

-- DENNISTON --

The family groups represented in this collection may not be complete, because information was entered bit by bit as I found it or happened upon it; I have not done any systematic research on these families. Because they do not compose whole family genealogies, these listings are arranged differently from most genealogical records or histories. Each listing is a family group, and is arranged and filed alphabetically under the name of the head of the family.

Names are generally in alphabetical order (disregarding spelling variations and middle names), then in approx. chronological order. The first sorting is by surname (mixing together any and all spelling variations), then by given name, then by approximate birthdate (when known) in approximate chronological order. For easier reference, surnames in headings are grouped together under the most common spelling usage that evolved in this geographical location, regardless of individualistic spellings in the records themselves. Cross references are used in most cases where surname spellings substantially vary.

Within the quoted records, the individual spellings have been (mostly) retained because they sometimes provide clues (although in general—but with exceptions—they seem to largely reflect the record keeper's particular orthography and not always, at this early period, any special family preference). Those interested can see the variety and evolvement of a particular name's spelling and the interesting and sometimes amusing attempts at phonetic reproduction. Keep in mind that before names and spellings were standardized, records reflected the individualistic whim of the particular recorder (often two different spellings of the same name within the same document). In addition, all records were handwritten, and sometimes deciphering a handwritten name in early records can be quite challenging! So expect to search under all possibilities of spelling (for both surnames and given names).

Given names are grouped together without regard for middle initials or middle names. Because middle names and/or initials are sometimes used, sometimes not used in various records, it seemed simplest to arrange entries as if the middle names or initials did not exist. Usually all variations of a given name are grouped together as though spelled one way: Jan, Johannes, John, etc. are all grouped as one (but also look under the other forms).

Sources and references are included with each "family" grouping, but may or may not include sources that are cited (or are obvious, such as baptismal records, etc.) within the narrative or listing itself.

As with any compiled genealogical record, researchers should regard this information as leads and clues, and should verify all data with independent research.

I welcome, and would be grateful for, any additions or corrections, especially with source citations.

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Denniston, Alexander

Alexander Denniston
b. 1663/64 Paisley, Scotland
d. 15 Aug 1723 Drumeel, Longford, Ireland

m.

Kathanne Montgomery

b.
d. after 1723

There are indications that a branch of the Denniston family may have migrated to America from northern Ireland (Scotch Irish) around 1740-50. The Denniston family seems to have originated in the Kirkcudbright area SW of Glasgow from where many of them first migrated to Northern Ireland in early 1700's. There is a borough of Glasgow named "Dennistown."

According to Rutenber's History of the Town of New Windsor, Orange County, NY, Alexander Denniston was an officer under St. Ruth, in 1691, at Athlone, and aided in the defence of that place against the English. In this contest the Irish troops defended their works with undaunted bravery. In the final charge, in which the English were repulsed, the Irish troops set fire to the enemy's breastwork, destroying all their defences and pontoons and producing great consternation in the English camp. After the reduction of Athlone, he accompanied St. Ruth to Kilcommeden in Roscommon, where the latter was killed and his forces dispersed. After this battle followed the period in which it is said that "Ireland had no history," a period in which was developed nothing by tyranny on the part of the government and bitter suffering on the part of the people. This induced Denniston to remove to Scotland to avoid threatened persecution. In 1701, he returned to Ireland, where he remained quiet and secluded in the Town of Grenard, until the accession of George I, in 1714, when the Whigs obtained the ascendancy and all adhering to them were taken into favor. In 1727, on the accession of George II, by bills which passed Parliament, five-sixths of the population of Ireland were disfranchised; stringent additions were also made to the penal code, and other legislative action taken which convinced many that Ireland was to be treated as a conquered province, and induced them to emigrate to America. "This," says the author of the foregoing brief sketch, Hon. Goldsmith Denniston, "was the cause of the emigration

of what is known as the Clinton company in 1729, among whom was Alexander Denniston, son of the officer under St. Ruth, already described."

