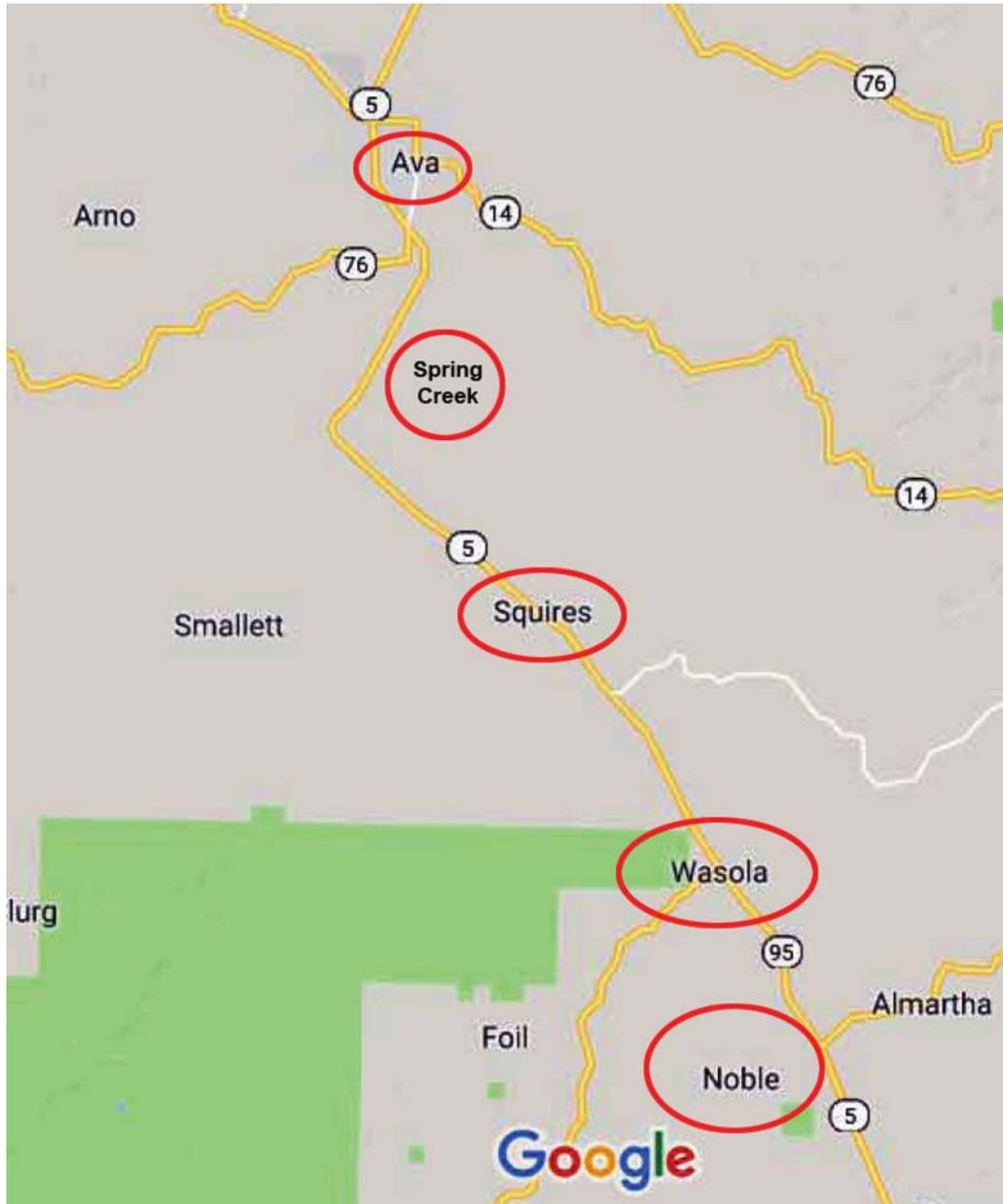


Davis-Brown Heritage Tour

October 26, 2019

(A driving tour through those townships in Douglas and Ozark Counties in Missouri in which John T. Davis and Jesse G. Brown raised their families)



Written by Cinita (Davis) Brown, granddaughter of John T. and Rebecca (Herndon) Davis. She was born on the John T. Davis place at Springcreek in 1931 to Coma & Gertie (Day) Davis.

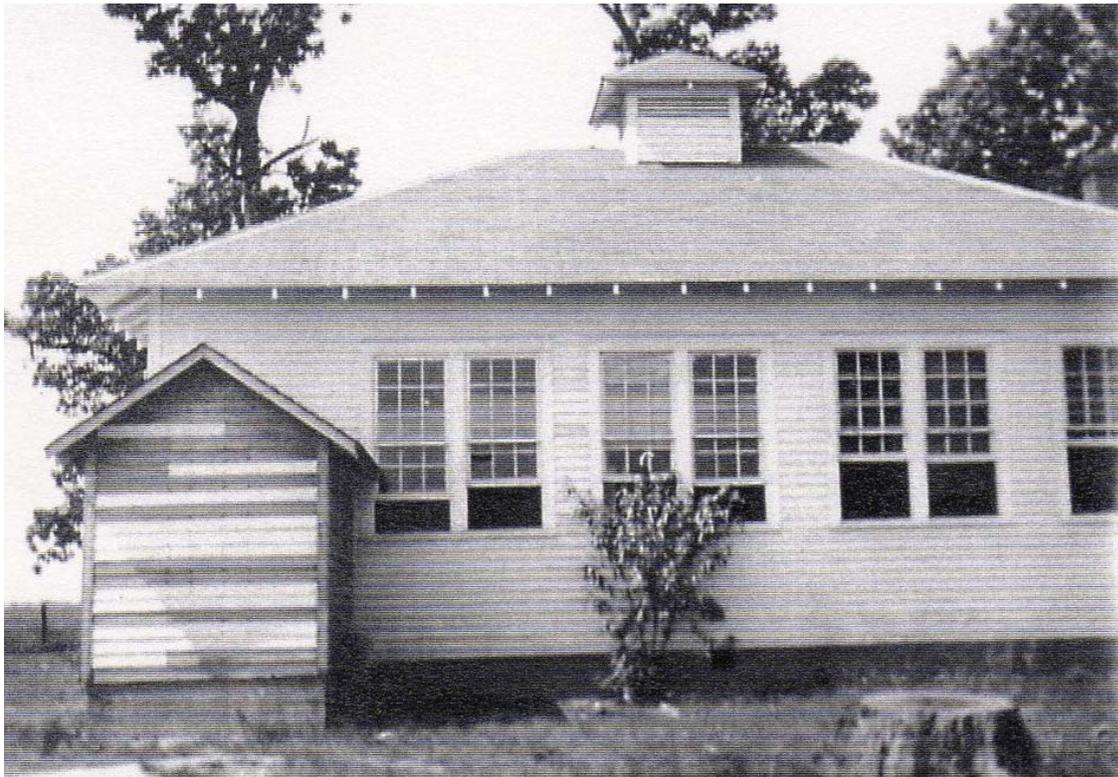
Maps and layout by Ken W. Brown, great-grandson of Jesse G. & Mary (Burton) Brown. He was born at the J.L. Brown place Springcreek in 1945. His parents were Orville "Jake" & Kiree (Hartley) Brown.

Springcreek--where Davis and Brown Children met and courted along “The Path”



BLACKOAK SCHOOL (Point A on Map I: Blackoak School)

This was the rural elementary school attended by all twelve of the children born to James Lihu and Amanda Melvina (Morris) Brown. The building was officially a school house, but church services were held in it. Grandpa James L. Brown's funeral was held there in 1935. Orville "Jake" and Kiree attended church there; Jake was ordained as a deacon (General Baptist Church) in early 1940s. Rural schools consolidated in the early 1950s. The General Baptist Church obtained the building and remodeled it. It is still an active church. (The official school district boundary was between the Davis place and the Brown place.) The Davis children attended Robertson School.



“Jr. and Sr. Class at Blackoak School in 1918.” The circled students are believe to be two the Uncle Jim and Aunt Mel’s boys--Vernie at left and his brother Everette. If Vernie, it’s the only photo we have of him since he died in November of 1918 from the flu epidemic.

