

“My Personal History”
by Richard Denny
written in his younger years!

My nationality (*sic*) is English, Irish and Scotch. My mother and father both ancestors came to this country from England, Ireland and Scotland. They settled in the Southern States. My Great-Great Grandfather on my mother's side fought in the Civil War. The Parents of my mother and father lived in Tennessee. My Great Grandfather Denny house still stand on our farm.

It was made before the Civil War. My Grandfather Denny was a farmer and my Grandfather Loftis was a Deputy (*sic*) Sheriff and got killed on the line of duty. My Dad and Mother were born in Tennessee. I lived there for one year and half then moved to East Detroit, Michigan. My Dad was a farmer before moving to the city. I still like to visit our farm.

It is real exciting especially when Little Indian Creek get up and the foot long (*sic*) washes away. There used to be Indians living in where our farm is today. My brother Ronald and I almost got washed away while we stood on the footlog and watched the water come down stream.

There are six in my family, my Dad, Tim Denny, my two brothers Ronald and Joe, Geraldine, my mom. I'm the second oldest boy and I was born February 5, 1952. It was an exciting trip for me when my family and I went through the Mamoth (*sic*) Cave.

Notes by his sister, Audrey J. Denny Lambert: I found this story when I cleaned out my parents home. Our family is of English, Irish and Scottish decent. Most of the family settled in the southern states. He mentions his great great grandfather on his mother's side being in the Civil War, this is correct his great great grandfather, Esquire Looney Thompson Jr. was in the C.S.A – 8th (Dibrell's) Cavalry. His great great grandfather on his father's side, Timothy Denny also fought in the Civil War he was a Private: Co. A – 84th Confederate Infantry.

His grandfather, Virgil Timothy Denny was a farmer in the 11th Civil Dist. of Putnam Co., TN and Little Indian Creek ran in front of the house. We would play in the creek for hours every time we went to see our grandmother, Audra Camilla Anderson Denny wife of Virgil Timothy Denny. Our grandfather, Virgil died before we were born. Sometimes it would rain really hard and the creek would rise and wash away everything in its path including us kids if we didn't run away from it. The only way to get across the creek to reach the house was to cross a homemade bridge that was made out of a large log. That is why we called it the foot log. My father sold this farm after his mother died and none of the land belongs to the Denny family today.

Our father, Tim Denny farmed and had some dairy cows for a few years. We lived in the tenant house of his Aunt Minnie Myrtle Denny in the 11th District of Putnam Co., TN. Our father moved his family to East Detroit, MI in the year 1953.

Richard's grandfather, Milton Otis Loftis was a Deputy Sheriff for Putnam Co., TN. He was killed in the line of duty in 1934, before any of us were born.

Every year our father would pack up the family station wagon for our pilgrimage to Tennessee. Every summer we would go to see grandmother, Audra Denny. On the way down from Michigan our father liked to stop at the Mammoth Caves in Kentucky. We would take the tour of the caves and I still like to stop there when I go down to Tennessee to visit.

Richard mentions six people in his family but forgot to include me in his story. My name is Audrey June Denny and I am Richard's only sister. I married Michael Lambert in 1989. I used to go swimming in Little Indian Creek with my two brothers, Ronald and Richard every summer. Our brother Joe was the youngest addition to the family, he was born in 1963.

Richard attended Wayne State University in Detroit, MI and the University of Maryland in Baltimore, MD.

Richard has had several positions in his working career. He has worked for Dugway Proving Grounds in Provo, UT as a Chemical Engineer, & NOAA (National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration) as a Safety Engineer in the Environmental Compliance & Safety Division. His current position is with EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) in Washington D.C.

**See Chapter 5 & Tim Denny Family Sheet.*

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Richard Lewis Denny & his sister,
Audrey June Denny Lambert.
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L to R: Ronald Timothy Denny, Audrey June Denny Lambert, Joe Nelson Denny & Richard Lewis Denny. Picture taken on Tuscany, East Detroit, MI in front of the family home. Our first residence was a few blocks away on Donald Ave in East Detroit now called Eastpointe. Picture was taken about 1980.