

## CHENEY GATHERING AN ANNUAL EVENT



7—ONEIDA DAILY DISPATCH, Thurs., Sept. 6, 1963

### Cheney Descendants Held 35th Reunion At Yorkville

The 35th annual reunion of the descendants of Daniel and Amanda Dunham Cheney was held Sunday at the home of Miss Laura Cheney and Mrs. Edith Barlow, 10 Jones Place, Yorkville, with 62 members present.

After a picnic dinner, Norman Cheney, president, of Churchville, conducted the business meeting. Frank Cheney Sr. offered an opening prayer.

Mrs. Lavern Cheney, Oneida, reported on the 1962 reunion which was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cheney, Oriskany. She read correspondence from Mrs. Lyle Howland, of Rome, Mrs. Marian Heaps of Minoa and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cheney of Dunkirk.

Miss Laura Cheney, historian reported there had been eight marriages, seven births and one death during the year.

George Cheney of Oriskany was the oldest member present and Christine Elizabeth Roman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roman of Holland Patent, the youngest.

Those traveling the greatest distance were Mr. and Mrs. Foster Lafley of Woburn, Mass.; Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Cheney Jr. of Bedford, Mass.; and Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Cheney of Cherry Hill, N.J.

A vote of thanks was extended to the hostess, Miss Laura Cheney and Mrs. Edith Barlow and an invitation by Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Cheney Sr. of Bartlett, to hold the 1963 reunion at their home was accepted.

Officers re-elected for the coming

year were president, Norman Cheney; vice - president, Mr. Shirley Herring; secretary, Mr. Alma Roman; treasurer, Arthur Cheney; and historian, Mrs. Laura Cheney.

Attending were: Mr. and Mrs. Shirley Herring and children Sandra, Diane, Janet, John, Dan and Wayne of Bouckville; Mr. Herbert Simpkins and daughter Suzanne of Oneida Castle; Mr. and Mrs. Lavern Cheney, Oneida; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roman and sons Albert Jr. and Adelbert of Verona; Mrs. Elizabeth Cornish of Syracuse; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roman and daughter Verne Oriskany.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Roman and children Elinor Mae, Christine Elizabeth, Carl, Ray and Gilbert of Holland Patent; Mrs. Adelle Smith, Clinton; Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Cheney; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cheney and son Charles of Rome; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cheney Sr. and daughters Dorita and Donna of Bartlett; Mr. and Mrs. Norman Cheney, Churchville; Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Cheney Jr. of Bedford, Mass.

Mr. and Mrs. Foster Lafley of Woburn, Mass.; Verne Chaffee; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chaffee and daughter Ellen Jane of Dix; George Cheney, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Cheney and children Rose Kathie, Rena Ann, Martin; Thomas and Bruce of Oriskany; Mr. and Mrs. Daniel L. Cheney of Cherry Hill, N.J.; Mr. and Mrs. Kirk Walter, Auburn; and Miss Laura Cheney and Mrs. Edith Barlow, Yorkville, Miss Ruth Barlow of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, was a guest.

Luke Lavern Cheney (1853-1938) (8) (Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Nathaniel 3, Isaac 4, Calvin 5, Alpheus 6, Amanda Dunham Cheney 7) was married twice (first to Nettie Harris & second to Elizabeth Evans) & had a total of 13 children. Thus this photograph (from Ann Eldred, Verona, NY) of 9 individuals can represent only a part of his family. Those you see are: BACK ROW: George Martin Cheney (1886-1963); Luke L. Cheney, Jr. (1902-1974); Frank E. Cheney (1889-1962); Nestor B. Cheney (1882-1955); & Elizabeth (Libbie) Cheney Cornish (1893-????). MIDDLE ROW: Laura Cheney (b. 1904); & Nettie L. Cheney Herring (1891-1962). FRONT ROW: Adella G. Cheney Smith (1897-1980); & Emma Jane Cheney Chaffee (1900-1985). Laura Cheney, retired teacher & artist, is the only one of the group still living. The dates for Nestor Cheney make it clear that this photo was taken at an earlier reunion than the one reported at right, above, for which clipping thanks also go to Ann Eldred.





THIS BEVY OF high school girls, all members of the Omicron Alpha Kappa sorority, were pictured in the 1904 LIBETHRIAN, yearbook of the Hyde Park High School in suburban Chicago. Conveniently right in the center of the group is Anna C. Dunham (later Spaulding) (1885-1970) (10)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Rev. Francis B. 9). It appears that 90 years ago girls were even more eager to dress alike & wear similar hair styles than they are today.

