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# Newsletter

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## From the President:

This last month I was able to break through several brick walls in my family tree. The following documents my process in the hopes that it will assist you in your search.

I added a paid subscription for Newspaper.com which is linked to Ancestry.com. When searching Ancestry.com, potential source matches will be pulled from Newspapers.com. You will also be able to conduct direct searches in their database. Newspaper.com is a treasure-trove of news articles on births, marriages, deaths, obituaries, town news and much more. If you are lucky, articles will list maiden names, places of birth and burial, family members and spouses. Great information for building out our tree branches!

Using the combined database's, I was able to locate obituaries for relatives that I had lost track of between the 1800s and early 1900s. Finding their obituaries between 1935 and 1980 highlighted some of the reasons information was not found readily. Examples of inconsistencies that created my brick walls included incorrect spellings from census records. For example, a "May Dunham" was shown as "Mary Dunham". Other source documents indicated she went by "May" or "Mabel". A good reminder to always search using a combination of spellings and/or alias'.

I now have May's descendants mapped out and plan to contact them to share the family tree. (I didn't see that anyone else had this documented on ancestry.com).

We encourage all here to contribute their family stories and to preserve it for others who will come after us. We also hope you as members encourage existing and new family members to join our organization. Information on how to join is on our website and donations to help support our efforts may be made there as well.

Until we speak again next quarter— I wish you all health and happiness.

With Best Regards,

Jeffrey M. Dunham  
President  
Dunham Genealogy Research Association

## Editor's Corner:

In July Patricia (Longley) Meyer joined the Dunham Family Research Association and shortly thereafter sent me a query about her ancestor Hannah Dunham who married Elkanah Freeman. I have been working with Pat over the summer to try to resolve the ancestry of this Hannah Dunham. That work resulted in the first article in this issue "The Search for Hannah Dunham of Canaan, CT or Sheffield, MA".

This interesting and beautiful area of western MA and northwest CT was of major importance during the Revolutionary War because most of the iron for the manufacture of cannons and cannon balls came from local iron mines. Many local men, including Elisha Freeman and Gideon Dunham, served as soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

The second article in this newsletter is about one of those Revolutionary War soldiers, Gideon <sup>6</sup> Dunham, and his involvement in Shays' Rebellion. The importance of Shays' Rebellion is an interesting part of history in that it was a major concern to the framers of the Constitution at the convention in Philadelphia in 1787. It was one of the major factors that brought George Washington out of retirement to attend that convention as a delegate from Virginia. It is even sometimes called "the last battle of the Revolution".

Finally, we have another article by James G. Dunham on Autosomal DNA and the use of ThruLines™. In this study of all the children (except Humility <sup>2</sup> Dunham who probably died young in Leiden) James Dunham shows the evidence that proves their descent from John <sup>1</sup> Dunham. This is important in showing that Thomas <sup>2</sup> Dunham was a son of John <sup>1</sup> Dunham and not of a separate Dunham line.

There have now been several articles on the use of Autosomal DNA and ThruLines™ in recent past issues of this newsletter. It is hoped that our membership will become comfortable in using this new tool in researching their own ancestral lines.

Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor

# **The Search for Hannah Dunham of Canaan, CT or Sheffield, MA**

By Gratia Dunham Mahony

Hannah Dunham was born about 1774 and married about 1800 Elkanah Freeman of Canaan, CT. Both died in West Bethany, Genesee County, NY, Elkanah in 1852 and Hannah (Dunham) Freeman in 1855. Both are buried in West Bethany Cemetery. But who was Hannah Dunham? Descendants have been searching for her for over 25 years.

First of all, she was not the Hannah Dunham b. 30 May 1776 in Dutchess County, NY as given on several Ancestry Family Trees. That Hannah <sup>7</sup> was the daughter of Jonathan <sup>6</sup> and Mary (Reno) Dunham; Daniel <sup>5</sup>, Jonathan <sup>4,3,2</sup> John<sup>1</sup> Dunham. That Hannah was born 30 May 1776, died 10 May 1854 in Punxsutawney, Jefferson Co. PA. She married first 10 October 1772 Peletiah Osterhout, son of Gideon and Abigail (Webster) Osterhout of Dutchess Co. NY and Luzerne Co. PA. The Osterhout Family bible says he d. 17 Aug. 1806. She married second 12 September 1809 Elemuel Carey. He was b. 7 June 1768, d. 5 March 1848. The children of Peletiah and Hannah <sup>7</sup> (Dunham) Osterhout from the Osterhout Family bible were:

- i. Webster <sup>8</sup> Osterhout b. 9 July 1799
- ii. Hiram Osterhout, b. 9 June 1799 (twins)
- iii. Sally Osterhout, b. 25 Dec. 1801
- iv. Catey Osterhout, b. 9 Jan. 1804
- v. William Osterhout, b. 27 Dec. 1805

It is easy to see how previous researchers might have thought that this was the Hannah who married Elkanah Freeman because there were Dunham families living in Nine Partners, Dutchess County, in Amenia, Dutchess County, NY and also in Sharon, CT; all towns close to Canaan, CT where there were also Dunham descendants of Jonathan <sup>2</sup> Dunham. In fact, there were a large group of Dunhams living both in North Canaan, Litchfield County, CT and immediately across the state border in Sheffield, Berkshire County, MA. Another curious fact was that part of this family from Sheffield, MA ended up in Genesee County, NY.

Neither I nor the previous researchers that I have worked with have found any Vital Records listing a Hannah Dunham born about 1774 who could have been the wife of Elkanah Freeman.

She appears on family genealogy charts as Hannah Dunham and shows up in a genealogy chart in a book "Daniel and Agnes Freeman, Homesteaders" by Beverly S. Kaplan, published in 1971. Beverly Kaplan was a granddaughter of Daniel and Agnes Freeman, the Nebraska homesteaders. If we look at the 1790 Census to locate Elkanah Freeman and his father, Elisha Freeman, we find an Elisha Freeman in Sheffield, Berkshire Co. MA with 1 male over 16, 3 males under 16 and 2 females. This is likely Elisha Freeman however if so Elkanah was age 18, not "under 16" as the age categories are given in 1790. A little more information about Elisha Freeman is in order here.

Elisha Freeman was b. 3 Oct. 1746 in North Canaan, CT; d. 2 July 1810 in Preble, Cortland Co. NY. He married 5 May 1771 in North Canaan, CT, Chloe Alice Stevens (1750-1810). Both this marriage and the birth of their eldest son are given on the CT Vital Records (Barbour Collection). Elisha also served for three years during the Revolutionary War and is listed as a Pvt. in Capt. Jesse Kimball's Co., Col. John Chandler's 8<sup>th</sup> Connecticut Regt. on many muster and pay rolls during the years 1777 to 1780.

Before going any further with discussion of the Freeman and the Dunham families living in Canaan, CT and the neighboring town of Sheffield, MA I want to point out the fact that while these two towns were in separate states, this was a well settled area between the Housatonic and the Iron Works River (now called the Konkapot River). Both the Freeman family and the Dunham family were neighbors and lived right along the state border line as we shall see in probate records given below. In the 1800 census of Litchfield Co. (towns were not broken out in the 1800 census) there was a John Freeman shown with a family of 1 male over 16, 1 male under 16, and 1 female. This John Freeman was a son of Elisha Freeman.

