

## “ENGLISH HOME OF DEACON JOHN DUNHAM DISCOVERED”

by Gratia D. Mahony

From an article in TAG, Vol. 71, p. 130-133, by Robert Leigh Ward the following excerpt is quoted.

“The parish register of Clophill, Bedfordshire, England, contains the record of the marriage of John Dunham and Susan Kaino on 17 August 1612. In the nearby parish of Henlow, Bedfordshire, is found the baptism of John Dunham, son of John and Susan, on 19 February 1614/15.”

The article contains entries from the published Bedfordshire Parish Registers, but these are for the Kaino/Ceynehoe family who resided in Clophill. No record of the baptism of John Dunham was found. However a probate record for Richard Dunham was found and is quoted from Mr. Ward’s article below.

“The probate record of Richard Dunham, the elder, poulter of Langford, some seven miles from Clophill, provides significant support for the conclusion that this is the correct family and that Richard Dunham was Deacon John<sup>1</sup> Dunham’s father. In his will, dated 5 October 1624, Richard Dunham left his body ‘to be buryed in such a place as my Executores shall thinke convenient.’ He mentioned son William, son William’s son Richard, son John (‘my best shirte and Twenty shillings in mony to be payd him at his retorne’), daughter Anne and her son Richard; daughter Elisabeth; residue to son Richard, who was to be executor; granddaughter Ellen Underwood. . . . [F]ather Dunham, an old man’ was buried at Langford on 19 November 1624, the only entry for that surname in the published parish register. The shirt and money to be paid to John Dunham ‘at his retorne’ shows that the testator’s son was away from home; the phrase probably means no more that that John would receive his legacy if he were to return, not that he was expected to do so. At the time, the immigrant was in Leyden.”

“Susan, daughter of Thomas ‘Cainehoe’, was baptized in Clophill on 12 December 1586, and this appears to be the baptism of Deacon John Dunham’s first wife. . . . an administration for the estate of Thomas ‘Keynoe’ of Clophill was granted on 7 May 1612 to his widow Joanne. . . .”

Mr. Ward states “these records establish the first marriage of Deacon John<sup>1</sup> Dunham of Plymouth, identify his wife’s likely parentage, and provide a strong possibility that Richard Dunham of Langford was his father.”

**NEWS OF THE WEEK**

Samuel E. Dunham (1850-1915)(9)(John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8) wrote weekly letters to his daughter Miriam, enclosing a dollar bill in each (her spending money), along with all the news of family members. From S.E. Dunham, Davidson Commission Co., Postal Telegraph Bldg., Chicago, Ill., to Mrs. Luther Ferriss, 298 Buckeye St., Grand Rapids, Mich.:

"May 20, 1910. My darling daughter; We had your very welcome letter & are so glad to know that you are recovering so well & can go out of the house & enjoy the fine weather. ((Miriam had been injured on the way to church when she was taking her daughter, Lillyn, to be confirmed. The horse got frightened & bolted, & the carriage was over-turned. They had to delay the confirmation.)) We are also much pleased to know that our darling Lillyn has been given the grace of confirmation & the Holy Communion, & trust & pray that they may be a great help to her in her Christian life.

We have had another nice letter from Edna ((his youngest daughter)) telling us of singing before a celebrated Berlin teacher who is close to the Berlin Royal Opera Co He was much pleased with her voice on account of having so much feeling & expression as well as fine tone & volume. Gave her an opera to learn, & she was to sing it for him in a week of two. (The Magic Flute.) If successful, it promised to lead to an engagement in Berlin for next fall. If she gets this & things go well elsewhere, she writes she is very much tempted to run home for a few weeks this summer provided the sea trip is not considered bad for her. I would not be much surprised to see her some time in late July or early August, particularly if she learns that Rosa ((middle daughter)) will be going to California in the fall.

Billie ((Rosa's husband)) has not yet signed contract with the party. Terms are about all settled, but as the head man is to be here about June 1st, the final settlement has been delayed until he comes on. In the meantime, he has been made another San Francisco offer, a position somewhat similar, & may take that if they bid higher than these people. This is under consideration & probably one or the other will be settled on within 2 weeks. Rosa is enjoying the rest & country air at Mrs. Sims', & I believe it is the best possible thing for her. She is better than for years.

Your mother is no so well, rheumatic, & now trouble with her stomach & bowel. Will call up doctor today & try to get straightened out. Would be better if she only had someone in the house to go out with & keep her in open air several hours daily. She dreads so going out alone, fearing an attack & inability to get back home. I am no good to her that way at all, as I can't go out at all after getting home, & not much on Sundays except to church once in a while & to see your Uncle Ralph ((his brother)).

