

(Signed) William Denson

Wit: Nathan Raven  
Wm Scott Jr.  
Willm Smelley, his mark

Proved in court held for the Isle of Wight County by the Oath of Willm Scott and Wm Smelley this 9th day of April 1677 and ordered to be recorded.

Estate of William Denson appraised Sept. 9, 1695

Robert Pitts received 550 acres of land February 14, 1637 for his own per. Adv. and the Trans. of William Denson and 9 others.

February 14, 1637 Robert Pitts of Isle of Wight County transported ten headrights including William Denson to the Colony. William was probably required to repay Pitts for his passage by working for him for 5 to 7 years under the headright system. After completing his indenture, William was free to establish a life of his own.

In 1657 William Denson patented 400 acres on Nansemond on the western branch.

September 6, 1657 Twenty years after his recorded arrival, William Denson, Gentleman, of Nansemond County paid the passage of 9 headright. Fifty acres of land was given for each person transported to the Colony. William Denson was granted 450 acres up Indian Creek, a branch of the western branch of the Nansmond River adjoining land of John Garrett. He renewed his patent March 27, 1661.

William Denson's Will was dated December 15, 1675.  
Will was proved April 9, 1677.

Frances Denson's Will was dated February 1708/1709.  
It was entered for probate May 2, 1709 (See Frances Denson)

Documentation: VAIOW-WL1 p.14

WILL-ABSTRACT: VAIOW-WL1 p. 14, dated November 15, 1675, recorded April 9, 1677; EX: wife FRANCIS, W: NATHANIEL (signed) RAVEN, WILLIAM (signed) SCOTT, and WILLIAM (mark) SMELLY, S: WILLIAM (signed) DENSON

DEATH: VAQUA-EQR p. 49, date converted from Quaker dating methodology.

William Denson was born in England and moved to Isle of Wight Co. Virginia receiving transport probably from Bristol England in 1638 as the indentured servant of Robert Pitts of Isle of Wight Co. After his period as an indentured servant he worked on Robert Pitts Plantation. In 1650 he partitioned as "Gentleman" for 450 acres of land on the Nansemond River, western branch, know as "Indian Creek." His request was reviewed received by the order of the Quarter Court March 27, 1661 and eventually was granted the land on September 6, 1661 after he transported 9 people as indentured servants to the colony. This land was on the Upper Norfolk, also called Nansemond County. This county was formed from part of Isle of Wight County in 1640.

William was a member of the house of Burgess from Upper Norfolk in 1659-1660. These meetings were held at "James Cittle" according to Hennings Stats, Vol. 1, P. 528.

A letter was written by James Fox, an early founder of the Quaker Religion in the colonies along with this William to the "friends" at Nansemond. This was found in the Quaker Records in the Vault of the Friends in Baltimore. he married Frances, also a Quaker and raised his family mainly in Isle of Wight Va. which was one of the few parts of the early Colonies that accepted Quakers without severe persecution.

Denson, William - 6 Sep 1657 - Nansemond Co., VA - 450 Ac. - (Upon Indian Creek, which a branch of the Western branch of Nansemond river, adj land of John Garrett..)

I have William Denson b. ca 1631 Scotland/England d. 8 march 1675/6 VA m. Francis ?\_? ; to America 1638 sponsored by Robert Pitts and settled Isle of Wight Co. VA.; 1657-granted 451 acres in Upper Norfolk, Nansemond Co, Va; 1659/69 Burgess, Lower Virginia Quaker meeting dmohney/@westol.com

Wm Denson arr'd VA in 1637 and settled in Isle of Wight Co. VA on Indian Creek of Nansemond Sound. He became a Quaker and was mentioned in Fox's tour of 1672--this is a very long and complicated story. Are you up for it? Donald Smith SFCA donniek/@worldnet.att.net

Wm. Denson Gent. 450A Nansemond County, 6 Sep 1657 upon Indian Creek, a branch of the W. Branch of Nansemond River adj. land of John Garrett. Transp of 9 persons: Peter Dunkey, Jno. Bevington, Elizabeth Ireland, Richard Wilden, Jno. Groome, Elizabeth White, Thomas Kinder, Francis Kinder and Robert Arnold. Renewed 27 Mar 1661.

Notes for William DENSON

Came to America in 1638. Sponsored by Robert Pitt, he came to Isle of Wight Co., VA, sailing from Bristol, England. Married after he worked off his indenture.


