

A Guide to the Duston-Dustin Family Genealogy

Robert Scott Shaw

The Duston-Dustin Family Genealogy¹ details the descendants of Thomas Duston, an immigrant to America who was born about 1606. The work is a genealogical compilation by multiple authors that was published in installments over decades beginning in 1938. Because of its disjointed history and a lack of consistent identification, it is referenced in various guises, and this can initially be rather confusing. This short guide may serve as an aid for newcomers to the work.

The genealogy was published by the Duston-Dustin Family Association in a series of booklets over many years. The first two installments of the genealogy appear within booklets that also contain minutes for the 1937 and 1938 meetings of the Association. These were preceded by a booklet with the minutes of the 1936 meeting, but that booklet does not contain any of the genealogical information.

A register arrangement is used for the entries of the genealogy. This starts with an entry for Thomas Duston, the oldest ancestor, and progressively lists the descendants. Each Duston male with a family is assigned a person number and given a separate entry, which lists his children. The families of his daughters, if known, are listed directly under the daughters' names. If a son has a known family, then the son will be given a person number and the son's family will be described in a separate entry which will appear later. The entries are arranged in order of person number, which group by generation. Some booklets cover several generations, some only one.

In a few places, interspersed with the genealogy, are a few short articles about various subjects related to the Dustons.

The booklets, with the exception of the first, have their pages numbered consecutively, so that the page numbers of the third booklet start with the number following that of the last page of the second booklet. Thus the sequence of booklets can be grouped together and considered as a whole, and some of the reproductions are printed in this manner.

There was no index or table of contents included with the booklets when they were published, so searching for people can be challenging. The person numbering and generational arrangement is sometimes a bit of help if enough is already known about a person. One later reprinting did include an index, as mentioned below.

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¹ Harold Dustin Kilgore and Harriet B. Curtis, *Duston-Dustin Family Genealogy* (Duston-Dustin Family Association, 1937-1960; reprint by Higginson Book Co.), but see the body of this article for further information.

The Booklets

The main body of the genealogy was initially published in eight booklets:

Booklet 1 (includes minutes of the 33rd Annual Meeting, 1937)

p. 11 First Generation (person #1)

Booklet 2 (includes minutes of the 34th Annual Meeting, 1938)

p. 7 Second Generation (person #2)

Booklet 3

before p. 29 Harold Dustin Kilgore

p. 29 Third Generation (person #3)

p. 35 Fourth Generation (person #7)

Booklet 4

p. 49 Fifth Generation (person #20)

Booklet 5

p. 79 Sixth Generation (person #55)

p. 110 Corrections & Additions (generations 4-5)

Booklet 6

p. 115 Seventh Generation (person #117)

p. 152 Corrections & Additions (generation 6)

Booklet 7

p. 153 The First Thomas Duston in America

p. 156 The Names Durston and Duston

p. 159 The English Durstons

p. 163 Miles Henry Powers Dustin

p. 165 Eighth Generation (person #208) mid-page

p. 193 Corrections & Additions (generations 4-7)

Booklet 8

p. 197 Ninth Generation (person #312)

p. 218 Tenth Generation (person #369)

p. 224 Eleventh Generation (person #397)

p. 225 Corrections & Additions (generations 3, 6-8)

p. 246 Incomplete Line of Descent of John Duston of Concord, Mass.

The first of the above was published in 1938, the last about 1960. There was also a later booklet which contained more corrections and additions.

Reprint Formats

The Duston-Dustin Family Association originally published the genealogy booklets (and a few others) and has reprinted them at times. It appears that until fairly recently they were still available from the Association, but the present availability is uncertain.

Other parties have also reprinted the genealogy. The original booklets were presumably printed without a statement of copyright, allowing general reproduction. Some of the reprints preserve the format, providing the material in paper booklet form.

Images of the booklet pages are apparently now also being made available in the form of a CD-ROM. These compact discs are offered over the internet, and are commonly available via eBay.²

The genealogy has also been assembled into book form. One of these is sold by the Higginson Book Company. This version has changed the page numbers of the six genealogy pages from the first booklet (to p. 1 through 6) so that the page numbers are completely sequential. Otherwise this version contains facsimiles of all the numbered genealogy pages from the eight booklets listed above.

Another book version was printed in 1990 by Anundsen Publishing (Decorah, Iowa). This version has material rearranged and the page numbering completely redone. The rearrangement seems mainly to have the aim of pulling the genealogy proper together, as, for instance, moving the “First Thomas Duston in America” section to the very front. This version apparently contains the Additions and Corrections material from the extra (ninth) booklet mentioned above. This version is reported to have a ninety-page index, but not a table of contents.³ Indications are that this version is currently available for purchase through the Friends of the Haverhill Public Library (Haverhill, Massachusetts).

Titles

The title used to refer to this work, or a part of it, tends to vary because of the variety of titles on the booklets and on the reprints of the work. The first booklet has on its cover “Duston-Dustin Family Association 33D Annual Meeting Haverhill, Massachusetts August 25, 1937” which might occasionally be seen in reference that particular booklet, but which is clearly unsuitable for the whole.

Most often the title used in references is either “The Duston-Dustin Family” or “The Duston-Dustin Family Genealogy” (either of which may have the word “The” dropped). This derives from the page heading found at the beginning of most or all generation sections, which is “Duston-Dustin Family” (sometimes given with a “The”). “Duston-Dustin Family Genealogy” is used on the Higginson reprint’s title page.

Sometimes a subtitle is given, usually “Thomas and Elizabeth (Wheeler) Duston and their descendants”. This subtitle is used on the 1990 Anundsen reprint’s title page.

Authors

The referenced author tends to be even more problematic since no author, editor, or compiler is noted on a title page or section head. Often citations simply omit the authorship. Some will use the corporate “Duston-Dustin Family Association” as the author. A close reading will show that Harold Dustin Kilgore did most of the earlier work, followed by his sister Harriet B. Curtis and perhaps others. They are sometimes referenced as the authors. The title page of the 1990 Anundsen version gives credit to “The Duston-Dustin Family Association Genealogists”.

² The author has not seen these CD-ROMs, so cannot offer any opinion on them.

³ The author has seen only a few pages of this version, but thinks the above is largely accurate.