

# Dunham Singletary

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## FAMILY CONNECTIONS

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**Issue 1**

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### **President's Letter**

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday with time spent with your own Dunham family. It is a good time to reflect on the year for our extended Dunham family here – our organization exists to pull us together and multiply our efforts so that we can investigate and record our lineage for those who come after us.

We have made great strides in recent times, with the research in England performed by our professional genealogist – Gratia Dunham Mahony. After many decades of uncertainty we can now say for certain that Deacon John Dunham is descendant from Richard Dunham, a poulter in Bedfordshire, England. And Gratia was able to perform further research into the puritan movement and what drove Deacon John to the United States. She wrote some excellent articles for the newsletter to document and share all this work with us.

*(The President's Letter is continued on page 7.)*

### **Editor's Corner**

After many years of genealogy research on the Dunham/Donham families I have a good idea of the lines of many people. However there are still some problems to solve. In this issue I begin work on some of the unresolved questions in the Dunham-Singletary family of Wood-Bridge, New Jersey.

My second article is written to illustrate how a fairly new web site, [www.Billongraves.com](http://www.Billongraves.com) can be used in a genealogy search. The use of any web site needs to be combined with other research procedures. I encourage readers to take a look at this new site.

The third article was prompted by an October 2015 posting by Patrick Browne on his web site "Historical Digression". Mr. Browne kindly gave me permission to reproduce his article in this issue. The identity of Isaac Dunham tells an interesting story about this Dunham ancestor.

*Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor*

## Which Sarah Dunham married James Coddington?

*by Gratia Dunham Mahony*

The following deposition which mentions James and Christian Dunham has intrigued me for a long time. Who was James Dunham in Westfield, NJ, and was Sarah Hodgson a Dunham by birth?

The pension application file of Robert and Margaret (Inslee/Insley) Coddington [Pension Record #W-3950; GMNJ 3:133] dated 3 Oct. 1792 by Sarah Hodgson of Perth Amboy, widow, stated that she was the mother of Robert Coddington, the soldier, and that when Robert had smallpox during the war, she took him to the house of JAMES DUNHAM in WESTFIELD, and nursed him there. Christian, wife of James Dunham, corroborated this testimony. Robert Coddington's mother was, therefore, named Sarah, and she may have been related to James and Christian Dunham.

The line of Dunham/Donhams descending from Richard Singletary and his son Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary has taken me a very long time to research. I began studying this line because anyone with the surname Dunham or Donham who is searching for their Dunham/Donham ancestry may not belong to the line of Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, MA. Therefore, I wanted to include this Woodbridge, NJ line in my project. The advent of DNA testing helped me a lot because I was then able to separate the Woodbridge line from the male descendants who took the DNA test and were shown to belong to the Piscataway, NJ line who were descendants of Deacon John Dunham.

In about 2006 I discovered that David-3 Donham of the Woodbridge, NJ line had two illegitimate children prior to his marriage to Mary Illsey. Knowing this has helped me realize that some of the unidentified Dunham/Donhams may have belonged to one or the other of these two children.

I've studied the old maps of Woodbridge NJ, and have visited the cemeteries between the Presbyterian Church and the Episcopal Church several times. The old Papiack Creek once ran through the Presbyterian cemetery, and indeed some of the home lots of the first settlers of Woodbridge were along this creek. The site of Jonathan Dunham's grist mill (a tide mill) has been found and is now identified.

The first time that I read about John Illsey Coddington and his belief that Sarah Dunham married James Coddington I thought he was wrong because at that time I had seen a marriage record for a Sarah Dunham to John Gach. I then looked at the work done by John Illsey Coddington. This man was a brilliant genealogist and worked for many years as a researcher with the New England Historic and Genealogical Society in Boston. If he ever knew of the two illegitimate children of David<sup>3</sup> Dunham, I have found no record of it. After

years of my own research on the Dunhams of both Woodbridge and Piscataway, and the process of elimination of those family lines for which I could find proof, I now believe strongly that John Illsey Coddington was correct in identifying Sarah<sup>5</sup> Dunham as the daughter of Joseph<sup>4</sup>, David<sup>3</sup> and his wife Mary Illsey.

Sarah's Dunham line begins with Richard<sup>1</sup> Singletary, Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Dunham/Donham, David<sup>3</sup> and Mary (Illsey) Dunham, Joseph<sup>4</sup> and (unknown wife) Dunham. Joseph<sup>4</sup> Dunham was born in Woodbridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey 7 October 1700 and died between October 1759 when he wrote his will (given below) and 1771 when the will was proved.

"1759, Oct. 20. Donham, Joseph, of Woodbridge, Middlesex Co.; will of. Wife to have the use of land. Son, Daniel, 1/6 of my lands, joining the ½ acre where he lives. Rest of estate to be sold. **Daughter, Sarah, a prayer book.** Youngest daughters, Abigail and Phebe, £25. Youngest sons, James, Joseph, Elisha, Moses and Jonathan, rest of my money. Wife to bring up my young children. Executors--friend, Ebenezer Foster, and sons, Joseph and Elisha. Witnesses--Jonathan Cambell, Amos Donham, Nathaniel Fitz Randolph. (Note, witness Amos Donham was Joseph's nephew, son of his brother David and Mary (Freeman) Dunham, Jr.)

Children of Joseph<sup>4</sup> and (unknown wife) Dunham: (given in will above)

- i. Daniel<sup>5</sup> Dunham b. 2 Feb. 1726
- ii. **Sarah<sup>5</sup> Dunham** b. say 1727
- iii. **James<sup>5</sup> Dunham** b. say 1730
- iv. Elisha<sup>5</sup> Dunham b. 1732, d. Feb./March 1783
- v. Joseph<sup>5</sup> Dunham b. in Westfield in 1735
- vi. Moses<sup>5</sup> Dunham b. say 1740
- vii. Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Dunham b. say 1744
- viii. Abigail<sup>5</sup> Dunham b. 1747
- ix. Phebe<sup>5</sup> Dunham b. date given in Rev. War pension application 17 April 1755

From the record of Joseph<sup>5</sup> Dunham we can see that at least part of this family was indeed living in Westfield, the new community of "West Fields" adjacent to Woodbridge, to which a number of the Woodbridge families moved.

