

## COLUMNS

### NOTABLE KIN

## New England in Hollywood, Part Four: The Ancestry of James Byron Dean (1931-1955)

by Richard E. Brenneman

Undoubtedly the three greatest icons of popular culture in the 1950s were Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, and James Dean. The ancestry of Charles Stanley Gifford, the Rhode Island native who Marilyn Monroe believed was her father, was treated by me in *NEXUS* 7(1990):64-68; and Elvis Presley's almost certain kinship to former President Jimmy Carter and U.S. Senator Jesse Helms was outlined by John Anderson Brayton in *NEXUS* 8 (1991):204-6.

The actor James Byron Dean (1931-1955) starred in only three movies — *East of Eden*, *Rebel Without a Cause*, and *Giant*. In the first two, and to some extent the third, he played adolescent rebels at a time in American life when "teenagers" were defining themselves as neither children nor adults, but something special, and specially tortured. Dean's roles, and his early death in an automobile accident, seemed to many of his generation to embody and extend their own life situation and existential trauma. A decade before the Beatles and the counter-culture of the 1960s, a half-dozen years before Kennedy and the New Frontier, and shortly before the emergence of rock music and Elvis Presley, Dean symbolized the quest for an authenticity beyond material comfort, the new American suburbs, or the prosperity built by post-war GIs. In his first two roles, Dean seeks fatherly advice but lacks a father he can admire; in *Giant* he lacks parents altogether. Needing to forgive a father who rejects him and a mother who has abandoned him, (*East of Eden*), compelled to construct a value system himself (*Rebel Without a Cause*), or forced to forge his own prosperity on a ranch where he's unwelcome (*Giant*), Dean finds some nurturance in love or friendship but seems finally alone — self-reliant perhaps, but damaged and vulnerable.

To many young people seeking to break away from their parents or construct an individualized but viable identity, Dean became almost a cult figure, and a myth was created somewhat tainted by the suggestion of danger or evil. But his co-workers often found him charming, and gossip columnist Hedda Hopper is said to have enjoyed "mothering" him. Despite the rebel aura, Dean was born and raised in the quiet environment of largely Quaker Fairmount, Indiana, an area redolent of the Hoosier life and mores chronicled by Booth Tarkington, James Whitcomb Riley, and Jessamyn West.

Dean's immediate ancestors were border-South families who migrated to Indiana from Kentucky (Dean, Wilson, Leisure), Pennsylvania or Ohio (Cree, Felton), Maryland/Delaware (Woollen, Oldfield), Virginia (Smithson), or North Carolina (Williams). Likely eighteenth-century immigrants included English Chamnesses, Scottish Tennells (and possibly Leisures), German Feltons and Eslers, and Irish Mansfields (and possibly Ryans). Since he was raised by his father's sister and her Winslow husband, he is sometimes thought to have *Mayflower* forebears, but no such descent has been found.

Quaker ancestry is derived through Dean's great-great-grandmother Betty (Williams) Smithson of Highland Co., Ohio, whose parents had moved there from Chatham Co., N.C. Betty's mother, Sarah (Hussey) Williams (1795-1834), who also migrated to Indiana, was a great-granddaughter of Christopher Hussey, a Nantucket native (b. 1706) who moved to New Castle Co., Delaware. Hussey's paternal grandparents were Stephen and Martha (Bunker) Hussey of Nantucket; great- or great-great-grandparents included Rev. Stephen Bachelder, the "ur-father" of Hampton, N.H., and Dea. John Hall, "President of the Court" Thomas Roberts, and Hatevil Nutter, all of Dover, N.H. Nantucket Husseys or Bunkers have been noted in previous columns as ancestors of U.S. Senator Samuel James Ervin, Jr., William Sidney Porter (O. Henry), Mrs. H.L. Hunt of Texas, and Mrs. Lucretia Coffin Mott (*NEXUS* 3[1986]: 26-27, 7 [1990]:157, 159), and of mystery writer Dame Agatha Christie (5[1988]:169-70, 6 [1989]:34). Rev. Stephen Bachelder was an ancestor of Presidents Nixon and Ford, serial killer Herman Webster Mudgett (*NEXUS* 5:21-22), and western novelist Louis Dearborn L'Amour (7:114-15). John Roberts and Abigail Nutter were great-great-great-grandparents of the poet John Greenleaf Whittier (6:205-6). Like many Americans from midwestern or border states, many descendants of Quakers, and many Southerners as well, James Dean was descended from both mid-Atlantic pioneers and Great Migration immigrants to New England.

The table below follows the standard format for this column: James Dean is #1, his parents #2-3, grandparents #4-7, great-grandparents #8-15, and great-great-grandparents (all at least partly identified) #16-31. Generations beyond V are separated, but the numbers of unknown forebears are omitted. Male ancestors have even numbers; female ancestors have odd ones. For the parents of any given figure, double the number; for his or her child, divide by two and drop halves.