Founded Chuckatuck Meeting House in Nansemond Co., VA. One of the oldest in the country.

Received a patent of 450 acres of land, dated September 6, 1661, on an arm of the "Western Branch of Nansemond River, called Indian Creek." It was given to him for transporting nine persons to the Colony and was in Isle of Wight Co., in an area called "Upper Norfolk." In the patent he is referred to as "William Denson, gentleman," and there is a marginal note that the patent was renewed by order of the Quarter Court, March 27, 1661.

He was a Burgess from Upper Norfolk in 1659-2660. He is also said to have been Burgess in 1650. The meetings were held in "James Cittle."

His will is dated 11/15/1675 and was recorded 4/9/1677

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## William Denson

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Birth **18 Jun 1620** **St. Martin in the Fields, Westminster, England**  
 Sex **Male**  
 Died **8 Mar 1676/77** **Isle of Wight County, Virginia**  
 Person ID **I02386** [Default Tree](#)  
 Last Modified **17 Mar 2007**

Father [John Denson](#), b. Mar 1594/95, St. Margaret, Westminster, St. Martin in the Fields, England

Mother [Elizabeth ?](#)

Group Sheet [F1038](#) [Default Tree](#)

Family 1 [Frances ?](#), b. ABT. 1620, Isle of Wight County, Virginia

Married **ABT. 1650** **Isle of Wight County, Virginia**

Children

- [Frances Denson](#), b. 1 Feb 1651/52, Nansemond, Virginia
- [William Denson, Jr.](#), b. 25 Jan 1653/54, Nansemond, Virginia
- [James Denson](#), b. 11 Aug 1657, Nansemond, Virginia
- [Katherine Denson](#), b. 4 Oct 1659, Isle of Wight County, Virginia
- [Sarah Denson](#), b. 14 Jan 1663/64, Isle of Wight County, Virginia
- [John Denson, Sr.](#), b. 25 Mar 1666, Isle of Wight County, Virginia
- [Joseph Denson](#), b. 18 Oct 1669

Group Sheet [F1240](#) [Default Tree](#)

Notes 

- **Last Will and Testament of William Denson**

Isle of Wight County Virginia 15th of December 1675  
 WB A: 142 9 April 1677

I William Denson of the Isle of Wight County of Virginia being at present very weak and sick in body but strong in sense and memory if it do please Almighty God to take me out of this present life do dispose of my worldly estate as followeth:

First I give unto everyone of my children the value of five shillings to each of them to be paid in English goods.

Next I give unto my lovig wife Frances Denson all the rest of my moveable estate in generall to dispose of for her own use and to the children as she in her discretion shall see fit.

Next I give unto my sonn William Denson and to my sonn James Denson all my land to be equally divided betwixt them after their mother's decease and when this division is made my sonn William to have first choice, in mean time it is my will that my wife enjoy the land during her life, only my two sonnns aforesaid shall have liberty to plant and make crops thereupon for their maintenance during all the time of their mother's life not withstanding anything to the contrary here mentioned.

Next it is my will that if after my Wife's decease my Daughter Francis and my Daughter Katherine shall be living and unmarried either one or both of them that they shall have each of them a particular interest in the land housing and orchard for their dwelling place and to make a crop of corn and tobacco for their maintenance and not to be limited to their just share of good land and housing as the plantation shall aford always provided they claim no more land each of them that what a particular person may manure and this be allowed them notwithstanding anything to the contrary here mentioned. So long as they live if unmarried but if either of them shall marry then their interest in the land to pass from them unto my two sonnns afore-mentioned and also it is my will that the first foale that falls from my mare to be given to my daughter Katherine but if it be not a mare foale then if she please may stay till a mare falls, otherwise take it as it coms and this to be not withstanding anything to the contrary here mentioned, and I do make my loving wife Executrix of this my last will and testament written with my own hand and dated 15th of December 1675.

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## James Denson, III

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James Denson, III

James Denson, Jr. ←

<b>B:</b> 11 Aug 1857
Nansemond, Virginia
<b>M:</b> 15 Nov 1707
Isle of Wight County, Virginia
<b>D:</b> 15 Jul 1720
Isle of Wight, Virginia
<b>Family:</b> [Group Sheet]
1 Sarah Dryton ←
<b>Children</b>
• Frances Denson ←
• Joseph Denson ←
• Sarah Denson ←
• James Denson, Jr. ←

William Denson ←

James Denson ←

Frances ?

