THE DESCENDANTS OF ADAM DISPENNETT

OF

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA
ADAM DISPENDEN, of Rockingham Co., Virginia, came to Licking Co., Ohio, 1802-04, and
settled at Hog Run Creek or Linville, 6 miles south of Newark. He was son of
Joseph Dispenden, married 17 May 1801 at Rockingham Co., Virginia, to
MARY MAY, daughter of George and martha hay.

Children:
14 Apr.

(1) Catherine Dispenden, born 1801, Rockingham Co., Va., married 14 Dec. 1817 at
Licking Co., Ohio, to John B. Smith. Catherine died 15 April 1891, Licking Co.

John B. Smith was born 1792, died 30 Dec. 1897, Licking Co.

Children:

1. Sally Smith, married ______ Priest. 9 children.
2. Elizabeth Smith, married ______ Check. 9 children.
3. Sarah Smith, married ______ Priest. 5 children.
4. Joel Smith, b. 20 Feb. 1830, d. 10 Mar. 1907, married Mary ______ 5 chil
5. Joseph Smith, married ______. 5 children.
6. Dolis Smith, married ______ Devell. 8 children
7. Alex L. Smith, b. 1844, d. 7 Apr. 1912, married Eliza Jane. 5 children.
8. John S. Smith, married________
9. Catherine Smith, married ______ Banner. 5 children.
10. Adam Smith, married _______. 6 children
11. Noah Smith, married ______ Jane. Noah was soldier, Civil War, d. 1907. 6 children

(2) John Dispenden, born 1802, Rockingham Co., Va., died 1864, Fairfield, Green Co., O,
married Jelila Stevenson, daughter of William and Hannah (Butler) Stevenson married 4 July 1840.

Children: (all born Green Co., Ohio)

1. George Washington Dispenden, b. 13 May 1841, Green Co., Ohio,
d. 22 July 1916, unmarried.
2. Sarah Elizabeth Dispenden, b. 2 Dec. 1842, d. 28 Nov. 1843.
3. Jerome Napoleon Dispenden, b. 8 Aug. 1844, d. 26 June 1866, unmarried
4. John Dispenden, Jr., b. 29 Oct. 1846, died 12 Feb. 1901, married
Sarah C. Bowers, daughter of ______ and _______.

Children:

a. Bettie Dispenden, b. d. m. ______ Fureon
b. Luther Dispenden, b. d. m. ______
c. Bertha Dispenden, b. d. m. ______ Creiser. No ch.
d. Clifford Dispenden, b. d. m. ______
e. Walter Dispenden, b. d. m. ______
5. Samantha Alice Dispenden, b. 6 Dec. 1848, d. 9 Feb. 1872, unmarried
6. Paulina Dispenden, b. 24 Dec. 1850, d. 3 Jan. 1915, unmarried
7. Mary Dispenden, b. 8 Apr. 1852, d. 10 Oct. 1862, married
William D. Lowry b. 30 Apr. 1856 at Donnelviile, Clark Co., O.
d. 15 Oct. 1854 at Leipsic, Putnam Co., O. Son of David A. and
Eliza Jane (Layton) Lowry.

Children:

a. Chester W. Lowry, b. 19 Nov. 1861, Donnelville, Clark Co., O., married
Hannah Chipps of Leipsic, O. One is dead. Children
are Mary, Josephine, John and Mary.
b. John W. Lowry, b. 11 June 1867, Donnelville, married
Margaret Miller Myers of Bluffton, Allen Co., O.
c. William J. Lowry, Jr., b. 26 Apr. 1865, Donnelville, married
Mary Miller of Lima, Allen Co., O. Children.
d. David Dispenden, b. 26 Feb. 1888, d. 18 Jan. 1907, married
25 March 1889 to Meta Miller. Children:
a. Zola Dispenden, b. 14 Feb. 1886, married
Arthur Chipps, Clark Co., O., married
b. Roy D. Dispenden, b. 11 Feb. 1893. Dead

Children of John and Delila (Stephanos) Dispenette, continued.

9. Margaret Anna Dispenette, b. 19 June 1866, died 2 July 1940 at Dayton, O. Married 1887 to John Keeler, b. 19 Jan. 1860, of Clark Co., O., died 30 March 1929. Son of Jacob and Mary (Funderburg) Keeler. Child:
   a. Laurel E. Keeler, b. 5 Aug. 1889, Clark Co., O., married 1916 to Mandy Wiant, b. 4 Nov. 1887, dau. of Clint and Nettie (Shore) Whitman. Children:

10. Lenna May Dispenette, b. 12 Jan. 1861, d. 27 Nov. 1917. Unmarried.

Children of Adam and Mary (May) Dispenette, cont'd.

