

Dunham Singletary

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Issue 3

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President's Message

I love July! This is a wonderful time to celebrate all things American.

What could be more rewarding than researching our wonderful American heritage and exploring the lives of our ancestors. When we think of them and how they struggled just to exist, we realize that they did it for us, to make sure the family continued and had a place to continue into. We owe it to them to find out what gave them the courage to create farms and homes out of the wilderness with all of the adversities they had to overcome. There are a lot of stories left to be told and we would like to hear all of them.

We can honor our ancestors by imitating their struggle and making sure the Dunham/Singletary Family Connections is alive and well and able to continue. We are nearing the 100 mark for membership and our goal this year is to share our information with as many as possible. Let's find all of the Dunhams in America and encourage them to join now and share our ancestor's legacy of the true American spirit.

Jan Erwin Dunham, *President*

Editor's Corner

This issue is being prepared by Associate Editor Gratia Mahony at the request of Sam Dunnam, Editor of Dunham Singletary Family Connections.

In April I did the newsletter for Sam because he was moving OUT of a home recently sold in Austin. In July I am again doing the newsletter for Sam because he is moving INTO a new home, also in Austin.

In this issue I will finally finish my series of articles on the children of Deacon John Dunham. There will still be more articles about this huge line in future editions of this newsletter, but for now the basic line of the children through five generations is complete.

Next I will begin a series of articles on the descendants of Jonathan ² Dunham/alias Singletary of Woodbridge, New Jersey. I had an interesting visit with Mildred (Dunham) Van Dyke, a descendant of this Woodbridge Dunham line, and pictures of her and some of her ancestors will be included with my article in the October issue.

This issue will also contain more photos than we have been able to include in past. Part of the reason for this is that both Sam and I have learned the technique of putting pictures in the newsletters. Thanks are due to several folks from DSFC who have sent pictures to us for use in the newsletters.

Sam did get time to write an article on a theory that several of us have developed about the origin of John Dunham, head of the large South Carolina clan of Dunham/Dunnams. As will be seen in the article, DNA analysis played a large part in the development of this theory.

In addition, Jackie Coniglio has furnished a photo of a Dunham family reunion that was held in Montana this past June.

THE LARGE FAMILY OF BENAJAH DUNHAM

by *Gratia Dunham Mahony*

Deacon John Dunham had a total of eleven children by his two wives. Three were born in England or Holland to wife Susan Kaino, and the remaining eight were born to his second wife Abigail Ballou. All but the last two children have been covered in past issues of Dunham Singletary Family Connections newsletter. The last child of Deacon John and Abigail was Daniel, born say 1640 to 1642. This youngest son grew up and married a woman by the name of Hannah, had two daughters by her, and died in January or February 1677. His will [Plymouth Colony Wills] names his wife and two children Hannah and Mehitable. [TAG Vol. 30:146] These two daughters grew up and married, Hannah Dunham to Joseph Alden and Mehitable Dunham to Joseph Hayward. Their families are well covered in Alden and Hayward genealogies.

This article will focus on the next to the last child of Deacon John and Abigail (Ballou) Dunham who was Benajah² Dunham, born in Plymouth in 1637-8. Benajah was the progenitor of a large Dunham family who lived in Piscataway, Middlesex County, New Jersey. The family of another Dunham (Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary) living in the adjoining town of Woodbridge, New Jersey will be discussed in the next issue of this newsletter.

Benajah² Dunham married in Plymouth 15 October 1660 **Elizabeth Tilson**, daughter of Edmond and Joanne (--) Tilson [TAG 69:37-38]. Benajah² Dunham died in Piscataway, New Jersey 24 December 1680. After his death, Elizabeth (Tilson) Dunham married Jonas Wood.

Shortly after the marriage of Benajah and Elizabeth, the young couple moved from Plymouth to Eastham Massachusetts on Cape Cod.

They stayed here for eight or nine years but by 1671 they had relocated to Piscataway, New Jersey. Five children were born in Eastham, but four of these children died at very young ages. Benajah² and Elizabeth and their first born son Edmond³ Dunham moved to the new town of Piscataway along with several other Eastham families. Two more daughters were born in Piscataway.

Children of Benajah and Elizabeth (Tilson) Dunham:

- + 2. i. **Edmund³ Dunham** b. 25 July 1661
- ii. John³ Dunham b. 22 August 1663
d. 6 September 1663
- iii. Elizabeth³ Dunham b. 20 November 1664
d. 31 December 1667
- iv. Hannah³ Dunham b. 4 June 1666
d. 25 December 1667
- v. Benjamin³ Dunham b. 28 October 1667
d. young
- vi. Mary³ Dunham b. 1669
- vii. Elizabeth³ Dunham (again) b. about 1670/71

THIRD GENERATION AND MAYFLOWER LINE

2. **Edmund³ Dunham** (Benajah² John¹) was born in Eastham 25 July 1661 and died in Piscataway, New Jersey 7 March 1733/34. He married in Piscataway New Jersey 15 July 1681 **Mary Bonham** daughter of Nicholas Bonham and Hannah³ Fuller, (Samuel² Fuller, Edward¹ Fuller) [Mayflower Families Through Five Generations - Edward Fuller Volume Four, compiled by Bruce Campbell MacGunnigle, C.G., pub. by General Soc. of Mayflower Descendants 1990, p. 34]. She was born in Barnstable Massachusetts 4 Oct. 1661, died between 28 Feb. 1736/7 and 13 Aug. 1742. She probably died in Piscataway 15 July 1742.

Edmund Dunham was one of the founders of the Seventh Day Baptist Church in Piscataway

about 1700-1701. A lay preacher since 1689, he was ordained in Westerly RI in 1705 and became the first pastor of the Piscataway Church, remaining there until his death in 1733/4 [The Seventh-Day Baptist Memorial, Vol. 1, #3--July 1852].

From The New Hampshire Genealogical Record, Vol. 1, #4, p. 145-150 in an article entitled New Jersey's Indebtedness to New Hampshire, by O. B. Leonard, Plainfield, NJ, he writes "In the fall of 1666, a half dozen families . . . living on the banks of the Piscataqua River in NH, moved to the rich farming lands on the Raritan River in NJ. . . They called the settlement New Piscataqua. . . names of original settlers were, John Martin, Hopewell Hull, Charles Gilman, and Hugh Dunn. Shortly after came families of Drake, Langstaff, Greenland, Giles, Wooden, and others. Name of settlement became Piscataway. These people were of the Baptist persuasion. One, Hugh Dunn was from Dover, NH and his land grant was in the present New Market township and also in town of Durham, NJ. He also owned 92 acres in Woodbridge. About 1686 Hugh Dunn, Edmund Dunham, John Drake, John Smalley, Nicholas Bonham and John Fitz Randolph, were named as forming the constituency of the Piscataway Baptist church." The article continues with the descendants of Hugh Dunn, who married in 1670-1 at Piscataway, N.J. Elizabeth Drake, a sister of Rev. John Drake, and daughter of Francis and Mary Drake who formerly was a resident of Portsmouth, NH. Their children and grandchildren married into the Dunham family.

Edmund³ Dunham received "the Seventy Acres of land belonging to me which lyeth by Rariton River" by will of his father Benajah [First Settlers of Piscataway, p. 183]. At a meeting at the house of Benjamin Martin in Piscataway the 19th of August 1705, we did then and with one mind choose our dearly beloved Edmund Dunham ...to be our elder...who was ordained at the church meeting in Westerly RI the 8th day of September 1705. The following

seventeen persons, besides the leader, forming the constituency of the New Seventh-day Baptist church:

- EDMUND DUNHAM, the pastor, and his wife Mary (Bonham) Dunham
- BENAJAH DUNHAM, oldest son of pastor and wife Dorothy (Martin) Dunham; she was daughter of John Jr. & Dorothy Martin
- BENJAMIN MARTIN and wife Margaret (Alston) Martin
- JONATHAN MARTIN (son of Benjamin Martin) and wife Elizabeth (Dunham) Martin (daughter of Edmund Dunham)
- JOHN FITZ RANDOLPH and wife Sarah (Bonham) FitzRandolph [sister of Mary (Bonham) Dunham]
- THOMAS FITZ RANDOLPH and wife Elizabeth (Manning) FitzRandolph they were parents of Dinah FitzRandolph, wife of Edmund⁴ Dunham, son of Edmund³ Dunham
- HUGH DUNN and wife Elizabeth (Martin) Dunn [she was daughter of John Jr. & Dorothy Martin
- SAMUEL DUNN and wife Esther (probably Esther Martin)
- JOSEPH DUNN, unmarried brother of Samuel and Hugh
- GERSHOM HULL not married till the following year; son of Samuel Hull

