

Jonathan Denny

b. 29 March 1822, Smith Co., TN

d. 10 April 1902, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN

Buried: William Jared Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN

s/o Zachariah Denny & Catherine/Katherine Stallings

Jonathan Denny was the 2nd child of eight children born to **Zachariah Denny** and **Catherine Stallings**, both from North Carolina. Zachariah Denny was the son of **John Denny & Sarah “Sally” Winfree** who migrated from Granville, North Carolina to Smith County, Tennessee about 1811. He was born on the 29th of March 1822 in Smith Co., TN and died at his home on the 17th April 1902 in Buffalo Valley, TN, he had been sick with pneumonia fever earlier. His wife **Agnes “Aggie” T. (Winfree) Denny** was born ca. 1828 in KY and she preceded her husband in death on 18th of June 1894 at her home in Buffalo Valley, TN, she had been in feeble health for some time. She had been a devoted member of the Baptist church all her life. The obituary of her son **Silas Dean Denny** mentions that he was the son of **Jonathan** and **Agnes Winfree Denny** and the death certificates of both her sons **John Bell Denny #28657 & Silas Dean Denny #28797**, both of Putnam Co., TN states the father’s name as **Jonathan Denny** and the mother as **Agnes Winfree**.

Zachariah Denny was born on January 19, 1794, in the Nash District of Person County, North Carolina. He married **Catherine Stallings**, likely the daughter of **Mills** and **Charity Stallings**, about 1818. At the time both families lived between New Middleton and Bluff Creek in Smith County. Later Zachariah bought a farm and lived somewhere between Sykes in current day Smith County, Tennessee and Temperance Hall in what is now DeKalb County. The farm that he lived on was probably cut off into DeKalb County during the middle of the 1850's. Zachariah was apparently already ill when his father wrote his own will in 1847 (John's will specifically mentions that if Zachariah did not survive him then his share should go to his children). Although no specific date has been uncovered, the records point to a death date of around April of 1848. **Catherine** was born on March 2, 1798, in Smith County, Tennessee (her family was one of the first settlers on the Hogan Grant, in fact they were probably part of the Hogan Party) and died about 1867 near Buffalo Valley, in Putnam County, TN. She does not appear to have remarried after the death of her husband.

After the death of **Zachariah Denny** his wife **Catherine Denny** moved to Putnam County by 1860. The 1850 census shows Catherine still living in Smith County with her children, **John Smith**, **Elizabeth Ann “Besty”**, **Lucy Whitley** and **Catherine Denny**, **Timothy** is not with the family and has not been found in the census. Her son **Jonathan Denny** is married to **Agnes T. Winfree** and lived next door. The census for 1860 shows **Timothy Denny**, his siblings **John Smith** and **Elizabeth “Besty” Ann Denny** living with their mother **Catherine Denny** in the 11th Civil Dist. of Putnam Co., TN. Her son **Jonathan Denny** is married to **Agnes T. Winfree** and lives next door to his mother with his children, **Thompson Luther**, **Silas Dean & John Bell Denny**. Her oldest son **James Mills** is married to **Martha A. Scudder** and lives near by with his children, **Mary Louiza “Lucy”**, **Amanda “Manda”** **“Sissy” Catherine Denny & J. W. Scudder**. Land was purchased by the Denny family in DeKalb Co., TN proven as follows: On DeKalb Co., TN: Roll 85 - Deed Books, Vol. K, August 1869 – March 1872 & Vol. L, March 1872-January 1876, pg. 213: **Jonathan Denny** and others are selling land to **F. W. Hobson: Jonathan Denny, Timothy Denny, James Denny, Baley Woodson, Lucy Woodson, Catherine Huddleston, William Denny, and John Denny to F. W. Hobson 62 ½ acres in the 17th District. 1 April 1867. (pg. 213).**

Jonathan Denny was married to **Agnes “Aggie” T. Winfree** by 1850 as shown in the 1850 census of Smith County, TN, Jonathan was 28 yrs. old and Agnes was 22 yrs. old. They were the parents of four children, **Thompson Luther “Tobe”**, **Silas Dean**, **John Bell & Lucy A. Denny**.

Thompson Luther “Tobe” Denny married **Frances “Fannie” Jane Ford** and after her death he married **Lillie Robertson**; **Silas Dean Denny** married **Mary “Mollie” Ann Essex**, **John Bell Denny** married **Eliza Jane Barnes** and **Lucy A. Denny** married **Moses Simon Jared**.

