

Stamp Goes Here

*The Denbow Diaspora*  
17 Coventry Lane  
Athens, Ohio 45701-3718

Return Service Requested

DATED MATERIAL  
PLEASE RUSH



*The study of Denbow-ology*  
**An historical record of the history  
of the “Denbow Lands” – Are we  
the tribe of “Danbow”?**  
By Ron Denbow, Medina, Ohio

More than two millennia ago, it was recorded that the Danmonii tribe (aka: Dumnonii or Damnonii) and the Durotriges tribe occupied a large geographical area located in southern England. This is in the general region that today encompasses Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, West Hampshire and Wiltshire. A multitude of ancient written accounts and records describing the people and their lifestyle have survived, thanks in part to the historians or scribes who were part of some of the original invading military forces in that region – from Julius Caesar and his Roman legions who invaded Britain from 55 to 50 BC, to the military campaigns conducted by Vespasian under the rule of Claudius, the Roman Emperor, in 41 to 43 AD. Coinage and other ancient artifacts have been found there and studied by archeologists, museums and collectors alike. Both before and after the birth of Christ that area of southern England was an important destination for seafarers who conducted trade on the ancient Syrian-Phoenician trade routes.

Among these traders were members of the Danmonii and Durotriges tribes, who sold or exchanged their valuable agricultural products and mined commodities of tin, silver and copper as well as the alloy bronze.

**S**imilar to the situation today, a strong military defense was a vital part of their efforts to protect and defend their people, commerce and lifestyle. Defensive hill-forts have been identified on the land and actual written accounts survive that describe the Celt's fierce military power and prowess. However, also noted in the history, is this tribe's unique diplomacy. Examples will be provided about how they co-existed with foreign military forces by negotiating and leveraging their continued existence while receiving a rare degree of independence during the many years of their country's occupation. Extensive reference materials exist, both ancient and modern, about the members of those Celtic tribes and their possible origins. Were these ancient people Belgic, Germanic, Macedonian, African, Syrian, or of some other descent? Or is it possible that they originated, as some purport, from one of the ancient "Lost Tribes of Israel?" In the post-Roman era, we will read about an important member of the Danmonii (or Dumnonii) tribe — one of their kings named Arthur. Most importantly to the subscribers of *The Denbow Diaspora*, we will examine the multitude of information and evidence, however circumstantial and subjective it may be, to see if the information suggests a missing familial link pertaining to the lineage of the Denebaud/Denbow families who would ultimately occupy those same tracts of land in southwest England many years later. So you can decide for yourself, we will explore the extensive records I have assembled in an attempt to find more about our family's origins. (Yes, it's time for a commercial break!)

**M**y research on this ancient topic seems to have been on a "collision course" for many years with our family historians' research and studies. My sister, Sandra Denbow Jameyson, has been active in the study of "Denbow-ology" (as I like to refer to it) for many years and has kept me apprised about what she and other family member's research findings have revealed. It was a

the family farm just outside Woodsfield, Ohio. Pictured (l to r): Walter Denbow, Cora Ann Denbow, James (seated), Catherine Rose Denbow, Spot (the dog), and Ira (Harry) Denbow. My question is: Does the gentleman on the right look like James T. Denbow minus 50 or so years?

I would appreciate very much your considered opinions on this matter. Unfortunately, even though the photo on the left is newer, the reproduction of it is blurred, but I do think there's enough detail to make a reasonable decision.  
— CJD





On the opposite page you will find a photograph (circa 1870) that I printed in the last issue. It is one that I believe to be of James Tanner Denbow (1847-1928), my g-grandfather, who lived in Monroe County, Ohio. I'm not sure that this is the correct ID for this gentleman, as I only vaguely remember that my father told me that this is the man in the photograph.

