



# COLD CASE RESEARCH

RESOURCES FOR  
UNIDENTIFIED,  
MISSING, AND  
COLD HOMICIDE CASES

SILVIA PETTEM

FOREWORD BY JAMES TRAINUM



CRC Press  
Taylor & Francis Group



# COLD CASE RESEARCH

RESOURCES FOR  
UNIDENTIFIED,  
MISSING, AND  
COLD HOMICIDE CASES



# COLD CASE RESEARCH

RESOURCES FOR  
UNIDENTIFIED,  
MISSING, AND  
COLD HOMICIDE CASES

SILVIA PETTEM

FOREWORD BY JAMES TRAINUM



CRC Press

Taylor & Francis Group

Boca Raton London New York

---

CRC Press is an imprint of the  
Taylor & Francis Group, an **informa** business

**Cover image:** Unidentified gravestone in the Evergreen Cemetery, Leadville, Colorado. (Photo by author)

CRC Press  
Taylor & Francis Group  
6000 Broken Sound Parkway NW, Suite 300  
Boca Raton, FL 33487-2742

© 2013 by Taylor & Francis Group, LLC  
CRC Press is an imprint of Taylor & Francis Group, an Informa business

No claim to original U.S. Government works  
Version Date: 20120518

International Standard Book Number-13: 978-1-4398-6170-7 (eBook - PDF)

This book contains information obtained from authentic and highly regarded sources. Reasonable efforts have been made to publish reliable data and information, but the author and publisher cannot assume responsibility for the validity of all materials or the consequences of their use. The authors and publishers have attempted to trace the copyright holders of all material reproduced in this publication and apologize to copyright holders if permission to publish in this form has not been obtained. If any copyright material has not been acknowledged please write and let us know so we may rectify in any future reprint.

Except as permitted under U.S. Copyright Law, no part of this book may be reprinted, reproduced, transmitted, or utilized in any form by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying, microfilming, and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without written permission from the publishers.

For permission to photocopy or use material electronically from this work, please access [www.copyright.com](http://www.copyright.com) (<http://www.copyright.com/>) or contact the Copyright Clearance Center, Inc. (CCC), 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, 978-750-8400. CCC is a not-for-profit organization that provides licenses and registration for a variety of users. For organizations that have been granted a photocopy license by the CCC, a separate system of payment has been arranged.

**Trademark Notice:** Product or corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation without intent to infringe.

Visit the Taylor & Francis Web site at  
<http://www.taylorandfrancis.com>

and the CRC Press Web site at  
<http://www.crcpress.com>

*In memory of the victims*



---

# Contents

---

<b>Case Histories and Profiles</b>	<b>xi</b>
<b>List of Figures</b>	<b>xiii</b>
<b>Foreword</b>	<b>xvii</b>
<b>Preface</b>	<b>xxiii</b>
<b>Acknowledgments</b>	<b>xxv</b>
<b>About the Author</b>	<b>xxxii</b>

## *Section I*

### **TOOLS AND TECHNIQUES**

<b>1</b>	<b>Challenges and Checklist</b>	<b>3</b>
	Time as an Ally	9
	Checklist: To Help in Navigating the Chapters	10
	Endnotes	15
<b>2</b>	<b>Agency Organization: Cold Case Units</b>	<b>17</b>
	Miami-Dade Police Department's Cold Case Squad	17
	Metropolitan Police Department's Cold Case Squad	18
	Additional Cold Case Squads and Units	21
	Current Practices and Good Investigators	28
	Summary	32
	Endnotes	32
<b>3</b>	<b>TLO: The Latest Online Investigative System</b>	<b>35</b>
	TLO's Beginnings	38
	TLOxp User Tips	42
	Summary	46
	Endnotes	47
<b>4</b>	<b>Additional Options for People Searches</b>	<b>49</b>
	Google	49
	Some Additional, and Helpful, People Search Options	55

	Social Security Death Index	56
	Ancestry.com	57
	Fee-Based Law Enforcement Websites	58
	Summary	60
	Endnotes	61
<b>5</b>	<b>Dealing with Databases</b>	<b>63</b>
	Databases	63
	Summary	76
	Endnotes	77
<b><i>Section II</i></b>		
<b>MISSING, MURDERED, AND UNIDENTIFIED</b>		
<b>6</b>	<b>NamUs: Connecting the Missing and Unidentified</b>	<b>81</b>
	NamUs: An Investigative Tool	87
	Special Circumstances	90
	Summary	94
	Endnotes	95
<b>7</b>	<b>Entering and Searching in the NamUs System</b>	<b>97</b>
	NamUs-MP: Creating a Missing Persons Case	98
	NamUs-UP: Creating an Unidentified Persons Case	105
	Summary	109
	Endnotes	110
<b>8</b>	<b>PKU Cards Retain Overlooked DNA</b>	<b>111</b>
	PKU/Guthrie Card Information, by State	115
	Summary	123
	Endnotes	123
<b>9</b>	<b>The Plight of the Missing and Unknown</b>	<b>125</b>
	One Scenario: The Missing Person Is Presumed Dead	125
	Prosecuting No-Body Homicides	127
	Other Scenarios: Cold Missing Persons Cases	130
	The Unidentified Remains of John and Jane Does	139
	Summary	142
	Endnotes	143

