

Western Kentucky University

TopSCHOLAR®

Research Collections

Special Collections Library

1991

Davises of Jesse and Charity

Department of Library Special Collections

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_kl_non_mat



Part of the **Genealogy Commons**

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Research Collections by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

The Davises

of Jesse and Charity

(Revised 1991)

**Bobby Anderson
7965 Ridgewood Road
Goodlettsville, Tenn. 37072**



THE DAVISES
of Jesse and Charity

By BOBBY ANDERSON

(Other than from public and official records, much of the information on the families of Jesse and Charity Davis was gained from early research efforts made by the late Edward Manley and from Davis family members Jack Davis of Elkton, Alfred and Jo Davis and Sarah Dean Wood all of Penrod.)

* * *

The Davises, native to the Mud River country gauge all time and generations from their foreparents, Jesse and Charity Hunt Davis.

Jesse Davis and Charity Hunt were married in North Carolina (probably Rowan County) on March 16, 1799. Soon, thereafter they came to Muhlenberg County with the venerable old John Hunt, a revolutionary war soldier, who obtained land along Mud River through military grants. Charity Davis was of course, the daughter, and fourth child of John and Charity Hunt.

Charity's lineage is easy to follow. It is filled with Hunts, Fitz-Randolphs and Marchands, all the way to Great Britian and France, via Princeton, N. J., where her Fitz-Randolph forefathers gave the land on which Princeton University was built and now stands.

Charity was born in North Carolina in the year 1780, that according to Hunt family records.

Jesse's lineage remains relatively hidden to this day. His age would be about the same as Charity's--though he may have been some older.

Edward Manley, the California genealogist, whose roots were with the Hunt family in Butler County, searched diligently, but was never able to match Jesse as a child of any of the Davises in the area at the time, though he confided to this writer as he was extending the Davis line, that he felt Jesse was the son of Henry and Fanny Davis, who migrated to Kentucky with the Hunt entourage also. If so, then their brief recorded contributions need to be explored also.

One thing which Mr. Manley uncovered, that is fact, is that when Henry Davis purchased a piece of land, his deed was witnessed by Isaac and Jesse Davis. In filling out family charts, Manley often suggested Henry and Fanny as Jesse's parents--but with a qualifying question mark.

Henry and Fanny's recorded history is very brief. North Carolina-born perhaps, Henry died prior to 1812, because both court records and marriage records show that Fanny re-married. A December, 1812 marriage license is recorded at Greenville for John Hughs and Fanny Davis. To give evidence that this is Henry's widow, one need only turn to the Muhlenberg County Court book to Jan. 11, 1813, when an order was entered for "Mrs. Fanny Hughs (late Fanny Davis) to give counter security on estate of the decedent (Henry Davis)."

Then, a succeeding order, entered on Oct. 11, 1813 called for "John Hughes, who intermarried with Fanny Davis, executor of

Henry Davis, dec'd., summonsed to court to give counter security for estate".

No further record for Henry Davis was found. Neither are there records to show of the deaths or burial places of John Hugh(e)s and Fanny David Hugh(e)s.

There is another "however" to Jesse's parentage. In an article over Manley's byline in both the Times-Argus and the Green River Republican, Manley states that he also believes that Margaret Davis of North Carolina might have been the mother of Jesse Davis. He based this on a will of Margaret Davis, recorded in 1816. He did not say if Jesse Davis was mentioned directly as a son in this will, or if he was going on supposition.

If Henry and Fanny had children, other than perhaps Jesse, it has not been brought to the eyes of many searchers. If Margaret had children, or a husband, neither were disclosed in public records. Until new evidence is forthcoming, most of us will continue to consider Jesse and Charity Davis as the progenitor of our lines in Kentucky.

Thus, Jesse Davis and his wife Charity Hunt Davis will be the focus of this continuing saga of the Davis family of the mid-Mud River area of Muhlenberg County.

* * *

JESSE AND CHARITY DAVIS

Knowing that Charity Davis was born in 1780 in North Carolina, and Jesse being about the same age, this would have placed the young couple in their early 20s when they came to Muhlenberg County. Married in 1799, their first born was Mary (sometime Margaret), on Sept. 26, 1804. There is no record to indicate if Margaret was born in North Carolina or in Kentucky.

There are several mentions of Jesse Davis in public records in Muhlenberg County.

On Page 51 of Muhlenberg County Court Order Book 2A, we learn, "Jesse Davis brought here into court, John Shearly, an infant child said to be the son of John Shearly, Sr., and wife, who have left the county and their children, the said infant being of them in distressed condition, without even the common 'necessities of life'. It is ordered that said Jesse Davis be appointed to take care of said infant until next court of claims, or until the father returns (should he return sooner) and that he render account for keeping said child."

Another account shows the child to be under seven months, and yet another, ordered by the court on Jan. 14, 1817, binds the child, (the spelling Shurly) to James Evans, "to learn the art and trade of farming". It again reiterates that the child was abandoned by its parents and no mention was made of restitution to Jesse Davis for his support of the child in the meantime.

However, the court Nov. 11, 1816, does mention both Jesse Davis and John Shearly again. Jesse, in the fact that delinquent taxes held against him in 1813 were relieved, because he presented a receipt showing he had paid the taxes, and for Shearly, a notation concerning his taxes for 1815 being delinquent, and that he had left the county.

It is not known if Shearly was related to Davis, or why the child had been left in Davis' care.

We do know from court records and an old deed, that Jesse Davis

owned land on Mud River. The land lay on the west side of the River (Muhlenberg side), contained 100 acres, and was purchased from a Phillip Kimmell in 1814. The same land had been procured by Kimmell from Abraham Billings, who got it as an original survey. Remember that Jesse produced a receipt for paying his taxes in 1813. This might have been Kimmell's receipt, or there is a possibility that Davis was also the owner of another tract of land elsewhere.

Jesse Davis, we believe, died in 1830. Court records reveal a settlement of his estate on Nov. 29, 1830. "A settlement with Jonathan Hunt, administrator of Jesse Davis, dec'd. returned to court and recorded" read the brief statement. Jonathan Hunt, of course, was Jesse's brother-in-law, and brother of Charity Davis. Jonathan was the fifth child of John and Charity Hunt, and was about three years younger than his sister, Charity.

