

Frank Dolezal
“Cleveland Torso Killer”



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Date	Age	Life Event
05/04/1887	0	Born in Bohemia (modern day Slovakia).
1910	23	Immigrated to America alone.
1913	26	Moved in with his brother, Charles.
1920	33	Charles married and left Frank alone.
09/05/1934	47	Body of possible first victim found (Lady of the Lake) near Euclid Beach Park.
09/23/1935	48	Bodies of first and second known victims, Edward Andrassy and an unidentified white male, found in the Jackass Hill area of Kingsbury Run.
01/26/1936	48	Body of third victim, Florence Polillo, found behind Hart’s Manufacturing on East 20 th street.
02/07/1936	48	Additional remains of Polillo found behind a vacant house on Orange Avenue.
05/1936	49	Killed fourth victim, an unidentified white male.
06/05/1936	49	Fifth victim’s head, an unidentified white male, nicknamed the tattooed man, found in Kingsbury Run.
06/1936	49	Murdered sixth victim, an unidentified Black female.
07/22/1936	49	Body of fourth victim found in the Big Creek area of Brooklyn, on the west side of Cleveland.
09/10/1936	49	Body of seventh victim, an unidentified white male, found in Kingsbury Run near a pool.
11/1936	49	Brought in for questioning by police.
02/23/1937	49	Body of eighth victim, an unidentified white female, found at Euclid Beach near Lake Erie.
06/06/1937	50	Body of sixth victim found beneath the Lorain-Carnegie Bridge

07/06/1937	50	Body of ninth victim, an unidentified white male, found in the Cuyahoga River in the Cleveland Flats.
11/1937-01/1938	50	Time frame of murder for the tenth victim, an unidentified white male
02/1938-04/1938	50	Time frame of murder for the eleventh victim, an unidentified white female.
04/08/1938	50	Body of twelfth victim, an unidentified white female, found in the Cuyahoga River in the Cleveland Flats.
09/16/1938	51	Bodies of tenth and eleventh victims found at the Lakeshore Dump on East 9 th street.
07/05/1939	52	Arrested
07/07/1939	52	Confessed to killing Florence Polillo
07/10/1939	52	Two unsuccessful suicide attempts at 12:30 a.m. and 4:30 a.m.
07/10/1939	52	Given a lie detector test. Dolezal recanted his confession to killing Polillo.
07/11/1939	52	Appeared in court for first degree murder for killing Polillo. Entered no plea
07/11/1939	52	Examined and found not insane.
08/24/1939	52	Found dead in his cell. Originally thought to be a suicide.
08/2010	-	Exonerated of crimes and believed to have been murdered by police in jail.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	12 suspected, 1 other possible, 1 confessed then recanted
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Ohio
Cities where killing occurred	Cleveland
Type of killer	Disorganized thrill
Height	5'8"

Childhood Information

Date of birth	05/04/1887
Location	Bohemia, now modern day Slovakia
Birth order	Unknown
Number of siblings	9
XYY?	No
Raised by	Mother and father
Birth category	Middle
Parent's marital status	Married
Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage?	No
Did serial killer spend time in a foster home?	No
Was serial killer ever raised by a relative?	No
Did serial killer ever live with adopted family?	No
Did serial killer live with a step-parent?	No
Family event	Brother Charles married and moved out.
Age of family event	33
Problems in school?	Unknown
Teased while in school?	Unknown
Physically attractive?	To some
Physical defect?	Wondering Eye
Speech defect?	None
Head injury?	Unknown
Physically abused?	Unknown
Psychologically abused?	Unknown
Sexually abused?	Unknown
Father's occupation	Unknown

Age when first had intercourse	Unknown
Mother's occupation	Unknown
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Unknown
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	Unknown
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Unknown
Highest degree	Unknown
Grades in school	Unknown
IQ	Unknown
Source of IQ information	N/A
Work History	
Served in the military?	No
Branch	N/A
Type of discharge	N/A
Saw combat duty	N/A
Killed enemy during service?	N/A
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	Unknown
Types of jobs worked	Bricklayer
Employment status during series	Employed as a bricklayer
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	Roommate, Florence Polillo
Triad	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	Unknown
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	Unknown
Diagnosis	N/A
Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)	
Committed previous crimes?	No
Spent time in jail?	No
Spent time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims (suspected of)	12, possibly 13
Number of victims (confessed to)	1, then recanted
Number of victims (convicted of)	0, died prior to trial
Victim type	Mostly white females and males, one Black victim
Killer age at start of series	47-48
Killer age at end of series	50
Date of first kill in series	September 23, 1935, possibly September 5, 1934

Date of final kill in series	April 8, 1938
Gender of victims	7 males, 5 females
Race of victims	11 white, 1 Black
Age of victims	28, 44, rest are unknown
Type of victim	N/A
Method of killing	Decapitation
Weapon	Unknown, possible knife
Was gun used?	No
Type	N/A
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	N/A
Sex of partner	N/A
Relationship of partner	N/A
Type of serial killer	Disorganized
How close did killer live?	Within walking distance of some
Location of first contact	Unknown
Location of killing	Unknown
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Unknown
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Unknown
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Unknown
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes, decapitation and dismemberment
Quick & efficient?	Unknown
Used blindfold?	Unknown
Bound the victims?	Unknown
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	Yes, decapitated and dismembered
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	Yes
Left at scene, hidden	Yes
Left at scene, buried	Yes
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes
Moved, hidden	Yes
Moved, buried	Yes
Cut-up and disposed of	Yes
Burned body	No
Dumped body in lake, river, etc.	Yes
Moved, took home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	07/05/1939
Date convicted	Never convicted
Sentence	N/A
Killer executed?	N/A

Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	N/A
Did serial killer confess?	Confessed to one and then recanted
Name and state of prison	Cuyahoga County Jail, Ohio
Killer committed suicide?	Probably not. Initial report was suicide but current thinking is that he was murdered by the police.
Killer killed in prison?	Suspected murder by police
Date of death	08/24/1939
Cause of death	Suspected hanging, later thought to be murdered by police.

Notes

There was very little information to find since he was an immigrant. Cleveland had no records of him before the 1920's.

The Lady of the Lake was suspected to be the first victim but was never proven.

References

http://www.trutv.com/library/crime/serial_killers/unsolved/kingsbury/index_1.html

<http://www.clevescene.com/scene-and-heard/archives/2010/08/23/frank-dolezals-name-cleared-in-torso-murders>

http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=28202811&fb_source=message

<http://cleveland.about.com/od/clevelandhistory/p/torsomurders.htm>

<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=35114706>

Books:

Badal, J. J. (2010). *Though Murder Has No Tongue The Lost Victim of Cleveland's Mad Butcher*. Kent, Ohio: The Kent State University Press.

We looked at the following sources and did not find any information:

LexisNexis

PsycNet

EBSCO

11/14/2011