### ***Section III***

#### **RESOURCES FOR EXPANDED RESEARCH**

<b>10</b>	<b>Historical and Geographical Context</b>	<b>149</b>
	Gaining Historical and Geographical Perspectives	154
	Summary	160
	Endnotes	161
<b>11</b>	<b>Newspaper Research: Online and Off</b>	<b>163</b>
	How Newspaper Research Can Help	163
	Newspaper Research Options	165
	Understanding Obituaries	172
	Summary	173
	Endnotes	174
<b>12</b>	<b>Published and Public Records</b>	<b>175</b>
	Federal Public Records	177
	State Public Records	178
	Local Public Records	180
	Published Local Records	184
	Public Records Can Be Missing	186
	Public Records Can Be Inaccurate	187
	Recorded Document Offices	187
	Summary	192
	Endnotes	192
<b>13</b>	<b>Volunteers: How They Can Help</b>	<b>195</b>
	Volunteers in Cold Case Research	195
	Specialized and Independent Volunteers	204
	Summary	209
	Endnotes	209
<b>14</b>	<b>Contact with Co-Victims</b>	<b>213</b>
	Co-Victims and Law Enforcement	217
	Co-Victim Resources (A Sampling of Some Volunteer and Nonprofit Organizations)	219
	Victim Rights Act: Colorado as an Example	223
	Need for Kindness	224

Summary	225
Endnotes	225

## ***Section IV***

### **REVIEW TEAMS AND THE MEDIA**

<b>15</b>	<b>Cold Case Review Teams and Information-Sharing Resources</b>	<b>231</b>
	Cold Case Review Teams: A Sampling	231
	Information-Sharing Resources: A Sampling	231
	Cold Case Review Teams	232
	Information-Sharing Resources	238
	Summary	245
	Endnotes	246
<b>16</b>	<b>Taking Advantage of the Media</b>	<b>249</b>
	Print and Broadcast Media (Augmented with Websites)	250
	Web-Based Media: Agency Use of Cold Case Websites and Social Media	256
	Summary	264
	Endnotes	265
<b>17</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>269</b>
	Section I Tools and Techniques	270
	Section II Missing, Murdered, and Unidentified	273
	Section III Resources for Expanded Research	276
	Section IV Review Teams and the Media	279
	Endnotes	281
	<b>Selected References</b>	<b>283</b>
	Books	283
	Documents and Reports	283
	Interviews	285
	Magazine and Journal Articles	286
	Newspaper Articles and Radio and Television Broadcasts	287
	Websites	289

---

# Case Histories and Profiles

---

<b>Case History:</b> Surette Clark and Little Jane Doe	3
<b>Profile:</b> Investigator Cheryl Moore’s “Unit of One” Produces Results	21
<b>Profile:</b> Detective Ron Lopez’s Proactive Investigations Pay Off	25
<b>Profile:</b> TLO Revolutionizes Investigations in Rural Illinois Agencies	35
<b>Case History:</b> Google Search Used to Find Missing Woman with Changed Identity	51
<b>Case History:</b> Find, Then Print, Sensitive Information	53
<b>Case History:</b> Paula Beverly Davis and Englewood Jane Doe	81
<b>Case History:</b> Gary Mayo and Partial Remains	91
<b>Case History:</b> DNA from PKU Identified Ben Maurer	111
<b>Case History:</b> Joseph Halpern Disappeared into Thin Air	134
<b>Case History:</b> Different States, Same Highway	149
<b>Case History:</b> Locating a Long-Forgotten Crime Scene	157
<b>Profile:</b> New Hampshire’s Milli Knudsen in Win–Win Situation	200
<b>Profile:</b> Victim Advocate Is Integral Member of Denver’s Cold Case Unit	213
<b>Case History:</b> Justice Denied for Bonita Raye Morgan	215
<b>Case History:</b> John Doe Identified as Joseph Coogan	251
<b>Profile:</b> Special Agent Tommy Ray Has Ace Up His Sleeve	259



