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Early Genealogy of the Davis Family

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Early Genealogy of the Davis Family

John Clement Davis

Helen Davis Johnson

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Copied directly from the Genealogy written
by John Clement Davis in the latter years of his life,
To quote:

"Empire, Ulaive, March seventh, 1896.

I have long had it in mind to make a Record, so far
as I might be able, of our branch of the Davis family
And although the results of my inquiries thus far
are very incomplete, yet will begin with what I have,
and shall try to so make it, that upon the acquisition
of any further facts, they may be readily added to it.

Of our English ancestry I have no knowledge, nor
have I, as yet been able to learn who, of the name, first
came to this country. Although it was very probable, in
fact, almost certain, that John Davis was the pro-
genitor of our branch of the family. He was living in
Ipswich, Mass. as early as 1650, and removed from
there to Gloucester, Mass. in the year 1652. He
bought a farm in Cape Ann on the Beverly side of
the river and settled there at the head of his household.

Of his numerous descendants who lived in that vicinity
until the period of the Revolution, and many of whom
according to the history of the times, took an active
part in public affairs, our interest is limited chiefly
to Zebulon Davis, the third or fourth in line of descent
from John of Ipswich, as he is the first of the name,
through whom we can positively trace our line of the
family. And to make this record plain, so that it can
be clearly understood, each succeeding generation
will be numbered, that to which he belonged being
the first.

The Pioneer and Progenitor of our family in Maine, was born about the year 1733, in Gloucester or Attleborough Mass. He was twice married and lived in Gloucester, some twenty years, and fathered six children, five sons and a daughter. He followed the sea as fisherman or seaman until about 1770, when he and his family with the exception of his eldest son, emigrated to Bakerstown, Maine, now known as Poland, and settled in the Empire, being one of its earliest Pioneers.

He took an active part in the stirring scenes of the Revolution, was captured by the British while in the service of his country and taken as a prisoner to Halifax, where he was held for a long time and endured many privations. For many years after his return home, he held the commission of Captain in the State Militia. He died in the year 1820, being nearly ninety years old. Throughout his long and exemplary life he was ever held in honor and respect.

His children were: Eliphalet², Aaron², Moses², Zebulon², William², and a daughter²; by his second wife there was a son Isaac².

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William Davis

William Davis, fourth son of Zebulon was born in Gloucester, Mass, in 1763. He came to Bakerstown, now Poland, with his father when about twelve years old, and during his minority, lived with his parents at the Empire. He married, about the year, 1786, Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer + Hannah Marble, born in Gloucester, Mass. March 16. 1765. They settled first on

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Pigeon Hill, where three of their children were born, and then moved to the Empire, where in 1792, he built the house, known as the Davis Homestead, in which they ever after lived. His wife died at the age of seventy-one years and ten months, and he at the age of eighty-two years and eight months.

He was an upright God-fearing man, of stalwart frame, grace of demeanor, moderate of speech, and of even, kindly disposition, yet firm and unyielding in principle. He was industrious and frugal and although he labored under the many disadvantages, incident to the settler of that day, yet the wants of his family were comfortably provided for, while the visitor and stranger ever found a welcome beneath his roof. He measured fully to the demands made upon him, and commanded and retained the respect of all whom he came in contact. His wife was a woman well adapted to the exigencies of the times, having been endowed by nature, with a strong constitution, and a courageous will. By study and practice she acquired a knowledge that enabled her to care for the sick, intelligently and skillfully, more especially in cases of childbirth, when her services were almost invaluable. These demands upon her were ever met with a cheerful response at any hour of the day or night. And in her ministrations upon the suffering, her skill combined with a strong and self-reliant personality both inspired confidence, and stimulated hope, and thus gave a value to her services, beyond our ability to estimate. To William² and Hannah³ Davis were born ten children, as follows:
Hannah³, Mary³, William³ Jr., Zebulon³, Stephen³, Rebekah³, Betsey³, Moses³, Eliphalet³ and Lucy³.

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William Davis, Jr.

