



Newsletter

incorporated in 2004 as Dunham/Singletary Family Connections

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From the President:

This is not the usual letter that our President Jeff Dunham provides, but I believe that you will find it as interesting to see some of the issues that he has gone thru researching his Dunham line: the editor.

In researching my Dunham family line, out of necessity, I have learned a great deal about American History. And particularly. I have had to learn about the time around the American Revolutionary War. Many of the “brick walls’ in my family research were post-1783 after the peace, where loyalist families moved to avoid persecution – some to the Maritimes in Canada (Nova Scotia and New Brunswick).

For a long period of time, it was thought that my line was descendant from Captain Asher Dunham of Woodbridge, NJ. He was a loyalist who served the king to fight against the rebel forces in New Jersey and New York. He was captured and held in jail in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was released through a prisoner exchange and found all his troops that he had recruited were now gone. His land had been seized by the Rebels/Patriots. And he had no income to recruit more troops to fight under his command. He had to support himself for a time by cutting wood and his rank was reduced to lieutenant. In 1783, he fled the United States to what would become New Brunswick, Canada where he was granted land due to his loyalty to the King during the War.

Asher Dunham was descendant from the Dunham-Singletary line of Woodbridge, New Jersey. This line also has the honor of being related to President Barack Obama – his mother was a Dunham of this line. This Jonathan Dunham line was founded by the Anglican Church in that township. The Anglican Church was led by the King of England. And all the pastors from those congregations were bound and swore allegiance to the King.

Whether someone was classified a “loyalist” or a “patriot” in the revolutionary war would, in large part, related to where they went to church. If they went to an Anglican church then they heard sermons every Sunday on the need to stay loyal to the King. But it also was driven by monetary necessity. As areas of the colonies came under the control of one side or

the other, land owners were required to swear allegiance to whichever group was in control. And if they didn't, their land would be seized. Land generated funds that would feed either the British defense or the Rebel cause – and this was done to starve the other side of monetary support.

And unfortunately for our Asher Dunham of Woodbridge, NJ this was the case. He had land and a prosperous sawmill, and it was seized by the Revolutionary Army due to his service to the King of England. He later returned from Canada to Piscataway, NJ where he passed away in 1802.

Given the shifting battle lines during the revolution, I have found that records will show that many of my relatives are shown to fight on both sides of the conflict. They had to do their duty to whichever side held the upper hand in the area around them or lose all they had. This can lead to some confusion as to where their loyalties lie during the revolution. And in many cases, we will never know. A researcher might see a person's name on a muster log for the revolutionary army and say: "ah-ha! My great-great-great grandfather was a Patriot." When they are later seen to migrate to Canada with the Loyalists in 1783 at the end of the war.

As an example, Samuel Dunham of Deer Isle is shown to be recruited to build defenses for a British fort near his home. And he is also called on to serve for a period of time in a loyalist detachment. But later he is seen living near St Andrews, NB living amongst Loyalists in 1790 – where British Loyalists fled from Maine after the conclusion of the Revolutionary War.

And back to our Asher Dunham, he was obviously a loyalist. But there is a New Jersey militia muster roles where he appears. But was he a Patriot? Someone thought so and replaced his gravestone with one that states he was a Private in this militia.

I found that there was a book that listed him as in the New Jersey Militia, but looking deeper the data is from after the war. This is a time when every man of fighting age had to report for militia duty. This was regardless of their loyalty during the revolution. And those who fought "for the other side" would most likely be of lower rank. And so it isn't surprising that Asher Dunham is listed as a Private.

This "piece of data from the wrong time" is what led a church historian to request a gravestone from the Veterans Administration for Asher Dunham that indicates that he was a Patriot, and a low level private at that. Not a nice thing to do in my opinion, given that he was a captain loyal to the king during the revolution. One thing on my bucket list is to have his grave properly marked before I leave this world... Returning it to the original inscription that stated his name, age and when he passed on would be more appropriate.

Back in the 1770s, a political stance would be largely driven by where a person chose to attend Church services. If they went to the Anglican church – they would be told things from

the King's perspective. And if they went to a Protestant church it was different, and they would tend to lean "Patriot."

It was felt by the founders that the Anglican Church interfered with the will of the people. That the will of the King was driven through this church. This was what, in large part, along with the writings of Thomas Paine on this topic, led the founders to put as the first amendment the separation of church and state. (Paine also advocated an elected government without a king – which was a novelty at the time). They did not want the Anglican Church, or any church, interfering in the governing of the new republic.

