

UNSOLVED MYSTERIES PODCAST | TILLIE'S LAST WALK

EP 42 Transcript

DAVID ROUNTREE: Tracy literally felt the crime. She literally felt the rape. She felt the whole death experience that Tillie Smith endured.

TRACY RAY: I think Tillie's spirit is restless. I don't think she haunts the college in a bad way. She's not an evil spirit, but, you know, she was murdered.

NARRATION: FIFTY MILES WEST OF NEW YORK CITY, IN THE ROLLING HILLS OF NEW JERSEY'S LEHIGH VALLEY, RESTS HACKETTSTOWN. PEPPERED WITH DAIRY FARMS AND STATELY VICTORIAN MANSIONS, IT HAS A GENTILITY THAT CONCEALS A DARKER, MORE CHILLING CHARACTER. SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1853, HACKETTSTOWN HAS HAD MORE THAN ITS FAIR SHARE OF HAUNTINGS, AND ONE OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS OF THESE RESTLESS SPIRITS IS TILLIE SMITH, AN 18-YEAR-OLD GIRL WHO WAS BRUTALLY MURDERED IN APRIL OF 1886.

I'M STEVE FRENCH, AND THIS IS UNSOLVED MYSTERIES: "TILLIE'S LAST WALK"

IN EARLY 2002, AUDIO ENGINEER AND PUBLISHED PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR DAVID ROUNTREE MOVES TO HACKETTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY WHERE HE'S THRILLED TO LEARN THAT IT'S A TOWN FILLED WITH GHOSTLY ACTIVITY—THE PERFECT PLACE TO PURSUE HIS FASCINATION WITH THE OTHER-WORLD.

DAVID ROUNTREE: There was a person that lived near me that had the New Jersey Ghost Hunting Society, which was the biggest ghost hunting society in New Jersey at the time, and it was one of the first ones. I learned about locations, places where there was noted activity, and that's when I formed Spirit Lab, which was the laboratory that I operated in Hackettstown. I mean, I've done everything from graveyards to insane asylums, to hospitals, to old cranky mansions that are about to fall down. Literally hundreds. In the whole Hackettstown area, there were about 15 Victorian homes that I investigated over a five-year period and pretty much determined there was activity in all of them.

NARRATION: AT THE CENTER OF THE ACTIVITY IS THE OLD UNION CEMETERY WITH GRAVE SITES DATING BACK TO THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

DAVID ROUNTREE: The thing that's so sad about the cemetery is there's about 125 gravestones surviving today, but ground-penetrating radar has identified over 2,000 graves. So, there are a lot of unmarked graves in that cemetery.

NARRATION: MOST OF THE MARKERS ARE SMALL AND WORN DOWN BY THE ELEMENTS. BUT THERE'S ONE LARGE, WELL-PRESERVED GRANITE GRAVESTONE ATOP THE HIGHEST SPOT OF THE CEMETERY. IT'S BEEN PAID FOR BY THE VILLAGE OF HACKETTSTOWN AND DEPICTS A WOMAN DRESSED LIKE A ROMAN GODDESS LIFTING A WREATH OVER THE WORDS, "*SHE DIED IN DEFENSE OF HER HONOR.*" THE DATE IS APRIL 8TH, 1886. THE NAME CHISELED INTO THE

STONE IS TILLIE SMITH, AND ACCORDING TO RESIDENTS, TILLIE HAUNTS THE STREETS OF HACKETTSTOWN TO THIS DAY.

DAVID ROUNTREE: She was often walking. They would see her walking along the road dressed in white, which is what her dress was, along the roads between the Union Cemetery, and actual Centenary College, which is in the center of town.