Children of Edmund³ and Mary (Bonham) Dunham, all b. Piscataway, NJ :

- + 6. i. Benajah⁴ Dunham b. 13 Aug. 1684
- 7. ii. Elisabeth⁴ Dunham b. 26 Nov. 1689 m. 21 Aug. 1704, Jonathan Martin
- + 8. iii. Edmund/Edward⁴ Dunham b. 15 Jan. 1691
- + 9. iv. Jonathan⁴ Dunham b. 16 Aug. 1694
- +10. v. Ephraim⁴ Dunham b. 2 May 1696
- vi. Mary⁴ Dunham b. 26 Nov. 1698; died young
- 11. vii. Mary⁴ Dunham b. 1 July 1700 m. 12 June 1721 in Piscataway NJ, Elisha Smalley, son of John and Lydia (Martin) Smalley

12. viii. Hannah ⁴ Dunham b. 14 April 1704
m. 29 March 1724 in Piscataway NJ,
Josiah Davis

FOURTH GENERATION SONS

6. Benajah ⁴ Dunham (Edmund ³, Benajah ², John ¹) born in Piscataway, New Jersey 13 August 1684, died in Piscataway New Jersey 9 August 1742. He married in Piscataway 21 Sept. 1704 **Dorothy Martin**, dau. John and Dorothy (----) Martin. She was born in Piscataway 7 June 1686, died after 23 August 1742.

The will of Benajah ⁴ Dunham of Piscataway, Middlesex Co. was a nuncupative (or verbal) will dated 9 August 1742 and proved two days later. [NJ Archives Calendar of Wills 1730-1750 Liber C:530, & NJ Colonial Documents] The will says that 'on Monday last, being 9th of August, about five hours before his death,' he gave to sons Benajah and Martin lands, etc., and they were to be kind to his wife. In presence Edmund ⁴ Dunham, Ephraim ⁴ Dunham, Phineas Martin, John Martin. Witnesses—Jonathan Martin, Azariah Dunham, Elisha Whitehead.

NOTE: Edmund ⁴ and Ephraim ⁴ Dunham were brothers of Benajah ⁴, and Azariah was son of Jonathan ⁴ Dunham.

Children of Benajah ⁴ and Dorothy (Martin) Dunham: all born Piscataway, New Jersey:

14. i. John ⁵ Dunham b. 8 July 1705
m. Mercy Drake
15. ii. Hezekiah ⁵ Dunham b. 3 Dec. 1707
m. Elizabeth Drake
16. iii. Benajah ⁵ Dunham b. 30 Aug. 1712
m. Hannah Martin
17. iv. Martin ⁵ Dunham b. 11 Dec. 1714
m. Martha Wooden
18. v. Elizabeth ⁵ Dunham b. 24 Oct. 1715
m. Samuel Mundy
19. vi. Mary ⁵ Dunham b. 20 April 1717
m. Peter Wooden

20. vii. Esther ⁵ Dunham b. 11 March 1720
m. Samuel Dunn, Jr.
21. viii. Priscilla ⁵ Dunham b. 1 Aug. 1722
m. John Martin
22. ix. Rachel ⁵ Dunham b. 16 Aug. 1724, nfi.
23. x. Elisha ⁵ Dunham b. 11 Oct. 1728,
may have died in 1729

8. Edmund/Edward ⁴ Dunham (Edmund ³, Benajah ², John ¹) born in Piscataway New Jersey 15 January 1691, died in Piscataway between 4 June and 13 July 1749. He married in Piscataway 11 March 1717 **Dinah Fitz Randolph**, dau. of Thomas and Elizabeth (Manning?) Fitz Randolph. She was born in Piscataway 10 July 1700, died after 4 June 1749. She probably died in Bethlehem Township, Hunterdon County New Jersey in 1775.

The will of Edmund ⁴ Dunham names wife Dinah; Children: Nehemiah, Daniel, Stephen, Peter, Dinah (wife of Joseph Dunn), Elizabeth, Mary, Rachel and Catrine. Executors, son Nehemiah and cousin Azariah Dunham. Witnesses: Ephraim ⁴ Dunham, Benajah Dunn, Jonathan ⁴ Dunham [Middlesex Co. NJ Wills, Liber E:312, dated 4 June 1749, probated 13 July 1749].

A future article will discuss the children of Edmund ⁴ and Dinah (Fitz Randolph) Dunham, and note the people in DSFC who have worked with me on this line. Many of these descendants are named at the end of this article.

Children of Edmund ⁴ and Dinah (FitzRandolph) Dunham: [Mayflower Families Vol. 4:34]

26. i. Sarah ⁵ Dunham b. 30 April 1718
27. ii. Rebecca ⁵ Dunham b. 31 October 1719
28. iii. Nehemiah ⁵ Dunham b. 1 November 1721
29. iv. Edmond ⁵ Dunham b. 18 October 1723
30. v. Dinah ⁵ Dunham b. 1 December 1725
31. vi. Daniel ⁵ Dunham b. 5 February 1727/8

32. vii. Elizabeth⁵ Dunham b. 15 August 1731
33. viii. Mary⁵ Dunham b. 1 July 1734
34. ix. Stephen⁵ Dunham b. 1 October 1737
35. x. Peter⁵ Dunham b. say 1738-39
36. xi. Rachel⁵ Dunham b. say 1739-40
37. xii. Catrine⁵ Dunham b. 1741

9. Jonathan⁴ Dunham (Edmund³, Benajah², John¹) born in Piscataway, New Jersey 16 August 1694, died in Piscataway 10 March 1777. He married in Piscataway 5 August 1714 **Jane Pyatt**. She was born 15 Sept. 1695 in Stelton, New Jersey, died 15 Sept. 1779 age 84 years.

There are no New Jersey wills for Jonathan⁴ or Jane (Pyatt) Dunham. Both are listed in Gravestone Records From Dunham Family Burying Ground, Raritan Township, Middlesex County New Jersey.

Children of Jonathan⁴ and Jane (Pyatt) Dunham born Piscataway, New Jersey:

38. i. Elizabeth⁵ Dunham b. 27 June 1715
m. 1738 Micajah Dunn, son of Samuel and Esther (Martin) Dunn
- + 39. ii. Azariah⁵ Dunham b. 9 Feb. 1718/9
- + 40. iii. Jonathan⁵ Dunham b. 20 May 1721
- + 41. iv. David⁵ Dunham b. 14 March 1723
42. v. Isaac⁵ Dunham b. 16 Aug. 1725
died young
43. vi. Ruth⁵ Dunham b. 3 Jan. 1727/8
m. 25 Feb. 1746 James Martin
- + 44. vii. Samuel⁵ Dunham b. 27 Nov. 1730
m. 8 May 1750 Mary Lucas

10. Ephraim⁴ Dunham (Edmund³, Benajah², John¹) born in Piscataway New Jersey 2 May 1696, died after 17 May 1749 when Ephraim and Phebe acknowledged their signatures on a deed [NJ Colonial Deed, Vol. G-2, p. 133-135]. He married in Piscataway 26 Jan. 1715/6 **Phebe Smalley**, daughter of John and Lydia (Martin) Smalley. She was born in Piscataway 20 June 1695. There are no death dates or wills for Ephraim or Phebe in the New Jer-

sey Archives.

