



Newsletter

incorporated in 2004 as Dunham/Singletary Family Connections

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From the President:

After many years of hosting our website from my home, we have moved over to a commercial web hosting service. We have set up an account with *site ground*. This will provide higher reliability and reduced maintenance efforts

James Streeter has spent many years gathering data for the website. Recently he has been gathering historic Dunham photos. These show multiple Dunham generations across all the Dunham lines. If you have that you would like to share, please let James know.

James has also maintained our archive of newsletters. He spent time indexing these archives to ease investigation of them.

We also host our results of many years of DNA testing on the website and a large collection of family trees, the Dunham families in America.

We are always looking for contributions to either the website or the newsletter. If you have any ideas, please contact us

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Dunham
President
Dunham Genealogy Research Association.

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Editor's Corner:

This issue of the Dunham Genealogy Research Association Newsletter contains some new subjects for the presented articles. You will find a connection between baseball and a Dunham family. Also is found additional information on the Dunham family line of Lena Dunham that was featured on the TV show "Fining your Roots" hosted by Henry Lewis Gates that was telecasted in the spring of 2024.

In the next part of this newsletter, you will find 3 poems by 3 different authors on their Dunham Family lines. They each provide information that is usually not included in a normal pedigree of a family line.

You will next find some new information about the Facebook site and what is happening there along with the first of a new series of photos all relating to the Dunham Families which will be updated every 6 weeks or so. There is some email links if you have any questions that you may have.

James is still putting the Newsletters together and can use some more material on your Dunham families for the upcoming Newsletters. He hopes to have some time soon to work on family history again as the remodel of the house for his daughter's family is getting closer to being completed.

We are still looking for a new Editor for the Newsletter and can always use articles by any of the members.

DGRA Newsletter Staff, James A. Streeter.

Play Ball!

by Trudy Dunham

Summertime means it is time to play baseball - if not in a league or against a team, at least a pick-up game, batting practice or game of catch. This has been true for generations in my Bladen County Dunham family, and likely in yours. This photo shows my Dad catching (he is sitting on his front porch steps in his bare feet in 1952) and his youngest brother is referee as their eldest nephew bats.



Here is a more recent photo of a young Dunham at bat.



Many family members have excelled at this sport! So, it came as no surprise when this young batter (a first cousin once removed; anyway, my first cousin's son's son), who has just finished his junior year in high school, was named the 2024 Southeastern Athletic Conference Baseball Player of the Year. While his stats are awesome and his skill set diverse (<https://bladenonline.com/garrett-dunham-named-sac-baseball-player-of-the-year/>), he is most noted for his pitching. Below is a photo from Spring 2024, and yes, they are still winning tournaments!



Lena Dunham line to Stephanus Van Cortland of New Amsterdam

by Gratia Dunham Mahony

In the spring of 2024, the TV show Finding Your Roots by Henry Lewis Gates aired an episode featuring Lena Dunham. This show was featured in Season 10, Episode 9 of "In the Blood". The main genealogy discussed in this segment was about the discovery of Lena Dunham's Jewish ancestors on her maternal side. However, near the end of the segment her Dunham lineage was given. This lineage was the subject of a DGRA newsletter article that I (Gratia Dunham Mahony) wrote which appeared in DGRA Newsletter Vol. 13, #2, 15 April 2016. I confined my discussion to Lena's Dunham line, but the television production by Henry Lewis Gates included the line of Maria Smyth Parker, wife of Edward Wood⁷ Dunham (John⁶, Azariah⁵, Jonathan⁴ Edmund³, Benajah², Deacon John¹ Dunham). I thought it might be of interest to Dunham family members to learn about Maria Smyth Parker's connection to Stephanus Van Cortland and early New Amsterdam.

Stephanus van Cortlandt was born in New Amsterdam 7 May 1643 to Olof Stevense Van Cortlandt and Annecke Lookermans, both early immigrants to New Amsterdam. His father, Olof Stevense, rose from being a soldier and bookkeeper and achieved a high position in the service of the Dutch West India Company. Stephanus himself was appointed ensign of one of the militia companies in New York. In 1677 he was appointed to a two-year term as mayor of New York City. Stephanus Van Cortlandt married Gertrude van Schuyler, daughter of Philip Pieterse Schuyler, and a sister of Pieter Schuyler who was mayor of Albany. They were the parents of thirteen children. The sixth child was Elizabeth Van Cortlandt bp. 28 May 1694; d. in Perth Amboy, NJ in 1758. She married Rev. William Skinner (1699-1767) who was Rector of St. Peter's Church in Perth Amboy. Rev. William Skinner and Elizabeth Van Cortlandt were the parents of Gertrude Skinner b. 27 Aug. 1739 in Perth Amboy, NJ; d. 10 Feb. 1811 in Perth Amboy.

