



# The Drum

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2022



LOST AND MISSING IN INDIAN COUNTRY / Cold Cases

## Lost and Missing in Indian Country Newsletter

*Missing and Murdered Indigenous People of the United States*

JANET FRANSON, FOUNDER

Now that we are looking forward to a NEW YEAR, I want to just briefly touch on what LMIC is looking into, to help especially LONG TERM missing person and unidentified cases.

ALL of the folks who LMIC are working with, I can say proudly, are FRIENDS of mine. Ashley and Megan, I call the Dynamic DUO, are sisters and have been involved in missing cases for over ten years now. They bring a wealth of information to the table, especially with Genetic Genealogy being used more and more. There are cases getting identified (I personally have two of them) Orange Socks and Corona Girl, 40 and 30 years sitting, waiting for someone to give them their name back. They have been identified, but we are still working, hoping to get REBEL RAY, another unsolved Homicide victim his name back.

Natalie Murry and I worked together on a cold case team for the Williamson County (TX) Sheriff's Office. She is an incredible talent, not only as an investigator but also as a forensic artist.

If not for her artist renditions, that caught the attention of family members of Orange Socks and Corona Girl, I doubt either would have finally gotten their names back.

LAST but certainly NOT least is Mark Pooley. Mark reached out to us several months ago with his endeavor, Native Search Solutions, to work on not only missing persons but possibly unidentified persons as well.

Please keep watching us as there are going to be GOOD things coming in 2023! GOD bless and keep the faith.

~ Janet Franson





NATALIE MURRY

# Forensic Art For Unidentified Remains Cases

Forensic artists work with medical examiners and police agencies to attempt to put a face on the unidentified dead. When all other attempts have been made and have failed to ID the victim, the agency can call in a forensic artist.

The work is not one of the first methods of ID tried as the results are not definitive or of evidentiary value. The purpose of forensic art is to release an image to the public that will prompt people to call in with a name that the detective or medical examiner can investigate. The drawing cannot be used to identify someone on its own, but must be combined with further investigative work.

The most common way for an artist to help in these cases is to do a reconstruction of the face of the deceased based on the skull. Normally the artist works with a forensic anthropologist at the medical examiner's office. The anthropologist will inform the artist of the approximate age of the victim, their height and general weight, their ancestry, and their sex based on the bones found. The artist has charts that advise the depth of the tissue on the face from the bone to the surface of the skin based on the specific ancestry, sex, and weight; and attaches markers in the lengths that the chart gives to several predetermined locations on the face. The skull is then photographed. At that point, the artist can proceed with the drawing in the method they prefer.

All artists used to use pencil, but many now draw digitally on the computer. They use an art software and open the photos in that program on the computer. The artist has a digital drawing tablet that they use instead of paper, drawing directly on the surface of the tablet.

There have been many studies and books about how to determine the shape and specifics of each feature on the face, and the artist proceeds to draw the face based on their training and experience. For instance, there is a nodule on the bone of the orbital cavity (the part of the skull that holds the eye) which indicates where the eyelid attaches. The shape of the top of the orbital cavity will give

the artist information about the shape of the eyelid and eyebrow.

When the drawing is complete, the artist sends it to the detective or medical examiner for release to the media. Note that an artist cannot do an exact portrait of the person, but that they are only attempting to get the basics correct. The drawing only needs to be close enough for someone to think it could be a person they know and to call the detective or medical examiner with a name. If that leads to an identification, the drawing has been a success.

This does not constitute the involvement of the artist in the case however. During the investigation, the medical examiner or detective may come back to the artist with a photo of a person that tips and investigation has determined could be the victim. The artist can examine the photo and compare the face with the photos they have taken of the skull, and advise if this person could be or could not be the victim. The photo can be superimposed over the skull photo and features can be examined to see where they fall on the skull. In many cases, the artist can only tell whether the victim absolutely does not fit that skull or if the victim does, but cannot determine exactly if this is a match. This helps the detective or medical examiner know if they need to keep investigating this person or if they can rule it out and move on to a different possible victim.

