

Body identified in 1960s missing person's case

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This is the original facial reconstruction that was completed by the Wyoming Crime Lab and was later shown on *Unsolved Mysteries*

THERMOPOLIS, Wyo. -

The Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office is closing the book on a 25-year-old case involving human remains.

The Sheriff's office has announced that they made a positive identification of a skeleton recovered from a trunk on March 31, 1992.

[According to a release on Facebook](#)... the skeleton was located in a trunk on the Sessions property. It was later determined that the person who had been placed in the trunk had been shot in the head.

The case came to be known as the "bones case" and was featured on the crime program "[Unsolved Mysteries](#)".

The Sheriff's office states that they received a number of tips in the case following the program.

Thanks, in part, to more sophisticated DNA testing through the Wyoming State Crime Lab one tip helped break the case open.

On October 19, a DNA sample was obtained from an adult female from Iowa who had relayed that her father had been shot in the head by her uncle sometime in 1960. The woman stated that her uncle then placed her father's body in a trunk before burying it in Iowa.

The Sheriff's Office says the uncle later dug the trunk back up and transported it to Wyoming where he was working. The uncle then left the trunk behind. The uncle later moved to Mississippi where he committed suicide.

The Wyoming State Crime Lab was able to determine that the female who had submitted the DNA sample was indeed a 99.99% match to the bones that had been collected.

The sheriff's office identifies the bones as Joseph Mulvaney. Mulvaney was born in 1923.

The sheriff's office writes;

"Joseph will now be able to get a proper burial and the Mulvaney family can rest easy knowing that their family member has been found."

"The Hot Springs County Sheriff's Office wants to thank the Wyoming State Crime Lab, Jessica

Hager with the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs), Shelley Statler (granddaughter of Joseph) who never stopped trying to locate Joseph, Mitchellville Police Department, and all the dedicated Sheriff Deputies who worked this case to its finish."