

MY BRANCH OF THE DENNISON FAMILY TREE

By Betty Dennison Haught

CHAPTER 1. WHERE AND HOW WE GOT THE SURNAME DENNISON

"All through history, the ancient name of Dennison has been for centuries an honorable one to bear, and America is proud to adopt and call the Dennison's its own".

Kenneth W. Clendenin, journalist

There are a few theories about the origin of this ancient name, which is found in Scotland, Ireland and England. No doubt they all began as one family and spread through the British Isles.

Our ancestors were of Irish descent. I believe that all the Dennison's were originally Irish, speaking Gaelic and descended from the medieval Celts.

The name Dennison came from "son of Dennis" and has the following variations: Denson, Dyson, Denny, Dyatt, Dyett, Denison, Denniston, Dennistoun, Dennis, Dennistown, and of course, Dennison. Even the surname of Tennyson is considered to be a derivative of the name Dennison.

The English Dennison's are said to have sprung from a cadet of an ancient house who went from Scotland to England during the reign of King Charles I and fought at Marston Moor. Marston Moor is located in Northern England in North Yorkshire County, west of York County.

On June 3, 1956, Kenneth W. Clendenin, wrote an interesting article in the Parkersburg News about the Coat of Arms for the Dennison family and some of the ancient Dennison's'. According to Mr. Clendenin the Dennison Coat of Arms shows that it is very old as evidenced by the three Turteaux (Turkish Coins) as well as the cross (Crosslet Fitcher) in the lower part of the shield, which signified service in the Crusades.

This type of Cross was carried by one of the Crusaders and stuck in the ground by the point on one end when a halt was called, either for rest or religious services.

This Cross was always carried by one of the most honorable Knights and borne at the head of the columns. One of the ancient Dennison's, who was a Knight, may have had this honor bestowed upon him and later incorporated it in his Coat of Armor.

SIR ROBERT DENNISON was one of the Knights who was selected as one of the hostages for ransom for King David II, of Scotland, as specified in a Treaty in the Crusaders War, on October 3rd, 1157. The hostages taken were always selected from the noblest families at that time. Sir Robert Dennison had come from one such family.

His family in Scotland included the Barony of Danielstoun (which was named for Daniel or Danziel Dennison) who lived in the Castle Finlaystown, County of Fenfrew, Scotland, on the River Gryfe. These Dennison's were owners of great tracts of land and Lairds (Lords) of many estates.

WALTER de DENNISON was elected the Bishop of St. Andrews, in Scotland in 1402.

SIR JOHN de DANIELSTOWN was for many years the Sheriff of Dembarton County, Scotland and the Governor of Dumbarton Castle.

SIR WILLIAM de DANZIELSTOWN acquired vast estates in 1377 and had grants from the Crown and held preferment in the Household of King Robert III, Scotland. Sir William died in 1393.

In Walford's "County Families of the United Kingdom", there are eight people bearing the name of Dennison. This book contains all the prominent and influential persons in the United Kingdom. They were all well educated and learned.

In Whitaker's "Peerage, Baronetage, Knightage, and Companionage", it is reported that the Dennison's were at one time known as the Earls of Londesborough and the Earls of Amherst. Whitaker also lists **MAJOR CHARLES GEORGE DENNISON**, who raised a complete regiment called "**Dennison's Scouts**" that participated in the Boer War in South Africa in the 1890's.

In Crozier's "General Armory" published in 1902, which was a Registry of American Families entitled to Coats of Armor; it listed **WILLIAM DENNISON**, who had settled in Massachusetts. He had originally come from Ireland prior to 1631. I have genealogies of William and other Dennison's who were prominent in the Massachusetts Colony. **WILLIAM DENNISON** and his wife, **MARGARET** (maiden name unknown) are on the church list of Roxbury, Massachusetts in 1631.

There is a story that occurred in Boston, Massachusetts that I find very interesting. In 1717, Judge Samuel Sewell kept a voluminous diary. After the death of his first wife he had confided in his diary, "I am wandering in my mind if I should live a single or married life." Shortly after this he started seeing the Widow Winthrop. This, however, was not a pleasant courtship.

Soon after, he started seeing a Widow Denison. In fact, in his diary he had confided on the day of Mr. Denison's funeral, "that he hoped to keep house with the Widow Denison." Even though their courtship was affectionate, the pension of 250 pounds that he offered her should he die, was no match for the large estate that Mr. Denison had left her. A portion of the estate left by the late Mr. Denison would be forfeited if she remarried. So it was with great regret on both sides that they ended their courtship in the winter of 1718.

Marriages in the early 1700's, had more to do with money than romance, prenuptial agreements were very common. The brides dowries were as sumptuous as their families could afford. Many times the bride was worth much more than her weight in gold.

One of the more prominent Dennison's in recent history was **WILLIAM DENNISON**, the **Governor of Ohio**, during the Civil War. He contributed much in the way of land and funds toward the construction and development of Denison University, located in Granville, Ohio, that still bears his name. For some unknown reason, the second N in Dennison has been dropped in the

name of the University, this is probably due to someone misspelling the name on a legal document of some sort, hence it was never corrected or changed back to the original spelling with two N's.

President Abraham Lincoln appointed **Governor William Dennison** to the post of Postmaster General of the United States in 1864. He served in this capacity until 1866.

Our cousin, Freda Dennison Cox, wife of the late Maynard Cox, Smithburg, West Virginia, sent me Mr. Clendenin's clipping from the Parkersburg News. In his article Mr. Clendenin listed a couple of references to the name of Dennison that you may wish to read.

One is Professor H. B. Guppy's work on "Homes of Family Names", published in 1890, which states that a **THOMAS DENNISON** was a member of the Society of Merchant Adventurers and was buried in Leed's Parish Church, Leeds, England in 1708.

The second is M. A. Lowers "Patronymica Brittanica" published in London in 1860, which states that the Dennistowns in some sections of England took their name from the town, i.e., Dennis of this town, rather than from "son of Dennis". This includes the Dennistons and Dennistouns.

There has been a story circulating for a long time that we, the Harrison County Dennisons, are descended from a PATRICK DENNISON, who was working for Lord Courtney in Ireland and eventually married his daughter. After their marriage, they left Ireland and came to America, settling in Harrison County, Virginia. I have never found any proof that Patrick exists in our immediate family line.

I wrote to the Archives in Washington, D. C., a number of years ago inquiring about the existence of PATRICK DENNISON. I found there was a Patrick Dennison, who fought in the American Revolution from the state of Maryland. I have tried for years to make a direct connection to our family, but have never been able to do so, although I am sure that all the early Dennisons were related and eventually can be found in our Family Tree.

CHAPTER 2. THE DENNISON ARRIVE IN HARRISON COUNTY

"History must speak for itself.

**A historian is content if he has
been able to shed more light".**

William L. Shirer, American author
Journalist (1904-1993)

In 1805 my great, great, great, great grandfather **JAMES DENNISON, SR.**, came to the Lost Creek area of Harrison County. James came with his wife, **NANCY**, daughters **MARY, NANCY, JR.**, and sons **HENRY, JOHN**, (my great, great, great grandfather), **ELISHA**, and **JAMES, JR.** Possibly his son **THOMAS** came too, but we cannot find him in Harrison County with the rest of the family. The husbands and wives and all their children born prior to 1805 came as well.

They made the trip over the mountains to this area from Leeds Parish, near Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia. James was a planter and farmer. I do not know how long they lived in Fauquier County, Virginia. It seems to have been for several years. One of the interesting aspects of this location is that in the year 1803, the population of Harrison County was approximately 4900 persons. Of these persons, the greatest majority had come to this area from Fauquier County, Virginia.

You will notice as we travel through our Family Tree that we are related to just about every family in Harrison County, either by blood or marriage. As I mentioned earlier, the population was only 4900 persons and the county at this time consisted not only of present day Harrison County, but the areas which are now Lewis and Barbour Counties, as well as parts of Doddridge, Marion, Ritchie and Taylor Counties. This was a rather large territory for only 4900 persons.

Considering the location of Fauquier County in relation to Harrison County, we know that our ancestors had to come over the Allegheny Mountains on foot and with pack horses. The few possessions that they brought with them, either had to be carried or pulled in small wagons, as we had no roadways, only footpaths to travel. When we consider all the obstacles they had to contend with, it is truly a miracle that any of our family survived. We can honestly say that we are descended from good pioneer stock.

Crossing over the mountains would take from two to three weeks, to say the least. The distance from Warrenton, Fauquier County to the Lost Creek/Hackers Creek area of Harrison County is approximately three hundred miles by foot. We know that several families preceded ours in getting here, so hopefully the path they took was well worn.

According to Haymond's "History of Harrison County", the early trail from Fauquier County was by way of Winchester, Virginia, over the mountains to Romney, then onward to Harrison County. Even with our modern day vehicles this is still quite a mountainous and curvy ride. I can't imagine what it must have been like to have walked all this way. Even so, I am sure that it was with a great deal of optimism that they started their journey and yet, it would seem they left very nice homes and farms to undertake this change.

Once arriving in Harrison County, they were met not only by former neighbors and friends of Fauquier County and the relatives who had made the trip earlier, but also by crude living conditions and perhaps a few Indians who were very savage. The Indians had killed and performed very heinous crimes on many of the persons who had arrived in the county prior to 1803. The area had become more peaceful and settled with the Indians moving farther west just about the time our family arrived in the area. It is hard to believe but at this time the western border of the United States was Ohio and Indiana. In Henry Haymonds "History of Harrison County", he tells in great detail of the struggle between the white man and the Indians in early Harrison County. The atrocities they subjected the white frontiersman to are almost impossible to believe.

We realize that not all the Indians were savage, but a great many of them were, because after all not only were all these newcomers taking over the land, which had been theirs, but they were also killing the game. History tells us that the Indians because of the abundance of wild life revered this part of Early America, which was the source of their main food supply too.

In understanding the difficulties our forebears had to suffer when they left their homes in already established and peaceful towns, I will describe as best I can what they had to do when they arrived in this densely populated wilderness.

First, they would select the site for their cabin, always near a spring or stream of water. For this reason most of the houses in early West Virginia were located either in hollows or on low ground. Next they would have to cut down trees, saw them into logs and split clapboards. Meanwhile, they would be living and surviving in the crudest of all possible living conditions. Usually they lived in some sort of lean-to. When the head of the household was ready to begin building the cabin he would notify his family and all the surrounding neighbors that on a particular day he was going to build a cabin.

Everyone would turn out for this day, which they called a "raising". They would quickly place the logs in position, one on top of the other in the form of an animals pen. The logs were notched at each end so that they would fit snugly together. The opening between the logs was filled with split sticks and then plastered with wet clay. This was called "chinking and daubing" by the pioneers. The roof was made from the clapboards, which were held in place by heavy poles laid on top and then pinned down at the end.

The door was made from a split log which had the face smoothed, then hung on swinging hinges. The floor was made of split logs with the hewn side up and fastened down by wooden pegs. Openings were left for windows. Sometimes they were covered with greased paper in order to let in some light.

A wooden latch placed inside the door locked the doors. A leather string was attached to this latch and then put through a hole on the door just above this latch. By pulling this string through to the outside, the latch could be raised and admittance could be gained. By pulling the string through to the inside of the door it could not be opened from the outside, thus it was considered to be locked and secure. Amazingly the cabins were built with only an axe and auger, not a nail was used. The pioneers were very proud of their expertise with an axe.

All of the cabins had a chimney built in one end, which was used for both heat and the cooking of meals. The furniture was very crudely built, usually wooden blocks with legs for chairs and the table was two or three wooden slabs placed on legs. Even the dishes were carved from wood, unless one was fortunate enough to have brought their pewter ware with them. In some of our family appraisements we find pewter, so they apparently were better off than many of the frontier families.

The bedsteads were extremely crude. They were simply poles held up by forked sticks at one end with the other end placed next to the wall, then sticks were laid across the poles and on this frame the animal skins were placed, then the blankets or coverlets were laid.

This was the pioneers' very first house and as time went on this house was usually replaced by a larger, more adequate and comfortable one.

I will now tell you about the family of **JAMES, SR.**, and his wife, **NANCY**. I am not positive about Nancy's maiden name, I have yet to prove it, but I believe it was **ANDERSON**, hence the name of my great, great grandfather. As noted before, James and Nancy had the following children: **MARY, NANCY, JR., ELIZABETH, HENRY, JOHN, JAMES, JR., ELISHA**, and **THOMAS**. I do not know when James, Sr., and Nancy died, nor do I know where they are buried. I do know that they came to Harrison County in 1805, and their ages at that time would have been between fifty to sixty years.

Their first child and daughter, **MARY** married **ANTHONY HAILEY** in Fauquier County, September 20, 1785. A copy of their Marriage Bond can be found in Chapter Six.

Second child and first son, **HENRY** married **JANE "JENNY" DIXON** in Fauquier County, Virginia, on March 21, 1787. Harrison County Tax Records show Henry and Jenny living in the Gnatty Creek, Brushy Fork and Racoon on the Sycamore. These areas are all in the southern end of Harrison County, basically the Quiet Dell area.

The third child and second son, **THOMAS** was in Harrison County in 1810 according to the Harrison County census. It shows that he had a wife aged 26-45, as well as one son under the age of 10, one daughter 10-16 years of age, and two daughters under the age of 10. There are no records of him owning land in Harrison County. Thomas went back to Fauquier County. He can be found in the 1820 Census of Fauquier County with his family, as well as in other Fauquier County records.

Several years ago the County Clerk of Fauquier County, Virginia wrote me a note saying that Thomas was a witness on many of the Dennison marriages, as well as on other marriage records in Fauquier County.

[NOTE:] For those of you who are not familiar with the 1810 Census, they only listed the names of the Heads of Households. They did not list the names of the other persons in the household. They simply put columns for Male and Female members of the household, with the following ages: Over 45 years of age; 26 to 45; 16 to 26; 10 to 16; and 1 month to age 10 years of age.

A cousin, who lives in Ohio Karen Hucko, found Thomas and his family while researching the Dennison family. I am very glad that she was able to find him, because without his family, our story would not be complete.

THOMAS married **ELIZABETH GOODBAR** in 1800 in Rockbridge County, Virginia. I believe she was the daughter of **JOSEPH JONATHAN GOODBAR** and **AGNES NANCY HARVEY GOODBAR**. I found that Jonathan came from England and fought in the Revolutionary war.

The known children of Thomas and Elizabeth are **PETER LEWIS DENNISON**, **LUCINDA**, and **DELILAH**. In the 1810 census of Harrison County, Virginia, I found two more daughters under the age of 10, listed with Thomas, but I do not know their names.

Son **PETER LEWIS DENNISON** was born in Scott County, Virginia in 1801. Scott County is in the southwestern section of Virginia. It borders Tennessee and is not too far from the Kentucky border on the west. **PETER** married **JANE SMITTI** in 1840. They had six known children.

RICHARD MATTHEW DENNISON born in 1842

JOHN DENNISON born in 1844

LARKIN T. DENNISON born 1847

JAMES HENRY DENNISON born 1849

MARY DENNISON born in 1850

NANCY DENNISON born in 1852

It appears that Peter and Jane named some of their children after his Dennison aunts and uncles; John, Henry, Mary and Nancy. In the Family Chart Section of this book, you will find Karen Hucko's charts for the children of Peter Lewis Dennison and Jane Smitti Dennison.

LUCINDA, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth married **JONATHAN TIPTON**, but I do not know when or where, nor do I know if they had any children.

I found the marriage of Thomas and Elizabeth's daughter, **DELILAH DENNISON** to **WILLIAM FRUNCI/FRANCIS** on September 8, 1821 in the Harrison County Marriage Records.

Fourth child and third son, **JOHN**, who is my great, great, great grandfather was born circa 1770 in Fauquier County, Virginia. He was married to **SARAH "SARY" NORMAN** on March 4, 1794/95. I will devote the next Dennison Chapter to them and their family.

The Reverend Benjamin Webb married **ELISHA**, the fifth child and fourth son to **LUCINDA "LUCY" "LUCINDY" PECK**, on May 10, 1809 in Harrison County. Harrison County Tax Records show that Elisha and Lucindy also owned land on Gnatty Creek, Brushy Fork and Racocon on the Sycamore. Evidently Henry and Elisha always chose to live near each other.

In 1779, a Land Office was established in Richmond, Virginia. This office decreed that the purchase price of land was forty pounds for every one hundred acres. In 1819, Land Warrants were fixed at two dollars (\$2.00) per hundred acres and whoever established his residence on said land

first, was considered to be the owner of the land. This outlandish law created havoc and a lot of law suits, which took many, many years to resolve in some cases. I find it interesting that in our Harrison County recorded deeds the land was paid for in dollars, very few in pounds.

It must be noted too, that during most of the 1700's, we were still under the rule of Great Britain and the records that were kept were due to the conscientiousness of the persons who were responsible for the record keeping for the individual states.

Sixth child and fifth son, **JAMES LEWIS, JR.**, was born in 1778, Fauquier County, Virginia. He married **SARAH GREATHOUSE** who was born in 1789, Monongalia County, Virginia. They were married in Harrison County, January 21, 1808.

NANCY, the seventh child and second daughter, married **BAILEY NORMAN**, on February 10, 1800, in Fauquier County. A copy of Nancy and Bailey Norman's Marriage Bond can be found in Chapter Five. Nancy was apparently named after her mother, which you will see was a very common practice in our family tree. Almost all of the children were named after their parents, grandparents, or the brothers and sisters of their parents. This seemed to be the trend of all the families in early America. Also many biblical names were used.

Bailey Norman was a brother to my great, great, great grandmother, Sarah "Sary" Norman, the wife of John Dennison, who was the son of James, Sr., and Nancy Dennison. In some records it shows Sarah Dennison Norman as "Sally".

ELIZABETH, the youngest child and third daughter, married **STEPHEN READ** in Fauquier County, August 10, 1802. By Elizabeth's Marriage Bond, we know that she was not yet twenty-one years of age when she married, so we know that she was born circa 1784. A copy of her Marriage Bond can also be found in Chapter Six.

For many years, I thought Stephen and Elizabeth had remained in Fauquier County, Virginia when the rest of the family came to Harrison County.

Robert Marple of Buckhannon, WV and Tracy Britton, of West Union, WV both sent me letters with information about Elizabeth and Stephen's family.

Stephen and Elizabeth did come to Harrison County with the rest of her family. Eventually their surname Read, became Reed. I do not know how many children Stephen and Elizabeth had, but a daughter; **MARY "POLLY" READ** married **WILLIAM PARKINSON MCKINNEY**.

WILLIAM PARKINSON MCKINNEY was a brother to **MARGARET "PEGGY" MCKINNEY** who married my great, great, great grandfather **JOHN DENNISON** after the death of his first wife, **SARAH "SARY" NORMAN DENNISON**.

John and Margaret had no children of their own, but his children accepted her and felt that she was a good stepmother. They loved and respected her. After John died in 1824, they permitted her to remain in the house, until it was sold in 1845. At that time, she went to live in her father's home, which she had inherited with her sister, Mary.

I was quite astonished when I started reading all my new facts to find the three families of **DENNISON, MCKINNEY, and READ** intertwined.

Each time I uncover new information about someone in the family, I become even more fascinated with genealogy. It still amazes me that after two to three hundred years, our families are able to speak to us through their legal documents, cemeteries, public records, etc. They provide us with clues that enable us to relive their lives as if they were still living today.

We are fortunate that so many of the early leaders of the states, counties and communities were so very thorough and kept such excellent records. However, many records have been lost either to fire, water or someone's carelessness in maintaining them.

Due to the remoteness of the area from the county seat, some of the early Harrison County settlers did not record their births and deaths at the County Court House. They kept most of these records in their family bibles.

Harrison County was established in 1784 from Monongalia County. Monongalia County had been formed in 1776. For four years prior to the establishment of our county the following records were kept at the Monongalia County Court House: All taxes collected, the roads and mills that were established, all suits brought before the court and the legal jurisdiction exercised over them.

In 1778 the Monongalia County Court House was destroyed by fire with all the County records lost, with the exception of the Surveyor's Office. So all the proceedings of the County Court referring to the Territory of Harrison County were destroyed. This was a terrible loss! However, in my research I have found it quite amazing that so much from the 1700's and early 1800's is still intact.

CHAPTER 3. JOHN DENNISON, THE PROGENITOR OF MY FAMILY

"The life of every man is a diary in which he means to write one story, and writes another; and his humblest hour is when he compares the volume as it is, with what he hoped to make it." Sir James Matthew Barrie, Scottish dramatist/author (1860-1937)

JOHN DENNISON was married to **SARAH "SARY" NORMAN**, on March 4, 1794/95, in Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia. They came over the rough terrain of the Allegheny Mountains to Harrison County in 1805, with their children and all those mentioned in Chapter 2. They settled near the present sites of Lost Creek and West Milford. John was a farmer and Baptist minister.

It is hard to believe that any of our ancestors survived their journey through the wilderness and the mountains. Not only was the terrain rough, but they had little shelter from the weather. I do not know how many miles they were able to travel in a day, but I do know the distance from Fauquier County to present day Harrison County traveling by foot was approximately 300 miles. I suppose they could average about 15 miles per day, if the weather was not too unbearable. Perhaps they were able to reach their destination in three to four weeks.

