

# Dean Gillispie released from prison after serving 20 years

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LONDON, Ohio - Dean Gillispie has spent his last day in prison and was released Thursday around 8:00p.m. He was left in the custody of his mother. This will be the first Christmas with his family in 21 years.

He was convicted of raping three women in 1988 in and around Montgomery County. But a federal judge threw out those convictions last week because police never shared critical information with his defense team.

There was no physical evidence linking Gillispie with the crimes -- just eyewitness testimony from the victims. Three women picked him out of a photo line-up two full years after the rapes.

"All someone has to do is point their finger at you, and you're done," said Gillispie from a prison conference room.

That photo array showed six men, five of them with blue backgrounds in their photos. Gillispie's photo had a yellow background, and his head was displayed much larger than the five filler photos.

That's what former WCPO investigator Laure Quinlivan revealed in a series of I-Team stories on the case she began in 1999. Her reports also demonstrated how unreliable witness descriptions can be, even minutes after an incident.

Gillispie's accusers identified him two years after the rapes, and that was the basis of the entire case.

He could have been released decades ago, if he agreed to plead guilty.

"My lawyers came to me and said they want to offer you 30 days," said Gillispie. "And I said '30 days, 30 minutes, 30 years -- I didn't commit this crime, and I'll never say I did.' "

The jury in his first trial initially voted eight to four for acquittal. Jurors eventually agreed to convict.

Gillispie had passed a polygraph test with flying colors, but lie detector tests are not admissible in court, no matter the result.

Gillispie has been eligible for parole for several years now. But the parole board requires inmates to show remorse for their crimes. Gillispie maintains his innocence -- so his parole applications have been denied.

"I've seen people whose done murders, and done less time than me," he said. "Until you go to the

parole board and say what they want to hear, you're not going nowhere."

The break in the case came from the two detectives who first investigated the rapes back in the 1980s. They had eliminated him as a suspect, despite the fact that a former police officer had tipped them off he might be involved. That retired officer was Gillispie's supervisor at a security job -- the same supervisor who fired him for mouthing off.

The detectives say they had filed reports clearing Gillispie, because he didn't match the victims' description of their attacker in several ways, and he had an alibi for the times of the rapes.

Two years later, after those detectives had retired, a new investigator, Det. Scott Moore, began building a case against Gillispie based on the questionable photo line-up.

The Ohio Innocence Project and former Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro took up Gillispie's case, and began fighting for a new trial.

A federal judge vacated his convictions based on the fact Gillispie's defense team was never shown the reports clearing their client, or even told of their existence. He could be released before Christmas, but may also face a new trial. The state has also filed an appeal to reinstate the convictions.

"They have fought and fought and fought to keep an innocent man in prison -- knowing who did this -- and not doing anything about it, because they don't want to say 'we made a mistake.' "

A sign over the front door of the London Correctional Institute reads, "He who enters here leaves not hope behind."

Gillispie's case may fulfill that promise. "I knew that sign long before I got to this place," he said. "There's always going to be some hope, because I know I didn't do this."

To follow Gillispie's 20-year journey, as covered by former 9 News reporter Laure Quinlivan, go to Quinlivan's archived site at <http://lqreportingtoyou.com/index.php?page=display&id=143> .

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# **Convicted rapist seeks new trial Roger Dean Gillispie has been in prison since 1991**

**Updated: Friday, 09 Jul 2010, 5:47 PM EDT**

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DAYTON, Ohio (WDTN) - Roger Dean Gillispie has been in prison since 1991.

In an exclusive jail house interview with 2 NEWS, Gillispie insisted that he didn't kidnap and rape three women back in 1988. Instead, Gillispie blamed police misconduct, in the form of a tainted picture lineup, for his conviction.

On Friday, July 9, Gillispie's lawyers, Mark Godsey and former Ohio Attorney General, Jim Petro made their case in a Montgomery County courtroom. They asked Judge A.J. Wagner to grant a third trial.

