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6

Raped and Kidnapped

- Benjie is kidnapped, raped and robbed
- She is driven back to the interstate blindfolded
- Threatened her family
- Don't call the police
- Suspect leaves
- Benjie leaves and calls 911

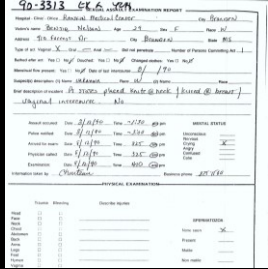


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Sexual Assault Examination

- Benjie is taken to the Hospital
- Rape Examination performed
- VAGINAL SWABS obtained
- Investigator meets Benjie at the hospital
- Police takes custody of the rape kit




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The Usual Suspects

Rape was rare in Brandon. As a result, they rounded up the usual suspects.



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RUBIN WEEKS

Ruben Weeks was a known rapist. He was questioned. Blood taken for comparison.

THE TWISTED TALE OF THE ENDOGAMOUS RAPIST

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Mississippi Crime Laboratory

Secretor test is performed on rape kit and compared to Ruben Weeks. He is ruled out on one piece of evidence but not on another.

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CONSEQUENCES OF RAPE



- Meanwhile, Benjie's husband shot himself. Was left in a coma.
- She was left to care for her five children alone.
- Her mother-in-law came in from out of state and tried to have her charged.
- He later died of these injuries.

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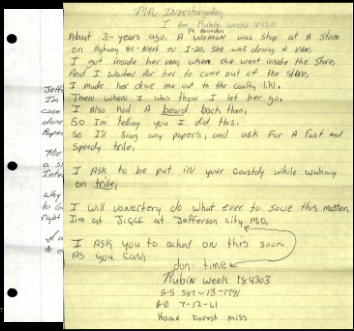
LETTERS FROM WEEKS

→ Rubin Weeks was serving 30+ years in Missouri for rape and kidnapping.

→ From resident of Mississippi and neighboring city to Brandon

→ Wrote two letters confessing to the crimes

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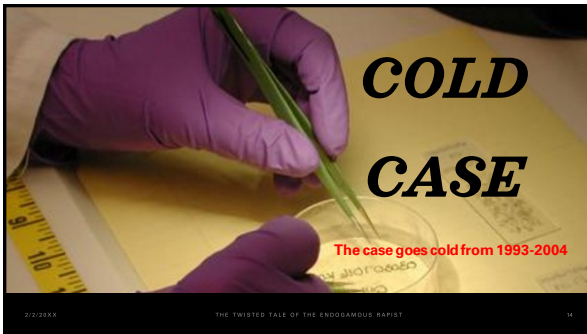
Handwritten letter from Rubin Weeks, dated 1993. The letter is written on lined paper and contains a confession to a crime. The text is written in cursive and includes a confession to a crime. The letter is dated 1993 and is addressed to 'Brandon'.

13

COLD CASE

The case goes cold from 1993-2004

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Case Re-Opened 2004

David Ruth is the Rankin County Coroner and former District Attorney's Office investigator. In 1990 David was a patrol officer working for the Brandon Police Department. He remembered the case and it always bothered him. He later became an investigator with Brandon Police Department. David decided to have Weeks DNA tested against the rape kit.

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DNA TESTED... TWICE



- The Rape Kit and Weeks DNA sent to Mississippi Crime Lab for comparison.
- Mississippi Crime Lab sent DNA to Reliagene

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RUBIN WEEKS ELIMINATED AS A SUSPECT


Through TWO DNA tests Weeks was eliminated as a suspect through DNA testing

07-12-61 M
08-16-90 07-31-91 WT 240

X Rubin Weeks R, 11/16

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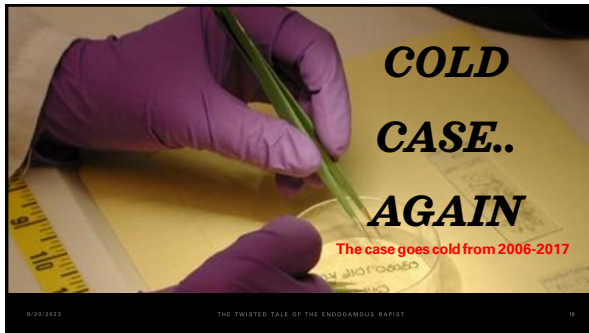


SUSPECT DNA IS UPLOADED TO **C.O.D.I.S.**

Deedra Hughes with the Mississippi Crime Lab uploaded the suspect's DNA profile to C.O.D.I.S.