I am not sure how soon, or if they encountered the Indians on their journey, we do know that not too long before their arrival in this area the savage Indians were running rampant. It is safe to assume that there were some friendly Indians, however, we do know that a great many of them had been hostile and performed horrible crimes against the white man. Many of our early Harrison County settlers were victims of the Indians. This was no doubt due to our ancestors and the other white men invading what the Indians considered and rightly so, to be their territory.

I find it incredible that any of our ancestors survived since there were so many things that were nearly impossible for them to overcome. They not only had to contend with the elements and the Indians, but there were the diseases that killed so many and until they were able to cultivate the land and build sturdy homes, they had to contend with hunger and very crude housing. I rather suspect that most of them came from rather decent homes and farmlands, whether it was in one of our established Colonial States or their motherland in Europe.

Below is a copy of John and Sarah's Marriage Bond

Marriage Bond - Book 2, Page 9
Fauquier County, Virginia
Dennison
to
Norman

Proved according to law by Ephraim Owens March 4, 1794
F. Brooke

Know all men by these presents that we John Dennison and Ephraim Owens are held firmly bound to his excellency Robert Brooke, Esquire, Governor of Virginia in the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars to which payment will and

truly be made to the said Brooke and his successors for the use of the Commonwealth. We bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, and administrators jointly and severally firmly by these presents. Sealed with our Seals and Dated this 4th day of March in 1795.

The condition of this obligation is that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended to be solemnized between the said John Dennison and Sarah Norman for which a license hath been issued. Now if there be lawful cause to obstruct the said intended marriage then this obligation to be void, else to remain in force. Sealed and Delivered in presence of

John Dennison (His Seal)

F. Brooke

Ephraim Owens (His Seal)

There is a purpose of marriage between John Dennison and Sarah Norman, both of this county and at the request of the above said Sarah Norman, we the subscribers do certify that the same Sarah Norman is upwards of twenty-one years of age.

Testified
Jacob Weaver
James Dennison
Jonathan Owens
Ephraim Owens

March 4, 1795

After I received this certified copy of the Marriage Bond and noticed that on one portion it gave the year 1794, and another 1795, I contacted the Fauquier County Court House for some sort of verification on the exact year.

The Clerk laughed and said the only explanation that she could give was that the Clerk who was responsible for writing the records was out too late the night before and forgot what year it was, as he was probably drunk.

In the first paragraph of the Bond there is a long blank space where the year is eventually inserted, which makes one think that possibly the year was not filled in at the time the application was made and when it was inserted the wrong year was applied.

We do know that **ANDERSON**, the first child was born on January 2, 1795, so either his parents were married ten months before he was born, or he was two months old when they were married.

I tried to determine whether Sarah was a widow when she married John, since we know by their Marriage Bond that she was over twenty-one years of age. I found she had not been married before, as well as the name of her parents. Her maiden name was **NORMAN**. I also found many persons in the Dennison line named after members of her Norman family.

When John bought his first recorded piece of property in Harrison County, it was a parcel of land that adjoined Sarah's brother, **BAILEY L. NORMAN** and his wife **NANCY**, who was John's sister.

It is noted on John and Sarah's Marriage Bond, that there are two persons with the surname of OWENS who signed the bond. In fact, EPHRAIM OWENS obtained the bond with John. The Owens may have been neighbors or friends, but it seems likely that there is a family connection. I believe it is safe to assume that Sarah Norman Dennison was related to the Owens family by blood or marriage.

Another witness on John and Sarah's Marriage Bond was her brother-in-law, **JACOB WEAVER**. Jacob married her sister **MOLLY NORMAN** in Fauquier County in 1792. Their marriage month is obscured, so apparently the Fauquier County Clerk was not very reliable in his posting of marriage dates during the 1790's.

As previously stated, my great, great grandfather **ANDERSON DENNISON** was born on January 2, 1795, in Fauquier County, Virginia. On March 12, 1818, in Harrison County, he married **ELEANOR SKINNER**, who was usually called **ELLEN** or **NELLY**. She was the daughter of **WALTER SKINNER** and **SALINA ANN DAVIS SKINNER**. The Skinner family had come to Southern Harrison County from Prince William County, Virginia in 1807. Prince William County borders on Fauquier County, so it is possible the Skinner and Dennison families knew each other prior to coming to Harrison County.

ELEANOR/ELLEN SKINNER was born March 11, 1799 in Prince William County, Virginia. There are some accounts that she was born in Eastern Maryland, however, her fathers statement in Chapter 10, Page 64 disputes this. He stated that he removed to Prince William County in 1784, from Carroll County, Maryland. Eleanor and Anderson spent most of their married life on Rush Run, more commonly called "Dennison Hollow" where they both died. Anderson died on March 25, 1875 at age 80, and Ellen died on August 3, 1883 at age 84. They are buried at the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church Cemetery on Cherry Camp, Bristol, West Virginia.

Anderson and Eleanor lived in the Lost Creek/West Milford area until sometime after July, 1828, when they purchased land and built a log house on Rush Run. I will tell you more about Anderson and Eleanor in their individual Chapter.

The second child and son of John and Sarah was **BAILEY L.**, who was named for her brother Bailey Norman. Bailey L. was born circa 1797. He married **SARAH GILLISPIE**, on February 20, 1820 in Harrison County. Soon after their marriage, they moved to Gallia County, Ohio. This area is across the Ohio River from Point Pleasant, Mason County, West Virginia.

The third child and son of John and Sarah was **EDMUND** (in some records his name is spelled Edmond). He was born January 8, 1799, in Fauquier County, Virginia. He married **ELIZABETH GREATHOUSE**, born in 1800, at Morgantown, Monongalia County. She was the **daughter of Gabriel and Nancy Hustead Greathouse**. Edmund and Elizabeth were married on October 10, 1820 in Harrison County.

Edmund and Elizabeth eventually made their home on Cap Run in Lewis County. Edmund was a farmer and a Baptist minister. They lived there until Elizabeth died on November 7, 1889. After her death, Edmund lived with their son Sylvester and his family. They also lived on Cap Run. Edmund died at Sylvester's home on November 7, 1889. He and Elizabeth are buried in the Dennison Family Cemetery on Cap Run, Lewis County.

The fourth child and only daughter of John and Sarah was **JEMIMA**, who they called **SUSANNA**. She was named for her maternal grandmother, Jemima Shumate Norman. Susanna may have been her middle name. Jemima was born November 27, 1800 in Fauquier County,

Virginia. She married **LEVI ROMINE** on September 11, 1820, in Harrison County. A copy of their Marriage Bond can be found in Chapter 9 of this Volume.

Levi was the son of **WILLIAM ROMINE** and the brother of **BENJAMIN ROMINE** who married **LETTICE "LETTIE" NORMAN**, another sister of Sarah Norman Dennison.

The fifth child and fourth son was **JOHN R.** born in 1804. He married **SARAH "SALLY" SKINNER**, born 1806 in Prince William County, Virginia, the daughter of **WALTER SKINNER** and **SALINA ANN DAVIS SKINNER**. Sarah "Sally" was a sister to my great, great grandmother Eleanor/Ellen, wife of Anderson Dennison.

John R., and Sally were married November 25, 1827, Harrison County, Virginia. John was named after his father, so he is shown as John, Jr., in some, but not all records. Like his brothers and his father, John R., was a farmer and a Baptist Minister. John and Sally lived all of their lives in the southern end of Harrison County.

The youngest child and fifth son born to John and Sarah Norman Dennison was **HEZEKIAH V.** I do not know what the initial V. stands for. His family always called him Kiah. Kiah was born in 1806, in the Lost Creek area. Hezekiah married **ANNA STARCHER** on April 26, 1826 in Harrison County. He and Anna first lived in Harrison County, and then moved to Lewis and Gilmer Counties.

Hezekiah and Anna had gone to Lewis County shortly after their marriage. I have a letter from the County Clerk of Lewis County showing that Hezekiah purchased land in Lewis County in 1840. I know too, that he and Anna eventually moved to Gilmer County, as that is where they were living when his father's house was sold in 1845. A copy of that sale is in Chapter 4.

Hezekiah and Anna remained in Gilmer County for several years. A list of their children can be found at the end of this chapter. They came back to the Ten Mile District, of Harrison County according to the 1870 Harrison County Census, but were back in Gilmer County in 1880. I believe they are buried in a Dennison Family Cemetery located on the Lewis/Gilmer County line.

I do not know when my great, great, great grandfather John, Sr., was ordained a Minister in the Baptist Church, although I know that he and his brothers and all of his sons were Baptist Ministers. In the Harrison County Court records it shows John, Sr., officiating at the wedding of Abner Maxwell and Susannah Dawson, on April 17, 1809. The Dennison, Maxwell and Dawson families all attended the same church in the Lost Creek area.

John, Sr., and his brother Elisha served in the War of 1812. In Chapter 8, you can read about their tour of duty in this war. I will print a copy of some of their individual war papers at the end of Chapter 4.

Sarah Norman Dennison died in 1813/14, Harrison County. After her death, John married **MARGARET "PEGGY" MCKINNEY** on April 15, 1816. She is listed as his widow in the will. All of his children are also named in the will. John died in 1824. Peggy remained in their home until it was sold in 1845. A copy of John's will and other legal papers can be found in Chapter 4.

Before I continue with the story of our family, I wish to share some excerpts about our great, great, great grandmother **SARAH 'SARY' NORMAN DENNISON**. These passages are from the 'Zion's Advocate', a Front Royal, Virginia newspaper, first published in 1871. My great, great grand uncle, **EDMUND DENNISON, son of Sary and John Dennison** wrote his autobiography for this newspaper.

"My family was living at the time of all the children's births a half mile from the Thumb Run Meeting House in Fauquier County, Virginia. **My mother, Sarah**, was a member of this church. The members were called Regular Baptists. Her parents, my maternal grandparents **James and Jemima Shumate Norman** were also very active members of this church. The pastor was Elder William Fristoe. My paternal grandparents, **James and Nancy Anderson Dennison** never made any open profession of religion.

My mother often told this story about me when I was a baby. She said it was not unusual for mad dogs to roam the countryside in Fauquier County. Shortly after my birth, when I was just a few days old, and lying in my cradle, mother was resting in her bed next to me, because of her frail condition. No one was in the house with me, but her. Suddenly a strange dog came into our house and started sniffing at me, the baby. My mother was so frightened that she could only lie in the bed and breathe deeply, she was scared nearly to death. She was just sure that the dog was going to pick me up and drag me away and she felt completely helpless. The dog finally went back out of the house, to mother's relief. When the strange dog went back outside, he encountered our dog, which was lying at the end of our house. Without warning a mad fit came over the strange dog, and he bit our dog, but our dog was all right. Before anyone was able to kill the mad dog, it had done a lot of mischief in our neighborhood.

All the family, the **DENNISON'S** and the **NORMAN'S** alike, lived in the same neighborhood on what was termed leased land, which belonged to wealthy English landowners. Our family had always owned their own land, so they were unhappy with this situation. One day in 1805, they got together and decided it was time to move northwest, where they could establish their own permanent homesteads. The destination for this move was going to be Harrison County, Virginia.

They left Fauquier County in late September 1805. After several days on the trail, on a frosty day in October they stopped to rest and get more provisions at the Tygarts Valley River. I was only six years old, but I remember vividly being placed on a horse with one of the men traveling with us, along with two bushels of alum salt. All of this on one horse. In an attempt to ford the river, the horse's hoof got caught between two rocks.

This caused the horse to fall into the water, and I was completely covered with water. All hope of mine and the man with me being alive was gone. However, some persons came to our rescue and carried me to the shore and did some sort of resuscitation on me. My father, **JOHN DENNISON**, wrapped me in a blanket and carried me about a quarter of a mile to an Inn. He placed me in front of the warm fire at the Inn, and then gave me some spirits to drink. I always remembered feeling God's presence with me during this ordeal and I knew that God wanted me to live. I became a Baptist preacher in 1824, when I was twenty-five years old."

I hope that someday we may find other papers or documents written by the early members of our family, so that we can get to know them more intimately too.

CHAPTER 4. DEEDS, APPRAISEMENTS AND SETTLEMENTS OF JOHN DENNISON, SR.

"The truth test of a man's worth
is not his theology, but his life."
The Talmud

This chapter is going to deal mainly with all of the legal papers that pertain to John Dennison, Sr. However, in order to tell a complete story, I will list documents that were received by other family members as well.

Below is a copy of the piece of property that John and Sarah Norman Dennison owned in Harrison County. It is from Volume 7, Page 155, Harrison County Deed Book.

Noah Clark

To // Deed

THIS INDENTURE made the twenty-fifth day of November in the year one thousand eight hundred and seven between Noah Clark of the County of Harrison and State of Virginia of the one part John Dennison of the same County and State of the other part WITNESSETH the said Noah Clark for and in consideration of the sum of Seventy-Five Dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain, sell and confirm unto the said John Deems his heirs and assigns one certain tract or parcel of land lying in the said County of Harrison on both sides of the right hand fork of Matthew Nutters Board Camp Run and bounded as followeth, To Wit: Beginning at a stake in a glade about ten poles* east from the left hand fork of said Run and running thence N 58, E 51 poles to a White Oak S 46, E 124 poles to a Hickory S 44, W 98 poles to a dead white oak thence with a line of Baley Normans N 34, W 139 poles to the beginning containing fifty-three acres and a quarter Together with its appurtenances To Have and To Hold the said tract or parcel of land with all its appurtenances unto the said John Dennison and his heirs and assigns forever and the said Noah Clark for himself and his heirs doth Covenant with the said John Dennison and his heirs and assigns that the said Noah Clark and his heirs the said tract or parcel of land with all its appurtenances unto the said John Dennison and his heirs and assigns forever warrant and defend. In Witness whereof the said Noah Clark hath hereunto set his hand and seal the date above written.

Noah Clark (His seal)

In the presence of

Wm. Haymond
Baley Norman
Daniel Haymond
John Radcliff

Harrison County December Court 1807

This Indenture of bargain and sale was presented in Court and the acknowledgement of Noah Clark was proven by the oaths of William Haymond, Bailey Norman, and Daniel Haymond and ordered to be recorded.

Teste:

Ben Wilson, C. H. C.

* A pole is a measurement of 16 and 1/2 feet (a square rod).

One may still travel to the first home of John and Sarah Norman Dennison, located on Matthew Nutter's Board Camp Road, now known as Birds Run. It is a rough ride on Bird's Run, but it is still possible to get to the site.

On I-79, take exit 115, follow WV Route 20 to WV Route 57 going towards Philippi. You pass Stout's Run on the left, go about six miles, then turn left onto Bird's Run. Travel 0.7 miles up Bird's Run to the fork in the road. Turn left, and after a very short distance make another left and you will be at the location of John and his family's first home.

I am sure you have noticed when reading all the legal documents that I have printed in this book, that there are many misspelled words. I have not corrected them; for I find it interesting the way they spelled words. One can almost hear them speaking by the way they spelled many of their words.

Also, as I have made note of above, if you are not familiar with the old deeds, a pole measures 16 1/2 feet. So you can see it took quite a bit of walking for them to get the precise measurements for their parcels of land. A rather rugged walk at times I would think.

The piece of property on the preceding page which John and Sarah purchased probably was not their first piece of land in Harrison County, but it appears to be their first recorded parcel of land. Since it adjoins the land of Bailey and Nancy Dennison Norman, perhaps, they were living on a section of their property until they were able to buy this tract. You remember that John and Nancy were brother and sister, as were Bailey Norman and Sarah Norman Dennison.

John and Sarah lived here until September 1813, when John purchased a home (which was called a mansion in the Appraisalment Bill after his death) in Lost Creek from James Radcliff. This deed was recorded in Harrison County in June 1814. Apparently Sarah died shortly before they moved to Lost Creek since she is not mentioned in or signed this deed.

The children were all still at home when John moved to Lost Creek. Anderson was 19 years of age, Bailey was 17, Edmund 15, only daughter Jemima was 13, John, Jr., was 10, and the youngest child Hezekiah was 8.

When he moved to Lost Creek, John and Sarah had sold the above-mentioned recorded tract of land to Isaac Tyson. So we know that Sarah died sometime between August 16, 1813 when this land was sold to Isaac Tyson and John buying the Lost Creek property on June 20, 1814. A copy of this Tyson Deed is printed below. John was evidently a shrewd businessman because he paid \$75.00 to Noah Clark when he and Sarah bought the property. When they sold their home to Isaac Tyson five years later they sold it for \$230.00.

Nancy Dennison Norman must have died about the same time as Sarah. Bailey Norman married Tacy Tyson, the daughter of his neighbor, Isaac Tyson who had purchased the tract of land from John and Sarah (Sary). Bailey Norman married Tacy Tyson on August 23, 1814.

I have an idea where Sarah Norman Dennison and Nancy Dennison Norman are buried. I believe that they are buried in the Morris Baptist Church on Elk Creek, which was named for Rev. Joseph Morris who presided at several of the family's weddings and I presume funerals. This

particular church has no doubt fallen into ruin, and no longer exists. There are so many cemeteries in the southern end of Harrison County that have been destroyed, due to lack of care. Many of these old cemetery's as well as the ones still in existence have many unmarked graves.

Many of the graves that have stones with inscriptions on them can no longer be read because they have become so weather-beaten. So where Sarah and Nancy are buried may always remain a mystery to me. Since we know that Sarah and Nancy died within a short time of each other, they may have fallen victim to one of the diseases, which were prevalent throughout the 1800's, such as Typhoid Fever, Diphtheria or Consumption (Tuberculosis). There is even the possibility that they could have died at the same time from drowning, getting struck by lightning or some other freakish incident, such as a horse and buggy wreck. Horse and buggy accidents occurred often and claimed many lives in the 1800's.

Sarah and Nancy were both approximately thirty-five years old and in Early America this was the presumed life expectancy. It is hard to imagine that they could have died of old age at thirty-five, but thirty-five was considered old in 1814. Even in my youth forty was considered to be old, and I am a child of the 1930's and 40's! Thank goodness, times have changed.

John married Margaret "Peggy" McKinney on April 15, 1816. Rev. Joseph Morris, their Baptist Minister, married them. Margaret lived in the Lost Creek mansion until it was sold.

Below is a copy of the Deed when John sold his first recorded home; it is from Harrison County Deed Book Volume 11, Page 453.

JOHN DENNISON
TO
ISAAC TYSON

This indenture made the sixteenth day of August in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirteen between John Dennison and Sarah his wife of the County of Harrison and State of Virginia of the one part and Isaac Tyson of the same county and State of the other part, witnesseth that said John Dennison for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and thirty dollars to him in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain, sell and confirm unto the said Isaac Tyson, his heirs, and assigns one certain tract or parcel of land lying in the County of Harrison on both sides of the right hand fork of Matthew Nutters Board Camp Run, and bounded as followeth to wit, Beginning at a stake in a glade about ten poles east from the left hand fork of said Run and running thence north 58 degrees, east 51 poles to a white oak south 46 degrees, east 124 poles to a Hickory south 44 degrees, west 98 poles to a dead White Oak thence with a line of Bailey Normands North 34 degrees, west 139 poles to the beginning, containing fifty-three acres and a quarter together with its appurtenances, to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with all its appurtenances unto the said Isaac Tyson and his heirs and assigns forever and the said John Dennison for himself and his heirs doth covenant with the said Isaac Tyson and his heirs and assigns that he the said John Dennison and his heirs the said tract or parcel of land with all its appurtenances unto the said Isaac Tyson and his heirs and assigns will forever covenant and defend in witness thereof the said John Dennison hath hereunto set his hand and date above.

John Dennison
Sary Dennison

Written

In the Presence of

Harrison County September Court, 1813

This deed was presented in Court and acknowledged by John Dennison and Sarah his wife the said Sarah being first privately examined consenting and ordered to be recorded.

Teste

Ben Wilson

We know by this document that both John and Sarah could read and write. It seems that most of the pioneers who settled in Harrison County in the early 1800's had received some schooling. However, their children were not necessarily getting a good education, as the pioneers were much to busy trying to survive the first few years they were in the county to be concerned about educating their children.

John and his brother Elisha served in the War of 1812. Copies of some of their service papers are included in this chapter. It was just a year after his return from the War in April of 1813, that John bought the Lost Creek home.

This home was located on Teens Run, now called Blue Lick Run. If you wish to see where John and his family lived, on I-79 take the 110 exit. From here you travel on WV Route 48 to Rockford. About one mile past Rockford, turn left on Blue Lick Run. Go about four and one-half miles and you will arrive at the site of John's second home, which was called a mansion in his Appraisement Bill. Apparently it was a very nice home for 1814.

Traveling back to the mouth of Blue Lick Run, if you turn left and go about three miles on WV Route 48, look to the right and you will see the location of eighty acres that John and Sarah's son John R. had purchased and built a large home. Eventually, he shared these same acres with his brother Edmund and his wife, Elizabeth.

Below is the copy of the deed for the Lost Creek property that John purchased in June of 1814 from James Radcliff.

