

John Ross Dunn Esq

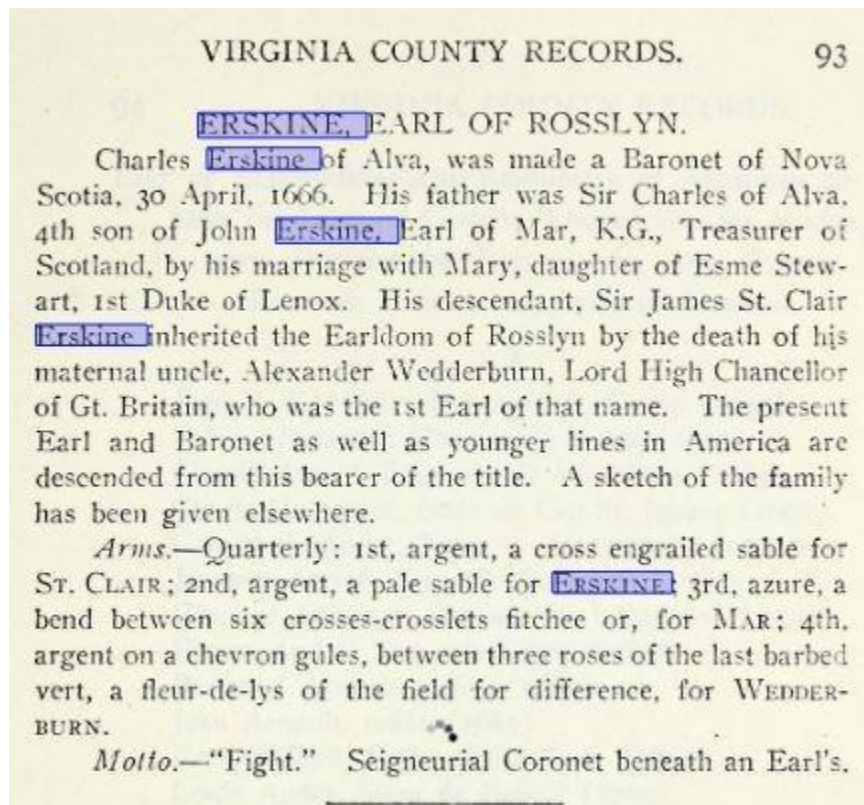
Biography of John Ross Dunn Esq

A Comprehensive Biographical Analysis

September 20, 2023

[John Ross Dunn, Esq.](#), was born in 1697, in Charles Parish, York, VA, and died in 1783, in Salisbury, Rowan, NC. He was a younger son of [Thomas Dunn](#) and [Elizabeth Gray](#), and descendant of the original immigrant, [Thomas Dunn](#), who immigrated to Virginia, at the age of 14, from [Worcestershire, England](#), in 1620. See [History of Worcestershire, England](#). This Dunn family traces back to the Donne's of [Devon](#), and [Sir John Donne](#), wealthy London [Mercer](#).

According to [Rev. Jethro Rumble](#), John was related to the [Erskines](#), on his mother's side. See [Lord Gray](#), and [Peerage of Scotland...](#)



According to [General William Smith and W. Thomas Smith](#), John relocated to North Carolina when he was about 17 years old, and he and [Frances Peronneau](#) parented 10 children, [Nancy](#), [Mary](#), [Elizabeth](#), [Hannah](#), four girls; [Joseph](#), [John](#), [Isaac](#), [Hezekiah](#), [Leonard](#) and [Bartholomew](#), six boys.

In 1714, Frances Peronneau faked her death, and joined into a Common Law union with John Dunn, which was a Capital Offense, equivalent to rape, and punishable by death. 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 cimetière Notre-
Dame 1672-1830**

In 1726, they parented [Priscilla](https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~haunpolk/genealogy/haun/haug84.htm), born in South Carolina, where Frances' relatives lived.
<https://freepages.rootsweb.com/~haunpolk/genealogy/haun/haug84.htm>

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. <https://www.ncpedia.org/biography/johnstongabriel>

John Dunn was a surveyor, and in 1731, was appointed to survey the road, in Goochland, Virginia.

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.

https://www.virginiadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/75-r71.pdf

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 Cheraws](#).

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. 283.

†"Statutes," pp. 405-6.

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 in 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](#).

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. 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., it was recorded 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 Charleston, S.C., where Jury Men included Frances' Uncle, [Henri Peronneau](#), her cousin, [Henry Peronneau, Jr.](#), and her future husband, [Joseph Moody](#).

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, Nov 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](#). 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 how 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](#).

