

THE DENLINGERS

Written by Carolyn Teach Denlinger
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Abraham Denlinger
Color items (in brown)

Abraham Denlinger was born in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania August 4, 1806, son of Abraham and Anna (Neff) Denlinger.¹ His parents died when he was quite young and he lived with his grandfather until he was seventeen. Subsequently, for several years he learned the blacksmith trade from Amos Cooper near Lancaster and farmed. "Being dissatisfied with the opportunities offered to young men in that section,"² he came to Ohio with his brother John³ in 1831 to survey the situation.⁴ They liked what they saw and together they bought 278 1/2 acres of land from Peter Dietrich, executor of the will of Daniel Jacobs,⁵ in Section 1 of Madison Township.

On May 10th of 1832 he was married by George Olinger to Margaret Miller,⁶ daughter of Daniel and Susan (Bowman) Miller and a native of Montgomery County. The next year (1833) his brother John married Sarah Miller, Margaret's sister.

In October of 1832 the two brothers divided their land with Abraham retaining 139 1/2 acres.⁷ Margaret signed her name to the joint deed. Here about 1837 the couple built a large brick two-story home where they lived for the rest of their lives. This house is still standing today in very good repair with

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1. The biographical information for this chapter is taken from Beers, pp. 319-20; Drury, Vol. 2, pp. 826-27; Conover, Frank, ed. Centennial Portrait and Biographical Record of the City of Dayton and of Montgomery County, Ohio (A.W. Bowen and Company, 1897) hereinafter referred to as Conover, pp. 1086-87.
 2. Beers, p. 319.
 3. Elsie Denlinger McNelly, "The John Denlinger Family Tree." Two other brothers immigrated west also. Henry settled near Union City, Indiana and Martin in Enon, Ohio, marrying Sarah Funderburg. I do not know the dates of their arrivals.
 4. Beers gives the date (on p. 319) as 1832, but that is in error. The joint deed signed by both brothers is dated Sept. 8, 1831.
 5. Montgomery County, Ohio, Office of the Recorder, Deed Records, Book Q, p. 26. Hereinafter referred to as Deed Records.
 6. Montgomery County, Ohio, Probate Court Records, Marriage Records, Book B, p. 60. Hereinafter referred to as Marriage Records.
 7. Deed Records, Book Q, p. 28.

access off Basore Road. A recent tour of the home given to us by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Albright, revealed lovely walnut and ash floors and woodwork, much of the original hardware on the doors and spacious, high-ceilinged rooms. The exterior has been covered with stucco necessitated by the porousness of the handmade bricks. Much modernizing and remodeling has been done, but the original plain charm of the house remains intact.

Other land was acquired over the years until Abraham Denlinger owned 400 acres of Madison Township.

Abraham Denlinger put his talent as a blacksmith and an inventive mind together and produced a wire hay rake, the first in the county. This being very successful, he made and sold between five and six thousand of them over the years.

He was "noted for his strength of character and decisive opinions on all the leading questions of the time."⁸ This sounds as though he might have been stubborn and opinionated! Strength of character he must have had because Beers tells how he cured himself of dropsy by a regular cold water treatment continued over three years.⁹ He retained his fidelity to the Society of Friends until the end of his life although his wife and children were devout Dunkers. Although never a Quaker himself, he attended meeting at a Friends' Meeting House on the southeast corner of Little York Road and Peters Pike in Butler Township.¹⁰

Abraham and Margaret Denlinger had seven children: John W., Daniel, Abraham A., David, Israel, Mary and Joseph. Of these only four reared families of their own. Of John W., more later. Daniel was born November 28, 1834 but no more is known of him.¹¹ Abraham A., born February 25, 1836 married twice (first to Sarah Garber, second to Anna Bowman), raised thirteen children and

8. Conover, p. 1087.

9. Beers, p. 319.

10. Interview with Hugh Albright, November 9, 1974.

11. All dates of Abraham Denlinger's children are from "Israel Denlinger Family" by Mrs. Bauman.

died December 31, 1897. One of these children, Edgar Garber Denlinger became a lawyer and prosecuting attorney for Montgomery County. David, born March 28, 1838, was killed at ~~Atlanta~~, Georgia in ~~December~~ ^{PICKETT'S MILL, MAY,} 1864, serving with the Union Army. Israel, born June 7, 1840, married Mary Garber, a sister of Sarah (Abraham A.'s first wife) and died February 13, 1917. A genealogy of the Israel Denlinger family has been compiled by Mrs. Bauman. Mary Ann was born September 14, 1843 and died June 20, 1919. She married Amos Hyre and reared a large family. Of the youngest son, Joseph, nothing is known.