J. L. Brown Place (Point B on Map I)

James Lihu “Jim” Brown and Amanda Melvina “Mel” (Morris) married in 1891 at Gainesville, Ozark County, MO. The first one of their twelve children, Sherman, was born in 1894; the last one, Leroy, in 1919. All twelve of them were born on this place. Their seventh child, Vernie, born in 1905, died of flu in 1919. The other eleven grew to adulthood, married, and ten of them reared children. Jesse (1898-1966) married Lena Spurlock. They had no children of their own, but are fondly remembered as “Uncle Jesse and Aunt Lena” by many of the neices and nephews. James L. “Jim” died from a truck accident in 1935 and Melvina “Mel” in 1959. I will be telling you about “THE PATH” the connecting point between (B) J.L. Brown place, (C) J.T. Davis Place, (D) Brown (“Old” Jesse) cabin (E) Ike Brown Store.



Above: James Lihu and Amanda (Morris) Brown ca 1899-1900. Children (l-r): Rosa, Jesse (in a dress), Bertha, and Sherman



James L. “Jim” Brown Family--ca 1920-- Back row: Everett(e), Jesse, Rosa, Sherman, Bess, Louis “Doc”, and Bertha. Front Row: Orville “Jake”, Charles “Woody”, James Lihu Brown, Amanda Melvina “Mel” Morris Brown with LeRoy (born 1919) on her lap, and Lulu. All children present except Vernia “Vernie” who died in the 1918 flu epidemic at the age of 13.



At left: ca 1946--Iris Ann, Janalea, and Evelyn Brown, Uncle Jesse Brown, Freddie Springs and unidentified, at the J.L. Brown place. The buildings in the distance on the left was the John T. Davis place.

At right: Bertha, Sherman, and Rosa Brown before the girls met their beaux on "The Path"



Below left: Elmer and Rosa Davis (married in 1914)

Below right: Neal and Bertha Davis (married in 1915)



J.T. Davis Place (Point C on Map I)

John T. "Whole Root" Davis (1854-1926) and Rebecca (Herndon) Davis (1860-1927), also parents of twelve children, were born and married (1878) in Ozark County. The first eleven of their children were born in Ozark County; Fred, the youngest, in Douglas County in 1903. When the Davis family first moved to Douglas County (early 1900s) they lived near Mt Tabor, west of Ava, for a time. Around 1910, they bought the farm bordering the J.L Brown farm (B) on the south. The five youngest sons of John and Becky Davis were unmarried and living at home at the time of that purchase. (Elmer, Neal, Enoch, George, and Fred) Elmer and Neal used THE PATH when they went courting; Elmer Davis married Rosa Brown in 1914; Neal Davis married Bertha Brown in 1915. As Grandpa John T. and Grandma Becky's family married and left home, Grandpa and Grandma moved into Ava and Elmer and Rosa moved into the large log home (two large rooms on ground level and two upstairs, covered porch on east (front): a dug well in well house was in front. All six of Elmer and Rosa's children were born in this log house. (Cecil in 1915; Christine in 1930) On east of log house and well was another house (frame, four room). My father, Coma's, first wife, May Stockwell, died in May of 1922. After her death, Coma and his seven children moved into this house. (In 1925, John L. Brown, son of Issac "Ike"



John T. "Whole Root" Davis



Davis Siblings: Coma, Enoch, Anna Durham, George, Elmer, Neal



1933 -- Coma & Gertie (Day) Davis with their daughter, Cinita, at the Davis Place



Back Row l-r: Raymond, Marion, James Cleo, Russell, Daddy Coma, Mama Gertie, Minnie Davis (Brown), Anna Gunnels Davis, Geneva Davis Lansdown. Middle Row: Julia Brown, Maxine Davis, Jean (belonging to Raymond's wife Jo ____), Zola Brown. Adults kneeling: John Brown, Ollie Shelton Davis (Cleo's wife), Cecil Sidebottom is (Russell's wife) Jo ____, Enoch Davis. Kids: Bob Brown, Joan Brown, Paul Davis, Cinita Davis Brown, Enoch holding Gle

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L-R: Marion, John Russell, and James Cleo Davis (License plat is for California, 1938)

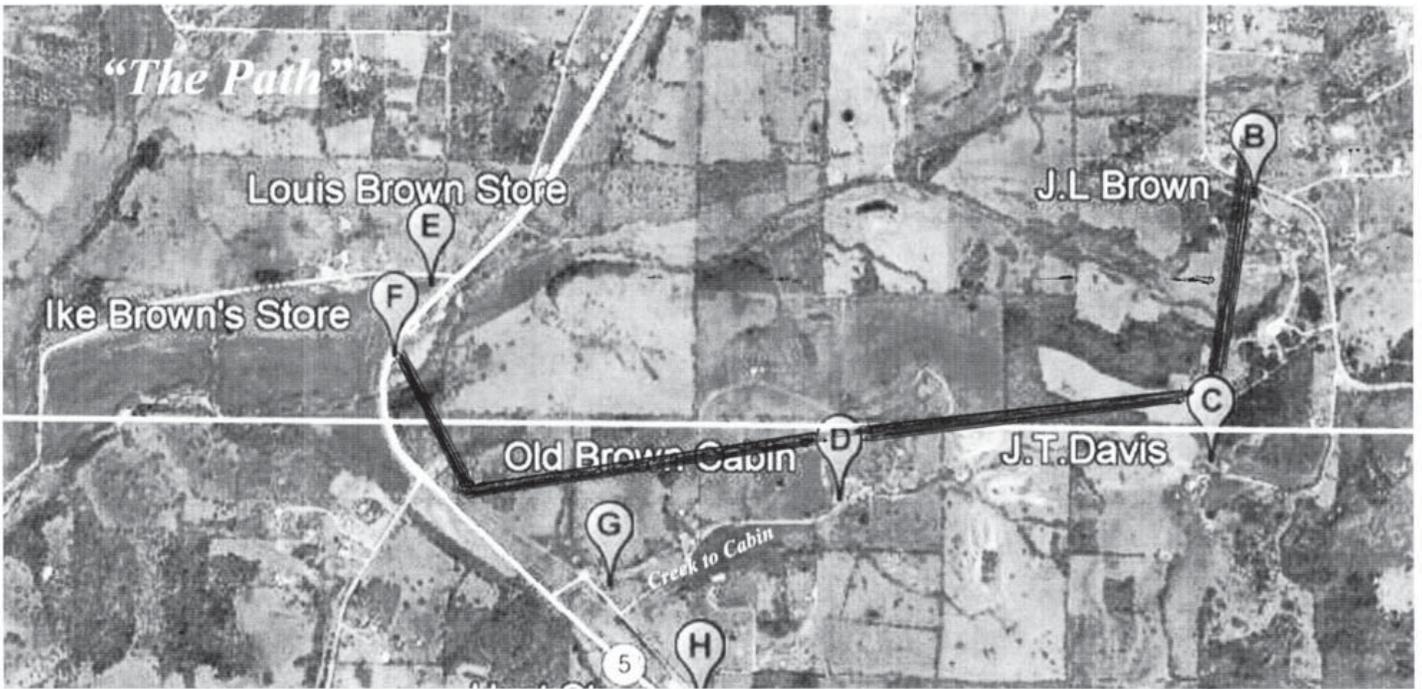
(brother to James “Jim”) used THE PATH to court (married in 1925) Coma’s daughter, Minnie Davis. In 1929, Coma married Gertie Day. I was born on the John T. Davis place in 1931; Paul was born there in 1935. Our family left this place in 1937 and moved to Hest (G). John and Minnie (Davis) Brown moved to this place and lived there until in the early 1940s. (I will tell you about the huge orchard planted by John T. “Whole Root” or “Root” Davis and how he acquired his name.)



John and Minnie (Davis) Brown and family. L-R: Joann, John, Minnie (holding granddaughter, Cassie Stowe), Tom, Zola Stowe, and Jim. (Not pictures are Julie and Bob).

At right: Aug. 12, 2004--
Herman Davis & Cinita
(Davis) Brown at the
pear tree planted by their
grandfather, John
“Whole Root” Davis.





August 12, 2004--Cinita (Davis) Brown at the house where she lived as a child with her parents, Coma & Gertie (Day) Davis. The house was part of the old John Davis place.

