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## Brothers Nathan and Clement Davis, Jr - Sons of Clement Davis, Sr

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# Brothers Nathan and Clement Davis, Jr - Sons of Clement Davis, Sr

**Of Craven and Berkeley Counties, Carolina Colony; Laurens and Newberry Counties, South Carolina; Washington County, Georgia; Logan, Christian and Livingston Counties, Kentucky; and Randolph, Johnson, and Jackson Counties, Illinois Territory**

By Steve Malone  
1072 N. Nichole Ave  
Boise, ID 83713  
(208) 960-1128  
[steveandalea@gmail.com](mailto:steveandalea@gmail.com)

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## Foreword

This little book stems from extensive pre-1843 research that I have done of most of the early Davis families of Jackson County, Illinois. The families of Nathan and Clement Davis are outside my personal interests, but I have a strong feeling there is a good likelihood that, farther back in time, we may have roots in the same Davis clan. This book has taken a small step toward determining whether that may be true. Hopefully others in the future will be able to improve upon this effort.

## Acknowledgments

Thanks are due to Evie Eymann Rice for her research into Mary (Davis) Allen Phelps and for sharing the works of Garner Doolin, who did considerable primary record research on Clement Davis. Their efforts saved me considerable research time and helped to assure that fewer stones remain unturned. Thanks are also due Kandi Adkinson of the Kentucky Secretary of State's office for her help with procuring early land grant surveys.

## Public Domain

Like all my writings, this book is hereby placed in the public domain to assist others in finding their true ancestors. The more people that do likewise, the easier it will be for future researchers to expand upon our efforts, or perhaps find the clue that unlocks the door to solving their own genealogical puzzle.

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# Introduction

There were six Davis men who had occupied and cultivated land in Illinois Territory prior to 5 Feb 1813. That made them eligible to receive pre-emption certificates for those properties, which would guarantee them the first opportunity to purchase them, once the Government Land Office in Kaskaskia opened for business on 10 Aug 1814.

Five of these men settled in what would become Jackson County, Illinois. They were:<sup>1</sup>

- Clement Davis
- James Davis
- Jeremiah Davis
- Joshua Davis
- Nathan Davis

James is the subject of a different, unfinished research project which I've worked on for several years now. He first settled near the foot of the bluff along the Mississippi River north of Grand Tower, and later moved to Elk Prairie. He had hailed from North Carolina, where his family had settled "at a very early date."

Three of the other four men had properties that abutted each other on either side of the Big Muddy River, just east of present-day Murphysboro: Nathan, Clement and Joshua. And Clement, Joshua and Jeremiah Davis all for a time appeared in records of Christian County, Kentucky. It was there that Jeremiah married the daughter of a different Clement Davis ("of Pond River," to distinguish him from the Jackson County settler). And Joshua had posted the marriage bond of this other Clement's marriage to Eliza Teague.

Hezekiah Davis was yet another Davis who arrived in Jackson County a short time later. Because he had lived long enough to apply for a Revolutionary War pension, there are very clear facts about where he had lived before arriving in Jackson County. Those facts are the clues which helped to piece together where Nathan and Clement had lived prior to their arrival.

Hezekiah was born "in the state of North Carolina near the Moravian Town on a creek called Abbots [sic] Creek in the year 1760."<sup>2</sup> He enlisted while living in Newberry County, South Carolina, and later moved:

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<sup>1</sup> *Colonial and Territorial Research Collection of Illinois: Land Series, Volume XIX: Pre-Emption Permits in 1813* by Raymond H. Hammes (unpublished, date unknown), FHL Microfilm #1543598, pages 354 and 355.

<sup>2</sup> The first Moravian settlements in North Carolina were the villages of Bethabara, Bethania and Salem, the latter was established in 1766 and was located in present-day Winston-Salem. Abbots Creek was located southeast of Salem. James Davis' clan had roots in Moore County, North Carolina, which is located 85 miles southeast of where Hezekiah was born. If he was related to Hezekiah, there were no closer than second cousins.

- First to Winton County, South Carolina,<sup>3</sup>
- Then to Pendleton County (present day Anderson County), South Carolina circa 1790<sup>4</sup> (where his father Vann Davis left a will, which was proven in 1810),
- Next to Livingston County, Kentucky in 1806, and
- Finally he moved to Illinois Territory after 1813.<sup>5</sup>

His lineage is probably adequately dealt with in *Davis Families of the Savannah River Valley, containing a record of the descendants of Van and Harmon Davis from 1725 to 1978* by Laura W. Mentzel (typescript, 1978), though what was written about some others is less reliable.<sup>6</sup> Deed records indicated that Van Davis, blacksmith, left Newberry County after selling his properties there in 1775.<sup>7</sup>

			<b>Jeremiah Davis E ½ Section 23</b>		
		<b>Hezekiah Davis SW ¼ Section 23</b>			
	<b>Nathan Davis SE ¼ Section 27</b>				
<b>Nathan Davis N Fractional ½ Section 34</b>					
			<b>Adam Phifer NE ¼ Section 2</b>	<b>Joshua Davis NW ¼ Section 1</b>	
		<b>Clement Davis SW ¼ Section 2</b>			
		<b>Joshua Davis N ½ Section 11</b>			

<sup>3</sup> Winton County was a poorly defined geographic area that was soon absorbed into Barnwell County, South Carolina.

<sup>4</sup> *South Carolina, Anderson County, Deeds, Book B*, page 329.

<sup>5</sup> <http://revwarapps.org/s32211.pdf>.

<sup>6</sup> See page 38. This book can be accessed for free at [familysearch.org/library/books](http://familysearch.org/library/books).

<sup>7</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book A*, pages 18 & 19.

The graphic above is an abstract representation of how the lands of the four Davises' pre-emption certificates relate spatially to the patent of Hezekiah Davis.

In the real world, each box above would either represent a quarter section, measuring one half mile by one half mile, or a half section, which would be double the size in one dimension (like Nathan's and Jeremiah's properties). Thus, all these properties were located within about two and a half miles of each other.

The "N Fractional  $\frac{1}{2}$  (of) Section 34" of Nathan Davis' property, shown at the bottom of the above graphic, was that part of the section located north of Big Muddy River (in Somerset Township), as were the properties of Hezekiah and Jeremiah. Clement Davis' property (in Murphysboro Township) was just across the river to the south from Nathan's, as were the properties of Joshua Davis and Adam Phifer (Hezekiah's son-in-law). The 1820 Census suggests that, by that time, Clement had moved north across the river, and was a close neighbor of Hezekiah.

Benningsen Boone (b. 1807, d. 1881) stated in his recollections of the early settlement of Jackson County, Illinois that Nathan and Clement Davis were brothers.<sup>8</sup> And it is that single clue that informs us of how these two men do, or do not, relate to other Davis families who had also settled in Jackson County, Illinois at a very early date.

Nathan was the first to purchase land in Jackson County, Illinois Territory, making two land entries on 19 Aug 1814, and his pre-emption certificate was issued on 15 Jul 1814:

- North fractional  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Section 27, Township 8 South, Range 2 West, and
- Southeast  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 27, Township 8 South, Range 2 West.

Clement followed soon after, and his pre-emption certificate was issued on 9 Aug 1814, with his land entry being made on 17 Sep 1814 for the following property:<sup>9</sup>

- Southwest  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 2, Township 9 South, Range 2 West.

Both of their pre-emption certificates were attested by Adam Phifer, the son-in-law of Hezekiah Davis. The results of this research effort suggest that Hezekiah, Nathan and Clement were likely first cousins, but definitive proof of that relationship has been elusive.

Hezekiah, son of Vann Davis, had a brother named Nathan, who is claimed (often erroneously) as an ancestor by several different Davis lineages. However, Hezekiah did not have a brother named Clement. So despite the connection to Adam Phifer and the proximity to Hezekiah, this Nathan was not the son of Vann Davis.

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<sup>8</sup> *Historical Sketches of Jackson County, Illinois* by Edmund Newsome (1893), page 49.

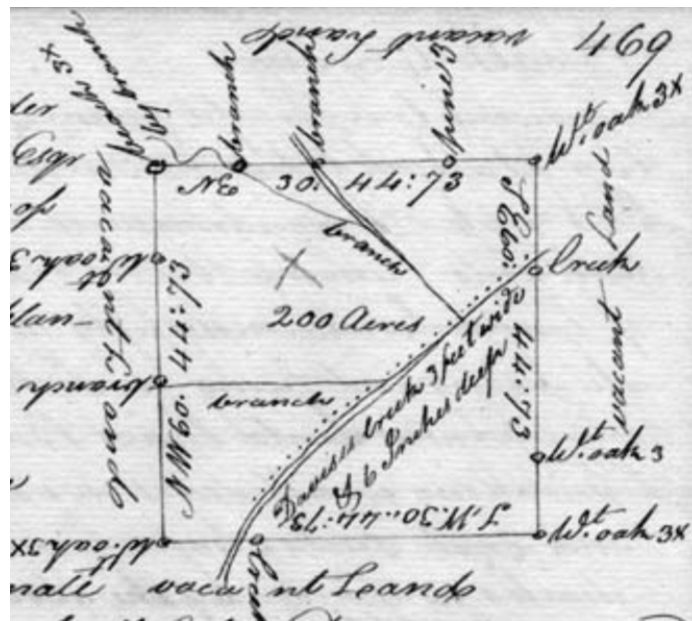
<sup>9</sup> *Colonial and Territorial Research Collection of Illinois: Land Series, Volume XIX: Pre-Emption Permits in 1813* by Raymond H. Hammes (unpublished, date unknown), FHL Microfilm #1543598, pages 354 and 355.

However, for some reason, Clement Davis and Nathan Davis ended up in the same general neighborhood in Illinois as Hezekiah Davis, and Nathan Davis had owned a property in Livingston County, Kentucky next to Hezekiah Davis (though Nathan had arrived there in 1801, whereas Hezekiah showed up in 1806). Why did these three men choose to live near one another in Illinois?



# Vann and Harmon Davis

Hezekiah Davis' father, Vann Davis, had been granted land in Berkeley County, Carolina Colony (in present-day Newberry County, South Carolina) on the same day as Harmon Davis, on 12 Apr 1764, a fact interpreted by most people to mean that they were brothers.<sup>10</sup> Both of their properties were located on "Davies Creek," a branch of Gilders Creek, as shown in the survey plats below (Vann's first, Harmon's next):



<sup>10</sup> South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0008 Page: 00469 Item: 01 (Harmon) and Series: S213184 Volume: 0009 Page: 00082 Item: 01 (Van).

These two properties do not abut, though they were close enough to one another that their properties were noted as abutting the grant of William Willcocks, whose property was located on a branch of Davis Creek.<sup>11</sup>

In the following section, Clement Davis, Senior, whom we will learn about shortly (the father of our Clement and Nathan), was granted land that was located about 2.5 miles east-southeast of where Vann and Harmon had settled. He received his grant warrant in late 1766, just a couple of years after Vann and Harmon received their grants. Like them, he chose a property near the head of a creek, assuring that his family's health would not suffer from the unsanitary habits of upstream neighbors.

The person whom you will learn about next was Clem, the son of Harmon Davis. It seems probable that Clem got his name because Harmon had a brother named Clement. If so, then Vann, Harmon and Clement were probably brothers, which would explain why Clement Senior's sons (both farmers) would entice Vann's son (a blacksmith) to come live with them on the Illinois frontier (it helped that Hezekiah's son-in-law had already chosen to live there). Having a blacksmith as skilled as Hezekiah would be a convenience that most pioneers sorely lacked, and which made it far easier for them to carve a comfortable life for themselves from the primordial forests and prairies. Nathan and Clement were likely first cousins to Hezekiah.

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<sup>11</sup> *South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0021 Page: 00464 Item: 01.*

# Clem, “C” or Clement?

Various sources show at least THREE Clement Davises who had lived in Newberry County, South Carolina before, during and immediately after the Revolutionary War. To reduce the confusion and clutter, it is best to start with Clem Davis (who signed his name thus, which helps to distinguish him from the other two Clement Davises).

## Clem Davis

Clem was the son of Harmon Davis, an alleged fact based upon uncited “estate papers.”<sup>12</sup> He was a veteran of the Revolutionary War, for which he received a pension. The pension application states that he entered service in Newberry County, South Carolina in 1775. He remained in Newberry County at least until 1782, when he was last discharged from militia duty.<sup>13</sup> But at the end of the war he was living in Lincoln County, North Carolina, where he married Elizabeth Fleming in 1785. He later moved west, first to Burke County, North Carolina, and then to Buncombe County, North Carolina, where he was living when he applied for his pension in 1832. In that application he signed his name Clem Davis.

A cursory review of land records shows that Clem Davis purchased two 100-acre parcels on Turkey Creek in Buncombe County, North Carolina on 1 Oct 1803,<sup>14</sup> and then sold one of those 100 acre parcels to Reason Davis on 29 Aug 1809.<sup>15</sup> He also signed his name Clem Davis in that deed. In the 1810 Census there, Clem and Reason were listed side-by-side, and Reason was recently married with no children, suggesting that they were father and son.

The 1835 Pension List for Buncombe County, North Carolina lists Clement Davis as having served as a private in the North [sic] Carolina Militia and that he was 79 years old (born 1756). The estate papers of Harmon Davis state that Clem was born on 27 Mar 1755. That means he was only 19 years old when he enlisted in the militia in 1775,<sup>16</sup> and would not have been eligible for a land grant until 1777.

The above facts mean that:

1. He had not been old enough to have received a land grant prior to the Revolutionary War, and he was living in North Carolina when the first grant was issued in Newberry County after the war to a Clement Davis. He thus cannot be confused with the two Clement Davises who had claimed colonial and state land grants in Craven, Berkeley and Newberry Counties; and
2. The Clem Davis who married Elizabeth Flemming in North Carolina in 1785, and who signed his name “Clem Davis,” cannot be confused with:

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<sup>12</sup> *Davis Families of the Savannah River Valley, containing a record of the descendants of Van and Harmon Davis from 1725 to 1978* by Laura W. Mentzel (typescript, 1978), page 3.

<sup>13</sup> Ancestry.com’s *U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900*, File Number W-4936.

<sup>14</sup> *North Carolina, Buncombe County, Deeds, Book 9, pages 90 & 142.*

<sup>15</sup> *North Carolina, Buncombe County, Deeds, Book B, page 224.*

<sup>16</sup> Ancestry.com’s *U.S., The Pension Roll of 1835, Vol. III, 11 North Carolina.*

- a. Clement Davis of Lauren and Newberry Counties, South Carolina, who also had a wife named Elizabeth, but who signed with his mark, "C," nor with
- b. Clement Davis whose wife was Sarah, and who signed his name "Clement."

So Clem Davis has no presence in the records of Newberry County from the time when it was formed in 1785, aside from when his father's estate was settled in the early 1800s. By that time, our two Clements had already sold their properties and left the area. As such, we can proceed with the two Clements of direct interest to us.

## South Carolina Land Grants

As just noted, the deeds of our two Clement Davises contain the following clues:

- Clement Senior made his mark with a capital C, his wife was Elizabeth and at least one deed named him as “Senr.”
- Clement Junior was able to sign his own full name, his wife was Sarah, and at least one deed describes him as Clement Davis “Junr.”

With one exception, the properties described in the deeds of these two men were created from Colonial and State land grants (one property was purchased by deed). Because of the required steps of the land granting process, there are many available records. And while these records all have value for various reasons, the sheer numbers of records, when there are multiple properties involved, can be somewhat daunting and very confusing. So rather than deal with all land records chronologically, we’ll deal with the various grants chronologically, and within each grant detail the specific deeds that document the subsequent disposition of those properties, where available. When we’re done, we’ll summarize what was learned and where there are still minor gaps in our knowledge.

The land granting process starts with a warrant being issued, allowing a person to obtain a survey for a specific quantity of land. The land is then selected and a survey is performed, resulting in a drawing of the property, which is called a plat map. Once the survey is complete, and any required stipulations of the grant have been met, it gets recorded and the property vests in the new owner. Any subsequent changes to ownership are documented in deeds, which are recorded in the county in which the property is located.

Grants of land in Carolina Colony carried two basic stipulations:

1. An annual rent of 3 shillings was to be paid for every 100 acres of land (basically this was the equivalent of today’s property tax), and
2. At least three acres had to be cleared and cultivated for every one hundred acres of land (to prevent speculators from receiving land grants that would go unused). A big reason for these land grants was to create a buffer between the rich cities on the coast and the possibly hostile natives inland. The men who received those grants acted as the buffer, not the land itself.

Thus, as the requirements of one grant was fulfilled, it was possible to acquire additional grants, provided that you could afford to pay the annual rents.

## “C” and Clement Davis

The Colonial (pre-Revolutionary War) grants to our two Clement Davises were issued by Berkeley and Craven Counties. Craven County, Carolina Colony was abolished circa 1769, though it appears that for at least two years prior to that the area of interest to us was under the jurisdiction of Berkeley County, which also was abolished circa 1769.

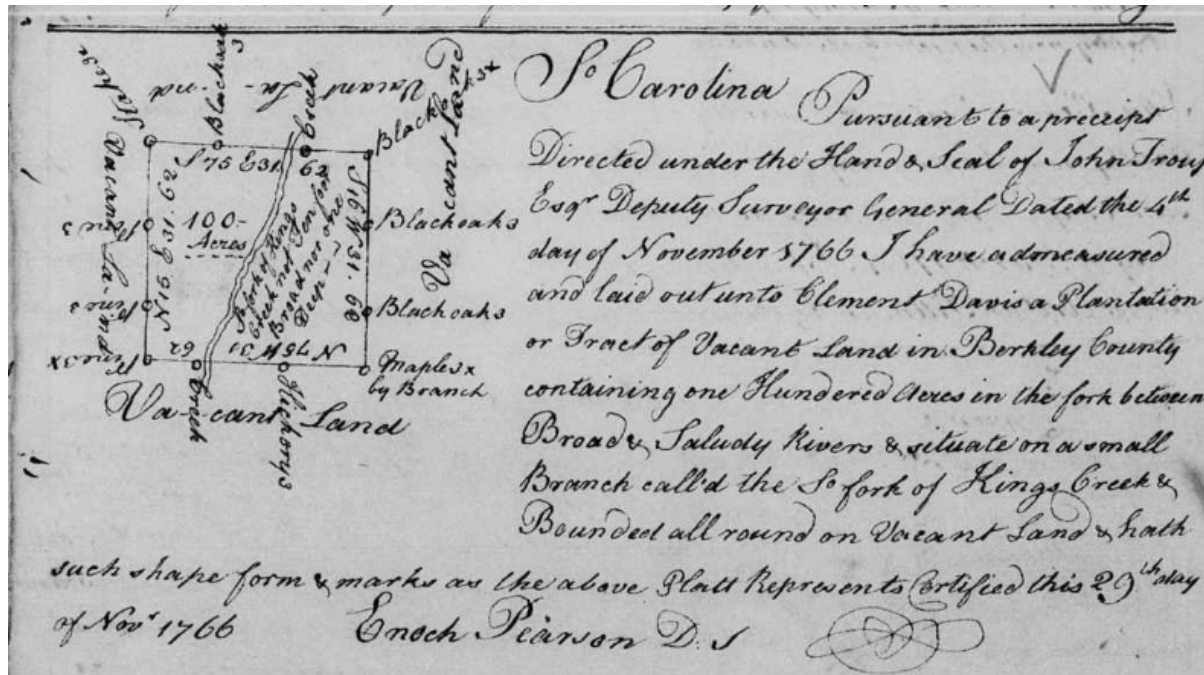
The map below is from Robert Mills' *Atlas of the State of South Carolina* (1825), from an 1820 survey of Newberry District by S. M. Coates. Note the locations of the following creeks, which are noted in various grants and deeds in the sections that follow:

- Kings Creek (directly above Newberry Village):
- Gilder's Creek and Davis Creek, to the left of Kings Creek;
- Beaverdam Creek, below of Davis Creek; and
- Indian Creek, to the left of Gilder's and Davis Creeks.



## GRANT A, Kings Creek

On 4 Nov 1766, Clement Davis received a warrant for 100 acres in Berkeley County, Carolina Colony on Kings Creek.<sup>17</sup> Below is the plat map for this property, from the survey drawn on 29 Nov 1766. It was bounded on all sides by vacant lands:<sup>18</sup>



This was less than ideal land, and during the New Deal, most of the surrounding properties were bought out to improve water quality and provide added flood control on the Enoree River. No subsequent deed transaction was found where this property was sold, suggesting it was sold in a jurisdiction that predates records held in Newberry County, South Carolina. It seems that any such records are no longer extant.

One interesting thing about this grant is that Clement was not the only Davis to obtain a land grant on Kings Creek. About a year later, on 27 Oct 1767, Francis Davis received a grant of 300 acres there,<sup>19</sup> which he and his wife Margret sold on 9 Dec 1768 to John Adkins.<sup>20</sup> This was followed on 29 Apr 1768 by the grant of Joseph Davis for 150 acres on a small spring branch of Kings Creek (from a warrant dated 4 Apr 1765 - no subsequent sale of this property was found).<sup>21</sup> The property was located on "the wagon road."

There weren't many wagon roads in existence in that area at that point in time. The earliest such road was a spur from the Great Wagon Road from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Augusta,

<sup>17</sup> South Carolina, Royal Land Grants, Volume 15, page 501.

<sup>18</sup> South Carolina, Land Plats, Volume 8, FHL #08195668, page 604, image 337 of 659.

<sup>19</sup> South Carolina, Royal Land Grants, Volume 16, page 298.