JAMES RADCLIFF TO JOHN DENNISON DEED

Volume 12, Page 74

Harrison County Records

This indenture made this twentieth day of June in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Fourteen between James Radcliff and Elinor, his wife of the county of Harrison and state of Virginia, of the one part and John Dennison of the same county and state of the other part Witnesseth that they the James Radcliff and Elinor his wife for and in consideration of the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars current money to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained, granted, sold, aliened, enfeoffed, and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, and confirm unto the said John Dennison a certain tract or parcel of land, lying and being in the county of Harrison and state of Virginia, situated in the left hand fork of Lost Creek and running from said tract of four hundred acres and bounded as followeth to wit: Beginning at a Beech and running thence

south fifty degrees east twenty-eight poles to a Beech on one of the original lines, north fifteen degrees east six and one-half poles to a Maple, north thirty-eight degrees east seventy-four poles to a Dogwood, north thirty-eight degrees west twenty-four poles to a White Oak, north ten degrees west forty poles to a White Oak, north seventy-six and three quarters degrees west one hundred and two poles to a Chestnut Oak, south thirty-eight degrees west sixty-nine poles to a Poplar, south eighty-four degrees west seventy-four poles to a stake, south sixty-eight and one-half degrees east one hundred and sixty-five poles to the beginning containing one hundred acres together with all profits and commodities hereunto belonging or in anywise appurtenant with all its appurtenances, To Have and To Hold the said tract or parcel of land with all its appurtenances, unto the said John Dennison, his heirs, and assigns forever and they the said James Radcliff and Elinor, his wife for themselves, their heirs, do so Covenant that they will forever warrant and defend the said tract or parcel of land unto the said John Dennison, his heirs, and assigns. In Witnesseth whereof they the said, James Radcliff and Elinor, his wife, have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and year just above written.

James Radcliff
his seal

Elinor Radcliff
her seal

Virginia
Harrison County Court House

This deed from James Radcliff and Elinor, his wife, to John Dennison was presented in my office and acknowledged by the said James and Elinor, parties thereto on the 20th day of June 1814 and admitted to record to law.

Test: Benj. Wilson, Clk, H.C.C.

John died in November 1824, and at the time of his death the following items were appraised in his mansion house and on his farm:

WILL BOOK, PAGE 159

COPY OF JOHN DENNISON'S APPRAISEMENT BILL
November 30, 1824

Pursuant to an Order of the Court to us directed, we met at the Mansion House of John Dennison, deceased, we being just sworn preceded to appraise the personal property of said Dennison in the following manner:

One Pided Cow	\$10.00
One Black Cow	10.00
One Black Heiffer	6.00
One Black and White Heiffer	6.00
One Pided Bull	3.00
One Pided Heiffer	7.00
One Red and White Heiffer	4.00
One Sough	2.50
Eleven Hogs	10.00
Four Hogs	8.00

One Hay Stack	4.00
One Pieded Calf	1.25
Seven Sheep	12.00
One Black Mare	30.00
One Grey Mare	30.00
One Stack Oats	5.00
Two Stacks Peades and Fodder in the yield	3.00
One Stack of Hay	3.00
One Stack of Oats	3.00
One Stack of Oats	3.00
Four Rye Stacks and Part of a Stack	25.00
One Butt of a Wheat Stack	2.00
One Pile of Husked Corn	25.00
Threshed Oats	1.50
Corn Beddes in the Barn	1.00
One more of Straw and Husks	3.00
Three Tubs	1.00
One Yield of Wheat in the Grainery	8.00
Fodder in the Yield	8.00
Four Sacks of Flour	5.00
Two Lots of Potatoes in the Ground	8.00
Three Hay Stacks	3.00
Two Geese	.50
One Hand Mill	1.00
One Pile of Husked Corn in the Entry	25.00
One long Slide (sled) and Body	6.00
One Mans Saddle	5.00
Three Broad Axes and Mattack	25.00
One Womans Saddle	2.00
One Shovel Plow	25.00
Two Axes	1.25
One Auger, One Iron Wedge, One Bridle	.75
One Fire Shovel, One Bake Iron	1.00
Two Bells	1.00
Two Meal Sifters	.75
Two Scythes and Hangings	2.00
One Pair of Flat Irons	2.00
One Lot of Sickles and Draw Knife	.50

PAGE TWO OF JOHN DENNISON APPRAISEMENT BILL

One Spider (Skillet)	\$ 1.50
One Hatchet	1.50
One Frying Pan	1.25
One Kettle and Baile	3.00
One Kettle	2.50
Three Dishes of Tallow	.75
One Tri (unable to read) Pot of Soap	.75
One More Tub of Soap	.50
One Lot of Copperware	2.50
One Churn, One Paddle	1.50
Five Chairs	2.00
One Big Wheel (Spinning)	2.50
One Little Wheel (Spinning/Sewing?)	3.00
One Check Reel	1.00
One Loom and Tackings	7.00
One Bed, Bedding, and Bedstead	9.00

One Pen Corn	.50
One Pair of Frames and Chairs	1.00
One Lot of Carded Wool and Yarn	8.00
One Lot of Dyred Apples and Bed Tick	2.00
One Bag of Dryed Peaches	1.00
One Lock and Key and Wool Cards	.50
One Lot of Tow and Yarn	.25
One Lot of Pewter and Tinware	3.00
Teacups, Saucers, and Spoons	.50
One Lot of Earthenware, Knives and Forks	1.00
One Bottle and Tumblers	.50
One Lot of Books	1.00
One Lot of Pillow Cases and Tablecloths	2.00
One Table and One Water Bucket	3.00
One Lot of Nails and an Inkstand	.25
One Chest	3.50
One Bed and Bedding and Bedstead	10.00
One Bed and Bedding and Bedstead	6.00
One Lot of Bed Clothes	10.00
One Bed and Bedding and Bedstead	12.00
One Oven and Bails	2.25
One Lot of Bed Clothes	8.00
Six and One Half Pounds of Ham	.50
One Lot of Towels and Tablecloths	1.00
One Lot of Flax and Thread	.25
Cash	2.25

We certify that the above is a true inventory of all the property of John Dennison deceased, that was sworn to us, Given under our hands on the date above written.

William Blair
James Radcliff
James Green

Edmond Dennison, Administrator

As I read the above Appraisement Bill, I traveled back in time to 1824 and walked right along with the Appraisers and saw everything as it was at the home of my great, great, great grandfather John Dennison

Reading about the items, one could actually visualize and imagine smelling the different odors that are found around a farm, some not so pleasant.

When you read item by item you get a good idea of their lifestyle. They seemed to have been rather well off for folks in 1824.

I wish I could know what sort of books were in the lot for \$1.00. Knowing the kind of books they read would enable us to know a lot about their personalities and interests.

I didn't see any guns listed among the possessions. John's family was a very religious family, all of them preachers. John, himself, officiated at the wedding of Abner Maxwell and

Susannah Dawson on April 17, 1809. I have no idea if he preached regularly at a church in the area. I suspect that he did, since he was licensed to perform marriages. We know that his son Edmund was a Baptist Minister at the Middleville Baptist Church, (which was first called the Booths Creek Church,) a few years after his father's death.

The family may have been pacifists since they were all involved in the ministry. They had probably seen and heard enough about war. The country had not healed all its wounds from the Revolutionary War when the War of 1812 broke out. John and his brother Elisha as I mentioned earlier fought in this War.

Below is a copy of John Dennison's Settlement.

**JOHN DENNISON SETTLEMENT
HARRISON COUNTY WILL BOOK 3, PAGE 248**

May 14, 1827

Agreeable to an Order of the Court to me directed this day settled with Edmund Dennison, Administrator of John Dennison, deceased. Edmund furnished me with receipts in due form for debts paid by Administrator Edmund Dennison for the Estate of John Dennison, deceased to the amounts of \$67.14

Also receipts for Legisees paid to the heirs John Dennison deceased; to Margaret Dennison, widow, her receipts for \$133.06.

Anderson Dennison, his receipts	\$ 31.08
Levi Romine, receipts for	\$ 28.78
John R. Dennison, his receipts for	\$ 45.65
Hezekiah Dennison, receipts for	\$ 29.30
Bailey Dennison, receipts for	\$ 30.00
" " " " " " "	\$297.87
" " " " " " " debt	\$ 76.12
TOTALS	\$365.10
Edmund Dennison, Administrator	
William Blair, Commissioner	

NOTE: When I looked at the above figures they didn't add up. When I did not add the \$297.87 and \$76.12 preceded by the word debt for Bailey Dennison, my total came to \$365.01.

Since neither Edmund Dennison nor William Blair are here to explain this Settlement to me, I merely put down the figures as they appear on the certified copy of this document that I obtained from the Harrison County Court House several years ago.

Below is another Deed from Harrison County that I find very interesting. It is dated July 21, 1828. Several persons, including members of our family, signed it and although I do not know, I think it was a lot for a church at Rockford.

I have contacted various persons in the area reference this deed and they agree with me that it was, no doubt, purchased to build a new church, but I have yet to identify the actual location.

Rocky Swisher a descendant of the original owners of the tract of land has been contacted about this deed, but he has not replied to my query. Mrs. Joy Gilchrist, one of the founders of the Hackers Creek Pioneer Descendants read the deed and after thinking about it, she came to the conclusion that it probably was the Rockford church and cemetery.

Rockford is located about eleven miles south of the town of Lost Creek, on Lost Creek. Mrs. Gilchrist is very knowledgeable about the history of the southern end of Harrison County, so until I find out otherwise I am going to presume that this church was built at Rockford.

Here is a copy of the deed in question:

HARRISON COUNTY DEED BOOK 19, PAGE 107

PETER SWISHER, SEN.
TO DEED
SAMUEL SHEETS, G. C.

This indenture made the 21st day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty Eight between Peter Swisher, Sen. and Mary, his wife, of the county of Harrison and state of Virginia of the one part, and Samuel Sheets, Isaac Swisher, John Swisher, William Blake, John Cottrill, Samuel Dawson, Elizabeth Dawson, William Dawson, Sen., William Meathouse, John T. Lewis, John McPherson, Jesse McPherson, Edmund Dennison, John Dennison, Sen., Chapman Grant, James Cummins, John Marns, Eli Bond, George A. Sommerville, Peter Conolly, Benjamin Romine, James Dennison, James Jeffries, James Kennedy, Anderson Dennison, George Dawson, Robert McShane, the Bonafund of the county and state aforesaid of the other part witnessed that the said Peter Swisher and Mary, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of two dollars current money to them in hand paid, the receipt whereof is acknowledged, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff and confirm unto the above named subscribers, one acre of land lying in the county aforesaid situated on Lost Creek being a part of Peter Swishers tract he now lives on, bounded as follows to Wit: Beginning at a stone running south forty five degrees east twenty poles to a dogwood, north thirty five degrees west eight poles to the beginning containing one acre together with all profits and commodities hereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining with all the appertenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with all its appertenances unto the above named subscribers, their heirs or assigns forever, and to Peter Swisher, Sen., and Mary, his wife, do covenant that they will forever warrant and defend this tract or parcel of land unto the above named subscribers, their heirs and assigns, in witness thereof, said Peter Swisher, Sen., and Mary, his wife, hath hereunto set their names and affixed their seals.

Peter Swisher
X
his mark

Mary Swisher
X
her mark

Harrison County Court Clerks Office this 29th day of July, 1828. This deed was acknowledged in open court and admitted to record.

Test. J. Wilson, Jr. C.H.C.

In the above Deed, the John Dennison, Sen., is John's son. Apparently after his dad died, he became Senior and one of his children Jr.

Assuming that Rockford is correct the church was completed in 1836. By this time, my great, great grandfather Anderson Dennison had moved to Rush Run, Ten Mile District.

In February 1845, the children of John and Sarah Dennison sold the home in Lost Creek to William Blake, a friend and neighbor of the family. Margaret McKinney Dennison, John's second wife lived in this house until it was sold.

Below is a copy of the Deed when they sold the house to William Blake.

HARRISON COUNTY COURT HOUSE DEED BOOK 42, PAGE 42

Edmund Dennison
to
William Blake

Deed 100 acres Lost Creek

This indenture made this 8th day of February, 1845, between Anderson Dennison and Eleanor, his wife; Edmund Dennison and Elizabeth, his wife; Levi Romine and Jemima, his wife; John Dennison and Sarah, his wife; Hezekiah Dennison and Anna, his wife; all of Harrison County, except Hezekiah and his wife who live in Lewis County. Bailey L. Dennison and Sarah, his wife of Gallia County, State of Ohio, and Margaret Dennison, of Harrison County, widow of John Dennison, deceased of the first part, William Blake of Harrison County of the second part, WITNESSETH That whereas the said John Dennison died seized of the tract of land hereunto mentioned which has descended to the parties of the first part as the heirs aforesaid their interest in the said land, but no conveyance thereof has yet been made to the said Edmund, and the said Edmund having sold the said tract of land to the said William Blake for the sum of Five Hundred Dollars and the parties of the first part agreeing to convey the said land to the said Blake, do by these presents and in consideration of the said sum of money, so paid by the said Blake to the said Edmund, grant, bargain, and sell to the said William, the following tract of land situated in the County of Harrison and State of Virginia, lying on the left fork of Lost Creek and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at a Beech and running thence S 50 degrees East 28 poles to a Beech on one of the original lines. N 15 degrees, East 6 1/2 poles to a Maple, N 38 degrees East 74 poles to a Dogwood, N 38 degrees West 24 poles to a White Oak, N 10 degrees West 40 poles to a White Oak, N 76 3/4 degrees West 102 poles to a Chestnut Oak, S 38 degrees West 69 poles to a Poplar, S 84 degrees West 74 poles to a stake, S 68 1/2 degrees East 165 poles to the beginning, containing one hundred acres more or less, being the same tract of land conveyed by James Radcliff and wife to the said John Dennison by Deed bearing date the 20th day of June, 1814, and recorded in Harrison County Court Book Number 12, Page 74.

To Have and to Hold the said tract of land with all and singular, its appurtenances to the said William Blake, his heirs and assigns forever, and the parties of the first part for themselves and their heirs Covenant and agree to and with the said William Blake, his heirs and assigns, that they will forever warrant and defend the said tract of land with its appurtenances against themselves and their heirs and all persons claiming by, through, or under them, And the said Edmund Dennison for himself and his heirs doth further Covenant and agree to and with the said William Blake that the said Edmund and his heirs will forever warrant and defend to the said William Blake, his heirs and assigns the aforesaid tract of land with its appurtenances against the claim or claims of all and every person

whatsoever. In Witness whereof the parties of the first part have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first aforesaid.

Anderson Dennison
Eleanor Dennison
X
her mark

Edmund Dennison
Elizabeth Dennison
X
her mark

Levi Romine
X
his mark
Jemima Romine
X
her mark

John Dennison
Sarah Dennison
X
her mark

H. V. Dennison
Anna Dennison
X
her mark

Gilmore County To Wit:

We, S. Whiting and A. W. Fell, Justices of the Peace for said County, do hereby certify that Hezekiah Dennison party to a certain Deed bearing date 8th day of February, 1843, and hereunto summoned personally appeared before us in our said County and acknowledged the same to be his act and deed, and desired us to certify the said acknowledgement to the Clerk of Harrison County Court in order that the said Deed may be recorded. And we do moreover Certify that Anna Dennison, the wife of the said Hezekiah Dennison, parties to the said Deed so hereunto affixed and bearing state as aforesaid, just appeared before us in our said County and being examined by us privily and apart from her husband, and having the said Deed fully explained to her, she, the said Anna acknowledged the same to be her act and deed, and declared that she had willingly signed, sealed and delivered the same and that she wished not to retract it.

Given under our hands and seals this 8th day of October, 1855

S. Whiting, J.P.
A. W. Fell, J.P.

Harrison County to wit:

We, Chapman G. Grant & Benj. Bassell, Justices of the Peace for said County, do hereby certify that Margaret Dennison, widow of John Dennison, Anderson Dennison, Edmund Dennison, Levi Romine and John Dennison, parties to a certain Deed bearing State, the 8th day of February, 1845 and hereunto arrived personally and appeared before us in our said County, to acknowledge the same to

be their acts and deeds, and desired us to certify this said acknowledgement to the Clerk of Harrison County in order that the said Deed may be recorded and we hereover do certify Eleanor Dennison, wife of Anderson Dennison; Elizabeth Dennison, wife of Edmund Dennison; Jemima Romine, wife of Levi Romine; and Sarah Dennison, wife of John Dennison, parties to the said Deed and hereunto affixed and bearing date aforesaid fully explained to them, they the said Eleanor, Jemima, and Sarah severally acknowledged the said Deed to be their act and deed and declare that they have willingly signed, sealed, and delivered the same and that they wish not to retract it. Given under our hands and seals this 8th day of February 1845.

C. G. Grant
Benj. Bassell

Virginia

Harrison County Court Clerks Office, Oct. 15th, 1858. This Deed and Certificates were this day duly admitted to record in this office.

Attest: P. Chapin, Clk. H.C.

I don't know if the persons in the Court House made an error on these documents or not. I think it is odd that the certification for Hezekiah and Anna Dennison is dated 1855. Did you notice that Gilmer County was once spelled Gilmore?

Perhaps, after the children decided to sell the house they were advised to get the signatures of Hezekiah and Anna before they could proceed with the sale.

Remember earlier when I mentioned that our ancestors were well educated when they came to this area, but their children were not necessarily getting a good education. When I saw the signatures on this Deed I realized how very true that was. Although none of the wives were able to write, nor was Levi Romine.

The Romine family had come to the wilderness of Harrison County in the late 1700's, which would explain his lack of education. We do know though that once the homes and small towns were established, education became a priority again. Many scholarly persons taught in their homes until regular schools could be built and established. Several persons in my family were among those who taught school in their homes.

Another portion of the Deed that is puzzling to me is the naming of the wives when the Deed was finally certified. When they repeated the wives names they left out Elizabeth, wife of Edmund. I feel this was an oversight on the part of the Clerk, as I have typed everything exactly as it is on the original papers.

I think it is peculiar too, that Margaret, John's widow did not sign any part of the deed, although she is mentioned in it. After the house was sold, Margaret went to live with her sister, Mary, in the property they had inherited from their father, **GEORGE C. MCKINNEY, SR.**

According to information that I have received from both Robert Marple of Buckhannon, WV and Tracy Britton of West Union, WV, **GEORGE MCKINNEY, SR.**, was the father of **MARGARET “PEGGY” MCKINNEY**, the second wife of **JOHN DENNISON**.

George was born about 1734 in Londonderry, Ulster, Northern Ireland, the son of Cornelius Francis **MCKINNEY** and Hannah **HOPKINS MCKINNEY**.

While in Ireland, he married **MARY JAMES**, who was born in Wales about 1750. George was a minister in Ulster. He and his family came to America about 1770 and settled first in Loudon County, Virginia, then Fauquier County, Virginia. It is likely that the **DENNISON** and **MCKINNEY** families were well acquainted while living in Fauquier County, so it is not surprising that after Sarah’s death, John would have married one of the **MCKINNEY** daughters. The two families may have traveled in the same caravan coming to what is now central West Virginia.

According to Barbour County court records, I have found that **GEORGE MCKINNEY** was the first **MCKINNEY** to live in the region; however, it is probably the same place that he had lived since his arrival in Harrison County, because Barbour County was formed in 1843 from Harrison, Lewis, and Randolph Counties.

George lived near Overfield in Barbour County, which is seven tenths of a mile from the Barbour County line, off of what is now WV Route 20, near Craigmoor. In Harrison County, George purchased 127 acres near the intersection of Racoon Run and Gnatty Creek. This is the same vicinity that John and his siblings chose to live.

One of George and Mary’s sons, **WILLIAM PARKINSON MCKINNEY**, married **MARY “POLLY” READ**, the daughter of **JOHN DENNISON’S** sister, **ELIZABETH DENNISON** and **STEPHEN READ**.

GEORGE MCKINNEY died at Overfield, in Barbour County, VA (WV) in 1843. He apparently died just after Barbour County was formed. He is buried at the Morris Baptist Church on Elk Creek. In his Will, dated August 18, 1828, he left his estate to his wife, Mary, and two daughters, **MARGARET DENNISON** and **MARY MCKINNEY**.

MARY MCKINNEY never married. She was a schoolteacher and lived to be in her nineties. The way that Tracy Britton understands George’s Will, Mary and her sister, Margaret “Peggy” Dennison could not sell or transfer the land up to the last survivor of their father.

In **EDMUND DENNISON’S** autobiography, he stated that he and his siblings liked their stepmother very much. He is quoted as saying, “she was an excellent stepmother.” When John married Peggy, the children’s ages were: Anderson 21, Bailey 19, Edmund 17, Jemima 15, John R. 12, Sarah 11, and Hezekiah 10.

On the following pages you will see a couple of John's papers from the War of 1812. On the one page it shows him serving from September 15 to November 15, 1812, the other page has no date. We know that John and his brother Elisha served from September 15th, 1812 until April 16th, 1813 when they were mustered out. I tell more about their war experiences in Chapter Eight.

CHAPTER 5. OUR NORMAN FAMILY CONNECTION

"When it shall be found that much is omitted, let it not be forgotten that much likewise is performed."

(From Samuel Johnson's Preface to his English Dictionary.)

