

## Events in Monroe Co., Mich.

### Covering 1833-1910

From Karen Hill, San Carlos, CA, we have this 12-23-1910 obituary from the PETERSBURG (MI) SUN, for James W. Dunham (1832-1910) (8) (Deacon John 1, Joseph 2, Eleazer 3, Israel 4, Ebenezer 5, Sylvanus 6, Ebenezer 7). "MR. J. W. DUNHAM. In the death of James W. Dunham, which occurred on Sat. evening last at the home of his sister, Mrs. D. A. Curtis, the community suffered the loss of a long-time resident, an estimable citizen, & a man of unspotted integrity. Mr. Dunham was born in Nichols, Tioga Co., NY, Aug. 8, 1832. His father was a farmer, so the son naturally followed this occupation during the earlier part of his life. The family came to Michigan in 1866 & settled in Petersburg. Prior to this, a half-brother to the deceased, Mr. William Corbin, had come to this village & opened up a general store. In this store Mr. Dunham had worked for his brother at different times before he took up his permanent residence in the west. But in 1866, as above stated, he settled in Petersburg, where he continued to live until his decease a few days ago. Shortly after coming to this place Mr. Dunham himself opened a store on his own account & continued in business (to p. 2)

### Wisconsin Pioneer

Justice Austin Dunham (b. 1809) (8) (Deacon John 1, John 2, John 3, Elisha 4, Ebenezer 5, Bangs 6, Abel 7) was born in Mansfield, CT & later settled in Yorkville, WI. We don't have the date of his death. His wife was Sarah Ayer, & they were the parents of 2 sons (Samuel & George) & 2 daughters (Julia, who married Chas. Peavey, & (cont'd p. 2)





WISCONSIN PIONEER (from p. 1) Mary Elida, who married Orrin Dutton, Jr.) Of the four, only Mary's line is carried forward. We're delighted to have this great photo of Justice Dunham, sent to DD by Mary's grandson, Allen Dutton, of Phoenix, AZ. He looks to be a good man to have around in any emergency, doesn't he?

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J. W. DUNHAM (from p. 1) for nearly 40 years, when coming age & feeble health compelled him to retire from active life. Mr. Dunham was a very quiet, retiring man. He never forced himself upon the attention of anyone, but he was ever at his post & did his duty as he saw it. He was a man of sterling integrity, the soul of honor & uprightness. He was also very tender-hearted, was touched by suffering & need, & offered the hand of charity to those who were unfortunate. Mr. Dunham never married. He took tender care of his aged mother till death removed her. He then made his home with his sister, Mrs. Curtis. Thus the major part of the lives of this brother & sister were lived in the same home, & they became most intimately intertwined in the relations of affection & mutual dependence. Especially has this been true since the death of Mr. Curtis a half dozen years ago. The funeral service was conducted at the home on Tues. afternoon by the Rev. Dr. D. H. Ramsdell, pastor of the 1st M. E. Church, Adrian, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Priestley. The interment was in the family lot in the cemetery east of this village. Among friends attending the funeral were Mr. & Mrs. R. P. Humphrey, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hoxie, & Mr. & Mrs. Gordon Lantz, of Adrian. Also Miss Arvilla Dunham of Ypsilanti & Mrs. Fred Dunham of Carleton. Out of a family of 8, consisting of 2 half-brothers & 3 brothers & 3 sisters, Mrs. Curtis alone survives. She has the sympathy of her many friends." ---- Arvilla (1890-1913) & Fred Dunham, mentioned above, were first cousins to James W. Dunham, being the children of Dr. Nelson Dunham. Mention was also made of J. W. Dunham's sister (Ellen), who was the wife of D. A. Curtis. In this connection we found, in the MONROE COUNTY HISTORY, under the name of D. A. Curtis, some interesting side-lights of life there in the early days: "D. A. CURTIS was born in Smithfield, Madison Co., NY Dec. 17, 1820. His father, David Curtis, moved to Ontario Co. in the spring of 1824, & 3 years later moved to Greece, a small town near Rochester. His mother, Wealthy (Dewey) Curtis, died in 1832, & his father sold the farm & moved to Michigan, taking a canal boat as far as Buffalo & then embarking on a steamer for Detroit. At the latter place the family were transferred with all their household goods to a one-masted scow, decked over at both ends & commanded by a Frenchman who had 2 mates. A 3rd man in the crew was a Yankee who could beat the French on profanity. The scow floated down as far as Malden during the night & half the passengers took a small boat & pulled for Canada for the purpose of getting breakfast, but at no place could they procure breakfast enough for the company. At last a Negro who knew one of the men offered to cook them a meal, & seated in his garden, they enjoyed a well-cooked breakfast. Using his jackknife for his ham, he ((Curtis)) found when reaching the scow, he had forgotten to replace it in his pocket. The scow floated before a good breeze for a few hours & then was becalmed. He, with others, took a boat & rowed ashore, where they found a deserted house with a fine orchard, from which they gathered apples. At night the wind arose, & the next morning they found themselves at the mouth of the River Raisin. The scow was anchored all day, & the men were sent up to Monroe for bread, etc. They did not return until afternoon, when the anchor was raised & the scow, attached to a small boat by a rope, was pulled up to the dock. A cousin met the family with his wagon & took them to his home, (cont'd page 3)