---

# List of Figures

---

<b>Figure 1.1</b>	Phoenix Police Department's Cold Case Squad 1998	6
<b>Figure 1.2</b>	Detective Ed Reynolds	6
<b>Figure 1.3</b>	New York Police Department Officers, 1908	10
<b>Figure 1.4</b>	Detective Chris Mammarella	11
<b>Figure 2.1</b>	Metropolitan Police Department, 1972	19
<b>Figure 2.2</b>	Investigator Cheryl Moore	24
<b>Figure 2.3</b>	Lisa Kay Kelly gravestone	25
<b>Figure 2.4</b>	Detective Ron Lopez	26
<b>Figure 2.5</b>	Colorado Springs Police Department	26
<b>Figure 3.1</b>	Part-time Chief and School Resource Officer Chad Weaver	36
<b>Figure 3.2</b>	Hank Asher and John Walsh	39
<b>Figure 3.3</b>	TLO's front entrance	40
<b>Figure 3.4</b>	Deputies Debi Phillips and Tina Bolton	41
<b>Figure 4.1</b>	Researcher Micki Lavigne	52
<b>Figure 4.2</b>	"'Twylia May' Mystery Solved" headline	53
<b>Figure 4.3</b>	Ophelia and Albert Glatman gravestone	54
<b>Figure 5.1</b>	FBI fingerprint division, 1924	66
<b>Figure 5.2</b>	J. Edgar Hoover and John Nance Garner	67
<b>Figure 5.3</b>	Detective Pierce Brooks	73
<b>Figure 6.1</b>	Paula Beverly Davis	82
<b>Figure 6.2</b>	Coroner James H. Davis	84
<b>Figure 6.3</b>	Deputy Director Hal G. Brown and assistant, Phillip Petty	90
<b>Figure 6.4</b>	Delaware River site of recovery of Gary Mayo's skull	92
<b>Figure 7.1</b>	NamUs public service announcement	98

<b>Figure 7.2</b> Tomb of the Unknown Soldier	105
<b>Figure 8.1</b> Detective Kevin Parmelee	112
<b>Figure 8.2</b> PKU card	114
<b>Figure 9.1</b> Former Assistant U. S. Attorney Thomas A. “Tad” DiBiase	128
<b>Figure 9.2</b> Twylia May Embrey	131
<b>Figure 9.3</b> Priest Lake, Idaho	133
<b>Figure 9.4</b> <i>Priest River Times</i> newspaper article, 1948	133
<b>Figure 9.5</b> Joseph Halpern	134
<b>Figure 9.6</b> Koa Halpern	138
<b>Figure 9.7</b> Grave of “Unidentified: October 1958”	140
<b>Figure 10.1</b> Location of Katherine Hull’s remains	152
<b>Figure 10.2</b> Geographic midpoint of the three New England cases	153
<b>Figure 10.3</b> Denver City Map, bus routes, 1954	156
<b>Figure 10.4</b> Boulder police detectives, 1954	158
<b>Figure 10.5</b> James Andes and Wayne Swanson	159
<b>Figure 10.6</b> Dark inclusion on large rock	160
<b>Figure 11.1</b> Judy Luce Mann and Officer William Miscovic	167
<b>Figure 11.2</b> Microfilm reader and scanner	171
<b>Figure 11.3</b> Newspaper clipping files	172
<b>Figure 12.1</b> Yavapai Court House	176
<b>Figure 12.2</b> Mug shot of Alvin Wesley Brooks	179
<b>Figure 12.3</b> Author at Colorado State Archives	179
<b>Figure 12.4</b> Maricopa County Recorder’s Office website	181
<b>Figure 12.5</b> Marriage license book, Yavapai County Superior Court	182
<b>Figure 12.6</b> Excerpt of Ophelia Glatman’s probate record	184
<b>Figure 12.7</b> City directories	185
<b>Figure 12.8</b> Open city directory	186
<b>Figure 13.1</b> Al Olson, Syd Boyle, Tom Hall, and Thomas Schultz	198
<b>Figure 13.2</b> Cold Case Cowboys	199

<b>Figure 13.3</b>	Milli Knudsen	201
<b>Figure 13.4</b>	Excel spreadsheets	202
<b>Figure 13.5</b>	Gene and Sandy Ralston on their boat	207
<b>Figure 13.6</b>	Gene Ralston operates the controls	207
<b>Figure 14.1</b>	Sarah Chaikin	214
<b>Figure 14.2</b>	Image of Denver Police Department's badge	214
<b>Figure 15.1</b>	Frank Bender	233
<b>Figure 15.2</b>	Unpainted copy of bust of John List	234
<b>Figure 15.3</b>	Horn-rimmed glasses on bust of John List	235
<b>Figure 16.1</b>	Keys from pocket of Joseph Coogan	252
<b>Figure 16.2</b>	Special Agent Tommy Ray	260
<b>Figure 16.3</b>	Prisoners of Polk City Correctional Facility	261
<b>Figure 16.4</b>	Prisoners using cold case playing cards	262
<b>Figure 16.5</b>	Ingrid Lugo's cold case playing card	263
<b>Figure 16.6</b>	Starsky Garcia's cold case playing card	264