Charity's death is not as easy to pinpoint. We know she died after 1850, but apparently before 1860, since she is recorded in 1850, but is not visible in any census of the 1860 enumeration.

In 1850, Charity was 69-years-old, North Carolina-born and living near what is now New Hebron church. That is established by the fact that a neighbor was Elijah Hunt, whose farm is well documented as being that which later was known as the Rosie Gardner farm, directly to the rear of the present church. Rosie was a granddaughter of Elijah Hunt.

Charity's daughter-in-law, Permelia Davis, widow of Gersham (Gasham) Davis lived nearby, also, as did Andrew Hall, who married yet another (and younger) Charity Davis, Jonathan and Nancy Hunt, and two of Charity's other grandchildren, John and Jesse Fleming. John was not married at the time, but soon would wed Polly Hope and Jesse already had married Amanda Harper from across the river in Butler County. Others nearby were Daniel and Mary Hunt, he the son of Elijah, and forefather of many, many of the Hunts still living near Hebron and Gus.

Living with Jesse's widow, Charity, is one of the real tragedies and mysteries of the Davis-Fleming family. She was Nancy Jane Fleming, then 4. She was the child of Margaret Ann Fleming, granddaughter of David L. and Margaret Davis Fleming, and of course, great-granddaughter of Charity Davis. Margaret, David Fleming's wife, was Jesse and Charity's oldest child. The unmarried Margaret Ann, David and Margaret's daughter, went to court in February of 1846, to seek support for the illegitimate child, claiming that James Hunt, who apparently was a neighbor, according to census records, was the father of that child. Hunt was ordered by the court to pay \$240 in six installments as support for the child.

Margaret Ann, as we shall note in later paragraphs, then married Jesse Hall, but died in 1850. The child was first taken as a ward by John Hackett Fleming, but in 1850 showed up in Charity's home. When the 1860 census was taken, it is believed that Charity was deceased, but no further trace of the great-granddaughter, Nancy Jane Fleming, was ever found. She may have died. She may have married. She may have moved to another area. Does anyone out there know?

Burial places for Jesse and Charity Davis are not marked, but it is a tradition that they are buried at Old Hebron.

Their children include seven (Statistics were taken from an old Bible record photostat which Ed Manley owned):

- (1) Margaret (sometime Mary), born Sept. 26, 1804.

- (2) Joannah, born Dec. 15, 1811, though this may be in error since twins Gersham and Lucy, below, were said to have been born the same year.
- (3 & 4) Gersham (Gasham) and Lucy, twins, born March 21, 1811 according to Manley's records, but may be in error, since he lists Joanna's birth the same year.
- (5) Ransom, Dec. 23, 1813.
- (6) Joseph, Oct. 8, 1818.
- (7) Sarah, Nov. 12, 1820.

* * *

(1) MARGARET

For some reason, Margaret was often known as Mary. Perhaps this was because her name was Mary Margaret, and there was another Margaret in the close family. Perhaps Margaret liked that name better, and after a childhood of Mary, began calling herself Margaret in later years.

One only need look on the surface to find that Margaret's life was filled with troubles and sadness.

Born, possibly in North Carolina, maybe in Kentucky, on Sept. 26, 1804, she married at 19. On June 23, 1823, she wed the widowed David L. Fleming, whose first wife, Lydia, had recently died, leaving David with three (or four as new evidence indicates) young children. In 1824, the first of her three children was born. He was Jesse D. Fleming, followed by Margaret Ann on Sept. 22, 1826, and John Hackett on Nov. 21, 1828.

About 1830, David L. Fleming died, leaving Margaret with three small children. They were soon given in custody to their half brother, Samuel C. Fleming in 1834, and prior to that, Margaret had relinquished her dower rights to the Fleming property. All of this was documented in earlier articles concernig the Fleming family.

The time of Margaret's death is not recorded, but it could have been any time after 1834, but before the next census, when she was not enumerated. Just over 30 years of age, she passed from this earth with little recorded about her life.

Her first son, Jesse, was to marry three times, to, in order: Amanda Harper, who died in childbirth; Susan I. Hope, who was, according to her testimony, abandoned; and to Zilpha Fleming, who was his widow at his own death on Sept. 11, 1864 in Warrick County, Ind. His descendant are scattered in many western states, through his first marriage and are especially prominent in Butler County, through one son, Richard Franklin Fleming, by his wife, Zilpha.

The second child, Margaret Ann, bore an illegitimate child in 1844, as related in earlier paragraphs. Margaret Ann then on Aug. 30, 1849 married Jesse Hall, which was followed by her death on April 10, 1850. She is buried at Old Hebron. Her only descendant, Nancy Jane Fleming, who lived with the great-grandmother, Charity Davis as late as 1850, was not found in later records. Her whereabouts or disappearance will probably always be a mystery.

The third child born of Margaret and David L. Fleming, left traceable decendants over a wide area. He, John Hackett Fleming, married Mary Ann (Polly) Hope, daughter John J. and Susannah Jagoe Hope on May 5, 1850. Their first child was Mary Susan, called Mollie. She was followed by Missouri, John A., Lydia,

James H., Samuel, William H. and Patience Fleming in that order.

Mollie married James Leonard (Jimmy) Anderson, and all descendants of Jimmy and Mollie (including Harry Anderson, Bessie Whitney, Edna McKinney and this writer) can also trace their roots back to Jesse and Charity Davis.

Some of the Nanney family will be able to trace their ancestry in this manner, through Missouri Fleming who married Scott Nanney.

The present day Flemings, such as Jerry and Shellie at Greenville (through Clarence Fleming), and those in the Penrod area, Raymond, Ray, Stella Mallory and Susie DeArmond, (through Pearly) can trace back through William (Uncle Billy) Fleming.

All in these families search for family records, should review an earlier published four-part article on the Fleming family which appeared in May in the Leader-News.

