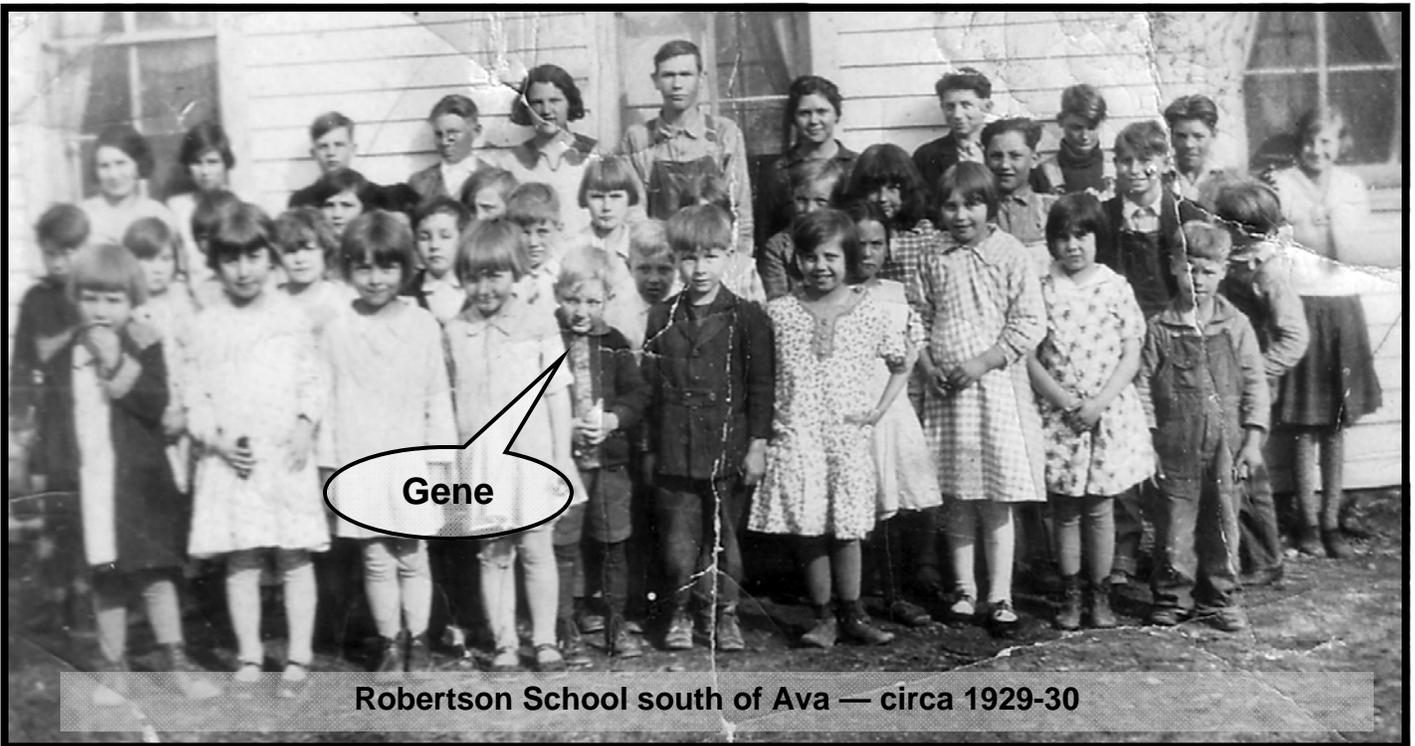


Tribute to  
Charles (Gene) Davis  
Dec. 3, 1924 -  
May 10, 2008



Robertson School south of Ava — circa 1929-30

Hazel & Gene



“Dad left out there (where Fern & Roy) lived, and bought the Hest store from Uncle Coma. That was about 1943 I guess. We farmed that place for Uncle Jesse Reeves, and he got a fourth of the milk check. Roy started coming home and helping – he was over at the camp at Neosho.

