

CIVIL WAR COLONEL IDENTIFIED

Battle Commemorated Biennially

The Battle of Parker's Crossroads, TN, is memorialized in a brochure, sent to DD by Sue C. Stewart, Puryear, TN, as was the photo below. Sue didn't know exactly who the Union leader, Cyrus Dunham, was, but we were able to pinpoint him from our Index. Cyrus L. Dunham (1846-1929) belonged to the 7th generation of the family in America, the first 6 being: Deacon John 1, Rev. Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Jacob 4, Ebenezer 5, William 6. Cyrus L. was born in Wells, NY. He married Sarah J. Brown, & the couple resided in Piseco, NY. They had 4 sons: George, John, Will D., & Harry L. John & Harry died young. The Sophie Dunham Moore DUNHAM GENEALOGY records that Will D. Dunham, who died some time in the 1940's, had one son named Lewis. It is great to have this nice picture of Col. Cyrus Dunham.

Early in December 1862, Confederate General John C. Pemberton, Vicksburg's defender, was desperate. To stop Grant's and Sherman's envelopment of Vicksburg, Pemberton ordered Major-General Earl Van Dorn to lead a secret cavalry raid to destroy Grant's forward supply depot at Holly Springs, Mississippi. At the same time, Confederate General Braxton Bragg dispatched Brigadier-General Nathan Bedford Forrest and his 1,800-man cavalry brigade to sever Grant's rail communications in West Tennessee. After destroying the Union railroad, Forrest made his way to Flake's Store on the McLemoresville Road, 4 miles northwest of Parker's Crossroads, 6 miles west of Clarksburg.

While Forrest's Brigade had been destroying Union communications, Union Brigadier-General Jeremiah C. Sullivan had marched from Jackson, Tennessee, sending Colonel John W. Fuller's Ohio Brigade and Colonel Cyrus L. Dunham's Brigade northward, to trap the Confederates.

Early on the morning of December 31, 1862, Colonel Dunham's brigade marched south from Clarksburg for Parker's Crossroads, after learning that Forrest's troopers were encamped at Flake's Store. As his brigade of 1,500 men moved south, Dunham met Sullivan, and Fuller at Huntingdon (north of Clarksburg), to join him. Forrest began moving his 4th Alabama and 8th Tennessee troopers and Freeman's artillery down the McLemoresville Road, heading for Parker's Crossroads. Dunham's men, led by the 50th Indiana Infantry Regiment, marched through the crossroads and deployed into line

of battle at Hick's Field, one mile northwest of Parker's Crossroads. Forrest's artillery and dismounted cavalry went into action on the northwest perimeter of Hick's Field, causing Dunham's men to retreat back to the Parker House.

Dunham ordered the 39th Iowa Infantry to anchor his left flank near the community of Red Mound, while the 122nd Illinois Infantry, 50th Indiana Infantry, a detachment of the 18th Illinois, and a section of the 7th Wisconsin Light Artillery Battery completed the east-west line along the Huntingdon-Lexington Road. When Forrest's artillery and cavalry flanked Dunham's northerly line, Dunham changed the front northward and, while making this change, suffered severe casualties from Forrest's commanding artillery. The Union line sought refuge behind a split-rail fence.

While Confederate Colonel G. G. Dibrell's 8th Tennessee, Major N. N. Cox's Battalion and Colonel Alonzo T. Napier's Battalion held Dunham's attention to the north, Colonel James W. Starnes' 4th Tennessee, Colonel Jake Biffle's 9th Tennessee, Colonel Thomas Woodward's Kentucky Companies and Colonel A. A. Russell's 4th Alabama attacked Dunham's rear. Dunham about-faced most of his brigade and charged southward to an area near Red Mound, where his forces were surrounded. While Forrest was parlaying with Dunham for the surrender of the Union Brigade, Colonel Fuller's entire Ohio Brigade arrived from the north behind the Parker House. It was there that Forrest's horse holders were surprised. Almost 300 of Dibrell's



Colonel Cyrus L. Dunham

(Cont'd p. 2)

CIVIL WAR (cont'd from p. 1)

and Cox's men, whose horses had either fallen or were stampeded away, were captured.

When told that he was between two Union Brigades, Forrest's order was, "Charge them both ways!" Forrest secured a scratch force of 75 men and charged into the left flank of the Ohio Brigade, disrupting its attack and causing General Sullivan to withdraw into a perimeter defense. Forrest's force then withdrew from the battlefield and crossed the Tennessee River again at Clifton.