By the 1800 census both Elisha Freeman and his son Elkanah were listed in Hubbardton, Rutland Co. VT. Elkanah and his wife had 1 son under 10 years old, who would have been Daniel Henry Freeman born about 1800. Also shown in Hubbardton, Rutland Co. VT was Erastus Wolcott who married Sarah <sup>6</sup> Dunham, daughter of Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham. The 1800 census of Hubbardton, Rutland Co. VT is alphabetized so we don't know how close Erastus and Sarah <sup>6</sup> (Dunham) Wolcott were to Elkanah and Hannah (Dunham) Freeman—but both were on the 1800 census in Hubbardton.

If Elkanah Freeman's wife was Hannah Dunham, and their first child was born in 1800, they were probably married by late 1799. This would make the ages of Elkanah (b. 1772) about 27; and Hannah (b. abt. 1774) age about 25. Just when father and son, Elisha and Elkanah Freeman left Vermont to head to New York is uncertain. However, Elisha Freeman died in Preble, Cortland County, NY on 2 July 1810.

## **The Dunhams**

In checking the genealogies of families living in North Canaan, CT; and in Sheffield, MA in the 1790 census we see that many of these families intermarried frequently. The cluster of names near Elisha Freeman in the 1790 census of Sheffield, and the cluster of names located near James and Isaac Dunham in Canaan, CT showed these frequent intermarriages between neighboring families. So, let us now take a good look at the Dunham family living in Canaan, CT. The senior member of this family in 1790 was James <sup>5</sup> Dunham (son of Gideon <sup>4</sup> Dunham) who lived south of Rattlesnake Hill. James <sup>5</sup> Dunham appears in 1790 with 2 males over 16, 1 male under 16, and 2 females. On the next line in the 1790 census is his son Isaac <sup>6</sup> Dunham who appears with 1 male over 16, 2 males under 16, and 1 female. Also living in this area to the west of Rattlesnake Hill was Andrew Bacon and his wife Elizabeth <sup>5</sup> Dunham, the daughter of Gideon <sup>4</sup> Dunham.

My genealogy research identifies these two Dunham families. Their line begins with Deacon John <sup>1</sup> Dunham; Jonathan <sup>2</sup> and Mary (Cobb) Dunham of Edgartown, MA; Jonathan <sup>3</sup> of Falmouth and Edgartown MA and his first (unknown) wife who died in Edgartown shortly after the birth of Gideon <sup>4</sup> Dunham on 6 March 1686/7.

**James <sup>5</sup> Dunham** died 3 Sept. 1795 and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Canaan, CT. The Connecticut Wills and Probate Records do not show a will for James Dunham but there is an inventory. The inventory of James Dunham was made by Charles Burrel, Benjamin Benedict and Amos Pierce (two of whom show up on the 1790 census as neighbors of James Dunham). The inventory begins “of the estate of James Dunham late of Canaan, deceased, taken by the desire of Asahel Dunham, administrator”.

There is a deed for James Dunham of Middletown who bought land in Canaan south of Rattle Snake Hill in 1748, and he is the James <sup>5</sup> Dunham who received a quit claim deed from Cornelius <sup>5</sup> Dunham for land in Canaan in 1766. [Canaan CT., Hartford District Deed 2:114 and 2:221] James <sup>5</sup> Dunham married Dinah Candee. Other members of the Candee family went to Canaan Ct. [TAG 22:247]

Property of both the Freeman and the Dunham families abutted the state line separating Canaan CT and Sheffield MA. While their lands may not have been contiguous, these two families were certainly close neighbors. Therefore, in searching for Hannah Dunham who married Elkanah Freeman in about 1799, we should look to the Dunhams living in this area.

Of the children of James <sup>5</sup> Dunham, all had either died or had moved away except the two youngest sons, Isaac <sup>6</sup> and Asahel <sup>6</sup> Dunham.

Of these two youngest sons, Isaac <sup>6</sup> was born 23 February 1765, m. first his Canaan neighbor Charlotte Lawrence, daughter of Jonas and Tryphena (Lawrence) Lawrence. She was b. 13 Oct. 1770 (Canaan CT VR); died 31 August 1800 at age 29 and is buried in Mountain View Cemetery, North Canaan, CT.

There is no Vital Record of the birth of Asahel <sup>6</sup> Dunham but he is also buried in Mountain View Cemetery in Canaan with a death date of 11 April 1829 age 56. This would make his birth date about 1773. He also married a Canaan neighbor who was Martha Fenn, daughter of Theophilous Fenn.

Asahel Dunham, named as administrator of the will of James <sup>5</sup> Dunham and likely a son of James, was born about 1773. I think there is circumstantial evidence that James <sup>5</sup> and Dinah (Candee) Dunham were also the parents of the Hannah Dunham who married her Sheffield neighbor Elkanah Freeman. If it is correct that Hannah was born about 1774, her mother, Dinah Candee, (b. 31 Dec. 1727; d. 20 Nov. 1794 and buried in Mountain View Cemetery) would have been age 47 at her birth.

## Another Dunham Family

However, there was another Dunham born in Canaan, Litchfield County, CT and living in Sheffield, Berkshire County, MA after the Revolutionary War. This was **Gideon <sup>6</sup> Dunham**, nephew of James <sup>5</sup> Dunham above and son of Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham by his second wife who was probably Sarah Candee, sister of Dinah Candee the wife of James <sup>5</sup> Dunham. [ref. TAG 22:247, Dinah Candee's sister Sarah Candee, bapt. 17 Dec. 1738 also m. \_\_\_\_\_ Dunham, probably Gideon Dunham.]

The lineage of this branch of the children of Gideon <sup>4</sup> Dunham follows:

**Gideon <sup>4</sup> Dunham** (Jonathan <sup>3,2</sup> John <sup>1</sup>) born in Edgartown 6 March 1686/7, <sup>[1]</sup> died in Southington, Hartford Co. Ct. 27 April 1762. <sup>[2]</sup> Gideon married first ca. 1718 **Desire Case**, <sup>[3]</sup> daughter of John and Desire (Manter) Case. <sup>[4]</sup> She was born in 1690 and she died in 1728. Gideon married second in 1728 **Mary Lewes/Lewis**, <sup>[5]</sup> daughter of James and Mary (Sturgis) Lewis.

Gideon <sup>4</sup> moved from Edgartown to Connecticut and settled in that part of Farmington that became Southington, in Hartford County.

