

# The Denison Family of Toronto: A Legacy of Heritage, 1792-1925

The Denison family is one of the most prominent and influential families in the history of Toronto, Canada. Their legacy, spanning over a century and a half, is intertwined with the development of the city from its early days as a frontier outpost to a thriving metropolis.

The family's roots in Toronto can be traced back to John Denison, who arrived in the city in 1792 as a young surveyor. Over the following decades, the Denisons established themselves as leading figures in business, industry, philanthropy, and education.



## The Denison Family of Toronto: 1792-1925 (Heritage Book 5) by Brian Keene

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 128 pages



This article explores the Denison family's legacy in Toronto, examining their contributions to the city's architecture, industry, philanthropy, and culture. We will also highlight some of the key figures in the family and their impact on the city's development.

## **Architecture**

The Denisons were responsible for the construction of some of Toronto's most iconic buildings. John Denison's son, George Taylor Denison, was a prominent architect who designed a number of important buildings in the city, including:

- The University of Toronto's Trinity College
- The Osgoode Hall Law School
- The St. Lawrence Market

George Taylor Denison's son, Colonel George Denison III, was also an accomplished architect. He designed a number of military buildings in Toronto, including the Fort York Armoury and the Royal Military College of Canada.

## **Industry**

The Denisons were also major players in Toronto's industrial development. John Denison's son, Robert Baldwin Sullivan Denison, was a successful businessman who founded a number of companies, including the Dominion Bank and the Toronto Street Railway Company.

Robert Baldwin Sullivan Denison's son, Colonel George Taylor Denison Jr., was also a prominent businessman. He was the president of the Toronto Board of Trade and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association.

## **Philanthropy**

The Denisons were generous philanthropists who donated large sums of money to a variety of causes. John Denison's son, George Taylor Denison,

was a major donor to the University of Toronto. He also founded the Denison House, a social settlement in Toronto's east end.

Colonel George Denison III was also a prominent philanthropist. He donated land for the establishment of a park in Toronto's west end, which is now known as High Park.

## **Education**

The Denisons were strong supporters of education. John Denison's son, George Taylor Denison, was a professor at the University of Toronto. He also founded the Upper Canada College, one of Toronto's most prestigious private schools.

Colonel George Denison III was also a strong advocate for education. He founded the Royal Military College of Canada, which is now one of Canada's top universities.

## **Culture**

The Denisons were also patrons of the arts and culture. John Denison's son, George Taylor Denison, was a founding member of the Art Gallery of Ontario. He also founded the Toronto Philharmonic Society.

Colonel George Denison III was also a patron of the arts. He was a member of the board of directors of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and the Royal Ontario Museum.

The Denison family played a significant role in the history of Toronto, Canada. Their legacy is a testament to their commitment to the city and their desire to make a difference. Their contributions to the city's

architecture, industry, philanthropy, and culture continue to shape Toronto today.

## **Timeline of the Denison Family in Toronto**

- **1792:** John Denison arrives in Toronto
- **1829:** George Taylor Denison is born
- **1843:** Robert Baldwin Sullivan Denison is born
- **1851:** Trinity College is founded
- **1853:** The Osgoode Hall Law School is founded
- **1855:** The St. Lawrence Market is opened
- **1860:** Upper Canada College is founded
- **1868:** Colonel George Denison III is born
- **1876:** The Fort York Armoury is built
- **1878:** The Royal Military College of Canada is founded
- **1892:** High Park is opened
- **1925:** Colonel George Denison III dies

## **Image Gallery**





Trinity College, Toronto





St. Lawrence Market, Toronto





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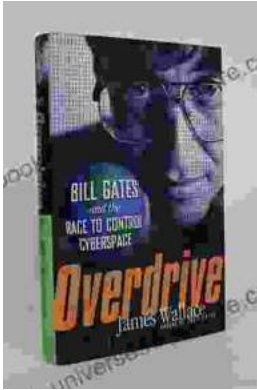
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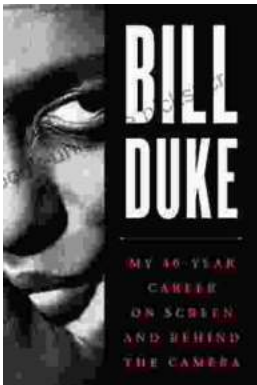
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