



Issue 2

15 April, 2017

Vol. 14

President's Letter

Another year has quickly flown by and we have just held our annual board meeting.

The minutes are here in the newsletter for more details; we discussed the budget, the membership, the DNA testing program, and the newsletter.

The budget and the membership are very related. We need a certain level of membership to financially support the valuable work we are doing here. That work is helping Dunhams in North America to find their roots. We can all do our part by encouraging others to join us whenever the opportunity arises.

We are extending the DNA testing program to include autosomal DNA testing for both Male and Female Dunham descendants. Using Autosomal DNA testing you can find relatives we share in common; this helps "break through the walls" in our family trees. More details will be coming in the next newsletter.

In closing, if you have some family history and genealogy to share we encourage you to write an article for the newsletter. Besides being fun to read – the information can help others, which is what this group is all about.

Jeffrey M. Dunham, President

Editor's Corner

A local move, probably as disruptive as a long distance move, has delayed the timely release of this issue of this issue of the DSFC newsletter. For that I am sorry.

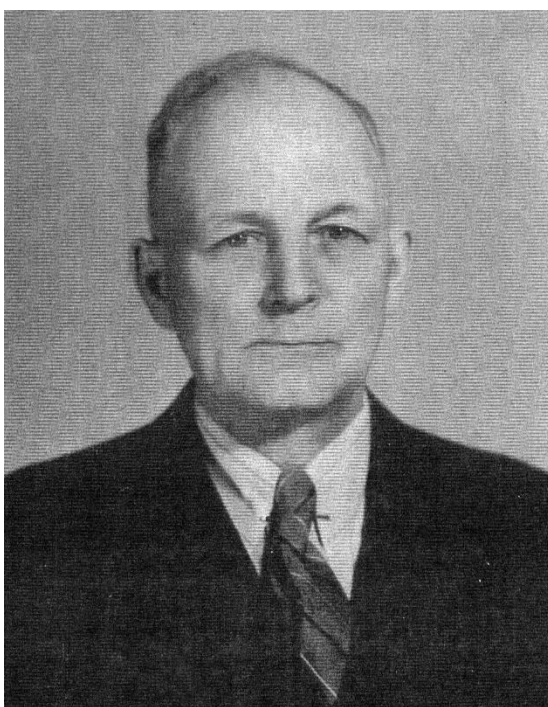
Two articles should be of interest to our readers. The first *The Family of Dennis Rockwell Dunham of Hancock, Wisconsin* was written by DSFC member Jackie Coniglio. The second, *Captain James Dunham and the Chicago River* illustrates the achievement of one of our Dunham cousins in his efforts to preserve the Chicago River for navigation.

Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor

The Family of Dennis Rockwell Dunham of Hancock, Wisconsin

by Jackie Coniglio

Dennis Rockwell ⁹ Dunham (Charles Foster ⁸, Stephen ⁷, Daniel ⁶, Solomon ⁵, Stephen ⁴, Joseph ³, Joseph ², John ¹) In the late 19th and early 20th centuries it was customary, when naming a child, to include the mother's name, usually as a middle name. Thus Dennis' father Charles was named Charles Foster Dunham after his mother, Mary Jane Foster. Dennis in turn was named Dennis Rockwell Dunham after his maternal grandmother, Deborah Rockwell.



Dennis Rockwell Dunham (1885-1941)

Dennis Rockwell Dunham, son of Charles Foster and Henrietta (Gallager) Dunham was born in Hancock, Waushara County, Wisconsin on 28 February 1885. Dennis grew up in an era when thriving small towns and farming communities dotted the American landscape. During the early years of the 1900s these towns frequently included a hotel, dry goods store, feed store and often a green grocer and butcher. Most of these businesses were located on the one main street which ran through the center of town. This would be an apt description of Hancock at that time. There was one nondenominational community church which was attended by most of the citizens of Hancock. There was a newspaper which reported on the local activities and there were town dances and an amateur baseball team of which Dennis was a proud member. Community baseball teams were very popular at the time and Dennis had a reputation as an accomplished athlete.

