

Dunham Singletary

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

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President's Letter

We continue to reap the benefits of Gratia Dunham Mahony's research this last summer in England. This work was funded by our association. And it highlights the great benefits of "why we exist" as an association. By pooling our efforts and resources to support Gratia, we have learned much more about "where we came from".

Gratia continues to work on the information she gathered while she was in England in June of 2015. One of her articles, included in this newsletter, discusses the early years of John Dunham's life, and hypothesizes on just when he went to Leiden, Holland. Her other article deals with the probable mothers of both of John Dunham's wives.

This research was paid for by the membership and also by dipping into our research funds. If you would like more details on our fund raising (and you would like to help us replenish our research fund) please see our research donation web page :

http://www.dunham-singletary.org/mw/index.php/Research_Donation

In closing, I would like to encourage each of you to contribute to the organization through articles for our quarterly newsletter. Please tell us about your research and share stories about your family history.

Jeff Dunham, President Dunham-Singletary Family Connections

Editor's Corner

I would like to thank Bruce W. Dunham for another excellent article about the Battle of Bennington, and his ancestor's part in it. Bruce has contributed several articles to this newsletter and has also compiled the revolutionary war ancestral lines that appear in the archives section of the DSFC website www.dunham-singletary.org

I would also like to thank David Colpitts who brought to my attention the probable mother of Abigail Balliou, and who worked with me on that article.

Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor

When Did John Dunham Go to Leiden?

by Gratia Dunham Mahony

In the previous issue of DSFC I used evidence gathered while I was in England in June 2015 to postulate events in the life of Richard Dunham of Pirton, and Arlesey, who died in Langford, Bedfordshire, England. I also gathered information which placed the children of Richard Dunham in the villages of Pirton, Arlesey and Henlow. Of major interest to descendants of John Dunham who went to Leiden, Holland, and then came to Plymouth, in New England are the following facts:

John Dunham, son of Richard, bp. in Pirton, Hertfordshire, England **8 February 1589**

John Dunham married Susan Kaino in Clophill, Bedfordshire, England **17 August, 1612**
(he would have been age 23 ½)

John, son of John and Susan Dunham, bp. in Henlow **19 February 1614/15**
(in our current dating that would be 19 February 1615)
(he would have been age 26 years)

John Dunham appears on the census in Leiden **15 October 1622** with three children:
(John, Humility and Thomas), In the record of his second marriage he is called
“widower of Susanna Keno” [Leiden Docs 70]; [Dexter 612]
(he would have been age 33 ½ years)

Abigail Balliou	betrothed to	Jan (John) Dunham	1 Oct. 1622	Leiden, Holland
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Abigail Balliou	married to	Jan (John) Dunham	22 Oct. 1622	Leiden, Holland
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Abigail was accompanied by her sister Anna Balliou (as witness)

John Dunham was accompanied by Thomas Ballou, his future father-in-law

One other fact is important to the hypothesis of this article. John Dunham calls himself “**weaver**” when on 19 January 1647/48 he gave land in New Plymouth to his son Samuel Dunham. [PCR 12:149]

How did John Dunham Become Involved with the Henlow Families Who Went to Leiden and then on to America?

Richard Dunham, the father of John Dunham, seems to have remained in Pirton (or at least held property there) until 23 September 1606 when he surrendered property to William Field. However, at least one of his children was living in Arlesey, and several grandchildren were baptized there. I believe that Richard Dunham himself went to Arlesey at least by 1606 and he was likely there by 1601, the year his daughter was married in Arlesey.

I asked Mary Wooldridge, the lady in Bedfordshire who has been helping me research the Bedfordshire records, if there were any apprenticeship documents for the early 1600s in the parish of Henlow. She

has not found records of apprenticeship in Henlow for anyone during this period. However, I believe that John Dunham may have been apprenticed to the Tilley or the Cooper family to learn the trade of clothworker or weaver. He would have been age 12 years in 1601, exactly the correct age to be apprenticed to learn a trade. If the Dunham family was living in Arleseey, only a couple miles from Henlow, it would have been natural for his father to apprentice John to learn a trade, and records show that Henlow was a center of wool and weaving trades. Further records show that Edward Tilley was a serge weaver when he lived in Leiden, Holland.