NARRATION: MANY HAVE ALSO SEEN HER WALKING AMONG THE OAK TREES ON THE COLLEGE GROUNDS, OR FLOATING IN THE HALLWAYS OF THE DORMS. HER FAVORITE HAUNTING PLACE SEEMS TO BE BACKSTAGE IN THE SCHOOL'S THEATER. BUT WHAT MAKES HER CASE PARTICULARLY COMPELLING IS THAT NOT ONLY HAS HER GHOSTLY IMAGE BEEN SPOTTED FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS, BUT HER MURDER REMAINS UNSOLVED. THIS STORY BEGINS IN APRIL 1886, WHEN TILLIE SMITH, A LOCAL 18-YEAR-OLD, IS HARD AT WORK IN THE COLLEGE KITCHEN.

DAVID ROUNTREE: Her real name was Matilda. Tillie was, like, her nickname because she was a scullery maid in the kitchen there at the college, which means she was a gopher. She did everything. She peeled potatoes. She went and got stuff out of the cold boxes. She was basically a helper in the kitchen and probably did dishes as well, and everything else. And she was staying in the main administration building of the college itself.

NARRATION: ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 8TH, TILLIE AND A FRIEND ARE HAVING A LIVELY NIGHT OUT. THE TWO YOUNG WOMEN HAVE GONE TO A SHOW AT THE LOCAL THEATRE AND THEN DECIDE TO END THE NIGHT DANCING AT SHIELD'S HALL — THE HOT SPOT OF HACKETTSTOWN.

DAVID ROUNTREE: She had gone out that night to go dancing, because ballroom dancing was a big thing back in those days, and everybody did it. That was their night on the town was to go to the dance hall and dance, and they would have some refreshments there or whatever, and then walk back.

NARRATION: ACCORDING TO REPORTS, TILLIE SPENDS A GOOD AMOUNT OF TIME AT THE DANCE HALL WITH A TRAVELING SHOE SALESMAN NAMED CHARLES MUNNICH. BUT AROUND 10PM, SHE NEEDS TO GET HOME. THE CURFEW AT THE COLLEGE WHERE SHE'S LIVING IS VERY STRICT. THE DOORS WILL BE SHUT AT 10 AND SHE DOESN'T WANT TO FIND HERSELF LOCKED OUT FOR THE NIGHT.

DAVID ROUNTREE: She had been dancing with the traveling salesman off and on. She was dancing with a lot of young men at the dance hall. But when she got ready to go, he volunteered to escort her back to Centenary before he went back to his room at the American House. And the walk back is about five blocks maybe, so it's not a long walk and it's right through center of town. The traveling salesman escorted her to the front gate of Centenary College, which was open, and that's where they departed. She then literally had to walk in and then walk around the building to the back of the building to enter into the back.

NARRATION: BY THE TIME TILLIE ARRIVES, IT'S PAST 10 AND THE KITCHEN DOOR, WHICH SHE NORMALLY USED TO GET IN AT NIGHT, HAS BEEN LOCKED BY THE JANITOR, A 29-YEAR-OLD MAN NAMED JAMES TITUS.

DAVID ROUNTREE: So, she had to wake up James Titus to let her in. And she did that by pushing the door buzzer at the back, the delivery buzzer at the back, and he got up and supposedly let her in.

NARRATION: THE NEXT DAY, IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 9, MR. J.G. WHITE IS WALKING HIS DOG ON THE OUTER GROUNDS OF THE COLLEGE. SUDDENLY HIS DOG BEGINS TO BARK WILDLY. A FEW FEET AHEAD IS THE BODY OF TILLIE SMITH. SHE'S BEEN BRUTALLY BEATEN AND RAPED.

DAVID ROUNTREE: She was located laying down adjacent to the carriage house. It was probably about 250 feet from the back door of the building. The cause of death was listed as strangulation, and they think that she was strangled by the sash that was around her neck.