**References for Lineage of Gideon <sup>4</sup> Dunham:** 1. Banks, C.E. *History of Marha's Vineyard Vol. 3:155-6; TAG 44:219; Norwich, CT VR p. 115 2. Will #1784, Ct. State Archives. 3. History of Martha's Vineyard Vol. 3:155. 4. Ibid. Vol. 3:67. 5. Op. Cit. Banks, p. 156 6. Ibid.*

Children of Gideon and Desire (Case) Dunham: surname DUNHAM <sup>[6]</sup>

- i. James <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. say 1720 (possible line of Hannah (Dunham) Freeman)
- ii. Elizabeth <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. say 1723 (wife of Andrew Bacon of Canaan, CT)

Children of Gideon and Mary (Lewis) Dunham: surname DUNHAM

- iii. Desire <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. 1730, d.y.
- iv. Mary <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. 1732
- v. Sarah <sup>5</sup> Dunham, bp. 14 April 1734
- vi. Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham, bp. 28 December 1735 (father of Gideon <sup>6</sup> Dunham, Sarah <sup>6</sup> and **probable father of Hannah <sup>6</sup> Dunham who m. Elkanah Freeman**)
- vii. Barnabas <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. 1736
- viii. Prob. a second Desire <sup>5</sup> Dunham b. 1738
- ix. Cornelius <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. 1740
- x. Sylvanus <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. 1742
- xi. Salathiel <sup>5</sup> Dunham, b. say 1744

**Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham** (Gideon <sup>4</sup> Jonathan <sup>3,2</sup> John <sup>1</sup>) born in Southington Connecticut and baptized in Norwich, CT 28 December 1735, <sup>[1]</sup> died in after 13 May 1822 in Elba, Genesee Co, New York. <sup>[2]</sup> He married **Sarah Candee**, <sup>[3]</sup> daughter of Zaccheus and Desire (Roberts) Candee. She

was baptized 17 December 1738. <sup>[4]</sup> He resided in Canaan, Litchfield County Connecticut, <sup>[5]</sup> Chittendon County Vermont and Batavia/Elba, Genesee County New York.

#### **References for Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham:**

1. *Banks, Vol. 3: 155-6* 2. *Gideon appears on the 1820 census of Genesee Co. NY.* 3. *TAG 22:247, Dinah Candee's sister Sarah Candee, bapt. 17 Dec. 1738 also m. \_\_\_\_\_ Dunham, probably Gideon Dunham.* 4. *VR Middletown, CT p. 110-112.* 5. *Census Records.*

Gideon <sup>5</sup> went to Canaan Connecticut by 1766 when he received land from his brother Cornelius <sup>5</sup> Dunham located "near Iron Works River". Gideon appears on the 1790 Census of Essex, Chittenden Co. VT, p. 24; 1-0-2. He was probably living in either Essex or Colchester, Chittenden County Vermont by 1788 when his daughter Sarah <sup>6</sup> was married there. Neither Gideon <sup>5</sup> nor Gideon <sup>6</sup> appear on the Vermont Census in 1800. Gideon <sup>6</sup> Dunham does appear on the 1800 Federal Census in Hartford, Ontario Co NY. Gideon Dunham (probably Gideon <sup>6</sup>) also appears on the NY Tax assessment rolls in New York State. In 1800 and 1801 he is on the roll for Hartford, Ontario Co. NY taxed on house and farm. He is also on the 1800 and 1801 roll in Geneseo, Ontario Co. NY taxed on house and lot. In 1802 Gideon Dunham was taxed in Hartford, Ontario Co. on house and farm and also taxed in Northampton, Ontario Co. on land. The 1803 NY tax assessment roll shows Gideon Dunham in Batavia, Genesee Co. where he is taxed on 210 acres of land. It should be noted that Hartford and Geneseo are now both in Livingston Co. NY.

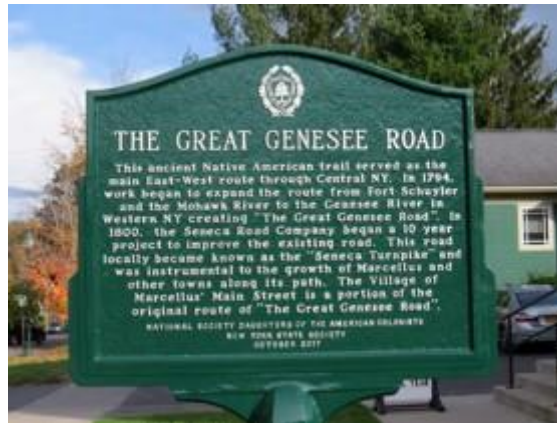
From French's Gazetteer of New York State, p. 327 the first settlers of Batavia/Elba/and Oakfield which was taken from Elba in 1842, were Erastus Walcott, Gideon Dunham and Christopher Kenyon who came in 1801. Since we have just seen that Gideon Dunham was on the tax lists in Hartford, then in Ontario Co., it is likely that Gideon came to Batavia to buy land from the Holland Land Company but didn't settle there for another year. The Gazetteer also footnotes that "The first inn was kept by Gideon Dunham at Dunhams Corners in 1805".

Another interesting reference to the early settlement of Batavia/Elba, is from Beers Gazetteer and Bio Record of Genesee Co. NY, pub. 1890, p. 564-567 under "Early Settlers". "Elba was begun in 1801 when Aaron White and Erastus Wolcott came in. Gideon Dunham also came in 1801, settled in the oak openings and gave the name to Dunham's Grove. His son Col. Shubael Dunham . . . (said) that the road along the Tonawanda Creek, from Batavia to Bush's, thence north to the openings was cut through in 1801-2. Erastus Wolcott, Peter Rice and Christopher Kenyon came that Year."

### **The Great Genesee Road**

Soon after the end of the Revolutionary War people began moving westward into Central and western New York. As a result, there was a clamor for improving the old Indian path running west from Utica. In March 1794 the NY state legislature called for a public road "in as straight a

line as the topography of the land will allow”. This road was officially known as the “Great Genesee Road” and was intended to give access to the New Military Tract.



**Text:**

“This ancient Native American Trail served as the main east-west route through Central NY. In 1794, work began to expand the route from Fort Schuyler and the Mohawk River to the Genesee River in western NY creating “The Great Genesee Road.” In 1800, the Seneca Road Company began a 10-year project to improve the existing road. This road became known as “The Seneca Turnpike” and was instrumental to the growth of Marcellus and other villages and towns along its route.

The great improvement of this road not only opened the country up for even more settlement but afforded an excellent opportunity not only for freight teamsters and drovers but for stagecoach proprietors and inn keepers as well. We can almost see Gideon<sup>6</sup> Dunham making the decision to move west into New York and find a location to set up inn keeping. He would do this in several stages, first to going to Ontario County to settle his family for a few years until he could establish himself and build his inn along this well traveled road. We note that his brother-in-law, Erastus Wolcott (and therefore Gideon’s sister Sarah) made this move almost simultaneously.

It was common for families to make these long moves into the frontier in stages, and sometimes groups would go several years apart. Thus, it is easy to see how other men and families, often known to each other, or who had served together during the Revolutionary War, might move together.





1790 Census of Essex, Chittenden Co. VT Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham 1-0-2

1800 Census of Hubbardton, Rutland Co. VT Erastus Wolcott (who m. Sarah <sup>6</sup> Dunham)

1800 Census of Hubbardton, Rutland Co. VT Elkanah Freeman (who m. Hannah Dunham, and they had one son by 1800

1810 Census of Genesee County (towns not broken out in 1810):

Erastus Wolcott 21110-12010

Gideon Dunham 00001-10100

Gideon Dunham, Jr. Gideon <sup>6</sup> Dunham Jr. appears on the next line at the bottom of the page, which I had trouble reading but I think it gives Gideon Dunham Jr., 01001-21001.

