

Dunham Singletary

FAMILY CONNECTIONS

Issue Two

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President's Letter

Dunham-Singletary Family Connections is a vibrant family association promoting the study of all Dunham/Donham/Dunnam/ and Downham families, plus the large American Dunham family descending from Richard Singletary. The name of the organization has been confusing to some because of the inclusion of the Singletary surname.

The focus of the study of the Dunham (and various spellings) surname includes all those who descend from the several Dunham families who came to America. Thus, anyone with the Dunham surname should be interested in this family association. This includes that large family descended from Richard Singletary whose oldest son, Jonathan, took the Dunham name as his surname. All of his descendants used the surname Dunham or Donham.

At present we do not know exactly why Jonathan Singletary took the Dunham name but it may have had something to do with inheritance. Various members of our family association are now working to discover the origins of all the Dunham families in England. This includes the Singletary family as finding their origin in England may lead to knowledge of a possible Dunham connection.

I hope you will follow the articles appearing in the DSFC newsletter to learn the results of our research in England.

David Lee Dunham, President

Editor's Corner

With this issue we begin a series of articles focusing on the Dunham families living in England. We first address Deacon John Dunham (1589-1669) whose baptismal record was found in Pirton, Hertfordshire, England. There has been an entry in the International Genealogical Index (IGI) of John Dunham b. 1589, but the discovery of the actual record provides the name of his father.

The second article by Dr. Charles Graves, presents the results of his search in the early English records. This is the second article by Dr. Graves. The first, "The Origins of Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary" was published in DSFC newsletter Vol. 8, issue 2, 15 April, 2011. The article in this issue focuses on the English counties where Dunham (and various spellings) were living in the 16th and 17th centuries. DSFC researchers are working with online databases and are also in contact with people in England who may be able to help.

The minutes of the DSFC Board of Directors Spring 2013 meeting will be of interest to the membership. Also of interest will be the lineage of several members of DSFC. These are being published in the newsletter as space allows in order to allow others to compare these lineages with those that they may be working on, or which begin with the same first few generations.

Gratia Dunham Mahony, Editor

Member's Corner

DS_FC Minutes of the Board of Directors - Spring 2013

The Dunham-Singletary Family Connections board of directors held an on-line meeting via email exchange from 14 March through early April, 2013. Directors present were: David Lee Dunham, President; John L. Dunham, Secretary; James A. Streeter, Treasurer; Gratia Dunham Mahony, Historian; and directors Jeffrey M. Dunham; Paul C. Dunham; Trudy Dunham; Selma Dunham Blackmon; and Lloyd E. Dunham.

Agenda:

- Item 1. Membership in the Federation of Genealogical Societies
- Item 2. Singletary Genealogical DNA Project Request for Information
- Item 3. New Dunham Research in England
- Item 4. The 2013 DSFC Budget
- Item 5. Non Compliance with Bylaws provisions

President David L. Dunham opened the meeting by requesting consent of the board to consider the five agenda items by email discussion. Discussion via a "reply to all" response will allow all board members to have time to discuss each item and to cast their vote. Motions will be made and seconded and the final vote tabulated by the president. This will mean that the complete board meeting will take some time. Five of the nine board members having consented to the online meeting the meeting proceeded.

Item 1. The motion "That DS_FC join the Federation of Genealogical Societies" was made by James A. Streeter and seconded by Paul C. Dunham.

Discussion of the benefit of belonging to the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) followed. Points were that FGS serves the needs of member societies by providing information on growth and development, publication of FORUM magazine pertaining to society management, and linking the genealogical community through its annual conference. DS_FC would be listed in their Membership Directory, and thus increase our exposure as an organization. Annual cost \$45.00.

Item 1. Passed by unanimous consent

Item 2. The motion "That we request John Dunham Duguid to inform the descendants of Richard Singletary who have participated in DNA testing about the Singletary DNA project and request that they contact Mr. Doug Wilson, administrator of that project" was made by Gratia D. Mahony. Trudy Dunham seconded the motion.

Discussion of a request by Mr. Doug Wilson, provided additional information. From Mr. Wilson's letter "The Singletary surname project has now been created to determine if those with the Singletary surname in America come from a small family line in England of that name. I need your help to contact the members of your (DNA) project that descend from Richard Singletary. I would like them to also join the Singletary project at no cost to them."

Further discussion proposed that Mr. Doug Wilson should write a letter addressed to the Dunham DNA project participants that spells out the benefits and ramifications of sharing their information. Wilson should send that letter to John Duguid (DS_FC DNA project coordinator) and he would then forward that letter to the Dunham DNA participants who are Singletary descendants. The Singletary descendants interested in participating could then contact Wilson directly. This method would allow the Singletary descendants themselves the right to share their information but would keep DS_FC

from providing any contact information of its members.

