

CANAWLERS AT REST

DAVID MAXWELL DUNN

b. November 18, 1818

d. August 20, 1889

Find-A-Grave 54816201

By Carolyn I. Schmidt

David Maxwell Dunn was born on November 18, 1818 in Jefferson County, Indiana, to Williamson and Mariam (Wilson) Dunn. He was named for his uncle David Hervey Maxwell (1786-1854), who was elected the president of Indiana's Board of Internal Improvements in 1836. *Canawlers At Rest: Hoosier Packet 4-2010*

David's father, Williamson Dunn, a pioneer, was born in Crow's Station, Boyle County, near Danville, Kentucky on December 25, 1781 to Samuel and Eleanor Brewster Dunn. There he acquired a limited education.

Around 1809 Williamson moved to Jefferson County in Indiana Territory. He was made a Justice of the Peace and, in 1811, Judge of the Circuit Court of Common Pleas, receiving his appointment from Governor William Henry Harrison. In the War of 1812 he was commissioned by President James Monroe a captain of an organized band of rangers provided by Congress for the protection of the frontier settlers. He commanded this company for two years.

In 1814-1816 Williamson Dunn was appointed Associate Judge of the Circuit Court of Jefferson County by the governor of the Indiana Territory, Thomas Posey. In 1816 he represented his county in the first legislature of the state of Indiana and was twice re-elected Speaker of the House of Representatives in the 2nd and 3rd legislatures (1816-1820) and while so serving declined a seat in the U. S. Senate. While a representative, our subject, **David**, was born.

In 1823 Williamson was appointed Registrar of the Land Office of Indiana in Terre Haute by President Monroe. While holding this position he moved to the wilderness and laid out the town of Crawfordsville. He was re-appointed in 1827, and in 1829 moved back to Hanover where he donated fifty acres of land to Hanover College as a farm for a manual school. He helped found this institution in 1832 and served as a trustee,

1832-1855. He also gave a tract of land to Wabash College. Apparently this land was sold to purchase the land on which the college was finally built. He was a member of its first board of trustees, 1832-1836.

He afterward returned to Jefferson County and filled an un-expired term in the Indiana State Senate (1837-1838), but was twice defeated as a candidate for re-election. He was elected to the bench of the Circuit Court as Probate Judge and held the office until the court was abolished (1846-1852).

Williamson was a prominent factor in the early settlement of Indiana and a promoter of the program of the Presbyterian church. He died in Hanover, Indiana on November 11, 1854 and was buried in Hanover Cemetery. He fathered three future State Representatives, Samuel Campbell Dunn, William McKee Dunn and **David Maxwell Dunn**.

It can be seen that David Maxwell Dunn, our subject, and his brothers had big shoes to fill in order to follow in their father's footsteps. David studied law at Hanover College and graduated with his law degree prior to 1845 when he is found listed as Attorney at Law in Cass County, Indiana. In 1846 he was the Prosecuting Attorney in Miami County, Indiana.

In 1846 war broke out between the United States and Mexico. A call was made for volunteers. Once the companies were formed they were to assemble at the rendezvous point as soon as possible, by the shortest route, and at their own expense for transportation and subsistence.

The *History of Cass County* has the following:

"The news of the declaration of war in the United States and of the Governor's proclamation reached Logansport without delay. Capt. Spier S. Tipton immediately commenced the enlistment of volunteers for the war. Military enthusiasm ran high, and there was little delay in making up the roll of one complete company. On the 8th of June following [David M. Dunn and] the company left for the seat of war under command of Captain Tipton. For several days previously it had been announced that the boys would leave on that day, and as a consequence the town was full of people from all parts of the county to witness their departure. They left by way of the Michigan Road, south to Indianapolis, thence to New Albany, the place of rendezvous for the Indiana soldiers prior to taking transportation to the seat of war."