Children of Ephraim⁴ and Phebe (Smalley) Dunham born in Piscataway NJ:

- [Mayflower Families, Edward Fuller, Vol. 4:107]
46. i. Zerviah⁵ Dunham b. 11 Nov. 1716
- 46.1 ii. Hannah⁵ Dunham b. 28 Dec. 1718
Reference Collected at the Alexander Library in New Brunswick NJ;
Dictionary of NJ by Charles Carroll Gardner, Note Books:
"Child of Ephraim & Phebe "Dunn", error for Dunham [IB 2:77]
- + 47. iii. Elisha⁵ Dunham b. 16 Aug. 1720
48. iv. Ephraim⁵ Dunham b. 17 March 1722
49. v. Phebe⁵ Dunham b. 3 Jan. 1723/4
50. vi. Susannah⁵ Dunham b. 23 September 1727
51. vii. Benjamin⁵ Dunham b. 18 March 1728/29
52. viii. Elizabeth⁵ Dunham b. 17 June 1730
53. ix. John⁵ Dunham b. 15 Sept. 1732
54. x. Edmund⁵ Dunham b. 2 Aug. 1734
- + 55. xi. Jeremiah⁵ Dunham b. 10 April 1737
56. x. Bathsheba⁵ Dunham b. 30 May 1740

RESEARCH ON THIS LINE WITH CURRENT DESCENDANTS

39. Azariah⁵ Dunham (Jonathan⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) born in Piscataway New Jersey 9 February 1718/19, died 22 January 1790. He married first **Mary Tuxton**. He married second 21 May 1753 **Mary Ford**, daughter of Col. Jacob and Hannah (Baldwin) Ford. [NJ Marriage Records 1665-1800] She was born about 1734-5 (age at death 67 years), died 4 May 1802. Both Azariah⁵ and Mary (Ford) Dunham are buried in the Dunham Family Burying Ground, Raritan Township (formerly Piscataway) Middlesex Co. New Jersey.

In Feb. 1775 Col. Dunham was elected to the Colonial General Assembly of the province. In 1775 and again in 1776 he was a member of the Provincial Congress and by that body was appointed one of the Committee of Safety for the Province. Col. Dunham was an active Revolutionary leader, and after the war he was elected the first President of the Corporation of the City of New Brunswick.

From The Mapping of New Jersey: The Men and the

Art by John P. Snyder, pub. Rutgers University Press, p. 54-55; "A second manuscript map recently reproduced. . . shows a boundary line surveyed by Azariah Dunham of New Brunswick in 1766. . . The Justice and Freeholders of Middlesex County ordered the 1766 survey in view of the fact that the 'line of the old road' was 'very dubious by reason of persons altering the road'." Following the narrative on p. 55 is a picture of Azariah Dunham (1719-1790), probably the earliest picture we have of a descendant of Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth. This is reproduced below but numerous photocopies have resulted in a poor reproduction in this newsletter.



Colonel Azariah⁵ Dunham (1719-1790)

Children of Azariah and Mary (Tuxton) Dunham:

- i. David⁶ Dunham (known as "Squire") b. 5 Aug. 1745
m. 17 Dec. 1766 Mary Dunn
- ii. Mary⁶ Dunham b. 20 April 1747
m. John Conger
- iii. Jane⁶ Dunham b. 20 Feb. 1748
m. Joseph Thixton

Children of Azariah and Mary (Ford) Dunham:

- iv. Lewis Ford⁶ Dunham b. 31 March 1754
m. Jane Tuthill 4 May 1777
- v. John⁶ Dunham b. 4 Jan. 1756
m. Ann Sherred
- vi. James⁶ Dunham b. 12 Oct. 1757

- m. Hannah Smith
- vii. Elizabeth⁶ Dunham b. 24 Oct. 1759
d. Oct. 1761
- viii. Nancy⁶ Dunham b. 8 March 1761
d. 10 April 1840
- ix. Hannah⁶ Dunham b. 17 Feb. 1764
d. 17 Sept. 1764
- x. Sarah⁶ Dunham b. 27 Aug. 1765
m. James Hankenson 17 March 1789
- xi. Jacob⁶ Dunham b. 30 Sept. 1767
m. Elizabeth Lawson
- xii. Moses⁶ Dunham b. 5 July 1770
d. 3 Sept. 1771
- xiii. William⁶ Dunham b. 27 June 1772
- xiv. Hannah⁶ Dunham (again) b. 17 Jan. 1774
d. 11 Feb. 1860

40. Jonathan⁵ Dunham (Jonathan⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) born in Piscataway New Jersey 20 May 1721, died before 5 August 1752. He married about 1742 Keziah Fitz Randolph.

Children of Jonathan and Keziah (Fitz Randolph) Dunham:

- i. Rebecca⁶ Dunham b. 24 Nov. 1743
m. in Piscataway 7 February 1764
Andrew Drake
They were married by Rev. Jonathan Dunham.
- ii. Mary⁶ Dunham b. 3 Mar. 1744/45
m. David Dunn
- iii. Tabitha⁶ Dunham b. 3 Nov. 1747
m. Lambert Merrell
- iv. Abraham⁶ Dunham b. 1 May 1750
m. Sarah Fitz Randolph
- v. Jonathan⁶ Dunham b. Piscataway New Jersey 30 October 1752 two months after his father's death. He died in Jackson, Washington County New York 19 March 1833. He married in Piscataway 1 March 1774 **Eunice Dunn**. She was born about 1755, died in Jackson, Washington County New York 9 January 1828. She is buried in Coulter-Wells Cemetery, Jackson, N.Y. Jonathan⁶ Dunham served in the Revolutionary War. Jonathan⁶ and Eunice came to Jackson N.Y. about 1793 [History of Washington Co.,

N.Y. about 1793 [History of Washington Co., N.Y. pub. 1878].

Jonathan⁶ Dunham is an ancestor of Dale (Dunham) Gaa and her sister Donna (Dunham) Hawks. Both were contributors to DUNHAM DISPATCH, edited by Phyllis Kitson.

41. David⁵ Dunham (Jonathan⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) born in Piscataway New Jersey 14 March 1723, died in Stelton New Jersey 6 October 1806. He married 14 October 1750 **Rebekah Dunn** daughter of Hugh and Elizabeth (Martin) Dunn. She was born in Piscataway 27 July or 27 August 1723, died 30 August 1784. Both are buried in Dunham Family Burying Ground, Stelton, Raritan Township (formerly Piscataway) New Jersey. David⁵ Piscataway, NJ is listed in "Revolutionary Census of NJ, An Index, based on Rateables, Inhabitants of NJ During the Period of the American Revolution" (1778-1780), by Kenn Stryker-Rodda, Hunterdon House, 1986.

Children of David and Rebekah (Dunn) Dunham:

- + **117. i. Jonathan⁶ Dunham b. 1751**
118. ii. Sarah⁶ Dunham b. 1752
119. iii. David⁶ Dunham b. 1755
120. iv. Jeremiah⁶ Dunham b. 1758
121. v. Azariah⁶ Dunham b. 4 December 1760
122. vi. Phineas⁶ Dunham b. 11 December 1764

44. Samuel⁵ Dunham (Jonathan⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) born in Piscataway New Jersey 27 November 1730, died in Woodbridge, Middlesex County New Jersey 5 July 1827. He married 8 May 1750 **Mary Lucas**, daughter of Robert and Hephzibah (Wooledge) Lucas. She was born 17 May 1730, died 24 July 1805. They were married by Samuel's father Rev. Jonathan⁴ Dunham. Samuel⁵ Dunham of Piscataway is listed in "Revolutionary Census of NJ, An Index, based on Rateables, Inhabitants of NJ During the Period of the American Revolution"

(1778-1780), by Kenn Stryker-Rodda, Hunterdon House, 1986.

*In a fine piece of research done in the summer of 2000 by Tom Berg, and assisted by David Lee Dunham, Tom found a series of deeds that prove the children of John and Hephzibah (Hull) Wooledge. This couple has a daughter Hephzibah who married Robert Lucas and they had four children: Mary, Huldah, Elizabeth, and Wooledge. Of these children, surname **Lucas**:*

- i. *Mary Lucas b. 27 May 1730, d. 24 July 1805
m. Samuel⁵ Dunham in May 1750*
- ii. *Huldah Lucas b. 1734, d. 17 October 1773
m. Thomas Fitz Randolph 20 July 1754*
- iii. *Wooledge Lucas b. about 1736, died 26 November 1759*
- iv. *Elizabeth Lucas, married John Olliphant*

Children of Samuel⁵ and Mary (Lucas) Dunham:

- i. *Hepzibah⁶ Dunham b. 1751
m. Samuel Walker 25 April 1769*
- ii. *Jane⁶ Dunham b. probably 4 Nov. 1754
m. Isaac Davis 31 Dec. 1771*
- iii. *Thomas⁶ Dunham b. 1760
m. d. but had descendants*
- iv. *Elizabeth⁶ Dunham b. say 1761*
- v. *Mary⁶ Dunham b. 1763
m. Richard Ball*
- vi. *Jonathan S.⁶ Dunham b. 1775
m. Elizabeth Ayers*
- vii. *probably Lucas⁶ Dunham*
- viii. *probably Samuel⁶ Dunham*

DESCENDANTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN DNA ANALYSIS

The following lines are carried out in this article because their descendants participated in DNA analysis. The first of these descendants was George¹² Dunham (line given below) who became the first Dunham male to have the DNA

test. The line back from George ¹² Dunham had been proven back to Deacon John Dunham through the use of Vital Records. Therefore, we knew that he was a direct descendant of Deacon John Dunham, and we could use his DNA allele markers to demonstrate that others who matched these markers were also descendants of Deacon John Dunham.

