

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

The abstracts below concern primarily DENNISONS of southwest Virginia, and in particular the Virginia panhandle branch of [DENNISON Patrilineage 1](#) whom I believe are all descended from the AugustaCoVA pioneer, John¹ DENNISTON, the largest number of them through Scott³ (Robert², John¹).

More specifically, I've abstracted here all the DENNISONS in Virginia for 1810, all the ones in Russell, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe counties for 1820-1840, all the DENNISONS in SW Virginia counties for 1850 (including PittsylvaniaCo), and all the DENNISONS in Russell and Smyth counties for 1860-1880.

This collection of abstracts also includes certain in-law families, and probable descendants who have migrated elsewhere, particularly to the Tennessee counties of Bedford, Jefferson, and Grainger from 1820-1840, and later to MenifeeCo, Kentucky. Also included here are a few red herrings that come up as reasonably close matches to my search parameters; it's important to take account of such matches, if only to be able to dismiss them, with some confidence, as irrelevant.

I've supplemented many of these abstracts comments, some of them quite extensive, but more comprehensive consideration of them as evidence may be found elsewhere, in more focused analytical reports.

When considering the proximity of counties, and the birth of new counties from old, the online Animaps for the various states can be most useful. Here are links to the Animaps for [KY](#), [TN](#), and [VA](#): to track the evolution of counties and their boundaries over time, just click successive years in the year table below the map.

The abstracts below are in order by: year, then alphabetic by state, county, and township, and district—or for cities, ward—for the years: [1900](#), [1880\(RussellCo\)](#), [1880\(SmythCo\)](#), [1870\(RussellCo\)](#), [1870\(SmythCo\)](#), [1860\(RussellCo\)](#), [1860\(SmythCo\)](#), [1850\(TN\)](#), [1850\(PittsylvaniaCoVA\)](#), [1850\(SmythCoVA\)](#), [1840](#), [1830](#), [1820](#), and [1810](#), including all the DENNISON households for [1810 in the Virginia panhandle counties of Washington and Wythe](#). See also [DENNISONS, et al. in the Virginia County Tax Lists, from 1782 On](#) for over 100 pages of annual county tax lists abstracts and commentary that pertain to several different Virginia DENNISON patrilineages.

ABBREVIATIONS

HH = household

alpha FLS = a census section (from 1790-1840) labeled thus was sorted alphabetically by first letter or surname
—destroying any evidence of geographic propinquity corresponding to propinquity on the list

 * 1900 USCensus *

KENTUCKY, MENIFEE County (1900)

George Deniston household, 1Jun1900 USCensus, MeniffeeCoKY, Kanawha Dis 5
 (SD10,ED61,s1A/1B), pages 139A(47-50)-139B(01-04), Ancestry.com images 1-2.

| | Aged | Born | Rel2 | Marr | Chldrn | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | |
|------------------|------|---------|------|------|--------|------------|------------------|------|--------|
| | | | | | | | Head | Stat | Tot/Lv |
| Deniston, George | 44 | Oct1855 | head | m23y | 9 | farmer | VA | VA | VA |
| " , Martha | 39 | Dec1860 | wife | m23y | 6/ 6 | | VA | VA | VA |
| " , Martha C | 12 | Mar1888 | dau | sing | | | KY | VA | VA |
| " , Freddie B | 8 | Mar1892 | son | sing | | | KY | VA | VA |
| ---next page--- | | | | | | | | | |
| " , John P | 6 | Jan1894 | son | sing | | | KY | VA | VA |
| " , Maggie | 3 | Apr1897 | dau | sing | | | KY | VA | VA |
| " , Minnie L | 4mon | Jan1899 | dau | sing | | | KY | VA | VA |
| Back, John M | 4 | Mar1896 | brdr | sing | | | KY | KY | KY |

This is George [Washington]5 (Philip J4, Scott3, Robert2, John1) DENNISON, who owns his farm mortgage free.

Philip J Deniston household, 2Jun1900 USCensus, MeniffeeCoKY
 (SD10,ED61,s2A), page 140A(01-07), Ancestry.com image 3.

| | Aged | Born | Rel2 | Marr | Chldrn | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | |
|--------------------|------|----------|------|------|--------|------------|------------------|------|--------|
| | | | | | | | Head | Stat | Tot/Lv |
| Deniston, Philip J | 72 | Mar1828 | | | m48y | farmer | VA | TN | VA |
| " , Martha V | 67 | Dec1832 | wife | m48y | 11/ 5 | | VA | VA | VA |
| Perry, Mollie E | 37 | Jan1863 | dau | m13y | 4/ 4 | | VA | VA | VA |
| " , Perry W | 11 | Jun1888 | neph | sing | | | KY | KY | VA |
| " , Luther M | 10 | Mar1890 | neph | sing | | | TX | KY | VA |
| " , Clide H | 11 | A[r]1892 | neph | sing | | | KY | KY | VA |
| " , Glennie F | 6 | Feb1894 | niec | sing | | | KY | KY | VA |

Philip J4 (Scott3) owns his farm free of mortgage.

Joseph C Deniston household, 16Jun1900 USCensus, MeniffeeCoKY, Kanawha Dis 5
 (SD10,ED61,s13A), page 150A(10-15), Ancestry.com image 3.

| | Aged | Born | Rel2 | Marr | Chldrn | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | |
|--------------------|------|---------|------|------|--------|------------|------------------|------|--------|
| | | | | | | | Head | Stat | Tot/Lv |
| Deniston, Joseph C | 29 | Nov1870 | head | m9y | | farmer | VA | VA | VA |
| " , Nannie A | 29 | Aug1870 | wife | m9y | 4/ 4 | | KY | VA | KY |
| " , Lenah M | 9 | Jul1891 | dau | sing | | | KY | VA | KY |
| " , Arlie M | 7 | Nov1892 | son | sing | | | KY | VA | KY |
| " , Evert L | 4 | Jan1896 | son | sing | | | KY | VA | KY |
| " , George W | 2 | Jan1898 | son | sing | | | KY | VA | KY |

KENTUCKY, MORGAN County (1900)

Philipp Denniston household, 9Jun1900 USCensus, MorganCoKY
 (SD101,ED72,s8B), page 160B(56-63), Ancestry.com image 13.

| | Aged | Born | Rel2 | Marr | Chldrn | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | |
|--------------------|------|---------|------|------|--------|------------|------------------|------|--------|
| | | | | | | | Head | Stat | Tot/Lv |
| Denniston, Philipp | 37 | Aug1862 | | | m17y | farmer | VA | VA | VA |
| " , Margaret H | 37 | May1862 | wife | m17y | 6/ 6 | | VA | IN | VA |

---(following are their 6 children)---

This Phillip is probably the son of James4 (Scott3). He is renting his farm.

