



DODGE FAMILY JOURNAL

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WENHAM AS IT USED TO BE THE RED SCHOOL HOUSE AT WENHAM NECK

by Louis A. Dodge - printed by the Wenham Historical Association and Museum, Inc. 1968

James C. Dodge & his 4 brothers, descendants of Hezakiah Dodge b. 1731 on Long Island, NY, (probably from Tristram line), built stone buildings as contractors in the upper Hudson River valley near Poughkeepsie, NY, doing masonry projects, usually for New York and Massachusetts towns and cities including several churches. They did significant stone work in the 1890s at Vassar, Williams and Smith colleges. They worked on some projects together, and sometimes worked separately. With the depression, everything changed.

When James' descendant, Harold O. Dodge inherited Dodge Construction Company (founded in 1865 in Pittsfield, Massachusetts) he was a general contractor who began to use air compressors and heavy equipment in underground utility work in western Massa-

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To go back to what you are all waiting for: the story of the school house. That is one of the most singular things that I have run up against because we started from practically a blank wall. We did not know who was the teacher, and we did not know anything about the school house. Being somewhat of an engineer and an architect, I put things together to the best advantage and so now I am going to ask you in your mind's eye, so to speak, to go with me.

We will go up Main Street to the Brick House, which, by the way, as some of know, was formerly a Masonic Headquarters, and its area has always been known as the Brick House Corner. Now we'll go down Larch Row until we come to Miles River. This is where the Neck District begins, and we'll keep going until we come to the four corners, and right on the corner where Mrs. Osgood's white farmhouse now stands, and at the junction of Walnut Road, at some space hard to locate, stood this little brick school house, built in 1813. It was located in such a way that it was out in the road. It was only 25 feet by 18 feet in dimensions.

The writer of this piece, who

turned out to be Issachar Lefavour, defined it by saying that it faced down street to the southward, which would be down Dodges Row. You entered at the end through a door and at either side of the door was what he called two pigeon hole windows. I don't know exactly what those were. When you got inside, you came into that part of the building - I have allowed only 7 feet - and that was designed for the boys to hang their coats and hats on one side; in the center was the chimney, and beyond that was the wood shed, and room for the girls to hang their clothing.

After they had gone through that procedure, they were supposed to take their seats and you will find that there is a center aisle 42" in width that went the length of the building and also another one of 42" which crossed it, and in the center was a place where the master stood or sat on a stool with a desk half the size of this one right here. This is not his desk.

In that school later, they did away with the fireplace and they had a box stove at the rear end with a smoke pipe going the length of the

building into the original chimney.

The school house was lighted by two windows on each side, giving it plenty of light, and the seats were so arranged that the boys sat on what would be the right hand side with their backs to the street and the girls were on the opposite side facing. In the center of the main aisle was a low bench where the first graders sat.

Now that is a rough description, as near as I can define it from this article in the paper. Issachar Lefavour as an old man did a wonderful job in defining it, and he goes on to say that whenever company came they could have their choice of sitting on a bench if there was any room or else they could go to the neighbors and borrow a chair. The auditorium, so to speak, was only about 18 feet square.

Now here is a list of the pupils, which are mentioned by name, and if you will bear with me I will attempt to read it. This is for the winter of 1836-37:

Gabriel Gently
Downing Gently

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The Old Dodge Homestead

(From the Long Island Forum, May 1949
by Harry W. Loweree)

The Dodge Homestead on Harbor Road, at the head of the Mill Pond, in Port Washington, Nassau County, was built by Thomas Dodge in 1721 and has not been changed by additions, extensions or alterations from its original design of

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Taken October 1999 - by Barbara Dodge

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Did You Know? The Cow Neck Historical Society has two wonderful maps that will be of interest to the descendents of Tristram; the "Historic Map of Cow Neck" and "Mill Pond Historic Map". Both have the Dodge lands marked. The maps are only \$1.50 each plus a shipping charge. For those of you who have internet access, their url is: <http://www.cowneck.org>. The postal address is: The Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society, 336 Port Washington Blvd., Port Washington, NY 11050-4530 Tel. 516-365-9074

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chusetts.

His son, Hascal O. Dodge took over the company when his father died. He recently sold the company and it's name.

