

CHARLESTOWN BRANCH BUNKER HILL, MA

No. 189

DOVER BRANCH, DURHAM, N.H.

# **History of the Bunker Family**

A copy of a statement made by JOHN<sup>6</sup> BUNKER<sup>D-179</sup>, August 1, 1896 and taken down by FRANK F.<sup>8</sup> BUNKER D-863, grandson by his son THEADORE<sup>7, D-408.</sup> Ed. NOTE: Republished without corrections – however, additional copy was added in superscript. gb

#### HISTORY OF THE BUNKER FAMILY

By John E. Steel Los Angeles June 5, 1700

The first that Grandpa knows, Silas<sup>4</sup> Bunker<sup>D-21</sup> (grandfather of my grandfather) sprang from the Charleston, Mass. Maine Bunkers; was a lame man. He lost the use of his knee from a fever sore. He learned the trade of tailoring in Salem, Mass., moved to Scarborough, Maine. He married widow Smith of that place; she had 3 girls and one boy. He worked there awhile at his trade then moved to Sedgwick in Eastern Maine.

He had from this marriage Benjamin, Thomas, Silas, Isaac. He (Silas<sup>4</sup>) had two or three brothers one was stolen by the Indians and carried off but was recovered after he was grown. He dies at Blue Hill at his wife's daughter's house. Thomas was taking him from Charleston to Sedgwick, when in the evening he started to go out of a room where they were stopping. There were two doors one leading to the cellar the other outdoors, he opened the wrong one and fell and was injured, -- lived two days and died about the year 1836.

Benjamin<sup>5, D-59</sup> was his oldest son, born in Sedgwick, Maine, Was a miller by trade, -- had a grist mill in Sebec, Maine, followed that work most of his life. He married Ruth Ellen in Sedgwick they had seven children Charlotte<sup>6</sup>, Mary<sup>6</sup>, Emily<sup>6</sup>, boy called Percy<sup>6</sup>, <sup>D-174</sup>, Benjamin Jr.<sup>6</sup>, <sup>D-175</sup>, Jeriee<sup>6, Jesse</sup> (a boy). He died of old age upwards of 80. Benjamin Jr.<sup>6</sup> lived in Penn.

Silas Jr.  $5, \overline{D-61}$  (third boy) born in Sedgwick, Maine, married Aunt Hannah Berry, was a carpenter by trade, Jack of

Trades, horse jockey etc was noted for his strength, his children were as follows Nahum<sup>6, D-181</sup> (shoemaker), Hannah<sup>6</sup>, Abigale<sup>6</sup>, Martin<sup>6</sup>, <sup>D-182</sup> (blacksmith), Kendal<sup>6</sup>, <sup>D-183</sup> (farmer), Silas Jr.<sup>6</sup> (merchant), Sabin<sup>6, D-184</sup> (no business, reckless), Edward<sup>6, D-185</sup> (a Mormon priest at Ogden Utah, went to Eng. proselyting for Mormons, had two wives), --he was always ready for new fangled notions, moving around. Asly, he was not a church member, was a moral man, he died in Charleston of fever along in 70ties.

 $Isaac^{5, D-62}$  the youngest boy, died of consumption he left 2 boys and 3 girls (Abigail<sup>6</sup>, Mary<sup>6</sup>, Sarah<sup>6</sup>, 1 boy <sup>William 6, D-186</sup> was a blacksmith.

Thomas<sup>5</sup> Bunker  $^{D-60}$ , my great grandfather was a sailor, a fisherman first, then coasting from Main and New-Brunswick to Mass carrying wood, lumber and Mds. Spent one summer fishing off the coast of Labrador. Was in War of 1812 Commanded a vessel was a minuet man on Penobscot Q. He was captured by English War Vessel: was going to turn her but did not give in and saved his vessel. He was born in Scarborough, Maine; Wild boy, and strong; common education. He married Patience Eaton for first wife, had 6 boys and 4 girls by her. The sons were Moses, Silar <sup>Silas III</sup>, Shubael (live), John, Thomas Jr. (live), and Richard. The girls were Rachael, Patience, Lydia, Harriet. By second wife widow Norcross had two children George (live) and a daughter. Julia

 ${\tt Moses}^{6,\ \tilde{D-}176}$  a farmer and lumber man, his children are Sargent, Malven, Melissa and one more.

Silas<sup>6, D-177</sup> a carpenter.

Shubael<sup>6, D-178</sup> was a teamster.  $\mathrm{Thomas}^{\mathrm{6}, \mathrm{Jr}}$  was a farmer had a daughter Rachel.

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Thomas<sup>5, D-60.</sup> Bunker <sup>Sr, b Jul 1774</sup> died in 1861 or 62 at Charleston at the age of 84 of cancer of the stomach. d 27 Mar 1858, age 83

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#### STATEMENT

The *Bunker Banner* is published quarterly, August, November, February and May, by the **Bunker framily Association** (FOUNDED in 1913), as a non-profit organization. Circulation is to 200+/- Bunker families worldwide. Annual dues including the *Bunker Banner* are PDF e-file \$20.00 (worldwide) – Paper copies: USA \$25.00 – Canada \$30.00 – Europe \$35.00 USD.

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## **President's Dialogue**

Coming Attractions – The February 2020 *Bunker Banner* will feature an article on Bedfordshire Parish Records, specifically *Bedfordshire Parish Registers* edited by F. G. Emmison, Clerk of Records, Bedfordshire, published under the auspices of the County Records Committee of the Bedfordshire County Council. It contains transcriptions of the parish baptism, marriage and burial records as well as other information. A CD of Bedfordshire parish records with images and more data can be purchased online at the following website: www.bfhs.org.uk/parishcd.html. (*This CD will be added to the BFA Historian's library*).

A recent Bloomberg Opinion writer, Max Nisen expressed his views on the National Institutes of Health's "All of Us" project that wants to collect DNA samples from at least one million people. It will be available to researchers that will look for so-called precision medicine, among other studies. Nearly 230,000 have enrolled in the free program; 175,000 have contributed samples. "...there are real privacy concerns related to the collection of genetic information..." The NIH claims it will be a better "steward" of the results than various for-profit companies that sell genetic data collections. On-line discussion of this project has many contributors; most may be found at "The government wants your DNA. Don't run away," website. The writer believes it may "...make a difference as soon as next year, for individuals, and will help many more in time."