Great, Great, Great Grandmother Sarah Norman Dennison

My great, great, great grandmother **SARAH** was born circa 1772 in Fauquier County, Virginia, the daughter of **JAMES NORMAN** and **JEMIMA SHUMATE NORMAN**. She married my great, great, great grandfather **JOHN DENNISON** on March 4, 1794/95, in Fauquier County, Virginia.

The father of Sarah and her siblings was **JAMES NORMAN** of Fauquier County, Virginia. Their mother was **JEMIMA SHUMATE**, daughter of **JAMES SHUMATE** and **JUDITH BAILEY SHUMATE**, also of Fauquier County, Virginia. When you read the list of John and Sarah's children, you will notice that they named a son after her brother Bailey, which was also her maternal grandmothers maiden name. Our great, great, great grandparents John and Sarah Norman Dennison gave their Bailey the second initial L. I do not know what the initial L stands for.

I believe that Sarah and her brother Bailey were very close, as well as John and his sister Nancy. By all accounts, the first recorded piece of property that John and Sarah owned adjoined the property of Bailey and Nancy. I have found that many of the very early records for property obtained in what is now Harrison County were never properly filled out and put on record at the Court House.

John and Sarah chose to name their only daughter after her mother, Jemima. Even though their daughters name was Jemima, they called her Susannah. It was probably to distinguish between the two.

Sarah died between September 1813 and June 1814. Nancy Dennison Norman died at approximately the same time as Sarah. Bailey Norman then married Tacy Tyson on August 23, 1814. Tacy was the daughter of Isaac Tyson who had purchased John and Sarah's tract of land, which adjoined Bailey and Nancy Dennison Norman's. Rev. Joseph Morris¹ a Baptist Minister, who had married so many members of our family married Bailey Norman and Tacy Tyson.

The church where Rev. Morris regularly preached, I believe has since been named the Morris Baptist Church on Elk Creek. I feel that at this church cemetery, John, Sarah and Nancy were probably buried.

The known children of **JAMES NORMAN** and **JEMIMA SHUMATE NORMAN** can be found listed below.

¹ Rev. Joseph Morris, a Baptist Minister qualified to celebrate the rites of matrimony at the 1812 February Term of the Harrison County Court.

MOLLY NORMAN who married **JACOB WEAVER** in August of 1792, in Fauquier County, Virginia. He was the son of Tillman Weaver, Fauquier County.

LETTICE "LETTIE" NORMAN was born 1788 in Fauquier County, Virginia. She married **BENJAMIN ROMINE** in Harrison County, July 25, 1815. Rev. Joseph Morris also married Lettie and Benjamin. Rev. Morris had married my great, great, great grandfather John Dennison and his second wife, Margaret "Peggy" McKinney Dennison, as well.

BENJAMIN ROMINE was born in 1791 in Harrison County, Virginia. He was a brother to **LEVI ROMINE** who had married John's sister Jemima, on September 11, 1820, in Harrison County. With so many brothers and sisters marrying brothers and sisters, it is easy to see why we have so many double cousins in our family tree. According to Harrison County Census Records Benjamin and Lettie had the following children: James born 1820; Tacey born 1821; Clement B., born 1824 and Nancy born 1825. A grandson Theodore F. born in 1845 lived with them. He was the son of their son James and his first wife, Mary, who died either when Theodore F. was born or shortly afterwards.

Several family members, including Benjamin's brother, Levi, went to Gallia County, Ohio for a few years in the middle 1800's. Many of the family, including Levi and his wife Jemima returned to Harrison County a short time later.

BAILEY NORMAN, brother to the above Norman sisters, married my great, great, great grandfather John Dennison's sister, **NANCY DENNISON** five years after John and Sarah were married. Bailey and Nancy married on February 10, 1800, also in Fauquier County, Virginia. A copy of their marriage bond appears at the end of this Chapter.

Bailey and Nancy had three sons and one daughter. There were probably other children. The known children are **Lettie** born in 1803 and who was named for her Aunt Lettice, and sons **Clement Dennison Norman** born in 1805, **John** born in 1809, and **Felix** born in 1810.

Clement, I believe was named for a great uncle, Clement Norman, who is listed as living in Fauquier County, Virginia, where he served as a foot soldier in the Virginia Colonial Regiment. This uncle Clement had a son Isaac who was accidentally shot by one of the officers of the Regiment and died on March 21st, 1759. John was named for Nancy's brother, my great, great, great grandfather John Dennison. The family chart at the end of this chapter lists their spouses.

JUDITH "JUDY" NORMAN, who married **JAMES SHURLOCK** on September 20, 1785 in Fauquier County, Virginia, was named for her maternal grandmother **JUDITH BAILEY**.

SHUMATE (SHOOMATE) NORMAN was born in 1786 in Fauquier County, Virginia. He, too, moved to Harrison County with the rest of the family. He was named for his mother's maiden surname, just as his brother, Bailey, was named for their maternal grandmother's maiden name.

Shumate Norman married a girl named **NANCY GARRETT**. She too, was born in 1786 according to the Harrison County 1850 Census. In this census, it lists a son, **Shumate_W.**, born in

1828 living with them. Shumate and Nancy, also had three more sons **Clement G.**, born on September 10, 1818, **Richard** born January 15, 1820, **Isaiah H. sometimes found as Isaac**, born in 1826 and a daughter, **Sarah** born in 1827.

Nancy apparently died prior to 1860, as the census shows Shumate living with son Isaiah and family. **Isaiah's wife** was **Sarah Bice** who was born in 1827; She and Isaiah had six children. Son **Richard** married **Isabella Little** and in the Harrison County 1870 census, it shows they had four children. Son **Clement G. Norman** married **Elizabeth Gregory**.

WILLIAM NORMAN also lived in Fauquier County. His name appears as a Witness on the will of Tillman Weaver, Fauquier County. Tillman Weaver was the father-in-law of his sister Molly. I have no other information on William.

MARRIAGE BOND OF BAILEY NORMAN AND NANCY DENNISON

Fauquier County, Virginia Marriage Register #1, Page 200

Know all men by these presents, That we Bailey Norman and James Dennison are held and firmly bound unto James Monroe, Governor of Virginia, in the just and full sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars, to which payment will and truly to be made, to the said Governor or his successors, we bind ourselves, our and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Sealed with our seals and dated this 10th day of February, 1800

The Condition of the above Obligation is such that whereas there is a Marriage shortly intended to be solemnized between Bailey Norman and Nancy Dennison, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said Marriage, then the above Obligation to be void, otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed and delivered}
in the presence of }

Bailey Norman
his seal

James Dennison
his seal

February 10th, 1800, this is to certify that you need not be against giving of lisen for my daughter to be married for it is with free consent by her father and mother to wed.

Brooke

James Dennison
Thomas Dennison
James Dennison, Jr.

THE PARENTS OF SARAH "SARY" NORMAN DENNISON

JAMES NORMAN

- B. Circa 1740 in Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. Circa 1760 Jemima Shumate in Fauquier County, Virginia
- D. Circa 1800 in Fauquier County, Virginia

JEMIMA SHUMATE

- B. Circa 1740 in Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. Circa 1760 James Norman in Fauquier County, Virginia
- D. Circa 1800 in Fauquier County, Virginia

THE PARENTS OF JEMIMA SHUMATE NORMAN WERE:

JAMES SHUMATE

- B. Circa 1720
- M. Circa 1740 Fauquier County, VA to Judith Bailey
- D. Circa 1800 Fauquier County, Virginia

JUDITH BAILEY

- B. Circa 1720
- M. Circa 1740 Fauquier County, VA to James Shumate
- D. Circa 1780 Fauquier County, Virginia

THE CHILDREN OF JAMES NORMAN AND JEMIMA SHUMATE NORMAN

JUDY NORMAN

- B. Circa 1765 Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. September 20, 1785, Fauquier County, Virginia
James Shurlock
- D. Date and place unknown

WILLIAM NORMAN

- B. Circa 1768 Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. Unknown
- D. Unknown date, Harrison County, Virginia

SARAH NORMAN

- B. Circa 1772 Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. March 4, 1794/95 Fauquier County, Virginia
John Dennison, son of James, Sr. and Nancy Dennison
- D. Late 1813 or early in 1814
Lost Creek, Harrison County, Virginia
Place of burial probably the Morris Baptist Church on the Elk Creek, Harrison Co, Virginia

MOLLY NORMAN

- B. Circa 1773 Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. August 1792 Fauquier County, Virginia
Jacob Weaver
- D. Date Unknown
Possibly buried in Harrison County, Virginia

BAILEY NORMAN

- B. Circa 1775 Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. February 10, 1800 Fauquier County, Virginia
Nancy Dennison, daughter of James Sr. and Nancy Dennison
Second Marriage
August 23, 1814, Harrison County, Virginia
Tacy Tyson, daughter of Isaac Tyson
- D. Date Unknown
Buried in Harrison County, Virginia

SHUMATE (SHOOMATE) NORMAN

- B. 1786 Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. September 4, 1815
Nancy Garrett
- D. Unknown date, buried in Harrison or Lewis County, Virginia

LETTICE "LETTIE" NORMAN

- B. 1788 Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. July 25, 1815 Harrison County, Virginia
Benjamin Romine. Married by Reverend Joseph Morris
- D. Harrison County, probably at the Morris Baptist Church on Elk Creek, Harrison Co., Virginia

The following persons may also be children of James and Jemima, since we know that a few of them came to Harrison County in the early 1800's too. I obtained the information from Fauquier County Records of Abstracts, Wills and Marriages. Bailey, Shumate and William Norman appear in the 1820 Census of Harrison County.

BATHSHEBA (Barsheba) NORMAN, the wife of Joseph Bullitt.

JESSE NORMAN

TABITHA NORMAN married **Ephiram Jeffries** on September 9, 1799 in Fauquier County, Virginia.

CHAPTER 6. MARY, ELIZABETH AND THOMAS. SIBLINGS OF JOHN, SR.

"Home is the place where character is built,
where sacrifices to contribute to the happiness
of others are made, and where love has taken up
its abode." Elijah Kellogg

MARY, the oldest daughter and child of James, Sr., and Nancy Dennison was born in 1763. She married **ANTHONY HAILEY** on September 20, 1785 in Fauquier County, Virginia. Anthony was born in 1758. Both Mary and Anthony were born in Virginia.

Anthony Hailey enlisted in Captain Catlett's Company, Colonel Abraham Buford's Regiment of the Virginia Line in 1778 and fought at the Battle of Hanging Rock during the American Revolutionary War. He served during the entire war.

After his return from the War he and Mary were married. Below is a copy of their Marriage Bond.

MARRIAGE BOND OF MARY DENNISON AND ANTHONY HAILEY

Fauquier County, Virginia Marriage Register #1, Page 149

Know all men by these presents that we Anthony Hailey and James Dennison are held and firmly bound to his excellency Patrick Henry, Esquire, Governor of Virginia in the sum of Fifty Pounds, to which payment will and truly be made to the said Patrick Henry or his successors; we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 20th day of September, 1785.

The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended to be solemnized between the above said Anthony Hailey and Mary Dennison, for which a license hath been issued. Now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said intended marriage, then the above obligation to be void or else to remain in force.

Sealed and delivered }
in presence of }
F. Brooke

Anthony Hailey
(his seal)
James Dennison
X
(his mark and seal)

Did you notice that Patrick Henry was the Governor of Virginia when Mary and Anthony were married? I find this quite interesting.

Congress granted pensions to the soldiers of the Revolutionary War in 1818. Anthony filed for his petition in Harrison County when he was sixty years old. He began receiving his pension of \$8.00 a month on May 19th, 1818. Anthony received this pension until his death in 1842. According to the DAR Patriot Index he died on August 6, 1842 in Ohio. Papers from the National Archives say this was just two days after his wife, Mary, had died on August 4, 1842.

Anthony and Mary moved to Meigs County, Ohio in 1829 with one of their sons. Meigs County, Ohio is across the Ohio River from Ravenswood, West Virginia. Anthony and Mary died in Gallia County, Ohio. Gallia County, Ohio is just a little further south on the Ohio River and across from Point Pleasant, West Virginia. Meigs and Gallia Counties are neighboring counties situated on the Ohio River. In the 1820's this section of Ohio was a thriving agricultural area and many of our forefathers left Harrison County (West) Virginia to go to Ohio, which was part of the new frontier.

Anthony and Mary were the parents of several children. They were **Nancy** born in 1791, **Bridget** born 1795, **Betsey** born 1800 and **John D.**, all in Fauquier County, Virginia. **James** born in 1803, **Mary Ann** born 1805, **Merando(a)** born 1811 and **Gabriel** born in 1814 in Harrison County, Virginia. There may have been other children.

I believe when Anthony and Mary moved to Ohio in 1829, they went with their son, James. James had been named for his maternal grandfather, James Dennison. **Mary's niece Jemima Dennison Romine, (daughter of Mary's brother John)** and her family went to Ohio too, as well as Mary's nephew, Bailey L. Dennison, (son of her brother John). I am not sure which family went first, perhaps they all decided to move to Ohio at the same time. At some point, however, Jemima Romine and her family returned to Harrison and Lewis Counties, West Virginia.

The daughter and son of Mary Dennison and Anthony Hailey, Mary Ann Hailey Queen and John D.(Dennison) Hailey signed the legal papers for Anthony Hailey according to the Pension papers at the National Archives.

Mary Ann Hailey had married a Mr. Queen, while still living in Harrison County. Sometime after her parents and brother had moved to Ohio, she and her family moved to Ohio as well.

At the time of Anthony's death, several of his children and their families were living in Wilkesville, Gallia County, Ohio.

NANCY, the oldest daughter of Anthony Hailey and Mary Dennison Haley was born January 11, 1791 in Fauquier County, Virginia. **NANCY** was named for her maternal grandmother Nancy Dennison.

Nancy married **LEVI DOUGLAS, JR.**, who was born November 11, 1783 in Harrison County. He was a son of **Levi Douglas, Sr.**, one of the very first settlers of Harrison County. Nancy and Levi were married on April 25, 1806 in Harrison County.

They made their home in Elk District, on Racoon Run, which is south of Romines Mills. They built their home on property which Levi had inherited from his father, Levi Douglas, Sr. Their house was located up Racoon Run about one and one-half miles on the right of the road. The house was built at the foot of a hill. The original two chimneys of the house are still standing and scattered about the property are pieces of wood that was once a part of their house.

Both Levi and Nancy are buried in the Douglas Family Cemetery, which is on a hill above the house. Nancy died on November 27, 1864. She lived to be 73 years, 10 months and 16 days. Levi died on May 2, 1871. He lived to be 87 years, 5 months and 21 days.

Nancy and Levi were the parents of two children who were buried in the family cemetery with them. They were **Andrew** born January 27, 1825, who lived to be 76 years of age. He died August 12, 1901. Another son, **Jefferson** is also buried in the family plot, but there is no date on his tombstone. There are several unmarked graves in the family cemetery, so there may have been other children.

The second child and daughter of Anthony Hailey and Mary Dennison Hailey was **BRIDGET**, who may have been named for her father's mother. **BRIDGET** was born in 1795 in Fauquier County, Virginia. On February 22, 1814, in Harrison County she married **ANDREW DAVISSON, JR.** Harrison County Marriage Book 2, Page 20.

Andrew purchased the land for their home from Bridget's Uncle Elisha Dennison, her mother's brother. This land was purchased on April 18, 1814, Harrison County Deed Book 12, Page 118. It was sixty acres on Elk Creek and according to the Deed located exactly 13 miles from the Harrison County Court House, the Romines Mills area or vicinity. Apparently she lived near her sister and brother-in law, Nancy and Levi Douglas, Jr.

Andrew was the son of Josiah Davisson and Lucretia Shinn Davisson. Josiah and Lucretia were married June 7, 1785, Harrison County Marriage Book 1, Page 3. Andrew was the grandson of Andrew Davisson, Sr., great grandson of Josiah Davisson, Sr., great, great grandson of Daniel Davisson, Jr., and great, great, great grandson of Daniel Davisson, Sr., one of the earliest settlers to Harrison County and the first landowner in what is now downtown Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia.

The first Davisson family members came to the Massachusetts Colony in the 1660's. In the Stonington, Connecticut Deeds, Volume 2, Page 357, dated January 6, 1701/1702 it states that a Daniel Davisson of the Massachusetts Colony bought one hundred acres. His land adjoined that of a **CAPTAIN DENNISON**, one of our ancestors.

A brother of Andrew Davisson was **JOHN BENJAMIN DAVISSON**. After the death of his first wife, **John Benjamin Davisson** he married **RACHEL GAIN** in 1842. Rachel Gain was an aunt to **my maternal great grandmother Eve Gain Childers Siders**.

Andrew's family was also instrumental in developing early Harrison County. The grandfathers of both Andrew and Levi Douglas, Jr., were among the very first persons to come to and settle in Harrison County. The Douglas family settled on Brushy Fork of the Elk River with the Davisson family settling on Simpson Creek, Bridgeport.

I believe that Bridget and Andrew are buried in the 'Old Bridgeport Cemetery' which is located to the right of the entrance to the present Bridgeport Cemetery. My father, Harry C. Dennison; my mother, Rosa L. Malone Dennison; my son, Howard Thaddeus "Tad" Haught, my sister, Mary Lou Dennison, and my brother-in-law, Eugene M. "Bud" Curtis are buried in the Memorial Gardens section on top of the hill in the present Bridgeport Cemetery.

ELIZABETH, the youngest daughter of James, Sr., and Nancy married **STEPHEN READ** in Fauquier County, Virginia on August 10, 1802.

In the 1820 Virginia Census for Fauquier County, it shows a Stephen Read living there, although we know that he and Elizabeth chose to stay in Harrison County. Perhaps, he was visiting relatives or taking care of some sort of business in Fauquier County, at the time the census was taken.

During the War of 1812 when the British burned the Capitol, most of the United States Census was destroyed. Among the census found missing were the 1790 and 1800 Virginia census, as well as part of the 1810 Virginia census. This was a terrible loss, because when we try to locate our relatives in a particular place at that time, we either find duplicate names in places that we know are incorrect or we can't find them at all in the area that we know they were.

Below I have copied the Marriage Bond of Stephen Read and Elizabeth Dennison.

MARRIAGE BOND OF STEPHEN READ AND ELIZABETH DENNISON

Fauquier County, Virginia Marriage Register #2, Page 273

Know all men by these presents that we Stephen Read and James Dennison are held and firmly bound unto James Monroe, Esquire, Governor of Virginia in the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars to which payment will and truly be made to the said Governor or his successors, we bind ourselves, our heirs, Executors jointly and severally firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 10th day of August, 1802.

The condition of this obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended to be solemnized between the above Stephen Read and Elizabeth Dennison, for which a license hath been issued, now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said intended marriage, then the above obligation to be void else to remain in full force.

**Signed, sealed and delivered
in presence of
Hugh Campbell**

**Stephen Read
X
his mark**

**James Dennison
X
his mark**

This is to certify that I am willing that Stephen Read and my daughter; Elizabeth Dennison should be joined as man and wife, please to lisens them for the same.

W. F. Brooke

**James Dennison
X
his mark**

**Teste
James Dennison
Thomas Dennison**

James Dennison, Elizabeth's father was Senior, and her brothers James, Jr. and Thomas were the witnesses. I do not know why some records use the Senior and Junior and others do not.

I found the statement made by James Dennison in the above document to be very interesting. "This is to certify that I am willing that Stephen Read and my daughter, Elizabeth Dennison, should be joined as man and wife, please to license them for the same".

We know by this statement that Elizabeth was not yet 21. Did you notice, also, that future president James Monroe was the Governor on this Marriage Bond. He was the Governor, too, when her sister Nancy married Bailey Norman. It makes one feel a part of history when we read these documents that apply to our own family doesn't it?

I feel very fortunate that we are able to obtain these records after two hundred years.

Elizabeth and Stephen's daughter, Mary "Polly" **READ** was born in 1803. She married William Parkinson **MCKINNEY** on February 24, 1822, in Harrison County, Virginia when she was nineteen years old. She and Stephen had nine children. Polly is buried at the Johnstown Methodist Church, in southern Harrison County.

When I questioned the Fauquier County Clerk about **THOMAS**, I was advised there was no marriage record for him in that county; however, he was a witness on many Marriage Bonds in the County, especially Dennison marriages.

Since I have located Thomas in the 1820 Census records for Fauquier County, I feel sure that he came to Harrison County with the family, then returned to Fauquier County a short time later.

CHAPTER 7. JAMES DENNISON, JR., AND FAMILY

"He is happiest, be he king or peasant who finds
peace in his home". Goethe

JAMES DENNISON, JR., was born in 1778 in Fauquier County. His wife **SARAH GREATHOUSE DENNISON** was born in 1789 in Monongalia County, Virginia. She was the daughter of **Gabriel Greathouse** and **Nancy Husted Greathouse**. James and Sarah were married on January 21, 1808 in Harrison County, Virginia.

