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The Scope of This Report

This report is focused on the Virginia (VA) roots, and the first three generations, of this Dennis[t]on family, though the family's transition to Kentucky (KY) and beyond also incorporates some of the extensive published research of T. Randle, and Rachel E. Dennison on this family;^[1] having trod most of the same ground as these researchers, at least on the Virginia end, I can vouch that their work is both thorough and sound, although I have milked the evidence a little more aggressively, and variously strengthened, or modified, their conclusions in some respects. In particular, I have cast my net a bit wider in the VA focus area, and have harvested a few additional anomalies and complications for my trouble.

Dennison or Denniston

Two distinct surnames are regularly conflated in the phonetic spelling of the colonial Scotch-Irish families named Dennison—or Denniston. The former is derived from the medieval given name Dennis, which itself gained currency from the martyred 3rd Century Bishop of Paris, St. Denis, and ultimately from the Greek god Dionysus. On the other hand, the latter surname, Denniston, is a Scottish habitation name from a place in the ancient county of Renfrew called Danzielstoun, “Danziel” being the genitive of Daniel in medieval Latin.^[2] The Scottish name derives, thus, from the given name Daniel, and not from the popular Catholic saint.

I suspect that the surname Dennison has always been by far the more prevalent throughout the British Isles, given the extensive two-way Celtic population flows back and forth between Ireland and Scotland over the centuries, especially between northern Ireland and Scottish Argyllshire.^[3] Thus, many clerks in northern Ireland, and later in the colonies, even those of Scotch-Irish extraction, may well have assumed that “Dennison” was the “correct” form, while “Denniston” was the corruption, despite the distinctively different pronunciation of the latter, with its “t” sound. However, it's also likely that a minority of clerks who served the Scotch-Irish population on the American colonial frontier, and who may have been better-informed about Scottish surnames and place names, lumped some native “Dennison”s with “Denniston”s, although one notes the latter spelling decrease in frequency in the records as the 18th Century progressed. No doubt over time, many more bearers of the original Scottish place name eventually acquiesced to the “t”-less version, just as have all the descendants of the Daniel¹ Dennis[t]on, who is the starting point for the present study.

Still, we are left with a certain ambiguity about which surname is truly the original one for this family. It won't do simply to argue that since the immigrant ancestor was himself named Daniel, the Scottish surname is indicated, because “Daniel” was, in fact, a far more popular name amongst the native Irish,

¹ (RD) T. Randle Dennison and Rachel E. Dennison, *Scotch-Irish Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky and Points West* (privately printed, 2002), To clearly separate my work from that of my predecessors (whom I shall refer to henceforth simply as “RD”, for “Randle and/or Rachel Dennison”), I have placed my precis of their work in the final paragraphs of the relevant family sketch headers. For the most part, I have quoted their material, as is, with citations only to their published book. Since most of RD's citations are incorporated, within square brackets, into the main text of their book, I shall let those citations speak for themselves. Where my work substantially overlaps theirs, I have simply presented mine, not bothering a detailed critique or disputation where our conclusions differ. It is hoped that my work too speaks for itself.

² Patrick Hanks & Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of Surnames* (Oxford University Press, 1988), 144, noting that “Robert Denniestoun, who was admitted as a freeman of the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of Edinburgh in 1547, was known also as Danielston.”

³ For example, one of the “Dennis[t]on” references I found in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, was in a transcribed 1717 letter from a Scotsman, Francis Hume, to a friend or relative in Virginia, referring to the ship's master with whom he took passage as “Capt. Dennison, a Glasgow man” {*VMHB*, 38(1930):106}. The irony here is that suburban Glasgow was the original site of Danzielstoun, or *Denniston*.

than the Scots,^[4] even though “Daniel, of Danielstown” has a certain ring. The most one can say in favor of the purely Scottish surname, “Denniston”, is that since the (non-German) population in early Augusta was overwhelmingly Scotch-Irish and Presbyterian, the roots of this early Augustan, Presbyterian, family probably do lie in Scotland, and therefore there is a good chance that they were actually Dennistons, with the “t”, rather than Dennisons. For that reason, and because the “t” spelling occurs so often in the early records for this family, I have adopted the “Denniston” spelling as the standard generic spelling of the name for Daniel¹ and his son, Daniel², but have used the “t”-less “Dennison” spelling for the latter’s children, because that is the form which began to predominate with that generation, and because all the male descendants of this line eventually dropped the “t”. I have somewhat more arbitrarily preferred the doubled-“n” version of the name over the single-“n” version, because I find that the former prevails over the latter in the 1930 USCensus by more than 2-1.

1. DANIEL¹ DENNISTON and his wife SARAH —?—

The first Daniel Denniston, the immigrant, was probably one of the first settlers of the huge Beverley Manor tract which constituted the first significant settlement of the upper Valley of Virginia. At any rate, we know that Daniel took up land adjacent to the first, and principal, settler of this area, Colonel John Lewis, purchasing his land from the proprietor, William Beverley, in 1739, only a year or so after Lewis himself. Lewis, though, is thought to have settled in this area as early as 1732, and it seems doubtful for several reasons that Denniston and his family were there that early.

A much bigger conundrum than his time of arrival is the structure of Daniel’s family. When Daniel made his will in 1743, the family appears to have consisted of a wife Sarah, and just two grown children—a married daughter Ann, and a son Daniel on the threshold of marriage. In these days before effective birth control, there were a few childless couples, but most couples had children, and they almost inevitably had more than a couple unless the wife died prematurely or suffered permanent damage to her reproductive facilities. Since Daniel’s wife Sarah was very much alive in 1743, I think there is quite a good chance that she was a second wife, and only the stepmother of Daniel’s grown children Ann and Daniel².

Since there are no particular reasons to doubt that the Dennistons were Scotch-Irish, one would normally look to the Scotch-Irish onomastic (child-naming) pattern to help resolve this dilemma. Daughter Ann married one Patrick Gillaspay (also presumably Scotch-Irish), and had daughters Sarah, then Jean, then four sons—names unknown. The fact that the Gillaspay’s first daughter was named Sarah is consistent with the pattern (although it was more usual to name the second daughter after the mother’s mother, rather than the first), and with the hypothesis that Ann’s real mother was Daniel¹’s wife, Sarah. However, son Daniel² seems to have gone entirely his own way in naming his children, even though one would have expected an only son to have stuck most closely to the Scotch-Irish pattern, if that was indeed the pattern by which he himself was named: thus, where Daniel² should have named his first, or at the latest, his second children of each sex Daniel and Sarah, I find that he didn’t use these names until his fourth children, at the earliest^[5] Yet Daniel²’s sons did appear to follow the pattern, at least for their first several children.

⁴ According to a study I have done of the British IGI, only about 1.5% of all Scottish lads were named Daniel, with just one Daniel for every 35 of the three most common names (John, James, and William), while in Ireland, there is 1 Daniel for every 8.

⁵ See the *Children of Daniel² Denniston* . . . section below for my extensive analysis of Daniel²’s family.

Onomastic analysis of this family thus sheds no light on whether Daniel¹ had an earlier wife than Sarah who may have been mother of Daniel², and it raises very real questions about the background of this family, which may not have been Scotch-Irish at all. If Daniel¹ really had only one son, and he named him Daniel, well, that corresponds with the most common English naming pattern—unless the father of Daniel¹ (the immigrant), was himself named Daniel.

I have not so far encountered a clear case where a Presbyterian settler in good standing in this early frontier community turned out not to be Scotch-Irish, but that may be mostly due to the fact that so few of these early settlers can be traced back to their specific origins in the Old World. And I note with interest that, despite this family's deviant child-naming tendencies, the standard pattern did manage to insinuate itself into the family, perhaps through the decided views of these Dennis[t]ons' Scotch-Irish spouses. That certainly seems to be the case for Daniel¹'s grandson William³ Denison, who married the very Scotch-Irish Margaret Dunlap, and whose first two boys, and first two girls, were named for their four grandparents.

One aspect of Daniel's life upon which we may profitably speculate is his status and "character" within his frontier society. First, we note that Daniel and another man were chosen by their congregation to journey to Pennsylvania to try to induce the Rev. John Craig to accept their call to be the first settled minister in the upper Valley of Virginia. Although there is no evidence that Daniel was ever a ruling elder of his church (no doubt there was plenty of competition for this prestigious post), nonetheless he must have been considered an upright and persuasive man of affairs to have been chosen for the important duty of securing a minister, although I suspect that part of the reason for his selection was that he had earlier established a rapport with Craig during the latter's sojourn in the new settlement a year or two before. However, consider also that Daniel was elected sergeant, though not an officer, of his militia company.^[6] Officers were supposed to be not only leaders, but also "gentlemen", at least in the relaxed sense the term must have borne in this rough and ready society, and it is my working hypothesis that the chief posts of status and responsibility were reserved, not just for men of outstanding personal characteristics, nor yet of wealth, but of education and gentlemanly comportment—manners. In the early years of Augusta, the principal leadership positions were county justice and militia captain, and there was substantial overlap between the holders of these offices. Of course, a better than average education, and some familiarity with the law, were requisites for the justices, who not only presided in court, but also acted as roving "justices of the peace", or magistrates. Given that Daniel was evidently a man of some standing, the fact that he wasn't chosen for these top positions, suggests that he fell a bit short of those who were, in the area of education or in other gentlemanly pretensions and attainments.

(DANIEL¹ DENNISTON and his wife SARAH —?—)

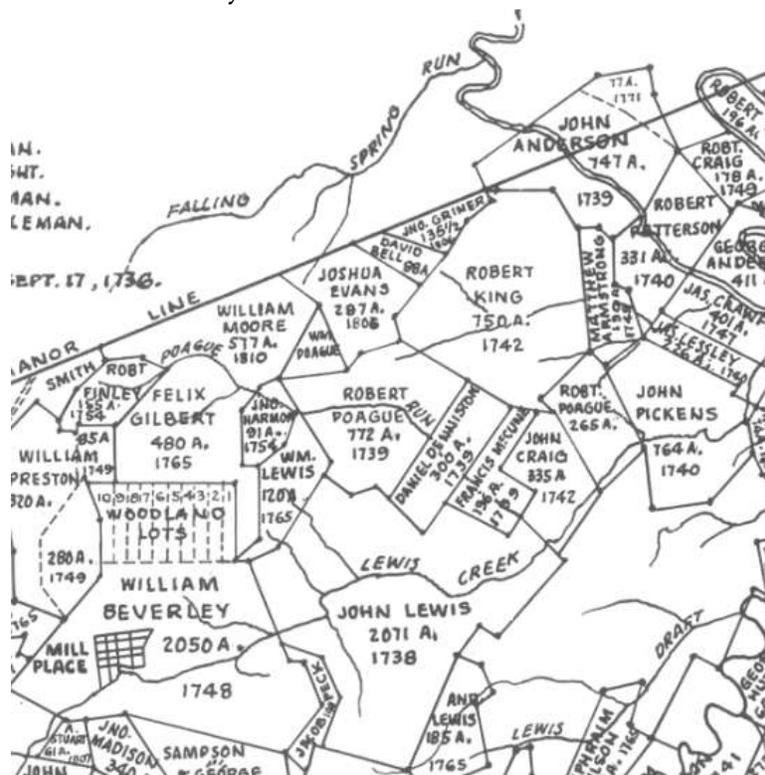
Daniel Denniston was born say 1688. He died between 24Feb17[48/]9 (date of the codicil to his will, and 1Dec1749 (its date of proof).^[7]

Daniel Denniston married Sarah —?— say 1717(if I am right in my guess that daughter Ann was his first-born child).

⁶ The evidence for these statements will be presented below.

⁷ The actual date of the codicil is 24Feb1749, which would typically mean 24Feb1749/50, but since the will was proved later that same year, I have presumed that the 1748/9 date was meant. I note also, that the codicil and the proof appear to have been copied into the probate book in the same hand at the same time; the clerk was therefore probably thinking 1749 when he wrote in the date of the codicil..

On 9&10Apr1739, Daniel Denniston purchased a 300a tract on Beverley Manor from the proprietor, William Beverley, by deeds of lease and release.^[8] This land was located on Poague Run, which runs into Lewis Creek, in the very heart of the Manor where its most important denizen, Colonel John Lewis, had chosen his land; Daniel's tract was actually adjacent to the 2071a tract of Lewis, which was itself adjacent to the 2050a picked out by the proprietor Beverley from his entire 118491a holding. An abbreviated map of Daniel's neighborhood is shown below because it is germane to the history and politics of this early settlement.^[9]



There is no doubt that Daniel was one of the earliest settlers of BevMan, but how early, exactly? The Beverley Patent is dated Sep1736, and the earliest grant from Beverley to a settler that I know about is the one to William Cathey, recorded 28Apr1738, but other early documents indicate that there were already quite a few settlers living on this land by then, include John Lewis, who may have settled in Augusta as early as 1732, or perhaps 1734.^[10]

At the fall, 1740, meeting of the Donegal Presbytery in LancasterCoPA, Robert Poag and Daniel Denniston appeared as representatives of the “Triple Forks of the Shenandoah” Christian society, comprising many of the upper Valley of Virginia settlers, to confirm in person an earlier call to pastor John Craig to come to them in the Valley and be their permanent minister. Craig, who had sojourned in Augusta the previous year as a “supply” (a temporary minister) had already chosen to accept this call from Augusta over that of several others, and he was ordained with that end in mind

⁸ The documentation for Daniel's deed is from the recital of title in the deed of his son, Daniel², who inherited the land from his father, and sold it in 1770 to Joseph Bell. See AugustaCo Deeds 17:133-137.

⁹ J.R. Hildebrand, *The Hildebrand Maps of Western VA*. Please see the GENERAL SOURCES section at the end of the bibliography for more on this and other Hildebrand maps.

¹⁰ Joseph A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871* (StauntonVA: C. Russell Caldwell, 1902), 24,33, 37 *et seq.*

on 3Sep1740, with Poage and Denniston witnessing the ceremony.^[11] Within a couple of years of his removal to the Valley, Craig acquired a 335a tract in Beverley Manor from Colonel John Lewis, making him a virtually a next-door neighbor of Lewis, as well as of Poage and Denniston. According to Craig's autobiography, practically from the time he arrived, this fledgling pioneer minister found himself trapped in the middle of a bitter personal rivalry between Lewis, who was the installed "big man" of the community, and Colonel James Patton, who sought to replace him.^[12] Craig was also beset by settlers, some of them parishioners, who subscribed to the more evangelical "New Side" version of Presbyterianism, which was beginning to threaten the integrity of the mother church. From the fact that Daniel¹ made both Poage and Lewis co-executors of his will, we may infer that he was a staunch Lewis man. And from the fact that Daniel's son, Daniel², had his first three children baptized by Craig, we may reasonably suppose that the Dennistons were also of Craig's more conservative, and perhaps less passionate, religious bent.

However, Lewis, Poage, Denniston, and Craig, were in fact next door neighbors to each other, and it would have been awkward in the extreme if Poage or Denniston had not been willing to go along with the big dog in their neighborhood, Lewis. In his autobiography, Craig tells us that he purchased the plantation deeded to him by Lewis,^[13] but in Wilson's account, relying on papers of William Beverley, the proprietor of Beverley Manor, it was a gift from Lewis, "all charges paid",^[14] and if the latter was the case, we may imagine how Lewis came to think of Craig as his creature. By the same token, it seems likely that it was Lewis who chose his neighbor allies, Poage and Denniston, to represent *his* congregation in the negotiations for Craig's services; quite likely he also paid for their trip to Pennsylvania. Under the circumstances, one wonders whether Lewis also had a hand in bringing in Poage and Denniston as neighbors, and/or in securing their land.^[15]

¹¹ Howard McKnight Wilson, *The Lexington Presbytery Heritage* (VeronaVA: McClure Press, 1971), 22, citing Donegal Presbytery Minutes 1:193, and 195: "Robert Poag and Daniel Denniston from Virginia declared in ye name of the people of Shenandore their adherence to their call formerly presented". I have not seen the original minutes, which repose, I believe, at the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, on their Microfilm 837, which can be borrowed through interlibrary loan, but only for a rather stiff fee.

¹² Lillian Craig, *Reverend John Craig, 1709-1774: His Descendants and Allied Families* (NewOrleansLA: privately printed, 1963), 31, and 55-56, where Craig gives us his own version of this controversy: "Differences happened between Colonel John Lewis and Colonel James Patton, both living in that congregation, which continued while they lived; which of them should be highest in commission and power, which was hurtful to the Settlement, but especially to me. They were jealous of my interest with the people to such a degree that I could neither bring them to friendship with each other, nor obtain both their friendship at once ever after." At one point, Craig was even arrested, falsely, by Patton, at the very time his wife was entering the difficult stage of her gestation, but Patton evidently failed in his design to intimidate him. Craig also writes that during the height of this controversy, all his horses and cattle mysteriously died, even though other beasts grazed his land during the same period without ill effects. Craig carefully refrains from drawing the obvious conclusion: that they were poisoned!

¹³ Craig, *Reverend John Craig*, 59.

¹⁴ Wilson, *Lexington Presbytery*, 23.

¹⁵ It would be worthwhile, I think, to look up the original deeds of acquisition of all three men (Craig, Poage, and Denniston) just to make sure that they were direct grants from Beverley, as is implied, I think, by the Hildebrand map, rather than from Lewis, and if they were from Lewis, whether they were sold at market rates.

“Dan[iel] Danniston, Serj[eant]” appears on the 1742 AugustaCoVA militia list for Capt. John Smith’s company; this company also included, as privates, Dan[iel] Danniston (presumably Daniel², his son), and Beverley Manor neighbors Rob[ert] King, and Rob[ert] Poage.^[16]

In his will dated 22Dec1743, Daniel Denniston, of “Beverley Manner”, in AugustaCoVA “being very sick and weak of body”, bequeathed “to Sarah, my dearly beloved wife”, half of the moveables, half the profits of this year's crop, and decent maintenance, with clothing, for life. “And in case my son Daniel should marry, and he or his wife should not agree with my beloved wife Sarah, I leave her the only right of the house I now live in during her life, or an house to be built for her on the estate at the discretion of the executors”; to “my well-beloved son Daniel Deniston”, he gave the residue of the estate, real and personal, exclusive of the following special legacies: to “my son-in-law Patrick Gilaspy”, 5 shillings [a token bequest]; to “my daughter Ann Gilaspy, one gray horse colt”; and to “my granddaughter Sarah Gilaspy, a bay colt two years old”. Daniel Denniston named as executors “my trusty and well-beloved friends John Lewis and Robert Poage”, and the witnesses were John Henderson and James Trimble.

On 10Dec1745 “Daniel Dennison” was appointed road overseer, succeeding John Pickens, a close neighbor in BevMan.^[17] This was probably the road which ran from the court house (in what became Staunton) to John Pickens’s mill, and on to the “lower meeting house” which the Denniston’s neighbors, Andrew Lewis, Ro[bert] Poage, Robert Patterson, and James Allen were ordered on 19Jun1747 to inspect.^[18] On 19Aug1747 “Dan[ie]l Deniston”, and “Daniel Deniston, Jr.” were among the tithables named to work on this road, for whom the overseers were John Pickens and W[illia]m Bell.^[19] It appears that Pickens, who was a very close neighbor in NE BevMan, had replaced Daniel¹ as overseer, and in fact this is ratified early the next year.^[20]

On 24Feb1749 Daniel Denniston added a codicil to his will, specifying a different animal to go to his granddaughter Sarah, and giving to each of “my four grandsons, sons to my daughter Ann Gilaspy, three pieces of eight”; the codicil was signed with Daniel’s mark, and had as witnesses, John Anderson, and Elizabeth Poage. On 1Dec1749 the will and codicil of Daniel Denniston were presented in the AugustaCo court by the executors John Lewis, and Robert Poage, and proved by the witnesses, and on the executors’ bond in the amount of £500, certificate of probate was granted them.^[21]

Children of DANIEL¹ DENNISTON and SARAH —?—:

The two children of Daniel¹, Ann and Daniel², could have been born some years earlier than I’ve hypothesized, but that would make son Daniel older even than the unlikely age of 67 when he sold his land and (probably) headed to the Kentucky frontier. All that we know for sure from the evidence is that Daniel

¹⁶ Joseph A. Waddell, “Militia Companies in Augusta County, in 1742”, in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 279.

¹⁷ AugustaCoVA Order Book 1:4.

¹⁸ Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, Extracted from the Original Court Records of AugustaCo, 1745-1800*, 3 volumes (1912; reprint GPC, 1999), 1:29, citing OB1:239.

¹⁹ Chalkley, 1:30, citing OB1:48.

²⁰ AugustaCoVA OB1:360, on 17Mar1747/8.

²¹ AugustaCoVA Probate 1:211-212. Since the will was proved in Dec1749, the date of the codicil should presumably have been “24Feb1748/9”, rather than 24Feb1749/50 which was more conventional. On 28Feb1749/50 next door neighbor Robert Poage deeded about half of his original tract to his son John, with corners to Lewis, Wallace, and (plain) “Daniel Dennison”—no Jr. or Sr.; probably this deed was drawn up after Daniel¹ died leaving only one Daniel—the son.

was born before 1722, or he would not, presumably, have appeared on the 1742 AugustaCo militia list.^[22] And unless he was born a good number of years before that, it is less than likely that his sister Ann, who was married with two children by 1743, would have been the younger of the two. Thus, I have guessed that Daniel was born about 1720, and Ann a couple of years before.

This does not, though, explain, why their parents had only two children—assuming that Daniel¹'s wife Sarah, really was their mother. Sarah may well have been a second wife, except that I note that Ann named her first child, Sarah, probably for her own real mother. Son Daniel², on the other hand, named his first three daughters, Margaret, Ann, and Mary, and only got around to Sarah for his fourth daughter. So it's possible that Daniel² had a different mother, and was quite a bit older than his half-sister Ann. But this runs into my objection about his age when he removed to KY, and besides, Daniel² seems to have ignored the Scotch-Irish onomastic pattern anyway, in naming his sons, so he may have done likewise for his daughters.

2. i. ANN², b. say 1718; m. Patrick Gillaspy; m. Andrew Paul.
3. ii. DANIEL, b. say 1720; m. Elizabeth —?—.

²² “Militia Companies in Augusta[CoVA]”; *The Statutes at Large, Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619*, 13 vols, William Waller Hening, editor(s) (RichmondVA: privately printed, 1823; online), 5:16 declared that militia service was required for “all free male persons, above the age of one and twenty years”.

*Generation Two*2. ANN² DENNISTON (*Daniel*¹) and her husbands PATRICK GILLASPY, and ANDREW PAUL

Patrick and Ann (Denniston) Gillaspys settled in Frederick County, which from its creation in 1743 until 1772, encompassed all of the lower (northernmost) part of the Valley of Virginia, from just north of present-day Harrisonburg to the Maryland border. Presumably, Patrick, who made his will only a few years after marriage, was already established in the southernmost part of the county.

I have not researched this couple beyond what I found in a secondary compilation of probate records in the Roanoke County library. Fortunately, RD has:

On 14 Apr 1744 Patrick Gilaspys was among several plaintiffs suing John Neeland in Frederick Co VA for debts owed them from Robert Callender's estate [Order Bk 1-77/106] On 9 Jun 1744 Patrick proved his account by oath and received L9 PA money (value L6, 15 shillings VA money) plus court costs from John Neeland [Court Bk 1-123]. On the same day Patrick bought 120 acres in FRVA [FrederickCoVA] from Daniel Chancey for L30 [Deed Bk I, 99-100]. On 14 Apr 1744 Patrick and John Beals were appointed 'overseers of road from head of the spring by the Chapple to John Evans' then to Tuscarora' [Court Bk 1-77]. . . . Before 8 Sep 1762 Patrick had sold his 120 acres in FRVA to William Patterson but died before he could make the conveyance. On this date his son John Gelaspy and Andrew Paul and his wife Ann (of Rowan Co NC) sold the land to William Patterson for L100 [Deed Bk 8-1 and 2].

Thus, it would appear that Patrick's widow Ann, was remarried to Andrew Paul, and removed with him, and at least her son John, to RowanCoNC.

Ann Denniston was born say 1718.^[23]

Ann Denniston married 1st, Patrick Gillaspys, say 1740.^[24] He died on or after 3Nov1747, when he made his will in Frederick County, Virginia.^[25]

Ann Denniston married 2nd, Andrew Paul, between 1750 and 8Sep1762.^[26]

Children of ANN DENNISTON and PATRICK GILLASPY:

Daughters Sarah and Jean are named in the 1743 will of Ann's father, Daniel Denniston, and "my four grandsons, sons to my daughter Ann Gilaspys", are each bequeathed three pieces of eight in a 1749 codicil.^[27] Although none of the Gilaspys sons are named in either their father's or their grandfather, Daniel Denniston's, will, I have guessed that the oldest one was named John based on RD's report that "John

²³ Although Ann is named second of two children in Daniel¹'s will, no inferences can be drawn from that because it was a common convention to list all the legacies to the sons first, since these usually included the all-important devises of real property. I think Ann was the first-born, and aged about 25 in 1743 when her father made his will, given that the will also shows that she was already married with two children. It is entirely possible, though, that both she and Daniel were born a few years earlier; AugustaCoVA Court Records.

²⁴ AugustaCoVA Probate 1:211. The will of Daniel¹ Denniston names as legatees "my son-in-law Patrick Gilaspys", and "my daughter Ann Gilaspys"; J. Estelle Stewart King, *Abstract of Wills, Inventories, and Administration Accounts of Frederick County, Virginia* (ScottsdaleAZ: privately printed, 1961), 4. Patrick Gallaspy's will names "wife Ann Gallaspy".

²⁵ King, *Wills . . . of Frederick County*, 4. At page 109 of the same source, Patrick appears on a list of landholders dated 1750, so he was presumably still alive then.

²⁶ AugustaCoVA Court Judgements Case 123.

²⁷ AugustaCoVA Probate 1:211-212. Three pieces of eight would amount to about \$95 today.

Gelaspie" joined with Andrew and wife Ann Paul (presumably his step-father and mother) in a deed of sale for his father's FrederickCo land.^[28]

- i. SARAH³. Sarah Gillaspy was born say 1741.
- ii. JEAN. Jean Gillaspy was born say 1743.
- iii. JOHN?. John? Gillaspy was born say 1744.
- iv. [UNKNOWN SON]. [unknown son] Gillaspy was born say 1746.
- v. [UNKNOWN SON]. [unknown son] Gillaspy was born say 1747.
- vi. [UNKNOWN SON]. [unknown son] Gillaspy was born about 1749.

There were no known children of Ann² Denniston and Andrew Paul.

²⁸ Although putative son John Gelaspie's inclusion as a grantor in the deed is technically gratuitous, since he would have been a minor at the time and legally incapable of making a binding conveyance, it is also probably a token that he was the oldest son, who would have automatically inherited his father's land at age 21 if his father had not directed otherwise in his will (a point which is left ambiguous by the inadequate will abstract).

