

MERRY CHRISTMAS



One of the most exciting & unusual of all our Dunham kinsmen has to be Allen A. Dutton (11) (Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Elisha 4, Ebenezer 5, Bangs 6, Abel 7, Justice Austin 8, Mary Elida Dunham Dutton 9, Charles Dutton 10), seen here at the Phoenix home, the Rockin' AD Ranch. With him is Pillbox, one of many rhines who live at the ranch. Only 55 lbs. at birth, Pillbox now weighs 4300 lbs. (We wonder what kind of scale Allen uses to weigh a rhino!) In addition to running the exotic ranch, this versatile cousin is also an artist, & he makes the most beautiful genealogical charts in existence. (More photos, p. 2)



RIGHT: J.D., the gorilla, Allen, & Billy Sunday, the rhino. J.D. & Billy Sunday are fast friends.

You could almost say that J. D. is Billy's therapist, as he brought him out of a deep depression at the time that Billy's mother, Victoria, died.

BELOW: Allen with Big Bertha, Bulldozer, & their daughter, Petticoat. Petticoat was born prematurely, when her mother was still on the range, & Bulldozer proudly led his human

"servants" to his mate & his new offspring. A keen observer of animal psychology, Allen Dutton is very much attuned to the nuances in their behavior. He cultivates their individuality, & under his care they flourish. It is clear that he has a lot of fun while performing these services. DD offers a salute to AD & his wonderful ranch.

Life on A. A. Dutton's Famous "Rockin' AD Ranch"



REUNION: 1992

The 93rd (!!) Dunham Family Reunion was held in West Monroe, NY on Aug. 9, 1992. Bill Wood (sitting in the front row here, with his arms crossed) didn't get any pictures until about half of those in attendance had left. So double this crowd, & you can envision what a lot of people were there. (Bill Says he'll have a list of them, & a better photo, for DD to use later.) Most, if not all, of this group are descendants of Alpheus Dunham (6) (Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Nathaniel 3, Isaac 4, Calvin 5). Calvin, born



in 1754, is recorded as a son of Isaac in the IWD genealogy, but his line is not carried forward, so we'll HOPE to rectify that large omission in our expanded compilation!) (Bill Wood's line is as above, plus Alpheus, Jr. 7, George W. 8, Henry A. 9, Alice Marion Dunham Wood 10.) This branch of the family has an ingenious, but possibly quite expensive, way of keeping a large number of children occupied, entertained (& quiet?) during their reunions, & we'll pass along the technique: They bury a bunch of coins in a big pile of sand, & let the kids "treasure hunt" to their hearts' content. Ann Eldred, 4th cousin to Bill Wood, is also an 11th generation member, her line being: Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Nathaniel 3, Isaac 4, Calvin 5, Alpheus 6, Amanda L. Dunham Cheney 7, Sheridan Daniel Cheney 8, William H. Cheney 9, Mildred Cheney Engelbrecht 10. Ann did double-reunion duty on August 9th. First she attended the reunion described above, & then she went on to another reunion of the Daniel Sheridan & Amanda L. (Dunham) Cheney family, held not so very far from the first gathering. Records of this second group have been kept since 1866. Ann took photographs of both events, & we'd enjoy seeing the results. Such longevity may be something of a record for family reunions, & we think it speaks very well for the Dunhams. However, it is not exactly surprising, as perseverance appears to be an in-bred Dunham quality. (Have you found the same thing in your branch of the family, that we tend to keep going, & if it doesn't pay off immediately, it does in the long run?) Somewhere there must be photographs that were taken of the earlier Dunham family reunions from "Dunham country" on the northern shore of Lake Oneida. If any readers have some, & if they could share a print with DD, it would be marvelous. We'd be glad to borrow original copies, have them duplicated here, & then return your originals, with the newly made negatives, too. This way other family members could have reprints made inexpensively.

DUNHAM DISPATCH

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MORE ABOUT ISAAC'S BOOK

From Bill Wood we have more information which could well explain some of the errors & confusions in Isaac W. Dunham's DUNHAM GENEALOGY. Bill writes that his grandfather, Henry Alpheus Dunham, had corresponded with one of Isaac's sons back in the 19-thirties. From these letters, Bill has been led to understand that Isaac was on his deathbed before his book went to the publishers. This forced his family to step in, although they were not really trained or especially interested in the work, to "finish" the book, unedited. After doing this, they tossed out all his old papers, which of course were the source materials that he had accumulated over the years. Poor Isaac was probably spinning in his grave over the whole situation. Wouldn't this be a terrible thing to have happen to your family records? It reminds one of the old adage, "If you want something done well, do it yourself," -- to which could be added, "AND HURRY UP ABOUT IT." Still, it seems better that the work, in whatever shape, WAS published. His family could just as easily tossed the ENTIRE work out. At least they tried, & they left us enormous amounts of data, plus some interesting puzzles. Much better than nothing.

A LATE WEDDING From Karen Hill we have this clipping that the PETERSBURG (MI) SUN copied from DES MOINES (IA) GAZETTE, concerning Norman Curtis Dunham (1848-1927) (8) (Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Eleazer 3, Israel 4, Ebenezer 5, Sylvanus 6, Dr. Nelson 7). "Fri., Apr. 27, 1923. MARRIED IN DAVENPORT. Mrs. Nettie Loomis, a lady of 74 years of age, was married Sat., Apr. 14, to Curtis Dunham of the same age. They were boy & girl school chums & were very friendly before her marriage to the late A. E. Loomis. The marriage was a very quiet affair. Mr. Dunham comes from Adrian, Mich., to Prophetstown, which will be the home of the couple at present. Besides his home in Adrian, Mr. Dunham has a summer home in Michigan, where the couple will probably spend their summers, as has been his custom for years. We are sure the many friends of Mrs. Dunham in Prophetstown will hasten to extend to her & her husband congratulations & best wishes for the future as they travel the balance of their lives together." Call Sally Jessy on this!



JOHN HANDY DUNHAM (1881-1943) (10) (Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7, Francis S. 8, Rev. Francis B. 9) is shown here in 1911, with his daughter, Dorothy Alice. They were photographed at the christening of the baby, which took place at the Church of the Redeemer in Chicago, formerly John H. Dunham's father's church. Thanks go to Dorothy, now Mrs. P. D. Curtis of White Bear Lake MN, for sharing this photo.