terrible Night on King Road



1:00:23 / 1:23:30



MORE EPISODES

X Dateline



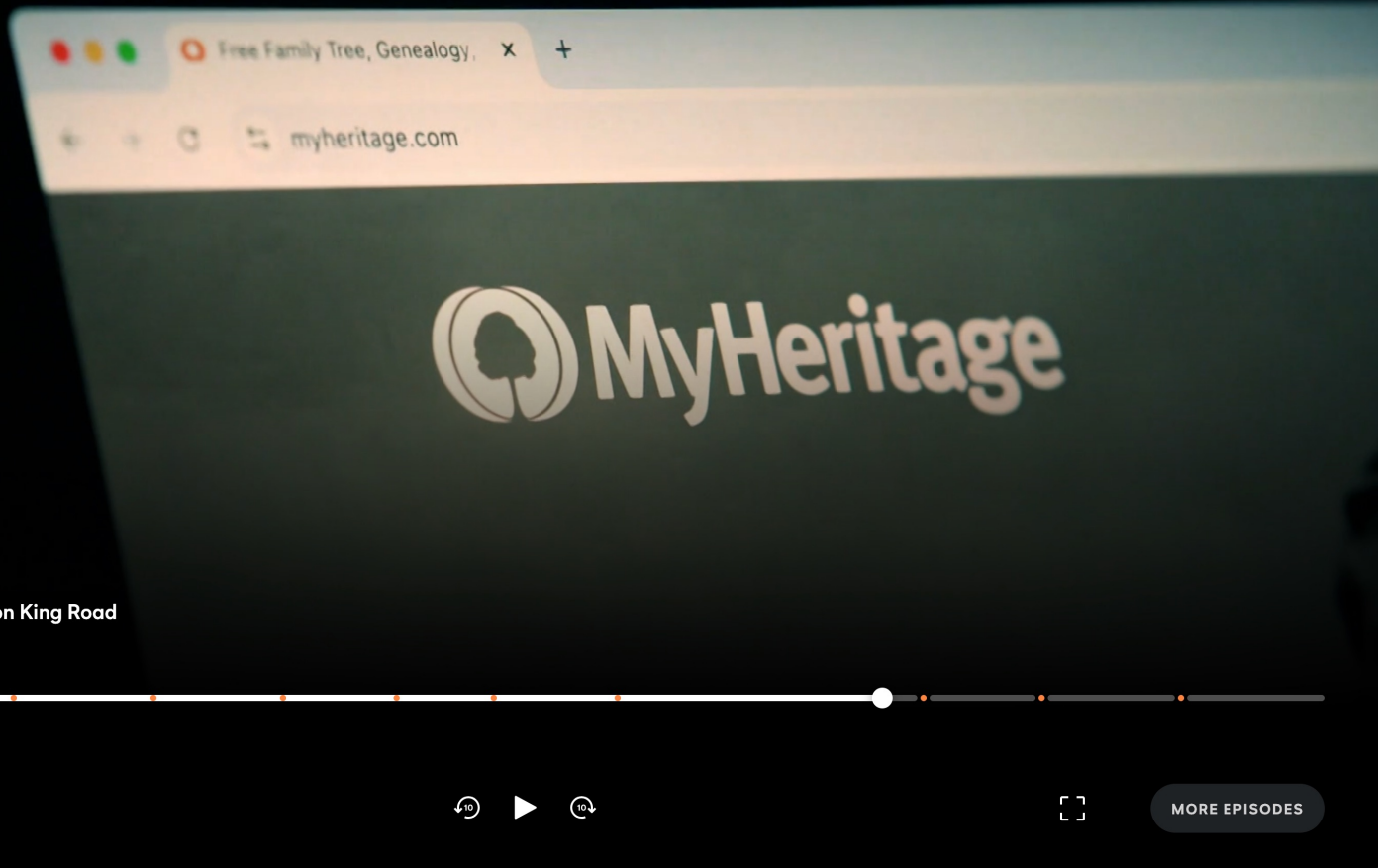
Dateline

S33 E28: The Terrible Night on King Road

1:00:24 / 1:23:30



MORE EPISODES



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Jay W. Logsdon, First District Public Defender, Bar Number: 8759

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF THE
STATE OF IDAHO, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF ADA

STATE OF IDAHO,

Plaintiff,

CASE NUMBER CR01-24-31665

V.