3. DANIEL² (*Daniel*¹) DENNISTON and his wife ELIZABETH —?—

There appears to be a question about where Daniel² died—whether he first migrated to KY with several of his children, or whether he and Elizabeth went to live with one of their married children in VA when they sold their land in RockinghamCo on 26Feb1787.^[29] By my estimation, Daniel would have been aged about 67 in 1787—quite an advanced age to be resettling on the still-raw KY frontier, and it is, after all, perfectly possible that he purchased land in KY without ever moving there. We know that Daniel left a will, because his son Daniel³ filed an 1813 quitclaim in FayetteCoKY involving land which was “willed to me by my father”,^[30] but most of the probate records for both FayetteCoKY and RockinghamCoVA have been lost—burned up in fires—so we are missing this crucial document, which could shed a world of light, not only on where Daniel ended up, but on the structure of his family.

There is, nonetheless, solid evidence that Daniel probably died in KY. First, I note that the court minute books for RockinghamCo do survive, and include notices of probate for many others, but there are no entries for Daniel. The definitive evidence, though, is a 1787 tax record for Daniel Dennison in FayetteCoKY, which at first sight could be either for Daniel, or for his son Daniel³.^[31] The fact that Daniel² and his wife Elizabeth signed the 26Feb1787 deed selling their Virginia property, and were presumably physically present in Virginia at the time, would seem to suggest that the Daniel in KY must have been the son, since tax information was supposed to be gathered beginning on 10Mar of the tax year during this period.^[32] However, in the first place, the Rockingham minutes also indicate that Daniel’s wife Elizabeth failed to give her dower release, and that the deed itself was never actually acknowledged by Daniel; instead it had to be proved by witnesses later that year.^[33] This is quite unusual—nearly all deeds were acknowledged by their grantors, unless they were dead, or had removed permanently out of the county, and while this does not by itself rule out the possibility that Daniel died shortly after executing the deed, that seems the less likely alternative.

What identifies this FayetteCo tax record with positively with Daniel Sr., however, is the fact that the household included three extra white male tithable aged 16-21. A James Denison, presumably Daniel’s son, also appears on the FayetteCo rolls for this year, though on a different tax list, while Daniel’s other older sons John and David are tax-listed back in VA. Thus, these three extra tithables figure to be his younger three sons: William, Thomas, and Daniel. See also my analysis of Daniel’s family below in the **Children of..** section.

²⁹ Levinsons, *RockinghamCoVA Minute Book*, 2:58, citing Rockingham Minutes 1:587.

³⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 21, citing FayetteCoKY Deeds G:498-499.

³¹ *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 7(FayetteCo). Daniel Dennison is here taxed for himself, 3 white male tithables aged 16-20, 7 horses, and 8 cattle.

³² *Hening’s Statutes*, 12:246. The same act defines one of the assessment categories as “white males above 16 and under 21” (p254).

³³ Levinsons, *RockinghamCoVA Minute Book*, 2:58, as cited above. The original deed was proved by its witnesses Benjamin and Gavin Harrison, and lay awaiting wife Elizabeth’s dower release, which was never forthcoming; instead, on 24Sep1787, the grantee himself, Joseph Smith, came into court and “proved” the deed in lieu of Elizabeth (2:74, citing Rockingham Minutes 1:725).

Daniel Denniston was born say 1720.^[34] He died presumably in FayetteCoKY on or before 26Nov1793, when a suit, *Dennison Exor vs Hamilton*, back in RockinghamCoVA, where Daniel lived until 1787, was compounded and dismissed.^[35]

Daniel Denniston married Elizabeth —?— about Jul1744, given the baptismal date of their first child, Margaret, and her “untimely birth”, according to the Reverend John Craig, who baptized her.^[36]

“Dan[iel] Danniston” appears on the 1742 AugustaCoVA militia list for Capt. John Smith’s company, with his father, “Dan[iel] Danniston, Serj[ean]t”, and BevMan neighbors Rob[ert] King, and Rob[ert] Poage, and Thomas McCulough. The militia companies were organized by neighborhood, so that membership in a particular company was *prima facie* evidence of where a man lived; consequently, these lists are helpful in sorting out identities of people with the same name, and in tracking the careers of people as they moved around.^[37] On 22Aug1746 Daniel Denniston was appointed constable in Augusta County, in place of “Tho[ma]s McCulloch”.^[38] On 19Aug1747, “Daniel Deniston, Jr.” joined his father, “Dan[ie]l Deniston”, on a road gang for their area of BevMan.^[39] Either 1753 or 1754 Daniel Denniston signed a petition to the County court, along with some 50 other Augusta men, to prohibit local ordinary (tavern) keepers from “picking our pockets” by selling exorbitantly priced spirituous liquors from outside the county, and discouraging the development of a locally-based liquor industry.^[40] On 9Aug1756 Daniel Deniston and Robert Poage appeared on Capt. Israel Christian’s militia muster list, which shows that Daniel² continued to live in the area of NE Beverley Manor where the land he inherited from his father lay.^[41] On 3Dec1756 Dan[ie]l Deniston, along with several other AugustaCo men, filed a claim with the county court for “horse hire”, and was compensated in the amount of 13 shillings, 9 pence.^[42] Evidently one of his

³⁴ I present my reasons for proposing this birth date for Daniel² in the “**Children of Daniel¹ ..**” paragraph, above.

³⁵ Alas, I have no citation for this item in my notes, but it probably came from the Levinsons’ abstracts of Rockingham order books. The will of Daniel has never been found, and while the original was presumably probated in FayetteCoKY, most of whose early records are lost, a copy may have also been filed in Rockingham (whose records are also lost), where Daniel may have retained interests; if so, his oldest son John, who remained in Rockingham, may have functioned as a co-executor, or, by power of attorney, as a representative of Daniel’s executor(s) in KY. I know of no other Dennison who had owned property in Augusta-Rockingham who died during this period.

³⁶ We know that Daniel was still unmarried as late as 22Dec1742, when his father made his will, but I’ve placed the estimated marriage date only 6 months from the birth date, because I think the Reverend Craig meant, not merely that the baby was premature (and how exactly, would he have known this?), but that it was probably conceived out of wedlock. Unfortunately, while Craig presumably performed the marriage himself, any record he may have kept of marriages during this period appears to be lost.

³⁷ “Militia Companies in Augusta[CoVA]”, 279.

³⁸ Chalkley, 1:22, citing OB1:85. McCulloch had been sworn in as constable just a couple of months previous, {Chalkley 1:18, citing OB1:48%} but managed to get out of this thankless and unpaid duty somehow; we know he was a neighbor of the Dennistons because he appeared on the same 1742 Augusta militia list as Daniel, and his father, Sgt Daniel.

³⁹ Chalkley, 1:30, citing OB1:48.

⁴⁰ Chalkley, 1:442, citing a loose, undated, petition at the courthouse (the date estimate is Chalkley’s).

⁴¹ AugustaCoVA Court Martial Records 1. Poage, of course, was the next door neighbor of the Dennistons and Poage Run ran through both their properties, while Capt. Christian owned land about 5m to the SE, on South River, but still in the same general neighborhood.

⁴² AugustaCoVA Order Book 5:302.

horses was taken as a mount for a frontier ranger scouting the Indians, by authority of an act by the colonial legislature of 14Sep1758 “for the defence of the Frontiers of this Colony”.^[43]

Sometime in Sep1765 Daniel Denison evidently failed to appear for a militia muster, since he was summoned on 11Apr1766 to show cause why he shouldn't be fined as the law prescribed, but on 17Apr1767 he, and several other of Captain Crow's “delinquents” were excused for their absence without fines.^[44] 7:96-97 (act of Apr1757) prescribed such fines. On 19/20Mar1770, Daniel Denison, and wife Elizabeth, sold to Joseph Bell the 300a in Beverley Manor “first conveyed to Daniel Deniston deceased from William Beverley, Esquire” on 9/10Apr1739. This tract on a branch of Lewis Creek (itself a branch of the Middle (Shenandoah) River), was the land which Daniel² had inherited by will from his father, Daniel¹.^[45]

Turning over a new leaf, on 19/20Aug1771, Daniel Denison purchased 330a “on both sides of Muddy Creek, a branch of the North River of Shanandore [Shenandoah]”, from John & Jean Hind, by deeds of lease and release.^[46] This land was about 20 miles due N of the former Denniston tract in Beverley Manor, in the northern part of AugustaCo which would be split off to form Rockingham County 5 years later. Daniel's new land lay about 5 miles W of Harrisonburg, the RockinghamCo seat. In the next year, 1772, Daniel's oldest son, John, purchased a tract on Dry River adjacent to that of his father. Daniel Denniston appears several times in the records of RockinghamCoVA between 1781 and 1783. He was reimbursed for 500# beef contributed 29Oct1781, presumably for the war effort, and was a grand jurymen on 25Nov1783, and again on 29Apr1783.^[47] On or before 9Mar1781 Daniel Denison gave his consent for the marriage of Eleanor Denison to William Rice.^[48] On 26Feb1787, Daniel Denniston, and wife Elizabeth, sold their land in RockinghamCoVA to Joseph Smith; presumably this was the same Dry River land Daniel had purchased in 1771. It was noted that the deed lay awaiting Elizabeth's dower release, but no record of this survives, and in fact the deed was never acknowledged by Daniel himself. Instead, it had to be “proved”, on 24Sep1787, by the grantee, Joseph Smith.^[49] This highly irregular form of proof suggests that Daniel, Elizabeth, and their family left for KY soon after the deed was executed in Feb1787.

Daniel² (Daniel¹) Dennison, with his three youngest sons, removed to FayetteCoKY by 25Jul1787, when he appears on the personal property tax rolls of Fayette as head of a household containing an additional 3 white male tithables^[50]. Since Daniel's son, Daniel³, was born c1772, the named household head must be Daniel², the father, while the other two tithables are presumably his next older sons, Thomas (b.1769), and William (b.1767). Evidence presented elsewhere shows that

⁴³ *Hening's Statutes*, 7:190.

⁴⁴ AugustaCoVA Court Martial Records 35 (summons to show cause); 37 (exemption); *Hening's Statutes*.

⁴⁵ AugustaCoVA Deeds 17:133-137. At the time of sale, this tract shared a corner with Peter Hog, and a line with Andrew Lewis. Although the grantors's surname was spelled “Deniston” in the body of the deed, the signature was copied as “Daniel Denison”. The deed wasn't delivered to Bell until Dec1777.

⁴⁶ AugustaCoVA Deeds 17:314-318. The witnesses were Elijah McClenachan, John King, and John Mophet. See Maps: **The Dennison Plantations on Dry River/Muddy Creek** showing Daniel²'s tract, and that of his son John, across the river.

⁴⁷ Levinsons, *RockinghamCoVA Minute Book*, 1:196, citing RockinghamCo Minutes 1:262 (beef), and 1:152, citing 1:200, and 1:196, 262 (grand jury).

⁴⁸ John Vogt and T. William Kethley Jr., *Rockingham County Marriages, 1778-1850* (AthensGA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1984).

⁴⁹ Levinsons, *RockinghamCoVA Minute Book*, 2:58, citing RockinghamCo Minutes 1:587 (the deed); and 2:74, citing 1:725 (its proof). Further specifics of this deed have been lost, along with the original deed books.

⁵⁰ *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 7.

Daniel²'s next older son, James (b.c.1761), also made the move, but was head of his own FayetteCo household in 1787, while the oldest sons, John & David, were still on the VA tax lists at this time. Besides the extra tithables, Daniel was taxed for 7 horses, and 8 horned cattle.

Children of DANIEL² DENNISTON and ELIZABETH —?—:

The names of Daniel²'s children come principally from two documents. The Reverend John Craig's journal provides the names and baptismal dates of the first three, all daughters,^[51] and the names of all but one of the rest come from FayetteCoKY records concerning the estate of son Daniel³,^[52] and in particular from a Feb1825 petition to the FayetteCo chancery court by Daniel's legal heirs—his surviving siblings and the heirs of his pre-deceased siblings—who wanted to sell their brother Daniel's two small parcels of real estate to facilitate an equal division of his entire estate amongst all his legal heirs.

It is the usual practice in legal documents involving siblings with an equal interest in some property or cause, to list them in birth order, and that convention appears to have been followed here, except that the petition actually provides three lists: one of the siblings who were the active petitioners in the case (probably because they had standing before the FayetteCo court as residents of the county); another list of siblings who lived elsewhere but who needed to be included as passive petitioners because they had equal interests in the estate; and a third list of non-resident siblings who had pre-deceased their brother Daniel³, but whose interests descended by the same laws of intestacy to *their* legal "heirs of the blood". It would obviously have been better for our purposes, and more conclusive, if the petition had consisted of a single list of all of Daniel's siblings, since the presumption that the list was in birth order would have been easier to verify, but even broken up into three temporally overlapping lists the separate orders make sense and provide clues to the working out of this family. Here is the key opening paragraph of the petition, from RD's transcription:

To the Honorable the judge of the Fayette Circuit Court the petition of James Dennison, [Catherine Dennison-struck out], Hamilton Atchison, Isabella Atchison late Dennison & Catherine Dennison respectfully show that there brother Daniel Dennison lately departed this life possessed of a small tract of land containing about 107 acres not of the fertile quality on the waters of Hickman and a small lot of ground on Ayer's Alley of inconsiderable value said Daniel being a singleman and leaving no children or father your petitioners together with James Dennison, John Dennison, William Dennison, Thomas Dennison, the unknown heirs of David Dennison who died in the state of Ohio, the unknown heirs of Elizabeth Dennison who died in Tenesee, the unknown heirs of Eleanor Rice late Dennison who died the place not known.

James's name heads the second list as well as the first; this is obviously a clerical error, as was (apparently) the initial placing of Catherine ahead of her sister Isabella in the first list. But was the latter an error because Catherine was born after Isabella, or because the clerk thought it more appropriate to list the males first in each list, since married men controlled the property of their wives? It's impossible to say, since the two sublists with mixed sexes both place males before females. I have therefore cautiously made only the following inferences about birth order from these lists: (1) that John, William, and Thomas were born in that order; and (2) that Elizabeth was born before Eleanor.

That these were all the parties to the petition, and thus all of the children who survived or left heirs, is confirmed by the final settlement of Daniel's estate in Feb1833, which shows that equal distributions of \$228.6 were made to each of the nine siblings, or sets of heirs: James Denison's executor, H[amilton]

⁵¹ Louis Bernard Hatke, *List of Baptisms by Rev. John Craig, Augusta County, Virginia*, (StauntonVA: privately printed, no date-author born 1930), 13, 18, 22.

⁵² *Heirs of Daniel Dennison*, (15Feb1825-Feb1827), FayetteCoKY Circuit Court.

Atchison for his wife [Isabella Dennison], Catharine Deneson, William Denison, Thomas Denison, Eleanor [(Dennison)] Rice's heirs, David Denison's heirs, John Denison's heirs, Elizabeth [(Dennison)] Douglas's heirs.

It is important to understand that when a property owner dies intestate (without a will) the law provides for the automatic distribution of his property to his legal heirs, and these, at the time Daniel died unmarried and without children would have been, first, his father, and next, in equal shares, his mother and his surviving siblings, or the descendants (collectively) of any deceased siblings—with half-siblings (or their descendants collectively) each entitled to a half share compared with full siblings.^[53] Since the petition stipulates that Daniel had no children and that his father was dead (no mention being made of his mother), in order to engage the court it would have had to include all the potential heirs of the intestate Daniel, i.e. all of his siblings or half siblings then still alive, or who had left surviving children as heirs.

RD has noted that the names of four siblings are omitted from all three lists in the 1825 FayetteCo chancery petition: the three first-born girls baptized in the 1740s by Rev. Craig (Margaret, Ann, and Mary), and also Sarah, who appears in just one other record which suggests that she too was a sister: Sarah and Isabella Denn[i]son witnessed a 1781 marriage between (their sister) Eleanor Dennison and William Rice.^[54] On the basis solely of this witness record, I have tentatively accepted Sarah as a child of Daniel², though there is a slight possibility that this Sarah is instead his widowed mother; if in fact Sarah was a late second, and much younger, wife of Daniel¹, there would be nothing anomalous in her surviving as late as 1781.

As for the three first-born daughters, since they were born in the 1740s, it would hardly be surprising if they were all dead by 1825, but the fact that none of them even left heirs, probably means that none of them lived long enough to marry. Since marriage records don't appear in the Valley of Virginia until the 1780s we can't say for sure, but most women did marry, and most had children. It is therefore likely that these daughters died in childhood.

Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²'s Children

We have, thus, evidence for 13 of Daniel's children (and it is unlikely that he had any more, unless Elizabeth was a second wife), but despite the clues to birth order provided by the above-noted court case, sorting them all into birth order is a problematic task. There are, of course, no birth or death records for these people, or even surviving gravestone inscriptions to help, and worst of all, Daniel²'s will is missing. Nonetheless, the few surviving records do provide indicators of age for many of the children, or clues to their birth order, and a likely family structure may be conjecturally worked out from these.

To begin with, Daniel's first three daughters were baptized 19Jan1745/6, 2Aug1747, and 11Jun1749, at intervals of about 18 and 22 months, respectively. This is a pretty typical pattern, and given that Daniel's father was a prominent member of the Rev. Craig's home congregation at Augusta Stone Church, and near neighbor to both Craig and the church, it is reasonable to presume that these baptisms occurred within a few weeks, or at most months, of birth; these factors also make it likely that there were no unrecorded children during this period, although it's possible that Daniel's wife might have had a miscarriage between daughters 2 and 3. The first child after these three to appear in the records is son John, whom we find

⁵³ *Hening's Statutes*, 12:138-139 (*An act Directing the Course of Descents*, effective 1Jan1787) spells out the law for Virginia, which would have been also the law for Kentucky at the time it achieved statehood in 1792. The laws affecting the distribution of intestate estates have remained essentially unchanged in VA to the present day, and it is very unlikely that those for KY had changed, either, by 1824 when Daniel died.

⁵⁴ *Rockingham County Marriages* (Vogt); The marriage record of Eleanor, including the consent is the one important family document I did not have time to find in the original at the RockinghamCo courthouse.

buying land on 18Aug1772 adjacent to his father's land on Dry River;^[55] and in order to purchase land in his own name, without the participation of a guardian, John ought to have been aged at least 21 on that date, which places his birth no later than 18Aug1751. As that is just 26 months later than the baptism of the third daughter, Mary, it is probable that John was the next child, and Daniel's first son.

Unfortunately, in working out the rest of the family, onomastics are of no help because Daniel² did not follow any obvious onomastic pattern: certainly he did not follow the Scotch-Irish pattern. It appears that Daniel's mother was named Sarah, and his wife Elizabeth, but none of his first three daughters bears either name.^[56]

Thus far, I have established that the first four children were Margaret (b.cDec1745), Ann (b.cJul1747), Mary (b.cJan1749), and John (b.cJan1751). The other pieces of evidence relating to age or birth order of the others are these:

- Sons David, Thomas, and Daniel were all aged 45+ in 1820, thus born before 1776.^[57]
- If Elizabeth was the mother of all the children, with the first born cDec1745, the last was probably born no later than about 1772 (if she was, say, 19 when her first child was born, she would have been 46—pretty much past childbearing age—in 1772).
- William and Thomas were born in that order; and Elizabeth was born before Eleanor, considering the order these siblings were listed in their brother, Daniel³'s probate petition.
- William was born 15Jul1767^[58] (the one birth date we have for any of Daniel²'s children).
- William, Daniel, and Isabella (the oldest female in Hamilton Atchison's household in 1810) were all aged 26-44 in 1810, thus born between 1765-1785.^[59]
- When daughter Eleanor was married to William Rice on 9Mar1781 (witnesses [sisters] Sarah and Isabella), she required her father's consent (indicating that she was under age 21); thus she must have been born after 9Mar1760.

⁵⁵ AugustaCoVA Deeds 18:463-464+.

⁵⁶ With a gap of up to 26 months between the 3rd daughter, and the next child, John, one might be tempted to conjecture that Daniel¹ had a first wife who died giving birth to the third daughter, and that he married Elizabeth —?— as his second wife. And if Daniel himself was born, not to Sarah, but to an unknown first wife of his father Daniel¹, the conjunct of these hypotheses could explain why Daniel's first daughters were named as they were even though he was, after all, following the Scotch-Irish pattern. But aside from the fact that all this is rather strained, Daniel clearly deviated from the pattern with respect to his sons as well, starting with his first son, who should have been named Daniel for his paternal grandfather. At the very least, the second or third son should have been named Daniel, for his grandfather or father, but in fact, the evidence which I examine below, in the **Children of..** section, makes Daniel Jr. the sixth son!

⁵⁷ **David Denison household, 1820 USCensus**, MadisonCoOH, PleasantTwp, page 57 (15), image 4 → Males: 1(45+), 3(16-25), 1(16-18), 1(0-9); Females: 1(45+), 3(10-15), 1(0-9); **Thomas Denison household, 1820 USCensus**, MadisonCoOH, PleasantTwp, page 57 (29), image 4 → Males: 1(45+), 1(16-25), 1(16-18), 2(10-15), 2(0-9); Females: 1(45+), 2(10-15). Thomas appears on the same page of this non-alphabetized list as his brother David Denison; **James Noble household, 1820 USCensus**, AugustaCoVA, page 252B (35, image 33 → Males: 1(26-44), 2(0-9); Females 1(26-44), 1(16-25), 3(10-15), 2(0-9).

⁵⁸ John Denison, "Record of William Denison Family", 10Apr1848, a loose paper passed down in the family.

⁵⁹ **William Dennesson household, 1810 USCensus**, FayetteCoKY, page 792 (03), image 11 → Males: 1(26-44), 3(10-15), 3(0-9); Females: 2 (26-44), 1(10-15), 2(0-9); **Daniel Dennesson household, 1810 USCensus**, FayetteCoKY, page 792 (04), image 11 → Males: 1(26-44); **Hamilton Atchison household, 1810 USCensus**, FayetteCoKY, page 790 (18), image 13 → Males: 2(26-44), 2(16-25), 3(10-15); Females: 1 (26-44), 4(10-15), 1(0-9); Note that Daniel is a "singleman" in his household as expected, and note also the many, and grown-up, children in the households of his brother William, and sister Isabella (Dennison) Atchison, which indicates that the heads of these households must have been into their 40s by that time, as we would expect.

- James, Thomas, and Isabella (the oldest female in H. Atchinson, Senior's household in 1830) were all aged 60-69 in 1830,^[60] thus were born in the 1760s. The next oldest female in this Atchinson household was aged 50-59—born in the 1770s—very likely this was Isabella's maiden sister, Catherine, whom RD {p17} says was provided for by a codicil in Hamilton Atchison's will.
- Catherine Denison, aged 80, was a member of the FayetteCoKY household of Rebecca Pettit in the 1850 USCensus.^[61]
- David's wife, Mary Ann Douglas, was born 25Aug1867.^[62]

From all of the above I deduce that:

- Since William was born 15Jul1767 and Thomas after him, but still in the 1760s, Thomas would probably have been born about Dec1768; and since Isabella was under age 45 in 1810, she must have been born about Dec1765.
- James was born between late1760-1763, but since he married in 1783 (with apparently no record that he needed parental consent), he was probably born c1761.
- Catherine, was born late in 1770; Daniel was therefore born between 1771-1775, but given his mother's age, probably c1772.
- Still to be accounted for are son (David), and three daughters (Elizabeth, Eleanor, and Sarah), and there are at least four possible birth slots from 1752-1759, and one c1763. That we are on the right track so far in sorting these children, is indicated by the fact that three of these early-born siblings were dead by the time of their brother, Daniel's, probate records in 1825 (since only their heirs were represented there), and the fourth, Sarah, was missing altogether, so she had presumably died without heirs.
- Since Eleanor must have been born after 9Mar1760, and after Elizabeth, I place Eleanor in the 1763 slot.
- Given that David's wife was born in 1767, I give him the 1759 slot, to place him as close in age as possible to his wife; in fact it is quite likely that Daniel was born a few years later (crowding the birth intervals in the 1760s), since he didn't marry, apparently, until about 1793.
- In the absence of any other evidence, I distribute the remaining two daughters evenly across the remaining birth gap, with Sarah born first, as she is listed before Elizabeth in Daniel's³ probate records: thus, Sarah, born say 1754; and Elizabeth, born say 1757.^[63]

⁶⁰ **James Denison household, 1830 USCensus**, BourbonCoKY, folio 357 (14), images 118-119 → Males: 1(60-69); Females 1(60-69); 2 slaves; **Thomas Denison household, 1830 USCensus**, MadisonCoOH, PleasantTwp, folio 105 (02), images 9-10 → Males: 1(60-69), 1(20-29), 1(15-19), 1(10-14); Females 1(50-59), 1(20-29). There is one other Thomas Denison nearby—in Chillicothe RossCoOH—but he too is aged 60-69; **H Atchinson Senr household, 1830 USCensus**, FayetteCoKY, folio 358 (10), images 122-123 → Males: 1(60-69), 1(30-39); Females: 1 (60-69), 1(50-59), 1(30-39), 1(0-9); 10 slaves.

⁶¹ **Rebecca Pettit household, 1850 USCensus**, BourbonCoKY, page 223A (39-42), image 51 → Rebecca Pettit (\$12975 real prop) 40 b.KY, Catherine Denison, 80 b.VA, Martha Pettit 17 b.KY, Benj[amin] 12.

⁶² See **Appendix B: The Douglas Connection**, below.

⁶³ I can't help but notice that the way this family sorts itself out from the evidence is consistent with the hypothesis I have suggested above (though not embraced), that Elizabeth was Daniel's² second wife—the first having died after the first 3-4 children; not only are there too few children born during the 1750s, considering the average birth interval of the 1740s and 1760s, but the next daughters after the putative gap, Sarah and Elizabeth, are named, respectively, for their father's mother, and their father's wife, just as we would expect (from the Scotch-Irish onomastic pattern) if Daniel were beginning a new family with Elizabeth at this point. I also note that the next daughter after that was named Eleanor (an uncommon name for the Scotch-Irish), and that the Dennistons of Beverley Manor had as near neighbors, Captain John & Eleanor Pickens.

The Emergence of the Scotch-Irish Onomastic Pattern

Although, as we have seen, Daniel² does not appear to have followed any discernible onomastic pattern in naming his children, most of his sons did, at least for the first few children. Specifically: John, James, David, and William, named their first two sons for their father Daniel, and for their spouse's fathers; James and William named their first daughter Elizabeth, for their mother; and David, who had five sons before he had a daughter, broke down and named his fifth son for his spouse's mother, giving the son her surname, Huston. Although we don't know the name of John's only daughter, while brother Daniel had no children, it appears that only brother Thomas went his own way, onomastically. This emergence of the Scotch-Irish pattern is an interesting curiosity in its own right (were these third generation children induced to conform by their Scotch-Irish wives?), and, simply because it constitutes a pattern, it strengthens the evidence for our reconstruction of these sons's families as well.

(Children of DANIEL² DENNISTON and ELIZABETH —?—)

- i. MARGARET³ DENNISON was baptized on 19Jan1745/46 at Augusta Stone Church, in AugustaCoVA by the Rev. John Craig, who noted that her birth was "untimely". Considering the source, this probably means that Craig had reason to believe that she had been conceived out of wedlock. In a New England Puritan community, this would have been prosecuted as a sex crime, and it certainly raises questions about the circumstances of Daniel's marriage.^[64]
- ii. ANN DENNISON was baptized on 2Aug1747 at Augusta Stone Church by the Rev. John Craig.^[65]
- iii. MARY DENNISON was baptized on 9Feb1748/49 at Augusta Stone Church by the Rev. John Craig.^[66]
4. iv. JOHN, b. about Jan1751; m. Mary King; m. Martha Parris.
- v. SARAH DENNISON was born say 1754.^[67] Sarah Denson and Isabella Hellena Denison were witnesses to their sister, Eleanor's, Mar1781 marriage consent.^[68]
- vi. ELIZABETH DENNISON was born say 1757.^[69]
5. vii. DAVID DENNISON, b. say 1759; m. Mary Ann Douglas.
6. viii. JAMES DENNISON, b. about 1761; m. Hannah Fulton.
- ix. ELEANOR DENNISON was born say 1763.^[70] On 9Mar1781 Eleanor Denison was named as the intended in a marriage bond filed by William Rice with the RockinghamCoVA court.

