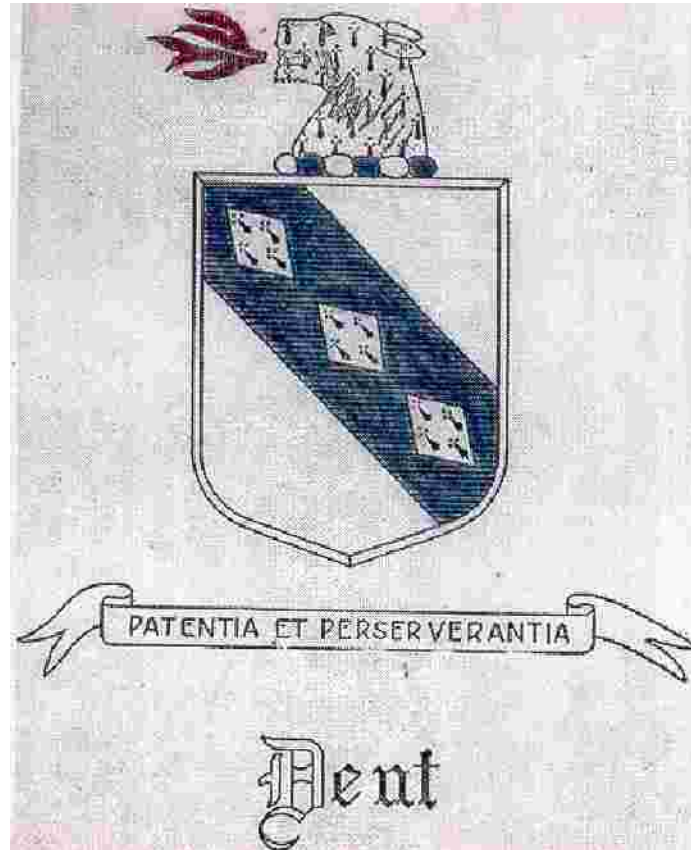


## DENT COAT OF ARMS – FAMILY CREST



The surname of DENT was a locational name 'of Dent' a township in the parish of Sedburgh, in the West Riding of Yorkshire. Local names usually denoted where a man held his land, and indicated where he actually lived. Early records of the name mention Osbert Deintie. 1199 county Northumberland. Henry William Deinte, was documented in 1227, County Berkshire. Since the dawn of civilisation the need to communicate has been a prime drive of all higher mankind. The more organised the social structure became, the more urgent the need to name places, objects and situations essential to the survival and existence of the social group. From this common stem arose the requirements to identify families, tribes and individual members evolving into a pattern in evidence today. In the formation of this history, common usage of customs, trades, locations, patronymic and generic terms were often adopted as surnames. The demands of bureaucracy

formally introduced by feudal lords in the 11th century, to define the boundaries and families within their fiefdoms, crystallized the need for personal identification and accountability, and surnames became in general use from this time onwards. Johannes de Dente of Yorkshire is listed in the Yorkshire Poll Tax of 1379. John Dent of Warton in Lancashire, was listed in the Wills at Richmond in 1678. Tobias Dent and Edeth Parsones were married at St. George's, Clerkenwell, London in the year 1682. At first the coat of arms was a practical matter which served a function on the battlefield and in tournaments. With his helmet covering his face, and armour encasing the knight from head to foot, the only means of identification for his followers, was the insignia painted on his shield and embroidered on his surcoat, the flowing and draped garment worn over the armour. In many parts of central and western Europe, hereditary surnames began to become fixed at around the 12th century, and have developed and changed slowly over the years. As society became more complex, and such matters as the management of tenure, and in particular the collection of taxes were delegated to special functionaries, it became imperative to distinguish a more complex system of nomenclature to differentiate one individual from another.

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## **Col. Thomas Dent, Sr., Gent. (1630-1676),**

Justice, Sheriff, and member of the Lower House of the Maryland General Assembly.

Thomas was born about 1630 in the Parish of [Guisborough, Yorkshire, England](#) making him slightly less than thirty years of age upon his arrival in America around 1658. He resided in [Saint Mary's County, Maryland](#).

