

## 'Dunham' Is Place Name With Several Origins

By SANSON INSTITUTE

When we investigate a surname to find its origin and meaning we sometimes find that a single name can have several meanings and even several origins.

Since this report does not concern itself with a particular genealogical branch, we attempt to track down and report on all of the origins and meanings which apply to the particular name.

Dunham is such a name, in that it has more than one possible meaning and origin. The most common and most accepted meaning of the name is "a dweller of swarthy complexion living at a homestead or enclosure." It can also mean someone who comes from a place called Dunham or someone who lives at Dun's homestead.

Dun comes from the Old English "dunn" meaning "dull brown" or "dark and swarthy." As a nickname this word was applied to the color of a person's hair or his complexion. Anglo-Saxons used Dun, Dunne and Dunna as personal names. In some instances the word may be related to Thor, the Norse God of Thunder, while in others it may be from the Middle English "dun" which means "hill."

Ham is a suffix and generally means homestead or enclosure. It is one of the most common English place name endings, as attested to by the old rhyme: "The lord, in ham, in ley, in tow, the most of English surnames run."

In general the name is considered a place name, whichever particular meaning it may have, since it refers to the dwelling place of the individual mentioned. During the time of Henry III and Edward I there are records of a Joel de Dunham and a Reginald de Dunham, both of whom are from County Norfolk. There are two Dunhams in County Norfolk: Great Dunham and Little Dunham. In southwell there is a Dunham-on-Trent. A person who came from any of these three



Dunham

places or any other place so named would have been listed in the records as "de Dunham." Later the prefix "de" fell into disuse and, as the identification remained with the individual and his descendants, the surname Dunham arose.

An important contribution to literature was made by Dr. S. Astley Dunham, who wrote "History of Poland,"

"History of Spain and Portugal" and "History of Europe During the Middle Ages." He also wrote a history of the Germanic Empire which is used extensively at the present time.

Interested in your name? If you would like to see history and arms of your name in a future column write to "What's in your Name?" care of the Pensacola News-Journal.

The "What's in your name?" series by the Sanson Institute ran in many newspapers for a long time & was very popular. This column on the Dunham name appeared in THE PENSACOLA (FL) JOURNAL on December 2, 1968 & comes to DD from Sue C. Stewart, Puryear, TN. The multiple origins of the name would seem to imply that persons who originally assumed the surname of DUNHAM were not necessarily related to one another.

Is the name of S. Astley Dunham a familiar one to any reader? We haven't come across it here, but of course individuals who use their second name rather than their first often get confused or mislaid in genealogical records, & the article gives no time frame or geographic area

that might assist in identification. The coat of arms shown in the article is completely different from the more familiar one in the I. W.D. genealogy & the Sophie Dunham Moore genealogy., with the "Semper Vigilante" motto. That one, re-drawn, appeared in the December 1977 DD. (Maybe it is about time that it be reprinted; what do you think?)

NOTE: Any listings of Dunhams in any particular state or county from 1850 or later have been gathered from the census index of that state & year. Codes following the names will enable you to get the names, birthplaces, & ages of all individuals in that home, & usually the relationship of each individual to the head of the household. If the reel of microfilm in which it appears is not available at your local library, you can rent it for a nominal sum through interlibrary loan.

## DUNHAMS IN ILLINOIS 1850 (cont'd from May)

<u>Given Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Town</u>
Lewis	Pike	150	4 S 4 W
Lucy S.	Bureau	245	NC Twp. L
Luellen	Lee	88	Dixon
Mary	Pike	148	4 S 4 W
Mary	DeWitt	418	Waynesville
Mary	Winnebago	365	Butler
Polly	Morgan	335	NC Twp. L
Rachel	Jersey	78	8th Twp.
Rachel	Jersey	92	8th Twp.
Samuel	Christian	133	22nd District
Samuel	Marshall	92	Lacon.
Sylvanus	Kane	195	Aurora
T. V.	Cook	303	Chicago
Theodore	Winnebago	353	New Mill.
Thomas	Will	141	Bourbon
Thomas E.	DeWitt	441	NC Twp. L
W. N.	Cook	145	Chicago
W. S.	DeWitt	417	Waynesville
Wadum	Kendall	234	Oswego
William	Effingham	313	No Twp. L
William	Bureau	209	Dover
William	Marshall	86	No. Twp. L
William	Sangamon	193	No. Twp. L
Woodson	Greene	123	N. Apple.
Catherine*	Cook	207	Chicago
Julius*	Cook	273	Chicago
Mary*	Pike	62	4 S 3 W
R. A.*	Tazewell	75	No. Twp. L

\*The reason why the last four entries were alphabetized separately isn't known.

If you would like a listing from a particular state for the year 1850, let DD know. Indices of most states FROM THAT YEAR are available to us locally.

