

The following abstracts are comprehensive of all household headed by DENNISONS (and all cognate phonetic spellings of the surname) for Tennessee through 1840, while for the census years thereafter I've focused just on abstracting DENNISONS who were at all likely to belong to [DENNISON Patrilineage 1](#), and particularly those who were possible ancestors or close relatives of the two Patrilineage 1 Project members who descend from this branch of the extended family—closer cousins John Allen Dennison (Project# D-06), and Rita Deniston (D-49), and her yDNA-tested brother. This report is in part a work of interpretation as well as data gathering, and notes and commentary will be found scattered throughout.

See also [this collection of USCensus abstracts](#) for the members of [DENNISON Patrilineage 2](#) originally of PittsylvaniaCoVA.

DENNISON (in all-caps) is meant to stand, generically, for all phonetic cognates of this surname, including the Scottish variant with the embedded "t"—Denniston.

In many places I've specified the search arguments I've used against the Ancestry USCensus index to indicate the degree to which my search has been comprehensive. For example the wildcard argument "Den*" brings up all surnames that begin with "Den", and I then sift through these winnowing out surnames that might be of the DENNISON form, often checking the original records when I suspect that the indexer may have misread the name. My searches have sometimes turned up alternate possibilities that are likely to be red herrings, but I've abstracted some of these too because they at least deserve some cursory consideration, and some of them may turn out to be related to the focal DENNISON Patrilineage 1 line after all.

Click the year table of "[Maps of Tennessee](#)" for a snapshot of TN counties in any given year.

My conventions for abstracting the USCensus are defined [here](#).

Links to [1900](#), [1880](#), [1870](#), [1860](#), [1850](#), [1840](#), [1830](#), and [1820](#).

* 1930 USCensus *

TENNESSEE, BRADLEY County (1930) _____

John S Denniston household, 9Apr1930 USCensus, BradleyCoTN, Cleveland, Ward 1, 29th St (SD13,ED6-8,s12B), pages 12B(99-100)-13A(01-05), Ancestry.com images 24-25.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---		
						Self	Fath	Moth
Denniston, John S	47	head		m@25	foreman-steam R.Road	TN	TN	TN
" , Nettie	40	wife		m@19		TN	TN	TN
---next page---								
" , Victoria	20	dau		sing		TN	TN	TN
" , Woodrow	14	son		sing		TN	TN	TN
Marten, Pauline	29	brdr		sing	finisher-woolen mill	TN	TN	TN
Marten, Bobbie	2+7mon	brdr		sing		TN	TN	TN
Caylor, Mal	37	brdr		sing	chief operator-tel.co.	TN	TN	TN

* 1920 USCensus *

Neither John S DENNISON, nor either of his distinctively named children come up in the Ancestry index, despite my examining all "Deni*"s and "Denni*"s born in TN between 1882-1884, all female "Vic*"s born between 1906-1911, and all male "Wood*"s with a surname beginning with "D". I think this family must simply have been missed in the enumeration this year.

* 1910 USCensus *

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1910) _____

John S Denison household, 5May1910 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Civ Dis 3 (SD2,ED68,s13A), page 58A(13-15), Ancestry.com image 25.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Chldr	Occupation	---Birthplace---		
Misc				Tot/Lv		Self	Fath	Moth
Denison, John S	27	head		m3y	farm laborer	TN	TN	TN
" , Nettie	21	wife		m3y 1/ 1		TN	TN	TN
" , Vittora	2	dau		sing		TN	TN	TN

 * 1900 USCensus *

I've been unable to find John S DENNISON (Rita Deniston's ancestor of JeffersonCoTN in 1910) or his putative father Joseph this year, despite searching on and considering all male "Den*"s born in TN between 1881-1885, or between 1830-1840, and all "Den*"s in Sevier and Jefferson Counties TN (of these latter I've abstracted all I found). I did, I think, find John's brother, James L. Deniston (of CockeCoTN), and perhaps John's future wife, Nettie Brown, if she's the one in JeffersonCo born Dec1890 - though there are five other Nettie Browns born in TN about that time: one in HamiltonCo, 2 in Maury, and 2 in Shelby. The Nettie I abstracted has the middle initial "M", matching her supposed middle name, and since her natal family is found in Civil District 3, with District 19, one of the two districts comprizing White Pine, I scanned all the images in these two districts but without finding any trace of DENNISONs.

Since I was unable to find John S DENNISON in JeffersonCo for 1900 or his putative father Joseph (who with his likely father had sometimes been in adjacent SevierCo, I searched for and abstracted all the DENNISONs (Den*) in Jefferson and Sevier counties who were born before 1850 (covering, one would expect, all the potential parents of John S. born 1883). As it happens, there were no such DENNISON households in Sevier and just one in Jefferson.

I've also abstracted a few other DENNISON households that might also contain possible relatives of John S, and also those households that might be relevant to John Allen Dennison's ancestors.

TENNESSEE, COCKE County (1900)

James L Deniston household, --Jun1900 USCensus, CockeCoTN, Civ Dis 15
 (SD1,ED165,s8), page 125B(71-74), Ancestry.com image 1.