While forensic art is not of evidentiary value it has been useful in assisting to identify a victim in many cases, sometimes decades after a victim has gone missing. It is an art that needs specific training and skill but is ultimately rewarding.

www.nataliemurry.com

NatalieMurryForensicArt

@nataliemurryforensicart



My digital drawing set up. The Wacom Cintiq tablet is on the left and my computer is on the right. I draw on the tablet using a stylus (pictured in front of the tablet here)



Attaching the tissue depth markers at the Medical Examiner's Office

## Reconstructions and Their Identified Victims by Natalie Murry



**ERNIE JENSEN**  
Missing June 26, 2021

Ernie was last known to be homeless in Anchorage. He doesn't have a cell phone and doesn't have any regular contact with any of his family members.

If you any information regarding the disappearance of Ernie, please contact the Anchorage Police Department at 907-786-8900.

**EVERY UNIDENTIFIED PERSON IS A MISSING PERSON!**



# Native Search Solutions

MARK POOLEY, NSS

Native Search Solutions (NSS) is a new and innovative organization that focuses on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) cases. Missing person investigations are complex and if not resolved in a fairly short amount of time, the investigation will most likely come to an impasse. NSS uses new and innovative technologies that will supplement tribal law enforcement's MMIP investigations. Re-

gardless of the tribal police department's size, resources or budget; these tools will be made available to add to their investigations.

Native Search Solutions wants to work with MMIP Advocacy groups by giving them a resource in their search for the missing and help liaison with law enforcement agencies by navigating them in the investigative process. NSS has partnered with Native American Fatherhood

and Families Association (NAFFA) and Biometrica in establishing a MMIP fusion center located in Mesa, Arizona. This fusion center will be a place to meet with other anti-human sex-trafficking groups; to collaborate our efforts as one resource.

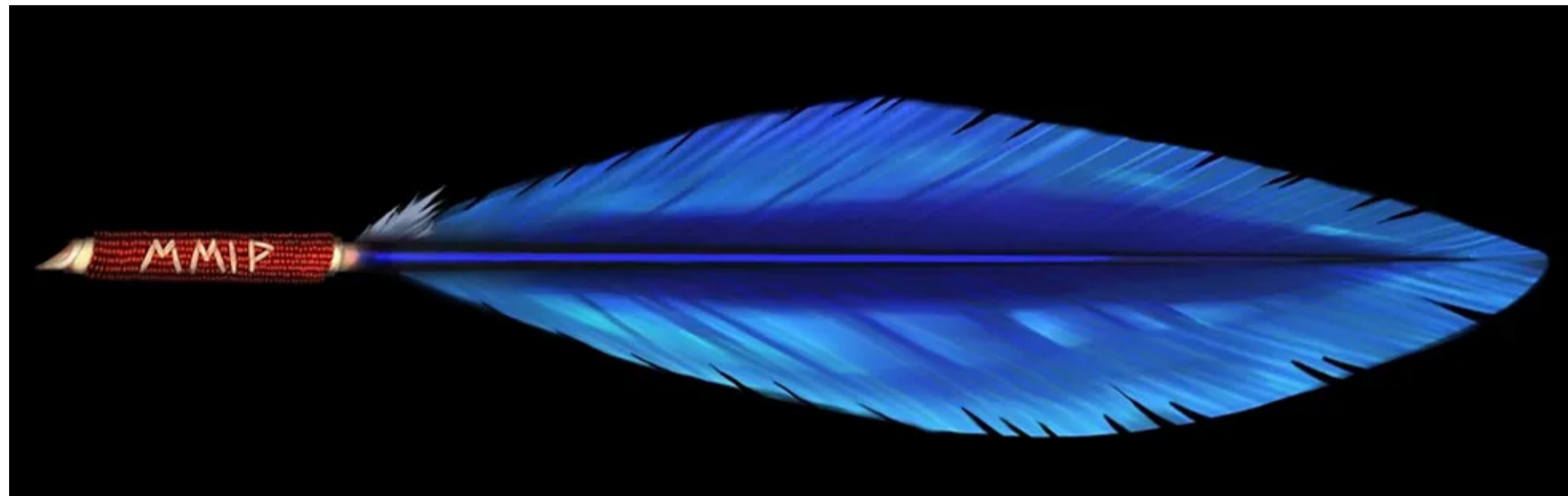
### MISSION STATEMENT

"To bring Hope, Empowerment, and Resolution to families of the missing by using new and existing technologies in lo-

cating their loved ones.

Strengthening Native Communities by giving them opportunities to engage in searching for their missing.