Many of the stone structures built by James C. Dodge and his brothers stand today. The bell Tower in *S t o c k b r i d g e*, Massachusetts, built by these Dodes was made famous by artist Norman Rockwell.

Does anyone know of any more lineage of Hezekiah Dodge born 1731 to the Tristram Branch?

*(Little Red School—
Continued from page 1)*

John Gently
Charles Holden
David Holden
Jefferson Webber
John Webber
Eldridge Webber
William B. Dodge
Francis M. Dodge
Jacob Dodge
Robert Dodge
John H. Dodge
George F. Dodge
James McCann
John McCann
Josiah Hull
Ira Ricker
Ira Batchelder
Richard Dodge
Robert F. Dodge
James Lee
Aaron Lee
John Burchstead
Simon Caswell
Theodore Dodge
Daniel P. Dodge
Josiah Hadlock
Elizabeth P. Dodge
Adeline Dodge
Lucy Dodge
Ira Ricker
Elizabeth Edwards
Harriet Edwards
Assineth Whipple
Lydia F. Dodge
Sally P. Dodge
Robert Whipple
Jacob Whipple
Simon Dodge
Charles Gallup
Charles Munroe
Charles Hawkins
Francis S. Dodge
Joseph G. Dodge
Mary Elizabeth Dodge
Elizabeth Gently
Mary Ann Batchelder

Harriet M. Batchelder
Elizabeth Batchelder
Elizabeth Holden
Hiram Roberts
John Tindley
Abraham Knowlton
Thomas Archibald
Henry A. Bailey
Ezra Andrews
Joseph Caswell
Elizabeth Babcock
Mary Ann Batchelder
Elizabeth Burchstead
Fanny Burchstead
Angelina Burchstead
Mary Ann Hawkins
Olive Hawkins
Mary Ann Dodge
Sally Dodge
Sophia Dodge
Elizabeth Lee
Susan Dodge
Sarah A. Hadlock
Mary Adeline Dodge
Judith Clarke
Nancy Webber
Mary Webber
Martha Dodge
Nancy Dodge
Cynthia Webber
Nancy K. Dodge

There is approximately the greater part of the scholars that filled the little school house the winter of 1836 and '37. If you can imagine how they handled them, your imagination is better than mine. Now some of these scholars same from, we'll say, the Gordon College Vicinity, Walnut Road, Larch Row, and Dodge Street. And in looking

them over and lumping them together I have found it to represent about thirty-five families. Now can you imagine thirty-five families from that area today, when we think we have grown as a town? We have not, and one of the funny things about it is, that I find that the amount of money allotted to the various districts at one time was only allotted to that district in proportion to what that district paid for taxes. Therefore the East end of Wenham being thinly populated got less than any of them in town, and there you will find in the rest of the town record, that almost without exception, they favored that end of the town by giving them \$10 or \$15 extra.

Now, in looking that list over and going back to what our instructor had to say, he said that out of the group that he had the privilege of teaching, there came professors, teachers, town officials, reliable business men and a DD.

(to be continued)



(Old Dodge House - Continued from page 1)

old Dutch Colonial architecture of more than two centuries ago.

Tristram Dodge settled on Block Island in 1661 and was the progenitor of the Dodes on Long Island. His four sons, Thomas, Tristram, Jeremiah and Samuel came from Block Island and in 1718 settled on what was then known as "Cow Neck".

They were thus among the earliest permanent settlers of that section. They purchased a large tract of land comprising 620 acres, extending from Hempstead Harbor across the neck to Cow Bay (now Mannasset Bay). Tristram Dodge, settled on the Hempstead Harbor portion of the land and built a homestead in 1719, which passed out of the family in 1871.*

Thomas Dodge located his home on the Cow Bay side of the property and was probably influenced in selecting this site by the proximity of an old Indian spring which was immediately in front, at the edge of the cove. In those days drinking water had to be carried from the nearest source in wooden buckets.

This homestead is one of the quaintest and most unique in architecture to be found anywhere in Long Island. It is an L-shaped building with siding of 3 ft. watered shingles that have never been desecrated with paint. On the worn sill of the front door, there is a 'noon' mark which has registered the hour of midday, down through the ages on every day the sun shines.