Harrison County Tax Records show them owning fifty-one acres of land on the Ruckoon (Raccoon) Run, on the Elk River in 1812, 1813, 1814. James purchased these fifty-one acres from George Bucklew, on February 15, 1811. Harrison County Grantee Volume 10, Page 51. According to the Harrison County Tax Book this land was fourteen miles southeast from the Harrison County Court House. This area is now known as Romines Mills. **He lived near his niece, Nancy, and her husband Levi Douglas, Jr.**

On August 10, 1813 James and Sarah purchased thirty-five more acres in this same area from John Queen, (who eventually became the father-in-law of their son John) Harrison County Grantee Volume 11, Page 540. They paid their taxes in Harrison County for this property in 1814, 1815, 1816 and 1817.

There is no more evidence of them paying taxes on this land after 1817. However, Lewis County was established in 1816 from Harrison County. I believe their property automatically became a part of Lewis County. We do know that he and Sarah were living in Lewis County in 1818.

JAMES DENNISON, JR. bought from his nephew by marriage, **LEVI DOUGLAS, JR.**, one hundred forty-eight and one-half acres on Lost Creek, September 18, 1818. Harrison County Grantee Volume 14, Page 136. This was part of the land that Levi had inherited from his family. On November 14, 1819, **James Dennison, Jr.**, sold to **Levi Douglas, Jr.**, 71 acres on Gnatty Creek. Harrison County Grantee Volume 14, Page 430. I have no idea when James purchased this land.

On April 1, 1837, **Sarah** and **James Dennison, Jr.**, received from her father, **GABRIEL GREATHOUSE**, a tract of land; Harrison County Deed Book 25, Page 112. On June 3, 1837, James, Jr., sold fifteen and one-half acres on Raccoon Run to Alexander Callihan; Harrison County Deed Book 25, Page 174.

March 16, 1842, James, Jr. purchased twenty-five acres on Lost Creek, Lewis County. If the James Dennison, Jr., family kept their land, they own a good piece of both Harrison and Lewis Counties. I hope that they did.

In a letter I received from the County Clerk of Lewis County in 1980, she shows that James, Jr. also purchased more land in Lewis County in 1844; this land is in Bendale, Lewis County. James, Jr. and Sarah were also buried on this same land in the Dennison Family Cemetery.

Like his brothers, James Dennison, Jr., was a farmer and a minister.

The entire family was very active in the Lost Creek/West Milford area churches. In Chapter 4, I have a copy of a deed for property purchased from **Peter Swisher and his wife Mary**. I believe this property was obtained to build a new church. James, Jr. is listed on this deed along with his brothers and nephews, as well as others who were living in the area at the time of this purchase. It is a possibility that this was the Old Harmony Church which was built in 1819, and was the first Methodist Church built in Lewis County, but more than likely it is the Rockford Church.

Unlike most of his family, James, Jr., lived his whole life in the southern end of Harrison County, a portion of it later becoming Lewis County. This area in Lewis County became known as Bendale.

James, Jr., and Sarah Greathouse Dennison had eight children. The first child was a girl, **NANCY**, who was named for James' mother; the next three children were boys. These four were born in Harrison County. The boys were **GABRIEL**, who was named for his maternal grandfather **GABRIEL GREATHOUSE; JAMES ROSS** and son **JOHN**.

After the formation of Lewis County from Harrison County, the last five children were born in Bendale: **CALVIN, WILLIAM, REBECCA, SARAH JANE** and **MINTER BAILEY DENNISON**.

First child and daughter, **NANCY** was born about 1809. She married **FRANCIS SKINNER** on May 28, 1928 in Harrison County, Virginia (WV). **Francis was a brother to Eleanor "Ellen/Nelly" my great, great, grandmother, and Sarah "Sally"** who married John R. Dennison, brother to my great, great, great grandfather, John Dennison.

Second child and first son, **GABRIEL**, was born August 6, 1811. He married **MARTHA STOUT** on March 24, 1836 in Harrison County. They had the following children: **Sarah, Irene, James C., Daniel G., John McWhorter** and **Mary**.

After Martha died, Gabriel married **MARGERY BERRY** on December 12, 1857. They had two children **Fielding B.** and **Gabriel**. Margery A. Berry was the daughter of **Fielding** and **Elizabeth McPherson Berry**. She was born on December 12, 1818. Margery A. Berry married Gabriel Dennison on her 39th birthday.

James, Jr. and Sarah's third child and second son **JAMES ROSS DENNISON** was born March 22, 1813. He married a cousin, **MARY HUSTEAD** on January 15, 1835. Reverend John J. Waldo married them. Mary was born in 1815 and died January 16, 1862 in Doddridge County. After her death James Ross married **MARGARET ROBERTA NICHOLSON** on November 19, 1863.

Margaret was the daughter of **Christopher C.** and **Mary Kibbens Nicholson**. She was born in Madison County, Virginia on October 8, 1838. Her first husband was **Zachariah**

Nicholson who was born in 1839. He died on August 1, 1862 at the Battle of Bull Run, during the Civil War.

James Ross Dennison and his first wife Mary lived in Lewis County. They had the following children: **James Hustead, Sarah E., Jonas J., Lewis M., Mary Ann V., Catherine R., Susan S., Martha Minerva, John Calvin, Lydia** and an infant son who died at birth in 1856.

The children of James Ross Dennison and his second wife Margaret were: **Mary Ellen Cecelia, Silas Bruce, Harriett Ann Roberta, Christopher C. N., George Washington, Phillip Sheridan, Ira Flavious, Robert** and **Fillmore**. James Ross and Margaret lived in Doddridge County with their children.

JAMES ROSS DENNISON died August 21, 1899 in Doddridge County. He and both of his wives are buried in the Upper Indian Fork Cemetery, Doddridge County, West Virginia.

JOHN, third son of James, Jr., and Sarah Dennison was born in 1815. **In 1836 he married LETTICE/LETITIA QUEEN. Lettice/Letitia** was born in 1820. She and John had two children: **Charles A.** born in 1837 and **Sarah Jane** born in 1839. In the 1850 Lewis County census it shows two of Lettice's sisters living with them. They were **Jemima Queen** born in 1822 and **Eliza Queen** born in 1824.

Fourth son **CALVIN C.**, was born in May of 1821. In September, 1858, he married **MARGARET E. MORRISON**. She was the daughter of **John and Mary "Polly" Lough Dennison** and she was born in 1836. After their marriage Calvin and Margaret lived in Sheridan Township, Lewis County.

Calvin Dennison and Margaret Morrison Dennison had the following children: **Mary G. B.** born in 1858, **John Curry** born in 1859, **Minter James** born in 1864, **Mistensen Alonzo** born in 1867, **Flora D.**, born in 1870, **Sarah M.** born in 1874 and **Bird**.

Calvin died February 22, 1908 and Margaret died on November 29, 1920. They are buried in the Dennison Cemetery at Bendale, Lewis County, West Virginia.

WILLIAM K., born in 1822 was the sixth child and fifth son of James, Jr., and Sarah Dennison. He married **MATILDA J. KEITH** on April 12, 1853 in Lewis County. Matilda was born in 1831 in Lewis County, Virginia.

William and Matilda had the following children: **Laura A.**, born in 1854, **Ann V.**, born in 1855, **Lucy B.**, born in 1856, **Charles E.**, born 1857 and **Albert L.**, born in 1860 all in Lewis County.

REBECCA, the second daughter and seventh child of James, Jr. and Sarah was born April 28, 1823. She married **JAMES R. KENNEDY** on November 8, 1842 in Harrison County. James was born in Harrison County in 1824. They had the following children while living in Harrison County, **Mary M.** born in 1843, **Rachel** born October 11, 1845 and **William F.**, born in 1848. James and Rebecca moved to Centre Township, Lewis County for a while. While living in Lewis

County they had two children **James D.**, born in 1850 and **Zuriah** born in 1853. For a little while they lived in Gilmer County where son **Francis N.** was born in 1861.

Third daughter and eighth child, of James, Jr., and Sarah was **SARAH JANE**, who was born in 1826. She married **SAMUEL BISHOP** November 30, 1854 in Harrison County. Samuel was born in 1807 in Harrison County. After their marriage Sarah Jane and Samuel lived in the Rockford area of Harrison County. They had the following children: **Roberta** born in 1843, **Almira G.**, born in 1850, **Iden C.**, born in 1855, **Samuel P.** born in 1861, **William Wyatt Bishop** born in 1867. According to the 1860 and 1870 Harrison County Census Sarah Jane's mother, Sarah Greathouse Dennison was living with them. James, Jr. died prior to the 1860 census and Sarah died prior to the 1880 census. Also her niece, **Susan S. Dennison, daughter of James Ross Dennison** and his wife **Mary Hustead** was living with them during the 1870 census.

Samuel Bishop died in 1884 and Sarah Jane Dennison Bishop died in 1914. They are buried in the Rockford Cemetery.

The eighth child and sixth son **MINTER BAILEY** was the last child of **James, Jr.**, and **Sarah Greathouse Dennison**. Minter was born in 1828. On June 28, 1852 in Harrison County, he married **ELIZABETH GREATHOUSE** who was a cousin of Sarah's. Shortly after their marriage she died.

On April 20, 1857 in Gilmer County, Minter married **MINERVA JANE FURR**. Minerva was born in 1843. Minter and Minerva Jane Dennison had the following children: **Edith Florence** born in 1861, **Richard Lee** born in 1863, **James Stewart** born in 1865, **Gabriel "Gabe"** born in 1867, **Francis "Frank"** born in 1869, **Sarah G. "Sallie"** born in 1871, **Jenny** born in 1874 and **Mary**.

James Jr., and Sarah Greathouse Dennison are buried in the Dennison Family Cemetery on their land in Bendale

FAMILY CHART OF JAMES DENNISON, JR.,

JAMES, JR.

- B. 1778 in Fauquier County, Virginia
- M. January 21, 1808 Harrison County, Virginia
Sarah Greathouse
- D. Prior to 1860. James is buried in the Dennison Cemetery, Bendale, Lewis County West Virginia

WIFE: SARAH GREATHOUSE

- B. 1789 in Monongalia County, Virginia
daughter of Gabriel and Nancy Hustead Greathouse
- M. January 21, 1808, Harrison County, Virginia
- D. Prior to 1880 Sarah lived with daughter Sarah Jane Dennison Bishop for about twenty years after James, Jr., had died. She is buried in the Dennison Cemetery, Bendale, Lewis County, West Virginia

THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR SPOUSES

GABRIEL

- B. August 6, 1811, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. 1836, Harrison County
Wife #1: Martha Stout
December 12, 1857
Wife #2: Margery A. Berry

- D. Unknown place and date

JAMES ROSS

- B. March 22, 1813, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. January 15, 1835 Harrison County, Virginia
Wife #1: Mary Hustead
Died January 16, 1862 Doddridge County, Virginia
Wife #2: Margaret Roberta Nicholson
November 19, 1863 Harrison County, Virginia
- D. August 21, 1899, Doddridge County, West Virginia
He and both wives are buried in the Upper Indian Fork Cemetery
Doddridge County, West Virginia

JOHN

- B. 1815, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. 1836, Harrison County, Virginia
Lettice/Letitia Queen
- D. Unknown place and date

CALVIN C.

B. May, 1821 Lewis County, Virginia

M. September, 1858 Harrison County, Virginia

Margaret Morrison

D. February 22, 1908

Dennison Cemetery, Bendale, Lewis County, West Virginia

WILLIAM K.

B. 1822, Lewis County, Virginia

M. April 12, 1853

Matilda J. Keith

D. Unknown place and date

REBECCA

B. April 28, 1823 Lewis County, Virginia

M. November 8, 1842 Harrison County, Virginia

James R. Kennedy

D. Unknown place and date

SARAH JANE

B. 1826, Lewis County, Virginia

M. November 30, 1854, Harrison County, Virginia

Samuel Bishop

D. 1914, Harrison County, West Virginia

She and Samuel are buried in the Rockford Cemetery, Harrison County, West Virginia

MINTER BAILEY

B. 1828, Lewis County, Virginia

M. June 28, 1852 Harrison County, Virginia

Wife #1: Elizabeth Greathouse

April 20, 1857, Gilmer County, Virginia

Wife #2: Minerva Jane Furr

D. Unknown place and date

SPOUSE CHART FOR JAMES, JR., AND SARAH GREATHOUSE DENNISON FAMILY

SARAH GREATHOUSE

- B. 1789, Monongalia County, Virginia
Daughter of Gabriel Greathouse and Nancy Husted Greathouse
- M. January 21, 1808, Harrison County, Virginia
James Dennison, Jr.
- D. Prior to 1880. She is buried in the Dennison Cemetery, Bendale, Lewis County

THE SPOUSES OF THEIR CHILDREN

MARTHA STOUT

- B. Ca 1815, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. 1836, Harrison County
Gabriel Dennison
- D. 1856, Harrison County, Virginia

MARGERY A. BERRY

- B. December 12, 1818, Harrison County, Virginia
daughter of Fielding B. and Elizabeth McPherson Berry
- M. December 12, 1857, the second wife of Gabriel Dennison
- D. Unknown place and date

MARY HUSTEAD

- B. 1815, Harrison County
- M. January 15, 1835, Harrison County, Virginia
James Ross Dennison
- D. January 16, 1862, Doddridge County, Virginia
Buried in Upper Indian Fork Cemetery, Doddridge County, West Virginia

MARGARET ROBERTA NICHOLSON

- B. October 8, 1838, Madison County, Virginia
Daughter of Christopher C. and Mary Kibbens Nicholson
- M. November 19, 1863, Doddridge County, West Virginia
Second Wife of James Ross Dennison
- D. March 27, 1908, Doddridge County, West Virginia
Buried in Upper Indian Fork Cemetery, Doddridge County, West Virginia

LETTICE/LETITIA QUEEN

- B. CA 1815, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. 1836, Harrison County, Virginia
John Dennison, son of James, Jr., and Sarah Greathouse Dennison
- D. Unknown place and date

MARGARET MORRISON

- B. 1836, Harrison County, Virginia
daughter of John and Mary "Polly" Lough Morrison
- M. September, 1858 Harrison County, Virginia
Calvin Dennison
- D. November 29, 1920, Lewis County, West Virginia
Dennison Cemetery, Bendale, Lewis County, West Virginia

MATILDA J. KEITH

- B. About 1832 in Lewis County, Virginia
- M. April 12, 1853, Lewis County, Virginia
William K. Dennison
- D. Unknown place and date

JAMES R. KENNEDY

- B. 1820, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. November 8, 1842, Harrison County, Virginia
Rebecca Dennison
- D. Unknown place and date

SAMUEL BISHOP

- B. 1807, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. November 30, 1854, Harrison County, Virginia
Sarah Jane Dennison
- D. 1884, Harrison County, West Virginia
Buried in the Rockford Cemetery, Harrison County, West Virginia

ELIZABETH GREATHOUSE

- B. CA 1830, Harrison County, Virginia
- M. June 28, 1852 Harrison County, Virginia
Minter Bailey Dennison
- D. CA 1854, Harrison County

MINERVA JANE FURR

- B. CA 1835, Gilmer County, Virginia
- M. April 10, 1857, Gilmer County, Virginia
The second wife of Minter Bailey Dennison
- D. Unknown place and date

CHAPTER 8. ELISHA DENNISON AND "LUCY"/HENRY DENNISON AND "JENNY"

"The historian is a prophet looking backwards"
Schlegel, German Writer 1882-1934

ELISHA DENNISON was the son of James Dennison, Sr., and Nancy Dennison. He was born about 1775. He married **LUCINDA "LUCY" PECK** on May 10, 1809, Harrison County, Virginia. Reverend Benjamin Webb married them. Lucinda is sometimes called Lucindy, as well as Lucy in some legal documents.

Elisha purchased an acre of land on April 18, 1804, Harrison County Deed Book 12, Page 118. This was the year before the rest of the family came to Harrison County.

Harrison County Deed Book 10, Page 53, dated March 18, 1811 shows that Elisha purchased 60 acres on Elk Creek from Zachariah Hickman. Harrison County Tax Records show him paying taxes on 61 acres on Sycamore Run of the Elk Water. According to the Court Records this land was located thirteen miles from the Harrison County Court House. He paid taxes on this land in 1811, 1812, 1813 and 1814.

Elisha sold this land to Andrew Davisson, Jr., son-in-law of his sister Mary Dennison Hailey. Andrew Davisson, Jr. married Bridget Hailey, daughter of Mary Dennison Hailey and Anthony Hailey on February 22, 1814. Harrison County Deed Book 12, Page 118.

For some unknown reason, Elisha is not listed as paying taxes in 1815, but in 1818 he was listed once again as paying taxes and owning 34 1/2 acres on Brushy Fork of the Elk. This tract of land was purchased from John Roe, October 18, 1816, Harrison County Deed Book 13, Page 394. This land is listed as being six miles southeast of the Harrison County Court House, now the Quiet Dell area. This same year, 1818, records also show him owning 100 acres on Brushy Fork and located eleven miles southeast from the Court House. This parcel of land was purchased from Andrew Rosier and his wife, Lusa, for the sum of Three Hundred Dollars. This land is included in what is now the Romines Mill area.

Elisha, along with his brothers served in the War of 1812 from Harrison County in the Virginia Militia. He served from April 16, 1812 until March 28, 1813.

Elisha and his brothers, which included my **great, great, great grandfather John Dennison** left Harrison County with the Militia on September 15, 1812. Elisha was a Sergeant, serving under his **brother-in-law Captain Josiah Peck**. Captain Peck's Company of Riflemen with the Militia of the Virginia Requisition from Harrison County was attached to the First Regiment of Virginia commanded by Captain George Davis of Clarksburg. (Josiah was married to Sarah Smith on January 24, 1809.)

Sergeant Elisha Dennison and his brother, Private John Dennison, my great, great, great grandfather were discharged on April 16, 1813.

While serving in the Militia the brothers were an estimated 373 miles from their places of residence. This information is obtained from their War Records, which I obtained from the Archives in Washington, D. C. Their destination was Lake Erie, in the state of Ohio.

Captain Davis Company under Colonel Connell served from September 16, 1812 until April 15, 1813 on the Great Lakes. This entire Regiment was under the command of General William Henry Harrison, who became the ninth president of the United States.

The War of 1812 was very unpopular with most of the citizens in the United States, however, the southern politicians wanted very much to conquer Florida from the Spainards and the western politicians, those in Ohio and Kentucky, which was our western frontier at this time wanted to annex Canada.

Valiant young soldiers and sailors waged the war for two years until the Treaty of Ghent ended the war.

A diary written by a fellow soldier of Sergeant Elisha Dennison and Private John Dennison gives us an explicit view of what the soldiers of that day had to endure. This diary was written by Peter Davis, who was possibly a cousin or brother to my great, great, great grandmother Eleanor Skinner Dennison, wife of Anderson Dennison. The journal begins on the day they entered Captain Davis's Company under the command of Captain Josiah Peck in Harrison County until they were nearly home in April of 1813.

Peter Davis was a minister of the Seventh Day Baptist Church. Upon his return from the war he lived four miles below West Union on Middle Island Creek, then moved to the West Fork River in Westfield, Lewis County. He returned to the Greenbriar section of Doddridge County about 1820 where he remained for the rest of his life.

Excerpts from this Journal show that they left Harrison County enroute to Lake Erie, Ohio on September 20, 1812. On September 23, they camped on the bank of the Ohio River, Williamstown, Virginia, and one mile below Marietta, Ohio. I have edited and also updated this journal with the use of maps from that era.

September 24 Arrived at Parkersburg, where we laid for two days at the mouth of the Little Kanawha River. Then arrived in Belleville, Wood County on September 26.

September 29 we encamped two miles above Point Pleasant, Mason County, Virginia.

On September 30, arrived at Point Pleasant, where we laid until October 20th where we drew our arms, knapsacks, tents, clothes and two months pay. On the record of Elisha's service, it shows that indeed he did receive two months pay dated from September 15, 1812 until November 15th, 1812. They were paid in advance for twenty-five days service. They did not receive any more pay until they returned from Ohio in April 1813.

On October 20, they left Point Pleasant and crossed over the Ohio River into the State of Ohio (Gallia County) and encamped in a field on the bank of the Ohio River.

October 21 arrived and encamped at Gallipolis, Ohio, which is about four miles below Point Pleasant on the Ohio side and encamped in the town.

October 23 we still laid in Gallipolis where a soldier was drummed out of the service for selling government supplies. About noon this day we struck our tents and marched away. We marched two miles and encamped.

October 25 we struck our tents and marched away about ten o'clock in the morning. We marched for twenty miles and camped near the Sciota Salt Works, which was nearly destitute of water.

October 26 marched fifteen miles and encamped at New Richmond, Ohio.

October 27 a very rainy day and after marching nine or ten miles, we had to wade a river and went on for four more miles to Chillicothe, where we encamped on the edge of town on the banks of the Big Sciota River.

October 31 we struck our tents and waded the river. It was a cold and blustery morning. We marched fifteen miles and encamped on the Pickaway Plains.

November 1 went a distance of four miles to the small town of Jefferson, Ohio and three more miles to Circleville, Ohio. Finally we encamped on a large creek, which was twenty-one miles from where he had encamped on the Pickaway Plains. (Remember this is the western frontier of our country and not very well settled in 1812.)

November 4 marched twelve miles.

November 5 marched thirteen miles and encamped near a small town called Delaware, on the Whetstone River, a fork of the Big Sciota. Here we laid from the 5th of November until the 21st of December, 1812. At this place we met with General Harrison and several Indian Chiefs of the Shawnee Nation.

