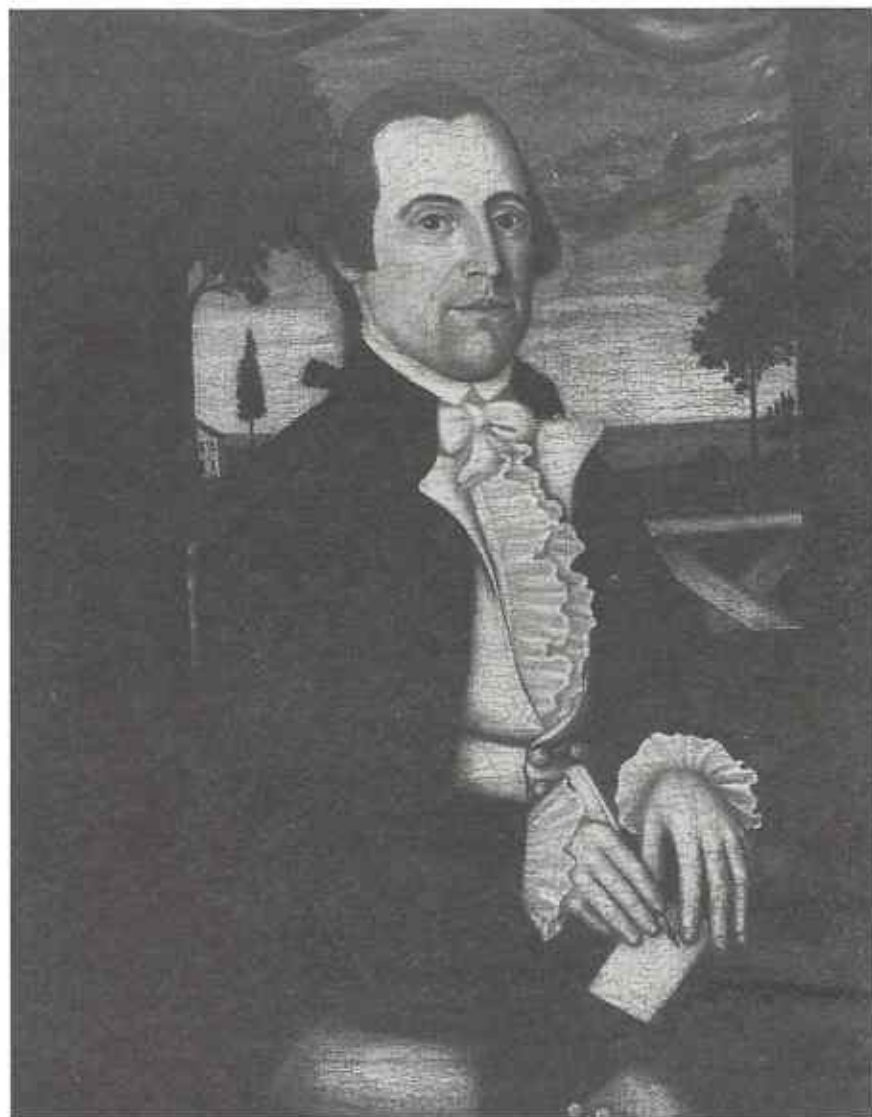


OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Denison
fam

Captain Elisha Denison, c. 1790, oil on canvas, Denison Limner (American, active c. 1790) - Probably Joseph Steward (American, 1753-1822). National Gallery of Art, Washington. Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler

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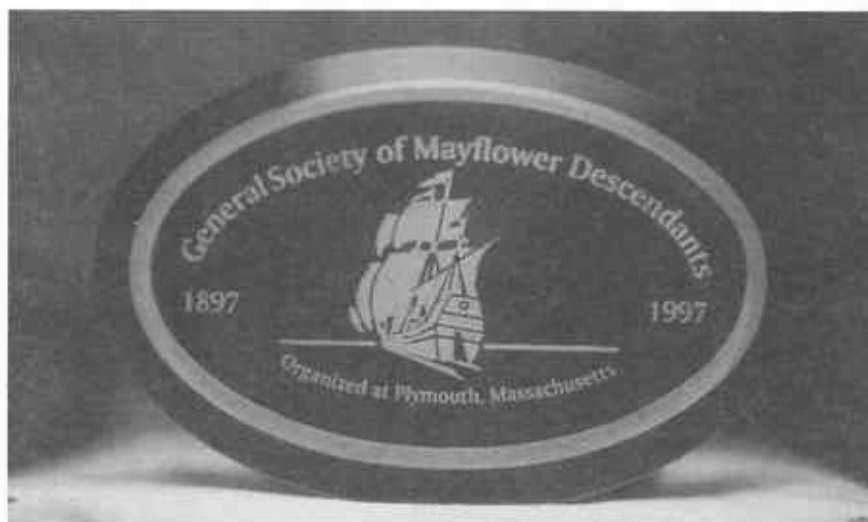
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Portraits of a Family