The south end of the building was always called "the shop" as it was originally used as a weaving room and contained a large loom. Thomas Dodge was a weaver by trade. He wove into cloth the products of spinning wheels from the settlers from miles around. In this room, during the Revolutionary War, twelve Hessians were stationed all of one winter as most

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Friendship

"We cannot tell the precise moment when friendship is formed. As in filling a vessel drop by drop, there is at last a drop which makes it run over; so in a series of kindnesses there is at last one which makes the heart run over."

--James Boswell

The above quote, sent to me by a dear friend, set me to thinking about friendship, how it starts, and how it grows.

This year has been a difficult year for me, and for our family, and it would have been even more difficult if it had not been for friends.

When I received the quote starting this column, I began thinking about what it is that causes a good friend to become that special friend; the kind you can go to with problems, for advice, for sharing, for just talking; the kind of friend who, when meeting face to face after an absence of a year, the conversation continues as if you had seen them just yesterday.

It seems to me that friendship starts when you are drawn towards another person. It may be something in their manner or smile that causes you to like them almost instantly, and as you talk with them, you realize that this is a person whom you would very much like to have as YOUR friend.

I have been so fortunate to have many of you in the Dodge Family Association as my friends, and some of you have become my very special friends. I want to thank you for the support you have given me; for that cheery word; for that sympathetic ear; for that word of encouragement. You are a blessing to me and I am thankful each day for you.

"Don't walk in front of me,
I may not follow.
Don't walk behind me,
I may not lead.
Walk beside me and be my friend."
- Albert Camus

EARL'S PEARLS

On this warm fall day, the lovely chapel in a San Diego memorial park was filled with friends and family of a man who touched many lives. Edward Lewis Dodge had made, with the rest of his family, an epic journey as a young man from Massachusetts in 1923.

His story was told at a Southern California Reunion, printed in the new Dodge Genealogy and in one of our Dodge Journals.

In 1959 my wife and I and our five children drove to California. Along the desert U.S./Mexican border I stopped at a phone booth to tell Uncle Ed, my dad's brother, that we were heading his way and would like to meet him.

Arriving in El Cajon we phoned again and Uncle Ed led us to his home. He and Aunt Gertrude put the seven of us up for several days and we met Aunt Virginia, Uncle Bob and other relations for the first time.

Since then, the San Diego area has been a second home to us and we have stayed many times with Uncle Ed and then with Bob and Margaret Williams (Ed's daughter). I learned much about my dad and his family from Edward Dodge and the California branch of our family has occupied a large place in our lives and hearts.

I lost my dad when I was 13 and my Uncle Clarence just a few years after I was married. What a blessing to get to know and love my dad's family in California. The memorial service featured a fine biographical presentation by Ed's brother, Col. Robert L. Dodge. Barbara and I had the privilege of taking part in the musical program.

Many family members came from South Dakota, Colorado, Arizona and numerous California communities to honor Uncle Ed. This spoke both of his standing with all of us and the Dodge family ties that are nearly always very strong. Edward was one of the earliest members of our Association and a faithful attendant at our California reunions.

An endless procession of Dodges

and family members with other last names has helped to build strong families and a great nation in the new world. I believe that William Dodge, our first American ancestor would be pleased with Edward's life and that he has welcomed him Home.

Over two hundred Dodges in Southern New England alone fought for American Independence starting with the Battle of Lexington and Concord. When I checked the membership roster of the Sons of the American Revolution, I was struck by the fact that very few Dodges were included. The S.A.R. and the D.A.R. both have excellent programs for preserving our American Heritage and promoting true patriotism today. Nearly every Dodge whose line has been traced back to that period is qualified to join one of these fine groups. If you want more information on either organization, just send us your name and address and we will see that you get it.

Earl

Kernels from the Colonel

by Robert L. Dodge

Any Association member who may be in the Detroit, Michigan area should be aware of the 320 acre John Dodge (one of the Dodge Bros.) estate located between Rochester & Pontiac, which John Dodge purchased in 1908. After his death from influenza in 1920, his widow, Matilda was one of the nation's wealthiest women. She later married Alfred Wilson and expanded the estate to 1500 acres, adding numerous farm building and recreational facilities, formal gardens, and a contemporary style house, known as Sunset Terrace.

In 1957, the Wilsons donated their estate and 2 million dollars to the State of Michigan to found Oakland University. Mrs. Wilson died in 1967, and Meadow Brook Hall was opened to the public in 1971.

