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| John and Lavinia Fisher | | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  *Rebecca A. Barteau*  *Katherine B. O’Keefe*  *Kelley E. Robinson*  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | | |
| 1791 | 0 | John Fisher is born to James and Esther Fisher. He is the fourth of four children. | | |
| 1793 | 0 | Lavinia is born in Charleston, South Carolina | | |
|  |  | Lavinia marries John Fisher | | |
|  |  | Lavinia and John operate a hotel, the Six Mile Wayfarer House, six miles north of Charleston, South Carolina. They are suspected of killing several of their boarders but were never charged with murder and research by Orr (2012) suggests that the Fishers did not kill anyone. | | |
| 02/18/1819 | 28, 27 | Arrested for assault on David Ross | | |
| 02/22/1819 | 28,27 | Colonel Nathanial Greene had John and Lavinia Fisher in custody | | |
| 03/23/1819 | 28,27 | Fisher brought up on writ of habeas corpus | | |
| 05/10/1819 | 28,27 | Indicted for assault with intent to murder and also common assault on David Ross | | |
| 05/27/1819 | 28,27 | The trial begins and both John and Lavinia plead not guilty | | |
| 05/28/1819 | 28,27 | John and Lavinia are found guilty | | |
| 06/02/1819 | 28,27 | Brought before judge for sentencing | | |
| 09/13/1918 | 28,27 | John escapes from jail. He created hole under window and lowered himself down with blankets. Because the blankets tore, Lavinia was not able to escape. | | |
| 09/16/1918 | 28,27 | John Fisher is caught and re-arrested | | |
| 01/17/1820 | 29,28 | John and Lavinia appeared before the constitutional court for sentencing and are condemned to be hanged on February 4, 1820. | | |
| 02/04/1820 | 29,28 | Granted a respite on executions until 2/18/1820 | | |
| 02/18/1820 | 29,28 | John and Lavinia are Executed by hanging in Charleston, South Carolina | | |
| **General Information** | | | | |
| Sex | | | Female/ Male | |

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| Race | White |
| Number of victims | 2 suspected, confessed to none |
| Country where killing occurred | United States |
| States where killing occurred | South Carolina |
| Cities where killing occurred | Charleston |
| Counties where killing occurred | Charleston |
| Type of killer | Not a serial killer |
| Height | Male- Tall, Female-short |
| **Childhood Information** | |
| Date of birth | 1793/1791 |
| Location | South Carolina |
| Birth order | John- 4th of 4 |
| Number of siblings | John-3 sisters |
| XYY? |  |
| Raised by | John- James Fisher and Esther Fisher |
| Birth category |  |
| Parent’s marital status | John- Married |
| Did serial killer spend time in an orphanage? | John- No |
| Did serial killer spend time in a foster home? | John- No |
| Was serial killer ever raised by a relative? | John- Yes, uncles George Fisher |
| Did serial killer ever live with adopted family? | John- No |
| Did serial killer ever live with a step-parent? | John-No |
| Family event | John- No |
| Age of family event | John-No |
| Problems in school? | N/A |
| Teased while in school? | N/A |
| Physically attractive? | John- Tall, slim, fair skin, dark hair; Lavinia- Beautiful |
| Physical defect? | Lavinia - Knocked Knees |
| Speech defect? | N/A |
| Head injury? | N/A |
| Physically abused? | N/A |
| Psychologically abused? | N/A |
| Sexually abused? | N/A |
| Father’s occupation | 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? | N/A |
| 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? | N/A |
| Worked in law enforcement? | N/A |
| Fired from jobs? | N/A |

