

## Chronology of LEWIS DUNHAM and Catherine SLEGT and Their Four Children: Genealogical and DNA Evidence

**New Jersey:** Lewis Dunham was born in 1758 in Woodbridge, Middlesex County, New Jersey to Daniel Dunham and Catherine Campbell and baptized with his brother John on 2 September 1759 likely at Woodbridge Trinity Episcopal Church which was served by the minister at St. John Episcopal Church, Elizabeth, Union, Middlesex, New Jersey. The Dunham alias Singletary family were among the first settlers in Woodbridge.



The above 1850 Wall Map of New Jersey shows where the original Dunham property was in Woodbridge. Jonathan Dunham alias Singletary owned land near the Trinity English Church (below the red dot above) and so many Dunhams lived to the north of here, it was at one time called Dunhamtown.

**New York:** At some point during the early years of the American Revolution Lewis and his brother John crossed over from Woodbridge to Staten Island, Richmond County, New York – literally only a short swim away – to British held territory. He and his brother John both married there in 1779. Lewis married Catherine Slegt at the Moravian Church on 3 February 1779. His wife Catherine was born on Staten Island, Richmond County, New York on 20 January 1759, the daughter of John Hendrickse Slegt and Anna. The Slegt family were among the earliest Dutch families to settle in New Amsterdam, and whose property was at Blazing Star directly across

from the narrow Arthur Kill from Woodbridge, New Jersey – which can be seen on the far right on the above map.

Unfortunately most researchers who have published their trees on Ancestry assign to Catherine Sleght the name “Catherine Dayton”. As we will see later, she married John Dayton after the death of Lewis Dunham and somehow “researchers” have given her the maiden name Dayton, and assigned the name “Daniel Dayton Dunham” to the first child – there is NO primary or even secondary source evidence to support any of this – just genealogists taking the easy route and copying the work of others.

There are no records to indicate what Lewis was doing prior to the exodus from New York City among Militia Unit 16 when they headed to St. John, New Brunswick in the Spring Fleet of 1783.

**New Brunswick:** Much of the early days of Lewis Dunham in Fredericton is depicted in, *An Outline of the History of Central New Brunswick to the Time of Confederation*. As a Loyalist, Lewis Dunham, a carpenter and inn keeper, first obtained land in the Ackerman Grant, dated 24 March 1788 from the St. John River back to Charlotte Street. This land became problematic by 23 December 1789 when he and four others petitioned Governor Carleton to request ditching and draining of the Cranberry Bog since steams and springs continued to flood their land despite their having draining the pond. This was creating issues right to the edge of the burial ground. They owned land on George Street, but wanted land to the rear so that it could be properly drained.

On 14 October 1789 Henry Sharp of Fredericton, carpenter, appointed, “my good friend Lewis Dunham of Fredericton my true and lawful attorney”. This and later land documents are from the York County Registry of Deeds. It is not clear as to what matter is involved in this appointment.

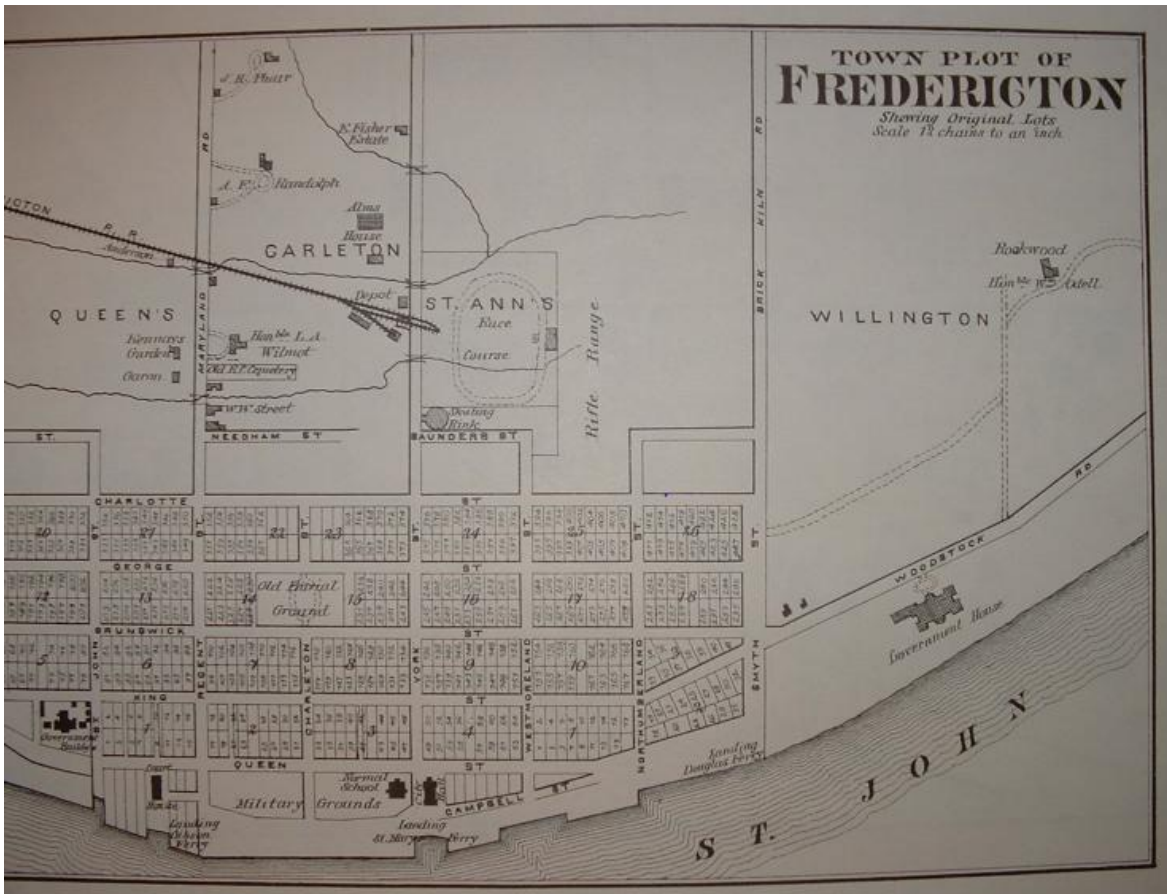
During the laying out of the town lots (date not given), Lewis Dunham received the block or blocks between George Street and Charlotte Street, presumably including the blocks 21 and 23 which he sold later (see below). Lewis Dunham’s father Daniel Dunham received “the 8<sup>th</sup> lot” on King Street and at the rear of Brunswick Street. This was likely renamed the 8<sup>th</sup> Block since this is where Lewis Dunham resided at the time of his death. Apparently he received Lots 117 to 120 in Block 8 (perhaps initially the entire block) as an inheritance or gift from his father.