NARRATION: WHEN POLICE ARRIVE, THEY OBSERVE DRAG MARKS AROUND THE BODY, AS IF TILLIE WAS ABDUCTED FROM THE BACK DOOR OF THE BUILDING AND TAKEN TO A NEARBY BARN — WHERE SHE WAS MURDERED. TILLIE'S KILLER OR KILLERS THEN DUMPED HER BODY NEXT TO A FENCE, IN PLAIN SIGHT OF THE SERVICE ROAD.

DAVID ROUNTREE: He probably drug her and she probably fought all the way. So, I imagine he had his hands full because he also had to get over a picket fence, because she was found on the other side of it where the carriage house was, where they stored the horses and the carriages for transportation.

NARRATION: AUTHORITIES IMMEDIATELY LOOK AT THE LAST PERSON KNOWN TO HAVE SEEN TILLIE ALIVE — THE TRAVELING SHOE SALESMAN, CHARLES MUNNICH.

DAVID ROUNTREE: They questioned him shortly after they found the body and initially, they were interested in him, but for some reason that didn't last very long, and he was able to go about his business shortly after that, on the same day.

NARRATION: THE MURDER OF TILLIE SMITH SHOCKS VICTORIAN HACKETTSTOWN AND THE STORY QUICKLY BECOMES A NATIONAL SENSATION, FOLLOWED CLOSELY BY MAJOR NEWSPAPERS IN NEW YORK CITY, TRENTON, AND PHILADELPHIA. THE POLICE ARE AT A LOSS, AND PRESSURE FROM THE PRESS AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTENSIFIES. THIS IS A CRITICAL ELECTION SEASON AND POLITICAL CAREERS HANG IN THE BALANCE. UNDER PRESSURE, POLICE ANNOUNCE THE ARREST OF A PRIME SUSPECT — JAMES TITUS, THE JANITOR AT THE COLLEGE WHO OPENED THE DOOR FOR TILLIE THE NIGHT SHE WAS MURDERED.

DAVID ROUNTREE: I noticed that the records were very one-sided. It was like, from the get-go, it was that James Titus was guilty of murder. And the more I looked into it, the more I found

that it was really no physical evidence linking him to the crime. He had no bruises on him. He had no defensive wounds on him. He had nothing to indicate he was in any kind of struggle. He just had no markings, and you can bet Tillie put up a fight because her fingernails were broken. I mean, it was all sorts of things about the body that she had fought hard for her life. She had struggled, and he had no marks on him or anything. It just didn't make any sense.

NARRATION: THE TRIAL OF JAMES TITUS BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1886. NEARLY 100 SUBPOENAS ARE ISSUED AND ALMOST 60 WITNESSES TESTIFY. AS THE TRIAL PROCEEDS, TITUS' CHARACTER IS ATTACKED IN THE HEADLINES, AND TILLIE'S REPUTATION SWINGS WILDLY FROM INNOCENT YOUNG WOMAN TO LOCAL HARLOT WHO GOT WHAT WAS COMING TO HER. THE EVIDENCE AGAINST TITUS IS ENTIRELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL, YET JAMES TITUS IS CONVICTED AND SENTENCED TO HANG FOR THE BRUTAL DEATH OF TILLIE SMITH.

DAVID ROUNTREE: This was literally, literally a kangaroo court and a railroad job from the get-go.

NARRATION: TITUS ESCAPES THE GALLOWES BY FINALLY "CONFESSING" TO THE CRIME MONTHS AFTER HIS CONVICTION.

DAVID ROUNTREE: He confessed because he was beaten almost to death by the law enforcement officers that held him. I mean, you'd confess too if somebody was beating the hell out of you. I mean, there reached a point where he just gave up. It's like, leave me alone, quit hitting me, you know, and he confessed to it. However, there was never any evidence linking him to the crime. There was never any evidence even suggesting it. I knew that wasn't the answer because the guy got out of prison after he served his time, came back to Hackettstown and lived uneventfully, had no criminal record prior, and none afterwards. And all of the neighbors that he had, and his friends knew he didn't do it either. It was the weirdest thing ever. And he came out and lived on another 20 years before he died in Hackettstown. He is buried in the cemetery, in Union Cemetery.

