

Ed Gein

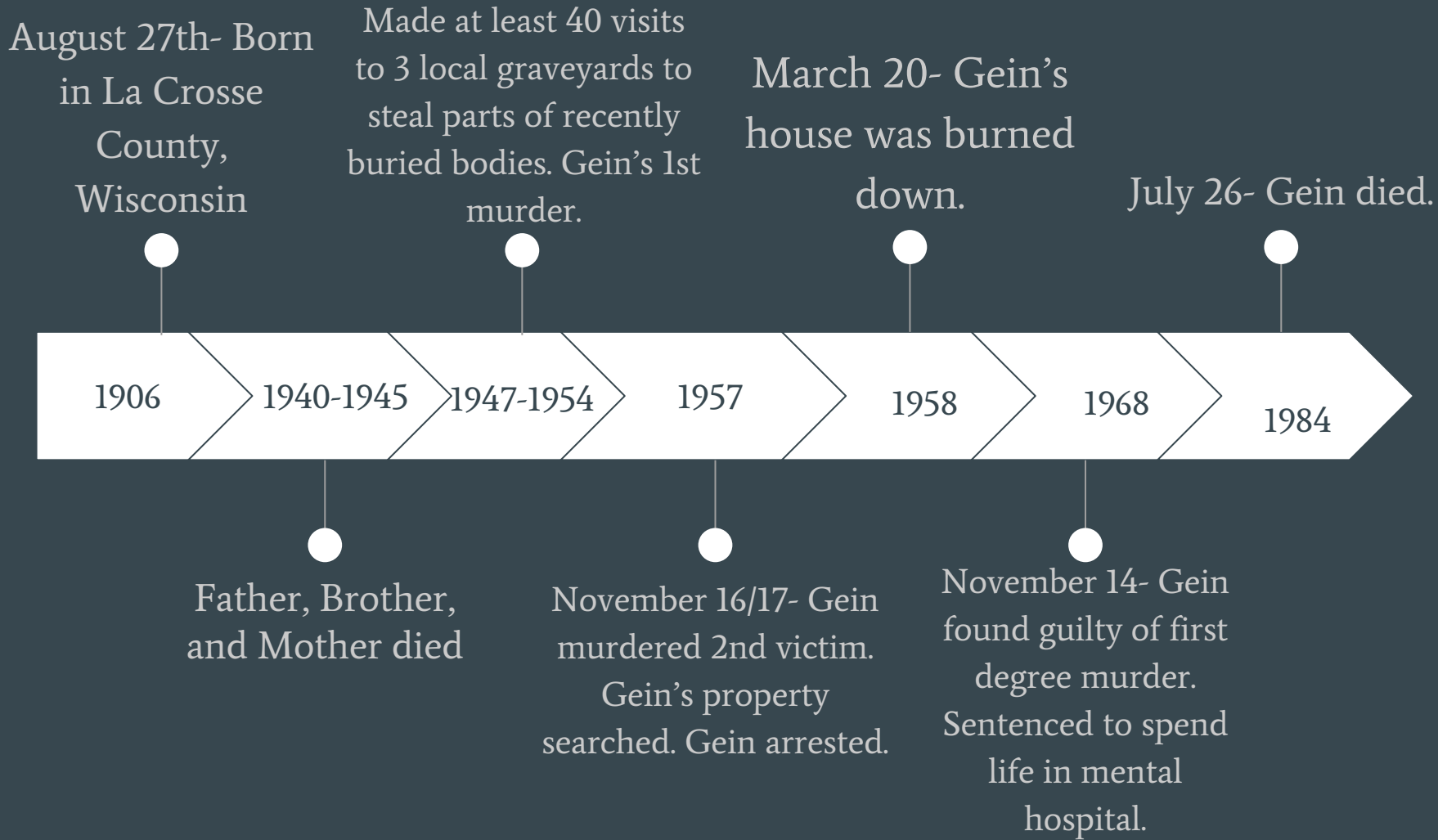
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The Butcher of Plainfield

The Man Behind the Murders



- Born Edward Theodore Gein in La Crosse County, Wisconsin
- Moved to Plainfield, a farming community
- Raised by an extremely religious mother (Lutheran)
- Psychological growth stunted by his mother's overpowering personality.
- Obsessed with his mother



The Motive

Before the crimes

Devastated by the loss of his mother, Gein became obsessed with texts about anatomy, cannibalism, sex change operations, and death.

