

**James Clayton Vaughn Jr.**  
**AKA Joseph Paul Franklin**



Information researched and summarized by  
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Date	Age	Life Event
04/13/1950	0	Born in Mobile, Alabama as James Clayton Vaughn, Jr.
1957	7	Head Injury - Bicycle Accident
1958	8	Father abandons family. Would return on occasion.
1965	15	Stole copy of <i>Mein Kampf</i>
1967	17	Dropped out of Murphy High School at the end of his junior year.
02/1968	18	Met Bobbie Louise Dorman (16) and marries her two weeks later. They divorce after only four months of marriage.
1968	18	Joined Arlington American Nazi Party
1969	19	Becomes obsessed with Charles Manson's plan for a race war
1970	20	Begins insulting mixed-raced couples
1972	22	Conviction for carrying a concealed weapon in Fairfax, VA
1973	23	Joins National States Rights Party
1973	23	Begins selling racist newspaper, <i>The Thunderbolt</i>
1976	26	Joined KKK in Atlanta, GA (quit after a few months due to Klan's lack of violence)
9/6/1976	26	Tailed a Black man with a white date, cornered them, and sprayed them with mace (Montgomery County, MD)
1976	26	Sent threatening letter to newly elected President Jimmy Carter
1976	26	Changed name to Joseph Paul Franklin
1977	27	Joined Alabama National Guard
1977	27	Commits first major bank robbery in Atlanta, GA
07/25/1977	27	Bombs home of Jewish leader, Morris Amitay
07/29/1977	27	Bombs of synagogue in Chattanooga, TN
08/07/1977	27	Goes to Madison, WI, robs a bank, plans to shoot Archie Simonson but instead shoots an interracial couple, Alphonse Manning (23) and Toni Schwenn (23).
1977	27	Robs a bank in Little Rock, AR
1977	27	Drives to Dallas, TX buys a Remington 30.06
08/02/1977	27	Robs a bank in Columbus, Ohio
10/08/1977	27	Kills Gerald Gordon (42) and wounds William Ash (30) in St. Louis, MO (Remington 700)
02/1978	28	Kills Johnny Brookshire (22) and wounds (paralyzed) his white girlfriend, Joy Williams (23), in Atlanta, GA
03/06/1978	28	Wounds/paralyzes Hustler magazine publisher Larry Flynt in Lawrenceville, GA (.44)
03/06/1978	28	Wounds Gene Reeves (latter recovers) (.44)

1978	28	Robs a bank in Louisville, KY
1978	28	Robs a bank in Atlanta, GA
07/29/1978	28	Shoots an interracial couple at Pizza Hut – kills Bryant Tatum, and wounds his girlfriend, Nancy Diane Hilton(18)
1978	28	Robs a bank in Montgomery, AL
1978	28	Returns to Alabama and meets Anita Carden (16) in an ice cream shop, they begin dating
1979	29	Franklin and Anita get married in DeKalb County Courthouse (Atlanta, GA)
07/12/1979	29	Shoots and kills Harold McIver (29) at Taco Bell in Doraville, GA (30.30)
08/18/1979	29	Kills Raymond Taylor at Burger King in Falls Church, VA (30.30)
08/25/1979	29	First offspring – Montgomery, AL
10/21/1979	29	Shoots and kills a mixed-race couple Jesse Taylor (42) and Marian Vera Bressette (31) in Oklahoma City, OK
12/05/1979	29	Cheats on his wife and kills prostitute Mercedes Masters (15) after admission of interracial relations
01/08/1980	30	Kills Black man, Lawrence Reese (22), at fried chicken fast food restaurant
01/14/1980	30	Kills Leo Thomas Watkins (19) through plate glass of convenience store in Indianapolis shopping mall (30.30)
April 1980	30	Franklin and his wife Anita separate.
05/02/1980	30	Kills hitchhiking student Rebecca Bergstorm in Mill Bluff State Park, WI
05/29/1980	30	Shoots civil rights leader. Vernon Jordan. in Fort Wayne, IN
06/08/1980	30	Kills cousins Darrell Layne (14) and Dante Evans Brown (13) in Cincinnati, OH
06/15/1980	30	Kills Arthur Smothers (22) and Kathleen Mikula (16) in Johnstown, PA
06/24/1980	30	Robs a bank in Burlington, NC
06/25/1980	30	Kills hitchhikers Nancy Santomero (19) and Vicki Durian (26) in Pocahontas, WV (.44 Ruger)
08/20/1980	30	Kills Ted Fields (20) and David Martin (18) in Salt Lake City, UT (Marlin lever action)
09/24/1980	30	Franklin is arrested in Florence, Kentucky and then escapes from the police department/
10/28/1980	30	Franklin is recaptured in Lakeland, FL
11/07/1980	30	Extradited to Salt Lake City, UT and arraigned for the murders of Ted Fields and David Martin.
03/04/1981	31	Federal Trial – convicted of violating the civil rights of Fields and Martin and sentenced to two consecutive life sentences
06/02/1981	31	State Trial – convicted of killing Fields and Martin, sentenced to two more life sentence due to hung jury regarding death penalty (attempted escape but recaptured) sent to Medical Center for Federal Prisoners in Springfield MI
01/31/1982	32	Transferred to United States Penitentiary in Marion, IL to begin serving life sentences
02/03/1982	32	Stabbed 15 times in the neck and abdomen by a group of African Americans
08/17/1982	32	Federal Trial – found not guilty for violating the civil rights of Vernon Jordan
1983	33	Partially confesses to the Larry Flynt shooting
1983	33	Confesses to shooting of Larry Flynt and bombing Morris Amitay's house in Washington DC
03/01/1984	34	Confesses to the murder of Rebecca Bergstrom; the murders of Santomero and Durian; Chattanooga synagogue bombing (tried in July and sentenced to 15-20yrs for bombing & 6-10yrs for possession of explosives), Rainbow murders, shooting Alphonse Manning (23) and Toni Schwenn (23)
02/14/1986	36	Convicted in Wisconsin of killing Manning and Schwenn. Sentenced to two consecutive life sentences
08/19/1990	40	Admits to Killing Ted Fields and David Martin in Salt Lake City, UT
06/04/1993	43	Jacob Beard is found guilty of two counts of 1 <sup>st</sup> -Degree murder for the Rainbow murders of Satomero and Durian although Franklin confessed to the murders
1994	44	Franklin confesses to killing Gerald Gordon
1995	45	Admits to shooting Vernon Jordan
11/18/1996	46	Tells Deborah Dixon, WKRC Cincinnati reporter, that he killed Santomero and Durian because “They dated black people”

