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The Denbow Diaspora
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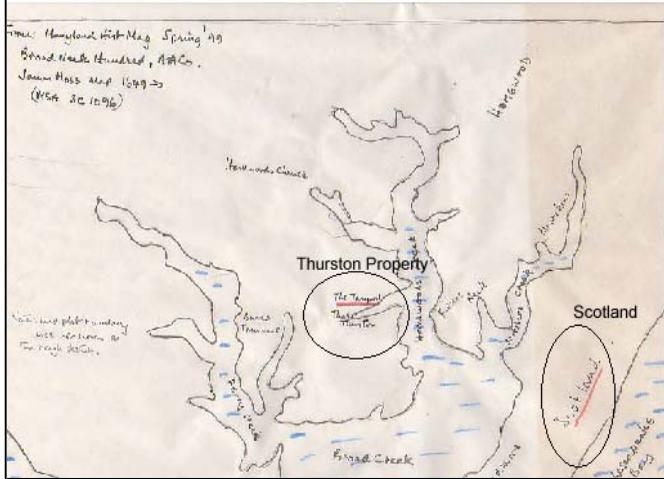


June 2010 "An International newsletter for Denbows" Vol. 15, No. 1

Family stories may have been mangled through the years

Is Scotland in Maryland?

The following is a slightly expanded and annotated version of an article that first appeared in the December 2005 issue of the Diaspora (Vol. 12, No. 2). It's being reprinted here for three reasons, only some of which may be good reasons: 1. That issue was only available online and those without computer access have yet to see it, 2. We have some new subscribers since 2005 who might enjoy reading the piece, and 3. The article that I was planning on running as the cover article for this issue — an in depth look at the DNA study — is not ready for primetime at press time. Hopefully, that will be corrected in time for the planned fall issue.



A map of colonial Maryland showing an area called Scotland near the place that John Denbow would have likely served his indenture.

James Denbow, co-editor of the Denbow Diaspora, and professor of archaeology and anthropology at the University of Texas, has put his professional sleuthing skills to work for us and unearthed, at least figuratively speaking, some very interesting new information and fascinating new leads about the probable first Denbow in North America. This is the

John Denboe who came to these shores as an indentured servant in 1663. Jim's take on this issue is tantalizing, to say the least. His initial thoughts and impressions are outlined in an email that he sent me, which I will reproduce below. The Sandy referred to in this email is Sandy Jameyson, of Lodi, Ohio, a long-time Denbow researcher. I had forwarded to Jim some material that Sandy had sent me on John Denboe, some of this was material originally collected by Mary Denbow Petro, of Chillicothe, Ohio.

Before presenting Jim's email, let me set the stage just a little bit more. As many of you are aware, stories of Scotch-Irish ancestry abound within the North American Denbo(w) clans. One fanciful story even has a Denbow forbearer lashed to a mast as he sails the Atlantic bound for America on his way from Scotland. He was, as I recall this story, a hideaway who was discovered and then lashed to the mast as punishment. What has struck me through the years about these stories about Scottish ancestry is that they appear in a number of legends from a wide variety of family groupings — Ohio and Iowa Denbows and the Indiana Denbos, to name just a few.

