

## Authorities Continue Investigating 20-Year-Old Cold Case

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By Donesha Aldridge, Digital Journalist - bio | email

September 10, 1993, 17-year-old Angela Freeman went missing from Petal. Her family and friends say this day never gets easy even 20 years later.

"We just need some closure, we'd love to know who did it and why they did it," said her grandmother, Clydell Freeman.

She said her granddaughter was a sweet person.

"She wanted to take care of her self and do her own little thing," she said.

Clydell Freeman said she was living in Louisiana when she received the news about Angela.

"We got the call and we came up," she said.

Local authorities said Angela was last seen at a Pizza Hut in Petal.

"We do know that she met someone that evening," said Southern Miss Cold Case Investigator Rusty Keyes. He's now handling the investigation. Her car was found on the Mahned Bridge in Perry County along with traces of blood.

"They searched the woods, the only thing they found was her shoes," Clydell Stewart said.

"They found her keys, they never found her purse, we've never found her body."

Keyes said even though this is a cold case, it's still active. He said they are treating it as a homicide.

"We've got it narrowed down to what Angela did the last few minutes of her life," said Keyes.

"We are working on some very good leads that we hope comes to a resolution."

Police said Angela was also a few months pregnant. The Freeman family said they would like to give her a proper burial.

"It don't get any easier," Clydell Freeman said. "We have to try to go on."

Police are still searching for leads. Contact the Petal Police Department at 601-544-5331 or the Perry County Sheriff's Office at 601-964-8461. Tips can also be sent to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 (1-800-THE-LOSt)

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Today makes 20 years that a Petal family has spent without seeing their teenage daughter and sister.

Angela Freeman, then 17 and pregnant with a daughter, was last seen at Petals Pizza Hut on Sept. 10, 1993.

After 20 years, we still dont know, and its kind of hard, said Clydell Freeman, Angelas grandmother.

The Hattiesburg resident said time doesnt make her granddaughters disappearance any easier.

Its the same old thing you think about all the time hoping and praying somebody will come forward, she said.

The Perry County Sheriffs and the Forrest-Perry County District Attorneys offices are still working on the case, along with University of Southern Mississippi Police Detective Rusty Keyes.

Keyes is the director of the colleges cold case unit, which works on old cases and serves an educational purpose for criminal justice students. Keyes said he is the lead investigator in the Angela Freeman case.

Keyes said her Honda was found the day after the last time she was seen in Petal with traces of blood on it near the Mahned bridge in Perry County.

It is a homicide case no doubt there, Keyes said.

But he said the trail leading to Angela and her unborn childs fate hasnt yet gone entirely dry.

It is a very active case, Keyes said. It is a cold case, but it is an active case.

He said progress is still being made in the search for Angela Freeman.

We have been able to narrow that case down to a particular avenue right now that were very content with, Keyes said, adding that he could not release the specifics.

Clydell Freeman said the family wont give up hope.

Were not going to give up, she said. Every time we get a chance, were going to put it out there were not going to forget her and we hope nobody else will.

[http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/arti ... ears-later](http://www.hattiesburgamerican.com/arti...ears-later)

The investigation for a Pine Belt teenager is still active 20 years after her disappearance.

Angela Freeman went missing on September 10, 1993. She was last seen at the Pizza Hut in Petal, and her car was later found near the Mahned Bridge in Perry County.

"It's been a long journey," says Angela's mother Deborah Freeman. "We still miss her. Like yesterday, you know, but it's been 20 years."

One of the investigating officers in this cold case is Captain Rusty Keyes with the University of Southern Mississippi Police Department.

"This is a very active case," says Keyes. "We know what Angela's activities were that night, and we're pretty confident on where we are in the case as far as the suspect as well."

Even with the developments of the case, Angela's family says that 20 years is too long to not know more.

"I wish that if anybody knows anything that they would come forth, and let's get this solved," says Deborah Freeman. "Any little detail that they might think of, it may help us."

