

*Ver Nelle Fidler*  
*4432 Leddy Drive*  
*Midland, TX 79703*

March 21, 2016

Mr. Loyd Luginbuel  
Luginbuel Funeral Home  
PO Box 193  
Prairie Grove, AR 72753

Dear Mr. Luginbuel,

My son Bill Fidler and I were in Prairie Grove last Saturday for the funeral of Daisy Cunningham. We visited with you after the funeral to get some information to help us find some of the graves of the Cunningham families and the Fidler families since we are related to a lot of them.

I told you I had some information about the genealogy of the Cunningham family. I have attached some information that Tennie Marie Fidler, my husband's mother had given to us and I had typed up. I am also enclosing a copy of The Name and Family of Cunningham Manuscript which was dated in 1984. I don't know how much you can glean from this information but hope it will help you.

Beth Phillips, who is the daughter of Joe Dan Fidler (oldest son of Tennie Marie Fidler), is working on the genealogy of the Cunningham and Fidler families. I have given her your name and address and asked her to send you, and me a copy of the information when she is finished. My husband, Denny Dean Fidler, youngest son of Tennie Marie Fidler, died in Midland, TX on January 12, 2015.

Thank you again for your help.

Yours truly,



Ver Nelle Fidler

vnf  
enclosures

Tennie Marie Cunningham born June 17, 1906. Married Floyd Vernon Fidler September 9, 1926 at Cane Hill AR.

Tennie Marie Cunningham Fidler had two sons ... Joe Dan Fidler, born September 13, 1929 in Prairie Grove, AR and Denny Dean Fidler, born December 27, 1930, in Tulsa, OK.

Joe Dan Fidler married Frances Aline Graham and had two daughters, Frances Elizabeth Fidler, born May 22, 1950, in Oklahoma City, OK and Mary Catherine Fidler, born May 19, 1955, in Duncan, OK.

Denny Dean Fidler married Ver Nelle Sanders on December 26, 1951. They have two children, William Arnold Fidler, born February 2, 1961, in Stillwater, OK and Karen Sue Fidler, born May 28, 1962, in Liberal, KS

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**BIRTHS**

- W. M. Cunningham born June 7, 1879
- Belle Cunningham born January 31, 1882
- Marland Cunningham born August 6, 1901
- Gladys Thelma Cunningham born March 8, 1903
- Tennie Marie Cunningham born June 17, 1906
- James Robert Cunningham born November 26, 1913
- Frances Katherine Cunningham born July 29, 1917
- William Warren Cunningham born March 19, 1921
- Betty Jo Cunningham born September 23, 1924

*Children of W.M. & Belle*

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**MARRIAGES**

- W. M. Cunningham married Belle Henson October 21, 1899 at Hunsville, AR, Carroll County. Book B, page 267, Carroll County
- Gladys Cunningham married Joe Tilley March 30, 1923
- Marie Cunningham married Floyd Vernon Fidler September 8, 1926
- Frances Cunningham married Paul Young February 28, 1937
- William Warren Cunningham married Daisy Elizabeth Wright May 30, 1940
- Betty Jo Cunningham married Harry Collier May 23, 1942

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**DEATHS**

- William Moses Cunningham died July 2, 1945, 11:30 p.m. at Prairie Grove, AR Buried Sunday, July 8, 1945 at 3:30 p.m.
- Marland Cunningham died August 28, 1901
- Fannie Belle Cunningham dies March 12, 1952
- Grandma Cunningham died August 23, 1915
- Grandad Cunningham, J.C. died April 18, 1920

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Marie Fidler baptized October 3, 1927 in the Cumberland

THE NAME AND FAMILY  
OF  
CUNNINGHAM

Manuscript Number: 669

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## THE NAME AND FAMILY OF CUNNINGHAM

The surname CUNNINGHAM was originally derived from the residence of its first bearers at Konigham (the ancient form of the name), a district in Ayrshire, Scotland. Konigham or Cunningham is a compound Teutonic or Old English word, meaning "the king's house or dwelling-place, the royal manor." According to some writers, the name has a separate Celtic origin, being derived in these instances from the Irish personal or baptismal name of Cunaghan, meaning "the hound, or warrior, of the battles." There have been a number of variant spellings of the name, among them Cuningham, Cunyngham, Cunyngham, Cunynghame, Cunninghame, Cunynghame, Coningham, Conynghame, Conyngham, Coningham, and Cunningham. Of these, the last is the form most frequently in evidence in America in modern times.

