

## Season's Greetings



### MORE ON THE FAMILY OF ROBERT HOLMES DUNHAM

From Sue C. Stewart, Puryear, TN, comes a very interesting account, from WEST NASHVILLE: ITS PEOPLE & ENVIRONS, which ties tightly to the account of the Dunham family, sent by Marilyn Roth, Mitchell, SD, which appeared in the 11-96 DD.

### DANIEL DUNHAM

Daniel Dunham and family settled on Richland Creek, a few miles west of Fort Nashborough, as other pioneers did in 1784. But this family was in Watauga before coming to presee Middle Tennessee. John and Joseph Dunham's names appeared on the 1776 Wataua Petition.<sup>87</sup> In 1778 John Dunham served as a member of the first grand jury of Washington County, North Carolina.<sup>88</sup>

John Dunham had settled in what is now Sullivan County near Bristol in 1775.<sup>89</sup> Joseph Mary and Reuben Dunham's names kept reappearing in the Washington County records. But the Dunhams fared together after their arrival on Donelson's fleet of ships in April, 1780 at Fort Nashborough. The Daniel Dunham family was said to have been present on the overwater journey.<sup>91</sup> Only John Dunham's signature though appeared on the Cumberland Compact written in May, 1780.<sup>92</sup>

Upon their arrival this family lived at Freeland's Station where John Dunham served Ensign.<sup>93</sup> That first summer young lads named Joseph and William Dunham were present Denton's Lick when an older man was killed by the Indians. The boys fled to safety in time. Again in 1781 when Mrs. Dunham sent her little Polly outside the fort for an armload of firewood, the Indians caught and scalped her while she screamed for her parents. Although the anxious mother was shot by the savages, she managed to drive them off with a hoe.

By 1784 John Dunham received six hundred, forty acres of land as his preemption for military services in defending the Cumberland settlement.<sup>96</sup> On May 8, 1784 Daniel Dunham was issued a land grant by the state of North Carolina for a square mile of land on the water of Richland Creek, the tract being bordered by James Thompson, Isaac Johnson, William Fletcher and Samuel Martin.<sup>97</sup> On his preemption Daniel Dunham built a log fort. Known as *Dunham's Station*,<sup>98</sup> it was located west of Johnson and Joslin's Fort on the present site of Belle Meade mansion.

<sup>87</sup>J. G. M. Ramsey, *Annals of Tennessee*, (Charleston: J. Russell Company, 1853), p. 138. Putnam, *History*, p. 48.

<sup>88</sup>Ray, *Cousins*, p. 14.

<sup>89</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 163.

<sup>90</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 16.

<sup>91</sup>Haywood, *Civil and Political*, p. 107. Ray, *Cousins*, p. 669.

<sup>92</sup>Putnam, *History*, p. 100-102.

<sup>93</sup>*Ibid.*, p. 187.

<sup>94</sup>Haywood, *op cit.*, p. 125.

<sup>95</sup>*Draper Manuscripts*, 32S318. Haywood, *Civil and Political*, p. 130.

<sup>96</sup>Haywood, *Civil and Political*, p. 219.

<sup>97</sup>*North Carolina Land Grant* #173, Warrant #122, dated January 15, 1784, issued to Daniel Dunham, Grant Book 66, p. 191.

<sup>98</sup>Putnam, *History*, p. 339.



(Continued from page one)

Near this site a few years later though the two young lads, William and Joseph Dunham, who had run to safety from the Indians in 1780, were not swift enough the second time. They were both killed by the Creeks at the site of Hodge's Station.<sup>99</sup> Daniel Dunham, Senior was killed nearby at his plantation during this October, 1788 massacre.<sup>100</sup> Daniel had just a few months earlier appointed Isaac Johnson as his power of attorney.<sup>101</sup> These Dunham men were scalped and chopped as had been common practice by the foe during those troublesome times.

The following year during June, 1789, William Dunham was mortally wounded by the Creek Indians, and Elijah Robertson buried him at his house.<sup>102</sup> Dunham's Station was burned and destroyed that same week although it had been evacuated.<sup>103</sup> The station was later rebuilt by Daniel Dunham, Junior, and the double log cabin with dogtrot still stands today.

