

## NEWS OF FAMILY OF DOWNED FLIER ANCESTOR INVOLVED IN SHIPWRECK

In the Dec. 1994 issue of DD we included an article about Capt. John R. Dunham, whose plane was shot down by Russians over the Sea of Japan in 1952 & whose remains were discovered only 2 years ago. Now we've had the good fortune to be able to get in touch with his daughter, Suzanne Dunham Fong, of Holland, MI. Suzanne is in contact with her father's brother, who shared this story of the family's origin in Easton, MD, where John R. was born. At this time we don't know all of the dates, etc., but this romantic story is too good to keep. A review of the Dunham genealogy shows that a many, many Dunhams, long a seafaring family, were "lost at sea." Thus it is heartening to find that not all those who were involved in shipwrecks were actually drowned. One, at least, survived to tell the tale. He was Charles Mason Dunham, a native of Oswego, NY, who was in the shipping business & who was shipwrecked near the Maryland/Virginia area. He was washed ashore, & a young woman from Chincoteague, MD, nursed him back to health. In the best tradition of novels & movies, the two fell in love & married. Charles later operated a livery stable in Easton, MD. Whether he ever got back in touch with his New York family is not known. (We haven't been able to find his name in our Dunham Index; there are dozens of Charles Dunham entries, but no Charles M.) Charles Mason Dunham is the earliest known Dunham of this particular line. We hope that with a few added particulars, & a better index (which is in progress), more can be learned.

-- those stories that were probably never written down, but were told over & over because of their drama, their humor, or their illustration of character. It really doesn't take all that long to commit those anecdotes to paper, & it would be a real service to history. Perhaps the time has come when DD must revert to the original every-other-month publication schedule. Maybe not. However, that will certainly be necessary under current conditions.

### NEWSLETTER BUSINESS

You will note that there was no May '95 issue of DD. There are 2 reasons for that situation: 1/ Because of our large & growing mailing list (which is in itself very satisfying) monthly publication has become too costly, & 2/ Incoming material for DD has decreased significantly. (Although we are pleased to collect charts, we do not publish them.) So if you have been thinking of sending in materials, now is the time to do it. (If you haven't, please look around & see if there isn't something you might send.) Copies of old letters, old photographs, old newspaper clippings -- all these are fine. NEW photos of family members are also much appreciated. Besides these things, we are always in the market for anecdotes

SUMNER



## ONE HUSBAND TOO MANY?

There's nothing like genealogy to convince people how un-unique their names are. We tend to think that our names sort of define us -- & ONLY us. Not so. It is astonishing how often true "name-sakes" are found. Perhaps this "clone" lived at a different time. One woman's maiden name can be another woman's married name. But so often we find that others, this very day, are trotting around & answering to our own individual "handles." A case in point is brought to DD's attention by Mrs. Arthur (Joan) Dunham, of Gainesville, FL. She relates that during World War II her late husband was a Navy radio man, stationed at the Armed Guard Center in Brooklyn, NY. One day in January, 1944 Joan happened to go to the A.G.C. to see her husband, so a call was put out on the speaker system for Arthur Dunham to report. Whereupon a man appeared, stating that HE was Arthur Dunham. Trouble was, this man was a total stranger to Joan. A few minutes later her husband showed up, & the incident was all but forgotten. Still, she wondered who this "extra" Arthur Dunham could have been, & when she saw the photo in the Nov. '94 DD of Arthur Dunham, a radio man in World War II, she wrote to inquire about the possibility that he could have been the same man. A telephone call to Bob A. Dunham, Madison, WI (who had supplied the photo of his father, Arthur Dunham) resulted in Joan's getting his father's Florida phone number. Then a call to Arthur established that he HAD been stationed at the Brooklyn A.G.C. in January, 1944 & had, quite naturally, been the person who answered the summons for Arthur Dunham. Thus, after 50 years, this little case of coincidence & "double identity" has been solved.

## WHEN OBITUARIES WERE REAL OBITUARIES

From Jacqueline Gerth, Glenview, IL, we have this detailed obituary, date of May 10, 1929, from a newspaper whose name shows only as THE LACLEDE ----- Jackie's great grandfather, Edward Dunham, was a brother to Margaret Emily Dunham Diffenderfer (1840-1929) (8) (Deacon John 1, Benajah 2, Rev. Edmund 3, Ephraim 4, Elisha 5, John 6, David 7), who is remembered in the following article.

## MRS. M. E. DIFFENDERFER

After a brief illness, Mrs. M. E. Diffenderfer passed into the beyond on Monday afternoon, about 1 o'clock, in her home, on North Washington avenue. She was 89 years, 2 months and 21 days old.

For one of her years, Mrs. Diffenderfer had enjoyed extraordinarily good health and announcement of her death came as a shock to her friends. She was not well for several days last week, and on Sunday became alarmingly ill, suffering from uremic poisoning. She rallied on Monday morning and it was thought she had a chance for recovery. On Monday noon, however, a change for the worse developed and the end came quickly and peacefully.

