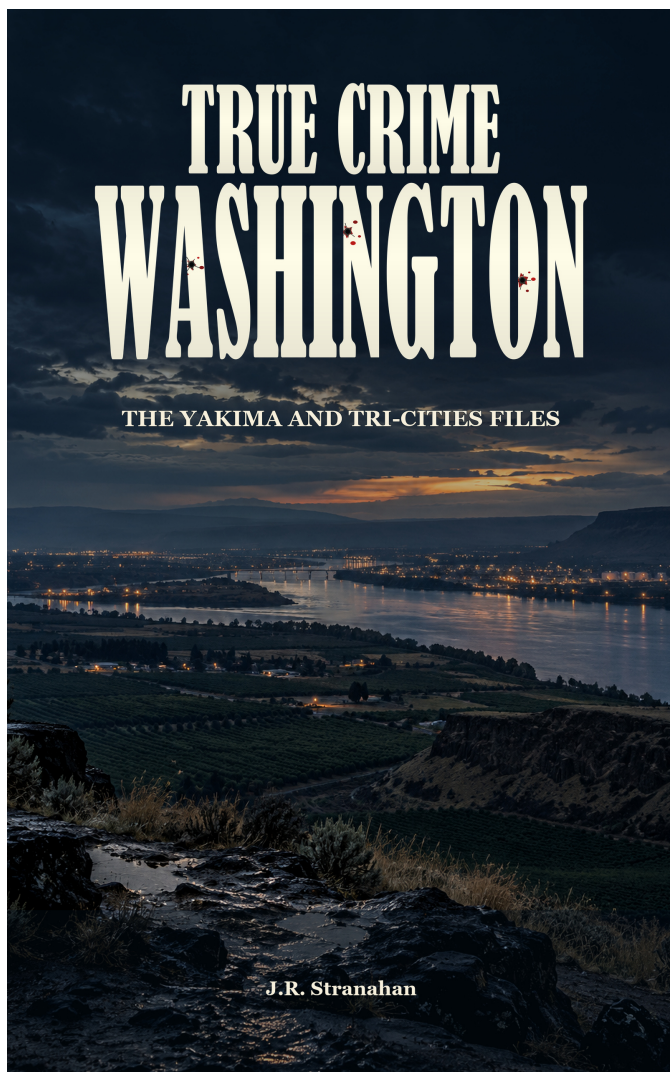




True Crime Washington: The Yakima and Tri-Cities Files

J.R. Stranahan

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The Kincaid Family Murders

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File 1: The Kincaid Family Murders

Place and period: Yakima County, 1982-1985

Present legal status: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments.

This file belongs first to Charla Kincaid, Debra Kruse, their children and relatives, and the Yakima County community. The public record is necessarily organized around investigation and adjudication, but a criminal case is not the measure of a life. The account uses the available record to describe what happened and how institutions responded, while avoiding invented biography where sources are silent.

The human scale

The killings occurred in Yakima County in June 1982. That fact is the fixed point for this portion of The Kincaid Family Murders. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. In Yakima County, later retellings sometimes collapse the investigation and the judgment into one continuous story. The public record does not. It preserves the order in which information appeared and the forum in which it was tested. The present legal posture is stated separately: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments.

For Charla Kincaid, Debra Kruse, their children and relatives, and the Yakima County community, the procedural vocabulary cannot be allowed to eclipse consequence. Kincaid and his wife were separated and discussed reconciliation before the attack. The detail belongs here because it changes the chronology, not because it supplies atmosphere.

The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. Keeping that boundary visible lets the reader understand both the institutional response and the loss that made the response necessary.

The 1982-1985 record from Yakima County contains a point that resists shorthand: He retrieved and loaded a shotgun after she refused to return. The present legal posture is equally specific: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. One proposition may be established while a neighboring proposition remains disputed. Treating them separately is not hesitation; it is accurate reporting.

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. Children were removed from the immediate danger by another adult. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Charla Kincaid, Debra Kruse, their children and relatives, and the Yakima County community privately thought.