Another source gave more detail about how they got to New Albany. It said that these men left Logansport in thirty-three wagons that had been provided by the citizens of Cass county and later ate dinner furnished by these citizens at Deer Creek. They were fortunate in that the town provided their transportation. After spending the next two nights in Burlington and Eagle Village, they arrived in Indianapolis on June 11 from which they marched to Franklin and then to the train at Edinburg. At that time there was but one railroad in Indiana running

between Edinburg and Madison according to Perry's *Indiana in the Mexican War*. They took the train to Madison and on the 13th left there on the steamer "Adelaide" and arrived in Louisville, Kentucky that evening. They then were transferred to Camp Whitcomb in New Albany, Indiana

The *History of Cass County* says, "Upon reaching that point [New Albany] Captain Tipton having received an appointment as Lieutenant in the regular army, and accepting it, made a vacancy in the captaincy of the company, which however, was supplied by the election of Stanislaus Lasselle to that position. On the 19th of June the company was mustered into the service of the United States by Captain Churchill of the United States Army."

On June 19, 1846 David mustered into this 1st Regular Company G in New Albany, Indiana, one of three Indiana regiments to serve in the Mexican War. He was a second-lieutenant under Captain Stanislaus Lasselle. Company G contained ninety-three men at that time.

They remained in New Albany until July 5th. That day they boarded the steamer "Grace Darling" and arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana on July 11th. At New Orleans they boarded a three hundred and fifty ton barge "Sophia Walker" and were towed by a steamer to the mouth of the Mississippi River and let loose in a storm that continued until they landed at Brazos, Texas on July 19th. From there they marched to the mouth of the Rio Grande arriving on July 21st. The following day they marched 9 miles up river to Camp Belknap near Buerta where they remained until August 31st drilling, etc. There many of the men got sick. The history book said that the sick outnumbered the men on duty.

Late in January, 1847, when it was expected that a battle would occur at Saltillo, Company G was ordered to Monterey. The regiment marched nearly to Monterey, Mexico. However the battle was fought at Buena Vista while Company G cooled its heels near Monterey. They were then ordered back to the Rio Grande for guard duty. After their time had expired the men returned to the Rio Grande and Brazos. They were shipped to New Orleans and were mustered out of June 15, 1847. They had served a year.

David M. Dunn mustered out with the rank of second lieutenant. By then Company G was down to fifty-seven men. W. B. Buchanan, Dyer Barrett and Caleb P. Hopkinson had died and were buried in Mexico. Thirty-one men had been discharged earlier due to ill health while they were in Mexico. What remained of the company then boarded the steamer "Cincinnati" and headed back to Logansport. Upon arrival in Logansport they were honored by the citizens with a reception.

The Mexican War ended on February 2, 1848. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed establishing the Rio Grande as the border.

On December 28, 1848 David was married to Ellen M. Purviance, in Cass County, Indiana. They would eventually have five children all of whom were born in Logansport, Indiana between 1849-1858: Charles M. Dunn, Mary H. Dunn, James W. Dunn, Henrietta P. Dunn, and Ellen M. Dunn.

Around 1849 the Wabash Valley Bank was organized in Logansport and had rooms on Third street, north of Market, but it had no authority to issue notes. Therefore in January 1850 about the same individuals organized the Logansport Life Insurance Company for the purpose of issuing notes which the Wabash valley Bank could then assume and loan. The company's

PARENTS & SIBLINGS OF DAVID MAXWELL DUNN

<u>NAME</u>	<u>BORN</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>DIED</u>	<u>PLACE</u>	<u>BURIAL</u>
Williamson Dunn	12-25-1781	Crows Station, KY	11-11-1854	Hanover, IN	Hanover Cemetery
Miriam Wilson m. 9-25-1806	2-04-1791	Jessamine Co., KY	10-20-1827 (36)	Crawfordsville, IN	Crawfordsville, IN
James Wilson Dunn	9-14-1807	Gerard Co., KY	4-03-1874		
Samuel Campbell Dunn	8-09-1809	Gerard Co., KY			
John H. Dunn	3-15-1811				
Mary Ellen Dunn	12-15-1812				
William McKee Dunn	12-12-1814	Hanover, IN Ter.	7-24-1887	Fairfax Co., VA	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.
William P. Dunn	12-16-1816				
David Maxwell Dunn	11-18-1818	Jefferson Co., IN	8-20-1889	Georgetown, DC	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.
Nancy Jane Dunn	11-22-1819		11-13-1846		
Thomas S. Dunn	9-05-1822		11-14-1895		
Mariam Wilson Dunn	1-20-1825		5-??-1841		
Sarah Amanda Dunn	9-26-1827				
Mary Fleming m. 11-13-1828	4-24-1790	Butler Co., OH Butler Co., OH	11-21-1862	Hanover, IN	Hanover Cemetery