---children of Alexander Denniston & Kathanne Montgomery:

- **Alexander Denniston**, b. about 1700 Edgeworthtown, Longford, Ireland; d. about 1755 Orange County, NY; m. (1) **Elizabeth Beatty**; m. (2) **Frances Little**, dau. of George Little.
- **Elizabeth Denniston**, b. 1705 Scotland; d. 25 Dec 1779 Little Britain, Orange Co., NY; m. **Charles Clinton**
- **Hugh Denniston**, b. 1710; d. 1785
- **Joseph Denniston**
- **Isaac Denniston**
- **Daniel Denniston**, d. before 2 Oct 1769; m. **Sophia -?-.**
- **Samuel Denniston**
- **John Denniston**

---Sources: Information online Oct 1999 from Cheri <thecrow@eznet.net>

Denniston, Alexander

Alexander Denniston
son of Alexander Denniston &
Kathanne Montgomery

b. about 1700 Edgeworthtown, Longford, Ireland
d. about 1755 Orange Co., NY

m. (1) (prob) 1730
Cape Cod, MA

m. (2)

Elizabeth Beatty
dau. of

b.
d.
Frances Little
dau. of George Little

Alexander Denniston was the brother-in-law of Charles Clinton and one of the company of immigrants who settled in Little Britain (now New Windsor, NY) in 1730.

At the town of Edgeworth, Co.Longford, Ireland a group of Scotch Presbyterians formed the "Clinton Company" and sent Charles Clinton to Dublin where he chartered the 90-ton frigate "George and Ann" commanded by Captain Rymers. Included in the group were the families of Charles Clinton, Alexander Denniston [Jr.], John Young, James Little and a Mr. Mulliner. The wife of Charles Clinton was Elizabeth, sister of Alexander, and mother of General James Clinton. In the spring of 1730 a considerable number of the group moved to New York where they founded Little Britain.

---children of Alexander Denniston & (2) Frances Little:

- **James Denniston**, b. 1733; d. 1806; m. (1) (license 11 Oct 1760), **Jane Crawford**; m. (2) (license 13 Oct 1773) **Rachel Falls**
- **Esther Denniston**, m. (1) **Alexander Falls**; m. (2) **Phineas Helme**
- **Elizabeth Denniston**, m. **Henry Douw**
- **Catherine Denniston**, m. (1) **Edward Falls**; m. (2) **Samuel Wood**.
- **Mary Denniston**, m. (1) **William Mulliner**; m. (2) **Matthew DuBois**
- **George Little Denniston**, b. 1735; d. 1804; m. (1) **Isabella Craig**, dau. of David Craig; (2) (license dated 12 Aug 1772) **Mary McClaughry**
- **Alexander Denniston**, b. 1740; d. 1817, ae 77; m. (1) **Nancy Gray**; m. (2) **Margaret J. -?-;** (3) **Martha Sears** (the widow Ellison).
- **William Denniston**, b. 1744; d. 1825, ae 86; m. **Fanny Little**
- **John Denniston**, b. 1756; d. 1836, ae 85; m. **Anna Moffat**
- **Charles Denniston**, b. 1752; d. 1808; m. **Mary Blake** (the widow Milligan)

---Sources: Information online Oct 1999 from Cheri <thecrow@eznet.net>

Denniston, Daniel

Daniel Denniston
son of (prob) Alexander Denniston &
Kathanne Montgomery

d. before 3 Oct 1679

m.

Sophia -?-
dau. of

d.

Denniston, Daniel D. (Lt.; Capt.)

Daniel D. Denniston
son of Hugh Denniston &
Rachel Van Valkenburgh

b. 3 Feb 1758 NYC
bp. 8 Feb 1758 Trinity Ch, NYC
d. 3 Feb 1824 Jersey City, NJ
buried family vault, Morris, NJ

m. 25 May 1784

Elizabeth Kierstede
dau. of Luke John Kierstede &
Aefje Van Gelder
b.14 May 1767 NYC
bp. 2 April 1769
d. 8 May 1861
buried

He was a Lieutenant in the Revolutionary War from 1778-1784. Promoted to Captain upon his discharge. Belonged to the New Jersey Militia after the war. Denniston, Daniel D. (N. Y.). Ensign 4th New York. 9th November, 1777; Lieutenant, 11th April, 1780; transferred to 2d New York, 1st January, 1781, and served to 3d June, 1783.

His son Edward was named after Capt. Edward Dunscomb, his superior in the Revolutionary War.