### Generation I-V

1. James Byron Dean, b. Marion, Grant Co., Indiana 8 Feb. 1931, d. near Cholame, San Luis Obispo Co., Calif. 30 Sept. 1955
2. Winton Dean, b. Fairmount, Grant Co., Ind. 17 Jan. 1908, living in 1993; m. Grant Co. 26 July 1930

3. Mildred Marie Wilson, b. Grant Co. 15 Sept. 1911, d. Santa Monica, Los Angeles Co., Calif. 14 July 1940
4. Charles Desco Dean, b. Grant Co. 8 Dec. 1879, d. there 25 Jan. 1961; m. prob. there 28 Aug. 1900
5. Emma Woollen, b. Fairmount 9 May 1885, d. there 21 March 1961
6. John William Wilson, b. Liberty Twp., Grant Co. 21 Dec. 1878, d. Marion, Ind. 9 March 1966; m. Grant Co. 28 June 1902
7. Minnie Mary Slaughter, b. Madison Co., Ind. 23 Nov. 1883, d. Gas City, Ind. 22 Jan. 1929
8. Calvin P. Dean, b. Johnson Co., Ind. 31 Aug. 1849, d. Fairmount 7 Dec. 1918; m. Madison Co., Ind.
9. Arminta Alice Cree, b. Madison Co., Ind. 25 March 1854, d. Fairmount 28 Jan. 1922
10. Edward Woollen, b. prob. Van Buren Twp., Madison Co., Ind. 22 Sept. 1847, d. Grant Co. 6 Aug. 1935; m. Grant Co. 23 Feb. 1870
11. Adeline Smithson, b. Fairmount 21 March 1855, d. there 27 Aug. 1891
12. Levi D. Wilson, b. Wayne Co., Ind. 8 March 1843, d. Marion 16 July 1920; m. Grant Co. 16 Aug. 1866
13. Agnes Schmuck, b. Wayne Co. 28 May 1849, d. Marion 29 Feb. 1940
14. Isaac Slaughter, b. White Co., Ind. 31 March 1856, d. Marion 15 Nov. 1911, hit by a train
15. Sarah M. Leisure, b. Ind. Nov. 1867; m. (2) John W. Brown
16. John Dean, b. Ky. ca. Sept. 1810, d. Grant Co. — Feb. 1890, ae. 79:5:1
17. Serena Tennell, b. Ky. ca. 28 Sept. 1815 [calc.], d. Grant Co., Ind. 3 June 1890 ae. 74:8:6
18. [Hon.] Robert H. Cree, b. Clark Co., Ohio 24 Dec. 1820, d. Pipe Creek Twp., Madison Co., Ind. 24 Nov. 1876; m. ca. 1846
19. Sarah E. Marshall, b. Ohio ca. 1822, d. Madison Co., Ind. 9 Aug. 1871
20. William Robinson Woollen, b. Johnson's Cross Roads, Dorchester Co., Md. 5 Sept. 1818, d. Fairmount 31 Aug. 1911; m. (1) Milton, Ind. 24 May 1842
21. Julia Ann Oldfield, b. prob. Kent Co., Del. ca. 1818, d. Fairmount 13 Aug. 1886
22. David Smithson, b. Appomattox Courthouse, Va. 16 June 1800, d. Fairmount 13 June 1865; m. Wayne Co., Ind. 6 Oct. 1826
23. Betty Williams, b. Highland Co., Ohio 23 Feb. 1813, d. Fairmount 6 March 1895
24. Alfred R. Wilson, b. Bourbon Co., Ky. 29 Nov. 1815, bur. Hackleman, Ind. 13 July 1895; m. Wayne Co., Ind. 9 Aug. 1837
25. Eliza Felton, b. Ohio 7 April 1815
26. Eli Schmuck, b. Penn. ca. 1821, bur. Fairmount 15 June 1902; m. Wayne Co., Ind. 11 Sept. 1845
27. Margaret Felton, b. Ohio ca. 29 Dec. 1824 [calc.], d. Grant Co., Ind. 12 Nov. 1882, ae. 57:10:18 (sister of #25)
28. Jeremiah Slaughter, b. Ohio ca. 1814-15, living White Co., Ind. 1860
29. Sarah —, b. Va. ca. 1813-14
30. George W. Leisure, b. Rush Co., Ind. ca. 1841, living Van Buren Twp., Madison Co., Ind. 1880

31. Mary E. Esler, b. Ky. Nov. 1838, d. 2114 W. 4th St., Marion, Ind. 1 Jan. 1903, in a kitchen fire (father's name "Eastes" on d. cert.)

