

Assembled here, in chronological order, are brief abstracts of all the salient items of evidence respecting the Augusta County, Virginia pioneer John³ (Daniel²⁻¹) DENNISON (“Denniston”), his next two or three generations of descendants, and certain in-laws and associates. By relegating all of my evidential abstracts and citations to this chronological timeline, I’ve been able to avoid cluttering up the analytical reports which are their fruit with footnotes or other cumbersome references to the evidence that go beyond their specific dates.

For convenience of access, I provide here links to abstracts grouped after [1800](#), [1810](#), [1820](#), [1830](#), [1840](#), and [1850](#).

Each piece of evidence includes a detailed citation to the source. Most of my sources are primary records, and I’ve made photocopies of the majority of them (these are flagged by the P symbol). A few of these evidential items have been abstracted more fully, and with more commentary, in these several ancillary reports accompanying this one:

[DEN1,John3-ChancerySuits.pdf](#) (references in red like **Chancery1837** are to this report)

[DEN1,John3-USCensus.pdf](#) (abstracts of many of the USCensus records relevant to DEN Patrilineage 1)

[DEN-AugustaCoVA-VRs](#) (abstracts of most of the DENNISON vital records for AugustaCo)

[DEN-VA-Taxes.pdf](#) (abstracts for swathes of years and decades of many SW Virginia counties)

The abstracts below and in the above reports are the evidential basis for the report that contains my analysis and states my conclusions:

[DEN1,John3-Analysis.pdf](#)

I’ve discussed my sources more fully in the Bibliography, and provided links or other means or advice on accessing them in the [Bibliography](#) below. Citations to these sources are defined in {braces} on the first line of each item below.

Surnames herein have been capitalized to facilitate scanning, but the names are still spelled exactly as they appear in the original records or abstracts; however, surnames within quoted extracts are in upper/lower case.

Otherwise, quoted extracts have been transcribed according to [my RMM rules](#). A more detailed specification of my format for abstracting deeds and other documents will be found [here](#). USCensus citations are to Ancestry image#, and to the original census page metanumber and line number—my USCensus abstracting conventions are defined [here](#).

The parties to deeds are all of the county whose books the deed was copied into, except as otherwise indicated.

Unless otherwise indicated, amounts are expressed in the then contemporary money of the colony/state, so that £20/10/- as consideration for conveyance of land in Virginia (VA) represents VA pounds (not to be confused with British pounds sterling).

For [map references](#) to DENNISON lands see [this DryRiver-map](#), [this NakedCreek map](#), and [this Map Key](#).

Because of the evidential importance of the chancery cases, I’ve highlighted them in red, e.g. **Chancery 1837**.

ABBREVIATIONS

“AuguVA”=Augusta County, Virginia; “NichVA”=Nicholas County, Virginia “RcknVA”=Rockingham County, Virginia

“Def’t”=Defendant; “Plt’f”=Plaintiff (in court cases, either in chancery or in law); in chancery Plt’f also = Complainant)

“Surs”=Sureties on bond (bondsmen)

“WM”= White Male; “WF”= White Female (in tax list or census tabulations)

LAND Documents

“TW”=Treasury Warrant (dated; consideration for land patents/grants); “VAPG”=Virginia Land Patents/Grants book

“DT”=DeedOfTrust—a conditional conveyance of property from X to a Y(a trustee) on behalf of Z (X’s creditor); where the property is land, this amounts to a Mortgage from X (the mortgagor) to Z (the mortgagee).

“L&R”=deed of Lease & Release

“adj”=adjacent, adjoining; “asgn of ”= assignee of a warrant to occupy land;

“Br”=branch (stream); “Crk”=creek; “OTW”=on the waters of (flowing into); “Riv”=river

“cor”=corner; “lin”=line; “orig”=originally; “pat”=patented, patent; “sd”=said (ref to previous name in doc)

“Ackn”=Acknowledged; “Prvd”=Proved; “Sgnd”=Signed; “Witn”=Witness(es); “Dlvd”=Delivered

{...}” citation to the source (on the first line of each abstract); “»”=citing a (more) primary source

“=#<nnnn>” (after the citation) uniquely identifies the photograph I made of the document

“FS” = original document online at FamilySearch

“P” (after the citation) means that I have a Photocopy of the document or of its published abstract

“%%” designates items added or modified since the last revision to this timeline.

18Aug1772 {AuguVA Deeds 18:463-464+}
 John DENISON <L&R- Daniel SMITH, for 5s+£115
 230a SW sid of Dry river, on S sid land of Daniel Denison (249.7a as plotted)
 patented to SMITH 16Aug1756
 Ackn: 19Aug1772 (Witn: none)

mid 1782 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 Daniel DENISTON: 7 horses, 22 cattle; 1 WMT21+
 John DENISTON: 5 horses, 11 cattle: 1 WMT21+, 2 slaves (James & Dils)
 James DENISTON: 1 horse

Here, we see John³, his brother James³, and their father Daniel², presumably still inhabiting their land around Dry River, in south-central RockinghamCo. James drops off the list as of 1784, and all three DENNISONs are gone by 1785—Daniel² and James³ to Kentucky; John³ about 15 miles SSW to Naked Creek in AugustaCo. There were no more DENNISONs in RockinghamCo until John³'s son Samuel took up residence there from 1830-1835 at the confluence of Beaver Creek with the Briery Branch, just a couple of miles to the SW of the DENNISON's original land around Dry River.

27Feb1786 {RcknVA Minutes, p478} P
 John & wife Mary DENISON -> Benja[min] SMITH, acknowledged w dower release

mid 1786 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 John DENNSION: 4 horses, 7 cattle; 1 WMT21+, 1BT16+, 1BT12-15 (these are slaves)
 This is John DENNISON (Sr)'s first appearance on the AugustaCo personal property tax lists.

26Feb1787 {RcknVA Minutes, p687} P
 Dan[ie]l & wife Elizabeth DENNISTON -> Joseph SMITH,
 prvd by wits Harrison & Gavin HAMILTON, and Benja[min] SMITH
 and ordered to lie for further proof.

mid 1787 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 John DENISTON: 4 horses, 11 cattle; 1 WMT21+, 3BT16+, 1BT12-15

24Sep1787 {RcknVA Minutes, p725} P
 Dan[ie]l & wife DENNISTON -> Joseph SMITH,
 further prvd by Ja[me]s SMITH, and ordered to be recorded

mid 1788-1795 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 John DENIS[T]ON: varying numbers of horses and slaves; always 1 WMT16+

1Dec1790 {RcknVA Surveys} P
 for John DENESTON, assignee of John HENDERSON (entered by HENDERSON 22Nov1770),
 44a in RockinghamCo on the SW side of Dry River, adj Benaga RICE

29Mar1791 {AuguVA Deeds 27:120-121; [Item 1 on the Naked Creek map](#)}
 John DENESON <- Benjamin SMITH, for £287
 517a orig pat 12May1759 to Thomas WATERSON;
 conveyed 12May1759 to Abraham SMITH(decd) then by will
 Witn: James King, David Brown, Edward Day
 Ackn: 19Apr1797

16Mar1792 {VAPG 26: 48- 49}
 Grant to John DENISON (survey 27Dec1790), for TW 2Feb1782
 52a on Naked Creek, adj John KING, George BUMGARDNER, George GLEN, and DENISON's other land

5Apr1792 {VAPG 26:165-166}
 Grant to John DENESTON (survey1Dec1790), for 5s,
 44a on SW side of Dry River in RockinghamCo; adj John RICE;

16Feb1793 {AuguVA Deeds 27:416; [Item 2 on the Naked Creek map](#)}
 John & wife Mary DENISON -> John SOUR, for £36
 52a OTW Naked Creek, adj John KING, Belshazer BUMGARDNER, George GLINN
 orig pat 16Mar1792 to sd DENISON
 Ackn: 16Apr1793 (Witn: none)

20Aug1793 {AuguVA Deeds 27:477-478; [Item 3 on the Naked Creek map](#)}
 John DENNISON <- Hugh & wife Isabella BROWN, for £287
 34a
 Witn: John CAMPBELL, Mich[ae]l GARBER for M. GARBER Sen, Andrew CUTLER
 Ackn: Aug1793