* * *

(2) JOANNAH

Joannah, the second child of Jesse and Charity Davis, according to the Bible record possessed at the time by Edward Manley, was born Dec. 5, 1811. However, this writer believes the date is in error for two reasons. First, there is too much time difference, 1804 to 1811, between Jesse and Charity's first two children, and second, because a set of twins, Gersham and Lucy, was born, according to the same record, on March 21, 1811, but were listed in the record after Joannah's birth. For that reason, it appears logical that Joannah was born earlier, possibly 1805, 06 or 07. Nothing has been found in official records to either prove or disprove this, since she apparently died before 1850 when census records first listed wives, and gave their ages.

Records do tell us however, that she married Thomas Whitaker, son of another Thomas Whitaker, on Jan. 1, 1826. Though Joannah was not in the 1850 census, and is believed to have been deceased, Thomas was listed. He was shown to have been born in North Carolina in 1785 (65 years of age), and was listed as a widower. He would have, according to the census, been 41 years of age, when he married Joannah, who would not have been 15 years old if 1811 was her true birth year. However, if she was indeed born earlier, she may have been 19 to 21 years of age.

Children listed for Thomas (and Joannah) were Thomas J., 19 in 1850, indicating an 1831 birth year; William, 16 (born 1834) and Mary J., 14, (born 1836). Since that was the last child, Joannah may have died in 1836, or some later and unknown year.

These Whitakers lived in the Dunmor-Rosewood area, just a farm or two away from Jesse and Alexander McPherson. Next door to Thomas Whitaker, was William Whitaker, 30, with his family. This is Thomas' son by his previous marriage to Nancy Duvall, and who will later be shown to be the husband of Sarah Davis, another of Jesse and Charity's children. Also, on an adjoining farm, Andrew Whitaker lived with the Robert Shelton family.

There was no further record of Thomas Whitaker, or his children in Muhlenberg County after 1860. His death is not recorded, and neither are the burial places of he and Joannah.

* * *

(3) GERSHAM

Gersham, was born with Lucy, as a twin, on March 21, 1811. He would forever be known as "Gasham", a name from the family of his grandmother, Charity Hunt. Her father was Gershom, called Gasham.

He married Permelia Whitaker in 1837 (?). Permelia was the daughter of John Whitaker, and was Indiana-born, but must have been living in Muhlenberg County in 1825 when a court record noted that her father was deceased. She was ordered to be bound out, since she was under the age of 14, and was placed by the court into the home of Isaac Wood.

Tradition, according to Edward Manley, is that she climbed down a ladder from an upstairs room, ran away with Gersham Davis on horseback to Rochester, where they caught a river packet to Indiana, and there they were married.

That was 12 years after she was placed in the Wood home, so Permelia must have been very young, nine or under at the time, if she had to run away to get married. Otherwise, she would have been of age at 21, and legally able to give her own marriage consent.

With Gersham and Permelia comes the line of Davises that early on inhabited (and still does) the area around Gus, Penrod and Beech Creek. Most of them can count their lineage back to Gersham and Permelia through their first son, John P. Davis. With this, the third child of Jesse and Charity we will continue the long line of Davises to the present generations.

Gersham Davis was a farmer, and operated one of the earliest known ferries across Mud River, near to what is now Forgy Mill Bridge. Though details are sketchy, we know that Gersham died in 1847, for a Muhlenberg County court order on book 5, pages 248 and 249 reveals "Enos Hunt was appointed administrator of the estate of Gasham Davis, dec'd. (the widow Parmelia (sic) consenting), John J. Engler and Parmelia Davis, his security. Bond \$1,000. Then appointed James Hughes, Martin Blain, Jonathan Hunt and Daniel Hunt. . . ". End of statement. The latter must have been appraisers of the estate.

The next order, on Page 251, notes: "Mrs. Parmelia Davis, widow of Gasham Davis, dec'd. it is ordered that the ferry established by sd. Davis over Mud River be discontinued". Thus ended the ferry operation, which to be succeeded years later by the now-rusting iron bridge at Forgy Mill.

Gersham and Permelia were the parents of five children, the first being John P., who was born in 1839. He was followed by Ransom in 1840, Enos in 1842, Squire Harper Davis in 1845 or 1846 and Lydia Margaret Davis in 1847.

Of the latter four, little is known, despite research by the Davis family, by Edward Manley, and by this writer.

Ransom, we know, married Sarah A. E. Pittman on June 16, 1861. She was the daughter of Thomas and Susan Pittman, farmers of near present-day Central City (perhaps nearer to Kincheloe Bluff or South Carrollton). She was born in Tennessee. In 1870, Ransom, Sarah and children were living on Mud River, near to Forgy Mill Bridge. His mother, Permelia, lived next door, and in locating their farm, it was found to be next door to the Rev. Jimmy Gardner's farm, which is still in the Gardner family where the New Hebron road crosses Mud River. Their children at the time were Amanda J., born in 1862 and Jesse J., born in 1867.

Neither Ransom Davis, nor his wife or children were to be

located in Muhlenberg County after 1870.

We believe Enos Davis was born in 1842, according to existing census records in 1850 when he was living with his mother. He was not in the 1860 census, when he would have been 18. He may have either left home, or was deceased. No further record has been found.

Squire Harper Davis was born in May, 1845, and married Mary Ann Smith (born November, 1843) on April 9, 1866. He and his family were visible in the Mud River section of the county for several years. Among thier children were James, Charles and Lucy. As late as 1900, Squire Harper and Mary Ann Davis were living in the third district, along Mud River in Butler County. Son Charles, born Nov. 1868, and his wife, Laura, lived nearby. Their children included Leonard R. Davis, born November, 1897 and Clarence E. Davis, born July, 1899. Also nearby was another son, James, who was born in March, 1867. His wife, Jane, was born, January, 1867 in Indiana. Their children were Louvenia, born November, 1892; William H., born Mary, 1897 and Rosie E., born, May 1900. Another child had died earlier.