## Generation VI

32. Thomas Dean, b. ca. 1770, res. Bourbon Co., Ky.; d. near Nicholasville, Jessamine Co., Ky. ca. 1848, ae. 78
34. Joseph Tennell[1], b. ca. 1784, d. ca. 1846; m. Madison Co., Ky. 10 Oct. 1814
35. Lucy Isbell, b. ca. 1790, d. ca. 1835
36. John Cree, b. Penn. ca. 1794, d. Monroe, Madison Co., Ind. ca. 1868; m. Ohio
37. Elizabeth Smith, b. Va. ca. 1797, d. Madison Co., Ind. Dec. 1888
40. Jacob Woollen, b. Dorchester Co., Md. ca. 1794, d. there ca. 1835; m. there 21 March 1816
41. Nancy Corkran, b. ca. 1794, d. Dorchester Co. ca. 1835
42. William Oldfield, b. Caroline Co., Md. ca. 1790, d. Monroe Twp., Madison Co., Ind. 20 Aug. 1870; m. (1) Caroline Co., Md. 13 Nov. 1812
43. Rebecca Cahall, b. Md. ca. 1790, d. Kent Co., Del. ca. 1820
46. Isaac Williams, b. Chatham Co., N.C. 27 Nov. 1784, d. Westfield, Hamilton Co., Ind. post 1860; m. (1) Highland Co., Ohio 9 April 1812
47. Sarah Hussey, b. Chatham Co., N.C. 19 Feb. 1795, d. Wayne Co., Ind. 1 Oct. 1834
48. Jacob Wilson, b. Va. or Md., res. Bourbon Co., Ky., d. Wayne Co., Ind. post 1840; m. Bourbon Co. 11 April 1806 [IGI]
49. Mary/Polly Hughes, b. Va., d. Wayne Co., Ind.
50. William Felton, b. "lowlands of Germany" or Penn. ca. 1770, d. Wayne Co., Ind. ca. 1857; m. "at the foot of the Shade Mountains," Penn. ca. 1792
51. Margaret Mansfield, b. Penn. ca. 1774, d. Wayne Co., Ind. ca. 1854
- 54-55. *same as #s 50-51*
60. Thomas Jefferson Leisure, b. Garrard Co., Ky. 5 March 1811, d. Rush Co., Ind. 3 May 1848; m. Garrard Co. 19 May 1832
61. Susan A. House, b. Lexington, Ky. 4 March 1811, d. Rush Co., Ind. ca. 1891 (or Grant Co. 17 Aug. 1897); m. (2) James Trowbridge
62. John Esler, b. Germany
63. —, b. Kentucky (1900 census)

## Generation VII

68. George Tennell, b. prob. Scotland ca. 1755, d. Lexington, Ky. 22 Jan. 1831; Sgt. in Revolution from Va.
69. Hannah [Tennell?], b. ca. 1754
80. William Woollen, b. Dorchester Co., Md. ca. 1750, d. there — Aug. 1831
81. Mary Whitely
82. Henry Oldfield, b. Murderkill Hundred, Kent Co., Del. 1 Feb. 1766, d. there ante 1790; m. ante 1785
85. Lydia Burton
86. James Cahall, Jr.
87. "Ellender" [Eleanor] —

92. Owen Williams, b. Loudoun Co., Va. 20 April 1744, d. Highland Co., Ohio post 1805; m. Chatham Co., N.C. 15 March 1770
93. Katherine Crawford, b. 17 April 1750, d. Chatham Co., N.C. 28 Jan. 1786
94. Christopher Hussey, b. Chatham Co., N.C. 19 Nov. 1770, d. Lee Co., Iowa 21 Jan. 1851; m. ca. 1790
95. Sarah Brown, d. ca. 1813
100. — Felton, b. Germany ca. 1725-30, d. Penn. post 1776
101. —, d. Penn. post 1776
102. John Mansfield, b. prob. Co. Tyrone, Ireland ca. 1740, d. Penn.
103. Margaret —, of Co. Tyrone, Ireland
120. Nathan Leisure, b. Frederick Co., Md. 3 March 1777, d. Posey Twp., Rush Co., Ind. 23 March 1865; m. ca. 1804
121. Sarah Irvin, b. Augusta Co., Va. 31 May 1784, d. Posey 27 Dec. 1876
122. (poss.) Matthias House, Jr., b. Va. ca. 1767, d. Garrard Co., Ky. ca. 1812; m. Culpeper Co., Va. 10 Jan. 1792
123. (poss.) Susanna Floyd

### Generation VIII

160. John Woollen, b. Dorchester Co., Md. ca. 1720, d. there ante 31 Oct. 1765; m. ante 1744
161. Elizabeth —
162. Solomon Whitely, of Dorchester Co., Md.
163. Hope —
168. John Oldfield, b. Dorchester Co., Md. ca. 1735, d. there between 20 Dec. 1770 and 13 Aug. 1771
169. Jane —, prob. living Dorchester Co., Md. 1780
170. John Burton, d. Kent Co., Del. ca. 1793-7
171. Nancy/Ann Green
172. James Cahall, Sr.
184. William Williams, b. Gwynedd, Montgomery Co., Penn. ca. 1719, d. Chatham Co., N.C. 11 Sept. 1773; m. ca. 1739
185. Margaret —, b. ca. 1721; m. (2) Anthony Chamness (#378)
186. James Crawford, d. Chatham Co., N.C. 25 March 1787
187. Eva —
188. Stephen Hussey, b. York Co., Penn. 10 July 1739, d. Clinton Co. Ohio ca. 1821; m. Orange Co., N.C. 25, 9 mo. 1762
189. Martha Chamness, b. Frederick Co., Md. 11, 11 mo. 1746
240. Joseph Leisure, b. poss. Scotland ca. 1730, d. Garrard Co., Ky. ante 14 Oct. 1835; said to have lived to age 105
241. Rachel Ryan, b. poss. Ireland ante 1765, d. Garrard Co. ante 1817
242. Joseph Irvin, said to have lived to age 80
244. (poss.) Matthias House, Sr. [IGI]
245. (poss.) Maria Margarete Jaekel [IGI]