⁶⁴ Hatke, *Baptisms by Rev. John Craig*, "January 1745-6 . . . 19. Daniel Deniston, a child baptized named Margaret, an untimely birth".

⁶⁵ Hatke, *Baptisms by Rev. John Craig*, "August 1747 . . . 2.. David Deniston, a child baptized named Ann"; however, this is probably a misreading of "Daniel"—there is no early David Denniston in these parts; Howard McKnight Wilson, *Rev. John Craig's Baptisms, 1740-1749*, in *The Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom: A Study of the Church and Her People, 1732-1952* (FishersvilleVA: Garrett & Massie, 1954), 473, gives the reading as Daniel.

⁶⁶ Hatke, *Baptisms by Rev. John Craig*, "February 1748-9 . . . 9.. Daniel Deniston a child baptized named Mary".

⁶⁷ Sarah's birth date is derived from a comprehensive analysis of her whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of her father's sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²'s Children**.

⁶⁸ *Rockingham County Marriages* (Vogt).

⁶⁹ Elizabeth's birth date is derived from a comprehensive analysis of her whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of her father's sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²'s Children**.

⁷⁰ Eleanor's birth date is derived from a comprehensive analysis of her whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of her father's sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²'s Children**.

Consent for Eleanor's marriage was given by Daniel Denson, with Sarah Denson and Isabella Hellena Denison as witnesses to the consent.^[71]

7. x. ISABELLA HELENA DENNISON, b.about Dec1765; m. Hamilton Atchison.
8. xi. WILLIAM DENNISON, b. 15Jul1767; m. Margaret Dunlap.
9. xii. THOMAS DENNISON, b. about Dec1768; m. Jane Douglas.
- xiii. CATHERINE DENNISON. Catherine Dennison was born 1770, probably late in the year, given that she was apparently in her 50s when the 1830 USCensus was taken.^[72] Evidently she never married, since she was still Catherine Denison at age 80. She died, probably in FayetteCoKY after 7Aug1850, when she was living with her niece by her sister Isabella Atchison, Rebecca Pettit.^[73]
- xiv. DANIEL DENNISON was born about 1772.^[74] Apparently he never married. He died, presumably in FayetteCoKY probably shortly before 27Nov1824, when his inventory was taken.^[75] Father Daniel² (Daniel¹) Dennison, with his three youngest sons, removed to FayetteCoKY by 25Jul1787, when he appears on the personal property tax rolls of Fayette as head of a household containing an additional 3 white male tithables^[76]. These youngest sons would have been William (b.1767), Thomas (b.c1769), and Daniel³ (b.c1772). Daniel Dennison is a head of household in the 1810 USCensus for FayetteCoKY; in fact, he is the only denizen of his household—evidently a single man—and this status is unchanged in the 1820 census.^[77] On 1Jun1813, Daniel Dennison relinquished his specific boundary claims to a piece of land he had inherited from his father, to the rival claims of one Robert Preston. This land was described as being 115a “on the East Fork of Hickman’s Creek in Fayette County . . . part of Adam Smith’s survey on Hickman’s waters that was sold to my father Daniel Dennison by Benjamin Logan and willed to me by my father”.^[78] This document firmly links Daniel³ to his father Daniel², and also locates the latter’s FayetteCo land, purchased, probably, about 1787. The land conveyed in a partially reconstructed FayetteCo deed in 1791 from Benjamin Logan to Daniel³’s brother William,^[79] was likely located in the same area. Sometime around 27Nov1824, Hamilton Atchison was appointed administrator of Daniel Dennison’s estate.^[80]

⁷¹ *Rockingham County Marriages* (Vogt).

⁷² See also the comprehensive analysis of Catherine’s whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of her father’s sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²’s Children**.

⁷³ Rebecca Pettit household, 1850 USCensus → Rebecca Pettit (\$12975 real prop) 40 b.KY, Catherine Denison, 80 b.VA, Martha Pettit 17 b.KY, Benj[amin] 12.

⁷⁴ Daniel’s birth date is derived from a comprehensive analysis of his whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of his father’s sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²’s Children**.

⁷⁵ **FayetteCoKY Probate G:55-56**. Daniel’s personal property, including 3 slaves, was valued at \$2340—over \$53,000 in today’s currency. Probate packet #1095 also includes an inventory of Daniel’s land: the 115a on Hickman’s Creek, and a town lot in Lexington. The date of the inventory is the earliest date I can find amongst a sheaf of transcriptions from the FayetteCo records of records pertaining to Daniel’s estate, which was forwarded to me by Randle Dennison, one of the authors of RD. Although these transcriptions include an entry in FayetteCo Order Book 6:54 appointing Daniel’s brother-in-law, Hamilton Atchison, as administrator, and ordering the inventory of the estate, the date of the court session was not noted.

⁷⁶ *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 7.

⁷⁷ Daniel Dennesson household, 1810 USCensus → Males: 1(26-44); James Noble household, 1820 USCensus → Males: 1(26-44), 2(0-9); Females 1(26-44), 1(16-25), 3(10-15), 2(0-9).

⁷⁸ **FayetteCoKY Deeds G:498-499**.

⁷⁹ **FayetteCoKY Records 5:255-256**.

⁸⁰ **FayetteCoKY Court Order Book 6:54**, according to a transcription by RD which fails to note the court date.

Generation Three

4. JOHN³ DENNISON (*Daniel² Denniston, Daniel¹*) and his wives MARY KING, and MARTHA PARRIS John³, his father's oldest son, remained in Virginia all his life while his father Daniel and siblings all went to Kentucky. John did move once, after his father had left: from Dry River in RockinghamCo where he and Daniel had taken up land when it was still part of AugustaCo, about 10 miles due south to Naked Creek, back into the rump of AugustaCo. John appears, thus, to have led a less adventurous life, though he evidently did well as a farmer because he accumulated quite a good bit of land to leave to his sons. He was also married twice, as we shall see.

The key evidence that John was his father's oldest son was that he purchased his own land as early as 18Aug1772; he was therefore probably aged at least 21 by that date.^[81] And other evidence, considered above in the headnote to the **Children** section of Daniel²'s sketch, makes it likely that John was born in the early part of 1751.

No marriage record for John has been found, but we may say from the above that he came of age in the 1770s, and additional evidence to be considered below makes it probable that he was married about 1778—in the first year after the creation of RockinghamCo when marriage returns were still probably spotty, and also before the AugustaCo marriage records began. Despite the missing marriage record, John's first marriage partner can be identified rather succinctly by two pieces of evidence. On 16Feb1793, John and Mary Denison sold 52a of land on the waters of Naked Creek adjacent to land owned by John King,^[82] and on 22Aug1794, John King of AugustaCoVA made his will naming son-in-law John Denison.^[83] In fact, the association between the Dennis[t]ons and John King may be traced at least as far back as the 1771 deed by which John Denison's father, Daniel², bought into the Dry River complex, which deed was witnessed by John King, and probably even farther back to the Dennis[t]ons' first settlement about 1739 in Beverley Manor.

Of course, there is much more to it than that. How do we know that the John Dennison who later purchased land next to that of John King on Naked Creek was the same man who settled in the early 1770s with his father Daniel on Dry River, some 10 miles due N, and not some other John Denison? As a matter of fact, there was one other John Denison who owned land just 8 miles to the E of Naked Creek during this period, but I have shown, in **Appendix A: Other Dennis[t]ons of Southwestern Virginia**, that he was a much older man who was probably dead by 1775. In fact, all the other items I have found for John Dennisons in the records of Augusta and Rockingham counties from the 1770s until John's death in 1824 appear to hang together and to pertain to John³ (Daniel²), or his son John⁴ (usually distinguished in the records as "Jr."), as I hope will emerge from the life narrative presented in the main text below.

As for John King, it appears that there were several in AugustaCo, but principally there were John King, miller, of Middle River, and John King, miller, of Naked Creek. I believe, but cannot prove absolutely, that these John Kings were one and the same man, and he was the father-in-law of John Denison, Sr., of Naked Creek. The best single piece of evidence that there was only one John King, miller, is a petition in the AugustaCo order books for a road to run from "John King's Mill, on Naked

⁸¹ AugustaCoVA Deeds 18:463 et seq., Dan[ie]l Smith, gent to John Denison, for 5s+£115, 230a on the SW sid of "the dry river" on the S sid of the land of Daniel Denison; One occasionally finds minors as grantees in deeds, where these are intrafamilial affairs—grants from father to son, say—or listed secondary to elder brothers or guardians, but hardly ever are they granted land in their own right by outsiders, for the simple reason that under common law such contracts could be repudiated without penalty when the minor came of age.

⁸² AugustaCoVA Deeds 27:416.

⁸³ AugustaCoVA Probate 8:201-202. The will was proved by its witnesses in Oct1795.

Creek, to John King's Mill, on Middle River", though by itself this is still slightly equivocal.^[84] However, considering the other evidence for this King family, it is highly likely that there was only one miller of that name, and there can be no doubt that John King, the miller of Naked Creek was the father-in-law of John Denison.

John King patented 400a at the head of Naked Creek as early as 1Dec1740.^[85] Meanwhile, on 14Mar1749, Robert King, miller, made his will naming John King as his only son.^[86] On 25Mar1742, Robert King had purchased a 750a plantation from William Beverley, in Beverley Manor; this land can be seen on the Hildebrand map to be adjacent to the 300a homestead of the first two Daniel Dennistons.^[87] Son John must have inherited much of this land, because in 1758, John & Mary King sold 400a in BevMan on a branch of Middle River, corner Mathew Armstrong, and later, in 1771, they sold most or all of the rest of it, including parcels which Robert had devised to his daughters and John had since acquired.^[88]

But Robert's, and later John's, Middle Creek mill was probably located on Falling Springs Run, about a mile NNE of their BevMan tract, on land patented by Robert King in 1745; this tract, though only 91a, is distinctively configured like a corridor to capture both banks of the stream for about a mile and a half as it progresses toward its confluence with Middle River.^[89] What's especially interesting about this presumptive Middle Creek mill site, is that John King seems to have hacked out a similar mill parcel along Naked Creek. At least one of King's deeds, in which he is purchasing 200a from William Watterson, refers to the new land as "beginning at John King's [existing] land above a mill pond",^[90] and on 28Mar1810, James King, son and heir of John, sold a parcel to John Denison with a similar land corridor straddling both sides of Naked Creek, which was probably the King's Naked Creek mill tract.^[91] Thus John Denison, and his sons, may have eventually become millers too.

The only complication in this hypothesis that there was just one John King, miller, is that the marriage partnership of John & Mary King, seems to have evolved into a second marriage of John & *Margaret* King, because in 1807, Margaret King made her will in AugustaCo, also naming son-in-law John Denison as co-executor, with John Denison Jr. as witness,^[92] but there is nothing improbable in a second marriage for John King, miller, despite the absence of a supporting marriage record. The last appearance of John & Mary King as grantors is in 1771, but the marriage records for AugustaCo don't begin until the 1780s.

John and Mary Denison's eldest son, and probably their eldest child, was John⁴, born about Apr1779. Thus I have estimated their marriage date as 1778. Two records support my estimate of John⁴'s birth date. One is his 23May1800 bond to marry Hannah Henderson; Hannah required the consent of her father, Jones Henderson, to marry, but it appears that John did not, and if not we may

⁸⁴ Chalkley, C1:111 citing Augusta Orders 8:389.

⁸⁵ VA Patents 19:834-836.

⁸⁶ Chalkley, C3:14 citing Augusta Wills 1:187.

⁸⁷ The Hildebrand Maps, "Beverley Manor", northeast section. Beverley's deed to this parcel must reside in the deed books of OrangeCo (Augusta's parent), which I have not examined. See **Maps: The Denniston Plantation in Beverley Manor** where a portion of the Hildebrand map is juxtaposed with another map showing the Denniston land plotted on a topo map background.

⁸⁸ Chalkley, C3:353 citing Deeds 8:65 (400a), and C3:507-508 citing Deeds 17:143 (other parcels).

⁸⁹ VA Patents 23:954-956. There is a "Quick's Mill Campground" today along Middle River, not far from the mouth of Falling Springs.

⁹⁰ Chalkley, 3:438, citing Deeds 12:445.

⁹¹ AugustaCoVA Deeds 36:4, *et seq.*

⁹² Chalkley, C3:230 citing Augusta Probate 10:131.

assume that he was probably born not later than 23May1779.^[93] The other piece of evidence is an AugustaCo personal property tax record which calls for some interpretation. On the 1800 tax list there is an entry for John Dinison, whose household contains 2 white males aged 16 or over, including himself.^[94] This record goes a long way toward showing that John and Mary had just one son over 16 on 16Apr1800 when the tax information was gathered, and presumably that son was John, who, if he was old enough to marry without consent on 23May, could have still been under the age of 21 in April. And in fact, the presumption would be that he *was* still under 21, since otherwise, he should have been listed by name as a tithable in his own right. Except that there is, in fact, a possibility that he *was* so listed. On the same page of the tax list, the tax commissioner interviewed a tithable on 5Apr whose name I read as John D[enn?]ison. Where John Dinison was the owner of two slaves and 5 horses, this other John, whose surname was mangled by the scribe, owned nary a horse; he is simply listed by name as being aged 16 or over. I think that, even if this additional entry represents John⁴, the son, it only reinforces my supposition that he was born cApr1779, thus resulting in a certain confusion as to whether he was to be considered a tithable in his own right for the spring 1800 tax list.

There were two other families with whom the John Dennisons had close connections. The most important was the John & Hannah Parris family, which furnished not only John³'s second wife, Martha Paris,^[95] but also (it appears) a bride for John's son Samuel^[96]—if it is credible that father and son married Parris sisters. John Parris's will of 21Aug1814 names wife Hannah, and daughters Martha Dennison, and Elizabeth Parris (also a daughter Margaret Henderson).^[97] The anomalous conclusion that Martha was the wife of John³ Dennison, the father, and not John Jr., the son, is compelled by a 26Sep1814 deed from John and Martha Denison, Sr., to John Dennison, Jr.^[98] And the marriage of both father and daughter to sisters seems less improbable when one considers that John Parris's will names 6 sons and 6 daughters, with Martha (the father's wife) being the second daughter, and Elizabeth (the son's wife) being the last; these sisters may, therefore, have been separated in age from each other by as many as 10 siblings. Later, after John³'s death, his sons John and Samuel were involved in a number of complicated mortgage transactions with the Parrises. It looks as though these younger Denisons got overextended and had to turn to their in-laws to bail them out.

The other family connection was with the Hendersons, and in particular the Jones Hendersons whose daughter Hannah, married John³'s son John. This seems a rather peculiar connection because Jones Henderson was a denizen of the upper Calfpasture at the time, a good 40 miles to the SW and on the other side of North Mountain. However, one of the Dennison's neighbors on Dry River was a John Henderson, and Jones had a brother name John. Jones also had a son named Joseph, and John Parris had a daughter named Margaret who married a Henderson—most likely Joseph Henderson. And a

⁹³ *First Marriage Record of Augusta County, Virginia, 1785-1813* (Staunton VA: DAR, no date), This abstract not only identifies Hannah's father, as Jones Henderson, but it also, crucially, lists "John Denison, Sr.," otherwise we might have to wonder whether this was a second marriage for the father John³. However, the abstract is also somewhat ambiguous because it appears to list John Sr. as a bondsman. And if he was a bondman, but Jr. was not, that quite likely means that Jr. was also underage. The original of this record should be sought to sort this out.

⁹⁴ **AugustaCoVA 1800 Personal Property Tax List B, Page 7.** Although this is a personal property tax list, complete with the total amount of the tax, it does not also include a tally of the number of white male tithables—men aged 21 and over. Instead, it tallies the number of white males 16 and over, but shows the tax amount only for slaves as tithables, horses and other items of personal property.

⁹⁵ *1st Marriage Record of AugustaCo*, 55, on 27Jun1811.

⁹⁶ *Second Marriage Record of Augusta County, Virginia, 1813-1850* (Staunton VA: DAR, 1978), 6. This marriage was performed on 10Oct1816, by the Rev. William Calhoun, the same minister who performed father John's marriage.

⁹⁷ Chalkley, C3:242 citing Augusta Probate 11:395.

⁹⁸ AugustaCoVA Deeds 39:361-362. The land conveyed was 105a on the waters of Naked Creek, part of John³'s 540a home tract, and the purchase price was a nominal \$10, implying that this was a deed of gift.

Joseph Henderson served as a surety both for John⁴'s 1800 marriage bond, and for his executor's bond for his father, John³ Dennison's, estate. Nor do the connections end there. A series of deeds in the 1830s show that Jones's wife, Isabella, was a sister or half sister of Mary King, the wife of John³ Dennison. For example, on 16Sep1834, in AugustaCo, "Isabella Dunnison and Rebecca Dennison of Augusta County[,] Charles Windle and Mary K. Windle of Shenandoah County, Virginia, Washington Dennison and Rebecca of Bath County, Virginia, William Watts and Hannah of Albemarle County, Virginia, Alexander Young and Margaret of Wayne County, Indiana" sold to John Seawright, a 1/9 interest [*of what I do not know*] of Isabella Henderson, sister of James King", thus nicely naming all the heirs of John⁴ Dennison still alive at that time.^[99] James King was apparently the youngest son of John King, while Isabella was probably his first child; she was baptized by the Rev. John Craig on 12Apr1741.^[100] In the cited deed, the children of John⁴ (and grandchildren of Isabella) were collectively selling their 1/9th share of the estate of Isabella's half-brother, James King, who died unmarried and intestate.

Even more intriguing, the Hendersons may represent a connection between Daniel¹ Denniston and the John¹ Deniston who died in BotetourtCo about 1775. Jones Henderson had a brother John, and both were the sons of John Henderson of BotetourtCo, who made his will there in 1776; meanwhile, it was one John H. Henderson who was appointed administrator in Botetourt on 15Nov1775 for the intestate John¹ Deniston. Were Daniel¹ and John¹ brothers?

The Dennison House on Naked Creek

RD has found, in an obscure source, a very nice history of the house which John³ Dennison built on his Naked Creek property, and which was still standing when the history was composed, probably sometime not long before 1997, when the book in which it is found was published^[101]. Some brief abstracts of land and probate records are included in the sketch, but these are not always accurate. What is valuable and interesting here, besides the detailed description (with photographs) of the house proper, are some tidbits concerning its situation and surrounds, which fit remarkably well with my placement of the Dennison's Naked Creek property, based on references to terrain features, and without consulting this book, which I ran down only later. We are told that this two-story, ungabled house with opposing chimneys at each end—rather typical for a prosperous farmer of the period—was built by a neighbor, Samuel Curry, between 1791 and 1800, which, though no evidence is cited, is entirely plausible. It is said to be one of the oldest houses still standing in Northern AugustaCo. The house is still standing, probably, because it was constructed of limestone blocks 20" thick, and it sits on a "steep [limestone] rise", and faces E, about a half mile west of the Roman-Staunton Turnpike. An ever-flowing stream runs along the base of the rise on which the house sits. The sum of these features allow us to locate the house with some precision near the SE border of the Dennisons' home tract of 517a. The stream, of course, is Naked Creek, and the contours of the DeLorme topo map on which I have plotted the Dennisons' holdings, show the rise to be around 120' above its plain. The referenced road can only be Highway 646 which runs from N to S behind the house and along the western foot of the rise, and becomes Highway 732 as it continues on SSW to Roman, and so to Staunton. Evidently, John Dennison built to last, although his property was first mortgaged by his son, Samuel, then sold just a few years after John's death in 1824.

⁹⁹ AugustaCoVA Deeds 57:344. I am obliged to Lee Gay for abstract of this deed. Additionally, the Seawrights were Naked Creek neighbors of the Dennisons and the Kings, and John King's daughter Jane/Jean married first, George Searight.

¹⁰⁰ Hatke, *Baptisms by Rev. John Craig*, 3.

¹⁰¹ C.E. May, *My Augusta: A Spot of Earth, Not a Woman* (BridgewaterVA: Good Printers, Inc., 1997), "The Dennison House and Farm on Several Branches of Naked Creek".

John Dennison was born about Jan1751, and he died between 2Mar1824 (date of his will), and 23Oct1824 (its date of proof), presumably in AugustaCoVA.

John Dennison married 1st, Mary King (daughter of John King and Margaret —?—), about 1778^[102] She was born, presumably in Augusta County say 1752 and died on or before 27Jun1811, when her husband remarried.

John Dennison married 2nd, Martha Parris (daughter of John Parris and Hannah —?—), 27Jun1811 in AugustaCoVA. The marriage was performed by the Rev. William Calhoun, who was minister of the Brown's Meetinghouse congregation at the time. The folks who originally formed Brown's in 1748 were the "old side" Presbyterians who remained loyal to the orthodox Presbyterianism of their first minister, John Craig^[103] and the bridegroom's grandfather, Daniel¹, had also been a loyal Craig parishioner who also stuck with the "old side".^[104] Martha was born say 1777, and she died on or before 22Apr1822, when she is missing as a co-grantor, on a deed of her husband, John Denison Sr., to his son John Jr.^[105]

On 17&18Aug1772, John Dennison purchased 230a on the SW side of Dry River, on the S side of land owned by Daniel Denison, for 5s + £115, by deeds of lease and release; the grantor was Dan[ie]l Smith, Gent., who had patented the land 16Aug1756.^[106] John Dennison appeared on the AugustaCoVA property tax rolls in 1777: besides being charged for 1 tithable (himself), his landholdings of 230a were noted by the tax commissioner, Silas Hart.^[107]

On 1Mar1778 in RockinghamCoVA was created from AugustaCo, and the Dry River land Daniel² and his son John³ lived on fell into the new county. John appears a number of times thereafter on the record books of RockinghamCoVA. He was reimbursed several times for goods and services rendered to the military effort in the revolution: on 5May1779 for the loan of a horse for 7 days, and again on 12Jun for 38 days, and on 9Oct1781 he was reimbursed for 337 pounds of beef at twopence/pound.^[108] On 28Aug1780 John Dennison was a grandjuryman, and again on 28May1781.^[109] He was also sued by William Blain as surety on a note of William Rice. On

¹⁰² Unless Mary was the daughter of John King's first wife, Mary, which might be more likely.

¹⁰³ Wilson, *Lexington Presbytery*, 218-219. The church was renamed Hebron in 1827.

¹⁰⁴ It is probably a mistake to make too much of this schism in the colonial Presbyterian church between old and new-siders, since it was nominally healed as early as 1758. However, while it lasted it was real enough, the differences being largely attitudinal rather than doctrinal. The old-siders were more respectful of orthodox central church authority, while the new-siders were more inclined to think of their particular congregation as autonomous, and were also more open to the passionate, evangelical style of religion which was to transform the face of American Protestantism over the next 50 years. I bring this up here, because it perhaps provides a clue to enduring family attitudes which may have characterized this family of Dennis[t]ons; *1st Marriage Record of AugustaCo*, 55.

¹⁰⁵ No dower release appears for her either, at least in the deeds index.

¹⁰⁶ AugustaCoVA Deeds 18:463, *et seq.* See **Maps: The Dennison Plantations on Dry River/Muddy Creek** showing John's tract in relation to that of his father, Daniel². Please note, though, that the bounds of John's land lack specific references to the lines or corners of his father's tract, so my placement of John's land is somewhat speculative.

¹⁰⁷ "Augusta County Tithables, 1777".

¹⁰⁸ Levinsons, *RockinghamCoVA Minute Book*, 1:139 citing Minute Book 1:175(7 days), 1:116 citing 1:139 (38 days), and 1:151 citing 1:198 (beef).

¹⁰⁹ *RockinghamCoVA Minute Book* 1:74 (1780), and 1:93.

22Nov1784 judgement was rendered for plaintiff, who, however waived judgement against Dennison himself on 24Aug1786.^[110]

John Deniston had evidently removed to Naked Creek by the spring of 1787, when he appeared on the AugustaCoVA property tax rolls, charged with 1 slave aged 16 or over, 4 slaves under 16, 5 horses, and 6 cows. There were no white male tithables aged 16-20 in his household.^[111] On 20Nov1788, John, Samuel, and James King executed an agreement to support their father, John King, Sr—a document which was witnessed by Jno. Denison.^[112] John Deniston appeared again on the Augusta County property tax rolls in 1790, charged with 2 slaves aged 16 or over, 2 slaves 12-15, and 4 horses. John himself was the only white male aged 16 or over in his household.^[113] On 1Dec1790, John Dennison surveyed 44a in RockinghamCoVA on the SW side of Dry River, land originally entered by John Henderson (Jones's brother?). Neighboring parcels were owned by Benjamin and John Rice.^[114] John was taxed by RockinghamCo on this land in 1792, and as late as 1798, even though he had removed to AugustaCo in the meantime. His deeds of sale for this land, as well as for his 230a tract, were apparently lost with all the other early Rockingham records.

On 29Mar1791, John Deneson of AugustaCo, purchased from Benjamin Smith of RockinghamCoVA, 517a of land in Augusta patented to Thomas Waterson 12May1759; Waterson's patent of 540a, which closely corresponds with the land deeded in 1791, is described as being "on the waters of Naked Creek".^[115] What was John doing on Naked Creek in the years before he purchased his first land there? As the owner of several slaves, he must have had employment of some kind for them. Did he, perhaps, farm his aged father-in-law, John King's, land, while King's sons were busy running their father's mill business? Or maybe it was Dennison who ran the mill. On 16Mar1792, John Dennison patented 52a "on a branch of Naked Creek joining the lands of John King, George Bumgardner, George Glen and said Denison". Interestingly, the date of the warrant for this land was as early as 2Feb1782, though we don't know that Denison himself filed the warrant.^[116] The plot of this land shows that it abuts the southern corner of the Dennison's 517a home tract, and joins the lands of John King to the SE. Then, on 16Feb1793, John Dennison and his wife Mary sold the 52a parcel John had just patented to their neighbor John Sour.^[117] John probably later regretted this sale, since his son John would later purchase the parcel adjoining this alienated tract to the SE, which then required a connecting sliver to access his father's land. On 7Mar1793 John Denson witnessed the will of Robert Young, for which Young's son-in-law, George Glenn, was a co-executor, and next door

¹¹⁰ Levinsons, *RockinghamCoVA Minute Book*, 1:262 citing 1:391 (judgement), and 2:6 citing 1:537 (waiver).

¹¹¹ Netti Schreiner-Yantis & Florene Speakman Love, *The Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Augusta County, Virginia* (SpringfieldVA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 120. John's tax information was gathered by commissioner Joseph Bell on 24May, the same date as such Naked Creek neighbors as John Sower, and in-laws John and Samuel King.

¹¹² AugustaCoVA Deeds 26:282.