22Aug1794 {AuguVA Prob 8:201-201}
 Will of John KING of AugustaCo
 Exors: "sons-in-law James LARD and John Denison"
 Sgnd: John KING
 Witn: Jn^o[John] GIBSON, Sam[ue]l GIBSON, Catren CLOVERFIELD
 Prvd Aug1795 by the witnesses John GIBSON, Samuel GIBSON, Catherine CLOVERFIELD
 DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY:
 my executors to sell my tract in StokesCoNC to settle my debts, but preserve the tract
 I now live on for the family "during the lifetime of my beloved wife"
 OTHER BEQUESTS and DESIDERATA:
 to "my well beloved wife Margaret, my dwelling house and one third of my plantation where
 I now dwell ... all the household furniture ... one third of the horses and black cattle
 and the whole stock of sheep ... my negro woman Silvy and two negro boys Joe and Ike during
 her life";
 to "my five daughters and my sons Robert and John who are all married", £1;
 to "my well beloved sons Samuel and James", two-thirds of my plantation, and the whole
 after my wife's death, to be equally divided between them—to Samuel the lower part, to
 James the upper;

21Oct1794 {AuguVA Orders 23:166} P
 James NOBLE, above 14, chose Samuel SOMMERVILLE as his guardian

mid 1796-1802 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 John DENISON: 5-8 horses, 2 BT16+; 2 WMT16+ (including John)
 The extra WMT16+ in John's household figures to be his oldest son John, born about 1789, who emerges for the
 first time on the 1803 list as John Jr.

2May1798 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 James NOBLE (1 WMT16+, 1 horse) 1st appears on the personal property tax lists of AugustaCo
 Though no marriage record has been found for James, the will of John³ DENNISON and documents in several
 chancery cases provide solid evidence that James married John's daughter Margaret⁴, and beginning with the year 1801,
 James's tax information was gathered on the same, or nearly the same date, as that of John³. In 1802, James's
 occupation is noted as "carpenter". James NOBLE continues to appear on most of the lists through 1820, the year that
 other evidence shows he and Margaret departed for Indiana.

23May1800 {AuguVA Marriage Bonds} P
 Marriage Bond: John DENNISON Jr, batchelor & Hannah HENDERSON, spinster,
 daughter of the said Jones HENDERSON
 Surs: John DENNISON Sr, and Jones HENDERSON of AugustaCo
 Sgnd: John DENNISON Jr, John DENISON, Joanes HENDERSON

7Mar1801 {Chalkey3:220»AuguVA Prob 9:117}
 Will of Joanes HENDERSON
 Exors: wife Isabell, son Joseph, Alex. Craig
 Witn: Edward WALSH, William SEEL, John RISK Jr
 Prvd 22Jun1801

Isabella refuses to execute; the other named exors qualify
 LEGATEES (in order abstracted; presumably the order in the will):
 wife Isabell; sons John, Joseph, Jones; [son James?];
 daughters Becky, Sarah, Margaret; grandchildren by daughter Jean GREY

mid 1803 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 John DENNISON Sr: 1 horses, 2 BT16+; 1 WMT16+
 John DENNISON Jr: 2 horses; 1 WMT16+

This is about the year John Sr's oldest son, John Jr (born about 1789), would have come of age.

mid 1804 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 John DENISON Sr: 2 WMT16+
 John DENISON Jr: 1 WMT16+
 Daniel DENISON: 1 WMT16+
 James NOBLE: 1 WMT16+

The column for horses was either illegible or missing.

All four of these gents had their tax information gathered on the same date, and I believe the three DENNISONs were listed adjacent as well (meaning that they were "bracketed together" in my terminology); unfortunately, I don't have an image of the original list for this year so I can't verify this. Nonetheless, the fact that they all have the same date almost certainly means that they were close neighbors, if not residents of the same household.

This is the first appearance on the lists of John Sr's second son Daniel (born abt 28Dec1786), and the first time his (future) son-in-law James NOBLE is listed proximate to the DENNISONs. Daniel only appears sporadically by name in subsequent years, probably because he was living with his father and owned no taxable property.

mid 1805-1824 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}

The John DENNISONs Sr and Jr are listed by name virtually every year until 1824, the year John Sr died, leaving a will that named sons John, Daniel, and Samuel (in that order) and son-in-law James NOBLE. The number of WMT16+ that comprised John Sr's household fluctuated, reaching a peak of 4 from 1811-1813. Since, in 1811-1812, sons John Jr and Daniel, and son-in-law James NOBLE are all listed by name, it would appear that John Sr's sons Samuel was one of those extra WMT16+'s, but that John Sr had several hired hands or indentured servants in addition to the 2 slaves he owned at that time: his establishment must have been quite busy and prosperous.

See the note under John Sr's 1810 USCensus household for a closer analysis of some of these records

What is most worth noting about this swathe of tax records is that John Sr's youngest son Samuel, never appears by name on the tax lists until 1825, the year after his father died, and Samuel was bequeathed his father's home place and slaves—the typical reward for the son or daughter who remained at home to assist and care for aging parents, thus deferring their own start in life.

24Jun1805 {[AuguVA Deeds 33:123-124; Item 4 on the Naked Creek map](#)}
 John DENISON Jr <- James King, for £15
 50a on br of Naked Creek; part of land devised to sd James by father John King
 Ackn: 24Jun1805 (Witn: none)

27Apr1807 {[AuguVA Deeds 34:30-31; Item 5 on the Naked Creek map](#)}
 John DENISON <- John & wife Agnes TOWEL, for £174
 54a OTW Naked Creek; orig pat 13Sep1787 to TOWEL
 Witn: none

28Mar1810 {[AuguVA 36:4+; Item 6 on the Naked Creek map](#)}
 John DENISON <- James KING, for \$3000
 341a on Naked Crk, prt devised to James by father John KING
 Witn: Abraham LAMB, Andrew YOUNG, Andrew McCRARY, Charles LANY
 Ackn: 24Apr1810

12Apr1810 {from AuguVA **Chancery 1818** (LVA case 1824-008) } P

Will of James KING of AugustaCo

Exors: "John DENISON Sr and James ALLISON"

Sgnd: James [mark] KING

Witn: Andrew YOUNG, Andrew McCRARY, Daniel DENISON

LEGATEES, BEQUESTS, and OTHER DESIDERATA:

to "my three nephews, viz. Daniel DENISON, James H DENISON, and Samuel M C DENISON, three fourths of the money from the land sold to John DENISON Sr, after all disputes and claims against the land is settled";

to "my two nieces the remaining fourth part of the price of said lands, viz. To Margaret NOBLE and Mary DENISON";

to John DENISON Sr, my bay mare.

Apparently this will, the sole copy of which appears in the **Chancery 1818** papers, was never recorded or proved. The papers indicate that it was contested by his KING siblings who alleged that James a was a drunk and/or an incompetent, and they obtained a judgement that the will was invalid; although this judgement was appealed, the appeal was presumably denied because it seems to have never been entered into the county books.

mid 1810 {USCensus for AuguVA}

John DENISON Sr Household: 2Males aged 45+, 3Males 16-25, and 2 FeMales 16-25
{#22, 333-13}

John DENISON Household: 2M 26-44, 1M 0-9; 1FM 26-44; 3FM 0-9 {#22, 333-14}

These households are listed adjacent, but the list has been alphabetized on first letter of surname.

There is no separate census listing for son Daniel in that year—only son John Jr and son-in-law James NOBLE have their own 1810 households. John Sr's 1810 tax list shows him as owning just 2 BT16+ and no slaves aged 12-15, therefore the three extra slaves listed by the census were presumably young children of his adult slaves, who were likely a couple.

As for the white inhabitants of his 1810 household, the two males aged 16-25 were presumably his sons Daniel and Samuel. I expect that the other white male aged 45+ in John Sr's 1810 household was his brother-in-law James KING, who sold his remaining land to John Sr in 1810, made his will, and probably died shortly thereafter.

James NOBLE Household: 1M 26-44; 1FM 26-44, 4FM 0-9 {#47, 370-19}

James was the husband of Margaret4 (John3, Daniel2=1) DENNISON. With four daughters under 10 by 1810, their undocumented marriage presumably took place about 1820.

25Jun1811 {AuguVA Marriage Bonds} P

Marriage Bond: John DENNISON, widower, & Martha PARRIS, spinster

Surs: John PARRIS

Sgnd: John DENISON, John PARRIS

In early America the term "spinster" could include widows, but given that the term "widower" is applied to John, I think that here it has the narrower modern meaning of never married.