If John Dunham was apprenticed in 1601 at age 12 years, and completed his apprenticeship at age 21, commonly the age at which an apprenticeship was completed, that would be 1610. We know John Dunham married Susan Kaino in the nearby village of Clophill on 17 August 1612. We know also that the first child of John and Susan (Kaino) Dunham was baptized in Henlow 19 February 1614/15, so the family were living in Henlow at this time. John Dunham would no longer have been an apprentice, but he may still have been working for or with either the Tilley or the Cooper family at this time. Even if he was working independently he would have known these families and attended church with them.

Robert Cooper, baptized 24 January 1590/91 was approximately the same age as John Dunham. John Dunham married in 1612; Robert Cooper m. 21 June 1614 to Joan Gresham. Both had daughters named Humility. Humility Cooper was born in Leiden, and I believe that Humility Dunham was also born in Leiden say 1617-1618. John Dunham lived in *Zevenhuysen*, a section of Leiden, on Oct. 15, 1622 with three children, John, Humility, and Thomas.

John and Joan (Hurst) (Rogers) Tilley; Edward and Agnes (Cooper) Tilley; Henry, the child of James and Martha (Cooper) Sampson; and Robert and Joan (Gresham) Cooper all left Henlow about 1615. They may have traveled to London where a brother, John Cooper may have been living. I speculate that John Dunham, his wife and small son went with them. This small group may have remained in London for a short time and then moved to Leiden, Holland where they are later found.

In trying to determine when this group first appear in Leiden I found the following: From Strangers and Pilgrims, Travellers and Sojourners, Leiden and the Foundations of Plymouth Plantation by Jeremy Dupertuis Bangs, pub. 2009 by General Society of Mayflower Descendants, re the Cooper Family, p. 441-2: "Modification to an apprenticeship contract, concluded on April 25, 1618, between **Edward Tilley**, who was a serge weaver, and his young employee Robert Haggas..." Witnesses Joathan Brewster, **Robert Cooper**, and Thomas Blossom. Two years earlier Tilley and Haggas had also contracted, so that would have been the spring of 1616. This record places Edward Tilley in Leiden in the spring of 1616.

I believe this group including John Tilley and his wife, Edward Tilley and his wife, Robert Cooper and his wife, and John Dunham and his wife and child all went to Leiden by the spring of 1616.

More information about the families of Cooper, Tilley and Hurst of Henlow, England may be seen in an article by Caleb Johnson, published in The Mayflower Quarterly June 2010 issue. The article is entitled The Manorial Records of Henlow Grey. In addition an excellent article in The American Genealogist, Vol. 52:198-205 by Robert Leigh Ward covers several generations of the Cooper and Tilley families, including their wills. This article is entitled English Ancestry of Seven Mayflower Passengers: Tilley, Sampson and Cooper.

Dr. Obadiah Dunham and the Battle of Bennington

By Bruce W. Dunham



Bennington Battlefield Monument

My interest in the Dunham family genealogy started in 1982 with the death of my father, Jesse Elmer Dunham of the Bennington & Pownal Vermont Dunhams. In his papers we found a copy of a Daughters of the Mayflower application that had been accepted and approved by that organization through his mother's side of the family (Rockwood) with an established connection to Edward Fuller of the Mayflower through his son Matthew. Interestingly enough Matthew wasn't on the boat which was probably a fortunate thing since both of his parents died the first winter in Plymouth and are probably interred in the sarcophagus on Coles Hill in Plymouth. Matthew was about 17 years old in 1620 and probably already off on his own. But that's a whole different story from the subject of this article.

When I got married in 1987 a cousin of mine (Vivian Rockwood) and a well-established genealogist in her own right presented me with a binder about 4 inches thick as a wedding gift. I flipped through it briefly but in the rush of the wedding, honeymoon and all the other changes the first year or two it took a while to get back to it. When I did, I discovered that the binder included thousands of entries, including dozens of family lines going back as far as twelve or thirteen generations. This is where I found references to my

family line going back through Dr. Obadiah Dunham of Cooperstown, NY, Pownal, VT, and Hebron, CT. Our line at least back through the beginning of the 20th century had always believed that we were related back through Nathaniel Dunham of Wrentham, Mass. & Hebron, CT. to Deacon John Dunham but others have suggested that we are related to the Deacon through Rev. Thomas Denham. Most of the discussion consists only of speculation without definitive proof. I can only say that my Y-chromosome matches Deacon John's proven DNA line through 37 markers and let you be the judge.

Again we diverge...