Lydia Margaret Davis was born in 1847 and married David Harper on Feb. 4, 1866 in Muhlenberg County. Admittedly, an exhaustive search for this family has not been made, but it appears on the surface to be one of mystery. Following their marriage in 1866, the census of 1870 lists only David and two children, Presley, three and Mary (who later will be listed as Lucy), 11 months old, having been born in July, 1869. Presumably, Lydia Margaret is dead at this time, since the census does not show her with the family. However no death or burial records have been found. In the 1880 census, there is David, now 42, with his son, Presley, now 12, and the daughter, who would be 10, but instead of Mary, she is called Lucy. To further confuse the issue, there is another child, Persuela, seven, indicating David had re-married. But no wife is listed again, and no marriage record for this union has been found. There however, was a marriage license in 1882 for David Harper and Mary Ann Moore -- but we do not know if this is the same David, or a younger David, the son of Squire Harper. The David who married Lydia Margaret Davis appears to be the son of North Carolina-born Scott Harper, and it is not known what their connection is with Pennsylvania-born John Harper, the first of his name to inhabit Butler County and Quality Valley. David was in the Scott Harper home in 1850, and a farm laborer in the home of Lott Harper in 1860 prior to his marriage to Lydia Margaret. There has as yet, been no one located, who can give later details of the David Harper family, particularly his children, Presley and Mary (Lucy).

John P. Davis, whose line we will follow more diligently in later paragraphs, was born in 1839. He married the widowed Harriet Hall Engler on March 30, 1862. She had one son, Alexander a product of her first marriage to David Engler. To Harriet, born in her marriage to John P. Davis, there were Joseph, Alfred Jackson, Nancy E., Sarah E., David A., Major Solomon, Josephine, Delia, Alice and Johnnie Hettie. From these come the Davises, Hunts, Carrolls, Harpers, Hopes, Flemings and many other names as generations increase, plus and intertwining of Englers, Agees and others. The final paragraphs of this article will deal with those children of John P. and Harriet Hall Engler, and their families.

* * *

(4) LUCY

Lucy Davis was born to Jesse and Charity Davis on March 21, 1811. She married Wiley Whitaker on Jan. 24, 1827. To the present time, we have been unable to locate any of their descendants.

* * *

(5) RANSOM

Ransom was a popular name with the early Davises. This Ransom, the son of Jesse and Charity was the first, and should not be confused with Ransom, his nephew, who was the son of Gersham and Permelia Davis. However, it is difficult sometime to distinguish between them, since little is know of the life or death of either. Ransom, the son of Jesse and Charity, was born Dec. 23, 1813, and was their fifth child.

* * *

(6) JOSEPH

The sixth child of Jesse and Charity Davis, was Joseph, born Oct. (or Sept.) 8, 1818.

* * *

(7) SARAH

Sarah was the seventh and last child of Jesse and Charity Davis, which was recorded in the family Bible. She was born Nov. 12, 1820, and was married to William H. Whitaker. William was the son of Thomas Whitaker, who earlier had married Joannah Davis. William was the product of Thomas' earlier marriage.

William H. Whitaker and Sarah Davis were married Dec. 28, 1837 in Muhlenberg County. The most of their married life was lived near Dunmor and Rosewood, though there is census indication that for a while they may have resided near Greenville. Seven children can be attributed to his marriage:

(1) Nancy Ann was born Aug. 8, 1839. She may have been the same Nancy Whitaker who married Isaac D. Nofsinger in 1870, though this is not confirmed and should not be taken as fact, without further research. Isaac Nofsinger was first married to Nancy Elizabeth King, who died March 31, 1870.

(2) Mary Josephine (Phene), born Aug. 7, 1841. She married Thomas Blaine, son of Martin Blaine. They were parents of James A., Mary E., William M. and Robert N. Blaine, among others. Thomas Blaine was born in 1832, and died in Butler County where the family later made thier home, in 1904. Josephine died in 1924. Both are buried in the Blaine (Hamelton) cemetery.

(3) Charity Angeline, born April 24, 1843, and named for earlier Charitys in the family. She died June 16, 1863 and is buried in the McPherson cemetery at Lake Malone. (Note: her tombstone reads that she was born in 1856, which is doubtful.)

(4) Susan Emeline, born Aug. 16, 1856, married John McPherson and both are buried at Jason Ridge. She died in 1836. After his death in 1885, she re-married J. A. Rust.

(5) Camilla Jane, born Dec. 19, 1853, married Silas N. King on Dec. 19, 1871. Among their children were Charles, John, Theo, Mertie, Lela and Raymond. They too, lived near Dummor, in fact at one time, next door to her parents.

(6) Louvenia Eudoxia, sometime spelled Lavenia and Luvenia. Born Dec. 19(?), 1858. Married Henry F. Roberson (mistakenly listed in marriage license as Robinson) on Jan. 7, 1880. Their children include Richard (1882), Herbert (1886), Gertrude (1891) and Manney (1892).

(7) Thomas T., born about 1861, is not listed in later censuses and may have died earlier.

In addition, William and Sarah had several other children who either died as babies or were still born. The McPherson cemetery at Lake Malone shows an infant in 1850, one in 1860 and one with no date, listed as their children. Another, William J., born June 23, 1845 and died Dec. 24, the same year, is buried there.

Sarah, who was born Nov. 12, 1820, died Feb. 6, 1871. After her death, William married the widowed Isabel Hall prior to 1880. She too died in 1881. William, born May 19, 1815, died May 19, 1895 and is buried in the McPherson Cemetery.

Many of their Roberson, King and McPherson heirs still live in the area.

* * *

The Children of JOHN P. DAVIS

John P. Davis was the son of Gershom (Gasham) and Permelia Whitaker Davis, born in 1839.

Harriet Hall, his wife, was the daughter of James Hall of Mud River. Hall was born in Virginia, and his wife, Zilpha, in South Carolina. She is listed in some records as Cynthia. James Hall apparently came to the area prior to 1860 to join his son, Andrew J., who was already here, and had married Charity A. Davis, granddaughter of Jesse and Charity on March 21, 1850. Harriett Hall married David Engler, grandson of the Revolutionary War Soldier David Engler, probably in Butler County as a teen-ager prior to 1860. In the 1860 census, David was known to be deceased, and Harriett was back with her parents, bringing with her, her child, James Alexander Engler, later to be known as Alex. He was born in 1859. On March 30, 1863, John P. Davis and Harriett Hall Engler were married in Muhlenberg County. They were the parents of 10 known children:

(1) Joseph A., born shortly after their marriage, probably late 1862 or early 1863, though the 1870 census lists him as nine years old.

