

Sean Vincent Gillis



Information researched and summarized by
Charlie Morrison, Drew Carawan, and Kimmy Faller

Department of Psychology
Radford University
Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
06/24/1962	0	Born in Baton Rouge, LA
1963	1	Sean's father, Norman, held a gun to his head. After that, his father left because he did not want to hurt Sean or his mother. Sean's father was in and out of different mental institutions, but Sean and his mother, Yvonne, did not hear from Norman until Sean was 17.
Childhood		Sean's mother, Yvonne, raised Sean. She was very good to him and loved him very much. Even though his father was not in the picture, they visited Norman's parents very often, and he had a good relationship with them.
1971	10	Sean and his mother moved to a new neighborhood in Baton Rouge when his mother was able to afford it. One of the neighbors stated that Sean "gave the other kids in the neighborhood the willies." However, Yvonne described him as being normal and liking things most young boys like, such as building model cars.
Childhood		Yvonne said that Sean was normally very well-behaved. She reported she only spanked him once with a thin belt. She said she felt so bad after it that she never did it again. If he ever misbehaved, she would just take away his TV privileges.
Childhood		Sean attended Catholic schools because his mother wanted him to have that education. He met one of his best friends, John Green. John Green described him very positively, saying that he was a very smart person, was respectful towards adults, and had a good sense of humor.
1974	12	When Sean entered 7 th grade, he attended Redemptorist High School. He also became best friends with John Rosas. He, Sean, and John Green used to spend time going to the movies, the mall, or just each other's houses.
Adolescence		As they got older, Sean and his friends got into some minor trouble now and then, but nothing too bad. They went through a phase where they became interested in Devil Worship. They watched some people who were participating in the acts and enjoyed the thrill of being scared from it. The boys also would smoke marijuana together, but Sean enjoyed it more than the others. Sean kept this part of his life a secret from his mom.
Adolescence		A neighbor, Carolyn Clay, saw a different side of Sean than his mother did. One night, she reported that "about three in the morning, I awoke to a loud noise coming

		from their yard. Sean was in the front yard beating wildly o some garbage cans. He told another neighbor that he was frustrated because he didn't have a girlfriend. He was prone to fits of anger like that. He was an angry young boy." However, Sean's mom did not see this side of Sean.
1979	17	Norman's father, Sean's grandfather, passed away. This led to Sean seeing his father for the first time since he left when Sean was 1 year old. This eventually led to Sean and Norman developing a relationship.
1980	18	Arrested for the first time for criminal trespass.
1980	18	Sean graduates from Redemptorist High School. Both his mother and father were there to see him graduate.
1980	18	Sean sees disturbing photos that belong to his Father's. They were of naked men in various sexual positions. Sean found out that his father was homosexual and this horrified Sean very much. Norman, who had previously had trouble with alcohol, joined Alcoholics Anonymous. Norman called Yvonne and Sean a few weeks later to come visit him at his new home in California, but they refused to visit him. Sean was never able to deal with what he had seen.
1980-1982(?)	18-20(?)	Sean began working for Southland Corporation, which owned the 7-11 chain of convenience stores. Over the next few years, Sean changed jobs often and was never really content in one place. Sean did not like to work, but instead enjoyed to sit in front of his new computer. He attended a community college and eventually got certified in computers.
1982-1992	20-30	Sean lived with his mother over these years, until she got offered a job in Atlanta. She asked Sean to go with her, but he said no. Sean was on his own for the first time, but his mother still sent him money and helped him out.
1992	30	After his mom leaves and he has more time to himself, Sean really begins to discover how much he enjoyed pornography on the internet.
1992	30	Sean was caught peeping into a neighbor's window, which he claimed he was looking for his cat. The police were called and he was arrested because of outstanding warrants for traffic violations. He was released shortly after.
1994	31	Sean met Terri Lemoine where she worked. He asked her out shortly after. They got into an argument after they had begun dating and Terri slapped him. Sean did not hit her back, but he began crying. After that, Terri apologized and they promised there would be no violence in their relationship. They became very serious after this.
03/21/1994	31	Sean killed his first victim, 81-year old Ann Bryan. He tried to rape her, then he stabbed her 47 times.
1994	32	Terri found out that Sean drank a little too much, which really upset her. She also found out that Sean's mom spoiled him by sending him money. Eventually, Terri was able to get Sean a job where she worked at a convenience store.
1995	33	Sean and Terri move in together. Terri had been upset with Sean because they had only had sex a couple times throughout their relationship. After they moved in together, Terri found out that he was addicted to pornography. Eventually, even though it bothered her, she learned to ignore the issue.
1995	33	Sean shows Terri a website of pictures of dead women. Terri is disgusted, but Sean finds it funny. Again, Terri doesn't give the issue much thought.
		Sean is very sweet to Terri and treats her well throughout their relationship
01/04/1999	36	Sean kills his second victim Katherine Hall (29), who is a prostitute. He got her into his car by telling her he wanted oral sex. When she was in his car, he put a zip tie around her neck to kill her. She tried to get away, but Sean caught her and stabbed her 16 times. After she was dead, he undressed her and mutilated her body. This would become a common practice for Sean when he killed women. He took her body to another location and was found the next morning.
05/30/1999	36	Sean kills his third victim, Hardee Moseley Schmidt (52). Unlike most of Sean's other victims, Hardee was married, had three children, and was known in the community. Sean saw her running a few days before and knew she was his next victim. When he saw her running, he hit her with his car then got out and tied a zip tie around her neck.