I am figuring that your poor Uncle Ralph can't last much longer, & when he goes, I want Aunt Nelia ((his sister, who kept house for Ralph)) to come & live with us & be company for your mother, & believe they can get along together all right. Am saying nothing about this to them, but have told Uncle Ralph that if he is taken away, I expect to take care of Aunt Nelia. She will have a little insurance money & could do some card work ((painting greeting cards)) if she had a peaceful home. Uncle Ralph is somewhat better; but very, very weak, has been unable to get downtown for 2 weeks, & I fear may never get strong enough for that again. Seems to almost have given up the battle himself. Does not, can't, read very much. Sits & dozes & dreams unless it is fine & he can get over to the small park near there, where he walks a little, then sits on a (to p. 3)

NEWS OF THE WEEK (from p. 2) bench in the sun & dozes. He has felt better today, & Aunt Nee thinks he may get downtown tomorrow if it does not rain. But I doubt it. We hope to be able to find someone, after this month, to take the business ((commercial art)) entirely off their hands & assume all the office expenses, yet allow them a share of the income above some reason-able sum, & give Aunt Nelia the use of the office telephone & boy when her card work begins next fall, if she wants it then. John, Frank & John's wife expect to get over to see Uncle Ralph this p.m., have been promising to come for some time past. Hope it will liven him up some & do him some good.

This business is turning out better with Bud ((Miriam's husband)), & will be easier on him this summer than last. We want to arrange for you & Lillyn to come over & spend a week with us when school is over, as we may not be able to get away ourselves. Davidson goes away on Sun. for a month or 6 weeks, so I will be tied to the office even tighter until his return. I am feeling much better, enjoying my noon meal & feel no bad effects from it now, but eat no breakfast & very little evening dinner, as I seem to choke up & have trouble at night if I eat anything more than a very light repast. Includes a small dish of asparagus, 2 or 3 crackers & a cup of hot water. But this, with my tonic 2 or 3 times a day, holds my strength, & I have only lost 3 or 4 pounds in weight since I began the diet in January. I am certainly a profitable boarder for Mrs. Howard, & I only wish I had someone to eat my \$5.50 worth each week, so I need not go to the table at all.

All of us send much love to you all, & I hope to hear of your continued improvement from now on. With much love to you all, I am ever Your loving father, S. E. DUNHAM."

THANKS TO SUE C. STEWART, Puryear, TN, DD has this CHICAGO TRIBUNE clipping about the Dunham castle built in St. Charles, IL, by Mark W. Dunham (b. 1842)(8)(John 1, John 2, John 3, Elisha 4, Elisha 5, Elisha 6, Solomon 7). The clipping is undated, but may have been published about 1987.

## Plumbing contractor's home really is his castle

By Constanza Montana

Moving from a 19th Century Greek Revival home in Glen Ellyn to a turreted Norman-style castle in Wayne was natural for a plumbing contractor, his wife and their three children.

"We're in love with the past," said David Armbrust, 33, who recently purchased the landmark Dunham Castle, a 107-year-old chateau-like estate located at Dunham and Army Trail Roads.

"The first impressions are that it's large," said Armbrust, whose family owns Armbrust Plumbing and Heating Inc. in Wheaton. "But it's not too large to live in. It's just another home. But a unique home."

And an expensive home, too. Armbrust paid a hefty \$750,000 for the 14.2-acre estate, half the price it was listed for in June, 1986, said Beth Wray, a real estate agent for Re/Max Professionals of St. Charles, which handled the transaction. "That's its value, basically," she said.

Its historical value can't be measured, however. Completed in 1880 by Mark Wentworth Dunham, the son of one of Wayne's first settlers, the mansion boasts about 60 rooms, 13 fireplaces and 2 sunken gardens. "It's one of a kind," Armbrust said. "There's no other house like it."

The ivy-covered mansion evokes visions of a fairy tale castle. A winding driveway leads to a

three-story blond brick chateau, surrounded by tall oak and elm trees. Spires, chimney stacks and pediments jut out of the gray and red geometric-patterned slate roof.

But the 11,000-square-foot structure is showing its age. Racine bricks near the pediment are crumbling. The floral petit-point tapestry in the entrance foyer is faded and sagging. Many of the fireplaces are boarded up. The sunken gardens and limestone walk are overgrown with saplings. The gargoyles that once stood watch from the Norman battlements are gone.

"The whole house needs attention," Armbrust said. "But it's structurally sound."