(3) Jacob Dispenette, b.
   Licking Co., O., married Margaret McColl. Children:
   1. Lucy Ann Dispenette  
   2. John Dispenette  
   3. Thomas Dispenette (Killed Civil War)  
   4. Mary Jane Dispenette  
   5. William Dispenette  
   6. Noah Dispenette  
   7. Eliot Dispenette  
   8. Abraham Dispenette  
   9. Joseph Dispenette

10. Sarah Palmer Dispenette, married Young, large family.
11. Amanda Jacob Dispenette, b. in Kalamazoo, Mich.
12. daughter, m. Charles Shean.

(4) Sarah Dispenette, b.
   Licking Co., O., married William Burnside. 4 children

(5) Joseph Dispenette, b.

(6) George Dispenette, b.

(7) Polly Dispenette, b. married John Wise, music teacher and conductor from Virginia. Children:
   5. Nellie Wise, m. 27 Sep. 1870 to Thomas Rose.
   6. Annie Wise, m. 9 Oct. 1870 to Levi A. Jump; m. (2) to Peckman.
   7. Charles Wise, m. 5 Apr. 1886 to Betty C. Evans.
   8. Jennie Wise, m. Silas Priest.

(8) David Dispenette, married Elizabeth Stephenson, sister to Delila—wife of John Disp.
(9) Noah Dispenette.
(10) Rachel Dispenette, married Huffman, had dau. Welcome Huffman.
(11) Abraham Dispenette, b. 1817, died 1880. Married 3 times.
(12) Elizabeth Dispenette(?)
Mrs. H. G. Missethom
229 Newam Avenue
Kendallville, Indiana

March 5, 1949

Dear Cousin -

I was indeed thrilled to receive your letter addressed to Mrs. Benn of the Hartford Times, regarding my inquiry on Adam Fulk and Mary Dispenny-Desponet. I do welcome correspondence with you, as I have found the Dispenny-Dispennet name very elusive. I am copying all the data I have gleaned on this family to avoid duplication of efforts should you desire to do research on this name. I am sending the information I have. I have hunted many years, but did not actually make a show in until about 1½ years ago, or I should state it 1 year ago. Since then I have a new baby, and we have had a whalloping winter here so that I could not drive to Salt Lake City to glean at the historical library. We are but 45 miles from Salt Lake City, but have a mountain pass half-way up there and the roads have been dangerous. We now have had one week of melting weather and I am terribly enthusiastic to get up there soon.

This name is spelled Dispony, Dispeny, Disponet, Despennett, Dispennette, Dispony. These spellings are all found in Rockingham Co., Va., records. I descend through Mary Dispenny Fulk's brother Adam Dispennette, as the spelling has come down to us. My 3rd great grandfather Adam could not write, as he signed his marriage bond with an "x"--for this reason, I think a family name can alter as to spelling. The party to whom it is dictated spells what he hears, and he does not always hear the consonants correctly.

Do you have a list of the children of Adam and Mary Fulk? I would greatly appreciate having them, to make my records more complete. They did not have a large family, did they? Their marriage was in 1800. Her cemetery record states (according to your letter) that she died aged 82 yrs. in 1844. That would put her birth approximately 1762-3, and she would have been 37-38 at the time of her marriage. She did not need a consent note (given where children are under the age of 21). But notice that the author of the book from which I took the record adds an "a"--which indicates that in her marriage bond the surety (who was my 3rd great grandfather Adam) gives Mary's age. This would prove whether she was born about 1762-3, and do away with any doubts we might have that the Mary and Adam Fulk tombstone records you sent are for the same couple.

Do you have your Fulk line established past this Adam Fulk? Among my notes I have record of John Fulk, tithed on 4 horses, indicating he had a son Jacob over age of 16. It seems that in 1792 the people were assessed upon the no. of horses they owned; the individual possessing many horses was considered well-to-do. Note this tithing record on my accompanying sheet. Rudle and Ruble are used interchangeably in the records. This George Rudle may have been the individual married to Barbara Dispony, sister to your Mary and my Adam. They lived close together, the Fulkas, Rudles, and Disponets. And these are Rockingham Co., Va., records. Rockingham Co. was established in 1778.

Note the abstract of survey showed Joseph Desponet (whom I consider the father of our clan) with 189 acres, Parting Run, West Gap, February 27, 1773. With Rockingham Co. established in 1778, I wonder what the name was previously.