**CONTINUATION OF LINES
OF THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED
IN DNA ANALYSIS**

117. Jonathan ⁶ Dunham (David ⁵, Jonathan ⁴, Edmund ³, Benajah ², John ¹) born in 1751, died in Piscataway New Jersey 29 November 1832, aged 81 years. He married first in Piscataway New Jersey 24 January 1776 **Sarah Lenox**. They were married by Rev. Jonathan Dunham. She was born about 1753, died 6 January 1797 in her 45th year. He married second **Susanna Halsey**. She was born 22 January 1760 (calculated from age at death) died 22 May 1808 aged 48.4.0. Jonathan ⁶ Dunham is buried in burial ground behind 12 Baldwin Road, Edison, New Jersey.

Children of Jonathan ⁶ and Sarah (Lenox) Dunham include the following two sons:

+ **267. Jonathan ⁷ Dunham** (Jonathan ⁶, David ⁵ Jonathan ⁴, Edmund ³, Benajah ², John ¹) was born in Stelton, (Edison) Raritan Township, Middlesex County New Jersey 25 December 1776, died in Sharpsville, Pymatuning Township, Mercer County Pennsylvania 6 March 1856. He married **Mary Clark**, daughter of Henry Clark. She was born 4 February 1783, died 15 April 1869 aged 86 years 2 mos. 11 days. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery, Sharpsville Pennsylvania.

Descendant Robert E. ¹² Dunham of Warren Pennsylvania participated in DNA analysis and his markers matched those of George ¹² Dunham, the first participant in the Dunham DNA project. His line continues from Jonathan

⁷ with Azariah ⁸, Omer Edward ⁹, Leon Burnett ¹⁰ Robert Erickson ¹¹, Robert E. ¹² Dunham. Three generations of this line are pictured below.



Leon Burnett ¹⁰ Dunham (1888-1969)



Robert Erickson ¹¹ Dunham
(1911-1990)
Elizabeth Ann (Cogswell) Dunham
(1911-1999)



Robert E. ¹² Dunham (1939-)

+ **268. Azariah⁷ Dunham** (Jonathan⁶ David⁵, Jonathan⁴, Edmund³, Benajah², John¹) born in New Jersey 19 December 1779, died in Sharon, Mercer County Pennsylvania in 1855. He married **Margaret Clark**, daughter of Henry Clark and sister of Mary Clark, wife of Jonathan⁷ Dunham, his brother.

He moved to Sharpsville, Pymatuning Township, Mercer County Pennsylvania.

Children of Azariah and Margaret (Clark) Dunham:

- + **i. Ezra⁸ Dunham b. abt. 1800**
 - ii. Martin⁸ Dunham b. abt. 1803
- + **iii. Robert⁸ Dunham b. 1804**
 - iv. Jonathan⁸ Dunham b. 15 July 1808
 - v. James Clark⁸ Dunham b. 17 August 1812
 - vi. Margaret⁸ Dunham b.
 - vii. Samuel⁸ Dunham b. ; died before 1857
 - m. Nancy McCleary
 - viii. Henry⁸ Dunham b. 1818
 - m.¹ Nancy Morford
 - m.² Nancy (McCleary) Dunham, widow of his brother Samuel

Ezra⁸ Dunham (Azariah⁷ Jonathan⁶ David⁵ Jonathan⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) was born about 1800. He married **Mary (Wolford) Berkebile** and they settled in Somerset County Pennsylvania.

The children of Ezra⁸ and Mary (Berkebile) Dunham, according to descendant Don Berkebile were:

- i. Roseanna⁹ Dunham b. 1830, d. 1878
- ii. Samuel⁹ Dunham b. 21 February 1838
- iii. Azariah⁹ Dunham
- iv. Jane⁹ Dunham

Don Berkebile provided a copy of the obituary of Samuel⁹ Dunham which appeared in a Moxham, Pennsylvania newspaper dated 11 July 1911, and appears in part below:

“Samuel Dunham, one of Moxham’s

oldest and best residents is dead, having passed away at the Dunham residence, No. 528 (photo copy is faint, but I think it is 528) Grove avenue at 6:10 o’clock last evening, in his seventy-fourth year. Mr. Dunham suffered from an attack of pneumonia last February, other ailments having developed and resulted in death. His condition became critical on Sunday, when his two sons, Messrs. Russell and Lewis L. Dunham, of Wilmington Del. were summoned to his bedside. The funeral will take place at 10 o’clock Friday forenoon, when services will be held at the Dunham home and interment will be made in Grandview Cemetery. . .

The deceased was born on February 21 1838 in Shade Township, Somerset County, being a son of Ezra and Mary Dunham, pioneer residents at Shade Furnace. Early in life Samuel Dunham engaged in the mercantile business at Shanksville and later at Buckstown. He came to Johnstown in 1890 and located in the Seventeenth Ward where he conducted a store until 1906, when he retired on account of his health.

In February 1867 the deceased and Miss Huldah Richardson, sister of Messrs. E. P. and R. I. Richardson were united in marriage. Mrs. Dunham survives her husband with two sons, four daughters and eleven grandchildren. His sons are Mssrs Russell and Lewis L. Dunham, referred to above, and the daughters are Jennie, wife of Dennis G. LaFrance of Haynes Street; Anna, wife of Harry W. Watson of Grove avenue, and Misses Maude C. and M. Blanch Dunham at home. Cora Francis Dunham, another daughter died in infancy.”

In November 2002 Russell H.¹² Dunham III participated in the DNA analysis and was proven to be a descendant of the Deacon John Dunham line. I worked with him to trace back to his earliest known ancestor who was Ezra⁸ Dunham b. ca. 1800 in NJ, d. 1870 and is buried in Ridge Cemetery Somerset Co. PA. Ezra married 27 January 1831 Mary (Wolford) Berkebile. She was b. 1798 and d. 1881. They were the parents of Samuel Dunham who was b. ca. 1838 in Johnstown PA.

One of the sons of Samuel and Huldah Hester (Richardson) Dunham was Lewis Leonard¹⁰ Dunham b. 17 August 1876 in PA, d. 29 June 1952

he m.¹ Bessie Adams Morrow (whose family came from Chesapeake Bay)

he m.² Geneva S. (--)

This line continues with Russell H.¹¹ Dunham, and the DNA participant is Russell H.¹² Dunham born in 1925 in Maryland.

Don Berkebile also provided a much photocopied copy of photographs of Samuel⁹ and Roseanna⁹ Dunham. This newspaper copy was sent to Linda (Dunham) White of Michigan, and she kindly drew the following images of Samuel and Roseanna. Linda is a descendant of Robert⁹ Dunham whose line is given below.



Roseanna⁹ Dunham (1830-1878)



Samuel⁹ Dunham (1838-1911)

Robert⁸ Dunham (Azariah⁷ Jonathan⁶ David⁵ Jonathan⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) was born about 1803-1804 in Mercer Co. PA, died in Mercer County PA 26 November 1884. He married **Annie Titus**, daughter of Archibald and Ann (Dyer) Titus.

Children of Robert⁸ and Annie (Titus) Dunham:

- i. Azariah R⁹ Dunham of Hickory, PA
- ii. Adeline⁹ Dunham
 - m. Sebastian Runser of Sharom PA
- + **iii. Shadrack⁹ Dunham of Michigan (William Shadrack) b. 1834-36**
- iv. Alvin G.⁹ Dunham of Hickory Twp.
- v. Melvin⁹ Dunham of Sharon, PA
- vi. Newton⁹ Dunham who died in 1884 (James Newton)

William S. (Shadrack) was born about 1834-36. He married Nancy Chase and they moved to Michigan soon after 1880.

