|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| *Kristen H. Gilbert* | | |  |
| Information researched and summarized by  Elizabeth Daly, Kanika Davis, Sarah DeHart, & Michael Palmadesso  Department of Psychology  Radford University  Radford, VA 24142-6946 | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Date** | **Age** | **Life Event** | |
| 11-13-1967 | 0 | Born in Fall River, Massachusetts as Kristen Heather Strickland | |
| 1974 | 7 | Younger sister Tara Morgan was born | |
| Early 80’s | -- | Family moved to Groton, MA | |
| Early 80’s | -- | Kristen showed signs of being a pathological liar, according to friends, neighbors, and father – often made the unfounded claim she was related to murderer Lizzie Borden | |
| 1984 | 16 | Graduated high school a year and a half early, with high honors | |
| 1984 | 16 | Enrolled in Bridgewater State College with a major in pre-med | |
| 1985 | 17 | Developed a pattern of verbal and physical abuse towards boyfriends and ex-boyfriends | |
| Summer, 86 | 19 | Met future husband Glenn Gilbert | |
| 6-87 | 20 | Transferred to Wachusett Community College, then to Greenfield Community College, to be closer to Glenn (both schools in Massachusetts) | |
| 1987 | 20 | Took a job as a home health aide with the Visiting Nurses Association of Franklin County. Used bathwater to scold a retarded child over 60% of his body. Was not prosecuted | |
| 1-88 | 21 | Eloped and Married Glenn Gilbert (became Kristen Gilbert) | |
| 2-88 | 21 | Chased her husband Glenn around the house with a butcher knife after an argument | |
| 1988 | 21 | Graduated from Greenfield Community College with a diploma in nursing | |
| 03-06-1989 | 22 | Became employed as a nurse at Leeds Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Massachusetts | |
| 1990 | 23 | A pattern began to emerge of an unusually large number of deaths in Ward C, during Gilbert’s work shift there. One doctor refused to let her treat anymore of his patients. | |
| 1990 | 23 | Kristen Gilbert was jokingly given the name “Angel of Death” by her co-workers, because so many people dropped dead while in her care | |
| 1991 | 24 | Gave birth to her first son, Brian | |
| 2-14-9? | ?? | Claimed she received a bomb threat at the hospital, and then coincidentally found a strange box after police found nothing. The entire ward was evacuated for hours | |
| 11-13-1993 | 26 | Gave birth to her second son, Raymond, on her own birthday | |
| 1994 | 26 | Met James Perrault, a security guard at the hospital, and began an affair with him | |
| 1995 | 27 | Marriage between Kristen and Glenn began to fall apart | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 08-21-1995 | 27 | Kills patient, Stanley Jagodowski (WM, 66) |
| 11-01-1995 | 27 | Perrault rented an apartment in Easthampton, to be closer to Gilbert |
| 11-95 | 27 | Gilbert moved out of her house to an apartment complex on Northampton Street |
| 12-08-1995 | 28 | Kills patient, Henry Hudon (WM, 35) |
| 12-20-1995 | 28 | Kristen Gilbert filed for divorce from Glenn Gilbert |
| 02-02-1996 | 28 | Kills patient, Kenny Cutting (WM, 41) |
| 02-17-1996 | 28 | Three nurses, John Wall, Kathy Rix, and Renee Walsh, came forward about concerns and accusations against Gilbert. Police investigation began on Gilbert |
| 02-18-1996 | 28 | Kills patient, Edward Skwira (WM, 68) |
| 07-10-1996 | 28 | Gilbert confessed to killing patients during a phone call she made to Perrault |
| 07-12-1996 | 28 | Perrault acquired a restraining order against Gilbert |
| 07-16-1996 | 28 | Perrault, summoned to a Grand Jury, testified against Gilbert |
| 08-15-1996 | 28 | Glenn Gilbert asked investigators to come to his house and search a pantry which had belonged to Kristen. Inside, investigators found “The Handbook of Poisoning” |
| 08-20-1996 | 28 | Gilbert was temporarily placed in a psychiatric ward in Arbour Hospital for the third time that month. |
| 09-15-1996 | 28 | Kristen appeared at Glenn Gilbert's house and attempted to attack him with car keys |