NARRATION: YARDS AWAY FROM JAMES TITUS'S HEADSTONE STANDS THE HEADSTONE OF TILLIE SMITH WHO, SINCE HER MURDER, IS BELIEVED TO BE HAUNTING HACKETTSTOWN, UNABLE TO REST IN PEACE. COULD TILLIE'S SPIRIT BE RESTLESS BECAUSE JAMES TITUS WAS INNOCENT AND HER REAL KILLER HAS NEVER IDENTIFIED? DAVID ROUNTREE IS DRAWN TO THE STORY AND DECIDES TO INVESTIGATE THE GHOST OF TILLIE SMITH, AND HE BRINGS IN A FELLOW PARANORMAL INVESTIGATOR TO ASSIST HIM.

TRACY RAY: My name is Tracy Ray. I guess everybody considers me a psychic medium empath. I just consider me as someone that is very spiritual intuitive.

NARRATION: TRACY CLAIMS THE ABILITY TO GO INTO AN ALTERED STATE AND CAN HEAR, AND SOMETIMES SEE, SPIRITS THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED ON. IT'S AN ABILITY SHE'S LIVED WITH SINCE HER FIRST REMARKABLE ENCOUNTER WITH A SPIRIT WHEN SHE WAS A YOUNG GIRL.

TRACY RAY: At six years old I saw my grandfather, which I never knew. He died five years before I was born. He came to me at my grandmother's house, and he tapped me on the shoulder and he told me, "Tracy, my name is Jesse," and a book fell. I turned around and put it back. And when I turned back around, he was gone. I ran and told my grandmother what had happened. And uh, she said, "I'm gonna tell you a story." She said, I was married to a man named Jesse and he died five years before you were born, and he died in this bedroom.

NARRATION: TRACY HAD SEEN THE GHOST OF HER GRANDFATHER. HER GRANDMOTHER CAUTIONED HER TO KEEP HER ABILITY TO SEE DEAD PEOPLE TO HERSELF, FOR FEAR THAT TRACY WOULD BE RIDICULED. AND THROUGHOUT HER LIFE, TRACY KEPT THAT SECRET, EVEN THOUGH SHE CONTINUED TO HAVE OTHER ENCOUNTERS WITH GHOSTLY SPIRITS. BUT DECADES LATER, TRACY DECIDES TO EXPLORE HER TALENTS, AND ATTENDS A PARANORMAL CONFERENCE IN TEXAS WHERE SHE MEETS DAVID ROUNTREE.

TRACY RAY: Me meeting David I knew was for a reason, and three months later I found out what that reason was.

DAVID ROUNTREE: She wanted to get involved in, like, law enforcement cases to try to help solve cold murders. And I said, you know, "Why don't you work with me on the Tillie Smith case?" Because I said, "It's kind of a cold case because we don't know for sure who really did kill her." I said, "There's all sorts of conflicting information." And I said, "We're pretty sure that the person that did time for it didn't. So, we need to figure out, you know, who did. Why don't you work on that?"

TRACY RAY: I didn't know nothing about her. Nothing at all. I never even heard David talk about her until the night that he called me.

NARRATION: ON THE NIGHT DAVID BEGINS HIS INVESTIGATION, TRACY IS AT HOME IN TEXAS. DAVID CALLS HER FROM NEW JERSEY AS HE'S STANDING BY THE CENTENARY COLLEGE BUILDING WHERE TILLIE SMITH WAS LAST SEEN. HE ASKS TRACY TO HELP HIM LOCATE THE KITCHEN DOOR THAT TILLIE ENTERED THE NIGHT SHE DIED — BECAUSE THE BUILDING THAT STANDS TODAY IS DIFFERENT THAN THE ONE WHERE TILLIE LIVED IN 1886. A LITTLE OVER TEN YEARS AFTER TILLIE'S MURDER, THE ORIGINAL BUILDING CAUGHT FIRE ON HALLOWEEN NIGHT.