Child of William S. (called Shadrack) and Nancy (Chase) Dunham:

- i. **George W.¹⁰ Dunham** b. 14 July 1868, d. 25 June 1913
 - m.¹ Martha VanConant in Loomis, Isabella Co. MI
 - m.² in Michigan, Lizzie Robinson

Children of George and Martha (VanConant) Dunham:

- i. Florence¹¹ Dunham b. 5 March 1898 Loomis MI
 - she d. 18 Mar. 1980, Hart, MI
 - m. 18 Nov. 1914 in Lapeer Co. MI John C. Fitch
- ii. **LeRoy¹¹ Dunham** b. 23 July 1900 in Lake Station, Clare Co. MI
 - He d. 26 May 1986 Lapeer MI
 - m. 10 Oct. 1922 in Flint MI Elizabeth Almeda Fitch

One of the children of LeRoy¹¹ and Elizabeth A. (Fitch) Dunham was:

George LeRoy¹² Dunham b. 18 June 1932. He was the first participant of DNA analysis for the Dunham surname. He married Nancy Walker and they reside in Harrison, Michigan. Their daughter Linda (Dunham) White was the artist who drew the pictures of Samuel⁹ and Roseanna⁹ Dunham above.

ANOTHER INTERESTING DUNHAM LINE

A line of Dunhams who settled in Middlesex County New Jersey, south of Piscataway, in what is now New Brunswick and South River New Jersey is still being researched. This line is given below with the children in the fifth generation named, but only two are carried out here. The answers to the residences of the other children have not been fully documented to date.

10. Ephraim⁴ Dunham (Edmund³, Benajah², John¹) born in Piscataway New Jersey 2 May 1696, died after 17 May 1749 when Ephraim and Phebe acknowledged their signatures on a deed [NJ Colonial Deed, Vol. G-2, p. 133-135]. He married in Piscataway 26 Jan. 1715/6 **Phebe Smalley**, daughter of John and Lydia (Martin) Smalley. She was born in Piscataway 20 June 1695. There are no death dates or wills for Ephraim or Phebe in the New Jersey Archives.

Children of Ephraim⁴ and Phebe (Smalley) Dunham born in Piscataway NJ:

[Mayflower Families, Edward Fuller, Vol. 4:109]

- 46. i. Zerviah⁵ Dunham b. 11 Nov. 1716
 - 46.1 ii. Hannah⁵ Dunham b. 28 Dec. 1718
- Reference Collected at the Alexander Library in New Brunswick NJ; Dictionary of NJ by Charles Carroll Gardner, Note Books:
Ch. of Ephraim & Phebe "Dunn", error for Dunham [IB 2:77]
- + 47. iii. Elisha⁵ Dunham b. 16 Aug. 1720
 - 48. iv. Ephraim⁵ Dunham b. 17 March

1722

- 49. v. Phebe⁵ Dunham b. 3 Jan. 1723/4
- 50. vi. Susannah⁵ Dunham born 23 September 1727
- 51. vii. Benjamin⁵ Dunham b. 18 March 1727/8 (sic) should be 1728/9
- 52. viii. Elizabeth⁵ Dunham b. 17 June 1730 *
- 53. ix. John⁵ Dunham b. 15 Sept. 1732
- 54. x. Edmund⁵ Dunham b. 2 Aug. 1734
- + 55. xi. Jeremiah⁵ Dunham b. 10 April 1737
- 56. x. Bathsheba⁵ Dunham b. 30 May 1740

* Elizabeth⁵ Dunham m. Jacob Piatt and this line continues on to Paul E. Geissler. Paul Geissler's wife Joyce has Dunham lineage too.

LINE OF ELISHA⁵ DUNHAM

47. Elisha⁵ Dunham (Ephraim⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) born in Piscataway, Middlesex County New Jersey 16 August 1720. We do not know his death date. He married **Sarah** (unknown).

Children of Elisha⁵ and Sarah (unknown) Dunham:

- + 129. i. Jacob⁶ Dunham b. 9 October 1757
- + 130. ii. Jehu⁶ Dunham b. 24 September 1761
- iii. possibly Ephraim⁶ b. about 1764
- iv. Sarah⁶ Dunham b. 1766

129. Jacob⁶ Dunham (Elisha⁵ Ephraim⁴ Edmund³ Benajah² John¹) born in Middlesex County New Jersey 9 Oct. 1757, died in Clinton Township, Knox County Ohio 8 July 1839. He married 27 November 1790 **Sara Outcalt**.

From Abstracts of Rev. War Pension files: Jacob, Sarah, W7055, BLW #36558-160-55, NJ Line, sol. was b. 9 Oct. 1757 Middlesex Co. NJ & sol. lived there at enl. Sol appl 28 Sep. 1832 Knox Co. OH, a res. of Clinton Twp. OH, sol. m. Sarah Outcalt 28 Nov. 1790 at Highstown

NJ, sol. d 6 July 1838 in Knox Co. OH, wid. Appl. 29 Oct. 1845 Knox Co. OH aged 78, a res. of Clinton Tow. OH, and in 1849 she stated she was aged 84 & had lived there over 15 yrs, wid. Appl. for BLW 28 Mar. 1855, in 1845 a son J. Dunham was a res. of Mount Vernon in Knox Co. OH, in 1855 Frederick & Margaret H. Dunham of Knox Co. OH stated they were children of sol. Jacob Dunham.

Children of Jacob ⁶ and Sarah (Outcalt) Dunham given by Mary Johnston of Nixa, Missouri:

- i. Lydia Dunham b. 1791
- ii. Hiram Dunham b. 1792
- iii. Jemima Dunham b. 1795
- iv. John Dunham b. 1797
- v. Jacob Jr. Dunham b. 1802
- vi. Jehu Dunham b. 1803
- vii. Frederick Dunham b. 1807
- viii. Margaret Dunham b. 1810

Mary Johnston says that this family (except Jemima Dunham) left New Jersey and moved to Knox County, Ohio in 1820. Jemima Dunham married Peter Stults on 1 February 1819 and they remained in New Jersey.

The line of Mary ¹² Johnston of Nixa Missouri continues from Jacob ⁶ with Hiram ⁷ William Edgar ⁸ Jefferson ⁹ Alneita ¹⁰ Thais ¹¹ Mary ¹² (Rutherford) Johnston

130. Jehu ⁶ Dunham (Elisha ⁵ Ephriam ⁴, Edmund ³, Benajah ², John ¹) born 24 Sept. 1761 [DAR Patriot Index], in Washington, NJ (now South River), died 6 April 1842. He married in 1791, **Elnorah Van Tine** She was dau. Charl (Funtein) VanTine and Adriaentje Van Nuis. He is buried off Summerhill Rd. E. Brunswick, Middlesex Co., NJ in Obert Cemetery, New Brunswick, NJ.

On 11 November 1986 Jacqueline Gerth, of Glenview, Illinois was present at the dedication of a cemetery, named the Obert Cemetery, where a grave stone for Jehu Dunham was

placed. The cemetery was dedicated to the early residents of the surrounding area, and to those who settled in the Dunham's Crossroads section of New Brunswick. In 2002 John Laurence Dunham took a photograph of this head stone (shown below).



Headstone of Jehu ⁶ Dunham (1761-1842)
Obert Cemetery, New Brunswick,
New Jersey

Children of Jehu ⁶ and Elnore: from Jacqueline Gerth 19 Feb. 1998;

- i. Elizabeth ⁷ b. 24 Nov. 1792
m. 1815 Nicholas Rappleyea
she d. 4 Dec. 1857
- + ii. David ⁷ b. 11 May 1794, Dunhams Corners, NJ
m. Jane Wilson 19 Jan. 1826, Reformed Church, Spotswood, NJ
he d. 11 Jun 1840, buried Reformed Church, Spotswood, NJ
- iii. James ⁷ b. 1796
m. Eleanor Peterson
he d. 1872
- iv. Lewis ⁷ b. 8 Jan. 1799
m. Mary Perry
he d. 15 Oct. 1848, Washington, NJ
- + v. William G. ⁷ Dunham b. 10 Apr. 1801
d. 5 Aug. 1863
- vi. Abraham ⁷ b. 24 Oct. 1802
d. 6 Apr. 1842

The continuation of Jacqueline and John's lines is as follows:

Jehu ⁶ Dunham, David ⁷ Dunham, Edward ⁸ Dunham, Annie Maria ⁹ Dunham (m. Elmer Reno Brown), Chester Reno ¹⁰ Brown, **Jacqueline Persis ¹¹ Brown** (m. Floyd Gerth).

Jehu ⁶ Dunham, William G. ⁷ Dunham, William Henry ⁸ Dunham, William Henry Streeter ⁹ Dunham, John Ryer ¹⁰ Dunham George Whitfield ¹¹ Dunham, **John Laurence ¹² Dunham**. John L. Dunham is secretary of the Dunham-Singletary Family Connections family association.