Gein's obsession with his mother led to victimizing women around the same age as her.



Augusta Gein

"I had a compulsion to do it."

The Crimes

Grave Robbing



The Victims



Mary Hogan, 54



Bernice Worden, 58

The Getaway/Cover up

Grave Robberies

- Gein partnered with gravedigger Gus.
- Gus would dig up the bodies for Gein then carefully rebury them so that no suspicions would arise.
- Gein would take body parts back to his house and tell visitors they were artifacts from World War II.

Murders

- 1st murder was covered up well. Mary Hogan, was reported missing for 3 years until her body was found after searching Gein's house.
- 2nd murder was sloppy. No effort was made to cover up his second murder. Evidence at crime scene made it obvious that he was responsible for murdering Bernice Worden.

The Evidence



A trail of blood and a receipt made out to Gein for anti-freeze found at Bernice Worden's store was crucial evidence in the arrest and conviction of Ed Gein.

The Science Behind the Forensic Evidence



L. MUNCASTEL, PROPRIETOR
Auto Parts - Accessories
FORT WILLIAM, OHIO Jan 31 1957
M *West Coast Service*
ACCOUNTS DUE WHEN RENDERED
Jan 27 1-5536 Carl 11.98
Da
Carroll
Feb 9



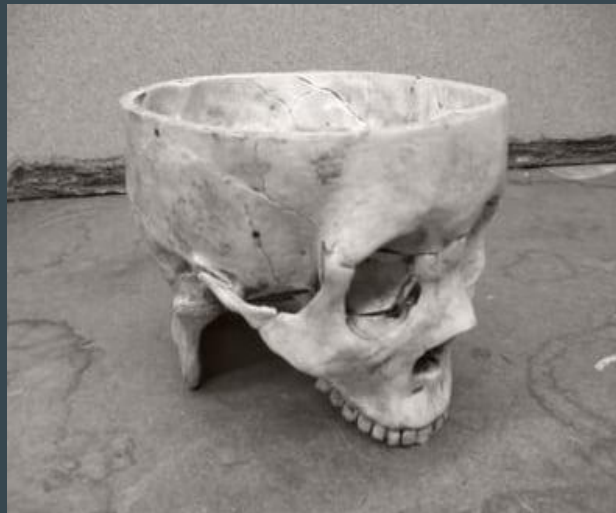
Preservation of Evidence

Successes: Artifacts/evidence photographed and documented.

Mistakes: All artifacts/evidence destroyed after initial examination. Did not investigate further into other possible murders.

Viewer Discretion is advised.

Next Slide is not for the faint of heart.



The Trial

The Prosecution

First Degree Murder

The prosecution of Gein claimed that he was guilty for the murder of Bernice Worden as well as Mary Hogan.

After pleading not guilty due to insanity, Gein was found “mentally incompetent” and “unfit to stand trial”. He was then sent to the Central State Hospital for the Criminally Insane.

In 1968, Gein was determined to be sane enough to stand trial.

The Defense

Not Guilty by Reason of Insanity

The Outcome

Gein was found guilty of first degree murder but since he was diagnosed as criminally insane, he was sentenced to spend his life in a mental hospital.



Forensic Science

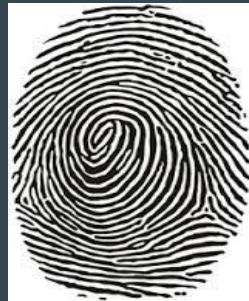
Then vs. Now

Technology in Forensic Science

Then

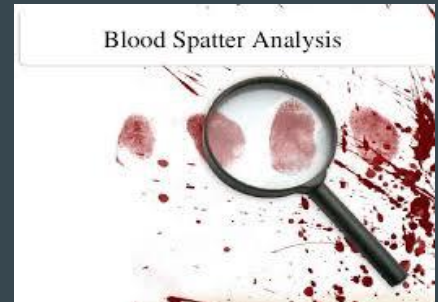
Blood Spatter Analysis was not an accredited way of defining evidence until 1955.

Gunshot residue detection technology was not invented/established until 1974.



Now

Blood spatter and gunshot residue can be efficiently analyzed to produce/create a profile for the suspect.



My Opinion

GUILTY

Thank you for your time & attention!