BRYAN C. KOHBERGER,

Defendant.

MOTION TO CONTINUE

COMES NOW, Bryan C. Kohberger, by and through his attorneys of record, and hereby respectfully submits the following Motion to Continue due to the substantial amount of trial investigation and preparation still outstanding, as well as recent and forthcoming publicity that is highly prejudicial to the defense. Any conviction and sentence resulting from a capital trial

MOTION TO CONTINUE

Page 1



A continuance is also necessary to investigate and remedy the prejudice of **highly inflammatory publicity** released just weeks before the current trial date, **including the recent dateline NBC special and a forthcoming book.**

- MOTION FILED BY KOHBGERGER'S ATTORNEYS



Bryan Kohberger's team argues Dateline episode jeopardizes fair trial, requests delay



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[illegible]

Paramount+, 2024

10. Only GEDmatch, FamilyTreeDNA, and some smaller entities allow crime scene and human remains samples to be uploaded. The Terms of Service at AncestryDNA, 23andMe, and MyHeritage prohibit forensic/investigative genetic genealogy in their databases.^{4,5,6} However, in the absence of effective oversight, forensic genetic genealogists are on an “honor system” to obey the Terms of Service and the Department of Justice Interim Policy on forensic genetic genealogy.

11. Each of the genealogy databases compares the user’s DNA data to all of the other data files in their database then presents a list of “DNA matches” who share meaningful amounts of DNA. The match list includes the match’s name or alias, how much DNA they share in centimorgans, and occasionally a link to a family tree that the match has voluntarily provided.

23. Having access to the data and methods used to identify someone will provide answers to:
- compliance with Department of Justice Policies;
 - how a DNA sample was handled from the time of collection through its forensic genetic genealogy testing;
 - the process of SNP creation;
 - the use of the SNP profile;
 - the use (or lack thereof) of loopholes and violations of terms of service to the various genetic genealogy databases.

"The longer the public is made to sit and wait for the facts to come out at trial, the more time there is for inflammatory, speculative stories, movies and books to circulate and more time for prior ones to be rebroadcast, purchased, viewed and consumed by the public. Proceeding with trial as scheduled will likely avoid negative consequences from future publicity."

LAW & CRIME
SIDEBAR
WITH **JESSE WEBER**

-Judge Steven J. Hippler
Ada County, Idaho

The Truth Behind Bryan Kohberger's Plea Change



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July 3, 2025

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U.S. NEWS

An Idaho judge has lifted a sweeping gag order in Bryan Kohberger's quadruple murder case



State of Idaho v. Bryan C. Kohberger

Timeline	Date	Document
Watch Hearings Live	07/17/2025	 Order Vacating Revised Amended Nondissemination Order
Ada County CR01-24-31665	07/15/2025	 REDACTED - Opposition to Motion to Vacate Nondissemination Order
Current Case Summary	07/14/2025	States Response to Coalition of Media Organizations Motion to be Heard Motion to Vacate Order
→ 2025	07/14/2025	Motion to be Heard as Interested Parties and to Unseal
2024	07/14/2025	Memorandum In Support of Motion to be Heard as Interested Parties and Unseal Records
Latah County CR29-22-2805	07/14/2025	Declaration of Rebecca Boone In Support of Motion to be Heard and Unseal Records
2024	07/14/2025	Order Sealing Exhibit S-1 to States Response to Defendants 24th Supplemental Request for Discovery
2023	07/14/2025	Order Denying Requests to Video Record Sentencing Proceedings and Approving Pool Still Photographer
2022	07/10/2025	Notice of Hearing - Motion to Vacate Nondissemination Order
	07/09/2025	States Response to Request for Discovery
	07/09/2025	Motion to Seal Exhibit S-1 to States Response to Defendants 24th Supplemental Request
	07/03/2025	Motion to be Heard as Interested Parties and Motion to Vacate Nondissemination Order
	07/03/2025	Memorandum in Support of Motion to be Heard as Interested Parties and Vacate Nondissemination Order
	07/03/2025	Declaration of W Olson ISO Motion to be Heard as Interested Parties and Vacate Nondissemination Order
	07/03/2025	Declaration of R Boone ISO Motion to be Heard as Interested Parties and Vacate Nondissemination Order
	07/02/2025	Plea Agreement
	07/02/2025	Miscellaneous - Written Factual Basis
	07/02/2025	Order Approving Pool Still Photographer
	07/01/2025	Notice of Hearing
	06/30/2025	Order Sealing 2nd Notice of Filing Defendants Additions/Objections to the Juror Questionnaire
	06/30/2025	Motion to Seal 2nd Notice of Filing Defendants Additions/Objections to the Juror Questionnaire
	06/27/2025	REDACTED Order on Defendants Offer of Proof RE Alternate Perpetrators
	06/26/2025	REDACTED Memorandum Decision and Order on Defendants Motion to Continue
	06/26/2025	Order Sealing Exhibit W to Defendants 24th Supplemental Request for Discovery
	06/26/2025	Amended Scheduling Order

