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Cedar Oaks Guild Newsletter

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## Newsletter, October 2023

Cedar Oaks Guild

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## CEDAR OAKS GUILD NEWSLETTER

October, 2023



Cedar Oaks Guild met October 10 for an informal luncheon and business meeting. Head hostess Emily Holmes, with able help from Keri Dibrell, Carla Johnson, and Claudia Gleason, served an assortment of quiches with spiced fruit and a green salad. A delectable apple crisp with ice cream topped off the meal. The tables were decorated with fall leaves and flowers.



We were pleased to welcome two guests: Suzanne Atkins brought Sharon Morris, and Helene Berton was a guest of Patti Rish.



Sharon and Suzanne



Helene and Patti

Five **new members** were welcomed into Cedar Oaks Guild: Aletha Adderholt, Emily Davis Ashmore, Jennifer Neal, Donna Pierce, and Janis Walling. We are so glad that they decided to join the Guild, and we look forward to the talents and energy they will share! Peggie Roder's request for emerita status was approved by acclamation. Thank you for your many years of service to Cedar Oaks Guild, Peggie.



**Mystery Tour: Lamers Tour and Travel** from Wisconsin is bringing a group of seniors to Cedar Oaks on October 26 as part of a "mystery tour." Participants will board a bus in the Midwest and head off on an unknown adventure. Docent chair Toni Paolillo is organizing hostesses in period dress to discuss the features of each room. They will be welcomed with homemade cookies and lemonade before heading to the Square for lunch. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our house, and to share Cedar Oaks and Oxford with a larger audience. No matter what we have heard about the rest of the tour, *we don't know anything!* It is top secret – a mystery!

**Trick or Treat:** Halloween returns to Cedar Oaks on Sunday afternoon, October 29, from 1:30-3:30! This has been a very popular event for the community. Last year we welcomed about 400 guests, half of them children. Invitations have been sent to all the preschools, elementary schools, Moms and Tots, and local media. Besides candy, we will have games and a craft. We are collecting funds to pay for the candy that Keri and Patti have purchased. If you want to help with the event, notify Keri Dibrell. Get out your best non-scary costume and plan to have a fun afternoon! Thanks to Tricia Copelin for another darling invitation. Please post on your social media pages and share with your friends.



The exterior of the house has been repaired and painted, and shutters replaced. It looks wonderful! A small portion of trim under the eaves on the west side was damaged and as the contractor said, “They don’t make them like that anymore.” A wood artisan is making a replacement piece. Keri removed the remaining boxwood shrubs that were an eyesore.

Nancy Kesselring invited the Guild to the **Master Gardeners Fall Lecture Series** on Saturday, October 21, at the Lafayette County MSU Extension Office. Registration begins at 9:00. Arborist Matt Nielson will speak on “Considering the Cold Damage Dilemma & Other Solutions to Change Your World” and artist Charlie Buckley will present “Mississippi Landscape: Finding Beauty in the Familiar.” The event is free.

The **November 14** meeting will be a formal lunch with a guest speaker. Our own Karen Travillo will teach us about holiday decorating and how to make a bow. Just in time for the holidays!

Cedar Oaks Guild will again participate in the **Indoor Yard Sale** at the Conference Center next January. Start saving your treasures! No clothes, please.

### Happy October Birthday:

Marion Tutor	October 7
Betty Bridge	October 17
Jennifer Neal	October 18
Douglas Vance	October 22



### Cedar Oaks Treasure: Square Rosewood Grand Piano



The square rosewood grand piano in the parlor was given to us by Roy Hunt, son of Jane Hunt Smith and stepson of Hassell Smith. He currently lives in a retirement village in Florida. I wrote to Mr. Hunt a few months ago, and received a very nice reply from him. Roy Hunt purchased the

piano about 1959 while he was in law school at the University of Mississippi. A former classmate from Vanderbilt had informed him of the piano for sale in Nashville, and he bought it and had it shipped to Oxford. When the Smith family donated the house, he also donated the piano. This beautiful piano sat where it currently is in the parlor, and rode in the house when it was moved! Mr. Hunt said he believed that a similar piano was in the house during the Civil War. He also wrote that family lore said that when Union troops arrived in 1864 to burn the house, Molly Turner was playing the piano and refused to stop, until the troops gave up.

A 1962 Christmas picture from Walker Sahag (Susan Walker Smith Sahag) when she was a little tyke shows her riding her tricycle in the parlor with the piano in the background, and the candelabra, also donated by the Smiths, on the piano. Mr. Hunt said they always had it open, with the candelabra on the left side.



JOHN B. DUNHAM.

The piano was manufactured by Dunham, New York. John B. Dunham [1799-1873] was a cabinet maker in North Carolina. He settled in New York in 1834 and first worked as a case maker for Nunns, Clark & Company before joining Stodart, Worcester & Dunham in 1836. In 1844 it became Stodart & Dunham until Stodart left the company in 1849.