The Battle of Parker's Crossroads re-enactment and living history is held on the second weekend in June every two years. For more information contact: Tourism Association of Southwest Tennessee. 21275 Highway 22N. Wildersville, Tennessee 38388. 901-968-6026 or 1-800-967-2576

MORE ON OUR OPERATIC COUSIN

Last month DD ran an article on Madam Nordica (nee Lillian Norton), whom IWD mentions as being a descendant of Gershom Dunham (d. 1739) (3)(Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2). Now we have a bit more on her, plus the photo at right, found in PRIMA DONNA, by Rupert Christianson (1984). This book covers the lives & careers of many operatic singers, but has especial prize for Lillian Norton, i.e. "the



Lillian Nordica, the first American Brunnhilde.

finest emigre American prima donna, & one of the finest women of her time." While our COLLIER'S gave her year of birth as 1859, Christianson puts the event at 1857. Lillian began singing in church choirs & at concerts at an early age. Despite the usual family opposition, she was determined to have a musical career, working as a seamstress & as a clerk to pay for her singing lessons, & by 1878 she had joined Gilmore's American Band on whistle stop tours which expanded to include London, Paris & Milan. Within the next 3 years she had also performed in St. Petersburg. The book mentions her 3 disastrous marriages (1st, to Frederick Gower, who insisted that she retire & who dramatically disappeared in a balloon over the English channel; 2nd, to Zoltan Dome, a "handsome, but hopelessly lazy" gigolo & womanizer whom she divorced (After the divorce, Dome sent her notes saying he would be in the audience at her concerts & would shoot her while she sang.); & 3rd, to banker George Young, who borrowed half a million dollars from Lillian with no intention of paying it back. She was exploited by all of them. At the height of her career she had her own railway carriage which was fitted with a music salon, 3 bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom & servants quarters. Madam Nordica got high marks for returning snubs from other divas with kindness & consideration, a rare quality among "stars" of all kinds. She was a great friend of Madame Schumann-Heink. Between 1910 & 1913 Madam Nordica suffered a series of nervous collapses, but in 1913, at the age of 56, she was able to schedule a "come back" world tour. From Australia, she was en route to Java on the ship TASMIN when this ship foundered on a reef off Thursday Island, & all passengers were forced on deck. Lillian caught pneumonia from the consequent exposure, & she died in a hospital on May 10, 1914. Her life is chronicled more fully in a novel by Willa Cather, THE DIAMOND MINE. The only references to Madam Nordica's family in the Christianson book state that she was born in Maine of "good old New England stock" & indicate that the family's opposition to her operatic ambitions centered in the person of her grandfather, a Revivalist preacher. Regarding her Dunham (to p. 3)

MADAM NORDICA (from p. 2) ancestry, there remain several gaps in the line. Deborah Pease (b. ca. 1730)(5)(Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Gershon 3, Deborah Dunham Pease 4) was married in 1774 to John Dunham Norton. This couple may well have been the great great grandparents of Lillian Norton (1857-1914). We wonder about John Dunham Norton... He is not indexed anywhere other than as the 1st husband of Deborah Pease. However, his name may be an indication that he also had Dunham ancestry.

PIONEER STORY: PA to KS, 1859 (Cont'd from Jan. 1996) From Fidella Marty. Fidella Dunham was the first teacher of District 10. Henry served on the first Board of Grant Twp. They were unable to obtain water on the original quarter section, so a year later they homesteaded 80 acres of the NE quarter of the section. The north 40 acres of this tract was later sold to Sherberts. One corner of the South 40 dipped down toward the creek, & on this low point a well was dug by hand & the house moved to that corner of the 40. However the house was set on a hill, which made quite a distance to carry water. A cellar had been dug & was partly filled with rain water when the house was moved onto the foundation. A few days later their first child was born, Ethlin Melvina, on Nov. 13, 1871. John Lorenzo was born Apr. 1, 1873. We do not know much about those early days. One evening someone shot at Henry, wounding him in the arm. Fidella said he came to the house with a bucket of bloody milk. In 1876 Ida Stevenson (Campbell) of Idana taught Gatesville School, Dist. 10, & boarded with the Dunhams. She died late in the 1950's & was probably the last person living who knew Henry Dunham. Mrs. Campbell was at a Gatesville School reunion in 1942; she said that Henry Dunham was a jolly person & a tease. In 1876 the Henry Dunham family went to Pennsylvania & attended the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, besides visiting relatives. At that time the Lorenzo Teeds were living in Erie, PA on Lake Erie. Fidella had become used to using a small amount of water because the well was so far from her home. When visiting her parents the habit carried on, & she was still stingy with water. Her mother told her, "Use all the water you want. There's all of Lake Erie behind it." Henry became ill in the summer of 1877. The story is best told by reproducing a conversation between Fidella & her granddaughters after their visit to Laporte in 1927: "Grandma, we visited Grandpa Dunham's grave when we were in Pennsylvania, but I just don't understand why he is buried on that mountain above Laporte when he had been living in Kansas." "Because he died in Laporte," answered Grandma. "Henry had been ill all spring & summer. In July Grandma Dunham & Uncle Ed came out to Kansas to see him. They thought that he could be treated by so much better doctors in the East, so persuaded Henry to return home with them. Really the post mortem showed that Dr. Stewart in Clay Center had diagnosed his case better than any of them. In Sept. I received a telegram telling me to come east at once as the doctors did not give Henry long to live." "Where did you have to go to take the train?" was asked. "We took the train at Gainesville," continued Grandma. "It was a long & difficult trip with 2 small children. Ethlin was 5, John 4. The most difficult part of the journey was the last. We left the train at Towanda, took a stage to Dushore, where Ed Dunham met us. We still had 12 miles to ride to Laporte. I still remember a little girl in the yard next door to Grandma Dunham's running into the house screaming, 'His wis' has come! His wis' has come!' The whole town was anxiously waiting & hoping we would arrive before Henry died. He lived just an hour after we arrived. He asked for the children. Ethlin wouldn't look at her father (cont'd p. 4)



