

Robert E Dunkin
About 1874 – 3 Dec 1909

Per Mark Dunkin, 12 August 2014

Robert's grandfather is my 3rd great grandfather [Joseph Dunkin](#). Joseph and 3 generations before him were land speculators- farmers. They started in Leesburg Virginia, then to western Pennsylvania, southern Ohio and then western Indiana. They would purchase large parcels of land develop it make it farmable, stay a few years then sell and move on and do it again. In 1860 Joseph was worth \$22,000. By calculating the amount of land he owned in today's numbers I estimate him to be worth between 7 and 8 million. After Joseph died in 1864 Sarah (Josephs second wife) and her 3 children came here to Iowa to join Joseph's sons by his first wife (Thomas and Hercules). Robert's father was [Huff Dunkin](#). Huff still owned 200 plus acres of land in Indiana in 1870. He ran a livery business as well as a livestock feed business in Albia, Iowa. This was Robert's connection to the horse business. Robert was the oldest of 3 brothers. Robert's mother was [Minnie Saunders](#), the daughter of [Robert E Saunders](#). Robert E was a successful farmer in the area and continued to own land in Indiana as well after he moved here to the Albia area. Minnie and Huff seemed to have a good relationship up until 1885 when Robert's youngest brother was born. I can't find record of it but they were probably divorced around then. Huff was a horse and livestock trader in Albia and then in St Joseph, Missouri. He then moved on to St Louis and continued in the livestock business until the late 1890's when he was killed in a gunfight. Between 1885 and 1902 when she died of cancer, Minnie owned and operated several restaurants in Albia.

Robert and one of his brothers bought one of the cafes from her. Robert and his brothers owned several race horses as well as harness horses. Robert also worked for the local newspaper and attended the world's fair in ST Louis for the paper. Stories would indicate that he was a top horseman. The rest of the story is in the obit that Jolee sent you.

The obit mentioned above can be found at www.findagrave.com listed under [Robert E Dunkin](#).