### Generation IX

320. John Woollen, b. Taylor's Island, Md. ca. 1699, d. there ante 13 March 1751
321. Lettice Cummins, d. Dorchester Co. ca. 1762

336. Henry Oldfield, b. Talbot Co., Md. ca. 1700, d. there between 3 March 1744/5 and 29 March 1745; m. there 15 July 1717
337. Sarah Barber
340. Benjamin Burton, b. Del. 28 Jan. 1718, d. Kent Co., Del. 5 Nov. 1783
341. Ann —
342. — Green
343. Ann/Nancy —, d. Kent Co., Del. ca. 1797
368. Richard Williams, b. ca. 1699; m. Gwynedd, Penn. 10 July 1717
369. Margaret Eaton
376. Christopher Hussey, b. Nantucket, Mass. 10th 2 mo. 1706, later of York Co., Penn., and Randolph Co., N.C.; m. New Castle Co., Del. 5 Sept. 1736
377. Ann Garretson, b. New Castle Co., Del. ca. 1706, d. Alamance Co., N.C. 9 Jan. 1801
378. Anthony Chamness, b. Smithfield, Co. Middlesex, England 2mo. 1713, d. N.C. 20 Sept. 1777; m. Baltimore Co., Md. 24 Nov. 1735; m. (2) Mrs. Margaret (—) Williams (#185)
379. Sarah Cole, b. Baltimore Co., Md. 1 July 1718, d. N.C. ca. 1773

### Generation X

640. Edmond/Edward Woollen, b. England ca. 1642, d. Dorchester Co., Md. ante 17 May 1699; m. ca. 1696
641. Jane Pollard, b. Taylor's Island, Md. ca. 1680, d. there ante 13 Jan. 1731
672. John Oldfield, of Md.
738. Humphrey Eaton, prob. of Penn.
752. Batchelor Hussey, b. Nantucket 18 Feb. 1684/5, rem. to Maine June 1737; m. Nantucket 11 Oct. 1704
753. Abigail Hall, b. Piscataqua, N.H. 24 Feb. 1679/80
754. Casparius Garretson [van der Hoff], b. ca. 1676, d. New Castle Co., Del. post 2, 5 mo. 1726
755. Ann Cox
756. John Chamness, of London
757. Ann —
758. Joseph Cole, d. Baltimore Co., Md. between 22 Jan. and 13 March 1720
759. Susannah —, d. post 1720

### Generation XI

1282. Richard Pollard, d. Dorchester Co., Md. between 15 Oct. and 18 Nov. 1702
1283. Mary Billingsley, d. Dorchester Co., Md. post 1715; m. (2) — Howell
1344. Christopher Oldfield, b. England (of Ratcliffe Monthly Meeting, near London), d. Md. post 1679
1504. Stephen Hussey, b. Lynn, Mass. ca. 1630, d. Nantucket 2, 2nd mo. 1718; m. there 8 Oct. 1676
1505. Martha Bunker, d. Nantucket 21st, 9 mo. 1744, ae. 87:10
1506. John Hall, Jr., d. Dover, N.H. ante 24 Oct. 1698; m. there 8 Nov. 1671
1507. Abigail Roberts, m. (2) Thomas Downes
1508. Jan Garretson van der Hoff, d. New Castle Co., Del. ca. 1694

1516. John Cole, b. ca. 1669, d. Baltimore Co. ca. 1746  
 117. Johanna Garrett, b. ca. 1675, d. Baltimore Co. ca. 1715

## Generation XII

2564. Edward Pollard of Talbot Co., Md.  
 2565. Martha —  
 2566. Thomas Billingsley, b. prob. Co. Salop, England ca. 1618, d. Dorchester Co., Md. between 26 March 1672 and 12 March 1673. The ancestry outlined in the 1936 Billingsley genealogy, cited below, although possible, requires further confirmation.  
 2567. Elizabeth —, d. Calvert Co., Md. between 23 Feb. 1715 and 7 June 1720; m. (2) Samuel Bourne  
 3008. Christopher Hussey, b. Dorking, Surrey, bp. there 18 Feb. 1598/9, d. Hampton, N.H. 8 March 1685/6  
 3009. Theodate Bachelder, b. prob. Wherwell, Hants., d. Hampton 8 mo. 1649  
 3010. George Bunker, b. England ca. 1620, d. Topsfield, Mass. 26 May 1658  
 3011. Jane — (perhaps Godfrey), d. Nantucket 31 Oct. 1662, m. (2) Richard Swain  
 3012. Dea. John Hall, b. England ca. 1617, d. Dover, N.H. ante 4 May 1692  
 3013. Elizabeth —, d. post 23 June 1662  
 3014. John Roberts, b. England ca. 1629, d. Dover, N.H. 21 Jan. 1694/5  
 3015. Abigail Nutter, d. post 1674  
 3034. Dennis Garrett, d. Baltimore Co., Md. (following attempted murder) 2 Sept. 1691  
 3035. Barbara (poss. Stone), d. Baltimore Co. between 19 Jan. 1732 and 6 Aug. 1733; m. (2) John Broad. On 1 March 1693 Thomas Stone of Baltimore Co. conveyed to her and her heirs land purchased by him and Dennis Garrett 2 March 1685

