

Biography of John Ross Dunn, Esq.

A Comprehensive Biographical Analysis

[April 24, 2026](#)

In September, 2023, my **Dunn family genealogical research** was published in the [USGenWeb project's Families section](#), and three months later, I was honored to see it featured in the [Genealogical Society of Rowan County Quarterly Journal](#), and recorded in the [Digital Public Library of America](#). And, in March, 2026, it was mentioned in the [Genealogists' Magazine, Quarterly Journal of the Society of Genealogists, in London](#).

And, while that comprehensive analysis still holds true, I've made new discoveries, corrected some links, and added an additional chapter on John Dunn's Colonial ancestors, **historic revelations**, which trace his direct lineage back to England, and [Wales](#).

Supporting Documentation: Due to the fluid nature of documenting my research, the following **research papers** have some inaccuracies, which **have since, been corrected**. See [my Dunn pedigree](#), at the bottom of this document. Contact me, via [email](#).

1. [Breaking Down My Dunn Brick Wall](#) (20pgs), and [Addendum](#),
2. [Hezekiah Dunn](#) (40pgs),
3. [My Kentucky Dunn Family](#) (20pgs)

Within this highly interactive document, you will have direct access to original Dunn profiles on FamilySearch, WikiTree, Geni, and other genealogy sites, though you might need an account on those sites, to examine all relevant documents, images and discussions. I recommend 'Right Clicking' the links, and opening them in a New Tab. Many of the FamilySearch profiles were created by me, though many have been altered since my FamilySearch account was closed, in December, 2022. You can check the Change Log, when in doubt, **but there, you will find sources, documents, discussions and images, that you won't find, anywhere else. I will continue to monitor those sites, and report on their activity, until all sources are returned to their original profiles.**

[John Ross Dunn, Esq.](#), was born in 1697, in [Charles Parish, York, Virginia](#), and died in 1783, in [Salisbury, Rowan, North Carolina](#). See [Colonial York County, Virginia Colony](#), and [Charles Church](#). He was a younger son of [Thomas Dunn, b.1676](#), and [Elizabeth Gray](#), and descendant of the original immigrant adventurer, [Thomas Dunn](#), who immigrated to Virginia, in 1620, at the age of 14, from [Worcestershire, England](#).

See [British Isles](#), and [Hill of the Whicce](#), and [Colonization and the evolution of rural settlement In Worcestershire, prior to 1349. University of Birmingham. Ph.D. Hamshere, J.D. \(1980\)](#)

This Dunn family is shown on [RootsWeb](#),

Thomas DUNN

ABT 1669 - 1772

ID Number: I70283

- *RESIDENCE*: Essex Co. VA
- *BIRTH*: ABT 1669, Essex Co. Virginia
- *DEATH*: 1772
- *RESOURCES*: See: [\[S2687\]](#)

Father: [Thomas DUNN "the Immigrant"](#)

Family 1 : [Elizabeth GRAY](#)

1. [John DUNN](#)
2. [Gray DUNN](#)
3. [William DUNN](#)
4. [Thomas DUNN](#)
5. +[David DUNN](#)

Notes

src: Wayne Dunn (Trevilians@aol.com); Publication: Louisa County, Virginia GenWeb Page.

Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly • volume VI • volume VI, number 3 (01-JUL-1968) • List of Freeholders who voted in Essex County 1765 James Gray, Ambrose Gatewood, Chaney and Philip Gatewood, Benjamin Dunn, William Dunn, Barnet Gaines, Thomas Fogg and many more etc.

and also traces back to the Virginia Company Charter Investor, [Sir Daniel Donne](#), to wealthy London mercer, [Sir John Don](#), to [Henry Dwnn ap Gruffudd \(c.1330-1416\)](#), of Wales. Henry Dwnn has two WikiTree [profiles](#).

According to [Rev. Jethro Rumble](#), John Dunn, Esq. was connected to the [Erskines](#), on his mother's side. Geni needs to connect his mother, [Elizabeth Gray](#), to her [rightful family](#). Her mother was [Elizabeth Jarrett](#). See [Lord Gray](#), and [Peerage of Scotland](#).

According to [The Family Tree Book](#), by General William Smith and W. Thomas Smith, John Dunn relocated to North Carolina around 1710, and [was residing in North Carolina in 1713](#).

The land in the British Isles was owned by the King, princes, nobles and the Church, with their parks, forest preserves and game laws. The middle class was composed of the well-to-do tenants, farmers, merchants, doctors and lawyers. Third class was made up of laborers, craftsmen and servants. All men are more or less ambitious to rise in rank. A knight desires to become a baronet, lord, viscount, marquis, duke, etc. Craftsmen desire to become tenants, tenants—landed proprietors. Owing to the law of primogeniture, minor sons and others would become land owners by emigrating to America, where the finest lands could be obtained by purchase, by entry, at very small cost, and even by squatting and by allotment from the Province. There is something in the ownership of realty, the confident tread of the man on soil that he owns in fee simple, that elevates and ennobles him. In the British Kingdom lands were held at no price or prohibitive prices, but in the wilderness of America it was to be had for the asking. We know not the exact year John Dunn ventured the Atlantic, wild and wide, in search of land, but let us say it was 1700-1713. In the latter year he was a resident of North Carolina Province, and is first mentioned in Colonial Records of the Province of North Carolina 1713 as a defendant. In this case judgment was obtained against him for £1 17s. and 1d. and attachment ordered to be served against his goods and chattels. In 1748 by the same Colonial Records he appears as Lord Proprietor of 100 acres of Bladen County land and in 1749 Lord Proprietor of 100 acres in New Hanover, 150 acres in Craven and 200 acres in Bladen. From the east he came further west and settled in the town of Salisbury.

"In Salisbury Town the skies are blue
The smiles are true, the hearts are true
And the wine is full of cheer and delight



According to *The Family Tree Book*, John Dunn and Frances Peronneau parented 10 children,

Nancy, Mary, Elizabeth, Hannah, four girls; Joseph, John, Isaac, Hezekiah, Leonard and Bartholomew, six boys.

But, after DNA analysis, we learn of three more children, John Jr., William T., and Priscilla, who were born in South Carolina.

sowed the seed of civil and religious liberty which bore fruit a century afterward, set on fire the soul of Patrick Henry and animated the sword of George Washington. Later in the war of the Confederacy, from some vantage ground, with kindling eyes, Lee saw the ragged boys in gray in a hundred battles sweep the Federals from the field. It was the blood of Major General Richard Bennett that thrilled the veins of Robert E. Lee." I quote further: "This Richard Bennett was descended from a noble family. His grandfather was judge of the Prerogative or Ecclesiastical Court of Canterbury and Chancellor of the Archbishop of York." His father, Sir John Bennett, had three sons that rose to distinction. The eldest was Lord of Osculton, whose son became the Earl of Tankerville; his second son was Earl of Arlington (whence comes the name of Gen. R. E. Lee's famous residence, now the national cemetery near Washington, D. C.) and was Prime Minister of Charles II; his third son, Richard, was distinguished but of less shining destiny. Major General Richard Bennett, Richard Bennett of Annapolis and Governor Richard Bennett of Nansemond County on the lower James, all probably sprang from a common ancestry, the different nobles having each his Coat of Arms but all of them very similar. One of these in heraldic terms reads Arms: Gules, a besant between three demi-lions rampant couped argent. Crest: A double scaling ladder or. Motto: Hand facile emergent. (Comes not forth easily). Another Coat of Arms reads: Arms: Gules a besant between three demi-lions rampant argent. Crest: Out of mural coronet or lions head gules charged on the neck with besant. Motto: De bon Vouloir servir le Roi. (Serve the King with right good will.) The general outlines are the same and point to a common ancestor, the differences accentuating only variety.

William Bennett No. 2, (1717-1815) married Nancy Huckston (1748-1773) of Maryland in 1769. To them were born Elizabeth, 1771, who married Covington of Anson Co., N. C. When William Bennett No. 3 was only a few months old, his father left Maryland and moved to Anson County, N. C. William Bennett (1773-1840) in 1798 married Susannah Dunn, the daughter of Isaac Dunn, (1754-1836) and Mary Sheffield his wife (1760-1862) of Moore County, N. C., who were married in 1776. Their only child, Susannah, married William Bennett No. 3.

John Dunn the emigrant, and his wife Frances, came to America about 1700-1710. There were born to them ten children: Nancy,

Mary, Elizabeth, Hannah, four girls; Joseph, John, Isaac, Hezekiah, Leonard and Bartholomew. Bartholomew (1716-1787) and his wife Ruth, begat Isaac (1754-1836) who married Mary Sheffield (1758-1862) (see sketch). Their only child was Susannah Dunn who married William Bennett No. 3. Twelve children, seven boys and five girls, were born to Susannah Dunn and her husband William Bennett. The children's names were as follows: Neville, James C., William, Isham, Samuel, Cary, Lemuel, Roxanne, Susannah, Mary, Nancy, Jane. Lemuel Dunn (1805-1878) married Jane Steele Little (1811-1872).

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"In Salisbury Town the skies are bright,
The smiles are true, the hearts are light,
And days are full of sheer delight
In Salisbury Town."

The edited version, 806D, of the family tree book, lists John, Jr. as son of John and Frances, while the original version simply names a John. And, you'll notice John is listed as their first child, while John Jr. is listed as their sixth born. This is a clear indication of a cover up.

806D

John Dunn and Frances Dunn, his wife, the Emigrants, landed in America about 1700 to 1710 (see sketch of The Bennetts). Children:

- (A) Nancy Dunn.
- (B) Mary Dunn.
- (C) Elizabeth Dunn.
- (D) Hannah Dunn.
- (E) Joseph Dunn.
- (F) John Dunn Jr.
- (G) Hezekiah Dunn.
- (H) Leonard Dunn.
- (I) Bartholomew Dunn, born 1716, died 1787. His wife's maiden name was Ruth. To them was born Isaac Dunn in 1754. In 1776 he married Mary Sheffield of Moore County, N. C., located in Anson County, N. C., and died 1836. She was born 1758 and died 1862. They only had one child: Susannah Dunn, who married William Bennett. (See sketch of Mary Sheffield)-806E-

[Bartholomew](#), begat [Isaac](#), who begat [Susannah](#), who married [William Bennett](#).

[Rev. Jethro Rumble](#) claimed that John Dunn briefly resided in Charleston, before coming to Salisbury, unaware that John had previously resided in North Carolina before his brief residency in South Carolina, nor does Rumble make any mention of John's visits to Virginia and Maryland prior to the founding of Rowan.