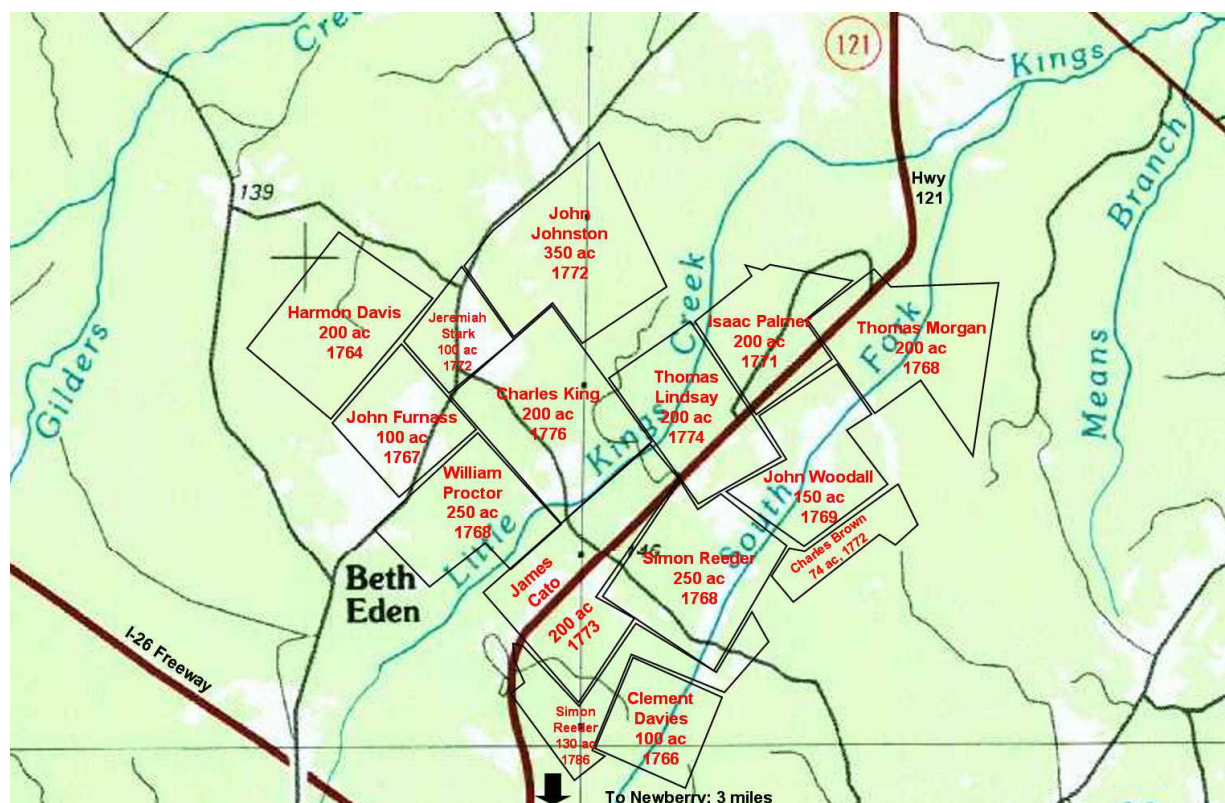
<sup>20</sup> South Carolina, Newberry County, Book B, page 711.

<sup>21</sup> South Carolina, Royal Land Grants, Volume 15, page 377.

Georgia. It originated from Charlotte, North Carolina, eventually also extending to Augusta, Georgia, following a route to the north of the main road.<sup>22</sup>

In a deed dated 22 Mar 1776 is a reference to “Joseph Davis’ old place,” suggesting that he had either died or moved away by then.<sup>23</sup>

The map below shows Clement’s first grant in relation to those of his neighbors on Kings Creek. Note Harmon Davis’ 1764 plat, located four properties to the north (less than one mile away).<sup>24</sup>



This particular property is of considerable interest to me, as James Cato, Clement’s neighbor to the northwest, was my 4th great grandfather. And two of his daughters married Davises who, together with their mother, Elender, and a likely brother or cousin, Uriah Davis, moved west to Warren County, Kentucky around 1810. There, their neighbor was Brooks Hall Davis. Rather than regurgitate all that here, it is simpler to direct anyone interested in those Davises to my book, *The Pioneer Williams Families of Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana* (2015), page 80 [NOTE: there is one error to point out in my book - Israel Davis did not move to Edmonson County, Kentucky. He moved to Montgomery County, Illinois in the late 1820s, near his aunt, Sarah (Cater) Virden.]

<sup>22</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great\\_Wagon\\_Road](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Wagon_Road). Accessed 8 Apr 2021.

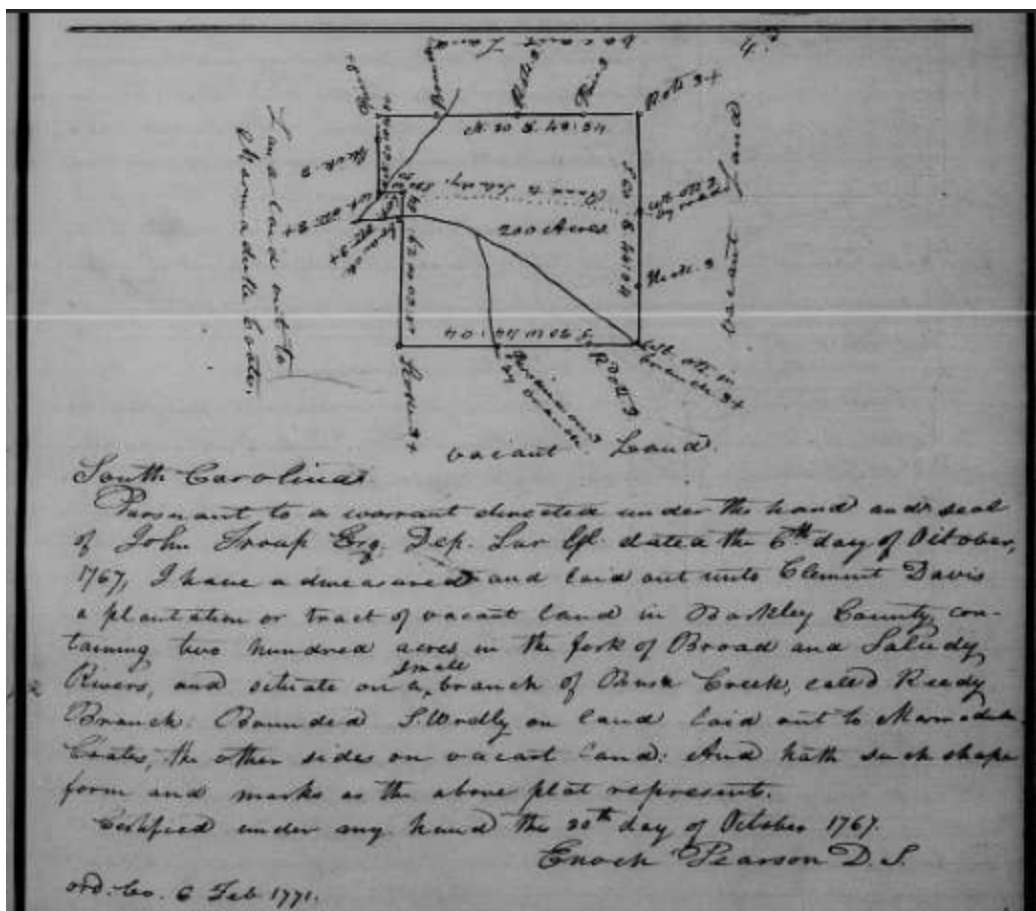
<sup>23</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book A*, page 613.

<sup>24</sup> From *The Pioneer Williams Families of Smith Township, Posey County, Indiana* by Steve Malone (2015), page 81.



## GRANT B, Reedy Branch, Bush Creek

On 6 Oct 1767, Clement Davis was issued a warrant for 200 acres, which he had surveyed on 20 Oct 1767. It was located next to Marmaduke Coats<sup>25</sup> on Reedy Branch of Bush Creek, with all other sides being vacant. The plat was recorded 6 Feb 1771.<sup>26</sup>



The above property is thought to have been located directly north of Newberry, on or near the site of Newberry Airport.

On 5 Jun 1788, "Clemmint" Davis was noted as owning land abutting Marmaduke Coats, William Thow and Joseph Wright on waters of Bush River, Ninety Six District, South Carolina.<sup>27</sup>

On 25 Aug 1794, Clement Davis of the District of Ninety Six, County of Newberry sold to Samuel Teague of the same place for ten shillings one hundred eight acres lying on a small branch of Bush River, part of 200 acres bounded by Marmaduke Coats and granted to Clement Davis Senr.

<sup>25</sup> See <http://rhodesfamily.org/getperson.php?personID=I2766&tree=carls> for information about Marmaduke's migration to South Carolina. Accessed 8 Apr 2021.

<sup>26</sup> *South Carolina, Land Plats, Volume 14, FHL #08195669*, page 325, image 464 of 824.

<sup>27</sup> *South Carolina Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0023 Page: 00037 Item: 002*

on 22 Feb 1771. Witnesses were John Furnas, Abraham Teague and Daniel Johnston.<sup>28</sup> **Signed Clement (C, his mark) Davis.** On 26 Aug 1794, Clement Davis (named Senr later in the deed) of the District of Ninety Six, County of Newberry sold to Samuel Teague for twenty pounds the property where “Samuel Teague in his actual possession now lives” on Reedy Branch of Bush River containing one hundred and eight acres, part of 200 acres granted to Clement Davis on 22 Feb 1771. Witnesses were John Furnas, Abraham Teague and Daniel Johnston. **Signed Clement (C, his mark) Davis.**<sup>29</sup>

On 21 Feb 1786, Clement Davis, planter, of Newberry County, South Carolina sold to William Hall the remaining 92 acres for £30. The property was located on a “Waggon Road” near the corner of Elijah Teague. Witnesses were William Miles, Van Davis and Abijah Davis.<sup>30</sup> Was this Vann Davis, who was known to have had a son named Abijah, the father of Hezekiah? If so, it reinforces that Vann and Harmon were brothers of Clement Davis, Senior.

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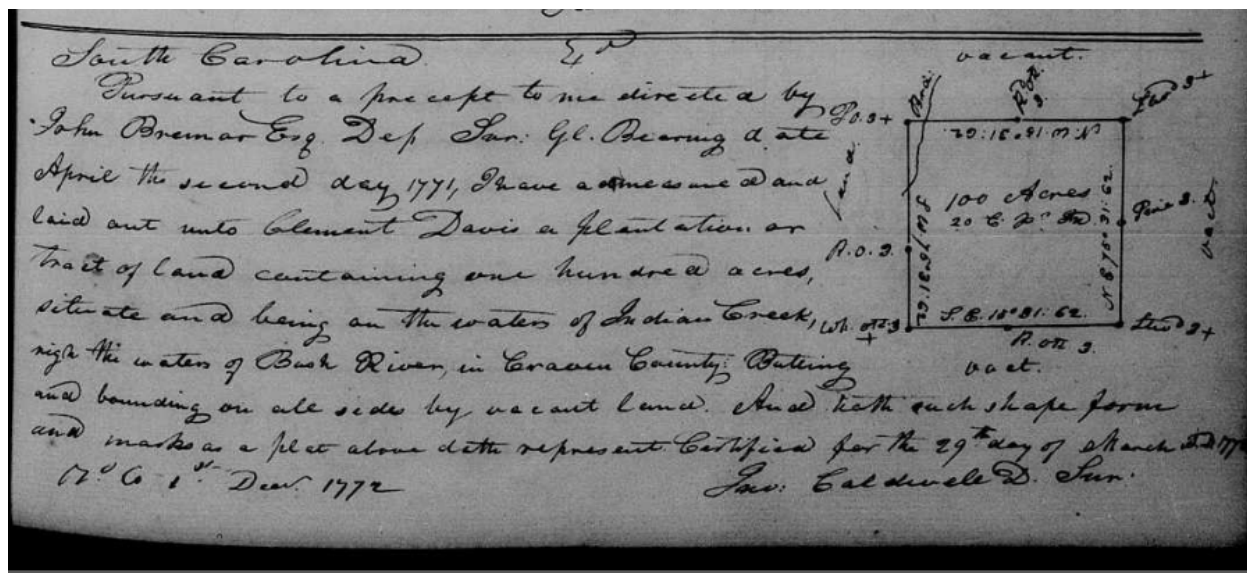
<sup>28</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, page 71.*

<sup>29</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, page 73.*

<sup>30</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book D, pages 585 to 589.*

## GRANT C, Indian Creek

On 2 Apr 1771, a warrant was issued to Clement Davis for 100 acres of land on Indian Creek in Craven County, Carolina Colony. The survey was drawn on 29 Mar 1772 and the grant was recorded on 1 Dec 1772. The land was bounded by vacant land on all sides:<sup>31</sup>



On 23 Jan 1794, Clement Davis of Newberry County, District of Ninety Six, Settlement of Bush sold to William Gray of the same district, miller, for ten shillings 100 acres granted the said Clement Davis on 8 Feb 1773, bound on all sides by vacant land, lying on Indian Creek and nigh the waters of Bush River. **Signed Clement Davis (no mark), Sarah Davis (no mark).** Witnesses were Thomas Gray, Wm Crow, Jonathan Reeder.<sup>32</sup> On the following day, an identical deed was executed to William Gray for the same property (where William Gray was living at the time) for the consideration of thirty pounds. This was a "lease and release," plus the sale.

On 20 Mar 1773, "Clemet" Davis was noted as owning land abutting James Adair, John Bremar and John Caldwell on Indian Creek in Craven County, Carolina Colony.<sup>33</sup>

On 22 May 1773, "Clemint" Davis was noted as owning land abutting Laurence Riggard, John Armstrong, John Bremar and John Caldwell on Gilders Creek in Craven County, Carolina Colony.<sup>34</sup> The survey for the Laurence Riggard grant shows that the bottom property line in the above plat was their shared property line. Thus Clement's property was located south of Indian Creek and north of Gilder's Creek.

<sup>31</sup> South Carolina, Land Plats, Volume 14, FHL Microfilm # 8195659, page 319, image 461 of 824.

<sup>32</sup> South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book E, page 470.

<sup>33</sup> South Carolina Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0021 Page: 00295 Item: 02

<sup>34</sup> South Carolina Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0020 Page: 00127 Item: 01

[This property is named in the will of Samuel Cannon, where he leaves to his wife Lydia "100 acres of land originally granted in Clement Davises name."<sup>35</sup> The property that he had acquired on 2 Jan 1776 had been a property from Laurence Rickard, with witnesses Ephraim Cannon, George Martin and John (his mark) Rickard.<sup>36</sup> It is mentioned in a book on the Cannon family, where the author incorrectly speculates, based upon the claimed original grantee, that Samuel's wife Lydia may have been the daughter of Clement Davis. The cited deed proves this to be incorrect, as it notes that Clement Davis owned the abutting westward property, not that he was the original grantee.<sup>37</sup>]

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<sup>35</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Wills, Volume A*, page 109.

<sup>36</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Volume E*, page 474.

<sup>37</sup> *The Descendants of James Cannon* by Clarence Cannon (1958), page 13.

## GRANT D, Beaverdam Creek

A grant recorded 17 Aug 1772. No plat map was found for this grant, which is likely the same as the grant referenced on the South Carolina Archives website which has no plat map.<sup>38</sup> The property would seem to have abutted GRANT F, as Wm. Winchester (third paragraph below) was an adjoining landowner to that property.

On 10 May 1773, Clement Davis, Lewis (his mark) Lenvil and John Dalrymple were witness to a deed executed from Daniel Williams and Cassandra, his wife, to Samuel Cannon.<sup>39</sup>

On 6 Nov 1793, Clement Davis, Jr, planter, of Newberry County, South Carolina, sold to Jonathan Reeder for fifty pounds one hundred acres of land "whereon I now live." The property was located on Beaver Dam Creek of Bush River and was the subject of a grant of 17 Aug 1772. The property was bounded by Wm. McFa??y, Wm. Winchester and vacant land. Witnessed by Onslow Barrett, Thomas Wood, and Jonathan Chandler. **Signed Clement Davis (no mark).**<sup>40</sup>

This property also abutted GRANT G.

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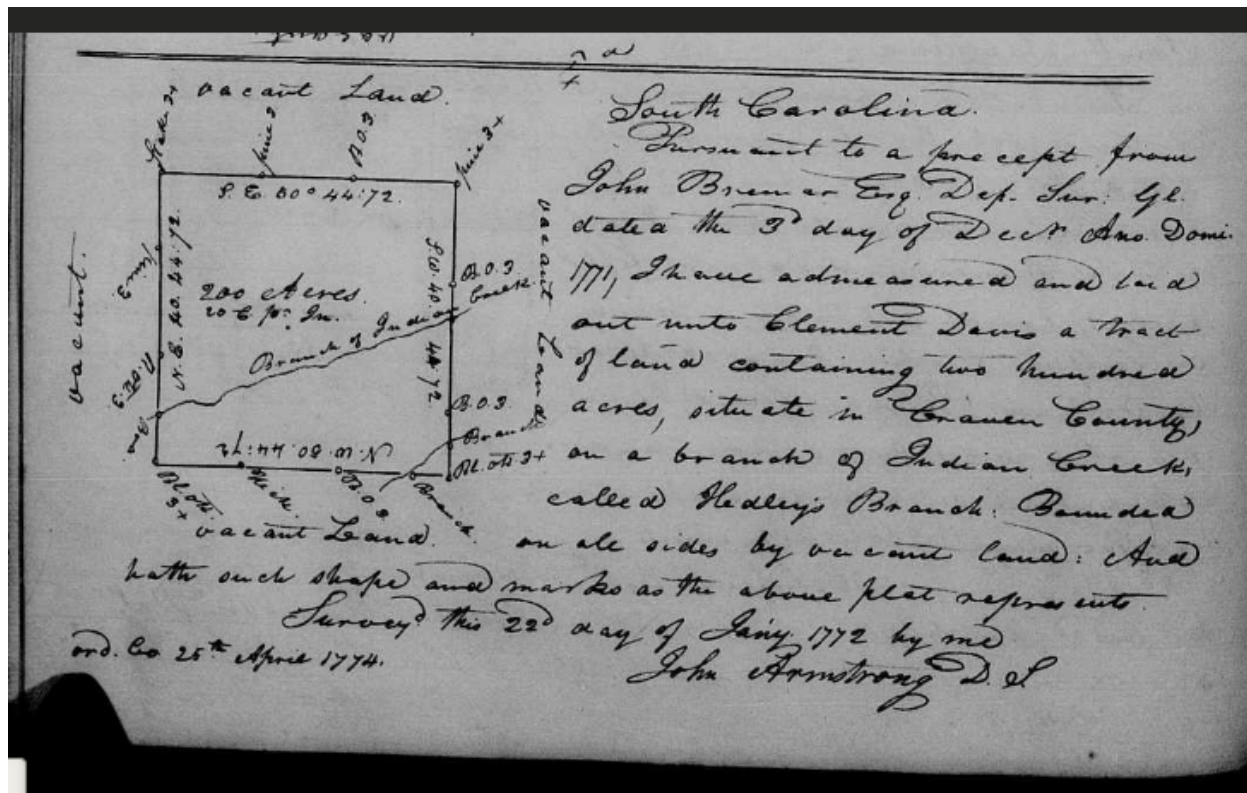
<sup>38</sup> *South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S213019 Volume: 0014 Page: 00501 Item: 000*

<sup>39</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, pages 670-75.*

<sup>40</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book B, page 687.*

## GRANT E, Headley's Branch, Indian Creek

On 3 Dec 1771, a warrant was issued to Clement Davis for 200 acres of land on Headleys Branch of Indian Creek in Craven County, Colony of Carolina, and is the only grant located in present-day Laurens County, South Carolina. The survey was drawn on 22 Jan 1772, with the grant being recorded on 25 Apr 1774. The property was bounded by vacant land on all sides:<sup>41</sup>



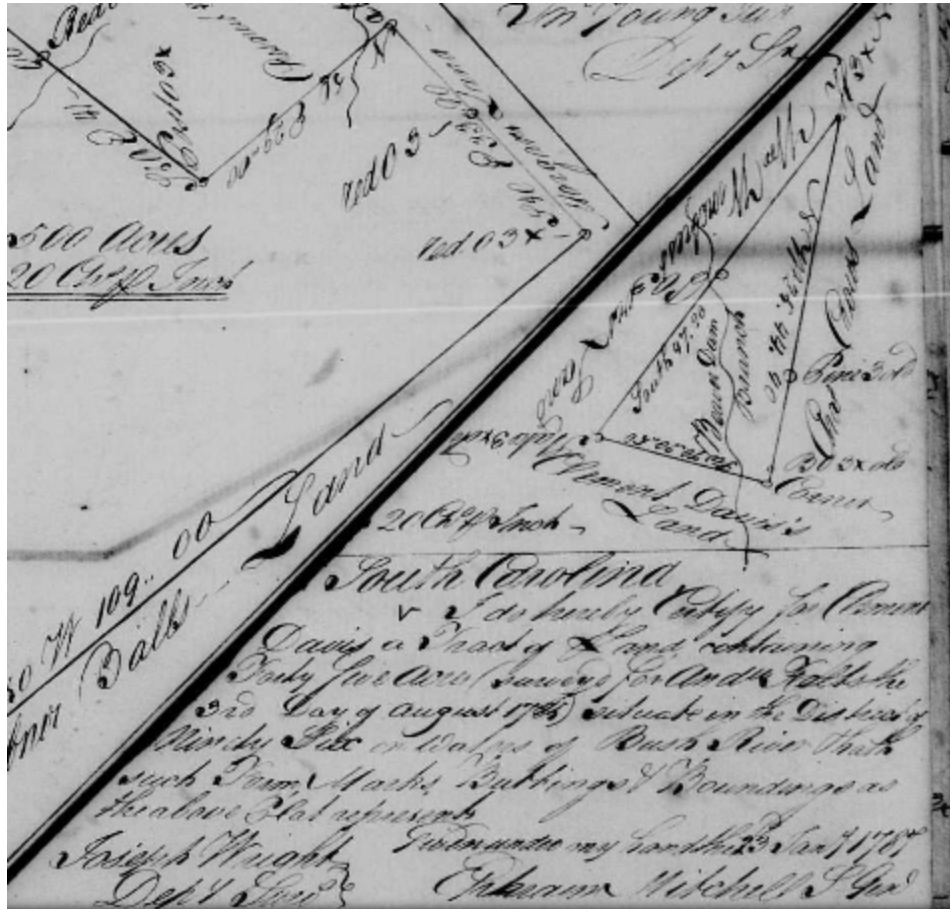
On 1 Oct 1785, Clement Davis, farmer of Indian Creek, Laurens County, 96 District, South Carolina sold to Thomas East of the same place for £21 8s6p 150 acres of a 200-acre tract. Witnesses were James Lindsey, John Chapman and Alex Moore. **Signed by Clement Davis and Elizabeth Davis.** On 12 Apr 1787, Clement Davis, farmer of Indian Creek, Laurens County, 96 District, South Carolina sold to Thomas East of the same place for £71 8s6p part of a 200-acre property on Headleys Branch of Indian Creek. Witnessed by James Lindsey, John Chapman and Alex Morison.<sup>42</sup> (the above are a "lease and release" followed by a sale - it appears that Thomas East was "renting to own.")

<sup>41</sup> South Carolina, Land Plats, Volume 14, FHL Microfilm # 8195659, page 322, image 463 of 824.

<sup>42</sup> South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book B, pages 133 and 134.

## GRANT F, Bush Creek (Beaverdam Creek)

On 3 Aug 1785, a warrant was issued to Clement Davis for 45 acres on waters of Bush Creek, though the plat map shows that Beaver Dam Creek runs through the property. The property was surveyed on 23 Jan 1787. The property was bounded by lands of Clement Davis, Wm. Winchester and Chas Crow:<sup>43</sup>

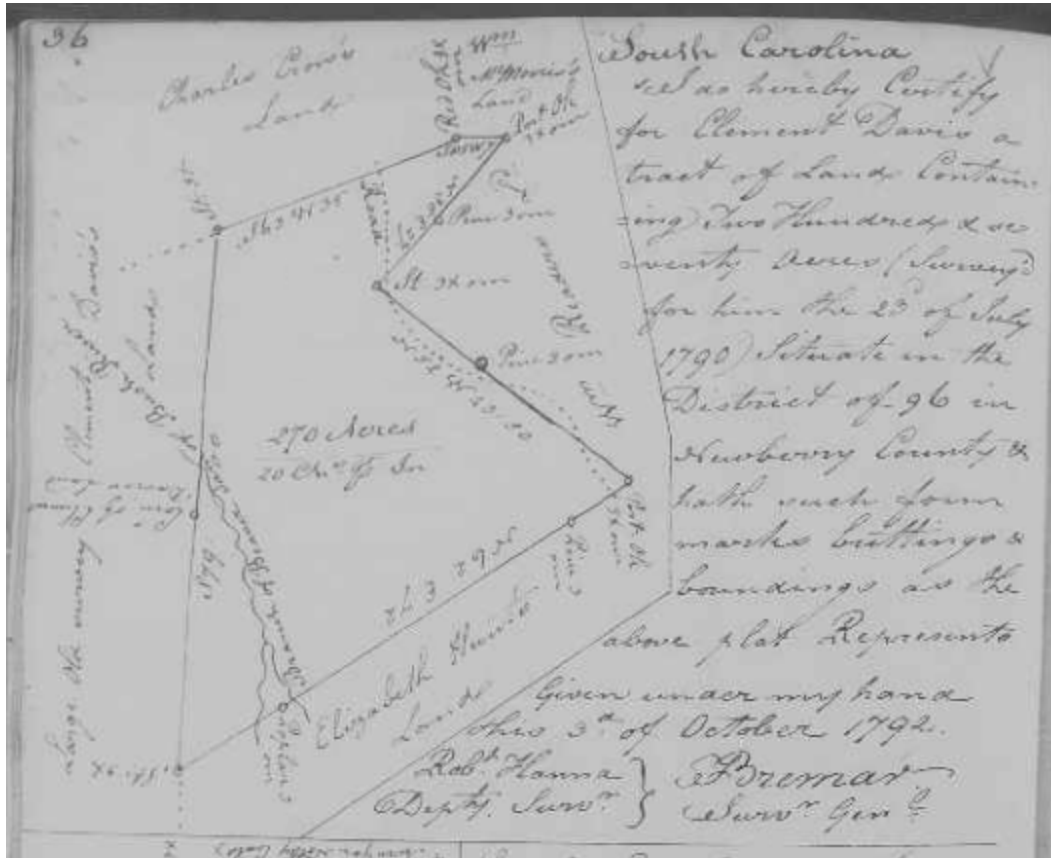


This property abutted Grant D, and included some of the same neighbors as Grant G.

<sup>43</sup> South Carolina, Land Plats, Volume 13Q, FHL Microfilm # 008195665, page 63, image 228 of 746.

## GRANT G, Beaverdam Creek

On 23 Jul 1790, a warrant was issued to Clement Davis for 270 acres on Beaverdam Creek. The property was surveyed on 3 Oct 1792. The land was bounded by the properties of Elizabeth Hunts, "a large old survey," Clement Davis, Charles Crow and Wm. Reader:<sup>44</sup>



On 15 Dec 1793, *Clement Davis, Junr* of Newberry County, Planter sold to Jonathan Reeder for twenty pounds 238 acres lying on the Beaverdam Branch of Bush River. Bounded by ??  
 ?ennings, William Reader, William M. Morris, Charles Crow, Clement Davis, a large old survey,  
 and Elizabeth Hunts. Witnessed by Andrew Felps, John Coppock and Jonathan Chandler.  
**Signed Clement Davis (no mark).**<sup>45</sup>

<sup>44</sup> South Carolina, Land Plats, Volume 31Q, FHL Microfilm # 008616184, page 36, image 301 of 564.

<sup>45</sup> South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book B, page 694.



## Recap of Grants

The preceding grants tell us the following about Clement Junior and Senior:

- A transaction for the sale of Grant A was not found, suggesting that its sale predated records found in Newberry County, South Carolina.
- Grant B on Reedy Branch belonged to Clement Davis, Senior.
- Grant C on Indian Creek belonged to Clement Davis, Junior.
- Grant D on Beaverdam Creek belonged to Clement Davis, Junior.
- Grant E on Headley's Branch of Indian Creek in Laurens County, South Carolina was sold by Clement and Elizabeth Davis. No mark was noted, but this is the only deed for a grant in Laurens County - the others were in Newberry County. Lauren County may not have been as fastidious at recording marks and signatures as Newberry County had been in this time period. Was this Senior, and Elizabeth was his wife? The sale of this property in 1785 involves just 150 acres of this 200-acre tract. The other 50 acres ended up in the hands of Thomas East, who sold it to Nathan Davis in 1795.<sup>46</sup> Was Thomas East the son-in-law of Clement Senior, and 50 acres was the dower of an unknown daughter? Clement Davis, Senior in 1796 sold other property located on Headley's creek, suggesting this was his property.
- Grant F appears to have never been recorded, but it abutted Grant D, and thus was likely surveyed for Clement Davis, Junior.
- Grant G on Beaverdam Creek belonged to Clement Davis, Junior. The only sale of this property was for just 238 acres out of the original 270. What became of the remaining 22 acres? Did the original survey overlap with someone else's property, which perhaps became apparent before Grant F was granted to him?

The answers to some of the above questions can likely be found in abstracted land and court records in Newberry County and Laurens Counties, something that would ordinarily be easy to do, but which current pandemic policies make nearly impossible. That is research better left to someone else when records once again become more accessible.

The two earliest grants were likely both acquired by Clement Davis, Senior. In 1771, the first warrant was issued to Clement Davis, Junior. That likely is a clue to his coming of age. If he was 21 years old in 1771, then he was born about 1750. And if he was born in 1750, then Clement Senior had to have been born prior to 1728 or so. That would make him a contemporary of Vann Davis and Harmon Davis, who had arrived not long before him. Laura W. Mentzel has claimed that they were sons of Reason Davis, but her claims that Reason shows up in records of Newberry County are clearly mistaken - the Reason Davis who is found in land and census records there was clearly too young to have been their father.<sup>47</sup>

Early land grants find two other Davises who arrived on Kings Creek in the 1760s - Francis and Joseph. Was one of these men the family patriarch? It appears that Francis may have moved to

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<sup>46</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book F, page 111.*

<sup>47</sup> *Davis Families of the Savannah River Valley, containing a record of the descendants of Van and Harmon Davis from 1725 to 1978* by Laura W. Mentzel (typescript, 1978).

Orangeburgh District in the 1770s. Would learning more about him solve any mysteries of how all these men relate?

## Newberry County, South Carolina

I will point out here that anyone wishing to do more research on these two men and their neighbors would find it is possible, with some careful research and reasoning, to locate their grants on present-day maps of the area. The way to do this is to search [archivesindex.sc.gov](http://archivesindex.sc.gov) for records that include Clement Davis (there are many variant spellings of Clement, and Davies, Daves and Davis are variants of the surname). This will result in the plats of their neighbors. Enough such plats, especially those that include water features and other landmarks, and you can begin to piece the neighborhood together. Many of these old property lines are clearly visible in modern aerial photography. Undertake that effort, and their interactions with various other families start to make a lot more sense, and can at times lead to new insights about how families interrelate.

The preceding records help to show that these two men were almost certainly father and son. Let's now continue with the few remaining facts found in records of South Carolina.

In 1781, "Claman" Davis provided four bushels of corn "for Continental use." Which Clement Davis is an open question, though it would seem more likely that the elder Clement's farm contained more cleared land and thus would have had more surplus corn to spare. He also didn't have a growing family to feed.<sup>48</sup> This would imply that descendants of both Clement Davises have the potential to qualify as Sons or Daughters of the American Revolution.

On 10 Mar 1788, Thomas "Daves" had 90 acres surveyed on Indian Creek, which abutted the lands of Clement Davis.<sup>49</sup> This was likely the Thomas Davis who, along with James Davis, had witnessed a deed of Clement Davis, Senior in 1792 in Laurens County. At this point, Clement Senior was likely to have been 60 years old, but there were five grants recorded to Thomas Davis of Craven County, Carolina Colony from 1757 to 1775, and three grants to James Davis in 1770 and 1771. It is very possible these were other sons of Clement Senior.

In the 1790 Census for Newberry County, South Carolina, Clement Davis was enumerated with a household of 1 male over the age 16, two males under the age of 16 and two females. This was Clement Junior - Senior had been living on property in Laurens County just prior to 1790, and we'll get to those records shortly. One female was likely his wife, though she doesn't appear in records until after 1790. And soon you will learn that there is direct proof of two of his children, a female born about 1780, and a male born about 1788. So we know that he had an unknown son born before 1790 and he could have had additional children, either born thereafter, or who had come of age prior to 1790.

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<sup>48</sup>

<http://www.archivesindex.sc.gov/ArchivesImages/S108092/S108092003100231000/images/S108092003100231000.pdf>

<sup>49</sup> South Carolina Archives ID: Series: S213190 Volume: 0022 Page: 00284 Item: 001

In July 1792, an indictment of trespass assault and battery was brought in Newberry County against Clement Davis, with William Irby foreman. He was found guilty.<sup>50</sup>

In July 1793, a *cire facias* was issued in Newberry County against Clement Davis and his securities to appear before the court on 28 Jul to show cause why their bond should not be forfeited.<sup>51</sup> This is the last record found for either Clement Davis in Newberry County, South Carolina.

## Laurens County, South Carolina

On 10 Sep 1788, a jury was selected to hear a case of slander between James Dillard v. Clement Davis.<sup>52</sup>

In the 1790 Census for Laurens County, South Carolina, there is no household for Clement Davis, but there is a household for Jane Davis (likely the widow of William Davis - see *Appendix One*), who was living in the same neighborhood as James Dillard and Robert McCrary, who were both involved in a 1792 deed with Clement. William Gray was her next-door neighbor, whom Clement sold the aforementioned property to just days after he had purchased it.

It seems in 1790 Clement Davis, Senior could have been living in Georgia (for which all 1790 Census records are no longer extant), as on 23 Mar 1792, James Dillard of 96 District, Laurens County, South Carolina sold to Clement Davis of Washington County, Georgia for £30 160 acres lying on Bush Lick Branch of Indian Creek. The transaction was witnessed by Robert McCrary and John Robinson.<sup>53</sup> It would seem Clement and Dillard had settled their 1788 suit amicably.

On 27 Mar 1792, Clement Davis of Washington County, Georgia sold to William Gray of 96 District, Laurens County, South Carolina for £100 160 acres on Bush Lick Branch of Indian Creek. **This was Clement Senior, who signed "C"** (no wife's signature, suggesting that she may have died). Witnessed by Thomas Davis, James (his mark) Davis and Robert McCrary.<sup>54</sup> On 28 Mar 1792, Clement Davis of Washington County, Georgia sold to William Gray of 96 District, Laurens County, South Carolina for ten shillings 160 acres of land on Bush Lick Branch of Indian Creek. Witnessed by Thomas Davis, James (his mark) Davis and Robert McCrary.<sup>55</sup> (Again, another lease and release, plus the sale of the property).

It would seem that Clement Davis, Senior had ventured to Georgia like many others, in the hope of acquiring property there through the Georgia Land Lottery. Was he after land for himself, and

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<sup>50</sup> *Newberry County (South Carolina), Minutes of the County Court, Book "A", 1785-1798* by Ellen L. Aull and Flora Belle Surlis (2015), page 205, original page 471.

<sup>51</sup> *Newberry County (South Carolina), Minutes of the County Court, Book "A", 1785-1798* by Ellen L. Aull and Flora Belle Surlis (2015), page 229, original page 521.

<sup>52</sup> *Laurens County, South Carolina - Minutes of the County Court, 1786-1789*, by Brent H. Holcomb (2004), pages 254-255.

<sup>53</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book D*, page 233.

<sup>54</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book D*, page 235.

<sup>55</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book D*, page 235.

had been unsuccessful? Or was he seeking land for his children and grandchildren, who perhaps were successful?

At this point, the two Clements disappear from records in South Carolina. Nathan Davis remained behind, finally selling out in 1800. Since there were no grant records for Nathan in South Carolina, his land transactions there are covered a bit later, in a section devoted exclusively to him.

## Logan County, Kentucky

When Logan County, Kentucky was created in 1792, it included everything west of Glasgow and south of Green River. By 1805, the Kentucky counties of Barren, Warren, Allen, Muhlenberg, Henderson, Union, Christian, Livingston, Caldwell and part of Butler had been created from it.

On 17 Mar 1795, Clement Davis, Sr and Clement Davis, Jr paid only the poll tax in Logan County, Kentucky.<sup>56</sup> Neither man, like 25% of those taxed that year, owned a horse or any cattle. It was likely that they were squatting, as at that time only military land warrants could be redeemed for land there. In that year, a preemption act was passed, allowing each housekeeper or other person over 21 year of age to purchase up to 200 acres for 30 cents per acre.<sup>57</sup> This tax list appears to have been the last record of Clement Davis, Senior, who would likely have been about 70 years old at that time.

On 12 Oct 1796, a property lying on both the waters of Kings Creek and Bush River was sold in Newberry County, South Carolina by James Lindsey, Senr. One of the property calls was an abutting property owned by "Clement Davis decd" (presumably Senior of GRANT A).<sup>58</sup> It would appear that word made it back home that Clement Senior had recently departed this world.

On 12 Jul 1796, Clement Davis (presumably Junior) was taxed for 59 acres entered by John Keys on the waters of Whippoorwill in Logan County, Kentucky. Listed seven lines later, but paying the poll tax on the same date was Joshua Davis.<sup>59</sup> Clement was again taxed for the same 59 acres in 1797. Listed two households ahead of him was Joshua Davis.<sup>60</sup> Neither man was found in subsequent Logan County tax lists.

Whippoorwill Creek is located between Elkton in present day Todd County, Kentucky and Russellville in present day Logan County, Kentucky.

On 13 Feb 1797, Clement Davis purchased from John Kukendall and Martha his wife for £100, 57 acres on Whippoorwill Creek in Logan County. The deed was witnessed by Abraham Nelson, Joshua Davis, George Cochran, and Clement Davis.<sup>61</sup>

On 11 May 1801, Clement Davis, and Sarah his wife sold to Jeremiah Jacobs for \$300 their 57 acres on Whippoorwill Creek. Witnesses were Beverly A. Allen, William Daniel and R. Allen. The deed does not state the place of residence of either the buyer or seller. But from 1799 on, evidence of Clement Davis, Junior is found in the newly formed Christian County, Kentucky.

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<sup>56</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Tax Lists, 1795, FHL Microfilm # 007834476, image 46 of 1012.*

<sup>57</sup> *The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Volume 75, Number 3 (Jul 1977), The Green River Pioneers, pages 179-181 of pages 171-190.*

<sup>58</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book E, page 970.*

<sup>59</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Tax Lists, 1796, FHL Microfilm # 007834476, image 78 of 1012.*

<sup>60</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Tax Lists, 1797, FHL Microfilm # 007834476, image 122 of 1012.*

<sup>61</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Deeds, Book A1, page 70.*

# Clement Davis, Junior

Complicating research into Clement Davis, Junior is that, at first glance, the 1800 tax list for Christian County, Kentucky appears to show that, just like back in South Carolina, there were three Clement Davises living there! The three men were listed consecutively, as follows:<sup>62</sup>

- The Clement listed first that year paid taxes on 6 Apr 1800 for 200 acres entered by C. Davis on Little River.
- The Clement listed second paid taxes on 16 Apr 1800 for 100 acres entered by A. Teague (shown to be Abel Teague in subsequent tax lists) on Pond River, and
- The final person was listed as what appeared to be “Same Davis,” which was inferred to mean another Clement. But it was actually Saml Davis, short for Samuel Davis. So there were actually only two Clement Davises (Phew! What a relief!).

These two men can be clearly distinguished based upon two facts:

1. The first is the land entry of the first Clement on 19 Jul 1799, when he was granted property on the Sinking Fork of Little River.<sup>63</sup> Samuel Means (the surveyor) and Jeremiah Davis were the chain carriers.<sup>64</sup> It is worth noting here that the Sinking Fork neighborhood was located six miles northwest of Hopkinsville, and was where the first county government was held: “*Ordered that the seat of justice be first at the Sinking Fork of Little River, and that Young Ewing, Jonathan Logan and Samuel Hardin, gents, or a majority of them, do meet at the place fixed upon as the seat of justice, and proceed to view the most suitable place to erect public buildings...*”<sup>65</sup>
2. The second is the biography of M.C. (Martin Clay) Davis, the son of the second Clement. This Clement, whom we will refer to as Clement Davis of Pond River, had married Eliza Teague in Christian County, Kentucky in 1799, and was granted a patent for 100 acres located on MacFarland Fork of Pond River on 23 Jan 1807.<sup>66</sup> M.C.’s biography states that his father had at first owned a farm in the north part of the county, but soon moved to a new farm to the south [still in Christian County].<sup>67</sup> M.C.’s father died on 3 Dec 1845 in Christian County, Kentucky. This Clement was mistakenly claimed by an unknown source to have been the son of William Davis, who was more likely his brother. Eliza’s marriage license was signed by Clement Davis and Joshua Davis.<sup>68</sup>

The primary clues in teasing these men apart is the first Clement’s 1807 and 1808 tax records,<sup>69</sup> when his son Remembrance was taxed the same day, indicating that he had just come of age in 1807 (implying that he was born about 1786). In those tax records, Clement paid taxes on 200 acres of land on the waters of Little River, on land where he had made the original land entry.

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<sup>62</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1800, FHL Microfilm #007834413*, image 58 of 1324.

<sup>63</sup> This was on 19 Jul 1799, per Ancestry.com’s *Kentucky, U.S., Land Grants, 1782-1924*.

<sup>64</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Land Grants, Book 5*, page 389, survey #03501.

<sup>65</sup> *County of Christian, Kentucky, Historical and Biographical* by William Henry Perrin (1884), page 50.

<sup>66</sup> Ancestry.com’s *Kentucky, U.S., Land Grants, 1782-1924*.

<sup>67</sup> *County of Christian, Kentucky: Historical and Biographical*, William Henry Perrin (1884), page 360.

<sup>68</sup> *Family Work Sheet #2: The Davis Family Connection* by Garner Doolin (typescript, 1992), page 1.

<sup>69</sup> See earlier citation of these records in the section about Remembrance Davis.

This was the 1799 grant discussed earlier, leaving no doubt that the first Clement living on Little River is our man.

On 8 Apr 1805, Clement Davis, Sr was assigned to survey a road “from the west end of the Grove to the Livingston Road.” The road originated near the mouth of Little River.<sup>70</sup> This fact is an interesting little tease, as we’ll later learn that his brother Nathan had been living in Livingston County, Kentucky at that time. That suggests it would have been relatively easy for them to visit one another (a distance of as little as 50 miles over rolling country).

On 16 May 1805, Clement Davis, Senior was deposed at his house on Sinking Fork of Little River in a case involving Beverly A. (Anthony) Allen. In 1795 he had been involved in a transaction between Allen, David Johnston and William Roberts for property located in Logan County, Kentucky.<sup>71</sup>

As stated earlier, Clement is found on tax lists of Christian County, Kentucky beginning in 1800, as well as in most years until 1808. He is not found in later lists, and in late 1809 his son Remembrance was married in Randolph County, Illinois Territory.

On 20 Feb 1809, Clement Davis and Sarah, his wife, sold 200 acres on the Sinking Fork of Little River for \$1,000 to Charles McCarty (all of Christian County, Kentucky). Witnesses were P. Torian, Wm McCarty and Jno Adams.<sup>72</sup> The purchase price of this property would explain how Joshua Davis, if he was Clement’s eldest son, was able to purchase 640 acres of land when he settled in Jackson County, Illinois. It would also explain why Clement didn’t invest in more property in Illinois. Prior to the Revolutionary War, it was typical for the eldest male to inherit most of the father’s estate, becoming the patriarch of the family to assure that all of his siblings had the education, property and/or other means to have the best chance at succeeding in life.

On 30 Jun 1810, in Randolph County, Illinois Territory negroes named Osburn (age 7) and Lucy (age 9) from Kentucky were entered by Joshua Davis for Clement Davis.<sup>73</sup> These were the two non-white persons in the household of C. Davis noted in the 1810 Illinois Territorial Census, where he was living in the vicinity of Grand Tower.<sup>74</sup> This census provides the first direct clue to his age, stating that he was born prior to 1765, though indirect clues suggest he was born closer to 1750.

In 1813, Clement Davis was appointed as one of the two overseers of the poor in Big Muddy Township, Johnson County, Illinois Territory.<sup>75,76</sup> At that time, Johnson County included the southern half of Jackson County below Big Muddy River.

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<sup>70</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Court Orders, Book A*, page 270.

<sup>71</sup> *The Longhunter, Volume XXXVIII [sic], Issue 1, Winter and Spring, 2011, Kentucky Records: Newly Rediscovered Circuit Court Cases in Logan County, Kentucky - Part 1*, by Gail Jackson Miller page 42.

<sup>72</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book B*, page 218.

<sup>73</sup> Illinois Secretary of State, *Servitude and Emancipation Records Database*.

<sup>74</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 13, household #29.

<sup>75</sup> *A History of Johnson County, Illinois* by Mrs. P. T. Chapman (1925), page 249.

<sup>76</sup> *Illinois, Johnson County, Commissioners Record, Volume A*, page 2.



As noted earlier, there is proof that Clement Davis arrived in Illinois prior to 5 Feb 1813, and is found in the 1818 Illinois State Census.<sup>77</sup> And in the 1820 Federal Census he is found living in the same neighborhood as Hezekiah Davis.

The property that Clement patented, based upon his pre-emption certificate, was located south of Big Muddy River, as were two properties of Joshua Davis and the property of Adam Phifer.

The fact that Clement had decided to settle south of Big Muddy River is yet another fact that confounds finding clearer proof of the identities of his children, some of whom married in Illinois Territory. If they had married north of Big Muddy prior to 1818, they would appear in marriage records in Randolph County, as Remembrance had. But marriage records for Johnson County are no longer extant prior to 1834. It was likely in Johnson County where his daughter Mary's second marriage to John Phelps took place.

On 26 Jul 1824, Clement Davis deeded a gift of land in Jackson County, Illinois to his grandson, Remembrance Phelps, son of Mary Phelps.<sup>78</sup> Witnesses were Eliphaz Davis, Jesse Davis (sons of Hezekiah Davis) and John Fifer (likely a relation of Hezekiah's son-in-law). The property was not specifically described in that deed, but was described in a later deed from Remembrance Davis to Jefferson Allen as the east part of the SE ¼ of Section 2, Township 9 South, Range 2 West.<sup>79</sup> The fact that he didn't leave the entire property to Remembrance Phelps suggests that the remainder went to other heirs, but that deed was not re-recorded immediately after the 1843 courthouse fire.

At the Apr 1829 term of the Jackson County Circuit Court, Clement Davis was assigned as a Travis Juror.<sup>80</sup> That's the last known record of his existence, which would suggest that he was nearly 80 years old when he died.

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<sup>77</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 106, household #s 116.

<sup>78</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 475 (first recorded in original Book B, page 331).

<sup>79</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 472 (first recorded in original Book D, pages 29 and 30).

<sup>80</sup> *Jackson County, Illinois Meetings of County Court and Jury Lists: 1823-1841, Part II* by John W. D. Wright (Aug 1981), page 13.

## Proven Children

There are only two irrefutably proven children of Clement Davis, Junior: Mary and Remembrance. But they may not have been the only ones who had followed him to Illinois. Other possible children will be discussed after dealing with these two.

### Mary (Davis) Phelps

Mary Davis' father was living in Logan County, Kentucky prior to 11 May 1801, when he sold his land there on Whippoorwill Creek. This was one month after her eldest known Allen child was said to have been born, which suggests there should be a marriage record for her in Logan County. Such records prior to about 1818 no longer exist, though there is an index ordered by the groom's surname - with the exception of the "A" grooms. Thus all early marriage records of Allen males in Logan County are no longer extant, which at first blush would seem to be the most likely reason why we don't have direct proof of the identity of the father of her four proven Allen children.

The witnesses to that deed were Beverly Allen (an apostate former Methodist preacher), William Daniel and R. Allen. Beverly Allen was married at the time, with a growing family by Anna Singletary, who had joined her husband in Logan County a few years after his arrival there (she showed up around the late 1790s). R. Allen was Rowland Allen, Beverly's nephew, who was about the same age as Mary.<sup>81</sup> These two men appear to be the only likely suspects who may have fathered Mary's Allen children, as they are noted in various public documents with her or her father, and they lived near either of them at various times.

At the May 1801 Logan County Court, Rowland Allen petitioned for a warrant for 400 acres of land near Johnston's survey, which would become the subject of a long-running court battle, which Rowland finally lost in 1824.<sup>82,83</sup> Mary Davis, who had just turned 21 years of age (she died in 1844 at 64 years of age, according to her tombstone), on the same day made an application for 400 acres of land.<sup>84</sup> This grant was later assigned to Reuben Allen (Rowland's father and Beverly's brother) in 1807.<sup>85</sup> The survey, with Raglin Langston and Beverly A. Allen as chain carriers, shows clearly that it abuts Rowland's 400 acres.<sup>86,87</sup> These properties were located south of Whippoorwill Creek, most likely in the area northeast of Allensville. Beverly

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<sup>81</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Court Orders, Book A-1*, page 217.

<sup>82</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Court Order Books, Volume 1, FHL Microfilm # 007646884*, page 66, image 93 of 1076.

<sup>83</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Deeds, Book M*, page 380.

<sup>84</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Court Order Books, Volume 1, FHL Microfilm # 007646884*, page 66, image 93 of 1076.

<sup>85</sup> *Logan County, Kentucky Abstract of Equity Cases, Volume 3*, page 38 by Montgomery Vanderpool (typescript, 1988).

<sup>86</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, Land Grants, South of Green River Series, Volume 13*, page 16, Survey # 9142.

<sup>87</sup> *Logan County, Kentucky Abstract of Equity Cases, Volume 4*, page 3 by Montgomery Vanderpool (typescript, 1989).

Allen's mansion was reportedly located near Dot, Kentucky (southeast of Allensville) on the waters of Red River.

Mary's survey may be one of the most important pieces of evidence in determining who had fathered her Allen children, as it is typically direct family members who served as chain carriers. If Rowland Allen was Mary's husband, and he also owned the adjoining property, why was his uncle Beverly the chain carrier for Mary's survey? We'll consider that and other questions a bit later, after we first gather some facts about Rowland Allen's life, to see how well his life fits with the known facts about Mary and her children.

### Rowland Allen?

In 1802, Rowland Allen was taxed for 400 acres of land in Christian County, Kentucky on the waters of Little River that was surveyed for R. Allen.<sup>88</sup> He was the only Allen taxed in Christian County that year and for several years later. Clement Davis' Christian County property was also located on the waters of Little River. Assuming that Mary had followed her parents, Rowland would appear to be a promising prospect as the mystery father of Mary's children.

In 1805, Rowland Allen was taxed for 400 acres of land in Christian County, Kentucky on the waters of Flat Lick that was surveyed for R. Allen.<sup>89</sup> In both 1805 and 1806, he was also taxed for 400 acres on Elk Fork in Logan County that was surveyed for R. Allen (the latter was his 1801 grant).<sup>90</sup>

Starting in 1809, there was a suit filed in Logan County, Kentucky by John Vinzant against Rowland Allen and others for trespass, assault and battery.<sup>91</sup> At the time, Rowland was living in Livingston County, Kentucky (he is not found on tax lists there, suggesting he was living in someone else's household at the time). Rowland posted bond on 28 Aug 1809.

On 14 Apr 1810, Rowland Allen sold his 400 acre grant in Logan County to Reuben Allen.<sup>92</sup> Notably, there was no need for a wife to waive her dower rights as part of the sale of this property.

In May 1810, it appears that Rowland was in custody at the Logan County jail (which possibly had something to do with the sale of his 400-acre grant to his father). No 1810 Census record was found for Rowland Allen. The last court appearance by Rowland was on 25 Oct 1811, when he lost the verdict and the plaintiff was awarded \$125.

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<sup>88</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Books, 1802, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, image 111 of 1324.*

<sup>89</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Books, 1805, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, image 312 of 1324.*

<sup>90</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Tax Books, 1805 & 1806, FHL Microfilm # 007834476, images 340 and 389 of 1012.*

<sup>91</sup> *The Longhunter, Volume XXXVI, Issue 1 & 2, Winter and Spring, 2013, Kentucky Records: Newly Rediscovered Circuit Court Cases in Logan County, Kentucky - Part 4, by Gail Jackson Miller, pages 8 through 11.*

<sup>92</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Deeds, Book C, page 74.*

In a Logan County, Kentucky deed dated 28 Oct 1817, the land of Mary Davis (her 400 acre grant) was noted as abutting that of Reuben Allen, deceased. The 100 acres of land subject to the deed was split between Reuben Allen's heirs, who were:<sup>93</sup>

- Rowland Allen
- Benjamin Allen
- James Allen
- Isaac McMeany and Druxilla his wife
- George W. Clingham and Charity his wife
- Leonard Sale and Elizabeth his wife
- Anna A. Allen
- John Keys and his infant daughters: Nancy, Betsy and Winnie, heirs of Francis Keys, his wife

Thus Rowland Allen was alive the year after Beverly Allen had sold property to Mary Davis.

The above 100 acres was assigned to Reuben Allen by Joel Harvey, and was surveyed on 3 Apr 1807 with James Allen and J. W. N. A. Smith as chain carriers. The property abuts the 400 acres of Rowland Allen on two sides of its northwest corner.<sup>94</sup> So, the 400 acres granted to Mary Davis and the above 100 acres both shared property lines with Rowland Allen - the three properties were contiguous.

Rowland Allen was clearly not married to Mary Davis in 1816, when she purchased land from Beverly Allen using her maiden name. And Rowland Allen was still living when in 1818 Mary Davis gave birth to her first Phelps child.

While Rowland Allen and Mary Davis appear to have been neighbors for some time, there are no clues to suggest they were ever married. As we will soon see, Mary Davis had used her maiden name continuously during the births of her four Allen children. In that time period, such a practice inferred children born out of wedlock - the mother kept her maiden name, but gave her children the surname of their father.

### Beverly Allen?

There is no record of Mary Davis ever marrying, yet a Christian County, Kentucky deed dated 10 Sep 1845 proves that she had both Allen and Phelps children. The deed states clearly that they were the heirs-at-law of Mary Phelps, formerly Mary Davis. Those named were:<sup>95,96</sup>

1. Sarah Allen, b. 15 Apr 1801, wife of Benjamin Babbit, of Jackson County, Illinois.
2. Nancy Allen, b 10 Nov 1803, wife of James Hall 3<sup>rd</sup>. They were living in Austin, Texas at the time.
3. Jefferson Allen, b. 13 Dec 1806, of Jackson County, Illinois.

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<sup>93</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Deeds, Book F*, page 328.

<sup>94</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, Land Grants, South of Green River Series, Volume 9*, page 485, Survey # 8220.

<sup>95</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book 29*, page 389-399.

<sup>96</sup> Dates of birth taken from *Dr. Beverly Allen, 1757-1816* by Garner Doolin (typescript, 1990), page 9.

4. Clement Allen, b. circa 1810, “of the Republic of Texas and now from the County of Christian.”
5. William Remembrance Phelps, b. 26 Sep 1818, of Jackson County, Illinois.
6. George Washington Phelps, b. circa 1822, of Jackson County, Illinois.

Whether or not this was all of her children cannot be confirmed, but they were certainly those who were still living in 1845. On 15 Oct 1818, John Phelps and Mary, his wife, of Jackson County, Illinois Territory, sold the above property in Christian County, Kentucky for \$250 to “M. Hobson” [sic: Morgan Hopson]. The deed states that Beverly Allen had sold the property to “Mary Davis, who is now Mary Phelps.”<sup>97</sup>

The above property, located on the Dry Fork of the Little West Fork of Red River, had earlier been sold by Beverly Allen for \$100 to Mary Davis of Christian County, Kentucky “and her children the heirs of her body forever” on 1 Apr 1816.<sup>98</sup> The 1845 deed makes clear that she was living on the property back in 1816. This property is located immediately west of Fort Campbell, Kentucky, just north of the Tennessee State Line. Beverly Allen’s mansion was located about 40 miles due east, just southeast of Allensville.

The wording of the deed means that Mary Davis only received a life interest in the property, and based upon the phrase “heirs of her body forever,” it was inferred that it was her children who would own it once she died. That would seem to mean that she was unable to sell their interests in the property before they came of age, yet we already know that the property was sold two years after she received it, which was well before any of her children were old enough to have consented.

There are two possibilities here, that:

1. Both John Phelps and Morgan Hopson were not aware that the Mary’s children were the real owners, because the property was intended to be held in trust for their future use (that John would have needed the approval of Beverly Allen or the administrator of his estate in order to sell their interest in the property), or
2. Morgan Hopson knew that he was only purchasing the use of the property during Mary’s lifetime.

The second possibility seems least likely, as somehow the property had gone from the possession of Morgan Hopson to George Wills at some point between 1818 and 1846. That suggests that Mary’s son, Jefferson Allen, who was an attorney, had to file (or at least threaten to file) suit in court in order to recover the interests of himself and his siblings. That suit likely would have been filed between 1844, when Mary died, and 1846, when he and his siblings settled their interests in the property with George Wills.

But a burning question is, why did Beverly Allen sell the property for the future benefit of Mary’s children? And why would she pay \$100 for a property that she could not own, even as an unmarried woman? It is also worth noting here that it was not until 1839 that a married woman in

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<sup>97</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book I, page 541.*

<sup>98</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book F, page 197.*

the United States was allowed to own property - upon marrying, her husband obtained sole control of her property.<sup>99</sup> Prior to then, only unmarried women could own property.

Both questions together could have been the act of a benevolent rich uncle, though he doesn't seem to have been so benevolent with his brother Reuben's children.

But then why did Mary use her maiden name in May 1801 when she received a 400 acre grant in Logan County, which was just a month after she had given birth to Sarah Allen (presuming that Sarah's birthdate, as recorded on her tombstone, is accurate)?<sup>100,101</sup> May 1801 was also when her father Clement moved about 40 miles to the west. Did her parents do so to avoid dealing with the fallout of their daughter being an unwed mother?

And why did Mary use her maiden name when she had the property surveyed on 15 Dec 1804, not long after having given birth to her second child, Nancy Davis Allen?<sup>102,103</sup>

And why did she again use her maiden name on 28 Nov 1807 (a year after the birth of her third child, Jefferson Allen)<sup>104</sup> when she assigned her interest in that property to Reuben Allen?<sup>105</sup> And she clearly signed her name as Mary Davis in doing so. Thus Mary was unmarried and literate, yet she had three children at this time, all with the Allen surname. What peculiar circumstances might explain this?

And why was she still using her maiden name in 1816, when Beverly Allen sold to her and her children the property upon which she was living at the time? That was seven months before he wrote his will,<sup>106</sup> and ten months before his death.

And why did she finally marry John Phelps and move to Illinois, apparently only after Beverly's death?

The most likely explanation in light of these additional questions is that Beverly Allen was the father of Mary's children, and the \$100 paid for the deed may never have changed hands - it was only there to keep up appearances, perhaps as the apparent generous rich uncle to her children.

Yet the property that he sold her was in Christian County, not Logan County. Was that to make it harder for his wife to know of the sale, and to minimize the opportunities for her and Mary to cross

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<sup>99</sup> [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Married\\_Women%27s\\_Property\\_Acts\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Married_Women%27s_Property_Acts_in_the_United_States).

<sup>100</sup> Kentucky Secretary of State, *Land Grants, South of Green River Series, Volume 13*, page 16, Survey # 9142.

<sup>101</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/50500616/sarah-w-babbitt>.

<sup>102</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/23111767/nancy-davis-hall>.

<sup>103</sup> Kentucky Secretary of State, *Land Grants, South of Green River Series, Volume 13*, page 16, Survey # 9142.

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/86621499/jefferson-allen>.

<sup>105</sup> Kentucky Secretary of State, *Land Grants, South of Green River Series, Volume 13*, page 16, Survey # 9142.

<sup>106</sup> Kentucky, *Logan County, Wills, Book A*, pages 620-629.

paths in the future? While Mary's children received far less from Beverly than his legitimate children had, the deed appears to have been his effort to provide for their future success.

That can explain why Beverly Allen was a chain carrier for Mary's 400 acre survey in Logan County, a role often assumed by direct relatives. It also explains why Mary's children Nancy and Jefferson each named a son Beverly. And it is especially important to note that Rowland Allen owned the property adjoining Mary's grant. If Rowland had been the father of Mary's children, it is very unusual that he did not act as chain carrier.

Unfortunately, none of these facts prove conclusively that Beverly Allen was the father of Mary Davis' Allen children, but it is unreasonable to think that conclusive proof of a hidden affair could ever be found. While it is possible that Rowland Allen was Mary's husband and that they had divorced at some point, that scenario does not explain Mary's repeated use of her maiden name until 1816, despite having four Allen children born before then, a scenario which was common in the case of children born out of wedlock.

### Rogue's Harbor

Having four children out of wedlock with one man in early 1800s Kentucky was well outside of the usual societal norms of that day. But it seems that the vicinity in which Beverly Allen lived may offer some understanding of why that was possible. At the time that he first stopped there in 1794, on the run after murdering a marshall who had tried to arrest him in Georgia, the area was known as "Rogue's Harbor." It was an outpost on the far western frontier populated by others who likewise were trying to escape their past transgressions.<sup>107</sup>

Peter Cartwright's 1857 autobiography paints a picture of the place in the 1790s, specifically in an area very near where Beverly Allen's mansion is said to have been located:<sup>108</sup>

*"In the fall of 1793, my father determined to move to what was then called the Green River Country, in the southern part of the State of Kentucky. He did so, and settled in Logan County, nine miles south of Russellville, the county seat, and within one mile of the state line of Tennessee.*

*[snip]*

*"Logan County, when my father moved to it, was called 'Rogue's Harbor.' Here many refugees, from nearly all parts of the Union, fled to escape justice or punishment; for although there was law, it could not be executed; and it was a desperate state of society. Murderers, horse thieves, highway robbers and counterfeiters fled here until they combined and actually formed a majority. The honest and civil part of the citizens would prosecute these wretched banditti; but they would swear each other clear; and they really put all law at defiance, and*

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<sup>107</sup> <https://www.usmarshals.gov/history/forsyth.htm>.

<sup>108</sup> *Autobiography of Peter Cartwright, the Backwoods Preacher* by Peter Cartwright (1857), pages 23-25.

*carried on such desperate violence and outrage that the honest part of the citizens seemed to be driven to the necessity of uniting and combining together, and taking the law into their own hands, under the name of Regulators. This was a very desperate state of things."*

Peter Cartwright, who was born in 1785, had actually boarded with Beverly Allen to receive an education, though he claims he failed to learn much from the experience. His autobiography gives details of Beverly's fall from grace and his flight to the western frontier of Kentucky; a first hand account from someone who knew him well, and who was living during the time that the events transpired.

It was Peter Cartwright who was with Beverly Allen when he died. He had asked Beverly if he was willing to die and face judgement.<sup>109</sup>

*"He frankly said he was not. He said he could make the mercy of God cover every case in his mind but his own, but he thought there was no mercy for him; and in this state of mind he left the world, bidding his family and friends farewell, warning them not to come to that place of torment to which he felt himself eternally doomed."*

## John Phelps

Since Mary's Phelps children were all born after 1818, when John Phelps first enters the picture, he was likely their father. No marriage record for them has been found. They were living in Jackson County, Illinois when the deed was recorded, and the county was formed in 1816. If they had married there, those marriage records were destroyed in the 1843 courthouse fire. John had originally lived in Johnson County, Illinois, so it is possible that they could have married there, though marriage records for that early time period are also no longer extant.

It is curious that John Phelps and Mary Phelps are listed in different households in the 1820 Census for Jackson County, Illinois. She was living next door to her father, Clement Davis, and her husband was listed seven households after hers. Was this yet another indication of Mary's peculiarly independent nature?

John is last found in the 1830 Census for Jackson County, Illinois, where the age and gender attributes of his household match to Mary and her two Phelps sons, plus a 15-19 year old female. No further record of him was found.

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<sup>109</sup> *Autobiography of Peter Cartwright, the Backwoods Preacher* by Peter Cartwright (1857), page 29.



## Remembrance Davis

The first record of Clement's son Remembrance Davis in Illinois Territory was his marriage on 21 Dec 1809 in Randolph County to Susannah Davis.<sup>110</sup> Whether she was a widow, an unrelated Davis, or a distant cousin is not known. According to Laura W. Mentzel and other researchers of the Davis clan to which Remembrance belonged, there is an alleged tendency of marrying close cousins. If this is true, then it is possible that is what happened here.

Two years earlier, on 12 Apr 1807, Remembrance paid only the poll tax in Christian County, Kentucky. Paying taxes on the same day for 200 acres of land on Little River, and listed just above him, was Clement Davis.<sup>111</sup> The two men were also listed side-by-side when they paid their taxes in 1808.<sup>112</sup> Adjacent records such as these are considered primary evidence of a father-son relationship, when one man is taxed for land, and the other on the same day only paid the poll tax, and perhaps was taxed for some livestock.

Remembrance was likely the M. Davis ('Membrance?') who appears in the 1810 Illinois Territorial Census for Randolph County. Listed before him was C. Davis (Clement). Listed after him was J. Davis (probably Joshua), and listed two households after him was N. Davis (Nathan).<sup>113</sup>

During the War of 1812, Remembrance Davis served in Capt. Evan's Mounted Illinois Militia, and in 1st Regiment Illinois Militia. The latter was for the months of Feb and Mar 1813.<sup>114</sup>

On 3 May 1815, Remembrance Davis was among the buyers at the estate sale of James Worthen. Other buyers included Hezekiah Davis, and Adam Phifer.<sup>115</sup>

On 14 Aug 1816, notice was published in the *Western Intelligencer* that Clement Davis was settling the estate of Remembrance Davis in Johnson County, Illinois Territory.<sup>116</sup>

In 1817, Joshua Davis was appointed as the guardian of Unity Davis and Elihu Davis, children of Remembrance Davis, suggesting that Remembrance's wife Susannah had also died.<sup>117</sup> This further reinforces the notion that Joshua was Clement's eldest son, and the uncle of Remembrance's children.

Because Remembrance's probate would have been completed in Jackson County, Illinois, there is no further direct record of his estate there, due to the 1843 courthouse fire. The bulk of records

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<sup>110</sup> Some records state 1810.

<sup>111</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1807, FHL Microfilm # 007834413*, image 441 of 1324.

<sup>112</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1808, FHL Microfilm # 007834413*, image 575 of 1324.

<sup>113</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1969), page 13.

<sup>114</sup> *United States, War of 1812, Index to Service Records, 1812-1815, Davis F. to Davy*, images 1457 and 1458 of 2555.

<sup>115</sup> *A History of Johnson County, Illinois* by Mrs. P. T. Chapman (1925), page 233.

<sup>116</sup> [http://genealogytrails.com/ill/randolph/news\\_court.html](http://genealogytrails.com/ill/randolph/news_court.html), accessed 13 Mar 2021.

<sup>117</sup> *Saga of Southern Illinois, either Volume 15 or Volume 16, 1988, Johnson County, Illinois Guardianship and Apprenticeship Records, 1814-1817*, page 44.

which have survived are those deeds which were re-recorded, mostly in the year immediately following that event.

What follows are a few facts about Remembrance's two children, both of whom survived to adulthood.

### Elihu W Davis

On 25 Nov 1837, a Letter of Attorney was recorded from Elihu Davis, "son and an heir of Remembrance Davis," where he sold his interest in the estate of Remembrance Davis to Jefferson Allen. Witnesses were Provence Reader and William R. Phelps (this was William Remembrance Phelps, his cousin by his aunt Mary).<sup>118</sup>

He had one son, Thomas Jefferson Davis, born about 1835, whom he apprenticed to James Logan circa 1845 to learn to be a house carpenter.<sup>119</sup> No record of any of these men was found, except where in 1859 Thomas Jefferson Davis assigned his interest in a military land warrant as "the child and only heir of Elihu Davis, late a private in Company B, 1st Regiment, Illinois Volunteers." Elihu had served in the Mexican War, dying at Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1848 .<sup>120,121</sup>

If Elihu's son was his first, and born soon after he had married, then Elihu was born around 1814 (1835 less 21 years). Which fits with him being the child of Susannah Davis.

### Unity (Davis) Deason

A Letter of Attorney was filed on 14 Dec 1844 in Jackson County, Illinois by "Isaac Deason and Unity his wife, formerly Unity Davis daughter of Remembrance Davis, deceased,"<sup>122</sup> where they sold their interest in the estate of Remembrance Davis to Jefferson Allen. The document was witnessed by Singleton Davis (the son of Hezekiah Davis, Junior).

Isaac Deason is found in the 1850 Census for Jackson County, Illinois. He was born about 1806. In 1846, he had married Amanda Kelly, suggesting that Unity had died shortly after executing the above deed. Of the children in his household, two were likely Unity's:

1. Wilburn Ira Deason, b. 1840, and
2. Nancy Maria Deason, b. 1843.

There is little with which to determine Unity's date of birth, other than Isaac Deason's 1840 Census record, where his wife was born between 1810 and 1820 (the actual span would have been no later than 1816, based on Remembrance's death). That would suggest that she likely was born around the time that her parents had died. There would have been a high likelihood that Susannah might have died during childbirth.

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<sup>118</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 475.

<sup>119</sup> *Family Work Sheet: The Davis Family Connection* by Garner Doolin (typescript, undated), page 3.

<sup>120</sup> *Government Land Office, Patents, Accession # MW-112-280*.

<sup>121</sup> *Illinois, Soldiers of the Frontier, 1810-1813, the Black Hawk War, 1831-1832, and the Mexican War, 1846-1848* by Isaac H. Elliott (1882), pages 212 and 224, Mexican War, First Regiment.

<sup>122</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book E*, page 217.

## Unproven, But Probable Children

As stated earlier, the 1790 Census tells us that, in addition to Mary and Remembrance, Clement Davis, Junior had another son born before 1790, and he could have had additional children born thereafter. It is also possible that he had one or more children who had come of age prior to 1790. That would include a female born by at least 1772, and a male born by at least 1769. Ruhama, the wife of Jonathan Chandler, is a very likely suspect to have been a child of Clement's who had come of age prior to 1790.

There are two candidates who could have been the other son born before 1790: Joshua Davis and Jeremiah Davis. The trouble is, neither man lived where there are records that give any clear idea of their ages, except that Jeremiah was married in 1804, and thus he likely was born around 1783. As such he is a good fit for the young male in Clement's 1790 Census household.

Joshua first appears in records as early as 1796, and he was married before arriving in Kentucky. It is possible that he came of age prior to 1790, but he does not show up in any known records of Newberry County, South Carolina. An abutting neighbor of his, Samuel Davis, was also known to have arrived in Jackson County, Illinois at a very early date, though he didn't qualify for a preemption certificate. Was he another son of Clement Davis, or a son of Joshua? He was likely married around 1810 (he had six children in 1818), and was likely born circa 1790, suggesting his father had married by then. The latter would seem to be the more likely possibility: Joshua was Clement's son, and Samuel was Clement's grandson.

Let's see what records tell us about Jeremiah, Ruhama and Joshua.

## Jeremiah Davis

As stated earlier, Jeremiah was a chain carrier in 1799 for Clement Davis, Junior's 200 acre land grant on Little River in Christian County, Kentucky. As such, he was likely of age at that time and thus born by 1778. It would have been typical for a son to assist in surveying his father's land grant.

On 16 May 1800, Jeremiah first appeared on the tax lists for Christian County, Kentucky. He was not taxed for any land.<sup>123</sup>

On 15 Jan 1804, Jeremiah Davis married "Stacy" Davis in Christian County, Kentucky, with Jeremiah Davis and William Davis posting bond.<sup>124</sup> Stacia lived long enough to see the 1850 Census, where it states that she was born in 1787 in North Carolina (likely erroneous, as there are two Census records which state that her sister Rachel was born in South Carolina).<sup>125</sup> That implies that her marriage to Jeremiah was her first, and that she was born by 1786 (1804 less 18 years).

On 12 Mar 1804, Jeremiah Davis, William Davis and Jonathan Chandler were witness to a combination deed for a 200-acre tract (which was originally part of the headright of William Davis) and a bill of sale for various livestock, from Joseph Davis to Clement Davis, both of Christian County, Kentucky. The property was located "between the Little and Big Flat Lick Timbers," which is in the far southern end of Christian County, where Clement Davis of Pond River was known to have lived. The amount paid was not mentioned.<sup>126</sup> Was Joseph yet another brother-in-law of Jeremiah? There is a Joseph Davis who was a chain carrier for the survey of a property granted to John Marshall in Austin, Texas: was this Leah Davis' brother? I will leave it to others to prove those connections.

In 1804, Jeremiah Davis paid the poll tax in Christian County, Kentucky.<sup>127</sup> He was NOT living near either Clement Davis of Pond River or Clement Davis, Junior on Little River, and is not found there on subsequent tax lists.

An undocumented source states that Jeremiah Davis moved his family to Illinois Territory around 1808.<sup>128</sup>

Jeremiah received pre-emption certificate # 73 on 23 Jul 1814 for the E ½ of Section 23, Township 8 South, Range 4 West, which he had originally purchased from a Mr. Thompson. The

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<sup>123</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, FHL Microfilm # 07834413*, image 57 of 1324.

<sup>124</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Marriage Bonds, FHL Microfilm # 007734828*, image 278 of 2178.

<sup>125</sup> There are several William Davises who are listed in the 1790 Census for North Carolina, including ones in counties surrounding the Moravian settlements where Hezekiah Davis was born, and in Moore County, where James Davis is thought to have come from.

<sup>126</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book A*, page 217.

<sup>127</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1804, FHL Microfilm # 07834413*, image 211 of 1324.

<sup>128</sup> <https://dwillis1957.wordpress.com/2014/10/27/three-forks-of-the-little-missouri-river/>, accessed 19 Mar 2021.

property consisted of a cabin, rails and two small pens.<sup>129</sup> He received the patent to that land on 26 May 1817.<sup>130</sup> The property abutted that of Hezekiah Davis, and Clement Davis was a close neighbor of Hezekiah in the 1820 Census for Jackson County, Illinois.

In the 1818 Illinois State Census, Jeremiah Davis' household includes one male over age 21 and eight others. One of those was most likely his wife, and soon we'll learn that he had five children who survived him.<sup>131</sup>

On 2 Jul 1818, Jeremiah Davis sold to John Robinson the NE ¼ of Section 23, Township 8 South, Range 2 West for \$160. The deed was also signed by Jeremiah's wife, "Stasea Davis."<sup>132</sup>

Jeremiah Davis is said to have moved to the Three Forks of the Little Missouri River of present-day Arkansas (near Murfreesboro) about 1819.<sup>133</sup>

Jeremiah Davis died in 1822 in Clark (now Pike) County, Arkansas. The following is a biographical account of one of his sons:

*"**Clement Davis** was born in Illinois on April 7, 1813 a son of **Jeremiah** and **Stacia Davis**. His parents came to Arkansas about 1820 to the three forks settlement of the Little Missouri river now Murfreesboro where **Jeremiah Davis** died in 1822. He was survived by six children, son **Clement Davis** and daughters **Nancy, Rachel, Lydia, Isafena** and **Syrena**. **Stacia Davis** appears to have re-married by 1824. She is referred to by the name of **Stacy "Right" or Wright** in the minutes of the Clark County, Arkansas Circuit Court, March Term 1824, where she is the administratrix of the estate of her late husband. In court records for 1825, 1826 and 1828 she is identified as **Stacia Davis** and in subsequent records throughout her life although there is a marriage of **Stacy Davis** to **Richard Linville** in Clark County, Arkansas on January 29, 1832. **Stacia Davis** had another son **John Millard Davis** born September 7, 1827 whose father is not known. **John M. Davis** would later become Sheriff of Pike County, Arkansas."<sup>134</sup>*

The full name of the above Clement is said to have been Clement Sherrill Davis. His siblings who were identified in the settlement of Jeremiah's estate include:<sup>135</sup>

- Nancy Davis
- Rachel Davis

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<sup>129</sup> *Colonial and Territorial Research Collection of Illinois: Land Series, Volume XIX: Pre-Emption Permits in 1813* by Raymond H. Hammes (unpublished, date unknown), FHL Microfilm #1543598, page 354.

<sup>130</sup> *Government Land Office, Patents*, Accession # CV-0089-062.

<sup>131</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 103, household # 30.

<sup>132</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 309 (originally recorded in Book A, pages 416 and 417).

<sup>133</sup> <https://dwillis1957.wordpress.com/2014/10/27/three-forks-of-the-little-missouri-river/>, accessed 19 Mar 2021.

<sup>134</sup> *The Gems of Pike County, Arkansas, Volume VIII, No. 1, Winter 1997, Clement Davis*, page 1.

<sup>135</sup> <http://www.pcahs.org/pcaolr/fgr02/fgr-0110.htm>, Arkansas, Clark County, Court Minutes, March Term 1824, page 1.

- Lydia Davis
- Isafena Davis

## Ruhama (Davis) Chandler

All of the children in Clement Davis, Junior's 1790 Census household have been accounted for, but it is possible that he had children who had come of age prior to that Census.

In both of Clement Davis' Grants D & G, one of the witnesses was Jonathan Chandler. Jonathan's wife was Ruhama, who has been believed by others to have been "Rebecca" Davis.<sup>136</sup> The popular belief is that she was the daughter of "Clem" Davis of Buncombe County, North Carolina. However, she was married around 1790, and Clem himself was married in North Carolina only five years earlier. They could not possibly have been father and daughter. Was she the daughter of Clement Davis, Junior?

On 28 Aug 1790, Jonathan Chandler was dismissed from the Bush River Monthly Meeting of Friends for having "accomplished his marriage outside of the unity of Friends."<sup>137</sup> That would fit with him having married a Davis, as Clement Davis, Junior was a member of the Bush River Baptist Church.

He would appear to have been the Jonathan Chandler shown to have been born on 2 Feb 1768 in Newberry County, South Carolina, the son of Jacob and Ann (Taylor) Chandler.<sup>138,139</sup> That supposition is confirmed in a 1790 deed, which we'll get to shortly.

The 1790 Census was begun on 2 Aug 1790, meaning that it was likely that they had married prior to the Census and Rebecca was not counted in her father's household. Indeed, Jonathan's household is found in the 1790 Census for Newberry County, South Carolina, where his household contains two males over age 16, and one female. The other male was likely his brother Israel - the two of them were named as heirs in the will of their grandfather Jonathan Taylor, which was proved 18 May 1795.<sup>140</sup>

Jonathan was readmitted to the Friends on 25 Sep 1790, after those Friends who had been "appointed to inform him" reported that he had complied.<sup>141</sup>

On 4 Nov 1790, Jacob Chandler and Ann his wife sold to Jonathan Chandler (all of Newberry County, South Carolina) for £102 a 204 acre tract of land, which prior to then appears to have been the subject of an annual lease of ten shillings sterling. Witnesses were John Thomas Sell, David Mills and Isaac Case<sup>142</sup> The property was part of a 400 acre tract on Bush River granted to Abraham Carradine in 1756.<sup>143</sup>

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<sup>136</sup> <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~janelle/genealogy/chandler/chand001.htm>.

<sup>137</sup> Ancestry.com's U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, South Carolina, Newberry, Bush River Monthly Meeting, Minutes, 1783-1794, page 127.

<sup>138</sup> [http://genealogytrails.com/scar/newberry/bush\\_river\\_quakers.htm](http://genealogytrails.com/scar/newberry/bush_river_quakers.htm), accessed 25 Apr 2021.

<sup>139</sup> <http://genealogytrails.com/scar/newberry/nbybiblerecords.html#chandler>, accessed 25 Apr 2021.

<sup>140</sup> South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S108093 Reel: 0018 Frame: 00552 Item: 000 (typescript).

<sup>141</sup> Ancestry.com's U.S., Quaker Meeting Records, 1681-1935, South Carolina, Newberry, Bush River Monthly Meeting, Minutes, 1783-1794, page 128.

<sup>142</sup> South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, page 728-733.

<sup>143</sup> South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0007 Page: 00258 Item: 02

The minutes for the Bush River Baptist Church in Newberry County, South Carolina from 1792 to 1804 include the following Davises, who would be the prime suspects as Ruhama's parents: Clement Davis and his wife Sarah, Eleanor Davis [the wife of Thomas Davis] (see *Appendix Two*), Jesse Davis, and Van Davis and his wife Susanna.<sup>144</sup> The 1790 Census has the following Davis males living in closest proximity to Clement Davis: Van, William (see *Appendix One*), Harmon and Reason. Of these Davises, Clement and his wife Sarah are the only ones who migrated westward along precisely the same path as Jonathan and Ruhama.

On 9 Jan 1800, Jonathan Chandler sold 204 acres of land in Newberry County, South Carolina, which he had acquired from Jacob Chandler, to Nathan Washington Perry for £160. Witnesses were James Leasel and James Griffin. Ruhama Chandler released her dower interest in the land.<sup>145</sup>

Jonathan Chandler shows up in Christian County, Kentucky starting with the 1801 tax list, where he paid the poll tax and was taxed for two mares.<sup>146</sup> You can almost imagine two adults and four kids piled onto those two horses for the 550 mile trek from South Carolina.

In 1802, he was taxed for 200 acres entered by J. Chandler on McCullough's Creek.<sup>147</sup> No land grant was found for Jonathan Chandler, suggesting that he had assigned his interest in the property before it was patented.

In 1803, he was taxed for 200 acres entered by J. Davis on the waters of Littler River.<sup>148</sup> (Was "J. Davis" Joshua Davis?)

In 1804, Jonathan Chandler was taxed for 200 acres entered by J. Chandler on Flat Lick Creek.<sup>149</sup> Again, no land grant for this property was found, suggesting he assigned his interest in it to someone else.

In 1805, he was taxed for properties of 200 acres and 100 acres entered by J. Davis on the waters of Flat Lick Creek.<sup>150</sup>

It is speculated that he was the J. Chandler listed in household 252 of the 1810 Illinois Territory Census, presumably in then Randolph County (now Jackson County). Other households near him were:<sup>151</sup>

1. 245 - R. Marshall.

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<sup>144</sup> *South Carolina Baptists, 1670-1805* by Leah Townsend (1974), page 165 (footnote).

<sup>145</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book D*, page 584.

<sup>146</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1801*, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, image 92 of 1324.

<sup>147</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1802*, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, image 119 of 1324.

<sup>148</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1803*, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, image 158 of 1324.

<sup>149</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1804*, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, image 209 of 1324.

<sup>150</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1805*, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, image 315 of 1324.

<sup>151</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 13.



2. 246 - J. Marshall (believed to have been John, father of Priscilla Marshall - see next paragraph)
3. 249 - C. Davis (believed to have been Clement Junior).
4. 250 - M. Davis (possibly 'Membrane Davis?')
5. 251 - J. Davis (believed to have been Joshua).
6. 254 - N. Davis (believed to have been Nathan)

[Note: The first two would seem to have been Robert Marshall and John Marshall, who were enumerated in the 1807 Indiana Territorial Census for Randolph County.<sup>152</sup> Their neighbor at that time was James Davis, one of the five Davis pre-emptors of Jackson County - the one who is not covered in this book.]

Un sourced information claims that their children were:<sup>153</sup>

1. **Sarah Chandler**, b. 1792. She married an unknown **Anderson** and was living with her sister Elizabeth in the 1850 Census for Scott County, Arkansas. It is not known whether she had any children.
2. **Jacob Chandler**, b. 20 Apr 1793. He married first **Elizabeth Reeder**, and second **Sarah Stout**. He was an early settler in Washington County, Arkansas, having moved there from Clark County, Arkansas Territory (originally in Missouri Territory) with his father-in-law **Micajah Reeder**.<sup>154</sup>
3. **Elizabeth Chandler**, b. 1796. She married **Jacob Reeder**.
4. **Clement Davis Chandler**, b. 1799. He married **Priscilla Marshall**, the daughter of **John** and **Leah Ann (Davis) Marshall**, presumably his second cousin. **Priscilla** was widowed and living with her father in the 1850 Census for Williamson County, Texas. **Leah Ann** was the sister of **Clement Davis** of Pond River. Chandler's Branch in Williamson County, Texas was named for him, as he settled there in the late 1830s and was perhaps the first white settler in that county.<sup>155</sup> He had emigrated to the Austin Colony in 1830.<sup>156</sup>
5. **Enoch Chandler**, b. 1805, d. 1 Aug 1838 at Washington County, AR. A man named **Spencer Asbury** was convicted of his murder and sentenced to hang. However, he escaped and was never recaptured. Enoch served in the Army, along with his nephew **Preston Chandler**, and was stationed at Fort Gibson, Indian Territory in 1836 during the relocation of the Five Civilized Indian tribes. The troops were there to enforce compliance with the relocation order.

Ruhama is listed in the 1850 Census for Collin County, Texas, living in the household of Thomas and Emily Stallcup. Emily's mother was Nancy, the wife of William Pelham. They were living in Washington County, Arkansas in 1850. In 1860, Ruhama had apparently died, and Emily and

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<sup>152</sup> <http://genealogytrails.com/ill/randolph/1807census.html>, accessed 26 Apr 2021.

<sup>153</sup> <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~janelle/genealogy/chandler/chand001.htm>, accessed 26 Apr 2021.

<sup>154</sup> *The Gems of Pike County, Arkansas, Volume VIII, No. 4, Fall 1997, Jacob Chandler*, page 8-125

<sup>155</sup>

<https://www.roundrocktexas.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Makemson1904-HistoricalSketch-FirstSettlementOrganizationofWilliamsonCo.pdf>, accessed 26 Apr 2021.

<sup>156</sup>

[https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives\\_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/3/4/1\\_034028.pdf](https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCS/archives_webfiles/arcmaps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/3/4/1_034028.pdf), page 5.

Nancy's households in Collin County, Texas were separated by that of John S. Noble. Nancy was born circa 1804 in Kentucky, and both of her parents were born in South Carolina. She is a good fit as another daughter of Ruhama, which would explain why Ruhama ended up in Emily's household in 1850 - she was her grandmother. Since Nancy was likely married in Arkansas, there is no marriage record extant to prove that she was a Chandler.

Jonathan is said to have died on 13 Feb 1813 in what is now Jackson County, Illinois.<sup>157</sup> No record of his death was found in Randolph or Johnson Counties, Illinois, nor in Government Land Office records.

On 4 Apr 1843, Ruhama Chandler was granted 640 acres of land in Fannin County, Texas. The land was surveyed on 2 Aug 1843 (chain carriers were Silas Hart and "Williams"), and the patent was issued on 17 Nov 1845.<sup>158</sup>

She is found in the 1850 Census for Collin County, Texas (created from Fannin County in 1846), living in the household of Thomas Stallcup. It shows that Ruhama was born in 1770 in South Carolina. As stated earlier, Thomas' wife Emily was the daughter of Nancy (unknown) Pelham, who was born in Kentucky in 1803, leading to the suspicion that Nancy was another daughter of Ruhama. Nancy had been living in Washington County, Arkansas with her husband William during the 1850 Census, and she was enumerated in Collin County, Texas in 1860.

Of the foregoing facts, those which support the notion that Jonathan Chandler's wife was the daughter of Clement Davis, Junior include:

1. In 1790, both men were living in the Bush River Settlement in Newberry County, South Carolina, and they did not belong to the same church.
2. There were a limited number of suspects for the identity of her father, and only Clement Davis's migration westward mirrored that of Jonathan Chandler.
3. In 1793, Jonathan Chandler was witness to the sale of two properties in Newberry County, South Carolina sold by Clement Davis, Junior. That would be a typical role for a brother-in-law.
4. In 1803, Jonathan Chandler was taxed for land entered by J. Davis on the waters of Little River in Christian County, Kentucky. That year, Clement Davis, Junior was also taxed for land on Little River. They appear, once again, to be living in the same neighborhood.
5. In 1810, J. Chandler, C. Davis and N. Davis were neighbors in very sparsely populated Randolph County, Illinois Territory in the vicinity of Grand Tower. For the third time, they were living in the same neighborhood, and were then well over 700 miles (via Cumberland Gap) from where they had started in South Carolina.
6. One of Jonathan's children was named Clement Davis Chandler.

That is certainly a compelling collection of circumstantial evidence, which would seem to support what is likely some unsourced family lore about the parentage of Jonathan Chandler's wife.

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<sup>157</sup> <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Chandler-1083>, accessed 26 Apr 2021.

<sup>158</sup> *Texas Government Land Office, Fannin County, Patent Volume 1, Patent # 296, File # 67, Certificate # 88.*

## Joshua Davis

The first records of Joshua Davis are in Logan County, Kentucky, when in 1796 he paid the poll tax there on the same day as Clement Davis, Junior, though their entries were seven lines apart.<sup>159</sup> That suggests that he was born by 1775. He also paid the poll tax there in 1797, where he was listed two lines prior to Clement Davis, Junior.<sup>160</sup> That same year, he was witness to Clement Davis, Junior's purchase of 57 acres there.<sup>161</sup>

Joshua posted bond in 1799 in Christian County for the marriage of Clement Davis (of Pond River) to Lydia Teague.<sup>162</sup>

Joshua Davis lived in Christian County, Kentucky, where, like Clement Davis, Junior he lived on the waters of Little River. He paid taxes there in 1801, 1802, 1803, 1804 and 1805.<sup>163</sup> He did not appear in tax records of Livingston County, Kentucky before arriving in Illinois Territory.

At the Apr 1805 session of the Logan County Court, Joshua Davis located 400 acres of second rate land on the headwaters of Muddy River abutting Parker's military survey (#1572). Amos Davis did likewise (#1571).<sup>164</sup> If this was our Joshua Davis, how was he related to Amos Davis? Neither man is found in tax lists of Logan County from 1804 to 1807, suggesting that they may have assigned their grants to others. [NOTE: James Davis, the other early Jackson County, Illinois Davis pre-emptor, is known to have had brothers Aaron and Amos.]

The 1810 Illinois Territorial Census shows that J. Davis (presumably Joshua) was born between 1765 and 1784. He had six children then, all under age 16, and four of those were under age 10. His oldest child would have been at least twelve years old, suggesting that he had married by 1798, and thus likely in Logan County, Kentucky, or slightly earlier, before he had arrived there. His next door neighbor was Jonathan Chandler, husband of Ruhama Davis.

If Joshua was born by 1769, then he likely would not have been living in his father's household in the 1790 Census, meaning that it is possible that Clement had a son who is not reflected in his 1790 Census household. However, there is no separate household for Joshua Davis in either Newberry or Laurens County, South Carolina. Though he could have been in Georgia, hoping to get a land grant there, or he could have been earning a living in a different household in South Carolina.

On 30 Jun 1810 in Randolph County, Illinois Territory, Joshua Davis recorded two negros brought from Kentucky: Anne (age 13) and Sampson (age 13).<sup>165</sup> In the 1810 Territorial Census,

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<sup>159</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Tax Lists, 1796, FHL Microfilm # 007834476, image 78 of 1012.*

<sup>160</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Tax Lists, 1797, FHL Microfilm # 007834476, image 122 of 1012.*

<sup>161</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Deeds, Book A1, page 70.*

<sup>162</sup> *Register of Kentucky State Historical Society, Volum 24, No. 72, Sep 1926, page 249.*

<sup>163</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1801-05, FHL Microfilm # 007834413, images 95, 120, 163, 211 and 319 of 1324.*

<sup>164</sup> *Kentucky, Logan County, Court Order Books, Volume 1, FHL Microfilm # 007646884, page 379, image 254 of 1076.*

<sup>165</sup> *Illinois Secretary of State, Servitude and Emancipation Database.*

these individuals are shown as two non-white persons in the household of J. Davis.<sup>166</sup> The only two other Davises to do so were Clement Davis, Junior, and Nathan Davis. And we're already heard that he had acted on behalf of Clement to record his two negros. The three men were clearly related in some way. If they were brothers, you would think that Benningsen Boone would have known that. It seems most likely that he was Clement's son.

Joshua had occupied land in what would become Jackson County, Illinois before 5 Feb 1813, as he was granted pre-emption certificate #332 for the NE ¼ of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 2 West on 17 Sep 1814, which was attested by James Worthen. This was the same date when Clement Davis made his *land entry for the abutting property to the north*. Joshua's land entry was made on 25 Apr 1815.<sup>167</sup> He had arrived after 1807, as he did not qualify for a squatter's certificate.<sup>168</sup>

At the Sep 1814 Term of the Johnson County Commissioners, Joshua Davis, William Simpson, Thomas G. Patterson and John Byers were appointed as viewers to determine the route of a road from the County Courthouse to Big Muddy Township, such that it connects with the road from Kaskaskia to Big Muddy.<sup>169</sup>

In 1815, Joshua Davis was appointed by Territorial Governor Ninian Edwards as a Justice of the Peace.<sup>170</sup> He is mentioned in a letter dated 25 Oct 1815 by Shadrach Bond, who was working in the GLO Receiver Office in Kaskaskia.<sup>171</sup>

Joshua Davis owned a considerable amount of land in Jackson County, Illinois (640 acres, or one square mile), having made land entries for the following properties:

- On 25 Apr 1815, for the NW ¼ of Section 1, Township 9 South, Range 2 West.
- On 25 Apr 1815, for the N ½ of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 2 West.
- On 6 Jan 1818, for the NW ¼ of Section 13, Township 8 South, Range 3 West.

He completed the purchase of the first two properties on 6 Mar 1818.<sup>172</sup> His neighbor for the first property was Adam Phifer, and for the second was Clement Davis. He completed the purchase of the third property on 22 Jun 1818.<sup>173</sup>

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<sup>166</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 13, household # 251.

<sup>167</sup> Illinois Secretary of State's online *Illinois Public Land Tract Sales Database*.

<sup>168</sup> *Colonial and Territorial Research Collection of Illinois: Land Series, Volume XIX: Pre-Emption Permits in 1813* by Raymond H. Hammes (unpublished, date unknown), FHL Microfilm #1543598, page 354

<sup>169</sup> *Illinois, Johnson County, Commissioners Records, Book A*, page 32.

<sup>170</sup> *The Territorial Papers, Volume 17, the Territory of Illinois, 1814-1818* by Clarence Edward Carter (1950), page 232.

<sup>171</sup> *The Territorial Papers, Volume 17, the Territory of Illinois, 1814-1818* by Clarence Edward Carter (1950), page 232.

<sup>172</sup> *Government Land Office, Patents, Accession # CV-0089-371*.

<sup>173</sup> *Government Land Office, Patents, Accession # CV-0089-487*.

In 1816, Joshua Davis and James Davis were assigned as members of a Petit Jury in Johnson County, Illinois,<sup>174,175</sup> and both men were noted as being excellent marksmen.<sup>176</sup>

At the Feb 1816 term of the Johnson County Commissioners, Joshua Davis brought suit against William Hickman (executor for the estate of L. B. Witt) for a debt of \$40.<sup>177</sup> At the same meeting, Joshua was granted 67 dollars for burial expenses, board, etc against that estate.

At the Sep 1816 term of the Johnson County Commissioners, Joshua Davis came into court and proved an account of \$4.75 in favor of Rezin Davis in the estate of Lewis B. Witt.<sup>178</sup> Nathan Davis is said to have had a son named Rezin, who had moved to Arkansas. This record seems to confirm that notion, especially in light of records below which appear to show that Joshua had also moved there.

On 18 Feb 1817, Joshua Davis was appointed guardian of the minor heirs of Remembrance Davis: Unity Davis and Elihu Davis.<sup>179</sup> This would seem to be consistent with his being their uncle. At the same session of court, Joshua lost a case to Nancy Worthen, admx a for horse that had been lent to him. He was ordered to pay \$35, plus court costs.<sup>180</sup>

In the 1818 Illinois State Census, Joshua Davis is listed as head of a household with two males over 21 years of age and ten other household members. His next door neighbor was Jacob Brillhart, Nathan Davis' son-in-law.<sup>181</sup>

On 30 May 1818, Joshua Davis sold to Eliphaz Davis (Clement's next door neighbor in the 1818 census) for \$264 the W ½ NW ¼ of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 2 West.<sup>182</sup> The disposition of the east half of this property is not known.

On 8 Jun 1818, Joshua Davis and Elizabeth his wife sold the W ½ of Section 13, Township 8 South, Range 3 West to Peter Kimmel, late of Pennsylvania, for \$600.<sup>183</sup>

On 12 Jun 1818, Joshua Davis and Elizabeth, his wife, sold to Peter Kimmel, executor of George Kimmel of Pittsburgh for \$1,500 the NE ¼ of Section 11, Township 9 South, Range 2 West and the E ½ NW ¼ of the same section.<sup>184</sup>

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<sup>174</sup> *A History of Johnson County, Illinois* by Mrs. P. T. Chapman (1925), page 251.

<sup>175</sup> *Illinois, Johnson County, Commissioners Records, Book A*, page 52.

<sup>176</sup> *History of Jackson County, Illinois* by Brink, McDonough & Company (1878), page 28.

<sup>177</sup> *Illinois, Johnson County, Commissioners Records, Book A*, page 50.

<sup>178</sup> *Illinois, Johnson County, Commissioners Records, Volume A*, page 81.

<sup>179</sup> *Illinois, Johnson County, Commissioners Records, Volume A*, page 95.

<sup>180</sup> *Illinois, Johnson County, Commissioners Records, Volume A*, page 96.

<sup>181</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 103, household # 30.

<sup>182</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 317 (originally recorded in Book A, page 307 and 308).

<sup>183</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 30 (originally recorded in Book A, pages 340 & 341).

<sup>184</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 573 (originally recorded in Book A, page 344 and 345).

On 8 Nov 1819, Joshua Davis was one of the securities in the estate of Charles Logan in Lawrence County, Arkansas.<sup>185</sup>

On 8 Jun 1821, Joshua Davis was one of the securities for the guardianship of Jefferson, Charity and Asa Robinson, minors in Lawrence County, Arkansas.<sup>186</sup>

On 14 Feb 1822, Joshua Davis and Rezin Davis were securities for the estate of William Compton in Lawrence County, Arkansas.<sup>187</sup>

Joshua is said to have migrated to Saline County, Arkansas, and died there. Further research into his line is outside the scope of this book.

## Recap

The 1790 Census showed that Clement's household had two sons under age 16, and two females, presumably a daughter and his wife (note that the first direct evidence of his wife Sarah was in a 1794 deed). Remembrance was definitely one of the sons, and Mary was definitely the daughter.

Of the possible suspects for the second son, Jeremiah Davis seems the most likely fit, though there is considerably less certainty about that. But he was a chain carrier for Clement's Kentucky land grant, was living near him in very sparsely settled Illinois Territory in 1810, and was living next door to Ruhama Davis' husband, Jonathan Chandler in that Census.

Facts relating to Ruhama are more compelling that she was his daughter and had left his household just before the 1790 Census, particularly as relates to Jonathan's difficulties with the Friends Church just before and after that Census. Their first son was named Jacob Chandler, after her father-in-law, and the second son was named Clement Davis Chandler, presumably after her father.

Joshua Davis was likely also Clement's son, suggesting that he, too, was old enough to have not been included in his father's household in the 1790 Census, though available records are insufficient to establish that as fact. Clement was granted a land entry on the same day that Joshua was granted a preemption certificate for abutting properties; they were taxed the same days in Logan County, Kentucky; Joshua was a witness to Clement's deed there; and Joshua acted on Clement's behalf in registering his slaves in Randolph County, Illinois Territory. The only other possibility is that the two men were brothers (or half-brothers). And it would seem likely that if that had been the case, Benningsen Boone would have known of that relationship and included him as a brother of Clement and Nathan.

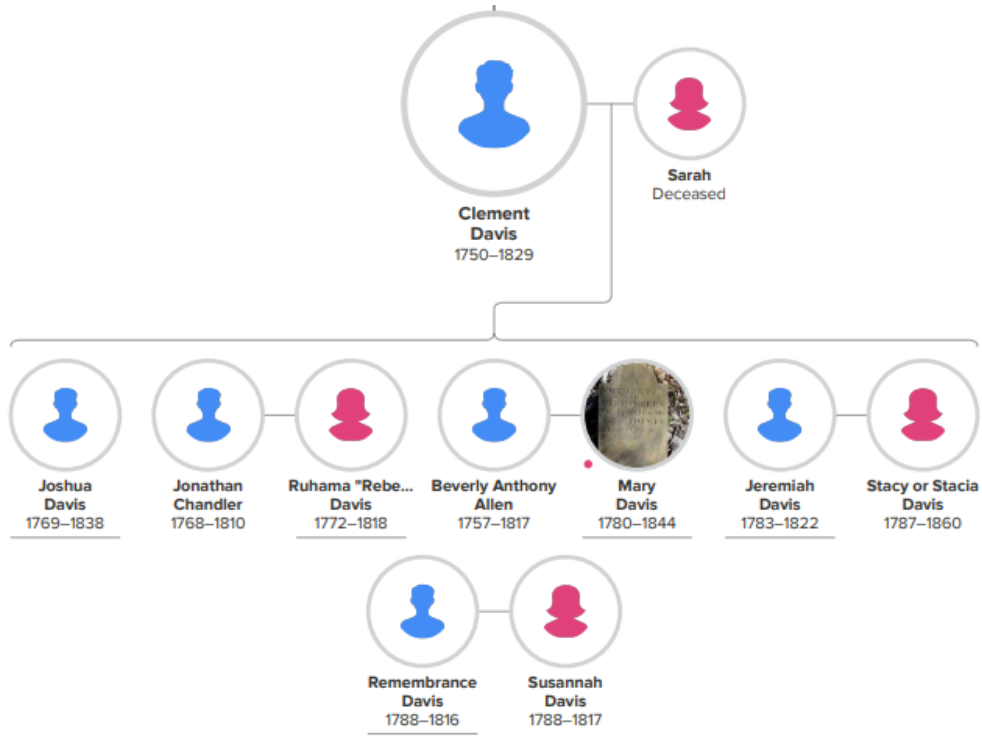
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<sup>185</sup> *The Arkansas Family Historian, Volume XV, Number 1, January-February-March, 1977, Probate Bonds of Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-1835* by Marion Stark Craig, M.D., page 12, item 88.

<sup>186</sup> *The Arkansas Family Historian, Volume XV, Number 1, January-February-March, 1977, Probate Bonds of Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-1835* by Marion Stark Craig, M.D., page 2, item 212.

<sup>187</sup> *The Arkansas Family Historian, Volume XV, Number 1, January-February-March, 1977, Probate Bonds of Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-1835* by Marion Stark Craig, M.D., page 7, item 28.

# Clement Davis, Junior's Children



# Nathan Davis

Nathan Davis is said to have married Jane Elizabeth Ewing, though this is based upon unsourced information.<sup>188</sup> However, his wife's given name was Jane in two deeds and one Census record, and there are Ewings who were near neighbors in various locations where he had lived. And there is a 1796 deed witnessed by Samuel Ewing, who's likely role would have been to look after Jane's dower interest in the property.

On 13 Aug 1792, Nathan Davis purchased two items at the estate sale of Robert Bell, decd: a frow and a "smoothing plain & 2 bitts." Daniel Davis also purchased items at the sale: an iron pot and a two horse tree.<sup>189</sup>

Neither Nathan nor Daniel are found in the 1790 Census for Laurens County or Newberry County, South Carolina. Was Daniel another son of Clement Davis, Senior? Were they with him in Georgia in 1790? Was Daniel the father of Clement Davis of Pond River?

On 26 Feb 1794, James Wright of the City of Charleston, baker, sold to Nathan Davis of 96 District, Laurens County, South Carolina for five shillings the one half moiety in the southwest portion of 200 acres granted to William Wright on Indian Creek and located northeast of land of Clement Davis. Witnesses were John Diamond and Simon Thetford. The following day, on 27 Feb 1794, James Wright of 96 District, Laurens County, South Carolina sold to Nathan Davis for £10 the one half moiety in the southwest portion of 200 acres granted to William Wright on Indian Creek and located northeast of land of Clement Davis. It notes that Nathan had been living on the property for the prior year. Witnesses were John Diamond and Simon Thetford.<sup>190</sup>

On 10 Jan 1795, Nathan Davis of 96 District, Laurens County, South Carolina purchased from Thomas East 50 acres of land on Headleys [Branch of Indian] Creek for £10 pounds which was originally part of a 200-acre grant to Clement Davis, being part of the land where Nathan Davis now lives. Witnesses were James Lindsay, John Callaghan and John Walker.<sup>191</sup> Recorded 9 May 1796. This same property was purchased by Thomas East from Samuel Ewing on the same date (10 Jan 1795) for £20.<sup>192</sup>

On 14 Mar 1796, Nathan Davis and his wife Jane of 96 District, Laurens County, South Carolina sold 150 acres on Duncans Creek to Benjamin Wilson for £70. Witnesses were Samuel Ewing and James Lindsey.<sup>193</sup> Recorded 9 May 1796. There was a branch of Duncan's Creek that passed near the east side of the head of Indian Creek. This was likely part of the property acquired from Wright.

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<sup>188</sup> <http://www.uniqware.com/magazine5/level2htm/neighborSanAug.htm>, page 41.

<sup>189</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Wills, Book A1*, pages 56-60.

<sup>190</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book F*, page 110.

<sup>191</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book F*, page 111.

<sup>192</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book E*, page 402.

<sup>193</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book F*, page 111.



On 1 Apr 1800, Jonathan Davis of Laurens District, South Carolina sold to Benjamin Rummage of the same place for \$300 94 acres of land on Duncans Creek. Jane Davis relinquished her dower right in the land. This was clearly Nathan Davis, though this is the only instance found where he used the given name Jonathan.<sup>194</sup>

Beginning in 1801 through 1808, Nathan was taxed for from 200 to 800 acres of land on the waters of Bio or Byo Creek in Livingston County, Kentucky.<sup>195</sup> It is interesting to note that Hezekiah Davis received a land grant on Bio Creek on 8 Sep 1807.<sup>196</sup> [Bayou Creek is located north of the Cumberland River].

On 26 Mar 1806, Nathan Davis was assigned the land grant of William McKee for 200 acres of land in Livingston County, Kentucky.<sup>197</sup> George Robison and Jessee Roberts were chain carriers.<sup>198</sup>

On 26 Sep 1807, Nathan Davis appointed Jesse Ford his attorney for the purpose of selling 200 acres on Bio Creek.<sup>199</sup> Phillip Ford and Jno Ford were witnesses. This property was eventually sold in 1816 (see later). It was probably sold on credit circa 1808-1809, and the deed was not recorded until the final payment was made.

In 1808, Nathan Davis was taxed for 282 acres on Byo Creek in Livingston County, Kentucky.<sup>200</sup> This was his last public record in Kentucky. He next shows up in Illinois Territory:<sup>201</sup>

*"Nathan Davis, a prosperous and public-spirited citizen, who was afterward a member of the first county court [of Jackson County, Illinois], and his brother Clement also, joined their fortunes with that of other settlers on Muddy River, as did Hezekiah Davis, a blacksmith who is spoken of as a man who was a master of his trade."<sup>202</sup>*

On 25 Dec 1809, Nathan Davis filed an indenture in Randolph County, Illinois Territory for bringing slaves Bob (age 12) and Penny (age 18) from Livingston County, Kentucky.<sup>203</sup> In the 1810 Illinois Territorial Census, the household of N. Davis includes two non-white persons.<sup>204</sup>

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<sup>194</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book H, page 110.*

<sup>195</sup> *Kentucky, Livingston County, Tax Lists, 1801 through 1808, FHL Microfilm # 007834475, images 42, 53, 85, 117, 155, 180, 286, 309 and 398 of 1301.*

<sup>196</sup> *Ancestry.com's Kentucky, U.S., Land Grants, 1782-1924, Book 13.*

<sup>197</sup> *Ancestry.com's Kentucky, U.S., Land Grants, 1782-1924, Book 10.*

<sup>198</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Land Grants, Book 10, page 62, survey #4771.*

<sup>199</sup> *Kentucky, Livingston County, Deeds, Book A, page 342.*

<sup>200</sup> *Kentucky, Livingston County, Tax Lists, 1808, FHL Microfilm # 007834475, image 309 of 1301.*

<sup>201</sup> If he had arrived prior to 31 Mar 1809, then he had actually ventured to Indiana Territory, from whence Illinois Territory was created on that date.

<sup>202</sup> *History of Jackson County, Illinois* by Brink, McDonough & Co. (1878), Chapter VII, page 36.

<sup>203</sup> *Illinois Secretary of State, Servitude and Emancipation Database.*

<sup>204</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 13, household # 254.

On 28 Jun 1811, Nathan Davis was appointed as a Justice of the Peace for Randolph County, Illinois Territory,<sup>205</sup> and he was elected Commissioner when Jackson County was formed from parts of Randolph and Johnson Counties in 1816.<sup>206</sup>

On 23 Sep 1812, John Heater assigned his interest in 100 acres on Bio Creek to Hezekiah Davis. The property had been surveyed on 8 Sep 1807, and was adjacent to properties of Bigger Heads and Nathan Davis. John Heater and Nathan Davis were chain carriers.<sup>207</sup>

On 15 Jul 1814, Nathan Davis was granted pre-emption certificate #45 by virtue of having occupied part of the N ½ of Section 34, Township 8 South, Range 2 West before 5 Feb 1813. Attested by Adam Fifer [sic: Phifer].<sup>208</sup>

On 1 Aug 1815, Nathan Davis and James Hall, Jr were witnessed to a deed from James Hall Senior and Elvy Graves Hall his wife on Randolph County, Illinois Territory to Hugh Simpson of Warren County, Kentucky for \$600 a property of unspecified size located in Warren County, Kentucky.<sup>209</sup>

Published in the *Western Intelligencer*, 25 Jun 1816: "Eleanor Wooten and Nathan Davis Adm, ask those who owe money to John Wooten before fourth Monday in Aug" [sic].<sup>210</sup>

On 10 May 1816, Nathan Davis of Jackson County, Illinois Territory sold his 200 acres in Livingston County, Kentucky to George Robinson. Evan Thompson and Hezekiah Davis were witnesses.<sup>211</sup>

Nathan Davis was elected to the Illinois House of Representatives in the Third Territorial Legislature. He held this position from 1816 to 1817.<sup>212</sup>

On Feb 28 1818, Nathan Davis and James Hall were appointed Justices for Jackson County, Illinois.<sup>213</sup> In that year he is also listed in the 1818 Illinois State Census, where he was over age 21 with 5 others in his household.<sup>214</sup>

On 24 Aug 1818, Nathan Davis received the patent to the N fractional ½ of Section 34, Township 8 South, Range 2 West and the SE ¼ of Section 27, Township 8 South, Range 2 West.<sup>215</sup>

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<sup>205</sup> *The Territorial Records of Illinois* by Edmond Janes James (1901), page 19.

<sup>206</sup> *A History of Johnson County, Illinois* by Mrs. Pleasant Thomas Chapman (1925), page 275.

<sup>207</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Land Grants, Book 13*, page 471, survey # 5631.

<sup>208</sup> *Colonial and Territorial Research Collection of Illinois: Land Series, Volume XIX: Pre-Emption Permits in 1813* by Raymond H. Hammes (unpublished, date unknown), FHL Microfilm #1543598, page 355.

<sup>209</sup> *Kentucky, Warren County, Deeds, Book 7*, page 191.

<sup>210</sup> [http://genealogytrails.com/ill/randolph/news\\_court.html](http://genealogytrails.com/ill/randolph/news_court.html), accessed 13 Mar 2021.

<sup>211</sup> *Kentucky, Livingston County, Deeds, Book C*, page 177.

<sup>212</sup> *Blue Book of the State of Illinois* compiled by Harry Woods (1914), page 133.

<sup>213</sup> *The Territorial Records of Illinois* by Edmond Janes James (1901), page 56.

<sup>214</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 103, household # 18.

<sup>215</sup> *Government Land Office, Patents, Accession # CV-0089-554*.

The following gives the only direct clue to any of Nathan's children while he was living in Jackson County, Illinois:

*"About this time, also, viz., 1806, settled under the bluff a family named **Brillhart. Jacob**, a son, was for some time in the employ of **William Boon**, at Sand Ridge. When the war of 1812 broke out between Great Britain and the youthful republic of the United States, and **William Boon** recruited his company of rangers for the protection of the feeble and exposed settlements, this young man joined his company and did his duty as a good soldier and brave man. After the termination of the war and the disbanding of the rangers, this bold soldier boy wooed and won a daughter of **Nathan Davis**, then and for many years a prominent and valuable citizen of the county. When Mr. Davis moved to the south-west the son-in-law and family accompanied him."<sup>216</sup>*

Listed in the same neighborhood as Nathan Davis and William Boon in the 1818 Illinois State Census was Jacob Brillhart, whose household included three other individuals. Living next door to him was Joshua Davis.<sup>217,218</sup>

[On 1 Feb 1821, Nathan Davis, "brother and other heir-at-law of Elias Davis," patented land in present-day White County, Arkansas (then Pulaski County, Arkansas Territory) based upon Elias' military land warrant for his service as a private in Conklin's 4th Regiment of Infantry.<sup>219</sup> Nathan Davis and Elias Davis' heirs had patented abutting properties, respectively located at the NW ¼ of Section 20 and NE ¼ of Section 14, both in Township 6, Range 9. Though in 1827, both properties were owned by James C. Vandike.<sup>220</sup> Nathan's patent was issued to "Nathaniel Davis, private in Stannard's Company of the 20th Regiment of Infantry."<sup>221</sup> In Sep 1812, Stannard's Company was serving in New York,<sup>222</sup> as was Conklin's (Conkling's) Company. This was clearly not our Nathan Davis. These two land warrants were issued without either man having ever stepped foot in Arkansas, which was typical of military warrants of the time.]

On 8 Feb 1821, Nathan Davis and Daniel Plott were named as executors in the will of Gabriel Seavers in Lawrence County, Arkansas (which they renounced on 16 Feb 1821).<sup>223</sup>

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<sup>216</sup> *History of Jackson County, Illinois* by Brink, McDonough & Co. (1878), Chapter V, page 33. See also *Historical Sketches of Jackson County, Illinois* by Edmund Newsome (1893), page 30.

<sup>217</sup> *Illinois Census Returns, 1810 and 1818* by Margaret Cross Norton (1935), page 103, household #s 18, 17, 31 and 30, respectively.

<sup>218</sup> There is a Nathan Davis and a Nathaniel Davis listed in this census. The former was listed after William Boon, and is thus obviously who is being discussed in Benningsen's narrative. There is no other known mention of Nathaniel Davis.

<sup>219</sup> *Government Land Office Records*, Accession # AR2980\_\_032.

<sup>220</sup> *The Arkansas Gazette (Arkansas Post, Arkansas)*, Volume VIII, No. 26, Whole Number 400, 4 Sep 1827, page 2

<sup>221</sup> *Government Land Office Records*, Accession # AR2920\_\_530.

<sup>222</sup> *The Rhode Island Republican (Newport, R.I.)*, Volume 4, Number 24, Thursday, 10 Sep 1812, page 2, column 3, near the bottom of the page.

<sup>223</sup> *The Arkansas Family Historian*, Volume XV, Number 1, January-February-March, 1977, Probate Bonds of Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-1835 by Marion Stark Craig, M.D., page 23, item 261.

On 6 Nov 1821, Nathan Davis was one of the securities in the guardianship of Henry Myers of Lawrence County, Arkansas.<sup>224</sup>

[NOTE: The following records were after Nathan is said to have left Arkansas. Was this a son of Joshua Davis?]

On 7 Aug 1828, Nathan Davis married Atlantic Hillhouse in Lawrence County, Arkansas. If this was Joshua's son, he had recently come of age, and was thus born around 1807.

On 13 Sep 1830, James M. Kuykendall posted bond as the administrator of the estate of Nathan Davis in Lawrence County, Arkansas.<sup>225</sup>

Atlantic (Hillhouse) Davis remarried the following year to William Ballard (apparently this record was not completely transcribed, as in the 1850 Census she was living with William B. Marshall - presumably the same person). She had no children by Nathan.]

In 1822, Nathan Davis emigrated to Old Mexico.

*"Among these early immigrants all authorities concur in naming **Nathan Davis** as the first settler within the region now comprising San Augustine County. **Mr. Davis** had moved from South Carolina to Kentucky and then to Illinois, where he was a lieutenant in the war under **General Harrison**, and a member of the territorial legislature. Being a slaveholder, he left there before the organization of the state government, and came to Texas with his slaves in 1818 [sic]. He settled on the Ayish Bayou, near the crossing of the old highway whether north or south there is no record to tell. He lived there for several years, and, although he was crippled in his feet, he took a lively interest in the affairs of the settlement, and in 1827 was elected the first alcalde of the Ayish Bayou District. He afterwards moved to Patroon Creek. He was the uncle of **O. M. Roberts**,<sup>226</sup> who followed him here at a later period."*

*"**Nathan Davis, Sr.** earned a living as a blacksmith and a farmer. **Nathan** died 18 January 1857, in Panola County, Texas, at the age of eighty-eight years. His burial place is not known."<sup>227</sup>*

Circa 1826, Nathan's daughter and her husband Jacob Brillhart are said to have died in Lawrence County, Arkansas. Nathan Davis administered the estate, suggesting that he had briefly returned from Texas for this purpose.<sup>228</sup> On 31 Mar 1826, notice was published of a letter at Batesville post office addressed to Nathan Davis (Batesville at that time was located in Pulaski County [present

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<sup>224</sup> *The Arkansas Family Historian, Volume XV, Number 1, January-February-March, 1977, Probate Bonds of Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-1835* by Marion Stark Craig, M.D., page 19, item 205.

<sup>225</sup> *The Arkansas Family Historian, Volume XV, Number 1, January-February-March, 1977, Probate Bonds of Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-1835* by Marion Stark Craig, M.D., page 8, item 43.

<sup>226</sup> Oran Milo Roberts, was born 9 Jul 1815 in Laurens County, South Carolina and served as governor of Texas from 1879 to 1883. The familial connection to Nathan Davis is not known.

<sup>227</sup> *Two Centuries in East Texas*, by G. L. Crocket (1932), from <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~txscredrt/bionathandavissr.htm> (no page number given).

<sup>228</sup> *Arkansas Family Historian, Volume 15, No. 1, Jan/Feb/Mar 1977*, page 7, item #15.

day White County]).<sup>229</sup> According to information about the fate of a granddaughter by Jacob Brillhart, "Grandmother Davis" had lived in Pulaski County until 1831, at which time she moved to Saline County, Arkansas.<sup>230</sup>

On 9 Aug 1827, Nathan Davis transferred his Illinois pre-emption certificate properties to Abijah Davis. This transaction is noted in a Jackson County, Illinois deed dated 12 Jul 1834 where Abijah Davis sold the properties to James Smith.<sup>231</sup>

In 1827, Nathan Davis was elected the first Alcalde of the Ayish Bayou District.<sup>232</sup>

On 18 Aug 1835, a "character certificate" was submitted for Nathan Davis by A. Hotchkiss. It states that he was a native of South Carolina, had emigrated in 1822, had a wife and six children.<sup>233</sup> It is important to note that this means that he had six children in 1835 when these facts were recorded. As we already know, at least one daughter had already died in Arkansas.

On 18 Aug 1835, Nathan Davis and Harrison Davis were granted land by the Mexican Government, which apparently was not finalized before Texas became an independent republic on 2 March 1836.<sup>234</sup>

1 Feb 1838, Nathan Davis was granted a first class headright of one labor and one league of land in Shelby County, Republic of Texas. Harris Davis and John Erwin were chain carriers, and N. Davis and R. Erwin were blazers.<sup>235</sup>

On the 1838 tax list for Shelby County, Texas, Nathan Davis, Harrison Davis and Nathan Davis, Jr were listed consecutively.<sup>236</sup>

On the 1839 tax list for Shelby County, Texas, Nathan Davis and Harrison Davis were listed consecutively.<sup>237</sup> These two men and Nathan Junior appear off and on in various tax rolls from

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<sup>229</sup> *The Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock, Arkansas), Volume VII, No. 16, Whole Number 328, Tuesday, April 18, 1826, column 4, page 3.*

<sup>230</sup> *Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas* by Josiah Hazen Shinn (1908), pages 280-283.

<sup>231</sup> *Illinois, Jackson County, Deeds, Book D*, page 522 (originally recorded in Book C, page 135 on 25 Sep 1834).

<sup>232</sup> <http://www.uniware.com/magazine5/level2htm/neighborSanAug.htm>

<sup>233</sup>

[https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCs/archives\\_webfiles/arcmeps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/3/3/1\\_033075.pdf](https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCs/archives_webfiles/arcmeps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/3/3/1_033075.pdf)

<sup>234</sup>

[https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCs/archives\\_webfiles/arcmeps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/3/2/1\\_032911.pdf](https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCs/archives_webfiles/arcmeps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/1/0/3/2/1_032911.pdf)

<sup>235</sup>

[https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCs/archives\\_webfiles/arcmeps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/5/3/2/53\\_2828.pdf](https://s3.glo.texas.gov/ncu/SCANDOCs/archives_webfiles/arcmeps/webfiles/landgrants/PDFs/5/3/2/53_2828.pdf)

<sup>236</sup> *Texas, Shelby County, Tax Lists, 1838,*

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-4Y3T-J?from=lynx1UIV8&treeref=KH8L-6KQ&i=16>.

<sup>237</sup> *Texas, Shelby County, Tax Lists, 1839,*

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-4Y38-5?from=lynx1UIV8&treeref=2TT8-TMC&i=44> .

this point forward until 1852. In several of these rolls, Nathan Davis, Junior is acting as the agent of Abidjah Davis.

In the 1850 Census, Nathan Davis (age 82) was enumerated with his wife Jane (age 79) and presumably a grandson, Elijah Davis (age 14,) in Shelby County, Texas.

From 1853 to 1856, Nathan Davis, Sr is listed on the tax rolls of Panola County, Texas. His sons Nathan Davis, Jr, Harrison Davis and Abidjah Davis also appear, though intermittently throughout that time period.<sup>238</sup>

Nathan Davis died 18 Jan 1857 in Panola County, Texas.

The above facts appear to indicate that Nathan Davis had at least three sons: Nathan, Harrison and Abidjah, and at least one daughter, the wife of Jacob Brillhart. Find A Grave memorials claim to have determined the identities of Nathan's other daughters who had survived long enough to reach Texas. Confirming or refuting those findings is beyond the scope of this effort.

Since those earlier efforts were unaware of the daughter who married Jacob Brillhart, I'll touch on her briefly.

## [Eliza] (Davis) Brillhart

The given name of Jacob Brillhart's wife is not found in any known public record, but descendants who have contributed to the FamilySearch Tree believe that it was Eliza. Jacob's estate named his four surviving children in 1828. They were:

1. **Rebecca C. "Becky" Brillhart**, Born 27 Dec 1822 in Davidsonville, Lawrence County, Arkansas. She married first **Caleb Lindsey** in Saline County, Arkansas in 1837. They had seven children together. She married second **Cornelius Carlock** in 1866. Her obituary states that her parents had come to Arkansas from Illinois around 1818.<sup>239,240</sup>
2. **Rezin Brillhart**. Born 4 Mar 1825, d. 9 Dec 1903. He married **Mary Elizabeth Barnett**, and they had at least four children.
3. **Nathan Brillhart**. Born by 1826, d. 1831. Only three surviving heirs were noted in 1831 when a new administrator was assigned to Jacob's estate in 1831, suggesting that Nathan had died by then.<sup>241</sup> He would not have been of age in 1831 because that was only about 12 years after his parents were married.
4. **Joshua Brillhart**. Born by 1826. No further record found.

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<sup>238</sup> *Texas, Panola County, Tax Lists, 1856*,

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:939J-4GR1-F?i=10&wc=M63F-N29%3A161751901%2C161392002&cc=1827575>.

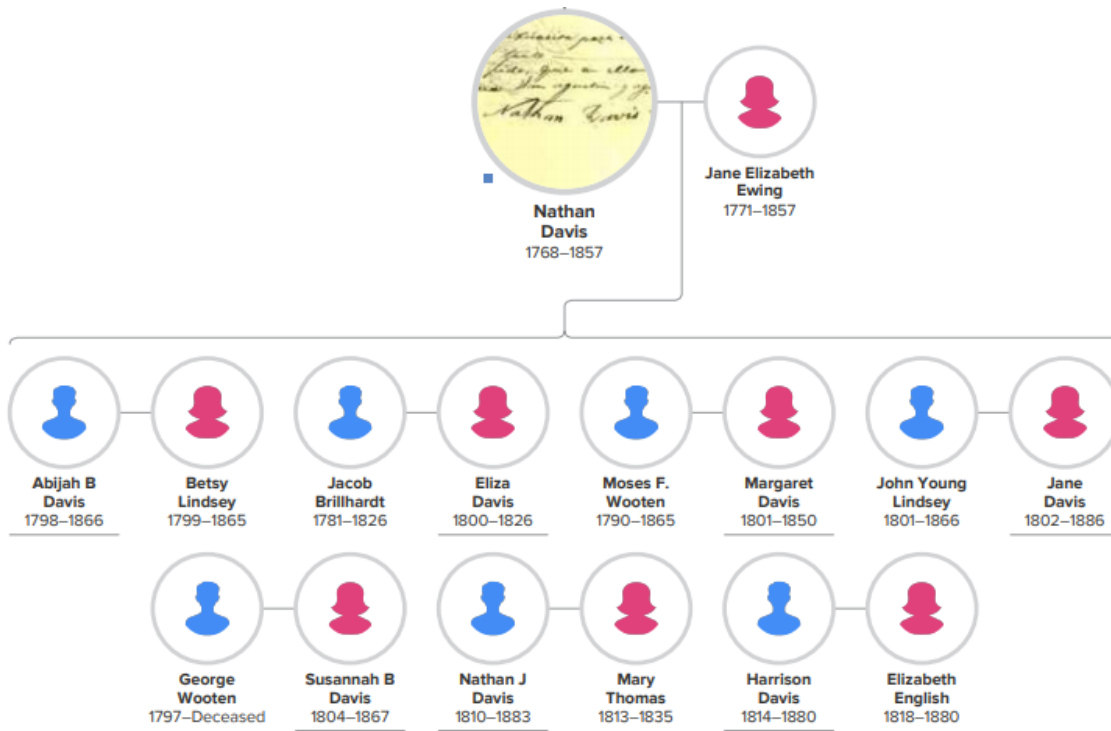
<sup>239</sup> *Pioneers and Makers of Arkansas* by Josiah Hazen Shinn (1908), pages 280-283. This article incorrectly states that Jacob Brillhart had returned to Pennsylvania to fight in the War of 1812. He had enlisted and fought in Illinois Territory, quite possibly with Nathan Davis.

<sup>240</sup> *Daily Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock, Arkansas)*, 14 Apr 1903, page 2, column 4.

<sup>241</sup> *The Arkansas Family Historian, Volume XV, Number 1, January-February-March, 1977, Probate Bonds of Lawrence County, Arkansas, 1815-1835* by Marion Stark Craig, M.D., page 7, item 16.

It is claimed that both Jacob and his wife had died of an unstated illness in 1826, and that after their death, Rebecca Brillhart had been taken by her grandmother Davis “to her home and reared.” She had lived in Pulaski County at that time, moving to Saline County in 1831.

## Nathan Davis’ Children



# An Unknown Davis

There are many clues suggesting a likely blood relationship between Clement Davis, Junior and Clement Davis of Pond River, yet no clues were found to suggest who the latter's father was. For a time, it was contemplated whether they were father and son. The years of birth of the latter's siblings mesh well with those of the former's children - it was certainly a conceivable possibility. But Clement Davis, Junior's 1790 Census record in Newberry County, South Carolina shows that this could not have been: his household contained himself, two males under age sixteen (one is proved to be Remembrance) and two females (his wife Sarah and daughter Mary).

It is most probable that Clement Davis of Pond River and his siblings were Clement Senior's grandchildren, by an as yet undetermined son. Based upon what we know of the former's year of birth, his father would have been born by the mid-1750s, and thus would have been contemporary to Clement Davis, Junior.

The people presented in the remainder of this section were born between about 1778 (Clement) and 1787 (his sister, Stacia). That implies that at least one parent may have died before the 1790 Census was enumerated, greatly complicating any effort to logically deduce the list of suspects down to a manageable number.

In the FamilySearch Tree, at the time of this research, it was thought that these people were all born in Laurens County, South Carolina, though no direct facts were found to support this belief. It is as likely that they were born in neighboring Newberry County.

Davises who had lived in the vicinity of Clement Davis, Senior in Laurens County, South Carolina were also researched, in the hope that a connection would be found to Clement of Pond River. Much of that unsuccessful research is found in three Appendices at the end of this book.

Since it is likely that Clement had a brother named William, *Appendix One* covers William Davis, Senior (husband of Jane) and William Davis, Junior of Laurens County, South Carolina. William Davis, Senior can be eliminated, since his son William Junior, who made his mark "W", clearly was not the same William who interacted with Clement, who made his mark "+". And Junior can be eliminated because he was too young to have been Clement's father.

Yet another possibility who was explored was Thomas Davis, the subject of *Appendix Two*. He is found in records of South Carolina well after Clement had long been established in Christian County. It is very unlikely he was Clement's father.

There is one other Davis, who like Clement Davis, Junior, had been granted land on Sinking Fork of Little River. His name was Edward Davis, the subject of *Appendix Three*. He was not the father of our Pond River Clement, and he apparently did not migrate from Laurens/Newberry County like Clement Senior's troupe.



It would seem the odds were fairly good that the father of Clement Davis of Pond River had died prior to the 1790 Census. The only likely suspects in Laurens County at that time with a sufficiently large household were two slave-owning Davises: Henry and John. Since the people researched here never owned significant numbers of slaves, and these two men did not live in close proximity to where Clement Senior had lived, it is presumed they were unrelated. There were two possibilities in Newberry County: Van and John. Van lived at Bush River and had 11 people in his household, suggesting a reasonable possibility that it contained members of more than one household. Was Van yet another son of Clement Senior? Most people believe this was Hezekiah's father (who was named Vann), but it seems nobody has done detailed primary record research to attempt to put that speculation on a solid factual footing. For our purposes, the point is moot. There is no record of any Van Davis in Christian County or Logan County, Kentucky.

The one other possibility was Abijah Davis, who along with Van Davis, in 1786 was witness to the sale of part of Clement Davis, Senior's Grant B on Reedy Branch of Bush River. Was he the source of some of the 11 other members of Van's 1790 household? He is not found in later census records and did not receive any land grants. There is nothing to tell us if had come of age soon enough to have been the father of Clement of Pond River. If he was Hezekiah's brother, then there is clear proof that he was not related to Clement of Pond River.

Yet another possibility was Isaac Davis, who on 18 Jan 1797 had 200 acres of land on Pond Creek in Logan County, Kentucky surveyed. The property was adjacent to the land of Solomon Rhodes. Isaac Davis and Cornelius Davis were chain carriers.<sup>242</sup> Nothing suggests that he lived in close enough proximity to Clement to believe that they were related.

Thus, it appears that the mystery will remain unsolved. So let's see what can be learned about this other Clement and his apparent siblings.

## Clement Davis of Pond River

On 18 Sep 1799, Clement Davis married Eliza Teague in Christian County, Kentucky, with Joshua Davis posting bond - this is the one clue that suggests Clement was somehow related to Clement Junior and Clement Senior.<sup>243</sup> And in 1804, Clement helped to post the bond for the marriage of Rachel Davis to Van S. Teague, who migrated to Perry County, Illinois to a farm immediately north of Du Quoin (Perry County abuts the northern boundary of Jackson County). Van and Eliza were said to be siblings, children of Van S. Teague.

Clement has been discussed previously in the section devoted to Clement Davis, Junior's presence in Christian County, Kentucky. He is also covered in considerable detail at this URL, so I won't attempt to recreate that effort here, except for adding a couple of new sources:

- <http://dgmweb.net/FGS/Davis/DavisClement-LydiaElizabethTeague-HenriettaWriston.html>

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<sup>242</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Land Grants, Book 1, page 296, survey #337.*

<sup>243</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Marriage Bonds, FHL Microfilm # 007734828, image 89 of 2178.*

On 24 Nov 1807 an undated survey was recorded for Clement Davis, assignee of Van S. Davis, for 120 acres that abutted the 100 acre tract of Van S. Davis. Chain carriers were Joshua Teague and John Teague.<sup>244</sup>

On 30 Dec 1809, Clement Davis assigned his right to a grant of a different 120 acres to Joshua Teague. The property was located on Pond River and surveyed for Joshua Teague and abutted land of Van S. Teague. Joshua Teague and John Teague were chain carriers.<sup>245</sup>

The following individuals are believed to have been Clement's siblings. While proving that is beyond the scope of this book, what facts have been found tend to support this notion, and thus they are recorded here to assist others who may wish to dig deeper.

### Rachel (Davis) Teague

On 20 Mar 1804, Rachel Davis married Van S. Teague in Christian County, Kentucky, with Van S. Teague and Clement Davis posting bond.<sup>246</sup> Clement's involvement in her marriage lends credence to the fact that they were siblings. The given names of her children (alleged to be Leah, Rutha, Stacy, John, William, Lydia, Priscilla, Joshua and Mary) mirror those of her alleged siblings, lending further credence to that speculation. She and Van moved to Perry County, Illinois, where they both died.

### Leah (Davis) Marshall

On 8 Mar 1802, Leah Davis married John Marshall in Christian County, Kentucky, with John Marshall and Robert Marshall posting bond.<sup>247</sup> It is believed by others that she was the sister of Clement Davis, though no source proving that was uncovered in this research. She and her husband emigrated to the Republic of Texas, having first passed through Jackson County, Illinois. As noted earlier, one of their daughters had married Jonathan Chandler, who while in Illinois Territory was a close neighbor of both Clement Davis, Junior and Nathan Davis.

### William Davis

On 3 Oct 1803, William Davis married Sarah Jennings in Christian County, Kentucky, with bond being posted by William Davis and Geo. Brown.<sup>248</sup> If William had just come of age when he married, then he was born around 1782. This would appear to be the same William Davis who in 1804 witnessed, together with Jeremiah Davis, a deed between Clement Davis and Joseph Davis. The deed suggests he was likely the brother of Clement Davis, since it is often family members who witness the purchase of property.<sup>249</sup>

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<sup>244</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Land Grants, Book 10, page 305, survey #7536.*

<sup>245</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Land Grants, Book 16, page 360, survey # 12080.*

<sup>246</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Marriage Bonds, FHL Microfilm # 007734828, image 304 of 2178.*

<sup>247</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Marriage Bonds, FHL Microfilm # 007734828, image 185 of 2178.*

<sup>248</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Marriage Bonds, FHL Microfilm # 007734828, image 254 of 2178.*

<sup>249</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book A, page 207.*

On 16 Jan 1805, William Davis was granted 200 acres on the MacFarland Fork of Pond River in Christian County, Kentucky,<sup>250</sup> just two years before Clement Davis had settled in the same area. He paid taxes on this property in 1806, 1808 and 1809.<sup>251</sup> There is no William Davis living near Clement Davis in earlier tax records, which could have been an indication that the two were father and son, not siblings.

On 27 Jul 1807, William Davis was assigned the 200 acre land grant of Daniel Drake, which was attested by Clement Davis and Van S. Teague. The land was adjacent to land of "Allison" and John Allison and Daniel Drake were chain carriers for the survey.<sup>252</sup>

On 2 Jul 1810, William Davis granted power of attorney to John Jennings, Senr in regard to selling his 200-acre property on MacFarland Fork of Pond River. It was witnessed by S. Earle, Baley Jennings, John Jennings, Junr and Tabitha Earle. It was signed "William (his + mark) Davis."<sup>253</sup> It would seem likely that the senior Jennings was his father-in-law (all the easier for him to look after his daughter's dower interest in the land).

On 18 Jul 1815, William Davis married Elizabeth Peters in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, suggesting that Sarah (Jennings) Davis had recently died.

On 2 Aug 1817, William Davis of St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana sold to James Lockhart of Christian County, Kentucky for \$425 "two hundred acres by survey bearing date" 16 Jan 1805. Fielding Woolf and John Jennings were witnesses. Signed by Jennings for Davis.<sup>254</sup>

William Davis was enumerated in the 1820 Census for St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana. He was between 26 and 44 years of age, meaning he was born between 1776 and 1794. That fits with him having been born in 1782, as speculated earlier. He had three children under 10 - one son and two daughters. His new bride was aged between 16 and 25, suggesting that it was her first marriage, and that Sarah Jennings had died prior to 1815.

Unsourced information states that William Davis died in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana in 1826.

## Stacia Davis

What little is known of Stacia Davis was covered previously in the section devoted to her husband, Jeremiah Davis.

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<sup>250</sup> Ancestry.com's *Kentucky Land Grants, Book 10*, Wm. Davis.

<sup>251</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1806, 1808, 1809, FHL Microfilm # 07834413*, images 401, 531, and 616 of 1324.

<sup>252</sup> *Kentucky Secretary of State, South of Green River Land Grants, Book 10*, page 287, survey 5409.

<sup>253</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book C*, page 56.

<sup>254</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book G*, page 534.

# Unknown Davis' Children



# Closing Thoughts

This research grew out of my earlier efforts to learn more about the one other pioneer Davis family of Jackson County, Illinois who is not covered here: James Davis. And in researching him, I happened to visit the Jackson County Historical Society in Murphysboro on a couple of different occasions. One of the things I found was a family group sheet, where a researcher had discovered the connection between Clement Davis, Junior and Remembrance Davis, and had reached what I soon found to be the incorrect conclusion: that Remembrance was Clement's father. Exploring that thought was what started the process of getting all the pieces of this puzzle to fit together.

Once I started learning about Clement, it was natural to be curious about his brother Nathan. And then to be curious about the two other Davis pre-emptors who had lived nearby - Jeremiah and Joshua.

Learning about Nathan, the facts led back to Laurens County, South Carolina. And those facts led south across the county line to Newberry County, eventually to the realization that his father was Clement Davis, Senior and that he possibly had at least two other brothers - Thomas and James.

Out of the four early Davis families that we started with - Clement, Jeremiah, Joshua and Nathan - it appears that all were descendants of Clement Davis, Senior, who appears to have died circa 1795 in Logan County, Kentucky.

Of all the Davises reviewed herein, only the origins of Susannah Davis, wife of Remembrance Davis, remains a mystery. It seems likely that she was not a daughter of Hezekiah Davis, as his children are named in his Revolutionary War pension application, and in Benningsen Boone's recollections of early Jackson County. Though it is possible she could have been his granddaughter, by either of his two oldest sons, Eliphaz or Jesse. She also could have been Nathan's daughter, but it seems very unlikely that first cousins would marry. It seems unlikely she was related to Clement Davis of Pond River, unless he was 21 years old, since maidens were nearly always required to marry in their county of residence.

All-in-all, this book's main accomplishment is weaving together facts about many individuals who previously had not been known to have been related to one another. Thus Clement Davis, Senior's clan, which was previously unknown (having been obscured by confusion with Harmon Davis' son Clem), has been put on a very solid footing. He truly had a pioneering family that left their mark in the earliest days in several territories and newly created states or counties:

- He settled in Newberry County in its earliest days,
- He and his son Clement arrived in Logan County, Kentucky just a few years after it was formed,
- Clement Davis, Junior moved to Christian County, Kentucky when it was formed, where some of his children began their life's journeys,

- Nathan Davis settled in Livingston County, Kentucky when it was formed, though no clues were found to suggest any of his children remained there, though that is a possibility,
- Both Clement and Nathan were among the earliest settlers in Illinois Territory,
- Nathan Davis was an early settler in the part of Missouri Territory that soon became Arkansa Territory, and
- Nathan Davis was among the earliest settlers in present-day East Texas, arriving there while it was still part of Mexico - 14 years before it became the Republic of Texas and 23 years before Texas statehood.

That these men (and their wives) often preceded the formation of governments in these places, it is remarkable that it is possible to tell their story with any degree of clarity. Hopefully by telling this story, sufficient clues have been left to allow others to build upon this research and expand upon what is known of the clan of Clement Davis, Senior and his possible siblings and ancestors. Good luck to those who will continue with the search!

Three appendices follow, which preserve research that was performed in the hopes of discovering the parentage of Clement Davis of Pond River. Hopefully others will stumble upon this information and perhaps it will help them in solving their particular family history puzzle.

# Appendix One: Jane Davis

In the 1790 Census for Laurens County, South Carolina, Jane Davis was the head of a household which included:

- One male over age 16,
- Two males under age 16, and
- Herself and five other females.

Jane was investigated on the possibility that there was a connection to Clement Davis of Pond River. The end result was that there was nothing conclusive to prove any connection between people associated with her and that particular Clement Davis and/or his siblings. This rough research is preserved here simply to assist future researchers who may be interested in any of the people with whom she was related to or interacted with.

Her neighbor at the time of the 1790 Census was Thomas East, whom Clement Davis, Senior had sold property to in 1785 (Grant E).

In Jan 1792, the estate of William Davis was appraised by Joseph Adair, John Owins and Thos Ewing.<sup>255</sup> The report of the estate sale was completed on 14 Mar 1793.<sup>256</sup> Jane Davis was the main buyer at the sale. Clement Davis (Senior, who lived in the neighborhood) purchased some chisels and a backplane, and William Davis purchased one item. Later that same month, while residing in Georgia, Clement Davis sold 160 acres on Bush Lick Branch of Indian Creek.

A 200-acre property that William Davis had received by grant was sold on 7 Apr 1792 by William Davis of Newberry County, Ninety-Six District, South Carolina, who was “the surviving heir at law.”<sup>257</sup> He signed by making his mark, a stylized “W.”

The following deed tells us who Jane was. On 11 Jun 1796, William Davis, “for the consideration of pure good will, love and affection that I bear unto my step sister Persila Davis and unto my youngest step brother Van Davis both them being infants now under the care of their mother Jean [sic] Davis widow” gave them one half of the 200 acre tract granted in Sep 1769 to William Davis, deceased.<sup>258</sup> Signed William (his mark “W”) Davis. Witnessed by John Davis and James Lindsey.

At times William Davis, Senior and Clement Davis, Senior had clearly lived in the same neighborhood, and both received early land grants in the area. Proximity in both time and space is a great predictor of relatedness, suggesting the two men were likely brothers.

Was either William Davis, Senior or Junior the father of Clement Davis of Pond River and the William Davis who died in St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana? And by extension, their sisters Leah

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<sup>255</sup> *South Carolina, Probate Records, Volume A*, page 46.

<sup>256</sup> *South Carolina, Probate Records, Volume A*, page 47.

<sup>257</sup> *South Carolina, Deeds, Book D*, page 48.

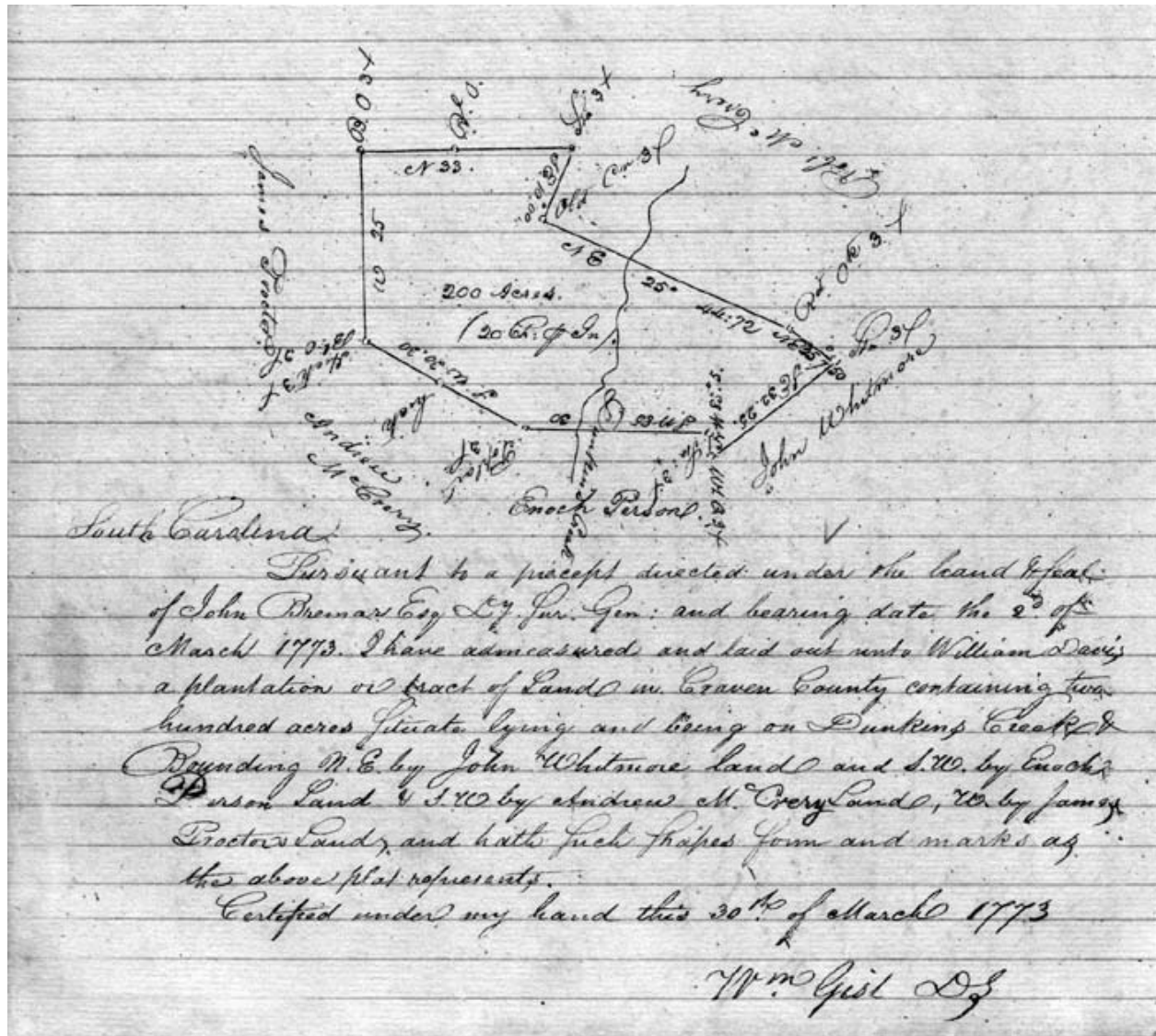
<sup>258</sup> *South Carolina, Deeds, Book F*, page 428.

Ann, Rachel and Stacia? William Senior had clearly lived in the same neighborhood as Clement, Senior, so it would be reasonable to think that possibly he had followed the two Clements to Kentucky. Let's see what available records tell us about William Davis, Senior and William Davis, Junior.

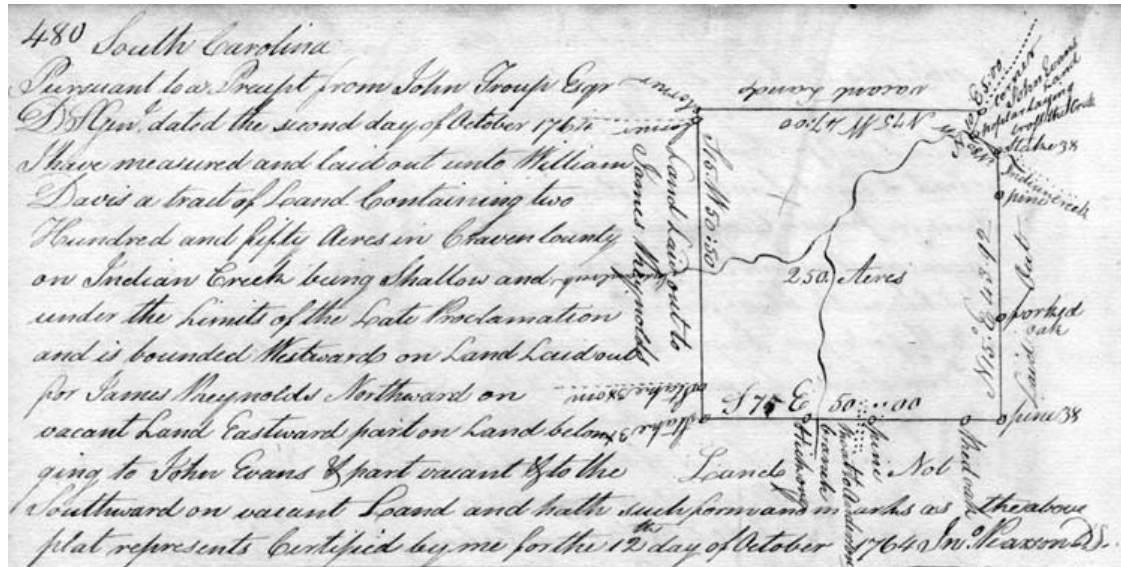


## William Davis, Senior

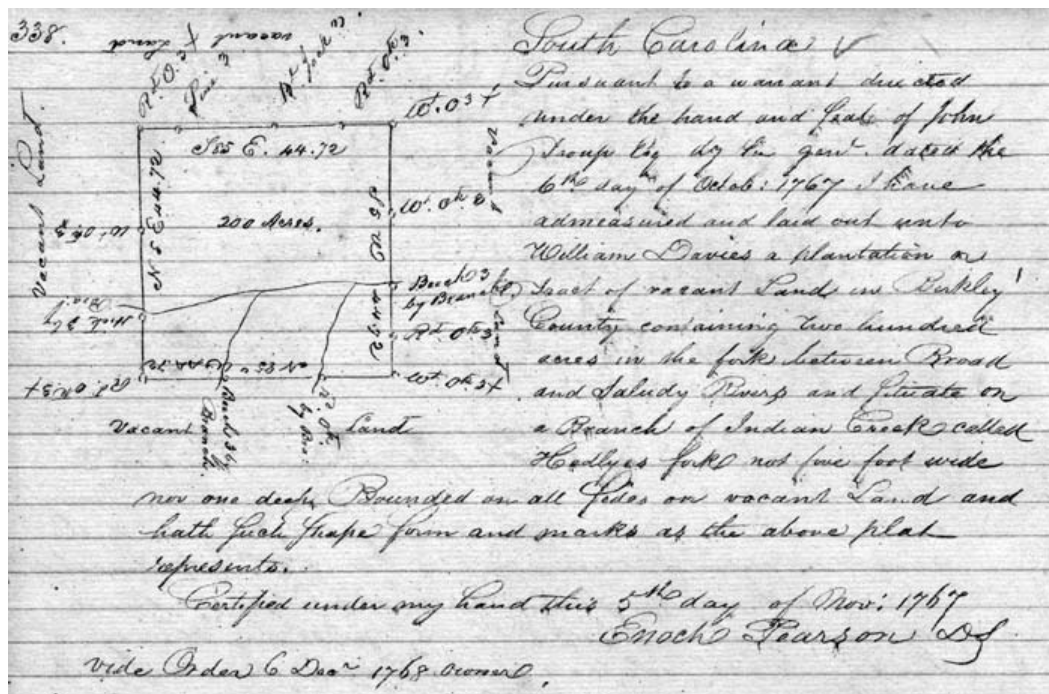
It is noted in the deed selling his property that he had been granted 200 acres of land, and that his neighbors were James Whitmore, Enoch Pearson, Andrew McCreary, and James Proctor. He was issued a warrant for that property on 2 Mar 1773, and it was surveyed on 30 Mar 1773:<sup>259</sup>



On 12 Oct 1764 (exactly six months after Vann and Harmon had received their grants), William Davies was granted 250 acres of land in Craven County, Carolina Colony adjacent to John Evans, John Pearson, James Reynolds and John Troup.<sup>260</sup> This would seem to be his first presence in the vicinity of present day Newberry and Laurens Counties, South Carolina.



The land noted in the deed sold by William Davis, Junior for Senior's estate was surveyed on 5 Nov 1767, and recorded on 6 Dec 1768. It was located on Headley's Branch of Indian Creek.<sup>261</sup>



<sup>260</sup> South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0008 Page: 00480 Item: 01.

<sup>261</sup> South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S213184 Volume: 0014 Page: 00338 Item: 01.

On 27 Sep 1787, William Davis “of Laurence [sic] County senior” sold to Mary Morriss, widow, late of Roan [sic: Rowan] County, North Carolina, now of Newberry County, South Carolina, for £10 30 acres of land, which was part of 200 acres granted to William Davis on 22 Sep 1769 located on Headleys Branch of Indian Creek. Witnesses were James Lindsey and Joseph Davis.<sup>262</sup> The deed shows that he signed his own name.

## William Davis, Junior

On 12 Nov 1799, Mary Morris of Newberry County, South Carolina, sold to William Davis, Senior of Lawrence [sic] County, South Carolina 30 acres of land which was originally part of 200 acres granted to William Davis on 22 Sep 1769. Witnesses were William Gray and James Lindsey.<sup>263</sup>

The above deed is interesting. William Davis, Junior is now William Davis, Senior, suggesting he had a same-named son. The witnesses to this deed and the one in 1787, where she had purchased the property from William’s father, are also interesting. James Lindsey witnessed both deeds, and John and Joseph Davis had each witnessed one of those deeds. That suggests that Mary may have originally been a Davis.

We know from the two deeds involving William Davis, Junior in Laurens County, South Carolina that he was living in abutting Newberry County in 1792.

There was only one William Davis living in Newberry County in the 1790 Census. His household included three males under age 16, one male over sixteen and three females. If his wife had died, that would match what is known of Clement Davis of Pond River and his siblings.

On 1 Nov 1788, John Callaghan of the County of Spartan and settlement of Tyger River leased to William Davis, Junr of Newberry County, planter, for ten shillings 198 acres of land on Headley’s Branch of Indian Creek, granted on 2 Oct 1786. Witnesses were John Lindsey, Junr and James Lindsey.<sup>264</sup> On 20 Nov 1788, John Callaghan of the County of Spartan and settlement of Tyger River sold to William Davis, Junr of Newberry County for £100 198 acres of land granted on 2 Oct 1786 on Headley’s Branch of Indian Creek, where William Davis, Junr now lives. The property abutted lands of William Davis, Senior, Thomas Johnson, James Lindsey and Peter Braselman. Witnessed by John Lindsey Junr and James Lindsey.<sup>265</sup> This would appear to suggest that the properties of William Davis, Senior and William Davis, Junior straddled the county line between Laurens County and Newberry County.

On 8 Oct 1796, Margaret Callaghan of Laurens County deeded the same property to William Davis for £10. Witnesses were Moses Lindsey, Sibbiller Lindsey and Jacob Frost.<sup>266</sup>

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<sup>262</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book A, page 503.*

<sup>263</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, page 877.*

<sup>264</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, page 522.*

<sup>265</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, page 524.*

<sup>266</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book C, page 996.*

As noted at the beginning of this section, in 1799 William Davis sold 30 acres of land in Laurens County. Deeds exist<sup>267</sup> in 1808 showing that he had remained in Newberry County. There are also Census records in 1800 and 1810 in Newberry County, South Carolina for a William Davis aged 45+.

It seems unlikely that he would have been the father of Clement Davis of Pond River and his siblings. None of Clements other siblings would have been of age when he first shows up in Christian County, Kentucky. That strongly suggests that their parents had died during their migration westward. It would have been exceedingly uncommon for three under age girls to be sent into the wilderness without their parents, unless they were orphans.

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<sup>267</sup> *South Carolina, Newberry County, Deeds, Book J, pages 188 and 197.*

## Appendix Two: Thomas Davis

Thomas Davis was yet another potential suspect as the father of Clement Davis of Pond River and his siblings, especially because he sold land in Laurens County, South Carolina shortly before Clement showed up in records of Christian County, Kentucky.

In Oct 1798, Thomas Davis sold 90 acres of land on the waters of Indiana Creek in Laurens County, South Carolina to David Mayson of Laurens County for £20. The land abutted the properties of John Edwards, Clement Davis, Wm Turpin, John Royans and Ellinor Lewis, decd. Witnesses were Isaac Taylor, John Williams and Elizabeth Williams.<sup>268</sup>

As noted in the section on Laurens County, this land had originally been granted to Thomas “Daves” in 1788, and this Thomas was a witness to the sale of Clement Davis, Senior’s land in 1792. These facts suggest they were father and son.

In the will of Ellinor (Dalrymple) Lewis, dated 11 Sep 1789, names Ellinor Davis as her niece, and Thomas Davis as her nephew. It also states that Thomas had a son named John.<sup>269</sup>

It’s likely that Thomas had come of age in 1788, and was thus born in 1767. That would suggest that John was an infant.

On 10 Jan 1815, Thomas Davis sold land to Nehemiah Mills which abutted John Davis’ land. Elender Davis relinquished her dower right to the land.<sup>270</sup>

Since neither Thomas nor John appear in records of Christian County, Kentucky, and neither Clement Davis of Pond River nor his siblings are found in any of Thomases records, Thomas is likely not the father of Clement or his siblings.

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<sup>268</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book D, page 372.*

<sup>269</sup> *South Carolina, Archives ID: Series: S108093 Reel: 0016 Frame: 00041 Item: 000*

<sup>270</sup> *South Carolina, Laurens County, Deeds, Book K, page 121.*

## Appendix Three: Edward Davis

Edward Davis was investigated as a possible clue to the parentage of Clement Davis of Pond River, under the assumption that his father was possibly a brother of Clement Davis, Junior. No evidence was found for his involvement with any of the Davises who are the main focus of this book.

Since Clement Davis, Junior had been granted land on the Sinking Fork of Little River on 19 Jul 1799, grants to other Davises on those waters were sought. Only one was found, for Edward Davis, dated 21 Feb 1799, for 133 acres.

At one point, Edward Davis had been granted Warrant No. 2436 for 200 acres of land on Kelly's Creek, a branch of Little River, but he assigned the property to David Cooper.<sup>271</sup> The location of this creek is not known, suggesting the name may have been changed at some point in the past. How proximal this property and Edward's original grant were to Clement Davis has not been determined. They were in the same vicinity, but may not have been in the same neighborhood.

Edward Davis of Christian County, Kentucky paid the poll tax and was taxed for eight horses on 7 Aug 1799. Clement Davis of Pond River paid his taxes on 19 Aug that year, being taxed for three horses and paying the poll tax.<sup>272</sup>

On 15 Apr 1800, Edward Davis was taxed for 133 acres on Little River. Clement Davis of Pond River was taxed for 100 acre on 16 Apr, and Clement Davis, Junior paid his taxes on 6 May.<sup>273</sup> He is not found in the 1801 tax list.

On 19 Oct 1801, Edward Davis married Polly Adams, suggesting that he had perhaps recently come of age. Her father, James Adams, gave his consent.<sup>274</sup>

Things get interesting in the 1802 tax list. On 4 Jun Edward was taxed for two properties: 112 acres on the West Fork of Red River entered by J. Davis, and 100 acres on the same river, entered by J. Montgomery. The interesting part is that on 7 Jun James Davis was taxed for 720 acres entered by J. Montgomery on the same river, AND for 130 acres on Little River entered by E. Davis (Edward's land!).<sup>275</sup> It was pondered whether this was the James Davis, who along with Thomas Davis, had witnessed the 1792 Laurens County deed of Clement Davis, Senior. The answer would seem to be no. Both men are claimed to have come from Virginia, with James being claimed to have been the first white settler in Christian County in 1785, which was well before it was formed.<sup>276</sup> That seems to end any likelihood of a connection to Clement Davis of Pond River, but some additional facts about Edward are recorded for posterity.

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<sup>271</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book H*, page 10.

<sup>272</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1799, FHL Microfilm #007834413*, images 41 & 42 of 1324.

<sup>273</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1800, FHL Microfilm #007834413*, images 57 & 58 of 1324.

<sup>274</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Marriage Bonds, FHL Microfilm #07734828*, pages 147 and 149, images 1621 to 164 of 2178.

<sup>275</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1802, FHL Microfilm #007834413*, image 122 of 1324.

<sup>276</sup> <http://dgmweb.net/FGS/Davis/DavisEdward-MaryAdams.html>, accessed 28 Apr 2021.

Edward was taxed for the same properties in 1803 on 1 Aug, though James Davis was only taxed for 600 acres which had been entered by J. Montgomery, but patented by J. Davis.<sup>277</sup>

On 30 Aug 1804, Edward Davis was taxed for the same two properties.<sup>278</sup> He was also taxed for these properties in 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808, 1809, and 1810.<sup>279</sup> Further investigation would be likely to find similar records for several more years.

On 7 Aug 1810, Edward Davis of Christian County, Kentucky sold to Absalom Hick of the same place for \$100 the 133 acres that he had been granted in 1799. There were no witnesses to the deed, as Edward acknowledged the sale at the time of recording, on 9 Aug 1810.

On 25 Aug 1813, Edward Davis of Christian County, Kentucky purchased from James Davis the properties that he had been paying taxes on since 1802. Witnesses were Roth Kirkpatrick, B.H. Reeves and James Adams.<sup>280</sup> He and his wife Polly sold this property on 5 May 1818 to James Murphy. Witnesses were Edwd Bradshaw and Henry Martin.<sup>281</sup>

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<sup>277</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1803, FHL Microfilm #007834413, image 163 of 1324.*

<sup>278</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1804, FHL Microfilm #007834413, image 211 of 1324.*

<sup>279</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Tax Lists, 1805-1810, FHL Microfilm #007834413, images 320, 359, 482, 530, 617, and 727 of 1324.*

<sup>280</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book D, page 250.*

<sup>281</sup> *Kentucky, Christian County, Deeds, Book I, page 45.*