---

# Foreword

---

Early on in my 27-year career with the Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, DC, I had the extremely good fortune to be assigned to the Repeat Offender Project. Tasked, as the name suggests, with the investigation of repeat offenders, the crimes we investigated ran the gamut of criminal offenses from shoplifting rings and white-collar crimes to fencing operations, drugs, and murder. I gained a wide variety of investigative experience, going places and meeting people I never would have in any other profession. A case may have necessitated taking a basic class in accounting, another with learning the ins and outs of many alternative lifestyles. During one rather schizophrenic phase in my life, I spent my mornings working undercover as a heroin addict at a drug treatment center attempting to identify the suspects involved in a contract hit. In the afternoon I posed as a graduate student at a local university. This background in the investigation of such a wide assortment of crimes served me well when I finally ended up in Homicide in late 1993.

I always believed that good homicide detectives did not investigate homicide. Instead, they investigated the crime that led up to the homicide. If you had a murder that occurred during a burglary, and you didn't have any experience investigating burglary, then you were starting off "behind the eight-ball." And, if most of your prior investigative experience consisted of drug cases, then your investigative "tool box" might have lacked some of the essentials needed to bring the homicide to closure. Here is where my experience came into play, because my learning curve was not as steep as it could have been.

All of this changed when I was transferred to the Cold Case Unit. The normal challenges offered by any homicide case were still there; however, these were combined with a lack of a master searchable database of cases, a lack of a systematic review and case selection process, and, to make matters worse, there never was enough manpower or money to correct these additional problems. Tasked with developing a case review protocol, I reached out to other agencies to learn from both their successes and mistakes. The results of my efforts are detailed in Chapter 2. Conquering these organizational and logistical issues was relatively easy, however, compared to overcoming the bane of all cold case investigations: missing documentation and missing witnesses. In tackling these problems, my learning curve suddenly looked more like Mount Everest during a blizzard.

I once read an article that described cold case detectives as the “Indiana Joneses” of the Homicide Unit. If only it was that exciting! I would even settle for the clean and organized file room portrayed by television in the series “Cold Case;” that is, each case neatly arranged and the documentation complete in well-marked boxes. In going to the Cold Case Unit, I had traded a life of executing search warrants and chasing suspects to one of reviewing microfilm files (when I could find a viewing machine that worked) for hours. I remember trying to locate a witness with minimal identifying information (for some reason, “back in the day,” my predecessors didn’t think it was important to capture dates of birth), and rummaging through the dark and dank basements of retired detectives for “their” copies of old files. The Indiana Jones image quickly became that of the quintessential spinster librarian.

Not that there is anything wrong with spinster librarians! In fact, a librarian came to my aid much like Indiana Jones. In an old serial murder case from the 1970s, it became necessary to try to reconstruct a now-vanished Washington, DC neighborhood and to identify everyone who lived there all those years ago. I had no idea where to begin and spent hours on false starts. By chance I happened to mention my plight to a research librarian from the Washingtoniana Room of the Martin Luther King Library. Taking great pity on me, she took me by the hand and educated me about historical property records and maps, old telephone directories, and numerous other resources that helped us tease out the necessary information. Later, during other investigations, I relied on volunteers with specialized research skills and interns to help perform these critical and often labor-intensive tasks.

The reality is that cold case investigators need to be at home with both the old and the new. The current generation of investigators is very much at home with the Internet and computers, but they lack, and often have little patience for, old-fashioned research skills. Old guys like me know the old ways, but we are uncomfortable with computers and databases. And rapidly developing technology, especially in the field of the forensic sciences, often leaves both groups in the dust.

Enter Silvia Pettem: historical researcher and author. In 1996, while participating in an event jointly hosted by two historical organizations in Boulder, Colorado, she first learned of the 1954 murder of a then-unidentified woman, “age about 20 years,” who was buried in a Boulder cemetery. The more Pettem researched the old case, the more fascinated she became with the identity of the unknown woman. Although Pettem had no prior police experience, she was able to team up with the local sheriff’s office in a quest to put a name to this unidentified victim. Pettem’s unprecedented work, detailed in her book *Someone’s Daughter: In Search of Justice for Jane Doe*, combined not only dogged old-fashioned research with the power of the Internet, but it also included the extensive use of the media and the latest advances in forensic science. The result was a positive identification of the

victim, bringing resolution to the victim's family and advancing the cold case investigation by leaps and bounds.