The Family Tree Book clearly states, that John Dunn 'the emigrant' was John Dunn, founder of Rowan, North Carolina, and references his son, Bartholomew, in several instances.

with his command he was thrown from his horse and kicked by the vicious animal and forced to keep his bed for six weeks. Making report of the taxes of Rowan Co. to the Crown, he mentions his accident and continuing, said: "And now, at this time, not able to stoop to buckle my shoe or sit to write unless it be a line at a time, then rest until my pains abate."

Associated with others he was a Commissioner in many important services for his County and District, such as building jails, Court House, running dividing lines between Counties, laying out public roads, etc. A loyalist from position and office, by education and temperament he took an active part in suppressing the Regulators, among whom was numbered his own son, Bartholemew. "The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father."

John Dunn was arrested as an active loyalist by the Committee of Safety in Rowan County, banished to Charlestown and jailed for twelve months. He protested his innocence, recanted and was released on parole, placed under bond of 1,000 pounds (nearly \$5,000.00) and was forced to appear daily at the house of Maxwell Chambers, after being permitted to return to the State. He afterwards resided on his farm some five miles from Salisbury.

His son, Bartholemew, radically differed from the sentiments of his father and joined the Regulators. (See N. C. Colonial Records, Vol. 7, 736). He was probably a soldier and militiaman, but we have no authentic evidence thereof. These patriotic citizens were called Regulators because they resisted the exorbitant exactions of the officers Crown and attempted to regulate and fees to the tariff allowed by law.



845 (See 806H)

LEMUEL DUNN BENNETT

Lemuel Dunn Bennett was the son of William Bennett No. 3 and Susannah Dunn, his wife, and the great grandson of William Bennett No. 1, who emigrated to America with his brother, Major General Richard Bennett of Cromwell's army, about the year 1648. Lemuel Dunn Bennett's mother's maiden name was Susannah **Dunn**, daughter of Isaac Dunn and Mary Sheffield, his wife. Isaac Dunn, was the son of Bartholemew and Ruth Dunn, and Bartholemew was the son of John and Frances Dunn, the emigrant.

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Ever since my eureka moment, genealogists have tried to tell me that the two lives of John Dunn, Esq. and John Dunn, the emigrant, diverged from each other. Well, I have unequivocally proven, beyond any doubt, that their lives actually converged into one very prolific man, who fathered, at least, 18 children, with three women, from 1714 to 1755, averaging 1 every 27 months.

After I published my work, they began to physically dismantle my family tree. The Geni curator, and profile managers have vandalized [John Ross Dunn, Esq.](#)'s profile, and created a [conflated duplicate](#), and [another duplicate](#), and removed all of his relatives, and have off-handedly rejected all of my findings, offering a very faulty analysis of my analysis, while absurdly and repeatedly demanding that I present my sources.

And, immediately after requesting [protective status](#) for John Ross Dunn, Esq.'s profile, one [Geni profile manager](#), who apparently has been on hiatus, for the past 13 years, has returned, and has reverted these profiles, back to their old, 2011, brick walls. It's just plain stupid, and cruel.

Both, Geni and Wikitree are becoming wildly fanciful in their efforts to create blatantly false, alternative scenarios. It's wrong, and should be prohibited to create any profile, with absolutely no source evidence whatsoever, but that's exactly what's happening. Geni's [supposed curators](#) are only data entry level persons, with no formal database education, and they're handicapped with [their personal perspectives](#).

Others had also changed [John Dunn II](#)'s middle name to Benefield, on FamilySearch, conflating that profile, just like they did on Geni, [here](#), and [here](#); however, there was [no Benefield](#) when I created the profile, and I see no Benefield [here](#), nor [here](#). The name 'Benefield' doesn't appear, until 1741. [John Dunn II](#)'s wife was [Lucy Bolling](#), daughter of [Drury Bolling](#) and [Elizabeth Meriwether](#). See [Cocke Family of Virginia](#).

More About [John Dunn II](#):

Date born 2: Bef. 1700, Albemarle Parish, Sussex Co., Virginia.

Date born 3: 1714

More About [John Dunn II](#) and [Anne Cauthon](#):

Marriage: 30 Sep 1782, Essex County, VA..

Children of [John Dunn II](#) and [Lucy Bolling](#) are:

+[Lewis Dunn](#), d. date unknown.

[John Dunn III](#), b. 1740, d. 1784.

[Isabella Dunn](#), b. 28 Dec 1740, Albemarle Parish, Sussex Co., Virginia, d. date unknown.

[Lucinda Lucy Dunn](#), b. 27 Oct 1743, Albemarle Parish, Sussex Co., VA, d. date unknown.

+[Hardeman Dunn](#), b. Abt. 1745, Albemarle Parish, Sussex Co., Virginia, d. Feb 1823, Wake County, NC.

+[Drury Dunn](#), b. 12 Jul 1746, Albemarle Parish, Sussex County, Virginia, d. 18 Apr 1811, Hancock County, Georgia.

[Bolling Dunn](#), b. 20 Jun 1749, Sussex County, VA, d. 22 Jan 1826, Wake County, NC.

+[William Dunn](#), b. 04 May 1750, Albemarle County, VA, d. date unknown, Wake County, NC.

John Dunn II, "oldest son, and heir-at-law" of John Ross Dunn, Esq., married a woman named **Elizabeth**. Geni created **another duplicate**, but Mary Reade did not bear a son named John. It is possible that this was Elizabeth "Betsy" Howard.

Jan 21, 1786, deed Rowan County NC. **John Dunn & Elisabeth** his wife of Rowan County NC, laborer, eldest **son and heir-at-law of John Dunn Esq** late of Rowan County attorney at law deceased, to Michael Brown of the same county. Land on both sides of the great road leading from Salisbury to Pee Dee and on each side of the middle fork of Crane Creek formerly called Stewart's Creek. Adjoining Thomas Carson, 612 acres. Signed John Dunn, Elizabeth Dunn x her mark. Witness John Brown. Proved May 1786 by John Brown. Deed book 10 page 430

In 1714, Frances Peronneau faked her death, and joined into a common-law union with John Dunn. See [Burial](#).

Name **Françoise Perron dit Suire**
Death Date **29 Nov 1714**
Birth Date **05 Nov 1691**
Event Type **Burial**
Event Place **Montreal, Montreal
Region, Quebec, Canada**
Cemetery **Ancien cimetièrre Notre-
Dame 1672-1830**

In 1726, they parented **Priscilla**, born in South Carolina, where **Frances' relatives** lived. See her profile on [WikiTree](#), and on [RootsWeb](#).

Haun Family

John DUNN (TOUNE) married Catherine PERRANEAUX.

Catherine PERRANEAUX married John DUNN (TOUNE).

They had the following children:

F i **Priscilla DUNN** was born 18 Feb 1726 and died 16 Oct 1789.

The permanent settlement of the Lower Cape Fear occurred in 1726-1727 when North and South Carolinians began to filter into the area. Burrington and Maurice Moore spearheaded the North Carolina movement. From the south Roger Moore, a resident of St. James Goose Creek Parish, led the South Carolina exodus. Many of those who followed Roger Moore to the Cape Fear were leading citizens of Prince George Winyaw Parish seeking sanctuary from political turmoil and economic distress. Together the Moores and Burrington, who perforce rewarded himself for his endeavors by means of land grants, claimed more than twenty thousand acres of land in the region.⁸

Richard Everard, who succeeded Burrington as proprietary governor, continued to make land grants in the Cape Fear through so-called "blank patents," which were grants of questionable validity. Before he left office Everard had disposed of more than a hundred thousand acres to a small group of individuals related by blood or marriage. Hence the grantees became known as the "Family." In addition to Maurice and Roger Moore, Allen, and Porter, Edward Moseley, John Baptista Ashe, Samuel and John Swann, Jehu Davis, John Grange, Edward Hyrne, Thomas Jones, Edward Smith, and Mosely Vail were the principal beneficiaries of the governor's largesse.⁹

The earliest known resident of the Lower Cape Fear was Maurice Moore, whose aid was enlisted by the South Carolina legislature in April 1726 to recover some stolen property from a band of Tuscarora Indians thought to be passing through the area. Presumably Moore was not alone. Two months later he

After Royal Gov. George Burrington died, [Gov. Gabriel Johnston](#) finally resolved the disputes between the original settlers of the Backcountry, and Britain. John Dunn was a [surveyor](#),

The Road Orders contained in the Goochland County Court Order Books covering the period 1728-1744 are the principal extant evidence concerning the early roads of the County. During this period Goochland stretched southward to the Appomattox River and west to the "Ledge", or Blue Ridge, and contained all or parts of the present Counties of Albemarle, Amherst, Appomattox, Bedford, Buckingham, Campbell, Cumberland, Fluvanna, Nelson and Powhatan.

and in 1731, was appointed to survey the road, in Goochland, Virginia.

Order Book 3, Goochland County

17 Nov. 1731, O.S. p. 16

Surveyors of roads appointed.

John Dunn is appointed Surveyor of the road in the room of Constant Perkins, Richard Wade is appointed Surveyor from the upper Tuckahoe bridge to the County line, Joseph Watkins is appointed Surveyor from Tuckahoe mill to the River road in the room of Henry Wood, Joseph ffarrar is appointed Surveyor from Tuckahoe mill to Hanover line, And Richard Wade, Anthony Hoggat, Joseph ffarrar, and their Gangs are to assist in repairing the bridge on Tuckahoe near Hardings./.

And, in 1736, John was assigned to lay out the dividing line between the Carolinas. See [History of The Old Cheraaws](#).

Before any settlements were made in the upper part of Craven County, some difficulty had occurred in determining the line between South and North Carolina, which line bounded Craven on the north and north-east. After the resignation of the Lords Proprietors, in July, 1729, and the consequent change of Government, the Province of Carolina, hitherto one, was divided, by order of the Council, into North and South Carolina.† That part of the Province, described generally as lying south and west of Cape Fear, became South Carolina. The exact limits of each were now to be defined, and, as was to be expected, disputes arose respecting the boundary line, before it was finally settled. In 1732 appeared the first public communications of a conflicting character between the Governors of the respective Provinces. This controversy led to instructions from the king to the Governor of North Carolina, in which it was said: "in order to prevent any disputes that may arise about the Southern boundaries of our Province under your Government, we are graciously pleased to signify our

*2 Carroll, p. 263.



