

MORE DENHAM/DONHAM/DUNHAM PROBLEMS; SHEESH!!

Thanks to Gladys Donham, Houston, TX, DD has a record of the ancestry of Mrs. Abigail Donham Sampson, once of Cincinnati, OH. It was published in *Society of Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims* (date unknown), &, unfortunately, serves to perpetuate the misinformation that Thomas Dunham (b. 1626), (now believed to have used the name DENHAM) was a son of Deacon John Dunham (1588?-1669), which has been effectively disproven. Mrs. Sampson does appear in the Isaac W. Dunham 1907 *Dunham Genealogy* (p. 73) with the line shown being substantially the same.

I, Mrs. Abigail Singleton (Donham) Sampson, resident of Cincinnati, Ohio; born February 1, 1870; married April 20, 1903; hereby apply for membership in the Society by right of descent from the Hon. John ("Deacon John") Dunham of Plymouth, Mass., born England 1588, died Plymouth 1669. Services: Member Governor's Council; Plymouth Military Co.; Deputy to General Court of the Colony, 1639-1664.

1. I was born near New Richmond, Clermont County, Ohio.

2. I am the daughter of Robert Warren Donham, born October 2, 1840; married Helena Elizabeth South August 2, 1868; born October 14, 1842; died October 3, 1915.

3. My father was the son of Jonathan Singleton Donham, born February 16, 1786; died September 21, 1856; married (1) Hilda Ross, (2) Elizabeth Ayres 1819, born about 1803.

4. My grandfather was the son of Nathaniel Donham (or Dun'm), born 1733, died 1820; married (1) Mary Sutton, (2) Kesiah Crosley, died after 1820.

5. My g. grandfather was the son of Nathaniel Dunham, Sr., born 1684.

6. My 2d g. grandfather was the son of Rev. Thomas Dunham, Jr., born 1648, died 1688; married at Hartford, Conn., Sarah Dunham 1668.

7. My 3d g. grandfather was the son of Thomas Dunham, born 1626; married Martha —.

8. My 4th g. grandfather was the son of John Dunham; married in Leyden, Holland, Abigail Wood, a relative.

Extra Information, Services in Army or Government.—Thos. Dunham (b. 1626) removed to Hartford, Conn., received from Plymouth £10 (1658) for services. Thos. Dunham, Jr. (1648-1688), granted £10 at close of King Philip's War in which he served, 1677, by general court for losses, and as inducement to accept ministry at Rye. Nathaniel, 1st, married and removed to New Jersey. Nathaniel, Jr., enlisted in War of Revolution as private, Col. Matthias Ogden's First Regiment New Jersey Continental Line, February 1, 1777; received pay and gratuity paid First Regiment, 1780, '81, '82; private, Capt. Leonard's Eighth Company (First Regiment), March 1 to May 20, 1783 (Revolutionary War). Jonathan Singleton Donham (1786-1856) ("Dunham Genealogy"), served under General Wm. H. Harrison at siege of Fort Meigs, Ohio, War of 1812; Colonel of Cavalry in State Militia in Clermont Co., Ohio, which assembled on his estate for "Muster Day."

This record seems to be rather confusing as it stands, so DD is reinterpreting it here, but leaving out Deacon John's name:

1- Thomas Dunham/Denham?
(b. 1626) & Martha Knott

2- Rev. Thomas Dunham, Jr.
(1648-1688) & Sarah —

3- Nathaniel Dunham, Sr., (b.
1684) & — — —

4- Nathaniel Donham, Sr.
(1733-1820) & Mary Sutton
or Keziah Crosley

5- Jonathan Singleton Don-
ham (1786-1856) & Hilda
Ross or Elizabeth Ayres

6- Robert Warren Donham (b.
1840) & Helena E. South

7- Abigail Singleton Donham
(b. 1870), m. William Samp-
son.

Question: Did Abigail get her information from IWD, or did he get this line from her? IWD provided the maiden name (Knott) for the wife of Thomas Dunham, Sr., though Abigail does not include it. We also note that Abigail D. Sampson, wife of Wm, had a daughter. Miss Gail Sampson, who applied to the same organization (Society of (to p. 2)

DENHAM/DONHAM/DUNHAM (from p. 1) Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims) at the same time, under her father's ancestral line. Gail had been born in New Richmond, OH Mar. 16, 1907, & was, at the time the book was published, a resident of Trenton, NJ. From this we would assume that Gail was then grown up, so perhaps our source came out some time in the 1930's.