According to old newspapers provided by the Armbrusts, Mark Dunham made his fortune raising and breeding French Percheron horses that he imported from Normandy. The Dunhams lived on the equestrian estate until the mid-'50s, when it was subdivided into four apartments.

Oliver Hoffman Corp. of Naperville bought the castle and grounds in 1965 and sold it in 1976 to Gerald Griffin, a financial consultant. Griffin, 66, said he and his wife lived in one of the apartments for nearly nine years before they sold it last month.

Armbrust and his wife Karen, 34, said they want to restore the landmark over the next 10

years, reconverting it to a single-family home in the process. As the former chairwoman of the Historical Site Commission in Glen Ellyn, Karen Armbrust was responsible for placing about nine houses on that city's Main Street on the National Register in 1984, including their former 111-year-old house, Armbrust said. Dunham Castle has been on the National Register since 1979.

The Armbrusts said they haven't made detailed plans for the castle's restoration. "One of the first things we want to do is to get a hold of Jane Dunham ... and tap her memory," Armbrust said. "We'd like to have her over."

Dunham, 81, the granddaughter of Mark Dunham, currently runs the Dunham-Hunt Museum, 304 Cedar Ave., St. Charles. After the castle was sold in the '60s, Dunham said, she took many of the estate's original pieces with her, including chandeliers and draperies. "About two weeks ago, I went up to see the castle," she said. "It looks terrible, just terrible."

Armbrust and his wife hope to change that. He said he negotiated for over a year to buy the castle after he saw a story announcing its sale in The Tribune.

"This will be the last move for us," he said. "I intend it to be a family legacy."

***DUNHAMS WITH MISSING ANCESTRY***

It didn't take long at all to find these Dunham mentions in the ONONDAGA (NY) CENTENNIAL, by Bruce (1896). However, an arduous trip through all our Dunham books & indices failed to identify either Rufus Dunham (b. 1825) of Manlius, NY or Joseph Dunham (b. 1842) of Baldwinsville, NY. Might any of DD's readers be familiar with the names recorded in these excerpts?

DUNHAM, Rufus, Manlius, was born in Truxton, Cortland Co., Aug. 25, 1825. His father, ((also)) Rufus Dunham, was a native of Massachusetts & came to Cortland County when a young man, where he made his home up to the time of his death at the age of 91 years. Rufus, our subject, was the 4th of a family of 10 children. He was educated in the common schools, after leaving which he engaged in farming in his native town, remaining on the old homestead until 26 years of age. In 1853 he bought a farm of 60 acres on lots 88 & 99, where he has since made his home. He has been a member of the Baptist Church for 20 years. In 1848 he married Sarah Bryant, a native of Massachusetts, & they have 2 children: Jennie, wife of Dr. N. H. Curtis, of Manlius; & Henry B., general agent for the Columbus, Hocking Valley & Toledo RR Co., now located at Columbus, Ohio. d. 1901

DUNHAM, Joseph, Baldwinsville, was born on the farm where he now resides May 25, 1842, son of Jeremiah, also a native of Onondaga County, born June 1, 1802. The family descended from 3 brothers who came to the United States in 1750 & fought in the Revolutionary War. Jeremiah married Hannah Carder, by whom he had 9 children, 6 of whom are now living. He died in 1874. Joseph Dunham was educated in the common schools. He married Mary A., daughter of D. C. Greenfield, by whom he had 5 children: DeWitt J., Sardis A., Harry E., Hattie M., Wandell, & Mary A. ((We make that 6; how about you?)) Aug. 28, 1862 Mr. Dunham enlisted in Co. I, 3rd NY Cavalry. He served until the close of the war, receiving his discharge Jun 7, 1865. He is one of the representative farmers of the town. d. 1910

**TOO MANY WILLIAMS**

Joseph R. Dunham (1804-1900)(7)(John 1, Joseph 2, Daniel 3, Daniel 4, Robert 5, Robert 6), of Newport, RI & Plymouth, MA, appears to have had 3 sons named William. The first was his eldest child, William R., who lived only between 1828 & 1830. Thus we can understand the naming of the 2nd William: William G., b. 1838. But the 3rd William (b. 1849) presents something of a mystery - particularly so since Joseph R's only named wife, Hannah Simmons, died in 1837. There must have been a 2nd wife whose name has been lost to history, & this 2nd wife must have had an overwhelming desire to have a son named William, because the 2nd William (Wm G.) was still very much alive in the 1870's & raising a young family. So was the 3rd William, who had a son named William R. (b. 1871) of his own, by Emily Shaw, plus 3 others for whom he managed to find different names.

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 Alvin Richardson not more on it