John Dunham died in 1790 and Jenny Dunham handled administration of his estate.<sup>104</sup> At the sale of his personal properties were such family members as Jean, Mary and John Dunham.<sup>105</sup> Neighbor Isaac Johnson, owner of Johnson's Fort, took Mary Dunham as his wife in 1780.<sup>106</sup> But there were several other Dunham family members who married in Davidson County and Williamson County during those days of the beginnings of Nashville. They were:<sup>107</sup> Polly Dunham who married Allison Edney; John Dunham who married Polly Waller; Joseph Dunham who married Nancy Bronson; Rebecca Dunham who married Sion Hunt; and Elizabeth Dunham who married James Stanley.

Daniel Dunham, Junior and Henry Dunham's names appeared on Davidson County, Tennessee deeds around the turn of the nineteenth century. As late as 1816 Daniel A. Dunham paid taxes in the old twelfth district of Davidson County, probably on land inherited from his father.<sup>108</sup> He served as justice of the peace from this district in 1820.<sup>109</sup> In October, 1826 Mr. Elijah Dunham died in Natchez, Mississippi at the age of fifty years.<sup>110</sup> Perhaps he was an offspring from the old Nashville family. In the *National Banner and Nashville Whig* on February 10, 1826 appeared the death notice of William H. Dunham who died in this county on the first instant,<sup>111</sup> son of Daniel A. Dunham, Esquire.

The early pioneer cabin of Daniel Dunham can still be seen on the grounds of Belle Meade mansion today. On February 21, 1807,<sup>112</sup> Daniel A. Dunham sold the family fort to John Harding, a tract containing some two hundred, fifty acres. Many of the Dunham family had died fighting Indians on the banks of Richland Creek at this site.

The Hardings came to Davidson County in 1798 and bought tracts on the Harpeth River,<sup>113</sup> from David Cloyd. Two brothers named Giles and Thomas, sons of William and Sarah (Laforce) Harding, were the original settlers here in Middle Tennessee.<sup>114</sup> John Harding, one of six sons of Giles and Amidia (Morris) Harding, married Miss Susannah Shute, the daughter of Phillip and Elizabeth (Waller) Shute, on August 1, 1806.<sup>115</sup> They became the parents of three children: Amanda Harding who married Francis McGavock; William Giles Harding who married Mary Selene McNairy, and secondly to Elizabeth Irwin McGavock; and Elizabeth Harding who married Joseph Clay.

On the old Dunham tract in 1807 John and Susannah Harding made their home in the pioneer cabin beside Richland Creek. Within a few years though John Harding completed a brick home on his enlarged plantation for his family and began breeding horses and managing a stock farm. When the residence burned in 1852, William Giles Harding, the farm manager, rebuilt the house—the Belle Meade mansion as we know it today. The Harding farm attained the highest position worldwide as the best breeder of thoroughbred horses. The name of Belle Meade mansion now holds a romantic spot in Middle Tennessee history and is one of Nashville's beautiful showplaces.

The West Meade mansion, located on the western portion of the original Harding tract on present Highway Seventy South, was built in 1886 on property that William Giles Harding gave his daughter, Mary Elizabeth, wife of Judge Howell Jackson. In 1944 some seventeen hundred, fifty acres, part of which borders present Davidson Road, was subdivided for redevelopment. The other daughter, Selene, wife of General William H. Jackson, resided at Belle Meade mansion after her father's death. In 1906 Luke Lea and others formed the Belle Meade Land Company, and began subdividing the old plantation. Today this vicinity is known as the city of Belle Meade.



<sup>99</sup>Clayton, *Davidson County*, map p. 32A. Haywood, *op cit*, p. 142.

<sup>100</sup>Ray, *Tennessee Cousins*, p. 676.

<sup>101</sup>*Davidson County, Tennessee Will Book 1*, p. 66.