¹¹³ **AugustaCoVA 1790 Personal Property Tax List B**, Page 5.

¹¹⁴ RockinghamCoVA Surveys 2:91. There is a note in this record that the land was also patented, though I do not find such a patent in the online LVA VA Patents database. I am unable to place this plot in relation to John's principal 230a tract.

¹¹⁵ AugustaCoVA Deeds 27:120-121. See [Maps: The John Dennison Plantations on Naked Creek](#) and the [Map Key](#) showing this tract, and all the additional parcels John accumulated over the years, as well as those he sold to his son John, plotted against a topo background; VA Patents 34:320-321. Waterson's patent includes the full SE "panhandle", which was clipped off at some point by the Smith's to reduce the tract to about 520a.

¹¹⁶ VA Patents 26:48-49. The warrant# is 10830. The survey was dated 27Dec1790.

¹¹⁷ AugustaCoVA Deeds 27:416.

neighbor of the Dennisons. John also helped prove the will in April, and in July of that year he was one of the inventory takers of Robert Young's estate.^[118] Young had originally owned land not far from the head of Falling Springs Run, 10 miles to the south, and in the neighborhood of John King's other mill, and there was likely a family connection of some kind between these two, and perhaps also between Young and Dennison. On 20Aug1793, John Dennison purchased 34a from neighbors Hugh and Isabella Brown; this narrow slice of land extended the eastern boundary of the Dennison's land so that it abutted the land of John King.^[119]

John Denison was named a co-executor in the 22Aug1794 will of John King of Augusta County—his father-in-law. The will was presented for proof by John Dennison in Oct1795.^[120] John Dinison appeared on the Augusta County property tax rolls in 1800, charged with 2 slaves aged 16 or over, and 5 horses. John's household included 2 white males aged 16 or over—presumably himself, and his oldest son, John.^[121] John was also named a co-executor in the 3Feb1807 will of Margaret King, presumably his mother-in-law. On 27Apr1807, John Denison purchased 54a on the waters of Naked Creek, from John & Agnes Towel; this land, which extended Denison's holdings to the NE, abutted the properties of John King, Hugh Brown, and Searight.^[122] On 28Mar1810, John Denison purchased from James King, part of land devised to him by his father, John King (presumably John Dennison's father-in-law).^[123] This large tract abuts the 50a parcel which John's son, John, Jr., purchased in 1805 from the same James King, and it appears to have been the Kings' mill tract. Indeed, the complex funnel-shaped protuberance which projects out from the NE corner of this land, appears to narrowly straddle the banks of Naked Creek down its NE-running branch past the fork where the creek heads east towards North River (the N branch of the Shenandoah); I would guess that the mill race lay just past the confluence of Naked Creek's two branches. The easternmost point of this land makes a corner with "meetinghouse land"—quite likely donated for that purpose by the largest and most prosperous landowner of the area, John King.

On 26Sep1814, John Denison Sr., and wife Martha, sold 105a (part of the grantors' 540a) on the waters of Naked Creek in Augusta County to John Denison Jr. for \$10—a token price indicative of a deed of gift to a son. This tract, the southern corner of the senior Dennisons' land, connected to the parcel purchased by John Jr. in 1805 from his uncle, James King.^[124] John Dennison and John Denison Jr. were both on the 1815 AugustaCo tax list, which indicated that their land was in the area of Naked Creek, 13 miles NE of the courthouse in Staunton.^[125] On 22Apr1822, John Denison Sr. sold an additional 20a to John Denison Jr., adjoining the 105a parcel he and Martha had sold him

¹¹⁸ AugustaCoVA Probate 3:200 citing Augusta Probate 8:24 (Young's will and proof), and 3:201 citing 8:63 (his inventory).

¹¹⁹ AugustaCoVA Deeds 27:477-478.

¹²⁰ AugustaCoVA Probate 8:201-202. The executors named were "my trusty and beloved sons in law James Lard and John Denison". The will names as heirs: "my well beloved wife Margaret"; "my five daughters and my sons Robert and John who are all married"; and "my well beloved sons Samuel and James" who are devised "the plantation". Since only one piece of land is mentioned in the will, presumably King had sold his other mill in the Falling Springs area some time ago.

¹²¹ AugustaCoVA Personal Property Tax List B, Page 7. But see my comments, above, in the headnote to this sketch about a possible second entry for John the son.

¹²² AugustaCoVA Deeds 34:30-3.

¹²³ AugustaCoVA Deeds 36:4, *et seq.* Andrew Young was a witness to this deed.

¹²⁴ AugustaCoVA Deeds 361-362. It is this deed which shows that the John Dennison who married Martha Parris in 1811 was John the father, not John the son.

¹²⁵ Ward, *1815 Virginia Landowners*, 5:6.

in 1814. The absence of Martha as a co-grantor, means that she was probably dead by this date.^[126]

In his will dated 2Mar1824 (proved about 23Oct1824, when the executors' bond was filed), John Dennison, of AugustaCoVA "of perfect mind and memory", bequeathed: to "my son Samuel all my land not deeded previous to this date"; to "my son in law James Noble a note I hold on him" dated 2Jun1820"; testator then ordered that his slaves "Joe, Tom, & Dick with all my personal property" be sold, with the proceeds to be divided equally "between my three sons namely John, Daniel, & Samuel"; he also specified that "my woman slave Delse should be left to her own choice to go anyplace where she could git her living for life or to stay with my son Samuel".

John Dennison appointed "my sons John and Samuel Dennison" his executors, and the will was witnessed by: Benja[mi]n Bryan, Fielden Windle, and James Brown. No wife was mentioned in the will or any of the probate papers.

On 16Nov1824 John's inventory was returned to the Augusta County court. It included: 4 horses and 2 colts, 9 cows and 2 calves, 13 pigs and hogs, 14 sheep, one old still, slaves Joe, Tom, Dick (@ \$350 each), 1 wagon, 164.5 bushels wheat and 170.5 tons corn "claimed by Samuel Denison under partnership with his father", as well as 158.5 bushels oats, and 14 tons of hay.^[127] On 26Feb1827 an estate account gave the total realized value of John's personal property (largely his 3 slaves, and livestock) as \$1807 and change, or about \$40,000 in 2008 \$s.

Children of JOHN DENNISON and MARY KING:

John and Mary appear to have had four children: John, a daughter whose name is not known, Daniel, and Samuel M, all born before father John's second marriage to Martha Parris, who seems to have borne him no children, and predeceased him. Father John³'s 1824 will names three sons (listed in order: John, Daniel, and Samuel), and a son-in-law James Noble. The only James Noble household in the 1820 USCensus for VA suggests that the wife of this household was probably born between 1783-1788. I have therefore guessed that John⁴ was the oldest child, and the daughter was the next. RD gives her name as Margaret, but without providing any evidence.^[128] Since the same Noble household also has a female aged 18-25, and since John⁴'s 1820 household has two females in this age category, it is possible that there were one or more additional daughters of John³—not named in the will, perhaps, because they had already received something from their father, and were still unmarried; however that is just a speculation.

- i. JOHN⁴ DENNISON was born about Apr1779,^[129] and he died between 1Jan1834 (date of his will), and Mar1834 (its date of proof), presumably in Augusta County. John Dennison filed his marriage bond on 23May1800 with the Augusta County court, naming Hannah Henderson as his intended. Consent for Hannah's marriage was given by Jones Henderson,^[130] Hannah was born say 1782. John appeared on the Augusta County property tax rolls in 1800, though perhaps not by name. On 4Jun1805, John Denison Jr. purchased 50a on Naked Creek from

¹²⁶ AugustaCoVA Deeds 46:328, *et seq.*

¹²⁷ AugustaCoVA Probate 15:231.

¹²⁸ RD, *Dennistons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 48.

¹²⁹ See my discussion in the headnote for John's father, John³, my reasons for adopting this estimated birth date for the eldest son (and probably the eldest child).

¹³⁰ *1st Marriage Record of AugustaCo*. The abstract lists John Dennison Sr. and James Henderson as bondsmen. If this is accurate, then the bond may have been filed by the father, perhaps because his son was still underage. An effort should be made to find the original of this bond.

James King, part of land devised to said James by his father, John King.^[131] He witnessed the 3Feb1807 will of Margaret King. On 26Sep1814, John Denison Jr. purchased from John Denison Sr., and wife Martha, 105a of their 540a plantation on the waters of Naked Creek; the purchase price was a nominal \$10, indicative of a deed of gift from parents to son. The land John Jr. acquired connected directly to the parcel he had purchased in 1805 from his uncle, James King.^[132] John Dennison and John Dennison Jr. were both on the 1815 AugustaCo tax list, which indicated that their land was in the area of Naked Creek, 13 miles NE of the courthouse in Staunton.^[133] On 22Apr1822, John Denison Jr. purchased an additional 20a from John Denison Sr., adjoining on the N the 105a parcel John Sr. and his wife Martha, had sold him in 1814.^[134] John and Hannah appear to have had the following children, probably in the order indicated: Washington (who married Rebecca and settled in BathCoVA), Rebecca, Mary K (who married Charles Windle and settled in ShenandoahCoVA), Hannah (who married William Watts and settled in AlbemarleCoVA), Margaret (who married Alexander Young and settled in WayneCoIN), and Isabella.^[135]

- ii. MARGARET DENNISON was born about 1783. She married James Noble, say 1803. The principal evidence for the marriage, and indeed for the existence of this daughter, is a provision in the 1824 will of John³ Dennison forgiving to “my son in law James Noble a note I hold on him [*dated 2Jun1820*]”. Although I have found no marriage record for this couple, Margaret’s name comes from an AugustaCo deed of 7Sep1820 in which “James Noble and Margaret his wife” sell the 110a deeded to James Noble on 25Jan1819 by John Denison, Sr., his father-in-law; this land comprised the NE corner of Denison’s own land and was situated near Denison’s house.^[136] James and Margaret have been traced to DuboisCoIN, where their family appears in the 1820 USCensus, as well as in the census of the same year for AugustaCoVA.^[137] There, in 1824 and 1825, they were again to sell land as a named couple, James and Margaret, and when James died a few years later, the head of his DuboisCo household is found to be the widow Margaret. My estimate for the marriage date is based on a thorough compilation of the AugustaCo tax records, and extensive additional research on this family.^[138]

¹³¹ AugustaCoVA Deeds 33:123-124.

¹³² AugustaCoVA Deeds 361-362. It is this deed which shows that the John Dennison who married Martha Parris in 1811 was John the father, not John the son.

¹³³ Ward, *1815 Virginia Landowners*, 5:6.

¹³⁴ AugustaCoVA Deeds 46:328, *et seq.*

¹³⁵ AugustaCoVA Probate 19:395-396 (John’s Will); AugustaCoVA Deeds 57:344, *et seq.* (deed of grant by heirs of Isabella (King) Henderson and her daughter Hannah (Henderson) Dennison).

¹³⁶ AugustaCoVA Deeds 45:180-181 (sale); and 43:181-183 (purchase).

¹³⁷ James Noble household, 1820 USCensus(AugustaCoVA) → Males: 1(26-44), 2(0-9); Females: 1(26-44), 1(16-25), 3(10-15), 2(0-9); and James Noble household, 1820 USCensus(DuboisCoIN) → Males: 1(45+), 1(16-25), 2(0-9); Females: 1(26-44), 2(16-25), 2(10-15), 3(0-9).

¹³⁸ The evidence is too complex to summarize here. The principal researcher for this line is Ms. Frances Jacklin, for whom I have myself done a good deal of work on the Virginia end, has carried the line down to the 20th century in several branches.

- iii. DANIEL DENNISON was born, presumably in AugustaCoVA about 1787, considering his USCensus records, particularly the one for 1850,^[139] and he died on or before 1860, when he no longer appears in the USCensus.^[140] Daniel Dennison married Nancy McFall in AugustaCoVA 30Jun1813;^[141] she was born about 1788. Daniel probably removed to FlemingCoKY about 1819,^[142] which would explain why his father left him no land in his will.
- iv. SAMUEL M. DENNISON was born say 1792. Samuel Dennison married Betsey [Elizabeth] Parris (daughter of John Parris and Hannah —?) in Augusta County 10Oct1816;^[143] she was born say 1793. On 16Nov1824 Samuel Denison was referred to as a son and business partner in the family farm, in the inventory of his father, John Dennison's, estate: it was noted that Samuel had a claim to half of the crops of wheat and corn included in the inventory. In the wake of the settlement of his father's estate, Samuel was involved in several mortgages involving his Parris in-laws, and he appears to have been in financial difficulty, though I haven't analyzed all his transactions in detail.^[144] Samuel M. Dennison had removed to RockinghamCoVA by 1830^[145]. As this lone USCensus entry shows, Samuel appears to have had 5 children, including 4 sons, but I have been unable to trace him.

There were no known children of John³ Dennison and Martha Parris.

¹³⁹ **Dan[ie]l Dennison household, 1820 USCensus**, FlemingCoKY, page 38 (13), image 17 → Males: 2(26-44), 1(0-9); Females: 1(26-44), 2(0-9); **Dan[ie]l Denison household, 1830 USCensus**, FlemingCoKY, Western Div, folio 7 (17), images 11-12 → Males: 1(40-49), 1(10-14); Females 1(40-49), 1(15-19), 1(10-14); **D Dennison household, 1840 USCensus**, FlemingCoKY, Div 2, folio 219 (05), images 21-22 → Males: 1(60-69), 1(20-9), 1(0-4); Females 1(50-59), 1(20-29), 1(15-19), 1(5-9), 2(0-4). D[aniel]'s age should be 50-59 here to be consistent with his 1830 and 1850 records. It looks as though one of his married children and grandchildren are living with him and his wife; **Daniel Dennison household, 20Aug1850 USCensus**, FlemingCoKY, Ds2, page 288B (30-31), image 52 → Daniel Dennison (farmer) 63 b.VA, Nancy 62. This record is also consistent with his presumed marriage to *Nancy McFall* in AugustaCoVA.

¹⁴⁰ In fact there are no Dennisons left in FlemingCoKY for the 1860 USCensus, even though Daniel and his wife appear to have had 3 or 4 children, and at least one son.

¹⁴¹ *2nd Marriage Record of AugustaCo* (Vogt), 1. The couple were married by the Rev. William Wilson, who had been pastor of the Augusta Stone Church from 1780-1810.

¹⁴² Chalkley, 1:427 citing AugustaCoVA Chancery Judgements: *King's Administrator vs. Dennison*—"Writ of *Ne exeat* [to prevent Daniel from leaving]. 1819, Daniel Dennison is about to remove from the state."

¹⁴³ *2nd Marriage Record of AugustaCo* (Vogt), 6. They were married by Rev. William Calhoun, pastor of Hebron church, about 5m SW of Staunton.

¹⁴⁴ AugustaCoVA Deeds 16:411-412 (mortgage to John Paris, 17Oct1828), 16:453-454 (a complex deed involving the Parris and mentioning an active law suit 26Nov1829), and, most desperate of all, 16:464 (a one week mortgage of his horses and blacksmith tools, 8Jan1829); AugustaCoVA Probate 15:231.

¹⁴⁵ **Samuel M Dennison household, 1830 USCensus**, RockinghamCoVA, folio 207 (03), images 41-42 → Males: 1(30-39), 2(10-14), 2(5-9); Females 1(30-39), 1(10-14).

5. DAVID³ (*Daniel*², *Daniel*¹) DENNISON and his wife MARY ANN DOUGLAS

RD has accumulated a great deal of information about David and his descendants. I have collated his data on David with my own research, but as for his descendants, I have merely copied the bare BMD data, below:^[146] One of the most important evidential documents is a probate record from David's estate which I have not seen; this is abstracted by RD thus: "In Dec [1823?] his widow, Mary Ann, Thomas Denison Sr., and David Douglas were appointed administrators of David's estate". If people of these exact names were really appointed David's administrators, this document goes a long way toward placing David's wife in her natal Douglas family as defined by the DAR application abstract considered in detail in **Appendix B: The Douglas Connection**.

There is one other small item on David discovered by RD which I have not incorporated into my report below: "On 1Sep1800 he presented his Cert of Military Service to Virginia for 'sundry times during 1787 . . . on the frontiers' and received the equivalent of \$7.20 [Military Certificates #1-149, now at KY Hist Soc]".

David Dennison was born say 1759,^[147] and he died 1Oct1823.^[148]

David Dennison married Mary Ann Douglas (daughter of James Douglas and Hannah Huston) in BourbonCoKY say 1793, given the birth date of their probable first child. She was born 25Aug1767.^[149]

David Dennison probably settled initially in MontgomeryCoVA after 26Feb1787, when his father sold his land in RockinghamCo, and before 1788 when he appears on the tax rolls of Montgomery.^[150]

David Dennison removed to BourbonCoVA by Oct1790, when, according to RD, he was among the BourbonCo signers of Petition 2277 to the Virginia State legislature regarding the sale of tobacco.^[151] Two years later, David's address changed to KY when Kentucky became a state. Thomas Dennison and David Dennison appear on a muster roll of Kentucky Rangers who served under Ensign John McDaniel of Col. B. Collin's 1st Battalion from 8Mar1791 through 9May1791.^[152]

According to one source, David Dennison, James Dennison, and Thomas Dennison, "a set of very wealthy and worthy farmers[,] removed from what is called the Blue Grass region" to GreenCoKY

¹⁴⁶ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50 (for the career of David himself), and 51-118 *et seq.* (for his descendants). RD has provided many, but by no means complete, citations for his material, and where citations are present, I have noted them in this report.

¹⁴⁷ David's birth date is derived from a comprehensive analysis of his whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of his father's sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²'s Children**.

¹⁴⁸ *History of Madison County, Ohio, Containing: A History of the County; It's Townships, Towns, Churches, Schools, etc.; General and Local Statistics; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; History of the Northwest Territory; History of Ohio; Miscellaneous Matters, etc. etc.* (Chicago: W.H.Beers, 1883; Ancestry.com), 798.

¹⁴⁹ *Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana [DAR]*, 1:179 ("James Douglas" entry). See **Appendix B: The Douglas Connection**, for the full text of this abstract.

¹⁵⁰ The actual evidence for David's removal to SW VA with his putative father-in-law James Douglass is complex and equivocal. I have examined it in detail in **Appendix B: The Douglas Connection**.

¹⁵¹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50. RD notes that the name Henry Clay was on the same petition, presumably thinking that this neighbor was the famous statesman, but *that* Henry Clay was born in 1777 in HanoverCoVA to the Reverend John Clay, and grew up in Virginia. It is true that "Henry Clay, Statesman", aged 73, is found on the same page of the 1850 USCensus for FayetteCoKY as David's unmarried sister, Catherine, a supernumerary in the household of (her niece?), Rebecca Pettit.

¹⁵² *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, 36(Summer1998):250. Hereinafter **MVG**.

in 1795^[153], but the records of BourbonCo show that this was only true of David.^[154] On 10Jun1796, David Dennison “bought 215 acres of second rate land on Pettit’s Fork of Russell’s Creek” in GreenCoKY.^[155] David Dennison is on the GreenCoKY property tax rolls in 1800.^[156] On Oct1807, David Dennison sold tracts of 135a, and 100a in AdairCoKY,^[157] Adair having been created from GreenCo in 1801.

David Dennison removed permanently to Fairfield Township, in MadisonCoOH after Oct1807, settling on Opposom Run.^[158] The fact that no David Dennis[t]on appears in the 1810 USCensus for KY is evidence of his removal to OH by then, since, uniquely, the OH census is missing for that year. RD tells us that “his daughter, Malinda Tipton’s[,] obit stated that David, ‘an anti-slavery man[,] was forced out of LexingtonKY . . . settling east of ChillicotheOH’”, which suggests that he and his family may have returned for a time to BourbonCo before moving on to OH. David Dennison is a head of household in the 1820 USCensus for Pleasant Twp, in MadisonCoOH in close neighborhood with his brother, Thomas.^[159] On Aug1823 David Dennison “and widow Elizabeth Denison were appointed administrators of the estate of Thomas Dennison Jr.”, presumably in MadisonCoOH.^[160]

On Dec1823 according to RD, Mary Ann was appointed co-administrator of her husband’s estate, along with Thomas Dennison and David Douglas—most likely her brother-in-law, and brother, respectively. About a year later, on 30Dec1824, she is said to have purchased a cow and a weaver’s loom at her husband's estate sale.^[161]

Children of DAVID³ DENNISON and his wife MARY ANN DOUGLAS

- i. JAMES D⁴ DENNISON was born about 25Oct1794,^[162] and he died, “near Adrian” in BatesCoMO 17Jul1879, aged 84y8m22d.^[163] James married 1st, Elizabeth Ware (daughter of William Ware and Mary Blair), 28Jul1817 in MadisonCoOH; she died 9Feb1856.^[164] James married 2nd, Pency Timmons (daughter of Edward Timmons), 21Apr1861 in MadisonCoOH; she died 15Jun1884.

¹⁵³ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, citing Marshall Lowe, *Green County Historical Factbook* (1970), 6.

¹⁵⁴ *BourbonCoKY Taxpayers*, David was on the tax rolls of BourbonCo in 1790, and 1793, but went missing from 1795 on, while James and Thomas continued in BourbonCo from 1792 through 1801 and beyond.

¹⁵⁵ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, citing GreenCoKY Deeds 1:169-170.

¹⁵⁶ “*Second Census*” of Kentucky.

¹⁵⁷ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., Ibid, citing AdairCoKY Deeds B:47-48.

¹⁵⁸ *History of Madison County, Ohio*, 798.

¹⁵⁹ David Denison household, 1820 USCensus → Males: 1(45+), 3(16-25), 1(16-18), 1(0-9); Females: 1(45+), 3(10-15), 1(0-9).

¹⁶⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, but no citation is provided. Presumably this was David’s nephew Thomas⁴ (Thomas³, Daniel⁷). Although the record on which this claim is based would seem to suggest that deceased’s father was dead by then, according to RD, Thomas³ was nevertheless on hand later that year to act in turn as administrator for his deceased brother David.

¹⁶¹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., citing [MadisonCoOH] Probate packet C# Aa 1043, Doc D-119.

¹⁶² He is James H Denison in the 1830 USCensus for Pleasant Twp, MadisonCoOH.

¹⁶³ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, citing a reading of Nichols Cemetery, in BatesCo by “NFR”; *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Hereinafter VMHB.

¹⁶⁴ Her gravestone in Denison Chapel Cemetery (online at www.findagrave.com but misindexed as “Dennison”) reads: “Elizabeth / Wife of James Denison / Aged / 57Y.2m.16d.”

- iii. JOHN DENNISON was born 25Dec1798, and died in FranklinCoOH 5Nov1853. John married Jane Morehead (daughter of Thomas Morehead) in FranklinCoOH 8Jul1824; she was born 31Mar1806, and died 4Apr1876.
- iv. WILEY DENNISON was born say late1800,^[165] and died before 1840. Wiley married Sally Wilson in MadisonCoOH 5Feb1827.
- v. HUSTON DENNISON was born about 2Aug1802, and died 3Aug1846. Huston married Sarah Robey in MadisonCoOH 29Dec1825. She was born in 1809.
- vi. JANE DENNISON was born about 1804, and died after 1860. Jane married William Waddle in MadisonCoOH 21Feb1822. William was born about 1805.
- vii. MALINDA DOUGLAS DENNISON was born 29Nov1805, and died in WashingtonCoIA 11Jan1901. Malinda Douglas Dennison married Jonathan Tipton in MadisonCoOH 26Jan1826; Jonathan was born 14Jul1805. He died 2Jun1884.

¹⁶⁵ RD notes that the only records found for Wiley are his marriage record, his 1830 USCensus record (showing him and his wife to be aged 20-29, with two children), and his appearance as a purchaser at his putative father, David's, estate sale. I too have been unable to find Wiley in the 1840 census, suggesting that he probably died before then, and RD notes the existence of MadisonCo guardianship documents for two young Dennisons, John and McDowell, born c. 1830 and 1832, respectively, who may have been Wiley's children. Given the date of Wiley's marriage (with no mention of a guardian's consent), the structure of Wiley's family in the one 1830 census record, and considering the available birth slots in his natal family, I have guessed that he was born late in 1800, or early in 1801.

6. JAMES³ (*Daniel*², *Daniel*¹) DENNISON and his wife HANNAH FULTON

James was the first son of Daniel² to establish an independent household in future KY, and he was the only son who settled there permanently. RD has identified five of James's children and their marriage partners, and has at least partially traced the children of four of these.^[166] As with each of these sons of Daniel², I have verified as much of this as I well can without digging deeply into the KY records, but for the children of James's children, I have merely copied the bare BMD data, below.

The data in the remainder of this headnote I did not undertake to verify, and I merely pass it on as I find it in RD (normal text within square brackets represents RD's citations, not this editor's interpolations—those I will present in italics, within curly braces):

“James served in the Revolutionary War in McFarland's Co. {*Although no citation is given, this may well be. Most of the young men on western Virginia turned out for the final Yorktown campaign in 1781 when James would have been about 20.*} . . . On 21Jan1794 he bought 150 ac of land on Green Creek, adjacent to Alexander McGill and Samuel Curtwright [Deed Bk B-439]. James was considered one of the pioneers of Clintonville BOKY and had a distillery there before 1800.^[167] In Feb1808 he bought land from brother Thomas Denison, land which was later under dispute [Deed Bk M]. In 1817 he bought 82 ac from Samuel Curtright and Levi Crose [Deed Bk M-318/319]. In Oct 1822 James sold 150 ac on Green Creek to Daniel Curtright and John Hildreth for \$2000 [Deed Bk 5-461]. Among the items in the sale of his estate were a Walkers Dictionary, a Bible, and a ‘lot of books’”.^[168]

James Dennison was born about 1761,^[169] and died in BourbonCoKY about 1831.^[170]

James Denison filed his marriage bond on 12May1783 with the RockinghamCoVA court, naming Hannah Fulton as his intended. Consent for Hannah's marriage was given by John Fulton; Samuel Johnson was the bondsman.^[171]

On 25Nov1782 James Dennison was sworn to his commission as constable in RockinghamCoVA. James had to be ordered twice to appear in court for his swearing as constable “vice [*in place of; succeeding*] Wm Devier”.^[172] W[illia]m Devier was a son of Hugh Devier,^[173] whose land was located at the mouth of Bever [Beaver] Creek, where it falls into North River, quite near the Denniston place

¹⁶⁶ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 25 (for the career of James himself), and 25-45. (for his descendants). RD has provided many, but by no means complete, citations for his material, and where citations are present, I have noted them in this report.

¹⁶⁷ William Henry Perrin, *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky* (Chicago: O.L.Baskin, 1982), 137 (pioneer);139 (distillery). Also on the list of pioneers are names of James's in-laws—John Hildreth, the Cutrights.

¹⁶⁸ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 25.

¹⁶⁹ James's birth date is derived from a comprehensive analysis of his whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of his father's sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²'s Children**.

¹⁷⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 25. gives the date of James's will as 10Aug1830, and the date of its proof as 18Jan1832, citing BourbonCoKY Probate J:35, and says that he died in the fall of 1831. Unfortunately, no particulars are furnished for the will.

¹⁷¹ *Rockingham County Marriages* (Vogt); RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 25, says that Hannah was the daughter of John and Jennet Fulton, and that bondsman Samuel Johnson was her brother-in-law.

