

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

Here below I've abstracted all the DENNISONs who appear as acquirers of land in the Pennsylvania land grant records—most importantly those who are listed as warrantees in the 70 or so warrant registers for the colony and the commonwealth. I've also abstracted all the DENNISONs who appear in the PA patent registers. These two sets of registers, and the survey plats annotated with the return-of-survey information to which the warrant registers constitute the index, were copied out in 1833 in a highly legible hand from the original documents, and serve as their official replacements for the PA land authorities.

Since both warrant and patent registers have been alphabetized on the first letter of the warrantee or patentee's surname, I have for each of these registers scanned all the pages devoted to surnames that begin with "D", looking for surnames of any spelling that are phonetically cognate to the generic surname DENNISON (including the variants with a "t", e.g. "Denniston", and "Deniston").

Although these are abstracts, they include all of the information found in the original registers, though I've rearranged the fields and tinkered with their column headings a bit. All the registers are chronological within first letter of surname, and the county warrant registers are sequentially number by item as well. The reader will find an example of one of these county warrant registers in [Appendix B](#).

These records do not speak for themselves. They provide data that is only intelligible within the context of the English common law governing grants from the Crown, and after the Revolution the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania which adhered to the same legal concepts. In addition, there were many adaptations of the procedures and terms for land acquisition specific to Pennsylvania, and these changed over time as the circumstances changed. To the researcher who isn't already thoroughly familiar with the history and process of land grants in Pennsylvania, I strongly urge him or her to read carefully through my "[Acquiring Land from the Colony, and Commonwealth, of Pennsylvania](#)", or, if more ambitious, to obtain a copy of the source I rely on for the interpretation of these Pennsylvania land grant records: Donna Bingham Munger, *Pennsylvania Land Records: A History and Guide for Research* (WilmingtonDE: Scholarly Resources, Inc., 1991).

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Warrant Registers

I began by scanning the earliest warrant registers for the initial proprietary period (1682-1732): the Original Purchases from Penn register, and the "Old Rights" registers for Bucks, Chester, and Philadelphia counties.

In the Original Purchases Register there is an entry for John Dennison's purchase of 1250a, but there is no record that any of this land was ever warranted, and thus taken up. Evidently this John Dennison never exercised his option to Pennsylvania land.

There are no DENNISON entries in the Old Rights Register.

The 67 individual county registers where I found DENNISONs appear on the following pages, in alphabetical order. The counties where I found DENNISONs were [Allegheny](#), [Bedford](#), [Bucks](#), [Clinton](#), [Cumberland](#), [Jefferson](#), [Lancaster](#), [Luzerne](#), [Mercer](#), [Northampton](#), [Northumberland](#), [Philadelphia](#), [Somerset](#), [Washington](#), and [Westmoreland](#). I've interpolated the DENNISONs in the warrant register for [the Last Purchase of 1784](#) immediately after the AlleghenyCo DENNISONs, because it's likely that these two groups were related, or overlap.

Following these county warrant abstracts is a section that comprises [all the DENNISON patents acquired in Pennsylvania](#).

There were no DENNISON warrants or patents for YorkCo, but on 9May1775, one James Dennison [Denniston] did acquire from the patentee, Joseph Steer, two adjacent tracts in Warrington Twp, YorkCo, totaling 263a (plus the 6% allowance for public roads).

There was also [a tract surveyed in 1785 for Pvt. James Denniston in District 3 of the Donation Land](#) area west of the Allegheny River that was reserved for PA veterans of the Revolutionary War, and this too may have been for James of YorkCo, though it wasn't patented by him.

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

DENNISONs in the Warrant Registers of Pennsylvania Counties

Acreeage Surveyed is expressed in <acres>[+<poles/perches>]