TEXAS, RED RIVER County (1900)

W R Denson household, 12Jun1900 USCensus, RedRiverCoTX, Pct 5, Manchester

(SD1,ED110,s6A-6B), pages 214A(45-50)-214B(01-02), Ancestry.com images 12-13.

| | Aged | Born | Rel2 Head | Marr Stat | Chldrn Tot/Lv | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | |
|---------------------|------|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|------------|------------------|------|------|
| | | | | | | | Self | Fath | Moth |
| Denson, W R | 40 | Apr1860 | | m16y | | farmer | VA | VA | VA |
| " , S E | 37 | Apr1863 | wife | m16y | 6/ 6 | | VA | VA | VA |
| " , N A | 14 | Aug1885 | dau | sing | | | IL | VA | VA |
| " , M L | 13 | Apr1887 | dau | sing | | | IL | VA | VA |
| " , E A | 10 | Jul1889 | son | sing | | | IL | VA | VA |
| " , G D | 9 | Apr1891 | son | sing | | | IL | VA | VA |
| --- (next page) --- | | | | | | | | | |
| " , E R | 6 | Jul1893 | dau | sing | | | TX | VA | VA |
| " , C W | 3 | Oct1896 | son | sing | | | TX | VA | VA |

William Robert⁵ (James⁴, Scott³) Dennison (& wife Sarah Ellen Paxson) owns his farm free of mortgage.

 * 1880 USCensus *

VIRGINIA, RUSSELL County (1880) _____
 Geo[rge] W Denniston household, 4Jun1880 USCensus, RussellCoVA, ElkGarden Dis
 (SD5,ED71,p4), page 125D(41-44), Ancestry.com image 4.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Stat | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | | Misc |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------------|------------------|------|------|-------|
| | | | | | | Self | Fath | Moth | |
| Denniston, Geo[rge] W | 44 | | | marr | farmer | VA | VA | VA | |
| " , Martha E | 19 | | wife | marr | <KH> | VA | VA | VA | |
| " , Elbert F | 2 | | son | marr | <KH> | KY | VA | VA | |
| " , Bertha G | 3mon | | dau | marr | <KH> | KY | VA | VA | b.FEB |

This is the only George Den* born btw 1853-1857 in VA.

Judy Haywood household, 24Jun1880 USCensus, RussellCoVA, Elk Garden
 (SD5,ED71,p39), page 138B(38-43), Ancestry.com image 30.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Stat | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | | Misc |
|------------------|------|------|-------|------|------------|------------------|------|------|---------|
| | | | | | | Self | Fath | Moth | |
| Haywood, Judy | 54 | | | wid | <KH> | VA | -- | -- | xRxW |
| Dennison, Rachel | 19 | | dau | sing | | VA | -- | VA | xRxW |
| " , William* | 15 | | son | sing | farm hand | VA | WV | VA | AS,xRxW |
| " , Mary* | 15 | | dau | sing | | VA | WV | VA | AS,xRxW |
| " , Charity E | 12 | | dau | sing | | VA | WV | VA | AS,xRxW |
| Dennison, Martha | 1mon | | grdau | sing | | VA | VA | VA | b.MAY |

*William & Mary are annotated "twins".

Mary E Janes household, 24Jun1880 USCensus, RussellCoVA, Elk Garden
 (SD5,ED71,pp31-32), pages 139C(48-50)-139D(01-05), Ancestry.com images 31-32.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Stat | Occupation | ---Birthplace--- | | | Misc |
|------------------|-------|------|------|------|------------|------------------|------|------|------|
| | | | | | | Self | Fath | Moth | |
| Janes, Mary E | 51 | | | wid | <KH> | VA | VA | VA | xW |
| " , Thomas L P | 17 | | son | sing | farmer | VA | VA | VA | xW |
| " , Virginia B | 12 | | dau | sing | | VA | VA | VA | xRxW |
| ---next page--- | | | | | | | | | |
| " , Louisanah | 9 | | dau | sing | | VA | VA | VA | |
| Slate, James F | 22 | | | marr | farmer | VA | VA | VA | |
| " , Hannah U | 20 | | wife | marr | | VA | VA | VA | |
| " , Ballard | 10mon | | son | sing | | VA | VA | VA | |
| Denniston, Scott | 86 | | fath | wid | | VA | Ire | KY | |

Scott is said to be paralyzed and his occupation is "sitting around home". The second digit of Mary's age is blotted and could be 0.

VIRGINIA, SMYTH County (1880)

William Davis household, 4Jun1880 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Rich Valley
(SD5,ED83,p8), page 61D(14-19), Ancestry.com image 8.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Head | Stat | Occupation | Self | Fath | Moth | Misc |
|------------------|------|---------|------|------|------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| Davis, William | 44 | | marr | | | farmer | VA | NC | NC | |
| " , Mary S | 31 | wife | marr | | | <KH> | VA | VA | VA | |
| " , Laura C | 1 | dau | sing | | | | VA | VA | VA | xRxW |
| Miller, John | 72 | fath-il | wid | | | | VA | VA | VA | |
| Dennison, Philip | 17 | --- | sing | | | farm hand | VA | VA | VA | xW |
| Thompson, Martha | 19 | srvt | sing | | | | VA | VA | VA | |

This is probably Phillip5 (James4, Scott3) who married Margaret and is found in 1900 in MorganCoKY.