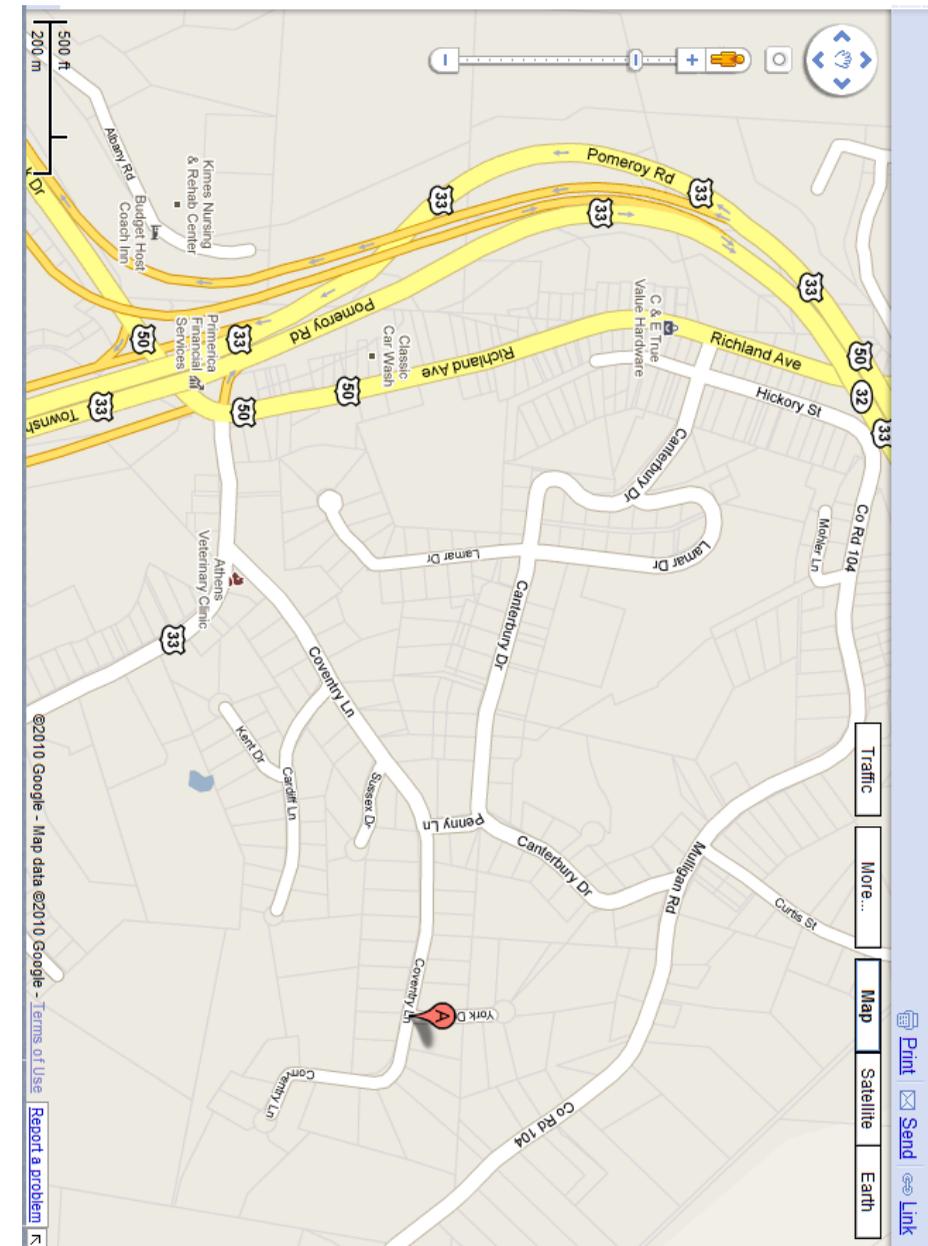
Well, Jim has come up with a possible explanation that's not as exciting as a hideaway being lashed to the mast. This theory actually comports with the known facts involving John Denboe's indenture and his arrival in the Crown Colony of Maryland. This John Denboe appears to be the patriarch of Maryland, Ohio, Indiana and Iowa families that go by the Denbow and Denbo surname.

Here's Jim's email with a few annotations along the way:

Hi Carl,

Got the stuff you forwarded to me from Sandy today. Here is my take on this:

1. The "Hursfurl" document is simply a retyping of the info from Mary Petro that you had earlier. I don't believe Sandy herself went back to the originals. After doing so, in two different versions since there are no "original" originals -- those were apparently burnt in 1704 in a fire -- I believe the man's name is George Hasfurt, not Horsford and certainly not Hursfurl. If you type in Hasfurt



**REMINDER:
MINI-REUNION, Saturday, July 24, in Athens**

A Mini-Reunion will be held at the home of Carl and Jane Denbow in Athens, Ohio, on Saturday, July 24, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have not already done so, please RSVP as soon as possible. You may call hostess Jane Denbow at (740) 590-2998, or send her an e-mail at zelda@denbow.org. (For laughs, ask her how she got the nickname Zelda!) You can also send postal mail to the editorial office as listed in the masthead.

