

By Julie Boyd Cole  
Line of John, Thomas and William  
1/23/2017

We have for two centuries speculated on the origin of our orphan matriarch Sarah Wells. The *Blue Book* authors and other family sleuths have put several theories out \_ that she was born on Staten Island; that she was the daughter of a minister who drowned in a ferry crossing in New York harbor; that she was a child of parents lost during an Atlantic crossing; that she may be the daughter of Philip Wells of Staten Island \_ and there are a few more.

Samuel Eager, maybe giving a fictionalized account, said she was the adopted daughter of the Dennes, had lived with them from a “tender age” and that she didn’t remember her birth family.

But, none of those theories have panned out despite decades of research by many family historians.

Let’s look at the facts that we know:

1. We have no record of Sarah’s birth;
2. We know she was of childbearing-age at least between 1721 and 1745, when her 12 children were born;
3. We have no record of when she came to live with the Dennes;
4. The Blue Book reports that Sarah was “bound to the Dennes” by state authority as a house servant;
5. The Dennes promised Sarah, but took years to fulfill it, 100 acres for her service to settle the patent;
6. That she married William in 1718;
7. That she died in 1796.

Starting there, I began to research Sarah’s origins a few weeks ago after I received the results of my DNA test. Here is what I, a Bull by my mother’s family, found:

- I am 99.9% Northern European, which includes a.) British/Irish b.) Finnish c.) French/German; and d.) .1% African;
- The test detects *heritage* NO OLDER than 500 years ago;
- That my oldest gene, the mitochondrial DNA dates back 40,000 thousand years and that one and only gene comes from my mother’s mother’s mother’s. .... And so on and she was in Northern Europe at the time;
- My Finnish genes come from my Dad’s side, *of course because my grandmother was 100% Finnish*, but I also inherited from him British/Irish, French/German and African genes;
- From my mother, I got British/Irish and French/German. No big surprise on this. My mother’s mother is Mary Elizabeth Cocks Bull, whose family dates back to Orange County almost as long as the Bulls;

- (I'm not sure where the African gene came from but it's cool to get that surprise.)

The test results started me down a path of discovery and as Judy Wood would say, I caught the bug. I began to dig deeper into our history and I quickly began to fill in some blanks on both sides of my family tree. I spoke to both Judy, Sarah Brownell and Michael Brown to get even more information.

I have always wanted to know where Sarah Wells came from and I have always been interested in our genealogy. My grandfather Henry Pierson Bull told me many stories about our family and pointed out many family landmarks around Orange County. My cousin Michael Brown told me tales too when I was a child about William and Sarah. That interest was sparked again by my test.

I decided to research the early Wells families of early America and despite the information age, had about as much luck as the authors of our Blue Book. Like them, I was able to rule out some Wells family lines because of the timing of births and deaths and so on. I ruled out all but one of the 17th Century American Wells families as a connection to our Sarah. It is important to remember that 17th Century America was rural and rustic and had a tiny population. Yet, because of their religious protocols, they kept excellent records of births, marriages and deaths. Many of those old church records are now available online and searchable.

Further, worldwide genealogy is so popular that family trees are now overlapping with thousands of others to create one big family tree of information. Though the information there is not necessarily accurate, it does provide great leads to official records and source material.

Still, I could find no trace of Sarah other than our own family entries and lore.

I decided to research Philip Wells of Staten Island and though I found no wife or child, I did discover that his sister was Susanna Sarah Wells Merrill, an early settler of Staten Island. That was a promising lead but did not answer any questions, only created more. The Merrills became a prominent family of Staten Island and are still active today. They have a researched family history. Susanna, who was a generation older than our Sarah, had many children and all the births were recorded. She, her husband and her brother were from England and there is record of their births, marriage and the births of some of their children there. Susanna had more children here and they remained on the island for generations. Philip Wells arrived either with his sister in 1675 or a few years later. The New York record shows he worked for the city as a land surveyor, but left the area soon after he was involved in a controversy about a survey he conducted on Staten Island. The last record I found regarding Philip was his will recorded in Virginia near Jamestown in December of 1694, technically not ruling him out as Sarah's father, but also a longshot. His will left his estate to his sister Susanna on Staten Island and left her his wedding ring. Maybe this could be a connection. But it still didn't explain why Sarah was given away with her name. [\*First Settlers of Ye Plantations of Piscataway and Woodsridge Olde East New\*](#)

Since the Staten Island Wells family only works as a possible option if we assume that this established, large family had some unknown reason to give up Sarah, I decided to look elsewhere.