The Denisons of Stonington, Connecticut

Michael J. Boonstra

After spending hours viewing the works of the masters at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, on a blustery October day, my brother and I found ourselves in the basement looking into the faces of eighteenth century relatives Capt. Elisha and Elizabeth (Noyes) Denison of Stonington, Connecticut. This discovery led me on a quest to find out more about this family whose ancestry reads like a who's who list of colonial New England.

Capt. Elisha was a great grandson of George Denison and his wife Mercy Gorham, who was a granddaughter of John Howland of the *Mayflower*.¹ Since much has been written about the Gorhams this article will focus on the Denisons. George Denison, who married Mercy Gorham, was the son of Capt. George Denison and his wife Ann Borodell who was known affectionately as "Lady Ann."² Capt. George and Lady Ann were some of the earliest inhabitants of Stonington, Connecticut, settling there in 1654 shortly after George returned from service in Cromwell's army during the English Civil War. He became one of the most prominent men in Stonington and was second in command of the Connecticut Army in King Philip's War, under Maj. Robert Treat³ and was continually elected to the Connecticut General Court in Hartford where he died in 1694. His son's marriage to Mercy Gorham, also the daughter of a militia Captain in King Philip's War, brought the earliest *Mayflower* line that I could find into Stonington.

In researching the ancestry of Capt. Elisha Denison, his wife and his relatives, I discovered several interesting facts. First, Capt. Elisha and his wife Elizabeth were first cousins. Capt. Elisha's mother Rebecca (Noyes) Denison and Elizabeth's father James Noyes were both children of Capt. Thomas and Elizabeth (Sanford) Noyes, grandchildren of Gov. Peleg Sanford of R.I., and great grandchildren of Gov. John Sanford of R.I. and the noted Gov. William Coddington one of the founders of Rhode Island.⁴ Gov. John Sanford's wife was Bridget Hutchinson, daughter of the famed religious dissenters William and Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson who were banished from Massachusetts Bay. Bridget was named for her maternal grandmother Bridget, who was the sister of Sir Erasmus Dryden and the great Aunt of the poet John Dryden. The author Thomas W. Bicknell wrote of Gov. Peleg Sanford that, "he was well born and well married,"⁵ a quote that could be applied to the Denisons as well. To make matters more interesting, although not a *Mayflower* descendant, Elizabeth (Noyes) Denison was also a descendant of Capt. George Denison through her mother Grace (Billings) Noyes.⁶ Secondly, as near as can be ascertained from researching the probate records of the 74 grandchildren of Capt. John Gorham and Desire Howland the eight Denison grandchildren and their spouses were perhaps the wealthiest. Seven of these children left probate records that show an



Mrs. Elizabeth Noyes Denison, c. 1790, oil on canvas, Denison Limner (American, active c. 1790) - Probably Joseph Steward (American 1753-1822). National Gallery of Art, Washington. Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch.

amazing degree of wealth totaling over 25,862 pounds, which included not just land and buildings but such items as furniture, silver, and 1 lb. of gold.⁷

It is from this background that the subjects of the Denison portraits entered into the period after the Revolution when portrait painting flourished in Connecticut. After years of stalled business activity, the end of the Revolution brought prosperity and by the 1790s new wealth flowed into the young country. This wealth expanded the middle class and enriched the upper class who in turn patronized a growing number of trained and untrained portrait painters. The Denisons were obviously caught up in this trend as not only do the portraits of Capt. Elisha and Elizabeth survive, but so do those of their four children and three other relatives of the Denisons; Ephriam Williams and his wife Hepsibeth (Phelps) Williams whose mother was Hannah Denison,⁸ and Thomas Noyes who was the brother of Elizabeth (Noyes) Denison. These portraits give us a first hand glance at how a prosperous family of *Mayflower* descent would have appeared circa 1790. Although the identity of the artist, also known as the "Denison Limner," has been debated for many years they are generally attributed to Joseph Steward a Dartmouth educated minister who turned museum owner and painter due to his poor health, and who lived from 1753 to 1822.⁹ However, "it has been suggested that the painter of the Denison group might be Capt. Elisha Denison himself, since the portrait of his son shows the boy holding a card which prominently displays his father's name."⁹

