

A MIX OF PERIODS:

Trip through Time Covers 1858 to 1961

1858

From Dale Gaa, Greenwich, NY, we have this obituary, first published in the GALENA (IL) COURIER on Apr. 30, & copied by THE WASHINGTON COUNTY (NY) POST on May 14. It pertains to the life & death of Hercules R. Dunham (1812-1858)(8)(Deacon John 1, Benijah 2, Edmund 3, Jonathan 4, Jonathan 5, Jonathan 6, Nahum 7):

DEATH OF H. R. DUNHAM. The death of this excellent man & pastor took place at his residence in this city yesterday morning about 5 o'clock. His disease was consumption, & although the event was not unexpected, its occurrence has excited the deepest feelings of sorrow in the entire community. He had been a resident here a little over one year, but in that period, by his superior mind & his large-heartedness, his unremitting application to his charges as a Christian teacher, he had endeared himself to all who came in contact with him.

Mr. Dunham was a native of Washington County, NY. By his jov....effort he succeeded in obtaining a superior education & graduated, we believe, at Union College under the venerable Dr. Nott. He pursued his theological course at New Haven, CT & was admitted as a licensed preacher in 1842. Very soon after he was selected by the Presbyterian Church in Cortlandville, NY, where he continued in a course of more than ordinary success in the discharge of his pastoral duties until he removed to Galena in Dec. 1856. In all places & on all occasions where he was called on to act, influence was marked. Before his health began to fail, his physical strength was such as enabled him to endure great labor & no one can point to the instance where he did not use his full powers, both physical & mental, for the good of fellow men. The writer of this paragraph has known Mr. Dunham long & is prepared to say that few men have the disposition & ability to do, & very few men are they who have done more good in their lifetime than the good man whose death we now chronicle.

Mr. Dunham's mind was strong & active in proportion as he was large in physical development. Simplicity, directness & force were his characteristics as a speaker; benevolence, unostentatious acts of kindness & encouragement, & the most scrupulous regard for the feelings of others were peculiar to him as a pastor. As a man, he was honorable, exact & high-toned in all things & to all men. Mr. Dunham leaves a wife & one child. He was twice married, his first wife & child having died a few years since. His remains will be taken to Cortland, where they will be buried in the burial cemetery at that place, a beautiful spot, much of the attractiveness of which is owing to the active effort of him who will repose amidst its quiet & solemn loveliness.

1897

From P. C. Alger, Derry, NH, DD has this obituary for John E. Dunham (1811-1897)(8)(Deacon John 1, Jonathan 2, Jonathan 3, Cornelius 4, Shubael 5, Cornelius 6, Samuel H. 7). John E. Dunham died in Rome, NY on May 18, 1897.

JOHN E. DUNHAM DEAD. WIDELY KNOWN THROUGHOUT CENTRAL NEW YORK A Large Land Owner & Thoroughgoing Business Man - His Extensive Farming Enterprises. John E. Dunham, in his 87th year, died at his home, # 218 W. Court St., on Tuesday evening at 8 o'clock. he was born on Jan. 7, 1811 in Windsor, Berkshire Co., Mass, about 30 miles north of Pittsfield. About one year later his father moved onto a small farm which he purchased (to p.2)

JOHN E. DUNHAM (from p. 1) in Columbia Co., NY, near the Massachusetts line.

Mr. Dunham was of New England descent on his father's side & of Holland Dutch on his mother's side. His father was Samuel Hancock Dunham, a native of Martha's Vineyard, MA & whose mother was a descendant of the family which included Gov. John Hancock, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. His mother was Lucy Hollenbeck, whose father was one of the descendants of the settlers of the Hudson River. His Grandfather Hollenbeck owned a number of slaves & was a large farmer & lumberman.

From early childhood Mr. Dunham had a great liking for business activity, & when a very young boy one of his pleasantest pastimes was to visit at his grandfather's, where there was plenty of it. In accordance with a characteristic trait of his to like to see people take innocent recreation, he used to enjoy watching the negroes as they danced, or listening to them as they sang in the room or kitchen set apart for them, & held to the opinion that they were as happy & contented a people as existed. Several of them preferred to remain with the family after they were freed, one old negress living to over 100 years old, always receiving the best of care & attention.

His early education was limited to the district school near his home. His father being in poor health, the care of the farm early devolved upon him, & from the time when he was 15 or 16 years old, he had almost the entire management, with his parent's counsel, of his father's affairs, buying the stock for & selling the produce from the farm, & thereby assisted in paying off a small mortgage which his father owed for an addition bought to the original farm.

He visited New York City when a boy in company with a merchant who conducted a store in the village near his home, & who gave him so good a recommendation that he made arrangements to go to New York, but on his return home his mother, a woman of much resolution & character, & whose wisdom & counsel he always respected, opposed so strenuously that he abandoned the plan.