(2) Alfred Jackson, born 1864. He is the forefather of most Davises in the south area of Muhlenberg County today.

(3) Nancy E., born May 12, 1865.

(4) Sarah E., born 1867.

(5) David A., born, September, 1869.

(6) Major Solomon, known affectionately as "Uncle Bum", born 1869.

(7) Josephine, born April 25, 1870.

(8) Delia (Aunt Deal), born 1872.

(9) Alice, born about 1874.

(10) Johnnie Hettie, born Dec. 3, 1882.

The times of death, and the burial places of John P. Davis and Harriett Hall Engler Davis are not known, though it is thought they are buried in the Gardner (Davis) Cemetery, near Forgy Mill Bridge.

Following is the genealogy, as available for the John P. Davis family of 10 children.

(1) Joseph A. Davis

Joseph Davis does not appear in any official records found for Muhlenberg or Butler Counties after his listing in the Muhlenberg County census in 1870. A Joseph Davis was listed in Butler County in 1880, as a farm laborer, but was too old to have been the son of John P. Davis. Two possibilities exist: First, he left home as a young man, prior to the 1880 census, when he was not listed; or two, he died prior to that time. Any other information from readers would be welcomed.

(2) Alfred Jackson Davis

Alfred Jackson, known to his friends and family as Tine, was born on Mud River around 1864. His death date is not recorded, but was about 1904-1905. It is believed he is buried in the Gardner (Davis) cemetery. Alfred Jackson was married three times, and the father of seven children, many of whom are widely known in the area.

His first marriage was to Eliza Christmas of Butler County on Jan. 8, 1885 (Book 13, Page 66). To this union was born one child, Jesse Elmer Davis in September, 1887. Elmer first married Myrtle Matherly Anderson, widow of Shelby Anderson. Their children were Marie (Mrs. Ed Hunt), Ermie (Mrs. Arley Johnson), Marvin, Collas and J. D. Davis, all of whom lived around Ebenezer. When Myrtle died in 1924, Elmer married Mary Ellen Gregory, and fathered Jewel, Melvin, Bobby, Ronnie, Lena (Blair) and Shirley (Tackett). After Elmer and Mary Ellen's were divorced, Elmer married Nell Dwyer. They had four children, including Margie and Kathy. Elmer died Aug. 7, 1976 and is buried in the Gardner (Davis) cemetery. Nell still lives near Cleaton.

Eliza died, and Alfred Jackson married Alice Christmas, thought to have been Eliza's sister, at the W. F. Rives home at Mud River on March 22, 1891 (Book 18, Page 267), the Rev. S. J. Hunt officiating. This marriage produced two children, Dicie and Estell Ester Davis.

Dicie was born, according to records, in June of 1890. However, it is believed the records are in error, for Eliza was already deceased at this time, and Alfred Jackson and Alice Christmas had not yet married. Dicie married Liburn Gaston of Butler County on Jan. 12, 1908. They were the parents of two children, Ethel and Rena. Ethel married Jack Austin of Drakesboro, and to them were born five children, Gladis (Long), Carol, Rena (Gay), Hazel (Turff) and Edna (Smith.) Rena married Colie Addison of Beech Creek. They now live at 470 Bumpaw Road, Lewisburg, where despite their advanced age, are very active. Their children, which include the "Addison Sisters Singers" were Hester (Coursey), Colene (DeArmond), Violet (Knight) and Mary (Allen).

Estell Ester, known as Ester, was born in February, 1894. He first married Laura Harper, daughter of David and Ellen Rives Harper in Butler County on Sept. 12, 1911, listing his age then as 18, and her's as 15. They were the parents of one daughter, Mae, who first married Albert McPherson, son of Cobe and Betty

McPherson of New Hebron, and after his death, Mont Christmas of Butler County. Albert and Mae had one daughter, Eunita Mae, who married Tom Miller. Mont and Mae had one child, Horace. Ester, after Laura's death, married Olee Tooley. Ester Davis was shot to death at Browder by Charlie Burden, a town constable, who said he was trying to arrest Ester on a burglary charge. This death occurred in the 1920s, family members believe. Ester is buried in the Gardner (Davis) cemetery.

Alice Christmas Davis also died shortly after Ester was born. Shortly afterwards, Alfred Jackson Davis married for the third time. This marriage was to Sallie Buchanan, daughter of William Washington and Missouri J. Buchanan, at the Henry Smith home, by W. N. Wyatt on Jan. 16, 1896. (Book 20, Page 525). This union produced four children, William Hershel, Henry Lauden, Lizzie (Stanley) and Fred Howard Davis. After Alfred Jackson Davis' death in about 1904-05, Sallie Buchanan Davis re-married, this time to widower Allen Agee of Beech Creek. Sallie lived into the 1930s and is buried at Wyatt's Chapel cemetery at Beech Creek.