1820 Census of Elba, Genesee Co. NY (on consecutive lines):

Oliver Wolcott (b. 5 Nov. 1772, brother of Erastus Wolcott)

Erastus Wolcott (b. 1 Jan. 1767, and wife Sarah <sup>6</sup> Dunham)

Gideon Dunham (Gideon <sup>6</sup> Dunham)

Shubael Dunham (Shubael <sup>7</sup> Dunham, oldest son of Gideon <sup>6</sup> Dunham)

1830 Census of Elba, Genesee Co. NY:

Erastus Wolcott 2 m. 20-29; 1 m. 60-69; 1 f. 5-9; 1 f. 15-19; 1 f. 60-69

Line of Erastus <sup>7</sup> Wolcott (Wyatt <sup>6</sup>, Samuel <sup>5,4,3</sup>, Henry <sup>2,1</sup>)

Erastus Wolcott b. 1 Jan. 1767 Wethersfield, Hartford Co. CT; d. 23 Sept. 1849 Pavilion Twp. Kalamazoo Co. MI was son of Wyatt (1739-1721) and Desire (Saxton) Wolcott.

NOTE: Samuel Wolcott, brother of Erastus b. 27 Dec. 1769, res. in Alabama, Genesee Co. NY

### **Circumstantial Evidence Conclusion**

Location (Canaan, CT/Sheffield, MA) puts the birth of Hannah Dunham in this area. Of the Dunham families living here in about 1774 when she would have been born the family of James <sup>5</sup> and wife Dinah (Candee) Dunham and the family of Gideon <sup>5</sup> and wife Sarah (Candee) Dunham must be considered. Dinah Candee was baptized in Middletown Connecticut 31 December 1727; died 20 Nov. 1794. She is buried in Mountain View Cemetery, North Canaan, Litchfield Co. CT. She would have been age 47 in 1774 when Hannah was born. At this age she could have had a child, but she would be at the upper limit of her childbearing years. There is no will left by James <sup>5</sup> Dunham but there was an inventory showing that he had 103 acres of land on which his homestead was situated.

Sarah Candee, wife of Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham was baptized 17 December 1738 and thus she would have been about 36 when Hannah was born, a much more realistic age to be having children. In 1791 (VT census was taken in 1791, not 1790) Sarah Candee and another female are shown. If this second female is Hannah, she would have been age about 17, and still have been living at home.

We know that Gideon <sup>5</sup> and Gideon <sup>6</sup> were already on their way to New York State in 1800, but Sarah <sup>6</sup> and her husband Erastus Wolcott, and Elkanah and Hannah Freeman were still in Vermont. Both these families appear in Hubbardton on the 1800 census.

1810 Elisha<sup>1</sup> died in Preble, Cortland, NY at the age of 64. His grave has not been located. Many records in Cortland County were destroyed in a fire including Pension Records. There is no record of Chloe's death – she is last recorded in the 1800 Federal Census.

By this time, Elkanah<sup>2</sup> and Hannah were living in Warsaw, Genesee County, NY and are listed in the 1810 Federal Census with their 5 children. Note: Warsaw was then in Wyoming County, NY. Warsaw was formed from Batavia, (Genesee Co.) March 19, 1808.

1813 Elkanah<sup>2</sup> and Hannah's 6<sup>th</sup> child, Hiram, is born in Genesee County, NY on January 8<sup>th</sup>.

1820 In the 1820 Federal Census of Bethany, Genesee Co. NY, the Freeman family is listed with Elkanah<sup>2</sup> and Hannah and 7 children. It is unknown who the 7<sup>th</sup> child is.

1820 Census in Bethany, Genesee Co. NY

2 m. under 10 (Elisha b. 1810 & Hiram b. 1813)

1 m. 10-16 (Samuel b. 1803)

1 m. 16-18 (same as above, Samuel b. 1803)

1 m. 16-26 (Daniel b. 1798)

1 m. over 45 (Elkanah)

1 f. under 10 (unknown child)

2 f. 10-16 Mariah b. 1805 & Anice b. 1806)

1 f. 26-44 Chloe Stevens Freeman

1830 In the 1830 Federal Census, the Freeman family is listed with Elkanah<sup>2</sup> and Hannah and 4 children. Their sons, Daniel (30) and Samuel (27) had moved on, married, and started families of their own. Samuel was living with his family close by in Attica, NY.

1831 Elkanah<sup>2</sup> purchases his land in Bethany, NY on what is now Molasses Hill Road.

Elkanah Freeman did not actually purchase land in Genesee County, New York until 1831 when he bought the farmstead located now on Molasses Road in West Bethany, Genesee County, New York. This farm is only thirteen miles directly south of Batavia/Elba where Gideon Dunham was living.

## **The Next Step**

The next step to take in trying to prove the circumstantial evidence that Hannah was the daughter of Gideon <sup>5</sup> Dunham, and younger sister to Gideon <sup>6</sup> and Sarah <sup>6</sup> Dunham is to do an analysis using Ancestry Autosomal DNA testing and ThruLines™ matching.

# Gideon Dunham and Shay's Rebellion

By Gratia Dunham Mahony

A relatively unknown uprising in western Massachusetts after the Revolutionary War was known as Shays's Rebellion. The rebellion was named after Daniel Shays, a farmer and former Captain with five years of service during the Revolutionary War. Shays's Rebellion was a series of violent attacks on courthouses and other government properties in Massachusetts that began in 1786 and led to a full-blown military confrontation in 1787.

The importance of Shays's Rebellion has never been fully appreciated, chiefly because Shays and his followers have always been viewed as a small group of poor farmers and debtors protesting local civil authority. In *Shays's Rebellion: The American Revolution's Final Battle*, Leonard Richards reveals that this perception is misleading, that the rebellion was much more widespread than previously thought, and that the participants and their supporters represented whole communities—the wealthy and the poor, the influential and the weak, even members of some of the best Massachusetts families.

Excerpts from Shays's Rebellion, by Leonard L. Richards pub. 2002/ Chapter 1, pages 5-9:

"Daniel (and wife Abigail) Shays lived in Pelham, MA. . . . In July 1786 the selectmen of Pelham met and discussed the current situation in which the state legislature had adjourned without addressing their petitions. The backcountry economy was in bad shape, and the new state government was just making matters worse by requiring debts be paid with hard money.

To address this situation the town fathers of Pelham called for a county wide convention to be held that summer. Other towns set up committees of correspondence and by the end of July several counties had plans for a convention. The convention set in motion by the Pelham selectmen was the largest. It was held at the Hatfield home of Colonel Seth Murray on August 22, and fifty Hampshire County towns were represented. The convention adopted twenty-one articles seventeen of which were grievances. The men of the convention wanted the state legislature to be recalled immediately to address their grievances. The plan was to set forth their list of grievances and then "break up the Court next Week".

One week later, on the last Tuesday of August, several hundred Greenwich and Pelham men started off on a march toward Northampton, Massachusetts where the Court was sitting. The town fathers of Pelham had wanted Daniel Shays to lead the Pelham men, but he had refused and the task had fallen to Deacon John Thompson, a militia captain and former town selectman. On reaching nearby Amherst they were joined by a large contingent led by Captain Joel Billings. Upon crossing the Connecticut River they were met by hundreds of others who had converged on Northampton from all around. The combined forces assembled into military formation and marched on to the Northampton courthouse. Some carried muskets, swords or bludgeons, others were unarmed. When the justices approached the courthouse, led by the sheriff, they were blocked at the door. The justices then decided to hold court at a local inn and receive a six-man delegation from the rebels. The delegation demanded that the court adjourn without transacting business, and the justices then made the decision to adjourn until November."