Meadowbrook Hall is a 30,000-square-foot, 100-room, Tudor-revival style mansion, carefully preserved with original family furnishings and

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**GENEALOGICAL
HELP
COLUMN**

We have information about another Dodge Bible. There is a page of marriages recorded and we are listing them here in the hopes that one of our readers will be able to identify one or more of the names. All men have surname 'Dodge'.

- Jonathan m. Jane Franklin, 1-20-1840
- Daniel m. Harriet Clark, 10-8-1840
- Noah m. Calista Eaton, 3- 1-1844
- Asakel m. Mary Bugbee, 8-8-1847
- Herman m. Clarrissa Sheldon, 1-18-1848
- Luther m. Christiana Eaton, 8-27-1848
- Herman (2nd. marriage) m. Olive Hulbert, 6-20-1867

Another name on this page is Eaton F., 3-31-1844 but there is no more information regarding this person.

Joseph V. Dodge, DFA member, has written and published a book "History of Old Lake County - Colorado Territory and State - 1800-1900. The book is soft cover and measures 8.5 x 11 x .5. The cover is in color and the pictures inside are black and white. This book is dedicated to his grandparents, Arthur George Dodge and Winona Ann Kline Dodge and is very well done. The book is \$39.00 pp. and would make a very nice Christmas gift and/or addition to your library. To purchase, send check or money order to: **Rocky Mountain Books, P.O. Box 138, Coal Creek, Colorado 81221**

The Old Dodge Homestead built by Thomas Dodge, son of Tristram Dodge.

This picture was taken October 1999 by Barbara Dodge.



(Dodge Homestead - Continued from page 2)
unwelcome "guests" of the owner.

The building has a steep pitched roof with dormer windows and low ceiling with heavy hand hewn beams, wide fireplaces, divided Dutch doors and small paned windows which exemplify the Dutch architecture of that period. All the hardware is handmade wrought iron. The lath is as heavy as bale-sticks and notched into the studding without the use of nails. Between the studding is filled with a mixture of salt hay and bay mud, which makes an excellent insulating material.

The ancient barn on the property was built in 1808 by Joel Davis, son-in-law of Thomas Dodge, who claimed that he took the daughter in payment for building the barn. When the building was raised, all the neighbors from miles around came to help, including a physician in case of accident, but his services were not required and the event was celebrated with a big dinner and outdoor sports.

The old Indian spring was owned by Matinecock Indians, one of the groups dominated by the famous chief, Tackapousha. Important Indian pow-wows were held here even after the land was sold to the Dodes.

*Ed. note: We believe that this property was the property talked about in the article in the April 1999 Journal, page 4, about the Sands Point House.

(Kernels - Continued from page 3)

art, beautifully exemplifies the lavish lifestyles of the wealthy American industrialist of the early 20th century. The architecture is the embodiment of enduring quality in both its historic design and use of fine construction materials. The exterior combines various textures and patterns using American materials of brick, sandstone, wood timbers, and a roof of clay shingle tile. The house also features 39 uniquely designed brick chimneys which distinguish the picturesque roof line.

Public tours are given daily at 1:30 p.m. You will never forget your visit to this beautiful site.

The Dodge Coat of Arms.

There are a number of interpretations of a Dodge Coat of Arms.

Please refer to the first 5 pages of the Joseph Thompson Dodge Genealogy. This is the documentation for our acceptance of the design which we display on our stationary and exhibit in the Coat of Arms print offered by our Association.

Other concepts exhibit a lion atop the helmet, and or a weeping eye with tears rather than a women's breast with drops of milk.

The Lion has always been a favorite in "America Heraldica", however the quotes are specific, demi-sea lion or demi-sea dog, often described as a Talbot, a large hound with pendulous ears. Sure enough there are the "azure collared and finned".

The weeping eye and lion as the different interpretation of the whole Crest, can be easily explained, for the original and old copies have aged and are not clear. Perhaps the eye was substituted to avoid nudity; however, it is well accepted that the early Dodge name was spelled Dugg, a women's breast and the Lion is popular.

The above may dispel some non-believers in our Association's presentation of the Coat of Arms and explain how other presentations came about.

The motto, Lena Perfure Otto translates to "Let Us Enjoy Gentle Ease" Several latin Scholars have agreed on this translation!