ALLEGHENY County (created in 1788 from Westmoreland and Washington Cos)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreeage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreeage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
158	Deniston, John	survey	ArmstrongCo	400	4Apr1793	24Jun1807	436+69	Samuel Denniston	P60: 91	A51: 52
167	Denniston, John	survey		400	10Feb1794	23Apr1806	419	William Miller et al.	P56:397	C46:261
171	Denniston, Archibald	survey	ArmstrongCo	400	28Feb1794	7Feb1820	371+71	James Watterson	H17:255	C43:167
172	Denniston, William	survey	ArmstrongCo	400	28Feb1794	28Jun1837	440+126	James Watterson Sr	H37:488	C45:300
173	Denniston, Alexander	survey	ArmstrongCo	400	28Feb1794	7Feb1820	440+103	Hugh Gellespie	H17:253	A87:112
209	Deniston, John Sr	survey	ArmstrongCo	400	1Mar1794	16Mar1824	350	Charles Campbell	H21:402	C29:285
211	Deniston, Samuel	survey	ArmstrongCo	400	1Mar1794	30Apr1814	445+20	Casper W. Morris et al.	H10:565	C41:136
212	Deniston, John	survey	ArmstrongCo	400	1Mar1794	2Apr1828	445+20	Charles Campbell	H25:308	C64: 51
215	Deniston, John	survey	ButlerCo	400	5Mar1794	17May1795	400+92	Sam[ue]l Dickson	-----	C158:206
227	Denneston, Simeon	survey		400	31Dec1794	28Jan1815	420+13	John Lawrie	H12:213	C41:166
228	Denneston, Peter	survey		400	31Dec1794	22Jun1865	436	William T. Crawford	H57:516	C47: 43
229	Denneston, William	survey		400	31Dec1794	17Apr1865	425+55	William T. Crawford	H57:618	C47: 41

The survey for item 158, at [A51:52](#), shows that John's land was at the headwaters of Buffalo Crk, NW of the Allegheny River, while the reverse indicates that this land is now in ArmstrongCo. The survey also shows that John had an Archabald Denniston as a next door neighbor.

The survey for item 167, at [C46:261](#), identifies this tract as "Nabob", and locates it on Conaquenesing Crk, on the NW bank of the OhioRiver.

The survey for item 215, at [C158:206](#), locates this land in ButlerCo (created from AlleghenyCo I n1800), on the waters of SlipperyRock Crk, thus in the neighborhood of many of the MercerCo DENNISONs, below; Sam[ue]l Denneston is shown as a next door neighbor. Although the register omits patent information, the reverse of the survey shows it as belonging to Sam[ue]l Dickson.

The survey dates recorded above for items 227-229 are actually the dates the surveys were returned (presented) to the recording clerk; the surveys themselves show that the actual survey dates for all three of these tracts were the same, 11May1795, and the surveys themselves show that these of Simeon, Peter, and William, were adjacent, and located on the Allegheny River. The register entries were originally annotated "Allegheny"[Co] and overwritten as "Butler", but as of 1800, when Butler and Armstrong Cos were carved out of Allegheny, the Allegheny River runs primarily from NE to SW through ArmstrongCo before disgoring at Pittsburgh in AlleghenyCo.. Meanwhile, the first of these DENNISON AlleghenyCo tracts (item 158) was located on BuffaloCrk NW of the Allegheny River, and BuffaloCrk runs more or less N to S parallel to the River, and drains into the river at the junction of the three counties: Allegheny, Armstrong, and Butler. Thus, all or most of this DENNISON land can be probably be located in SouthBuffalo Twp, in this westernmost corner of ArmstrongCo.

There are, however, no DENNISON warrants either for Armstrong or Butler counties, and since only one of these tracts was ever patented by DENNISONs (by Samuel in 1807), most or all of these probably moved on to OH or points west within the next 10-15 years.

			Imp.Begun	Date of Survey		
---	Denneston, John	imprvmt	5Mar1793	11Mar1793	400	C158: 275
---	Denneston, William	imprvmt	7Mar1793	11Mar1793	400	C158: 285
---	Denneston, Archibald	imprvmt	5Aug1794	27Aug1794	402	C158: 284
---	Denneston, Alexander	imprvmt	6Aug1794	28Aug1794	401+62	C158: 273
---	Denneston, Archibald	imprvmt	2Dec1793	3Dec1794	410+88	C158: 261
---	Denneston, Arthur	imprvmt	27Aug1794	11May1795	435	C158: 250
---	Denneston, Samuel	imprvmt	30Aug1794	11May1795	439+104	C158: 247

These final surveys without item#s are based, not on warrants, but on the landholder having commenced certain qualifying "improvements" to the land (putting up a cabin, and clearing at least 2% of the land). Every one of these tracts is adjacent to one or more of the other tracts and all are NW of the Allegheny River around the north fork of Buffalo Creek (in the same area as the warranted lands above), though there are also a couple of references to Blares or Blaris Creek (not on modern maps) and one on the waters of Limestone, which is some miles to the northeast.