D. A. CURTIS (from p. 2) where supper was awaiting them, & Mr. Curtis remembers it as "the best meal of victuals mortal ever tasted." After a few days' rest they moved up the river to visit "Uncle Noble Curtis" near the George Sorter place. From there they passed on to where Dundee now stands, part of the company going on foot. Mr. Curtis drove the wagon, but being a small boy, he managed to run over a sapling that had been cut down & fallen across the road, & winding through the wheel, turned the wagon over & emptied all the contents. They crossed the river to Dundee on a rope ferry, which was a great curiosity to the boy. The mills near the ferry were owned by S. Van Nest, who also kept a store & also managed the hotel; Mr. Pine was the clerk; Mr. Wilcox, father of Byron & Delos, lived below the village; Capt. Ingersoll & the judge, his brother, lived in the woods about half a mile west. On the south side of the river were Peter Read, Mr. Pitts, & Jonathan Fisher. The townships of Dundee & Summerfield met together for a town meeting in 1833, & 19 voters were present at that meeting, which was held in a log schoolhouse near John N. Wadsworth's place. The year before the village had no school, no church organization, & the Mormons began active work in the settlement, succeeded in luring away a number, but their places were soon filled by new settlers. Bears & wolves were thick in the woods, & Mr. Curtis, Sr. killed 2 bears & any number of deer, being a "mighty hunter." Foxes troubled them exceedingly in their chicken coops, & the coons destroyed their corn, but Mr. Curtis was fortunate in owning a dog that killed dozens of foxes & hundreds of coons. At this time the roads from place to place were mere paths winding around stumps & bogs, & Mr. Curtis remembers seeing a lumber wagon hitched to 2 yoke of oxen & driven by a woman. The load consisted of one & a half bushels of grain. They came from 2 1/2 miles west of Dundee, & before they reached the millway every ox had his tongue out full length."