I began to research life in New York in at the turn of the 17th Century and that is where I believe I finally found the most interesting information. It is important to keep the following information in mind:

**A brief review of life in New York during the turn of the 17th Century.**



Life in New York in the 1600s was as I said scarcely populated by white settlers. The Dutch first settled the New York harbor area in the early 1600s chasing the fur trade. By 1664, New York was taken by the English, who ruled it until the American Revolution. New Amsterdam, as New York City was once called, encompassed Lower Manhattan, Brooklyn and Long Island, Staten

Island and several of the smaller islands. There were just a few thousands settlers living in New York City. The 150 miles of the Hudson River to Albany was settled by few Europeans, mostly by temporary fur trappers. A governor appointed by the ruling monarch of England managed the colony. A city mayor and “common council” handled the day-to-day operations of the small town. *(They kept and maintained meeting minutes and many records that can be found online today. I read years of meeting minutes.)*

There was one wharf, or dock, on the East River on Manhattan and a wall *(on what is now called Wall Street)* that separated the island for protection from Indians and the French.

Staten Island was first settled in 1661 by the Dutch and the French Huguenots. By 1698, it was cut into no more than about 100 homesteads and had a population of about 727 people, many Dutch reformers. There was a documented census in 1706 <http://www.nygenweb.net/richmond/1706.txt> The first city-run ferry was established in 1713 *(and I studied ferries.)* Long Island was equally developed, although the city operated a ferry there as early as 1700.

English leadership of New York changed often as monarchs changed in London. The first governors were as followed: *The Earl of Bellomont 1698-1701; Lord Cornbury 1702-1708; Lord Lovelace, 1708-1710; Gov. Robert Hunter, 1710-1719; William Burnet, 1720-1728; John Montgomerie, 1728-1732; and William Cosby, 1732-1736; George Clinton, 1743-1753.*

I found many records and historical accounts about life in early New York, including decades of meeting minutes of the New York Common Council. I also found copies of wills filed as early as 1694, birth records on Staten Island *(which was called Richmond)*, census records, deeds, voting records, and many other documents online.

I found out that Christopher Denne and his wife (Elizabeth Jones) immigrated to the New World from Kent, England. I traced Christopher’s line in England [\*\(Christopher and Elizabeth’s wills\)\*](#). I read his will and Elizabeth’s will. Here are some more very interesting facts:

- Denne was made a “Freeman” of New York in 1702. He first shows up in the minutes of the New York Common Council in 1703 when he, Lancaster Symes *(one of the 12 patent holders of our Wawayanda Patent)* and Garrett VanHorn *(John Van Horn was another of the 12 patent holders and likely a relative of Garrett’s)* petitioned the city to become the managers of the NY dock. At that time, the dock was leased out by the city to contractors who then ran it, and paid the city rent. They were contracted to keep the dock in good shape, manage the inflow and outflow of goods and people, and so on.
- Denne was indeed listed as a carpenter. Smyes was a merchant and VanHorn, a “bolter.”
- The city awarded Denne and his partners the contract for 12 years, from 1703 to 1715, but soon into the lease, VanHorn dropped out of the partnership.