¹⁷² Levinsons, *Rockingham Co VA Minute Book*, 1:149, citing 1:193 (August order), 1:176, citing 1:230 (September order), and 178, citing 1:234 (November swearing).

¹⁷³ Chalkley, 2:18, citing *Cutler vs. Garton* in AugustaCo Judgements (Sep1791(A-C), which shows that William was the son of Hugh Devier.

on Dry River;^[174] it is for this reason that I ascribe this constable record to James³ (Daniel²), rather than James² (John¹) who was also probably a resident of RockinghamCo at this time.

By 20Jul1787 James had evidently removed with his father to the Kentucky frontier, where he appears on the property tax rolls of FayetteCoVA charged for himself as tithable, and for 5 horses, 9 horned cattle, and one slave under 16; James's household is separate from the FayetteCoVA household of his father, Daniel², for that year, and in fact it is recorded on a separate county tax list.^[175] James Dennison had relocated again to BourbonCoVA by 1790, when he first appears on the property tax rolls of that county, and he continues thereon through at least 1800.^[176] On 9Aug1792 James Dennison was commissioned Ensign in the 14th Regiment of KY militia in BourbonCoKY.^[177] According to one secondary source, David Dennison, James Dennison, and Thomas Dennison, "a set of very wealthy and worthy farmers[,] removed from what is called the Blue Grass region" to GreenCoKY in 1795^[178], but the records of BourbonCo show that this was only true of David.^[179] On 27Feb1801 James Dennison was commissioned Captain in the 14th Regiment of KY militia in BourbonCoKY.^[180]

Children of James³ Dennison and Hannah Fulton:

- i. ELIZABETH⁴ DENNISON was born, presumably in RockinghamCoVA, probably in 1784,^[181] and died before 1850, when she fails to appear in the USCensus for that year. On 15Jan1806 Elizabeth Dennison was named as the intended in a marriage bond filed by Daniel Curtright with the BourbonCoKY court. Curtright died before 1840, when his wife, "Elizabeth Cutwright" is head of household in the USCensus for BourbonCoKY.

¹⁷⁴ Numerous deeds in Chalkley (eg,3:500 citing Deeds 16:393), and also a VA Patent at 41:199-200 locate Hugh Devier's land on Beaver Creek, near Spring Creek, about a mile and a half west of the Dennistons' tracts near the main fork of Dry River.

¹⁷⁵ *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 17.

¹⁷⁶ *BourbonCoKY Taxpayers*, except that the lists for 1794 and 1798 are missing. BourbonCo of course became part of KY when that state was erected in 1792; "Second Census" of Kentucky.

¹⁷⁷ G. Glenn Clift, *The "Corn Stalk" Militia of Kentucky, 1792-1811* (FrankfortKY: The KY Historical Society, 1957), 1. The KY militia of this period was called the "Cornstalk militia", for reasons which are obscure to me (the reference is presumably to the Shawnee chief, Cornstalk, who was murdered in 1774 in (West) Virginia, just prior to the Battle of Point Pleasant).

¹⁷⁸ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, citing Marshall Lowe, *Green County Historical Factbook* (1970), 6.

¹⁷⁹ *BourbonCoKY Taxpayers*, David was on the tax rolls of BourbonCo in 1790, and 1793, but went missing from 1795 on, while James and Thomas continued in BourbonCo from 1792 through 1801 and beyond.

¹⁸⁰ *The "Corn Stalk" Militia*, 61. His younger brother, Thomas, was commissioned Lieutenant of the same outfit on the same day.

¹⁸¹ 25. Elizabeth was married in 1806 to Daniel Curtright, and she was aged 26-44, with 3 small children, in the 1810 USCensus household of Dan[ie]l Curtright of BourbonCoKY—the only household headed by a man of that name (including spelling variants) in either KY or VA. Elizabeth's own parents were married in May1783. Therefore, it is extremely probable that she was born in 1784. However, she also appears as head of her own BourbonCo household in 1840, aged (anomalously) 40-49. There is also, in this household, a male aged 50-59. Under the circumstances, I suppose the latter census record to be a simple error—probably a case of checking the wrong column, as was all too easy with these 1830 and 1840 censuses. Unfortunately, I can find no 1830 census for either Daniel or Elizabeth, and the 1820 census is no help, with both still fitting into the broad aged 26-44 category.

- ii. JOHN DENNISON was born say 1786, considering his wife's birth date, and those of his siblings.^[182] He died 18Aug1829.^[183] John Dennison married Rebecca Marshall,^[184] in BourbonCoKY 20Oct1810. Rebecca was born in VA 2Dec1786, and she died, presumably 15Jun1851.^[185]
- iii. MARGARET DENNISON was born in KY about 1788.^[186] On 17Jul1815 Margaret Dennison was named as the intended in a marriage bond filed by John Hildreth with the BourbonCoKY court.^[187]

¹⁸² RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 35 (and see pp 35-44 for his descendants) estimates John's birth date as 1790 citing the 1810 USCensus. However, I can find not such census for John, and even if I could, the broad age categories therein would not, by themselves, support such a precise estimate of his birth date.

¹⁸³ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 35. No source is given for John's death date, although BourbonCoKY Probate H:282-283 is cited for his 15Aug1829 will, and its 5Oct1829 proof.

¹⁸⁴ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 35, citing BourbonCoKY Marriages 2:42, and calling her the daughter of Samuel & Elizabeth Marshall. I find both a Samuel and a David Marshall in the 1810 USCensus for Bourbon, and in 1820 an Elizabeth and a David. Although both men show females of marriageable age in their 1810 households, David appears to reside in the northern part of the county, near Millersburg, while Elizabeth, presumably the widow of Samuel, is listed immediately after James and John Dennison in a different part of the county, probably near North Middleton.

¹⁸⁵ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 35, citing gravestones in Bounds Cemetery for Rebecca's birth and death dates. He also cites BourbonCoMO Probate B:49-51 for Rebecca's 24Mar1846 will, proved 8Jul1851. The 1850 USCensus for MonroeCoMO shows Rebecca Denison (aged 64) in the household of Avory Grimes (41, b.KY), and RD claims (p43) that there is an 1838 marriage record in BourbonCoKY for Avory Grimes and Geraldine Denison, presumably John and Rebecca's daughter.

¹⁸⁶ **Jno Hildreth household, 7Aug1850 USCensus**, BourbonCoKY, Ds1, page 272B(37-41), image 14 → Jno Hildreth (no occupation) 65 b.VA, Margaret 61 b.KY, Hannah 24, Jurenis B (male) 16, [Dawson or Denson] Marilla 5; 25. RD calls her Margaret Ann, but unless she is styled thus in her marriage bond, I ask: Where is the evidence? Living nearby is a John K Hildreth who named his first daughter Ann M[argaret?], whom RD has made a son of Margaret, but if this is so, he was born three years prior to her marriage (John K is aged 38 in the 1850 USCensus, and 48 in 1860). In the 1860 USCensus, the household of John Hildreth (76) contains no Margaret, but instead a Mary Ann (60): is she Margaret by another name, with her age grossly fudged? I think Mary Ann is instead a second wife. Also living in the 1860 household is a John D Hildreth (29), who is much more likely to be a son of Margaret, albeit a late son. Just to cover all the bases, RD has made this other John a son of Margaret too! The USCensuses, beginning in 1810, show at least two parallel John Hildreth families of the same generation; evidently the Hildreth situation is a lot more complex than RD has allowed for.

¹⁸⁷ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 25, citing Cook, *Bourbon County, Kentucky marriage bonds*, 11; There are two John Hildreths in the 1820 USCensus for BourbonCo. This couple are clearly the ones who are aged 26-44 that year, with two children under 5, one boy, and one girl.

- iv. SARAH DENNISON was born 16Oct1793,^[188] and she died, presumably in PikeCoMD about 31May1861.^[189] Sarah married Thomas Benn in BourbonCoKY 7Jan1819.^[190] Thomas was born about 4Sep1794, and died, presumably in PikeCoMD 3Jul1864.^[191]
- v. DANIEL DAVID DENNISON was born 25Oct1794,^[192] and he died, presumably in BourbonCoKY on 29Aug1832.^[193] Daniel married Elizabeth Morrow in BourbonCoKY Jun1813;^[194] she died, presumably in BourbonCoKY 18Nov1868.^[195] Elizabeth may have been the daughter of Robert Morrow, the only Morrow in the BourbonCoKY USCensus for 1810; he had a daughter aged 10-15 in that year.

¹⁸⁸ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 44, and 44-45 for her descendants.

¹⁸⁹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 44, citing a reading of her gravestone in Old Hostetter Cemetery, in Frankford, PikeCoMO for her birth and death dates. However, her age at death is given, anomalously, as 68y7m13d: if correct, she would have been born 17 or 18Oct1793—or it may be that the birth, and not the death date, is found on the gravestone. Gravestone inscriptions should be presented as evidence in literal transcription, not merely abstracted.

¹⁹⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 44, citing BourbonCoKY Marriages 2:103 (#834). RD says that Thomas was the son of Samuel & Catherine (Brown) Benn, and sure enough, Catherine Benn (aged 76) is head of the 1850 PikeCoMO household adjacent to that of Thomas (55, b.VA) & Sarah (56, b.KY) Benn (RD also refers to her as “Katie”; one would like to have the evidence that is based on, rather than the bare reference.). I do not, however, find any Samuel Benn in BourbonCoKY in the 1820 USCensus; in fact the only Benn in all of KY that year is Seward Benn of OhioCoKY.

¹⁹¹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 44, citing Thomas’s gravestone in Old Hostetter Cemetery, Penoe Township, PikeCoMO for his birth and death dates, except that the age at death found for him thereon, 69y9m23d, calculates back from his death date to 9/10Sep1794, not 4Sep.

¹⁹² RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 26, and 26-35 for his descendants. However, no source is indicated which shows this Daniel’s middle name.

¹⁹³ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 26, citing a reading of Denison Cemetery in Clintonville, BourbonCoKY for the death date, and perhaps the birth date as well: RD’s text reads “b. 25 Oct 1794, d 29 Aug 1832 [cem rdg]”. RD also references Daniel’s 2Aug1832 will, and its 3Sep1832 proof in BourbonCoKY Probate J:86.

¹⁹⁴ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 26, citing BourbonCoKY Marriages 2:66.

¹⁹⁵ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 26, citing a reading of her gravestone in Denison Cemetery, Clintonville, BourbonCoKY for her birth and death dates. RD also cites BourbonCoKY Probate R:333, and Deeds 57:65-66, for records of her estate.

7. ISABELLA HELENA³ DENNISON (*Daniel*², *Daniel*¹) and her husband HAMILTON ATCHISON

Isabella Helena Dennison was born about 1765.^[196] Isabella married Hamilton Atchison in FayetteCoKY 23Apr1793.^[197] She died, probably in FayetteCoKY between 4Oct1828 (when she joined with her husband in selling her brother, Daniel³'s, land on the waters of Hickman Creek), and 8Feb1833 (when Atchison refers to "his former wife's proportion" in the distribution of the proceeds of Daniel's estate).^[198] Hamilton was born say 1765,^[199] and died, presumably in FayetteCoKY, before 8May1842.^[200] Sarah Denson and Isabella Hellena Denison were witnesses to their sister, Eleanor's, Mar1781 marriage consent.^[201] About 27Nov1824, Hamilton Atchison was appointed administrator of Daniel Dennison's estate.^[202]

Children of ISABELLA HELENA DENNISON and HAMILTON ATCHISON:

RD lists four children for this couple: two boys and two girls. This is consistent with the structure of their 1810 household.^[203]

- i. ALEXANDER⁴ ATCHISON was born, presumably in FayetteCoKY say 1795, and died before 1850.^[204] Alexander Atchison married Rebecca Atchison in FayetteCoKY 26May1818.^[205]

¹⁹⁶ Isabella's birth date is derived from a comprehensive analysis of her whole natal family, presented above in the Children section of her father's sketch, under **Determining the Birth Order of Daniel²'s Children**.

¹⁹⁷ Karen King Scales, "**Marriages Performed by Rev. James Crawford, 1786-1795, Fayette Co., KY**", 16Aug2005 (revised), transcription from papers of Rev. Crawford (USGenWebFTP Archive).

¹⁹⁸ FayetteCoKY Probate Packet 1095 (transcription of deed by RD), and Probate K:409 (xerox of original, for mention of Isabella as "former wife").

¹⁹⁹ H Atchinson Senr household, 1830 USCensus → Males: 1(60-69), 1(30-39); Females: 1 (60-69), 1(50-59), 1(30-39), 1(0-9); 10 slaves.

²⁰⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 19, citing FayetteCoKY Probate R:76-77, but without characterizing the document referenced. Since reference is made (separately) to Atchison's will, the evidence probably is a proof of that will.

²⁰¹ This is the only record I know of which includes Isabella's middle name. It is supposed that she was named for Isabella Helena Craig, the wife of the Rev. John Craig, the Daniel Dennis[t]ons' pastor and close neighbor in Beverley Manor; *Rockingham County Marriages* (Vogt).

²⁰² FayetteCoKY Court Order Book 6:54, according to a transcription by RD which fails to note the court date.

²⁰³ Hamilton Atchison household, 1810 USCensus → Males: 2(26-44), 2(16-25), 3(10-15); Females: 1 (26-44), 4(10-15), 1(0-9).

²⁰⁴ A H Hamilton, whose 1830 USCensus household immediately precedes that of H Atchinson, Senior, presumably his father, was aged 30-39 in this census, and 40-49 in the 1840 census, but is missing in 1850.

²⁰⁵ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 19. Although no citation is provided, I suppose this marriage is recorded in the FayetteCoKY Marriage books; if not, I have serious doubts that her pre-marriage surname was the same as her husband's.

- ii. HAMILTON ATCHISON was born 11Jun1799, and died 8May1842. He married Sarah Rossiter in Baldwin County, GA 20Oct1825.^[206] She was born 16Jun1811, and died about 5Mar1870.^[207]
- iii. REBECCA ATCHISON was born about 1800.
- iv. MALINDA ATCHISON was born say 1803. Malinda Atchison married James Headley say 1827, considering that one George W Headley, aged 22, is found in the James Headley household in 1850;^[208] James was born about 1793. Malinda died, presumably in FayetteCoKY, on or before 1850, when she is missing from her husband's household.^[209]

²⁰⁶ Although a retrogression to Georgia seems highly improbable, and while RD's "source" for this marriage (the IGI) is no source at all, the 1850, 1860, and 1870 Kentucky USCensus records for the family of Hamilton's married daughter, Isabella Denison (Atchison) West, showing the names of her children (Hamilton, Isabella, Sarah), and the birthplace of her husband James West (and certain of his female relatives) as Georgia, buttresses one's confidence that Kentucky-born Ham Jr. indeed made this Georgia connection.

²⁰⁷ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 19. Sarah's birth and death dates are said to come from a gravestone in the LexingtonKY town cemetery.

²⁰⁸ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 20, says that Hamilton Atchison, presumably Malinda's father, was a surety—presumably for James Headley's marriage bond—but without citing a source. RD also says that James and Malinda received a slave named Isaac in the Jul1846 will of her father, which is also not cited.

²⁰⁹ **James Headley household, 1850 USCensus**, FayetteCoKY, page 224A(29-32), image 53 → James Headley (farmer, \$30760 real estate) 57 b.MD, George W (farmer) 22 b.KY, James A (student) 19, William 14. Malinda's estimated birth date is predicated on her suggested marriage date, and on the fact that the only female in the only James Headley household in KY for 1830 was aged 20-29, and his 1840 household also includes a female 30-39.

8. WILLIAM³ DENNISON (*Daniel*², *Daniel*¹) and his wife MARGARET DUNLAP

The birth dates of all the members of this family are from a private family record^[210], while the death dates of William and Margaret are taken from a recent set of cemetery transcriptions of Denison Cemetery, in LawrenceCoIL; their stones also have birth dates and/or ages at death which are consistent with those of the family record, at least so far as the gravestone information is legible^[211].

RD has published the following additional material on William, which I have not been able to verify (normal text within square brackets represents RD's citations, not this editor's interpolations—those I will present in italics, within curly braces):

“William served as a ‘Rev’ in the Revolutionary War [IL Vet Com].. {*After migrating to FayetteCo*} he also served the county on the grand jury and as a road commissioner.... On 2Sep1818 William acquired the SW 1/4, Sec 33, Twp 3N, Range 12W (160 ac) in LawrenceCoIL [Land Entry Book-73]. On 5Oct1818 they sold the 131 ac on which they lived in FYKY to John Hart for \$3275 [FYKY Deed Bk R-532/533]. In 1818 the family emigrated to LawrenceCoIL and settled on their land, nr where the Pisgah Church was organized in 1833. It is said that Margaret rode on horseback and carried her gun all the way from KY. {*If she got to ride all the way, she was one of the lucky emigrants.*}. The area became Denison Twp, named for William. William bought an additional 120 ac of adjacent land in LawrenceCoIL. On 26Oct1827 William sold the bond he had executed with Daniel Dennison for 124 ac on the waters of Hickman in FayetteCoKY to Daniel's executor, Hamilton Atchison, their brother-in-law, for \$1 [FYKY Deed Bk 4-112/113] {*If William had executed (i.e. signed) a bond, that meant he had obligated himself for a debt; I fail to see, therefore, what he was supposed to have been selling here. Whatever he was conveying, he evidently assigned a nominal price to it, perhaps in return for some other family agreement to which we are not privy.*}. In LWIL William helped organize and build the Pisgah Presbyterian Church in 1833, donating 9 logs, 300 boards and \$.30. Presbyterian. Whig/Republican.”^[212]

William Dennison was born 15Jul1767, and he died 30Nov1838.

William Dennison married Margaret Dunlap (daughter of Robert Dunlap and Mary Gay) in FayetteCoKY 19Mar1793.^[213] Margaret was born 20May1770, and died 12Oct1851. William and his wife, Margaret (Dunlap), are buried in Denison Cemetery, in LukinTwp, in LawrenceCoIL.

Daniel² (Daniel¹) Dennison, with his three youngest sons, removed to FayetteCoKY by 25Jul1787, when he appears on the personal property tax rolls of Fayette as head of a household containing an additional 3 white male tithables^[214]. These youngest sons would have been William (b.1767), Thomas (b.c1769), and Daniel³ (b.c1772). William Dennison appears on the FayetteCoKY property tax rolls in 1790^[215] and again on a list dated 7Nov1800.^[216] On 18Aug1791, William Dennison of FayetteCoVA purchased [2]00 acres, probably in Fayette, from Benjamin Logan of LincolnCoVA, for £103, 10

²¹⁰ “Record of William Denison Family”.

²¹¹ [Denison Cemetery](#), in LawrenceCoIL, Reading by Allison Mushrush, Jun2007; Here are photographs and Mushrush's abstracts of the stones of [William](#), and [Margaret](#).

²¹² RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 125.

²¹³ “Marriages Performed by Rev. James Crawford”, “Mar. 19. [1793] William Dennison & Mary Dunlap”; this transcription might be a misreading of “Marg. Dunlap”; RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 13, for the parents of William.

²¹⁴ *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 7.

²¹⁵ Charles B. Heinemann, *First Census of Kentucky* (1940; reprint GPC, 1956).

²¹⁶ “*Second Census*” of Kentucky.

shillings, current money of Virginia.^[217] It is worth noting, I think, that in an 1813 quitclaim by William's brother Daniel³ acknowledging defects in the boundaries of land "on the east fork of Hickman Creek in Fayette County" which he had inherited from his father, Daniel², the man from his father had purchased his land was also Benjamin Logan.^[218] It is likely, therefore, that William's land was also in this area. On 24Apr1795 William Dennison was commissioned Ensign in the 8th Regiment of KY militia. He was commissioned Lieutenant in the same outfit on 10Oct of that year.^[219]

On 5Feb1839 George M. Dennison was appointed administrator of the estate of William Dennison Senior by the LawrenceCoIL probate court, and an inventory was ordered the same day. The amount of the administrator's bond was \$700, and Andrew Underwood stood security for him. The subsequent sale of the personal property about 28Feb1839, yielded \$353.1875 (or about \$8300 in today's currency). Final settlement papers were filed by the administrator on 7Sep1841, though no account was made of the distribution to heirs, apart from the unnamed widow. However, the following people purchased items in the estate sale besides the widow, who is identified there only as "Mrs Denison": Alexander D. Denison, George M. Denison, John Denison, Robert Denison, and William Denison.^[220]

Children of William³ Dennison and Margaret Dunlap:

- i. ROBERT⁴ DENISON was born 13Jan1794, and died 4Jan1863. Robert married Nancy Eastman in FayetteCoKY 6Jun1816,^[221] she was born 1Jun1792, and died 12May1836.^[222]
- ii. DANIEL DENISON was born 11Oct1795.
- iii. ELISABETH DENISON was born 14Jan1797.
- iv. JOHN DENISON was born 19Oct1798.
- v. POLLY G. DENISON was born 12Sep1800.
- vi. CATHARINE DENISON was born 16Aug1802.
- vii. WILLIAM DENISON was born 18Jul1805, and he died in 1840.
10. viii. ALEXANDER D. DENNISON b. 3Aug1807 KY; m. Mary Ann Crane.

²¹⁷ FayetteCoKY Records 5:255-256, on FHL film 8995/1. The witnesses on the deed were: John Hall, Moses Hall, Alexander Hall, and John Morrison, and the deed was proved by witnesses, not (apparently) acknowledged by William, to the Mar1792 FayetteCoKY court. The hundreds digit is missing in the original transcribed fragment of this deed, but I have supplied it nonetheless from RD's account, who evidently visited the courthouse, and may have seen William's later deed of sale for this land, or perhaps picked up the number from extant tax records. The only FayetteCo records I have examined myself in the original are these reconstituted burnt records, and this is the only item in the index pertaining to Dennisons.

²¹⁸ FayetteCoKY Deeds G:498-499.

²¹⁹ *The "Corn Stalk" Militia*, 18.

²²⁰ LawrenceCoIL Probate. This summary is based on a set of xeroxes of the original loose probate papers for the estate of William Denison, Senior, furnished to me by AJD, who did not, however, supply the probate packet# or other courthouse identifier.

²²¹ Alan J. Dension, citing Michael L. Cook, *Fayette County Kentucky Records, Vol. 3* (Cook Publishing Co., 1985); Denison Cemetery, by Allison Mushrush, Supposedly, their gravestones read "h/o N.E. Denison", and "w/o R. Denison", or (since all the transcribed stones are worded similarly) are these merely abstracts, or worse, interpretations inferred from the placements of the stones or the inscriptions on the stones?

²²² Denison Cemetery, by Allison Mushrush.

- ix. GEORGE M. DENISON was born 5Aug1809, and died 18Jan1846.^[223] He married Elizabeth Craven; she was born in 1810 and died 4Oct1845.^[224] On 5Feb1839 George M. Dennison was appointed administrator of the estate of William Dennison Senior by the LawrenceCoIL probate court, and an inventory was ordered the same day. The amount of the administrator's bond was \$700, and Andrew Underwood stood security for him. Final settlement papers were filed by the administrator on 7Sep1841.

²²³ Denison Cemetery, by Allison Mushrush.

²²⁴ E-Mail from Alan J. Denison (AJD) to John Barrett Robb, 17Jan2010, based on information from researcher John King, who notes that Elizabeth ("Betsy") was believed to have married, second, George Madison Milhouse. King says that George's wife is the Elizabeth Denison (1810-1815) found in Black, *Cemeteries of Lawrence County*, who evidently misread the death date. Alison Mushrush did not find this stone in her recent reading.

9. THOMAS³ DENNISON (*Daniel*², *Daniel*¹) and his wife JANE DOUGLAS

RD has accumulated a great deal of information about Thomas and his descendants. I have collated his data on Thomas with my own research, but as for his descendants, I have merely copied the bare BMD data, below.^[225] RD says that Thomas was a “Major/Farmer/Surveyor”, but he offers no supporting evidence. The data in the remainder of this headnote I did not undertake to verify, and I merely pass it on as I find it in RD (normal text within square brackets represents RD’s citations, not this editor’s interpolations—those I will present in italics, within curly braces):

“On 1Aug1787 Thomas received a certificate of service under General George Rogers Clark and Colonial Benjamin Logan of KY for his part in the fight against the Shawnee Indians who harassed the KY and OH settlers following the American Revolution. On 2Sep1800 Thomas presented his Cert of Service and received payment [Cert #226 and #261].. In the 1793 KY Tax List *{I’ve never heard of a statewide tax list and RD gives no citation for this information.}* it showed Thomas, James, and David Dennison living on adjoining lands in Bourbon Co nr Clintonville and nr the Fayette Co line. In 1793, 1797, and 1798, Thomas LS *{LS?}* was appointed to view sites for roads and a dam in Bourbon Co [Order Bk B-5,8,396,619,644]. On 21Jan1794 he bought 100 ac of land on the waters of Green Creek in BOKY (see page 46) from Charles Smith Sr of £40 [Deed Bk B-439], and on 16Feb1808 Thomas and Jane sold the land to his brother James for \$500 [Deed Bk F-209]. In a Fayette Co Court of Appeals action was taken in 1812 by Thomas Walton against Charles Smith et al (including Thomas and James Dennison) claiming interference with his original survey of 11May1780 [FYKY Land Trials C-371]. The dispute went on for some time and Thomas must have lost his case. In 1809 he was the witness at the wedding of Robert Alkire and Elizabeth Douglas (Jane’s sister) in FranklinCoOH [1-61].”

Thomas Dennison was born about 1769,^[226] and he died after Jun1830, when he last appears by name in the USCensus for MadisonCoOH.^[227]

Thomas married Jane Douglas (daughter of James Douglas and Hannah Huston) 1Mar1792.^[228] Jane was born in 1771.

Daniel² (*Daniel*¹) Dennison, with his three youngest sons, removed to FayetteCoKY by 25Jul1787, when he appears on the personal property tax rolls of Fayette as head of a household containing an additional 3 white male tithables^[229]. These youngest sons would have been William (b.1767), Thomas (b.c1769), and Daniel³ (b.c1772). According to RD, Thomas appears on the 1788 FayetteCoVA

²²⁵ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 169 (for the career of Thomas himself), and 169-241. (for his descendants). RD has provided many, but by no means complete, citations for his material, and where citations are present, I have noted them in this report.

²²⁶ Thomas was aged 60-69 in the 1830 USCensus, so was born no later than 1770, and he was married, without parental consent, in 1792, the first year he appears on the BourbonCo tax list.

²²⁷ RD says Thomas last appears in the records in 1844, when he was a purchaser at the estate sale of his son, Washington, but fails to explain how he differentiates Thomas³ from his son Thomas⁴.

²²⁸ “Marriages, Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1786-1800”. “Dennison, Thomas/Douglass, Jane March 1, 1792”. RD says the entry is in Marriage Book 1:13; The evidence for Jane’s parentage is considered in detail in **Appendix B: The Douglas Connection**.