		He took her body to an isolated area, undressed her, and raped her. He kept the body in the car until Terri commented on the smell the next day. He made up a story that he hit a squirrel and later dumped the body at a rural parish, away from the Baton Rouge area.
11/12/1999	37	Sean kills his 4 th victim Joyce Williams (36), another prostitute. He kills her with a zip tie like he does his other victims. This time, he takes her to his home to mutilate her body and cut off body parts. For the first time, Sean ate human skin from a victim. He cut off Joyce's nipples and ate them. Sean picked up Terri from work with the body in the backseat of the car. Later that night, he dumped the body on the east side of Iberville Parish. The bones of her body would not be found until January of 200.
January 2000	37	Sean kills his 5 th victim Lillian Robinson (52), another prostitute. He killed her in the same way and also took her to his home. He did not have enough time to mutilate her because Terri was getting off work soon, but instead played with her dead body and put his penis into her mouth. He took her to a deserted place away from Baton Rouge and dumped her body in the Atchafalaya Basin.
March 2000	37	Lillian's body was discovered by some fishermen.
October 2000	38	Sean goes to New Iberia to see his goddaughter Christine. He had always been good to Christine and loved her very much.
October 2000	38	While visiting Christine, Sean sees his next victim. After he visits, he kills his 6 th victim, Marilyn Nevils (38). She was a prostitute and was killed the same way. He also took her dead body to his house and he showered with her corpse. Later, he took the body and left it on top of a levee without trying to hide it. The body would be found later by a man walking in the woods.
October 2000-September 2003	38-41	Sean didn't kill anyone for these years. There was another serial killer who went after prostitutes, Derek Todd Lee. Sean "admired" his work and kept newspaper clippings of the stories on the people he killed.
October 2003	41	Sean killed his 7 th victim, Johnnie Mae Williams (45). Unlike his other victims, Johnnie had many people that were close to her and children. She had become a prostitute, though. Sean picked her up because he knew her. She had cleaned his house a few times for money. Sean killed her in the same way as his other victims. For the first time, he took a body part (her hands) from one of his victims. Sean drove to another place to leave her body and just left her body exposed on top of an embankment.
02/26/2004	41	Sean kills his 8 th and final victim, Donna Bennett Johnson (43). She, like Johnnie Mae, had children but had become addicted to drugs and became a prostitute. He killed her using a zip tie, like all of his other victims. He mutilated her body, and he cut off her nipples and ate them. Sean took about 50 pictures of the victim. He took her to another location and posed her body.
03/03/2004	41	A task force was formed to look into the deaths of Donna, Johnnie, and Katherine, as well as other similar unsolved homicides.
04/28/2004	41	Sean is approached and questioned by Agent Jeff Methvin at his home. Sean agrees to a DNA swab. They returned the same day and took Sean in for an "interview". They felt sure that he was their guy but had to let him go that night
04/29/2004	41	SWAT breaks down the door to the Gillis house and takes Sean into custody for murder. He looked at his "wife" and simply said he was "sorry". He confessed to the murders later that day, a warrant was issued and his house was searched.
05/04/2004	41	Lafayette PD informed by Baton Rouge PD that Marilyn Nevils had been missing for 4 years and that Sean had confessed to killing her. Lafayette PD had no report of her missing and no idea that a crime had even been committed. Also, the crime lab got a warrant to scan the house for blood, bone and tissue.
06/10/2004	41	Gillis indicted for the murder of Donna Bennett. The prosecution was seeking the death penalty.
07/14/2004	42	Gillis indicted for the murder of Joyce Williams
August,	44	Gillis pleads guilty to the murder of Joyce Williams. Sentenced to life in prison.