FIDELLA & CARROLL D. MARTY of Ames, IA stopped in for a visit to the DD offices in Flint last July. Fidella is the one who shared the pioneer story that was written by her aunt, Mabel Dunham. Mabel is the daughter of John Lorenzo Dunham (1873-1945)(9)(John 1, Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Samuel 4, Haltham 5, John 6, John L. 7, Henry R. 8).

PIONEER STORY (from p. 3) after the first glimpse. He was so emaciated, & I think, being older, she more fully realized the seriousness of the situation. John was placed on the bed & Henry talked to him for a few minutes. Then he turned his face to the wall & died. The only thing to do was to bury him in the family plot beside his father & brother Ben." "Grandma, your people all lived back in Pennsylvania. It is strange that you didn't stay there to be near them," commented one of the granddaughters. "Well, Johnnie cried every night, 'I want to go back to my Kansas home.' Aside from that, there was no opportunity for a woman to earn a living there. I could have taught school, but terms were short & wages low. I had land in Kansas & I had debts to pay, doctor bills, travel & burial expenses. The children would be happier, & it would be better for us all to return to Kansas, so we did."

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NEW SHOW!

NORWOOD DUNHAM, Locust Grove, OK, is keeping us up to date on Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham. Here's an ad for Jeff's show that appeared in the TULSA WORLD. This time Norwood & his wife got to go to this hilarious show, & Mrs. D. was much impressed with Jeff's good looks. Norwood had to remind her that ALL the Dunhams are good looking, especially the men. (Love that comment!) How about it, girls? Are the Dunham women as pretty as their masculine counterparts? Let us know what you think.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY DUNHAM OF CAMBRIDGE, WHO CELEBRATE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR WEDDING



In the Dec. 1995 DD we published a different account of the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of Sarah Hillman & Henry N. Dunham (1843-1926) (9) (Deacon John 1, Benijah 2, Edmund 3, Jonathan 4, Jonathan 5, John 6, Nahum 7, Samuel 8). This one, for which we also thank Donna Hawks, Spring TX, includes nice photos of the pair.

Fiftieth Anniversary.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dunham was the scene of a happy gathering Saturday afternoon, Sept. 28th. The occasion was the fiftieth anniversary of their marriage. The commodious house was beautifully decorated with asters, roses and potted plants. The bride wore a gown of silver gray charmeuse trimmed with silver and old lace and carried Lady Huntington roses. In the receiving line with Mr. and Mrs. Dunham were Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Snyder of Argyle, the latter being a sister of Mrs. Dunham, and Mrs. W. A. Moore of Alexandria, Va., a sister of the bridegroom.

A short ceremony was performed by the Rev. Lewis E. Carter of Schenectady, the bride and groom signifying their willingness to continue the journey of life together.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunham were married Sept. 27, 1844, by the Rev. Charles Taylor of the First Presbyterian church of Cambridge. Mrs. Dunham was the daughter of James Harvey Hillman and Lydia Rice, and Mr. Dunham's parents were Samuel Dunham and Mary Norton, who resided in the town of Jackson on what is known as Dunham Hill.

Of the five children born to Mr. and Mrs. Dunham, four are living, all of whom were present: Mrs. Henry C. Carter of Cambridge, Mrs. Henry S. Hunt of Albany, Mrs. Dann L. Wood of Schenectady, and Rev. J. Harvey Dunham of Washington, D. C. Among the guests from out of town were Miss Jeanette Oliphant, Mrs. B. A. Mankin, Rev. and Mrs. J. Harvey Dunham and son, Raymond Henry, from Washington, D. C.; Mrs. W. A. Moore, Miss Mary Moore, Mrs. Walter Piser and son, Leroy, from Alexandria, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Beeny, Miss Beeny, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hunt and children, Dunham and Elizabeth, from Albany; Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Mairs and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Snyder of Argyle.

The guests numbered 125, seven of whom were present at the wedding fifty years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Dunham were the recipients of many congratulations and presents. A house party of twenty-one guests were entertained over Sunday at the Dunham home.