

DESCENDANTS OF MOSES DUNBAR OF WATERFORD, CONNECTICUT



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Mystic, Connecticut
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ABBREVIATIONS

b.; b.c.	Born; born circa; birth year or approximate birth year
née	A woman’s maiden name
<i>sic</i>	Indicates something incorrectly written is intentionally being left as it was in the original

PREFACE

STUDENTS OF CONNECTICUT HISTORY ASSOCIATE the name Dunbar with two men, one infamous, the other obscure but valiant. The first is Moses Dunbar, one of the few Connecticut men who was tried, convicted, and hanged for treason during the American Revolution. The second is William Dunbar, ice pilot on the ill-fated ship *Jeannette*, who was lost at sea in 1881 during an attempt to reach safety, weeks after the ship was crushed and sunk in the Arctic ice.

Of Moses Dunbar, Virginia DeLong Anderson, author of the excellent 2017 book, *The Martyr and the Traitor*, wrote that “trying to reconstruct the post-war lives of Moses Dunbar’s children is like chasing shadows at twilight.”¹ She describes the fates of some of Moses’ children from his first marriage, and speculates on the fate of the traitor’s only son from his second marriage, also named Moses Dunbar. Anderson observed that “according to census records, a Moses Dunbar of the right age as the traitor’s son appears in New London in 1800 and Waterford (which split off from New London in 1801) in 1810 and 1820. A younger Moses, who might possibly be a grandson of the traitor, is listed in the 1830 census for Waterford, and the 1840 census for East Lyme (which split off from Waterford in 1839)...” Anderson also mentions the Moses Dunbar who served briefly as a militia private in the War of 1812.



¹ Anderson, Virginia DeLong, *The Martyr and the Traitor: Nathan Hale, Moses Dunbar, and the American Revolution*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Family tradition among descendants of Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson of Waterford, Connecticut, says that Amelia was related to both Moses Dunbar the traitor and William Dunbar the ice pilot, although the exact relationships were unknown. Amelia Dunbar was born around 1837 and died 2 October 1917 in Waterford. She married Albert B. Sisson around 1856 and they raised five children, living for over twenty years in North Stonington, and later in Groton and East Lyme. Many of their descendants are well known; surnames include Sisson, Perkins, Highhouse, Palmisano, Merriman, Silva, and Getchell.²



Figure 1 Connecticut, from Actual Survey, 1813

Figure 1 shows an 1813 map of Connecticut³ annotated with the primary locales of our Dunbar families, including Wallingford, Waterbury, and Hartford where Moses Dunbar the traitor lived and died.



We recognized the lack of primary sources (birth, marriage, and death records) in the historical records of the 1700-1800s that other researchers encountered with respect to Moses and other Dunbars. We used U.S. Federal Census⁴ and other secondary and tertiary records to infer the identities and relationships among Dunbar individuals and their relatives in the context of their proximity to one another, and by interpreting other details in the records.⁵

We found little evidence beyond what Anderson cited to support the contention that Moses Dunbar “of Waterford” is the son of Moses the traitor. However, given the family tradition of a connection to Moses the traitor, and thinking this father-son relationship is probably correct, we focused our research on Moses Dunbar of Waterford and discovery of his descendants. We started with what we knew about Amelia Dunbar based on previous research, and expanded our investigation into her ancestors and siblings as we found additional supporting documents. Our concentration was on New London County records since that is where Amelia lived, and where the two younger Moses Dunbars appeared in census records. We expanded our research to all of Connecticut and beyond when appropriate, to rule out, to the extent possible, any connection of other Dunbar individuals and families with Moses of Waterford and other relatives.

First, we present brief biographies of Moses Dunbar the traitor and William Dunbar the ice pilot as historical backdrop. This is followed by chapters detailing the substance of our research. We include numerous images of relevant documents, especially U.S. Federal Census records, that formed the

² The author’s wife’s children, surname Palmisano, are great-great-grandchildren of Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson. The use of “we” and “our” in this document represents the interest of Amelia’s descendants in their family history.

³ Warren, Moses, George Gillet, and Hudson & Goodwin. *Connecticut, from Actual Survey*. [S.l., 1813] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/00561205/>

⁴ All references to, and images of, the U.S. Federal Census and state census records are from FamilySearch. www.familysearch.org.

⁵ Because the majority of the records we cite are admittedly secondary or tertiary sources (i.e., other than birth-marriage-death records), our findings do not constitute proof by strict genealogical or legal standards.

foundation of our research and analysis. Census records can be difficult to read due to a number of factors (fading, poor image quality, tiny print, illegible handwriting, etc.), so we transcribed the information from each census image into an easy-to-read table, and inserted our inferences of family members in each table. Hopefully the repeated use of census extracts and tables won't become tedious to the reader. We cite the sources we consulted, both to provide appropriate credit for others' work, and to provide easy access to those sources for independent review and analysis by other researchers. We conclude with a family tree summarizing four generations of Dunbar descendants indicated by our research.



Based on our findings, we believe we have established the connection between Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson and Moses Dunbar of Waterford (b.c.1777), finding Amelia to be the daughter of Moses' son James Dunbar, also of Waterford (b.1792). Moses Dunbar of East Lyme (b.1806) is believed to be James Dunbar's brother. We found that Moses Dunbar of Waterford had as many as 15 children by two wives. We determined that William Dunbar the ice pilot is Amelia's brother, two of a family of nine children. We believe it is likely that Moses Dunbar of Waterford is the son of Moses Dunbar the traitor.

Although the identities and relationships we deduced are not certain, the records we examined, taken together, provide a convincing case for our conclusions.

MOSES DUNBAR THE TRAITOR

MOSES DUNBAR WAS A TORY LOYALIST during the American Revolution. His story is summarized below from early works such as *Loyal to the crown; Moses Dunbar, Tory...*, by Judge Epaphroditus Peck⁶ and *The Tories of Chippeny Hill, Connecticut*, by E. LeRoy Pond;⁷ and Anderson's recent book, *The Martyr and the Traitor*, as noted previously.⁸ These and other publications draw from the best account of his life, written by Moses himself, in two letters that were found years later.

Born in Wallingford, Connecticut, on 14 June 1746, Moses Dunbar was the second of sixteen children of John Dunbar and his wife Temperance Hall. John moved his family to Waterbury in 1760. Moses Dunbar married Phoebe Jerome there in 1764. Moses and Phoebe raised seven children, four of which were living at the time of Moses' execution in Hartford on 19 March 1777. His wife Phoebe died almost a year before, on 20 May 1776.

Moses Dunbar was outspoken in his opinion against taking up arms against Great Britain, whose troops fought under the Red Ensign, shown in **Figure 2**. Although he wanted nothing more than to live in peace, Moses was charged and ordered imprisoned for up to five years. His charges were dismissed after only fourteen days, but feeling he was still in danger, Moses fled to Long Island. However, he was already engaged to Esther Adams, so he returned to



Figure 2 British Red

⁶ Peck, Judge Epaphroditus, *Loyal to the crown; Moses Dunbar, Tory, and his fidelity to church and King - executed for treason - interesting chapter in Connecticut history*. 1903. Published in *The Connecticut Magazine*, Volume VIII, Hartford, Conn.: The Connecticut Magazine Company, 1903-04.

⁷ Pond, E. LeRoy, *The Tories of Chippeny Hill, Connecticut*. New York: The Grafton Press, 1909

⁸ Anderson, *The Martyr and the Traitor*.

Connecticut where he and Esther were married. Moses traveled to Long Island a second time, hoping to remove his wife and family to that place for the family's safety. While in Long Island, he accepted a captain's warrant in the King's service, in Colonel Fanning's regiment.

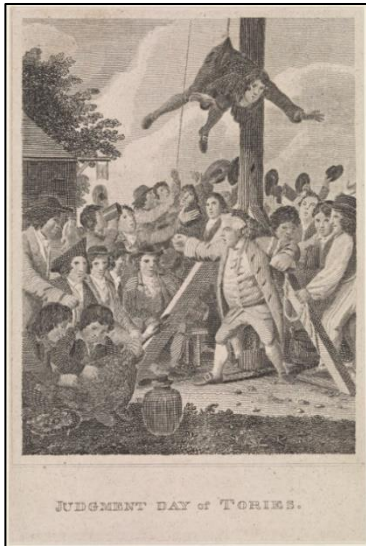


Figure 3 Elkanah Tisdale, *Judgment Day of Tories*, Engraving, 1790s

Returning once again to Connecticut, he was apprehended with incriminating papers in his pocket, and he was tried and convicted of high treason for enlisting men to serve in the British ministerial army and for joining the British service. He was sentenced to suffer death. Before the date of his sentence was fixed, he managed to escape prison, but he was quickly recaptured. His execution by hanging was a very public affair. **Figure 3**, *Judgment Day of Tories*, an engraving by Elkanah Tisdale,⁹ is a depiction of the hanging of one the few Connecticut Tory loyalists convicted of treason during the American Revolution. Reverend Nathan Strong gave a sermon the day of the execution, and copies of the sermon were advertised for sale afterwards, as shown in **Figure 4**.¹⁰

Peck, in his treatise on Moses Dunbar, quoted Judge Jones who accused Connecticut authorities of barbarous treatment of

Moses' wife. Jones stated, "Dunbar had a wife, big with child. On the day of execution, the High Sheriff (by orders no doubt) compelled her to ride in the cart, and attend the execution of her husband."¹¹ Moses and Esther's only child together, Moses Dunbar, Jr., was born later in 1777 after his father's death. The infant Moses was baptized in December 1777. Some researchers assume Moses was born in December, close to the time of his baptism. However, we suspect he was born several months earlier. If he were born in December, it would mean he was conceived in March of 1777, which would contradict Jones' statement about Esther being "big with child" when the elder Moses was executed. The child was more likely born sometime between mid-spring and early September 1777.

Esther subsequently remarried, to Chauncy Jerome, brother of Moses' first wife Phoebe. They apparently relocated to Nova Scotia for several years, but eventually returned to the Bristol, Connecticut, area in the 1780s. Esther and Chauncy raised the Dunbar children, including Esther's son Moses, along with several children of their own.

Anderson notes that Chauncy formally became the young Moses' guardian in 1792 by legal bond, and that "here the documentary trail all but vanishes."¹²

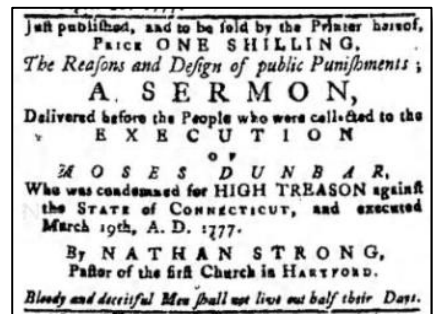


Figure 4 Advertisement for Copies of Sermon Given at the Execution of Moses Dunbar

⁹ The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Picture Collection, The New York Public Library. "Judgment day of Tories" New York Public Library Digital Collections. Accessed January 24, 2021. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47e0-f4da-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

¹⁰ The Connecticut Courant and Weekly Intelligencer (later The Hartford Courant), Hartford, Connecticut, 12 May 1777, available at newspapers.com.

¹¹ Peck, *Loyal to the Crown*.

¹² Anderson, *The Martyr and the Traitor*.

WILLIAM DUNBAR, ICE PILOT

THE STORY OF THE SHIP *JEANNETTE* and her crew is well documented in several contemporaneous publications written from the recollections of surviving crew, portions of the ship's log, and personal journals.¹³ William Dunbar was one of the eight officers of the *Jeannette*. **Figure 5** show an engraving of Dunbar from *Voyage of the Jeannette*, by Emma De Long.¹⁴ Edward Ellsberg, author of *Hell on Ice. The Saga of the "Jeannette,"*¹⁵ relates a description of Dunbar as told by George W. Melville, USN, chief engineer and a survivor of the expedition:

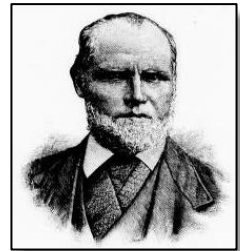


Figure 5 William Dunbar

“Last of all those comprising the wardroom mess was William Dunbar, ice-pilot, who hailed from New London and had been a whaler all his life, had commanded whalers in the Bering Sea, and of all those aboard, had had the longest and the most thorough knowledge of ice, ice packs, and the polar sea. By far the oldest man aboard, either in the wardroom or the forecastle, Dunbar’s grizzled face, gray hairs, and fund of experience gave his words on all things

¹³ Bliss, Richard W., *Our Lost Explorers: the narrative of the Jeannette Arctic expedition as related by the survivors, and in the records and last journals of Lieutenant De Long*. Revised by Raymond Lee Newcomb. Hartford, Connecticut. American Publishing Co., W. H. Thompson, 404 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 1883. [archive.org](https://archive.org/details/ourlostexplorers01richardwbliss/page/n31/mode/2up?q=dunbar).

¹⁴ De Long, Emma, ed., *Voyage of the Jeannette, the Ship and Ice Journals of George W. De Long, Lieutenant-Commander, U.S. N., and Commander of the Polar Expedition of 1879-1881*. Boston: Broughton, Mifflin and Company, New York: 11 East Seventeenth Street. The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 1884. [archive.org](https://archive.org/details/voyageofthejeannette01emma/page/n31/mode/2up?q=dunbar).

¹⁵ Ellsberg, Edward, Commander, *Hell on Ice. The Saga of the "Jeannette."* Dodd, Mead & Company, New York, 1960. Copyright 1938 by Edward Ellsberg and Lucy Buck Ellsberg.
<https://archive.org/details/hellonice/saga010772mbp/page/n31/mode/2up?q=dunbar>

Arctic an air of authority none of the rest of us could muster, and on his knowledge and sagacity as ice-pilot, we rested mainly our hopes of navigating the *Jeannette* safely through the ice fields.”

A condensed version of the *Jeannette* expedition, from Wikipedia, is as follows.¹⁶

Commissioned as a ship of the U.S. Navy, the *Jeannette* sailed through San Francisco’s Golden Gate on 8 July 1879 on her U.S. Arctic Expedition in search of the North Pole, under command of Lieutenant George W. De Long, USN. The ship reached Alaska in August. After a stop of a few weeks to replenish supplies, the *Jeannette* continued the voyage, first through the Bering Strait, then north through thickening ice until becoming trapped in the ice pack in early September 1879. The *Jeannette* drifted with the ice pack for 21 months, until on 13 June 1881, the ship was irreparably damaged, crushed by the ice, and sunk, as depicted in **Figure 6**, an engraving from De Long’s *Voyage of the Jeannette*.¹⁷



Figure 6 Sinking of the *Jeannette*

The entire crew of 33 survived the sinking. De Long ordered the crew to offload dogs, equipment and provisions before abandoning ship. He led the crew across the ice by sled, dragging three boats with them. After brief stops on uncharted islands, they set sail on 12 September 1881 in three groups: De Long with 13 men in a large cutter; second in command Lieutenant Charles W. Chipp with seven others, including William Dunbar, in a small cutter; and Melville with ten men in a whaleboat. By afternoon, the weather worsened and the boats became separated and out of sight of each other. Chipp’s cutter foundered during the storm, and all eight men were lost at sea. De Long and his party made landfall after two days, and they began a trek in search of settlements. With his crew’s health worsening, De Long sent two men to seek help. Within a week, several of De Long’s crew had died. His last log entries on 20 October 1881 reported the deaths of three more men before he and the last of his party succumbed to exposure and starvation.



Figure 7 *Jeannette* Monument

Meanwhile, Melville’s party reached land and came to an inhabited village on 25 September 1881. After a few weeks’ rest, they heard of the two from De Long’s party recuperating at another village. Melville set out to search for De Long and his party. They found a cache of logbooks and instruments, but bad weather halted the search. Returning in January 1882, they found the remains of De Long and all but one of his party. Melville built a cairn topped with a large cross to bury the bodies. He spent a month in search of Chipp’s party, including William Dunbar, but no trace was found. The bodies of the De Long party were returned to the United States in 1883. Three were claimed for private burial, and those of De Long and six others were buried together in Woodlawn Cemetery, The Bronx. In 1890, a large monument, shown in **Figure 7**, was erected at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, in memory of the *Jeannette* crew who perished in the Arctic.¹⁸

¹⁶ Wikipedia, *Jeannette* Expedition. Last edited: 29 December 2020. Extracted 25 January 2021.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeannette_expedition

¹⁷ De Long, *Voyage of the Jeannette*.

¹⁸ United States Naval Academy, Cemetery and Columbarium, History, The First Monuments.
https://www.usna.edu/Cemetery/History_and_Memory/First_Monuments.php

The largest monument at the Academy, its design is based on the cairn that Melville constructed to mark the remains of De Long's party.¹⁹

An act of Congress on 30 September 1890 approved the Jeannette Medal. The eight officers of the *Jeannette* were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, shown in **Figure 8**, while the 25 crewmembers were awarded the Congressional Silver Medal. The inscription on the reverse of each medal includes the individual's name, and reads:

“In commemoration of perils encountered and as an expression of the high esteem in which Congress holds his services.”

The gold medal awarded to William M. Dunbar was “presented to the administrator of his estate.”²⁰ This administrator was not identified. The fate of William Dunbar's gold medal is unknown.



Figure 8 Jeannette Medal



From records not cited here, we find that William Dunbar was married to Francis E. Pachey (1836-1872). They had three children: Alice (1857-1900), who was married twice (in 1875 to her first cousin, Edward E. Dunbar, son of Gurdon Dunbar; and in 1888 to Clarence M. Caulkins); Fanny (c.1864-1872), who died young, two days after her mother Francis; and Robert (c.1868-?). Francis and daughters Alice and Fanny are buried in Jordan Cemetery, Waterford. It is possible that either Alice or Robert was the administrator of William's estate and received the Jeannette Medal on behalf of the family.

¹⁹ Wikipedia, *Jeannette Expedition*.