†"Statutes," pp. 406-6.

pleasure that a line shall be run by Commissioners, appointed by each Province, beginning at the sea, thirty miles distant from the mouth of Cape Fear river, on the South-West thereof, keeping at the same distance from the said river, as the course thereof runs to the main source or head thereof, and from thence the said boundary line shall be continued due west as far as the South Seas."*

Agreeably to these instructions, the first survey was made in 1735, under the authority of the Royal Government. It

John Dunn and Frances were living in a common-law union, which was prohibited, but was not being stringently enforced, in North Carolina. It was only permitted if one person was sick and dying. Rape was a capital offense, so, from 1736, to 1739, while among the Royal Governors, and while briefly residing in South Carolina, John wrote a Will, claiming he was sick, and expecting to die. It was strictly formality.

To further the ruse, Frances went by her given name, Katherine, and they named their son, born September 24, 1736, [John Dunn, Jr.](#), so it would not be apparent that they were the same John and Frances, who parented children, out of wedlock, in North Carolina, as they already had a son, named [John Dunn II](#). You can clearly see the II(2) by his name.

II John ² Dunn, married Lucy ———   - +
1, Isabella, b. 1740, 2, Lucy b. 1743, *God-parent*
beth Hancock. 3, Drury, b. 1746, *God-father*.

From Feb. 1736 - Jun. 1736, May 1737 - Sept. 1737, Feb. 1738 - Sep. 1739, [Gov. Johnston's Executive Council](#) met in [Newton, on Cape Fear](#), to address the issues regarding original land patents, and the division line between the Carolinas.

In 1736, when [John "Jack" Dunn](#) was born, his [birth was recorded](#), in St. Philip's Parish, S.C.

Sept: 24th 1736 John Son of John & Katherine Dunn was born—

Then, after he was weaned, John delivered him to his relatives, [in Virginia, where he was Christened](#).

Name **John Dunn**

Sex **Male**

Birth Date **19 Jul 1737**

Event Type **Christening**

Event Date **25 Jul 1737**

Event Place **Charles Church of Charles Parish,
York, Virginia, British Colonial
America**

Event Place (Original) **Charles Parish, York, Virginia,
United States**

When John returned to S.C., Jack's death was faked, by recording in the St. Philip's Parish Register, that the [child was buried, on July 27, 1738](#).

In November, 1738?, John served on the Petit Jury for the Parish of St. Philips, in Charles Town, S.C., where Jury Men included, [Henri Peronneau](#), his son, [Henry Peronneau, Jr.](#), and Katherine's future husband, [Joseph Moody](#). At that time, Henri Peronneau was the richest man in Colonial America, and personally, I believe it was at that Grand Jury hearing, where John Dunn was offered an arrangement, to clear Katherine's reputation. 1736?

1738? (Georgii II undecimo), list of Petit Jury men for the Parish of St. Philip's, Charles Town, SC included **John Dunn**. List of Grand Jury Men for St. Philip's, Charles Town, included **Joseph Moody, Henry Peronneau Jr and Sr.** (also (quatuor decimo). *Acts Passed by the General Assembly of South Carolina, Ncv 15, Seventh Year of King George, Charles Town, 1736.* Google Books.

On April 29, 1738, their son, [William](#) was [born](#), and [Christened](#), on May 26, 1738. Then, John was able to acquire some land in [Cape Fear](#), where they settled their children. When John and Frances arrived in Newton, NC, Priscilla was 12 years old, and William was newborn. William was subsequently raised in [Onslow, NC](#). John had known Newton when it was called Newtown, and that was probably where he got the nickname, "Toune". See [History of Hanover County](#).

In 1734 an act was passed reciting that "as the precinct of New Hanover is now become very populous, and the extent thereof being found too incommodious to many of the inhabitants thereof, particularly those of New River and the upper part of the North West river," it was therefore enacted that a precinct be erected at New River by the name of Onslow precinct, and in the same Act "the upper part of the Northwest river" was "erected into a precinct by the name of Bladen precinct," the boundaries of each being prescribed.†

The southern boundary of New Hanover, named in the Act

* The territory south and west of the Cape Fear river, of which Yeamans was appointed governor in 1664, was named Clarendon county and extended to Florida. Albemarle and Clarendon were established in 1664, and Bath in 1669.

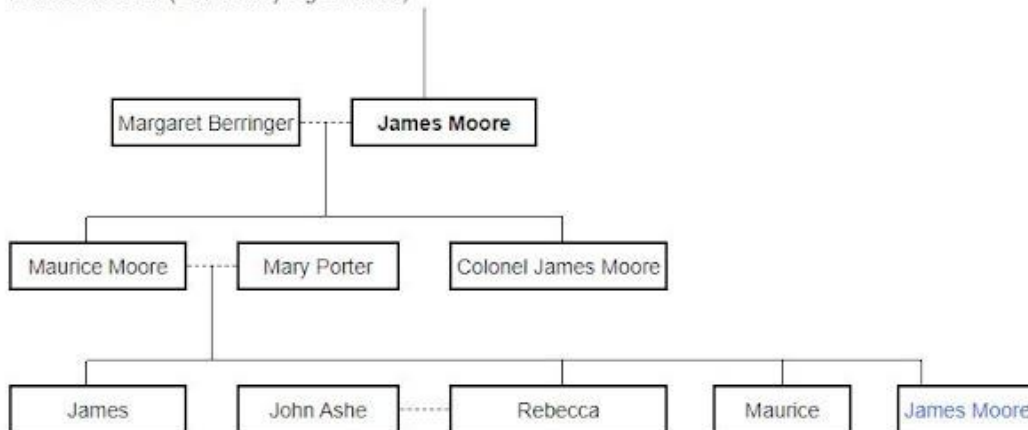
† Martin's Pub. Stat., 38.

They likely stayed in [Darlington, South Carolina](#), where Catherine's relatives lived, or at one of [Maurice Moore's](#) properties, in the [Cheraws](#). See [Boochawee Plantation](#), and [Orton Plantation](#).

Roger Moore was present at [Gov. Johnston's Executive](#)

[Council meetings. http://www.elliewoodkeith.com/getperson.php?personID=I1187&tree=EW1](http://www.elliewoodkeith.com/getperson.php?personID=I1187&tree=EW1)

Nathaniel Moore (son of Rory Oge O'More)



Governor James Moore was the leader of the [Goose Creek Men](#). See [The Founding Fathers of the Deep South](#).

Maurice Moore transferred land in New Hanover County, to Richard Dunn. <https://www.ncgenweb.us/newhanover/deed1.html>

When John left Catherine with their younger children, in 1739, she faked his death, by recording his [burial, on August 3, 1739](#), in the St. Philip's Parish Register, and he went to retrieve his 2-year-old son, "Jack", from where he was living among relatives, in Augusta, Virginia. John did not return to the Carolinas, until the ten year statute of limitations had expired for his offenses, and then, as Irish John Dunn.

He brought his son, Jack, to [Brunswick County](#), or Lunenburg, Virginia, where, according to Archibald D. Murphey, he married '[Betsy](#)' Howard, and according to Murphey, Elizabeth '[Betsy](#)' Howard was John's second wife, and Jack's stepmother. See "[The Genealogy of the Sims Family](#)".

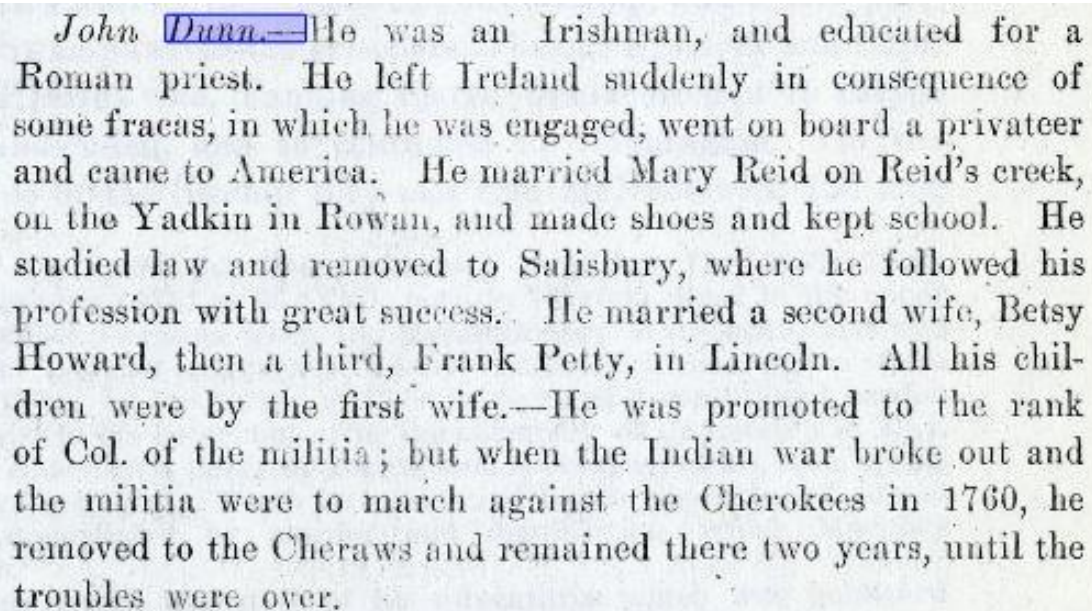
(Warren County) or Granville County, North Carolina. There are deeds to [Howards](#) in Granville County as early as 1751; and in 1759-60 (No. 982), there is the record of the administration of the estate or the execution of a will of Eleander [Howard](#), naming his wife, Mary, his mother, and brothers John and Peter Howard. At St. Paul's Parish Vestry meeting in Virginia held September 12, 1743, a John [Howard](#) was appointed a processioner for precinct or beat No. 17, while John Sims, Sr., was appointed for precinct 23.¹⁴ So John Howard of Bute County, North Carolina, probably came there from Hanover County, Virginia. Also books on the history of Lunenburg County, Virginia, just adjoining Mecklenburg County, Virginia, across the State line from Granville,¹⁵ show that John [Howard](#) was a leading man in the development of Lunenburg, and that the [Howards](#) settled first in the coast counties south of James River.

According to Archibald Murphey, John Dunn married Mary Reid, and together they parented 5 children: 2 boys, and 3 girls, Charles, Eleanor, George, Susannah, and Elizabeth. Mary Reade descended from George Reade, Esq. See Reade Family.

Here's what Google AI found, and based upon that, these two Wikitree profiles should be merged, Mary Reid and Mary Reade, and these two FamilySearch profiles need to be merged, Mary Sclater, and Mary Read, and these two Geni profiles need to be merged, Mary Reade and Mary Dunn. Their daughter, Susannah Dunn's Wikitree profile should be attached to John Ross Dunn, Esq., not to John Dunn, Jr.