The most authoritative accounts of the family state that the first Cunningham in Scotland was one Warnebald, who went from the North of England early in the twelfth century and settled as a vassal to Hugh de Moreville, Lord High Constable of Scotland. From Moreville, who died in 1162, this Warnebald (sometimes called Weinebald) obtained the Manor of Cunningham, in Ayrshire, Scotland; and he assumed as his surname the name of the manor.

Robert, son of Warnebald, succeeded to the Manor of Cunningham, in the Parish of Kilmaurs, Ayrshire. He married Rescinda, daughter and heir to Sir Humphrey de Barclay, and had issue by her of Robert de Cunningham, who left three sons, Robert, William, and Sir James. According to some writers, the eldest of the last-mentioned brothers was the father of Hervey Cunningham, who served at the Battle of Largs under Alexander III of Scotland. Others maintain that the second Robert of this line had, besides the three sons named, a son called Stephen, who was the father of Richard, father of Fergus Cunningham, who is called the father of that Hervey who served under

Alexander III. In any event, Hervey was the father of William and Galfridus, of whom the latter was the progenitor of the Cunninghams of Glengarnock, Scotland. The last-mentioned William was either the father or the brother of Edward Cunningham, of Kilmaurs, who died before 1290, leaving at least two sons, Gilbert or Gilmore and Richard. The elder of the last-mentioned brothers was the father of three sons, Sir Robert, Sir James, and Donald.

Sir Robert Cunningham, eldest son of Gilbert or Gilmore, succeeded to the lands in Kilmaurs, Ayrshire. He had two sons, Sir William and Andrew, of whom the younger was the progenitor of families of the name at Drumquassel, Ballindalloch, Balbougie, Banton, etc. Sir William, the elder of the last-mentioned brothers, had three sons, Robert, Sir William, and Thomas, by a first wife, whose name is not known. His second wife was Eleanor Bruce, Countess of Carrick, in whose right he was created Earl of Carrick. Of the three sons of Sir William, Robert died without issue; Thomas was the progenitor of the Cunninghams of Caprington, who will be mentioned again; and Sir William succeeded to the Kilmaurs estates. He also held lands in Lambrachtoun, Kilbryde, Skelmurly, and Palquherne, in Ayrshire, in the County of Edinburgh, in Roxburgh, in Forfarshire, and in the Barony of Renfrew, Scotland. He married Margaret, daughter and coheir of Sir Robert de Danyelston, and died in 1418, leaving three sons, Sir Robert, William, and Henry. Of these, Sir Robert married Anne, daughter of Sir John de Montgomery, in 1425 and had two sons, Alexander and Archibald, of whom the former was created a lord of Parliament, by the title of Lord of Kilmaurs, about the year 1430.

Alexander Cunningham, Lord of Kilmaurs, was advanced to the dignity of Earl of Glencairn in 1488. He married Margaret, daughter of Adam Hepburn, Lord of Hales, and had four sons, Robert, William, Alexander, and Edward, of whom the second was the progenitor of the Cunninghams of Craighends, Robertland, Carncuren, Bedlan, Auchenhavy, and Auchenyards.

Robert Cunningham, second Earl of Glencairn, married Christian, daughter of John, first Lord Lindsay, of Byres, before 1476 and had issue by her of at least one son, named Cuthbert, who married Lady Marjory Douglas, daughter

of Archibald, fifth Earl of Angus. To this union was born a son named William, who was appointed High Treasurer of Scotland in 1526. By his wife Margaret or Elizabeth, daughter and heir to John Campbell, of West Loudoun, William was the father of Alexander (fifth Earl of Glencairn), Andrew, Hugh, Robert, William, and Elizabeth. Of the younger sons, Andrew was the progenitor of the Cunninghams of Corshill, Baronets; Hugh was the progenitor of the Cunninghams of Carlung; Robert, a minister at the priory of Fell, Ayrshire, was the progenitor of the Cunninghams of Montgrenan; while William became Bishop of Argyll and probably died unmarried.