Above you will find another clue that may help solve this mystery. Courtesy of Joseph Denbow, of Ashland, grandson of said J.T. Denbow, I have a known photo — at a much older age, of James. This photo was taken (circa 1920) on the front lawn of

natural process for Sandra and I to become interested in American and world history, and to begin collecting antiques at an early age. Our mother, Barbara (Keefer) Denbow, loved history and had a tremendous ability to accurately recall historical events without referring to any written records, books or other resource materials. She would often recall facts and figures relating to many varied historical topics that ranged from the American Civil War to ancient Roman and Greek mythology. When Mom was nearby, encyclopedia and library reference materials were not needed to assist Sandy or I in the completion of our homework for public school and college. All we needed to do was to ask Mom probing questions, listen intently to her answers, and take copious notes to sufficiently complete our homework assignments.

Our Mom, along with our father, Carl William Denbow Jr. (who was born in Lewisville, Ohio in 1928) shared a love of history. Dad — a descendant of William Denbow, one of six brothers who fought in the American Civil War (1861-65) — perhaps came upon his love of history honestly. William, five of his brothers, and their father (John, 1797-1862) served in the 78th Ohio Volunteer Infantry ([www.78ohio.org](http://www.78ohio.org)). Another brother was in the 27th OVI. This shared love of history led our family to begin collecting antiques in the mid 1960's. This hobby soon became a passion, “infecting” most of our immediate family's relatives and other people who knew them well. In the early 1970's, Dad and Mom became licensed antique dealers. Along with my wife Linda and I, together we owned and operated one of the largest and most successful antiques and collectibles flea markets located in the mid-western United States (located at the Medina county fairgrounds in the state of Ohio). For our branch of the Denbow family, loving and living with history was, and is, a normal way-of-life.

One year for Christmas, I wanted to surprise Linda by presenting her with a unique holiday gift. I acquired two ancient bronze rings certified to have been made sometime

between 100 to 400 AD. One of the bronze rings had a star burst stamped into it that the dealer in antiquities purported to represent the “Star of Bethlehem” in keeping with the holiday theme. Needless to say, Linda was very surprised by her gifts that year, but little did I know at the time that the two ancient rings I gifted her that holiday season would become a catalyst for me, sending me on a quest for information, evidence and ancient artifacts relating to many varied historical topics and events. My pursuit of history and associated antiquities continues to this day!

**W**hile the two ancient bronze rings were very interesting and somewhat rare, and knowing that the rings were “certified” as having been found in an archeological dig in the Balkans (a site that also yielded many other ancient artifacts dating from the same 300 year span of time), the broadly estimated timeframe provided little satisfaction for me. I wanted to be more precise about the origin of the rings and more specific about the date relating to when the rings (and other ancient artifacts) were made. I soon learned that ancient coins would be a better way to achieve that goal.

**M**uch like modern day coinage, many ancient coins have specific dates stamped on the coin disclosing when the coin was made, or struck. Some coinage also discloses the location where the coin was made. Many events of historical significance are depicted on coinage, thus helping historians with estimating the dates

*THE*  
**DENBOW DIASPORA** 

**Editors:**  
Carl J. Denbow, Athens, Ohio  
Email: [cjd@denbow.org](mailto:cjd@denbow.org)  
  
James Denbow, Round Rock, Texas  
Email: [jdenbow@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:jdenbow@mail.utexas.edu)

**Editorial Offices:**  
17 Coventry Lane  
Athens, Ohio 45701-3718

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!

## FCC licensed amateur radio operators

# Denbows and Denbos who really like to ham it up

As many of you know, in addition to genealogy, another of my favorite hobbies is amateur radio. Also called “ham radio.” Recently I decided to do a search of an amateur radio database to see how many Denbo(w)s were fellow hams, here’s what I discovered.

### Denbow Hams

"KC0CJE", "T", "Richard J Denbow", "3110 Via Alicante, Unit L", "La Jolla", "CA", "92037", "USA",  
"KD8BIW", "T", "Steven C Denbow", "107 Coro 281", "Sullivan", "OH", "44880", "USA",  
"N6CVA", "E", "David E Denbow", "14625 Colorado St", "Fontana", "CA", "92336", "USA",  
"N8VZ", "E", "Carl J Denbow", "17 Coventry Ln", "Athens", "OH", "45701-3718", "USA",

### Denbo Hams

"KD5ELI", "T", "Stephen M Denbo", "507 Clarence St", "Tomball", "TX", "77375", "USA",  
"KF4WE", "A", "Charles R Denbo", "3955 Smith Cardwell Rd", "South Fulton", "TN", "38257", "USA",  
"WB6DTM", "G", "Dennis J Denbo", "10240 Dunn Ct", "Riverside", "CA", "92503", "USA",

For further reading, Ron suggests the following:

<http://www.ensignmessage.com/archives/sea.html> (Ancient Sea Migrations)

<http://www.ensignmessage.com/archives/hebrew.html>  
(Hebrew-Celtic Connection)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribe\\_of\\_Dan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tribe_of_Dan)  
(Tribe of Dan - for the "Danbow" family!)