- Denne also lived on Pearl Street just one block from the dock and as the Blue Book noted, in a home rented from Smyes' mother-in-law.
- The two men failed as Dock masters and neglected the care of the wharf. There were many references in the minutes of motions to "force" Denne and Smyes to clean up the dock and pay back-rent to the city. For years, the city threaten to take action against the men and in 1712 called them in again with threats. By 1713, the city stripped them of the lease and sought payment, but by now Denne was in Orange County living in his log cabin. Historian Arthur Edward Peterson of Columbia University wrote about their lack of management in 1917 in "New York as an 18th Century New York Municipality":

*"Two or three men proved no better than one for the work. Scarcely a year had passed when an investigating committee reported that all along the Dock is Very Dirty and several heaps of Stones & Trash on it which with the Rain is Carried into the Dock And previously on complaint of several inhabitants the lessees were ordered to clear a cart way on the west side of the dock that was stopt up and Incumbred with Masts and Timber upon pain of being prosecuted for maintaining A Nuisance 5 Another committee reporting June 4 1708 found the Dock not Cleansed According to the Lessees Agreement 8 It is interesting to note that Christopher Denne occupied a seat in the common council at this time When action was finally brought it was directed against Lancaster Symes one of the Lessee's 7 and not against both which is also interesting ."*

<https://books.google.com/books?id=sEM5AQAAIAAJ&lpg=PA122&dq=new%20york%20in%20the%20eighteenth%20century%20the%20dock&pg=PA120#v=onepage&q=new%20york%20in%20the%20eighteenth%20century%20the%20dock&f=false>

I found dozens of records referring to Denne and the men on our patent, names of witnesses on Denne's will, and co-assemblymen. There were more records that I could get through and more to examine. But, though there were many records, none of Sarah.

In the searching, I learned a lot about our patent holders, who were land speculators and "businessmen" in the rough hamlet of New York. The city was filled with schemes to get rich and politicians trying to make their mark with the Crown.

Our patent holders were part of this bunch:

**Benjamin Aske**, a merchant, became a Freeman in 1695 and was sued for having an illegitimate child with an unmarried woman.

<http://www.albertwisnerlibrary.org/Factsandhistory/History/WVHeritage%20Database%20Linked%20Documents/Aske%20Benjamin%20OCHS%20Journal.pdf>

**Hendrick Teneych**, was also known as Nicholas, became a Freeman in 1701 and voted in the NY city elections in 1701 in the West ward;

**Derrick Vanderburgh**, also voted in the West Ward in 1701; was a bricklayer and became a Freeman in 1698;

**John Cholwell**, was a merchant, voted in the West Ward in 1701 and became a Freeman in 1701;

**Daniel Honan**, was the provincial secretary to the Governor and a Freeman in 1695;

**Phillip Rookeby** was a surgeon in the militia, according to the Blue Book, but I couldn't find him in any records in NY;

**John Merritt**, was a major in the militia, a Freeman in 1698 and was appointed justice of Orange County in 1702;

**Peter Matthews** was a gentleman and former officer in the militia. He became a Freeman in 1695

<https://books.google.com/books?id=ZCIWAAAAYAAJ&pg=PA205&lpg=PA205&dq=christopher+denne+new+york+1700&source=bl&ots=tkRTKq0wF7&sig=qc50Ouxh1-fyNI9k8uzkDgbtUHK&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewjy35CTqsrRAhVM0mMKHZ30BGwQ6AEISzAM#v=onepage&q=christopher%20denne%20new%20york%201700&f=false>

**Lancaster Symes**, was known for having a bad temper. He was a Freeman in 1701, Denne's business partner on the Dock, a militia officer and merchant, the Ranger of Orange County. Queen Anne awarded Symes all the Crown's land on Staten Island in 1708. Lancaster also bought a lot on Dock Street in New York from Benjamin Aske.

I could not find **Cornelius Christian**, but the Blue Book says he was listed as a "New Jersey Yoeman." He sold his patent share in 1704.

And of course, **Dr. John Bridges**, who died in 1704.

