

# A Tribute to Clifford Dean Davis

(May 25, 1926 - August 21, 2013)

*At right, Edna Mae and  
Dean with Charles in  
the fall of 1949*

by **Cinita (Davis) Brown**  
**Lee Guthery**  
**Ken Brown**

**Narrative by Cinita (Davis) Brown and Lee Guthery; layout by Ken Brown. Materials from the authors' collections as well as from the late Evelyn Sanders (wife of Virgil Sanders) and Janie Guthery McMullin. Several photos were scanned in December 2008 from Dean's own collection.**

Clifford Dean Davis, known as “Dean,” was born May 25, 1926. He moved to his heavenly home on August 21, 2013, at the age of 87. Dean was the third of six children born to Enoch and Anna (Gunnels) Davis. He is survived by all five of his siblings who range in ages from 74 to 92. They are Eula Campbell, Clifton Davis, Maxine Rosseau, Glenda Scott, and Bill Davis.



**Dean in Mrs. Uhlmann's 2nd Grade Class at Ava**

Dean's parents, Enoch Davis (dressed in his World War I uniform) and pretty, seventeen-year-old Anna Gunnels met in the early summer of 1920 and were married on August 12, 1920. Both Enoch and Anna were out of old pioneer Douglas and Ozark County families (Davis, Herndon, Piland, Gunnels, Johnston, and Johnson). Enoch and Anna spent their entire lives on various farms in Douglas County rearing their six children. Enoch was known as a

trader, specializing in trading and buying farms and horses; so Anna and the kids never knew what farm they would be living on. But one thing was constant: the Davis family always had a herd of milk cows, and those cows had to be milked regularly.

By the time Dean was six years old, he was milking some of those cows, a practice that he continued until he left home in 1944 to serve his country in World War II. Thus, at an early age, Dean and his siblings learned how to work. Along with establishing good work ethics, they learned the value of a dollar. They also learned the value of family life; this was taught by example.

Dean remarked to Lee Guthery in 2010, “Dad worked all of us kids, worked us hard, but he was always good to us.” As he made this remark, Dean recalled how hot one could get sitting on a milk-stool with a barn full of cows swinging their tails. (Those of us who can remember this milking experience also recall the cows' tails were often full of cockleburs.) During these years, Dean was not only involved in milking the cows; he often was the “milk-man,” or should we say the “milk-boy,” because he was so young. You see, he also bottled the milk and sold it in Ava and the adjoining areas.

Dean lived in the family home and helped work the family farm until August of 1944 when he received his “Order to Report for Induction.” (See following page).

After his induction into the U.S. Army, Dean was sent to Fort Riley, Kansas, for his basic training. Coincidentally, this was the same place where his father, Enoch Davis, had been sent for his training for World War I. Dean was assigned to the 1st Battalion 5th Cavalry Regiment and served in the Pacific. His first service was in the Philippines, and then he was sent to Japan about the time the war ended in 1945. An article published in the June 11, 1946, issue of the Douglas County Herald gives a brief summation of his service: (See page 4)

On August 13, 1945, Dean's regiment was alerted that they were selected to accompany General Douglas MacArthur to Tokyo and would be part of the 8th Army in the occupation of Japan. The long convoy of ships left the Philippines and steered into the American-occupied port of Yokohama. In the early morning of September 2, 1945, General Douglas MacArthur, delegates of the Allied Powers, senior U.S. military officers, and media representatives boarded the ships—the U.S.S. Nicholas, the U.S.S. Buchanan, and



**1922 -- Enoch & Annie (Gunnels) Davis holding, Eula, Dean's older sister**

Prepare in Duplicate

067 AUG 21 1944 001 Ava, Missouri
--

(LOCAL BOARD DATE STAMP WITH CODE)



August 21, 1944

(Date of mailing)

### ORDER TO REPORT FOR INDUCTION

The President of the United States,

To Clifford Dean Davis  
 (First name) (Middle name) (Last name)

Order No. 11375

**GREETING:**

Having submitted yourself to a local board composed of your neighbors for the purpose of determining your availability for training and service in the land or naval forces of the United States, you are hereby notified that you have now been selected for training and service therein.