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

Priscilla ?

Unknown

Unknown

Unknown

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## James Denson, III

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Suffix III  
Birth 1732 North Carolina  
Sex Male  
Died 1777 North Carolina  
Person ID I04638 Default Tree  
Last Modified 17 Mar 2007

Father James Denson, Jr., b. 1715, Isle of Wight, Virginia

Mother Priscilla ?, b. ABT. 1715

Group Sheet [F1521](#) [Default Tree](#)

Family 1 Jemima White, b. ABT. 1735

Married ABT. 1755

Children

1. James Denson, IV, b. 1758, Anson County, North Carolina
2. William Denson, b. 1760, Anson County, North Carolina
3. Nathaniel Denson, b. ABT. 1763, Anson County, North Carolina
4. Thomas Denson, b. 1763, North Carolina
5. Jemima Denson, b. ABT. 1765, Anson County, North Carolina
6. Shadrach Denson, b. 1766, Anson County, North Carolina
7. Joseph Hopkins Denson, b. 25 Nov 1772, Anson County, North Carolina
8. Jesse Denson, b. 1774, Anson County, North Carolina

Group Sheet [F1522](#) [Default Tree](#)

### Notes

- 1763 Tax List for Anson Co. North Carolina.  
In 1770 he signed a petition for court to be established at Campellton. He received 2 grants for land in 1766. A deed in Anson Co. North Carolina (1760) James Denson Jr. inherited land of his father James Denson, Sr. "he being the oldest son and the will not proven for want of evidences." He deeded this land to his brother Shadrach. Inventory of his estate was made 6 Oct 1777 with his wife Jemima as administrator. His estate remained undivided until 1789 when James' estate and that of his son William Denson were both settled. In 1779 Jemima married William Boggan. It is believed these estates were settled when James III, the oldest son reached 21. He signed a deed with his mother and his step-father in Feb 1788 indicating he was of age. James Denson, Jr. was a Regulator in North Carolina, possibly died in Rev. War skirmish, but there is no proof.

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## James Denson, Jr.

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Suffix **Jr.**  
 Birth **1715** **Isle of Wight, Virginia**  
 Sex **Male**  
 Died **1760** **Anson County, North Carolina**  
 Person ID **I03128** **Default Tree**  
 Last Modified **17 Mar 2007**

Father **James Denson, b. 11 Aug 1657, Nansemond, Virginia**

Mother **Sarah Dryton, b. 1676**

Group Sheet **F1035** **Default Tree**

Family 1 **Priscilla ?, b. ABT. 1715**

Children  
 1. **James Denson, III, b. 1732, North Carolina**  
 2. **Shadrach Denson, b. 1737, Anson County, North Carolina**  
 3. **Richard Denson, b. 1752**

Group Sheet **F1521** **Default Tree**

Notes  
 • **Another source states that James died in 1756 in Onslow County, North Carolina.**

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## John Denson

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Birth **Mar 1594/95** St. Margaret, Westminster, St. Martin in the Fields, England

Sex **Male**

Person ID **I02885** [Default Tree](#)

Last Modified **17 Mar 2007**

Family 1 **Elizabeth ?**

Children **1. William Denson, b. 18 Jun 1620, St. Martin in the Fields, Westminster, England**

Group Sheet **F1038** [Default Tree](#)

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William Denson & ffrancis his wife, their Childrens Nativities recorded as followeth.,—

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

page 38

ffrancis Denson daughter of the aforesd William & ffrancis was borne the first of the last month 1651.

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

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William Denson sonn of the aforesd Will. & ffrancis was borne the 25th of the 11th month, 1653.

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

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James Denson, sonn of the aforesd Will & ffrancis was borne the 11th of the eight month 1657.

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

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Katheren Denson daughter of the aforesd Will & ffrancis was borne the fowerth of the eight month 1659.

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

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Sarah Denson, daughter of the aforesd Will. & ffrancis was borne fowreteenth of the 11th month 1663.

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

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John Denson sonn of the aforesd Will & ffrancis was borne the five & twentie day of 3d month 1666.

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

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Joseph Denson sonn of the aforesd Will & ffrancis was borne the eighteenth of 8th month 1669.

EARLY QUAKER RECORDS IN VIRGINIA  
RECORDS.

FORM OF MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE.

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William Denson ye Elder departed this Life ye Eaight day of ye first month: 1676.

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