Bergen County Orphans Court: p. 494, 1824, p. 500, Mar 1825, p. 501, Jun 1825, p. 503, 1825: Elizabeth Denniston, Adm.

of Daniel Denniston, deceased.¹

---children of Daniel D. Denniston & Elizabeth Kierstede:

- **Rachel Dennison**, b. 15 May 1785; bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit)
- **Lucas Kierstede Denniston**, b. 24 Sep 1786; bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit); d. before 8 Oct 1807 at sea; m. 8 Oct 1807 **Cynthia Eversen**. She was b. 1785; d. 1870.
- **Euphemia Dennison**, b. 24 April 1788; bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit) (no child's name in bp. record). She "eloped" with the family coachman, **Stephan Cook**, an Irish patriot, who came to America with Daniel O'Connor. She was disowned by her family and had 12 children, including Elizabeth Cook Lane.
- **Daniel Denison, Jr.**, b. 23 Feb 1790 (b. 28 March 1790 in bp. record); bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit)
- **Eliza Denniston**, b. 28 Jan 1792
- **Margaret Denniston**, b. 23 June 1793; m. before 13 Oct 1814 **Albert A. Voorhees Jr.**
- **Isaac Denniston**, b. 9 Jan 1794; bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit)
- **John Denniston**, b. 5 July 1795
- **Carolina Deniston** (Caroline), b. 15 Feb 1796; bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit)
- **Maria Ostrander Denniston**, b. 10 June 1797; bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (wit: Stephen Ostrander, Maria Ostrander)
- **Edward Dunscomb Deniston**, b. 25 May 1801 near New Bridge, NJ; bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit); d. 18 June 1875 Torrey, Yates Co., NY; buried City Hill Cem., Torrey, NY; m. 25 May 1826 Benton, Yates Co., NY, **Mary Jones**, dau. of Nicholas Jones & Mary Elizabeth Johnson. They moved to the town of Seneca in Ontario County, New York, where they lived during the 1830's. Edward was a carpenter and farmer, and worked on the old Glass Factory in Geneva, New York.
- **Dewitt Clinton Denniston**, b. 10 May 1806
- **Alexander Hamilton Denniston**, b. 16 Feb 1808-1810 (or 16 Feb 1803 in bp.); bp. Pompton Plains Ref Ch (no wit)
- **Eleanor Visser Denniston**, b. 29 Oct 1811; d. 7 March 1891 Geneva, NY; m. **Peter Bush**.

---Sources:

[1] Abstracts of Bergen County Orphans Court records, sent online July 1999 from Phil O'Leary, P.O.Box 1404 Willoughby, OH 44096-1404 <pol@lubrizol.com>; Information online February and March 1999 from Cheri Branca, Victor, New York <thecrow@eznet.net>; Reformed Dutch Church records of Pompton Plains, pages 1-210 : records of Montville, pages 211-258 : typescript, 1923, (online at HeritageQuest)

Denniston, Edward Dunscomb

Edward Dunscomb Denniston
son of Daniel D. Denniston &
Elizabeth Kierstede
b. 25 May 1801 New Bridge, NJ
d. 18 June 1875 Torrey, Yates Co., NY
buried City Hill Cem., Torrey, NY

m. 25 May 1826
Benton, Yates Co., NY

Mary Elizabeth Jones

dau. of Nicholas Jones &
Mary Elizabeth Johnson
b. 15 Sep 1807 NJ
d. 22 Jan 1903 Torrey, Yates Co., NY
buried City Hill Cem., Torrey, NY

They moved to the town of Seneca in Ontario County, New York, where they lived during the 1830's. Edward was a carpenter and farmer, and worked on the old Glass Factory in Geneva, New York.

---children of Edward Dunscomb Denniston & Mary Elizabeth Jones:

- **Son Denniston**, b. 1827; d. before 1840.
- **Caroline Denniston**, b. 1827; d. before 1919.
- **Perry Oliver Denniston**, b. 1831; d. 1821.
- **Theodore F. Denniston**, b. 1833; d. 1906.
- **Mary Elizabeth Denniston**, b. 1835; d. 1919.
- **Dewitt C. Denniston**, b. 1837; d. 1915.
- **Margaret A. Denniston**, b. 1843; d. 1920
- **Johnson J. Denniston** (Johnson Jones? Denniston), b. 1845; d. 1916.

