

## ZACHARIAH DENNY AND HIS DESCENDANTS

Zachariah Denny was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 1794, in the Nash District of Person County, 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. Zachariah 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 the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 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, Tennessee. She does not appear to have remarried after the death of her husband. Census for 1850 & 1860 indicate she was born in NC.

Zachariah and Catherine Denny had eight children whose names and dates are listed in the loose pages of the family Bible. James Mills, b. 14 May 1819 – d. bef. 1900, Jonathan, b. 29 March 1822 – d. 10 April 1902, William Ira, b. 31

January 1824 – d. 8 July 1903, Timothy, b. 22 December 1825 – d. 5 November 1898, John Smith, b. 1 November 1827 – d. 19 November 1912, Elizabeth Ann “Besty”, b. 4 August 1832 – d. 12 October 1918, Lucy Whitley, b. 28 November 1835 – d. 30 May 1908 md Bailey Gannaway Woodson and Catherine Denny, b. 1 November 1837.

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 I have not found him in the 1850 census. Her son Jonathan Denny is married to Agnes T. Winfree and lives 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 11<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist. of Putnam Co., TN. Her son Jonathan Denny is married to Agnes and lives next door with his children, Thompson Luther, Silas Dean & John Bell Denny. Her oldest son James Mills Denny is married to Martha A. Scudder and lives near by with his children, Mary Louiza “Lucy” Denny, Amanda “Manda” Catherine Denny & J. W. Scudder. Her youngest daughter Catherine is married to John L. Huddleston and lives near by with their child Timothy P. Huddleston. William Ira Denny purchased his siblings interest in the family estate of Zachariah and lived on the farm until his death in Smith County. William Ira married 1<sup>st</sup> Teresa Scudders Bates and 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth “Lizzie” Beth Coffey/Coffee. John

Smith Denny married Nancy Henrietta Carlen. James Mills Denny married 2<sup>nd</sup> Martha Robinson.

Timothy Denny was born on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1825 in Smith Co., TN and died on the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 1898, Big Indian Creek, Putnam Co., TN. Timothy and his wife Elizabeth Hettie Paul Denny are buried in the William Jared cemetery near his homestead.

At some point in 1864, Timothy Denny of Putnam County was forced to take the oath of allegiance to the Union by an army patrol, securities were Jonathan Denney and Jesse Pickard of Smith County. Timothy went on to be a private in A Co 84<sup>th</sup> Confederate Infantry commanded by Colonel Sidney S. Stanton. Isaac Alexander Huddleston wrote a letter to his two sons Ralston Bender & Byrum Franklin Huddleston who were already in the Civil War and told them about Timothy and his brother-in-law John L. Huddleston who was married to Catherine, Timothy's sister that the two had come down with a case of the measles and returned home.

In DeKalb County, Tennessee Deed Book L p. 213: 1 April 1867, Jonathan and Timothy Denny sign their names on a deed selling land to F. W. Hopson: "Know all men by these presents that we Jonathan Denney, Timothy Denney, James Denney, Baley Woodson, Lucy Woodson, Elizabeth Denney, Catherine Huddleston, William Denney and John Denney hath this day bargained and sold

and duly transferred & convey unto F. W. Hobson his heirs and assigns forever for the consideration of Twelve Hundred and fifty dollars to us paid a tract of land in DeKalb County Tennessee District No 17 and on the waters of Walker's Creek by estimation sixty two and one half acres more or less."

Timothy was a bachelor for many years and during that time he was a farmer. He purchased land from James W. McDaniel for 200 acres on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of August 1870 in the 11<sup>th</sup> Dist., of Putnam County, TN. "J. W. McDaniel have bargained and sold this day and do hereby transfer and convey unto Timothy Denny and his heirs forever for the consideration of Three Thousand dollars to me paid a track of land in the state of Tennessee, Putnam Co., District No. 11 containing by estimation two hundred acres be the same more or less, beginning on a sugartree on the south bank of Indian Creek." The written deed was filed on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of February 1871 and noted in Filation Book at page 184 & 185 and duly registered in Book "H", pages 34 & 35.