Old Brown Cabin: (Point D on Map I)

This cabin was built by Jesse G. Brown (1842-1900) and Mary Ann Burton Brown. Jesse was the son of Lyhue Brown (ca. 1810 to ca. 1846) and Elizabeth (Hall), natives of Kentucky married in 1836, and pioneers in Taney County, Missouri by 1837. Jesse and Mary Ann reared six children in this cabin including three of whom will be “visited” on this tour: Isaac Sherman Brown (1870-1961), (F) (Ike Brown Store); J.L. Brown (1873-1935); and Martha Frances “Frankie” Brown Squire (1868-1936); married John Squire (Shown on Map B/ Squires). After Mary Ann (Burton) Brown’s death, “Old” Jesse married Mary L (Beers) and they were the parents of Louis Brown (E). Jesse Brown and Mary (Beers) Brown lived in this cabin until their deaths. They are buried in the Fannon Cemetery (I).



Above: Photo from the 1940s at the old Huffman blacksmith shop that was on the site of the old Jesse G. Brown cabin. Cinita (Davis) Brown believes the logs in the background could be from the original cabin. Identities of children:

1. Reba Rhynes in back center (tallest)
2. Doris (Springs) Liniger French and her sisters are the three girls on the right.
3. Two are definitely Nova and Nola Huffman (twins)

(Photo from Doris (Springs) Liniger French)



At left: Aug. 12, 2004. Road by the site of the old Jesse G. Brown cabin looking east.

Louis Brown Store (Point E on Map I)

Louis, son of Jesse Brown and Mary L. (Beers) Brown (above) had a store on this spot before the 1920s. Then he moved to Ava where he had several businesses including a lumber yard. He died in 1955.

Ike Brown's Store (Point F on Map I):

As a young man, Ike Brown (1870-1961) lived with and worked for his sister, Frankie (Brown) Squire and her husband, John Squire, in their store at Squires. He married Margaret Manning in 1900. Soon after their marriage, the young couple moved to Shelby, Idaho and ran John Squire's ranch there. I believe their first child, John L. Brown, was born in Idaho. When they returned to Douglas County, they lived (Ike farmed) around Squires. In 1905, John and Frankie (Brown) Squire moved to Hammond, MO and opened another store there. Ike took over the Squire store and ran it until about 1920 when he moved to near Spring Creek and took over the store his brother Lewis owned. Later, Ike built a new store on Spring Creek a little farther to the south. (F) In later years, Ike's son, Lewis, ran the store. John and Minnie (Davis) Brown made a home out of the store building and lived in it until John's death.



Above: In the 1940s, Louis Brown standing at his Brown Lumber Co. in Ava



Original Springcreek Store in 1943 when it was operated by the Williams familh.

L-R: Unknown, Kittie (Clements) Williams, her son John Williams and wife, Gertie (Barnes) Williams.

(Photo from John and Gertie's grandson, Frank Williams)



Above: ca 1920 Seated (L-R): Isaac S. & Margaret (Manning) Brown holding their twins (Veda and Naida). Standing (L-R): Abraham Manning (Margaret's father), Louis (standing between his parents), Velma, Lula and Everett (at end). Seated in car (L-R): John and Clarence



At right: "Little Louis" and Marjorie (Hammons) Brown with their two sons, Donald and Doyle. Everyone called Louis, "Little Louis" to distinguish him from his Uncle Louis Brown who operated the Springcreek store before "Uncle Ike" and "Little Louis."

Creek To Jesse Brown Cabin (Point G on Map I) About a half mile up this creek (northeast) of where Hwy. 5 crosses the creek is the spot where the Jesse Brown cabin was located. It too was connected to “THE PATH.”

Hest Store (Point H on Map I):

In the early 20th Century, a post office and store was located at this site. It burned ca 1920 and was not rebuilt until 1936-37 when Coma Davis, my father built there. The “old” road ran at the back of the building you see today. A general store and feed store occupied the two front rooms of the new building and a three room living quarters (door to store faced north; door to living quarters and porch faced east) was in the back of the building. We lived in the store until October of 1943. Gertie Davis, my mother, was very ill (brain tumor) and needed to be away from the flow of people coming to store. Uncle Elmer and Aunt Rosa (Brown) Davis bought the store and ran it until about mid-1950s.



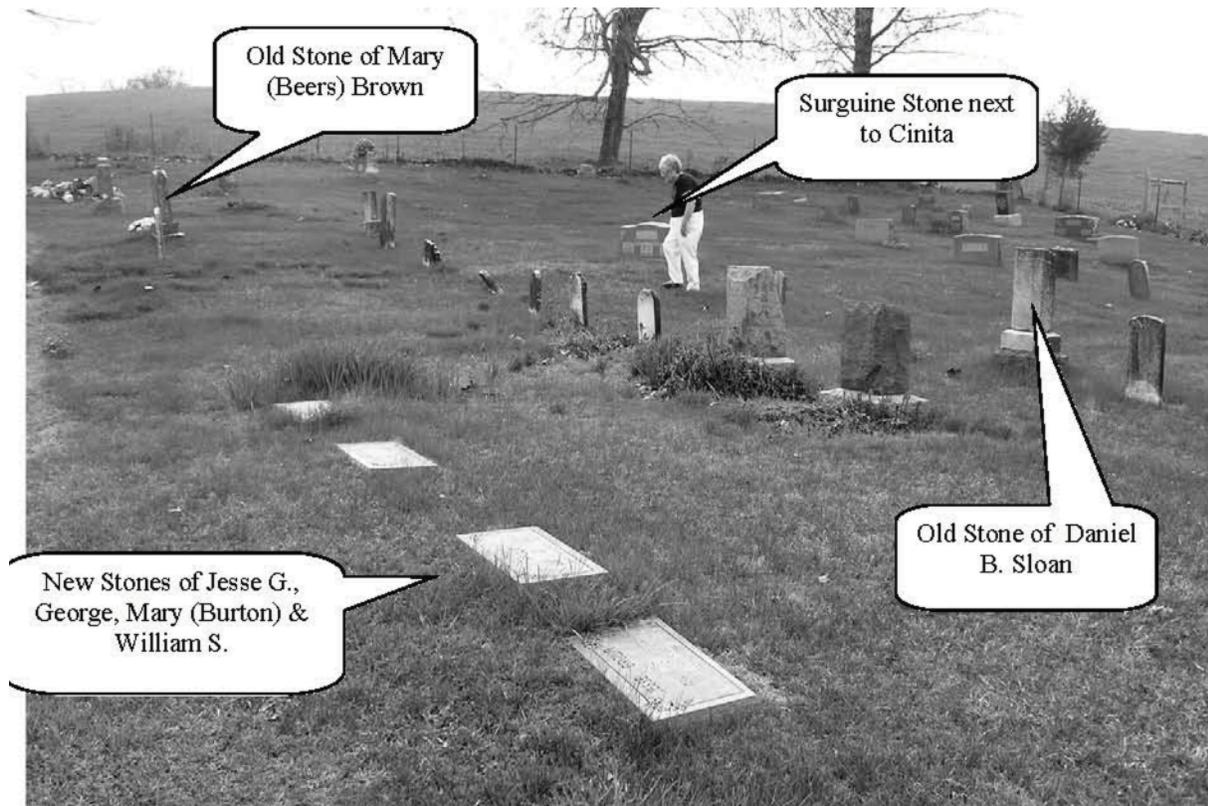
Above: Store at Hest operated in the 1940s by Cinita’s father, Coma Davis, and then by his brother, Elmer and his wife Rosie (Brown) Davis

Fannon Cemetery (Point I on Map I)

Burial spot for multiple generations of the Brown Family. Also multiple generations of descendants of John T. and Becky (Herdon) Davis are buried here including two of their sons, Daniel Webster and George Washington Davis.



Above: Fannon Cemetery: John Walker--3rd husband of Elizabeth (Hall) Brown Stout. Two field stones--one on each side of his grave are probably that of his second wife (Elizabeth) and his third wife.



Fannon Cemetery--2007--Cinita Brown in the Jesse G. Brown section toward the back of the cemetery. The graves of J.L. "Jim" and Amanda "Mel" (Morris) Brown are to the right outside the photo frame. The Ike & Margaret Brown section is toward the front of the cemetery



Everette Jr., Kenneth, Pam Cordell, Bob
 Sept 2000--Grandchildren of J.L. & Amanda (Morris)
 Brown at their graves. L-R: Everette Jr., Ken Brown, Pam
 (Brown) Cordell, and Bob Brown



Original gravestone of Jesse G. Brown (a
 Civil War veteran).