²⁰ Wikipedia, Jeannette Medal. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jeannette_Medal

AMELIA, WILLIAM, AND GURDON DUNBAR

ALBERT SISSON AND AMELIA DUNBAR'S eldest child, Julia, married Charles A. Perkins. A biography of Charles published in 1905 (during Amelia's lifetime) corroborates the connection with William Dunbar:

"On Sept. 10, 1884, Mr. Perkins was happily married to Julia A. Sisson, of Groton, daughter of Albert B. and Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson. Amelia Dunbar was a sister of William Dunbar, who was lost on the ill-fated "Genetta" in Arctic waters. Another brother, Gurdon, also a seafaring man, spent three years with a companion on a lonely island, where they were wrecked."²¹

William and Gurdon Dunbar are listed as crewmembers on various whaling ships, each voyage lasting two to three years. William made at least seven voyages (three as Master) from 1846 to 1878 before his voyage on the *Jeannette*. Gurdon sailed on at least seven vessels from 1843 to 1864, usually as second mate.²² The New Bedford Whaling Museum crew list database shows each person's age, birthplace,



residence, ship's name and year of voyage, and other information. Both William and Gurdon are shown as being born in Waterford in almost all of their entries. Using their ages and the dates of the voyages results in a somewhat narrow range of birth years for each of the two mariners.

William appears twice in the 1850 census in New London on crew lists of whaling ships that sailed prior to the official date that year's census enumeration, as was customary for census records in those times. One entry dated 10 August 1848 is for the ship *Catherine* destined for the Pacific Ocean, and the

²¹ Genealogical and Biographical Record of New London County. Chicago, J. H. Beers & Co., 1905. Pages 366-7. <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89092847300&view=1up&seq=667&q1=amelia%20dunbar>

²² Whaling Crew List Database, New Bedford Whaling Museum. www.whalingmuseum.org

second entry dated 20 April 1850 is for the brig *Zoe* sailing to San Francisco. William is listed in the 1860 and 1870 censuses in Waterford with his wife and children.

Gurdon's name appears in the 1850 Census in New London as a crewmember on the whaling bark *North America* destined for the Indian Ocean, the list dated 19 June 1849. He is also shown in the 1860 Census in New London with his wife Ann, child Edward, his wife's parents Elias and Mary Smith, and Ann's siblings. The 1870 census shows Gurdon's wife's parents, his son Edward, and a 45-year-old Edward Dunbar. This is thought to be Gurdon, possibly an error on the part of the enumerator, or perhaps Gurdon also used the name Edward. His wife Ann is not shown in this nor any subsequent census, leading to the notion that she probably died before 1870.



Considering the crew's ages from the whaling ship database along with census and other records, we regard Gurdon's birth date as c.1825 and William's as c.1829. It is likely that both were born in Waterford.



The statement in Charles Perkin's biography about Gurdon being shipwrecked for three years is intriguing, the implication being that he survived the ordeal. There are several documented cases of sailors being shipwrecked for long periods and eventually being rescued, but few occurred during Gurdon's adulthood, and none include Gurdon's name in the crew list. One remote possibility is the ship *Pilot's Bride* that sailed from New London on 27 April 1880 on a two-year voyage to the South Seas in search of whale and other oils, and sealskins. In early October 1881, a violent snowstorm and gale struck the ship, and with the ship foundering about six miles from the shore of Desolate Island, Captain Joseph Fuller ordered the crew ashore in three boats. The crew was rescued, in the words of the captain, after "over eleven months of castaway life." The captain (and apparently some of the crew) returned home on 3 April 1883, just short of three years from when they sailed out of New London.²³ Unfortunately, a crew list for the *Pilot's Bride* has not been found. Gurdon would have been about 55 years old when the ship sailed. It is rare to find sailors over the age of 45 years on the crew lists of whaling ships, so it is possible, although unlikely, that Gurdon was shipwrecked on the *Pilot's Bride*.

Gurdon's ultimate fate has not been determined. His name is not found in any records after 1870.



In summary, we assert that Amelia, William, and Gurdon Dunbar are siblings, with their estimated birth dates as shown:

- ❖ Gurdon b.c.1825
- ❖ William b.c.1829
- ❖ Amelia b.c.1837

²³ Indianapolis Journal, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, 10 April 1883, The Story of a Wreck.
<https://newspapers.library.in.gov/?a=d&d=IJ18830410.1.5&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN----->

JAMES, JANE, AND ADELINE DUNBAR

SEPARATE RECORDS FOR THREE INDIVIDUALS—James, Jane and Adeline Dunbar—specifically name a James and Mary (Beebe) Dunbar as their parents. Each of these Dunbars has roots in Waterford or New London.

James Dunbar

A biography of James Dunbar (1817-1900), born in Connecticut and an early settler of Fulton County, Ohio, shown in **Figure 9**,²⁴ indicates his parents, James and Mary (Beebe), were natives of New London, Connecticut, where the former died in 1870, and the latter in 1845. The biography indicates that the younger James married Mary A. Gleason in 1840 in Sandusky, Ohio, and lists their children as William W., Gurdon R. B., Martha E., Adeline A., Mary Amelia, Orin R., Mary A., and William Sherman. Son William W. Dunbar was a member of Company K, 38th Regiment O.V.I., and died near Chattanooga, of a fever, November 19, 1863. Son Gurdon R. B. Dunbar was a member of Company K, 38th Regiment O.V.I. He was shot at Jonesborough, Georgia, September 1, 1864.²⁵ A later *History*



Figure 9 Fulton County, Ohio

²⁴ Russell & Struthers, Cartographer. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois & Kentucky. N.Y.: Russell & Struthers, 1877. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2019588076/>. Detail showing Ohio, annotated to show Fulton County.

²⁵ Motley, Mary H., *Personal Histories, Clinton Township, James Dunbar*, Page 13, in *Historical Atlas of the World*, Fulton County References. H. H. Hardesty & Co., Publishers. Lakeside Building, Chicago. 1875.

of *Fulton County, Ohio*, indicates the younger James Dunbar died in 1900, and his wife Mary (née Gleason) died in 1892.²⁶

Census, marriage, death, and other records, not cited here, indicate the fates of their other children:

- ❖ Martha E. Dunbar, born c.1846, married Henry B. Scott in 1866. They lived in Fulton County, Ohio, and had one child, Alfred J. Scott, as of the 1880 Census.
- ❖ Mary Amelia Dunbar was born in 1852 and died in 1860, aged 7 years, 10 months and 2 days.
- ❖ Adeline A. Dunbar, born in 1856, was a lifelong resident of Fulton County. She died in 1941. In 1880, Adeline married William H. Fields, Jr., born in Canada in 1846, and died in 1911 in Ohio. They raised one child, Arthur J. Fields, born 1885 and died in 1952.
- ❖ Orin R. Dunbar was born in 1857, died in 1903, and apparently never married.
- ❖ Mary Anna Dunbar was born in 1860 and died in 1940. In 1880 she married Madison Fields, born in Canada in 1857 and died in 1911. They raised two children in Fulton County and later in Central Michigan, Howard Fred Fields, born in 1885, and Otto Henry Fields, born in 1887.
- ❖ William Sherman Dunbar, born in 1865 and died 1939, married in 1885 to Rosena Sigg, who was born in 1868 and died in 1938. They had four children: Blanch Dunbar, born in 1887; Laura Dunbar, born in 1889; Oscar Dunbar, born in 1894; and Walter Dunbar, born in 1897.

The similarity of James and Mary's children's names identified in the Perkins biography with those of the seafaring Dunbars, William and Gurdon, and their sister Amelia, may not be a coincidence. It's easy to imagine that James may have named some of his children after the siblings he left behind in Connecticut.

Jane Dunbar

The cemetery record for Jane (Dunbar) Cook (1820-1894), wife of Nathaniel H. Cook, and buried in the Nathaniel Cook lot, Hopkinton, Rhode Island, indicates that she was born in Waterford, Connecticut, the daughter of James Dunbar and Mary Beeby [sic], and died in Hopkinton, Rhode Island.²⁷

Nathaniel and Jane Cook were living in North Stonington, Connecticut, at the time of the 1850 census, along with their eldest three children: James, age 10; Josephine, age 4; and Gurdon, age 1.

By 1860, the census shows them living in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, across the Connecticut border and adjacent to North Stonington, as shown in **Figure 10**.²⁸ Their eldest

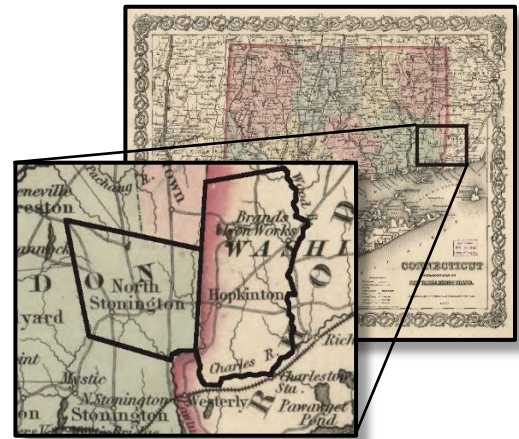


Figure 10 Hopkinton, Rhode Island, and North Stonington, Connecticut

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/OHC/media/OHC-Media/Documents/SHPO/Atlas/Hardesty-s Atlas of Fulton County 1875.pdf>

²⁶Reighard, Frank H., ed., *A Standard History of Fulton County, Ohio*. The Lewis Publishing Company, Chicago and New York, 1920. Volume I, Page 205. <https://archive.org/details/standardhistory01reig>.

²⁷ Rhode Island Historic Cemetery Commission (website: rihistoriccemeteries.org), Jane Cook, maiden name: Dunbar; wife of: Nathaniel; daughter of: James Dunbar and Mary Beeby [sic]; cemetery name: Nathaniel Cook Lot; born: 24 October 1820; died: 2 September 1894; notes: Born Waterford CT; Died Hopkinton, RI.

²⁸ J.H. Colton & Co, and Millard Fillmore. *Connecticut with portions of New York & Rhode Island*. New York: Published by J.H. Colton & Co, 1859. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012593353/>

children, James and Josephine, are not listed, but their son Gurdon is shown along with two more children: William A., age 10, and James N., age 5. Two other adults are with the Cooks: Aaron Church, age 58, apparently not related; and James Dunbar, age 69, born in Connecticut. We think this is Jane's father, and the *James* of James and Mary (Beebe) Dunbar. His derived birth year would be about 1791 based on this census entry.

The 1870 census finds Nathaniel and Jane still living in Hopkinton, along with their son James. The next family listed in that census is their son, Gurdon, along with Lorinda Cook (most likely Lucinda Cook, neé Eddy, Gurdon Cook's first wife), age 15, and their daughter Mary E. Cook, age 2/12 (i.e., two months old).

Still living in Hopkinton during the 1880 census, Nathaniel and Jane are shown with grandchildren Mary E. Cook, age 10, and William Cook, age 4, children of Gurdon (the latter by Gurdon's second wife Lydia A. Burdick).

Adeline Dunbar

A genealogy of Brian Pendleton indicates that his descendant, Nathan Franklin Pendleton, married Adeline R. Dunbar (1829-1880), born in Waterford, the daughter of James and Mary (Beebe) Dunbar.²⁹

Adeline first married Joseph Stanton, in 1845, and the 1850 census finds them in North Stonington with their eldest two children, Joseph W., age 5, and Horace D. age 3.

Joseph and Adeline Stanton were still living in North Stonington in 1860, with three additional children: Adda A., age 8, William R., age 5, and John E., age 2. On the same page of that census, we find our Albert and Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson and their eldest child Julia. (The two families listed in between are Gilbert and Hannah Brown, and John B. and Cynthia Sisson. Cynthia Sisson is a sister of Albert Sisson.) Is it a coincidence that two women, Adeline and Amelia, each with maiden name Dunbar, are living so close together? Or are they sisters who had few other living siblings, and chose to live near each other? Also, living in nearby Hopkinton, Rhode Island, is their other (suspected) sister, Jane (Dunbar) Cook, as discussed above, with her (apparent) father, James, in her household. We presume that families enumerated on the same census page actually lived near to each other (probably within a mile or two in rural areas), as the census was historically conducted "door-to-door,"³⁰ but census records before 1880 do not provide street names and house numbers to help determine their actual proximity.

Two years after Joseph Stanton died in 1861 (during service in the Civil War), Adeline (Dunbar) Stanton married Nathan Pendleton. Nathan and Adeline lived in North Stonington in 1870, and in their household were John Pendleton, age 13 (Adeline's son John Stanton from her previous marriage), Frank, age 5, and Jane, 5/12 (i.e., five months old; believed to be the child named Nellie shown in later records). Again, we find on the same page of that census the family of Albert and Amelia Sisson, and the same two families, Gilbert and Hannah Brown, and John B. and Cynthia Sisson, listed in between Amelia's and Adeline's families. They apparently were close neighbors for a span of at least ten years.

²⁹ Pendleton, Everett Hall, comp., *Brian Pendleton and His Descendants, 1599-1910*. Privately Printed, MCMX. Copyright 1911 by E. H. Pendleton. Volume I. Available at books.google.com. Page 580, entry for Nathan Franklin Pendleton, married to Adeline R. Dunbar. The entry notes that Adeline was "given as Adeline Stanton in the No. Stonington records."

³⁰ U.S. Census Bureau, History, Through the Decades, Census Instructions.
https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/

Nathan and Adeline are still in North Stonington in 1880, with their Pendleton children: Frank, age 14, and Nellie, age 8, and Adeline's youngest Stanton child, John Stanton, age 19, who was listed as "maimed, crippled, bedridden, or otherwise disabled." The biography of Nathan Pendleton lists all of the Pendleton children, plus a daughter Lillie Belle, born in 1867, and an unnamed daughter born in 1868, both of which probably died young since they are not listed in any other records.



We believe that all three individuals—James Dunbar, Jane (Dunbar) Cook, and Adeline (Dunbar) Stanton/Pendleton—whose parents are named as James and Mary (Beebe) Dunbar in separate sources, are siblings. It seems highly unlikely that there could be more than one couple named James and Mary (Beebe) Dunbar in 1800s Waterford.

Also, we think several factors suggest that James, Jane, and Adeline are siblings to Amelia, William, and Gurdon Dunbar.

- ❖ First, records show that five of the six were from Waterford (the younger James' birthplace has only been identified as Connecticut).
- ❖ Second, all six children were apparently born within a span of about 20 years (James, b.c.1817, to Amelia, b.c.1837), when their mother Mary was between 20 and 40 years old. This is within the range of typical childbearing age, 15-44 years old. Also, women in the first half of the 1800s, had, on average, between five and seven children, so Mary having six children was common for the times.³¹ With a gap between the births of William (b.c.1829) and Amelia (b.c.1837), Mary may have had a few more children, which would still be feasible for a woman in the 1800s.
- ❖ Third, Amelia and Adeline apparently lived as close neighbors for at least ten years, which supports our conjecture that they were sisters.

Based on our findings and suppositions above, James and Mary (Beebe) Dunbar's children are as follows, with their approximate birth dates and spouse names shown (sources for their marriages are not cited here):

- ❖ James Dunbar, b.c.1817. Married Mary Ann Gleason.
- ❖ Jane Dunbar, b.c.1820. Married Nathaniel Cook.
- ❖ Gurdon Dunbar, b.c.1825. Married Ann E. Smith.
- ❖ Adeline R. Dunbar, b.c.1827. Married, first, Joseph R. Stanton. Married, second, Nathaniel Franklin Pendleton.
- ❖ William M. Dunbar, b.c.1829. Married Francis E. Pachey.
- ❖ Amelia Dunbar, b.c.1837. Married Albert B. Sisson.

³¹ Baily, Martha J., and Brad J. Hershbein, *U.S. Fertility Rates and Childbearing, 1800 TO 2010*. September 2015. http://www-personal.umich.edu/~baileymj/OUP_fertility_9_30_15.pdf

JAMES AND MARY (BEEBE) DUNBAR

WITH JAMES AND MARY (BEEBE) DUNBAR named as the parents of three people and associated as the parents of three others, we endeavored to learn more about James Dunbar, Mary Beebe, their marriage and their parents. A record of their marriage date and place has not been found. There is, however, evidence that Mary (Beebe) Dunbar, daughter of Paul Beebe and his wife Mary Rogers, was the wife of James Dunbar.

Mary Beebe

Lucius Barnes Barbour, Connecticut Examiner of Public Records from 1911 to 1934, directed the compilation of vital records for many Connecticut towns. The Barbour Collection lists the birth of Mary Beebe on 10 November 1797 in New London, daughter of Paul and Mary Beebe.³² The biography of the younger James Dunbar, previously discussed, indicates that Mary died in 1845.³³ No other record has been found for her death, nor for her place of burial.

Mary Beebe's grandfather, Jabez Beebe, Sr., died in 1814 in Waterford and his will includes bequests to his (second) wife, with bequests to his children (from his first marriage) taking effect after the decease of his wife. One of the children is Paul Beebe. All of Jabez's children predeceased his wife, who died in 1842, so his children's heirs were the recipients of Jabez's estate. A transcription of the probate document dated 10 April 1843 in Waterford shows the distribution of his assets. It includes the entry for two of Paul's children, Eunice and Mary, "We set to Ellias Smith as Representative of Eunice Manwaring and Mary

³² Brown, Coralyn, transcriber, New London, New London Co., CT, 1646 - 1854 Vital Records from Barbour, BABCOCK to BISHOP. http://dunhamwilcox.net/barbour/newlond_barbour_b1.htm

³³ Motley, *Personal Histories, Clinton Township*, James Dunbar.

Dunbar wife of James Dunbar all the house and Garden except...”³⁴ Several family histories (not cited here) also indicate that Mary Beebe, wife of James Dunbar, was the daughter of Paul and Mary (Rogers) Beebe, although sources are not provided in those histories. We feel confident that this Mary Beebe is the same person as the mother of the six Dunbar children we identified earlier.



There is another Mary Beebe who married a Dunbar: Mary Jane Beebe (1814-1885) married Moses Dunbar (b.1806). This Mary is the daughter of Douglass Beebe and his wife Rebecca Newbury, according to an online genealogy.³⁵ Mary Jane Beebe and Moses Dunbar will be discussed in the chapter on Moses Dunbar of East Lyme.

James Dunbar

Hopkinton, Rhode Island, Death Records show a James Dunbar, died 16 February 1871, age 78 years, 3 months, born in Waterford, Connecticut, the son of Moses and Esther Dunbar.³⁶ James’ age in the death record corresponds to a birth date of about November 1792. This is close to the birth year of 1791 that was derived from the 1860 census, discussed previously, that showed him living in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, with his (presumed) daughter Jane (Dunbar) Cook and family. Recall also that the biography of James Dunbar of Fulton County, Ohio, indicated that his father James died in 1870. This is a reasonably close match to the above death record. His birth in 1792 would mean that his father, who we think is Moses Dunbar (b.1777), son of Moses the traitor, would have been 15 years old when James was born. This is a bit young, but as Anderson observed, Moses may have been “replicating a familial pattern of early marriage and parenthood.”³⁷

Other researchers have set James’ birth year as 1797 without citing the source of that information. This would match the documented birth date for Mary, and a few of the census records we found for James (discussed later) would also suggest a birth year later than the 1792 date derived from his death record. Lacking a definitive primary source for his birth date, we favor the earlier date, 1792.