Item 2. Passed (7 affirmative votes, no negative votes)

Item 3. The motion “That DS_FC reserve up to \$500 for initial research to be done in England for the purpose of learning more information about the Dunham families who lived in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire” was made by Gratia D. Mahony and seconded by Jeffrey M. Dunham.

Discussion followed stating that a Bedfordshire researcher working with DS_FC member George Doty has recently found the original entry in the Pirton, Hertfordshire Parish register of the birth of John Dunham, son of Richard Dunham, on 8 February 1589. George Doty sent the contact information of the Bedfordshire researcher to Gratia and she had been in contact with her to inquire if she would do some further research on the Dunham families living in Bedfordshire/Hertfordshire area within the nearby communities. Her reply was affirmative and she provided a fee schedule.

Item 3. Passed (7 affirmative votes, no negative votes)

Item 4. The motion “That DS_FC adopt the 2013 budget as proposed by the treasurer” was made by Gratia D. Mahony and seconded by Lloyd Dunham.

Treasurer James A. Streeter provided the proposed Budget for 2013. When this is approved he will arrange to have it posted on the DS_FC website.

The proposed 2013 Budget: Expenses

Annual Corporation Reporting Fee	\$ 15.00
Federation of Genealogical Societies Membership	\$ 45.00
Research Fees and Supplies-Gratia Mahony	\$1,800.00
Research in England	<u>\$ 500.00</u>
Total Expenses:	\$2,360.00

Total Account Balance as of 22 Feb. 2013 \$9,268.41

There was some discussion about the benefit of advertising DS_FC on Google. It might increase visits to the website, and thus generate more new members. This item will be reserved for a later board meeting agenda.

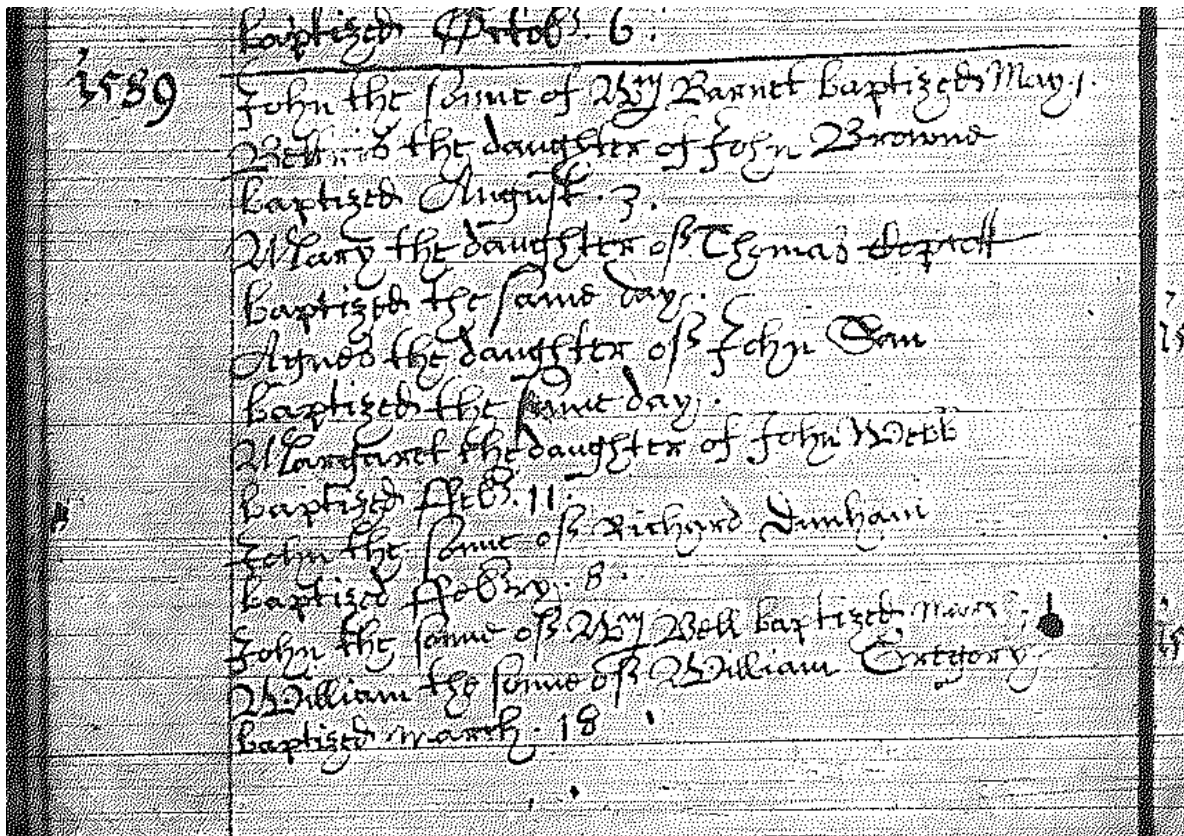
Item 4. Passed (7 affirmative votes, no negative votes)

Item 5. (Requires no vote) Several items need to be added to the DS_FC Web Page in order to be in compliance with Bylaws provisions.