## What Caused Shays' Rebellion?

The farmers who fought in the Revolutionary War had received little compensation, and by the 1780s many were struggling to make ends meet. To make things even worse, as trade picked up, the need for cash increased. The subsistence farmers of western Massachusetts were still a long way from operating on a cash basis and what cash there was, was largely worthless paper currency issued by the Continental Congress or state government during the Revolution War. Collection of hard currency debt by (mostly Boston) merchants (who had to supply hard currency to trade abroad) accelerated and rippled through a countryside severely short on cash and long on debt.

Businesses in Boston and elsewhere demanded immediate payment for goods that farmers had previously bought on credit and often paid off through barter. There was no paper money in circulation and no gold or silver to be accessed by the farmers to settle these debts. With no means to move their crops and make money to pay off debts and taxes, Boston authorities began to arrest the farmers and foreclose on their farms.

## The Rebellion Begins

The people who were labeled as “rebels” or “Shaysites” had never called themselves by those terms. They called themselves “regulators” and this group comprised large numbers of interconnected families living particularly in Western Massachusetts. Not all were poor farmers mired in debt, but many were large landholders or came from prominent families. To retire the state debt in 1786 the legislature had assigned revenues from direct taxes, chiefly land and poll taxes to service the debt. After Shays’s Rebellion, this system came to an end. The burden of taxation shifted to indirect taxes and these revenues were then used to pay general state expenses. The average backcountry family still had a tax bill, but it was less than half of the amount of the direct poll taxes.

The Shaysites were “regulators of government” in the tradition of other agrarian revolts that date back to the 1760s in the American Colonies. More locally, the border region of western Massachusetts and Eastern New York was the intersection of rival land claims and overlapping patents that had erupted in violence between landlords and tenants on both sides of the Taconics prior to the Revolution. In the early postwar years, a combination of ruinous debt, economic hardship and longstanding resentment of unresponsive political power centered in Boston brought things to a head in Berkshire County in early September 1786.

By September 12th, 1786, a large gathering of regulators stopped the court from sitting in Great Barrington. **Gideon Dunham, Jr. (1762-1841) was one of these men**, and was conspicuous in ransacking some of the homes of the friends of government. He had recently moved to Sheffield, Massachusetts from adjacent Canaan, Connecticut, and was a Revolutionary war veteran of both the 5th and 3rd Connecticut Regiments. The town had seen its court shut down

before by popular action prior to Independence, but what was deemed acceptable for American patriots under the Crown in 1774 was now treason under the Commonwealth in 1786.

### **Attack on Springfield Arsenal**

Shays and other leaders made plans to raid the federal arsenal in Springfield to procure weapons. On the snow-covered morning of January 25, 1787, 1,200 men approached the arsenal. Some men had guns, while some carried clubs and pitchforks. State militia General Shepard predicted the assault and was waiting at the arsenal. Shepard believed the insurgents planned to overthrow the government. Meanwhile, General Lincoln's troops marched from Worcester to Springfield to provide additional defense.

Two other groups of insurgents traveled to join Shays. Another rebellion leader, Luke Day, who had ridden to Quebec with Benedict Arnold in 1775, would head from the north with 400 men. Eli Parsons would lead 600 men from the Berkshires. It was to be a three-pronged attack but since Eli Parsons men did not appear, the battle was lost by the insurgents.

About two weeks later on February 15, 1787, another rebel foray was thwarted in Egremont by the Great Barrington and Sheffield militias under Colonel John Ashley, Jr. of Sheffield. In this second encounter, sixteen prisoners were taken by the government forces and the insurgents withdrew back over the border.

On February 26th, 1787, the Selectmen of Richmond, Massachusetts wrote to militia General Lincoln in Pittsfield to report that another cross border incursion was imminent:

*"By intelligence this moment rec'd this moment from New Canaan, the insurgents collected in N. York State have paraded & marched in 3 Divisions. 120 was counted bet. 10 and 11 this evening in 1 Div. marching toward this County. We are much alarmed at this Military appearance and think it our duty to give your Honor this, and every information that threatens so immediate a destruction..."*

The Regulators now gathered on the New York side of the line were led by Captain Perez Hamlin (1748-1826), originally of Sharon, Connecticut. Hamlin had served during the Revolution as a private in the 7th (Albany County, N.Y) militia regiment. More recently, Hamlin operated a mill in Lenox, Massachusetts with his brother Asa. One of Hamlin's lieutenants was the above referenced William or Elisha Manning *"of the place called Eleven Thousand Acres"* in Berkshire County, and his adjutant is said to have been a young man named Nathaniel Austin, Jr. of Sheffield, also a revolutionary war veteran. With them were other men from nearby communities, many of whom had served during the Revolution.

Some of those under arms with Hamlin had deep roots in Berkshire communities, while others were recent arrivals or were merely what in a later age would be termed "border ruffians" motivated more by plunder than principle. Making things even more complicated, contemporary accounts sometimes misidentified one man as a rebel, when in fact it was another person altogether (most significantly excluding two men from pardons - Elisha Manning and David Dunham - who turned out to be entirely different people - William Manning and Gideon Dunham, Jr.).



The majority came from just a few communities; West Stockbridge, Tyringham, Lee, Egremont and Sheffield. Most were young men in their twenties. These were the insurgents that Hamlin lead over the border on February 26th, 1787.

The last significant "battle" of Shay's Rebellion lasted just about six minutes and did not even involve Daniel Shays. It was a sharp skirmish, nonetheless, fought in the snow on a lonely road in Sheffield, Massachusetts on the afternoon of February 27th, 1787.



There is a monument in local marble erected in 1904 near the site of the engagement (right alongside the Appalachian Trail),

The rebellion had no formal organization but that was of limited importance since most of the actions were taken by close-knit neighbors and kin. But despite the immediate failure of this local call-to-arms in the Massachusetts countryside, the event fundamentally altered the course of American history. Shays and his army of four thousand rebels so shocked the young nation's governing elite—even drawing the retired General George Washington back into the service of his country—that ultimately the Articles of Confederation were discarded in favor of a new constitution, the very document that has guided the nation for more than two hundred years and brought closure to the American Revolution.

A concerned Henry Knox, an artillery commander during the Revolutionary war and the future first U.S. Secretary of War, wrote to George Washington in 1786 to warn him about the rebels:

*“[T]hey see the weakness of Government[,] they feel at once their own poverty compared with the opulent, and their own force, and they are determined to make use of the latter in order to remedy the former. Their creed is that that the property of the United States has been protected*

*from the confiscations of Britain by the joint exertions of all, and therefore ought to be the common property of all...Our government must be braced, changed, or altered to secure our lives and property. . . ”*

A major outcome of Shays's Rebellion on the new nation was the effect it had on George Washington. He had retired to his farm on the Potomac, and he was determined to stay out of national politics. But Washington feared the abolition of debt policy and felt the news coming out of Massachusetts in late 1786 was frightening. Washington feared that if government in Massachusetts gave way to anarchy, governments nation-wide might give way to anarchy. After receiving the letter from General Henry Knox, and then two weeks later a message from James Madison, George Washington began to prepare to return to public life. After much thought and deliberation, he concluded that he would accept Madison's invitation to lead the official Virginia delegation at the upcoming Philadelphia convention. He saw Shays's Rebellion as inextricably tied to the inadequacies of the Articles of Confederation. The country needed a stronger national government, one that could maintain order and protect property holders, and one that could suppress malcontents like those in Massachusetts.