December 21 started and arrived at Norton at 3 o'clock in the afternoon and we continued until January 2nd, 1813 for the purpose of guarding the stores. This was actually a Fort, called Fort Monroe located at Marlborough, Ohio.

January 2, 1813 we started for Upper Sandusky. The day before we started it began to rain and it continued to rain all day and a part of the night, then the snow began to fall. By 11 o'clock the next morning the snow was half a leg deep. We went four miles and camped. We stayed on here and on the fourth day the snow had ceased falling, so we started out. The snow being about knee deep. We reached the blockhouse in the Sandusky Plains, which was eleven miles from our encampment. It was extremely cold.

The next morning, January 3rd, we started very early and marched fifteen miles and encamped on the Plain with the Pennsylvania troops and we laid here until the day of January.

About four miles from here stands a town of the Indians called Greentown. These Indians are of the Wyandotte Nation. The time that we laid here, there came another part of the Wyandotte Nation that lived in Greentown. It was them that had been fighting our General at the Rapids. After four days, General Harrison concluded a peace with them by promising to go to the front of the battle if called upon.

January 23, 1813 It began to rain in the evening. The snow began to melt and it being a level piece of ground, the water ran into our tents. We were baking and cooking, preparing to march into the Rapids of the Maumee River. It was about three hours and our fires were all put out by the water. About three o'clock in the morning of January 24th, the water was knee deep in our tents. We were obliged to retreat from our tents and build a fire on higher ground where we continued on til daylight, it being a very rough night. When daylight finally came, we had to wade to our tents to hunt our baggage, which we found floating about the tents.

About 11 o'clock in the morning we started to march and it being very level we had to wade sometimes knee deep. We continued our march for eight miles and encamped on a piece of woodland, which was very low and muddy. That night it began to snow.

January 25, 1813 we marched two miles and were stopped by a small river which was by now very high. We stayed for two days and while there we built two canoes, but at the expiration of the two days it was so extremely cold, that the river had froze completely over so that it bore the troops comfortably. We all crossed safely and that day, January 27, we marched eighteen miles and encamped in a piece of woodland that was very level and rich.

January 29, 1813. We took up the line of march at nine o'clock and marched through very low and swampy land. The next morning, January 29th, we marched fifteen miles and came to where General Harrison was lying with about two thousand men from Ohio and Kentucky. The whole command, including us marched seven miles.

February 1, 1813 We marched eight miles and reached the Rapids. We marched four more miles and encamped at Camp Meigs on the southeast side of the Maumee River. Before we left camp, General Harrison sent three men to Malden with a flag of truce to get leave to bury our dead from General Winchester's defeat at the river basin. When we stopped, some of the men went across the river and found the white flag with one of the men shot, tomahawked and scalped, and the other two taken prisoners. One of them was wounded.

March 10, 1813 this day a Lieutenant and another man went down the river a fowling (duck hunting). About two miles down, the other man not being well, left the Lieutenant and returned to camp. He had not left the Lieutenant very far, when he heard the Lieutenant shoot and after a little while he heard another gunfire.

The next day, March 11, 1813 the Lieutenant was found about one mile lower down the river. He had been shot, tomahawked and scalped and put under the ice.

March 30, 1813 this day, Captain John McWhorter of Clarksburg, Harrison County, Virginia and his company and several other Captains and their companies, with ours, left Camp

Meigs for the purpose of returning home. When we left the fort, we had to wade and we waded for two miles, then encamped on the banks of the river.

Peter Davis stops his Journal on April 5th, due to illness.

However, we know by Sergeant Elisha Dennison's discharge papers that he was not mustered out until April 16th, 1813. I suppose Peter Davis was discharged at the same time, but was too sickly to continue writing about their days going home. My great, great, great grandfather Private John Dennison was also mustered out on April 16th, 1813.

On Elisha's military papers, it shows that he received \$29.33 for his four months and eight days since he was last paid. He also received \$6.80 cents for allowance to travel from his place of discharge to his home. His militia pay was \$8.00 per month.

For some reason the papers sent to me by the National Archives for my great, great, great grandfather John were not quite as complete as Elisha's. John received \$6.66 cents a month, and on the first pay roll he received \$13.33 for those first two months. It seems that the Archives did not send me the second page of his records.

The War of 1812 made President James Madison very unpopular, although we won many of the battles, such as New Orleans with General Andrew Jackson. The British marched from Canada and burned many public buildings in Washington, D. C., including the Capitol and the White House. This is how we lost so many of our valuable records, which included most of the Census for 1790, 1800, and part of 1810. We all remember Dolley Madison running from the White House with many articles of value, while it was still burning. She was a very brave and wise lady to have collected so many valuable records and items for future generations before everything of vital interest was completely destroyed.

Whenever I read a land deed of Elisha's, more often than not I find that his brother **HENRY DENNISON** and wife **JANE "JENNY" DIXON** lived in the same area, at times it seems on the very same land.

Here is one extract from a deed of Henry Dennison and wife, Jenny, showing that they purchased land from Cornelius Queen. They had been married thirty-one years when they obtained this particular tract of land.

Information on this deed can be found in Harrison County Deed Book 14, Page 162, dated September 15, 1818. They paid \$100.00 for the property that was located on Rackoon (Raccoon) Run, a drain of Gnatty Creek bounded to wit:

Beginning at a white oak with a line to Womly Beans, thence to said line south 23 degrees, west 16 poles to stake, south 61 degrees, 56 poles to two Beechs adjoining land of Elias Lowther, south 71 degrees, east 36 poles to a stake line of land formerly owned by John Queen, north 26 degrees, east 35 poles to line of heirs of George Bucklew, north 76 degrees, 94 poles west to a line beginning containing fifteen acres, too Roods, sixteen perches together.

On the next page is a copy of their Marriage Bond

MARRIAGE BOND OF HENRY DENNISON AND JENNY DIXON

Fauquier County, Virginia Marriage Register #1, Page 202

Know all men by these presents that we Henry Dennison and William Jett are held and firmly bound unto his Excellency, Edmund Randolph Esquire Governor of Virginia, in the sum of Fifty Pounds to which payment will and truly to be made to the said Edmund Randolph or his successors, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators jointly and severally firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 21st day of March, 1787. The condition of the above obligation is such that whereas there is a marriage shortly intended to be solemnized between Henry Dennison and Jenny Dixon, for which a license hath been issued. Now if there be no lawful cause to obstruct the said intended marriage, then the above obligation to be void or else to remain in force.

**Sealed and delivered}
in the presence of }
F. Brooke }**

**Henry Dennison
his seal
William T. Jett
X
his mark and seal**

We know by this Marriage Bond that both Henry and Jenny were born no later than 1766.

After reading this Marriage Bond, it seems feasible that Jane "Jenny" might have been a widow of a Mr. Dixon, and that William T. Jett may have been her father. Many Jett families live in Doddridge and Lewis County. I was not aware that Henry and Jenny had children until recently. I have found two daughters. The oldest daughter was **MAY**. She was born about 1795 in Fauquier County, Virginia. She married **JAMES KELBRETH** in Harrison County, Virginia on May 25, 1815.

Among my old notes, I found this notation taken from a Marriage Book at the Harrison County Court House. **DOLLY DENNISON**, daughter of Henry Dennison married **SAMUEL GRIFFITH**, September 14, 1818. She was not yet twenty-one years of age. I believe she was born about 1800 in Fauquier County, Virginia.

Dolly and Samuel were married by Shadrack Johnson.. Shadrack Johnson was a preacher at the Methodist Meeting House located on the waters of the Simpson Creek. This Meeting House was built in what is now the town of Bridgeport, Harrison County, in 1811. It was eventually called the Simpson Creek Baptist Church. Several members of the Dennison family attended this church. It is the oldest Baptist church west of the Allegheny Mountains. The church is still in existence and my son, Tim Haught and his family now attend this church.

My third great grand uncle Elisha Dennison and his wife Lucindy were members of this church. In the early minutes of the church it says that Elisha got drunk one weekend, so the minister and other members of the church forbade him to attend church for a certain amount of time. Although Lucindy was not ostracized, she became very angry with the church members and would not attend the church services either. Thereafter, members of the community snubbed her until she relented and returned to church.

Since we know Henry purchased the tract of land from Cornelius Queen on September 15th, 1818, it could have been a wedding present for his daughter Dolly and her husband, Samuel. Or perhaps, Henry and Jenny moved into this property and gave the newlyweds their homestead.

There may be other children, but these two daughters are all that I am aware of at this time.

Henry died about 1830. I do not know where he and Jenny are buried.

CHAPTER 9. JEMIMA DENNISON AND LEVI ROMINE FAMILY

"My son is my son till he have got
him a wife,
But my daughter's my daughter
all the days of her life."

Thomas Fuller 1608-1661

JEMIMA "SUSANNA" DENNISON, the fourth child and only daughter of John Dennison and Sarah Norman Dennison was born on November 27, 1800 in Fauquier County, Virginia. Jemima was named for her **maternal grandmother Jemima Shumate Norman**.

On September 11, 1820 she married widower **LEVI ROMINE, son of William Romine and brother to Benjamin Romine** who had married Jemima's aunt Lettice "Lettie" Norman. Jemima Dennison and Levi Romine were married in Harrison County. A copy of their Marriage Bond is printed below.

**Harrison County Court House
Marriage Bond Book 3, Page 322**

Know all men by these presents that we Levi Romine and John Dennison are held and firmly bound unto Thomas Mann Randolph, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, for the time being, and his successors to the use of said Commonwealth, in the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars; to which payment will and truly be made, we bind ourselves, our and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents sealed with our seals and dated this 11th day of September, 1820.

Whereas a marriage is suddenly intended to be had and solemnized between the above bound Levi Romine and Jemimah Dennison, daughter of John.

Now the condition of the above obligation is such, that if there be lawful cause or just impediment to obstruct the said marriage, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed and acknowledged in presence of:

**Levi Romine (His Seal)
John Dennison (His Seal)
J. W. Wilson, Clerk Harrison County Court**

Levi Romine was born August 14, 1792 in Harrison County, Virginia. He died August 29, 1864 at their home in Harrison County. I do not know where he is buried, but I do know that he died prior to the Harrison County Census of 1870. According to this Census, Jemima was living alone in Grant Township. I do not know when she died, but I cannot find her in the 1880 Census.

Jemima and Levi lived in the southern end of Harrison County, probably in the area that is now called Romines Mills. They were the parents of ten known children; seven girls and three boys.

Prior to marrying Jemima, Levi had married **SPICEY COTTRILL**, on June 11, 1816, in Harrison County, Virginia. She died shortly after their marriage.

At some time during 1835, Levi and Jemima went to Gallia County, Ohio. They did not stay for too many months, as only one of their children, **Eliza Mary** was born in Ohio. She was their seventh child and fifth daughter born in 1836. They had returned to (West) Virginia before their next child was born in 1837.

Their children were **MARGARET** born in 1821, who was probably named for Jemima's stepmother, Margaret "Peggy" McKinney Dennison. Margaret was married twice. Her first husband was a cousin, **RICHARD SKINNER**, who was born on February 24, 1820. They were married January 24, 1842 in Harrison County. Richard died November 24, 1864. He is buried in the Old Jackson Bassell Cemetery, located on Blue Lick. Richard's stone is the only one left in the cemetery. His stone reads Age 41 yrs. 9 mo, with the following poem.

*Farewell husband dear farewell
Thou hast left us lonely in this world of pain
O may we in heavenly bliss to dwell
At God's right hand no more to part again.*

Margaret and Richard had a daughter who is buried with him, but the stone is too weather-beaten to read, however there is a poem which reads:

*In this tomb my daughter lies
Her spirit rests above
In realms of bliss it never dies
But knows a Savior's love.*

Margaret may have written the above poems.

After Richard's death Margaret married **JACOB WAUGH** on September 21, 1871. In the 1880 Census for Upshur County, it shows Jacob age 68, as a Justice of the Peace. Margaret is listed as Margaretta in this census. None of her children were listed with them. I do not know when she and Jacob died.

The second child and first son of Jemima and Levi was **JOHN D.**, who was named for her father, the initial D is probably for Dennison. John D. Romine was born in 1825. On November 28, 1852 he married **RACHEL DAWSON**, daughter of **WILLIAM and RACHEL VANHORN DAWSON**. Rachel was born in 1830. The Dawsons', Dennisons' and Romines' all lived in the same area and attended the same church. John D., and Rachel had four children, **JOHN FLOYD, MELVINA ELIZABETH, LOVINA AND MARY.**

JOHN FLOYD was born in 1855. **MELVINA ELIZABETH** was born in 1856. On August 31, 1876 in Harrison County she married **GEORGE E. GREYNOLDS**. In the 1880 census of Harrison County, it shows one child, a daughter, **MARY A. GREYNOLDS**.

LOVINA was born in 1858; she married **CHARLES F. CARPENTER** on May 4, 1884 in Harrison County. Charles F. Carpenter was born in 1850. They had the following children: **OKEY** born 1886, **HUGH** born 1888, **CARL** born 1889, and **MADGE M.** born in 1897. Lovina and Charles were living in the Ten Mile District at the time of the Harrison County 1900 and 1910 Census.

MARY A. GREYNOLDS was born in 1862, she married **ANTHONY M. OLDAKER** on December 19, 1887 in Harrison County.

Rachel Dawson Romine, John D.s first wife, died sometime before 1872.

On October 8, 1872, John D. Romine married Rachel's cousin, **SUSAN DAWSON**, a daughter of **JOHN and SUSAN SWITZER DAWSON**. Susan was born in 1827 in Harrison County. John preceded her in death. According to the Harrison County 1900 Census, Susan was living alone in Grant District as Head of Household in 1900. She was 73 years old. At the time of the 1910 Census Susan was living with a nephew, C. O. Dawson and his family in Clark District.

The third child and second daughter of Jemima and Levi Romine was **MARY** born in 1832. She married her cousin **NORMAN SHUMATE** on May 10, 1853.

Fourth child and third daughter was **JANE** born in 1833.

ALVINA, the fifth child and fourth daughter was born in 1835.

The sixth child and second son of Jemima and Levi Romine was **JAMES ANDERSON ROMINE** who was named for his mother's grandfather, James Lewis, Sr., and her brother Anderson. James Anderson Romine and Alvina Romine may have been twins as they were both born in 1835.

In Harrison County on June 19, 1859 James Anderson Romine married **ZURA DAWSON**. She was a sister to his brother John's wife, Rachel. James was killed during the Civil War in 1864. After James Anderson Romine's death, his widow, Zura, lived with his brother, John D. Romine and family. She kept house for them.

ELIZA MARY, the seventh child and fifth daughter, was the child born in Gallia County, Ohio in 1836. More than likely she was named for her Aunt Mary Dennison Hailey, who had moved to Ohio about the same time as Levi and Jemima.

Eighth child and sixth daughter of Levi and Jemima was **LUCINDA** born in 1837. She married **HIRAM FLETCHER** on October 3, 1856, in Harrison County. Hiram was born in 1832.

Ninth child and third son of Levi and Jemima Romine was **BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ROMINE**, born April 20, 1840. In 1861, he married **NANCY WALTERS**, in Harrison County. Nancy was born in Wood County, Indiana in 1844. Shortly after his marriage he enlisted in the Union Army. He died in a skirmish with the Confederate Army at Ravenswood. He drowned during a battle in 1862 that came to be known as Jenkins Raid. Confederate Captain Albert G. Jenkins commanded the raid. This skirmish was won by the Confederate troops. It had to have

been very sad for Levi and Jemima, as well as the rest of the family, to lose two sons in the Civil War.

Benjamin Franklin Romine and Nancy Walters Romine had a son, **JAMES BENJAMIN ROMINE** born in 1862. I do not know whether he was born before or after his father died. On March 29, 1866 Nancy Walters Romine married **ELZE G. OLDAKER**.

Nancy and Elze had five children. They were **JEROME A. OLDAKER** born in 1868, **STEPHEN E. OLDAKER** born in 1872, **ICY E. OLDAKER**, born in 1879, **LOWERY E. OLDAKER** born in 1881, and **JESSIE L. OLDAKER** born in 1884. Nancy's son **James B.** was living with the family in 1900 even though he was 32 years of age, according to the Harrison County Census for Union District. I imagine they were living in the home that she and Benjamin owned when he went off to War.

The tenth child and seventh daughter of Levi and Jemima was **MARTHA A.**, born in 1843. She married **THOMAS C. CLARK** in Harrison County on December 12, 1867. Thomas was born in Lewis County in 1844, the son of **ISAAC WORTH CLARK** and **MARTHA HEINZMAN CLARK**. **Martha Romine Clark and Thomas C. Clark** had the following children: **ARNETT R.** born 1872, **LECTIE** born 1874, **OPHIE H.** born 1876 and **LATIE** born 1881

CHAPTER 10. ANDERSON DENNISON AND ELEANOR SKINNER DENNISON FAMILY

MY GREAT, GREAT GRANDPARENTS AND THEIR NINE CHILDREN.

"History must always be taken with a grain of salt.
It is, after all, not a science but an art."

Phyllis McGinley, American poet and author (1905-1978)

ANDERSON DENNISON, oldest son of **JOHN DENNISON** and **SARAH NORMAN DENNISON** was born on **January 2, 1795** in **Fauquier County, Virginia**. He married **ELEANOR SKINNER**, daughter of **WALTER SKINNER** and **SALINA ANN DAVIS SKINNER** on March 12, 1818 in Clarksburg, Harrison County, Virginia.

Eleanor was born on March 11, 1799 in Prince William County, Virginia. The Skinner family came to Harrison County, Virginia in 1807, a few years after the Dennison family had arrived in the area.

Eleanor is sometimes referred to as Ellen or Nelly in many legal documents and papers. Below is a copy of their Marriage Bond, which is on record at the Harrison County Court House, Marriage Book 3, Page 188. Reverend John Mitchell married them.

Anderson Dennison and Eleanor Skinner Marriage Bond

Know all men by these presents that we Anderson Dennison and William Skinner are held and firmly bound unto James P. Preston, Esquire, Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, for the time being and his successors, the use of said Commonwealth in the sum of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars; to which payment will and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our and each of our heirs, executors and administrators, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents, sealed with our seals and dated this 10th day of March, 1818. WHEREAS a marriage is suddenly intended to be had and solemnized between the above bound Anderson Dennison and Nelly Skinner. Now the condition of the above obligation is such, that if there be no lawful cause or just impediment to obstruct the said marriage, then the above obligation to be void, else to remain in full force and virtue.

Signed, sealed and acknowledged
in presence of
Jesse Jarvis, D.O.

Anderson Dennison

X

his mark

William Skinner

X

his mark

The clerk of Harrison County will please issue a Marriage License to

Anderson Dennison to join in marriage with my daughter, Nelly. Given under my hand and seal this 10th day of March, 1818.

Walter Skinner
X
his mark

TEST:

William Skinner X his mark
and
Nancy Skinner X her mark

10 March 1818 proved by William Skinner
TEST:

William and Nancy were the brother and sister-in-law of Eleanor "Nelly" Skinner. Besides Eleanor and William, **Walter and Salina Ann Davis Skinner had these children too: Sarah "Sally" Skinner**, who married **John R. Dennison** on November 25, 1827, brother to Anderson; **Francis Skinner** who married **Nancy Dennison**, May 28, 1828 in Harrison County, Nancy was the daughter of James Lewis Dennison, Jr., and Sarah Greathouse Dennison; and **Jane Skinner** who married **Robert Carter** on September 2, 1811, Harrison County. Jane Skinner Carter and her husband, Robert lived in the Cherry Camp area the latter part of their lives.

Robert Carter and Jane Skinner Carter lived in Lewis County until their children were grown. Robert and Jennie Skinner Carter then moved to the Ten Mile District, on Cherry Camp, Harrison County, near Bristol, from what is now Lewis County. After a few years, they moved to a farm, also in Ten Mile District, which was located about a half a mile below Marshville. Jennie and Robert died at this residence and they are buried in the Lanham Cemetery, which was just across the creek from this home.

Robert and his brother, William had settled in what is now Lewis County about 1805. They may have been in the group of persons that came to Harrison County from Fauquier County in 1805.

Before I continue with more about Anderson Dennison and family, I am going to print, what I think is a very interesting paper written in the words of my great, great, great grandfather Walter Skinner reference his service in the Revolutionary War. I received this paper from the National Archives in Washington, D. C.

MARYLAND

SKINNER, Walter

R.9636

State of Virginia)
Lewis County)

On this 2nd day of November, 1833 personally appeared before me Samuel Y. Jones, a Justice of the Peace in and for Lewis County, in the said state of Virginia, Walter Skinner, a resident of Lewis County, in the state of Virginia, aged seventy-three years, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath, made the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7th, 1832.

That he entered the service of the United States Militia under the following named officers and served as herein stated:

That in the year 1776, I volunteered in Carroll County, Maryland under Captain David Lurette, in a company of Maryland Militia to serve six months if so required. We was marched to a place called Havre de Grace on Havre de Grace. The British were then over in Pennsylvania. The Maryland troops were marched over at a place called Brandywine. We had a battle in the fall of 1776 where General Washington was assigned. I, the applicant, was in a regiment commanded by Colonel Ward and under General Smallwood. Colonel Ward's horse was shot under him and in the accident he was taken out by General Smallwood on the same horse. I was marched back into Maryland and discharged at Havre de Grace having served from May till in November, 1776. A full six months as a Private Militia Man and Volunteer.