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

DENNISONs in the Warrant Registers of Pennsylvania Counties (continued)

Acreage Surveyed is expressed in <acres>[+<poles/perches>]

“LAST PURCHASE of 1784” Lands (warranted 1785-1817)

Land in this huge, largely vacant, area of northern Pennsylvania was offered at a low price in the Northumberland Lottery of 1784, and when there were few takers, the areas east of the irregular line of the Allegheny River and its continuation, Conewango Creek, was opened to warrantees. Since the warrants were non-descriptive, much of this land was scooped up in huge tracts by large scale land speculators, and only in 1792 was the law changed to require actual settlement on surveyed land. The extent of this tract is best seen by clicking on “1785” on the PA Animap display, but it’s southern boundary incorporated the northern boundary of today’s UnionCo. Beyond that, there is no telling just from the special “Last Purchase” warrant register where any individual tracts of land were located. Eventually, of course, this land fell under the jurisdiction of particular counties and was surveyed, and I suspect that in many cases it was rewarranted in the registers of those counties.

Item#	Dist#/ Tract#	Name of Warrantee	Acreage Claimed	Warrant Date	Surveyed	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
64	6/3618	Denniston, John	265	5Jan1793	14Aug1794	2Mar1795	309	George Roberts	P22:501	A13:179
65	6/3620	Denniston, William	200	5Jan1793	14Aug1794	2Mar1795	220	George Roberts	P22:502	A13:178
66	6/3621	Denniston, Samuel	200	5Jan1793	14Aug1794	2Mar1795	255.5	George Roberts	P22:500	A13:177
67	6/3622	Denniston, John	200	5Jan1793	14Aug1792	2Mar1795	239	George Roberts	P24:233	I:382
87	6/3829	Denniston, John	150	22Apr1793	14Aug1794	2Mar1795	180.75	George Roberts	P24:233	A13:176
88	6/3830	Denniston, John	150	22Apr1793	14Aug1794	2Mar1795	170.5	George Roberts	P22:500	I:383

All but the last of these tracts (John’s Tract 3830) are mutually adjacent, constituting a single block of Dennistons. William’s Tract 3620 is sandwiched between Samuel’s 3621 on the north, and John’s 3618 to the south, with John’s 3622 to the east. District 6 of the Purchase of 1784 was the westernmost, and the overlapping names between this Denniston crew and those who exercised some 20 warrants in greater AlleghenyCo (later ArmstrongCo) starting later in 1793 strongly suggest that they are of the same rather well-heeled lot.

BEDFORD County (created in 1771 from CumberlandCo)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
455	Denison, Hugh	survey	Providence	25	9Dec1816					
571	Dennison, Mary E	survey	Southampton	225	10May1881	16Apr1879	298+142			D26:152

BUCKS County (original county, created in 1682)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
365	Dennison, Andrew	survey	HaycockRun	50	12Dec1745	7Mar1775	51+51	Aaron Klinker	AA15:374	C39:267

CLINTON County (created in 1839 from Centre and Lycoming Cos)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
15	Denison, Hiram	survey	Chapman	29	11Nov1862		30+19			A87:115

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

DENNISONs in the Warrant Registers of Pennsylvania Counties (continued)

Acreage Surveyed is expressed in <acres>[+<poles/perches>]

CUMBERLAND County (created in 1750 from LancasterCo)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
24	Denniston, Alexander	survey	JuniataRiv	100	5Feb1755	16May1821 20Jan1853	105+88 55+32	Michael Brandt Peter Kilmer	H18:141 H49:391	C43:173 C52:230

The survey for item 24, at C43:173, says that 105a of a tract of 206+a in Melford Twp, MifflinCo (created from CumberlandCo in 1789) was originally surveyed on 23Nov1764 for the warrantee, Alexander Denniston.