### **Significance of Shays' Rebellion**

At the time of Shays' Rebellion, the newly formed United States was governed by the Articles of Confederation, a document that many in the country felt was too weak to effectively manage the fledgling nation. In Philadelphia the specter of Shays' Rebellion informed the debate over the framing of a new U.S. Constitution.

The Boston legislature passed the Disqualification Act banning rebels from serving on juries, holding public office, voting or working as schoolmasters, innkeepers and liquor salesmen for three years. However, by the summer of 1787, many participants in the rebellion received pardons from newly elected Governor John Hancock. The new legislature placed a moratorium on debts and cut taxes, easing the economic burden the rebels were struggling to overcome. Some rebels were publicly paraded to the gallows before release. Two were executed for burglary.

Shays was pardoned the following year. He returned to Pelham briefly, then moved to Sparta, NY, where his legend made him a popular attraction for visitors. He died in 1825 and was laid to rest in an unmarked grave.

Once the rebellion had simmered down the authorities attempted to put the state back together again. They adopted two policies: one for the ordinary rebels, and another for the leaders. For the ordinary rebels, the peace terms were set forth in the Disqualification Act of February 16. After May 1, 1788, they could have these restrictions lifted if they could prove that they had become good law-abiding citizens loyal to the state, take an oath and pay a small fine. Excluded from the pardons, specifically by name, were Daniel Shays and eight other rebel leaders. Most of



these men had crossed the border into Vermont, which at that time was a republic and did not become a state until March 4, 1791. Eventually all, including Daniel Shays, were pardoned.

## **Gideon Dunham, Jr. mentioned in the Local Newspapers**

**Gideon<sup>6</sup> Dunham** (Gideon<sup>5,4</sup> Jonathan<sup>3,2</sup> John<sup>1</sup>) born in Canaan, Litchfield County Connecticut 10 October 1762, died in Elba, Genesee County New York 8 May 1841. He married in Canaan Connecticut 21 February 1781 **Anna Merrill**, daughter of Elisha and Mary (Fellows) Merrill. She was born in Canaan Connecticut 19 January 1763, died in Elba New York 6 April 1843.

**From America's Historical Newspapers, The Massachusetts Sentinel Vil. VII Issue 26, p. 102;**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
In Senate, June 13, 1787

"Whereas it appears to this Court, that a considerable number of persons concerned in the Rebellion, and now lurking in the neighboring States, do frequently enter into parts of the western counties, and commit robberies, burning of buildings, and other outrages, and threaten the peaceable and well-affected; whereby it has become absolutely necessary for their protection and security, that a force should be raised and kept in service so long as the present circumstances shall continue. Therefore

Resolved. . .

Provided nevertheless, That nothing in these resolutions shall extend to, or in any manner avail **Daniel Shays**, of Pelham, in the county of Hampshire, Gentleman, **Luke Day** of West Springfield in the same county, Gentleman, Lieutenant Colonel **William Smith** of the same county, **Eli Parsons** of Adams, in the county of Berkshire, Gentleman, **Perez Hamlin** of Lenox, in the same county, Yeoman, **Elisha Manning** of a place called the Eleven Thousand Acres, in the same county, Yeoman, **David Dunham** of Sheffield, in the same county, Yeoman, **Ebenezer Crittenden** of Sandisfield, in the same county, Yeoman and **Jacob Fox** of Washington in the same county Gentleman; but they and each of them shall be liable to be tried, convicted and punished for any of the offences aforesaid, in the same manner as if these resolutions had not been made. . . .

**THEN NOTE RETRACTION From Massachusetts Gazette 06-26-1787 Vol. VI: Issue 342, p. 3;**  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
In the House of Representatives, June 25, 1787

Whereas, by a resolution of the General Court of the 13<sup>th</sup> day of this present month, the clemency of government is extended to all persons who have committed any treasons or misprisions of treason during the present rebellion, excepting certain persons therein described and named: and whereas one of the persons so excepted is therein, named **David Dunham**; which Christian name was inserted by a mistake, and the person thereby intended is, **Gideon Dunham**, of Sheffield, in the county of Berkshire, yeoman. And the said **Gideon Dunham** being a malignant and incorrigible offender.

It is declared and resolved, that the said **Gideon Dunham** is the person meant and intended to be excepted out of the said resolutions of indemnity; and the said **Gideon Dunham** shall not, by virtue thereof, receive any benefit or advantage whatsoever, but is excepted therefrom, and shall so be adjudged.

And it is hereby further resolved, that the said **David Dunham** shall not be considered as within the exceptions of the said resolution.

Sent up for concurrence, J. Warren, Speaker

In Senate, June 25<sup>th</sup> 1787

Read and concurred.

S. Adams, president, Apprised.

John Hancock

A true copy

John Avery, Jun. Secretary

**From Vermont Gazette 07-02-1787 Vol. V. Issue 213 p. 2;**

LANSINGHBORO June 25.

A gentleman who passed thro town last Saturday, from Egremont informs, that on the eighteenth instant a number of the insurgents, among whom were Adams and Dunham, paid a visit to a Mr. Kellog of that place, who was saluted by Dunham with the breech of a gun, then robbed of everything valuable in his house, even to the shirt upon his back. Mr. Kellog would probably have received more abuse, had he not in the confusion of plundering the house, made his escape at a back door. The ruffians then proceeded to the house of E. Hopkins, Esq. into which they discharged five balls that passed through the curtains of the bed in which they supposed he lodged; but their usual cowardice prevented their entering the house, as they know Mr. Hopkins to be armed, and concluded he would oppose them.

Their next attack was upon the defenceless house of the Rev. Mr. Eliphalet Steel, who they robbed of about forty pounds worth of provisions and cloathing, they also took from the Rev. Mr. Alexander (who happened that night to be at Mr. Steel's) his hat great coat and watch. They then fled over the line into this State, where it is supposed they will endeavour to continue undiscovered, till their ill gotten gains are consumed, when, it is expected, they will again visit the inhabitants of Berkshire.

We are informed by the same gentleman, that a number of the principal inhabitants of Berkshire have signed a subscription paper offering a reward of one hundred dollars for either Dunham or Adams, double the sum for both, and half the sum for either of their accomplices in the above mentioned robberies. We presume that a bare mention of the facts will be sufficient to induce every honest man to exert himself in apprehending such...villains. . . .

**From the Norwich Packet 08-0901787 Vol. XIII, Issue 667 p. 3;**

NORWICH, August 9

A gentleman direct from the northward informs, that **Shays** was at Arlington in the State of Vermont, the 30<sup>th</sup> ult. but though best not to appear in public.

--That the noted **Dunham** excepted in the general pardon, was taken (with one Baker a rebellious subject) as they was landing from a boat at Lake Champlain, and are both safely lodged in Great Barrington goal. . .