In addition to running the family farm Dennis' father Charles owned a butcher shop in downtown Hancock. When Dennis was young he worked at his father's store as well as the farm. He later worked for the Cochrane Produce business. A neighboring store on Hancock's main street was owned by the Muir family. One of their daughters, Mollie worked in the store and eventually she and Dennis met and became engaged. In 1910 she became his bride. The event was covered by the local newspaper which had this to say about Mollie, "During the bride's residence here since last summer she has worked in the Muir store and by her kind and lady-like manners won many friends." Their description of Dennis is as follows, "The groom is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Dunham and has grown to manhood in this vicinity, where he is liked by all."

The newly married couple continued to live in Hancock for some time and their first child, Madge Estelle was born there. In the next few years Dennis and Mollie moved to several other small towns in Wisconsin as Dennis set out on his own and tried his hand at various occupations such as running a butcher shop and working as a painter. They settled temporarily in Auburndale, Rib Lake, and Rhinelander, Wisconsin before moving out west to the state of Montana. In Montana Dennis tried wheat farming but a severe drought caused crop failure and the family lost everything. This tragedy was followed by another devastating blow. In 1918 the Spanish Flu epidemic swept through America and the Dunhams endured the heart break of losing their youngest child, two year old Mable, to this disease.

Now without an income and five children and a wife to support Dennis searched for a job. He heard that an oil company in Wyoming was hiring. The company had drilled their first successful well in 1915 and was now expanding. When he was hired on he moved his family to the company town of Elk Basin, Wyoming. Because of its somewhat remote location, 20 miles from the nearest town of Powell, Montana, and because of its near inaccessibility, due to lack of roads and its challenging topography, the oil company found it necessary to build their own town and try to make it as complete and independent as possible. They built sidewalks, schools, stores and a community center. They eventually built housing for the workers but when the Dunhams moved there they were housed in surplus army tents from World War I while they awaited completion of permanent housing. The Dunham's next child, my mother Edna, had the distinction of being born in this tent in 1920. Within the year their comfortable two story home with indoor plumbing was completed. They moved into the home and in 1922 another daughter was born. By this time Dennis had decided that he was ordained to have only daughters. He and Mollie decided to create a name for their daughter which would incorporate Dennis's name. They feminized the name by adding Jean and came up with the name DennaJean. The new daughter was less fond of her name than her parents and almost always went by the nickname name Denny.

Work in oil fields was dangerous by nature and the danger in Elk Basin was compounded by the presence of rattlesnakes. Dennis and the other workers took the precaution of wearing gaiters on their lower legs to protect themselves from snake bite. People who have written accounts of their time there describe the winters as very cold and snowy and the summers as extremely dusty. During the time the Dunhams lived in Elk Basin there was a total of 142 households. At some point the family returned once again to Wisconsin. During the trip young Edna was fascinated by what she called “the little houses” that were often decorated with a cutout of a moon. She asked her father about them and of course he told her that they were outhouses and then he had to explain their use. Many people at this time still lacked indoor plumbing especially in rural areas and outhouses were quite common.

The family settled in the town of Nekoosa, Wisconsin where they had relatives. Dennis worked for what was then called NEPCO (Nekoosa Edwards Paper Company). Later the name would be Nekoosa Paper Company, famous for Nekoosa Bond Paper. Much later it would be bought out by Mead (the maker of Mead notebooks and other paper products.) Dennis worked as a painter. He did detail painting such as signs and lettering on office doors in addition to regular maintenance painting.