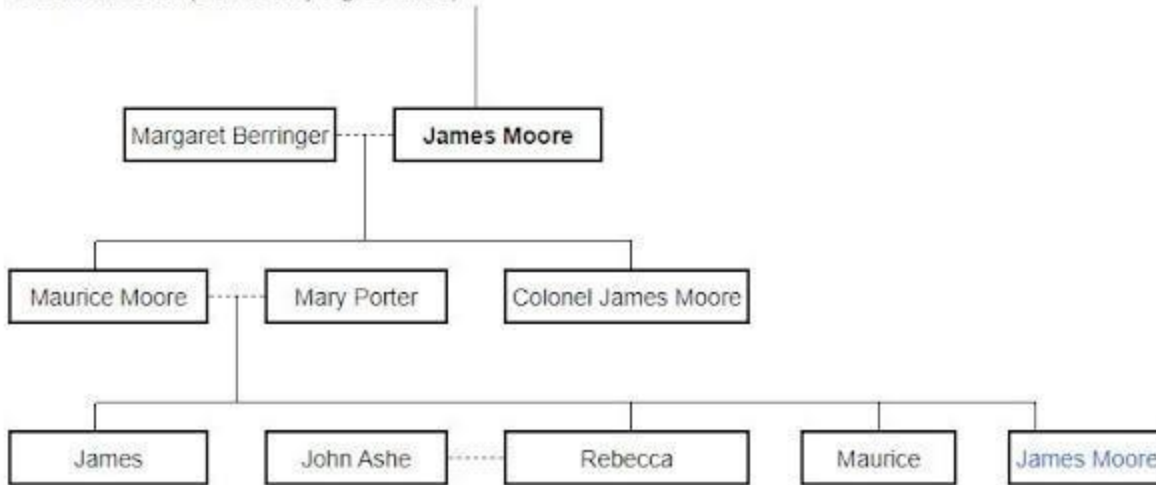
<https://tourism.berkeleycountysc.gov/wp-content/uploads/docs/Boochawee%20Plantation%20Goose%20Creek%20Land,%20Labor%20and%20Legacy.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orton_Plantation

Roger Moore was present at Gov. Johnston's Executive Council meetings.

<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](#).

[Founding Fathers of the Deep South](#)

Maurice Moore transferred land, in New Hanover County, to Richard Dunn.

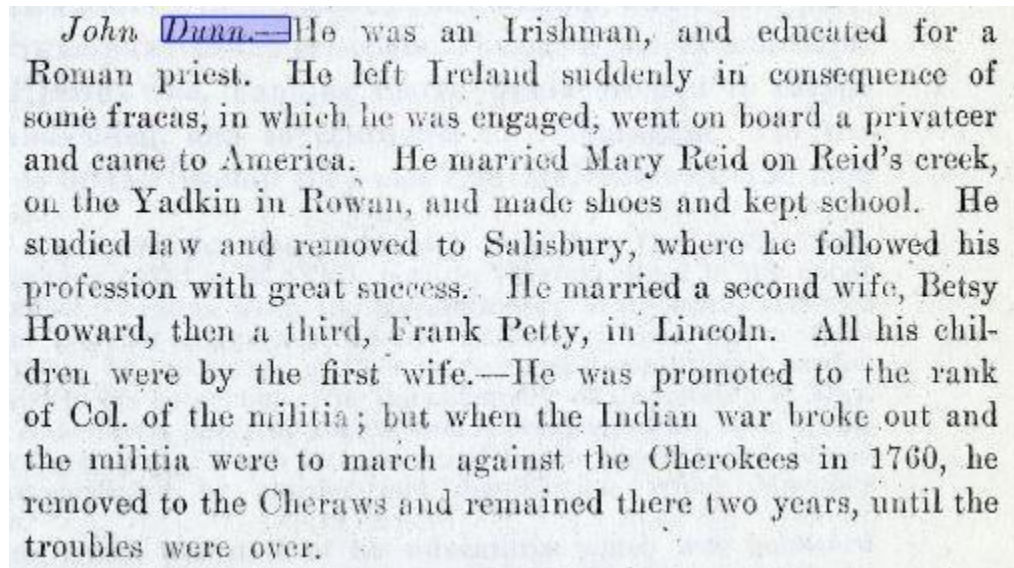
<https://www.ncgenweb.us/newhanover/deed1.html>

When John left Catherine with their younger children, in 1739, she recorded [his burial, on August 7, 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. Then, 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, [Betsy Howard was John's second wife](#). It was also here, in [Lunenburg, Virginia](#), where John Dunn met, and married [Mary Read](#). See "[The Reads and their Relatives](#)"

(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.