DAVID ROUNTREE: Completely burnt to the ground, destroying the original building altogether. So, the current building was built around 1901 and that's the building that's standing there today. So, we had a building in the same footprint as the old building, but designed somewhat differently. So, I had to figure out where the original kitchen physically was and where that door physically was to try to put together the scenario of where it happened and what happened, when happened, located where. And in order to do that, I had to reach out and I thought, what a great test for Tracy, because I can test her ability to remote see and to remote read as well as possibly get helpful information to locate where the door originally was and where everything originally happened. And that's when I called her. I just asked her out of the blue. I said, "I'm

standing in an area," and I basically described where I was standing. And I said, "This is approximately where the kitchen was. I need to find where the back door was."

TRACY RAY: I was seeing these visions. I was seeing the place where she was taken from. I was seeing a room and I told him where some windows was and he was arguing with me. He's like, "There's no windows here." And I say, "I swear I see windows. There's got to be windows there."

DAVID ROUNTREE: She was telling me, you know, the color of the walls, what kind of wallpaper was on it, where things were located. And then finally, she got to where the door was.

TRACY RAY: And there was a big door there, and then she was taken from that door.

NARRATION: TRACY'S DESCRIPTION OF THE KITCHEN IS INCREDIBLY VIVID AND DETAILED, BUT DAVID CAN'T BE SURE IF IT'S JUST HER IMAGINATION, OR IF SHE'S REALLY SEEING THE BUILDING FROM 1886.

TRACY RAY: After we got off the phone, he called me and stated that he needed to get the floor plans of the college the way it used to be. And I said, "What do you mean, it used to be?" He said, "Well, it burned down." I said, "Oh." I said, "Well, maybe that's what I'm seeing."

DAVID ROUNTREE: I eventually found the existing building blueprints at the library. There was no drawing, but there was a description of the old building. And there was an old picture of it, a photograph in the historical society, several photographs of it that I was able to use to ascertain distances on where the door was located on the property. So, I was able to sort of piece together the layout of the building based on the description. And she was correct. I mean, as near as I could ascertain from existing records and people's testimony to me, she was very close, if not dead on.

NARRATION: MONTHS GO BY BEFORE DAVID REACHES BACK OUT TO TRACY, THIS TIME WITH A NEW AND EXCITING PROPOSITION. DAVID HAS BEEN INVITED BY ONE OF THE COLLEGE PROFESSORS TO BE PART OF A TV DOCUMENTARY INVESTIGATING TILLIE SMITH, AND HE ASKS TRACY TO JOIN THE TEAM.

DAVID ROUNTREE: I wanted her to go with no information other than what she already knew. In other words, I didn't tell her anything. I let her tell me things.

NARRATION: THE PLAN IS FOR TRACY AND DAVID TO FOLLOW TILLIE'S FINAL WALK, THE PATH TILLIE TOOK THE NIGHT SHE WAS KILLED. THEY START AT THE SPOT WHERE SHIELD'S HALL ONCE STOOD, WHERE TILLIE DANCED WITH CHARLES MUNNICH, THE SHOE SALESMAN WHO WALKED HER HOME THAT NIGHT.

TRACY RAY: When I did the, the final walk, I was scared the whole time walking back. I felt the way that she felt. She was aggravated at one point. She was scared.

NARRATION: AS SHE WALKS, TRACY STARTS TO PSYCHICALLY PICK UP DETAILS ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO TILLIE THAT NIGHT.

DAVID ROUNTREE: Tillie walked from the dance hall down to where she would turn, which was Church Street, to go to the university. And it was up near the beginning of Church Street where Tracy, who was getting a lot of information, picked up on the actual confrontation taking place.