Nekoosa, WI was a small town located on the Wisconsin River. It was a short distance from another paper mill town of Port Edwards, and the small city of Wisconsin Rapids, which also had a paper mill. Today the three towns run together in an almost continuous municipality. But when the Dunhams lived there the town of Nekoosa was quite separate and a few miles drive to the neighboring towns. By the 1930's Nekoosa had a busy main street with several shops, restaurants and a movie theatre as well as a library. It was an idyllic place to grow up.

The family now had seven daughters. They were named Madge, Jessie, Henrietta, Ruth, Dorothy, Edna and DennaJean. In 1927 Mollie gave birth to her ninth child. The Dunhams finally had a son and they named him Dennis Robert.

All of the children attended school in Nekoosa. The elementary grades and high school were housed in one large building which is still in use today. The two oldest daughters were both named valedictorian of their respective classes. Most of the family was musical and Dennis Robert played football. Education was highly valued in the family and several of the girls attended college. Dennis Rockwell himself was a highly respected member of the school board. Like most families of the time all of the children were taught a sense of civic responsibility and continued throughout adulthood to be involved in the church and community.

Apart from the fact that the Dunham family was slightly larger than the average family of the time they lived a fairly typical life. Like most people in the 1920's, 30's and 40's they had a garden plot in the backyard which supplied vegetables during the summer. Late in the season the girls would help their mother put up (can) tomatoes, peas, corn, and green beans to get them

through the winter. Mollie made most of the girl's clothing and would remake the garments to pass down to the younger ones. Frugality was necessary to survive the depression and made people fairly self-sufficient.

Although the family managed to get through the depression and the average number of childhood illnesses and trials, they suffered another tragic loss in 1941. Dennis and Mollie were going to the town of Stevens Point to visit their now married daughter Madge. Dennis' car had a bad rear tire and he took it to the service station to have it repaired before leaving on their trip. This was during World War II and rubber was in short supply, it was impossible to find new tires, so Dennis had the tire patched. They set off for their trip and while crossing a bridge the patch on the tire blew out and the car swerved into the steel sides of the bridge. Son Dennis, who was with his parents, was thrown from the car and knocked unconscious. Mollie was slightly injured but Dennis Sr. received a fractured skull. He was taken to the hospital but died that afternoon, 26 August, 1941. In 1942 The Nekoosa High School dedicated their year book in his honor.

The family recovered but the loss of their father was very painful to both Mollie and the eight children. Mollie took Dennis's place on the schoolboard and went to work as a librarian for the Nekoosa Library. Eventually all of the children married and had their own families.



Bridesmaids Edna, Madge, Ruth, Henrietta, Dorothy, and Jessie Dunham, and maid of honor Euncie Grode, and the bride DennaJean Dunham.

Daughter DennaJean's wedding is worthy of mention. It was extravagant and slightly unusual. She wanted to include all six of her sisters in the bridal party. The unusual aspect of the wedding was that one of Denny's sisters, Dorothy, known as Dot, was a talented seamstress and personally made all of the lovely floor length satin gowns, quite a huge undertaking. In addition to her six sisters Denny included her best friend as her maid of honor. There were seven corresponding male attendants and two of her nieces served as flower girls and a nephew was the ring bearer. The ceremony was held in the family church, St. John the Evangelist Episcopal, in Wisconsin Rapids where Denny wed Delmar Trantow on June 26th, 1946.

Dennis Robert Dunham also married about a year later. He had six children, three daughters and three sons. His children married and his sons have had sons to carry on the Dunham name.

[Editor's comment: Jackie (Beck) Coniglio, daughter of Jerome Rondeau and Edna (Dunham) Beck is a member of DSFC. Terry (Trantow) Rupple, daughter of Delmar and DennaJean (Dunham) Trantow is also a current member of DSFC.]

Captain James Dunham and the Chicago River

by Gratia Dunham Mahony

On April 6, 2017 I saw an interesting article by Ron Grossman in the Chicago Tribune of that date. The article was entitled Chicago River's best friend: Captain James Dunham. I immediately wrote to Ron complimenting him on the article and asking permission to reprint it in this issue of the Dunham-Singletary Family Connections newsletter. I received Ron's permission, but have had no response to my request to reprint the article from the newspaper itself. Thus, the following article, and photo of Captain James Dunham, is taken from information found on line.