The family says there is a \$12,000 reward set for anyone who can help in solving this case. [http://www.wdam.com/story/23392526/cold ... -belt-teen](http://www.wdam.com/story/23392526/cold...-belt-teen)

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PERRY COUNTY, MS (WDAM) -

The family of a Petal teenager who went missing 22 years ago is marking the anniversary of her disappearance.

Angela Lee Freeman, 17, was last seen the night of Sept. 10, 1993, at the Petal Pizza Hut.

Her car was later located near the old Mahned Bridge in Perry County, but Angela was never found.

On Wednesday, family members, including her mother and grandmother, gathered at a memorial for Angela on Old River Road. It is just a short distance from where her car was found.

"(The case) is not closed," said Debra Freeman, Angela's mother. "Something happened to her and we need to solve this, she deserves that."

"We never get it off of our mind," said Clydell Freeman, Angela's grandmother. "We're thinking about, well, why? What did she have to go through before her death, and we know she's dead."

The family is still offering a \$12,000 reward for information about Angela's fate.

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HATTIESBURG, MS (WDAM) -

Family members of a Petal teenager who disappeared in 1993 gathered with law enforcement officers in Hattiesburg Friday morning to remember her and ask for the public's help in solving the case.

The family of Angela Freeman is hoping to find closure 23 years after she disappeared.

She was last seen at the Petal Pizza Hut on Sept. 10, 1993.

Her car was later found in Perry County.

During a memorial service at Kamper Park Friday, Debra Freeman, Angela's mother, released 23 white balloons, one for each year Angela has been missing.

She hopes someone will come forward with information about what happened to her daughter.