Also, it would appear that Mrs. Sampson's forbears used both the DUNHAM & DONHAM versions of the name, with the O spelling taking over between the 2 Nathaniels (b. 1684 & 1733, respectively). What could account for this? Perhaps the spelling change occurred when the younger Nathaniel was a grown man -- say the 1760's. This brings to mind the intriguing story in the Thomas J. Donham 1913 *Donham Genealogy* of 2 unnamed brothers who quarreled bitterly, so bitterly that they decided to spell their names differently. Though so little detail was given about these men, the name change must have taken place about this same period. The quarrel, occurring in such tempestuous pre-Revolutionary times, might have been political in origin.

Does it ever seem that the more material you accumulate, the less you know??

Anyone who has an interest in foregoing branch of the family should consult a book, *Donham Family History* by Scott Trimble, 731 Monticello Rd., San Rafael, CA 94903. This book was called to our attention by Marilyn Roth, Mitchell, SD. It is a recent publication & could well be yet available from the author. The will of Nathaniel Donham, Jr., seen here, is from p. 130:

Nathaniel DONHAM Jr.'s will appears in Clermont County, OH in 1820.¹¹³ It was probated on 20 August 1820, so he probably died a short time before that. Following is the text of his will: I give and bequeath to my wife Kezia one bed and furniture, two cows, one horse, her choise, sadel and bridel. & I give to my children: to my sons, David, Lewis, Henry, Able, Amos, Robert, & Jonathan one dollar each, and to have no more of my estate. I give to my daughter Mary one bed & I give my land to my son William with a reserve to my wife, as long as she lives. And as for the rest of my estate I give one half to my wife, and the other half to my son William to be divided as they see cause, & I do appoint my wife & my son William to be executors. & I do utterly disallow, revoke and disavill all and every other testament, will, and legacies executors by me willed or maid or decreed. Rattafing and confirming this & no other, to be my last will and testament, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty ninth day of September, one thousand eight hundred and twelve. Nathaniel DONHAM (seal). Witnesses: Jesse SEVERN, James ARTHUR, Joseph ARTHUR.

Mr. Trimble raises the intriguing possibility that the subsequent generations of this line had DOUBLE Dunham ancestry. Mary Sutton, 1st wife of Nathaniel, Jr., he states, may have been the granddaughter of an Elizabeth Dunham who, in turn, was a great granddaughter of Deacon John Dunham.

PHOTOGRAPHS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED AT THIS TIME. PLEASE CHECK TO SEE WHAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHARE. REMEMBER, PICTURES DON'T HAVE TO BE OLD ONES!

Grad gets detention for revealing his funny side

Although Huntsville, Ala., teenager **Ben Dunham** graduated from high school last month, he'll have to wait until the court hearing to get his diploma back. It seems that Dunham, who's been accepted at the University of Mississippi in the fall, is a bit of a practical joker. Before commencement ceremonies May 29, the 18-year-old cut the back out of his pants under his gown and upon receiving his diploma, pulled his gown up and mooned the audience. Huntsville High's response? School administrators snatched his diploma and had Dunham arrested. "I really made a bad decision," Dunham acknowledged, before allowing, "The crowd went crazy. They started clapping and cheering." Although Mr. and Mrs. Dunham aren't speaking publicly about the graduation, um, ceremony, they did bail their son out of jail — after three hours.

his daughter Hannah, & it was believed to have been about 50 years old at the time of his death. (According to the IWD genealogy, Hannah married Jesse Bennett & had no children.) The photo shows the house as it looked prior to a complete restoration to its original condition, which had taken place by 1966.

Selma Blackmon, Norcross, GA, spotted the item at left in the "Dixie Living" section of *The Atlanta Journal & Constitution* of June 8, 1997. This family probably did not appreciate the publicity. We expect that they would rather just put the whole incident BEHIND them. You may get a laugh out of the story, or you may decide that Ben Dunham takes after some OTHER side of his family!

