



DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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Whit Sunday at St. Mary's, Stockport, England

What an experience! To be able to attend an age old investiture service of the Mayor of Stockport, and to realize that most likely all of the Dodges who had held the post of Mayor of Stockport also had taken part in a service like this, in this very same church, was truly a once in a life time treat for those who took part in our recent Dodge Tour.

For years, only the side door of this church was used, but the new Vicar, so vibrant and full of enthusiasm, has thrown open the big main doors on the front of the church that look out towards the Stockport Market. He makes sure that they are open on both market days so that people may drop in and see the church from the inside. Because of this new policy, the church has had many visitors from all around the world. The carpets have been pulled up and now the many colored parquet floor can be seen.

Outside the church is the burial ground for many of the parishioners of past years including, John Dodge and Hannah Dodge, of Halliday Hill. This trip, we found a third stone for another Dodge. Years ago, these stones were all taken from where they were standing in the churchyard, and laid down next to the church forming a stone area in which to walk. Evidently, someone thought that the churchyard would look much nicer if it were all grass. When the stones were pulled up, no record was kept of who was buried where.

Of course, today we cringe at the thought of wear and tear on the stones by people walking on

(Continued on page 2)

Kernels from the Colonel

by
Robert L. Dodge

Question: Can anyone tell me why the Dodge symbol used to be a Star of David?

John & Horace Dodge of the Dodge car fame created the Symbol.

Symbols of the close and lasting relationship between these two brothers are stamped into the emblem of the car they built and gave their name.

Two linked triangles - outlining a six-sided star within a circle signifying Earth - not only form the Dodge initials in Greek letters (delta) but also shape the ancient symbol for duality of body and soul, representing the joined destinies of these two brothers whose devotion and loyalty to each other began with their earliest days in Niles, Michigan, and continued throughout their lives as mechanics, inventors, auto pioneers, and ultimately wealthy manufacturers in an industry that changed the world.

WENHAM AS IT USED TO BE

Now to go back to some of the industries. As I first mentioned, John Shepley got permission to build a malt mill on what is known as Raccoon Brook which drained out of the skating rink and then into Pleasant Pond. How much of a success he made of it I do not know but a few years later, John Porter picked up the idea and evidently made a success of it. If you go down to the foot of Walnut Road, looking to Wenham Depot, turn and look upstream or to the left where the meadow appears to close in, and if you walk up there today, you will find what is the remains of White and Fairfield's sawmill. How long it operated I do not know, but there is quite a precise account in Town records of how it should be operated, as to the expense and upkeep and how they shared expenses. Up at the top of the hill was where the

so-called Magee House stood which was formerly the John Dennis homestead.

It may surprise you to know the road came down to the foot of Walnut Road to the bridge where John White lived, went on the southerly side of White's house, the southerly side of the river until it got to a point in an elbow in the brook, then turned and came across the land now owned by Dr. Scott and came out where Mrs. Ashworth's house now stands. That is back in 1694. You can hardly visualize this because it is gone and forgotten and only mentioned in a very few deeds.

John Dodge, the son of Richard the First, built a grist and sawmill on Miles River on Dodge Street below the church. You go there today, and you can see the stone work which maintains the dam where he carried a six-foot head of water. According to regulations he would put up the flashboard the first of November and had to let the water down not later than

May first, and at times he was accused by the voters of the Town at town meeting of flooding the road at Grapevine Bridge so they could not travel it. Evidently that was more usable water than at any of the other mills here in Wenham.

Living just across the brook and up on the bank at one time there was an old gentleman by the name of Knowlton. That was back when all the young people were angels but their wings had not begun to sprout, and one morning Mr. Knowlton got up and found his oxcart down in the millpond so when the occasion arose, he pulled it out and back up in the yard where he had it before. He said he would like to know who the little devils were who played that trick, so he put some hay in it and waited a few days, watched his chance, got in under the hay, and much to his surprise, he was in the millpond himself.

(to be continued)

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Earl's Pearls

Starting this issue I hope to fairly regularly have a column in which I can list a few brief items re: the Dodge Family which will be of interest.