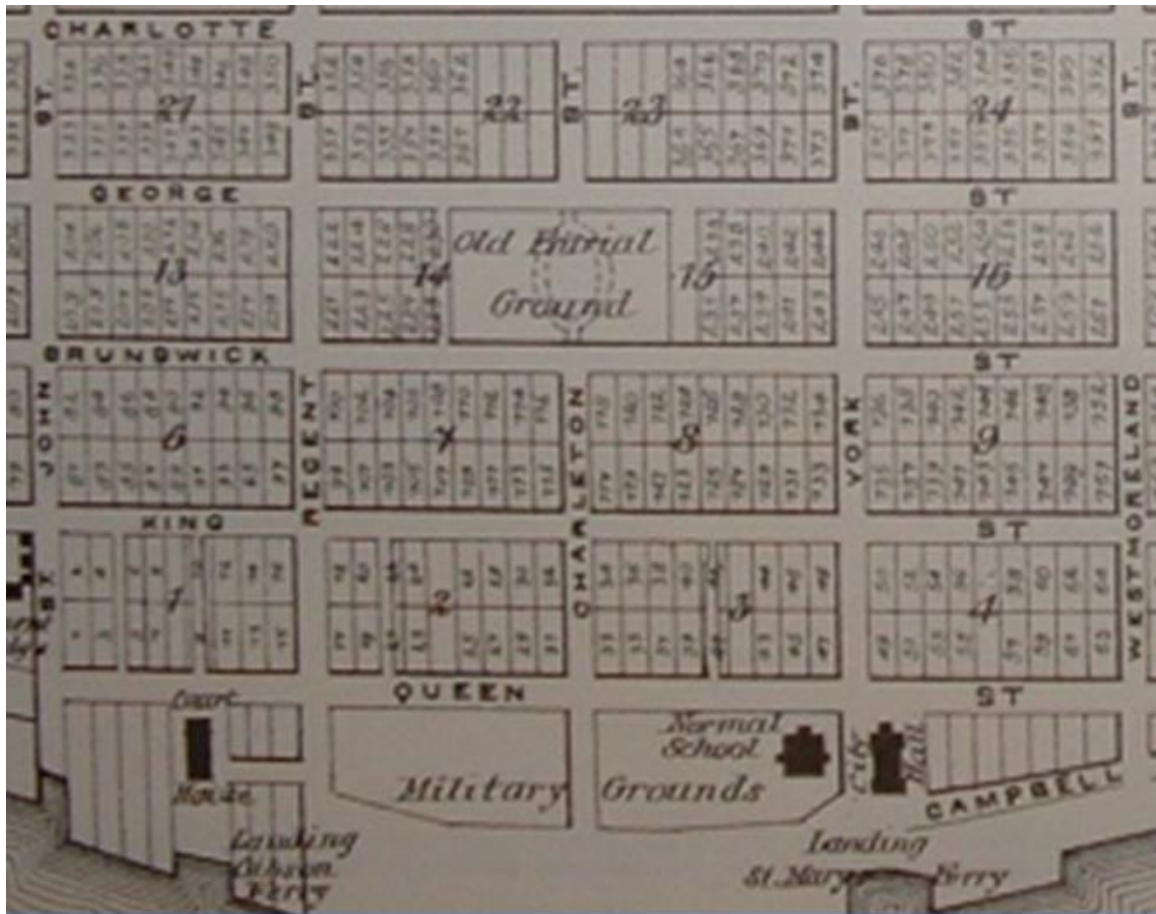
In 1793 he and his wife Catherine were also involved in other land transactions in York County; and on 1 April of that year Lewis was recorded as a “Vestryman” in the first recorded meeting of the Church of England in Fredericton. Three of their four children were born in Fredericton, Daniel in 1785, John in 1788, David Alston in 1795. It is likely that Catherine was born about 1782 in New York City prior to the departure for New Brunswick the next year.

Aside: It must be noted that for 30 or more years, the present author had considered the Catherine born 1803 and who married James Hurd and came to Binbrook about 1825, residing on the same lot of the Dunhams in that township, as the Catherine, daughter of Lewis Dunham. Her marriage record has surfaced, and it is clear that her name was Catherine Cameron who married James Hurd, both of Queensbury, New Brunswick, in 1820. Curiously, the two witnesses to the wedding were Daniel Dunham and David Dunham. The fact that Catherine's maiden name was Cameron is confirmed in the recently discovered 1909 death record of son Nathaniel Hurd.

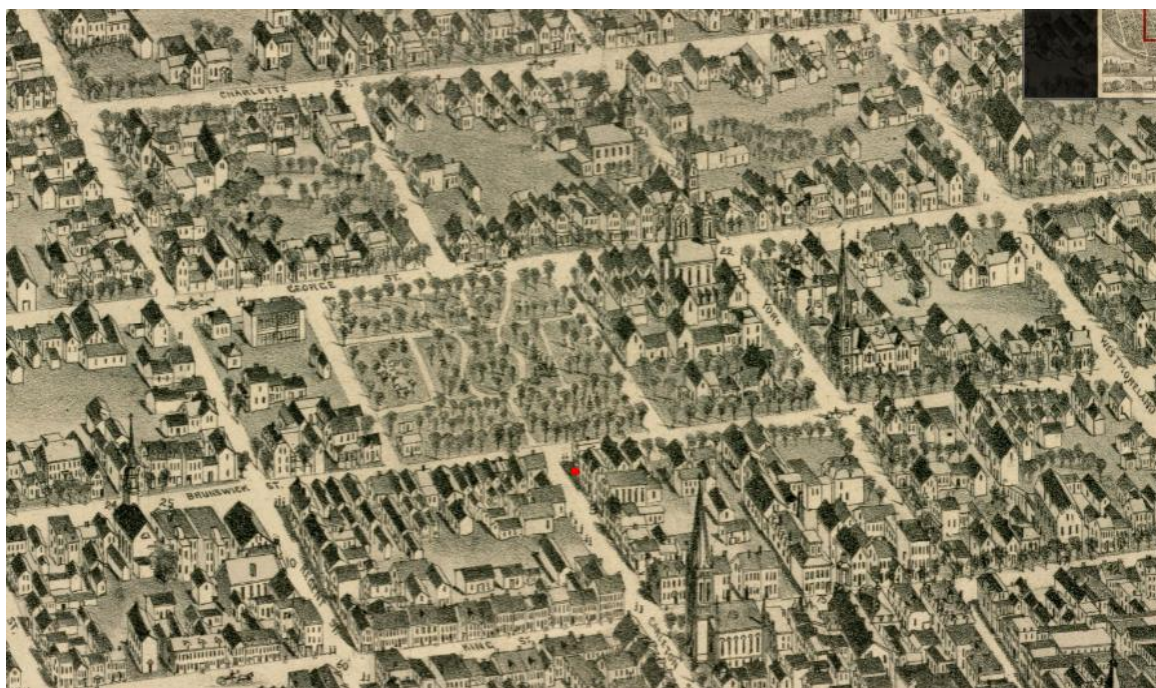
On 15 September 1794 Lewis Dunham, House Carpenter, and wife Catherine of the Parish of Fredericton sold Lots 21 and 23 in the Town Plat to Jasper Ruckles. This may be Blocks 21 and 23 since Lewis was known to have owned land between George Street and Charlotte Street.