In any case these portraits are important because the artist was not only able to capture the Denisons' physical appearance but some of their surroundings and personality traits as well. In an age when painters were more intent on making their subjects look good than capturing their true likenesses, these portraits seem amazingly frank and intimate. Capt. Elisha and his wife clearly have different noses, eyes and facial expressions. What similarities there are between the two can easily be explained by the fact that they were genetically closer than first cousins and therefore must have shared some family characteristics. Mary Black and Jean Lipman in their book, *American Folk Painting* state, "The characters of Capt. Elisha Denison and his wife, Elizabeth Noyes Denison, are as sharply etched as the details of their prosperous lives that fill the backgrounds. Their four children, ... are beautifully costumed and set in an attractive array of Connecticut interiors and exteriors that almost provide an inventory of Denison holdings."¹⁰

Capt. Elisha Denison was painted at his writing desk in front of an open window through which can be seen a yard which slopes down to a stone fence and what appears to be the ocean. This probably represents his home in Stonington. His elegant wife was also painted seated at a desk in front of an open window hung with a rich, fringed drapery. She appears to be looking directly at the observer with an almost stern expression which probably reveals a strong personality, perhaps a trait inherited from her great great great grandmother, Anne (Marbury) Hutchinson. Through her window an elaborate bridge can be seen



Elizabeth Denison, c. 1790, oil on canvas, Denison Limner (American, active c. 1790) - Probably Joseph Steward (American 1753-1822). National Gallery of Art, Washington. Gift of Edgar Williams and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch.

crossing a small river with sloping lawns and houses along it. "This background was probably chosen to give the sitter aristocratic status by evoking an eighteenth century European estate."¹¹ It is also romantic to think that the almost unnoticeable gentleman and lady walking arm and arm together in the backgrounds of both portraits may be the Capt. and his lady out for a stroll without the children! The *Denison Genealogy* and *The History of Stonington* suggest that Elisha may have earned his title through involvement in the Revolutionary War by commanding a Cornet of Horses for the eighth regiment in 1775, and collecting money for the families of officers and soldiers of the Continental army. His name also appears quite frequently in the land records of Stonington, which suggests that he may have made some of his fortune in land deals.¹²

The Denisons, eldest daughter Elizabeth was painted seated in a Chippendale chair, identical to the one in her parents and sisters portraits, in front of a dressing table. Her hair is decorated with a plumed headdress and with flowers that were most likely made of linen, the creation of which was described in at least one late eighteenth century record.¹³ Although the portrait that is now believed to be Matilda, the Denisons' second child, was originally identified as Phebe, the Denisons' youngest child, genealogical records and the apparent age of the sitters indicated that it may be Matilda. However, the question remains, as the family that inherited the painting now thought to be of Phebe are descendants of Matilda. Perhaps in this case looks are deceiving. Matilda is seated and wearing an immense plumed hat. Most interestingly she was painted with her pets, a bird and a squirrel who seems preoccupied with eating a nut. However, on closer examination it can be seen that it is a long eared squirrel which was native to Europe, not America. "It is likely that this animal was copied from an eighteenth century emblem book. One such volume describes the meaning of such a symbol: "A Squirrel taking the Meat out of a Chestnut, Not without Trouble. An Emblem that Nothing that's worth having can be obtained without Trouble and Difficulty."¹⁴ Perhaps Matilda needed to be reminded of the virtues of patience.