<http://www.britannia.com/history/devon/devon.html> (Nash's History of Devon)

An historical sketch of the "Danmonii" tribe - written in 1830 The URL for this is so convoluted that a copy of the public domain book file will be placed on Denbow.org for your convenience.

[http://users.senet.com.au/~dewnans/ancient\\_dumnonia.html](http://users.senet.com.au/~dewnans/ancient_dumnonia.html)  
(Ancient Dumnonia)

<http://users.senet.com.au/~dewnans/index.html> (Celtic Devon)

<http://www.historyfiles.co.uk/FeaturesBritain/BritishDevonIntro.htm>  
(Post-Roman Britain w/additional links)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_invasion\\_of\\_Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_invasion_of_Britain)  
(Roman Conquest of Britain)

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespasian> (Vespasian - Roman Emperor)

<http://www.amphoracoins.com/content.asp?s=coins>  
(Amphora Coins - David Hendin)

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile\\_crescent](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fertile_crescent) (Many URLs reference the Fertile Crescent area as being an integral part of the ancient trade route to the east with Danmonia being on the same extended trade route to the north-west. I believe land and trade to be very important considerations that relate to our family's ancient history and DNA)

when those events actually occurred. While I have continued collecting selected artifacts over the years, coins have therefore become more important to me in my research and as a collector.

The documented accounts and detailed history of ancient Rome, the Celtic nations and Greece is remarkable to me, both in substance and significance. Much important history was represented on the coinage that was struck under the rule of the various Roman emperors, kings, local governors and procurators who reigned during that time. Well before the reign of Julius Caesar in Rome, the reign of Philip II of Macedonia in 350 BC and his son, Alexander the Great, holds great interest to me. Additionally, the amazing reign of Octavian-Caesar Augustus was detailed in his coinage depicting his victorious military campaigns and other achievements, including the biblical time period associated with King Herod, the Magi and the birth of Christ. Many fierce conflicts and wars were fought by the nations of Rome and Macedonia against the nations under the rule of Celtic kings. Also important to me is the reign of Constantine I (aka Constantine the Great) and the founding of Christianity in the Roman empire. I am also intrigued by Constantine's mother, Helena, and her pursuit of the his-

### Whither the next Denbow Reunion?

At this point no specific plans have been made for a Denbow Reunion in 2011. I would be happy to entertain any offers to host a reunion this spring or summer. Traditionally, we've held the reunions toward the end of July, but this doesn't have to be set in stone.

Also, I created an online survey about Denbow Reunions that I'd like you to complete. It's only eight questions long. You can access the survey at the following URL: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/78GNCFN>

You must enter the password "woodsfield" (all lower case) in order to access the survey. Your thoughtful responses will be most appreciated. — CJD

tory, sites and artifacts related to Christ and Christianity that were located in the Holy Land more than 300 years after Christ's birth and crucifixion. Thus, the period of time between 350 BC and 350 AD holds the most interest to me in my studies and in my collecting.

**N**ow, back to more information about the ancient Celtic tribes of the Danmonii and Durotriges...the Romans had great respect for the military strength of the Celtic tribes and feared them greatly. Polybius, a classical writer in the second century BC, remarked on the terrifying sight of "well-built Celtic warriors," but more explicit accounts come somewhat later in the writings of Strabo, Diodorus, Siculus and others. The Celts were remarkable to Mediterranean eyes for their height, fair skin, muscularity (Linda thought that reference, if it pertains to me in any way, was hilarious!), blue eyes and lighter colored hair. In battle, the ancient Celts were fierce and ruthless. Before going into battle, they would often paint their face and body, then make loud, raucous noises, or chant in rhythm using extremely loud voices and acoustics to distract and intimidate their opponents in pre-battle posturing and positioning. The mere sight of the size of the Celtic armies, along with the warrior's appearance and outward display of confident determination, could make the opposition flee in terror. This strategy was certainly employed in Britain by the Danmonii and Durotriges tribes, but was not enough to stop the aggressive Roman expansion in that country.