I returned home to Carroll County, Maryland, in the month of May, 1777. I again volunteered in a company of Maryland Militia under Captain Harrison, in a Battallion under Major McPherson and was marched to Port Tobacco near the Potomac and was kept there watching the British in the Potomac. They landed on the Virginia side and made an attack on the Virginia Militia at Esquire Brecuts and burnt Brecuts house. The Maryland Militia with some artillerists prepared to cross in barges with a few small cannons to try to take their vessels. We, however, returned to it too soon for us and we had to haul off.

We was kept along the Potomac on the Maryland side watching the enemy till in November 1777. We was discharged by Captain Harrison having served six months in the Maryland Militia.

When again in March 1778, we again volunteered in a company of Maryland Militia Men under Captain S. Bentley. I was marched from Carroll County in Maryland to the shore of the Chesapeake Bay at a place called Cove Point, where we joined a Regiment commanded by Campbell. We were stationed there, but were marched to other places along the Bay to guard and watch the enemy, particularly at the mouth of Patuxent. I was continued in this service till in September, 1778 when I was discharged, having served six months tour as a Private Militia Man and in March, 1779, we joined a company of Maryland Minute Men under Captain Brown. I was soon called out from Carroll County to the mouth of the Patuxent. I continued there till in May when I was permitted to go home.

I was then taken sick and served no more this year of 1779, but six weeks. But in March, 1780, I was called out as a Minute Man and was marched to Baltimore and from there down the Patapsco River to the Bay and down the western side of the bay and again back to the Patapsco River, thence down to Annapolis and below there to the mouth of the Severn River. Thereorabouts, I was continued in the service till in December, 1780 when I was discharged having been nine months in service this call. I was generally under the command of Captain Brown and Colonel David Lurette, the same man that was my Captain before and under the same General Smallwood.

Then in July, 1781, I was again ordered out as a Minute Man from Carroll County under the same Captain Brown and was placed in Colonel Campbell's Regiment and marched to the Potomac and crossed at a narrow place

over into Westmoreland County, in Virginia. Thence into Richmond County, thence onto the Rappanannock into Essex, thence through King and Queen County into Gloucester County, Virginia; here remained in the upper end of the county, we were stationed near the York River till sometime in October, where Lord Cornwallis surrendered himself and his army's Prisoners of War to General Washington, LaFayette, Wayne and others. We were then sent back on through Virginia to Winchester to guard prisoners taken at York by the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. We left those prisoners under Colonel Drake, and returned to Maryland and I was discharged in November, 1781 having been out a full four months this tour as a Private Minute Man in the Maryland troops.

This was the last tour I performed. The enemy being out of our waters we had some rest. The remaining two years of the war, I was not again called out. I served in all as a Militia Man and a Minute Man during the War of the Revolution two years and eight months at least. I removed into Prince William County in Virginia in 1784, and in 1807, I removed to Harrison County in Virginia and in 1833 into Lewis County in Virginia, where I now live.

I have been sorely afflicted by disease and I'm not able to attend Court. I live more than fifteen miles from the Court House. I sat at Yorktown at the surrender of Cornwallis, General Washington, LaFayette, Wayne and several others whose names I have forgot. Too, I saw many Regular Officers and Militia Officers whose names I never heard. I saw Regular Troops and Militia of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland. I do not now remember if I ever knew the number or names of the Regiments. I have no documentary evidence. I know of no person whose testimony he can procure who can testify to my service. I hereby relinquish every claim whatsoever to a pension or annuity, except the present, and declare that my name is not on the Pension Roll of Agencies of any state. Subscribed and sworn to this day and year aforesaid.

His mark
Walter X Skinner

The several interrogatives prescribed to the War Department were presented to the Appellate Court to which he gave the following answers viz:

- 1st. That he was born in Carroll County, Maryland in the year 1760.
- 2nd. That he has no record of his age.
- 3rd. That he was living in Carroll County, Maryland, then removed from there to Prince William County in 1784, and in 1807 he removed to Harrison County in Virginia, which by a law of 1816, part became Lewis County where he now lives, has since first of 1833.
- 4th. That he volunteered first as a Volunteer and then as a Minute Man.

5th. He saw Generals Washington, Wayne, LaFayette and some others whose names he has forgotten, he seen many Regulars and Militia Officers at Yorktown, where he was marched after the surrender of Cornwallis. He saw Regular and Militia troops of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Maryland. He cannot remember the numbers or names of the Regiments, though he saw many. He thinks he heard no names except certain County and State troops, Regular and Militia. The general circumstances of his services are set forth above.

6th. He received discharges from all his Captains above named, signed by each of them at the respective times of his discharge. He has lost these long since.

7th. That he is known in his present neighborhood to Elijah Waggoner and Shelton Furr. They can testify as to his character for veracity and their belief, and the neighborhoods general belief of his services as a soldier of the Revolution. There are no resident clergymen near him. There are many itinerant Methodist Preachers with whom he has no acquaintance. He is too frail to attend their meeting services. Subscribed this day and year aforesaid.

his
Walter X Skinner
mark

We, Elijah Waggoner and Shelton Furr, residing in Lewis County in the State of Virginia hereby testify that we are well acquainted with Walter Skinner, who has subscribed and duly sworn to the above declaration. That we believe him to be seventy-three years of age, that he has reported to the above neighborhood where he resides, to have been a soldier of the Revolution and we concur with that opinion.

Sworn and subscribed on this
day and year aforesaid
Elijah Waggoner
Shelton Furr

For some unknown reason, I cannot find any records of Anderson and Eleanor paying taxes in Harrison County, until the mid Eighteen Hundreds. We know, however, that they always lived in Harrison County after their marriage.

There is a possibility that they shared land with either his father, John Dennison; with one of his brothers; or they may have lived on the land of his father-in-law, Walter Skinner on Hacker's Creek. We do know that they were living in the Lost Creek/West Milford area in July 1828, as his name appears on a deed along with his brothers and other persons in the vicinity.

A copy of this deed is printed below. I believe the purpose of this purchase was to build a new church in their community.

HARRISON COUNTY DEED BOOK 18, PAGE 107

Peter Swisher, Sen.
TO Deed
Samuel Sheets, G.C.

This indenture made the 21st day of July in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Eight between Peter Swisher, Sen., and Mary, his wife, of the county of Harrison and state of Virginia, of the one part and Samuel Sheets, Isaac Swisher, John Swisher, William Blake, John Cottrill, Samuel Dawson, Elizabeth Dawson, William Dawson, Sen., William Meathouse, John T. Lewis, John McPherson, Jesse McPherson, EDMUND DENNISON, JOHN R. DENNISON, SEN., Chapman Grant, James Cummins, John Marns, Eli Bond, George Sommerville, Peter Conolly, BENJAMIN ROMINE, JAMES DENNISON, JR., James Jeffries, James Kennedy, ANDERSON DENNISON, George Dawson, Robert McShane, the bonafund of the bounty and state aforesaid of the other part witnessed that the said Peter Swisher and Mary, his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of two dollars current money to them in hand paid the receipt whereof, is hereby acknowledged, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed and confirmed and by these presents do grant, bargain sell, alien, enfeoff and confirm unto the above named subscribers one acre of land lying in the county aforesaid, situated on Lost Creek being a part of Peter Swishers tract he now lives on, bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at at stone running south forty-five degrees, west eight poles to the beginning containing one acre altogether with all profits and commodities hereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining with all the appertenances to have and to hold the said tract or parcel of land with all its appertenances unto the above named subscribers, their heirs or assigns forever and to Peter Swisher, Sen., and Mary, his wife, do covenant that they will forever warrant and defend this tract or parcel of land unto the above named subscribers their heirs and assigns in witness thereof, the said Peter Swisher, Sen., and Mary, his wife, hath hereunto set their names and affixed their seals.

Peter Swisher
X His Mark
Mary Swisher
X Her Mark

Harrison County Court Clerks Office this 29th day of July, 1828. This deed was acknowledged in open court and admitted to record.

Testl. J. Wilson, Jr., C.H.C.

As you can see the family was still living in the Lost Creek/West Milford area four years after their fathers death. In fact, the William Blake in this deed is the same William Blake who purchased John Dennison's mansion at Lost Creek from his children, after his death.

As far back as I can remember the Dennison's lived on Rush Run, Ten Mile District. My Dad, Harry C. Dennison, who was born in 1900 recalls his family telling him that his great granddad, Anderson Dennison, had built a log cabin at the mouth of Rush Run about 1830, and that some of his children were born there. By the above church deed, we believe that his first three children, Sarah, John Wilson, and my great grandfather, Walter McWhorter were born in the Lost

Creek/West Milford area. All the other children, Salina Ann, James D., Nancy, Jemima, Edmund Lewis and Joshua Smith were born in the log cabin on Rush Run.

I find it interesting that so many of their children had surnames as part of their first and/or middle names. Perhaps, they were named after their parent's best friends or persons in the community that they greatly admired.

Daddy remembers seeing the original log cabin that belonged to Anderson and Eleanor "Ellen", when he was growing up. This log cabin had been turned into a storage building; it was located about one hundred feet from Thomas Jefferson "Tom" Dennison's house. Tom was a son of John Wilson Dennison. In fact, Daddy said that this log building was still standing until just recently. I believe it was built around 1830. It is too bad that it was not preserved in its original condition, since it was standing for over one hundred and fifty years. Of course, it would be impossible to save or preserve everything from the past. If we did, there would be no room for progress or preparing for the future.

I do not know why or for what reason Anderson and Eleanor decided to leave the southern end of the county. Perhaps other members of the family had already moved to the Ten Mile District. At some time Anderson may have discovered the fertile land and good timber on Rush Run and decided it was time to make a change. From all indications Rush Run was still unpopulated when Anderson chose it as his home site. We know that the Dennison's continued to live on Rush Run for over one hundred and fifty years and because most of the family did live on Rush Run, it was more commonly called "Dennison Hollow". Ralph Mayers, a great, great grandson of Anderson's now has a summer home on this Run. He owns our great grandfather Walter McWhorter Dennison's original home. I will tell you more about this home a little later in my great grandfather's chapter.

Amos David "Dee" Dennison, son of my great grandfather Walter McWhorter Dennison, also has a great, great grandson living on the Rush Run property that once was his.

On February 4th, 1859, Anderson and Eleanor bought property from Jacob Fox and his wife, Elizabeth Ann. This property was located on Rush Run, across from their log cabin. This is the same house that Thomas Jefferson "Tom" lived in after his marriage. This tract of land contained ninety-six acres. A copy of this Deed is printed at the end of this Chapter.

This property was purchased by my great, great grandfather Anderson Dennison almost a year after his sons, (my great grandfather) Walter McWhorter Dennison and his brother, John Wilson Dennison had purchased three hundred and twenty-five acres up Rush Run.

The Deed for Walter M. and John W.'s parcel of land is dated March 8, 1858 and was purchased from Luther Haymond. On this tract of land, Walter M. and his wife Agnes Maxwell Dennison and John W. and his wife, Mary Jane Mathes Dennison maintained their individual homes for the rest of their lives.

In January 1872, John W. bought his section of land which was one hundred and sixty-five acres from his brother, Walter M. and Walter M. bought his land containing one hundred and sixty acres from his brother, John W. The purchasing of this land from each other was just a formality,

so that their individual deeds would be legal. They each continued to live in their respective homes as they always had until their deaths.

John Wilson Dennison married **Mary Jane Mathes** on June 1, 1851. Walter McWhorter Dennison married Agnes Maxwell on September 2, 1855. Both girls were from Ten Mile District families.

I have some interesting Deeds of Trust, which are printed on the following pages relating to Anderson's personal property. There is a Deed of Trust that was written to Joshua Smith, (not his son Joshua Smith Dennison) reference two of Anderson's mares. Apparently Anderson named his youngest son after this Joshua Smith. It makes one wonder if they were good friends, or if Anderson wanted to get back at him over the mares or something else.

There is also a Deed of Trust between Anderson and his sons Walter McWhorter and John Wilson Dennison. It shows that Anderson was willing to give up the following items: one cow, one two-year old heifer, one one-year old heifer, eighteen heads of sheep, three beds and bedding, one brass clock, one bureau, three large iron kettles, two ovens, one gray mare, one gray colt and one suckling colt. This Deed of Trust was originally drawn up on the 20th day of February 1849, in reference to a Bond that was executed on that date. I do not know what sort of Bond it was.

Below is a brief history of Anderson and Eleanor Skinner Dennison and their children:

ANDERSON DENNISON was born on January 2, 1795, in Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia. **ELEANOR**, sometimes called "**ELLEN**" or "**NELLY**" **SKINNER DENNISON** was born March 11, 1799 in Prince William County, Virginia. Her parents were **WALTER SKINNER** and **SALINA ANN DAVIS SKINNER**.

The Skinner family came over the mountains from Prince William County, Virginia to Harrison County, a few years after the Dennison's arrival from Warrenton, Fauquier County, Virginia. Eleanor's sister, Sarah, called "Sally" married Anderson's brother John R. Dennison.

In the late 1700's and early 1800's, the church was the center for all religious, civil and social activities. I am almost certain the children met their future spouses at the church during one of these functions. I am uncertain about their schooling, as they all marked an X for their names on the legal documents. I do not know if they were ever able to attend school, perhaps one had not yet been built in the pioneer community in southern Harrison County. They may have been tutored somewhat at home, but due to all the farm chores and the building of homes; they were unable to receive a formal education at this particular time in our Harrison County history.

The Dennison family was always very active in the church. They were Baptist, but the Methodist Church is mentioned most often in regard to the cemeteries where they are buried.

All of Anderson's brothers were Baptist ministers, as were most of his sons. We know too, that his father, John, my great, great, great grandfather was a preacher and was permitted to perform marriage ceremonies, such as the marriage of Abner Maxwell and Susannah Dawson. The Dennison family was responsible for building the Primitive Baptist Church on the Marshville Road, which is located just off of United States Route 50.

Anderson and Eleanor had the following children:

1. SARAH who was named for Anderson's mother and Eleanor's sister, was born on November 3, 1819. Sarah married **DAVID LAW** on January 9, 1841. She died on May 25, 1869. David was born in 1820, the son of William and Hannah Law. David died on September 18, 1883. Sarah and David are buried at the Pleasant Grove Church Cemetery on Cherry Camp, Bristol, Harrison County, West Virginia.

Sarah and David had three children. A **daughter Jemima** born in 1844 and **sons Amos D.**, born in 1848 and **William A.** born in 1852. Amos died at the age of twenty on July 28, 1888. He is buried beside his parents.

On August 7, 1864, their daughter **Jemima** married **Samuel H. Davis**, born in 1844, to Lewis and Harriet E. Davis.

David Law's mother, Hannah, and three of her children; Asa, Eleanor, and Jesse D. lived on the farm next to David and Sarah in the Ten Mile District. She became a widow about 1880.

After Sarah Dennison Law died, David remarried. On November 23, 1869 he married **Mary J. Spindle**, daughter of Philip and Elizabeth Spindle. Mary's was 46; she was thirteen years younger than David.

In the 1880 Census, Amos, son of David and Sarah is not listed with the family. He may have been staying with other relatives or possibly working away from home even though he was only 12 years of age. It was not uncommon for boys of twelve to go away from home to work, usually on someone's farm.

The **children of David and Mary J. Spindle Law** listed in the Harrison County 1880 Census are: **twins, Alice and Allen**, age nine; **Icy**, age eight and **Annie**, age six. Mary's brother, Jacob Spindle, age 55 was living with them and working on their farm. I do not know if he ever married.

Since David chose to be buried with Sarah and their son, Amos, I wondered where Mary J. was buried. I found that she, too, is buried in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

Mary J. was born in 1833, and died at the age of 82 years, on November 2, 1915.

David and Mary J.'s daughter Alice never married. She is buried at Pleasant Grove with her mother. She died in 1957, at the age of 87.

2. JOHN WILSON DENNISON was born August 9, 1825 and married **MARY JANE MATHES** on June 1, 1851. Mary Jane was born on March 30, 1825, in Monongalia County, the daughter of Charles Mathes and Isabelle Courtney Mathes.

They had the following children: **Laura A.** born in 1852, **Flora Virginia** born 1854, **Sarah Catherine** born 1856, **Ellen Isabelle** born 1857,

Martha Alice born 1860, **Thomas Jefferson** born 1862, **Dexter Lee** born 1864, **Nancy L.** born 1868 and **Charles A.** born in 1871. According to the Harrison County 1880 Census, Thomas Jefferson, age 18 was still at home, as were Dexter Lee, age 16, Nancy, age 12 and Charles A., age 9.

John Wilson Dennison died October 17, 1900, age 74 years and 4 months. Mary Jane died on May 30, 1903, at age 78 years and 2 months. They are both buried at the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church Cemetery, Cherry Camp, Bristol, West Virginia. More about this family will be in their individual Chapter.

3. WALTER MCWHORTER DENNISON, my great grandfather, was named after his paternal grandfather and perhaps a friend of the family, Walter McWhorter. He was born on July 16, 1827. He married my paternal great grandmother **MARY AGNES MAXWELL** daughter of **Bedwell** and **Nancy Utter Maxwell**. They were married at her mother's home on Ten Mile, September 2, 1855. Her father had died in 1845. Agnes was born August 27, 1836. She died at their home on Rush Run on June 7, 1907. Walter died at their home on August 23, 1910. They are buried in the Shahan Cemetery on Salem Fork.

Walter and Agnes had the following children: **William L. "Bill"** born in 1858; **Hannah Virginia "Han"** born in 1860; **Nancy Eleanor** born 1862; **Eunice V.**, born 1863; **Elizabeth V., "Lib"** born 1864; **Andrew Fitch "Doc"** born 1867; **Amos David "Dee"** born 1869; **Dora B.**, born 1873; **Perry Tilton "Pat"** born 1875; **Cecil B., "Ceese"** born 1878 and **Mary Josephine "Molly"** born 1880.

4. SALINA ANN DENNISON, who was named for her maternal grandmother was born on January 30, 1830. She married **JAMES E. FLANIGAN** on April 16, 1857. She died in 1902. James was born in 1832 and died in 1919. They too, are buried at the Pleasant Grove Cemetery with her parents, Anderson and Eleanor Skinner Dennison. Salina Ann and James had three children, two daughters, **Nancy Eleanor** born in 1861, **Mary Elizabeth** born in 1864 and a son **Anderson P. William Flanigan** (He went by William) born in 1867.

Oldest daughter Nancy married Elias E. Davisson, on April 13, 1876. Elias was the son of Josiah and Sarah Davisson. Elias was born in 1855. Their daughter, Mary Elizabeth married William T. Williams, on June 2, 1892. He was the son of John J. Williams and Abby Eastburn Williams. William was born in 1866. The Williams family lived at Wolf Summit.

Salina and James Flanigan's son, Anderson P. William married Tiney (Jennie M.) Varner on December 1, 1888. She was born in 1870. Her parents were Andrew J. and Susan Varner. In the 1900 Harrison County Census, it shows Salina and James living with William and Tiney and their family. William and Tiney had ten children: Blanche M., born 1890; James W., born 1892; Susan A., born 1894; Bessie M., born 1895; Jackson L., born 1897; Wade J., born 1899; Earnest A., born 1902; Walter born 1904; Flossie G., born 1907 and John G., born in 1909.

5. JAMES D. DENNISON was born in January 1831. He married **MASSY/MERCY VICTORIA MAXWELL**, a sister to my great grandmother Agnes Maxwell Dennison. In some documents and papers, Massy is listed as Mercy. James and Massy, usually called Victoria, were married in 1853. On October 13, 1854 James D. died.

James and Victoria had one son, **Walter L.** born in 1854. He was named for his father's brother, my great grandfather, Walter McWhorter Dennison. **Walter L. "Watt" Dennison** married a cousin, Ellen Isabelle Dennison, a daughter of John Wilson Dennison and Mary Jane Mathes Dennison. She was born in 1859; "Watt" and Ellen were married on March 5, 1881. They had six children, Jackson born 1884; Flavious born 1886; R. Carl born 1887; Aley born 1889; Cora born 1893 and Worthy born in 1896.

After James D.'s death, Massy/Mercy Victoria married **WILLIAM MARK WILLIAMS, JR.**, on March 27, 1862.

VICTORIA and MARK, (both of them went by their second names) had the following children: **Charles** born in 1862; **twins Eli and Lydia** born in 1864; **David** born in 1868; **William** born in 1870; **Elizabeth** born in 1872 and **Walter** born in 1877.

6. The sixth child and third daughter of Anderson and Eleanor was **NANCY**, who was born July 9, 1834. She married **JACOB J. LOUGH**, on December 20, 1868. Jacob was born in 1828. He was a carpenter. He had been married once prior to his marriage to Nancy. Jacob and Nancy had two daughters **S. C.**, born in 1870 and **M. U.** born in 1872. I believe Nancy died at the time of her second daughters' birth. Nancy died in 1872.

