

## Marybeth Tinning



### Information researched and summarized by

*Danny Ramirez-Gaston*

*Kara Sutphin*

*Ben Thompson*

Department of Psychology  
Radford University  
Radford, VA 24142-6946

Date	Age	Life Event
09/11/1942	0	Born in Duanesburg, NY to Alton and Ruth Roe
1948-1965	6-23	Feelings of mistreatment by parents; spent most of childhood alone; claimed parents would lock her in her room at times for up to a day; said her father used to hit her with a flyswatter; her aunt used to tell her that she was an unplanned and unwanted child
1963	20-21	Marybeth met Joe Tinning on a blind date
Spring 1965	22	Marybeth and Joe Tinning marry
05/31/1967	24	Barbara, Marybeth's first child, is born
01/10/1970	27	Joseph, Marybeth's second child, is born
10/1971	29	Marybeth's father, Alton Roe, dies of a sudden heart attack at the age of 54
12/26/1971	29	Jennifer, Marybeth's third child, is born
01/03/1972	29	Jennifer dies, only 8 days old, from hemorrhagic meningitis and multiple brain abscesses from birth
01/20/1972	29	Joseph dies after being rushed to the hospital; death attributed to cardiopulmonary arrest
03/01/1972	29	Marybeth rushes Barbara to the hospital, claiming she had gone into convulsions
03/02/1972	29	Barbara dies, after being in a comatose state for several hours; death attributed to Reye's Syndrome
Summer 1972	29	Marybeth begins work at Flavorland as a waitress
07/03/1972	29	Marybeth calls the Schenectady Department of Social Services, expressing her interest in becoming a foster parent
Fall 1972	29-30	Tinning family took in a foster child, Robert, until January 1973
Early 1973	30	Tinning family took in a foster child, Linda, but she was soon sent back to Social Services when Marybeth became pregnant with Timothy
11/21/1973	31	Timothy, Marybeth's fourth child, is born
12/10/1973	31	Marybeth takes Timothy to the emergency room, but he is already dead; death

		attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome
Spring 1974	31	Marybeth and Joe argued over money on numerous occasions
[Dates not listed]	31	Marybeth poisons her husband with a lethal dose of phenobarbital, but he was convinced that it was an attempted suicide on his own part; Marybeth admits to stealing money from Carol, her sister-in-law; Marybeth agrees to see a psychiatrist, but escapes from the hospital without her husband, husband's brother, or Carol knowing
05/01/1974	31	Marybeth reports to the police that her home had been burglarized, although it was later concluded that Marybeth most likely staged the robbery herself
Prior to Nathan's birth	31-32	Marybeth admitted to a coworker that she was pregnant again, told her not to tell anyone, and told the coworker that "God had told her to kill this one, too"
03/30/1975	32	Nathan, Marybeth's fifth child, is born
09/02/1975	32	Nathan dies in the car while out with Marybeth
08/03/1978	35	Marybeth adopts her sixth child, Michael, shortly after he is born
10/29/1978	36	Mary Frances, Marybeth's seventh child, is born
01/20/1979	36	Marybeth rushes Mary Frances to the hospital, unconscious; Mary Frances is revived, hospital reports "aborted SIDS"
02/20/1979	36	Marybeth returns to the hospital with Mary Frances in full cardiac arrest; she is revived, but has irreversible brain damage
02/22/1979	36	Mary Frances dies, after Marybeth finally agrees to take her off of life support
11/19/1979	37	Jonathan, Marybeth's eighth child, is born
03/24/1980	37	Jonathan dies, after being kept on life support in Albany, NY for four weeks
03/01/1981	38	Michael's behavior and demeanor are back to normal. The previous week, Michael had fallen down the stairs and hit his head, Marybeth took him to the hospital
03/02/1981	38	Marybeth takes Michael to the doctor's office when he won't wake up, he dies
[Dates not listed]	40	Marybeth and Joe move in with Joe's parents in Duaneburg for 11 months; Marybeth does a variety of jobs, participates in church life, and volunteers as an ambulance driver
Early 1982	40?	Marybeth and Joe Tinning buy a trailer in Duaneburg, NY, but it soon catches fire and is destroyed; suspicions pointed to Marybeth as the culprit
1983	40-41?	Marybeth and Joe Tinning move back to Schenectady
Summer 1984	41	Marybeth stops volunteering at the ambulance corps after a first aid box was found near her home, with stolen contents from the Duaneburg ambulance corps inside
09/1984	41-42	Marybeth begins driving a school bus for Dubb Transportation until June 1985
08/22/1985	42	Tami Lynne, Marybeth's ninth child, is born
12/20/1985	43	Tami Lynne dies from being smothered
12/20/1985	43	The Tinning family is visited by Betsy Mannix, of Schenectady County's Department of Social services, and Bob Imfeld, of the Schenectady Police Department, regarding the death of Tami Lynne
12/21/1985	43	Reverend Roger Daly visits the Tinning residence and agrees to conduct Tami Lynne's funeral
12/23/1985	43	Tami Lynne's funeral is held
12/26/1985	43	Marybeth Tinning meets with Betsy Mannix again; appears overly concerned with Betsy's perception of her during their previous meeting
01/02/1986	43	The NY state police's Bureau of Criminal Investigation, essentially the first unit of forensic science and investigation in the state, was contacted to aid in the investigation of Tami Lynne Tinning's death
02/04/1986	43	Marybeth and Joe Tinning were separately taken to the Schenectady police department for questioning regarding the death of Tami Lynne; it was here that she confessed to the murders of Tami Lynne, Timothy, and Nathan; Marybeth was arrested and charged with the murder of her daughter, Tami Lynne Tinning
03/15/1986	43	Marybeth Tinning makes her \$100,000 bail and is released from custody until her trial date