First, I want to thank each one who prayed for me, sent cards and Email and phoned out of concern for my heart problem. I write these words on June 9, after being home one week from the hospital. Each day I get a bit stronger, have a bit more appetite and do a bit more work.

Col. & Mrs. Robert L. Dodge paid a much- appreciated visit to our home and office on June 3. They were enroute to a National Convention of the Order of Daedalians. The convention, held in Colorado Springs brought together military pilots from all over the nation. Robert is President of the San Diego chapter.

Raven Elizabeth Dodge, daughter of **Earl F. Dodge III** and **Robin Dodge**, graduated on May 22 from St. Mary's Academy in Denver. She is enrolled for the coming year in Colorado State University at Ft. Collins, Colorado.

Joshua Wayne Thiessen, son of **Wayne** and **Karen (Dodge) Thiessen**, graduated from Home School high schooling on May 21. Joshua is enrolled in Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina and plans to enter full-time Christian service, possibly in the missionary aviation field.

Is there a Doctor in the house? We do not have a Dodge Tour medical plan but on our recent safari to Britain and Ireland we had our own resident

physician. **Dr. Dale W. Hooper**, husband of **Ann (Dodge) Hooper** cared for the injured finger of **Grace Van Nalts** and the infected toe of **Norman E. Dodge**. Talk about total trip care! Many thanks, Dr. Hooper.

John and Elaine Rea were among our trip participants. John spoke to me after seeing that I had lived in Winona Lake, Indiana some years ago. When he said that he had lived there during the same period, I instantly recalled his appearance then. John was a Professor at Grace Theological Seminary. Not only did I meet him at that time, but we served together on an ordination council. Another benefit of our new Genealogy! Get copies now if you haven't already done so.

Laura Losefsky of New Hampshire was my dad's first cousin. We only knew she existed after **Judy Ragan** showed up at a Calif. Reunion with a 50th wedding anniversary photo of Edward Blanchard Dodge, my Great Grandfather. Laura was on our tour and, for the first time ever, met her first cousin, **Virginia Dodge Murphy** there. Virginia, sister of Col. Robert L. Dodge and my Dad, Earl F. Dodge was the lady for whom my sister, **Virginia (Dodge) Campbell** was named. Barbara and I really felt special to have these two members of our family, plus my double cousin **Norman E. Dodge** and his wife **Eileen Dodge** with us - almost a small family reunion.

Earl

BE SURE TO READ THE LETTER WHICH ACCOMPANIES THE MAILING.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a mystery at the Dodge Row Cemetery. In the lot owned by Nicholas and Prudence (Edwards) Dodge is the grave of their son William E. Dodge who died 26 February 1847, age 25 years 10 months "by his own hand" as recorded in the Beverly Vital Records. In the grave next to him, with an identical stone is that of Elizabeth P. Keely, daughter of Rev. Josiah & Eliza A. Keely. Rev. Keely was at that time minister of the Wenham Congregational church. Elizabeth P. Keely died in Portland, Maine, February 19, 1847 at the age of 16 years. This Dodge family was at this time members of the Wenham Neck Baptist Church. There are epitaphs on both stones, but becoming worn with age and partially hidden beneath the sod. *Don Kenney, NH*

(Whit Sunday - Continued from page 1)

them, but the deed is done and there is no recourse. We try to be careful to avoid walking on the names, dates, and inscriptions, but sometimes it is inevitable.

As that wonderful traditional English hymn 'Jerusalem' was sung, I thought of our ancestors singing that same hymn on this and other occasions. As the hymn, 'God Save the Queen' was sung, I could think of the words,

"My Country 'Tis of Thee
Sweet Land of Liberty,
Of Thee I Sing.
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the Pilgrim's Pride,
From every mountainside
Let Freedom Ring."

Just think! Our English Ancestors braved the elements to cross a 3000 mile ocean in a little ship, living in unbelievable conditions, in order worship as they chose . . . where the only thing standing between them and what they could make of their lives was their own initiative and willingness to work hard.