Gertrude Skinner (1739-1811) m. James⁴ Parker and they were parents of John⁵ Parker who married Ann Lawrence. This Parker line goes back from James⁴ Parker to John³ Parker (1693-1732 who m. Janet Johnstone; Elisha² Parker (1660-1717) of Woodbridge, NJ and Hannah Rolph; Elisha¹ Parker from Kent, England to Barnstable, MA who m. Elizabeth Hinckley, sister of Gov. Thomas Hinckley. [Ref. Colonial Families of the United States, Vol. 3; pp 379-381] John⁵ Parker b. 14 Nov. 1763; d. 11 Oct. 1801 m. Ann Lawrence, daughter of John Lawrence. They were the parents of Maria Smyth⁶ Parker (1794-1834) who married 28 April 1818 Edward Wood Dunham.

Lena's Dunham line continues from Edward Wood⁷ Dunham; Carroll⁸ Dunham (1828-1877); Carroll⁹ Dunham (1858-1922); Carroll¹⁰ Dunham (1887-1948); Carroll¹¹ Dunham (1919-1995); Carroll¹² Dunham b. 1949, m. Laurie Simmons; Lena¹³ Dunham.

Dunham Poems

From Past and Present Dunham's

This summer issue of the Dunham Genealogy Research Association contains three poems. The first was written by a current member, Linda (Dunham)White about her grandfather and contains some nice photos of the family. The second poem was submitted for an article written in 2014 by a descendant Fred Dunham and was written by Mary (Ward) Dunham about their family move from New York to Michigan. Gratia Dunham Mahony wrote the third poem as an exercise for a class on writing poetry and it illustrates the heritage that many Dunham's share.

My Grandfathers Hands

By Linda (Dunham) White

My Grandfathers hands
They lie quietly, folded and still
All gnarled and knobby, they no longer work at will

These hands are now at the end of their life
They have seen many things,
They buried a wife

Once they were proud and kept their owner strong
They built a life,
Made it move along

My grandfathers hands were born over a century ago
1900 to be exact,
but there's so much I don't know

His father was a lumberman, then a farmer,
both common occupations
He played his part in building this great nation

But my grandfathers hands became a man too soon,
His father died, his childhood was done,
crashing down with a boom.



My grandfathers hands were only thirteen
He was the oldest of five,
If he could do this was yet to be seen

My grandfathers hands signed a draft card at eighteen
But as head of the household
that need was more keen

Then those hands married a pair of hands so fair
But my grandmothers hands were strong too,
They could work if they dare



Their hands together raised a family of five
But even four hands
couldn't keep a sixth child alive

So those four hands buried a baby girl,
Then my father was born, the only boy
I imagine this must have been such a thrill



My grandfathers hands raised a son who was strong
A son with tough hands that carried
The work along

I don't know how my grandfathers hands felt
When my father announced
He wouldn't play the hand he'd been dealt



My dad left the farm of his own choosing
My grandfathers hands,
Well, the farm he'd be losing

For fifteen years my grandfather hands kept trying
The family farm since 1906,
Someone else would be buying



My grandfathers hands once so supple and strong
Were now crippled and tired
And couldn't work long

All gnarled and knobby, they no longer work at will
My grandfathers hands
Lie quiet and still



Ballad of the Old Trunk

By Mary (Ward) Dunham

Great-Grandma left us years ago
Yet in our home today
There's still an old trunk long and low
Of things she packed away.

A hundred years that little chest
Has kept her treasures well
From old York State it traveled West
In cabin home to dwell.

Gently one day I raised the lid
To sort those keepsakes o'er
Knowing the memories it hid
Would prove a golden store.

Beneath this cap of yellowed lawn
An old lace mitt or two
A dress in style of years long gone—
A tiny red kidd shoe.

Letter signed "G"—a few faded lines
That was her brother Glenn
Rode in the Gold Rush of '49
Never came home again.

