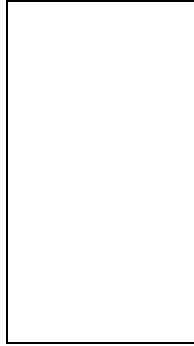




Vol. 7, No. 2 — December 2000

2001 Mini Reunion in Athens, Ohio USA



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

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Highlight of 2000 Denbow Reunion in Ashland, Ohio
The British Denbows are Coming!
The British Denbows are Coming!

By Bernard Denbow

It has been some years now since I first learnt of the existence of the Denbow Diaspora, and I have read the articles with great interest. I particularly wondered about



The English Denbows at Reunion in Ashland, Ohio (l to r): Daisy Ludkins (mother-in-law of Bernard), Corinna Denbow, Bernard Denbow and Denise Denbow.

the Family Reunion, and always dreamed of being there one day to meet you all.

It was early July when we booked our flight for Boston, and so my wife Denise, my daughter Corinna, my mother in law Daisy, and myself caught the flight from London, Heathrow to O'Hare airport on Friday 21 July 2000.

Whilst on the flight, the reality of the situation dawned on me. Here we were travelling some 3000 miles without any travel itinerary, but with the desire to meet some complete strangers. If we made it to Ashland, would we even recognise them? We didn't



Three Denbow Genealogists (l to r): Carl J. Denbow, Athens, Ohio; Bonnie Denbow Miller, Pana, Ill.; and Bernard Denbow, Welling, Kent, England, UK.

even have a photograph. Who said English are eccentric?

Our flight actually landed at New York, where we had to transfer on to a smaller plane to take us on to Boston. This is where our problems started. After finding our

seats at the back of the plane, we buckled up ready for takeoff. Our airhostess looked as if she'd starred in *The Adams Family*, really scary, but it was when she asked me and another chap to volunteer to sit with her at the front of the plane, I started to wonder if perhaps I was to be on the menu.

Of course I should not have worried, it appeared the plane was too heavy at the back and would not be able to take off unless us heavies sat at the front, and all the children at the back. Don't worry? Who said Americans are eccentric?

After this game of musical chairs, we took off 40 minutes late. On reaching O'Hare airport we had lost our landing spot, so circled around until we had nearly run out of fuel. I am sure I heard the pilot plead with control to let us land! We collected our luggage and picked up our hire car. No problems here, but because of the flight delays, we were now 3 hours late. Now driving in a strange car in Boston's "Big Dig" at 4.30 p.m. on a Friday is not the ideal way to start a holiday.

We spent 3 days in the Boston locality, both sightseeing and shopping. The USS Constitution was a great experience, well worth visiting. It was also interesting to learn; that it was on Boston Common that Amelia J. Bloomer was arrested for wearing trousers. I always wondered why ladies long underwear were called "bloomers".

Just outside Boston we had a wonderful day whale spotting. We were very lucky and spotted

Its Friday evening, and we have made it.



English Denbows prepare to adventure into the mist Niagara Falls.

ASHLAND. Booking into the motel, I am told that they have several other Denbows staying. Believe it or not, I feel nervous.

Would I recognise them?

The following morning finds us looking around the restaurant for any likeable candidates.

Yes, we did guess right once, but wrong 10 times.

Clutching the Diaspora instructions we made our way to the venue.

No problems here. Nervousness is mounting again; I think that it might be better to return to the Millennium Force at Cedar Point. Anyway we pluck up courage and ask, "Is your name Denbow? Yes? Great, so is ours, we're from England".



Stiff upper lips, and all that — hard to do even for an Englishman, or woman, at Cedar Point!

What a lovely day. You all made us so welcome, and we feel we have made some wonderful new friends. The food was great, the company even better. It was a day we shall never forget, the journey was completely warranted. The following evening was also great fun. Tom and his family kindly offered to wine and dine us at his house. We had a lovely meal, but more was to come. Back to Brookside Park to be treated by

a great jazz orchestra. Daisy was particularly in her element. The evening was rounded off by probably the best ice cream we have ever had. I had chocolate dripping down my chin but I didn't care.

The following day we had to say our farewells. The cameras were flashing. We almost

New Reunion Plan Emerges From Ashland

The plan in a nutshell:

- Reunions will be held every other year
- Mini-reunions in the "off years"

In accordance with this plan, a mini-reunion will be held in Athens, Ohio, at the home of Carl & Jane Denbow, 17 Coventry Lane. It will be held one week later than the usual last week in July — on Saturday, Aug. 4 from 11:30-5:00. Unlike the regular reunions this will be a one-day event, unless individuals decide on their own to have field trips, etc., on the following Sunday. More details on the "mini-reunion" will be in the next issue of *The Denbow Diaspora*, scheduled for April or May.