I am of the opinion that our common ancestor was this Joseph Desponet; he probably was the father of the children married between 1788 and 1601, whose records I give herewith. I do not know for sure that he served in the Revolution
He would be of a correct age. I have written to the Adjutant General’s Office (War Dept.) also the National Archivist, both at Washington, D.C., asking for Rev. record of Joseph Despoutet, or any individual with spellings of Desponet, Desponet, Dispony, Dispeny, Dispennet, Dispionit, and they have found no record.

They confessed their records were not complete and referred me to the State Librarian, Harrisburg, Penn., and State Librarian at Richmond, Va., to whom I wrote.

The State Librarian at Richmond, Va., sent me a form letter "I regret to say that the Virginia State Library is unable to undertake the time-consuming work of furnishing genealogical information, including records of Revolutionary soldiers, soldiers of the war of 1612 or colonial soldiers. We must refer persons wishing such information to investigators not connected with the library who may be employed for the purpose. These investigators have access not only to all the material in this library but also to the material in the Land Office of Virginia, the library of the Virginia Historical Society, and other depositories.

I am inclined to consider this name to be French rather than Dutch. Many of the French Huguenots fled from France, into Holland, Germany and other countries; later coming to America when William Penn offered Pennsylvania as a haven to those persecuted because of religion. We find the name Jacob Dispion on the passenger list of the ship "Bellinder London" which arrived at the port of Philadelphia and took the Oath of Allegiance to the Government, January 10, 1735. The Captain of the ship testified that the men whose names appeared on the list were of the age of 16 years and upwards. There is just one reference to this name in the PENNSYLVANIA ARCHIVES, it is in the SIXTH SERIES, VOLUME V, page 529 and only the last name is given — --- Dispenney, on a Return of the Fifth Company of the Fourth Regiment of the City of Philadelphia in the year 1794. This probably was a descendant of Jacob, as even if he had been 16 years of age when he arrived, he would have been 71 in 1794. No doubt he was much older as his name does not appear on the rolls of those who fought in the Revolutionary War. If you wish a photostatic copy of the ship list, showing the signature of Johann Jacob Dispionit, it can be made for you for twenty-five cents. Trusting you find the above information of interest. I am very sincerely yours, Mrs. L. H. Davenport, Acting Archivist."

Pursuant to this letter I wrote for a photostatic copy of this ship list and the Oath of Allegiance. These are the same individual, Jacob Dispion and Johann Jacob Dispion. The ship list was written by the captain of the ship and I presume our ancestor (if he be ours?) dictated his name—he went by Jacob and the captain just heard Dispion. The Oath of Allegiance dated the same day is signed in our ancestor's own writing. It is beautiful too. He signed the "s" as we write "f", as the folks did in his generation. He did not show any German influence, no curls, no German script. It is large and masterful. Most of the other signatures were German, decidedly. This good penmanship verifies...
in my mind the opinion expressed the the Penn. Librarian that our man was KuKee. These French people were of high-middle class, well educated, with Calvinistic ideals. This Despionit could easily have been the father of the Joseph "Despenet" who owned land in 1773, Parting Hun, West Gap, Va.

I have since looked in the 1790 census of Penn. for any individual with the name spelled variously. There isn't the slightest inkling of any of our people at that time. This leads me to believe that they had scattered to remote parts (if Penn.) where no census takers came.

I endeavored to look into the 1790 census for Virginia the last two times I was at Salt Lake library, but the book was being rebound. So I have contained my suspense. There are several other books there I am eager to check in, and those microfilms. I shall inform you of any finds. Let me know the books you have checked so that I will not duplicate efforts.

It is too bad those Penn. Archives gave no further data on this Rev. War man, just his last name. The name "Despenney" should be ours, as so many records we have or members of this clan are shortened to Despenny or Despney. This archivist in Penn. should be reliable, with all her experience. She has the conviction that this is the same family, and the Despenney is a son of Despionit.

Back to your cemetery records. There is mention "Harters". One brother of your Mary and my Adam married "Mary Harter". The latter's brother or father could have accompanied Mary and Adam Fulk to Indiana. No doubt all or most of those cemetery records will prove of relation to Fulk or Despenney family.

My Adam settled around Newark, Licking Co., O. That is the eastern part of Ohio. Yours finally landed at Noble Co., Ind. I am wondering if your folks settled in Ohio earlier and moved westward with the drive, or if they went to Ind. straight from Va. If the latter case, your folks undoubtedly left Va. at a later date than my Adam, when the boundary of the frontier had moved farther westward.