LINE OF JEREMIAH ⁵ DUNHAM

55. Jeremiah ⁵ Dunham (Ephraim ⁴ Edmund ³ Benajah ² John ¹) b. 10 April 1737, died after 1789 when he appears on the New Brunswick Tax list. The first four censuses are missing for New Jersey, so we can not find out if he was living in New Jersey between 1790-1820.

Jeremiah Dunham is probably the witness to the land transfer from John and Rachel Dunham to Elisha Dunham as shown below.

PROBABLE LINE OF ENOCH ⁶ DUNHAM

Several years ago I worked with Mary Johnston to try and place the Dunhams living in South River NJ (formerly Washington), Middlesex County, New Jersey. Mary worked diligently at a Family History Center near her home in Missouri, and gathered a great number of land deeds which she shared with me. One of these deeds showed that on 21 January 1730 Ephraim ⁴ Dunham (Edmund ³ Benajah ² John ¹) purchased 100 acres of unappropriated land in East Jersey from John Burnet [NJ Colonial Deed Book K, p. 164]. This land was in what is now South River, Middlesex Co. NJ. I used a deed mapping program and attempted to lay out the land parcels in order to trace the disposition of this original 100 acre parcel.

We know the children (see #10. above) of

Ephraim ⁴ and Phebe (Smalley) Dunham included, Elisha ⁵ Dunham b. 16 August 1720, and Jeremiah ⁵ Dunham b. 10 April 1737. We do not have proven records documenting the families of all of the children of Ephraim ⁴ Dunham, but it appears that Jeremiah ⁵ Dunham remained in the South River/North Brunswick section of Middlesex County. Jeremiah was a witness to the sale of 52.5 acres from John and Rachel Dunham to Elisha Dunham on 8 June 1761.

“1760 - LAND from John and Rachel Dunham. 31 March. Part of large tract of land known by the name of JOHN and WILIAM BURNET lot on SOUTH RIVER - 52 1/2 acres. Sealed and delivered by Elijah Davis and JEREMIAH DUNHAM 8 June 1761.”

Elisha ⁵ Dunham also remained in the area of South River/North Brunswick, Middlesex Co. NJ.

Enoch ⁶ Dunham was probably a son of Jeremiah ⁵ (Ephraim ⁴ Edmund ³ Benajah ² John ¹) born say 1761, died after 1840 (prob. d. 21 August 1846). He married in New Brunswick, Middlesex Co. New Jersey 31 March 1789 **Jemima Outcalt**. She was daughter of John and Jakamyntie (Terhune) Outcalt. She was born in New Brunswick New Jersey 16 June 1771. She was a sister of Sarah Outcalt who married Jacob ⁶ Dunham as given above.

In the pension application for John Ackerman (S16028) dated Sept. 28, 1832 Knox Co. Ohio there is a deposition from Jacob Dunham, Knox Co. OH dated Sept. 24, 1832 stating that John Ackerman and Jacob Dunham were raised about 1 ½ miles apart; in 1776 they both lived in Middlesex Co. NJ. Jacob states he has a cousin Enoch Dunham who lived in NJ who is now drawing a pension.

The 1830 Census of North Brunswick, Middlesex Co. NJ, p. 205; shows the family of Enoch Dunham.

This family would be:

1 male age 70-80-Enoch Dunham prob. b. 1750-1760

1 female 10-15

1 female 20-30

1 female 60-70; Jemima (Outcault) Dunham

There is an Enoch Dunham, age 79 residing in North Brunswick on the New Jersey 1840 Pensioners List. Enoch is also on the 1787 tax list in New Brunswick.

Children of Enoch and Jemima (Outcault) Dunham:

- i. Margaret ⁷ Dunham b. 22 March 1790
- ii. Jeremiah ⁷ Dunham b. 16 September 1792
- m. Rachel Miller
- iii. Catherine ⁷ Dunham b. 5 February 1795
- iv. Phebe ⁷ Dunham b. 5 November 1797
- v. Jonathan ⁷ Dunham b. 2 March 1799, d. 4 August 1832
- vi. Ephraim ⁷ Dunham b. 1 October 1801
- vii. Enoch ⁷ Dunham b. 9 February 1804
- also possible children:
- viii. Mary ⁷ Dunham b. 1807
- ix. Sary/Sara ⁷ Dunham b. 1810
- x. Cynthia ⁷ Dunham b. 13 March 1816

A great deal of research still needs to be done on the line of Benajah ² Dunham and his descendants. I believe that a large part of this family went to the southern New Jersey counties of Burlington, Camden, Salem and Cumberland.

Other Dunhams from this line went to Hunterdon County, and then migrated into Pennsylvania before going further west. In addition there were some Dunhams who were interested in the iron mining areas of Sussex (and that part that became Warren) county.

Many of these lines will be addressed in future articles.

The following people have helped to document the line from Benajah ² Dunham of Piscataway, New Jersey. Not all are descendants of Benajah ², but all have provided a great deal of information and assistance to me. If I have left anyone out of the following list, I'm truly sorry, and would like to know so that I can correct this error. Please note that many of the people on the list below descend from lines of Benajah ² Dunham that have not been covered in the article above. A future article will be devoted to these lines.

Mary Johnston
John L. Dunham
Doris Russell
Sandy Slattery
Robert W. (Bob) Dunham (of Madison WI)
Lisa Eschenbach
Carla Dunham
Yolanda Campbell Lifter
Chuck Tucker
Caral Mechling Bennett
Shannon Seiberling
Don Sanford, Pastor of Seventh Day Baptist Church in Janesville WI
Jacqueline Gerth
JoAnn Gwinn
Pat Junkin
Tom Berg
Joyce Geissler
David Lee Dunham
Kristi Kennison
Russ Dunham
Rachel Ann Woolever
Carl Dunham
Marion Keefer
Rosalie Demartino
Marilyn Roth
Don Berkebile
Nancy Dunham
Mary Ann Hanson
Linda Dunham White
Phyllis Dunham Wells
Robert E. Dunham
Louise Martin Mohler
Carolyn Lassiter
Dale (Dunham) Gaa

DUNHAM FAMILY REUNION

Maxville, Montana

By Jackie Coniglio

On Father's Day weekend, June 16 & 17, 2006, descendants of Dennis Rockwell Dunham and Mollie Muir met near Philipsburg, Montana for a reunion. Attendees included 79 year old Dennis Robert Dunham, only surviving child of his parents eight children. Records show him to be a descendant of "Deacon" John Dunham of Plymouth. He agreed to DNA testing which will help our records.

Many of the attendees were from Wisconsin, birth place and long time home of Dennis and Mollie. Others came from various scattered locations. These included grand children, great grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

We were pleased to have Paul C. Dunham join our reunion and have his help in setting up the DNA test. The 2007 Dunham Family Reunion will be held in Nekoosa, Wisconsin.

Below is a group photo. The identification of individuals as numbered appears on the next page.



Identification of attendees as the Dunham-Miller-Muir Family Reunion:

1. Dennis Robert Dunham
2. "Doc" Miller
3. Bill Miller
4. Jesse Vanderbilt
5. Terry Ruple
6. Jody Harkins
7. Jackie Coniglio
8. Denine Vanderbilt
9. Danny Dunham
10. James Wilkins
11. Donna Wilkins
12. Guy Coniglio
13. Paul C. Dunham
14. Brittany Biffert
15. Cameron Allen
16. Margaret Dunham
17. Kim Allen
18. Jason Allen
19. Tyler Allen

Genealogical Query

Selma Blackmon and her sister, Barbara, are seeking information about the family of **Wesley Dunham** who was born in New York probably in 1811. They have also found a **Lindsey W. Dunham**; although it is not evident if these are one and the same or two different individuals.

Selma has provided some photos from an 1844 booklet that she hopes someone may recognize. Those items may be viewed at <http://www.pcdunham.net/SelmaBlackmon.htm>

Selma Blackmon's e-mail is selma-joe@yaho.com If anyone has any information she would like to know.

A Theory Concerning An Important Missing Link Between Jonathan Singletary Dunham and The Large Clan of "Southern Dunhams"

by Sam E. Dunnam

Early on in my genealogical researches I encountered a proverbial "brick wall" kind of problem. The Reverend James T. Dunnam of Greene County, Mississippi, a DSFC member, has compiled a vast and well-documented database of all the "southern Dunhams/Dunnams." Using that treasure trove of information, I was able to trace my ancestry back, generation by generation, to the "first" John Dunham of South Carolina, who was the progenitor of all these southern Dunham¹ families documented in the Rev. Dunnam's database and family tree. I was well pleased with this result, because my own father, who died in 1983, had been successful only in tracing as far back as his great grandfather, whose full name and identity he learned only three years before his death. Dad would have been proud of my extension of his work, I thought.