## Fifth Generation Carried Out

i. **Daniel<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Singletary/alias Dunham, Richard<sup>1</sup> Singletary) born 2 Feb. 1726; died after 20 October 1759 when named in father's will as inheriting "1/6 of my lands adjoining the ½ acre where he lives".

ii. **Sarah<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Singletary/alias Dunham, Richard<sup>1</sup> Singletary) born about 1730,<sup>[1]</sup> died after October 1792 when she gave deposition of her son's war service. Sarah m. first **James Coddington** who was b. 5 January 1725/6 in Woodbridge NJ; d. 1774. Sarah m. second **Daniel Noe** who died between 16 May 1777 and 5 July 1777. Sarah m. third **William Hodgson**.

Children of James and Sarah (Dunham) Coddington:

- i. Joseph Coddington b. 1754 Woodbridge
- ii. James Coddington b. 1755 Woodbridge
- iii. David Coddington b. 1757 Woodbridge
- iv. Agnes Coddington b. 1759
- v. Robert Coddington b. 6 Oct. 1760 Woodbridge (the one who had smallpox)
- vi. John Coddington b. 1765 Woodbridge

Sarah m. <sup>2</sup> Daniel Noe who was b. 1715 in Woodbridge NJ

Children of Daniel and Sarah (Dunham) Coddington) Noe: [named in will of Daniel Noe dated 16 May 1777, proved 5 July 1777]

- i. Damaris Noe
- ii. Lewis Noe
- iii. Margaret Noe
- iv. Gertrude Noe
- v. Sarah Noe
- vi. James Noe
- vii. John Noe
- viii. Daniel Noe
- ix. Nathaniel Noe b. 12 Sept. 1774 Woodbridge, Middlesex Co. NJ  
d. 18 Aug. 1846  
m. 10 April 1797 Mary Elizabeth Payne who was b. 4 Feb. 1782 in Woodbridge

Children:

- i. Mary Noe b.
- ii. Margaret Noe b. 10 May 1801
- iii. John Clarkson Noe b. 26 May 1803

iii. **James<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Richard<sup>1</sup>) b. say 1730. This is the James Dunham living in Westfield with a wife named **Christian**. We do not know the surname of Christian, but there were several women living in New Jersey with that given name.

iv. **Elisha<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Richard<sup>1</sup>) born in Woodbridge New Jersey ca. 1732, died in Woodbridge New Jersey in February or March 1783 He married 20 June 1752 **Elizabeth Freeman**, daughter of John and Martha (Moore) Freeman. She was born say 1732, died after 1783. He was Capt. in 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. Essex Co. Militia.

Elisha<sup>5</sup> Rahway Ward, Elizabeth, Essex Co. 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.

Will of Elisha Dunham NJ Archives 35:126, dated 21 August 1771;, proved 6 March 1783; "Elisha Dunham of Woodbridge, Middlesex Co. carpenter,. Names wife Elizabeth, land I bought of Jonathan Kimble. Rest of land to be sold and money divided among my children, Josiah, Freeman, David, Eno s and Henry when they are 21, and my daughter, when 18. Executors, wife Elizabeth and brother-in-law Isaac Freeman.

Witnesses Moses Dunham, Joseph Dunham, Jr. Joseph Shotwell.

(Moses and Joseph Dunham were his brothers)

Children of Elisha and Elizabeth (Freeman) Dunham:

- i. Josiah<sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 1 June 1753/5; d. 1816 in Woodbridge, NJ  
m. Anna Williams
- ii. Freeman<sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 1755
- iii. David<sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 2 March, 1762; d. 28 Sept. 1840 Anderson, Madison Co. IN  
m. <sup>1</sup> Eleanor Hollingshead  
m. <sup>2</sup> Hannah Brummage
- iv. Henry Dayton<sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 20 April 1774; d.7 Sept. 1833 Centerville, Wayne, IN  
m. Sarah Ellison
- v. Enos/Amos<sup>6</sup> Dunham 1759
- vi. Daughter (Eunice)<sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 1765; d. 3 Feb. 1834 New Garden, Union Co. IN

v. **Joseph<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Dunham/alias Singletary, Richard<sup>1</sup> Singletary) born in Westfield in 1735, and died in Westfield, Union County, New Jersey. This is the Joseph Dunham who married in Westfield, Union County New Jersey in 1757 **Hannah Conger**.

Children of Joseph and Hannah (Conger) Dunham: (at least)

- i. Joseph<sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 29 August 1766 in Westfield, NJ  
d. 8 March 1846 in Warren County, Ohio  
m. 2 February 1790 Anna Wood

**vi. Moses<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Singletary/alias Dunham, Richard<sup>1</sup> Singletary) born say 1740, died after 20 Oct. 1759 when named in his father's will. He is probably the Moses Dunham who married in Westfield 21 September 1777 **Mary Hampton**. She may have been a second wife. He was a witness to the will of his brother Elisha in 1771.

**vii. Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Dunham** b. say 1744. I find no further information for this Jonathan Dunham.

**viii. Abigail<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Singletary/alias Dunham, Richard<sup>1</sup> Singletary) born ca. 1747; died 11 August 1804 age 57. She married **Samuel Jaques**. They are buried in the Woodbridge Trinity Episcopalian Churchyard.

Samuel Jaques was born 29 April 1739; died 2 September 1803. He married first Annabel Brown and had several children by her. She died 19 January 1782 and Samuel married Second Abigail Dunham on 8 August 1782.

Children of Samuel and Annabel (Brown) Jaques:

- i. Samuel Jaques, b. 1764
- ii. William Jaques, b. 9 April 1764
- iii. Richard Jaques, baptized 21 Oct. 1767 in St. John Episcopal Church, Elizabeth, NJ
- iv. James Jaques, b. 1769

Children of Samuel and Abigail (Dunham) Jaques:

- v. Annabel Jaques b. 14 May 1783 in Elizabeth, NJ  
She married Benjamin Winans 5 March 1800 in Elizabeth, NJ.  
He was born 28 October 1776 and died 12 March 1832.  
She died 30 August 1854 in Elizabeth.  
Child of Benjamin and Annabel (Jaques) Winans:
  - i. Benjamin Winans, born 12 June 1807."