It could easily be said that Hershel Davis was one of the most respected men of his time in south Muhlenberg County. Born Nov. 4, 1896, he was married to Burless Goodman on Jan. 3, 1917 in Muhlenberg County with Rev. Jackie Goodman officiating. The wedding took place in a buggy, in front of the Jackie Goodman home, between Mt. Moriah and New Hebron, near to where James Shelton presently. The site was the original home of Harriett Hall Davis, Hershel's grandmother. Hershel died April 12, 1974, and is buried at Ebenezer. He was a coal miner. After their first child died, Hershel and Burless were the parents of six other children: Louise, James William, Alfred Allen, Paul Edward, Rosa Lee and Hershel Ray. (1) Louise born Oct. 6, 1919, married Obie Whitney of Beech Creek on Feb. 27, 1937. They have two children, Shirley Whitney Hunt and Joan Whitney Mallory. (2) James William, born March 27, 1922, married Clement Lee Wacks on Aug. 17, 1946. Their children are Sandra Covington and Doris Robinson. (3) Alfred Allen Davis, who operated a grocery store at Beech Creek for many years, was born Feb. 9, 1924, and married Jo Frances Hugnes of Livingston County on May 12, 1946 in Evansville, Ind. Their children are Allen Frances Davis, Rebecca Cobb, Katherine Perry Kidder and Sharon D. James. Alfred and Jo live at Penrod. (4) Paul Edward Davis, born April 16, 1924, married Margaret Briles of Graham on Aug. 21, 1948. Their children are Larry Wayne, Dianne D. Christie, Edward Lynn and Krista Davis. Paul and Margaret live at Greenville. (5) Rosa Lee, born Sept. 4, 1930, married Bobby C. Robinson of Greenville, where they now live, on June 17, 1949. Their children are Deborah Moore, Bobby Robinson and Pamela Baxter. (6) Hershel Ray Davis was born Nov. 28, 1932, and married Jane Mayes on Nov. 16, 1954. Children are Anthony Ray Davis and Jonathan Mayes Davis

Henry Lauden Davis was born April 12, 1898 and died July 30, 1957. He is buried at Ebenezer. Lauden was twice married, fathering eight children by his first wife, and one by his second. Lauden's first marriage was to Mattie Mae McPherson (born 1901 and still living in Dayton, Ohio), the daughter of Allie and Betty McPherson of Gus. Their children were: Arthur Jackson (Jack) in 1918; Arthur Lee, 1920; Charles Edward, 1922; Marjorie Nell, 1924; Carl Truman, 1926; Bobby Neal, Kenneth Wayne and

Dortha Mae Davis. After divorcing Mae, Lauden married Mary Minton, and was the father of one child, Dorothy Nell. Jack is a retired postal employee and business man, living at 416 E. Main Street in Elkton, Ky. He and his wife, the former Isabelle Greer, have one child, Jacquelin (1947) who married Arthur Rodney Seay. They are the parents of one child, Jason Todd Seay, born in 1980. Arthur Lee was killed during World War II. He died in action at Normandy, France on July 5, 1945. Charles Edward is a minister and lives in Dayton, Ohio. He and his wife, Christine, are the parents of four: Stephen Edward, who with wife, Jan, have a daughter, Darlene; Glenn Lee who married Shirley Coffee, and has a son, Eric; Lynn Dale, who married Brenda McKinney, and has a daughter Heather, and Minta Gay, who married Terry Hopson, and has a daughter, Teresetta. Marjorie Nell married Donald Riber and lived in Dayton. They had two sons, Calvin Lee and Dale. Marjorie Nell died recently. Carl Truman married a Hughes-Kirk classmate, Marilyn Underwood of Belton. They live in Dayton and have a son, Carl Truman Davis, Jr. Bobby Neal married Joyce Mitchell of Beech Creek, daughter of Brank Mitchell. They too, live in Dayton, and have three children, Kevin, Christopher Todd and Melisa. Another child died about a week after birth. Kenneth Wayne married Barbara Florkey, and has three children, Sheryl, who married Dana Clark, Ellen Marie, who married Rick Kancade and Kenneth Wayne, Jr. The youngest, Dortha Mae married Frank Rowland. They have two children, Curtis Allen and Sandra. Lauden's daughter by his second marriage, Dorothy Nell, married David Lee Buchanan, and has three children, David Allen, Michael Lauden and Jeremy Lee.

Lizzie Davis Stanley was born in 1900 and died in 1942. She is buried at Wyatt's Chapel, beside her husband, Sanford Stanley (1896-1963). They were the parents of six children, James Glenwood, (deceased), Roy Howard, (deceased), Billy Jack, Glendell, Mose, Jr. and Bonnie Stanley (Dickerson).

Fred Howard Davis was born Aug. 12, 1902, and married Ava Kitchens on April 11, 1923. They had three children, Harold Lloyd, who after World War II, went to Dayton, married and had one son, but is now deceased; Cecil, who with his wife Eva, live near Cadiz and have one daughter; and Betty Sue, who married a Steele and mothered a son and daughter. She presently is married to Jack Perkins and lives in Oaktown, Ind. Howard died in 1975 and is buried at Greenville beside his wife, who died in 1971. Howard and Ava also had one child, Howard Jr., who was born in 1923 and died in 1924.

* * *

(3) Nancy E. Davis

Nancy E. Davis was born May 22, 1865. On Jan. 27, 1886 she married Green Riley Hunt, son of Jonathan Hunt. Green Hunt was born May 22, 1854, and died March 16, 1908. Following his death, Nancy was married briefly to a Latham. She died Sept. 20, 1927. Green and Nancy are buried at Old Hebron. Green and Nancy had Mary and Sena (Cenia?). Mary married Bill Hunt, and they were the parents of Ray Hunt, who married Mamie Fleming, Lucille, who married Eldon Goodman and later Clydie Ferrell and Mae, who married Elias Davis, and later, Charlie Parks. Cenia married George Hardison. Their children were Cena Ann, who married Ray

Fleming, Mildred, who married Lee Simpson and Edward Hardison, who married Ora Williams.

* * *

(4) Sarah E. Davis

Sarah E. Davis was born in or near the year, 1867. She was listed as three-years-old in the 1870 census. In the 1880 census, when she would have been 13, she is not listed with the family, nor has a record of her been found later than this. It is speculated that she died as a child. Information on Sarah is requested from anyone who has such.

* * *

(5) David A. Davis

The same can be said for David A. Davis. David was born in September, 1869, and was known to be nine months old when the census was taken in 1870. He is not again listed in vital records. It is possible that he also died as a young child.