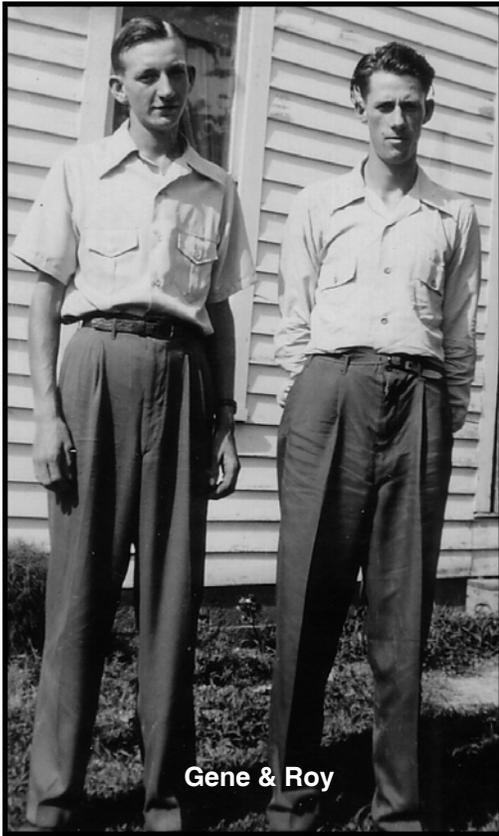
Hazel was from out around Granada. Vester Myers was Hazel’s first cousin. Anyway, Roy and Fern had bought the (Reeves) farm, and I stayed out there and helped them milk. After Hazel was 17 and I was 19, we got married, we stayed out there about two or three months. Then we moved into town in a little apartment. Anyway I was working for Cecil. He had a milk route and Herman had a milk route. I was working for both of them different times. I was A-1 (on the draft) and I was killing time until I was called.”

Gene Davis, May 2006

*Extracted from film of parade*



Centennial Parade — 1957



Gene & Roy



Hest Store — 1940s

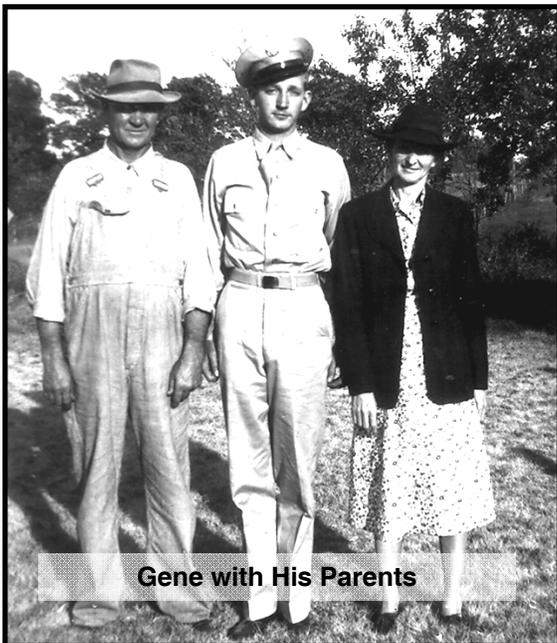
“So when I come home (from the war). (Cecil) was setting up his tire shop, and Russell Davis (Coma’s boy) had come back from California, and he had some experience. He could do anything – good hunter, take some cows and make a good living with them. Anyway — did grease jobs — had a grease pit. Cecil told Thetis Jenkins to put gas in (as a product). He told Thetis that “...if I can’t pay you when you unload, don’t unload.”

We had those little cheese boxes. And these little hand cards, had customer’s names on the tops of the cards. We had enough customers to fill two of those cheese boxes.

There was steam heat, and the rubber smells – didn’t think about the fumes. Fumes from some cars was worse than the rubber tires. There was a wooden sliding door. One time, Thetis Hodge was working there, they had the used cars down here, he helped pump gas and sell cars – he was good – he knew a lot of people – down at Goodhope and that area – I was pulling a truck in there – we fixed most of them outside – but I was pulling a truck in – and I said to Thetis “Watch that door”. Well the truck hit it, and I said “Thetis I thought I told you to watch that.” He said, “I was watching it.” {Laugh} He didn’t holler or nothin’.

I guess in about 8 or 10 months Cecil wanted to do something else. I came in and Jim (Irby) came in there and we were taking the training that the Army allowed. He took mechanics with Roy, and I took over the tire shop. Well we just kept making it bigger and bigger. Well, that’s when Russell, he got him a milk route. We got into that recapping business pretty big. They were doing a lot of repair work. He just pushed the recapping on me. We had a good capping business.”