In addition to working upon the farm & attending to his father's business, he soon commenced to deal for himself & was at once recognized as a young man of strict reliability. Before he became of age he bought several hundred sheep for which he borrowed the money on his individual note of a man to whom he had sold grain for his father & who took his note without hesitancy. He was always a man of punctuality, & his word as good as his note. He was a self-made man & had ---- his property by his own industry & perseverance. He had for ----- been a large farm. ----- had prepared all things needful for man's use & employment, if made the best use of, & his whole hope & trust was in God.

He chose for his companion in life Miss Martha A. Smith of Cheshire, near Pittsfield, MA, to whom he was married in 1848 & who died in 1882. She was a daughter of Samuel Smith, then of Cheshire, but who many years ago purchased & moved onto the farm near Stokes, formerly called the Nisbit farm. He had 4 children. One son, John S., died in infancy. He leaves one son, George E., & 2 daughters, Misses Ada E. & Mary F., who resided with him, & one sister, Mrs. Henry Elmworth, one year younger than himself, living in Ypsilanti, Mich.

He was a man of strong family ties & thought a great deal of his kinfolk if ever so distant, & had a remarkably contented & happy disposition. he felt that every blessing had been bestowed upon him that he could ask for, often expressing his thankfulness for the same. He had been gradually failing for the past year or more but not very perceptibly until the past winter (to p. 3)

JOHN E. DUNHAM (from p. 2) & for the last 2 weeks had failed rapidly, passing sway peacefully at last. He had ridden out every day that was pleasant & took a short ride the day before his death.

1860 OHIO CENSUS (Cont'd from July)

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Concert singer Edna Dunham (later Willard) (1885-1960)(10)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Samuel E. 9) had a lot of publicity photos made. The one on Page 4, autographed yet, was made either in 1910 or 1911. (Edna couldn't recall which.) Don't you LOVE the hat?

QUERY

MRS. SHIRLEY ESCHENBURG, 46185 Oaklawn, Macomb, MI 48042-5340, is searching for the parents of MARTHA DUNHAM (1792-1885), who married Seneca RIDER in 1815 in Canada West. He was a veteran of the War of 1812. As a widow, Martha moved to Michigan ca. 1869-70, living with her various children in St. Clair & perhaps Lapeer Counties. Her children were: John Dunham Rider, Mrs. Abraham (Anna Deletia Rider) Zeran, Job Dunham Rider, William Henry Rider, David Rider, Mrs. John or Joseph (Mahala Jane Rider) Vincent (later Mrs. O. Burris of Michigan), Mrs. Samuel (Mary Rider) Bush, & Mrs. Peter (Henrietta Elizabeth Rider) Young.

INITIAL RESPONSE: Since Martha may have been born in NY, a check of the 1790 1800 & 1810 NY census for Dunhams with the first names of any of the names Martha gave her sons could be worthwhile. Then it might be possible to follow these families forward in time.



Edna Dunham
1910-11



the photo session. Could this be older sister Lola? In the second photo, taken 3 years later, the boys have grown considerably. Elbert H. has moved to center stage, with Buddy on the left & Leroy on the right.

RIGHT - This newspaper clipping appeared on the front page of THE CASPER (WY) TRIBUNE-HERALD on Oct. 1, 1961. It concerns James W. Dunham (1910-1961)(7)(Joseph 1, Henry 2, Richard 3, John S. 4, James 5, Frank 6). Jim's picture appeared in the October 1995 DD. Thanks for the clipping go to Sue Stewart, Puryear, TN, Jim's sister-in-law.



LEFT - The 3 sons of Elbridge Harm Dunham (1906-1979)(11)(Deacon John 1, Benijah 2, Edmund 3, Jonathan 4, David 5, Jonathan 6, Jonathan 7, Justus 8, James T. 9, Ira O. 10) are seen here in 2 Antlers, OK snapshots, for which DD thanks Sherry Stapleton. The first dates from 1940 & shows (L to R): Elbridge Harm, Jr.; Elbert L. ("Buddy"); & Orval Leroy. There appears to be someone in the back seat of the car, looking out the rear window, observing

Oct 1 - 1961 Workman Collapses And Dies

Collapsing while at work tearing down the tree limbs broken at the Natrona County Fairgrounds during the recent storm, Jim Dunham, 51, died suddenly Thursday morning. He was an employee at the Fairgrounds.

Mr. Dunham was born May 10, 1910, at Sikeston, Mo. He spent his early years in Missouri but had resided in various parts of Wyoming since 1946 and in Casper since 1948.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. A. E. Gruber; and a son, James Dunham, both of Casper; four grandchildren; a sister, Mrs. James Copple of California; four brothers, John Paul Stewart of Kentucky, Millard B. Dunham of Flint, Mich., Billy Mac Dunham and Wendall Dunham, both of Washington state.

The Bustard Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements for the services, with details not yet completed.