

EXCITING PROJECT UNDERWAY

Open Letter to All DD Readers

DEAR DUNHAM DISPATCHERS:

My thanks to Susan Bidwell Williams who called one day in January to tell me about Phyllis Kitson and her work with the Dunham Dispatch. I wonder how I could have been unaware of this project for so long. Perhaps I had my nose buried in Dunham probates or land records.

Phyllis has sent me her latest copies of D.D., and I'm delighted to learn that Dunham descendants are communicating through this newsletter. A lot of us are searching for the missing link, or links, in our Dunham lines. Part of our mutual problems occur in the descendants of Joseph² (John¹) Dunham. These are two fold; (1) many records of the Middleboro Massachusetts Dunhams were lost to that old enemy fire; and (2) I believe that several of these Dunham lines were Baptists and therefore their baptisms (as children) are not recorded.

After discovering many years ago (what all of you already well know), the problems with Isaac Watson Dunham's book, I decided in January of 1994 that the time had come to do something about it. My goal is to produce a new Dunham Genealogy, which I hope will meet the current standards of genealogical research. The most stringent of those standards includes a reference to a primary source document such as Vital Record, probate, church record, or land deed.

So, I started with the beginning of the Dunham family in America--with John¹. I have followed all of his children, and all of their branches using well documented primary sources (but not IWD). I will include reference citations to all probates, and record the deed numbers for transactions pertaining to each Dunham. In narrative sections, where pertinent, I will quote the passages from both deeds and probates which prove the family line.

In an effort to follow family migration patterns, and study the naming patterns in the different branches, I felt the time had arrived for me to place a notice in the "Genealogies in Progress" column in NEXUS. This I did in the June-Sept. 1994 issue, and I've been very gratified with the letters and information provided by lots of Dunham descendants. There are many unanswered questions out there. I would like to join the ranks of "Dunham Dispatchers" to evaluate our combined materials.

Most of the Dunham lines in my project have now (using only primary sources) been extended to seven generations. At present I am systematically researching all deeds and probates in Plymouth County records. This is about half finished, and it not only supplements the genealogical connections of family members, but also allows me to accurately locate these families on the map. Next I'll tackle the Bristol County deeds and probates, and then begin to radiate out from there.

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I would like to share the progress of my research with all the "D.D's" by contributing up dates, and addressing certain problem areas in subsequent issues of the Dunham Dispatch.

Yours truly,
Gratia Dunham Mahony
North Andover, Massachusetts

ALSO FROM GRATIA:

A CASE IN POINT RE: THE
MIDDLEBORO DUNHAMS

A query in regard to Ephraim Dunham was printed in the March 1995 Dunham Dispatch. The answer to it illustrates one of the problems in tracing the Middleboro descendants of Joseph² (John¹).

The Ephraim Dunham in question was indeed a son of Nathaniel³ (Joseph², John¹), but his wife was Mary Tilson (not Elizabeth Tilden as given in the query). They had a son, Ephraim⁴ who was b. ca. 1692-95, m. Dec. 1725 (Midd. VR 1:46) Annis Smith. In tracing Ephraim⁴ in the probate records we discover that he had an "only son Jonathan" (who would be Jonathan⁵) whose three children were heirs to the estate of Ephraim⁴. These children were: Ephraim⁶ (birth not recorded in VR), Annis⁶ (birth not recorded in VR), and Jonathan⁶ (birth not recorded in VR).

Marriages of these three children are given in Middleboro VR's. Ephraim⁶ m. 10 Aug. 1782 Joanna Lyon; Annis⁶ m. 5 Nov. 1774 David Caswell; and Jonathan⁶ m. 15 Nov. 1790 Joanna Jones. Plymouth County Land Records 76:163 and 88:231 also document these three children as the heirs of their grandfather Ephraim⁴, and locate them on the 57th lot in Sixteen Shilling Purchase (on what is now Rhode Island Road in Lakeville).

The marriage of Ephraim Donham, JR to Mercy Tinkham on 30 Nov. 1741 belongs to another man, also living in Middleboro. He is called JR. because he is younger than the Ephraim⁴ above. I have not yet found conclusive proof of his parentage, but I believe that he was a son of Joseph³ (Joseph², John¹). He therefore would also be an Ephraim⁴ but his children who are listed in the Middleboro VR's were Mary⁵, b. 18 April 1742; Philemon⁵ b. 20 Dec. 1744; and Lydia⁵ b. 23 March 1747/48.