27Jun1811 {AuguVA-Marriages-VOGT,73}

Marriage: John DENNISON & Martha PARRIS, by Rev. William Calhoun.

Calhoun was at the time the Presbyterian pastor of Hebron Ch, 1805-1834 (abt 3m W of Staunton).

29Jun1813 {AuguVA Marriage Bonds} P

Marriage bond: Daniel DENNISON, batchelor, & Nancy McFALL, spinster

Surs: Samuel DENNISON

Sgnd: Daniel DENESON, Samuel M DENISON

29Jun1813-Affidavit by Samuel DENNISON that Nancy McFALL was aged 21+.

30Jun1813 {AuguVA Marriage Register 2:1}

Marriage: Daniel DENNISON & Nancy McFALL, by Rev. William Willson

Willson was the Presbyterian pastor of the Augusta Stone Church, 1790-1810 (7m NE of Staunton).

I haven't photocopied the several marriage register items in part because it's a transcription of various loose paper primary records and not itself a contemporaneous source.

21Aug1814 {Chalkey3»AuguVA Prob 11:395=#2545-2546} P_t

Will of John PARRIS, of AugustaCo, "in advanced age and weak in body"

Exors: "son John PARRIS and my beloved wife Hannah PARRIS"

Sgnd: John [mark "John P"] PARRIS

Witn: Vincent TAPP, Robert HENDERSON

Prvd 26Sep181 by the witnesses

and certificate of probate granted to John and Hannah PARRIS,

on posting of \$500 bond, with securities Jacob SEARS, Robert HENDERSON, William YOUNG

DISPOSITION of PROPERTY:

my executors to sell my tract in StokesCoNC to settle my debts, but preserve the tract I now live on for the family "during the lifetime of my beloved wife"

OTHER BEQUESTS and DESIDERATA:

to "my beloved wife Hannah, one third of my estate both real and personal";

to "sons Thomas PARRIS and George PARRIS", \$5 each since I've already given them 500a of military land in OH;

to "my daughter Jane HUDSON", "my daughter Margaret HENDERSON"

"My two daughters Hannah PARRIS and Elizabeth PARRIS",

each "one riding beast between 20 and 30 pounds value",

and to the latter two each one bed & furniture and other house property

at the discretion of their mother, "my other daughters at and since their marriage been furnished with their proportion";

to "my daughters Mary HUDSON, Martha DENNISON, Jane HUDSON, Margaret HENDERSON, Hannah PARRIS, and Elizabeth PARRIS", \$5 each;

to "my son John PARRIS" and "my son Alexander PARRIS", the tract I now live on of about 213a, to be divided in proportion 125/80;

to "my grandchildren which are named after me", John PARRIS, the sons of my sons Thomas and George, and son Charles HUDSON's son John, equal shares of any residue from the sale of the NC land.

26Sep1814 {AuguVA 39:361-362; [Item 7 on the Naked Creek map](#)}

John DENISON Sr & wife Martha -> John DENISON Jr, for \$10

105a OTW Naked Creek, part of 540a

Ackn (w dower release): 26Sep1814 (Witn: none)

10Oct1816 {AuguVA Marriage Bonds} P_t

Marriage Bond: Samuel DENNISON, batchelor, & Betsy PARRIS, spinster

Surs: Alexander PARRIS, John DENNISON Jr

Sgnd: Samuel DENISON, A PARRIS, John DENISON Jr

10Oct1816-Affidavit: Alexander PARRIS swears that his sister Betsy PARRIS, is 21+

10Oct1816-Affidavit: John DENNISON Jr swears that his brother Samuel DENNISON, is 21+

17Sep1817 {AuguVA Deeds 41:426-427} P_t

John & wife Martha DENISON -> Jacob and John LAMB, for \$2500

125a OTW Naked Crk, adj Hugh BROWN, Samuel CURRY,

part of 540a pat 12May1759 to Thomas WATERSON

Sgnd: John DENISON, Martha [mark] DENISON

Ackn (w dower release): 17Sep1817 (Witn: none)

1818-1828{RcknVA **Chancery 1818** (LVA RockinghamCo case 1824-008) } P

[William McMAHON vs. Representatives of James KING](#) (click the link for a full abstract of this case)

The defendants named in this case are all of those with an interest in the estate of James KING deceased, who (other evidence shows) was the next door neighbor and brother-in-law of John³ DENNISON of Naked Creek in AugustaCoVA, through the latter's wife Mary (KING) DENNISON.

The salient genealogical information that derives from this suit comes from this passage {on page, and iamge# 7, of the complaint}: "...the children of said Mary DENNISON deceased, to wit, Daniel DENNISON, James K. DENNISON, Samuel M.C. DENNISON, and Margaret NOBLE". One of the papers of the case corrects "James K. DENNISON" to "John DENNISON" {image# 47}.

A detailed abstract of the whole case will be found in the citation link.

This is the case that contains a copy of the 12Apr1810 will of James KING, the abstract for which appears above. James KING's will and the other documents of this case provide, presumably, a complete inventory of KING's brother-in-law, John³ DENNISON's, living children as of 12Apr1810 when the will was signed. From this will we uniquely derive two pieces of genealogical information: John³ and his wife Mary (KING) DENNISON had a daughter named Mary, who presumably died by 1818 when her name fails to appear among the list of defendants to the suit; and (2) their son, Samuel M. DENNISON, in fact had two middle names, as he is consistently referred to in the papers of the suit as Samuel M.C. DENNISON.

25Jan1819 {AuguVA Deeds 43:181,183=#1035-1036} P

John DENISON, Sr -> James NOBLE, for \$10

110a OTW Naked Creek, "whereon the said Noble now lives"

BEG Stk N sid small branch, cor Lamb & in Browns line/ S47E,170p /

Pin, cor Brown, on Seawrights lin/ S21W, 41p/ 2 Pins, cor Seawright/ N46W,29p/

2 Pins, cor frmly King/ S51W,104p/ Pin & Pin stump/ N40W,61p/ 2 WO/ N37E,39p/

Loc & Plumb bush/ N47W, 74p/ WO/ N43.5E, 82p/ Lyn, cor Lamb/ N37E,14p;

ttBEG

Sgnd: John Denison

Ackn: 25Jan1819 by John Denison, Sen^r (Witn: none)

Dlvd: 24Aug1820 to John Seawright

The token consideration (\$10) betokens this as a deed of gift from John DENNISON to his son-in-law and daughters, James and wife Margaret [(DENNISON)] NOBLE. The couple resold this land the next year and removed to Indiana.

4Jun1819 {AuguVA Deeds 44:345-346} P

John DENNISON Sr, John DENNISON Jr, Daniel DENNISON, Samuel M^c. DENNISON,

and James & wife Margaret NOBLE -> James CRAWFORD and William POAGE, for £1125

289a deeded 28Mar1810 from James KING, xcpt 52a sold by John DENISON Sr to Peter BEARD

Sgnd: John DENNISON Sr, Daniel DENNISON, Samuel DENNISON

Witn: Erasamus STRIBLING, Silas H SMITH, George GEIGER

Prvd 26Jan1820 by wits STRIBLING & GEIGER

mid 1820 {USCensus for FlemingCoKY}

Dan[ie]l DENNISON Household: 2M 26-44; 1M 0-9; 1FM 26-44; 2FM 0-9 {#17, 38-23}

mid 1820 {USCensus for AuguVA}

John DENNISON Sr Household: 1M 45+; 1M 16-25; 1M 0-9; 1FM 26-44; 1FM 16-25 {#9,T-10}

John DENNISON Jr Household: 1M 26-44; 1M 10-15; 1FM 26-44; 2FM 16-25, 1FM 10-15; 2FM 0-9 {#10, B-30}

7Sep1820 {AuguVA Deeds 45:180-181} P

James & wife Margaret NOBLE -> John SEAWRIGHT, for \$2000

110a OTW Naked Creek, "whereon the said Noble now lives", adj LAMB, BROWN, sd SEAWRIGHT

Sgnd: James NOBLE, Margaret [mark] NOBLE

Ackn (w dower release): 7Sep1820 (Witn: none)

18Sep1820 {AuguVA Deeds 45:237-238} P
 James NOBLE -QuitClaim> John SEAWRIGHT, for \$100
 "all the interest of the said James NOBLE in the real and person estate of James KING"
 Sgnd: James NOBLE
 Witn: James DANNER, Abraham DANNER, John DANNER, Charles LANEY
 Recorded (being acknowledged): Nov1820 court

See also the 1828 and 1829 quitclaims of NOBLE's brothers-in-law John and Samuel DENNISON.

