

Daniel Dunham (1730 – 1821) of New Jersey and New Brunswick

Woodbridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey:

Daniel Dunham was born about 1730 in Woodbridge. He was the son of Joseph Dunham, however his mother's name does not appear in any record.

He first appears in the records in the will of his father written on 20 October 1759 at which time he was married (by then the baptisms of 3 of his children had been recorded in the Episcopalian Church at Elizabethtown, New Jersey whose minister paid regular visits to the Trinity Episcopalian Church in Woodbridge.

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 ½ 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.

Note that one of the witnesses of this will is Jonathan Campbell of Woodbridge, whose will written 14 December 1761 where both Daniel and wife Catherine acted as witnesses.

CALENDAR OF WILLS—1761-1770

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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.

At the time of the American Revolution Daniel Dunham was still residing at Woodbridge, as attested on the tombstone of his wife Catherine (Campbell) Dunham who, with their youngest son Campbell Dunham, at some point returned to New Jersey when Daniel and all of the other children stayed permanently in New Brunswick, Canada.



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, found at the Find A Grave site. Curiously Catherine was buried in Christs Church Episcopal Churchyard in nearby New Brunswick, New Jersey where her son Campbell Dunham was then working as a “fancy chairmaker”. Daniel Dunham and Catherine (Campbell) Dunham had the following children, all born in Woodbridge, New Jersey:

Daniel Dunham and Catherine Campbell had the following children:

- i. ANNA⁶ DUNHAM was born about 1754 in Woodbridge, Middlesex, New Jersey, USA.

Notes for Anna Dunham:

Baptized 28 Oct. 1755, St. John Episcopal, Elizabethtown, NJ.

10. ii. JOHN DUNHAM was born about 1756 in Woodbridge, Middlesex, New Jersey, USA. He died on 10 Oct 1839 in Carleton, New Brunswick, Canada. He married Elizabeth Oliver on 06 Jan 1779 in Moravian Church, Staten Island, Richmond County, New York, USA.
11. iii. LEWIS DUNHAM was born about 1758 in Woodbridge, Middlesex, New Jersey, USA. He died on 08 Feb 1816 in Fredericton, York, New Brunswick, Canada. He married Catharine Slegt on 03 Feb 1779 in Moravian Church, Staten Island, Richmond County, New York, USA.
- iv. SARAH DUNHAM was born about 1760 in Woodbridge, Middlesex, New Jersey, USA.
12. v. DAVID ALSTON DUNHAM was born in 1762 in Woodbridge, Middlesex, New Jersey, USA. He died on 13 Mar 1845 in Indiantown, Portland Parish, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. He married MARY ANN CATHLINE. She was born in 1774. She died on 27 Sep 1851 in Indiantown, Portland Parish, Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.
13. vi. CAMPBELL DUNHAM was born in 1766. He married CATHERINE WRIGHT.
14. vii. JONATHAN DUNHAM was born in 1768 in Woodbridge, Middlesex, New Jersey, USA. He died on 12 Mar 1827 in Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada. He married ELIZABETH. She was born in 1773. She died on 22 Apr 1836.
- viii. CATHERINE DUNHAM was born about 1775. She married Nathaniel Bloodworth on 29 Aug 1793.

Notes for Catherine Dunham: York County.

15. ix. SETH DUNHAM. He married JANE.

It is known that Daniel's eldest sons John and Lewis were both married in 1779 at the Moravian Church on Staten Island, New York which was then held by the British. One can literally see across a small inlet between Woodbridge and Blazing Star, Richmond County, Staten Island where Catherine Slegt, the soon to be wife of Lewis, resided. Perhaps Daniel also left Woodbridge at this time. All that is shown in the records is that he was eventually evacuated by the British from New York City at the War's end in 1783 – making him the patriarch of a very large family in his new home.