BELOW: This 1961 snapshot of the Dunham house in Mansfield, CT was one of Editor Kitson's first Dunham acquisitions & came to her from Anne M. Gauger. Though you wouldn't think it to look at the house, it is over 280 years old at the present time. The story is that Benjamin Dunham (1691-1766) (4)(John 1, John 2, John 3) left this house to



WEST NASHVILLE DUNHAMS

DD thanks Sue C. Stewart, Puryear, TN, for these excerpts from *West Nashville: Its People & Environs*. Sue has highlighted all of the Dunham mentions included. Elements of the story (such as William Dunham having been killed by Indians at Dunham's Station) hark back to the story of the ancestors of Robert H. Dunham. You'll remember him, because he was the young man who, as a prisoner of Santa Ana, drew a lethal black bean in the death lottery in which captive were forced to participate. Now this line seems to thread its way back to North Carolina -- an unusual place for early Dunhams to have been.

ISAAC JOHNSON

Another early pioneer at Richland Creek was Isaac Johnson. In December, 1776 Isaac was a member of the Washington County Court with such friends as John Carter, John Sevier, Charles Robertson, William Bean, Zach Isbell and others.⁴⁸ He had moved there from Salisbury, North Carolina. But he was with James Robertson during the cold winter of 1779 when they made their trail through Cumberland Gap and on to French Lick, the present site of downtown Nashville.

When the articles of government were signed in May, 1780, the signature of Isaac Johnson was boldly written.⁴⁹ But Mr. Johnson was beginning a venture of Indian troubles like he had never before faced. During the next decade and a half there was need for caution and the militia in order to preserve lives.

Isaac Johnson born 1744, and an older brother, Henry born 1738, were native of Ireland. They had migrated through Scotland, North England and into the United States. An Uncle Thomas Johnson lived at St. Leonard, Maryland where they stayed before moving to Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. At this latter locality Henry Johnson married Rachel Holman in 1763. The brothers with their families moved to the town of Salisbury, North Carolina near the Yadkin River and lived there for a few years.⁵⁰

In 1782 the feeling was secure at Kilgore's Station on the headwaters of Red River because of their remote location away from Indian traffic. Thomas Kilgore who was formerly from Maryland, was believed to have been a neighbor to the Johnsons in that distant state. But one day the enemy came to Kilgore's Fort and killed two of their men—Mason and Hoskins. At the same time Samuel Martin and Isaac Johnson were captured by this party of savages, and were taken to the Indian nation. At first opportunity, Mr. Johnson made his escape and returned to the Cumberland settlement.⁵¹

On April 18, 1783 Isaac Johnson bought land from Daniel Dunham for one thousand pounds in Davidson County on the waters of Richland Creek.⁵² The thirty-six year old Indian fighter had married Mary Dunham in 1780, probably the daughter of old Daniel. North Carolina awarded the preemption rights to the seventy settlers who stayed and fought with James Robertson to protect the frontier settlement. Isaac Johnson was among the number who received six hundred, forty acres of free land for his services.⁵³

During the year of 1784 many families ventured out west of Fort Nashborough and built their cabins and forts, as the Treaty of Paris signed the previous year had brought promises of peace. Nathaniel Johnson, John Hamilton, Isaac Johnson with such friends as James Robertson, Francis Hodge, John Dunham and John Cockrill went five or so miles west and began homesteading with their families.⁵⁴

Johnson's Fort consisting of a double log house and a few log huts, partially picketed in and

⁴⁸The Cockrill genealogy was furnished by Mrs. Irene Bachner which was compiled by her mother some years ago, Mrs. Irene M. Hoss, wife of Sessler Hoss, M.D. of Muskogee, Oklahoma.

⁴⁹Samuel Cole Williams, *Tennessee During the Revolutionary War*, (Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 1944), p. 75.

⁵⁰Putnam, *History*, p. 101.

⁵¹Author Unknown, "Local DAR Dedicates Headstone at Revolutionary Soldier's Grave," *The Tennessean*, June, 1972, Regent Mrs. Lewis Cobbs in charge of dedication, Charlotte Reeves Robertson Chapter.

⁵²Putnam, *op cit.*, p. 156.

⁵³Davidson County, *Tennessee Deed Book 1*, p. 66.

⁵⁴Haywood, *Civil and Political*, p. 218.

⁵⁵Draper Manuscripts, 6XX96, p. 3-4.