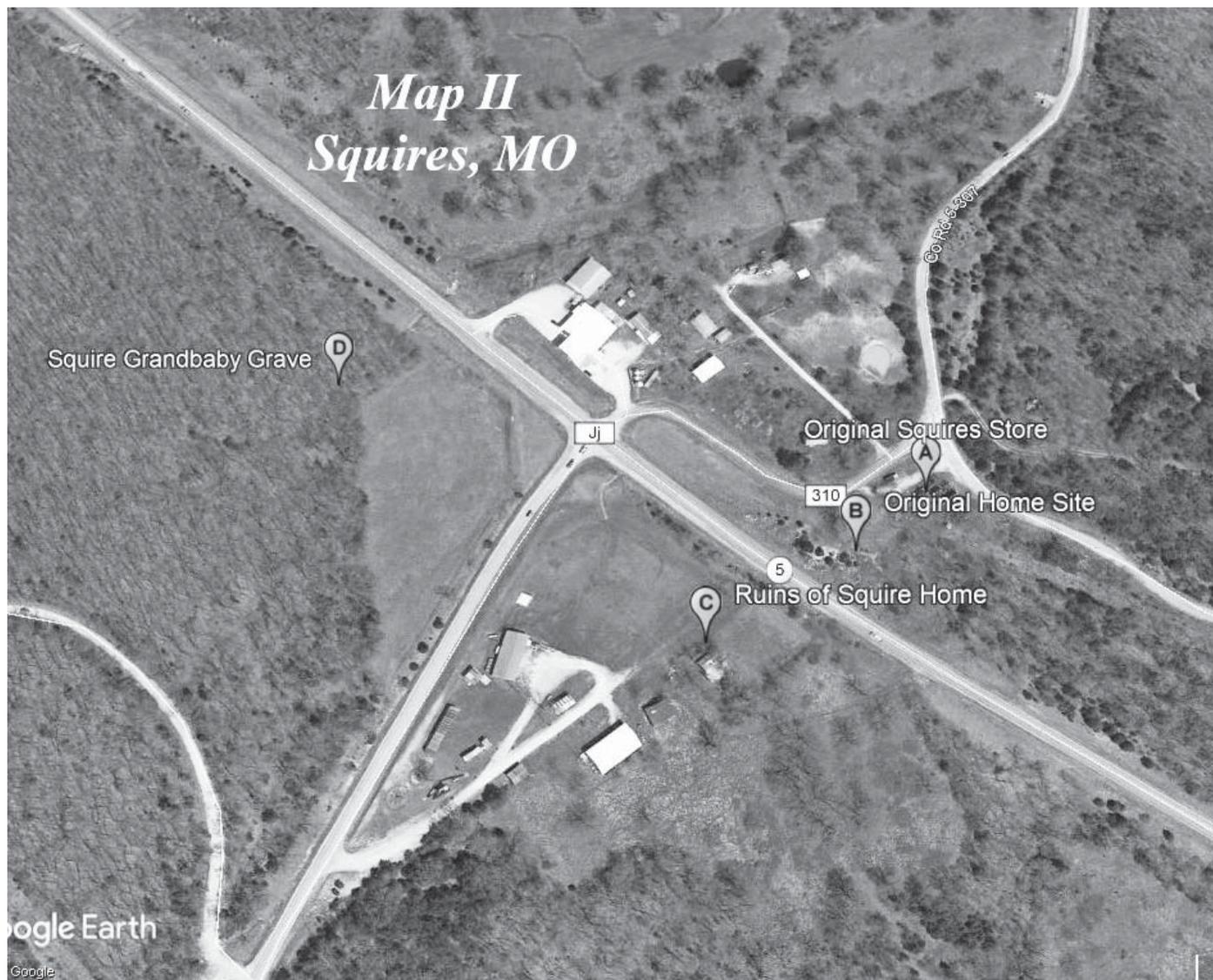
Robertson School (Point J on Map I): A picture of Robertson School in 1922 shows Thelma (Davis) Vanhouden, Minnie (Davis) Brown and Raymond Davis, the three oldest children of Coma and May (Stockwell) Davis as students. Paul and I attended school there. Children of Coma Davis, Elmer Davis and George Davis all attended Robertson School.



Robertson School--Standing (L-R): Minnie Davis, Nellie Surguine, Mable Davis, Unknown, Melvin Thompson, Irby Plumb, Raymond Davis, Thelma Davis, Edna (Sell) Brown-Teacher
Front (L-R): Noah Plumb, Cecil Sell, Cleo?, Fred Davis, Roy Silvey, Unknown, Unknown



Squires--Where Ike Brown and his half-Brother developed their merchandising skills



Original Squires Store (Point A on Map II) Site of Original John Squire Store

The “new” Squires store on Hwy 5 was built by the Spurlock family and has been owned and operated by three generation of this family for over 100 years. John Squire, the original builder and owner of the Squire Store, was born in Devon, England in 1854. He immigrated to Illinois in 1866.

On June 6, 1885, he married Martha Frances “Frankie” Brown, daughter of Jesse Brown and sister to Jim, Ike, and Lewis. (A wonderful book,” Squires, Brown, Burton” by Laura Moncrief was printed in 2011. It is still available on-line at Lulu Enterprise. If you have any interest in Brown history, I strongly suggest you get this book.) I have used it as a reference. (Thanks, Laura.) Shortly after John Squire’s arrival in Douglas County, he established a general store

at what was to become Squires. John and Frankie reared six children. He had a long, active business life and died in 1931 in Gardena, California; Frankie in 1936 in Los Angeles, California.

Point B--Site of the John and Frankie Squire frame home built after the family left their log cabin home.

Point C--The frame house was moved across to Point C when new Missouri Highway 5 was built. Old Squires Store: Site of store John Squire built

Point D--Squire Grandbaby Grave: Syble Martha Elizabeth Letchworth, first child born to John and Frankie's daughter, Molly, died while visiting her grandparents in October of 1905. She was buried on a hillside near Squires. (Only grave there)



Above: Martha "Frankie" and John Squire



At left: Squires Store and Post Office, ca 1920. Photo from Terril Shull.



ca 1908--at left: Original John & Frankie (Brown) Squire's cabin. In photo are two of their children: Jessie and Lutisha. (Photo from p. 51 of Laura Moncrief's "Squire-Brown-Burton" family book