- vi. Sally Jaques, Sally Jaques, born about 1785; died before 1798
- vii. John Ogilvie Jaques, b. in 1786; d. 1816
  - m. Margaret Doobs.

**ix. Phebe<sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>4</sup> David<sup>3</sup> Jonathan<sup>2</sup> Singletary/alias Dunham, Richard<sup>1</sup> Singletary) born 17 April 1755; died in Warren County, Ohio 9 August 1843. She married at the home of her brother Elisha Dunham, 2 July 1775 **Jacob Tremble**. He was b. 1 Feb. 1753; d. in Warren Co. OH 31 May 1819.

Jacob and Phebe (Dunham) Tremble moved to Ohio in the autumn of 1795. They spent the winter in Fort Washington, now Cincinnati, and in the spring purchased land in Turtle Creek Township, now Warren County, Ohio.

Children of Jacob and Phebe (Dunham) Tremble: all born in New Jersey

- i. Betsy Tremble b. 16 September 1776
- ii. Daniel Tremble b. 117 September 1778
- iii. Abigail Tremble b. 7 September 1780
- iv. Sarah Tremble b. 16 September 1782
- v. Mary Tremble b. 4 September 1784
- vi. Susannah Tremble b. 19 July 1786
- vii. Moses Tremble b. 18 November 1788
- viii. Isaac Tremble b. October 1790
- ix. Aaron Tremble b. 3 August 1792
- x. Jacob Tremble b. 18 January 1795

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### President's Letter Continued

Besides performing this research – as a benefit of your membership – you have full access to Gratia and her expertise. She helps many of us every year to fill in the gaps in our family trees. This is just one example of the benefits of your membership here. Along with the website, the newsletters, and the DNA testing program.

The DNA testing program will soon add family finder testing as an option. Family tree DNA has added a feature that I requested. They have added ability to quickly list relatives that we share in their autosomal DNA testing. I have five relatives who are distantly related to me and we each had autosomal DNA testing performed. And I have used this break through a couple of walls in the family tree for the Dunham's who went to St George New Brunswick after the American Revolution. I think this can help us all – if we augment our Y-DNA testing database with this additional information. The DNA samples stored can be used to add this testing without submitting an additional sample and the cost is very reasonable. The autosomal (family finder) testing also allows for all the females in our organization to participate as this DNA is carried along both male and female lines. Look for an e-mail with more details on this very shortly.

We have accomplished much in this organization every year, and this last year or two have been particularly fruitful. This is done through the collective efforts of our organization and it needs your support and your continued membership. To those who have renewed their membership – my deepest thanks. And if you haven't yet renewed your membership please do so – we need your support.

*Jeffrey M. Dunham, President*

Dunham-Singletary Family Connections

# John <sup>6</sup> Dunham Found on Billion Graves Web Site

*By Gratia Dunham Mahony*

In the 15 July, 2009 issue of the DSFC newsletter I wrote an article (p. 6-14) outlining part of the Newport, Rhode Island Dunham Family. This interesting family has been hard to trace past the fifth generation in the line of Joseph <sup>5</sup> Dunham (Daniel <sup>4,3</sup> Joseph <sup>2</sup> John <sup>1</sup>). This Joseph <sup>5</sup> was born about 1761 and served in the Revolutionary War. The fact that he has a pension application record has helped greatly in tracing his movements and the places where he lived. Work with the church records of Lenox, Berkshire County, Massachusetts help to identify and follow his children.

From Abstracts of Rev. War Pension Files; "Joseph S12831, RI Line, appl. 12 Dec. 1832 Oneida Co., NY, aged 71, sol. Lived at Brooklyn Ct. at enl. And after the Rev. War sol. Lived at Plainfield Ct. for 10 years then moved to Lenox, Berkshire Co., Ma., then moved to Rome in Oneida Co. NY, sol. was b. in 1761 at Newport RI and had also enl. At Richmond Town, RI, 6 or 8 surviving children rec'd final payment on 21 Sept. 1842 & were paid to 8 Feb. 1840."

Joseph <sup>5</sup> Dunham was "of Lenox" in a 1792 land deed, and he was admitted to church in Lenox 17 Aug. 1794. Joseph Dunham and wife were dismissed on 18 Sept. 1808 to Rome, NY. The name of his wife is unknown. Shortly after his admission to the church in Lenox he had his first five children baptized on 2 November 1794.

In the article cited above Joseph <sup>5</sup> Dunham was given the number 199. I will continue to use that number in this article, and will give his children numbers beginning with 200.

**199. Joseph <sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Daniel <sup>4,3</sup> Joseph <sup>2</sup> John <sup>1</sup>) born in Newport, Rhode Island in 1761; died in Oneida County, New York 8 February 1840. The name of his wife has not been found on any records. She is referred to however in the Lenox, Massachusetts Church record "Joseph Dunham and wife dismissed 18 September 1808 to Rome, New York."

Children of Joseph and (--) (--) Dunham: (from Lenox, MA baptismal records)

200. i. John <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. say 1782 (bapt. 2 Nov. 1794 with four siblings)  
(a John Dunham m. 23 Sept. 1802 Abigail Goodwin)
201. ii. Benejah <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. say 1784 (bapt. 2 November 1794)
202. iii. Joseph <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. say 1787 (bapt. 2 November 1794)
203. iv. Elizabeth <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. say 1790 (bapt. 2 November 1794)
204. v. Abigail <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. say 1793 (bapt. 2 November 1794)
205. vi. Robert <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 1795 & bapt. 23 Aug. 1795
206. vii. Daniel <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 1798 & bapt. 1 July 1798
207. viii. Thomas <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 1801 & bapt. 26 Apr. 1801
208. ix. Sarah <sup>6</sup> Dunham b. 1803 & bapt. 4 Dec. 1803



In the past years I have worked with Selma Blackmon and Barbara Hanson, descendants of Joseph<sup>6</sup> Dunham; and with Barbara Trott a descendant of Thomas<sup>6</sup> Dunham. The children of Joseph<sup>6</sup> and Thomas<sup>6</sup> Dunham are shown below.

