

**CORONER'S REPORT – CASE SUPPLEMENT**  
**E.G. PRIETO, Sheriff-Coroner**

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**Investigator: Laurel Weeks**  
**Decedent: James Wray Miller (A.K.A. John Doe)**

**Case #: 6397-301-1987**

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1 The remains were located on 09/22/1987 in the Sacramento River under the Tower Bridge in  
2 West Sacramento. A witness reported the decedent jumped into the Sacramento River on  
3 09/19/1987 in an attempt to rescue people in a vehicle that had driven off the Tower Bridge after  
4 the bridge was elevated without the warning signals or barriers activated. Cause of death was  
5 determined to be drowning, as determined by forensic autopsy. Manner of death was an accident.  
6 A birth certificate bearing the name Daniel Joseph Read was recovered from the remains along  
7 with a Texas Food Stamp (issued Dalhart, Texas 03/08/1987), duplicate social security card  
8 application (Salt Lake City Utah, 08/31/1987) and an Employment Development Department job  
9 card (Sacramento, California 09/16/1987). A witness on the riverside, James Vincent, who was  
10 present when the decedent jumped into the water reported that he had known the decedent for  
11 few days and that his name was "Dan". A search for the family of Daniel Joseph Read was  
12 conducted and yielded no results. The case was referred to the Yolo County Social Services and  
13 the remains were cremated on 10/01/1987 at the Sacramento Memorial Lawn Crematory. No  
14 fingerprints, dental charting or x-rays were obtained.

15  
16 On 10/08/1987 the office was contacted by a reporter with the Sacramento Union and notified  
17 the decedent had been misidentified. Additional checks on the name revealed that a subject using  
18 the name of Daniel Joseph Read had been removed from a railroad yard in Texas in July of 1987  
19 and from a railroad yard in Nevada in September of 1987. The subject had given the same name  
20 and social security number as the identification paperwork located on the remains. It was  
21 confirmed that the Daniel Joseph Read listed on the death certificate was alive and living in  
22 Missouri. Mr. Read was contacted and reported that the birth certificate could have easily been  
23 stolen as it had been with family papers stored in a bus that had been parked at various missions  
24 around Missouri over the years.

25  
26 On 10/16/1987, Ross Keith, Jr. presented to the Coroner's Office and after viewing postmortem  
27 photographs of the decedent advised that the deceased was his brother, Anthony Curtis Keith.

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1 Keith, Jr. advised that Anthony had walked away from his life two years earlier after problems  
2 with his fiancé. Keith, Jr. reported that Anthony had called him twice, once from Texas in July  
3 and once from Las Vegas, Nevada around September. Keith, Jr. convinced Deputy Coroner Sgt.  
4 Charles Murray that the deceased was Anthony Curtis Keith. A new death certificate was  
5 created and the cremains were released to Keith, Jr. Sgt. Murray then advised his supervisor of  
6 his actions and his supervisor requested Sgt. Murray verify the identity of Anthony Keith. A  
7 check of Anthony Curtis Keith revealed he was wanted in the State of Washington. A  
8 fingerprint card and booking photo were received and it was determined that the subject in the  
9 booking photo was actually the man presenting himself as Ross Keith, Jr. A felony arrest  
10 warrant was issued for Anthony Curtis Keith.

11  
12 On 10/27/1987, a package containing cremains of the decedent was received by mail at the Yolo  
13 County Sheriff's Department along with a note of apology. The death certificate was not  
14 returned. On 11/12/1987 the container was taken to Sacramento Memorial Lawn Crematory  
15 where it was verified that the packaging, container and contents were consistent with what  
16 Sacramento Memorial Lawn produces. On 11/24/1987 the cremains were examined by Rodger  
17 Heglar of Forensic Anthropology Consulting which confirmed the contents of the mailed in  
18 package were consistent with human remains cremated and compacted by a mortuary. Anthony  
19 Keith was subsequently arrested for false impersonment. Various possible matches were  
20 investigated over the years but did not result in identification.

21  
22 On 11/15/2006, a review of the record indicated a blood sample had been submitted to the  
23 Institute of Forensic Sciences Criminalistics Laboratory (IFSCL) for blood typing in 1987.  
24 IFSCL was no longer in business however it was determined that IFSCL evidence had been  
25 transferred to Forensic Analytical Laboratories in Hayward, California. Contact was made with  
26 Forensic Analytical and on 01/03/2007 it was confirmed that the blood sample submitted in 1987  
27 was present. On 01/08/2007 the blood sample was collected from Forensic Analytical and on

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1 01/22/2007 the sample was submitted to DOJ. On 06/14/2007, DOJ completed the DNA profile  
2 and uploaded the results into the Missing and Unidentified Person System (MUPS). An updated  
3 Unidentified Deceased Reporting Form (UDRF) was submitted to DOJ on 10/22/2007. In 2009,  
4 the case was entered into the Doe Network site and in 2011 the case was entered into the  
5 National Missing and Unidentified Person System (NamUs). Possible matches were investigated  
6 over the years, again with negative results.

7  
8 On 11/16/2017 Kristene Feldhaus contacted this office reporting she had seen a profile of a John  
9 Doe from Yolo County in NamUs and believed the individual could be her father, James Wray  
10 Miller. Feldhaus had been working with NamUs in putting Miller's profile in the system and  
11 had submitted a familial DNA sample to the University of North Texas Center for Human  
12 Identification (UNTCHI) in September of 2017. In speaking with Feldhaus there were a number  
13 of consistencies between her father and the unidentified remains including height, weight, hair  
14 and eye color, cleft chin and presence of a partial upper denture. I advised Feldhaus that a DNA  
15 profile on the unidentified remains were available in CODIS and continued to work with her,  
16 NamUs, UNTCHI and DOJ over the ensuing months to facilitate a comparison. A familial DNA  
17 sample was also obtained from Mary Jane Miller, the mother of James. On 07/25/2018, a  
18 positive DNA comparison was made between Kristene Feldhaus and Mary Jane Miller to the  
19 unidentified remains, establishing a positive identification as James Wray Miller. Sadly, Mary  
20 Jane Miller passed away approximately two weeks prior to the identification. The death  
21 certificate was amended to reflect the identification. On 08/14/2018, the remains were released to  
22 the decedent's daughter, Kristene Feldhaus.