**From Independent Gazetteer 08-10-1787, Vol. VI, Issue 519, p. 3**

BENNINGTON July 30

On Saturday last passed through this town, **Gideon Dunham** and **George Baker**, two notorious offenders of Shay's party, lately acting as principals in the robberies committed in Berkshire county. They were taken at Onion River in this state, with two horses and some other property belonging to Mr. Starkweather, and others, in Berkshire county. They were conducted into town under a small guard of respectable gentlemen, and delivered up to the care of the High Sheriff...

**From New-Hampshire Spy 09-01-1787 Vol. II, Issue 90, p. 359**

BENNINGTON, VERMONT August 6

We are informed that **Gideon Dunham**, and **George Baker**, the notorious Shayites, alias publick robbers who were conducted safely last week from this state to Berkshire county, Massachusetts, have made a very ample confession of their guilt and signed the same before proper authority. They confess that themselves and four others, (now in the state of New York) were the persons who robbed a number of houses in Berkshire, and fired on the people at Col. Ashley's and other places. They gave information where Mr. Starkweather's watch and some other matters were, and orders for obtaining them for the owners, but deny taking any considerable sum of money from Mr. Starkweather; they are exceedingly bold in their confession, and appear to make no scruple to acknowledge the most atrocious of their villainies. The amazing scenes of determined villainy through which they have passed in so short a time, would exceed belief, were it not for a crowd of sufferers, witnesses to the truth of them. Our correspondent queries whether it is not surprising, that any gentlemen of the clerical or other order, in Arlington, White Creek, or elsewhere, should give support to the head men of the nefarious tribe, while the conduct of their inferiors and proclamation of the states, forbid their harbouring or concealing them.

**From American Mercury 12-24-1787, Vol. IV, Issue 181 p. 2 (Hartford CT)**

The last words and Dying Speeches of JOHN BLY & CHARLES ROSE;

who were executed at Lenox, in the County of Berkshire and Commonwealth of Massachusetts on Thursday the sixth Day of December in the Year of our Lord one Thousand seven hundred and eighty seven for Burglary.

To the good people of Massachusetts, more especially to Daniel Shays, and other officers of the militias, and the Selectmen of Towns who have been instrumental in raising the opposition to the Government of this Commonwealth:

Know ye, that I, JOHN BLY, an unfortunate young man, hardly arrived at the age of 22 years, now under penitence of Death, and on the morrow to be executed for the crime of robbery, do utter. . .and publish these as my last words and dying speech,

I was born in Voluntown, in Connecticut, in a Christian family, at the age of fifteen I went to learn the trade of a taylor, with one William Tew, of Rhode Island. After my apprenticeship was ended, I returned

to my father's house, and in the year 1785 came into this state...When the insurrection began I took an active part against the Government, as a soldier...When the troops under Gen. Lincoln came into the county, I fled to the State of New York, remained there until Hamlin made his inroad into this county; there I joined him, was at Stockbridge and Sheffield; after that action I was taken, and confined a prisoner until the spring of the Supreme Judicial Court in March last, when I was discharged, the Jury not having found a bill against me...A few days after, hearing that evidence was like to be found against me, I fled again to York State...On the 4<sup>th</sup> of May, as I was returning, I was taken up at Stockbridge, and confined in Barrington goal, but the next day, unhappily for me as it has turned out, I was set at liberty...Soon after, hearing great stories that Shays was coming down, I took orders to raise men to join him. This being found out, I again fled for safety; but being encouraged by some of our principal men (whose names I wish not to mention, except one, hoping that God may forgive them, as I do, and that they may yet become good members of the state) to go with a small party to get arms from the government men. The first party I went with, was to West Stockbridge, where we went to Mr. Fowler's to Mr. Collin's to Mr. Baldwin's and to Mr. French's.

A few days after we went to Mr. Kingsley's in Becket, from whom we took fourteen guns...one of the party took a watch...I then left the state, with design to find out whether Shay was going to do any thing or not. Finding that he was not, I went and found **Dunham**, who wanted me to join him and others, to go to Sheffield, to get from Mr. Kellogg, a suit of clothes which he had got from **Dunham**...**Dunham** likewise told us, that the Rev. Mr. Steele had got a suit of his clothes, to pay for damages done his orchard, by girdling his trees, which he supposed **Dunham** had done...I joined **Dunham**, and went with the party to Mr. Kellogg's and Mr. Steele's...A few days after, I heard of the pardon, supposed myself within it, and returned home, where I was taken up, in about four weeks, and carried to Barrington, and confined in goal until the time of my being brought up to Lenox for trial...Having been tried for a crime of which I was not guilty, though I might have been convicted of robbing both Mr. Kellogg and Mr. Steel, as well as Mr. Kingsley, Mr. Fowler, and others; yet I was found guilty of robbing Capt. Brooks of Lanesborough, on his own oath, and that of his family..Capt. Brooks has the reputation of an honest man; I have no malice against him, but believe he swore what he thought was true, though I know he was under a mistake as to my person.

I, as a dying man, declare, that Robert M'Clannan, of West Stockbridge, was the principal person who induced me to go to that place with the party; although, after he had given evidence against me to the Grand Jury, he went to the place where I was confined and declared that he had never known me.

I wish that Capt. Brooks may be informed, that one Martin Downing; of Sheffield, was the person who was with the party at his house, for whom Mr. Brooks has mistaken me, I at that time was not in the State of Massachusetts, and never was at Lanesborough in my life, to my knowledge.

Since my confinement in goal, I have ever conducted as if I never was to be executed. The many pardons that have since been granted, induced me to suppose what many others vainly encouraged me in, that we should never be executed. But as it seems Rose and myself are to fall victims to our own folly, rashness and presumption, in believing your representations as to the affairs of the government, and the power of Shays, we hope and trust the mercy of an all gracious God may be extended to us, dying men....

Shay's Rebellion – sometimes called the last battle of the Revolution – was over!

# Autosomal DNA Evidence for Children of Deacon John DUNHAM

Research by James George Dunham

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October 2021

In this article, we explore autosomal DNA evidence for the children of Deacon John <sup>1</sup> DUNHAM (ca 1589 - 1669). John <sup>1</sup> had two marriages and a total of 11 children as follows [1]:

Children of John <sup>1</sup> and Susan (KAINO) DUNHAM:

- i. John <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, bp. 19 February 1614/15 Henlow, Bedfordshire, England
- ii. Humility <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. 1617-18, d.y. probably in Holland
- iii. Thomas <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. 1619-20

Children of John <sup>1</sup> and Abigail (BALLOU) DUNHAM:

- iv. Samuel <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. say 1623
- v. Abigail <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. say 1626
- vi. Persis <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. 1628-9
- vii. Jonathan <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. 1631-2
- viii. Hannah <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. 1633-4
- ix. Joseph <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. say 1635-6
- x. Benajah <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. say 1638
- xi. Daniel <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, b. say 1639

The research was based on AncestryDNA kits for a set of 13 proven descendants of Joseph <sup>6</sup> Joseph <sup>5</sup> Micajah <sup>4</sup> Micajah <sup>3</sup> Joseph <sup>2</sup> Deacon John <sup>1</sup> DUNHAM (called the Group) – one from the first marriage to Sabra CLARK and rest from the second marriage to Rebecca HITCHCOCK. The idea was to find an AncestryDNA shared match (match) with a member of the group where the Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) between the group member and the match, as determined by the family tree linked to the kit, corresponded to a person who was a descendant of John <sup>1</sup>. Kits and shared matches were found using AncestryDNA's ThruLines™ and focused searches for a specific surname and location on the main DNA matches webpage as discussed in my article "Finding the Parents of Luther W. Dunham (1804-ca. 1850)" [2]. Assessing the accuracy of the family connection was determined by establishing a connection linking the kit owner to John <sup>1</sup> in FamilySearch's Family Tree as discussed in my article "Finding the Parents of Luther W. Dunham (1804-ca. 1850)- Revisited (Draft)," [3].

