|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Amy Archer-Gilligan *“Sister”* | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  *Scott Reynolds, Meghan Somerville, & Ashley Stevens*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 1873 | 0 | Born in Litchfield, CT to James Duggan and Mary Kennedy Duggan. | |
| 1890 | 17 | Amy attended New Britain Normal School | |
| 1896 | 23 | Marries James Archer | |
| 1898 | 25 | Amy gives birth to a daughter named Mary Archer. | |
| 1901 | 28 | Amy and James moved into the home of John D. Seymour in Newington, CT, to take care of him. | |
| 1904 | 31 | John Seymour died. Seymour’s heirs turned the house into a home for the elderly which was run by Amy and James. | |
| 1907 | 34 | Amy and James moved into Windsor, Connecticut, and purchased a redbrick house that they turned into the Archer Home for the Elderly and Infirmed. | |
| 1910 | 37 | -James Archer died suddenly from Bright’s disease. Amy had taken out an insurance policy weeks prior to his death.  -The Archer home began experiencing financial problems after James’ death. | |
| 1911 | 38 | 81-year-old Hilton Griffin died of “general debility and old age” | |
| 1912 | 39 | - Franklin Andrews entered the Archer home.  - Amy had 10 residents and an additional 15 deaths. | |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1913 | 40 | -Michael Gilligan moved into the Archer home during the summer, he was 57-years old and in perfect health.  - November 25, Amy Archer became Mrs. Amy Archer-Gilligan after marrying Michael Gilligan. | |
| 1914 | 41 | - January 6, Amy sat down by a dim light in her bedroom and wrote Franklin Andrews a letter.  -Second week of February, W.H. Mason’s registry of poisons recorded a purchase by Amy of ten ounces of arsenic.  - Michael Gilligan dies.  -In March, Amy put in a claim at the court against the Gilligan estate for $1500, alongside several other businesses looking to divide Michael Gilligan’s $4500 worth of assets.  - May 29, Franklin Andrews dies at the Archer Home.  - June 11, Alice and Loren Gowdy signed a life contract with Amy Archer for $1000.  - December 3, Alice Gowdy died at the Archer Home. | |
| 1916 | 43 | - Maud Lynch died at the age of 33 in the Archer Home.  May 09 – Several articles appear in the *Hartford Courant* about the “murder factory” and the number of deaths at the home. The *Courant* had been tipped by Nellie Pierce, the sister of victim Franklin Andrews.  - Amy is arrested on murder charges  July 13 – Amy is charged with murder in the first degree | |
| 1917 | 44 | June 18 - Trial begins.  June 23 - Amy takes the stand for her own defense. | |
| 1918 | 45 | Amy first spent time in the prison, then later was moved to a mental hospital where she spent the remainder of her life. | |
| 1919 | 46 | Amy appeals conviction and is granted a new trial. This time she pled not guilty by reason of insanity. She is found guilty of second-degree murder for the death of Franklin Andrews and is sentenced to life in prison. | |
| 1924 | 51 | In early July, Amy was declared insane. | |
|  |  |  | |
| 04/23/1962 | 89 | Amy Archer-Gilligan dies in her hospital bed of natural causes | |
| **General Information** | | | |
| Sex | | | Female |
| Race | | | White |
| Number of victims | | | 5-48 |
| Country where killing occurred | | | United States |
| States where killing occurred | | | Connecticut |
| Cities where killing occurred | | | Windsor |
| Type of killer | | | Gain Killer: Lethal Caretaker |
| Height | | | 5’3” |
| **Childhood Information** | | | |
| Date of birth | | | October 1873 |
| Location | | | Litchfield, Connecticut |
| Birth order | | | n/a |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Number of siblings | 4 |
| XYY? | n/a |
| Raised by | Both parents |
| Birth category | n/a |
| 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 live with a step-parent? | No |
| Family event | n/a |
| Age of family event | n/a |
| Problems in school? | No |
| Teased while in school? | No |
| Physically attractive? | Yes |
| Physical defect? | No |
| Speech defect? | No |
| Head injury? | No |
| Physically abused? | No |
| Psychologically abused? | No |
| Sexually abused? | No |
| Father’s occupation | n/a |
| Age of first sexual experience | n/a |
| Age when first had intercourse | n/a |
| Mother’s occupation | n/a |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | n/a |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | n/a |
| **Cognitive Ability** | |
| Highest grade in school | n/a |
| Highest degree | n/a |
| Grades in school | n/a |
| IQ | n/a |
| Source of IQ information | n/a |
| **Work History** | |
| Served in the military? | No |
| Applied for job as a cop? | No |
| Worked in law enforcement? | No |
| Fired from jobs? | No |
| Types of jobs worked | Worked as a caretaker of patients at her home |
| Employment status during series | Self-employed |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Heterosexual |
| Marital status | Remarried |
| Number of children | 1 |
| Lives with his children | n/a |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Living with | Spouse |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture |  |
| Fire setting |  |
| Bed wetting |  |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? | No |
| Abused alcohol? | No |
| Been to a psychologist (prior to killing)? | No |
| Time in forensic hospital (prior to killing)? | No |
| Diagnosis |  |
| **Killer Criminal History (Prior to the series)** | |
| Committed previous crimes? | No |
| Spent time in jail? | No |
| Spent time in prison? | No |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 5-48 |
| Victim type | Strangers that lived in her home that she took care of |
| Killer age at start of series | 35 |
| Date of first kill in series | 1908 |
| Date of final kill in series | 1916 |
| Gender of victims | Male and female |
| Race of victims | White |
| Age of victims | Varied |
| Type of victim | Patients |
| Method of killing | Poison (arsenic) |
| Weapon | No |
| Was gun used? | No |
| Type |  |
| Did killer have a partner? | No |
| Name of partner |  |
| Sex of partner |  |
| Relationship of partner |  |
| Type of serial killer | Gain Killer- Lethal Caretaker |
| How close did killer live? | Lived at the home |
| Location of first contact | Archer Home |
| Location of killing | Archer Home |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | No |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | Yes |
| Victim abducted or killed at contact? | No |
| Behavior During Crimes | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Rape? | No |
| Tortured victims? | No |
| Stalked victims? | No |
| Overkill? | No |
| Quick & efficient? | No |
| 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 | Yes |
| Disposal of Body | |
| 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, buried | No |
| Cut-op and disposed of | No |
| Moved, too home | No |
| Sentencing |  |
| Date killer arrested | 1916 |
| Date convicted | 1919 |
| Sentence | Life imprisonment |
| Killer executed? | No |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No, but she was sent to a mental facility after her conviction |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | No |
| Did serial killer confess? | No |
| Name and state of prison | Wethersfield Prison, Connecticut |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | April 23, 1962 at age of 89 |
| Cause of death | Natural causes |

|  |
| --- |
| **References**  **Books:**  Phelps, M. W. (2010). *The devil's rooming house*. Guilford, Connecticut: Lyons Press.  **Websites**:  http://crime.about.com/od/murder/p/gilligan.htm  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amy\_Archer-Gilligan  http://www.nydailynews.com/news/ny\_crime/2010/01/17/2010-01-17\_comedy\_and\_killing\_truth\_to\_arsenic\_\_old\_lace.html?page=1 http://www.worldlingo.com/ma/enwiki/en/Amy\_Archer-Gilligan http://www.mentalfloss.com/blogs/archives/49095 |