"I'm not here to determine Mr. Gillispie's guilt or innocence," said Judge Wagner. "I'm only here to determine if there is any new relevant evidence".

Glimpse's attorneys said there is new evidence and another man that a jury needs to hear more about.

"In a new trial, the jury would be able to hear evidence of Kevin Cobb and his relation to this case," said Godsey. "The first jury back in 1990, they said "three people picked the same guy. I don't care about anything else, he's guilty.

Kevin Cobb is a Kentucky man, who has been found guilty of similar sex crimes. Gillispies attorneys believe he is also responsible for the Dayton cases.

In court on Friday, Godsey called several witnesses to the stand, including Cobbs ex-girlfriend, a private investigator, and an expert of eye-witness identification.

Gillispies mother, Juana, said the justice system has failed her family. Still, she is hopeful that a third trial will be granted and her son will have the opportunity to walk out of prison a free man, with a clear name.

"I have faith and hope that my son will be exonerated, said Gillispie. We're waiting for that day to celebrate.

Gillispie will be back in court on Novemeber 22, to either continue the hearing or hear the judges decision.

<http://lqreportingtoyou.com/index.php?page=display&id=143>

from Laure Quinlivan website. She is now a Cincinnati City Council member.

## **Free Dean Gillispie, An Innocent Man**

A federal judge has thrown out Dean Gillispie's conviction and he is a free man after 20 years in prison for crimes he didn't commit. CM Laure Quinlivan and the law students from the Ohio Innocence Project helped welcome home as he left prison Thursday night before Christmas.

**Read 12-22-12 Enquirer story.**

I wrote letters and lobbied former Gov. Ted Strickland to grant Gillispie clemency before he left office last year. The Governor declined but did write incoming Gov. John Kasich about Gillispie's case. **Read his letter here.**

I investigated Dean Gillispie's case beginning in 1998, while with the Ch. 9 I-Team, and our stories got the Ohio Innocence Project to take his case. An update on Dean's case was the very last investigation I reported before leaving WCPO-TV.

## **Dean Gillispie released from prison after serving 20 years from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.**

## **Dean Gillispie Message to LQ - 12.20.2011 from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.**

**LQ I-Team - OH Innocence Project takes Gillispie Case (Nov. 2007)** from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.

**LQ-I-Team - Gillispie Evidence Missing (2002)** from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.

**LQ I-Team - Eyewitnesses Wrong Half the Time (Nov 1999)** from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.

**Gov. Taft Denies Clemency (May 1999)** from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.

**Inmate Gillispie's Flower & Butterfly Show Art (April 1999)** from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.

**Gillispie I-Team, Part 2 - Eyewitness Evidence Unreliable (Feb 1999)** from Laure Quinlivan on Vimeo.

[LQ I-Team - Dean Gillispie, Innocent Man \(Feb 1999\)](#) from [Laure Quinlivan](#) on [Vimeo](#).

## **News**

[Roger Dean Gillispie will be freed from prison tonight, DaytonDailyNews article, 12-22-12](#)

[Gillispie Free after 20 Years, Enquirer article, 12-22-12](#)

[Quinlivan seeks clemency for man convicted of rape](#)  
[PDF of Article from Cincinnati Enquirer](#)

[LQ to Gov.: Clemency for convict](#)  
[PDF of Article from Cincinnati Enquirer](#)

### **DaytonDailyNews: Dayton, Ohio, news and information**

The case of Roger Dean Gillispie gives every sign of injustice—DNA unavailable due to mismanagement of evidence at the least and malicious intent at worst.

[Click Here For Full Story](#)

### **Convicted rapist seeks new trial**

Roger Dean Gillispie has been in prison since 1991.

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### **Roger Dean Gillispie**

Greene County, OH: Roger Dean Gillispie: Aug 1988 (Fairborn) Roger Dean Gillispie was convicted of raping three women. The first woman was raped on Aug. 5, 1988.

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