Joseph³ (Joseph², John¹) b. about 1675-6 in Plymouth, m. 19 June 1706, prob. in Freetown Bethia Chase, dau. Benjamin Chase of Freetown. They resided in Freetown, Norton and Middleboro. Proven children are: Hannah⁴ b. 1 June 1707 (Freetown VR), Stephen⁴ b. 5 May 1709 (Freetown VR), Josiah⁴ Ply. Co. LR 79:209 and Joseph⁴. Children who are still unproved, but who I believe are in this family include Nathaniel b. abt. 1711-1719, Ephraim (who m. Mercy Tinkham as above), possibly Mary, and possibly Phebe.

I would of course, be most interested to hear from anyone who has information on any of these Middleboro Massachusetts lines.

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AN INDIAN CAPTIVE

The April 1861 issue of NEHGR (15 # 2) provided P. C. Alger, Derry, NH, with an interesting surprise, entitled "An Indian Captive," which follows: "DUNHAM -- Providence, Feb. 18, 1769. -- Last week passed through here, in his way to Barnstable, the place of his residence, Richard Dunham, who in the year 1763 was wounded & taken prisoner near Detroit, by a party of French & Indians. He belonged to the N. Eng. forces & was in a detachment under Capt. Dalzell when taken. During the engagement his jawbone was shattered by a ball, which passed through his mouth, tore away part of his tongue, & destroyed some of his teeth. The ball being poisoned, his wound was never thoroughly cured, & he became loathsome to himself. He, with 5 other prisoners, was sold from one Indian nation to another, till they arrived at the Spanish Main, where they endured a long & cruel captivity; frequently seeing their fellow prisoners burnt at the stake, or inhumanly butchered by the savages. Being sent out to hunt with 5 others, attended by 3 Indians, in crossing a lake in a canoe, they threw the savages over, & after traveling 13 days, got to North Carolina." Boston Ev. Post, 6 Mar. 1769.

P.C. later learned this was not the ancestor -

R E L A T E D Q U E R Y

DESPERATELY SEEKING RICHARD DUNHAM. Richard is NOT a common Dunham name for the 1700's. Richardson, as a first name, is even more unusual. Research to this point has taken me to RICHARDSON DUNHAM, b. May 1760, unknown birthplace & parentage. Richardson married Susannah Dodge in Brookfield, MA Oct. 1783. Earlier records show Richardson (sometimes calling himself RICHARD) enlisted in the Am. Rev. War in 1779, from Brookfield, MA, for the entire war. He was a pensioner. Despite extensive researching of town, county, & early census records, no further evidence has been acquired. Nor have other family genealogies of Richardson, Dodge, or Dunham, given me a clue. If you or anyone you know would be related or would have information regarding the Richard Dunham in the above article, please contact me. P. C. ALGER, 14 Lesley Circle, Derry, NH 03038.

Q U E R Y

EDWARD J. VAN ISTENDAL, 854 Decker Lane, Warminster, PA 18974-2411, has 2 problem areas in his wife's Dunham line. He wants to verify that Thomas Dunham (6) was the son of Jonathan Dunham (1751-1805)(5) (Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Daniel 3, Daniel 4) & Rebecca Norton. ((We have this Thomas Dunham's dates as 1798-1882, & his wife as Caroline Abbott.)) Next in Mrs. Van Istendal's line is Abisha Dunham (1802-1879)(7), who married Matilda Haskell. ((If our dates for Thomas (6) are correct, he would have been far too young to be the father of Abisha.)) In subsequent generations of this line are shown: Abisha (7) & Matilda were the parents of Francis Marion Dunham (1840-1911)(8), whose wife was Elzada Collison; their daughter, Sadie Dunham (9) married Cronie Mills; Daniel Wayne Mills (10) married Theresa Perrino; Danalle Mills (11) married Ed Van Istendal. Are any of these names familiar to readers of DD? Could you help the Van Istendals to straighten out their Dunham lineage?



TALENTED MUSICIAN

Mrs. Alfred R. Willard passes along her knowledge of voice to aspiring singers here in Cleveland. Her days as Edna Dunham, opera star, are a pleasant memory.

Mrs. Alfred R. Willard, 1829 Burnett Avenue, East Cleveland, one of Cleveland's most

talented musicians and former president of the women's committee of the Cleveland Orchestra, modestly reminisces about her career as an opera star. She was known as Edna Dunham, the "American Soprano," who sang in Carnegie Hall in 1914, and followed with 20 engagements in the next year with outstanding choral groups or concerts throughout the east and in Chicago.

When she was 14, growing up in Chicago, it was discovered she had a "voice." "From then on," says Mrs. Willard, "I studied, practiced and sang to the exclusion of everything else."