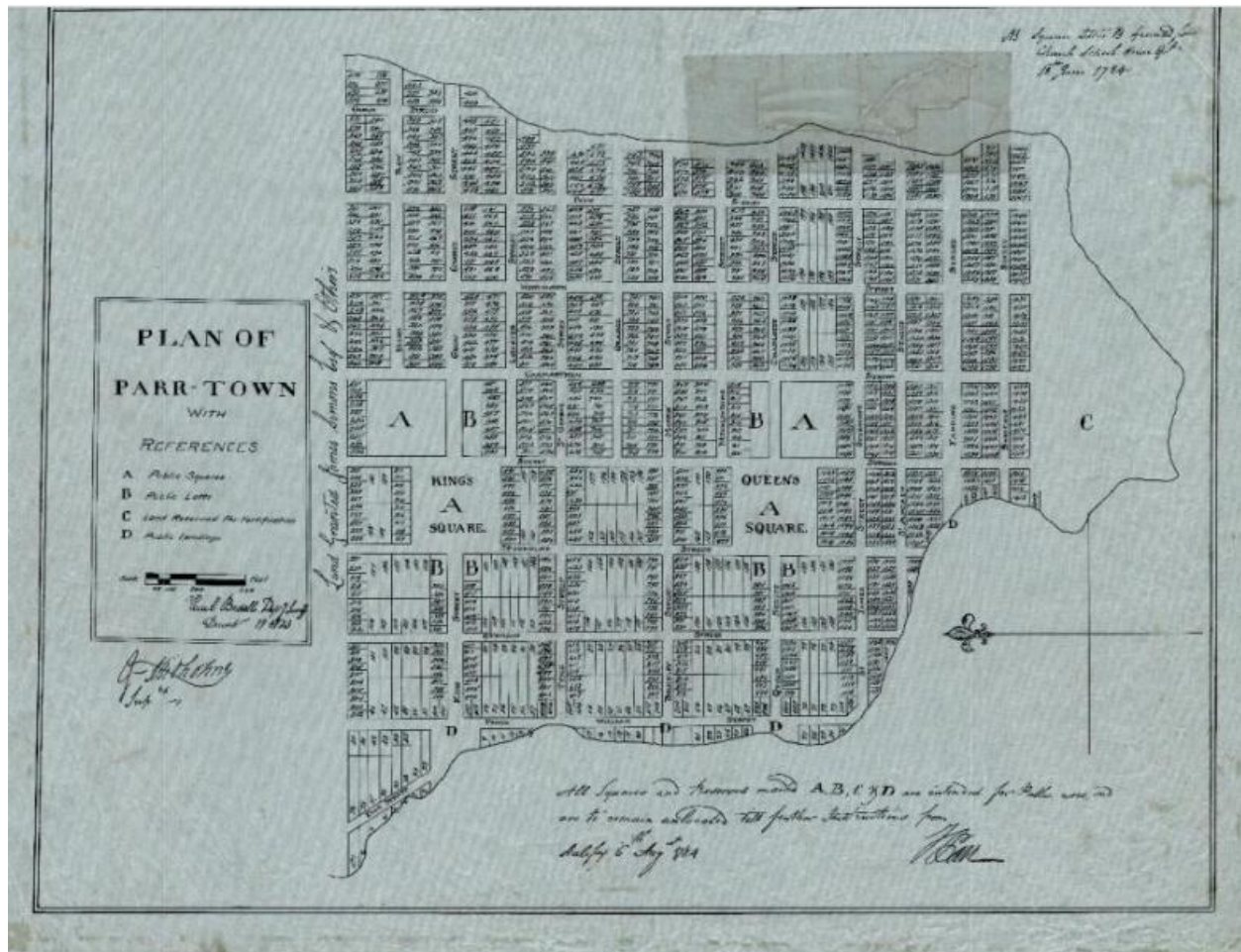
St. John, St. John County, New Brunswick:

Daniel Dunham was evacuated from New York with the "October Fleet", arriving about 17 October 1783. He was with Thomas Fairchild's Militia Company 50 and travelled on the ship

“Neptune” with one adult male, one adult female, 3 children over 10, 2 under the age of 10, and no servants. The family received rations in St. John, New Brunswick until June of 1784. The fact that there is an adult female in the listings may suggest that Catherine (Campbell) Dunham did come to New Brunswick for a time, but that at some unknown point in time, and for an unknown reason, returned to New Jersey with son Campbell Dunham.