See map on the opposite page for location of the Denbow home in Athens. Regardless of the direction you are coming, look for signs that say Richland Avenue (Exit 18a if coming from Columbus or Parkersburg.) When you come to the intersection of Richland and Pomeroy Road, you want to go between the BP station and the abandoned gas station and after about a tenth of a mile turn left on to Coventry at the veterinarian's office and then proceed up the hill to the corner of Coventry and York. You're looking for a yellow house adorned with ham radio antennas.

in your search engine and look at all the documents I think you will agree. [Yes, I've done it and Jim is right. Try it yourself. — CJD] It is well known that many typos and transcription errors crept into these documents, some of which can be seen by comparing the two versions I have, which are listed below.

2. While waiting for those copies from you, I received from the Maryland State archives the following copies of the following two documents:
 - John Denboe 1675-1680 Description: Liber WC, page 147. Accession No.: 17, 319 MSA No. S920-32 Location: 1/28/4/34; and
 - John Denboe 1675-1680 Description: 19, transcript of Liber WC, page 258. Accession No. 17,353-1 MSA No. S920-46 Location 1/29/2/61

I believe the first transcript is the earlier one and is likely NOT the version copied by Mary Petro. What led to the problems of the Hasfurt association is that in the later transcription, the bottom of the page conveniently ends with the "mysterious" 2nd of May Thomas Thurston signature and seal giving over the rights to his "servants" to Miles Gibson. She does not seem to have gone on to the next page where those servants, including John Denboe, are mentioned again. In the later version, one would have to go on to the NEXT PAGE to find the final two sections signed by Thomas Thurston ON THE SAME DAY, 2nd May, 1676, mentioning those servants, including John Denboe, for whom he (Thurston) paid transport.

Quite what the legal sense of these missed entries is, I am not sure -- maybe you can figure it out. They most certainly have something to do with the marriage of Miles Gibson and Thurston's daughter Ann. Nonetheless, I think it is indisputable that the Hasfurt document has nothing at all to do with John Denboe -- and if you read Mary Petro's transcription of it you can see it deals only with the parcel of land, not other property such as servants. It is the next TWO (or maybe three depending on how they should be separated) signed by Thomas Thurston on the 2nd of May that outline his transport of servants, as well as 200 acres of land to Miles Gibson, soon to be his son-in-law. The third entry deals with some kind of other obligation involving an obligation to pay 10,000 pounds of tobacco to Lord Baltimore. Maybe mentioning the servants was some kind of surety -- I really have no idea. But Hasfurt and Brittain have nothing to do with us.

Also interesting is that if you look at the copy of the earlier record I sent you, it has brackets that are different from the ones in the later copy. Specifically, the earlier document appears to leave out the first 4 names in the last column as those to be included in the notation "12 years since" and does not mark off the last column of names as somehow different from the other two. The second record seems to show that he is giving Gibson (who was himself a 1660s transportee) five(?) hundred acres of land for the transport of his family and 8 of the servants (not John Denboe). The last entry dealing with the tobacco obligation, however, mentions all of the servants by name again, including John Denboe, as having been transported by him (Thurston) "into the said province of Maryland."

On the handwritten notes by Sandy, there is also a question about whether or not Thurston returned to England after trying to settle in Virginia. This is indeed the case, and after being jailed as a trouble maker in Jamestown in 1657 or 8, he returned to America with his wife, family and servants in 1663, but this time to Maryland which was more tolerant of Quakers because they were more desperate for labor.

