

## WILLIAM DENNEY/DENNY

By John Wilson

**Source:** Early Hamilton Settlers, by John Wilson, 2001, pp. 114-116.

William Denny fought in the Revolution and his son, William Jr., was in the War of 1812 and “was there when the peace was made with the British.” Two of William Denny’s grandsons took the Union side when the Civil War broke out.

William Denny, who was born in 1757, entered the 1<sup>st</sup> Artillery under John Dandridge, along with James Denney, who was a gunner. Records show that William Denny “deserted: the following years.

William Denny made his way to frontier Tennessee after the Revolution. He took his family in the 1820’s to what became known as the Friendship community south of Salem on the Tennessee River. Landmarks of his farm included Denny Hill and Denny Bluff.

When William Denny died in 1830, he was buried in a stone vault at what became the Denny Cemetery. His death date was inscribed in the rock. His farm later went to John C. and Mary Elizabeth Moon Maddux and they established the Blue Springs School there. Another member of the family was Mary Denny, who married Moses Roulstone in 1803 at Jefferson County. Their daughter, Jane, made her way to Hamilton County. She first married a Millsaps, then George Bowers.

William Denny Jr., who was born in 1788, enlisted with Capt. Lewis’ company and Col. Booth’s regiment for a six-month tour. He went along with Henry Lewis and others to Mobile. “Old Billy Denny” later received an annual pension of \$72 for his service in the War of 1812.

William Denny Jr. at Sevier County married Mary Moon, whose family settled nearby in Hamilton County. He acquired substantial properties in the vicinity of the old Igou Ferry in the early 1840s. By the time of the Civil War, William Jr. had amassed a comfortable fortune of \$20,000. Mary Moon Denny was one of the early members of the Friendship Baptist Church that was organized in 1854.

William Denny Jr. died in the 1870s, and he and his wife had stone vaults next to his father. Those vaults later were vandalized by individuals who apparently felt the Dennys had buried some of their valuables along with them.

Pharaoh Denny, another son of William Denny Sr., was born in 1795. He married Eliza Irvin. Pharaoh Denny died in 1856. Eliza then married Elijah Newton and had a large family by him.

Children of Pharaoh Denny included Eliza, George and Marion. Eliza married John Priddy.

Robert C. Denny, a third son of William Denny Sr., was first married to Elizabeth Davis, daughter of Robert Davis, in 1816 in Sumner County. After her death, he married Jane Shirley, who previously had been married to Sherod Horn in White County and had a daughter, Elizabeth Horn. Robert C. Denny had been born in Virginia in 1791, and Jane was born there in 1794.

The Robert Dennys were among the casualties in the midst of the Civil War. Robert died June 16, 1862, and Jane died the following November 26.

A daughter of Robert C. Denney was Margaret who married Hugh C. Alexander. Other daughters were Nancy Drucilla who married Woodson Fitzgerald and Angeline who married William Fitzgerald.

A son, Joseph P., died when he was 30 in 1856. Two other sons, Thomas W. and John Dearing, marched away with the Union troops.

Thomas enlisted at Ooltewah February 22, 1862, in Company G of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry. They marched to Cumberland Gap, and he was left sick in a hospital September 17. The next day he was taken

by the enemy. However, he was exchanged at Camp Lew Wallace. Thomas W. Denney (later generations added the e) rejoined his unit and rose to the rank of second lieutenant. On March 27, 1865, he asked a 10-day leave "to visit my family in East Tennessee."

John Denney went into Company E. of the 5<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Mounted Infantry at Harrison on September 19, 1864. He was mustered in at Cleveland, then was at Cumberland Gap by October 8. He was later reported sick at Knoxville. He was mustered out of the Army at Chattanooga on January 6, 1865.

In an indication of how families were split by the war, a Denney lawsuit just after the conflict referred to Thomas Shirley, brother of Jane Shirley Horn Denney, as "a malicious bad man" and as a "bad Rebel."

Thomas Denney was married to Martha. He died a few years after the war's close when he was shot by Elias Wells. The children of that family included Georgianna, Easter, Mry Lincoln, John, Jeremiah Eli "Dink," Ida, Luther V. and Geneva Gertrude who married James Penny. Dink and Ida went to Texas. Luther married Emeline Wilson. Their daughter, Marie, married Ray Moss, who pitched for the Brooklyn Dodgers and later was a highly successful dairyman whose family founded Golden Gallon. Other children of Luther were Ruth who married Newton Edgeman and then Ernest Vellenoweth and Ralph Thomas who married Mary Louise Herrington. Ralph T. Denney operated the Easy Way groceries. Mary Lincoln Denney married Jake Wells. She is buried at the Hinkle Cemetery in Cleveland, Tennessee.