Minutes respectfully submitted by John L. Dunham, Secretary (with assistance from Gratia D. Mahony)

BAPTISMAL RECORD OF JOHN DUNHAM

The Baptismal Record of John Dunham, son of Richard Dunham has been found in the Pirton, Hertfordshire, England register of baptisms, marriages and burials 1558-1776.



See the entry about 2/3 of the way down on the above page which gives the record of baptisms in the year 1589, and which says "John the son of Richard Dunham baptized February 8" The Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies reference number for this document is D/P80/1/1.

DSFC member George Doty has been corresponding with a researcher who lives in Bedfordshire, England and she is the person who located the original record. This researcher also found another record that pertains to Richard Dunham of Pirton. Appearing on the Feet of Fines for Pirton as published in the Hertfordshire Genealogist and Antiquary, 1573-1574 on page 173 is the earliest record found to date for Richard Dunham. The entry reads:

"Thos. Seye & Rich. Dunham : Thos. Copcott & Cecily his wife.

Message & land in Pyrton"

The feet of fines (plural for foot of fine) is the archival copy of the agreement between two parties in an English lawsuit over land. By the middle of the 13th century the fine had become a popular way of

conveying freehold property and was made in the Court of Common Pleas. This record was usually securely preserved in the court records. In the illustration above this was probably the record of a “messuage” (house) and property being conveyed by Thos. and Cecily Copcott to Thos. Seye and Richard Dunham. The records given in this book are in chronological order and were placed on the page above records for the Easter Term 1574. Thus, we can see that Richard Dunham purchased this land in say 1573-4. If this record is for the Richard Dunham, father of John Dunham, and we have no proof that is was but that is a likely probability, then Richard Dunham was a grown man (probably over the age of 21) by 1573-4. This would put his date of birth in the range of late 1540s to early 1550s.

We do have the probate record of Richard Dunham. This information was published in *The American Genealogist* Vol. 71 p. 130-133 in an article titled *The English Origin and First Marriage of Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, Massachusetts* by Robert Leigh Ward. This article gives information from the will of Richard Dunham, the elder, poulter of Langford, Bedfordshire dated 5 October 1624. The will of Richard Dunham names his sons William and Richard, daughters Anne and Elisabeth, and leaves a bequest to John Dunham ‘at his retorne’.

While Langford is in Bedfordshire, and Pirton is in Hertfordshire, the two towns are only five or six miles apart. We have the birth records of the sons of Richard Dunham from The Pirton Local History Group as follows:

William Dunham bp. 7 Jan. 1581 (earliest Dunham bp. on their records on line)

John Dunham, son of Richard, bp. 8 Feb. 1589

Richard Dunham son of Richard, bp. 18 Feb. 1596

Richard Dunham, the elder, poulter, of Langford must have lived in Pirton until at least 1596 and then moved to Langford sometime between 1596 and 1624. It will be of interest to research further to see if we can learn the date of this move.

Other research that can be done in the area of southeast Bedfordshire and west Hertfordshire should focus on towns where we find Dunhams living in the 16th and 17th centuries.

ENGLISH ANCESTRY OF DEACON JOHN DUNHAM OF PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS

By Charles Graves

Why do descendants of Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth, Massachusetts call themselves Dunham? It may refer to an English village named Dunham which gave such a name. Investigation of places in England where Dunhams may have originated has produced the following information which can be used as a basis for further research.

There is a marriage record for **John Dunham** who married **Susan Kaino** on 7 August 1612 at Clophill, Bedfordshire in England. Perhaps it should be spelled Cainhoe not Kaino since the hamlet of Cainhoe is located close to Clophill and she was undoubtedly '*Susan of Cainhoe*'. It is most likely that this John Dunham is the same as the one christened at **Pirton, Hertfordshire on 8 February 1589** the son of **Richard Dunham**. Pirton is located about 6 miles south of Cainhoe and 7 miles south of Clopton. Research in the IGI (International Genealogical Index) of the Mormons shows that the same Richard Dunham of Pirton had a son **Richard**, christened 17 June 1596 at Pirton and perhaps was the father of a William Dunham chr. 7 January 1581 at Pirton. An earlier **William Dunham** was born c.1587 to a **Richard 'poulter' Dunham** of Langford, Bedfordshire. Langford is about 6 miles east of Clophill. Richard 'poulter' Dunham is no doubt the same person as Richard Dunham of Pirton, Hertfordshire and the odd name 'poulter' simply means that he was a keeper of poultry by profession. His grandson, child of John Dunham and Susan Kaino, was also **John Dunham, christened at Henlow, Bedfordshire on 19. February 1615**. Henlow is a few miles east of Clophill and several miles north of Pirton, Hertfordshire.

