

## Lemuel Smith



Information summarized by  
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Date	Age	Life Event
1939	Not born	Death of older brother John Jr. Died of encephalitis
07-22-1941	0	Lemuel Smith is born in Amsterdam, NY
1941-1953	Birth to 12	Sleeps in his parents' bed with his mother while his father is at work
1946	5	Begs John to come back to earth
1947	6	Received second head injury (date of first head injury is unknown)
1947	6	The personality of "Lemo" emerges, according to Eleanor Lee.
Summer 1951	10	Receives head injury-fell from a tree while playing Tarzan and was unconscious for several minutes
1951-1958	Adolescence	Stalked, kissed, touched, and manually penetrated girls
1952-1958	Teenager	*Receives his fourth head injury while snow sledding *Receives his fifth head injury while playing basketball
1953	12	Refuses to attend church with his family
1953	12	The personality of "John" emerges, according to Eleanor Lee
December 1957	16	Indicted for burglary of Strech's coffee shop & Richel's Confectionary store in Amsterdam New York.
01-21-1958	17	Murder of Dorothy Waterstreet
01-23-1958	17	Lemuel was determined to be a suspect in the murder, and was brought in for questioning.
Summer 1958	17	Moved to Schenectady NY to live with his sister Edith
July 1958	17	Edna Johnson beating
Summer 1958	17	Has sex with inmate Elliot
01-20-59	17	Trail for the Edna Johnson assault begins
04-12-59	17	Sentenced to maximum of 20 years by Judge Joseph Brynes

August 1958- January 1959	18-19	In jail at the Baltimore Penitentiary
1959-1968	17-27	In prison, spends much of his time in solitary confinement
1964	23	1 <sup>st</sup> eligible for parole and is denied
Summer 1964-1966	23-26	*Riot at the prison *Eligible for parole 2 <sup>nd</sup> time which is also denied
1966-1968	26-28	*Against his parents' wishes, Lemuel converted to Catholicism. * Appointed chaplain's assistant
March 1967	25	Burglary charges dismissed by Judge Crangel
May 1968	26	*3 <sup>rd</sup> parole eligibility *Prison Chaplin pleas for his freedom. *Is approved for parole
August 1968	27	Gets a job at a sheet metal plant
05-19-1969	27	*kidnaps C.F. *kidnaps & rapes O.P. *Picked up for questioning
June 1969	27	Indicted on charges of robbery, kidnapping, and possession of dangerous weapon
11-11-1969	28	Sentenced to 4-15 years for attempted rape & assault of C.F. & unlawful imprisonment of O.P. by judge Archibald C. Wemple
09-09-1971	30	Riot at Attica prison
1973	32	1 <sup>st</sup> parole hearing- denied
1975	34	2 <sup>nd</sup> parole hearing- denied
07-21-1976	35	Kidnaps, rapes, and mutilates Maralie Wilson (WF, 30) in Schenectady, NY
07-21-1976	35	*Lemuel is spotted in the vicinity of Jay Street, where Maralie Wilson worked, by patrolman Arthur Chaires *Captain Schneeman requests and receives a search warrant for Lemuel's apartment.
07-22-1976	35	Body of Maralie Wilson found
1976	35	Law passed requiring the release of an inmate after the prison had completed double the amount of his minimum sentence
1976	35	*Released on parole. *Denied permission to apply for a motor vehicle license by parole officer Joe Early *Diagnosed with Schizophrenia by Joe Early *Required to undergo psych exam before he was allowed to take a driving test
11-24-1976	35	Killed Robert Hederman (WM, 48) & Margaret Byron (WF, 59) in the back of Hederman's store in Albany, NY
11-25-1976	35	Questioned at work regarding the Hederman/ Byron murder- claims to have been with his girlfriend Jenny Healy (age 17)
Winter 1976	35	Search of Lemuel's work locker by Albany Police. Found 1 grey hair which is later identified as Margaret Byron's
12-06-1976	35	Lemuel is identified in a photo line-up by Maureen Toomey
12-23-1976	35	Joan Richburg (WF, 24) is raped, killed, and mutilated in Schenectady, NY
12-24-1976	35	Joan Richburg's body is found
December 1976	35	Picked up for questioning in Schenectady and taken to the Loundonville New York State Police barracks
December	35	Clairvoyant Ann Fisher inspects the scene of the Hederman- Byron