You will, therefore, report to the local board named above at Ava Court House  
(Place of reporting)

at 9 P m., on the 11th day of September, 19 44  
(Hour of reporting)

This local board will furnish transportation to an induction station. You will there be examined, and, if accepted for training and service, you will then be inducted into the land or naval forces.

Persons reporting to the induction station in some instances may be rejected for physical or other reasons. It is well to keep this in mind in arranging your affairs, to prevent any undue hardship if you are rejected at the induction station. If you are employed, you should advise your employer of this notice and of the possibility that you may not be accepted at the induction station. Your employer can then be prepared to replace you if you are accepted, or to continue your employment if you are rejected.

Willful failure to report promptly to this local board at the hour and on the day named in this notice is a violation of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, as amended, and subjects the violator to fine and imprisonment.

If you are so far removed from your own local board that reporting in compliance with this order will be a serious hardship and you desire to report to a local board in the area of which you are now located, go immediately to that local board and make written request for transfer of your delivery for induction, taking this order with you.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. J. Barker".

Member or clerk of the local board.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-18271-5

D. S. S. Form 150  
(Revised 1-15-43)

the U.S.S. Taylor. Dean was on one of these ships.

The ships steamed out into Tokyo Bay where the U.S.S. Missouri was anchored. General MacArthur and the other dignitaries disembarked and boarded the U.S.S. Missouri. Likewise, Japan's delegates boarded the U.S.S. Missouri, and by 9:00 a.m. the surrender ceremonies were underway.

**Douglas County (MO) Herald  
June 13, 1946**

## CLIFFORD DAVIS NOW IN JAPAN

WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY IN TOKYO, JAPAN — Corporal Clifford D. Davis of Ava, Missouri is now serving with the famous 1st Cavalry Division in the present occupation of the Nippon Capital.

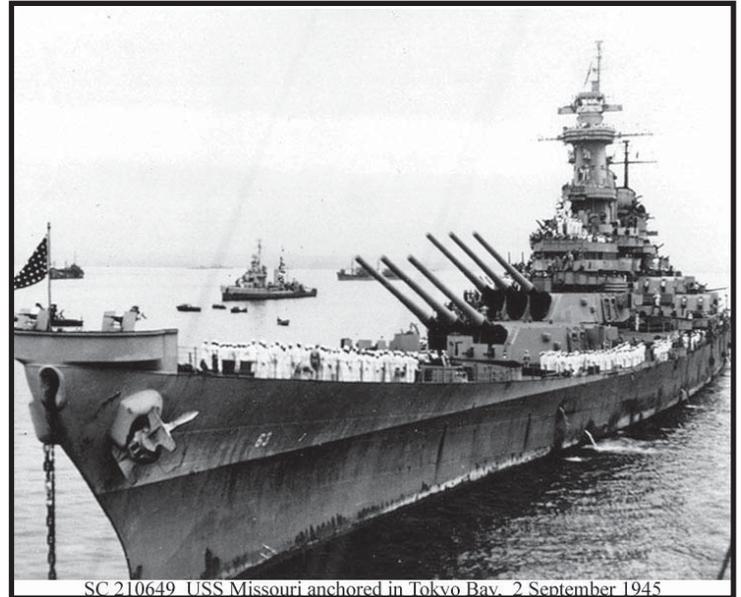
Davis was graduated recently from the Unit Agricultural School at the 5th Cavalry Regiment. The Ava soldier took courses in Dairy Cattle, Farm Management, and Crop Management and Soil Conservation.

Overseas since March 15, 1945, Davis is with the 5th Cavalry Regiment. He wears the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon, Philippine Liberation Ribbon, Good Conduct Ribbon, Victory Ribbon and the Army of Occupation Ribbon.

A farmer in civilian life, Davis entered the Army September 11, 1944, and took basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas. After discharge he plans to return to farming.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Enoch Davis, reside in Ava.

Dean told his family, "You've seen this ceremony on television where the peace treaty with Japan was signed on board the U.S.S. Missouri. I was right there. I wasn't any farther than 200 yards from the U.S.S. Missouri. I was on another ship, but I could see the group as they signed the peace treaty. Probably 150 ships were in the



SC 210649 USS Missouri anchored in Tokyo Bay, 2 September 1945

harbor. That was a BIG day!"