²²⁹ *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 7.

personal property tax list, but no citation is given, and I consider it unlikely that he was so listed.^[230] Thomas Dennison and David Dennison appear on a muster roll of Kentucky Rangers who served under Ensign John McDaniel of Col. B. Collin's 1st Battalion from 8Mar1791 through 9May1791.^[231] Thomas Denison first appears by name on the BourbonCoKY property tax rolls in 1792, and continues thereon through at least 1800.^[232] According to one source, David Dennison, James Dennison, and Thomas Dennison, "a set of very wealthy and worthy farmers[,] removed from what is called the Blue Grass region" to GreenCoKY in 1795^[233], but the records of BourbonCo show that this was only true of David.^[234] On 27Feb1801 Thomas Dennison was commissioned Lieutenant in the 14th Regiment of KY militia in BourbonCoKY.^[235] Thomas Denison is a head of household in the 1820 USCensus for Pleasant Twp, in MadisonCoOH.^[236] On Dec1823 according to RD, Thomas was appointed co-administrator of his brother, David's, estate, along with David's widow, Mary Ann, and David Douglas—most likely her brother-in-law.^[237] Thomas Dennison is a head of household in the 1830 USCensus for Pleasant Twp, in MadisonCoOH.^[238]

Children of Thomas³ Dennison and Jane Douglas:

Although I have followed RD in my reconstruction of Thomas's family (after verifying his sources, most of which are USCensus entries), I've reversed the birth order for John and Joseph, and I further note, based on Thomas's 1820 census record (the only one we have for his whole family), that there appear to be two additional sons born between 1805 and 1815, and not otherwise accounted for.^[239] It is possible, of course, that these additional males in Thomas's household weren't sons at all, but just children "farmed out" by other families, or they may have been sons who died, but I suggest that an open mind be kept in case other male Denison's born in KY, or OH, should turn up.

²³⁰ *Hening's Statutes*, 9:349-368(Oct1777), *An act for raising a supply of money for publick exigencies*, raised the age of tithables from 16 to 21 (in a clause on p350), thus there was no need for Thomas to be listed in 1788 if he was born when RD supposes (1771), or even when I think he was born (1769). It is true that this provision of the act was supplemented by a section of a tax amendment act of May1783 at Hening's 12:290-291 *permitting* counties to enumerate, or even name, tithables aged 16-21 in their lists, which were compiled for other purposes than taxation, but without actually seeing the original list in question, I am reluctant to accept a statement which seems likely to be a simple error. It may be that RD merely means that Thomas was enumerated (but not named) as a tithable to his father Daniel, as I believe he was in the 1787 list.

²³¹ MVG, 36(Summer1998):250.

²³² *BourbonCoKY Taxpayers*, except that the lists for 1794 and 1798 are missing; "Second Census" of Kentucky.

²³³ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, citing Marshall Lowe, *Green County Historical Factbook* (1970), 6.

²³⁴ *BourbonCoKY Taxpayers*, David was on the tax rolls of BourbonCo in 1790, and 1793, but went missing from 1795 on, while James and Thomas continued in BourbonCo from 1792 through 1801 and beyond.

²³⁵ *The "Corn Stalk" Militia*, 61. His older brother, James, was commissioned Captain in the same outfit on the same day.

²³⁶ Thomas Denison household, 1820 USCensus → Males: 1(45+), 1(16-25), 1(16-18), 2(10-15), 2(0-9); Females: 1(45+), 2(10-15). Thomas appears on the same page of this non-alphabetized list as his brother David Denison.

²³⁷ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., citing [MadisonCoOH] Probate packet C# Aa 1043, Doc D-119.

²³⁸ Thomas Denison household, 1830 USCensus → Males: 1(60-69), 1(20-29), 1(15-19), 1(10-14); Females 1(50-59), 1(20-29).

²³⁹ Thomas Denison household, 1820 USCensus → Males: 1(45+), 1(16-25), 1(16-18), 2(10-15), 2(0-9); Females: 1(45+), 2(10-15). Thomas appears on the same page of this non-alphabetized list as his brother David Denison.

- i. JAMES HENRY⁴ DENNISON was born in BourbonCoKY 26Nov1794, and died in MadisonCoOH 1Jan1845.^[240] He married Margaret Alkire in MadisonCoOH on 8Jan1819.^[241] Margaret was born Dec1794, and died in PickawayCoOH 3Feb1888.^[242]
- ii. THOMAS DENNISON was born say 1798. He married Elizabeth Kerr in MadisonCoOH on 22Dec1818.^[243] Thomas died in MadisonCoOH before Sep1823, when his uncle, David Dennison, and his widow, Elizabeth, were appointed administrators of his estate.^[244]
- iii. JOHN DENNISON was born in BourbonCoKY about 1802,^[245] and died after 1880. He married Barbara Moore (daughter of Philip Moore and Catherine Hornbeck) in FayetteCoOH on 4Oct1832.^[246] Barbara was born in KY in 1798.
- iv. JOSEPH DENNISON was born about Oct1804,^[247] and died in Frederick Twp, in SchuylerCoIL 6Jan1849.^[248] He married Martha Moore (daughter of Philip Moore and Catherine Hornbeck) in FayetteCoOH on 9Dec1825.^[249] Martha was born about 1802. She died in Fredericksville, in SchuylerCoIL 27Jul1869.^[250]
- v. MARY DENNISON was born in KY about 1806, according to the MadisonCoOH USCensuses for 1850-1870.^[251] She died sometime after 1Jun1870, the date she last appears in the USCensus. Mary Dennison married 1st, Elijah Robey, in MadisonCoOH on 20Oct1831;^[252] Elijah was born about Oct1810, considering his age in the 1840 USCensus, and the date of his marriage. Mary Dennison married 2nd, William Warren, as his 2nd wife, in MadisonCoMD on

²⁴⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 169, citing an unspecified bible record for James Henry's birth and death dates.

²⁴¹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 169, citing MadisonCoOH Marriages A:38. RD says she was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Moore) Alkire.

²⁴² In the 1880 USCensus for PickawayCoOH Marg[aret], aged 83, is living with her son J[ames] M[onroe] Dennison; *History of Madison County, Ohio*, 299, confirms that she was the widow of James Dennison, and living in PickawayCo in 1883.

²⁴³ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 201, citing MadisonCoOH Marriages A:36.

²⁴⁴ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 201, citing "C# Aa 1033, Doc D-117".

²⁴⁵ In the USCensus for MadisonCoOH John was aged 16-18 in his father's 1820 household, and 48 in 1850 as head of his own household.

²⁴⁶ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 202, citing FayetteCoOH Marriages B:20 (#934), but citing no evidence that either Barbara, or her sister Martha (supposed to have married John's brother Joseph Dennison), were the daughters of Philip & Catherine (Hornbeck) Moore. However, I note that the first son of this couple was named Philip Moore Denison.

²⁴⁷ Joseph is presumably the older of the males aged 10-15 in his father's 1820 MadisonCoOH USCensus household. I have chosen a month which allows him to be aged 21 at his marriage. Like his brother John, he was several years older than his Moore wife.

²⁴⁸ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 202, citing SchuylerCoIL Probate 1:274 (will 11Oct1844, proved 22Nov1849).

²⁴⁹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 202, citing FayetteCoOH Marriages A:98 (#498), but offering no evidence for Martha's parentage.

²⁵⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 202, citing SchuylerCoIL Probate B:69 (will 16Jul1869, proved 24Sep1869).

²⁵¹ **William Warren household, 16Aug1860 USCensus**, MadisonCoOH, Pleasant Twp, page 442A (11-15), image 15 → William Warren (farmhand, \$200 personal prop) 56 b.MD, Mary 54 b.KY, Rhoda 18 b.OH, Thomas 16, Jonathan (farmhand) 23; **Thomas Warren household, 1Jun1870 USCensus**, MadisonCoOH, Pleasant Twp, page 699B (03-06), image 2 → Thomas Warren (farm laborer) 25 b.OH, Elizabeth 22, Mary A, Mary 64 ("lives with son") b.OH *sic.* unknown detail.

²⁵² RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., citing MadisonCoOH Marriages A:159.

- 9Oct1843.^[253] William was born either 1805 or 1806 and had married 1st, Margaret Blaine, 16Nov1825, on MadisonCoOH.^[254]
- vi. MATILDA DENNISON was born about 1809,^[255] and died in Union, in MadisonCoOH 20Oct1893.^[256] Matilda married Michael H Robey in Pleasant, in MadisonCoOH on 14Feb1826;^[257] Michael was born in VA 22Jun1804, and died 29Sep1879.^[258]
- vii. GEORGE WASHINGTON DENNISON was born about 1813, and died in MadisonCoOH 20Dec1843.^[259] This George W. Dennison apparently remains a somewhat shadowy figure, since he died young, and no marriage record has been found for him. RD notes that there is evidence that he married and had children: “He went to SchuylerCoIL in late 1830’s, probably with brothers Joseph and John Denison. On 2Sep1842 he purchased 7 ac in SchuylerCoIL from William Beard for \$105.00 [Deed Bk L-56 #5053]. Returned to OH with three daughters. On 25Mar1857 the girls sold their shares of inherited land to their aunt, Martha Denison (widow of Joseph Denison) of SchuylerCo for \$1.00 to each of them [Deed Bk Z:219 (#248)].^[260]”

²⁵³ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 240, citing MadisonCoOH Marriages A:331. RD has done a good job of tracing Mary through two marriages; the key to identifying Mary, besides her two marriage records, is the 1850 MadisonCo USCensus household of William & Mary Warren, which evidently comprises two sets of stepchildren, and (based on her Warren marriage date, a joint son Thomas, named, probably, for Mary’s father. Moreover this 1850 census record is consistent with Mary’s 1840 household with Elijah Robey, except that one of her two sons by him is missing from the 1850 Warren household; **William Warren household, 16Sep1850 USCensus**, MadisonCoOH, Pleasant Twp, page 217B(21-31), image 9 → William Warren (farmer) 45 b.MD, Mary 44 b.KY, Sarah 21 b.OH, Tillman 18, Henry 16, Jonathan 14, Nancy E 11, Roda 8, Thomas 6, Jane Rhoby 18, Francis M (male) 10; **Elijah Robey household, 1840 USCensus**, MadisonCoOH, Pleasant Twp, folio 28 (30), images 1 → Males: 1(20-29), 2(0-4); Females: 1(30-39), 1(5-9).

²⁵⁴ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 240, citing PickawayCoOH Marriage Records (no volume:page#s).

²⁵⁵ In the USCensus for MadisonCoOH, she was aged 51 in 1860, 60 in 1870, and 72 in 1880.

²⁵⁶ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 220, citing MadisonCoOH Death records 1:225 (#4435). RD also says that she was buried 23Oct1893 in Dennison Chapel Cemetery, but although there are Dennisons and Robeys in this cemetery, a recent reading at findagrave found no stone for Matilda.

²⁵⁷ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 220, citing MadisonCoOH Marriages A:100; *History of Madison County, Ohio*, 1085, in a piece on Thomas Cox, notes that Michael & Matilda Robey “had eight children, six now surviving—Thomas, Nancy Ann [who married Thomas Cox], John, David, Mary Jane (wife of William Diehl), and Michael”.

²⁵⁸ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 220, citing an unspecified “obit”.

²⁵⁹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 234, citing a cemetery reading of Fitzgerald Cemetery for the date. A modern reading of this cemetery (a.k.a. Opossum Run Cemetery), at http://www.genealogybug.net/madison_cems/fitzgerald/fitzgerald.htm#d recovered no stones for Dennisons, but noted many broken stones and fragments.

²⁶⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . , 234 *et seq.*, tracing the three daughters, Caroline, Jane, and Martha, and their descendants.

*Generation Four*10. ALEXANDER D.⁴ DENISON (*William*³, *Daniel*², *Daniel*¹) and his wife MARY ANN CRANE

The birth records for this family come from a scrap of paper handed down in the family, which may be called the Alexander D. Denison Family Record.^[261] The signature on Alexander's original will (cited below), which reads "Alexander D. Denison" matches the name as written in the family record, and we may therefore infer that Alexander was the author of the latter, as well as the former. Nowhere in the records is the middle initial spelled out, as I have done in brackets, but given that he had a maternal uncle named Alexander Dunlap, and a son William Dunlap, it is unlikely that this Alexander's middle "D" expands to anything else but "Dunlap".

Alexander D. Denison was born in KY 5Aug1807,^[262] and he died in Luken Twp, in LawrenceCoIL 8Jul1871.^[263] Alexander D. Denison married Mary Ann Crane 18Feb1834;^[264] Mary died 6Mar1892.^[265]

In his will dated 26Jun1871, Alexander D. Denison, of LawrenceCoIL gave and bequeathed "to my sons William. D. Denison & Henry. H. Denison (each an equal share) all my Personal Property to be by them used in common until such time as they may deem proper to make a division of the same except one certain Bay mare called 'Lib' which I ["direct" *was crossed out here*] have given to my son Henry Howard Denison as his separate property". The signature of the will is a match to the first name written in the eponymous Alexander D. Denison Family Record; so too is the distinctive, gratuitous, name punctuation which occurs in both. This suggests that the person who composed the will for Alexander may have learned writing in the same school, or in the same family circle.^[266]

Children of Alexander D.⁴ Denison and Mary Ann Crane:

- i. JOHN⁵ DENISON was born 11Feb1835.^[267]
- ii. MARTHA A. DENISON was born 30Jun1836.
- iii. MARGARET DENISON was born 4Feb1838.
- iv. SARAH DENISON was born 25Feb1840.
- v. ELISABETH DENISON was born 4Aug1842.
- vi. CATHARINE DENISON was born 19Jan1845.
- vii. MARY ANN DENISON was born 26Oct1847.
- viii. WILLIAM DUNLAP DENISON was born 20Mar1850.

²⁶¹ Alexander D. Denison Family Record, [1840-1856], a loose paper passed down in the family.

²⁶² Alexander D. Denison Family Record; "Record of William Denison Family" gives Alexander's birth date as 3Aug1807, and ordinarily the more contemporary record would prevail, but the latter source is a transcription by Alexander's brother, John, of their natal family record, while Alexander himself was the author of the record of his own conjugal family, and a man must be presumed to know his own birth date.

²⁶³ Will of Alexander D. Denison, probate, and death certificate, 26Jun1871 (*filed* 17Jul1871), LawrenceCoIL Probate. The will says that Alexander was of Luken Township, and the death certificate says that he died at home on 8Jul1871; Denison Cemetery, by Allison Mushrush.

²⁶⁴ Alan J. Dension; Denison Cemetery, by Allison Mushrush; AJD notes a couple of dubious secondary sources for this marriage, and the date apparently comes from them, but the name of the wife may be right on her gravestone, which is rendered "Mary A Crane . . . w/o A.D. Denison", in Mushrush's cemetery transcription.

²⁶⁵ Denison Cemetery, by Allison Mushrush.

²⁶⁶ Will of Alexander D. Denison, probate, and death certificate, 26Jun1871 (*filed* 17Jul1871), LawrenceCoIL Probate.

²⁶⁷ Alexander D. Denison Family Record.

- ix. ALICE JANE DENISON was born in Luken Twp, Lawrence, IL 6Apr1853, and died in StFrancisville, Lawrence, IL 14Mar1935.^[268]
- x. HENRY HOWARD DENISON was born 20Mar1856.

²⁶⁸ Alan J. Denison (AJD) to John Barrett Robb, 4Apr2008.

APPENDIX A: Other Dennis[t]ions of Southwestern Virginia

Besides the line of Dennistons which runs from Daniel¹ to Daniel² to John³ (and Daniel²'s other children), there is at least one other family of that name west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, whose members have evidently been conflated by RD with the children of Daniel². Sorting out this other family has required a close analysis of a complex tissue of evidence.

John³ (Daniel²), as I have shown in his subject sketch (4, above), was born about 1751. Therefore, he cannot have been the John Denniston who was "exempted from levy" in AugustaCo on 20Aug1757.^[269] This entry in the county order books probably means that this John was being excused as a tithable from the county-levied personal property tax, and the most common reason for tax exemptions was old age.^[270] The name John Denniston next appears about 1763 as a signer of a petition to force open a road from South to Middle River which had been blocked by one of the owners of the land it traversed; other signers of this petition included Archibald Huston, and Robert Shanklin, both residents of the area of Augusta where Stover's Mill Creek runs into South River just before it makes the transition to North River, which forks into Middle River.^[271] Again in 1766, John Deniston appears as a "supernumerary" on a tax adjustment list which also includes two Shanklins.^[272]

None of these records can reasonably be associated with the John³ (Daniel², Daniel¹) Denniston who was born about 1751, nor is it at all likely that this early immigrant John was a son of Daniel¹, and a brother of his son Daniel².^[273] This John was evidently a contemporary of Daniel¹, and probably a fellow immigrant. I shall call him, therefore, John¹. Yet there is DNA evidence that these two were closely related, which I shall examine in more detail in **Appendix C**, below

The next item pertaining to this other, older, John¹ Denniston, is a survey made for him 6Nov1767 of 125a on [Stover's] Mill Creek, bordering other land owned by him, and following a line of his neighbor, Shanklin, crossing the creek.^[274] Then on 9Aug1770, John Denniston was a purchaser of 200a on the N side of the Shenando (Shenandoah) River, encompassing the mouth of Stover's Mill

²⁶⁹ Chalkley, 1:77, citing AugustaCo OB6:30.

²⁷⁰ Such exemptions were discretionary and there was no hard and fast age limit, but an age of least 55, and probably over 60, can be presumed.

²⁷¹ Chalkley, 1:446, citing an undated "loose paper", bundled, apparently, with other records from the period 1762-1763. The proximity of these neighbors is shown by numerous deeds and probate records in which they figure mutually as principals, bounds, or witnesses, for example Chalkley 3:282, citing Augusta Deeds 2:592, where Huston is witness to a deed involving land on Stover's Mill Creek.

²⁷² Chalkley, 2:420, from a section of Chalkley's book simply titled "Delinquents", consisting of a set of uncited tax adjustment lists in chronological order, starting in 1749. It is anybody's guess whether these have survived to the present day, or where at the courthouse they may be found.

²⁷³ The possibility that John may have been a brother of Daniel² runs into the objection that the former was named neither in Daniel¹'s will, nor in it's codicil. While sons were occasionally omitted from these early frontier wills out of ignorance of the laws of inheritance, or simple carelessness, to fail to acknowledge all one's legal heirs, and especially an eldest son, was a major legal mistake, opening up the will as a whole to challenge and invalidation. In my experience, such omissions were quite uncommon, and would be especially unexpected for a man of affairs like Daniel Senior, who even had a second opportunity to rectify his error through the codicil drawn up six years after the will itself.

²⁷⁴ **RockinghamCoVA Surveys** 1:102. Rockingham County was split off from the northern part of AugustaCo in Mar1778, and these survey records evidently migrated to the new court of jurisdiction.

Creek, corner Robert Shanklin,^[275] this land was evidently the actual mill tract. When plotted, this survey, and this deed, fit each other like hand and glove,^[276] and in fact the bounds of the 1767 survey, which refer to two corners in common with land already owned by John, make it clear that he was already in possession of the 200a tract for years before he actually acquired title to it, by deed. The final recorded item which we can be sure belongs to this same John¹ Denniston is a 16Dec1772 mortgage of his 200a home tract to Gabriel Jones, it “being the land John Deniston now lives on, and which was conveyed by John Madison”; the deed was acknowledged (by John Denniston, the mortgagor) on 16Mar1773.^[277]

The next recorded transactions involving these two tracts are neither in the name of John Denniston, nor of Gabriel Jones. Instead we find Robert Denniston, on 16Feb1771, granted the patent for the 125a tract which John¹ Denniston had surveyed in 1767,^[278] and, on 23Aug1778, it was Robert and his wife Margaret Denniston who sold land on Stover’s Mill Creek (acreage unspecified) to James Denniston,^[279] who six months later, on 1Feb1779, sold the 200a he had purchased from Robert to a neighbor, Lewis Sircle.^[280] James’s deed clearly identifies the land he was selling as the same 200a mill tract originally purchased by John¹ Denniston, but it provides, in the recital, only a sketchy history of the tract’s ownership history: the land “being first granted to William Dower by paten . . . [5Mar1747] and from him conveyed to John Madison by deed of lease and release and conveyed from Rob[er]t Deniston to James Denison”. Fortunately, some of the missing detail here can be filled in from the recital in John & Agatha’s deed to John Denniston, which tells us that the land was originally patented 5May1747 by Henry Downs,^[281] sold by him to John Madison on 18Feb1758, and sold by John & Agatha Madison to John Denniston on 9Aug1770.

Putting all this together, it appears that John¹ Denniston occupied the mill tract on Stover’s Mill Creek even before his survey of adjacent land in 1767, and as late as 16Mar1773 when he acknowledged his mortgage of this 200a mill tract. Meanwhile, it is *Robert* Denniston who converted John’s survey into a patent in 1771, while John¹ was still in the picture, and Robert who sold the mill tract in 1778—to one James Denniston. There appear to be no documents showing how, or when, Robert himself acquired the rights to these two tracts: the natural supposition would be that he acquired the survey from John privately, perhaps as a gift, and that he came into John’s 200a home

²⁷⁵ AugustaCoVA Deeds 16:479-486; Waddell, *Annals of Augusta*, 21, tell us that this area of South River, near present day Port Republic, was part of the first permanent settlement in the upper Valley of Virginia made by the German immigrant Jacob Stover in 1726.

²⁷⁶ Although the 125a survey, and also the subsequent patent for this land, which has identical bounds, plot out at 155a, so there was either a surveying error, or a transcription error somewhere along the way.

²⁷⁷ AugustaCoVA Deeds 19:146. Jones was an AugustaCo lawyer—in fact the King’s attorney for the County—so presumably this mortgage was just an investment for him.

²⁷⁸ VA Patents 39:242. The patent, like the survey, refers to the grantee’s “own land” as a bound, but given that John Denniston mortgaged this same land in 1772, and that the metes and bounds language is identical to that of the survey (so probably copied mindlessly), we may dismiss the notion that Robert already owned his father’s adjacent mill tract as well.

²⁷⁹ Constance A. Levinson & Louise C. Levinson, *Rockingham County, Virginia, Minute Book [1778-1792]*, 3 volumes (HarrisonburgVA: Greystone Publishers, 1985-1987), 1:13, citing Minute Book 1:14. Robert acknowledged his deed, and Margaret gave her dower release on 23Nov1778, at page 20 of the same book, but the deed itself, and with it all the details of this transaction, have been lost along with most of the other early RockinghamCo records.

²⁸⁰ RockinghamCoVA Deeds 0:34-36+, by deeds of lease and release, although they are erroneously dated the same date.

²⁸¹ The original patentee *was* probably Henry Downs—there is no William Dower, or Downs, in the LVA patent index—but I cannot find a patent which matches this land.

tract, either by an unrecorded deed, or more likely, by intestate inheritance as John's oldest son. I shall therefore hypothetically call him Robert² (John¹). And if Robert² was the oldest son of John¹, then the James Denniston to whom he sold the mill tract was probably his younger brother.

RD has proposed Robert as a son of Daniel², but there are other reasons to doubt this. For one thing, there is a militia court martial record for one Robert Denneston who was returned for failing to appear on 15Apr1768 for a required militia muster of Capt. Thomas Madison's company.^[282] According to the law at the time, Robert would have had to have been at least 18 years of age, or born before 15Apr1750, in order to be subject to legal penalties for failing to appear.^[283] But Daniel² had a regular succession of daughters in the 1740s born too close together to leave room for a son Robert, culminating with daughter Mary baptized Feb1749, and a son John born, presumably, before Aug1751. Although there is just enough room to insert Robert between Mary and John if we stipulate that John was born as late as possible, even so, the preceding and following birth intervals come up a bit short (just 15 months), compared to the 18-30 month average for the other children.

More conclusively, Robert belonged to a different militia company than Daniel². As we have seen, Robert's captain was Thomas Madison, while Daniel's, just the year before, was William Crow. Furthermore, at least one of the other five absentees from Madison's militia muster, Joseph Rutherford, was, like Robert, a denizen of the Stover's Creek area^[284], and another, David Nelson, was on Silas Hart's 1777 AugustaCo tithables list for the northern part of the county^[285]—an area which was relegated to the new RockinghamCo the next year—which begs the question: why would an 18 year old son of Daniel² Denniston of Beverley Manor, belong, in 1768, to a different neighborhood militia company than his father?

It is true that on 20Mar1770, Daniel² sold his land in Beverley Manor, and on 20Aug1771, purchased new land on Dry River (in future RockinghamCo), while on 18Aug1772, his son John³ purchased his own land adjacent to that of his father.^[286] If Robert were also a son of Daniel, and of nearly the same age as John³, why didn't he participate in this new family settlement, rather than take up land owned (coincidentally?) by John¹ Denniston, some 20 miles away? And when Daniel², and son John³, sold their land on Dry River, John to move south to Naked Creek, and Daniel², or at least his sons, to remove to KY, why didn't Robert go with them? Instead, Robert was settled in WashingtonCoVA, down in the SW VA panhandle, by 1787,^[287] and he apparently lived there for the rest of his life.^[288]

²⁸² **AugustaCoVA Court Martial Records** 45.

²⁸³ *Hening's Statutes*, 7:93, and continued at 8:37-38, 7:539.

²⁸⁴ Chalkley, 3:370, citing 9:294, where Mary Wood deeds to Joseph Rutherford, in 1760, 400a on Cub Run, a tributary of South River a couple of miles below Mill Creek.

²⁸⁵ "**Augusta County Tithables, 1777**", in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 39(Nov2001):281-282. Robert Shanklin, who owned the land adjacent to the Denniston's Stover's Mill Creek tract was also a member of this company.

²⁸⁶ The evidence referred to here is cited in the sketches for Daniel², and John³.

²⁸⁷ Netti Schreiner-Yantis & Florene Speakman Love, *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 3 volumes (SpringfieldVA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 959 (WashingtonCoVA). His tax information was gathered the day before that of in-law Michael Dougherty.

²⁸⁸ **Robert Denniston household, 1810 USCensus**, WashingtonCoVA, page 741 (19), image 53 → Males: 1(45+), 3(16-25), 2(10-15); Females: 1 (45+), 1(16-25), 3(10-15), 1(0-9). The adjacent household is headed by George Denniston aged 26-44—probably a son.

If Robert in fact inherited the land on Stover's Mill Creek from his father, John, sometime between Mar1773 and Aug1778, there ought to be probate records for a John Denniston in Augusta, or one of its early child counties, and there is, in fact, just such a probate record in BotetourtCo (created in 1770 from the southern part of Augusta): on 15Nov1775, administration on the estate of John Deniston was granted to John H. Henderson,^[289] and on 7May1776, the inventory was presented showing a personal property estate of £18/15/9 (about \$1500 in 2008 US\$), half of that in cash, and the rest consisting of a number of books, and some minor gentlemanly paraphernalia.^[290] Although the name and the time are right, this is all rather odd. What, one wonders, was father John doing in Botetourt—apparently at loose ends? Was he, perhaps, living with a child or in-law who had settled there (perhaps John H. Henderson), leaving his land in AugustaCo in the hands of his sons, Robert and James? It is also odd, that if this John Deniston who died in Botetourt was actually their father, that they did not come forward to claim, and administer, his estate.

I think, despite these anomalies, that John¹ Denniston had an eldest son Robert, and (probably) a second son, James, although the latter pretty much disappears from the records of northeastern Augusta/Rockingham Counties after selling the Stover's Creek land to Lewis Sircle. On 18Oct1814, though, one Abraham Deal filed a bond in RockinghamCo as guardian for Elizabeth Dennison, daughter of James,^[291] meanwhile, the other James—James³ (Daniel²)—had long since migrated to KY (he was there already in 1787), and he was still alive in 1825 when he was a co-plaintiff in a suit involving his deceased brother Daniel.