A Dunham family was continued at Pirton by a John Dunham, son of William, chr. 30 June 1622 and a Henry Dunham son of William chr. 1 May 1626.

DUNHAM ORIGINS

I have researched, using IGI and other sources, the various Dunham and Downham families in England who might be the ancestors of Dunhams living in the world today and I have found at least six different Dunham / Downham origins :

- (1) The Dunham line of **Pirton, Hertfordshire and Clophill, Bedfordshire**. This line, I believe, was also inhabiting south Cambridgeshire and parts of Bedfordshire at an early time. The name was most always spelled 'Dunham'. There were **no** 'Edmond' used as first name in this line.

- (2) A Dunham line of the '*Isle of Ely*' district in *North Cambridgeshire*, also most usually called 'Dunham', living in the villages of Doddington, Wimblington, March and Manea. Many of its earliest residents were called *Edmund Dunham* and this Christian (first) name was found *only* in north and central *Norfolk county*. Thus the 'Isle of Ely' Cambridgeshire Dunhams are most probably from *Great and Little Dunham* located in west central Norfolk.
- (3) A Dunham line whose famous ancestor was *Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary*, I have proposed, in the April 2011 issue of the DSFC newsletter, that the Dunham after which Jonathan was named (e.g. Lydia Downham the companion of Richard Singletary who accompanied him to Salem, Massachusetts in the 1630s) was the same as the *Downham family* of Tydd St. Mary's, Long Sutton and Sutton St. James in 'the Wash' area of *south Lincolnshire* : The Singletary family was from the same area. It is possible their 'Dunham' name arose from *Downham Market* in nearby Norfolk county (10 -15 miles east of 'the Wash' area).
- (4) A Dunham line (called only '*Dunham*') was rather numerous in northern and east central Lincolnshire, with probable earliest origin at *Fulstowe, Lincolnshire*. It spread eastwards to Saltfleetby on the coast and southwards almost to Kesteven area of Lincolnshire. The origin of its Dunham name could be the village of that name in nearby Nottinghamshire to the west. Fulstowe was, in history, a village of salt basins and probably attracted workers from Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire at an early time.
- (5) A *Downham line* arose at Clapham in Yorkshire near the Lancashire border and IGI shows a number of Downham family members at Clapham and the neighbouring villages of Ingleton, Slaiburn etc. Some of these Downhams sought work in more populated Yorkshire places as Skipton and Fewston, Yorkshire. These Downhams may have reached *Virginia and North Carolina* in the 1600 -1700s along with the many other Yorkshire families I propose that the word Downham in this family name arose from the *Lancashire village of Downham* about 8 miles south of Slaiburn in Yorkshire.
- (6) A *Dinham family* was recorded in the 'West Counties': *Cornwall* and *Devon* as well as *Somerset* in the 16th-18th century IGI records. Dinham was also to be found at Spalding, Lincolnshire. Some *Dunhams* were to be found at Sherborne, Thornford and Yetminster, *Dorset* in the 1670s. It remains to be seen whether these families have descendants other than in the United Kingdom.

A.D. Mills in *Oxford Dictionary of Place Names* 1991 notes the following for places called *Downham* in England: Downham, Cambridgeshire (Isle of Ely) in 1086 was written as *Dunham* ; *Downham in Essex in 1168 was written as Dunham* ; Downham Market in 1050 and 1086 in Norfolk was written as *Dunham*. Downham, Lancashire (cf. (5) above) was called *Dunum* in 1194 and Downham, Northumberland, was called *Dunum* in 1186.

Regarding the towns now called *Dunham* in England today: Dunham, Nottinghamshire was called *Dunham* in 1086; Great and Little Dunham in Norfolk were called *Dunham* ; Dunham on the Hill, Cheshire was called *Dunham on the Hill* and Dunham Town in Trafford (Ireland, Waterford province) was called *Doneham* (1066).

POSSIBLE ORIGIN OF THE DUNHAM LINE OF PIRTON

What concerns us in this article is Number (1) above : *Dunhams of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire., and southern Cambridgeshire*. What I propose is that this line attained its family name from *Downham near Billerica in Essex county*. The villages of Dunham in Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire where this Dunham line lived in the 16th-18th centuries were the same villages which at *Domesday Book* time (1086) were held by a certain nobleman *Robert 'Gernons' (Robert 'of the beard')* who also held Ramsden 1 mile south west of *Downham, Essex*.

A certain 'Robert' was Robert Gernon's vassal at his many properties elsewhere in Essex, in particular in Clavering hundred in the northwestern part of that county and in nearby Hertfordshire. Elsewhere in *Essex Domesday Book* Robert Gernons had vassals called '*Robert lascivus*' and *Robert 'investianus*'. Our hypothetical « *Robert/John/William of Downham* » may be identified with either of these as Robert Gernon's vassal or he might be a separate person.