<sup>102</sup>Dunham, *Daniel Smith*, p. 109.

<sup>103</sup>*Ibid*, p. 110.

<sup>104</sup>*Davidson County, Tennessee Will Book 1*, p. 187.

<sup>105</sup>*Ibid*.

<sup>106</sup>Hugh Walker, "Early Settler Survived Historian's Sharp Pen," *The Tennessean*, December 16, 1979, Section B, p. 1 & 6.

<sup>107</sup>*Davidson County, Tennessee Marriage Book 1*, p. 33, 1, 5 and 20 respectively. Whitley, Edythe R., *Marriages of Williamson County*, p. 177.

<sup>108</sup>Clayton, *Davidson County*, p. 371.

<sup>109</sup>*Ibid*, p. 89.

<sup>110</sup>Reverend Silas Lucas, Junior, *Obituaries from Early Tennessee Newspapers 1794-1851*, (Easley, South Carolina: Southern Historical Press, 1978), p. 112.

<sup>111</sup>*Ibid*, p. 112.

<sup>112</sup>*Davidson County, Tennessee Deed Book G*, p. 192.

<sup>113</sup>*Davidson County, Tennessee Deed Book E*, p. 54 and 57.

<sup>114</sup>Ridley Wills, II, "The Harding Family," *Nashville: A Family Town*, (Nashville: The Nashville Public Library, 1978), p. 120.

<sup>115</sup>*Davidson County, Tennessee Marriage Book 1*, p. 57.

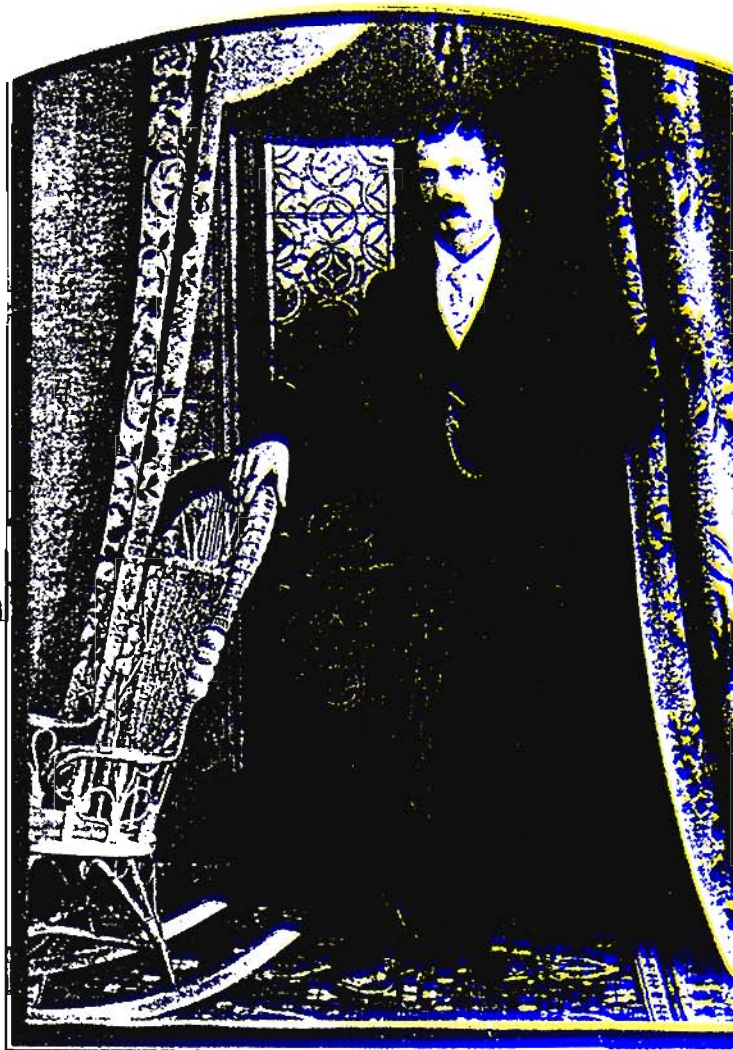
You will note several instances where the stories are the same. In both, "Old" Daniel Dunham (sometimes more respectfully called Daniel Dunham, Sr.) was a member of the party involved in Donelson's voyage down the Tennessee River to found Nashville in 1780; in both, this Daniel built a fort called Dunham's Station; in both, Daniel, Sr. was killed by Indians in 1788. (WN, IP&E adds numerous indirect ancestors for Robert Holmes Dunham & his siblings.) These stories, so filled with danger & bloodshed, are certainly enough to make anyone glad to be living in the late 20th century, despite our many problems. (Maybe we only THINK we have it tough!) They also inspire a fresh admiration for the courage of those earlier people who settled the country at such peril.