By the end of rationing Daniel had been assigned Lot 687 in the Parr Town settlement of St. John “City”. The extant records indicate that in 1785 Daniel Dunham was a “Freeman of the City” and a “joiner” (carpenter) from New Jersey.

In May 1784 the lots in Parr Town (west side of St. John) were assigned, and Daniel Dunham received Lot 687.



Town plot map of Parr Town, New Brunswick, 1784. (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick RS656-10-35-4)

Lot 687 is situated at the corner of Orange and Wentworth Streets:



It is south and west of the large A and B Lots and “King’s Square” in the previous map.

Very little is known of the life of Daniel Dunham while living in St. John. It is known that on 24 December 1784 Daniel and sons David Alston, Jonathan and Seth Dunham signed the “Huggeford Petition of Grievance”. The petition notes that the undersigned arrived in New Brunswick since, “their principles induced them to leave the United States of America, so that they might continue under a British Government in which they were born” and in the process suffered the, “loss of every comfort and near connection in Life”. The petitioners complained that various agents of the Government had procured most of the land and that the signators were left with no options and no guarantee that they would be provided lands as compensation for what they gave up in the present United States. It is possible that the Jonathan was actually John since the author translated “Jno” as Jonathan whereas it is also used as a short hand for John.

These records are found in D.G. Bell, “Early Loyalist Saint John”: The Origin of New Brunswick Politics 1783-1786 (Fredericton NB, New Ireland Press), 1983; and Esther Clark Wright, “The Loyalists of New Brunswick” (Moncton, 1955).

It appears that Daniel Dunham resided on this Lot for the rest of his life, with his 3 heirs (children) who also lived in St. John sold their interest in this property.

Archives of New Brunswick, Land Records, Vol. 1, 1784-1823

St. John Co. xl, p. 488.

John Dunham and Elizabeth his wife,
David A. Dunham and Mary his wife and
Jonathan Dunham and Elizabeth his wife
all of the County of Saint John and heirs
at Law of Daniel Dunham of the City
and County of Saint John, deceased, sold
to James Hendricks of same, merchant
a lot in City of St. John originally
granted to Daniel Dunham deceased known
as Lot 687

"we are seized of the premises as a good indefeasible
estate of inheritance in fee simple..."

21 December 1821.

Daniel appears to have applied for other grants of land, likely to use for investment or speculative purposes. Since there was another Daniel Dunham, Daniel Carey Dunham, residing in the area near the border with Maine (unrelated to the Dunhams of Woodbridge), without seeing the signatures it is difficult to know who is making the application. It is probable that he applied for land in Kennebecasis on 5 March 1785. David E. Dunham, the son of Daniel Dunham of Parr Town applied for land in the same location on the same date.

In addition, there are a series of applications for land after 1810, but these could be for example his grandson Daniel Dunham, b. 1785, son of Lewis Dunham (then residing in Fredericton where he was a carpenter and vestryman at the local Church of England) who was likely applying for land near his home in Fredericton, including land at Wakefield in York County.

It would seem logical that Daniel Dunham died in 1821 since generally the family acted fairly quickly to obtain the benefits of their inheritance. It does not appear that Daniel Dunham had a written will – or at least none can be found in the official records.

Daniel Dunham left a legacy in the large number of his descendants in New Brunswick and New Jersey. His story, and that of his wife Catherine (Campbell) Dunham, deserves to be told.

Dr. David K. Faux

Caledonia, Ontario and Cypress, California

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