

CHAPTER

The Dorsett Line © 2005

Blood

Born with a feeling of knowing to a line from ancient times
Traced to the dawn of man the truth finally unwinds
Tapestries of mysteries unfold before our eyes,
That special feeling from deep within like water for the soul
The answers satisfy for now though truth continues to flow
Now I know our lineage and ties with history
Where will it take us, what does it want from me?
To do our line justice, to live up to it's name?
I pray that I someday will help kindle its wondrous flame! ¹

-- Daniel Duke

After receiving so much flack from some of my Courtney cousins over, what they consider, my tainting the “honorable Courtney name” by associating it with Jesse James, the reader may imagine my surprise to learn that the real James L. Courtney’s line is linked by blood to my Dorsett line.

A family represents a tree standing above ground with the roots representing surnames growing and spreading but that can all be traced back to the main trunk of the tree. Once a name is identified and traced it reveals other names branching off, many of which have historical interest.

My Dorsett line descends from Giles Brent, a descendant of Duncan I King of Scotland. ² Giles Brent’s sister, Margaret Brent, brought her servant, Mary Lawn, to America in 1638 and James

¹ Courtesy of Daniel Joseph Duke. Written on 2/25/2007 5:22:18 AM Central Standard Time.

Courtney purchased her indenture from Margaret Brent in 1639. When James Courtney and Mary Lawn married it linked the Courtney family to the Dorsett family bloodline. The Courtney line again connected to the Dorsett line when William James Dorsett married Ida Florence Courtney, daughter of Jesse James aka James Lafayette Courtney.

“Giles Brent (1600-1672), does not seem to receive as much attention as his more famous sister, Margaret, but he played a significant role in the early development of Maryland.

Giles Brent was the youngest son of Sir Richard Brent, Lord of Lark Stoke and Admington in Gloucestershire, England. We do not know much about his early life until he arrived in Maryland in 1638 with his brother and two sisters.

His family became close to Governor Leonard Calvert, and soon Giles was one of the colony's political and economic leaders. He settled on Kent Island, where he developed a large plantation. Giles Brent held many roles in Maryland, including Councilor, Treasurer, Commander of Kent Island, judge, and burgess. For a brief period in 1643-44 when Leonard Calvert returned to England, Giles served as Deputy Governor of the colony. Despite this apparent success, he was eventually charged with disloyalty and forced to immigrate to Virginia.

Giles Brent's problems began when he refused to lead the settlers of Kent Island against the local Indians who had been attacking Maryland settlements. He further angered the proprietors (the Calverts, who owned Maryland) when he married Mary Kittamaquund, daughter of the tayak, or emperor, of the Piscataway Indians.

The Calverts believed that Giles had married the Indian princess in hopes of gaining control of more of the Indians' land and that he was a threat to the proprietors' authority. When Giles Brent began to speak out in the Assembly against the Calverts, he was no longer welcome in Maryland.

² Brent Family Genealogy Forum: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/brent/messages/360.html>.

He and his sister Margaret moved to Virginia in 1649, and Giles died in 1672.”³

Sarah Mason Barbee James held the key that unlocked the mystery of the James/Courtney connection, and Giles Brent held the key to the Dorsett line. As the Dorsett line was traced up the family tree surnames came into view such as Culver, Beaven, Stafford, Audley, De Clare, Willoughby, Beauchamp, Neville, and Plantaganent -- the Royal Blood line courses through this family’s veins.

Twenty five surety barons signed the Magna Carta, the most significant early influence on the extensive historical process that led to the rule of constitutional law today. Magna Carta influenced many common law documents, such as the United States Constitution and Bill of Rights, and is considered one of the most important legal documents in the history of democracy”⁴

³ Exploring Maryland’s Roots: <http://mdroots.thinkport.org/library/gilesbrent.asp>. Lord Baltimore assigns power of attorney to Giles Brent SPECIAL COLLECTIONS (Theodore C. Brady Collection) MSA SC601; Letter from Cecilus Calvert to "our trusty and well Beloved Giles Brent Gent Treasurer of our Province of Maryland and one of our Council..." (1640) GENERAL ASSEMBLY UPPER HOUSE (Proceedings) 1637-1658, liber MC, MSA S-977-1; Giles Brent's Commission as Commander of Kent Island, LAND OFFICE (Patent Record) 1640-1658, liber F, folio 156, MSA S11-2; Patent of land granted to Giles Brent for transporting 11 manservants into the colony LAND OFFICE (Patent Record, Original) 1646-1657, liber ABH, folio 65, MSA S920-4, 1/29/2/45). SOURCES: Maloney, Eric John, *Papists and Puritans in Early Maryland: Religion in the Forging of Provincial Society, 1632-1665*. PhD. Dissertation, State University of New York at Stony Brook, 199; Papenfuse, Edward C., Alan F. Day, David W. Jordan and Gregory A. Stiverson. *A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789*, vol. 1: A-H. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979; Riordan, Timothy B., *The Plundering Time: Maryland in the English Civil War, 1642-1650*. Unpublished draft manuscript, 1997; Notes on Margaret Brent, © Dr. Lois Green Carr, Historic St. Mary's City Commission

⁴ Magna Carta From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magna_Carta

Twenty-two of the twenty-five surety barons were related either by blood or marriage. My Dorsett bloodline traces back to those Surety Barons and through Surety Baron, Richard de Clare, it traces directly back to the Royal Family Tree.