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MY DUNHAM PUZZLE, by Miss Elizabeth E. Brown, 9875 W. Progress Place, Littleton, CO 80123. Cont'd from Sept. (ED. NOTE: It is unusual for it to be necessary to serialize a query, but this has been the case in this instance, as the query is a lengthy one & so interesting that we didn't want to condense it. If you will recall, Ms. Brown was inquiring about the presumed relationship between her great grandparents, ALBERT SENECA DUNHAM (1837-1901) & AMELIA R. DUNHAM (b. 1848). Albert was the son of SENECA DUNHAM (1807-1887), & Amelia was the daughter of HARTWELL B. DUNHAM (1823-1898). The couple was married in Plainwell, MI on Xmas, 1865.) "My mother had been told that SENECA & HARTWELL DUNHAM were half-brothers. I do not find that credible, as Seneca is listed in Edward Dunham's Bible (now in the Natl Archives) as one of only 3 children in Edward Dunham's 2nd marriage. Seneca did have a brother, but his name was Edward Dunham, Jr. His sister was Sophia Dunham. I do believe it may be possible however that Seneca's & Hartwell's fathers (Edward & David) may have been half-brothers. No mention is made in the Revolutionary War Pension Application file of Edward's 1st marriage. Edward had a son, Silas, by his 1st wife. A descendant, Jean Dunn of Sedalia, CO, has been searching for 25 years for Edward's parents & siblings, the maiden name of his 1st wife, & the names of all the children of the 1st marriage. A Silas Dunham (1731-1839) & his relict (1790-1874) are buried next to David & Sarah Dunham in the Woodside Cem. in Gun Plains. They are the only Dunhams I could find in that cemetery. Were they brothers in Edward's 1st marriage? Although I don't believe I have exhausted all possibilities in census records, here is a summary of what I have found so far:

(cont'd page 4)



MY DUNHAM PUZZLE (cont'd from p. 3)

EDWARD DUNHAM	1810		Hamilton, Madison Co., NY
	1820 age 67 (actual)		Henrietta, Ontario Co., NY
	1830 age 77		Henrietta, Monroe Co., NY
	1840 age 87 (d. 1844)		Henrietta, Monroe Co., NY
DAVID DUNHAM	1820 age 45+		Henrietta, Ontario Co., NY
	1830 age 50-60		Orleans Co., NY
	1840 age 60-70		Eaton Co., MI
	1850 age 75		Eaton Co., MI
	1860 age 85 (d. 1865)	Plainwell,	Allegan Co., MI
SENECA DUNHAM	1830 age 23 (actual)		Henrietta, Monroe Co., NY
	1840 age 33		Henrietta, Monroe Co., NY
	1850 age 43		Barre, Orleans Co., NY
	1860 age 53		Barre, Orleans Co., NY
	1870 age 63 (d. 1877)	Cooper,	Kalamazoo Co., MI
HARTWELL DUNHAM	1850 age 28 (actual)		Eaton Co., MI
	1860 age 38	Cooper,	Kalamazoo, MI
	1870 age 48	Watson,	Allegan Co., MI
	1880 age 58 (d. 1898)	Watson,	Allegan Co., MI

I don't believe it is a coincidence that members of both Dunham branches lived in the same localities; rather, I believe it is an indication that they were in close communication with each other. Had my grandmother not been a baby less than a year old when her mother (Amelia) died, there might not have been so many missing pieces in my puzzle. I am at a loss to explain how the family got out of touch. I remember visits to Michigan with my mother when we would visit Cousin Charles (Albert's grandson) & Mother would explain how she was related to the other Dunhams. Then we would visit Cousin Gertrude (Hartwell's granddaughter) & Mother would explain how she was related to the other Dunhams. Everyone always seemed to be interested, but they never got together, although they lived only a few miles apart. In 1988 I took Cousin Flossie (widow of Cousin Charles), living in Cooper, to meet for the first time with Cousin Gertrude (now in her 90's) living in a nursing home in Plainwell, & Tom Mills, a great grandson of Hartwell, now living in Hartwell's home. He has a portrait of Hartwell, but is unable to provide genealogical information. It was Shelbyville when Hartwell lived there; today the address is Hopkins. Amelia was also said to have been a cousin of Sarah Montgomery, but I am content to skip that trail for the present. I want to find first how Albert & Amelia were related. I have not been able to find any family Bibles, which undoubtedly would help. I am grateful for any scraps of information to fill in these spaces -- newspaper articles, obituaries, church records (I do not even know which denominations), land records, probate records, & suggestions for further research.

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DAR PATRIOT INDEX

We hope this listing of Dunham entries in the DAR Patriot Index may prove helpful to some Dunham researchers.