Children of Joseph and (unknown) Dunham:

200. i. John<sup>6</sup> Dunham baptized 2 November 1794 with 4 siblings  
m. 23 Sept. 1802 in Lenox, MA Abigail Goodwin (this line continues below)

201. ii. Benajah<sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 2 November 1794 with 4 siblings

202. iii. Joseph<sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 2 November 1794 with 4 siblings

Children: i. Jane Angeline<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 26 Nov. 1823 in Rome, NY

d. 27 April 1906 Seneca, LaSalle Co., IL

m. 24 Dec. 1846 in Rome, NY Elisha T. Couch

Children of Elisha and Jane A. (Dunham) Couch:

i. Harriet Couch, b. & d. 1848

buried in Greenway Cemetery, Rome NY

ii. Lewis Augusta Couch, b. May 1850

iii. Eugene D. Couch b. 28 May 1851

iv. Carrie (or Sarah) Couch, b. 10 Nov. 1857

ii. Lindsey W.<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. in NY, moved to Wisconsin

m. Esther A. James

Child of Lindsey W. and Esther A. (James) Dunham:

i. Jay F.<sup>8</sup> Dunham b. Dec. 1852 in Wisconsin

203. iv. Elizabeth<sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 2 November 1794 with 4 siblings

204. v. Abigail<sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 2 November 1794 with 4 siblings

205. vi. Robert<sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 23 Aug. 1795

206. vii. Daniel<sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 1 July 1798

207. viii. Thomas<sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 26 April 1801

d. 7 August 1882 in Prattsburg, Steuben Co., NY

m.<sup>1</sup> unknown

m.<sup>2</sup> about 1833 Lovina/Lavina Fox

Thomas<sup>6</sup> Dunham was a Baptist minister. He and Lovina (Fox) Dunham

Were the parents of 14 children:

i. Cyrus A.<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 28 Aug. 1832, Rome, Oneida Co. NY

ii. David<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1833

iii. Martha<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1835

iv. Lydia<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1836

v. James<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1839

vi. Hannah<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 18 Sept. 1840 Utica, NY (twin)

vii. Ruth<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 18 Sept. 1840 Utica, NY (twin)

viii. Mark (Marquis) H.<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 30 Aug. 1842 Sherburne, Chenango Co. NY

ix. Joseph<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1844, probably Chenango Co. NY (unmarried)

x. Mary B.<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1846, probably Chenango Co. NY

- xi. Sarah <sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1848, probably Chenango Co. NY
  - xii. Thomas Franklyn <sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 26 April 1850 prob. Chenango Co. NY
  - xiii. Lois <sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1853, probably Steuben Co. NY
  - xiv. Anna <sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1854, Prattsburg, Steuben Co. NY
208. ix. Sarah <sup>6</sup> Dunham bapt. 4 Dec. 1803

## **Billion Graves Web Site**

Billiongraves.com is a free web site sponsored by Family Search. It is a name index of burial and head stone records and contains images from the world's cemeteries, all tagged with GPS locations. Over the past few years volunteers around the world have photographed headstones in cemeteries and up loaded them to the Billion Graves website. While there is still a long way to go before all the cemetery headstones have been photographed, there are now enough on the website that I wanted to experiment and see what I could learn from this new web information.

I began my experiment by searching for Dunhams in the U. S. born in 1890 plus or minus 10 years. My search turned up 284 results for Dunham and as I looked through the list I noticed several headstones in Riverside Cemetery in Elsie, Clinton County, Michigan. In my Dunham research, the town of Elsie, Michigan was not familiar to me so I thought I would try to follow this family.

My next step was to look at the Findagrave.com web site, and here I found 41 Dunhams buried in Riverside Cemetery. The earliest birth date given on a headstone was 1815 for Almira Dunham. Her head stone showed that she was wife of Wm. H. Dunham. Findagrave.com did not have a headstone for William H. Dunham with a wife Almira, but did have a stone for Wm H. Dunham b. 1815; d. 1910.

I next looked at Ancestry.com for William H. Dunham in Elsie, Clinton Co. MI with a wife Almira. My search turned up several entries, one giving the wife as Almira Brooks, and the names of the parents of William Henry Dunham as John Dunham and Abigail Goodwin. This is the John <sup>6</sup> Dunham whose line back I had in my research data. I was then able to put this family together using the Ancestry.com web information for clues and locating the family in the census records.

A family tree on Ancestry.com gives "John Dunham m. Abigail Goodwin 23 Sept. 1803 (should be 1802 per MA Town and Vital Records) in Lenox, MA. This John Dunham d. in Albion, Orleans Co. NY. This family moved to Oneida Co. NY bef. 1815 and res. near Rome." A ref. for Abigail Goodwin is [The Goodwins of Hartford, CT, Descendants of William and Ozias](#), and says "Abigail Goodwin b. 20 Aug. 1781 in Ashfield, Franklin Co. MA".

The web site gives two sons of John and Abigail (Goodwin) Dunham:

- i. Ephraim G. Dunham b. 1812 in NY
- d. in Emery Crossing, CA
- ii. Henry Dunham (William Henry) b March 19, 1815 Rome, NY (line continues below)

Thus we can continue the line of:

**200. John<sup>6</sup> Dunham** (Joseph<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4,3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) b. say 1782 and baptized 2 November 1794 with 4 siblings; d. 26 July 1849 in Albion, Orleans Co. NY. He is buried in the Mount Albion Cemetery, Albion, NY. He married in Lenox, MA. 23 Sept. 1802 in Lenox, MA **Abigail Goodwin**. She was born in Ashfield, Franklin Co. MA 20 Aug. 1781; died in Rome, Oneida Co. NY 14 Feb. 1837.

