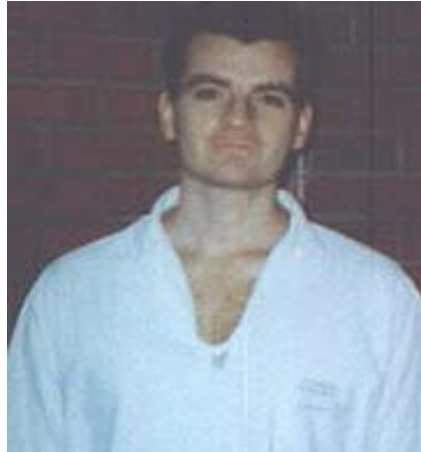


Robert Otis Coulson
“Bob”



Serial killer researched and summarized by
Claire Vincent, Page Watson, Frances Wassell, Courtney Walker, and Juliana Lambriola

Department of Psychology
 Radford University
 Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
3/11/68		Bob was born to Robert Bennett
Childhood		Bob and sister Robin adopted by the Coulson family
After College		He maxed out his credit cards, was in debt from college, and owed many people money.
8/1997	24	Began purchasing supplies like duct tape and a stun gun for the killings. Kept them in a backpack.
11/11/1992	24	Scoped out a dark drop-off site
11/12/1992	24	Dropped off backpack and gas at parents' house, and checked out their wills to see who their heirs were.
11/13/1992	24	Day of killings
11/15/1992	24	Called parents' attorney to ask about the size of the inheritance
11/17/1992	24	Attended families funeral (where he showed no emotion, smiled, and performed a dance step when leaving), then later arrested for the murders of his 5 family members
6/16/1994	26	Found guilty of capital murder.
6/22/1994	29	Sentenced to death for the killings
10/1996		Texas Court of Appeals confirmed the verdict and death sentence
2/21/1997	28	Found liable for \$26.6 million for the slayings of his family in a wrongful death suit filed by the family estate and 4 yr. old sole survivor of the killings
6/1999	31	The Court of Criminal Appeals denies his last appeal, ending his state appeals.
6/25/2002	34	Executed by lethal injection in a Texas prison
General Information		
Sex		Male
Race		White
Number of victims		5

Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Texas
Type of killer	Organized Black widow
Height	6'
Childhood Information	
Date of birth	March 11, 1968
Location	
Birth order	2 nd of 2 (natural) 2 nd of 3 (natural and adoptive)
Number of siblings	2 – 1 biological sister and 1 adoptive sister (also adopted by the Coulsons)
XXX?	
Raised by	Adoptive parents
Birth category	Middle
Parent's marital status	Adoptive parents married
Family event	Biological parents had financial difficulties, and mother left husband and the children for another man. Then she came back and took them and put them up for adoption. Unsure of age this occurred. No adoptive family problems were ever reported. All said he had relatively normal childhood.
Age of family event	
Problems in school?	
Teased while in school?	
Physically attractive?	Yes
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	
Head injury?	
Physically abused?	
Psychologically abused?	
Sexually abused?	
Father's occupation	Retired from oil company (geologist)/volunteer work
Age of first sexual experience	
Age when first had intercourse	
Mother's occupation	Homemaker and songwriter
Father abused drugs/alcohol	
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	First year of college
Highest degree	High school Diploma
Grades in school	
IQ	
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	
Type of discharge	
Saw combat duty	
Killed enemy during service?	
Applied for job as a cop?	
Worked in law enforcement?	
Fired from jobs?	
Types of jobs worked	
Employment status during series	Employed in sales

Relationships	
Sexual preference	Had a girlfriend, but possibly bi
Marital status	Single
Number of children	
Lives with his children	
Living with	
Triad	
Animal torture	
Fire setting	
Bed wetting	
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	
Abused alcohol?	
Been to a psychologist?	
Time in forensic hospital?	
Diagnosis	
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	No
Spend time in jail?	No
Spend time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	5 (and unborn child)
Victim type	Family members
Killer age at start of series	24
Gender of victims	3 females, 2 males
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	Mary Coulson – mother – 54 Otis Coulson – father – 66 Sarah Coulson – sister – 21 Robin Wentworth – sister – 25 Richard Wentworth – brother-in-law – 27
Method of killing	Smothering
Type of serial killer	Organized black widow
How close did killer live?	Within driving distance
Killing occurred in home of victim?	yes
Killing occurred in home of killer?	no
Weapon	Killer had previously dropped off weapons at the scene (trash compactor bags, zip cords, gasoline, and stun gun)
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes, after dead, poured gasoline on victims and set them and the house on fire.
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	Yes, bags over their heads
Bound the victims?	Yes
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No

Mutilated body?	No
Ate part of the body?	No
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	No
Took totem – body part	No
Took totem – personal item	No
Robbed victim or location	No
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Left at scene, but attempted to burn the house down.
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, to home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	November 17,1992
Date convicted	June 16, 1994, Sentenced June 22, 1994
Sentence	Death
Killer executed?	Yes - June 25, 2002
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Name and state of prison	Livingston in Texas
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	June 25, 2002

References

<http://www.ccadp.org/robertcoulson.htm>

<http://www.txexecutions.org/reports/273.asp>

http://web.lexis-nexis.com.lib-proxy.radford.edu/universe/document?_m=f2875d7f0a276188d7a3008c9ca62c0e&_docnum=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkVA&_md5=33108d4a069e7b1140b1b7e27d4c4d21

http://web.lexis-nexis.com.lib-proxy.radford.edu/universe/document?_m=f2875d7f0a276188d7a3008c9ca62c0e&_docnum=13&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkVA&_md5=6a700d38b35c3af75cd21b6a8a3601d7

<http://www.clarkprosecutor.org/html/death/US/coulson783.htm>

http://web.lexis-nexis.com.lib-proxy.radford.edu/universe/document?_m=b3a7bd49b255d14b7c38c4a2949c7e8b&_docnum=1&wchp=dGLbVlz-zSkVA&_md5=0d4bde180ac4e6b87a37dbf974f0e2b7

<http://www.initiative-gegen-die-todesstrafe.de/texas25061.html>

<http://www.tdcj.state.tx.us/statistics/deathrow/drowlist/coulson.jpg>

<http://www.prodeathpenalty.com/Pending/02/jun02.htm>

<http://venus.soci.niu.edu/~archives/ABOLISH/aug02/1425.html>

<http://www.fdp.dk/uk/exec/exe-0201.htm>

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qn4182/is_19970802/ai_n10111219

<http://www.deathrow.at/freebob/d.html>

<http://www.oag.state.tx.us/newspubs/newsarchive/2002/20020624coulsonfacts.htm>

Searched, but unable to find information:

<http://global.factiva.com/ha/default.aspx>

no books found using your website listings, www.amazon.com , McConnell Library catalogue