Alexander Cunningham, fifth Earl of Glencairn, first married Lady Johanna Hamilton, daughter of James, first Earl of Arran, and had issue by her of William, Andrew, and Margaret. By his second wife, Janet, daughter of Sir John Cunningham, of Caprington, he had two children, Alexander and Janet. William, the elder son of the first union, became sixth Earl of Glencairn. He married Janet Gordon and had issue by her of James (seventh Earl of Glencairn), John, Jean, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Susanna. Of these, John was the progenitor of the Cunninghams of Dumbartonshire, Scotland.

James Cunningham, seventh Earl of Glencairn, married Mariot or Margaret, daughter of Sir Colin Campbell, of Glenurchy, and had issue by her of William (eighth Earl of Glencairn), John, Jean, Catherine, Margaret, Anne, Mary, and Susanna. Of these, William married Lady Janet Ker, daughter of Mark, first Earl of Lothian. He died in 1631, leaving eight children, William (ninth Earl of Glencairn), Robert, Alexander, Elizabeth, Jean, Margaret, Marion, and Anne. William, the eldest of the last-mentioned brothers, married Lady Anne Ogilvy, daughter of James, first Earl of Findlater, and had issue by her of William (died early), James (died early), Alexander (tenth Earl of Glencairn), John (eleventh Earl of Glencairn), Jean, Margaret, Anne, and Elizabeth.

John Cunningham, eleventh Earl of Glencairn, left issue by his wife, Lady Jean Erskine, daughter of John, ninth Earl of Marr, to whom he was married in 1673, of an only son, named William, who became twelfth Earl of Glencairn. In 1704 he married Lady Henrietta Stewart, daughter

of Alexander, third Earl of Galloway. Their children were John (died early), William (thirteenth Earl), another John, James (died in infancy), Malcolm Fleming, Alexander, Charles, another James, Margaret, Henriette, Mary, and Catherine.

James Cunningham, the fourteenth Earl of Glencairn (1749-1791), was a patron of Robert Burns, who wrote of him:

The mother may forget the child  
That smiles sae sweetly on her knee,  
But I'll remember thee, Glencairn,  
And a' that thou hast done for me.

At the decease, in 1796, of John, fifteenth Earl of Glencairn, brother of the fourteenth Earl, this famous line of Cunninghams became extinct.

Thomas Cunningham, before-mentioned younger son of Sir William of Kilmaurs, settled at Caprington and left issue there of a son named Adam, who married a daughter of Duncan Wallace, of Sundrum, and had issue by her of Sir Adam Cunningham, who married Isabel, daughter of Malcolm Crawford. To this union was born at least one son, named John, who was the father by his wife Annabella, daughter of Sir Matthew Campbell, of Loudoun, Sheriff of Ayr, of a son named William. This son, heir to the Caprington estates, also held lands at Broomhill, Byrehill, Spittlefide, Bourtree, Muling, etc., Scotland. He married a daughter of Sir William Hamilton, of Sanquhar, and had three sons, William, John, and Hugh, of whom the first married Agnes, daughter of Sir Hugh Campbell, of Loudoun, and had a son, Sir William Cunningham, of Caprington, who died without progeny. The estates then devolved upon the descendants of John, younger son of that William who married the daughter of Sir William Hamilton, of Sanquhar.

The Cunninghams of Fife, Scotland, also trace descent from the ancient Kilmaurs line, through Sir James Cunningham, second son of Gilbert Cunningham, of Kilmaurs. Sir James was the father of Nigel Cunningham, of Barns, County Fife, in the year 1377. Also of this line were Archibald Cunningham, of West Barns, about 1390; John Cunningham, of West Barns, in 1505; William Cunningham, of West Barns,

before 1560, who had a son named Alexander; John Cunningham, of West Barns, before 1590; and Alexander Cunningham, of Barns, in 1616, who had a son named Allan. The last married Helen Lawmonth and had a son named John and probably another, named Alexander. The latter married Helen Myrton before 1630 and had a son named John, who married Margaret Mercer and was the father of at least one son, named Lawrence.