**DUNHAM,**

Abiel, Sr. b. 1740 d. 5-7-1820 m. Ruth Cobb Sgt. MA  
Abiel, Jr. b. 2-5-1782 d. 1824 m. Polly Bishop Drm. MA  
Anna: b. 1784 d. 9-15-1845 m. (1)Bethie Hollowell (2)Theodate

Sawyer Pvt. MA ★  
Assa b. 1759 d. 10-13-1813 m. Lydia Cobb Pvt. MA  
Azariah: b. 2-9-1718 d. 1-22-1790 m. (1)Mary Tuxton (2)Mary (Ford) Stone Lt. Col. PS. NJ

Bangs: b. 2-16-1751 d. 2-1794 m. Submit Phelps Pvt. CT  
Calvin: b. 2-28-1754 d. 1840 m. Ruth Noble Pvt. MA ★  
Cornelius: b. 1740 d. 2-23-1819 m. Jemima Andrews Pvt. CT  
Cornelius b. 5-10-1748 d. 5-28-1818 m. (1)Sarah Butler (2)Lucinda Mayhew Col. MA

Cornelius b. 9-17-1748 d. 7-15-1835 m. Lydia Atwood Pvt. MA  
Daniel: b. 2-2-1744 d. 5-21-1822 m. Anna Moseley 2Lt. CT  
Daniel b. 1782 d. 1862 m. Margaret Fitterfield Pvt. CT  
Daniel b. 1725-7 d. 1804 m. Elizabeth Martin PS. NJ  
Daniel, Sr. b. 8-2-1712 d. 1-1796 m. (1)Abigail Hart (2)Amy Murphy CS. RI

Daniel, Jr. b. 1737 d. 4-26-1815 m. Elizabeth Dunham NS. RI  
David: b. 2-1-1740 d. 8-1-1831 m. Tabitha Cooley Sol. MA  
David b. 3-14-1723 d. 10-6-1806 m. Rebecca Dunn Capt. NJ  
Ebenezer: b. 2-1750 d. 1837 m. Sarah — Matt. MA ★  
Ebenezer: b. 9-3-1759 d. 1858 m. Anna Deane Pvt. NY ★  
Edward b. 7-24-1753 d. 1-25-1844 m. Mary Daniels Pvt. NY

Eliah b. 1-5-1734 d. 1-13-1821 m. Sarah Vincent Pvt. MA  
Eliah b. 5-22-1753 d. 8-11-1827 m. Eunice Thomas Pvt. MA  
Ephraim: b. 1-23-1751 d. 6-11-1832 m. Hannah Butler Pvt. NY  
George b. 1750 d. 12-19-1819 m. (1)Ann Dunham (2)Mrs. Pstence Churchill Capt. MA

George b. 1753 d. 12-6-1800 m. Phoebe Lucas Pvt. MA  
Gideon, Jr. b. 10-10-1762 d. 5-8-1841 m. Anna Merrell Pvt. Pvt. CT ★  
Hezekiah b. 8-17-1746 d. 4-27-1810 m. Mary Davis Capt. NY  
Hortnam b. 6-14-1749 d. 6-15-1824 m. Hannah Cole Lt. NY ★  
Isaac b. 10-1743 d. 1833 m. Sarah Spooner Pvt. MA

Israel b. 1741 d. 5-1829 m. Hannah Whitney Pvt. MA  
Jacob b. 4-9-1727 d. 4-11-1779 m. Elizabeth Parrel Sol. NY  
James b. 2-9-1754 d. — m. Mary Ransom Carver Pvt. MA  
Jehu b. 9-24-1761 d. 4-6-1842 m. Elinorah VanTine Pvt. NJ ★  
Jesse b. 4-21-1757 d. 4-4-1845 m. Lois Hatch Pvt. MA

Jethro b. 1754 d. 1820 m. Lydia — Pvt. MA  
John b. 7-12-1726 d. 4-13-1814 m. Mary Thomas Pvt. MA  
John b. 1728 d. 8-24-1784 m. Jane Butler Pvt. MA  
John b. 8-2-1762 d. 3-13-1816 m. Anne Round Pvt. MA  
John b. 8-12-1740 d. 9-16-1823 m. Mary Gilman Pvt. NJ