DUNHAM DISPATCH  
 Mrs. Phyllis S. Kitson, Editor  
 711 Kensington Avenue  
 Flint, Michigan 48503

THESE MYSTERY OBITUARIES come to DD from Bob W. Dunham, Madison, WI, & first appeared in Wisconsin newspapers. It hasn't been possible to identify either MR Charles Dunham or MRS. Charles Dunham, except for determining that they were NOT husband & wife. (The wife of Mr. Charles Dunham had died in 1917, while Mrs. Charles Dunham (Henrietta), who died in 1944, was survived by her husband.) The death of Charles H. Dunham (1831?-1919) was reported on Feb. 4, 1919 in THE BERLIN JOURNAL; Henrietta Dunham's death was reported in THE HANCOCK NEWS OF June 15, 1944.

**CHARLES H. DUNHAM  
DIES AT MILWAUKEE**

DEATH DUE TO PNEUMONIA  
CAME ON SUNDAY AFT.  
ERNOON

Was Old Time Resident of this City  
and Veteran of Mexican War—Re-  
sided in Berlin for Many Years  
and Was Very Well Known

Charles H. Dunham, 87, well known  
resident of this city and a vet-  
eran of the Mexican war, died at his

home in Milwaukee, Mrs. O. A. Cun-  
ningham, Milwaukee, Sunday after-  
noon at 2 o'clock following a brief ill-  
ness with pneumonia. Mr. Dunham  
had been enjoying his usual health and  
Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock com-  
plained of not feeling well. He re-  
tired and soon after pneumonia devel-  
oped and there apparently was no  
hope for him from the beginning.

The deceased lost his wife on July  
21, 1917, and is survived by three  
daughters, Allie (Mrs. George Kal-  
tenbach), Boston; Anna (Mrs. O. A.  
Cunningham), Milwaukee; Gertrude  
(Mrs. Harry Thompson), Aurora, Ill.;  
and one son, C. F. Dunham, Wagner,  
S. Dak.

It is not known how many of the  
relatives will be in the city for the fu-  
neral, but its doubtful whether any  
of them will be able to come except  
Mrs. Cunningham and the son, Frank  
Dunham. The remains will arrive in  
the city Wednesday noon and the  
services will be held from the train.  
There will be a short service at the  
grave, Rev. W. J. Patton of the Meth-  
odist church officiating.

The deceased was a well known and  
old time resident of this city and had  
a large circle of friends. They resided  
on Moore st for many years, this  
home being sold following the  
death of Mrs. Dunham, July, 1917.  
Mr. Dunham was for years employed



CHAS. H. DUNHAM

at the depot of the C. M. & St. P. road  
was a baseball fan and a very congen-  
ial and lovable old man. The Jour-  
nal presents today a good likeness of  
the deceased taken at the time of his  
recent wedding anniversary, which  
was celebrated here.

**Mrs. Charles Dunham  
Rites Held Tuesday**

Henrietta Gallagher was born in  
New York City February 11, 1863  
and passed away at her home at  
Hancock June 10, 1944, at the age  
of 81 years and five months.

She came to Hancock with her  
parents in 1868, who settled on a  
homestead about three miles north-  
west of the village.

On November 5, 1882, she was  
united in marriage to Charles  
Dunham. Five children were born  
to this union, two dying in infancy.  
Jesse E., Mrs. John Sartell, passed  
away in 1922 and Dennis was killed  
in an auto accident in 1941.

She is survived by her husband  
and one daughter, Mabel, (Mrs. Emil  
Foss) of Amherst, eleven grand-  
children and twelve great grand-  
children.

With the exception of a few years  
spent in Montana and Wyoming, she  
has resided near Hancock all her  
life. She was a very active member  
of the Hancock Chapter of the  
Eastern Star and of the Ladies'  
Aid of the Community Church.

Funeral services were held Tuesday,  
June 13, at the Hancock Community  
Church with interment in Hancock  
cemetery. Rev. Alfred Attwood of  
Coloma, officiating. The Eastern  
Star also conducted their usual  
services at the church.

Pallbearers were three grandsons,  
Ed Ristow and Alvin Holmes of  
Wisconsin Rapids and Gerome Beck  
of Lake Dalton, also Martin Lipkie,  
Wisconsin Rapids; Jefferson Ashley,

and Charles Patterson, Hancock.

Those from away attending the  
funeral were Mr. and Mrs. Emil  
Foss and Mrs. Frank Cramer of  
Amherst; Mrs. J. D. LuMaye and  
three children, Jimmie, Marilyn and  
Sue Ellen, Green Bay; Mrs. D. R.  
Dunham, Donna Jean and son,  
Dennis, Nekoosa; Mrs. Don Dunham  
and Mrs. Madge Miller, Minneapolis;  
Edna Beck, Lake Dalton; Ruth  
Ristow and Dorothy Holmes, Wis-  
consin Rapids; Mrs. Bert O'Connor,  
Mrs. John Holdreger, Wm. Chown,  
Mrs. Art Neylin and Mrs. Ralph  
Getman, Stevens Point; Mr. and Mrs.  
Eugene Sartelle, Mr. and Mrs. Ed  
Walker and Fred Rawson, Plainfield.