07/16/1987	44	After a six-week long trial, the jury returned with a verdict of guilty of murder in the second degree
[Date not listed]	44-45	11 weeks after her trial, Marybeth is sentenced to 20 years to life in prison at Bedford Hills prison for women
12/29/1988	46	Marybeth's appeal was denied by the NY State Supreme Court's Appellate Division
03/2007	65	Marybeth was denied parole
01/2009	67	Marybeth was denied parole
01/2011	69	Marybeth was denied parole
01/2013	71	Marybeth is up for parole again

### General Information

Sex	Female
Race	White
Number of victims	9 suspected, 1 convicted
Country where killing occurred	United States
States where killing occurred	New York
Cities where killing occurred	Schenectady, NY
Counties where killing occurred	Schenectady, NY
Type of killer	Attention (Munchhausen by proxy)
Height	5'4"

### Childhood Information

Date of birth	09/11/1942
Location	Duanesburg, NY
Birth order	Firstborn
Number of siblings	1 younger sibling
XYY?	No
Raised by	Mother and father
Birth category	Oldest child
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 ever live with a step-parent?	No
Family event	Nothing particular mentioned
Age of family event	-
Problems in school?	No
Teased while in school?	No
Physically attractive?	Yes (at least not unattractive); average
Physical defect?	No
Speech defect?	No
Head injury?	No
Physically abused?	Claimed father hit her with flyswatter, locked her in her room
Psychologically abused?	Aunt told her she was unplanned and unwanted
Sexually abused?	Reported, but no solid evidence
Father's occupation	Military
Mother's occupation	-
Father abused drugs/alcohol	N/A
Mother abused drugs/alcohol	N/A

### Cognitive Ability

Highest grade in school	-
Highest degree	-

Grades in school	Average
IQ	-
Source of IQ information	-
<b>Work History</b>	
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	“Semiskilled positions” such as nurse’s aide, waitress, school bus driver (From Cradle to Grave, p. 16), volunteer ambulance driver (p. 32)
Employment status during series	Employed
<b>Relationships</b>	
Sexual preference	Heterosexual
Marital status	Married
Number of children	9
Lives with his children	Prior to their deaths, yes
Living with	Husband, children
<b>Triad</b>	
Animal torture	No
Fire setting	No
Bed wetting	No
<b>Killer Psychological Information</b>	
Abused drugs?	Took tranquilizers after first three children died, had been prescribed Valium
Abused alcohol?	No
Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)?	No
Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)?	No
Diagnosis	-
<b>Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)</b>	
Committed previous crimes?	No
Spent time in jail?	No
Spent time in prison?	No
Killed prior to series? Age?	No
<b>Serial Killing</b>	
Number of victims (suspected of)	8
Number of victims (confessed to)	3, but later retracted statement
Number of victims (convicted of)	1
Victim type	Family: Children
Killer age at start of series	Assuming she killed all her children, 29
Killer age at end of series	43
Date of first kill in series	01/03/1972
Date of final kill in series	12/20/1985
Gender of victims	5 boys, 3 girls
Race of victims	7 White, 1 Black
Age of victims	3 weeks, 4 months (3), 5 months, 2 years, 2.5 years ,