Archibald D. Murphey erroneously spelled her last name "Reid", and claimed that they settled on Reid's Creek, a tributary of the Yadkin River, but her last name was spelled "Reade", not Reid, Reed, nor Read, and they actually settled on Reedy Creek, a tributary of the South Yadkin River. See Wikipedia.

In that same paragraph, Murphey also stated that all of John Dunn's children were by his first wife, whom we now know was his common-law wife, Frances Peronneau, and all of those thirteen children were born between 1714 and 1739.



John Dunn.—He was an Irishman, and educated for a Roman priest. He left Ireland suddenly in consequence of some fracas, in which he was engaged, went on board a privateer and came to America. He married Mary Reid on Reid's creek, on the Yadkin in Rowan, and made shoes and kept school. He studied law and removed to Salisbury, where he followed his profession with great success. He married a second wife, Betsy Howard, then a third, Frank Petty, in Lincoln. All his children were by the first wife.—He was promoted to the rank of Col. of the militia; but when the Indian war broke out and the militia were to march against the Cherokees in 1760, he removed to the Cheraws and remained there two years, until the troubles were over.

Archibald D. Murphey also wrote, that John, later married Frank Petty, who was actually Frances (Françoise) Peronneau, but she had shortened her name to Franç, and her last name to Peddy, "Peronneau-Moody". Then, they actually married, in 1775, when John was 78, and Frances was 83. I believe she also lied about her date of birth, when she faked her death, in 1714, and I would estimate that she was the same age as him. Lincoln County, North Carolina was formed in 1779, from Tryon County.

When John was in Cecil, Maryland, he stayed at William Rumsey's Bohemia Manor. I have found no evidence to support claims that he was in the Maryland Militia. This was not him.

Here is how the Dunn family acquired land, in New Hanover County, North Carolina.

[John Carteret](#) was a favorite of both King George I and King George II. Upon the death of his father at a young age, he inherited a share of Carolina and was the only Lords Proprietor not to sell his share to the Crown in 1728/1729. He forced the Crown to survey a large swath of North Carolina and deed it to him when they purchased the other seven shares. As Lord Granville, he sent several Land Agents to North Carolina to manage the sale of his land holdings, piece-by-piece, until his death in 1763.

[Thomas Broughton](#) was acting governor, and his home was in [Berkley, South Carolina](#).

He was also one of the [Goose Creek Men](#).

Landgrave [Thomas Smith, Jr.](#) died in 1738, and willed an enormous amount of land, including his plantation, in Goose Creek.

Landgrave [Robert Daniell](#) was also a Goose Creek Man. See [Hon. Robert Daniell](#). His father, [Abraham Daniell](#), of Parkham, Devon, England, was married to [Grace Dunn](#), daughter of [Davy Dunn](#), of Parkham, Devon, England.

The Dunns of Virginia and Maryland were not only Goose Creek "family", by marriage, but descend from [the original Donne family charter members of The Virginia Company](#).

The following excerpts show John Dunn's movements, after he left Catherine with their children.

²⁵ Ramsey, *Carolina Cradle*, 33. Jones was presumably living in Prince Georges County by mid-1739. [Dunn](#), a former resident of Cecil County, moved to Prince Georges in 1743. Sometime prior to the summer of 1748, Dunn left Maryland and moved to North Carolina, where he became active in the affairs of Anson County's Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions. See *Carolina Cradle*, 28-30.

In the summer of 1740, Carter found himself "a languishing prisoner in the Cecil County Gaol."¹⁹ At the instigation of William Rumsey of Bohemia Manor, Cecil County, an act was promulgated in the Maryland Assembly for the release of Carter and others. The Act read in part:

. . . Whereas the said . . . [debtors] . . . have set forth that they have continued Prisoners for Debt in the custody of the several sheriffs . . . and not being able to redeem their Bodies with all the Estate or Interest that they have in the world . . . unless relieved by a particular Act passed in their Favour . . . they must inevitably continue Prisoners for Life. . . .²⁰

Carter was freed the same year. His wealthy friend and benefactor, William Rumsey, died in February, 1742, leaving a considerable estate and a widow, Sabinah Rumsey.²¹

Hounded by the courts, heavily in debt, and bereft of his patron, Carter left Cecil County and headed westward. Within two years he had made his way into the Shenandoah Valley; and, in 1744, he obtained a three hundred-acre tract adjoining John Campbell on the Great Calfpasture River in Augusta County.²² During the next three years, Carter built one or more mills in Augusta,²³ and (probably in company with Hugh Forster and John Dunn) associated himself with

Five years after his appointment as a justice of the peace, Hughes replaced David Jones, a Welshman originally from Chester County, Pennsylvania, as sheriff of Rowan County.²² Jones, who lived about eleven miles south of Hughes and the Shallow Ford, possibly owed his appointment as Rowan County's first sheriff to his association with two of the county's justices, James Carter and Squire Boone. In 1733 or 1734, Jones moved from Chester County into Oley Township of neighboring Philadelphia County. Once there, he likely became acquainted with Boone, a Devonshire native whose family was linked to that of James Carter through marriage.²³ Boone and Carter were not the only links between Jones and the ring which grew around the Rowan County court. A third member of the court to whom Jones would have turned for patronage was its clerk, John Dunn.²⁴ Jones presumably entered into friendship with Dunn while both men were residents of Maryland's Prince Georges County.²⁵ Given Jones' uneven performance as Rowan County's sheriff for the period lasting from the county's creation in 1753 until 1758, it must be presumed that the patronage of friends such as Dunn, Carter, and Boone led to the retention of Jones in the shrievalty.

Although inconclusive, the evidence strongly suggests that Samuel Davis migrated from Cecil or Kent County, Maryland,⁵⁶ to the "back parts" of Prince Georges County in 1738 or earlier.⁵⁷ He was still there in 1747⁵⁸ and, like John Dunn, seems to have proceeded directly from western Maryland to North Carolina. His 579-acre tract (lying directly opposite that of George Forbush) in the bend of the Yadkin passed into the hands of Edward Hughes in 1752,⁵⁹ and Davis moved out of the region.⁶⁰

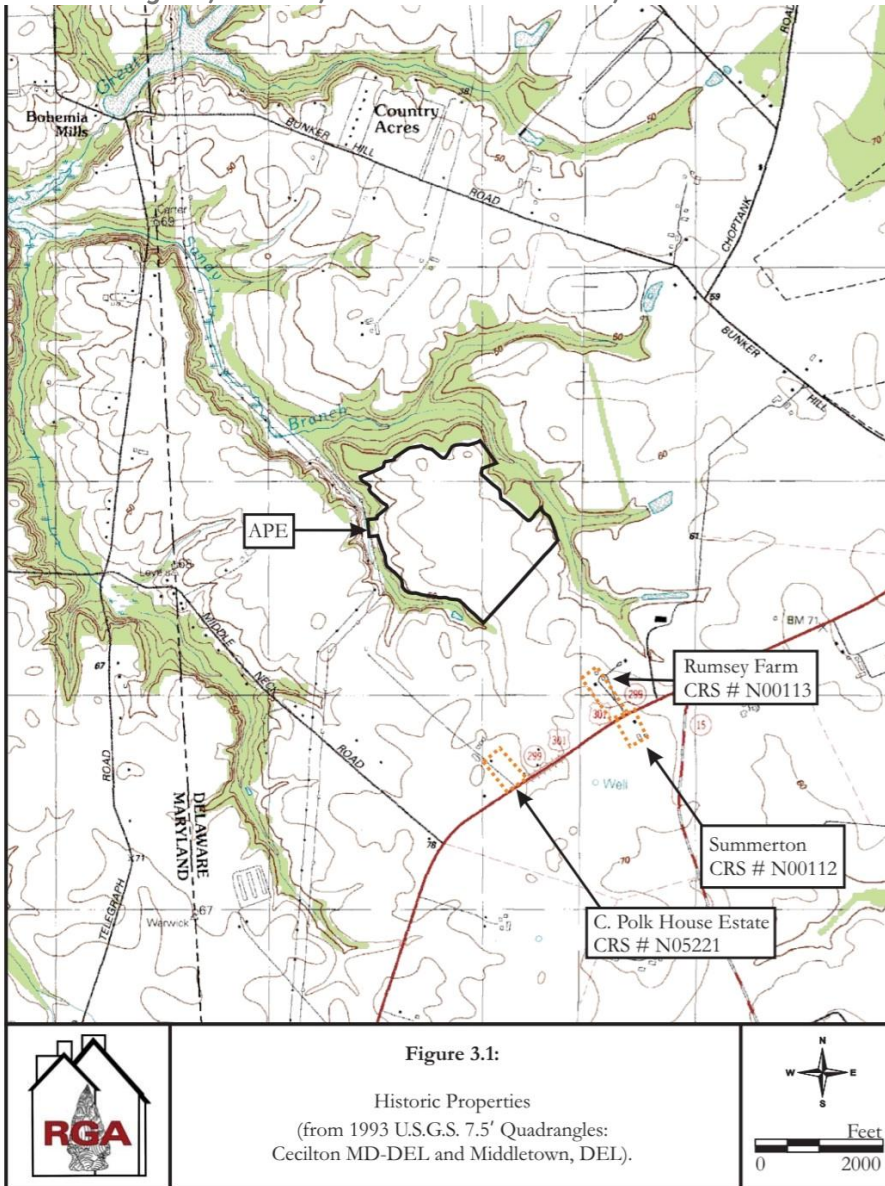
²⁴ Carter, Dunn, and Forster were all in Cecil County at sometime between 1736 and 1742. Hughes and Boone, both Quakers, removed to the Valley from Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania; Bryan was in Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1724. In 1730, in partnership with Alexander Ross, he obtained one hundred thousand acres near Opequon Creek in the lower Shenandoah Valley for the purpose of establishing a colony of Friends. Hazel A. Spraker, *The Boone Family: A Genealogical History of the Descendants of George and Mary Boone Who Came to America in 1717, Containing Many Bits of Early Kentucky History: Also a Biographical Sketch of Daniel Boone, The Pioneer, by One of His Descendants* (Rutland, Vermont: The Tuttle Company, 1922), 27-32; H. Frank Eshleman, "Assessment Lists and Other Manuscript Documents of Lancaster County Prior to 1729," *Papers of the Lancaster County Historical Society*, XX (1916), 181; John W. Wayland, *The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia* (Charlottesville, Virginia: Wayland Publisher, 1907), 45; Chalkley, *Chronicles of Augusta County*, III, 340.