The families of Cunningham in Scotland early became numerous. For several centuries they were prominently engaged in the feuds and religious disputes attendant upon the Reformation in Scotland.

It is stated that the first Cunningham to migrate from Ayrshire to Ireland settled in County Down in the latter half of the seventeenth century. According to tradition, both he and his son, Thomas Cunningham, were at the Battle of the Boyne, in 1690.

Sir Albert Cunningham, who is called a younger son of William, fourth Earl of Glencairn, was appointed Lieutenant General of the Ordnance in the Kingdom of Ireland in 1660. He married a daughter of Dr. Robert Leslie, Bishop of Raphoe, and had issue by her of nine children, Charles (died young), Henry, Alexander, Arthur, Albert, James, Catharine, Margaret, and Mary. Of these, Henry succeeded his father in his Irish estates. He married Mary, daughter of Sir John Williams, Baronet, of Carmarthenshire, Wales; and had issue by her of six children, Albert (died young), Williams, Henry, Susanna, Margaret, and Mary. Of these, Williams Conyngham, of Slane, County Meath, and of Mount Charles, County Donegal, Ireland, was succeeded in his estates by his brother Henry, whose descendants are numerous in Ireland. One branch of his family also held lands in the County of Kent, England.

Another Irish family of the name traces its descent from Rodger or Roady O'Cunnivane, a descendant of Cunaghan, who was fifth in descent from Niall of the Nine Hostages, one hundred and twenty-sixth Monarch of Ireland, in the Milesian line of Heremon. Rodger was born in 1680 and had a son named Timothy, who was the father of Darby, father of Michael, who had a son named Thomas. The last was the father of Michael Cunningham, of Ennis, County Clare, whose descendants were numerous in the vicinity of Dublin.

Outstanding in the history of the British Isles, where they ranked among the nobility and the landed gentry, the Cunninghams have won renown in America as well. Members of the family were among the early settlers in this country, but it is now difficult or impossible in most cases to determine from which of the several lines of the name in Great Britain the immigrant ancestors were descended.

Among the earliest settlers of the name in America were those who came in the seventeenth century to the South. These settlers included William Cunningham, who embarked at Gravesend, England, in 1635, for Virginia; William Cunningham, of James City County, Va., in 1636 (possibly the same as the preceding); Jonathan or John Cunningham, of Charles City County, Va., in 1637; Nehemiah Cunningham, of Accomac County, Va., in 1641; William Cunningham, of Gloucester County, Va., in 1655; Daniel Cunningham, of Calvert County, Md., in 1670; Darby Cunningham, of Calvert County, Md., before 1670; and John Cunningham, a native of Glasgow, Scotland, who died in Maryland in 1676. The will of the last mentions his brother William, his nephew Daniel Cunningham, and his sister Agnes, but no children. Although the records of these early settlers are incomplete, it is possible that the descendants of the early immigrants to Maryland included John Cunningham, of Anne Arundel County, Md., in 1717; John Cunningham, of Kent County, Md., in 1723; and William and John Cunningham or Cunningham, of Charles County, Md., before 1750.

One of the first of the name in New England was John Cunningham, who came over in 1680 and made his home at Charlestown, Mass. His records are not complete, but it seems probable that he had no children.

Andrew Cunningham, a native of Scotland, appears in the records of Boston, Mass., as early as 1684, as treasurer of the Scots Charitable Society of Boston and as supervisor of the windows of public buildings and churches. By his wife Sarah, he was the father of nine children, Sarah (died young), Andrew (died young), Elizabeth, another Andrew, William, David, James, another Sarah, and John. Of these, William was married in 1716 to Elizabeth Wheeler, by whom he had issue at Boston of ten children, William (died young), James, another William, Elizabeth (died

young), Benjamin (died young), John, another Elizabeth, Sarah, another Benjamin, and Abigail.

James, the eldest surviving son of William and Elizabeth (née Wheeler), was married in 1742 to Elizabeth Boylston. His children, born at Boston, were William, Ann Boylston, James, Peter, Susannah, Elizabeth, Benjamin, and Andrew. Of these, Andrew was married in 1783 to Polly Lewis, of Dedham, Mass. His children were Joseph Lewis, Andrew, John Adams, Charles, Lucretia, Mary, Sally Lewis, James, Francis, and Ann Boylston Cunningham.