In any case a 'Robert' was Robert Gernons' vassal at Bollington House (Bollington manor) in Clavering hundred, which is only 5 miles from the village of **Brent Pelham** in Hertfordshire where a **Robert Dunham** was residing around 1567 and who married there in 1592 (IGI record). Moreover, Pirton, Hertfordshire (home of Richard Dunham, presumably our ancestor since he is the father of **John Dunham of Pirton** chr. 1589) was at one time *a possession of the same Robert Gernons* in 1086. Furthermore, the same Robert Gernons held **Barrington, south Cambridge**, and nearby villages, where a large number of Dunham family members lived in the 16th-17th century. Thus it appears that a certain « *Robert/John/William of Downham* » went from Downham, Essex together with his lord Robert Gernons and served him in villages in Hertfordshire and South Cambridgeshire in the 11th century and his descendents continued in those same villages up into the 17th century. This is the same Dunham clan which produced the Pilgrim John Dunham, deacon of Plymouth, Massachusetts. Its origin appears to be **Downham, Essex** (held by Robert Gernons in 1086) and its ethnic origin was no doubt *Saxon* (not Norman).

The holders of land in **Barstaple hundred** in southern Essex in 1086 (*Domesday Book*) gives an indication of the kind of persons who lived there in those days. The **Bishop of London** held a considerable amount of land there – at Orsett, at Ramsden ('Ramsden Belhus') (next to Downham), Willa, Carringham, and Hornden. The bishop's 'man' at Ramsden was Anschitel, who also served Robert Gernons at the same place. **Swen of Essex** (an Anglo-Saxon lord) held many in the hundred. **Robert Gernons** and **Ranulf brother of Ilger** (Avenel family – see below) also held at Ramsden (under Ranulf a 'Humphrey' held and this Humphrey was probably Ranulf's son). Other English (i.e. Anglo-Saxons rather than Normans or lords from Boulogne) holders were Edmund son of Algot, Moduin, and Ilbodo. Some of the oldest 'Saxon' churches in England are to be found near Downham, Essex, particularly one at Greenstead. Other major Saxon burial places are to be found at Mucking, Essex on the north side of the Thames River east of London.

Robert Gernons, on the other hand, was part of the group of Boulogne, France, noblemen who helped William the Conqueror in his 1066 invasion of England (William the Conqueror's wife was from the Boulogne noble family). Robert Gernons held perhaps as many as 60-70 villages after the 'Conquest' especially in Essex, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire but also in north Hertfordshire at Pirton.. The latter is the origin of our **Deacon John Dunham** in the 16th century.

Annexe I (detailed argument)

Hertfordshire

In this county records in IGI show the following :

Robert Dunham born c. 1567 at **Brent Pelham** ; married there 1592.

Robert Dunham chr. 20.4.1600 at Brent Pelham

Brent Pelham village is 4 miles north west of Bollington manor in Claverton hundred, *Essex*. A 'Robert' held ½ 'hide' of **Robert Gernons in 1086 at Bollington manor** according to *Essex Domesday Book*. This 'Robert' may have been a « Robert of Downham » (Essex). If he were « Robert of Downham » then the most logical place called 'Dunham' (as origin of his name) would be the one in Essex county called **Downham** next to Robert Gernons' holding in 1086 at Ramsden, south Essex. Both these villages were adjacent to Billerica, Essex. (see in Annexe *John Speede's map* of 1610). Thus, it is logical that a man from this Downham could work for Robert Gernons at his properties elsewhere in England, and in particular at Gernons' manor at Bollington in Claverton hundred, Essex next to Brent Pelham in Hertfordshire. Bollington manor was located about 25 miles north-west of Ramsden and Downham in south Essex.

Cambridgeshire

In this county records in IGI show the following :

Agnes Dunham married John Jarment 1564 Melbourne, Cambs.
 Robert Dunham married Agnes Blackwell 1604 Melbourne
 Nicholas Dunham child of Nicholas and Susan chr. 28.12.1606 Melbourne
 Elizabeth Dunham of Peter chr. 26.12. 1627 Melbourne
 Margaret Dunham of Robert chr. 4.9.1596 Melbourne
 Lazarus Dunham of James and Agnes chr. 23.3. 1622 Melbourne
 William Dunham married Elizabeth Wallice 6.6. 1602 Whaddon, Cambs.
 Catherine Dunham married John Jeap 25.1.1592 Orwell, Cambs.
 George Dunham married Margaret Daye 1626 at Wimpole, Cambs.
 Richard Dunham of Thomas chr. 14.3.1620 at St. Andrew's Church, Cambridge town
 Mary Dunham of George chr. 14.6.1607 at Barrington, Cambs.
 Michael Dunham of George chr. 2.10.1608 at Barrington
 Jane of Nicholas chr. 2.10.1608 of Nicholas at Barrington
 John of George chr. 28.12.1610 Barrington
 John of John chr. 3.10.1619 Barrington
 John Dunham married Margaret Storman 30.11.1567 at Shepreth, Cambs.
 John Dunham married Joan Taylor 29.4.1583 Shepreth
 John Dunham of John chr. 30.1.1586 Shepreth
 Mother (Matthew ?) Dunham buried 23.7.1611 Cambridge town