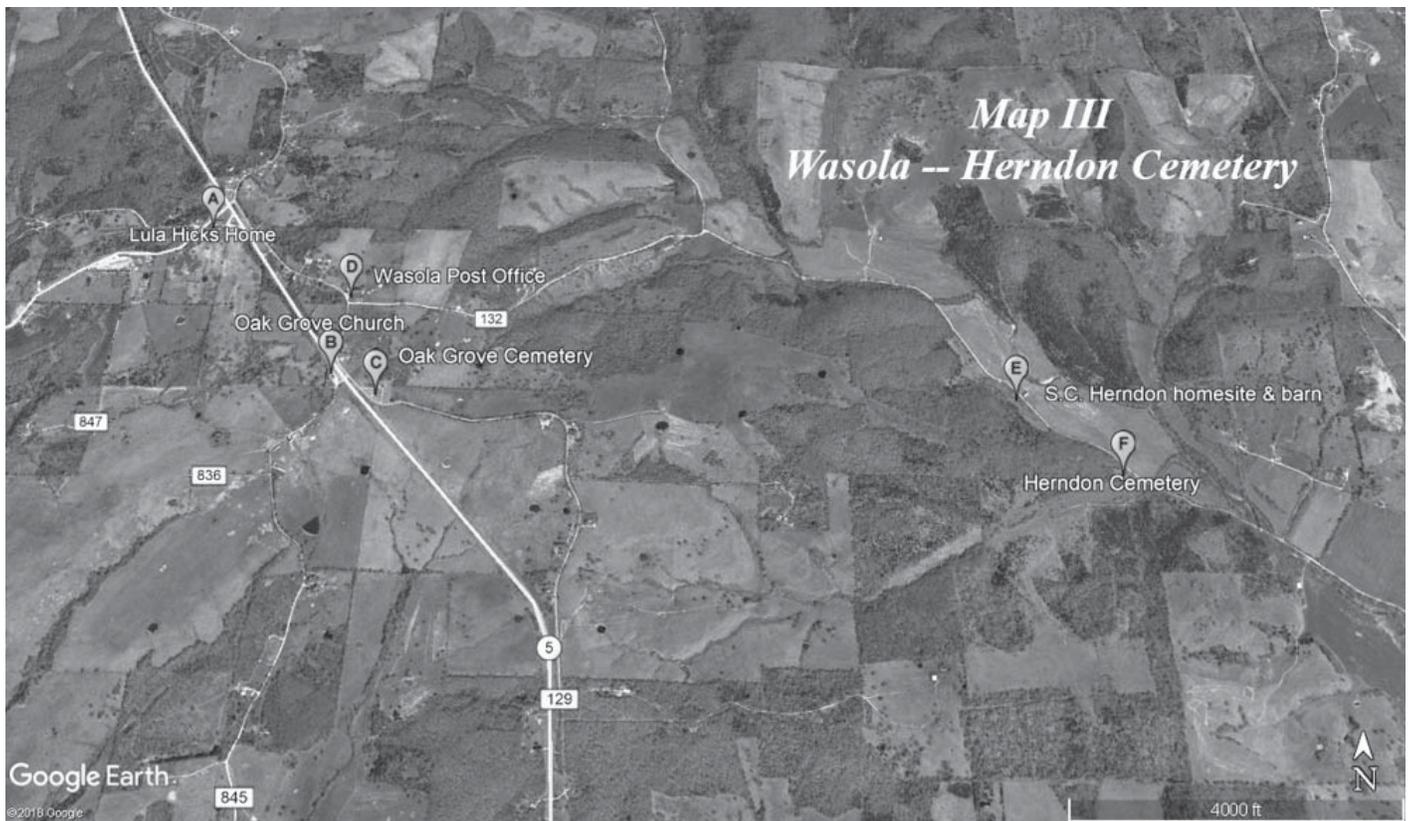
ca 1902--The family of John Squire in front of their home in Squires MO. L-R: Jessie, Mollie, McKinldy, John, Tena, Jennie, Martha, Lutisha. (From p. 49 of Laura Moncrief's "SQUIRE-BROWN-BURTON" family history book

Below: the present-day Spurlock Store at Squires is now only open on Saturdays but the post office to the right side continues as one of the few post offices left in Douglas County besides Ava.



Above: Cinita (Davis) Brown and Reggie Spurlock at the grave of the Squire's grandbaby, Sybil Letchworth

Wasola Area and Herndon Cemetery



A. Lula (Brown) Hicks Home: Lula Brown, daughter of Ike and Margaret Brown, married Leamon Hicks in 1928. They had two children: Troy (Md. Corene Sievert) and Doris (Md. Dick Groves). Leamon died when the children were small. Lula lived out her life in this home.

B. Oak Grove Church: John T. “Root” and Becky (Herndon) Davis and other Davis/Herndon relatives were charter members of this General Baptist Church.

C. Oak Grove Cemetery

D. Wasola Post Office: This building is on the “old” Highway 5. Not very far north of this spot (on the east side of the road) is the spot where Stephen C. Herndon was overtaken by Bushwhackers in June of 1864. His hand was shot so badly it had to be amputated and an eye was injured.



Account of the Stephen C. Herndon Shooting: This account of the incident is recorded in his Civil War papers:

“...that in June 1864 at Ozark Co.Mo. we was detailed from the above named Co. and Regt. To escort Stephen C. Herndon to Marshfield, MO. A distance of 65 miles for the purpose of have his hand amputated which had been shot a day or so previous by bushwhackers and we went and escorted the said Stephen C. Herndon to Marshfield in Co. with other soldiers. He was hald in a hack and his hand was badly tore up and hit looked like hit had been done with a shotgun. He seemed to suffer real bad on the trip. We left him at Marshfield because there was no surgeon nearer at that time.”

When the Civil War broke out, Stephen C. and Phoebe Fredrick Herndon already had eight children. Our grandmother, Rebecca Herndon (md. John T. Davis), born in Sept 1860, was the youngest. In spite of his age and the number of children he had, Stephen enlisted to help save the Union. In August of 1862, he and his brother were in Arkansas fighting and Stephen's wife, Phoebe Fredrick Herndon, died. She was buried on the home place and this was the beginning of the Herndon Cemetery.

Directions to Herndon Cemetery:

Very shortly after passing post office building, turn left on first road (132) and go about 1.5 miles (mostly downhill). Near bottom of hill take 133 to the right and go past the S.C. Herndon homesite and barn, and then on to the Herndon Cemetery.

E. S.C. Herndon Homesite and Barn: Daddy told me the big barn on your left was Grandpa Herndon's barn. (Looks too new to be built that early, but Daddy insisted it was same size, same location as his Grandpa Herndon's barn???) The Herndon home was located just across the road from the barn. Foundation can still be seen if weeds are not too high. Grandpa Herndon owned the bottom fields up and down Spring Creek. When they were young, the older Davis boys, Willie, Webster, and Coma all worked for him on this farm. (Grandpa had only one hand, remember). Daddy told of growing big corn crops in those bottoms.

F. Herndon Cemetery: I've already written about it. Stephen C. Herndon and both of his wives, (1) Phoebe Fredrick and (2) Lucinda McGowan Philpott, are buried here. Also the two children of John T. and Becky (Herndon) Davis that died as babies are buried here. “Florence Edna Davis (Oct. 1889-Jan. 1890)” and “Troy Abner Davis (May 1898-Mar. 1899)”. (Our family group marked these graves in the 1980s. I thought I knew where the graves were and Aunt Anna Davis (Enoch) confirmed it so we decided to mark them.)

Noble MO Close Up



A. Old Noble Store and Post Office

B. Joseph “Joe” (1864-1945) and Charlene “Lens” (Stanley) Davis reared their 10 children here. The small building to the right of the house housed a small grocery store (Joe and Lena’s) and a small stock of drugs (Dr. James Davis’). The spring (on down below the house) supplied water for most of Noble including the school. It is still called “The Joe Davis Spring.” Jeff Frazier (my age, close to 90) told Ken and me of carrying water to the school from the “Joe Davis Spring.”



C. Joe Davis Spring (See above.)



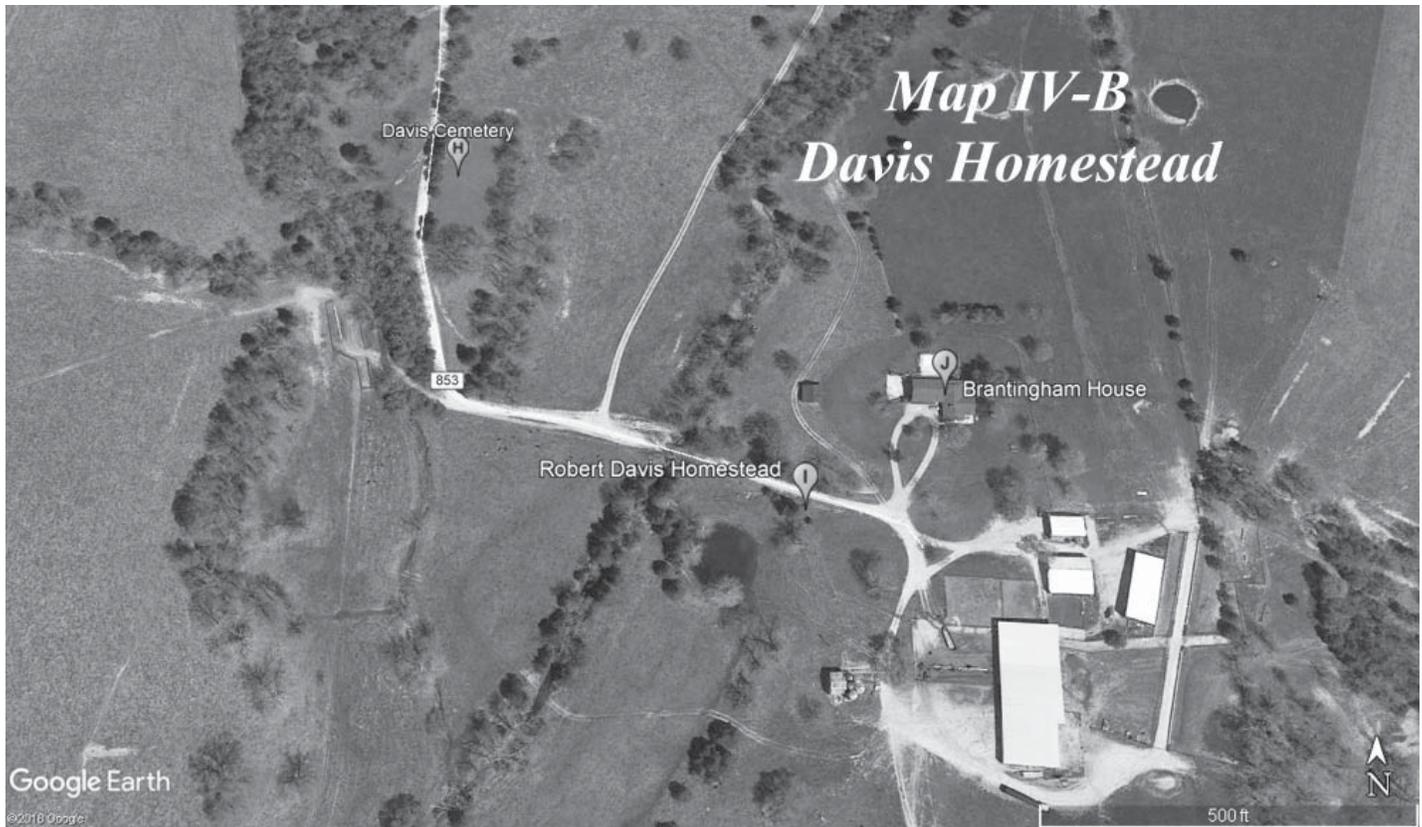
D. Noble School—Elementary, probably built soon after Civil War. About 1925, a two year high school, called Noble Job School, was built at Noble. Henry Davis, son of Doc Davis, was Administrator and main teacher. I have one of his history books he used in teaching at that school. The building burned and you see no sign of it. It was located across the road from the elementary school.