#### PARTIAL LETTER EVOKES MEMORIES

Although only the first page has survived, this 1975 letter from Mrs. Irving Charles (Frances Lantz) Brown (10)(Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Eleazer 3, Israel 4, Ebenezer 5, Sylvanus 6, Dr. Nelson 7, Norman Curtis 8, Fanny Dunham Lantz 9) provides an unusually clear vignette of the 1911 wedding of her young aunt, Arvilla Dunham (1890-1913) & Roy Stanley Swinton, in Petersburg, MI. Thanks go to Karen Hill, Half Moon Bay, CA, for sharing the letter with DD. "3318 Gilman Terrace, Baltimore MD. Aug. 26, 1975. Dear 2nd Cousin: Entirely too much time has elapsed, I realize, since having Phila's note & clipping of the untimely death of your mother, my 1st cousin Mary, to now write extending condolences, but nevertheless you & your sister & brothers do have my sincerest sympathy. My only excuse is the seemingly unending heat, humidity & pollution that has been served up to us in this Baltimore area of the Free (?) state of Maryland this entire summer. Having a cardiovascular disease, it has been quite enervating for me & required holing up in the one air-conditioned room in our house & more often than not, in bed. Your mother & I never knew each other, but I have often wondered about her & gave up long ago the thought of our paths ever crossing. I always adored my Aunt Arvilla, who was about 10 years older than I & more like a sister. I remember her wedding, & while I was quite enamoured of my new uncle-to-be, was also very sad because he was taking her away for 2 whole years, which seemed like a millenium to me, & proved to be just that. I remember that (to p. 3)



PARTIAL LETTER (from p. 2) the others teased me afterward because I sat squirming on the black horsehair settee, staring at the bride on the cover of a LADIES HOME JOURNAL. I knew that if I lifted my eyes to watch the ceremony I would HAVE to wail long & loud. About 3 years later it was at our house in Adrian that my grandparents received the letter from Stanley announcing that he was leaving the Philippine Islands with Arvilla's cremated remains, the baby Mary, & a native nurse. He had sent a cablegram telling of her death, which was never received, although the cablegram announcing the baby's birth had been delivered, & Grandmother thought before opening the letter that it would be giving her the long awaited particulars of Mary's birth & news of Arvilla herself." (The rest was on a lost Page 2.)

### DUNHAMS IN NORTHWEST MISSOURI

Marilyn Roth, Mitchell, SD, has trained her eyes to zero in on the Dunham name wherever it lurks, & that training pays off for us regularly. She found this sketch in the 1915 HISTORY OF NORTHWEST MISSOURI. We expected to be able to locate Henrietta Odell in our index, but found only Caroline & Cora Odell there, so Dr. John Davis Dunham is (at least temporarily) a man of mystery. So much interesting historical information certainly shouldn't go to waste, & we are reminded of the story, in the 1913 Thomas J. Donham book, of the 2 brothers traveling to America together, then becoming involved in a bitter quarrel that caused them to decide to spell their names differently, & one went north & the other south. Michigan & Alabama would fit those specifications nicely, but the only problem is that THAT story had the Southern family spelling their name with an O.

JOHN DAVIS DUNHAM, M. D. Holding the distinction of being the oldest practicing physician of Pattonsburg, in point of continuous service, Dr. John Davis Dunham has ministered to the physical wants and needs of the people of this place since July 14, 1881, and during this time has also taken an active and helpful part in the movements which have contributed to the community's growth and development. His skill in his profession and his sympathetic nature have attracted to him a large professional business and given him high position in his calling, but his increasing duties have not deterred him from participation in affairs aside from his vocation.

Doctor Dunham was born in Pike County, Ohio, February 28, 1855, a son of Dr. W. H. and Henrietta (Odell) Dunham, and a member of an old and honored family on both the paternal and maternal sides. The Dunham family originated in England, from whence two brothers came to the United States, one going to Michigan and one to Alabama, it being from the latter that Doctor Dunham is descended. His grandfather, Michael Dunham, emigrated from Alabama to Ohio. The Odell family came originally from Castle, Town and Church of Odell, Derbyshire, England, and possessed a coat-of-arms. The Castle of Odell was one of the strongest in the world at the time of its erection and was presented to Walter the Fleming by William the Conqueror. From Walter the Fleming descended the entire family, and the name has been variously spelled in the public records as Wahul, Woodhul, Wodhul, Wodell, Odle and Odell. The Castle of Odell passed out of the family name about the year 1575, when Agnes Odell, the owner, married Richard Chetwodes. The Ashton, about two hundred years ago, purchased the property and erected a house of modern style (French Chateau) within the west wall; the wall they preserved, owing to its great antiquity and strength. The interior of the house contains some of the rooms that formed part of the ancient stronghold, and the River Ouse flows on the east side, while the Village of Odell surrounds it. The foregoing record, being taken from the British Museum, is correct and authentic.