Rel2 Marr Chldrn

---Birthplace--- Misc

	Aged	Born	Head	Stat	Tot/Lv	Occupation	Self	Fath	Moth
Deniston, James L	25	Dec1874	head	m4y		farmer	TN	TN	TN
" , Larceny	28	Oct1871	wife	m4y	2/ 2		NC	NC	NC
" , Joseph C	3	Jan1897	son	sing			TN	TN	NC
" , Mary M	10mon	Jul1899	dau	sing			TN	TN	NC

Between this James's middle initial, the "t" spelling of his surname, and the fact that his first two children appear to have been named for his parents, Joseph & Mary of SevierCoTN in 1880, there's not much doubt that this James L Dennison (aged 5), the son of Joseph & Mary M Dennison of SevierCoTN in 1880; the only thing wrong here is that this James L's mother is said to have been born in TN rather than NC. Whether this James L is the older brother of the 1910 John S Denison of JeffersonCoTN remains to be seen.

TENNESSEE, DAVIDSON County (1900)

George W Dennison household, 7Jun1900 USCensus, DavidsonCoTN, Civ Dis 5
 (SD6,ED120,s8), page 263A(31-34), Ancestry.com image 16.

Rel2 Marr Chldrn

	Aged	Born	Head	Stat	Tot/Lv	Occupation	Self	Fath	Moth	Misc
Dennison, George W	42	Jan1858	head	m0		day laborer	TN	KY	TN	
" , Pauline A	30	Feb1870	wife	m0	2/ 2		TN	MN	TN	
Edmunds, Ada [R?]	11	Dec1888	stdau	sing			TN	TN	TN	AS
" , Lizzie W	5	Aug1894	stdau	sing			TN	TN	TN	AS

This DENNISON household is included merely because it's on the same page as the following one...

Joseph A Dennison household, 7Jun1900 USCensus, DavidsonCoTN, Civ Dis 5
 (SD6,ED120,s8), page 263A(44-47), Ancestry.com image 16.

Rel2 Marr Chldrn

	Aged	Born	Head	Stat	Tot/Lv	Occupation	Self	Fath	Moth	Misc
Dennison, Joseph A	53	Nov1848	head	m26y		farmer	TN	KY	TN	
" , Victoria	46	Jan1854	wife	m26y	4/ 4		TN	TN	TN	
" , Dudley C	18	Jun1881	son	sing		farm laborer	TN	TN	TN	
" , Vera L	17	Sep1883	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	

This possible father of John S DENNISON has a wife named Victoria, and is therefore a prime candidate to be the father of John S who named his first daughter Victoria - except for the fact that DavidsonCo is far from Jefferson, where John S makes his first appearance in the USCensus in 1910.

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1900)

Bedford Brown household, 21Jun1900 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Civ Dis 3
(SD2,ED43,s14), page 40A(47-50)-40B(51-56), Ancestry.com images 20-21.

	Aged	Born	Rel2	Marr	Chldrn	Occupation	---Birthplace---			Misc
			Head	Stat	Tot/Lv		Self	Fath	Moth	
Brown, Bedford	43	Jun1857	head	m21y		farming	TN	TN	TN	
" , Mary	36	Jun1865	wife	m21y	8/ 8		TN	TN	TN	
" , Martha C	19	Jul1880	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Florence E	16	Sep1883	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	
---next page---										
" , Bettie V	14	Aug1885	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Walter H	12	Aug1887	son	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Nettie M	9	Dec1890	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Ada V	8	May1892	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Floria E	5	Mar1895	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Josie K	2	May1898	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	

Is one of Nettie's sister's middle name V[ictoria]? Nettie's daughter Victoria (so-styled in the 1910 and 1930 USCensus) is said, in Rita Deniston's tree, to have been named Beatrice Victoria; perhaps that is the name of Nettie's older sister here, "Bettie V"?

Sherman Harrison household, 12Jun1900 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, White Pine
(SD2,ED53,s12), page 164A(03-09), Ancestry.com image 20.

	Aged	Born	Rel2	Marr	Chldrn	Occupation	---Birthplace---			Misc
			Head	Stat	Tot/Lv		Self	Fath	Moth	
Harrison, Sherman	32	Feb1868	head	sing		farm laborer	TN	TN	TN	
" , Marie	52	May1848	moth	wid	1/ 1		TN	TN	TN	
Williams, Nancy	28	Feb1872	sis	m12y	4/ 1		TN	TN	TN	
" , Alpha	11	Aug1888	niec	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Charley	10	May1890	neph	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Tilghman	9	Mar1891	neph	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , John	7	Jul1892	neph	sing			TN	TN	TN	
Denison, Arden	19	May1891	neph	sing			TN	TN	TN	

This Arden Denison is one of the few DENNISONS in JeffersonCoTN this year. Although he and all the other inhabitants of this household are black, I wonder whether this "Arden" might be a corruption of William Adrian DENNISON supposed son of Joseph, especially when I also find Sherman as a forename in this family.

[William] De[nnison] household, 18Jun1900 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN
(SD2,ED53,s16), page 168B(92-94), Ancestry.com image 30.