Dennis[t]ons of Western AugustaCo and Points SW

Besides Robert and James, there was a third John Dennis[t]on in the upper Valley, besides John² (Daniel²), and John¹, and this third John may have been a son of John¹. The first item which I think pertains to this other John is a record which documents his militia service in Dunmore's War, which culminated on 10Oct1774 at the Battle of Point Pleasant against Chief Cornstalk's Shawnees, in Ohio country. John Deniston is listed as a private in Captain John Lewis's Company of Botetourt County volunteers, and since the list is dated 10Sep1774, there is every reason to believe that Deniston actually participated in that famous and bitter battle on the threshold of the Revolutionary War.^[292] Later, on 14Apr1779, John Denniston was summoned to appear before the AugustaCo Court Martial to

²⁸⁹ BotetourtCoVA Court Minutes. These records are chronological, of course, but have only partial pagination.

²⁹⁰ BotetourtCoVA Probate A:66.

²⁹¹ Marguerite B Priode, *Abstracts of executor, administrator, and guardian bonds of Rockingham County, Virginia, 1778-1864* (Harrisonburg VA: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Soc, 1978), 46 ("Elizabeth Dennison (Dunson), daug. of James").

²⁹² *Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774*, Reuben Gold Thwaites, editor(s) (Madison WI: Wisconsin Hist Soc, 1905), 408. Both the list itself, and an overlapping undated list, were transcribed from an original contemporary document in the Draper Collection, now at the Wisconsin Historical Society. This and other lists possibly relevant to the battle are found online at <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~varockbr/pntplsnt.htm#Veneable%20List%20of%20Wounded%20at%20Point%20Pleasant%20under>.

account for his absence at the general muster of the 4th instant; he was listed among Capt. [Samuel] Vance's delinquents.^[293]

I also find a list of AugustaCo tithables dated 1777 which includes John Dunnason, Rob[er]t Denniston, and Ja[me]s Denniston, the first by himself on the first page, and other two listed together, *verso*; each is charged with one tithable (himself),^[294] which is to say that none headed a household containing any other white males aged 16 or over. The compiler of this list was Daniel Smith, who also headed a company of Fincastle militia ostensibly present at the Battle of Point Pleasant; Fincastle was a short-lived (8Apr1772-31Dec1777) county created from western Botetourt and WashingtonCos. The fact that Robert and James are listed adjacent to each other, but separately from John, and that their name is spelled differently, may, in this instance mean that John is of a different family, but I think this record is consistent, at least, with my supposition that Robert and James were sons of the John¹ who died in Botetourt.

About 1781, one John Denston joined others in petitioning for a road from Levi Moore's on Nap Creek, up Back Creek to the head of the South Branch of the Potomac, and on 22May1782, Moore, George Hole, and John Deniston were deputed to mark the proposed road.^[295] This area was in the western part of AugustaCo—the part which is now HighlandCo—though Back Creek runs south into GreenbrierCo (created in 1778 from western Botetourt). Beginning in 1784, when he was on the “new patents” list, and running at least through 1790, we find John Denison on the land tax list for AugustaCo for two parcels, one of 205a, and one of 400a.^[296] I find 1783 patents corresponding to these taxed parcels—one of 400a registered to John Denison, and one of 205a registered to Thomas Denison—dated a week apart. Both parcels were on the “Valley Branch” of Back Creek, adjacent to land of Thomas Lewis, and with boundary points on “high” and “steep hills”.^[297] Back Creek is far to the west of the more settled parts of Augusta and Rockingham, several river valleys over in fact—a good 40 miles deep into the Appalachians—and there is no way to identify this John Deniston of Back Creek with John³ (Daniel²) of Naked Creek. Nor, of course, can this western John be identified with the John Denniston who died in Botetourt about 1775, although this western John may have been his son. The Thomas Denison in whose name the smaller parcel was registered was probably John's minor son; this is suggested both by the fact that John was the one taxed for it, and because it was just half the size of the putative father's parcel.

Contemporary with these land and tax records, in 1785, on the first page of the first AugustaCo marriage book are marriage records for female Dennis[t]ons who may have been sisters of western John, and/or of Robert and James who appear on the same 1777 tax list with him. These marriage

²⁹³ AugustaCoVA Court Martial Records 122-123. I have ascribed this record to John² (John¹) rather than John³ (Daniel²) because Capt. Vance's company covered the area of western Augusta, while John³ (Daniel²) was a resident landowner in populous, settled, RockinghamCo which seems to have had its own well-organized militia system from the beginning, and probably had its own courts martial too.

²⁹⁴ “Augusta County Tithables, 1777”, 44(Nov2006):308-309.

²⁹⁵ Chalkley, 1:446-7, citing a loose undated paper (the petition), and 1:226, citing Augusta OB17:385 (the road order).

²⁹⁶ Ruth & Sam Sparacio, *Augusta County, Virginia, Land Tax Books, 1782-1790*, 2 volumes (McClellanVA: The Antient Press, 1997), 1:30 (1784, “new patents”), 1:42 (1787), 1:74 (1788), 2:18 (1789), and 2:63 (1790). In 1787 Deniston was on Charles Cameron's list and in the other years on Samuel Vance's.

²⁹⁷ There were at least two Back Creeks in greater Augusta. The one in Beverley Manor does not feature high hills, and in any case, is all one patent, issued to William Beverley. The other Back Creek defines one of the succession of NE-SW Appalachian river valleys, the easternmost of which is the Calfpasture. These valleys are narrow and bounded by steep hills on both sides of the watercourse, and Thomas Lewis did own land in the area, as well as in many other places.

were performed by the Rev. Samuel Shannon, who was pastor at the time of Windy Cove Church, which is located two valleys to the west of the main valley of Augusta, near the Cowpasture River, and within a half day's journey of Back Creek, further west. Both marriages took place on the same day, 4Jul1785, suggesting that the two brides were sisters: Sarah Dinnison was married to James Davison, and Keterenah Dinasons was married to Thomas Tachet;^[298] the German phoneticized spelling of the latter name probably came from the bridegroom Thomas Tachet, whom I take to be of German extraction.

What became of these western Dennis[t]ons I do not know (I haven't made the trek to HighlandCo to see if there are grantor deeds to their Back Creek land, or perhaps other county records) but I suspect that they, or some of them, may have migrated further southwest to WashingtonCoVA. In 1784, Jno. Denniston, appears on Valentine White's AugustaCo tax delinquents list, supposed to have gone to Carolina, and in 1786 he was reported delinquent by AugustaCo Sheriff Thomas Hughart—only Hughart thought he had removed to “French Broad”^[299]—the northeasternmost projection of Tennessee, adjacent to the SW VA panhandle. The latter guess seems to have been most nearly right because in 1787 no Dennis[t]ons are found on the personal property tax list for western Augusta (Charles Cameron, commissioner), but a John Dennison does appear on the same WashingtonCoVA tax list as Robert Dinnison, although (given the date his information was gathered) he was not such a close neighbor to Robert as Robert's in-law, Michael Dougherty.^[300] If this WashingtonCo John Dennison is the same man who owned land in western Augusta, there is a period of overlap from at least 1787-1790 when he appears in the tax records of both places: this needs to be explained.

At any rate, both the John and the Robert Dennis[t]on who settled in WashingtonCo, evidently remained there for the rest of their lives: John Dennison made his will in WashingtonCoVA in 1807,^[301] and in the 1810 USCensus there are households headed by Robert Denniston (age 45+),^[302] and Margaret Denniston (age 45+), while in 1820 there was only a Peggy Denniston (45+), who may have been the widow of either Robert or John since both seem to have had wives named Margaret,^[303] though most likely she was the widow of John, who died sometime that year in WytheCo, where her will was probated on 12Sep1820.^[304] This Margaret Deniston, the widow of John, referred in her will to a nephew, “m brother Robert Deniston's son”, meaning, presumably, her husband, John's brother, Robert, who had lately died himself, though it appears that he did not leave probate records in WashingtonCo.

²⁹⁸ **AugustaCoVA Marriages** 1:1.

²⁹⁹ Chalkley, 2:424 (1784), and 425 (1786). Both items are from the “[Tax] Delinquents” section of this volume of Chalkley's abstracts.

³⁰⁰ *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 130 (AugustaCo), and 989 (WashingtonCo).

³⁰¹ Wesley E. Pippinger, *Index to Virginia Estates, 1800-1865* (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 2001), citing WashingtonCo Probate 3:33.

³⁰² Robert Denniston household, 1810 USCensus → Males: 1(45+), 3(16-25), 2(10-15); Females: 1 (45+), 1(16-25), 3(10-15), 1(0-9). The adjacent household is headed by George Denniston aged 26-44—probably a son.

³⁰³ There are also several other probably related WashingtonCo Dennis[t]on households besides Peggy's, as well as others in adjacent WytheCo. In fact in 1815, Margaret Dennison was on the tax list in WytheCo for land she inherited “by will”—presumably the 1807 will of her husband John. I omit citations for these records, because I make no pretense of having researched this line of Dennisons with any thoroughness. I'm sure there is much more to be discovered about them in the records of these western and southwestern VA counties.

³⁰⁴ Mary B. Kegley, *Abstracts of Wills of Wythe County: Will Books 1 and 2; Deed Book 1A; Wills Found in Chancery Suits* (WythevilleVA: The Wythe County Genealogical and Hist. Assoc., 2004), 25 citing WytheCoVA Wills 2:328-329.

James Denniston, the Bad Servant

There is one more Dennis[t]on in the early records who needs to be mentioned, although I doubt that he is connected with any of the other Dennis[t]on families. He is yet another James Denniston—there being already James² (John¹), and James³ (Daniel²)—for whom there are four entries in the Augusta order books showing the man to be a bad (indentured) servant and a miscreant. In 1762 this James Den[n]iston appears as a servant of John Christian, Gent., in connection with a court case,^[305] and in 1769, and again in 1780, James Denniston is sentenced to 39 lashes for stealing.^[306] Then he disappears from the records. I think we may dismiss him equally from our consideration, with a “Good Riddance!” thrown in.

³⁰⁵ Chalkley, 1:99 citing Augusta Count OrderBook 7:298, and 1:102 citing OB7:395. No details are provided in this bare abstract of names, but a large proportion of cases involving indentured servants were suits by master against servant, and given this Denniston’s subsequent history, we can make a pretty good guess what for. Still, it would be interesting to know for sure.

³⁰⁶ Chalkley, 1:159 citing OB14:61 (1769), and 1:215 citing OB17:263.

APPENDIX B: The Douglas Connection

According to RD, two, and quite likely three, of Daniel²'s children married children of James & Hannah (Huston) Douglas: David Dennison is supposed to have married Mary Ann Douglas, and Thomas Dennison, Jane Douglas. And we know from the FayetteCoKY court case, *Heirs of Daniel Dennison* (discussed above), that David and Thomas had a sister Elizabeth who married a Douglas (RD says his given name was Andrew). It appears that RD's principal source for these claims is a DAR application abstract—one which commands some respect because, with its many specific birth dates, it appears to be based partly on a James Douglas bible or other family record.^[307] It will be noted that this source says that Mary Ann Douglas married *James* Dennison, not David. I dismiss this as an error, partly because it was David, and not James, who named his fourth son Huston Dennison, presumably for his wife's mother, Hannah (Huston) Douglas. Since RD cites no evidence that Elizabeth Dennison married an *Andrew* Douglas, I suppose he guessed at the name by filling in the blank for the wife's surname in the DAR application for "Andrew [Douglas], m. Elizabeth —?—". Let us see if we can strengthen the evidence for this triune interfamilial connection.

To begin with, there is a better source for the marriage of Thomas Dennison to Jane Douglas, and since it is a marriage record of BourbonCoKY where the family of Daniel² is known to have settled, it is a convincing source.^[308] As for the putative marriage of David Dennison & Mary Ann Douglas, no marriage record has been found in BourbonCo or anywhere else, but fortunately, RD has found an 1807 deed in AdairCoKY (created from GreenCo in 1801) in which David & *Mary Ann* sold some of their (erstwhile) GreenCo land,^[309] matching the name "Mary Ann" in the DAR application. Even better, RD claims to have found a probate record appointing David's widow, Mary Ann, Thomas Denison Sr., and David Douglas, administrators of his estate^[310]. If people of these exact names were really appointed as David's administrators, we have here a link not only to Mary Ann, and to David's brother Thomas Dennison, but also (probably) to his putative brother-in-law, David Douglas. This evidence makes it probable that two Dennison brothers indeed married two Douglas sisters, while it increases the likelihood that their sister, Elizabeth, married Andrew Douglas of the same family.

However, if I am right in my reconstruction of Daniel²'s family, and Elizabeth was born say 1757, she probably married her Douglas long before her brothers David and Thomas married theirs. Indeed, Elizabeth figures to have married back in VA, so one would like to find some sort of

³⁰⁷ *A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution: Commemoration of the United States of America Bicentennial, July 4, 1976*, 2 volumes (EvansvilleIN: Unigraphic, 1976; Ancestry.com), 1:179 ("James Douglas" entry). Because of the special importance of this source, I here transcribe it in full (date and place formats, and surname capitalizations, are mine):

DOUGLAS, JAMES b.27Aug1740, prob. Scotland, d.1814 MadisonCoOH, m.1765, Virginia or Scotland, Hannah HUSTON b.15Feb1747, d.Oct1814. Seaman in VA State Navy 1776-1779. Served in brig "Liberty". Granted 1000a in MontgomeryCoKY (Grant 12, p258, #1259). CHILDREN: Margaret b.2Jun1766, m.William CREATH; Mary Ann b.25Aug1767, m.James DENNISON; Hugh b.9Mar1769; Jane b.1771, m. Maj. Thomas DENNISON; "Alexander.. last heard from in Scotland; John b.22Oct1774, lived in KY; James b.22Jan1777, m. Mary CARR; David b.11Feb1779, m. Sarah MATHEWS; George, m. Sabina WILSON; Andrew, m. Elizabeth —?—; Nathaniel; Elizabeth b.9Mar1787, m1. Robert ALKIN, M2 George NEFF. DESCENDANT: Zelva Gill MOATS (Mrs. George ELI), #310424.

³⁰⁸ Bob Francis, "Marriages, Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1786-1800", 15Jan2000 (USGenWeb FTP Archive), "Dennison, Thomas/Douglas, Jane March 1, 1792".

³⁰⁹ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, citing AdairCoKY Deeds B:47-49.

³¹⁰ RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., citing [MadisonCoOH?] "Estate Packet C# Aa 1043".

association between these families before their removal to KY, which for the Dennis[t]on family occurred about 1787.

RD has come up with one such association, locating David Deniston near his putative father-in-law James Douglass in MontgomeryCoVA in 1790, with both men relocating to BourbonCoKY in the same year, but in following up on this, I have found the evidence to be highly equivocal, and begging further investigation. To begin with, there must be a strong suspicion that any Dennis[t]ons found in SW VA were descendants of the John¹ Dennison, who, like Daniel¹, was an early settler of AugustaCo. I have presented such evidence as there is regarding John¹ and his probable sons above, in **Appendix A**, above. But even if one or two sons of Daniel¹ also spent some time in the Virginia panhandle, they might have been neighbors of a James Douglas without there being any family connection. After all, James Douglas is quite a common name. There were, for example, 8 such in VA in the 1810 USCensus, not counting the one in MontgomeryCo in 1790, whom, the records show, continued to reside in that area until 1804, when he made his will and died. But let us look at the specific evidence, in chronological order.

As RD notes, a David Deniston indeed appears on the same 1790 MontgomeryCoVA tax list with James Douglass,^[311] and we are told further that both men also signed a BourbonCoKY petition in Oct of the same year.^[312] And a David Dennison does appear on the BourbonCoKY tax list in 1790, and again in 1793, while James Douglass makes the list for the years 1791-1793.^[313] Although unlikely, it is not impossible, that David should have appeared on two such widely separated VA tax lists in the same year (BourbonCo was still part of VA in 1790, becoming part of KY when that state was created in 1792). Both lists were supposed to be compiled starting 10Mar of the year,^[314] but if David removed about that time from MontgomeryCo in SW VA to BourbonCo, and if the BourbonCo tax commissioner was especially dilatory that year, it could have happened that way.

However, according to a generic annotation by the compiler of the 1790 MontgomeryCoVA tax records, both David Deniston and James Douglass (one of the two James Douglasses, anyway) appeared not only on the 1790 list, but also on the 1793 list for WytheCoVA,^[315] the new county created in 1790 from Montgomery, taking with it the area where their land was located. And several subsequent records are found for both men, first in WytheCo, then in the new county of Tazewell,

³¹¹ Netti Schreiner-Yantis, *Montgomery County, Virginia, Circa 1790* (SpringfieldVA: privately printed, 1972), 4. David Deniston, and two Ja[me]s Douglasses, Senior and Junior, appear on the same tax list, and in the same general neighborhood (their tax information was collected within the same week)—David at the head of the south fork of Reed Creek “on the waters” of the middle fork of the Holston River, and the James Douglasses astride Cripple Creek a mile or three south of Reed Creek. This area was part of MontgomeryCo early in 1790, but was relegated to newly-created Wythe Co later that same year.

³¹² RD, *Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky*. . . ., 50, “Petition 2277 to the VA Assembly”, but not telling us where this document is to be found.

³¹³ *Bourbon County, Kentucky, Taxpayers, 1787-1799* (MiamiBeachFL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1992), 22 (David Dennison in 1790), 34 (James Douglass in 1791).

³¹⁴ *Hening’s Statutes*, 12:247.

³¹⁵ Schreiner-Yantis, *MontgomeryCoVA, 1790*, 4, as above. Tithables who also appeared on the 1793 WytheCo list are flagged with an asterisk meaning that David Deniston and the Douglasses were also on the MontgomeryCo list as early as 1788, though only the two Douglasses appear there in 1787. That David first appears in 1788 is reasonable considering that his father sold his AugustaCo land early in 1787.

created from Wythe in 1800.^[316] Specifically, in 1797, when Dennison and Douglas were both supposed to be in KY, there are WytheCo deeds for both men: Douglas, selling 240a of his Cripple Creek land to George Douglas (probably a son), and David Denniston purchasing 226a on Pine Run, a branch of New River,^[317] on the opposite side of Wythe County, along its eastern border. Moreover, there are entries for both men in the WytheCo order books: for example, in 1798, David was compensated for journeying 45 miles to the county courthouse to be a witness, and on 10Jul1804, the will of James Douglass was proved.^[318]

Meanwhile, a David Dennison is found after 1800 in both the land and tax records of TazewellCo (created in 1800 from Wythe) where he is plaintiff to an 1805 law suit,^[319] and where in 1809 he patented 150a of land on the waters of the Clinch River,^[320] about 18 miles N of Reed Creek. David Dennison was still a resident and a taxpayer in 1814 and 1815, on the books of Tazewell for the New River tract and another on Wolf Creek, which may have been the same land he patented in 1809, as there is an area near the present seat of Tazewell near the head of the “clear fork” of Wolf Creek, where the waters of the Clinch peter out.^[321]

The 1790 MontgomeryCo tax records also show a James Douglass, Jr., who was tithable to James, Sr. Probably James Junior was a son, and the James Douglass who appears on the tax rolls of BourbonCoKY from 1791-1793 might well be James Junior, while the old man remained in place and died in WytheCo about 1804, after making his will. Be that as it may, the records for David in VA substantially overlap with those for David in KY, and bespeak two David Dennis[t]ons, since the same man cannot have lived in SW Virginia, and north central Kentucky at the same time.^[322] The David who appeared on the 1793 WytheCoVA tax list, and who was presumably the same David who purchased land in eastern WytheCo in 1797 about 15 miles E of David, the neighbor of the Douglasses in western Wythe may have been that same neighbor, or he may have been a son of one of the other Dennisons who settled in SW Virginia—the brothers John and Robert (as I think) whose roots also lay in Augusta, while the David who appears first in BourbonCoKY was presumably David, the son of Daniel², and was also quite likely the one who was son-in-law to the MontgomeryCo James

³¹⁶ The area around the head of the south fork of Reed Creek, where Deniston’s land lay, and much of nearby Cripple Creek, where James Douglas’s land was located, can both be found on modern topo maps along the western border of present-day WytheCo.

³¹⁷ Kegley, *Abstracts of Wills of Wythe County*, citing WythVA Deeds2:68 (David’s deed), and 14, citing Deeds 2:126 (James Douglas’s deed).

³¹⁸ Mary B. Kegley, *Abstracts of Court Orders of Wythe County, Virginia*, 4 volumes (WythevilleVA: Kegley Books, 1996-1999), Citing WytheCo Orders 1:39 (David as witness), and 1:115 (James Douglas’s will).

³¹⁹ Netti Schreiner-Yantis, *Archives of the Pioneers of Tazewell County, Virginia* (SpringfieldVA: privately printed, 1973), 34, et seq.

³²⁰ VA Patents 59:69. This land, patented on 1Aug1809 based on an 1804 treasury warrant is said to be south of Sink Ridge, which I cannot find on modern maps.

³²¹ *Archives of the Pioneers of Tazewell County*, 170, in an abstract of the 1814 county tax list, explicitly calls David a resident of the county and locates his land 30 miles E of the Tazewell courthouse; Roger G. Ward, *1815 Directory of Virginia Landowners (and Gazetteer)*, 6 volumes (AthensGA: Iberian Publishing Co, 1997-2000), 5:194, gives two locations for David’s land: about 30 miles E, and also 6 miles NE of the Tazewell courthouse. The former location coincides with the New River land which David purchased in 1797, and the latter with an area where the South Fork of the Clinch peters out, near the head of the Clear Fork of Wolf Creek.

³²² There were a few people who came back to VA from KY, and more than a few who kept their VA land even when they had removed permanently to KY, and one cannot entirely rule out the hypothesis of a single David who divided his time and his property between these two widely separated places, but I think the evidence summarized above shows how extremely unlikely this is.

Douglas Sr. It would probably help to know the disposition of the latter David's land at the head of the south fork of Reed Creek, and indeed, there's a lot more research which could be done on these SWestern VA Dennis[t]ons, whom, the DNA evidence shows are close relatives of Daniel¹.^[323]

I began by noting that since it's likely that at least one of the three Dennison-Douglass marriages, Elizabeth's, was likely to have taken place in VA, and the "allied family" relationship to have evolved there, that it would be nice to find some association between families of those names back in Rockingham or AugustaCos, where we know the KY Dennison family came from. And I have found just such an association, right in Chalkley, and in the VA Patents. On 11Nov1768, James & wife Hannah Douglass sold 355a in Augusta originally patented to Adam Stephenson in 1765,^[324] and Stephenson's patent describes this land as lying "on the west side of Dry River",^[325] in the same neighborhood as the land of Daniel² Denniston, the father of David, Thomas, and Elizabeth, who all putatively married Douglas children. And at the other end of the trail, we find other scions of this same Douglas family (viz. Hugh and Nathaniel, as well as James, all named in the DAR family sketch) in the same KY counties as Dennison brothers David, James, and Thomas.^[326]

Multiple marriages between the same two families were very common among the Scotch-Irish frontiersmen, as were intermarriages between neighboring families, as well as a penchant for such "allied families" to migrate together—and this migration from AugustaCoVA to BourbonCoKY, perhaps by way of far SWestern Virginia, is probably a case in point.

³²³ One possible connection between these two Dennis[t]on families is suggested by the recurrence of the name Gillaspy—a somewhat eccentric spelling of the quite common AugustaCo surname, Gillespie. As has been shown, Daniel¹'s daughter Ann, married one Patrick Gillaspy, who died, apparently, in FrederickCoVA, to the N of AugustaCo. An abstract of the will of Margaret Dennison, the widow of the John Dennison of WashingtonCo, whom I think was a son of the John Denniston of Stover's Mill Creek in northern Augusta (later RockinghamCo), was proven by one Robert Gillaspy, and the name of Margaret's husband, John Denniston, appears on a 1795 WytheCo petition, separated by just one other name from James Gillaspy. These Gillaspy's could be just neighbors who came from anywhere—or they might have constituted a Dennis[t]on allied family connection involving two branches of the same Dennis[t]on family which goes way back to pre-Augustan days.

³²⁴ Chalkley, 3:477, citing AugustaCo Deeds 15:268.

³²⁵ VA Patents 36:732.

³²⁶ *BourbonCoKY Taxpayers*, Hugh, James, and Nathaniel Douglass appear on the BourbonCo list for 1791-1793, and are all gone from the county by 1795; *The 1795 Census of Kentucky* (MiamiBeachFL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991), Hugh Douglas is in GreenCo in 1795, and Nathaniel in adjacent WashingtonCoKY; G. Glenn Clift, *"Second Census" of Kentucky, 1800* (1954; reprint GPC, 1993), Hugh and Nathaniel Douglas, as well as David Dennison are in GreenCoKY in 1800.

APPENDIX C: The DNA Evidence Linking Many of the SW Virginia DENNISONs

The DENNISONs of the Virginia panhandle (discussed in **Appendix A**, above) and their descendants have been fairly extensively, but by no means exhaustively, researched. One thing which needs to be done, for example, is to make a thorough compilation of DENNISONs in the tax records of all the SW Virginia counties, and particularly those of the Virginia panhandle. However, I believe that a strong circumstantial case can be made for the proposition that the Rob[er]t Denniston of WashingtonCoVA in the 1810 USCensus, was the same Robert who earlier owned land on Stover's Mill Creek in AugustaCo, and that this Robert was the son of John¹, the early immigrant to AugustaCo, who first filed for the patent on that land (which I have plotted).

We have now accumulated in the [DENNISON DNA Project](#) at FTDNA sufficient evidence to show that most of the southwest Virginia DENNISONs discussed in this report (and their descendants) are related by blood—that is, that they belong to the same [genealogical patrilineage](#). More specifically, they belong to to [DENNISON Patrilineage1](#). In fact, this testing of the (male) yChromosomes of descendants surnamed DENNISON indicates that the immigrants Daniel¹ and the John¹ whose career and descendency I have sketched above were closely related, sharing, probably, a DENNISON grandfather, great-grandfather, or great-great-grandfather.

The mutation that is characteristic of this line of southwest Virginia DENNISONs is DYS439=14, which appears in the [haplotype chart](#) against a lime green background. The project members sharing this mutation are D-05, D-01, D-07, and D-04. From the genealogical evidence, D-05 is a known descendant of Daniel¹, and D-01 and D-07 are probable descendants of John¹ through his putative son Robert², and *his* putative son, Scott³. Since these three share the DYS439=14 mutation, it is therefore overwhelmingly probable that they had a common ancestor not too many generations back who picked up this mutation as his father's DNA was mistranscribed. While it is possible that this mutation occurred independently in these two lines of DENNISONs, the odds that Daniel¹ inherited his mutation, while the one affecting John¹'s descendants, occurred independently, perhaps downstream of John, are more than 25-1 against.

Project member D-04 also shares the DYS439=14 mutation, and so probably descends from either Daniel¹ or John¹ (but much more likely John¹) and his ancestry, though it cannot at present be connected to either of these lines, points clearly in the same direction. His earliest known ancestor was a James DENNISON born in TN about 1812, and his grandfather was born in Bristol, in the Virginia panhandle not far from where Robert² and his brother John settled. In light of the genealogical evidence, it is very unlikely that any of these VA panhandle DENNISONs descended from Daniel¹, whose only known son, Daniel², and all of the latter's sons, have been researched exhaustively, and have been tracked, almost from year to year, in either Virginia, or into Kentucky, where most of them ended up.