Children of John<sup>6</sup> and Abigail (Goodwin) Dunham:

- i. Ephraim G.<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 1812; d. Alameda Co. CA  
(no further record)
- 209. ii. William Henry<sup>7</sup> Dunham b. 19 March, 1815, Rome, NY

**209. William Henry<sup>7</sup> Dunham** (John<sup>6</sup> Joseph<sup>5</sup> Daniel<sup>4,3</sup> Joseph<sup>2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) b. in Rome, Oneida County, NY 19 March 1815; d. in Elsie, Clinton County, MI 20 May, 1910. He married on 26 October 1835 Almira Brooks. She died 21 Dec. 1895 in Elsie, Clinton Co. MI

Children of William Henry<sup>7</sup> and Almira (Brooks) Dunham:

- 210. i. Clarissa Melinda<sup>8</sup> Dunham b. 16 Nov. 1836 Albion, Orleans Co. NY
- 211. ii. Walter Chester<sup>8</sup> Dunham b. April 1838 in Attica, Wyoming Co. NY
- 212. iii. Charles Henry<sup>8</sup> Dunham b. 23 June 1844 Albion Orleans Co. NY
- 213. iv. George William<sup>8</sup> Dunham b. 15 Aug. 1846 Albion, Orleans Co. NY
- 214. v. Evaline<sup>8</sup> Dunham b. 17 Oct. 1856 Brunswick, Medina Co. OH
- 215. vi. Otis J.<sup>8</sup> Dunham b. 1866 in MI

From the 1880 Census William Henry<sup>7</sup> Dunham lived in Fairfield, Shiawassee County, MI. Fairfield is located in Shiawassee County, directly east of Elsie which is in Clinton County.

1880 Census of Fairfield, Shiawassee Co. MI:

Dunham, Wm. H.	65	Farmer	b. NY MA MA
Sarah A.	66		b. NY NY NY (prob. Sarah Almira)
Evalina	23		b. OH NY NY
Otis J.	14		b. MI NY NY

1900 Census of Fairfield, Shiawassee Co. MI:

Pierce, Oscar	head	42	b. May 1858	b. NY VT NY
Evelina	wife	42	b. Oct. 1857	b. OH NY NY
Mable	dau.	2	b. Aug. 1897	b. MI NY OH
Dunham, William	father-in-law		b. March 1815	b. NY MA MA

Dunham, Walter C.	head	62	b. April 1838	b. NY NY NY
Annie	wife	62	b. may 1838	b. OH Eng. Eng.

Dunham, William L.	head	31	b. Aug. 1868	b. MI NY OH
Perlie R.	wife	29	b. Feb. 1871	b. MI MI OH
Earl L.	son	4	b. Dec. 1896	b. MI MI MI
Bion J.	son	2	b. Jan. 1898	b. MI MI MI

1910 Census of Fairfield, Shiawassee Co. MI:

Dunham, Oscar F.	head	50	NY VT NY	NOTE: This should be Oscar F. Pierce
Evelina C.	wife	53	OH NY NY	This family, surname Pierce,
Mabel A.	dau.	12	MI NY OH	appears on the 1920 census
William H.	father	95	NY MA MA	in Ovid, Clinton Co. MI

Dunham, George W.	head	63	NY NY NY
Sarah J.	wife	53	OH NY NY

Dunham, Allison	head	42	MI NY OH
Nettie	wife	40	MI Eng. MI
Bessie E.	dau.	14	MI MI MI
Clifford R.	son	12	MI MI MI
Gladys N.	dau.	9	MI MI MI
Harold W.	son	6	MI MI MI

Dunham, Arthur H.	head	32	MI NY OH
Iva D.	wife	30	MI MI OH
Howard A.	son	9	MI MI OH

Dunham William L.	head	41
Pearly R.	wife	39
Earl L.	son	14
Bion J.	son	11
Dewitt D.	son	9

Dunham, Walter C.	head	71
Annie	wife	71

## Eighth Generation carried out.

**210. Clarissa Melinda<sup>8</sup> Dunham** b. 16 Nov. 1836 Albion, Orleans Co. NY; died 12 August 1909 in Cleveland, Ohio. She married first Aretus Train Sanderson who was born in 1823; died 12 March 1870. She married as his second wife Jeremiah Burton Sanderson 27 June 1870. Jeremiah B. Sanderson was a brother of Aretus Train Sanderson. Jeremiah B. Sanderson had married first in 1854 Hellen Maria Southam and they had five children. Aretus Train and Clara M. (Dunham) Sanderson has at least one child, Florence Sanderson, who appears on the 1860 census. After the death of Jeremiah Burton Sanderson on 21 January, 1889 in Strongsville, Cuyahoga Co. OH, Clara married third James B. McConnell (1838-1919).

Children of Jeremiah Burton and Clarissa Melinda (Dunham) Sanderson:

- i. Harlan Aretus Sanderson b. 7 April 1873 in Strongsville, OH
- ii. Archie Sanderson b. 1875 in OH
- iii. Hellen Sanderson b. 1877 in OH

**211. Walter Chester<sup>8</sup> Dunham** b. April 1838 in Attica, Wyoming Co. NY; d. 24 June 1919 in Elsie, Clinton Co. MI. He married in Brunswick, Medina Co. OH 25 August 1861 Anna Draper. She was b. 1838; d. 1920. Walter Chester and Annie (Draper) Dunham lived in Farifield, Shiawassee Co. MI.

Walter Chester appears on the 1880 census in Fairfield, Shiawassee Co. MI:

Dunham, Walter	42	b. NY NY NY
Annie	42	b. OH Eng. Eng.
Fred. A.	16	b. MI NY OH
Willie L.	11	b. MI NY OH
Carrie	8	b. MI NY OH

Children of Walter Chester and Annie (Draper) Dunham:

- i. Fred Arthur<sup>9</sup> Dunham b. 1863
- ii. William Leroy<sup>9</sup> Dunham b. 13 Aug. 1869
  - m. Perlie Austin
- iii. Carrie<sup>9</sup> Dunham b. 1880

**212. Charles Henry<sup>8</sup> Dunham** b. 23 June 1844 Albion Orleans Co. NY; d 27 November 1904 in Elsie, Clinton Co. MI. He married in Duplain, Clinton Co. MI 13 January 1867 Katherine I. Downey. She was born 10 May 1849; d. 25 April 1933.

Children of Charles Henry and Katherine (Kitt) (Downey) Dunham:

NOTE: Additional information provided to me by a correspondent in 2003.