Capt. Elisha's namesake and only son would have been about thirteen when he was painted. He is standing in what appears to be a masonry archway through which can be seen rolling green hills and part of a house. He is dressed handsomely in a long coat and ruffled shirt. Perhaps the most interesting and unusual part of this painting is that Elisha Jr.'s right hand is extended toward the viewer and in it he holds a card for all to see which reads simply, "Capt Elisha Denison, Stonington" which helped solve the problem of identification so common in old portraits. It also suggests the importance that some day he would be the next "Capt. Elisha" and head of the family. Sadly, Elisha Jr. died at the age of 24 and his portrait descended in the family of his sister Matilda. The final Denison portrait is probably that of Phebe. Phebe's portrait is also the simplest of the six. She was painted standing in front of what appears to be pastureland in a silk dress adorned with a large bow on the side and in her right hand she holds



Miss Denison of Stonington, Connecticut (possibly Matilda Denison), c. 1790, oil on canvas, Denison Limner (American, active c. 1790) – Probably Joseph Steward (American, 1753-1822). National Gallery of Art, Washington. Gift of Edgar William and Bernice Chrysler Garbisch.

a branch from a rose bush which probably represents the bloom of youth.¹⁵

Although Elisha Jr. died without descendants all three of his sisters married and between them had 29 children of which only three died young. So Capt. Elisha and Elizabeth Denison who lived to 1841 and 1831 respectively, and who had only four children of their own, lived long enough to be the proud grandparents of 27 children. This suggests that there are hundreds of people eligible for *Mayflower* membership through these families.

Together these six portraits present to us six citizens of a newly independent nation that they and their *Mayflower* ancestors fought for and struggled to create. The Denisons are representative of our colonial ancestors who by the time these portraits were painted in the 1790s had been settled here for 170 years. These people laid the foundation for all the freedoms that we enjoy today and I think that they would be pleased to now be greeting visitors to the United States, from all over the world, from their spot on the wall at the National Gallery of Art.

So often those of us researching our *Mayflower* ancestry spend so many hours compiling the information necessary to prove our ancestry that our ancestors become just another name on the family tree, a figment of our imagination. Putting faces to our ancestors allows us to realize that the people we are researching were once just as alive as we are today. I would encourage anyone interested in making this connection to contact the local and state historical societies in the areas where their ancestors lived to see what collections they have that are not necessarily genealogical. Some societies like the Connecticut Historical Society have large collections of paintings and other items donated by various people. Even smaller societies like the Stonington Historical Society have virtual treasure troves of portraits of early residents and notables. Also, museums with large collections of American portraiture usually have catalogs available which describe their holdings.

1. **Capt. Elisha Denison** (John, Edward, Mercy Gorham, Desire Howland, John) was baptized Nov. 3, 1751 in Stonington, CT., the son of Capt. John and Rebecca (Noyes) Denison¹⁶, a merchant in Stonington and an officer in the French and Indian War. Capt. Elisha married his first cousin Elizabeth Noyes in Stonington on Apr. 26, 1772. She was born Nov. 4, 1750, the daughter of James and Grace (Billings) Noyes. Capt. Elisha probably died in 1841 at Stonington the year his will was recorded, and his wife Elizabeth died on May 13, 1831.¹⁷

Children (Denison) all born Stonington, CT¹⁸

- I. Elizabeth, born Nov. 29, 1773
- II. Matilda, born Sept. 5, 1776
- III. Elisha, born May 2, 1779; died Mar. 4, 1803
- IV. Phebe, born Apr. 22, 1782

2. **Elizabeth Denison** the eldest daughter of Capt. Elisha was born in Stonington Nov. 29, 1773. She married Nathaniel Ledyard on Feb. 7, 1795. They were residents of New London, Elizabeth died in 1849 and Nathaniel Ledyard died Oct. 10, 1815.

Children (Ledyard) all born New London, CT¹⁹

- I. Elizabeth D., born Jan. 10, 1796; died July 28, 1848
- II. Mary L., born Oct. 24, 1797; married John Ledyard
- III. Ebenezer G., born Sept. 20, 1802; died Mobile, Ala. 1843
- IV. Fanny P., born Aug. 11, 1799; lived New London
- V. Elisha D., (twin) born Sept. 11, 1805; married _?_ Falconer in Ala.
- VI. Edward D., (twin) born Sept. 11, 1805; married Elizabeth Wallace
- VII. Nathaniel L., born Sept. 30, 1807; married _?_ Vaughn
- VIII. George W., born Oct. 5, 1809; died in California July 12, 1850
- IX. William D., born July 26, 1811; married Fanny Worthington

3. **Matilda Denison** the second child of Capt. Elisha was born in Stonington Sept. 5, 1776. She married Samuel Hurlbut on June 2, 1796. He was a ship chandler, ship owner and merchant in New London. Matilda died on Jan. 13, 1842 and Samuel died on July 27, 1845 at age eighty.