	Aged	Born	Rel2	Marr	Chldrn	Occupation	---Birthplace---			Misc
			Head	Stat	Tot/Lv		Self	Fath	Moth	
Denison, [William]	64	Aug1836	head	wid		farmer	TN	VA	TN	
" , Joseph A	23	Sep1877	son	sing		US soldier	TN	TN	TN	
" , Ruth	21	Apr1879	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	

This family, headed by William, is the only one of the two 1880 JeffersonCo DENNISON families that might have been the natal family of John S to remain in JeffersonCo through 1900. The surname here is barely legible as "Denison", but the given name of the household head was misread as "Milton"; it's readily enough correctable by matching the remnants of William's 1880 JeffersonCo family. The fact that William was born in 1836 with parents born in VA and TN, like those of Joseph Dennison of SevierCoTN in 1880 who was born about 1835, suggests that they might have been brothers.

DENNISONs in the USCensuses for Tennessee

TENNESSEE, HAMBLLEN County (1900)

Allen Dennison household, 8Jun1900 USCensus, HamblenCoTN, Civ Dis 1
 (SD1,ED54,s4A), page 9A(09-12), Ancestry.com image 7.

	Aged	Born	Head	Stat	Tot/Lv	Occupation	---Birthplace---			Misc
							Self	Fath	Moth	
Dennison, Allen	49	May1851	head	m10y		farmer	TN	TN	TN	
" , Mary E	33	Feb1867	wife	m10y	4/ 2		TN	TN	TN	
" , Vertie L	8	Jun1891	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	
" , Rhoda E	6	Aug1893	dau	sing			TN	TN	TN	

Allen is the great-grandfather of DENNISON Patrilineage 1 Project member John Allen Dennison by his first wife; this Mary E. is his second.

 * 1880 USCensus *

For this year, with one exception, I've abstracted all the DENNISONs (Den*) in Jefferson and Sevier counties who were born before 1850 (covering, one would expect, all the potential parents of John S. DENNISON born 1883), and abstracted all DENNISON households on the same page. The exception is one Jane Dennison born abt 1791 in SC, who was the grandmother of a Reneau and probably unrelated. I came up with only three DENNISON households this year.

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1880)

James H Denison household, 14Jun1880 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Civ Dis 1
 (SD11,ED169,p24), page 376D(42-50), Ancestry.com image 6.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Head	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---			Misc
							Self	Fath	Moth	
Denison, James H	47			Head	marr	works on farm	TN	VA	VA	xRxW
" , Sarah E	31	wife			marr	<KH>	TN	TN	TN	xW
" , Mary E	11	dau			sing		TN	TN	TN	
" , William	9	son			sing		TN	TN	TN	AS
" , Nancy E	7	dau			sing		TN	TN	TN	
" , Emma L	3	dau			sing		TN	TN	TN	
" , James M	7mon	dau			sing		TN	TN	TN	b.OCT
Hambric, Elizabeth	27	stmoth?		wid			TN	TN	TN	xRxW
" , Emma F	[f] 1	stsis??		sing			TN	TN	TN	

(These last two relationship entries are almost certain erroneous.)

None of the male DENNISONs of this household or wife Sarah turn up in the 1900 census (considering all "Den" born in TN), but that doesn't eliminate this family as a prime candidate to be the natal family of John S. DENNISON, since it makes it more likely that it was missed in 1900 in its entirety.

William Dennison household, 22Jun1880 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Civ Dis 4
 (SD1,ED175,p30), page 483B(21-26), Ancestry.com image 19.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Head	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---			Misc
							Self	Fath	Moth	
Dennison, William	38			Head	marr	farm laborer	TN	VA	TN	xRxW
" , Sarah	40	wife			marr	<KH>	NC	NC	NC	
" , Mary E	7	dau			sing		TN	NC	NC	
" , Minnie B	6	dau			sing		TN	NC	NC	
" , Joseph	3	son			sing		TN	NC	NC	
" , Ruth	1	dau			sing		TN	NC	NC	

This family, headed by William born about 1842, was the only earlier JeffersonCo DENNISON family to remain in either Jefferson or Sevier counties in 1900. Given this William's approximate birth year, the birthplaces of his parents (VA and TN), and the adjacency of Jefferson to SevierCoTN, he is likely to have been the brother of Joseph Dennison of SevierCo (born abt 1835, parents born VA and TN), and either these two, or James H Denison of JeffersonCo (Civil District 1), above, are the best candidates to have been the father of John S. DENNISON (born 1883) of JeffersonCoTN in 1910.

Preston Dennison household, 22Jun1880 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Civ Dis 4
 (SD1,ED175,p30), page 483B(34-39), Ancestry.com image 19.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Head	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---			Misc
							Self	Fath	Moth	
Dennison, Preston	23			Head	marr	farm laborer	TN	VA	TN	xRxW
" , Mollie	30	wife			marr	<KH>	NC	NC	NC	xRxW
" , Elizabeth	6	dau			sing		TN	TN	NC	
" , Samuel	4	dau			sing		TN	TN	NC	
" , Robert	2	dau			sing		TN	TN	NC	
" , John	27	bro			sing	farm laborer	TN	VA	TN	

TENNESSEE, HAMBLLEN County (1880)

James Dennison household, 12Jun1880 USCensus, HamblenCoTN, Civ Dis 1(Panther Springs)
(SD1,ED69,p3), page 325C(14-18), Ancestry.com image 19.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Head	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---			
							Self	Fath	Moth	Misc
Dennison, James	68			Head	marr	farmer	TN	VA	NC	
" , Emeline	65	wife			marr	<KH>	TN	TN	TN	
" , William	31	son			sing	---blind---	TN	TN	TN	xRxW
" , Mary	10	dau			sing		TN	TN	TN	xRxW
" , John	18	grson			sing	farm laborer	TN	TN	TN	

James & Emeline are the ggGrandparents of DENNISON Patrilineage 1 Project member John Allen Dennison.