- i. Allison E.<sup>9</sup> Dunham b. 7 Feb. 1868; d. 1929
  - m. Nettie Pauline Williams  
she was b. 28 Feb. 1870; d. 1 Aug. 1960

Children of Allison E. and Nettie P. (Williams) Dunham:

- i. Bessie E. <sup>10</sup> Dunham b. 27 Nov. 1895; d. 18 Jan. 1989
- ii. Clifford R. <sup>10</sup> Dunham b. 17 Oct. 1897; d. 16 July 1984
- iii. Gladys Almyra <sup>10</sup> Dunham b. 23 Oct. 1900; d. 20 July 1986
- iv. Harold W. <sup>10</sup> Dunham b. 10 May 1903; d. 15 June 1988
- ii. Jay Charles <sup>9</sup> Dunham b. 6 Nov. 1876
  - m. Minnie Sheldon  
she was b. March 1882

**213. George William <sup>8</sup> Dunham** b. 15 Aug. 1846 Albion, Orleans Co. NY; d. in Shiawassee County, MI 23 April 1930. He married in Fulton County, Ohio 4 May 1874 Sarah Jane Hancock. She was b. 1856; d. 1936.

Children of George William and Sarah Jane (Hancock) Dunham:

- i. Arthur H. <sup>9</sup> Dunham b. 3 May 1877; d. 1959)

**214. Evaline <sup>8</sup> Dunham** b. 17 Oct. 1856 Brunswick, Medina Co. OH. She married Oscar F. Pierce.

Child of Oscar F. and Evaline (Dunham) Pierce:

- i. Mabel Pierce b. August 1897

**215. Otis J. <sup>8</sup> Dunham** b. 1866 in MI. He appears on the 1880 census of Fairfield, Shiawassee Co. MI age 14 years. There is no further information about Otis J. Dunham that I could find.

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The purpose of outlining this family in the DSFC newsletter was to illustrate how the new web site **BillionGraves.com** can be combined with other information such as Ancestry.com, FindaGrave.com and census data. Not used in this example were Civil War records or newspaper obituaries. Other information could be searched such as land deeds and probate records, City Directories and tax or plat maps. All of these are used to follow the Dunham families and to create the Dunham Genealogy given on the Dunham-Singleton Family Connections web site.

# Isaac Dunham, Light House Keeper

By Gratia Dunham Mahony

The early Dunhams living along the New England coast were usually farmers, artisans, fishermen or seamen. Trade among the communities all along the coast from Newport, Rhode Island north to Maine was often accomplished by “coasters”, or small sailing vessels going from port to port. By the early 1800s a number of lighthouses had been built along the coastline and vital warnings notified sailors of dangerous rocky ledges, hazardous shoals or submerged reefs.

These lighthouses needed to be manned in order to activate their lights, and this required persons to either live near by or within the structures themselves.

One Dunham family, native to Plymouth County, Massachusetts, were vitally involved with coastal shipping and also with the manning of several of these lighthouses. This was the family of Capt. Cornelius<sup>6</sup> Dunham and his son Isaac<sup>7</sup> Dunham. This line may be followed to the fifth generation on the web site [www.dunham-singletary.org](http://www.dunham-singletary.org), line of Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, Massachusetts, by clicking progressively on John<sup>1</sup>, Joseph<sup>2</sup>, Eleazer<sup>3</sup>, Israel<sup>4</sup> and Cornelius<sup>5</sup> Dunham who is #370.

**Cornelius<sup>5</sup> Dunham** was born in Plympton, Plymouth County, Massachusetts 12 August 1716 and died in Abington, Plymouth County Massachusetts 21 March 1766. His wife was **Patience Barrows** whom he married in Plympton on 21 May 1741. One of the children of Cornelius<sup>5</sup> and Patience (Barrows) Dunham was **Cornelius<sup>6</sup> Dunham** born in Carver, Plymouth County, Massachusetts in September 1748, and married to **Lydia Atwood** on 10 March 1774. **Cornelius<sup>6</sup> Dunham** was a sea captain and a privateer during the Revolution. This is the Cornelius Dunham who purchased the sword of General Warren who died at Bunker Hill. (see article in DSFC Newsletter Vol. 9, Issue 2, 15 April 2012 *The Sword of General Warren* by Bruce W. Dunham).

Cornelius<sup>6</sup> Dunham died 15 July 1835 and is buried in the Curtis Cemetery, Pemaquid, Lincoln County, Maine. His wife Lydia (Atwood) Dunham died in Abington, Massachusetts 5 June 1841.

## The Light House Keeper

**Isaac<sup>7</sup> Dunham** was born in Plymouth County, Massachusetts 11 October 1787. His twin brother, Thomas died just thirteen days later. In January, 2014 Judith Bailey Keneman placed the following information on her page at the Ancestry.com website.

“Isaac served on various ships in his youth and was a privateer on his father’s vessel during the War of 1812. He married Abigail Cary (1789-1872) in September of 1811. They moved to Maine where he became a farmer for several years until November 3, 1827 when he was appointed lighthouse keeper at the Pemaquid Lighthouse. He supposedly supervised the end of construction and lit the light for the first time on November 29. He was its first keeper and was

paid \$350 a year, which he supplemented by growing vegetables and chickens on a small farm, which included barns, he created nearby. He and his wife had 5 children and a new son named Benjamin Franklin Dunham was born in 1831.

The first Pemaquid Lighthouse crumbled after a few short years, probably die to the use of salt water in the mortar. Isaac supervised the building of the rep-lacement tower in 1835 and wrote a letter stating that the standards were upheld and the work went well. At the time he stated: "I will venture to say, a better tower and lantern was never built in this state." Isaac Dunham had also patented a special way of heating the whale oil used in the lighthouse lamp to keep it from congealing during the Maine winters. Congress ordered his invention to be used at lighthouses, but there is no data on how widespread the use was.

His father Cornelius died in July 1835 at the Pemaquid light and is buried in a small cemetery nearby. When Isaac left and moved away in June of 1836, he requested and received \$1,100 for the out-building he constructed at the station. The original light, 10 Lewis patent Oil Lamps and Argand-Lewis parabolic reflectors, was replaced with a fourth order Fresnel Lens in 1856.

In 1836, Isaac and his family moved to North Bridgewater and he returned to farming. In 1839 he became the first keeper at Nauset, site of the "Three Sisters Lights." He was there for 4 years, during which time he directed the local church choir in Eastham, MA. After leaving there, he worked at the Lowell Railroad Depot in Boston and lived for a time in East Cambridge.