William Davis, Jr., eldest son of William², was born on Pigeon Hill, now in the town of Mechanics Falls, May 16, 1791. Later his parents moved to the Empire, and he remained with them until he attained his majority. April first, 1813 he married Betsey, daughter of William and Molly (Ricker) Trickey. She was born in Kennebunk, May 13, 1791. Upon the death of her parents when she was about eighteen years old, she took her youngest sister, then a small infant, and came to Poland. Here she remained for a short time in the family of her Uncle, Samuel Ricker, on Ricker Hill. She then helped in the family of Jonathan Pulcifer, at the Empire for two shillings a week, and the board of her little sister. It is quite probable she formed the acquaintance of her future husband while she was here.

In 1816, she and her husband had been married three years, when he bought fifty acres of land, of Henry Bray, ten or twelve acres of which were cleared. The only building on it was a small house, - a shelter for a few head of cattle. He paid \$500 for the entire property and built a small house of two rooms below and an open chamber above. They moved into this dwelling late in the season of the same year. Thus they became established in their future home. They raised a family of thirteen children and all except the three eldest, were born in the house above spoken of.

On their small farm with an additional twenty-five acres bought later on, he and his wife were enabled by the exercise of sound judgment, hard and constant work, and a rigid economy, to pay for their land, to build barns for their stock and to feed and clothe their thirteen children. And there was never a time they went hungry for lack of food, or suffered for want of clothing.

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But the many anxious hours that were passed, when the crops were short, when debts were due, or sickness came, and all looked dark before them, we can never know, for it is impossible to lift the veil and look into the inner chamber of their souls, forever closed to all on earth.

In his home my father (John Clement Davis' father) was ever attentive to the wants of his children, and at the same time they were taught respect and obedience. He was a man of large acquaintance, of integrity and uprightness of character, and the exercise of these qualities gave him the respect and confidence of all with whom he had to do, in social or business life. His wife died June 28, 1869 at the residence of her son, William Ladd Davis, aged 78 years. Her death was peaceful like one quietly going to sleep. She, my mother, possessed a quiet, even, and hopeful disposition, and in her domestic, church and social relations, was ever true and constant. Her memory was affectionately cherished by her large family of sons and daughters, & by all who knew her. The names of the thirteen sons and daughters follow:

Mary Ann	- born	Nov. 18, 1813	died	March 14, 1855
Asa Windsor	- born	March 16, 1815	died	March 16, 1836
Gilman	- born	Oct 14, 1816	died	Nov. 10, 1887
William Ladd	- born	July 31, 1818	died	Nov. 8, 1897
Stephen Hull	- born	April 6, 1820	died	Nov. 11, 1906
Hannah	- born	Sept 23, 1821	died	June 23, 1898
Rosamund	- born	April 21, 1823	died	March 10, 1893
Sarah Pottle	- born	Jan 12, 1825	died	Dec. 16, 1843
John Clement	- born	July 9, 1826	died	April 13, 1906
Elizabeth	- born	Feb. 17, 1828	died	May 9, 1852
Louisa Tracy	- born	Nov. 4, 1829	died	March 4, 1905
Martha Freeman	- born	April 20, 1831	died	March 14, 1911
Harriet Evelina	- born	April 6, 1834	died	May 9, 1908

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John Clement Davis

⁴ John Clement Davis, born July 9, 1826 was married January 21, 1849 to Ann Mary Wiggin. She was born in Leeds, Maine April 12, 1823, and died in Poland, Oct 29, 1890.

Their children were

⁵ Levi Augustus, born Dec 14, 1849 - died July 31, 1851

⁵ Charles Augustus, born in Lewiston, May 31, 1852
died Feb 9, 1912

⁵ John Gilman, born in Poland, July 12, 1856
died in Poland, July 14, 1922

⁵ Walter Henry, born in Poland, Oct 15, 1860
died Oct 24, 1890.

The following material concerning the life of ⁴ John Clement Davis is copied from material written by his grandson, Irving Gilman Davis at Storrs, Connecticut, where he was a Professor + head of the Economics Dept at Conn. State College (now a University)

"⁴ John Clement Davis, was born in that portion of the town of Poland, in the State of Maine, long known as the Empire, on the ninth of July, 1826. He resided most of his life on or near the farm on which he died at the age of eighty years on April 13, 1906. This farm lies directly northeast of the railroad station called Elmwood on the Rangeley Branch of the Maine Central Railroad, and is intersected by that railroad.