In the mid-1800s Dunham engaged Frederick Mathushek, who constructed a highly acclaimed over-string square piano, for which Dunham and Mathushek received a patent. Dunham's sons David H. and John B. Dunham joined their father in the business in 1867 and the company became Dunham & Sons until the senior partner's death. The sons continued to manufacture pianos for a few more years, until the company closed in December, 1880. Family squabbles over the inheritance prevented the company from reopening.

Because the metal plate above the keyboard says just "Dunham, New York," it could have been made between 1849 and 1867. (Or possibly a company name was just shortened to fit on a small plaque.) I did not raise our piano lid, just the keyboard cover, but this circa 1858 piano from "Dunham, New York" listed at auction is probably indicative of the strings inside.



1858 Dunham piano at auction



COG piano

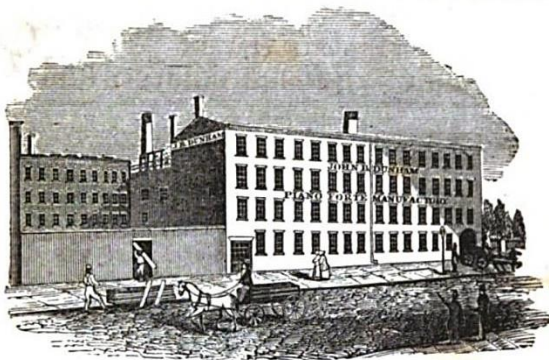
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PIANO FORTES, GUITARS, &c.

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**JOHN B. DUNHAM,**  
**PIANO FORTE MANUFACTURER,**



**East 13th-st. between 3d & 4th Avenues,**  
**NEW-YORK.**

*DUNHAM, J.B. & COMPANY*

**DUNHAM, J.B. & COMPANY**

1854	pianos	81 E. 13th
1855-58	"	79 E. 13th

See above *John Dunham*.

**DUNHAM PIANO COMPANY**

1889-90+	pianos	412 E. 23rd
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See above *John Dunham*.

**DUNHAM PIANO-FORTE MANUFACTURING**

1882	pianos	Ave. 4 c. 155th
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See above *John Dunham*.

**DUNHAM & SONS**

1867	pianos	111 E. 13th
1868-69	"	831 Broadway
1870-72	"	17 Union Sq.
1873-77	"	18 E. 14 & 155 c. Morris.
1878-79	"	124 5th; manuf. Ave. 4 c. 155
1880-81	"	155 c. RR Ave.

See above *John Dunham*.

Musical instrument makers of New York

Dunham had several different factory buildings over the years. The 1855 census stated that Dunham produced 600 pianos annually, and employed 102 men and 11 boys. A series of articles in *Broadway Journal*, 1845, gave detailed descriptions of the process of producing a Piano Forte at the Stodart & Dunham manufactory. They concluded that “whoever purchases an instrument from the store of Stodart & Dunham will never repent the bargain.”

While the square grand piano was very popular in the 1800s, according to information at Cornell University, it “fell out of fashion because of its technical quirks. The ratios within the action vary greatly from bass to treble, giving each end a perceivably different feeling. Ultimately, upright pianos, with the benefit of a consistent touch and smaller footprint, won the spot of the domestic piano towards the end of the 19th century.”

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<https://antiquepianoshop.com/online-museum/dunham/>

Belden, Ezekiel Porter. *New York: Past, present, and future*. Google books p.41

LOCAL BUSINESS TROUBLES.: FAILURE OF THE OLDEST PIANO MANUFACTURING *New York Times* (1857-1922); Dec 3, 1880; p 3 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times with Index

EBSCOhost - Digital Archives Viewer Source: *Broadway Journal* Date: March 29, 1845, April 5, 1845 April 12, 1845, April 26, 1845. Stodart & Dunham’s piano forte manufactory AAS Series 4

Groce, Nancy. *Musical Instrument Makers of New York: A directory of eighteenth and nineteenth century craftsmen*. Google books

DUNHAM & SONS' PIANO-FORTES, : NO. 18 EAST FOURTEENTH ST. (1875, May 20). *The Independent ...Devoted to the Consideration of Politics, Social and Economic Tendencies, History, Literature, and the Arts (1848-1921)*, 27, 17. Retrieved from <http://umiss.idm.oclc.org/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/magazines/dunham-sons-piano-fortes/docview/90212551/se-2>

[https://www.rug-auction.com/auction-lot/pre-civil-war-brazilian-rosewood-square-grand-pia\\_7BF4F57A4D](https://www.rug-auction.com/auction-lot/pre-civil-war-brazilian-rosewood-square-grand-pia_7BF4F57A4D)

<https://historicalkeyboards.as.cornell.edu/pianos> demise of square grands

St. Cecelia's Hall, Edinburgh, Scotland <https://m.facebook.com/stceciliashall/photos/instrument-of-the-day-20-april-2020its-hip-to-be-square-well-actually-rectangula/3284790398221727/>

This is the only mention I've found of them being easier to ship