



## THE DODGE FAMILY ASSOCIATION

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*From the desk of Faith Dorothy Dodge Nelson  
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I'm sitting down with a cup of coffee, having a breather this morning, after living in a whirlwind for the past month. During May, our family enjoyed two graduations—one high school and one college, two road trips—one to Jackson, Mississippi and one to Washington D.C., and a 25th anniversary trip to Branson. I think we drove the miles equivalent to crossing the country—Atlantic to Pacific—and then some.

Our trip to Washington D.C. was the fulfillment of a dream long held by my husband, Joe. Although we have taken quite a few road trips to visit family in Denver and to deliver or pick up college students, we have not taken a vacation for twelve years. And since a couple of our birds will be flying the nest this fall, it was most likely our last chance to take a trip as a family. So Joe did the research of what to see and do, and we packed our time in the nation's capitol with all kinds of experiences sure to thrill those from the mid-west. We rode the Metro, D.C.'s mass transit train system, visited all the monuments on the National Mall, met our congressman and toured the Capitol, took our pictures outside the White House, and went to the Smithsonian.

If you have been to Washington D.C., you probably know that there are actually several Smithsonian museums. We first toured the National Museum of American History, which houses such treasures as the Star Spangled Banner, the original C3PO from *Star Wars*, and the collection of gowns worn by the First Ladies. After viewing the gowns, I rounded the corner and saw the next exhibit was a portion of a house from Ipswich, Massachusetts. Since we had attended a Dodge reunion in Ipswich on that long-ago vacation, my interest was piqued and I went through the exhibit. Imagine my surprise to see that the second owner of the house was none other than a man named Abraham Dodge. I found it impossible to restrain myself and casually remarked to nearby mother and son who were viewing the exhibit, "I'm related to that man."

You would have thought that I was a celebrity! She looked at her son, pointed to me and told him, "Did you hear what she said? She's related to that man." Another couple nearby also began conversing with me, assuming that I was a genealogist. I assured them that I was no such thing, but told them, "I belong to the Dodge Family Association."

By the way, Abraham Dodge, in case you don't know, is a fifth generation Dodge, descended from Richard. He was a prosperous merchant who fought in the Battle of Bunker Hill, served with distinction throughout the American Revolution, and rose to the rank of colonel. He at one time considered himself a gentleman (perhaps because he became a land owner), but because of his involvement in the war, and his absence from home, he was insolvent when he died in 1786 at the young age of 46.

Stumbling upon the mention of Abraham Dodge made my trip to Washington D.C. more memorable as I was once again reminded of my own connection to history. We are fortunate to find our connection with the Dodges who have lived in the past, thanks to the hard work of those living and dead who have researched and recorded the lives and deeds of our predecessors. Reading the Dodge Family Journal is like a mini history lesson. It can give us insight into our past and can challenge us to live in a way to impact future generations.

I suppose our vacation is a once-in-a-lifetime trip. When we were driving home, talking through our experiences and trying to decide which things we liked the best, I told my children that I would probably never be able to go back to D.C. But now my sister, Karen, has told me that the Smithsonian is projecting that in about six years, they will have a display ready of the Prohibition political collection that was donated to them following my father's death. So perhaps I'll need to plan another visit to mark the occasion and take in a few more of the nation's treasures that we didn't get to view this time.

*Faith*

*P.S. Be sure to check the other side of this letter for a three maps that are available just for postage. Two maps are connected to the Tristram Dodge branch, and one is connected to the John Branch.*

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Honorary lifetime board members

We have three maps here that need homes. The only cost will be \$3.00 for the postage. If you are interested, please contact us right away as the first person to claim a map, is the person who will receive it.



On the left is a map of Historic Mill Pond, and Cow Bay showing two Dodge farms. This is where some of the Tristram Dodge families settled after moving from New Shoreham, Block Island, Rhode Island. This map is about 19 inches wide by about 17.5 inches high.



On the right is a map of Cows Neck and Queen's County. It is a copy of the original Gate Rights Map of 1709 drawn by Samuel Clowes, Surveyor. It is abt. 17 in. wide by abt. 21.5 in. high.



On the left is "A Pictorial Map of Wenham and Environs, 1776." This, of course, is the general area where William and Richard settled in Massachusetts. It shows the Dodge Row burial ground and many Dodge sites. It is about 36 in. wide by abt. 24 in. high.

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... **AND ... PLEASE FOLKS**, don't forget to send in your dues and let us know if you would like your Journal via e-mail. Norman Dodge and Jim Bailey are working very diligently on the John Branch genealogy and have gone through the first 5 generations, checking for errors. If you get your Journal via E-mail, you will be helping DFA with the expense of our next publication... a John Branch genealogy.

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