

TALKING TURKEY TRACKS FAMILY QUILT SPANS LOTS OF HISTORY

From Fidella Marty (11) (Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Samuel 4, Haltham 5, John 6, John L. 7, Henry R. 8, John L. 9, Rachel Dunham Hughes 10), DD has this charming story of a family quilt. It comes from the February 1996 issue of MC CALL'S QUILTING MAGAZINE. Heidi Howlett is Fidella's daughter, & the child pictured here is her aunt, Mabel Dunham. The quilt itself (shown on page 2) is featured in the bedroom of Charlie Howlett, 11 years old & a 13th generation Dunham descendant in America.

FROM THE ATTIC Turkey Tracks

Our friend Heidi Howlett, whom we featured in our "Quilting with Kids" article in the November 1995 issue, wanted us to see this graphic Turkey Tracks quilt that has been a part of her family for generations. We fell in love with the quilt immediately, and were fascinated with the story of the quiltmaker, Heidi's great-aunt Mabel Dunham (at right).

Mabel was born in 1899, and as Heidi proudly reported, "just quit driving last year." She was a schoolteacher who until recently lived with her sister on the family farm. Because she never married, Mabel "adopted" her youngest sister's grandchildren as her own. As a result, Heidi was always close to her great-aunt, and when Mabel moved out of her house into a retirement

home, Heidi was given a collection of Mabel's quilts to take home.

Mabel has an amazing memory for a woman of 97, and was able to clearly recall the story of the Turkey Tracks quilt. It was made by Mabel's grandmother, Caroline Reed, sometime between 1910 and 1920. Caroline, Heidi's great-great-grandmother, died in 1922.

Mabel's penchant for family genealogy, her adventurous spirit that led her to travel the world, and her love for her grandnieces have made her a well-loved family member. Recreating this quilt that Mabel inherited from her grandmother, and then passed along to her own grandniece, will make a delightful addition to your own quilt collection.





DUNHAM FAMILY REUNION - 1909

Thanks to P. S. Alger, Derry, NH, we have this account from the ONEIDA DEMOCRATIC UNION, Sep. 4, 1909 concerning a Dunham family reunion of the descendants of Ezekiel Dunham (1793-1883)(6)(Nathaniel 3?, Isaac 4, Calvin 5). It appears that this branch of the family was very well organized, certainly with a lot of officers. "The 8th annual reunion of the descendants of Ezekiel & Eunice Dunham, who settled at West Vienna when this section was new, was held last week Saturday at the home of Mrs. Lizzie Sanford in Stone St., Oneida. 72 were present & had a most delightful day, the dinner being most sumptuous. The younger members made things lively. Guests were present from Utica, Syracuse, Clarks Mills, New York Mills, Cortland, Gayville, Kenwood, Schenectady, Constantia, Rome & West Vienna. The next reunion will be held the last Sat. in August at the home of F. W. McArthur in West Vienna. Officers were elected as follows: Pres. - Lyman Dunham, Constantia; Vice Pres. - Jerome Dunham & James Landers of Rome; Recording Secy - Grace McArthur of Schenectady; Corresponding Secy - Mrs. Lizzie Sanford of Oneida; Treas. - Charles H. Sanford, Oneida; Chaplain - Rev. G. Milton Dunham of West Vienna."

SPECIAL NOTICE

Harking back to the lead story in the March 1996 DD, we now have an address where contributions for Amy & Matthew Dunham should be sent. The address is:

AMY & MATTHEW DUNHAM FUND
% Mayes County Federal Credit Union
19 North Rowe Street
Pryor, OK 74361

Please help. These kids deserve to have some lucky breaks.

SOME KIND OF RECORD

D-161114. SARAH WOODWORTH HOWLAND BARKER (1779-1860)(6)(Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Jacob 4, Rebecca Dunham Woodworth 5) is recorded by IWD as having had 14 children by her 1st husband, David Howland of Saratoga, NY, & 5 by Mr. Barker, whose given name is not recorded. Neither are the names of the children recorded. We wonder: Could all 19 children have been hers? Or were some of them step-children?

A NOT-SO-GREAT DUNHAM??