**BUILDING IMMORTALITY.** Bob A. Dunham (5) (William 1, Charles R. 2, Arthur F. 3, Arthur 4), now of Monona, WI, provides this photo of the handsome building that houses his business enterprises. DD will give Bob a bit of free advertising in exchange, & to explain what it is that Bob does, here's a descriptive strip from his letterhead.

### Robert Arthur Dunham

**RADical Resources    J&B Platinum Co.**  
 Dunham Haack Building  
 6309 Monona Drive  
 Monona, WI 53716

**ABOUT PAGE 5:** Yet another mystery obit appears on page 5. (We haven't had much success of late in connecting individuals to their long Dunham heritage. The excuse: Published Dunham genealogies are getting too old to include many contemporary people.) For this obituary we thank James M. Dunham, Phoenix, NY. It was published in THE SYRACUSE HERALD AMERICAN on March 31, 1996. Is anyone familiar with this family? (The Mattydale location seems to ring a bell that should probably be louder!)

**NEEDED NOW!** ANECDOTES, OLD LETTERS, MEMOIRS, NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS, & ESPECIALLY PHOTOGRAPHS (which can be brand new) needed to insure continued publication. Can pertain to any Dunham or Dunham descendant. You've come through for DD before; can you please do it again?

**Interior Design  
and Procurement**

**Casino Gaming**  
Gaming Floor &  
Entertainment  
Facilities

**Restaurant**  
Furniture & Finishes

**Hotel/Motel**  
Guest Room  
Public Areas  
Convention Centers

**Healthcare**  
Extended Care &  
Nursing Home

**Design**  
**Space Planning**  
**Budgeting**  
**Specifications**  
**Procurement**  
**Delivery**  
**Installation**  
**Warranty**

**SATISFACTION  
ALWAYS**

## Arthur Dunham Sr. Jo Marie Dunham

Arthur W. Dunham Sr., 73, and Jo Marie Dunham, 70, both of 223 Matty Ave., Mattydale died Friday near Glens Falls after a car accident.

Mr. Dunham was born in Springfield, Ill. and has lived in the Mattydale area since October. He was an Army veteran of World War II and served in the Korean War. After his military service, he lived in a number of states, where he established and pastored Baptist churches.

Mrs. Dunham was born in Sulphur Springs, Texas and moved to Mattydale in October. She worked as a telephone operator before getting married.

They were members of the Buckley Road Baptist Church.

Survivors include three sons, Arthur II of Lowell, Vermont, Clarence of Winston-Salem, N.C. and Daniel of Mattydale; two daughters, Paula Stant and Rebecca Nordlander, both of Winston-Salem, N.C.; 13 grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. Dunham is survived by two brothers, Roy Miller of Illinois, and Clarence Dunham of Florida; three sisters, Beulah Atwood, Marzella Libben and Alberta Altig, all of Illinois.

Mrs. Dunham is survived by two brothers, Clyde Beck of Texas and James Beck of Arizona; one sister, Fanny Leewright of California.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Buckley Road Baptist Church in Liverpool, with several Baptist ministers officiating. Burial will be in Onondaga County Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

Calling hours will be from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the Sears-Middleton Funeral Home, 209 N. Main St., North Syracuse.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Buckley Road Baptist Church.

THE UNION LEADER of Manchester, NH, published this brief article on March 26, 1996, & P. C. Alger spied it & sent it on to DD. We'll hope that P. C. can find more on this story.

### QUERY

**ELIZABETH E. BROWN**, 9875 W. Progress Place, Littleton, CO 80123: EDWARD DUNHAM (1753-1844)

was born in Great Nine Partners, Dutchess Co., NY & died in Henrietta, Monroe Co., NY. He married Mary (Ripley) Dannals/Daniels in 1802 at Smithfield, Madison Co., NY. Their children were: Edward

Jr. (b. 1803); Sophia (b. 1805), later Mrs. Joseph Monroe); & Seneca (b. 1807). I have met a cousin (descended from Edward's first wife) who has been searching for over 25 years for the 1st wife's maiden name, the names of the children in Edward's first family, Edward's siblings, & his parents. In a mugbook biography of Edward's grandson, Albert Seneca Dunham, it says that he (Edward) was one of 8 sons, 4 of whom were Patriots & 4 of whom were Tories. (No names were given.) I would certainly like to be able to put this family together.

## Authorities Identify Body Found in Alna, Maine

**ALNA, Maine (AP)** — The body of man found in this Lincoln County town has been positively identified as 24-year-old Michael Dunham of Whitefield, and state police said he was the victim of a homicide.

Dunham, whose mother and siblings live in the Lewiston-Auburn area, had been missing since late January, said Stephen McCausland of the state Public Safety Department. Dunham's car was found parked at the narrow-gauge railroad station in Alna on Jan. 25, McCausland said.

Identification of the body was confirmed Sunday, McCausland said.