### **Political career**

Thomas was a justice of St. Mary's county beginning in 1661, and became sheriff there in 1665, became coroner in 1669, and alderman in 1673. Thomas was a member of the Lower House, St. Mary's County from 1669-1675.

### **Marriage**

Thomas wedded Rebecca Wilkinson (1633-1726) in 1659. Rebecca was the Virginia born daughter of the [Rev. William Wilkinson](#) (1612-1676) who emigrated from England and his first wife, Naomi Hughes (1616-1634) his wife. After Thomas died, Rebecca married in 1677 Col. [John Addison](#) (d. 1705), a

bachelor who then returned to England and died there intestate. Col. Addison profited from this marriage, and this alienated the Dent children from their mother.

### **Property**

Thomas received a patent of land lying in [Charles County](#) called "Gisbrough" on May 5, 1663. Thomas accumulated over 1,000 acres (4 km<sup>2</sup>) of land, plus 3 plantations of unspecified area. His estate was valued at 596.8.0 pounds sterling, including 6 slaves, 8 servants, and books.

### **Death**

Thomas died April 22, 1676 in St. Mary's Co., Maryland. Thomas was the older brother of Capt. [John Dent, Sr.](#), Gent. (ca. 1645-1712), who married Mary Shercliff (1647-1712).

### **Children**

1. Col. [William Dent, Sr.](#), Gent. (1660-1705), who married 1) Elizabeth Fowke (1668-1703), daughter of Col. [Gerard Fowke, Sr.](#) (1625-1669) and Anne (Thoroughgood) Chandler (1630). 2) Sarah Brooke (1683-1724), daughter of Col. [Thomas Brooke, Jr.](#), Hon. (1660-1730) and second wife, Barbara Dent (1676-1754). Sarah married secondly, Capt. [Philip Lee, Sr.](#), Hon., Esq. (1681-1744) of "[Blenheim](#)".
2. Margaret Dent (1662-1712), who married [Edmond Howard](#) (1659-1712), a Justice and clerk of Charles Co., Maryland.
3. [Thomas Dent, Jr.](#) (ca. 1663), no further information.
4. [Peter Dent](#) (ca. 1665-1711), who married 1) Elizabeth (Ballard) King Wilson, widow of John King and Thomas Wilson, and daughter of Charles Ballard (died 1682). 2) Jane Pittman Gray, daughter of Joseph Gray (died 1724).
5. George Dent (1666-ca. 1702), no further information.
6. Barbara Dent (1676-1754), who married Col. [Thomas Brooke, Jr.](#), Hon. (1660-1730), son of Maj. [Thomas Brooke, Sr.](#), Esq. (1632-1676) and his second wife Eleanor Hatton (1642-1725).

### **Ancestry**

Thomas was the son of [Peter Dent II](#), Gent. (ca. 1600-1647) and Margaret Nicholson (1602-1647). Peter was born at Ormesby, North Riding of Yorkshire, England. He lived 6 miles away in Guisborough, North Riding of Yorkshire, England. The town and valley of Dent is about 70 miles west of Guisborough. Peter died in August of 1647 at Guisborough. Margaret was born at Hutton, Yorkshire, England.

Margaret was the daughter of Rev. [John Nicholson](#) (1576-1655).

Peter II, was the son of [Peter Dent I](#), Gent., of Ormesby (d.ca. 1642), a Parish in North Riding of Yorkshire, now part of Middlesbrough.

Peter was the son of [James Dent](#) (1575), Gent. of Ormesby.  
James was the son of William Dent (1520).

William was in turn the son of [Robert Dent](#) (1500) and Anne Fenwycke.

### **Other info**

Thomas Dent's son William had a son, Peter, who had a son, Peter Jr. Peter Jr. had a son, George, who had a son Frederick, who married Ellen Bray Wrenshall. Their daughter, Julia, was the wife of [Ulysses S. Grant](#), the 18th President of the United States.

## **References**

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