Luther and Silas moved to live in Cookeville and **John Bell Denny** (1861-1943) stayed in Buffalo Valley and was a farmer on the family homestead. John Bell & Eliza Jane Barnes Denny, d/o **George Barnes &**

Clementine Parson had no children of their own but reared **Ethel Lorenzo Jared & Charles Johnson** nephews of John Bell's. John and his wife are buried in the Smellage Cemetery, Boma, Putnam Co., TN. **Luther Thompson "Tobe" Denny** (1851-1911) held the positions of a teacher, lawyer, mayor of Cookeville, county judge of Cookeville and at the time of his death was city attorney. He had frequently served as special circuit and criminal judge. He was a member of the Christian church and a Mason, and greatly esteemed by all who knew him. Luther and his wife are buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Silas Dean Denny (1854-1934) was a carpenter. By the quality of his woodwork he became known as one of the best carpenters and cabinet makers in the state. Mr. Denny became a member of the Methodist church when a young man, and had been a steadfast member until his death. He had been a member of the Cookeville, Lodge, I.O.O.F., for 34 years, joining in 1900 shortly after his removal to Cookeville. Silas and his wife are buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery, Putnam Co., TN.

Lucy A. Denny (1869-1891) married a schoolteacher, **Moses Simon Jared**, s/o Moses Alexander Jared & Marinda Jane Price. They had one child, a son named **Ethel Lorenzo Jared** (1891 – 1944). **Lucy A. Denny** died during childbirth at the age of 22 yrs. old. In the 1900 census, 12th Civil Dist., Putnam Co., TN, **Moses Simon Jared** was living in the home of his sister and brother-in-law **William Alexander & Martha Jane (Jared) Holladay**. His son **Ethel Lorenzo Jared** was living with his **Uncle John Bell** and **Aunt Eliz Jane (Barnes) Denny**. **Moses Simon Jared** died when **Ethel** was 10 years old. He was raised by his **Uncle John Bell Denny** and his wife **Eliza Jane Barnes**. They lived in the house now owned by **Robert Shanks** on the property that this cemetery is located. **Ethel** was a WWI US Marine Vet and worked as a Forest Ranger. **Ethel Lorenzo Jared** married the former **Miss Ruth Meachum**, of Jackson, MS. **Ethel** and **Ruth Jared** had a son named **Capt. George Jared**, of Camp Campbell, KY md Sylvania.

Moses Simon Jared Jr.'s tombstone was erected by the Woodmen of the World. Woodmen was founded in Omaha, Neb., by **Joseph Cullen Root** on June 6, 1890. In addition to providing life insurance protection to members, Root believed that Woodmen members, through their local lodges, should be an active volunteer force within their communities, helping those in need.

Cookeville Press Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

10 April 1902, pg. 4: **Jonathan Denny Sick**

Judge T. L. Denny is attending the bedside of his father Jonathan Denny, who is very low with pneumonia fever at his home in Buffalo Valley.

Cookeville Press Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

Thursday, 17 April 1902, pg. 3: **Jonathan Denny Obt.**

The many relatives and friends of **Jonathan Denny** will sincerely regret to learn of his death, which occurred at his home in the eleventh District of Putnam County last Thursday. He was taken sick with pneumonia the preceding Sunday. We learn that he was perfectly conscious until the last, and died happy in the love of his Lord and Savior and the full assurance of the immortality of the Soul and his peace with the Heavenly Father.

Mr. Denny was born in North Carolina and was brought to this county when quite young being one of the pioneers who were deprived even of an ordinary education, being about eighty-one years old at the time of his death.

He was a quiet, unpretentious farmer and never sought or desired public attention, but contented himself with the walks of rural life or "life on the farm." He was always a moral, sober gentlemen of the old type now fast fading out of view, a friend of law and order, with all his neighbors as devoted friends who will cherish his memory and uphold his good name. **He was the father of a large and interesting family of children among whom are Judge T. L. Denny and Silas Denny, prominent and well known citizens of this city.** In common with his numerous friends, the PRESS joins in expression of regret and genuine sorrow.

Source: Roll #101 Cookeville Press newspaper (miscellaneous) 1894-1896, Cookeville Library, Cookeville, TN.

DENNY, AGNES: We are pained to announce the death of Mrs. Agnes Denny, which occurred at her home near Buffalo Valley, in this county on last Monday. Mrs. Denny was the wife of **John Denny** and mother of the **Judge T. L. Denny** and **Silas Denny** of Cookeville. She had been in feeble health for some time past, being well advanced in years, but her death came unexpected to her family and friends. Mrs. Denny was a noble hearted, Christian woman, having been a consistent and devoted member of the Baptist church all her life. She lived to raise to man and womanhood a large and respectable family of children and drew around her a large and devoted circle of friends who will sadly miss and mourn her loss. To the stricken family and children we extend deepest sympathy and sincerest regrets in this hour of their sore afflictions. [Date 6/21/1894, Vol. VII, No. 34, Page 5]

DENNY, AGNES: We are sorry to announce the death of Mrs. Agnes Denny. (Pekin) [Date 6/21/1894, Vol. VII, No. 34, Page 1]