Ja[me]s C Thompson household, 8-9Jun1880 USCensus, SmythCoVA, [Rich Valley]
(SD5,ED83,p18), page 66B(05-08), Ancestry.com image 18.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Head | Stat | Occupation | Self | Fath | Moth | Misc |
|-----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|---------------|------|------|------|------|
| Thompson, Ja[me]s C | 40 | | marr | | | farmer | VA | VA | VA | |
| " , Mary V | 42 | wife | marr | | | <KH> | VA | VA | Va | |
| Dennison, W[illia]m R | 18 | ---- | sing | | | works on farm | VA | VA | Va | xW |
| Buchanan, Jennie | 12 | ---- | sing | | | house help | VA | VA | VA | |

Thomas F McDonald household, 8Jun1880 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Dis 81
(SD5,ED81,p16), page 8D(03-08), Ancestry.com image 16.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Head | Stat | Occupation | Self | Fath | Moth | Misc |
|----------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| McDonald, Tho[mas] F | 53 | | marr | | | farmer | NC | NC | NC | |
| " , Catharine | 59 | wife | marr | | | <KH> | VA | VA | VA | |
| ---(3 children)--- | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dennison, Mary J | 17 | srvt | sing | | | servant | VA | VA | VA | |

Jos[eph] Gollehon household, 26Jun1880 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Marion Twp
(SD5,ED82,p55), page 56C(30-38), Ancestry.com image 55.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Head | Stat | Occupation | Self | Fath | Moth | Misc |
|---|-------|------|------|------|------|----------------|------|------|------|------|
| Gollehon, Jos[eph] | 27 | | wid | | | school teacher | VA | VA | VA | |
| ---(then a dau and 3 sets of boarders including...--- | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dennison, Sa[m? w?] | 5[0?] | | wid | | | farm laborer | VA | VA | VA | |

Dennisons in Smyth County Poor House, 1Jun1880 USCensus, SmythCoVA, StClair
(SD5,ED85,p1), page 104A(13-16), Ancestry.com image 1.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Head | Stat | Occupation | Self | Fath | Moth | Misc |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| Dennison, Mary | 46 | | sing | | | pauper | VA | VA | VA | xRxW |
| " , Tude [f] | 15 | | sing | | | pauper | VA | VA | VA | xRxW |
| " , Marilda | 8 | | sing | | | pauper | VA | VA | VA | xRxW |
| " , Andrew | 1 | | sing | | | pauper | VA | VA | VA | xRxW |

John Pickel household, 21Jun1880 USCensus, SmythCoVA, StClair Dis
(SD5,ED85,pp47-48), pages 127C(44-50)-127D(01-03), Ancestry.com images 47-48.

| | Aged | Rel2 | Marr | Head | Stat | Occupation | Self | Fath | Moth | Misc |
|-------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| Pickel, John | 40 | | marr | | | laborer | VA | VA | VA | |
| " , Nancy | 44 | wife | marr | | | <KH> | VA | VA | VA | |
| -then three little Pickels--- | | | | | | | | | | |
| " , Virginia | 31 | sis | sing | | | | VA | VA | VA | |
| Farris, W[illia]m A | 52 | ---- | marr | | | sawyer | VA | VA | VA | |
| ---next page--- | | | | | | | | | | |
| Farris, Nancy | 34 | wife | marr | | | <KH> | VA | VA | VA | |
| Dennison, W[illia]m | 14 | srvt | sing | | | laborer | VA | VA | VA | xW |
| Howard, Robert | 30 | srvt | sing | | | laborer | VA | VA | VA | xRxW |

 * 1870 USCensus *

VIRGINIA, RUSSELL County (1870)

Philip Denniston household, 30Aug1870 USCensus, RussellCoVA, Elk Garden, PO New Garden (p18), page 351B(11-19), Ancestry.com image 5.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|-------------------|------|---------------|-----------------------|------|----------|
| Denniston, Philip | 42 | miller | 250 | VA | MCit21+ |
| " , Martha | 37 | <KH> | | VA | |
| " , George | 14 | daily laborer | | VA | |
| " , Christopher | 11 | daily laborer | | VA | |
| " , Laura | 10 | at school | | VA | AS, xRxW |
| " , Mary | 4 | at home | | VA | |
| " , Louisa | 5 | at home | | VA | |
| " , Sarah | 2 | at home | | VA | |
| Houston, Silburn | 28 | farm laborer | | VA | |

This is the only George Den* born btw 1853-1857 in VA.

Scott Denniston household, 29Aug1870 USCensus, RussellCoVA, Elk Garden, PO Lebanon (p18), page 367B(34-38), Ancestry.com image 38.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Denniston, Scott | 76 | farmer | 1000/ 590 | VA | xW |
| Moon, Sarah | 44 | <KH> | | IN | xW |
| " , Hannah | 16 | at home | | VA | |
| " , William | 9 | at home | | VA | |
| " , Rachel | 5 | at home | | VA | |

VIRGINIA, SMYTH County (1870)

William F Durman household, 9Jul1870 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Marion, PO Marion (p75), page 38A(22-27), Ancestry.com image 75.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|-------------------|------|---------------------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Durman, William F | 30 | blacksmith | | VA | |
| " , Caroline | 27 | | | VA | |
| " , William R | 37 | | | VA | |
| " , Virginia | 1 | | | VA | |
| Dennison, James | 11 | works in blacksmith shop | | VA | |
| Walton, James N | 17 | apprenticed to blacksmith | | VA | |

Rob[er]t Deniston household, 4Jul1870 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Rich Valley, PO Chatham Hill (p2), page 49B(25-35), Ancestry.com image 2.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|--------------------|------|--------------|-----------------------|------|---------|
| Deniston, Rob[er]t | 48 | wheel wright | 450 | IN | MCit21+ |
| " , Eliza | 47 | <KH> | | VA | |
| " , Maranda | 16 | | | [VA] | xW |
| " , John L | 14 | | | [VA] | xW |
| " , James W | 12 | | | [VA] | xW |
| " , Hannah | 11 | | | [VA] | xW |
| " , Margaret | 9 | | | [VA] | xRxW |
| " , Mary E | 7 | | | [VA] | xRxW |
| " , Jane | 3 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Nancy C | 1 | | | [VA] | |

DENNISONS of Southwest Virginia in the USCensus, 1810-1900, + TN & KY offshoots 7

DENNISONS in the 1870 USCensus for Smyth Co, Virginia, continued

Ja[me]s R Ermbarger household, 9Jul1870 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Rich Valley, PO Chatham Hill (p18), page 57B(26-31), Ancestry.com image 18.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|----------------------|------|-----------------------|-----------------------|------|---------|
| Ermbarger, Ja[me]s R | 29 | farmer | 4000/ 941 | [VA] | MCit21+ |
| " , Cristena | 19 | <KH> | | [VA] | |
| " , Eliza | 58 | <KH - retired> | | [VA] | |
| " , Eliza Jane | 18 | | | [VA] | |
| Dennison, J P | 8 | "bound boy at home" | | [VA] | xRxW |
| Coffee, John | 9 | ["bound boy at home"] | | [VA] | xRxW |