John W., the eldest of Abraham Denlinger's children, was born April 9, 1833. He married Anna Christian, daughter of Samuel and Mary Colclessor Christian (q.v.) on February 18, 1858. They became parents of thirteen children, the ~~eldest~~ ^{SEVENTH} of whom was Dean E. Denlinger's grandfather, Leroy Denlinger. John W. Denlinger located in the northwest quarter of Section 1, Madison Township and rebuilt the house there which had formerly been owned by Casper Beck.¹² The house was torn down and rebuilt using much of the same materials when Leroy was approximately ten years old or about 1883.¹³ This house and outbuildings are still standing but are in bad repair. ~~The land is now owned by Good Samaritan Hospital which is building a large complex of buildings for elderly people nearby so the days of the house are probably numbered.~~ The home can easily be seen on the corner of Westbrook Road and Denlinger Road.

The families of the Denlinger brothers, being double first cousins and living on adjoining farms, grew up very intimately together. They attended school in a building on the corner of what is now Shiloh Springs Road and

12. Deed Records, Book U₂, p. 542.

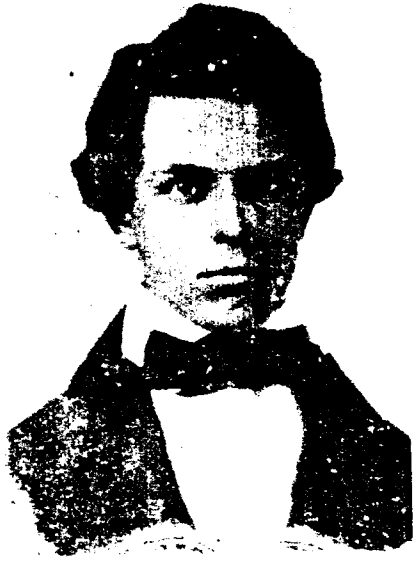
13. Recollection of Dean E. Denlinger from hearing his grandfather tell of it.

Denlinger Road. They married and kept in close touch while rearing their families. They all were nurtured in the German Baptist faith but when the division of the church occurred in 1881, John W. Denlinger's family was the only one to stay with the Church of the Brethren.¹⁴ The children of John and Sarah Denlinger went with the Old Orders as did Israel Denlinger and Mary Ann Hyre, John W.'s brother and sister. Abraham A. Denlinger was never a member of the Dunker church.¹⁵ The bitter feelings engendered by the split in the church manifested themselves within the family group and the close ties of years were severed. Never again did the John W. Denlinger family visit in the homes of their cousins and subsequent generations grew up not knowing their Denlinger relatives.

Margaret Miller Denlinger died on April 5, 1863 and in 1865, Abraham was married again to Eliza Linville of Pennsylvania. He lived for another twenty-eight years, dying on September 25, 1893. He and Margaret are buried in Ehrstine Cemetery on Olive Road in Madison Township. Of the second Mrs. Denlinger, I know nothing more.

She is buried in Ehrstine w/ Abraham + his first wife. (Name on back of his tomb).

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14. The Church of the Brethren was not so named until 1908, but this name will be used for purposes of differentiation between the parent church and the ~~offshoot~~ Old German Baptist Brethren (or Old Orders.)
 15. Interview with Cecil Denlinger Wagoner, November 17, 1974. Beers says (p. 320) that he was a member of a Lodge. This was strictly against the beliefs of the Dunker church. He could not have belonged to both.



Abraham Denlinger
(Date unknown)



Abraham and Margaret (Miller)
Denlinger
Note his tie and her plain dress



Home of Abraham and Margaret
Denlinger - built approx. 1890



Home of John W. and Anna (Christina)
Denlinger - built approx. 1895.

JOHN DENLINGER was born on June 14, 1809 in Lancaster County, Pa., to Abraham I (9/26/1776-5/4/1819) and Anna (Funk-Neff) Denlinger (9/9/1780-10/28/1816).

John's mother died in 1816 when she was just 36 years old. She had 11 children, the youngest one was 1 year old when she died, and only 4 years old when her father died. John's father died in 1819 at age 42.