22Apr1822 {AuguVA Deeds 46:328; [Item 8 on the Naked Creek map](#)} P
 John DENNISON Sr -> John DENISON Jr, for \$5
 20a OTW Naked Crk, part of 540a
 Ackn: 22Apr1822 (Witn: none)

2Mar1824 {AuguVA Prob 13:534-535=#2545-2546} P
 Will of John DENISON, of AugustaCo, "feeling the decays of nature"
 Exors: "my sons John and Samuel Dennison"
 Sgnd: John DENNISON
 Witn: Benja[min] BRYAN, Fielden WINDLE, James BROWN
 Prvd 28Oct1824 by the witnesses
 and certificate of probate granted to John and Samuel DENNISON,
 on posting of \$[3?]000 bond, with securities Benj[ami]n BRYAN and Joseph HENDERSON
 DISPOSITION of PROPERTY:
 "...my executors should as soon as convenient make a sale of my three slaves, Joe, Tom,
 and Dick, with all my personal property ... It is my will that my woman slave Delse should
 be left to her own choice to go any place she could get her living for life, or to stay
 with my son Samuel."
 OTHER BEQUESTS and DESIDERATA:
 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;
 to "my three sons, namely, John, Daniel, and Samuel", equal shares of the proceeds of
 the sale of slaves and personal property.

mid 1825-1829 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 John DENNISON (no Sr or Jr): 7,6,6,4,2 horses; 1825-1827 2 WMT16+ (including John)
 Samuel [M] DENNISON: 3,3,5,4,2 horses; 1826 1 BT16+, 1827: 1BT16+,1BT12-15 (slaves)

18Dec1826 {AuguVA Marriage Bonds} P
 Marriage Bond for Washington H DENNISON, batchelor, & Rebecca GEATING *****, spinster,
 daughter of the above named Henry GEATING
 Surs: Henry GEATING, and John DENNISON
 Sgnd: Washington H DENNISON, Heinrich GÜTHING (in Old Germanic Script), John DENISON
 There's an extra, undecipherable word after Rebecca GEATING (presumably a name), suggesting that she might
 have been another man's widow, even though she is also called "spinster", which didn't, in that day connote a never
 married woman.

Dec1826 {AuguVA Marriage Register 2:32}
 Washington H DENNISON & Rebecca GEATIING were married by Rev. Joseph Smith
 Smith was the Presbyterian pastor of Staunton 1st Presbyterian Ch, 1826-1832.

Mar1827Ct {AuguVA Prob 15:439-440=#2549-2550} P
 Account & Settlement of the estate of John DENNISON
 Amt in exors' hands on 28Nov1825 aft sale of personal property (incl slaves): \$1807.2375.
 Net amount to be divided (between the three sons): \$1459.75
 Presented 26Feb1827 and accepted Mar1827

9Feb1828 {AuguVA Deeds 50:167-168=#2769-2770} P
 John DENNISON -> Washington H. DENNISON, for \$1,
 50a on a br of Naked Creek, the tract purchased by grantor from James KING 24Jun1805
 Sgnd: John DENNISON
 Ackn 9Feb1828 (Witn: none)

1828 {AuguVA Chancery 1828 (LVA AugustaCo case 1824-008) } P

[Joseph POINTS Jr vs Exors of John DENNISON Sr, & Samuel DENNISON, devisee in the will](#)

(click the link for a full abstract of this case)

This was a suit against the sons of John Sr as executors of their father's 1824 will, and against Samuel as a devisee in that will, for the non-payment of a judgement obtained by POINT against the estate of the father. These brothers not only failed to pay off POINTS as a legitimate creditor, they also blew off the judgement he had obtained at law, claiming first that their father's estate was insolvent, and then that they simply had no money. The chancery court found for the plaintiff on all points, awarded him back interest and court costs, and ordered them to pay up or the sheriff would sell their land.

Backed to the wall as they were, and evidently already in debt to others, subsequent deeds show that John first mortgaged much or possibly all of his personal property to Charles S. LANEY, then sold him 56a + 5 poles of the tract he had inherited from his father; the rest of the tract he sold to his two as yet unmarried sisters, Isabella and Mary K., for \$10, which amounted to a deed of gift (there was probably a private agreement among them that John would thus help to provide for them.

As for Samuel, in quick succession, he (1) mortgaged his land; (2) married Nancy PARRY (probably a property-owning widow); and (3) sold the grain in his barn. He then paid off other debts that he owed one Jacob STROOPE, and Alexander PARRIS, and obtained the release of his mortgaged slave—a negro boy named Dick, aged about 16. Next, Samuel & Nancy twice sold Samuel's rights to any settlement of the James KING estate to two different people (it would seem fraudulently), and about a year later, on 24Feb1830, they sold (probably fraudulently) the whole of the 257a Samuel had inherited from his father for \$3598, and used part of the proceeds on 26May1830 to pay off the mortgage Samuel had on the property, and absconded across the border to RockinghamCo, where they appear in both the 1830 USCensus and on the RockinghamCo tax rolls. As the [Chancery 1837](#) case shows, some five years later Samuel died in RockinghamCo “utterly insolvent.”

14May1828 {AuguVA Prob 16:330-331=#2551-2552} P

John DENISON -DeedOfTrust> Nathan HARRIS (trustee), for \$1

and to secure \$96 owing to Charles T. LANEY on a note of this date,
payable by 14May1830 with interest,
certain livestock and furniture, UNLESS the note be covered by 14May1830

Sgnd: John DENISON, N. HARRIS

Witn: Elizabeth CODY, Martha J CODY, Thomas MCHALL

Ackn in Jul1828 court

Annotated in the margin:

“Examined and delivered to Benj[ami]n BRYAN per order of Charles T LANEY”

11Jun1828

Samuel M DENISON -DeedOfTrust> William CLARKE, for John SEAWRIGHT, to secure a debt owed by DENNISON to SEAWRIGHT. The land mortgaged was the 257a OTW Naked Creek that Samuel lived on, and that he inherited in the will of his father, John DENNISON.

There's no citation for this deed because I didn't find it in the deed book index. Instead I've synthesized it from the terms stated in the 26May1830 release of this mortgage (below). The amount and terms of the mortgage are missing because they aren't specified in the release. Although the year of this deed might be read as “1829” in the release of the mortgage, it is clearly written “1828” in the order to release from SEAWRIGHT, the mortgagee, which immediately follows CLARKE's deed of release in the book.

18Jun1828 {AuguVA Marriage Register 2:39}

Marriage: Samuel DENISON & Nancy PARRY, by Rev. John Hendren

Hendren was the Presbyterian pastor of Mossy Creek Ch, 1817-1835 (just E of Mt.Solon, near RockinghamCo line, abt 4m SW of Bridgewater on North River).

No marriage bond survives for this marriage, so there are no helpful PARRY associations; there were only 1 or 2 PARRYs in the County.

10Jul1828 {AuguVA Deeds 50:370} P
John DENISON -> Charles S. LANEY, for \$100
5a+56p OTW Naked Creek, cor SOWERS
Sgnd: John DENISON
Witn: Robert M. MAUPIN, Joel BURNLEY, Clem[en]t K.F. HARRIS
Ackn: 25Jul1828

21Jul1828 {AuguVA Deeds 50:371} P
John DENISON Sr -> Isabella DENISON and Mary K. DENISON, for \$10
the tract OTW Naked Crk deeded to him by his father John DENISON Sr,
except for a piece of 5a+56p already conveyed
Sgnd: John DENISON
Witn: N. HARRIS, Jos[eph] HARRIS, Joel BURNLEY
Ackn: 25Jul1828

19Sep1828 {AuguVA Deeds 51:399=#2553} P
Samuel DENNISON -> William M. LOGAN, for \$50
"all the grain now remaining in my barn"
Sgnd: Samuel M DENNISON
Witn: John DENNISON, Sam CURRY
Prvd 22Sep1828 by CURRY.