Ja[me]s C Thompson household, 9Jul1870 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Rich Valley, PO Chatham Hill (p18), page 57B(32-35), Ancestry.com image 18.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|---------------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------|------|-------------|
| Thompson, Ja[me]s C | 27 | farmer | 2000/ 416 | [VA] | xW, MCit21+ |
| " , Mary V | 31 | | | [VA] | |
| Denniston, Rob[er]t | 10 | "bound boy at home" | | [VA] | xRxW |
| Thompson, Jane | 16 | "lives with J.C.T." | | [VA] | |

William M Davis household, 24Aug1870 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Rich Valley, PO Saltvile (p89), page 93A(14-17), Ancestry.com image 89.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|---------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Davis, William M | 34 | farmer | 2000/1612 | [VA] | |
| " , Mary E | 26 | <KH> | | [VA] | |
| Newton, Kitty | 18 | house servant | | [VA] | |
| Dennison, Ann | 11 | at home | | [VA] | xRxW |

Charles E Hopkins county poor home, 7Sep1870 USCensus, SmythCoVA, St Clair, PO Marion (p34), page B(14-25), Ancestry.com image 34.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|---------------------|------|---------------------|-----------------------|------|-------|
| Hopkins, Charles E | 49 | keeper of poor home | | VA | |
| ---(lines 15-22)--- | | | | | |
| Dennison, Margaret | 37 | pauper | | VA | xRxW |
| " , Mary | 3mon | pauper | | VA | b.FEB |
| " , William | 3 | pauper | | VA | |

 * 1860 USCensus *

VIRGINIA, RUSSELL County (1860)

John Dennison household, 14Aug1860 USCensus, RussellCoVA, PO Hendricks Mills
 (p90), page 90 (12-14), Ancestry.com image 98.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|----------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Dennison, John | 24 | farm hand | | [VA] | m.CY |
| " , Judith | 27 | | | [VA] | m.CY |
| Helton, John H | 3 | | | | |

Samuel Moore household, 14Aug1860 USCensus, RussellCoVA, PO Hendrick's Mills
 (p91), page 91 (18-20), Ancestry.com image 99.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Moore, Samuel | 25 | farming | 15 | [VA] | mCY |
| " , Sarah J | 34 | | | [VA] | mCY |
| Dennison, Hannah | 6 | | | [VA] | |

Scott Dennison household, 14Aug1860 USCensus, RussellCoVA, PO Hendricks Mills
 (p91), page 91 (21-23), Ancestry.com image 99.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Dennison, Scott | 66 | farmer | 2000/ 150 | [VA] | |
| " , Hannah | 61 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Healen E | 20 | | | [VA] | |

James W Dennison household, 14Aug1860 USCensus, RussellCoVA, PO Hendricks Mills
 (p91), page 91 (24-26), Ancestry.com image 99.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|-------------------|-------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Dennison, James W | 22 | farmer | 25 | [VA] | xRW |
| " , Sarah Jane | 21 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Anna L | 10mon | | | [VA] | |

Phillip J Denniston household, 14Aug1860 USCensus, RussellCoVA, PO Rose Dale
 (p111), page 111 (29-33), Ancestry.com image 119.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|----------------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Denniston, Phillip J | 31 | farmer | 330/ 280 | [VA] | |
| " , Martha V | 25 | | | [VA] | |
| " , George W | 4 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Christopher C | 2 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Loury V [f] | 2mon | | | [VA] | |

"Loury" here is Laura in 1870.

VIRGINIA, SMYTH County (1860)

Leander Denison household, 30Jul1860 USCensus, SmythCoVA, PO 7 Mile Forde (p102), page 96[4] (20-27), Ancestry.com image 104.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Denison, Leander | 72 | laborer | | KY | xRxW |
| " , Mary | 40 | | | VA | |
| " , Margaret Ann | 22 | | | [VA] | xRxW |
| " , Louisa | 19 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Catharine | 14 | | | [VA] | |
| " , James | 4 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Cara | 6 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Robert | 3 | | | [VA] | |

Robert Denison household, 8Aug1860 USCensus, SmythCoVA, PO 7 Mile Forde (p109), page 97[1] (27-29), Ancestry.com image 111.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Denison, Robert | 22 | laborer | | [VA] | xRxW |
| " , Rebecca | 22 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Mary J | 1mon | | | [VA] | |

Samuel Denison household, 7Aug1860 USCensus, SmythCoVA, PO 7 Mile Forde (p112), page 97[4] (10-13), Ancestry.com image 114.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|------|------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Denison, Samuel | 45 | laborer | | [VA] | |
| " , Nancy Ann | 63 | | | [VA] | xRxW |
| Barlow, Mary J | 16 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Joseph | 18 | laborer | | [VA] | |

Robert Danison household, 8Sep1860 USCensus, SmythCoVA, PO 7 Mile Forde (p134), page 996(32-38), Ancestry.com image 136.

| | Aged | Occupation | Property Real/Pers | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|------|-------------|-----------------------|------|------|
| Danison, Robert | 38 | wagon maker | 500/ 220 | [VA] | |
| " , Eliza | 36 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Maranda V | 7 | | | [VA] | |
| " , John F | 6 | | | [VA] | |
| " , James W | 4 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Hannah W | 3 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Mary L | 1 | | | [VA] | |

 * 1850 USCensus *

TENNESSEE, BEDFORD County (1850)

Rob[er]t Denison household, 20Sep1850 USCensus, BedfordCoTN, Civ Dis 4
 page 118A(06-13), Ancestry.com image 18.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Denison, Rob[er]t | 45 | carpenter | 4000 | [TN] | |
| " , Ann | 28 | | | [TN] | |
| " , James | 26 | | | [TN] | |
| " , Mart[ina?] S | 20 | | | [TN] | |

---plus a family of four Henslys---

Considering the 1820 USCensus for BedfordCo, which features probable btothers George3 and Robert3 (Robert2, John1) DENNISTON, this Robert is probably the son of George, who ended up in JeffersonCo.

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County (1850)

There are numerous DENNISONs in JeffersonCo this year, and I've abstracted virtually all of them. There were none, though, in adjacent Grainger or Sevier counties. The whole of the evidence indicates that as many as four sons of Robert2 (John1) of WashingtonCoVA resided in JeffersonCo for a time: Robert2's oldest son John3, who married Phebe Williams in JeffersonCo in 1794, and continued in the tax and other records there, or in adjacent GraingerCo for decades, jointly purchasing land with his youngest brother Scott3 in 1826; George3, the second son of this family who settled first with his brother in BedfordCoTN but returned later to Jefferson; and Joseph3 who married late.