From the Diaspora Bookshop . . .

Two popular publications are still available from *The Denbow Diaspora* book store:

- The Regimental History of the 78th Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry in the late War of Rebellion can be purchased for \$40.00. This is reprint is much cheaper than the original, which brings up to \$450 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, payable to *The Denbow Diaspora*, at the editorial offices at 17 Coventry Lane, Athens, Ohio 45701-3718.

And the years and the reunions march on . . .



Above, left: Lynn Demas, Norton, Ohio, and Gilda Haddox, Parkersburg, W.Va., at 1998 reunion in Dover, Ohio; above right: Hannah Jane Denbow pontificates on the finer points of Denbology and her fascination with the recent resurgence of the Dead Denbow Society at the mini-reunion in Athens, Ohio, in 1999; left: a sign for the Denbo Marina just outside Denbo, Pa., during the field trip at the 1998 reunion; lower left: Joe and Dick Denbow, brothers from Ashland, Ohio, show their relative heights — which are quite substantial — by posing under the archway leading to living room in the home of Carl & Hannah Jane Denbow at the 1999 mini reunion.



Additional photographs from the 2000 Reunion will be included in the next issue of the *Diaspora*

felt like film stars. Unfortunately we missed Carl who had to rush off to see a sick relative. We hope everybody is well now.

From Ashland we hit a shopping mall again and were lucky enough to pick up a real bargain. A Sharp video camera for \$240, in England it would have cost \$600.

Now travelling on the 250. Who recommended that? It was a beautiful road with wonderful scenery. Unfortunately it started to rain and then pour, and then the deluge started. The skies suddenly went dark, and then the engine light went on. Oh! What's wrong with the car. Oh! The petrol lights now come on. We are now driving through floods at about 5 mph. No petrol stations in sight, perhaps it would be best to find a hotel for the night. Our luck has turned, there is a sign for a hotel just ahead. Perhaps not after all. The hotel shutters were banging in the wind, paint was peeling off the wood, and the wood was only being held together by the cobwebs. We thought we were on the film set of Psycho, or was it really Norman Bates's hotel. The last straw was when the local houses started to be swamped with floodwater. Angry inhabitants toting their shotguns glared at us in a most menacing way. It was time to flee. We decided to chance our luck and drive at the breakneck speed of 8 mph. We escaped and finally reached Fairmont, West Virginia, very relieved and elected to stay.

The next morning, fully relaxed, engine full of oil, and a full tank of petrol, we set off.

Continuing on the 50, we make our way to the Blackwater Falls. A very beautiful area to walk around and admire the scenery. I wish I had brought my fishing tackle with me. Guess what. We have to take shelter again because there is another thunderstorm. We are lucky this time,

and find a nice bar that served great food. Bliss. We finally arrive at Williamsburg, and pretend to be nasty English soldiers. I was quite good at that. It must be in the blood.

From here we hug the coastline and drive up to Atlantic City. Denise has managed to book us into one of the top hotels at a very reasonable rate. Perhaps they thought we were going to lose a lot of money at the gaming tables. Little did they know that I am an expert at playing the "one arm bandits", and so only managed to lose \$30.

Daisy has family living in New Providence, which is not far from New York. It is an ideal place to stay and see the sights. It was suggested to us that a good way to get around the Big Apple was to go on the Circle Line by boat. This worked out very well, and in 4 hours we managed to pack a lot in.

We spent a few days here meaning to relax. But there were so many things to see and do.

Three weeks have now flown by, and

back in Boston we have clocked up 2980 miles in the car. Just timed it right for another shopping trip – we needed another large case for our 'souvenirs'. Not bad for a trip to see the neighbours across the pond. The flight home was uneventful, and we have time to reflect on the past few weeks. Many wonderful sights, but what remains most in our memories is the Denbow Family Reunion. I hope we will be able to pop over again one day.



This sign beckoned our English cousins as it did all visitors to the Denbow Reunion in Ashland.

Tim Morton Jeopardy Contestant — Wins First



Tim Morton, a past contributor to the *Diaspora*, appeared on the national TV quiz show, *Jeopardy*, Nov. 29–29. Tim won the first round, after trailing late in the contest, but came on strong with an aggressive surge as time was running out. He then played a shrewd game of “final jeopardy” and came out on top. The next day, as defending champion, he was unable to maintain his momentum and was defeated. However, on that second day he won a vacation for two to some desert island — or something close to that! Wonder when he and his wife Carol will be taking that trip?