James Courtney and his wife, Mary Lawn Courtney, had one son, Thomas Courtney. James Courtney died shortly after Thomas' birth and Mary married second to Daniel Clocker.

Thomas Courtney Sr., son of Mary Lawn and James Courtney married three times:

- First Thomas Courtney married Sarah Taylor and had three children: Mary Courtney, Ann Courtney and Thomas Courtney Jr.

Thomas Courtney Jr. married Mary Painter. (The Painter name is mentioned in the diary of Jesse James aka James L Courtney).

Ann Courtney married John Baker. (This Baker name is also listed in the Diary of James L Courtney).

- Thomas Courtney Sr. married second to Miss Roberts. They would have a daughter by the name of Eleanor Courtney. Miss Roberts was first married to Mr. Strong.
- Thomas Courtney Sr. Married third to Mary?

Thomas and Mary Courtney would have a daughter Mary Courtney who would marry William Jenkins. The Jenkins and Courtney families intermarried back and forth also with the Garner families which tie into the James line.

The James Courtney who married Mary Jenkins ties into the William Jenkins line through their daughter, Martha Courtney, who married Vincent Garner. Mary Jenkins was the daughter of Nicholas Jenkins b: 1605 in Purleigh, Essex, England and Ann Amy 1628 in England. Vincent

Garner was related to the Rusk and Garland families as mentioned in the will of John James Courtney.⁵ It is important to understand how the names to this Courtney – Dorsett line associate with one another in order to understand how it all blends in with the James family in Clay County Missouri and why Jesse Woodson James would take on the alias of James Lafayette Courtney who had one thing in common with one another. Both men shared the same 3rd and 4th great grandmother Sarah E Mason Barbee James.⁶

James Courtney and Mary Jenkins Courtney are the parents of William Frances Courtney who married Mary Barbee, granddaughter of Andrew Barbee and Sarah Elizabeth Mason Barbee. After the death of Andrew Barbee, his widow Sarah married Thomas James. These names are repeated throughout the book as they are needed to explain the family connections. Thomas James and Sarah Elizabeth Mason Barbee James could be classified as the melting pot of the James family in America.

Betty is put off by those who brag about their heritage. She wishes to emphasize that her heritage is only presented herein because it is the cornerstone of her claim. It is important to stress that her family was a big part of Maryland's history as well as America's founders and

⁵ Title: Garner Keene Families of Northern Neck Virginia. Author: Ruth Ritchie & Sudie Rucker Wood Publication: Jarman Printing Co., Charlottesville, Virginia, 1952 p. 10, TLC Genealogy, St Mary's County, Maryland, Rent Rolls, 1639-1771 St: Mary's Hundred Croydon. 100. 0.4.0. Surveyed Jun 18, 1681 for Tho: Courtney, in the woods. Possessor: Widow Mary Courtney. Notes: p. 10, TLC Genealogy, St Mary's County, Maryland, Rent Rolls, and 1639-1771 St: Mary's Hundred Croydon. 100. 0.4.0. Surveyed Jun 18, 1681 for Tho: Courtney, in the woods. Possessor: Widow Mary Courtney.

⁶ The Garner-Keene Family (of Northern Neck, Virginia) by Ruth Ritchie & Sudie Rucker Wood, 1952, Jarman Printing Company, Charlottesville, Virginia, Texas A Personal History" by Bascom N. Timmons, Harper & Bros. Publishers, New York, avail. at San Augustine (TX?) Public Library & Houston, Harris Co, TX library: Said John Nance Garner was "Scotch in the male line & Welsh in the other." Mentions the Garners were a well-off family that had "found the way to education & business success" & had fought for both the King vs. the French & for Geo. Washington vs. the King.pg.65, 66.

leaders. From The Declaration of Independence to the Magna Carter Betty Dorsett Duke's story forever unfolds.

The Dorsett's can be traced back to the year 1224/1225 starting with Richard De Clare which will take the reader to Betty Dorsett Duke's grandfather, William James Dorsett, who married Ida Courtney, daughter of Jesse James aka James L Courtney.