As a child he attended district school up to the age of ~~eight~~ ^{nine} years and during the winter term for several winters after, His school books were the Bible, a spelling book and an arithmetic. At the age of seventeen he became a school teacher and after

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attaining manhood, he was for many years, in addition to his farm duties, superintendent of schools of the town of Poland. As he matured he became a careful and discriminating reader and a student of a wide range of political, religious and scientific subjects. Despite the after-times meagre income of the farm, he studied and read many of the best books and magazines of the time. In later life he became interested in the religious problem precipitated by the theory of evolution and the advance of science, and he read extensively in the works of Darwin, Huxley, Drummond and others. Although trained in the discipline of the Methodist Church, it is certain that his religious views underwent important modifications, although he always remained a deeply religious man.

As a young man he with his brothers, finished the clearing of the family homestead, which was built by his grand-father, William Davis, in 1792, and later he made alterations on it, making it more modern and converting it into the substantial and attractive home now standing on the home place, and at the time of this writing, owned by Leon G. Torrey.

As a farmer he lived thru the difficult period of self-sufficiency to commercial farming. While he partially succeeded in making the transition his ideals were those of fine workmanship, maintenance of soil fertility, good crops, efficient labor management and well-kept fence rows. It remained for his son, John Gilman Davis, to combine these ideals with the principles of business farming and furnish an almost unequalled example of the best in farm management, and procedure for the place and time.

After the sale of the farm to his son, John Gilman⁵ in 1892, John Clement⁴ Davis made a tour of the United States, for one thing, taking in the World's Fair at Chicago at the turn of the century. After his return he resided with his son. He was for many years of considerable assistance in the conduct of the farm and devoted much time also to his genealogical studies, in his later years.

His summers were often spent at Moultonboro, New Hampshire amid the mountains and lakes he loved, and with childhood friends whom he held dear.

He was well-endowed both physically and mentally. In his prime he was slightly more than six feet tall and weighed about 185 pounds. He possessed strength and endurance sufficient for the necessities of life on a pioneer farm in the age of hard labor.

He was a man of exceptional natural mental ability. He had marked intellectual curiosity and honesty, with an innate love of the truth. He was a born teacher, - a believer in the value and power of education. He was a humanitarian, a lover of nature and a cultured man. His last years of study, travel, intellectual progress and religious adjustment were a fitting realization of what seem to have been, outside of his farm life, the leading aspirations of his long life.

Dear Earl, Knowing that you wanted some details of the Davis family genealogy, I have copied from a copy of my own, taken directly from Grandpa Davis' genealogy, which Donald now has. I hope this will give you a good idea of our family inheritance, along the straight line of descent from the first Davis settler we know about. They were wonderful people weren't they?

Affectionately, your cousin
Helen Davis Johnson
(Daughter of John Silvan Davis)

53 Fairfield Street
Springfield, Mass.
Dec. 17, 1950

Copied directly from the Genealogy written by
John Clement Davis in the latter years of his life,
to quote: Empire, Maine, March 7, 1896

I have long had it in mind to make a record, so far as I might be able, of our Branch of the Davis family and although the results of my inquiries thus far are very incomplete, yet will begin with what I have, and shall try to so make it, that upon the acquisition of any further facts, they may be readily added to it.

Of our English ancestry I have no knowledge, nor have I, as yet, been able to learn who, of the name, first came to this country, although it was very probably, in fact, almost certain, that John Davis was the progenitor of our branch of the family. He was living in Ipswich, Mass., as early as 1650, and removed from there to Gloucester, Mass in the year 1652. He bought a farm in Cape Ann on the Beverly side of the river and settled there at the head of his household.

Of his numerous descendants who lived in that vicinity until the period of the Revolution, and many of whom according to the history of the time, took an active part in public affairs, our interest is limited chiefly to Zebulon Davis, the third or fourth in line of descent from John of Ipswich, as he is the first of the name, through whom we can positively trace our line of the family. To make this record plain, so that it can be clearly understood, such succeeding generation will be numbered, that to which he belonged being the first.