James Sears Dunham (1837-1901)

The Dunham line from which James Sears Dunham descends is John ¹, Benajah ², Edmund ³, Jonathan ⁴ and Jane Pyatt, Jonathan ⁵ and Keziah FitzRandolph, Jonathan ⁶ and Eunice Dunn, James ⁷ and his third wife Rebecca Sears, and he was James Sears ⁸ Dunham. James Sears Dunham was born in Ballston Spa, Saratoga County, New York on 31 January 1837. He came

to Chicago in 1854 to take a position as engineer of a tugboat at the young age of seventeen years. Two years later he purchased an interest in the tug boat.

After working on the Chicago River for several years he decided to seek work on the Gulf of Mexico. He removed to Mobile and set himself up in business shortly before the beginning of the War of the Rebellion, or the Civil War as it is usually called today. During that conflict he was arrested as a Union sympathizer and lost everything. He moved north to resume his career in Chicago. He had a tug built for himself near Philadelphia and brought it to the Chicago River. This was the first of many tugs which he owned and by the time he retired in 1899 he owned a fleet of twenty tugboats.

Captain Dunham became a leader in the marine interests of Chicago. He was deeply interested in the preservation of the Chicago River for navigation. This interest involved him in many legal battles that ultimately ended in the preservation of the river for navigation. In the majority of cases he was successful in defeating the efforts of property owners and industries to encroach on the river or to use it as a refuse disposal system. Almost singlehandedly he defeated the plans of the Northwestern Elevated Road for a bridge at LaSalle Street. He led the movement which compelled the city to take out the low bridge at Canal Street. An additional problem for river traffic were the tunnels dug for pedestrians and horse drawn carriages to travel under the river. These were located at Washington Street, LaSalle Street and near Van Buren Street. As ships got larger they risked scraping their hulls on these tunnels. The ship owners wanted the tunnels lowered.

Another improvement instigated by Captain Dunham was the use of a tug boat as a fire fighting tool, a procedure whereby the tug was outfitted with a pump. This process was suggested to the city after the Great Chicago fire of 1871.

Captain Dunham was instrumental in the formation of the Chicago Improvement Association and became its president. He was elected to the Chicago City Council where he served one term. He was also elected to the presidency of the Lake Carriers Association. At his death on February 7, 1901 the Chicago Tribune noted that "It was due to his work, at first almost single-handed, that the river was saved for navigation."

James Sears Dunham was married to Mary Ellen Brown in Ashtabula, Ohio on January 8, 1868. The couple had four children: Robert James Dunham (1876-1948); Walter Henry Dunham (1877-1880); Ella Mosher Dunham (1884-1968) and Anna Mary Dunham (1887-1977). James and Mary Ellen (Brown) Dunham are buried in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois.

Dunham-Singletary Family Connections Annual Board Meeting

April 9, 2017 1 pm Pacific and 4 pm Eastern time zones.

Meeting of the Dunham-Singletary Family Connection Board of Directors was called to order at 3:03pm CST, by President Jeffrey Dunham. Directors present via dial up were: Jeffrey Dunham, Selma Blackman, Carol Hyatt, James Streeter, Trudy Dunham, Gratia Mahony, John D. Duguid, Jacquelyn Coniglio, Eric Stolz and Terry Ruppel.

Item1 - Secretarial Report

Secretary Carol Hyatt said the report had been listed in the newsletter and online, she asked if there were any corrections. If not, she asked for a motion to approve; motion was 2nd by Jackie Coniglio, motion passed.