Most of the DENNISON heads of household here were probably sons of John3, but one or two may have been sons instead of George3. The echo of the names Margaret and Phebe in the given names of their own children also endorses this supposition.

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

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

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

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

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

DENNISONs in the 1850 USCensus for JeffersonCoTN, continued

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

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

I've deduced, hypothetically, that James was a late son of John & Phebe (Williams) Denniston who married in JeffersonCoTN in 1794. The replication of these parental names in the children of this couple are at least suggestive of the Scottish onomastic pattern followed by ancestral DENNISTON predecessors. The presence of the female Indiana here, who looks like an older sister of James, suggests that this line emanates from the same one as Scott Dennis[t]on of the Virginia panhandle, who sojourned with his young family in IN for several years before co-purchasing land in JeffersonCo with his brother John, but shortly thereafter returning to WytheCoVA.

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

Indiana is presumably James's unmarried sister, and the name suggests that John³ was the original Indiana pioneer, with youngest brother Scott³ merely following in John's footsteps, first to IN, then to TN. Joel, above, by inference a brother of this James, apparently named a daughter "Diannah", but other censuses suggest that this was a corruption of Indiana.

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

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

The fact that this Robert named one of his sons Joel makes it highly likely that he was a brother of Joel (aged 47) above, and that both were sons of John³.

DENNISONs in the 1850 USCensus for JeffersonCoTN, continued

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

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

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

Joseph (63) figures to be the Joseph who appears sporadically from 1809-1819 on the WashingtonCoVA tax lists proximate to his putative father Robert2 (John1) of that place. Daughters Margaret and Phebe appear to be twins, the one presumably named for Joseph's mother, the other for his oldest brother John3 of JeffersonCoTN's wife.

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

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

This John Denison is of the right age to be the son of John3 (Robert2) whose father married in JeffersonCo in 1794. Since he has named one of his own sons George, though, it's also possible that he is the son of John3's next younger brother, George3, whose 1820 USCensus record in BedfordCo suggests that he had an oldest son age 16-25 at that time; if that were so, it would mean that George, at least, didn't follow the Scottish onomastic pattern in naming his children. If this John was the son of John3, who married in 1794, it's at least possible that he's the third son, which would be in accord with the pattern.

VIRGINIA, PITTSYLVANIA County (1850)

Willis Aron household, 26Oct1850 USCensus, PittsylvaniaCoVA, N Ds
page 238A(15-17), Ancestry.com image 135.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|--------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Aron, Willis | 20 | farmer | | [VA] | |
| " , Frances | 49 | | | [VA] | |
| Denison, Elizabeth | 65 | | | [VA] | |

VIRGINIA, ROANOKE County (1850)

Jeffrey Goggin household, 7Aug1850 USCensus, RoanokeCoVA
page 292A(13-17), Ancestry.com image 30.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Goggin, Jeffrey | 30 | farmer | | VA | |
| " , Margaret | 28 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Nancy M | 4 | | | [VA] | |
| " , John | 2 | | | [VA] | |
| Dennison, Andrew | 40 | blacksmith | | [VA] | |

VIRGINIA, RUSSELL County (1850)

Hezekiah Patrick household, 28Oct1850 USCensus, RussellCoVA, Dis 54
page 309B(11-15), Ancestry.com image 184

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-------------------|------|------------|--------------|---------------|------|
| Patrick, Hezekiah | 34 | farmer | | SmytheCoVA | |
| " , Rachel | 26 | | | IN | |
| " , Leah | 6 | | | RussellCoVA | |
| " , Scott | 4 | | | RussellCoVA | |
| " , George | 2 | | | [RussellCoVA] | |

Robert Denison household, 28Oct1850 USCensus, RussellCoVA, Dis 54
page 309B(16-17), Ancestry.com image 184

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|------|------------|--------------|-------------|------|
| Denison, Robert | 27 | farmer | | IN | |
| " , Eliza | 26 | | | RussellCoVA | |

Robert and his sister Rachel Patrick, of the preceding adjacent household are children of Scott3 (Robert2, John1), indicated in part by their unusual Indiana birth places.

VIRGINIA, SCOTT County (1850)

Joseph Hickam Jr. household, 27Jul1850 USCensus, ScottCoVA
page 365A(27-37), Ancestry.com image 31.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|---------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Hickam, Joseph Jr | 46 | [farmer] | 1800 | VA | |
| " , Jane | 25 | | | VA | |
| " , Elizabeth | 4 | | | VA | |
| " , Matilda | 2 | | | VA | |
| " , Ealy | 6mon | | | VA | |
| " , Joseph SR | 75 | none | 2000 | PA | |
| Dennison, Elizabeth | 55 | | | VA | |
| Crawford, Charles W | 13 | | | VA | |
| Phipps, John | 16 | farmer | | TN | |

Thomas Denison household, 27Jul1850 USCensus, ScottCoVA
page 365A(38-41), Ancestry.com image 31.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|-------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Denison, Thomas | 21 | [farmer] | | VA | |
| " , Mary | 25 | | | VA | |
| " , Margaret A | 2 | | | VA | |
| " , Isaac | 11mon | | | VA | |

John Denison household, 27Jul1850 USCensus, ScottCoVA
page 365B(18-20), Ancestry.com image 32.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|---------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Denison, John | 22 | [farmer] | | VA | |
| " , Sophia | 18 | | | VA | |
| Smith, Benj[amin] A | 25 | [farmer] | | VA | |

Later households on the same page are headed by John Larkey (Peter, following, has son Larkin), and Isaac Hickam.