Develop and implement a training program for tribal law enforcement to utilize new and existing technologies that will enhance their current and future missing person investigations."



## Behind the Scenes at LMIC

ASHLEY KRONER, LMIC

About ten years ago, I started volunteering with a missing person organization that focused on missing persons in Montana.

It was a little while later, I 'met' Janet and she had the idea of creating a Facebook page that would be strictly for missing Indigenous people.

At that time, there was not a lot if any, organizations on Facebook that highlighted missing Indigenous people and worked

to promote and bring awareness to the amount of Indigenous people missing.

So here at LMIC, I create missing person posters, update the website, create newsletters and create The Drum, magazine and manage our database to keep track of those that are missing and bring awareness to the public.

I'm not sure why this is a passion for me, but it is. I am saddened for the families of all those having missing loved ones and

also for those individuals that have been unidentified for years. I don't think anyone should be forgotten and I hope we are bringing awareness to the scope and magnitude of missing and murdered Indigenous people.

I can still remember speaking with Janet years ago, and we were talking about a particular case in Montana and the case broke my heart. That day I had also found out two more individuals that had been missing were located deceased. Even though I was not related

to these individuals, I cried. I somehow felt connected to these individuals because of the time I spend trying to bring awareness to them and the hope that I have that they will be found alive.

I honestly do want to think positive and look at everything with a glass half full attitude. Unfortunately, that is not always the case and sometimes that is difficult. And I do think, what am I doing...is it making a difference? But then you have those days when someone has been found safe and those are great

days. Even when unidentified individuals are identified are great days because they can finally go 'home'. It may not be the way we wanted, but at least family can now have some sort of closure.

This is why I do what I do. I don't want anyone to be forgotten, and all they have is us to advocate for them and be there for them. And I believe we can all make a difference if we keep are eyes open and keep bringing awareness to those that are missing or unidentified.



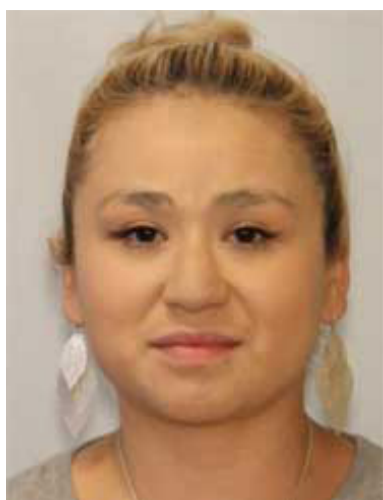
**CASEY LOUIS WHITE**  
Missing July 27, 2022

Casey got on his motorcycle and drove off. The motorcycle was parked with his helmet near Derby Dam near the Truckee River and had been sitting for several days. His bank account has not been accessed. He had no cell phone with him.

If you any information regarding the disappearance of Casey, please contact the Churchill County Sheriff's Office at 775-423-3116.

# The Missing And Murdered Can Not Cry Out For Justice. It is The Duty Of The Living To Do It For Them.



**JASMINE LARIONOFF**

Missing May 9, 2022

Jasmine left her mother's residence in Houston around noon on 05/09/2022 and hasn't been seen or heard from since.

If you any information regarding the disappearance of Jasmine, please contact the Alaska State Troopers at 907-269-5511.

**ANTHONY JAMES****HARDY-BEAR**

Missing October 31, 2022

Anthony reached out to family and said that he wanted to move back to Florida. Last contact was via text message on October 31, 2022, which said he wasn't going to be seeing his girlfriend or daughter anymore.

If you any information regarding the disappearance of Anthony, please contact the Muscogee Creek Nation Lighthorse Tribal Police Dept. at 918-732-7800.

**KEISHA KOOTSWATEWA**

Missing March 26, 2022

Keisha was last seen in Tees Toh, Arizona with her boyfriend on March 22, 2022. She has had no contact with family or friends since she went missing.

If you any information regarding the disappearance of Keisha, please contact the Hopi Tribal Resource Enforcement Services at 928-734-3000.

# Genetic Genealogy

MEGAN MCWILLIAMS, LMIC

I've been an avid Genealogist for the last 20+ years and I became involved with Genetic Genealogy when Ancestry released their Ancestry DNA kits.

When I took and received my results for the Ancestry DNA test, I found it interesting that none of my DNA matches had my surname. Which I should have had at least some, but why did I have not a single one?