19Oct1828 {AuguVA Deeds 51:296-197} P
John DENNISON -QuitClaim> Charles S. LANEY, for \$100
all joint right of inheritance with others as "tenant in coparcenary" from James KING
Sgnd: John DENNISON
Witn: Ann A. HARRIS, Isabella DENNISON, Hannah DENNISON, Mary K. DENNISON
Ackn: 25Mar1829

This right of inheritance presumably arose because James, the brother of John's wife Mary (KING) DENNISON, died intestate and without a wife or children. Three of John's daughter's witnessed; Mary K was to marry in weeks.

26Nov1828 {AuguVA Deeds 51:453-454=#2756-2757} P
Samuel M DENNISON <Release- John PARRIS, for \$1
and the orders of Jacob STROOPE & Alexander PARRIS
a negro boy named Dick aged about 16, who was pledged as security for
(1) a debt due STROOPE as the assignee of Alexander PARRIS;
(2) a note for \$17 due to Alexander PARRIS;
(3) plus the administrative costs
Ackn: 26Nov1828 (Witn: none)

20Jun1829 (AuguVA Deeds 53:196-197} P
Samuel M. DENISON & wife Nancy -QuitClaim> John SEAWRIGHT, for \$112.50
All their interest in the estate of James KING, deceased.
Sgnd: Samuel M DENISON, Nancy DENISON
Ackn (with dower release): 20Jun1829 (Witn: none)

22Aug1829 {AuguVA Deeds 52:183-185} P
Isabella DENNISON and Charles & wife Mary K WINDLE -> to John Y ALLISON, for \$178
13.5a OTW Naked Creek, part of land conveyed from John DENNISON 21Jul1828,
adj Samuel DENNISON, said ALLISON, R. RYAN
Sgnd: Charles [mark] WINDAL, Mary K WINDAL, Isabella DENNISON
Ackn: 23Nov1829 by Charles WINDAL, with dower release by wife Mary K WINDAL,
and 9Jan1830 by Isabella DENNISON; Recorded May1830

20Mar1829 {AuguVA Deeds 51:153-155} P
Washington H & wife Rebecca DENNISON -> Samuel LITTEN, for \$725
50a on a head of Naked Creek, acquired from John DENNISON who purchased it from James KING,
adj HUFFMAN, and GIBSON
Sgnd: W H DENNISON, Rebecca DENNISON
Ackn (with dower release): 20Mar1829 (Witn: none)

8Dec1829 {AuguVA Prob 17:158-159=#2758-2759}
Washington H DENNISON -DeedOfTrust> Porterfield A. HEISKELL (trustee), for \$1
and to secure \$150 owing to George A GEIDLING:
a dark bay mare; a light bay 2 year old colt; one milch cow;
and all my personal property (including certain specified items of furniture)
UNLESS the note plus interest be covered by 8Dec1833
Sgnd: W H DENNISON, Porterfield A HEISKELL
Ackn 8Dec1829 (Witn: none)

24Feb1830 {AuguVA Deeds 53:2-3} P
Samuel M & wife Nancy DENNISON -> Frederick KRAHN (of RockinghamCo), for \$3598
257a on a small branch of Naked Creek, adj John SEAWRIGHT, LAMB, CURRY
Sgnd: Samuel M. DENISON, Nancy DENISON
Ackn (with dower release): 24Feb1830 (Witn: none)

26May1830 {AuguVA Deeds 52:182-183} P
Samuel M DENISON <Release- William CLARKE, for \$1 and the order of John SEAWRIGHT.
DENISON's 11Jun1828 mortgage of his 257a home place OTW of Naked Creek, which Samuel had
inherited via the will of his father, John DENISON.
CLARKE's release is followed by a copy of SEAWRIGHT's order of the same date, which notes
that Samuel had repaid his debt to him, thus clearing the mortgage.
Ackn May1830 by Clarke

mid 1830 {USCensus for AuguVA, Northern District}
John DENISON Household: 1M 40-49; 2FM 20-29; 2FM 15-19 {#11-f013}

mid 1830 {USCensus for AuguVA, Southern District}
Washington DENISON Household: 1M 20-29; 1FM 20-29; 1FM 0-4 {#23-f076}

mid 1830 {USCensus for RcknVA}
Sam M DENNISON Household: 1M 30-39; 2M 10-14; 2M 5-9; 1FM 30-39; 1FM 10-14 {#41-f207}

mid 1830-1834 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
John DENNISON: 0,3,3,2 horses

John died in 1834 and his household was replaced for one year (1835) by daughter Isabella (taxed for 3 horses)

mid 1830-1835 {[RcknVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
Samuel [M] DENIS[T]ON is taxed for from 1-4 horses, and 1 slave aged 16+

5Mar1832 {AuguVA Marriage Bonds} P
Marriage Bond: Alexander A YOUNG & Peggy DENISON
Surs: Thomas YOUNG, John DENNISON
Sgnd: Alexander A YOUNG, Thomas YOUNG, John DENISON

8Mar1832 {AugustaCoVA Marriage Register 2:51}
Marriage: Alexander A YOUNG & Margaret DENNISON, by Rev. Conrad Speece
Presbyterian pastor of Augusta Stone Ch, 1813-1836.

31Aug1833 {AuguVA Deeds 55:307-309} P
Andrew & wife Elizabeth HOTTEL, John GEETING (FrederickCoVA),
Washington H & wife Rebecca DENISON, and John & wife Mary TEAFORD -> Christian SHUEY
4/5th of 150a on Middle River,
devised to the grantors jointly by the 7Sep1832 will of Henry GEETING.
Sgnd: Andrew HOTTEL, Elizabeth [mark] HOTTEL, John GEETING,
W H DENISON, Rebecca DENISON, John TEAFORD, Mary TEAFORD
Ackn (with dower release) by DENISONS:12Nov1833; other parties on other dates (Witn: none)

1Jan1834 {AuguVA Prob 19:395-396=#2559-2560} Pt
 Will of John DENISON, of AugustaCo
 Exor: Isabella DENISON
 Sgnd: John DENNISON
 Witn: Benja[*min*] BRYAN, Jn^o [John] Y ALLISON, Godfrey BOLDON
 Prvd Mar1834 Court by witnesses Benjamin BRYAN and John Y ALLISON
 and certificate of probate granted to Isabella DENNISON,
 on posting of \$500 bond, with securities Benjamin BRYAN and John Y ALLISON
 BEQUESTS and OTHER DESIDERATA:
 \$1 each to: "my son Washington DENNISON"; "my daughter Rebeccah DENNISON;
 "my daughter Mary WINDLE"; "my daughter Hannah DENISON.
 to "my daughter Margaret YOUNG, one dark gray colt";
 to "my daughter Isabella DENISON", "the balance of my personal property".

24Mar1834 {AuguVA Prob 19:408} Pt
 Executors Bond for Isabella DENISON for John DENISON deceased, for \$500,
 with Benjamin BRYAN and John Y ALLISON

May1834 {AuguVA Prob 19:481-482} Pt
 Estate Inventory for John DENNISON, no total (about \$200)
 Most valuable: \$45 old gray mare; \$30 yearling colt; \$15 lot of hogs; \$15 bed & furn.
 by John SEAWRIGHT, Andrew YOUNG Sr, Godfrey BOULTON

26Aug1834 {AuguVA Prob 20:94} Pt
 Guardian Bond for Hannah DENNISON, orphan of John DENNISON, for \$100,
 to guardian Benjamin BRYAN, security Andrew YOUNG

16Sep1834 {AuguVA Deeds 57:344+}
 John SEAWRIGHT <- "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"

a 1/9th interest in a tract of land inherited, I believe, through their grandmother, Mary (KING) DENNISON from her sister Isabella (KING) HENDERSON. My uncertainty derives from the fact that I cannot find an image of the original of this important deed, for which I have, as abstract, only the quoted extract identifying the grantors. That this is an heirs deed is evident enough from the identities of most of the grantors who are otherwise identifiable as children of John⁴ and Hannah (HENDERSON) DENNISON. I mean to procure a copy of this deed to nail down the inheritance relationship for sure.