**A**fter many years of fighting in Britain, the Celtic tribes of the southwest were among the last to be "neutralized" by Rome. Vespasian conducted his military campaign there in 43 AD. Upon the ascension of Claudius to emperor in 41 AD, Vespasian was appointed legate of Legio II *Augusta*, stationed in Germania, thanks to the influence of the Imperial freedman Narcissus. Vespasian and the II *Augusta* participated in the Roman invasion of Britain, and he distinguished himself under the overall command

monii tribes were not only "fierce warriors" as depicted by the Roman scribes, but mostly hard working farmers and miners who traded their commodities on the ancient sea routes. Much historical information has been written about the people relocating there from other nations located along the ancient trading route. Of particular interest to me are the accounts that imply a relationship between the Danmonii tribe of Britain and the Lost Tribe of Dan, one of the lost tribes of Israel.

**B**iblical references note the migration of the Tribe of Dan, a seafaring tribe, north out of Israel to the southern shores of Britain between 800 to 700 B.C., and also compares the similarities of their names, languages and more features between the two tribes. Knowing that the Durotriges coin in my collection was found near Exeter, I had renewed interest in the coin a few years later when I learned that the coin came from the same region that was once the homeland of the Denbow family.

**H**istorical accounts prove that the people of the ancient tribes of Britain were never totally driven out of that region, regardless of the threat. That research, along with the newly found DNA evidence from our Denbow-family volunteers indicating a familial relationship between some Denbow family members to peoples originating from the Fertile Crescent area, provides more evidence in support of my theory.

**M**y opinion is that it is more likely than not that the Denbows have a familial link to the people of the ancient Durotriges and Danmonii tribes of Britain. If the historical accounts are true about that tribe's origins, and if we are Danmonii (or some part thereof), then we are also from the tribe of Dan, one of the lost tribes of Israel from nearly one millennium before Christ, and relatives of the legendary King Arthur several hundred years thereafter. Maybe we are actually the tribe of Denbow. What a storybook beginning that would be!

Like other examples of Celtic art, the designs on the coin pictured here are heavily abstracted and show on one side a horse and on the other side a head. The abstraction of the horse into a series of lines and dots conveyed its strength, power and simplicity, while that of the head side detailed the abstraction of their warriors and their features. The coin is an interpretation of a coin that was originally struck under the rule of Philip II of Macedonia in circa 350 BC. Why did the Durotriges tribe in southern England continue the depiction of Philip II of Macedon on their coinage more than 300 years after his death? Was there a familial relationship between the ancient tribe of the Durotriges and the Macedonians? Or was the association merely economic, political or coincidental? Here is an example of the original coin (without the Celtic interpretation) that was struck in 350 BC under Philip II of Macedonia:



On left: Coin depicting Phillip II of Macedon that was struck in about 350 BC, before the abstracted Celtic coin, which appears to be modeled after it.

For me, when I bought a coin like this for my collection, it was only to be an acquisition of an ancient coin, a coin with an intriguing history in that it was attributed to the Durotriges tribe — that "fierce Celtic warfaring tribe of southern Britain" whose people provided unprecedented resistance to the expanding armies of the Roman Empire in that region 2,000 years ago. Later, I learned that the people of the Durotriges and Dan-

of Aulus Plautius. After participating in crucial early battles on the rivers Medway and Thames, he was sent to reduce the southwest, penetrating through the modern counties of Hampshire, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall with the probable objectives of securing the south coast ports and harbours along with the tin mines of Cornwall and the silver and lead mines of Somerset.

