

DAVIS FAMILIES

of

EARLY ROXBURY

and BOSTON

By SAMUEL FORBES ROCKWELL

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P R E F A C E

In the "Genealogy of Samuel Davis of Oxford," published in 1884, Mr. George L.⁷ Davis, then treasurer of the Davis & Furber Machine Company of North Andover, Massachusetts, gathered together some of the interesting history of the descendants of Samuel Davis of the third generation of this country. However, his information about William¹ and John², Samuel³'s progenitors, was quite limited and Mr. George Gilbert⁸ Davis, Mr. George L. Davis's son, suggested to me that further study of the earlier Davises might be very interesting. Therefore, he and I started to inquire more completely into their lives but we had not progressed very far when Mr. Davis died in 1920. Since then I have started anew. The facts to be gathered are almost innumerable and the time required for a thorough work is far beyond that permitted by my comparatively small amount of leisure; therefore, the records here presented deal principally with men named Davis who were in Boston and Roxbury between 1630 and 1700. One or two lines have been carried down to the present time, but as a rule I have limited myself to the early generations.

In spite of the greatest care in collecting, arranging and printing this mass of records, there are probably some errors. I shall be glad to have these called to my attention, and I plan later to send out a list of such corrections for insertion.

In the course of collecting material, extracts from many sources have been made, only a small portion of

which appear in the book. These extracts have been typewritten and bound and may be of value to some future investigator of the Davis family. Eventually I hope to place these bound extracts in the hands of some organization interested in preserving them.

This book is not so complete as I would wish to have it, but, being in print, it may stimulate others to further investigation.

SAMUEL F. ROCKWELL

North Andover, Mass.

1932

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These are arranged by Towns and by Births, Marriages, and Deaths separately, and are arranged in alphabetical order, that is to say, all the Davises are listed together, making page references unnecessary.

Davis Families
of
Early Roxbury and Boston

CHAPTER I

A Few Facts About Roxbury and Its Vicinity

EARLY SETTLEMENT

The most satisfactory contemporary account that we have found of the early settlements is contained in "Greene's Historical Narrative" compiled in the year 1664 by John Greene. The first part (not quoted) refers to the settlement of Charlestown. The following quotation from that narrative is taken from page 34 of Henry H. Sprague's "Founding of Charlestown by the Spragues" published in 1910 at Boston by the William B. Clarke Company.

In ye months of June and July 1629 arrived at this Towne* John Winthrop, Esq Governor Sr Richd Saltonstall Knt, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Ludlow, Mr. Nowell, Mr. Pinch (on), Mr. Broadstreete who brought allong with them ye Charter, or Pattent for this Jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Bay with whome also arrived Mr. John Wilson & Mr. Phillips Ministers, & A multitude of People amount to about fiteene hundred brought over from England in twelve ships, the Governor and sevell of ye Pattentees dwelt in the great house wch was last yeare built in this Towne by Mr. Graves & the rest of their servts.

The multitude sett up Cottages, Booths, and tents about the Towne Hill, they had long passage some of the ships were seventeene some eighteen weeks A coming, many peo (ple) arrived sick of the scurvey wch also encreased much af(ter) their arrival for want of houses & by reason of wett Lodg(es) in their

*Charlestown

Cottages & other distempers also prevailed, and altho' people were generally very loveing & pittifull, yet the sicknesse did so prevaile yt the whole were not able to tend the sick as they should bee tended, upon wch many perished and dyed & were buried about the Towne Hill by wch meannes provisions were exceedingly wasted & no supplies co(ul)d now (bee) expected by planting, besides there was miserable damage (and) spoile of provisions by sea, & divers came not so well provided (as) they would upon A report whilst they were in England yt now there was enough in New England & unto all this there were (those yt had indiscreetly sould much of the remaindr of theire necessities) to ye Indians for Beaver, all which being taken into consideration by ye Governor & Gentlemen, they hired & dispatched away Mr. Wm. Pearce wth his ship of about two hundred tons for Ireland to buy more, & in ye mean time went on with theire work for setting in order to wch they wth Mr. John Wilson, one of the ministrs did gathr A church and chose the sd Mr. Wilson, Pastour, the greatest number all this time intending nothing more than settling in this Towne for wch the Governor ordrd his house to be cutt and fram'd heere: But the weathr being hott many sicke, & others ffaint aftr theire long voyage people grew discontented for want of water, who generally notioned no water good for A Towne but running springs, & tho this necke doe abound with good water yett for want of experience & Industry, none could then bee found to Suite the humor of that time but a brackish Spring in the Sands by the waterside on the west side of the Northwest field, wch could not supply halfe of the necessities of ye multitude, at wch time the death of so many was concluded to be much the more occasiond by this want of good water.

This caused severll to goe abroad upon discovery some went without the necke of this Towne who travelled up into the Maine till they came to A place well wattered whethr Sr. Richd Saltonstall Knt and Mr. Phillips ministr went with severll othrs & setled A plantation & *called it Wattertowne*: Others went on the othr side of Charles River & there travell'd up into the Country, & likewise finding good waters settled there with Mr. Ludlow & *Called the Plantation Dorchester* whethr went Mr. Maverick & Mr. Warham who were their ministers.

In ye meane time Mr. Blackstone dwelling on the othr side of Charles Rivr allone at a place by the Indians called *Shawmutt* where he only had a Cottage at or not farre of ye place called Blackstone's point hee came & acquainted ye Governor of an excellent Spring there, withall inviting him & solliciting him thithr where upon afr the death of Mr. Johnson & divers others the Govirnor Mr. Wilson & the greatest part of the church removed thithr, whethr also the frame of the Governos house in prparation at this Town was (also to ye discontent of some) carryed, where people began to build their houses agst Winter & *this place was called Boston*. After these things Mr. Pinchin & Severll othrs planted bettwixt Boston & Dorchester *wch place was called Roxbury*.

Now afr all this the Indians Treachery being fered it was Judged meete the English should place their Townes as neare together as could (bee) for wch end Mr. Dudley & Mr. Broadstreete with some othrs went & built & planted betweene Charlestown & Waterton who called it Newtowne (wch was *afterwards called Cambridge*):

Others issued out to A place between Charlestown & Salem *called Saugust* (since ordrd to bee *called Linn*).

EARLY RECORDS—ESTABLISHMENT OF ROXBURY'S BOUNDS

From Roxbury, Mass. Vol. I. Vital Records to 1850:

The Town of Roxbury was first mentioned in the list of plantations on Sept. 28, 1630. Mar. 4, 1633, bounds between Roxbury and Boston established. Apr. 7, 1635, bounds between Roxbury and Newe Towne established. May 25, 1636, and May 2, 1638, certain lands granted to Roxbury. May 16, 1638, bounds between Roxbury and Dedham established. Oct. 7, 1641, the bounds between Boston and Roxbury at Muddy River were established. Mar. 16, 1660, certain lands granted to Roxbury. May 12, 1675, bounds between Roxbury and Dedham established. Mar. 16, 1836, bounds between Boston and Roxbury were established. Apr. 19, 1837, bounds between Boston and Roxbury were

established. Apr. 23, 1838, part of Newton was annexed to Roxbury. Feb. 24, 1844, part of Roxbury annexed to Brookline. Town of Roxbury incorporated as a city, Mar. 12, 1846. May 3, 1850, bounds between Roxbury and Boston established. May 24, 1851, part of Roxbury established as West Roxbury. Apr. 3, 1860, part of Roxbury annexed to Boston, which Act was accepted by Roxbury Apr. 16, 1860, and by Boston May 8, 1860. June 1, 1867, the City of Roxbury was annexed to Boston. Sept. 9, 1867, the Act was accepted by Boston and Roxbury. Jan. 5, 1868, the Act of June 1, 1867, took effect.

POPULATION

The population of Roxbury at different periods has been as follows:

1765.....1,487	1810.....3,669	1850.....18,373
1790.... 2,226	1820.... 4,135	1860.....25,137
1800.... 2,765	1830.....5,247	1870.....34,772
	1840.....9,089	

THE FIRST CHURCH IN ROXBURY

Extract from the *Boston Evening Transcript*, Saturday, May 17, 1930:

To worthily commemorate the 300th Anniversary of its establishment, the *First Church in Roxbury*, located in Eliot square, will have special tercentenary services, Sunday, May 25, Monday, May 26, and Tuesday, May 27, 1930.

Organization of this church dates back to 1630, when the wilderness in which it settled, and where it still stands, was known as Rocksborough. First distinction came to its founders from the fact that its pastor, 1632-1690, was John Eliot, Apostle to the Indians. Its records, which have special historic value because they are quite continuous and complete, disclose the claim that in this church was formed the first Sunday School in America, about 1640. The Roxbury Latin School was founded by this church in 1645. The Dillaway House, which in 1775 was used as headquarters of General Thomas during the siege

of Boston, was built by the church as a parsonage. More than a hundred years ago it began to divide into denominations. Its members of Baptist preference moved out in 1820 and formed the Dudley Street Baptist Church; other members moved out the same year and formed the Universalist Church. Later the Eliot Church was founded by other friends of this church.

During its 300 years of existence it has had thirteen ministers. They were Thomas Welde, John Eliot, Samuel Danforth, Nehemiah Walter, Thomas Walter, Oliver Peabody, Amos Adams, Eliphalet Porter, George Putnam, John Graham Brooks, James De Normandie, Otto Lyding and Miles Hanson. Rev. Mr. Hanson, who is its minister today, has served since 1917.

The present church building, a fine type of Puritan meeting house, was erected in 1804. Four other church buildings have stood on the same site. The first was built in 1631, the second in 1674, the third in 1740 and the fourth in 1744. Fire destroyed the third edifice, which accounts for the fact that only four years elapsed between the erection of the third and fourth. No one knows what the first meeting house was like, as no record of its construction is preserved, but it is a fair assumption that it was a small oblong building with a thatched roof. In it the founders took no notice of such established festivals as Christmas or Easter, but they had fast days and days of public humiliation and thanksgiving.

BROOKLINE

Muddy River, originally a part of the Town of Boston, later became the town of Brookline. The Brookline Historical Society has published many "Proceedings" which are of great interest. We give two quotations from its publication of January 22, 1908:

(PAGE 28)

In examining the records of the first century of settlement we must bear in mind that up to 1705 Muddy River was part of Boston and births, marriages and deaths were on record there. During the same period, and indeed until 1717, Muddy River

inhabitants were parishioners of the Roxbury church and baptisms and other church records will be found there. So intimate were the associations of Brookline and Roxbury, however, that entries properly belonging in Boston were made in the Roxbury town books.

(PAGE 14)

In the year 1634 the General Court ordered a 'sufficient cart-bridge built over Muddy River,' and at a later date (1640) the cost of this bridge was apportioned between the towns of Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, Cambridge and Watertown.

The Town of Cambridge in 1635 made provision for a causeway and a broad ladder down to low water for the convenience of the ferry across Charles river to the road from Roxbury and Boston.

Between the Muddy River Cart-bridge and the ferry to Cambridge was the established line of travel from Boston to the colleges, but it was not until the year 1662 that the river was spanned by a bridge. In 1662, however, a bridge was built near or at the place where the bridge now crosses the river close by Soldiers' Field. From the time it was built even until the present, that bridge was and is legally designated as the 'Great Bridge.'

The completion of the 'Great Bridge' brought about the formal laying out of 'the Common highway betwixt Boston and Cambridge.'

There was considerable controversy over the matter, but, after the committee had 'viewed several ways,' and had 'debated the matter with committees for the towns of Boston* and Cambridge,' who did not agree, the report was finally presented and accepted, that 'the said way shall goe without the common field by Goodman Devotion's and Goodman Steven's houses and so to Cambridge bounds as the old way now runneth.'

So the highway from Boston to Cambridge was laid out, and was the only way to Cambridge, except by ferry, until 1793.

This was the road traveled by the dignitaries of the church and officers of state traveling by horseback or coach between Boston and the colleges. Along this road were set the old mile-stones, under the direction of Paul Dudley, of which seven were

*In 1654 Captain William Davis of Boston was Town Treasurer and a member of this committee.

necessary to mark off the road to Cambridge. One of these old milestones stands today in the lawn of Harvard Church, nearly opposite where it originally stood, when erected in 1729.

Truly the road has its history, and an old house† which has stood where it now stands facing that road for two hundred and twenty-eight years is entitled to some respect from the school-boys and girls of today, as well as from their elders, even if the old house does not quite harmonize with its surroundings.

In the town of Muddy River, later Brookline, various members of the Davis family held office and many descendants of the Roxbury and Muddy River Davises are residents of Brookline today.

EARLY SETTLERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

Before the year 1700 there were many William Davises in Massachusetts. Practically all were descended from Davis or Davies families of England and Wales. In England, especially in and about London, the name was a common one, and in Wales the family was numerous. The Davis family was well represented among the early adventurers who settled New England; there were at least a dozen Davis families in or about Boston before the year 1650. Without doubt, several of these were of the same branch of one family, but as the records do not enlighten us, their relationship must remain uncertain.

The most common Davis name was William. As early as 1643 there were three William Davises all living near each other in Boston on what is now State Street. There was William the Locksmith, William the Gunsmith and William the Apothecary, and, to complicate matters still further, one of them was called William Senior and another William Junior although at times not considered

†Refers to the Edward Devotion house.

as father and son. Then, too, there was a William Davis of Roxbury, one who had sixteen children. William the Apothecary had eighteen, more or less, William the Locksmith had at least six, while practically every William Davis had one son of that name, and, occasionally, if this son died at an early age, another later child then was given the name William.

With such a complex situation, it is not surprising that historians and genealogists who have tried to record the facts about all the early settlers of Boston and New England should not be entirely accurate when they take up the Davis family. About Sylvanus Davis, or Nicholas Davis, or Barnabas Davis, their records are likely to be reliable, but when one comes to William Davis, he must look for a more careful study, one made by a person particularly interested in that one name.

CHAPTER II

William¹ Davis of Roxbury

THE SPELLING OF THE NAME DAVIS

The name was spelled Davis, Daves, Davies, Daviss, and Davice indiscriminately in the early records. Apparently different recorders showed partiality for different spellings, but sometimes the same man is referred to, even in the same paper, by different spellings.

The name Davie, however, seems to have been kept distinct and it is seldom that we find a Davie recorded as a Davis or vice versa.

Whatever may have been the custom in England, it is evident that in New England, at first, there was little attempt to distinguish different families by the spelling on the records. Certain branches, however, did use the spelling Davies to distinguish themselves from the very numerous Davis families which there were in many Massachusetts towns. In Acton, for instance, were the descendants of Dolor Davis and at the same time a Davies family, descendants of Samuel Davies of Boston. But, in spite of such isolated instances, there is nothing gained in investigating the records before 1700 by trying to distinguish the different families by the way the name is spelled.

The first question that occurs to one is, "How did these William Davises get to Boston?" At the present time nobody knows, but there are some reports which

refer to the Williams who left England about 1630, although these cannot be identified definitely with those that we know. The name does not appear in any of the printed lists of early passengers for New England, so far as we can find. Mr. Banks in his "Planters of the Commonwealth" has no William Davis; Savage mentions no William Davis coming on any boat; and nowhere else have we found proof of the arrival of William. "The History of Woodstock" Connecticut, volume 4, page 460, has:

William¹ Davis came to New England 1635 in ship "Ann"; was in Roxbury 1640.

But no authority is given for this statement. Banks does not list the arrival of any ship "Ann" in 1635.

However, William Davis, the Gunsmith, of Boston, in later life moved to Barbados, and this makes a definite connection between the Boston and the Barbados families. There are several records of men of the Davis family sailing from England to Barbados. Samuel G. Drake in his "Researches Among the British Archives" (1860) gives these facts.

[P. 109] Wm Davies agd 30 left England on the 'William & John' 2 Sept 1635 bound for St. Christophers and on the same boat was Rowland Davies aged 20.

[P. 111] Wm Davies aged 40 left England 13 Oct. 1635 on the 'Amitie' bound for St. Christophers.

St. Christopher or St. Kitts (discovered by Columbus) is in the Windward Isles of the West Indies. It is north of Barbados, about latitude 17. The ships sailing thither ordinarily seem to have been bound for "Barbados and St. Christophers," though some were "for Barbados"

and some "for St. Christophers." But the islands were settled principally by the English at about the same time that these people settled New England also. The colonists were of the same stock and there were boats sailing between Barbados and Boston, so that possibly the two William Davises mentioned above found their way to Boston over this route. In any event the Williams were there in force by 1644. The passenger lists are not complete; boats that have left no records of their passengers that are available today were arriving constantly; yet so many passengers were listed and recorded that it is disappointing indeed to be unable to place definitely even one of the William Davises who must have come on one of these many ships.

THE ORIGINAL DAVISES OF ROXBURY

William Davis was in Roxbury in 1643 or before; Tobias in 1647 or before; Mary in 1650 or before; Hanna in 1654 or before; John in 1653. Richard Davis of Dorchester was married in Roxbury in 1654. Richard and Tobias were brothers. We have no proof of any other relationship among them.

So far as we know at present, William was the only one of these in whose line descendants by the name of Davis continued for more than two generations.

William¹ Davis was a prominent and respected citizen of Roxbury. A brief outline of the records is here given: First child, John, born October 1, 1643. Made free July 1649. Granted a three-acre home lot February 23, 1653. Appointed on a Town Committee January 27, 1661. Chosen constable January 9, 1670-71. Admitted to Full Communion April 20, 1673. Elected Tithing Man March 5, 1683. Died December 9, 1683 aged 66 leaving an estate of 429 pounds containing ninety-six acres of land. Mr. Arthur F. Davis (see p. 116) says:

"The fact that he had by privation and what must have been tremendous labor built up such an estate and at the same time raised a family of sixteen children, shows that he was

in truth an extraordinary man. Rather significant also is the item in his will concerning the desire that his sons buy books to remember him by. . . . We seem to see here a man of mental capacity and executive ability manfully sustaining a very large family under primitive conditions."

THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF WILLIAM¹ DAVIS OF ROXBURY

William of Roxbury had three wives and fifteen children. There is no Roxbury record of his marriage to Elizabeth, his first wife. The first record of her is on page 86, Doc. 114, where she appears in the list of members of the Roxbury church as "Elizabeth Davis, wife of William Davis." There is no date in this list of members until the third entry below the above when the dating begins with 1649 but evidently Elizabeth joined in 1647 shortly before the birth of her son Joseph.

Page 118, Doc. 114, has among the baptisms in 1649:

Month 8t day 11—John Davis	} children of William Davis whose wife was admitted & so brought her children to p'take of this blessed ordinance.
Samuel Davis	
Joseph Davis	

Page 176, Doc. 114, has in the lists of burials in 1658:

moneth 3 day 4 Elisabeth Davis wife to Will. Davis.

In the Roxbury Birth Records we find:

- i 1643 John son of William Davis born Oct. 1.
- ii 1644 Samuel son of William Davis born Feb. 21 (means 1644-5).

iii The third son, Joseph, does not appear in the Roxbury birth records, but according to George L. Davis he was born October 12, 1647 and was therefore

just two years old when he and his brothers were baptized in 1649. All three of these sons are mentioned in their father's will, dated 1683.

For a second wife William Davis married Alice Thorpe.* The record is in the Roxbury Marriage Records—"William Davis and Alice Thorpe October 21, 1658."

Page 88, Doc. 114, has in the list of those admitted to the church:

7th 4 m 1663—Alice Davis, wife to William Davis.

Four children, namely William, Elizabeth, Matthew, and Jonathan, were born to this marriage, although the Roxbury Birth Records show only the last one: "1666 Jonathan, son of William Davis [*born*] February 2."

The Roxbury Church Records, however, have in the list of baptisms:

iv-v [Doc. 114, p. 124—1663] Moneth 4 day 14 William, sonne; Elisabeth, daughter to William Daviss

vi [1663] Moneth 11 day 24 Matthew, son to William Daviss

vii [Doc. 114, p. 126—1665] Moneth 12 day 4 Jonathan, sonne to William Davies

Elizabeth, Matthew, and Jonathan were mentioned, too, in their father's will in 1683, but their brother William had died in December, 1678, before the will was drawn.

[Doc. 114, p. 179—1667] Moneth 12 day 24 Alice wife of William Davis who dyed in child birth undelivered. [*This is the note of a burial on Feb. 24, 1668.*]

[Doc. 114, p. 206—1667, 12 m] This winter many women

*George H. Williams wrote us January 12, 1910 that he thought Alice Thorpe was the widow of John Thorpe of Plymouth, Mass.

died in childbirth not being able to be delivered, as (blank) Craft, Alice Davis, in our Town, and severall in other Townes.

The good clergyman who wrote this record did not say he thought this an epidemic of some sort, but apparently he considered it that.

William Davis married for a third wife, Jane, who became his widow when he died in 1683. Nine children are ascribed to this marriage, none of whom were mentioned in William's will. This last fact has given rise to some discussion and Savage has assigned these nine to another William Davis whom he could not identify. We shall attempt to show that the reason he could not identify him is that there was no second William Davis but that the last nine children really were the children of William¹ Davis as well as were the seven mentioned earlier.

The first three of these nine children were Mary, Jane, and Rachel.

The Roxbury Birth Records have:

- viii 1669 Mary, daughter of William Davis, March 28
- ix 1670 Jane, daughter of William Davis, Dec. 24
- x 1672 Rachell, daughter to William Davis, borne Aug. 26

Doc. 114, p. 131, has in list of baptisms in 1673:

Moneth 3 day 18 Mary	} daughters to William Davies
Jane	
Rachel	

According to the Roxbury Birth Records, the last six of these children were:

- xi 1672 Benjamin, son to William Davis, born May 31 day
- xii 1676 Icabod, son to William Davis, April 1
- xiii 1678 Ebenez, son of William Davis, born April 9

- xiv 1679 William, son of William Davis, born Jan. 3
[1679-80]
- xv 1681 Sarah, daughter of William Davis, born July 20
- xvi 1683 Isaac, son of William Davis, born April 18

In the Church Records we find notes of the following baptisms:

- Doc. 114, (p. 132) 1674 Moneth 4 day 7 Benjamin, son to
William Davis
- (p. 134) 1676 Month 2 day 2 Ichabod, son of William
Davis
- (p. 135) 1679 M 11 d 4 Williā son of William Davis
- (p. 137) 1683 M 2 d 22 Isaac, son of Williā Davis

After the 1676 entry is written:

No entries of either Baptism or Burials for two years owing
to the war [King Phillips War].

This explains the absence of any record of the baptism
of Ebenezer.

In the Roxbury Church Records (Doc. 114, page 90)
we find:

20th 2 m 73 William Davies admitted to full cōmunion
8th 4 m 1673 Jane wife to William Davies—Admitted to full
Cōmunion

The combination of the above with the record of the
baptism "Moneth 3 day 18, 1673" of "Mary, Jane and
Rachel daughters to William Davis" leaves no reason-
able doubt that these three were the children of William
and Jane. We have not yet learned just when William and
Jane were married, but his Wife Alice was buried on
February 24, 1668 and the date of Mary's birth was
March 28, 1669, so that we might infer a marriage
within three or four months after Alice's death, perhaps
about June, 1668.

The nine later children, then, were born in the following order:

1669—Mary	Mar. 28
1670—Jane	Dec. 24
1672—Rachell	Aug. 26
1672—Benjamin	May 31 (this birth was 1674 not 1672, see below)
1676—Icabod	Apr. 1
1678—Ebenez	Apr. 9
1679—William	Jan. 3 (the baptism date shows this to be 1679-80)
1681—Sarah	July 20
1683—Isaac	Apr. 18

All were entered as children of William Davis; each was born a year or two after the other; and apparently they all were the children of the same man. The entries are so alike that there is no reason to think otherwise. William Davis died in 1683 and after this there are no births recorded for any William until 1701 when a son was born to a William of the third generation.

The following is what Savage has to say of this family:

William of Roxbury perhaps son of William the first of Boston had Mary b. 28 Mar. 1669, Ann 24 Dec. 1670, next rec. of 1672 gives him Benjamin 31 May and Rachel 26 Aug but which record of the two is false is uncert. Perhaps the year 1674 is omit. for the latter ch., Ichabod 1 Apr 1676, Ebenezer 9 Apr 1678, William 3 Jan 1680, Sarah 20 July 1681 and Isaac 18 Apr 1683, and a William, perhaps the same d. there 23 Jan 1706.

There are several statements of Savage that warrant discussion. In the first place, as will appear later, we have no doubt that this William of Roxbury was identical with the William who died in 1683. Secondly, the child Savage gives as Ann must have been Jane, as

shown by the Town Records and the Church Records above. Thirdly and in regard to the dates of Benjamin and Rachel, we know Rachel was born August 26, 1672 and was baptized May 18, 1673. Benjamin was born on May 31 of some year and baptized June 7, 1674. He most certainly then was younger than Rachel and probably was born in 1674 and baptized when seven days old. The next child, Icabod, was 1 day old when baptized, William, too, was 1 day old, while Isaac was 4 days old. Thus we see that after the first three children of this marriage had been baptized all at one time, the parents later wasted no time in baptizing the others. We believe, then, that Benjamin was born in 1674.

Savage says William of Roxbury was "perhaps a son of William the first of Boston." This could not have been the case as our researches among the Boston William Davises clearly show,—but it was this chance remark of Mr. Savage which led to our close acquaintance with William Davis of State Street and his friends. Again Savage says "and a William, perhaps the same died there 23 Jan. 1706." We know now, however, that this William¹ died in 1683 and we know also from the probate records, Docket 2967, that the William that died 23 Jan. 1706 was William of the third generation, the son of John² son of our William¹.

Now it is evident that all nine of these later children probably were the children of the William Davis who was living with his wife, Jane, at that time and who died in 1683 after which there were no more children. But the question immediately arises: "If so, why did not William mention them in his will?" There is a simple enough explanation for this. He left all the residue of his estate to his wife, Jane, whom he made Executrix. These younger children, since they were all her own,

would be taken care of by her. William made specific mention only of those children whom he had had by his former wives and left Jane to look out for her own, leaving her the homestead and everything else excepting a few minor specific bequests.

But in order to make a clear case it still is necessary to show that Jane, his Executrix, was the mother of these children, or to show at least that she was the mother of one of them. This, fortunately, we are able to do. We find the facts we need in Suffolk Deeds.

Vol. 22, p. 469. (S. F. R.'s extract)

Jean Davis of Roxbury, widow, for 30 pounds TO ISAAC DAVES MY SON of the same Town 3 acres of land part meadow & part upland as now fenced in—bounded East upon the Road leading towards March & West upon the land of the Widdow Jane Davis, South upon the lands of Nathaniel Brewar & North on Brewar's land. The name is written Jean or Jane indiscriminately. Dated July 10, 1705 ack. Jan. 22, 1705-6 Rec. Mar. 4, 1705.

Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 29, p. 93, (S. F. R.'s extract). Jane Davis, widow to William Davis, late deceased of Roxbury—to William Davis of Roxbury—One messuage or tract of land in Brookline 28A—bounded N.E. by Timothy Harris, W. & S.W. Joseph Davis, E. or S.E. Robert Harris, S. John Davis. Witnesses included Ebenezer Davis and John Goddard Jan. 9, 1710-11 ack. Rec. Mar. 2, 1714.

Suffolk Deeds 20—463-4-5- (S. F. R.'s extract). Jane Davis, relict widow of William Davis, late of Roxbury, for 47 pounds 10 s to JOHN DAVIS OF ROXBURY THE SON OF THE SAID DECEASED HUSBAND WILLIAM DAVIS 5 A in Beare Marsh next to land of John Davis. Signed 24 June 1701, signed in pres. of John

May, Joseph Davis, Ebenezer Davis & William Davis—
Ack. Dec. 3, 1701, Rec. 5 Dec. 1701.

These deeds are conclusive. Isaac Davis, who was the son of William Davis, is here mentioned by Jane, widow of William Davis, as "my son" in 1705.

The second deed is to William Davis of Roxbury, who was another of that list of nine children, and is witnessed by Ebenezer Davis, still another of the nine. Joseph Davis and John Davis, her husband's sons, are mentioned as is John Goddard, also. Her daughter Rachel had married Josiah Goddard and it was at his house in Watertown that Jane died May 12, 1714.

The third deed, too, is witnessed by Joseph Davis, her husband's son, and by Ebenezer and William, her own sons, as well as by John May who lived next door in Roxbury.

And so now we are sure that William Davis of Roxbury, who died on December 9, 1683, was recorded as the father of the sixteen children, the last of whom, Isaac, was born when William was 66 years old.

The following court record is of interest not only because it is evidence of the age of William Davis of Roxbury but also because it shows the kind of work that William was doing in West Roxbury about 1650. Case No. 905 in the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts concerns a dispute as to the ownership of certain land in Roxbury—William Davis deposed 18 d 9 mo 1668, and the record is as follows:

The testimony of William Davis of Roxbury aged 50 years: I the said William did work upon that land that Lieut. Griffin Craft bought of Capt. James Johnson of Boston in hewing timber & framing of a barne 18 or 19 years agoe alsoe upon the sayd land above mentioned I felled & hewed timber for a dwelling house for Lieut Craft & a good part of it grew upon that par-

ticuler parcell of land that is now in Controversie that Henry
Messinger layes claime to & this was eleven yeares agoe.

deposed in Court 18-9-1668

vera copia attest

Edw Rawson *Recorder*

THE WILL OF WILLIAM¹ DAVIS

Suffolk Probate Docket No. 1350. Vol. 6. p. 431

The last Will and Testament of William Daves of Roxbury in the County of Suffolke in New England the 6th of December in the yeare of Our Lord One thousand Six hundred Eighty three, now having my Pfect memory & understanding by the blessing of my mercifull Father, into whose hands I commit my Soule:

Unto my daughter Elizabeth I consigne over a bill of twelve pounds and a trunck that was her mother's together with all the things in it. And unto my son Mathew and Jonathan when they come to age they shall have the two Orchards lying neer my son Joseph's, and if they are not worth Forty pounds then the Overseers of the Estate shall sell some Land for to make it up, their portion twenty pounds apiece.

And then for my beloved wife I do make her sole Executrix of all Ye rest of my Estate of Lands and movables and give her full power for to dispose of it for her wants as shee see cause, with that full power and Authority over it as I my selfe might have if I had continued. For my three eldest son's John and Samuel and Joseph, they have received their portions already, notwithstanding I give unto my son John, the eldest of my Children five shilling, and to Samuel and Joseph two and sixpence to buy them some good bookes to remember me with: And Further my desire is that there should bee two Over Seers chose who my wife see good;

This is my last Will and Testament.

In Witness whereof I have set to my hand the day and yeare above written.

WILLIAM DAVIS a marke

In presence of us, Jabez Tolman, John Searle

At an adjournment of ye County Court in Boston 17th December 1685 pursuant to ye direction of ye Will, Jane Davis

Executrix made choice of Edward Morris and Jabez Tolman to be overseers for ye end proposed in ye will, wch. persons ye Court approved of Attest Is^a Addington Cl^{ke}. [Suffolk Probate. Vol. 6. P. 432.]

INVENTORY OF THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM DAVIS

Suffolk Probate. Vol. 9. p. 186

deceased the 9th of December 1683 being Apprized by us, Samuel Gore, Jabez Tolman, Nathaniell N. (X) Johnson.
(his mark)

	L.	s.	d.
fifty five acres of woodland lying in Boston bounds	50	00	00
Tennacres of pasture within the same bounds	40	00	00
Two orchards likewise in Boston bounds (one 12th the other 11th)	26	00	00
nine acres of land by Thomas Bakers in Roxbury bounds	36	00	00
Fourteen acres in the pond plain	70	00	00
Five acres of meadow lying in bear Marsh	30	00	00
The housing and land about the house	50	00	00
Two horses, a Colt, cart and Wheelies	14	10	00
Five Cows, one 2 year old heifer 2 yearlings and sheep	17	00	00
One Sow and piggs 2: 13s. two bee hives 20s.	03	13	00
Indian corne, Barley, Rye, beanes, Oates and Meale	12	17	00
Plough, Irons, Cart tire and hoopies	1	00	00
Whipple tree chaine and Fetters	0	08	00
In the chamber. Tools and other combustibile stuffe	1	17	00
A Dung Forke, pitch-Forke and Shovel 3-6 } Saddle & pillion 22s	1	05	06
A Sythe, beetle and wedges 9-6 } Beds Bedding & table linnen 20s.	1	09	06
Chests, tubbs & meate L 4. 9 A Table } Chest cupboard & Formes 6	10	09	00
Tubbs, barrills hogs hds apples, turneps } Cider, Chaires & other things	4.	05	00
Wearing Apparrell L 10, pike, musket & sword 35s.	11	15	00
Pots, Cob irons & other irons L 3. & Pewter L. 6.10.	09	10	00
Books and other small things 40s. } Four old sacks & Flax 4s	02	04	00
A Trunk and what was in it and a bill of 12 L	16	00	00
	L429.	03.	00

DEATH OF WILLIAM DAVIS

William¹ Davis of Roxbury died on the 9th of December, 1683 as is recorded in the inventory in Suffolk Probate, Vol. 9, p. 186.

In the Roxbury record of deaths, the entry is:

1683 William Davis, aged 66—died Dec. 9

There is no church record of his burial but there are two other church records that have caused some confusion.

Doc. 114, p. 185 1683 M 10 day 22 William Davis, a slāv buried

Doc. 114, p. 182 1678 Month 10 day 18 Williā Davis dyed of the pox at Boston, buried in o^r burying place

There has been much discussion of the entry "a slāv." The History of the Eustis Street Burying Ground has on page 128 an insertion "aged 66" before "a slāv," but this insertion was not in the original and most probably was put in by someone familiar with the "aged 66" of the Town Record who was endeavoring to improve the original cemetery record. We know nothing more of this slave except that the record of his death is the earliest mention we have found of a slave in Roxbury. In Drake's "History of Roxbury," 34th report, p. 60, there is a record of slaves in that town in 1739 when complaints were made that these creatures were abroad at unseasonable hours of the night. On page 342 of this same history it is stated that slaves were in Roxbury before 1735. Miss Thwing in her "Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston" says on page 15, "Negroes were owned as slaves at an early date,—in 1640 two arrived but were sent back to Africa." We have not investigated this holding of slaves thoroughly, but the record that a slave died in Roxbury in 1683 seems clear enough. Slaves in the early days often were known by the name of their master, and this one, buried about two weeks after the death of our William of Roxbury, may have been one of his helpers on

the farm. Possibly his death was caused by the same affliction that deprived our William of life. Slaves, of course, could own no land in Roxbury.

We have assumed that the word "slav" meant slave. It has been suggested that it may have referred to the Slavic race, but that seems an extremely remote possibility.

The William Davis who died of the pox in 1678, December 18, undoubtedly was the William of the second generation who was baptized, as we have seen, 4 m, 14 day, 1663, the son of William and Alice Davis. His father gave the name William to the next child born after this fifteen-year-old boy's death, as we learn from the Roxbury Birth Record "1679 William, son of William Davis, born January 3." (The Roxbury Vital Records note it as 1679-80.)

William¹ Davis of Roxbury was buried in the Eustis Street Burying Ground probably, although there is no record of it. This at that time was the only burying ground in Roxbury. If there ever was a stone erected in his memory, it has disappeared, but this would not be unusual for many of the stones were destroyed during the siege of Boston in the Revolutionary War. William¹'s oldest son, John², and the latter's wife, Mary, were buried there and their stones still are standing.

Drake's History of Roxbury, p. 451, says that "In 1683 the town voted 'That our brethren at Jamaco have liberty to provide a convenient place for a berring place, and ye towne in generall will bare the charge provided the selectmen doe judge the place covenant, and the aforesaid berring place if so provided shall be for any of the towne to bury their dead in if they please.' Pursuant to this vote, the westerly burying ground on Center Street, near La Grange, was established soon after-

ward." The earliest inscription given on page 451 has the date 1691, and I judge, therefore, that the new burying ground was not ready when William¹ Davis died December 9, 1683.

THE DAVIS SEAL

Ichabod² Davis (son of William¹ of Roxbury), born April 1, 1676, died in Roxbury. His will was dated April 17, 1749 and was filed in Probate Court April 19, 1754—Suffolk Docket No. 10742. We have twice examined the original document, a double sheet of four pages that has been folded once and has on its back the words "The last will and testament of Ichabod Davis of Roxbury 1749." There is a torn hole in the paper and there are marks on it of a red wax seal, evidently the seal used in fastening the will (instead of fastening it in an envelope as we should do today). This seal was necessarily destroyed when the will* was opened.

However, next to the signature of Ichabod Davis at the end of the will is a red wax seal representing a griffin segreant. The seal is an oval, 19/32" by 1/2" inside. The griffin is 15/32" high, and 15/32" from the tip of its paw to the tip of its wing. There are no signs of any vertical lines (representing "gules") or dots (representing "or").†

The following definitions of the heraldic terms used above will serve to refresh the memory:

*The witnesses to this will were Joseph Weld, John Davis, Jos. Williams; Bethiah Davis and Ezra Davis were the executors. Inventory showed 338 pounds, 15 shillings. Ichabod mentions in his will his wife, his sone Benjamin (of Dudley), his son Ezra (of Roxbury) and his "other children"—Mary, Jacob, Bethiah, Obediah and Jane.

†Mr. George G. Davis of North Andover once had a steel seal made from wax impressions of the original by Henry Mitchell of 110 Tremont St., Boston. The steel seal was an excellent copy but the original undoubtedly was a better piece of work.

GULES (gûle) [From the Old French *gueule* (perhaps from the Latin *gula* throat) meaning mouth or throat. Word probably derives its meaning from red color of mouth and throat.] "The tincture red, etc."

OR [From Latin *aurum* gold] "Yellow or gold color—represented in drawing or engraving by small dots."

RAMPANT—"Rising with fore paws in the air as if attacking, said of a beast of prey, especially a lion. The right fore leg and the right hind leg should be raised higher than the left."

SEGREANT—"A griffin when in the rampant position is termed 'segreant'."

Mr. Robert Dickson Weston, Counsellor-at-Law, 70 State Street, Boston, Mass., told us on April 29, 1911 that in his study of heraldry he had found that the method of representing colors on seals by vertical lines and dots was a fairly modern innovation and that not the slightest importance could be attached to the absence of these marks on a seal made as early as 1754. He said also that at that early date there was no one in this country who could make a finely executed seal and that the presence of such a seal here would be conclusive evidence that it was brought from some other country, probably England.

On page 463 of the "History of Oxford, Mass." there is a paragraph about the Davis seal. Mr. George F. Daniels, who wrote the history, obtained his information from Joseph Davis, then living in Trinidad, Colorado.

(PAGE 463)

DAVIS, SAMUEL—was son of John of Roxbury, who was b. 1 Oct. 1643, the son of William of Roxbury, who was b. 1617 in Wales, according to tradition, and came to America about

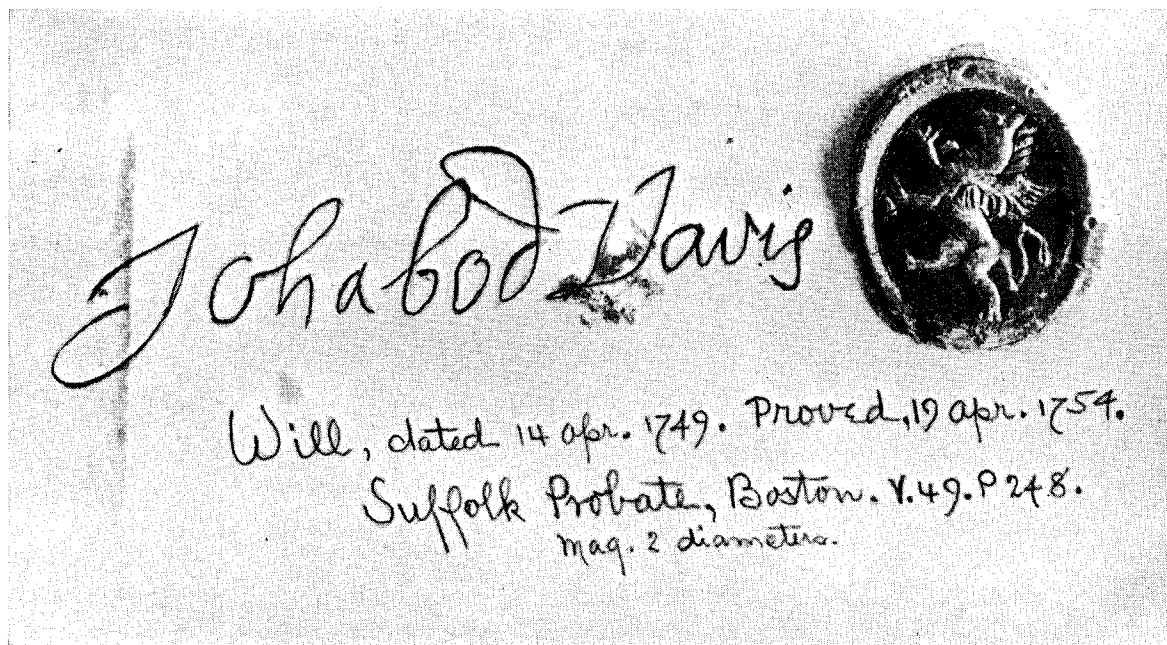
1635. J. C. J. Brown, member of the Heraldry Committee of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, who has investigated the subject, says that in the past several designs have been promulgated as the coat of arms of the Davis family which are clearly spurious. The will of Ichabod of Roxbury, son of William the emigrant, (whose will is not to be found), is sealed with a finely cut signet, made undoubtedly in Europe and believed to have been brought over by the emigrant. The design is Gules, a Griffin Segreant Or, and so far as known, has been used by no other family. This coat of arms was in use in the Davis family of Caermarthen, South Wales, before the emigration as the records testify, and a William of this family resided in 1628 at that place. The fact that in 1642 a William appears at Roxbury, reputed to have come from Wales, whose son used the said seal on his will, is strong incidental evidence of the identity of the Caermarthen and Roxbury families.

The letter written to Mr. Daniels by Joseph Davis gives as the opinion of Mr. Brown:

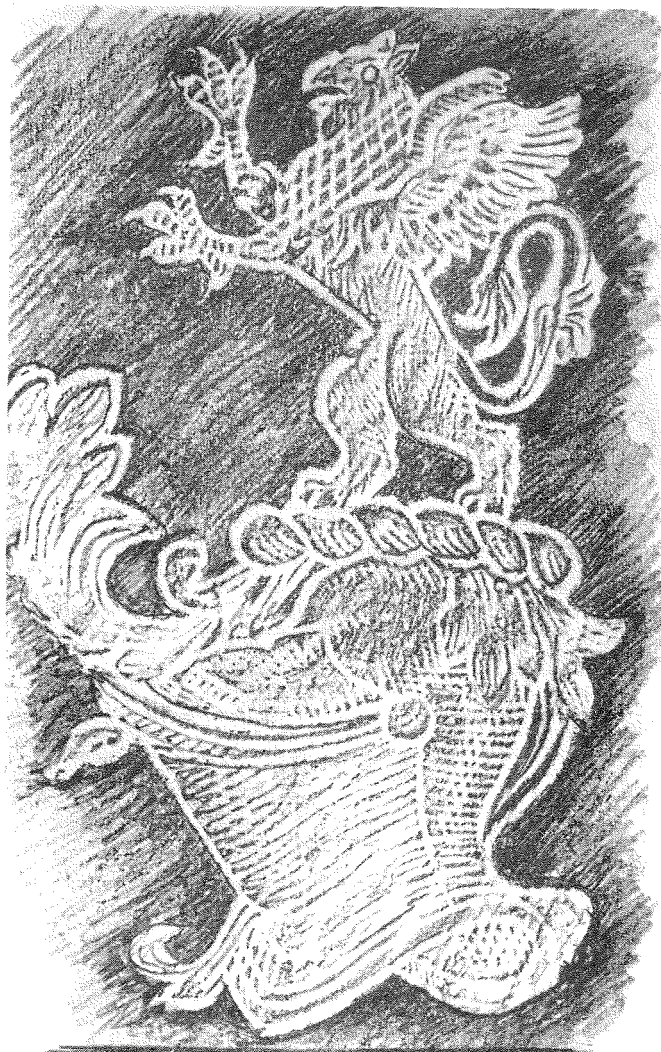
It seems that the Ries Davis who came into England from Wales and who left a brother William in Caermarthen was the first of his line to settle in England. In the pedigree which Ries Davis gave the Herald in 1623 he refers to his brother William.

In the Davis "Family Records" published by Fellowes Davis of New York, there is the following paragraph on page 40:

Our Coat of Arms, which was found on the Will, and said also to be in the Bible of Ichabod Davis, son of the emigrant William, has been thoroughly investigated and vouched for by the Heraldry Committee of the New England Historic-Genealogical Society who complimented us on its possession. It is the Griffin Arms of the Davises of Caermarthen, Wales, descended from David Davis, of Caermarthen, and the Royal Welsh Line. These arms were carved on the mantel of the dining hall of the house of Rees Davis, a Queen Anne structure of the date of about 1500 A.D., at Tickenham, Somerset County, England, but in late years have been removed. The house is a ruin.

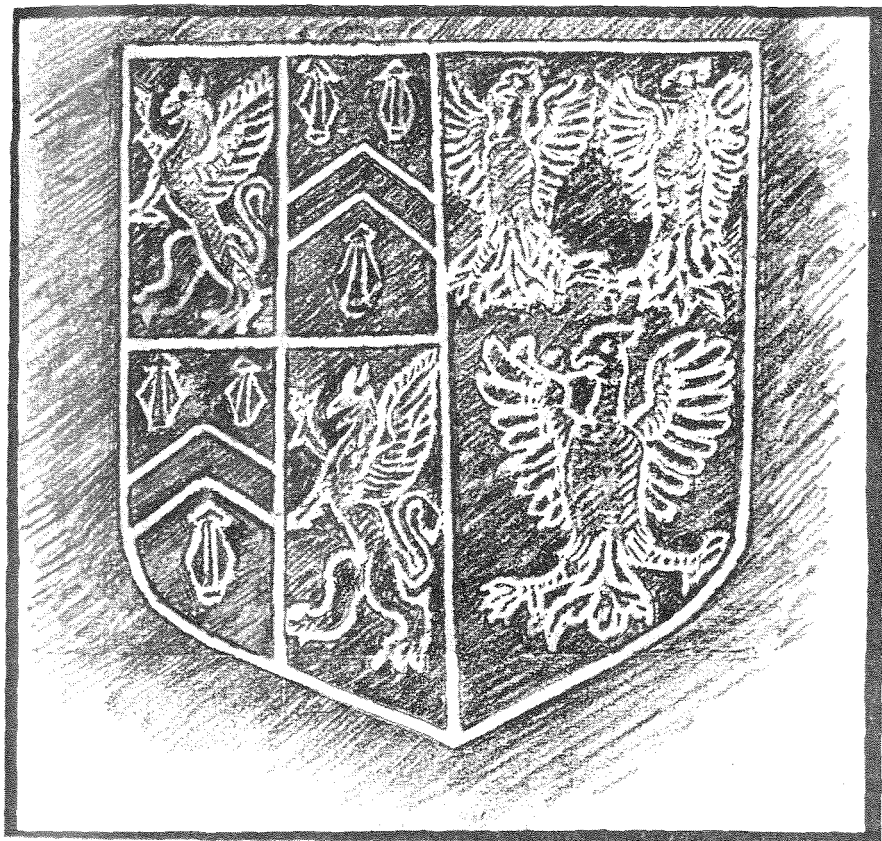


PHOTOGRAPH OF THE SIGNATURE OF ICHABOD DAVIS AND OF THE SEAL ON HIS WILL



Crest of Rice Davis. obit 1638.
Rodney Chapel-Backwell Ch. Som.

PHOTOGRAPH OF "RUBBING"
Made by Charles F. White in 1925



PHOTOGRAPH OF "RUBBING" OF DAVIS SHIELD
Taken at Backwell Church in 1925 by Charles F. White



NORTH END OF BACKWELL CHURCH

Very fortunately, however, Mr. Charles F. White of Brookline, a descendant of our William¹ Davis of Roxbury, was able, when in England in 1925, to obtain "rubblings" of the seal of Rees Davis. On August 20, 1925 he wrote about it from Wells in Somerset to his brother:

I have read that the same coat shield was upon a house in Tickenham, Som., 10 miles west of Bristol on the Clevedon Road. I spent Tuesday in fruitless local search! A chance word, however, put me in touch that night with a Mr. Masters, an archaeologist of Flax Bonton, and I called Wednesday morning. I obtained a history of Tickenham, with fine pictures of the Church, the 'Manor house,' dating at least to 1400, now a partial, but most interesting ruin, which was the object of my search, and which I carefully examined. But even more to the point, I was directed by Mr. Masters to 'Backwell Church,' and there in the 'Rodney Chapel' were buried, 1638, Rees Davis, and, 1604, his first wife, Dorothy Rodney, (and his second wife, Mary Pitts.)

On the wall above was the armorial shield identical with that of Ichabod Davis of Roxbury, so I now know that what has been written is correct. I secured good clear 'Rubblings' of the arms and of the portrait memorial brasses to Davis and his wife. The identity of seal and brass infer that each contemporaneous man had a common ancestry whence right to use was derived, though, so far as I know, complete proof is not yet found. Be that as it may, it served me for a most pleasant objective amid charming scenes as the postal of Backwell shows. Tickenham and Backwell lie near Bristol. . . .

The "rubblings" show clearly that the seal used by Ichabod² Davis on his will in Roxbury, Mass. in 1749 is exactly the same seal as that of Rees or Rice Davis who died in England in 1638. It will be noticed that this name was spelled Rees, Ries, and Rhys, and probably was pronounced Rice. In fact, when Mr. White visited Tickenham again in the summer of 1931 he noticed that

the gravestone of the Davis who died in 1638 actually was marked RICE Davis, and in this connection it is interesting to note that in 1658 a Rice Davies died in Boston (Docket No. 181 in Suffolk Probate).

FURTHER NOTES ON THE DAVIS SEAL

Fairbairn's Book of Crests (Edinburgh 1892) gives in Vol. 1 62.2:

Davies of Tickenham, Somers., a griffin segreant or,
Davies of Moor Court, Heref. a griffin segreant or.

The Genealogy of the Davises of Tickenham is given on page 32 of a volume published by the Harleian Society in 1876, "The Visitation of the County of Somerset in the year 1623," edited by F. T. Colby.

The description of the heraldry follows:

- Arms. 1. Gules, a griffin segreant or.
2. Sable, a chevron or between three spears' heads argent, a mullet for difference.

Crest. A griffin segreant or.

(The mullet is used as the distinction of the third son.)

THE RESIDENCE OF WILLIAM¹ DAVIS OF ROXBURY

When William¹ Davis died in 1683, he was 66 years old, so that he must have been born about 1617 and therefore was twenty-six years old when John, his oldest child, was born in Roxbury on October 1, 1643. William's wife, Elizabeth probably came to Roxbury with him as there is no record of their marriage there. Because of the burning of the land records, we do not know where they lived at first but we do know that in

1652 he was granted a houselot on condition that he build thereon, that he did build, and that the property remained in the family for many years. This homestead was near the spot where the Soldiers Monument now stands at Jamaica Plain. All of the above is clear from a study of the following records.

Volume I of Roxbury Town Records (City Hall, Boston), page 10, has the following notes:

It was voted and agreed to by the towne at a full meeting Feb. 23, 1652 that William Davis shall have three acres of land upon the common by John Pooleeys in the most convenient place for him and for the towne provided that he, the said William, build upon it to dwell there between this and this day twelve month, the five men being to lay out this land according as it is voted.

The original land records of Roxbury were burned February 6, 1645 (Drake's History, page 89) and on the 17th of 11th M, 1652 *five men* were appointed to do their best to make out a new record. These men drew up what are called the Roxbury Land Records, which have been printed and now comprise part of City Document No. 114 (sixth report of the Record Commissioners). In these, the following lands are described:

[Page 50] (105) William Davis, his house and three acres of land, more or less, butting upon John May's and upon William Linckhorne's north; south upon William Lion's; east upon the highway to John Weld's farm, and west upon his own land, and the half of three acres, more or less, the three acres being bought by him and Mr. Bowen jointly of Isaac Johnson, lying in the highway meadow butting the south side upon William Elliot's, and every other way on William Peppers'.