Children (Hurlbut) all born in New London, CT²⁰

- I. Christopher, born July 6, 1797; died July 5, 1834, unmarried
- II. Rev. Joseph, born Aug. 22, 1799; died June 5, 1875; married Mary C. Hattick; lived in New London
- III. Elisha D., born Sept. 3, 1801; married Martha Purser
- IV. Richard, born July 24, 1803; died young
- V. Samuel, born Mar. 4, 1806; died 1850 unmarried
- VI. John D., born July 10, 1808; died Aug. 2, 1879; married Edwina Hicks
- VII. William W., born Mar. 29, 1813; married Elizabeth Butler
- VIII. George, born Aug. 19, 1815; married Sarah Lewis
- IX. Mary, born May 27, 1820; died July 20, 1820
- X. Matilda, born July 8, 1816; died 1837; married Eber Learned

4. **Phebe Denison** the fourth child of Capt. Elisha was born in Stonington on Apr. 22, 1782. She married W.J. Robinson on Mar. 23, 1802. They moved to Morristown, N.J.. Phebe died Dec. 31, 1853 and W.J. Robinson died on Sept. 9, 1845.

Children (Robinson)²¹

- I. Matilda C., born Dec. 9, 1802; died unmarried
- II. William D., born Sept. 28, 1804; died Oct. 20, 1839

- III. Elizabeth D., born July 4, 1807; unmarried
- IV. Phebe D., born Oct. 11, 1809
- V. Mary M., born Nov. 26, 1811; married Edwin Hicks of Brooklyn
- VI. Elisha D., born Feb. 9, 1814; died Mar. 1, 1860 unmarried
- VII. Samuel, born July 23, 1817; died Oct. 17, 1818
- VIII. Bound, born 1818
- IX. Julia Goram, born Feb. 23, 1820; died Apr. 6, 1860
- X. Emma, born Nov. 4, 1822

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- ¹² Land Records of Stonington, CT, New London County, Vol 13-14 1792-1803, FHL #0005599.
- ¹³ *American Naive Paintings*, pg 88.
- ¹⁴ Ibid. pg 90.
- ¹⁵ *American Folk Painting*, pp 33-34.
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- ¹⁷ *Denison Genealogy*, pg 45.
- ¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid. pg. 86.

²⁰ Ibid. pp. 86-87.

²¹ Ibid. pg. 87.

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

Michael J. Boonstra, a graduate of The American University School of International Service, is director of the genealogy department at Brevard Community College & University of Central Florida Joint Use Library in Cocoa, Florida. He is descended from Mayflower passengers John Howland and John Tilley through both of his maternal grand parents and William Chesebrough, the founder of Stonington, Connecticut. He is a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, Sons of the American Revolution, the Denison Society and the Stonington Historical Society. He may be reached at BCC/UCF Library, Genealogy Department, 1519 Clearlake Rd., Cocoa, Florida 32922, e-mail: boonstra.m@a1.brevard.cc.fl.us

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#3163-8 Rufus(10) Putnam Van Zandt b. Dec 4 1929; m June 23 1956 ~~Marion~~ Barbara Pearce. He AB Wm and Mary Coll; Masters in Bus Ad Stanford U 1956; now with Un Oil Co of Cal in San Francisco. She grad U. of Cal.(RB) Had:

Eric b Mar 31 1958

#3163-7 Col Arnold (9)C.Van Zandt b Farina, Ill; m Oct 9 1925 Mabel Rohe b June 12 1891. He served WWI as 1st lt and capt in corps of Eng RR Div; staff officer in hq of Chief Engs at Washington as maj,lt, and col in WWII; supr of terminal facilities of B & O RR; in 1946 treas and secy of hotel, theatre and office bldg corp; ret 1956. Address: ~~Santa Ana~~, ~~San~~ Tustin, Calif.

#3163-3 Cyrus (8) Van Zandt b Apr 1853; d 1930; m 1887 Carylton Guthrie, who d 1931. He a farmer. Had: 3163-7, Col Arnold; ~~and 3163-8 Rufus Putnam Van Zandt~~

#3163 William (7)Van Zandt b Apr 5 1825; d near Zanesville, O, /Dec 3 1875; m Apr 14 1846 Phebe Merriam, b Jly 29, 1827, d Apr 30 1918. Ch: Eldon, Charles, Cyrus, Theodore, Edward, Lucy C. d.