After his service in the Army, Dean returned to the family farm. In 1948, a certain young lady caught his eye. This young lady had an ear that was trained to hear square dance music from a mile away, and she danced her way right into young Dean Davis' heart. Her name was Edna Mae Schuler; and on October 16, 1948, Dean and Edna Mae were married at Mountain Home, Arkansas, by Rev. George Johnson.

In August of 1949, Dean and Edna Mae welcomed their first son, Charles Dean "Charlie," into their home. As the years rolled by, four more children were also welcomed into the Davis home: Donald Gene "Don" in 1950, Robert David "Bob" in 1952, and finally two daughters—Cynthia Mae "Cindy" in 1961, and Cathy Jo in 1971. As the years rolled by, Dean became the proud grandfather of thirteen grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Dean and Edna continued living on the family farm where he was involved in raising both dairy and beef cattle. Dean was also actively involved in community service. He served for many years on the Ava School Board, and he was a board member and actively involved in the work of the Douglas County Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Department.

Dean's opinion was respected by the residents of the Ava area. This was illustrated by the brief notice



Dr. Robert C. Miles, seated, signed a one-year contract at a special meeting of the Board of Education Saturday afternoon to serve as superintendent of schools effective July 1. Pictured from left are members of the board: Robert Ellis; Supt. O. T. Tallent, retiring superintendent; Jay Monger, Frank Snelson; Dean Davis, president of the board, and Clifford Robertson, secretary. Not pictured is Oscar Thomas. 1-16-1969

## Dean's Community Involvement



Marge Langron of the Douglas County ASCS, is pictured above receiving a certificate of award from Dean Davis, left, chairman of the Douglas County ASCS committee, and Robert Hailey, district director of the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service. The award presented to Mrs. Langron was in recognition of her 10 years of service in that office.

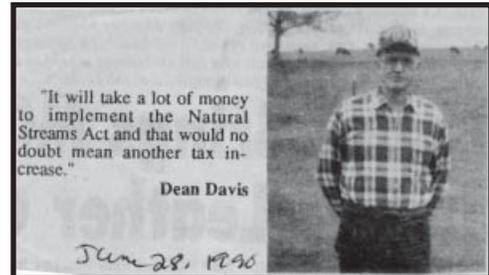
he placed in the June 28, 1990, issue of the Douglas County Herald. Undoubtedly, many people saw this and thought, "Dean Davis is a good businessman. He knows our area and our needs. If he is against the Natural Streams Act, then I think I should be too."

Dean loved the outdoors and the beauty of the Ozark hills and streams, was an avid hunter, and loved fishing. He also loved spending time with his family, playing pitch, and square dancing. When his knees forced him to give up dancing, he remarked, "I can still enjoy the music and tap my foot."

Dean and Edna celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 16, 1998. On August 6, 2003, Edna lost her battle with cancer. She was buried in the Ava Cemetery near her oldest son, Charles Dean, who lost his life in an auto accident in 1970.

Dean was a Christian and a member of the Ava General Baptist Church with the Rev. Oren Alcorn as his pastor. Both Dean and Oren descend from the Norris/Piland/Davis families who established the first General Baptist Church that was built west of the Mississippi River. Dean's grandfather, John Davis, and Oren's great-grandmother, Nancy "Nan" (Davis) Willard, were brother and sister.

Truly as family members, as a community, and as a church family, we can say, "Our loss is Heaven's gain."



"It will take a lot of money to implement the Natural Streams Act and that would no doubt mean another tax increase."

Dean Davis

June 28, 1990



This ten-point buck was killed Saturday morning by Dean Davis east of Ava.

Photo from Dean Davis

F2272



Dean Davis -- 1945 on Luzon Island in the Philippines

Photo from Dean Davis

F2268



Dean Davis -- 1946 in Japan

Photo from Dean Davis

F2263



Edna Mae Schuler

*Photos from  
Dean Davis'  
Photo Box*



Back (l-r): Donnie, Charlie, and Bob; Front: Dean, Cindy and Edna Mae

Dean and Edna Mae



Christmas 1978 -- L-R: Cathy Jo Davis (age 7), and Cindy Davis (age 17)