There were also many Dunhams christened at Meldreth, Cambs. during this period. All the above-mentioned Cambridgeshire villages are located in Arningford and Wetherlee hundreds south west of Cambridge town on the border of Essex and Hertford counties. They are all within 15-20 miles of Robert Gernons' holdings in Clavering hundred, Essex, and the Dunham persons mentioned in Cambridgeshire villages could conceivably be descendants of a certain

« *Robert/John/William of Downham /Dunham* » living in the 11th century as vassal of Robert Gernons. The *Domesday Book* for these south Cambridgeshire villages attributes all of them to Count Alan of Brittany and Richmond, a companion of William ‘the Conqueror’, but **Robert Gernons** also held land in Cambridgeshire at *Domesday Book* time, most of which were administered by Picot the sheriff. **Robert Gernons’ Cambridgeshire lands** were in Threplow hundred (immediately east of Wetherlee hundred) and in Papworth hundred (a few miles north of Wetherlee hundred). My essay below on Robert Gernons and his descendants notes that Robert Gernons was holding **Barrington, Cambs.** at an early time (cf. above christenings of Dunham family members at Barrington).

Another Hertfordshire holding

Domesday Book for Hertfordshire notes that Robert Gernons held 12 villages there. The later 16th century residence of our Dunham ancestors (i.e. John Dunham who was born 1589 and married Susan Kaino at nearby Clophill) was **Pirton, Herts.** Although not mentioned specifically in *Domesday Book* as a Robert Gernons holding there, we have documentary evidence that a **Ralph Gernons** (a descendent of Robert) **sold Pirton, Hertfordshire to the Gresley (de Tosny) family.** It later became the resident of the de Burgh family and a ‘*Burgh’s End*’ manor is still located a mile north of Pirton.

Here again we find an illustration of the connection of our Dunham family with Robert Gernons’ family. Such ‘coincidences’ lead us to believe that the name ‘Dunham’ was from ‘**Downham**’ – the south Essex village of that name held by Robert Gernons at *Domesday Book* time (1086). Robert Gernons was recorded in *Domesday Book* as holding the village immediately next to Downham called **Ramsden.** All small hamlets were not necessarily noted as such in *Domesday Book* and it was to be taken for granted that they belonged to the lord of the neighbouring, larger village.

Suffolk

IGI provided records of an early Dunham family at **Walsham-in-the-Willows** in Suffolk county (north of Essex county) :

William Dunham of Robert and Elizabeth chr. 30.3. 1606 at Walsham-in-the-Willows
Roberte Dunham of Robert and Elizabeth chr. 29.3. 1612 at Walsham
Alice of Robert and Elizabeth chr. 22.5.1614 at Walsham
Lawrence of William and Mary chr. 4.9. 1632 at Walsham
William of William and Mary chr. 11.6.1637 at Walsham

Walsham-in-the-Willows is situated in north central Suffolk county 12 east of Bury St. Edmunds, and in Blackburne hundred. Robert Gernons had some holdings in Suffolk at *Domesday Book* time but they were mainly on the coast of the North Sea near Ipswich. However he held also in **Cosford hundred** inland at the center of the county 10 miles south of Walsham-in-the-Willows. In the *Domesday Book*, **Walsham** was held by ‘30 freemen’ (i.e. not by Norman lords or their colleagues) but a certain Robert Blount held 12 carucates of land there. His *caput* (main or ruling village) was at Ixworth 5 miles west of Walsham.

Robert Blount was a kinsman of Robert Gernons and both came from Boulogne as is noted in an Essex *Victoria County History* source. Robert Blount’s name was often spelled as **Robert ‘le Blount’** with ‘Blount’ being the English pronunciation of Boulogne.

Robert Blount was chief admiral of the Norman fleet which landed in England before the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and he received from William 'the Conqueror' about 20 villages in the counties of Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk as rewards. He was also administrator of Norfolk and Suffolk and was responsible for the minting of coin in that region after the Norman conquest. He was a kinsman of William the Conqueror's wife who was a Boulogne countess. Apparently **Robert Gernons** was also her kinsman and thus a kinsman of Robert Blount.

Thus it is possible that the presence of a Dunham family at Walsham-in-the-Willows may be explained by the fact that Robert Blount (lord of Walsham) invited his kinsman's (i.e. Robert Gernons') vassals to farm on his own lands. Here is another 'coincidence' which illustrates the connection of the **Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire., south Cambridgeshire. Dunham line with Robert Gernons family after 1066.** Such coincidences lead us to believe that the name Dunham was originally from the south Essex village of that name (sometimes, as today, called Downham) no doubt held as a hamlet by Robert Gernons at *Domesday Book* time because it was next to Ramsden, a Robert Gernons' listed property.

