

Source: Google search for William Orr Cunningham

Resource: Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut

John Cunningham the first of the family to come to this country was born in Glasgow Scotland in 1786 of an ancient and honorable family and died in 1834 at Albia near Troy New York He came to America when he had reached his majority in 1811 and followed his trade of a stone mason in the city of Albany New York becoming one of the most enterprising and successful masons and builders in the capital He was the contractor for the foundation of the old state capitol He married July 23 1815 in Troy New York Matilda Orr born 1811 in Belfast Ireland 1797 of Scotch ancestry died in Troy New York in 1849 Children I Elizabeth born 1825 died 1861 married Villiam Lincoln child Frances married Villiam Defrest 2 Andrew born 1827 married Phoebe Pierson children John Matilda Villiam and Andrew 3 Villiam Orr mentioned below John Cunningham and Matilda his wife are interred in the Lincoln lot Oakwood cemetery Troy New York On their tombstone is inscribed They serve the dead the best who do as they desire II William Orr son of John Cunningham was born in Carmine street New York City March 4 1829 died at his residence No 28 First street Troy New York March 2 1870 interred in the Cunningham lot Oakwood cemetery Troy New York He was educated in the public schools of Albany New York He entered the employ of his uncles William and David Orr in their paper business at Albia New York and on becoming of age was made a partner in Orr's 8 Company in their new mill at the State Dam above Troy This mill was then the largest paper mill in the country supplying the New York Tribzmc and New Y O rk Ecwning Post He was a man of sterling character combined with great energy and business acumen He was a director in several banks and industrial enterprises He was a communicant and vestrynian of St Paul's Protestant Episcopal Church and was president of the Young Men's Association In politics he was a Republican He married June 25 1857 Jane Chester born at aterford New York February 9 1835 daughter of John and Caroline Chester Knickerbacker Her mother was from Hartford Connecticut and educated at Miss Pierce's School Litchfield Connecticut Her father was a descendant of one of the old Dutch families having their original grant at Schaghticoke New York Children Seymour mentioned below Stuart born 1870 died in infancy III Seymour son of Villiam Orr Cunningham was born in Troy New York September 13 1863 He attended the Troy Academy Later he entered the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and graduated with the degree of civil engineer in 1884 He became interested in the oil business in Pennsylvania and Ohio In 1887 the old home at Troy New York was sold and he brought his mother to Vashington DC and built a residence at No 1719 K street where he still maintains his winter residence His Litchfield home Forked Chimney was built in 1893 on South street near the site of the old Parmelee house In politics he is a Republican In religion he is an Episcopalian He married June 6 1892 Stephanie Whitney of Oakland California born October 22 1869 daughter of Hon George E Whitney lawyer and state senator of California and Mary Van Swaringen Whitney of Louisville Kentucky Mrs Cunningham was named Stephanie in honor of her uncle Justice Stephen J Field of the United States supreme court Children of Mr and Mrs Cunningham Cecil born March 8 1893 Macklin February 21 1894 Jane Chester February 27 1896 Pamela 1 lay 5 1906 The three oldest were born in Vashington DC the youngest in Litchfield Connecticut