Patrick Cunningham, an immigrant from Scotland, died at Springfield, Mass., in 1685, but nothing is known of his immediate family or descendants.

Thomas Cuninghame, who was born in 1706, evidently at Townsend, Mass., although his place of birth is not certain, removed at an early date to Peterborough, N.H. By his first wife, Elizabeth, he was the father of John, William, James, Samuel, Elizabeth, and Mary. By his second wife, Elizabeth Creighton, he had at least two children, Moses and Thomas. Of his sons, John, William, and Thomas removed to Maine; James married Mary Nay or McNee before 1771 and had issue at Peterborough of Sarah, Thomas, William, James, Samuel (removed to Maine), Elizabeth, Robert (settled in Canada), and John Cuninghame; Samuel married Susan M. Carter, of Hollis, before 1778 and had issue by her at Peterborough, N.H., of Susanna, Thomas (of Belfast, Me.), Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah M., Rachel, Jane, Samuel (of Bucksport, Me.), William (of Montville, Me.), and James Cuninghame; and Moses married Elizabeth Miller, but the names of his progeny are not available.

Robert Cunningham, who was born in Ireland in 1677, came to America in 1717 and settled at Boston, Mass. He had four sons, John, Hugh, Robert, and James, all of whom came over with him and later removed with him to Spencer, Mass.

John, eldest son of the immigrant John, married Ann Sinclair in 1739 and had issue by her of six sons, Robert, John, Jonathan, David, Nathaniel, and William. Of these, Robert married Martha Blair, of Warren, before 1765 and had issue at Spencer, Mass., of Ann, Elizabeth, Simeon

(removed to Marlborough, Mass.), Reuben, Jonathan (of Leicester, Mass.), Sarah, Susannah, Nathaniel, Robert, and John.

Hugh, son of the immigrant Robert of Boston and Spencer, Mass., was the father of at least one son, named Nathaniel, who married Sarah Henderson, of Rutland, in 1707. To this union were born Sally, Betsey, Nathaniel, Clarissa, Joseph, James, David, Patty, Sophia, Lewis, and Augusta Elvira.

James Cunningham, probably of Irish descent, settled in 1718 at East Donegal, Pa. He became prominent in Lancaster County, Pa., and left issue there of at least three sons, John, Robert, and Samuel J. Cunningham.

Samuel Cunningham, possibly son of the immigrant James, was an early settler at Mt. Joy, Lancaster County, Pa. He may have been born in Ireland, but was living in Pennsylvania before 1747. By his wife Jean or Janet, he was the father of Robert, Samuel, Sarah, Martha, and James.

In 1729 David Cunningham, second son of Sir John Cunningham, of Robertland, Scotland, came to America and settled in Virginia or Maryland. However, he seems to have disappeared prior to the year 1751.

A John Cunningham, of English descent, is said to have removed from New York to Newcastle, Me., about the year 1733. By his wife, Sarah Ballentine, he was the father of John Jr., Isaac, Thomas, Elizabeth, Alexander (of Wiscasset, Me.), Margaret, William (died young), James (died young), Sarah, Samuel, and Jane.

John Cunningham, who was born in 1728, possibly in Virginia, although it is more probable that he was an immigrant from Ireland, was living in Augusta County, Va., before 1776. By his wife, Sara Davis, he was the father of three daughters, Margaret, Isabella, and Elizabeth, and one son, Captain Walter Cunningham, who removed in 1788 to Kentucky.

Robert Cunningham, who is sometimes said to have been a brother of the last-mentioned John, came from the North of Ireland to Augusta County, Va., in 1735. He married the

Widow Hamilton and had issue by her of two daughters, Martha and Margaret, but left no male progeny.

James Cunningham, a native of County Derry, Ireland, came to America in 1737 and settled at Rutland, Me. He had a wife named Mary, but the names of his progeny are not available.

George Cunningham, who was born in 1738 (parentage unknown), settled at an early date at Goffstown, N.H. By his wife Martha, he was the father of Alexander, James, Robert McCalley, George Jr. (died in infancy), another George, Anna, Mary, Martha, Betsey, Sarah, and Samuel Foster Cunningham, of Goffstown and Dunbarton, N.H.