Peter Denison household, 29Jul1850 USCensus, ScottCoVA
page 367B(26-34), Ancestry.com image 36.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Denison, Peter | 49 | [farmer] | 600 | VA | |
| " , Jane | 40 | | | VA | |
| " , Rich[ard?] M | 21 | | | VA | |
| " , Martha | 16 | | | VA | |
| " , Mary | 13 | | | VA | |
| " , Elizabeth | 11 | | | VA | |
| " , Isaac | 8 | | | VA | |
| " , Larkin | 4 | | | VA | |
| " , James S | 8mon | | | VA | |

VIRGINIA, SMYTH County (1850)

Elijah Dungs household, 15Aug1850 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Dis 60
page 189A(05-12), Ancestry.com image 67.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Dungans, Elijah | 57/9 | mason | 4000 | VA | |
| " , Elizabeth | 47 | | | Ire | |
| " , George | 31 | farmer | | VA | |
| " , Ann | 31 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Nancy | 2 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Palsy [f] | 1 | | | [VA] | |
| Dennison, Samuel | 31 | laborer | | [VA] | |

Leander Dennison household, 17Aug1850 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Dis 60
page 190B(05-12), Ancestry.com image 70.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Dennison, Leander | 50 | laborer | | [VA] | xRW |
| " , Mary | 36 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Lydia | 16 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Margaret | 14 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Robert C | 12 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Darky E [f] | 9 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Louisa E | 7 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Susannah C | 4 | | | [VA] | |

DENNISONs in the 1850 USCensus for Smyth Co, Virginia, continued

Scott Deniston household, 19Aug1850 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Dis 60
page 194A(01-09), Ancestry.com image 77.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Deniston, Scott | 56 | mechanic | 550 | VA | |
| " , Hannah | 50 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Sarah | 26 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Philip J | 24 | laborer | | [VA] | |
| " , Mary | 22 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Margaret | 18 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Regina | 16 | | | [VA] | |
| " , James W | 12 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Helen C | 10 | | | [VA] | |

The ages of the children here don't jibe with later entries (e.g. Philip J in 1900 is said to have been born in Mar1828), and the fact that they are shown as being born exactly two years apart, with one gap, reminds me of a couple of cases like this I've encountered before, where I hypothesized that the enumerator obtained a list of children in birth order, but the informant couldn't supply the exact ages, so the enumerator just guesstimated them using a typical 2 year birth interval. Philip, thus, should have been aged about 22, which would have made his age consistent with his 1860-1880 census records. I note also that after making this adjustment, there's a birth order gap that could accommodate a son John, like the one aged 24 in 1860 who is a close neighbor of Scott, James W, and Phillip J in RussellCo that year.

Nancy Dennison household, 26Aug1850 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Dis 60
page 201A(28-31), Ancestry.com image 91.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-----------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Dennison, Nancy | 40 | | | [VA] | xRW |
| " , Susannah | 13 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Mary | 6 | | | [VA] | |
| " , William | 4 | | | [VA] | |

Philip Umbarger household, 5Sep1850 USCensus, SmythCoVA, Dis 60
page 210A(22-27), Ancestry.com image 109

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Umbarger, Philip | 40 | farmer | 7000 | [VA] | |
| Dennison, Philip | 26 | laborer | | IN | |
| " , Sally | 30 | | | VA | |
| " , Henry P | 3 | | | [VA] | |
| " , William J | 1 | | | [VA] | |
| Spence, William | 20 | laborer | | [VA] | |

Henry P and William are both "blind, idiotic".

VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON County (1850) _____

Rob[er]t Denison household, 28Jun1850 USCensus, WashingtonCoVA, Ds 67

page 115B(12-24), Ancestry.com image 96.

| | Aged | Occupation | Prop Real | Born | Misc |
|-------------------|------|------------|--------------|------|------|
| Denison, Rob[er]t | 39 | farmer | 2240 | [VA] | |
| " , Mary | 39 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Jane | 12 | | | [VA] | |
| " , And[re]w | 10 | | | [VA] | |
| " , John | 8 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Margaret | 6 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Elizabeth | 3 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Susan | 1 | | | [VA] | |
| " , And[re]w | 78 | farmer | | [VA] | |
| Preston, Sarah | 45 | | | [VA] | |
| Denison, Mary | 43 | | | [VA] | |
| Carson, Samuel | 15 | | | [VA] | |
| " , Mary | 80 | laborer[?] | | [VA] | |

Other SW Virginia Counties in 1850 for which there were no DENNISONS:

BLAND, CARROLL, FLOYD, FRANKLIN, GILES, GRAYSON, HENRY, LEE, MERCER, MONROE, MONTGOMERY,
PATRICK, PULASKI, TAZEWELL, WISE, and WYTHE

 * 1830 USCensus *

| 1830 USCensus | Free Whites | | | | | | | | | | | | | Sla Fre | | |
|---------------|-------------|----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------|-----|-----|
| | M: 0 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 20 | 30 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 | 80 | 90 | 100 | ves | Col | TOT |
| | F: 4 | -9 | -14 | -19 | -29 | -39 | -49 | -59 | -69 | -79 | -89 | -99 | + | | | |

TENNESSEE, BEDFORD County

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Robert Dennison | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| 177+BedfTN-----:f090-23 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

This Robert is a likely son of Robert2 (John1) of WashingtonCoVA.

TENNESSEE, GRAINGER County

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Robert Denniston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| 53+GraiTN-----:f379-22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| John Denison | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| 77+GrainTN-----:f391-15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

TENNESSEE, JEFFERSON County

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|
| Elihu Millikan | 0 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 13 |
| 19+JeffTN-----:f287-16 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Denison | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 39+JeffTN-----:f297-19 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Joel Denison | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 39+JeffTN-----:f297-20 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| George Denason | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 |
| 61+JeffTN-----:f308-07 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| James De[nson?] | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 106+JeffTN-----:f331-01 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

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

VIRGINIA, SCOTT County

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peter Denison | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| 13+ScotVA-----:f008-22 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

Other readings of this "D---son" surname are possible, but later censuses show that it's a DENNISON cognate.

VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON County (alpha FLS)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James Denniton | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 29+WashVA-----:f239-18 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Leander Denniston | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 33+WashVA-----:f241-04 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Andrew Denniston | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| 35+WashVA-----:f242-10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

VIRGINIA, WYTHE County

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Scott Dennison | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 |
| 22+WythVA-----:f323-12 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | |

 * 1820 USCensus *

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

| 1820 USCensus | Free Whites | | | | | | F | A | C | M | Sla | Fre | Oth | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---|-----|-----|-----|----|----|---|---|---|-----|-----|-----|---|
| | M: | 0 | 10 | 16 | 16 | 26 | 45 | - | o | - | g | o | a | |
| | F: | 9 | -15 | -18 | -25 | 44 | + | r | r | m | n | | Txd | |
| TENNESSEE, BEDFORD County | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| George Denison | | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | x | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| 42 BedfTN-----: | 79-03 | 0 | 1 | - | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| Robert Denison | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | x | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 54 BedfTN-----: | 104-08 | 1 | 0 | - | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |

George and Robert are probably the sons of Robert2 of WashingtonCoVA. George's family structure is consistent with the 1810 WashingtonCoVA household of George Denniston.