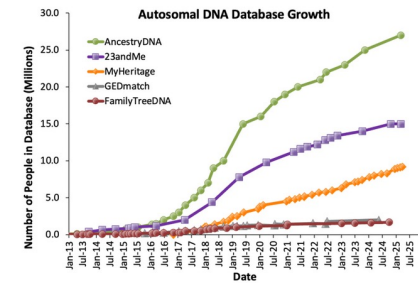
The End of an Era: Uploads at MyHeritage

MAY 29, 2025 [THEDNAGEEK](#) [200 COMMENTS](#)

This is a developing story and may be updated.

Since its launch in 2016, the DNA database at MyHeritage has grown to more than 9.3 million users, making it one of the largest for genealogical research.

In fact, I believe MyHeritage effectively has the second largest DNA database, behind only AncestryDNA. Although 23andMe has more testers overall (roughly 14 million), only about half have opted into relative matching, meaning there are about 2.3 million *more* kits available for genealogy research at MyHeritage than at 23andMe.



© 2025 by Leah Larkin, www.theDNAgeek.com

MyHeritage's rapid growth has been fueled by a combination of [aggressive pricing](#)—test kits are almost always on sale—and [free uploads](#) of raw DNA data files. An upload allows someone who has tested elsewhere to participate in the MyHeritage database without buying a new test and waiting for the lab to process it. The user simply copies their data file from the competitor to MyHeritage's system, then MyHeritage matches it to relatives in their database.

A Backdoor for Law Enforcement

Unfortunately, this system also enables law enforcement agencies, and the forensic genetic genealogists (FGGs) who contract with them, to use the database, even though they are explicitly forbidden to do so by both the MyHeritage [Terms and Conditions](#) as well as the [US Department of Justice \(DOJ\) Interim Policy](#) on forensic genetic genealogy.

thednageek.com

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Join the Genetic Witness Program

Since 2018, over 1000 cases have been solved thanks to people who have uploaded their genealogical data to GEDmatch and chosen to be a genetic witness. Here's how your genealogical data can help name the nameless.

[SIGN UP TODAY FOR FREE](#)

<https://www.gedmatch.com/join-the-genetic-witness-program/>

References for Recommended Reading/Viewing

- *#Cybersleuths: The Idaho Murders* (Paramount+, 2024)
- *Dateline: The Terrible Night on King Road* (NBC, 2025)
- Department of Justice's Interim Policy on Forensic Genetic Genealogical DNA Analysis and Searching - <https://www.justice.gov/olp/page/file/1204386/dl>
- The DNA Geek
 - <https://thednageek.com/verogen-increases-costs-for-law-enforcement-again/>
 - <https://thednageek.com/the-end-of-an-era-uploads-at-myheritage/>
- *Finding Your Roots* (PBS, 2012-present)
- GEDmatch and Opting In: How You Can Help Bring Answers to Families and Communities - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQcdNfsCx0A&t=66s>
- GenealogyExplained - <https://www.genealogyexplained.com/igg-cases/>
- *The Genetic Detective* (ABC, 2020)
- *The Idaho Student Murders* (Peacock, 2025)
- *One Night in Idaho: The College Murders* (Amazon MGM, 2025)
- State of Idaho v. Bryan Kohberger - <https://coi.isc.idaho.gov/docs/Cases/CR01-24-31665-25.html>