Thomas Cunningham, who was born in Ireland about 1717, came to America about 1740 and settled in Frederick County, Va., where he died in 1761. He had five children, John, Thomas, Mary, Margaret, and Sarah. Of these, John married Elizabeth Brown in 1773 and had issue in Frederick County, Va., of four sons, Nicholas, Thomas, John, and Charles. The first of the last-mentioned brothers removed to Pennsylvania in 1795, and in 1803 he removed with his family to Ross County, Ohio. Some of his descendants settled in Illinois.

Three pioneer brothers, John, James, and William Cunningham are said to have located about 1753 in Highland County, Va., having come to this country before 1741 from Dublin, Ireland. Of these, James was the father of at least one son, William Cunningham, of Randolph County, W. Va.

John Cunningham, who came from the North of Ireland about the year 1748, was accompanied to this country by his wife Elizabeth and three sons, Paul, Francis, and Robert. Of these brothers, Paul settled in South Carolina, in Hawkins County, N.C., and, finally, in Knox County, Tenn., and was the father of eleven children, including John, Robert, Paul, Elizabeth, Nancy, James, Alexander, Sarah Ann, and Jean; Francis settled in the Abbeville District, S.C., and was the father by his first wife, whose name is not certain, of John (removed to Louisiana), James (removed to Louisiana), Betty, and Mary, while his second wife, Mary, daughter of Andrew Cunningham, to whom he was

married in 1785, gave him seven children, Isabella, Andrew, Margaret, Rachel, Agnes, Frances, and Robert; and Robert was married in 1768 to Martha Watts, of Chester County, Pa., by whom he was the father of John, Elizabeth, Susan, David, James, and Robert Cunningham, chiefly of Adams County, Pa.

Garwood Cunningham, of Scotch-Irish descent, came to Woodbury, Conn., before 1750. He married Mary Hinman and was the father by her of Garwood H. Cunningham, who removed in the early nineteenth century to New York and was the father by his wife, Sarah Hawkins, of Derby, Conn., of Garwood, Joseph H., George, Walter, Sarah Augusta, Horace, Maria, and Frederick.

Hugh and Robert Cunningham, natives of Mayo County, Ireland, came to America in 1754 and settled in Fairfax and Culpepper Counties, Va. Hugh brought with him at least eight sons, Adam, Ephraim, Benjamin, Joseph, William, Walter, Edward, and Thomas, and, possibly, another named John (most of these brothers resided in West Virginia); and Robert may also have left descendants, but his records are not complete.

William Cunningham, a nephew of the immigrants last mentioned, came from Ireland to America in the latter half of the eighteenth century and settled in West Virginia. He left issue by his wife, Susanna Barbara Handyshel, of Elijah, James, William Jr., John, Isaac, Henry, Leah, Lyda, Susan, and Barbara.

Three brothers, John, Richard, and Michael Cunningham (all born in Roscommon, Ireland), came to America in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Probably they, like many of the other immigrant Ulster Scotchmen, were bound for some part of Pennsylvania, but they suffered shipwreck and landed at Halifax. In 1785 Richard obtained a large grant of land at Antigonish Harbor, Nova Scotia, and established there a plantation. Of this branch of the family there has been a numerous descent, and at the present time there are many Cunninghams of this line in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and the New England States.

One family of the name was early resident in Rock-bridge County. Of this line were Jacob Cunningham, who died in 1759, leaving at least one son, named James; James

(possibly son of the preceding), who left issue by his wife Margaret of Moses, Jacob, James (married before 1776), Isaac, John, Mary, and Elizabeth; Isaac Cunningham, who died before 1760, leaving a son named John; and Hugh Cunningham, who died in 1772, leaving issue by his wife Sarah of John and Isabel.

Redmond Conyngham, of Letterkenny, Ireland, came to Philadelphia, Pa., before 1760. His son, David Hayfield Conyngham, married Mary West before 1780 and had issue by her of at least one son, named Redmond.