E. This is where the home of Dr. James Robert (1856-1933) and Julia (Stanley) Davis was located. They reared 12 of their own children and one “adopted” daughter here in this home. Doc delivered a baby girl and her mother died. As I remember the story, the young mother was unwed. Anyway, Doc Davis took the baby home, handed her to Julia, and said, “We have another baby now.” They reared her as their own.



Davis Homestead and Cemetery



A. Davis Cemetery: The land around the Davis Cemetery was settled by Robert W. Davis and Sarah Mary (Cummins ?) and their ten children in 1850 or 51. (Name not proven, but I've heard it throughout the years. Have also heard "Feemster?" Ancestry DNA shows 'us' with a relationship to "Cummins" so this surely came through Sarah Mary, "our" great-great-grandmother.)

(I use "our" for all the grandchildren of John T. and Rebecca Herndon Davis. Nine of their 12 children had a total of 45 children. (Willie 1; Webster 6; Coma 9; Annie Davis Durham 6; Elmer 6; Minnie Davis Reeves 3; Neal 5; Enoch 6; George 3.) Now (Oct.2019) only five of the 45 are living; four of Enoch's: Clifton, Maxine, Glenda and Bill and me (Cinita) Coma's daughter. (Sorry for lengthy explanation, but thought it important to help you decide where you fit into all this.)

Now, back to Robert W. and Sarah Mary Davis, the first of our Davis line in Ozark County, MO. Robert, shown only as R., and Sarah Mary (S) and 10 children were enumerated in Campbell Township, Taney County,



Missouri in 1850. They evidently owned land (Real Estate value=\$150; early land records lost during court house burnings, Civil War) . Our great-grandfather, William Davis, age 23, was the oldest child. This “William” was the father of John T.”Root” Davis, our grandfather.

A look at where Robert and Sarah Mary’s children were born gives one an idea of their migration route to Missouri. Robert (1799) and Sarah Mary (1804) were both born in Tennessee; their first four children were born in Tennessee between 1826 (our William) and 1834. The next two were born in Illinois between 1836 and 1839. The last four were born in Missouri between 1840 and 1846. This pretty well confirms that Robert and Sarah Mary Davis were in Missouri in 1840 although I cannot find them on any 1840 Census.

I believe soon after the 1850 census was taken, Robert W. and Sarah Mary Davis left Rome, Campbell Township, Taney County, MO and moved to Ozark County Missouri and “claimed” or “squatted” on the land around “our” Davis Cemetery. In November of 1860, Robert bought 80 acres from the government (cash entry) so he was the first individual to own this land.

The reason I feel sure the move to Ozark County was made in 1850 or early 51 is because on August 8, 1851, William Davis married Mary Jane Piland in Ozark County Missouri.

According to our oral family history, the first person buried in the Davis Cemetery was Robert W. Davis in 1867. Sarah Mary died in 1868 and was buried by him. Neither one of them had a grave-marker so the exact site of their graves is lost.

William Davis (1826-1872) “Our” great-grandfather was buried here as was his wife, Mary Jane Piland Davis (1826-1809). A grave stone was placed at Mary Jane’s grave, probably near the time of her death. William did not have a marker and his exact grave site was unknown, although it seems likely it was near Mary Jane’s grave. About 25 years ago (when you get my age years go by so quickly they run together so not sure of date)—we first cousins bought and set a gravestone for William. (I fondly remember that day.)

Nancy Ann Davis Willard 1858-1945, daughter of William and Mary Jane (Piland) Davis is buried near her mother.

William and Mary Jane (Piland) Davis had three sons: John T Davis (1854-1926), buried in Ava Cemetery; Dr. James Robert Davis (1856-1933); and Joseph S. Davis. James and Joseph and their wives are buried in the Davis Cemetery as are other members of their families.

I would be extremely remiss if I did not mention the wonderful condition of the cemetery at this time. (I can remember when it was not easy to walk through it because of high weeds and the woven wire fence around it was lined with cedar saplings and in bad shape.) The fence row is completely cleaned and a wonderful new fence (made of iron pipes) has been installed. The cemetery is mowed regularly and so well that one might say it has a manicured look. All of these improvements have been done by the present owners, Dan and Karen Brantingham. The deep love they have for their land is obvious. They also appreciate its history and the Davis Family and Davis Cemetery are definitely part of that history.

Dan and Karen, our family greatly appreciates all of your work on “our” cemetery. We highly applaud your attitude toward this cemetery and your appreciation of the land that we Davis descendants think of as “our homeplace in Ozark County.”

Again, we thank you and pray God will continue to bless you and your family.

B. Robert Davis Homestead:

On this spot near the spring that is still bringing forth cold, clear water, Robert and Sarah Mary built their first home in Ozark County in about 1850-51. The location of the spring undoubtedly caused them to choose this spot. Their first house was probably a small log cabin. Later a larger frame house was built (we have no



picture but it was considered a good house for its time and was lived in until the late 1980s). William Davis, the oldest son of Robert and Sarah Mary, may have lived with his parents in this home even after his marriage to Mary Jane Piland in 1851. He helped get the “new” land into “farmable land.” Robert died in 1867 and Sarah Mary in 1868. I believe William and Mary Jane Piland Davis lived here at least for the rest of William’s life. He had measles while on the fighting field in the Civil War and was left with “weak lungs and was never well” following the War. He died in 1872 or only seven years after the war’s ending. As I remember my father’s oral history, Mary Jane and her younger children (Joe would just have been 6 when his father died) continued to live here until all the children were grown and married. She spent the latter years of her life in the home of her oldest son, John T. Davis and Rebecca.

C. Brantingham Home:

And, what a lovely and gracious home place it is!!! Thank you so much for sharing it with our bunch of Davis descendants.