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Sep 21 2018, 10:33 pm ET

## **Mother, brother looking for answers 25 years after pregnant Mississippi teen disappears**

NBC News

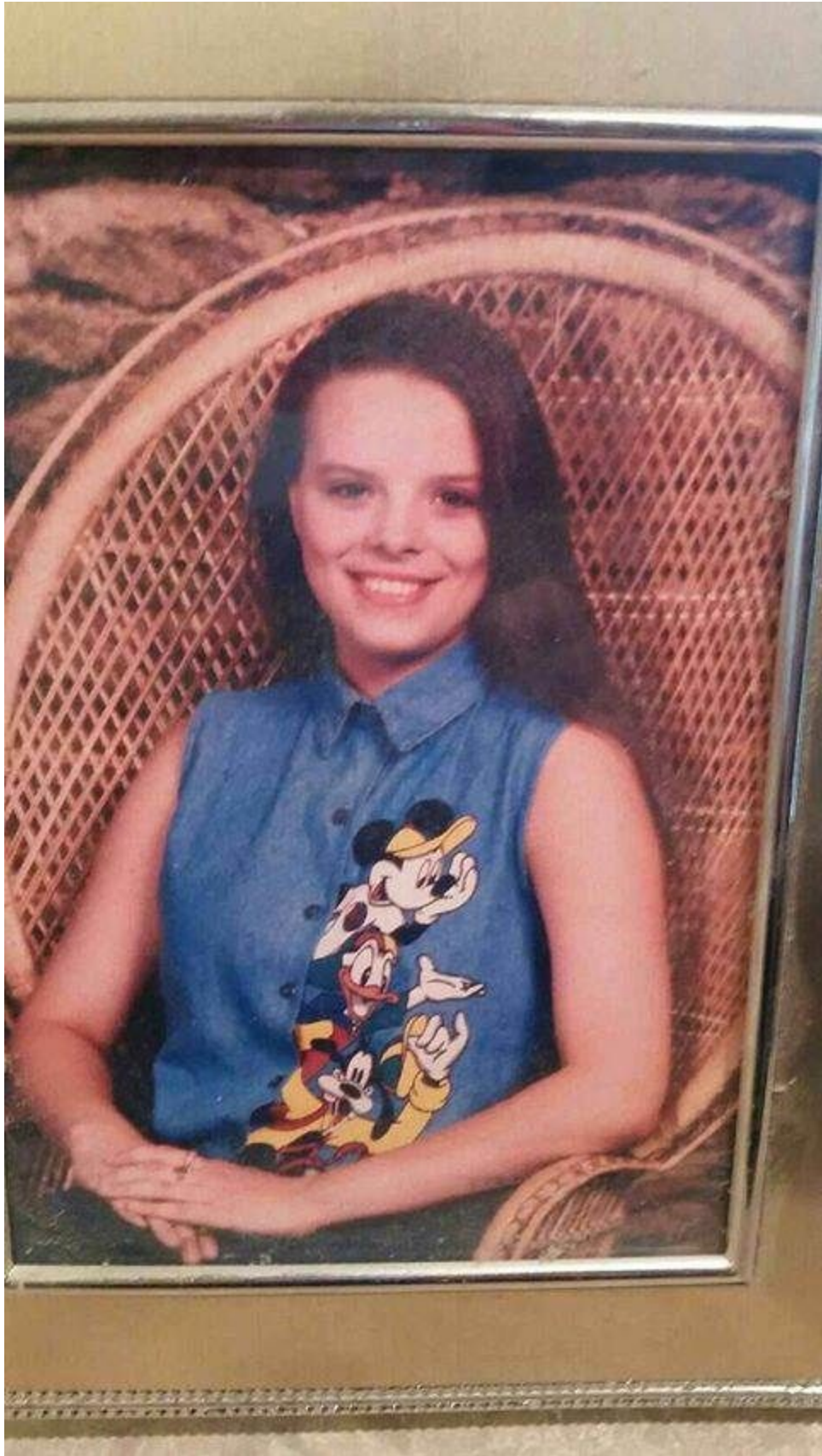
by Juliet Muir

Seventeen-year-old Angela Freeman was very close with her family, her mother Debra told Dateline. Debra Freeman was young when she had Angela, just 17 herself. Angela's father was not involved in their lives, but Debra told Dateline she and Angela were a happy mother-daughter duo in their home in Petal, Mississippi.

When Angela was three, Debra got married. A second child – a son, Nicholas – soon followed.

Two years later, however, the couple got divorced, leaving Debra a single mother of two.

Nicholas told Dateline that, growing up, Angela was always very protective of him. He says that, though they were half-siblings, he loved her as if they were blood relatives.



Angela Freeman Nicholas Freeman

"She was my big sister. She never let anybody mess with me," Nicholas told Dateline. "She let people know, 'You don't mess with my brother.'"

In her sophomore year, Angela dropped out of high school and began working at Crystal's, a local restaurant. But according to her mother, Angela "loved people and loved babies," so she planned to get her G.E.D. and become a nurse.

On Wednesday, September 8, 1993, Angela, Nicholas and their mother were all at home in the afternoon. Debra says she and Angela were chatting in the kitchen and Angela told her she was going to stay with her friend Paula for a few nights. Angela said she and Paula wanted to find an apartment and move in together, Debra told Dateline.

"She said, 'I'm going to go to Paula's,' and she left. When she got to the door I said, 'Be careful.' And she said, 'I love y'all.' And she walked out of the house," Debra told Dateline.

That was the last time Debra would see her daughter.

Two days later, on Friday, September 10, Angela's boss called the house to see if Angela was home, as she hadn't shown up to her 6:00 a.m. shift at the restaurant. Worried, Debra called around to see who might have seen her. She said she called Angela's ex-boyfriend, who worked at a nearby Pizza Hut, but he told her he hadn't seen her Angela day.

"Angela had never, ever missed work," her brother Nicholas told Dateline.