24Mar1835 {AuguVA Prob Admin.Bonds} Pt
 John SEAWRIGHT files an administrator's bond for John LANDES, in the amount of \$4000
 Seawright was a next door neighbor of the DENNISONs of Naked Creek, suggesting that this John LANDES, probable father of the David LANDES (see below) was a close neighbor of the DENNISONs too.

mid 1835 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 Isabella DENNSION: 3 horses; 0 WMT16+

mid 1835 {[RcknVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 Samuel M DENNISON: 4 horses, 1 BT16+ (slave)
 Samuel died before the next (1836 RockinghamCo tax list and there are no more DENNISON's there til 1843.

mid 1836 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}
 Nancy DENNISON is taxed for 1 horse

This is the only year for which this Nancy appears on the lists either of Augusta or Rockbridge counties, and since this is the year after the last year Samuel [M] Denison appears on the RockinghamCo lists, it figures that this is Samuel's widow, moved back to her original home in AugustaCo. This conclusion is supported by several other pieces of evidence explicated in the Analysis report.

Mar1837 {RcknVA Orders 18:30} P

A list of county deeds admitted to record between 1-31Mar1837 includes:

"A deed for land: Nancey DENNISON to Alexander NEWMAN"

The original deed copied into the deed books is lost, but the order book entry is noted also at RcknVA Deeds 12:303.

mid 1837-1840, 1844-1851, 1853-1855 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}

John DENNISON: 0 or 1 horse (1837-1840); 1-2 horses (1844-51);

3-5 horses, 22-29 cattle (1853-1855)

John died in 1856 and his household was replaced by either his "estate" or his widow Sarah for several years.

1837-1839 {RcknVA [Chancery 1837](#) (LVA RockinghamCo case 1839-02)} P

[Alexander NEWMAN vs. John D. MOYERS](#) (click the link for a full abstract of this case)

This case continues the sad saga of Samuel M. DENNISON's decline into penury and death. It's narrow genealogical import is captured by this single sentence, extracted from the complaint:

"During the year 1835 or 1836, the said Samuel M. DENNISON departed this life intestate and utterly insolvent, leaving a widow named Nancy and the following children, infants under the age of twenty-one years, as his heirs, to wit. John, James, Jane, and Eliza DENNISON."

Though the names Jane and Eliza are separated by ", and" in the original complaint, [Chancery1859](#) correctly concatenates them.

27Oct1838 {AuguVA Prob 22:415-416=#2784-2785} P

Will of John PARIS, of AugustaCo, "infirm of body"

Exors: Lytleton WADDELL, Nicholas KINNSEY

Sgnd: John PARIS

Witn: John McDOWELL, William D COOK, P E STEVENSON

Date of Proof and particulars of administrator's bond not noted.

DISPOSITION of PROPERTY:

All my estate, real and personal to be sold and (net of debts) distributed as follows:

BEQUESTS and OTHER DESIDERATA:

to my sister Hannah, the \$200 due her from me as executor of our father's estate, plus the interested on \$300 in trust with my exors. who have discretion to release to her the full amount;

to my son John, the interest on the balance of the proceeds in trust with my exors., who have discretion to release to him the full amount "should they judge from proper information of my son's habits and steadiness that it would be prudent". However, if son John dies without issue, his portion is to be equally divided between my brothers and sisters, or their heirs.

CODICIL (27Oct1838 - same witnesses):

My executors as trustees of the money granted to my son John are to be bound by the same discretionary conditions in distributing the interest as with respect to the principal.

25Aug1839 {AuguVA Prob 22:452-453=#2786-2787} P

Guardian Bond for John PARIS, orphan of John PARIS deceased, for \$200,

to guardian George PARIS, securities Charles HUDSON and John WRIGHT

This guardian bond, which requires George Paris (probably son John's uncle) not only shows that son John wasn't yet of age, but also seem to preempt the trusteeship of father John's executors as ordered in his will.

8Dec1840 {AuguVA Marriage Bonds} P

Marriage Bond: "John DENNISON and Sarah LANDES (daughter of the above bound John Landes)"

sur: John LANDES, Severn ROLLER

Sgnd: John DENISON, John LANDES, Severn ROLLER

There's also an affidavit by ROLLER that states that John was aged 21+.

Thus, John was born no later than 8Dec1819.

10Dec1840 {AugustaCoVA Marriage Register 2:72}

John DENIZEN & Sarah LANDES were married by Rev. J[ohn] J Reimensnyder

Reimensnyder was a Lutheran minister based in AugustaCo, and this is the only DENNISON marriage performed in AugustaCoVA that was not the work of a Presbyterian minister. By this time most of the Scotch-Irish Presbyterians had long since moved on, while the Germans who pioneered in the Valley about the same time took root and proliferated.

17Dec1840 {AuguVA Marriages-VOGT}

Marriage: David LANDES & Catharine A REEVES, by Rev. J A VanLear.

VanLear was Presbyterian pastor of Mossy Creek Church, 1837-1850 (about 4m SW of Bridgewater on North River).

This Daniel LANDES and John DENIZEN's bride of the week before, Sarah LANDES, were brother and sister. Other records show that David was born about 1810, and was thus about nine years older than John DENNISON even though they married at about the same time.

5Mar1844 {AuguVA Deeds 65:175-176=#2773-2774} Pt

John DENISON <- Henry RADER, for \$900,

(1) 61a (half of another tract-w recital of title back to 1809) adj heirs of David SHAVER;
AND

(2) 2a (adjacent to the first tract), "patented by Rader 30Nov1841, adj LANDIS;

the patent, at VA Grants 92:380 locates this land "on the south side of North River",
adj LANDIS and SHAVER

METES & BOUNDS for both

Sgnd: Henry [mark] RADER

Ackn 5Mar1844 (Witn: none)

26Feb1847 {AuguVA Deeds 67:371=#2775} Pt

John DENNISON <Gift- John & wife Mary LANDES, for \$1

17a on North River purchased from Robert VANCE, adj DENNISON, Hildebrand Crk

Sgnd: John LANDES, Mary LANDES

Ackn (with dower release): 26Feb1847 (Witn: none)

15Dec1847 {AuguVA Prob 28:146-148} Pt (except p148)

Settlement of the estate of John LANDESS, by administrators David & William LANDES

"...to be equally distributed between the 9 children of the instestate, to wit:
Joseph SWANK & wife, Sam[ue]l TERBURTER & wife, George SMILEY & wife, Eliza LANDESS,
David LANDESS, and William LANDESS, and will give to each the sum of \$64.79 1/4".

It will be noted that only 6 children are listed here as heirs, but that there were in fact 9 is indicated by the fact that the net proceeds of the estate are listed just above as \$583.13, which, divided by 9 = \$64.7922, and earlier in the account, there's a list of notes due to the estate that provides the names of the other children:

"son George KOOGLER". who owed \$10.03 on a note dated 23Jan1846

"son John DENNISON", who owed \$13.90 on a note dated 13Dec1844

& "son John LANDESS", who owed \$100.00 on a note dated 3Mar1846

There is also a reference in this account to "Easter LANDESS, widow"

1Jun1850 {USCensus}

AugustaCoVA Household of John DENNISON (30, b.VA)

(other DENNISONs all b.VA): Sarah 34, Eliza A 7, William H 6, May J 4, John M 1

{#43, 231A(23-29)}

NicholasCoVA Household of Joseph HANNA (55,b.VA),

includes (besides HANNA's family) James A Denison (21,b.VA)

1Sep1851 {AuguVA Deeds 71:189=#2776} Pt

John DENNISON <- Thomas & wife Mary REEVES, for _____

16a+1rod+32p on North River, adj DENNISON, KIRACOFE

Sgnd: Thomas REEVES, Mary [mark] REEVES

Ackn (with dower release): 1Sep1851 (Witn: none)

31Jul1852 {AuguVA Deeds 73:432-433=#2777-2778} P_t
 John DENNISON <- Andrew & wife Sarah KARICOFE, for ____
 12a OTW North River, adj KARICOFE, Silas VANCE
 "on the north side of the public road leading down North River"
 Sgnd: Andrew [mark] KARICOFE, Sarah [mark] KARICOFE
 Ackn (with dower release): 8Jan1853 (Witn:none)
 Dlvd: 22Jul1871 to [Wm] H WOODSELL

It was this same Woodell who was to purchase half of John's land in 1865 after his death.