[Page 46] (98) William Lion, his house and three acres of land butting upon William Davis' north, upon the highway to John Weld's east, upon Henry Bowen's south, and upon William Davis' west.

[Page 51] (106) William Linckhorne, his house and four acres of land, more or less, bought of William Peacock, butting north on Dedham highway, east upon John May's, south and west upon William Davis'.

[Page 51] (106) John May, Jr., his house and four acres of land, more or less, butting upon the highway to Dedham north, and upon a highway to John Weld's east, upon William Davis' south, and William Linckhorne's west.

[Page 51] (107) Henry Bowen, five acres of land, more or less, bought of John Rugles, Jr., butting upon William Lion's north, upon John Weld's and the highway east, upon William Davis' south, and upon William Linckhorne's west.

The "highway to Dedham" was later named Center Street (Drake's History, p. 379) and "the highway to John Weld's farm" has become the present South Street. South Street was described in 1663 as "that highway leading out of Dedham highway by John Polley's home lott, and so along by John Weld's farm, and so leading to Bear Marsh" (Drake's History of Roxbury p. 438). On page 438 of Drake's text we find also:

Before coming to John Weld's farm, the old homesteads of John May, Jr., William Davis, William Lion and Henry Bowen lay on our right and on Center Street, west of May, was that of William Linkhorne. These were subsequently the property of Nathaniel Brewer, whose descendants lived here until 1790, when the estate was sold by Joseph Brewer to John Goddard. John May, Jr., son of John, the emigrant, in 1656 married Sarah, the sister of Nathaniel Brewer, and died in 1671. About the year 1832 Stephen M. Weld bought a large square house, built by William Lovering, of Boston, at the triangle formed by the junction of Centre & South Streets. It was burned down some twenty years afterward, and Mr. Weld built upon its site the present dwelling house, now (1878) owned and occupied by his surviving family. This triangle two centuries ago was opposite the 'home lott' of John Polley and embraced the homesteads as above mentioned—

Further information about John Polley's house can be found on page 414 of the text mentioned above.

Further identification of William Davis' homestead would be superfluous. We know that on the corner formed by the intersection of Center and South Streets (opposite the Soldiers' Monument at Jamaica Plain) John May had 4 acres fronting both streets and that William¹ Davis owned the three acres next to these on the West side of South Street. When William Davis built on this lot in 1652, he was 35 years old and he and his wife Elizabeth had three children—John 9 years, Samuel 7 years, and Joseph 5 years (ages are approximate). When William¹ died in 1683, he left his homestead to his wife or widow, Jane: Jane later deeded it to her son, Isaac (Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 22, p. 469): Isaac Davis, their youngest child, sold this property to Nathaniel Brewer [Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 26, p. 50 (see also p. 228)]. At the present time (1931) the 3 acres on which William Davis lived all are cut up into small lots and there would be nothing gained by tracing this land to its present owners.

ORIGIN OF WILLIAM¹ DAVIS OF ROXBURY

Joseph Davis of Trinidad, Colorado, later of Denver, and still later of Los Angeles, California, was a descendant of William¹ Davis of Roxbury through Ebenezer² Davis. He and his Davis relatives in Boston and New York always have been interested in the Davis ancestry.

On December 11, 1909 Joseph Davis wrote us the following letter:

From circumstantial evidence and tradition I am thoroughly convinced that William Davis came to this country with a

brother, in the colony of Revd. Richard Blynman, the first pastor of Marshfield, Mass., who was accompanied by several Welsh Gentlemen of Good Note 1640-41. The colony soon broke up and B. went to Gloucester, Mass., William to Roxbury and his brother, ancestor of Judge Daniel Davis and of Solicitor Davis, to Barnstable, Mass. My father told me the Davis family there were of the same family with us (and very likely the Davises of Gloucester were relatives, I think).

We have not been able to find record of birth of our William, though I and my brothers have for very many years had extensive search made in Wales and England by Mr. Lea of the N. E. Hist. Gen. Soc. in person, when he was over there, and by his agents when he was over here. Last summer Horatio was in England and Mr. Lea told him every known probable source of information had been thoroughly examined and that it was useless to continue the search longer. Cathedral and other records were destroyed by fire and damp. Plagues made the people of Wales flee to the mountains and scattered families.

David Davis of Carmarthen was the first of our line to assume the surname of Davis. We cannot learn which of his sons was father or perhaps Gr. father of our Wm.

The seal on the will of Deacon Ichabod Davis of Rox. shows the descent from David, and my father told to me that he was told we descended from a David of royal family—though I at that time had no knowledge of the seal and knew nothing of David. Later developments of my search confirmed what my father said.

If we could fill the link broken between David and our William, we would have a perfect unbroken line of the names of our ancestors, in direct male line, for about three thousand years.

Some years after we received the above letter from Joseph Davis, Mr. Fellowes Davis of New York printed the following paragraphs on pages 17 and 18 of his book on "Family Records."

WILLIAM DAVIS, 1617-1683. Our emigrant ancestor. Long and repeated efforts have been made to ascertain where he was born, whence he emigrated and the date of his emigration to

Massachusetts Bay. Searches have been made in Somersetshire and Monmouthshire, as well as in Wales, wherever a trace of Davises bearing the Griffin Arms was discovered, without success. His ancestry was undoubtedly Welsh, and the Griffin Arms, which insignia sealed the will of his son Ichabod, and were recorded in his Bible, were borne by but one family of the name, the parent stock of which was located at Caermarthen, in Wales. David Davis, of Caermarthen, was the first of our line to assume the surname of Davis, and there cannot have been more than three or four generations between David and William. The Arms of the Davises of Caermarthen are borne by families of the name in the counties of Somerset and Monmouth, England, both of which border on Wales. Doubtless branches of the Caermarthen family settled in each county. In the banquet hall of the mansion of Rees Davis, at Tickenham, County Somerset, A.D. 1500, the ruins of which are still standing, the Griffin Arms are carved on the mantel. There was a large emigration from County Somerset to Massachusetts Bay, proof of which is found in the adoption of old country names for the settlements in what is now Bristol County, Mass., and in that vicinity.

The family tradition is that two brothers came over together and settled at, or near, Marshfield. Joseph Davis has searched the records of every Davis family for a clue to who the brother of William might have been, and his final conclusion is that Robert Davis, of Yarmouth, Barnstable County, was the probable brother. Descendants of Robert have claimed relationship with us on a like tradition in their family. However, there is as complete ignorance about Robert as about William. Joseph's final conclusion is that both came over with the colony of the Rev. Richard Blynman, or Blindman, from Monmouthshire, and settled at, or near, Marshfield about 1638. That colony broke up about two years later, and it is presumed that Robert went to Barnstable County and William to Roxbury, where he first appeared about 1640-1. There being no record of his marriage to his first wife, Elizabeth, it is inferred that he married her in the old country just before he emigrated. There is no record of the Blynman colony.

William's farm was situated in what is now known as Jamaica Plain on the site of the present Unitarian Church. His son Eben-

ezer's farm was also in that part of Roxbury and, later, Colonel Aaron lived in that neighborhood on the borders of Dedham and Needham. William was an early member of the First Church in Roxbury, also known as Eliot Church, several miles distant from his farm. His death was noted on the Church Records, in the handwriting of John Eliot, the Apostle to the Indians, Dec. 9th, 1683, aged 66 years.

WILLIAM DAVIS OF MUDDY RIVER

Muddy River and Roxbury were close neighbors. Their lands adjoined and, although Muddy River was in Boston Bounds, most of its few inhabitants went to the Roxbury Church.

Suffolk Deeds, Liber 5, p. 187, have a deed dated 24 January 1660, acknowledged 29:1:1667, recorded 2 April 1667, in which Peter Oliver of Boston and Sarah, his wife, "for 24 pounds sterling sell to William Davis of *Muddy River*, husbandman, sixty acres given to Peter Oliver by ye town of Boston." Griffin Bowen N.E. Wm Toy N the common & land formerly of William Ting S.W. Robert Harris S.E.

This deed was dated 24 January 1660. William¹ Davis of Roxbury had built his house in West Roxbury, a part of the present Jamaica Plain, in 1652 and had undoubtedly lived there with his wife Elizabeth and his three children until his wife Elizabeth died in May 1658. He married Alice Thorpe on October 21, 1658, as we have learned previously. This William Davis, husbandman, of Muddy River was the same man that lived in Roxbury, as is shown by his real estate in Boston Bounds, inherited by his wife Jane and later sold by her. Therefore, in order to explain his being "of Muddy River" in 1660, it was suggested to us by Mr. George H. Williams that probably he lived in Muddy River with his second wife,

Alice. He called our attention to the fact that the first three children of this marriage were not entered on the Roxbury birth records but were baptized in the Roxbury church as might well have been the case had William lived in Muddy River. But Jonathan, born in 1666, is recorded in Roxbury, so we should judge that if William did live in Muddy River for a short period after 1658, that he had moved back to his Roxbury Jamaica Plain house before 1666.

Suffolk Deeds, Liber V, p. 186, have a deed dated February 9, 1659 from James Oliver & Mary, his wife, to Robt Harris of Muddy River for 45 A "being in ye Comon in Boston bounds beyond Muddy River" butting East upon Roxbury line, "ye lands of Willm DAVIS lying on ye west." This deed is dated February 9, 1659, probably meaning 1659-60, and probably was given just after the deed to William Davis dated 24 January 1660. They are recorded at the same time, Liber V, pages 186 and 187, and serve to show that William Davis' land in Boston Bounds was very near the Roxbury line.

This William Davis, husbandman, of Muddy River was the same man as William¹ Davis of Roxbury, as is shown by the fact that William¹ of Roxbury, when he died in 1683, owned 65 acres in Boston bounds and left them to his Wife Jane. Jane sold 28 of the sixty acres that William Davis of Muddy River had bought from Peter Oliver to her son, William² Davis of Roxbury. (See Suffolk Deeds, Liber 29, p. 93—Deed was acknowledged January 9, 1710-11.) A part of that sixty acres had already come into the possession of William's son, Joseph² Davis, who was mentioned in the deed as bounding the 28 acres West and South West. William¹ Davis in his will left to his sons Matthew and Jonathan "when they come to age" "the two orchards lying near

my son Joseph's" and in the inventory of his estate appear "Two orchards likewise in Boston bounds (one 12th the other 11th)". From this it is to be inferred that Joseph² Davis lived on the western end of the sixty acres. This sixty acres, when bought from Peter Oliver, had a house on it because it was described as a "messuage," which meant house and land. Joseph² Davis probably lived in this house. Joseph², who was born in 1647, married Sarah Chamberlain on October 28, 1670 and apparently lived most of his life in Muddy River. He and his son, Joseph³, both died in 1717.

The more we investigate this "William Davis of Muddy River, husbandman," the more we are inclined to believe that this William, whom we know to be the same man as William¹ of Roxbury, never lived in Muddy River at all. The only evidence we have that he did live in Muddy River is this description of him in the deed of 1660.

A close study of the map will show that his house in Roxbury was somewhat southwest of Jamaica Pond and that this lot of sixty acres in Muddy River was only about a mile and a quarter south of Jamaica Pond. In fact, from the Roxbury house to the lot in Muddy River was only about a mile and a half, so that while we talk of living in Roxbury and in Muddy River as of living in two distinct places, really we are discussing two places within a mile and a half of each other. It is possible that William lived in both places, but they are so close to one another that we doubt that he ever moved.

DAVIS "THE SMITH"

In the early days everyone had to have a profession or a trade of some sort to make sure that he would be a

useful citizen. Among the Davises, the most common trade seems to have been that of "smith." This was before the days of metal-working machinery and anyone who worked in metal was a "smith" of some sort. The shops of the various smiths were very much alike, usually containing anvils, bellows, forges, hammers, chisels, and tongs of size and shape suited to the work in hand.

William¹ Davis of Boston, locksmith, was there in 1638. His son, who may have used the same shop, was known as William Davis, the gunsmith. Tobias¹ Davis of Roxbury was a blacksmith, and his son, Ensign John² Davis, was a blacksmith. Ebenezer² (*William*¹) Davis of Roxbury was a blacksmith (Suffolk Docket No. 3407) and in his will specified that one of his three sons was to be a blacksmith and have his shop. Richard¹ Davis of Dorchester was a smith-wright, whatever that may have been, and in the inventory of his probate record appears "ye Shoppe" with two cast anvils, bellows, and other tools for a smithwright. His son, Abiel² Davis, who inherited his shop, is described in Suffolk Docket No. 2026 as a blacksmith.

It is worth noticing that William¹ Davis, Richard¹ Davis, and Tobias¹ Davis all had sons who were blacksmiths in Roxbury, respectively Ebenezer² Davis, Abiel² Davis (a witness to the will of Tobias), and Ensign John² Davis. Richard¹ and Tobias¹ are known to have been brothers and Savage says that all three of these original Davises probably were brothers. The fact that there were so many blacksmiths in the family is interesting in view of the industrial interests of the Davises of later generations.

CHAPTER III

Some Descendants of the Children of William¹ Davis of Roxbury

ARRANGEMENT OF CHAPTER III

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In our investigations of the Davis family we intended originally to confine our work to the study of the first and second generations and usually we have stopped in the vicinity of the year 1700. But it is well nigh impossible to follow a hard and fast rule and we are including under this heading material carrying some lines considerably further. As our own descent is from William¹, John², and Samuel³, we have carried that line down to the present and have completed some of it beyond the point where the George L. Davis Genealogy stopped, that is, beyond 1884.

We have arranged the chapter in such a way that the children of William¹ Davis are taken up in order; those facts we have about each one and his descendants are fully discussed before we pass on to the next child.

The list of the children of William¹ Davis is as follows:

Page 43	John ²	} by Wife Elizabeth
" 97	Samuel ²	
" 97	Joseph ²	
" 102	William ²	} by Wife Alice
" 103	Elizabeth ²	
" 103	Matthew ²	
" 105	Jonathan ²	
" 108	Mary ²	} by Wife Jane
" 109	Jane ²	
" 110	Rachel ²	
" 112	Benjamin ²	
" 112	Ichabod ²	
" 119	Ebenezer ²	
" 102	William ²	
" 129	Sarah ²	
" 130	Isaac ²	



Photograph taken in Eustis Street Burying Ground in 1909.
Grave stones of John² (William¹) Davis and Mary² (Devotion)
Davis, his wife. The inscriptions are as follows:

Mary Davis
Wife to John
Davis Aged
35 Yrs. Dec^d Jan 12
1683

Here Lyes Ye
Body of John
Davis Aged
About 62 Yrs
Died March Ye
16th 1704-5

The stones are on the northerly side of the cemetery. The
brick wall shown is perpendicular to Washington Street.

JOHN² DAVIS OF ROXBURY AND HIS
DESCENDANTS

John² Davis of Roxbury, the oldest son of William¹ Davis was born October 1, 1643 at Roxbury (Roxbury Birth Records) and was married on February 5, 1667 when 24 years old to Mary Devotion (Roxbury Marriage Records) by whom he had six children. He died March 16, 1704-5; his wife had died some years before, on January 12, 1683. Both are buried in the Eustis Street Burying Ground where their gravestones are still standing.

John² lived on a farm of one hundred acres, land which now comprises the southern part of the Arnold Arboretum, south of Bussey Street. (The transfer of this property has been traced from John's time down to the present as we shall see later.) He was known as John Davis "off ye farme" and as John Davis, Senior. There was a contemporaneous John² Davis, son of Tobias¹ Davis, born in 1651 seven years after John the son of William. This John² (*Tobias*¹) was known as ensign and as smith and blacksmith. As John Davis, blacksmith, he was executor of his father's will (Suffolk Probate—Docket No. 1735).

The following children of the marriage of John Davis and Mary Devotion appear in the Roxbury Birth Records and the Church Records:

- i 1670 JOHN, son of John Davis Jan. 11. [*Bapt.*] 1671 moneth 3 day 14 JOHN son to John Davies [Doc. 114, p. 130].
- ii 1673 WILLIAM, son to John Davis Aug. 11. [*Bapt.*] 1673 moneth 6 day 17 WILLIAM sonn to John Davies [Doc. 114, p. 131].

- iii [Bapt.] 1675 month 1 day 14 MARY daughter to John Davis Junior [Doc. 114, p. 133].
- iv 1678 ELIZABETH, daughter to John Davis, April 18.
[No entries of Baptisms owing to the war.]
- v 1681 SAMUEL, son of John Davis, born June 23. [Bapt.]
1681 M 4 day 26 SAMUEL son of John Davis senior [Doc. 114, p. 136].
- vi 1683 M 11 d 7 a new borne infant of John Davis Senior [buried] [Doc. 114, p. 185].

Apparently Mary, John²'s wife, died as the result of the birth of her last child because eight days after the burial of this new-born child her own burial is recorded thus:

1683 M 11 d 15 the godly wife of John Davis Senior [buried]
[Doc. 114, p. 185].

There is an error apparently in the printed records in the case of the child Mary. John Davis Junior was only five years old and no other John Davis Junior has been in evidence heretofore. We believe that the original record was written "Sr." and has been copied wrongly.*

There is another Mary, the daughter of John² Davis, the smith.

1676 MARIE, daughter to John Davis April 6 [Roxbury Birth Records].

1676 Month 2 day 16 MARY daughter of John Davis Smith [Church Records of Baptisms, Doc. 114, p. 134].

This latter Mary³ (John², Tobias¹) died October 6, 1694 (Roxbury Death Records). The Mary³ (John², William¹) was married to George Bacon† May 4, 1699 at

*See page 175 about John Davis of Roxbury, tailor.

†History of Woodstock, Vol. 4, p. 461, has "George Bacon (Bacon Family No. 14) b. Roxbury, bap. July 20, 1674, d. Sept. 19, 1715, age 41, buried Eustis Street Yard, Roxbury, son of Thomas Bacon and Mary Gamlin."

the same time that her sister Elizabeth was married to Thomas Mayo (Roxbury Marriage Records).

John²'s fifth child was Samuel³ Davis (*John², William¹*), born in 1681, and he and his descendants are the subject of the large Davis Genealogy published in 1884 by George L. Davis.

THE WILL OF JOHN² DAVIS

(Suffolk Probate—Docket No. 2918)

The last Will and Testament of John Davis of Roxbury in the County of Suffolke in New England the three and twenty of feberbury One thousand seven hundred & four or five, as followeth having my perfect understanding and memory by the blessing of my mercifull father into whose hands I commit my soull & dispose of mye worldly estate: in the First place my will is that all my just debts & funerall charges be paid and discharged by my Executors hereafter named with all Convenient speed after my Interment

ITEM. I will and constitute and apoint my 2 sons Wilame and Sammuell to be my Executors:

ITEM. my will is that my sone willame shall have all my homsted of upland and medow lieing one both sides of the country rode leding to Dedhame. Including in it that part of wood Land and pasture land adjoining upon Johne May and Josheway Seivers and alsoe I give my son wilam all my movables withought dors and withine excepting 2 guns one at the castell and mye hunting gune it is my will that my sone Willame shall pay to my 2 daughters marah Beaken and Elezebeth Mayo. twenty pound to marah Beaken and twenty pound to Elezebeth Mayo in curr^t money of Newengland withen fouere yere. five pound to each a yere.

ITEM. I give to my Sone Sammuell all my land lying up at Jacob Chamberlins with all appurtenances belongenge theretoo with too small wood lots lyinge in the 2^d division nowe to Sammuell Morelis the one being for ten acres and the othere

Seven Acres, likewise I give to my Son Samuel my hunting gounne, & the other gounne, mentioned.

ITEM. My will is that my son Samuill shall pay to my 2 Daughters Mary Baken & Eliz^a Mayo Ten pound in curr^t money of New England, in one years time, as their Legacies given to them by their Grandfather Edward Devotion, which is to each five pounds, it being forgot in the place of it by recollecting of my thoughts. I do will that mye Son wilame shall have mye 2 acres of Salt marsh lieng in Gravelye point.

ITEM. it is my will that this mye Esteat of housene and lands given by me to my son Willame might not at his deces be anye ways alinated but that it might Sockessivlye falle to my grand child John Davis if he livse till he com of eage and if he dye that is shold fale to the next heire.

JOHN DAVIS (L.S.)

Signed seled in the presence of us John Paison, Joseph Weld, Benjamin Davis.

Deposited with this will in the probate records of Suffolk County is "The Accompt of Samuel Davis the surviving Executor of the Estate of John Davis late of Roxbury, Husbandman, deceased." This account was approved 31 March, 1718, and bears the signature: Samuel Davis.

MARIE (DEVOTION) DAVIS, WIFE OF JOHN² DAVIS

In the Roxbury church records we find this entry—[Baptized] "1648 Month 12 day 25 Mary Devotion of ye church of Boston at Muddy River" (Doc. 114, p. 118). This entry undoubtedly refers to the mother of our Mary for the child, Mary, was baptized the same day at the First Church in Boston—Doc. 130, p. 29, baptized in First Church, Boston "Mary of Edward Devotion aged about 4 days 25 day 12 mo 1648."

In the Roxbury record of marriages is this entry—"1667 John Davis and Marie (Devotion) Feb. 5." (Doc. 114, p. 90) "30.2 m 71—Mary, wife to John Davis, daughter to bro. Devotion—solemnly owned the covenant." "29 8 m 71—Mary Davis, wife to John Davis, admitted to full comunion."

(Doc. 114, p. 185) "1683 M 11 d 15—The godly wife of John Davis senior." This is in the church list of burials. The stone in the Eustis Street Burying Ground has this inscription—"Mary Davis wife to John Davis aged 35 years. Dec^d Jan 12 1683."

The widower soon joined the church as we see from this church record—(Doc. 114, p. 96) "1684 M 1 d 2. John Davis Senior confessed Christ & was received to full comunion."

Edward Devotion, father of Marie (Devotion) Davis, was one of the early settlers of Muddy River, now Brookline. The Brookline Historical Society has published much about Edward Devotion, and we have made these extracts from the parts of interest to the Davis family.

Extracts from the Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society at meetings on January 28, 1902 and January 22, 1908.

(Brookline was settled in 1630 as a part of Boston and was first called Muddy River. It was incorporated as a town in 1705.)

The first settlers of Muddy River and of Brookline worshipped with their neighbors in Roxbury. There were only fifty families in town at the time of its incorporation, and they were poor farmers, therefore, the delay in building a church within its borders.

The report of January 28, 1902 has a long account of the Edward¹ Devotion family. It gives copies of his will

and inventory and a list of lands he owned. The seal of the society is a picture of the house of Edward Devotion.

Edward Devotion, a single man, joined the First Church of Boston, 22 Mar. 1645. He became a freeman in May 1645. He was a planter, and lived at Muddy River (Brookline). He married shortly after, and it was probably her weak condition that necessitated his wife's baptism by John Eliot of Roxbury, while her four-day old infant Mary was baptized at the First Church in Boston on the same day, 25 Feb. 1648.

He [Edward¹] was buried 23 Sept. 1685 (Roxbury Church Record) P. 20—in the Eustis Street Burial Ground, where his footstone can be still seen with the simple inscription Edward Devotion. His headstone rested a dozen years ago against a brick building on the north of the yard entirely out of the ground, and broken on both sides, with the following probable inscription partially preserved:

Edward Devotion
Aged Aboute
Years Died Sep
tember the Twenty or 25th
Fifth 1685.*

The Edward Devotion Schools:

The rapid increase in population in the north part of the town after Beacon street boulevard was built, beginning in 1887, made imperative the necessity for school accommodations in that district. In 1891, at a cost of over sixty thousand dollars, the town purchased what was called "the Nahum Smith estate." This was a part of what older residents knew as the Babcock Farm, and was a part of the seventy-six acres originally

*We find in Document 8, page 68, History of Eustis Street Burying Ground, this inscription:

IN MEMORY OF
EDWARD DEVOTION
AGED ABOUTE 64
YEARS DIED
SEPTEMBER THE 21
1685.

This inscription was copied in 1872 by Henry A. May.

belonging to the Edward² Devotion homestead, which he inherited from his father and sold, in 1740, to Solomon Hill, as has been told. On the property purchased stood the old house built in 1680, and which had been occupied continuously, or practically so, from the time it was built until purchased by the town.

The next year (1892) the present primary school building was erected, followed a few years later by the companion grammar school building, with the old house standing between the two. The School Committee named the buildings the "Edward Devotion Schools," and in their report for 1892 outlined a plan for a comprehensive and elaborate development of the area by a group of buildings which when completed will be a fitting memorial for any benefactor of the town's educational needs.

These are on Harvard Street, Brookline.

Edward² Devotion was one of the twenty-eight signers of the Muddy River petition for independence and it was he who gave the Devotion School Fund.

We have taken the following paragraphs from—

PATHWAYS OF THE PURITANS

Compiled by
Mrs. N. S. Bell
For the

MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY TERCENTENARY
COMMISSION

1930

OLD AMERICA COMPANY, Publishers
FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

EDWARD DEVOTION HOUSE (pages 31 and 32)

Edward Devotion, a single man, became a freeman in May, 1645, and lived at Muddy River (established as Brookline in 1705). He married shortly after and occupied a house owned by Cotton Flacke of Boston, who with his wife Jane conveyed in 1654 to said Edward Devotion the house with eleven acres of upland.

This* most interesting house originally was gambrel roofed as shown in the accompanying picture. When the inevitable need for more space became urgent, instead of building a lean-to on the rear as was frequently done, a two-story addition was built.

Edward Devotion was active in town affairs, his name appearing in 1651 as one of a committee to perambulate the town bounds; he also served as overseer of fences, constable, and tything-man. His possessions in land were on both sides of the road from Boston to Cambridge (Harvard Street) which was laid out February 6, 1662, "to go without the Common Field by Goodman Devotion's and Goodman Stevens's houses," following an old way. At his death Edward Devotion's inventory included three horses, five cattle, and "over forty-two sheep and lambs." He left his "homestead with land improved and cattle" to his widow for subsistence and the bringing up of their sons Edward and John while she remained a widow, then his lands were to pass to his "sons, equally interested, not to be aliened to others, but to fall to their successors." Any child or grandchild contesting the will was to forfeit his portion.

The younger Edward Devotion succeeded his elder brother John to ownership of the homestead in 1704. He married and spent his life in Brookline. Like his father and brother John he was active in town affairs. He increased his holdings to seventy-six acres of land which were sold by him before his death to Solomon Hill in 1740. By will in 1744 he gave the Devotion School Fund to Brookline. The estate passed through several ownerships before coming into the possession of George Babcock in 1854, when it was known as the Babcock farm.

The second Edward Devotion married "previous to 1719, at which date his wife Mary is mentioned as having a seat in the foreseat of the meeting house." Judge Sewall, in his Diary between 1706 and 1709, frequently mentions stopping at Devotion's to bait his horse. The house is now owned by the Town and occupied by the Brookline Historical Society as a meeting place and museum. It is open on Saturdays after 3 o'clock for a small fee.

*There is an error here as the present "Edward Devotion House" was built in 1680.

HOMESTEAD OF JOHN² (*WILLIAM*¹) DAVIS

The following account is taken mainly from pages 171 to 177 of "The Rockwell Family in One Line of Descent" by Francis W. Rockwell of Pittsfield, Mass. The first part about the homestead of John² Davis we wrote in 1909 and so, in making this quotation, we have amended the text somewhat to include certain known facts omitted from that account.

John² (*William*¹) Davis was married Feb. 5, 1667 and settled on a farm of approximately 100 acres near what is now Roslindale.

This entire estate came into the hands of Benjamin Bussey* in 1833 and 1837, who left it to Harvard College. In 1872 about sixty acres were taken by the Boston Park Commissioners and are now part of the Arnold Arboretum.

The estate lay on both sides of South Street (formerly called "the lower road to Dedham," "the country road to Dedham," etc., to distinguish it from Center Street, which was known as "the highway to Dedham," "the upper road to Dedham," etc.). On the upper side of South Street the estate comprised practically all of the present Arboretum which is south of Bussey Street. It extended westerly as far as Walter Street (then part of the "highway to Dedham"), and was bounded southerly by a line running from the burying-ground straight to South Street where the Arboretum line now is. On the lower side of South Street the estate extended to Stoney Brook, and included a ten-acre lot on the other side of the Brook. The Boston and Providence Railroad has put two lines through the property, one of which crosses South Street and passes to Roslindale Station, the other passing through the ten-acre lot to Mount Hope Station.

In 1803 the "Dedham Turnpike," now Washington Street, was constructed through the estate. The John Davis homestead

*For brief mention of the Bussey Institution and the Arnold Arboretum, see History and Customs of Harvard University, by Wm. Roscoe Thayer in "Universities and Their Sons," Volume 1, pages 139-141, Boston, 1898.

was on the westerly side of South Street. Bussey Street was formerly called "the town lane to the upper road to Dedham," etc. It ran through the land of Ezra Davis and was part of the northerly boundary of the John Davis estate. Ezra Davis lived in the house burned about 1908 which stood on the northerly corner of Bussey and South Streets. Ichabod² Davis, a son of William¹ Davis and brother of John² Davis, left his Roxbury real estate to his son Ezra. Although not traced carefully, it is reasonably certain that the brothers, Ichabod² and John² Davis, occupied adjacent estates, and that Ichabod's estate as well as John's came into the possession of Benjamin Bussey.

The present "Peters Hill" is described in the division of the estate of Charity Murdock as "Davis Hill so called."

The various steps by which the John² Davis property came into the possession of Harvard College are given below.

John² Davis left his homestead by will (Suffolk Probate, Vol. 15, page 399), to his son William³, with the provision that it pass to his grandson John⁴, son of William³ and Charity Davis. This John⁴ left his property to his four children (see Probate Records of Suffolk, No. 16243). His four children were John⁵, who inherited the homestead, Nathaniel⁵, Charity, and Abigail.

John⁵ died intestate about 1802 (Norfolk Probate, No. 5301), and as he left no children his property went to his brother Nathaniel⁵, who took the homestead, and to his sister Charity Murdock, and to the heirs of his sister Abigail Heath.

Nathaniel⁵ died intestate about 1804 (Norfolk Probate, No. 5332), and as he left no children his property went to the heirs of his sister Charity Murdock, and the heirs of his sister Abigail Heath, the latter obtaining the homestead.

In 1837 the heirs of Abigail Heath sold all their share of the real estate in question to Benjamin Bussey. See Volume 113, page 335-8, of Norfolk records.

The balance of the property came into the hands of Benjamin Bussey as follows, March 12, 1833:

By will of Charity Murdock, widow, her real estate went to her daughters. In the division Charlotte Murdock inherited the 28-acre lot near the burying ground.

Charlotte Murdock to Josiah Seaverns, May 12, 1814 (Norfolk Volume 49, page 39).

Josiah Seaverns, victualler, to C. A. Littlefield and al, of Boston (Vol. 79, page 91), June 20, 1826.

Calvin A. Littlefield and Jabez W. Pierce to John C. Page and Kilby Page, merchants of Boston (Volume 79, page 122), July 26, 1826.

John C. Page and Kilby Page to David Connery, April 7, 1827 (Volume 81, page 181).

David Connery, bricklayer, to Cyrus Josselyn of Boston, housewright (Vol. 86, page 145).

Cyrus Josselyn to Benjamin Bussey, March 12, 1833 (Volume 99, page 58).

Benjamin Bussey left his property, "Woodland Hill," comprising his entire holdings, between 300 and 400 acres, to Harvard College.

In 1872 the Boston Park Commissioners by right of eminent domain took what is now the Arnold Arboretum.

THE ANCESTRY OF JONATHAN⁵ DAVIS OF OXFORD

WILLIAM¹ DAVIS, Roxbury,—

JOHN² DAVIS, born October 1, 1643, married February 5, 1667, Mary Daughter of Edward Devotion of Roxbury.

SAMUEL³ DAVIS, born at Roxbury June 23, 1681, married (1) at Roxbury, June 23, 1709, Mary, daughter of Jacob and Mary (Child) Chamberlain (born August 1, 1687, at Roxbury, died February 11, 1730, at Oxford). Her mother, Mary, daughter of Benjamin and Mary Child, was born October 28, 1660, at Roxbury (ancestress). Married (2) Mary, daughter of Joseph* and Sarah (Faxon) Weld. Samuel Davis was one of the executors of his father's will, under which he inherited "all my land lying up at Jacob Chamberlains," etc., also two wood lots of ten and seven acres, "lying in the 2nd division nowe to Sammuell Morelis," also "my hunting gonne and the other gonne" (one of which was at the "castell"). His autograph (facsimile) is in the Davis Genealogy, page 6, taken from his account as Surviv-

*Joseph Weld, s. John, and Sarah Faxon Nov. 27, 1679. (R.V.R. marriages.)

ing Executor,* March 31, 1718, in the Probate Office for Suffolk County. He removed to Oxford in 1729, and died April 8, 1760.

Of the earlier years of Samuel Davis little is known. He and Mary Chamberlain had twelve children recorded on the Roxbury Records as follows:

- i SAMUEL⁴ born Feb. 13, 1710-11—died in 1784
- ii THOMAS⁴ born Sept. 13, 1712—died Feb. 19, 1713
- iii EDWARD⁴ born Jan. 23, 1713-14—died Aug. 30, 1784
- iv THOMAS⁴ born Nov. 4, 1715—died Aug. 1, 1778
- v MARY⁴ born July 8, 1717—mar. Elisha Rich
- vi DANIEL⁴ born Feb. 1, 1718-19—died June 24, 1786
- vii JACOB⁴ born Oct. 15, 1720—died 1 Nov. 1740
- viii ELISHA⁴ born Feb. 16, 1721-22—died Oct. 22, 1796
- ix JOHN⁴ born July 5, 1723—died 21 Mar. 1724
- x ELIZABETH⁴ born Jan 16, 1724-25—mar. John Mayo
- xi HANNAH⁴ born May 26, 1726—died 14 July 1743
- xii SARAH⁴ born Mar. 11, 1727-28—died young
- Children by wife Mary (Weld) born at Oxford:†
- xiii JOHN born 30 Nov. 1732—died May 10, 1800
- xiv SARAH born 31 Dec. 1734—mar. Joseph Davis
- xv REBECCA born 10 Jan. 1737—mar. Major Lemuel Corbin
- xvi NATHANIEL born 7 Nov. 1738—died 17 Oct. 1740

In 1720 he, (Samuel³ Davis) in company with Thomas Mayo, his brother-in-law, and Joseph Weld, whose sister he afterward married, bought of Gabriel Bernon, then of Kingston, R. I., for the sum of twelve hundred pounds, twenty-five hundred acres of land in the eastern section of "Oxford Village," then in Suffolk County. The consideration of this deed was £1200 current money of New England, and it was dated March 16, 1720-1, and is recorded with Suffolk County Rec. XXXV, 119. (See "The Huguenots in the Nipmuck Country or Oxford Prior to 1713," by George F. Daniels, Boston, Estes & Lauriat, 1880, pages 109-113, for title, description, etc., and pages 145 and 147-151.) Samuel Davis built a dwelling about "half a mile northerly from the fort" on the farm known in 1880 as the Nathaniel Davis place, where his descendants lived in 1880.

*See Middlesex County History (homes and places and gen.), Vol. 1, page 250, 1908.

†From George L. Davis's book, page 8.

This land had been granted by Joseph Dudley and his associates to Bernon as one of the conditions of a contract to bring over from England and settle upon the Oxford grant thirty French Protestant families. Mr. Davis did not remove to Oxford until eight or nine years after making his purchase. He then had passed the prime of young manhood and was nearly fifty years of age. That he was a man of more than ordinary qualities, both intellectual and moral, is proved from the high position which was at once accorded him by his fellow-citizens. For twenty-five years after his coming, down to the time when he was unfitted by age for further action, he was almost constantly in the public service. In a great majority of the town meetings during that time he was the moderator; for about fifteen years he was on the board of selectmen, and for a number of years an assessor and town treasurer. In 1734 he was voted by the town, as a mark of honor, "the pew on the westerly side of the meeting-house adjoining the double doors." In 1735 he was chosen deacon of the church, which office he held until his death. In 1742 and 1747 he was elected representative to the Legislature. In 1744 the town took action upon the most important undertaking of the first century of its history—the building of a large, and, for the times, expensive meeting-house. Of a committee to consider dimensions and cost, and to order materials and to fix the prices of all labor and materials, he was the chairman. In this house after its completion the pews were allotted to the proprietors in proportion to their estates. The first came to Col. Ebenezer Learned and the second to Samuel Davis. From 1750 to 1755 he held no town office excepting that of moderator. After 1755 his name does not appear upon the town records. His extensive landed estate was disposed of during his life, he having given a large farm to each of his six sons. Living to his seventy-ninth year, he had adjusted his business affairs, and died intestate. His homestead descended down from father to child to Lucy Davis who died about 1894 (*Samuel*³, *John*⁴, *Nathaniel*⁵, *Lucy*⁶).

The house was occupied for a time by Ellen M. McDonnell. The present occupant is Matthew Herbet from Poland who lives there with his wife and nine

children. They have painted it over and modernized it in accordance with their own ideas, but the charm of the old family homestead has disappeared.

The Samuel³ Davis Homestead is described in the History of Oxford, page 301.

29. ELLEN M. McDONNELL. "N. Davis' heirs" on map. The homestead of Samuel Davis, bought of Bernon; Davis built the house and d. here, 1760. John, his son, cared for his parents in old age and received, 22 Jan., 1756, the farm, 80 a. and house; he also d. here, 1800. Jesse, his son, received the southwest part of the farm, and the widow the balance as dower; 7 April, 1815, her heirs deeded 62 a. 116 rods to Nathaniel Davis, being what was set off to her; 5 April, 1817, Jesse to Nathaniel Davis, 54 a., southwest part of the farm, excepting 7 1-4 a. sold to Elihu Harwood. Nathaniel spent his life and d. here; Lucy, his dau., came into possession. 15 May, 1889, Lucy Davis to William H. Davis, her nephew; 21 April, 1890, William H. Davis to Charles I. Rawson; 13 May, 1890, Charles I. Rawson to Ellen M. McDonnell.

Edward⁴ Davis appears in the George L. Davis Genealogy in Article 3, page 10, as follows:

EDWARD⁴ DAVIS, Esq. (*Samuel³, John², William¹*), b. 23 Jan. 1714, at Roxbury; m. 25 Dec. 1735, Abigail dau. of Ebenezer and Deborah (Haynes) Learned, all of Oxford. He d. 30 Aug. 1784. She d. 11 Aug. 1805; both at Oxford.

Children b. at Oxford:

- i EBENEZER, b. 18 Sept. 1737.
- ii EDWARD, b. 5 Sept. 1739.
- iii JACOB, b. 14 Sept. 1741.
- iv NATHANIEL, b. 28 May, 1743.
- v ABIGAIL, b. 20 April, 1745.
- vi ELIZABETH, b. 22 June, 1747.
- vii REUBEN, b. 17 May, 1749.
- viii JONATHAN, b. 11 Dec. 1750; killed in a cider-mill, 21 Sept. 1760.
- ix LEVI, b. 11 Nov. 1752.

- x MARY, b. 9 Feb. 1755; m. Haynes Learned, her cousin.
- xi MARTHA, b. 27 March, 1758; m. Sylvanus Learned, her cousin.
- xii JONATHAN, b. 27 May, 1761.

Edward Davis, Esq., was for many years a very influential citizen of Oxford and much in public life; captain of militia in time of the French War, and marched with thirty-three men of his company, for the relief of Fort William Henry, as far as Sheffield, Mass., and returned, having been out sixteen days. He retained his connection with the militia and was from 1763 to 1771 major of the first Worcester County regiment, under Col. John Chandler, but was too far advanced in years to take an active part in the revolutionary contest. From 1740 to 1780 he was constantly in town office; fifteen years representative to the legislature, many years selectman, and moderator in town meetings. From 1760 onward, he was many years justice of the peace, doing much business, especially in performing the marriage ceremony; occupied positions of trust, and settled many estates. In 1772 he was the chairman of the town's committee to oppose the setting off of the town of Ward; in 1775, member of the Provincial Congress at Watertown.

He settled in the easterly part of the town, on a farm given him by his father in 1740. Here he built a commodious and well finished house, which is still standing. Of the seven sons born and reared here, the youngest, Jonathan, only remained in town. He succeeded to the homestead and enlarged and much improved the house. The farm in 1872 passed out of the possession of the Davis family. Edward Davis, Esq., was an extensive land holder in Charlton and Dudley, as well as Oxford.

DESCENDANTS OF GENERAL JONATHAN⁵ DAVIS OF OXFORD, MASS.

George L. Davis has the following account of Jonathan⁵ Davis: (Page 35, article 25.)

GEN. JONATHAN⁵ DAVIS (*Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*),
b. 27 May, 1761, at Oxford; m. (1) 12 Sept. 1787, Sarah dau.

of Ebenezer and Susanna Hammond, b. 16 Jan. 1768, at Charlton; sett. at Oxford. She d. 5 Feb. 1821. He m. (2) int. 5 Oct. 1822, Hannah Barton, b. 20 July, 1776, at Vassalboro, Me., d. 12 Feb. 1859, at Worcester. He d. 3 Aug. 1838, at Oxford. Children by w. Sarah, b. at Oxford:

- i STEPHEN, b. 1 Sept. 1788.
- ii JONATHAN, b. 29 Oct. 1789.

Gen. Jonathan Davis was the youngest of seven brothers, all farmers and all of whom excepting himself removed from Oxford, he remaining upon the homestead. Like his father he was much in public business; justice of the peace, representative, selectman, and in other important offices; settled many estates and filled places of trust, having in charge large sums of money; was a county commissioner, major-general of militia. He was popular and well known in towns adjacent to Oxford, and on public occasions was honored as a prominent man of the region. He was the leading man in procuring the organization of the Oxford Bank in 1823, and for the first ten years its president. In the early history of the Universalist society he was one of its supporters, but later in life was a leading man and an officer in the Congregational society. He was first in the list of trustees named in the act of incorporation of Nichols Academy, Dudley, 1819, and was authorized to call the first meeting of the corporation; was a liberal subscriber to its fund. In 1827 he removed from the homestead to a dwelling situated two miles nearer the centre of Oxford, where he resided until his death.

In 1824 and in 1828 he was a Presidential Elector. He was appointed Brigadier General October 29, 1802. The above account in mentioning "the homestead" refers to the house of his father, Edward⁴ Davis of Oxford, about three miles from the center of Oxford on the road to Sutton. This house is listed on page 297 of Daniel's "History of Oxford" as Number 12 as follows:

12. MARION E. LILLEY. "K. A. Davis" on map 18 Aug., 1749, Samuel Davis to his son Edward, who d. here, 150 or

160 a.; 26 Dec. 1786, executors of Edward Davis to Jonathan, son of Edward, 260 a.; 14 Oct., 1822, Jonathan Davis to his son Stephen, who d. here, 350 a.; Russell A. and Edward Davis, sons of Stephen, were owners, the former occupied the place till April, 1872, when he, having bought his brother's share, sold to Henry J. Whiting; later in 1872 Whiting sold to Marion E. Lilley, his sister.

A photograph of the Edward Davis house is shown opposite page 466 of the "History of Oxford."

General Jonathan in 1827 moved from this house, then owned by his son Stephen, to House 25 "at the fork of the Sutton Road," page 300 of the "History of Oxford."

25. MARY BROWN ESTATE. "J. Davis" on map. 30 March, 1757, Thomas Davis to Duncan Campbell; 17 Oct., 1758, Duncan Campbell to Thomas Stearns; 11 Jan., 1759, Thomas Stearns to Joseph Phillips; 25 March, 1761, Joseph Phillips to William Davis, three-fourths of an a., dwelling, blacksmith's shop, coal house; Davis d. here, 1775, his widow surviving until 1796; 29 Dec., 1803, Jeremiah Davis to Elijah Davis, Jr., who rem. the old house and built the present one; 24 April, 1815, Elijah Davis, Jr., to Jonathan Davis; . . . Jonathan Davis to Jonathan Davis, Jr.; 26 Aug., 1864, Jonathan Davis, Jr., to Mary, w. of John Brown; Brown and w. both d. here.

General Jonathan⁵ lived in this house until his death in 1838. His son Jonathan⁶, who had sold House 10 "on the edge of Sutton" 7 May, 1835, lived in House 25 until 1860 when he moved to a house at the center of the town on the east side of the Plain where he died in 1868.

General Jonathan⁵ Davis had two sons, Stephen⁶ and Jonathan⁶, and in carrying down the line to the present we shall take up the descendants of these sons separately, numbering the Stephen Davis families from 900 on, and the Jonathan Davis families (see page 75) from 1000 on.

THE DESCENDANTS OF COLONEL STEPHEN⁶
DAVIS OF OXFORD, MASS.

George L. Davis has the following account under article 127, page 119 (the numbers of the children are ours):

COL. STEPHEN⁶ DAVIS (*Jonathan*⁵, *Edward*⁴, *Samuel*³, *John*², *William*¹), b. 1 Sept. 1788, at Oxford; m. (1) 1 Nov. 1815, at Charlton, Pamela dau. of Aaron and Ruth Wheelock, of Charlton, b. 12 Sept. 1797; sett. at Oxford. She d. 22 March, 1839. He m. (2) 1 Sept. 1841, Mrs. Abigail, wid. of Thaddeus Read, m. n. Sibley, of Grafton. She was b. 29 July, 1799, at Uxbridge; d. 20 Sept. 1874, at Westborough. He d. 1 Feb. 1854, at Oxford.

Children by w. Pamela, b. at Oxford:

- (901) i SARAH HAMMOND, b. 23 Jan. 1817.
- ii STEPHEN EDWARD, b. 10 Feb. 1819; m. 6 Nov. 1849, at Augusta, Ga., Augusta Georgia dau. of Amory and Caroline Sibley, b. Jan. 1832, d. 29 April, 1850. He d. 7 Oct. 1856, at Oxford. Dry goods merchant.
- iii NELSON HENRY, b. 20 Sept. 1821; unm. (died May 16, 1890)
- (903) iv RUSSELL AUGUSTUS, b. 7 June, 1824.
- (914) v JONATHAN AUSTIN, b. 21 Oct. 1827.
- (916) vi AARON WHEELOCK, b. 11 March, 1830.
- (917) vii SUSAN PAMELA, b. 22 Nov. 1832.
- viii SALEM TOWNE, b. 22, d. 23 March, 1839.

Col. Stephen Davis was a farmer; born and spent his whole life on the "Esquire Edward Davis" homestead; was highly respected and considerably in public life; county commissioner, and from 1821 to 1830 most of the time in town office; selectman, school committee, etc.; colonel of militia; officer in the Congregational society. He was a man of good judgment and sound sense—very social, courteous, and of pleasing address.

Gen. Nelson H. Davis (iii) graduated in 1846 at West Point, and went the same year into the Mexican War, joining Gen.

Taylor's command at Monterey; marched to Tampico, where he joined Gen. Scott's forces, and was in his army during the war, having been at the siege of Vera Cruz, the battle of Cerro Gordo, the storming of Contreras, the capture of Cherubusco, and subsequent engagements near the Mexican capital, including the capture of the city. He was brevetted for meritorious conduct at the battle of Contreras. He left Mexico in 1848 with the army, and in November of that year sailed from New York for California, arriving at Monterey, April, 1849; served in California until Dec. 1853, at remote stations, mainly in the Indian country, and engaged in two notable and successful fights with large bodies of natives at Clear Lake and on Russian River. In 1854 he returned to the east and was on recruiting duty at Boston until the summer of 1855. In the fall of that year he again went west and served on the frontier until the spring of 1861, when he and his company were ordered east and engaged in the late Civil War. He was acting major of the "regular" battalion at the first battle of Bull Run; commissioned colonel of the seventh Massachusetts volunteers 4 Sept. 1861; resigned 12 Nov. 1861, at which time he was appointed assistant inspector-general, United States army.

In the late war he served in the "Army of the Potomac," at headquarters under McClellan, Hooker and Meade, and was subsequently ordered to the department of New Mexico, which included also Arizona, as inspector-general of the department. Here he traveled much among hostile Indians, and with his command had a severe engagement with the Apaches, attacking them in their mountain retreats and giving them the first severe whipping they had received for many years, for which the legislature of Arizona gave him a vote of thanks. He was later removed to Missouri, where he was inspector of that department, and afterward for three years was inspector-general under direct orders from the War Department. He was next inspector-general of the division of the Atlantic, under Gen. Hancock, and 1 July, 1881, was assigned to duty in the same capacity in the division of the Missouri, under Lieut.-Gen. Sheridan, in which position he is now, 1882, serving.

General Davis has held every grade of rank from brevet second lieutenant to that of colonel in his corps inspector-gen-

eral's department, and brevet brigadier-general in the army, and now holds the two latter grades; has been brevetted for services in the Mexican War, War of the Rebellion, and in Indian fights; has traveled and been on duty in every State and territory in the Union.

Miss Florence Davis Emerson (see No. 902) wrote us in 1932:

Colonel Stephen Davis married in November 1815 at Charlton, Massachusetts Pamela Wheelock, daughter of Aaron and Ruth Towne Wheelock. She was said to be the "handsomest woman that ever entered the First Congregational Church in Oxford." There the Davises lived on the old Edward Davis estate. Pamela Davis' pictures show something of her beauty. I have heard that she had an unusually brilliant, very dark brown eye, and my mother who was said to resemble her had the same shining eyes. My father and mother (Edward Davis Emerson and Caroline A. Wheelock) were second cousins, so Mrs. Stephen Davis is both my great-Aunt and my great-Grandmother.

She died at Oxford, March 22, 1839 at the age of 42, and in 1841 Col. Davis married Mrs. Abigail Read, a widow from the neighboring town of Grafton. There were no children by his second marriage but Mrs. Read had a daughter who was married at the Davis estate. My Grandmother Wheelock who was born Sarah Keith of Grafton—a lineal descendant of The Keith of Caithness in northern Scotland—came to Oxford to act as bridesmaid for Fanny Read. It was at this festivity that Sarah Keith met my Grandfather, William A. Wheelock, originally of Charlton but then living in Oxford with his widowed mother for whom he had built a house and to which subsequently (in 1849) he took his bride. The house still standing is next to the Oxford garage.

901

SARAH HAMMOND⁷ DAVIS, first child of Colonel Stephen⁶ Davis (*Gen. Jonathan⁵, etc.*) was born at Oxford on January 23, 1817; mar. at Oxford, Mass. 26 Nov. 1844

Rev. Joseph Emerson of Andover. She died 28 Nov. 1856 at Rockford, Ill.

Two children—

902. i EDWARD DAVIS EMERSON born 19 Oct. 1845.

ii MARY PAMELA EMERSON born 26 June 1848—died 15 Sept. 1852.

George L. Davis, Art. 336, p. 269, says:

REV. JOSEPH EMERSON m. Sarah H.⁷ Davis (*Stephen⁶, Jonathan⁵, Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*), 26 Nov. 1844. He was b. 4 Sept. 1808, at Dartmouth, Mass. She was b. 23 Jan. 1817, at Oxford, Mass.; d. 28 Nov. 1856, at Rockford, Ill. Children b. at Andover, Mass.:

i EDWARD DAVIS, b. 19 Oct. 1845.

ii MARY PAMELA, b. 26 June, 1848; d. 15 Sept. 1852.

Rev. Joseph Emerson was the son of Daniel Emerson, of Dartmouth, Mass.; studied two years at Dartmouth College, entering in 1826, and graduated at Yale College in 1830. Studied theology at Andover. From 1836 to 1849, agent of American Education Society; from 1849 to 1853, of Western College Society; from 1854 to 1859, settled as pastor at Rockford, Illinois; from 1859 to 1871, district secretary of American and Foreign Christian Union, and from 1871 to 1875, agent for the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. His health failing, he retired and now resides at Andover, Mass. In every position he has been able, earnest and efficient. Highly esteemed.