In this book, *Cold Case Research: Resources for Unidentified, Missing, and Cold Homicide Cases*, Pettem does more than give cold case investigators the benefit of her experience and the lessons learned from her investigation of the Boulder Jane Doe case. Working with experts from around the country and taking a thinking-outside-the-box approach, Pettem has helped fill major gaps in traditional cold case investigation training and techniques.

However, when it comes to embracing new ideas and techniques, law enforcement can be a hard sell. Our "BS" meters are extremely sensitive. It is just not enough to tell us that this new-fangled procedure or database is a good thing; we want proof. Through the generous use of profiles and case histories, Pettem not only gives concrete examples of how these research resources, practices, and strategies save time, she also explains how they actually work in the real world. More important, the book is structured to be a handy resource guide in and of itself. Through use of a checklist at the end of Chapter 1, the book allows the investigator to rapidly identify the material that addresses his or her specific cold case problem. Unlike most investigative references that collect dust on an investigator's desk, *Cold Case Research* is destined to become a much dog-eared guidebook, as my advance copy already has become.

Several chapters of the book are devoted to the investigation of missing persons and the unidentified dead, a topic not usually covered in cold case investigation training. Tens of thousands of persons go missing under suspicious circumstances each year. In many jurisdictions, no body equals no homicide, with the result that these cases often do not receive the level of attention or documentation they deserve. The seriousness of this problem within my own agency struck home when my work led me to missing persons cases where it was obvious that the missing person had been murdered. At the time, no tracking system existed for any of these cases, and the investigative documentation was often deplorable. Most of these cases were not classified as homicides, so the file and evidence retention periods were much shorter, leading to their premature destruction.

Pettem provides law enforcement agencies with practical recommendations, as well as the tools and techniques needed to help rectify these problems. But, she takes it a step further. In addition to a section in Chapter 9 on prosecuting "no body homicides," she presents, in Chapter 1, the case history of "Surette Clark and Little Jane Doe" as an example of how an agency successfully prosecuted a murder case in which the victim had not, at the time, been found, thus denying to the killer what used to be the first step to the commission of the perfect crime: the disappearance of the victim.

At first glance, some of the chapters in the book may not seem to belong. What do volunteers and contact with the victim's next-of-kin have to do with historical research and modern databases? This is where creative thinking comes into play. My own experience taught me the value of incorporating both volunteers and interns into a cold case unit. In these cash-strapped times, they are manpower, a vital and often untapped resource that brings so much to the table. From simple file organization to performing complex case reviews and data entry, volunteers and interns perform the tedious and time-consuming tasks that can free up investigators to perform the necessary street work. Many cold case units across the country would be lost without them, and Pettem provides numerous examples of how they can be incorporated: from large intern programs like I ran, to small, part-time volunteer units.

Co-victim programs that use advocates as liaisons with the family members of homicides are another untapped resource for cold case units that often are overlooked in these times of belt-tightening. Too often, investigators do not realize the impact that these cases still have on family members, even decades after the event. A few years ago, I sat in the living room of a family whose relative was a child victim of a 1970 serial murderer. To the family, it was as if the murder occurred only yesterday. On their end, family members received some comfort that the case was still under investigation. On my end, I received a wealth of information, including old newspaper clippings from now defunct papers, and other details and leads that were either not documented or were lost from the case files. A well-run co-victim program not only provides comfort and assistance to the family and friends of the missing and murder victims, it can create allies who can help get units the resources and support they need.

Similarly, it is largely because of grass-roots victim advocacy groups that Washington, DC was able to get its own forensic laboratory. Pettem offers several examples of successful programs of different types across the country. For instance, in her chapter on the use of volunteers, she does not offer a one-program-fits-all approach, but instead, she provides samples of different approaches that can be adapted to an agency's unique needs.

Pettem's experience as a writer and newspaper columnist, along with several accounts of those in law enforcement in various parts of the country, allows her to tackle a topic almost taboo to cops and coroners and the rest of us: the media. From the first days of the police academy, we are taught to avoid, at all cost, the media, the "gotcha" reporters, the skewers of facts. But cold case investigations can create strange bedfellows. The media and their archives are important sources of old information, and, if used properly, sources of new information as well. Again, using case studies, Pettem explores the positive use of all sorts of media from social media on the Internet to mainstream reporting in cold case investigations. She offers tips

that help take the fear out of working with the media, as well as producing stories that will maximize the potential of new leads coming in.