Davis Cemetery

1. Davis, Julia Rae, Budded Born April 9, 1890; Died February 26m 1891.
2. Davis, Julia E. Born July 19, 1857 Died March 7, 1945.
3. Davis, Dr. James R. Born October 8, 1856; Died September 7, 1933
4. Davis, Luther E. Born August 1, 1898; Died March 8, 1959
5. Maurice E. Davis". Born August 20, 1919; 1945
6. Davis, Hattie G. Born March 24, 1900; Died December 11, 1977
7. Davis, Oma (Frye). Born July 4, 1898; Died Sepstember 14, 1915.
8. Hitchcock, Ninnie May, Born August 19, 1924; Died September 3, 1924
9. Robinson, James Harvey Born February 10, 1805 Died in April 1888.
10. Robinson, Tirzah Margaret Jane, Born April 16, 1816 Died October 12, 1901
11. Payne, Frances E. Born November 3, 1844 Died January 5, 1911
12. Clark, S. Born April 29, 1826; Died February 17, 1917.
13. Clark, Margaret Ann. Born June 10, 1836Died November 13, 1923
14. Gaston, James W. Born March 21 1839 Died July 21, 1925
15. Unmarked grave. Believed to be infant daughter of Harley and Macy Fletcher Moore
16. Fletcher, Thomas E. Born February 7, 1884; Died October 10, 1915,
17. Willard, Nancy Ann. Born December 1858; Died 1945.
18. Davis, Mary Jane Born October 14, 1826 Died December 19, 1909
19. Davis, Joseph S. Born June 8, 1864; Died April 30, 1945. .
20. Davis, Charlena A. (Lena) Born April 12, 1859 Died August 9, 1939
21. Kyle, Carra L. "Carrie. Born February 2, 1885; Died February 19, 1912.
22. Davis, Luther E. Born December 30, 1883; Died February 12, 1884.
23. Kay, Homer Alfred. Born September 21, 1878; /died November 28, 1878.
24. Garner, Captain James B. Born October 15, 1838 Died March 9, 1908.
25. Garner, Roxie A. Born July 7, 1845 Died August 6, 1886. .
26. Garner, Mertie (or Margaret, James' second wife?)
27. Feemster, Laura Minnie. Born October 29, 1881; Died December 24, 1965.
28. Feemster, Elam Daniel. Born November 3, 1883; Died October 29, 1963.
29. Feemsster, James Clark. Born Jul 29, 1869; Died March 28, 1953.
30. Feemster, Frances Sophia. Born January 3, 1846.; Died March 3, 1925.
31. Feemster, Samuel Birder. Born May 9, 1840 Died November 26, 1923. .
32. Feemster, George F. Born August 2, 1878; Died August 15, 1886.
33. Feemster, twin daughters of Samuel & Frances Feemster. Born & Died Apr. 23, 1877.
34. Feemster, John Samuel. Born November 26, 1872; Died December 21, 1952
35. Feemster, Lyddia May. Born February 12, 1880; Died December 25, 1959.
36. Feemster, Roscoe. Born 1918; Died 1919. .
37. Feemster, Pearl. Born 1916; Died 1918.
38. Feemster, Danial Everett. Born August 27, 1927. Died June 18, 1941
39. Feemster, Alonzo Earnest. Born September 19, 1920; Died March 22, 1922
40. Robinson, Walter. Born 1880; Died 188241
42. Feemster, Silas Byington. Born September 1848 Died March 8, 1868.

A Bit More Davis History

by Cinita (Davis) Brown

I've strung quite a bit of Davis History in the above writing, "Davis-Brown Heritage Tour." Now I will try to better organize some of that history and give a bit about the ancestors of Robert W. Davis that we have discovered through Ancestry DNA tests which a number of Davis Cousins have had done.

About 3 or 4 years ago, Bill Davis, direct line male descendant of all of our known Davis male ancestors (Enoch, John T, William, Robert W.), had his DNA tested through Ancestry. Remember, at that time we could go no farther back on our Davis ancestors than Robert W. Davis, born in Tennessee in 1798 or 1799. From census records (1850 Taney County Missouri, 1860 and 1870 Ozark County Missouri) we learned he was married to Sarah Mary (probably Cummins) about 1825 in Tennessee (much searching but marriage record never found). They were in Missouri (coming from Tennessee through Illinois and on to Missouri) by 1840 when their seventh child was born. By 1850, they had ten children and were counted on the 1850 Census at Rome in Campbell Township, Taney County, Missouri. We descend through their oldest son, William, age 23 in 1850. On August 8, 1851, William Davis married Mary Jane Piland in Ozark County. She was a daughter of John William Piland (1798-1865) and Nancy Norris (1811-1881). They had seven children:

1. Sarah Jane Davis (1853-1909) md. Marshall Harvey.
2. John Thomas Davis (1854-1926) md. Rebecca Herndon. This is our direct Davis line for John T. was our grandfather.
3. Dr. James Robert Davis (1856-1933) md. Julia Stanley.
4. Nancy Ann "Nan" Davis (1858-1945) md. Nathan Willard. Mother of Sarah Willard Alcorn. Oren Alcorn is Sarah's grandson.
5. Mary Penina Davis (1861-1887) md. William Fletcher.
6. Joseph S. Davis (1864-1945) md. Charlena "Lena" Stanley.

(Note: I can remember both Aunt Nan (4) and Uncle Joe (6) so this generation did not live so long ago at that.)

John Thomas Davis (2) was our grandfather. You younger generations figure out how many

Mary Jane (Piland) Davis, wife of William Davis
Mother of John T. Davis



Above: Mary Jane (Piland) Davis, wife of William Davis and mother of John T. Davis.

“greats” you need to use before his name. Let me quickly tell how he acquired the nick-name “Whole Root” or “Root.” In the late 1890s Grandpa was breaking a young team of horses to pull a wagon when they ran away. Grandpa was thrown from the wagon. He landed on a stump, breaking or badly injuring his back. This injury caused permanent damage to his back so instead of farming, he began to sell fruit trees for Stark Brothers Nurseries out of Louisiana, MO. (Stark Brothers developed the red and yellow delicious apples and were one of the biggest and best nurseries at that time.) Each spring, Grandpa would take at least two wagons and go to Louisiana, MO and get wagon loads of fruit trees to bring back and sell in Douglas and Ozark Counties. He also taught his buyers how to plant, prune, and care for their orchards. According to my father, Grandpa was quite a salesman. (Daddy often compared Cecil Davis’ buying/selling skills with Grandpa’s—saying, “ They both could sell ice boxes to Eskimos.” His main sales pitch was, “Stark Brother’s trees are always grown on a “whole root”; they are never grafted.” So, now you will understand when you see his nickname as “Whole Root” or “Root” Davis.

At the end of this article is a page giving names, birth and death dates and a picture of all twelve children born to John T. “Root” and Rebecca (Herndon) Davis. This should get most of you to where you really know who we are talking about. Several of you can say, “Oh, that’s my grandpa or grandma.”

Now... let’s get back to the Davis mystery, “Who were the parents of Robert W. Davis and where in Tennessee did they live?”

When Bill’s DNA Results came back they showed as expected:

Father: Enoch Davis

Grandfather: John T. Davis

1st Great-grandfather: William Davis

2nd Great-grandfather: Robert W. Davis

Surprise and hopefully correct

3rd Great-grandfather: Robert D. Davis

and 3rd Great-grandmother: Avarilla Wood

And, better yet... An article written by A. (Absalom) Davis, one of the fourteen children born to Robert and Avarilla (Wood) Davis. Absalom wrote the article in Clinton County, KY on June 21, 1843. Here is a copy of that article:

“Died, in Clinton County, KY., on the 22nd day of March 1843, Robert Davis in the 89th year of his age. He was born in the state of Virginia, probably in the county of Amherst, April 18th, 1754; was married in August 1772, to Avarilla Wood, daughter of Henry and Judith Wood was born on the 9th of January, 1755 in the county of Battecourt, Va., and with whom he lived seventy-one years and seven months. She only survived him two months and six days, dying on the 20th of May following. Together they had borne the troubles and privations of the tedious war of the Revolution; and together had they wept over the graves of six of their children, who died before them besides many other friends and relatives. From Virginia they moved to North Carolina; from thence back again to Virginia; from thence to Sever County, Tenn., and from thence in 1804 to the state of Kentucky, where they settled in Wayne County, (now Clinton), and either in that or the next year, under the ministry of Messrs. Asa

*Shinn and James McClure they became convicted—sought and found redemption in the blood of Jesus Christ, and joined the Methodist Episcopal Church, in which they lived acceptable members, until they left their place on earth for a seat in Glory. Their house soon became a preaching place, and in their humble dwelling for a great many years the heralds of the cross always met with a hearty welcome, and found a place of rest. He sustained for many years with acceptability, the office of circuit Steward and class leader, until rendered incapable by age. They lived in the enjoyment of that religion which can be felt, and which makes the possessor thereof happy in God. They died as they lived, in bright prospect of a happy immortality beyond the grave. He was interred a short distance from the place of his old dwelling at a grave yard selected by his self for a burying place, and at her burial his grave was open with a little extension, and her coffin got set down by the side of his. Thus having long been united on earth, they are not separated in death; for whilst their bodies are lying together in the same tomb, no doubt their happy spirits are together in the Paradise of God. Their funeral sermon was preached on the 3rd Sabbath of this month by the Reverend Lewis Parker to a large and attentive congregation from 2nd Timothy, 4th chapter, and 6,7,8 verses. A. Davis
Clinton County, Ky., June 21, 1843.”*

I have talked and corresponded with a great granddaughter (unsure of how many “greats”) of Rev. Absalom Davis. She, two or three of her brothers, and two of her Davis uncles all have had Ancestry DNA tests and they are all a match to both Bill Davis and me.