The association of the Dunhams of Hertfordshire / Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire as well as Suffolk with Robert Gernons' *Domesday Book* time holdings in several places indicates that our original Dunham family was from south Essex.

Essex

IGI provided the following information about Dunham / Downham family members in Essex county 16th-18th centuries :

Mary Downham of John chr. 1619 at St. James church, Colchester

Jone of John and Jone Downham chr. 4.5. 1617 at St. James church, Colchester

John Downham of John chr. 8.4.1638 at St. James church, Colchester

Margaret Downame of John chr. 16.4.1571 at Waltham Abbey

Elizabeth Downame of John chr. 24.4.1575 at Waltham Abbey

John Downham of Robert chr. 1.9.1612 at Frating

Johannes Downam of Johannis chr. March 1579 at Romford

William Downam of Johannis chr. 12.12.1582 at Romford

Thomas Downam of Johannis chr. 6.1.1585 at Romford

Sarah Downam of Johannis chr. March 1592 at Romford

Nathaniel Downham of Johannes chr. Dec. 1588 at Romford

Peter Downham of John chr. 22.2. 1617 at Romford

William Downham of John chr. 5.5. 1644 at Romford

Maria Downham of William chr. 13.12.1667 at Hornchurch

Marriages were recorded of Downham family members in Essex county as follows : Richard (1585) ; Grace (1606) ; Abraham (1626) ; Robert (1627) ; Thomas (1630), Susannah (1634) ; Samuel (1650) and Rebecca (1660).

The pattern of Downham's holding on lands of **Robert Gernons** and **Rannulf brother of Ilger (Avenel)** holds true in Essex county as in other counties mentioned above. Note that Robert Gernons was the '**king's forester for Essex county**'. Robert Gernons held at places all around Romford and Horncastle (cf. christenings of Downham family members mentioned above) – namely at Stapleford Abbey 4 miles north of **Romford** and 5 miles from **Horncastle**. He also held at Chigwell 2 miles west of Haverling woods next to Romford. At the same time **Ralph de Limésy was holding at Chigwell. Ralph also held Pirton, Hertfordshire** (home of the original John Dunham of our Dunham line). Probably Ralph de Limésy sold Pirton to Robert Gernons – Robert's descendant is recorded as holding Pirton later (cf. above).

Concerning the Downham family members at **Waltham Abbey**, *Essex Domesday Book* notes that **Rannulf brother of Ilger** had 30 acres of land there in 1086.

Concerning the Downhams at **Colchester** and **Frating** (5 miles east of Colchester towards the Sea) note that Robert Gernons held at Wivenhoe next to Colchester and 2 miles from Frating. **Rannulf brother of Ilger**, although not from Boulogne or Cioches (Rannulf was of the Norman family of Avenel) nevertheless, like Robert Gernons, held in Barstaple hundred at **Ramsden next to Downham, Essex** at *Domesday Book* time and also could have provided for Dunham family members places for work at any of his possessions in the eastern counties.

Here again we see that the inhabitants of Downham in Essex came under Robert Gernons after 1086 and they could work on any of his and his successor's lands in the Eastern counties of England for several hundred years after. This explains the dispersion of persons with the Dunham / Downham name to the places where Robert Gernons held. The same can be said of Robert Gernons' 'kinsmen' the Cioches and the Blounts.

Being the 'king's forester for Essex' Robert Gernons held properties near major forests in that county e.g. at Haverling forest near Stapleford abbey and Chigwell, and at Ramsden forest next to Downham (see map in annexe). He was also in charge of the extensive forests surrounding Waltham abbey holding his residence at Chingford and Leyton as well as at Stansted Montfichet next to Hatfield forest.

The conclusion of this survey of Domesday Book (1086) time holders in Essex and nearby counties provides strong indications that the 'Dunham' name attached to our ancestor John Dunham of Bedfordshire (16th century) originated in the village Downham, Essex (possessed by Robert 'Gernons' in 1086). This is proven by the later spread of a 'Dunham' family in precisely the same locations (in Essex, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire) where Robert 'Gernons', his descendants, and his kin (e.g. the Blount family) held after him. This information establishes the fact that the line of Deacon John Dunham of Massachusetts originated at Downham, Essex.

Annexe II (other Dunham records)

Dunhams in Bedfordshire

These are no doubt of the same Dunham line as described above (with origin at Downham in south Essex):

Elizabeth **Downham** of Richard, chr. 17.2. 1641 at Woburn, Beds. Note the spelling of the family name.