Congratulations to Tim on a fine performance and for representing the Denbow family so well. The editors are quite sure that — at least on the day he won — he was exhibiting traits acquired from the Denbow side of the family. The second night . . . Well that’s another story!

“Where have you gone,” Don Denbow ? — A Nation Turns Its Lonely Eyes to You!

Well — maybe not a nation — but at least those of the Denbow diaspora who are interested in finding out everything they can about their kin. A Don Denbow was listed several years ago in *USA Today Baseball Weekly* (June 7-13, 1995) as having hit .286 in 14 games between May 14-30 of that year for the Burlington Bees, which was apparently a San Francisco farm team at the time, though the Bees’ web site now lists the team as an “affiliate” of the Kansas City Royals.

More recently a search of the web revealed that a Don Denbow was apparently was the 20th pick in 1967 college baseball draft out of the Southern Methodist University. He was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers as a third baseman.

Most recently, in 1996, this same name shows up as a Midwest League “post season all-star” in the outfield for the Burlington Bees. Bill Denbow, son of co-editor Carl J.

Denbow, says he remembers seeing Don listed recently as being hired for a coaching position at either a college or minor league team. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Cousin Don?

1996 MIDWEST LEAGUE AWARDS
 Most Valuable Player - Larry Barnes (Cedar Rapids)
 Prospect of the Year - Britt Reames (Peoria)
 Manager of the Year - Roy Silver (Peoria)

POST SEASON ALL-STARS
 • First Base - Larry Barnes (Cedar Rapids)
 • Second Base - Andy Hall (Peoria)
 • Third Base - Mike Kinkade (Beloit)
 • Shortstop - Deivi Cruz (Burlington)
 • Outfield - Kerry Robinson (Peoria)
 • Outfield - Brian Simmons (South Bend)
 • Outfield - Don Denbow (Burlington)
 • Catcher - Ramon Hernandez (West Michigan)
 • Designated Hitter - Jeff Liefer (South Bend)
 • LHP - Valerio De Los Santos (Beloit)
 • RHP - Britt Reames (Peoria)
 • LH Relief - Armando Almanza (Peoria)
 • RH Relief - Santos Hernandez (Burlington)

Or, are we dealing with a father and son combo? Given the time span, this seems more likely. The *Diaspora* would like to do an interview Don Denbow —singular or plural — in a future issue. If you have any information, please help!

Tom Denbow, Barb Clint, Cassie & Collin,
 Cleveland, Ohio
 Jane Denbow Lightner & James Lightner, Ashland, Ohio
 Dick and Shirley Denbow, Ashland, Ohio
 Steve & Barb Denbow, Scott, Ryan & Cadie, Cumming, Ga.
 Ron & Linda Denbow, Medina, Ohio
 Sandy Denbow Jameyson, Lodi, Ohio
 Cora Anne (Denbow) & Ralph Burrows, Junction City, Ore.

Stefania Denbow, Athens, Ohio
 Jenny Denbow, Athens, Ohio
 Elena Merlino, Athens, Ohio (friend of Jenny’s)
 Meredith Denbow, Wooster, Ohio
 David & Carol Denbow, Wooster, Ohio
 Joseph & Patricia Denbow, Ashland, Ohio
 Rachel Denbow, Wooster, Ohio
 Christopher Denbow, Wooster, Ohio
 Dr. Dan & Susan Denbow & Grant, Ashland, Ohio

Photographic History of Past Reunions



Above left: The tombstone of Jackson Denbow (1834-1852) ; the twin brother of George Washington Denbow (1834-1906) Right: Sandy Denbow Janeyson, Lodi, Ohio, and Bonne Denbow Miller, Pana, Ill., pose for photograph in New Matamoras, Ohio, during field trip at 1996 Reunion.



Editors:

Carl J. Denbow, Athens, Ohio
 Email: denbow@frogned.net

James Denbow, Round Rock, Texas
 Email: 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

2000th Reunion

Exciting Surprise From “Other Side of Pond”

As you’ve no doubt gathered from the lead article in this issue, the most exciting part of this year’s reunion was on Saturday when Bernard Denbow and his family showed up on their “holiday” from the England. Although, we’ve not yet made the exact connection between the English Denbows and those on this side of the pond, there is very little doubt in the mind of the Denbow genealogists in the U.S. that such a connection awaits only the unearthing of the evidence. We are greatly in need of our own “Rosetta stone.”