902

EDWARD DAVIS EMERSON (*Sarah Hammond⁷, Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born 19 Oct. 1845; mar. his second cousin, Caroline Augusta Wheelock, dau. of Wm. A. Wheelock of Oxford, 18 June, 1873; resided in Brookline, Mass. and was in business in Boston; died at Augusta, Georgia, January 23, 1927. She was born June 18, 1851 and died at Camden, S. C., March 31, 1921.

Four children:

- i SARAH CAROLINE EMERSON born at Roxbury 18 May 1874; mar. 19 June 1905 Charles F. Wallace of Boston—no children. They now (1932) reside at 51 Essex Road, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
- ii LOUISE RUTH EMERSON born at Orange, N. J. on July 18, 1876; mar. Oct. 10, 1899 Capt. Herman Kotzschmar, Jr., U. S. N. They were shipwrecked on the S.S. "Walla Walla" bound from San Francisco to Seattle, Washington, and she died at sea Jan. 2, 1902; no children.
- iii FLORENCE DAVIS EMERSON born July 21, 1878, living in 1932 at Copley Plaza Hotel, Boston.
- iv PAMELA WHEELOCK EMERSON born Jan. 13, 1880 and died May 18, 1884.

Miss Florence Davis Emerson wrote us in March, 1932:

In 1896 my father purchased a country house at Bolton, Massachusetts, a fine example of the pure colonial architecture. The last thirty years of his life largely were spent there and his principal interests were centered there at "Braecroft." My father inherited his love of horses from his grandfather, Col. Stephen Davis, and they were throughout his life his great love and pastime. He owned a house at Wellesley Hills where he made a short winter season.

This then completes the descendants of Sarah Hammond ⁷ Davis whose only surviving representatives in 1932 are Mrs. Charles F. Wallace and Miss Florence Davis Emerson.

903

RUSSELL AUGUSTUS⁷ DAVIS (*Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*).* George L. Davis' article 337, page 270, has the following notes:

*Most of this record of the descendants of Russell A.⁷ Davis [903 to 911] was made from facts furnished in 1932 by George S. Davis [No. 908].

RUSSELL A.⁷ DAVIS (*Stephen⁶, Jonathan⁵, Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*), b. 7 June, 1824, at Oxford, Mass.; m. 23 Dec. 1855, at Oxford, Mary E. dau. of William and Mary* Robinson, b. 6 Dec. 1835, at Oxford. (Died Nov. 3, 1907.) He d. 24 July, 1875.

Farmer; of good character and standing as a citizen.

Children b. at Oxford:

- (904) i EDWARD RUSSELL, b. 30 June, 1857; m. 6 June, 1881, at East Medway, Abbie L. Holbrook.
- (905) ii ARTHUR EUGENE, b. 21 Aug. 1858.
- (906) iii NELSON HENRY, b. 27 May, 1861.
- (908) iv GEORGE STEPHEN, b. 9 Sept. 1864.
- v MARY PAMELA, b. 30 Aug. 1866; d. 21 Oct. 1869.
- vi SARAH EMELINE, b. 24 Aug. 1868; d. 20 Oct. 1869.
- vii LOUISA FRANCES, b. 5 June, 1872; d. 20 May, 1873.

904

EDWARD RUSSELL⁸ DAVIS (*Russell A.⁷, Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born at Oxford January 30, 1857 (not June 30) and died at Worcester, Mass., March 31, 1905; mar. 6 June, 1881 at Millis, Mass. Abbie L. Holbrook.

Three children—none married (1932):

- i NELSON HOLBROOK⁹ born Sept. 7, 1890, at Millis, Mass.
- ii RAYMOND EMERSON⁹ born Dec. 4, 1897 at Worcester, Mass.
- iii HELEN LOVELL⁹ born Sept. 14, 1901 at Worcester, Mass.

NELSON HOLBROOK⁹ DAVIS.

After leaving the public schools at Worcester, Mass., he took a course in accounting at Post's Business Institute and after graduating in 1907 secured a position in the office of the Crompton & Knowles Loom Works. During his twenty-five years of continuous service he has gradually advanced to the different departments in the office and at this time is the office manager of the

*Her name was not Mary but was Emeline (Fox) Robinson (Fox genealogy p. 186 and letter from her grandson George S.⁸ Davis in 1932).

accounting and financial department. He lives (1932) with his mother at 29 Maywood St., Worcester, Mass.

RAYMOND EMERSON⁹ DAVIS.

Raymond E.⁹ Davis was educated in the public schools of Worcester and later took a mechanical course at the Worcester Trade School.

For a few years he served as a clerk in the mercantile line, but in 1918 received a position in the manufacturing department of the Crompton & Knowles Loom Works where he has been continuously employed. He is with this company at the present time and lives (1932) with his mother at 29 Maywood St., Worcester, Mass.

905

ARTHUR EUGENE⁸ DAVIS (*Russell A.⁷, Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born at Oxford 21 Aug. 1858; mar. at Reading, Mass. 6 June, 1889 Mabel G. Willis. He died Nov. 20, 1916.

One child:

- i RUSSELL WILLIS⁹ born June 26, 1891 at Reading, Mass. mar. 11 Aug. 1928 at Belmont, Mass. Winonah Grindle Nay. (1932—no children.)

Arthur E.⁸ Davis for a number of years was with the Davis & Furber Machine Company of North Andover, Mass., but from 1901 until his death he was with the Boston and Maine Railroad at Reading, Mass.

RUSSELL WILLIS⁹ DAVIS.

Russell W.⁹ Davis was graduated from Reading, Mass., High School in 1908 and then entered the Burdett Business College in Boston where he was graduated in 1910. Immediately after graduation he took a position

with the H. W. Johns-Manville Co. in their Boston office.

He joined the U. S. Naval Reserve Force May 26, 1917 as Yeoman, 1st Class and was made Chief Yeoman Nov. 1, 1918 and assigned to First Naval District Disbursing Office, Boston, Mass. He was released from active duty Feb. 13, 1919 and received his honorable discharge May 28, 1921. After receiving his release from active duty, he went back to his old position with Johns-Manville Co. where he remained until January 1920, at which time he engaged with Baker, Young & Co. as salesman for investment securities. He is with them in their Boston office now (1932). Present resident address: 33 Stearns Road, Watertown, Mass.

906

NELSON HENRY⁸ DAVIS (*Russell A.*⁷, *Col. Stephen*⁶, *etc.*) born at Oxford 27 May, 1861; mar. at Oxford 3 Dec. 1884 Helen L. Eddy. He died at Springfield, Mass. 1 Nov., 1922.

Two children:

- (907) i MARY ESTELLE⁹ born 26 Aug. 1886 at Oxford, Mass.
- ii RUTH ROBINSON⁹ born 10 Sept. 1894 at Worcester, Mass.; mar. at Springfield, Mass. 10 Jan. 1925, Herman Miller. (No children—1932.) Residence 74 Eleanor Road, Springfield.

Nelson Henry⁸ Davis was educated in the public schools of Oxford. Later he moved to Worcester where, for a number of years, he was engaged in the jewelry business. He was a member of the City Council of Worcester for three terms during the years 1898, 1899, 1900. In 1907 he moved again, this time to Springfield, Mass.,

where he organized the United Masonic Health & Accident Association, of which he was the General Manager from the time of its organization until his death in 1922. Since his death the name of the company has been changed to the Craftsman Insurance Co. and the present success of the company is due in a great measure to the efficient and earnest efforts of its founder during the first fifteen years of its progress.

907

MARY ESTELLE⁹ DAVIS (*Nelson Henry⁸, Russell A.⁷, Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born at Oxford, Mass. 26 Aug. 1886, mar. at Springfield, Mass. 12 Dec. 1916 Dr. H. Greeley Randall. Residence 151 Pineywoods Ave., Springfield, Mass.

Two children both born at Springfield, Mass.

- i JEAN RANDALL born 11 Nov. 1917.
- ii VIRGINIA DAVIS RANDALL born 8 Dec. 1924.

908

GEORGE STEPHEN⁸ DAVIS (*Russell A.⁷, Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born at Oxford 9 Sept. 1864; mar. at Cambridge, Mass. 13 June, 1889 Alice Taylor Reed. Residence 2816 Cambridge Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Three children: all born at Worcester, Mass.

- (909) i WINSOR REED⁹ born 8 May 1892.
- (910) ii ROGER EMERSON⁹ born 21 Jan. 1894.
- (911) iii KENNETH RUSSELL⁹ born 8 Oct. 1897.

George Stephen⁸ Davis was educated in the public schools of Oxford and for the first three years attended

the old District No. 1 school that provided for the schooling of the children from the farms in the eastern part of Oxford which included several generations from the "Esquire Edward Davis" homestead. He is the only living descendant of the Davis family that attended this school and also the only one living that was born in the old homestead. After finishing his schooling in Oxford, he served a four years apprenticeship in the jewelry business in Worcester and later became engaged in the manufacture of metal products. For nearly twenty years he was connected with the Parker Wire Goods Co. of Worcester and for eight years was the General Manager and a Director of the company. He resigned in 1922 and moved to Cleveland and later to Chicago where he is now (1932) in charge of the Chicago office of the Racine Iron & Wire Works of Racine, Wisconsin.

909

WINSOR REED⁹ DAVIS (*George S.⁸, Russell A.⁷, Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born 8 May 1892; mar. at New York City 19 Sept. 1916 Beatrice Page.

Two children (1932):

i PAGE¹⁰ (dau.) born 13 July 1920 at Worcester, Mass.

ii WINSOR REED¹⁰, Jr. born 5 Feb. 1930 at Larchmont, N. Y.

Winsor Reed⁹ Davis graduated from the Worcester South High School in 1911, entered Dartmouth College with the class of 1915, but transferred to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1913 and graduated in the class of 1916 with a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering.

First employment was in New York as associate and technical editor of various automotive publications.

Enrolled Nov. 28, 1917 as seaman in air division of navy. Ground school aviation course at M. I. T. Detailed to Bureau of Steam Engineering at Washington. Given charge of dirigible power plant design and installation. Commissioned as ensign April 13, 1918. Made member of Trial Board of Navy making tests of new dirigibles for acceptance. Commissioned as Lieutenant, j.g., March 17, 1919. Discharged April 29, 1919.

Organized Packard Engineering Co. Cleveland, Ohio. Later moved to Boston as sales manager of Lovejoy Mfg. Co. Then with American Autoparts Co. at Detroit as sales engineer. Opened New York office for this company. Moved to Larchmont in fall of 1927. Started Winsor R. Davis Building Corp. in 1928. Present residence, Larchmont, N. Y.

910

ROGER EMERSON⁹ DAVIS (*George S.*⁸, *Russell A.*⁷, *Col. Stephen*⁶, *etc.*) born 21 Jan. 1894; mar. at Baltimore, Md. 25 Oct. 1922 Mae Estelle Crook.

One child (1932):

i BARBARA ANN¹⁰ born 30 July 1929 at Cleveland, Ohio.

Roger Emerson⁹ Davis attended the public schools at Worcester, Mass. and entered and graduated in 1913 with the first class that was graduated by the Worcester Trade School, where he took a mechanical and engineering course.

His first employment was in the engineering department of the Wyman & Gordon Drop Forge Works, where he served as draughtsman until his enlistment in the World War.

Enlisted with the 104th Infantry, 26th Division, New England National Guard, September 20, 1917. His government record reads:

Private in 104th Infantry. Left U.S.A. for France Oct. 4, 1917 and arrived in U.S.A. from France April 11, 1919. Wounds in action: shell shocked. Character: excellent. Battle engagements: Chemin des Dames, Toul sector, Belleau Woods, Aisne-Marne.

Returned to old position on discharge from army, but removed to Cleveland in December 1919 to take a position with his brother in the Packard Engineering Co. In 1924 he accepted a position with the United American Bosch Corporation of Springfield, Mass. as District Manager and Supervisor of Ohio, West Virginia, Tenn., Indiana, Michigan, and Kentucky territory for Automotive and Radio products. Residence (1932) is 3666 Rawnsdale Road, Shaker Heights, Ohio.

911

KENNETH RUSSELL⁹ DAVIS (*George S.⁸, Russell A.⁷, Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born 8 Oct. 1897; mar. at Cleveland, Ohio 19 Feb. 1927 Dorothea Eleanor Walker.

Children (1932):

- i BARTLEY REED¹⁰ born 16 July 1929 at Cleveland, Ohio.
- ii JANICE ELLEN¹⁰ born Cleveland, Ohio, May 19, 1932.

Kenneth Russell⁹ Davis graduated from the South High School of Worcester in 1915 and in same year received a position in the Laboratory and Insulated Wire departments of the American Steel & Wire Co. where he remained until his enlistment for service in the World War. Enlisted Jan. 24, 1918 in the Naval Aviation branch of the service and was stationed at Charleston,

S. C. and Hampton Roads, Va. until he received his discharge Jan. 5, 1919.

Since moving to Cleveland in 1922 he has been associated with some of the large industries in sales promotion work and at this time is the Advertising Production Manager for the General Electric Company, Refrigeration Department at their headquarters for refrigeration at Cleveland, Ohio. Residence (1932) 114 East 220th St., Euclid, Ohio.

914

JONATHAN AUSTIN⁷ DAVIS (*Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*). George L. Davis in Art. 338, p. 270, has the following:

JONATHAN AUSTIN⁷ DAVIS (*Stephen⁶, Jonathan⁵, Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*), b. 21 Oct. 1827, at Oxford; m. 14 June, 1857, at Philadelphia, Annie Murray, b. 17 Feb. 1839, at Lawrenceville, Pa. He d. 6 May, 1880, at Kendall, Pa. Carpenter.
Children:

- i CHARLES SUMNER, b. 17 May, 1858, at Philadelphia.
- ii EFFA MARCELLA, b. 24 April, 1867, at Pioneer, Pa.

Miss Florence Davis Emerson (see No. 902) in 1932 wrote us:

Charles S. Davis married but left no heirs. Effie Davis, a very lovely girl of unusual charm and character, died suddenly at the age of 18 or 19. Her uncle, Gen. Nelson H. Davis, was devoted to her and had superintended her education and upbringing, and at the time of her death he had about completed arrangements to have her become an inmate of his household and his hostess at Governor's Island where he was then stationed. It was a great blow to Gen. Davis and one from which he never entirely recovered as she was almost like a daughter to him.

Evidently there are no living descendants of Jonathan Austin⁷ Davis.

916

AARON WHEELOCK⁷ DAVIS (*Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born at Oxford 11 Mar. 1830.

George L. Davis, Art. 339, page 271, has:

AARON WHEELOCK⁷ DAVIS (*Stephen⁶, Jonathan⁵, Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*), b. 11 March, 1830; m. 26 June, 1861, at Brooklyn, N. Y., Carrie R. Whiting, b. 12 Oct. 1832, at Leicester, Mass.; d. 2 Oct. 1870, at Asheville, N. C.

Children:

- i A son, b. and d. 7 July, 1863.
- ii CARRIE P.⁸, b. 25 June, 1865; d. 10 Dec. 1874.
- iii THEODORE W.⁸, b. 27 Aug. 1867.

Aaron W. Davis was in business for some years at the south; removed to Chicago, and his health failing, in 1873 he gave up business; is living (1883) at Oxford, Mass.

Carrie R. Whiting, his wife, was also his cousin. Theodore W.⁸ Davis is said to have died young, but we have no date.

There are then no living descendants of Aaron Wheelock⁷ Davis so far as we know.

917

SUSAN PAMELA⁷ DAVIS (*Col. Stephen⁶, etc.*) born at Oxford 22 Nov. 1832; mar. 27 Mar. 1860 Reuben P. Pierce. He was born 4 June, 1831 at Jaffrey, N. H. and settled at Chicago, Ill. She died 28 Aug. 1879 at Chicago.

Two children:

- (918) i HENRY NELSON PIERCE born 25 Feb. 1861.
- ii WALTER MAYNARD PIERCE born 6 Sept. 1863; died 7 Aug. 1864.

918

HENRY NELSON PIERCE (*Susan Pamela*⁷, *Col. Stephen*⁶, *etc.*) born 25 Feb. 1861.

Harry Pierce, as he was called, was educated by his uncle, Gen. Nelson Davis, and graduated from Columbia University as a mining engineer. His profession led him to South America where he was married. In later life he returned to New York where he died a few years ago. We have no record of any children. [From a note made in 1932 by Miss Florence Davis Emerson.]

This completes the record of the descendants of Col. Stephen⁶ Davis. It will be noticed that the Davis name can continue among the descendants of Jonathan⁵ Davis only through the Russell A.⁷ Davis family, No. 903, through the two sons of Edward Russell⁸ Davis, No. 904, who have not yet married; through family 905A where there are now no children; or through the family of George Stephen⁸ Davis, No. 908, where there are already two young grandsons.

George S.⁸ Davis inherited from his mother the oil portraits of Col. Stephen and his wife, Pamela Davis, which had hung in the Edward Davis house when Russell A. Davis lived there. Photographic copies of these portraits were distributed to the family by General Nelson H. Davis. The originals in 1931 were in the possession of Winsor Reed¹⁰ Davis, No. 909.

JONATHAN⁶ DAVIS AND HIS DESCENDANTS

General Jonathan⁵ Davis had two children, Stephen⁶ (1788) and Jonathan⁶ (1789). Jonathan⁶ Davis of Oxford, Mass. is No. 128 in the George L. Davis Genealogy. From that source we copy the following paragraphs:

JONATHAN⁶ DAVIS (*Jonathan*⁵, *Edward*⁴, *Samuel*³, *John*², *William*¹), b. 29 Oct. 1789, at Oxford; m. 7 May, 1815, at Brooklyn, Conn., Betsey dau. of Benjamin and Betsey Gilbert, b. 5 June, 1794; sett. at Oxford. He d. 11 April, 1868, at Oxford. She d. 30 March, 1876, at East Douglas, Mass.

Children b. at Oxford:

- i GEORGE LUCIEN, b. 17 June, 1816 (see our number 1000).
- ii HENRY GILBERT, b. 26 Oct. 1821 (see our number 1010A).
- iii ABBIE LEARNED, b. 19 Jan. 1825 (see our number 1018A).
- iv JOHN JAY, b. 30 April, 1830; m. 11 June, 1856, at Pittsfield, Nancy dau. of Elijah and Harriet Peck, b. 14 March, 1827, at Lenox. He d. 30 Dec. 1856, at Palatka, Fla. 1 ch. John Peck, b. 8 April, 1857; d. 4 April, 1861.

Jonathan Davis was a farmer and lived in the easterly part of Oxford, his farm adjoining Sutton; a very worthy and estimable citizen; industrious and thrifty, of good mental qualities and decided moral convictions; exemplary member of the Congregational church; a number of years selectman and school committee. He removed, in 1860, to the centre of the town; celebrated his golden wedding 7 May, 1865.

The above farm, sometimes said to be "on the edge of Sutton," is House No. 10 in the "History of Oxford" and it was here that the four children were born. Jonathan⁶ bought this house March 14, 1815, was married May 7, 1815, and sold the house in 1835. His father, General Jonathan⁵ Davis, died in 1838 so it is probable that these two Jonathans lived together in the house "at the fork of the Sutton road" from 1835 to 1838.

The first three children of Jonathan⁶ all left children who have continued the line, but there are no descendants of Jonathan⁶ Davis alive today (1932) to carry on the name of Davis.

1000

GEORGE LUCIEN⁷ DAVIS, the eldest child of Jonathan⁶, compiled the Davis Genealogy so often quoted in this book. There he appears in Article No. 341.

HON. GEORGE LUCIEN⁷ DAVIS (*Jonathan⁶, Jonathan⁵, Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*) b. 17 June 1816 at Oxford, Mass.; m. 27 Oct. 1841 at Andover, Mass. Harriet K. Roberts who was born 7 Dec. 1821 at Andover (dau. of James and Harriet Richardson Roberts) sett. at North Andover. [*He died Dec. 23, 1891 and she died Mar. 8, 1889, both at North Andover.*]

Children b. at North Andover:

- i HARRIET ROBERTS, b. and d. 23 March, 1843.
- (1001) ii GEORGE GILBERT, b. 30 Aug. 1844.
- iii JAMES HENRY, b. 18 April, 1846 [*died Dec. 29, 1886*]; m. (1) 17 May, 1871, at North Andover, Ida Parkhurst, b. 8 March, 1851, at Manchester, N. H.; d. 16 Nov. 1872, at North Andover. He m. (2) 17 Nov. 1875, at Salem, Mass., Caroline Endicott Curwen, b. 7 Jan. 1852, at Salem, [*died at North Andover Aug. 21, 1915*]; 1 ch., Arthur Curwen, b. 10, d. 30 Aug. 1876.
- iv ELLA MARIA, b. 17 Nov. 1847; d. 16 Sept. 1853.
- v HATTIE ELIZABETH, b. 21 Sept. 1849; d. 10 May, 1874, at Florence, Italy.
- (1004) vi ALICE ROBERTS, b. 11 Jan. 1855; m. 25 Sept. 1879, Auguste Albert Sack, b. 16 Aug. 1842, at Hamfelde, Prussia; sett. at Providence, R. I.
- vii EDWARD LUCIEN, b. 13 Sept. 1856; d. 9 Dec. 1881, not married.
- (1007) viii MARY WADLEIGH, b. 24 April, 1858. (*died Mar. 5, 1889*)
- ix ANNA CATHERINE, b. 28 Feb. 1860; d. 24 Dec. 1877, at North Andover.



GENERAL JONATHAN⁵ DAVIS
1761 to 1838



MRS. SARAH (Hammond) DAVIS
(wife of General Jonathan⁵)
1768 to 1821



JONATHAN⁶ DAVIS
1789 to 1868



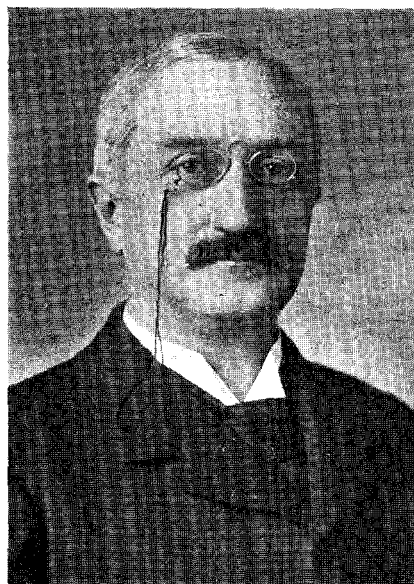
MRS. BETSEY (Gilbert) DAVIS
(wife of Jonathan⁶)
1794 to 1876



MRS. HARRIET (Roberts) DAVIS
(wife of George Lucien^r)
1821 to 1889



HON. GEORGE LUCIEN^r DAVIS
1816 to 1891



GEORGE GILBERT^s DAVIS
1844 to 1920



MRS. ADA (Whitney) DAVIS
(wife of George Gilbert^s)
1854 to 1920



HENRY GILBERT⁷ DAVIS
1821 to 1863



MRS. MARY GILBERT (Davis) ROCKWELL
(daughter of Henry G.⁷)
1848 to



MRS. PAMELA (Wheelock) DAVIS
(wife of Colonel Stephen⁶)
1797 to 1839



COLONEL STEPHEN⁶ DAVIS
1788 to 1854



ORIGINAL OXFORD HOMESTEAD OF SAMUEL DAVIS
Born at Roxbury, 1681; moved to Oxford, 1729; died at Oxford, 1760
House still standing in 1932



NORTH ANDOVER HOMESTEAD OF GEORGE L.^r DAVIS
and GEORGE G.ⁿ DAVIS (Taken down in 1929)

- x FRANK KNEELAND, b. 28 Oct. 1862. At North Andover with his father in machinery manufacture—[*died 13 Oct. 1887. Not married*].
- xi ADDIE STONE, b. 25 Nov. 1863; d. 10 March, 1866, at North Andover.
- xii HELEN ADAMS, b. 27 May, d. 14 June, 1866, at North Andover.

George Lucien⁷ Davis on his father's farm spent his boyhood days gradually obtaining through the discipline of the farm labor, but more especially through the guidance and strict moral training and companionship of noble Christian parents, his splendid vitality, sterling integrity, and large business capacity. He attended the district school during the winter and at the age of eighteen we find him teaching the village school in the neighboring town of Sutton, and being advised by the school committee of that town to remain at the school and adopt teaching as a profession. But deciding that he preferred a business career, he gave up his school and with his parents' consent left home in the spring of 1835, and came to Andover to learn the machinist's trade with Barnes, Gilbert & Co. From that time up to the day of his death his name was associated and carried weight with this pioneer enterprise of building woolen machinery in New England. He was in fact the real founder of the present large corporation which bears his name. His sagacity guided the business through its infancy and growth to a successful standing. His careful management fostered the enterprise, enlarged its output of improved machinery, extended its business acquaintance and inspired confidence in its productions, until everywhere its machinery was recognized as the standard, and its name a sign of business integrity.

But George L. Davis was more than a successful business man. He was emphatically a man of affairs, identified with the needs of his locality. In his lifetime he saw North Andover develop into a beautiful and thriving town. He witnessed the birth of the well known city of Lawrence, watching and helping its growth. The numerous places of trust held by Mr. Davis, furnish evidence of the high regard in which he was held. Besides being at the head of the Davis & Furber Machine Company for so many

years, he was for twenty-three years President of the Bay State National Bank of Lawrence, and also Vice-President of the Essex Savings Bank. He was President of the Lawrence Gas Company, Cabot Manufacturing Company of Brunswick, Maine, Norway Plains Company of Rochester, N. H., Winthrop Mills, Winthrop, Maine, Lymansville Company, Providence, R. I., and director in many more large corporations.

In politics he was always a Republican, and his party, appreciating his ability and worth, sent him for four terms to the State Senate, and if he would have consented would have promoted him to Congress.

Mr. Davis not only showed business ability of a high order, but was a man of unimpeachable character. At his death it was said, 'The Community has lost its best citizen,' and his word was as good as his bond. He was a trusted man and every inch a Christian gentleman. He became a member of the Congregational Church in North Andover in May, 1852, and a deacon in 1857. A large contributor to religious charities, he was a consistent, professing Christian—. (The above account of George L. Davis is from "The Davis & Furber Machine Company and the Men Who Made It.")

Of the twelve children of George L.⁷ Davis there were three who had children who lived to maturity, namely George Gilbert⁸ Davis (1001), Alice Roberts⁸ (Davis) Sack (1004), and Mary Wadleigh⁸ (Davis) Peck (1007).

1001

GEORGE GILBERT⁸ DAVIS (*George Lucien⁷, Jonathan⁶, Gen. Jonathan⁵, Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*) born 30 Aug. 1844 at North Andover, Mass., mar. 2 Feb. 1876 at Boston Ada Medora Whitney born 23 Nov. 1854 at Lowell, Mass. He died at North Andover Sept. 30, 1920 and she died at Boston Dec. 28, 1920.

George Gilbert⁸ Davis for over twenty years was the Treasurer and leading spirit of the Davis & Furber Machine Company.

It was not given to him to create an industry; his was the difficult task of taking an industry already created and already successful and of so conducting it that it became, year by year, more successful. The growth under his direction was steady, consistent, and healthy. Always jealous of the good name of the firm, two of his cardinal principles were to keep the business dealings of Davis & Furber up to the high standard set by his father before him, and to have everything made by his company generally recognized as the best of its kind.

To the very last his company was his great interest; he was content and anxious to leave a prosperous industry as his monument. Resources which he might easily have withdrawn, he gladly left in in order to make just so much easier the task of those who were to follow him.

A man of progressive ideas, Mr. Davis was also an exceptionally able executive, and possessed to a remarkable degree the faculty of inspiring others to industry. The method and the system which marked his private life, he carried to his office desk with the result that whatever business was before him was transacted expeditiously and efficiently.

Strangely enough, Mr. Davis' interests had not always lain along industrial lines. Trained in the mechanical arts, and for twelve years after his graduation from the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard, a member of the firm of Davis & Furber, of which his father was Treasurer and chief owner, in 1880 he gave up his position as superintendent of the card clothing department and formed a partnership with Charles Whitney, his father-in-law. The firm of Charles Whitney & Company was a successful banking house in Boston and Mr. Davis' connection with it was both profitable and pleasant, and might have continued except for his father's wish to have his son associated with him. In consequence of this wish, Mr. Davis renewed his business association with his father.

The growth which the Davis & Furber Machine Company enjoyed under his direction was not confined to increased factory facilities and larger production. He was as much concerned with the environment of the shop as he was with the shop itself, adding largely to the concern's real estate holdings, and personally making sure that all the houses were kept in the best of

condition. Much of the attractiveness which marks the property in the neighborhood of the plant is due to his interest in the living conditions surrounding his employees.

Despite his efforts on behalf of the workers, Mr. Davis was not a mixer in the ordinary sense of the word. But, withall, he was genial and genuinely friendly to all who were acquainted with him. Neither was he a philanthropist as philanthropy is today generally understood, but he was exceedingly generous once his sympathies were enlisted. To Abbot Academy in Andover, of which he was a trustee, he gave Davis Hall and the Davis Fund as a memorial to his father. He was always actively interested in the North Andover Congregational Church with which his father was so long identified. He supported it financially, and gave liberally to its endowment fund. Soon after his death, Mrs. Davis, in accordance with his expressed wish, made a gift to the Stevens Memorial Library of North Andover to establish the Charles Whitney Davis Fund in memory of their only son.

Mr. Davis' early education was obtained in the schools of Andover and in Phillips Academy. He then went to the Lawrence Scientific School at Harvard where he was graduated with the class of 1865. His business career thenceforth has already been outlined.

Besides his summer homes in North Andover and in Kennebunkport, Maine, Mr. Davis had a residence at 316 Beacon Street, Boston, where he lived in the winter. He was a member of the Union and Algonquin Clubs of Boston, as well as many other organizations. (The above account of George G. Davis was written at the time of his death for the Davis & Furber Machine Co.)

CHILDREN OF GEORGE GILBERT⁸ AND ADA (WHITNEY) DAVIS

- i ETHEL WHITNEY⁹ born at Andover 23 July and died Aug. 3, 1877.
- (1002) ii MADELEINE⁹ born at Boston 10 Dec. 1878.
- iii CHARLES WHITNEY⁹ born at Boston 12 April 1881 and died at Boston Dec. 28, 1897.
- (1003) iv DOROTHY⁹ born at Boston 12 Feb. 1890.

1002

MADELEINE⁹ DAVIS (*George Gilbert*⁸, *George Lucien*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, etc.) was married June 20, 1905 at North Andover to Dr. George Herman Powers, Jr. They reside at 316 Beacon St., Boston, and have a cottage at Kennebunkport, Maine.

Children:

- i KATHERINE POWERS born at Boston June 23, 1907.
- ii MADELEINE POWERS born at Boston Nov. 20, 1914.

Dr. Powers (son of George H. Powers, born at Boston, Mass., June 13, 1840, grandson of Herman Powers, and great grandson of Benjamin Powers, of Mass. descent) was born Dec. 13, 1877 at San Rafael, Cal. His mother was Cornelia (Chapman) Powers born at New Haven, Conn. Dec. 8, 1848. He is A.B. University of California 1898, M.D. University of California 1902; was an interne S. Pacific R. R. Hospital 1902-3, house surgeon Mass. Eye & Ear Infirmary Boston 1903-5. Since then he has practised otology in Boston. He is a member of several clubs and medical societies.

1003

DOROTHY⁹ DAVIS (*George Gilbert*⁸, *George Lucien*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, etc.) married (1) George William Simpson of Andover at St. Paul's Church, North Andover June 15, 1912. He was born at Ballard Vale, Andover, Mass., Nov. 6, 1888 and died at Camp Lee, Virginia Nov. 9, 1918.

Children:

- i DAVIS SIMPSON born July 25, 1914 at North Andover.
- ii ADA-WHITNEY SIMPSON born at Boston April 15, 1916.

(2) David Alexander Gardner of Liverpool, England Aug. 22, 1921 at St. Ann's Church, Kennebunkport,

Maine. He was born June 14, 1891 at Liverpool and was killed in an automobile accident at Reading, Mass. Aug. 15, 1922. He had served in the English Army throughout the World War, as a Captain in the 277th Army Brigade, Royal Field Artillery and was awarded the Croix de Guerre (France) avec palme.

(3) Charles Percy Rimmer in St. Agnes Church, Liverpool, England, Sept. 10, 1923. He was born June 5, 1893 at Liverpool, served throughout the World War in the English army, being a Major in the 277th Army Brigade R.F.A., and was awarded the Military Cross. Subsequently he served as a Major in the same brigade of the Territorial Army until 1931 and was awarded the Territorial Decoration. Besides their residence in England they have houses in Boston and in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Children:

- iii BETSEY GILBERT RIMMER born June 22, 1924 at Liverpool, England.
- iv CHARLES PERCY RIMMER, 2ND, born July 11, 1926 at Woodchurch, Cheshire, England.
- v DOROTHY ANN RIMMER born Oct. 25, 1930 at Liverpool, England.

1004

ALICE ROBERTS⁸ DAVIS (*George Lucien⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) married Auguste Albert Sack 25 Sept. 1879 and settled at Providence, R. I.

Children:

- i FLORENCE SACK born 11 Feb. died 2 May 1881 at Providence.
- (1005) ii GEORGE L. DAVIS SACK born Jan. 13, 1884.
- (1006) iii A. ALBERT SACK, JR. born June 25, 1887.

Auguste Albert Sack, born in Posen, was educated at a private school in Prussia and came to New York in 1866.

He was for a time a designer in the Edward Harris Mills of Woonsocket, later at the Narragansett Worsted Mills at Providence. In 1879 he bought this property and organized the Geneva Worsted Mills. In 1885 he organized the Lymanville Company of Providence, R. I. and for many years was the president and principal officer in this prosperous worsted mill. He died at Providence Apr. 21, 1925, aged 82, a successful and prominent manufacturer. Mrs. Alice Davis Sack in 1931 is living at 245 Hope St., Providence, R. I.

1005

GEORGE L. DAVIS⁹ SACK (*Alice Roberts*⁸, *George Lucien*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, etc.) married (1) Marguerite Spaulding of Philadelphia, Pa. Feb. 12, 1908. Divorced Sept. 7, 1919.

Child:

i A. ALBERT SACK 3RD born January 7, 1909.

Married (2) A. Madeline Luttgen, March 29, 1920.

Child:

ii MADELINE PENELOPE SACK born November 27, 1921.

George L. D. Sack was, until his retirement in 1924, in the New York office of the Lymanville Company and a director of that corporation.

1005A

A. ALBERT SACK 3RD had a son, A. Albert Sack 4th, born early in 1931. We have no further details or dates.

1006

A. ALBERT SACK, JR. (*Alice Roberts*⁸, *George Lucien*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, etc.) married (1) Louise Waldron of Providence October 4, 1914, divorced January 18, 1925, and

married (2) Marian Grant of Chicago, Illinois, June 29, 1927, who had one daughter, Juelann, by a previous marriage.

A. Albert Sack, Jr. was with the Lymanville Company until 1924. He was then for two years President and Treasurer of the Providence Oil Company. In 1927 and 1928 he was a broker doing business as Sack and Company of Providence and later was with Demuth and Company. In March of 1931, because his mother was not well, he gave up his business and went to live with her at 245 Hope Street, Providence.

1007

MARY WADLEIGH⁸ DAVIS (*George Lucien⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) born at North Andover 24 April, 1858, married Thomas Dowse Peck of Pittsfield, Mass., son of Jabez L. and Elizabeth (Dowse) Peck. She died at Pittsfield Mar. 5, 1889. He died at Warrenton, N. C. about 1928.

Children:

- (1008) i KATHERINE PECK born Pittsfield 3 March, 1883.
- (1009) ii HARRIET ROBERTS PECK born Pittsfield Feb. 9, 1885.
- (1010) iii DAVIS LATHROP PECK born at Pittsfield Nov. 12, 1887.

Thomas Dowse Peck, a graduate of Williams College, succeeded his father as president of J. L. & T. D. Peck Mfg. Company of Pittsfield, textile manufacturers. He removed with his son, Davis, to Warrenton, N. C. where he organized the Peck Mfg. Co., a cotton mill.

He was married three times:

- (1) Mary W. Davis of North Andover.
- (2) Mrs. Mary Allen Hulbert at Duluth, Minn. Dec. 29, 1890. (No children by this marriage.) Later divorced.

(3) Magdalen Landis at Warrenton, N. C. There were two children by this marriage:

- i THOMAS DOWSE PECK JR.
- ii JAMES LANDIS PECK.

1008

KATHERINE PECK (*Mary Wadleigh*⁸, *George L.*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, etc.) born Mar. 3, 1883 at Pittsfield, Mass. Married Mar. 9, 1909 Mahlon Ogden Bradley of Chicago, Ill., born Dec. 3, 1884.

Children:

- i MARY FRANCES BRADLEY born June 2, 1910 at Minneapolis, Minn.—Smith College Class of 1932.
- ii OGDEN BRADLEY born July 20, 1911 at Highland Park, Ill.—Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky., Class of 1933.

Left Chicago in May 1914 and obtained a divorce. Married Sept. 8, 1917 William Richmond Witherell, born Nov. 25, 1883, at N. Adams, Mass., insurance broker with Despard & Co., 1 Cedar St., N. Y. C.

Child by second marriage:

- iii WILLIAM RICHMOND WITHERELL, JR. born Oct. 1, 1920 at Kew Gardens, L. I.

Resides, 1931, at Great Neck, L. I. William R. Witherell was Captain of Infantry in the World War, saw service at the front with the 168th Infantry and was decorated for bravery in action.

1009

HARRIET ROBERTS PECK (*Mary W.*⁸, *George L.*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, etc.) married at Woonsocket, R. I. Robert Newkirk Smither of Boston Feb. 15, 1909, Harvard 1906.

Children:

- i ROBERT CHALLENGER SMITHER born Feb. 8, 1910 at Manchester, Mass.
- ii CATHERINE NEWKIRK SMITHER born June 8, 1911 at Manchester, Mass.

1010

DAVIS LATHROP PECK (*Mary W.*⁸, *George L.*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, etc.) removed from Pittsfield, Mass. to Warren, N. C. where with his father he established a cotton mill, the Peck Mfg. Co. Married Katherine Polk Alston of Ridgeway, N. C. in 1913. Has no children. In April 1920, having left the Peck Mfg. Company, he moved to Ashland, Virginia, where he was living in 1931.

1010A

The second child of Jonathan⁶ Davis was Henry Gilbert⁷ Davis, No. 342 in the George L. Davis Genealogy. Born 26 Oct. 1821 at Oxford, Mass.; m. 7 Oct. 1845, at Oxford, Mary Bullard Dowse, b. 1 April 1825 at Oxford, the dau. of Samuel and Casendiana (Shumway) Dowse. They settled at Pittsfield, Mass. where he died 19 July 1863.

Children:

- i ELIZABETH DOWSE⁸ born Oct. 11, 1846, was not married, and lived at Pittsfield, Mass., 43 Appleton Ave., died March 7, 1924 at Florence, Italy. An account of her life may be found in a small pamphlet entitled "In Memoriam" made up of extracts from the various resolutions, etc. passed at the time of her death.
- (1012) ii MARY GILBERT⁸ born at Pittsfield October 10, 1848.
- iii HENRY⁸ born 19 Apr. d. 10 May 1851.
- iv SAMUEL DOWSE⁸ b. 16 Jan. 1856 d. Feb. 13 1857.

After the death of Henry G.⁷ Davis, Dr. John Todd wrote a sketch of him which was published under the title, "The Model Deacon." He says:

"And when I speak of his amiable life I do not mean simply that he had a countenance so mild and lovely that all loved to look at it, speech so sweet that all loved to hear him speak to them, a smile so winning that all loved to meet it, and a disposition so gentle that none could receive offence; but I mean that the natural traits of character were so permeated by the spirit of Christ that the whole man was made uncommon."

1012

MARY GILBERT⁸, (*Henry G.⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) born Oct. 10, 1848, was married to Francis W. Rockwell of Pittsfield, Mass. June 11, 1873. Mrs. Rockwell is still living at 75 Appleton Avenue, Pittsfield, where her seven children were born and where she has spent her entire married life. Mr. Rockwell died there June 26, 1929.

Children:

- (1014) i WILLIAM WALKER ROCKWELL born Oct. 4, 1874.
- (1015) ii HENRY DAVIS ROCKWELL born Sept. 6, 1876.
- (1016) iii SAMUEL FORBES ROCKWELL born Oct. 28, 1878.
- (1017) iv JULIUS ROCKWELL born July 16, 1880.
- (1018) v LAWRENCE DOWSE ROCKWELL born Sept. 27, 1883.
- vi FRANCIS WILLIAMS ROCKWELL, JR., born Sept. 1, 1885. A.B. Harvard 1908. Served at the Mexican Border and as Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the World War. Since 1922 with the Davis & Furber Machine Company in North Andover, Mass., where he now lives. Legal residence in Pittsfield, Mass. He is unmarried.
- vii ELIZABETH ROCKWELL born Mar. 27, 1888, died at Northampton, Mass., June 26, 1911, while a senior at Smith College.

For a more complete record of this Rockwell family than is given below, see "The Rockwell Family in One Line of Descent" by Francis W. Rockwell.

1014

WILLIAM WALKER ROCKWELL (*Mary Gilbert*⁸, *Henry Gilbert*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, *etc.*) married Ethel Dean Converse Sept. 19, 1906 at Brookline, Mass.

Child:

- i DOROTHY CONVERSE ROCKWELL born at New York City, Aug. 24, 1915. Graduated Abbot Academy, Andover, 1932.

He was graduated from Harvard A.B. 1895, Andover Theological School S.T.B. 1900. Ordained to Congregational Ministry at Andover, Mass., June 5, 1905. Licentiate of Theology (Marburg, Germany) 1903. A.M. and Ph.D. (Goettingen, Germany) 1914. Hon D. Theol. (Marburg) 1930.

He has been connected with the Union Theological School of New York City since 1905, as Instructor, Professor, and Librarian.

1015

HENRY DAVIS ROCKWELL (*Mary G.*⁸, *Henry G.*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, *etc.*) married Florence L. Sutcliffe April 19, 1905 at Rochester, N. H.

Children:

- i HENRY DAVIS ROCKWELL, JR. born Oct. 6, 1906 at Lawrence, Mass.
- ii RUTH WENTWORTH ROCKWELL born Sept. 6, 1909 at North Andover.
- iii ROBERT SUTCLIFFE ROCKWELL born Oct. 6, 1913 at North Andover.

He was graduated from the Eastman Business College, Poughkeepsie, N. Y. in 1897. Moved to North Andover, Mass. in 1899. With the Davis & Furber Machine Co. until 1922 and was a Director of that company when he left to establish the Merrimack Card Clothing Co. of Andover, of which he now is Treasurer.

1016

SAMUEL FORBES ROCKWELL (*Mary G.⁸, Henry G.⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) married Marion Campbell Plunkett June 2, 1910 at Pittsfield, Mass.

Children—all born at 658 Osgood St. North Andover, Mass.:

- i SAMUEL FORBES ROCKWELL, JR. born Mar. 25, 1911.
- ii WILLIAM PLUNKETT ROCKWELL born July 2, 1912.
- iii ELIZABETH ROCKWELL born Jan. 29, 1914, died Apr. 15, 1915.
- iv MARY ELIZABETH ROCKWELL born Nov. 30, 1915.
- v THOMAS PLUNKETT ROCKWELL born Dec. 18, 1917.
- vi CAROLINE CAMPBELL ROCKWELL born Mar. 10, 1919.
- vii GEORGE GILBERT DAVIS ROCKWELL born Dec. 31, 1922.

He was graduated from Harvard A.B. 1900, S.B. 1901 (Mech. Eng.), moved to North Andover in 1900, and has been since then with the Davis & Furber Machine Co., having been Treasurer and Managing Director since 1920.

1017

JULIUS ROCKWELL (*Mary G.⁸, Henry G.⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) married Alice Hearne of Wayne, Penn. Aug. 2, 1917 at Beach Haven, N. J.

Children:

- i JULIUS ROCKWELL, JR. born at Taunton July 25, 1918.
- ii WILLIAM HEARNE ROCKWELL born at Taunton Oct. 28, 1919.
- iii FRANCIS WILLIAMS ROCKWELL born at Taunton Jan. 11, 1924.

He was graduated from Yale B.A. 1904, settled in Taunton, Mass., where he was with Reed and Barton. In 1925 he moved to Andover, Mass. and since then has been connected with the Merrimack Card Clothing Co.

1018

LAWRENCE DOWSE ROCKWELL (*Mary G.⁸, Henry G.⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) married Grace Madeline Whitehead Dec. 5, 1908 at Chicago, Ill., divorced June 4, 1919.

Children:

- i GRACE MADELINE ROCKWELL born Mar. 31, 1910—died Sept. 7, 1916 at Pittsfield—buried in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois.
- ii JOHN BREWSTER ROCKWELL born July 31, 1911.
- iii LAWRENCE DOWSE ROCKWELL, JR. born 1915.

He was graduated from Harvard A.B. 1906. Served at the Mexican Border and was Pilot and First Lieutenant of Aero Squadron in the World War. He moved about 1921 to Middletown, Iowa, and later to Rome, Iowa where he lives on his farm with his son John.

1018A

The third child of Jonathan⁶ Davis was ABBIE LEARN-ED⁷ Davis born at Oxford January 19, 1825, and married November 10, 1852 at Oxford, Mass. to Rev. William T. Briggs (No. 343 in the George L. Davis Genealogy). They had four children:

- i ABBIE D. BRIGGS born December 8, died December 14, 1853.
- ii WILLIAM HARRISON BRIGGS born at Andover Mar. 10, 1855. He was graduated at the Harvard Law School in 1875, removed in 1882 from Worcester, Mass. to Grinnell, Iowa, and returned to East Douglas in October 1895 where he died October 2, 1897.
- (1019) iii HELEN LEROY BRIGGS born at Princeton, Mass. September 5, 1858.
- iv ANN ISABEL BRIGGS born September 27, 1861 at Princeton and died July 17, 1866.

William Thomas Briggs b. Scituate, Mass. Dec. 1, 1815; Oneida (N. Y.) Inst. 1844 and theol. dept. 1844-45; ord. Nov. 4, 1846; p. (North) Andover, Mass. 1846-55; Princeton 1856-63; hospital chap. Washington 1863; asst. supt of freedmen Newbern, N. C. 1864-65; pastor at East Douglas, Mass. 1866-87 and emer.; d. Sept. 24, 1898 at East Douglas.

Mrs. Abbie Learned⁷ Briggs died at East Douglas in November 1912 and is buried beside her husband in the Congregational Cemetery at Oxford, Mass.

1019

HELEN LEROY BRIGGS (*Abbie L.*⁷, *Jonathan*⁶, *etc.*) was married to Rev. Carlton Putnam Mills 12 Sept. 1885 and died at Kalamazoo, Michigan Dec. 5, 1889. He mar. (2) Alice Kimball Wilson at Boston April 28, 1896.

Children by wife Helen:

- (1020) i MARGARET MILLS born Aug. 31, 1886 at Waltham, Mass.
- (1021) ii DOROTHY MILLS born Aug. 23, 1888 at Newton Highlands, Mass.

Carlton Putnam Mills was born April 29, 1857 at Williamstown, Mass. Received his A.B. degree in 1878

at Williams College. From 1878-1882 was a teacher at Greylock Institute, S. Williamstown. Received his B.D. degree in 1885 at the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass. From 1885-1886 was minister at Church of the Ascension, Waltham, Mass. From 1886-1889 was minister at St. Luke's Church, Kalamazoo, Michigan. From 1889-1895 was minister at Church of the Ascension, Boston. From 1895-1906 was minister at St. Chrysostom's Church, Wollaston, Mass. From 1906-1919 was Educational Secretary of the Diocese of Mass. From 1920-1926 was minister at the Church of Our Redeemer, Lexington, Mass. He retired in 1926 and is living at Winchester, Mass.

1020

MARGARET MILLS (*Helen L. Briggs, Abbie L.⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) married Paul Bradford Badger, Yale 1911, at Winchester, Mass. Sept. 19, 1914.

Children:

- i DANIEL BRADFORD BADGER born Aug. 29, 1915. At Phillips Academy, Andover, in 1931.
- ii PAUL BRADFORD BADGER, JR. born Aug. 15, 1917.
- iii CARLTON MILLS BADGER born July 16, 1924.

Mr. Badger in 1931 is with the Vacuum Oil Company of New York as Vice Chairman of their Export Committee. After many years abroad, he and his family now live at 9 Park Place, Greenwich, Conn.

1021

DOROTHY MILLS (*Helen L. Briggs, Abbie L.⁷, Jonathan⁶, etc.*) was married to Rev. William Payne Roberts Oct. 21, 1918 at Winchester, Mass.

Children:

- i EDITH ROBERTS born Sept. 1919 at Soochow, China.
- ii HELEN ROBERTS born Jan. 1921.
- iii WILLIAM PAYNE ROBERTS, JR. born Nov. 1922.
- iv JOHN CARLTON ROBERTS born Feb. 22, 1926.

Rev. William Payne Roberts, Yale 1909, was graduated from the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge. They have lived in China for many years under the direction of the Board of Missions of the U. S. A. Episcopal Church. He is now, 1931, Rector of the Episcopal Church of Nanking, China.

Having finished with the descendants of Jonathan⁵ Davis, we now take up two sons of John² Davis (*William*¹).

JOHN³ DAVIS, FIRST CHILD OF JOHN²
(*WILLIAM*¹)

John³ was born at Roxbury January 11, 1670-71 (Roxbury Births). Doc. 114, p. 130 has in list of baptisms—"1671 Mo. 3, day 14, John son to John Davies." The George L. Davis Genealogy says he probably died young. We have no record of any marriage or of any children.

The History of Woodstock, Volume Four, page 463, records that he had a son, Edward⁴, and goes on from this Edward⁴ and gives a line of descent up to the present day. A careful search, however, fails to substantiate this claim. All the descendants of this Edward⁴ there given were in reality descendants of Edward⁴ Davis (*Samuel*³, *John*², *William*¹). In other words, they were

not descended from John³ but from his brother, Samuel³, and that correction should be made in all of the many articles in the History of Woodstock dealing with the descendants of Edward⁴ Davis. (See also the list entitled—Other Descendants of William¹ Davis of Roxbury—given in the last part of this chapter.)

WILLIAM³ DAVIS, SECOND CHILD OF
JOHN² (*WILLIAM*¹)

Married Charity. (This marriage is not recorded in Roxbury.) Died January 23, 1705-6. William³ and Samuel³ were executors of the will of their father, John² Davis.

In Roxbury Birth Records are the following three children (A, B, and C):

- A. September 17, 1701—JOHN⁴. This is the grandson of John² who inherited the homestead. He died July 22, 1776. His will is Suffolk Probate Docket No. 16243. He left a son John⁵, a son Nathaniel⁵, and two daughters, Charity⁵ Murdock and Abigail⁵ (later Heath). He was known as "Deacon John." He married Mrs. Sarah Weld of Roxbury April 7, 1737 and they had seven recorded children.

- i JOHN⁵ October 29, 1739.
- ii NATHANIEL⁵ October 26, 1741.
- iii WILLIAM⁵ April 24, 1744—died October 6, 1760.
- iv CHARITY⁵ May 15, 1746.
- v SARAH⁵ August 14, 1748—died October 21, 1767.
- vi JOSEPH⁵ January 19, 1752.
- vii ABIGAIL⁵ September 6, 1754.

All the above dates are taken from the Roxbury Record of Births and Deaths.

At the death of Deacon John⁴ in 1776, he left two sons, neither of whom had children, so that the Davis name in this line stopped here unless Joseph⁵ left children, and we have found no record of his marriage or of any children of his.