Most significant are his parents’ names, Moses and Esther, in James’ death record. This is the only record we found that gives the names of James’ parents. However, some caution is in order here. Moses Dunbar the traitor married Esther Adams. Is it a coincidence that James’ parents have those same given names? We know Moses the traitor had a son Moses, who could be James’ father. But did the younger Moses also marry a woman named Esther? Or are James’ parents mis-identified in the death record?

James’ burial place is not indicated in the death record and has not been located, but we think it would be in Hopkinton, Rhode Island, where he apparently lived in his final years, and where he died.

³⁴ Parrot, Rick, and Jo Janson, profile managers, WikiTree, Jabez Beebe (1729-1814). Accessed on 23 December 2020, profile last modified 3 September 2020. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Beebe-428>. This is a detailed profile of Jabez Beebe that includes citations of numerous primary and other sources, and editorial comments or clarifications.

³⁵ Norman, Mary Ann, preparer, *Some Descendants of John Beebe*, Person No. 606, Mary Jane Beebe. Web site produced 04 May 2003. Extracted 24 December 2020. This online genealogy includes many vital details, but few sources are given. <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~nanc/genealogy/beebe/aqwg13.htm#82514>

³⁶ Hopkinton Historical Association, Hopkinton, Rhode Island. Genealogy, Death Records. Hopkinton, Rhode Island Death Records 1788 – 1922 D – L. Entry for James Dunbar. <https://hopkintonhistorical.org/hopkinton-rhode-island-death-records-1788-1922-d-l/>

³⁷ Anderson, *The Martyr and the Traitor*.



Early U.S. Federal Census Records

Early U.S. Federal Census records, from the first census in 1790 through the 1840 census, list only the head of household by name. The names of the other individuals in each household are not listed, but all family members are tallied by age group. With only the head of household's name recorded, it is exceedingly difficult to positively identify individuals and their relationships in these early census records. Still, these records, combined with information from other sources, can provide clues as to the composition of a family. Census records starting in 1850 show the names of all members of a household, along with other information such as age, birthplace, occupation, and starting with the 1880 census, relationship of each family member to the head of household.

As an analysis technique, we found it valuable to show both an image of the census document (or a portion thereof) and a corresponding summary table. In each table, we added a column for the equivalent birth years for each age group. This allowed us to present our interpretation of the census image with our inference of the individuals and their approximate birth years suggested by the counts in each age group.



The Dunbar surname is found in relatively few records for New London County covering the first half of the nineteenth century. The name James Dunbar is only found in three census records covering New London County before 1850, all in Waterford: one each in 1820, 1830, and 1840. Below we present these census records, showing the individuals we infer as being included in James Dunbar's family.

1820 U.S. Federal Census

The 1820 census pages for Waterford that we consulted don't include the column headings showing the age groups. However, they do align with the groups specified by the U.S. Census Bureau for that census year. The headings for the first fifteen columns are transcribed in **Table 1** (abbreviated and with our column numbers added). We omitted the 17 additional columns in the census heading that show the count of slaves, free colored persons, and other persons. Very few individuals are enumerated in those categories and age groups in Waterford, and none are counted in our families of interest.

Free White Males						Free White Females					Foreign	Agriculture	Commerce	Manuf.
Under 10	10-16	16-18	16-26	26-45	Over 45	Under 10	10-16	16-26	26-45	Over 45				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Table 1 Column Headings for 1820 Census

Figure 11 shows the 1820 census with our column numbers, showing highlighted entries for James Dunbar and Paul Beebe (believed to be the same person that is named as Mary Beebe's father) in the 1820 census in Waterford.³⁸ Other Beebe entries on this page (some not shown in the image) are believed to be members of the same Beebe family.

³⁸ FamilySearch, 1820 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 4 of 26. Entries for James Dunbar and Paul Beebe. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBS-87T?i=3&cc=1803955&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHLX-MQ7>.

Name of Head of Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Robert Bider	2	1			1					1	1		1		
James Dunbar	1			1					1				1		
Sam Newbury					1		1			1			1		
Douglas Beebe	1	1			1		2	1		1			1		
Thomas Chapel		2			1		2			1			1		
Wm Beebe				1		1					1		2		
Paul Beebe						1		1			1		1		
Edw. R.															1

Figure 11 1820 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Families of James Dunbar and Paul Beebe

This 1820 census record is summarized in **Table 2**, with the names of the family members inferred in each age group. Wife Mary, and son James, Jr., fit well in their respective age groups based on what we have found for their birth dates. James appears to be counted in a younger age group than we expect.

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
1 Male	Under 10	1810 – 1820	= James Jr. (b.c.1817)
1 Male	16 – 26	1794 – 1804	= James? (b.1792)
1 Female	16 – 26	1794 – 1804	= Mary (b.1797)
1 Person	Engaged in Agriculture		= James

Table 2 Summary of 1820 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of James Dunbar

1830 U.S. Federal Census

Figure 12 is the 1830 census showing James, with Paul Beebe, directly above James' row.³⁹

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.)															
	MALES															
	Under five years of age.	Of five and under ten.	Of ten and under fifteen.	Of fifteen and under twenty.	Of twenty and under twenty-five.	Of twenty-five and under thirty.	Of thirty and under thirty-five.	Of thirty-five and under forty.	Of forty and under forty-five.	Of forty-five and under fifty.	Of fifty and under sixty.	Of sixty and under seventy.	Of seventy and under eighty.	Of eighty and under ninety.	Of ninety and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.
Paul Beebe	1	1														
James Dunbar																

Figure 12 1830 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of James Dunbar and Paul Beebe

³⁹ FamilySearch, 1830 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 3 of 32. Entry for James Dunbar. The records for Waterford in the 1830 census are apparently not indexed at FamilySearch. They can be found by browsing the 1830 census for Waterford page by page.

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYYM-98VY?i=2&wc=35Y4-VZ5%3A1588470003%2C1588470902%2C1588470904&cc=1803958>

The census entry for James Dunbar is summarized in **Table 3** with the names of the family members inferred. James is likely the one tallied in the 40-50 age group, although we think he would have been only 38 years old in 1830. Unlike the 1820 census, he is counted in 1830 in an older age group than we would expect for his apparent birth in 1792. Despite this anomaly, we think this is the right James Dunbar and family.

The children we attribute to James and Mary are accounted for in the expected age groups, except son James. He would have been about 13 years old at the time of the 1830 census. One source indicates he settled in Erie County, Ohio, in 1831,⁴⁰ although it seems unlikely for the young James to have relocated over 600 miles from home at only about 14-15 years of age. He was known to be in Ohio in 1840 or 1841 when he married Mary Ann Gleason, but how long before that has not been firmly established.

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
1 Male	Under 5	1825 – 1830	= William (b.c.1829)
1 Male	5 – 10	1820 – 1825	= Gurdon (b.c.1825)
1 Male	40 – 50	1780 – 1790	= James? (b.1792)
1 Female	Under 5	1825 – 1830	= Adeline (b.1829)
1 Female	5 – 10	1820 – 1825	= Jane (b.1820)
1 Female	30 – 40	1790 – 1800	= Mary (b.1797)

Table 3 Summary of 1830 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of James Dunbar

1840 U.S. Federal Census

The elder James Dunbar is again found in Waterford in the 1840 census,⁴¹ as shown in **Figure 13**.

OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	MALES												FEMALES											
	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 25	25 under 30	30 under 35	35 under 40	40 under 45	45 under 50	50 under 55	55 under 60	60 under 65	65 under 70	70 under 75	75 under 80	80 under 85	85 under 90	90 under 95	95 under 100	100 and upwards			
Joseph Crocker			1	1	2	2				1														
James Dunbar	1	2	2	2			1																	

Figure 13 1840 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of James Dunbar

The 1840 census summary in **Table 4** has individuals corresponding to James, Mary, and children William, Gurdon, Amelia, Adeline, and Jane. Also, three males and three females, all unidentified. One male and one female in the 5-10 age group could be James and Mary's children born since 1830. The four older individuals are probably not their children, as the earlier census records did not show them.

⁴⁰ Mikesell, Thomas, ed. *The County of Fulton. A History of Fulton County, Ohio, From the Earliest Days.* Madison, Wisconsin. Northwestern Historical Association, 1905. Page 350.
https://books.google.com/books?id=CtcyAQAAAMAJ&printsec=frontcover&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

⁴¹ FamilySearch, 1840 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 27 of 30. Entry for James Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YYT-2PR?i=26&cc=1786457&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHBH-1FR>

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
1 Male	5 – 10	1830 – 1835	= ?
2 Males	10 – 15	1825 – 1830	= Gurdon (b.c.1825); = William (b.c.1829)
2 Males	15 – 20	1820 – 1825	(appears to be crossed out)
2 Males	20 – 30	1810 – 1820	= ? = ?
1 Male	40 – 50	1790 – 1800	= James (b.1792)
1 Female	Under 5	1835 – 1840	= Amelia (b.c.1837)
1 Female	5 – 10	1830 – 1835	= ?
2 Females	10 – 15	1825 – 1830	= Adeline (b.1829) = ?
2 Females	20 – 30	1810 – 1820	= Jane (b.1820) = ?
1 Female	40 – 50	1790 – 1800	= Mary (b.1797)

Table 4 Summary of 1840 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of James Dunbar

Summary of Early Census Records

We examined the 1820, 1830, and 1840 census records for Waterford with James Dunbar as head of household. We believe this is the same James Dunbar that we identified as the father of James, Jr., Jane, and Adeline Dunbar, and likely the father of William, Gurdon, and Amelia Dunbar. Our findings:

- ❖ There is good correlation between the children we identified earlier and the number of persons and age groups shown in these census records.
- ❖ The proximity of James Dunbar to Paul Beebe (Mary Beebe's father) in the 1820 and 1830 census pages, suggests these are Mary's husband and father, respectively. Also, other Beebe heads of household on the same page match known members of the same Beebe family.
- ❖ The James Dunbar in the 1820 and 1830 censuses is apparently enumerated in different age groups than expected, given our understanding of his birth year, 1792. These differences could be attributed to enumeration errors. James is in the expected age group in the 1840 census.
- ❖ James and Mary's son James is not shown in the 1830 census. He may have relocated to Ohio by that time, even though he was only about 13 years old in 1830.
- ❖ The 1840 census shows several unidentified members of James Dunbar's family. Two are probably James and Mary's children born between 1830 and 1840, in the span between the births of William (b.c.1829) and Amelia (b.c.1837) as we speculated earlier. Four others were ten or more years old in the 1840 census but were not enumerated in either of the earlier census records, so they are probably not James and Mary's children. We think these are other relatives such as nieces or nephews, or possibly siblings of either James or Mary.

1850 U.S. Federal Census

A James Dunbar, age 53, appears in Waterford, Connecticut, in the 1850 Census.⁴² This is the right location and within a few years of age for our James Dunbar, although this census record shows his

⁴² Family Search, 1840 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 12 of 54. Entry for James Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-67ZS-GRR?i=11&cc=1401638&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM68Y-J42>

birthplace as New York. Enumerated with him is an Almira Dunbar, age 39, who has not been identified. Her age would seem to rule her out as James' daughter. She could be a younger sister or a previously unknown second wife, since his first known wife, Mary Beebe, apparently died in 1845. This Almira Dunbar does not appear in later records, leaving her identity a mystery. We are less confident about this being our James, mainly because of the New York birthplace, unless it is a census enumeration error.

1865 Rhode Island State Census

A James Dunbar, age 74 and born in Connecticut, appears in Hopkinton, Washington County, Rhode Island, in this state census.⁴³ This appears to be our James Dunbar since his birth year translates to about 1791, which is close to the 1792 date in his death record. His residence in Hopkinton is consistent with where he lived in 1860 per the census, and where he apparently died. He is listed with a Catherine Dunbar, age 47 [so birth year is about 1818] and born in Ireland. Relationships are not shown in this census record, but we think Catherine's birth in Ireland rules her out as James' sister or daughter. She could be yet another wife of James. We have not discovered any other record for Catherine.



Combining the additional findings in the 1850 and 1865 census records with our summary of the early census records, we believe that James Dunbar was born about 1792, and died in 1871. He was married at least once, to Mary Beebe, and was possibly married two more times. We see his updated list of children, all born by his wife Mary Beebe, as follow:

- ❖ James Dunbar, b.c.1817
- ❖ Jane Dunbar, b.c.1820
- ❖ Gurdon Dunbar, b.c.1825
- ❖ Adeline R. Dunbar, b.c.1827
- ❖ William M. Dunbar, b.c.1829
- ❖ Son, b.1825-30
- ❖ Daughter, b.1825-30
- ❖ Amelia Dunbar, b.c.1837

⁴³ Family Search, 1865 Rhode Island State Census, Hopkinton, Washington County. Image 155 of 992. Entry for James Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QHV-R3KC-9V6P?i=154&cat=740180>

DUNBARS IN EARLY NEW LONDON COUNTY RECORDS

WE LOOKED MORE BROADLY AT early census and War of 1812 records for any Dunbars in the county.

Census Records

Table 5 lists all of the Dunbars (except James, who we already discussed) that we found in early census records (1790-1840) for New London County, including the age group for the eldest male (assumed to be the head of household) and our inference of their identity.

Census Year	Town	Head of Household	Age Group	Identity Inferred
1790		(None)		
1800	New London	Moses Dunbar	16 – 25	Possibly son of traitor
1810	Waterford	Moses Dunbar	26 – 45	Possibly son of traitor
1820	Waterford	Moses Dunbar	26 – 45	Possibly son of traitor
1820	Stonington	Reuben Dunbar	26 – 45	Unknown
1820	Montville	Nathan B. Dunbar	26 – 45	Son of Thomas Dunbar
1830	Bozrah	Nathan. B. Dunbar	30 – 40	Son of Thomas Dunbar
1830	Waterford	Moses Dunbar	10 – 20	Possibly grandson of traitor
1840	Waterford	Moses Dunbar	50 – 60	Possibly son of traitor
1840	East Lyme	Moses Dunbar	30 – 40	Possibly grandson of traitor

Table 5 *Dunbar Heads of Household in Early Census Records*

We see four individuals in the above table:

- ❖ Moses Dunbar, possibly the son of the traitor Moses Dunbar. We explore his entries in the 1800, 1810, 1820, and 1840 censuses in the chapter on Moses Dunbar of Waterford.
- ❖ Moses Dunbar, possibly the grandson of the traitor. We discuss his entries in the 1830 and 1840 census in the chapter on Moses Dunbar of East Lyme.
- ❖ Nathan B. Dunbar in the 1820 and 1830 censuses. Separate research, not presented here, shows that he is the son of Thomas Dunbar, so he is not discussed further in this paper.
- ❖ Reuben Dunbar, appearing only in the 1820 census in Stonington. He is probably the Reuben Dunbar who appears in U.S. Army War of 1812 records, and discussed in the next section.

War of 1812 Service Records

Connecticut was opposed to the War of 1812, and so participation in the war effort by Connecticut militia was limited; in fact, the militia was forbidden to leave the state.⁴⁴ More involvement was seen in Connecticut by naval forces, particularly on the Thames and Connecticut Rivers, due to British blockades.

An index to War of 1812 service records⁴⁵ lists only the following Dunbars in a Connecticut regiment:

- ❖ Butler Dunbar, drummer, served in Sanford's Regiment, Connecticut Militia
- ❖ Butler Dunbar, private, served in Shepherd's Regiment, Connecticut State Troops
- ❖ Gurdon Dunbar, waiter, served in 3rd Regiment (Moore's), Connecticut Militia
- ❖ James Dunbar, private, waiter, served in 3rd Regiment (Moore's), Connecticut Militia
- ❖ Moses Dunbar, private, served in 3rd Regiment (Moore's), Connecticut Militia

Another publication⁴⁶ lists only the following Dunbar men in the section on the War of 1812:

- ❖ Butler Dunbar, musician, (residence not shown); commander: John Buckingham; 3 Aug 1813 to 16 Sept 1813; 8 September 1814 to 10 October 1814.
- ❖ Moses Dunbar, private; residence: New London; commander: Asa Wightman; 3 June 1813 to 15 June 1813; 14 July 1813 to 28 July 1813.
- ❖ Reuben Dunbar, private; residence: Hartford, regular Army, regiment: 25th infantry; commander: Peter Bradley; enlisted: 31 May 1813; discharged: 17 May 1815.

An online genealogy shows Butler Dunbar was born 1 February 1791 in Watertown, Litchfield County, the son of Miles Dunbar and Tryphosa (Butler) Dunbar.⁴⁷ We conclude he is not related to our Dunbars.

According to a U.S. Army register of enlistments, Reuben Dunbar was born in Boston about 1792, based on his age of 21 years when he enlisted.⁴⁸ We are confident he is not related to our Dunbars.

The remaining three—Gurdon, James, and Moses—all served in the same Connecticut militia.

⁴⁴ Connecticut in the War of 1812. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Connecticut_in_the_War_of_1812

⁴⁵ United States War of 1812 Index to Service Records, 1812-1815 (familysearch.org)

⁴⁶ Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the I. War of the Revolution, II. War of 1812, III. Mexican War. Compiled by Authority of the General Assembly, Under Direction of the Adjutants-General. Hartford, 1889. <https://archive.org/stream/recordofserviceo00john#page/152/mode/2up>.

⁴⁷ Geni, profile for Reuben Dunbar. Last updated: 27 March 2018. Extracted 1/2/2021. <https://www.geni.com/people/Butler-Dunbar/6000000055107613900>

⁴⁸ United States Registers of Enlistments in the U.S. Army 1798-1914. Extracted 1/2/2021. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-G1RN-SB9?i=250&cc=1880762&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AQID5-NTYC>.