Timothy donated land for a school named Denny's Seminary and a church named Denny's Methodist Church. Timothy realized that the area had no school for the children to get an education, so he had his nephews Silas Dean Denny a carpenter build the school and Thompson Luther Denny a teacher, teach the children in the area. Timothy Denny had no children at the time Denny's Seminary was built but later his own children attended the school.

Timothy Denny was 51 years old when on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 1876 he married Elizabeth Hettie Paul, he was 19 years her senior. She was the daughter of Thomas Gladney Paul (1804-1877), s/o Moses F. Paul & Margaret Gladney & Sarah "Sally" Ervin (1830-1876). Thomas Gladney Paul was born in SC and Sarah "Sally" Ervin was born in TN. They were married in Rhea Co., TN on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1839. Thomas Gladney Paul was originally buried at Breeding Cemetery, but moved to Friendship Cemetery by TVA because of the building of Watts Bar Reservoir in Rhea Co., TN. Friendship Cemetery is located in Toe Spring Valley north of Piney River. The Friendship Baptist Church is nearby. Thomas Gladney Paul is in an unmarked grave located between Rebecca Alice (Edgemon) Clark Paul & her son Leander W. Clark. Rebecca was the wife of his brother Archibald Duncan Paul Sr. The burial place location of Sarah "Sally" (Ervin) Paul is unknown. Thomas Gladney Paul and family were living in the 10<sup>th</sup> Dist. of Jackson Co., TN in the 1850 census and in the 1860 census they were living in 1<sup>st</sup> Dist. of Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN and Thomas Gladney Paul's occupation was one of a "hatter". A hatter was one that makes, sells, or cleans and repairs hats. Elizabeth Hettie (Paul) Denny is 22 years old still living with her parents and her siblings Moses, Bethany, Sarah and Matilda Paul.

Six years after the marriage of Timothy and Elizabeth Hettie Paul Denny their first child Minnie Myrtle Denny was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 1882, two years later a son was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November 1884 and they named him Virgil Timothy Denny. After the death of Timothy, Hettie raised her two children and

stayed on the home farm. Their only son Virgil Timothy Denny was only 14 yrs. old when his father died and now he was left in charge to help his mother and sister maintain the farm and support the family. His father must have trained him well as he succeeded himself having one of the best self supporting farms in the Putnam County area. Elizabeth Hettie Paul Denny died on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 1922, at home and was laid to rest by her husband.

Minnie Myrtle Denny was married on the 28<sup>th</sup> of December 1902 to Bethel B. Apple which ended shortly in a divorce. Minnie died on the 10 May 1957 at the Hazelwood Rest Home in Lebanon, and is buried in the Rock Springs Cemetery in Putnam Co., TN.

Virgil Timothy Denny got married on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 1917 to his young bride of 18 named Audra Camilla Anderson while sitting in the back seat of his Model T Ford. She was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of February 1899, daughter of Lewis Monroe Anderson (1867-1935) & Matilda Isabelle Wallace (1872-1956) of Boma. Virgil and Audra lived with his mother for awhile and then on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 1919 he purchased a parcel of land, 164 acres from a man named Robert Filmore Maxwell. The property joined the land purchased by his father Timothy in the 11<sup>th</sup> Civil Dist of Putnam Co., near Buffalo Valley. Six years later their only child a son named Tim Denny was born at home on the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 1923. Virgil was the overseer of his very productive farm that survived the great depression. Tobacco, corn, wheat, potatoes were grown on the farm and many hogs were

sold for meat. Virgil had a thriving business which dealt with commercial production of Neal Pay Master seed corn. Virgil's seed corn was of such high quality it was shipped by train to Nashville, and sent state wide. He also grew large crops of tobacco which he sold to various bidders. Virgil sometimes traveled to KY in order to get higher prices for his tobacco. In 1943 he was awarded a certificate of recognition for meritorious achievement in having grown 75% or more of all the food necessary for the family and livestock, and leadership for better living in the community and State of Tennessee, awarded by the Governor of the State of Tennessee – Home Food Supply Program. Virgil loved to read Shakespeare and Longfellow and on Sundays he taught Sunday School at the Denny's Methodist Church.

