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### Similarities to Ramsey Case

- **Child Killed Despite Ransom Demand.** These include Bobby Franks (age 14), Marian Parker (age 12), the Lindbergh baby (age 20 months), Susan Degnan (age 6), Peter Weinberger (age 33 days) and apparently Clark Handa (age 3).
- **No Effort to Collect Ransom Demanded.** These include Peter Weinberger (though failure to collect ransom amount left as instructed may have been due to incompetence of kidnapper) and Clark Handa.
- **Ransom Note "Bogus."** Several of these "kidnappings" entail ransom notes that were "bogus" in the sense that the note was written with the intent to throw off law enforcement or the "kidnapper" knew the victim already was dead and could not be returned alive even had a ransom been paid (which, in some cases, it was). These include [Bobby Franks](#) (ransom paid), [Marian Parker](#) (ransom paid), the [Lindbergh baby](#) (ransom paid), Susan Degnan (body discovered before ransom paid), Peter Weinberger (ransom payment attempted), Gail Jackson (no ransom paid) and Clark Handa (no effort to collect ransom).

### Eddie Cudahy (1900)

- **Case Details.** After kidnapping Eddie Cudahy, 16, Pat Crowe tossed a stick into the family's yard. Cudahy's father, a "[V'fat cat!](#)" later accused of antitrust violations, paid a \$21,000 ransom and Eddie was returned. Crowe eventually was found not guilty by a working class jury. "Most viewed the jury's decision not as an acquittal of Crowe but as an indictment against men like Edward Cudahy who manipulated American citizens with their monopolies. The *Omaha Daily News* said, "It was nothing more than we could expect from the jury, composed as it was largely of laboring men. Cudahy, in their minds, is robbing the people in small amounts three times a day, and Pat Crowe got back a part of this money in one big chunk and didn't hurt anybody at all. There is no doubt that the jury thought it no worse to steal one child than it is to starve many!" ([Crime Library](#)).
- **Contents of Note.** According to [CrimeLibrary](#), "Attached was a note written in pencil on brown parcel-wrapping paper. It began: "Mr. Cudahy: We have kidnapped your child and demand \$25,000 for his safe return. If you give us the money he will return as safe as when you last saw him, but if you refuse, we will put acid in his eyes and blind him." The note continued with a number of threats followed by these instructions: "Get the money all in gold, 5, 10 and 20 (dollar) pieces... Get in your buggy alone on the night of December 19 at 7 o'clock p.m. Follow the paved road toward Fremont. When you come to a lantern...by the side of the road, place the money by the lantern and immediately turn your horse around and return home."(link provided by Internet poster [Athena](#)).

### Bobby Franks (Leopold and Loeb) (1924)

- **Case Details.** This is the infamous Leopold and Loeb case, involving a college student and law student who kidnapped and murdered Bobby Franks in the course of committing the "perfect crime." During the course of trying to pay the ransom amount, the boy's father learned his son had been found dead. See details at [Court TV Crime Library](#).
- **Side-by-Side Comparison to Ramsey Note.** A "side-by-side" comparison of the RN to the note used by Leopold and Loeb in the kidnapping and murder of 14-year old Bobby Franks is at [Webbsleuths](#).
- See [Leopold and Loeb Ransom Note](#) at Webbsleuths forum chat.

### Marian Parker (1927)

- **Case Details.** Marian, age 12, "was snatched in 1927 by someone who sent ransom notes to the family. But kidnapping wasn't the motive; the "kidnapper" collected a ransom and delivered the girl back to her family -- she had been killed and her body desecrated in a classic case of Lustmord or lust murder. See an excellent summary by [Mark Gribben](#)." Source: [Laura James](#) at *Clews The Historic True Crime Blog*.

### Lindbergh Baby (1932)

- **Case Details.** Despite the payment of a ransom, the body of 20-month old Charles A. Lindbergh Jr. was found dead 73 days later, apparently having been killed close to the time of the kidnapping. See details at [Court TV Crime Library](#).
- **Contents of Note.** "Dear Sir! Have 50,000\$ redy 2500\$ in 20\$ bills 1 5000\$ in 10\$ bills and 10000\$ in 5\$ bills. After 2-4 days we will inform you were to deliver the Mony. We warn you for making anying public or for the polise the child is in gut care. Indication for all letters are signature and 3 holes" (full note [here](#) (link provided by Internet poster [Athena](#))).
- **Side-by-Side Comparison to Ramsey Note.** A link to a scan of the note used in the case of the kidnapping of the Lindbergh baby, along a detailed comparison of the details of that case with the JBR case is contained in a [letter](#) from New York lawyer Darnay Hoffman to Boulder DA Alex Hunter.