Another belief that our line has adhered to over the years is that Dr. Obadiah Dunham who was one of the early settlers in Pownal, VT., a member of the Dorset Convention of 1776 and Pownal Justice of the Peace for over 20 years was also a "Hero of the Battle of Bennington". If you go on line and look for Obadiah Dunham and include either hero or Battle of Bennington you will find that they go hand in hand. My first thought was that the reference to "hero" sounded a bit bombastic since anyone who participated in the battle might be considered a "hero" when you consider the impact of the battle on American history (more on that later). The second problem I had was that the earliest written record that I could find of Obadiah as a hero of the battle was in Isaac Dunham's 1907 book about the Dunham lineage. This of course has been much maligned due to various inaccuracies. I figured that this reference didn't start with that book so I had to find an earlier book with the same reference.

From Isaac W. Dunham's 1907 book:

JOSEPH DUNHAM. 235

IV.—Mary, b. Sept. 15, 1726. 1782. V.—Isaac, b. Aug. 24, 1728. 1783. VI.—Israel, b. March 13, 1733.

367 JABEZ, b. 1707, Hebron; m. Mrs. Salome Tiffany, dau. of Thomas Barrows and Abigail Kneeland. Issue: 1784. I.—Abigail, b. Sept. 15, 1726. 1785. II.—Jabish, b. Feb. 16, 1728; m. Anne Granville. 1786. III.—Obadiah, b. March 31, 1730; m. Lucy Gillette; d. Feb. 7, 1813. 1787. IV.—Liddia, b. March 23, 1734. 1788. V.—Diadamia, b. Feb. 20, 1735; m. Nov. 27, 1736, Job Chamberlain. 1789. VI.—Timothy, b. March 29, 1740; d. Hebron, Oct. 11, 1741. 1790. VII.—Mehitabel, b. April 1, 1742. 1791. VIII.—Ebenezer, b. Dec. 27, 1741.

1786 OBADIAH, b. March 31, 1730; M. D.; m. Nov. 22, 1754, Lucy Gillette; b. Feb. 18, 1740, dau. of Joel, of Jonathan, of Jonathan, and Mary Kelsey; she d. Feb. 18, 1830; in 1763, he moved to Pownal, Vt. and 1785 to Cooperstown; fought in Revolutionary war; one of the heroes of battle of Bennington; March 8, 1763, sent as delegate to Dorset to organize Vermont as a state; justice of peace at Pownal for 20 years; d. at Cooperstown, Feb. 17, 1813. Obadiah Dunham served as a private from May 19 to June 28th, 1779, in Capt. Thos. Sawyer's company of militia raised for the defense of the northern frontiers of the United States, and received L.2.19.8. Also served as a private 67 days from August 16th, 1780, in Capt. Eli Noble's company; Major Eben Allen's Detachment, and received L.5.3.4 and served as a private two days in July, 1781, under same command, "as marcher to Saratoga in the alarm in Pownal. (Signed) T. S. Peck, Adjutant General. Issue: 1792. I.—Lydia, b. Nov 8, 1757; m. Wm. Downer, Pownal, Vt., Oct. 27, 1744; she d. Oct. 15, 1815. 1793. II.—Lucy b. Feb. 7, 1759; m. Benjamin Morgan. 1794. III.—Obadiah, b. Nov. 7. 1761; m. Lois

As luck would have it, my father's younger sister Ruth Dunham Clark was still living not far from Bennington in Cambridge, NY (not all that far from the battlefield). She had shown some interest in my research and offered to help. We felt that the Bennington Museum might be the best place to look and she referred me to Tyler Resch, the Research Librarian at the museum. I contacted Mr. Resch who was able to provide a wealth of information about Obadiah but nothing tying him to the battle. The primary source for this kind of information is typically in the Muster Rolls of the company and regimental records which I already knew didn't list Obadiah until after the battle. As it turned out I had planned a late summer road trip with my girlfriend to visit friends in Essex, CT. and check out the steam train and steamboat rides there, then to Rhinebeck, NY for the Aerodrome. We decided to add Bennington to the GPS waypoints.

After 4 days on the road I met with Mr. Resch and we went over the files. Again we found nothing to connect Obadiah to the battle, until deep in an old folder we found a letter dated 1984 from someone with the same question, and an answer. The response referred to page 195 in a book dated 1900 titled "The Downers of America" by David Downer. John Downer... "In company with his father-in-law (Dr. Dunham) and brother-in-law (Benjamin Morgan), he took part in the Battle of Bennington in 1777 and achieved considerable local reputation..."