* * *

(6) Major Solomon (Bum) Davis

Uncle Bum Davis was much a part of the community where he lived near Gus for many years -- until his death in May, 1951. One looking for a honest man, would be directed to Bum Davis, more than likely, before anyone else in the community. He lived that kind of life. He was born Major Solomon Davis on Jan. 18, 1868. He married Dora Dean Hall (1874-1936), daughter of Jesse and Mahala Knight Hall in Butler County on April 16, 1893. They were the parents of seven known children: Bessie, Cora, Johnnie, Lucy and Lucian, twins; and another set of twins, Elisha and Elias. In 1900, Bum and Dora lived in Butler County, but shortly after, he bought a farm in Muhlenberg County, southeast of New Hebron Church, where they spent their remaining years. (1) Bessie was the first child, born Jan. 27, 1897 in Butler County. She was first married on Sept. 10, 1921 to Jeff Brumley, who was the father of Bessie's son, Andrew. Andrew has one child, Inis Rose, who married Donald Hutton. They live in Ohio. Bessie later married Wesley Parks and at the time of her death on Dec. 24, 1976 was the widow of Sam Sumner. She is buried in the Gardner cemetery. (2) The second child, Cora, was born in August, 1898, also in Butler County. She first married Clarence Fleming, they being the parents of Shelly Fleming presently of Greenville. After Clarence's death, Cora married Henry Agee of Beech Creek. Among their children are James Allen Agee, Bob Agee, Ruth Collier and Margie Renfrow. (3) Johnnie was the third child. He died while very young. (4 and 5) Lucy and her twin, Lucian, were born Nov. 27, 1903. He died at birth, while Lucy married Tom Clark on March 16, 1921. (See recent Clark family history). Lucy and Tom were the parents of Sarah Dean Wood of Penrod, Samuel, Harvey, Magdalene (Shelton) and Wavalene (Anderson). Lucy Davis Clark died May 12, 1986 and is buried at Mt. Moriah. (6 and 7) The youngest children of Bum and Dora Davis were twins, Elias and Elisha Davis, born Feb. 25, 1907. Elias married Mae Hunt, daughter of Bill and Mary Hunt, and his distant cousin in 1926. He died on Dec. 27, 1927 and is buried in the Gardner cemetery. His twin, Elisha, called "Lishy", married Elsie Clark, daughter of George and Florence Clark in 1927. He, likewise is deceased. Neither Lishy nor Elias had children.

* * *

(7) Josephine Davis

Josephine (Josie) Davis was born April 25, 1870. She married William H. (Bill) Fleming, son of John Hackett and Polly Hope Fleming on Dec. 24, 1888. Their children included Pearlle, Clarence, Fred, Melvin and Della Fleming. all of the information on this family was dispensed in the earlier Fleming family files. Pearlle married Della Rives and their children include Raymond, Ray, Mamie (Hunt), Ray, Stella (Mallory), Susie (DeArmond), Erdine (Whitney), Cassie (Hunt) and Roy Fleming. Clarence married his cousin, Cora Davis, as noted in the earlier paragraph on Major Solomon Davis, and was the father of Shelly Fleming and the grandfather of Jerry Fleming of Greenville. Fred married Vernie Hoops. Della and Melvin died as children. Bill Fleming was born in 1869 and died in 1914. Josie died Jan. 12, 1944. They are buried in the Hope cemetery.

* * *

(8) Delia Davis

Delia, the eighth child was born near to the year, 1872, though no record has been found which will set an actual date. She was married to John Harper, who died early in this marriage. Their only child was Ersa (or Ercie) Harper, who married Jim Carroll, son of Will and Sarah (Sally) Steele Carroll of near New Hebron. Jim and Ersa had two children, Hayden and Hazel Carroll. Hazel married L. A. Peay. Though the family has no record of her death, Delia is buried in the Gardner cemetery.

* * *

(9) Alice Davis

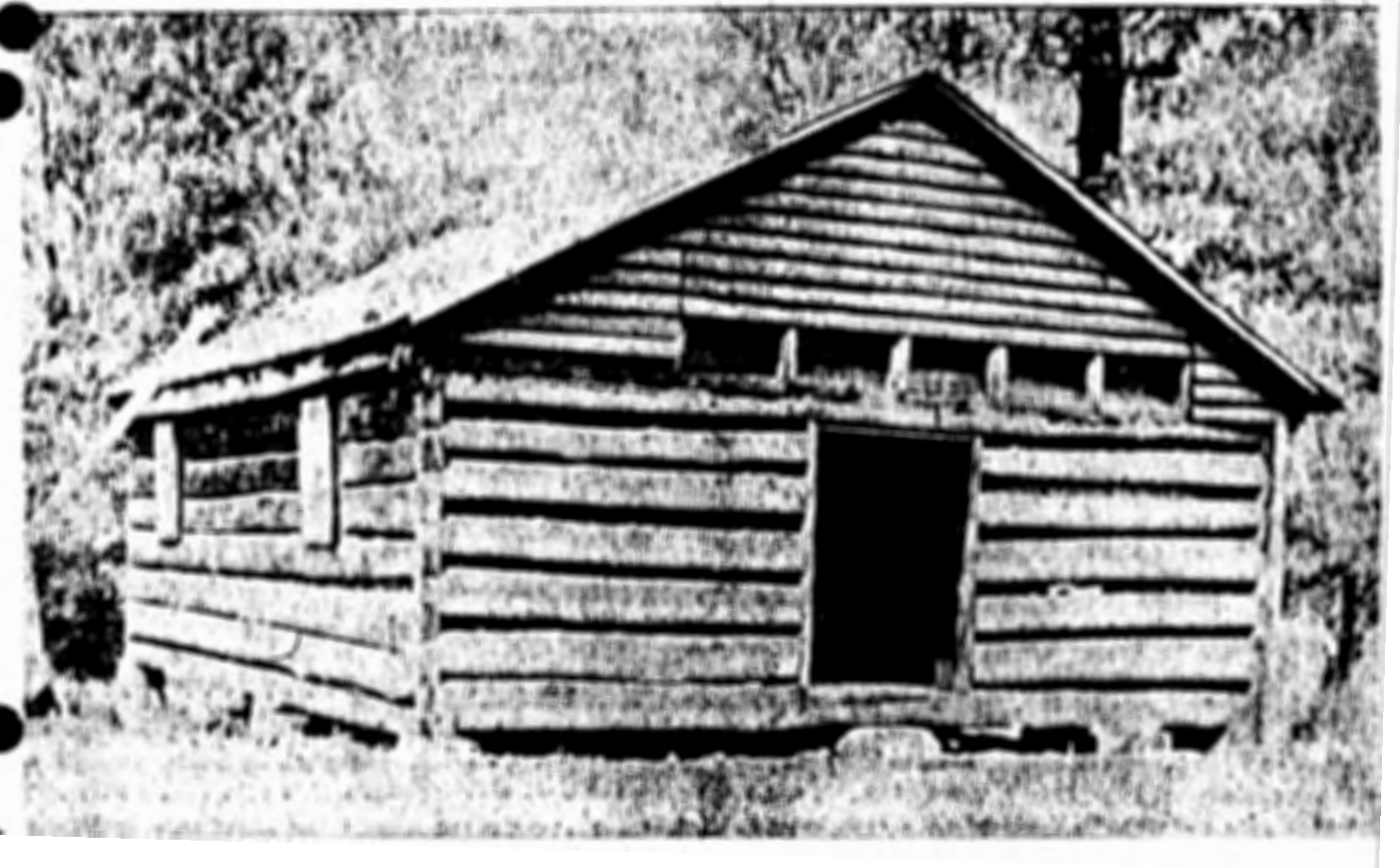
Alice Davis was born around 1874, and married John Mar Hope. They had four children, Elvis, Herbert, Ivy and Ann Lee. Elvis is the father of Buddy Hope, who is the father of Catherine Hope Cline. Herbert Hope is the father of Bernard Hope, who in turn is the father of Mrs. Roscoe (Peggy) Bivens, Jr. Ivy married Jeff Hendrix. Among their children are Lawrence, Austin Sherman and J. H., who lives on Deerlick-Dunmor Road out of Lewisburg. Ann Lee married a Morris and has children, Bobby, Helen and Mildred.