James Dunbar's service record indicates he commenced service on 9 August 1814 as a private waiter to surgeon Dyer T. Brainard in the 3rd Regiment, Connecticut Militia, commanded by Lieut. Col. William Moore. His expiration of service was on 26 August 1814. **Figure 14** shows a page from his service record.⁴⁹

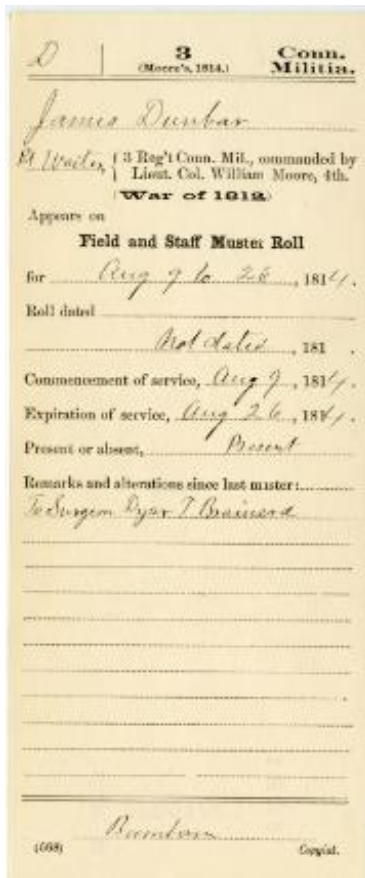


Figure 14 Portion of James Dunbar's War of 1812 Service Record

Gurdon Dunbar in War of 1812 records is a different person from the brother of William and Amelia Dunbar. This elder Gurdon Dunbar's service record, shown in **Figure 15**,⁵⁰ indicates he was a member of Capt. John French's Company of Artillery, 3rd Regiment, Connecticut Militia. He commenced service on the same day as James, 9 August 1814, and served as a waiter (see inset)⁵¹ to 2nd Lt. Brooks. The date of his expiration of service is blank on his service record.

WAITERS

Waiters were personal servants to officers, and attended them in the field, or in a military camp or garrison. Waiters were employed as early as the War for American Independence, where "Officers of both sides...were allowed one or more personal servants, also called waiters..."

We have not found any other records showing this Gurdon Dunbar's name, so we don't know when he was born or died. We can speculate that his birth was probably in the 1790s, since the typical age for servicemen in the War of 1812 was 16-60, although younger or older men may have enlisted.⁵² His absence from later records suggests that he may have died young.

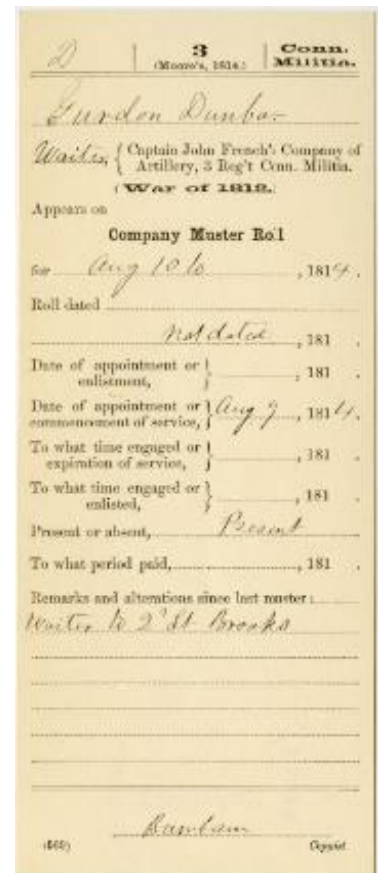


Figure 15 Portion of Gurdon Dunbar's War of 1812 Service Record

⁴⁹ National Archives Catalog. Compiled Military Service Record of Private James Dunbar, 3rd Regiment (Moore's), Connecticut Militia. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/74790851>

⁵⁰ National Archives Catalog. Compiled Military Service Record of Gurdon Dunbar, 3rd Regiment (Moore's), Connecticut Militia. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/74789610>

⁵¹ Rees, John, *War as a Waiter: Soldier Servants*, Journal of the American Revolution. <https://allthingsliberty.com/2015/04/war-as-a-waiter-soldier-servants/>

⁵² Ages of Servicemen in Wars: FamilySearch. https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ages_of_Servicemen_in_Wars

We think it's not a coincidence that James and Gurdon joined the same regiment on the same day. We think they are brothers. We have not found another Dunbar who could be Gurdon's father, although absence of that information is not proof that they are brothers.

We are sure that Moses Dunbar in the War of 1812 lists above cannot be the Moses Dunbar born in 1806 that we previously mentioned, since the latter Moses would have been too young at the time. The other likely candidate for this Moses Dunbar is the son of Moses the traitor. We discuss his War of 1812 records and other findings on him in a later chapter, Moses Dunbar of Waterford.

MOSES DUNBAR OF EAST LYME

MOSES DUNBAR WAS LISTED EARLIER in the 1830 census in Waterford and the 1840 census in East Lyme. He is also found in East Lyme in the 1850 and 1860 censuses. We refer to him as Moses Dunbar of East Lyme.

The 1854 map of **Figure 16** shows land ownership across New London County.⁵³ Only one Dunbar surname is found on the map, located on the East Lyme side of the Nehantic (now called Niantic) River separating East Lyme and Waterford. This may possibly be the homestead Moses Dunbar of East Lyme.

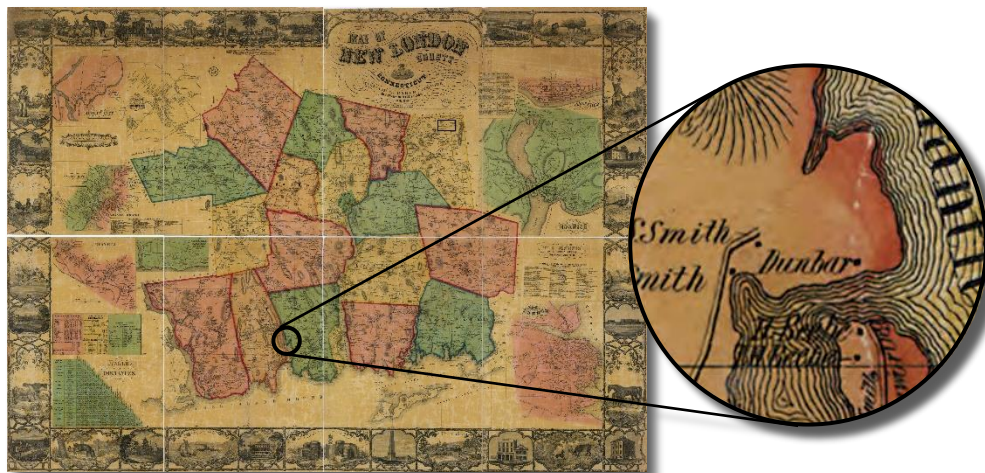


Figure 16 1854 Land Ownership Map of New London County

⁵³ Walling, Henry Francis, and William E Baker. Map of New London County, Connecticut. [S.l., 1854] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2001620486/>.

Earlier we introduced Mary Jane Beebe, the daughter of Douglass Beebe and his wife Rebecca Newbury, who married Moses Dunbar. The author of that information indicates that Mary was born 1 November 1814 in East Lyme and died 14 May 1885 in New London. The same reference indicates that Moses was born 30 December 1806 in Waterford.⁵⁴ No sources are cited for those very specific dates, but we presume they are accurate and hopefully have basis in one or more primary sources.

In this chapter, we show our findings of Moses and Mary Jane (Beebe) Dunbar's family, starting with the 1850 and 1860 censuses that show the names of all enumerated family members. Then we examine Moses' 1830 and 1840 census entries and infer his family members in the associated summary tables, based on the family names we find in the 1850 and 1860 censuses.

1850 U.S. Federal Census

The 1850 census shows Mosses [sic] Dunbar, age 44, with his wife Mary J. Dunbar, age 35, and family in East Lyme, Connecticut.⁵⁵ **Table 6** shows the composition of his family in that census. Moses and Mary's ages are consistent with their birth dates as stated above.

Moses' occupation is puzzling. Ditto marks in the field for his occupation would suggest the same occupation as the head of household above his census row, which shows as Mechanic.

Name		Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Mosses	Dunbar	44	Connecticut	Mechanic [?]
Mary J.	"	36	"	
Sarah A.	"	20	"	
Fernando C.	"	18	"	Farmer
Henry P.	"	15	"	
Lemuel D.	"	13	"	
Benjamin F.	"	10	"	
George W.	"	8	"	
Ann R.	"	5	"	
Mary T.	"	3	"	
Charles P.	"	4/12	"	

Table 6 Summary of 1850 Census for East Lyme, CT, Showing the Family of Mosses Dunbar

The same census page shows the household of Rebecca Beebe, age 67, with Elias Beebe, age 30. These are believed to be Mary J. (Beebe) Dunbar's mother and brother, respectively. This gives us confidence that we have identified the right Moses Dunbar married to Mary Jane Beebe.

⁵⁴ Norman, *Some Descendants of John Beebe*.

⁵⁵ FamilySearch, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, East Lyme, New London County, Connecticut. Image 11 of 34. Entry for Mosses Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-67ZS-GLL?i=10&cc=1401638&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM68T-KZH>

1860 U.S. Federal Census

The 1860 census for East Lyme⁵⁶ shows Moses Dunbar, age 45, and Mary Dunbar, age 40, with five children, summarized in **Table 7**. We believe this is the same Moses Dunbar as in the 1850 census, except that their ages here are low by several years. The ages for two of the children, Ann and Mary, are also a few years different between the 1850 and 1860 census records.

Name	Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Moses Dunbar	45	Connecticut	Fisherman
Mary “	40	“	
Ann “	17	“	
Mary “	15	“	
Joseph H. “	9	“	
Josephine “	6	“	
Willie “	2	“	

Table 7 Summary of 1860 Census for East Lyme, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

1830 U.S. Federal Census

With several of Moses and Mary Jane Dunbar’s children identified in the 1850 and 1860 censuses, we can infer the names of his family members in the 1830 and 1840 censuses. **Figure 17** shows relevant portion of the 1830 census for Waterford⁵⁷ with Moses Dunbar and one female, which we believe corresponds to his young wife, apparently about 16 years old at the time. We imagine that they were probably married shortly before this census. On the same census page (not shown in the figure), we again find Rebecca Beebe, likely Mary’s mother.

NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	FREE WHITE PERSONS, (INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.)																			
	MALES										FEMALES									
	Under five years of age.	Of five and under ten.	Of ten and under fifteen.	Of fifteen and under twenty.	Of twenty and under thirty.	Of thirty and under forty.	Of forty and under fifty.	Of fifty and under sixty.	Of sixty and under seventy.	Of seventy and under eighty.	Of eighty and under ninety.	Of ninety and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.	Under five years of age.	Of five and under ten.	Of ten and under fifteen.	Of fifteen and under twenty.	Of twenty and under thirty.	Of thirty and under forty.	Of forty and under fifty.
Moses Dunbar																				

Figure 17 1830 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

⁵⁶ FamilySearch, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, East Lyme, New London County, Connecticut. Image 27 and 28 of 38. Entry for Moses Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YBV-9RQM?i=26&cc=1473181&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMHR4-TB2>

⁵⁷ FamilySearch, 1830 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 9 of 32. Entry for Moses Dunbar. The records for Waterford in the 1830 census are apparently not indexed at FamilySearch. They can be found by browsing the 1830 census for Waterford page by page. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YYM-9Z3W?i=8&wc=35Y4-VZ5%3A1588470003%2C1588470902%2C1588470904&cc=1803958>

Table 8 summarizes the 1830 census record. Moses and Mary fit well in their respective age groups.

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
1 Male	20 – 30	1800 – 1810	= Moses (b.1806)
1 Female	15 – 20	1810 – 1815	= Mary J. (b.1814)

Table 8 Summary of 1830 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

1840 U.S. Federal Census

Moses Dunbar is listed as head of household in the 1840 census in East Lyme. **Figure 18** shows the relevant portion of that census.⁵⁸ Rebecca Beebe is the head of household listed in the row immediately above Moses' row. Also note that he is listed as "Moses Dunbar Jr." We think this implies that he is the son of another Moses Dunbar. We know that the Moses in this census can't be the son of Moses Dunbar the traitor, as the traitor's son was born in 1777. We have only found one other Moses Dunbar in New London County records (the one we listed earlier as "possibly the son of Moses the traitor" in the 1800, 1810, 1820, and 1840 censuses). We think this "Moses Dunbar Jr." is the son of that Moses Dunbar.

East Lyme July NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES.	7 th 1840 FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES.																						
	MALES													FEMALES									
	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	70 under 80	80 under 90	90 under 100	100 and up- ward.	Under 5	5 under 10	10 under 15	15 under 20	20 under 30	30 under 40	40 under 50	50 under 60	60 under 70	
Rebecca Beebe				/												/		/		/			
Moses Dunbar Jr.	2	/				/								/				/		/			

Figure 18 1840 Census for East Lyme, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar, Jr.

Table 9 summarizes the 1840 census entry for this Moses Dunbar, Jr., with his family members inferred. We believe that the female counted in the 30-40 age group is his wife Mary J., even though she was apparently born in 1814 and should have been enumerated in the 20-30 age group.

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
2 Males	Under 5	1835 – 1840	= Lemuel (b.c.1837) = Henry (b.c.1835)
1 Male	5 – 10	1830 – 1835	= Fernando (b.c.1832)
1 Male	30 – 40	1800 – 1810	= Moses, Jr. (b.1806)
1 Female	5 – 10	1830 – 1835	= Sarah (b.c.1830)
1 Female	30 – 40	1800 – 1810	= Mary J.? (b.1814)

Table 9 Summary of 1840 Census for East Lyme, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

⁵⁸ FamilySearch, 1840 U.S. Federal Census, East Lyme, New London County, Connecticut. Image 13 of 24. Entry for Moses Dunbar, Jr. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YYT-2GK?i=12&cc=1786457&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHBH-B7H>



We see consistency in the composition of Moses' family across the census records from 1830 to 1860. We also note his family's proximity in the records to Rebecca Beebe and other related Beebe individuals. These elements support our contention that this is the Moses Dunbar who married Mary Jane Beebe. We also believe that this Moses Dunbar, identified as "Jr." in the 1840 census, is the son of the only other Moses Dunbar found in New London County in the early 1800s, Moses Dunbar of Waterford.

The date of this Moses Dunbar's death is not known, but was probably before 1870. An archived query by David R. McLoughlin seeking information on the death of Moses Dunbar of East Lyme stated that, "His wife, Mary Jane (Beebe) Dunbar, remarried in 1866 to Elias Darrow (his 2nd wife). Moses Dunbar appeared on the 1860 Federal Census."⁵⁹ McLoughlin is undoubtedly referring to the same Moses and Mary Jane Dunbar that we are discussing here. We were able to identify an Elias Darrow whose first wife, Mary (née Tinker), died in 1862, but we did not find Elias' marriage to Mary Jane (Beebe) Dunbar. However, if McLoughlin's statement is correct, it would help narrow Moses' death to between 1860 and 1866.

Moses and Mary Jane Dunbar's large family is listed below, based on the census records.

- ❖ Sarah Dunbar, b.c.1830
- ❖ Fernando Dunbar, b.c.1832
- ❖ Henry P. Dunbar, b.c.1835
- ❖ Lemuel D. Dunbar, b.c.1837
- ❖ Benjamin F. Dunbar, b.c.1840
- ❖ George H. Dunbar, b.c.1842
- ❖ Ann R. Dunbar, b.c.1845
- ❖ Mary T. Dunbar, b.c.1847
- ❖ Charles P. Dunbar, b.c.1849
- ❖ Joseph H. Dunbar, b.c.1851
- ❖ Josephine Dunbar, b.c.1854
- ❖ Willie Dunbar, b.c.1858

⁵⁹ Connecticut Gen Web, New London County, 1997 Query List, entry on 10 February 1997 by David R. McLoughlin. <http://www.ctgenweb.org/county/conewlondon/nlquer97.htm>

MOSES DUNBAR OF WATERFORD

IN OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSION OF JAMES DUNBAR (b.1792), we indicated that his burial record indicates his parents as Moses and Esther Dunbar. Similarly, we noted that Moses Dunbar of East Lyme (b.1806) is listed as a “Jr.” in one census record. Only one other Moses Dunbar is found in New London County in the early census records, i.e., the Moses we listed earlier as “the possible son of Moses the traitor.” We examined the 1800, 1810, 1820, and 1840 census entries for this Moses Dunbar of Waterford to see whether James, Moses, Jr., and the Gurdon Dunbar we found in War of 1812 records might fit in the expected age groups in each census.

We found a large case file for Moses Dunbar in War of 1812 pension and bounty land warrant records. This repository gave us several vital details for Moses, and provided the name of his wife and other details.

Another interesting discovery we made was finding Moses Dunbar in the Town of Waterford records for the town poor. **Figure 19** shows the town seal, “Agriculture-Industry-Prosperity-Waterford-Oct. 1801-Connecticut.”⁶⁰

Our examination of these and other records presented in this chapter may shine new light on Moses’ life and family.

Finally, we summarize all of our findings on this Moses Dunbar of Waterford, including the probability that he was married twice, and that he had numerous children from both marriages.



Figure 19 Town of Waterford Seal

⁶⁰ Town of Waterford. <https://www.waterfordct.org/board-of-selectmen/discover-waterford>

1800 U.S. Federal Census

The 1800 Census,⁶¹ **Figure 20**, shows Moses Dunbar as head of household in New London with counts for two male children, one adult male and one adult female. On the same census page (not shown in the figure), we see other familiar names as heads of household, such as Jabez Beebe and Paul Beebe, the grandfather and father, respectively, of James Dunbar's wife Mary Beebe.

NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY	Under ten years of age.	Of ten years, and under 16.	Of sixteen, and under twenty-six, including heads of families.	Of twenty-six, and under forty-five, including heads of families.	Of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families.	Under ten years of age.	Of ten years, and under 16.	Of sixteen, and under twenty-six, including heads of families.	Of twenty-six, and under forty-five, including heads of families.	Of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families.	All other free persons, except Indians not taxed.	Slaves.
Moses Dunbar	2	1										

Figure 20 1800 Census for New London, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

Table 10 summarizes the family composition with the names of the individuals inferred. James and Gurdon Dunbar fit this census very well as the two male children, based on our assumption of their ages. Moses and his wife (possibly named Esther) fit the other two people in this family.

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
2 Males	Under 10	1790 – 1800	= James (b.c.1792) = Gurdon (b.c.179?)
1 Male	16 – 26	1774 – 1784	= Moses (b.1777)
1 Female	16 – 26	1774 – 1784	= Wife Esther?

