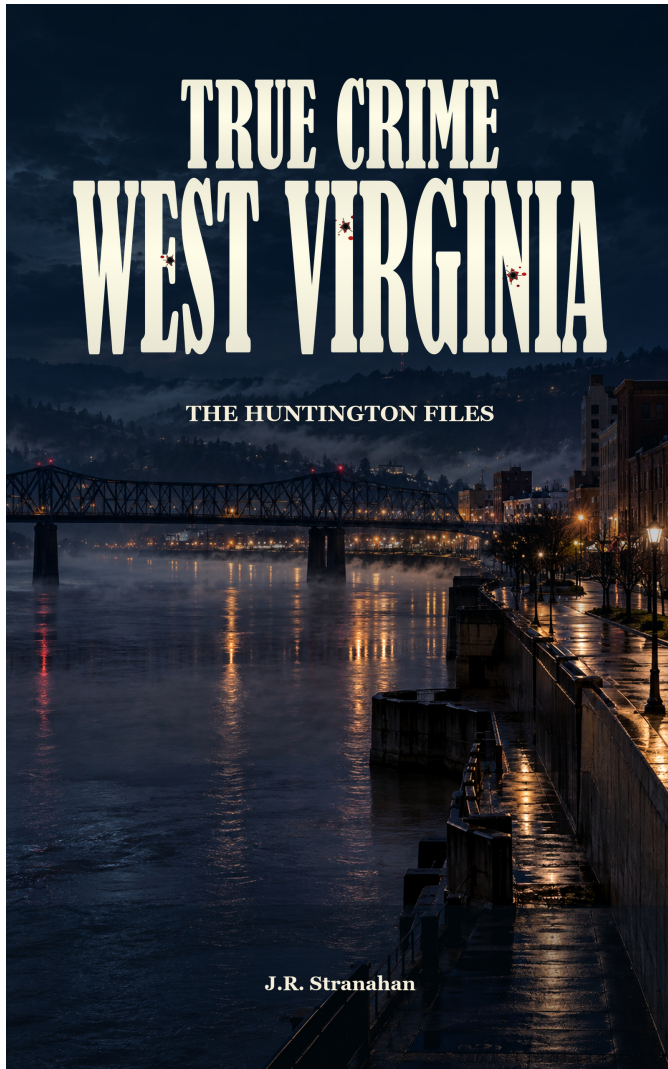


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File 1: The Abduction and Murder of Samantha Burns

Place and period: Huntington and the multistate route that followed, 2002-present

Present legal status: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered.

This file belongs first to Samantha Burns and her family. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

Nineteen-year-old Marshall University student Samantha Burns disappeared after leaving the Huntington Mall in November 2002. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Abduction and Murder of Samantha Burns. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. In Huntington and the multistate route that followed, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered.

For Samantha Burns and her family, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Fulks and Basham had escaped custody and were committing a multistate series of carjackings and abductions. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2002-present record from Huntington and the multistate route that followed contains a point that resists shorthand: Evidence concerning Burns became part of the later federal prosecution for Alice Donovan's kidnapping and murder. The present legal posture is equally specific: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The federal judgments did not depend on pretending that Burns's body had been found. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Samantha Burns and her family privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Huntington and the multistate route that followed determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2002-present marks the span over which the public learned it. Her family's continuing search makes the distinction between

a proved criminal account and physical recovery especially important. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: Nineteen-year-old Marshall University student Samantha Burns disappeared after leaving the Huntington Mall in November 2002. The answer does not automatically prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered.

The case file gives different kinds of information different weight. Fulks and Basham had escaped custody and were committing a multistate series of carjackings and abductions. A contemporaneous observation, a laboratory result, a charging allegation, and an appellate finding do not perform the same job. Begin with the person harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community that had to live with the absence. Describing those jobs plainly is especially important when the story concerns Samantha Burns and her family.

The first account

By the time The Abduction and Murder of Samantha Burns reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The federal judgments did not depend on pretending that Burns's body had been found. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. Her family's continuing search makes the distinction between a proved criminal account and physical recovery especially important. That proposition is consequential on its own. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Huntington and the multistate route that followed.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: Nineteen-year-old Marshall University student Samantha Burns disappeared after leaving the Huntington Mall in November 2002. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Samantha Burns and her family at the same time.

At this stage of the file, absence is also information. The available materials establish this much: Fulks and Basham had escaped custody and were committing a multistate series of carjackings and abductions.

