

1851 LETTER PROVIDES INSIGHTS INTO TIMES:

Conditions, Costs, Concerns

Written from Cantwell's, Delaware, where he had recently taken a position as schoolmaster, Francis S. Dunham (1812-1856)(8)(Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Ebenezer 4, Ebenezer 5, Jonathan 6, Ralph 7) addressed his wife, who was staying with his father's family in Coventry, CT, as the year 1851 dawned. She had been raised in Washington, DC, which may explain her husband's concern for her reaction to the northern climate, but his other concerns reflect the ordinary hazards of the times. (Today we live with a lot of other hazards, but we can be thankful that most of THESE are no longer big problems.)

"Cantwell's, Jan. 1, 1851. My dear Anna; What a little world of adventure since I wished HAPPY NEW YEAR to Miss Leah Ann Wilson Handy in 1843! The 8th return of the day has come. It brings hope at least. Blessed be the Lord who hath sustained us thus far. I hope your frame of mind is not less hopeful than it is wont to be & such as mine is at the moment. I received your last 3 days after it was due. All your letters have thus far gone through to Dover & returned. I cannot tell where the mistake is. The letters should come to me direct from Philadelphia, & the postage should be only 5 cents, the distance being less than 300 miles. Perhaps you would do well to write a note or send a message to the P.M. of Coventry, stating that I am 50 miles from Philadelphia by mail route.

"I am afraid the climate will prove rather cold for you this winter, especially as you sit by a fireplace instead of a stove. Pray be very cautious about taking fire, both for yourself & the children. Cotton dresses & aprons are scarcely safe by a wood fire in a fireplace. Do not leave the children by themselves. You see I can fret myself a little upon occasion. I think frequently that there is some particular caution so necessary & so urgent that I am half disposed to telegraph you. You should be somewhat startled to receive a dispatch to the effect of 'Don't leave the children in the room by themselves,' 'Take care of the fire,' 'Don't get your feet damp,' 'Be careful not to slip on the ice,' 'Do not attempt great feats at washing,' etc.

"By the way, it is entirely unnecessary for you to play the whimsical old woman in imitation of me, for I am really excessively careful in all things. I do not pretend to get my feet damp, to put on damp clothes, to stand or sit in a current of air, to go out without my overcoat, to sleep in damp sheets, to sit in a room without a fire, to go out to night meetings, to eat food that does not agree with me. In short, I utterly eschew all these impudences, besides chewing some tobacco, which, by the way, is much better here than in Coventry. On the whole, my dearest, don't you think yours is a wondrous prudent man, one in 10,000? Fit to be trusted anywhere...& this minds me to remark on the women here. No mortal would ever think of being jealous of them, for sooth to say, they are most unmistakably not pretty. (You were best expunge this, for fear of accident.) Can't you contrive to gain about 20 pounds between this & spring? I have a notion of setting up for the ball.

"This is the first of January. Old Time is reeling off the days & weeks at a very considerable pace. I know every inch of ground between this & Coventry, & when the day comes I think I shall move toward you with considerable velocity.

"I have rented a house at \$40.00, not the best in the world, but habitable, & the cheapest I could find, which is the main consideration to people of light purse. We shall have to make the closest kind of estimates, but with the blessing of Providence, we shall 'weather the point.' The house consists of 4 rooms, 2 on the 1st floor & 2 in the attic, & garden. Pump on the opposite side of the street. House surrounded with mulberry trees. I feel very sure that mine wife (to p. 2)

1851 LETTER (from p. 1) will make it look HOME. Your carpet is not large enough for the front room We shall be obliged to procure another of some sort. Fortunately a plain one will bet suit the house. I do not know whether it were best for me to fit up previous to your coming or not. It is very convenient getting goods from Philadelphia as there are several vessels from this place thither. Write in your next what you think is the best management.

"I have been spending the holidays doing nothing, or next to it. We have a library here which I patronize somewhat excessively. On the whole I am getting over the ground with as much comfort as one could be expected to do without the other self. Write a long & brave letter next time. Brevity is NOT the soul of wit in my wife's letters. Tell Sister I am exceedingly obliged for her 'wee bit' of a letter. I will return fourfold as long. My best love to Mother. I think she will like our little home in our little town in little Delaware. I shall write her soon.