Carter left Maryland in hopes of finding some means of upward mobility, and by 1744, he had obtained a three hundred-acre tract of land in Augusta County, Virginia, located in the Shenandoah Valley. He returned to his trade as a millwright and began connecting himself to the likes of Hugh Foster, John Dunn, Morgan Bryan, and Squire Boone, all of whom played major roles in the early leadership of Rowan County.¹⁷

According to General William Smith and W. Thomas Smith, in 1748, by the same Colonial Records, John Dunn appears as Lord Proprietor of 100 acres of Bladen County land, and in 1749, Lord Proprietor of 100 acres in New Hanover, 150 acres in Craven, and 200 acres in Bladen, precisely where his children had been squatting, until his return. "From the east he came further west and settled in the town of Salisbury."

Bladen Co, was formed in 1734 as Bladen Precinct of Bath County, from New Hanover Precinct, and from 1734 until 1750 took in all the settlements to the north, northwest, and west. The following early counties were formed from Bladen: Anson, 1750; Orange (partly), 1752; Cumberland, 1754; Brunswick (partly), 1764; Robeson, 1787; etc.

Priscilla, daughter of John Dunn and Katherine, married [Thomas Polk, Jr.](#), who was born in Cecil, Maryland, and according to [Carolina Cradle: Settlement of the Northwest Carolina Frontier, 1747-1762](#), by Robert W. Ramsey, pages [28-30](#), John Dunn was a resident of [Bohemia Manor](#), in Cecil, Maryland, in 1743, and John was there, at the same time his daughter, Priscilla, met her future husband, and this link shows the [Polk Estate, right next to the Rumsey Farm](#).



Priscilla's brother, "[Jack](#)" was captured by the Shawnee, on Feb. 8, 1778, along with [Daniel Boone](#), and briefly lived among the [Makujay sept](#). Boone escaped after four months, and returned to Boonesborough, to prepare the fort for a [raid](#). Jack Dunn also escaped early, and joined Benjamin Logan's [Kentucky Militia](#). In 1780, when the Shawnee still had not launched an attack on Boonesborough, Jack defected, and returned to his former tribe, perhaps with a warning, or in a foolish effort to secretly learn of their plan, and to attempt a rescue of the other captives. There are reports that Jack was confounded and confused. The Shawnee did not trust him, [delayed the raid](#), and took him back to [Chillicothe](#), where they, allegedly, [burned him at the stake](#).

The biography of John Ross Dunn, by [Archibald D. Murphey](#), claims that John Dunn was from Ireland, when we know he was from the [Dunn family of Virginia](#). See [Anson County NcArchives Biographies](#), by Leonard Wilson (1916). [NCpedia](#) (1986) also makes that error, and while including some of the information from the Family Tree Book, overlooks [a lot of it](#), specifically the details involving the first half of his life with his first wife, Frances, and also, completely omits that source from its references.


The University of North Carolina makes the same erroneous claim that he was Irish, and also makes the claim that John Ross Dunn was the Salisbury lawyer who was arrested, although documents simply indicate that his name was John Dunn. Note: There has been obvious collusion among various authors, but primary sources are missing.

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr15-0650>

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr19-0028>

<https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr15-0651>

Upon further investigation, the erroneous information appears to have originated at the [Florence County Detention Center](#), South Carolina, which suggests that John lied about his true identity when he was incarcerated for Treason, in 1775, which now makes perfect sense, as the previous time he was in South Carolina, from 1736 to 1739, he had faked his death, to avoid being charged with unlawful cohabitation, and rape, and if that had been discovered, his legal problems would have multiplied, exponentially. Possibly worse, if Frances' true identity had been discovered, John would have been in hot water with the proprietary government, and when pressed as to why he sounded like an Englishman, he further lied, claiming to have attended Oxford. I would be inclined to believe that he also lied to William Rumsey, and others, about his name(Ross?), age, origins and education.

 [florencecountybooking.com](https://daqvj.florencecountybooking.com)
<https://daqvj.florencecountybooking.com>

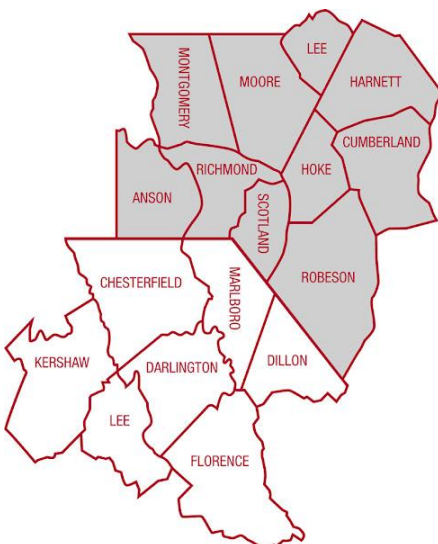
Biography of john dunn

1783. **John Ross Dunn**, Salisbury lawyer and founder, was born in Ireland. According [Archibald D. Murphey](#), he studied to be a Roman Catholic priest but ...

 Sur.ly
<https://sur.ly/booking.fcso.org>

booking.fcso.org - Florence County Detention Center

Florence County Detention Center. <https://booking.fcso.org>. Safety status. Safe. S location. United States. Latest check. 2 months ago.

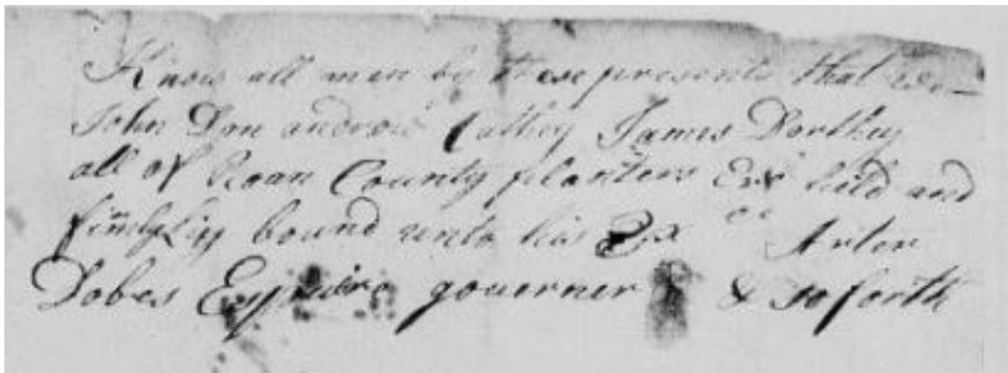


According to ['Over the Hills and Far Away'](#), by Richard (Ric) Berman, this was John Ross Dunn.

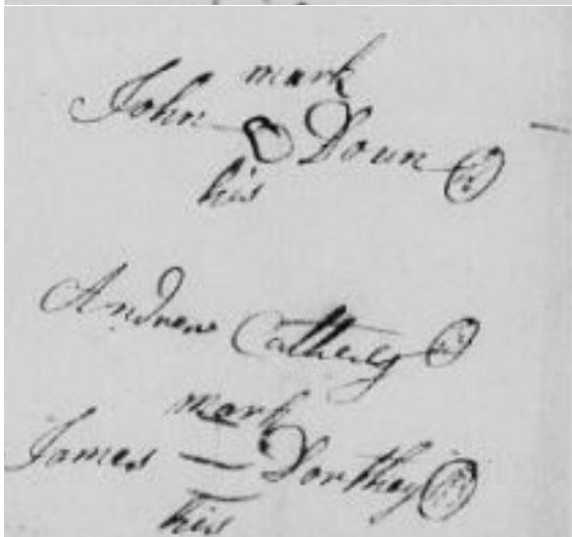
⁴⁶ Coles was a loyalist (CSRNC, volume 10, pp. 673-4: Memorandum from John Ross [Dunn](#)), however, his son served as an officer in the Salisbury District Minutemen and subsequently in the 4th North Carolina Regiment. ⁴⁷ CSRNC, volume 9, pp. 188-9: Minutes of the Lower House of the North Carolina General Assembly, 16 December 1771; volume 10, pp. 673-4: Memorandum from John Ross [Dunn](#) concerning his imprisonment, 27 July 1776. Also, volume 9, pp. 298, 447-591; volume 10, pp. 136-225.

and North Carolina state records attribute the following claim to John Ross Dunn, Esq., but it was John "Jack" Dunn. In 1754, [John "Jack" Dunn](#) was being recruited by [Arthur Dobbs](#) to fight in the French and Indian War. He agreed to meet Dobbs, at Fort Dobbs, and signed the contract, with a mark, (x). And, what's more interesting, Jack may have later defected from the Kentucky militia because he had already defected once, in North Carolina, when he wandered off with Boone. Poor Jack, little did he know, he was jumping from the frying pan into the fire.

In 1754, Governor Arthur Dobbs called on the North Carolina House of Burgesses to implement and support defensive measures for the province in advance of the inevitable French and Indian War (1756-1763). He concluded his address with an appeal to hold on to the spirit of liberty and civil rights and "hand them down to our posterity." Governor Dobbs persuaded the 1755 legislature to fund "a Barrack and Fort for the Company on the Western Frontier" to protect settlers, colonial land investments and the imperial ambitions of the English crown. One year later, Fort Dobbs was built to protect settlers of the Carolina Piedmont and their Native American allies on the westernmost frontier of North Carolina.



Know all men by these presents that we
John Doo andrew Cather James Dorthey
all of Roan County planters Esq. etc. and
singly bound unto his Ex^{ty} Arthur
Dobbs Esq. governour & so forth



mark
John Ross Dunn
his
Andrew Cather
mark
James Dorthey
his

[John "Jack" Dunn](#) subsequently dictated a letter to [Arthur Dobbs](#) stating that he could not meet him at the fort, and that he was kicked by a horse. This was not John Ross Dunn, Esq., and it was not John Dunn II.

----- page 153 -----

I have Inclosed Your Hon^r What Administration Bonds are now in the Office, there are several who applied for Letters of Administration to this Court, after which being Granted they Left Court before the bonds were Executed as I Could not attend to Draw them Dureing the Time of the Sitting of Court, but promised to Execute them before they Came to Take out their Certificates from me to Y^r Hon^r which I shall be Careful in Getting Without Delay, I have sent 3 Blanks of the Letters of Administration which are unfilled one of which were filled in a mistake Through Hurry in Court, I haveing fill'd one a few minnits before I forgot and filled this for the same person and when I found the mistake I kept this back

I have also sent Your Hon^r An Account of What Wills as were Proved in this Court since the 1st of Jan^y 1753 and as near to Your Instruction as I possibly could.