Picture of Gramp in Army blue
(Such whiskers—man alive!)
Here's his discharge from the army
Too "Mustered out" in '65.

Newspaper clipping brittle with age
"Lincoln Speaks at Kalamazoo"
With thrill of pride she saved that page
For she saw and heard him too.

And here's this little leather book (dated 1829)

Between its ancient pages—A lacy valentine
Ornate with roses, hearts and dove,
Forget-me-nots of blue—
A verse that sang of deathless love
And vowed devotion true.

Last night I saw them in a dream
That youth and maiden both
Beside the Mohawk's silver stream
They walked, and pledged their troth.

In village church I saw them wed
Eighteen Forty, Easter Day
Then by a pioneer vision led
To Michigan make their way.

By canal and lake boat and slow ox-team,
O'er Territorial Trail,
They reached the homesite of their dream
Within the Paw Paw vale.

The line they founded that distant year
Still bears their honored name
The tender missive she held so dear
Still glows with a fadeless flame.

HERITAGE

by Gratia Dunham Mahony

I am.
I am incredible.
I descend from super humans.
I am from farmers and soldiers and teachers.
I am from accountants, psychologists, and planners
Shopkeepers, seamen and craftsmen and superintendents
Carders, spinners, weavers, tanners, blacksmiths and printers
Millmen, cotton spinners, joiners, builders, inventors and managers

Spirit dealers, innkeepers, drapers, mercers and tailors
Bailiffs and Provost Marshalls, Minutemen and Privateers
Ensigns and Sergeants, Captains, Majors and Lieutenants.

I descend from Vikings and Norsemen, Scotsmen and Angles
Saxons and Normans
Soldiers, Seamen, Pilgrims and Puritans
Kings and Queens, Yeomen, Mariners and Ministers
Saints and Strangers.

My ancestors were part of the Industrial Revolution.

They fought in wars from King Philip's Indian War through the Revolution,
From the Civil War through World Wars I and II, Korea and Vietnam.

I am from a bond with nature
From the earth with all its majesty
From earth's creatures large and small
From the trees, and flowers and grasses
From the rain and wind and bright blue sky
From the birds whose color and songs thrill my spirit
From the quiet of the night that soothes my soul.

I am from courage and hope and grace.
I am from love, outstretched arms, and kindness
I am from warm and cherished hearts and extended family
I am from pride and strength and cheerfulness,
I am from honor, wonder and amazement.

I know that I belong and I am grateful.
I am all of this for it is my heritage.

Our Social Media Presence

By Trudy Dunham

Our Dunham Facebook Group hasn't been very active over the past few years, so at our Board Meeting this spring we agreed the Board will post more frequently. Let us know if there are other social media you would like to see us.

We will be changing the header photo about every 6 weeks to showcase interesting Dunham – Singletary images. (Feel free to send us your photos!) And, we will begin posting brief statements about what we are researching and discovering. You will need to be a member and read the current Newsletter article to get the complete story, but we think you will find these items interesting. Our July image is:



A few of you are posting questions about your line to the Facebook Group. This is a great way to get input from others in the group! Perhaps you will meet near relatives you don't know you had. And these posts do get forwarded to our Historian (who has been offline for the past couple weeks, so she likely hasn't had time to respond yet to recent questions).

However, there is a more direct way to ask our Historian your questions: send them to: historian@dunhamgenealogy.org . And if you have photos, for the website or the FB group, you can send those to: questions@dunhamgenealogy.org or facebook@dunhamgenealogy.org . Just include an email we can reach you, and for a photo, the source, who or what it is a photo of and how it is related to the Dunham and Singletary families, and permission to post online. We look forward to hearing from you.

What is new on the Dunham Website

by James A. Streeter

In the past quarter only a few minor corrections have been made to the website. I have been working on the upgrades needed for the house that my daughter and family finally were able to move into this month. Interior work still continues that should be completed by the end of July and then the exterior landscaping in a couple more months. I should have

Suggestions for new Articles for the Newsletter and new sections for the Dunham Families in America Collections are always welcome.

HELP NEEDED - We are looking for some help to review Dunham lines found in the DSFC Newsletters and prepare them to be added into the Dunham Families in America collection. If you have questions about what is involved or are able to help, please contact James A. Streeter - james8313@sti.net