Generation 27: Richard De Clare:

Richard De Clare, the Surety and the 4th Earl of Hertford, like his father and his uncle was generally known as the Earl of Clare. He was present at the coronation of King Richard at Westminster on September 3, 1189, and of King John on May 27, 1199. In the 7th year of Richard I., gave 1,000 pounds to the King for livery of the lands of his mother's inheritance, with his proportion of those sometimes belonging to Giffard, Earl of Buckingham. He sided with the barons against King John and his castle of Tunbridge was taken. On November 9, 1215 he was one of the commissioners on the part of the barons to treat peace with the king. On March 4, 1215 or 1216 his lands in cos. Cambridge, Norfolk, Suffolk, and Essex were granted to Robert de Betun; and he and his son were among the barons excommunicated by the Pope in 1215. He married Amica (Amice) Muellent, Countess of Gloucester, 2nd daughter and co-heiress (with her sisters Mabel, wife of the Earl of Evereux, in Normandy, and Isabel, the divorced wife of King John) of William FitzRobert (Muellent), Earl of Gloucester, and his wife Hawise (Mabel) Beaumont, daughter of Robert de Beaumont, Earl of Leicester. Amice, a descendant of the Kings of France back to Hugh Capet, died on January 1, 1224 or 1225.

Richard de Clare is the father of Gilbert de Clare born 1180; died October 25, 1230; married Isabella Marshall who died Jan. 17, 1239

Generation 26: Gilbert de Clare:

Gilbert de Clare, 5th Earl of Hertford, born about 1180, who after the decease of Geoffrey de Mandeville, Earl of Essex, the 2nd husband of Isabel, the divorced wife of King John (one of the co-heiresses mentioned above of William, Earl of Gloucester), and in her right Earl of Gloucester, and her own decease, s.p., as also the decease of Almarick d'Evereux, son of the Earl of Evereux, by Mabel, the other co-heiress, who likewise succeeded to the Earldom of Gloucester, became Earl of Gloucester, in the right of his mother, Amica, the other co-heiress. In June 1202 he was entrusted with the lands of Harfleur and Mostrevilliers. This nobleman was among the principal barons who took up arms against King John, and was appointed one of the twenty-five chosen to enforce the observance of the Magna Charta. In the ensuing reign, still opposing the arbitrary proceedings of the crown, and championing Louis le Dauphin, he fought on the side of the barons at Lincoln, and was taken prisoner there by William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke; but he soon afterwards made his peace. He led an army against the Welsh in 1228 and captured Morgan Gam, who was released the next year. Being engaged in an expedition to Brittany, he died on his way back at Penros in that duchy, October 25, 1230. His body was conveyed by way of Plymouth and Cranbourn to Tewkesbury. He was buried before the high altar, November 10, 1230. He married, on October 9, 1217, Isabel Marshal, one of the daughters and eventually co-heiresses of the same William Marshal, Earl of Pembroke, (who married after

his decease, Richard, Earl of Cornwall, brother of King Henry III.). She was sister of William Marshal, the Surety. She died January 17, 1239/40.

Gilbert de Clare is the father of Richard de Clare, born Aug. 1, 1222; Richard died July 15, 1263 and married Maud Lacie; daughter of John de Lacie; married second Quincey, granddaughter of Saire de Quincey.

Generation 25: Richard de Clare:

Richard de Clare, 6th Earl of Hertford, and 2nd Earl of Gloucester, was in minority at the time of his father's death. The ward ship of this young nobleman was granted to the famous Hubert de Burgh, Earl of Kent, Justiciary of England, whose daughter, Margaret, to the great displeasure of King Henry III., he afterwards (1243) clandestinely married, but from whom he was probably divorced. She died in November, 1237. We find the king marrying him the next year, on or before January 25, 1237/8 to Maud Lacy, daughter of the Surety John de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in consideration whereof the said John paid to the crown 5,000 marks, and remitted a debt of 2,000 more. His lordship, who appears to have been a very distinguished personage in the reign of King Henry III., was one of the chief nobles present in Westminster Hall (40th year of Henry III.), when Boniface, Archbishop of Canterbury, with divers other prelates, pronounced that solemn curse, with candles lighted, against all those who should thenceforth violate the Magna Charta. In two years afterwards an attempt was made by Walter de Scotenay, his steward and chief counselor, to poison the earl and his brother William, which proved effective as to the latter, while his lordship narrowly escaped with the loss of his hair and nails. In the next year the earl was commissioned with others of the nobility, by the appointment of the king, and the whole

baronage of England, to the parliament of France, to convey King Henry III's resignation of Normandy, and to adjust all differences between the two crowns; and upon the return of the mission, his lordship reported proceeding to the king, in parliament. About this period he had license to fortify the Isle of Portland, and to embattle it as a fortress. It is reported of this nobleman, that being at Tewkesbury, in the 45th year of Henry III., a Jew, who had fallen into a jakes upon the Saturday, refusing to be pulled out in reverence to the Jewish Sabbath, his lordship prohibited any help to be afforded him on the next day, Sunday, the Christian Sabbath, and thus suffered the unfortunate Israelite to perish. He died himself in July 15, 1262, having been poisoned at the table of Peter (Piers) de Savoy, the queen's uncle, along with Baldwin, Earl of Devon, and other persons of note.