Couple of AP writers noted that Addus Home Care is adding hospice care to their services. They claim to be the country's largest provider of personal care including bathing, cooking, feeding and house cleaning. Medicare Advantage is authorized to foot the bills.

gíl Bunker

## **Bunker Babble**

\* Concerned about the absence of **SALLY ROLLS PAVIA**'s death notices and a wishful prayer that my **BUUNKER** cousins finally agreed to stop dying, I contacted our Sun City, AZ resident to inquire about the dearth of her observations. A shoulder injury required her doctor's TLC. Sally is "glued" back together so the mortality notifications will resume shortly. \* According to Radio Free Europe several Russian cities contain mock "tombstones" for Vladimir Putin. Similar to USA political yard signage, they contain Putin's image, full name, birth date, supposed death date of 2019 and the **2362** 

words "Incredible thief and liar. Political corpse." The American Legion Magazine – August 2019 \* Going through old files and found an obit that tells an interesting story of three men kicked by a horse, two died and one of those was a teenager, ALBERT RILEY **BUNKER** who had just plowed a field with the horse that killed him. Most people today cannot even conceive of anyone being killed by a horse or a teen doing any work, let alone plowing a field with a team of horses (see page 2368) *Bette* \* Our BFA temporary dues collector, LiANN PENNINGTON celebrated her 25th anniversary in Europe at the end of July. She came home the first week in August and said the heat over there, with no A/C, was unbearable. \* After 39-years, CARL and JANE BUNKER OVERY moved from Searchlight, Nevada to Henderson (a short 40-miles north) and that, Dear Cousins, is something I believed would never happen. Jane should be called "Mrs. Searchlight" as she was instrumental in founding the museum, restoring the graveyard while researching its interments and recycling the town dump "treasurers" into a profitable enterprise, just to name a few. Jane, what will Searchlight do without you? Thanks to Jane, the former Soloist of the Air Force Tops in Blue Variety Show, for sending the photograph of her Aunt MILDRED BUNKER (p.2365); read more about Jane in the August Bunker Banner, page 2357 \* In 10th century England, if a marriage broke up in the first seven years without good reason, which included leprosy, impotence and bad breath, the woman was entitled to a fixed sum depending upon her birth status. If the marriage broke up after seven years, the property was split in half as follows: pigs went to the man, sheep to the woman; eldest and youngest son to the father, middle sons to the mother; milking vessels, except one pail, to the woman; all drinking vessels to the man. The man got the hens and one cat; the woman all the flax, linseed and wool, all opened vessels of butter and opened cheese and as much as she could carry of flour by the strength of her hands and her knees from the larder to the house. In addition, the bedclothes which were over them went to the woman and those which were under them went to the man. After he takes a new wife, they belong to the woman, and if the wife come to the man sleeps on them, she had to pay the woman from whom he separated. Another occasion upon which this payment could be made by the husband to his wife was for any sexual infidelity, but the wife could only accept such a pay-off twice. After that she was expected to leave him. However, if the new wife slept on her matrimonial bedclothes she could collect again. SOURCE: Medieval Women, A Social History of Women in England 450-1500 by Henrietta Leyser, Phoenix Press, London, England 1996, p. 46. Bette – 19 Aug 2019 \* Do you have clean sheets on vour bed, Bunky? \* gb \*

## **Devonshire Bunkers – 2000**

-Bette Bunker Richards Descendents of James (D-1) on a USB flash-drive

Approximately 1,333 pages in length, it updates the *1982 Bunker Genealogy* – parts of the *1965 Bunker Genealogy* and more It includes descendants of:

- James (D-1) Bunker of Dover. New Hampshire
- Benjamin Bunker & Betsey Daniels, New London, NH
- Thomas Bunker & Alice Pertie, Rattery, Devon, UK
- William Bunker & Ann Forrester, New Castle, DE
  - Plus:
- Devonshire Parish Records
- Military service info for Bunkers from all branches
- Nearly 100 pictures
  Maps
  Indexes

## **Bedfordshire Bunkers – 2008**

-Bette Bunker Richards

Descendants of Roger Bunker, Tingrith, Bedfordshire, England available on a USB flash-drive, including:

- George (C-1) Bunker of Charlestown,
- George (N-1) Bunker of Nantucket and the following connected by DNA tests:
- Joseph Bunker (b ca.1797 St. Albans, UK) and Mary
- Samuel B. Bunker (1849-1890) and Almira Goodwin
- Thomas Bunker and Clarissa Chamberlin Plus:
  - Parish records (except Devon) that are copied to date
  - Military service info for Bunkers from all branches
  - Ships named Bunker Hill (with histories & photos)
    - Numerous images and photographs

One book \$25.00; both books on one USB \$35.00; mail to: Shirley Bunker Howell, 38 West 1600 South, Orem UT 84058-7444

• Indicate which flash-drive you want •

Free Bunker Family History w/USB purchase (International book postage is extra)

### **Bunker Family Association Library**

*Bunker Family History* –Henry L. Bunker, III; 1984; 147p; +8p index; paperback; \$15.00 each; two for \$25.00.

Bunker Genealogy 1942 –Edward C. Moran; Dover branch James (D-1) to the 11th generation; Maine census records; hardback; index; geographical index; 232pp; <del>\$29.60</del> \$24.00. We have the last two in stock, ready for shipment.

Bunker Genealogy 1931 –Charles C.W.O. Bunker; with Charlestown, Nantucket, Delaware, Maryland branches; hardback; bibliography; index; 797pp; <del>\$58.85</del> \$49.00. Only <u>two</u> more remain.

All books w/free USA p/h. – International postage, extra Mail check to BFA President

## **Military Bunker**

Wilfred Herrick Bunker - D-957 - RN 7961 Sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps (1916-1919) Enlisted 15 Aug 1917, Sergeant Dec 1919 SOURCE: USMC Muster Rolls, 1893-1940 NOTE: Rev. Wilfred Herrick served in WW I Dec. 1918, Sgt. Co. M. 13th Reg. AEF [Allied Expeditionary Force] France. <u>14 jd fr Field & Staff &</u> Band 13th Regt. <u>15 to 31 Det'd Periguez.</u> SOURCE: US Marine Corps Rosters 1798-1940 on *Ancestry.com* (I have no idea what some of this means. It was copied from the image of the record). *Bette - 12 Nov 2008)* SOURCE: BFA mil db (military database) WW I.