## Generation XIII

6016. John Hussey; m. Dorking, Surrey 5 Dec. 1593  
 6017. Marie (Mary) Woods  
 6018. [Rev.] Stephen Bachelder, b. ca. 1561, B.A. St. John's College, Oxford 1586/7, vicar at Wherwell, Hants., 1587-1605; of Lynn, Ipswich, Yarmouth, Newbury, Mass. and Hampton and Portsmouth, N.H.; returned to England, bur. Allhallows Staining, London 31 Oct. 1656; m. (1) prob. a sister of Rev. John Bate, vicar at Wherwell  
 6019. Thomas Roberts, b. England ca. 1600, member of the Fishmongers Co. of London, "President of the Court" (thus his sometime designation "Gov."), d. Dover, N.H. between 27 Sept. 1673 and 30 June 1674  
 6028. Rebecca —, d. ante 1673  
 6029. [Elder] Hatevil Nutter, b. prob. England ca. 1598-1603, d. Dover between 29 Dec. 1674 and 30 June 1675  
 6030. (prob.) Ann — (said to be Ayers), d. post 29 Dec. 1674

## SOURCES:

**Biographies:** David Dalton, *James Dean, Mutant King* (1983), although flawed, remains the best. Family data were also gleaned from Randall Riese, *The Unabridged James [Dean]: His Life and Legacy from A to Z* (1991).

**Sources for Dean's paternal non-New England ancestry:** *Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History*, Fall 1989, pp. 7-8; Grant Co. death records of #s 4, 8, and 9, and marriage records for #s 2-3, 10-11; obituaries for #s 4-5 (Marion, Ind. *Chronicle*, 29 Jan. and 21 Nov. 1961) and g.s. of #s 16-17; R.L. Whitson, *Centennial History of Grant County, Indiana*, vol. 2 (1914), pp. 1208-10 (Calvin Dean); A.W. Burns, *Record of Marriages of Madison County, Kentucky, 1785-1851* (1936), p. 36, A.W.B. Bell, *Record of Abstracts, Pension Papers: Soldiers of the Revolutionary War, War of 1812 and Indiana Wars Who Settled in the County of Nelson, State of Kentucky* (1934), p. 9 and *Lineage Book, NSDAR*, vol. 91 (1927), p. 272 (Tennell); Samuel Harden of Anderson, Indiana, *The Pioneer* (1895), pp. 169-70 (Cree); E.A. Woolen, *Woolen/Woolen Family Biographical and Historical Records and Genealogy of Edmond/Edward Woolen of Dorchester County, Maryland and Richard Woolen of Maryland* (1984), *passim*, as extracted by Marsha Buck, and E.M. Baldwin, *The Making of a Township [Fairmount, Ind.]* (1917), pp. 121-22 (William R. Woolen); Alexander Davis, *The Billingsley Family (Billingsly-Billingslea) in America* (1936), pp. 7-10, 16-20; Edna M. Oldfield Whitson, *The Genealogy of an American* (n.d., at Indiana State Library) [Oldfield]; Marvin Kennedy, "Smithson Pedigree" (tss., n.d.), pp. 1-7; M.McC. Bercich and Ethel McCorkindale, *The Family History of John and Mary Williams, Quaker Pioneers of Wayne Co., Indiana* (1963), pp. 6-8, 10; R.F. Hussey, L.H. Griffin and G.G. Hubbell, *A Branch of the Hussey Family in America* (1964), pp. 8-23; W.W. Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, vol. 1 (1936), pp. 400, 429-30, 844-45, T.W. Marshall, vol. 6 (1950), p. 33 and Willard Heiss, vol. 7 (*Abstracts of the Records of the Society of Friends in Indiana, Part Six [1975]*), p. 350 (Oldfield, Williams, Hussey); L.A.V. Leffler, *A Genealogy of the Vale and Garretson Descendants* (1913), p. 126; Zimri Hansson, *History and Genealogy of the American Descendants of John and Ann Chamness of London, England* (1922), pp. 5-9, 102; and R.W. Barnes, *Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759* (1989), pp. 120-21, 243, 614-15 (Cole, Garrett, Stone). Also used, for both Dean's paternal and maternal immediate forebears, were many Indiana census entries, 1850-1920, plus some IGI vital data later confirmed by other sources.

**Sources for Dean's New England ancestry:** Hussey, Griffin, and Hubbell, *op. cit.*; Sybil Noyes, C.T. Libby, and W.G. Davis, *Gen. Dict. of Maine and New Hampshire* (1928-39, repr. 1972), pp. 364-5, 81-82, 299, 589, 516 (Hussey, Bachelder, Hall, Roberts, Nutter); E.C. Moran, Jr., *Bunker Genealogy*, vol. 2 (1965), p. 25; *New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 8(1991):14-17 (Bachelder); C.A.E. Nicely, *Hansen Relatives* (1977), pp. 60-65 (Roberts, Nutter). See also *Nantucket VRs*, 2:161, 163, 187, 4:62, 80, 5:68, 368, 373; *Hampton, N.H., VRs*, 1:9, 557 (Hussey, Bunker).