Poily Dennison household, 12Jun1880 USCensus, HamblenCoTN, Civ Dis 1(Panther Springs)
(SD1,ED69,p3), page 325C(19-20), Ancestry.com image 19.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Head	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---			
							Self	Fath	Moth	Misc
Dennison, Poily	68			Head	wid	<KH>	TN	TN	TN	xW
" , Diana	74	sis			sing		TN	TN	TN	xW

This household is adjacent to the preceding, and one would expect that Diana is the older unmarried sister of James Dennison, above, except for the birthplaces of her parents; I expect that the informant here was "Poily" [Polly?], who was probably James's sister-in-law, who may not have known her in-laws' background.

TENNESSEE, RUTHERFORD County (1880)

Joseph Dennison household, 17&18Jun1880 USCensus, RutherfordCoTN, Civ Dis 2
(SD5,ED190,p35), page 18C(41-44), Ancestry.com image 19.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Head	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---			
							Self	Fath	Moth	Misc
Dennison, Joseph	32			Head	marr	farmer	TN	KY	TN	
" , Torie	25	wife			marr	<KH>	TN	TN	TN	
" , Claude	5	son			sing		TN	TN	TN	
" , Samuel	1	son			sing		TN	TN	TN	

Another snapshot of this other Joseph DENNISON with wife named Victoria.

TENNESSEE, SEVIER County (1880)

Joseph Dennison household, 9Jun1880 USCensus, SevierCoTN, Wears Valley
(SD1,ED183,p7), page 378A(24-28), Ancestry.com image 9.

	Aged	Rel2	Marr	Head	Stat	Occupation	---Birthplace---			
							Self	Fath	Moth	Misc
Dennison, Joseph	45			Head	marr	farm laborer	TN	VA	TN	xRxW
" , Mary M	24	wife			marr	<KH>	NC	NC	NC	xRxW
" , James L	5	son			sing		TN	TN	NC	
" , Margaret M	2	dau			sing		TN	TN	NC	
" , Hannah	9	dau			sing		TN	TN	NC	

This Joseph DENNISON of SevierCo, adjacent to JeffersonCo, is the third of the three best candidates to be the father of John S. DENNISON (later, and presumably earlier, DENNISTON) of JeffersonCoTN in 1910, who was born in 1883.

Since it is this Joseph who has heretofore thought to have been the father (presumably on grounds other than the USCensus), I've searched extensively and broadly for his antecedents in the censuses of 1870, 1860, and 1850, but came up with just one candidate for 1870 (in SevierCo) and 1850 (in JeffersonCo), and none for 1860, though the 1860 census for JeffersonCo was marred by the fact that its lazy enumerator for the most part recorded just the first initial of his subjects' given names. However, when I say that I searched "broadly" I mean that I searched and considered all the names that came up for males named "Jos*" or "J" "Den*" born in TN, and this still failed to yield any hits in 1860.

It might seem that by process of elimination, the sole hits, in 1870 and 1850, must be the above 1880 Joseph, and most likely they are, but it also needs to be considered that there is very little correspondence between the three families Joseph headed by Josephs. Joseph's respective ages in 1850, 1870, and 1880 are 11, 37, and 45, and the name and age of his putative wife Mary in 1870 and 1880 are discrepant too: Mary C (aged 24,b.NC) in the 1870 census, and

here, Mary M (aged 24,b.NC). Ironically, though, the correspondences, not the discrepancies, respecting these wives Mary raise the question of whether these were one Mary or two (the divergent middle initials might be mistranscriptions). The question seems to have been resolved in favor of two Marys, since there was a 3Sep1873 marriage in SevierCo between J.S. Denston and Mary Matilda Smith, with the middle initial of Joseph's wife in 1880 corresponding to that of the bride here, and the listing of Joseph's putative daughter Hannah, separately, out of age order, is consistent with the theory that she was a child of Joseph's first wife Mary, and with the further hypothesis that the mother died in childbirth.

The discrepancies in Joseph's ages in the census can be plausibly explained by the fact that neither Joseph, nor his putative father Joseph in 1850 were literate, and they were probably innumerate too. The USCensus is full of errors anyway, in part because the fair copy we have was probably twice transcribed, initially from the rough notes of the enumerator, and besides that it's easy to overlook the fact that unlike us moderns our ancestors from this era weren't used to being constantly pestered by forms-wielding bureaucrats asking hypothetical questions, such as how old were you on the first of June of this year (the official Census day that was supposed to be the baseline for subject's ages.)

 * 1870 USCensus *

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1870)

James Dennison household, 12Aug1870 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Civ Dis 10
 (p16), page 464B(01-06), Ancestry.com image 16.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, James	59	farm laborer		TN	
" , Emeline	56	<KH>		TN	xW
" , Phoeby C	26	seamstress		TN	xW
" , William	21	---		TN	xRxW
" , William H	11	farm laborer		TN	
" , John	8			TN	

James and Emeline are the ancestors of John Allen Dennison of the DENNISON Patrilineage 1 Project.