Table 10 Summary of 1800 Census for New London, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

1810 U.S. Federal Census

Figure 21 shows Moses Dunbar's entry in the 1810 census in Waterford.⁶²

NAME OF HEAD OF FAMILY	NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE MALES.					FREE WHITE FEMALES.					All other free persons, except Indians not taxed.	Slaves.
		Under ten years of age.	Of ten years, and under 16.	Of sixteen, and under twenty-six, including heads of families.	Of twenty-six, and under forty-five, including heads of families.	Of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families.	Under ten years of age.	Of ten years, and under 16.	Of sixteen, and under twenty-six, including heads of families.	Of twenty-six, and under forty-five, including heads of families.	Of forty-five and upwards, including heads of families.		
Moses Dunbar		2	2		1		2		1	1			

Figure 21 1810 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

⁶¹ FamilySearch, 1800 U.S. Federal Census, New London, New London County, Connecticut. Image 3 of 22. Entry for Moses Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GRZC-GK9?i=2&cc=1804228&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHR8-S24>

⁶² FamilySearch, 1810 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 2 of 14. Entry for Moses Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YYY-7GQ?i=1&cc=1803765&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXH2G-X2J>

The summary of the 1810 census record, shown in **Table 11**, includes our inferences that suggest a good fit for Moses, his wife, and two of their presumed children—Gurdon, and Moses, Jr.—in the expected age groups. Son James is again listed in a different age group than expected. Three unidentified children, one boy and two girls, born after the 1800 census, are likely Moses and Mary's children. The female in the 16-26-year-old age group is also unidentified, but she is probably not this Moses' child since she was not enumerated in the 1800 census. She could be a relative, such as Moses' wife's sister. She is probably not this Moses' sister or half-sister. If he is the son of Moses the traitor as we suspect, then he had no natural sisters. He did have several half-sisters (from his father's first marriage and his mother's second marriage). In her book,⁶³ Anderson outlined what became of several of the daughters of Moses the traitor, and noted that some of the daughters from Moses' second wife Esther's second marriage (to Chauncy Jerome) may have found spouses that tied them to Connecticut. Without more information about these half-sisters, it would be highly speculative to think that one could be living with Moses in 1810 in Waterford.

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred	
2 Males	Under 10	1800 – 1810	= Moses, Jr. (b.1806)	= ?
2 Males	10 – 16	1794 – 1800	= James? (b.1792)	= Gurdon (b.c.179?)
1 Male	26 – 45	1765 – 1784	= Moses (b.1777)	
2 Females	Under 10	1800 – 1810	= ?	= ?
1 Female	16 – 26	1784 – 1794	= ?	
1 Female	26 – 45	1765 – 1784	= Wife Esther?	

Table 11 Summary of 1810 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

1820 U.S. Federal Census

As we observed in the 1820 census page for James Dunbar, the pages of this census for Waterford don't include the column headings showing the age groups. We repeat them in **Table 12**.

Free White Males						Free White Females					Foreign	Agriculture	Commerce	Manuf.
Under 10	10-16	16-18	16-26	26-45	Over 45	Under 10	10-16	16-26	26-45	Over 45				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15

Table 12 Column Headings for 1820 Census

Figure 22 includes our column numbers and shows Moses Dunbar and his family in 1820.⁶⁴

Name of Head of Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Moses Dunbar	1				1	2	1								

Figure 22 1820 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

⁶³ Anderson, *The Martyr and Traitor*.

⁶⁴ FamilySearch, 1820 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 6 of 26. Entry for Moses Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YBS-CP3?i=5&cc=1803955&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AXHLX-M7D>

Table 13 shows the summary of Moses' 1820 census entry. Moses, his wife, and their apparent son Moses, Jr., all fit in the expected age groups, although his presumed wife is in the Over 45 age group, so she was probably a few years older than Moses. James and Gurdon, identified in the 1810 census, are not shown here. James was enumerated in his own census entry as presented earlier. Gurdon is not found in the 1820 census nor in any subsequent record, leading us to believe that he died sometime after (or during) the War of 1812. Recall that his service record did not show a date for his expiration of service. Two new females, probably children of Moses and his wife, are shown in this census, born between 1810 and 1820. Of the two females previously shown in the 1810 census in the Under 10 age group, one of them can be accounted for in the 16-26 age group in this 1820 census. The other female either moved out of the household (possibly married), or died. Moses is tallied as engaged in agriculture, i.e., he was a farmer. 1830 U.S. Federal Census

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
1 Male	10 – 16	1805 – 1810	= Moses, Jr. (b.1806)
1 Male	26 – 45	1775 – 1794	= Moses (b.1777)
2 Females	Under 10	1810 – 1820	= ? =?
1 Female	16 – 26	1794 – 1804	= ?
1 Female	Over 45	1775 & Earlier	= Wife Esther?
1 Person	Engaged in Agriculture		= Moses

Table 13 Summary of 1820 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

The only Moses Dunbar we found in the 1830 census is the one born in 1806, which we previously discussed. His presumed father, Moses Dunbar of Waterford, has not been found in the 1830 census.



Moses Dunbar may have lived near, or occasionally traveled by, the Beebe-Phillips House in Waterford, built for Lydia Beebe in 1838, and shown in **Figure 23**. The house was originally located at 284 Boston Post Road near Ellen Ward Road, and was moved to the Jordan Green in 1974.⁶⁵



Figure 23 Beebe-Phillips House, Jordan Green, Waterford, CT, Built in 1838. Photo by Lee Gazlay

⁶⁵ Kaplan, Johnna, Little House on the Green, The Patch, 22 July 2011. <https://patch.com/connecticut/waterford/little-house-on-the-green>



Before continuing with the discussion of census records for Moses Dunbar of Waterford, it will be useful to show our findings about Moses Dunbar in War of 1812 records. These findings will help later in the analysis of the other census records.

War of 1812 Service Record

Moses Dunbar's service record indicates his name appears as a private on the company pay roll for Captain Asa Wightman's Company, 3rd Regiment Connecticut Militia. He was credited with two periods of service, 3-15 June 1813, and 15-28 July 1813, for a total of 27 days of service. He was paid \$3.46 for the first period and \$3.61 for the second period. **Figure 24** shows the relevant pages from his service record.⁶⁶

The figure displays two pages of a handwritten service record for Moses Dunbar, Private, 3rd Regiment Connecticut Militia, (War of 1812). Both pages are headed with '10 | 3 | Conn. Militia.' and 'Moore's, 1813.'.

Left Page:

- Appears on **Company Pay Roll**
- for June 3 to June 15, 1813
- Roll dated Not dated, 181
- Commencement of service or of this settlement, June 3, 1813
- Expiration of service or of this settlement, June 15, 181
- Term of service charged, 13 months, 13 days
- Pay per month, Eight dollars, 00 cents
- Amount of pay, 3 dollars, 46 cents
- Signer's name _____
- Remarks: _____
- Signature: Collins [672] Copied.

Right Page:

- Appears on **Company Pay Roll**
- for July 15 to July 28, 1813
- Roll dated Not dated, 181
- Commencement of service or of this settlement, July 15, 1813
- Expiration of service or of this settlement, July 28, 1813
- Term of service charged, 14 months, 14 days
- Pay per month, 8 dollars, 00 cents
- Amount of pay, 3 dollars, 61 cents
- Signer's name _____
- Remarks: _____
- Signature: Collins [672] Copied.

Figure 24 Portions of Moses Dunbar's War of 1812 Service Record

⁶⁶ National Archives Catalog. Compiled Military Service Record of Private Moses Dunbar, 3rd Regiment (Moore's), Connecticut Militia. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/74794251>

War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Records

FamilySearch explains the federal government's program to issue bounty land warrants.⁶⁷

"The federal government provided bounty land for those who served in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, and Indian wars between 1775 and 1855. It was first offered as an incentive to serve in the military and later as a reward for service. Bounty land could have been claimed by veterans or their heirs. The federal government reserved tracts of land in the public domain for this purpose. The states of New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia also set aside tracts of bounty land for their Revolutionary War veterans. A veteran requested bounty land by filing an application at a local courthouse. The application papers and other supporting documents were placed in bounty land files kept by a federal or state agency. These documents contain information similar to the pension files and include the veteran's age and place of residence at the time of the application. If the application was approved, the individual was given either a warrant to receive land or scrip which could be exchanged for a warrant. Later laws allowed for the sale or exchange of warrants. Only a few soldiers actually received title to the bounty land or settled on it; most veterans sold or exchanged their warrants."

The *Bounty Land Act of 1850*, enacted on 28 September 1850, provided that "certain classes of persons in the military service of the U. States [sic] during the war of 1812, war with Mexico, or Indian wars, or their widows or minor children [are] entitled to lands, in proportion to certain periods of service."⁶⁸ The periods of actual service required for each parcel of land under this act are shown in **Table 14**.

Engaged to Serve	Actually Served	Land Entitlement
Twelve Months or During the War	Nine Months	160 Acres
Six Months	Four Months	80 Acres
Any or Indefinite Period	One Month	40 Acres

Table 14 Land Entitlement under the Bounty Land Act of 1850

Many veterans of these wars applied for bounty land warrants shortly after the 1850 Act became effective. However, the minimum qualification of one month left out numerous veterans who served for only a few weeks.

The *Bounty land Act of 1855*, enacted on 3 March 1855, increased the minimum entitlement to 160 acres and changed the qualification to least 14 days, or actually being engaged in battle.⁶⁹ This act provided for previous applicants to receive additional land so their total was 160 acres. The entitlement applied to surviving military personnel, their widows or minor children. The 1855 act also allowed

⁶⁷ United States Military Bounty Land Warrants. FamilySearch.

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/United_States_Military_Bounty_Land_Warrants

⁶⁸ *An Act granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States*, Congressional Record, Thirty-First Congress, Session I, Chapter 85, 28 September 1850. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/31st-congress/session-1/c31s1ch85.pdf>

⁶⁹ *Act in Addition to certain Acts granting Bounty Land to certain Officers and Soldiers who have been engaged in the Military Service of the United States*, Congressional Record, Thirty-Third Congress, Session II, Chapter 207, 3 March 1855. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/33rd-congress/session-2/C33s2ch207.pdf>

assignment or transfer of a bounty land warrant to another person. **Table 15** shows the amended qualifying service for land entitlement under the Act of 1855.

Qualifying Service	Land Entitlement
Not less than 14 days, OR	160 Acres
Actually engaged in battle	

Table 15 Land Entitlement under the Bounty Land Act of 1855

Moses Dunbar applied for a bounty land warrant based on his service in the War of 1812. His case file contains 41 scanned images of government forms, affidavits, letters, and notes.⁷⁰ Within those documents are several facts that help broaden our knowledge about Moses.

The first scanned image is an index card, shown in **Figure 25**, that summarizes key facts found elsewhere in his War of 1812 case file. It gives his periods of service, residence, widow's name and residence, date and place of marriage and death, bounty land number and other numbers.

WAR OF 1812.			
NUMBERS	SOLDIER	Dunbar, Moses	
	WIDOW	Dunbar, Sarah	
H. O. 21480.	SERVICE	Pvt Capt Wightman's Co Conn Mil.	
H. O. 12975	ENLISTED	June 3, 1813	DISCHARGED June 15, 1813
		July 15, 1813	July 28, 1813
RESIDENCE OF SOLDIER 1853 & 1855, Waterford, Conn		REMARKS	
RESIDENCE 1855, New London Co., Conn			
RESIDENCE OF WIDOW 1878, New London Co., Conn			
MAIDEN NAME OF WIDOW Sarah Peckham			
MARRIAGE OF SOLDIER AND WIDOW Jan. 14, 1831, Waterford, Conn			
DEATH OF SOLDIER June 18, 1855, Waterford, Conn.			
DEATH OF WIDOW			

Figure 25 Moses Dunbar, War of 1812 Case File—Summary Index Card

We learn from Moses's case file that he was married to Sarah Peckham on 14 January 1831 in Waterford. In our earlier discussion, we identified Moses as the probable father of James, Moses, Jr., and Gurdon Dunbar, all born well before 1831. This leads us to conclude he was married twice. His first wife, as we found earlier, may have been named Esther. Moses died on 18 June 1855 in Waterford.

⁷⁰ National Archives Catalog, Case File of Moses Dunbar -- Pvt Capt Wightman's Co Conn Mil – Connecticut. <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/99884540>

Moses' signature, shown in **Figure 26**, appears on a notarized affidavit dated 2 July 1853 in which he attested to his identity and War of 1812 service. Part of it reads, "Moses Dunbar personally appeared before me... age 82 years a resident of Waterford..." This translates to a birth year of about 1771, six years earlier than the birth year of Moses Dunbar, son of the traitor. He may have mis-stated his age, or the notary may have recorded the wrong age...or this might be a different Moses Dunbar (we think not). Also in this affidavit, Moses claims 30 days of service, including being "detached to go to Mystic in August or September of the same year under Cap. Samuel G. Crocker to guard the coast in consequence of ships and barges laying of[f] in Fishers Island Sound..." This assignment in Mystic does not appear in Moses' record. Was he trying to embellish his service record in order to qualify for the land warrant?

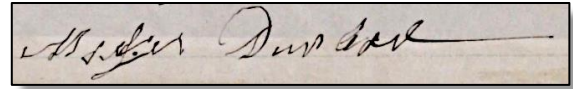


Figure 26 Moses Dunbar's Signature—1853

The Pension office sent a letter on 8 September 1853, a portion of which is shown in **Figure 27**, rejecting Moses' claim for bounty land under the Act of September 28th, 1850.

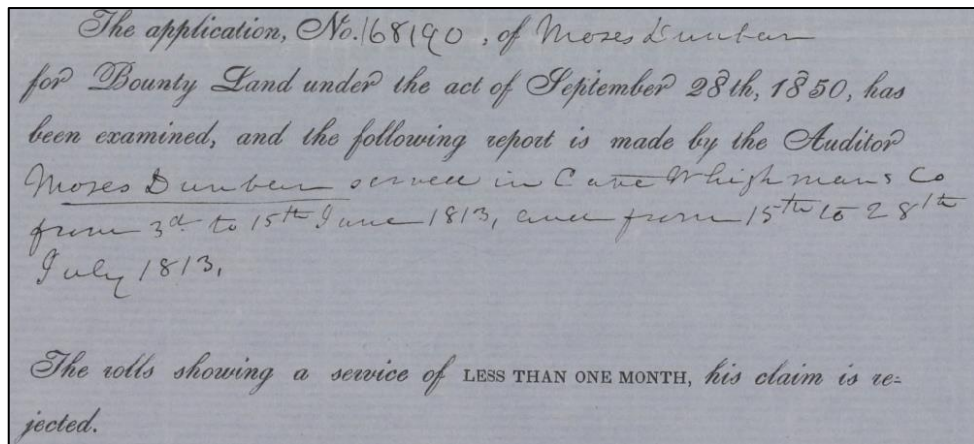


Figure 27 Letter Rejecting Moses Dunbar's Bounty Land Application

This might have been the end of Moses' attempt to claim bounty land, but the law was amended on 3 March 1855, giving him another opportunity. On 10 March 1855, a week after the second Act became effective, Moses signed another affidavit which includes the statement, "...Moses Dunbar personally appeared before me...age 79 years a resident of Waterford..." This corresponds to a birth year of about 1776, close to the year historians believe the son of Moses the traitor was born, 1777. Was Moses more truthful about his age in this affidavit? Or perhaps his advanced age clouded his memory.

The Waterford Registrar's Office sent two letters informing the Pension Office of Moses' death on 18 June 1855 and his marriage to Sarah Peckham on 14 January 1931. The registrar indicated the information came from their official records, but called her Sally in one letter and Polly in another.

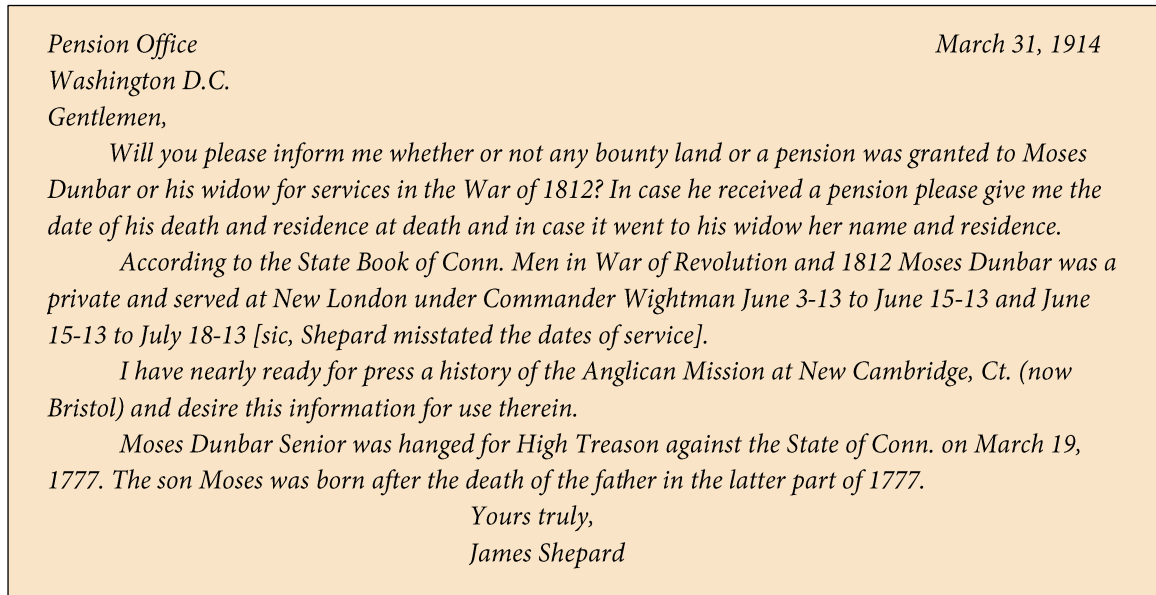
Moses apparently died before his application for bounty land could be processed and approved. But about a week after Moses' death, Sarah resumed the quest and applied for the land warrant, executing an affidavit on 27 June 1855, in which she states her age as 53 years, making her birth year about 1802.

In 1878, Sarah applied for a widow's pension under an Act extending pension benefits to any widow whose husband had served in the War of 1812 at least fourteen days.⁷¹ In one document related to her

⁷¹ An act amending the laws granting pensions to the soldiers and sailors of the war of eighteen hundred and twelve, and their widows, and for other purposes. Congressional Record, Forty-Fifth Congress, Session II, Chapter 28, 9

pension application, dated 1 May 1878, Sarah states her age as 75, corresponding to a birth year of about 1803. Her claim was approved on 29 November 1878 for a pension of \$8 per month.