1976		Murder
12-26-1976	35	Interviewed in Joe Early's Madison Avenue office
Late December 1976	35	A hair matching a sample of Lemuel Smith's hair is found on Joan Richburg's body
12-23-1976	35	Lemuel Breaks into a department store and steals adhesive tape
1977	36	Diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenic by Dr. Zvi Klopl
1977	36	°Eleanor Lee becomes Smith's social worker
1977	36	Diagnosed with multiple personality disorder by social worker Eleanor Lee
1977	36	Is given an EEG, which shows that there was no lasting brain damage from his childhood injuries
January 1 to January 10, 1977	35	Stalks °Denise, Beulah Southwell's granddaughter
01-10-1977	35	*Tries to kidnap Denise from her grandmother Beulah Southwell's store. *Holds a gun to Beulah's head and threatens to kill her
February 1977	35	Eleanor Lee submits a report saying that Lemuel is a paranoid schizophrenic
Summer 1977	36	Began stalking °April Gerace
August 1977	36	Questioned at the detective's office in Colonie with lawyer Sandy Rosenblum present
08-19-1977	36	*Calls April Gerace three times *Kidnaps and rapes A.G. from the law office where she worked *Is arrested
September 1977	36	Dr. Lowell J. Levine verified that bite marks on Maralie Wilson's nose matched a cast of Lemuel's teeth
09-29-1977	36	* Schenectady D.A. "Skip" Warous indicted Smith for the murder of Maralie Wilson *Eleanor Lee sends a resignation letter to the Schenectady D.A.'s office
October 1977	36	*Transported to Bleecker Stadium by Schenectady County Sheriff's deputies for a canine identification *He is identified by the dog 3 times
07-17-1978	36	Lemuel Smith went on trial at the Schenectady Courthouse before Judge George Strobel without a jury present
07-21-1978	36	Lemuel is found guilty of robbery and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree kidnapping of A.G.
08-30-1978	37	*It is reported that Lemuel Smith attempted suicide. *John decides to punish Lemuel by killing him
03-05-1978	36	Confesses to the five murders at the New York Police Academy to DA Joe Carry
03-09-1978	36	Sentenced to 10-20 years for the Rape of A.G. by County Judge Lorren N. Brown
01-05-1979	37	Trial date set for case of the murders of Margaret Byron and Robert Hederman by Judge John Clyne
02-02-1979	37	Found guilty of four counts of 2 <sup>nd</sup> degree murder and on one count of robbery
02-20-1979	37	Judge John Clyne sentenced Lemuel Smith to 2 consecutive life sentences of 25 years to life
Spring 1981	38	Lemuel begins fixating on prison guard Donna Payant
05-15-1981	38	Rapes and kills corrections officer Donna Payant (WF, 31) in the Chaplin's office of Green Haven Correctional Facility and disposes of her body
05-16-1981	38	Donna Payant's body is found at the Amenia Landfill
01-20-1983	41	Trial begins in Poughkeepsie New York

03-09-1983	41	Dr. Levine testifies that the bite marks on Donna Payant's body match Lemuel's dental pattern and the marks on Maralie Wilson's body
March 1983	41	Found guilty of 1 <sup>st</sup> degree murder
06-07-1983	41	New York Court of Appeals rejected Smith's appeal of his guilty verdict
06-10-1983	41	Sentenced to death
June 19, 1983- August 20, 1983	41-42	On death row
08-20-1984	43	Reversal of the death penalty and re-sentenced to 4 <sup>th</sup> life sentence
2029	88	Eligible for Parole
		°Name changed by the original author

### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	African American
Number of victims	6
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	New York
Type of killer	Psychotic
Height	6'2

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	July 22, 1941
Location	Amsterdam, New York
Birth order	4 <sup>th</sup> of 4
Number of siblings	3, Brother John died shortly after birth
XY??	No
Raised by	Both parents
Birth category	Youngest
Parent's marital status	Married
Family event	Death of older brother before his birth
Age of family event	Not Born
Problems in school?	None until Dot Waterstreet murder
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	Yes
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Five First no name or description Second: Age 6-No description Third: Age 10-Fell from a tree while playing Tarzan Fourth: Snow sledding, no age given Fifth: Teenager, injured while playing basketball
Physically abused?	Social worker claims Lemuel Smith received corporal punishment; Investigator Robert Gannon finds no proof of abuse.
Psychologically abused?	Gannon claims that Lemuel Smith was psychologically abused by his father in the form of constant sermons Told by mother if he was bad Indians would come and take him away
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	Night shift porter for the General Electric Plant in Schenectady

Age of first sexual experience	Age 17 heavy petting with girlfriend Rosa
Age when first had intercourse	18 or 19
Mother's occupation	None
Father abused drugs/alcohol	No
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	No
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	One year of college
Highest degree	Diploma
Grades in school	Made decent grades until the Dot Waterstreet murder occurred
IQ	Not known
<b>Work History</b>	
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	Laborer, Janitor
Employment status during series	Employed
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual but participated in homosexual relations while he was in prison
Marital status	Married while in prison
Number of children	None
Lives with his children	N/A
Living with	Self
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	Yes
Abused alcohol?	Yes
Been to a psychologist?	Yes
Time in forensic hospital?	No
Diagnosis	Diagnosed with Schizophrenia and borderline personality disorder
<b>Killer Criminal History</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Yes
Spend time in jail?	Yes
Spend time in prison?	Yes
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims	6
Victim type	No one type
Killer age at start of series	17
Gender of victims	One male, five females

Race of victims	White
Age of victims	24, 30, 31, 48, 59
Method of killing	Stabbed and/or strangled his victims
Type of serial killer	psychotic
How close did killer live?	Walking distance
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Weapon	Killer brought with him
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	Yes
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	Yes
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	No
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	Yes
Robbed victim or location	Yes
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes, with the exception of Donna Payant
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, buried	Yes in the case of Donna Payant
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Moved, too home	No
Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	August 19, 1977
Date convicted	February 20, 1979
Sentence	Two life sentences, with a third added later, sentenced to death after Donna Payant murder, however, the ruling was overturned and Smith was given a fourth life sentence
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	Yes
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Name and state of prison	Green Haven Correctional Facility, New York
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A

## References

Foley, Denis. (2003). *Lemuel Smith and the Compulsion to Kill: The Forensic Story of a Multiple Personality Serial Killer*. Delmar, NY: New Leitrim House Publishing, LLC