Following is the full page including footnotes which confirms the story:

land, left a large estate by will to his sister, who had m a Downer (first name not known), and to her children, John and Molly. The latter m a Ritchie. For some reason, the children never came into possession of the property."

The Rev. War experience of John Downer, as sent by his g s, Mr. Abner P. Downer, is as follows: In company with his father-in-law (Dr. Dunham) and brother-in-law (Benjamin Morgan), he took part in the battle of Bennington in 1777, and achieved considerable local reputation. He was a skillful marksman. After the battle, one of the Tory prisoners escaped from his guards. John was called, and the Tory, knowing his skill with his rifle, got down behind a stone wall and attempted to draw John's fire by placing his hat on top of the wall. John promptly put a bullet through the hat, and the man ran for his life and escaped to Canada. In after years, his s John, traveling through Canada, met the same man, who, hearing him called "John Downer," made himself known, and showed him the hat, which he had preserved.

John Downer m at Pownal, Lydia, dau of Dr. Obadiah Dunham,* of Pownal. She was b at Hebron, Ct., 8 Nov, 1757, and d at Pownal, 1 Oct, 1815.

Had, all b at Pownal,

- 2160 + WILLIAM, b 4 Aug, 1773. Rem (1st) in 1815 to Smithfield, Madison Co., N. Y.; (2d) in Aug, 1844, to Groveland, Mich; (3d) in 1845, to Pontiac, Mich, and d at Brandon, Mich, 5 Nov, 1859, at the home of his dau, Mrs. Calista McIntyre.
- 2161 + OBADIAH L., b 7 Sept, 1774. Rem (1st) to Western New York, and later to Lloyds, Ulster Co., N. Y., where he d in 1815.
- 2162 AMY, b 23 Mar, 1776; d at Bennington, 8 Feb, 1840; m John Austin, of Bennington. He b at Canterbury, Ct., 9 Nov, 1772. Rem to Bennington in 1789, and d at Walloomsac, N. Y., 16 Apl, 1858. Had, all b at Bennington, (i) Betsey, 4 Dec, 1799, m Richard Carpenter, of Bennington, and d there 23 Aug, 1862; (ii) Caleb, 25 Feb, 1803, d at Walloomsac, N. Y., 25 Jan, 1879, he m (1st) 8 June, 1842, Celinda Henry, of Bennington, she b 1 Aug, 1820, d 11 Sept, 1844, m (2d) 6 Aug, 1851, Amelia O. Rattoone, she b 14 July, 1819, d 31 Oct, 1893.

*Dr. Dunham was prominent in the civil and military affairs of Vermont. He was present at the first town meeting held in Pownal, 8 Mar, 1763. Was a delegate from the town at an adjourned session, held at Dorset, 25 Sept, 1776, held for the purpose of forming Vermont into a State. Was also a member of a committee which covenanted to furnish troops "for the defense of the liberties of the United States." Also a member of a committee, whose duty it was to fix fines on delinquent members of the militia (see vol. I, Council of Safety, &c., Vermont). Was justice of the peace at Pownal for twenty years. He served as a private for various terms in the Rev. War, and took part in the battle of Bennington in 1777. He also served in the State militia at various times during the War, and was for twenty years justice of the peace at Bennington (see vol. I, Vermont Gazetteer).

In my humble opinion, if two separate family lines confirm the same story then it is probably true, otherwise it almost has to be considered a conspiracy. I don't think it's a conspiracy and as far as I am concerned my search has ended.

One thing that I learned from this search is that corroboration that an individual participated in a particular battle is typically taken from Muster Rolls or other military documents that show the individual on the payroll of a particular company and/or regiment that is known to have participated in the battle. The reality of the matter is that individuals who felt their homes or their neighbor's home or even neighbors in the next county threatened by the approach of Redcoats or Hessians or Brunswickers responded to the alarm and they didn't go looking for a recruiting officer. Who was counting heads and taking down names to ensure that all of those who participated in the battle were recognized for being there?

Of the nearly 4,000 who reportedly responded to the alarm at Lexington and Concord how many were on muster rolls for that day and how many were just responding to the threat without bothering to enlist? Is the 3,960 official count for Lexington & Concord just those listed on muster rolls or were there in fact many more who responded to the threat and were not counted? Same thing for those who fought at Bunker Hill, those thousands who, encouraged by the victory at Bennington marched to Saratoga to stop Burgoyne and those countless others during the course of the war who responded to an alarm without asking for payment in return.

