

JOHN DENISON (abt. 1530-1582)
 AGNES WILLIE (abt. 1546-)

"Denison, the son of Denis, is an ancient English surname. Since Denis was the patron saint of France, it suggests that the first English Denison landed with William the Conqueror. However, long, long before 1066 the name Denisca, signifying Danish, appears in the old Anglo-Saxon Hundred Rolls. So possibly the first Denison leaped ashore England from the dragon prow of a Viking longship.

"Norman soldier or Danish pirate, somewhere in the past there must have been a strong prepotent ancestor; a bold, brave man, a big man with sandy red hair, blue eyes under bushy brows, a large, high-bridged nose and a jutting jaw, the founder of the family in America was just such a man. Even today the family recognizes this description of him as the true Denison type." ¹

Joseph Miller was attempting to trace his Miller line in 1942. He found on the Bishop's Stortford Parish Register that reference was made to the fact that John Denison married Agnes Willie. In The Record of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society for January 1936, there is a transcription from the Thorley Parish Register, that on May 11, 1561 "John Denison married Agnes Willie." Mr. Miller tells us in the Forward of his writings that the task of tracing the genealogical history from Old England to the New World has been difficult by the fugitive character of many of the old records and by the errors of the earlier genealogies. Further, the task becomes particularly baffling due to the inaccessibility of certain important data. ²

It is fortunate, in the case of John and Agnes (Willie) Denison, that we have the bare minimum of information to identify them as kin for this writing. In E. Glen Denison's writing "Denison Genealogy, Ancestors and Descendants of George Denison," 1963, we are given the following information on Agnes Willie's parents, John and Agnes Willie.

"John Willie, the earliest known ancestor of the Willie family was of Thorley England. He was probably born in the Parish about 1500, the first record of whom is his purchase in 1548 of three dwellings and a parcel of land in Thorley from his son John Willie II. He married probably about 1520 Agnes _____ who died 1555, the record of Agnes' death calls her a widow." His children are listed in the Willie story (7-26).³

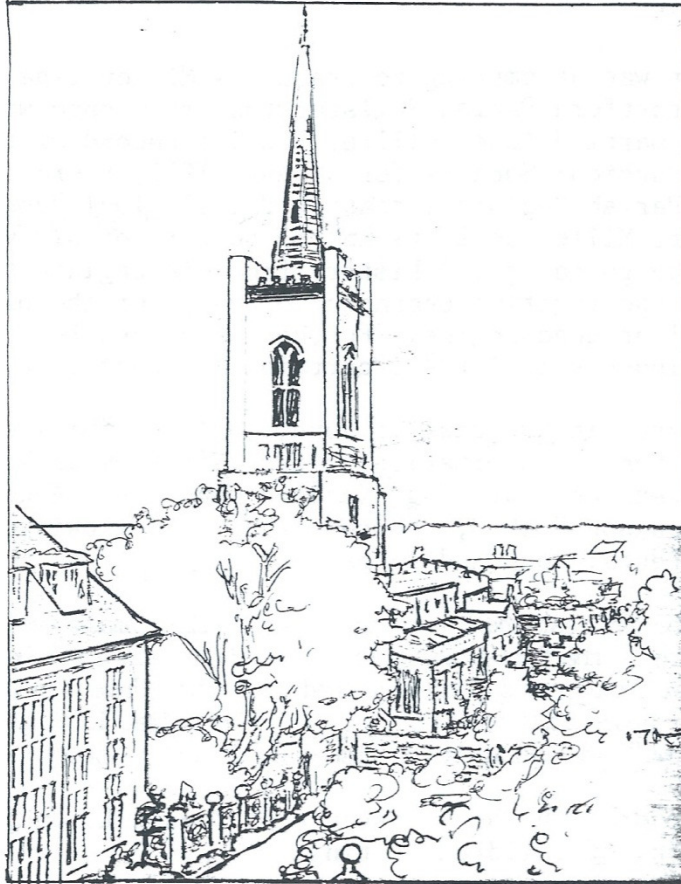
The above author with the assistance of Donald L. Jacobus searched the family data and list of children stating,

"John Denison lived in Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire, England (map 1 #27). It is not known where he was born but probably about 1530. The record at Bishop's Stortford shows that John Denison md. Agnes Willie 1554 . . . John and Agnes bought home in Stortford of John and Joan Chandler 1563 (7-29). He died of the Plague Dec. 4, 1582. His widow md. John Gace, May 3, 1584." ⁴

The children of John and Agnes (Willie) Denison are listed as follows:

- "1. Luce Denison, bpt. Aug. 3, 1567; buried Dec. 9, 1582 (five days after the death of his father - perhaps of the Plague, also)
2. William Denison, b. Bishop's Stortford, about 1570; bpt. Feb. 3, 1571 md. Nov. 7, 1603, Margaret (Chandler) Monk, widow of Henry Monk.(7-24)

3. Edward Denison, bpt. April 6, 1575; went to Ireland, last lived in Dublin. His son became Deputy Governor of Cork, in Southern Ireland. (The roads out of Dublin are like the spokes of a wheel going to all parts of Ireland. One road leads to Cork and Blarney, a branch of which leads to Tipperary; other roads lead to Limerick and Killarney, Galway on the west coast and Belfast to the north.)
4. Mary Denison, bpt. Aug. 28, 1577
5. Elizabeth Denison, bpt. Aug 23, 1579
6. George Denison, bpt. Mar. 1, 1582." 5



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

The parish church at Bishop's Stortford was the house of worship of John Denison and that of his family including William (7-24). The greater part of this beautiful building was built about 1400, possibly earlier. Inside, the baptismal font was made about 1150. The bells were hung in the tower in 1431, and the organ was installed some time before 1490.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. #53 p. ix Preface | 3. #53 Preface pp. xxi, xxii |
| 2. #107 Forward | 4. ibid p. xxi |
| | 5. ibid |