They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2002-present. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Evidence concerning Burns became part of the later federal prosecution for Alice Donovan's kidnapping and murder. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Huntington and the multistate route that followed. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. The federal judgments did not depend on pretending that Burns's body had been found. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered.

What happened to Samantha Burns and her family generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Her family's continuing search makes the distinction between a proved criminal account and physical recovery especially important. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. Separate what witnesses reported at the time from what investigators later inferred. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Fulks and Basham had escaped custody and were committing a multistate series of carjackings and abductions. In the Huntington and the multistate route that followed record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. Evidence concerning Burns became part of the later federal prosecution for Alice Donovan's kidnapping and murder. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2002-present. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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The 2002-present record from Huntington and the multistate route that followed contains a point that resists shorthand: Nineteen-year-old Marshall University student Samantha Burns disappeared after leaving the Huntington Mall in November 2002. The present legal posture is equally specific: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

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prosecution for Alice Donovan's kidnapping and murder. Dates and sequence matter because later knowledge can make early decisions seem more certain than they were. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time *The Abduction and Murder of Samantha Burns* reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. The federal judgments did not depend on pretending that Burns's body had been found. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations; a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered.

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They do not establish every rumor that accumulated during 2002-present. An indictment states allegations; a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. Refusing to bridge those gaps with speculation keeps the unresolved portions visible instead of disguising them as narrative momentum.

Consider the detail in its proper scale: Evidence concerning Burns became part of the later federal prosecution for Alice Donovan's kidnapping and murder. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Huntington and the multistate route that followed. An indictment states allegations; a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

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The courtroom

What happened to Samantha Burns and her family generated records made for different audiences: investigators, lawyers, judges, jurors, officials, and the public. Fulks and Basham had escaped custody and were committing a multistate series of carjackings and abductions. Those records overlap, but they are not interchangeable. A trial is structured proof under rules, not a complete replay of every event or every rumor surrounding it. Reading across them carefully prevents a later summary from erasing an earlier uncertainty or a later reversal.

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Evidence concerning Burns became part of the later federal prosecution for Alice Donovan's kidnapping and murder. In the Huntington and the multistate route that followed record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. A trial is structured proof under rules, not a complete replay of every event or every rumor surrounding it. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. The federal judgments did not depend on pretending that Burns's body had been found. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 2002-present. A trial is structured proof under rules, not a complete replay of every event or every rumor surrounding it. The legal status is reported in its own terms: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

Her family's continuing search makes the distinction between a proved criminal account and physical recovery especially important. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of *The Abduction and Murder of Samantha Burns*. A trial is structured proof under rules, not a complete replay of every event or every rumor surrounding it. In Huntington and the

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Her family's continuing search makes the distinction between a proved criminal account and physical recovery especially important. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. An appellate court tests legal error and the governing record, not whether judges would retell the case the same way. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Samantha Burns and her family privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Huntington and the multistate route that followed determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2002-present marks the span over which the public learned it. Nineteen-year-old Marshall University student Samantha Burns disappeared after leaving the Huntington Mall in November 2002. An appellate court tests legal error and the governing record, not whether judges would retell the case the same way. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

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Uncertainty

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Institutions

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For Samantha Burns and her family, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Evidence concerning Burns became part of the later federal prosecution for Alice Donovan's kidnapping and murder. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 2002-present record from Huntington and the multistate route that followed contains a point that resists shorthand: The federal judgments did not depend on pretending that Burns's body had been found. The present legal posture is equally specific: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Her family's continuing search makes the distinction between a proved criminal account and physical recovery especially important. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Samantha Burns and her family privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Huntington and the multistate route that followed determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 2002-present marks the span over which the public learned it. Nineteen-year-old Marshall University student Samantha Burns disappeared after leaving the Huntington Mall in November 2002. Police, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, laboratories, journalists, and families each occupy different roles. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: Chadrick Fulks and Brandon Basham received federal convictions and death sentences in a South Carolina prosecution that included proof concerning Samantha Burns and Alice Donovan. Burns's remains have not been recovered. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Abduction and Murder of Samantha Burns

- Fourth Circuit bar materials summarizing the federal case: <https://wvbar.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/ANNUAL-GATHERING-2018-MATERIALS.pdf> - Federal post-conviction opinion, Basham v. United States: <https://app.midpage.ai/document/basham-v-united-states-7231816>

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