Richard de Clare was the father of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Gloucester born September 2, 1243; died December 7, 1295; married May of 1289, Joan of Arce daughter of King Edward I.

Generation 24: Gilbert de Clare:

Gilbert de Clare, his successor as eldest son (See Wurts: pp. 68-70), born September 2, 1243, in Christchurch, Co. Hants. He was known as "the Red Earl," 9th Earl of Clare, 7th Earl of Hertford, and 6th Earl of Gloucester, by the king's procurement. Being under age at his father's death, he was a ward of Humphrey de Bohun, Earl of Hereford. He married in 1257, (1) Alice le Brun, daughter of Hugh le Brun, Count of La Marche and Angoulesme, and his wife, Yolande, daughter of Pierre Mauclerk. Alice was the niece of the King of France, which monarch bestowed upon the lady a marriage portion of 5,000 marks. In April 1264 he led the massacre of the Jews at Canterbury, as Simon de Montfort had done in London. His castles of Kingston and Tonbridge were taken by the king, who, however, allowed his Countess, who was in the latter, to

go free because she was his niece; and on May 12 he and Montfort were denounced as traitors. Two days later, just before the battle of Lewes, on May 14, Montfort knighted the Earl and his brother Thomas. The Earl commanded the second line of the battle and took the King prisoner, having hamstrung his horse. As Prince Edward had also been captured, Montfort and the Earl were now supreme. On October 20 following, however, the Earl and his associates were excommunicated by the Papal Legate and his lands were placed under interdict.

Gilbert, who, like his predecessors, was zealous in the cause of the barons, proceeded to London immediately after the defeat sustained by the insurrectionary lords at Northampton in the 48th year of King Henry III., in order to rouse the citizens, which, having effected, he received the honor of knighthood, from Montfort, Earl of Leicester, at the head of the army at Lewes; of which army, he, with John Fitz-John and William de Montchensi, commanded the second brigade, and having mainly contributed to the victory, in which the king and the prince became prisoners, while the whole power of the realm fell into the hands of the victors, the earl procured a grant under the great seal of all the lands and possessions, lying in England, of John de Warren, Earl of Surrey, one of the most faithful adherents of the king, excepting the castles of Riegate and Lewes, to hold during the pleasure of the crown, and he soon after, with some of the principal barons, extorted from the captive monarch commission authorizing Stephen, then bishop of Chichester, Simon de Montfort, Earl of Leicester, and himself, to nominate nine persons of "the most faithful, prudent, and most studious of the public weal," as well prelates as others, to manage all things according to the laws and customs of the realm, until the consultations at Lewes should terminate. Becoming jealous, however, of the power of Leicester, the earl soon after abandoned the baronial cause, and having assisted in procuring the liberty of the king and the prince, commanded the second brigade of the royal army at the battle of

Evesham, which restored the kingly power to its former lustre. In reward of these eminent services he received a full pardon for himself and his brother Thomas, of all prior treasons, and the custody of the castle of Bergavenny, during the minority of Maud, wife of Humphrey de Bohun. He veered again though in his allegiance, and he does not appear to have been sincerely reconciled to the royal cause, until 1270, in which year demanding from Prince Edward repayment of the expenses he had incurred at the battle of Evesham, with livery of all the castles and lands which his ancestors had possessed, and those demands having been complied with, he thenceforward became a good and loyal subject of the crown. Upon the death of King Henry, the Earl of Hertford and Gloucester was one of the lords who met at the New Temple in London, to proclaim Prince Edward, then in the Holy Land, successor to the crown, and so soon as the new monarch returned to England, he was the first to entertain him and his whole retinue, with great magnificence for several days at his castle of Tonebruge. In the 13th year of King Edward I., he divorced his wife Alice le Brun, the French Princess, and in consideration of her illustrious birth, granted for her support during her life, six extensive manors and parks, and he married in 1289, (2) Joane Plantaganet, of Acre, daughter of King Edward I., upon which occasion he gave up the inheritance of all his castles and manors, as well in England as in Wales, to his royal father-in-law, to dispose of as he might think proper; which manors, etc. were entailed by the king upon the earl's issue, by the said Joane, and in default, upon her heirs and assigns, should she survive his lordship.

Gilbert de Clare and Joan of Arce are the parents of Margaret de Clare who married Hugh Audley.

Generation 23: Margaret de Clare:

On April 28, 1317 Margaret de Clare wed Hugh Audley at Windsor Castle. They had one daughter: Margaret Audley, born between January 1318 and November 1322. [NOTE: Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States, is out of the Audley Line.]

Hugh and Margaret were among the victims of their brother-in-law, Hugh the younger Despenser. In his rashness and greed for the Clare lands, he robbed Margaret of much of her rightful inheritance. In 1321, Hugh joined the other Marcher barons in looting, burning, and causing general devastation to Despenser's lands.