One curious document in Moses' case file is a letter from James Shepard, a botanist, historian, and genealogist from New Britain, Connecticut.⁷² He wrote to the Pension Office asking for information about Moses Dunbar and his widow, for use in a book he was writing. It appears Shepard believed that this Moses Dunbar in War of 1812 records is the son of Moses Dunbar the traitor, as suggested by the last sentence of his letter, which is transcribed in **Figure 28**.



*Pension Office
Washington D.C.
Gentlemen,*

Will you please inform me whether or not any bounty land or a pension was granted to Moses Dunbar or his widow for services in the War of 1812? In case he received a pension please give me the date of his death and residence at death and in case it went to his widow her name and residence.

According to the State Book of Conn. Men in War of Revolution and 1812 Moses Dunbar was a private and served at New London under Commander Wightman June 3-13 to June 15-13 and June 15-13 to July 18-13 [sic, Shepard misstated the dates of service].

I have nearly ready for press a history of the Anglican Mission at New Cambridge, Ct. (now Bristol) and desire this information for use therein.

Moses Dunbar Senior was hanged for High Treason against the State of Conn. on March 19, 1777. The son Moses was born after the death of the father in the latter part of 1777.

*Yours truly,
James Shepard*

Figure 28 Letter from James Shepard Dated 31 March 1914 Inquiring About Moses Dunbar

Also in his claim file: a document from the Records Division, Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, showing Land Warrant B. L. 2717-160-55, claimant Sarah Dunbar, widow of Moses Dunbar.

Moses' War of 1812 claim file does not contain a copy of the land warrant. However, the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, holds copies of land warrants and patents⁷³ from the War of 1812 and other periods. **Figure 29** is an image of the land patent issued to Sarah Dunbar, widow of Moses Dunbar, for 160 acres "...in the District of Lands subject to sale at Fort Des-Moines, Iowa."⁷⁴ The document was signed by President James Buchanan on 1 April 1857.

March 1878. Library of Congress. <https://www.loc.gov/law/help/statutes-at-large/45th-congress/session-2/c45s2ch28.pdf>

⁷² Connecticut Historical Society, James Shepard Research and Draft of Colonial History of the Episcopal Church, Bristol, Connecticut. Shepard was a long-time member of the Connecticut Historical Society. He published quite extensively in the areas of history and genealogy. https://chs.org/finding_aides/finding_aids/Shepard.html

⁷³ A land warrant authorizes a person to assume possession of a specific acreage of land without indicating the precise location. A land patent transfers ownership of a specific piece of property.

⁷⁴ Government Land Office Records, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior. Land Patent for Sarah Dunbar, widow of Moses Dunbar, Accession Nr. MW-0015-130. <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=0015-130&docClass=MW&sid=nm0b3aju.nty#patentDetailsTabIndex=1>

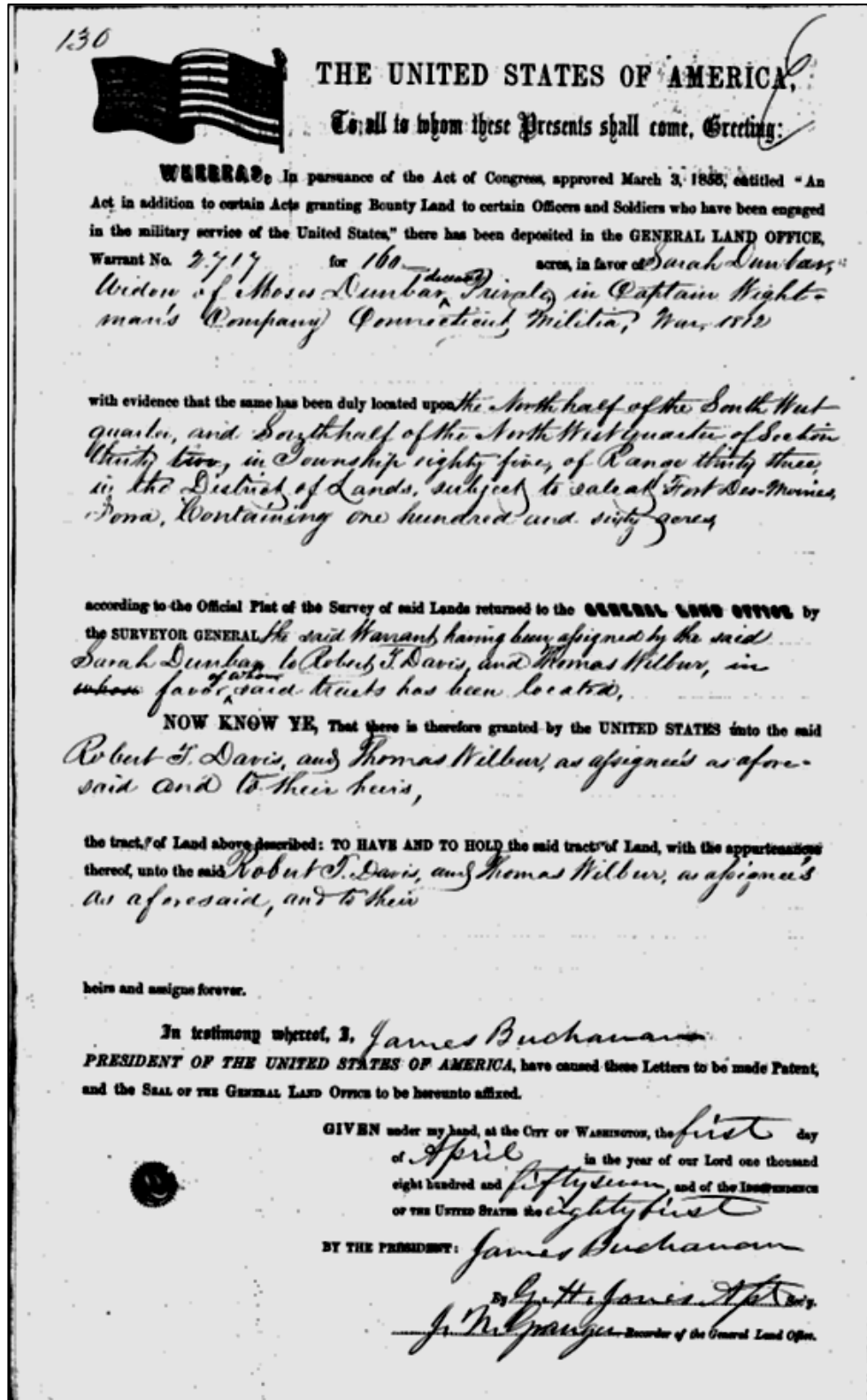


Figure 29 Warrant No. 2717 Issued to Sarah Dunbar, Widow of Moses Dunbar

Sarah Dunbar assigned the patent to Robert T. Davis and Thomas Wilbur, meaning she sold 160 acres of land to them. Davis and Wilbur were assigned at least nine other patents in the same region of Iowa, according to Bureau of Land Management records.

The average market price peaked at about \$1.20 an acre in 1854-55 for 160-acre warrants, just before the market was flooded by the act of 1855. More warrants were used in Iowa than in any other state, and it is estimated that half of Iowa was purchased with bounty-land warrants.⁷⁵ Sarah probably received less than \$192 for the land, equivalent to about \$5,700 today, based on historical inflation rates.⁷⁶

Figure 30 shows the location of Moses and Sarah's warrant land on an 1855 map of Iowa.⁷⁷ The inset shows a current-day satellite view of the 160-acre tract, mostly farmland with two houses.⁷⁸

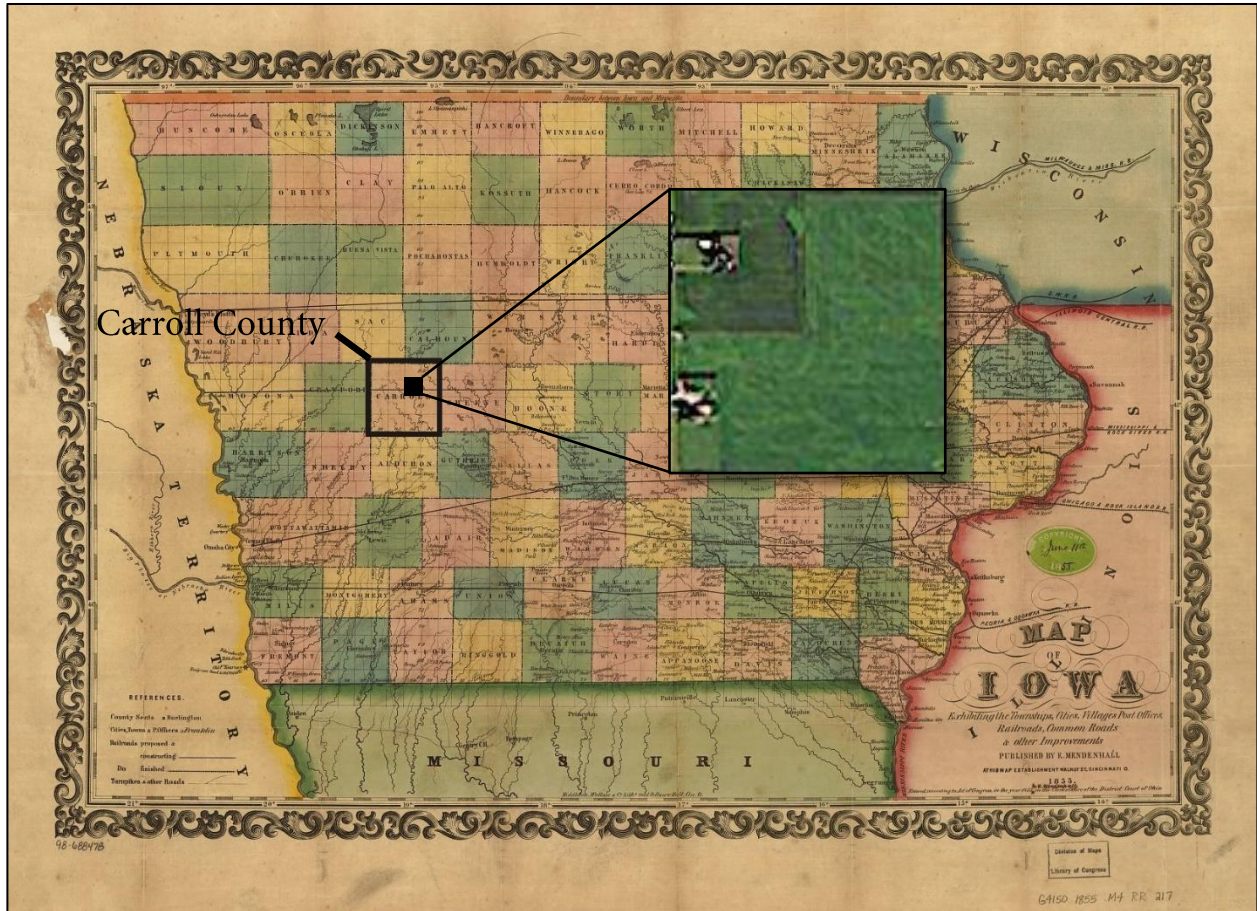


Figure 30 1855 Iowa Map Showing Warrant Land of Moses and Sarah Dunbar

⁷⁵ Rootsweb, "Military Bound Land." This article originally appeared in "Land Records" by Sandra Hargreaves Luebking, FUGA in The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy.

https://wiki.rootsweb.com/wiki/index.php/Military_Bound_Land#The_Acts_of_1850.2755

⁷⁶ Inflation Calculator. <https://www.officialdata.org/us/inflation/1855?amount=192>

⁷⁷ Mendenhall, Edward. Map of Iowa exhibiting the townships, cities, villages post offices, railroads, common roads & other improvements. Cincinnati, 1855. Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/98688478/>.

⁷⁸ Google Maps, Satellite View, Carroll County, Iowa. Enlargement on the tract corresponding to Moses and Sarah Dunbar's land warrant.

The following is a summary of key findings in Moses Dunbar's War of 1812 case file:

- ❖ Moses' age as he stated in two affidavits corresponds to an approximate birth year of either 1771 or 1776; the latter date is close to the birth year of the son of Moses the traitor.
- ❖ Moses married Sarah (also called Sally or Polly), whose maiden name was given as Peckham, on 14 January 1831 in Waterford.
- ❖ Moses died on 18 June 1855 in Waterford.
- ❖ Sarah (Peckham) Dunbar's age as she stated in two affidavits corresponds to an approximate birth year of 1802 or 1803.

Sarah Dunbar

Besides being shown as Moses Dunbar's wife in his War of 1812 records, Sarah is found in Find a Grave as Sarah Getchell Dunbar, born 9 October 1801 and died 16 April 1891, both in Waterford.⁷⁹ A note on her Find a Grave page says that her spouse is Moses Dunbar and her father is Jeremiah Getchell. Indeed, a Sally Getchell is shown in Connecticut birth records matching the birth date and place, and father's name, as in Find a Grave.⁸⁰ From this we conclude that Sarah's maiden name was actually Getchell, not Peckham, and that she was married twice, first to a man with surname Peckham, whom we have not been able to identify, and second to Moses Dunbar. Her Find a Grave page also shows three children: Jeremiah G. Dunbar, Martin Van Beuren [*sic*] Dunbar, and Harriet A. Dunbar *Crosby*.

1850 Census

Moses died in 1855, but would expect to find Moses and/or his wife Sarah in the 1850 census. Indeed, Sarah Peckham is found as head of household in Waterford in the 1850 census,⁸¹ summarized in **Table 16**.

Name		Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Sarah	Peckham	50	Connecticut	
Abby J.	Eaton	26	"	
Celia	Peckham	20	"	
John	Dunbar	18	"	Mariner
Martin V.	"	16	"	"
Mary L.	"	14	"	
Jeremiah	"	9	"	
Harriet A.	"	7	"	

Table 16 Summary of 1850 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Sarah Peckham

⁷⁹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 05 January 2021), memorial page for Sarah Getchell Dunbar (9 Oct 1801–16 Apr 1891), Find a Grave Memorial no. 54512970, citing Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut, USA ; Maintained by Janice Watrous (contributor 46854736) .

⁸⁰ FamilySearch, Connecticut Births and Christenings, 1649-1906, entry for Sally Getchell. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:F77V-J5X>

⁸¹ FamilySearch, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 3 of 54. Entry for Sarah Peckham and family. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-67ZS-PB7?i=2&cc=1401638&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM68B-7YI>

We are confident that this is the same Sarah Peckham who married Moses in 1831. The five individuals with surname Dunbar in this census record were all born after 1831, so they are believed to be Moses' children with Sarah. Three of the Dunbar children—Martin, Jeremiah, and Harriet—match the names on Sarah's Find a Grave page.

Celia Peckham, sharing her surname with Sarah in this census, could be Sarah's daughter from her earlier marriage, although we haven't found any other record of Celia. Abby J. Eaton could also be her daughter, but then she must have married someone named Eaton before 1850. Or Abby could be unrelated to Sarah and the others. We haven't discovered Abby in any other records.

Conspicuously absent from this census record is Moses. Also, why is Sarah using her Peckham surname in this census? Were Moses and Sarah separated in 1850? Perhaps the 1840 census can provide additional information.

1840 Census

From our previous discussion, Moses Dunbar appears in the 1840 census in Waterford. **Figure 31** shows his census record.⁸²

Waterford June NAMES OF HEADS OF FAMILIES	FREE WHITE PERSONS, INCLUDING HEADS OF FAMILIES																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																											
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	Under 5	5 Under 10	10 Under 15	15 Under 20	20 Under 25	25 Under 30	30 Under 35	35 Under 40	40 Under 45	45 Under 50	50 Under 55	55 Under 60	60 Under 65	65 Under 70	70 Under 75	75 Under 80	80 Under 85	85 Under 90	90 Under 95	95 Under 100	100 and up	Under 5	5 Under 10	10 Under 15	15 Under 20	20 Under 25	25 Under 30	30 Under 35	35 Under 40	40 Under 45	45 Under 50	50 Under 55	55 Under 60	60 Under 65	65 Under 70	70 Under 75	75 Under 80	80 Under 85	85 Under 90	90 Under 95	95 Under 100	100 and up																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																		
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Figure 31 1840 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

Moses' family includes three male children, one male adult (Moses), three female children, and two female adults (one would be his wife Sarah). **Table 17** shows a summary of this census with the names of individuals inferred.

Number and Sex	Age Group	Birth Years	Individual Inferred
1 Male	Under 5	1835 – 1840	= Martin V. (b.1837)
1 Male	5 – 10	1830 – 1835	= John (b.c.1832)
1 Male	10 – 15	1825 – 1830	= ?
1 Male	50 – 60	1780 – 1790	= Moses? (b.1777)
1 Female	Under 5	1835 – 1840	= Mary L. (b.c.1838)
1 Female	5 – 10	1830 – 1835	= Sarah E. (b.c.1835-6)
1 Female	10 – 15	1825 – 1830	= Celia Peckham (b.c.1830)
1 Female	30 – 40	1800 – 1810	= Sarah (b.1801)
1 Female	40 – 50	1790 – 1800	= ?

Table 17 Summary of 1840 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Moses Dunbar

⁸² FamilySearch, 1840 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 7 of 30. Entry for Moses Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YYT-2YL?i=6&cc=1786457>

Moses, as head of household, is enumerated in the 50-60 age group, though he would have been 63 in 1840. Either he mis-reported his age or the enumerator recorded him in the wrong group. We infer that wife Sarah is the female counted in the 30-40 group, being 39 at the time. The three eldest Dunbar children shown in the 1850 census fit well in their expected age groups in the 1840 census. We place a Sarah E. in the 5-10 age group. She appears in Find a Grave as Sarah E. Dunbar Newbury (1839-1911), naming her parents as Moses Dunbar and Sarah Getchell.⁸³ She married Albert B. Newbury on 23 May 1852 in New London.⁸⁴ Other censuses show Sarah as age 24 in 1860, 45 in 1880, 61 in 1900 (and born Dec. 1838), and 72 in 1910. We think she was born c.1835-6, favoring the earlier censuses, not 1839 as on her gravestone, or 1838 per the 1900 census. She was likely living on her own in 1850, explaining her absence from the family in that census. Back to the 1840 census, we think the boy age 10-15 is either a son of Moses by his first wife or a son of Sarah by her first husband. The woman age 40-50 is unidentified.