**Sources for Dean's maternal ancestry:** Calif. death record of #3, Grant Co. death records of #s 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 17, 26 and 31, and marriage records of #s 6-7, 12-13 and 15 (to John W. Brown); obituaries or funeral notices in Marion, Ind., newspapers for #s 6 and 7 (*Chronicle*, 10 March 1966 and 23 Jan. 1929), 12 (*Chronicle* 16 and 19 July, *Lender-Tribune* 20 July 1920),

## A Change in the Hussey Descent of James Byron Dean

by Gary Boyd Roberts

from data collected by Constance J. Wilson

In NEXUS 10(1993):28-32 Richard E. Brenneman presented an ancestor table of actor James Byron Dean (1931-1955). Dean's New England descents are derived through Christopher Hussey, later of York Co., Penn. and Randolph Co., N.C., who married in New Castle Co., Del. 5 Sept. 1736 Ann Garretson. For Christopher's parentage and agnate ancestry Mr. Brenneman depended on R.F. Hussey, L.H. Griffin, and G.G. Hubbell, *A Branch of the Hussey Family in America* (1964), pp. 8-23. As brought to the editors' attention by member and "Come Home" participant Constance J. Wilson of El Cerrito, California, this Christopher Hussey was not the Nantucket native born 10th, 2 mo. 1706, son of Batchelor and Abigail (Hall), but was instead born in New Castle Co., Del. ca. 1716, a son of two ancestors of President Richard Milhous Nixon, John Hussey, Jr. and Ann Inskeep. Christopher's wife Ann Garretson was born ca. 1719, not 1706.

This new conclusion is based on four sources. The real estate of Batchelor Hussey, late of Biddeford, was assigned at the probate court of York Co., Me. 9 July 1761 to surviving sons Stephen, Ebenezer, Paul and Sylvanus, provided money be paid to heirs of their deceased siblings — John, Mary Swain and Jedidah Coffin — and to a third sister, Huldah Barney. Probably Batchelor's son Christopher (b. 1706) died young or unmarried. Dean's ancestor of the same name left a will in Guilford Co. dated 1, 4 mo. 1773.

John Hussey of Christiana Creek, New Castle Co., Del. left a will dated 28 Aug. 1729 which mentions wife Anne, sons Stephen, Nathan, Christopher and John, and daughters Mary Houstown, Anna, Theodate and Content. Nathan was to receive land adjoining that of a deceased Christopher Hussey, brother of the elder John. The younger Christopher, John's son, was to receive £40 at age 21. Garret Garretson was called "my beloved brother."

The third source consists of compiled notes of Gilbert Cope, searched on film at the Historical Society of York County, Pennsylvania (the Gilbert Cope manuscripts are at the Pennsylvania Historical Society in Philadelphia). An undated chart therein includes Christopher, husband of Ann Garretson, among the children of John and Ann (Inskeep) Hussey. Also among abstracts in the Cope papers is a certificate of removal (to Sadsbury, Lancaster Co., Penn. monthly meeting) granted by the Newark, N.J. monthly meeting 1, 2 mo. 1738 to John and Ann Day, Nathan and Ann Hussey, Christopher and Ann Hussey, and John and Content Garretson. Nathan and Christopher Hussey and their sisters Ann Day and Content Garretson were four of the children of John and Ann (Inskeep) Hussey.

John and Batchelor Hussey, fathers of the two Christophers in question, were first cousins, grandsons of Christopher Hussey (1598/9-1685/6) and Theodate Batchelder (d. 1649), who remain #s 3008-9, Gen. XII, in the Dean AT. Otherwise, however, Dean's New England ancestry changes. In particular, he loses the Bunker, Hall, Roberts

and Nutter lines, and thus the kinships to Dame Agatha Christie, Lucretia (Coffin) Mott, and John Greenleaf Whittier. Connections remain via Husseys to U.S. Senator Samuel James Ervin, Jr., William Sydney Porter (O. Henry) and Mrs. H.L. Hunt, and via Batchelders to Presidents Nixon and Ford, serial killer Herman Webster Mudgett, and novelist Louis Dearborn L'Amour (NEXUS 10:28). As suggested below, Isaac Perkins (Jr.) of Hampton, N.H. is almost certainly a first cousin of John Perkins of Ipswich; the forthcoming "first" edition of *Ancestors of American Presidents* will chart the descent of Presidents Fillmore, Coolidge, F.D. Roosevelt and Nixon from the Perkins family of Hillmorton, Warwickshire. Other notable descendants of John or Isaac Perkins treated in previous "Notable Kin" columns (the entire Perkins descent, however, is not always outlined) include actors Humphrey Bogart, Anthony Perkins and Montgomery Clift (NEXUS 3 [1986]: 178-80, 8[1991]: 69; 10[1993]:111-12, 114), philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson (6[1989]: 109-11), and genealogist Walter Goodwin Davis (9 [1992]: 110-11). Various other John Perkins descendants are treated in G.B. Roberts and W.A. Reitwiesner, *American Ancestors and Cousins, of The Princess of Wales* (1984).