Bette and I were perplexed by the above underlined entry in Wilfred's record. It was recently forwarded to a retired US Army Major who is a brother alumnus from Girard College; he is also named Gil.

Gil's reply: I read it as a typically truncated entry in Wilfred's record in Company M, 13th Regiment, saying approximately:

14 (December 1918) joined (Company M) from Field & Staff & Band, 13th Regiment. 15 - 31 (December), Detached to Periguez.

Periguez is in south-central France, quite far from the WW I battle area, but possibly relevant to the bottom paragraph.

Wikipedia says, "The 13th Marines was formed on July 3, 1916, as an infantry regiment. It embarked for France in late 1918 and served in Brest until it was deactivated on September 1, 1919."

Brest is at the farthest western point of France and had been established as a significant commercial and military port for many years.

Also from Wikipedia: "In 1917, during the First World War, Brest was used as the disembarking port for many of the troops coming from the United States. Thousands of such men came through the port on their way to the front lines."

If the unit was in Brest for the period indicated, it was probably used for base security, with detachments sent elsewhere as required. None of this particularly explains his being sent to Periguez, but there must have been some reason. After I wrote this paragraph, I found the following, which pretty much confirms my analysis: The 5th Marine Brigade, organized at Quantico in September of 1918 consisted of the 11th and 13th Regiments and the 5th Machine Gun Battalion that also served in France, but did not engage in combat. The 13th Regiment arrived at Brest, France, on 25 September 1918; all units of the 11th Regiment were in France by 25 October, and the 5th Machine Gun Battalion arrived at Brest on 9 November.

Upon arrival in France, the 5th Marine Brigade was assigned to the Service of Supply, which was in need of dependable troops for guard duty. The 13th Regiment soon found itself scattered, and doing guard duty along with the western coast of France, while the 11th Regiment was stationed in the general area of Tours. There it performed similar duties, such as guarding the aviation training center at Issouden, and furnished some companies for military police duty. The brigade machine gun battalion was stationed at Camp Pontanezan, Brest. The units of the 5th Marine Brigade continued to perform these general duties until July 1919, when they assembled at Brest and returned to the United States early in August.

Gil McDonald, US Army (ret)

## **Treasurer's Report - 2019**

Bank Balance (6/30/2018) Savings	\$8,163.25
Bank Balance (6/30/2018) Checking	\$3.039.81

INCOME	
Donations	\$ 495.00
Raffle (2018)	\$ 200.00
Sales (Books)	\$ 109.00
Interest	\$ 8.91
Dues	\$ 3,200.00
TOTAL	\$ 4,012.91

EXPENSES		
Banner	\$	2,531.36
Scholarship	\$	1,500.00
Website	\$	145.00
Bank fee (Paypal)	\$	0.88
Postage	\$	70.06
Graveyard	\$	0.00
TOTAL	\$	4,247.30
Net Income/Loss	\$	(234.39)

Bank Balance (6/30/2019) Savings	\$ 9,130.80
Bank Balance (6/30/2019) Checking	\$ 2,128.34

NOTE: *Bunker Banner* (May 2018) \$979.01 i.e. final 2018 invoice to Contemporary Graphics, paid in fiscal year 2019.

## New or Additional Info to BFA Dover Database

D-138 BENIAH<sup>6</sup> BUNKER (1982 BunGen p.94) Change his name to read BENAIAH<sup>6</sup> BUNKER. His son, Beniah, Jr.<sup>7</sup> spelling remains the same.

D-795F EMMARET ETHEL *OLLISON* BUNKER, wife of ALBERT VICTOR<sup>8</sup> BUNKER (D-795F; 1982 BunGen p.285). She was born 27 Nov 1888, Orilla Simcoe, Ontario, Canada; died 12 Feb 1957; buried Hillcrest Memorial Garden, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada.

D-476D-III GEORGE NORMAN<sup>7</sup> BUNKER died 24 Mar 1955, buried Cataraqui United Church, Kingston, Frontenac, Ontario, Canada with wife, VIDA AMELIA *SMYTH*, 18 Feb 1894 - 4 Mar 1988 (1982 BunGen p.197a).

SOURCES: findmypast.com, ancestry.com, Canadian Gravestones, findagrave.com, BFA database Bette – 12 Jun 2019

## New or Additional Info to mil db

Mildred Pearl Grubb Bunker T/5 Surgical Nurse, 1945



She is RN 26147, Mildred Grubb, wife of Frederick Seymour Bunker RN 3645. Frederick Seymour RN 3645, U-1186, son of Seymour RN 2554, U-1179 and Winifred Olds; Seymour son of William RN 2518, U-1177 and Mary Ann Williams.

Modbury Bunkers are from Devonshire. *Bette* 

Jane Bunker Overy said Aunt Mildred was married to her Uncle Fred and was the reason she (Jane) choose a military career, Mildred was a great example.

(Only Mildred's image was added to the mil db) Submitted by Jane Bunker Overy, Henderson, NV NOTE: See BunBan p.1042 for Mildred's obit: born 13 Apr 1908 KCMO; died 6 Jun 1987 Dorrance, KS; buried Dorrance City Cemetery with Military Rites provided by Dorrance American Legion Post #334.

### Benaiah<sup>6</sup> Bunker D-138

Benaiah served with Capt. John O. Hotchkiss of the Massachusetts Militia during the War of 1812. His brother, Joseph, was a ship's captain and his brother, Thomas, had his vessel taken by the British in 1812. (Joseph and Thomas were not in the military).

J. Bunker – 43963 – Pvt – Gordon Highlanders Listed as Wounded on 02/01/1919; War Office Daily List No.5761; Entitled to wear a "Wound Stripe" as authorized under Army Order 204 of 6th July 1916; Address of next of Kin, Bath; Archive reference: NLS 1919\_WList75; Collection: British Army daily reports (missing, dead, wounded & POWs) WW I SOURCE: forces-war-records.co.uk/records/23172395/jbunker-british-army-gordon-hig... *gil – 18 Aug 2019* 

**J. W. Bunker** – 60532 – Pvt – 1918 – Middlesex Reg't Served 1yr 3 mos. – Ailment Influenza, 23.6.1918; transferred No. 18 Casualty Clearing Station – 23rd Service Bn, Co.