- B. WILLIAM⁴ (son of William³ and Charity) born June 6, 1704 appears in the "History of Oxford" on page 480:

William, son of William of Roxbury, b. 6 June, 1704. (His father was the son of John of Roxbury and brother of Dea. Samuel of Oxford.) He bought land in Ox., 1724, and probably came here about that time; in 1739, and for several years after, was a licensed innholder; owned the Benjamin Chamberlain property on the west side of Main Street from Quaboag Lane at the Benjamin Paine house, H. 221, northward to the present Mrs. Hyde's place, H. 240. It is impossible to fix upon his residence. It may have been the Dr. Cushman house or the old tavern stand. He m. 4 Feb., 1742, Elizabeth, dau. of Isaac Larned, no ch. He d. 14 Aug., 1775, she d. aged 76, March 1, 1796. He sold in 1760 his estate on the Plain and 1761 bought the house and lot in the fork of the Sutton road, H. 25, where both d.

(Extract from his will, "I give to Elizabeth Davis, my wife, one-half of all my indoor movables of all sorts and one-third of the income of all my real estate, so long as she is my widow but to cease at her marriage . . . I give to four children of my brother John Davis of Roxbury, viz: John, Nathaniel, Charity Murdock, and Abigail Davis, all my real estate and all the remainder of my personal estate." Elisha Davis was executor. The selectmen fearing she would become a town charge arranged with these heirs for her support, they yielding to her the house and outbuildings and agreeing to pay not less than nine or more than ten pounds per annum towards her support.)

- C. NATHANIEL⁴ (son of William³ and Charity) was born Jan. 19, 1705-6 (Roxbury Birth Records) and

his tombstone, formerly in the Peters Hill or Walters Street Burying Ground, had on it the inscription: "Nathaniel Davis A.M. died Mar. 5, 1731 agd 26." We copied this from the stone about 1909 but now in 1931 the stone is gone as are most of the others that were there in 1909.

The will of Elder James Penn of the First Church in Boston provided for payments to worthy students at Harvard College. September 10, 1722 money from this bequest was paid to Nathaniel Davis of Roxbury. ("History of the First Church in Boston" by Arthur B. Ellis, Boston, 1881.)

ELIZABETH³ DAVIS

ELIZABETH³ DAVIS (*John², William¹*) married Thomas Mayo May 4, 1699 at the same time that her sister, Mary³, married George Bacon. Settled at Roxbury and had twelve children. The Mayo family of Oxford was among their descendants.

The Bernon land at Oxford was bought in 1720 by Samuel³ Davis, Thomas Mayo (Samuel's brother-in-law), and Joseph Weld (whose sister Samuel afterwards married), but Thomas Mayo remained in Roxbury. However, his fifth child, John, married for a second wife his cousin, Elizabeth⁴ Davis (*Samuel³, John², William¹*) on November 9, 1743. John Mayo was the first of the name to settle in Oxford and he resided on the Bernon land near the Huguenot fort not far from the Samuel³ Davis house.

John Mayo and his first wife, Mary Learned, had six children and there were five more by his second wife, Elizabeth Davis.

Having finished with the descendants of John² Davis

(*William*¹) we now take the other children of William¹ Davis.

SAMUEL² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

SAMUEL², the second child of William¹, was baptized Mo. 8 day 11 1649 with his brothers, John and Joseph (Doc. 114, p. 118). He was born Feb. 21, 1644 (although in the Roxbury record of births the printed copy has it—bap. Feb. 21, 1644). We find in the Roxbury records no note of any marriage or of any children. He is mentioned in his father's will made in 1683.

We note in Doc. 114, p. 91 "1673 23: 9m Samuel Davis dismissed to North-Hampton". The following is taken from the George L. Davis Genealogy, page 2:

"Samuel² Davis, son of William & Elizabeth, went from Roxbury to Northampton in 1668, to Deerfield in 1682, to Northfield in 1685, and to Northampton in 1690, where he d. 26 July of that year. He m. 4 March, 1668, Hannah dau. of Alex^r Edwards. She d. 11 Sept. 1680. He m. (2), 1681, Elizabeth dau. of Samuel Smead. She d. 26 Aug. 1682. He m. (3) Hannah ———, who after his death m. 1691 Nathaniel Pritchard. Ch. by first w. Hannah:

- i SAMUEL b. 2 Feb. 1670, d. 2 March, 1671.
- ii SAMUEL, b. 31 Jan. 1672, m. 23 Oct. 1695, Thankful Mason* and had *Samuel*, b. 16 Sept. 1696.
- iii JOHN, b. 16 May, 1677.
- iv ELIZABETH, b. 20 June, 1679.
Ch. by w. Elizabeth:
- v JOSEPH, b. 6 Aug. 1682.

JOSEPH² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

JOSEPH², third child of William¹, was born Oct. 12, 1647 (George L. Davis Genealogy). He was baptized

*George H. Williams writes that South Brookfield records give Samuel³ and Thankful Davis thirteen children (see also page 176).

with his two older brothers mo 8 day 11 1649 (Doc. 114, p. 118). His birth is not recorded in Roxbury records, but he is mentioned in his father's will in 1683. His mother must have been Elizabeth who died in 1658, but there is no trace of any further children before the death of Elizabeth.

In the Roxbury marriage record we find "1670 Joseph Davis and Sarah Camberlin Oct. 28," and in Doc. 114, p. 91 "1673 8. 12 m—Sarah the wife of Joseph Davis—solemnly owned the covenant."

The Roxbury church records show eight children of Joseph² and Sarah Davis as follows:

- *i-ii 1673 Moneth 12 d 22 JOSEPH & SARAH DAVIES of Joseph Davies [*baptized*] [Doc. 114, p. 132].
- iii 1675 M 10 day 12 MARY daughter of Joseph Davis [*baptized*] [Doc. 114, p. 133].
- *iv 1680 m 1 day 21 HANNAH, daughter of Joseph Davis [*baptized*] [Doc. 114, p. 135]. Mar. Daniel Allin Oct. 26, 1705 (R.V.R.)
- v 1680 M 1 day 19 a new borne twin of Joseph Davis [*buried*] [Doc. 114, p. 183].
- vi 1682 M 12 d 25 BENJAMIN, son of Joseph Davis [*baptized*] [Doc. 114, p. 137].
- vii 1685 MEHETABLE, daughter of Joseph Davis of Muddy River (Rox. birth record). This entry in the Vital Records is dated Feb. 3, 1684-5.
1684 M 12 d 22 MEHITABEL daughter of Joseph Davis [*baptized*] [Doc. 114, p. 139].
- *viii 1688 April d 15 ABIGAIL the daughter of Joseph Daviss [*baptized*] [Doc. 114, p. 142].

*"History of Woodstock," Vol. 4, p. 461 has the following paragraphs:

SARAH³ bap. Feb. 22, 1673, d. Apr. 18, 1741, m. Sept. 1, 1692 Ebenezer Morris, b. Roxbury April 14, 1664, d. Woodstock Feb. 26, 1718, son of Edward Morris and Grace Bett.

HANNAH³ bap. March 21, 1680, d. Apr. 17, 1754, m. Daniel Allen (Family of James Allen No. 22) of Mashomoquet (Pomfret), b. Pomfret 1681, d. Apr. 10, 1759, son of Joseph Allen and Hannah Sabin.

ABIGAIL³ bap. Apr. 15, 1688, m. May 8, 1712 Jeremiah Sabin of Pomfret, both of Pomfret at time of marriage.

Joseph and Sarah lived in Muddy River and this is the reason why the children were not entered in the Roxbury births and yet none of them were entered in the Boston records, either.

This Joseph² was known as Joseph Senior and his son, Joseph³, was known as Joseph Junior. Joseph Jr. died Dec. 23, 1717 and Joseph Sr. on Dec. 25, 1717 and both were buried in the same grave.

Benjamin³, the sixth child, died June 19, 1707 (Roxbury Deaths). He was 25 years old and we have found no record of any marriage or children.

Joseph³, Jr. married Sarah (not recorded in Roxbury) and had six children recorded in Roxbury Birth Records:

- i JOSEPH⁴ born July 26, 1697.
- ii JOHN⁴ born October 30, 1699.
- iii SARAH⁴ born May 2, 1702.
- iv SAMUEL⁴ born June 27, 1704.
- v JOSHUA⁴ born November 20, 1706.
- vi BENJAMIN⁴ born March 5, 1710.*

The five sons all lived in Woodstock, Connecticut. John⁴ is the John Davis who married Martha Griggs at Roxbury June 8, 1721 (one Roxbury child is recorded "John son of John and Martha bap. Mar. 25, 1722" Roxbury Vital Records)—and they had four children born at Woodstock (History of Woodstock, Vol. 4, p. 467). The Roxbury child must have died young as another John⁵ was baptized at Woodstock December 7, 1729 but there is no record of the death in the Roxbury V. R.

Joseph⁴ is the Joseph Davis of Woodstock who married Sarah Curtis at Roxbury January 31, 1722-3 (see H. of W., Vol. 4, p. 467). Sarah, wife of Joseph³ Davis, must

*This Benjamin married Sibyl Rocket Mar. 13, 1734 and had nine children. He was the progenitor of the Benjamin Davis family of Oxford. Page 3 of George L. Davis Genealogy has him as Benj⁴ (*Benj³ Ichabod² Wm¹*) apparently an error.

have died between 1710 and 1715 because there is a Roxbury marriage record showing that Joseph³ Davis married Elizabeth Lane December 8, 1715, and the George L. Davis Genealogy, p. 464, mentions a child born to this marriage: "Ebenezer 4 born 11 Nov. 1717 at Brookline" and "Ebenezer son of Joseph and Elizabeth Davis" was baptized in Roxbury December 1, 1717 (Roxbury V. R.). This Ebenezer Davis is supposed to be the man who in 1739 settled in Oxford. He was married in 1742 to Lydia Dana and they had eleven children:

Elizabeth, 1743, who married Deacon Edward⁵ Davis of Dudley (*Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², and William¹*); Ebenezer, 1744; Lydia, 1746; Abigail, 1749; Jonas, 1751; Lydia, 1754; Susanna, 1757; Mary, 1760; Susanna, 1762; Rebecca, 1765; and Dorcas, 1769.

This family is given on page 480 of History of Oxford.

The father, Joseph³, died December 25, 1717—Suffolk Probate Docket No. 3945—but there is a record of a posthumous child, Thomas⁴, baptized August 31, 1718—(R. V. R.).

Joseph⁴ had a son, Joseph⁵, who married Sarah, a daughter of Deacon Samuel Davis of Oxford, and settled in Dudley. Their descendants are described by George L. Davis in his "Genealogy of Samuel Davis of Oxford and Joseph Davis of Dudley."

Joshua⁴ (*Joseph³, Joseph², William¹*) married Sarah Pierpont of Brooklyn December 15, 1731 (Roxbury Marriages), and their son, Nathaniel, was born September 2, 1749.

Joshua⁴ is in the "History of Woodstock," Vol. 4, Article 55, page 469, as follows:

JOSHUA⁴ DAVIS (*Joseph³, ², William¹*) of Woodstock, b. Nov. 20, 1706, d. Brookline in fall of 1755, age 49, m. Dec. 15, 1731 Sarah Pierpont, b. Roxbury Nov. 11, 1714, d. after Mar.

10, 1795 and before Aug. 1797, daughter of James Pierrepont and Sarah Gore, and granddaughter of Robert Pierrepont and Sarah Lynde* and sister of Robert Pierrepont the Boston merchant. Sarah m. (2) Feb. 3, 1763 William Whitney of Brookline and is called "Mother Sarah Whitney" in 1797 in will of her son Hon. Caleb Davis.† After marriage Joshua⁴ removed to Woodstock where his three older brothers lived and was an innkeeper. In 1748, after a residence of seventeen years in Woodstock, he removed to Brookline and at the time of his death was an innkeeper in Brookline.

Seven oldest children b. Woodstock; three youngest b. Brookline:

- (99) i SARAH⁵ b. Aug. 29, 1732.
- (100) ii REBECAH⁵ b. July 17, 1734.
- (101) iii COL. JOSHUA⁵ b. Aug. 18, 1736, a Master Mariner in Boston and Colonel 1779 in Revolutionary War and later in the Massachusetts Militia.
- (102) iv HON. CALEB⁵ b. Oct. 25, 1738.
- (103) v LUCA (LUCY)⁵ b. Jan. 25, 1742.
- (104) vi GEN. AMASA⁵ b. Apr. 17, 1744,‡ d. Jan. 30, 1825, m. Sarah, d. Boston, Aug. 1794. Gen. Amasa⁵ was Patriot and Quartermaster-General of Massachusetts 1787-1821; resided Orange St., Boston.
- (105) vii MAJ. ROBERT⁵, b. Jan. 24, 1747, m. (1) Nov. 7, 1768 Anna Coles (int. read "Cotes"); m. (2) Oct. 7, 1776 Mary Farrington, b. Dedham Mar. 7, 1752, daughter of Jonathan Farrington and Mary Fales. Maj. Robert⁵ was a Revolutionary Officer and member of the "Boston Tea Party."
- (106) viii NATHANIEL⁵ b. 1750.
- (107) ix JOSEPH⁵ b. 1752.
- (108) x SUSANNA⁵ bap. Jan. 19, 1755.

*Sarah Lynde, bap. Apr. 14, 1639, daughter of Thomas Lynde and his second wife Margaret Jordan, daughter of John Martin and widow of Thomas Jordan (Charlestown Records). She m. Feb. 18, 1657 Robert Pierrepont (Pierrepont Genealogy, p. 35).

†In R. Burnham Moffat's "Pierrepont Genealogies" (privately printed New York 1913), p. 38, only the names of Sarah Pierrepont's four brothers are given.

‡W. V. R. say Amasa⁵ b. Apr. 17, 1744 was the son of Joshua Davis and Hannah, but the births of Amasa's brothers and sisters are given in the Woodstock Records as the children of Joshua and Sarah.

Hon. Caleb⁵ Davis is the subject of Article 102, page 471, Vol. 4, of "History of Woodstock." He had six children but there is no record there of any grandchildren named Davis.

See also paragraphs at the last of this chapter under "Other Descendants of William¹ Davis of Roxbury" for further descendants of Joseph² Davis (*William*¹).

WILLIAM² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

There were two brothers named William (the fourth and the fourteenth children), one the son of William¹ and Alice (Thorpe) Davis and the other the son of William¹ and Jane Davis. William¹ Davis married Alice Thorpe in Roxbury October 21, 1658 (Roxbury Marriage Records). Their four children were: William², Elizabeth², Matthew², and Jonathan².

William² and Elizabeth² were baptized 4 m. 14 d. 1663 as children of William Daviss (Doc. 114, p. 124). And this William² died in 1678 as is shown by Doc. 114, p. 182:

Mo 10 day 18 1678 Williā Davis dyed of the pox at Boston buried in our burying place.

The next child born was named William:

Jan. 3, 1679-80—William son of William Davis [Roxbury Births].

1679 M 11 d 4 Williā son of William Davis baptized [Doc. 114, p. 135].

1694 Dec 9 William Davis [*admitted to full Communion*].

This last entry might possibly refer to his nephew, William³ (*John*², *William*¹), who was born in 1673, a nephew who was six years older than his uncle.

William² Davis was married in 1709-10:

William Davice of Roxbury & Dorothy Mixer of Watertown were married by Mr. Samuell Angier Minister in Watertown January: 12 1709-10 [p. 44 (35), Bond's Records of Watertown, Vol. II].

On January 9, 1710-11 is acknowledged a deed of 28 acres in Brookline from Jane¹ Davis, widow of William¹ Davis, to her son William² Davis. This land was part of the 60-acre lot which William¹ bought from Peter Oliver as mentioned elsewhere.

ELIZABETH² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

ELIZABETH², fifth child of William¹ Davis.

William and Elizabeth were baptized 4 m, 14 d 1663 (Doc. 114, p. 124) as children of William Daviss.

Elizabeth is mentioned in her father's will (1683) but we have no further information about her.

MATTHEW² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

Matthew², sixth child of William¹ Davis.

Bap. (mo 11, d 24, 1663) January 24, 1664 (p. 124, Doc. 114).

[Doc. 114, p. 102] July 7 1695 Matthew Davis [*admitted to full Communion*].

He is mentioned in his father's will. The George L. Davis Genealogy says he settled in Woodstock, Conn.

The following paragraphs are from the "History of Woodstock," Vol. 4, p. 462:

MATTHEW² DAVIS

(*William*¹) bap. Jan. 24, 1664,* d. Pomfret Feb. 4, 1729, m. Woodstock Feb. 27, 1691 Margaret Corbin (Corbin Family No. 10), b. Brookline Mar. 21, 1673,† living Pomfret June 28, 1729, daughter of Clement Corbin and Dorcas Buckminster. The names of Matthew Davis and his brother Jonathan were among the forty names to whom Massachusetts granted the town of New Roxbury or Woodstock.‡ Matthew Davis removed from Woodstock to Pomfret in 1721.§ The following year he sold land in Woodstock to his "loving son-in-law, Henry Bowen of Woodstock, in the County of Suffolk and Province of Massachusetts Bay."° The same year he sold Woodstock land to another son-in-law, Edward Ainsworth, Jr.

All children but Joanna b. Woodstock:

- (30) i SAMUEL³ b. Aug. 18, 1693, d. Aug. 22, 1693.
- (31) ii JOANNA³ b. Roxbury Oct. 22, 1696, d. Apr. 25, 1753, age 56, m. Apr. 5, 1722 Edward Ainsworth, Jr. (Ainsworth Family No. 4), of Woodstock, b. Woodstock Aug. 18, 1693, d. June 15, 1755, son of Edward Ainsworth and Joanna Hemmingway. Joanna at time of marriage was living in Pomfret.
- (32) iii MARGARET³ b. Feb. 7, 1699, d. Apr. 14, 1762, m. May 10, 1721 Henry Bowen (Bowen Family No. 33), b. Framingham, Mass., Mar. 30, 1700, d. Woodstock Jan. 1, 1758, son of Isaac Bowen and his first wife Hannah Winchester.
- (33) iv MATTHEW, JR.³ b. Oct. 14, 1706.
- (34) v ELIZABETH³ b. Nov. 13, 1708, d. Dec. 1, 1708.
- (35) vi ELIZABETH³ b. Mar. 26, 1710.
- (36) vii CATHARINE³ b. Oct. 14, 1712.
- (37) viii ABIGAIL³ b. Oct. 9, 1715.

*Davis Genealogy and Edward A. Bowen, p. 169, say June 24, 1664.

†Mar. 16, 1673 given in Corbin Genealogy, p. 28.

‡Massachusetts Archives, Vol. 128:47.

§Pomfret deeds, Vol. II:45.

°Deed owned by the late Charles A. Bowen, Worcester, great-great-great-grandson of Henry Bowen, "Esq." The land was in two pieces, forty acres (27 and 13) and half an acre at South Meadow.

No. 31 Joanna³ is stated to have been born at Roxbury. We do not find any such entry in the Roxbury Vital Records.

Matthew³ Davis, Jr. of the above children is the only one whose descendants are given in Vol. 4 of "History of Woodstock." He appears as No. 33, page 464.

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MATTHEW³ DAVIS, JR.

(*Matthew*², *William*¹) b. Woodstock Oct. 14, 1706, m. Nov. 17, 1726 Anne Dana (Dana No. 28), b. Cambridge May 11, 1705, d. Pomfret Nov. 27, 1762, daughter of Benjamin Dana and Mary Buckmaster.

Children b. Pomfret:

- (58) i MARGARET⁴ b. Sept. 4, 1727, d. Sept. 8, 1739, age 12.*
- (59) ii ANNA⁴ b. July 4, 1730.
- (60) iii ABIGAIL⁴ b. Apr. 4, 1733, d. Pomfret Apr. 15, 1763,†
m. as his first wife Aug. 21, 1755 John Grosvenor, Jr.,
b. Pomfret. Mar. 4, 1734, d. Feeding Hill (now Agawam), Mass., son of John Grosvenor and Hannah Dresser.
- (61) iv MATTHEW⁴ b. July 24, 1736.
- (62) v JOANNA⁴ b. Jan. 23, 1738.

We find no further record of these children in "History of Woodstock," Vol. 4.

JONATHAN² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

Jonathan², seventh child of William¹ Davis, married Anna:

1666 Jonathan, son of William Davis born Feb 2 [Rox. births].

1665 Moneth 12 day 4 Jonathan sonne to William Davies

*W. V. R.; also Pomfret Records.

†Pomfret Cemetery inscriptions; New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 73 (Boston 1919): II.

[*bap.*] [Doc. 114, p. 126]. [*Note that this was two days after his birth.*]

[Doc. 114, p. 96:] 1684 also these male youth—Jonathan Davis—all yes tooke hold on the Covenant ye 23 day of the first month.

Five children of this marriage appear in the Roxbury Birth Records:

- i ABIGAIL³ born Jan. 21, 1695.
- ii ELIZABETH³ born Mar. 15, 1697-8.
- iii JONATHAN³ born Feb. 14, 1699-1700.
- iv PAUL³ born June 9, 1702.
- v MOSES³ born Aug. 24, 1708.

[In Rox. Marriages] 1715 William Cheny and Abigail Davis 7th of April.

[In Rox. Marriages] 1721 Jonathan Daviss and Sarah Baker both of Roxbury Feb. 14, 1721-2.

1 1723 *Elijah*⁴ son of Jonathan & Sarah Davis Nov. 23.

2 1725 *Sarah*⁴ dau of Jonathan & Sarah Davis Jr. Sept 3.

[In Rox. Marriages]: 1723 Paul Davis & Anna Voss of Milton Nov 26. [*No births recorded in Roxbury. (But see last paragraph of Chapter IV.)*]

[In Rox. Marriages]: 1731 Moses Davis & Mrs. Rebecca Sabin May 13.

Four children recorded in Roxbury birth records:

- 1 *Rebeckah*⁴ born Oct. 31, 1731.
- 2 *Abigail*⁴ born Dec. 28, 1733.
- 3 *Susannah*⁴ born Mar. 3, 1734-5.
- 4 *Moses*⁴ born Oct. 18, 1738.

In addition to these there were four other children, as shown in the following, from the notes of George H. Williams:—William, Lois who m. Dorchester Dec. 3, 1761 Samuel Robinson, Eunice who m. Roxbury Jan. 18, 1770 Capt. Ebenezer Wales, and Huldah born Dorchester Jan. 1, 1748, d. by Beverly Record Nov. 23, 1843 ac. 95-10-22 at house of William Gage. Moses d. Apr. 1775 and adm. given to Ebenezer Wales & dis-

tribution to heirs of Moses, eldest son—heirs of William deceased, Abigail Payson, Susanna Crosby, heirs of Lois, heirs of Eunice, and Huldah Davis—.

From the above it appears that Jonathan² lived in Roxbury, where his children were born from 1695-1708, and that his descendants also lived in Roxbury. George L. Davis, on page 2, says that Jonathan² "sett. Woodstock, Connecticut." The "History of Woodstock," Volume I, says that Matthew Davis was one of the first thirteen proprietors or pioneers and that Jonathan Davis went out with him and was one of the forty original settlers. Jonathan was elected constable of Woodstock 2m, 24 d, 1691 (page 34) and in April 1695 he was on a committee to settle a boundary dispute (page 42), but in 1710, (page 58) when they divided out some more land, Benjamin Griggs took his in place of Jonathan Davis. In 1724 there was another division and Jonathan Davis was not mentioned. Therefore, it would seem that Jonathan went to Woodstock in 1686 as a young man twenty years old and stayed for eight or nine years, but that he later moved back to Roxbury, where he lived with his wife Anna and where his children were born and married.

The "History of Woodstock," Vol. 4, p. 460, however, has the following entry in the list of the children of William¹ Davis:

Jonathan of Woodstock b. Feb. 2, 1665, living in Woodstock 1706. In 1714 sold Woodstock Lot 54 to John Marcy.

There is nothing further in Vol. 4 about Jonathan² except the note (given above under Matthew) that he was one of the forty men to whom the town of Woodstock was originally granted. (See also in the last part of

this chapter the discussion about Nathaniel Davis who died in 1731.)

MARY² DAVIS

MARY² DAVIS, eighth child of William¹ Davis.

The Roxbury Birth Record is "1669 Mary daughter of William Davis March 28" and the church record of baptism is "1673 moneth 3 day 18 Mary daughter to William Davies."

There were several contemporaneous Marys about this time:

Daughter of John² (*Tobias*¹) born April 6, 1676.

Above daughter of William born March 28, 1669.

Daughter of John² (*William*¹) bap. Mo. 1, day 14, 1675.

There was also Mary (Devotion), wife of John² (*William*¹), married February 5, 1667, and Mary (Torrey), wife of Ensign John² (*Tobias*¹), who married the Ensign January 14, 1673.

There may have been other Mary Davises in Roxbury. The name was so common that it is difficult to trace out their church records.

Doc. 114, p. 96 has: 1684 30 d 1 mo Mary Davis a female youth took hold on the covenant.

Doc. 114, p. 97 has: 1684 Abigail Davis and Mary Davis took hold on the covenant Mo 3 day 11.

We have been unable to find any further trace of Mary² Davis, the eighth child of William¹ Davis. The History of Woodstock, Vol. 4, page 460, records that she was married to Samuel Damon of Reading. But that was a different Mary Davis, the daughter of George Davis of Lynn and Reading—(see page 253)—who was born

January 16, 1657-8 and who married (1) Matthew Grover who died in 1679. She married (2) Samuel Damon and is mentioned in the will of her mother, about 1698, as Mary Damon. Her son, Samuel Damon, was born in 1681 when our Mary Davis (*William*¹) was only twelve years old.*

JANE² DAVIS

Jane² Davis was the ninth child of William¹ Davis, born December 24, 1670, baptized "1673 moneth 3 day 18 daughter of William Davies" and admitted to church M 5, D 25, 1686. Her father, William¹, as we already know, died in 1683 leaving his widow Jane with nine children of her own, the oldest being but fourteen, besides five older children of the previous wives, the youngest, Jonathan, being eighteen. William, in spite of his large family, had accumulated a large amount of land, and his total estate was four hundred and twenty-nine pounds, a sizable sum for those days. But it was all in house, land and fixtures and it is easy to understand that the widow Jane must have had a hard time in bringing up her family. When her older daughters were able to work, it most certainly was necessary for them to do so. Jane² worked for several of her neighbors in Roxbury. May 6, 1699 she gave birth to a child which she said was the child of her master, William Heath. This he denied.

William Heath, son of Peleg Heath, was born January 30, 1663-4 (R. V. R.). He had married Hannah Weld November 11, 1685 (R. V. R.). We do not have the list of their children but we find a son Peleg was born to them October 2, 1696 (R. V. R.) and died January 27,

*From notes of George H. Williams.

1696-7 (R. V. R.) and that Hannah Heath, the wife of William Heath died June 21, 1697. William Heath in 1699 married Mrs. Anna Ruggles, widow of Captain Samuel Ruggles who had died August 15, 1692 (R. V. R.) and their son Peleg Heath was born July 26, 1700 (R. V. R.). Apparently Jane Davis worked for William Heath, perhaps before, but anyway after the death of his first wife.

The paternity of Jane's child, born 1699, was to be determined by Court action, and the case is in the records of the Massachusetts Supreme Court as Case No. 3965—October 5, 1699. But on April 2, 1700, no decision having been reached by the court, a petition signed by twenty-six of the neighbors was presented to the selectmen of Roxbury, recorded as follows in the Supreme Court Records under Case No. 4665:

Roxbury April ye 2d 1700

We whose names are hereunto subscribed knowing the burden which Jane Davis junr our neighbor is now labouring under, her mother being a godly grave, and at present a poor sorrowful widow, and the said Jane being weak in body, and down in spirit, some of us with whom she hath lived and others who are inhabitants of the Town of Roxbury, who have been well acquainted with her Carriage & behavior, account ourselves bound in Duty to say on her Behalf, that she was always Dilligent in her Calling and true in her work & Chaste in her Conversation; we say that we never saw or heard anything to the contrary, until (as she says) her Master William Heath beguiled her. And therefore upon these reasons we pray that she may have the privelege of the Law.

(Signed by 26.)

RACHEL² DAVIS

RACHEL² was the tenth child of William¹ Davis, entered in the Roxbury Birth Records as:

1672 Rachell daughter to William Davis Aug. 26

entered in the Roxbury Church Records of Baptisms as:

1673 Moneth 3 day 18 Mary, Jane, Rachel daughters to William Davies. [Doc. 114, p. 131].

also entered in Doc. 114, p. 98:

1685 M 3 d 10—Rachel Davis, all yes wr ys day received to take hold on \bar{o} covenant.

The History of Woodstock, Vol. 4, p. 460, has:

Rachel² b. Aug. 26, 1672, d. Apr. 23, 1740, m. Jan. 28, 1696 Josiah Goddard of Watertown, b. London, England, d. Watertown Nov. 14, 1720, son of William Goddard and Elizabeth Niles. Nine children. Six of the seven children of William Goddard and Elizabeth Niles were b. in London.

Rachel married 28 January, 1696 Josiah Goddard of Watertown and had nine children. Their daughter, Rachel Goddard, married Obadiah Coolidge, and from them is descended President Coolidge.

ANCESTRY OF PRESIDENT CALVIN COOLIDGE

William¹ Davis of Roxbury has many descendants; among them is Calvin Coolidge of Northampton, Massachusetts, former President of the United States.

The Davis ancestry:

William¹ Davis of Roxbury, Mass.

Rachel² Davis, daughter of William¹ and Jane Davis of Roxbury, born Aug. 22, 1672.

Rachel² Davis married Josiah Goddard of Watertown*, 28 Jan. 1695-6 and their daughter Rachel Goddard married Obadiah Coolidge, Jr., great, great, great, great grandfather of the President.

*In the marriage records of Watertown is this entry "Josiah Goddard & Rachel Davice were joynd in marriage 28: janr: 1695-6" (Genealogies, Watertown, by Henry Bond, Vol. II, p. 4 (4) of Records of Birth, Marriages and Deaths).

The Coolidge line in America is as follows:

- (1) John Coolidge bap. Cottenham, England 1604—
came to Watertown with wife Mary and one child.
- (2) Simon Coolidge 1632-1693.
- (3) Obadiah Coolidge 1664-1700.
- (4) Obadiah Coolidge, Jr. 1694-1740—who married
Rachel Goddard.
- (5) Josiah Coolidge 1718-1800.
- (6) Capt. John Coolidge 1756-1822.
- (7) Calvin Coolidge 1780-1853.
- (8) Calvin Galusha Coolidge 1815-1878.
- (9) John Calvin Coolidge 1845-1926.
- (10) Calvin Coolidge, President of the United States.

BENJAMIN² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

BENJAMIN², eleventh child of William¹ Davis.

1672 Benjamin son to William Davis May 31 [Roxbury Births.]

1674 Moneth 4 day 7 Benjamin, son to William Davis [*bap.*]
[Doc. 114, p. 132].

1695 Benjamin son of William Davis Nov 20 [Roxbury
Deaths].

Benjamin² died when only twenty-one years old and we
have found no record of his marriage.

Benjamin was born in 1674 and not in 1672 as the
printed records have it. This we discussed in listing
William's children.

ICHABOD² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

ICHABOD², twelfth child of William¹ Davis.

1676 Icabad son to William Davis April 1 [Roxbury Births].

1676 Month 2 day 2 Ichabod, son of Williā Davis [*bap.*]
[Doc. 114, p. 134].

This Ichabod² Davis married Bethia* and they had eight children, seven of whom survived their father and are mentioned in his will.

The Roxbury birth records show children as follows:

- †i MARY³ born Mar. 20, 1701.
- ii BENJAMIN³ born Dec. 6, 1702.
- iii BETHIA³ born Sept. 17, 1704 and died June 7, 1706.
- iv JACOB³ born Oct. 8, 1706.
- v BETHYA³ born Nov. 8, 1708.
- vi EZRA³ born Mar. 7, 1711.
- vii OBADIAH³ born Feb. 16, 1713.
- †viii JANE³ born June 19, 1716.

Ichabod² died Mar. 16, 1754 and was buried in the Peters Hill Burying Ground. We saw his stone there in 1909 but it was destroyed when the trees were planted there several years later. There is no trace of the grave there now in 1931.

The George L. Davis Genealogy says on p. 2:

Ichabod² Davis m. Bethia —; was deacon of Congregational church at Roxbury and by trade a tailor; —In 1750 he sold to Benjamin³ his son one-half of one hundred and seven acres in Dudley, being the land on which the said son dwelt. He d. 16 Mar 1754 and the balance of the farm was given to the son in his will.

Benjamin³ (*Ichabod², Wm¹*) mar. April 5, 1726 (Dorchester Records) Mehetable Triscott, and eleven

*Whether Bethia's maiden name was Hopkins or Pepper is still the subject of much discussion.

†The History of Woodstock, Vol. 4, p. 463 has the following paragraphs about Mary³ and Jane³:

Mary³ b. Mar. 20, 1701, d. Sept. 13, 1778 (Woodstock Vital Records), m. Oct. 17, 1723 Josiah Hammond, b. Newton, Mass., Mar. 12, 1700, d. Woodstock Oct. 5, 1793. Josiah Hammond m. (2) Woodstock June 8, 1780 Sybel Holmes, b. Woodstock Oct. 27, 1721, d. Feb. 20, 1810, daughter of John Holmes and Mary Johnson and widow of John Bishop (Hammond Genealogy, Vol. II: 270).

Jane³ b. June 19, 1716, d. Dudley Oct. 29, 1801, m. Jan. 6, 1736 Samuel Corbin (Corbin Family No. 20), b. Woodstock July 10, 1715, d. Dudley Aug. 17, 1782, son of James Corbin and Hannah Eastman.

children were recorded to them in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Dudley, but there was no Benjamin among these children. (From notes of George H. Williams.) See also footnote on page 99.

Ichabod² was the man who used on his will (Suffolk Docket No. 10742) the Davis seal which has been discussed elsewhere in this book. Ichabod² left all his lands and buildings in Roxbury to his son, Ezra³, who had married Sarah Child Dec. 1, 1737. The following are the children of Ezra³ Davis and Sarah (Child) Davis as recorded in the Roxbury Birth Records:

- i ANNA⁴ born Mar. 12, 1739-40.
- ii SARAH⁴ born July 14, 1743.
- iii EZRA⁴ born Feb. 16, 1744-5.
- iv BETHIA⁴ born Aug. 12, 1750.

Ezra³ Davis is buried in the Peters Hill Burying Ground. It is interesting to note that Peters Hill was once known as Davis Hill; the Davis family owned all the land thereabouts. John² Davis had 100 acres bounded on the north by Bussey Street. Ichabod² Davis, we surmise, owned the farm on the north side of Bussey Street, although we have not traced it down thoroughly. Anyway, we know that Ichabod² left his houses and lands to Ezra³ and that Ezra lived on what is now part of the Arnold Arboretum. Ezra³ left a son, Ezra⁴, born in 1744 and known as Ezra Davis, Jr. Ezra⁴ married Sarah Mayo Dec. 21, 1769 and they had the following children, recorded in the Roxbury Birth Records:

- i ISAAC⁵, son of Ezra Davis, Jr. born Sept. 27, 1770.
- ii MARY⁵, dau. of Ezra Davis, Jr. born Feb. 25, 1772.
- iii CALEB⁵, son of Ezra Davis, Jr. born Feb. 20, 1774.
- iv REBEKKEH⁵, dau. of Ezra Davis, Jr. born Dec. 23, 1775.
- v NANCY⁵, dau. of Ezra Davis, Jr. born Jan. 16, 1778. (d. Sept. 27, 1778.)

- vi JOHN HEATH⁵, son of Ezra Davis, Jr. born July 16, 1779.
- vii EZRA⁵, son of Mr. Ezra Davis born July 30, 1781.
- viii WILLIAM⁵, son of Mr. Ezra Davis born Dec. 19, 1783.
- ix SALLY born Oct. 16, 1785 (R.V.R.).
- x THOMAS born Oct. 18, 1787 (R.V.R.) he mar. (int.) Oct. 6, 1816 Rena Armsby of Sutton and had three children.
- xi JOEL born Jan. 17, 1791 (R.V.R.) he mar. (int.) Mar. 15, 1818 Sophia Rebecca Abbott (Rox. Rec.). He was of Hyde Park and had two children.
- xii CHARLES born July 9, 1792 (R.V.R.) he mar. May 21-31, 1818 Lucy Holmes Gould (Rox. Rec.) and had 3 children.
- xiii NANCY bap. Oct. 18, 1789 (R.V.R.) and she died Mar. 11, 1790.

The old house, known as the Ezra Davis House, was on the north corner of Bussey and South Streets but was destroyed by fire about 1908.

Jacob³ Davis and his wife Jemima had ten children recorded in the Roxbury Birth Records:

- i MARY⁴ born April 16, 1729.
- ii MARTHA⁴ born December 28, 1730.
- iii STEPHEN⁴ born April 19, 1732.
- iv JACOB⁴ born August 9, 1733—died September 20, 1734.
- v JACOB⁴ born September 21, 1735.
- vi EBENEZER⁴ born January 4, 1737-8.
- vii JEMIMA⁴ born September 21, 1739.
- viii JACOB⁴ born September 17, 1742.
- ix HANNAH⁴ born February 3, 1743-4.*
- x ELIZABETH⁴ born April 7, 1747

In the Eustis Street Burying Ground is a stone to Jacob⁴ Davis:

In Memory of | Mr. Jacob Davis | died |
July 4, 1809 | Aged 67 years

[Doc. 8, p. 67].

There is another stone:

*Married Ebenezer White Apr. 21, 1766.

Stephen Davis | died Mar 22d | 1821 aged 56 |
 years Martha Davis | his wife died Nov |
 14, 1825 aged 57 | years |
 (Erected by their children.) [Doc. 8, p. 68.]

This Stephen was the oldest son of Jacob⁴ Davis. Jacob⁴ married Dorothy Baker in 1764 (Roxbury Marriages) and the following seven children appear on the Roxbury Birth Records:

- i STEPHEN⁵ born March 20, 1765.
 - ii LOACHADA⁵ born September 22, 1766.
 - iii ABIGAIL⁵ born June 10, 1768.
 - iv ASA⁵ bap. Feb. 24, 1771 (church record.)
 - v LEMUEL BAKER⁵ born January 16, 1774.
 - vi JACOB⁵ born October 4, 1779.
 - vii JOHN⁵ born July 22, 1781.
 - viii NANCY⁵ born July 12, 1783, "dau. of Mr. Jacob and Dorothy Davis."
- (First six children entered as "of Jacob and Dorothy Davis".)

THE ARTHUR F. DAVIS MANUSCRIPT

In the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society is a manuscript book (S.G. Dav. 21) "Notes on some of the Descendants of William Davis of Carmarthen Wales, and Roxbury Massachusetts" compiled in 1926-7 by Arthur F. Davis of Acton, Mass. and given August 27, 1927 by Charles A. Davis of West Roxbury, Mass.

This consists of 148 closely-written pages, the first fifty of which are concerned mainly with William¹ Davis of Roxbury and his own children. The latter part of the book gives the ancestry of Arthur F.⁷ Davis and Charles A.⁷ Davis. The first part about William¹ Davis of Roxbury is of great interest to all of his descendants and we record the existence of that manuscript here in order that it may not be overlooked by investigators of the Davis family.

In comparing the records of Arthur F. Davis with our own we found many points of difference. Many of his dates have been transferred from the month and day form to the modern one without reference to the fact that the first month of the old calendar was March. Besides, the families of Joseph² and Joseph³ have been combined into one large family. There are several other differences, too, but, having the advantage of comparison, we have looked up each difference a second time and now have faith in the accuracy of our records as here printed.

Arthur F. Davis of Acton, Mass., born Roxbury April 28, 1863, is descended as follows: Arthur F.⁷, John Francis⁶, John⁵, Jacob⁴, Jacob³, Ichabod², William¹.

Charles A. Davis, late of West Roxbury, Mass. was descended as follows: Charles A.⁷, George Barber⁶, John⁵, Jacob⁴, Jacob³, Ichabod², William¹. George Barber⁶ Davis married his cousin, Nancy Gay Davis, so that Charles A. Davis had another line: Charles A.⁷ Davis, Nancy Gay⁶ (Davis), Locada⁵, Jacob⁴, Jacob³, Ichabod², William¹. Nancy Gay Davis was the daughter of John⁵ Davis and Locada⁵ (Davis) Davis. Arthur F. Davis in his manuscript states that Locada's husband was son of John⁵, (*John⁴, William³, John², William¹*); but this could not be true as John⁵ died in 1802 intestate without direct heirs and his property was divided among his brothers and sisters (Norfolk Probate Docket No. 5301). Locada's husband, John Davis, was son of the John Davis who was baptized September 4, 1737, the son of Nathaniel Davis and Abigail Lyon, and this Nathaniel was the son of a previous Nathaniel who died in 1731 leaving a widow Elizabeth. (For further details see the last of this chapter under Isaac² Davis.) For further details about the line of William², Ichabod²,

Jacob³, Jacob⁴, etc., the reader is referred to the manuscript of Arthur F. Davis.

The family of BENJAMIN⁴ DAVIS of Oxford is given in the "History of Oxford," pages 474 to 479. Since Benjamin⁴'s family is not descended from Samuel³ Davis of Oxford (Benjamin³ and Samuel³ were first cousins), it is not in the George L. Davis Genealogy. The following families are taken up in the "History of Oxford," to which reference is made for further details. (But be sure to read our comment which is below this list):

	<i>Residence</i>	<i>Generation</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Ancestry</i>
BENJAMIN DAVIS	Oxford	4	9	(Benj. ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
JOSEPH DAVIS	Oxford	5	4	(Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
	& Webster			
WILLIAM DAVIS	Dudley	6	7	(Jos. ⁵ , Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
CRAFT DAVIS	Oxford	5	11	(Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
	& Webster			
BENJAMIN DAVIS	Ware	6	9	(Craft ⁵ , Benj. ⁵ , ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
WARD DAVIS	Ware	6	11	(Same)
CRAFT DAVIS	Oxford	6	5	(Same)
CRAFT DAVIS	Oxford	7	3	(Craft ⁶ , ⁵ , Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
STEPHEN DAVIS	Oxford	6	4	(Craft ⁵ , Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
JAMES HOVEY DAVIS	Oxford	6	8	(Same)
	W. Brookfield			
BENJAMIN DAVIS	Oxford	5	9	(Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
	& Webster			
REUBEN DAVIS	Oxford	6	7	(Benj. ⁵ , ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
JAMES HOVEY DAVIS	Oxford	5	5	(Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
EZEKIEL DAVIS	Oxford	5	8	(Same)
ABEL DAVIS	Oxford	6	8	(—Benj. ⁴ , ³ , Ichabod ² , Wm. ¹)
WILLIAM DAVIS	Oxford	6	7	(Joseph ⁵ , ⁴ , ³ , ² , Wm. ¹)
	& Douglas			
JAMES DAVIS	Oxford	7	9	(Wm. ⁶ , Joseph ⁵ , ⁴ , ³ , ² , Wm. ¹)
EBENEZER	Oxford		10	(Supposed son of Joseph ⁵ & Elizabeth (Lane) Davis of Brookline)
	b. 11 Nov. 1717			
JOSEPH L. DAVIS	Oxford		2	(son of Micajah & Betsey (Latimer) Davis of Montville, Conn.)
	b. 16 July 1800			
GEORGE W. DAVIS	N. Oxford		2	(son of Robert D. of Rhode Island)
	b. 9 Dec. 1827			

We believe that the History of Oxford and the George L. Davis Genealogy are both wrong in giving the ancestry of Benjamin⁴ as Benjamin³, Ichabod², William¹. We think that it should be Benjamin⁴, Joseph³, Joseph², and William¹, as given on page 99. Perhaps some later

investigator may be able to straighten out the Benjamin Davis line with certainty.

EBENEZER² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

EBENEZER², thirteenth child of William¹ Davis.

1678 Ebenezer son of William Davis born April 9 [Rox. Births].

1700 Ebenezer Davis and Hannah White April 18 [Rox. Marriages].

Their children are given on page 122.

Ebenezer² was a "blacksmith." He died May 14, 1712 and left a will which became Suffolk Probate Docket No. 3407.

Many descendants of Ebenezer² Davis are living today. The family for many years was prominent in Roxbury. Colonel Aaron³ Davis, the youngest son of Ebenezer², and his eleven children founded the Aaron Davis family of Roxbury. (See page 123.) The Joseph Swallow Davis chart which is here reproduced gives one line of that family in detail.

EBENEZER³ (*Ebenezer², William¹*) and his Wife Sarah had six children as recorded on page 123.

NOAH⁴ DAVIS (*Col. Aaron³, Ebenezer², William¹*) married Elizabeth Weld Sept. 19, 1765 and they had ten children as recorded on page 125.

WILLIAM⁶ DAVIS, JUNIOR (*Deacon William⁵, Moses⁴, Colonel Aaron³, Ebenezer², William¹*), recorded in Roxbury Records as born July 16, 1801 but in the family notes as born July 18, 1801, was married twice and had ten children. The following four children were by his first wife, Jane Ann Hutchings of Gloucester, who was born April 2, 1808 and died April 2, 1837.

- i WILLIAM⁷ born December 2, 1832, married September 2, 1869 Margaret Isabel Patrick, daughter of Joel and Jane (Stinson) Patrick. She was born January 19, 1843 and died February 5, 1896. He assumed at some time the middle name of Wallace and was known as William Wallace Davis. They had two children: William Thacher born October 31, 1870 and Ralph Smith born December 2, 1880.
- ii ELLEN⁷ born February 8, 1834, mar. (1) George Henry Williams and (2) Colonel William V. Hutchings. Her son, George H. Williams, Jr., born January 7, 1858 is now (1932) living at the Somerset Hotel in Boston. He is greatly interested in the Roxbury Davis family and with his large number of records is an accurate and reliable authority whom we have consulted frequently. We sincerely hope that some day his records will appear in print.
- iii JANE ANN⁷ DAVIS born 28 Aug. 1835; m. Hon. Isaac Bradford of Cambridge.
- iv GEORGE HUTCHINGS⁷ DAVIS born 1836; died 1840.

Children by his second wife Maria (Davis) his cousin.

- v JOSEPH⁷ DAVIS born 24 Nov. 1840; died 28 Dec. 1926.*
- vi GEORGE⁷ DAVIS born Dec. 31, 1841; died Sept. 10, 1857.
- vii MARIA⁷ DAVIS born Oct. 5, 1843; mar. Dr. William Henry Holbrook Hastings.
- viii CHARLES⁷ DAVIS born 27 July 1845. (He was never Horatio.) Died at 653 Pleasant St., East Milton, leaving five children, one of whom is John Winthrop Davis of New York.
- ix FELLOWES⁷ DAVIS born July 18, 1848. (Wrote the "Family Records.")
- x HORATIO⁷ DAVIS born 6 April 1855; d. 25 Feb. 1910 unmarried. He was of the Boston Cordage Co.

William⁶ Junior's second wife was his cousin, Maria⁶ Davis, whose descent was as follows: William¹, Ebenezer², Col. Aaron³, Captain Aaron, Jr.⁴, Charles⁵,

*JOSEPH⁷ DAVIS mar. Nov. 4, 1874 at Trinidad, Col. Sarah Augusta Davis (of a New Jersey family) who was born June 5, 1853 and died Oct. 18, 1926 at Los Angeles, Cal. He died at Los Angeles. They had one child Joseph Swallow Davis born Sept. 10, 1875 at Trinidad, Col., mar. June 6, 1900 Edith Wight.

Maria⁶. Thus the last six of William⁶ Jr.'s children are descended from Colonel Aaron³ Davis in a double line.

The fifth child, Joseph⁷, was later of Trinidad and Denver, Colorado, and Los Angeles, California, and was much interested in Davis genealogy. His researches were shared with his brothers and in 1910 Fellowes⁷ Davis of New York incorporated part of their work in his book of "Davis Family Records" to which the reader is referred for details of the Aaron³ Davis family line.

CHARLES⁵ DAVIS (*Captain Aaron⁴, Aaron³, Ebenezer², William¹*) had fifteen children and his descendants were prominent in Roxbury. His oldest son Charles died when twenty-five years of age and Charles⁵ then changed the name of his sixth child, Cornelius F., to Charles⁶ Davis. This Charles⁶ inherited the principal family homestead on Davis Street in Roxbury close to the Boston and Roxbury line, and his son, Charles⁷ Jr., (whose name was changed from Horatio to Charles, Jr.) and his younger brother, James Vila⁷ Davis, (later of 1 Marlboro Street, Boston) grew up there. Charles⁷ Jr. was the last of the family to occupy the mansion. The house was torn down in March 1897 and Charles⁷ Jr. moved to Beacon Street, Boston. A picture of the old mansion with a brief history was published in a Boston paper at the time it was torn down. The account may be seen in Volume 16 of the scrap book of Henry A. May, Boston Public Library ** H. 80.217. In the "History of Roxbury" will be found many references to this branch of the family and the genealogical details are in Fellowes Davis's "Family Records."

AARON⁸ DAVIS, who was graduated from Harvard with the class of 1900, is the son of Charles⁷ Davis, Junior (formerly Horatio) and is now living in California.

DESCENDANTS OF EBENEZER² DAVIS

While in this book we have in no sense a complete genealogy of the descendants of William Davis of Roxbury and have confined our principal researches to the earlier generations, we have at hand a record of the descendants of Ebenezer² (*William*¹) Davis of Roxbury compiled by Charles F. White of Brookline with special reference to the Brookline branch of the family. This has been arranged by number so that the various families are easily traced. It was prepared about 1908 and has not been brought up to date. The references are complete, however, and as Mr. White is willing to have it used, it seems too good an opportunity to be lost.

RVR—Roxbury Vital Records

BVR—Brookline Vital Records

R1—Roxbury Index, City Registrar's Office Boston

PR—Parish Records, 1st Parish Church Brookline

DR—Dorchester Records, Vol. 21 Record Com. Rep'ts

GS—Grave Stone

RCR—Roxbury Church Records (Record Commissioners Vol. 6)

- | | | |
|------------|----|--|
| Of Roxbury | 1. | EBENEZER ² bo. 9 Apr. 1678 (R1. 21) D. 14 May (R1. 200) (will proved 12 June) 1712 (Suf. Probate Vol. 17, p. 472); m. 18 Apr. 1700 Hannah ³ White (<i>Joseph</i> ² , <i>John</i> ¹ of <i>Muddy River</i> .) (RVR p. 106.) |
| | | i HANNAH ³ bo. 20 Nov. 1701; m. 29 July 1725, John Healey (of Newton?) (RVR. p. 107) |
| | 2. | ii EBENEZER ³ bo. 17 Aug. 1703; d. 30 Sept. 1774 (PR. 122) |
| | | iii SARAH ³ bo. 30 June 1705; d. unm. 5 Sept. 1723 (R1. 206) |
| | 3. | iv NEHEMIAH ³ bo. 7 June 1707; d. 5 Jan. 1785 (PR. 125) |

Of Roxbury

4. v AARON³ bo. 26 Apr. 1709 (R1. p. 45); d. 1777 (Suf. Prob. V. 76, p. 203, see his will)
 vi RACHEL³ bo. 22 Mar. 1711; m. 10 Jan. 1740; Moses⁴ White (*Benjamin*³) d. 22 Mar. 1781

Of Brookline

2. EBENEZER³, m. 2 Dec. 1729; Sarah⁴ White [*Benjamin*³, *Joseph*², *John*¹ (above)]

5. i EBENEZER⁴, bo. 10 Oct. 1731 (R1. 64); d. 7 Dec. 1776 (PR. 123)
 ii SARAH⁴ bo. 29 May 1733 (R1. 66) d.
 iii HANNAH⁴ bo. 1 July 1735 (R1. 67)*
 6. iv BENJAMIN⁴ bo. 17 Aug. 1737 (R1. 69); d. 24 July 1774 (PR. 122)
 v SARAH⁴ bo. 30 June 1739 (R1. 70); m. 19 Oct. 1762 Joseph⁵ White (*Joseph*⁴, *Benjamin*³)
 vi ELIZABETH bo. 30 Aug. 1742 (BVR. p. 21) m. 19 Oct. 1762 Joseph Craft (PR. 102)

Of Brookline See Crafts family p. 47

3. NEHEMIAH³, m. 1st May 13, 1728; Mary Clark; M. 2d 28 Feb. 1739 Mary Payson (DR. p. 118)

7. i SAMUEL⁴, bap. 29 Apr. 1733; d. 24 Aug. 1774 (PR. 72 and 122)
 ii MARY⁴, bap. 8 Mar. 1741; m. Wm. Pierpont (PR. 75 and 102)
 8. iii NEHEMIAH⁴, bap. 7 Aug. 1743, not traced†
 iv MERCY⁴, bo. 19 Aug. 1747; m. Nov. 18, 1784; Joseph Williams (PR. 108)
 v LOIS⁴, bap. 15 Oct. 1749; m. 21 Mar. 1776; Abijah Child (PR. 77 and 105)

Of Roxbury

4. "COL". AARON³, m. 25 Jan. 1732, Mary Perrin (RVR. p. 105)

- i MARY⁴, bo. 14 Oct. 1733 (R1. 66); m. 29 Nov. 1753, Lt. Col. Ephriam Jackson
 9. ii AARON⁴, bo. 18 Oct. 1735 (R1. 67); d. 12 Oct. 1773

*Married Apr 25 1765 Matthias Collins of Newton.