During my career in law enforcement, I have attended more conferences, training sessions, and seminars than I care to count. From most I was at least able to take away a little something. But once in a while, I would attend one that was an eye-opener—one that taught me new tricks and investigative approaches—and I could not wait to get back to work in order to apply what I had learned. This book has affected me the same way. For the investigator, Pettem's work will undoubtedly jump-start many a stalled investigation and keep others moving forward. For cold case unit managers, it opens up a world of new opportunities: the opportunity to expand the capacities of their units, take advantage of free resources, and to institute changes that address the outdated attitudes, policies, and procedures that, in the past, prevented some cases from being solved. At the same time, *Cold Case Research* promises to keep other cases from going cold in the future.

**Detective James Trainum, retired**

*Metropolitan Police Department*

*Washington, DC*



---

# Preface

---

The definition of a cold case varies from agency to agency, but the National Institute of Justice currently defines it as “any case whose probative investigative leads have been exhausted.”\* Therefore, cold cases can range from those that are a few months old to others that go back for decades. This is a book of resources for cold case research, with profiles and case histories that illustrate how these resources have successfully been applied. To get started, browse through the checklist in Chapter 1, or pick a chapter from the Table of Contents.

“To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded,” is a quotation that has been attributed to several authors, including nineteenth-century American essayist and poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson.† It is my sincere hope that *Cold Case Research: Resources for Unidentified, Missing, and Cold Homicide Cases* will help investigators solve their cases, and that their solutions will, ultimately, bring justice to the victims. That is why we do what we do.

**Silvia Pettem**  
*Boulder, Colorado*

\* Sidebar to Charles Heurich, “Cold Cases: Resources for Agencies, Resolution for Families,” *National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Journal*, 260 (July 2008).

† Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, <http://emerson.tamu.edu/Ephemera/Success.html>



---

# Acknowledgments

---

The concept for this book came from Richard H. Walton, EdD, associate professor of criminal justice, Utah State University Eastern and author of *Cold Case Homicides: Practical Investigative Techniques*. Walton suggested that a book on research methodology was needed, and that I should write it, a daunting prospect at the time.

Once underway, I sought advice from law enforcement friends who helped me brainstorm the topics to include. Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Investigator Cheryl Moore invited me to her home, where we spent a hot summer afternoon hammering out the initial outline. Former Westminster Police Department Senior Criminalist Tom Adair, Boulder County Sheriff's Office Division Chief Phil West, and Boulder Police Department Deputy Chief David Hayes all took the time to give me the benefit of their joint expertise, and each contributed many more excellent suggestions.

Walton then introduced me to retired Detective James Trainum (Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, DC) who became my chief advisor. He generously read the chapters as I wrote them, and he provided a welcomed peer review as he shared his own experiences and helped in shaping the book as a whole. I will miss his early morning e-mails.

In fact, one of the best parts of writing *Cold Case Research* has been the people I have interacted with along the way. Those mentioned throughout these acknowledgments gave freely of their time to inform me of their work. Family members of victims told me, a complete stranger, their very personal stories. All were eager to share their collective wealth of knowledge, the basis for the profiles and case histories spread throughout the following pages.

Two of the profiles are on Jefferson County's Investigator Cheryl Moore and Colorado Springs Detective Ron Lopez and the outstanding work they are doing in their respective agencies. Thank you to both of you, as well as to Sarah Chaikin, who enjoys a unique role as the Cold Case Program Coordinator of the Victim Assistance Unit at the Denver Police Department.

Thanks, too, to longtime friend Todd Matthews (now the communications manager for NamUs), who I finally met face to face at a national NamUs Training Academy. That was where I met Detective Lopez, as well as Investigator Matthew Lunn, of the Arapahoe County Coroner's Office. The three of us now teach the NamUs portion of the 16-hour training class, "Cold Case Investigations—Strategies and Best Practices," sponsored by the

Colorado Bureau of Investigation, thanks to retired Lieutenant Jonathyn Priest (Denver Police Department) and CBI's Criminal Intelligence Analyst, Audrey Simkins.

My heart, obviously, is with the victims, and I wish to particularly thank the families who shared their stories with me. Stephanie Clack told me about the disappearance of her oldest sister Paula Beverly Davis, and James H. Davis, MD (no relation), Coroner of Montgomery County, Ohio, explained his agency's role and use of NamUs in identifying Paula as a Jane Doe murder victim. Clack and another sister, Alice Beverly, now work as victim advocates for the organization, Missouri Missing. Co-founder Marianne Asher-Chapman gave me her comments, as well.