It was a beautiful ending to a beautiful life. Physically strong for one of her advanced years and mentally alert, Mrs. Diffenderfer

keenly enjoyed her earthly life to the end and the passing came without the long illness that so frequently marks the change.

She had the happiness of having her children with her at the last. Mrs. W. H. Owen, of St. Louis, Mrs. Carl Morris, of Springfield, and Harry Diffenderfer, of Kansas City, arriving before her death, the others being residents of Lebanon.

Funeral services were held on Thursday afternoon, at 2:30 o'clock, in the Congregational church. The services were conducted by the pastor, Rev. V. F. Clark, assisted by Dr. James Hyslop.

Mr. Clark read portions of 1 Cor. 15 and Proverbs 31 and Dr. Hyslop read a brief sketch of Mrs. Diffenderfer's life and a beautiful tribute to her. Mr. Clark's message was an exquisite tribute to Mrs. Diffenderfer as a mother, his theme being, "Forsake not the law

of thy mother." He read the two well known poems, Kipling's "Mother: o' Mine" and Thomas Curtis Clark's "Tribute To a Mother." Miss Winnetta Watt sang "Pilgrims of the Night" and "Crossing the Bar." The pallbearers were five grandsons and Robert Mayfield. Interment was in Lebanon cemetery, beside the husband who preceded her in death many years ago.

The flowers were most beautiful. There was an exquisite blanket of ferns, valley lilies and pink rosebuds over the casket and many offerings from relatives and friends. Organizations sending flowers were: Congregational Church, Wednesday Circle, Missionary Society, Lebanon Commandery, No. 33, Knights Templar, Lebanon Chapter, No. 64, R. A. M., Shakespeare Club, Business and Professional Women's Club, Neighborhood Club, St. Louis.

## Margaret Emily Dunham

born on February 15, 1840, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, daughter of French Huguenot and English

ancestry. She was married to David Diffenderfer in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1864. In 1866, they went to San Antonio, Texas, where Mr. Diffenderfer engaged in the mercantile business. He also served as consul, receiving appointment from President Grant. At that time, this section of Texas and Mexico still was undeveloped and Mrs. Diffenderfer's life was marked by many interesting experiences.

They returned to the State of New York in 1875 to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and in August of the following year, came to Lebanon, where he spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. Diffenderfer was associated with the Bank of Lebanon, and his death and the family prominently identified with business, social, church and

(Cont'd page 3)



## MARGARET DUNHAM DIFFENDERFER (from p. 2)

life of Lebanon. Mrs. Diffenderfer was the oldest member of the Congregational Church in Lebanon, having joined the church during the pioneer days of Lebanon. She was a charter member of the Congregational Missionary Society, and was active in the Wednesday Circle until recent years.

She was one of the most beloved members of the Lebanon Shakespeare Club, having become a member in the last recent years. She remained on the honorary list, but retained her interest in club activities until the last. She enjoyed the club fellowship and was an honored guest on all special occasions. Her last meeting with the club being on April 23, on Shakespeare's birthday.

Mrs. Diffenderfer was the mother of seven children: W. I. Diffenderfer, J. L. Diffenderfer, and Miss Mary Diffenderfer, of Lebanon; Harry Diffenderfer, of Kansas City; David M. Diffenderfer, of Springfield, who died ten years ago; Mrs. Carl Morris, of Springfield, and Mrs. W. H. Owen, of St. Louis. Mr. Diffenderfer preceded her in death.

There are nineteen surviving children: William I. Diffenderfer, of Washington, D. C.; J. Lawton Diffenderfer, of Portland, Oregon; Edward, Julia, Frederick, Jane, Dorothy, Mary, Lee and Harry Diffenderfer, of Lebanon; Mrs. Frank Crooks, Miss Katherine and David R. Diffenderfer, of Misses Isabelle and Katherine, all of Springfield; William H. Owen, Jr., D. E. Owen, J. W. and H. D. Owen and Miss Sammie Owen, of St. Louis. There is one great-granddaughter, Anne Lenore Diffenderfer, of Washington, D. C.

The children and all the grandchildren with the exception of William and Lawton Diffenderfer, attended the funeral. Other members of the family who came were: Mrs. Mabel Diffenderfer, Frank Crooks and Carl Morris, of Springfield; Mrs. Harry Diffenderfer, of Kansas City; Mrs. D. E. Owen, of St. Louis.

This beautiful tribute to Mr. Diffenderfer was read by Dr. H. We quote it in part:

Mrs. Diffenderfer has rounded out at the age of 89 years a rather remarkable career and of her can be most truthfully said: She lived an active, progressive, and helpful life and grew old gracefully.

Her life was full of varied activities, pertaining to the home, an family life, to community and civic affairs, and, in a major sense, to the Church and its interests.

Mrs. Diffenderfer lived through the pioneer days of Lebanon, reared a large family and devoted much of her wonderful energy to the development of our city and community, ever seeking to emphasize what she considered best. She not only was energetic, she was progressive also, ever looking for the better things of life. She saw the sun-rising rather than the sun-setting. Her vision was forward, not backward. She naturally was optimistic and had no interest in brooding over defects or faults in either people or things.