---Sources: Information online February and March 1999 from Cheri Branca, Victor, New York <thecrow@eznet.net>

Denniston, George Little

George Little Denniston
son of
b. 1735 Orange Co., NY
d. 1804 NY
buried Clinton Burying Ground

m. (1)

Isabella Craig

dau. of
b. 1739
d. 1771
buried Goodwill Cemetery
Mary McClaghry
d. 1803

m. (2) 18 June 1761

He was a Lieutenant, "a relative of Gouvernor Clinton's" in Nov 1780.¹

George Denniston was executor of the will, dated 10 April 1776, probated 6 March 1784, of Robert Lyons [prob. son of George Lyon], who mentioned sisters Elizabeth, Marthew, Searey, and Jean; nephew ---, eldest son of sister Searey. Only personal property. Executors: Richard Colman, George Denniston. Wit: James Greer, Alexander Denniston of Wallkil, Ulster Co., and George Denniston. Proved in Orange Co.

The will of George Denniston, New Windsor, Liber C pg 108, was dated 21 Dec 1803, Probated 6 Jan 1804. Wife-Mary, Sons-William, James, David. Daughters-Martha Trimble, Isabella. Brother-Charles Denniston. Father-in-law-Patrick McClaghry. Grandchildren-Margaret, dau. of David; 2 children of Isabella (no names). Nephew-Alexander, son of Charles Denniston. Exec. Mary Denniston, Wm. Milliner, George Clinton, Jr. Witnesses-Willilam Mulliner, Benjamin McVeagh, James Denniston.

---Sources:

[1] Morrison, George Austin, Jr., "Revolutionary War Records" in *New York Genealogical & Biographical Record*, April 1916, p. 173;
Pelletreau, William S., *Early Wills of Westchester County, New York from 1664 to 1784....with Genealogical and Historical Notes*, 1898, p. 242 (will of Robert Lyons)

Denniston, Hugh

Hugh Denniston m. -?-
b. 1710 Longford, Ireland b.
d. 30 Dec 1785 Albany, NY d.
Hugh Denniston kept a noted tavern in Green Street, Albany, NY.
---Sources: Information online Oct 1999 from Cheri <thecrow@eznet.net>

Denniston, Hugh

Hugh Denniston m. 8 Oct 1757
son of Albany, NY

Rachel Van Valkenburg

dau. of Jacobus Van Valkenburg &
Margarita Radcliffe
bp. 28 Oct 1739 Albany Ref Ch

bp.

---children of Hugh Denniston & Rachel Van Valkenburg:

- Daniel D. Denniston, b. 1758; d. 1824
- John Denniston, b. 1759; d. 1832
- Jacobus Denniston, b. 1762
- Isabel Denniston, b. about 1765
- Isaac Denniston, b. about 1767; d. 1852
- Margarits Denniston, b. about 1769
- Nancy Ann Denniston, b. 1772
- Lydia Denniston, b. 1774
- Hugh Denniston, b. about 1776; d. 1820

---Sources: Information online Oct 1999 from Cheri <thecrow@eznet.net>

Denniston, Isaac

Isaac Denniston m.
son of

Neeltje/Eleanor Visscher

dau. of Johannes J. Visscher &
Elizabeth Bradt

b.

b. 21 Sep 1763

---Sources: Talcott, S. V., *Genealogical Notes of New York and New England Families*, Albany, 1883, p. 273, online Oct 1999 version at Cornell University MOA (Making of America) site: <http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/dienst/moabrowse.fly/MOA-JOURNALS2:TALC-0006/3/1:TIFF2GIF:100>

Deniston, James

James Deniston m.
son of

Helena Lansing

dau. of Abraham Lansing &
Elizabeth Couper/Cooper

bp.

bp. 4 Sep 1760

---Sources: Talcott, S. V., *Genealogical Notes of New York and New England Families*, Albany, 1883, p. 127 online Oct 1999 version at Cornell University MOA (Making of America) site: <http://moa.cit.cornell.edu/dienst/moabrowse.fly/MOA-JOURNALS2:TALC-0006/3/1:TIFF2GIF:100>

Denniston, William

William Denniston m.

Margret Norris

---children of William Denniston & Margret Norris:

- Martha Denniston, b. 12 Oct 1765; bp. 10 Nov 1765 Tappan Ref Ch (wit: Barint Martlings, Sara his wife)

---Sources: Cole, David, (Tappan Ref Church Baptisms, included in) *History of Rockland County, New York*, 1884 (reprinted 1986)