Roger Cunningham, who was living in York County, Pa., before 1760, removed in 1775 to North Carolina. By his wife, Mary Sturgeon, he had six children, Robert, William, James, Nelly, Mary, and Margaret. Of these, Robert was the progenitor of families of the name in Alabama, South Carolina, and Georgia.

In 1769 Robert Cunningham, who was born in Ireland in 1739, settled in the Abbeville District, S.C. However, the records of his immediate family are not available.

Sometime before 1800 Hugh Cunningham, of Scotland, came to America and settled at North Brookfield, Mass. His nephew, also named Hugh, joined him in America and later removed to New York State, but the records of this line are also incomplete.

There have been, among the descendants of this family, eminent educators, jurists, publishers, scientists, authors, clergymen, and financiers. Among the dominant traits of the family as a whole, which seem in many cases to recur from generation to generation, may be mentioned intellectual capacity, liberality of thought, love of freedom and adventure, courage combined sometimes with pugacity, perseverance, and physical and moral stamina.

During the Revolutionary War the Cunninghams took a leading part in the colonial fight for liberty. Among the numerous bearers of the name who served as officers were Lieutenant Arthur Cunningham, of South Carolina; Lieutenant Cornelius and Regimental Quartermaster Henry Conyngham or Cunningham, of New York; Colonel James, Lieutenant John, Ensign Peter, Lieutenant Samuel, and Ensign William

Cunningham, of Pennsylvania; Captain Allen Cunningham, of Pennsylvania; Lieutenant James, Ensign John, Captain John, Captain Nathaniel, Lieutenant Peter, Lieutenant Robert, Captain William, Major William, and Ensign William Cunningham, of Virginia; and Captain John Cunningham, of Georgia. Innumerable others served in the ranks of the Revolutionary forces.

Peter, Alexander, James, William, John, Francis, Henry, Albert, Arthur, Charles, Thomas, Benjamin, Andrew, Samuel, Hugh, Nathaniel, Joseph, David, Isaac, and Robert are some of the masculine Christian names frequently recurrent in the annals of the family.

Of the many bearers of the name who have distinguished themselves in America in comparatively recent times, the following are considered representative:

Francis Alanson Cunningham (1804-1864), of South Carolina, lawyer, paymaster in the army, and Representative from Ohio.

John Daniel Cunningham (b. 1840), of Alabama, lawyer and jurist.

E. W. Cunningham (b. 1842), of Ohio, lawyer and jurist.

Louis Wyborn Cunningham (b. 1863), of Indiana and Colorado, judge.

Thomas F. Cunningham (b. 1864), of Connecticut and Louisiana, shipping man.

Richard Hoope Cunningham (b. 1865), of Virginia and New York, neurologist.

Arthur Cunningham (b. 1865), of Indiana, librarian.

Donnell LaFayette Cunningham (b. 1866), of Alabama and Arizona, judge.

Frank Simpson Cunningham (b. 1866), of Indiana and Illinois, merchant.

Edwin Sheddan Cunningham (b. 1868), of Tennessee, consular service.

Thomas Mayhew Cunningham (b. 1869), of Georgia, lawyer.

William Littleton Cunningham (b. 1869), of Illinois, clergyman, educator, and author.

William James Cunningham (b. 1875), of New Brunswick and New Hampshire, educator.

John Henry Cunningham (b. 1877), of Massachusetts, surgeon.

John Ferguson Cunningham (b. 1877), of Iowa and Florida, educator.

Augustine Joseph Cunningham (b. 1878), of New York, manufacturer.

Gustavus Watts Cunningham (b. 1881), of South Carolina and New York, educator and author.

Wallace McCook Cunningham (b. 1881), of Ohio, New York, California, and Florida, educator.

Bert Cunningham (b. 1883), of Illinois and North Carolina, biologist and educator.

Holly Estil Cunningham (b. 1883), of West Virginia and Ohio, author, lecturer, and educator.

William Burgess Cunningham (b. 1883), of Tennessee, clergyman.

William Francis Cunningham (b. 1885), of Wisconsin and Indiana, educator.

Charles Henry Cunningham (b. 1885), of Nebraska, Texas, and California, educator and government official.

James Dalton Cunningham (b. 1887), of Illinois, manufacturer.

Albert Benjamin Cunningham (b. 1888), of West Virginia and Texas, educator and author.