NARRATION: TRACY SAYS THAT TILLIE AND CHARLES CAME FACE TO FACE WITH TILLIE'S VERY JEALOUS BOYFRIEND AND TWO OTHER MEN.

TRACY RAY: He followed her. He was stalking her, and waiting for her.

DAVID ROUNTREE: And the traveling salesman had to physically run them off to get them to leave them alone. The traveling salesman escorted her from the point of the confrontation to the front gate of Centenary College.

NARRATION: AS THE EVENTS OF THAT NIGHT PLAY OUT IN HER MIND, TRACY GETS AN IMPRESSION ABOUT WHO TILLIE'S KILLER MAY HAVE BEEN.

DAVID ROUNTREE: She felt that Tillie had been killed by a boyfriend of some kind and that he had help.

TRACY RAY: He had two other men. I saw the men in the barn, waiting, and I don't know why the other two men were there because they did nothing really.

NARRATION: ACCORDING TO TRACY, LATER THAT NIGHT, AFTER EVERYONE ELSE WAS ASLEEP, TILLIE CAME BACK DOWN TO THE KITCHEN TO MAKE A CUP OF TEA. THE BOYFRIEND WAS STANDING BY THE WINDOW.

TRACY RAY: And he saw her. He saw her throw something out of the kitchen door and that's when he went toward her.

DAVID ROUNTREE: She picked up that she felt like it was her boyfriend that did the killing. She didn't have a name yet but that was when she first said, "I think that somebody else did the killing. I feel like there's, you know, a boyfriend or something that was involved in this." And I said, "Well, I didn't find any information on that. That'll be something I'll do some research on."

NARRATION: DIVING INTO THE RECORDS, DAVID FINDS A REFERENCE TO FRANK WEEDY, A LOCAL THUG AND ONE-TIME BOYFRIEND OF TILLIE SMITH.

DAVID ROUNTREE: They had been together to the point of where I think he wanted to marry her. And she was, like, not interested in getting married to him because he really had nothing to offer.

TRACY RAY: She didn't wanna be with him. She wanted an education. She wanted to better herself, and she knew she couldn't do that with Frank. He was very controlling. He didn't want her going out in public.

NARRATION: EXCITED TO HAVE A NAME AND A POSSIBLE SUSPECT IN THE MURDER OF TILLIE SMITH, TRACY RETURNS TO HACKETTSTOWN — THIS TIME WITH A SPECIAL REQUEST.

TRACY RAY: I explained that I needed to go where her body laid because I knew that I would experience a lot there and I needed to see a lot more.

DAVID ROUNTREE: We went to the actual grave site. She literally laid down on the grave and rested her head on the stone and closed her eyes and she started getting information.

TRACY RAY: That's when I had a conversation with Tillie. I kind of just had a woman to woman talk. I explained to her what we were doing and I apologized for what had happened to her and that it shouldn't have never happened to her. No woman should ever have to go through that.

NARRATION: THEN, TRACY PHYSICALLY AND EMOTIONALLY EXPERIENCES TILLIE'S MURDER.

TRACY RAY: I started getting very, very emotional, and my heart really started to pound. Frank grabbed Tillie from behind in the kitchen. She wasn't expecting it and pulled her all the way to the middle of the field and was fighting with her. And they were arguing saying that, "You are mine. I don't want you with anyone else and I don't want you going anywhere." And she was trying to get away and he just put her down. He grabbed the sash off of her dress that she had on, and then, to have the control that he wanted, he took the sash and wrapped it around her neck. And when he put her on the ground, he put her on the ground stomach first and, um, raped her and that's when... that's when she passed. And when he was done, he laughed. He laughed and, um, he got up and he didn't know he had killed her at that point. Um, he thought that she had just passed out. And, um, when he finally found out that she had passed, he ran about to 20 feet and threw up, threw up by a rock. And, um, it was pretty, pretty sad. She didn't deserve it. She was a good person.