While I had taken the test, my family also took it as well and I matched both my parents. So I knew we were related, but there was a surname that showed up in my results that I was not familiar with, so I followed it.

Normally, with Genealogy you follow the paper trail....this time I need to follow the DNA trail....the Genetic Genealogy trail. And I did. It led me to three brothers possibly being my father's paternal grandfather. It would be another year later until I could determine which brother was my great-grandfather, when another person tested confirming which 'branch' to follow and all it took was that one person to test and confirm who was my biological great-grandfather.

It is amazing what Genetic Genealogy can do for cold cases. Imagine when fingerprinting, and DNA came into play. This is the new technology that will be the change to solve these cases.

There are 181 cases of unidentified Indigenous individuals in the NamUs database. That doesn't include the 3,453 whose race is unknown.

There is a great number of the Indigenous community that has not taken a DNA test through a company like Ancestry. In order for unidentified Indigenous people to be identified, more people need to test and upload their DNA results to platforms for law enforcement comparisons of unidentified individuals found throughout the

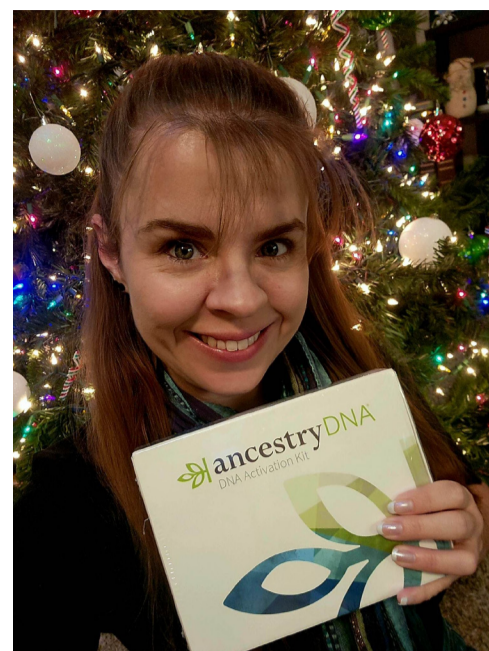
country.

If you test, it could result in the identification of an unidentified individual. Your DNA can possibly have that power to help identify someone that has been unidentified for years.

These tests can be a little expensive; however, Ancestry always has these kits on sale during the holidays. I highly recommend purchasing the Ancestry DNA kit when it is on sale.

If you've decided to take this step, and you've ordered your kit and sent in your results, once you get your results back you can upload your raw Ancestry DNA to Gedmatch and FamilyTreeDNA. These sites allow you to see more matches to your DNA, and these are two platforms used by Law Enforcement agencies when using Genetic Genealogy to identify an unidentified individual.

If you need help unloading your raw Ancestry DNA file to Gedmatch or FamilyTreeDNA, reach out to Genetics Uncovered on Facebook and we will be happy to help!

**HEAD OVER TO GENETICS****UNCOVERED ON FACEBOOK****FOR A CHANCE AT WINNING AN****ANCESTRY DNA KIT.****ENDS JANUARY 1, 2023****REMUS YAZZIE**

Missing January 5, 2022

Remus was last seen when dropped off on Dustin Avenue in Farmington, NM. Remus contacted his mother through text that he was going to go to a funeral in Gallup, NM, on January 5, 2022, with a friend.

If you any information regarding the disappearance of Remus, please contact the Farmington Police Department at 505-599-1070.

**Know Something?  
Say Something!**

# The Unidentified Are Waiting To Be Identified

ASHLEY KRONER, LMIC

There are a lot of cases of unidentified individuals that have been identified through Genetic Genealogy. It is another tool that can be utilized by law enforcement to enable these cases to be solved and should be used.

These cases have been sitting for years, some even decades. In order to get these cases solved, we should do everything in our power to assist these cold cases.

If you haven't, consider taking an Ancestry DNA test and upload your raw DNA to Gedmatch. Law enforcement agencies use Gedmatch and will be able to see if you are a DNA match to an unidentified individual they are investigating.

It takes time, but every tool should be utilized to bring these individuals home.



NamUs #UP4083



NamUs #UP16335



NamUs #UP7532



NamUs #UP14154



NamUs #UP10449