(1)
ZEBULON DAVIS

The pioneer and progenitor of our family in Maine, was born about the year 1733, in Gloucester or Attleborough, Mass. He was twice married and lived in Gloucester, some twenty years, and fathered six children, five sons and a daughter. He followed the sea as fisherman or seaman until about 1770 when he and his family, with the exception of his eldest son, migrated to Bakerstown, Maine, now known as Poland, and settled in the Empire, being one of its earliest pioneers.

He took an active part in the stirring scenes of the revolution, was captured by the British while in the service of his country and taken as a prisoner to Halifax, where he was held for a long time and endured many privations. For many years after his return home he held the commission of captian in the State Militia. He died in the year 1820, being nearly ninety years old. Throughout his long and something (maybe exemplary) life, he was ever held in honor and respect. His children were Eliphalet (2), Aaron (2), Moses (2), something (maybe Zepulon) (2), William (2), and a daughter (2); by his second wife there was a son, Iszac (2).

(2)
WILLIAM DAVIS

William Davis, fourth son of Zebulon, was born in Gloucester, Mass. In 1763. He came to Bakerstown, now Poland, with his father when about twelve years old, and during his minority, lived with his parents at the Empire. He married, about the year 1786, Hannah, daughter of Ebenezer and Hannah Marble, born in Gloucester, Mass., March 16, 1765. They settled first on Pigeon Hill, where three of their

children were born, and then moved to the Empire, where in 1792, he built the home known as the Davis Homestead in which they ever after lived. His wife died at the age of seventy-one years and ten months, and he at the age of eighty-two years and eight months.

He was an upright God-fearing man of stalwart frame, grace of demeanor, moderate of speech, and of even, kindly disposition, yet firm and unyielding in principle. He was industrious and frugal and although he labored under the many disadvantages incident to the settler of that day, yet the wants of his family were comfortably provided for, while the visitor and stranger ever found a welcome beneath his roof. He measured fully to the demands made upon him, and commanded and retained the respect of all whom he came in contact. His wife was a woman well adapted to the exigencies of the times, having been endowed by nature with a strong constitution, and a courageous will. By study and practice she acquired a knowledge that enabled her to care for the sick, intelligently and skillfully, and especially in cases of childbirth, when her services were almost invaluable. These demands upon her were ever met with a cheerful response at any hour of the day or night. In his ministrations upon the suffering, her skill combined with a strong and self-reliant personality both inspired confidence and stimulated hope, and thus gave a value to her services beyond our ability to estimate. To William (2) and Hannah Davis were born ten children as follows: Hannah (3), Mary (3), William Jr. (3), Zebulon (3), Stephen (3), Rebekah (3), Betsey (3), Moses (3), Eliphalet (3), and Lucy (3).

(3)

WILLIAM DAVIS, JR.

William Davis, Jr., eldest son of William (2) was born on Pigeon Hill, now in the town of Mechanics Falls, May 16, 1791. Later his parents moved to the Empire, and he remained with them until he attained his majority. On April 1, 1813, he married Betsey, daughter of William and Molly (Ricker) Trickey. She was born in Kennebunk, May 13, 1791. Upon the death of her parents when she was about eighteen years old, she took her youngest sister, then a small infant, and came to Poland. Here she remained for a short time in the family of her uncle, Samuel Ricker, on Ricker Hill. She then helped in the family of Jonathan Pulcifer, at the Empire for two shillings a week, and the board of her little sister. It is quite probably she formed the acquaintance of her future husband while she was here.

In 1816 she and her husband had been married three years when he bought fifty acres of land, of Henry Bray, ten or twelve acres of which were cleared. The only building on it was a small house, - a shelter for a few head of cattle. He paid \$500. For the entire property and build a small house of two rooms below and an open chamber above. They moved into this dwelling late in the season of the same year. Thus they became established in their future home. They raised a family of thirteen children and all except the three oldest, were born in the house above spoken of.