The yDNA tests show that Daniel¹ and John¹ were rather closely related, though they cannot tell us just how closely. That these men, bearing a common surname, arrived in the same obscure and remote corner of the world at about the same time is by itself pretty strong circumstantial evidence that they were related, although it is highly unlikely that they were father and son, or even uncle and nephew, for many reasons. For one, Daniel did not name a son John in his will, and for another, they did not arrive at the same time or settle particularly near each other, nor is there any trace of an association between them or their descendants in the records. Also, the haplotypes of their descendants have a bit too much Genetic Distance to make it likely that they were that close. My guess is that

they were about 2nd or 3rd cousins (and known to be so) who came from the same area— though the connection may have been somewhat more remote than that.

There are two other members of this DNA-tested patrilineage whose genealogy strongly suggests that they belong to the same DENNISON line as D-05, D-01, D-07, and D-04.

The first, D-02, has a particularly strong “paper trail” leading back to an ancestor in common with D-01 just 4 generations ago. Yet not only does D-02 lack the DYS439 mutation characteristic of this branch of the family: his DNA also has a genetic distance of 6 from that of D-01. This pushes the most probable lifetime of their common ancestor back to 20 generations rather than 4. Interestingly, D-02 shares a common mutation, DYS570=18, with D-04, who does have the DYS439=14 mutation. However, DYS570 is one of the fastest mutating markers, and this correspondence with D-02 is probably due to an independent mutation of 570. Bottom line: there is only the remotest of possibilities (perhaps one chance in 100) that D-02's paper trail evidence is correct at every point.

Another, even more intriguing case is that of project member D-06, whose haplotype is identical to that of member D-05, the known descendant of Daniel¹, *except* for the mutation DYS439=14, which the former lacks. D-05 and D-06 even share a mutation (DYS576=17) not shared by D-05's DYS439=14 relatives, and more importantly, D-06's earliest known ancestor can be traced back to Staunton, VA, the original (and still) county seat of AugustaCo, just a few miles from where Daniel¹ first took up his land, and not much farther from the land of John¹. However, D-06's ancestor has not been linked to the family of Daniel¹, despite the exhaustive research done on that line, and although there is much more work to be done on the line of John¹, if D-06 is descended from either of these ancestors, it is more likely to be Daniel¹, with whom he shares the mutation DYS576=17. Still, DYS576 is the fastest mutating marker after the CDYs, so it is entirely possible that both D-06 and D-05 experienced this mutation in the last 6-10 generations since their most likely common ancestor.

There is, however, one other possibility, although considered by itself, it is a long shot: D-06 may indeed be descended from Daniel¹, or, perhaps more likely, from one of the near ancestors of Daniel¹ who bore the DYS439 mutation, but then this marker may have mutated back to its original state (the project norm of 13) by the time it made its way down to D-04. The probability of this, unfortunately, is only about .025 (2.5%), but given that the haplotypes of D-05 and D-06 are otherwise identical, yielding about a 75% chance that they have a common ancestor no farther back than Daniel¹'s grandfather (who probably was DYS439=14), and furthermore, the fact that D-05 and D-06 have DYS576=17 in common, for which there's only about a 5% chance that these mutations happened independently, I think that it's more likely than not that D-06's DYS439 indeed mutated back, and that D-06 is more closely related to Daniel¹'s descendant, than the latter is to any other project member—just as the haplotypes taken as a whole, suggest.

One would like to be able to assert instead, that D-06 was probably also descended from Daniel¹, but the probability of this, as calculated by the FTDNA Tip calculator is just 50%—a tossup. Unfortunately, at present, yDNA testing simply lacks the precision to support such specific conclusions. In the end the case must rest on the genealogical, paper trail, evidence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- (1) ABBREVIATED SOURCES
- (2) PERSONS AS SOURCES
- (3) SURNAME-FOCUSED SOURCES
- (4) PLACE-FOCUSED SOURCES
- (5) GENERAL SOURCES (covering several surnames and places)

Sources listed first, as ABBREVIATED SOURCES, are those of particular importance, hence most frequently cited, or they are well known genealogical journals or archives which I have simply found convenient to abbreviate. These are sorted alphabetically on abbreviation.

Otherwise, all but PLACE-FOCUSED SOURCES are sorted alphabetically into standard bibliographic order: on author (if there is one), or on title (if there isn't), then on date.

PLACE-FOCUSED SOURCES contain records tied to a particular place, and are first sorted alphabetically in a hierarchy of jurisdictions: by country, then within that by state or province, and within that by counties or cities (mixed together). Within the lowest jurisdictional level sources are further sorted alphabetically by records types: baptisms, cemetery records, court, deeds, land records (other than deeds), marriage, military-related records (including benefit records), probate records, and tax records. Within records types, official records sort before transcriptions/abstracts of the same records. And within jurisdictions, sources which are general in nature (like local histories) and not collections of certain records types sort after all the records collections.

While this structure may seem overelaborate, and while it certainly complicates finding an item in the bibliography, it has the great virtue of sorting all the records of one type and place together, thus providing an instant overview of all the related sources which have been used in compiling the report. As new sources are discovered or made available, it then becomes possible to review the bibliography to ensure that they have been considered for the ongoing research project which every family history enterprise represents.

ABBREVIATED SOURCES

MVG *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy.*

RD See T. Randle Dennison and Rachel E. Dennison, *Scotch-Irish Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky and Points West* in SURNAME-SOURCES, below.

RKYHS *The Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, 1903-1946*
The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, 1947-present.

VMHB *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.*

PERSONS AS SOURCES

Alan J. Denison.

Alan J. Denison (AJD) is the sponsor of my research on his Dennison and Dunlap ancestors, and in small part, on the Gays. I have considered his own research compilations on these families in the preparation of my reports, and he is also the source, and the repository, of the invaluable Denison family records and other private family papers. He maintains an ongoing research interest in his Dunlap, Gay, and Denison ancestors, and can be reached at camanoalan@yahoo.com.

SURNAME-FOCUSED SOURCES

Alexander D. Denison Family Record, [1840-1856], in the AJD Collection, 150 Vista Del Mar St, Camano Island, WA 98282-7254, (360)387-8442, camanoalan@yahoo.com.

This family record, according to its owner, AJD, has the same provenance as the family record of Alexander's father, William. Although it bears no title, and seems to be just a scrap of paper, quite likely it was created in much the same way, and for the same reasons as the earlier paper.

The entries of the record are in two hands. The first, which is distinguished by several eccentricities (the gratuitous name punctuation, the lowercase months), is that of the father of the family, Alexander D. Denison, as is shown by the match to the signature on his original will, in the possession of AJD (I have confirmed the match myself).

The entries themselves read: "Alexander. D. Denison was born august 5th 1807. / Mary. Ann. Denison was born december 3th 1811. / John. Denison. was born february 11th 1835. / Martha. A. Denison. was born june. 30th 1836. / Margaret. Denison. was born February 4th 1838. / Sarah. Denison. was born february 25th 1840. /*[the preceding entries were all recorded in one batch; the next two were entered later]* Elisabeth Denison was born august 4th 1842 / Catharine Denison was born January 19th 1845 / *[and here the hand and the conventions change dramatically]* Mary Ann Denison born October 26 1847 / William Dunlap Denison Born March 20 1850 / Howard Denison b[orn] March 20, 1856".

John Denison, "**Record of William Denison Family**", 10Apr1848, in the AJD Collection, 150 Vista Del Mar St, Camano Island, WA 98282-7254, (360)387-8442, camanoalan@yahoo.com.

This family record, according to its owner, AJD, was passed down in the family through his great-grandfather, William Dunlap Denison, the son of Alexander D, and the nephew of its author, John Denison. Since another version of this list, in the same hand, has been recovered from the descendants of John's sister, Elisabeth, it is likely that a set of such transcriptions were made for all the children from the William & Margaret (Dunlap) Denison family bible record. Including William Dunlap Denison, AJD's great-grandfather, three generations of Denisons lived on the same farm in Illinois, and his father apparently preserved certain family papers when he sold the farm in 1970, and his son Alan, was able to recover them from his step-mother's estate.

All the entries of the record are in the same hand as its title on the reverse, which reads in full: "John Denisons Record of William Denison family April 10th 1848", and it's also annotated with a place which I can only partially make out: "Ni** Ill". Oddly, there is also, on this reverse side, the beginning of a *later*-dated note by the same author to an unnamed cousin—as though he had no particular intention of keeping this family record.

The entries of the record read: “William Denison born July 15th 1767 *with the long tail* 15th looks like 19th, but William’s gravestone and the year date for Daniel, following, provides the corrective; Margaret Denison born May 20th 1770; Robert Denison born January 13th 1794; Daniel Denison born October 11th 1795; Elisabeth Denison born January 14th 1797; John Denison born October 19th 1798; Polly G. Denison born September 12th 1800; Catharine Denison born August 16th 1802; William Denison born July 18th 1805 *here* 1805 looks like 1804, but the gravestone corrects; Alexander D. Denison born August 3th [sic] 1807; George M. Denison born August 5th 1809”.

(RD) T. Randle Dennison and Rachel E. Dennison, *Scotch-Irish Dennisons of Virginia, Kentucky and Points West* (privately printed, 2002).

The authors of this book have done an exceptionally thorough job of research, and they have interpreted their findings intelligently. They have also provided extensive, though not exhaustive, embedded citations to their sources, most of which are listed in an lengthy bibliography. In style, the Dennisons have aimed for, and achieved, an admirable compactness, although at the expense, quite often, of adequate discussion of the evidence, including their reasons for preferring their interpretation over other possible ones. Their book contains a prefatory note warning of the inclusion of material for which no sources were found, mostly material provided by others. It would help if such material were presented with appropriate qualifiers at the point of insertion, and citations, with characterizations, of the particular sources themselves, even when they are as informal as e-mails. As it is, there is no way to begin to estimate whether material presented without source citations (and there is much of this) deserves to be taken at all seriously, and this omission dilutes the overall very high quality of this published work.

The Dennison’s embedded citations make extensive use of source abbreviations, but this is mostly a virtue, not a vice, because the effect is to minimize their intrusiveness into the text. An extensive bibliography is provided, and a page defining abbreviations, even such as “ca” for “circa”, but on the other hand, source abbreviations are defined only generically, and do not really suffice for tying the text-embedded source citations to the bibliography.

PLACE-FOCUSED SOURCES
Illinois

LawrenceCoIL Probate.

Will of Alexander D. Denison, probate, and death certificate, 26Jun1871 (*filed* 17Jul1871), File#38 (Journal G, p96)

This will (which is the original, and bears testator's authentic signature), is accompanied by certificates of proof, and of Alexander's death, all filed together on the same date, 17Jul1871, and under the same file#s. A copy of the will may also be found at Will book B:189, according to the clerk's endorsement on the back of the filed original.

Denison Cemetery, in LawrenceCoIL, Reading by Allison Mushrush, Jun2007. Denison Cemetery is in LukinTwp, LawrenceCoIL (at Lat 38°38'52"N, Long 87°45'33"E).

Ms. Mushrush (at mushrush@sbcglobal.net) read and photographed all the stones of this cemetery, and posted abstracts and photos at [findagrave](#) (where she is "treesmoi").

It should be noted that no attempt has been made to show a layout of the cemetery, or the proximity of one stone to other possibly related ones. Although it is desirable to incorporate such information into a cemetery reading (topologically, at least), it may have less meaning in this case, because, apparently, many of the stones are broken, or down, and the cemetery correspondingly somewhat disorganized.

Indiana

A Roster of Revolutionary Ancestors of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution: Commemoration of the United States of America Bicentennial, July 4, 1976, 2 volumes (EvansvilleIN: Unigraphic, 1976), Ancestry.com, at www.ancestry.com/search.

Kentucky

Bob Francis, "Marriages, Bourbon County, Kentucky, 1786-1800", 15Jan2000, USGenWeb FTP Archive, downloaded from <http://usgwarchives.org/ky/bourbon/vitals/marriages/marriages.txt>.

This is a transcription of records originally published in RKYHS, themselves presumably a transcription from county records.

Bourbon County, Kentucky, Taxpayers, 1787-1799 (MiamiBeachFL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1992).

Only the names of the white male tithables over 21 are abstracted here. All the lists for this period are extant except the one for 1798, though how complete they are remains to be seen.

FayetteCoKY Court, at the FayetteCoKY Courthouse, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507.

FayetteCoKY Circuit Court Chancery Records, at the FayetteCoKY Courthouse, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507.

Heirs of Daniel Dennison, (15Feb1825-Feb1827), Box# 72, Packet# 642

This case was a petition by the heirs of Daniel³ Denniston (his siblings) to the Circuit Court of FayetteCoKY sitting in chancery, for permission to sell the deceased Daniel's real estate, in order to divide the proceeds equally between the heirs. Other evidence relevant to this case is found in the FayetteCo deeds, probate, and regular court order books. There are, altogether, quite a number of documents, even in this "Decided Cases" chancery packet, but unfortunately, all the ones I've seen are transcriptions by RD, who found this case in the FayetteCo records. I do have a photocopy of the final estate settlement from the probate records, though, and the material in this case corresponds to that.

FayetteCoKY Deeds, at the FayetteCoKY Courthouse, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507.

Karen King Scales, "**Marriages Performed by Rev. James Crawford, 1786-1795, Fayette Co., KY**", 16 Aug 2005 (revised), USGenWebFTP Archive, downloaded from <http://usgwarchives.org/ky/fayette/vitals/marr/c616-001.txt>.

The original source for this transcription was the papers of the Rev. Crawford in the John Dabney Shane Collection at the Presbyterian Historical Association in Philadelphia, Reel 28, Volume 5. The transcriber made a literal transcription from the manuscript.

FayetteCoKY Probate, at the FayetteCoKY Courthouse, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507.

FayetteCoKY Records, at the FayetteCoKY Courthouse, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington, KY 40507.

Most of the early records of FayetteCoVA (which became FayetteCoKY in 1792) were burned. The fragments remaining were transcribed into a series of books of mixed records (apparently sometime in the early 1800s), and a name index was prepared from the fragments. Since many of these scraps of paper can be only tenuously identified as to type, I believe that the index covers names which wouldn't ordinarily be included in conventional indexes of deeds and wills. Consequently, consulting the index is at least a crucial first step, and for most purposes there is little profit to scanning the records themselves page by page.

The LDS filming of these records (FHL films 8993-8996) WAs unfortunately overexposed, making them difficult to read; they were partially refilmed (2111005-2111007), probably for that reason. The index begins on p269 of FHL film 8996, Item 3. As for the transcriptions themselves, although organized into 8 separate volumes, each consists of mixed records, and covers roughly the same time span: 1780-1800.

G. Glenn Clift, *The "Corn Stalk" Militia of Kentucky, 1792-1811* (FrankfortKY: The KY Historical Society, 1957).

Charles B. Heinemann, *First Census of Kentucky* (1940; reprint GPC, 1956).

A reconstruction, from tax records of the period, of the lost 1790 USCensus for KY; each entry consists only of the name of the tithable, the county, and the date of the tax list.

The 1795 Census of Kentucky (MiamiBeachFL: T.L.C. Genealogy, 1991).

This compilation includes only the names and the counties; it is thus, essentially, an index to the extant tax records for the year.

G. Glenn Clift, *“Second Census” of Kentucky, 1800* (1954; reprint GPC, 1993).

A reconstruction, from tax records of the period, of the lost 1800 USCensus for KY; each entry consists only of the name of the tithable, the county, and the date of the tax list.

William Henry Perrin, *History of Bourbon, Scott, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Kentucky* (Chicago: O.L.Baskin, 1982),

at <http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/familylocalhistories/default.aspx?rt=33>.

Ohio

History of Madison County, Ohio, Containing: A History of the County; It's Townships, Towns, Churches, Schools, etc.; General and Local Statistics; Portraits of Early Settlers and Prominent Men; History of the Northwest Territory; History of Ohio; Miscellaneous Matters, etc. etc. (Chicago: W.H.Beers, 1883), Ancestry.com,

at <http://www.ancestry.com/search/rectype/familylocalhistories/default.aspx?rt=33>.

Virginia

Louis Bernard Hatke, *List of Baptisms by Rev. John Craig, Augusta County, Virginia*, (StauntonVA: privately printed, no date-author born 1930).

Apparently a more or less literal transcription of the original, showing the structure of Craig's date headings, and the original text of his occasional annotations. I note at least one error in the small portion I've compared with Wilson's alphabetized abstract. I have not seen the original of this source, which is said to repose at the Augusta Stone Church.

Howard McKnight Wilson, *Rev. John Craig's Baptisms, 1740-1749*, in *The Tinkling Spring, Headwater of Freedom: A Study of the Church and Her People, 1732-1952* (FishersvilleVA: Garrett & Massie, 1954), Appendix F (470-484) .

All of Craig's year dates antedate the calendar changeover, and none of them are doubled. Presumably they are all old-style dates. Wilson has unfortunately re-sorted Craig's original record alphabetically by father's name, so there is no way to be sure without consulting the original record—if that can be found.

AugustaCoVA Court Records, at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

Besides the usual deeds and probate series, the miscellaneous records of the AugustaCo Court consist primarily of a series of court order books, supplemented by a set of file folders organized chronologically by court session and containing loose papers pertaining to individual county court judgements—sometimes called “final causes”. These judgements are kept in the off-limits basement but are accessible to the public on request, provided you can provide the particulars by case and/or date. Be sure to specify that you want *county* court judgements (or “final causes”), and not the Staunton chancery court judgements, which have been organized into a separate set of file folders. The basement is also reportedly crammed with a mass of unorganized papers destined eventually for archival rescue under an ongoing LVA project for which funding and resources are only intermittently available.

AugustaCoVA Court Martial Records, at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

Although these records are available at the courthouse, I examined photocopies made from the originals as they appear on Library of VA film 111.

AugustaCoVA Deeds, at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

AugustaCoVA Marriages

“Record of Marriages Solemnized in the County of Augusta from the 15th Day of March, 1785”, at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

This is an archivally restored book of original pages of Augusta County’s first marriage book.

First Marriage Record of Augusta County, Virginia, 1785-1813 (StauntonVA: DAR, no date).

Second Marriage Record of Augusta County, Virginia, 1813-1850 (StauntonVA: DAR, 1978).

Joseph A. Waddell, “**Militia Companies in Augusta County, in 1742**”, in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 8(Jan1901):278-283.

AugustaCoVA Probate, at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

“**Augusta County Tithables, 1777**”, in *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* published in installments from 39(Aug2001)—44(Nov2006).

Ruth & Sam Sparacio, *Augusta County, Virginia, Land Tax Books, 1782-1790*, 2 volumes (McClellanVA: The Antient Press, 1997).

Netti Schreiner-Yantis & Florene Speakman Love, *The Personal Property Tax Lists for the Year 1787 for Augusta County, Virginia* (SpringfieldVA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), pages numbered 106-155 for consistency with *The 1787 Census of Virginia*.

AugustaCoVA Personal Property Tax, 1790

“A List of the Property Liable to Tax Taken in by Joseph Bell in the Second District of Augusta County of the First Battalion, for the Year 1790”, Binn’s Genealogy online at <http://freepages.misc.rootsweb.com/~vataxlists/Augusta/>.

AugustaCoVA Personal Property Tax, 1800

“A List of Property Liable to Tax in the Second District of Augusta County, for the Year 1800”, Binn’s Genealogy online at <http://www.binnsgenealogy.com/VirginiaTaxListCensuses/Augusta/>.

Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, Extracted from the Original Court Records of AugustaCo, 1745-1800*, 3 volumes (1912; reprint GPC, 1999).

C.E. May, *My Augusta: A Spot of Earth, Not a Woman* (BridgewaterVA: Good Printers, Inc., 1997).

Joseph A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871* (StauntonVA: C. Russell Caldwell, 1902).

BotetourtCoVA Court Minutes, at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

These records are chronological, of course, but have only partial pagination.

BotetourtCoVA Probate, at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

J. Estelle Stewart King, *Abstract of Wills, Inventories, and Administration Accounts of Frederick County, Virginia* (ScottsdaleAZ: privately printed, 1961).

Netti Schreiner-Yantis, *Montgomery County, Virginia, Circa 1790* (SpringfieldVA: privately printed, 1972).

OrangeCoVA Probate, at the OrangeCoVA Courthouse, Main & Madison, Orange, VA 22960.

RockbridgeCoVA County Court, at the RockbridgeCoVA Courthouse, 2 South Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450.

RockbridgeCoVA Deeds, at the RockbridgeCoVA Courthouse, 2 South Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450.

RockbridgeCoVA Probate, at the RockbridgeCoVA Courthouse, 2 South Main Street, Lexington, VA 24450.

RockinghamCoVA Minute Book, at the RockinghamCoVA Courthouse, Circuit Court Square, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Constance A. Levinson & Louise C. Levinson, *Rockingham County, Virginia, Minute Book [1778-1792]*, 3 volumes (HarrisonburgVA: Greystone Publishers, 1985-1987).

Chronological abstracts of the first RockinghamCoVA court minute books, from the county's official beginnings in Mar1778, thru 1792. These records, sketchy as they are, are of especial importance, not only because they are among the earliest records of the county, but also because most of the early deeds, probate, and other court records were burned in 1864, during the Civil War.

Although published serially in three volumes, differentially titled Parts I, II, and III, I have chosen to cite this work by its generic title, since my actual citations always include the specific chronological court date, as well as the unique vol#:page#s of the abstracts in the collected set.

RockinghamCoVA Deeds, at the RockinghamCoVA Courthouse, Circuit Court Square, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

John Vogt and T. William Kethley Jr., *Rockingham County Marriages, 1778-1850* (AthensGA: Iberian Publishing Co., 1984).

Marguerite B Priode, *Abstracts of executor, administrator, and guardian bonds of Rockingham County, Virginia, 1778-1864* (HarrisonburgVA: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Soc, 1978).

RockinghamCoVA Surveys, at the RockinghamCoVA Courthouse, Circuit Court Square, Harrisonburg, VA 22801.

Virginia Superior Court of Chancery at Staunton (Judgements), at the AugustaCoVA Courthouse, 6 East Johnson Street, Staunton, VA 24401.

Many of these old chancery cases have been collated, paper-pressed, and filed in folders in the basement, which are accessible by special request, provided the file# is known.

Netti Schreiner-Yantis, *Archives of the Pioneers of Tazewell County, Virginia* (SpringfieldVA: privately printed, 1973).

The abstracts in this work come from a wide variety of early TazewellCo records.

Mary B. Kegley, *Abstracts of Court Orders of Wythe County, Virginia*, 4 volumes (WythevilleVA: Kegley Books, 1996-1999).

Volume 1 covers the orders for the period 1790-1792, and 1795-1810, but most of the pre-1775 records are missing. Volume 2 covers 1811-1820; volume 3, 1821-1830; and volume 4, 1831-1840.

Mary B. Kegley, *Abstracts of Wills of Wythe County: Will Books 1 and 2; Deed Book 1A; Wills Found in Chancery Suits* (WythevilleVA: The Wythe County Genealogical and Historical Association, 2004).

The deeds abstracted here are not from the regular series of WytheCo deed books. Book 1A is described in the LDS FHL catalog as comprising deeds associated with law cases of the Superior Court of Law, which later evolved into a combined court of law and chancery.

VA Patents

Land Office Grants, online at Library of Virginia

at http://ajax.lva.lib.va.us/F/?func=file&file_name=find-b-clas30&local_base=CLAS30.

The Statutes at Large, Being a Collection of all the Laws of Virginia from the First Session of the Legislature in the Year 1619, 13 vols, William Waller Hening, editor(s) (RichmondVA: privately printed, 1823), online at <http://www.vagenweb.org/hening/>.

Wesley E. Pippinger, *Index to Virginia Estates, 1800-1865* (Richmond: Virginia Genealogical Society, 2001).

Netti Schreiner-Yantis & Florene Speakman Love, *The 1787 Census of Virginia*, 3 volumes (SpringfieldVA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987).

Roger G. Ward, *1815 Directory of Virginia Landowners (and Gazetteer)*, 6 volumes (AthensGA: Iberian Publishing Co, 1997-2000).

For the tax year 1814, the State Assembly mandated that the county tax commissioners note the approximate geographic location of each taxable landholding, and for 1815, to state the distance and direction of each landholding to the county courthouse. Ward's valuable work abstracts the names of the taxable landowners for each county, as well as the geographic identifiers (usually the names of nearby watercourses), as well as the distance and direction information; however the number of acres of each parcel is unfortunately omitted.

The six volumes, which were published serially from 1997-2000, gather the sets of county abstracts by region, and each volume has a unique title incorporating the volume# and region name; however, I have chosen to cite this multi-volume work by its generic title, since my actual citations include the specific county, and the unique vol#:page# the abstract is to be found on the collected work.

United States (as a whole)

U.S. Census Citations

The source notes for each particular household in the USCensus include an abstract, listing all the members of that household, as well as a citation. To keep the abstract brief, surname and birthplace are omitted if they are the same as for the previously listed person; however, where surname changes within a household, the variant surname will not only appear, it will be boldfaced. For other fields, dittoing in the original record will be indicated in the abstract by replicating the whole text being dittoed, but enclosing it in square brackets.

My USCensus citations are generally to the Ancestry.com Online Images USCensus Database, digitized facsimiles of the pages of the NARA USCensus film series. Where the actual source is instead a NARA or an FHL film, the film# will be cited as well.

The citation is to the original page "meta number", and to the line#s occupied by the household on the page, or pages. For convenience of online access, I also cite to the Ancestry.com image# within the packet of pages designated by the other fields of the citation (state, county..). For a detailed explication of my USCensus citation and abstracting conventions, see my report: "The USCensus and my Abstracting Formats" (filename "USC").

GENERAL SOURCES

Lillian Craig, *Reverend John Craig, 1709-1774: His Descendants and Allied Families* (NewOrleansLA: privately printed, 1963).

Patrick Hanks & Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of Surnames* (Oxford University Press, 1988).

Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774, Reuben Gold Thwaites, editor(s) (MadisonWI: Wisconsin Hist Soc, 1905).

It appears that all the documents in this case come from the Draper Collection at the Wisconsin Historical Society.

J.R. Hildebrand, **The Hildebrand Maps of Western VA.**

I am aware of least two maps constructed by J.R. Hildebrand some 50 years ago, showing the landholdings of many of the original settlers of the upper Valley of Virginia: one covers the 1736 Beverley Patent of 188,491a issued to Colony Council member William Beverley (aka "Beverley Manor", or "BevMan" for short); and the other, the 1739 92,100a Borden Grant issued to an entrepreneur from New Jersey, named Benjamin Borden. The plots of most of the original grantees of these men, are shown on the maps within the frames of the overall patents, and the dates of each grant are inscribed within the plots.

Both maps have been published in 19x25" format, but I haven't provided publication information because none appears for either map except for a date: 1954 for the BevMan map, and 1964 for the Borden Grant map. I assume, therefore, that these maps are in the public domain. I purchased my copies at the History Museum of Western Virginia, at 1 Market Square, Roanoke VA 24011.

Howard McKnight Wilson, *The Lexington Presbytery Heritage* (VeronaVA: McClure Press, 1971).