†George H. Williams has "Nehemiah⁴ born Brookline Aug. 2 1743 mar. Rox. Dec 27, 1779 Catherine Dudley. One child, Paul, born Oct 31, 1782."

- Of Roxbury
- iii SARAH⁴, bo. 9 Nov. 1737 (R1. 69); m. 11 July 1756, David Weld (R1. 155)
 - 10. iv NOAH⁴, bo. 20 Nov. 1741 (R1. 72) (death not looked up)*
 - 11. v MOSES⁴, bo. 29 Apr. 1744 (R1. 75); d. 2 June 1823 R1.—
 - vi ELIZABETH⁴, bo. 3 Dec. 1746 (R1. 76); m. 12 Nov. 1767 Isaac Williams (R1. 161)
 - vii ABIGAIL⁴, bo. 21 Apr. 1749 (R1. 78); m. 15 Dec. 1768, Lemuel May (R1. 162)
 - viii HANNAH⁴, bo. 5 Dec. 1751 (R1. 80); m. 15 Dec. 1768 John Davis Williams (R1. 162)
 - ix PATIENCE⁴, bo. 28 May 1754 (R1. 82); m. 17 Dec. 1772 (John Capen, Jr. R1. 165) (*Moses⁴, Benj³, Jos.², John¹*)
 - x SUSANNAH⁴, bo. 22 Sept. 1756 (R1. 86); m. 18 June 1776 (R1. 168), Moses⁵ White
 - 12. xi JOHN⁴, bo. 3 May 1760 (R1. 91) not traced.
5. EBENEZER⁴, m. 19 Aug. 1756; Sarah Sumner (R1. 155)
- i SARAH⁵, bap. 18 Sept. 1757 (RCR. 151); m. 8 Jan. 1782, Nathaniel Winchester (PR. 107)
 - 13. ii EBENEZER⁵, bap. 20 May 1759 (RCR. 153); d. 8 July 1806 (PR. 130)
 - 14. iii INCREASE⁵, bap. 22 Mar. 1761 (RCR. 155); d. Lubec, Me., Dec. 1830 (PR. 108)
6. BENJAMIN⁴, m. 11 June 1761, Sarah Winchester (PR. 102)
- Of Brookline
- i MARY⁵, bap. 27 June 1762; m. 3 Feb. 1785, James Mears (PR. 80 and 108)
 - 15. ii BENJAMIN⁵, bap. 31 Mar. 1765; d. 5 Jan. 1807 (PR. 81 and 130)
 - 16. iii ISAAC⁵, bap. 6 Aug. 1769; d. 17 Mar. 1856 (PR. 83)

*Died Jan. 30, 1809 ae 67.

7. SAMUEL⁴, mar. 22 Dec. 1761, Mrs. Sarah Boylston (PR. 102)
- Of Brookline
17. i NEHEMIAH⁵, bap. 30 Jan. 1763; d. unm. 3 Dec. 1794 (PR. 80-127)
- ii ELIZABETH⁵, bap. 14 Oct. 1764 (PR. 81)
18. iii SAMUEL⁵, bap. 15 Mar. 1767; d. 21 June 1767 (PR. 82-119)
- iv MARY⁵, bap. 19 June 1768; d. 4 Aug. 1768 (PR. 82-120)
8. NEHEMIAH⁴ ROX. Index shows a Nehemiah Davis m. 1779 Katherine Dudley and birth 31 Oct. 1782 of son Paul Davis
9. "CAPT." AARON⁴, m. 20 Nov. 1760, Susanna Crafts, "Crafts Family" p. 147-8-9
- Of Roxbury
- i SUSANNA⁵, bo. 27 Aug. 1761 (RCR. 155 Bap.); d. unm. 28 May 1851
19. ii AARON⁵, bo. 13 Apr. 1763 (RCR. 157 Bap.) died without issue (abt. 1816, see Dedham Probate)
- iii SALLY⁵, bo. 2 July 1765 (RCR. 159 Bap.); d. unm. 26 Mar. 1847
- iv POLLY⁵, bo. 14 Oct. 1768 (RCR. 162 Bap.); d. unm. — in Roxbury
20. v CHARLES⁵, bo. 20 Mar. 1772 R1. 105; d. 8 Feb. 1842 in Roxbury
10. NOAH⁴, m. 19 Sept. 1765, Elizabeth Weld (R1. 160)
- Of Roxbury
- i NOAH⁵, bo. 17 July 1766 (R1. 97)
- ii ELIZABETH⁵, bo. 29 Sept. 1768 (R1. 99)
- iii MARY⁵, bo. 23 June 1771 (R1. 104)
- iv ABIGAIL⁵, bo. 31 Aug. 1773 (R1. 106)
- v SUZA⁵, bo. 26 Dec. 1775 (R1. 108)
- vi NATHANIEL WELD⁵, bo. 18 Feb. 1778 (R1. 110) d. 7 Dec. 1778
- vii HANNAH⁵, bo. 23 Sept. 1779 (R1. 111)
- viii LUCY⁵, bo. 12 July 1782 (R1. 113)
- ix See note at bottom of page.

NOTE: Zibiah dau. Lt. Noah and Elizabeth born Jan 31 1786 (R.V.R.) mar. May 30 1813 Isaiah Dunster Swallow. Also a daughter Rhoda bap. Sept. 5, 1773. (R.V.R.)

11. MOSES⁴, m. 1st, 13 Mar. 1770 Hannah Pierpont; 2nd, 15 Dec. 1791, Rebecca Sharp of Brookline (PR. 110) issue not traced, Roxbury*
12. JOHN⁴, not traced Roxbury?†
13. EBENEZER⁵, m. 1st, 21 May 1782 Lucy Sharp (PR. p. 107); m. 2nd, 13 Oct. 1791 Lucy Aspinwall (PR. 109)
- i SARAH⁶, bap. 17 Nov. 1782; d. 10 Mar. 1808 (PR. 88-131)
- ii ROBERT SHARP⁶, bap. 15 May, 1785; d. 27 Aug. 1821 (PR. 89)
- iii LUCY⁶, bap. 26 Aug. 1792; m. 5 Apr. 1814, Henry Gardner (PR. 91-116)
- iv ELIZABETH ASPINWALL⁶, bap. 22 Dec. 1793; d. 11 June 1798 (PR. 92-128)
- v EBENEZER⁶, bap. 26 July 1795; d. 11 Apr. 1802 (PR. 92-129)
- vi INCREASE SUMNER⁶, bap. 14 May 1797, Clergyman Wentworth, N. H. (PR. 93)
- vii THOMAS ASPINWALL⁶, bap. 16 Dec. 1798; d. 22 Nov. 1845 (PR. 93)
- viii ELIZABETH ASPINWALL⁶, bap. 3 May 1801; d. unm. 28 Nov. 1816 (PR. 94-134)
- ix EBENEZER⁶, bap. 22 July 1804, lived in Fairfield, Somerset Co., Maine (PR. 95)
21. 22. 23. 24. 25.
14. INCREASE⁵, m. 8 June 1786, Rachel Dana (PR. 108); Hannah White⁶ Bap. 7, Feb. 1799, in Brookline (PR. 93); Family not traced elsewhere.
15. BENJAMIN⁵, m. 17 Feb'y 1791, Elizabeth Baker, (Cambridge Records)
- i BENJAMIN BAKER⁶, bap. 16 Feb. 1794; d. 22 Aug. 1877 (PR. 92 and GS.)
- 26.

*Moses⁴ had six children.

†See page 142.

Of Brookline 27. ii THOMAS⁶, bap. 4 June 1797; d. 26 Jan. 1824 (PR. 93)
 iii ELIZABETH WHITE⁶, bap. 24 Mar. 1805; m. 3 June 1823 Seth Turner Thayer of Randolph, see Vinton Memorial P. 182

Of Roxbury 16. ISAAC⁵, m. 1st, 23 Mar. 1795, Elizabeth⁶ White (RV-R. p. 107), (*Aaron*⁵, *Moses*⁴, *Benj.*³, *Jos.*², *John*¹).
 2nd, 9 Dec. 1813*, Salome⁶ White (RVR. p. 107).
 *Mary White⁶ Davis dau. of Isaac⁵ married 24 May 1841 *John Langsdorf DeWolf, no issue (RVR. p. 109).
 See note at bottom of page.

17. NEHEMIAH⁵, no family

18. SAMUEL⁵, d. infant

19. AARON⁵, m. 24 Jan. 1793, Theoda Williams, no issue (Roxbury)

Of Roxbury 20. CHARLES⁵, m. 8 Sept. 1799, Harriet Fellowes. 15 children of this marriage

Of Brookline 21. ROBERT SHARP⁶, m. 24 Jan. 1808, Lucy Stearns (PR. 113)
 28. i SAMUEL CRAFT⁷, bap. 7 May, 1809; d. St. Louis, Mo. (PR. 98) Bo. 18 Jan. 1809
 29. ii ROBERT SHARP⁷, Jr., bap. 24 Feb. 1811; d. 24 Feb. 1874 (PR. 99)

*These were known personally by Charles F. White who wrote us that Isaac⁵ was his father's uncle and that the genealogical statement about Isaac⁵ on page 339 of Drake's History of Roxbury was not correct.

Note also that R.V.R. have three children of an Isaac Davis: Gustaves a son born Mar.—1803; Elizabeth born Mar.—1804 and James Pierpont born Nov.—1805. There was, however, more than one Isaac Davis, at that time, in Roxbury.

- Of Brookline
- iii SARAH⁷, bap. 25 Oct. 1812; d. 28 April (PR. 100)
 - iv LUCY STEARNS⁷, bap. 24 Mar. 1816; m. 21 Sept. 1844, Daniel H. Rogers (PR. 101)
 - 30. v PHINEAS STEARNS⁷, bap. 23 June 1818; (BVR. 22) d. Petersburg, Va. 11 July 1864

22. EBENEZER⁶, Died infant.

23. INCREASE SUMNER⁶, not traced,* m. Rox. 14 May 1818
Nancy Cook.

24. THOMAS ASPINWALL⁶, m. 11 Nov. 1824 Sarah Jackson
of Newton, no issue, first mayor of Boston
to die in office.

25. EBENEZER⁶, not traced, Rem. to Fairfield, Me.

26. BENJAMIN BAKER⁶, m. 1st, 8 July 1818, Susannah Robinson Clapp; 2nd, 24 Jan. 1839, Elizabeth Seaver.

i SUSANNAH ROBINSON⁷, bo. 8 Apr. 1823; d. 17 Feb. 1839.

ii ELIZABETH ANN⁷, bo. 22 Nov. 1827 d.

27. THOMAS⁶, d. prob. unmarried?

28. SAMUEL CRAFT⁷, m. Aug. 13, 1840 Caroline Tilden of Brookline, Brookline Town Records Book 5, p. 30, removed to St. Louis, Mo. founding the firm of S. C. Davis & Co. Succeeded by his son, late John Tilden Davis, the father of Dwight Filley Davis.†

*George H. Williams wrote us in 1932 as follows:

Reverend Increase Sumner⁶ Davis (*Ebenezer*⁶, ⁴, ³, ², *William*¹) bap. May 14, 1797, died Nov. 24, 1864 ae. 67. (See Ministry and Churches of New Hampshire.) He was of Dorchester, Wentworth, and Piermont, N. H. He had three children—Ebenezer born April 18, 1826; Thomas Aspinwall born Jan. 7, 1829, and Elizabeth Aspinwall bap. Aug. 4, 1822 who married Nov. 9, 1837 Dr. Peter Livingston Hoyt (see Hoyt G. p. 83). In 1890 my uncle Joseph Davis ran across Ebenezer⁷ and Thomas Aspinwall⁷ Davis in town, two old men, unmarried and lost to their kin.

†Dwight Filley⁹ Davis, who was graduated from Harvard in 1900, a noted tennis player in his younger days, and later Secretary of War and Governor General of the Philippine Islands, is descended as follows: William¹, Ebenezer², Ebenezer³, Ebenezer⁴, Ebenezer⁵, Robert Sharp⁶, Samuel Craft⁷, John Tilden⁸, and Dwight Filley⁹.

- Of Brookline
29. ROBERT SHARP⁷, m. at Boston 4 Sept. 1837 Mary Shannon. Founder of Robert S. Davis & Co. Book publisher, Boston, resided Brookline
- i MARY SHANNON⁸, bo. 29 June 1838; m. Wm. E. Webster.
- ii LUCY STEARNS⁸, bo. 29 Dec. 1841; d. unm. 18 May, 1906.
- iii SARAH COMSTOCK⁸, bo. 20 Mar. 1843, resides Brookline, 100 Tappan St., unm.*
- iv LAURA⁸, bo. 3 April 1845, m. Thomas R. Shewell.
- v CAROLINE ELIZABETH⁸, bo. 14 June 1849, d. unm. 5 Feb. 1894.
31. vi LANGDON SHANNON⁸, bo. 28 Jan. 1857.
30. PHINEAS STEARNS⁷, m. prob. Camb. Elizabeth Lambert, resident of Cambridge, general in Civil War, reference Miss Agnes A. Davis, his daughter, 195 Tappan St., Brookline.
-
31. LANGDON SHANNON⁸, m. Helène B. Leary, no issue, resides 45 Clinton Road, Brookline.
-

SARAH² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

SARAH², fifteenth child of William¹ Davis.

1681 Sarah daughter of William Davis born July 20 [Roxbury Births].

See under Joseph², William¹ for discussion of Sarah being admitted to full communion.

In the Roxbury Vital Records under Marriages is this entry which may refer to the above Sarah:

Joseph Scott and Sarah Davis Feb. 8 1704-5

and also in Roxbury Vital Records under deaths we find:

Sarah wife of Joseph Scott Jan. 1 1705-6.

*Died Ponemah N. H. Aug. 12, 1917.

ISAAC² DAVIS OF ROXBURY

ISAAC², sixteenth and last child of William¹ Davis.

1683—Isaac son of William Davis, born April 18 [Roxbury Births].

1683—M 2 d 22 Isaac, son of Williā Davis [bap.] [Doc. 114, p. 137].

1705—Isaac Davis married Deborah Johnson, Dec. 19 [Roxbury Marriages].

They had three children recorded as born in Roxbury:

- i DEBORAH³, born December 1, 1706.
- ii ABIGAIL³, born March 10, 1708.
- iii NATHANIEL³, born July 15, 1710.

The above Isaac² Davis is the son of Jane¹ Davis, widow of William¹ Davis, to whom Jane deeded the three acres of land—Suffolk Deeds, Liber XXII, p. 469, dated July 10, 1705. This property he sold to Nathaniel Brewer January 8, 1710-11 and he probably moved to Windsor shortly after because an Isaac Davis and wife Deborah about that time appeared as residents of East Windsor, Connecticut. There was also a Nathaniel there who was much younger. We do not have the proof that they were this same family but the identical names would lead us to think that they were. The History and Genealogies of Ancient Windsor, Connecticut by Henry R. Stiles, Hartford 1891, has much of interest about this family in Volume I, pages 562, 813, 826 and 841, and in Volume II, page 170, from which the following notes were made:

Isaac Davis appears in the list of rates for Ellington, formerly part of East Windsor, Connecticut, in 1720. The Town of Ellington was set off from East Windsor and other towns in the year 1717, its first

settler being Samuel Pinney, and by 1740 there were twenty-six families there including the Davis family.

Isaac Davis, Junior was born about 1716.

"Rachel daughter of Isaac and Deborah Davis" was born in Ellington February 15, 1722.

In 1734 and 1735 the citizens of Ellington sent petitions to the state assembly, and Isaac Davis, Isaac Davis, Junior, and Nathaniel Davis were among the signers.

Nathaniel Davis married Mary Gleason of Enfield October 4, 1739.

It is probable then that Isaac² (*William*¹) and his wife Deborah had more children than those shown on the Roxbury Records. They apparently moved from Roxbury to East Windsor or Ellington, to Colchester, and to Somers, Connecticut. Isaac was second on the list of deacons of the Ellington church.

About Isaac Davis, Junior we quote the following from page 841 of the "History of Windsor," Volume I:

Dr. Isaac Davis probably born in Windsor and early connected with Ellington Parish, moved from there, late in life, to Somers, Conn. He was probably the second child and first son of Isaac Davis of Colchester, and, if so, was born 13 June 1716. He practiced medicine in Somers and died 14 November 1777, aged 62 years but is best known from his religious views, having been the founder of a sect peculiar to the colony and known as the "Davisonians," etc.

Dr. Isaac married May 15, 1745 Rachel Sheldon of Suffield and they had these four children—Martha, Rachel, Isaac, Love. He died November 14, 1777 and was buried at Somers, Connecticut.

We give here a part of communication No. 3678,

published in the *Boston Transcript* May 12, 1932, referring to Isaac Davis. We have no reason to connect Isaac Davis of Lee with any of the above men but he may have been of the same family, and the article is reprinted here simply because it might be of assistance to anyone investigating Isaac Davis.

6. DAVIS. Isaac Davis and his wife Charity went to Tyringham, Mass. (or Tp. No. 1, as then called) from Harwinton, Conn., as per records found in "Book No. 2 for the recording of the County Deeds in the county of Hampshire began Aug. 1, 1746." Isaac bought land in Tp. No. 1, of Ephraim Williams and six associates of Stockbridge, Mass., December, 1742. He is called the first settler of Lee, Mass., where he moved from Tyringham. They had ten children. Is this the Isaac Davis who went from Windsor, Conn., to Torrington, and bought lot No. 68, and sold it to Daniel Phelps in 1732? It is possible, if it is the same Isaac that in the ten years 1732-1742 between Torrington and Tyringham, he was resident of Harwinton. I want very much to trace the lines of both Isaac and Charity — E. H. M. B.

The Vital Records of Lee, Massachusetts have this entry: "Isaac Davis died Jan. 5, 1780 in 63^d y.". As he was in his 63rd year, he was born in 1717 and was a contemporary of the Dr. Isaac Davis who died in Somers, Connecticut 14 November 1777, aged 62 years. These two men very easily might be mistaken for each other by present-day investigators, and it is evident that we have made no positive identification of either of them.

NATHANIEL DAVIS OF ROXBURY

NATHANIEL³, son of Isaac², was born July 15, 1710 and there is a Roxbury marriage record "1736 Nathanael Davis and Abigail Lyon both of Roxbury Nov. 4." It

would be easy to assume that these Nathaniels were identical, but they were different men.

In order to show this, it is necessary to go back to Nathaniel Davis, husbandman, who died in Roxbury in 1731 leaving a will which became Suffolk Probate Docket No. 6245. From that will we find that he left a widow Elizabeth who was appointed administratrix May 18, 1732. And from Suffolk Probate Docket No. 6136 we find that Joshua Pond of Dedham was appointed guardian August 16, 1731 for Nathaniel Davis, a minor, aged about sixteen "son of Nathaniel Davis late of Roxbury husbandman." So Nathaniel Davis, the husbandman, died in 1731; but we must be careful not to confuse him with Nathaniel "the scholar" (*William*³, *John*², *William*¹) born January 19, 1705 and died March 5, 1731 aged 26 years. The scholar, of course, was too young to have had a son sixteen years old in 1731. There is no record in Roxbury of the marriage of Nathaniel the husbandman and his wife Elizabeth; neither can we find any previous record of Nathaniel, and at present there is nothing but conjecture to tell whence he came. The age of his son places his own birth as approximately 1694 or before. The only Nathaniel Davis we have found who was born anywhere near that date is Nathaniel³ Davis (son of Gershom² Davis of Cambridge) baptized in Cambridge March 21, 1697. Nathaniel³ had a brother, Gershom³, who married Sarah Pierpont of Roxbury, so the family evidently had some connection with Roxbury. It might be possible that this Nathaniel who died in 1731 was the son of Gershom² Davies (*Samuel*¹).

There have been several suggestions as to the origin of Nathaniel Davis who died in 1731. George Blakely⁶ Davis, born 1821, (*John H.*⁵, *Ezra*⁴, *Ezra*³, *Ichabod*², *William*¹) told George H. Williams that Nathaniel,

according to tradition in his branch of the family, was an unrecorded son of Ichabod² (*William*¹). Ichabod², however, was born in April 1676 and would have been a young father to have had a son born before 1694. His first recorded child, Mary, was not born until March 20, 1701, and Ichabod² in his will of 1749 made no mention of Nathaniel or his heirs. Again George H. Williams has from another source that Nathaniel was an unrecorded son of Jonathan² Davis (*William*¹), and this seems more probable on account of the dates. Jonathan went to Woodstock as a young man. He was born in 1666 and was in Woodstock in 1686 but was back in Roxbury in 1695 with his wife Anna where five children were born from 1695 to 1708. There is then a possibility that he had a son Nathaniel born perhaps at Woodstock and brought to Roxbury about 1695 or before. But no such birth is recorded at Woodstock.

But from wherever he came we know that the Nathaniel Davis who died in 1731 left a son Nathaniel who was born about 1715 or 1716, being "about sixteen years old" in 1731. The son married Abigail Lyon.

Nathaniel Davis married (1) Abigail Lyon November 4, 1736. He married (2) Lidia Richards October 15, 1761 and he died in 1774 or 1775, his will being Suffolk Docket No. 15754 dated September 17, 1774 and filed February 17, 1775, Nathaniel Davis of Roxbury, yeoman. The death record is "Nathaniel Feb. 7, 1775 in his 59th year" (Roxbury Vital Records), so he must have been born about 1716. He must have been the Nathaniel aged 16 for whom Joshua Pond was appointed guardian August 16, 1731. No such Nathaniel is recorded as born in Roxbury in 1716. He could not have been the son of Isaac and Deborah, born July 15, 1710.

CHILDREN OF NATHANIEL DAVIS

By wife Abigail (Lyon):

- i JOHN, bp. September 4, 1737. He married Mary Scott at Roxbury May 20, 1762 and died in 1783 (see below). He is mentioned in Nathaniel's will in 1774.
- ii AARON bp. May 31, 1741 was executor of his father's will in 1775.
- iii MOSES bp. July 31, 1743—mentioned in will.
- iv SARAH bp. November 15, 1745—mentioned in will as Sarah Kneeland.
- v ELIZABETH bp. April 24, 1747-8—mentioned in will as Elizabeth Newhell (another reference is spelled Newell).
- vi ANNA bp. September 28, 1751—mentioned in will as Annah Newell.
- vii NEHEMIAH bp. October 6, 1754—mentioned in will.
- viii RACHEL—mentioned in will.
- ix ABIGAIL—mentioned in will.

By wife Lydia (Richards):

- x AMASA—mentioned in will. He must be the Amose Davis s— bp. July 18, 1762 of the Roxbury Vital Records.
- xi CATHERINE bp. August 26, 1764—mentioned in will as Katherine.
- xii LEMUEL bp. November 2, 1766—mentioned in will.

JOHN DAVIS, OLDEST CHILD OF NATHANIEL DAVIS

John was baptized September 4, 1737 and "died July — 1783 a. 45 yr" (leaving a widow Mary), Suffolk Probate Docket No. 18075 for his will and Docket No. 18539 for the appointment of Ebenezer Whitney as guardian of his sons, John and Benjamin. He married Mary Scott at Roxbury May 20, 1762 and the following children appear on the Roxbury Birth Records (the last three on the church records):

- i NATHANIEL born May 20, 1763 "of John and Mary."
- ii ANNE born February 21, 1765 "of John and Mary."
- iii BENJAMIN born May 3, 1767 "of John and Mary" probably died young.
- iv JOHN born June 5, 1769 "of John and Mary."
- v BENJAMIN born July 9, 1771 "son of John Davis, Jr. and Mary his wife."
- vi ELIZABETH, dau. of John and Mary, bap. August 29, 1773—R.V.R.
- vii MOSES, son of John and Mary, bp. September 19, 1776—R.V.R.
- viii LUCY, dau. of John and Mary, bap. January 24, 1779—R.V.R.

We have put these last three children with the other five although we are not certain that they belong to this same family. The entry at the birth of Benjamin is very interesting from the name John Davis JUNIOR when the father was most surely the son of Nathaniel as the guardianship papers prove that Benjamin and John were brothers. John, child iv in the above list, married November 26, 1795 Locada⁵ Davis (*Jacob*^{4,3}, *Ichabod*², *William*¹) and is the ancestor of Charles A. Davis who appears in the manuscript referred to in connection with Arthur F. Davis. The line is as follows:

Nathaniel who died in 1732 leaving widow Elizabeth.

Nathaniel who married (1) Abigail Lyon—(2) Lydia Richards.

John who married Mary Scott.

John born June 5, 1769 and married Locada⁵ Davis.

Nancy Gay Davis who married her cousin George Barber Davis.

Charles Amory Davis born at Roxbury July 15, 1839.

WHO WAS JOHN DAVIS BORN IN SPRING ST.,
ROXBURY IN 1720?

Roxbury has many Davis families, nearly all of which are descended from William¹. Two of the lines which we have traced back to about the year 1700 we are unable to carry back further. One is from Nathaniel Davis who died in 1731 leaving a son Nathaniel sixteen years old who has been taken up in the last few pages. The other undetermined line is that of John Davis, born in 1720 in Spring Street, (West Roxbury.) In 1912 we corresponded with and visited Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gross⁸ Davis at 120 Highland Street, Roxbury. They trace their ancestry back to the above John Davis of Spring Street but have never been able to go further back than that John. They had a notebook in which they had recorded their family records, and from that book and their conversation we collected the following facts. George H. Williams also has been interested in this branch of the family and has furnished additional data.

SAMUEL GROSS⁸ DAVIS was born October 20, 1841 at Brunswick, Maine. (Arbitrarily we have assigned him to the eighth generation in order to make his line easier to understand.) He was married September 27, 1873 to Josephine Augusta⁶ Ellery (*Benjamin⁵, 1808-1894; Benjamin⁴, 1780-1864; Benjamin³, 1744-1825; William², 1693-1771; and William¹ born at Bristol, England 1643; died in Gloucester December 9, 1696*). William Ellery—1727-1820—a great grandson of the above William¹ Ellery, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

NATHANIEL⁷ DAVIS, father of Samuel Gross Davis, was born at Weston, Mass. October 19, 1791 and died at Brunswick, Maine in March 1866. He wrote an account of his own life which Samuel Gross copied into his note-

book. He was married three times—(1) Mary Noyes of Brunswick, Maine; (2) Delia C. Gross and (3) Patience Hall Knapp born 1799—died 1886.

Child by first wife:

- i MARY NOYES⁸ DAVIS born at Brunswick, Maine December 18, 1843 and living there in April 1912.

Children by second wife:

- ii NATHANIEL GROSS⁸ DAVIS
- iii JOHN GROSS⁸ DAVIS
- iv SAMUEL GROSS⁸ DAVIS

Elijah, a brother of Nathaniel⁷ Davis, died in 1809.

Ebenezer, a brother of Nathaniel⁷ Davis, lived in Michigan, Tenawee County, Franklin, R. R. Station Clinton.

NATHANIEL⁶ DAVIS, grandfather of Samuel Gross Davis, was born in Dorchester October 28, 1759 and was the son of John⁵ Davis who was born in Spring Street, Roxbury in 1720. He married Millycent Hubbard, daughter of Ebenezer Hubbard of Concord, who was the mother of Nathaniel⁷ Davis born 1791 and Betsy ⁷Davis born 1797, as well as Elijah who died in 1809 and Ebenezer of Michigan. This Betsey in 1877, when eighty and one-half years old, was living at Montrose, Wakefield, Mass. and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gross Davis visited her there at that time. She had married October 12, 1815 Edward Upton (son of Benjamin Upton of Reading) and had several children. After two years (in Concord we suppose) Nathaniel⁶ moved back to Weston and lived with John⁵ whose farm adjoined that of Nathaniel ⁶'s, and he carried on both farms together, John⁵ having partially lost his memory. In 1804 after his father's death Nathaniel⁶ moved from Weston to Woburn where

he purchased a farm. Nathaniel⁶ learned the wheelwright's trade under Mr. Healy.

JOHN⁵ DAVIS, great grandfather of Samuel Gross⁸ Davis, was born in Spring Street, Roxbury in 1720 (record of S. G. D.), was married twice, and had several children. He died in March 1803, aged 83 years, and was buried in the graveyard in the south part of Weston near Mr. Leadbetter's. He married (1) at Roxbury September 30, 1742 Mary White (Roxbury V. R.). She was born February 27, 1720 and she died at Dorchester May 20, 1755.

Children by wife Mary:

- i LEMUEL who married Elizabeth Tucker and was "of Milton."
- ii JOHN, baptized January 18, 1747 and died unmarried.
- iii PRUDENCE, baptized November 3, 1751 in Dedham and died January 25, 1761.
- iv MOSES, born November 26, 1754 at Dorchester and died in the army.

He married (2) November 17, 1757 at Dorchester Mrs. Elinor Jones White, widow of Edward White of Dorchester. She had married Edward White at Dorchester April 18, 1745 and they had two children—Elizabeth White and Ebenezer White. The daughter lived with her mother, Mrs. John Davis, until she, Elizabeth White, was married.

Elinor Jones White Davis was the daughter of Ebenezer Jones and Waitstill Davenport.

Children of John Davis by wife Elinor:

- v NATHANIEL born at Dorchester October 28, 1759—married Millicent Hubbard and was ancestor of Samuel Gross⁸ Davis.
- vi LOIS born May 12, 1763 at Dorchester married John Ford of Natick.

- vii ELIZABETH died October 8, 1764 at Dorchester (might have been child of first wife).
- viii MARY born at Dorchester December 18, 1765—married November 29, 1791 Nathan Park, Jr. of West Newton. This child in one record we have is called Betsey.

After leaving Dorchester John⁵ Davis moved to Concord to a farm in the south part of the town "about a mile from the main road but in plain sight" where he resided when the British came to Concord. He later sold his Concord farm and moved to Weston to a farm adjoining that of his son Nathaniel. John⁵ may have lived in Milton at one time when Mr. Hutchinson was governor. John⁵ Davis died in 1803 and the record written by Nathaniel⁷ Davis says that shortly after John's death, "Uncle Ebenezer White" took John⁵'s farm, paid off the other heirs, and removed John's widow Ellen (whom we should place as "Uncle Ebenezer's" mother) to his house on Winter Street, Boston where she remained until her death.

Nathaniel⁷ Davis on the first page of his diary wrote:

My Grandfather's Grandmother emigrated from Wales, England, and lived to the advanced age of 116 years. At ninety she would walk from Roxbury to Boston and back in a day. She would spin her stent daily without complaining, as my grandfather said. His father died in his infancy and his mother and grandmother were all the parents I ever heard him speak about.

We believe that this statement of the age of 116 years is not correct but is taken from the record of Mary Davis of Wiscasset found in "The Davis Family Record" edited by Charles H. Davis M.D., Meriden, Connecticut, November 1867, Volume I, Number 1:

Wiscasset

Old Goody Davis, died Sept. 23, 1752, supposed to be 116 years old. Hyde Manuscripts.

Oil portrait at Historical Genealogical Society 1186 Boylston St., near Fens.

She lived at the south part of the town of Newton, Mass., and cultivated her ground with her own hands, till extreme old age. She used the hoe and scythe with considerable ability. She was visited by Judge Dudley, of Roxbury, about 2 yrs. before her death, when a likeness of her was drawn by a portrait painter, who accompanied him. She sustained a good character, and retained her faculties, bodily and mental, to a very considerable degree, until within about two years of her death. She was supported in her declining years, at the expense of the town, with peculiar cheerfulness.

Mr. George H. Williams wrote us July 8, 1932 as follows:

Some years ago Mr. Bartlett and I working independently found that "Old Goody Davis" who died Sept. 23, 1752, ae 116 and consequently born in 1632 and whose portrait hangs in the M. H. S. rooms had nothing to do with the line from William¹ Davis of Roxbury. She lived in the south part of Newton and was the wife of George Davie probably the brother of Humphrey Davie. George Davie purchased land at what is now Wiscasset, Maine, in 1633 and settled there as did also a brother. The settlement was broken up in 1680 and the widow of George Davie later on was of Newton.

It is evident then if Samuel Gross Davis is descended from this 116 year old Mary that the name at some time was changed from Davie to Davis.

Samuel Gross Davis called his John⁵ "Deacon" John and said he was a relation of Aaron Davis of Roxbury. He could not have been the well-known Deacon John⁴ Davis of Roxbury (*William*³, *John*², *William*¹) who lived from 1701 to 1776. Neither could he have been

Deacon John⁴'s son John⁵, born October 29, 1739, if he was born in 1720. And the record of Nathaniel⁷ Davis referred to above clearly shows that he must have been born about 1720, not only by a direct statement of the fact but also by quoting stories told by John when he was eighty-two years old, and he died in 1803.

And so we have been unable to place "John Davis of Spring Street."

JOHN DAVIS OF ROXBURY WHO DIED NOVEMBER 20, 1801

Norfolk Probate Docket No. 5302 is the estate of John Davis, Junior who died November 20, 1801, aged 42 years—(R. V. R.). The estate was brought into court January 5, 1802 and his widow, Molly Davis, was appointed administratrix February 2, 1802. John left a will dated October 15, 1795 which was disallowed January 5 because of a technicality with regard to the signatures of the witnesses. In this will he left his entire estate to his wife Molly Davis with the instruction that she was to use his estate in caring for the family. But he gave no names of any of the family. All the evidence we have as to the identity of this man, except for the name "Junior," points to the fact that he was the youngest son of Colonel Aaron³ and Mary Perrin Davis, born May 3, 1760. Fellowes Davis wrote that he was married to Mary Thayer and there is a record of the marriage in both the Weymouth and Roxbury Vital Records. John Davis, Junior married Polly Thayer at Weymouth November 5, 1786.

The next record we have of this man is in Norfolk Probate Docket No. 5299 which is a petition presented

to the court February 8, 1796 to have "John Davis 3rd" declared a lunatic. The petition was signed by Moses Davis, Noah Davis, Aaron Davis, John Williams, Hannah Williams, Elizabeth Williams, Patience Capen, and David Weld "all relations of John Davis Third." Aaron⁴ Davis, John's brother, had died and the above Aaron was probably the son, Aaron⁵. But all the other signers were brothers or sisters, or brothers-in-law of John⁴, the son of Colonel Aaron. There is not any doubt that this petition was to establish the lunacy of John⁴, the son of Colonel Aaron Davis. Fellowes Davis in his Family Records gives evidence as follows:

John Davis a brother of Moses and sixteen years younger would sit by the fire and drink cider. He frightened Rebecca (second wife of Moses) by his talk of 'seeing spirits' (not alcoholic) and he was evidently psychic. Aunt Dudley remembered him and this incident.

This John was born May 3, 1760 (Rox. V. R.) and would have been 42 years old in 1802. There would seem to be little doubt that he was the "John Davis, Junior" who died November 20, 1801, aged 42.

There was another John Davis (*John⁴, William³, John², William¹*) living in Roxbury during the entire life of the John we have been discussing, who was older by twenty-one years and who was known as John Davis, Senior, so that it is quite likely that the younger man was called John Davis, Junior to distinguish them. But we have accepted that only after a long investigation in which we tried to find some other explanation.

OTHER DESCENDANTS OF WILLIAM¹ DAVIS OF ROXBURY

In the "History of Woodstock," Volume 4*, are 36 pages of the Davis Family Genealogy. There are listed 245 descendants of William¹ Davis of Roxbury, many of whom have been given in this book. The following include most of those who are recorded in special, numbered articles, and about whom there is little or nothing in this book or in the George L. Davis Genealogy.

Article	Name	Residence	No. of Children Gener- ation re-corded there		Ancestry
52	JOHN DAVIS	Woodstock	4	4	(Joseph ³ , ² , Wm. ¹)
53	SARAH DAVIS m. Joshua Healy	Newton & Dudley	4	8	(Same)
54	SAMUEL	{ Dudley & Woodstock	4	10	(Same)
55	JOSHUA	{ Brookline & Woodstock	4	10	(Same)
102	HON. CALEB DAVIS	{ Woodstock & Boston	5	6	(Joshua ⁴ , Joseph ³ , ² , Wm. ¹)
123	ELIZABETH DAVIS m. Capt. Wm. Boardman	Boston	6	1	(Caleb ³ , Joshua ⁴ , Joseph ³ , ² , Wm. ¹)
124	MATILDA DAVIS m. Capt. Jeremiah Williams	Boston	6	1	(Same)
127	ELIZA CHEEVER DAVIS m. Dr. Geo. Cheyne Shattuck	Boston	6	6	(Same)
208	GILBERT CORBIN DAVIS	Des Moines, Iowa	10	2	(Frank ³ , Ichabod ³ , Moses ⁷ , Edw. ⁶ , ⁵ , ⁴ , Saml. ³ , John ² , Wm. ¹)
209	FRANK ERNEST DAVIS	{ Arlington Hgts. Ill.	10	1	(Same)
210	JOSEPH OLMSTRAD DAVIS	Rhineland, Wis.	10	2	(Same)
211	PAUL NEWHALL DAVIS	Rhineland, Wis.	10	1	(Same)
214	LILLIAN ELOISE DAVIS m. David F. Radsliff, Jr.	Pierre, S. D.	10	7	(John ³ , Ichabod ³ , Moses ⁷ , etc.)
215	JOHN BENIGHT DAVIS	Minneapolis, Minn.	10	3	(Same)
216	CORBIN FRANKLIN DAVIS	Minneapolis, Minn.	10	1	(Same)

The descendants of William¹ Davis of Roxbury are now scattered all over the United States. Oxford, Massachusetts and Woodstock, Connecticut were the early favorites of the pioneers and from there they spread to

*See our article on page 93 on John³ Davis (John², William¹) for a correction of one line of descent as given in History of Woodstock.

surrounding towns such as Webster, Douglas, Dudley, Charlton, Sutton, and Worcester. In looking over the family records, we have noted some who went farther afield. Perhaps the few given here may help some of the more distant branches to establish their descent from William¹ Davis of Roxbury.

DANIEL⁵ DAVIS (*Daniel⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*) born in 1742, emigrated from Oxford to Ohio and died at Waterford, Ohio.

TIMOTHY⁵ DAVIS (*Elisha⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*) resided at Oxford and Sutton. Three of his children, two girls and one son, Freeman⁶, settled at Eddington, Maine.

STEPHEN⁶ DAVIS (*Craft⁵, Benj.^{4,3}, Ichabod², William¹*) of Oxford had a son, Ruel S.⁷ Davis, a Unitarian preacher who settled at Sycamore, Illinois. Ruel was born in 1816 and died in 1887.

SAMUEL⁵ DAVIS (*Samuel^{4,3}, John², William¹*) born 1 Apr. 1746, mar. Mary Rech of Sutton, his cousin, and lived in Oxford in House 17. He was a noted wrestler and removed to Eddington, Maine in 1800. He had about ten children, among whom were Samuel⁶ born 1772, Caleb⁶ born 1777, and Ebenezer⁶ born 1787.

COL. JACOB⁵ DAVIS (*Edward⁴, Samuel³, John², William¹*) born in 1741, removed from Oxford in 1780 and founded Montpelier, Vermont. He was a Colonel in the Revolution.

CHAPTER IV

Other Roxbury Davises

- I TOBIAS
- II RICHARD Page 163
- III HANNA Page 170
- IV MARY Page 171
- V JOHN, THE TAILOR Page 175

I. TOBIAS¹ DAVIS OF ROXBURY

Tobias¹ Davis was in Roxbury at an early date. He was a brother of Richard Davis of Dorchester, and according to Savage, William Davis and Richard may have been brothers, too. Tobias lived in Roxbury until his death and his son, John², lived there also, but in spite of this, in tracing down the various Davises of Roxbury, we find none after a generation or two that are descended from Tobias¹. If Tobias had any grandsons by the name of Davis, they apparently moved away from Roxbury, for we have been unable to find any trace of them in the Roxbury Records.

We have found two accounts of Tobias, both evidently from the same source.

Savage says:

Tobias Davis, Roxbury, br. of Richard of the same, m. Sarah d. of Isaac Morrill, had Sarah b 10 Feb 1647 and his w. d. 23 Jan

by ch. rec., but 15 Feb says the town 1649. He m. 13 Dec next Bridget Kinsman, had John b 17 Apr 1651 Tobias 10 June 1653, Isaac 7 Dec. 1655, Samuel bapt. with the three preced. 12 June 1659 wh. d. young. Samuel again 24 Mar 1661 d at 18 and Abigail in town rec. said to be b. 5 Sept 1671 was of ar. co. 1666 and d 25 Apr 1690.

The Records of the Artillery Company show that:

Tobias Davis (1666) of Roxbury, blacksmith, married Sarah daughter of Isaac Morrill (1638). She died Jan 23 1649, and he married, Dec 13 next following, Bridget Kinsman. Tobias Davis (1666) succeeded to the business and estate of his father-in-law. The latter included much of the tract bounded by Dudley, Warren, St. James, and Washington Streets. He served in the militia as ensign, and was first sergeant of the Artillery Company in 1668. He died April 25, 1690.

The artillery company record says that Tobias¹ was Ensign of Militia. While Tobias usually was spoken of as blacksmith, occasionally he *was* termed Ensign, as in the land records, for instance in Doc. 114, p. 8, on 21 day 6 mo. 1677, where he is mentioned in the text as Ensign Davis and signs the agreement as Tobias Davis. Tobias¹ had a son, John², who was known not only as Ensign, but as blacksmith, too, to distinguish him from his contemporary, John², the son of William.

It is to be noted that Tobias Davis's father-in-law, Isaac Morel or Morrill, had joined the artillery company in 1638 at the time of its organization or shortly afterward, so that he was one of its early members.

Doc. 114 has in the list of burials on pp. 177 and 180:

1661 Moneth 10 day 21 Isaac Morell, an aged brother.

1672 Moneth 11 day 9, Sarah, widow of Isaac Morrel, aged 72.

The will of Isaac Morrill is printed in Geneal. Register XI, p. 35.

WIVES AND CHILDREN OF TOBIAS¹ DAVIS OF
ROXBURY

In George L. Davis's notes we found a statement that Tobias Davis married Sarah Morrill in 1643. We do not find this marriage noted in the Roxbury records, however, and cannot determine the exact date on which the ceremony took place.

A similar uncertainty surrounds the exact date of Sarah's death. The Roxbury Records of Deaths have:

1648 Sarah, wife of Tobias Davis Feb. 15.

The Roxbury Church Record, Doc. 114, page 174, is:

1648 Month 11 day 23 Sarah Davis bro. Morel's daughter dyed by ocasion of unheedful taking cold upon an abortion.

Thus we see that Sarah died either on January 23, 1648-9 or on February 15, 1648-9 and we have been entirely unable to determine which of these dates is correct.

Tobias had only one child by his first wife and its arrival is recorded in the Roxbury birth record in the following manner:

i 1646 SARAH, daughter of Tobias Davis, Feb. 10.

On December 13, 1649 (Rox. marriage record), Tobias married as his second wife Bridget Kinman. Her surname is variously spelled as Kinsman, Kinman, and Kingman. Fellowes Davis in his "Family Records," page 80, says that Bridget Kingman who married Tobias Davis in 1649 was the daughter of Henry Kingman of Weymouth, who died June 5, 1667, and of his wife Joan, who died April 11, 1659.

Tobias¹ and Bridget Davis had six children, noted in the Roxbury records in the following manner:

- ii JOHN² born Apr. 17, 1651
 - iii TOBIAS² bap. June 10, 1653 [*We think this should be "born."*]
 - iv ISAAC² born Dec. 7, 1655 [*Died in 1682.*]
 - v SAMUEL buried 8:12m:1660 aged 2 yrs.
 - vi SAMUEL² died Mo. 2, day 10, 1679
 - vii ABIGAIL² born Sept. 5, 1671 [*Married Peter Collamore.*]
- [Doc. 114, p. 123] 1659 Moneth 4 day 12—John, Tobias, Isaac, Samuel, sons to Tobias Davis [*were baptized*].
- 1660 moneth 1 day 24 Samuel son to Tobias Davis [*was baptized*—[Doc. 114, p. 123].
- 1671 Moneth 7 day 10 Abigail daughter to Tobiah Davies [*was baptized*].

Doc. 114 has on page 88 another pertinent entry, a note of Bridget's admission to the Church:

22—3 m (59) Bridget Davis wife to Tobijah Davis—admitted

All of Tobias's children are taken up separately later in this chapter.

WILL OF TOBIAS DAVIS

Tobias¹ Davis died April 25, 1690. His will was dated 9 June 1684 and proved 14 July 1690. It is found in Suffolk Probate, Vol. 8, p. 34, docket No. 1735.

In this will he left the residue of his estate to his wife, who was Bridget (Kinman) we suppose, with the stipulation that after her death it was to go to John and Abigail. The will and accompanying papers are too long to quote in detail, but it is evident that when the will was drawn in 1684 Tobias had a wife and one son, John, as well as two daughters, Sarah who had married Timothy Stevens, and Abigail, who, though single at that time, later (Nov. 8, 1694) married Peter Collamore (or Collimer) of Scituate. It is evident, too, that Sarah Stevens had eight children when the will was drawn in 1684.

Tobias¹, as we have seen, had in all seven children. There were three, Sarah, John, and Abigail, who survived him and who were mentioned in the will. Isaac had died in 1682. The first Samuel had died in 1660 and the second Samuel in 1679. This accounts for all of the children except Tobias². We have found nothing about him and assume that, since no mention of him was made in the will, he had died before it was written.

John Davis and Abigail Collamore, joint executors, were appointed and approved February 11, 1710, (Vol. 17, p. 201) twenty years, it will be noted, after the death of Tobias¹.

In Vol. 17, p. 394, dated June 1, 1711, is a release and acknowledgment of the heirs of Tobias¹ Davis of the payments specified in the will.

In Vol. 19, p. 331, on June 5, 1717, Abigail Collamore is described as the "only surviving executrix" and at this time the estate apparently was finally settled, twenty-seven years after the death of Tobias. Ensign John Davis, the other executor, had died March 11, 1717.

THE HOUSES AND LANDS OF TOBIAS¹ DAVIS

The first record we find of Tobias¹ Davis being in Roxbury is the note of the birth of his daughter, Sarah, born February 10, 1646. This probably means 1646-7. We do not know the authority for George L. Davis' note that Tobias was married in Roxbury in 1646, but it seems likely that he was, as Sarah Morrill, his wife, was a Roxbury girl.

Isaac Morrill, Tobias' father-in-law, was a large land owner in Roxbury, as appears from the Land Records [Doc. 114, p. 16], page 29, the first few lines of which are as follows:

Isaac Morill his two houses two forges, one barne with out-housing and two orchyards, and a swamp at the east end of it together with yards belonging to the houses upon the highway west, the land running northward upon a straite line untill it cometh to range even with the north side of the shop of Tobias Davis upon the highway and the orchyard and land of Tobias Davis north.

The above paragraph was in the Roxbury Book of Possessions, or Roxbury Land Records, supposed to have been compiled in accordance with the Town vote of 17th of 11 mo. 1652. How long Tobias Davis had been living next to Isaac Morrill we do not know. Isaac was a land owner there before 1640 as is shown by Doc. 114, p. 2. We might guess that Tobias Davis, when he married Sarah Morrill about 1646, settled near his father-in-law, but an equally good guess would be that, having settled on the land next to Isaac Morrill, he soon married his neighbor's daughter.

In Doc. 114, p. 32, we find listed among the possessions of Edward Bugby "eight accres more or lesse of swamp bought of Richard Pepper, butting upon the land of Abraham Newell north, upon the highway west, and east, and upon Tobias Davis south"—but this mention of Tobias' property, of course, may not refer to his house lot.

In Doc. 114, p. 44 we find "Richard Chamberlin an house and halfe an acre of land more or lesse adioyning to it abutting east upon the highway, and north and west upon Mr. John Eliot, and upon Tobias Davis on the south side of it."

And in Doc. 114, p. 46, we find the possessions of Tobias Davis described in full, probably in 1652-3, as follows:

[97] *76 Tobias Daus bought of John Peiropoynt, A dwelling house and other out housing together with an orchyard and all the fence their unto belonging abbutting upon the land of Isaack Morrill west, upon the land of Phillip Tory south, and upon the highway east. And ten accres of land more or lesse, abutting upon the land of Mr. John Eliot North, upon Edward Bugby south, and upon the highwayes east and west. And a part of the orchard of his father Isaack Morrills against the sayd Tobias Daus his shopp and fence, hauing six apple trees upon it, giuen unto him by his sayd father Isaack Morrill. And six or seauen accres of land more or lesse about the eight accre lotts upon the heires of Thomas Pigg south east, and upon the land of Abraham How northwest prouided he intrench not upon any mans land formerly granted to any.

In Drake's History of Roxbury "34th Report of the Record Commissioners" we find on page 111:

—let us—follow the old Dorchester road which began on the town street near Zeigler, and passing around the old school-house and over the narrow road between it and Smelt Brook, took a straight course to Dorchester through what is now Dudley Street, so named west of Washington Street in 1811, and east of it in 1825.

On our left is the Eliot estate, which, with the training-field, extended to Mount Pleasant. Upon the right, lying between Washington and Warren Streets, is the Isaac Morrill estate. Here also was the blacksmith's shop of Tobias Davis, son-in-law of Morrill and contemporary with the apostle Eliot. One of Isaac Morrill's two forges belonged in 1720 to his great-grandson, Samuel Stevens, the grandfather of Joseph Warren. Let us pause for a moment before the Dudley Street Baptist Church and glance at its records.

The 34th Report, p. 350, says:

In 1803 the Norfolk and Bristol Turnpike, from Boston to Pawtucket, known later as the Dedham Turnpike, was incorporated. Its course in Roxbury was:

From Dedham Court House to a high rock east of Widow Mary Draper's, thence near and by the house of John Davis, deceased; also near and by Chenery's wheelwright's shop; also near and by the barn of Thomas Weld through land of Capt. Joseph Williams; south of his dwelling-house to the end of Mears Lane, so called, near the house of the late Gov. Sumner; thence to the southerly side of the pavement near to the brick schoolhouse.

Before this road was built an irregular cart-path, known as the "way to Maccarty's farm," "the highway from Roxbury town street to John Watson's," and also as "the highway to the orchard of William Tay, and so to Gamblin's End," furnished a means of communication between the eastern and western portions of the town, to the east of the old Dedham Road, now Centre Street. The course of this path from "Eliot's Corner" was east of the present road, which it crossed at Oakland Street, then following the line of Thornton to Ellis Street, passing to the west of the Ellis (formerly the Maccarty) mansion, east of the line of Hawthorne Street, across Marcella towards Amory Street, and then following the direction of School Street, until just beyond Capt. Joseph Williams's, now Mrs. Adams's, it diverged to the south and there struck what is now known as Forest Hill Street, formerly Back Street, and still earlier Rocky Swamp Lane.