S^r as to the Complaints of the Executors of his Late Excellency I Can find no room for as I was not in Commission at Any Time Dureing his Government whereas Your Honour is Very Sensible I Rec^d my Commission from President Rice after his Excellency's Death

I Thought to have attended His Honour the President and You, as soon as I Heared of the Gov^r Comeing in, when I should Have Endeavour'd to Adjust and Cleer all my Acc^{ts} with his Honour &^c but Haveing the Misfortune of Geting a fall from off my Horse as I was rideing Together with Major Carter at the Head of some of the Companies to Our Gen^l Muster By which fall and the kicks I rec^d on my Breast after I was down my body was so bruised that I was some weeks obliged to keep my bead and at this Time am not able to stoop to Buckel my Shoe or Sit to write Unless it be a line at a time and then rest, untill my pains abate

I Therefore Hope His Hon^r the President and You Will at this Time Excuse my non attendance to answer Your Letter to me, And as Soon as I hear of the session of the Assembly or Court of Claims or other time of Business I will Endeavour to Attend when I hope to Give Y^r Hon^r Further Satisfaction &^c

In the mean time I shall beg Leave to Subscribe My Self Your Honours Most Humble Servt.

JN^o DUNN

Rowan November 20th 1754

John "Jack" Dunn was also referred to, in the [Regulator Movement Participation Database](#), and in exchange for his execution, performed the Civil Service, as Tax Collector, and I believe Tax receipts were subsequently found behind a wall, of the old courthouse.

His brother, William T. Dunn, received the same offer, and chose to join the North Carolina Militia. In 1770, he was imprisoned for assaulting John Williams, during the [Hillsborough Riots](#), and in 1771, was residing in Alamance, NC. Note: It was not [William T. Dunn](#), who was kicked out of the [Crane Creek Quaker meeting](#). That was [William Dunn](#), son of [Joseph](#).

[Simon Dunn](#) was also [imprisoned for his actions during the Hillsborough Riots](#). See also [Regulators Index](#).

Simon DUNN Jr
1771 Battle of Alamance, exempted from pardon by Gov. Tryon

William DUNN (Orange?)
1771 indicted for riot
1771 Battle of Alamance

John ENYARD (Rowan?)
7 March 1771 at Regulators meeting with county officials in

Samuel ALLEN
1771 Battle of Alamance

His son, [Simon, Jr.](#) moved his Dunn family to Georgia.

In 1758, at the invitation of his father, John Ross Dunn, Esq., [John "Jack" Dunn](#) married [Sara Cross](#), in Rowan, North Carolina. Note that his middle name was indicated with an "X", and witnesses were the same Andrew Cathey and James Dorthey, referred to in the above notice to appear at Fort Dobbs.

Dunn, George	Elizabeth Cenup	3 Sept. 1851	A(bner) S. Elliott (w) J. S. Myers
Dunn, James	Nelly Gheen	2 Feb. 1818	Jonathan Hulan (w) Jno. Giles
Dunn, John x	Sara Cross	26 May 1758	Andrew Cathey James x Dorthey
Dunn, John	Francis Petty	23 Mar. 1775	Waightstill Avery (w) Ad. Osborn
Dunn, John	Sarah Grier	9 Mar. 1782	John Johnson (w) T. H. McCaule

And, as evidenced in that dictated reply, it was he, Jack, who was assigned the duty, of Tax Collector, for his involvement in the Regulator Uprisings. Sara Cross was the daughter of [John B. Cross, Jr.](#), of Baltimore County, Maryland, and sister of [Asahel Cross](#).

In 1782, just before his grandfather, John Ross Dunn, Esq. died, my GGGGG grandfather, [John "Jackie" Dunn](#), born [August 21, 1758](#), Lunenburg, Virginia, [married Sarah Greer](#), also in Rowan, North Carolina. She was not Sarah Aldridge. Here is [John's WikiTree profile](#). He served in the [Bedford County Militia](#), and migrated to [Garrard County, Kentucky](#). His father was [John "Jack" Dunn](#), who had migrated to Kentucky, in 1775, and was captured by the Shawnee. WikiTree hasn't created a profile for Jack.

[Sarah Greer](#) was the [daughter of Aquilla Greer](#), of Baltimore, Maryland, and Elizabeth Hannah Riley,

"Aquilla Greer was born January 29, 1737." (WATAGA COUNTY HERITAGE BOOK, number 294 in entry by Robert C. Proffit as per Roy Eaton, 1996.)

He was married to Elizabeth Hannah Riley about 1760. Elizabeth Hannah Riley was born about 1740. Hannah's maiden name of Riley from GREER THAT GOT TO GEORGIA by Julian Greer. (NOTE FROM RALPH TERRY: Other sources show Hannah's maiden name to be Ingram.) Aquilla Greer and Elizabeth Hannah Riley had the following children:

1. James Greer
2. Solomon Greer
3. Aquilla Greer, Jr.
4. Rhoda Greer
5. Milly Greer
6. Sarah (Sary) Greer
7. Polly Greer
8. Isaiah Greer
9. Amos Greer
10. Smith Greer
11. John Greer

and they were in Pendleton, South Carolina, in 1809, where my GGGG grandfather, [John Dunn, born 1785, Virginia](#), was, when my GGG grandfather, [John Dunn, born 1809, South Carolina](#), was born. Trolls have changed dates and names, but you can see on the 1850 US Census, that [my GGGG grandparents, John Dunn and Polly Hayes, were both, the same age, 65](#). WikiTree has some [conflated duplicates](#).

During the many years I worked to create, and document, my Dunn family tree, on FamilySearch, I continually met with resistance from persons who, simply, didn't have the education, the resources, the desire, nor the dedication, but who seemingly, had nothing better to do. And frankly, what I was able to do, had not been possible for anyone, at all, in the past. Yet, as I've since retired from my labors, I've noticed that there are still those who want to tamper with my work, offering alternate, flawed, biased analyses of the facts, changing dates, and creating fake profiles, to obscure, and falsify the historical record. You can clearly see who has littered these profiles, so I'd like to further solidify the findings of my research, by indicating some important elements, here.

Firstly, according to Archibald Murphey, [Mary Dunn](#) was the daughter of John Ross Dunn and Frances Peronneau, but someone has reassigned her to Mary Read. Please note that the historical record clearly states that Mary was the daughter of John's first wife, who has been proven to have been Frances.

Secondly, John Ross Dunn and Mary Read did not have a son named John, yet someone created a profile, showing him to have been born in 1740, long before John Ross Dunn had even met Mary Read, so I identified him as [John Benefield Dunn](#), b.1741, son of [John Dunn II](#) and [Lucy Bolling](#). Genealogy.com identifies [John Dunn, second](#) and family. Someone had erroneously given [him](#), the middle name Benefield. [John B. Dunn](#), b.1741, was the son of Lucy Bolling, so his middle name may have been 'Bolling', or 'Benefield', but in any case, [he](#) was the son of [John Dunn II](#) (1714-1789).

My unique perspective, singular education, and multi-disciplined specialization, accompanied by full-time retirement, greatly facilitated the accurate tracing of my Dunn ancestry. In about 2010, my Dunn family genealogist, Gail Bisbey informed me that my DNA, and that of my dad, was a close match with that of [Pharaoh Dunn \(1778-1859\)](#). It was known that Pharaoh Dunn was the son of [William T. Dunn](#) and [Olive](#), but no one knew who William T.'s father was.

My earliest known direct ancestor, at that time, was [John Dunn, born 1785](#), in Virginia, who married Mary "Polly" Hayes, born in South Carolina. Someone has maliciously changed John's middle name and date of birth, on FamilySearch. See [this Marriage License and 1850 US Census](#).

On 21 November 1808, John Dunn and Curtis Dunn were bound \$150 for the intended marriage of John Dunn and Mary Hayes. Signed John his x mark Dunn, Curtis his x mark Dunn.^[1]

This is to certifi that Mary Hays is fully of age and has agred to Marre John Don and I Samuel Hays her father and Elizabeth her her [sic] mother has agreed to it x Mary Hays
November the 21 1808^[2]

12		Argeline "	3	F					
13	102	John Dunn	65	M	Farmer				
14		Polly Dunn	65	F					
15	101	Ed. Dunn	25	M	Farmer				
16		Patsy Dunn	30	F					
17		Emily "	6	F					
18		John W. "	4	M					
19		Benj "	2	M					
20		Mary "	1	F					
21		" "							

The genealogists at WikiTree helped me analyze [The James McMurry Dunn family book](#), and distinguish John Dunn of Maryland, from John "Jackie" Dunn, of Virginia, and from there, the pieces just fell into place. See [My Kentucky Dunn Family](#), and Supporting Documentation.

I've spent 15 years of very diligent research on this family, and until now, no one had presented, nor even attempted to offer, any working theory about John Ross Dunn, Esq.'s identity, nor origins, and since its publication, nothing in this document has been disputed. To the contrary, it's rapidly receiving the unanimous acceptance of Dunn family genealogists, as should be, considering that it is solidly founded upon their very own collaborative efforts and contributions, and I created all of these profiles, without severing any links to any pre-existing Dunn profiles.

Conclusion

I've done the research. Further, if you bring any error in my analysis, to my attention, you can trust that I will correct it. And, in that regard, let me pick up, where I left off, in my supporting documents, and say, that because of Robt's(b.1627) priestly position, and John's claim to have studied for it, along with how nicely John's date of birth (1697) would fit into that family, right alongside William b.1695, I was initially driven, in my research, to believe that John Ross Dunn belonged to the Dunn family of Maryland, until I confirmed Elizabeth Gray's relation to the Erskine's, through her mother, Elizabeth Jarrett.

Colonial Dunn Family

For those of you who haven't done any research on this family, and for those who don't have many, many, many years devoted to this research, let me make this as easy as possible. I reiterate, until now, there had never been any viable theory as to the origins of Thomas "Thomae" Dunn, "the immigrant", nor John Thomas Dunn, who married Obedience Ann Burgess, and frankly, if you didn't know where to look, you wouldn't find anything about them. Research on this family was completely abandoned before 2009, and my research is all you will find, as old forums were shut down, and prior researchers have all died.

OK, here is a good place to leave a disclaimer. What you see, in this blog, speaks for itself. I have taken into consideration all of your very own arguments, and if any of your pre-existing Dunn family profiles were changed, I did not do it. I very simply constructed my Dunn family tree, and connected your branches to it.

