

## The Almost Perfect \$7 Million Dollar Robbery

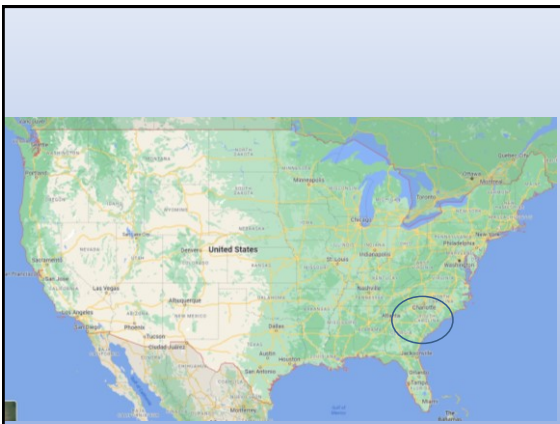
Tim Nafziger, Jr.  
DNA Analyst  
Greenville County DPS, Forensic Division

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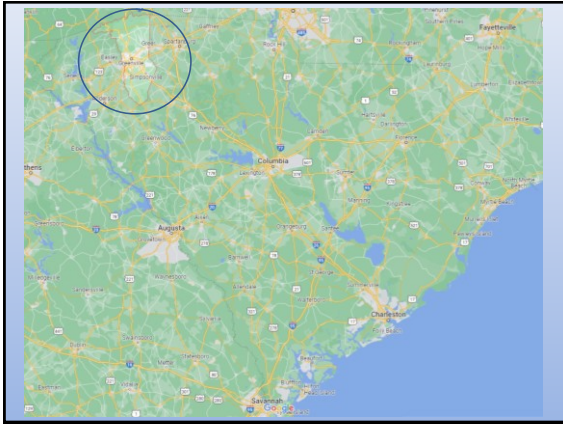
- Warren Willis and Ann Willis – Both 72 years old at the time
- Owns numerous convenience stores around the Upstate South Carolina area



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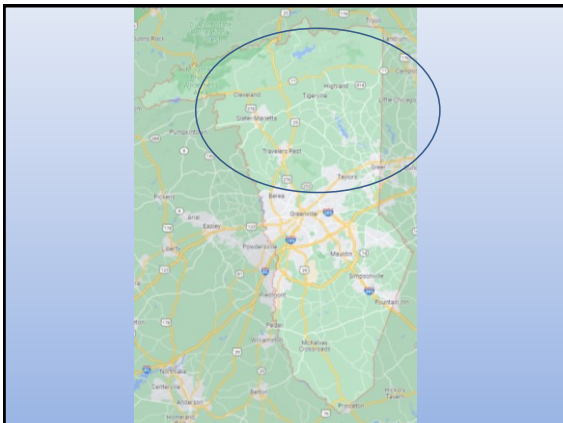
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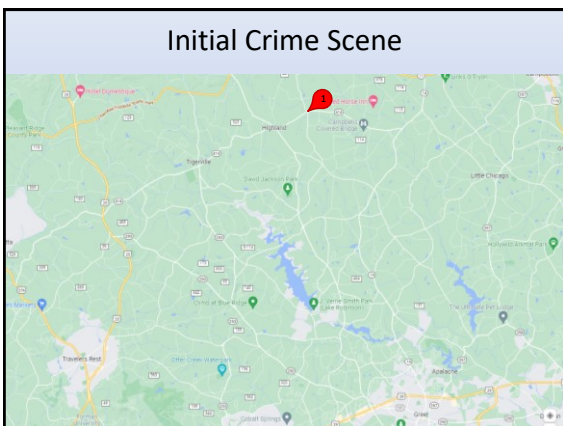
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**SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

Just after 5:00am, an employee at one of the Willis stores finds this scene:



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**SEPTEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

Just after 5:00am, an employee at one of the Willis stores finds this scene:



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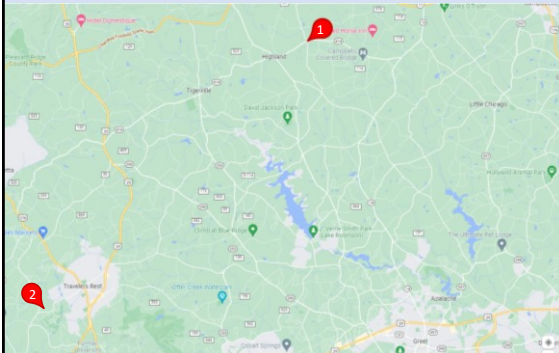
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Mr. and Mrs. Willis were not answering their phones.  
Officers checked with the hospitals and family members.  
An employee and officers then went to their home for a welfare check.