However, when I tried to go back further than John Dunham of South Carolina, who appears in records there just before 1700, I hit a brick wall. There is no evidence of a Dunham family in South Carolina prior to the John Dunham to whom I can trace. If John's parents had been in South Carolina previous to his own activities there as a young man, they almost certainly would have left a trace and been noted, for in that very early period in South Carolina's colonial period, there were no more than a handful of white settlers there. It seems likely, therefore, that my ancestor John Dunham immigrated to South Carolina as a young man from somewhere else. This theory is supported by the fact that his land holdings appear amidst adjacent tracts held by the Singletary and Russ families.

We know from John's will that he married either Hannah Singletary or Hannah Russ, and perhaps was married to both if the first Hannah died young and he remarried.² We know (from published family histories)³ that those two families emigrated to South Carolina from Massachusetts about 1696, about the time John turns up there. It is reasonable, therefore, to conclude provisionally that prior friendships existed between John Dunham and those families back in Massachusetts and that they all came down together and acquired tracts of land close to one another, and that John went on to marry a daughter (or daughters) of these close neighbors with whom he had long been acquainted. That is what Herbert Russ, author of *Russ Family History II*, believes.

On the basis of this reasoning, I began looking for John Dunham's parents in Massachusetts. We know from DNA evidence that there were two Dunham family lines in Massachusetts prior to 1700 from whom John might have come.⁴ One would be from the Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth line; the other would be from the children of Jonathan Singletary Dunham of Woodbridge, New Jersey, who had previously been in Haverhill, Massachusetts but had moved to New Jersey with his wife's family after 1660, and, with them, became one of the founders of the town of Woodbridge.

The DNA evidence shows clearly that these two Dunham families are not themselves related, although they share the Dunham surname. Recent DNA tests and evidence have proved that my ancestor John derives from the Jonathan Singletary Dunham line.

How do we *know* this? We use and combine both DNA evidence and the evidence of records. I have been tested and one of the other persons tested whose results I matched almost exactly is Lloyd Dunham of Canada. Lloyd can trace his lineage all the way back, by records, to Jonathan Singletary Dunham. Therefore, since Lloyd and I know (by DNA) that we are related,

and Lloyd knows (by records) that he descends from Jonathan and Richard Singletary, it is a pretty tight inference that I, too, descend from Jonathan and Richard. And since by records I know, too, that I descend from John Dunham of South Carolina, it is an equally tight inference that he, too, must have been a descendent of Jonathan's.⁵

Anyhow, despite knowing that he derived from Jonathan Singletary Dunham, my search for John Dunham's parents in Massachusetts and New Jersey did not prove fruitful. The reason is that *all* of the children of Deacon John Dunham, and *all* of the children of Jonathan Singletary Dunham seem to be well accounted for and documented in the records. John Dunham, my ancestor, does not appear among them nor is there any hint anywhere of his parents. Gratia Mahony has been publishing in successive issues of this newsletter accounts of Deacon John's children, where they settled and raised their families; there appear to be no gaps in the history of Deacon John's descendents. They all stayed in New England. Similarly for Jonathan Singletary Dunham's children: all are accounted for and none went to South Carolina (although Jonathan's youngest brother, Benjamin, did go there, which, as we shall see, proves significant).

In sifting through this data, a further puzzle became apparent as I studied the timeline more closely and began trying to infer the dates of the generation into which John's parents *had to* fall if I could find them. What emerged, given John Dunham's dates, which I was able to determine from his published will, is that John's parents *had to* have dates roughly parallel with the generation of Jonathan Singletary Dunham himself. That is, they would need to have been Jonathan's generational contemporaries. *But this cannot be.* For Jonathan himself *became the founder* of one of these generic Dunham families when he changed his surname from Singletary to Dunham (for reasons yet unknown). Thus by elimination there are no other

Dunham family sources, other than the family of Deacon John, which, as we have noted, the DNA evidence rules out. All of Jonathan Singletary Dunham's male siblings (the other sons of Richard Singletary) kept the name Singletary. Also, if John Dunham's parents were Jonathan Singletary Dunham's own age, this means John Dunham, my ancestor, *had to be* in the same generation as Jonathan's own children. But that doesn't compute, because all of Jonathan's own children are accounted for in the records and John is not among them. Moreover, neither he nor any of them ever went to South Carolina. So where *were* John's parents? He had to have some; they existed once; but there is no trace of them in Massachusetts or New Jersey.

This is the brickwall I encountered. In puzzlement and frustration, I articulated my problem to Gratia. She would certainly know about all Dunhams who were in New England during this early period. And as usual, Gratia proved resourceful: she came up with a theory about the relationship between Jonathan Singletary Dunham and my ancestor, John Dunham of South Carolina—not immediately, but after she'd thought about for it a while. We cannot be certain this theory is true, but it has the great virtue of explaining all the known facts as well as all the unknown ones. I shall first state the theory in brief, then we shall examine the evidence for it more closely.

Gratia believes that John Dunham was a child of Jonathan Singletary Dunham born out of wedlock, by a woman other than his wife, Mary Bloomfield. Jonathan, she reasons, consigned this awkward child to his youngest brother Benjamin to raise. In Massachusetts he was given the name "John Singletary" to avoid the scandal of being called "John Dunham" after his true father. And of course he *was* a Singletary by lineage (a grandson of Richard Singletary's), except for Jonathan's newly adopted surname, Dunham. He probably even looked like a

Dunham. He probably even looked like a Singletary.

Most interestingly, Benjamin Singletary *did* have a son named "John" but, on closer examination, he turns out to be a rather shadowy character insofar as records are concerned.

Also, most importantly, Benjamin Singletary alone, among Richard Singletary's children, emigrated to South Carolina from Massachusetts, probably before 1696. Thus Benjamin is almost certainly—somehow—*the medium* by whom or through whom the Singletary genes, carried by my ancestor John Dunham, got to South Carolina. When Benjamin left Massachusetts for South Carolina, the records are unclear as to whether he took his family with him when he first went. But he was settled at a local site called Red Bank in St. Thomas St. Dennis Parish (Berkeley County) in 1696.

Some record, somewhere, records Benjamin's son, John, as having been born on July 6, 1686. Yvonne Brunton (author of *History of the Singletary Family*) cites that date for John ("Singletary") but does not give a reference to the record from which it came. But if that date is valid, then "John Singletary" would have been about ten years old when he went to South Carolina. If Gratia's theory is right, John and the rest of Benjamin's family either went with him or joined him shortly afterward. If "John" was in fact "John Dunham," these people would have been his aunt and first cousins with whom he'd spent his early childhood in Massachusetts. Once in South Carolina, however, he could take the name "John Dunham" after his true father, Jonathan Singletary Dunham, without taint of scandal in that distant new place so far away from Massachusetts. Let us now review additional circumstantial evidence for this theory.

South Carolina land records show that *four* of Benjamin's sons—Richard, Jonathan, Broughton, and Joseph—were deeded land around Benjamin's own holdings, *but not John*.

In fact, a complete question mark of records hangs over John. Yvonne Brunton remarks of him: “*Haverhill (MA) records show that he (Benjamin) had a son, John, born July 6, 1686, but there are no South Carolina records to show that he came with family, or that he ever lived there, unless of course he died as a child. Benjamin’s other four sons were all granted land between 1703 and 1719.*”⁶ And in another place⁷ when, enumerating Benjamin’s issue, Brunton writes when she comes to John:

JOHN SINGLETARY, b. July 6, 1686, Haverhill, d.y.? No records found in Mass. or S.C.

Note that she says here that no records of John are found *in Mass. or S.C.* There was likely the bare record of a birth from some source, since the date of July 6, 1686 is given for John. If that date, however, is the birth date of John Dunham, Jonathan’s illegitimate son, and if it came from New Jersey, then that date could have been recorded *for him* (as perhaps as an unpublished family record) but was not anywhere officially recorded for “John Singletary.” This would make sense. Small towns in early Massachusetts were close knit. Mary Stockbridge, Benjamin’s wife, could scarcely have had an unnoticed pregnancy. On the other hand, if a small child had come to live with Benjamin’s family from another town (say, from New Jersey), notice would have been taken but no birth recorded nor would one have been expected. And if Benjamin and his family raised him and called him “John Singletary” after themselves, that would not have been unusual either in colonial America.