Another mystery is how long John Denboe's indenture lasted. Generally they were for 4-5 years, though if the person was under the age of 18 they could last until they were 25. Thus, I don't see how John Denboe was still an indentured servant in 1676 unless he got a really bad deal out of the firebrand-Quaker Thurston, who would later backslide into establishment respectability and eventually even lead a militia.

The other John Denbow indenture that you sent dates to 1828 and has nothing to do with the original indenture of 1663, which probably no longer exists in any paper form. But given Thurston's connections with Gloucestershire and sailing from Bristol, maybe those are areas we need to investigate in UK -- perhaps looking to see who was associated with



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This newsletter is published two or three times a year by the co-editors, who are proud to claim that it is the only newsletter in the world "For Denbows by Denbows." Denbos welcome, too!

The clippings involving Jeanie Denbow-Slades's family on the preceding pages are from the following publications: William James Denbow is One Year Old, *Zanesville Times-Signal*, Page 6, Feb. 29, 1948; Jene's Friendly Store, *Sandusky Register*, Page 10, June 5, 1962; Denbow Heads VFW, *Sandusky Register*, Page 3, April 4, 1958; Manslaughter Charge Filed in Erie County, *Elyria Chronicle-Telegram*, Page 12, May 19, 1958; Unfamiliarity with Car 'Gadgets' Prompts \$50,000 Death Suit, *Sandusky Register*, Page 6, May 12, 1960; Notice of Appointment, *Sandusky Register*, Page 14, June 13, 1958; and New Teen Club Formed in City, *Sandusky Register*, Page 9, Nov. 12, 1960.



Who is the gentleman in the above photo? I think that it may be James Tanner Denbow (1847-1928), my g-grandfather, who lived in Monroe County, Ohio. If anyone can make a positive identification of this photo, it would be greatly appreciated. Thanks .— CJD

Unfamiliarity With Car 'Gadgets' Prompts \$50,000 Death Suit

Alleged negligence of an automobile dealer placing in the hands of a purchase prospect a new model car with unfamiliar equipment formed the basis today of a \$50,000 damage suit on file in common pleas court.

Hunter Motor Co., 1640 Columbus Ave., was negligent in placing an automobile equipped with "power steering and power brakes," into the hands of a prospective purchaser who was unfamiliar with the modern devices, and who subsequently lost control

of the car, the suit charges. Judgment asked is for the wrongful death of an 11-year-old boy who was killed when struck by the vehicle.

Case was brought by J. Jene Denbow, 113 Douglas Dr., father and administrator of the estate of William James Denbow. He states in May, 1958, the car involved was driven along S. Columbus Ave. by David Arns, aka Aaron, Jr., Homeville, and struck the boy as he was riding a bicycle. The latter died from critical injuries suffered in the impact.

(Continued from page 7)
forget their grandfather, the name and what he used to do. I also see after putting the scrapbook together along a timeline that my dad went through some hurt for a while with the loss of his son, shortly thereafter the loss of his family. . . so he had to move on. I take more pride in passing the history down; of course, I like history, and I'm doing my best to keep it in my family the best I can. I just wanted the written evidence that everything I've talked about is real. And I did it for my dad.

DIMAGGIO'S GEMS STOLEN
NEW YORK (UPI) — Former Yankee baseball star Joe DiMaggio told police Wednesday that his hotel apartment was burglarized of \$2,000 in jewelry sometime between April 2 and May 8, while he was on a business trip.

Denbow contends the Hunter Motor Co., knew or should have known that Aron (Aaron) was not prepared to be placed in "custody and control" of a high-powered car with whose operation he was not familiar at the time.

New Teen Club Formed In City

A group of Sandusky and St. Mary High School students have organized a new Teenagers Club to sponsor social events and public service.

Headed by President Lee Prosser, of Sandusky High, the group meets weekly at a store operated by Jene Denbow. Denbow is adult advisor to the group.