Hugh was captured at the Battle of Boroughbridge in 1322, and was saved from a hanging thanks to the pleas of his wife. He was imprisoned, and two months later Margaret was sent to Sempringham priory. She remained there until 1326, when Hugh escaped prison and she was released from Sempringham. In the meantime, her daughter Joan Gaveston had been sent to Amesbury priory. A marriage was arranged for Joan with the son of Thomas Multon, but the girl died in early 1325.

Hugh and Margaret were reunited sometime in 1326. In summer 1336, their only daughter, Margaret Audley, was abducted by Ralph Stafford, 1st Earl of Stafford. Her parents filed a complaint, but King Edward III of England supported Stafford. He appeased Hugh and Margaret by creating Hugh earl of Gloucester.

Margaret died in April 1342 and her sister Elizabeth de Clare paid for prayers to be said for her soul at Tonbridge priory.

Generation 22: Margaret Audley and Lord Ralph Stafford:

Margaret de Clare and Hugh Audley are the parents of Margaret Audley and Lord Ralph Stafford who abducted Margaret from her parents in the summer of 1336

Sir Ralph Stafford (24 September 1301 - 31 August 1372 known also as Ralph de Stafford) was an English soldier and nobleman, and became a founding Knight of the Garter in 1348.

Stafford was summoned to Parliament as the 2nd Baron Stafford from 1337 to 1350. He was created 1st Earl of Stafford in 1351. He served as a military leader under King Edward II, fighting in campaigns in Scotland, then in Brittany, France, where he was captured during the Siege of Nantes. He died in 1372 at Tonbridge, Kent.

He abducted Margaret Audley (1293-1342), daughter of the Earl of Gloucester. Her parents, Hugh Audley and Margaret de Clare, filed a complaint, but King Edward III of England supported Stafford. He appeased Hugh and Margaret by creating Hugh Earl of Gloucester. They were survived by at least one daughter, Joan. He died on 31 AUG 1372 at Tunbridge Castle.

Generation 21: Margaret Stafford and Sir John Stafford:

Sir John Stafford was the son of William Stafford of Bromshull County, Stafford England.

Margaret Stafford, daughter of Sir Ralph, Earl of Stafford by his 1st wife; married Sir John de Stafford, Knight, son of William, of Bramshall, Co. Stafford. [Magna Charta Sureties]

Margaret Stafford, 4th daughter by his [Sir Ralph's] 1st wife; married as his 2nd wife, Sir John Stafford, Knight, of Bramshall, Co. Stafford, son of Sir William Stafford of Bramshall.

[Ancestral Roots] [Note: Peter Sutton, SGM, states that Margaret, b. 1331, was married twice, her 1st husband being Sir John de Stafford, although he doesn't indicate who her 2nd husband was.]

Generation 20: Ralph Stafford and Maud daughter of Sir John Hastang:

Ralph de Stafford is the son of John De Stafford and Margaret Stafford. Ralph Stafford married Maud De HASTINGS daughter of John HASTINGS of England. Ralph and Maud de Hastings would have a child named Humphrey Stafford. Humphrey would marry Elizabeth Burdett of Northampton, England

Generation 19: Humphrey Stafford and Elizabeth Burdett:

Humphrey Stafford married Elizabeth Burdett the daughter of John Burdett and Humphrey Stafford. From this line would come a son Humphrey Stafford de Grafton who married Eleanor Aylesbury

Generation 18: Humphrey Stafford de Grafton and Eleanor Aylesbury:

Humphrey Stafford married first to Ann Deville. Anne De Neville's mother Joan De Beaufort was Countess Of Westmoreland. Joan De Beaufort was born in Chateau De Beaufort, Meuse-et-Loire, France daughter of John "Of Gaunt", Prince of England.

Humphrey Stafford married second to Eleanor Aylesbury, daughter of Thomas Aylesbury

Birth: ABT 1372 in ,Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, England *Death:* 6 SEP 1418 in England and Catherine Pabenham *Birth:* ABT 1376 in Thenford, Northamptonshire, England

Death: 17 JUL 1436 in England.

Humphrey Stafford and Eleanor Aylesbury are the parents of Ann Stafford who married Sir Richard Neville.

Generation 17: Ann Stafford and Sir Richard Neville:

Sir Richard Neville Lord Latimer, known as the "King Maker", Richard Neville commanded in the Battle of Stoke in 1476, fought against the Scots at Norham Castle in 1496 and at Flodden in 1513.

Ann Stafford and Sir Richard Neville are the parents of Margaret Neville born 1491 and died November 22, 1515. Margaret Neville married Edward Willoughby, son of Lord de Broke.

