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| William Burke  *“Resurrection-man”* | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  *Iris Dickerson and Brent Evans*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 1792 | 0 | Born in 1792 | |
| 1811 | 19 | Follows older brother Constantine in to army | |
| 1827 | 35 | Moves in with Nelly McDougal and Mickey Culzean | |
| November 1827 | 35 | Meets William Hare, moves in to his house with Nelly | |
| 11-29-1827 | 35 | Hare’s lodger, Donald, dies; Burke and Hare sell deceased body to Dr. Knox to cover debt owed by Donald. Sold for ₤7 10 shillings | |
| February 1828 | 36 | Hare’s lodger, Joseph, falls ill; Burke and Hare smother him with a pillow, sell his body to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| February 1828 | 36 | Another lodger, man from Cheshire, ill with jaundice; body sold to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| 02-11-1828 | 36 | Went out drinking with Abagail Simpson; she returned to Hare’s home because she was sick from drinking, Hare and Burke smother her. Sold to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| 04-09-1828 | 36 | Burke, while drinking, meets two prostitutes; buys them more alcohol, takes them back to his brother’s house. One prostitute, Mary Paterson, passes out on the dining table; Burke and Hare smother her. Body sold to Dr. Knox for ₤8. | |
| May 1828 | 36 | A woman lodger, at Hare’s home for one night, is very drunk; Burke smothers her and the body is sold to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| May 1828 | 36 | Mary Haldane, a lodger, falls asleep in Hare’s stable; Burke and Hare suffocate her, sell her body to Dr. Knox. | |
| May 1828 | 36 | Effie comes to Hare’s house, Burke takes her to the stable and gets her drunk; Burke and Hare suffocate her, sell the body to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| May 1828 | 36 | Burke takes a drunken woman, who is being escorted home by an officer, off the | |

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|  |  | officer’s hands. The woman is killed, and her body is sold to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| “Midsummer, 1828” | 36 | Old woman and her grandson from Glasgow lodge at Hare’s home; Burke and Hare smother them and sell their bodies to Dr. Knox for ₤8 each. | |
| June 1828 | 36 | Burke and Nelly move two streets away, in to an apartment with Burke’s cousin and her husband, the Broggans. | |
| June 1828 | 36 | Margaret Haldane, daughter of Mary Haldane, suffocated at the Broggan’s by Burke; body sold to Dr. Knox for ₤8. | |
| September 1828 | 36 | Mrs Ostler, a washer, comes to the Broggan’s. Burke and Hare get her drunk, then suffocate her. Body sold to Dr. Knox for ₤8. | |
| Autumn, 1828 | 36 | Ann McDougal comes to visit Nelly at the Broggan’s; Hare and Burke get her drunk, then kill her. Body sold to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| October, 1828 | 36 | Jamie Wilson, who is mentally retarded, is invited to Hare’s home by Hare’s girlfriend, Maggie Laird; Wilson drinks some, and Burke and Hare suffocate him. They strip his body, taking a spoon and snuff box. Body sold to Dr. Knox for ₤10. | |
| 10-31-1828 | 36 | Mrs. Docherty lured back to Burke’s; killed after the Halloween party by Burke and Hare. The struggle is heard by many of Burke’s neighbors. | |
| 11-01-1828 | 36 | James Gray, neighbor of Burke, goes to the police after his wife discovers the corpse of Mrs. Docherty. Nelly and Burke are taken in for questioning. | |
| 11-02-1828 | 36 | Police discover the corpse of Mrs. Docherty in Dr. Knox’s basement. The body was identified by neighbors of Burke; Burke, Hare, Nelly and Maggie are charged with murder. | |
| 12-01-1828 | 36 | Hare and his wife Maggie offered immunity if Hare comes forward about Mrs. Docherty and any other of Burke’s murders. Burke was set for trial on two counts of murder. | |
| 12-24-1828 | 36 | Trial begins | |
| 12-25-1828 | 36 | Burke found guilty on majority vote (two members voted not guilty) and Nelly is found not guilty. Burke sentenced to hanging on January 28, 1829, and his body to then be dissected. | |
| 01-28-1829 | 37 | Burke is hanged publicly. His body is then dissected publicly, in accordance with a law from 1752. | |
| **General Information** | | | |
| Sex | | | Male |
| Race | | | White |
| Number of victims | | | 15 |
| Country where killing occurred | | | Scotland |
| States where killing occurred | | | N/A |
| Cities where killing occurred | | | Edinburgh |
| Type of killer | | | Gain killer |
| Height | | | 5’5” |
| **Childhood Information** | | | |
| Date of birth | | | 1792 |
| Location | | | Strabane, County Tyrone, Ireland |
| Birth order | | | Second (Youngest) |
| Number of siblings | | | One |
| XYY? | | | No |
| Raised by | | | Parents |
| Birth category | | | Youngest |
| Parent’s marital status | | | Married |
| Family event | | | N/A |
| Age of family event | | | N/A |
| Problems in school? | | | N/A |
| Teased while in school? | | | No information |
| Physically attractive? | | | Average |
| Physical defect? | | | No |