DAVID ROUNTREE: Tracy literally felt the crime. She is coming apart at the seams and she's crying. She literally felt the rape. She felt the whole death experience that Tillie Smith endured. To see what it was doing to her emotionally was heart rending, and I couldn't stop her because that was the whole thing. She told me, she says, "No matter how bad I get, do not stop me." Because it'll stop the information. And so, I had to stand there and watch her go through that without being able to intercede to stop it because that's what she wanted. She wanted to experience it. She wanted to feel it. She wanted to go through it.

NARRATION: TRACY'S ENCOUNTER WITH TILLIE BLOWS THE CASE WIDE OPEN BY POINTING TO A NEW SUSPECT – FRANK WEEDY.

DAVID ROUNTREE: I believe that Frank was jealous. I believe that he didn't want to kill her. I believe he wanted to exert his power over her, to dominate her, and in the process of doing that, killed her. And I think he was sorry for it. I think that he had accomplices. I think that there were other people involved, but they weren't the primary killer. They weren't the primary person.

NARRATION: THERE'S NO RECORD THAT THE POLICE EVER INTERROGATED FRANK WEEDY OR CONSIDERED HIM A SUSPECT IN TILLIE'S MURDER.

TRACY RAY: Nobody knows what happened to Frank, not that I'm aware of. I've never been told what happened to Frank, but I had had a vision that Frank had committed suicide.

NARRATION: DAVID RETURNS TO THE ARCHIVES LOOKING FOR ANY KIND OF PUBLIC NOTICE ABOUT A SUICIDE AROUND HACKETTSTOWN. HE FINDS ONE, BUT THE PERSON IS UNIDENTIFIED.

DAVID ROUNTREE: The initial news report just called it a John Doe suicide. And it didn't really get associated as Frank until a few weeks after that because someone came in and said, "Oh yeah, that's Frank," you know. Frank had literally hung himself outside of town on a tree about two weeks after the murder. He couldn't live with what had happened and ended up committing suicide.

NARRATION: TRACY'S REMARKABLE CONNECTION WITH TILLIE SMITH MAY HAVE SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF HER MURDER. BUT THEN WHY DOES TILLIE CONTINUE TO HAUNT CENTENARY COLLEGE OVER 130 YEARS AFTER HER DEATH?

TRACY RAY: I think the only reason Tillie wouldn't wanna move on, is because Frank didn't get the acknowledgement that he did it and that's hard. I think Tillie is still angry at Frank and always will. Cause what he did is just, it is unforgivable in my eyes.

NARRATION: MORE THAN A CENTURY AFTER HER DEATH, IT'S TILLIE WHO ROAMS THE EARTH, UNABLE TO REST UNTIL HER TRUE KILLER IS NAMED. PERHAPS THE WORK DONE BY DAVID AND TRACY WILL FINALLY QUIET TILLIE'S RESTLESS, SORROWFUL SPIRIT.

NEXT, ON UNSOLVED MYSTERIES...

CARLA KLONTZ: He asked me a lot of questions about if I had somebody missing in my family and I said, "Yes, I did. I had a sister, you know, missing for 41 years."

Unsolved Mysteries is a production of Cosgrove Meurer Productions and Cadence 13, an Audacy company. It is executive produced by Terry Dunn Meurer and Chris Corcoran.

Produced by Christine Lenig, Courtney Ennis, Paige Hymson, and Bill Schultz.

The Story Producer for this episode was Caitlin Cutt, and it was edited by Robert Wise.

From Cadence 13, editing, mixing and mastering by Chris Basil and Andy Jaskiewicz.

Production support by Sean Cherry, Ian Mandt, and Ava Feneberger.

Artwork and design is by Curt Courtenay.

Publicity by Moira Curran, Josefina Francis, and Hillary Schupf.

The original theme music was composed by Gary Malkin and Michael Boyd.

THANKS FOR LISTENING TO EPISODE 42 OF UNSOLVED MYSTERIES.