



Newsletter

incorporated in 2004 as Dunham/Singletary Family Connections

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From the President

As we enjoy the summer, I hope you are all enjoying time with your family and loved ones.

Jackie Dunham, a descendant from Samuel Dunham of Grand Manan, New Brunswick, Canada contacted me recently to help find proof of her biological father. Jackie and I are related through the St. Andrews / St. George, NB, Canada, Dunham line. To begin the proof process, Jackie was able to download her Ancestry.com DNA results, and then upload them to FamilyTreeDNA, where I manage the Dunham DNA project. Here, we track autosomal DNA and Y-DNA test results for potential Dunham descendants.

I looked to see what common matches she had with my father and other Dunham descendants of this line and focused on these matches. Jackie also shared common matches with other distant relatives in this set of Dunham descendants. This confirmed that we are of this same Dunham line, descended from Joseph Dunham, Jr. of St George, NB. b. abt 1770. Additional research showed a baptismal record as supporting documentation.

I was able to triangulate on two common matches and see that we had a common ancestor just adjoining Deer Isle, Maine in Sedgwick, Maine. This Eaton family had previously lived next to Elijah Dunham of Deer Isle when it was first settled. My first thought (guess) is that a daughter of William Eaton, the original settler of Deer Isle, Maine, married Joseph Dunham (son of Elijah Dunham b. 1730).

More to come as I will provide an article on this subject for our next newsletter. But this is a big one for me – I have been encouraging and gathering my relatives together to participate in autosomal DNA testing for our DNA testing program. This work has been ongoing for a decade and is now showing results.

Until we speak again next quarter – I wish you all health and happiness.

With Best Regards,

Jeffrey M. Dunham
President
Dunham Genealogy Research Association

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Editor's Corner

Happy July to everyone! I hope each of you experience a summer full of sunshine, fireworks, ball games, beach days, vacation or just lazing about with family and friends. Summer is a great time to reflect on your past, present and future. Its also a great time to catch up on family projects whether it is taking an oral history of a loved one, organizing photos, filing papers by family group and one of my favorites: taking photos of family heirlooms and writing a brief history of the item for future generations.

I am the lucky recipient of heirlooms from my elders and have spent hours caring for family photos, instruments, linen, furniture, tools, dishware, glasses, jewelry, and memorabilia. I recently spent many weeks in Arizona where my mother lives. My sister and I are in the process moving her into assisted living and we are downsizing and curating her collections. Shockingly I realized I had not documented my mother's heirlooms yet. Mom's memories of the past are quite strong still so as we went through her jewels, she told us wonderful stories behind each of the pieces. These were new stories to my sister and I, so we took pictures and notes to accompany each piece.

The lesson learned of course is to gather as much information as you can on your family history before it is too late, and all those wonderful stories and anecdotes are gone. In my case, we were lucky enough to not only hear the stories, but for several nights we shared the gift of storytelling with mom which brought some life and joy into her beautiful eyes. If you have not considered doing this, it is not too late – better to start now than never!

For this quarter's newsletter, get ready to hum along to *'Take Me Out To The Ball Game'* as you read about Elijah Dunham a current minor league Yankee hopeful. In addition, read about the new project James Streeter is working on for our website which is very exciting. Putting faces behind the many names of our collected ancestry.

This newsletter is a little short this quarter, and as I noted above, my attentions were diverted to some emergency matters which took precedence over my usual routine. Apologies to our readers!

Always feel free to send me ideas and articles for future publication. Until next quarter, enjoy your summers!

Joann S. Dunham, Editor

Dunham Genealogy Research Association Newsletter

Keep your Eye on the Ball – and on Elijah Dunham

by Gratia Dunham Mahony

A young man is making news these days in the sports world. His name is Elijah Zechariah Dunham, and he is a Yankee outfielder prospect now playing in the New York Yankee minor league. Elijah graduated from F.J. Reitz High School in Evansville, Indiana where he was a letter winner in baseball, basketball, and football. Left-handed Elijah Dunham began his college career at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana as a first baseman, however he spent the majority of his college years as a left fielder for the Indiana Hoosiers.



Elijah Dunham

Born in Evansville, Indiana May 29, 1998, Elijah is the son of Paul and Augie Dunham. He has three siblings: Isaiah, Moriah, and Josiah. Elijah's father Paul Franklin Dunham was also from Evansville Indiana where he married Angela Dawn Crick. Paul F. Dunham currently teaches at the Christian School in Evansville where he is a Physical Education and Health teacher. Elijah's grandfather, Alvis Frank Dunam, also lived in Evansville Indiana where he died in 2018. I found an entry for Alvis Frank Dunham (1943-2018) at Find a Grave which contained information about him and listed his son Paul and his grandchildren. From there I was able to find this family in the 1950 census and trace them back using census and other public records.

