

Identity of the Parents of Daniel DUNHAM (About 1730-Before 1821)

Loyalist to New Brunswick from New Jersey

Unfortunately the parentage of Daniel Dunham born circa 1730 NJ and died before 1821 in NB is unclear.

Researchers have identified at least 3 candidate fathers of a son Daniel in the right time frame. Two (Jonathan and Joseph) are from the Woodbridge, NJ lineage extending back to Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary of Massachusetts. One is from the Piscataway, NJ lineage extending back to Deacon John Dunham of Massachusetts. Most researchers use “ **Dunham Genealogy: Deacon John Dunham of Plymouth Massachusetts 1589-1669 and His Descendants**” by Isaac Walton Dunham (Hartford Connecticut, 1907) as their primary or only source.

Some assert that Daniel was the son of:

Jonathan Dunham born 1710 Woodbridge, NJ – In the Dunham Genealogy, the author states that Daniel Dunham was married to Catherine Campbell, and that he was the son of Jonathan Dunham, who was the son of Benjamin Dunham born 1681 Woodbridge, NJ and so on back to Richard Dunham alias Singletary of Haverhill, MA. Oddly, the same source re candidate John Dunham below (the genealogy of the Deacon John Dunham family) is also the source for this bit of information – hence some inconsistency.

14 BENJAMIN, of Jonathan, b. Aug. 22, 1681; m. Mary Rolph. He gave the use of a house, for five years, to Episcopal Church, organized at Woodbridge, in 1711. He d. Dec. 31, 1715. He was willed property by his brother, Jonathan, in 1706, and in 1715, his wife Mary, received a deed from Nathaniel. Issue: 321. I.—Richard, b. May 28, 1707; d. in infancy. 322. II.—Katharine, March 18, 1708. Unmarried. 323. III.—Jonathan, b. Jan. 12, 1710; m. Mary Smith, dau. of Shubael Smith. He d. Sept. 28, 1748. 324. IV.—Benjamin, b. March 12, 1712.

323 JONATHAN, son of Benjamin, 1681; b. Jan. 12, 1710; m. Mary, dau. of Shubael Smith, Woodbridge, N. J.; d. Sept. 28, 1748; he d. 1781. Issue: 325. I.—Daniel, b. 1730; m. Catharine Campbell; b. Dec. 10, 1734. 326. II.—Ephraim, b. 1734; d. in infancy. 327. III.—Joseph, b. 1736; m. and removed to New Brunswick during the American

1747-8, Jan. 31. Dunham, Jonathan, of Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., yeoman; will of. Wife, Mary Dunham. Six children, under 15 years of age; Benjamin, only child mentioned by name. Bond of Gershom Moore. Real and personal estate. Executors—friends Robert Fitz-Randolph, Charles March, David Donham, Jun'r. Proved Jan. 3, 1748. Lib. E, p. 237.

1748, Jan. 25. Inventory, £166.13.11; made by John Moores, Jonathan Frazee.

1784, Nov. 11. Dunham, Mary, of Woodbridge, Middlesex Co., widow of Jonathan Dunham; will of. Son, Asher, great Bible, and bed quilt; his wife, Susannah, 1 pair pillow cases. Son, William's wife [not named], 1 pair pillow cases. Daughter, Hannah Wright, silk gown, bed spread, tea kettle and great chair. To son-in-law William Wright's daughter, Elizabeth, sheets and pillow cases. Daughters, Elizabeth Dunham and Hannah Wright, remainder of wearing apparel. My children, Elizabeth, Samuel, Asher and William, each 1/5 part of residue. My grandchildren, Joseph, David and Ann Alstone (children of my daughter, Hannah Wright) the other 1/5 part to be equally divided between them when 21. Son, Samuel, is absent from home; should he not return in 10 years, his son, Jacob, to have £10, when 21; and my children, Elizabeth, Asher and William the remainder of Samuel's share. Executor—my brother, Will Smith. Witnesses—John Barron, Joseph Barron. Proved Oct. 15, 1791. Lib. 32, p. 455.

1791, Oct. 15. William Smith, Executor, being deceased, William Smith Dunham is appointed Adm'r. Fellowbondsman—Richard Hartshorne; both of said Co. File 7765-7768L.

Above are the wills of Jonathan DUNHAM (written 1748 and probated the same year), then his widow Mary in 1791 (written 1784).

It is noteworthy that IF she did have a son Daniel Dunham, Mary did not mention him - perhaps since he had removed permanently to New Brunswick, Canada and had left his property in New Jersey to the care of his wife Catherine (Campbell) Dunham, and son Campbell Dunham. However this also seems to be the case re son Samuel who "was absent from home" and so provided a legacy for his son Jacob if Samuel did not return. One would assume that the same provision would have been made for Campbell Dunham had there been a son Daniel in the picture.

Joseph Dunham born 1700 Woodbridge, NJ: This Joseph Dunham gave his son Daniel 1/6 of his land by will dated 1759. The author notes that Daniel Dunham was married to Catherine Campbell. Joseph is a cousin of the above Jonathan Dunham, and son of David (Singletary) Dunham.