The wife of John D. Denney was Elizabeth, a Georgia native. Their children included Robert Lazarus, Sophia, Charles A. who went to Arkansas, Eula and Josie.

Robert Lazarus, known as Laz, married Nancy Clementine Jones. Their children included Nettie Cornelia who married Isom Goodner, Vernie who married George Roberson, John Franklin who married Sarah Elizabeth McDaniel and Thomas E. who married Daisy Rose. Several of the Denneys were railroaders, including John F. who worked for the Southern for 38 years.

Children of John Franklin Denney are John Dearing who married Louise Southerland and then Priscilla Hodges, Jesse Boone who married Frances Hundley, Thomas Elmer who married Connie Elam, Ruby who married R.B. Haney, Margaret who married Albert Thornburg and Christine who married Vernon Miller.

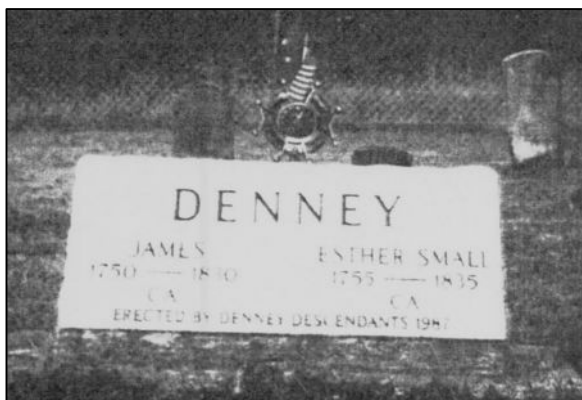
John Dearing Denney lives on Campbell Street. His son, John Michael Denney, also resides here. Another son, Floyd Dearing Denney, is a pharmacist at Dalton, GA. A third son, Dexter Franklin Denney, lives at Sparta.

Another Denney here was M. Randolph Denney who married Jessie Yarnell and they lived at 4100 St. Elmo Ave. and operated the Ming Toy Shop in St. Elmo. They had a daughter, Louise, who married Claude Cale, and son J.B. who married Barbara Bush.

Clarence H. Hooks of Hixson is a descendant of James Denny and his son, Henry. He has photos of the family for eight generations – going back to Henry and his son, Matthew, and grandson, Dock.

James Denny, who may have been a brother of William Denny who came to Hamilton County, married Esther Small, and they made their way from Henry County, VA, to Wayne County, KY. Their son, Henry, married Mary Brown in 1813 in Kentucky. James and Ester Denny are buried at the Clayhill Baptist Church in Wayne County.

Juanita Johnson of Harrison has researched the Denny family.



Old Denney Cemetery, Pueblo, Kentucky. The permanent double marker for James and Esther (Small) Denney. The Sons of the American Revolution Patriot Marker was added by Clarence H. Hooks, Past President of the Sevier Chapter SAR in 1995. This photo shows the new fence. James and Esther's marker is about the center of the cemetery. Erected by Denney descendants 1987.

Iseriah Denny = James Denney = Mathew Denney = Jeremiah Denney = Louis Denny = John I. Denny. *William Denney Descendants by Frances Marie (Thomas) Graves, 1997. Pg. 6. \*See Descendants of James Denney - Jernigan Family – [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com)*

\*See Chapter 10: Mary Florence Jernigan: website: [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com)  
James Denney – Jernigan family files.

\*See Chapter 14: Moses Raulsten, s/o Matthew Raulsten & Martha “Polly” Moore  
Moses Raulsten md Mary “Polly” Denny. Website: [www.ajlambert.com](http://www.ajlambert.com)

**Letters from Louis J. Helms to Audrey J. (Denny) Lambert: November 2006**

Audrey

I have found your web site at: <http://www.ajlambert.com/> and see that you mention Pharoah Denny/Denney on this site.

Pharoah Denney is my great great great grandfather and I was wondering what your source was for the death of Pharoah? I had figured that he died between 1850 and 1854 from the family information that I have collected.

I read the newspaper article about Pharoah Denney/William Denney Sr. and William Denney Jr. from the Chattanooga newspaper and was very surprised to find 'wrong' information printed.

Thank you for your time and trouble.

Louis J Helms

Audrey,

I was sure hoping that you had more information on the date of death of Pharoah Denney.

The newspaper article states:

Pharaoh Denny, another son of William Denny Sr., was born in 1795. He married Eliza Irvin. Pharaoh Denny died in 1856. Eliza then married Elijah Newton and had a large family by him. Children of Pharaoh Denny included Eliza, George and Marion. Eliza married John Priddy.