Elijah's ancestry traces back to the Dunhams of Tennessee which resides at www.dunham-singletary.org. The line continues back from Elijah's grandfather, Alvis Frank (Franklin) Dunham who appears in the 1950 census living with his parents A. D. and Maybelle Dunham, to the 1920 census where A. D. is written as Adian Dunnom age 1 year in the family of his parents Alvis C. and Mary Dunham living in Civil District 17, Lauderdale, Tennessee.

An Arkansas Death Certificate for Alvis C. Dunham gives his birth date as 18 March 1896 in Ripley, Lauderdale Co. TN, and his death as 3 Sept. 1962 in Blytheville, Mississippi County Arkansas. The death certificate shows his father as Frank Dunham and his mother as Emma Dunham. The 1870 census of District 16 DeKalb Co. TN shows Franklin R. b. 1853 in the family of Lewis and Parilee Dunham. From there we can look at the web site and find Lewis R. Dunham (#71. In Dunhams of Tennessee) b. June 1828, son of David LaFayette and Elizabeth (Hatfield) Dunham.

The web site then takes the line back from David LaFayette born in 1802 in Rutherford County, North Carolina to his father who was Henry H. Dunham b. abt. 1750 and Elizabeth Medlin. Henry's father was Joseph Dunham b. about 1725-1727 who married Mary Claypool.

A Dunham family appeared at Fort Nashborough (later Nashville, Tennessee) in the spring of 1780. Two of these Dunham men, both named John, (probably John Sr. and John Jr.), signed the Cumberland Compact there in May 1780. The Dunham men had come with Colonel Donelson from the Virginia/North Carolina area which included the land between the Watauga and Nollichucky Rivers.

A John Dunham and Joseph Dunham were signers of the petition to annex the Watauga area to the Province of North Carolina in 1776. This area later became Washington County, Tennessee. Many of the early settlers of this area were of Scotch-Irish descent. It is not known for certain whether the Dunhams were also of Scotch-Irish heritage, but they may have been. It is also not known for certain just when the Dunhams arrived in the area called Watauga, but the signatures of John and Joseph Dunham on the 1776 petition indicate that they were adult men and were thus born before 1755. It is also likely that John Dunham (who signed the Cumberland Compact in 1780) was the father of these Dunham men, and thus born say about 1735-40.

The settlement of the Cumberland colony was also in process by 1778-9, and a Virginia settler named Captain James Robertson was instrumental in bringing his family from Watauga to the Cumberland settlement. A fleet of thirty or more boats were built by Captain John Donelson, and a large group of settlers went with him by boat to the French Salt Lick on the Cumberland River. In 1780 these Cumberland settlers signed a compact which laid out a proposal for their own protection and self-government.

It appears the John Dunham, Sr. returned to Washington County, but John Dunham, Jr. and Joseph Dunham remained in the Cumberland settlement and their land became known as Dunham's Station. That area today is the site of the Belle Meade Plantation, an historic restoration which is open to the public.

I have written about this Dunham line in previous newsletter articles. Please refer to Vol. 11, Issue 4, October 2014 p. 2-8 under the obit of Eric Michael Dunham of Walla Walla Washington, Wine Maker. There is more information in my article in Vol. 14, Issue 1, January 2017 entitled "The Dog Trot Cabin at Dunham's Station, Tennessee. Dunham's Station is located at the site of Belle Meade Plantation, Nashville, TN and home of the Tennessee Dunham line.

What's New on the Dunham Website

by James A. Streeter

The new addition is a Collection of Photographs of Dunham Ancestors, and it is close to being ready to connect to the main page. There are several Dunham Family Groupings; the Deacon John Dunham lines, the Richard Singletary /Johnathan Dunham alias Singletary lines, Unproven Dunham lines, and Dunham Family Reunions from all lines. Some family lines have photographs of six generations while other lines are represented by a single photo. There are also lines that are waiting for its first photo.

There will be a set of instructions provided on how to submit your photos and how to complete the information on your Dunham line.

The current date to have the collection added is by July 31st and a notice will be mailed to all the current members with the location of the page.

Sorry about the delay on this, I planned to have this completed by now, but I returned from a Cruise to Alaska Sunday midnight and then tested positive for Covid Tuesday afternoon and am now just starting to feel like doing things (July 10th) 2022. - James

HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for help to review Dunham lines found in previous issues of the DSFC Newsletters and prepare them for addition to the Dunham Families in America collection. If you have questions about what is involved or if you can help, please contact James A. Streeter - james8313@sti.net.