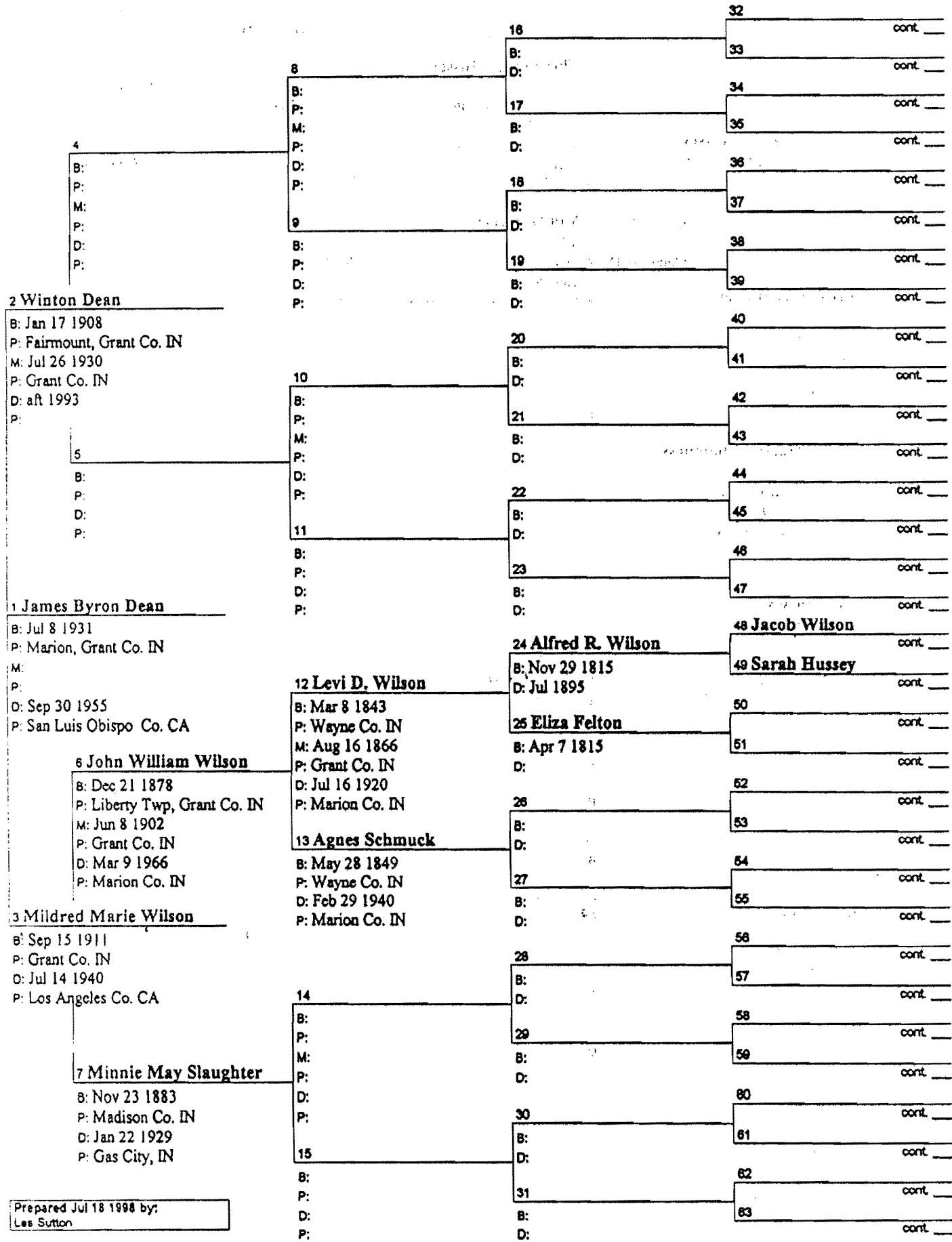
Outlined below are pertinent new data covering this revised section of Dean's ancestry. Generations are not indicated, but numbers follow the original AT format.

- 376. Christopher Hussey, b. ca. 1716, New Castle Co., Del., will dated Guilford Co., N.C. 1, 4 mo. 1773; m. Newark, N.J. Monthly Meeting between 4, 9 mo. and 4, 10 mo. 1736
- 377. Ann Garretson, b. New Castle Co., Del. ca. 1719
- 752. John Hussey, Jr., b. Hampton, N.H. 18 Jan. 1676, will dated Christiana Creek, New Castle Co., Del. 28 Aug. 1729; m. (2) Newark, N.J. Montly Meeting post 2, 3 mo. 1703. For his N.H. parents and grandparents see Sybil Noyes, C.T. Libby and W.G. Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (1928-39, repr. 1972), pp. 364, 541-42
- 753. Ann Inskeep, b. ca. 1679, prob. Fulford, Staffordshire. #s 752-53 are #s 424-25 in R.M. Bell, *The Ancestry of Richard Milhous Nixon* (1972, rev. 1976), p. 59, wherein their son Christopher is likewise said to marry Ann Garretson.
- 1504. John Hussey, bp. Lynn, Mass. last day, last mo. 1635, will dated New Castle Co., Del. 8 May 1707; m. Hampton, N.H. 1 Sept. 1659
- 1505. Rebecca Perkins
- 1506. John Inskeep, of Fulford, Staffordshire, acc. R.M. Bell.
- 1507. —
- 3008-3009, 6016-6019 as per NEXUS 10:31.
- 3010. Isaac Perkins (Jr.), very prob. bp. 26 Jan. 1611/2, Hillmorton, Warwickshire, d. Hampton, N.H. Nov. 1685
- 3011. Susanna — (not Wyeth), d. New Castle Co., Del. ca. 1699
- 6020. Isaac Perkins, bp. Hillmorton 20 Dec. 1571, prob. d. Ipswich, Mass. ante 15 June 1639, bro. of Henry Perkins of Hillmorton, father (by Elizabeth Sawbridge) of John Perkins (1583-1654) of Ipswich, Mass., husband of Judith Gater. Kinship between the Hampton and Ipswich Perkinses is strongly suggested by *The Second Box* 10:1 (March 1989):7, 10:6 (Feb. 1990):10, citing W.G. Davis, *Ancestry of Dudley Wildes* (1959), pp. 81-90. Isaac m. (2) post 22 June 1603
- 6021. Alice —, living 15 June 1639