Putative daughter, Phebe, of this couple, was presumably named for James's mother, Phebe Williams, who married his father, John Denniston in JeffersonCo in 1794. William (aged 21) has no occupation because he is said to be blind.

James Dennison household, 13Aug1870 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 5, PO Trion
 (p8), page 367B(05-10), Ancestry.com image 8.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, James	31	day laborer		TN	xRxW
" , Sarah	22	<KH>		TN	xW
" , Mary E	1			TN	
Clevinger, Eliza	21			TN	xRxW
" , Sarah	3			TN	
" , Nancy M	1y6m			TN	

George L. Rencan household, 13Aug1870 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 5, PO Trion
 (p8), page 367B(25-31), Ancestry.com image 8.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Rencan, George L	27	farm laboere		TN	
" , Catharine	24	<KH>		TN	
...					
Dennison, Jane	77			SC	

Robert Dennison household, 13Aug1870 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 5, PO Trion
 (p8), page 367B(32-37), Ancestry.com image 8.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, Robert	57	farmer	200	VA	xRxW
" , William A	27			TN	
" , Margaret J	18			TN	
" , John	16			TN	
" , Anna	13			TN	
" , Preston	11			TN	

This Robert appears in many earlier JeffersonCo censuses and was the ancestor of John G. Dennison of the DENNISON Singletons DNA project. James, above, is almost certainly his oldest son, and I think that Robert himself was likely the son of Robert³ (Robert², John¹ of AugustaCoVA) by way of an [NPE](#). [His 1850 USCensus record](#) shows that he had sons named James, William, and (most indicatively) Scott.

1870 USCensus - continued

TENNESSEE, SEVIER County (1870)

Elizabeth Dinison household, 17Jun1870 USCensus, SevierCoTN, Dis 6, PO Wears Cove (p5), page 389A(38-39), Ancestry.com image 1.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dinison, Elizabeth	75	<KH>		TN	xRxW
" , Pheba A	37	domestic servant		TN	
" , Joseph M	3			TN	
" , William A	11mon			TN	b. JUL

Elizabeth is the widow of Joseph S3 (Robert2, John1) Denniston.

Joseph Denison household, 20Jun1870 USCensus, SevierCoTN, Dis 6, PO Wears Cove (p5), page 391A(38-39), Ancestry.com image 5.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Denison, Joseph	37	farm laborer		[TN]	xW
" , Mary C	24	<KH>		NC	

Along with James & Emeline above, this couple is one of three most likely sets of ancestors of John S. Dennison of 1910 JeffersonCoTN, the grandfather of DENNISON Patrilineage 1 Project member Rita Deniston.

 * 1860 USCensus *

As in 1850, there are numerous DENNISONs in JeffersonCo, though none in SevierCo. The 1860 census for JeffersonCo isn't a lot of help because the lazy enunerator mostly captured only the initials of his subjects' given names. The enumerators this year were poorly paid, poor trained, and poorly supervised, and they also missed many households. Nonetheless, I've abstracted virtually all of the JeffersonCo DENNISONs for this year (almost 50).

Unfortunately, there is no clear household anywhere in TN for the Joseph DENNISON born btw 1782-1792 in VA who is likely the ancestor of DENNISON Patrilineage 1 project member Rita Deniston. In fact, the only JeffersonCo DENNISON this year born before 1800 was one Jennie Dennison. There is a household, though, for Ja[me]s and E(meline) Dennison, who are ancestors of project member, John Allen Dennison.

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1860) _____
 James H Bailey household, 5Jun1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
 (pp13-14), pages 335A(39-40)-335B(01-03), Ancestry.com images 13-14.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Bailey, James H	26	waggon maker & faarmer	5000/ 400	[TN]	
" , L C	[f] 25			[TN]	
---next page---					
Bailey, Martin E	3			[TN]	
Swann, Jane	16			[TN]	AS
Denniston, W[illia]m	18	laborer		[TN]	AS

Henry Dennison household, 18Jun1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
 (p48), page 352B(38-40), Ancestry.com image 48.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, Henry	24	laborer		[TN]	xRW
" , Mary	23			[TN]	
" , I? Mc	5mon			[TN]	

Robert Dennison household, 18Jun1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
 (pp48-49), pages 352B(38-40)-353A(01-08), Ancestry.com images 48-49.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, Robert	45	[laborer]		VA	xRW
" , Sally	46			TN	xRW
" , Jennie	64			TN	
---next page---					
Dennison, James	22	laborer		TN	xRW
" , W[illia]m	21			[TN]	
" , S	[m] 16	[laborer]		[TN]	
" , Catharine	15			[TN]	
" , M J	[f] 10			[TN]	
" , Anna	6			[TN]	
" , P	[m] 5			[TN]	

DENNISONs in the USCensuses for Tennessee

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1860) continued

Ja[me]s Dennison household, -----1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
(pp55-56), pages 356A(36-40)-356B(01-03), Ancestry.com images 55-56.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, Ja[me]s	48	farmer	600	[TN]	
" , E	[f] 46			[TN]	xRW
" , John	21	laborer		[TN]	
" , M E	[f] 19			[TN]	
" , I C	[f] 17			[TN]	

---next page---

Dennison, W[illia]m	11			TN	
" , Allen	8			[TN]	
" , E E	[f] 6			[TN]	

This is clearly the family of James and Emeline DENNISON, the ancestors of John Allen Dennison through their son, Allen. Certain initials can be expanded from James's 1950 household: E(meline); M(ary) E. However, based on the 1850 and 1870 households of James and Emeline, the "I C" figures to be Phebe C, so the "I" is probably a mistranscription.