According to Family Trees I’ve seen (and I know we need to do our own research and prove our lines) the Davis ancestral line from Robert D. Davis goes like this. The numbers (1 through 4) start with the father of Robert D. Davis (article) who was the 3rd great-grandfather to my generation and 2nd great-grandfather to the children born to John T. Davis.

Father of Robert D. Davis.

1. Lt. John Wyatt Davis, Sr. born 9 Nov. 1732 Edgecombe, N.C. ; died 23 Mar 1799, same place; md. Jemima Jane Jefferson (? Relative of Pres. Jefferson)
2. Robert Nathaniel Davis born 14 Oct 1702 Wales, England; died Edgecombe, N.C. 1738; md. Margaret Hughes.
3. Nathaniel I Robert “Trader” Davis (Maybe being a “trader” was in Grandpa John T and Cecil Davis’ genes) born 17 Apr. 1650 in Devon, England; died about 1710 in Jamestown, VA; md. Mary Elizabeth Hughes (½ Pahatan)
4. Nathaniel Robert Davis, Sr. was born 1635 in London, England; died 27 Nov. 1685 in Charlestown, Suffolk, Massachusetts Colony; md. Princess Nicketti Powhattan.

Remember, I have not researched these last five generations. This is strictly from a Family Tree found on Ancestry. DNA shows that this is our Davis line. Now is the time to really research our family line. Perhaps DNA finds will serve as road markers. There seemed to be many places, names, and dates -especially in the article about Robert D. Davis (1754-1843) and Avarilla Wood Davis (1755-1843), parents of our first Davis ancestor in Ozark County.

As most of you know, I developed a love for family history, family folk lore, and any kind of family story as a child on my father’s knee. I have spent most of my adult life studying and

researching our family history. This DNA stuff is way over my head and I really do not know what to think about all of it. I hope the younger generations find the answers to the questions that have eluded me for decades.

I am proud to be a Davis. I sign my name "Cinita Davis Brown." I am proud of and love my family and pray God's continual blessings on each and every one of you,

Descendants of John Thomas Davis

- 1-John Thomas DAVIS (1854-1926)
 - 2-Daniel Webster DAVIS (1878-1941)
 - 3-John William "Buck" DAVIS (1911-1957)
 - 3-Oral Kenneth "O.K." DAVIS (-)
 - 3-Rae DAVIS (-)
 - 3-P. Ira DAVIS (-)
 - 3-DAVIS Edd (-)
 - 3-Matilda DAVIS (-)
 - 2-William Stephen DAVIS (1880-1918)
 - 3-Lou Ethel DAVIS (-)
 - 2-Commodore "Coma" DAVIS (1882-1963)
 - 3-Raymond DAVIS (1906-1970)
 - 3-Thelma DAVIS (1907-)
 - 3-Minnie Ellen DAVIS (1908-1979)
 - 3-James Cleo DAVIS (1909-1986)
 - 3-Russell DAVIS (1910-)
 - 3-Marion DAVIS (1917-)
 - 3-Geneva O. DAVIS (1920-1978)
 - 3-Cinita DAVIS (1931-)
 - 3-Paul DAVIS (1935-1979)
 - 2-Malisse Annie DAVIS (1885-1972)
 - 3-Bessie DURHAM (1906-1995)
 - 3-Charlie T. DURHAM (1908-1988)
 - 3-Ethel M. DURHAM (1909-)
 - 3-Everett DURHAM (1913-1991)
 - 3-Howard DURHAM (1916-)
 - 3-Leonard DURHAM (1920-)
 - 2-Minnie Ethel DAVIS (1887-1933)
 - 3-Dorothy REEVES (1905-1990)
 - 3-Beulah REEVES (1912-1980)
 - 3-Louella REEVES (1916-2001)
 - 2-Florence Edna DAVIS (1889-1890)
- 2-Elmer Lee DAVIS (1891-1967)
 - 3-Cecil Oran DAVIS (1915-1988)
 - 3-Herman E. DAVIS (1919-2007)
 - 3-Fern L DAVIS (1920-1979)
 - 3-Earnest E. DAVIS (1923-1994)
 - 3-Charles Eugene DAVIS (1924-2008)
 - 3-M. Christine DAVIS (1930-1964)
- 2-Neal Segal DAVIS (1893-1967)
 - 3-Wilma DAVIS (1916-2007)
 - 3-Lloyd Virgil DAVIS (1920-1982)
 - 3-Jesse Vaud DAVIS (1922-2006)
 - 3-Thelma Geraldine DAVIS (1928-2009)
 - 3-Barbara Jean DAVIS (1931-2006)
- 2-Enoch Lincoln DAVIS (1896-1973)
 - 3-Eula Yvonne DAVIS (1921-2015)
 - 3-Clifton Dale DAVIS (1923-)
 - 3-Clifford Dean DAVIS (1926-2013)
 - 3-Gola Maxine DAVIS (1928-)
 - 3-Glenda Carol DAVIS (1937-)
 - 3-Billy Nicholas DAVIS (1939-)
- 2-Troy Abner DAVIS (1898-1899)
- 2-George Washington DAVIS (1900-1978)
 - 3-Betty DAVIS (1926-2019)
 - 3-Nadine DAVIS (1932-)
 - 3-Kenneth DAVIS (1936-)
- 2-Fred DAVIS (1903-1926)

	<h2 style="margin: 0;">JOHN T. & REBECCA (HERNDON) DAVIS</h2>	
<p>"John T." Born 1854 Died 1926 (Son of William Davis & Mary Jane Piland)</p>	<p>Married 1878 in Ozark County Twelve Children, ten of whom lived to adulthood</p>	<p>"Rebecca" Born 1860 Died 1927 (Daughter of Stephen C. Herndon & Phoebe Frederick)</p>

"Uncle Webster"



Daniel Webster Davis
 (1878-1941)
 (Married Hannah Lakey)

"Uncle Willie"



William Stephen Davis
 (1880-1918)
 (Married Almira Fletcher)

"Uncle Coma"



Commodore Davis
 (1882-1963)
 (Married 1-Libby Stockwell
 2-Gertie Day)

"Aunt Annie"



Malisse Annie Davis
 (1885-1972)
 (Married George T. Durham)

"Aunt Minnie"



Minnie Ethel Davis
 (1887-1933)
 (Married Jesse Reeves)

"Florence Edna"

DIED
 IN
 INFANCY

Florence Edna Davis
 (Oct. 1889—Jan 1890)

"Uncle Elmer"



Elmer Lee Davis
 (1891-1967)
 (Married Rosa Brown)

"Uncle Neal"



Neal Segal Davis
 (1893-1967)
 (Married Bertha Brown)

"Uncle Enoch"



Enoch Lincoln Davis
 (1896-1973)
 (Married Annie Gunnels)

"Troy Abner"

DIED
 IN
 INFANCY

Troy Abner Davis
 (May 1898—Mar. 1899)

"Uncle George"



George Washington Davis
 (1900-1978)
 (Married Oma Lansdown)

"Uncle Fred"



Fred Davis
 (1903-1926)

Individuals contributing to the collection include: Cinita Davis Brown, Loa Hamilton Davis, Kim Smith Davis, Barbara Davis Mitchell, Wilma Davis Flynn, Bill Davis and Carol Jane Guthery McMullin. Photo arrangement by Kenneth W. Brown, (Oct. 2019)