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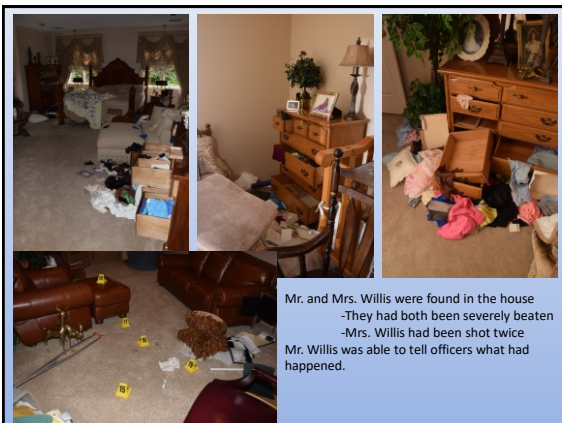
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At about 4:30am, 5 suspects attacked Mr. Willis as he was leaving his store  
 -They beat him, ziptied him, put him in his own car and drove to his house without asking for directions  
 -They knew his name, his wife's name, and knew of his daughter and grandchild

-At the house, they dragged Mrs. Willis out of bed by her hair, separated them, and beat them while asking where the safe/money was



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## They Both Survived!



<https://travelersresthere.com/2019/10/13/warren-ann-willis-one-year-later/>

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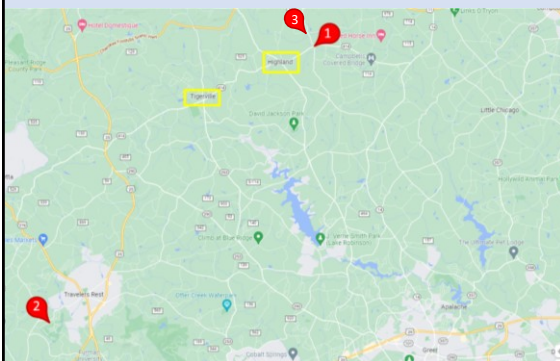
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## Stolen Ford F350 truck

1: W.E. Willis Convenience Store  
 2: Willis's Residence  
 3: Location of Ford F350



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Stolen Ford F350 truck



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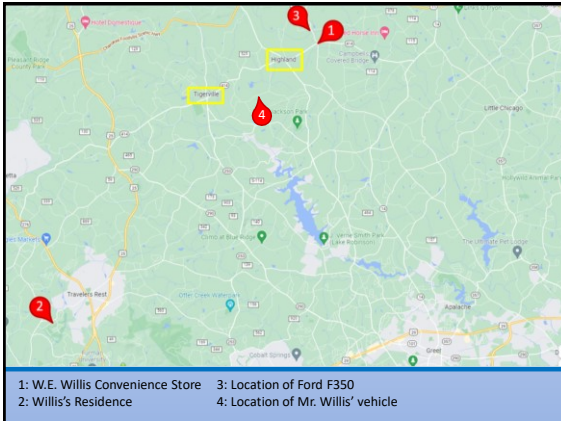
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Mr. Willis' Vehicle



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## The Mask



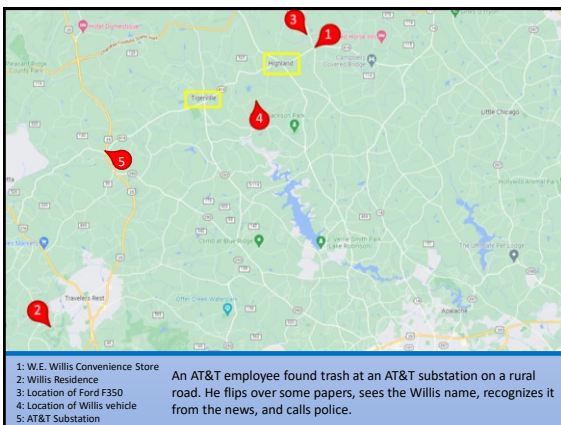
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### Keyboard CODIS search resulted in a hit to Mark Allen Wright