The Odell family was founded in America by three Odell brothers, who emigrated to Baltimore, Maryland, in 1760, and one of these migrated to New York State, ex-Governor Odell being one of his descendants. The maternal great-grandfather of Dr. John D. Dunham was Maj. James Odell, who married and settled near Baltimore, Maryland, but in 1800 migrated to Fairfield County, Ohio, and later went to Highland County, Ohio, where he is found raising a company of volunteers for service during the War of 1812. At the close of that struggle he went to the Territory of Michigan and later was elected a member of the first Constitutional Convention of that state. He died in 1845.

William Odell, son of Maj. James Odell, and maternal grandfather of Dr. John Davis Dunham, was born at Hillsboro, Ohio, in 1806, and was seventeen years of age when he went to Virginia, in which state he engaged in teaching school. He served as a member of the Virginia Legislature in 1827 and 1828 and was a prominent man in his community, but in 1841 went to Pike County, Ohio, making the journey of 450 miles by wagon. There he passed the remaining years of his life. Among his children was a son, James P. Odell, who was land appraiser for Seal and Scotia townships, Pike County, Ohio, sheriff of Pike County, United States marshal, deputy sheriff and United States pension agent, and still a resident of Pike County.

While in Virginia, William Odell was married to Sarah Caudy, who belonged to a Scotch-Irish family that came to America from Ireland. Her father, Capt. James Caudy, emigrated to this country in 1751, built a blockhouse, and with a company of volunteers protected the first settlers of Hampshire and Jefferson counties, Virginia. Caudy Castle, an inaccessible retreat in the mountains, 887 feet high, is always pointed out to sightseers who visit that part of Virginia. Another family connection of distinction enjoyed by Doctor Dunham is through his father's mother, who was a Pickrel, and whose father, Thomas Pickrel, served as a drummer-boy during the War of the Revolution. The Pickrels were likewise known for their religious fervor, and were the builders of the first Campbellite (Christian) Church in Ohio.

Dr. W. H. Dunham, father of Dr. John Davis Dunham, was born in Brown County, Ohio, and for many years practiced medicine in Pike and Jackson counties, Ohio. During the Civil war he raised and commanded as captain a company of volunteers, known as Company I, Thirty-sixth Regiment, Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served for two years, his principal services being at Summerville and Gauley Bridge, Virginia. In 1864 he graduated from the Cleveland Medical Col-

lege, although he had been practicing for many years previous, and in 1865 came to Cypress Township, Harrison County, Missouri, and purchased land, his family joining him here in the following year, June 9, 1866. For many years Doctor Dunham continued to be engaged in the practice of his calling in connection with farming operations, but later removed to Kansas, where he remained for one year, and then made removal to Bentonville, Arkansas, where his death occurred, August 14, 1900, aged seventy-seven years, three months, twenty days. Mrs. Dunham is still living at Bentonville. She is now eighty years of age, having been born in Virginia, September 14, 1834. The five children of Doctor and Mrs. Dunham still survive: Mary, Dr. John Davis, W. O., Frank and G. A.

Dr. John Davis Dunham first attended the public schools of Harrison County, Missouri, and later became a student in Grand River College, at old Edinburg. In 1872 he attended the high school at Bethany, Missouri, but in the following year left his studies in order to engage in freighting between Wichita, Kansas, and Fort Sill, Oklahoma. During the winter of 1874 he entered the Keokuk College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa, and was graduated from that institution with his degree of Doctor of Medicine, March 16, 1879, at that time beginning practice in Harrison County. He remained there, at Happy Valley, for two years, and something less than one year at Blue Ridge, and July 14, 1881, came to Pattonsburg, which he chose as his permanent field of endeavor. He has never had reason to regret his decision, for here he has won success and standing in his profession, the esteem and respect of his fellow-citizens, and the reputation of being a helpful and stirring man in a progressive community. Aside from his calling, he has been engaged successfully in the drug business, having purchased a pharmacy December 15, 1907, and since 1892 has been a registered pharmacist.