WIFE & CHILDREN OF DAVID MAXWELL DUNN

David Maxwell Dunn	11-18-1818	Jefferson Co., IN	8-20-1889	Georgetown, DC	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.
Ellen M. Purviance m. 12-28-1848	11-12-1831	Pennsylvania Cass Co., IN	2-28-1890	Georgetown, DC	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.
Charles McClay Dunn	12-01-1849	Logansport, IN	12-23-1862	Logansport, IN	9th St. Cemetery
Mary Howard Dunn	2-12-1851	Logansport, IN	10-19-1925	Georgetown, DC	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.
James Williamson Dunn	2-22-1853	Logansport, IN	1-22-1892	Georgetown, DC	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.
Henrietta Purviance Dunn	4-05-1855	Logansport, IN	2-06-1911	Georgetown, DC	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.
Ellen McClay Dunn	10-29-1857	Logansport, IN	3-19-1922	Georgetown, DC	Oak Hill Cem. D.C.

office adjoined the Wabash & Erie Canal land office. David was one of its five directors and was elected its secretary. The next year it issued and loaned to the Wabash Valley Bank \$50,000 in checks and canal scrip. "Wild Cat," "Blue Pup" and "Red Dog" canal scrip was overrunning Cass county and even though the *Detector* was published to inform banks as to the value of these bills, it was not published often enough to be of much use by the banks.

The Wabash Valley Bank and the Logansport Life Insurance Company operated until April 28, 1857, when the directors of the insurance company met in the home of S. C. Taber and burned all the notes it had received back from the bank. The managers of the insurance company were "severely censured by the stockholders and holders of the scrip, upon which they could not realize, but were losers, and an indignation meeting was held but nothing came of it as the company's manager seemingly kept within the law" according to Dr. Jehu Z. Powell, in his *History of Cass County, Indiana*. Dealing with canal scrip was one of David's ties to Indiana's canals.

In December 1850 David was involved in the incorporation of the Lake Michigan, Logansport, and Ohio River Railroad. Its capital stock was fixed at \$1,000,000, divided into shares of \$25 each. But the money didn't come in and nothing was done until a few years later when its name was changed to the New Castle & Richmond Railroad. The section of this road from Logansport to Kokomo was built first because of the conveniences for shipping material via the Wabash and Erie Canal. In fact in 1855 the first railroad engine arrived in Logansport by canal boat at Broadway (5th street), was placed on hewn timbers, and was dragged by three yoke of oxen led by Sam Berryman, down Broadway to Third and south on Third over the Wabash River's two wooden bridges to be placed on the track. That July 4th a very slow but successful trial trip was made by the railroad and a celebration with a picnic and speeches was held two miles east of Logansport near Taber's prairie. After building this first section they planned to construct the railroad line west and south along the Wabash River and did much grading, Unfortunately it was never completed. Later the Logansport & Crawfordsville railroad acquired it rights.

The 1850 Federal Census shows David as a lawyer. He had an estate of \$2,200.

The 1850s were busy years for David. During the early fifties the Hoosier Bank was organized and David served as cashier until its president Philip Pollard died on March 7, 1856 and its affairs were honorably settled without loss to its depositors. In 1851 David was elected councilman for the first ward in Logansport, Indiana. In 1854 he was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives from Logansport and re-elected in 1855. He was a director of the Logansport & Pacific Railroad and by 1860 David was listed as railroad president on the Federal Census with real estate valued at \$12,000 and a personal estate of \$500. His mother-in-law and her son were also living with his

family.