On our left as we follow the old turnpike, we have the estate originally Isaac Morrill's, and his son-in-law, Tobias Davis's, owned at the beginning of the last century by the Stevens family, a portion of which was afterwards the property of the elder Judge Auchmuty. It included much of the tract bounded by Dudley, Warren, St. James, and Washington Streets. A part of Morrill's estate, called "The Fox-holes," containing twenty-six acres "upon Abraham Newell and Edward Bugby south a rocky highway west; Pine Hill, north; and a highway leading to Great Lotts, east," seems identical with the territory on both sides of Circuit Street, embracing the "Tommy's Rock" region.

CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS OF TOBIAS¹ DAVIS
OF ROXBURY

SARAH² (*Tobias*¹) was Tobias' only child by his first wife, Sarah Morrill.

1646 Sarah dau. of Tobias Davis Feb. 10 [Rox. Births]

1664 Timothy Stevens and Sarah Davis March 12 [Rox. Marriages]

Tobias¹, when he drew his will in 1684, mentioned the following grandchildren: Timothy Stevens, Sarah Stevens, John Stevens, Joseph Stevens, Mary Stevens, Hannah Stevens, Elizabeth Stevens, and Samuel Stevens. The heirs of Tobias¹ Davis at various times signed releases or acknowledgments of the receipt of their portions and this practice furnished us reliable records.

In Vol. 17, p. 394, Suffolk Probate is a record dated June 1, 1711 and from this we gather that Sarah³ Stevens had married Samuel Aspinwall of Brooklyn, *Suffolk* yeoman, and was dead in 1711. Mary³ Stevens married Elijah Herrick of Roxbury, housewright. Elizabeth³ Stevens married — Phips of Cambridge. Hannah's marital state is indicated thus: "Widow Hannah Stevens, single woman."

Samuel Stevens and Joseph Stevens acknowledged their portions; Timothy, the oldest son, signed his release June 5, 1717; John Stevens had died before he was qualified to receive money. This Stevens family lived in Roxbury for many years but we have followed them no further.

JOHN² (*Tobias*¹) DAVIS

John son of Tobias Davis born Apr. 17, 1651 [Rox. Births].

John son of Tobias Davis bp. 12:4 m: 1659 [Doc. 114, p. 123].

John Davis and Mary Torrey at Dorchester Jan 14 1673 [Rox. Marriages].

1684 M 2 d 27—John Davis—confessed X and wr received to full Comunion. [This entry may refer to John³ (*John², William¹*) who at that time was fourteen years old.]

This John² (*Tobias¹*) was a blacksmith and was called John Davis, smith, or Ensign John Davis, as distinguished from his contemporary, John² Davis (*William¹*) who was known as John Davis "off ye farme" and "John Davis, Senior." In Suffolk Probate, Vol. 19, p. 336, John² (*Tobias¹*) is called "yeoman." John² Davis "Senior" (*William¹*) was born October 1, 1643 and died March 16, 1704-5 so that he was seven and one-half years older than the Ensign. There was also a John³ (*John², William¹*), born January 11, 1670, so that many times it is difficult to determine just which John is referred to in the given instance.

Ensign John Davis and his sister Abigail were the executors of the will of Tobias¹, who died in 1690, and they were confirmed by the court in 1710. Ensign John died March 11, 1717, aged sixty-six. Mary (Torrey) Davis, the wife of Ensign John, died November 11, 1719 and she and her husband both are buried in the Eustis Street Burying Ground where their stones still stand.

Doc. 8, p. 67, has the following inscriptions from stones in the Eustis Street Burying Ground: (We saw these stones when we were looking for records of John² (*William¹*) and his wife, Mary.)

Here lyes buried
ye body of
Ensigne John
Davis aged 66
years deceased
March ye 11th
1717-6.

Here lyes buried ye
Body of Mrs. Mary Davis
ye Widdow of Ensigne
John Davis Deceased
ye 11th day of November
1719
in ye 66th year
of her age.

In the Roxbury Vital Records, under deaths, is this entry:

Mary Davis widow of Ens. John Nov 11 1719 in her 66th year.

Ensign John Davis left no sons but the papers of his estate, Suffolk Docket No. 3843, show that he had a married daughter Abigail Williams, and we know that he had a daughter Mary, who died unmarried.

1676 Marie, daughter to John Davis April 6 [Roxbury Births].

1676 Month 2 day 16 Mary daughter of John Davis Smith [Church rec. of baptisms, Doc. 114, p. 134].

1687 Mo. 12 d. 19 Abigail, the daughter of John Davis, baptized [Doc. 114, p. 142].

1694 Mary daughter of John & Mary Davis Oct 6 [Roxbury Deaths].

The above records appear conclusive, but there is one peculiar church record which reads thus:

1675 Month 1 day 14 Mary daughter to John Davis *junior* [baptized] [Doc. 114, p. 133]. [*This may mean 1675-6*].

The word "junior" we cannot understand unless it was originally written "Senior" (with a long s) and later copied incorrectly as junior. At any rate we think the entry refers to the Mary, daughter of John Davis, Senior, who was married to George Bacon May 4, 1699. However, this name John Davis, Junior, does appear

again in Doc. 114, p. 91: "1 month $\frac{74}{75}$ 7th day admitted to take hold of the covenant John Davis junior, Mary his wife" and this could have been none other than our friend the Ensign, as Mary Devotion Davis, wife of John Davis, Senior, had been admitted in 1671 and John³ (*John*², *William*¹) was born in 1670 and would not have had a wife in 1675. Therefore, unless this was a John and Wife Mary from some other town, it must have referred to Ensign John.*

[Doc. 114, p. 92] 1676 Month 8 day 1 Mary Davis, wife of John Davis admitted to full Comunion.

Apparently, then, Mary (Torrey) Davis had been admitted to the church although the Ensign had not joined at that time. John² (*William*¹) Davis "Senior" joined the church M 1 day 2 1684.

Ensign John² (*Tobias*¹) Davis died intestate in March 1717 and his widow, Mary, petitioned the court to have her son-in-law, Joseph Williams of Roxbury, appointed administrator (Suffolk Docket No. 3843). He was appointed 20 June, 1717 (Vol. 19, p. 336, Probate) and he filed the inventory of the estate (Vol. 20, p. 100) as inventory of estate of Ensign John Davis of Roxbury, 1167 pounds—Real Estate, 120 pounds—personal, sworn to Nov. 22, 1717 by Joseph Williams, Admr., and recorded.

In investigating this son-in-law, we find this note of his marriage in the Roxbury Record: "Joseph Williams and Abigail Davis 22 of May, 1706." Abigail³'s name does not appear in the Roxbury birth records, so the date of her birth is uncertain. Her sister, Mary, was born in 1676. In Doc. 114, p. 97, there is an entry in 1684 which

*See, however, remarks about John Davis of Roxbury, Tailor on page 175.

states that "Abigail Davis, Mary Williās, & Mary Davis took hold on the covenant Mo 3, day 11."

The above Abigail must have been the daughter of Tobias¹.

Abigail³, the daughter of John², and granddaughter of Tobias¹, probably was born in 1687, as her baptism is recorded in Document 114, page 142.

1687 m. 12, D. 19 Abigail, the daughter of John Davis.

She would have been eighteen or nineteen years old in 1706 when she was married to Joseph Williams.

We have two or three further entires which may belong to Ensign John's family but we cannot identify them positively. One of these is in Doc. 114, p. 96:

1684 30 d 1 mo Mary Davis a female youth took hold on the covenant.

This refers perhaps to the daughter of William¹. The other possibility is Mary³ (*John², William¹*) who was then nine years old.

John Davis, blacksmith, appears in Suffolk Deeds:

- (1) Liber IX, p. 429, in a mortgage on land butting upon the property of "*John Davis of the Farme.*" Samuel Scarborrow, Cordwinder, and Joseph White of Muddy River, husbandman, took this mortgage with him.
- (2) In Liber XI, p. 288, John Davis, blacksmith, is credited with "1-2 acre meadow Stoney River, bounded South by land of sd John Davis"
- (3) and in Liber XI, p. 289, with "5 A on Stoney River."
- (4) Liber XIII, p. 351, mentions "John Davis of Roxbury, housewright"

- (5) and Liber XVI, p. 86, "John Davis of Rox. Smith."
- (6) Liber XVI, p. 15, Oct. 24, 1692: "John Davis, Sr. of Rox. yeoman bought 5 A in Beare Marshe."

TOBIAS² (*Tobias*¹)

1653 Tobias, son of Tobias Davis bap. June 10 [Roxbury Rec. Births].

The above is probably the date of birth because the baptism, according to Doc. 114, p. 123, was:

Moneth 4 day 12 1659 Tobias Davis son of Tobias.

This Tobias² was not mentioned in his father's will drawn in 1684, so we assume he was not then alive. We have no further record of him and it is unlikely that he left any descendants.

ISAAC² (*Tobias*¹)

Isaack son of Toby Davis born Dec. 7 1655 [Rox. Rec.].

[*Baptized*] 1659 Moneth 4 day 12 Isaac Davis son of Tobias [Doc. 114, p. 123].

[*Died*] 1682 m 8 day 30 Isack Davis of a flux [Doc. 114, p. 184].

His gravestone in the Eustis Street Burying Ground says "died October 30, 1682 aged 27." Isaac, since he was dead in 1684, was not mentioned in his father's will and we have no record of any marriage or of any descendants.

SAMUEL² (*Tobias*¹)

Tobias¹ had two sons named Samuel. The first was born about 1658, was baptized June 12, 1659 [Doc. 114, p. 123], and died aged two years February 8, 1661. In the

Eustis Street Burying Ground is a stone inscribed "Samuel Davis, aged 2 yers Dyed 12 M 1660."

Doc. 114, p. 177 has the burial noted thus: "1660 moneth 12 day 8, Samuel son to Tobias Davis."

The *second Samuel*² was baptized "24 d 1 m 1661" [Doc. 114, p. 123] and died when about eighteen. "Samuel Davis son of Toby small pox bur. 10:2 m: 1679" (Roxbury Vital Records). Also Doc. 114, p. 183 has the entry: "1679 Month 2 day 10 Samuel son of Toby Davis dyed of the pox."

Samuel² had died before 1684 and therefore was not mentioned in his father's will.

ABIGAIL² (*Tobias*¹)

1671 Abagal dau. of Tobias Davis Sept 5 [Roxbury Births].

1671 Moneth 7 day 10 Abigail daughter to Tobiah Davies [Bap.] [Doc. 114, p. 130].

1684 M 3 d 11—Abigal Davis—received to take hold on the covenant [Doc. 114, p. 97]. 1684 M 2 D 13—Abigail Davis—received to take hold on the Covenant.

We do not understand this apparent, second entry a month later. We know of no other Abigail Davis in Roxbury at this time.

Abigail Davis and Peter Colamer at Scituate Nov. 8 1694 [Roxbury Vital Records, Marriages].

Abigail (Davis) Collamore was on June 5, 1717 the only surviving executor of her father's will.

VARIOUS NOTES ABOUT TOBIAS¹ DAVIS

At one time we wondered if possibly "'Toby' Davis" referred to Tobias², but we have proved this not to be the case by the record:

Isaack, son of Toby Davis born Dec 7 1655 [Roxbury Births].

Tobias² we know was baptized in 1653, so that the Toby Davis mentioned hardly could be Tobias².

Vol. I, Roxbury Selectmen's Records, page 10, says that 17 d. 11 mo. 1652 Tobias Davis was one of five men chosen to "rune the line between Boston & Roxbury."

February 23, 1652 Tobias Davis was granted 6 or 7 A., more or less, "about the 8 acre lots," provided there was so much common land. This land was listed as his property in the Roxbury Book of Possessions [Doc. 114, p. 46] which proves that that list, the exact date of which is unknown, was made up after February 23, 1652.

January 19, 1657 (p. 21, vol. I, Roxbury Selectmen's Records) Tobias Davis was chosen constable and he settled his accounts 29 December 1658 (see Vol. I, p. 23). The 19th of January 1657 means 1657-8.

January 18, 1668 Tobias Davis was one of five selectmen and, as such, he signed the records for the next year.

In 1663 the highway committee reported (Roxbury Selectmen's Record, Vol. I, p. 43) that:

A Highway from Mr. John Eliots corner and so along to Deacon Parkes and so to Dorchester brooke [where we find between Mr. Elliot's and Tobias Davis' his shop] is not 4 rods wide and should be rectified.

12: 11; 1668 (Vol. I, p. 67) Tobias Davis's bill for 10 shillings for a "pair of hoopes" for the carriage wheels was approved.

Ellis's "History of Roxbury," page 71, says that in 1655 a grant was made to Tobias Davis of six or seven acres for a corn mill and a fulling mill.

Tobias Davis, of Dover, was made freeman in 1666. We have no reason to think this man had any connection with Tobias of Roxbury.

Tobias¹ Davis had four sons, all of whom can be accounted for briefly in the following manner: John, who appears to have spent his life in Roxbury, had no sons recorded there; Tobias who died evidently at an early age, for we have no record of him; Isaac, who died in 1682, aged 27, and seems not to have married—at least we can find no note of it; and Samuel, who died in 1679, aged 18, and left no record of any marriage.

We have found no sons, then, to carry on the Davis name and we conclude that the last Davis descendant of Tobias¹ was his son, John², who died in 1717. Tobias had further descendants through his daughter, of course, but they did not carry on his family name.

Page 177 of Liber XI, Suffolk Deeds, records the division of the estate of Isaac Morrell of Roxbury on 1-1-1672-3. Daniel Brewer of Roxbury signed in his own right, John Smith of Winnisimmet (who married Isaac's daughter Katharine) in the right of five children mentioned in Morrell's will, and Timothy Stevens in the right of his wife, Sarah Davis. Tobias Davis was given 2 A in black neck. Ensign Davis, too, was mentioned.

There is still more about Isaac Morrell's descendants on page 282 of Liber XIV in a deed in which John Smith disposes of property he received from Morrell's estate. John Davis was a witness to this deed. Timothy Stevens later came into possession of much of Morrell's land.

II. RICHARD DAVIS OF DORCHESTER

Richard was not a common name in the Davis family. There were only two or three Richards in early Boston and vicinity and we suspect they were all of the same family.

The first Richard Davis we find in old Massachusetts records was one of the forty subscribers to the stock of the Massachusetts Bay Company. In May 1628 at London the contract to subscribe to the stock had been signed by about forty men including Richard Davis, Geo. Foxcroft, Mr. William Pinchon, Mr. Increase Nowell, Sir Richard Saltonstall, Mr. Webb, and Mr. Symond Whetcombe. Mr. Davis was recorded as present at the meeting in London June 17, 1629 and again on August 29, 1629 at the meeting of the General Court in London at the house of Mr. Thomas Goffe, the Deputy, when they voted to transfer the seat of the government to New England. All the above may be investigated at length in the "Records of Massachusetts," Volume I, up to page 50. But not all of the stockholders of the Company came to New England and we cannot find that this Richard Davis ever came. Some of the stockholders were too old or too tied down in England to leave, but a large part of them did come.

The first Richard Davis to come to New England is recorded by Savage as of Ipswich in 1642, but Savage has nothing further about him and we have found nothing more. The Vital Records of Ipswich do not mention him. And then a Richard Davis appears in Dorchester sometime previous to September 1655. This may or may not be the Ipswich Richard but it most evidently is the same man that Savage calls Richard Davis of Roxbury, and whom he describes as follows:

Richard (Davis) of Roxbury m. a. 1654 Sarah d. of John Burrell, had Richard b. 5 Jan 1658 who d. next yr. Richard again 26 May 1661 and Sarah, and he d 6 Mar 1663. His will of 20 Feb being pro. 19 Mar of that year. But their was a poshum. ch. and the wid. m Samuel Chandler in 1664 and d in 1665.

This Richard Davis is, without doubt, the Richard Davis who lived in Dorchester. His first appearance in the records was the "22th day of the : 7:mo:1655."

The Fourth Report of the Record Commissioners, Doc. 9, Dorchester, has in the index under Davis references only to pages 64, 83, 98, and 264.

[Page 64] there was giuen by the Towne to Richard Daues 4 feete of Land with out his garden Rayles by the water or bridge by George Proctors Close: for the addicon of his shop for his more Conveniencie this: 22th day of the:7:mo:1655.

[Page 83] Ed wiat—demanded pay for Cow keeping In the year 1655: . . . of Richard davis 4^s.

[Page 98] At the generall towne meeting the fifth of December 1659 . . . The same day vpon the request of Richard Dauis it was voted and granted a litle plott of land vnto him next vnto Henry Conliffe land soe it doe not rech the springe vpon the view of Mr. Patten, John Capen, and William Sumner soe they doe exceed one hundred Rodds and they to make return to the select men.

[Page 264] At a general towne meeting the 14:1:82: . . . The same day it was passed by a vote that the Comittee chosen for to p'uide an accomadation for the ministry should purchase that house and orchard which was formerly Richard Dauis with a littell peece of meadow which lyeth on the other side of the way if it may be obtained for sixty pound . . . The same day it was passed by a vote that there should be a Rate made of the same Sum that was made for Mr. Danforth for his labour in the ministry the yeare past: for to purchase the house and land aboue mentioned:

The 21st Report of the Rec. Com. (Dorchester Records) has the following notes:

[Page 5] Richard Davis, the son of Richard Davis born 5 d 11 mo 1657.

[Page 25] Richard Davis deceased this life 2-11-1658.

(The above two entries confirm Savage's statement that Richard b. 5 Jan. 1658 died the next year.)

[Page 8] Richard Davis, the son of Richard Davis, born 26 d 3 mo 1661.

[Page 26] Richard Davis deceased 6-1-1663.

His will was dated February 20, 1662, was proved March 19, 1662-3, and became Docket No. 331 Suffolk Probate. The inventory of the estate is headed "Inventory of the goods of Richard Davis who died the 6th of March 1662-3." His wife, Sarah, was executrix, and his daughter Sarah and his son Richard, both under eighteen years of age, were mentioned.

Richard Davis's wife, Sarah, was born in July 1634, the daughter of John Burrill, who was in Roxbury as early as 1632, and of his wife Sarah. After Richard Davis died in 1663 his widow married Samuel Chandler and then later died in 1665. Burrill was a shoemaker, removed to Boston in 1648 or before, and probably died in February 1657. His will, dated August 3, 1654, named only his wife and daughter. (From notes of G. L. Davis.)

Sarah Davis, the widow of "Richard Davis of Dorchester," was the executrix of his will as we have already said. When she died in 1665, the court appointed three men as administrators of Richard's estate and one of these was his "Brother" Tobias, who previously had been one of the appraisers of the estate. The Gen. Register, Volume 11, p. 340, has an abstract of Richard's will and of the proceedings pertaining to it. The following quotation is taken from this abstract:

[September 6, 1665] At a meeting of ye Magistrates & Recorder in Boston . . . Whereas—the said Sarah Davis hath not long since intermarried with Samuel Chandler with whom she lived not above 35 weeks, The Magistrates and Recorder judged

it meet to Graunt Administration to the Estate of the Late Richard Davis, unto Mr. Jno Mynott, Daniel Preston, the two overseers of the Last Will of sd Richard Davis and Tobyas Davis HIS BROTHER.

From the above record we have determined that Richard Davis was of Dorchester and that he was a brother of Tobias Davis of Roxbury. Richard died March 6, 1662-3, and his widow, Sarah, who had married Samuel Chandler in 1664-5, died in August 1665 (see inventory). Tobias Davis died in 1690. After Sarah Chandler's death, her three children were baptized at Roxbury.

Page 126, Doc. 114, says:

Sarah, Richard, Abiel, children of Richard Davies baptised mo 11 day 14 1665 at Roxbury.

Sarah must have been older than the others because her son, John Seaver, was born in Roxbury August 18, 1671 and was just old enough to be appointed administrator of the estates of his uncles, Richard² and Abiel², in 1693. Richard was born in Dorchester May 26, 1661. Abiel was born after his father's death on March 6, 1663 and was therefore a posthumous child.

Savage says that Richard¹ Davis (Sarah's father) married "about 1654," but where he found this date I cannot learn. Sarah, if she had been born in 1654, would have been only seventeen years old when her son, John Seaver, was born, so that Richard¹'s marriage may have taken place earlier than "about 1654."

The following three Suffolk deeds are of interest:

[Liber VI, p. 194] March 17, 1669—Joseph Wise of Roxbury, Butcher, & his wife, Mary, sell to Nathaniel Sever of Roxbury, Sadler, a dwelling house and orchard, 1½A. in Roxbury—"which said land did formerly belong unto Richard Davis

deceased the one halfe whereof was given to the said Davis by his Father in Law John Burrell and the Other half was given him the said Davis by Sarah the Relict of the said John Burrell before shee married with Rob^t Seaver her second Husband, as by an Instrument of Sale made by the said Richard Davis & Sarah his wife both now deceased, unto the said Joseph Wise dated the 4th March 1662''—ack. 19 d. 3^d mo. 1670.

[Liber XII, p. 350] December 3, 1681—Wiat to Joanes both of Dorchester 2 or 3 Acres in Dorchester bounded westerly with the land of Richard Davice now in the possession of Francis Bale.

[Liber XIII, p. 209] A deed 22nd day of Nov. 1684, Ralph Powell of Marshfield to John Davis of the Town of Roxbury, yeoman, a certain piece of ground with the shop standing there upon which he lately purchased of Richard Davis of Roxbury situated in the town street of Roxbury and next to a shop belonging to Jeremiah Wise, also 2 acres and one half of salt marsh in Roxbury at Graverly Point near the lots of said John Davis and Abiel Davis.

Richard² (*Richard*¹) Davis was 23 years old at the time referred to in the deed mentioned directly above. Probably he is the Richard to whom the note refers.

CHILDREN OF RICHARD DAVIS

SARAH² Davis, the oldest of the three children, was born about 1654 or possibly earlier. There is no note that we have yet been able to find in the Vital Records of Massachusetts to indicate the exact date of her birth. Her son, John³ Seaver, in 1693 was administrator of his uncles' estates.

John³ Seaver was the son of Nathaniel² Seaver and his wife, Sarah² (Davis), and was born in Roxbury August 18, 1671 (Roxbury Births). Nathaniel Seaver and his wife, Sarah, owned the covenant at Roxbury. [Doc. 114, p. 91.] Nathaniel² Seaver was a son of Robert¹ Seaver of whom Drake (History of Roxbury, p. 224) says:

Robert Seaver—, whose home was on Stony River, came over in the Mary & John in 1634 was a freeman in 1637, and died in 1682, leaving numerous descendants.

Mo 4 day 6, 1683, Robert Seaver, an aged Christian buried [p. 184, Doc. 114]. [*On page 126, Eustis Street Cemetery Records, it says he was "aged 74."*]

RICHARD² Davis was born May 26, 1661 and

ABIEL² Davis was the posthumous child born after March 6, 1663, the date of his father's death.

[Doc. 114, p. 97] 1684 m 4 d 22—Abiel Davis—all y^{es} were received to take hold on the covenant. [*Richard Davis*] took hold of the covenant 4 mo 29 d 1684 [p. 97, Doc. 114]. [*January 13, 1689-90 by the selectmen of Roxbury (see their records)*—liberty was granted to Abiel Davis, Richard Davis and four others to have backward seat on lower front galery in the Meeting House.

Both of these sons were, according to the inventories of their estates, "lost with the expedition against Canada in the year 1690." Richard was then 32 years old and Abiel 30 years old.

A search of the Roxbury Records to 1693 fails to show any births, marriages, or deaths connected with these two brothers and we have found no evidence of any kind that either of them was married.

Abiel's Docket was No. 2026, Richard's No. 2027.

Their nephew, John Seaver, was appointed administrator of the estates of both.

[Suffolk Probate, Vol. 13, p. 167-168]: John Seaver of Roxbury, shoemaker is appointed administrator of the estate of his uncle, Richard Davis late of Roxbury, Sadler, deceased intestate, [*also of that of*] his uncle Abiel Davis, late of Roxbury, blacksmith, deceased intestate. [*This was May 11, 1693.*]

It is evident, then, that, except for these two boys who probably left no wives or children (or they would

have appeared in the Probate proceedings) Richard Davis left no descendants by the name of Davis. The only descendants he could have had would have taken the Seaver name at first.

No other Richard Davis appears for many years.

III. HANNA DAVIS OF ROXBURY

1654 Joseph Grigs and Hanna Davis Nov 8 [Roxbury Marriages].

We believe (without proof) that she was the daughter of Samuel Davis who died in Boston in 1672 leaving property to his daughter, Hannah Griggs, and to his grandchild, Hannah Griggs. Gershom² Davis, son of Samuel, would have been her brother. This family of Davises is reported in Chapter VI under the title of Samuel Davis of Boston.

From a study of the Roxbury Vital Records we found that Thomas Griggs, householder, died May 23, 1646, his wife Mary having been buried November 29, 1639. We assume that John Grigs who was married to Mary Pattin November 11, 1652 was a brother of Joseph who married Hanna Davis November 8, 1654 and that both were sons of Thomas Griggs. Joseph died February 10, 1714, aged 90. Hannah Davis was his second wife. Mary, his first wife, whose maiden name was Crafts, "dyed moneth 5 day 3," 1653. Joseph and Hannah Griggs had eight children recorded in Roxbury Vital Records:

- i SAMUEL son Joseph bp. 5:8 m: 1656—died 11 m. 1656-7.
- ii MARY dau. Joseph bp. 22: 9 m: 1657.
- iii HANNA d. Joseph Mar. 25, 1659 (1660 Court Rec.).
- iv JOSEPH son Joseph bp. 13: 8 m: 1661.
- v BENJAMIN son Joseph Griggs Dec. 2, 1668—bap. 1667-8.

- vi JOHANNA dau. Joseph Jan. 10, 1672 (1672-3).
- vii ICHABOD son of Joseph & Hannah Sept. 27 or 28, 1675.
- viii MARY d. Joseph Mar. 27, 1682-3—bp. 1: 2 m: 1683.

Mr. Bowen in the History of Woodstock, Volume Four, page 490, lists Hanna as a daughter of Tobias. We know of no basis for any such statement and we do not accept it as true.

IV. MARY DAVIS OF ROXBURY

1650 Isaac Heath Jr. and Mary Davis Dec 16 [Rox. Marriages].

This Mary we have been unable to identify definitely. Since she was old enough to marry in 1650, she probably came over with her father or mother. The only Mary we have found that fulfills these requirements is the Mary Davis four years old who came over in 1635 on the Elizabeth with Margaret Davis aged 32 and settled in Boston (Banks' "Planters of the Commonwealth," p. 147).

In the paragraph devoted to the Margaret mentioned above, Pope has:

Margery Davis a widow at bro Burden's Boston adm. chh 15
(1) 1645 "Now wife of Charles Grist of Braintree" dism. to Br
7 (3) 1648.

This may or may not have been the same Margaret but the record is clear that a Margery Davis who was a widow in 1645 had married Charles Grist before May 1648. In any event, the Mary who came over in 1635 with her would have been 19 years old in 1650, the right age to have married Isaac Heath, Junior. (See page 281).

The name Isaac Heath, Junior, bothered us at first, and we are not perfectly satisfied yet that we know exactly

the Isaac Heath designated. Ellis' "History of Rox.," p. 121, says:

Isaac Heath (probably a son of Isaac above) was made freeman in 1652 and married Mary Davis in 1650. Had a son Isaac born in 1655. He lived on Stony River and had four acres bounded west on highway on hill.

Drake p. 160, says Isaac Heath (p. 193 says—"the friend and coadjutor of Eliot in his Indian labors.") of Nazing, Eng., came over in 1635, having been preceded by his brothers William and Peleg Heath. He died January 21, 1660, aged 75, and left a will but "none were left of his household but his aged widow and his son-in-law John Bowles whose children inherited his property." It is to be inferred from this that our Isaac, Jr. was not his son. William¹ Heath, brother of Isaac¹, came over on the Lyon, arriving in Boston September 16, 1632. With him were Mrs. Mary Heath and ISAAC², Mary, and Anna. This Isaac² Heath appears to have been called Isaac Junior to distinguish him from his Uncle Isaac.

The following children were recorded as those of Isaac² Heath:

- 1651 an infant died
- 1653 Mary³ Heath—died 1668
- 1655 Isaac³ Heath
- 1657 Elizabeth³ Heath
- 1660 Abigail Heath
- 1665 Peleg Heath
- 1667 infant died
- 1669 Joseph Heath

We notice that the first daughter was named Mary after her mother and the first son Isaac after his father.

In 1682 Isaac² Heath "Senior," apparently the same man we have been calling "Junior" (Isaac¹ had died before 1682) was received back into the church after having tried to kill himself.

Isaac³ Heath, born in 1655, died December 22, 1684 (while his own father was still living), leaving a son, Isaac⁴ Heath, who settled in Framingham, Massachusetts and in Wethersfield, Connecticut. The line then goes on to the present time. The death record calls Isaac³ "Junior." His father, Isaac² Heath, died December 29, 1694.

We give here our notes of the records as they appear in Doc. 114. Doc. 114, page 75, gives in John Eliot's original list of Church members:

William Heath—he came to this land in the yeare 1632 and soon after joined to the church. He brought 5 children—Mary, Isaak, Mary, Peleg, Hanah.

Mary Heath, the wife of Willia[̄] Heath.

[Page 86] Mary Heath (was a member of the church).

[Page 86] Hannah Heath, daughter of Willa[̄] Heath (was a member of church).

[Page 87] Nov. 23, 1651 Isaac Heath, son to William Heath, confirmed.

[Page 87] 3 M. 23d, 1652, Peleg Heath, son of Will. Heath, confirmed.

Baptisms:

[Page 120] Mo. 1, day 13, 1653, Mary Heath, dau. to Isaac Heath.

[Page 121] Mo. 5, day 1, 1655 Isaac Heath son of Isaac Heath, Jr.

[Page 122] Mo. 4, day 28, 1657 Elizabeth Heath, dau. to Isaac Heath.

[Page 123] Mo. 6, day 26, 1660 Abigail, dau. to Isaac Heath, Jr.

[Page 125] Mo. 4, day 25, 1665 Peleg, son to Isaac Heath (Isaac Heath, Senior died Jan. 21, 1660).

[Page 128] Mo. 5, day 25, 1669 Joseph, son to Isaac Heath.

Deaths or Burials:

[Page 175] died Mo. 11, day 2, 1651, an infant of Isaac Heath unbaptized.

[Page 177] Mo. 11, day 21, 1660, Mr. Isaac Heath Ruling Elder in this church dyed and was buried on ye 23 day.

[Page 179] Mo. 3, day 14, Mary Heath, daughter to Isaac Heath.

[Page 179] Mo. 11, day 6, 1667, an infant, son of Isaac Heath, unbaptized.

[Page 184] M. 9, day 17, 1681, a new-born infant of Isaak Heath, Junior. (This was Anne.)

[Page 185] M. 10, d. 23, 1684, Isaak Heath, Junior.

[Page 95] M(?) d. 16, 1682, "Isaac Heath, Senor^r confessed his sin in attempting to kill hims: and was restored."

[Page 178] Buried 11 mo. 14 d. 1664—Elizabeth Heath, wife of Elder Heath.

At one time we thought it possible that the Mary Davis married in Roxbury in 1650 might have been a sister of Hanna Davis, married in Roxbury in 1654. Hanna probably was a daughter of Samuel Davis of Boston who died in 1672 but Samuel Davis mentioned in his will in 1672 a daughter, Mary Townsend. We looked up the records to see whether a Mary Heath married a Townsend before 1672. We found no such record and that theory scarcely seems tenable if her husband, Isaac, was still living in 1684.

Mr. Bowen includes both Mary and Hanna in his list of the children of Tobias Davis of Roxbury. We know of no reason for this and do not accept it as true.

V. JOHN DAVIS, TAILOR, OF ROXBURY

Savage simply lists "John Davis, Roxbury 1653, a Tailor." Since a tailor in Roxbury in 1653 probably would have been of age and so would have been born in 1632 or before, John is no one whose birth record is likely to be found in this country. John Davis, tailor, of Boston, son of George and Barbara, born June 3, 1652, could not have been the man. The only John Davis we have found who fits this case is the John Davis, aged 9, who came over on the Elizabeth in 1635 with Margaret, aged 32, Mary, aged 4, and Elizabeth, aged 1. This John would have been 27 years old in 1653. We have found nothing, however, to connect him with the tailor, but neither have we located the record that caused Savage to make the above note. (See page 281).

We have seen, however, that Margaret Davis settled in Boston and may have married Charles Grist of Braintree about 1648. We have suspected, too, that Mary, who married Isaac Heath, Jr. in Roxbury in 1650, was one of Margaret's children. Perhaps Margaret's children lived in Roxbury after her marriage. The above is extremely indefinite but the best we can do at this time.*

In investigating the children of John² (*William*¹) Davis of Roxbury, we have found what we thought must be an error in the records about 1673, as we have noted on page 44. There is, of course, the possibility that there was a John the tailor in Roxbury at that time and that our failure to distinguish him from Ensign John and John "off ye farme" is causing our confusion.

In checking over the Roxbury births and marriages before 1800, we have found the following families which

we have not identified unless so stated and for which there are no births recorded in Roxbury before 1800.

May 11, 1726—Joseph Davis* married Experience Willis (Rox. Marriages). This could not be Joseph² (*William*¹) or his son, Joseph³, (*Joseph*², *William*¹) because they both died in 1717 and were buried in one grave. Neither could it have been Joseph⁴ of Woodstock because his wife, Sarah Curtiss, died 5 March 1727. Joseph⁵ (*Joseph*⁴, *Joseph*³, *Joseph*², *William*¹) was not born until 1725 (p. 465, Davis Gen.).

December 29, 1743—William Davis† of Brooklyn married Jemima Woods of Roxbury (Rox. Marriages).

October 27, 1757—John Davis of Oxford married Deborah Weld (Rox. Marriages). This was John⁴ (*Samuel*³, *John*², *William*¹) who married his cousin and is No. 9 in the George L. Davis genealogy.

“April 1, 1760 Paul Davis‡ and Martha Ponds” (Rox. Marriages) and “Nov. 5 1760 Elisha, son of Paul Davis Jr and Martha his wife” (Rox. Births). This man, we judge, was Paul⁴, son of Paul³ (*Jonathan*², *William*¹). Paul³ married Anna Voss of Milton November 26, 1723 but there is no Roxbury Record of a son Paul. There can be scarcely any doubt, however, that this was Paul⁴, a son of Paul³, because of the record “Paul Davis Junior and Martha his wife.”

*George H. Williams writes us that this was Joseph⁴ (*Samuel*³, ², *Wm*¹), born April 27, 1700. Joseph⁴ and Samuel³ were of Brookfield, Mass. Joseph⁴ (one of thirteen children) had two children: Joseph⁵, born April 14, 1727, and Mary⁵, born Nov. 12, 1730. Experience Willis married (2) Nov. 12, 1733 John Hurlburt.

†George H. Williams says that this was William³ (*Wm.*², *Wm.*¹), born Aug. 24, 1712, died Feb. 20, 1777 *ae.* 66, and was of Brookline. He had eight children.

‡Paul⁴ Davis had six children. Paul³ Davis had three children.

CHAPTER V

William Davis of Boston

LIST OF WILLIAM DAVISES IN BOSTON BEFORE 1700

- I. William Davis the Locksmith died 1643-4. (William Senior of the Book of Possessions.)
- II. His son, William Davis the Gunsmith, who moved to Barbados. (William Junior of the Book of Possessions).
- III. William Davis the Apothecary, who was Captain William.
- IV. William Davis, Seaman, of Chadwell, England, who died at Isaac Cullimore's house in 1655.
- V. William Davis, who by wife Martha had daughter Sarah, born April 22, 1685.
- VI. William Davis, Mariner, who died in 1701, leaving Widow Mary and some children (*Hannah* 1682, *Free Love* 1684, *Mary* 1690, *Jane* 1695, *William* 1698) and property in Barbados. This man may have been the son of William the Gunsmith.
- VII. William Davis, Seaman, died 1653.

William Davis, Mariner, who died in 1685. He was the son of Captain William and Margaret. (See page 219.)

Dr. William³ Davis (*Benjamin*², *Captain William*¹), who was born January 22, 1686. This was the

Boston Physician and Surgeon, the father of Benjamin Davis, the Loyalist. He was baptized in Roxbury. (*See page 219.*)

William of William and Mary Davis, born March 25, 1698. (*See page 232.*)

The earliest New England record that we have found of a William Davis is in the Boston Selectmen's Records, page 34 (25), 16 d 2 mo 1638, when a plot of land on the present Summer Street was granted to William Davisse the Locksmyth.

The next record we have is in the Town Records of Salem, Mass. (copied and published by the Essex Institute) where we find in Vol. 1, p. 84:

1638, 18 day of the 12th mo. Being present Mr. Eddecott, Mr. Conant, John Woodbury, Jeffry Massy, Lawrence Leach, Will Hathorne; William Davis is admitted inhabitant & hath granted him 10 acres of planting ground neare Mr. Downings farme.

Savage says this man "probably removed to Boston or elsewhere." Whether he was one of the three Williams in Boston in 1642 we do not know, but we do find the following note in the Quarterly Court Records (copied and published by the Essex Institute), Vol. I, p. 77: "John Devereux, Mathew Gillett, Richard Cook, John Focor, William *Davies*, Thomas Oddensell, Jno. Lyon, John Northy, Wm. Keene and Thomas Bowen fined for drinking wine, etc.—(Waste Book)" 3; 11 mo; 1644.

This last note may refer to the same "Willi:" Davis who was fined at quarterly court held in Boston September 3, 1639 for sundry drinkings at his house, for at that time many Salem cases came before the court in Boston. The point to be noted, however, is that there evidently

was a William Davies in Salem in 1644 and, if he was the 1638 William Davies of Salem, he probably was not one of the four Williams residing in Boston and Roxbury in 1643.

I.

WILLIAM DAVIS THE LOCKSMITH OF BOSTON

The first Boston record of a William Davis is in the Selectmen's Record, page 34 (25), 16 d. 2 mo. 1638:

... also there is granted to William DAVISSE, the Locksmith, a house plott near unto the new mylne, upon the usuall Condition of Inoffensive Carryage.

The new mill was on the present Summer Street which was formerly known as "Mylne St." or "The streete to Richard Gridley's". The above-mentioned lot was on the south side of Summer Street and is lot F 42 in the appendix to the Book of Possessions.

Lot F-42 near the mill on Summer Street is easily traced. When William the locksmith died in 1643-4, all his real estate went to his Widow Mary, (the court order for this, dated Mar. 7, 1643-4, is given below,) who soon married John Cowdall. Then July 7, 1645 (Liber III, p. 141) John Cowdall and his wife Mary deeded this same lot containing $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to William Davis the gunsmith and he in turn sold it 27 d. 4 mo. 1646 to Wm. Blantaine (Book of Poss., p. 35 [95]). The original grant of this land was to William Davis, locksmith. The court proceedings and the deed prove that the property went to William Davis, a son of the locksmith and of the locksmith's wife, Mary (later Mary Cowdall), while the Book of Possessions says the property was sold to Blaintaine by William Davis "Gunsmith". Here then are two

William Davises identified, William Davis "the Locksmith", who died 1643-4, and his son, William Davis "the Gunsmith".

The next Williams we find are William Davis "Senior" and William Davis "Junior" as listed in the Book of Possessions. As shown later, it appears to us that these are the same two Williams we have just identified as the locksmith and the gunsmith, but thus far absolute proof is lacking.

And then in 1643 we find Captain William Davis, the apothecary.

Boston was a small town at that time and yet here we have certainly three different William Davises who were there before 1645. But if William "Senior" and William "Junior" were not two of our positively identified three, then it may be that there were four or even five different William Davises in Boston before 1645. Any explanation which reduces the number to three seems more likely to be correct, provided it fits the evidence equally well.

When William the Locksmith died in 1643-4, his estate was settled March 7, 1643-4 by the General Court of Massachusetts (Vol. II, p. 58):

In the case of William Davies dying intestate, it is ordered, the eldest sonne to have twenty marks, the other sonne, a yonger daughter by his former wife, six pound apiece, the eldest daughter two pound, & the widow to have the rest for her selfe & bringing up of the two yonger children, & at twenty years of age, or at their marriage, to give them five pound a piece, & if any losse come, to make the estate less than one hundred pounds, to abate each p portionably.

From this we find that William at his death in 1643-4 left four children by a first wife and a widow with two younger children probably her own. Later we find that

this widow was named Mary, that she married John Cowdall, Condell, or Condall (there are various spellings), and that they moved to Rhode Island where one of the daughters, Abigail Davis, was married to Edward Richmond after court proceedings held May 20, 1657 and had a large family.

The names of all six children of the William who died in 1643-4 are not definitely known. One was William the gunsmith and another the above Abigail, but the other four are uncertain. The following names appear in the Boston records, but whether they were the locksmith's children or the children of his son, William the gunsmith, is at present a matter of conjecture.

ABIGAIL, dau. of William & Mary Davies, born 31st 8 mo 1635 and died 24 d. 12 mo. 1639.

THOMAS, son of William & Mary Davies, born 15 d. 1 mo. 1636 and died 24 d. 5 mo. 1638.

AARON, son of William & Mary Davies, born 20 d. 5 mo. 1638 and died 31 d. 8 mo. 1639.

JOHN of William Davies who died 20 d. 1 mo. 1640.

TRINE, son of William and Mary Davis, born 10 day, 6 mo. 1642.

MARY of William & Mary Davis born 3 d. 8 mo. 1644.

There is also a record printed as follows:

THOMAS of William & Mary Davis born 3 d. 7 mo. 1645.

THOMAS of William DAVIS baptized 7 d. 7 mo. 1645.

We believe, however, that the above Thomas was the child of Captain William Davis who married Margaret Pyncheon in December 1644 and that the printed Mary was "Marg". in the original. This will be discussed further under Captain William's record.

It will be noticed that neither William the gunsmith nor the Abigail who moved to Rhode Island is in the

above list. The gunsmith was of age when these children were born and it might well be that they were his children. He married Mary Parker who came over to Roxbury in September, 1633 with her father, Nicholas Parker, yeoman. She was his wife in 1678 (Suffolk Deeds IX, p. 25), and a Mary was his wife in 1658 (Liber III, p. 167), and Mary Parker was his wife when Joanna was born August 16, 1655. It seems probable that he married Mary Parker shortly before 1655 and that she was a second wife, but we have no proof of this. But the six children born from 1635 to 1644, if his, were probably by a first wife, Mary, who was not Mary Parker. Anyway, these six children were either the gunsmith's or his father's (the locksmith's). We are inclined to consider them as belonging to the gunsmith.

Savage says:

William, Boston, by w. Mary had Abigail b. 31 Oct. 1635, d. at 4 yrs. Thomas 15 Mar. 1637, d. young, Aaron 20 July 1638, d. next year, John wh. d. young in 1641, Trine 10 Aug. 1642—Mary 3 Oct. 1644 perhaps d. soon, and Thomas again,—bapt. 7 Sept. 1645. The Bk of Possessions in early days shows W. sen. and W. Jr. in Boston, but wh. was f. of these ch. is to be determined. I fear, only by conject. One was a gunsmith and one was d. 10 Nov. 1655 when Isaac Collamore gave in the inv. of his est. only 7 lbs. His wife Mary soon m. John Cowdall.

The foregoing is only partially true, for the seaman William Davis who died at Isaac Collamore's house, and whose estate amounted to seven pounds, has never been shown to have the slightest connection with Wm. "Senior", with his son, William the gunsmith, or with William "Junior", and the Mary who married John Cowdall was the locksmith's wife, not the seaman's. Thomas, who was born 3 d. 7 mo. 1645, could not have been the son of William the locksmith who died in 1643-4.

He was more likely the son of Captain William and Margaret Davis.

In the Records of Massachusetts, Vol. 1, p. 268, we find that at a Quarterly Court held at Boston September 3, 1639:

Willi: Davis, for sundry drinkings at his house was fined 3 pounds.

He probably was the same man who was fined "3: 11 mo. 1644" at Salem quarterly court for drinking wine, etc. In the early days the quarterly court was held at various places and cases from the surrounding towns were often brought to Boston.

The record does not say just what William this was, and Davis genealogists are unanimous in thinking that he belonged to some other branch of the family.

II.

WILLIAM DAVIS THE GUNSMITH OF BOSTON

William the gunsmith was a son of William the locksmith and appears later as a resident of Barbados. Supposedly he inherited his business from his father and possibly there was no difference in the trades of William the locksmith, William the gunsmith, and William the smith. The titles may all have referred to the same trade and may have been used indiscriminately. But for the sake of identification, we have followed the records closely and have called the father the locksmith and the son the gunsmith.

When in 1643-4 the court settled the estate of William the locksmith, all the real estate came into the possession of the widow, Mary. She married John Condell and,

under date of 8-12-1644, John mortgaged his dwelling house in Boston which formerly had belonged to "William Davies, the smith" (Liber I, page 57). Then on the 7th day of July, 1645 (Liber III, p. 141) John Condell and Mary, his wife, deeded to William Davis of Boston the house in Boston where John and Mary were living at the time, as well as $\frac{1}{2}$ acre in Boston and 2 acres in Long Island of Massachusetts Bay. They were to hand over the tenement on August 24 next, but William in the meantime was to make use of part of it. This deed was endorsed and acknowledged by John Condell and his wife Mary before the magistrates 17th of the eighth month 1645, but was not entered and recorded until April 22, 1658.

Then on 9th of 8 mo. 1645 (Mass. Archives-vol. 15 B. p. 254) William petitioned the Court to give him title to his father's house.

That whereas William Davis yo^r pet^{rs} Father died seized of an Estate in goods and chattels, and was possessed of a house and lands, etc., being in the Towne of Boston which afterwards came to yo^r pet^{rs} mother and to John Cowdell by marriage with her, who did by their Deed Indented and bearing date the 7th of July 164-: bargaine & sell unto yo^r pet^r the sayd house and land belonging it, in consideraçon of three-score pounds to be payed to them, the sayd John Cowdell & his wife, yo^r pet^r mother their heyres or assignes:

Now so it is May it please this Honored Court, that there was an Inventory of the Estate of yo^r pet^r father brought into court & proved, And that p^rsent Court did allott & determine unto yo^r pet^{rs} brethren and sisters, children of the sayd William Davis severall portions to be payed out of his Estate of house & lands & After w^{ch} the sayd John Cowdell & Mary his wife yo^r pet^{rs} mother Mortgaged the house and land unto Mr. Edward Ting to the payment of forty pounds, and then sold the same to y^r pet^r agreeing with & binding y^r pet^r to pay the £40 upon

Mortgage, But no course is taken by them for the Performance of the Order of Court touching the children's portions, yo^r Petiçon^r therefore humbly presenteth his script unto this Honored Court in this respect That the sayd John Cowdell & Mary his wife yo^r pet^{rs} mother may be ordered to confirme & make sufficient Assurance of the house & land so bargained & sold as aforesayd unto yo^r pet^r & his heyres & c. And also that it would please the Honored Court to Provide that the children may have their Porçons so assigned them by the Court Assured unto them . . .

The title was confirmed in the following manner
[Recs. of the Councill (Upper House), Vol. 3, p. 47]
October 1, 1645:

The magistrates having taken the acknowledgment of John Cowdal & his wife, for passing over the dwelling house & ground to ther sonne-in-law Willi: Davies, the court doth consent to confirme it to the said Willi: Davyes.

And again the title was confirmed by the lower house as follows: Oct. 7, 1645—Record of the House of Deputies:

In answer to the petition of Wm Davies, sonne to Wm Davies, deceased, upon the acknowledgment of John Condall & Mary his wife, being fully satisfied for a bargaine of sale of a certaine house in Boston, with two ackers of land, in that lease largely appeareth, his petition was granted to him, the said Wm. Davies & his heires forever.

So William the gunsmith had full title to the house and to the lands in October 1645. But 8 (12) 1650 William mortgaged the house, "William Davies of Boston, Gunsmith" to "James Oliver of Boston, merchant" "his now dwelling house in Boston adjoyning to Mr. Hardings", for 23 pounds, 10 shillings, 10 pence (page 133, Liber I).

This house was on lot G 66 in the appendix to the Book of Possessions and is listed in that book as Lot 1 belonging to William Davis Senior. On page 94 (84) of the Selectmen's Records is the first order for the laying out of the present Kilby Street, 26 d. 12 mo. 1648:

There is ordered that a hyghway of twelve foot betweene Capt. Hardings howse and Wm. Davice howse, shall goe alonge to the bridge which the towne and Mr. Hill set up together, beinge to be made by the towne and Mr. Hill, and for that hyghway their is graunted to Mr. Hill a way to his Ground by the sea side alonge bye the howse of Wm. Hudson, senior, and a cart way below the wharfe.

And on page 96 (85) is the final order for the present Kilby Street, 9d 2 mo. 1649:

There is ordered and layd out a hyghway of 12 foot betweene Capt. Hardings howse and Wm. Davis howse alonge strait to the Bridge, which the towne and Mr. Hill set up betweene them, upon Consideration that the hyghway at the seaside is demolished onely a way bye the howse of Wm. Hudson, senior, reserved for cart and horse below it for the acomodation of the sayd land.

That this was later called Kilby Street is shown by Miss Thwing on page 145 of her book, "The Crooked and Narrow Streets of Boston," where she writes that:

Kilby Street was ordered to be laid out in 1649, 'of twelve feet between Capt. Harding and William Davis, along straight to the bridge which the town and Mr. Hill set up.' The bridge was at the foot of Water Street. It went, as usual, by various names, according to the fancy of the writer of the deeds or that of the town clerk: 'The street going up to Benjamin Gillum's,' 'street that leads from the great or market street towards Fort Hill,' 'the highway which leads from Exchange Street to the brook and dock called Oliver's dock,' 'Dummers Lane,' and in 1708, 'Mackril Lane.' Miller's Lane and Adams Street were later

included in Kilby Street. Until the great fire of 1760, the street was very narrow; it was then widened and called Kilby Street after Christopher Kilby who was in New York when the fire occurred and at once sent two hundred pounds for the relief of the sufferers. etc.

This then very definitely locates home lot number 1 of William Davis Senior, shown by the Book of Possessions to have been on the eastern corner of State and Kilby Streets and later to have been the home of William the gunsmith.

Continuing the history of this lot, we find that March 1, 1657 (Liber III, p. 154) Mr. Hutchinson bought a mansion house formerly the house of John Winthrop and bounded by the houses of the late Captain Robert Harding,* William Davies & John Holland on the north, the cove on the east, the creeke and Mr. Stephen Winthrop's Marrish on the south.

On the 9th of June 1658 there was a deed recorded (Liber III, page 167) wherein William Davis sold to William Ingram on April 12, 1658 the houselot G 66 which we have been discussing, the one at the east corner of Kilby and State Streets.

"Willjam Davis late of Boston in New England marchant and now Resident in the Island of Barbadoes"†

NOTES FROM SELECTMEN'S RECORDS.

*Robert Hardinge was at the first recorded meeting of the Selectmen of Boston, 7 mo. 1 day, 1634, but on 8 mo. 6 day, 1634 J. Cogan was chosen in his place as he was in Virginia. Harding was in Boston again later and on 23 d 11 mo. 1635 contributed five pounds toward the building of the fort. In 1637 he was again Selectman and was granted 100 acres at Rumley Marsh and Pullen Point. He was selectman in 1638 and in 1639. In 1639 he sold half of his Rumley Marsh allotment to Richard Tuttell. On page (84) it is stated that Mr. Harding and Mr. Hill lived on same street and on page (85) Harding is recorded as living next to William Davis.

In 1638 the title of the board of town officers (later selectmen) was "The Overseers of the Townes Occasions."

†Barbados is an island in the British West Indies, 21 miles long, $14\frac{1}{2}$ wide, covering 166 sq. miles, surrounded by coral reefs. The British took possession of the then uninhabited island in 1605 and the first actual settlement took place in 1625. In 1628, 64 settlers arrived and founded Bridgetown, the present capital, the population

"and Mary the wife of said Willjam Davis" (William and Mary both signed this deed April 12, 1658) for 110 pounds "paid by Willjam Ingram of Boston, Cooper" through marke Hams of Boston Attorney" sell "one dwelling house in Boston fronting next the broad streets from the market place down to Mr. Webbs wharfe" bounded by Gillam, Peck, and Brenton.* And thus this homestead G66 passed from William Davis, Senior, to William, his son, the gunsmith, and then in 1658 out of the Davis family forever.