This is purely speculation, but I imagine that the two oldest daughters: Elizabeth (16) and Barbara (14) helped their father keep the family together until he died.

We don't have a date of marriage for Elizabeth, she may have married before her father's death, but Barbara was married after his death.

John received from his father's will: His small new chest and one equal eleventh part from sale of property.

ABRAHAM I & ANNA DENLINGER'S CHILDREN

	<u>BORN</u>	<u>MARRIED</u>	<u>AGE ORPHANED</u>
1. ELIZABETH	1800	Jacob Musser	19 years
2. BARBARA	1802	George LeFever	17 years
3. CHRISTIAN	1803	Anna Wolf	16 years
4. HENRY	1805	Elizabeth or Lydia Resh	14 years
5. ABRAHAM	1806	Margaret or Rebecca	13 years
6. NANCY	1808	John Heller	11 years
7. JOHN	1809	Sarah Miller	10 years
8. HETTIE (ESTHER)	1810	John Kohr	9 years
9. SUSANNA	1812	Abraham Rohrer	7 years
10. MARTIN	1813	Sarah Funderburg	6 years
11. Christina	1815	Daniel McKillips	4 years

I haven't found out where these children were raised after their parents' deaths. It is believed Abraham II was in a Quaker home.

John, age 21, and Abraham II, age 24, came to Montgomery County, Ohio around 1830. They met and married sisters, Margaret (Rebecca) and Sarah Miller.

It is quite possible that John and Abraham used the money from their inheritance to come to Ohio.

John and Sarah were married 4/14/1833 in Harrison Township by Squire G. Olinger.

Sarah was the daughter of Daniel Miller (an early settler of Dayton). Daniel owned most of what is now known as Westwood.

JOHN AND SARAH DENLINGER'S CHILDREN

	<u>BORN</u>	<u>MARRIED</u>	<u>CHILDREN</u>
1. SUSANNAH	1834-1916	Benjamin Brubaker	7
2. ISAAC	1836-1910	Diannah Frantz	7
3. JOHN M.	1838-1918	Susan Beeghley	12
4. DANIEL	1840-1921	Elizabeth Studebaker	7
5. JACOB	1842-1890	Sarah Studebaker	4
6. MARY ANN	1844-1928	John Thomas	4
7. SAMUEL	1846-1903	Catherine Longenecker	10
8. LYDIA ANN	1848-1888	Owen Montgomery	4
9. INFANT	1850-1850		
10. JOSEPH	1851-1906	Margaret Neff	4
11. HENRY	1853-1853		
12. SARAH ANN	1855-1893	Henry Filbrun	4

John and Sarah had: 64 Grandchildren
 (See names on pages 4 & 5)
 242 Great Grandchildren
 (that I have record of)

John was 67 years old when Sarah died. He later married Mary Ann (Landis) Neff of Lancaster, Pa.

Both John and Sarah are buried in the Lower Stillwater Cemetery near the Salem Mall, Dayton, Ohio.

I have listed John & Sarah's Children again with the names of their Children (John & Sarah's 64 Grandchildren).

SUSANNAH DENLINGER

(First Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Benjamin Brubaker

Sarah Brubaker (1857-1941)	m Nicholas Crist	3 Children
Jonathan A Brubaker (1859-1949)	m Betty Martin	3 Children
Martha Brubaker (1861-1944)	m Robert Meador m Noah Spitler	3 Children
Elizabeth Brubaker (1866-1950)	m Jackson Brubaker	6 Children
Peter Brubaker (1869-1948)	m Vannie Mettler	6 Children
Henry Brubaker (1872-1948)	m Ida Alice Peters	9 Children
Mary Ann Brubaker (1876-1922)	m Sam Brubaker	2 Children

ISAAC DENLINGER

(Second Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Diannah Frantz

Benjamin Denlinger (1859-1949)	Mary or m (Mollie)Richardson	2 Children
Sarah Denlinger (1861-1938)	m George Mumma	6 Children
Henry Denlinger (1862-1929)	m Lydia Brubaker	5 Children
Daniel Denlinger (1867-1944)	m Rosella Landis m Mary Alice Garst	1 Child 12 Children Adopted
Ezra Denlinger (1869-1943)	m Lucy Wenger	1 Child
Ferry Denlinger (1871-1905)	m Dora Klepinger	3 Children
Andrew Denlinger (1873-1951)	m Bertha Whitehead m Emma Filbrun	8 Children
Susan Eichelberger (1878-1917)	m Edwin Hyre (Lived with the Isaac Denlinger family from about 10 yrs old until she was married)	8 Children