In 1861 the Civil War came along and changed his life-style during its duration. Records show him a Lieutenant Colonel on April 25 at Indianapolis. On August 27, 1861 he mustered in to Company E of the 29th Regiment.

On April 7, 1862 David as Lieutenant Colonel commanded the 9th and 29th Cass County boys in the battle of Shiloh/Pittsburgh Landing where they performed their duty nobly. In October of 1862 they were in a skirmish at Laverne, Tennessee. That December 31 they were in the battle at Murfreesboro/Stone River, Tennessee, where the regiment suffered severe losses. They were in skirmishes at Tribune, and Liberty Gap, Tennessee in June 1863. They sustained a heavy loss in the battle of Chickamauga in Georgia on September 19-20, 1863 before being stationed at Bridgeport, Alabama.

On January 1, 1864 the 29th Regiment re-enlisted as a veterans organization and shortly thereafter went home on a furlough. The *History of Cass County, Indiana* describes the reception given the veterans of the Twenty-ninth as follows:

"On Wednesday afternoon, January 13, 1864, word was received that Col. David M. Dunn of the Twenty-ninth with the Cass county boys who had re-enlisted were coming home on a veteran furlough and would reach here [Logansport] on the five o'clock Cincinnati train. Arrangements were at once made to give them a royal welcome. Accordingly, on the approach of the train the soldiers were greeted with cheers from an immense crowd and the strains of 'Wachter's Band.' A procession was formed, the band leading, the soldiers, next, followed by the throng of citizens and proceeded to the Barnett House (corner Third and Market) where Major McFaddin, in a brief speech, extended a cordial welcome, in behalf of the city, to the gallant men who had displayed their heroism upon so many battlefields. At the request of Thos. H. Wilson, Major McFaddin announced to the soldiers that a bountiful supper had been prepared for them and that lodging and breakfast would be furnished them free of expense by the patriotic citizens of Logansport. After which Dr. J. M. Justice made a short talk, when Colonel Dunn was called for and thanked the citizens who honored his brave and tried soldiers with so cordial and enthusiastic a welcome. Three cheers were given for Colonel Dunn and his veterans, then the soldiers proceeded to the dining room of the Barnett House where a bountiful supper had been provided and partook of a sumptuous meal. Every one felt it not only a duty, but a pleasure, to honor the brave soldiers, who so nobly sustained the reputation of Cass county on many a hard fought battlefield."

After its furlough the Twenty-ninth Regiment went to Chattanooga, Tennessee; Decatur, Alabama; Dalton, Georgia; and the Marietta, Georgia where it remained until the end of the Civil War. On January 5, 1865 the Union Army promoted David Maxwell Dunn to Colonel, Company E, 29th Regiment.

Practically at the same time in January 1865 Indiana Senator Richmond nominated Colonel David M. Dunn of Cass County for Trustee of the Wabash & Erie Canal at the meeting of the General Assembly. Also nominated was William A. Langster of Fountain County. Colonel Dunn received a majority of all the votes cast (82 to Langster's 57) and was declared by the President of the Joint Convention a duly elected Trustee for the Wabash and Erie Canal for the term prescribed by law (1865-67).

As of 1859 the Wabash & Erie Canal had been leased out to three different groups, but the canal trustees continued to oversee it. The eastern division from Terre Haute to the Indiana/Ohio state line was operated by Alfred Edgerton, the middle division from Newberry to Terre Haute was operated by Chauncy Rose and others, and the southern division from Evansville to Newberry was operated by Goodlet Morgan. By 1865 only the eastern division was still functional so the Board of Trustees had little to do other than monitor what was happening in the northeastern part of the canal.

In 1869 General Ulysses Grant appointed Colonel David M. Dunn to the federal office of Consul to Prince Edwards Island at Charlottetown. His salary was \$1,500 per annum. The government reports and other articles written by David during his time as consul are credited to the literature of Cass county by history books.