Gene Davis, May 2006



Gene with His Parents



Tire Store — ca 1959

“Herman went over and bought a motel at Joplin (Webb City). Ernest Whetsten ran it for them. They sold (the tire business) out to me and Jim (Irby), selling a lot of tires, and Jim he took care of the equipment, and you have to give a lot of service.

Herman said that a motel was the best thing you could buy. Cecil got to know a guy (a Mr. Ward) in Springfield who dealt in those kind of business deals. So I decided I wanted a motel. We’re in the 1960s now; I drove a new 1960 Buick (I mean Pontiac) out there; this old guy had this nice motel in Vinita OK (right in Vinita) and it was just six months old. Hazel and I went down and ran it – it has a switchboard, it had some big rooms (for parties), and it did real good. But they were starting these commercial motels (Cecil had to sign – he didn’t hesitate). We went out there a little over a year, I was making money, but since Cecil had signed it, I didn’t want to put him on the spot.



Christine & Jim Irby with children, Charlotte (left) and Regina

A guy came in from Lincoln Neb. I sold it came out with a \$30000 gain. I sold at the right time. This old Indian that built it was pretty smart – he made a sign just like Holiday Inn. We signed up for the Best Western. Hazel was a professional at getting things right.”

Gene Davis — May 2006

Family of Elmer and Rosa (Brown) Davis -- May 21, 1944

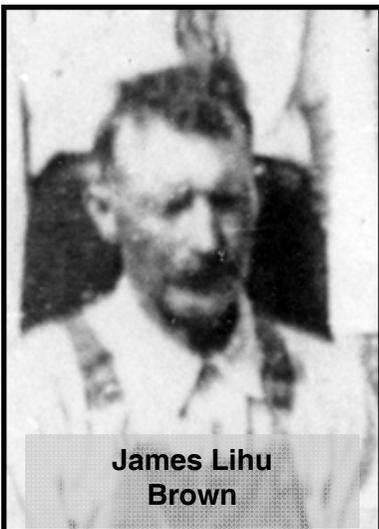
F1688



L-R: Children arranged from youngest to oldest -- Christine, Charles Eugene, Earnest, Fern, Herman, and Cecil  
Their parents, Elmer and Rosa (Brown) Davis are at the right end

**Gene on Grandpa Brown** — “We went down there and he had a handlebar mustache—not a real big one. But he had a pretty nice one and he’d wheel it a little bit. He loved buttermilk. He was an easy going fellow. He had a few little benches out there, and whoever came by, he wanted you to stop and visit with him.

They’d have a hog killing – well, he had every size – big old sows – Cecil, Dad and I don’t know who all – I wasn’t big enough but I watched them. Slabs would be



**James Lihu  
Brown**

taken into the smoke house and lay the salt to it. Bruce was good to help too. I remember when we built over there by Coma – Grandpa Brown had a chicken house with about 200. Can’t take away that Grandma wasn’t a worker. Down in the barn – it was about half filled with old hay. Had about a 100 of those banties, and they’d lay eggs back in there, and Earnie and I, we’d get in there and came up with a whole bucket of eggs.

Grandpa Brown would say “oh my goodness boys, how in the world did you find all of them? They’re the best I’ve ever seen.” And he’d brag on us, you see. We did that several times because of Grandpa. He had a few stalks of tobacco out there drying. I think he chewed – nearly all the older men chewed. Mom got sick for a few months when I was a baby, and Grandma Brown kept me for those few months in a brown box.”

Gene Davis, May 2006



**Gene & Grandma Brown**



**Roy & Fern — 1957**

“When Uncle Coma married Aunt Gerdie, we lived right beside them, he had a few acres of fruit trees. And they was a well there, and we both used it, and Uncle Coma was a good gardener. Dad said his dad (old John Davis) set out so many apple trees he never wanted to see another one.”

