

President Obama's Ancestors' Home in Tipton County

October 7, 2012

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Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements holds an old chalk portrait of Sam Dunham in the front rooms of the house. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star

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October 7, 2012

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2 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunnam house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements sits in the entryway with period chairs and lamp, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. The stair case has fine detail and mirrors on the sides. Official portraits of the Obamas hang on the wall also. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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3 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star

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4 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a historic marker is seen in front of the home, Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

Kelly Wilkinson / The Star

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5 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a detail of the home's historic marker is seen, Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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6 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began renovating this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Obama smiles in an official portrait hanging in the entryway, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. A photo of Michelle Obama, not pictured, hangs there too. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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7 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began renovating this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a photo of Clements with Obama when he visited the house in 2008, while on the campaign trail, is on the refrigerator, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star

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8 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, family members Louisa Eliza Stroup Dunham and her husband Jacob Mackey Dunham, are seen in this old photo, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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9 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Snawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a chalk portrait of Sam Dunham is ready to be displayed, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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10 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, the home is seen in its rural setting, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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11 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, the home is seen next to a farm field, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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12 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
Snawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements shows the upstairs sitting room, off the master bedroom, from which you can see for miles out the windows, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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13 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunnam house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a chair original to the house sits in the upstairs master bedroom sitting room, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. The windows give a view of miles of land surrounding the home. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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14 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunnam house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements sits in the upstairs master bedroom sitting room, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. He sits in a chair original to the home. The windows give a view of miles of land surrounding the home. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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15 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, original details are seen in the downstairs, Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

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October 7, 2012

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16 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a framed photo of the Indiana Medical College, the school of medicine of Purdue University, class of 1906, is ready to be displayed, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Brothers Grover Cleveland Dunham and Wilbur Franklin Dunham graduated in this class. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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17 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, original wood detailing is seen under a downstairs window, Wednesday, September 10, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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18 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a detail of crown molding is seen, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Many such details are original to the home. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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19 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Lunnam house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a bust of Benjamin Franklin that Clements brought to the home, sits in a downstairs room, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. The bust is an actual size representation of Franklin, made by the French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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20 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunnam house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a bust of George Washington that Clements brought to the home, sits in a downstairs room, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. The bust is an actual size representation of Washington, made by the French sculptor Jean-Antoine Houdon. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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21 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a gravestone for Jacob Dunham sits in a front room display case, Wednesday, September 10, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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22 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a mirror hangs in a front room, with an eagle on the top, Wednesday, September 10, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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23 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Lunnam house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a detail of the top of a hallway mirror is seen, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Clements was given the old mirror and refinished it, adding gold leaf. He especially likes the eagle on the top of the mirror. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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24 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements shows the upstairs master bedroom and sitting room, awash with sunlight, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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25 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a chair is seen down the hallway, in one of the bedrooms, Wednesday, September 10, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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26 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a detail of the upstairs master bedroom molding is seen, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star

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October 7, 2012

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27 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a detail of the upstairs master bedroom molding is seen, Wednesday, September 10, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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28 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a detail of the upstairs master bedroom molding is seen, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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29 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, he stands on the front porch of the house, Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

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30 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. This is a photo of Marian Kearney who married Jacob William Dunham in Kempton, and they moved to Kansas. Obama's mother was born a few generations later, in Kansas. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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31 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. This is a photo of Jacob William Dunham who married Marian Kearney in Kempton, and they moved to Kansas. Obama's mother was born a few generations later, in Kansas. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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32 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Snawn Christopher Clements bought and began renovating this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements is silhouetted in one of the home's windows, as he gives a tour of the home, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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33 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. This photo shows William Riley Dunham and his family, wife Belle Dunham, sons Grover Cleveland Dunham and Wilbur Franklin Dunham (Riley's daughter was not born yet). Riley was the first Dunham to live in the home, and he build the home on family property. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly



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October 7, 2012

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34 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a built-in china cabinet is seen in the kitchen, Wednesday, September 19, 2012.

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October 7, 2012

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35 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, original hardware remains on a built-in kitchen china cabinet, Wednesday, September 10, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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36 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Barack Obama. In this photo, a crack in a door's stained glass window is highlighted. The crack happened when Obama visited the home while on the campaign trail in 2008. Secret service members were in the back of the house, beyond this door, and kept the door open. When they opened the front door, a draft slammed this door and broke the glass, which was made by Clements mother. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly



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October 7, 2012

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37 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a large downstairs room with wood floors fills with light from the windows, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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38 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
While tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, an American flag that flew over the home when Barack Obama and his family visited, while on the campaign trail in 2008, sits in a display case in a front room of the Dunham house, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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39 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, an old gravestone for Jacob Dunham, which originally lay in the Kempton cemetery, is on display in the front room of the house, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The

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October 7, 2012

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40 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, an old gravestone for one of the Dunhams, which originally lay in the Kempton cemetery, is on display in the front room of the house, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The



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October 7, 2012

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41 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements shows a display case in the front room that shows two gravestones of the family, and the American flag that flew over the house when Obama visited the house in 2008, while on the campaign trail. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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42 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a display case sits in the front room that shows two gravestones of the family, and the American flag that flew over the house when Obama visited the house in 2008, while on the campaign trail. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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43 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson
while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a period lamp glows in the entryway with period chairs and lamp, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. The stair case has fine detail and mirrors on the sides. Official portraits of the Obamas hang on the wall also. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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44 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, detailed banisters by stairwell lead the way downstairs. Wednesday, September 10, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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45 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, detailed banisters by stairwell lead the way downstairs. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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46 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, period furniture has been added to this upstairs bedroom, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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47 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, back stairs connect the two floors, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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48 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, a mirror hangs in the upstairs hallway, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Clements was given the old mirror and refinished it, adding gold leaf. He especially likes the eagle on the top of the mirror. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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49 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, sunshine fills the master bedroom and sitting room, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. A chair, original to the home, sits in the sitting room. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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50 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Shawn Christopher Clements bought and began rehabbing this Kempton, IN house several years ago, and while tracing the lineage of the home's inhabitants, discovered it was the Dunham house, the ancestors of Barack Obama. In this photo, an original vanity sits in the master bedroom, Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Reflected in the window is a chair that is also original to the home. Kelly Wilkinson / The Star



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October 7, 2012

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51 of 52



Kelly Wilkinson

Barack Obama. In this photo, Clements shows a crack in a door's stained glass window that happened when Obama visited the home while on the campaign trail in 2008. Secret service members were in the back of the house, beyond this door, and kept the door open. When they opened the front door, a draft slammed this door and broke the glass, which was made by Clements mother. Wednesday, September 19, 2012. Kelly Wilkinson