



Follow



Send your News, Photos and Events

View Photos Video



NEWS

SPORTS

BUSINESS

LIFE & ENTERTAINMENT

DISCUSS

AUTOS

REAL ESTATE

COOK CO.

DUPAGE CO.

KANE CO.

LAKE CO.

MCHENRY CO.

CHICAGO

STATE & REGION

NATION & WORL



GET THE HOPPER™ FREE
WITH PACKAGES STARTING AT \$24.99/MO

REQUIRES 24-MO. AGREEMENT. ADDITIONAL MONTHLY FEES APPLY. RESTRICTIONS APPLY.



SUBURBAN CHICAGO'S
INFORMATION SOURCE

- ADDISON
- ALGONQUIN
- ANTIOCH
- ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
- AURORA
- BANNOCKBURN
- BARRINGTON
- BARRINGTON HILLS
- BARTLETT
- BATAVIA
- BERGENVILLE
- BLOOMINGDALE
- BOLINGBROOK
- BUFFALO GROVE
- BURLINGTON
- CAMPTON HILLS
- CAROL STREAM
- CARPENTERSVILLE
- CARY
- CRYSTAL LAKE
- DEER PARK
- DEERFIELD
- DES PLAINES
- DIAMOND LAKE
- DOWNERS GROVE
- EAST DUNDEE
- ELBURN
- ELGIN
- ELK GROVE VILLAGE
- ELMHURST
- FOX LAKE
- FOX RIVER GROVE
- GAGES LAKE
- GENEVA
- GILBERTS
- GLEN ELLYN
- GLENDALE HEIGHTS
- GLENVIEW
- GRANDWOOD PARK
- GRAYSLAKE
- GREEN OAKS
- GURNEE
- HAINESVILLE
- HAMPSHIRE
- HANOVER PARK
- HAWTHORN WOODS
- HINSDALE
- HOFFMAN ESTATES
- HUNTLEY
- INDIAN CREEK
- INGLESIDE

Article posted: 9/17/2012 8:00 AM

Obama's ancestral home in Indiana subject of documentary

Article

Comments (0)

Photos (2)

PREV

1 of 2

NEXT

ZOOM PHOTO

View other
photograph
collections



Steve Zukerman interviews Nelson Price about the history of the Dunham house and the area around it for the documentary film project. The Dunham house in Kempton, Ind., is the subject of a documentary film project about President Barack Obama's ancestral roots in Indiana.

GET PRINTS OF THIS PHOTO

ASSOCIATED PRESS



- SUBURBAN CHICAGO'S
INFORMATION SOURCE
- ADDISON
 - ALGONQUIN
 - ANTIOCH
 - ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
 - AURORA
 - BANNOCKBURN
 - BARRINGTON
 - BARRINGTON HILLS
 - BARTLETT
 - BATAVIA
 - BERSEENVILLE
 - BLOOMINGDALE
 - BOLINGBROOK
 - BUFFALO GROVE
 - BURLINGTON
 - CAMPTON HILLS
 - CAROL STREAM
 - CARPENTERSVILLE
 - CARY
 - CRYSTAL LAKE
 - DEER PARK
 - DEERFIELD
 - DES PLAINES
 - DIAMOND LAKE
 - DOWNERS GROVE
 - EAST DUNDEE
 - ELBURN
 - ELSTN
 - ELK GROVE VILLAGE
 - ELMHURST
 - FOX LAKE
 - FOX RIVER GROVE
 - GAGES LAKE
 - GENEVA
 - GILBERTS
 - GLEN ELLYN
 - GLENDALE HEIGHTS
 - GLENVIEW
 - GRANDWOOD PARK
 - GRAYS LAKE
 - GREEN OAKS
 - GURNEE
 - HAINESVILLE
 - HAMPSHIRE
 - HANOVER PARK
 - HAWTHORN WOODS
 - HINSDALE
 - HOFFMAN ESTATES
 - HUNTLEY
 - INDIAN CREEK
 - INGLESIDE

FALL SALES EVENT

GET THE HOPPER™ FREE
WITH PACKAGES STARTING AT **\$24.99/MO**

REQUIRES 24-MO. AGREEMENT. ADDITIONAL MONTHLY FEES APPLY. RESTRICTIONS APPLY.