Then the men and women who bought shares from the original holders:

**Daniel Crommelin** voted in the 1701 East Ward election and bought Rookery's, Henrick's and Merritt's shares.

<http://www.crommelin.org/history/Biographies/1647Daniel/1694-1716-DeConinckOrphans/DeConinckOrphans.htm>

In all likelihood, Daniel's ability to emigrate to America via Jamaica was made possible with money that belonged to his young destitute cousins in Holland whom he may never have repaid. Therefore, in losing all of his hard-won assets at the end of his life, Daniel may have 'reaped what he sowed'. Had he willingly relinquished the money that didn't belong to him, perhaps Daniel's estate might also have had a happier ending. In that respect Frederic's words to Daniel on February 20, 1695 were prophetic when he wrote, *"what consoles me is that if we are not punished for our crimes, at least there is a God who knows how to avenge us of such perfidy."*

**Adrian Hooglandt**, who was Constable of the East Ward of NY in 1698, bought Cholwell's shares and later more. *He was killed by his slave in 1712.* His wife Anna kept his share when he died.

**Col William Merritt**, John's father, bought Honan's shares in 1705.

**John Van Horn** was the Constable of the Dock Ward of NY in 1697 and bought widow Anne Bridge's shares after John's death.

**Anthony Rutgerts**, a Freeman in 1699, bought Col Merritt's shares when he died in 1708.

To be a Freeman in New York at the time, was to be among just a few thousand, maybe less than two thousand, adult men of the entire colony. New York was a tiny place. They knew each other and worked together often. Their names come up in many combinations in the records.

Here are some of the other people that are associated with Christopher Denne, (*Denne also served as an assistant Alderman for the New York Common Council for several years until he moved to Orange County*):

**William Bradford** was New York's only publisher and was a witness to Denne's will. His son, William Bradford Jr., was a benefactor in Elizabeth Denne's will.

**Rip Van Dam** was a South Ward Common Council assemblyman and a noted man involved in many decisions in New York;

**Robert Livingston** of Livingston Manor was a Hudson River developer well connected to the New York Governor Robert Hudson.

There are thousands of pages of documents to study that note these men. Sometimes their names are spelled incorrectly, but connections can be made fairly easily based on timeframes, process of elimination and even corrected spelling later in the same document. Names that start with Van sometimes include a space and sometimes don't, for example: Van Horn, Vanhorn, VanHorne, and so on.

Since the population was small it was common that every entry of a surname on the census (*which the local government took often to fulfill the Crown's directive*) was for one family.

It was through this study that the picture of the Dennes emerges, childless and trying to make their fortune through various opportunities, though none really working out. It doesn't appear that Denne ever paid the city the back debt for the dock management.

**Now on to Sarah ...**

In 1708, a small group of religious refugees, called Palatines, from Rhine River area of French/Germany were rescued by Rev. Kocherthal, a Lutheran pastor who was on a mission to help those in a desperate situation in that region. Louis XIV was brutalizing Protestants in his realm and along the Rhine River on the border of Germany. Queen Anne and her political partners favored helping any Protestant. She agreed to pay for the fare and one year's worth of expenses to help this group of refugees get to America. They did and they came to the Hudson River and settled Newburgh, successfully.

Rev. Kocherthal decided to go back to the region and rescue more of the wandering and terrorized refugees. When he arrived in the Rhine region, more than 3,000 refugees had amassed and had heard about the Queen's generosity. They wanted to go to the "Land of Milk and Honey" as England advertised. Kocherthal led the refugees to Rotterdam and then to London, to the surprise and panic of the Queen. They didn't expect to see such a mass exodus and were immediately overwhelmed. Queen Anne couldn't offer the same deal as she did the year earlier to so many because of the expense, so they negotiated a deal with Governor Robert Hunter. Hunter and Robert Livingston, who was working to develop the Hudson River and owned thousands of acres, believed the refugees would be an excellent source of labor to begin production of pine tar used to build Naval ships. Further, they both were concerned about the growing pressure coming from the French from the north. The refugees from Germany could populate the area as Englishman and secure the land, they thought.