As a sidenote – The Puritan Deacon John Dunham was forced to leave England due to religious persecution 150 years earlier. Puritans were persecuted by the established religion of the English state – the Anglican church (church of England).

In summary, I came away from my genealogy work with the following...

1. Things were not just black and white in terms of political or religious beliefs during the revolution.
2. Records can and do conflict about "who a person was" (patriot vs loyalist).
3. The separation of church and state in the U.S. Constitution is rooted in abuses by the church and particularly the church of England (led by the King) during this period. See the writings of Thomas Paine for more detail.
4. I need to work to get Asher Dunham's gravestone "fixed"... He should be respected for his beliefs and his loyalty to the King during the revolution. Maybe a bronze plaque that can be affixed to the face of his grave marker.

With Best Regards,

Jeffrey M. Dunham
President
Dunham Genealogy Research Assn.

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Editor's Corner:

I finally have been able to finish putting this issue of the Dunham Genealogy Research Association newsletter as it has been a busy end of 2024 for everyone involved. Jeff has been working with a new company that designs and makes computer chips and specialized computer based equipment putting in long days and has had little time for his family let along DGRA. He did provide as his president's letter a summary on the research of his Dunham line that which he has been working on longer than I have known him. I know that new material became available during the time the October 2024 Newsletter was being prepared.

We all have family history lines that have "Brick Walls" were suddenly information becomes available. In my research I knew the name of my grandfather, birth year and state soon after I started researching my dad's lines back in the mid 1960's but that was all as my grandmother did not talk about him period. Now on her side I was given a list of 8 names that took me back from her grandfather to John Alden on the Mayflower. The 1 break thru of my grandfathers line came in 1992 when the 1920 US Census became available and I was able to locate my grandfather living with his parents. This allowed us to trace the family back several more generations to Scotland. However it was another 10 and 20 yrs to gain more information on my grandfather when the 1930 and 1940 Census became available. A couple years later he showed up in the World War II Draft Registration Cards, but the 1950 Census was not available until 2022 and he was located again. By chance I got a email asking about my grandfather as he had found a Find A Grave Memorial for a person with the same name and birth date. It then took only a few days of research from both of us that I had enough records to verify that he was the person that we had been looking for, for over 60 years.

On a more personal level I had corrective surgery for the injury a year prior and now 2 months later doing much better and have restarted on completing the remodel of the house for my daughter's family working on the new fence with a paver walkway which I hope is completed before needing to put together the April 2025 Issue of the Newsletter.

DGRA is still looking for a new Editor for the Newsletter and we can always use articles by any of the members.

DGRA Newsletter Staff, James A. Streeter.

William Dunham, War of 1812 Soldier, Identified

by Gratia Dunham Mahony

A query from Bill Dunham with the following photos came to me last week. Bill wanted to know if I had any information about this William Dunham who was buried in the Pacific Cemetery, Portage, Columbia County, Wisconsin, who served in the War of 1812.





The memorial headstone of William Dunham born July 24, 1789; died Jan. 24 1877 states that he served in the War of 1812.

My first inclination was to look him up on the Ancestry.com web site, and I did indeed find a William Dunham of the correct time period. However the Family Trees given by people had said that he was the son of Jonathan Dunham of Dutchess County, New York and his second wife Mary Reno. This is incorrect. Jonathan ⁶ Dunham, who married as his second wife about 1775 Mary Reno was of the sixth generation and was the son of Daniel ⁵ Dunham. The children of Jonathan ⁶, (son of Daniel ⁵) are well documented and do not include a son named William b. in 1789.

The line we are interested in for this article continues with Samuel ⁵ Dunham b. 1711 who also resided in Amenia, Dutchess Co. NY, and appears on the Tax lists there. The beginning of this line is documented on the DGRA web site at www.dunham-singletry.org . Please follow the line from John ¹ Dunham and Abigail Ballou; Jonathan ² Dunham and Mary Cobb; Jonahan ³ Dunham and his first (unknown) wife; Jonathan ⁴, the first son of Jonathan ³ named Jonathan and his

wife Mary Spencer. This Jonathan ⁴ Dunham died in Sharon, Litchfield Co. CT 28 Feb. 1744/5 in his 59th year.