[Thomas Dunn](#), the 14 year old immigrant to Virginia, is on [RootsWeb](#),

Thomas DUNN "the Immigrant"

1606 - ____

ID Number: I33290

- *RESIDENCE*: Surry Co. VA
- *BIRTH*: 1606
- *DEATH*: James City, Albemarle Parish, Surrey Co. Virginia
- *RESOURCES*: See: LDS [\[S2098\]](#) [\[S2687\]](#)

Father: [\(RESEARCH QUERY\) DUNN](#)

Family 1 :

1. [+William DUNN I](#)
2. [+Thomas DUNN](#)
3. [John DUNN](#)

Notes

Marriage 1 Spouse Unknown

and according to [genealogy.com](#), he was born in 1606, Brandesburton, Yorkshire, England, but that was just a guess, and turned out to be a brick wall. I also heard all the arguments that claimed that he was 14 y/o in 1620, 1623, [1624](#), and 1625, and watched as his date of birth was fudged all the way up to 1610. All of those claims were only estimates, and ultimately unfounded. See [Early Passengers to Virginia: When Did They Really Arrive?](#) by Avery E. Kolb

Thomas Donne "the immigrant" was actually **born in 1605**, in Worcestershire, England, son of **Henry** and **Frauncis**. See the **Virginia Company**, and it's founder, **Edwin Sandys** , of Worcestershire. See also **James Towne**.

Name	Thomas Donne
Sex	Male
Father's Name	<u>Henry Donne</u>
Father's Sex	Male
Mother's Name	<u>Frauncis</u>
Mother's Sex	Female
Event Type	Christening
Event Date	16 Jul 1605
Event Place	Knightwick with Doddenham, Worcestershire, England
Event Place (Original)	Knightwick, Worcester, England

Book Number: 942.47 V26K

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: P01426-1

Citing this Record

"England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, FamilySearch

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:V5GS-W7H> : 5 February 2023), Thomas Donne, 1605.

Here are just three accounts of Thomas "Thomae" Dunn's immigration, in 1620, to America.

1. [The Georgians: Genealogies of Pioneer Settlers](#)
2. [Virginia Calorum: The Colony during the Days of Charles the First and Second](#)
3. [Virginia Immigrants and Adventurers, 1607-1635: A Biographical Dictionary](#)

After the [Powhattan massacre of 1622](#), wherein [Anne Greene](#) was killed, [the Virginia Company was dissolved](#). No one knows, whether or not, this was the same Anne Greene who married a Thomas Dunn, in Clerkenwell, in 1620, and maybe the dates don't jive, but I could very easily make that assumption. See [Tobacco Brides](#).

The screenshot shows a genealogy profile for Anne Greene. At the top, it says "Anne Greene" with an "EDIT" button. Below that, it says "Mentioned in the Record of" followed by a link to "Thomas Dunn (Anne Greene's Husband)". A table below lists her details: Name: Anne Greene, Sex: F. Underneath is a section titled "Anne Greene's Spouses and Children" with a "CLOSE ALL" button. A dropdown menu is open, showing "Thomas Dunn" as the selected spouse, with a "Husband" label and an upward arrow. Below this, a table lists details for the marriage: Name: Thomas Dunn, Sex: Male, Spouse's Name: Anne Greene, Spouse's Sex: Female, Event Type: Marriage, Event Date: 3 Sep 1620, and Event Place: Clerkenwell, London, England, United Kingdom.

Name	Anne Greene
Sex	F

Anne Greene's Spouses and Children
CLOSE ALL

Thomas Dunn	Husband ^
Name	Thomas Dunn
Sex	Male
Spouse's Name	Anne Greene
Spouse's Sex	Female
Event Type	Marriage
Event Date	3 Sep 1620
Event Place	Clerkenwell, London, England, United Kingdom

The Dunn members of the Virginia Company were identified, by [Alabama Genealogy Trails](#), as [Sir Daniel Dunn](#), and his brother, [William](#), sons of [Robert Dunn, citizen and draper of London](#). Sir Daniel Donne was born in 1544, Ribbesford, Worcestershire, but his father, Robert, was born in Parkham, Devon.

[Thomas Dunn "the immigrant" escaped the massacre, and returned to Worcestershire, England](#), where he married [Anne Lenard, in November, 1624](#). In the original, published version of this document, I mistakenly identified her, as Anne Gerard.

They had sons, [Thomas Jr.](#), b.1626, [Robt](#), b.1627, [Richard](#), b.1627, and [William](#), b.1629, and daughters, [Elizabeth](#), b.1631, and [Anne](#), b.1634, and after [Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army decapitated King Charles I](#), they all, likely, [immigrated to America, in 1650](#). As you can see, their Christening Records, and immigration data, are [attached](#) to their profiles.

In 2012, I created [Robt Dunn](#)'s profile, based on that [immigration record](#), and constructed this entire family tree around it, and with the apparent discovery of Thomas Dunn, the 14 y/o immigrant, and John Thomas Dunn, born 1641, has seemingly, come full circle. See [WikiTree](#) and [Hezekiah Dunn](#).

See Robt's Christening Record, below.

Name **Robt. Dunn**
Sex **Male**
Father's Name [Thomas Dunn](#)
Father's Sex **Male**
Event Type **Christening**
Event Date **23 Jan 1627**
Event Place **Worcester,
Worcestershire,
England**
Event Place **All Saints,
(Original) Worcester,
Worcester,
England**

Digital Folder Number: 008044754

Microfilm Number: 354328

Originating System: ODM

Indexing Batch: C02051-2

Citing this Record

"England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, *FamilySearch*


(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:JM75-KWY> : 10 April 2021), Robt. Dunn, 1627.

Thomas Dunn "the immigrant's son, [Thomas](#), was born in 1641, in Ribbesford, Worcestershire, England, older brother of [Edward](#). You can see that Christening Record, below. Dunn genealogists refer to him, as John Thomas Dunn, and genealogy.com refers to him, as [John Dunn, Sr](#), b.1645.

Note: It appears that there might also have been a marriage between a Thomas Dunn and an [Elizabeth Smyth](#), during that time, and I have to consider the possibility that she could have been Thomas Dunn, "the immigrant"'s 2nd, or 3rd wife.


Name **Thomas Dunn**
Sex **Male**
Father's Name **[Thomas Dunn](#)**
Father's Sex **Male**
Mother's Name **[Ann](#)**
Mother's Sex **Female**
Event Type **Christening**
Event Date **12 Dec 1641**
Event Place **Ribbesford,
Worcestershire,
England, United
Kingdom**
Event Place
(Original) **Ribbesford,
Worcester,
England**

 **Thomas Dunn**
Deceased

 **Elizabeth Smyth**
Deceased


Marriage
17 January 1638
Ribbesford, Worcestershire, England

Children (7)

 **Thomas Dunne**
1638–Deceased


 **Ann Dunn**
1640–Deceased

 **Mary Dunn**
1642–1649

 **Elizabeth Dunn**
1644–Deceased

 **John Dunn**
1647–Deceased

 **Mary Dunn**
1649–Deceased

 **Sarah Dunn**
1652–Deceased

Source Details: 119

Microfilm Number: 6344777

Originating System: EASY

Indexing Batch: I00818-7


Citing this Record


"England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975", database, FamilySearch

(<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:N12N-QYS> : 5 February 2023), Thomas Dunn, 1641.

Someone has created a [duplicate](#).







The following FamilySearch profiles show the wives and children of Thomas Dunn "the immigrant",


 **Thomas Dunn**
1605-Deceased • K8K1-F2Y


 **Anne Lenard**
1604-Deceased • GT5P-QN6

Marriage
11 November 1624
Ribbesford, Worcestershire, England

Children (6)


-  **Thomas Dunn**
1626-Dece... • MLF9-HQB
-  **Richard Dunn**
1627-Deceased • G8RJ-KJ2
-  **Robert Dunn I**
1628-1676 • LB5T-PG5
-  **William Dunn**
1629-Deceas... • 9V6K-KVZ
-  **Elizabeth Dunn**
1631-Decea... • 9V62-BGC
-  **Anne Dunne**
1634-1636 • 9V6L-D72


 **Thomas Dunn**
1605-Deceased • K8K1-F2Y

 **Anne Lenard**
1604-Deceased • GT5P-QN6

Marriage
11 November 1624
Ribbesford, Worcestershire, England



Children (6)
[+ ADD CHILD](#)

 **Thomas Dunn**
1605-Deceased • K8K1-F2Y

 **Ann**
Deceased • GBXX-S6X

No Marriage Events

Children (2)

-  **Thomas Dunn**
1641-1732 • GXHB-5W4
-  **Edward Dunne**
1642-Dece... • KL4S-NM2

and, according to genealogy.com, "[Thomas Dunne \[b1606\]](#) was granted 448 acres in Essex Co. VA in 1699 for bringing nine persons into the Colony."

[Thomas Dunn](#), b. 1606 England, came to James City Co., Va. in 1620 as a 14 year old servant of Sir George [Yeardley](#), Knight and Governor and Capt. Gen. of Va. In 1623 [Thomas Dunn](#) was on the Muster of Persons Living at Flower Dieu Hundred, which was located on southside of James River, being part of Weyanoke Plantation, the home of Gov. [Yeardley](#), situated on border of Charles City Co., later Surry Co., Va. In 1655 most of the territory within Weyanoke Plantation, including Flower Dieu Hundred, was made a part of Martin Brandon Parish in Charles City Co. Issue:

I. [Thomas Dunn](#), Jr. of Essex Co., Va. m. Elizabeth Gray. His father, [Thomas Dunn](#), was granted 448 acres in Essex Co., Va. in 1699 for bringing nine persons into the Colony.


According to [Evan David Ittel](#), John Thomas Dunn was born in 1640, in Brandesburton, Yorkshire, the son of Thomas Dunn and Anna Greene, and Obedience Ann Burgess was his niece. Again, that was just a guess, and a brick wall, and I have another theory.

According to genealogy.com, and several other sources, Obedience Ann Burgess was the daughter of Robert Burgess and Anna Dunn, but no evidence could be found, anywhere in Colonial America, so I believe this occurred in England, probably in Worcestershire.

So, here's another theory. Thomas Dunn briefly separated from his wife, Ann Lenard, during which time, before 1641, she (Ann Dunn) bore Obedience Ann Burgess, with Robert Burgess, in England, then reunited with Thomas Dunn, and they parented John Thomas Dunn, in 1641.

We know of only two marriages between a Thomas Dunn and an Ann, and it's conceivable that he married Ann Greene, and Ann Lenard, and because there's no record of a marriage after that, for children born to a Thomas and Ann, their mother could have been Ann Lenard, or a yet unidentified Ann, and given that scenario, this Thomas would not be the Thomas Dunn who also parented children with Elizabeth (Smythe?).

Evan David Ittel claims that Obedience was John Thomas' niece, but I believe she could have been his half-sister, and neither of them were born in Virginia.