A few words about the later history of this lot might be of interest. Mr. Gay says that it was the site of the first "Bunch of Grapes Tavern" and that it may be traced to Leonard Jarvis in 1760 as follows:

Suffolk Deeds 11-328
 Suffolk Deeds 19-241
 Suffolk Wills 14-111
 Suffolk Deeds 32-97
 Suffolk Deeds 33-214
 Suffolk Deeds 37-264
 Suffolk Deeds 94-195
 Suffolk Deeds 94-235
 Suffolk Deeds 36-112
 Suffolk Deeds 41-137
 Suffolk Deeds 43-123

*THOMAS PECK—Miss Thwing says on page 146 of her book that Doane Street was Thomas Peck's highway or cartway in 1695 and was called Doane St. in 1806. (Doane Street now is parallel to State Street and just south of it, going from Kilby Street toward the water.)

WILLIAM BRENTON—on page 200 of Miss Thwing's book it is noted that William Brenton was adm. to ch. 1633 and that he dealt largely in real estate.

BENJAMIN GILLUM—page 145 of same book—Kilby Street was known as "the street going up to Benjamin Gillum's."

of which is given as 21,000. In 1684 there were 20,000 whites and 46,000 slaves on the island. Even now it is one of the most densely populated areas in the world. In 1906, when the population was 196,287, the blacks outnumbered the whites 9 to 1. Still a British possession, it is perhaps 200 miles N.E. of Venezuela and Trinidad, S.E. of Martinique, N.E. of St. George, E. of the Windward Islands, 13° latitude.

Ligon wrote a "History of Barbados" in 1657.

What finally became of William the gunsmith after he moved to Barbados sometime before April 12, 1658 is not certain, but he and his wife Mary (Parker) both were living in Barbados March 25, 1678 when they signed the deed selling the estate of Nicholas Parker, 130 A in Rumley Marsh, to Thomas Savage, (Liber IX, p. 25).

July 28, 1678 There was buried at the Parish of St. Michaels, Barbados, Mr. William Davis, citisen & Merchant of London. [Hottens Lists of Emigrants, p. 428.]

This may well have been the man we are discussing.

Lot F42 granted to William Davis the locksmith in 1638 was bought by his son, William the gunsmith, from the Cowdalls, and he in turn sold it 27 (4) 1646 to William Blantaine, as recorded in Book of Possessions, page 35 (95) as follows:

27 (4) 1646 William Davies, gunsmith, granted to Wm. Blantaine, carpenter, halfe an Acre of land, be it more or lesse, bounded with Thomas Bel west; the Mill streete north; Georg Griggs east; and William Blantaine south; and this was by an absolute deed of sale dated 27 (4) 1646 and acknowledged the same day before John Winthrop, Governor.

In the records of the Selectmen, p. 52 (41), 30 d. 1 mo. 1640 there is this note:

Also William Davis, gunsmyth, hath granted him a great Lott of 20 Acrs at the Mount, upon the usual Covenant for such Lotts.

We have made no attempt to trace this land. It is to be noted that William the locksmith had a house lot granted him in 1638. He died in 1643-4 leaving a son, William the gunsmith. Which of the two was granted the above twenty acres we are unable to say with cer-

tainty as locksmith and gunsmith both may have been titles of the elder William.

With reference to the court proceedings whereby William, the son whom we call the gunsmith, obtained title to his father's property, we may note one or two peculiarities in the court papers.

In the deed dated July 1645, but not recorded until 1658, three pieces of land are specified. All three were sold by the Cowdells to William Davis the gunsmith in one deed. These pieces of land were:

- (1) The messuage including the tenement. (This was G 66 on South Side of State St.)
- (2) The one-half acre near the mill. (This was F42 which he later sold to Blantain and which had been granted to his father by the town in 1638.)
- (3) Two acres in Long Island.

On 9th of 8th mo. 1645 William petitioned the court and the petition says that the Cowdells did "sell unto your petitioner the sayd house and land belonging to it." Lower house record of October 7, 1645 says "for a bargaine of sale of a certaine house in Boston, with two ackers of land"—evidently mixing up the two acres on Long Island with the land on which the tenement stood. (We have no idea that G66 was 2 acres.)

But the upper house mentions simply "the dwelling house and ground" October 1, 1645 in the following statement:

The magistrates having taken the acknowledgement of John Cowdal & his wife, for passing over the dwelling house & ground to their sonne in law Willi: Davies the court doth consent to confirme it to the said Willi: Davyes.

Now we would suppose that the intention of the above statement was to confirm to William title to the

property in the deed which had been acknowledged before the magistrates by John & Mary Cowdall, but it is a peculiar fact that the date of the acknowledgment before the magistrates was 17, 8 mo. 1645, that is, October 17, which was 16 days after the court proceedings. A further search which we cannot make at this time would undoubtedly straighten out these conflicting dates.

We believe the following record from the Quarterly Court Records, printed by the Essex Institute of Salem, (Vol. 2, page 93) refers to William Davis the gunsmith of Boston:

Copy of deposition of Wm Davis, who testified that he received of John Giffard from the Iron works at Lynn, iron which was brought to Boston by Joseph Armitage 30:5:1653. Sworn 18:8:1653 before Jno Leverett, commissioner.

WILLIAM DAVIS, SENIOR

The Book of Possessions has the following record on page 57:

William Davies, senior, his possession within the limits of Boston.

(1) One house bounded with Wm Hudson, senior, on the east: the streete on the north; Mr. Winthrop on the south and on the west.

(2) also another house and about three quarters of an Acre bounded with the water on the southeast: and Richard Gridley southwest, northwest and northeast.

(3) Also one Acre bounded with Jacob Eliot east and South; Mr. Colbourne west, and the sea on the North. This lies in Mr. Colbourne's field.

Lot 1 was G 66 on the South side of State Street at the easterly corner of the present Kilby Street. It was deeded

by John and Mary Cowdall 7 day July 1645 (Liber III, p. 141) to William Davis the gunsmith. The Cowdalls had obtained title through the court's division of the estate of William Davis the locksmith who died 1643-4 and therefore it seems perfectly clear to us that William Davis the locksmith was the William Davis Senior of the Book of Possessions. But this is disputed by some because of the date ascribed to the Book of Possessions. It is stated that the property of a man who died in 1643-4 would not be listed in the Book of Possessions, which was not compiled until 1645.

Mr. F. L. Gay in his "Notes on William Davis of Boston" says, in effect, that William the locksmith was the father of William Senior, later known as William the gunsmith, because the Book of Possessions was not written until November 1644, after the locksmith had died. In other words, Mr. Gay says William Senior was William the gunsmith and we know that the gunsmith had bought this lot G-66 in July 1645. The whole question hinges on the date that the property of this William Davis "Senior" was written into the Book of Possessions.

The Book of Possessions in the introduction on page VI says:

These items all seem to confirm the idea that the compilation of these 111 pages was made by Aspinwall very soon after his appointment, taking no note of sales even in the early months of 1645.

Wm. Aspinwall was chosen recorder November 13, 1644.

However, it must have taken some time to gather the data for the first 111 pages. The General Court had ordered a survey of the houses and lands April 1, 1634.

"This law was, evidently, only *partially obeyed*, as late as September, 1639, when Stephen Winthrop was made recorder" (page V of Introduction). But the fact that on page [57] are recorded the possessions of William Davies Senior is not proof that he was not the William Davies who died in 1643-4. It is evident that the list for the Book of Possessions was not made all at once. Mr. Aspinwall may have done the actual transcribing soon after his appointment in 1644 but he undoubtedly used some material prepared before that time. And it seems perfectly logical that the possessions of William Davies, Senior, might appear there even though he had died in 1643-4. And especially might this have been probable because of the litigation about the title to this property which was unduly prolonged. In 1645 it was deeded to William the gunsmith, son of William the smith, but there was some difficulty about the title and the deed itself was not recorded until April 22, 1658 (Liber III, p. 141).

As explained above, we see no reason to believe that this list was completely made out after November 1644 when Aspinwall was appointed, but in order to test out the theory that a man who died in 1643 might still be shown as a property owner in the Book of Possessions, we have looked up other men whose deaths are recorded in 1643.

Doc. 130, p. 15, says—"1643 *Mr. Symons buried 14-7 mo.*" There is no doubt about him. He was Henry Symons and died in 1643, and yet we find on page [29] of the Book of Possessions:

Henry Symons possession within the limits of Boston. One house & lott bounded with Mr. Bellingham on the north and east, John Hill on the west, and the cove southwards. [*And in the appendix is listed*] G 20 Henry Symons, house: sold to Chris-

topher Lawson; and by him in 1645 to David Sellick, with wharf and lane before it; to Robert Nauney in 1646. This wharf was bought by John Shawe, the butcher. [*On page 112 of the Book of Possessions we find*] Christopher Lawson his possession in the town of Boston 20 (11) 1645 Richard Bellingham of Boston Esq. granted unto Christopher Lawson of Boston the one equall p'portionable halfe of the marsh land anciently granted to him by the town of Boston lyeing betweene *his owne howse which he bought of Mr. Symons* and John Lowes As appeareth by a deed dated 4 (4) 1644.

From the above quotations it is evident that this property of Mr. Symons had been sold to Christopher Lawson before Aspinwall became recorder and yet it was listed in the Book of Possessions as property of Henry Symons; therefore some of that Book of Possessions must have been made up before 1644.

While it has no direct bearing on our problem, the following note from page 113 [55] of the Book of Possessions shows that Christopher Lawson soon sold:

David Sellick his possession 20 (11) 1645 One house purchased of Christopher Lawson which formerly was Henry Symons [*etc. by an absolute deed of sale. And on page [113]:*] 25 (1) 1646 David Sellick of Boston granted unto Robert Nanney his house & garden thereunto belonging with ten foote broad for a way leading to the said garden, (formerly purchased of Christopher Lawson) and also ten foote of the wharfe in breadth from John Hills, and in length from the Dock to his house; being bounded with John Hills and the streete westerly; the marsh northerly; the marsh and Nathaniel Long easterly; and the Cove southerly; as appears by a deed of sale dated 25 (1) 1646 and the same day acknowledged before Mr. Winthrop Dep. Gov^r.

DAVID SELICK & A SEALE

Now let us try another man who died in 1643. "George Barrell died 11th day of 7th month 1643" (Doc. 130, p. 14). There is no doubt about George—he

died in 1643. And yet, we turn to the Book of Possessions page [49], and we find:

George Barrell—his possession within the limits of Boston—
One house & lott not halfe an Acre bounded with Thomas
Painter South Nicholas Willis west James Everett north and the
streete east.

This was lot G-27 of the appendix. Here is another instance where a man died in 1643 and yet was listed as a property owner in the Book of Possessions. Certainly no one can dispute now that some, at least, of the Book of Possessions was written before Aspinwall took office in November 1644.

We are not the first to discover that the Book of Possessions was made up at least in part before 1644 and in this respect the following quotations from Vol. II, page iii, of the Memorial History of Boston is of interest:

Chief-Justice Gray, in *Boston versus Richardson* (13 Allen, 146, 151), fixes it between 1639 and 1646. Mr. Uriel H. Crocker, in two communications in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* (Nov. 21, 1877, and Dec. 15, 1877), gives his reasons for fixing the date in 1643 or 1644; and relies largely upon the similarity of the accompanying signatures of the Recorder to prove that it was Aspinwall who made the original entries, about which a doubt had been expressed, and that he continued to make entries till 1651, when he was succeeded by Edward Rawson. Of these signatures the first is of 1638, when he was Secretary of the Rhode Island Colony. The second is from *Suffolk Deeds*, i.p. 60. The third is from the Book of Possessions, p. 33. Mr. Hassam has established still more clearly Aspinwall's connection with this record, from the handwriting of a letter known to be his, preserved in the Massachusetts Archives, lxxxviii. 384. Aspinwall held the office from 1644 to 1651; and Mr. Hassam considers that though the Book of Possessions may not have been begun so early as 1634,—certainly not in the existing copy of it,—it was most likely in pursuance of an order of the General

Court of April 1 of that year that it was compiled (Suffolk Deeds lib. i., Introduction).

We are satisfied that William the locksmith was William Senior and that he was the father of William Junior, the gunsmith, who, as we shall see later, moved to Barbados about 1658.

WILLIAM DAVIS, JUNIOR

In the Book of Possessions, page 22 (56) we find:

Wm Davies, Junior, his possession within the limits of Boston. One house bounded with William Pierce east and north: Valentine Hill on the west: and the streete on the south.

In the appendix this is lot G-88. Lot G-87, just west of G-88, described as:

G-87 Valentine Hill: sold to William Davies and he, in 1645, to Anthony Stoddard. This was the site of the States Arms Tavern, and just before the Revolution the royal Customs-house was here.

As will appear later, there is some question about the bounds of G-87 and G-88 but there can be no doubt that both were at one time owned by William Davis "Junior" These lots were on the *north* side of State Street at the east corner of the present Congress Street, formerly Exchange Street.

Now let us look at some of the deeds of this property. Liber I, p. 63, 9 (8) 1645—William Davies of Boston sold to Anthonie Stoddard of Boston a house and yard bounded William Blackliech N: John Everit alias () Webb on the east; the water street south; and the New streete west. The water street was what is now State street. Miss Thwing tells us on page 132 of her book that:

State St.—was called at various times 'the market street' 'the water street' 'the broad street' 'the great street wherein the town house stands' 'the townsway down upon the flats' 'street leading to the great wharf'; in 1708 King Street, in 1788 State Street. Long Wharf was built by a company in 1709.

The "New streete" was later Exchange Street and is now the extension of Congress Street on the north side of State Street. Miss Thwing's book on page 140 says "Exchange street was a new street in 1646, and later known as 'Shrimpton's Lane' and 'Royal Exchange Lane'."

We therefore can definitely locate this lot which William Davis "Junior" sold to Anthony Stoddard in 1645 on the northeasterly corner of Exchange (now Congress) Street and State Street. It will be noticed in the description from the Book of Possessions that William's lot was bounded west by Valentine Hill's property. This is the basis for putting in a lot G-87 west of William Davis' lot G-88. Mr. Gay has suggested that Exchange Street may have been owned by Valentine Hill before it was taken for a street and this is a most likely suggestion because Valentine Hill owned land in back of most of these State Street lots. His land was north of that of David Sellick, James Oliver and Edward Tyng, all of whom had lots on State Street east of William Davis', and was south of the lots of Robert Nash, Geo. Foxcroft, and Edw. Bendall all of whom owned the land on the Cove. Therefore he must have had some right-of-way there and this was probably taken about 1645 for Exchange Street. Mr. Gay's suggestion then appears most acceptable, and if it is true, the possession of William Davis Junior comprised G-87 and G-88 which were really only one lot.

Anthony Stoddard was a linen draper who was lo-

cated on lot G-86 just west of Exchange Street. In 1646 he sold the southerly part of his lot G-86 on State Street to Henry Shrimpton, brazier, and from this ownership came the name of Shrimpton's Lane (later Exchange Street).

We have then traced down the lot of William Davis Junior on State Street. Having gone as far as we can in discussing the property of William Junior, let us now take up his identity.

WHO WAS THE WILLIAM DAVIS JUNIOR OF THE BOOK OF POSSESSIONS?

The previously accepted idea was that William Davis "Junior" who owned lot G-87 or G-88 on the North Side of State Street, about the time that it was sold in October 1645 moved to lot G-59 next to the meeting-house. If that is so, he was the Captain William who was known as the apothecary and with whose life we are familiar. Mr. Edes in "Benjamin Davis, the Loyalist" says (2d Par. 1st line):

Captain William Davis lived in State Street on the north easterly corner of Exchange St. until 1645 when he sold his estate and bought of Valentine Hill the lot in Washington St. at the southerly corner of Court Avenue.

Mr. Gay in his "Notes on Wm. Davis of Boston" says,

Capt, William Davis, apothecary, also like the two foregoing Williams, owned land on State Street, but on the opposite side. He appears in the Book of Possessions as Wm Davies, Junior.

(When he says "opposite side" he means the North Side).

Now Mr. Edes' paper evidently was changed a little after Mr. Gay had written to him his "Notes on Wm

Davis of Boston'' so that we are not to assume that the above two quotations are from independent sources. But there is no doubt that the statement that Captain William Davis the apothecary was the same man as William ''Junior'' comes from a source which is usually accurate and reliable and from men who made a special study of the question. Nevertheless we have not yet been able to find any evidence to substantiate it.

Savage, in effect, says of William Senior and William Junior that one was a gunsmith and the other was the seaman of Chadwell, England who died in 1655. The latter part of this is not worthy of credence, but there seem to be cogent reasons why William Junior might have been the gunsmith, although it is evident that Savage really did not know much about it.

Pope says, in effect, that William Senior and William Junior might have been the locksmith and the captain, but as he calls the captain the gunsmith (a manifest error) we can get nothing there.

William the locksmith we know had a son, William the gunsmith. This is unquestioned and proved by the court records. We have them a William Senior and a William Junior in accordance with today's accepted meaning of those terms; and today, on the death of the father, the son drops the Junior from his name, and so the fact that William the gunsmith was not called William Junior (after the locksmith's death in 1643-4) is just what one would naturally expect.

The son William we know was of age at the time of court proceedings in 1643-4 and when he was buying real estate in 1645, etc. He may have been the William Davis, 27 years of age, who in August 1635 took passage from Boston to Virginia on the *Safety* (N.E.H.G. Register, Vol. 4, p. 263). We do not know this for certain, but

he was the only William Davis in Boston of whom we have any record who could have been 27 years old at that time. He would have been the right age to be the father of the six children born 1638 to 1644, too, and would have needed a house of his own.

We believe, then, that this man whom we call William the gunsmith was the William Junior who lived on Lots G-87 and G-88 on the North side of State Street. This is a most probable theory supported by several common-sense reasons; and while it is true that no absolute proof has yet been produced, it still seems more tenable than the generally accepted idea that William "Junior" of the Book of Possessions was Captain William the apothecary. Here was a man old enough to have a home of his own, who probably came to Boston before or with his father who was there in 1638. What is more natural than for them to live opposite each other on State Street, the father, who was called William Senior, on the South side, and the son, William Junior, on the North side. Then, when the father died in 1643-4, the widow continued to live in the house but soon married John Cowdall, with whom she decided to move to Rhode Island. The widow, having no further need of the house, sold it to the son, William. This we know was done by deed July 7, 1645 (Liber III, p. 141), while possession was given August 24. The son then no longer needed his house on the North side of the street and, as a matter of record, William Davis, Junior did sell his property on the North side of State Street on October 9, 1645, to Anthony Stoddard (Liber I, p. 63). We have then a natural explanation of the transactions shown by the records to have taken place.

Furthermore, if we turn to the actual document, we find that the Book of Possessions does record three

different Williams—William “Senior” p. [57], William “Junior” p. [56],* and William “the apothecary” p.[144]. Now we know it was Aspinwall’s habit to record on one page all the property of the same man (introduction to B. of P. page 5) and, if this is so, why did he have two separate pages for William Junior and William the apothecary? The inference is that they were not the same man. Who then was this William “Junior”? The answer seems clear—it was William the gunsmith, the son of William Senior.

On the other hand, what is there to support the statement that the William Junior of the Book of Possessions later was Captain William the apothecary? We can find absolutely nothing to substantiate this. It is true that May 20, 1645, William the apothecary bought his house G-59 on Washington Street from Valentine Hill and we suspect that from this fact someone inferred that it must have been the same William who on October 9, 1645 sold property on the North side of State Street; but we see no reason for any such supposition and any such supposition carries with it the burden of proving that the William “Senior” and William “Junior” of the Book of Possessions were not father and son. Why any such conclusion should be arrived at when there is a different, more natural explanation, as given above, is difficult to understand.

Captain William later bought warehouses and wharves (Liber X, p. 293 and Liber X, p. 286) and contributed to the fund to build the Barricado (later the line of Atlantic Avenue) from the Battery to Scarlett’s Wharf. Some of his property remained in the Davis family for several generations. The lane that led down to his warehouses was seven feet wide and has remained that width

*See later under “Residence of Captain William Davis” for further details.

to this day. It was once known as Davis Alley and is now Change Avenue. This lane and the wharf were very near the lot credited to William Davis Junior in the Book of Possessions and this fact may have contributed to a supposition that the wharf had belonged to the Captain because he was really William "Junior". However, there are the records which show that the Captain obtained title by purchase.

While we realize that the above is not conclusive and not substantiated by absolute proof, it does seem perfectly evident that, in the absence of any proof to the contrary, it is more natural to conclude that the William Junior of the Book of Possessions was the man we know as William the gunsmith, who was a citizen of Barbados in 1658, than to think he was the one who was later known as Captain William the apothecary.

Another argument against William Senior being the gunsmith and William Junior being the apothecary is that they probably were not far from the same age and it is unlikely that one would be called Senior and one Junior in 1645. The apothecary was then 28 years old (he died in 1676 aged about 59). The gunsmith was living in Barbados in 1678 and probably died there in that year. The only indication we have of the age of the gunsmith is that he might have been the William Davis who was 27 years old in 1635—at least we can find no other that could have been the gunsmith. If so, he would have been 37 in 1645 and 70 when a William Davis died in Barbados in 1678. It would have been unusual, then, to distinguish these two men so nearly alike in age by the titles of Senior and Junior. It is much more likely that these titles referred to William the locksmith and his son, William the gunsmith.

III.

CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS THE APOTHECARY

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1. CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS THE APOTHECARY

Captain William Davis (his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Davis of London, was mentioned in his will, but we have been unable thus far to discover the name of his father) was a prominent figure in the life of Old Boston and had a great number of titles. For instance, he was known as Lieut. Davis, Mr. Davis, Captain Davis, and William Davis the apothecary. There have been several accounts of his life, among which are one by Savage, one in the Records of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, one by Mr. Frederick Lewis Gay, and one by Mr. Edes. His name is in practically every history of Boston affairs of the years 1643 to 1676. He was selectman for 15 years, treasurer, and recorder. In fact, for some years in recording the actions of the selectmen in the records which he kept, he finished up the list of those

present with "and William Davis" so many times that it acts as an identifying mark of his work.

The various sketches of Captain William differ materially in regard to the facts and he is frequently confused with the other William Davises contemporaneous with him. Perhaps the easiest way to present him would be to quote from some of the accounts of his life and then to discuss the various discrepancies.

Savage's account follows:

William, Boston, apothecary, adm. of the ch. 28 July 1644, in wh. yr. he m. Margaret, d. of William Pynchon of Springfield, perhaps a sec. w. By her he had sev. ch. of wh. Thomas b. 3 Sept. 1645 may have been one, also Benjamin, Elizabeth, Ephraim who d. 2 Aug. 1652, and William the last b. 25 June 1653, and his w. d. 3 July after. He m. next Huldah, d. of Rev. Zechariah Symmes—had Mary b. 3 Dec. 1656, Rebecca 3 Aug. 1658, Huldah 21 Dec. 1659, Ruth 12 Feb. 1662, John 10 June 1663 and Deborah 13 Apr. 1665, d. young; by ano. w. Judith, had Margaret 13 Nov. 1667 and perhaps Hannah. He had still ano. w. Sarah and hope of progeny by her when he made his will, in wh. all of these ch. exc. Deborah are ment. He was a man of wealth, enterprise and discretion, ar. co. 1643, freem. 1645, a capt. rep. for Springfield 1652, where prob. he liv. some few years, also for Haverhill 1668, was employ as commander of a troop in Ninigrets troubles, joint commiss. in 1653 with Leverett to the Dutch Gov. at N. Y. and one of the found. of the 3rd ch. His will made 17 May 1676 pro. 9 days after, being only two days after his d. gave 400 lbs. to w. Sarah and contains many particulars. His w. m. Capt. Edward Palmes of New London.

Brief discussion of Savage's account. He says that Margaret was "perhaps a second wife". This is because of some confusion in the Boston Birth Records and will be fully discussed later. He says, too, that Captain William had two children by another wife, Judith. We shall show later that he never had a wife Judith. We find no

basis for the statement that Captain William probably lived in Springfield "for some few years."

The Artillery Company record is as follows (Vol. I, p. 129 and 130):

WILLIAM DAVIS (1643), of Boston in 1643, was an apothecary; admitted to the church July 28, 1644, and to be a freeman in 1645. 'He was a man of wealth, enterprise, and discretion.' He was a selectman of Boston in 1647, from 1654 to 1661 inclusive, also from 1670 to 1675 inclusive; one of the founders of the Old South Church in 1669. He was lieutenant in 1652, and captain in 1656, of the Suffolk Co. troop, and commanded a troop of horse in Ninigret's War; was joined with Gen. Leverett (1639), afterward Governor, to visit the Dutch Governor, Stuyvesant, of New York, in 1653, and was a commissioner to King Philip, at Taunton, in 1671, in company with William Hudson (1640) and Thomas Brattle (1672). Mr. Whitman (1810) says Capt. Wm Davis 'accompanied the brave Capt. Thomas Lake (1653) in his expedition to Kennebec, in 1676, and with him escaped at a back door, when the Indians had gained the fort, to the water's side, where Capt. Lake (1653) fell and Capt. Davis (1643) was wounded, but made his escape.'

Capt. Davis (1643) represented Springfield in the House of Representatives in 1652, 1666, 1671, and 1672. He probably resided in that town for a few years, and there married, in 1644, a daughter of William Pynchon, the assistant, the founder and leading inhabitant of the town. She died July 3, 1653, and he married Huldah Symmes. In his will, he gave four hundred pounds to his wife Sarah. He also represented Haverhill in 1668. His house was on State Street, on the lot next west of 'William Hudson's (1640), where in provincial days stood the Bunch of Grapes Tavern'; or on the lot next west of that on the corner of Kilby and State Streets.

Capt. William Davis (1643) was fourth sergeant of the Artillery Company in 1645, ensign in 1652, lieutenant in 1659 and 1663, and captain in 1664 and 1672. Of his sons, Benjamin joined the Artillery Company in 1673 and William in 1677.

Capt. Davis (1643) died May 24, 1676, and was buried in the chapel burial-ground.

Brief discussion of the Artillery Company record. Mr. Whitman's account of the Kennebec affair is incorrect and will be discussed later. The location given for Captain William's house is incorrect, too, for the lot mentioned was the house lot of William the locksmith and of his son, the gunsmith.

Mr. Edes in his paper "Benjamin Davis, the Loyalist" has the following paragraphs about Benjamin's great grandfather, Captain William Davis:

Captain William Davis, of Boston, apothecary, was of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, 1643; was admitted to the First Church, 28 July, 1644; and, in 1669, was one of the principal Founders of the Old South Church, his name standing on the Records at the head of the List. He was a Representative for Springfield, 1652, 1666, 1671, and 1672, and for Haverhill 1668. He was a wealthy and enterprising citizen, a man of discretion, many years one of the Selectmen of Boston at different times between 1647 and 1674, and joint Commissioner (1653) with Governor Leverett to the Dutch at New York. Thrice married, his first wife was Margaret, daughter of William Pynchon of Springfield, his second, Huldah, daughter of the Reverend Zechariah Symmes, and his last, Sarah, daughter of John Farmer.

Captain William Davis lived in State Street, on the northeasterly corner of Exchange Street (Boston Record Commissioners' Reports, ii (Third edition) part 2, 22; and see ante, v. 289) until 1645, when he sold his estate (Suffolk Deeds, i, 63) and bought of Valentine Hill the lot in Washington Street at the southerly corner of Court Avenue (Ibid. i. 60). This estate had a frontage of twenty feet on the street (this portion of it being now the site of Thompson's Spa) and, including subsequent additions, extended back, on irregular lines, to Court Square, about 350 feet. In 1736 William Price bought it, and in 1770 bequeathed it to King's Chapel. The most valuable part of the estate now constitutes the Price Fund (Suffolk Deeds, XXVI, 169; and Foote's Annals of King's Chapel, ii. 421 and notes).

He died 24 May 1676 (Sewall's Diary, i. 13). His will, exe-

cuted a week before his death, mentions 'my mother Mrs. Elizabeth Davis in London' and contains valuable particulars (Suffolk Probate Files, No. 786).

Brief discussion of the above paragraphs: Mr. Edes says Captain William lived on the North side of State Street until 1645. The man who lived there was the William "Junior" of the Book of Possessions and we have previously shown that William Junior was probably the gunsmith.

2. AGE OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM¹ DAVIS

Captain William Davis died at Boston May 24, 1676, aged about 59. His age we determined by examination of court depositions made by him at various times.

In Supreme Court Case No. 98507 he deposed 28 Jan. 1662 "aged 45 or thereabouts". This would make him 59 or thereabouts at the time of his death.

In Supreme Court Case No. 2233 he testified 14 Mar. 1665 "aged 49 years or thereabouts". This would make him 60 years old or thereabouts at the time of his death.

In Supreme Court Case No. 1162 he testified 28: 11 mo: 1672 "aged 55". This would make him about 59 at the time of his death.

And in Suffolk Probate Records, Volume 5, page 241, we find that when he deposed in court March 11, 1676, his age was given as "55 or thereabouts".

All the above references most evidently refer to Captain William Davis the Apothecary although that fact is not stated in every case. But the context makes clear that he is meant. So Captain William was born in 1617 "or thereabouts" and was about 26 years old when he joined the Artillery Company in 1643 and about 27 years old when he married Margaret Pyncheon.

3. GRAVE OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM¹ DAVIS

The Captain was buried in the Davis tomb in the King's Chapel Burying Ground, Tremont Street, Boston.

On page 31 of the King's Chapel History (number 974.462, B. 16, B 7 in Boston Public Library) is given the following inscription taken from the tomb:

FOUNDED 1670
BY CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS
DIED MAY 1675 AND HERE DEPOSITED
REPAIRED AND REBUILT
JULY 1810
BY HIS GREAT GRANDSON
EDW^D DAVIS

In June 1931 we visited this tomb. It is on the northerly side of the cemetery about central from Tremont Street. The inscription is on a piece of granite which is fast being destroyed by the weather. All that can be deciphered today is:

AIN WILLIAM DAVIS
AND HERE DEPOSITED
PAIRED AND REBUILT JULY 1810
HIS GREAT GRANDSON
EDW^D DAVIS

Even some of this is very indistinct. Possibly this paper may sometime induce one of the descendants of the Captain to attach a bronze plate to the tomb so that the inscription may be preserved. It should be noted that the year 1675 on the stone should be 1676. The Captain dated his will May 17, 1676.

4. POSITIONS OF HONOR OF CAPTAIN DAVIS

In the latter years of Captain William's life the Town and the State, when they wished to appoint a committee of able citizens, often chose Captain William Davis as one to represent them.

Thus in April 1671 "The government of Massachusetts depicted William Davis, William Hudson, and Thomas Brattle" to represent it at a conference at Taunton Green between King Philip and the Colonies (p. 68 of "Old Indian Chronicles" by Samuel G. Drake, Boston 1867.) And again on page 82 of the same book we find that a conference where the Commissioners of the United Colonies were to be present was held at Plymouth on September 24, 1671. Accordingly, on the day appointed appeared Governor John Winthrop of Connecticut, Maj. Gen. John Leverett, Mr. Thomas Danforth, and Capt. William Davis of Massachusetts with divers others, etc.

Doc. 114—Roxbury Church Records—page 199:

Jan. 1, 1661—The Generall court agreed to send Mr. Bradstreet & Mr. Norton to England to sollicite his majesty in ye behalfe of this Countrey and 1661 Feb^r 10th Mr Bradstreet & Mr. Norton with Mr. Davis & Mr. Hull took ship & set saile ye next morning.

1662 Sept 3—Mr. Bradstreete & Mr. Norton returned from England, bringing with them a Gracious letter frō his Majesty confirming our Charter & liberties.

On this mission Captain Davis and Mr. Hull evidently went as a military escort as is shown by the following paragraph from the Massachusetts Historical Society Collection, Series 4, Vol. 8, p. 170:

15 March 61-2—Mr. Bradstreete & Mr. Norton (with Capt Davies & Mr. Hull, the Goldsmith, are gon with them as there

attendance) went from Boston the 10th of Feb^r in the new ship built there & are sent as that Collonies Agents to the King.

Mr. Hull's diary adds on pages 205 and 206 that on:

10th of Feb. Mr. Norton, Mr. Broadstreet, Mr. Davis, and myself, went on shipboard. Next morning set sail [*and on*] September 3 Master Clark, in the ship 'Society' brought in the country's messengers in safety.

Captain William Davis appears in the settlement of various estates.

For instance, he was one of the appraisers of *the estate of Captain Wm. Tinge* (N.E. Gen.Reg., Vol.8,p.62) and in the records of the quarterly court (printed by Essex Institute of Salem), Vol. 1, p. 384, is a long letter from Mrs. Washburne to Captain Bridges, attested by William Davis (autograph), dated 5: 5: 1654, in which claim is made against the estate of Wm. Tinge.

Again in the same records (Vol. IV, p. 276-277) is an account of a suit brought by Thomas Cobbit against Captain Thomas Clarke and Captain William Davis, the administrators of *the estate of Mr. Valentine Hill*. The date was June 10, 1670. In Vol. IV, p. 292, 29: 9: 1670, court held at Salem, Mr. Cobbit was awarded the verdict and Vol. IV, p. 319, on 13: 10: 1670, execution was granted against Captain William Davis to satisfy the claim.

He was also an appraiser for the *estate of Rebecca Webb* (N.E. Gen. Reg. Vol. 8, p. 356) and acted in the same capacity for the *estate of Henry Webb*, 25 Sept. 1660 (N.E. Gen. Reg. Vol. 10 p. 180). He was one of the overseers of the *will of Nathaniel Williams* in 1661 (N.E. Gen. Reg. Vol. 10, p. 270). He was connected with the *estate of Edw. Shrimpton* 18 Sept. 1662 (N.E. Gen. Reg., Vol. 11, p. 171.) He was an appraiser of the *estate of*

William Colbron in 1662. (N.E. Gen. Reg. Vol. 11 p. 174) and of the estate of the Rev. John Norton in the same year (N.E. Gen. Reg., Vol. 11, p. 344).

We have no doubt he acted for many more estates, but we have not investigated further. Surely he was a man whose judgment was respected.

The records and all accounts say that Captain William Davis was "a man of wealth and discretion". Savage apparently started this phrase on its way. The Captain must have been exceedingly active and he seems during his life to have accumulated a considerable amount of property. It must be remembered, however, that he had three wives and eighteen children and even in those days he must have had good use for whatever money he could accumulate. Some of the property, his wharf and warehouses for instance, remained in the family for several generations.

It is not surprising, then, that we find that in 1708, after the death of Benjamin, who was his father's executor, the seven daughters of Captain William filed a claim against the estate of Benjamin setting forth that "the administrators of our brother Benjamin's estate do declare that we are paid our portions" (of Capt. William's estate) "and that our father was so much in debt in England as that there will be nothing for us". This makes it evident that if the Captain was a man of wealth, he at least did not pass much of it along to his daughters when he died at the age of 59.

5. THE WIVES AND CHILDREN OF CAPTAIN DAVIS

Captain William first married Margaret Pynchon, daughter of William Pynchon. The Springfield Marriage Record follows:

William Davis contracted (at Springfeild) to Margaret Pynchon 8 mon. 31 day 1644 & married in the Bay 10 mon 6 day 1644.

Our understanding of this is that they were married at Boston December 6, 1644. She died 3 d. 5 mo. 1653 at Boston. Captain Davis was about 27 years old at the time of this marriage.

Captain William next married Huldah, daughter of Sarah and the Reverend Zechariah Symmes, Pastor of the Church at Charlestown, and the first child of this marriage, Sarah, was baptized 3 d. 7 mo. 1654 at Boston. Captain William and Huldah had in all thirteen children, the last of whom were the twins, Hannah and Jane, born August 19, 1674. Huldah must have died shortly because Sarah Farmer, daughter of John Farmer, was the Captain's wife when he made his will May 17, 1676 and was left his widow when he died 24 d. 3 mo. (May) 1676 (Doc. 114, p. 193). She later married Edward Palmes of New London (Suffolk Deeds Liber XXV, page 10, dated 1695-6, recorded 1709).

Savage says that Margaret Pynchon was "perhaps a second wife". This we doubt, but if it is true, the first wife's name was Mary. It is because of a confusion in the birth records that Savage made this statement, we believe. In our discussion of the children of William the locksmith we found six children born 1635 to October 1644 to William and Mary Davis. These scarcely could have been the children of Captain William because the child Mary "of William & Mary Davis" was born October 3, 1644, while Captain William's marriage intentions to Margaret Pynchon were dated October 31, 1644; and furthermore the Captain was only eighteen years old when the first child, Abigail, was born so we should naturally not consider the Captain the father

of Mary and the five previous children. However, a difficulty arises here. In the Boston Record of Births is the entry:

1645—Thomas of William & Mary Davies born 3d 7th month.

And in the records of the First Church is:

1645—Thomas of William DAVISSE, aged about 5 days bap. 7d 7mo.

Now it is to be noted that this is the first Davis child of a William to be baptized and that the rest of Captain William's children were baptized. Again the oldest son of Captain William Davis was named Thomas, as appears by the Captain's will. William and Margaret were married December 6, 1644 and the above Thomas was born September 3, 1645. There can be little doubt that he was their son. Perhaps the original written record was "Marg." instead of "Mary" as the first available record has it, but careful examination of the earliest volume in existence today (preserved in silk) shows Mary without any question.

But anyway we do know that the Captain had at least three wives and many children and that in the list of children sometimes ascribed to him we shall find one who was not his child at all but was the child of his good friend, William Dawes.

In listing the children of Captain William Davis, bearing in mind the previous explanation, we shall begin with Thomas.

- i "THOMAS, of William & Mary Davis, born 3d 7mo 1645."
"Thomas of William DAVISSE baptized 7d 7mo 1645, aged about 5 days." In his will made in 1676, Captain William mentions Thomas, the first of his four sons (Thomas, Benjamin, William and John).

- ii "ANNA of William DAVIS bap. 5d 7mo 1647 aged about 8 days," not mentioned in his will.
- iii "BENJAMIN of William DAVIS bap. 19d 6mo 1649 aged about 2 days." This Benjamin was mentioned in the will and was executor. He also was an apothecary. Major Benjamin died November 24, 1704 leaving the children Sarah (evidently of age), William (18 years old), and Elizabeth (19 years old).
- iv "EPHRAIM of William Davice bap. 8d 3mo. 1651" and "Ephraim of William & Margaret Davis died 2d 6 mo. 1652."
- v "WILLIAM of Lieut. William & Margaret Davis born June 25, 1653" and the wife and mother Margaret "died 3d 5mo. 1653" (July 3). William is mentioned in the Captain's will.
- vi "SARAH of William Davis bap. 3d 7mo. 1654" was not mentioned in the will.
- vii "ELIZABETH of William Davis bap. 26d 6mo 1655" the first of the seven daughters mentioned in the Captain's will (Elizabeth, Maria, Rebecca, Huldah, Ruth, Margarita, and Hannah). In 1708 she was Elizabeth Whitcombe.
- viii "MARY of Captain William & Huldah Davis born Dec. 3, 1656" and "Marya of William Davis bap. 7 d. 10 mo. 1656," later mentioned in the Captain's will as Maria. In 1680 and in 1708 she was Mary Frost.
- ix "REBECCA of Captain William & Huldah Davis born Aug. 3, 1658" and "Rebecca of William Davis bap. 8 d 6 mo. 1658," also mentioned in the Captain's will. In 1708 she was Rebekah Lawrence.
- x "HULDAH of Capt. William & Huldah Davis born Dec. 21, 1659" and "Huldah of William Davis bap. 25 d 10 mo. 1659," mentioned in the will. In 1680 and 1708 she was Huldah Rainsford.
- xi "RUTH of William Davis bap. 17 d 12 mo. 1660." (Evidently she did not live long because the next child was named Ruth.)

- xii "RUTH of Captain William & Huldah Davis born Feb. 12, 1662" and mentioned in the will. In 1680 and 1708 she was Ruth Royse.
- xiii "JOHN of Captain William & Huldah Davis born June 10, 1663" and "John of William Davice bap. 14 d. 4 mo. 1663." He, too, was mentioned in the will.
- xiv "DEBORAH of Capt. William & Huldah Davis born Apr. 13, 1665" and "Deborah of Mr. Davis bap. 16 d. 2 mo. 1665," but not mentioned in will.
- xv "MARGARET of Captain William & JUDITH Davis born Nov. 13, 1667." In his will, the Captain mentioned his daughter Margarita just before Hannah. In 1708 she was Margaret Davis. (We believe the name JUDITH to be an error; see paragraph below.)
- xvi "JOSEPH of Captain William & Huldah Davis born Sept. 3, 1669" was not mentioned in the will.
- xvii "HANNAH" } of William & Huldah Davis born Aug. 19,
- xviii "JANE" } 1674" and the Captain's will mentions daughter Hannah, the last of the seven daughters mentioned. In 1708 she was Hannah Davis.

It is to be noticed that the fifteenth child, Margaret, was recorded as the child of Captain William and JUDITH Davis, but since Huldah was the Captain's wife both before and after this event, the entry Judith is manifestly an error. Huldah, if written carelessly, can be made to look like Judith, but careful examination of the earliest record in existence today (preserved in silk) shows clearly that it was written Judith.

William Pynchon

The life of William Pynchon of Springfield, England, and of Roxbury and Springfield, Massachusetts is well known, but because Captain William Davis married Pynchon's daughter Margaret, the following facts of

interest are taken from the "First Century of the History of Springfield" by Henry M. Burt, 1898.

Page 40—William Pynchon first on the list of early settlers—came in 1636—returned to England in 1652.

Page 11—The agreement to settle Springfield was made by eight men and signed May 14, 1636.

[Page 34] Springfield's Deputies in the General Court—"The next year, 1650, Edward Holyoke, sat for Springfield. He was the father of Elizur Holyoke and was succeeded by Henry Smith, and the latter by William Davis, of Boston, both of whom were sons-in-law of William Pynchon. In passing it is noteworthy how often the office fell to the relations, either by blood or marriage, of Mr. Pynchon. There are, for example, the third son-in-law, Elizur Holyoke, the son, John Pynchon; and four grandsons—John Holyoke, Joseph Pynchon, John Pynchon, and Benjamin Davis. In fact office holding for many years after the settlement of Springfield was largely a family affair."

[Page 34] "William Pynchon was chosen an Assistant in England and attended the meetings in London of the Massachusetts Bay Company."

[Page 35] "In 1694 the Governor objected to Benjamin Davis, who appeared as Deputy for Springfield, on the ground of his being a non-resident. Nathaniel Bliss served in his place."

Page 37—William Davis was deputy for Springfield in 1652. Captain William Davis was deputy for Springfield in 1666. Captain William Davis & George Cotton in 1671. Captain William Davis in 1672.

In Vol. II on page 622 of the above is a long account of the life of Wm. Pynchon who died October 29, 1662, in England. His will is given there in part.

William Pynchon's will is also in Waters's "Genealogical Gleanings in England", edition of 1901, vol. 2, p. 859 as the "Will of William Pynchon of Co Bucks 1662."

The following sentence is an extract from it:

To children of my daughter, Margaret Davis of Boston in New England, deceased, videlicet unto Thomas, Benjamin, and William Davis ten pounds apiece to be paid by my son Mr. Henry Smith.

There is nothing in either volume of the above History of Springfield to lead one to think William Davis ever lived in Springfield.

Huldah Davis

HULDAH DAVIS, the wife of Captain William Davis, was the daughter of the Rev. Zechariah Symmes of Canterbury, County Kent, England. The latter, who became the pastor of the church at Charlestown, came over in the "Griffin," arriving at Boston September 18, 1633 and bringing with him his wife, Sarah, and six children, William, Mary, Elizabeth, Huldah, Hannah, and Rebecca (Planters of the Commonwealth, p. 113). Doc. 130, page 38, has two entries concerning his family: "Capt. Thomas Savage was married to Mary Simmes, the daughter of Zechariah Simmes, Pastor of the Church of Christ in Charlestown, by Increase Nowell, 15-7th month, 1652" and "Hezekiah Usher was married to Elizabeth Simes, daughter of Zechariah Simes, Pastor of the Church of Christ at Charlestown 2nd 9th month (1652) by Increase Nowell."

Margaret (Pynchon) Davis died 3 d. 5 mo. 1653 and the first child of Huldah and William Davis was baptized 3 d. 7 mo. 1654 and named Sarah after Huldah's mother. Huldah and William Davis, therefore, were married in the latter part of 1653. Thomas Savage, Hezekiah Usher, and William Davis were closely related in matters of church and state for the rest of their lives and their names frequently are found together in the records.

6. A FEW OF THE DESCENDANTS OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM
DAVIS, THE APOTHECARY

Eighteen children have been found recorded to the Captain, and his will mentions four sons and seven daughters. Of these daughters, Elizabeth became Elizabeth Whitcombe, Mary became Mary Frost, Rebecca became Rebecca Lawrence, Huldah became Huldah Rainsford, Ruth became Ruth Royse, while Margaret and Hannah were still named Davis in 1708, Hannah, the youngest, then being thirty-four. Mr. Lawrence died in 1690 and Sewall, recording it in his diary, says: "The five sisters are now widows."

The Captain may have had descendants through all of the above five, married daughters, but we have not looked them up. Of his four sons mentioned in his will, Thomas, Benjamin, William and John, some facts are recorded.

First, about THOMAS ⁽²⁾ (*Capt. William*¹)

He is taken up under "Thomas Davis of Boston" in "Other Boston Davises".

In trying to find a Mrs. Mary Davis to whom Sewall's note (given later) might apply, Mary the wife of Thomas was the only one we could locate, except it might have been Mrs. Mary (Parker) Davis, the wife of the Gunsmith, who, as we have seen, was a resident of Barbados in 1678 but might have moved back to Boston before 1681. It seems more likely that Sewall's "Mrs. Mary Davis" was the wife of Thomas (the son of Captain William).

(See also in this book under Thomas Davis of Boston)

Next as to BENJAMIN² DAVIS (*Captain William*¹), born in 1649 and died in 1704. He married Sarah, daugh-

ter of James Richards of Hartford, and the following family is recorded in the Boston Birth Records.

- i SARAH³ born May 20, 1680.
- ii MARGARET³ born Oct. 28, 1681 and died Dec. 12, 1696.
- iii SARAH³ born Aug. 16, 1683. She married Richard Bill.
- iv ELIZABETH³ born May 23, 1685.
- v WILLIAM³ born Jan. 22, 1686, (means 1686-7), bap. at Roxbury M11 d30 1686 [Doc. 114, p. 141].

SARAH, ELIZABETH, and WILLIAM were alive in 1704-5 when their father died, aged 56 (Docket 2944).

BENJAMIN² had married again and his second wife, Mary Tippet, became his widow.

WILLIAM³, Benjamin's only son, became a Boston physician and surgeon. Dr. William³ Davis married Hannah Winslow, and they had eight children, all baptized at the Brattle Street Church. The doctor died March 14, 1745-6, aged about 58.

Dr. William³ Davis' second son or child was—

BENJAMIN⁴ DAVIS, the Loyalist, one of those proscribed in 1778 as an enemy of the state (M.H.B. Vol. 2 p. 563). He was married three times and his son, Benjamin⁵, born in 1756, was at one time in business with him in Nova Scotia. (For further particulars, see Mr. Edes' paper entitled "Benjamin Davis, the Loyalist.")

WILLIAM² DAVIS (*Captain William*¹), born in 1653, was William Davis the mariner who died in 1685 leaving a widow, Abigail, and two daughters, Abigail³, born 1680, and Margaret³, born May 29, 1682. We hold to this opinion in spite of the following note in the Records of the Artillery Company, Vol. I, page 245: "William Davis (1677) son of William Davis (1643) was born in Boston June 25, 1653. He was a brother of Major Benjamin Davis (1673) and a member of the Old South

Church. He probably married Abigail Eliot, daughter of Jacob. William (1677) died Jan. 23, 1706-7. Judge Sewall wrote 'Feb. 25, 1706-7—After that I visit the widow Eliott who dwells with her daughters Davis'."

This record we believe to be correct except for the date of William²'s death. That he died in 1685 is evident from Docket No. 1431. The widow, Abigail, at that time filed a bond signed by Benjamin Davis, merchant (her husband's brother), and Jacob Eliot, yeoman (Suffolk Probate Vol. 3, p. 18, new series). Note also that this William² had named his first daughter for his wife Abigail and his second daughter for his mother Margaret (Pynchon) Davis.

In Liber XII, page 72, on February 13, 1679, it is recorded that Deacon Jacob Eliot of Boston made a sale to John Hull of Boston—and that Abigail Davis was a witness to this sale.

Liber XIV, on page 125, records that on November 29, 1681 Jacob Eliott of Boston, yeoman, and Mary, his wife, sold land at the south end of Boston to Thomas Downes of Boston, Mariner. Abigail Davis acted as witness to this transaction, too.

In Liber XXIII, on page 10, is a deed from Sarah Davis to her son, William Davis.

JOHN² (*Captain William*¹) was the youngest son, born June 10, 1663. About this man we have found nothing definite. There was a John Davis, tailor, the son of George and Barbara Davis, who married first Mary, then Sarah, and possibly Hannah and has children recorded from 1676 to 1687. He, of course, could not have been Captain William's John. Then there was a John Davis who married Elizabeth and had four children—John, Elizabeth, Thomas, and James—from 1682 to 1688. This man might have been the son of Captain William as

far as the dates are concerned but we have followed the point no further. The most likely hints would be in the Probate Records but we have not studied them beyond 1700.

7. RESIDENCE OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS

Through most of his married life and until his death Captain William lived in the house he acquired from Valentine Hill. This lot was G-59 in the appendix of the Book of Possessions. After the Captain's death it came into the possession of his son, Benjamin, who lived there until his own death November 26, 1704. The house was on the west side of Washington Street, the second lot south of Court Street, where Thompson's Spa is now. The lot just north was the site of the second meeting house.

Captain William Davis the apothecary 20 (3) 1645 bought from Valentine Hill the latter's lot G-59 on Washington Street (Liber I, p. 60). The Captain is described in that deed simply as "William Davies" but the fact that he was the apothecary is shown in Liber I, page 81, when he bought "an outhouse" adjoining the property he purchased from Valentine Hill and also in Mr. Aspinwall's attestation to the deed itself.

Page 60, Liber I says: [*William Davies bought from Valentine Hill*]

A house and garden bounded wth the ordinary now in possession of James Pen on the south: the prison garden on the west: Philemon Permott on the North & also the meeting house: and the high streete on the east.

The high street is now Washington Street. Miss Thwing's book says on page 111:

Washington Street—went by various names, 'Cove Street' 'High Street' 'street that goes to the dock' 'street to the market

place' 'street that goes to the old meeting house' etc; in 1708 it was named Cornhill.

Liber I, p. 81—22(2) 1647—William Davis bought from Thomas Rodbard an outhouse with a leanto which belonged to the house now in possession of James Pen, adjoining the kitchen of said Davis and this was granted "unto William Davis of Boston *Apothecary*".

In the Aspinwall Notarial Records, page 6 of Volume 1, is an entry on 20 (3) 1645 noting that

a deed of sale of house & garden from Valentine Hill to Will^m Davies the *Apothecary* was attested.

We therefore have now definitely located the house where William Davis the apothecary, who later became Captain Davis, lived. He lived here until his death in 1676.

The Apothecary's Four-Acre Lot in the New Field

[Book of Possessions, page 46 (144)]: Mr. Wm Davies, apothecary, his possession in Boston. 2 (6) 1648 Valentine Hill of Boston granted unto Wm Davies a certaine p'cell of land in the Newfield in Boston, being foure Acres more or less, bounded on the north with James Pen: John Briggs and James Pen on the west: Robert Turner on the east: and Thomas Buttolph on the south: and this was by an absolute deed of sale sealed and delivered before Wm Aspinwall not. publ. the 2 (6) 1648.