John b. 1756 d. 10-28-1825 m. (1)Sarah High (2)Patty Smalley Pvt. NJ  
John b. 10-7-1762 d. 11-28-1840 m. Phoebe Williams Pvt. NJ ★  
Jonathan b. 11-24-1745 d. 1821 m. Mentzabel Knowlton Lt. NY  
Jonathan b. 4-6-1758 d. 1-4-1840 m. Betty Babcock Pvt. CT  
Jonathan b. 1751 d. 1-6-1797 m. (1)Sarah Lennox (2)Susanna Halsey Pvt. NJ

Jonathan, Sr. b. 8-16-1694 d. 3-10-1777 m. Jean Piatt PS. NJ  
Jonathan, Jr. b. 5-23-1721 d. 11-16-1782 m. Keziah Fizz Randolph Pvt. NJ

Jonathan, Jd. b. 10-30-1752 d. 3-19-1833 m. Eunice Dunn Pvt. NJ  
Joseph b. 3-21-1745 d. 4-7-1778 m. Abigail (Hovey) Jennings Pvt. CT

Joseph b. 1-12-1739 d. 4-20-1823 m. Sarah Davis Pvt. MA  
Joseph b. 4-21-1749 d. 1-24-1826 m. (1)Sarah Johnson (2)Mercy Turing Pvt. MA

Joseph b. 2-6-1741 d. 3-11-1798 m. Patience Hathaway PS. MA  
Joseph, Jr. b. 1745-1752 d. 1789 m. Mary Parks Pvt. NY  
Joseph b. 1736 d. 1790 m. Hannah Conyer Pvt. NJ  
Lewis Ford b. 3-31-1754 d. 8-26-1821 m. Jane Tutill Dr. NJ  
Matthew b. 1758 d. 1812 m. Ruth Strong Pvt. MA

Nathaniel b. 1723 d. 1800 m. (1)Mary Sutton (2)Kessiah Crooley Pvt. NJ  
Nehemiah b. 11-11-1721 d. 1783 m. (1)Ann Dunn (2)Mary Clarkson (3)Ann McKinney (4)Mrs. Bethany (Berdini) Adams PS. NJ

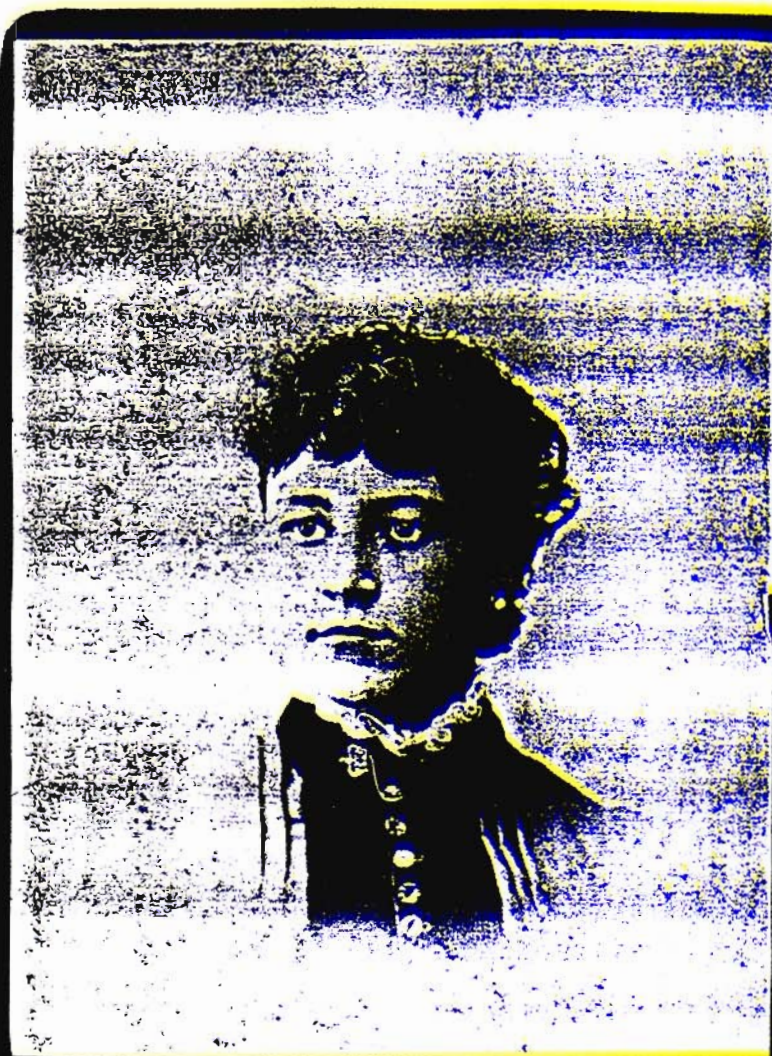
Obadiah, Sr. b. 3-13-1730 d. 2-17-1813 m. Lucy Gillet PS. Pvt. VT  
Obadiah, Jr. b. 11-17-1780 d. 10-12-1833 m. Lois Hendry Pvt. VT ★  
Robert b. 1744 d. 1791 m. Ruth Hatch Sgt. MA  
Salathiel b. 3-15-1757 d. 3-10-1841 m. Lucy Stewart Col. CT ★