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| Types of jobs worked | Inn Keeper |
| Employment status during series | Inn Keeper |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Heterosexual |
| Marital status | Married |
| Number of children | No children |
| Lives with his children | N/A |
| Living with | Spouse (Lavinia) |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture | No |
| Fire setting | No |
| Bed wetting | No |
| **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? | John- theft |
| Spent time in jail? | No |
| Spent time in prison? | No |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims (suspected of) | 2 |
| Number of victims (confessed to) | None |
| Number of victims (convicted of) | None |
| Victim type | Prostitute, drug dealer, family, neighbors, young women |
| Killer age at start of series | John- 29, Lavinia-28 |
| Killer age at end of series | John-29, Lavinia-28 |
| Date of first kill in series | N/A |
| Date of final kill in series | N/A |
| Gender of victims | N/A |
| Race of victims | N/A |
| Age of victims | N/A |
| Type of victim | N/A |
| Method of killing | Assault |
| Weapon | N/A |
| Was gun used? | No |
| Type | N/A |
| Did killer have a partner? | John and Lavinia were part of a the Six Mile Gang |
| Name of partner | William Heyward, Joseph Roberts, and James McElroy |
| Sex of partner | Male’s |
| Relationship of partner | Friends |
| How close did killer live? | Walking distance at the Six Mile Inn |
| Location of first contact | Killer’s Home |
| Location of killing | Killer’s home |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | No |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | Yes |
| Victim abducted or killed at contact? | Killed at contact |

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| Behavior During Crimes | |
| Rape? | N/A |
| Tortured victims? | N/A |
| Intentionally went out that day to kill? | N/A |
| Overkill? | N/A |
| Quick & efficient? | N/A |
| Used blindfold? | N/A |
| Bound the victims? | N/A |
| After Death Behavior | |
| Sex with the body? | N/A |
| Mutilated body? | N/A |
| Ate part of the body? | N/A |
| Drank victim’s blood? | N/A |
| Posed the body? | N/A |
| Took totem – body part | N/A |
| Took totem – personal item | N/A |
| Robbed victim or location | N/A |
| Disposal of Body | |
| Left at scene, no attempt to hide | N/A |
| Left at scene, hidden | N/a |
| Left at scene, buried | Yes |
| Moved, no attempt to hide | N/A |
| Moved, hidden | N/A |
| Moved, buried | No |
| Cut-op and disposed of | No |
| Burned body | No |
| Dumped body in lake, river, etc. | No |
| Moved, took home | No |
| Sentencing |  |
| Date killer arrested | 2/18/1819 |
| Date convicted | 1/18/1820 |
| Sentence | Death by Hanging |
| Killer executed? | Yes |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | No |
| Did serial killer confess? | No |
| Name and state of prison | Old City Jail, Charleston, SC. |
| Killer committed suicide? | No |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | 2/18/1820 |
| Cause of death | Executed by Hanging |
| **Victim 1** |  |
| Name | David Ross |
| Date killed | Not killed, assaulted |
| Date body was found | N/A |
| Gender | Male |
| Race | White |
| Age | N/A |
| How killed | N/A |
| State killed | N/A |
| City killed | N/A |
| County killed | N/A |
| Type of target | N/A |

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| Did killer confess to this murder? | No |
| Was killer convicted of this murder? | No |
| **Victim 2** | N/A |
| Name | N/A |
| Date killed | N/A |
| Date body was found | N/A |
| Gender | N/A |
| Race | N/A |
| Age | N/A |
| How killed | N/A |
| State killed | N/A |
| City killed | N/A |
| County killed | N/A |
| Type of target | N/A |
| Did killer confess to this murder? | No |
| Was killer convicted of this murder? | No |
| **References**  *Genealogy, Family Trees, and History Records*. (n.d). Retrieved from http://ancestory.com. Information discredited  Bell, M. (2007, October 18). *Lavinia Fisher*. Retrieved from http://www.findagrave.com/cgi- bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=22289637. Information discredited  *Famous female serial killers - Lavinia Fisher*. (n.d.). Retrieved from   http://www.femaleserialkillers.info/lavinia\_fisher.html. Information discredited  *Lavinia fisher - first female American serial killer*. (n.d.). Retrieved from   http://www.legendsofamerica.com/sc-laviniafisher.html. Information discredited  *McConnell Library Database.*  *Murderpedia- the encyclopedia of murderers*. (n.d). Retrieved from http://www.Murderpedia.org/ . Information discredited  Orr, Bruce (2012). *Six miles to Charleston: the true story of John and Lavinia Fisher*. Charleston, SC: The History Press | |