He again returned to North Bridgewater and farming until Minot's Ledge Lighthouse was constructed between 1847 and 1850. Work could only be done during low tide, since only then was the rock above the water level. The tower was an open structure with legs extending 75 feet out of the rock and the light at the top. The keepers' quarters were 14 feet in diameter. It was the first U.S. lighthouse fully exposed to the open ocean. It was thought that the open, cast-iron legs would reduce the resistance of wind and waves and make it safer. Unfortunately, that was not true. Isaac lit the lamps for the first time on January 1, 1850. His son Isaac was one of the assistant keepers, as it was listed in the 1850 Census.

*From the personal log of Isaac Dunham:*

*"Clensd the Lantern for Liting in a tremendous Gale of wind. It seames as though the Light House would go from the Rock."*

*April 5—This day and the last night will long be remembered by me as one of the most trying that I have ever experience during my life.*

*April 6—The wind E. blowing very hard with an ugly sea which makes the light real [sic] like a Drunken Man — I hope God will in mercy still the raging sea — or we must perish. . . . God only knows what the end will be.*

*At 4 P.M. the gale continues with great fury. It appears to me that if the wind continues from the East and it now is that we cannot survive the night—if it is to be so—O God receive my unworthy soul for Christ sake for in him I put my trust.*



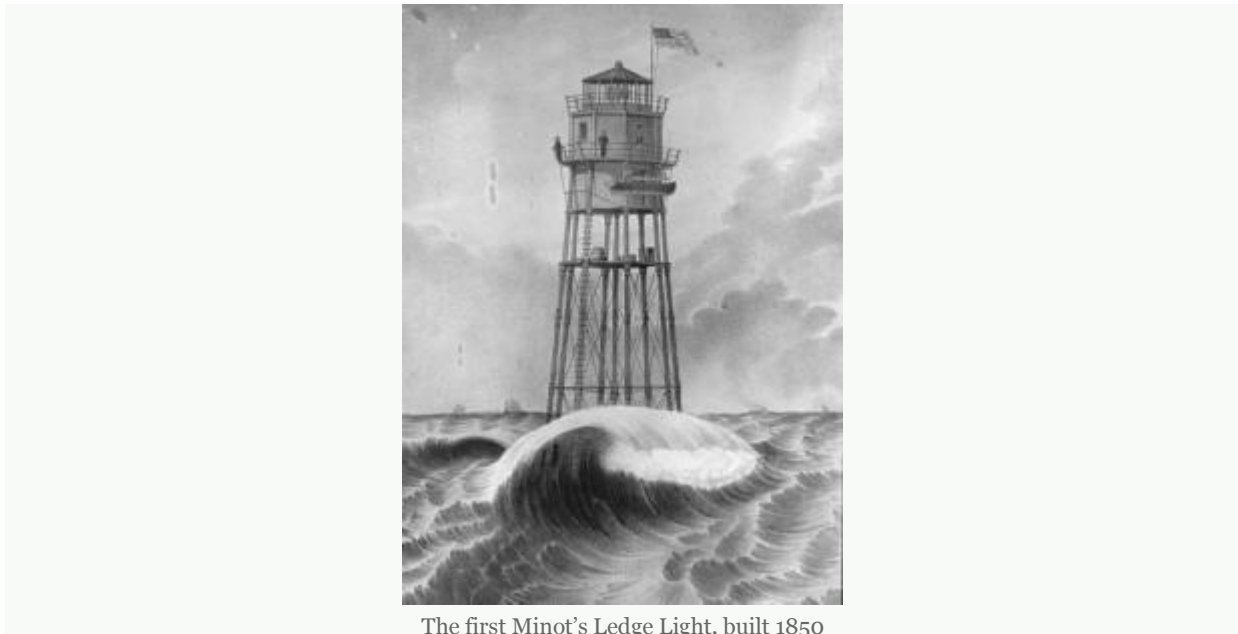
Isaac had a salary of \$600 a year. He and his son quit only nine months later in the fall of 1850 because his pleas for strengthening the unsafe structure repeatedly were ignored. It is said that his cat jumped off the tower into the sea out of terror during the swaying. In April of 1851, the lighthouse was completely demolished with the loss of the two assistants – the keeper was in Boston at the time of the storm.

Isaac returned to North Bridgewater where he remained until his death on March 25, 1856. Isaac and Abigail had eight children, six of which grew to adulthood.”

The following article was written by Patrick Browne and published on his web site “Historical Digression” on October 30, 2015. It is reproduced below with the kind permission of the author.

## **The Tragic Story of Minot’s Ledge Lighthouse**

*By Patrick Browne*



The first Minot’s Ledge Light, built 1850

The first Minot's Ledge Light, built 1850

On January 31, 1843, Isaiah W.P. Lewis, then 35 years old, submitted a report to Congress on the condition of lighthouses in New England. A respected civil engineer and former master mariner born

in Charlestown, Massachusetts, Lewis had been appointed to this task some eight months earlier. In that time he inspected 70 lighthouses and surveyed many dangerous shoals in need of a beacon.[1] Lewis's report was scathing. He criticized the administration of Stephen Pleasonton (1775-1855) who had been Superintendent of the Lighthouse Establishment for the past 23 years. Pleasonton, back during the War of 1812 when he was a clerk with the State Department, had done our nation an enormous service by rescuing the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and many other precious documents just before the British burned Washington. But he had done a great disservice by allowing the Lighthouse Establishment to fall into lethargy. The Establishment had failed to maintain facilities and made little effort to build new beacons or take advantage of new technology. Pleasonton was shamed into action. A Boston newspaper noted that Lewis's, "temerity in exposing the actual condition of things" brought about immediate repairs and widespread replacement of lamps.[2]

One of Lewis's recommendations addressed the terrible dangers of Minot's Ledge just off the coast of Cohasset, Massachusetts near Boston Harbor. Ships had been going around on the many large rocks in that vicinity for centuries--40 vessels between 1832 and 1841 alone. A report submitted in 1847 by Capt. Daniel Lothrop indicated that 40 lives had been lost there between 1817 and 1847.[3] Lewis recommended that a light be placed on the ledge immediately. His recommendation was supported by Capt. William H. Swift of the U.S. Topographical Bureau.