Fredericton, York County:



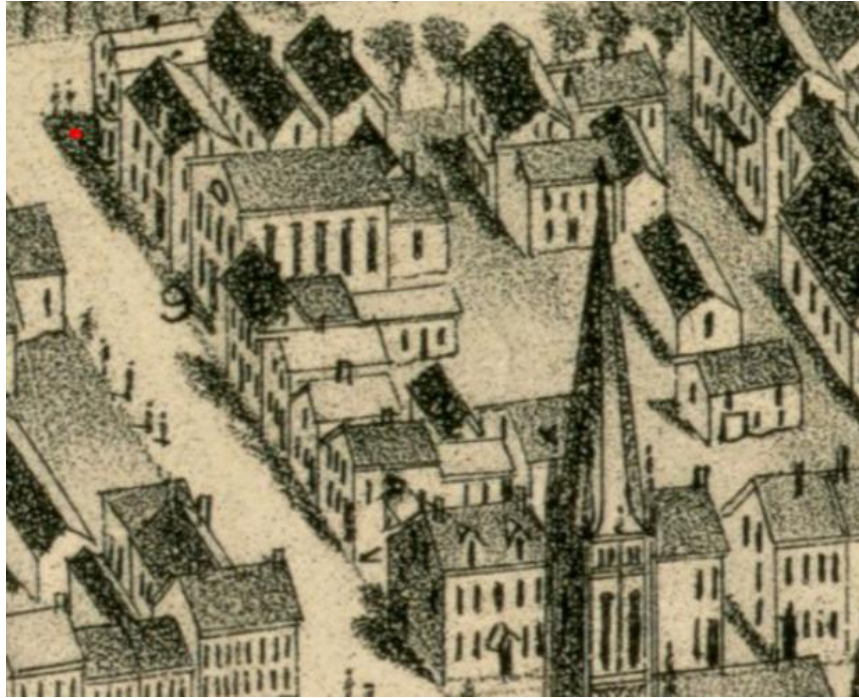


Block 8 Lots 117, 118 and 119 from a close up of the above map.



Above is a map of 1882 showing Fredericton at that time. The red dot shows the corner of Lot 118 at the intersection of Brunswick Street and Carleton Street.

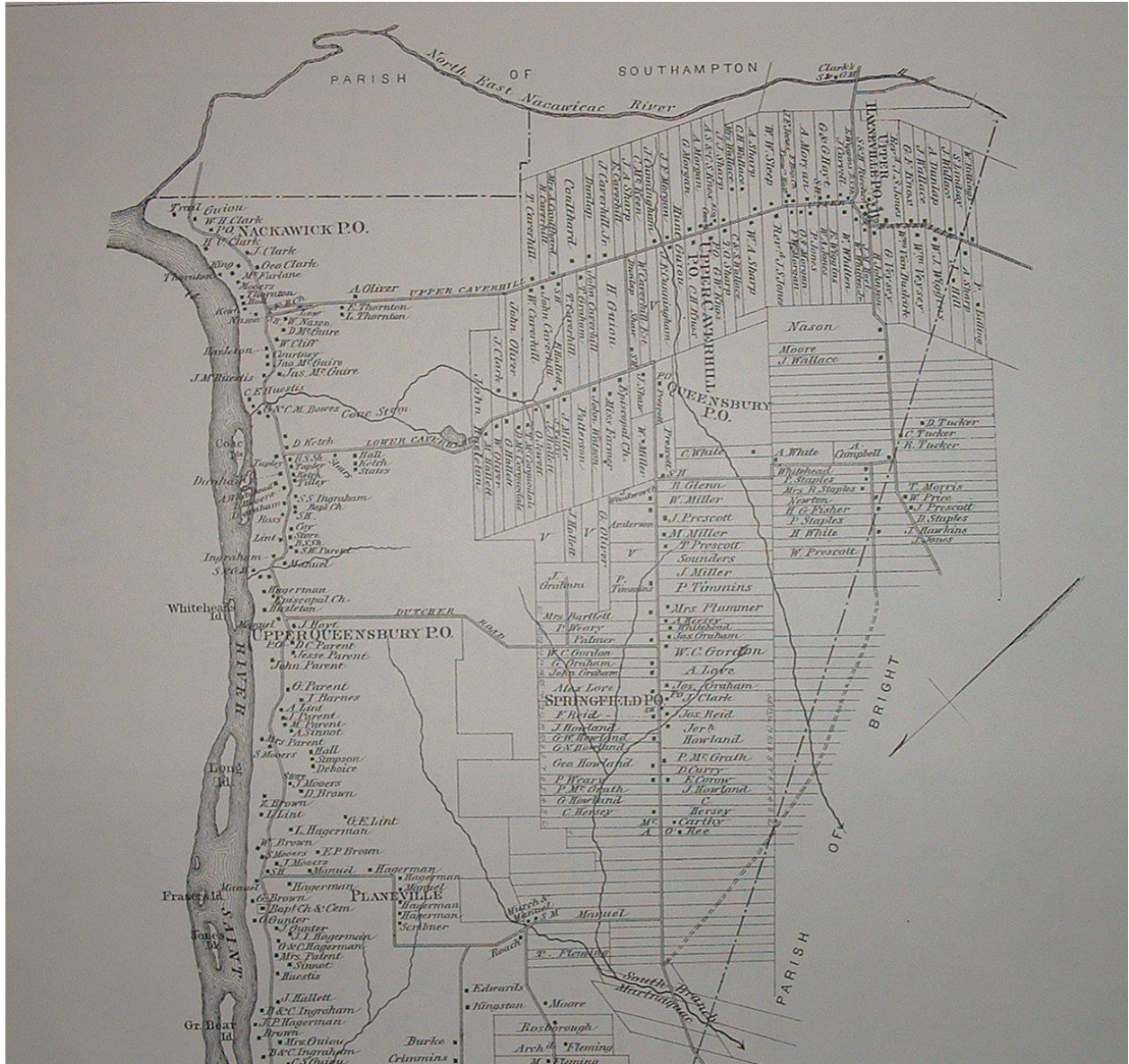
A close up of the buildings on the lots owned by Lewis Dunham at the time is shown below:



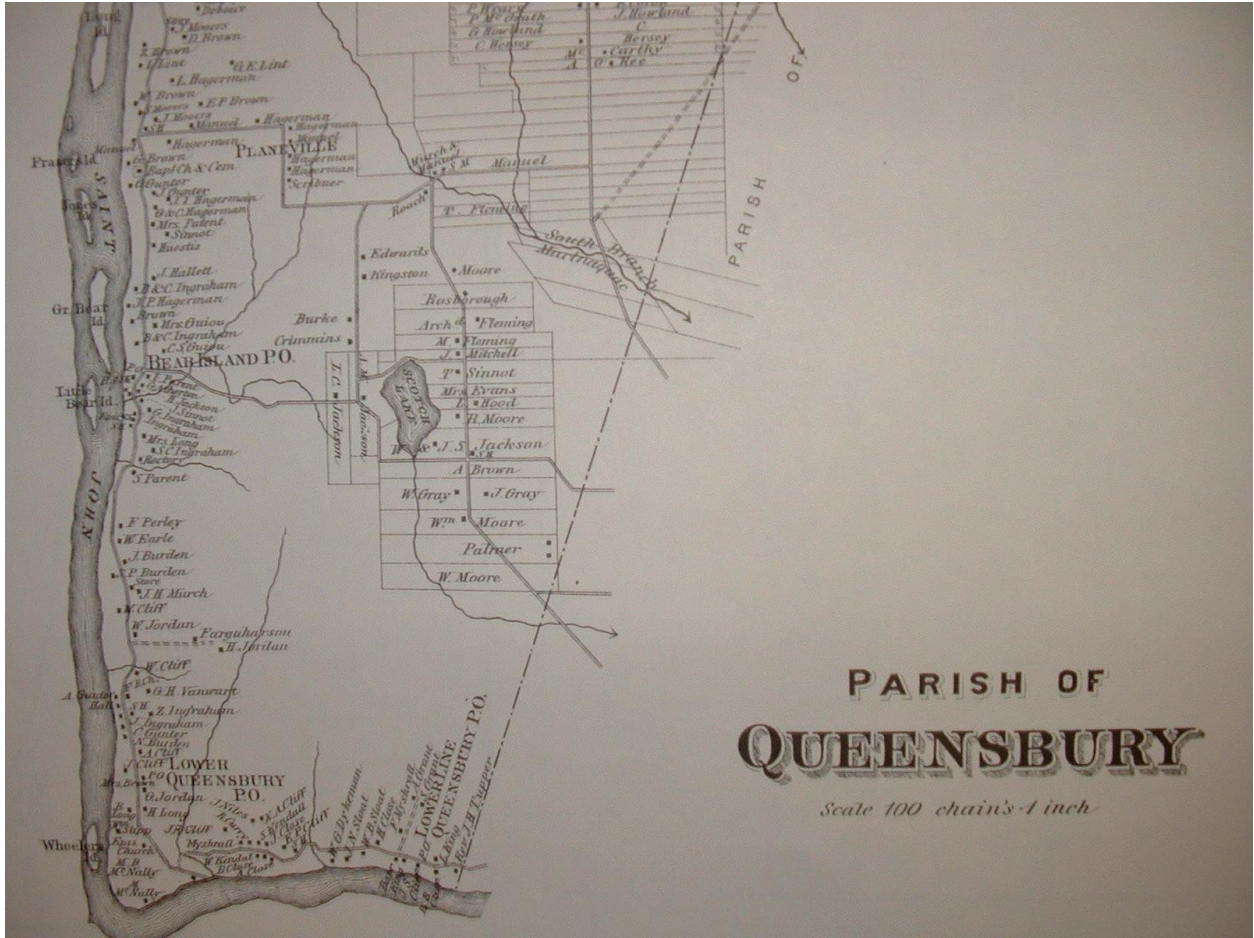
**Death of Lewis Dunham:** The Land Records for York County indicate that Lewis Dunham of Fredericton had died before the end of 1816, the Probate Records noted in the United Empire Loyalists Association application of Bill Smye likely proved the specific date of death noted in the application as 8 February 1816. In all probability Lewis was buried in the Old Burial Ground which is directly across Brunswick Street from where his lots were located.

His wife Catherine remarried soon thereafter to John Dayton who died in October 1818. Many researchers have assumed that the maiden name of Catherine was Dayton (as noted above) or that she was the daughter of Lewis Dunham and Catherine – both clearly wrong as will be shown in the evidence of land transactions in Fredericton, and the records of Binbrook Township, Ontario where she clearly states that she is the widow of Lewis Dunham.