Don Berkebile, Mercersburg, PA, calls our attention to an article in the 1/96 BARNES REVIEW, "The Conspiracy Against the Constitution: The Railroading of Jefferson Davis" by Ralph P. Forbes. It states that in the wake of Lincoln's assassination a group of Northern politicians needed to manufacture a strong threat to the country to justify their seizure of power & the institution of unforgiving policies toward the South, all contrary to what Lincoln's own plans had been. For this purpose they chose Jefferson Davis to fill the role of "arch war criminal." To back up the charges against Davis, the perjury of deserters & criminals was purchased, & one of the conspirators who drilled these "witnesses" in what they should say was a New York lawyer who operated under a couple of aliases (Sanford Conover & James Watson Wallace), but whose real name, it is said, was Charles A. Dunham. Does anyone know who this man might have been? -

OLDEST MAN

D-16417. ABEL DUNHAM (1730-1833)(5)(Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Gershom 3, David 4) is shown to have lived to be 103 years old, per IWD & our "Lotta & Gertrude" records. Abel, probably of Edgartown, MA, married Ruth Cobb, & they had 4 children: Abel (b. 1762), Ruth (b. 1765), Calvin (b. 1768), & David (b. 1770). No death dates are shown for these children, & none of their lines is continued. This seems odd in view of the fact that Abel lived so long.

ANDREW R. HAMILTON

The 1905 BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF HARTFORD CO., CT includes this sketch of Andrew R. Hamilton, Sr. (b. 1824), who was the husband of Helen M. Dunham (1827-1909)(8) (Nathaniel 3?, Isaac 4, Simeon 5, Isaac 6, Cyrus 7). Thanks go to Frank Castro, S. Windsor, CT, who is the 3 greats grandson of Andrew & Helen. "ANDREW R. HAMILTON, Justice of the Peace & a leading business man of the town of ----- in addition to the management of ----- near Broad Brook, he is exten

sively engaged in the manufacture of printing stamps and type-writer ribbons, his factory being located on his homestead. As a citizen he is held in high esteem, and his fellow townsmen have kept him constantly in office from early manhood, he having served forty years as justice of the peace.

Mr. Hamilton was born Aug. 15, 1824, on the old Hamilton homestead in the town of Ellington, Tolland county, and is of Scottish ancestry in the paternal line. About 1650 three brothers of the name came from Scotland, making the voyage in the "Mayflower," and it is believed that one of these was the grandfather of Daniel Hamilton, who settled on the old homestead in Tolland county about 1782.

Benjamin Hamilton, our subject's grandfather, was born in the town of Eastham, Barnstable Co., Mass., on Cape Cod.

Hon. Benjamin Hamilton, our subject's father, was born in 1794, in the town of Ellington, Tolland Co., Conn., and died at the present homestead in East Windsor in 1865, aged seventy-one years. He resided in East Windsor, and was prominent in public affairs, being elected in 1850 as a State senator from the Second district, and in 1852 as a representative from East Windsor to the State Legislature. He first married Cynthia Blodgett, and later wedded Mrs. Ann Dunham, a sister of his first wife. His three children, (Havilah, Arnold and Andrew) were all by the first marriage.

When our subject was about eight years old the family removed across the line from Tolland county into the town of East Windsor, locating on the farm now occupied by Edward Shropp, and in 1842 his father bought the present homestead. As a boy Mr. Hamilton attended the common and select schools near his home, and the academy in East Windsor village, while his work upon the farm gave him a good practical knowledge of agricultural methods. He has continued to reside at the homestead, with the exception of four years, from 1889 to 1893, when he was employed as general manager of the plant of the Springfield Button Co., in Spring-

field, Mass. He learned that business in his early manhood, having in 1849 entered the employ of G. C. Brown, a manufacturer of pearl buttons. For two years he was engaged in merchandising in Broad Brook, which he abandoned in 1852, buying out Mr. Brown's button factory and carrying on the manufacture of pearl buttons until 1865. Mr. Hamilton's farm comprises forty-two acres, and he not only carries on general farming but has been interested for many years in tobacco culture. About ten years ago he built his present factory, which has been a profitable venture under his able management. He is an ardent Democrat in politics, and besides his long services as justice of the peace he has served six years as notary public; four years as commissioner of the superior court; two years as a member of the board of education; four years on the local board of relief; and three years as deputy sheriff

under Simon D. Kendall, of Suffield, while he has frequently been chosen as grand juror and registrar of elections. Socially he and his family are prominent, and he is a charter member of Oriental Lodge, No. 111, A. F. & A. M., at Broad Brook, in which he has served as treasurer.