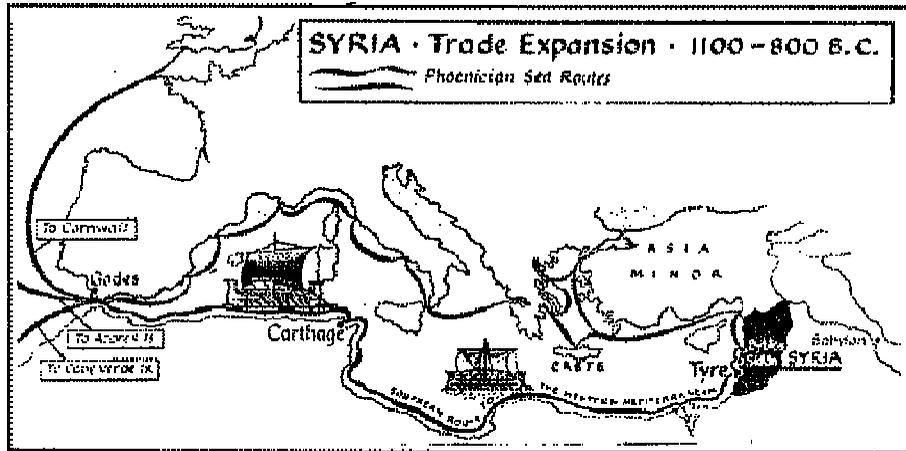
Vespasian marched from Noviomagus Reginorum (Chichester) to subdue the hostile Durotriges and Dumnonii tribes, captured twenty *oppida* (towns, or more probably hill forts, including Hod Hill and Maiden Castle in Dorset). He also invaded Vectis (the Isle of Wight), finally setting up a fortress and legionary headquarters at Isca Dumnoniorum (Exeter). These successes earned him triumphal regalia (*ornamenta triumphalia*) on his return to Rome. It is interesting to note that after

the Vespasian-led Roman conquest in the southwest, the Danmonii tribe was able to maintain a degree of independence and self-government within that



A Roman coin depicting the likeness of Vespasian on the front. It was struck after his conquest of what is now southwestern England in 43 AD.

region during the Roman occupation. However, it was not likely that their independent trade flourished in their country as it once did. A view of a map detailing the many ports and other locations on the ancient Syrian-Phoenician Mediterranean and Atlantic sea trade route, with a date of 1000 BC, follows on the next page.



Considering the results of the recent Denbow family’s DNA while viewing this ancient trade route, it is my conclusion that our family’s history may be more closely related to the expansion of ancient commerce and trade than it was to mass migration or aggression.

**Editor’s Note:**

Ron proposes an interesting, if controversial, theory. It seems to me that if it has any legs, it would be necessary to find some UK Denbows with the J2F haplotype rather than the R1B haplotype that so far all the English side of the family has exhibited. We need to redouble our efforts to obtain more UK participants in our DNA study. — CJD

Examples of various types of ancient coins have been found in southwestern England that have been attributed to the Durotriges tribe. However, it appears that the Danmonii tribe did not use coinage as their currency, but rather used a combination of commodities, agriculture and various methods of weights and measures as their currency, including the well known ancient Celtic coin rings and other artifacts. Some recovered examples of that currency follows and includes an interesting link between the coinage of the Durotriges tribe and the kingdom of Macedonia that yields additional speculation:



On left: Early Celtic “coin rings” used by the Danmonii tribe. The Durotriges tribe used “real coinage.”

The following is an example of the Celtic “Durotriges” silver abstracted coin of Philip II, Macedonian king and father of Alexander the Great, who reigned in Macedonia in 350 B.C. The coins were struck and used by the Durotriges tribe in Southern England between 60-20 B.C.



On left: Celtic coins with abstracted depiction of Phillip II of Macedonia (circa 50 BC)

The **Durotriges** were a Celtic people who inhabited South West England in the areas of modern day West Hampshire, Dorset, and adjoining parts of Somerset and Wiltshire. Their coinage is one of the most distinctive in Britain due to its rapid debasement. This coinage circulated in England before the invasion by the Roman Emperor Claudius in 41 A.D. The Durotriges tribe was later absorbed by and became a part of the Danmonii, or Dumnonii tribe, in their expansion to the east after the departure of the Romans.