

CASE REVIEW: THE “MARYLAND MYSTERY LADY”

Ivy Cheung, DNA Labs International

Archaeologist Julie Schablitsky and her team discovered dozens of graves left behind during their cemetery relocation project in the abandoned Simon Hill Cemetery located in Hyattsville, Maryland. One of these graves held an airtight metal casket that contained a perfectly preserved female body. With major improvements in forensic DNA analysis in recent years and new technology like genealogy, DNA Labs International was able to assist the Maryland Department of Transportation in identifying the female body as Elizabeth James Williams, who died in 1938 at age 51. Elizabeth James Williams was the only individual that was able to be identified from the Simon Hill Cemetery. This presentation will briefly cover the story of the “Maryland Mystery Lady” and how DNA Labs International supported the Maryland Department of Transportation to provide closure to the decedent’s family.