"I am very sorry to hear of the trouble concerning my sister's children. If I thought I could do any good I would write to Mr. Hyde. He is laboring under a very SILLY misconception. Pray ask Brother & Sister Cornelia ((Mrs. Lucius B. Loomis (1816-1889))) whether I could do any service. I hope they will do nothing rashly. I am anxious for Brother L. Tell me of him in your next. How is Sister Mary? ((Mary Dunham (1829-1871) UNM)) Give my love to them all; especially remember my dear little children, my Frank & my Sammy, for whom & for you, my dearest, I pray nightly 'O, Lord, have mercy upon them & bless them & lift upon them the light of thy countenance.' Yours, F. S. DUNHAM." -----

It is unfortunate that Anna's previous letter was not saved, as it must have included lots of news regarding the other children of Ralph Dunham (1789-1847) & his grandchildren. It would have been most illuminating. However life's problems may change over time, one constant appears to be worry over the young folks & their activities. It was Frank's oldest sister, Sarah Maria Dunham Hyde (1811-1850) whose widower, John Milton Hyde, was evidently having trouble with his sons. Hyde's eldest were: John M. Hyde, Jr. (b. 1834); Henry F. (b. 1836); & William L. (b. 1838). However, while it may be possible to identify the misbehaving teens with a fair amount of certainty, there is NO way of knowing just what they were up to. Something rather mild by today's standards, perhaps? It is known that they all lived to mature & marry. Two of them had families of their own & lived in Brooklyn. The other became a resident of New Bedford, MA.

OUERY

Would like to correspond with descendants of Jonathan Dunham (1721-1752) and Kezia FitzRandolph of Piscataway, NJ. They had 5 children:

- Rebecca, b 1743, married Andrew Drake
- Mary, b 1745, married David Dunn
- Tabitha, b 1747, married Lambert Merrill
- Abraham, b 1750, married Sarah FitzRandolph
- *Johathan, b 1752, married Eunice Dunn

I need information on these children and their children. What happened to Kezia and her young children after Jonathan died? Did she remarry? When did she die and where is she buried? Kezia had 11 siblings. Neither she nor any of her children are among the few mentioned in her father's (Jonathan FitzRandolph) will of 1774, proved 1783. Any help would be much appreciated. D. D. Gaa, 442 Ryan Rd., Greenwich, NY 12834



A LONG MILITARY TRADITION

From Dr. William F. King of Gulfport, MS, DD has this fine portrait of his great grandfather, Civil War soldier, Lieut. George Dunham (1846-1917), born in Fairhaven, MA, who died at the Old Soldiers' Home in Boston.

Preserved in the family, the sword shown here is a German "Sjolgern" that is engraved with his name, regiment, & a listing of the battles in which he fought: Wilderness-Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, North Anna River, Pebbles Farm, Petersburg Crater (sp?).

The family tradition (& IWD)(now in dispute, like so many others) puts Lieut. George Dunham as a member of the 9th generation in America with this ancestral line: Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Eleazer 3, Josiah 4, Amos 5, Ann Dunham 6--at which point the line becomes "Double Dunham" as Ann married Capt. George Dunham (1750-1819), who had been born in England-- George, Jr. 7, Rufus A. 8.

A family tradition which cannot be disputed is that there is a lengthy history of military service in this branch. In addition to all of the above, George Dunham, Jr. (1787-1842) is said to have taken part in the War of 1812; Dr. King's father, Harry King, served in the Navy in World War I; Dr. King & his brother,

Emerson King, served in both World War II & in the Korean Conflict, he in the Navy & Emerson in the Army, where he received a Purple Heart in 1951.

DUNHAM DISPATCH
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TWO POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATIONS

Edward ⁷ and Ephraim ⁷ possible sons of Archelaus ⁶, Daniel ⁵ Edmund ^{4,3} Benajah ² John ¹ Dunham

As readers of DUNHAM DISPATCH know I have been working for a good many years to write a new Dunham/Donham Genealogy. My purpose is threefold: to produce the correct lines of descent of the children of Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, and of Nathaniel Dunham of Wrentham MA. and Hebron CT.; to fully document these lines and cite the source material used; and to carry those lines out to the present generation for those persons who supply material on the most recent generations and wish to be included in my book.

My research and compilation are proceeding very well and even though I am living in Bratislava Slovakia where my husband is currently working, I have been able to make steady progress on my research. I am at the point now where most lines are well established and proven, and I am now looking at Dunhams who are NOT identified. I am looking for clues that will place them in certain locations and thus perhaps be connected to their family lines. In doing this I am using the 1850 Federal Census to see if I can identify all the Dunhams listed therein. I also use the IGI, however this is to provide clues only and it is not a primary source.

Research on the line of Deacon John (1) Dunham, Benajah (2), Edmund (3 & 4) and Daniel (5) shows that Daniel (5) and Elizabeth (Martin) Dunham had a son Archelaus (6) b. in 1751, Piscataway NJ [Ref. The Dunhams of Callaway, by Ray F. Dawson, pub. 1981] (note that this is Callaway Co. Missouri). Archelaus (6) m. Theodocia Parks (m. date unknown), and their first recorded child is Daniel (7) b. in 1791. This Daniel (7) is the focus of Dr. Dawson's book. Dr. Dawson also states that Daniel, father of Archelaus, bought some land in Virginia (now West Virginia) in Tygart's Valley Tract and a clear sketch of this area is included in his book. (This land is at the junction of Marion, Harrison and Taylor Counties, West Virginia.)

