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FINAL PLEA FOR CLUES RE: GRAVE OF CHILD KILLED IN CIVIL RIGHTS BOMBING

(Boston, MA) – Liesa Healy-Miller, lead forensic genealogist at *Unsolved Histories*, is issuing a final plea for clues to the final resting place of Addie Mae Collins, one of the “Four Little Girls” killed in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama.

This Sunday, September 15th, marks the 50th anniversary of the attack.

One of the victims, fourteen-year-old Addie Mae Collins, was buried in Woodlawn Cemetery in Birmingham days after the bombing. In 1998, Collins’ sisters, citing poor conditions there, obtained permission to move the child’s remains to another cemetery. However, Addie Mae’s remains could not be found.

For decades, only a temporary marker – a wooden cross - stood where the Collins family believed Addie had been buried. The owners of the cemetery reportedly abandoned the property decades ago, leaving no records behind; the funeral home which handled the burial told the family that their records from that time were destroyed in a fire.

For the past two years, Liesa Healy-Miller, forensic genealogist at *Unsolved Histories*, has volunteered her time - searching, emailing, and calling archives around the country, looking for photographs that could offer clues to Collins’ final resting place. To date, nothing has been found.

“This is a last-ditch appeal to get the word out,” she said. “There were throngs of people at the cemetery on the day of her burial. Maybe someone took a picture that’s now sitting in a shoebox. Someone must have something; someone must know.”

Family members have told the genealogist that they still want Addie’s remains to be found. Healy-Miller hopes the 50th anniversary of the bombing will spur living witnesses to remember something that could prove helpful in the search.

“We, as a country, owe it to the Collins family and to ourselves to help find those remains,” she said. “The four girls who died that day symbolize the struggle and ultimate triumph of the civil rights movement. Addie Mae Collins deserves to be found.”

END