Dr. Obadiah Dunham has now been added to the Bennington Museum records of those who fought at the Battle of Bennington.

Note added by the editor:

The Battle of Bennington took place from August 14 to 16, 1777 in the Walloomsac, New York area. The field of battle was about ten miles from Bennington, Vermont.

The website of the Bennington Museum, www.benningtonmuseum.org/battle-of-bennington-driving-tour.html elaborates on several historic sites important to this campaign. These include the Catamount Tavern site and the site of General Stark's encampment.

The Mothers of the Wives of John Dunham

By Gratia Dunham Mahony and David Daniel Colpitts

The Mother of Susan Kaino

John Dunham was married twice. His first wife, Susan Kaino died in Leiden, Holland prior to Oct. 15, 1622 when a census taken on that date shows John Dunham listed with three children, John, Humility and Thomas. In the marriage record for John Dunham and his second wife he is called "widower".

From the parish records of Clophill, Bedfordshire, England we know that Susan was born as the daughter of Thomas Kaino on 12 December 1586. Susan's mother was not named in the record, however the Clophill records show that Thomas "Cayehoe" died on 15 April 1612; and that Joan "Keno", widow died 7 February 1630.

The Parish Registers in Barton le Clay, only a few miles from Clophill, begin in 1567. A record of the marriage of **Thomas Keynoe to Joan Croxon/Croxtton appears on the register on 28 July 1583. This is almost certainly the marriage of the parents of Susan Kaino, who was born 12 Dec. 1586 in Clophill.**

Catherine de l'Ecluse: The Probable Mother of Abigail Balliou

David Colpitts, also a Dunham descendant, sent me a copy of a post to the Dunham Singletary Connections Facebook page, which was posted Dec. 26, 2014. From what I can tell it looks like Jeremy Bangs replied to this post on a Mayflower thread regarding John Dunham and Abigail Balliou. Following is his reply:

" When Abigail Balliou was betrothed to Jan Danham [John Dunham] on 1 October 1622 (married on 22 Oct.) she was accompanied by her sister Anna Balliou (as witness), while her fiancé/husband was accompanied by Thomas Ballou, his future father-in-law. (Leiden Municipal Archives, Raadhuisechtboek B, fol.137 verso, published in Plooiij and Harris, Leyden Documents, fol. XLIX). Similarly, when Anneken Bailliuw was betrothed to Nathaniel Walker on 1 June 1624 (married on 15 June 1624), she was accompanied by her sister Abigel Donhem, while he was accompanied by Thomas Bailliuw, his future father-in-law. (ibid., fol. 160 recto, published in Plooiij and Harris, fol. LV). Both girls were identified as having come to Leiden from England. When Mary Beljou was betrothed to Steven Fastaer on 18 June 1639 (married on 23 June), she was accompanied by Breggen Robberts [i.e. Bridget Robinson]; he was accompanied by Thomas Beljou, his future father-in-law (Raadhuisechtboek C, by date; published in Johanna Tammel, *The Pilgrims and Other English in Leiden, 1575-1640*, p. 36). Balliou, Bailliuw, Beljou are spelling variants of the same name. Tammel did no original paleographical work, taking her information from handwritten index cards at the Leiden Archives, which sometimes contain minor

Anneken Bailliuw betrothed to Nathaniel Walker 1 June 1624 Leiden, Holland

Anneken Bailliuw married to Nathaniel Walker 15 June 1624 Leiden, Holland

Anneken was accompanied by her sister Abigel Donhem (as witness)
Nathaniel Walker accompanied by Thomas Ballou, his future father-in-law

Mary Beluou betrothed to Steven Fastaer 18 June 1639 Leiden, Holland

Mary Beljou married Steven Fastaer 23 June 1639 Leiden, Holland

Mary was accompanied by Breggen Robberts[Bridget Robinson] (as witness)
Steven Fastaer (Foster) accompanied by Thomas Ballou, his future father-in-law

Note that the Dutch spellings appear in the above. The name of Susanna Bailgey's betrothed (Ysaac Giljon) was Isaac Chilton, a well documented migrant to Plymouth Colony. The two witnesses who accompanied him, (Jan de LeCluse and Daniel Bailliu) probably were John de l'Ecluse, and Daniel Balliou, probably a brother of Susanna Bailgey/Baillu/Balliou. John de l'Ecluse was likely the uncle of Susanna Bailgey/Baillu/Balliou, and brother of Catherine de l'Ecluse.