*GOV HUNTER TO THE BOARD OF TRADE Lond Doc XVIII New York July 24 1710 Mv Lords By a small vessell bound for Lisbon I gave your Lordships notice of our arrival here June 14 Since that time all the Palatine Ships separated by the weather are arrived safe except the Herbert Frigat where our Tents and arms are She was cast away on the East end of Long Island on the 7th July the men are Safe but our goods much damaged We still want the Bercley Castle which we left at Portsmouth the poor people have been mighty sickly but recover apace We have lost above 470 of our number Soon after my arrival I sent the Surveyor with some Skillfull men to Survey the land on the Mo haks River particularly the Skohare to which the Indians had no pretence being Colonel Bayards's Grant they however by the instigation of some ill intentioned men at first refused to suffer it to be Surveyed upon pretence of its having returned to them after the resumption but have been better advisd since So that at this time he is actually Surveying of it These lands however I believe will be no ways fit for the design in hand being very good Lands which here bears no Pines and lyes very remote I shall however be able to carry it on elsewhere for there is no want of Pines but the pine land being good for nothing the difficulty will ly in finding such a situation as will afford good land for their Settlements near the Pine lands I am in terms with some who have lands on the Hudson's River fitt for that purpose which I intend to view next week in company with Dr Bridges who is now with me and gives me good Incouragement S38 PAPERS RELATING TO THE PALATINES*

Livingston ultimately offered to sell to New York some of his land that could be used for encampments for the refugees. Hunter agreed to front the money for the settlement. They offered each Palatine family 40 acres each in New York (state) to all who finished their servitude as laborers in what they hoped would become a thriving and successful settlement, where they would manufacture tar from the pine trees of New York. Queen Anne and the Palatines agreed.

Ten ships were commissioned to carry the 3,000 refugees to America in 1709 and left London for what was suppose to be a seven week trip. However, unlike the first ship of Palatines who settled Newburgh, this expedition was much larger and less resourced for the journey.

([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German\\_Palatines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Palatines))

There was immediate disaster when the ship *Berkeley Castle* had trouble and return to port for repairs. Another ship sank before leaving sight of land and all on board perished. The rest of the ships had trouble on the crossing. The weather was stormy. They didn't have enough food for the many on board. Sickness and scurvy ran rampant. In all, more than 400 men, women and children died during the crossing and their bodies were tossed overboard.

It took much longer than expected to reach the New World and when they finally made their way into New York harbor in the summer of 1710, three of the original 10 boats were missing. *The Herbert*, the ship carrying all their equipment for their new settlements, sank off the coast of Long Island. The citizens of New York, which numbered less than 5,000, were panicked by the number of people on board the ships and assumed they were all infected with disease. They protested their debarking. Hunter, in a hasty move, decided to set up a temporary camp on Nutter's Island (*now Governor's Island*) for the Palatines, and held them aboard until the settlement could be constructed. (*This is considered the precursor to Ellis Island.*)

However, with so many deaths during the journey, there were now dozens of children who were suddenly orphans.

Hunter and Livingston came up with a plan to deal with this population, too. At this time in the history of New York, there were no organized orphan homes, but there were government procedures to handle widows and orphans. Mostly, they found families to take in such people , who would otherwise have no way of supporting themselves. So, Hunter passed an act called the *Palatine Children Apprenticed act of 1710-1714* that allowed citizens to take in these children as apprentices to be tradesman and housemaids.

<https://books.google.com/books?id=LG7KAAAAMAAJ&dq=names%20of%20the%20palatine%20children%20apprenticed&pg=PA126#v=onepage&q=names%20of%20the%20palatine%20children%20apprenticed&f=false>

Advertisements were placed in the city that anyone could volunteer to take in the children following a few rules and the children would be "bound to them" for a number of years: girls until the age of 15 and boys until the age of 17.

And since many couples lost their spouses on the journey, children in those families, many whose mothers were still alive, would also be placed in the program.