| 09-26-1996 | 28 | Gilbert called the Leeds VAMC hospital with a false bomb threat |
| 09-30-1996 | 28 | Court ordered Gilbert to be placed in Baystate Medical Center |
| 10-08-1996 | 28 | Gilbert was released from Baystate Medical Center and arrested |
| 10-15-1996 | 28 | Released from prison and ordered by court to live in Seataucket, Long Island, New York with her parents |
| 11-02-1996 | 28 | Indicted on felony charges for falsely phoning a bomb threat to a federal institution |
| 11-27-1997 | 30 | Last known victim Edward Skwira's body was exhumed to test for epinephrine |
| 01-07-1998 | 30 | Trial began for Gilbert’s false bomb threat |
| 01-27-1998 | 30 | Gilbert was found guilty of falsely phoning a bomb threat to a federal institution. She was thought to have phoned this threat to divert attention away from the murder investigation against her. She was sentenced to fifteen months at Danbury Federal Prison and treated for psychiatric problems. There she served her sentence while awaiting the start of her murder trial |
| 11-24-1998 | 31 | Kristen Gilbert was officially indicted for murder |
| 7-13-1998 | 31 | Victim Stanley Jagodowski's remains were exhumed to test for epinephrine |
| 02-15-1999 | 32 | Gilbert was moved from her cell in Danbury to Hamden County House of  Correction in Ludlow, MA. Gilbert remained there till the murder trial was finished |
| 11-2000 | 32 | Jury was chosen, consisting of nine women and three men to serve in Gilbert’s trial |
| 11-20-2000 | 33 | Trial began for Kristen Gilbert’s murders |
| 01-23-2001 | 33 | Glenn Gilbert testified against his ex-wife, and told the court that Kristen had confessed to the murders |
| 02-23-2001 | 33 | Deliberations for Government vs. Kristen Gilbert were underway. The case consisted of more than 70 witnesses and 200 pieces of evidence |
| 03-14-2001 | 33 | Gilbert was found guilty of three counts of first-degree murder, one count of second-degree murder, and two counts of attempted murder |
| 03-27-2001 | 33 | Jury sentenced Gilbert to 4 consecutive life terms without the possibility of parole, plus 20 years |
| 5-2001 | 33 | Gilbert was transferred from a federal prison for women in Framingham, MA, to a federal prison in Carswell, TX, where she has remained ever since |
| 07-25-2003 | 35 | Kristen Gilbert dropped her federal appeal for a new trial, due to a recent US Supreme Court ruling that would have allowed prosecutors to pursue the death penalty |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **General Information** | |
| Sex | Female |
| Race | White |
| Number of victims | 4 convictions, 2 convicted attempts, 40+ suspected |
| Country where killing occurred | United States |
| States where killing occurred | Massachusetts |
| Type of killer | Organized, Angel of Death – Thrill, Power |
| Height | ?? |
| **Childhood Information** | |
| Date of birth | November 13, 1967 |
| Location | Fall River, MA |
| Birth order | 1st of 2 |
| Number of siblings | 1 |
| XYY? | No |
| Raised by | Both parents |
| Birth category | Oldest |
| Parent’s marital status | Married |
| Family event | None reported |
| Age of family event | -- |
| Problems in school? | Vindictive and harassing to ex-boyfriends |
| Teased while in school? | No |
| Physically attractive? | Yes |
| Physical defect? | No |
| Speech defect? | No |
| Head injury? | None reported |
| Physically abused? | Claims her mother beat her |
| Psychologically abused? | Parents distant and unaffectionate |
| Sexually abused? | None reported |
| Father’s occupation | Coast Guard serviceman, Electronics engineer |
| Age of first sexual experience | ?? |
| Age when first had intercourse | ?? |
| Mother’s occupation | Substitute teacher |
| Father abused drugs/alcohol | None reported |
| Mother abused drugs/alcohol | Claims her mother abused alcohol |
| **Cognitive Ability** | |
| Highest grade in school | 12 |
| Highest degree | College diploma in nursing |
| Grades in school | Very good |
| IQ | High |
| **Work History** | |