SOURCE: www.forces-war-records.co.uk *gil* – 8 Jul 2015 Two FWR (Forces War Records) messages received in one dispatch "apparently regarding the same person." Both duplicate the previous 2015 info but contained additional data i.e. Age 19; Religion Church of England; Index # of admission 3466; Date of admission 12/06/1918; Transferred to other Hosp 23/06/1918; C Company; Archive reference MH106/192 found Nat'l Archives at Kew for Medical Records from 11th Casualty Clearing Station

SOURCE: forces-war-records.co.uk/records/7115159/ similar/details?recordName=private... gil - 5 Jul 2019 Index # of admission T50845; Date discharged to duty 29/06/1918; Date transfer from sick convoy 22/06/1918 to 139th Field Ambulance; 41st Division; Archive reference MH106/488 found Nat'l Archives at Kew for Medical Records from 139th Field Ambulance; Entitled to wear a "Wound Stripe" authorized under Army Order 204 of the 6th July 1916. The terms of this award being named on this list; Victory Medal, British War Medal SOURCE: forces-war-records.co.uk/records/8739876/ similar/ details?recordName=private... gil 5 Jul 2019

**J. Bunker** (Jonathan, RN 1:3067) 4178 - Sgt Cook – Authority: A.O. 125; Authority date: 1917; Archive reference: WO102\_18; Collection: Long Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal Roll 1901-53; Campaign Medal: Victory Medal, British War Medal SOURCE: forces-war-records.co.uk/records/23219013/ sergeant-cook-j-bunker-british-ar... *gil – 28 Aug 2019* 

William Bunker- 340528 – Gunner – Royal Garrison Artillery Essex and Suffolk – Archive reference: WO 372/3/170`38 (can be found at Nat'l archives at Kew, & contains WW I War Office Service Medal and Award Rolls Index), Collection: Nominal index of all service personnel serving in a theater of war 1914-1919; Victory Medal, British War Medal SOURCE: forces-war-records.co.uk/records/18961124/ gunner-william-bunker-royal-ga... *gil – 13 Oct 2019* 2365

## "In response to your letter regarding the Bunker Hill Homestead...

"My great grandfather bought this property in 1894. He and his wife lived here until 1904 when he sold it to my grandfather for \$1.00; he and my grandmother moved in after the marriage and raised seven of their nine children.

"The second son, Norman, was like his mother's family and wanted the best of everything. It was hard for grandfather to pay the mortgage, taxes, insurance, feed and clothe seven kids and keep the wolf from the door. Norman complained about all the hardships he had and what a battle it was for poor granddad to keep the place, and called it 'Bunker Hill.'

"Later, granddad bought a neighboring farm and moved there. He kept Bunker Hill and Norman named all the properties after that. The next farm was called Ego farm because it was purchased from Mr. Ego. The next farm was built true north and the building and lane were on an angle to the road, so it was called the crooked farm.

"Granddad always held Bunker Hill as his favorite and let to relatives or family that needed a house and he farmed the land.



"Unfortunately, two of his sons were killed in accidents, so he gave Bunker Hill to my mother, his oldest daughter. Just a side note: When my mother was born and a girl, the boys didn't want a girl, so Norman called her Jimmy, which stuck with her all her life.

"The house was close to a gravel pit so she moved it to the highway and renovated it with plumbing and hydro. My parents lived here until they passed and left it to me. I added the addition in 1987 and a new garage in 2016.

"All granddad's sons passed and their children sold five of the six farms. The next generation lost their history and (its) importance. I wanted to keep granddad's history alive so I put the sign at the road, framed the 1894 deed, old letters, family photos and important papers I found and lined the walls of the new garage with them. I hope you find this interesting and will encourage people to be proud of their family history and celebrate and preserve it.

### "...I think I have bad news: There is no connection to Bunkers or the Bunker Hill battle."

Sincerely, John Woodrow Sutton West, ONT

## Nantucket Branch "What an Old Man Remembered About Captain Owen Wyer, the Sloop *Rose* and Events of Other Years"

NOTE: The first part of this long article authored by C. F. Swain, was about other captains and their ships. pb

"A few days before the Rose left New York on that trip, Captain ROBERT BUNKER sailed from there in the ship Horatio bound to a southern port. The ship was wrecked on Cape Hatteras, but before she broke up, the long boat was hoisted out and all but the captain and his nephew, a boy fourteen years old, were safely in the boat, thought there was a very heavy sea running at the time. The men in the boat called to the captain to come with them, but his only reply was: "You have got all the boat can safely carry, cut your painter or you'll swamp; I'll try and save myself in the small boat." At the same time, picking up the youth, who had not left his uncle's side for a moment after the struck, he threw him overboard and near enough the boat to be taken in. That was the last that was seen or heard of the noble, generous and lion-hearted Robert Bunker. All in the boat were saved, and the following winter the little boy was a schoolmate with one who has remembered him and his early history for over seventy years.

"The writer is not indebted to any one for the facts and circumstance here stated, as he was personally with all that have been named, and was on the beach at the landing of the boat." C. F. Swain BROOKLYN, March 19, 1892 *Inquirer and Mirror* - March 26, 1892 N-52-VII ROBERT<sup>6</sup> BUNKER (1965 BunGen p.46)

Pamela writes: I happened to come across this from the Nantucket *Inquirer and Mirror* of March 26, 1892. It's a sad but heroic story. Robert Bunker was born 22 Dec 1791; died 2 Apr 1819; married Lydia Macy in May of 1819. He was son of Barnabus Bunker and Lydia Gardner. Lydia Macy was born 04 Apr 1801 and died 24 Apr 1871 in Milford, MA. Her parents were Sylvanus Macy and Anna Pinkham. (Lydia Macy Bunker married 2<sup>nd</sup> Frederick Macy, son of Thomas Macy and Phebe Bunker. Lydia had no children in her very short marriage to Robert Bunker, but had six by Frederick Macy.)