From the book "The England and Holland of the Pilgrims" on p. 432: The Pilgrims in Amsterdam: "Records include the marriage of Henry Ainsworth. . .and three marriages of Jean de la Cluse, an elder of Ainsworths company and an author. As widower of Catharine de l'Epine, to Alice Dickens (?), Aug. 22, 1604; to Jacqueline May, form Wisbeach, May 5, 1609; and to Ann Harris from Handvorrough (Hanbury, Worces.) aged 27, Nov. 29, 1616."

Note that this marriage on May 5, 1609 to Jacqueline May is for John de le Cluse and the sister of Dorothy May who married William Bradford. The John de le Cluse of the above marriage records would have been born about 1570. He was called "an elder of Ainsworth's company and an author", so he was not a young man.

There is no marriage record that I could find either in Norwich, England where many Walloons settled, or in Rouen, Belgium where many of them came from or in Amsterdam for Catherine de l'Ecluse. If we consider that she was listed as the mother of Susanna Bailgey at her betrothal on May 6, 1615, and also at the betrothal of Lijsbeth on 5 April 1619, we can figure that Catherine de l'Ecluse was born say 1570, married say 1594, and having children beginning in say 1595. Since she was not listed in the marriage records of the two youngest daughters, she probably had died prior to 1622. All three betrothals of young women in 1622; 1624; and 1639 show that their fiancés were accompanied by Thomas Ballou, their future father-in-law.

Questions

Prior to writing this article I wondered if there been any further research on the ancestors of Abigail Balliou? Jeremy Bangs states “her mother **might** have been Catherine de l’Ecluse.” I also wanted to know if the Dutch records use the maiden name of the mother? That is, could Catherine de l’Ecluse have been the wife of Thomas Balliou but her maiden name was given in the marriage record?

David Colpitts, who lives in Massachusetts, went to the New England Historic and Genealogical Society in Boston and spoke with Gary Boyd Roberts, Senior Research Scholar. Mr. Roberts stated that to his knowledge, no one else has done any research on the origins of Abigail Ballou. However, he did confirm that mothers were recorded with their maiden names in Leiden records. He also added that witnesses were almost exclusively immediate family members.

Note that when Abigail Balliou’s sister Mary was married on 23 June 1639, she was accompanied by Breggen Robberts [Bridget Robinson] as witness. This would have tied her to the members of the Leiden Church Parish of the Puritans led by John Robinson, as Bridget Robinson was his wife.

Thomas Balliou and his probable wife Catherine de l’Ecluse

Dr. Jeremy Bangs is very careful to state that the mother of Abigail Ballou “**might** have been Catherine de l’Ecluse.” I agree that without absolute proof we can not state this as a proven fact, but from review of the above records, we can state that the mother of Abigail Ballou was probably Catherine de l’Ecluse.

If we compile a family for Thomas Balliou and his probable wife Catherine de l’Ecluse, it could look like the following:

- i. Susanna Balliou b. say 1595
m. 1615 Isaac Chilton
- ii. Daniel Balliou b. say 1597
- iii. Elizabeth Balliou b. say 1599
m. 1619 John Jacob Druijff
- iv. Abigail Balliou b. say 1601
m. 22 Oct. 1622 John Dunham
- v. Anna Balliou b. say 1604
m. 15 June 1624 Nathaniel Walker
- vi. Mary Balliou b. say 1615
m. 23 June 1639 Steven Foster

The Walloons from Northern France

A group of Walloons from Wicres, Nord-Pas-de-Calais region in the very north of France left France about the time of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. Many of these people, called

“Strangers” had valuable skills and brought new techniques in the cloth industry to the City of Norwich, in England.

People from Flanders had already been living in Norwich since about 1565. We do not know exactly when either the Ballou or the de l’Ecluse family came to Norwich, but we do know they were living there prior to 1615. The marriage records of Susanna and Elisabeth Balliou state that both girls were “of Norwich in England”.

One other fact may be of interest to those students interested in horticulture. The horticulturist Charles de l’Ecluse (or Carolus Clusius) (1526-1609) was a Flemish doctor and pioneering botanist. In 1593 he was appointed professor at the University of Leiden. Here he helped create one of the earliest botanical gardens in Europe. He is most remembered for observing tulips “breaking”, due to a virus which caused the many different flamed and feathered varieties. This led to the speculative tulip mania of the 1630s. Clusius laid the foundations of Dutch tulip breeding and the bulb industry of today.