John and Mary Read parented 5 children: 2 boys, and 3 girls, [Charles](#), [Eleanor](#), [George](#), [Susannah](#), and [Elizabeth](#). Given that their children were born after 1749, Mary Read's birth date may be approximated to have been about 1720 - 1725.

[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 "Read", not Reid, nor Reed, and they actually settled on [Reedy Creek](#), a tributary of the [South Yadkin River](#). See [South Yadkin River](#). In that same paragraph, Murphey also stated that all of John Dunn's children were by his first wife, whom we now know to have been Frances Peronneau.



*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, which was actually John's first wife, Frances (Françoise) Peronneau, but she had shortened her name to Frank, and her last name to Peddy, "Peronneau-Dunn-Moody". Then, they actually [married in 1775](#), when John was 78 years old. [Lincoln County, North Carolina](#) was formed in 1779, from [Tryon County](#).

When John was in Cecil, Maryland, he joined the Maryland Militia, and stayed at [William Rumsey's](#) Bohemia Manor. <https://www.encyclopedia.com/religion/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/bohemia-manor>

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. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goose_Creek,_South_Carolina

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.

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.

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

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.

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. "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 as you can see, someone has changed his date of birth, from 1726, to 1737, in yet another attempt to invalidate my research.

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 was there at the time his daughter, Priscilla, met her future husband, and this link shows the [Polk Farm, 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, with a warning, in a foolish effort to secretly learn of their plan, and to attempt a rescue of the other captives. The Shawnees did not trust him, called off the raid, and [burned Jack at the stake](#).

John's and Frances' son, Bartholomew, begat Isaac, who begat Susannah, who married William Bennett. We see Richard Bennett, of Queen Ann County, Maryland, into whose family, Susannah married.

Family Tree Book

dated his ancestry back to 850. Guiliama de Soniat, who lost his life in the 7th Crusade was in this line of descent.

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-

JOHN DUNN, ESQ.

This gentleman was a native of Ireland, born at Waterford, and on his mother's side connected with the Erskine family. He was a younger brother, and was early sent to Oxford University, that he might prepare himself to carve out his own fortune. When he was about twenty years of age he left Oxford, and emigrated to America, landing in Charleston, S. C. After a brief residence there he came to Salisbury, where he spent the remainder of his life. He became in 1753 Clerk of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, which office he held until he became a licensed lawyer in 1755. His residence in Salisbury was on the corner of Innes and Church Streets, on the lot now occupied by Mr. P. B. Meroney. After the style of those days, the house was built as close to the street as possible. Here the writer saw a freedman, a few days ago, throw up old pieces of old bricks, as he was digging out a place in which to plant a sycamore tree—doubtless the debris of John **Dunn**'s family residence, or perhaps the foundations of his law office.

the Roundheads and the revulsion of public sentiment in England in favor of the restoration of the monarchy, followed by the accession to the throne of Charles II, General Bennett, fearing, perhaps, for his personal safety, crossed the ocean and came to Virginia. Even there, however, he was not beyond the reach of action on the part of the Royalists detrimental to his interests, for Sir William Berkeley, the then Governor of the Colony, forced him to flee into Maryland where he settled in the County of Anne Arundel. Two of the General's brothers, named respectively, William and Neville, also emigrated to America and took up their residence in Anson County, North Carolina, about 1740.

The William Bennett here referred to married a Miss Hucksten. This couple had two children, a son, William, Junior, and a daughter, Elizabeth. William, Senior, twice remarried, was the father of other children and removed to the State of South Carolina. He saw active service as a captain in the army during the War of the Revolution and died in the town of Bennettsville—thus named as a tribute to his personality and service

—September 1, 1815. His children, Elizabeth and William, Junior, continued to reside in Anson County, the latter marrying, in 1794, Susanna, daughter of the famous **Dunn** family of Virginia, with which Sir David **Dunn** and his brother William were identified. Susanna's mother was Mary Sheffield, of Virginia.

A son born to William and Susanna was named Lemuel **Dunn** Bennett. He married Jane Little, whose father came from Marls-gate, Cumberland, England. The Littles were a family of prominence and had intermarried with the Scott family of England and with the Lords of the Manor of Askerton. Mrs. Mary Jane Bennett Smith, of whose family we are now treating, was the daughter of Lemuel **Dunn** Bennett and his wife Jane.

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. Apparently, Rev. Rumble's sources were extremely lacking.