Pharaoh Denney's wife, Eliza, did not remarry anyone. She went to Webster County, Missouri with her son James Denney, daughter, Permelia Denney Dillion, son Marion Denney and daughter Lucinda Denney Butler.

Eliza died 20 March, 1857 at Fordland, Webster County, Missouri and is buried beside her son James Denney, at Easter/Denney Cemetery, Fordland, Webster County, Missouri.

After my great great grandmother, Eliza Denney's husband died in the Civil War in Kentucky, she moved with her children to Webster County, Missouri to live near her brothers and sisters.

She also died at Fordland, Webster County, Missouri and is buried in the Easter/Denney Cemetery close to her mother and others of her brothers and sisters.

There are at least one other son that I do not know his name and two daughters of Pharaoh and Eliza Denney that I do not know their names or what happened to them.

I do not know for sure when Pharaoh Denney died, but I am figuring that he died in or about 1854. Pharaoh Denney's daughter, Permelia Denney Dillion gave birth to her daughter, Margaret Dillion in 1854 in Hamilton County, Tennessee and then her next child, Hugh A. Dillion was born in Webster County, Missouri on 16 January, 1857

Pharaoh's wife, Eliza may have come to Webster County, Missouri with her daughter Permelia and family.

The newspaper article also states that my Great Great grandmother, Eliza Denney Scott Terrill married one 'John Priddy', which I have my doubts about. She married Hugh L Scott on 10 February, 1856 and had four children with him before he was killed on 22 November, 1864.

Thanks for your time.

Louis J Helms

**Source:** NewsOK.com: **DENNEY, Dale**, 84, author, died Sunday. Services 10:30 a.m. today (Turner, Jay).

**Clyde Dale Denney "DALE" died Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at Jay, OK. He was a descendant of James Denney/Esther Small out of Wayne County, KY. Dale published the Denney Chronicles & he published several books in his later years.**

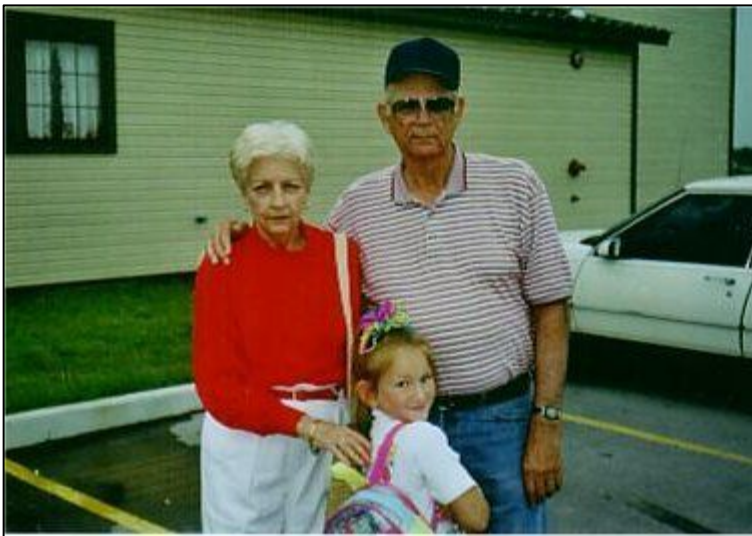
Jay is a city in Delaware County, OK

It is the county seat.

The community was named for Jay Washbourne, grandson of a Cherokee missionary.

The latitude of Jay is 36.421N. The longitude is -94.796W.

Peggy Fielding: <http://www.peggyfielding.com/Display.cfm?p=2004November>



Dale Denney does a down home type magazine called "The Denney Chronicles," and he reprinted the dream story I'd pulled from my files. The dream was a somewhat skewed look at Oilton through the eyes of a child. Dale is a Tulsa NightWriter but he lives in Jay, Oklahoma. Good writer, both fiction and nonfiction. He also publishes articles and letters from other former Oiltonites such as my brother's best friend, Bobby Williamson, or my cousin Julia Mae Bice Hoover.

**Dale Denney, editor of the Denney Chronicles, with his wife Nita and their only grandchild, Dori Beth Denney**

**The Tulsa NightWriters** are writers of every genre - from romance to science fiction. Our members also write screen plays, stage plays and murder mystery dinners. We have a guest speaker at each monthly meeting (except December.) We are an affiliate club of the Oklahoma Writers' Federation, Inc. (OWFI.)

We meet on the third Tuesday of every month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Allee Beth Martin East Regional Library, 2601 S. Garnett, Tulsa. <http://www.nightwriters.org/>

<http://www.ajlambert.com>