Lewis and Swift consulted together on the design for the first Minot's Light. The extreme challenge lay in the fact that the light would have to be placed a mile offshore on a ledge that was only exposed for a few hours at low tide. Most of the time, the base of the lighthouse would be submerged and would need to withstand incredible pressure from wind and waves. Swift favored a design involving iron pilings, essentially placing the lighthouse on stilts. This would, in theory, offer less resistance to the tide than a solid, stone tower. The latter, Lewis and Swift concluded, would be too easily toppled.[4]

And so work began in 1847. It was a slow-going, arduous process drilling the holes for the pilings. The platform set up for drilling was wrecked twice by storms in the summer of 1847 but no one was hurt during construction. With the holes drilled, work moved more quickly. Just three months before completion, in September 1849, the Brig *St. John*, a famine ship carrying Irish immigrants, ran aground and was broken up on the rocks near Minot's Ledge. 99 men, women and children drowned. For those working on Minot's Light, the tragedy must have added a new sense of urgency.

The light was first lit on January 1, 1850. It was praised as a marvel of construction and was a great reassurance to New England mariners. But the first lightkeeper, Isaac Dunham, did not feel at all confident about the structure. Noting that it swayed severely during storms, he wrote the Lighthouse

Establishment in Washington, asking them to shore up the pilings. When no action was taken, he resigned on October 7, 1850.[5]

Henry David Thoreau passed the lighthouse by boat shortly before it was completed and shortly after and recorded his impressions in his book *Cape Cod*:

*Here was the new iron light-house, then unfinished, in the shape of an egg-shell painted red, and placed high on iron pillars...A man was to live in that egg-shell day and night, a mile from the shore. When I passed it the next summer it was finished and two men lived in it, and a light-house keeper said that they told him that in a recent gale it had rocked so as to shake the plates off the table. Think of making your bed thus in the crest of a breaker! To have the waves, like a pack of hungry wolves, eying you always, night and day, and from time to time making a spring at you, almost sure to have you at last.[6]*

The second keeper was Capt. John W. Bennett who brought on two assistant keepers, an Englishman named Joseph Wilson and a Portuguese man named Joseph Antoine. Bennett initially scoffed at his predecessor's timidity. But it was not long before Bennett himself came to the conclusion that the structure was unsafe and repeatedly wrote to officials requesting that it be strengthened. The keepers frequently had to remove bent iron braces between the pilings and bring them to shore to have them straightened.[7]

A storm on March 16, 1851 caused the lighthouse to rock so severely that the keepers had to take shelter down in the lower store room for days, surviving on bread and raw meat.[8] The storm did serious damage to the lighthouse equipment and food stores, smashed the lighthouse's dory, and further weakened the iron braces. At this point, newspapers picked up on the story, pointing out the clear danger and, in one case suggesting to authorities that, "...explanation is necessary to account for the violent motion of the structure during the gale." [9]

On April 11, Capt. Bennett departed the lighthouse to visit the Customs House in Boston to arrange for the purchase of a new dory. He left the light in the charge of his two assistant keepers. The next day, he returned to Cohasset intending to get back to Minot's Light. But an easterly gale had developed and the sea was extremely heavy. Venturing by boat out to the lighthouse was impossible.

Capt. Bennett, could only watch and wait over the next few days as the storm intensified to hurricane force. The storm which reached its peak on April 16, 1851 caused tremendous damage up and down the New England coast. Much of Boston was submerged. The *Boston Evening Transcript* reported that it was likely the highest tide in Boston's history and, "Great apprehensions are felt in regard to the lighthouse at Minot's Ledge. The weather is still too misty to determine if it is standing." [10]



The Destruction of Minot's Ledge Light, from "Gleason's Pictorial"

### The Destruction of Minot's Ledge Light, from "Gleason's Pictorial"

Inside the battered lighthouse, keepers Wilson and Antoine kept the light burning and the bells sounding into the night of April 16. Residents on the shore of Cohasset recalled seeing the light as late as 10 p.m. It is believed that, around 11 p.m., the central support piling snapped and the lighthouse began to list, held up only by a few of the smaller outer pilings. Somewhat before 1 a.m. on April 17, 1851, these gave way. Residents claimed to have heard the lighthouse bell ringing violently about this time, perhaps an attempt by the keepers to communicate their terrible distress. No one could see the lighthouse as it toppled in the waves. Joseph Antoine's body washed up on Nantasket Beach that morning. Joseph Wilson's body was found on tiny Gull Island, just about 300 yards from the mainland of Cohasset. It is believed he managed to swim to the island but died of exposure.

After the tragedy, newspapers recorded much indignation. "It has been a matter of wonder to us," a Brooklyn paper read, "that measures were not taken by the government to strengthen it, or if that were impracticable, to abandon it altogether and not continue to imperil the lives of brave men..."[11]

Capt. William Swift, who had been the primary designer of the structure, visited the site on April 22, inspected it thoroughly and made sketches of the broken pilings. Defending his design, he argued that much damage had been done by a hawser which keeper Bennett had apparently fastened to the lantern deck which he used for running boxes or a landing chair up and down--what we might call a zip-line now. This hawser was tied to a huge granite block. With the surf pushing this block, it would actually have the effect of pulling on the lighthouse near its highest point--almost as though

designed to pull it down.[12] While this may have contributed, clearly the structure failed in a great many ways.

The lighthouse on Minot's Ledge was rebuilt, this time as a granite tower standing 114 feet tall. It was first lit on November 15, 1860 and still stands today.

[1] Arnold B. Johnson, "Lighthouse Establishment," *Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia and Register of Important Events of the Year 1880*, (1887), p. 433

[2] Ibid.

[3] U.S. Coast Guard, "Historic Light Station Information & Photography: Massachusetts" and Edward Rowe Snow, *Storms and Shipwrecks of New England*, (1943), Applewood Books 2005 ed., p. 96

[4] Ray Jones, "Lighthouses through History," *The Lighthouse Encyclopedia: The Definitive Reference*, (2013), p. 29

[5] U.S. Coast Guard, "Historic Light Station Information"

[6] Henry David Thoreau, *Cape Cod*, (1865), Houghton Mifflin 1893 ed., p. 318

[7] U.S. Coast Guard, "Historic Light Station Information"

[8] *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, April 16, 1851

[9] Ibid.

[10] Snow, p. 98

[11] *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, April 18, 1851

[12] George W. Cullum, "William H. Swift," *Register of Officers and Graduates of the United States Military Academy*, (1891), vol. 1, p. 241