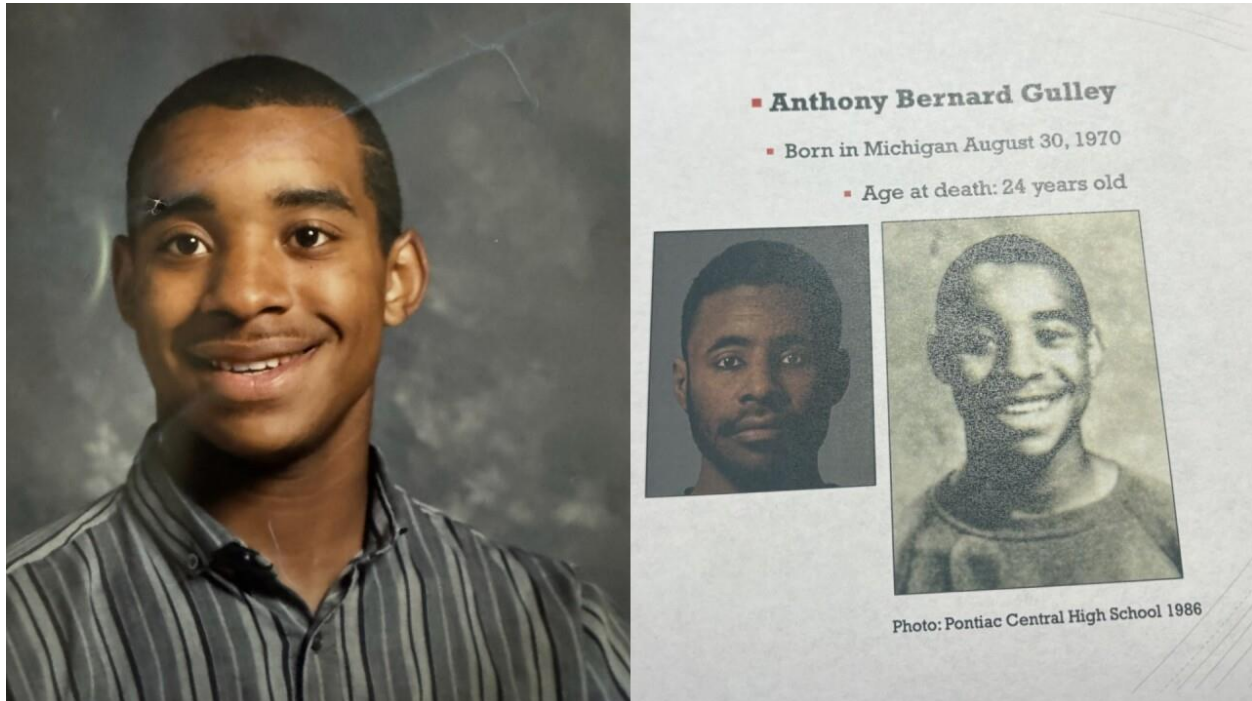


# Stark Co. John Doe 2001

Success Stories

2001 Cold Case John Doe Identified

DNA Doe Project Identifies **Anthony Bernard Gulley's** Remains



*Canton, OH* – Human remains found near an oil well in a remote field near Canton in 2001 have now been identified as Anthony Bernard Gulley, a young man authorities believe was murdered in 1994.

Two men cutting firewood about 200 yards from a county road made a grisly discovery on December 22, 2001. Skeletal remains, bleached by exposure, may have been in the field since it was last plowed in 1996. No clothing, jewelry, or identification were found with the remains. The initial assessment by the county coroner and a forensic anthropologist concluded that the remains belonged to an African American woman, between the ages of 22-31, and about 5"7" tall. DNA analysis would show that the unknown person was in fact male.

Authorities in 2001 scoured missing persons records to try to find the identity of the remains, but the case went cold until March 23, 2022 when the Stark County Coroner's Office received an inquiry from a DoeNetwork

Volunteer and through that inquiry the case was reexamined. Then, in 2023, the Stark County Sheriff's Office brought it to the DNA Doe Project to attempt investigative genetic genealogy. This process involves uploading the unknown person's DNA profile to databases where forensic cases can be compared to the profiles of ordinary citizens who have agreed to allow matching and analysis of their shared DNA. Investigators then use traditional genealogy records to build the family tree of the matches, hoping to find the branch that includes the John Doe.

The case would spend 9 months in the lab pipeline before genetic genealogy research was launched, but it would take only 24 hours to find the name – Anthony Bernard Gulley.

"Sometimes the DNA relatives are all distant but we luck out with good records," said team leader Margaret Press, who co-founded DNA Doe Project in 2017. "Sometimes the opposite is true, as was the case this time. Despite those challenges, the team pulled through."

As the team's work narrowed in on Anthony Gulley, they found news reports published in 1994 that named Anthony as a potential murder victim of George Frederick Washington, who had died by suicide after being chased by police. Authorities in 1994 believed Gulley's body had been dumped in a lake near Akron.

"We discovered that the assumed murderer of Anthony Gulley killed himself when confronted by the police," said Taed Wynnell, one of the investigative genetic genealogists who worked on the case during a weekend retreat in Texas. "Oftentimes the murder investigation doesn't begin until after we identify the victim, so this was a surprise to our team."

Gulley's family had been left without knowing where he was, or even if he was actually deceased. "We are so glad Anthony Gulley's family now has answers," Press said. "Our hearts go out to them."

The DNA Doe Project is grateful to the groups and individuals who helped solve this case: the Stark County Sheriff's Office, who entrusted the case to the DNA Doe Project; Daicel Arbor Biosciences for extraction of DNA, sample prep, and whole-genome sequencing; Kevin Lord of for bioinformatics; GEDmatch Pro and FTDNA for providing their databases;

our generous donors who joined our mission and contributed to this case;  
and DDP's dedicated teams of volunteer investigative genetic genealogists  
who work tirelessly to bring all our Jane and John Does home.

**Description:**

On December 22, 2001, the skeletal remains of an African American man were discovered near an oil well in a remote field in Canton, OH, off of Trump Avenue a few miles from downtown Canton.

Investigators estimated that the man was 20-44 years old and between 5'4" and 6' tall. His weight, eye color and hair color could not be determined. No clothing was recovered with the remains. Examination of the collarbone revealed a fracture caused by a projectile indicating that the man may have died of a gunshot wound. There were teeth missing; however, they are believed to have been lost post mortem. The remains may have been in the field since 1996, the last time the field had been plowed.

**NamUs ID:**

UP90631

**Date Body Found:**

12/22/2001

**Race:**

Black/African-American

**Sex:**

Male

**Estimated Age:**

20-44

**Estimated PMI:**

Unknown

**Agency of Jurisdiction:**

Stark County Sheriff's Department Sergeant Bryan Johnson 330-430-3823  
52@starksheriff.org

**More Information:**

<https://www.cantonrep.com/story/news/local/2023/09/06/stark-county-authorities-to-unveil-reconstruction-of-unidentified-man/70775364007/>

<https://www.cleveland19.com/2023/10/06/unidentified-could-new-technology-identify-murder-victim-more-than-20-years-ago/>  
<https://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/Media/News-Releases/September-2023/Forensic-and-Digital-Facial-Reconstruction-of-Star>