

JORDAN DENSON

( - 1806)

Some of His Ancestors and Descendants

and

"BEECHWOOD"

Denson-Pretlow-Darden

Ancestral Home

Southampton County

Virginia

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GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF  
LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Compiled for  
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Norfolk, Virginia

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(3a)

JAMES DENSON

b. 11th of 8th month 1657      White, p. 38  
d.                              1720-1722  
Father: William Denson  
Mother: Frances  
m. 15th of 11th month 1707      White, p. 29  
    Sarah Dryton (?)  
    b.  
    d.  
    Father:  
    Mother:

James Denson was the third child of William and Francis. "James Denson sonn of aforesd Will & ffrancis was borne the 11th of the eight month 1657." [White, p. 38]

James witnessed the marriage of his brother, John, in 1692 and his sister, Sarah, in 1696.

1694 -- In regard that Ja: Denson has fulfilled no part of the law relating to the administration of the estate of William Denson, dec'd. Ordered that Hugh Davis, Clerk of the Court do administer goods & chattels of said Denson, dec'd & return inventory to the next court [Court Orders, I. of W. Co., from *The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 13, p. 84].

1694 -- James had not fulfilled the administration of William's estate so Hugh Davis, Clerk of the Court, was to return an inventory to the court [Ibid., p. 84].

10 Dec. 1694 -- Order for commission of adm. is granted Mr. Jeremiah Exum in behalf of James Denson on Goods & Chattels of Wm. Denson, dec'd. Hugh Davis (who had last court an order to administer estate) being consented hereto & Capt. Edmond Godwin becomes security [Ibid., p. 118].

Same court -- Mr. Wm. West, Sr., Jacob Durden, Wm. Murfrey & John Cogan or any three, assigned to appraise the estate of Wm. Denson on the 20th of this month, Mr. Tho: Giles to swear them [Ibid., p. 119]. [See inventory included.]

The last four entries may apply to William, son of William the immigrant, who was born in 1653. It is unlikely they were appraising the estate of the immigrant so long after his death.

9 Apr. 1695                      DB 1: 159                      Power of Attorney  
Francis Denson, widow, appointed "my son James Denson to be my attorney in a suit between Brian Markham & myself."

JAMES DENSON

1701 -- PATENT -- James Denson

On the head of the branches of Indian which creek issueth out of the Nansemond River.

1702 -- James contributed 400 pounds of tobacco for building a meeting house on the Western Branch of the Nansemond River. He was a member of Chuckatuck. [See description of building on p. 30 of White.]

1702 -- John and James Denson with Francis Bridle witnessed the will of Thomas Hampton.

13th of 9th month 1707

James Denson the sonn of ffrances Denson of Ilse wight County widdow woman and Sarah Dryton (?) of the County aforesd did Publish their marriage Before a meeting of men & women friends at our Public meeting House in Chuckatuck on the 13 day of the 9 mo 1707 and coming Before the meeting A second and A third time at our aforesd Publick meeting House did publish againe and were married in the Publick meeting House in the western Branch on this 15 day of the 11 mo 1707

Witnesses:

[signed] James Denson  
Sarah Denson

Joseph Meredith	ffrances Bridle
Jno Denson	Thomas Page
Jere Exum	Robert Horning
Isaac Rickes	Elizabeth Lawrence
Robt Lawrence	Elizabeth Brian
Lewis Brian	Elizabeth Powell
Wm Brian	Anne Exum

James was about fifty when he married Sarah so it is possible he had been married previously, although no records indicate a former union. Only one birth date for a child has been found. A daughter named Francis was born 3rd of 11th month 1708. [Hinshaw, p. 28] This child was named in James will in 1720, as were three other children who were minors.

1708/9 -- Francis Denson, wife of William and mother of James, named her sons John and James as executors of her estate.

1716 -- PATENT -- James Denson

420 acres adj. Thomas Holder in Colo. Bridger's line on Corawaugh Swamp in Isle of Wight.

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JAMES DENSON

Great Bk., Vol. 2, p. 177 31 Mar. 1717  
Isle of Wight Co. 26 May 1718 (Recorded)  
James Denson of Isle of Wight and Sarah, his wife, sold to John  
Davis.  
1200 pounds 100 A.  
Being a part of a patent for 420 acres granted to said Denson in  
1717 commonly known as Bare Gardon, adjoining Robert Johnson  
and John Powell.  
Also -- James and Sarah sold to John Powell, Jr.  
600 pounds 50 A.  
Part of a patent of 420 acres to Denson in 1717 called Bare Gardon.

