

The Robert Davis Family, Moore County, NC By Ruth Dixon Brown

ROBERT DAVIS (1744-1828) and Family

The following information was gathered from Katherine Shields Melvin's book The Shields Families of Moore County. Molly Davis, the daughter of Robert Davis married Cornelius Shields; hence this book contains a lot of information about the Davis family.

It is probable that Robert's father was William Davis, whose will was dated February 9, 1783, although this is not definite.

Robert Davis is listed often in Minute Book I. He was a poll keeper, a member of the jury, and a road overseer. His mark for branding cattle is recorded, and he made various land grants. (This information is probably available at the Carthage courthouse..)

He was a soldier in the Revolutionary War. (See Colonial Records, Volume 16, page 1048.) He enlisted as a private in 1782 in Brevard's Company, 10th Regiment. (His pension record is found in Volume 2, page 62, of Colonial Records.)

He was twice married. His first marriage to Gibby _____ (last name unknown) ended in divorce. Two sons, Levi and Stephen, were born to this marriage. Stephen was the father of Archibald McNeil Davis. Levi Davis married Mary Rudyard. Levi was born in 1766 and died in 1838. Stephen was born in 1767 and died in 1863. He married Lizzie (or Elizabeth) Smith.

Robert's second wife was Nancy Cheek. The following are the sons and daughters of Nancy Cheek Davis and Robert Davis:

- James C. Davis
- Molly Davis - (married Cornelius Shields)
- Joe Davis
- William Davis
- Susannah Davis

The Robert Davis family lived near the present day Putnam. Robert and Nancy are buried on an old road near Deep River. The lettering on their tombstones is still legible. Robert lived to be eighty-five years old. He and Nancy are buried at the old Sophronia Davis homeplace.

Levi Davis and his wife moved to Jackson County, Ohio, and raised a large family, some of whom moved to Iowa and supposedly became very wealthy.

In the 1815 tax listing Robert Davis had 1,300 acres of land valued at \$1,500.00.

According to a statement in Dr. H. B. Shields' book Country Doctor, Robert Davis was a maker of guns:

Robert Davis, my great-grandfather, made and repaired guns for Revolutionary soldiers.

Also, included in this book,

On this land [Robert Davis' land] stood a gun factory, which was operated by David Kennedy with two hundred men under his charge during the War of 1812. This gun factory was owned and operated by Robert Davis during the Revolutionary War. I understand that he owned the land on which it stood at that time.

Many Davises are mentioned in the Katherine Shields Melvin book, including some of the brothers and sisters of Archibald McNeil Davis, but a complete list was not given. However, a yellowed sheet of paper in Stephen Davis's handwriting found in the papers of Archibald Davis gave the names and birthdates of his ten children.

They are as follows:

	Born	Died
Susannah	June 22, 1796	
William	August 20, 1798	
Elizabeth	November 23, 1800	
Robert	October 8, 1804	November 7, 1878
Jesse	January 4, 1807	
John	December 16, 1803	
Stephen W	February 13, 1811	
Mary	December 12, 1813	
Pokey	February 10, 1816	
Archibald	July 4, 1819	July 29, 1879

The names of all of those who married is not available, but this is a partial list.

Elizabeth married George Davis
 Robert married Mary Kennedy
 Jesse married Lydia Kennedy
 Stephen W. married Zelpha Green
 Mary married Arthur Leach
 Pokey (or Martha) married Locke Allen
 Archibald married Mary Maness (first)
 Lucinda King (second wife)

Information from the 1850 census of Moore County, North Carolina [Seventh Census]:

Stephen Davis seventy-seven years old
 Elizabeth Davis (wife) sixty-eight years old
 Archibald Davis,
 (son of Stephen) twenty-nine years old
 Mary Davis,
 (Archibald's first wife) twenty-five years old
 John David
 (son of Archibald and Mary) two years old

There were other children born to Archibald and Mary Davis. They are as follows:

	Born	Died
John L. Davis	September 6, 1847	November 26, 1923
Eli Judson Davis	February 22, 1854	June 30, 1924
Louis W. Davis	May 15, 1857	December 15, 1928
Webster Davis	Unknown	Unknown

[Webster lived in Rockingham for a period of time.]

Mary Davis, first wife of Archibald, was drowned in the spring south of the old home place. [It was reported that she suffered from fainting spells and had gone to the spring for water, fainted, fell in, and drowned.]

Archibald Davis's second marriage was to Lucinda King. They were married on May 24, 1850.