S M Dennison household, 25Jun1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
(p69), page 363A(13-15), Ancestry.com image 69.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, S M	[m] 24	farmer	550	[TN]	
" , R M	[f] 30			[TN]	
" , G J BB	[m] 8mon			[TN]	

Joel W Dennison household, 20Jul1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
(p165), page 411A(23-29), Ancestry.com image 165.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, Joel W	58	waggon maker	500/ 300	[TN]	
" , M [O?]	46			VA	xRW
" , J D	[f] 30			TN	
" , R	[f] 28			[TN]	
" , A	[m] 17			[TN]	
" , A	[m] 7			[TN]	
" , A G	[m] 1			[TN]	

Mary Dennison household, 20Jul1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
(p166), page 411B(12-14), Ancestry.com image 166.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, Mary	52		500/ 200	TN	xRW
" , P A	[m] 22	laborer		[TN]	xRW
" , I	[f] 55		500/ 100	[TN]	xRW

This household looks like a consolidation of two adjacent 1850 households, the first headed by Robert W (who seems to have died) with a wife Mary (aged 40), and a son Patrick A (11); the other 1850 household is the one headed by James (hubby of Emeline) which harbors a female Indiana DENNISON (44).

John Dennison household, 28Aug1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN,
(p289), page 473A(16-20), Ancestry.com image 289.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, John	55	laborer	50	[TN]	xRW
" , F	[f] 45			[TN]	xRW
Howard, M	[f] 16			[TN]	
Dennison, G J	[m] 11			[TN]	
Howard, E A	[m] 6mon			[TN]	

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1860) continued

Rob[er]t Dennison household, 11Sep1860 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, (p348), page 502A(15-24), Ancestry.com image 348.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Dennison, Rob[er]t	51	laborer	50	VA	xRW
" ,S	[f] 51			TN	xRW
" ,W[illia]m	[m] 16	[laborer]		[TN]	AS
" ,S	[m] 19	[laborer]		[TN]	
" ,C	[f] 15			[TN]	AS
" ,M	[f] 12			[TN]	
" ,J	[m] 10			[TN]	
" ,A	[f] 7			[TN]	
" ,P	[m] 4			[TN]	
" ,Ja[me]s	23			[TN]	

William Johnson, [Warden] State Penitentiary, 13Jul1860 USCensus, DavidsonCoTN, Dis 10 (pp57-68), p20(40), Ancestry.com image 17-28.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
William Johnson	35	Agent, state prison	15000/16000	TN	
.....					
Denison, J	19	laborer		TN	

This J. Denison is doing time for larceny. He is the only candidate in the USCensus for this year to be the son of Joseph Dennis[on] of SevierCoTN, immediately following.

TENNESSEE, SEVIER County (1860)

William Ingle household, 7Jun1860 USCensus, SevierCoTN, Dis 7, PO Wears Cove (p16), page 330B(02-07), Ancestry.com image 16.

	Aged	Occupation	Property Real/Pers	Born	Misc
Ingle, William	37	farm hand	250	NC	
" , Margaret	34			TN	xRW
" , James	3			[TN]	
" , Joseph	1			[TN]	
Dennis, Joseph	78	wagon maker		VA	
" , Elizabeth	65			TN	

This is Joseph S3 (Robert2, John1) DENNISON (Denniston). He and Elizabeth resided in JeffersonCo in 1850.

 * 1850 USCensus *

There are numerous DENNISONs in JeffersonCo this year, and I've abstracted most of them. There were none, though, in adjacent SevierCo.

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1850)

Robert Denison household, 13Sep1850 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 13
 page 350A(17240), Ancestry.com image 43.

	Aged	Occupation	Prop Real	Born	Misc
Denison, Robert	36	[laborer]		[TN]	xRW
" , Sarah	38			[TN]	xRW
" , James	12			[TN]	
" , William	10			[TN]	
" , Scott	8			[TN]	
" , Catharine	6			[TN]	
" , Margaret	4			[TN]	
Conn, John B	18			[TN]	

Joel Denison household, 13Sep1850 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 13
 page 350A(25-30), Ancestry.com image 43.

	Aged	Occupation	Prop Real	Born	Misc
Denison, Joel	47	waggon maker		[TN]	
" , Margaret	40			VA	
" , Dianah	20			TN	AS
" , Rachel	19			TN	AS
" , Amos	7			TN	
" , Margaret	50			VA	

Most likely the latter Margaret is Joel's spinster sister, and her VA birthplace suggests that their parents removed from VA to TN about 1802. The fact that Joel is an artisan, however, and that both he and the females of his household are all literate suggests that he is unrelated to the other JeffersonCo DENNISONs - even Joseph (aged 63) who was also born in VA. But see my further notes below for Joseph below.