### Susan Degnan (1946)

- **Case Details.** "A killer left a ransom note when he took [Suzanne Degnan](#), 6, from her home in the middle of the night on January 6, 1946. Her dismembered body was found the next day. A child molester named Richard Thomas confessed to the murder, though notorious killer William Heirens also confessed to the killing. In either event, it was clearly a sex murder and not a kidnapping, regardless of the note. See the [Court TV Crime Library](#)." Source: [Laura James](#) at *Clews The Historic True Crime Blog*.
- **Contents of Note.** "Get \$20,000 ready & waite (sic) for word. Do not notify FBI or police. Bills in \$5's and \$10's." On the backside was a warning: "Burn this for her safty (sic)" ([Crime Library](#)).

### Peter Weinberger (1956)

- **Case Details.** Weinberger, an infant 33 days old, was kidnapped from the patio of his home 10 minutes after his mother placed him in a carriage. Despite several abortive attempts to deliver the specified ransom amount, the baby was never returned, and the kidnapper later confessed he had abandoned the baby (later found dead) shortly after the kidnapping. ([Newsday.com](#)).
- **Contents of Note.** "The ransom note was scrawled in green ink on a sheet torn from a student notebook. 'Attention,' it said. 'I'm sorry this had to happen, but I am in bad need of money, & couldn't get it any other way. Don't tell anyone or go to the police about this, because I am watching you closely. I am scared stiff, & will kill the baby at your first wrong move ... Your baby sitter.' It demanded \$2,000 in small bills. The money was to be placed in a brown envelope and left near the Weinberger home, next to a signpost at Albemarle Road and Park Avenue, at 10 o'clock the next morning." [Newsday.com](#) (link provided by Internet poster [Athena](#)).

### Gail Jackson (1978)

- **Case Details.** After murdering prostitute Gail Jackson, William Hance sent 5 letters to the Chief of Police to avert suspicion from himself ([opinion](#)).
- **Contents of Notes.** "The letters were signed "Forces of Evil," a fictitious group the appellant had created. The second of these letters received by the Chief of Police demanded either the apprehension of the Columbus strangler or a \$10,000 ransom in return for the victim's safety. In addition, the appellant found an Army Cap with a different unit insignia than his unit and placed this near the crime scene, also in order to avert suspicion" [opinion](#) (link provided by Internet poster [Athena](#)). [Donald Pugh](#) has observed that this note used the line "We are an organization composed of seven members."

### Adam Walsh (1981)

- **Case Details.** "was an American boy abducted from a Sears department store at the Hollywood Mall in Hollywood, Florida, on July 27, 1981, and later found murdered" [Wikipedia](#). No ransom note was left, nor was a ransom ever sought. However, 6-year-old Adam was beheaded and the head found two weeks after his abduction. Adam's father, John Walsh, became the well-known host of *America's Most Wanted* giving the case even more public visibility. [Wikipedia](#). AMW first aired in 1988 in the U.S., but began profiling missing persons, especially children, in 1991 [Wikipedia](#). Thus, despite the absence of an RN, the threat to behead JBR may have been inspired by this notorious case that shocked the public.

### Clark Handa (1984)

- **Case Details.** Handa, age 3, "was kidnapped from his own home in 1984. A ransom note was left behind. Clark has never been found, and no one ever tried to collect any ransom for his return." [details](#). Source: [Laura James](#) at *Clews The Historic True Crime Blog*.

## Jeffrey Dahmer (1978-1991)

- **Case Details.** Dahmer "was an American serial killer. Dahmer murdered at least 17 men and boys between 1978 and 1991, with the majority of the murders occurring between 1989 and 1991. His murders were particularly gruesome, involving acts of forced sodomy, necrophilia, dismemberment, and cannibalism." [Wikipedia](#). None of Dahmer's victims was under 14, all were male, and he never left a ransom note; however, after his arrest, three severed heads were found in his apartment, so this is a possible source of inspiration for the beheading threat contained in the JBR RN.