Virgil Timothy Denny died at his home on the 26<sup>th</sup> of June 1949 on a Sunday. He is buried in the Cookeville City Cemetery. Audra and her son continued to live on the home farm. When Tim became of age he joined the U.S. Army Air Force during WWII. He was an airplane and engine mechanic and served at Camp Chaffee, AR and Keesler Field, MS. He then served 15 months in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater of Operations with the 152<sup>nd</sup> Army Air Forces Base Unit, part of this time with the Army Transport Command. He made it to the rank of Corporal. During his military service as a mechanic he told his family he serviced the Enola Gay at the airfield he was stationed at. After he was discharged from the Army he returned home and then left to find work in Detroit, MI.

He met Geraldine "Geri" Loftis and they got married on the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 1949 in Bowling Green, OH. She was the daughter of Milton Otis Loftis (1905-1934) and Essie Avo Jernigan (1901-1962). Tim tried running a milk farm near his mother's house. They had three children while living in TN, Ronald Timothy on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1950, Richard Lewis on the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1952 and Audrey June Denny on the 28<sup>th</sup> of March 1953. While Geraldine was pregnant with their daughter Tim went back to Detroit to find work. Geraldine took the children and went to live with her mother in Double Springs.

Tim returned to take his family to live in MI. He got a job with a company named DIVCO that made refrigerator trucks. He worked there for quite awhile till they moved out of state and then worked for the East Detroit school system in the maintenance department. They had one more son named Joe Nelson Denny born on the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 1963. Tim and Geraldine took their children to the East Detroit Church of Christ every Sunday. Tim Denny died on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2001 at the Church of Christ Care Center in Clinton Twp., MI and was buried on the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima on the 6<sup>th</sup> of August. Geraldine died soon afterwards on 17<sup>th</sup> of January 2002 in the same room at the care center where her husband had died. They are buried in the Cadillac Memorial Gardens E. Cemetery in Clinton Twp., MI.

Their oldest son Ronald Timothy Denny died on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2004 in Bellevue, WA. He was married on the 4<sup>th</sup> of February 1989 in Seattle, WA to



Leslie Riya Habu. They had two sons, Reed Timothy Akira Denny born on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 1989 and Grant Ronald Teiji Denny born on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1991. Richard Lewis Denny never married. Audrey June Denny married Michael Henry Lambert on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 1989 in Las Vegas, NV. Joe Nelson Denny married Diane Julie Winn on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 1997 in Clinton Twp., MI, div.

Story submitted by Audrey June (Denny) Lambert  
(Great-great granddaughter of Zachariah Denny)