A special thank you goes, too, to Regina Mayo, who lost her husband, Gary Mayo, in a drowning accident. She asks that he be remembered as a man who lived life to the fullest. Following a Vidocq Society meeting in Philadelphia, I met with Hal G. Brown, deputy director of the Delaware Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and Forensic Sciences Laboratory. I appreciated the time that he and his assistant, Phillip Petty, spent with me discussing their agency's role in identifying Gary Mayo's partial remains.

Sharron Bullis, sister of murder victim Bonita Raye Morgan, kindly corresponded with me and continues to offer her decades-long perspective on unsolved homicides at annual conferences of Families of Homicide Victims and Missing Persons. The organization's director, Howard Morton, who lost a son to homicide, filled me in on what families want from law enforcement.

I am grateful, too, for learning a new (to me, anyway) perspective when I corresponded with the sister of the killer of a Navajo child, Surette Clark. The sister asked that, in this book, her name be withheld, but her bravery led the way to providing justice for Clark. The case was one of several of retired Detective Ed Reynolds (Phoenix Police Department), who shared with me some of his early-day experiences with his agency's Cold Case Squad. Thanks, too, to Detective Stuart Somershoe (Phoenix Police Department), who put me in contact with Detective Reynolds and provided more information on the Clark case.

Cold cases include homicides, the unidentified, and missing persons, and each case, in each category, is different. Investigator Kevin Parmelee (Somerset County Prosecutor's Office, and formerly with the Piscataway Police Department in New Jersey) is to be commended for using DNA from a PKU (phenylketonuria) test, leading the way in the use of this overlooked primary reference sample to identify a missing teenager, Ben Mauer.

Thanks, too, to part-time chief Chad Weaver (employed part-time by both the Hutsonville and Robinson police departments, in rural Illinois) for sharing his enthusiasm in the use of TLO's online investigative system to track down another missing person: a sexual predator. Meanwhile, Florida Department of Law Enforcement Special Agent Tommy Ray initiated the use

of Cold Case Playing Cards that, thanks to him, are now spreading across the country and have led to the arrests and convictions of several killers.

I also appreciated hearing from Investigator Darrell Harris (Marin County Sheriff's Office–Coroner Division). Former cold case volunteer Mark C. Friedman tipped me off to the agency's identification of a John Doe as Joseph Coogan. Even though I learned of the Coogan family's reaction secondhand, their gratitude shines through. I hope that Roland Halpern, and his son, Koa Halpern, will someday find similar resolution in their search for Joseph Halpern.

Historical researchers are not to be overlooked either. Michael C. Dooling is the first person to take a serious look at the likely related disappearances of three young women in New England; and Virginia resident Micki Lavigne creatively used a combination of keywords in a Google search to find a woman who had been missing for more than a half century. John R. Pearson took the time to show me the graves of the unidentified in the Evergreen Cemetery in Leadville, Colorado, and he and Karen Anne Nicholas are working with me to give them back their names.

If there were a volunteer of the year award, however, it would probably go to Milli Knudsen, who has forged new ground—and shared her organizational skills—as a civilian in the Cold Case Unit of the New Hampshire Department of Justice, Office of Attorney General. Other volunteers are eager to share very different skills, as noted by retired Postal Inspector Tom Hall, one of Oregon's Cold Case Cowboys, as well as Gene and Sandy Ralston (Ralston & Associates), who aid law enforcement by performing underwater search and recovery missions.

In the preparation of this book, I also consulted with Professor Mary Dodge, PhD (director of Criminal Justice Programs, University of Colorado, Denver), retired Detective Dixie Grimes (Denver Police Department), retired Captain Tom McLellan (Fort Collins Police Department), Professor Michael L. Radelet, PhD (sociology, University of Colorado, Boulder), Derek Regensburger (legal studies instructor, criminal justice, Everest College), and N. Prabha Unnithan, PhD (professor of sociology, also director of the Center for the Study of Crime and Justice, Colorado State University, Fort Collins).

Additional input came from the following professionals: Justice Solutions Director Diane Alexander; former Assistant United States Attorney (Washington, DC) Thomas A. "Tad" DiBiase; LexisNexis Solutions Consultant and former FBI ViCAP Crime Analyst Samantha Gwinn; Chief Investigator of the Twentieth Judicial District (Colorado) Jane Harmer; Senior Crime Analyst Diana Havlin; Supervisory Special Agent, retired, R. Stephen Mardigian (National Center for the Analysis of Violent Crime, FBI); Cold Case Investigative Research Institute Director Sheryl McCollum; attorney Joseph K. Reynolds; United States Attorney's Office (Washington, DC) Victim Advocate Marcey Rinker; crime analyst Suzanne Stiltner (ViCAP

NamUs Coordinator, FBI); archivist and librarian Carol Taylor; and—from the Vidocq Society—Frederick Bornhofen (chairman of the board and case management director) and William Fleisher (commissioner).