JEFFERSON County (created in 1804 from Lycoming Cos)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
1	Denison, David	survey	Snyder	220	11Nov1862	17Mar1847	220	David Denison	H46:132	C56: 96

LANCASTER County (created in 1729 from ChesterCo)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
80	Denniston, John	survey	Salisbury	203	5Feb1739	5Feb1739	253	John Denniston	A10: 57	C39:105

The notes for [Survey C39:105](#) show that the original warrantee of this land was William Hazlett, who on his own warrant of 15May1734 had it surveyed on "14:6^{mo} 1639" (presumably 14Aug1739). Then, on 5Feb1739[/40] John Denniston, having evidently purchased the surveyed land from Hazlett, was granted a warrant to accept Hazlett's survey, and two days later, on the 7Feb1739[/40] he was granted a patent. This land, in Salisbury Township, was at the head of branches of both Pequea Creek and Brandywine Creek, which provides a very specific place locator to backstop the official township map of original patentees. Denniston's closest neighbors included Robert Armor and Matthew Thompson. John's tract is shown in context on [the LancasterCo, Salisbury Twp, Warrantee map](#). There are three later Virginia John DENNISONs with the Scottish "t" spelling, whom this early Pennsylvania John might be, but unfortunately, though I've scanned all the comprehensive indexes for LancasterCo (deeds, probate, and general court) there is no record of what became of his patented LancasterCo land, or any other scrap of information about him in LancasterCo.

LUZERNE County (created in 1786 from NorthumberlandCo)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
74	Dennison, Thomas	survey	BowmansCrk	400	3Sep1792	21Jan1811	439+132	M. Hollenbock	H4:481	C55: 29
275	Dennison, Hiram	island	KingstonTwp	8	23Apr1866	15Jun1869	8	Mrs. S.D. Reilay	H64: 59	C47:107

The survey for item 74, at C55:29, was dated 10Nov1793, and Thomas's land lay between Bowman's Creek and Mehopeny.

DENNISONS in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

DENNISONS in the Warrant Registers of Pennsylvania Counties (continued)

Acreege Surveyed is expressed in <acres>[+<poles/perches>]

MERCER County (created in 1800 from AlleghenyCo)

Warr#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreege claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreege Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
3	Denison, Johnston	survey	SlipperyCrk	326	10Dec1805	10Mar1807	326+10	Johnston Denniston	P59:356	C46:247
6	Denniston, Andrew	survey	Springfield	400	19Aug1813	15Jan1819	416+48	Andrew Denniston	H16:363	C43:134
7	Denniston, James	survey	Springfield	375	9Jun1814	17Mar1838	386	William Denniston Jr	H39:216	C37:237
8	Denniston, William	survey	SlipperyRock	400	15Mar1816	17Mar1838	381+96	John Stevenson&wife	H39:208	C37:235+
10	Daniels&Denniston xors	survey	SlipperyRock	307	30Mar1819	29Mar1822	343+149	Daniels&Denniston xors	H29: 47	C43:197

The tracts in SlipperyRock Township were relegated to LawrenceCo, when that county was created in 1849 out of the southern portion of Mercer, and the northern portion of Beaver counties. Springfield Twp, MercerCo, is on the southern border of today's MercerCo, and about ten miles due north of SlipperyRock Twp in Lawrence Co.

The 1807 survey for item 3 (the land patented by Johnston Denniston in SlipperyRock Twp, sometime after 10Mar1807), at [C46:247](#), shows William Denniston as a next door neighbor.

The 1819 survey for item 6, at [C43:134](#), Andrew's land in Springfield Twp, indicates that he too had Will[ia]m Denniston as a next door neighbor.

The 1838 survey for item 8, at [C37:235](#) & [C37-236](#) though warranted by William, was surveyed for John Stevenson, and was thus signed over by William to the latter at the warrant stage. The plat for this tract shows that it lay between other land owned by a William Denneston to the east, and land inherited by the heirs of James Denneston to the west. It's evident that the latter tract is the same one as Item 7, surveyed for James Denniston himself in 1815; the minor discrepancies in the survey can be attributed to the fact that the survey of 8 for Stevenson was some 22 years later by a different surveyor, when the magnetic declination may have shifted.. The William Denniston Jr who patented Item 7 in 1838 (see the Denniston patents below) was likely one of the warrantee James Denniston's heirs, probably one of his sons; his identification as "Jr" at that time suggests that the William who assigned his warrant to Stevenson about 1838 was Jr's uncle, and the brother of the deceased James.