VIRGINIA, WYTHE County (alpha FLS)

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|---------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| William Deniston | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | x | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | - |
| 9 WythVA-----: | 211B-03 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |

William is the son of Robert2 DENNISTON by inference from his aunt Margaret's will, and since he and his putative brother Scott are bracketed (listed adjacent with the same tax gathering date) in the WytheCo tax list of 1821, and Scott was to marry in WytheCo later in 1820, he is probably the supernumerary male aged 16-25 in William's HH (though if Scott was indeed born 12Apr1794 as is widely claimed, he would probably have just turned 26 when the census was taken).

Aunt Margaret's will also implies that William was married about 1815, and that his wife was pregnant in 1816; therefore the 3 children aged < 10 are probably William's. That leaves only the female aged 10-15, unaccounted for.

VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON County

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Leander Deniston | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | x | 1 | 0 | 0 | - | - | - |
| 12 WashVA-----: | 204-01 | 1 | 0 | - | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | | | | | |
| James Denniston | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | x | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | - | - |
| 12 WashVA-----: | 204-25 | 0 | 0 | - | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | |

Leander and James are almost certainly sons of Robert2, who died about 1816—the year both married..

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Peggy Denniston | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | x | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - | - |
| 13 WashVA-----: | 205-35 | 1 | 0 | - | 0 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | |

There were two Margaret Dennistons of WashingtonCo, either of whom might be this head of household: (1) Margaret the sister of deceased John Denniston whose 20Jul1816 will was probated 12Sep1820; and (2) the widow of John's brother Robert (Robert2). To try to parse this HH we must attempt to determine which Margaret this is.

Since the first Margaret left her property to the children of two couples, William & Rachel Deniston, and George & Agnes Buchanan, and since there are no VA households headed by George Buchanan this year, one might suppose that the young family here is that of George & Agnes—if Margaret's will hadn't shown that this couple had had seven children by 1816. I think, rather that this is more likely the widow of Robert2. The two females in her HH aged 26-44 are presumably

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| And[re]w Denniston | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | x | 0 | 0 | 0 | - | - | - |
| 14 WashVA-----: | 206-02 | 0 | 0 | - | 3 | 0 | 1 | | | | | | | |

Andrew is almost certainly not closely related to the other DENNISTONS of WashingtonCo; none have and intercourse with him in the records, and Andrew typically appeared on a different tax list so lived in a different part of the county. Also, the given name Andrew doesn't run in this branch of the Patrilineage 1 DENNISONS.

 * 1810 USCensus *

According to his 1850 and 1860 USCensus records, Scott3 (Robert2,John1) Deniston of Smyth and Russell counties, VA, respectively, was born in Virginia about 1794. In search of Scott, I've included below abstracts of all of the DENNISON households in Virginia. Thanks to extensive, even exhaustive, genealogical research, supplemented by Y-Chromosome (ySTR) DNA testing, many of these DENNISONS have been identified as belonging to certain patrilineages, and even, in some cases, to specific branches within those patrilineages.

The largest number of these Virginia-based DENNISONS are descendants of Scottish-originated [DENNISON Patrilineage 1](#), and one of the indicators of membership in this patrilineage is at least the occasional spelling the surname with a "t" (e.g. "Denniston"). Other indicators are the sharing of certain yDNA mutations, though at present, given the limited testing (just the first 37 markers, there is no very definitive yDNA pattern for the descendants of Scott and his brothers.

Chances are that Scott, aged abt 16 in 1810, dwelt in the household of his DENNISON father, and a scan down the age columns of the following abstracts looking for males aged 16-25 (or just possibly males 1ged 10-15) in a household with at least one older male, will show that only a minority of these households qualify. Moreover, all but one of these households can be practically eliminated on other grounds—either because the household heads have been otherwise positively identified through comprehensive and exhaustive genealogical research, and/or due to inherent improbability. I've appended comments to my abstracts from each county that bring these other factors to bear.

| 1810 USCensus | Free Whites | | | | | Other | |
|---|-------------|---|-----|-----|----|-------|------------|
| | M: | 0 | 10 | 16 | 26 | 45 | |
| | F: | 9 | -15 | -25 | 44 | + | Free Slave |
| VIRGINIA, AUGUSTA County (alpha FLS) | | | | | | | |
| John Denison Sr | | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 5 |
| 22 AuguVA-----: 333-13 | | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | |
| John Denison | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 22 AuguVA-----: 333-14 | | 3 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |

These Johns are, respectively, the son, and grandson of Daniel2 (Daniel1 the 1738 AugustaCo pioneer).

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| VIRGINIA, FAIRFAX County | | | | | | | |
| William Dennison | | 1 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 0 |
| 25 FairVA-----: 252-07 | | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | |

Fairfax is a Chesapeake tidewater county in the NE corner of the state, impossibly remote from the SW portion of the state and exceedingly unlikely to be a source for any sort of westward migration.

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| VIRGINIA, FAUQUIER County | | | | | | | |
| Thomas Denniston | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 0 |
| 27 FauqVA-----: 364-27 | | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | |

Thomas and the many other related DENNISONS who migrated due west between 1800 and 1810 to Harrison any adjacent counties have been positively identified both through genealogical research and yDNA testing as belonging to [DENNISON Patrilineage 5](#).

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| VIRGINIA, GREENSVILLE County | | | | | | | |
| William Dennison | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 4 |
| 6 GrnsVA- 448: 13-14 | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | |

GreensvilleCo lies in the SE portion of the state on the NC border, and most migration from there flowed south into NC or beyond, or due west a county or two, but remaining on the cismontane side of the BlueRidge Mountain chain.

DENNISONs in the 1810 USCensus for Virginia, continued

| 1810 USCensus | Free Whites | | | | | | Other | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|---|-----|-----|----|----|-------|-------|
| | M: | 0 | 10 | 16 | 26 | 45 | Free | Slave |
| | F: | 9 | -15 | -25 | 44 | + | | |
| VIRGINIA, HARRISON County | | | | | | | | |
| Elisha Dennison | | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 17 HarrVA-----: 920-13 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| Elisha Dennison | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 HarrVA-----: 921-03 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |
| James Dennison | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 18 HarrVA-----: 921-06 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | |
| Henry Dennus | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 16 HarrVA-----: 919-20 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | | |
| James Dennison | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 32 HarrVA-----: 935-04 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | |

The DENNISON denizens of HarrisonCo at this time have been identified both through genealogical research and yDNA testing as belonging to [DENNISON Patrilineage 5](#).