Other officers are Earl Eckler, St. Mary, and Eddie Carico, Sandusky, vice presidents, and Terry Groff, St. Mary, secretary-treasurer.

Some 25 members belong to the organization at present.

NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT Case No. 10908-A

Estate of William James Denbow, deceased. Notice is hereby given that W. Jene Denbow of 113 Douglas Drive, Sandusky, Ohio, has been duly appointed Administrator of the Estate of William James Denbow, deceased, late of the Township of Perkins, Erie County, Ohio. Creditors are required to file their claims with said fiduciary within four months. Dated this 11th day of June, 1958.

JOHN W. BAXTER,
Probate Judge, of said County
June 13-20-27

Thurston, Fox, or other early Quakers there. [Perhaps some of our English cousins could check into this. I'd be particularly interested in any ship passenger lists that might exist, or any information about a Denbow family in this region of England at this time. None of the English genealogies that I've seen give a hint as to which family this John Denbow might be from. This, coupled with the DNA evidence, make me think that he was possibly an illegitimate child of a Denbow woman and a man with Jewish or Semitic heritage. — CJD]

In sum, I think we need to now more carefully go back to original, first hand sources whenever possible to see how things were expressed, how they were written, etc. if we are to sort out some of these relationships. Fortunately, in some ways DNA stuff gives us firmer ground around which to base interpretations of whatever paper documents we find. That being said, if indentures of some sort were still around in 1828, and "Scotland" is located just across the river from the Tanyard and near others of Thurston's holdings, then maybe it is that "Scotland" our early family stories are referring to. (I still can remember the shock of my son Jeremy when he found out that the "Tangiers" inhabited by the beat poet William Burroughs was a neighborhood in New Orleans -- not North Africa! He couldn't believe it.) So maybe it really is Scotland, Maryland, that some of our early ancestors "escaped" from.

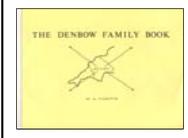
Cheers,
Jim

Two popular publications still available from

The Denbow Diaspora Bookstore . . .



Reprints of the 78th Ohio Volunteer Infantry regimental history — with an improved lay-flat binding — are available for \$45.00. True originals bring from \$450 to \$500 from rare book dealers.



The Denbow Family Book, by W. A. Roberts, also a reprint, sells for \$18.00. This book contains more information than is available in any other one source on the Denbow family in England.

Both prices include postage and handling. To order, send a check or money order to the editorial offices, payable to: *The Denbow Diaspora*.

Jeanie Denbow-Slade uncovers clippings about father & brother

A few weeks ago, Jeanie Denbow-Slade, asked me to try to locate clippings from the newspapers in Zanesville and Sandusky, Ohio, during her childhood. While she was born in Zanesville, much of her childhood was spent on what has come to be called Ohio's North Coast.



—Mueller's of Zanesville
WILLIAM JAMES DENBOW was one year old February 15. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Jene Denbow. His grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Albert Watts of Gratiot and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest R. Denbow of Taylor street. His great-grandparents are Mrs. Lettie Jones of Gratiot, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Smith of Lewisville. The initials, W. J., have been given from father to eldest son in many generations of Denbows.

Here, in her own words, the motivation behind the search: I mainly was looking for all these things because I had absolutely NOTHING showing that they "once upon a time" did exist. My stepmother for some reason did not keep many things that I wish I

SAVE UP TO 30%
 on baby (playtex) supplies, patent medicines, games, greeting cards, and many other items during our going out of business sale. Two display islands, one showcase, storage (wood) bins. Stock of various support, braces, and leather goods. Earnings five (5) hrs., \$1.00, at Jene's Friendly Store, 440 Huron Avenue.

could have gotten my hands on. Grandma Denbow and Uncle Bob also did not supply me with the information I needed. I especially wanted something to show how important that grandma was to me. All I have are things from my memory and things I talk about to my kids. My dad's store is no longer a store.