In looking at the Warren County Ohio 1850 Federal Census we find a family group living in Turtle Creek and Union Town (Union is just south of Turtle Creek). In Turtle Creek, on p. 153 is Elizabeth Dunham age 66, (b. NY), and so she was b. abt. 1784. I believe that she was the wife/widow of Edward Dunham, that she was Elizabeth Gibbs, and that they were married abt. 1803-7. I believe that they were the parents of the Archelaus Dunham b. abt. 1808 who m. Clarissa Cain abt. 1840 in Turtle Creek, Warren Co. OH. (this is a clue only, from Ohio IGI information) Note: Archelaus and Clarissa do NOT appear on the 1850 census of OH, however other members of this family do appear in Warren Co. as follows.

In Turtle Creek, p. 153;		
Elizabeth Dunham	66	b. NY (b. abt 1784) (Elizabeth (Gibbs) Dunham widow of Edward Dunham)
Daniel	37	Laborer b. OH (b. abt. 1813)
Watson	26	Laborer b. OH (full name, John Watson Dunham) (b. abt. 1824)
Ellen Earhart	28	(married dau. of Elizabeth) (b. abt. 1822)

In Union Town, p. 6;		
Henry Dunham	33	Farmer b. OH (full name Henry Jones Dunham) (b. abt. 1817)
M.A.	28	(this is Martha A. (Fox) Dunham)
J.M.	7	(this is Jacob M(larion))

[not listed on the census, but also a child of Henry and Martha is William Ambrose Dunham b. 1 Aug. 1847]

POSSIBLE IDENTIFICATIONS (cont'd from P. 4)

Next entry on census p. 6;

T.G. Dunham	38	Farmer b. OH (full name Thomas Gibbs Dunham) (b. abt. 1811)
E.A.	34	(full name Eliza Ann Benham/Bonham?)
C.A.	13	(full name Cynthia Ann, b. 28 Dec. 1836)
Peter	11	(full name Peter B., b. 1839)
John	9	(full name John E., b. 1841)
J.F.	8	(full name James Frank, b. 1842)
M.E.	3	(a female-I don't know full name, poss. Jennie)
S.L.	1	(a female-I don't know full name)

Union Town p. 17;

Ephraim Dunham	63	Farmer b. NJ (so b. abt. 1787)
Phebe	31	b. OH (poss. child of Ephraim)
Josiah	28	Farmer b. OH (poss. child of Ephraim)
Susan	23	b. OH (poss. child of Ephraim)
Fanny Craigg	73	b. NJ (poss. mother or relative of wife of Ephraim)

We know that Archelaus (6) was b. abt. 1751 in Piscataway NJ. He m. Theodocia Parks (date unknown) and their first recorded child was Daniel (7) b. 1791. That makes Archelaus 40 years old when this Daniel (7) was born, and makes me think that there may have been other children [either b. to an earlier wife, or b. to Theodocia (Parks)] prior to the birth of Daniel in 1791. In looking at the given names, I think that the Edward who m. Elizabeth Gibbs and had a son Archelaus, was a son of Archelaus and Theodocia, and that Ephraim b. abt. 1787 was also a son of Archelaus and Theodocia. Based on the age of Elizabeth Gibbs, b. abt. 1784, I think that Edward may have been older than Ephraim, and therefore b. abt. 1784-5.

I invite comment from anyone descended from the above families, or from anyone researching these families. They are NOT proven, and are submitted here for the purpose of soliciting further information. There are also other Dunham families in Warren Co. Ohio whose lines are not proven yet.

1850 MICHIGAN CENSUS INDEX EXTRACT

Phyllis Kitson will be willing to read the complete entry for any one of these households for readers who are interested.

Dunham (widow)	EAKA	104
Abel S.	EAER	127R
Abigail J.	ALOT	42
Abijah	GEFL	173R
Alfred	KAKA	36R
Archibald	MBRI	11
Caleb H.	EAER	130R
Charles	HISC	444
Chas.	JAPA	270R
David	EAER	130R
David	OAH1	169
Eben	OAH1	174
Edward	MBCL	61
Elijah	OAH1	170R
Francis	EAER	131
George	EAKA	102
George	KASC	93R
George	JACN	258
Harrison	JAPU	252R
Harry	JAPU	255
Hartwell B.	EAER	131
Harvey	HISC	437
Henry	MBMB	28R
Henry	WAAA	227
Henry A.	KAKA	10
Jackson	JAPU	255
Jacob	OAMI	272R
James	BE--	230
Jane	WAYP	433
Job	KACO	144
John	WAAA	183R
John E.	LETE	165
Matthew	BABT	104
Moses	KACO	144
Nelson	MRDU	402R
Orson	BAMG	130R
Seneca	JAWA	465R
Timothy M.	KAPO	71R
Wesley	KAKA	10
William	MBCL	42R