# Pedigree Chart

Chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

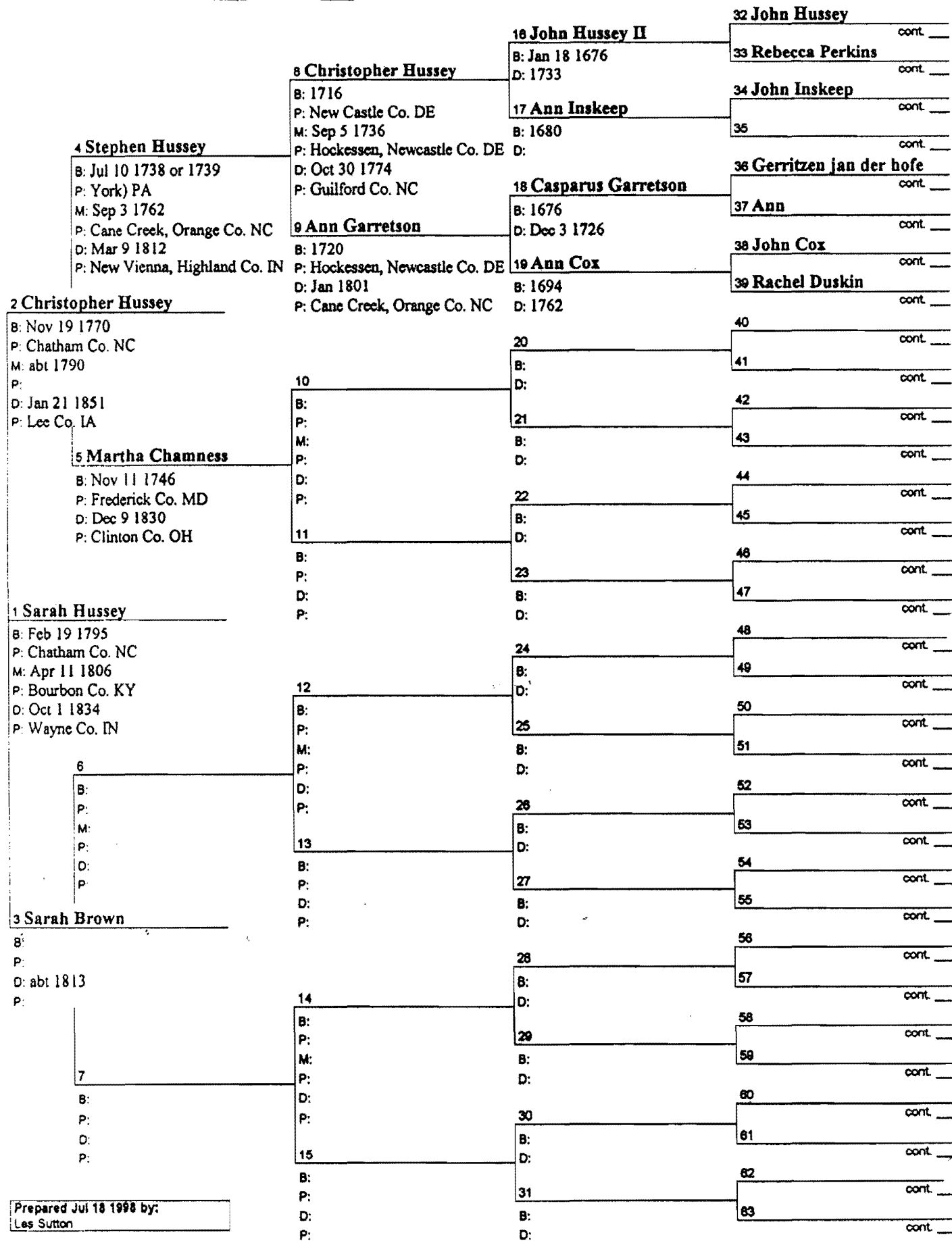


Prepared Jul 18 1998 by:  
 Les Sutton

# Pedigree Chart

Chart no. \_\_\_\_\_

No. 1 on this chart is the same as no. \_\_\_\_\_ on chart no. \_\_\_\_\_



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 Les Sutton