It can be said of Mrs. Diffenderfer that she loved life. She savored values in living and living well. She enjoyed the opportunities life presented from day to day. The world to her simply was full of lovely and helpful things. She truly appreciated Nature's touches upon life and often remarked, "What a beautiful world this is."

Mrs. Diffenderfer was exceedingly fond of children and loved to see them play and could, herself, be a happy playmate. Her love for and association with young people always looked toward their real welfare. She was very companionable and people appreciated this characteristic of her life which lasted to the very end. She was a wide and intelligent reader, but did not care for light, volatile literature. She was a steady reader of the daily press, but was not interested in the headlines of tragedy on the first pages, seeking the portions pertaining to National and world affairs, while the editorials also attracted her attention.

Mrs. Diffenderfer was a Christian woman of sincere convictions. She loved her Church and its fellowship and was a faithful attendant at the services of the sanctuary. She was much interested in seeing things move along progressively in the church to which she belonged and in other churches too. It gave her real satisfaction to know that the Kingdom of God was progressing and would gladly have remained life longer; to enjoy the love, large family circle and her friends, but she has passed rather unexpectedly, at a splendidly mature age, to enter upon larger life. Welcomed already to the Heavenly home, we who know her and who remain only say, "Adieu, to God we commend you."

## QUERY

DR. RICHARD S. CLARK, 506 Wood St., Troy, NC 27371, asks: "Which MERCY DUNHAM did JOSEPH KING marry? Was it Mercy Dunham, b. 1679/80 Plymouth, liv. Mar. 1703 in Plymouth, who married Joseph King 26 Jun 1701 in Plymouth, the daughter of Joseph Dunham & Esther Wormall? Or was it Mercy Dunham, b. Feb. 1668/9, d. 15 Jan 1745 Plymouth, who m. Joseph King & was the dau. of John & Mary Dunham?"

INITIAL RESPONSE: If "the dau. of John & Mary Dunham" refers to John Dunham (1647-1698)(3)(Deacon John 1, John 2) & Mary Smith, we would assume this Mercy is not the "right one" for Dr. Clark. Our records show that Mercy as marrying (1st) Ephraim Kempton & (2nd) Samuel Stetson of Scituate in 1724. (That line is not continued.) Of course, this portion of our records is taken from IWD, so perhaps we should "consider the source." We DO show a Mercy Dunham, dau. of Joseph Dunham (1636-1703)(2)(Deacon John 1) & HESTER Wormall, who married Joseph King in 1701. (That line is not continued either.) The only difference in this Mercy's set of stats is that IWD gives her year of birth as 1660. Does anyone have hard data that could solve Dr. Clark's problem?

## ABOUT PAGES 4 &amp; 5

Selma Blackmon, Stone Mountain, GA, kindly shares information that she purchased which excerpts data regarding Dunham land records in Michigan, including the very earliest records & continuing to 1908. She hopes that this data will be of help to some of DD's readers.

Search Words: DUNHAM

CD 254, September 1994 Edition  
LAND RECORDS, Michigan  
Screen 892 of 3522

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SNDX ----NAME----

ACRES

SIGN. DATE

LAND OFFICE

ACCESS

#	IMAGE #	AUTH COD	-ACT/TREATY	STATUTORY	REF	-ENTRY CLASSIFICATION
>D550 DUNHAM, ALFRED D			40.00	May 01 1839	BRONSON	
M 10 .416 00017749	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries		
>L 50 DUNHAM, ALMON D			40.00	May 13 1896	MARQUETTE	
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>D550 DUNHAM, AZARIAH			160.00	Nov 01 1869	IONIA	
MI2980 .167 00000590	251101	May 20 1862	12 Stat. 392	Homestead Entry Orig.		
>D550 DUNHAM, CALVIN H			80.00	Nov 02 1837	IONIA	
MI2560 .244 00019709	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries		
>D550 DUNHAM, CHARLES			40.00	Sep 10 1838	BRONSON	
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>D550 DUNHAM, DANIEL			200.00	Oct 15 1835	DETROIT	
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MI1920 .200 00010543	251101	May 20 1862	12 Stat. 392	Homestead Entry Orig.		
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MI3040 .406 00001179	251101	May 20 1862	12 Stat. 392	Homestead Entry Orig.		
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MI0490 .065 00016316	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries		
>D550 DUNHAM, N			40.00	Jun 01 1866	EAST SAGINAW	
MI 340 .420 00006708	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries		
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MI1850 .221 00007439	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries		
>D550 DUNHAM, NATHANIEL			40.00	Oct 01 1860	EAST SAGINAW	
MI1820 .338 00004158	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries		



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> 0 DUNHAM, NATHANIEL			40.28	Sep 21 1868	EAST SAGINAW
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M. 60___.257 00019750	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries	
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MI1480___.175 00003936	272002	Apr 24 1820	3 Stat. 566	Sale-Cash Entries	
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