However, close ties bind us to our mother land and those long ago Dodes. Look on page three for a view of the last page of that Sunday Morning Program and feel proud that YOU are a Dodge.

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Barbara's Byline

Threads

Have you ever thought about thread? Sure, some of you have used a thread and needle to sew on a button. Some of you probably have used thread to do embroidery, or weave, but have you ever really thought about thread?

Thread comes in different shapes and sizes and is used for a variety of purposes. A surgeons thread is different than the thread of an artist.

Thread comes in different colors, dark and light. Have you ever noticed in a beautifully designed tapestry that there may be a few golden threads and a few black threads among the many other colors. Have you thought about how those few different threads make the tapestry into a far more interesting piece of art than it would be if it did not have those few threads of a different color?

Thread is used to hold things together such as pieces of a garment. If the thread wears out, a hem might come down, or a button fall off.

Many threads twisted together make a rope like strand that is much stronger than the one strand. This makes thread strong enough to become a button fastener.

Have you ever heard the expression, 'hanging by a thread', and have you wondered how ANYTHING could HANG by a THREAD?

I am going to tell you a story of something that DID hang by a thread.

About 3 months ago, Earl started to complain now and then of feeling winded if he did something like climb stairs. It had been 15 years since his heart attack so neither one of us thought about his heart being the culprit. He figured that it was because he had quit exercising over the winter because he was so busy.

About the middle of April, he noticed a tightness in his chest along with feeling winded, but he put off going to a doctor.

A week before we were to leave for

The Dodge Family of Stockport

We welcome to Stockport members of the Dodge Family Association from the United States of America on the day of the Annual Civic Service for the new Mayor of Stockport, successor in office to many of their ancestors.

Dodge family Manorial Mayors of Stockport

Year		Monarch
1433	William le Dogge	Henry VI
1454	William Dodge	Henry VI
1475	William Dodge	Edward IV
1482	William Dodge	Edward IV
1483	William Dodge	Richard III
1486	William Dodge	Henry VI
1500	Oliver Dodge	Henry VII
1571	Oliver Dodge	Elizabeth I
1592	Robert Dodge	Elizabeth I
1662	William Dodge	Charles II
1671	Robert Dodge	Charles II
1697	Robert Dodge Jnr	William and Mary
1750	Robert Dodge	George II
1752	Samuel Dodge	George II
1762	Samuel Dodge	George II
1774	John Dodge	George III
1812	Samuel Dodge	George III

The inscription on the Dodge Memorial in St. Mary's Church

*Mr. Robert Dodge
of Halliday Hill
in Offerton,
interred in
Offerton Pew
May 7th 1765
aged 54 years
(Stockport Mayor
in the reign of
King George II)*

England, it became very apparent that it was something more serious than lack of exercise.

While visiting the doctor, Earl was told he needed an angiogram and that he should not go on the England Tour. When the doctor was told that that was NOT an option, she doubled his medication, and put him on a nitro patch.

He had some problems on the tour, and when we arrived home 3 weeks later, he went from the airport to the hospital with a brief stop at home of 30 minutes.

The next day, after the angiogram, the doctors were astonished that Earl was still alive, for a major artery in the heart was only a thread wide for about 1.5 inches.

Now, you see why I started this

column taking about threads. For better than 3 weeks, and probably for much longer, Earls life 'hung by a thread'.

A thread of blood, shaped by the size of the opening in the vein; the color of a dark red; beautiful because it preserved a life; strong because it held a life together; a thread is all it took to keep Earl alive.

The surgeon's thread now makes it possible for him to get better - the threads holding the transplanted veins in place? They are clear threads with no beauty. But Wait! They ARE beautiful for they help to keep a life going - and the surgeon? He is the artist!

Barbara

**GENEALOGICAL HELP COLUMN***The photo below was taken by Phil Rowbotham of Stockport, England*

We are looking for a Nathaniel T. Dodge, very possibly a descendent of Tristram Dodge who settled on Block Island and whose descendents settled in the Port Washington area of Long Island. If YOU have information on ANY Nathaniel T. Dodge, please contact us here at the Dodge Family Association.