The family of John and Dorothy Dunham at Ravensden, Beds. children christened as follows there: Anne (1682); Samuel (1684); Judith (1686); William (1688); Mary (1689). These are no doubt descendants of the Pirton, Herts. family (our family). Ravensden is just north of Bedford town. Ravensden and is near Kimbolton, Huntingdonshire so, on the contrary, this Dunham family might be related to the 'Isle of Ely' Dunhams (see No. 2 at beginning of article).

Mary Dunham of Benjamin chr. 6.4. 1697 at Luton, Beds.

Other, perhaps related, Dunhams in Cambridgeshire

The family of John and Susan Dunham at Swaffham Prior in North Cambridgeshire:

Children christened – Francis (1641); Thomas (1646); John (1648); Prudence (1654).

Annexe III John Speede's map (1610) of Essex county (central and western part).

(see next page)

Note: Waltham Abbey in the west part of Essex. Runford/Romford in the south west and Hornchurch just south of Romford. Billerica and Downham are located on the south east side of Essex just at the edge of the map on the following page. Brent Pelham is located in the part of Hertfordshire just above the word "Part of" and Claverton hundred is just east of this in Essex.

Dr. Charles Graves

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February 2013

NOTE: Please see the line of descent from John ² Dunham for Dr. Charles Graves on page 16 of this newsletter.

Researcher's Dunham—Donham Lines

As space allows the DSFC Newsletter will include a few lineages taken either from those submitted to an early Dunham-Donham web site, or from information submitted by our readers more recently. If you would like your lineage included in this column, please submit it to the editor at

dunhamgratia007@gmail.com

Line from Joseph—2, son of Deacon John—1 Dunham: [line of Paul C. Dunham]

Deacon John Dunham (1589-1669) and Abigail Ballou

Joseph Dunham (1637-1703) and Mercy Morton

Nathaniel Dunham (1689-1751) and Mary Tilson

Lemuel Dunham (1705-1763) and Elizabeth Tinkham

Joseph Dunham (1749-1826) and Mercy Thwing

Gamaliel Dunham (1779-1864) and Sophia Thwing

Sala Gamaliel Dunham (1818-1890) and Ann Maria Robb

Virgil Sala Dunham (1853-1927) and Martha Rebecca Renslow

Clinton DeForrest Dunham (1875-1935) and Martha Elizabeth Cram

Paul Clinton Dunham (1903-1979) and Marion Elsie Strong

Paul Clinton Dunham, Jr.

Line from Benajah—2, son of Deacon John —1 Dunham: [line of John L. Dunham]

Deacon John Dunham (1589-1669) and Abigail Ballou

Benajah Dunham (1637-1680) and Elizabeth Tilson

Edmund Dunham (1661-1733/4) and Mary Bonham

Ephraim Dunham (1696-1748) and Phebe Smalley

Elisha Dunham (1720-1771) and Sarah (unknown)

Jehu Dunham (1761-1842) and Elnore VanTyne

William G. Dunham (1801-1863)

William Henry Dunham (abt. 1826—1889) and Mary Ryer

William Henry Streeter Dunham (1847-1893) and Mary Colton

John Ryer Dunham (1873-1973) and Anna Alpaugh

George Whitfield Dunham (1903-1950) and Selma Lucille Cox

John Laurence Dunham

Line from John-2, son of Deacon John-1 Dunham: [line of Charles Lee Graves]

Deacon John Dunham (1589-1669) and Susan Kaino
John Dunham (1614/15-1692) and Mary (unknown)
John Dunham (1647-8-1696) and Mary Smith
Elisha Dunham (1687-abt. 1729) and Temperance Stewart
Mary Dunham (1721-) and Sylvanus Freeman
John Freeman (1751-) and Anne Fellows
Barney Freeman (1774-) and Anna Pierce
Silas Pierce Freeman (1806-1883) and Nancy Ann Colton
Frances Maria Freeman (1838-1909) and William Graves
Silas Freeman Graves (1874-1917) and Ada Maud Sloat
Kenneth Sloat Graves (1903-1993) and Mary Lee Raper
Charles Lee Graves

Line from Jonathan-2 Dunham/alias Singletary, son of Richard Singletary:

[line of Andrew Everett Dunham]

Richard Singletary (abt. 1599-1687) and probable first wife
Jonathan Dunham (1639-1724) and Mary Bloomfield
David Dunham (1673/4-ca. 1757) and Mary Illsey
David Dunham, Jr. (1705-1758) and unknown first wife
Amos Dunham (1730-1784) and Mary (unknown)
Lewis Dunham (1748-50 to 1783-90) and Martha (unknown)
William Dunham (1770-1845) and Elizabeth Brand
Lewis Dunham (1802-1866) and Sarah Ann Nelson
Richard Dunham (1838-1911) and Julia Esther Hubbard
William Frederick Dunham (1870-1942) and Anna Jane Wilson
Andrew Eli Dunham (1893-1966) and Vera Pearl Gray
Andrew Everett Dunham (1921-)