On their small farm with an additional twenty-five acres bought late on, he and his wife were enabled by the exercise of sound judgment, hard and constant work, and a rigid economy, to pay for their land, to build barns for their stock and to feed and clothe their thirteen children. And there was never a time they went hungry for lack of food, or suffered for want of clothing. But the many anxious hours that were passed, when the crops were short, when debts were due, or sickness came, and all looked dark before them, we can never know, for it is impossible to lift the veil and look into the inner chamber of their souls, forever closed to all on earth.

In his home my father (3) (John Clement Davis' father) was ever attentive to the wants of his children, and at the same time they were taught respect and obedience. He was a man of large acquaintance, of integrity and uprightness of character, and the exercise of these qualities gave him the respect and confidence of all with whom he had to do, in social or business life. His wife died June 28, 1869, at the residence of her son, William Ladd Davis, aged 78 years. Her death was peaceful, like one quietly going to sleep. She, my mother, possessed a quiet, even and hopeful disposition, and in her domestic, church and social relations, was ever true and constant. Her memory was affectionately cherished by her large family of sons and daughters and by all who knew her. The names of the thirteen sons and daughters follow:

Mary Ann (4)	born Nov. 18, 1813	died Mar. 14, 1855
Ana Windsor (4)	born Mar. 16, 1815	died Mar. 16, 1836
Gilman (4)	born Oct. 14, 1816	died Nov. 10, 1887
William Ladd (4)	born July 31, 1818	died Nov. 8, 1897
Stephen Hull (4)	born Apr. 6, 1820	died Nov. 11, 1906
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Louisa Tracy (4)	born Nov. 4, 1829	died Mar. 4, 1905
Martha Freeman (4)	born Apr. 20, 1831	died Mar. 14, 1911
Harriet Evelina (4)	born Apr. 6, 1834	died May 9, 1908

(4)

JOHN CLEMENT DAVIS

John Clement (4), born July 9, 1826, was married January 21, 1849 to Ann Mary Wiggin. She was born in Leeds, Maine, April 12, 1823, and died in Poland, October 29, 1890. Their children were”

Levi Augustus (5)	born Dec. 14, 1849	died July 31, 1851
Charles Augustus (5)	born in Lewiston, May 31, 1852	died Feb 9, 1912
John Gilman (5)	born in Poland, July 12, 1856	died in Poland July 14, 1922
Walter Henry (5)	born in Poland, Oct. 15, 1860	died Oct. 24, 1890

The following material concerned the life of John Clement Davis (4) is copied from material written by his grandson, Irving Gilman Davis, at Storrs, Conn., where he was a Professor and head of the economics Department at Connecticut State College (now a University).

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As a young man he, with his brothers, finished the clearing of the family homestead, which was built by his grandfather, William Davis, in 1792, and later he made alterations on it, making it more modern and converting it into the substantial and attractive home now standing on the home place, and at the time of his writing, owned by Leon G. Torrey.

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After the sale of the farm to his son, John Gilman (5), in 1892, John Clement Davis (4) made a tour of the United States – for one thing, taking in the World's Fair at Chicago at the turn of the century. After his return he resided with his son. He was for many years of considerable assistance in the conduct of the farm and devoted much time also to his genealogical studies in his later years.

His summers were often spent at Moultonboro, New Hampshire, amid the mountains and lakes he loved, and with childhood friends whom he held dear. He was well endowed both physically and mentally. In his prime he was slightly more than six feet tall and weighted about 185 pounds. He possessed strength and endurance sufficient for the necessities of life on a pioneer farm in the age of hand labor.

He was a man of exceptional natural mental ability, he had marked intellectual curiosity and honesty, with an innate love of the truth. He was a born teacher, -a believer in the value and power of education. He was a humanitarian, a lover of nature and a cultured man. His last years of study, travel, intellectual progress and religious adjustment were a filling realization of what seem to have been, outside of his farm life, the leading aspirations of his long life.

Dear Earl:

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Affectionately, your cousin

Helen Davis (6) Johnson

(Daughter of John Gilman Davis [5])

53 Fairfield St.
Springfield, Mass.
Dec. 17, 1950