Article posted: 9/17/2012 8:00 AM

Obama's ancestral home in Indiana subject of documentary

Article Comments (0) Photos (2)

PREV ▲
2 of 2
NEXT ▼

ZOOM PHOTO

View other photograph collections



The Dunham house in Kempton, Ind., is the subject of a documentary film project about President Barack Obama's ancestral roots in Indiana.

GET PRINTS OF THIS PHOTO

ASSOCIATED PRESS



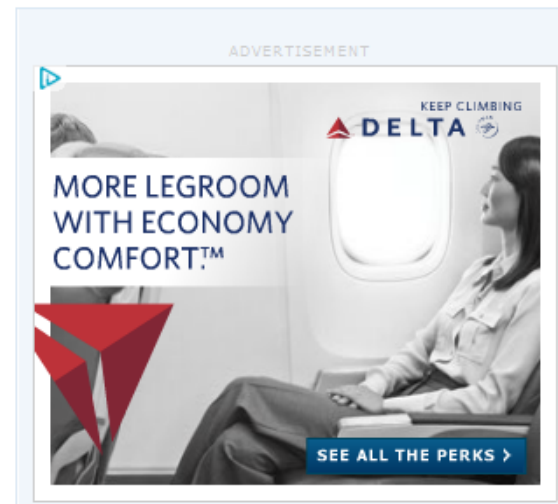
SUBURBAN CHICAGO'S
INFORMATION SOURCE

ADDISON
ALGONQUIN
ANTIOCH
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
AURORA
BANNOCKBURN
BARRINGTON
BARRINGTON HILLS
BARTLETT
BATAVIA
BENSENVILLE
BLOOMINGDALE
BOLINGBROOK
BUFFALO GROVE
BURLINGTON
CAMPTON HILLS
CAROL STREAM
CARPENTERSVILLE
CARY
CRYSTAL LAKE
DEER PARK
DEERFIELD
DES PLAINES
DIAMOND LAKE
DOWNERS GROVE
EAST DUNDEE
ELBURN
ELGIN
ELK GROVE VILLAGE
ELMHURST
FOX LAKE
FOX RIVER GROVE
GAGES LAKE
GENEVA
GILBERTS
GLEN ELLYN
GLENDALE HEIGHTS
GLENVIEW
GRANDWOOD PARK
GRAYSLAKE
GREEN OAKS
GURNEE
HAINESVILLE
HAMPSHIRE
HANOVER PARK
HAWTHORN WOODS
HINSDALE
HOFFMAN ESTATES
HUNTLEY
INDIAN CREEK
INGLESIDE
INVERNESS
ISLAND LAKE
ITASKA
KENOSHA

By Associated Press

KEMPTON, Ind. — Indiana history buff Nelson Price relaxes in the sunny former master bedroom's sitting room of Obama's forefathers, looking out on the acres of land that once belonged to them.

The author of Indiana history books and the host of Indianapolis-based radio show Hoosier History Live!, Price has followed the story of this house closely since he first invited the owner, Shawn Christopher Clements, to speak on his show. Now, as he's being interviewed for "A Single Root," a documentary about the house, he's basking in generations of rich Indiana history. Price is certainly in his element.



"I think the Dunham House is an example of how doing a house history can change your life," he said during his interview with documentary director Steve Zukerman. "Look at what's happened: Shawn buys this older home without realizing it has connections to a rising political star and then the star becomes president of the United States. This becomes, in my opinion, a historic site."

Clements bought the home nearly 10 years ago, before Obama became a senator and a household name, the [Kokomo Tribune](#) reported. He started researching the home's history when an elderly woman knocked on his door and

told him the history was an important one. As Obama gained popularity, the Chicago Sun-Times ran an article on the politician's family history, and Clements discovered the link between the former senator and the house he had purchased. The house, built by William Riley Dunham sometime in the 1880s, sits on the land purchased by Jacob and Catherine Dunham, Obama's fourth great-grandparents on his mother's side. William Riley Dunham had been a member of the Indiana General Assembly, and legend says his acquaintance Grover Cleveland spent a night in the Dunham home. President Obama visited the home while campaigning in 2008.

Clements is currently working to grant the home status of a National Historic Landmark. After buying the home, he says he spent nearly half a year cleaning it out. Basic rewiring had to be done; he says it's "amazing" that the place hadn't burned down. Now, the owner is using his expertise to get the home in shape. Items, like Cecil Dunham's sitting chair, are slowly finding their way back home as family members help in the effort.