The teen club was an important thing for a few years, and I remember being around some of the club members. I also wanted more information on the terrible accident that killed my brother Jimmie and the neighbor boy. I also had Dad's VFW commander hat and yet nothing to show for that

(Continued on page 7)

Heads VFW Here



JENE DENBOW

Past Commander Lloyd Conrad was installing officer for Lowell C. Hein Post 2529, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at its meeting Thursday evening.

The following were installed: Jene Denbow, commander; Richard Taubert, senior vice-commander; Paul Mock, junior vice-commander; Carroll D. Sartor, adjutant-quartermaster; Frank A. Silvani, advocate; Dr. John Wasyluk, surgeon and Charles Fleitner, trustee.

Past Commander John LaFene was presented with a past commander's pin from the post, for his two terms of continuous service. A plate lunch was served after the meeting.

Firelands County Council will hold a meeting at the Sandusky Post on Monday. Delegates from here are: Carl Wilken, Jr., Silvani, Henry Ziegler, Andrew Behrendsen, Marvin Evans, Ralph Kelley, Peter Scavio, Taubert, James Malshy, Glenn Kalk, Maurice Jardine and Donald Geason.

Commander Denbow made the following appointments: publicity, Sartor; sports, Carl Wilken, Jr.; membership, Taubert; Memorial Day chairman, Ziegler; sick committee, Earl Mischler; Veterans Day, Silvani; lunch, Mock; officer of day, Scavio; sergeant major, Michael Kevedy; quartermaster sergeant, Richard Bartell; guard, Charles Brown.

John T. Gallagher and Michael Kevedy were accepted as new members. Commander Denbow appointed Earl Mischler to work with Robert Frank, administrative officer of 25th Ordnance Co., 1st Army, Armed Forces Day Week, May 11 to 17.

Past Auxiliary presidents, Mrs. Frank Silvani and Mrs. Henry Ziegler, announced that they have in escrow a substantial sum which they will present to the post on completion of the new building. They also presented Past Commander LaFene with a gift.

Aron In Court Tomorrow

Manslaughter Charge Filed In Erie County

SANDUSKY — David Aron Jr., 28, of 15 Beatty Ave., Homeville, near here, driver of the car which struck and killed two small boys on bicycles early Friday night on South Columbus Ave., south of here, has been charged with second degree manslaughter.

Aron, who was cited Saturday, is presently free on \$2,000 property bond pending his appearance before Sandusky Municipal Court Judge James Young tomorrow at 9 a. m., EST.

The Homeville man was traveling south on South Columbus Ave., when in coming up behind another car, he hit the brakes, his car went into a skid and struck the two boys, William James Denbow, 11, and Dwight William Moyer, 8, neighbors of Douglas Dr. in Southgate Acres, a housing development near here.

Both boys, also southbound and riding abreast, were thrown into a nearby field. Death in both cases was instantaneous, Erie County Coroner Jack Walker said.

Aron told sheriff's deputies he was trying out a new 1958 Mercury and that he was travelling at a speed of 60 to 65 miles per hour when the mishap occurred at 7:40 p. m., EST.

Forty-five miles per hour is the

posted speed limit in the area, the Erie County sheriff's department said.

Funeral services for the Moyer boy were held this afternoon from the Frey Funeral Home with burial in Oakland Cemetery.

Born May 18, 1949 here, he was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist, Sandusky, and a Little League baseball player.

He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Alice Moyer, and a sister Charlotte. His father, Robert, died last July 4.

Services for Denbow, a native of Newark, born Feb. 15, 1947, took place this morning from the funeral home and the Trinity Methodist Church of which he was a member. He also was buried in Oakland.

Surviving are his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Jene Denbow, and a sister, Gloria Jean.

Note: Blurriness is in original microfilm, not in printing.

(Continued from page 6)

either. I figured these things are real, and I wanted more evidence they did indeed exist. This will help me pass this history to my children. That's why I did all this. My dad meant the world to me, and I don't want my kids to ever

(Continued on page 8)