

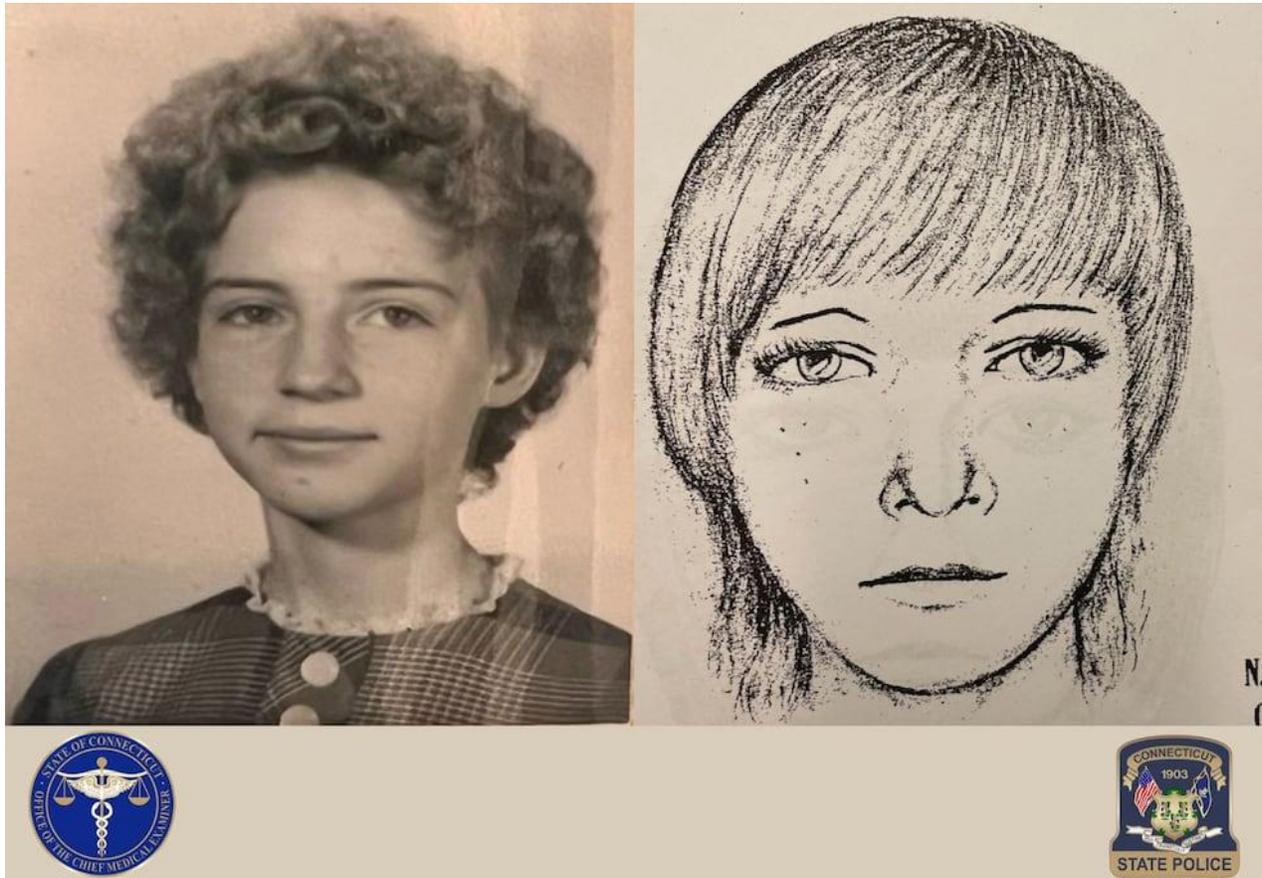
Ledyard skeletal remains found in the 70s identified as Kentucky woman

By [Rob Polansky](#)

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LEDYARD, CT (WFSB) - Skeletal remains found in Ledyard back in the 1970s have been identified as belonging to a woman from Kentucky.

Linda Sue Childers was said to have been shot in the head on Dec. 31, 1970, according to state police.



Linda Sue Childers was identified as one of the victims of a double homicide that happened in 1970 in Ledyard, according to state police.(Connecticut State Police)

Childers was one of two people whose remains were found in a shallow grave in Ledyard on May 30, 1974.

Investigators said they obtained the location from a witness of a double homicide. The witness stated that the two victims had been fatally shot.

“One victim, however, used an alias and her identity was never verified,” state police said. “Examination of her remains determined the cause of death to be a gunshot wound to the head and the manner of death was homicide.”

Shortly after the bodies were discovered, the suspects of the double homicide were arrested by state police and convicted of the crimes. Both suspects have since died.

For more than 50 years, no one knew the identity of the female victim.

“In 2011, the case data was entered into the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), along with the female victim’s dental x-rays and a description of her as a white female between 18 and 30 years of age.” state police said. “DNA was entered into the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS) in 2012 by the Connecticut Department of Scientific Services where they remained with no matches.”

Over the years, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, along with state police, said they had a few leads but no success.

In July of 2022, samples were sent to Othram for Forensic Investigative Genetic Genealogy, a private company working with the state.

State police said DNA from the female remains was extracted, sequenced, and uploaded into a forensic investigative genetic genealogy database, GEDMatch Pro.

“Lead medicolegal death investigator Michelle Clark, from the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, worked on the genealogy component of the investigation and collaborated with Connecticut State Police Det. Michael Hamel to reopen the case,” troopers said. “In Jan. 2024, a highly likely family member – the victim’s sister – was identified.”

Investigators determined that the sister of the victim was contacted by Clark, who learned that the unidentified victim had a daughter. The daughter provided a DNA sample, which confirmed the identity in Feb. 2024.

The female victim was then identified as Childers.

“Conversations with the family confirmed her whereabouts in the northeast throughout the years before her disappearance,” state police said.