

To: The Dean Murder Research Group

From: Mark Bean

Date: April 9, 2015

RE: New Dean Material from Margaret Bean

As mentioned, I recently found a box of Dean material in the attic of my mother's house. One of the most interesting finds is a series of correspondence between Margaret and Dr. David Humiston Kelley (1924-2011), a renowned archeologist and professor at the University of Calgary. (See attached Wikipedia biography). These letters were just randomly stashed in the box and it took me a while to put them in order and piece together what it was all about. There are a lot of notes that Dr. Kelley attached to his letters that he would keep adding details to. These were all mixed up in the box and it was hard to always tell which set of notes went with which letter. I think I got it mostly right. As soon as I can, I will scan them and send them in a separate e-mail. I will also bring them with me to the Civic Center on Monday. I thought it would be best to do this little write-up on the story behind the letters for the record.

David Kelley was the son of Helen Humiston of Jaffrey and her second husband, Gilbert Kelley. David spent many summers here and even lived in Jaffrey for a year as a child. He also travelled back and forth to Jaffrey while he attended Harvard. Helen Humiston's first husband was Roy Ellison, who died of influenza at the Humiston home in Jaffrey in 1918, the year after his marriage to Helen. Roy Ellison served in the army and was best friends with Helen's brother, John "Jack" Humiston, who was killed in action in WWI. Helen and Jack were both children of Franklin Humiston, MD, who had a practice in town for many years. (See attached Humiston genealogy from Jaffrey History Vol. II., and the supplemental hand-written addition supplied by David Kelley). As we all know, Humiston Field in Jaffrey was named in appreciation of Jack's service to his country and for Dr. Humiston's service to the town. (See attached newspaper clipping re: Article 16 from Jaffrey Town Meeting).

As an interesting side note, Dr. Franklin Humiston's father was Amos Humiston who was killed at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. He died clutching a photograph of his children and the photo was published in newspapers in an attempt to identify him. The story about the Unknown Soldier at Gettysburg apparently became quite famous and a book was written about him. (See attached Wikipedia entry). In his correspondence, Dr. Kelley mentions that he had reviewed material related to the Dean case with the author of that book, Mark Dunkelman.

I am not entirely certain how Dr. Kelley and Margaret started communicating with each other about the Dean murder. It begins with a letter from Dr. Kelley to David Weir of Peterborough in Nov. 2001. David Weir is the son of Arria "Babette" Morison, the daughter of Mrs. Horace Morison of "What I know is too dangerous for a woman" fame. Babette Weir lived in Rivermead and Margaret apparently visited her there occasionally. At any rate, in that first letter to David Weir, Dr. Kelley states "It was a real stimulus meeting Nancy", then in a subsequent letter to my mother, he mentions having had a conversation with Nancy Townsend, who is the wife of someone in the history department of the University of Calgary. It turns out that Nancy has connections (cousins) to the Dean case. Putting two and two together, I am guessing that Nancy Townsend in Calgary is related to the Morisons (Weirs) of Peterborough.

The correspondence with my mother began in early 2002 and continued through the end of that year. Actually, Margaret wrote her last letter in March of 2003 but there was no answer I could find. She did receive a 2002 Christmas card from Mrs. Kelley saying that David was facing by-pass surgery in January. He did not die until 2011 but perhaps he was not able to continue his work on the case after that.

To me, just reading the correspondence is fascinating. The Humiston family was deeply involved in the case and Dr. Kelley knew a lot of the people from his youth in Jaffrey. Even more interesting than his knowledge of the facts was the way he went about analyzing the information and his development of a synopsis. You can immediately tell that this was a very intelligent man and I guess it must have been his training as an archeologist that gave him a particular knack for how to go about solving a mystery. Even so, some of the same biases that influence nearly everyone with a connection to the case are apparent. His family firmly believed there was German spy activity and that Rich was involved. He and my mother shared some great back and forth impressions about Rich, Dr. Sweeney, Delcie Bean and others.

It is certainly a shame that for whatever reason, he stopped working on the case. Possibly he only stopped the correspondence but his work continued; certainly there are notes, letters, newspaper clippings and other research that he left behind. It will be important for us to reach out to whatever family he may have had to see what might still be there. Although he was nowhere near solving the case, there are several specific points that Dr. Kelley was urging my mother to follow up on. Maybe others are already familiar with them but mostly they are new to me. A partial list includes:

1. A report on German spy activities in New Hampshire from Chief Yeoman Bernard E. Bradley, who was in charge of naval intelligence for New Hampshire during the War. The Boston American interviewed Bradley in an article on May 18, 1920 in which he states he met with Dean before the murder and told him he was investigating [Colfelt] as part of the broader investigation of German activities. Bradley asked Dean to watch Colfelt and report anything suspicious to Superintendent Kelleher of the Dept. of Justice in Boston. Dr. Kelley wondered if any attempt had been made to get Bradley's report from the Office of Naval Intelligence.
2. The background behind the original investigation of Colfelt in New York. He mentions a possible link regarding signal lights in Rochester Village, NY being sent to West Point.
3. The case of James J. Bosdan who was arrested in 1920 by Federal authorities for being in possession of stolen government documents some of which pertained to the Dean case.
4. He also mentions the court cases of Rich vs Boynton and Rich vs The Boston American. It was in one of my mother's letters that I noticed that comment she made about having given copies to the JHS (June 6, 2002). Her box included some material about those cases but not copies of an entire transcript of a trial.

I am going to scan the correspondence and send it separately. I look forward to discussing the above mentioned items as well as the other points raised in the correspondence with whoever is able to make it to the Civic Center on Monday for our mini meeting. Also, I will bring the rest of the contents of the box for input as to what ought to be in the JHS collection.