All that was confusing enough so I didn't try to see how Phebe Bunker fits in or how close cousins Lydia Macy and Frederick Macy were.

Submitted by Pamela Briggs, Mystic, CT - Jul 27, 2019

## Dover Branch Lt. L. Bradley Bunker, Jr. 1922-2005

If Bradley Bunker's World War II military service could be summarized in only two words, they would have to be "close calls." Thirty-five missions as a navigator in a B-17 Flying Fortress put Bunker, of Franklin, in harm's way on a regular basis as he directed the bomber and its combat crew of 10 from airstrips in England to heavily fortified German targets.

"We didn't get many missions over France," he recalls. "Those were too easy. We went after factories in the big industrial cities of Germany. It took three runs over Munich before we finally took out the Messerschmitt [military aircraft] plant there." During one such run, Bunker left his navigator's station to look out a window. "I don't know if it was a whole shell, or part of a shell, but it came through the bottom of the plane and took my navigator's table and half of my log book with it. If I had been working on my log book, it would have taken my head off, too," he said. "It got pretty airy, and how that shell went all the way through the plane without hitting one of the cables, I still don't know."

Like many other B-17s within the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force's 457<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group, Bunker's bomber often returned to base riddled with reminders that Nazi anti-aircraft fire could be intense. "On one mission we were shot up so bad that we began losing altitude, so we headed back to base," he said. "There was so much damage that they wouldn't let us land on the major runway because, if we cracked up, the rest of the group coming in behind us wouldn't be able to land." The disabled plane was diverted instead to a nearby grass landing strip.

"That grass strip was three miles long, and we were going so fast that we used every inch of it," he said. "One engine did catch fire. As I was gathering up my navigation logs and maps the guys kept yelling at me: "Bunker, get out of there!" They were sure the plane was going to explode. "I was the last one out, and when I came through the escape hatch, an English fire crew hit me with the foam they were pouring on the engine. That was cold, instant freeze."

Bunker, who will be 82, next week (July 2004), remembers watching other B-17s in his squadron explode around him during bombing raids. "We flew a raid on Peenemunde [a German rocket center], where the Germans were manufacturing the atomic bomb, and they were ahead of us, too, until the 8th Air Force got a hold of them. "The flak at that target was so thick it looked like a gray blanket. The first three planes in our group got hit, and two went down. The plane right in front of us just disappeared." Remarkably, none of Bunker's crewmates was wounded or killed during the 35 missions they flew between May and November of 1944. That's true good fortune: 8th Air Force flight crews had a higher percentage of casualties than any branch of the service during WWII.

Of the 8th Air Force's 135,000 combat crewmen, more than 26,000 were killed. Some 28,000 others were held as prisoners of war after their aircraft were shot down. Combined, that's a loss ratio of 40 percent.

"My bombardier was a big Irishman named Mike, and whenever we would go through a lot of flak, I'd get right behind him. He once had some flak come through the Plexiglas of his turret. It hit him, but he was wearing a chest protector, which probably saved him."

Bunker was a 22-year-old student at the University of Maine when he entered the service in 1942 on New Year's Eve. His 100 hours of pilot training and his advanced navigational coursework took him to Florida, California, Texas and Oklahoma. Before being sent to his last stateside post in Oklahoma, he returned to Ellsworth in March of 1944, where he married his wife, Dorthea.

Bunker declined the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force's offer of a promotion from first lieutenant to captain if he would stay on as a B-17 navigator beyond his required 35 missions. "It would have meant that I'd stay on for the entire duration of the war," he said. "They gave me an hour to think about it. When I went back to the barracks and saw all the fellas getting ready to go home, I decided to go home, too." Bunker used the G.I. Bill to complete his bachelor's degree and to earn a master's degree at the University of Maine.

His 35 missions and his countless close calls earned Bunker a Distinguished Flying Cross.

SOURCE: The Greatest Generation, Maine Service Profiles - www.mpbc.org/greatest — by Tom Walsh

D-940 LEO BRADLEY<sup>9</sup>, Jr.; b 12 Jul 1922; d 5 Aug 2005; m 25 Mar 1944 Ellsworth, DOROTHEA ELLA LEAVITT, b 23 Feb 1923 Atkinson ME; three issue: Janet Lee<sup>10</sup>, b 8 Nov 1945 Bangor ME; Leo Bradley<sup>10</sup>, III, b 11 Nov 1949 Blue Hill ME, D-1106C and Brian Alan<sup>10</sup>, b 4 Nov 1957 White Plains NY (1982 BunGen p.313-4)

OBIT pub *Bunker Banner* p.1520 (Feb 2006)

## **Distressing Accident**

# Mr. James Spencer Shoesmith Kicked and Instantly Killed by a Horse.

It was a startling announcement that was made to our citizens on last Friday afternoon that a young man, known and respected by all, had a few moments previously met his death in the manner stated in the heading of this article, on his brother's farm about five miles west of Lena, and not a few, clinging to the hope that there was some error in the announcement, refused to believe it. However, the sad news was soon confirmed, and a sadness seemed to settle over the entire community. Many rumors as to the particulars of the accident having been set in motion, we have endeavored to obtain a current account of the mournful affair to lay before our readers.

Mr. Bunker's boy, who was in Mr. Shoesmith's employ, brought home the team from ploughing at noon. Having put them in the stable, he was going to feed them, and was passing along the side of one of the horses when the animal crowded him, and the boy called to Mr. Shoesmith, who came to his assistance, and stepping behind the horse laid his hand on her hip, tapping with the butt of the whip, ordering her to stand over. In an instant she sprang forward and kicked Mr. Shoesmith on the breast on the left side, near the region of his heart, knocking him back against a post, breaking his skull on the back of his head. Falling back out of the stable door, his wife discovered him from the house prostrate on his knees with his face on the ground. Not knowing what had occurred, she at first thought he was only looking at something under the barn, but perceiving him still in that position a few minutes later she feared something had happened to him, and hastened at once to his side. Laying hold of him and turning him over on his back she found he was hurt, and rushing to the house for water dashed it over his face. He gasped, rolled his eyes and was gone. The poor woman, thinking he had only fainted, raised his head into her lap and called for help. In the meantime, Mr. Frank Eastman, who had been to the spring to water his team, made his appearance, and jumping on his horse went for Mr. Ed Shoesmith, on the adjoining farm. When Mr. Shoesmith arrived on the scene the distracted wife was still holding her husband's head. It was soon discovered by his brother that he was dead, and the lifeless form was conveyed to the house.