After formal training in

Chicago she went to Europe to study, and made her debut in Vienna in a production of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. There followed recitals throughout Europe, and on her return to New York, more engagements with orchestras there, in Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston.

In New York she met Mr. Willard, also a musician, and when they were married in the Little Church Around the Corner, they forgot all about arranging for any musical accompaniment for the ceremony. Now she teaches voice, with the assistance of her talented husband, who does the accompanying.

The CLEVELAND PLAIN DEALER of May 12, 1957 ran a feature on 4 local women who had had earlier careers in various aspects of "show business." One of the four was Edna Dunham Willard (1885-1960)(10)(John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Samuel E. 9). Edna is shown both as she appeared ca. 1911 & in a contemporary photo.

APOLOGY, PLUS EXCUSES

DD apologizes for publishing so many photographs of the ancestors of Editor Phyllis Kitson. Our excuse is that this branch of the Dunham family seems to have spent a great deal of time at the photographer's studio, & had few other descendants to inherit the results of those trips. Also, we're not getting enough photos from DD's readers. Please DO send more photos (or, for that matter, any available newspaper clippings or old letters). Remember, RECENT items are very, very welcome.

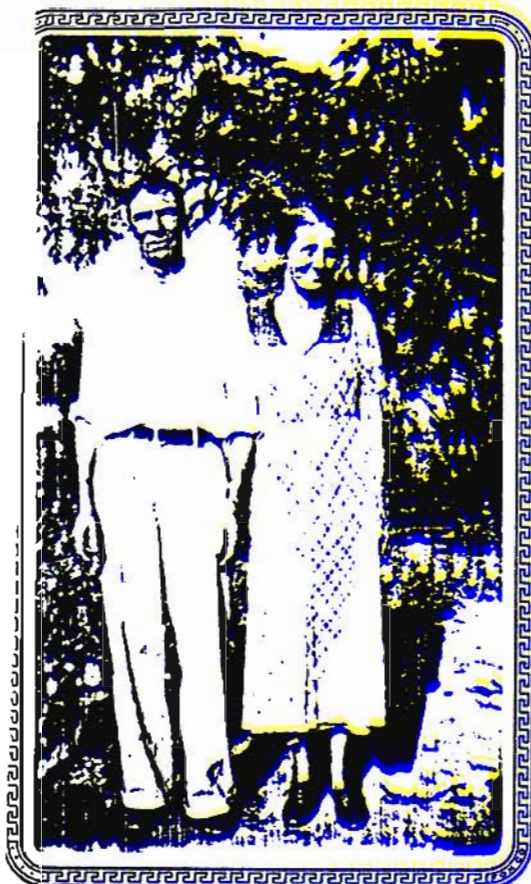
WHO'S WIDOW?

P. C. Alger shares this obituary from the ONEIDA (NY) DISPATCH of Feb. 17, 1905. Oddly enough, the account does not give the name of Mrs. Jane Dunham's husband.

2-17-1905

On Saturday at 3:30 a. m. Mrs. Jane Dunham passed quietly away, having survived her husband by not quite a year. She had been gradually failing for some time past, and when in the fall she was so low with pneumonia it was feared she would not live through the winter. When, however, she rallied, hope began to return and we who loved her rejoiced to see her about again. For about a year she had been a sufferer from asthma and two weeks ago had another attack, it seeming at times that she could not possibly get another breath. Her strength began to fall rapidly. On Thursday she kissed her loved ones good bye, soon afterward becoming unconscious. She had a slight stroke, the left side being partially paralyzed. Had she lived until the 16th of this month she would have been 71 years old. Deceased was an earnest Christian, a Methodist in belief, a kind friend and neighbor, and of her it can be said she always tried to do her best. She leaves one daughter, Belle, wife of William McArthur, and two grandchildren, Carl and Grace. Funeral services will be held today (Tuesday) at 1 o'clock at the church, Rev. Mr. Holmes of Cleveland officiating.

Oneida Dispatch



Ira Dunham and Cathirene Sims Smith Dunham

DD is pleased to have this picture from a new source, Sherry Dunham Stapleton of Antlers, OK. The photo, which probably dates from the early 1930's, shows Sherry's great grandparents. Ira Orval Dunham (1882-1942) (10) was the son of James T. Dunham (1845-1920) (9) (John 1, Benajah 2, Edmund 3, Jonathan 4, David 5, Jonathan 6, Jonathan 7, Justus 8), who served in the Civil War in the 9th Iowa Volunteer Cavalry, & later settled in Texas.