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2017 C.O.D.I.S. MATCH




→ David Ruth receives notice from T.B.I. that there was a C.O.D.I.S. case match with our suspect.

→ Still no suspects.

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Memphis Case-30 days later



- September 12, 1990-Lisa left work at the hospital.
- Stopped to get a candy bar as a late-night snack.
- When she came back out a man with a knife emerged from the backseat.
- Placed knife to her face and neck, sliced her face open
- Forced her to passenger seat, threatened her not to look
- Took her to rural area and raped her
- Brought back to interstate where she was robbed and abandon.
- Truckers take her back to her hospital
- Rape kit taken but not tested

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Memphis Rape Kit

September 12, 1990-Rape occurred. Sexual Assault Exam

2016-Rape kit processed


2017-Profile Uploaded to C.O.D.I.S. and subsequent match (27 years later)



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COLD CASE.. AGAIN

The case goes cold from 2017-2021



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Golden State Killer and Investigative Genealogy

I listened to the books on GSK and was fascinated, but didn't really think of it that something we could do in Mississippi.

Then in August 2021, the Mississippi Attorney General's Office presented a conference and former District Attorney Greg Totten was the speaker.

I remembered the case David had mentioned to me and thought why not us

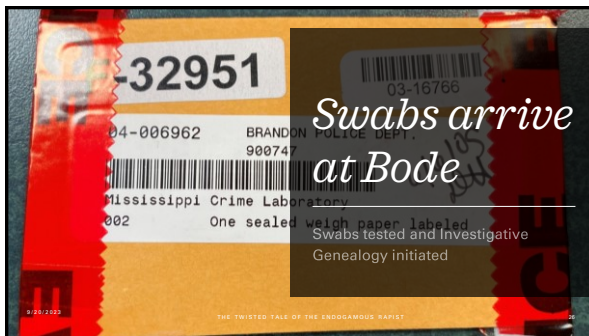
I came back and presented the idea to my District Attorney to re-open the case

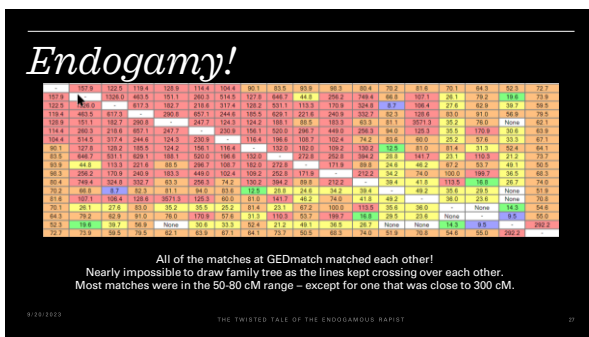
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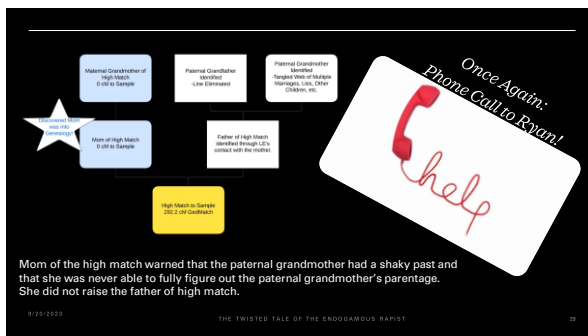
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Twisted Tangled Webs and Non-Paternity Events

- Spent many hours sorting out the tangle web that the paternal grandmother had woven throughout her life.
- Once the paternal grandmother's identity was known (name, birth year, and birth location) law enforcement was able to acquire a copy of her birth certificate naming her parents.
- We were able to eliminate her mother's line.
- It quickly became clear that the man named on her birth certificate was *not* her biological father.
- Rather, the man on her birth certificate was the man married to the mother at the time of conception not the biological father.