| 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? | None reported |
| Types of jobs worked | Home health aide, nurse |
| Employment status during series | Employed as a nurse at Leeds Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Massachusetts |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Relationships** |  |
| Sexual preference | Hetero |
| Marital status | Married, then divorced |
| Number of children | 2 |
| Lives with her children | At start of series, then moved out |
| Living with | Husband Glenn Gilbert, then a separate apartment |
| **Triad** | |
| Animal torture | None reported |
| Fire setting | None reported |
| Bed wetting | None reported |
| **Killer Psychological Information** | |
| Abused drugs? | ?? |
| Abused alcohol? | ?? |
| Been to a psychologist? | Treated for psychiatric problems while in prison |
| Time in forensic hospital? | No |
| Diagnosis | Borderline Personality Disorder |
| **Killer Criminal History** | |
| Committed previous crimes? | Yes, false bomb threat called into a federal institution |
| Spend time in jail? | No |
| Spend time in prison? | Yes, served 15 months at Danbury Federal Prison |
| Killed prior to series? Age? | No |
| **Serial Killing** | |
| Number of victims | 4 convicted murders, 2 convicted attempts, 40+ suspected |
| Victim type | Hospitalized Veterans |
| Killer age at start of series | 23 |
| Gender of victims | Male |
| Race of victims | White |
| Age of victims | 35, 41, 69, 66 |
| Method of killing | Used epinephrine to induce massive heart attacks |
| Type of serial killer | Organized, Angel of Death – Thrill, Power |
| How close did killer live? | Within a short driving distance of Leeds VAMC |
| Killing occurred in home of victim? | No |
| Killing occurred in home of killer? | No |
| Weapon | Epinephrine obtained from the hospital stock and brought to the victims’ rooms |
| 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 | No |
| Robbed victim or location | Stole the epinephrine from the hospital at which she worked |
| Disposal of Body | |
| Left at scene, no attempt to hide | Yes, left in their hospital beds |
| Left at scene, hidden | No |
| Left at scene, buried | No |
| Moved, no attempt to hide | No |
| Moved, buried | No |
| Cut-up and disposed of | No |
| Moved, to home | No |
| Sentencing |  |
| Date killer arrested | July 11, 1996 |
| Date convicted | March 14, 2001 |
| Sentence | 4 consecutive life sentences without parole, plus 20 years |
| Killer executed? | No |
| Did killer plead NGRI? | No |
| Was the NGRI plea successful? | -- |
| Name and state of prison | Federal Medical Center in Carswell, TX |
| Killer committed suicide? | Attempted |
| Killer killed in prison? | No |
| Date of death | -- |

|  |
| --- |
| **References**  Cameron, J. (2001). Cost of Gilbert Trial $1.8 Million. (Online), April 20, 2005. *Springfield Union News*  Online. http://people.umass.edu/leg485/cost.htm  Discovery Channel. (2005). Poisonous women. (Online), April 20, 2005. Discovery Channel - CRIME.  http://www.discoverychannel.co.uk/poison/feature3.shtml  Donn, J. (2000). Patient Cried Out Before Dying, Witness Testifies. (Online), April 20, 2005. *South Coast*  *Today* Online. http://www.s-t.com/daily/11-00/11-22-00/a03sr019.htm  Lawyers Weekly. (2005). The 30 Most Memorable Cases of the Last 30 Years 24. Kristen Gilbert’s Capital Murder Trial. (Online), April 20, 2005. *Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly*: Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly at 30. http://www.masslaw.com/mlw30/case24.cfm  Phelps, W. (2003). *Perfect poison: A female serial killer’s deadly medicine*. New York: Kensington Publishing Corp.  Pyrek, K. M. (2005). Healthcare Serial Killers: Recognizing the Red Flags. (Online), April 20, 2005.  *Forensic Nurse*. http://www.forensicnursemag.com/articles/391feat1.html  Ramsland, K. (2005). Just for the fun of it. (Online), April 20, 2005. Angels of Death - Nurses, nurses who kill their patients.  http://www.crimelibrary.com/notorious\_murders/angels/female\_nurses/10.html?sect=9 |