(continued, page 4)



SISTERS Cora (Welcome) Judge (1860?-1959) & Hattie (Welcome) Householter (b. ca. 1868?) daughters of Sophronia Dunham Welcome (1815-1885)(7)(Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Nathaniel 3, Isaac 4, Calvin 5, Alpheus 6) posed for this lovely portrait, taken ca. 1880. (We can't think that there was this much difference in the ages of the sisters!) In the picture below the two have switched places (Hattie on the left & Cora on the

# NW MO DUNHAMS (from p.3)

Doctor and Mrs. Dunham are of the Presbyterian faith, but are members of any church. Fraternally, he is connected with the Knights of Pythias, the Modern Woodmen of America and the Yeomen. Politically a republican, he served one term as mayor of Pattonsburg, is and has been for years health examiner of the city, and under the administration of President Benjamin Harrison was United States pension examiner. He is surgeon for the Quincy, Omaha & Kansas City & Wabash railroads, and of the latter is the oldest in point of service along the line. He has continued as a close and careful student and kept fully abreast of the advances constantly being made in his calling, holding membership in the Daviess County Medical Society, the Grand River Valley Medical Society, the Missouri State Medical Society, the Wabash Railroad Surgeons Association and the American Medical Association.

On July 14, 1884, Doctor Dunham was united in marriage with Mrs. Sophia Niewvahnner, of Jackson County, Ohio, and to this union they have been born two sons: Leslie H., who is now taking a medical course at the University of Missouri, Columbia; and John Dunham, Jr., who graduated from the high school at Pattonsburg in 1914 and is now taking post-graduate work there.

Mrs. Dunham's ancestors were natives of Germany, and both grandfathers, Niewvahnner and Prior, were soldiers in the German army at Waterloo, the former being killed and the latter so seriously wounded that he died a few years later. Mrs. Dunham's parents, Henry & Mary (Prior) Niewvahnner, were born in Hanover, Germany, the former emigrating to the United States about the year 1840, and landing at Baltimore, Maryland. For two years he followed steamboating and was then married and moved to Jackson Furnace, Ohio, where he was employed at the iron furnace, but later moved to Jackson Courthouse, Ohio, where he lived until his death in 1901. At that time he came to Pattonsburg, Mo. and lived with Mrs. & Dr. Dunham, but in the next year he was killed when struck by a passenger train.

mid-1920's snapshot of a bright summer day, with a hammock in the background just waiting for an occupant. For both these pictures, thanks go to Pam Schnaars of Miller Place, NY.







A PROFESSOR OF Physiological Anthropology, Dr. Frederick S. Hulse (b. 1906)(11)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Olive Dunham Barrows 8, Frances Barrows Seymour 9, Frances Seymour Hulse 10) graduated from Harvard in 1927. This photograph of Dr. Hulse was taken at the 25th reunion of that class in 1952. (Photo from Harvard.)

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#### MADISON COUNTY WILLS

We thank P. C. Alger, Derry, NH, for this listing of wills on file in the Madison County, NY courthouse in Wampsville.

Sylvanus Dunham, filed 1815 A - 198.  
 Elizabeth Dunham, 1866 A - 2629  
 Edward Dunham, 1886 B - 5245  
 Alanson Dunham, 1887 B - 5387  
 Alma B. Dunham, 1888 B - 5580 E 5  
 Kate Dunham, 1889 B - 5580 O 8  
 David Dunham, 1889 B - 5580 Z 10  
 Albert B. Dunham, 1890 B - 5580 L 18  
 Emily J. Dunham, 1890 B - 5580 H 21  
 David Dunham, 1891 B - 5580 K 22

Alpha Dunham, 1893, C - 5580 V 45; Alexander Dunham, 1898, C - 5580 A 80; Larmon H. Dunham, 1901, C - 5580 K 106. Administrators for Sylvanus Dunham (filed 1815) were: Ursula Dunham & Ezra Cloyes. No relationship listed. Inventory list. Elizabeth Dunham, will signed Jul. 5, 1865, 37 years of age; Executor Duncan McDougall; Son Theodore Weelwright; grandfather or granddaughter Weelwright; 3 other children Joseph Kendan (??), Josephine Kindan (??) & an infant child.

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