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| Speech defect? | No |
| Head injury? | None |
| Physically abused? | No |
| Psychologically abused? | No |
| Sexually abused? | No |
| Father’s occupation | Laborer |
| 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 | Basic education |
| Grades in school | N/A |
| IQ | N/A |
| Source of IQ information | N/A |
| **Work History** | |
| Served in the military? | Yes; 7 years |
| Branch | Army |
| 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 | Labor-oriented |
| Employment status during series | Cobbler, 1827 |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Heterosexual |
| Marital status | Married |
| Number of children | 2 |
| Lives with his children | No; left Ireland in 1818, never saw them again |
| Living with | Accomplice, Hare; Hare’s girlfriend, Maggie Laird; and girlfriend, Nelly McDougal |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture | No |
| Fire setting | No |
| Bed wetting | No |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? | No |
| Abused alcohol? | Yes |
| Been to a psychologist? | No |
| Time in forensic hospital? | No |
| Diagnosis | No |
| **Killer Criminal History** | |
| Committed previous crimes? | No |
| Spend time in jail? | No |
| Spend time in prison? | No |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 15 |
| Victim type | Lodgers, all different types |
| Killer age at start of series | 35 |

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| Date of first kill in series | November 29, 1827 |
| Date of final kill in series | October 31, 1828 |
| Gender of victims | Male and female |
| Race of victims | White |
| Age of victims | Ranging from 12 to 70’s |
| Type of victim | Lodgers, all different types |
| Method of killing | First killing – cushion; subsequent killings – suffocation by hand |
| Weapon | First killing – found at the scene; subsequent killings – hands |
| Was gun used? | No |
| Type | N/A |
| Did killer have a partner? | Yes |
| Name of partner | William Hare |
| Sex of partner | Male |
| Type of serial killer | Gain killer |
| How close did killer live? | In the same house |
| Location of first contact | Victim’s home, killer’s home |
| Location of killing | Victim’s home, killer’s home |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | Yes |
| 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? | 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 | Only in one murder – Jamie Wilson |
| Robbed victim or location | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| Moved, buried | No |
| Cut-op and disposed of | No |
| Moved, to home | Yes – home of Dr. Knox |
| Sentencing |  |
| Date killer arrested | November 2, 1828 |
| Date convicted | December 25, 1828 |
| Sentence | Death by hanging |
| Killer executed? | Yes |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | N/A |
| Name and state of prison | Tolbooth of Edinburgh; Edinburgh |

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| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | January 28, 1829 |
| **References**  Bailey, B. (2002.) *Burke and Hare: The year of the ghouls*. Edinburgh: Mainstream Publishing (Edinburgh) LTD.  Menzies, K. and Gunn, Robert M. The Resurrectionists & Burke and Hare. Retrieved March 19, 2008, from http://members.aol.com/\_ht\_a/skyelander/burkhare.html. | |