

SANDYLAND CHRONICLE

from a bad case of malaria in the winter of 1889. There had been so much rain that all the nearby cemeteries were under water and so they buried young John in an Indian mound in the dry earth. Some years after the family had been in Arkansas, two of the older boys made a trip back to Mississippi and found the Indian mound, but no description of its location was available in 1946 when they were discussing this. So, the grave of young John Foster has been lost.

In January, 1890, the family moved on toward Arkansas with several wagons driven by the older boys. They brought their milk cows with them and stopped long enough each day for the horses and stock to graze.

Since Robert Foster had worked for the railroad for a number of years in eastern Georgia, he was set up for frequent moving, but this was to be his last major move. He was 51 years old and the long Civil War had been hard on his health.

The Foster family first settled near Cale in Nevada County and rented a place owned by John Greer. They then bought 200 acres near Zama. It was while living at Zama that the Fosters met John Dunn, a storekeeper who lived in Camden. While the Fosters were living at Zama, they did their shopping in Camden because it was more convenient than going to Prescott in the opposite direction due to frequent flooding of Caney Creek which made the roads impassable. In about 1904, the Foster family moved eight miles to the northwest near the Gum Grove community.

It was here in Glenn's notes that he began to list several things they discussed but didn't really explain them enough for me to write about them. I'm sure these would have been interesting stories for his family history. He mentions target shooting with Alvin, Howard's white shirt, and a pontoon airplane on a lake at Hot Springs.



This is a picture of John Dunn and his first wife, Jeanette Owens Dunn who died as their son Clarence was being born. John then married Eunanah Foster, known as Ann, at her father's house at Zama witnessed by Ann's younger brother, Howard, who was eight years old at the time.

Soon after the marriage, John, Ann, and Clarence moved to Elliott, Arkansas about ten miles south of Camden. Soon after, they moved to north Louisiana for a short time. The Dunn family moved back to Nevada County about 1905, settling about a mile south of the Foster farm.

At one time the Foster place was visible from the Dunn place, but the pine trees soon became too tall. Edward Dunn mentioned that his father had grown 200 bushels of corn to the acre on the bottom land. John Dunn practiced an unusual type of farming for that time—what we would call organic farming today. He would gather organic material (hay, straw, manure, etc.)

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and spread it on his farm land. John Dunn once had a store in Camden and was good at business and figures and had excellent handwriting.

Ann Dunn enjoyed fishing and had her favorite fishing holes down on Caney Creek which was near their home. Ann, her mother, her sister Irene and brother, Ben often competed to see who could catch the most fish. The other Foster children had already left home at that time. Glenn says in his notes that Ann talked about fishing with more enthusiasm than any woman he had ever heard of.



This photo of John and Ann Dunn at their home was taken in 1937 just before John's death. John Dunn died November 20, 1937, leaving his wife, Ann who was 58, and children, Clarence, Victor, Edward, Thelma, Alvin, and Howard at home. With the help of the children, the family continued to live at that location for several more years.

Ann had a smoke house just north of the house and she and Thelma had some grapes planted in back of the smoke house. Edward had a corral just west of the house which contained a beautiful horse which was temporarily lame at the time of the visit. Ann and Thelma had a nice garden just east of the house. The well on the south side of the house didn't produce an adequate supply of water, so they used a spring just over the property line southeast of the house on a slight hillside.

Edward Dunn took Glenn Foster and his dad back to the old Foster home place near Zama and showed them the ruins of the house and chimney. Glenn took a picture of his dad standing on the ruins. The property at that time belonged to the Battle family, but they were not living there at the time. The place had gone back to woods.



The next day, Glenn, Edward, Thelma, and Howard went to Ebenezer Cemetery. Robert Thomas Foster's grave was marked with a Civil War marker (Co. B- Phillips Ga. Legion). Pictured here are Howard Foster, Thelma Dunn, and Edward Dunn standing by the grave marker of Robert Thomas Foster.

It was the only Foster family grave stone standing. The family had put up a marker made of wood to mark the grave of young Robert T. Foster Jr. soon after he was buried there in 1896. They put a photograph on the marker and covered it with a glass plate. The wooden marker had long since rotted away photo and all. Glenn picked up a piece of glass lying at that spot and brought it home with him. Glenn also took a picture of the Ebenezer church building while he was there.