14Feb1853 {AuguVA Death Register, item 71=#2576-2577} P_t
 `David A. DENNISON of North River (aged 1y6m) died of "t*** fever"
 parents: Jn° [John] & Sarah DENNISON; informant: John DENNISON, father

7Dec1853 {AuguVA Death Register, item 70=#2576-2577} P_t
 Jn° [John] M. DENNISON of North River (aged 3y4m) died of "disease of the heart"
 parents: Jn° [John] & Sarah DENNISON; informant: John DENNISON, father

12Oct1854 {[NichVA Marriage Register](#)—alphabetic on first letter of surname} P_t
 Marriage Record: James A.DENISON (aged 24, b.AuguVA) & Jane GIVEN (aged 17, b.NichVA),
 both resident in NichVA; by Samuel Black

17Mar1856 {AuguVA Prob 35:146-147=#2565-2566} P_t
 Will of John DENNISON, "now near to death"
 Exors: ["David LANDES my brother-in-law"] "and his brother William LANDES"
 with David LANDES to be "guardian of my children"
 Sgnd: John DENNISON
 Witn: J H KEELIN, William KIRACOFE, J Marshall McCUE
 Prvd 24Mar1856 by witnesses William KIRACOFE and Marshall McCUE,
 and certificate of probate granted to David and William LANDES,
 on posting of \$1500 bond, with securities John LANDES and Levi PLECKER
 DISPOSITION of PROPERTY:

All personal property to be appraised and sold, with wife [Sarah] first being permitted to acquire as much of it at the appraised value "as will be necessary to carry on the business of the farm".

Only so much of the real estate is to be sold as shall be necessary to settle debts not covered by the proceeds of the personal property sale "as will least impair the value of the whole tract" [implying that all of testator's land was contiguous].

OTHER BEQUESTS and DESIDERATA:

"I desire that my children, Eliza Ann, William Harvey, Mary Jane, and James Addison Luther, shall be raised and educated by my wife, as I desired to do it, if I had been spared, and inasmuch as the eldest shall be of age some time before the youngest, I desire that as they become of age, they will receive the interest on what disinterested neighbors of good judgement may say their respective proportions of my estate may be, due regard being had to the dower of my wife ... and it is my desire that all my children in arriving at their maturity shall share equally in my estate.

Mar1856 {AuguVA Death Register, item 977=#2574-2575} P_t
 John DENNISON of North River (aged 37) died of consumption;
 parents: Jn° [John] & ____ DENNISON; spouse: Sarah DENNISON; informant: David LANDES

10Apr1856 {AuguVA Prob 35:263-265=#2567-2569} P_t
 Inventory of the estate of John DENISON, by James and Andrew KARACOFE, and David LANDES
 Returned to court: 22Sep1856
 Various items of this inventory are annotated "widdow".
 The livestock comprised:

1 red cow \$18; 2 heifers \$26; 5 sheep \$12; 2 sows \$12; 5 hogs \$5.50; and 7 geese \$1:40
 Of these, the widow kept only 1 sow and 2 hogs; she also kept much household furniture. Otherwise, the inventory is typical for a middling farmer, except that there are numerous small short term notes with slight balances owing to the estate, and one on William H. MARSHALL for \$31.75 due in 9 months, which indicates that although John's holdings were modest, he was unusually thrifty and on his way to significant prosperity.

11Apr1856 {AuguVA Prob 35:265-267=#2567-2569} P_t

Sale of the estate of John DENNISON,

Returned to court: 22Sep1856

Buyers included virtually all of the names of neighbors (owners of adjacent lands named in deeds, witnesses to those deeds, and subsequent buyers of DENNISON's land. However, there are no other DENNISONs named.

The most valuable items, by far, were horses, none of which were included in the inventory: 1 bay \$150.25; 1 bay \$117.25; 1 sorrel colt \$25.50.

Next in value were the crops, including: 60 bushels corn \$30; 33.5 bushels oats \$16.75; and 8 acres of unharvested grain totaling \$54.05.

The only other item of note was a one-horse wagon that sold for \$12.25.

No total was made of the proceeds, but I'd estimate it as about \$600, or about \$17,500 in today's currency.

11Apr1856 {AuguVA Prob 37:42} P_t

Eliza A. DENNISON, aged 14 or over, chooses David LANDES as her guardian

mid 1856 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}

John DENNISON (estate): 3 horses, 8 cattle; 0 WMT16+

mid 1857-1858 {[AuguVA Tax List Abstracts](#)}

Sarah DENNISON: 1 horse; 0 WMT16+

7Mar1857 {AuguVA Deeds 79:472} P_t

David & William LANDES, exors of John DENNISON -> Peter GOOD, for \$386.60

11a+8p adj DENNISON's heirs, David LANDES, Silas VANCE, KERLING, William KARICOFE, the public road

Sgnd: David LANDES, William LANDES

Ackn: 7Mar1857

4May1859 {AuguVA Prob 37:63-64=#2571-2572} P_t (except the last page)

Inventory & Sale of the Estate of the widow Sarah DENNISON, deceased

No total is provided for the inventory. Purchasers at the sale include David and John LANDES, and neighbor Silas VANCE and I'm missing the sale's last page.

12Jul1859-1862 {RcknVA **Chancery 1859** (LVA AugustaCo case 1860-073)} P_t

[Orphans of John DENNISON vs. DENNISON Heirs in Contingent Remainder](#)

(click the link for a full abstract of this case)

12Jul1859 Complaint

David LANDES, GUARDIAN of the orphans of John DENNISON

vs. other John DENNISON HEIRS in contingent remainder

John DENNISON's surviving orphans are named as:

"Eliza A. DENNISON, William Harvey DENNISON, and Mary Jane DENNISON";

John's heirs in contingent remainder are named as:

"James A. DENNISON, and Nicholas K. HENDERSON and Jane Eliza his wife, late DENNISON, of the county of Nicholas"

29Nov1859 Judgement for plaintiff: the land to be sold

This was a "fictitious" chancery suit by David LANDES, guardian of "Eliza A. DENNISON, William Harvey DENNISON, and Mary Jane DENNISON, infant children of John DENNISON, deceased" against "James A. DENNISON, and Nicholas K. HENDERSON and Jane Eliza his wife, late DENNISON, of the county of Nicholas", that request the court to allow LANDES to sell the final piece of land owned by the deceased John DENNISON. What makes it "fictitious" is that there's little reason to suppose that the named defendants would have any desire to oppose this request, which technically sets aside some of the provisions of John's will in order to benefit his orphans.

The genealogical import of this suit derives from the laws of intestacy, which in this case almost certainly make the deceased John's siblings his legal heirs in the event that none of his minor children reached their majority. Though there are other ways of interpreting this suit (which I've examined and dispensed with in my detailed abstract of the case) this case may taken as strong circumstantial evidence that James A. DENNISON and Jane Eliza (DENNISON) HENDERSON of NicholasCoVA were the deceased John's only surviving siblings (or half-siblings) and that both of his parents were dead. Coupled with **Chancery 1837**, the complaint for which states that "John, James, Jane, and Eliza

DENNISON" were children of Samuel DENNISON, this case shows that the deceased John was the son of Samuel and the brother (or half-brother) of James A. DENNISON and Jane Eliza (DENNISON) HENDERSON of NicholasCoVA..

Another document in [Chancery 1837](#) nearly corrects the erroneous implication that Jane Eliza was two people instead of one: "John, Jane, Eliza, and James Denison [are] not inhabitants of this county", and its worth noting, I think, that both of these lists also follow what the evidence of the 1850 USCensus indicates is the correct birth order for these three children of Samuel, as is typical in legal documents.

26Nov1859 {NicholasCoVA Death Register, FamilySearch, [images 14-15, Film 4234117](#)} P
James A. Denison, aged 30 dies of consumption in NicholasCoVA;
parents are "unknown", but the informant is Sam GIVEN, father-in-law.

23Jul1860 {AuguVA Prob 37:527-531=#2763-2768}
Account of the estate of John DENNISON, deceased, by David and W[illia]m LANDIS

John's will called for all his personal property to be sold to pay his debts except what his widow needed to carry on with the farm, and if the amount the sale realized was insufficient, he requested his executors to sell just as much of his land as was needed. As it happens, the estate was indeed insolvent, and the executors, David and William Landes, apparently turned over the executorship to a commissioner, William G. Sterrett in Dec1858, and it was Sterrit who sold off the necessary land, namely a tract of 35a+1rod+27poles to Abram BEAVER, and two tracts to Peter GOOD, one of 8.75a and the other of 2a, 1rod, 8poles, realizing a total of \$1160.04, which was sufficient to settle the estate.