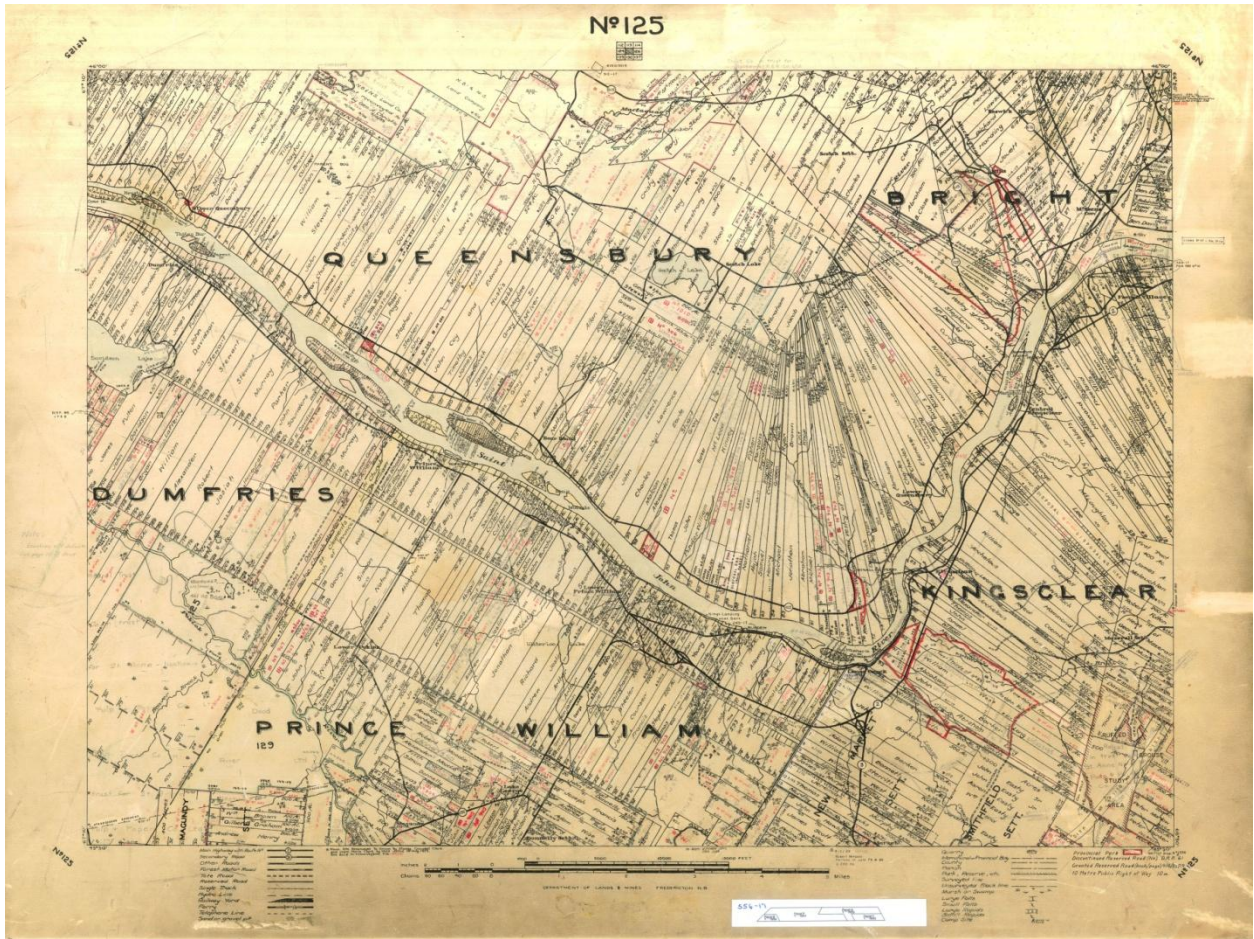
Queensbury, York County:



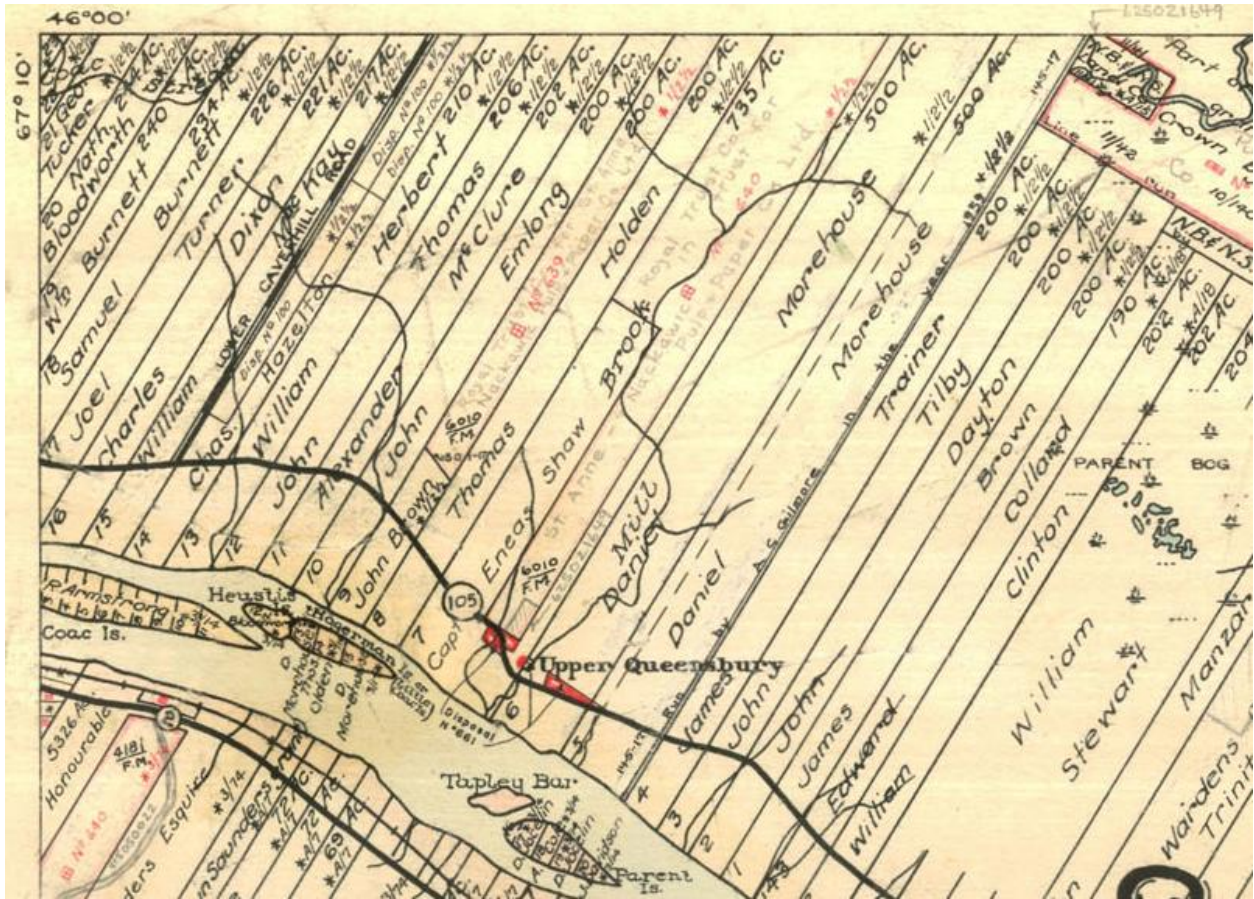
Upper Queensbury 1878



Lower Queensbury 1878







**The Children of Lewis Dunham:** As will be seen below, Lewis Dunham and Catherine (Sleight) Dunham had 4 children, Daniel Dunham born 1785, John Dunham born 1788, David Alston Dunham born 1795, and Catherine born 1803. All, including the widow of Lewis Dunham, were very active in buying and selling land in Fredericton and Queensbury in York County, and some transactions for land owned elsewhere.