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Glenn Foster purchased the John R. Dunn home in the 1960s. By that time, the house was about to fall down. He sold it to Edward Dunn for \$30 and he hauled the usable lumber off. Some of the family members later found some old bottles where the family had once dumped their trash and kept those for sentimental value. The old Dunn place has now gone back to woods and joins so many other old family homesteads which once dotted the landscape of that area.

John R. Dunn and his wife Euanah Dunn are both buried at Ebenezer Cemetery. Also buried there are two sons, Carlross Levander Dunn who died in 1917 before his fourth birthday, William Edward Dunn, and an unmarried daughter, Thelma Dunn.

I have heard my father and others tell stories about their younger days with the Dunn boys around Rocky Hill. All the children in that community attended school at Gum Grove and I have some school group pictures that show some of the Dunn kids. I remember seeing Edward Dunn in church services at Rocky Hill when I was a child and I think Thelma may have been there also. Several years ago, I received from Elaine Dunn Ritchie a copy of an early Ebenezer Cemetery record made by Howard Cornish Foster and Edward Dunn. She was working at that time at the Family History Center in El Dorado, AR.

I could not locate a family group photo of the Dunn family, but here are some pictures of some of the family.



John Dunn's second wife
Euanah "Ann" Foster Dunn
(1879 – 1954)

Velma Elaine Dunn
Daughter of John
and Ann Dunn
(1915 – 1979)



James Clarence Dunn—standing (1896 – 1967)
Charles Victor Dunn – sitting (1902 – 1985)
Children of John Dunn -- Half-brothers
Clarence was the child of John and his first wife

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Children of John Dunn
and Ann Foster Dunn
Carloss Levander Dunn
on the left (1913 – 1917)
Alvin Dunn on the right
(1911 – 1997)



Howard Dunn
(1919 – 2004)
Youngest child of
John and Ann Dunn
Photo taken in 1940s
when he was in the
Navy

MY VISIT TO THE DUNN PLACE IN JANUARY, 2017



There is no road to the Dunn place now. I walked in through the woods about a quarter mile from the county road. The old home place is marked by several huge oak trees. Some are dead but still standing. One or two have already fallen. In the first picture, the dark object to the left of the tree is a huge flat rock about four feet wide that looks to have been placed there for some purpose. Rocks this size and larger are found nearby, but it would be a tough job to move one that large. This tree is the first one as you approach the home place from the old road. I saw some smaller rocks nearby which were probably foundation stones for the house.

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I didn't find any old bottles, but did find this old wash pan with the bottom rusted out. I also found some type of outbuilding covered with tin that had collapsed. I saw some chicken wire there, so this may have been a shed where chickens were kept. A large metal pipe is next to the shed with a metal loop welded on top. I could not move it. I don't know what its purpose was. I wondered if there might be some old bottles underneath all that tin, but it would also be a perfect place for snakes to den up for the winter.

The Lum Johnson family was the nearest neighbors to the Dunns. That place is on the county road about a quarter mile to the east. It also has many large oak trees.

I love to explore old home places like this. It makes it even more interesting if I know who once lived there. Old home places like this are scattered all over since this area was well populated at one time. Many different families may have lived at these home places since the houses were usually rented out after the original family passed on. As far as I know, the Dunn family lived at this spot from about 1905 until at least the 1950s. There may have been earlier settlers who lived there before 1905 because those huge oak trees are very old. John Irvin and Madrow Hurt were previous owners of this property. The main residents these days are various types of wildlife—deer, turkey, squirrels, wild hogs, and all kinds of snakes. Even some black bear have been spotted recently in this area.

Thanks to Robert Foster for providing some of the Dunn family pictures and history for this article.

RAINFALL RECORD FOR JANUARY

I received 3.1 inches of rain in January. The temperatures have been all over the place. We have a few very cold days followed by a few very warm days. Some of the daffodils were already blooming at the end of January.

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In the last issue, I asked for you to send in a caption for this photo. Here are the ones I received:

"If I stay hid in this hole all day they will never know I am the one that dug up the flower bed." – *Yvonne Munn*

"When that cat comes by, I'll get him this time!" – *Betty Thomas*

"Is Obama gone yet?" – *Annette Lemons*

"I hope that big dog won't use this hole today". – *Jerry McKelvy*

BELIEVE IT OR NOT! **(from the 8-4-1911 issue of The Nevada County Picayune)**

A portion of a needle was taken from the knee of Mrs. Sophia Graham, aged 71 years, of Murfreesboro, this state, last week, and that she thinks was stuck into the palm of her hand 43 years ago at a quilting bee. Mrs. Graham lives 12 miles from Murfreesboro. She was in the city one day last week, and was seized with pain in her knee while walking on the street. A physician was summoned and he made an examination of the spot where she complained her knee pained her.