Gratia’s theory thus shows why Benjamin’s ‘son’ John does not show up in any South Carolina records. He *became* there John Dunham. The theory also accounts for why no records of John Dunham’s origins or of his possible family (if assumed other than Jonathan’s) are found in Massachusetts or New Jersey records. *There were none.* Up there he was ‘John Singletary.’ He “shows up” in South Carolina as

Singletary,” having thus, so named, left no footprints or trace of parentage elsewhere.

The dates also fit together and make sense quite neatly. If John Dunham was born on July 6, 1686, and appears in South Carolina land records acquiring land on the Wando River in 1708 (which is documented), he would have been twenty-two years old then—about the time an ambitious young man would have been acquiring land. In James T. Dunnam’s genealogy of the Dunnam Family a birth date of 1694 is given for him. But surely that seems too late and, in any case, is unsubstantiated, for as noted above, we can find no trace of John’s parents (if they are other than Jonathan Singletary Dunham and an unnamed woman) and no actual record of his birth. If he had been born that late (1694), he would have been only fourteen years old when he acquires his first land in 1708—hardly likely. Thus the birth date of July 6, 1686 seems about right. Moreover, it falls neatly into the period (1703 to 1719) when Benjamin Singletary’s other children were acquiring their nearby or adjacent tracts all around Benjamin’s own holdings.

What other evidence is there for this theory? Well, there is some persuasive circumstantial evidence, even though it has been doubted and discounted by other researchers. Jonathan and his wife, Mary Bloomfield, bore their own children during a twenty-year period between the years 1661 (the first, Mary) and 1681 (the last, Benjamin²). Sometime during 1682-3, Jonathan became involved with a young woman named Mary Ross (Rosse)⁸. The nature of this involvement is not altogether clear. It seems to have revolved chiefly around some shared religious convictions that were at variance with prevailing Puritan orthodoxy. Whatever these doctrines, they were sternly disapproved by the local Puritan authorities. There was certainly a dimension of harsh religious censure, perhaps predominant, in the final treatment of Jonathan and Mary. The facts are, however, that Jonathan left home for a considerable time while

immersed in these activities with Mary. In the course of them, Jonathan and Mary either instigated or became involved in a disturbance, aspects of which seem bizarre, in which Jonathan was accused of killing another man's dog. Jonathan and Mary were apprehended by the authorities, chastised, and both publicly whipped. Then Mary was sent home to her family in Boston and Jonathan back to his wife and family.

While there is nothing explicit in the record of these events that indicate that Jonathan and Mary had a sexual relationship, that is certainly not beyond doubt either. In any case, whatever the nature of their involvement, Mary was a spirited young unmarried woman and Jonathan an older married man in his early forties, and they had "run off" together on some mission. Mary did afterward become pregnant, and while the paternity of her child was attributed to another man, there can be no assurance that the child was not in fact Jonathan's. If so, it would not be the first time an unmarried couple were brought together by religious beliefs and also ended up having an affair—not because of their beliefs but incidental to them. Previous researchers⁹ in their accounts of this incident seem too ready to discount the possibility that the relationship between Jonathan and Mary could have been sexual—as if seeking to protect Jonathan's virtue and reputation.¹⁰ The fact is, we do not know. Probably even the Puritan authorities who had them whipped and sent home did not know for sure either, although, in addition to finding their religious doctrines offensive, these Puritan elders might well have suspected a sexual liaison. The bottom line is that today there is now other strong and persuasive evidence that John Dunham of South Carolina was an out-of-wedlock child of Jonathan Singletary Dunham, who was raised by Benjamin Singletary and in due course taken to South Carolina with him. Whether or not his mother was Mary Ross will probably never be known.¹¹

There is one more supporting fact. Jonathan's relationship with Mary Ross did not end

after the unpleasant denouement of their involvement together in 1682-3. Later, in the early 1690s, Jonathan Dunham and his wife, Mary, deeded a homestead to Mary Ross in Woodbridge, which she later deeded back to them. This was certainly an act of kindness and concern, and perhaps the reason motivating it was the fact of Mary's having borne Jonathan's out-of-wedlock son, John, who was raised by his brother Benjamin. Mary Bloomfield Dunham could scarcely have not known about it. And if she did, probably there was forgiveness and reconciliation, not only with her errant husband but with Mary Ross also. This would not be the first time such an event has occurred among men and women in close families. If that was the case then, it reflects credit on all involved.

If Gratia's theory about the relationship between John Dunham of South Carolina and Jonathan Singletary Dunham is true—that they were father and son, no matter if out of wedlock—and I am inclined to believe it is, then this is an important fact for all the "southern Dunhams," now a large and numerous group of people scattered from South Carolina to Texas and most states in between. It ties us genetically directly back to the founder of one of the two large generic Dunham families that our DNA studies have identified, Jonathan Dunham *alias Singletary*, and his father, Richard Singletary, who first came to America before 1640 and established these two family groups on these shores.

Unfortunately, the evidence for this tie is only theoretical, albeit a theory that fits the people and circumstances extremely well and explains many puzzles that heretofore have remained unresolved. We could still find further evidence for or against Gratia's theory. Some evidence for the illegitimate birth could surface or be discovered. Or some old correspondence could always turn up that bears on these people and circumstances. But absent further evidence, Gratia's theory is the best we have to go on and I think it must be accepted as the most likely

for an important missing link that joins the first and second generations of one of the two major groups of Dunhams in America.

End Notes

¹ I shall use the generic spelling “Dunham” which the NH for all general references to all families of Dunhams, among whom a number of different spelling variations occur: e.g., Donham, Denham, Dunnam, etc..Most (but not all) of the southern families whose proliferation the Rev. Dunnam traced and compiled used the NN spelling, among them my own line. But within DSFC, family members who are certainly related (by evidence of the DNA studies), use both spellings. Indeed, the scribe who wrote John Dunham of SC’s will used the NH spelling in the text of the will, but John signed it using clearly the NN spelling. However, we know that the original Dunham of our line, Jonathan Singletary Dunham, used the NH spelling.

² Yvonne Brunton in her History of The Singletary Family says that Hannah Singletary, daughter of Benjamin Singletary, married John Dunham. Herbert Russ in his Russ Genealogy II says that Hannah Russ married John Dunham. In his will, John Dunham refers only to “my loving wife, Hannah.” Most marriage records in South Carolina have been lost; many were kept only by churches or in family Bibles. South Carolina only began to require the keeping of marriage data as official public records in 1911.

³ Those of Brunton and Russ, just cited in the text.

⁴ I am not including here descendants of The Rev. Thomas Denham of Maine.

⁵ In an interesting sidelight to this reasoning, we wanted to test its validity by finding a current Singletary male who could trace directly to Jonathan by records and ask him to be DNA tested. I found a Singletary Family genealogy website. On it I found and contacted a Jerry Singletary (who lives in Georgia). We asked Jerry to be tested and he agreed. When his test results came back, *Jerry and I matched exactly*. That, we believe, ices down proof of the Singletary connection.

⁶ The Singletary Family History, p. 33.

⁷ Ibid, p. 37

⁸ Herbert Russ, author of Russ Genealogy II, believes she was Mary Russ, a member of his family.

⁹ Yvonne Brunton, The Singletary Family History, and, more recently, Patricia Junkin.

¹⁰ My own position is simply an interest in assessing the available documentary evidence and arriving at a theory that best fits the fact. I am much more interested in knowing whether or not Jonathan is John Dunham’s actual genetic father than I am in preserving Jonathan’s moral rectitude.

¹¹ It is possible that Jonathan could have had an out-of-wedlock child with some other woman.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The next New England Regional Genealogical Conference will be held in Hartford, Connecticut April 26-29, 2007.

This excellent conference will include five separate tracts for the daily sessions, plus a series of workshops. The conference will help to bring together genealogists and family historians from a variety of backgrounds.

The site will be the new Connecticut Convention Center, and accommodations may be made at the interconnected Hartford Marriott Downtown Hotel. A program brochure may be downloaded from www.NERGC.org

Gratia Mahony is interested in holding a mini reunion of any Dunham family members attending this conference. Anyone planning to go is invited to contact Gratia for further details. gratiam1@verizon.net