I had better stop, as this letter is becoming too lengthy and I will weary you to begin with. I am very eager to hear from you, as this letter will indicate. Your informative letter and evidence of searching in the Hartford Times leads me to believe you are enthusiastic too, and I assure you I will keep in contact with you and write of any information I find. You are very, very welcome to all my data.

If you have the children of Adam and Mary D. Fulk, I would be pleased to have them. Even your lineage to the present generation, should you find the time to copy it.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to put our records in good form, some time, and place them in the libraries where they would be available to all. This Despenney family has been so elusive. And each year makes it that much more difficult to line up. It is up to us to more deeply impress their footsteps on the sands of time.

I did forget to mention the "tradition" our family has passed down that we had a grandfather Despenney in the Rev. War. One relative I have contacted said her mother remembers going up stairs in grandfather Adam Despenney's home and seeing in his closet a Rev. War soldier uniform. It must have been Adam's father's. Let me know how this D.A.R. program of marking graves of daughters of Rev. soldiers works out in the case of your Mary. Hope the data I give will help solve some problems.

Sincerely, your cousin

[Signature]

Grace H. Croft (Mrs.)
Year 1788, John Dispony married Mary Harter, daughter of George Harter

- 1791, Joseph Dispony married Margaret Rust, widow. Surety: George Ruble.

- 1794, Margaret Disponet married Jacob (Full). She was a daughter of Joseph Despennit. Consent note by Joseph Despennitt. Surety, George Dive and George Ruble.

(Consent notes were given where children were under age of 21)

- July 5, 1796, Barbara Dispony married George Ruble. Surety, John Mathias.

- 1800, Mary Dispony married Adam Fulk, daughter of Joseph Dispony. Surety: Adam Dispony (a) ("a" indicates that are of Mary is given)

- 27 May 1801, Adam Dispony (Dispheny) married Mary May, daughter of George May. Consent note by George and Martha May. Surety: Daniel May.

Reference:
Va R a c, Land grants 1761-1791, Rockingham Co., Va. Abstract of Surveys, p. 224

Joseph Desponet, 189 acres, Partin Run, West Gap, Feb. 27, 1773

Reference:
Va R 2b, p. 32. 10th Legion Titables, Rockingham Co., Va., 1792

5 horses - Desponet, Joe 1 son Jacob, about 16
2 " Desponet, John
2 " Rudle, George (Ruble)
4 " Fulk, John - 1 son Jacob about 16

Reference:
Va R 2d - p. 128, Communicant of Peaked Mt. Church - Jacob Desponen, Nov. 6, 1840.
It is my belief that the Jacob and Noah Dispennet mentioned among the tax records of Swan Twp., Noble Co., 1844, 1849, 1848, 1849, are sons of my Adam Dispennet. Now this Jacob Dispennet could be the brother to my Adam. Or this Jacob and Noah Dispennet could be father and son (Jacob a son of my Adam— and Noah a grandson of my Adam). But I believe they are more likely to be sons of my Adam.

Inasmuch as you are so interested in gathering records for the D.A.R., you would have concern for my Wise line. This has been another elusive line, because of the common name, John Wise. (Now you probably are more concerned over Noble County old families—but these folk may have sifted in there—and you have checked into Licking Co., Ohio, records.) There is no history in the D.A.R. to take care of this John Wise and his progenitor that I can find, so I hope sometime to have it complete for you. This John Wise married Polly Dispennette (child #7 of Adam Dispennette). John Wise's forebearer, as tradition handed to me gives it, played an interesting role in the Revolution. He knew Cornwallis personally and entertained him at his home in Virginia. The King of England asked Cornwallis to look up Wise the first thing as he thought Cornwallis could bribe him. Cornwallis and Wise sat at the table together and ate mush and milk. (The dishes from which Cornwallis ate are said to have been preserved by the Wise family, and were in possession of Jennie Wise Priest. A museum offered $50,000 for them, I was told by my grand uncle.) (I cannot locate any descendants of this Jennie Wise Priest, child #8 of Polly Dispennette and John Wise on sheet #2.) Cornwallis asked Wise why he was fighting for the colonial cause, when he "would never get anywhere or anything by it" and stated if Wise "fought for England, he would be fighting for his own people," and "would have a better time of it." To this Wise answered, "I am fighting for liberty and I am going to have it if I die getting it." Cornwallis' answer was, "You are so determined about it, I'll not fight hard against you."