In 1849 Mr. Hamilton married Miss Helen M. Dunham, a native of Gilead, Conn., born Oct. 26, 1827, and they have had two children: Andrew R., born Aug. 14, 1854, died Aug. 22, 1892; and Jennie D., deceased in infancy, April 26, 1858. Andrew R. Hamilton married Miss Eliza H. McCray, and they had three children: Earl W., Lizzie and Jennie D., of whom the last named died in childhood.

Ventriloquist Throws Voices To 'Menagerie of Characters'

By Dennis King
World Staff Writer

ough you've seen the picture before, the material in this Tulsa newspaper clipping is fresh & includes more information about the career of Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham. For this clipping, thanks go to Norwood Dunham, Locust Grove, OK.

Growing up in Dallas, long after the heyday of "The Ed Sullivan Show" and other national venues for comic voice throwers, Jeff Dunham was a virtual stranger to ventriloquism when, as a young lad, he was introduced to the art by none other than Mortimer Snerd.

"I'd never heard of Edgar Bergen or any of the famous ventriloquists," Dunham recalled recently in a telephone interview from his Los Angeles home. "But when I was about 7 years old, I saw this goofy Mortimer Snerd dummy in a toy store, and my parents got it for me."

Using the plastic puppet, along with instructions in books and records from the library, young Dunham began teaching himself ventriloquism. And as he gradually started finding his own comic voice, the world of Bergen, the famed radio ventriloquist of yore, and his wooden partners, the droll Charlie McCarthy and the buck-toothed Mortimer, quickly became the land of a young boy's show-business dreams.

By the time he was 12, Dunham was the comic brain behind "a menagerie of characters," working his way up from free shows before small Boy Scout groups to paying engagements for large corporate gatherings. Here I was, this kid with a dummy and I'd be up there in front of the Kiwanis Club making cracks about high-level executives, recalled Dunham, who, to his surprise, found himself being audited by the IRS at age 13.

Dunham stuck with his dummies and paid his comic dues by working club dates while he was in college getting a degree in communications at Baylor University.

Overcoming his natural shyness by speaking through a comic intermediary, Dunham decided early on that he'd found his calling as the tight-lipped straight man to a bunch of wooden cut-ups. As the voice behind the bald-headed, perpetually grumpy Walter, Dunham had the audacity to joke with Johnny Carson during his first appearance on "The Tonight Show." "It'll be a cold day in hell before I come back to this show again."

"Sometimes, I can say things through my characters that I would never have the nerve to say myself," the thirtysomething comic said. "They're a comic buffer, but they have a way of taking on a life of their own."

Of course, Dunham has been invited back



Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham poses with a few of his sidekicks. He plays the Brady Theater Friday.

to "The Tonight Show" numerous times on his way to earning many honors, including being only one of four comedians invited during Carson's 30-year hosting tenure to come to the interviewer's couch after his routine. Dunham is also the only performer ever to win the prestigious "Ventriloquist of the Year" Award twice.

Being a successful ventriloquist requires more than vocal dexterity and the ability to drink a glass of water and throw your voice at the same time, Dunham said.

"I do that, drink water and throw my voice, but every ventriloquist does that," he said. "That's a neat trick, but it's just a trick. You have to do more. You have to have funny material and really vivid, likable characters that appeal to the audience to make it work. You know, Edgar Bergen was a really terrible ventriloquist, but his characters were fantastic, and they really were amazingly funny."

Dunham's comic partners — cranky old Walter; a purple, pot-bellied "woozle" named Peanut; and mustachioed, stick-like Jose Jalapeno — have garnered a large and loyal following of their own.

"I start off all my shows by doing about 10 minutes of standup on my own," Dunham said, "just to establish myself as the ringmaster."

"But I'm happy to let Walter and Peanut and Jose get the laughs," he added. "If my audience goes away saying, 'Gosh, those are really funny guys,' rather than 'Wasn't he a good ventriloquist,' then I know I've done a good show."

Preview

Comedy Concert: Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham with Peanut, Walter, and Jose Jalapeno on a stick

When: 8 p.m. Friday

Where: Brady Theater, 105 W. Brady

Tickets: \$18 each, available at the Brady ticket office or at all Tulsa Dillards department stores