

**THE DENNISON FAMILY OF NORTH
YARMOUTH AND FREEPORT,
MAINE; ABNER DENNISON AND
DESCENDANTS; DAVID DENNISON
AND DESCENDANTS**

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The Dennison family of North Yarmouth and Freeport, Maine; Abner Dennison and Descendants; David Dennison and Descendants by A. L. Dennison & Grace M. Rogers

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A. L. DENNISON & GRACE M. ROGERS

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AND DESCENDANTS**

THE
DENNISON FAMILY

OF

NORTH YARMOUTH AND FREEPORT, MAINE
DESCENDED FROM GEORGE DENNISON, 1699-1747
OF ANNISQUAM, MASS.

ABNER DENNISON AND DESCENDANTS

COMPILED BY

GRACE M. ROGERS, Freeport, Me.

DAVID DENNISON AND DESCENDANTS

WITH AN ACCOUNT OF THE EARLY DENNISONS AND OTHER DATA

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED BY

A. L. DENNISON

EXETER, N. H.
The News-Letter Press
1906

PREFACE.

My grandfather, Rufus Dennison, who when a young man removed from Freeport to Franklin Co., Maine, used to correspond with his nearer relatives and visit them till he had passed the age of eighty years. He also wrote to his more distant relatives in Massachusetts, and ascertained our relationship to George Dennison of Annisquam.

There are other Dennisons who have lost the traces of their family connections, as he did, and have the desire but not the time to ascertain them. Often in the same town are neighbors having different surnames, who never suspect that their great-grandparents in childhood played around the same fireside.

While living in Bath, Maine, near Freeport, I felt the need of a genealogy and copied records for my own use, and later the thought came to me of collecting this material in genealogical form, and offering it to my kinsfolk, not only as a memorial of the past, but as a record for present and future generations. As time goes on data will be harder to collect and this may be the foundation upon which someone who has better opportunities can build a more complete work. We can learn from nature to value a record of the past. To the geologist the strata of rock unfold the ages, and in footprints and fossils a record of animal life is preserved. Can man do less, can we let the unrecorded footsteps of those who move about us go to oblivion in a few years hence? To know something of our ancestors is not only a matter of personal interest, but also one of historical importance. Where they lived, what they thought and did, sometimes under adverse conditions, ought to teach us a lesson in contentment, and give us a more exact knowledge of ourselves.

I will not trouble the reader with details of the difficulties of collecting genealogical information. This work has taken the most of

my spare time for two years past, but nevertheless it has been pursued with increasing interest. The pleasure of having formed new acquaintances among my kinsfolk, the consciousness of having done a little service for them, and the finished task seem to tell me that the time has been well spent.

Our acknowledgements and thanks are due to the various members of the family who have so generously assisted in the work. The descendants of Abner Dennison are indebted to Miss Grace M. Rogers of Freeport, who has with great care and patience compiled that part of the records. She writes that everybody has been very kind, only one or two families not having responded, and she feels grateful for all the assistance received. I would mention Mrs. Delia A. Rogers, and my cousins John Haraden Pratt and Annie J. Rogers, all of whom have contributed valuable data and have shown a great interest in the success of the work. I must also mention the late Mrs. Rachel C. Reed, who was a great help, having written to me only a few weeks before her death, and F. W. Soule for having sent valued records and prompt replies to my numerous questions.

We are conscious that many errors will be discovered. We have taken extra care to guard against them and we would thank our readers for corrections.

APRIL 18, 1906.

A. I. DENNISON,

EXETER, N. H.

CHARACTERISTICS.

It is not unusual for parents to transmit to offspring not only physical build, features, and tone of voice, but also mental qualities and even their characters. Less frequently does the child inherit such tendencies from ancestors more remote.

In the study of a family as a whole, certain characteristics are bound to appear through successive generations. As one of the Dennisons, I might be excused from comments as a prejudiced observer, but I will try to present fairly what I think will be recognized by many as correct observations.