It appears, both from the bounds and the neighbor and watercourse annotations of the surveys for Items 3, 6, 7, and 8, that they were mutually contiguous. The township location references (except for the ambiguous references to Slippery Rock, which was both a creek and a township) are all to Springfield Twp, which modern township maps place in the SE corner of the county. However, before 1849 when LawrenceCo was hived off from the southern portion of Mercer, Springfield Twp likely extended further south, into present day Lawrence where the headwaters of SlipperyRock Creek lie. Meanwhile, the survey for the first of these tracts, patented by Johnston Denniston in 1807, locates it on the waters both of SlipperyRock Creek and Neshanock Creek to the NW, and his survey shows it to lie astride two corresponding headwaters, which locates the tract quite precisely in the NE corner of today's LawrenceCo, about 6 miles NE of NewCastle.

These surveys also show that these Denniston tracts lay within Donation Land District # 3, and have both unallocated Donation Land and land warranted to the Pennsylvania Population Company (a consortium of land speculators) as bounds. There are a number of reasons why these lands west of the mountains and the Allegheny River that had been set aside in the 1780s for Pennsylvania military veterans were still unoccupied after 1800, the chief of which is that most veterans sold out their rights to this raw wilderness, still under threat from Indian predation, to speculators for ready cash; then, by the late 1790s when these conditions changed for the better, Ohio, with it's less rugged lands opened up, and much of western PA was bypassed for early settlement. Thus, Johnston Denniston's land, which lay at the headwaters of two tributaries of major creek systems was hilly, and OK for pasturage, but not so much for cultivation. Which may be the reason that he gave it up and removed to Ohio himself in later years.

The survey for item 10, at [C43:196](#) and its reverse at [C43:197](#) indicates that this tract was warranted by Isaac Daniels, and surveyed (and probably patented) by his heirs, Kinsey Daniels and Andrew Deniston; therefore, Andrew probably married a daughter of Isaac. And since Andrew also owned land in Springfield Twp (assuming that this is the same Andrew), this strengthens the circumstantial connection between Andrew and James of Springfield, and the DENNISONS (Dennistons) of SlipperyRock Twp, including Johnston.

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

DENNISONs in the Warrant Registers of Pennsylvania Counties (continued)

Acreage Surveyed is expressed in <acres>[+<poles/perches>]

NORTHAMPTON County (created in 1752 from BucksCo)

Item#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
261	Deniston, Alex[ander]	survey		400	29Jan1793	12Aug1870	400+150	Ely Utt, et al.	H68:106	C38:255

Alexander's survey, at [C38:255](#), was dated 22Jun1793 and located on the waters of Brodhead Crk in NorthamptonCo.

NORTHUMBERLAND County (created in 1772 from Cumberland, Northampton, Lancaster, Berks, and Bedford Cos.)

Item#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
192	Denneson, Michael	survey	Muncy Twp	250	5Mar1785	11Jul1786	282	Stephen Collins	P6:360	A71:201

Michael's survey, at A71:201, was dated 22Dec1785 and located astride Muncy Creek.

PHILADELPHIA County (original county, created 1682)

Item#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
12	Denniston, John	survey	Hopewell	250	27Sep1738	----	180+121	See #17"R"-Lanc.		B23: 36 B17:154

The note on the B23:36 survey, and the survey at B17:154 show that although this tract in now FranklinCoPA, and was indeed warranted to John Denniston on 27Sep1738, it was also warranted to John Rannels [Reynolds or Randall?] on 6Oct1738, surveyed in 1802, resurveyed in 1806 for Daniel Huston (B17:154), and patented to others with "No evidence of Deniston war[ran]t having been executed on the land..." I don't understand the reference to "#17 "R" in the LancasterCo register: that is for a tract of land warranted 17Apr1734 by Israel Robinson, who vacated it in favor of Thomas Johnston who patented it.

SOMERSET County (created in 1795 from BedfordCo)

Item#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
6	Denison, John	survey	Jenner	28	30Dec1814	2Mar1815	28+115	John Denison	H12:495	C41:149

John's survey, at C41:149, was dated 19Jan1815, and was located in Jenner Twp on of BeaverDam Run, a branch of Quemahoming Crk.

WASHINGTON County (created in 1800 from AlleghenyCo)

Item#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
2	Dennison, Michael	survey	GreeneCo	300	1Jul1784	13May1788	261+137	Isaac Franks	P13:158	A86:232

Michael's tract, which he never patented, was named "Hizz Town"; it was located in GreeneCo (hived off from Washington in 1796) on the waters of TenMile Creek.

