

Deans of Dorchester

Deane/Dean Family Origination

de Dene/Deane/Dean Family which originated in the vicinity of Dorchester, Dorset, England in the 16th and 17th century, migrated to 'Dorsett' (Dorchester) County, Maryland and then spread to various areas of the United States.

Richard de Dene was the head of the ancient House in London during the reign of Edward III (1327-1377). Among his descendants was the Most Reverend, His Grace, Henry Deane, Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord High Chancellor of England during the reign of Henry VIII. It is of record that the Deanes of Somersetshire are a branch of Richard de Dene's line. One of its lines also claims descent (by marriage) from the more ancient Danish line. John and Walter Deane, who settled in Taunton, Massachusetts in 1637, came from the vicinity of Taunton, Somersetshire, England.

See:

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

http://orthodoxwiki.org/Archbishop_of_Canterbury

William Henry Deane, founder of the Maryland Deane (Dean) family, and whose son, William Richard Deane, died in Dorchester County in 1699, was also a descendant of the Deane families of Somersetshire and Dorset, a well known British family of ship builders and mariners. It has long been asserted that the Massachusetts Deanes and those of Maryland were kindred in blood and of the same original stock. B. F. Johnson, Inc., compilers of "Men of Mark in England" and "Makers of America" assert that certain Deanes of Massachusetts and Maryland were of the same Somersetshire family.

This is confirmed by a statement in "New England Families" published by the American Historical Society. William Armstrong Crozier, Fellow of the Royal Society, England, states that John and Walter Deane of Massachusetts came from Somersetshire, England, and gives the Coat-of-Arms, Crest, and Motto properly appertaining to them, which proves this branch to be in direct descent from Richard de Dene of London. It follows that the Arms borne by them, recorded by Crozier and verified by independent English records, are those which properly appertain also to the Deane Family of Dorchester County, Maryland.

Source of above content: <http://www.geni.com/people/William-Gilbert-Dean-of-Dorchester/6000000010331871011#/tab/overview>

In the late 1930's to early 1940's, Rev. John William Dean, D. Sc., D. D., an avid Dean Geneologist founded the Deans of Dorchester Association, which was an association with which to further the research on the Dean Bloodlines originating in Dorchester County, Maryland. This Association lasted quite a few years. In June of 1973, Rev. Dean hand-typed a manuscript entitled "*The Deans of Dorchester*" and submitted it to the Dorchester County Historical Society Library, which is now housed in the Maryland Room of the Dorchester County Public Library.

In this manuscript, Rev. Dean lays out a very concise and accurate genealogy for the Dean bloodlines of Dorchester County, Maryland dating back to 16th century England in the area around Dorchester, Dorset, England. From other data that have been found through years of research, it is quite appropriate to state that the information compiled by Rev. Dean and the *original* Deans of Dorchester Association was quite massive and thoroughly researched.

It is with the greatest admiration and respect for Rev. Dean and his fellow researchers that we quote the words of the **Preface to *The Deans of Dorchester***:

"Every family history or lineage should be well documented and authenticated. However, it is not always possible to do so. Many of our Dene-Deane-Dean records have been lost because of these three unfortunate events.

First: When the old Deane home known as "Atlantis" near East New Market in Dorchester County, Maryland, was struck by lightning and burned in 1846, two old Bibles containing family records dating back to 1639 were destroyed.

Second: When the County Courthouse at Cambridge, Maryland burned, most of the recorded wills were destroyed.

Third: Since 1939 our personal records as well as those of our family association known as "Deans of Dorchester" have been kept in safe deposit boxes at the bank. There they were safe from fire and theft, but when Hurricane Agnes swept up from the south and dumped seven inches of rain on us in 24 hours, a wall of water 31 feet high rushed down the Susquehanna Valley smashing bridges and washing away houses as if they were toys. Our records were buried in mud, oil, acid and sewage for ten days before we could get to them. Thousands of individual record sheets were salvaged and cleaned to the extent that they could be retyped, but hundreds of others as well as many rare old record books simply dissolved like so much gelatine. Many manuscripts that had not as yet appeared in print, and of which there are no known copies, were lost forever.

The results of years of research were lost within a few hours, but from each disaster some few things have been saved.

When the old homestead was destroyed by fire, a small strongbox containing deeds, old correspondence, and other family papers, was saved and kept. In later years, William Washington Deane began writing down everything that he could remember about the family. From the old correspondence he was able to verify some facts, chiefly family names.

When the courthouse burned, none of the recorded deeds were destroyed and from them we have been able to cull some valuable information. Fortunately, some of the very early wills recorded at Cambridge were also recorded at Annapolis.

A few dates of birth, marriage, and deaths have been found on church records and also on cemetery records. Census records and tax lists have yielded some information and fortunately the records of marriage licenses for Dorchester County since 1780 are available. Dates and other information for several generations is still missing, but the search for additional data goes on.

The ancestors of William Henry Deane back to the days of the Norman Conquests are fairly well documented and are recorded in "A Brief History of the Dene-Deane-Dean Family".

The Rev. John William J. W. Dean, D.Sc., D.D.

June 30, 1973