*The New York Common Council: e4ORDER FOR APPRENTICING THE PALATINE CHILDREN Council 20 June 1710 There haveing beene severall Proposals made for the taking many of the Palatine Children for a Terme of Yeares and there being many Orphans who are unable to take care of themselves to work and many who by sickness are Rendered incapable of doeing any service for some time and in that Condition would be a great expence and there being noe Prospect of Settleing them this siuner by reason its soe much advanced His Excellency does appoint Doctor Staats and Mr Van Dam or either of them to take such Proposals for Placeing out the Orphans and other Children whose Parents have a numerous ffamily Entring into an Instrument in Writeing to Cloath Victuall and use them well and to deliver them to the Government when called for It is ordered that an Advertisement be printed Signifying that his Excellency is willing to Dispose of Such Orphans and other children as aforesaid and directing all Persons wao are willing to take any to apply themselves to Doctor Staats or Mr Van Dam or either of them The abore order was amended on 27 July directing that the Boys be bound until the age of 7 and the girls till they reach 15 years For a list of the Children apprenticed under this order see post [https://books.google.com/books/content?id=KtuBzUJ6AzUC&pg=PA334&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&sig=ACfU3U1m2BxnQi30Y\\_xyaTMZnrBM5OA3vg&ci=174%2C630%2C733%2C409&edge=0](https://books.google.com/books/content?id=KtuBzUJ6AzUC&pg=PA334&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&sig=ACfU3U1m2BxnQi30Y_xyaTMZnrBM5OA3vg&ci=174%2C630%2C733%2C409&edge=0)*

There were 73 children reported in the program. 43 were true orphans by the time they reached the New World. Thirty had a surviving parent. Of the 73, 41 children were placed in the homes of New Yorkers to learn a trade and be “bound” to their benefactors until they came of age.

Robert Livingston, the Hudson River developer, took in 7 children ages 8 to 14. Forty-one other children were farmed out to residents of Manhattan, including:

- Orphan, 12-year-old Magadelen Britman to Wawayanda Patent holder and Denne business partner Lancaster Symes;
- Orphan 14-year-old Hendrik Porter to Denne’s Dock lease partner Garrett VanHorn;
- Orphans brothers, Peter, 6, and Wilm, 10, Pyrin to Wawayanda Patent holder John VanHorn;
- John Peter Zenger, 13, son of the widowed Hanah Zenger, bound to Denne’s friend William Bradford;
- Jerit Castnor, 13, orphan bound to Orange County deed owner Michael Hawdon, who also took in Garrit (Gerhardt) Lamberton, 12, son of the widowed Lamberton.

All totaled, of the 41 children apprenticed by Governor Hunter and bound to a home in New York City, *half were documented associates of Christopher and Elizabeth Denne*. Dr. Bridges (most likely one of our patent holders, is listed in the letter by Gov. Hunter, as helping him find settlement sights on the Hudson. Dr. Staats and Mr. Van Dam are both known associates of

Denne, are listed as the two to find families for the children. Staats became a patent holder of the Wawayanda. <http://www.hrvh.org/cdm/ref/collection/chs/id/1697>

[https://books.google.com/books/content?id=YQ4XAAAAIAAJ&pg=RA1-PA134&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&sig=ACfU3U2LIOOIkQHeYN51LcLL\\_VeS09JbqA&ci=150%2C395%2C714%2C813&edge=0](https://books.google.com/books/content?id=YQ4XAAAAIAAJ&pg=RA1-PA134&img=1&zoom=3&hl=en&sig=ACfU3U2LIOOIkQHeYN51LcLL_VeS09JbqA&ci=150%2C395%2C714%2C813&edge=0)

And then there is Anna Margaretha Lamberton, a 13-year-old girl, sister to Gerhardt and daughter of the widow Elizabetha Lamberton, who was also bound to a New York household, *but* the first name was not legible enough to record and the last name was *Jno Deane*.

I searched the census of New York from 1683 to 1740 and could not find one family with the last name of Deane. Christopher Denne is the only name that comes close. Could Deane be just the misspelling of Denne and could Anna Margaretha Lamberton be our Sarah?

Anna Margaretha (*most of the girls on the list had the first name of Anna. I'm not yet sure why*) had two brothers, Gerhardt who was bound to Hawdon and a younger a child (*who was not bound and may have died or stayed with their mother*); and one sister, Frances Lamberton, 10, who was bound to John Hicks of Flushing.

I believe that this provides us with enough information to dig even deeper and try to find what happened to the rest of the family.

Lastly, one of the ships that carried the refugees to America, was christened "*Sarah*."