Obedience Ann Burgess

Birth 1641 - Virginia, USA
Death 1675 - Albemarle Parish, Virginia, USA
Mother Anna DUNN
Father Robert Burgess

Born in **Virginia, USA** on **1641** to Robert Burgess and Anna DUNN . Obedience Ann Burgess married John Thomas Dunn and had 14 children. She passed away on **1675** in **Albemarle Parish, Virginia, USA**.

Again, let me reiterate. John Thomas Dunn, b.1641, was only 9 years old in 1650, when he and the other family members immigrated to Virginia and Maryland, so it would be correct to identify him, as an immigrant, and this is where genealogists are still getting it wrong. Thomas Dunn, b.1605, was not the father of [William Dunn I, b.1665](#), and [John Thomas Dunn, b.1641, the immigrant](#) was our common ancestor.

William DUNN I

ABT 1665 - 1732

ID Number: I23777

- RESIDENCE: of Essex Co. VA
- BIRTH: ABT 1665, Charles City Co. Virginia [\[S2687\]](#)
- DEATH: 1732, South Farnham Parish, Essex Co. Virginia [\[S2687\]](#)
- RESOURCES: See: [\[S2098\]](#) [\[S2687\]](#)

Father: [Thomas DUNN "the Immigrant"](#)

Family 1 : [Alice GREY](#)

- MARRIAGE: 1688, South Farnham Parish, Essex Co. Virginia

- William DUNN II
- Thomas DUNN
- Mary DUNN
- Susannah DUNN
- John DUNN
- Benjamin DUNN
- Johnathan DUNN
- Alice DUNN
- Sarah DUNN

Notes

Will of William Dunne (5 Feb 1731) Essex County, Virginia Records; Publication: \Dunn Family Manuscript; Author: Butler, Mrs. K. R. of Clifton Forge, Virginia (trans: Genealogy6@aol.com), Publication: Chart found in the Virginia State Library.

And it was he, John Thomas Dunn, b.1641, who was granted 448 acres, and he who fathered [Thomas Dunn, Jr. who married Elizabeth Gray](#). Genealogists thought John Thomas Dunn, b.1641, was **born in America**, and when they couldn't identify him, they skipped an entire generation.

[John Thomas Dunn \(1641-1732\)](#) married [Obedience Ann Burgess](#), and their son was [Thomas Dunn](#), born 1676, not 1696, who, with [Elizabeth Gray](#), parented [David](#), b.1692, [William](#), b.1695, who married [Ann Forgison](#), [Thomas](#), b.1696, [John](#), b.1697 and [Gray](#). Someone maliciously merged Thomas, b.1676, with his son, [Thomas, b.1696](#), on [FamilySearch](#).

Louisa County Dunn Family

Now, I'd like to propose another Dunn family relationship, which has also befuddled genealogists. I think the [John James Dunn \(1719-1792\)](#) family of Louisa County, Virginia, belongs to John Ross Dunn's brother, [Thomas Dunn's \(1696-1772\)](#) family. Here he is, on [genealogy.com](#), and also [here](#), and [here](#), although most of that has never been confirmed. I haven't fully researched that branch of the family, and probably won't, but I offer that theory, and wish you good luck in your family search.

Disputes

It seems that not a day goes by without someone altering these FamilySearch profiles, with no substantial contribution, and when I add new research findings to this blog, they directly target those new findings. You can't rely on the Dunn profiles on MyHeritage, Ancestry, WikiTree nor Geni. Regardless, while there will always be haters, the efforts of those, to alter my family tree, are futile, because the official documents, and historical facts, will forever remain indisputable, and in the end, all will be revealed.

Some so-called FamilySearch "volunteers" seem to be trying to corrupt the database, and defeat the AI, for some childish, or vindictive reason, to make me look stupid.

One particular FamilySearch user, who goes by the user name [RTorchia](#) is **absolutely the most destructive of all**. Look at what [he/she did](#). [RTorchia](#) created multiple duplicate profiles, and detached all relatives, supporting sources, documents and images, from their [original profiles](#), which would ordinarily display in some links in this document. It's good that I made images, and saved the links to original sources. And, I've got lots more. I've restored these profiles three times, and [RTorchia](#)'s nuked them again. He/She used flawed, unsound logic, public ridicule, insults and bullying to strip everything from these profiles, and attached them to scattered, duplicate profiles, then, has the audacity to call these profiles unsourced.

As you can see, FamilySearch has been invaluable to me, during my research, and has provided the absolute best, all-around, data platform, perfectly suited for the field of genealogy, where I've been relatively free to construct my tree, and store a mountain of evidence. And, it's FREE. Ideally, all collaboration between genealogists, should occur there, on FamilySearch, because, alternative family tree websites, like Ancestry, MyHeritage, WikiTree and Geni just aren't very user-friendly.

About the Author

[Joseph Leon Dunn](#) is a retired Computer Information Systems Analyst, with a Specialization in Database Analysis and Design.

I'm going to make this very clear. If you do not have an advanced degree in Information Systems and Database Analysis and Design, you cannot do what I've done. If you have a regular job, you cannot do what I've done. If you have a spouse, or children, you cannot do what I've done. If you don't devote at least 8 hours a day, for the next 15 years, to this project, you cannot do what I've done. I identified every last John, Thomas and William Dunn in Virginia, Maryland and North Carolina, and I accounted for every last one of them. I've researched histories of countries, and counties, churches and peoples, and I've noted everything ever written about the Dunn family. My research is solidly supported by my own family genealogist, and most importantly, by DNA evidence. I have filled five notebooks of Dunns. While documenting everything along the way, I've filled four hard drives with historical documents, and I've shared my research, with everyone, actively seeking collaboration.

My Comprehensive Biographical Analysis is completely interactive, as well as, is supported with images that support my claims. Now, when someone examines my blog, I fully expect them to take the time necessary to click on every link, and I will not accept anything less. Geni curators have not satisfied that requirement, and in fact, tell me they won't, and they make excuses, such as, "oh there were just too many Johns", and "secondary sources are unreliable", yet they publish completely unsourced bullshit on profiles, and off-handedly call my work speculative. As you see, in my blog, I have corrected all of the errors that have been propagated since the beginning of time, and I convinced the UNC Press to reprint old documents that had errors. The Mormons took it to their temple, and froze John Ross Dunn's profile, just like it is, because they determined it to be correct. Yet, Geni has the audacity to vandalize my work, and spread nasty lies about me. I even threatened FamilyTree DNA with a lawsuit, for fraud and misrepresentation, if they didn't fix their phony labels, which they did. My intention is to put every last Dunn genealogist out of business, as they are fraught with conflicts of interest.

My Donne/Dunn family descends from the native Welsh lords of Cilsant, in Carmarthenshire. The region our Dunn/Donne ancestors later entered – the Severn valley and the old kingdom of the Hwicce – had been Christian for centuries by the time the first Welsh Dwnns arrived after 1400.

As early as 675, King Osric of the Hwicce granted 100 hides near Bath to Abbess Bertana for a monastery, one of the earliest documented religious houses in the West Midlands (Sawyer 73). See [Post-Roman and medieval Bath](#), and [Early History of Bath Abbey](#). Two generations later, in 774, sub-king Oshere granted land at Withington to the religious woman Dunne (S 1255). See [Huicciorum Dunnan famulæ Dei](#).

These charters show that the area was already home to Anglo-British Christian communities and land-holding churchwomen bearing the name Dunne/Dunn as early as the eighth century – long before our own Welsh R-L48 line crossed the border.

The Germanic/Anglo-Frisian R-U198 Dunn lineage that appears in Tudor Worcestershire (ex. John Dunn b. c.1532) is almost certainly a descendant of this much older, local Midlands population, while our documented patriline remains the separate Welsh gentry branch that arrived after the Glyndŵr revolt(1400–1415). See [The Bartrum Genealogical Project](#), [Heraldic Visitations of Wales](#), [Early Welsh Gentry](#), and [History of the Kingdom of Strathclyde](#).

Recommended For Further Research

[The Kingdom of the Whicce](#) - by [Annie Whitehead](#)

[Early Medieval England 670-790](#)

[Oshere of Hwicce](#) on Wikipedia

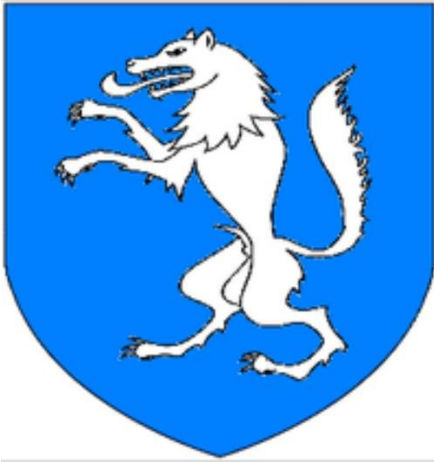
[The History Files](#)

[Electronic Sawyer](#)

Pedigree

Each of the Dunn profiles, presented in the following pedigree, have satisfactorily provided, documented evidence, of patrilineal relationship, and have been positively verified, through DNA testing, by FamilyTreeDNA.

See [FTDNA Dunn Kit# 46931](#).



Henry Dwinn ap Gruffudd (c.1330-1416)

Thomas Don (c.1350-) *possible match.

Thomas Don (c.1390-)

Sir John Don (-1477) m. Agnes (1433-1516)

Sir Angell Donne (1455-1506) m. Anne Haywardine (1448-1518)

Gabriel Donne (1496-1558)

David Donne (1513-1580) m. Katherin Crambury (1512-)

Thomas Donne (1545-1621) m. Jane Cole (1557-)

Henry Donne (1574-1619) m. Frauncis

Thomas Dunn (1605-) m. Anne Lenard

m. Ann *duplicate

John Thomas Dunn (1641-1732) m. Obedience Ann Burgess (-1690)

Thomas Dunn (1676-1728) m. Elizabeth Gray (1679-1767)

John Ross Dunn (1697-1783) *duplicate

m. Katherine Frances Peronneau (1691-) *duplicate

John "Jack" Dunn, Sr (1737-1778) m. Sarah Cross (1736-)

John "Jackie" Dunn, Jr (1758-1840) m. Sarah Greer (1758-)

John Dunn, Sr (1785-) m. Mary "Polly" Hayes (1785-)

John Dunn (1809-1859) m. Nancy Hatfield (1807-1859)

Charles Walter Dunn, Sr (1846-1909) m. Mary Elizabeth Henderson (1844-1936)

Leslie Theodore Dunn (1884-1918) m. Nancy "Nannie" Purcell (1887-1963)

Sherman John Dunn (1912-1998) m. Charlotte Ruth Meisner (1919-1984)

Richard Ernest Dunn (1938-2019) m. Glenda Joan Laing (1938-2021)