Samuel b. 2-3-1723 d. 10-28-1789 m. Elizabeth — Capt. CT  
Samuel b. 10-10-1753 d. 1804 m. Mary Johnson NS. CT  
Samuel b. 9-22-1754 d. 10-13-1854 m. (1)Eunice Jennings (2)Asenath Gurley Pvt. CT ★  
Samuel b. 7-15-1763 d. 2-28-1823 m. Dorothy Watson Pvt. CT ★

Samuel b. 10-9-1758 d. 9-25-1827 m. Elizabeth Monon Pvt. MA ★  
Samuel b. 4-13-1750 d. 7-4-1822 m. Sally Ann Wright Pvt. NY ★  
Seth b. 7-4-1741 d. 5-1808 m. Eunice Hovey Lt. CT  
Silas b. 3-28-1749 d. 7-23-1815 m. Mary Tison Pvt. MA

Simeon b. 1-25-1739 d. 1-11-1817 m. (1)Mrs. Abigail Phelous (Tallott) (2)Anna Strong Ens. CT  
Solomon, Jr. b. 8-20-1760 d. 7-1-1843 m. Sallie Blanding Pvt. NH ★  
Stephen b. 4-30-1761 d. 1-11-1855 m. Elizabeth Tookill Pvt. CT  
Sylvanus b. 1714 d. 1796 m. Rebecca Crocker Pvt. MA  
Sylvanus b. 1754 d. 9-14-1821 m. Mrs. Ursula (Wright) Gilbert Col. NY

Thomas b. 1-22-1738 d. 10-5-1804 m. Sarah — PS. Sol. MA  
William b. 2-5-1753 d. 2-19-1834 m. Experience Pratt Sgt. MA ★  
William b. 1758 d. 5-2-1786 m. Susanna Williams Pvt. MA



BELLE (ISABEL) DUNHAM (born 1869 in Ionia County, Michigan) was the daughter of Salem Dunham (1841-1906) & his wife, Alice (1851-1917). Salem was the son of Cornelius Dunham (b. ca. 1800), who came from Arcadia, Wayne Co., NY (where he lived in 1850) to Michigan & settled in Ionia County. Sharpsteen of Ionia made this portrait of Belle, who was later to marry a man whose last name was Polhemus. Belle looks like the kind of young woman who would be a good friend. Her face has a resolute quality that would incline her to speak her mind, & her kind eyes say that she would want to help those in need. If she were to laugh, she'd probably have a delightful giggle. Thanks go to Mrs. Phyllis Heiss, Cedar Springs, MI, for sharing this picture.