

Our Son's Middle Name Origin Lie:

Final Custody Trial, November 15, 2017, DeKalb County Courthouse: Cheri stated **on the witness stand** that our son's middle name Lee came from her grandmother Rosalee. When I nearly fell to the floor when I heard that, I didn't know which grandmother; I'd only met her paternal grandmother and I'd only ever known her by her nickname, Gerri, never by Roselee or any version of that name. I'd never heard that name before—no idea who that was referring to. Reread what I just wrote, then read it again. Imagine the delusion it took to say that under oath in a final custody trial. I had to watch the end scene in the film "The Caine Mutiny" several times just to make some molecule of sense about the reasoning behind thinking that anyone would believe anything from a person's mouth who could make that assertion. It took from 2014 to 2017 to begin the Final Custody Trial because we weren't married. At the time, DeKalb Family Court mandated married couples divorcing with custody trials had to complete the hearing process within 120 days. If you weren't married, your case was bumped as the docket filled, waiting for an opening. That took 3 ½ years of my son's childhood away from his dad—me and him.

I photographed this scene at her assisted living home in Lancaster, PA in 2009:

