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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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I'll Cofied directly from the Genealogy inthe I'll John Clement Daire in the latter years of his lefe, To quote: Empire, Maine, Marche seventle, 1896. I have long bad it in mind to make a Record, so far as I might be able, of our branche of the Davis Family and although the results of my inquiries thus far are very incomplete, yet will begin with rolat 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 the country. although it was very probable, in fact, almost certain, that John Davis was the progenitor of our branch of the family. He was living in Sprinely Mass. as early as 1650, and removed from there to Gloucester, Mass. in the year 1652. He bought a farm in Cafe ann on the Beverly side of the river and settled there at the head of his household. of his numerous descendants who leved we that incenty until the feriod of the Revolution, and many of whom . according to the history of the times, took an active Fart in fublic affairs, our interest is limited chiefly to Tebelon Davie, the third as fourthe we live of descent from John of Sperinche, as he is the first of the name, through show we can fositively trace our line of the fainly. and to make this record plain, so that it care be clearly understood, each succeeding generation will be numbered, that to much he belonged being the first.

Zebulon Davie

The Pioneer and Progenitor of our fainly in Marine, was bone about the year 1733, in Gloucester or attletorong Mass. He was twice married and lived in Gloncester, some twenty years, and fathered six children, five pous and a daughter. He followed the sea as fisherman or searnan until about 1770, voluen be and his fainly inthe the exception of his eldest son, emigrated to Bakerstown, Maine, now Ruown as Poland, are d settled in the Empire, being one of its earliest Proneers We took are active fart in the storing scenes of the Revolution, was captured by the British shile in the pervice 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 The return home, he held the commission of Caflain in the state militia. He died in the year 1820, being nearly ninety years old. Throughout his long and exemplary life the was ever held in houar and respect. His children were ; Eliflealet, aaron, Moses, Zebelon, William, and a daughter; by his second wife there was a por baac.

William Davis

William Davis, fourthe pour of Lebulon was bour in Gloncester, Mass, in 1763. He came to Bakerstown, now Poland, with his father when about twelve years old, and during this ministy, lived with his farents at the Empire. He married, about the year, 1786, Hannah, daughter of Eleweger + Hannah Martle, bour in Gloucester Mass March, 16, 1765. Shey settled first on

Pigeon Hill, where three of their children were born, and then moved to the Empire, where in 1792, he brief the house, know as the Davie Howestead, in which they eser after lived. His wife died at the age of seventy one years and tew moultis, and he at the age of eighty-two years and eight mouthes. He was an upright God-fearing man, of staliment frame, grace of demeanor, moderate of speech, and of eren, kindly disfosition, yet firm and myrelding in finiciple. He was industrious and frugal and although be labored under the many disadirantages, incident to the petter of that day, yet the wants of his family were comfortably provided for , while the Visitor and stranger ever found a melcome beneatte tis vog. He measured fully to the demande made upon Tim, and commanded and retained the respect of all whom he came in contact. His wife was a wordan 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 pick, intelligently and skillfully, more especially in cases of childbirthe, when her services were almost moaluable. These demandes upon her were ever met mith a cheerful response at any tour of the day or night. and in her ministrations whore the suffering. her skill combrued with a strong and self-reliant fersonality both metired confidence, and stimulated to fe, and thus gave a value to her services, beyoud our ability to estimate. To William and Hannah Dairs were born len Children, as follows: Hannah, Mary, William Jr. Tebilon, Stephen, Rebekah, Betsey, Moses, Eliplialet and Liney.

William Davis, Jr.

William Davie, Gr., eldest son of William, was born on Pigeon Hill, now in the lown of Mechanics Falls, May 16, 1791. Later his parents moved to the supire, and he remained with them with he attained his majorily april first, 1813 he married Betsey, daughter of Villiane and Molly (Ricker) Inckey: She was bone in Kennebunk, May 13, 1791. Clfon the deatte of her fareule 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 helfed in the family of Jonathan Pulcifer, at the Empire In two stillings a week, and the board of her little pister It is quite probable she formed the acquaintance of her future husband while she was here. In 1816, the and her husband had been married etime years, where he bought fifty acres of land, of Henry Bray, ten or twelve acres of while, were cleared. The only building on it was a small house, a shetter for a few head of cattle. Ne faid \$500 for the entire property and built a small house of two rooms below and an open cleamber aboul. 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 bour in the bourse Ou their small farm with an additional twenty-five above stoken of. acres fought later on, he and his write were enabled by the exercise of pound judquents, hard and constant work, and a rigid economy, to fay for etien land, to bried barns for their slock and to feed and clothe their thirteen children. and there was rever a time they went hungry for lack of food, or suffered for want of clothing.

But the many anyious hours that were fassed, when the crops were short, when debte 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 cleauber of their souls, forever closed to all on earth. In his home my fatter (John Clement Davis fatter) was ever attentive to the wants of his chuldren, and at the same time they were tanget respect and obedience. He was a man of large acquaintance, of integrity and uprightness of character, and the exercise of these qualities gare bin the respect and confidence of all with whom he had to do, in social or busniess life. His wife died June 28, 1869 at the residence of ber son William Ladd Daves, aged 78 years, Her dealte was feaceful like one quietty going to sleep. She, my matter to she the one quietty going to sleep. my mother, foosessed a quiet, even, and hopeful disfosition, and in her domestic, church and pocial relations, was ever true and constant. Her memory was affectionately cheinsked by her large family appoirs and daughters + by all who know her. The names of the thirteen sous and daugstere follow: died March 14, 1855 died March 16, 1836 Mary anno-borne Nov. 18, 1813 Asa Windsor - borne Alarde 16, 1825 Gilman - borne Act 14, 1816 William Ladd - borne July 31, 1818 Slephen Hull - borne april 6, 1820 Hannale - borne Seft 23, 1821 died nov. 10, 1887 died nov. 8, 1897 died nor. 11, 1906 died June 23, 1895 - born Seft 23, 1821 died March 10, 1893 - born afril 21, 1823 Recamund. died Dec. 16, 1843 - Force Jace 12, 1825 Sarah Pottle died april 13, 1906 Jolue Cleinent - born July 9, 1826 died Ulay 9, 1852 Elizabette - borres Feb. 17, 1828 died Marel 4, 1905 - born Nov. 4, 1829 Louisa Tracy died Ularch 14, 1911 Martha Frieman - bone april 20, 1531 died May 9, 19.8 Harriet Eveluia - bone afril 6, 1834

John Clement Dava John Clement Davis, born July 9, 1826 was married January 21, to anne Mary lingquin. She was born in Leeds, Maine 1849 april 12, 18 23, and died in Poland, Oct 29, 1890. Their children were Levi auguetue, bom Dec 14, 18-49 - died July 31, 1851 Charles Augustus, bonn in Lewiston, May 31,1852 died Feb 9, 1912 John Gilman, born in Poland, July 12, 1856 died in Bland, July 14, 1922 Walter Henry, bom in Poland, Oct 15, 1860 died Oct 24, 1890. The following material concerning the life of John Clement Davis is copied four material inthem by his francheon, Ironig Gilman Ravis at Storre Connecticut, where he was a Professor + head of the Economies Deft at Com. State College. (now a University) John Clement Davie, max born in that fortion of the town of Poland, in the State of Maine, long known as The Empire, on the rinth of July, 1826. He resided most of his life on os 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 Shuwood on the Raugeley Branch of the Ulaine Central Railroad, and is intersected by that railroad. as a child be attended district school up to the age of citte years of nive years and during the writer teru for several winters after, His school books were the Bible, a spelling book and an airthmetic. at the oge

attaining manhood, he was for many years, in addition to his form duties, suferintendent of schools of the town of Poland. As he matured he because a careful and discriminating reader and a student of a vide range of political, religious and scientific subjects. Despile The aftertimes meagre income of the farme, he studied and read many of the best books and magazines of the line. In later life he became interested in the religious problem precipitated by the theory fevalution and the advance of pirence, and he read extensively in the works of Darwin, Huxley, Drummond and others, although trained in the discipline of the nethodist Church, it is certaine that his religious views underwent imfortant modifications, although he always remained a deeply religious man he inthe his brothers, finshed the clearing of the family howestead, which was built by this grand-father William Dovie in 1792, and later he made attenations on it, making it more moderne and converting it into the substantial and attractive home now standing on the home place, and at the time of ethis unstring, owned by Seon 9. Jorney as a farmer be lived the deficult feriod of selfsufficiency to commercial farming, While the fartially succeeded in making the transition his ideals were those of fine workmanship, maintenance of soil fertility, good coops, efficient labor management and well-keft fence rows. It remained for his for, John Gilman Davis, to combine these ideals with the principles of business farming and furnish are almost inefalled example of The best in form management, and procedure for the place and time. After the sale of the farme to his sone, John Eilman in 1892, John clement 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 inthe his pon. Ne was In many years of considerable assistance in the conduct of the farme and devoted much time also to his genealogical studies, in his later years.

This summers were after spent at Moultouboro, New Hampshire and the mountains and lakes he loved, and with childhood friends whom he held dear. He was well-endowed botte physically and mentally. In his prime he was slightly more than six feet tall and weighed about 185 founds. He fossessed Abrengthe and endurance sufficient for the necessities of life on a prioneer farme in the age of hand labor. He was a man of exceptional natural mental ability, he had marked intellectual curiosity and houesty, inthe an innalé lore of the truthe. He was a born léacher, a believer in the value and forver of education He tras a humanctanae, a lover of nature and a cultured mare. This last years of study, travel, intellectual progress and religious adjusticient were a fitting realization of what seem to have been, orteede of his fame 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 Grandfa Davis genealogy, which Donald now have. Itofe this will give you a good idea of our family mberitance, along the straight line of descent from the first Davis settler we know about. They were wonderful keaple heren't they? Affectionately, your cousine fairfield Street Velen Davis Joliuson (Daughter of John Gilman Davis) 53 Fairfield Street Springfied, 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 i9nspired 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, than 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 fifter 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
Ana Windsor (4)	born Mar.I 16, 1815
Gilman (4)	born Oct. 14, 1816
William Ladd (4)	born July 31, 1818
Stephen Hull (4)	born Apr. 6, 1820
Hannah (4)	born Sept. 23, 1821
Rosamund (4)	born Apr. 21, 1825
Sarah Pottle (4)	born Jan. 12, 1825
John Clement (4)	born July 9, 1826
Elizabeth (4)	born Feb. 17, 1828
Louisa Tracy (4)	born Nov. 4, 1829
Martha Freeman (4)	born Apr. 20, 1831
Harriet Evelina (4)	born Apr. 6, 1834

died Mar. 14, 1855 died Mar. 16, 1836 died Nov. 10, 1887 died Nov. 8, 1897 died Nov. 11, 1906 died June 23, 1898 died March 10, 1893 died Dec. 16, 1843 died Apr. 13, 1906 died May 9, 1852 died Mar. 4, 1905 died Mar. 14, 1911 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).

John Clement Davis (4), was born in that portion of the town of Poland, in the state of Maine, long known at the Empire, on the ninth day 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 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 attaining manhood he was for many year, 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 oftentimes 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 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.

As a farmer he lived through 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 unexcelled example of the best in farm management, and procedure for the place and time.

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:

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 (6) Johnson

(Daughter of John Gilman Davis [5])

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