[Note: Richard Neville can be traced back to William Penn]

Richard Nevill, Lord Latimer abt. 1468-1530=Ann Stafford

1. Sir Henry Nevill d. 1469=Joan Bouchier;
2. George Nevill, Lord Latimer abt. 1414-1469=Elizabeth Beachamp;
3. Ralph Nevill, Earl of Westmorland=Joan Beaufort abt. 1379-1440;
4. John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster 1340-1399=Katherine de Roet;
5. Edward III, King of England=Philippa of Hainaut 1310-1369;
6. William III, Count of Hainaut d. 1337=Jeanne de Valois;
7. John II, Count of Hainaut d. 1304=Philippa of Luxembourg;
8. John I d'Avenes, Count of Holland=Adelaide of Holland d. abt. 1284;
9. Florent IV, Count of Holland=Mechtilde of Brabant;
10. Henry I, Duke of Brabant=Matilda of Flanders d. 1210/1211;

11. Mathew of Alsace=Mary of Blois 1136-1182;
12. Steven of Blois, King of England 1096-1154=Matilda of Bolougne;
13. Steven, Count of Blois=Adela of Normandy abt. 1062-1137; and
14. William the Conqueror, King of England 1027-1087=Matilda of Flanders.

Generation 16: Margaret Stafford and Edward Willoughby:

Margaret Neville (Anne Stafford², Humphrey¹) was born 9 Mar 1493/94 in Latimer, Buckinghamshire, England, and died Unknown. She married Edward Willoughby 22 NOV 1505, son of Robert Willoughby and Elizabeth Beauchamp. He was born AFT 1474 in Broke, Wiltshire, England, and died NOV 1517 in 10 NOV 1521 in Bere Ferrers, Devonshire, England. Margaret Neville and Edward Willoughby are the parents of Elizabeth Willoughby who married Sir Fulk Greville.

Generation 15: Elizabeth Willoughby and Sir Fulk Greville:

Fulke Greville was born on Oct. 3, 1554 in Beauchamp Court, Warwickshire, to a wealthy noble family, as the only son of Sir Fulke Greville. He entered Shrewsbury School in the same year as Sir Philip Sidney who was to become his close friend. After leaving Jesus College, Cambridge, he was offered a post by Sir Henry Sidney, Philip Sidney's father, but he gave it up in order to follow Sidney to the court of Queen Elizabeth I. At court, Greville fared well. He became part of

the Areopagus club with Spenser and Sidney, and also counted among his friends Sir Edward Dyer, Samuel Daniel and Sir Francis Bacon.

Elizabeth Willoughby (Margaret Neville³, Anne Stafford², Humphrey Stafford¹) was born 28 April 1500 in Broke, Wiltshire, England, and died 15 NOV 1562. She married Fulke Greville, son of Edward Greville and Anne Denton. He was born ABT 1491 in Milcote, Warwickshire, England, and died 10 NOV 1559 in England.

Elizabeth Willoughby and Fulke Greville are the parents of Katherine Greville who married Giles Reede

Generation 14: Katherine Greville and Giles Reede / Reed:

Katherine Greville (Elizabeth Willoughby⁴, Margaret Neville³, Anne Stafford², HUMPHREY Stafford¹) was born Abt 1555 in Milcote, Warwickshire, England, and died Unknown. She married Giles Reede/Reed. He was born ABT 1550 in Tusburie and Witten, England, and died ABT 1577 in Wittem, England. Katherine Greville and Giles Reede / Reed are the parents of Elizabeth Reede and Sir Richard Brent:

Generation 13: Elizabeth Reede and Sir Richard Brent:

Elizabeth Reed (Katherine Greville, Elizabeth Willoughby⁴, Margaret Neville³, Anne Stafford², Humphrey Stafford¹) was born ABT 1578 in Larke Stoke or Admington, Gloucestershire England, and died 1631 in Bredon, England. She married Lord Richard BRENT 1594 in Larke

Stoke or Admington, England. He was born 1573 in Larke Stoke or Admington, Gloucestershire England, and died 1 MAY 1652 in Gloucestershire, England.

Elizabeth Reede and Lord Richard Brent are the parents of Giles Brent who married Princess Kittamagun, the only child of Chitomacheu, Emperor of the Piscataway Indians.

Generation 12: Giles Brent and Princess Kittamagun:

Giles Brent leads to the crossroad where the Dorsett line has one thing in common with the Courtney line. It appears Giles Brent's sister Margaret Brent came to America with many of her servants. Margaret Brent was a Catholic leader in early colonial Maryland. She is most renowned today for requesting a vote in the Maryland Assembly in an age when women, Queens excepted, were not allowed to participate directly in political life. She arrived in Maryland in 1638 with a sister, Mary, and two brothers, Giles and Fulke. Their father was Richard Brent, hereditary Lord of Lark Stoke and Abington in Gloucestershire and third cousin of Cecil Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore and proprietor of the Maryland Province.