He saw the fine point of something that he removed, and found it to be a portion of a needle an inch and a half in length. When Mrs. Graham was shown the needle, she recalled having stuck it in her hand nearly a half century ago. It was the first time that she remembers having experienced any pain from it.

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JUST FOR FUN

To add a little educational value to this publication, I have decided to include a few little tests on various subjects from time to time. We are never too old to learn or to refresh our memory about things we may have forgotten. This first quiz is on the subject of geography. I didn't provide the answers. You will have to look them up. (*Hint—Google*). Give yourself five points for each question you answer correctly.

1. In what direction does the Mississippi River flow?
2. What is the longest river in the world?
3. What is the largest state in the United States?
4. Name three of the Great Lakes in the United States?
5. Name three deserts in the world.
6. Name three countries in Europe.
7. Name three countries in Africa.
8. Name three rivers outside the United States.
9. Name three of the seven continents.
10. Name three oceans.
11. Name three islands of the world.
12. Name three mountain ranges outside the United States
13. Name three states east of the Mississippi River.
14. Name three rivers in the United States.
15. Name three mountain ranges in the United States.
16. Name three states west of the Mississippi River.
17. Name three countries in Asia.
18. Name three states that border Arkansas.
19. Name three countries in South America.
20. Name three rivers that flow into the Mississippi River.

When I typed the word geography, I was reminded of my early school days when we used this phrase to help us spell geography—"George eat old gray rat at Paul's house yesterday".

We also used this to help us spell Mississippi—"M, I, crooked letter, crooked letter, I crooked letter, crooked letter, I, humpback, humpback, I".

My wife says one of her classmates came up with this one to help him spell arithmetic—"A red Indian thought he might eat turnips in church".

These little helpers like this may sound corny, but they can help some people remember how to spell some of the harder words.

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LIKE A LIBRARY BURNING DOWN

It has been said that the death of an old person is like a library burning down. No longer can we go to that person and ask them about things of long ago. Those things are gone forever unless they wrote things down or told others while they were living. That's one reason I do The Sandyland Chronicle—to preserve some of our local history. Many of our older people have told me stories or given me old pictures and personal stories about their life. In the last few weeks, several of these “libraries” have burned down.

Zettie Griffith Link (died Dec. 15 at age 97)— a cousin; daughter of Hildre and Stella Hardwick Griffith. She frequently called me on the phone and sent me many items for this paper. She was known for her artistic talent and even did a painting of our old home place where I grew up. She told me one day that she still had every copy of The Sandyland Chronicle which I had mailed to her. She was the first Nevada County fair queen in 1937. She attended school at Bluff City and after graduation became the recreational director of the school.

James Claudis Nelson (died Jan. 15 at age 97)—son of Joseph Frankin and Verna Franklin Nelson. Grew up in the Rocky Hill/Gooseankle community. I interviewed Mr. and Mrs. Nelson back in 1997 when I was writing my booklet called “Have You Ever Been to Gooseankle?” I don't know for sure, but I suspect he may have been Nevada County's oldest World War II veteran at the time of his death. If not the oldest, he was one of a very few who reached that age.

Timothy Clinton Robinson (died Jan. 19 at age 97) – son of Martin Madolph and Hattie Morgan Robinson. Born in Bluff City, but lived most of his life in Camden. I visited with Mr. Robinson in his home and he gave me several pictures of the days when he hauled logs. He was always involved in the Bluff City homecomings each year as long as they lasted and served on the cemetery board of the Bluff City cemetery.

Charles Cornelius Henry (died Feb. 2 at age 91) – my uncle; son of Charles Clinton Henry and Minnie Ola Starnes Henry; born in Bluff City and attended school there, but lived most of his life in Monticello.

Mildred Meada Munn (died Feb. 6 at age 97) –daughter of Willie Griffith and Gillie Hall Griffith; known by family and friends as “Aunt Mil”. Mrs. Munn was born in the in the Rocky Hill community and later moved with her family a few miles across Caney Creek to the Caney community. Mrs. Munn spent the last years of her life in the nursing home at Prescott and was bedfast, but her memory was still very sharp. I stopped by her room several times and enjoyed her telling me about knowing my grandparents and other relatives when she lived in the Rocky Hill community as a young girl. She and her older sister, Mavis, sent me many stories about their memories of their early life in the Rocky Hill community and later in the Caney community.