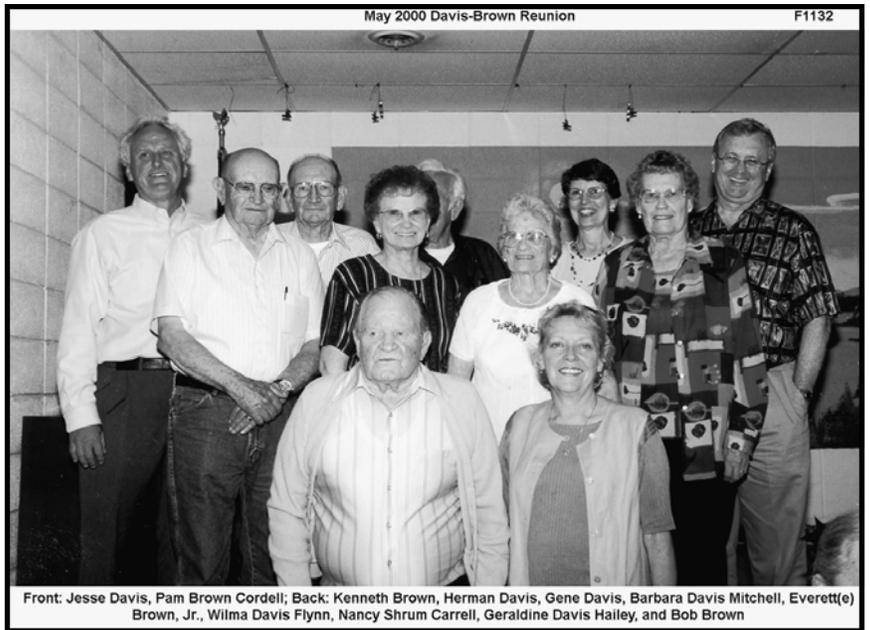
Gene Davis,  
May 2006



**John T. “Whole  
Root” Davis**



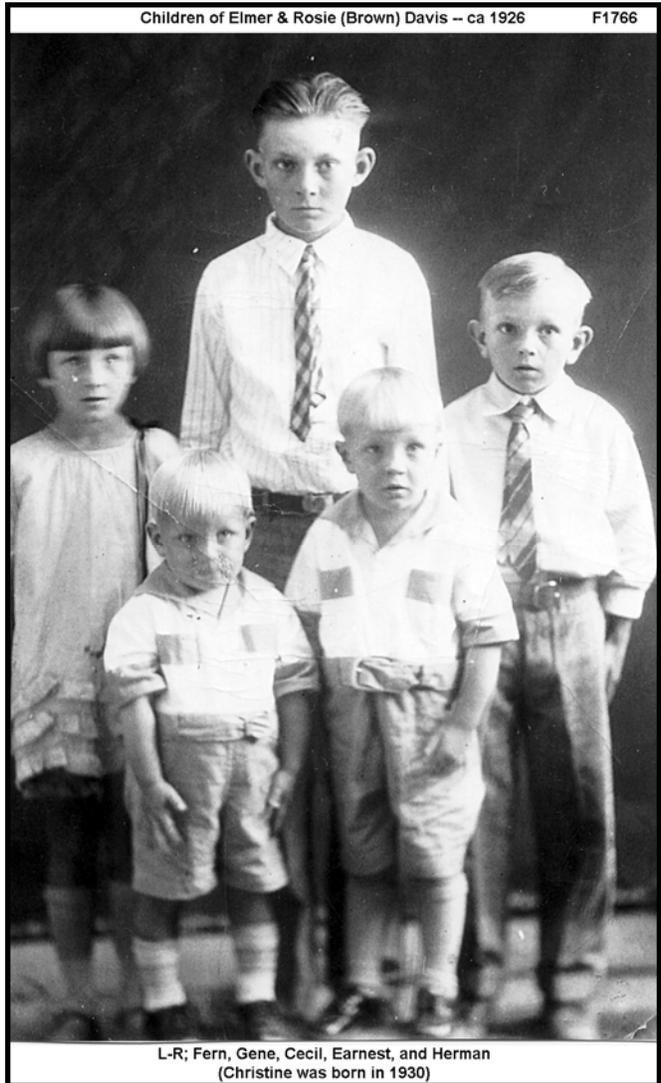
Rosie & Elmer



May 2000 Davis-Brown Reunion

F1132

Front: Jesse Davis, Pam Brown Cordell; Back: Kenneth Brown, Herman Davis, Gene Davis, Barbara Davis Mitchell, Everett(e) Brown, Jr., Wilma Davis Flynn, Nancy Shrum Carrell, Geraldine Davis Halley, and Bob Brown



Children of Elmer & Rosie (Brown) Davis -- ca 1926

F1766

L-R; Fern, Gene, Cecil, Earnest, and Herman  
(Christine was born in 1930)



Hazel & Rosie — 1953