Angela Freeman Nicholas Freeman

Later that afternoon, Angela's uncle, who lived nearby, saw Angela's car while he was driving near the abandoned Mahned Bridge. Angela was nowhere to be found. He called his sister Debra, and she rushed to the scene. Together, the two called the Perry County Sheriff's Office. "At the time, they didn't see any indicators of foul play," Detective Rusty Keyes of the University of Southern Mississippi's Cold Case Unit told Dateline, adding that they allowed Debra to take her daughter's car home that day.

Debra told Dateline that police believed Angela was a runaway, and she felt they were not taking her disappearance as seriously as she would have liked. She said police asked if Angela could have been partying or drinking, but Debra said that was impossible: Angela was three months pregnant at the time.

"She was pregnant. She had the baby clothes," Debra told Dateline. She said Angela was taking her pregnancy very seriously and wouldn't have done anything to jeopardize the baby's health. Throughout the course of the investigation, authorities discovered that after leaving her mother's house that Wednesday afternoon, Angela had indeed gone to stay with her friend Paula, as she'd told her mother she was going to do. According to Det. Keyes, Paula told detectives that on Thursday the 9th, she had left Angela at the apartment and gone to visit a family member. When Paula arrived home later that day, she found a note from Angela.

In the note, Angela said she was going to visit her ex-boyfriend at the Pizza Hut where he worked. She also wrote, according to Det. Keyes, that she'd return to Paula's apartment around midnight. She asked Paula to leave the chain undone so she could get back into the apartment. Pizza Hut employees told authorities that Angela had come to the restaurant to see her ex-boyfriend that night. They said they last saw the former couple talking outside around 1:00 a.m., as the rest of employees were leaving for home.

It would be just five hours later that Angela failed to show up for her shift at work.

In the days following Angela's disappearance, Debra was examining her daughter's car when she noticed dark spots along the exterior.

She called the Petal Police Department, the investigating agency at the time, and asked them to come take a look. The dark spots were later determined to be blood, although police couldn't identify whose at the time. The presence of blood was enough for the police to file a missing person's report for Angela.

The Petal Police began to search the area near where Angela's car was found, about ten miles from the Pizza Hut where she was last seen, and family says more blood was found in that area.

Police were unable to test the blood until DNA analysis technology became available in 1999, six years after Angela disappeared. Once tested, it was determined that the blood found on the exterior of Angela's car, and in the area near where the car was found, belonged to the missing teen.

During their search, Det. Keyes said police used both dogs and divers to conduct ground and water searches nearby. Police were able to locate both of Angela's shoes near where her car had been found, but did not find any other evidence.

During their investigation, police interviewed "everybody that was associated with [Angela]," Det. Keyes told Dateline.

“We have interviewed everybody in her life,” he said, adding that one of those people was the ex-boyfriend she met up with that night. The man, who police declined to name, has not been publicly labeled a suspect or person of interest by police.

Neither Angela’s family nor authorities know who the father of Angela’s unborn child is. Det. Keyes says the ex-boyfriend she was visiting could have been the father of her child, but nobody knows for sure.

“The case continues,” Det. Keyes said. “We have worked on several leads over the years, we hope we’re gonna get some resolution and some conclusion.”

Angela’s brother Nicholas, who has written songs about his sister, continues to search for answers. He runs [the Facebook page](#) to help solicit tips on her case.

“In the back of my mind I’m always wondering, ‘Where is Angela?’,” Nicholas told Dateline. He said he keeps hoping that one day they will know what happened. “My family just wants closure. We want to give her that proper burial. It’s like a part of our lives that’s stuck on repeat.”

Debra told Dateline she wishes she could have shared a better life with Angela. She and Angela used to talk about having a bigger home and a dog, she said.

“I wish she could see me now. Now I have a home and two dogs,” Debra said. She, too, continues to fight for her daughter with hope that, one day, Angela will get the justice she deserves.

Angela Freeman is described as being 5’3” tall and weighing 108 lbs. with brown hair and blue eyes. If you have information related to Angela’s disappearance, contact Det. Rusty Keyes at (601) 266-4946 or the Petal City Police Department at (601) 544-5331.