John Rood Cunningham (b. 1891), of Missouri and North Carolina, clergyman and educator.

Robert Sydney Cunningham (b. 1891), of South Carolina and Tennessee, anatomist and educator.

Eugene Cunningham (b. 1896), of Arkansas and Texas, writer.

The coat of arms anciently borne by the English family of Cunningham, founded by Warnebald in the twelfth century, which is used with slight variations by the younger branches of the family, is described in heraldic terms as follows (Burke, Encyclopaedia of Heraldry, 1844):

Arms.--"Argent, a shakefork sable."

Crest.--"A unicorn's head, couped argent, maned and horned or."

Supporters.--"Two conies (rabbits) proper."

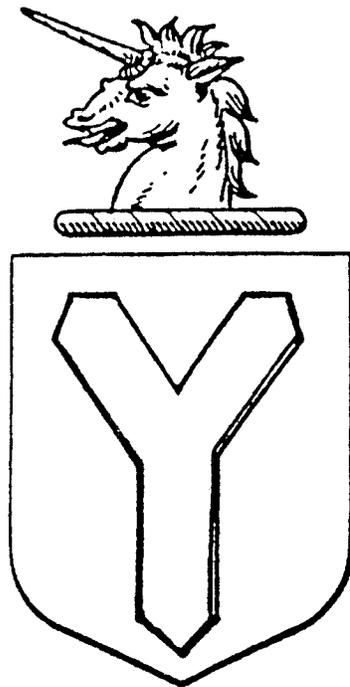
Motto.--"Over fork over."

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CUNNINGHAM

## WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, in the dark ages long preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and at the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from scarcely more than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or given name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general groups: 1) those formed from the given name of the sire; 2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; 3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and 4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as Biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for

instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Azariah the son of Nathan, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece a daughter was named after the father, as Chryseis, daughter of Chryses; and a son's name was often an enlarged form of his father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civilization, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician took several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary designations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as the Hardy, the Sterns, the Dreadful-in-Battle; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary appellations, date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. During the reign of Edward the Confessor

(1042-1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use. By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames; "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Blacke or Brown, or some Art of Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some office, as Cooke or Butler." As late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree became effective compelling Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names that they had previously used.

As stated above, family names fall into four general classes according to their origin. One of these classes comprises surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by adding a prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son (or the contraction s), ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Irish O, or the Welsh ap. Thus the sons of John became Johnsons; the sons of William, Williamsons or Wilsons; the sons of Richard, Richardsons or Richardses; the sons of Neill, MacNeills; the sons of Herbert, FitzHerberts; the sons of Reilly, O'Reillys; and the sons of Thomas ap Thomases (ap has been drop from many names of

which it was formerly a part). There are also German, Netherlandish, Scandinavian, and other European surnames of similar formation, such as the Scandinavian names ending in sen.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. A few examples of names of this type are Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames—names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were employed in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were chiefly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), found in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim Fathers illustrate place designations. Winthrop, for instance, means "of the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; and Bradford, "a broad ford". The suffixes

"ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such English names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley and Norton.

Commencing about the time of Edward the Confessor a fourth class of surnames arose -- names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (parkkeeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were a slightly later development. Carrier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonbuilder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Some surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms that have become disguised almost beyond recognition. For instance, Troublefield was originally Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, Sinnocks and Snooks were Sevenoaks, Barrowcliff and Berrycloth were Barraclough, and Strawbridge was Stourbridge. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In the United States a greater variety of family names exists

than anywhere else in the world. Surnames in every race and nation are represented. While a substantial number are of English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and Western European origin, brought to this country by scions of families that had borne these names for generations prior to immigration, many others have come from Central and Southern Europe and the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice. Some families had no fixed surname until after their arrival in America; and in other cases emigrants from Continental Europe or their descendants have translated or otherwise modified their names. These factors contribute to the difficulties encountered by students of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names -- who trace their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, or beyond, across the seas and into the mists of antiquity--may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its initial meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that the family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, the surname grew inseparably associated with the

achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms--that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle--the name itself has become a badge of family honor. It has become the "good name" to be proud of and to protect as one's most treasured possession.

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