In 1883 David was appointed Consul to Valparaiso, Chili and was commissioned on June 6, 1883 with a salary of \$3,000 per annum. Later a case was brought to court against him for taking the higher salary before he was in Chili. Apparently he took the oath of office for Valparaiso while in Charlottetown but didn't leave Charlottetown until July 1, 1883 to go to Washington D.C. leaving there on July 9 to sail to Valparaiso. During this period he tried to get paid the higher salary for the quarter.

The court found that "No consul-general or consul shall be permitted to hold the office of consul-general or consul at any other consulate, or exercise the duties thereof." and that "Under this, the claimant, while holding the office of consul at Charlottetown could not also hold the office on consul at Valparaiso. He could not be entitled to the salary of the latter office, prior to the time when he could by law be invested with the title thereto." "No...consul, or commercial agent, mentioned...shall be entitled to compensation for his services, except from the time when he reaches his post and enters upon his official duties to the time when he ceases to hold such office, and for such time as is actually and necessarily occupied in receiving his instructions..."

We do not know the date of this trial or how long David served as consul to Valparaiso, Chile. At first I, Carolyn Schmidt, did not know how long he lived or where he died. I found his name on a large stone dedicated to early settlers who died and were buried in Ninth Street Cemetery in Logansport, Indiana.

The same cemetery also has a memorial plaque for him placed on the ground. I had a suspicion the plaque and stone were merely memorials since I found no record of his body being returned to Logansport. However, one of his sons was buried there.

I asked for help from Chuck Huppert, CSI's past vice-president who now lives in Maryland and is related to the Dunn family. He contacted a member of the Dunn family and looked through his own personal Dunn file where he found that a relative of David Maxwell Dunn was buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Georgetown, D.C. Checking with the cemetery he learned that David is also buried at Oak Hill in the Rock Creek section. He then sent the following information to CSI headquarters.

According to cemetery records David Maxwell Dunn was born on November 18, 1818 and died on August 20, 1889. He is buried in lot 452 East near a tree probably planted by the Dunn family. His marker is within 20 feet of the following coordinates:

38 degrees 54 minutes 45.29 seconds North
77 degrees 03 minutes 18.32 seconds East

Buried in David's lot and their names on his marker are:
Ellen Purviance Dunn 11-12-1831 to 2-28-1890
James Williamson Dunn 2-22-1853 to 1-22-1892
Henrietta Purviance Dunn 4-5-1855 to 2-6-1911
Ellen McClay Dunn 10-29-1857 to 3-19-1922
Mary Howard Dunn 2-12-1851 to 10-19-1925
Marion Purviance 11-26-1898 69y6m8d (unmarked)

When Chuck and his wife, Lynda, went to the cemetery to take a picture of David's stone they found that it was covered with a plywood structure to protect it during the building of a columbarium nearby. They talked to the vice-president of the cemetery and found that he had taken a picture of the stone prior to its being covered by the box.

The Oakhill Cemetery Company later sent copies of the pictures that had been taken to record the inscriptions. The Dunn memorial stands between the hickory tree and the circular

Early settler monument in 9th Street Cemetery photo - Bob Schmidt



pathway, which sat somewhat



DAVID M. DUNN

Ninth Street Cemetery Logansport, Indiana

Dedicated to the early Logansport settlers whose
unmarked graves reside at the Ninth Street Cemetery.
(This is only a memorial to David. He is not buried here.)

Due to so many broken stones and unmarked graves this
new marker was erected.

Also buried here is Charles McClay Dunn, the son of David
M and Ellen Dunn, b. 12-1-1849, d. 12-23-1862, age 13.

Photos by Bob Schmidt



This memorial is in Logansport's 9th St. Cemetery.
David Maxwell Dunn
Lieut Col 29 Ind Inf
Mexican War Civil War



David's stone was under a protective plywood box in front of a
tree near this columbarium construction. Photo-Chuck Huppert