- Lived in Travelers Rest (TR) area
- No known connection to the Willis'
- Only prior interaction with Greenville Sheriff's Office was when his vehicle was broken into over a decade earlier
  - His vehicle was at the location where Mr. Willis' car was burned
- Investigators began tracking him and monitoring his phone records
  - His phone hit to towers around the store, the Willis home, and the burned vehicle
  - Phone records showed he was in constant communication with a NC phone number during the crime
- Investigators traced this number to Jermaine Williams, from NC
  - He was also in communication with several FL numbers that also hit to cell towers in the area
  - Investigators were unable to trace these numbers



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AT&T Substation



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AT&T Substation



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The glove contained complex mixtures, but a major profile was uploaded to CODIS

- It hit to an offender from Florida
- Jack Foreman III
- He was friends with Jermaine Williams on Facebook



- Cell phone records showed he was at the crime scenes
- Investigators also discovered that he had frequented a home in Mauldin, SC before and after the incident.

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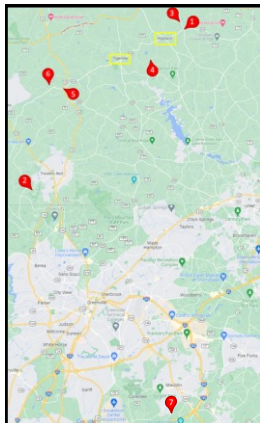
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## Initial Arrests

Now with three clear suspects, investigators simultaneously served warrant at four locations:

- Mark Wright's home in Travelers Rest, SC
- Jermaine Williams's girlfriend's home in Greer, SC (where he was known to be staying)
- Jack Foreman III's residence in Florida
- The house in Mauldin where Jack Foreman III had been

- 1: W.E. Willis Convenience Store
- 2: Willis Residence
- 3: Location of Ford F350
- 4: Location of Willis vehicle
- 5: AT&T Substation
- 6: Mark Wright's residence
- 7: House in Mauldin

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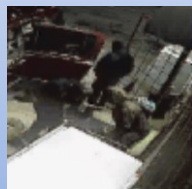
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## Jack Foreman III's Home (Florida)

- Louis Vuitton large purse
  - Receipt from 9/24/2018 from T Mobile in Mauldin, SC
  - Small light blue book bag with rhinestones
- Investigators were told that these belonged to Jack Foreman IV
- DNA on the book bag matched Jack Foreman IV



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### The House in Mauldin, SC

- Two handguns in a Louis Vuitton bag
- Both guns appeared to have blood/tissue on them



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### Informants

- After the arrests were made, a lady called the investigator
- She was a friend of Jermaine Williams
  - She said Mark Wright had suggested to Williams that they rob Mr. and Mrs. Willis
  - They bought trackers through her Amazon account
    - Supposedly to track William's "baby mommas"
  - They put them on Mr. Willis' vehicle
    - They had planned to rob him previously but had been spooked
    - They had to change the batteries in the trackers
    - Assumed the business cash was stored at their home

30 minutes after talking to the investigator she was killed in a car crash (apparently unrelated to the crime)

An informant in Florida linked "Jack Jr." and Da'juan Young to the crime

An informant in Mauldin linked Jeffery Mullins, Jr. to the crime

Cell phones records place both individuals at the crime scenes



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### Ruger handgun

- Contained blood/tissue that matched Mr. Willis
- Contained complex mixtures
- Jack Foreman III was major contributor
- TrueAllele analysis matched Da'juan Young



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### S&W Revolver

- Contained blood that matched Mr. and Mrs. Willis
- TrueAllele analysis matched Jack Foreman III
- A projectile from where Mrs. Willis was shot matched to this gun



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### Further Analysis

- TrueAllele analysis confirmed that the mixture from the stain on the mask contained DNA from Mark Wright and Mr. Willis
- TrueAllele analysis of the glove showed that Da'juan Young also contributed to the mixture, along with Jack Foreman III
- Fingerprint analysis of the chip bag found at the AT&T substation matched Da'juan Young



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### Eventually all six suspects pled guilty

- Da'juan Young – 60 years
- Jack Foreman III – 60 years
- Jeffrey Mullins – 55 years
- Jack Foreman IV – 45 years
- Mark Wright – 40 years
- Jermaine Williams – 30 years



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Special Thanks

- Dr. Jagannadha Kandala-DNA Technical Leader
- Kaitlin Appel and Brian Browning – DNA Analysts
- Investigator David Picone – Greenville County Sheriff’s Office
- Assistant Solicitor Brian Moroney – 13<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Solicitor’s Office
- Brittany Brown, Vishwa Naik, Susan Molloy, and Chris Gary – Greenville County Forensics
- Cybergenetics

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