My search over the last few weeks turned up a lot of information on the Wells families through the New World, the Dennes and their friends, New York, Staten Island, the Hudson River, birth records, marriage records, ferries and even headstones. But, I found only the immigration passenger records on the Lamberton family in America or in Germany. I found nothing on the name Sarah Wells and her birthdate beyond our family's various entries. I found nothing to support that the Dennes "*adopted*" Sarah at a young age or that she was with them for very long. To me, it is too odd to believe that the our Sarah dodged all those census takings on Staten Island and Manhattan. It is hard to believe that a branch of the Wells family decided to cast off their daughter yet still give her their name.

Instead, it is much more plausible that Christopher Denne followed his friends and fellow land speculators and took in free labor. Of course then, it makes sense that he would send her up the Hudson River, where more than a thousand of her kinsmen had already headed. It would have been her fate if she hadn't lost her father in the crossing. It is much more plausible that Christopher, who had no more excuses left to avoid the creditor of the New York council on a decade of mismanagement of the Dock, would opt to start over in a log cabin in Goshen.

Anna Margaretha was just 13 years old, three years younger than Sarah's understood age, but doesn't it make more sense that Sarah was in fact 15 or 16 when she went up the river, as the family story-teller Samuel Eager shared. If our Sarah really was born in 1697 instead of 1694, then it would mean she had her first child at 24 years old and her last at 47, instead of the hard to believe 50 years old that our records report.

Of all the children farmed out to homes that year in New York, Anna Margaretha was one of the first to be placed, Sept. 22, 1710, the third day children were sent out. Her brother was placed nearly a month later. Her little sister was placed November 1, 1710.

I can imagine that after two years of living in a strange place in the Denne's home, separated from her family, Sarah would willingly go up the Hudson. She was suppose to have gone there in the first place, to "The Land of Milk and Honey" where her family might yet be.

Just read the historical account of the journey of the Palatines crossing the Atlantic and the years as refugees trying to survive through state-run persecution. You may see, as I do, that the day-long trip up the Hudson with plenty of supplies, food and manpower wasn't all that scary to a girl hoping to find her mother at the end.

I will be studying this more. I have created a family tree of the Lamberton's on myheritage.com and will share with you.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7G7BbYnc7npdU5kbIRiSVZKQ3c/view?usp=sharing>

#### **UPDATE:**

**I was lucky enough to communicate today (1/25/2017) with the award-winning genealogist and author Henry "Hank" Jones about this theory. He has studied the Palatine migration for two decades. He said that we should consider a Palatine connection based on what I've shared with him. He said it is plausible that Deane was misspelled and it could be Denne. However, he said that it is a "long-shot" that "Anna Margaretha" would be changed to "Sarah." He said that birthdates among the list of children were pretty accurate also. Though we have no record of Sarah's birthday other than our lore. He also told me that the Lamberton family listed among the Palatines were lost in history after their record in the Children apprentice program. He encouraged us to keep looking!**

**<http://www.hankjones.com/palny.htm>**

I am going to keep searching and reading records to see if I can find anything else that might help us make a connection.

I To see the list published in many places, go to:

The List of the Palatine Children Apprenticed by Hunter:

1.)

<https://books.google.com/books?id=stNkaJeTqPAC&lpg=PA339&dq=Palatine%20Children%20Apprenticed%20by%20Gov.%20Hunter%20in%20New%20York%201710&pg=PA341#v=onepage&q=Palatine%20Children%20Apprenticed%20by%20Gov.%20Hunter%20in%20New%20York%201710&f=false>

2.) <http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/palatines/palatine-indentures.shtml>

3.) [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/104q\\_MDnXaskFqZwyU28xbsjbYRUTDVXbH8gYXYpjtE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/104q_MDnXaskFqZwyU28xbsjbYRUTDVXbH8gYXYpjtE/edit?usp=sharing)

4.) <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nycoloni/palchild.html>

5.) <https://www.amazon.com/Palatine-Families-New-York-Set/dp/096138882X>

6.) Information about our patent holders

<http://www.ebooksread.com/authors-eng/various/the-history-of-orange-county-new-york-345/page-3-the-history-of-orange-county-new-york-345.shtml>