1860-1880 Censuses

We found Moses' wife Sarah under the Dunbar surname in the 1860 census with children John, Martin, Jeremiah, and Harriet.⁸⁵ Sarah is shown as age 54 years, although her actual age based on other records would be about 59. Nearby on the same census page is Moses and Sarah's daughter Sarah Newbury, age 24 (so born c.1836) with her husband Albert Newbury and two young children.

Sarah is listed in the 1870 census in New London with surname Peekham as part of the household of Franklin B. Paine, his wife Mary L. Paine, and two young children, Franklin and Jessie, plus Albert Newbury and his son Albert.⁸⁶ This seems to be Sarah Getchell/Peckham/Dunbar with her son-in-law Albert. Albert's wife Sarah (Dunbar) Newbury is not listed with his family. Also, we think that this Mary L. Paine (actually, Payne, per other records) is Sarah's daughter who was shown in the 1850 census.

Sarah Dunbar, age 75, is living alone in 1880 in New London.⁸⁷

Sarah died on 16 April 1891. She is buried in Jordan Cemetery, Waterford. **Figure 32** shows her gravestone.

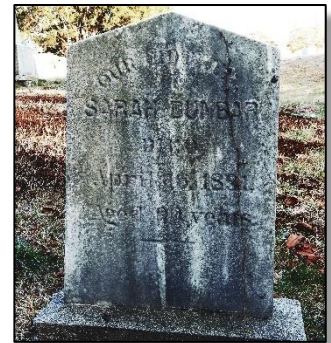


Figure 32 Jordan Cemetery, Gravestone of Sarah Dunbar. Photo by Lee Gazlay

⁸³ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 11 January 2021), memorial page for Sarah E Dunbar Newbury (1839–8 Apr 1911), Find a Grave Memorial no. 54697066, citing Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut, USA ; Maintained by craig johnson (contributor 47135905) .

⁸⁴ FamilySearch, Connecticut Vital Records Prior to 1850, marriage of Albert B. Newbury and Sarah E. Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/record/results?q.givenName=albert&q.surname=newbury&q.residencePlace=new%20london%20c%20connecticut&f.collectionId=2843390&count=20&offset=0&m.defaultFacets=on&m.queryRequireDefault=on&m.facetNestCollectionInCategory=on>

⁸⁵ FamilySearch, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 53 of 64. Entry for Sarah Dunbar and family. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YBV-96B4?i=52&cc=1473181&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMHR3-9ZZ>

⁸⁶ FamilySearch, 1870 U.S. Federal Census, New London, New London County, Connecticut. Image 183 of 241. Entry for Franklin B. Paine and family. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-DRMQ-S8T?i=182&cc=1438024&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMN7L-S8M>

⁸⁷ FamilySearch, 1880 U.S. Federal Census, New London, New London County, Connecticut, ED 90. Image 26 of 33. Entry for Sarah Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBN-SMQ?i=25&cc=1417683&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMFC1-19D>

Town of Waterford Records

Among the numerous records maintained by the Town of Waterford is the Waterford Town Book, 1801-1834. This book includes records of the town poor. Moses Dunbar is listed in several entries as being paid for various services, as summarized in **Table 18**.⁸⁸ This is undoubtedly the same Moses Dunbar as in War of 1812 records, etc. We imagine he did these odd jobs to supplement his income.

Date	Entry
Sept. 3, 1811	pd Moses Dunbar for apprehending James Quinley and bringing him before Daniel H. Caulkins, J.P.
Nov. 16, 1818	pd Moses Dunbar for supporting John Smith, a boy
Apr. 12, 1819	pd Moses Dunbar for keeping John Smith, a poor boy
July 5, 1819	pd Moses Dunbar for keeping John Smith, a poor boy
Dec. 27, 1819	pd Moses Dunbar for keeping John Smith, a poor boy, to Jan. 1, 1820
Aug. 27, 1821	pd Moses Dunbar for coffin for Reuben Crowell
June 30, 1823	pd Moses Dunbar for carrying to Windsor a crazy man, a State pauper
Sept. 17, 1832	pd Moses Dunbar for digging grave for Mary Fargo

Table 18 Entries for Moses Dunbar in the Waterford Town Book

1850 Census Revisited

Earlier we showed Sarah Peckham, Moses' wife, and family in the 1850 census. Moses was absent from that entry, but we found a Morris Dunbar, pauper, in the Waterford Alms House.⁸⁹ See **Figure 33**.

The image shows a handwritten census record from 1850 for Waterford, CT. The record is organized into columns for name, age, sex, occupation, and value. A vertical label 'Alms House' is written on the left side of the record. The entry for Morris Dunbar is as follows:

Name	Age	Sex	Occupation	Value
Isaac Birch	54	m	Fanner	520
Mary	53	f		
John Chapel	74	m		
David Bolles	70	m		
Morris Dunbar	70	m		
Chamney Dayton	25	m		
Lidia Bickery	70	f		
Alapail Tinker	71	f		
Sarah Beebe	70	f		
Lidia Beebe	75	f		
Mary Rogers	52	f		
Rachel Beckwith	45	f		
Sarah Beebe	2	f	B	
George Whipple	43	m		

Figure 33 1850 Census in Waterford, CT, Showing Morris Dunbar, Pauper

⁸⁸ Brown, Barbara W., contributor, U.S. GenWeb Connecticut Archives, New London County, History, Waterford Town Reports, Waterford Town Book, 1801-1834. September-October 2008. Entries for Moses Dunbar. <http://www.usgwarchives.net/ct/newlondn/history.htm#waterford>

⁸⁹ FamilySearch, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 32 of 54. Entry for Morris Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3S3HY-67ZS-LHL?i=31&cc=1401638&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM68Y-CRL>

Joshua Moore, Jr., was deeded a farm in 1827 by his mother, Mrs. Samuel Waller. The Moore farm became “the poor farm” when Waterford purchased it in 1847 to serve as the town almshouse. This first town-owned building was the oldest public building in Waterford.⁹⁰ The building was razed in 2012.⁹¹

Morris Dunbar is shown in the 1850 census as age 70, corresponding to a birth year of 1780, close to the known birth year of Moses Dunbar, son of the traitor. We have not found any evidence of a Morris Dunbar in any other records of the period. We suspect that this is Moses Dunbar of Waterford.

In his discussion of Moses Dunbar, son of Moses the traitor, Peck mentions a statement by a Mr. Welton that “this son came to an untimely end; ‘how I do not know.’”⁹² If this Morris Dunbar living in the alms house is actually Moses the traitor’s son, then we would say that the last years of his life were unfortunate, but his end was not necessarily untimely, given his advanced age.

We have not found Moses’ final resting place. If he spent his final years in the Waterford alms house, then one possibility is the Gorton Cemetery, about 2 miles from the alms house, seen on the 1854 map in **Figure 34**.⁹³ William and Lydia Collins Gorton owned a farm in Waterford on the south side of present-day Interstate 95 near Cross Road (i.e., across I-95 from Lowes Home Improvement). All seven of the Gorton children were buried in the family cemetery. Today about six graves remain. At one time, there were many more, possibly 25 and up to 100. Mr. Gorton allowed the town poor and others to be buried there alongside his family.⁹⁴ Even if Moses was buried there, it was probably without a headstone.

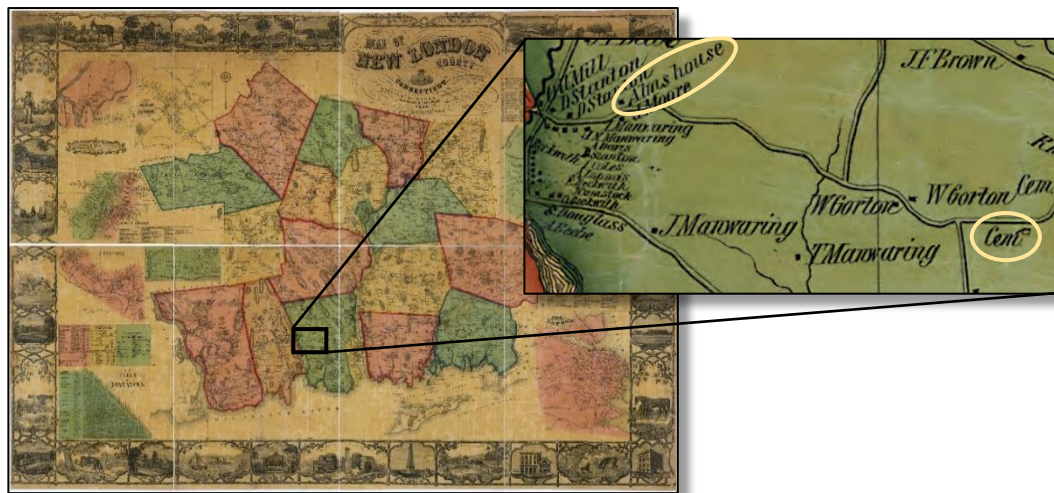


Figure 34 New London County Showing the Waterford Alms House and Gorton Cemetery

⁹⁰ Bachman, Robert L., *An Illustrated History of the Town of Waterford*. With William Breadheft, Photographer of the Contemporary Scenes. Bicentennial Committee, Town of Waterford, Connecticut, 2000.

<https://www.nrc.gov/docs/ML0419/ML041910421.pdf>

⁹¹ Westfield, Michael, *The History of Connecticut Poor Houses*. Last edited 6/29/2016. Extracted 1/12/2021. <https://connecticutpoorhouses.info/index.html>

⁹² Peck, *Loyal to the crown; Moses Dunbar, Tory, and his fidelity to church and King - executed for treason - interesting chapter in Connecticut history*.

⁹³ Walling, Henry Francis, and William E Baker. Map of New London County, Connecticut. [S.l, 1854] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2001620486/>

⁹⁴ Olynciw, Eileen, *Forgotten Waterford Burial Sites: Gorton Cemetery (Crossroads)*. 8 July 2020. Extracted 1/12/2021. <https://medium.com/@eileen06385/forgotten-waterford-burial-sites-gorton-family-cemetery-crossroads-dab425f374ea>



Summary—Moses Dunbar of Waterford

We believe that all the records we examined in this chapter are for the same person, Moses Dunbar of Waterford. Although his age differs by a few years in various records, the calculated birth dates derived from those ages are all within a few years of 1777. We have not found another Moses Dunbar in Connecticut born around that year besides the son of Moses the traitor. The following items summarize our findings of Moses Dunbar of Waterford:

- ❖ Moses lived in Waterford, Connecticut at least as early as 1800, and probably lived there until he died on 18 June 1855 in Waterford.
- ❖ Moses was married twice.
 - His first wife was possibly a woman named Esther.
 - Moses married his second wife, Sarah Getchell, on 14 January 1831 in Waterford. Sarah was born on 9 October 1801 and died on 16 April 1891, both in Waterford. Sarah is buried in Jordan Cemetery, Waterford. Sarah apparently first married a man whose surname is Peckham.
- ❖ He served in the War of 1812 for 27 days.
 - He was eligible for a bounty land warrant, but he died before his second application was processed and approved.
 - His widow Sarah applied for, and received, a pension and a land patent for 160 acres in Iowa. She apparently sold the patent.
- ❖ Moses performed various odd jobs in Waterford from 1811 to 1832.
- ❖ He apparently had nine children from his first marriage.
 - James Dunbar, b.1792
 - Gurdon Dunbar, b.c.179?
 - Son, b.c.1800-10
 - Moses Dunbar, Jr., b.1806
 - Daughter, b.c.1800-10
 - Daughter, b.c.1800-10
 - Daughter, b.c.1810-20
 - Daughter, b.c.1810-20
 - Son, b.c.1825-30
- ❖ Moses apparently had six children from his second marriage.
 - John Dunbar, b.c.1832
 - Sarah E. Dunbar, b.c.1835-6
 - Martin Van Buren Dunbar, b.1837
 - Mary L. Dunbar, b.c.1838
 - Jeremiah G. Dunbar, b.c.1842
 - Harriet A. Dunbar, b.c.1843
- ❖ He may have lived in the Waterford alms house late in life.
- ❖ Moses' final resting place has not been found.

OTHER DUNBARS IN NEW LONDON COUNTY

WE FOUND A FEW OTHER DUNBARS in New London County. Some correspond to people we already examined, or are likely related to them. Others have not been linked to any of our Dunbar families.

1850 Census

A Mary Dunbar and her presumed daughter, Lucretia Dunbar, are members of a family in Waterford, headed by Joseph Bishop.⁹⁵ **Table 19** summarizes the family's 1850 census entry.

Name		Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Joseph	Bishop	36	Connecticut	Builder
Sarah	"	32	"	
Joseph Jr.	"	12	"	
Julia	"	8	"	
Thos	Willard	25	Ireland	
Mary	Dunbar	18	Connecticut	
Lucretia	"	1	"	

Table 19 Summary of 1850 Census for Waterford, CT, Showing the Family of Joseph Bishop

⁹⁵ FamilySearch, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 33 of 54. Entry for the family of Joseph Bishop. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-67ZS-GZP?i=32&cc=1401638&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM68Y-NYG>

This Mary was born about 1832 based on this census record. She would be a fit for the female in the 5-10-year age group (born 1830-1835) in the 1840 census for James Dunbar that we summarized in **Table 4**. Neither of the Moses Dunbar families we examined have an unidentified daughter in this age group. The 1860 Census for Waterford shows the same Joseph and Sarah Bishop with an 11-year-old Lucretia Bishop.⁹⁶ We think this is the same Lucretia shown in 1850 with surname Dunbar. It seems likely that Lucretia was adopted by Joseph and Sarah, and grew up as a Bishop. She appears in the 1870, 1880, and 1900 censuses married to George L. Getchell. George and Lucretia Getchell are buried in Comstock Cemetery, Uncasville, Connecticut.⁹⁷ Nothing further is found for Mary Dunbar. She may have died between 1850 and 1860, which would account for the Lucretia's apparent adoption. Alternatively, Mary may have married sometime after giving up her daughter for adoption.

1860 Census

This census for Waterford shows Henry Dunbar (age 25, born in Connecticut, occupation: seaman) and Louisa M. Dunbar (age 26, born in Rhode Island) in Waterford.⁹⁸ He is undoubtedly the son of Moses Dunbar of East Lyme that we showed in the 1850 census in **Table 6**, and the 1840 census in **Table 9**.

The 1860 census for New London shows Benjn [*sic*, Benjamin] F. Dunbar, age 27, born in Connecticut, one of the "Seamen Registered at Custom House."⁹⁹ This is the son of Moses Dunbar of East Lyme, shown in the 1850 census in **Table 6** named Benjamin F. Dunbar.

Another Dunbar enumerated in the same list of "Seamen Registered at Custom House" is Robert Dunbar, age 20, born in Connecticut.¹⁰⁰ We have not connected him with any of our Dunbar families.

Marriages – Barbour Collection

The Barbour Collection for New London County includes marriages for three Dunbar women:¹⁰¹

- ❖ Mary, m. John COLLINS, b of New London, May 29, 1831, by Rev. Abel McEwen
- ❖ Sarah, m. Francis JOHNSON, b of New London, May 14, 1846, by Rev. L. George Leonard
- ❖ Sarah E., m. Albert B. NEWBURY, b of New London, May 23, 1852, by Rev. Jabez S. Swan

⁹⁶ FamilySearch, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 50 of 64. Entry for the family of Joseph Bishop. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YBV-9XCZ?i=49&cc=1473181&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMHR3-MF5>

⁹⁷ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 21 January 2021), memorial page for Lucretia Bishop Getchell (1849–12 Jun 1907), Find a Grave Memorial no. 43500631, citing Comstock Cemetery, Uncasville, New London County, Connecticut, USA ; Maintained by Northern Neighbors (contributor 47033135) .

⁹⁸ FamilySearch, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. Image 38 of 64. Entry for the family of Henry Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBV-9NMZ?i=37&cc=1473181&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMHRS-BPK>

⁹⁹ FamilySearch, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, New London City, New London County, Connecticut. Image 247 of 255. Entry for Benjn F. Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33SQ-GYBV-9YKC?i=246&cc=1473181&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMHR4-2B3>

¹⁰⁰ FamilySearch, 1860 U.S. Federal Census, New London City, New London County, Connecticut. Image 246 of 255. Entry for Robt Dunbar. . <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YBV-9RXS?i=245&cc=1473181&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMHR4-LC2>

¹⁰¹ Brown, Coralyn, transcriber, New London, New London Co., CT, 1646 - 1854 Vital Records from Barbour, DABOLL to DYMOND. http://dunhamwilcox.net/barbour/newlond_barbour_d.htm

The first woman, Mary Dunbar, could be one of the two unidentified daughters of Moses Dunbar of Waterford in the Under 10 age group (1810-1820) shown in 1820 census and summarized in **Table 13**.

The third woman, Sarah E. Dunbar, was discussed earlier and is a daughter of Moses Dunbar of Waterford and his second wife, Sarah Getchell, as inferred in **Table 17** summarizing the 1840 census.

The second woman, Sarah Dunbar, is probably the daughter of Moses Dunbar of East Lyme as listed in the 1850 census that we showed in **Table 6**. Other records, not cited here, indicate that Francis and Sarah (Dunbar) Johnson had one child, Martha, before Francis was lost at sea in 1856. Sarah married, second, Felix Laughlin on 3 July 1857 in New London, and they had three children together. Felix and Sarah Laughlin appear together in census records for 1860, 1870, 1880, and 1900. Their 1880 census entry, shown in **Figure 35**, is particularly interesting. They are living in Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut, with an additional family member.¹⁰²

10	555 650	Laughlin Felix S	W	M	50		1	works in carpet factory	
11		— Sarah A	W	F	46	Wife	1	Keeping House	
12		— Susan R	W	F	19	Daughter	1	works in carpet factory	
13		— Lemuel D	W	M	16	Son	1	works in carpet factory	
14		— Lucy B	W	F	13	Daughter	1	works in carpet factory	9
15		Darrow Mary J	W	F	65	mother in law	1	Servant	8

Figure 35 1880 Census for Enfield, CT, Showing the Family of Felix Laughlin

Table 20 summarizes Felix's family in the 1880 census. The "Mary J. Darrow" listed as mother-in-law is believed to refer to Mary Jane (Beebe) Dunbar, Sarah's mother. The Darrow surname is probably an enumeration error. Also, Mary's marital status is shown as "married" in this census, although her husband Moses is thought to have died well before 1880. Mary's presence in Enfield with her daughter and family may have been temporary since Mary supposedly died in New London in 1885 as previously noted.¹⁰³ In the alternative, this Mary J. Darrow and the Laughlin family may be totally unrelated to the Dunbar families we are examining.