Great Book 2:80 15 July 1720  
Isle of Wight Co. 24 Apr. 1721

Will of James Denson

Wife: Sarah, exec<sup>x</sup>  
Son: James -- my plantation which I now own on a  
tract of land on the branch of Currawah, etc.  
Son: Joseph -- my plantation in Nansemond County  
on the Western Branch joining Thomas Kinder.  
Also, a plantation in Charles City County in  
the Parish Waynock, etc.  
Daus: Frances Denson  
Sarah Denson  
Cousin: James Denson, son of John Denson. (This was  
his nephew. Relationships were referred to by  
different terms.)

WB 3: 101-2 1722-28  
I. of W. -- Accounts Current of Estate of James Denson, dec'd  
Orphan of James -- Frances Denson  
Orphan of James -- Joseph Denson  
Thomas Gale, Jr. guardian of Joseph Denson  
Among charges of Frances Denson "my attendance in Dividing the  
children's Several Legacies." (1728)  
[signed] Francis Denson

GB 2:101 26 Nov. 1728  
James Denson Account Estate. Rec'd by Francis Denson, orphan  
of James Denson; Rec'd by me Thomas Gale, Jr., guardian of  
Joseph, the orphan of James Denson

J ES DENSON

Children of James and Sarah (Dryton) Denson:

Frances                    b. 3 of 11 mo. 1708

James

Joseph

Sarah

Child                    "...the child my wife now goes with..."  
                              (15 July 1720 from the will of James).  
                              This child does not show up in guardian  
                              records.

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LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JAMES DENSON

Great Book, p. 80  
Isle of Wight County, Va.

15 July 1720  
24 Apr. 1721

I James Denson of the Isle of Wight County being at present weak of body but of perfect mind and memory calling to mind the uncertainty of this Life Think fit to make this my last will and testament to dispose of my worldly estate which has pleased God to bestow on me in manner and form following, committing my soul to God and my body to have a Christian Buriall in the Earth at the Discretion of Executrix hereafter named.

First, I give and bequeath unto my son James Denson my plantation which I now own on a tract of land lying on the branch of Currawah excepting Liberty I give to my two daughters Frances and Sarah to dwell on and have use of the land and house and orchard as long as they live single. I give the aforementioned land to my son James and his heirs forever, also I give to my son James Two negroes, a boy called Robin and a girle called Bess, a feather bed with furniture and my hand mill and my long gun, and my whip saw and four pounds current money of the day.

Secondly, I give to my son Joseph Denson my plantation in Nansemond County on the Western branch joyening to the land of Thos. Kinder. I give it to him and his heirs forever, allso I give unto my son Joseph all my tract of land and plantation in Charles Citty County in the Parish Waynock, I give it to him and his heirs forever, allso I give to him two negroes, a negro boy called Sam and a girle called Rose with her increase excepting the use and service of said girle I give unto my wife Sarah during her natural life but not to be removed off the plantation, Also I give him a feather bed with furniture and four pounds of current money of Virginia.

Thirdly, I give unto my daughter Frances Denson an Indian woman called Tony, a feather bed with furniture and four pounds current money of Virginia all of which is to be delivered at the day of marriage or at the age of eighteen years, allso I give unto my daughter Frances a breeding mare.

Fourthly, I give unto my daughter Sarah Denson a negro girle called Lattee and a feather bed with furniture and four pounds of current money of Virginia, all of which is to be delivered to said Sarah at the day of marriage or at the age of eighteen years, allso I give her a negro girle named Nanny.

ST WILL AND TESTAMENT OF JAMES DENSON

Fifthly, I give unto my two sons James and Joseph carpenters and coopers tooles to be equally divided between them.

Sixthly, I give unto my Couson James Denson, the son of John Denson a negro man called Sam provided his father John Denson has the command and services of him during his natural life and after to return to my couson James Denson, Allso it is my will that if my wife marry again, my two sons have liberty to do for themselves at the age of sixteen years.

Seventhly, I give unto my dear and well beloved wife Sarah two negroes during her natural life but never to be removed off said plantation, allso the use of one negro man called George during her widowhood and at the expiration of time itt is my will and I do give the said three negroes to the child my wife now goes with, I allso give her a feather bed with furniture.

Eighthly, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Sarah whom I also appoint and ordain my executrix all the remaining part of my estate both the furniture and stock, and this I owne to be my last will and testament and no other, renouncing and revoking all other wills and testament formerly made by me.

witness my hand and seal this 15th day of July 1720.

Interlined in the second line of the 7th paragraph thereof, and in the third line of time notwithstanding my wife shall have power to hire the negroes off the said plantation within the Government which I give to her when she will.

[signed] James Denson

Signed, sealed and owned to be his last will and testament in the presence of Richard N.H. Huchins.

In a court held for Isle of Wight County the 24th day of April 1721.

The last will and testament of James Denson was presented in court by Sarah Denson his executrix who made oath therto being proved in Court by the oaths of said witnesses is admitted to record.

Teste H. Lightfoot, Clk.

[Note: Copied from typescript in Denson file. P.J.]

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