Based on DENNISON's fur land purchases from 1844-1852, there remained some 40a of land left to be distributed to the heirs, and it was this land that became the subject of the fictitious suit by executor David Landes against John Dennison's heirs, filed 12Jul1859.

7Nov1860 {AuguVA Prob 38:22=#2573} P
Final Account for the estate of Sarah DENNISON, by David LANDES, commissioner
Proceeds of estate sale: \$108.72; net value \$15.49

5Jan1863 {AuguVA Deeds 80:652-653} P
David & W[illia]m LANDES, exors of John DENNISON -> Jacob SHOWALTER,
in consideration of a sale of the instant tract to Abraham BEAVER, who failed to pay, and
in consequence of a successful suit against BEAVER, commissiainer Nicholas K. TROUT having
re-sold the land to SHOWALTER [for a price not here specified]
35a on North River, on the road leading from Mt.Solon to Sangersville
[metes & bounds not specified]
Sgnd: W[illia]m LANDES, David LANDES, exors of John DENNISON, deceased
Ackn: 21Jan1863 (Witn: none)

27Jan1864 {AuguVA Deeds 81:544-545} P
David LANDES, commissioner -> William H. WOODSELL
in consideration of two decrees by the circuit court (the second dated 11Jun1860),
WOODSELL became the purchaser of the land herein conveyed;
50a on North River on the road from Mt.Solon to Sangerville,
formerly the property of John DENNISON
Sgnd: David LANDES, Commissioner
Ackn: 27Jan1864

12Aug1865 {AuguVA Prob 40:333-334=#2782-2783}
Will of David LANDES
"First, I desire my brother William LANDES shall [pay all of my debts]...and then to settle
up all of my guardianships and pay them to the Dennisons' three heirs, Eliza A. Dennison,
William H. Dennison, and Mary J. Dennison."
BEQUESTS: "brother William" to have the whole of my estate
Exor: [brother William]
Witn: George P. KERST, Adam W. KERST
Prvd 25Dec1865 by both wits
ExorCert 17Mar1778 to William LANDES on bond of \$1000, Surs: George P and Adam KERST

12Mar1875 {AuguVA Prob 46:34-36=#2779-2781}

Final account & settlement of the estate of Daniel LANDES, by John RUFF, Administrator

The distributees, named on page 35, are John LANDES, Christian LANDES, David LANDES, Jacob LANDES, and the administrator John RUFF and his LANDES wife

Bibliography & Records Research Summary

Bibliography—Primary Sources

For the purposes of this study—tracing the patrilineal descendancy of John³ (Daniel²⁻¹) DENNISON of AugustaCoVA, who remained in Virginia through the time of the Civil War—I’ve exhaustively canvassed all the major public records groups for the counties of Augusta and Rockingham Counties: the county court order books; the various separate series of probate records; the deeds books with their copies of contracts for conveyances and other purposes, under seal; the chancery court records; the vital records (marriage records from about 1782, and births and deaths from 1853, with gaps); and the annual county “personal property” tax records (so-called). I’ve also covered the tax records for NicholasCoVA as well since the DENNISON trail led there, and I’ve compiled just about all of the relevant USCensus records for this period..

Most of my research is based on primary records, and most of the items abstracted above (all of those flagged with P) are backed by digitized photocopies of the original records, and I’ll be glad to provide copies of many of the less readily available individual records, or send out a batch of them on CD for small charge.

These records series are way too extensive to inventory completely here, but the LDS FamilySearch Catalog provides a fairly complete inventory of the public court house records for [AugustaCo](#), and for [RockinghamCo](#)—just click the category of interest in the list on the right, then scan down for and click the entries ascribed to the “county clerk”—these bring up films of the original courthouse records. Most of these records have now been digitized, and many of these are available for free online, but for others it’s necessary to travel to the nearest FamilySearch Center to access them. Unfortunately, although the LDS has filmed probably 95% of the early courthouse records for all American counties, they’ve discontinued their film lending program so not all these records are available any more as they all used to be.

The chancery court records, collections of loose papers, used to be available only at the courthouses, when they were available and not just stored away unarchived in boxes, but for the majority of counties, including Augusta and Rockingham, these records have now been digitized, indexed by name, and placed online by the Library of Virginia. The [chancery records index search function](#), unfortunately, is inadequately documented so its necessary to make separate searches for surnames and their variants individually in each of the various search argument categories (Plaintiff, Defendant, and Other) in order to be sure of picking up all the possibly relevant records. It’s then necessary to scan through these records carefully page by page to find the actual references to the names of interest, a very few of which are valuable genealogical nuggets. I’ve read through all of the papers for the half dozen or so suits that came up, in order to understand the context and import of these references: the fruits of my work respecting the most important cases will be found in my report [DEN1,John3-ChancerySuits.pdf](#).

The all-important annual county tax records, which, beginning in 1782, list nearly all adult males in Virginia by name along with the details of their taxable personal property and land, which generally provide interpretable clues to neighborhood propinquity have all been filmed by the LDS and copies of the films can be borrowed via interlibrary loan, at least through Virginia libraries that have made that arrangement with LVA. The early personal property tax records of most counties have also been digitized by Binns Genealogy and can be accessed online through paid subscription (if they are still accepting subscriptions). I’ve made use of both of these resources in compiling abstracts of all appearances of DENNISONs in many western Virginia counties, into [DEN-VA-Taxes.pdf](#).

I’ve listed my abstract compilations for the AugustaCo Vital Records and DENNISON USCensus abstracts above, on the first page. Notes and references explaining the conventions behind these abstracts and their citations will be found in the corresponding reports. Although the LDS has filmed most or all of the extant marriage records, the contents of these films have no well-defined system of titling or one-to-one association between what’s on each film and what will actually be found at the courthouse, so I’ve made a brief inventory of these records below, as a finding aid:

AugustaCoVA Marriage Bonds

Bonds, consents, affidavits, and other related loose paper marriage document have been organized chronologically and pasted into this series of books. I made all my photocopies of these documents from the books themselves, but the images are also available from the LVA on film via interlibrary loan:

Augusta County, Virginia Marriage Bonds 8, 1800-1801 (LVA Reel# 236)

Augusta County, Virginia Marriage Bonds, 13, 1810-1812 (LVA Reel# 239)

Augusta County, Virginia Marriage Bonds, 14, 1813-1814 (LVA Reel# 239)

Augusta County, Virginia Marriage Bonds, 15, 1815-1816 (LVA Reel# 240)

LVA doesn't seem to have filmed these bonds books beyond 1822.

AugustaCoVA Marriage Register

The source that I'm calling here the AugustaCo marriage register (because that's what the courthouse version appears to be) can't be unambiguously associate with any of the many LVA marriage records films, though it appears to be the series of volumes titled "Marriage Record" on AugustaCo LVA film 98.

NicholasCoVA Marriage Register

This is a typical courthouse typescript transcription of original records now probably lost, indexed by date within first letter of surname. It's titled "Re-Index and Copy of Marriage Records No. 1—Nicholas County".

Bibliography—Secondary Sources

AuguVA-Marriages-VOGT

John Vogt and T William Kethley

Augusta County [Virginia] Marriages, 1748-1850 (1986)

RcknVA-Marriages-VOGT

John Vogt and T William Kethley

Rockingham County [Virginia] Marriages, 1778-1850 (1984)

The series of marriage records abstracts by Vogt and Kethley are pretty complete, though they don't pick up all the details in the primary records.

CHALKLEY

Lyman Chalkley,

Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in VA,

Extracted from the Original Court Records of AugustaCo, 1745-1800, 3 vols.

(1912; rpt. BaltimoreMD: GPC, 1999)

This massive and indispensable work abstracts in thumbnail fashion most of the records of early AugustaCo, including the period from 1738(1745)-1769, when AugustaCo constituted most of Virginia west of the Blue Ridge mountains, excepting only the northern apex covered by FrederickCo and HampshireCo to its west.

In some cases I've used Chalkley abstracts as my source in lieu of the primary records. Wherever I've done this, I've also cited to the original county records those abstracts are based on.

Research Dead Ends

There are no RockinghamCo deeds for DENNISONs, from 1815-1860, and no land taxes for them there from 1821-1840. There is, nonetheless, evidence that Samuel Dennison owned land there as of his death about 1835, since a Mar1837 order book entry shows his widow Nancy selling his land.

There are also no guardianship records for any of the orphans of Samuel DENNISON, either in Rockingham or Augusta counties.