

THE DUNN FAMILY FROM VIRGINIA TO TENNESSEE

(Submitted by: Ann Bradford Ramsey, 308 Rickman-Monterey Hwy., Rickman, TN 38580)

The earliest Dunn that I know about is John Allen Dunn, born in 1802 in Virginia. He married Catherine LaFever, born 1805 in Wayne Co., KY. She died in 1870 in Dekalb Co., TN. She was the daughter of Andrew Wesley LaFever and Nancy Ard. They were the parents of nine children listed below:

1. Mary Ann Dunn, b. Jan. 1827 in KY
2. John Riley Dunn, b. 1828 in KY
3. Nancy Susan Dunn, b. 1833
4. Zilpha Dunn, b. 1837 in White Co., TN
5. George A. Dunn, b. 1838 in Dekalb Co., TN
6. Patience Dunn, b. 1841 in Dekalb Co., TN
7. James W. Dunn, b. 1843 in Dekalb Co., TN
8. Catherine Elvira Dunn, b. 1845
9. William T. Dunn, b. Feb. 1850

I descend from Mary Ann, the first child of Allen and Catherine Dunn. She was my great great grandmother. Mary Ann had a total of nine children. Hyrum Spears is said to be the father of all of them, even though they never married. Her children were:

1. Jasper Dunn, b. ca 1847
2. Isaac Newton Dunn, b. May 8, 1848
3. George W. Dunn, b. Jan. 25, 1852
4. Stanfield Dunn, b. May 1855
5. Mansfield Dunn, b. ca 1857
6. John Henry Dunn, b. Sept. 1, 1861, White Co., TN
7. Amanda Catherine Dunn, b. Aug. 18, 1867
8. Martha Dunn, b. 1869
9. Levi Perkins Dunn, b. 1872

Mary Ann had two children, Jasper Dunn and Isaac Newton Dunn, before she married John Barger, on Dec. 20, 1849 in White Co., TN. In the 1850 White County census, Mary is living in the 7th District, listed as Mary Barger, age 24, with Jasper, age 4, and Isaac Newton, age 3. John Barger is listed in District 1 in the household of Harrison Matlock. Allen and Catherine Dunn also live in the 7th District in 1850. In the 1860 White County, TN census, Mary is listed as Mary Dunn, 30, KY, with Jasper, age 13, Newton, age 10, George W., age 8, Stanfield, age 7, Mansfield, age 3, and Parasetta, age 16 (probably Mary's sister, Patience). Catherine Dunn is living three houses away in the household of Elizabeth Elmore, age 50, b. NC. Catherine is listed as the widow of Allen Dunn. James, age 15 and William, age 10, are still living with their mother, Catherine. In the 1870 White Co., TN census, 7th District, lists Mary Dunn, age 45,

George W., age 18, Stanfield, age 15, Mansfield, age 12, Henry, age 9, Amanda C., age 3, and Martha, age 1. The 1880 White Co. census, 7th District, lists Mary Dunn age 53, widowed, Mansfield, age 21, Amanda, age 12, Martha, age 11, and Levi, age 8. Mary Dunn married Jefferson Spears, brother to Hyrum, on June 21, 1881, in White Co., TN.

In later years, some of the children of Mary Ann Dunn and Hyrum Spears went by the name of Dunn; while others used the name of Spears.

Jasper Dunn, the first child of Mary Ann Dunn and Hyrum Spears, was born about 1847. He married 1st Elizabeth Ann "Bettie" Sherrell, b. 1853 and died in 1891. She was the daughter of Joshua Sherrell and Martha Bray. He married 2nd Sarah Emiline Montgomery on Feb. 9, 1892 in White Co., TN. She was born June 20, 1849, the daughter of Leftwich Montgomery and Charlotte Massa. In the 1870 White Co., TN census, Jasper is living in the household of Giles Elrod and Senith Howell. He is listed as Jasper Spears, age 22. Jasper and Bettie had seven children. They were:

1. Martha C. Dunn, b. July 29, 1873, d. Oct. 27, 1949
2. Mary Jane Dunn, b. August 1874, d. November 1957
3. John Wesley Dunn, b. July 20, 1878, d. Feb. 16, 1926
4. Margaret Dunn, b. Aug. 7, 1881, d. Apr. 6, 1962
5. Hiram Dunn, b. Jan. 1, 1884
6. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Dunn, b. July 4, 1886, d. June 3, 1936
7. Samuel J. Dunn, b. Jan. 19, 1890, d. Jan. 13, 1965

Jasper and Sarah had one daughter, Lula Daisy Dunn. She was b. Nov. 15, 1893. She married Hosea Abraham LaFever on Apr. 13, 1913 in Dekalb Co., TN. He was born Jan. 1, 1890 and died Sept. 16, 1969. They are both buried in the Pleasant View Cemetery in Putnam Co., TN.

Martha C. Dunn, the daughter of Jasper and Bettie, was born July 29, 1873 in Dekalb Co., TN and died Oct. 27, 1949. She married Bethel Riggsby on June 10, 1911 in White Co., TN. He was born Nov. 24, 1882 and died Feb. 28, 1935. He was the son of Andrew Riggsby and Mary Lane. Both Martha and Bethel are buried in the Dobbs Cemetery in Putnam Co., TN. They had two children: Anna and Marie.

Mary Jane Dunn, the second child of Jasper and Bettie, was born August 1874 and died November 1957. She married James Monroe LaFever. He was born Aug. 31, 1872 and died June 16, 1927. Both are buried at

Pleasant View Cemetery in Putnam Co., TN. He was the son of Asher LaFever and Canzada Elrod. They had six children:

1. Gilbert A. LaFever, b. 1905, d. 1984
2. Grant LaFever, b. 1907
3. Asher Monroe LaFever, b. 1910, d. 1992
4. Leonard LaFever, b. Jan. 17, 1913, d. Sept. 14, 1998
5. Mary Lou LaFever, b. Oct. 26, 1915, d. July 4, 1949
6. Jerry LaFever, b. Mar. 1918

John Wesley Dunn, the third child of Jasper and Bettie, was born July 20, 1878 and died Feb. 16, 1926. He married Millie Arvada Herron. Both are buried in the Boiling Springs Cem., Putnam Co., TN. They had four children:

1. Plyna Dunn, md. Roosevelt Spears
2. Willie Dunn
3. Lemuel Dunn, b. May 1, 1905, d. 17 Oct. 1924
4. Lula Dunn, b. June 12, 1907, d. Jan. 25, 2003. She married Willie Jones.

Margaret Dunn, the fourth child of Jasper and Bettie, was born Aug. 7, 1881 and died Apr. 6, 1962. She married Eli LaFever, the son of Asher LaFever and Canzada Elrod. He was born Apr. 7, 1880 and died Jan. 15, 1963. Margaret and Eli are buried in the Pleasant View Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. They had three children:

1. Alta LaFever, b. June 26, 1904, d. Feb. 5, 1990
2. John Riley LaFever, b. May 29, 1912, d. Feb. 17, 1993
3. Dillard LaFever, b. Nov. 14, 1920, d. July 26, 1951

Hiram Dunn, the fifth child of Jasper and Bettie, was born Jan. 1, 1884 and died Feb. 10, 1958. He married Mary Ellen Dobbs, the daughter of John Waymon Dobbs and Rachel Spears. She was born Oct. 27, 1885 and died Nov. 12, 1969. Both are buried in the Boiling Springs Cemetery. They had nine children:

1. Haskell Dunn
2. Samuel Lafate (Sam) Dunn, b. Apr. 11, 1911, d. Aug. 26, 1984
3. Paul Dunn
4. Roy Dunn
5. Delbert Waymon Dunn, b. Mar. 29, 1920, d. Aug. 9, 1997
6. Johnnie Dunn
7. Ethel Dunn
8. Della Irene Dunn
9. Jewell Dunn

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Dunn, the sixth child of Jasper and Bettie, was born July 4, 1886 and died June 3, 1936. She married Albert Riley Elrod on Jan. 29, 1905. The son of Riley Asbury Elrod and Nancy LaFever, Albert was born Aug. 2, 1881 and died Mar. 14, 1966. They had nine children:

1. Birdie May Elrod, b. Mar. 21, 1906, d. July 12, 1937
2. Minnie Bell Elrod, b. Dec. 14, 1907, d. Dec. 18, 1994
3. Odell Elrod, b. Dec. 3, 1910, d. Nov. 17, 1995
4. Jasper Dillard Elrod, b. Jan. 26, 1913, d. Dec. 23, 1983
5. Riley Delbert Elrod, b. Jan. 26, 1916
6. Nancy Eloise Elrod, b. Dec. 10, 1918
7. Vada Irene Elrod, b. Sept. 14, 1921
8. Charlie Clelon Elrod, b. Feb. 27, 1924, d. Nov. 30, 1987
9. Albert Riley Elrod, Jr. Oct. 12, 1928, d. Nov. 14, 1972

Samuel J. Dunn, the seventh child of Jasper and Bettie, was born Jan. 19, 1890 and died Jan. 13, 1965. He married Almeda Dunn, the daughter of William Riley Dunn and Mary E. Barnes. Both are buried in the Boiling Springs Cem. They had four children:

1. Jasper Toy Dunn, b. May 5, 1916
2. Linnie Dunn, b. Oct. 15, 1920, d. Dec. 4, 1986
3. Lena Dunn, b. Oct. 15, 1920
4. Reba Dunn

My great grandfather, Isaac Newton Dunn, was the second child of Mary Ann Dunn and Hyrum Spears. He was born May 8, 1848 and died Apr. 24, 1930. He married Ellender K. Hitchcock, the daughter of William Calvin Hitchcock and Nancy Ann LaFever. She was born June 10, 1849 and died Oct. 27, 1933. Both Newt and Ellender are buried in the Pleasant View Cem., Putnam Co., TN. They had nine children:

1. Nancy Katherine Dunn, b. 1865, d. 1865
2. George Washington Dunn, b. Nov. 28, 1870, d. Jan. 12, 1944
3. William Riley (Billie) Dunn, b. Nov. 9, 1876, d. Aug. 10, 1963
4. Asher Dunn, b. Mar. 16, 1878, d. Aug. 3, 1964
5. Thomas Henry (Tommy) Dunn, b. Feb. 15, 1881, d. June 14, 1954
6. John Wesley Dunn, b. Feb. 1882
7. Mary Ann Dunn, b. Jan. 15, 1886, d. Oct. 19, 1938
8. Mansfield Dunn, b. Apr. 1888, d. 1940
9. Ammon Denton Dunn, b. June 14, 1891

Isaac Newton Dunn donated the land for Pleasant View Cemetery. His daughter, Nancy Katherine was the first grave in that cemetery.

My grandfather, Asher Dunn, was the fourth child of Isaac Newton and Ellender. He was born Mar. 16, 1878 and died Aug. 3, 1964. He married Charlotte Spears, the daughter of George Cantrell Spears and Sarah Emeline Montgomery. She was born Aug. 12, 1886 and died Mar. 13, 1961. Asher and Charlotte are buried in the Boiling Springs Cemetery. They had nine children:

1. Emmie Lee Dunn, b. May 6, 1901, d. June 6, 1902
2. S. T. Dunn, b. Feb. 1903, d. Feb. 3, 1906
3. Nannie Mae Dunn, b. Mar. 28, 1905, d. Mar. 4, 1994
4. Ella Dunn, b. Oct. 22, 1906, d. June 23, 2001
5. Della Randy Dunn, b. Dec. 20, 1909, d. Feb. 11, 1985
6. Lula Dunn, b. Apr. 22, 1912, d. Mar. 3, 2001
7. Virda Dunn, b. Aug. 2, 1914, d. Mar. 28, 1996
8. Edgar Dunn, b. Nov. 4, 1916, d. Sept. 3, 1977
9. James Earl Dunn, b. Nov. 28, 1923, d. May 20, 1989

Nannie Mae Dunn, the third child of Asher and Charlotte, married Shelie Pedigo. Nannie Mae and Shelie are buried in the Ponder-Burton Cemetery, Dekalb Co., TN. They had two children:

1. William Alfred Pedigo, b. Apr. 16, 1932, d. Dec. 21, 1991
2. Alfidene Pedigo, b. Sept. 5, 1940

Ella Dunn, the fourth child of Asher and Charlotte, married Lilburn Nash in 1928. The son of James Riley Nash and Florence Cordelia Mott, Lilburn was born Mar. 14, 1898 and died Apr. 20, 1984. Both are buried in the Nash Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN. They had five children:

1. Donald Nash, b. Apr. 7, 1928
2. Malcolm Nash, b. May 22, 1931, d. Nov. 25, 1993
3. Lila Nash, b. Oct. 1, 1933
4. Mary Ellen Nash, b. Dec. 18, 1934
5. S. T. Nash, b. Oct. 22, 1939

My mother, Della Randy Dunn, the fifth child of Asher and Charlotte, married my father, Clifford Lew Bradford, on May 7, 1932. The son of Thomas Taylor Bradford and Eliza Jane Sherrell, my dad, Clifford, was born Jan. 30, 1907 and died Mar. 10, 1998. Both are buried in the Boiling Springs Cemetery. Two children died in infancy. Five children lived to be grown.

1. C. D. Bradford, b. Nov. 14, 1934, d. Mar. 16, 1997
2. Martha Quinnie Ann Bradford, b. Sept. 9, 1937
3. Cleamon Asher Bradford, b. Oct. 17, 1939
4. Glenn Taylor Bradford, b. Mar. 19, 1948
5. Patty Bradford, b. June 15, 1952

Lula Dunn, the sixth child of Asher and Charlotte, married Verble LaFever, the son of A. Winfield LaFever and Della Ashburn. He was born Jan. 20, 1911 and died Aug. 19, 2000. They had four children:

1. James Thurman LaFever, b. Sept. 8, 1934, d. Sept. 28, 1934
2. Calvin Urias LaFever
3. Louisa LaFever
4. U.L. LaFever

Virida Dunn, the seventh child of Asher and Charlotte, married Allie Ashburn, the son of John C. Ashburn and Caldonia Herren. He was born July 27, 1904 and died June 16, 1994. They had two children:

1. Corinna Ashburn
2. Helious Ashburn, b. May 23, 1933, d. Jan. 19, 2000

Edgar (Ed) Dunn, the eighth child of Asher and Charlotte, married Rayvernella Elrod and had two children. James Earl Dunn, the ninth child of Asher and Charlotte, married Jo Willene Brock, and had one daughter. Both Ed and Earl are buried in the Boiling Springs Cem.

NOTE: More on the Dunn Family will be included in future issues if the Upper Cumberland Researcher.

ASHER DUNN----MY GRANDFATHER
(Submitted by: Ann Bradford Ramsey)

As a young man, my grandfather, Asher Dunn, lived with his father, Isaac Newton Dunn, west of Cookeville. During the first year the Tennessee Central Railroad was in operation, he had the job of lying down and putting up rail fences every time the train came through. These fences crossed the railroad. He would lay down the old rail fence that kept the stock in the field. Then after the train went through, he would put up the fence. There were only one or two trips daily made by the train, but later on, the Tennessee Central Railroad became quite busy.

Granddad Asher used to fish for the Sunny Point Fishing Club. He lived with his family near the camp. Every year he helped do whatever needed doing. The Sunny Point Fishing Club began with four or five men from Algood, including Dr. Tom Moore, Sr., who would go down on the Caney Fork River for a week of fishing each year. They did their cooking, eating, and sleeping under a bluff. Later Dr. W.A. Howard, and others from Cookeville, joined the group. When the group became eleven or twelve, they built a house on high ground. The Sunny Point Fishing Club kept going about twenty-five years. The people who lived in the area looked forward to the group of men coming. Dr. Tom Moore said of my grandfather, "We had a good cook, plenty to eat, and drink, and a man to catch all the fish needed."

In the early 1900's, Granddad Asher would take a raft, loaded with produce or logs down the Caney Fork River to Nashville. He would be gone three months at a time, leaving my grandmother to take care of the children.
Granddad lived to be 86 years of age.