On 28 February 1816, after the death of his father, John (noted as the second son of Lewis in the land records) with his wife Eleanor sold their share (one fifth part) of his father's estate in Fredericton, comprised of Lots 117, 118, and 119. Here it is noted that Lewis Dunham late of Fredericton, carpenter, had 3 children, 3 male children and 1 female child, "to wit Daniel, John, David and Catherine. It would be many years later before the rest of the family completely dispensed with their share of the lands.

On 9 April 1816 John Dunham and his wife Eleanor of Wakefield published notice of their separation at Wakefield in York County is just north of Woodstock and Queensbury where their two children (to that date), James in 1811 and Mary Ann in 1815 were born, and just upriver from Fredericton. The timing is unusual considering it comes just after the death of his father and John and Eleanor's sale of their share of his lands – perhaps something about the separation

is what precipitated the timing of the sale. This was just the beginning of a series of events in the tumultuous marriage of John Dunham and Eleanor Stairs.

By 6 September 1818 John and Eleanor were back together again and they had their third child in that year, all three children born to that date including James born 1811, Mary Ann born 1815 and William born 1818 being baptized at Woodstock Anglican Church. It should be noted that although the baptismal record is difficult to read, it would be a vast stretch to see “Henry” in “Mary Ann”. Henry is a phantom, occasioned by the fact that the minister made his capital Ms with a line through them, and so a Henry born 1816 appears in many trees on Ancestry. Two more children were born, Daniel in 1821 and Charlotte in 1823, but they were not baptized until 4 August 1829 after John had left for Binbrook Township, Ontario before 1825; and after the birth of an illegitimate daughter to Eleanor on 29 March 1825 fathered by neighbor John Hunt Heustis of Queensbury. There is no evidence that Eleanor ever went to Ontario, and no evidence that John ever returned to New Brunswick after he moved with his siblings and mother to Ontario in or about 1825. Considering these somewhat chaotic circumstances, it will be necessary to provide DNA evidence (as will be considered later) to prove that John and Eleanor (or most particularly John) were the parents of their purported children.

It appears that in the 1830s and until her death after 1851, Eleanor (Stairs Dunham) was residing with her children. On 1 August 1838 R.E. Armstrong with wife Mary and mother Sarah sold Lot 13, Queen’s Rangers Grant, 200 acres to James, William and Daniel Dunham (the three sons of Eleanor), all of Queensbury, farmers.

In a land petition of David Alston Dunham [son of Lewis Dunham] dated 7 February 1818 stated that he was born in Fredericton but 6 years earlier (i.e., about 1812) had moved to Queensborough (Queensbury). It is likely that the three sons in the family moved to Queensbury in 1812, joining their sister Catherine who was residing there as early as 1803. It is possible that the family divided their time between Fredericton and Queensbury Township (both in York County).

On 5 April 1819 Catherine Dayton of Queensbury, widow of Lewis Dunham late of Fredericton, sold her one third dower in Lots 117, 118, 119 in Block B in the Town Plot of Fredericton to Samuel Grosvenor.

On the same date, Daniel Dunham, and David E. Dunham and wife, all of Queensbury, farmers, sold their respective 2 shares (Daniel being heir at law), and 1 share of their father Lewis Dunham, Inn-Keeper of Fredericton, of Lots 117, 118 and 119 in Block 8 to Samuel Grosvenor. On this day Daniel Dunham sold to the same party Lot 120, Block #8.

One day later, on 6 April 1819, Samuel Grosvenor and wife Elizabeth of Fredericton sold Lot 7, Block 2 (or 5?), 735 acres in Queensbury to Daniel Dunham, David Elston Dunham and James [John] Dunham all of Queensbury, in a Patent issued 7 January 1787. This lot is shown in the close up map of the Parish of Queensbury and surrounds, seen above.

On 3 December 1824 Daniel Dunham and his mother Catherine (Sleght) Dayton both of Queensbury each sold their respective 300 acres, land on the west side of St. John River above Monquaret in the Parish of Kent, York County, adjoining the property of Paul Bedell.

On 26 July 1825 Catherine Dayton of Queensbury, widow of John Dayton who died in October 1818 sold Lot 2 in the Queen's Rangers Grant, 200 acres, where she was formerly living, to Thomas, William and Israel Parent.