The parents of the deceased were visiting at the time at Mr. F. Latham's, and were soon apprised of the sad occurrence and came upon the scene. Language cannot describe the grief of that mother who but the evening before had met her son in health. We pass over the sorrow of the household and relatives, occasioned by

this terrible accident. The whole community has been shocked, and the sympathy of all enlisted in their behalf.

We fear also that Mr. Bunker's boy has sustained mortal injury. After Mr. Shoesmith received the fatal blow, the boy crawled out of the other side of the stable. In attempting to pass by the horse so as to get out of the stable the horse kicked him in the abdomen, and at this present writing there are no hopes of recovery.

Mr. Ed Shoesmith, likewise, while passing into the stable was kicked by the same animal, and had it not been for a post which fortunately stood in the way and received the main force of the blow, he would have received serious hurt.

The funeral services were held on Sabbath morning last at the Methodist church in this place, and was one of the largest ever witnessed in Lena. No services were held in either the Baptist or Presbyterian churches, and at an early hour the audience room of the M.E. church was packed. When the funeral cortege arrived, about 11 o'clock, it was deemed best to hold the service in the church yard. Remarks were made by Revs. Bucks, McKee and Carr, and throughout the long services the audience waited all anxious to show the last rite of respect to the deceased.

Mr. Shoesmith was twenty-three years of age on the day of his death. He leaves a young wife and infant child. To say that he bore the reputation being all that a young man should be will be saying nothing but the truth, and no one will dispute it. Early indeed was he called home, but his memory will be cherished for the good in his life by many outside of his family circle.

The relatives of the deceased are known by all throughout this section of the county, and the heart-felt sympathies of all are with them in this, the first death in the family. 'Tis a hard task indeed to offer words of consolation that will be truly such in such an occasion as this; yet there is the promise that life does *all* for the best and in this, far-reaching as it is, can their trust be placed.

### **Death of Albert Bunker**

On last Wednesday evening Albert R. Bunker, aged about 13 years, the boy who was injured at the time Mr. James Shoesmith was killed, died at the residence of his parents, near Louisa.

At the time of the unfortunate affair the injuries received by the boy were not thought to be serious, and he was almost forgotten by the public, in the face of the tragic death of Mr. Shoesmith, but later Albert began to make complaints of severe pain in the abdomen, inflammation **2368** (cont. next page) set in, and despite all that medical aid could do, he died, at the time and place aforementioned. He was buried in the cemetery at this place on Thursday, and the funeral sermon was preached by. Rev. Carr, in the Baptist church, on Sabbath last.

Historian NOTE: I have a poor copy of the articles and assume they were published in *The Lena Statesman*, Lena, Illinois, but do not have a date. Although the copy I have has both articles on the same page, I do not believe they were published on the same date.

D-234-XXI ALBERT RILEY<sup>7</sup> BUNKER (1982 BunGen p.133) was born 15 Feb 1864 and died 3 October 1877. He was survived by 20 brothers and sisters as well as his parents. His father had 22 children and 20 of them lived to adulthood. Strangely enough, the two that died as children were both named Albert. Bette - 29 Jul 2019

## Charles Dimmock Bunker Immigration Commissioner 1880-1883

### The Investigation Into the Affairs of the Commissioner's Office

The San Francisco Immigration Commissioner was appointed by the 14<sup>th</sup> Governor of California, George Clement Perkins with the consent of the Senate on January 16, 1880. Charles Bunker produced a \$2,500 bond, entered into his duties, and appointed three deputies including his brother, H.C. Bunker and Dr. W.M. Lawlor. Charles was authorized to board all vessels entering the port of San Francisco from a foreign port or place, and collect from masters, owners or consignees the sum of seventy cents for every person examined and inspected according to section 2955 of the penal code of California. The effort was to detect leprosy and (elephantiasis). One person enroute to China was found with the latter.

In January 1883, Charles was investigated by the Attorney-General regarding his book-keeping procedures. Question arose about the unusual method of payments to his brother, and whether his brother did more work that the doctor. Dr. Lawlor was to receive \$50 per month for his services, while brother Henry had placed in the bank various sums totaling \$4,700, during his three-year tenure.

Bunker read from his cash-book a statement regarding receipts during his term in office: the grand total being \$43,267.40. Of that amount \$40,811.40 was designated

"head money" or fees collected from immigrants and \$2,456 from oaths administered. He stated all payments were made under protest. No records of the protests were kept, other than attached to each receipt given were the records of the protest. At the request of the chairman, Bunker enumerated the arrivals for 1880 as 8,134 passengers; 1881, 21,400 and 1882 there were 28,768; oaths administered included 663, 891 and 992 consecutively. The expenses of his office was tallied and included the salary of Dr. Lawlor and the retainer for a lawyer of \$250 in a suit against the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, but exclusive of his own salary and that of Messrs. Reed and Bunker. Mr. Bunker indicated some 2,500 vessels entered the port and only fifteen had been missed, and he had no previous knowledge what his predecessor had received during his term in office. From stubs left in the office, Bunker estimated \$34,000 had been collected but only \$800 or \$900 had been turned over to the state. Likewise, Bunker withheld monies, on advise of council due to the pending lawsuit; Judge Granger was not a happy camper.

San Francisco Daily Call - 27 Jan 1883

### He is Arrested upon Three Charges of Felony, and given Bail

"Charles D. Bunker, Commissioner of Immigration was arrested last evening (2 Feb) by detective Meagher, and officers Silvey and Bingle upon three warrants issued out of the Police Court on complaints charging him with felony and sworn to by John E. Burris, whose office is at No. 12 Stock Exchange Building."

Charles was charged with collecting \$14,000 over and above his \$4,000 salary, transfer and disbursement of the said sum and placed money out of his possession with C.F. Bassett & Co. a commercial house, doing business in San Francisco.

A second similar complaint charged him with collecting \$4,000 over and above his salary and depositing it with H.C. Bunker while a third complaint charged him with appropriation of (\$4,000) public money. Charles posted \$15,000 bond.