VIRGINIA, JEFFERSON County, CHARLESTOWN

| | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thomas Denison | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 4 JeffVA-----: 57-02 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | | | |

JeffersonCo is located in the same portion of the state as Fairfax and is therefore an exceedingly unlikely point of origin for DENNISONs who ended up, as Scott did, in the VA panhandle many hundreds of miles to the SW.

VIRGINIA, KANAWHA County

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thomas Denison | | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 KanaVA-----: 211-14 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | | | |

Thomas is a brother of the Jonathan DENNISON who was the ancestor of DenSPA project member Dale Dennison, whose ancestry will be found on the DenSPA Singletons page for DENNISONs whose patrilineage do not so far match to any other DENNISON patrilineages.

VIRGINIA, OHIO County (alpha FLS)

| | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| James Denneson | | 0 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 14 OhioVA-----:1048-17 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | | | |

This household meets the other qualifications to be the locus of Scott (3 males aged-16-25 and at least one older male) but it's entirely in the wrong place to be a feeder for the SW VA panhandle counties. OhioCo is a narrow strip along the border of western PA, and most of those who settled there came from PA. At the same time, it's separated from the VA panhandle by a couple of hundred miles of the rugged mountains of the Applachian chain and to get to SW VA from OhioCo, it would have been first necessary to backtrack over those mountains to pick up the Valley Road south. And for what? The period 1800-1810 was the time when the main flow of westward migration from the northern tier was into the broad rolling well-watered plains of Ohio.

Even without considering the genealogical evidence for the origin and relationships between the following DENNISONs of Washington and Wythe counties, these are the only areas at all likely to have been the points of origin of Scott, whose 1830 household, as a matter of fact, was located in WytheCo. Moreover, Scott's probable brother, Leander, a close neighbor of his in SmythCo in 1850, headed a household in WashingtonCo in 1820.

As a scan of the 16-25 and older columns of the following set of abstracts shows, just one of these Washington and Wythe county households could have harbored Scott - that of Robert Denniston of WashingtonCo, whom I've identified as his father, and the father of nearly all of the other DENNISON males who persisted in this part of the US in spite of the flood tide of migration westward from here.

DENNISONs in the 1810 USCensus for Virginia, continued

| 1810 USCensus | Free Whites | | | | | Other | |
|---------------|-------------|-----|-----|----|----|-------|-------|
| | M: 0 | 10 | 16 | 26 | 45 | | |
| | F: 9 | -15 | -25 | 44 | + | Free | Slave |

VIRGINIA, WASHINGTON County

Margret Deniston 0 0 0 0 0

14 WashVA-----: 702-19 0 0 0 0 1

The sister of John Deniston, deceased about 1807.

And[re]w Deniston 2 0 0 1 0

15 WashVA-----: 703-05 4 0 0 1 0

Andrew is probably at best distantly related to the Robert2 branch of the family.

Robert Denniston 0 2 3 0 1

53 WashVA-----: 741-19 1 3 1 0 1

George Denniston 2 0 0 1 0

53 WashVA-----: 741-20 2 0 1 0 1

Given the female under 10 in Robert's household, who can hardly be a daughter of his wife Margaret, whose first child, according to my reckoning, was born about 1773, Robert's appears to be a compound household—perhaps inclusive of a young family of one of his sons or married daughters.

The tax lists from 1807-1811 show DENNISTONs in the county (other than the 1810 householders for both Washington and Wythe) James (born abt 1782), Samuel (b.say 1786), and Joseph (b.abt 1788), later Leander (born abt.1790), and Scott (born supposedly 12Apr1794), all probably sons of Robert2, based on their years of initial appearance on these lists, and their evident proximity to him geographically. Unfortunately, Robert, whose land I think lay astride Washington and Wythe counties, seems to have managed to use this ambiguity to elude the lists entirely for the period 1794-1803 inclusive, as well as in 1809-1810 (and for 1808 there were no taxes), and these are just the years several of these young sons would have been making their first appearance as they came of age..

Nonetheless, according to my reconstruction of Robert2's conjugal family (which is based also on much other evidence, including later appearances of these putative sons in the USCensus), the three males aged 16-25 in his 1810 HH are probably Samuel, Joseph and Leander, while one of the two males aged 10-15 is presumably Scott, even though the latter was supposedly born 12Apr1794, and would thus have probably turned 16 by the time the census was compiled. That leaves one male aged 10-15 unaccounted for—or possibly two if Scott was tallied as 16-25.

The females (besides Robert's wife Margaret) are more challenging: the oldest, aged 16-25, might be the Sally Denniston who married John Kelly in WashingtonCo on15Mar1813, or Sally might have been 15 in 1810—one of the three females in that age category. The older female could be a DENNISTON wife, but there's evidence that Samuel, Joseph, and Leander all married later, as far as we know for the first time. If Robert's household does harbor another conjugal family that would explain the one female under 10, but that leaves at least two aged 10-15 whom I cannot readily account for. Possibly one of these, but not likely both, was a late daughter of Margaret, but if she had her first child, son John, in 1773 as I have estimated, and was aged 21 when she married say 1772, she would have been 45 in 1797 when the last daughter would have been born.

VIRGINIA, WYTHE County (alpha FLS)

George Buchanan 3 0 1 1 0 0 0

5 WythVA-----: 822-09 2 0 0 1 0

Probable husband of Agnes3 (Robert2 Denison).

Robert Denniston 2 0 0 1 0

10 WythVA-----: 828-06 3 0 0 1 0

William Denniston 0 0 1 0 0

10 WythVA-----: 828-13 0 0 0 0 0

This William is presumably the son of Robert2, probably just come of age, and perhaps occupying a part of his father, Robert of WashingtonCo's land that fell into WytheCo.

The other Robert, of WytheCo, is not the brother of William who first appears as a householder in the 1820 USCensus for BedfordCoTN; besides the incompatibility between the family structures of this Robert and the BedfordCo man, this Robert appeared on the WytheCo tax rolls from 1796-1816, at which point he apparently died, leaving a widow, Rhoda in his stead, and an orphaned son John who was bound out in a WytheCo order book entry.