Jacob married two more times after her death. In the Harrison County Census of 1880 he was listed as a widower with children. The two oldest children were apparently by his first wife. Their names were Melvin D., born in 1856 and Maggie M., born in 1864. Maggie M., who was named for her mother kept house for her father after the deaths' of his first two wives. Jacob had a daughter F. G. born in 1876. She was a daughter born to his third wife.

In the 1900 Harrison County Census of Ten Mile District, the name of Jacob's fourth wife is listed as Martha A., born in 1850, she was 23 years younger than Jacob. He died in 1916, at the age of 88. I do not believe he and Martha had any children. He is buried at Salem I.O. O. F. Cemetery, beside his first wife, Maggie M. Lough. She had died October 23, 1893, at the age of 60 years and one month.

7. The seventh child and fourth daughter of Anderson and Eleanor Dennison was **JEMIMA**, which is sometimes spelled **JAMIMA**. She was named for her great grandmother, Jemima Shumate Norman and her aunt, Jemima Dennison Romine. She was born on July 4, 1837. She married **THOMAS P. WILLIAMS** on January 7, 1858. Thomas was born in 1837 too. He was a farmer. Thomas was a cousin to William Mark Williams, Jr., who married Jemima's sister-in-law, Victoria Maxwell Dennison after the death of her husband, James D. Dennison.

Jemima and Thomas had the following children: **Anderson Lee**, named for her father was born in 1861; a daughter **Eunice S. V.**, born in 1864; **Smith D.**; born in 1869; **Margaret E.**, born in 1870; **Jasper U.** born in 1872; **Mirtie M.**, born 1876 and **Gracie A.**, born in 1880.

Smith Williams married a girl named Grace M., maiden name unknown. They had a daughter, Pearle born in 1899 and a son, Thomas born in 1906. There may have been other children.

Jemima Dennison Williams died in 1914 and Thomas P. Williams died in 1917. They are buried at the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church Cemetery on Cherry Camp, Bristol. Anderson Lee, their oldest child born on October 12, 1861 died on his twentieth birthday in 1881. He is buried beside his parents at Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Cherry Camp, Bristol.

8. The eighth child and fourth son of Anderson and Eleanor, **EDMUND LEWIS** was born November 2, 1839. He married **ELIZABETH MORRIS** on September 16, 1860. Elizabeth was born April 30, 1843 in Wolf Summit the daughter of Manley Morris and Rebecca Williams Morris.

I have seen a picture of Edmund Lewis Dennison, who was a brother to my great grandfather Walter McWhorter Dennison and I have a picture of my grandfather, Andrew Fitch "Doc" Dennison, son of Walter McWhorter Dennison. The two pictures of Edmund and Andrew are almost identical.

Edmund was a farmer. He and Elizabeth made their home on Grass Run. They had thirteen children, they were: **Manley Anderson**, named for both his grandfathers, born December 22, 1862; daughter **R. Bird** born September 7, 1864; **James J.**, born December 6, 1866; **Mallisie** born September 3, 1868; **John R.**, born February 14, 1870; **Adah M.**, born February 15, 1872; **Ella R.**, born May 11, 1874; **Wirt E.**, born February 6, 1876; **M. Della** born on February 18, 1878; **Effie L.**, born August 25, 1880; **Icie** born March 30, 1882; **Wilda B.**, born February 20, 1884 and **Grover C.**, born December 10, 1887.

Wilda, Effie and James never married. Wilda was only 16 when she died. Effie was 11 and James was only 8. He is buried on Tunnel Hill, where several members of the Dennison family were buried in the 1800's. The two girls are buried at Marshville with their parents.

9. **The last child and fifth son of Anderson and Eleanor Dennison was JOSHUA SMITH DENNISON** born March 20, 1842. (This was two years after the Deed his father had drawn up with Joshua Smith). Joshua Smith Dennison married **MALISSA ANN RICHARDS** on February 26, 1865. Malissa was born about 1843. She died in childbirth on February 13, 1866. She is buried at Maken in the Point Pleasant Cemetery.

After Malissa's death, Joshua married **ELIZABETH DOROTHY CARTER** on March 31, 1867. Elizabeth was born on April 30, 1850 to William Harrison Carter and Elizabeth Maxwell, a sister to Agnes and Massy Victoria Maxwell. Remember, Agnes married my great grandfather Walter McWhorter Dennison and Victoria's first husband; James D. Dennison was a brother to Walter and Joshua.

Joshua and Elizabeth had the following children: **Theodocia A.**, born in 1868; **William E.**, born in 1870; **Luelia J.**, born 1873; **Omer S.**, born in 1875; **Seymour H.**, born in 1877; **Gracie** born in 1882; **David A.**, born in 1883; **Julia** born in 1886 and son, **Lee**, born in 1888.

Joshua died in 1917 and Elizabeth died on July 7, 1935. They are buried at Marshville.

My great grandfather, Anderson died on March 25, 1875 at their home on Rush Run. My great grandmother, Eleanor died on August 3, 1883, also at their home. They are both buried at

Pleasant Grove Methodist Church Cemetery, where several of their children and grandchildren are buried.

TRUST DEEDS AND OTHER PAPERS OF ANDERSON DENNISON

"Nothing is obvious to those who are uninformed" Anon

Harrison County Trust Deed Book 28, Page 376

DEED TRUST PERSONAL

Anderson Dennison

To

Joshua Smith

This Indenture made this twentieth day of July in the year one thousand eight hundred and forty between Anderson Dennison of the County of Harrison and State of Virginia to the first part and Daniel D. Wilson of the County of Harrison and State aforesaid of the second part and Joshua Smith of the County of Harrison and State aforesaid of the third part, WITNESSETH that whereas the said Anderson Dennison is justly indebted to the said Joshua Smith in the sum of fifty one dollars and seventy cents, the payment of which debt and the occurring interest thereon, the said Anderson Dennison is willing and desirous to secure. Now this Indenture WITNESSETH that the said Anderson Dennison for and in consideration of the promises and also in consideration of one dollar, lawful money of Virginia, in hand paid by the said Daniel D. Wilson, Trustee the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged hath granted, bargained, sold, aliened, enfeoffed, released, and confirmed and by these presents, do grant, bargain, sell, alien, enfeoff, release and confirm unto the said Daniel D. Wilson, Trustee, his heirs and assigns forever, all two mares, one a bay and the other a sorrel. To Have and To Hold the above described two mares with the appurtenances to the said Daniel D. Wilson, Trustee, his heirs and assigns forever, to and for the only proper use and behoof of the said Daniel D. Wilson, Trustee, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said Anderson Dennison for himself, heirs, do hereby Covenant with the said Daniel D. Wilson, Trustee his heirs and assigns forever, that he will forever warrant and defend the above described two mares to the said Daniel D. Wilson, Trustee, his heirs and assigns forever against all persons and claims whatsoever. Upon Trust nevertheless that the said Daniel D. Wilson, Trustee his heirs and shall permit the said Anderson Dennison to remain in quiet and favorable possession of the above described two mares and take the issues and Rights thereon to own use until default be made in the payment of the said of fifty one dollars and seventy cents either in whole or in part and then upon this further trust that so soon after the happening of such default of payment as he may think proper or the said Joshua Smith or representatives may request it shall be lawful and the duty of the said Daniel D. Wilson to sell the above described two mares with the appurtenances or such part thereof as the said Trustee shall think sufficient for the purpose, for ready money at public auction, after having fixed the time and place of a sale at his own discretion and given thirty days notice, thereby advertisement set up at the door of the Court House of Harrison County, and out of the monies arising from such sale, shall after satisfying the cost and charges thereof and all other costs and expenses attending the promises, pay the said Joshua Smith or

representatives the said sum of fifty one dollars and seventy cents with the interest, which may have lawfully accrued thereon, and the ballance if any, shall pay to the said Anderson Dennison or representatives. But if the whole of the said sum of fifty one dollars and seventy cents with the interest thereon shall be fully paid and discharged to the said Joshua Smith or before the first day of March, 1841, the time fixed for the payment thereof, so that no default of payment of the said sum of fifty one dollars and seventy cents he made, then this Indenture to be void or else remain in full force and virtue. In Testimony whereof the parties by their presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above written. Signed, sealed and delivered

in the presence of
J. Y. Horner
Virginia

Anderson Dennison
D. D. Wilson
Joshua Smith

Harrison County Court Clerk's Office, July 20th, 1840. This Deed of Trust was acknowledged by all the parties thereto and admitted to Record.

Attest: Eli Marsh, C. C. H. C.

HARRISON COUNTY DEED TRUST VOLUME 36, PAGE 287

DEED TRUST

Anderson Dennison

To
Walter M. Dennison &
John W. Dennison

This deed made this 19th day of July, 1850 between Anderson Dennison of the county of Harrison and state of Virginia of one part and Ebenezer Patton of the county of Harrison and State aforesaid of the other part WITNESSETH that the said Anderson Dennison doth grant unto the said Ebenezer W. Patton the following property To Wit: 1 Cow, 1 Two Year Old Heifer, 1 One Year Old Heifer, 18 Head of Sheep, 3 Bedds and Bedding, 1 Brass Clock, 1 Bureau, 3 Large Iron Kittles, 2 Ovens, 1 Gray Mare, 1 Gray Colt and One Suckling Coalt. Interest to secure a debt due to Walter M. Dennison by single bill, due on the fifth day of January, 1850, of twenty two dollars, also a debt of thirty dollars due the 25th day of December, 1849, with interest from the 20th day of February, 1849, which will morefully appear by reference to a bond executed on the 20th day of February, 1849. Also, a debt due to John W. Dennison of twenty one dollars and twenty cents due on the first day of March, 1850. Now this indenture WITNESSETH that if the said Anderson Dennison shall pay the debts aforesaid with the interest arising thereon, and the cost of this deed, or or before the first day of July, 1852, or upon default thereof, deliver the property aforesaid to the said Ebenezer W. Patton, the said Ebenezer W. Patton doth hereby Covenant to and agree that the said Anderson Dennison shall retain possession of the property aforesaid until default of payment is made, at which time said Patton agrees to receive the property, advertize the same for at least ten days and at some public place in said County sell the same for ready money to the highest bidder and after paying the debts herein described, interest thereon, to pay the balance to the said Anderson Dennison.

In Testimony whereof, we have hereunto set our names and affixed our seals.

Anderson Dennison
E. W. Patton

Virginia, Harrison County Clerk's Office, August 5th, 1850. This deed this day acknowledged by grantor and admitted record.

Jacob H. Fox & wife
To Deed
Anderson Dennison

This Deed made the 4th day of February, 1859 between Jacob H. Fox and Elizabeth A., his wife, of the County of Harrison and State of Virginia of the first part and Anderson Dennison of the County and State aforesaid of the second part witnesseth That the said Jacob W. Fox and Elizabeth A., his wife, for and in consideration of the sum of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars payable as follows viz: One Hundred Dollars in hand paid the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged One Hundred now due and unpaid, and Fifty Dollars to be paid on or before the 25th day of December next, do grant, bargain and sell unto the said Anderson Anderson and his heirs and assigns forever, a certain tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances on Rush Run in Harrison County, Virginia and bounded as follows to wit: Beginning at three small Red Oaks and running thence NE 4 1/2 degrees, 51 poles to a Hickory and White Oak, thence N 56 Degrees, E 57 1/2 poles to a Chestnut Oak, thence S 85 degrees E 22 poles to a Hickory and Chestnut Oak thence N 85 degrees E 50 poles to two Chestnuts thence S 34 degrees E 35 poles to a Chestnut Oak and pointers viz. Two Hickories thence S 20 degrees E 52 1/2 poles to a Chestnut Oak thence S 30 degrees W 70 poles to a stone pile, Hickory and Chestnut Oak thence N 66 degrees W 142 1/2 poles to the beginning containing ninety-six acres. To Have and To Hold the above described tract or parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said Anderson Dennison, his heirs and assigns forever, and the said Jacob H. Fox and Elizabeth A., his wife, for themselves, their heirs, do hereby Covenant to and with the said Anderson Dennison that they shall and will warrant and forever defend the title to this land hereby conveyed and that they have the right to convey the same free from all incumbrances, have and accept a lien which is hereby retained to secure the payment of the remainder of the purchase money.

J. H. Fox
Elizabeth Ann Fox

Harrison County To Wit:

We, E. W. Patton and J. B. West, Justices of the Peace in the County aforesaid and State of Virginia, do hereby certify that Jacob W. Fox and Elizabeth A., his wife, whose names are signed to the annexed Deed, bearing date February 4th, 1859, personally appeared before us in our said County and acknowledged the same and the said Elizabeth A., being examined by us privily and apart from her said husband and having the Deed aforesaid fully explained to her, she the said Elizabeth A. Fox declared that she willingly executed the same and wished not to retreat it. Given under our hands this 9th day of February, 1859.

E. W. Patton, J. P.
Jess B. West, J. P.

Virginia, Harrison County Court Clerks Office, July 11th, 1859

Be it remembered that this Deed and the annexed certification were this day produced in this Office and duly admitted to record.

Attest:
Tho. L. Moore, Clk

FAMILY CHART OF ANDERSON DENNISON AND ELEANOR SKINNER DENNISON

ANDERSON

B. January 2, 1795, Fauquier County, Virginia

M. March 12, 1818, Harrison County, Virginia

Eleanor "Ellen" "Nelly" Skinner

D. March 25, 1875, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, WV

WIFE: ELEANOR SKINNER

B. March 11, 1799 Prince William County, Virginia

M. March 12, 1818 Harrison County, Virginia

D. August 3, 1883, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, WV

**Both Anderson and Eleanor are buried at Pleasant Grove Methodist Church,
Cherry Camp, Bristol, West Virginia**

THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR SPOUSES

SARAH

B. November 3, 1819, Lost Creek/West Milford area, Harrison County, VA

M. January 9, 1841, Harrison County, Virginia

David Law, son of William and Hannah Law

D. May 25, 1869

**Sarah and David are buried at Pleasant Grove Methodist Church,
Cherry Camp, Bristol, West Virginia**

JOHN WILSON

B. August 9, 1825, Lost Creek/West Milford area, Harrison County, VA

M. June 1, 1851, Harrison County, Virginia

**Mary Jane Mathes, daughter of Charles and Isabelle Courtney Mathes
of Morgantown, Monongalia County, Virginia**

D. October 17, 1900, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, WV

**John Wilson and Mary Jane are both buried at Pleasant Grove Methodist Church,
Cherry Camp, Bristol, West Virginia**

WALTER MCWHORTER

B. July 16, 1827, Lost Creek/West Milford area, Harrison County, Virginia

M. September 2, 1855, at Nancy Maxwell's home/Ten Mile

Mary Agnes Maxwell, daughter of Bedwell and Nancy Utter Maxwell

D. August 23, 1910 Rush Run, Harrison County, Ten Mile District, WV

**Walter and Agnes are buried in the Shahan Cemetery, Salem Fork, Ten Mile District,
Harrison County, West Virginia**

SALINA ANN

B. January 30, 1830, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, VA

M. April 16, 1857, Harrison County, Virginia

James E. Flanagan

**D. 1902. Both Salina Ann and James are buried at Pleasant Grove Methodist Church,
Cherry Camp, Bristol, West Virginia**

JAMES D.

B. January, 1831, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, Virginia

M. 1853, Harrison County, Virginia

**Massey Victoria (Mercy) Maxwell, daughter of Bedwell and Nancy Utter Maxwell
(Victoria is a sister to my great grandmother, Agnes Maxwell Dennison)**

D. October 13, 1854, Harrison County, Virginia

NANCY

B. July 9, 1834, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, Virginia

M. December 20, 1868, Harrison County, West Virginia

Jacob J. Lough. (Nancy was his second wife)

D. 1872. Harrison County, West Virginia

JEMIMA/JAMIMA

B. July 4, 1837, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, Virginia

M. January 7, 1858, Harrison County, Virginia

Thomas P. Williams, son of Mark Williams, Sr. and Jane Tate Williams

**D. 1914. They are both buried at the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church,
Cherry Camp, Bristol, West Virginia**

EDMUND LEWIS

B. November 2, 1839, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, VA

M. September 16, 1860, Harrison County, Virginia

Elizabeth Morris, daughter of Manley and Rebecca Williams Morris

D. November 26, 1912. They are both buried at Marshville, Harrison County, Virginia

JOSHUA SMITH

B. March 20, 1842, Rush Run, Ten Mile District, Harrison County, Virginia

M. February 26, 1865, Harrison County, West Virginia

Wife #1: Malissa Ann Richards

March 31, 1867, Harrison County, West Virginia

Wife #2: Elizabeth Dorothy Carter

**D. 1917. Joshua and Elizabeth Dorothy are buried at Marshville, Harrison County,
West Virginia**

INDEX

VOLUME I

DENNISON

Amos David "Dee" 67, 70

Anderson 6, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 58, 61, 62,
65, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 77, 79, 80

Bailey L. 13, 16, 18, 21, 27, 33

Bird 45

Calvin (son of James, Jr.) 44, 45, 47

Catherine R. 44

Charles George, Major 2

Christopher C. 44

Daniel G. 44

Dolly (Griffith) 55

Edith F. 45

Edmund 13, 16, 18, 19, 21, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 65

Edmund Lewis 66, 71, 78, 80

his children

Adah M. 71

Effie L. 71, 72

Ella R. 71

Grover C. 71

Icie 71

James J. 71, 72

John R. 71

M. Della 71

Mallisie 71

Manley Anderson 71

R. Bird 71

Wilda B. 71, 72,

Wirt E. 71

Elisha 4, 6, 7, 10, 14, 23, 27, 32, 40, 49, 50, 53

Elizabeth (Read) 6, 10, 38, 41, 42

Fielding B. 44

Fillmore 44

Flora D. 45

Francis 45

Freda (Cox) 45

Gabriel, (son of Minter B.) 45

Gabriel, Jr., 44
Gabriel, Sr., (son of James, Jr.) 44, 46, 48
George Washington 44

Harriet Ann Roberta 44
Harry C. 66
Henry 4, 6, 7, 9, 49, 53, 54, 55
Hezekiah V. 14, 17, 19, 21, 27, 29, 30, 31

Ira Flavious 44
Irene 44

James, Jr., 4, 6, 10, 19, 28, 35, 42, 43, 44, 46, 48, 58, 62
James, Sr., 4, 6, 9, 12, 35, 36, 37, 38, 41, 42, 49
James C. 44
James D. 66, 70, 71, 72, 78, 80
James Hustead 44
James Minter 45
James Ross (son of James, Jr.) 44, 45, 46, 48
James S. (son of Minter B.) 45
Jemima "Susanna"(Romine) 13, 14, 16, 18, 21, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 56, 57, 58
Jemima (Williams) 66, 71, 78, 80
Jemima (Romine) 71
John (Father of Margaret Morrison) 45
John, Sr., 4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27,
28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34, 36, 37, 38, 49, 50, 53, 56, 61, 65,
66, 68
John Calvin 44
John, Captain 4
John Currey 45
John Gabriel (son of James, Jr.) 44, 45, 46, 48
John McWhorter 44
John R., Jr. 14, 17, 18, 19, 21, 27, 29, 30, 31
John R. (son of Anderson Dennison) 61, 62, 66, 68
John Walter "Watt" 70
 his children
 Aley 70
 Cora 70
 Flavious 70
 Jackson 70
 R. Carl 70
 Worthy 70
John Wilson 66, 67, 68, 69, 74,77
 his children
 Charles A. 69
 Dexter Lee 69

Ellen Isabelle 69, 70
Flora Virginia 69
Laura 69
Martha Alice 69
Nancy 69
Sarah Catherine 69
Thomas Jefferson "Tom" 61, 62, 66, 69
Jonas J. 44
Joshua Smith 66, 67, 72, 73, 78, 80
 his children
 David A. 72
 Gracie 72
 Julia 72
 Lee 72
 Luelia J. 72
 Omer S. 72
 Seymour 72
 Theodosia A. 72
 William E. 72

Lewis M. 44
Lydia 44

Margaret 2
Martha Minerva 44
Mary (Hailey) 4, 6, 9, 38, 39, 40, 49
Mary (dau. of James, Jr.) 44
Mary (Kelbreth) 54
Mary Ann 44
Mary Ellen Cecilia 44
Minter Bailey (son of James, Jr.) 44, 45, 47
Mistensen Alonzo 45

Nancy, Jr., (Norman) 4, 6, 10, 13, 21, 22, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 42
Nancy, Sr., 4, 6, 9, 38, 39, 49
Nancy (Davis) 66
Nancy (Douglas) 43
Nancy (Lough) 66, 70, 78, 80
Nancy (Skinner) 62

Patrick 3
Phillip Sheridan 44

Rebecca (dau. of James, Jr.) 44, 45, 47
Richard L. 45
Robert (son of James Ross Dennison) 44

Robert, Sir 1
Salina (Law) 61, 66, 67, 77, 79
Salina Ann (Flanigan) 66, 70, 7
Sarah (dau of Gabriel, Sr.) 44
Sarah (Law) 68, 69, 79
Sarah E. 44
Sarah Jane (Bishop) 44, 45, 47
Sarah Jane 45
Sarah M. 45
Silas Bruce 44
Susan S. 44
Sylvester 13, 16