San Francisco Daily Call – 3 Feb 1883

### C.D. Bunker Preliminary Examination in the Police Court

### He Denies the Controller's Right to Demand an Accounting, and says he is the Custodian of the Funds – Held to Answer

The examination continued in Department 1 of the Police Court in front of Judge Webb. Council for the accused admitted all the preliminary facts regarding C.D. Bunker appointment, filing of bonds, entrance to duties and gross receipts, but objected to the Controller's accusation on grounds of irrelevance and denied he owed monies to the state; it was held in abeyance. There was further discussion between the DA and council regarding the amount of bail.

Charged with wrongful deposits of \$14,000 with C.F. Bassett & Co. and \$4,000 with his brother, council indicated the monies were ready to respond to "as soon as he knows to whom to respond. Why is he guilty then?" The money was deposited with responsible friends; there is no law against that. Bunker was accused of using public money to purchase real estate; council asked how embezzlement could be proved by purchasing land, oranges or anything else? Mrs. Eliza J. Wardell was called to prove the purchase of property on Jessie street but said she only executed a quit claim deed. Mr. Burris claimed he overheard Bunker say he purchased the property with money he received and held as commissioner; Bunker said it was his money.

The court held the defendant and the Judge fixed bail at \$10,000 and on the three other charges at \$5,000 each; bail was at once supplied.

San Francisco Daily Call – 16 Feb 1883

### **Bunker Brings Another Suit**

Back in court less than two weeks later, Bunker charged the Pacific Mail Steamship Company owners of refusing to pay the immigration fees on two occasions. On 17 November 1882, the *Colombia* entered port with eight passengers taken on board at Panama and refused to pay the seventy cents per person (\$5.60). A further complaint stated the steamship *City of Rio de Janeiro* arrived on 31 October 1881, also with eight passengers from Panama and refused to pay the similar fee. Such refusal of payment is punishable by a \$500 fine for each passenger. Bunker asked for judgment in both instances of \$8,000. The court decision is unknown.

> San Francisco Daily Call – 28 Feb 1883 Submitted by Ann Wieser, Pacific Grove, CA

### The 1916 "Sacramento" Case

Philip H. Thayer, president of the Northern and Southern Pacific Steamship Company, Joseph L. Bley and Customs Broker C.D. Bunker were accused and/or indicted for their San Francisco roles in neutrality violations. The case probably involves selling fuel (coal) to ships of nations the U.S. Government had censured. *Grand Rapids Press* (MI) – 24 Feb 1916 Previously published BunBan p.2028 (Feb 2014)

Ed. NOTE: Could C.D. Bunker be one and the same as the Immigration Commissioner, in 1883? Ann Wieser of Pacific Grove believes it is so, and I concur. *gb* N-348 CHARLES DIMMOCK<sup>9</sup> b 27 Dec 1855 San Francisco, CA; d 31 Aug 1926 San Francisco; m San Francisco EFFIE DEAN EATON b 19 Jul 1856 Marysville, CA, d 7 Sep 1914 Burlingame, CA; 1 issue: Katherine<sup>10</sup>, b 4 May 1883 San Francisco, d 1956 SFCA.

N-347 HENRY CHASE<sup>9</sup> b 15 Jun 1850 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; d 2 May 1924 San Francisco; m 3 Mar 1873 San Francisco SARAH JOSEPHINE MAYO, b 2 Feb1853 Chelsea, MA, d 5 Dec 1927 San Francisco; 3 issue: I. Henry Mayo<sup>10</sup> (Mayo Bunker, an artist; see *Bunker Banner* p.1430, Aug 2004); N-406 Richard Bassett<sup>10</sup>; N-407 Herbert Harding<sup>10</sup>. SOURCE: 1965 BunGen p.121 & 134

## Here's a Mystery for You

The New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association focuses mainly on the preservation and care of virtually thousands of old private family burial places that dot the Granite State landscape, many hidden and forgotten in the states woodlands and forests. These, as opposed to the myriad of municipal government cared-for cemeteries where the majority of the states' dead are interred today.

A workshop to train people to restore and care for these burial grounds is a service we offer as an organization. Sometimes we conduct workshops for municipalities by invitation only.

But here's a mystery. In the Town of Meredith, on the corner of Meredith Center Road & Chemung Road, there is a carefully manicured plot of mowed grass, surrounded by a handsome stone wall and a clutch of pine, maple trees. It looks like a perfect place to lay down a blanket with a basket of fruit and bottle of wine and have a picnic with one's significant other.

What is this, an old cellar hole, maintained by neighbors because the spot is so handsome? Is it a plot of land where someday a family plans to bury loved ones as in old days?

No one we've talked to knows about the family ties to this spot, but everyone agrees this is indeed a graveyard, and not an empty one at that.

The late Meredith Historian Harold Wyatt told me there were once headstones and a large monument here, old ones, but they were moved to the Meredith Village 2370

Cemetery eight miles away maybe 50 or 60 years ago, but the remains were left behind and are still here.

There was a problem with vandals, Wyatt said, despite the area being relatively open and exposed to the community, as it sits beside a main road and near several houses. Short of money, the relatives were evidently able to buy a burial plot in Meredith Village in which to move the markers, but not enough to disinter and transfer the remains.

Thus the bones buried here rest in peace, and in a place well cared for, nameless to many, at least for now.

Dean Dexter Pres. NHOGA dd@deandexter.com

## **Dover Branch** Elbridge Gerry Bunker, D-138-I

Benaiah Bunker (D-138) and his wife, Dorcus Pung Bunker had ten children. They named one of the Elbridge Gerry Bunker. Elbridge was born 25 Dec 1812, Cranberry Isles. He died 3 July 1832. We don't know anything about Elbridge Gerry Bunker except his name and dates of his birth and death, so why did his parents name him Elbridge Gerry?

Elbridge Gerry was the governor of Massachusetts in 1812 and vice president of the United States in 1813. He must have been known to Benaiah and Dorcus, but there is more. Elbridge Gerry was a representative at the Constitutional Convention to write the constitution of the merging United States. He was also, one of the only three representatives who refused to sign it. He refused because there was nothing in the Constitution to protect the rights of individuals. He also opposed the compromise with the southern colonies to count the slaves as 3/5 of a person. He was against slavery but even more against counting someone as a citizen and not letting them vote. There is no evidence, however, that he opposed counting women and excluding them from voting. After the passage of the Constitution he worked diligently to add the Bill of Rights giving individuals the rights he felt they ought to have.