* * *

(10) Johnnie Hettie Davis

The last child of John P. and Harriett Hall Davis was known as Hettie, and her family figured very prominently in the affairs of the Hunt school, New Hebron area for many years. Hettie was born Dec. 3, 1882 and died Nov. 6, 1956. She married Elbert Hunt, who was born March 30, 1881 and died June 28, 1964. Both are buried at New Hebron. Elbert was the son of Granville and Mary (Mollie) Buchanan Hunt. His father was the great-grandson of pioneer John Hunt and his mother a sister of Sallie Buchanan, who married Alfred Jackson Davis, older brother of Hettie. Elbert Hunt was a farmer, coal miner and blacksmith. Their children include Estill, Bonnie, Marietta, Beulah and Connie. Connie died at the age of eight in 1923. Beulah married Garteen Hardison, and died in 1929. Estill married Adell Hudnell and still lives on Hunt property a few hundred yards from New Hebron Church. Bonnie married Theibert Shemwell of Lewisburg, and is deceased. Marietta married Oscar L. Perry Sr., son of Milton and Logie Perry. Their children include Oscar Lee, Jr., who starred at basketball at Central City and later at Bryan College, and now lives in Georgia; Wanetta Ellis

and Barbara Carney, who live in the Louisville area. Oscar Perry, Sr. died in 1966 and Marietta was briefly married to Granval Whitaker. She currently resides in Russellville.



OLD HEBRON CHURCH

THE ENGLER CONNECTION

By BOBBY ANDERSON

John P. Davis' step-son, Alexander Engler, likewise has many descendants in the area. He was the son of David Engler and Harriett Hall Engler. However, David, the grandson of the Revolutionary War soldier of the same name, (buried at Old Hebron), died while his son was an infant. The mother, Harriett, then remarried John P. Davis.

In the 1860 and 1870 censuses, Alexander was referred to as Joseph A. Engler. In the 1880 census, when he was 20, and in the home of his step-father, he was first listed as Alexander Engler.

In the 1900 census, the first to list him in his own household after he married, the name was erroneously written as David J. Engler.

Alexander Engler married Annie Hall on Dec. 28, 1888 in Muhlenberg County. Annie was the daughter of William Washington and Missouri J. Mitchell Buchanan. Annie was also a sister to Mary J. (Mollie) Hunt, wife of Granville Hunt, and Sallie B. Davis, wife of Alfred Jackson Davis, a son of John P. Davis.

Annie had married Enos Hall, son of A. J. and Charity Davis Hall on Jan. 30, 1887. Enos owned the property at Gus, now known as the Hackett Anderson farm. Enos lived only a short time after this marriage, and after his death, Annie married Alexander Engler.

Alex and Annie had eight known children. Among them were (not in order of birth):

(1) Ollie, born in 1890. She married a Wagoner, and is the mother of Ray Wagoner.

(2) Gertrude, the first wife of Henry Agee.

(3) Cynthia also married an Agee, brother of Henry. She had several children. Her second marriage was to Carl Brister.

(4) Jannie, the mother of Jack Engler.

(5) Claude, called Buster, was born in 1892.

(6) Vernie, born Sept. 13, 1893. It is interesting to note that Vernie Engler's tombstone at Wyatt's Chapel lists his birth as in 1888, though census records show the 1893 date. Vernie Engler married Gertrude Lenora Penrod (born June 24, 1906 and currently still living at Beech Creek), daughter of George and Euberta Vick Penrod on May 9, 1923. They have several children who still live in Muhlenberg County.

(7) Willard. (See later note.)

(8) Alvin.

Sarah Dean Clark Wood, the postmaster at Penrod, who was a family neighbor to the Alex Engler family for many years, and who supplied much of the Engler family information, recalls the death of Willard Engler. In November of 1925, Willard fell beneath the wheels of a train at Penrod and was killed. Mrs. Wood said that her father, the late Tom Clark, took, his team and wagon over the rough and muddy road to Penrod, from near Mt. Moriah, to bring Willard's body back to the Engler home. It was dark and pouring rain, Mrs. Wood said, but Alex Engler walked all the way home behind the wagon bearing his son's body.

Alex Engler and many of his family members are buried in the Cedar Hill cemetery (also known as Gardner or Davis cemetery) between New Hebron and Mud River.