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

DENNISONs in the Warrant Registers of Pennsylvania Counties (continued)

Acreage Surveyed is expressed in <acres>[+<poles/perches>]

WESTMORELAND County (created in 1773 from BedfordCo)

Item#	Name of Warrantee	Warrant To	Warrant Location	Acreage claimed	Warrant Date	Survey Returned	Acreage Surveyed	Name of Patentee	Patent Recorded	Survey Recorded
53	Denniston, John	survey	LoyalhannaTwp	300	2Jul1784	26Mar1821	327+160	John Denniston	H13:113	C43:169 D64:142
72	Denniston, William	survey	Derry	250	23Feb1785	28Dec1827	166.25	Ephraim A. Robinson	H25:106	C64: 47 D56: 74
73	Denniston, Alexander	survey	Derry	347	23Feb1785	11Apr1795	338.81	Alexander Denniston	P25: 92	C44:267
160	Denniston, John	survey	Loyalhanna	30	18Dec1792					
204	Denniston, Alexander	survey		400	23Jun1794		400.5			U 285
268	Denniston, John	survey	Derry	12	7Dec1820	26Mar1821	13+91	John Denniston	18:113	C43:161

John's survey, at [C43:169](#), was dated 26Nov1784, and was located on Loyalhanna Crk, adjacent to a tract belonging to Arthur Denniston.

According to a survey at [D64:142](#), a second tract of 109a in Derry Twp was surveyed for John and returned on a warrant dated 2Jul1784, but it was later resurveyed on 4Mar1828 on a different warrant for Benjamin Jacobs. Derry Twp is adjacent to Loyalhanna Twp, and both are on the north central border of today's WestmorelandCo and adjacent to IndianaCo (created from Westmoreland in 1803) on the north. WestmorelandCo also borders AlleghenyCo on the north and this area isn't that far from the lands of John and Arthur Denneston in that county in 1793 and 1794.

[C64:47](#) shows William's land on Sugartree Run, and a resurvey at [D56:74](#) indicates that the Loyalhanna Creek runs N-S just to the west.

Alexander's survey, at [C44:267](#), which he patented, lies on Loyalhanna Creek, and adjacent to John Denniston to the south. The reference to Alexander's other supposed survey of 400a at item 204, U:285, corresponds to none of the series of PA survey book series.

The little 12a addendum by John at C43:161 was adjacent to other of his land.

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Patent Registers, 1684-the present

As can be seen, many of these DENNISON patentees were also the warrantees, and so appear in the warrant register abstracts above. However, as [my note above](#) on James DENNISON (“Denniston”) of YorkCo indicated, there are no patent recorded for James or any other DENNISON in YorkCo; I’ve scanned through all the patent registers looking such a patent from the beginning through 1812—twice.

County	Name of Patentee	Patent Date	Acreage	Name of Tract	Warrant Date	Name of Warrantee	Patent Recorded
Lancaster	Denniston, John ^[1]	7Feb1739/40	253		5Feb1739/40	John Denniston	A10:057
Bucks	Dennison, Andrew ^[2]	10Dec1745	153+40		17Jan1747	John Anderson	A12:403
Franklin	Dennison, Andrew	22Apr1795	174	Winchester	10Aug1747	Samuel McFerren	P21:130
Westmoreland	Denniston, Alexander	20Apr1795	338+81	Dover	23Feb1785	Alexander Denniston	P25:092
Mercer	Denniston, Johnston	12Mar1807	326+10	Mount Joy	10Dec1805	Johnston Denniston	P59:356
Armstrong	Denniston, Samuel	25Jun1807	436+69	Duncannon	4Apr1793	John Denniston	P60:091
Luzerne	Denison, Lazarus	27Oct1812	165+44		4Apr1799	Nathan Denison & Anson Dean	H08:253 H11:038
Franklin	Dennison, Andrew	12Jun1815	24+105		15Jun1763	John Wagerly	H11:038
Luzerne	Denison, Lazarus, John, George	23Feb1815	320+102		4Apr1799	Nathan Denison	H12:365
Somerset	Dennison, John	6Mar1815	28+115		30Dec1814	John Dennison	H12:495
Mercer	Dennison, Andrew	16Jan1819	416+48		19Aug1813	Andrew Dennison	H16:363
Westmoreland	Denniston, John	29Mar1821	341+91		7Dec1820	John Denniston (Sr+Jr)	H18:113
Luzerne	Dennison, George+Lazarus	20Feb1829	585+52		4Apr1799	Nathan Dennison	H26:342
Mercer	Denniston, William Jr	17Mar1838	386		9Jun1814	James Denniston	H39:216
Jefferson	Dennison, David	17Mar1847	220		1Jun1838	David Dennison	H46:132
Somerset	Denison, Hugh	6Sep1869	286+18		30Aug1784	Jacob Morningstar	H64:159
Somerset	Denison, Hugh	6Sep1869	330+150		27Jul1813	James Clark	H64:160