The reunion weekend activities started with the traditional Diaspora Dinner on Friday. This year it was held at the historical society building in Ashland. It was a great location and the food was delicious. All of the Denbow cousins in Ashland are to be commended for their hard work in pulling off this excellent feast. The guests were also treated to a before-dinner tour of the historical society and a post-dinner presentation of Denbow history. The highlight of the latter was a wonderful tape presentation by Joe Denbow of past reunions and Monroe County excursions.

On Saturday we gathered at Brookside Park for an informal gathering of the clan. Again, the Ashland cousins made this a memorable occasion by providing great food, planned activities and door prizes. Wonder who got the award from coming from the farthest?

Several of the Ashland Denbows deserve special mention for their extraordinary efforts at coordination and planning: Joe & Pat Denbow, Dick & Shirley Denbow; Jane Denbow Lightner.

The Sunday events were cut short, in part, because of Carl & Jane Denbow had to leave early Sunday morning (i.e., 12:30 a.m.) for a hurried trip to Columbus where Jane’s mother had become ill and subsequently required hospi-

talization. As many of you know, both Carl and Jane’s mother had very serious health problems in the past six months. Both, fortunately, are doing much better now. Your prayers have been very much appreciated!

Here are lists of the folks who signed in at either the Diaspora Dinner or the Saturday gathering in the park. These lists are not in alphabetical order, but in the order in which the guest registry was signed.

Diaspora Dinner, July 28, 2000:

Anne & Ralph Burrows, Junction City, Ore.
Ann & Ted Bohachek, Dayton, Ohio
Joe & Pat Denbow, Ashland, Ohio
Steve & Barb Denbow, Cumming, Ga.
Tom & Beth Jackson, Ashland, Ohio
Russell & Mickey Denbow, Fayetteville, N.Y.
Tom Denbow, Cleveland, Ohio
Cathy & Dick Henry, Mansfield, Ohio
Christin Lehnhart, Lexington, Ohio
Larry, Kay & Pat Denbow, Zanesville, Ohio
Gilda Haddox, Parkersburg, W.Va.
Bonnie Denbow Miller, Pana, Ill.
Jane Wessling, Mansfield, Ohio
DeDe Denbow, Lexington, Ohio
Carl & Jane Denbow, Athens, Ohio

Brookside Park, July 29, 2000

Carl & Jane Denbow, Athens, Ohio
Larry & Kay Denbow, Zanesville, Ohio
Russell & Mickey Denbow, Fayetteville, N.Y.
Gilda Haddox, Parkersburg, W.Va.
Bonnie Denbow Miller, Pana, Ill.
Daisy Ludkins, Bexleyheath, Kent, England, U.K.
Denise, Bernard & Corinna Denbow, Welling, Kent, England, U.K.

78th OVI soldier writes home to wife while on March to the Sea

Civil War Letters of Pvt. Levi Denbow Found!

Just before the 4th of July, 2000, *Diaspora* co-editor Carl J. Denbow made email contact with Garren Snyder of Addison, Ohio (near Gallipolis). A visit was made to her residence. She has a number of interesting Denbow family artifacts, from her husband, Gail, who is a descendant of Levi. Perhaps the most interesting of these items may be the following two letters written by Pvt. Levi Denbow to his wife Rachel from Savannah, Ga.

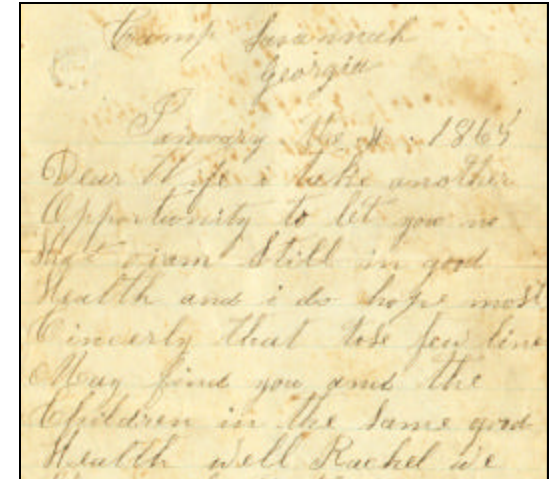
One of the letters is undated, and the other is dated Jan. 4, 1865. The transcript of the dated letter will be presented first. Punctuation and capitalization is retained as true as possible to the original.

