

THE DENNYS OF LONG BRANCH  
by  
Sam Denny  
pgs. 277 – 280 of  
Temperance Hall Remembers Book II  
“A Brief History of Temperance Hall, Tennessee”  
Compiled by Marjorie Hayes – January 1990

I wish to acknowledge the invaluable help with the research of the Denny family by Mr. Joe Kenneth Anderson of Gordonsville, Tennessee.

When speaking of the Long Branch Dennys, we are referring to two different but related “sets.” Harrison Denney and Wilson Denny, the ancestors of the many Dennys to reside on Long Branch, were first cousins. They came to the community at different times. Descendants of both still live here. Note the extra “e” in the spelling of Denny by Mr. Harrison. We do not know the reason for this, as official records show his father, grandfather and great-grandfather using only one “e.” The first account we have of Dennys in Middle Tennessee is from the 1820 Sykes District, Smith County census. Note, the Sykes District covered a large area including Brush Creek, Walkers Creek, New Middleton, etc.

This 1820 record shows six Dennys from North Carolina as “heads of household” in the Sykes District. This record lists no wives or children but we believe they had families at this time. This belief is based on later records.

NOTE: The numbers in ( ) near underlined names indicates succeeding generations of John Denny(1).

Example, one of the six, John(1), made a will in 1847, listing five children. The executor of the will was son, Charles(2) The 1830 census (same district) shows Charles(2) as head of household, born In North Carolina. No wife or children are listed but the 1850 record shows 49-year old Charles and 45-year old wife, Martha, with eight children, the oldest being age 22. This record shows their third child as 18-year old David(3) and their fifth as 14-year old Harden(3) (or Hardy).

The 1860 Walkers Creek, DeKalb County record shows Harden and wife, Mary Polly (Driver) [NOTE: at this period of time, females with the name of Mary were often called Polly), with three children, the youngest 1-year old Wilson(4) . The 1870 record (Walkers Creek) shows Harden and Polly with seven children, Wilson is now 11 years old. The 1870 record (Sykes District) David, 47 and wife Paralee, 35 with four children, the oldest being Harrison(4), 8 years old.

The 1880 Walkers Creek record shows Harden and wife Tempa J. (Carter), second wife, married in 1879 with seven children at home, the oldest being Wilson, 21. The 1880 Sykes District record shows David and Paralee with six children at home including Harrison and his wife, Betty, 16 years old.

Harrison and Betty (Conger) married in 1879, they made their home on Bowling Branch for several years before moving to Long Branch. The first account of them in this community is a 1905 deed reference. The deed refers to a tract of land near what is now the Bob Kruse property. From 1905 to 1920, Harrison is shown as the buyer or seller of six tracts in this area.

There were thirteen children born to Betty and Harrison:

- |                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1) <u>Maggie</u> (5) | 8) <u>George</u>    |
| 2) <u>Oscar</u>      | 9) <u>Lucy Jane</u> |
| 3) <u>Fanny Lee</u>  | 10) <u>Bob*</u>     |
| 4) <u>Sammy</u>      | 11) <u>Wilson*</u>  |
| 5) <u>Mollie</u>     | 12) <u>Hershel</u>  |
| 6) <u>Mettie</u>     | 13) <u>Mandy</u>    |
| 7) <u>Thomas</u>     |                     |
| • twins              |                     |

Three of the children Mattie, Lucy Jane and Bob died at a young age. Sammy, Thomas and George all owned land in the area but moved away several years ago. One grandchild of Harrison and Betty, Oscar's son, Robert, and his wife, Ardilie (Bennett), owned what is now the Bob Kruse place, they sold this place in the late 30's and moved to Cheatham County where Robert and his uncle, Sammy, had purchased a large farm. Oscar and George moved to Smith County in 1920, George later moved to California. Thomas, Wilson and Hershel moved to Wilson County as young men.

Fanny Lee married William Kelly of Smith Fork Creek and they made their home in Cheatham County. Mandy married C. Owens and they moved to Nashville in the mid-20's.

Mollie (5) married Everett Maynard of Long Branch. They lived out their lives in this area, owning property near Long Branch Church. Their children: Robert,(6) John, Eddie Lee, Elmer, Allene, Nadine and Mildred; all remained in the community until reaching adulthood. Allene (Fish) and Mildred (Grantham) still reside here. Descendants of Harrison Denny now residing in or near the Long Branch community: Robert and John Maynard (Lancaster), Elmer Maynard (Temperance Hall), Allene(6) (Maynard) Fish (Long Branch), Mildred (6) (Maynard) Grantham and Shaw(7) Grantham (Long Branch).

Wilson Denny,(4) son of Harden and Polly, married Elizabeth Fisher of Bowling Branch in 1883. They bought a small farm on Bowling Branch which they sold in 1888 in order to buy a larger farm on Long Branch (1889). Both these transactions were with the Smith County Fishers, relatives of Elizabeth. Three children were born to Elizabeth and Wilson. The first born, Leffie (5) (1885) died at age 3. Herman (1887) and Ethel (1889) moved from Long Branch as young adults.