Not many of the name have been distinguished as professional or literary men. Many have been successful in business, some even distinguished. In the communities in New England where they have lived, they have been a race of men to do things in a modest way. In many branches of the family there is great inventive genius and skill in the use of tools. Some have been ship-builders, ship-carpenters, sea-captains, joiners, and farmers, and the quality of their work in many a seaport and town speaks out for their common honesty. While generally successful in accomplishing what they undertake and sometimes successful financially, I have never known any of them to be small or mean in the use of money. They belong to that class of people, who by working, earning, and using money, have contributed to the common welfare and made our country a desirable one.

In times of national peril and need the Dennisons have been represented on deck and in the field of battle, and have proved themselves to be men of spirit, courage, and patriotism.

EARLY HISTORY.

In the English and early Colonial records the name Denison and its variations Denyson and Dennison seem to have been used to designate members of the same family. Mistakes in writing surnames were frequent before people advanced in the art of spelling. The family name of Soule was written Soul, Sole, Soal, and Sowl, and the genealogies of other families show like variations.

The ancestors of the English Denisons were probably Huguenots, and came with other Flemish emigrants from the northeast border of France where the name is still a common one. The records of the family taken from the parish registry of Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England, are the earliest we have. (See N. E. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. 46). An autobiographical letter by Maj. Gen. Daniel Denison, found many years afterwards by one of his descendants, Rev. Daniel Rogers, of Exeter, N. H., gave the first clue to the locality in England from which the family sprung. A chart (see page 7) prepared by J. L. Glascock, Jr., Esq., of Bishop's Stortford, from the records of that parish verified the statements of that letter.

Maj. Gen. Daniel Denison says, "My father was born in Bishop's Stortford, England. He had two brothers, Edward and George, who all had children. George was the youngest and was living in Stortford in 1672. His brother Edward, in the year 1631, removed himself and family into Ireland, where he died and left a son, John Denison, who was a soldier and major of a regiment in the time of the wars, and deputy-governor of Corke, where Mr. Wainwright saw him. I have received divers letters from him. He was living in Dublin in the year 1670." He also states that he and his brother John were "bred scholars at Cambridge."

The New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg. states that until the above mentioned letter of Maj. Gen. Daniel Denison had been found, they had been unable to find any traces of the family in England; and it says that the George Dennison who settled in Annisquam in 1725, was possibly a descendant of William's nephew, John, who went to Ireland. On this probable connection, see letter of Capt. Joseph Dennison, a grandson of George, on page 8.

PEDIGREE OF DENYSON OF STURTFORD, CO. HERTZ, AFTERWARDS OF NEW ENGLAND.

John P. Denyson living at Sturford in 1867; — Agnes, dau. of —, [She married in 1834, d. of plague 1766 bur. at Sturford, Dec. 4, 1772.]



PEDIGREE OF THE DENISON FAMILY.

- I. John, living in Stortford, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England, in 1567; d. of plague, was bur. at Stortford, Dec. 4, 1582; m. Agnes, dau. of——.

CHILDREN. DENYSON.

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|---|--|
| | Loce, | bapt. 3 Aug., 1567. | |
| | *William, | " 3 Feb., 1571. | |
| II. | Edward, | " 6 Apr., 1575. | |
| | Mary, | " 28 Aug., 1577. | |
| | Elisabeth, | " 23 Aug., 1579. | |
| | George, | " 14 Mar., 1582. | |
| II. | Edward, bapt. 6 Apr., 1575, | went to Ireland in 1631; died there. His children were: | |
| | Annie, | bapt. 19 Feb., 1603. | |
| | Susan, | " 24 Nov., 1605. | |
| | Elisabeth, | " 18 Sept., 1608; bur. 30 Aug., 1615. | |
| †III. | John, | " Stortford, 13 Sept., 1612. | |

(See New Eng. Hist. and Gen. Reg., Vol. 46, p. 353; and for Hist. of William, see same Vol., p. 127).

A letter by Capt. Joseph Dennison of Freeport is familiar to many of the family. He wrote as follows: "My grandfather, George Dennison was born in Dublin, Ireland, about the year 1695 (?) [on gravestone 1699,] came to this country at the age of 17 years. Being a student at college in Dublin, he was im-

*William settled in New England. For further reference to his family, see Appendix.

† John, cousin of Maj. Daniel and probably ancestor of George of Annisquam.