2007		
07/21/2008	45	The trial of Sean Gillis begins in Baton Rouge for the murder of Donna Bennett Johnston.
07/22/2008	45	Lauren Keller testified that she had been out on the morning of February 27 th , 2004 and saw what looked to be a body on the edge of Ben Hur Canal.
07/22/2008	45	Nicholas Murphy (a deputy who transported Sean) said that Sean admitted to him that his weapon of choice was a flex cuff.
07/24/2008	45	There were many different pieces of evidence from the victims that linked Sean to the crimes.
07/25/2008	45	Closing arguments were presented and the prosecution asked the jury to find Sean guilty of First Degree Murder. The jury came back with a unanimous verdict of guilty of first degree murder in the death of Johnston.
07/26/2008	45	Jury begins to hear testimony in the penalty phase of the trial. Prosecutor Prem Burns presents evidence of other murders committed by Gillis.
07/27/2008	45	Josh Noel testified that Sean Gillis confessed to him in an interview in 2004 that he killed the women in these cases.
07/28/2008	45	Dr. Dorothy Lewis took the stand to make a case for Gillis being mentally insane, claiming that signs pointed to him having schizo-affective disorder.
07/31/2008	45	Closing arguments were presented. At 3:03 pm the jury retired to consider the verdict. At 5:45 the jury came back without being able to reach agreement about the death penalty. As a result, Gillis was sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor without the benefit of parole.
02/17/2009	45	Gillis plead guilty to the first degree murder of Marilyn Nevils and received another life sentence.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	8 (convicted of 3)
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Louisiana
Cities where killing occurred	Baton Rouge Metro and surrounding areas
Type of killer	Disorganized
Height	Not mentioned

Childhood Information

Date of birth	June 24, 1962
Location	Baton Rouge, LA
Birth order	Only Child
Number of siblings	0
XYY?	No
Raised by	Mother
Birth category	Only Child
Parent's marital status	Divorced
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	Not notable
Age of family event	N/A
Problems in school?	No
Teased while in school?	Yes for not having a father
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	No

Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	No
Psychologically abused?	No
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Manager of patient transport in Stanford Hospital
Age when first had intercourse	Not mentioned
Mother's occupation	Many different positions in the media field.
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Yes, but his father left when Sean was 1 year old
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	Community College
Highest degree	IT certification
Grades in school	Average
IQ	Not noted
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?	No
Types of jobs worked	Cashier
Employment status during series	Worked at a convenience store
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Not married, Was in a serious relationship
Number of children	0
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	His girlfriend, Terri Lemoine
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)?	No
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	No
Diagnosis	N/A
Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)	
Committed previous crimes?	Minor ones- Criminal trespass, outstanding traffic violations.
Spent time in jail?	No
Spent time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	

Number of victims (suspected of)	8
Number of victims (confessed to)	8
Number of victims (convicted of)	3
Victim type	Mainly prostitutes
Killer age at start of series	32
Killer age at end of series	42
Date of first kill in series	1994
Date of final kill in series	2004
Gender of victims	Female (8)
Race of victims	African American (4), Caucasian (4)
Age of victims	81, 29, 52, 36, 52, 38, 45, 43 (in order of victim)
Type of victim	Mainly prostitutes
Method of killing	Strangled with Zip Tie
Weapon	Zip Tie (Flex cuff), Knives after victim died
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 region of killings
Location of first contact	Ann Bryan was in a elderly home and the others were around the Baton Rouge area
Location of killing	
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Yes
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	Yes
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	No
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	On one of his victims, yes.
Mutilated body?	Yes
Ate part of the body?	A couple victims he ate his victims' nipples.
Drank victim's blood?	No
Posed the body?	Yes
Took totem – body part	On one of his victims, he took their hands
Took totem – personal item	Yes
Robbed victim or location	Yes
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Only his first victim, Ann Bryan
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	Yes
Moved, hidden	Yes
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Burned body	No

Dumped body in lake, river, etc.	A few of them
Moved, took home	Some of his victims he would take home to “play with” but then would take them to another location to dispose of them.
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	April 28, 2004
Date convicted	July 31 st , 2008
Sentence	A life imprisonment at hard labor without the benefit of parole and another life sentence.
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	
Did serial killer confess?	Yes
Name and state of prison	Louisiana State Penitentiary, Louisiana
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A
Cause of death	N/A
References	
<p>http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sean_Vincent_Gillis</p> <p>Mustafa, S.D. & Israel, S. (2011). <i>Dismembered</i>. New York, NY: Kensington Publishing Corp.</p>	
11/14/2011	