Many other people have also contributed to *Cold Case Research*, and I offer my apologies to those I may have missed. Investigator Lunn reviewed the NamUs chapters, and Dr. Steven C. Clark and Randy Hanzlick, MD (chief medical examiner, Fulton County, Georgia) read over the section on NamUs's background and evolution. Robert C. Davis kindly shared the *Rand Corporation Reports on Cold Case Investigations*, which he co-authored. Detective Bryan Franke (Longmont Police Department) and computer forensic analyst Jeremy Shavin (Boulder County Sheriff's Office) let me pick their brains on search engines and databases. Detective Stephen Furr (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department) told me of his agency's cold case squad, a model for the country. And I appreciated the help of photo librarian Faye Haskins, of the Washingtoniana Division of the District of Columbia Public Library, in selecting a photograph from the library's archives.

Thanks, too, to the other individuals and institutions (not mentioned elsewhere) who contributed illustrations: *Ahwatukee News*, *Boulder Daily Camera*, Beverly family, Alan Cass, Colorado State Archives, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Robert Freitas, Jennifer Kitt, Library of Congress, Judah Lifschitz, Maricopa County Recorder, Montgomery County Coroner's Office, National Archives, National Institute of Justice, Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, *North Platte Telegraph*, E.W. Scripps Co., Visit Denver, and Diane Wetzel.

Ken Hunter, CEO of TLO, personally and graciously gave me a two-day tour of the investigative system company's headquarters in Boca Raton, Florida. Along with Randy Huff, with whom I continue to correspond, other TLO employees who contributed to this book include Wally Abrams, Derick Anderson, founder Hank Asher, Sybille Brown, Lynn Dallmer, Derek Dubner, Kevin Flanagan, Janette Harris, Caren Holmes, Erika Husemann, Skye Kamakani, Joyce Lewis-Bass, former Mississippi Attorney General Mike Moore, Mitch Nixon, COO Steve Racioppo, Bettye Samuels, James Samuels (NCMEC manager domiciled at TLO), Christine Schmitt, Bill Shrewsbury, and Bill Wiltse.

I also would like to acknowledge members of the Boulder Police Department. As a volunteer in the Detectives Section, I appreciate the professionalism of my co-workers and the opportunity they have given me to work with them. Thanks go to Chief Mark Beckner, Deputy Chief David Hayes, Deputy Chief Greg Testa, Commander Kimberly Stewart, Detective Sergeant Rob Bustrum, Detective Sergeant Melissa Kampf, Detective Sergeant Tom Trujillo, Detective Ruth Christopher, Detective Tom Dowd, Detective Kurt Foster, Detective Jeremy Frenzen, Detective Chuck Heidel,

Detective Colleen Wilcox, Legal Advisor Bob Keatley, and Police Records Specialist Jennifer Bragg.

To my associates at the Taylor & Francis Group/CRC Press, I wish to thank Becky Masterman for her faith in me to write *Cold Case Research*, and to Kathryn Younce, Iris Fahrer, and Bev S. Weiler for patiently working with me through all the details.

Last, special thanks go to my husband, Ed Raines, my sounding board and best friend.



---

## About the Author

---



**Silvia Pettem** is a longtime historical researcher, newspaper columnist, and author of more than a dozen books. After decades of work for individuals, businesses, and governments, her life took a new turn in 1996, when she stumbled upon the gravestone of a Jane Doe, a murder victim from 1954. A few years later, Pettem applied her research skills to both old-fashioned detective work and the power of the Internet by entering into a successful partnership with her local sheriff and forensic experts of the Vidocq Society to determine the young woman's identity. Pettem

chronicled their work in *Someone's Daughter: In Search of Justice for Jane Doe*.

In 2008, the Boulder County Sheriff's Office gave Pettem a Sheriff's Commendation Award for doing the "lion's share of the research" on the Jane Doe case. Two years later, the Vidocq Society presented her with its Medal of Honor.

While continuing to volunteer for the Sheriff's Office, Pettem is now an associate member of the Vidocq Society, a volunteer in the detectives section of the Boulder Police Department, a NamUs Academy graduate, and a NamUs instructor in classes sponsored by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, expanding her expertise and working with colleagues all over the country. She wrote *Cold Case Research: Resources for Unidentified, Missing, and Cold Homicide Cases* in order to aid other investigators as they grapple with cold cases of their own.