As stated previously one of Margaret Brent's servants was Mary Lawne. Just a year after Mary arrived one James Courtney bought out her indenture and married her.⁷ By 1643, Courtney was dead and she was left with a one-year-old son. Women were in short supply and in great demand

⁷ **Maryland State Archives: St. Mary's City Men's Career Files MSA SC 5094**

Clocker, Daniel (? - 1676) Wife: by 1645, Mary, daughter of - Lawne, widow of 1. James Courtney. Children: Elizabeth (b. 1647), Daniel, Mary (b. 1650, m. Peter Watts), John, Cathryn, Rebecca (m. 1. John Askins, 2. Bryan Daley, 3. John Simmons). Courtney step-children: Thomas. Additional occupations: attorney in fact. Local Offices: justice of peace, St. Marys and Patuxent, 1655; appraiser, 1659, 1660, 1667, 1668, 1669; overseer of highways, 1669; Common Council, St. Marys City, 1671. Provincial Offices: juror, Provincial Court, 1648, 1653. Military Offices: appointed militia officer by Josias Fendell. Land at death: acreage undetermined.

in the early days of the colony. Soon Mary was wed to Daniel Clocker. Although the information on James Courtney is vague, he appears to have been the father of the James Courtney who married Dyne which traces to Betty Dukes Courtney Family tree.

Giles Brent and Princess Kittamagun are the parents of Katherine Brent who married Richard Marsham of Prince George County, Maryland.

NOTE: As with most genealogy there are dissenters from the generally agreed upon facts.

Charles Brashear says that the Catherine Brent married to Richard Marsham is not the daughter of Giles Brent and Mary Kittamagun but in records is stated to have "been in service" in England before her marriage to Richard. She was born in England and came as a young woman to the colonies where she married Richard Marsham.

However, information appearing in a Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin entitled "Culver and Dorsett Families" says she was the daughter of Giles Brent. One can hear a lot of diatribe from various speculators and even well meaning people who believe they are right for whatever reason, but at some point you must decide which evidence has the most credibility.

As far as most researchers are concerned organizations like the Maryland Genealogical Society and the Magna Charta Dames, and individuals like Barbara Benson with thirty or more years of painstaking research and attention to detail, are the most credible sources available because they have already considered all available evidence and come to a conclusion on which they agree that Catherine Brent *was* the daughter of Giles Brent and Mary Kittamangun.⁸

Generation 11: Katherine Brent and Richard Marsham:

⁸ Courtesy of David Dorsett.

Katherine Brent family goes back to Edward III through Katherine Greville. Richard Marsham married second to Ann Calvert. The Brent, Calvert and Courtney, and Dorsett lines shed light on their bloodline to England

Katherine Brent and Richard Marsham are the parents of Mary Marsham and Charles Beaven.

Generation 10: Mary Marsham and Charles Beaven:

Details of the descendants of Charles Beavan can be found in "The Beban Family of Maryland" by Helan Bevan, filed at the Filson Club in Louisville in 1966 by T. Joyes.

Charles left a will in Prince George County, Maryland and had 6 children. One son Charles, and a brother Richard. Mary Marsham and Charles Beaven are the parents of Catherine Beaven who married Henry Culver.

Generation 9: Catherine Beaven and Henry Culver:

Catherine Beaven born abt 1684 in Prince George's County, Maryland and died 20 DEC 1762 in Prince George's County, Maryland – Probate. Catherine Beaven married Henry Culver Sr., a planter from Prince George's County, Maryland. Catherine Beaven and Henry Culver are the parents of Eleanor Culver who married John King Dorsett.

Generation 8: John King Dorsett I and Eleanor Culver:

John Dorsett is the son of Thomas Dorsett and Susannah Marlow in 1756. Thomas Dorsett Jr. is the son of Thomas Dorsett Sr. and Mary Unknown of Prince George's County, Maryland

John Dorsett married Eleanor Brooke Culver daughter of Catherine Beaven and Henry Culver.

John King Dorsett and Eleanor Culver are the parents of Theodore Dorsett born Nov. 2, 1790 in Maryland. Theodore married Mary Jane Murphrey of Wilkerson County, Mississippi.

Generation 7: Theodore Dorsett and Mary Jane Murphrey:

Willie Mae Weinert, a historian for Guadalupe Co., Texas, wrote *History of Guadalupe County* in 1951 and an excerpt from her book reads as follows: "In the vicinity of the Concrete School rest a fabulous number of the dead of early Texas fame. The inscriptions on the markers read like a list of Texas Rangers and Civil War Veterans-and they were exactly that. Captain Theodore Dorsett, who came to Texas in 1825, is among them. Captain Dorsett commanded a company of Texas soldiers in the Freedonian Rebellion at Nacogdoches. W. D. Scull married a daughter of Captain Dorsett and he too rests in peace in the Concrete Cemetery. Scull and Wm B. Travis were old friends and it was together they took part in the early quarrels between the Texans and the Mexican Government which took place at Anahuac. Mr. and Mrs. Scull came to the Concrete Community in 1851 and Captain Dorsett came with them. Mrs. Dorsett died and is buried in Liberty County. (Early Settlers and Indian Fighters-A.G. Sowell)."

Theodore Dorsett and Mary Jane Murphrey are the parents of William J. Dorsett who married Mary Eleanor Shaw on March 6, 1843 in Galveston Texas.