James Denison household, 5Oct1850 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 13
 page 378A(12-20), Ancestry.com image 99.

	Aged	Occupation	Prop Real	Born	Misc
Denison, James	38	laborer		[TN]	
" , Emeline	35			[TN]	xRW
" , Samuel	15			[TN]	
" , Henry	14			[TN]	
" , John	12			[TN]	
" , Mary E	10			[TN]	
" , Phebe C	8			[TN]	
" , William	1			[TN]	
" , Indiana [f]	44			[TN]	xRW

I've deduced, hypothetically, that James was the son of John & Phebe (Williams) Denniston who married in JeffersonCoTN in 1794. The replication of these parental names in the children of this couple at least appear to make a nod in the direction of the Parental version of Scottish Onomastic (child-naming) Pattern, adhered to almost universally for at least the first few children by the first few generations of this ethnic cohort in America. Strictly speaking, though, John should have been the name of the first (or second) son, while Phebe should have been the name of the first (or second) daughter, and the third son should have been named James for his father. However, with the complication of middle names which began to be used in the generation after the Revolution, our ability to confidently read out the pattern tends to break down. The presence of the female Indiana here, who looks like an older sister of James, suggests that this line emanates from the same one as Scott Dennis[t]on of the Virginia panhandle, who

supposedly journeyed to the Indiana frontier in his youth and also (the evidence shows) sojourned in adjacent GraingerCo in the 1820s.

James and Emeline were the ancestors of John Allen Dennison, whom we know from DNA testing is a closer cousin of Rita Deniston. James survived until the 1880 census, when we learn that his father was born in VA, while his mother was born in TN. Joseph Dennison (aged 63, b.VA) below, who may be the ancestor of Rita (if not this James), was born in VA about 1787, and appears to have been a younger brother of James's putative father, John. The fact that John Allen and Rita share a mutation (DYS570=18) suggests that they descend from the same son of John and Joseph's father, Robert, and the abundance of sons here for James and Emeline, and they fact that in 1880 they have a grandson living with them named John, suggests that Rita's John S Deniston may have been another such grandson.

Robert W Denison household, 5Oct1850 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 13
page 378A(12-20), Ancestry.com image 99.

	Aged	Occupation	Prop Real	Born	Misc
Denison, Robert W	50	laborer		[TN]	
" , Mary	40			[TN]	xRW
" , Lav[ine?]	19			[TN]	
" , Joel	15			[TN]	
" , Patrick A	14			[TN]	

Joseph Denison household, 9Oct1850 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 13
page 381A(36-40), Ancestry.com image 105.

	Aged	Occupation	Prop Real	Born	Misc
Denison, Joseph	63	laborer		VA	xRW
" , Elizabeth	40			TN	xRW
" , Margaret	14			[TN]	AS
" , Phebe E	14			[TN]	AS
" , Joseph S	11			[TN]	AS

Joseph S is the only Joseph DENNISON b.TN between 1830-1840 (searching the 1850, 1860, and 1870 on "Jos* Den*" and male "J Den*"); he is therefore the best candidate to be Joseph of SevierCoTN in 1870 and 1880, aged 37 and 45, respectively, despite the many discrepancies between these three households. In favor of this identification is the fact that Joseph, the household head here, was born in VA, while the Joseph aged 45 who headed a household in SevierCo in 1880 reported that his father was born in VA.

John Denison household, 14Oct1850 USCensus, JeffersonCoTN, Dis 13
pages 388A(40)-388B(01-04), Ancestry.com images 119-120.

	Aged	Occupation	Prop Real	Born	Misc
Denison, John	52	millwright	100	[TN]	xRW
---next page---					
" , Fanny	37			[TN]	xRW
" , Malinda	9			[TN]	
" , George I	2mon			[TN]	
Clevinger, John	15			[TN]	

DENNISONs in the USCensuses for Tennessee

 * 1840 USCensus *

I've abstracted all of the DENNISON households in TN this year.

1840 USCensus	Free Whites													Fre	Sls	O	Mg	Ca	N	V	P	e	D	R
	M:	0	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	Col	ves	T	iron	vir	v	i	W		
	F:	4	-9	-14	-19	-29	-39	-49	-59	-69	-79	-89	-99	+			n	m	o	f	*	s		

TENNESSEE, BEDFORD County

Robert Denison	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0
46+BedfTN-----:f017-16	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The total here doesn't match the number of residents and Robert's age is out of whack with the age of the BedfordCo Robert in 1830 and 1820—unless Robert Sr has been replaced by a son Robert Jr. More likely, the age category of Robert the head of household just wasn't noted.

TENNESSEE, DAVIDSON County

Denison, Marshal	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	3	0	0	0	0
90+DaviTN-----:f309-13	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TENNESSEE, GRAINGER County

John Dennison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
64+GraiTN-----:f120-17	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
John Dennison	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0
66+GraiTN-----:f121-10	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County, Northern Division

Given their proximity on this list, all the following JeffersonCo DENNISONs but the last Robert are probably related.

John Denison Jr	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	1	0	0	1
7+JeffTN-----:f287-30	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
James Denison	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1
9+JeffTN-----:f288-01	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The above James is probably the 1850 James (38) who married Elihu Millikin's dau and is the ancestor of John Allen Dennison of DENNISON Patrilineage 1.