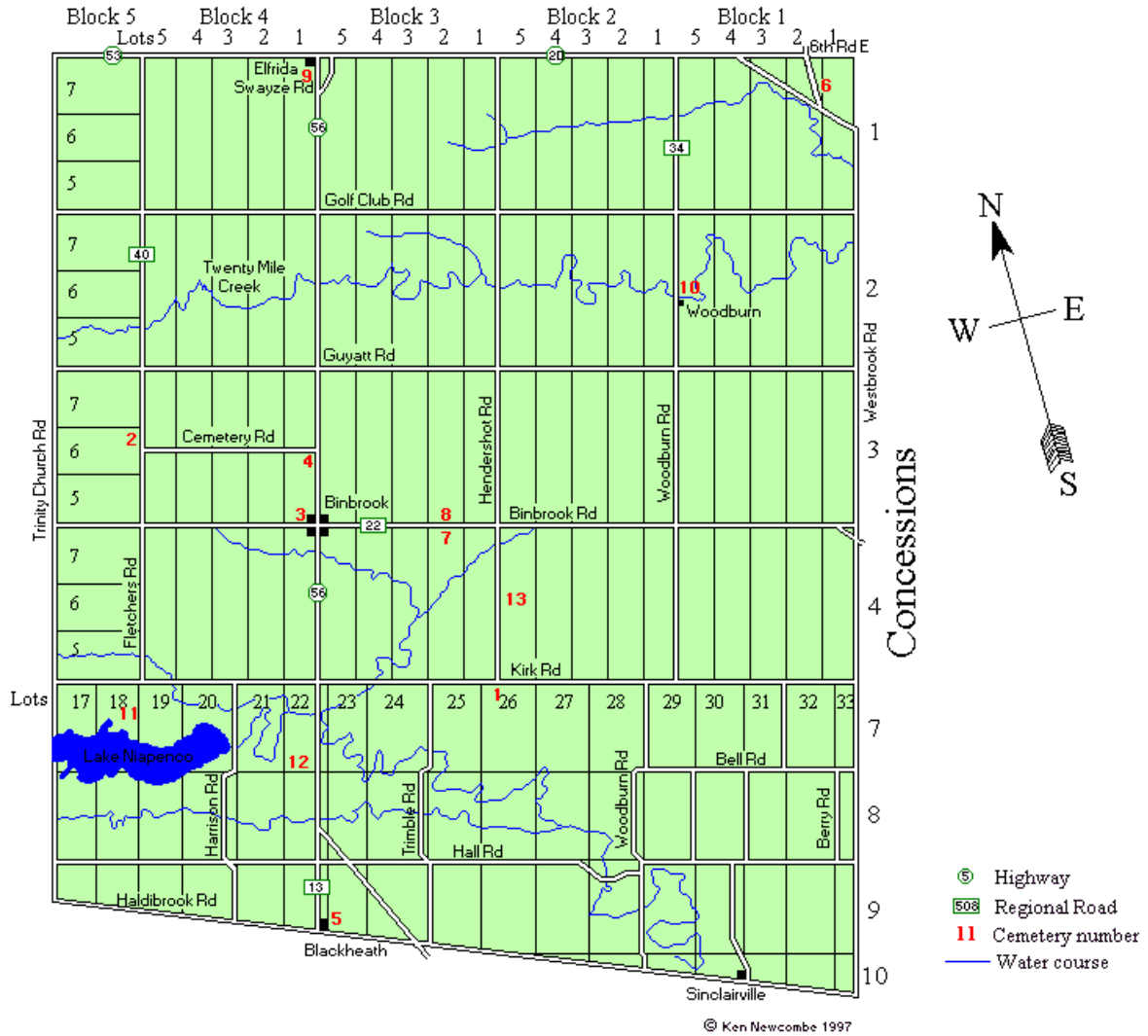
On 1 August 1825 Daniel Dunham of Queensbury sold his 1/3 part of Lot 7, Block 5, of 735 acres adjoining that of Daniel Morehouse. This was likely in preparation for their move to Binbrook, Ontario in that year.

**Binbrook Township, Wentworth County, Ontario:** By 1825 the eldest son Daniel Dunham and his mother Catherine Dayton had purchased Lot 1, Block 2, Concession 1, Binbrook Township, Wentworth County, Ontario (200 acres). It is known via the census records that in 1822, Henry Dunham, son of David Alston Dunham and Grace Vail (married in 1819 in Queensbury), was born in New Brunswick; but sons Jonathan (b. 1826) and Daniel (b. 1834) were born in Ontario. It seems that the three sons of Lewis Dunham, as well as Catherine Dayton the widow of Lewis, moved to Ontario about 1824. Catherine Dunham, the daughter of Lewis Dunham, and widow of a man named Hurd, married John Bloodworth in 1803, remained in New Brunswick, and raised a large family in Queensbury.

In 1831 Mary Ann Dunham, the eldest daughter of John Dunham and Eleanor, married Thomas Hart of Lot 5, Block 1, Concession 1, Binbrook (both then being of Binbrook) which is the lot immediately across the road from the Dunham farm – in the map below on each side of the road number 34 south of the junction with road number 20.

# Binbrook Township

(Boundaries of 1875)



## Cemeteries of Binbrook Township

- 1 - Auld Kirk Cemetery
- 2 - Barlow Family Plot
- 3 - Binbrook Baptist Church Cemetery
- 4 - Binbrook United Church Cemetery
- 5 - Blackheath United Church Cemetery
- 6 - Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens
- 7 - Knox Presbyterian Church Cemetery
- 8 - St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church Cem.
- 9 - Swayze Family Cemetery
- 10 - Christ Church Anglican Cem. (Woodburn)
- 11 - Menzies Family Plot
- 12 - Fletcher Cemetery
- 13 - Francis Stout

revised January 7, 2002

## HBOGS #

- |                |   |                       |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>CEM 147</b> | On south side of Kirk Rd, east of Hwy 56  | Con 7, Lot 26         |
| <b>CEM 148</b> | On west side of Fletchers Rd and west end of Cemetery Rd (closed and bodies removed to Binbrook Baptist Cemetery) | Con 3, Blk 5, Lot 6   |
| <b>CEM 149</b> | On north side of Binbrook Rd, .1 Km west of Hwy 56  | Con 3, Blk 4, Lot 1   |
| <b>CEM 150</b> | On the west side of Hwy 56 and south side of Cemetery Rd  | Con 3, Blk 4, Lot 1   |
| <b>CEM 151</b> | On the west side of Hwy 56, north side of Seneca & Binbrook Line  | Con 9, Lot 23         |
| <b>CEM 152</b> | On the north side of Hwy 20 at Chapel Hill Rd   | Con 1, Blk 1, Lot 1,2 |
| <b>CEM 154</b> | On south side of Binbrook Rd, 4 Km west of Hendershot Rd  | Con 4, Blk 3, Lot 2   |
| <b>CEM 155</b> | On north side of Binbrook Rd, 4 Km west of Hendershot Rd  | Con 3, Blk 3, Lot 2   |
| <b>CEM 156</b> | On the west side of Hwy 56, south of Hwy 53   | Con 1, Blk 4, Lot 1   |
| <b>CEM 153</b> | On the east side of Woodburn Rd (Reg Rd 34) at Ridge St   | Con 2, Blk 1, Lot 5   |
| <b>CEM 151</b> | On south side Con 8, Lot 18, west of Blackheath Rd (Closed)   | Con 8, Lot 18         |
|                | South 1/2 of Lot, (Bodies moved 1901)   | Con 7, Lot 22         |
|                | One stone for Francis Stout 1846 (no longer exists)   | Con 4, Lot 5, Blk 2   |

The family, other than John who had already obtained his share of his father's estate, did return to New Brunswick from time to time to sell their shares. On 20 June 1833 while in Fredericton, Catherine Dayton stated that she was then living in Queensbury, but gave her permanent place of

residence as Binbrook Ontario. This was at the time she sold her 1/3 interest in Lot 7 Queensbury (of 735 acres). She also had power of attorney from sons Daniel Dunham, David Dunham, and her eldest grandson “James Dunham Herd” (son of deceased daughter Catherine Dunham), all of Binbrook, Ontario. The law recognized the eldest son as the legitimate representative under these circumstances. Since Catherine Dunham married John Bloodworth of Queensbury in 1803, it is reasonable to assume that Catherine first married a Hurd about 1800 and had one son, James born about 1801, and that her first husband died about 1802. James lived on the same lot in Binbrook as his uncles and grandmother.