Generation 6: William J Dorsett and Mary Eleanor Shaw:

William J. Dorsett born between 28 Apr 1825 and 30 Jun 1825 Liberty County, Texas, died after 1880 married Mary Eleanor Shaw 06 Mar 1843 in Galveston, Texas.

Generation 5: Edwin R Dorsett and Susan A Park/Parks:

Edwin R. Dorsett born 20 Dec 18 1853 Galveston County, Texas, died 22 Jul 1928 Travis County, Texas married Susan A Park/Parks in Brazoria County, Texas 1876.

They had William James Dorsett born Mar 1877 in Brazoria County, Texas, died 20 Sept 1926 Lorena, McLennan County, Texas. He married Ida Florence Courtney in Bell County, Texas in 1897

William James Dorsett is the grandfather of Betty Dorsett Duke. He married Ida Florence Courtney, the daughter of Jesse James aka James L Courtney the Missouri outlaw said to have been killed April 3, 1882.

Generation 4: William James Dorsett and Ida Florence Courtney:

William James Dorsett and Ida Florence Courtney were the parents of Jesse Willard Dorsett born Aug. 29, 1914 in Travis County, Texas.

Generation 3: Jesse Willard Dorsett and Adeline Dorothy Fay Burt:

Jesse Willard Dorsett born 29 Aug 1914 in Austin, Travis County, Texas and died 05 Jun 1966 Travis County, Texas, married on 25 June 1938 Adeline Dorothy Fay Burt born 25 Jun 1938 and died 14 May 2006 in Travis County, Texas.

Jesse Willard Dorsett held within him a secret about his maternal grandfather, known as James L Courtney in Texas, and a mystery within the family to protect his true identity from being known to the world. That identity would be that James L Courtney was living in the shadows of who he really was--an outlaw by the name of Jesse James. He faked his death along with the help of law and government officials, family and friends and borrowed a name he was familiar with--James L Courtney, his fourth cousin once removed. He hightailed it to Texas and assumed the life of a small town farmer in Blevins, Texas. No one ever suspected him as being the famous outlaw but those who knew kept their silence.

Jesse Willard Dorsett and Adeline Dorothy Fay Burt Dorsett were the parents of Betty Dorset Duke.

Generation 2: Betty Gayle Dorsett and Joe Billy Duke:

All the generations spoke secretly about the true identity of James L Courtney and covered his tracks well. Then came Betty Duke of Generation 2 who has heard the stories all her life and the puzzle fell into her hands. Having the last piece of the puzzle Betty Duke thinking it looks right decided it might be able to fit--it did indeed fit. If you sit back and take a strong look at Betty's James aka Courtney family as well as her Dorsett line you will see a family with many ties in many directions which brings her story to light.

Betty Dorsett Duke is the generation of discovery to the Jesse James mystery and family ties.

She was born April 2, 1947, ironically one day before the death hoax of Jesse James in Missouri on April 3, 1882. [Many believe the yet unidentified man passed off as Jesse James was killed

on April 2.] Betty married Joe Billy Duke, born January 23, 1846, on January 13, 1966 in Austin, Texas.

Generation 1: The Continued Line:

Betty Gail Dorsett and Joe Billy Duke are the parents of Daniel Joseph Duke, born April 17, 1967; John Willard Duke, born September 22, 1969; and Teresa Fay Duke, born October 29, 1970. Their generation will take with them a legacy of history of the most famous outlaw of the west-- the Jesse James.

John Duke married Meredith Mann and they presented Joe and Betty Duke with grandson, James Woodson Duke, born September 27, 1998 and granddaughter, Lauren Elisabeth Duke, born November 19, 2001.

Betty Dorsett Duke's family tree has been the most interesting tree I have ever fallen out of. Please note that genealogy is always a work in progress. Even the best sources are subject to error, but there is always that one individual who shakes the tree to see how many leaves they can get to fall and then call you down on your research. The reader may contact Betty Dorsett Duke at banditoutlaw13@aol.com to report any errors or additional information they may wish to contribute. In this electronic age libraries all over the United States and other on line services such as Ancestry.com, RootsWeb.com, FamilyTree.com, etc. can be contacted enabling us to have better control of our research. The Internet affords one the luxury of not having to worry about the hours of library, lugging books back and forth from a shelf, and getting dizzy looking at microfilm--we now live a Genealogy Dream.

As one sifts through the sands of time they sensed a dimension that was lost to the future—a dimension of family history entangled in a web of names leaving one wondering how they all connected. Betty Duke’s family story found that lost dimension. It has been a thrilling mystery from start to finish. There had been times when we were up to our rears in alligators but we continued to drain the swamp. Together we discovered just how big the Jesse James story was and although there is still more to be told, we will leave where we left off for the next generation to come. Did Jesse James Live and Die In Texas? I truly believe he did.”⁹

⁹ Sources: 1. Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia © 2001-2006 Wikipedia contributors (Disclaimer)
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