Joel Denison	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	1
9+JeffTN-----:f288-02	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robert Denison	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	1
9+JeffTN-----:f288-18	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robert Denison	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	2
9+JeffTN-----:f288-27	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The above Robert is probably the one who married Sally/Sarah Simpson in 1838 since the only child is a boy under 5.

Robert Denison Sr	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0
11+JeffTN-----:f289-15	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

In the 1800 USCensus there's a Robert W Denison b.abt 1800 in TN presumably the above

Joseph S Denison	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0
11+JeffTN-----:f289-16	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The above Joseph is the only one of these DENNISONs who survived to the 1850 census who was born in VA.

George Denison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0
11+JeffTN-----:f289-17	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Elihu Millikan	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	12	5	0	0	0
17+JeffTN-----:f292-19	1	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Elihu is the father of the Emeline who was to marry the 1850 JeffersonCo James Dennison, b. abt 1812.

Robert Denison	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	1
81+JeffTN-----:f323-09	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TENNESSEE, HENDERSON County

Denison, Rob[er]t	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0
88+HendTN-----:f367-09	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TENNESSEE, PERRY County

Stephen Deneson	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1	0	0	0	0
45+PerrTN-----:f175-08	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

TENNESSEE, RUTHERFORD County

Rob[er]t Denison	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	3	1	0	0	0
ii+RuthTN-----:f141-26	0	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M:	0	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100									
F:	4	-9	-14	-19	-29	-39	-49	-59	-69	-79	-89	-99										

 * 1830 USCensus *

I've abstracted all the DENNISONs in TN this year (surname spellings of "Den[n]ison" or "Den[n]iston"). There are no TN households headed by Joseph DENNISON ("Jos* Den*") this year.

1830 USCensus	Free Whites													Sla	Fre		
	M:	0	5	10	15	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	ves	Col	TOT
	F:	4	-9	-14	-19	-29	-39	-49	-59	-69	-79	-89	-99	+			
TENNESSEE, BEDFORD County																	
Robert Dennison	1	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
177+BedfTN-----:f090-23	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
TENNESSEE, GRAINGER County																	
Robert Denniston	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
53+GraiTN-----:f379-22	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
John Denison	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
77+GrainTN-----:f391-15	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0			
TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County																	
Elihu Millikan	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	13
19+JeffTN-----:f287-16	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Elihu is the father of the Emeline who was to marry the 1850 JeffersonCo James Dennison, b. abt 1812																	
John Denison	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
39+JeffTN-----:f297-19	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
Joel Denison	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
39+JeffTN-----:f297-20	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
George Denason	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
61+JeffTN-----:f308-07	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
James De[nson?]	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
106+JeffTN-----:f331-01	0	0	1	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0			
TENNESSEE, MONTGOMERY County, Clarksville																	
Isaac Denison	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	7
1+MontTN-Clar:f002-15	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			
TENNESSEE, PERRY County																	
Stephen Dennison	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
15+PerrTN-----:f227-18	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Besides this James, there are a number of "Denson"s, some in the same counties as DENNISONs, but in my very extensive research on DENNISONs I have found that only rarely do these surname complexes ever overlap.

BEFORE 1830

 * 1820 USCensus *

TENNESSEE

The USCensus for all the eastern counties of TN are lost for this year, including Jefferson and adjacent counties where DENNISONs are otherwise known to have resided.

1820 USCensus	Free Whites						F	A	C	M	Sla	Fre	Oth	
	M:	0	10	16	16	26	45	-	o	-	g	o	a	
	F:	9	-15	-18	-25	44	+	r	r	m	n		Txd	
TENNESSEE, BEDFORD County														
George Denison		1	1	0	1	0	1	x	1	0	0	6	0	0
42 BedfTN-----:	79-03	0	1	-	1	0	1							
Robert Denison		3	0	0	1	1	0	x	0	0	0	2	0	0
54 BedfTN-----:	103B-08	1	0	-	1	0	0							

The 1810 USCensus for all but RutherfordCo and part of Grainger are lost.
 The 1800 USCensus for TN (the year the state was organized) are all lost.

There are no Joseph DENNISONs (Jos* Den*) in the USCensuses for Virginia from 1830 back to 1810 (the first USCensus for Virginia extant) even though the 1850 Joseph Dennison of JeffersonCoTN (aged 63) would have been about 23 in 1810. However, Joseph begins appearing on the personal property tax lists of WashingtonCoVA in 1809, as Joseph Denniston, tithable, but with no personal property, not even a horse, and again in 1812, and 1815-1819, proximate to other putative sons of Robert DENNISON of WashingtonCo, after which he most likely migrated to TN, whose 1820 census is missing. Since, according to my reconstruction of the conjugal family of Robert, Joseph had seven older brothers, some of whom, like Joseph, weren't yet settled with families of their own, most likely he shared a household with various of these and worked the same land with them.

The 1840 census for JeffersonCoTN lists a household headed by George Denison (aged 80-89) adjacent to the one for Joseph (50-59), which has led some to suppose that George was Joseph's father. However, the 1830 census for George says that he was 50-59, and the absence of any records for a George back in VA before 1803 (when he first appeared on the WashingtonCoVA tax lists, and married that same year), make him a brother, not a father of Joseph.