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THIS PHOTO OF SAMUEL A. MOORE (1874-1965) (5) (Hannah Dunham Freeman (1774-1853) of Genesee Co., NY 1, Samuel Freeman 2, Susannah Freeman Richmond 3, Penina Richmond Moore 4) comes to DD from Frances Sawyer, Gothenburg, NE. Samuel was born in Charlton, IA. Ms. Sawyer's query regarding the parents of Hannah Dunham Freeman appeared in the November 1995 DD.

PLEASE REMEMBER, when discussing DD with any people who may want to be on the mailing list, to tell them to include a return envelope with 55 cents postage on it. This is to cover an introduction letter, a back issue & a personal response. Several recent inquiries have not done this, & thus cannot receive a reply. They include: Arpil Dunham, Corvallis, MT; Linda Marx, Fairfield, ND; Mary Lee Merrill, Friendship, ME; Joyce Reidlin, Stewartstown, PA. If you know any of these people, advise them of the new "regulations," please.

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Judge Philip N. Dunham has designed and is building his own home. It will be the only home in the Prescott Valley Country Club with radiant heating.

Photo Courtesy of B.G. Sim

BOB W. DUNHAM, MADISON, WI, shares this entertaining & informative clipping about his brother, Philip N. Dunham (11) (Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Micaiah 3, Micaiah 4, Joseph 5, Benjamin 6, Robert F. 7, Ephraim 8, James W. 9, Rex. J. 10). Bob calls attention to the sneaky foibles of the headline writers at this Arizona newspaper (name unknown), & estimates that the clipping is 4 to 5 years old.

## Judge Dunham Never Smoked Marijuana

By Cheri Smith

Judge Philip N. Dunham of Prescott Valley is the only judge in Arizona who holds night court.

"It used to frost me when I was an attorney and I went to court with somebody who was losing time and money from their job and then couldn't get into court at the scheduled time," Dunham says.

"Then the guy would have to take another day off of work, losing more time and more money.

"I guess that, in a limited way, I'm trying to do what I can about that."

Dunham says that although his initial purpose in holding night court was to assist the people of Prescott Valley, it has also turned out to be convenient to Phoenix residents.

"It turns out that a lot of people get cited driving to and from Phoenix through Prescott Valley," Dunham says. "It's easy for them to leave right from work and drive straight to court. They don't miss any work that way."

Dunham says that being a judge for a small community is more fulfilling in some ways than serving a larger number of people.

"The district attorney in Phoenix

has a huge case load. They almost run the court as an assembly line. I don't mean that as criticism; there is no practical way to escape it, but it isn't easy to dispense justice that way.

Judge Dunham accepted the bench in Prescott Valley in 1983.

"We had very little traffic in the beginning," Dunham says. "It was possible to get to know the individual very well.

"I have a great deal of sympathy for the individual who has technically violated the law, but neither intentionally or knowingly did so. When that happens, either myself or the attorney will move to dismiss the case in the interests of justice.

"I'm not only interested in dispensing justice, but in giving people incentive not to pop back into court," Dunham says.

Judge Dunham offered opinions on the following subjects:

"People's Court's" Judge Wapner:

"I know Judge Wapner--that is, I had occasion to chat briefly with him.