The 1850 Montgomery County census gives the following information

NAME	Age	Occupation	Real Estate
John King	forty-three [43]	farmer	120 acres
Franey King (wife)	forty-eight [48]		
Lucinda King	thirteen [13]		
Isham King	twelve [12]		
Elizabeth King	ten [10]		
Boling King	two [2]		

The name of Arthibald Davis and Lucinda King Davis's children are as follows:

Name	Born	Died
Wiley C. Davis	May 6, 1861	Date unknown
Isham Davis	July 29, 1862	September 23, 1880
Mary Jane Davis	August 19, 1863	April 14, 1930
Stephen Jonah Davis	September 24, 1864	May 24, 1937
Martha L. Davis	April 12, 1866	January 16, 1931
George A. Davis	December 12, 1867	unknown
Lydia Ann Davis	April 25, 1869	unknown
Agnes Louisa Davis	September 27, 1870	March 26, 1930
Franey Alice Davis	January 3, 1872	January 26, 1962
Joseph S. Davis	August 15, 1873	April 3, 1933
Lillie Francena Davis	February 9, 1877	March 31, 1960

- Wiley married Lou Seawell
- Isham died at age eighteen, never married
- Mary Jane married Eli Melton
- Stephan married Louisa Kennedy McKenzie
- Martha married Isley McNeil
- George married Kitty McNeil
- Lydia married Kennie J. Dunlap
- Louisa married Nathaniel R. Dixon
- Alice married Frank Trogdon
- Joe married Francena Comer
- Lillie Married Peter Comer

Lucinda Davis's mother's name was Franey Agnes Maness. These names, as well as others appear in generation after generation. Lucinda was left a widow at the age of forty-three with four children under the age of eight years old, the youngest being only about two. But with hard work and determination, she reared the large family. She lived to be almost ninety-six years old, a truly wonderful Christian woman [as her family described her]. She died on March 4, 1932.

An item of interest, although tragic, is that one of Archibald Davis's slaves was hanged near the Enoch Freeman place for raping one of the women, Sara Nolls who used to stay at John L. Davis's. The slave was buried in the Davis family cemetery where Archibald and Lucinda Davis are buried. The cemetery is located on County Road No. 1403, on the east side of the road on a high hill south of Wolf Creek. The cemetery is about twenty-five feet off the road. The old Archibald and Lucinda Davis homeplace is on the opposite side of the road and several hundred yards west of the cemetery.

All of the names of the grandchildren of Archibald and Lucinda Davis are not available, but as follows:

Children of George Davis:

Archibald A.
Mattie
Clyde
Tessie
Bonnie
Dalton
Alton
Frederick

Children of Alice Davis Trogon

Almon
Lloyd
Will
Ernest (deceased)
George
Jess (deceased)
Mabel
Myrtle
Clifford
John

Children of Louisa Davis Dixon

Bertha deceased
Lillie deceased
Willie
Nellie deceased
Carl deceased
Ruth
Edna
Vann
Ray

married
Neese
Hackney
Griffin
Scott
Cox
Brown
Coley
Lowdermilk
Thompson

Children of John L. and Sally Davis

Almer Martha
Lillie Dean
Gallie Ida
Becky Bob
Mary Archie

[It is possible that none of John L.'s children are living.]

Children of Stephen Davis

	Born	Died
Charlie V.	February 20, 1889	June 22, 1903
Willie	January 3, 1891	November 5, 1918
Stephen Orlando	January 1893	December 19, 1981
Bige	March 23, 1895	March 7, 1964
Lillie	November 29, 1897	February 10, 1898
Dossie	July 8, 1899	April 24, 1964
Bettie	March 4, 1903	January 19, 1978
Katie	May 3, 1905	January 6, 1965
Della	July 22, 1907	
Jonah	August 20, 1909	
Lacy	April 27, 1911	

[NOTE: There may be errors in this information, but if there is I'm sorry. To the best of my knowledge, it is as accurate as I can get it. I would appreciate any corrections. I wish to dedicate this effort to the memory of my dear parents, Nat and Louisa Dixon.

Sincerely,

[Signed] Ruth Dixon Brown

P.S. I understand that Webster Davis left Rockingham many years ago and moved to Rock Hill, South Carolina. He never came back even on a visit, but he has descendants there now.

Royce Dixon (Willie Dixon's son) lives and works in Rock Hill and recently learned that some of the men who work with him are Davises and are some of Uncle Webster's descendants. I would like to know more about them.

R]

The names of the children of Stephen and Louisa Davis, their wives, and children are as follows:

	married	children
Willie Davis	Maude McNeil	Wade Howard
Lindo	Eunice Culler	Jonah Marie Maxine Della
Bige	Lillie Cooper	John, Jr. JACK Lois Stephen Arthur Orville Joyce Royce Glenn Wilbur
Dossie	Nannie Lemmons	(no children)
Bettie	Hal Garner	Lloyd Faye Nell Reva Treva
Katie	Olin York	Robert Charlie
Della	Odus Smith	Leoda Florence Rachel
Jonah	Edna McDowell	Frances
	2nd. Allie _____	
Lacy	Ila Hancock	} Ralph Myrna Jean Delores Elaine
	2nd. Ruth _____	