If you have internet access we would appreciate your participation in viewing our Mystery Files that are on our Web Site. In these files, we put all of the Dodge ancestors whom we cannot connect with Tristram, or the brothers, William and/or Richard. We have already had positive results by doing this and we request your help also.

If you are doing research on your own line, and run across any Dodges that are NOT connected to you, either in Vital Records, or on cemetery stones (or any other way), we would appreciate it if you would copy the information and send it to us.



Earl and Barbara Dodge meeting
The Worshipful The Mayor of Stockport
Councillor Ingrid Shaw
Whit Sunday, 23rd May, 1999

The following letter was sent to us by Jay Shinkle after we asked him if he would be willing to send us any info he had on the elusive Col. John Dodge. (See The Dodge Family Journal, April 1998)

Hi Barb,

It took me a little longer to assemble this than I expected. I have little knowledge of him prior to about 1779. The following is a condensed version.

In The Illinois Country 1673-1818,
Clarence Alvord:

p. 352: John Dodge "...was born in Connecticut, had become a trader at Sandusky before the outbreak of the Revolution, and, because he showed his attachment to the cause of the colonies, he had been arrested by the British and carried to Detroit and later to Quebec, whence he escaped in 1779. Washington recommended him to Governor Jefferson of Virginia as a man who would be useful in the west. The latter sent him out to the Illinois as an Indian agent.

...(Thomas) Bentley and (John) Dodge formed a partnership and bought up claims of the inhabitants against Virginia for trifling sums. It was suspected that they used public funds for these purchases, and their financial operations in securing supplies for the troops likewise aroused suspicion. ... The means they used to procure provisions for the troops reduced to abject poverty many of the French of the region." At this point Alvord seems to have lost

track of John, but he became an agent cum quartermaster at the short lived establishment of Fort Jefferson/Clarksville on the Mississippi. His brother Israel and the Hunter family were also there. However, the tenor of historian's attitude toward John Dodge is shared by several others.

In Issues at Fort Jefferson, 1780-1781, , Carstens, Kenneth C. in Selected Papers From the 1987 and 1988 George Rogers Clark
Trans-Appalachian Frontier History Conferences:

p. 61: References to Dodge as "Captain" Dodge seem unfounded and without substance . . . It is possible that because agents and quartermasters were paid the same rate as an adjutant - six shillings per day, which is the same rate of pay as a captain, - that Dodge may have simply extended the rationale of "rate of pay" to one of "rank;" although but a theory, it is in keeping with Dodge's personality as described . . . "

p. 62 It is difficult to determine if Dodge . . . took (his oath) of appointment to heart. There are numerous accusations questioning Dodge's character, loyalty and honesty, as made by the people of Kaskaskia..., Americans at Fort Jefferson, and even the British!"

Although, his character has been impugned he did leave behind, in this case, a valuable quartermaster ledger. After the demise of Fort Jefferson in

the spring of 1781, John apparently went back to Kaskaskia. Once there he continued to promote his interests to the point of establishing himself as somewhat of a warlord operating out of the remains of Fort Kaskaskia. Fort Kaskaskia was/is situated atop the bluff across the Kaskaskia river from the town. This fort was never completed by the French habitants and what existed of it was burned in an effort to deprive the British after the French and Indian war. Because of pent up hostilities toward him and, finally, the establishment of an effective American governmental presence, John moved across the Mississippi in 1786 and joined Israel, probably in the salt making business at the Saline. He was also involved in George Morgan's dream of establishing a town at what became New Madrid, MO. The family of Israel Dodge's ex-/estranged wife, the Hunters, later became established in this area. John didn't stop his trouble making. From across the river he, Michel Pelletier and a band of Piankashaws crossed to Kaskaskia in an effort to steal slaves, which was just barely rebuffed. I am still trying to piece together what John did on the Spanish side of the River until the time of his death.

John Dodge wrote a book about his captivity in Canada: Narrative of Mr. John Dodge during his captivity at Detroit, 1780; reprint 1909, Torch Press, Cedar Rapids. I haven't read this.
Jay Shinkle (jaysjr@leadbelt.com)