JOHN M. DENLINGER

(Third Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Susan Beeghley

David Denlinger () m Mary Neher	2 Children
Sarah J. Denlinger (1861-1941)	m Cornelius Neher	3 Children
Susan Denlinger (1863-1940)	m Jacob H. Flora	5 Children
Joseph Denlinger (1864-1940)	m Hettie Mohler	7 Children
Mary Denlinger (1866-1880)		
Martha Denlinger (1868-1880)		
Moses Denlinger (1869-1950)	m Cora Beachler	8 Children
Aaron Denlinger (1871-1949)	m Sadie Wenrick	6 Children
Lydia Denlinger (1873-1950)	m Charles Etter	4 Children
Amos Denlinger (1876-1876)		
Edward Denlinger (1877-1880)		
Monroe Denlinger (1878-) m Alice Hill	14 Children

DANIEL DENLINGER

(Fourth Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Elizabeth Studebaker

Nancy Denlinger (1864-1864)		
Samuel Denlinger (1866-1934)	m Charlotte Beinhauer	2 Children
Jesse Denlinger (1868-1940)	m Mary Ozias	5 Children
Ira Denlinger (1870-1956)	m Emma Brubaker	5 Children
Harvey Denlinger (1873-1947)	m Clara Aukerman	6 Children
Albert Denlinger (1879-1955)	m Sylvia Baker	3 Children
Emma Denlinger (1882-1966)	m George Wenger	7 Children

JACOB DENLINGER

(Fifth Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Sarah Studebaker

Benjamin Denlinger (1867-1889)

Martha Denlinger (1869-1879)

Nannie Denlinger (1873-1922)

Charles S. Denlinger (1876-1879)

Bertha Denlinger (1880-1953) m Charles Eidemiller 3 Children

MARY ANN DENLINGER

(Sixth Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: John B. Thomas

Lizzie Thomas (1880-1916) m Milton Garber 2 Children

Susie Thomas (1882-) m Cora Garber 2 Children

Jesse Thomas (1884-) m Mary Lavy 2 Children

John Thomas (1885-) m Mazy Edna Hoke 2 Children

SAMUEL DENLINGER

(Seventh Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Catherine Longenecker

Isaac Denlinger (1878-1946) m Bertha Hunsaker 6 Children

John Q Denlinger (1879-1954) m Mary Ada Rinehart 6 Children

Sarah Denlinger (1881-1954) m Charles Hunsaker 5 Children

Mahala Denlinger (1883-1950) m Samuel J.T.Lahman 2 Children

Rosa Denlinger (1884-) m Clarence Black 5 Children

Wesley Denlinger (-1945) m Ada Miller 2 Children

Mary Denlinger (1890-1927) m John Spahr 3 Children

Ida Denlinger (1892-) m Ira Jacob Garber 2 Children

William Denlinger (1894-1950) m Gertrude Carter 2 Children

Amelia Denlinger (1896-)

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LYDIA DENLINGER

(Eighth Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Owen Montgomery

Mary Montgomery (1878-1918) m James Harman 9 Children

John Montgomery (1880-1881)

Bertha Montgomery (1882-1912)m Charles Flath 2 Children

Albert Montgomery (1886-1933)m Leona Ullery 6 Children

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BABY INFANT DENLINGER

(Ninth Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

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JOSEPH H. DENLINGER

(Tenth Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Margaret Neff

Mary J Denlinger (1874-1910) m Jesse Flory 3 Children

Althea Denlinger (1877-1913)

Albert Denlinger (1880-1848)m Viola Rinehart 1 Child

Elizabeth Denlinger (1887-)

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HENRY DENLINGER

(Eleventh Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Died when he was 4 months old

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SARAH ANN DENLINGER

(Twelfth Child of John & Sarah Denlinger)

Married: Henry Filbrun

Jesse Filbrun (1881-1929) m Anna Basore 5 Children

Perry Filbrun (1884-) m Effie Mohler 8 Children

Ida Mae Filbrun (1891-) m Henry W Garber 4 Children

Evertt Filbrun (1900-1951) m Nora Etter 3 Children

m Evelyn M Garber 2 Children

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