Catherine appointed Henry Morehouse, their former neighbor in Queensbury, as their attorney to recover monies owed to them by Lawrence King (for land), as well debts to them by James Cameron and Smith Moore in York County.

In 1836 Daniel Dunham and John Dunham of Binbrook signed a petition for the establishment of a Presbyterian Church (although the entire family was affiliated with Church of England in nearby Woodburn from the earliest times).

The Assessment of Binbrook of 1838 shows that living on the above farm owned by Daniel Dunham were 3 males over 16 (Daniel, John, David), 3 males under 16 (Daniel, Henry, Jonathan), 2 females over 16 (Catherine Slegt Dunham Dayton, and Grace Vail Dunham), and 1 female under 16 (unknown). The 1839 Assessment records that all members of the household were members of the Church of England.

The Binbrook Assessment of 1842 shows that by that year Daniel Dunham had sold 100 acres, and John Dunham was residing on Concession 2, Lot --, North Part, 50 acres (it would be helpful to obtain specifics from the early land records of the Township).

A newspaper article reports that in December of 1846, John Dunham froze to death in Binbrook – and that a coroner’s inquest was to be held.

In the 1851 Agricultural Census of Binbrook, Daniel Dunham (with 100 acres) was enumerated next to his nephew James Hurd (50 acres), with both residing on the Dunham lot purchased in 1825.

On 31 May 1857 Daniel Dunham (bachelor) died and left his lands to his brother David and his 3 nephews. Neither Daniel nor Henry married, but Jonathan did marry and has many descendants in the Wentworth and Haldimand County (e.g., Dunnville) areas of Ontario. John’s daughter Mary Ann moved with husband Thomas Hart to adjoining Saltfleet, but became a widow by 1846 (having 3 sons) and then married George Dawson and had a large family including a first son named John, and her second daughter named Eleanor.

**DNA:** The author is a descendant of Mary Ann Dunham who married George Dawson. While the genealogical evidence, despite the irregularities of the John and Eleanor marriage, is good, all

of the data was submitted to Dr. Scott Dunham, Professor, University of New Brunswick, who concluded that Mary Ann (Dunham, Hart) Dawson's biological father John Dunham. This can now be supported with DNA evidence. Additionally, an analysis of the matches with siblings of John Dunham's wife Eleanor (Stairs) Dunham supports the contention that Eleanor (Stairs) Dunham was the biological mother of the above Mary Ann.

What follows is an overview of the matches between the author (David Faux) and various members of the Dunham family via descendants who have taken the same DNA test from Ancestry dot com. The cousin relationship is typically in the range of 5<sup>th</sup> cousins or beyond via the genealogy. What is noted below is from a comparison of the Ancestry trees of myself and my "match", and displayed in "ThruLines". The chances of having a match at the cut off level (presently 6 cM – but Ancestry soon to change the criteria to 8 cM). Having DNA matches with any particular 5<sup>th</sup> cousin or beyond is vanishingly small – most share zero or insignificant DNA – however occasionally multiple matches can occur, occasionally at a relatively high level (e.g., 20 cM). A cM is a measure of genetic distance.

Daniel Dunham of Binbrook, the eldest child of Lewis Dunham, did not marry. John Dunham of Binbrook, whose family with the exception of daughter Mary Ann, stayed in Queensbury, had 3 sons – but none had biological children (only his daughter Charlotte married and had children). The youngest son, David Alston Dunham (1795-1864), had 3 sons two of whom were unmarried. However son Jonathan Dunham, married and went on to produce a large family in Ontario. James Dunham Hurd had 6 children, with 5 having children of their own.

Matches (Sharing at Least One Segment) –

Dunham:

- 1) Descendants of Elisha Dunham, the brother of Lewis Dunham's father Daniel Dunham (7 cM; and 6 cM).
- 2) Descendants of John Dunham, the brother of Lewis Dunham (7 cM); David Alston Dunham, the brother of Lewis Dunham (16.5 cM).
- 3) Descendant of Mary Ann (Dunham), an apparent niece of Eleanor via a Stairs relative (brother?) who was adopted by Eleanor (Stairs) Dunham (as Professor Scott Dunham of the UNB has stated, this is a very complicated family – 7 cM).
- 4) Descendants of John Dunham and Eleanor Stairs. James Dunham (1811-1901) had two daughters appear to have died in childhood. He adopted Eleanor Thornton Dunham (who was the niece of his wife Barbara Thornton). Son William Dunham (1818-1892) had two sons, one married and had no children, and the other did not marry. Daniel Dunham (1821-1845) was drowned in the same year he married, and had no children. The only potential matches here would be to the six children of Charlotte (Dunham) Hamilton (born 1821). None have appeared

to date. Professor Scott Dunham has found extreme “irregularities” with this family, and it must be questioned whether Charlotte was a biological daughter of John Dunham.

5) Descendants of all of the children of Lewis and Catherine (Sleight) Dunham who were married and had descendants (David Alston Dunham and Catherine Dunham – Daniel Dunham was unmarried) who claimed land in Fredericton as descendants of Lewis Dunham in 1833, and who came to reside in Binbrook on Lot 1, Block 2, Concession 1. To date they include:

a) David Alston Dunham via his son Jonathan Dunham (1828-1883), via the latter’s sons David Alston Dunham - 2 (7 cM); son Lorenzo Dunham – 1 (7 cM); daughter Minerva Dunham – 1 (12 cM); Henry Dunham – 2 (14 cM).

b) Catherine Dunham via her son James Dunham Hurd, via the latter’s daughter Mary Ann (Hurd) Ptolemy – 4 (11 cM each); and daughter Barbara (Hurd) Twiss – 1 (12 cM).

#### Stairs:

1) Descendants of John Stairs (1783-1845) and Eve Barclay: John Stairs (1783-1845) – 1 (7 cM); Richard Stairs Jr. (1787-1842) – 4 (6-8 cM); Thomas Stairs (1800-1847) – 2 (6-7 cM).

The above DNA match profile suggests, based on the genealogical evidence **and** the DNA evidence, that Mary Ann (Dunham) Dawson was the biological daughter of both John Dunham and Eleanor (Stairs) Dunham. When there is apparent “dysfunction” in a family, often it is speculating as to biological relationships, or having DNA come to the rescue to illuminate the truth.

Dr. David K. Faux  
Cypress, California; Caledonia, Ontario  
1 June 2017. Amended 1 August 2020.