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**Sources:**

Research on the Denny lineage by Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert & Steven Denney.  
Websites: <http://www.ajlambert.com> & <http://stevendenney.com>  
Loose pages from the Zachariah Denny Bible record in the possession of Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert.  
*DeKalb County, Tennessee Deed Book L*, pg. 213: 1 April 1867 – ‘Jonathan Denney & others to F. W. Hobson’.  
US Census Records: Jackson Co., & Putnam Co., TN.  
*UCGA Vol. 7, No. 3, Summer 1982* by Maurine Ensor Patton – ‘Huddleston Letter’.  
*Filiation Book*, Putnam Co., TN: pgs.184 & 185 & registered in *Book “H”* – page 34 & 35 – ‘J. W. McDaniel to Deed Timothy Denny’, 17 February 1871.  
*Gainesboro Sentinel*, November 17, 1898, Putnam County News: ‘Timothy Denny, an old and much respected citizen died at his home last Friday on Indian Creek near Buffalo Valley’.  
*Putnam County Tennessee Cemeteries* by Maurine Ensor Patton, 1995, pgs. 261, 312.  
*Smith County Cemeteries - South of the Cumberland River*, Smith County Historical and Genealogical Society, pg. 167 – ‘William Ira Denney’.  
*Cookeville Press*, Cookeville, TN: 10 April 1902, pg. 4: ‘Jonathan Denny Sick’.  
*Ibid*: 17 April 1902, pg. 3 – ‘Jonathan Denny Dies’.  
DC#616: Besty Ann Denny mentions name of parents, signed by Virgil Timothy Denny.  
*Court Minute Book, Vol. 18, Roll 44A*, Smith Co., TN, pg. 255 – ‘Zachariah Denny’s Estate’.  
*Smith Co., TN Will Book 1843-1864, No. 7*, pgs. 92 & 93 – ‘Will of John Denney’.  
TSLA, Nashville, TN: microfilm, *Putnam County Will Index Vol. 6, August 1876* – December 1933, pgs. 118 & 119 – ‘Will of Timothy Denny’.  
*Will Book C, Putnam Co., TN*, pg. 3 – ‘Minnie Denny’s Will’, filed 15 August 1957.  
*Filiation Book F*, pg. 169 & book 57, pg. 286, Putnam Co., TN: File 7 July 7, 1949 – ‘Timothy Denny to Hettie Denny, 11<sup>th</sup> Dist., Putnam Co., TN’.  
*Tennesseans in The Civil War, A Military History of Confederate and Union Units with Available Roster of Personnel, In Two Parts, Part II*: Published by the Civil War Centennial Commission, Nashville, TN, 1965, pg. 126 – ‘DENNEY, T. PVT. A CO. 84<sup>TH</sup> INF’.  
*Filiation Book Z*, pg. 112, Putnam Co., TN, *Deed Book #5*, pg. 338, 30 January 1923 – ‘Deed of Trust between Virgil T. Denny & wife to the Federal Land Bank of Louisville, KY: “mentions the Denny Seminary School House lot located abt. 2 miles east of Buffalo Valley (N36°08.427' W85°45.878)’”’.  
TSLA, Nashville, TN: *Putnam Co. Clerk Marriages, A-3986: V. 4 – V. 5, Book 5*, pg. 407 – ‘Virgil Timothy Denny to Audra Anderson’.

GPS locations, Putnam Co., TN: Timothy Denny homestead (N36°08.664' W85°45.234'), Denny's Methodist Church (N36°08.343' W85°45.962') & Virgil Timothy Denny homestead (N36°08.231' W85°45.682') & Denny's Seminary School (N36°08.427' W85°45.878).

*Putnam Co., Herald*, TN: 9 February 1933, Buffalo Valley, Putnam Co., TN: "Mr. and Mrs. Harold Denny and family who have been residing near Denny's Memorial for 9 years have moved to the home of Roscoe Bartlett near Hopewell. They will be missed by their neighbors".

*Ibid*: TSLA, Nashville, TN: Putnam Co., TN, Roll # July 25, 1935 – 8 December 1937 – Book Dec. 19, 1935 – pg. 2, Col. 3: 'Lewis Anderson, 70 Dies at Home Near Boma.'

*Ibid*: TSLA, Nashville, TN: 26 November 1956 – 'Matilda Isabelle (Wallace) Anderson Dies at 84'.

*Rhea County, Tennessee Cemetery Records Vol. 1*, compiled by Bettye J. Broyles, pub. 1998, pg. 286 – 'Thompson Cemetery, Rhea Co., TN'. & *Ibid*, Vol. 3, pgs. 30-32.

*Watts Bar Reservoir Cemeteries* by James L. Douthat, pub. 1986, pgs. 13 & 104 – 'Thomas Gladney Paul'.

Army of the United States – Honorable discharge certificate, 11 March 1946, Tim Denny.

Family members birth, death & marriage certificates & obts. in possession of Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert.

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Anderson, Lewis Monroe  
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**DENNY, TIMOTHY:** Timothy Denny, an old and much respected citizen, died at his home last Friday on Indian creek, near Buffalo Valley. He was something over seventy years old and had always been a quiet, industrious citizen, a successful farmer and highly esteemed by all who knew him. He was buried last Sunday surrounded by a large circle of relatives and friends. He leaves a wife and two children to mourn his loss. [Date: 11/10/1898, Vol. XII, No. 6, Page 5] The Cookeville Press, Cookeville, Putnam Co., TN.

