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Report on status of web site
November 2005

The board authorized the establishment of a web site committee at its last meeting and determined a desired reporting date of 9/1/2005. The committee was not able to be established for several reasons. This fall I experienced a number of problems with the site host and decided to change. I acquired a new host. The timing provided an excellent opportunity to re-organize the material on the site pertaining to Dunham/Singletary Family Connections. This information was quite disorganized previously. Since the web site is one of the board's major concerns, I undertook the reorganization.

The new host provided greater functionality to meet our needs at a lower cost. I acquired a new domain name in the process. The old pages are inactive except for the main entry which redirects anyone attempting it to the new site. The greater functionality included larger disk space, sufficient transfer capabilities, internal mail boxes, more flexible forms handler, better file transfer capabilities, potential data base activities and a site search capability among other items.

Throughout the conversion process I invited comments and suggestions. I finally concluded the site should have at least 3 major segments: (1) Dunham/Singletary Family Connections, (2) DNA testing and (3) public documents.

The new site is accessed at <http://pcdunham.net/Index.html> All on-line forms were recast to fits the requirements of the new host. There was some confusion on the previous form for persons attempting to utilize PayPal. The information and process was revised to make it clearer (hopefully). I am considering establishing a "shopping cart" which would collect all the items for electronic payment in one area, allowing selection of individual items.

I created a number of new sections to make the site more useful and to tempt members to participate and provide information (both textual and pictorial). While I feel it would be useful to have photos of the directors on the site, the consensus appear to be against doing so at our last meeting; thus, I have not included it. I tried to provide mechanisms to collect data and information, where possible, from members. One object is to preserve records and research information. One may note in the membership renewal mail one method for trying to keep the site up to date.

When a member uses these mechanisms to provide information, the submission is directed to a special mail box on the site which segregates the responses.

It will not be difficult to add new sections as needs are perceived. It is also possible to have secure pages when we discover a need to do so.

A major problem with a web site is the maintenance of the site (existing or new material). It requires a fair amount of time and an understanding of the mechanics of web page development. Trudy Dunham [Madison, WI] has offered her assistance in maintaining the site. I intend to utilize her offer but need to discuss the mechanics of it with her further.

Comments and criticism is zealously desired.

Paul C. Dunham
11/16/2005