Maclin and family later came to Davidson County, Tennessee in his last days and died here in 1803.¹⁵⁴ His offspring were: James Clack Maclin, never married; Sackfield Maclin, never married; William Maclin, Junior who married Miss Parker; John Maclin who married Sarah Taylor; Anna Maclin who married Richard Cross; Rebecca Maclin who married James Bosley; Mary Maclin who married Senator William Cocke; Sarah Maclin who married Elijah Robertson; Dolly Maclin who married John Robertson; Elizabeth Maclin who married General Landon Carter; and Jane Maclin who married James Clack.

Soon after the birth of their first daughter Elizabeth, born March 21, 1783, Elijah and Sarah Robertson followed his brother to the Cumberland settlement, the present site of Nashville. They made their home near the present Hermitage on Stones River beyond Hays' Station and close to a never-failing spring,¹⁵⁵ where they lived for about eight years.

Elijah's first responsibility in the new settlement was Chief of the Commissary.¹⁵⁶ He was given nine hundred, sixty acres for acting as commissary to the troops.¹⁵⁷ Commissioners were appointed to survey and mark boundaries of preemptions and lands received for military services during the Revolutionary War. While Absolam Tatum, Isaac Shelby and Anthony Bledsoe served as commissioners, Elijah Robertson commanded the guards who were about one hundred in number. These men kept watch for the depredations of the Indians, guarding the surveyors against attack.¹⁵⁸ Each commissioner, guard, surveyor, chain carrier or hunter were to receive five thousand acres for his services.

The Indians were on the warpath during the early months of 1783. Elijah Robertson acted as guard for travelers who were moving to the Cumberland, such as William Pillow who made his abode in the new settlement.¹⁵⁹ But while the Indians were plundering about the area, they were also stealing the stock belonging to the pioneers. There were about one thousand horses stolen that year of which ninety-three belonged to Elijah and his brother, James Robertson.¹⁶⁰

During 1784 Elijah Robertson became active in government. He and Stephen Ray were security for James Montgomery who was suspected of treasonable proceedings with the Spaniards.¹⁶¹ But most important, in the general assembly of North Carolina that year sat Elijah Robertson of Davidson County. He served in the House of Commons while brother James served in the Senate.¹⁶² In 1787 Elijah Robertson was elected by the North Carolina legislature as Lieutenant Colonel of the Davidson County Militia, second in command.¹⁶³ He continued to serve in the legislature with his sibling and they traveled between six and seven hundred miles one way to keep appointments of government.

During June of 1789 after the Creeks attacked Robertson's Station and shot brother James through the foot,¹⁶⁴ the same party went to Dunham's Station and set it afire. They killed William Dunham in the vicinity, and Elijah Robertson buried him at his house.¹⁶⁵ Since the commander had an injured foot, Colonel Elijah Robertson was ordered to lead men in pursuit of these Indians.¹⁶⁶ Andrew Jackson was one of the twenty under Elijah's command.

Elijah with his body of minute men kept on the trail of the foe.¹⁶⁷ By June 2, 1791 the Indian fighter was promoted. He was commissioned and appointed by Governor William Blount the Colonel Commandant of the Davidson County Militia. Brother James was promoted to Brigadier General and Isaac Roberts took over the rank of second in command.

Three Edney brothers—Levin, Newton and Allison—from Pasquotank, North Carolina, settled in Davidson County, Tennessee around 1790. Newton and Allison Edney bought lands on the Harpeth River in 1799 from Thomas Molloy and Henry Dunham.²⁶⁵ They owned five hundred acres between the two men. In 1801 Levin bought some acreage on the Harpeth River from Newton near the same location where later was built *Edney's Chapel*. The first meetinghouse burned so that Newton Edney conveyed to Levin Edney, Aquilla Sugg and William Roach a lot upon which to build a place of worship in 1809. It was located west of the Harpeth River near the Williamson County line on Trace Creek.²⁶⁶ This chapel became the forerunner of Bellevue Methodist Church, a lovely frame building which still stands and was constructed circa 1910.

During the War of 1812 the Edneys served in the Davidson County Militia. Levin and Newton were in Captain Henry's Company while John W. Edney served in Dempsey Morris' Company.²⁶⁷

In his will Newton Edney left the one hundred, seventy-eight acre plantation to his grandson, William Edney, male heir of his deceased son, Edmond, which was located on Trace Creek. He also willed land to his grandsons: James Lee Edney, Josiah Newton Jones and Newton Jasper Jones on the South Harpeth River. The will of Allison Edney was administered in Williamson County, Tennessee in 1816. His wife was the former Polly Dunham. The