SUBURBAN CHICAGO'S
INFORMATION SOURCE

- ADDISON
- ALGONQUIN
- ANTIOCH
- ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
- AURORA
- BANNOCKBURN
- BARRINGTON
- BARRINGTON HILLS
- BARTLETT
- BATAVIA
- BESENWILLE
- BLOOMINGDALE
- BOLINGBROOK
- BUFFALO GROVE
- BURLINGTON
- CAMPTON HILLS
- CAROL STREAM
- CARPENTERSVILLE
- CARY
- CRYSTAL LAKE
- DEER PARK
- DEERFIELD
- DES PLAINES
- DIAMOND LAKE
- DOWNERS GROVE
- EAST DUNDEE
- ELBURN
- ELGIN
- ELK GROVE VILLAGE
- ELMHURST
- FOX LAKE
- FOX RIVER GROVE
- GAGES LAKE
- GENEVA
- GILBERTS
- GLEN ELLYN
- GLENDALE HEIGHTS
- GLENVIEW
- GRANDWOOD PARK
- GRAYSLAKE
- GREEN OAKS
- GURNEE
- HAINESVILLE
- HAMPSHIRE
- HANOVER PARK
- HAWTHORN WOODS
- HINSDALE
- HOFFMAN ESTATES
- HUNTLEY
- INDIAN CREEK
- INGLESIDE
- INVERNESS

Clements has been working to restore the house, but the endeavor has been expensive and time-consuming — especially with the increasing popularity of the house.

"Nothing takes a toll on a house like a thousand people coming through it," he said.

The house will be the focal point of the documentary, with the extensive family history weaving through more than a century of time.

"It's a simple story," Zukerman said of his documentary. "It doesn't require us getting really fancy with it. The message itself is what sells it. It's a good story."

John Kleiman, the film's executive producer, reconnected with Clements to do the project. He said he had read about Clements' latest endeavor and gave his old friend a call.

"I told him, 'I think we can make a movie out of what you've done,'" Kleiman said. "I could not believe that someone hadn't already done something on it. It is the ancestral home and lineage of the president's mother. You didn't have to hit me over the head to convince me that this could be a worthwhile project."

Though Clements said he'd been approached to do other film projects, there had never been the right person to do it. That is, until Kleiman connected him to Zukerman, who runs Soapbox Entertainment, a Los Angeles, Calif.,-based production company.

"This is who we were waiting for," Clements said.

Zukerman said he hopes to have the film finished by mid-October so it can be shown in screenings in time for November's election.

"I think a lot of Hoosiers are shocked when they find out that there's this connection to Barack Obama here in Tipton County, Indiana," Price said. "We associate him with exotic places like Hawaii or Indonesia or Chicago, not Tipton County, Indiana, right out in the middle of the prairie here."

Kleiman said the team hopes to wrap up filming in the next eight to 10 days. They'll interview everyone from the last Dunham child to grow up in the house to Kokomo Mayor Greg Goodnight, who is a distant ancestor of Catherine Goodnight, Obama's great-great-great-great grandmother.

"I love history," Goodnight said. "I love the history of our country, and I think we should do what we can to preserve the historical knowledge of any and every president."

Kleiman believes the house will soon be even more of a point of pride and tourism for the community.



SUBURBAN CHICAGO'S
INFORMATION SOURCE

ADDISON
ALGONQUIN
ANTIOCH
ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
AURORA
BANNOCKBURN
BARRINGTON
BARRINGTON HILLS
BARTLETT
BATAVIA
BENSENVILLE
BLOOMINGDALE
BOLINGBROOK
BUFFALO GROVE

"I think that at some point in time, the Obama family will be back to visit the house again," he said. "I would also hope that we become an important part of the economy here."

Above all else, Clements said he wants the documentary to represent the house's rich history, and hopes that people will not disregard it because of their feelings about Obama's politics. "Whether you voted for him or not, whether you like him or not, he's still the president of the United States."

Recommend 17 people recommend this.

THIS ARTICLE FILED UNDER

[News](#) [Nation/World](#) [Region](#) [Indiana](#)

Web Talk

No tweets available. Please feel free to share your thought about the article on [Twitter](#).