#1597 Elizabeth Denison⁽⁶⁾ (Wm Geo Geo Wm Geo)b. Aug 16 1797; m.1) Jan 31 1822 Jas VanZandt (sp:Sant Zant) of Zanesville, O. who d. Aug 30 1830; m. 2) Dec 1832 Jas. Kitchen of Springfield, O. Ch: (VanZandt)

#3163 (above)

#3164 Eliza; d ae 4.

#3165 Lucy Ann b Apr 22 1828; d. Mar 15 1914. m. Thos J. Cox.

#3166 James M. b. Oct 21 1829; d May 6 1910; m. 1)Julia A. Dillman; m 2) Mary A. ~~and~~ Simpson. ~~Ch~~

Children 2nd marriage of Elizabeth Denison and Jas VanZandt:

#3167 Sarah Jane m. George Merriam; lived in Zanesville, O. Had: Elizabeth, and Martha T.

#3168 Lewis Springer m Mary Jones; lived in Zanesville, O. Had: Frances E., James, William, Thomas C., Mary and Benjamin J.

#691 William Denison⁽⁵⁾ b Stonington Apr 8 1756; d Zanesville, O. Jly 21 1820; m Apr 9 1780 Anna Slack, b Jly 3 1755, d June 19 1841. He enlisted Sept 29 1777; Corp Jan 1781, 3rd Regt, Conn, Line; memb of Light Inf detached 1781 to serve under LaFayette; present at storming of redout at Yorktown. Settled in Ohio on WarLand Grant. Children:

1590 Gu^zdon b May 3 1781; d Feb 1845; m L) Etherlinda Slack; m 2) Eliz Krusam.



2) Denison Genealogy...re VanZandt

- #1591 Nancy b Oct 10 1782; d Jly 23 1803.
- #1592 Lucy b Aug 28 1785; d Sept 5 1840; m Jesse Williams.
- #1593 Warren b Feb 7 1788; d Sept 7 1815; m Mary Passmore.
- #1594 Matilda b Mar 27 1790; d Mar 1868; m. 1) Jared Shepardson; m 2) Jos Shepardson.
- #1595 George b Jly 4 1794; d Jly 23 1803.
- #1596 William S. b Nov 13 1794; d Dec 31 1880; m. Mary O. Fisher.

#1597 Elizabeth b Aug 11 1797; m 1) Jas Van Sant; m 2) Jas Kitchen.

#226
#228

(u)
George Denison b July 3 1725; bpt Aug 8 1725; d June 19 1808; m Feb 23 1748 Jane Smith #466, b Jan 13 1731, d May 11 1829. Children:

- #688 Lucy b Feb 1750; bpt Jly 1 1750; m Elisha Williams.
- #689 George b Spet 16 1753; d 1835; m Abigail Palmer.
- #690 Dorothy b ca 1754; m Daniel Denison #473.

#691 William b Apr 8 1756; d Jly 21 1820; m. Anna Slack.

- #692 Oliver b Mar 2 1758; d Feb 14 1817; m. Martha Williams.
- #693 Nathan b Apr 8 1760; d 1803; m. Thfl Dean.
- #694 Gilbert b Sept 18 1762; m Huldah Palmer.
- #695 Elisha b Oct 12 1764; bpt Apr 19 1767; d on Jersey, the Prison Ship, in Revolution.
- #696 Dudley b Jly 25 1767; bpt Apr 2 1769; a physician; d Oct 1 1797; m 1795 Nancy Latimer. No children.
- #697 Esther b Nov 16 1769; ~~xxxxxxx~~ m Enoch Burrows.
- #698 Jane b Sept 1772; d Oct 2 1778.