Method of killing	Smothering
Weapon	Pillow
Was gun used?	No
Type	-
Did killer have a partner?	No
Name of partner	-
Sex of partner	-
Relationship of partner	-
How close did killer live?	Same house as victims
Location of first contact	Family home
Location of killing	Family home
Killing occurred in home of victim?	Yes (same home)
Killing occurred in home of killer?	Yes (same home)
Victim abducted or killed at contact?	Killed on contact
Behavior During Crimes	
Rape?	No
Tortured victims?	No
Intentionally went out that day to kill?	No
Overkill?	No
Quick & efficient?	Yes
Used blindfold?	No
Bound the victims?	No
After Death Behavior	
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
Disposal of Body	
Left at scene, no attempt to hide	No
Left at scene, hidden	No
Left at scene, buried	No
Moved, no attempt to hide	Children were taken to hospital or ER, where they were pronounced dead; autopsies were variable
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	02/04/1986
Date convicted	07/16/1987
Sentence	20 years to life
Killer executed?	No
Did killer plead NGRI?	No
Was the NGRI plea successful?	No
Did serial killer confess?	Confessed to killing Tami Lynne, Timothy, and Nathan, but later retracted confession
Name and state of prison	Bedford Hills, NY
Killer committed suicide?	No

Killer killed in prison?	No
Date of death	N/A
Cause of death	N/A
<b>Victim 1</b>	
Name	Joseph Tinning
Date killed	01/20/1972
Date body was found	01/20/1972
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age	2 years
How killed	Hospital suspected, Reye's Syndrome, reported cardiopulmonary arrest
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	No
Was killer convicted of this murder?	No
<b>Victim 2</b>	
Name	Barbara Tinning
Date killed	03/02/1972
Date body was found	03/02/1972
Gender	Female
Race	White
Age	4.5 years
How killed	Hospital reported Reye's Syndrome
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	No
Was killer convicted of this murder?	No
<b>Victim 3</b>	
Name	Timothy Tinning
Date killed	12/10/1973
Date body was found	12/10/1973
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age	3 weeks
How killed	Hospital reported Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; Smothered
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	Yes, but later retracted
Was killer convicted of this murder?	No
<b>Victim 4</b>	
Name	Nathan Tinning
Date killed	09/02/1975
Date body was found	09/02/1975
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age	5 months

How killed	Smothered
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	Yes, but later retracted
Was killer convicted of this murder?	No
<b>Victim 5</b>	
Name	Mary Frances Tinning
Date killed	02/22/1979
Date body was found	02/22/1979
Gender	Female
Race	White
Age	4 months
How killed	Hospital reported SIDS
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	No
Was killer convicted of this murder?	No
<b>Victim 6</b>	
Name	Jonathan Tinning
Date killed	03/24/1980
Date body was found	03/24/1980
Gender	Male
Race	White
Age	4 months
How killed	Hospital reported cardiopulmonary arrest
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	No
Was killer convicted of this murder?	No
<b>Victim 7</b>	
Name	Michael Tinning
Date killed	03/02/1981
Date body was found	03/02/1981
Gender	Male
Race	Black
Age	2.5 years
How killed	Hospital reported viral pneumonia
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	No
Was killer convicted of this murder?	No
<b>Victim 8</b>	
Name	Tami Lynne Tinning
Date killed	12/20/1985
Date body was found	12/20/1985

Gender	Female
Race	White
Age	4 months
How killed	Smothered with pillow
State killed	New York
City killed	Schenectady
County killed	Schenectady
Type of target	Child
Did killer confess to this murder?	Yes, but later retracted
Was killer convicted of this murder?	Yes

### References

Egginton, Joyce (February 1989). *From Cradle to Grave: The Short Lives and Strange Deaths of Marybeth Tinning's Nine Children*. New York: Morrow.

"Marybeth Tinning - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 Oct. 2012. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marybeth\\_Tinning](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marybeth_Tinning)

- Only the dates of her failed parole attempts were gathered from here

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs BIRLS Death File, 1850-2010