<https://www.ancestraltrackers.net/nc/rowan/history-rowan-county.pdf>

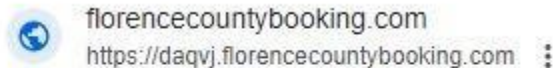
The biography of John Ross Dunn, by [Archibald D. Murphey](#), claims that John Dunn was from Ireland, when we know he was from the [Dunn family of Virginia](#). See [Anson County NcArchives Biographies](#), by Leonard Wilson (1916). [NCpedia](#) also makes that error, and while including some of the 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.

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

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

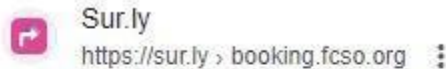
<https://docsouth.unc.edu/csr/index.php/document/csr15-0651>

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, in 1776, 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, and when pressed as to why he sounded like an Englishman, he further lied, claiming to have attended Oxford.



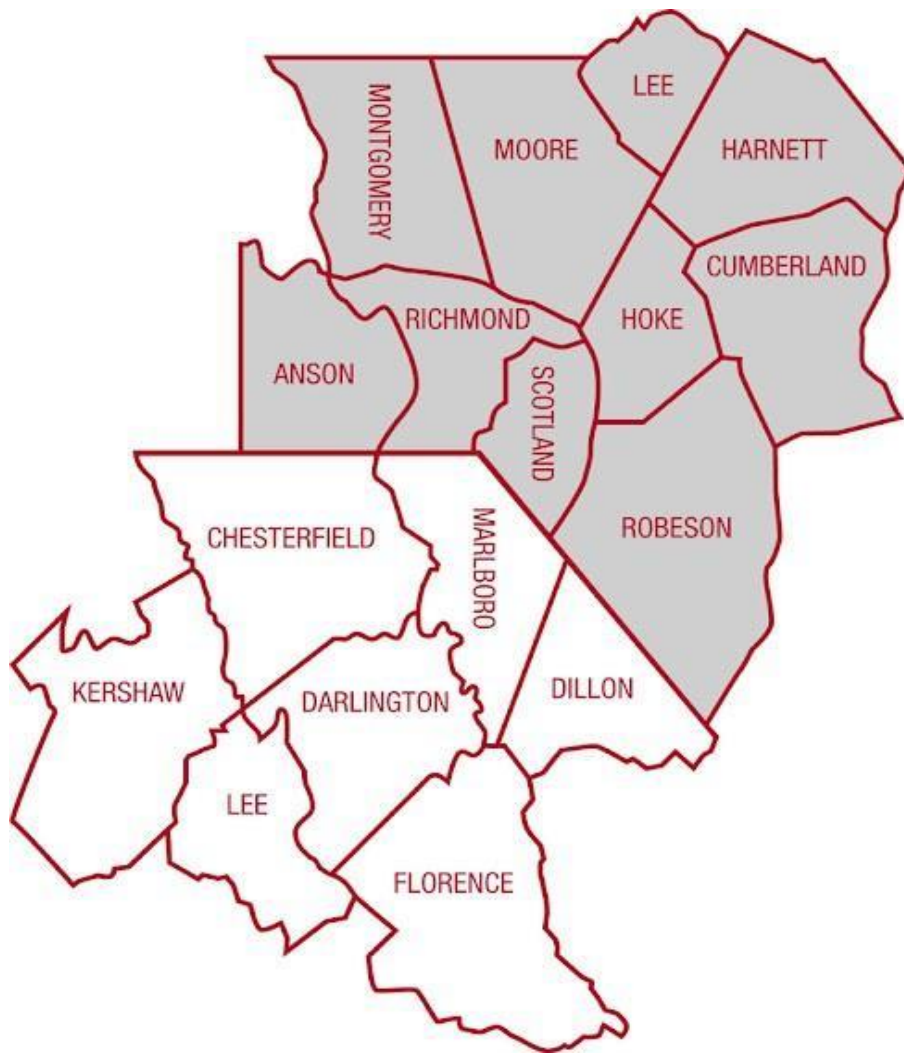
Biography of john dunn

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



booking.fcso.org - Florence County Detention Center

Florence County Detention Center. <https://booking.fcso.org>. Safety status. Safe. Server 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, and his son, [John Dunn II](#),

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).

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 You andrew Cather James Dorthey
all of Roan County planters Ex^{ts} heirs and
singly bound unto his Ex^{ty} Arthur
Tobes Esq^r our governor & so forth

mark
John You
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.

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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^{rs} Comeing in, when I should Have Endeavoured 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^{rs} 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

These two excerpts, from [The Family tree book](#), claim that John Dunn, the emigrant, and John Dunn, the Salisbury lawyer, were the same man.

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.

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

John Dunn II, brother of Bartholomew, was also referred to, in the [Regulator Movement Participation Database](#). In exchange for his execution, he performed the Civil Service, as Tax Collector.