He is a very interesting and very capable man. "People's Court" is not rehearsed, and it's a good example of the court system in action. These are real people with real problems. I think it's a very

educational show for most people, because the average person knows very little about the court system. Besides, it's very entertaining."

Withdrawal of Supreme Court Nominee Ginsberg following

revelations of marijuana use: "If you're going to be a judge, you can't play both sides of the fence. A judge is the only person who can legally take away somebody's liberty and property; it's a tremendous responsibility. The general public needs to perceive a judge as someone who has consistently lived his life in a law-abiding manner. In case you're wondering, I've never smoked marijuana."

The Bork Nomination: "I have no comment on whether I was for or against his nomination. I had a great deal of sympathy for the ordeal he went through. People who aspire to high positions have to balance the personal price. Yet, the system operated as it was supposed to. I know judges who sincerely decry politics in the court system, but I don't agree with that. If you say, 'no politics,' in the court system, the implication is that the court has carte blanche to do anything it wants in any case, even when there's manifest feeling the the country that certain things should apply in a

certain way. Sooner or later, these things are going to come to pass anyway. When there is a tremendous public feeling on a specific issue, and the court ignores this public perception, there may be a heavy price to pay. It brings the whole court system into disrepute.





102 YEARS AGO, on Dec. 21, 1893 Miriam Dunham (1874-1940)(10)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Samuel E. 9) was married, by her uncle, Rev. Frank B. Dunham, to Luther Ferriss in Chicago. This is one of her wedding pictures. about the wedding anniversary of New Yorker Henry N. Dunham (1843-1926)(9)(Deacon John 1, Benijah 2, Rev. Edmund 3, Rev. Jonathan 4, Jonathan 5, John 6, Nahum 7, Samuel 8).

## 1914 WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.

Golden Milestone Reached in Lives of  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dunham.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dunham, of Coila, celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary with a large reception at their home Saturday afternoon. The house was decorated with golden rod, evergreens and yellow roses. Mrs. Dunham wore a gown of gray charmeuse trimmed with old lace and carried yellow roses. Assisting Mr. and Mrs. Dunham in receiving were Mrs. Caroline Moore, of Alexandria, Va., sister of Mr. Dunham, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Snyder, of Argyle, the latter being a sister of Mrs. Dunham, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nelson, of West Pawlet, Vt., Mrs. Fannie Mankin and Mrs. Mary Woodworth, of Washington, Mrs. Walter Piser and Miss Mary Moore, of Shushan.

Mr. and Mrs. Dunham were married September 27, 1864, by the Rev. Chas. Taylor, pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Jackson. Mrs. Dunham was a daughter of James Harvey Hillman and Lydia Rice, and Mr. Dunham's parents were Daniel Dunham and Mary Norton. Mrs. Dunham's maiden name was Sarah Elizabeth Hillman. They have the following children living: Mrs. Henry Carter of Cambridge, Mrs. Henry S. Hunt, of Albany, Mrs. Dann Wood, of Schenectady, and the Rev. J. Harvey Dunham, of Washington. They also have the following grandchildren, H. Dunham Hunt and Elizabeth F. Hunt, of Albany, and Raymond Dunham, of Washington.

Among the guests from out of town were Miss Jeannette Oliphant, Mrs. I. A. Mankin, Rev. and Mrs. J. Harvey Dunham and son, Raymond, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. W. A. Moore, Miss Mary Moore, Mrs. Walter Piser and son, Leroy, Alexandria, Va.; Mr. and Mrs. Beeny, Miss Beeny, Mr. and Mrs. Henry S. Hunt and children Dunham and Elizabeth, Albany; Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Mairs, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Snyder, Argyle. The guests numbered 125, several of whom were present at the wedding fifty years ago. Mr. and Mrs. Dunham were the recipients of many congratulations and presents.

FROM DONNA HAWKS of Spring, TX, we have this 1914 clipping about the wedding anniversary of New Yorker Henry N. Dunham (1843-1926)(9)(Deacon John 1, Benijah 2, Rev. Edmund 3, Rev. Jonathan 4, Jonathan 5, John 6, Nahum 7, Samuel 8).