#62

(3)
Capt George Denison b Feb 28 1691/2; bpt May 22 1692; d. Oct 19 1777; m June 6 1717 Lucy Gallup, b Jly 12 1701, d Jan 7 1793, dau of Benadam and Est (Prentice)Gallup, both buried Denison Yard Mystic. He built third house on site of old homestead where his grandfather built in 1654. This property deeded, 1941, to The George and Ann Borodell Denison Society, Inc. by Ann Denison Gates and name Pequotsepos by the Society. George Denison commd Lt of west Co in Stonington Oct 1736; Capt of 5th Co there May 1749. Children b Stonington:

- #224 Ann b Aug 6 1718, bpt Nov 2 1718; d Apr 25 1725.
- #225 A dau b Sept 9 1720; d Sept 10 1720.
- #226 Lucy b Oct 13 1721, bpt Jan 30 1722; d Apr 14 1725.
- #227 Mary b Nov 27 1723; bpt Mar 15 1724; d July 14 1725.
- #228 George b Jly 3 1725; d June 19 1808; m. Jane Smith
- #229 William b June 14 1727; d Sept 20 1754; m. Priscilla Fellows.
- #230 Mercy b Feb 24 1730; m Elisha Gallup.
- #231 Esther b Sept 16 1732; bpt Nov 9 1732; d Nov 14 1754.
- #232 Samuel b Feb 18 1735, bpt Apr 6 1735; d Sept 10 1754.
- #233 David b Jan 29 1736/7; d Jan 24 1808; m Keziah Smith.

#8

(2)
Lt. William Denison b. ca 1655; d Stonington Mar 26 1715; m. May 1686 Sarah (Stanton) Prentice, b ca 1656, d Aug 7 1713, dau Thos and Anna (Lord)Stanton, wid Thos Prentice, b 1649, d 1685. Lived in Denison Homestead. His will in B & C Gen. He Ens Train Band, Stonington, Oct 1698; Lt May 1705. Children:

3. Denison Genealogy...re VanSandt

Children of Lt William Denison #8:

#60 William b Mar 24 1687/8 sic 1686/7; d Feb 24 1724/5; m. Mercy Gallup.

#61 Sarah b Apr 14 1689; d Aug 1774; m. John Avery.

#62 George b Feb 1691/2; d Oct 19 1777; m. Lucy Gallup.

#1 George Denison, bpt Bishop's Stortford, Herts, England, Dec 10 1620; d Hartford Oct 23 1694; m 1) Bridget Thompson bpt Preston Capes, Northants, England, Sept 11 1622, d Roxbury, Mass Aug 1643 dau John and Alice (Freeman) Thompson; m 2) in England ca 1645 Ann Borodell, d Stonington Sept 26 1712, ae 97(g s, Elm Grove).

George's bro, Gen Danl Denison wrote in 1672 "My two brothers, Edward and George had all the Estate of my father left between them, being both married long before my father's death; my brother George buried his first Wife in the year 1643, went into England was a souldier ther above a year, was at the Battle of York, or Marston Moor, where he did good service, was afterward taken Prisoner but got free and having married a second Wife he returned to England the year before our Mother died, and not long afterward removed himself to New Ldon near whereunto (viz) at Stonington he now liveth, having 3 sons John, William, and George, 4 or 5 daughters...3 of Daughters are married to Stanton, Palmer and Cheesebrook(sic) all living at present in the same town."

The tradition tht George served in Cromwell's army is thus verified. The story is also told that he was wounded and was nursed at the home of John Borodell, a cordwainer (leather merehant) of Cork, by his dau Ann whom he married for his second wife. He served as Deputy to the Conn Gen Court from New London Sept 1653, May 1654, Oct 1683, May, July and Oct 1684, May and Oct 1685, May 1686, May 1687, Sept 1689, May Sept and Oct 1693, and May 1694. When 1st mentioned in Conn Col Reeds he is called "Captain", based upon his service and commission in England. He served on the War Comm for New London in 1653 when war threatened with Dutch. Although 56 he served as Capt in King Philip's War 1676 in command of New London County troops and second in command of the Conn Army under Maj Robert Treat. He was apptd Provost Marshal May 1677. He was Capt. of volunteer troops against the enemy Sept 1689. Children 1st marriage: b Roxbury:

#2 Sarah bpt Mar 20 1641/2; d Dec 19 1701 m Thos Stanton, Jr.

#3 Hannah bpt May 21 1643; m 1) Nathl Chesebrough; m 2) Jos Saxton

Children 2nd m; first 2 born Roxbury, others New London or Stonington.

#4 John bpt June 16 1646; d 1698; m Phebe Lay

#5 Ann bpt May 20 1649; d 1694; m. Gershom ~~Riamar~~ Palmer.

#6 Borodell b ca 1651; d Jan 1702; m. Saml Stanton.