Name	Age	Place of Birth	Relation to Head	Occupation
Felix S. Laughlin	50	Connecticut		Works in carpet factory
Sarah A.	46	"	Wife	Keeping house
Susan R.	19	"	Daughter	Works in carpet factory
Lemuel D.	16	"	Son	Works in carpet factory
Lucy B.	13	"	Daughter	Works in carpet factory
Mary J. Darrow	65	"	Mother-in-law	Servant

Table 20 Summary of 1880 Census for Enfield, CT, Showing the Family of Felix Laughlin

¹⁰² FamilySearch, 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Enfield, Hartford County, Connecticut, ED 31. Image 72 of 76. Entry for the family of Felix Laughlin. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33S7-9YYY-96JT?i=71&cc=1417683&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMFCI-F3Z>

¹⁰³ Norman, *Some Descendants of John Beebe*

1870 Census

A Mary J. Dunbar, age 50, is found in the 1870 census in Waterbury in the family of George H. Seymour, wife Lucy A. and children William A. and Mary E. Seymour.¹⁰⁴ This is Mary (née Merrill) Dunbar who married William B. Dunbar in 1838 in Waterbury.¹⁰⁵ Based on other records not cited here, we learn that William and Mary Dunbar's daughter Lucy married George Seymour in 1859, whose family is enumerated in this 1870 census record. This Mary J. Dunbar should not be confused with Mary Jane (Beebe) Dunbar, wife of Moses Dunbar of East Lyme. William B. Dunbar is not related to our Dunbars, as best we can determine.

Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, Connecticut

Earlier we mentioned a few of these Dunbar relatives as being buried in Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, Connecticut. Find a Grave lists 34 people with the surname Dunbar, either by birth or marriage, in this cemetery.¹⁰⁶ All but one of these individuals is associated with Moses Dunbar of Waterford as we determined in our research. They are grouped as follows:

- ❖ Sarah Getchell Dunbar, wife of Moses Dunbar of Waterford, and 27 of their Dunbar descendants or their spouses.
- ❖ Frances E. Pachey Dunbar, wife of William Dunbar, two of their children and one spouse.
- ❖ Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson.

The exception is William Dunbar (1886-1941), buried in Jordan Cemetery, who has not been connected with any of our Dunbars. His Find a Grave entry contains a death notice, transcribed in **Figure 36**.¹⁰⁷ Camp Midway, which no longer exists, was a railroad depot located in Groton near what is now the parking lot for Bluff Point State Park.

We suspect he was not native to the New London County area.

LABORER DIES SUDDENLY

William Dunbar Expires in Rail-Road Car at Camp Midway

William Dunbar, employed by the New Haven railroad as a section hand, died suddenly last night in an old railroad car used as a bunk-house at Camp Midway.

Dr. Edmund L. Douglass, medical examiner, attributed his death to heart disease. Mr. Dunbar was sent to Camp Midway by the Kane Industrial Co. of Rye, N. Y. which supplies laborers for the railroad.

Figure 36 Death Notice for William Dunbar (1886-1941)

¹⁰⁴ FamilySearch, 1870 U.S. Federal Census, Waterbury, New Haven County, Connecticut. Image 7 of 60. Entry for George H. Seymour. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HY-6SVO-T1V?i=6&cc=1438024&personUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AMN7K-QFV>

¹⁰⁵ White, Ed, General, and Lorraine Cook White, *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*, Volumes 50-51, Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002. Waterbury Vital Records. Available at books.google.com.

¹⁰⁶ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 26 January 2021), Jordan Cemetery Memorials, citing Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut, USA

¹⁰⁷ *Find a Grave*, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com> : accessed 26 January 2021), memorial page for William Dunbar (1886–27 Jan 1941), Find a Grave Memorial no. 54499393, citing Jordan Cemetery, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut, USA ; Maintained by Janice Watrous (contributor 46854736) .

Dunbar Road

This is more of a curiosity in the context of the discussion of our Dunbar families. Shown in **Figure 37**,¹⁰⁸ Dunbar Road in Quaker Hill, Waterford, Connecticut, is a short road connecting Old Norwich Road and Milton Road. There are about two dozen properties on Dunbar Road. All apparently are private residences with the exception of one church.

We wonder if the road was named for someone with the Dunbar surname, or if a Dunbar ever lived on the road.

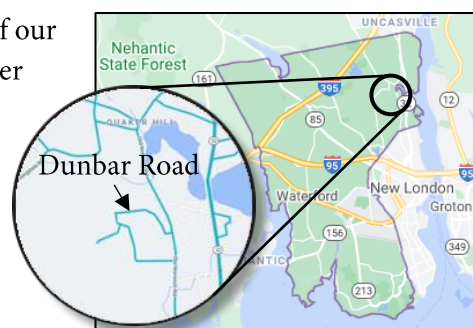


Figure 37 Dunbar Road, Waterford, CT

Whaling Database

Revisiting the Whaling Crew List Database,¹⁰⁹ we find several additional Dunbars, shown in **Table 21**, who lived in New London County. Their approximate birth years are derived from each individual's age in the year the ship sailed.

Name	Age	Appx Birth	Residence	Ship	Year
Courtes Dunbar	19	1832	New London	Jefferson	1851
Curtis Dunbar	22	1831	Waterford	Jefferson	1853
Curtis Dunbar	27	1830	New London	Moctezuma	1857
Edward Dunbar	37	1811	New London	Benjamin Morgan	1848
George Dunbar	45	1822	New London	Charles Colgate	1867
Henry N. Dunbar	23	1833	New London	Sea Witch	1856
Lemuel Dunbar	16	1837	Waterford	Jefferson	1853
Orin Dunbar	17	1834	Waterford	Columbus	1851
Robert Dunbar	15	1836	Waterford	New England	1851
Robert Dunbar	21	1833	New London	Columbus	1854
Robert Dunbar	20	1837	New London	New England	1857

Table 21 Dunbars in Whaling Crew List Database

We presume Courtes and Curtis Dunbar are the same person, noting that his residence varies between New London and Waterford. Courtes Dunbar appears in the 1850 census for New London, as mariner, age 18, born in Connecticut, on the crew list for the ship *Jefferson*, the list dated 21 August 1849.¹¹⁰ It is possible that Curtis Dunbar is a son of Moses Dunbar of Waterford and his first wife (Esther?). He would

¹⁰⁸ Google Maps, excerpt showing Dunbar Road, Quaker Hill, Waterford, New London County, Connecticut. <https://www.google.com/maps/place/Dunbar+Rd.+Waterford,+CT+06375/@41.3938926,-72.1430304,13.5z/data=!4m5!3m4!1s0x89e60dbeb365636f0xb9a8749df4311d5b!8m2!3d41.3978172!4d-72.1122073>

¹⁰⁹ Whaling Crew List Database, New Bedford Whaling Museum. www.whalingmuseum.org

¹¹⁰ FamilySearch, 1850 U.S. Federal Census, New London, New London County, Connecticut. Image 206 of 216. Entry for Courtes Dunbar. <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:33HY-67ZS-GNH?i=205&cc=1401638&personaUrl=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3AM68T-YZZ>

fit as the male in the 10-15 age group in the 1840 census (i.e., birth years 1825-1830) as shown in **Table 17**. We did not find any other records naming a Curtis Dunbar.

Edward Dunbar, born around 1811, has not been identified. He is too old to be the Edward Dunbar, son of Gurdon and Alice Dunbar identified earlier. He comes close to fitting the 1800-1810 age group of the son of Moses Dunbar of Waterford and his first wife.

Similarly, George Dunbar above has not been identified. He is probably not related to our Dunbars.

Despite the differing middle initial, we are confident that the Henry N. Dunbar in the Whaling crew list is the Henry P. Dunbar, son of Moses Dunbar of East Lyme, that we identified earlier in the 1840, 1850, and 1860 censuses.

Lemuel Dunbar is also a son of Moses Dunbar of East Lyme as we identified in the 1840 and 1850 censuses.

Orin Dunbar in the Whaling Crew List Database is almost certainly the Dunbar who suffered a tragic fate, as reported in the Daily Alta California newspaper: "Lost overboard from ship Columbus, of New London, Feb 22d [1852], Orrin Dunbar, of New London, age 17. Also, Nelson Davis, of Lebanon, Ct, age 20."¹¹¹ Looking back at the discussion of the younger James Dunbar (1817-1900), we noted that he may have named some of his children after siblings he left behind in Connecticut after moving to Ohio. One of his children was named Orin. We think the Orrin Dunbar who was lost at sea is this James' brother, and the son of James and Mary (Beebe) Dunbar. He would fit in the 5-10 age group (i.e., born 1830-35) in the 1840 census for James' family as summarized in **Table 4**.

Robert Dunbar in the whaling crew list database above is undoubtedly the same person that we found in the 1860 census, and who not been tied to our Dunbar family.



Whaling was a dangerous business, and Orin Dunbar was one of the unfortunate mariners who never returned home. **Figure 38**, an etching by Lemuel D. Eldred (1850-1921), depicts the *Return of the Whaler*,¹¹² often the culmination of a successful and profitable voyage and a sometimes-bittersweet reunion between the brave whalers and their kin.



Figure 38 Return of the Whaler, by Lemuel D. Eldred

¹¹¹ Daily Alta California, 20 April 1852, Shipping Intelligence, Port of San Francisco, Whalemen. <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/?a=d&d=DAC18520420.2.13&srpos=1&e=-----en--20--1--txt-txIN-%22orrin+dunbar%22----1>

¹¹² Eldred, Lemuel D. , Artist. *Return of the Whaler*, 1910. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2003666823/>

CONCLUSION

WE STARTED WITH THE FAMILY TRADITIONS among the descendants of Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson that she was related to Moses Dunbar the traitor and William Dunbar the ice pilot.

Recognizing the almost total lack of primary sources to prove relationships and identities, we examined and interpreted various documents, mostly secondary and tertiary sources, inferring family members and relationships to trace the ancestors and siblings of Amelia (Dunbar) Sisson.

If nothing else, this paper serves to consolidate information on Dunbars found in various records for New London County and vicinity, allowing other researchers to conduct their own examinations and analyses.

That said, we believe our research supports these conclusions:

- ❖ William Dunbar the ice pilot is Amelia Dunbar's brother, two of eight siblings, the children of James Dunbar and his wife Mary Beebe. James may have been married a second or third time.
- ❖ James Dunbar and Moses Dunbar of East Lyme are probably brothers, two of nine siblings, the children of Moses Dunbar of Waterford from his first marriage to a woman possibly named Esther.
- ❖ Moses Dunbar of East Lyme married Mary Jane Beebe. They had twelve children together.
- ❖ Moses Dunbar of Waterford was married a second time, to Sarah Getchell. They had six children together.
- ❖ Moses Dunbar of Waterford is believed to be the only child of Moses Dunbar the traitor from his second wife Esther Adams.

Figure 39 is an abbreviated family tree showing the main Dunbar individuals who were the focus of our research. We omitted birth and death dates and spouse names to show the direct relationships among these Dunbars family members.

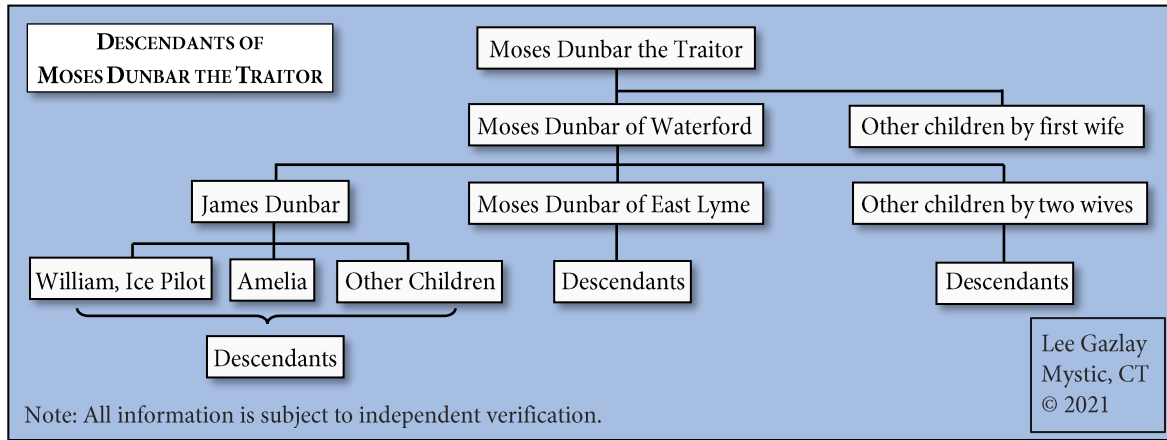


Figure 39 Abbreviated Family Tree—Descendants of Moses Dunbar the Traitor

Figure 40, presented on the last page, is an extended family tree that depicts our summary of Moses Dunbar the traitor's descendants, including the seven children from his first marriage to Phoebe Jerome,¹¹³ and his grand-children and great-grandchildren through his son from his second marriage to Esther Adams, believed to be Moses Dunbar of Waterford.

Biography of Moses Dunbar of Waterford

Moses Dunbar of Waterford, born about 1777 and likely the son of Moses Dunbar the traitor, first appears in New London County, Connecticut, in 1800. He apparently lived in Waterford, Connecticut, for the rest of his life. He was a farmer who also worked odd jobs to support his family, fathering as many as 15 children by two wives. His first wife was possibly named Esther. Moses married his second wife, Sarah Peckham (née Getchell), on 14 January 1831 in Waterford. He served briefly in the War of 1812 and was eligible to receive a bounty land warrant that his widow Sarah claimed and sold after his death. He may be the Morris Dunbar who lived in the Waterford alms house in 1850, suggesting he may have suffered financial and marital difficulties late in life. Moses died on 18 June 1855 in Waterford.

Unanswered Questions

There are numerous unanswered questions regarding these Dunbar families and individuals, which we hope future research will answer. Key questions regarding Moses Dunbar of Waterford include:

- ❖ Do other families have traditions, or evidence, that trace their ancestry to Moses Dunbar?
- ❖ Who are all of Moses' unidentified children, and what became of them?
- ❖ Who was Moses' first wife, possibly named Esther, and what became of her?
- ❖ Who was Sarah (née Getchell) (Peckham) Dunbar's first husband? Who were their children?

We invite comments, corrections, and additions to our research.
Contact us at our website at www.gazlayfamilyhistory.org/contact.php.

¹¹³ Linda, *Ancestors and Cousins -- From "Mayflower" to 2012*.
<https://wc.rootsweb.com/trees/176771/I2334/moses-dunbar/individual>

Descendants of Moses Dunbar of Waterford, Connecticut

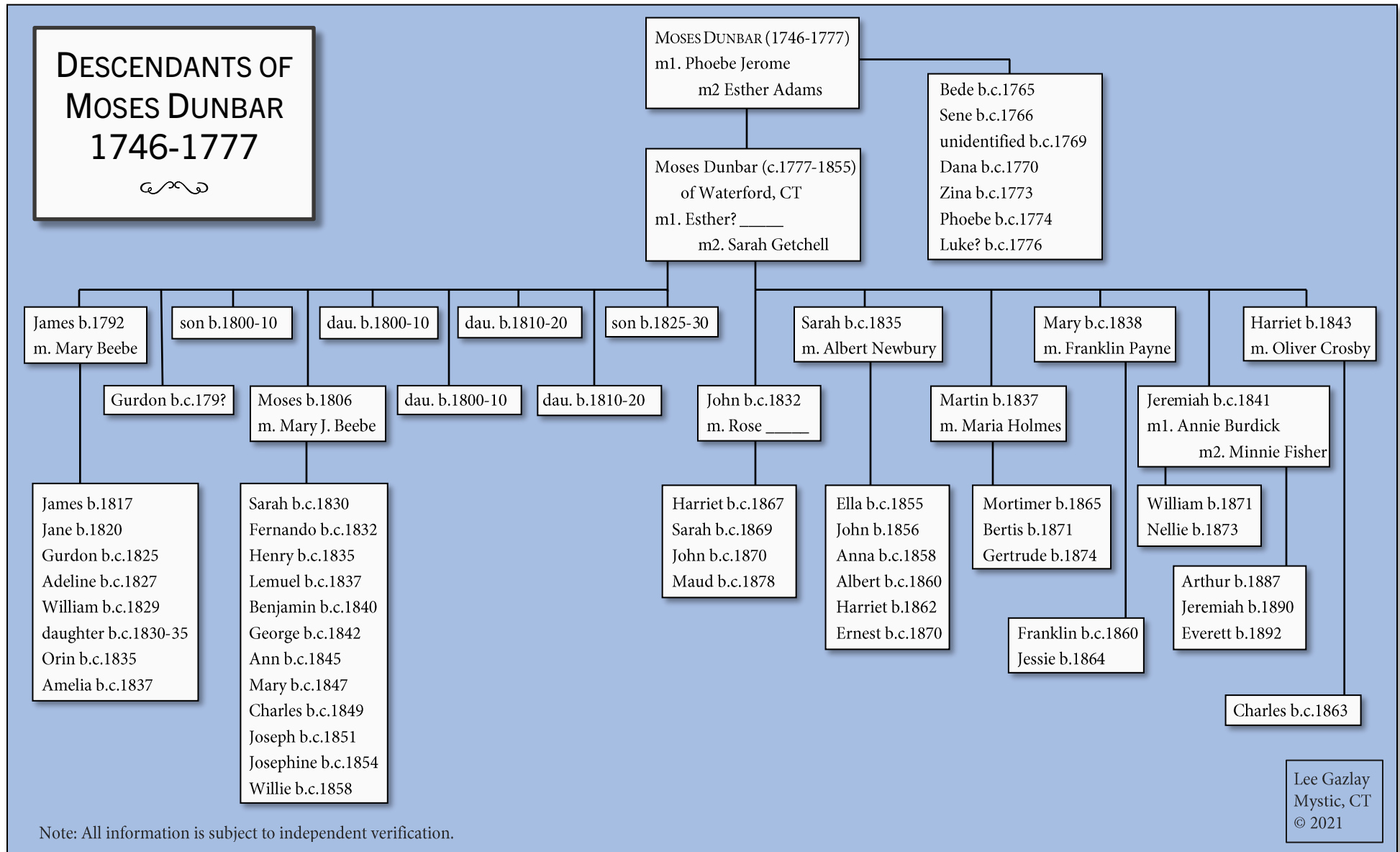


Figure 40 Family Tree—Descendants of Moses Dunbar (1746-1777)