Location matters in this file. Yakima County determined which agencies, courts, and communities carried the case, while 1982-1985 marks the span over which the public learned it. The appeal examined premeditation, mental capacity, instructions, and punishment. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The result is a chronology with identifiable custodians rather than a collection of free-floating claims.

This part of the account begins with a modest question: what did the cited source actually establish? Its answer is plain: The killings occurred in Yakima County in June 1982. The answer does not automatically

prove motive, identity, or every charge in the case. The account keeps the people harmed, the routines interrupted, and the community consequences in view. The remaining status is stated without embellishment: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments.

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The first account

By the time The Kincaid Family Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Children were removed from the immediate danger by another adult. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. An older headline cannot replace the current status: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments.

There is no need to enlarge the evidence to make this file serious. The appeal examined premeditation, mental capacity, instructions, and punishment. That proposition is consequential on its own. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The account therefore avoids borrowing certainty from unrelated defendants, other jurisdictions, or later cases that happen to resemble events in Yakima County.

The public record speaks most reliably when attribution travels with the claim. Here is the supported proposition: The killings occurred in Yakima County in June 1982. The source may recount an allegation, summarize trial proof, or state a judgment, and the language must match that function. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. That practice protects the accuracy of the case and the dignity of Charla Kincaid, Debra Kruse, their children and relatives, and the Yakima County community at the same time.

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Consider the detail in its proper scale: He retrieved and loaded a shotgun after she refused to return. It is neither disposable nor self-executing. Its force depends on where it sits among the other records from Yakima County. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. A measured account can explain that relationship without turning legal caution into a repetitive disclaimer.

The language of this chapter changes when the legal posture changes. Children were removed from the immediate danger by another adult. If the proposition came from an accusation, it remains attributed; if it survived adjudication, the judgment is named; if review altered the result, the alteration is carried forward. What witnesses reported at the time remains separate from what investigators later inferred. The controlling endpoint is recorded separately: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments.

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Building a chronology

The most useful context is the context that changes interpretation. Kincaid and his wife were separated and discussed reconciliation before the attack. In the Yakima County record, that detail helps explain why a particular investigative or legal step followed. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. General crime lore would add volume but not understanding, so it is left outside the account.

The end of a proceeding is not always the end of a case's public life. He retrieved and loaded a shotgun after she refused to return. Families, institutions, and communities continued to live with the result after 1982-1985. Dates and sequence preserve the difference between early uncertainty and later knowledge. The legal status is reported in its own terms: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments. It does not imply that every question or consequence disappeared.

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Physical evidence

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Witness evidence

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Digital and documentary trails

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Charging choices

By the time The Kincaid Family Murders reached public memory, sequence had become easy to lose. Children were removed from the immediate danger by another adult. Restoring sequence shows what investigators knew, what prosecutors alleged, what the defense contested, and what a court or jury ultimately resolved. An indictment states allegations, while a plea or verdict resolves only the counts and defendants actually adjudicated. An older headline cannot replace the current status: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments.

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The courtroom

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Appeal and review

A headline can make this episode appear settled in a sentence. The underlying record is narrower. The appeal examined premeditation, mental capacity, instructions, and punishment. From there, the inquiry moves through source, timing, corroboration, and legal consequence. Appellate review addresses claimed legal error on a fixed record rather than conducting a second trial. None of those steps authorizes invented dialogue or a claim about what Charla Kincaid, Debra Kruse, their children and relatives, and the Yakima County community privately thought.

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Status at manuscript lock

The controlling status for this account is: William Floyd Kincaid was convicted of noncapital aggravated first-degree murder and second-degree murder. The Washington Supreme Court affirmed the judgments. That sentence is deliberately narrower than a television summary. It does not merge co-defendants, convert accusations into findings, or imply that an appeal erased a human death. Later proceedings may change the legal posture, but they should not be projected backward onto the record described here.

Sources from the edition

The Kincaid Family Murders

- Washington Supreme Court, State v. Kincaid: <https://law.justia.com/cases/washington/supreme-court/1985/49298-1-1.html>

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