1759, Oct. 20. Donham, Joseph, of Woodbridge, Middlesex Co.; will of. Wife to have the use of land. Son, Daniel, 1/6 of my lands, joining the 1/2 acre where he lives. Rest of estate to be sold. Daughter, Sarah, a prayer book. Youngest daughters, Abigail and Phebe, £25. Youngest sons, James, Joseph, Elisha, Moses and Jonathan, rest of my money. Wife to bring up my young children. Executors—friend, Ebenezer Foster, and sons, Joseph and Elisha. Witnesses—Jonathan Cambell, Amos Donham, Nathaniel Fitz Randolph. Proved Dec. 27, 1771, by Isaac Donham, brother to Amos Donham, one of the witnesses. Lib. K, p. 396.

The will of Joseph Dunham b. 1700 and died Dec. 1771 Woodbridge is shown above.

12 DAVID, son of Jonathan, b. March 10, 1674; m. Mary ——— 1715; d. 1750. Issue: 33. I.—Joseph, b. Oct. 7, 1700; d. Dec., 1771. 34. II.—David, b. 1705; m. Mary Freeman; d. May 15, 1756. 35. JOSEPH, son of David, b. Oct. 7, 1700; will made Oct. 30, 1750; d. Dec., 1771; will probated Dec. 27, 1771. Issue: 35. I.—Sarah, m. John Gage. 36. II.—Abigail, m. Samuel Jacques. 37. III.—Phebe. 38. IV.—James, m. and had Josiah, who in 1727 was vestryman of Trinity church, Woodbridge, N. J.

The above entry from the “Dunham Genealogy” history also mentions candidate Joseph, but even though mentioned specifically in his will, there is no notation of a Daniel Dunham being a son of Joseph in this source.

John Dunham: John was born 1705 in Piscataway, NJ. This is from the “Dunham Genealogy: Deacon John Dunham ... “of Massachusetts. The author lists Daniel Dunham as being married to Catherine Campbell – despite listing elsewhere in the work that Daniel Dunham married to Catherine Campbell was a son of Jonathan Dunham. This “classic genealogy” records that John was the son of Benajah Dunham born 1684 in Piscataway, NJ and so on back to MA.

1739, March 25. Dunham, John, of Piscataway, Middlesex Co., yeoman; will of. Wife, ———. Son, Elijah. Other children, but no names given. Lands bought of Gedion Marlat and of executors of Richard Sutton. Executors—uncle Jonathan Dunham, brother Hezekiah Dunham, brother-in-law Samuel Dunn, Jun'r. Witnesses—Benajah Dunham, Edmund Dunham, Elizabeth Brimley. Proved Oct. 16, 1740. Lib. C, p. 355.

1740, Oct. 15. Inventory, £184.00.5 (the testator having deceased 13th of Sept., 1740); made by David Fitzrandolph, Edmund Dunham.

1740, Oct. 16. Bond of Jonathan Dunham and Samuel Dunn, Jun'r, as executors, the other executor named in will being deceased.

Above is the will of John Dunham b. 1705 Piscataway, NJ. Unfortunately he only mentions one of his sons in the will.

9 BENAHAH, b. Aug. 13, 1684; m. Sept. 21, 1704, Dorothy Martin; b. June 16, 1686, dau. of John and Dorothy Martin, 1715; member of Col. Ffarmer's Regiment, Fourth Company; Capt. Wetherbee, 1714 to 1731; town clerk of Piscataway, N. J.; d. Aug. 11, 1742. Benajah Dunham, oldest son of Edmund Dunham was for seventeen years, 1714 to 1731, town clerk of Piscataway township. Vol. IV., page 188-9. Arch. of N. J. He signed a petition of remonstrance against the election of Thomas Ffarmer as representative. In 1715 he was a private in the Fourth Company of Col. Thomas Ffarmer's Regiment of Militia. (N. Y. State Hist. Report, Vol. I., p. 532.) His nuncupative will on file in the office of the Secretary of State at Trenton, N. J., proved August 11, 1742, says "that on Monday, August 9, 1742, about five hours before his death he declared his will, mentioning his sons, Benajah and Martin." His wife refused to administer the estate. Issue: 17. I.—John, b. July 8, 1705; m. Oct. 23, 1729, Mercy Drake. 18. II.—Hezekiah, b. Dec. 3, 1707; m. Dec. 23, 1733, Elizabeth Drake. 19. III.—Benajah, b. Aug. 30, 1712; m. Hannah Martin. 20. IV.—Martin, b. Dec. 11, 1714; m. 1736, Martin Wooden. 21. V.—Elizabeth, b. Oct. 24, 1715; 22. VI.—Mary, b. April 20, 1717; m. 1736, Peter Wooden. 23. VII.—Esther, b. March 14, 1720; m. Samuel Dunn, Jr. 24. VIII.—Priscilla, b. Aug. 1, 1722. 25. IX.—Rachel, b. Aug. 16, 1724. 26. X.—Elisha, b. Oct. 11, 1728.