Samuel ⁵ Dunham (1711-1792)

Samuel ⁵ Dunham (Jonathan ^{4,3,2} John ¹) born 1711, died between 22 February 1792 and 8 June 1793, the dates of his will and probate. He married **Waitstill Lord**, daughter of Ephraim Lord. She was born about 1722, died 5 March 1784 age 62 years. She is buried in the Old Cemetery in Amenia New York. "Early Settlers of NY State" by Foley Vol. 2:789, lists burials in the Old Cemetery of Amenia. This is located about a mile northeast of the present village. The Church Society to which it belonged was called "Carmel in the Nine Partners", the building went by the name of the "Red Meeting House". The land for both was donated by Stephen Hopkins. On list of burials is Waitstill Lord, wife of Capt. Samuel Dunham, 5 Mar. 1784, age 62 yrs.

The estate of Samuel Dunham (Will Book A, p. 350 at Poughkeepsie Court House) names the children of Samuel and Waitstill (Lord) Dunham: Sons: Samuel, Jonathan, Seth, John, William; and daughters: Waitstill Silva, Mary, Salomi, Sarah.

William ⁶ Dunham (1758-1839)

William ⁶ was born probably in Amenia, Dutchess Co. NY 1 July 1758; died in Portland, Chautauqua Co. NY 10 Feb. 1839 aged 80 years. He married Lucy Penoyer who was b. 4 April 1762. They resided in Ulster County, NY until 1815 when they left for the west. According to a story on the Find a Grave website "He stayed in Seneca county through the winter and in the spring of 1816 set forward intending to reach the "Fire Lands" in Ohio. The journey from Buffalo to Portland, (Chautauqua County) was a tedious one. Stopping at the tavern of Richard Williams in Portland to rest his teams, he (William ⁶) became pleased with the country and within a week purchased a claim to the west part of lot 27 and the east part of lot 32, Township 5." Lucy (Penoyer) Dunham died in 1850 and both are buried in Pecor Cemetery, Portland, Chautauqua County, NY.

William ⁶ Dunham died in Portland, Chautauqua Co. NY 10 February 1837. His will was written 17 June 1836. Will was proved 20 May 1839. Abstract naming children follows;

"Leaves to wife Lucy all household furniture and stock and farming utensils.

To Mathew P. Van Gaasbeck and Jesse Dunham in trust for the use and benefit of the heirs at law of my daughter Salome Martin \$250.00, and one eighth part of personal estate.

To son William Dunham Junior.

Hiers of my daughter Salome one eighth part.

Sons William Dunham Junior, Jesse, Charles, and Samuel.

Daughters Phebe Van Gaasbeck, Lucy Van Gaasbeck, Alma Wilber.

Children of William ⁶ and Lucy (Pennoyer) Dunham: (birth dates provided by descendant A. Neil Dunham, who has taken a DNA test): Neil says first four children b. in Amenia, Dutchess Co. NY., rest probably b. in Delaware County, NY near the hamlet of Arena, NY, and just north of Ulster Co. NY)

- i. Abigail ⁷ Dunham b. 19 November 1786; d. 1796
- i. William ⁷ Dunham b. 24 July 1789 (service in War of 1812)
- ii. Jesse ⁷ Dunham b. 1 Nov. 1790 (also service in War of 1812)
- iii. Phebe/Phoebe ⁷ Dunham b. 8 March 1792
 - m. Peter Van Gaasbeek, res. In Ohio in 1839
- iv. Charles ⁷ Dunham b. 26 December 1795 (unmarried) (also service in War of 1812)
- v. Lucy ⁷ Dunham b. 28 October 1797
 - m. Matthew Van Gaasbeek, res. Chautauqua Co. NY in 1839
- vi. Salome ⁷ Dunham b. 29 December 1799
 - m. Hiram Martin
- vii. Alma ⁷ Dunham b. 30 December 1801
 - m. John Wilber, res. Branch Co. MI in 1839
- viii. Samuel ⁷ Dunham b. 28 June 1804

Service Record of William ⁷ Dunham

An interesting comment on the 1870 Federal Census of Wyocena, Columbia County, Wisconsin, Family #231 shows William ⁷ Dunham, age 81 living with his daughter and son-in-law and under "occupation" is written "Soldier of 1812".