Elizabeth died in 1893 and Wilson married Amanda Denny in 1896. Amanda was the daughter of William and Elizabeth (Coffee) of Chestnut Mound. William was a descendant of one of the original six Middle Tennessee Dennys. Six children were

born to Amanda and Wilson: Lawson,(5) Minnie, Docia, Millie, Doyle and Grady. Millie died in her early teens. Minnie married Troy Self (Dale Ridge). Docia married U. B. Adamson (Alexandria). Dovie married Clarence Jackson (Hayes Ridge). All moved away after marriage. Lawson married Willie Lee Starnes (Long Branch). They remained in the community for several years, later lived In Lebanon. Grady married Choncie Kelly (Lancaster). They bought the Wilson Denny farm in 1946. Previously, they had bought the Billy Dunham farm near Long Branch church where Choncie still resides. Grady died in 1976.

Descendants of Wilson Denny now residing in or near the Long Branch community:

- 1) June (Denny)Braswell(6) (Lancaster)
- 2) Jimmie (7) Braswell (Lancaster)
- 3) Kenneth (7) Braswell (Lancaster)
- 4) Kimberly (8) Braswell (Lancaster)
- 5) Michelle (8) Braswell (Lancaster)
- 6) Jeff (8) Braswell (Lancaster)
- 7) Betty Jean (Denny) Martin (6) (Lancaster)
- 8) Gilbert (7) Martin (Long branch)
- 9) Terry Martin (7) (Long Branch)
- 10) Sam Denny (6) (Long Branch)
- 11) Elizabeth Gay Denny (7) (Long Branch)

1910 Census: DeKalb Co., TN Dist. 15: Temperance Hall, Smithville Rd.

Dwl: 29 Family: 29 Line: 42

Denny, Harrison Head M W 50 Married1 (# of years married, 30) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

*(Oscar Harrison Denney, s/o David D. Denney & Ann Paralee Malone)*

Bettie Wife F W 49 (# of years married, 30) (14 children born, 13 children living) TN TN TN

*(Betty Conger)*

Thomas J. Son M W 18 Single TN TN TN

George Son M W 16 Single TN TN TN

Wilson Son M W 12 Single TN TN TN

Hershel Son M W 9 Single TN TN TN

Mandy Dau F W 8 Single TN TN TN

1910 Census: DeKalb Co., TN Dist. 15: Temperance Hall, Smithville Rd.

Dwl: 30 Family: 30 Line: 49 *(Sammy Denney, s/o Oscar Harrison Denny & Betty Conger)*

Denny, Sam Head M W 24 Married1 (# of year married, 3) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN

Lell Wife F W 23 Married1 (# of year married, 3) (2 children born, 2 children living) TN TN TN

Ora Dau F W 2 Single TN TN TN

Dorothy Dau F W 2/12 Single TN TN TN

**US Census 1910 –Civil Dist. 15 – DeKalb Co., TN**

Dwl: 136 Family: 156 Line: 39

**Denny, Wilson M.** Head M W 51 Married2 (# of years married, 14) Farmer General Farm TN TN TN  
Mandy Wife F W 40 Married1 (# of years married 14)(6 children born, 6 children living)TN TN

TN

Lawson Son M W 13 Single TN TN TN

Millie Dau F W 11 Single TN TN TN

Docie Dau F W 7 Single TN TN TN

Dovie Dua 4 F W 6 Single TN TN TN

Grady Son M W 2 Single TN TN TN

Ethel Dau F W 19 Single TN TN TN (*Ethel May Denney, d/o Wilson Denny & Elizabeth Frances Fisher, 2<sup>nd</sup> w/o Wilson Denny*).

**US Census: 1920 – Civil Dist. 15 – DeKalb Co., TN**

Dwl: 137 Family: 142 Line: 92

**Denny, Wilson M.** Head Owns Farm M W 61 Married Farmer General Farm TN TN TN  
(*Wilson Denny, s/o Harden Denney & Mary "Polly" Driver*).

Amanda Wife F W 53 Married TN TN TN

(*Amanda "Mandy" Emma Denney, d/o William Ira & Elizabeth (Coffey) Denny*).

Johnnie L. Son M W 23 Single TN TN TN (*John Lawson Denney md Willie Lee Starnes*).

Doshie "Docia" Dau F W Single (*Hard to read on the census: Thes D.?*) 17 Single TN TN TN  
(*Doshie "Docia" Denney md U.B. Adamson*).

Dovie E. Dau F W 15 Single TN TN TN (*Dovie E. Denney md Clarence Jackson*).

Grady E. Son M W 12 Single TN TN TN (*Grady Earnest Denney md Janice or Choncie L. Kelly*).

**Braswell, Minnie** Dau 19 Married TN TN TN (*Minnie Denney md 1<sup>st</sup> Troy Self & md 2<sup>nd</sup> George Braswell*).

**US Census: 1930 – Civil Dist. 15 – DeKalb Co., TN**

Dwl: 23 Family: 23

Denny, Wilson Head Owns Home M W 71 Married (23 yrs. old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) Farmer TN TN TN

Mandy Wife F W 65 Married (30 yrs. old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) TN TN TN

Minnie Dau F W 30 Widow (19 yrs. old 1<sup>st</sup> marriage) TN TN TN

Doshie Dau F W 28 Single TN TN TN

Grady Son M W 22 Single Farm Laborer TN TN TN

Junnie Grandson M W 3 ?/12 Single TN TN TN

\*See Chapter 5: website: [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com)

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