17. III.—JOHN, b. July 8, 1705; m. Oct. 23, 1729, Mercy Drake. Issue: 855. I.—John, b. Aug. 12, 1740; m. (1) Mary Gilman; m. (2) Mrs. Ruth (Sharp) Stelle; d. Sept. 16, 1823. 856. II.—Daniel, b. 1728; m. Catharine Campbell. 857. III.—Elijah, b. Dec. 12, 1730; m. Mary Sharp; d. March 29, 1779. 858. IV.—Anna, b. July 12, 1734. 859. V.—Eli, b. Jan. 27, 1738; m. March 18, 1761, Martha Berrian; d. 1827. 860. VI.—Dorothy, b. Nov. 23, 1739.

According to the "Dunham Genealogy" this candidate apparently had a son Daniel born in 1728. The Daniel Dunham noted above is recorded in genealogies as being born 5 Feb 1727 in Piscataway to the above John, and died 29 Sept 1804 in Washington Township, Morris County, NJ. (Also noted in the Find A Grave site information). If that is true, it rules out this Daniel as being a candidate for the Loyalist Daniel Dunham who went to New Brunswick with his many children except son Campbell Dunham who stayed with his mother Catherine (Campbell) Dunham in NJ.

DNA Evidence:

When the records fail to provide a clear answer as to a mystery such as the above, it is time to turn to DNA matches to potentially assist with a decision between two or more options.

Unfortunately the time frame (being back to the late 1600s) means that the results relating to proposed ancestors born circa 1700 will be plagued with false positive results. Unless Ancestry provides users with a chromosome browser in order to determine whether these matches to Dunhams back into the 1600s are valid. The match segments must be triangulated with those pertaining to known Dunham matches who are descendants of Daniel Dunham's son Lewis Dunham (born 1758). In looking for relatives of the wife of Daniel Dunham, Catherine Campbell, the author input the surname "Campbell" and place "New Jersey" and came up with zero even remotely close possibilities.

There are matches to all candidates, but I question their validity when there are matches to individuals from both the Richard Dunham alias Singletary and the Deacon John Dunham lines. With this generation we must rely on the paper trail – "old fashioned genealogy".

Conclusion:

The evidence provides only one clear choice as the father of Daniel Dunham born about 1730 in Woodbridge, NJ and died before 1821 in NB. This would be Joseph Dunham born 1700 in Woodbridge, NJ.

Additional Evidence:

1) Tombstone of Catherine (Campbell Dunham):

What is known is that he left his widow Catharine (Campbell) Dunham (died 1816 NJ) and son Campbell Dunham in New Jersey to, presumably, keep possession of the family property. Based on the following tombstone inscription of Catherine Dunham, the property was in Woodbridge (not Piscataway):

In
Memory of
Catharine Dunham
Wife of
Daniel Dunham
Formerly of Woodbridge

Who died October 2nd, 1816

In the 82nd year of her age

The italics above are shown as such in the original inscription.

2) Residence:

The following will of Jonathan Cambell, likely a brother of Daniel's wife Catheine Campbell provides an indication that Daniel and Catherine were living in Woodbridge in 1761

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1761, Dec. 14. Cambell, Jonathan, of Woodbridge, Middlesex Co.; will of. Wife, Mary, all my real and personal, except 5 shillings, which I give to my cousin, Jessy Cambell (son of my brother David Cambell). Executors—my wife, and David Kint. Witnesses—Daniel Donham, Catharine Donham, Mary Wright. Proved May 25, 1767.
Lib. I, p. 111.

3) Religious Affiliation:

Joseph was a vestryman for the Trinity Episcopalian (Church of England) Church in Woodbridge (to at least 1767), and Daniel was a member of this Church and had at least 4 of his children recorded as being baptized by the minister serving this congregation. Even in New Brunswick the family belonged to the Church of England and Daniel Dunham's son Lewis Dunham (1758-1816) was a vestryman in the Church in Fredericton, NB. The Episcopalian congregation in Woodbridge was small, compared to the Presbyterian and Quaker communities to which the other Dunhams appear to have belonged.

Just as a sidebar, the public member trees at Ancestry are mixed in who they assign as the father of Daniel Dunham (1730 to before 1821), some chose Jonathan, and some Joseph of the Richard Dunham alias Singletary line; and others John Dunham of the Deacon John Dunham line. All, however who include Joseph anywhere in their genealogies give the name of his wife as Elizabeth Mary Woods born 1705 in Pennsylvania. This author can find no evidence at all, none of the genealogies provide a source, for even the first name of the wife of Joseph so I have chosen to put "unknown" here. All the other genealogists appear to be simply copy and pasting the name of Joseph's wife without critically analyzing the data. This is a chronic problem with Ancestry public trees – among a host of other issues.

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