From the www.Fold3.com web site (an excellent site for searching military records) under the file for William Dunham, his pension application for service in the War of 1812 is quite large. William is applying for an increase in his pension and there are many affidavits in this file. One affidavit states he served under Capt. Daniel Buell in the 18th Regt., that the soldiers got the measles during the war and that he has bad eyesight and is now nearly blind. Another affidavit dated Oct. 1850 for his original pension states William Dunham of Cincinnati, Ohio served in Capt. Daniel Buell's Company; was 3rd Corporal, NY militia commanded by Col. Dobbins. He enlisted at Genesee Co. NY 26 June 1812 for 6 mos. He was honorably discharged at Lewiston, NY 17 Dec. 1812, this affidavit was sent from Gallipolis, OH Sept. 30, 1853.

This pension application combined with the 1860 and 1870 Federal census data informs us that William ⁷ Dunham was moving from Portland, Chautauqua Co. NY through Ohio (probably Gallipolis or Cincinnati) and by 1860 he appears in Hadley, Pike Co. IL. William ⁷ Dunham died 24 January 1877 in Columbia County, Wisconsin and on the 1870 and 1880 and 1900 census his son, Joseph ⁸ Dunham is living in the town of Pacific, Columbia Co. WI. By the 1910 Federal

Census this son, Joseph ⁸ and his family had moved to the town of Campbell, Santa Clara Co. California.

William's brothers Jesse ⁷ Dunham and Charles ⁷ Dunham also served in the War of 1812 and both have files on www.fold3.com. Following are examples of them.

13-1777 WAR OF 1812.		
NUMBERS	SOLDIER	BOUNTY LAND
	Dunham Jesse	
	WIDOW Dunham Phebe	100 209 - 40 - '50
Wid. Orig. 4253		38 371 - 120 - '55
Wid. Cf. 2412	SERVICE Pvt. Capt Winkoops Co. N.Y. mil.	
	ENLISTED Sept 6. 1814 DISCHARGED. Dec. 13. 1814.	
RESIDENCE OF SOLDIER 1854-1855 Erie Co Pa.		REMARKS
RESIDENCE OF WIDOW 1871 Crawford Co (PO Rockdale) Pa.		
MAIDEN NAME OF WIDOW Phebe Powell		
MARRIAGE OF SOLDIER AND WIDOW June 18. 1812, Woodstock Ulster Co. N.Y.		
DEATH OF SOLDIER Aug. 22. 1856, Erie Co. Pa.		
DEATH OF WIDOW		

WAR OF 1812.		
NUMBERS	SOLDIER	BOUNTY LAND
S.O. 26333,	Dunham, Charles,	
S.G. 16554	WIDOW	50326-40-30, 25189-120-155
	SERVICE	Pvt. Capt. Conrad Van Gausbeek's Co, N.Y. Mil.
	ENLISTED	Aug. 18, 1814.
	DISCHARGED	Dec. 1, 1814.
RESIDENCE OF SOLDIER	1857, Chautauqua Co. N.Y.	
RESIDENCE OF WIDOW	1855, 1872 Portland, P.O. Brockton, Chautauqua Co. N.Y.	
MAIDEN NAME OF WIDOW		
MARRIAGE OF SOLDIER AND WIDOW		
DEATH OF SOLDIER	about 1875.	
DEATH OF WIDOW		
REMARKS		

Charles ⁷ Dunham died unmarried (will dated 4 November 1875) and his will names his surviving family members who include his sisters and their husbands. This provides a further clue in researching the continuing generations of this Dunham family line. From his probate file dated 21 December 1875:

petitioner is _____ of the state of New York, late and he is the surviving _____
to his estate, to wit: No Widow, No Father, or no Mother, and no descendants but left
Sally Martin (Sister) of Portland aforesaid and the following named Nephews and Nieces
Charles Vauganstro, Helen Jackson, Harriet Livingston, Salina Kilmer & William Miller
of said County, Charles H. Miller Jackson Co. Sara, Polly C. Smith, William Libbra
Almira Foster, Ohio, Daniel Dunham, Sylvia Simpson, Stutten Co. Ind. Seth
Dunham, Alvia Dunham, Alvia Rice, Sophia Fox & Harriet Dunham, same place.
Eliza Beman & Solomon Master Wis. George Vauganstro & Peter Vauganstro
Praschopher Falls, Kan. Almira Foster, Sophia Foster, George Vauganstro
Maurer, Canton, Ohio, Lewis Vauganstro, Catharine Vauganstro, William Foster
Sylvia Foster & Frank Vauganstro residence unknown. Nancy Dunham
Woods, N. Car. Jesse Dunham & George Dunham of Pennsylvania, Charles
Dunham, Lelay, Mo. Kan. Harriet Poyer, Columbus, Pa. Emily Wright, North Co
Ind. George Dunham, & Gilbert Dunham Perry Pa. all of full age