#7 George b ca 1653; d Dec 27 1718; m ~~Sarah Prentice~~.
1; m MERCY GORHAM

#8 William b ca 1655; d Mar 26 1715; m. Sarah Prentice.

#9 Margaret b ca 1657; d May 5 1741; m Jas Brown, Jr.

#10 Meroy b ca 1659; d Mar 19 1670/1.

THE ANCESTRY OF CAPT. GEORGE DENISON

The earliest known ancestor of Capt. George Denison was

- I John Denison lived in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England. It is not known where he was born but probably about 1530. The record at Bishop's Stortford shows that John Denison m Agnes Willie 1554. John and Agnes bought home in stortford of John and Joan Chandler 1563. He died of the Plague Dec 4 1582. His widow m John Gase, May 3 1584. John and Agnes Ch:

II Luce bpt Agg 3 1567; bur 12 9 1582

III William (see below)

IV Edward bpt Apr 6 1575; went to Ireland, last lived in Dublin.

His son became Deputy Governor of Cork.

V Mary bpt Aug 28 1577

VI Elizabeth bpt Aug 23 1579

VII George bpt Mar 1 1582.

- II William Denison (John) b. Bishop's Stortford, about 1570; bpt Feb 3 1571; m Nov 7 1603 Margaret Chandler (Monk). William came to America on the Lion with his wife and 3 youngest sons; settled in Roxbury, Mass 1631. John Eliot, Pastor of the First Church of Roxbury and Apostle to the Indians was a tutor of George, his youngest son. Eliot had arrived on the same ship. William was a merchant and must have been a man of means and good education. He was deacon in the First Church of Roxbury, and had a large influence in the Colony. One record states his wife did not unite with the church until some years later. William Denison built a house in Roxbury, Mass; was still standing in 1882. William d. Jan 25 1653; wife d Feb 3 1645; both buried in Old Eliot St. Cemetery at Roxbury. Their children:

- VIII John bpt Oct 5 1605. Educated at Cambridge Univ; received A.B. and A. M. from Queens Coll 1623, 1627; became a minister; remained in England.

- IX William, Jr. bpt Oct 5 1606; at age 18 went to Holland as a soldier and was never heard from.

X Daniel bpt Oct 18 1612.

XI Sarah bpt Oct 8 1615; bur Oct 15 1615.

XII Edward bpt 1616

- XIII George. See #1.

English Record of Early Denisons...

(Copied from Parish Register of St. Michael's Church at Bishop's Stortford by Dr. Spencer Miller)

- 1563 John Denyzon and Agnes buy a home and land in Stortford of John Chandler and wife Joan
- 1567 Aug 3 Luce Denyzen bpt
- 1571 ~~xxix~~ Feb. 3 William Denyzen bpt
- 1575 Apr 6 Edward Denyzen bpt
- 1577 Apr 8 Mary Denyson bpt
- 1580 Apr 27 Willie bur.
- 1582 Dec 9 Luce Denison bpt
- 1582 Mar 17 George son John bpt
- 1602 Dec 10 Henry Munck bpt
- 1603 Anne dau Edward bpt
- 1603 Nov 7 William Denison and Margaret Monck married (margaret, widow of Monck was Margaret Chandler b 1577)
- 1605 Apr 7 John ye sonne of William Dennysonne bpt
- 1605 Nov 24 Susan dau Edward Denyson bpt
- 1606 Oct 5 William ye sonne of William Denyzen bpt
- 1607 William Denison was church warden
- 1609 Oct 15 George son William Denison bpt
- 1612 Sept 13 John son Edward Denison bur
- 1614 June 18 George Denison bur
- 1615 Aug 30 Elizabeth Denyson bur
- 1615 Oct 8 Sarah dau William and Margaret Denison bpt
- 1615 Oct 15 Sarah dau William and Margaret Denison bur
- 1616 Nov 3 Edward son William and Margaret Denison bpt
- 1620 George son William and Margaret Denison bpt
- 1639 Aug 1 Two unbaptized children of George Denison bur
- 1640 Aug 16 George Denyson the elder bur
- 1643 Nov 27 George Denyson son George Denyson bur
- 1647 Jan 10 John Denison son George bur
- 1678 Dec 9 George Denyson son George bur
- 1678 Mar 22 Mrs. Mary Denison wid George bur