02/27/1997	47	Found guilty of killing Gerald Gordon and sentenced to death
03/10/1997	47	Admits to killing Raymond Taylor
04/13/1997		Admits to murdering Arthur Smothers and Kathleen Mikula. Later confesses to murdering Darrell Lane and Dante Evans Brown
10/22/1997	47	Found guilty of murdering Darrell Lane and Dante Evans Brown, sentenced to 40 years to life in prison.
1998	48	Admits to killing William Tatum, pleads and receives two concurrent life sentences (one for murder and one for robbery)
03/1998	48	Confesses to killing prostitute Mercedes Masters and Harold McIver
11/01/1999	49	Confesses to killing Johnny Brookshire in 1978
2000	50	Jacob Beard is retried for the Rainbow murders and found not guilty
2004	54	US District Court requires Missouri to release or retry Franklin for the Gerald Gordon murder
2006	56	Federal Judge puts the death penalty in Missouri on hold over concerns involving lethal injection.
July 2007	57	Federal Appellate Court overturns U.S. District Court decision
2008	58	U.S. Supreme Court decides that the current method of execution (lethal injection) is constitutionally permissible
2010	60	US Supreme court refuses to hear Missouri lethal injection case <i>Clemons v. Crawford</i> , lethal injection stands as permissible and Missouri attorney general states executions will begin again.

### General Information

Sex	Male
Race	White
Number of victims	7-20+
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	Wisconsin, Missouri, Tennessee, Georgia, Virginia, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Utah, Oklahoma
Cities where killing occurred	
Type of killer	Organized Visionary
Height	5'11"

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	April 13, 1950
Location	Mobile, Alabama
Birth order	2 <sup>nd</sup> of 4
Number of siblings	4
XYX?	No
Raised by	Mom
Birth category	Middle
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	Parents divorce in 1950s
Age of family event	Younger than 10 years old
Problems in school?	No
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	No
Physical defect?	Yes
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	Bike accident, age 7

Physically abused?	Yes, by both parents
Psychologically abused?	Yes
Sexually abused?	No
Father's occupation	
Age when first had intercourse	
Mother's occupation	
Father abused drugs/alcohol	Yes; alcohol
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	
<b>Cognitive Ability</b>	
Highest grade in school	10 <sup>th</sup>
Highest degree	None
Grades in school	Average
IQ	Above average
Source of IQ information	Ayton (2011, pg. 272)
<b>Work History</b>	
Served in the military?	Yes
Branch	Alabama National Guard
Type of discharge	Unknown
Saw combat duty	No
Killed enemy during service?	No
Applied for job as a cop?	No
Worked in law enforcement?	No
Fired from jobs?	No
Types of jobs worked	Unknown
Employment status during series	Unknown
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married
Number of children	1
Lives with his children	No
Living with	Mother
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	No
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	No
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	None
Diagnosis	n/a
<b>Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	Bank robbery, Fire-bombed home of Morris Amitay, fire-bombed synagogue, and Threw mace at mixed-race couple
Spent time in jail?	No
Spent time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No; n/a
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims (suspected of)	21 murders
Number of victims (confessed to)	17 murders

Number of victims (convicted of)	8 murders
Victim type	Mixed-race couples, and anyone who ever mixed race
Killer age at start of series	27yrs
Killer age at end of series	30yrs
Date of first kill in series	August 7, 1977
Date of final kill in series	August 20, 1980
Gender of victims	Male (14) and Female (7)
Race of victims	White (8) and African American (13)
Age of victims	13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19(2), 20, 22(3), 23(2), 26, 29, 31, 42(2)
Type of victim	Mixed-race couples
Method of killing	Shooting
Weapon	Guns
Was gun used?	Yes
Type	Rifles, Shotguns, and Handguns
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	Organized missionary
How close did killer live?	Drifter
Location of first contact	Unknown
Location of killing	Madison, Wisconsin
Killing occurred in home of victim?	No
Killing occurred in home of killer?	No
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Killed at contact, if contact was made
<b>Behavior During Crimes</b>	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Stalked victims?	Sometimes
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
<b>After Death Behavior</b>	
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
<b>Disposal of Body</b>	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	Yes
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	No
Moved, hidden	No
Moved, buried	No
Cut-up and disposed of	No
Burned body	No
Dumped body in lake, river, etc.	No
Moved, took home	No

Sentencing	
Date killer arrested	September 24, 1980
Date convicted	About 1981
Sentence	Death sentence and multiple life sentences
Killer executed?	Not yet
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	
Did serial killer confess?	Yes
Name and state of prison	Potosi Correctional Center near Mineral Point, Missouri
Killer committed suicide?	No
Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	Still alive as of 11/14/2011
Cause of death	

### References

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11/14/2011