For each member of the Group, the searches described below were performed on the Ancestry DNA Matches web page to generate potential shared matches that connected to Deacon John <sup>1</sup> DUNHAM.

Child	In Matches' Tree	
	Surname	Birth Location
Non-Thomas	DUNHAM	Plymouth County, Massachusetts, USA
Thomas <sup>2</sup>		
Rebecca <sup>3</sup>	HINKSON	Maine, USA
Nathaniel <sup>3</sup>	DUNHAM	Hebron, Tolland, Connecticut, USA
Sarah <sup>3</sup>	DUNHAM	Fairfield County, Connecticut, USA

	Hannah <sup>3</sup>	CLASON	Fairfield County, Connecticut, USA
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Here are comments concerning these searches.

1. It is widely believed that Humility<sup>2</sup> DUNHAM never made it to America and likely died in Leiden. As such, I have no idea of where to search for potential shared matches to her and so I removed her from further consideration.
2. The second comment is that it has only recently been shown that Thomas<sup>2</sup> DUNHAM had descendants as discussed in "Thomas Dunham, son of Deacon John Dunham, and his Descendants" [4]. So, few people would have been able to establish a connection to Deacon John<sup>1</sup> DUNHAM through Thomas<sup>2</sup>. The searches in the table found shared matches related to Thomas<sup>2</sup>, but there were a significant number of potential connections that could not be verified.
3. There were a few other kits and matches found using other techniques that were added to the research database. But the great majority of the kits and matches come from AncestryDNA's ThruLines™ and the focused search listed in the table shown above.

The results of this research are summarized in Table 1 below. A total of 595 AncestryDNA kits were found with a connection to Deacon John<sup>1</sup> DUNHAM – 479 based upon focused searches and 116 using ThruLines™. The first column of the table shows the name of the child. The next column to the right shows the number of kits found. Kits can have multiple connections to John<sup>1</sup> – either to the same child or another child. The next column to the right shows the number of connections to the same child (Multiple – Self) and the next column the number of connections to another child (Multiple – Other). The last column shows the total number of shared matches. This number will always be greater or equal to the number of kits found as one kit may have shared matches with several members of the group. Two different totals are shown. The first counts both kits found from focused searches and ThruLines™ while the second shows only kits found from focused searches. The total number of unique kits found is 526 and 410, respectively. Thus, autosomal DNA matches were found to all children of John<sup>1</sup> with the exception of Humility<sup>2</sup>.

Table 1. Children – Kits and Shared Matches

Name	Ancestry Autosomal Kits			Shared Matches
	Kits Found	Multiple - Self	Multiple - Other	
John <sup>2</sup>	46	2	3	63
Thomas <sup>2</sup>	43	2	1	55
Samuel <sup>2</sup>	39	0	11	50
Abigail <sup>2</sup>	20	6	3	28
Persis <sup>2</sup>	27	2	10	46
Jonathan <sup>2</sup>	68	5	6	102
Hannah <sup>2</sup>	31	0	10	38
Joseph <sup>2</sup>				
Searches	141	7	23	239
ThruLines™	116	0	0	670
Benajah <sup>2</sup>	32	6	1	39
Daniel <sup>2</sup>	32	1	1	43
TOTALS				
All	595	31	69	1,373

No ThruLines™	479	31	69	703
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In 2020, AncestryDNA announced that they had improved their algorithms for determining the amount of DNA in shared matches and generally found more common DNA. AncestryDNA elected to retain the original amounts of shared DNA reported for kits that had been processed to that point in time and used the improved algorithm on new kits. One of the improvements from this new algorithm was the reporting of the amount of DNA in the longest segment in cM using the new algorithm. This is an important number as the greater the amount of shared DNA, the more likely and perhaps closer the connection. The vast majority of the connections found from focused searches were single segment matches. Thus, looking at the length of the longest segment gives a more accurate and generally larger number than the reported amount of shared DNA over the number of segments found.

In Table 2, information about the longest segment is examined. For each kit found in the research via focused searches, the longest DNA segment was obtained and recorded. Then, the largest of these lengths for all shared matches for a particular kit was saved. The first column of the table shows the name of the child. The next column to the right shows the length of the longest DNA segment in cM. As one can see from the table, some of these lengths are quite large, considering that the degrees of separation between the person in the Group and the kit owner is generally 20 or more. The next 4 columns in the table show the number of kits found where the length of the largest segment is greater than or equal to the stated threshold. Thus, 57% of the kits have a 10 cM or greater longest segment. When the threshold was set at 20 cM, only 7.5% of the kits remained.

Table 2. Children – Longest DNA Segment Information

Name	Longest Segment cM	Longest Segment Counts			
		≥ 6 cM	≥ 10 cM	≥ 15 cM	≥ 20 cM
John <sup>2</sup>	40	46	18	9	3
Thomas <sup>2</sup>	26	43	29	7	3
Samuel <sup>2</sup>	37	39	21	10	3
Abigail <sup>2</sup>	18	20	8	2	0
Persis <sup>2</sup>	22	27	12	5	1
Jonathan <sup>2</sup>	27	68	40	15	6
Hannah <sup>2</sup>	24	31	16	4	2
Joseph <sup>2</sup>	37	141	82	29	12
Benajah <sup>2</sup>	23	32	25	10	3
Daniel <sup>2</sup>	30	32	22	9	3
Total Count		479	273	100	36
Total Percentage		100%	57.0%	20.9%	7.5%

In conclusion, the research presented shows that autosomal DNA provides evidence that all of Deacon John <sup>1</sup> DUNHAM's children, with the exception of Humility <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM, are his children and have living descendants today. In particular, the research provides new and compelling evidence that the Thomas DUNHAM discussed in [4] is in fact the son of Deacon John <sup>1</sup> DUNHAM. It should not be surprising that Joseph <sup>2</sup> DUNHAM has both the greatest number of kits and shared matches as all members of the Group are his descendants. But it is interesting that a reasonable amount of evidence was found for the other children.

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## **"What's New on the Dunham Website"**

by James A. Streeter

This has been a bussie for me but nothing has been completed so nothing new has been added to the website. Now that things have settled down and cooled down from 100 degrees into the 70's I plan to get several project completed and added to the website.

Suggestions for new Articles for the Newsletter and new sections for the Dunham Families in America Collections are always welcome. HELP NEEDED - We are looking for some help to review Dunham lines found in the DSFC Newsletters and prepare them to be added into the Dunham Families in America collection. If you have questions about what is involved or are able to help, please contact James A. Streeter - [james8313@sti.net](mailto:james8313@sti.net)