**DENNY, ELIZABETH "HETTIE" PAUL**

Buffalo Valley, 13 April 1922  
Herald Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

The pale horse and his rider, with relentless power is persistent with frequent visits to our community taking our very best, and leaving only grief and empty hearts. But death can only conquer the flesh, the soul belongeth to our father, who gave it.

Just a few weeks ago, death claimed as a victim, **Mrs. Hettie Paul Denny**, the sainted mother of **Minnie M.** and **Virgil T. Denny**, their father having preceded their mother to rest some twenty-three years. This mother reared her children in a Christian home, faithfully serving her Lord and Master. She was a member of the Methodist Church, and a living example to the entire community.

These are not idle words of tribute but come from one who loved her as a friend and neighbor. The entire neighborhood loved and honored "**Aunt Hettie**" as she was affectionately called by most everyone, and we

have yet to hear it said that she had even one enemy in all the world. She was indeed a blessing to this community.

### **DENNY, JONATHAN**

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.

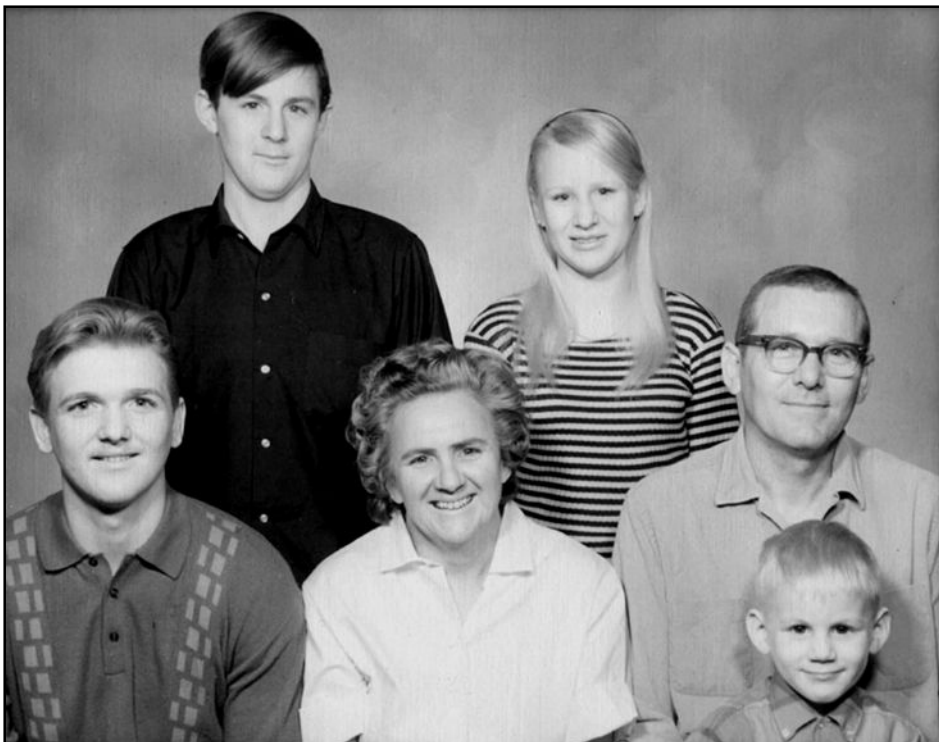
**Mr. Denny was born in North Carolina and was brought to this county when quite young being one of the pioneers who were deprived even of an ordinary education, being about eighty-one years old at the time of his death.**

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. Cookeville Press Newspaper, Cookeville, TN, Thursday, 17 April 1902, pg. 3:

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



L to R: Minnie Myrtle Denny, Elizabeth Hettie (Paul) Denny, Virgil Timothy Denny, Timothy Denny, possibly Catherine Denny Huddleston and John L Huddleston and Elizabeth Ann "Besty" Denny, both sisters of Timothy Denny.



Tim Denny Family

L to R: Ronald T, Richard L, Geraldine, Audrey J., Tim and Joe N. Denny.