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[illegible]

31

[illegible]

F.B.I. Help

- August 2022-District Attorney's Office meet with FBI agents to ask for assistance
- FBI agreed to help
- December 2022-FBI agents fly to Nevada to interview relative of suspect to help build family tree
- Relative in Nevada very cooperative



The seal of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is displayed. It features a central shield with a blue chief containing a scale of justice, and a body with alternating red and white vertical stripes. The shield is flanked by green olive branches on the left and a bundle of arrows on the right. A blue banner across the bottom of the shield reads 'FIDELITY BRAVERY INTEGRITY'. The shield is set against a blue circular background with the words 'DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE' at the top and 'FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION' at the bottom, separated by thirteen white stars. The entire seal is encircled by a gold-colored, serrated border.

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[illegible]

Breakthrough

January 31, 2023:
Three Skaggs
brothers identified as
suspects.



A close-up photograph showing a hand breaking through a brick wall. The hand is positioned in the center, with fingers spread, and a large amount of dust and debris is being thrown up around it. The bricks are reddish-brown and the background is a wall of similar bricks.

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DANIEL RAY SKAGGS


- *Serial Rapist dating back to 1977 in Dallas, Texas.
- *Not on sex offender registry
- *No DNA in C.O.D.I.S.
- *Currently in living in Oklahoma



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DALLAS RAPES-1977



- 'Burglarized at least 4 ladies' apartments early in the morning. In each house he would steal a knife from the kitchen. Force victims upstairs and rape them. Tried to go back a second time to one victim's house
- Convicted of rape and burglary and served time until 1986
- He was suspected of more rapes.

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NEWNAN, GEORGIA-1991



→ Skaggs was previously arrested in Newnan, Georgia for kidnapping and assault on a law enforcement officer

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HIDING IN WAIT



→ Waited outside in potential victim's van outside Walmart
→ Abducted woman by knifepoint

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ANOTHER ABDUCTION



→ Deputy Tate Washington noticed something off about the occupants of the car
→ Made investigatory stop
→ Woman gets out yelling about a knife
→ Vehicle chase ensues
→ Daniel Ray Skaggs is arrested
→ Before trial, victim goes back to home in Germany
→ Acquitted on assault on Law Enforcement Officer
→ Delivery driver for Magnolia Bakery in Arkansas.

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OKLAHOMA BUEARU OF INVESTIGATIONS

- Contacted O.S.B.I. on February 10, 2023
- Josh Dean with O.S.B.I. had trash in hand by February 14, 2023.
- Agent Dean sent trash to Bode

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CONFIRMATION




- Daniel Ray Skaggs is confirmed by Bode to be the rapist
- Based on the oxygen line in his 2022 driver's license we were concerned that we wouldn't be able to get him to trial quickly enough
- Agent Dean surveilled Skaggs and observed him driving a vehicle and carrying in items from the store.

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VICTIM NOTIFICATION

- -DA's office flew to South Carolina to notify the Brandon victim
- No rental cars in Augusta, Georgia
- We rented a U-HAUL to go notify victim
- She had no knowledge that we re-opened the case



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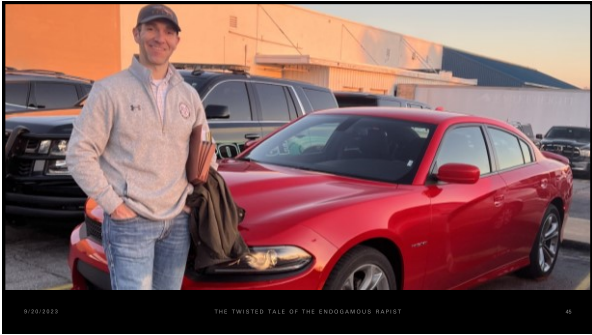
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TRIAL

- June 19, 2023
- 3-day trial
- 13 witnesses
- Convicted of Rape and Kidnapping
- 2 life sentences as a habitual offender



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'I forgive him': Survivor gets justice decades after rape, kidnapping in Rankin Co.



3 ON YOUR SIDE
DANIEL RAY SKAGGS CONVICTED ON RAPE AND

10:04 75°

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**DANIEL
RAY
SKAGGS**

November 8, 1956-August 1, 2023
*Died in the custody of the Mississippi
Department of Correction*

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