Charles Dunham late of Portland, Chautauqua Co. NY:

“No widow, no father, no mother, but left heirs:

Salome Martin (sister) of Portland, and the following named nephews and nieces, Charles Vangaasbeck, Helen Jackson, Harriet Shrington, Sabre Wilbur and William Wilbur of Chautauqua Co.

Charles D. Wilbur, Jackson Co. Iowa, Polly C. Smarting Clinton Co. Iowa, Almira Foster, Ohio, Daniel Dunham, Sylvia Thompson Steuben Co. Ind., Seth Dunham, Olive Dunham, Olive Pierce, Sophia Fox and Harriet Dunham, same place Eliza Bensen and Solomon Masters, Wis..

George Vangaasbeck, Peter Vangaasbeck, Grasshopper Falls, Kansas, Elmira Foster, Monroe, Eaton Co. Ohio, Lewis Vangaasbeck, Catharine Vangaasbeck, William Foster, Lovina Foster and Frank Vangaasbeck residence unknown, Nancy Dunham, Rhoda M. Rae, Jesse Dunham and Penoyer Dunham of Pennsylvania, Charles Dunham, Clay Co. Kan., Harriet Toger (?) Columbus, PA, Waity Wright, Worth Co. Iowa, Lorenzo Dunham and Gilbert Dunham, Correy Pa. all of full age.”

Dunham Landmarks

Dunham's Sports



In 1937 Ron Dunham opened his first store in West Bloomfield Township, Michigan as Dunham's Bait and Tackle. It was located on Northwestern Highway west of Telegraph Road. The store gained exposure through advertisement in the Newsweek Magazine and thru fishing shows hosted on radio. The original store burnt down in 1946 but was promptly rebuilt.

Ron Dunham sold the store to Robert L Schmalzried in 1953 and relocated it to the corner of Northwestern Highway and Orchard Lake Road. Robert grew the business and had eight locations. Five were located in Metro Detroit, one in Grand Rapids, Michigan, one in Anderson, Indiana and one in Muncie, Indiana. The chain was bought by the American Can Company in 1985 and after a merger with Primerica they sold off Dunham's in 1989. By 1991, Dunham's had 49 retail locations and was headquartered in Waterford Township, Michigan and is currently headquartered in Troy, Michigan. They Currently have over 250 locations in 24 states.

Information provided from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Dunham, Nottinghamshire, England



Dunham (St. Oswald) is a parish in the county of Nottingham, England. It is a place of worship for Wesleyans. Information about the Dunham Online Parish Records can be found on the Family Search **Dunham** page at:

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Dunham,_Nottinghamshire,_England_Genealogy

Dunham Tavern



The Dunham Tavern, also known as the Dunham Tavern Museum, is the oldest building in Cleveland, Ohio. The first home was built on the site, 6709 Euclid Ave. in 1824. It was owned by Rufus and Jane Pratt Dunham and the taproom was built in 1842. It was the first building constructed on Euclid Ave. east of East 55th Street and was the first frame house on the street. It later became a stagecoach stop and tavern.

The home was purchased in 1932 by A. Donald Gray, a Cleveland Activist and landscape architect. He restored the 19th century architecture and replanted the orchard. He later established a non-profit organization to maintain the property. The home was re-opened as the Dunham Tavern Museum in 1941.

In 1982, the Corporation of Dunham Tavern Museum was formed from the two non-profit organizations that had cared for the property from the Dunham Tavern, Inc., (established by Gray in 1936) and the Society of Collectors, Inc. (which assumed responsibility for the tavern in 1941).

The Dunham Tavern was named a Cleveland Landmark in 1973 and added to the National Register of Historic Places on 25 Jul 1974.

Information provided from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

What is new on the Dunham Website

by James A. Streeter

In the past quarter there has not been any corrections have been made to the website due to the move to a new Server location. I have to be able to access the site again soon.

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