Item 2 - Treasurer Report

Treasurer James Streeter listed the Financial Report for 2016. Balances as of 5 April 2017 are as follows.

| | |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| General Fund | \$7,330.90 |
| DNA | \$ 428.21 |
| Research | \$ 159.41 |
| Total | \$7,918.52 plus \$11.24 on Pay Pal. |

We currently have 62 paid memberships

Item 3 – 2016 Budget

Annual Corporation Reporting Fee - \$20.00

Federation of Genealogical Societies 2017 - \$45.00

Research Fees and Supplies - Gratia Mahoney - \$1,800.00

Domain Registration - Donation by Jeff Dunham

| | |
|-------|------------|
| Total | \$1,865.00 |
|-------|------------|

Treasurer James Streeter made the motion to approve the budget, 2nd by Jeffrey Dunham, motion passed.

On our agenda, we had a proposed motion that the \$150.00 from DNA account and \$50.00 from the Research account be used toward Gratia's Research fees. After some discussion with the board members it was decided to leave that money in those accounts, since that is what it purpose was, so this motion was declined by the board.

It was proposed that \$200.00 be taken from the General Fund and used toward Gratia's Research. A motion was made by Jeff Dunham and 2nd by Trudy Dunham, motion passed.

Item 4 - DNA Project

Jeffrey Dunham spoke on the DNA project and listed the breakdown of the Dunham-Singletary DNA Haplogroups. A breakdown follows.

Following is a breakdown of the members of the Dunham-Singletary DNA group, of which there are 99 members, by John Duguid.

- Haplogroup I-M253 - Deacon John = 40 members
- Haplogroup I-M253 - not named Dunham = 5 members
- Haplogroup I-M223 - Dunham-Singletary = 29 members
- Haplogroup I-M223 - not named Dunham or Singletary = 1 member
- Haplogroup G-M201 - Dunham but origin unknown = 3 members
- Haplogroup R-M269 – Dunham's of Anglo-Saxon origin = 11
- Haplogroup R-M269 – non-Dunham's = 7
- Haplogroup R-M512 - Dunham but origin unknown = 1 member
- Haplogroup R-M198 - Dunham but origin unknown = 1 member
- Haplogroup RZ-1 – non-Dunham = 1 member

Jeff would like to extend into the Y-DNA. It was also mentioned that a lot of the companies doing these tests do run sales. We hope to include this information on our web page to help keep other members informed and to encourage members to get their DNA tested. Jeff will send Gratia his information on the Simpson line to help with the research on Deacon John Dunham. Jeff Dunham made a motion to add autosomal DNA to the research, 2nd by James Streeter, motion passed.

Item 5 Web site Status

Board member Selma Blackman is the most active on the web site, she posts when she finds information regarding to the Dunham lines, and when she is/has attended many of the Genealogy Conferences. It was brought up that our website is somewhat confusing, and what this site really does! Is it a genealogy site or what? After some discussion with the board members it has been purposed that perhaps clarifying the name may help people locate the Dunham family research page better. Jeff asked all the board members to suggest what they would think be a good Genealogy name for our group and to maybe rename the web page, more to follow on this at a later date. We could perhaps change the logo and use maybe some of the old family photos.

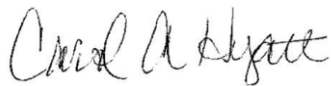
Jeff has moved the website off of his server. We may incur some future expense because of this.

New Business

Jeffrey Dunham spoke on membership and how we could increase our numbers. Selma Blackman mentioned that while attending a conference she had handed out over 250 flyers about our group, and got no response in return. Gratia mentioned that other groups are having the same thing happening with their membership too. It was mentioned that a woman named Leslie Marks had been making query on the Dunham site. Selma said she would look into it and respond back to her. Jeff reported that he had 2 request for newsletters.

Motion was made by John D. Duguid to adjourn the meeting, 2nd by Jeffrey Dunham motion passed. Meeting closed at 4.20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,



Carol A. Hyatt, Secretary and Director