First Letter

Camp Savannah
Georgia

January the 4 1865

Dear Wife i take another
Opportunity to let you no
That i am Still in good
Health and i do hope most
Cincerly that tose few lines
May find you and the
Children in the Same good
Health Well Rachel We
Have plenty to eate and i
Can eat my shear of it
But Rachel I am a gitting
as fat as a hog Rachel if



A portion of the Jan 4, 1865 letter from Pvt. Levi Denbow to his wife Rachel.

I keep my health as good as
I have had i will be very
Well Satisfied Rachel we

Are a going to moove a
Gain but I dont no where
To but I guess that we
Are not going very
Far Well rachel i want
You to rite to me and tell
Me how you and Merles mal-
lets
Is a gitting a long and tell
Merles to take that twenty
Dollars that is borrowed
from

Him tell him to take it
Out of the tobacco when
He Sells it and Rachel
You take as good care of thinges



Levi & Rachel, date
unknown, probably
post-war

AS you can tell i come
Home Rachel i well be a
Happy man if i git home
Safe with you a gain and
I hope that i will Rachel
I will Send you a Song and
It is a nice Songe well
Rachel i would like to here
From you but i am a looking
For a letter every day tell
Your pap to write to me tell
Him that i Send my best
Respects to him tell
Him that i am well and
Rachel rite to me and tell
Me if the boys has come
Back yet or not Rachel
Give me all the news
That you can tell anna
Denbow that i send my
Best respects to her and
Tell her that Will is well
And harty and he is Still
Cooking yet well Rachel
I will have to close for
This time as i have not
Got mutch news to rite
Well Rachel i have Just had
My dinner and i eat harty So
I will close Direct Savannah
Georgia Co. K 78 Redgment
OVI Second Brigade
Third Divison Seventeenth
Army Corps from Levi
Denbow to Rachel

Denbow

=====
[Then he closes with a "song" as he
promised Rachel.]
=====
I am a lonely traveler here
Weary oppressed
But my journeys end is near
Soon shall i rest
Dark and dreary is the way
Toiling i've come
Ask me not with you to stay
Yonder is my home
I am a weary traveler here
I most go on
For my Journey end is near
I most be gone
can give
Brighter Joys than earth
Win me a way
Plasurs that forever live
I can not stay
I am a Travler to a land
Where all is fare
Where is sun no broken land
All all are there
=====

Second Letter

Rachel Martin stated that
Basel kelly had Sold my mare
And I think that he Sold her to
Cheap She ought to bin worth
Eighty five dollars Rachel you
Stated that you would have to
Somphing with that other colt
And if your pap will take her
And rase her rite let him have
Her but i dont want her rode
Mutch ner worked to hard
And if he takes her i want
you to keep the feed tell next

Fall onley what it takes for
The cows and I want you to
Feed the foder to them and
Straw and for the hay and
Rachel i want you to keep
My saddle and bridle in the
Loft tell i come home and dont
Send them to nobody And
Rachel as Soon as you can
Do with out martin would i let
Him quit for it is no use to
Keep him if ther is not any
thing to do Rachel tell your
pap if he takes that coult
To take good cere of her but he
Is a good hand with a horse
Rachel i want you to rite to
Me if you can get my close from
Stafford or not Rachel if they
Do not see fit to make that
Hundred dollars for you Just
Let them Stick it in there asses
And we will do with out
It Well Rachel i got them
postage stamps an d i was glad
To git them well Rachel i have
Told you all the news that i
No So i will have to bring my
Letter to a close So take good cere
of yourSelf and the children
and the grain and other things
Well Rachel i will send you some
rise in the chafe So that
you can See how it looks Rachel
We have used four or five thousand
Bushels of it cinse we have bin here
Rachel give me love to your pap
And Miles and Margaret and ther
Family and all the rest of my
Friends i cant rite to all of them

But i will rite to you if the plow
Stands Rachel will sends his
Best respects to you and I Send
The Same to anna will has got a
Sore finger Well Rachel i will
Close hoping to her from you Soon
Give me all the good news that
you can So good by this is from

from Levi Denbow to
Rachel Denbow

Address
Mr. Levi Denbow
Co. K 78th Regt. O.V.V.I.
2nd Brig. 3^d Div. 17th A.C.
Savannah, Georgia

=====
He ends this one with a "Song," too
=====

Where no Tear Shall ever fall
Nor heart be Sad
Where the glory is for all
And all are glad

I am a travler and I go
where all is fear [fair]
farewell all I loved to love
I most be there
worley honers hopes and gain
all I Desire
Welcome sorrow and pain
If Heaven be mine

I am travler call me not
upward my way
yonder is my Rest and lot
I can not stay
farewell Eathly plasures
Pilgrum III Come
hail me not in vain you call
yonder is my home