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Donation and Depreciation Land Military Reservation

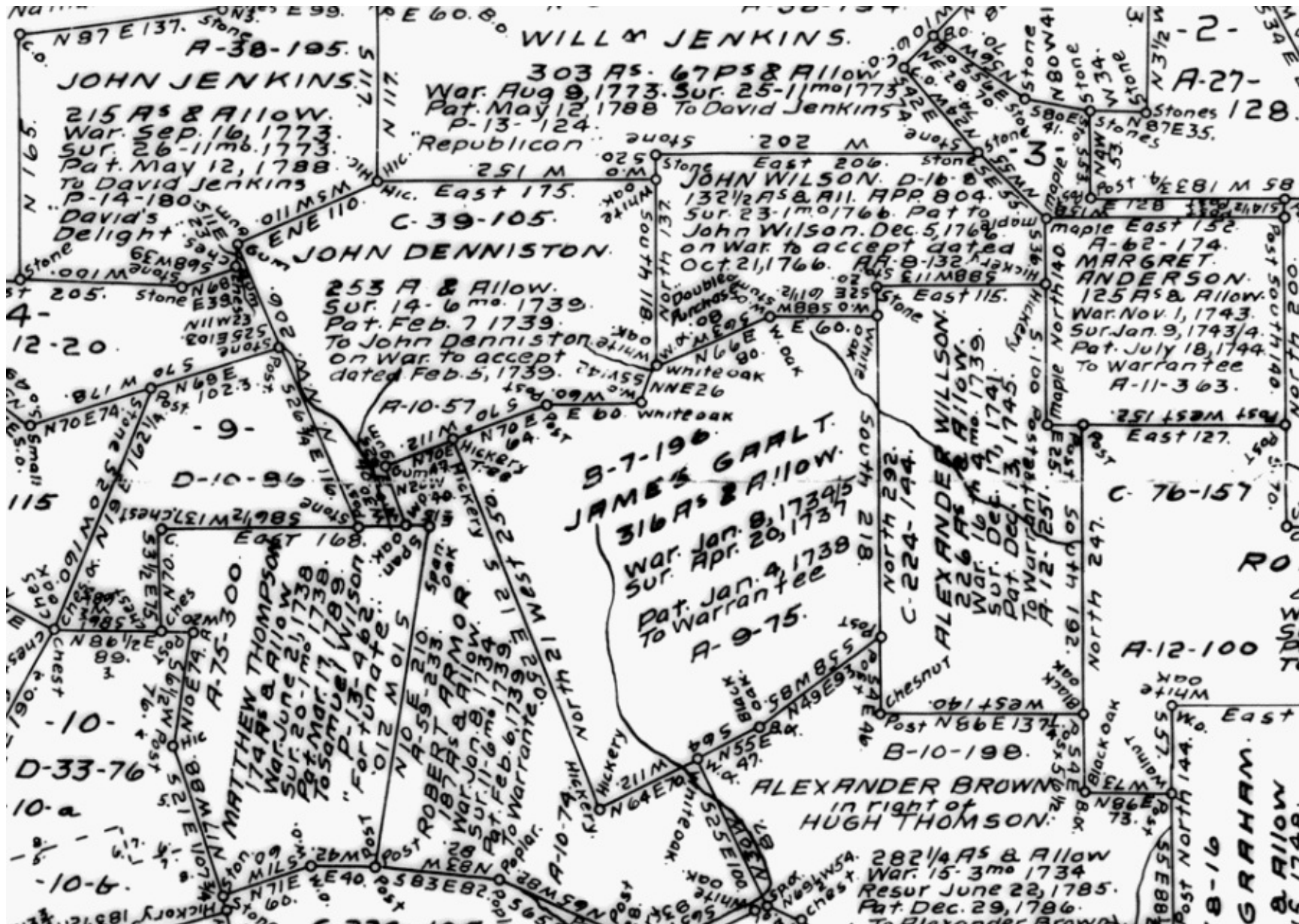
These were areas of NW Pennsylvania, NW of the Allegheny and Ohio Rivers that were set aside for PA veterans of the Revolutionary War. There were no DENNISONs with claims to Depreciation land in the southernmost portion of this area, just north of Pittsburgh, but there was a claim filed and surveyed on in Donation Land District 3 in the Griffth Evans tract for Pvt. James Denniston, likely James Denniston of YorkCo. The survey for this 200a claim, at [C181:190](#), and [its reverse](#), indicates that it was surveyed on 23Oct1785 and the survey was returned on 24Feb1789. There is also a note that it was patented, but as you can see above, there are no patents for any James DENNISONs, or even any patented tracts for DENNISONs of (almost) exactly 200a (and these surveyed Donation Land plats were perfect 200a rectangles), so James presumably signed away his survey. Still, these lands are in the ballpark of the MercerCo DENNISONs, above, who may well have been related to James of YorkCo.