Elbridge Gerry felt there should be civilian control of the military and advocated the 2nd Amendment that states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a Free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." He felt that a large army controlled by the federal government was detrimental and wanted to keep the army more like today's National Guard. This amendment has since been interpreted to mean anyone, anywhere, anytime and anyplace can own and carry a gun. This is not what Gerry meant when he helped to write it and get it passed.

He also advocated for two senators from each state while the House of Representatives would have members proportionate to the state's population. He felt that there should be limited central government with most rights granted to the states.

Elbridge Gerry was a trader with ships going to Spain and the West Indies out of the Marblehead, MA, port. It is likely Benaiah Bunker, as a ship's captain, docked at that port and may have carried goods for Gerry. During the Revolutionary War, the American colonies did not have a Navy and many private ship owners were given permission to act as privateers. If they captured an enemy ship, they could keep part of its value after sailing it to an American port. Gerry financed many privateers and Benaiah Bunker may be one of them.

There is no doubt that Benaiah Bunker knew who Elbridge Gerry was and what he stood for. While this tells us nothing about Benaiah's son, it does tell us a lot about Benaiah. The Cranberry Isles Bunkers were known for their independence and their patriotism. They were also known for their feistiness. Benaiah served with Capt. John O. Hotchkiss of the Massachusetts Militia during the War of 1812. His brother, Joseph, was a ship's captain and his brother, Thomas, had his vessel taken by the British in 1812. Patriots all. *Bette - 24 Sep 2019* 

## FGS and NGS Merge

Today is a landmark day in the history of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. We are excited to tell you that this morning, at our national conference in Washington D. C., we announced our intent to merge with the National Genealogical Society.

The Federation was formed in 1976 in order to provide support to genealogical and historical societies. Key objectives during the past four decades have been to:

- promote the study of genealogy,
- stimulate activities of state / local organizations,
- provide resources that enable genealogical
- organizations to succeed in pursuing their missions,
- advocate for the preservation of records.

The intended merger with NGS will enhance our ability to support societies and offer services that will help strengthen them and help them to adapt and thrive in a rapidly changing, technology-driven, volunteerchallenged environment. - 21 Aug 2019 (*BFA membership stretches from the early eighties*). gb 2371

#### HISTORY OF THE BUNKER FAMILY cont.

John<sup>6</sup> Bunker <sup>D-179</sup> borne 1810 13 of Dec. at Sedgwick, Maine went to academy at age of 18 or 19, near Charleston and married Roxinda Chandler; had three children Alonzo<sup>7, D-407</sup>, Theodore<sup>7, D-408</sup> and a babe  $Charley^7$  (who died) Mrs. Bunker died about 1838 Grandfather (John<sup>6</sup> Bunker) married for second wife Marion Abrams after 8 or 9 years he went to California by way of Cape Horn. In partnership with a company-arrived in San Francisco May 1, 1850. Business in Sacramento for two years was selling ship supplies then went East by way of Isthmus of Panama. He and Theodore came back to the city by way of Isthmus in 1868. Landed in San Francisco, went to Sacramento then both went Folsom, spent two years mining. Then went over to Nevada. Grandfather while at Folsom worked at carpentring and after at mining.

Father went over to Carson 1869, in a few month grand-father followed him. Grand-father sent for his family, He met them in San Francisco. At the same time father left San Francisco for Ill. To get married. Before this father had spent two summers in Idaho, Becoming acquainted with one W. W. Wood, a miner, whose sister Clara he married.

Grandfather (John<sup>6</sup> Bunker) second family consisted of Jake Jacob<sup>7, D-409</sup>, Edwin<sup>7</sup>, Etta Henriette<sup>7</sup> & Lizzie<sup>7</sup>.

Jake came out with his mother lived on a ranch a mile from Carson. Grandfather was one of the supervisors of that place. Came to Placerville in the spring of 69. He was east in 69 and brought the remainder of his family back with him. Placerville was his home up till the time of his death 1896.

Theodore's<sup>7, D-408</sup> family consists of Frank F. Bunker<sup>8, D-683</sup>, Miss Bertha A.<sup>8</sup> and Miss Dora S.<sup>8</sup>. Theodora Lydia<sup>8</sup> he is dead.

Frank F.<sup>8</sup> Bunker for J. E. Steel

Submitted by John Snyder, Summersville, WV – 22 Jul 2019 www.etsy.com/shop/ShadyGroveFarmWV

## **Bunker Bard**

SNOWMAN Snowman, frosty snowman, you look so big and strong, but you'll be just a puddle when April comes along.

#### WINGS

Green katydids and bumble bees and moths and butterflies, do not have need for pogo-sticks to leap into the skies.

They merely spread their silvery wings and zoom! They're in the air. The sky's their limit, I suppose. Why Not? Why should they care?

When I am grown, if I can have a choice of several things, I'll take either a jet plane, or a pair of eagle wings.

The Nature of Things

-Ruth Bunker Christiansen 1905-2003 (D-761-III)

## In Memory Of

### MARGARET *BOUTWELL* KOLAYA 1947-2016

The Bunker Family Association regrets to report the loss of Life Member Margaret Kolaya, on 1 Dec 2016. Her *Bunker Banner* was returned marked "Unable to Forward;" subsequent research led to the untimely discovery of her demise.

"Meg" age 69 was a librarian who earned a B.A. degree at Bucknell and master's degree at Rutgers, in 1979. Director of several libraries, she is noted for the development of the award-winning, national movement of "Libraries and Autism: We're Connected." www.librariesandautism.org

Burial at Hillside Cemetery, South Plains, NJ

Historian NOTE: Meg<sup>11</sup> is the daughter of Harvey Bunker<sup>10</sup> Boutwell and Margaret Hindinger. Harvey is son of Harley Boutwell and Helen Louise<sup>9</sup> Bunker. Helen is the daughter of George Rogers<sup>8</sup> Bunker (D-525) and Nellie Emerson.

SOURCE: 1982 BunGen p.224

*Bette – 1 Sep 2019*