

Jesse Harding Pomeroy
"The Boy Fiend"



Serial killer researched and summarized by
Arthur Reynolds, Jennifer Sandlin, Sarah Rose, & Adam Shomo

Department of Psychology
 Radford University
 Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
November 29, 1859	0	Jesse Pomeroy is born to Thomas and Ann Pomeroy in Charlestown, Massachusetts
	10	Father beats Jesse with a horse whip because Jesse was truant from school. Stripped and beaten as punishment.
		Pets began disappearing from the home.
	5	Caught torturing the neighbor's cat.
December 26, 1871	12	Tortured William Paine.
February 22, 1872	12	Beat and tortured Tracy Hayden.
May 20, 1872	12	Beat and tortured Robert Maier. Started achieving sexual satisfaction during his crimes.
July 20, 1872	12	Jesse's mother throws his dad out of the house
July 22, 1872	12	Beat and tortured 7-year-old Johnny Balch until Jesse achieved orgasm.
August 2, 1872	12	Family moves from Chelsea to South Boston.
August 17, 1872	12	Binds and tortures George Pratt. Bites several chunks of flesh from his body and stabs him with a needle.
September 5, 1872	12	Kidnaps 6-year-old Harry Austin. Binds, beats him, and then takes out his knife and begins to stab the boy. Attempted to cut off the boy's penis.
September 11, 1872	12	Kidnapped Joseph Kennedy, 7-year-old boy. Bound and beat him and stabbed him with his knife.
September 17, 1872	12	Lured 5-year-old Robert Gould and proceeded to strip him and beat him and slash him with his knife. First description given to police of Pomeroy's white eye.
September 20, 1872	12	Is identified by Joseph Kennedy and is arrested by police. Later that night during questioning, he confesses to all his crimes.
September 21, 1872	12	Arraigned for the attacks on the eight children. Was sentenced to be detained in the Massachusetts House of Reformation in Westborough until he turned 18.

		While in the reform school Jesse was bullied by the older kids there and the younger kids were afraid of him. Jesse was never punished at the reform school
End of Year 1873	13	When asked by a teacher to help kill a snake, Pomeroy agrees to help. Works himself up into a frenzy while beating the snake into an oozing pile.
February 6, 1874	13	He is released from the House of Reformation into the care of his mother.
March 18, 1874	13	Kills 10-year-old Katie Curran in his mother's store. 1 st Murder Victim.
April, 1874	13	Attempted to lure Harry Field, 5-year-old boy, off to seclusion, but was interrupted by another teenager.
April 22, 1874	13	Lures Horace Millen, 4-year-old boy, off to a secluded place and kills him. 2 nd Murder Victim.
April 23, 1874	13	Jesse is suspected of killing Horace Millen and is arrested by police.
May 1, 1874	13	Jesse is arraigned before Jude Wheelock and pleads not guilty.
June, 1874	13	Grand jury indicts Jesse.
July 18, 1874	13	Confesses to killing Katie Curran and tells police the location of her body.
July 22, 1874	13	Funeral for Katie Curran.
November 6, 1874	13	During the hearing doctors said he was insane
December 8, 1874	14	Trial begins.
December 11, 1874	14	Jury returns verdict of guilty in the first degree.
		Jesse is confined to solitary confinement for 40 years. Makes many attempts to escape.
		Jesse wrote several books while he was in solitary confinement
January 10, 1915	52	Jesse's mother, Ruth, dies.
January 1917	54	Jesse is allowed back into the general population in prison
January, 1920	60	Pomeroy publishes a book of poetry entitled, " <i>Selections from the writings of Jesse Harding Pomeroy, Life Prisoner since 1874.</i> "
September 29, 1932	72	Jesse dies in prison.

General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	2 killed, 8 tortured
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Boston, MA
Type of killer	Organized lust
Height	

Childhood Information

Date of birth	November 29, 1859
Location	Charlestown, Massachusetts
Birth order	Second born
Number of siblings	1
XY? Y?	No
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	Father would strip him and his brother and beat them as punishment
Age of family event	Childhood
Problems in school?	Yes
Teased while in school?	Yes
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	Large body, had overly large facial features, a completely white eye, hair lip, and a cleft palate
Speech defect?	No

Head injury?	Beatings from parents but nothing recorded
Physically abused?	Yes
Psychologically abused?	Yes
Sexually abused?	Yes
Father's occupation	Worked at the Navy Yard, drove a wagon
Age of first sexual experience	Unknown
Age when first had intercourse	Unknown
Mother's occupation	Store Owner
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
Cognitive Ability	
Highest grade in school	
Highest degree	
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?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	No
Types of jobs worked	Worked in his mother's shop
Employment status during series	Worked for his mother, had a paper route
Relationships	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Single
Number of children	0
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Mother
Triad	
Animal torture	Yes
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
Killer Psychological Information	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist?	No
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	
Killer Criminal History	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes, a reformation house
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
Serial Killing	
Number of victims	2 killed, 8 tortured
Victim type	Younger boys, and young girl

Killer age at start of series	13 years old
Gender of victims	Male and female
Race of victims	White
Age of victims	10, 7, 6, 5, 4
Method of killing	Stabbing
Type of serial killer	Antisocial Personalities
How close did killer live?	Lived in the same town as the victims
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Killer brought with him
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	Yes
Stalked victims?	No
Overkill?	Yes
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	Yes
After Death Behavior	
Sex with the body?	No
Mutilated body?	Yes
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	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	1974
Date convicted	1974
Sentence	Life in prison - solitary confinement
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	Yes
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	State prison in Charlestown, Massachusetts
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	September 29, 1932

References

Schechter, Harold (2000). *Fiend: The shocking story of America's youngest serial killer*. New York: Pocket Books.

http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/history/pomeroy/3.html

<http://www.buzzle.com/editorials/10-31-2004-61009.asp>

https://www.geocities.com/verbal_plainfield/i-p/pomeroy.html

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesse_Pomeroy

<http://www.slogun.com/cos%20site/OTPAGE.HTM>

<https://www.kobek.com/autobiography.pdf>

www.carolannedavis.co.uk/childrenwhokill

<http://www.amazon.com/Fiend-Shocking-Americas-Youngest-Serial/dp/067101448X>

http://www.crimelibrary.com/serial_killers/weird/kids2/index_1.html