¹ According to the survey and return of survey documents at [C39:105](#) and [it’s reverse](#), this first DENNISON tract patented in Pennsylvania was originally warranted by one William Hazlett on 15May1734, and surveyed for him 14Aug1739, then acquired from him by John Denniston who obtained a warrant to accept Hazlett’s survey. A snapshot of this tract in it’s surrounding plat context, appears as [Appendix A](#), on the next page. I’ve inferred the double dated year from the date of Hazlett’s survey.

² Andrew Dennison of BucksCo’s survey of 153.25a, at A62:187 (and the reverse), was paired with an adjacent survey of John Anderson’s for 155.25a, with both dated the same day—22Oct1745.

DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

Appendix A: John Denniston's 253 Acre Tract in Salisbury, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, patented 7Feb1739/40



DENNISONs in the Pennsylvania Land Grant Records

Appendix B: Dennistons in the Mercer County, Pennsylvania, Warrant Register

MERCER.

NO. OF WARRANT.	NAME OF WARRANTEE.	DESCRIP-TION OF WARRANT.	QUANTITY.	DATE OF WARRANT.	DATE OF RETURN.	ACRES RETURNED.	NAME OF PATENTEE.	WHERE RECORDED.			WHERE SURVEY IS COPIED.			
								Vol.	No.	Page.	Book.	Page.		
✓ 1	Dick, James	Survey	400	22 December 1802	8 Feb'y 1804	400	James Dick	P	50	51	A. 45	54	—	
✓ 2	Devor, George	"	394	16 November 1804	1 July 1805	394.32	George Devor	"	"	244	C. 46	245	Walt' crk.	
✓ 3	Denison, Johnston	"	326	10 December 1805	10 March 1807	326.10	Johnston Denniston	"	59	356	"	"	247 Slippery crk.	
✓ 4	Dodd, Ithiel	"	400	27 February 1810	8 " 1815	429.75	Ithiel Dodd	H	12	499	"	41	150	—
✓ 5	Dunham, Jonathan	"	368	31 May 1811	28 July 1812	406	Jonathan Dunham	"	7	369	"	"	57, 58 Pymetuning	
✓ 6	Denniston, Andrew	"	400	19 August 1813	15 Jan'y 1819	416.48	Andrew Denniston	"	16	363	"	43	134 Springfield	
1 7	" , James	"	375	9 June 1814	17 March 1838	386	William Denniston Jr.	"	39	216	"	37	237	"
✓ 8	" , William	"	400	15 March 1816	" " "	381.96	John Stevenson's wife	"	"	208	"	"	235-6 Slippery crk.	
✓ 9	Davison, James	"	212	9 February 1819	16 " 1819	221.1164	James Davison	"	16	501	"	43	139 Sandy crk.	
La. 10	Daniel and Denniston Ex ^{ors}	"	307	30 March "	29 " 1822	343.149	Daniel & Denniston Ex ^{ors}	"	20	47	"	"	197 Slippery Rk.	
✓ 11	Dunlap, John W.	Accept	380.19	4 April 1836	4 April 1836	380.19	John W. Dunlap	"	36	46	B. 15	27	Pymetuning	