Their 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. <http://piedmontwanderings.blogspot.com/2016/03/who-were-regulators.html>

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

[John "Jackie" Dunn](#), 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.

Related Documents: Due to the nature of documenting my research, which was fluid, and changing, the following related documents have some inaccuracies, and inconsistencies, which I've since corrected.

[Breaking Down My Dunn Brick Wall](#), and [Addendum Hezekiah Dunn](#),
[My Kentucky Dunn Family](#).

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, awed, biased analyses of the facts, changing dates, and creating fake profiles, to obscure, and falsify the historical record. I won't name any names, but 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. And, as you can see, they married her to a fictitious [John Brandon](#), with absolutely no sources attached. This is completely unacceptable behavior, and yet another example of the destructive nature of some FamilySearch users.

Secondly, John Ross Dunn and Mary Read did not have a son named John, yet someone has created a [fake profile](#) showing him to have been born in 1740, long before John Ross Dunn had even met Mary Read. The birth dates of Mary Read's children have also been skewed, to try to t them into a timeframe which would contradict John's historical record of being in Virginia and Maryland. Then, someone has moved John Dunn and Mary Read's daughter, [Susannah](#), to John "Jack" Dunn and Sarah Cross. Clearly someone has either done no research whatsoever, or is deliberately being malicious.

Now, for those of you who haven't done any research on this family, and those who don't have many years devoted to this research, let me make this as easy as possible. Let me begin with [Thomas Dunn](#), the 14 year old immigrant to Virginia. He was orphaned, in 1619, when his father, [Henry](#), died. Here are just three accounts of his immigration, in 1620, to America.

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

In 1625, that colony failed, and the Virginia Company was dissolved. The Dunn members of the Virginia Company were identified, according to [Alabama Genealogy Trails](#), as [Sir Daniel Dunn](#), and his brother, [William](#), sons of [Robert Dunn, citizen and draper of London](#), brother of [David Edward Donne](#), and son of [Gabriel Donne](#).

After that colony failed, [Thomas Dunn](#) returned to England, and married [Anne Gerard](#). His two sons, [Thomas Jr.](#), and [Robert](#), were born in 1626, and 1627, and after [Oliver Cromwell's New Model Army decapitated King Charles I](#), they, both immigrated to America, in 1650. As you can see, even though their birth certificates, and immigration data, are attached to their profiles, [Thomas, Jr.](#)'s birth has been maliciously changed to 1605, his wife's name has been changed, from Elizabeth Ann [Burgess](#), to his mother's name, Ann Gerard, and he's been detached from his father, the original, 14 year old immigrant, [Thomas Dunn](#). [Thomas, Jr.](#)'s son, [John Thomas Dunn](#), was born in 1641, and his son was [Thomas Dunn](#), born 1669, who, with [Elizabeth Gray](#), parented [John Ross Dunn](#). Note: He was not known as Thomas Dunn III because his father was John Thomas Dunn, but again, someone is being troublesome. John Ross Dunn and Frances parented [John Dunn II](#), and more information about him can be found at [genealogy.com](#).

It seems that not a day goes by without someone altering these profiles, with no substantial contribution, and when I add new research findings to this blog, they directly target those new findings. 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.

Only my unique perspective enabled me to trace my Dunn ancestry. In 2001, my 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. The Genealogists at WikiTree helped me analyse [The James McMurry Dunn family book](#), and distinguish the John Dunn of Maryland, from the John "Jackie" Dunn, of Virginia, and from there, the pieces just fell into place.

Now, I'd like to propose another Dunn family relationship, which has also befuddled genealogists. I think the [John Dunn \(1719-1792\)](#) family of Louisa County, Virginia, belongs to this [Thomas Dunn \(1700-1772\)](#). Here, is more of that [old research](#), 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.

Joseph Leon Dunn is a retired Computer Information Systems Analyst, with a Specialization in Database Analysis and Design, and all of these presented research findings have been positively confirmed with verifiable DNA evidence, from FamilyTreeDNA.

Dunn Pedigree FTDNA Kit# 46931

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

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

Gabriel Donne (1496-1558)

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

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

Henry Donne (1576-1619) m. Frauncis

Thomas Dunn (1605-) m. Anne Gerard (1605-)

Thomas Dunn (1626-1699) m. Elizabeth Ann Burgess (-1675) See House of Burgesses

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

Thomas Dunn (1669-1728) m. Elizabeth Gray (1676-1767)

John Ross Dunn (1696-1783) m. Frances Katherine Peronneau (1691-)

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 Hat eld (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)