This lot in the Newfield was sold in the settlement of the Captain's estate on June 11, 1677 (Liber X, p. 116) by Benjamin Davis of Boston, merchant, executor of will of Captain William Davis, to Sarah Davis relict widow of Captain William Davis.

In 1695 the above widow, Sarah Davis, who by that time had married Edward Palmes, conveyed the property to Charles Chambers who gave his name to the

street now running through the lot. (Book of Poss. Appendix, p. 116). This was lot H 38 on the northwest side of Beacon Street. A plan of this lot is in Mr. Bowditch's Books at the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Note also Liber II, p. 210, October 23, 1655 wherein Richard Leader sells to William Paine his mansion house "at Boston together with ye orchard gardens, Tymber yeards, wharfes, wayes, water courses, grounds, with all the priviledges & appurtenances to the same belonging or in any wayes apptayning In as large & ample manner as I had the same by ye deeds of Mr. Wm Davis & Major Generall Edwd Gibbons".

(Major Edward Gibbons lived at the corner of Washington Street and Dock Square on the north side of State Street and near the cove, in back of the William Davis Junior property.)

"Mr" William Davis at that time would have meant the Captain.

At the time of the organization of the Old South Church the "dissenters" of the First Church held their meetings at the house of Captain William Davis (History of Old South Church, p. 37).

8. MILITARY TITLES OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS

Joined Artillery Company in 1643, aged about 26.

Sergeant in 1645.

Ensign in 1652.

Lieutenant in October 1652.

Captain in October 1654.

William Davis the apothecary joined the Artillery Company in 1643 and became fourth sergeant in 1645, ensign in 1652, lieutenant in 1659 and 1663, and captain in 1664 and 1672 (Records of Artillery Company).

He also had military service with the Suffolk County Troops. With them he was lieutenant in 1652 and captain in 1654, and from 1654 on he was known as Captain William Davis.

We find several references to Sergeant Davis. Among them is this in the Records of Massachusetts, Vol. 1, p. 249: March 5, 1638-9 "upon testimony of John Winge & Sergeant Davis". John Wing had married Josebeth, daughter of James and Johanna Davis (Suffolk Probate Docket 280 and Docket 1110) and perhaps this Sergeant Davis was James who, according to the records of the Artillery Company, was called Sergeant. George Davis of Boston was Sergeant March 1, 1654-5 (Liber II, p. 121). He died in 1655. John¹ Davis is called Sargeant Davis May 6, 1652 (Liber I, p. 202). Mass. Rec. Vol. II, p. 137 "Serieant Davies" and others went to aid of Mohegone sachim, Uncas, about October 1, 1645. This was John Davis, as is shown by page 513(264) of Bradford's "History of Plimoth Plantation" (Boston 1898), where we find—Anno Dom:1645—Sargent John Davis, Benedicte Arnold, and Francis Smith were three messengers to the "Narigansets and Uncass" sent by "ye commissioners for ye severall jurisdictions" meeting at Boston 28 July 1645. And again in Mass. Recs., Vol. II, p. 136, Oct. 1, 1645, we find Serieant John Davis one of five men setting out lands in Nashaway.

In 1653 "William of LIEUT. William & Margaret Davis" was born.

In 1656 "Mary of CAPTAIN William & Huldah Davis" was born.

On October 17, 1654 the General Court directed the disbanding and payment of a troop of horse that had served under *Capt.* Davis in the expedition against Ninegret (Mass. Rec., Vol. III, P. 359). He had been

appointed *Lieutenant* of this troop of horse October 19, 1652 (Mass. Rec., III, p. 286).

May 27, 1652 Ensign Wm. Davis was on a committee for tanning of leather (Mass. Rec. Vol. III, p. 275).

August 30, 1653 *Lieut. Wm. Davis* was appointed an administrator (Mass. Rec. Vol. III, p. 322).

CAPTAIN William appears July 28, 1659 (Liber III, page 261).

9. WAS CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS A SON OF RICHARD DAVIS OF ENGLAND?

We really have no idea whether or not Captain William Davis was a son of Richard Davis of England, but the latter and Mr. William Pyncheon both were stockholders and members of the General Court of Massachusetts when it held its meetings in London. This Mr. Richard Davis apparently did not come to New England but his friends, Mr. William Pyncheon, Mr. Increase Nowell, Mr. George Foxcroft, and Mr. Webb, did come over and were neighbors of Captain William Davis who appeared first in Boston records when about 26 years old when he joined the Artillery Company in 1643. The fact that he lived near these men and married William Pyncheon's daughter, Margaret, might make it worth while to see whether he was a son of the above Richard.

10. CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS AND THE KENNEBEC FIGHT

In the records of the Artillery Company we find:

Mr. Whitman (1870) says Capt. William Davis 'accompanied the brave Capt. Thomas Lake (1653) in his expedition to Kennebec, in 1676, and with him escaped at a back door, when the

Indians had gained the fort, to the water's side, where Capt. Lake (1653) fell. Capt. Davis (1643) was wounded, but made his escape.'

(The dates in parentheses are the dates on which they joined the Artillery Company.)

Sewall, Vol. 1, p. 13, says that on May 24, 1676, about 10 A.M. on Wednesday, William Davis, apothecary, died of fever. He had been delirious several times before his death. The Captain's will was dated May 17, 1676 and in it he stated that he had "been sick of late" and appointed as the three overseers his "brother Major John Pinchon", Captain John Hall, and Captain Thomas Lake. Captain Thomas Lake and Captain William Davis were great friends. They had served together as Selectmen and as fellow officers of the Artillery Company, and had many interests in common.

Now the peculiar circumstance here is that Davis appointed Captain Thomas Lake as an overseer of his will although the Artillery Company records tell us that Captain Thomas Lake was killed when with William at the Kennebec Fight.

On May 29, 1676, five days after the death of Captain Davis, Captain Thomas Lake attended the regular meeting of the Selectmen of Boston (Doc. 50, page 101) and this is the last time his name appears in those records. There seems to be no doubt that Thomas was killed by the Indians in 1676, but Captain William Davis could not possibly have been with him because William had died of a fever in Boston before the fight took place. And now later we have found the following account of the Kennebec Fight which shows conclusively by its date and its wording that it was not our Captain William Davis, the apothecary who was there but a Captain S.

Davis, Sylvanus Davis who Savage says was wounded at Arrowsick.

Quotations are from the "History of the Indian Wars of New England," published in 1882 by Colonel Robert Boodey Caverly:

[Page 248] About August 1676 the Indians up at Fort Tonic on the Kennebeck had done no wrong against the English; yet Capt. S. Davis & Capt. Lape* of Boston thought fit to bring away all their powder and shot from their trading house . . .

[Page 250] Capt. Davis confers with Chief Madokawando and squaw Assimin.

[Page 251] On the 14th of August 1676, on the island Arrowsick, early in the morning, the Indians hid themselves under the walls of its fort until the sentinel had gone from his place; then they followed him to the fort gate, obtained a foothold at the port holes, shot down all that were passing up and down within the walls of it, made themselves masters of it, and of all that was within it, Capt. Davis, within the fortification, was wounded there, but escaped. Two others, Captain Lake and Major Clarke, also escaped ten or twelve miles away until they found some craft in which to get away; but, as it happened, that good man Lake was slaughtered before he reached a place of safety. He and Clarke were the owners, by purchase, of this island Arrowsick in the Kennebeck. Their fortifications were extensive, with many convenient buildings for habitations and trade. The persons slain at Hammonds & Arrowsick were sixty-three.

Thus the Artillery Company record of Captain William Davis appears to need revision.

11. POPE ON CAPTAIN WILLIAM DAVIS

Pope's "Pioneers of Massachusetts" has under the name William Davis accounts of three or four of the Williams we have been investigating. In these accounts the facts brought out are the same as already mentioned

*Note. A misprint for "Lake."

in regard to births, marriages, deaths, deeds, etc. but he apparently has failed to identify the various Williams and consequently credits the facts rather indiscriminately.

He says the six children, Abigail, etc., were the children of William the smith who died in 1643-4. In this he may be correct except in the case of Mary, the youngest. He states also that William the gunsmith was later Captain William, whereas our investigations have proved conclusively that William the gunsmith was the one who went to Barbadoes in 1658 and that he could not possibly have been the Captain who from 1658 took such a prominent place in the affairs of Boston.

William the apothecary, according to his account, appears to have been the William who moved to Barbadoes before 1658, but the apothecary was surely the Captain (see Liber III, pages 257 and 261) and could not have been the one who moved to Barbadoes.

Pope suggests that William Senior may have been the Captain and William Junior may have been the apothecary, but, in this instance, William Senior could not have been the captain because his property on State Street went to William the gunsmith who had moved to Barbadoes when he sold it. He suggests also William Junior may have been the apothecary. This, however, is open to objection as has already been shown.

Anyone who wishes to identify the various William Davises would do well, then, to be extremely cautious in accepting what is said in Pope's "Pioneers of Massachusetts".

12. WILLIAM AND SUSANNA DAVIS

The printed record of births shows a "Joanna of William & Susanna Davis born July 26, 1657." The couple mentioned has always been a mystery to gene-

alogists. Another "Joanna of William and Mary Davis" was born August 15, 1655 and this latter Joanna undoubtedly was the grandchild of Nicholas Parker of Roxbury for "Joanna Davies, a little maid, grandchild to Mr. Nicholas Parker" was baptized in Roxbury May 3, 1669 (page 128, Doc. 114) and "Joanna Davies grandchild to Mr. Nicholas Parker owned ye covenant" in Roxbury 30 d. 3 mo. 1669 (p. 89, Doc. 114).

Now William Davis and his wife Mary were residents in Barbados on April 12, 1658 when they sold their dwelling house in Boston (Suffolk Deeds, Liber III, page 167) and both signed on that date. (This William we call "William the gunsmith".) But Savage says:

William (Davis) of Boston by w. Mary—d. of Nicholas Parker—had Joanna b. 16 Aug. 1655, and I presume that the same man by w. Susanna had Joanna b. 26 July, 1657, sold est. in 1658 and went to Barbados.

There is small wonder, then, that genealogists have been confused because, as a matter of fact, the Joanna born in 1657 was a daughter of William and Susanna Dawes and there was no William and Susanna Davis in Boston at that time. William Dawes and Susanna, his wife, daughter of John Mills of Braintree (Hill's "History of Old South Church," p. 119), lived first in Braintree and then in Boston from 1652 or before and in 1683 William Dawes, then 64 years old, made the deposition recorded in Suffolk Deeds, Liber XII, page 364 (Introduction to Book of Possessions, page VII). I have not looked up their family in its entirety but the following records are relevant.

Boston Record, Doc. 30:

[P. 31] Johana of — Dawes of Braintry was baptised 2d 4mo 1650. [*This shows that Johana was a Dawes name.*]

[P. 39] Susan of William Dawes baptised 17d 8mo 1652.

[P. 50] William of William & Susanna Dawes was born 8 Mar. 1655 [*and baptised* (P. 53)] 11 d. 1 mo. 1655.

[P. 63] Johanna of Wm Dawes [*was baptised*] 2 d 6 mo (Aug. 2) 1657.

This last is the Joanna born July 26, 1657 who has heretofore been considered a Davis.

William Dawes, 15, came over on the "Planter" in 1635 (page 142, "Planters of the Commonwealth") and would have been sixty-three or sixty-four in 1683, at the time when Wm. Dawes, husband of Susanna, deposed he was sixty-four years of age.

IV.

WILLIAM DAVIS THE SEAMAN OF CHADWELL ENGLAND

[Doc. 130, p. 52]: 1655—William Davis, a seaman, living in Chadwell in England, deceased at Isaac Cullimor's house 20 d. 7 mo.

His will, dated September 14, 1655 (Suffolk Probate, Vol. I, pages 84 and 85), witnessed by Nathaniel Williams and Henry Tite, gave "to Isaac Colemore of Boston all to me belonging—only Henry Tite, my pistoll, what debts I do owe to be paid out of my estate". Administration was granted to Isaac Cullemore on 10:9:55 and the will was proved on that same date when Nathaniel Williams and John Sanders deposed that this schedule was the true mind of William Davis.

Suffolk Probate, Vol. 3, p. 65, gives the inventory of his estate as 3 pounds, no shillings, 6 pence and "Isaac Cullemore sworne before the County Court 10th 9th

1655, saisth, that this is a true inventory of the estate of William Davis to his best knowledge”.

Savage says that this man was either William “Senior” or William “Junior” of the Book of Possessions but there is no shadow of evidence to prove this and he undoubtedly was in error.

Again Savage says:

William Davis, Salem 1639, had that year grant of land, probably removed to Boston or elsewhere, Maybe the mariner, who at Boston made his will 14 Sept. 1655, as in Geneal. Reg. V, 298, and Ib IX 141.

This above is simply a possibility and is merely stated as such.

The fact that the seaman lived in Chadwell, England, and mentioned no relatives in his will would indicate that he was unmarried and was not related to the other Davises of Boston. He probably was a sailor stopping temporarily in Boston.

V.

WILLIAM AND MARTHA DAVIS

1685 Sarah of William and Martha Davis born Apr. 22. [Doc. 130, p. 165.]

There are no other children born of this marriage recorded in Boston. This William could not have been the one who died in 1685 (the son of Captain William) because the latter left a widow, Abigail (Eliot) Davis, and children by her; and it is improbable that he was William the mariner who died in 1701 (Docket 2752) because the mariner left a widow, Mary, and apparently had children by Wife Mary from 1682 to 1698. Of course,

there is the vague possibility that the mariner had a wife Martha between two different Marys, but there is no evidence of that.

VI.

WILLIAM DAVIS, MARINER (WHO DIED IN 1701)

Suffolk Probate, Docket 2752, Vol. 14, p. 373: Will of William Davies, late of Boston, Mariner, deceased; administration granted thereon to Mary Davies, his relict and sole executrix, dated last day of October 1690; probated August 5, 1701. He gave to his wife Mary all he had "either in New England, Virginia, Barbados, or elsewhere". He had some real estate in Barbados which he left to his children when they became of age.

Boston Birth Records:

- 1682 Hannah of William and Mary Davis born July 15.
- 1684 Free love of William and Mary Davis born July 3.
- 1690 Mary of William and Mary Davise born Sept. 6.
- 1695 Jane of William and Mary Davis born Sept. 29.
- 1698 William of William and Mary Davis born March 25.

The above children apparently were the children of William the mariner who died in 1701. There might possibly be a later child for we examined only the birth records up to and including the year 1699.

From the fact that this man left property in Barbados he would appear to be connected with William Davis the gunsmith who moved from Boston to Barbados, but it could not very well have been the gunsmith himself. Passing over the fact that we think the latter died in Barbados in 1678, could he possibly have moved back to Boston again with his wife, Mary Parker, and have been the father of the five children born from 1682 to

1698? We know that he must have been of age in 1645 when he was buying and selling real estate and so he surely was born before 1624 and would have been at the very least 74 years old in 1698, rather an elderly man to be the father of these five children. Then again, he had always been known as gunsmith and merchant and it is improbable that in 1701 he would be described as seaman. No, the evidence is all in favor of the fact that this was not a resurrected gunsmith, but very likely a son of William the gunsmith, one about whom we have not heard before.

VII.

ANOTHER WILLIAM DAVIS, SEAMAN

This man's will was dated September 9, 1652 and was probated July 10, 1653. Edward Rawson and Jeremiah Houchin, with the deceased man's wife, were the executors. The will leaves the estate to the seaman's eldest son and other children. In case they all should die, the estate was to go to his sisters, Elizabeth Burcham and Joanna Peck.

This man may not have been a Boston William Davis at all. We know nothing further about him.

DID A WILLIAM DAVIS MOVE FROM BOSTON TO ROXBURY?

Savage has the following paragraph:

William, Roxbury, perhaps s. of William the first of Bost. had Mary b. 28 Mar. 1669, Ann 24 Dec. 1670, next rec. of 1672 gives him Benjamin 31 May and Rachel 26 Aug. but wh. rec. of the two is false is uncert. Perhaps the year 1674 is omit. for the

latter ch. Ichabod 1 Apr. 1676, Ebenezer 9 Apr. 1678, William 3 Jan. 1680, Sarah 20 July 1681, and Isaac 18 Apr. 1683, and a William perhaps the same d. there 23 Jan. 1706.

We believe the above entry to be very misleading. In the first place, the "perhaps son of William the first of Boston" is certainly no more than a poor guess and we now know that "the son of William the first of Boston" was William the gunsmith and that he could not have lived in Roxbury at the time mentioned; and secondly, the children given were all those of the William Davis of Roxbury who had been there since 1642, who, as we have seen, married three times, and whose widow, Jane, survived him when he died in 1683. (The daughter, Rachel, incidentally, was an ancestress of President Coolidge).

But if Savage had not suggested that William of Roxbury was "perhaps son of William the first of Boston" we would have missed our very interesting study of the Williams of Boston because it was in a search for the origin of our ancestor, William Davis of Roxbury, that we ran across this lead which introduced us to our friends, the William Davises of State Street.

INVESTIGATION OF CERTAIN ORIGINAL BIRTH RECORDS

This material is given in the form of a report in case others interested in the Davis family wish to continue the search.

From the Memorial History of Boston—Vol. I:

The following statement and list of the records and papers in the office of the City Clerk is furnished by Samuel F. McCleary, Esq., the present clerk:

1. THE TOWN RECORDS 1634 TO 1821 in ten volumes. Also a copy on paper of Vol. I, 1634-60, by Charles Shaw, made in 1814, also a copy on parchment of Vol. I and fully indexed, made by S. B. Morse, Jr. in 1855. This first volume is now in print in the Second Report of the Record Commissioners.

2. THE CITY RECORDS FROM 1822 TO 1867 in 45 vols. from 1868 to 1880 in 26 vols., two for each year.

3. THE ORIGINAL PAPERS forming the foundation of the Town and City Records from 1634 to 1881. (Those from 1634 to 1734 (1716 missing) are bound in two volumes; the rest are in files.)

The following statement of the records in the keeping of the City Registrar has been kindly furnished from that office:

BOSTON—Births, Marriages, and Deaths (County Records), 1630-60, in one volume, with a transcription made in 1856. Births, 1644-1744 (complete, over 20,000), in one volume, with a transcription made in 1874; 1726-1814 (imperfect), in one volume; 1800-49 (imperfect), in one volume; 1849-79 (complete), in sixteen volumes. Marriages, 1651-1879 in twenty-seven volumes, with a gap from 1662 to 1689; marriages out of the city, but recorded here, in one volume. Deaths, 1800-79 (complete from 1810), in twenty-one volumes; of persons buried here but who died elsewhere, in one volume.

On June 2, 1931 we went to the City Registrar's Office, Room 1004, City Hall, Boston, to look up the original records about which we had some question. The staff of the City Registrar was exceedingly courteous and gave all the assistance in its power.

In the annual report of the Registry Department of the City of Boston for the year 1905, on page 341, is a list of the original volumes. This gives as Volume 1 the County Record and as Volume 2 the book containing "all the births recorded in Volume 1, and all additional births from 1666 to 1689". Each page of the second volume is incased in silk by the Emery process and the volume itself is bound in blue morocco. Volume 2 in is a much

later style of writing than Volume 1. The birth records undoubtedly were copied from the previous record.

In Volume 2 the early births are at first arranged under the letters in alphabetical order but not in alphabetical order under each letter. In other words, the D's are all together but are arranged under D by date, within certain limits. The latter part of the volume is arranged by years. The first page bears the heading "Registry of Births & Deaths within ye Town of Boston in New England Beginning anno 1630 & forward to the year 1644". Then beyond that are the births up to the year 1689. On page 64 is this entry: "Margaret Daughte of Capt Wm Davis and Judith his wife born 13 Novemr 1667." There is no doubt whatsoever that the name is written and is meant to be Judith. On page 24 is the following record:

"Johanna Daughte of William Davis & Susanna his wife born 26 July 1657." There is no doubt whatsoever that the name was written Davis and there is not the slightest sign of its having been meant for Dawes.

We looked also at the entry of the birth of "Thomas of William & Mary Davies" born 3rd day 7th month 1645. There is not the slightest question that this was written "Mary" and there is not the slightest indication that it was meant to be "Marg".

Now the above facts are conclusive so far as the recording of them in this Volume 2 is concerned, but we know that these records are incorrect. We should like to investigate this further to see whether there are any previous records in existence. It appears to us that these are not the original records but are a compilation from previous records made at some time long ago. The writing is not the writing of 1640.

July 1, 1931, we again went to the Boston City

Registrar's office and examined Volume 1 and Volume 2 more carefully. Volume 1, known as the County Record, is preserved in silk. It is in ancient writing, much older than that of Volume 2 (also in silk). It is hard to read but records births, marriages, and deaths in Boston, Cambridge, Roxbury, Dorchester, Sudbury, Watertown, and other places. Some of the records are in order of the dates presumably as they were reported. Then other entries are arranged alphabetically over several months or even years. These latter, of course, must have been copied from some other source; they were not entered on pages reserved for the various letters. Whether or not those arranged strictly in order of date are the original entries, we do not know, but these birth records, which are the earliest now available in Boston, all were copied on these sheets from some previously written memoranda.

We copied the following records from Volume 1. The old writing has all the h's below the line somewhat like our small "q" and other letters have peculiarities much different from our present usage. We cannot transcribe these letters here but these extracts are otherwise fairly accurate copies. The pages of Volume 1 are numbered only at first for the volume is made up of pages taken from many books.

On page 4, Volume 1, are several Davises all together. These are in alphabetical order, most evidently a compilation from some other source for the dates run from 1630 to 1644.

Davies [*in margin*]

Thomas sonne of Wm Davies & Mary his wife borne (15°)
(1°) 1636 & dyed 24° (5°) 1638

Aaron sonne of Wm Davies & Mary his wife borne 20° (5°)
1638 & dyed 30° (8°) 1639.

Trine sonne of Wm Davies & Mary his wife borne 10° (6°) 1642.

Abigail daughter of Wm Davies & Mary his wife borne 31° (8°) 1635 & dyed 24° (12°) 1639.

Thomas sonne of Wm Davies dyed in the 5° mo:1638.

John sonne of Wm Davies dyed 20° (1°) 1640.

Jacob sonne of James Davies & Joanna his wife borne 11° (8°)* 1639.

Josabeth daughter of James Davies & Joanna his wife borne 20° (6°) 1642.

Sarah daughter of Edward Davis & Sarah his wife borne the 6° mo—1640.

Mary daughter of Edward Davies & Sarah his wife borne the 4° month 1642.

Further on in the book, under Roxbury Births, we found these two together:

John the sonne of William Davies born 1 (8) 1643.

Samuel the sonne of William Davies born 21 (12) 1644.

We did not try to copy out all the Davis entries in these two volumes as we were after only certain entries we believed to be errors. The above two, however, were of especial interest to us since we are descended from John.

Again under Boston:

Davies [*in margin*]

Mary the daught of William & Mary Davies borne 3 (8) 1644.

Thomas the son of William & Mary Davies born 3 (7) 1645.

The above two are in strictly alphabetical order on the first page of a new list of "Boston Births 8 mo. 1642 to 1646". There is no sign of a period after Mary and I see

*Note. (May not be 8.)

no reason to think it was "Marg.", but since the list is alphabetical, it evidently was copied from some other source.

So we have failed to find that Thomas, born in 1645, was a son of Captain William Davis and his wife Margaret. There is no birth record in existence today previous to that in Volume 1 and that says Thomas was a son of William Davies and his wife MARY. We still believe Thomas was son of Margaret, but the earliest existing birth record does say Mary.

The births in Volume 1 do not go beyond 1666. In 1667 was a birth recorded in Volume 2 as "Margaret of Capt. Wm & Judith Davis." Volume 2 is in writing of a much later date than 1667. We tried to get the original volume from which it was copied, but it could not be found although the succeeding volume was there. We were told that "perhaps it is still in the safe and has not yet come up here".

We looked up the birth record of Johannah DAWES born in 1657. We are sure this was Johannah Dawes because the church records clearly show she was baptized as a daughter of William Dawes.

The 1657 Boston births in Volume 1 are not recorded alphabetically, but in a general arrangement by date. It is noticeable that there are births of other years mixed in, such as some in 1654 and other years, but most of the 1657 dates run along in order. They appear to have been entered as they were reported.

Davies [*in margin*]

Johannah the Daughter of William Davis and of Susannah his wife was borne the 26th of July 1657.

There is no doubt about the Davis or the Susannah. We tried to read it as Dawes but it most evidently is

intended for Davis. We are sure this is an incorrect record. It was copied wrongly in Volume 1, but the latter is the most original source available today, and our statement that the name was DAWES thus fails of absolute and incontestable proof.

CHAPTER VI

Other Davis Families of Early Boston

1. JAMES
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3. JOHN page 255
4. EDWARD page 262
5. THOMAS page 265
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7. JOSEPH page 277
8. MARGARET page 281
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11. NICHOLAS page 284
12. A FEW MISCELLANEOUS DAVISES page 285
13. A FEW CEMETERY RECORDS page 287.

1 JAMES¹ DAVIS OF BOSTON

James Davis, a mariner, appears first in Boston records in the year 1634. His wife was Johanna and the following children are noted in the Boston Birth Records:

[Doc. 130, p. 7] Jacob born 11 d. 5 mo. 1639.

[Doc. 130, p. 12] Josebeth born 20 d. 6 mo. 1642.

[Doc. 130, p. 42] John died 13 d. 9 mo. 1653.

This daughter is recorded as Johoshabeath when baptized, 28 d. 6 mo. 1642, aged 8 days (Doc. 130, p. 14).

The birth of their daughter Joanna is not recorded.

We have found three short accounts of James.

Savage has:

James Davis, Boston 1634, Mariner by w. Joanna had Jacob b 11 July 1639 and d Josebeth, 20, bapt 28 Aug 1642 who m John Wing of Boston, is possibly John who d 13 Nov 1653.

Savage also has another:

James Davis Boston, by w Mary had Mary b 7 May 1647.

Pope (P. of M.) has:

James Davis, seaman, Boston adm. chh 7 (7) 1634 frm March 4, 1634-5. Wife Joanna adm. chh 6 (9) 1641: ch Jacob b 11 (5) 1639 Josebeth b 20 (6) 1642 John d. 13 (9) 1653. He died Oct 17 1661 admin. gr. to his wife Johanna 25 (11) 1661. John Wing, who m. one of the daus. of the said Wm. (sic) resigned his claim.

Artillery Company Records, Vol. 1, p. 171—

James Davis (1651) was of Boston in 1635, in which year he became a freeman. His house and garden were situated on the north side of Water Street, at the shore. In 1640, he was granted land at 'Long Island' and in 1645 was one of a committee chosen by the selectmen 'to hire eight fitt men for the Garrison' at the Castle. In 1651, the selectmen voted, 'James Davis (1651) hath Libertie to keepe a house of common entertainment, if the Countie Court consent.' He was called 'sergeant' on the town records in 1645.*

These three accounts probably were made up from similar or the same sources. We have arranged our records about James Davis approximately in order of date:

Made free March 4, 1634 [Vol. I, M. R., p. 370].

This James Davis of Boston, made free March 4, 1634, is sometimes confused with James of Newbury, Haverhill, and Hampton, N. H. Mr. N. W. Davis,

*See page 224.

secretary to Mr. John D. Rockefeller, after a long investigation, wrote us his final conclusions March 31, 1932.

I have found that James Davis, Junior, of Hampton and Haverhill was made freeman in 1660, and that his father, James, Senior, of Newbury and Hampton and Haverhill, was made freeman while living at Hampton, May 3, 1640. In clinging to the date of March 4, 1634-5, I find I have been following the claims of the early antiquarians—Savage and those who derived their information from his records. These antiquarians regarded James Davis, Senior, and James, Junior, of Newbury and Haverhill, as belonging to a separate and distinct family from that of James, Senior, and James, Junior of Hampton, hence the conclusion that the freeman of March 4, 1634-5, must have been James, Senior, of Newbury. It apparently was not until Pope's day that records of land transactions came to light which showed that the Davises of Newbury, Hampton and Haverhill, were all of one family.

This leaves the March 4, 1634-5 date for the James of Boston, whose record in the history of the Artillery Company claims that year for his admission as freeman. This is undoubtedly correct. While it is true that the name opposite this date is at the end of a group of Newbury men, at the same time it is followed by that of William Hutchinson, who is well known to have been of Boston.

All this is a welcome discovery to me, as it provides more accurate information as to the year in which my James Davis came to Newbury. He probably did not come as early as 1635, though he had been there for some time in 1638.

The Memorial History of Boston has on page 569 the following statement:

Admitted to church 7th of ye seaventh moneth 1634, James Davisse a Marryno.

(Doc. 46, p. 25)—At a Gen. Meeting 14th 10 mo. 1635 in the laying out of the great allotments on p. [19] "James Davisse, 10 acres" near the Newtowne line.

In 1634 Long Island was granted to the Town and (Doc. 46, p. 53(43)) 27 d 2 mo 1640 "*James Davis is allowed three acres at long Island*".

(Long Island is in Boston Harbor about east of Boston, a little to the south, perhaps 1 7-8 miles by 1-4 mile wide, and contains 200 or 300 acres. Land there was assigned to various Boston citizens.)

12:1 mo 1649—Selectmen voted to charge yearly rent per acre for all land on Long Island and Spectacle Island. Many of the owners failed to pay and Mar. 11, 1666-7 selectmen voted to cancel future rent payments.

Title to the land on these islands was at first in the Town and ownership was dependent on rent payments. If a man failed to pay his rent or abandoned the land, the Town might grant it to someone else. 9 (2) 1649 James Davies was one of those ordered to pay sixpence per acre per year for the support of the schools. It is not surprising that we find no trace of what became of this Long Island land of James Davis. The land he owned on Spectacle Island appears in his probate inventory and in that of his widow, Johanna.

Records of Mass., Vol. I, p. 296. At Court 2th day of the 4th month 1640 "James Davies for his unquietness with his wife, was enioyned to appear at the next Court of Assistants".

(Doc. 46, p. 72(64)) 27 d 12 mo 1642—Some "leather dressers" are granted a place for watering their leather near the house of James Davis.

(Doc. 46, p. 73 (65)) 29 d 3 mo 1643 James Davis and others given permission to "dig a creeke for the Harbour of Boats."

(B. of P., p. 23 (59)) "James Davies his possession within the limits of Boston. One house and garden bounded with Thomas Leverit on the north; the marsh

on the east; William Parsons on the west; and the Springate on the south". (This was lot G-73 on the North Side of Water Street near Congress and was where he lived. His widow left it by will to the Wing grandchildren.)

(B. of P., p. 23) William Parsons owned a house and garden bounded "James Davies on the east".

(B. of P. Appendix p. 101) "G-72 William Parsons (house & garden, with the lane West H Webb north, J Davies east and the Springate south, W.H.W.)".

(B. of P. Appendix p. 101) "G-73—James Davies. (House and garden, the Springate south, T Leverett north W Parsons, west, the marsh east W.H.W.)"

In "Devonshire Street 1630 to 1912", written in 1912 by Perry Walton for the Second National Bank, (Copyright 1912), on page 29:

The old spring (which had formerly dried up), however, reappeared in 1869 in the cellar of the new post office between Milk and Water Streets, endangering the foundations and causing much annoyance to the builders. The little brook trickled from the spring across Pudding Lane (now Devonshire St.) into Davis's Creek, or Shelter Cove, which covered what is now Post Office Square.

(Rec. Mass., Vol. 2, p. 185) 4 Nov. 1646—"Pessicus his sonne being put to James Davies wife to be neere Mr Olivr for cure of a fistula it is ordred yt she should be satisfied by the Treasurer".

(Doc. 46, p. 95 (85)) James Davise had land at "Spectacle Iland" 9d 2 mo 1649.

(Doc. 46, p. 108 (96)) 23 d 12 mo 1651 "James Davis hath Libertie to keepe a house of Comon entertainement, if the Countie Court consent".

(Thwing, "Crooked Sts.," p. 218) "In 1659-60 James Davis had 3 acres a little east of Somerset St. which

extended in a triangle to within a few feet of Ashburton Place, and was only 13 ft. on Beacon St."

(Suf. Deeds, Liber 3, p. 347). Feb. 14, 1659-60—James Davis land given as a bound W. of John Coggan in Tremont St. N. of Beacon St.

(Suffolk Deeds, Liber 15, p. 177) Sept. 28, 1661—James Davis, mariner and Gov. John Leverett make an agreement as to boundaries of their land. This was at Water and Congress Streets.

(Suffolk Deeds, Liber 7, p. 294) 29 March 1666-7—Capt. James Johnson sells his land "near the Dock or Cove comonly called James Davie's Cove".

(Doc. 130, p. 81). "James Davis, seaman, died Oct. 17, 1661" His estate was in Probate Court 25 d 11 mo 1661, Suffolk Docket 280, Vol. 4, pp. 57, 73, 74. His daughter Johanna was then the wife of Richard Knight and his daughter Josebeth was the wife of John Wing. He left no sons so that he left no descendants by the name of Davis. His widow, Johanna Davis, died in 1678 and her will is Docket 1110.

(Liber 10, p. 218) 29 Oct. 1677—Johannah Davis of Boston, widow, sells to her son John Wing of Boston, innholder, 2A near Sentury Hill.

Aug. 27, 1674 Johanna Davis was one of the sisters applying for membership in the Third Church.

Docket 1110—Will of Joanna Davis widow of above James—mentions dau. Joanna, wife of Richard Knight, dau. Josebeth, wife of John Wing, grandchild Sarah Briggs, and several Knight grandchildren and Wing grandchildren.

The inventory of the estate of James Davis, when filed in the Probate Court by his widow, Johanna, (Docket 280) gives us some information about James Davis which we did not have before. We first know of

him as a mariner or seaman in 1634. He had lands at Long Island and Spectacle Island which were not far over the water from his house by the shore in Boston. In 1651 he appears as a Boston inn holder. The inventory of his estate is in two parts. The first part most evidently is the contents of some kind of a store comprising dry goods, tape, silk, buttons, stockings, cotton, tobacco, pipes, combs, pins, flax, remnants, mohair, etc., totaling 156 pounds, 6 shillings, three pence. This included 26 pounds and more of money and "Womp." The second part of his estate comprised his household effects and his house and land at Boston, 3-4 of an acre at Sentors Hill, twelve acres at Moderiver, and six acres at Spectacle Island.

When his widow, Johanna Davis, died in 1678, she left a long will (Docket 1110) leaving the house and land to John Wing and his wife Josebeth and to their children after them. There is nothing in either estate referring to land at Long Island. In 1683 Mr. James Allen owned land formerly of James Davis [Liber XII, p. 357].

James and Johanna Davis then left no Davis heirs but did leave a number of grandchildren named Wing and Knight.

2 GEORGE¹ DAVIS OF BOSTON

Savage and Pope both have accounts of George Davis which may not be entirely independent. Savage has:

George Davis, Boston, 1644, blacksmith perhaps the freem. of 1645, one of the found. of sec. ch. by w. Barbara wh. had join first ch. 22 Aug. 1647 has Samuel b 17 Oct 1651 and if the rec. be not false John 3 June 1652, was a serj. d early in 1655. He throve by his trade for the inv. val. 1-4 of George Munjoy's

ship Swan and 5-16 of Benjamin Munjoy's ship Delight and his wid. m. 14 Jan 1656 John Brimblecome, first, wh. was one of the witness to his will and for third hus. Thomas Chadwell. His will made Sept. 23, 1654 was pro. 25 Apr. foll. and anticipating the m. of his w. again he made various provis. for his two s. See Geneal. Reg. V, 306 and IX 35.

Pope (P. of M.) says:

George Davis, blacksmith, Boston adm chh 20 (6) 1644 frm. May 1645. Wife Barbara adm. chh 22 (6) 1647 Ch. Samuel b 17 Oct 1651 John b 3 June 1652 Will prob. April 25 1655; to wife Barbara, sons Samuel and John (Reg V 306 and IX 35) The widow m 14 (11) 1655 John Brimblecombe, who gave bonds for the payment of the childrens portions July 26 1656. She afterwards m. — Chadwell; her est. was admin. on 4 April, 1655 by Daniel Turrell & John Baker.

CHILDREN OF GEORGE AND BARBARA DAVIS

- i SAMUEL born Oct. 17, 1651 [Doc. 130, p. 32] and bap. 20 d. 8 mo. 1650 [Doc. 130, p. 32]. (We think 1650 is the correct year.)
- ii JOHN born June 3, 1652 [Doc. 130, p. 35] and bap. 6 d. 4 mo. 1652 [Doc. 130, p. 39].
- iii MARY "of George Davis of the New Ch. bap 14 day 6 mo 1653" [Doc. 130, p. 44] probably died young.

Samuel and John are the only children mentioned in the will of their father in 1655.

Barbara, widow, married John Brimblecombe 14 d. 11 mo. 1655.

George was a blacksmith and worked for Nehemiah Bourne. In 1650 he bought the shop from Bourne as shown by Vol. 1, Aspinwall Not. Rec., pp. 367, 368.

[13 (11) 1650. *Nehemiah Bourne sells to Georg Davies*] . . . my shop in w^{ch} he works now, being scituat & adjoyneing to my house in w^{ch} Mr. Leader now dwells [*with*] bellows, anvill & other tooles, [*dated December 15, 1646*].

[And 13 (11) 1650] I acknowledg I have received satisfaction of Georg Davies for the ground his new house stands upon w^{ch} is taken out of my garden & for so much as ranges from the Southend of the sd house by a right line to the upper corner of the fence of the sd garden northward & this ground I doe hereby sell & dispose of to his pper use, [dated] 18th 7^{ber} 1647—Nehemiah Bourne.

[13 (11) 1650] I doe hereby declare that whereas I sould George Davies a pcell of ground to build a house uppon it, he the sd Davies shall have liberty of Egress & Regresse through my ground to the highway, [dated] ye 21th Sept. 1647 Nehemiah Bourne.

The location of George Davis' shop and house is given by Miss Thwing in "Crooked Streets", page 36, as follows:

A greater part of the estates of Anne Tuttle and Nehemiah Bourne—came into the Greenwood family. Bourne had his house and garden on the East side of North St. and it was here that the ship Trial was built. Bourne sold to George Davis, a blacksmith, in 1646, from whose heirs it was bought by Nathaniel Greenwood in 1673 . . . The location is near, or what is actually Union Wharf today.

(This is off North Street near Harris Street and Hanover Alley).

Nehemiah Bourne's property was K-10 of the Appendix of the B. of P., from which we quote:

K-10 Nehemiah Bourne, shipwright, who built here in 1641, the 'Trial' the first large vessel built in Boston—Bourne went to England, and served as major of a regiment in the Parliamentary Army; but was once more in Boston in 1645, returning to England the next year, and became rear-admiral in the Parliaments navy.

Apparently he was back in Boston in 1650 when he sold to George Davis.

Sargent George Davis, Liber II, March 1, 1654-5, page 121, bought a lease from Edw. Bendall.

Liber II, p. 102, George Davis signed as witness 13 Jan. 1654.

Liber III, p. 505, George Davis signed as witness 4 Nov. 1654.

George Davis made his will September 23, 1654, and it was probated April 25, 1655. There is no docket number but the will is recorded in Vol. 1, p. 104, and the Inventory in Vol. 3, p. 16. Wife Barbara and Daniel Turell were the executors. He gave his whole estate to his wife Barbara and instructed her to make certain payments to his sons, Samuel and John, when they became of age. The amount to each of the sons was to be increased if Barbara remarried. The total of the estate was £569-09s-06 d.

November 1, 1656 Barbara, widow of George Davis, sold all of real estate of late George Davis to Daniel Turrell (blacksmith). John Brimblecombe of Boston, wool comber, having lately married Barbara Davis, formerly the wife of George Davis deceased, (she had two young Davis children, Samuel Davis and John Davis, Samuel born Oct. 17, 1650 or 1651 and John born June 3, 1652) assigned any rights he might have. (Liber II, p. 298).

The above bequest evidently was in the nature of a trust to take care of the interest of the boys during minority, for on July 28, 1673, the boys, both being of age and Samuel having a wife, Deborah, gave a complete release to Daniell Turill of Boston Senior and to John Baker of Boston as trustees of the estate of George Davis. (Liber VIII, p. 278).

Barbara Davis married for a second husband John

Brimblecombe, one of the witnesses of her former husband's will.

John Brimblecombe & Barbara Davis, the late widow of George Davis, were married 14th 11 mo (1655) by Richard Bellingham Dept. Govr. [Doc. 130, p. 53].

For a third husband Barbara married Thomas Chadwell of Boston, shipwright. Barbara (Davis Brimblecombe) Chadwell died in 1665. Her will was drawn March 25, 1665, and probated March 30, 1665, as Suffolk Docket 374. Therein she left the care of her two children, Samuel Davis and John Davis, to John Baker and Daniel Turrell, and left to the children or to the survivor what estate she had from her former husband, all of this being in accordance with an arrangement she made with Thomas Chadwell before she married him. The estate of Barbara totalled £361 05 sh 09½ d.

Suffolk Deeds, Liber 8, p. 270, 28 Mar. 1672 sells land formerly of George Davis now of Thomas Chadwell. This was on North Street between Clarke and Salutation Streets.

SAMUEL² (*George*¹) was a mariner who married Deborah and had child George born Oct. 25, 1673 (Doc. 130, p. 127) which died aged 6 days (Granary B. G. inscriptions). He disposed of his property. See Liber 8, p. 277 (24 Nov. 1673) and 10, p. 161 (Sept 1677). His wife Deborah died Nov. 20, 1673 aged 27 (Granary inscriptions). Savage says he married Elizabeth (Thatcher) Davenport (dau. of Rev. Thos. Thatcher and wid. of brave Nath. Davenport) in 1677 but we find no record of this in Boston Vital Records and no record of any children.

The second son, JOHN² (*George*¹), was a tailor and was

married twice. He was a resident of Westfield in 1689 or before. The Boston Birth Records show as his children:

- i April 19, 1676 "JOHN, son of John & Mary Davis" [Doc. 130, p. 138].
- ii July 24, 1677 "JOHN, son of John & Mary Davis" [Doc. 130, p. 141].
- iii July 1, 1685 "SARAH, dau. John and Sarah Davis" [Doc. 130, p. 165].

In Liber X p. 207 his "now wife" was Mary, October 22, 1677, and in Liber XII, p. 184 his wife still was Mary, April 24, 1682, but in Liber XIII p. 36 his wife was Sarah, October 17, 1683. Therefore wife Mary must have died in 1682 or 1683. In Liber XV, p. 100, his wife was named Sarah. This deed was dated July 5, 1689, so he could not have been the father of

"GEORGE son of John & Hannah Davis born July 22, 1687"
[Doc. 130, p. 173].

"GEORGE of Brother Davies bap July 24 1687" [Doc. 130, p. 177] although the name George might otherwise lead us to think "Brother Davies" referred to John² (*George*¹).

John² (*George*¹) disposed of all the land received from his father. He appears in real estate transactions in Suffolk Deeds 8-423, 9-28, 10-207, 10-208, 10-244, 12-389, 12-184, 13-36 13-352, 15-100, 32-96, and SD 7-85, 11-380, and 12-150.

In 1689 John² (*George*¹) was of Westfield, as is shown by Liber XV, p. 100, when "John Davis, late of Boston, and now of the Town of Westfield in New England Tayler, and Sarah his wife" sold their messuage in Conduit Street, Boston by a deed dated July 5, 1689 and recorded July 6, 1691 and Apr. 22, 1690 he was still of Westfield as shown by Liber 32, p. 96 (not recorded until Nov. 30, 1717).

There was in Boston at the same time another John Davis whose wife was Elizabeth as shown thus:

JOHN born Dec. 11, 1682 [Doc. 130, p. 157]—(of John & Elizabeth Davis).

ELIZABETH born Sept. 25, 1684 [Doc. 130, p. 162]—(of John & Elizabeth Davis).

THOMAS born July 24, 1686 [Doc. 130, p. 168]—(of John & Elizabeth Davis).

JAMES born Jan. 15, 1688 [Doc. 130, p. 179]—(of John & Elizabeth Davis).

This may have been John² (*Capt. Wm.*¹) born June 10, 1663, but we have no evidence that it was. There was a John² (*Joseph*¹) born October 2, 1666, but he would have been too young and I find no other Johns born in Boston that are available.

In the Tax List for 1687 appears John Davis, gardner, and on March 8, 1685-6 (Doc. 50, p. 183) John Davis was chosen one of the "Clarkes of the Market." In 1681 John Davis was on the Tax List and served under Hinkman.

GEORGE DAVIS OF LYNN AND READING

In looking up George¹ of Boston we found a George who died in 1667, Suffolk docket 468, Liber 1, p. 513. This proved to be George Davis of Lynn. He made his will December 7, 1664, "being bound for Cape fare", and left his estate in New England to his wife (executrix) and to his 7 children, of whom Benjamin and Joseph apparently were of age, or nearly so, and the five daughters under age. His "brother, William Clarke of Linn" was overseer and so we judge his wife was ~~sister~~ *daughter* of William¹ Clarke. The will was probated in September 1667, and the inventory filed by the joint executor, his son Benjamin, on October 29, 1669, "355 pounds 1 sh." &

no ship appears in the inventory, but he left a "house & land, 8 acres & 120 acres." None of his children appear in Boston Records.

Reading was set off from part of "Linn" May 29, 1644 and the Reading Vital Records show that this George had John July 20, 1660, Mary January 16, 1657, Sarah October 1, 1651, Susannah May 11, 1662, Hannah May 31, 1648, and Elizabeth January 16, 1654, and that he died in Reading July 14, 1667. John, son of George, died November 4, 1660. George's "five daughters" are included above but no mention is made of his sons, Benjamin and Joseph.

Savage has him of Lynn, "rem. to Reading," and has the five daughters recorded but says nothing of the sons, Benjamin and Joseph. But Savage has recorded "*George of Boston 1650 went 1654 to N. Carolina, in his will, bef. depart. provides for w.s. Benjamin, Joseph and 5 d s.*" This most evidently was the man whose will was probated in 1667 and Savage evidently was mistaken. We could find no such will of George about 1650.

Liber 24, p. 230—September 2, 1709—mentions Benjamin Davis of Boston, "Turner," and Liber 24, p. 230, mentions Benjamin Davis of Boston, Chairmaker, and Elizabeth his wife, September 5, 1709.

This could not have been Benjamin the apothecary, and the only other Benjamin we have that fits would be the son of George¹ of Reading, the one who was executor of his father's will 1667 to 1669. He would have been perhaps fifty-five years old or even older.

3 JOHN¹ DAVIS OF BOSTON

A "JOYNER" AND A "SARGEANT."*

John was a common name in the Davis family. Drake's "Researches among the British Archives" has on pages 100 and 105:

John Davies 26 was on the Hopewell to Barbados 17 Feb. 1634.

John Davies 19 & John Davies 18—24 Apr. 1635 on the Ann & Elizabeth to Barbados & St. Christopher.

And on page 26:

Jo: Davies 29 a Joyner came over on the Increase—list dated 15 April 1635—to New England.

Planters of the Commonwealth, p. 147, records that:

Margaret Davies 32—Elizabeth Davies 1—Jo: Davies 9 and Marie Davies 4 came over on the Elizabeth—list dated 17 Apr. 1635.

We investigated the records to see if they could have been the wife and children of John Davies, the "joyner", who came over at the same time but on a different boat. We had no especial reason to think so except that Margaret settled in Boston and we find no record of any other wife or children attached to John. Pope, however, in "Pioneers of Massachusetts" records under the heading of this Margaret—"Margery, a widow, at bro. Burdens Boston, adm. chh 15 (1) 1645. "Now wife of Charles Grist of Braintree", dism. to Br 7 (3) 1648". And if she were a widow in 1645, she could not have been the widow of John Davis who sold his house in 1646. (see p. 281.)

We have two records of John Davis the "Joyner":
Artillery Company Record, Vol. 1, p. 129:

*For mention of Sargent Davis see page 224.

John Davis (1643) of Boston, came over in the 'Increase' in 1635 and was a joiner by trade. He was admitted to the First Church Jan. 3, 1635-6, and became a freeman May 25, 1636. He was a supporter of Mr. Wheelwright and Mrs. Hutchinson, and was punished therefor. In 1641, Rev. John Wilson sold land on the (present) corner of State and Devonshire Sts. to Sergt. John Davis (1643), the joiner, and Davis, in 1646, sold it to Edmund Jackson (1646). After 1646 the name of John Davis (1643) disappears from the Boston Records. Savage suggests that Mr. Davis (1643) may have gone to Duxbury where one John Davis sold an estate in 1650.

Savage says:

John, Boston 1635 a joiner ar. co. 1643. I presume this to be the same man wh. came in the Increase 1635 aged 29, and perhaps was the John Davie friend of Wheelwright, in the former article.

Mem. Hist. of B., p. 571. Admitted "John DAVISSE, Joyner" 3 d. 11 mo. 1635.

Doc. 46, p. 33 (24)—2 d 2 mo 1638—"a garding place" granted to John DAVISSE.

Doc. 46, p. 54 (43)—27 d 2 mo 1640—"Joh Davis 8 acrs for £ 4"

John Davies appears at length in the Book of Possessions. He is in the list of owners, p. 6 (19):

"John Davies his possession within the limits of Boston.

1. "One house and garden bounded with James Johnson north; Gabriel Fish and Valentine Hill east: John Smith West and the streete south." (*This is G-14.*)

2. "Also at Braintree thirty six acres bounded with John Mellowes Northward: Zaccheus Bosworth southward: John Webb westward: and Monotaquid River, eastward."

3. "Also one Acre of marsh, bounded with Zaccheus Bosworth north and west: and Monotaquid River south."

"5 (2) 44; 29 (2) 45 Mr. John Wilson, of Boston, sould to John Davies 45 foote in front to the streete and 40 foote in depth, bounded with the said Mr. Wilson's garden north and east,

and the market steed south: and John Coggan west; by an absolute deed of sale dated 5 (2) 44 and 29 (2) 45; acknowledged before John Winthrop, Governor, 23 (8) 46. In which writing John Davies is bound to make and maintaine the fence between Mr. Wilson and him, and not to annoy him with any stincks or jacks. This after was sould to Edmund Jackson—see p. 14."

[B. of P., p. 4 (14)] "17 (5) 1645. John Davies granted to Edmund Jackson 10 foote in breadth, and 40 foote in length, as appeares by the Record in the booke of mortgages, p. 61, which is again sould to Hezekiah Usher, 1 (12) 1646"—

"5 (8) 1646 John Davies, of Boston, granted to Edmund Jackson (both of Boston) his dwelling house and yard, in Boston, bounded with Mr. Wilson north: Edmund Jackson east, market place south; John Coggan west: by an absolute sale dated 5 (8) 164: acknowledged before John Winthrop, Governor, 6 (8) 46; which is alsoe sould to Hezekiah Usher, 1 (12) 1646. See in this booke p — (19 under John Davies W. H. W.)"

[B. of P. p. 5 (15)] John Mellowes owned at Braintree 132 acres bounded "John Davies southward" and "the mouth of Monotaquit river south east."

[B. of P., p. 7 (20)] James Johnson owned 3-4 A of marsh & upland bounded with the cove on the North and the east, John Smith west, and John Davies south.

[B. of P., p. 29 (73)] Zaccheus Bosworth 51 A at Braintree bounded by John Davies south & east.

[B. of P., p. 91, Appen.] "G—14 John Davies, house & garden; sold in 1645 to John Trotman, and his wife Katherine conveyed it same day to Thomas Hawkins, who at a later day kept here, on Hanover street, the Star Inn. (See Shurtliff Description of Boston, p. 606.) He mortgaged the property to Governor Bradstreet in 1650. From Hawkin's house went "the old hie way over the little bridge (near 11) behind the watter mile to the ferry to Charlestown." One Watters obstructing this old way with a fence in 1652, he was ordered to remove it; but in 1650 Hawkins was allowed to fence in a part of it temporarily."

[B. of P., p. 91, Appendix.] "G—15 Gabriel Fish (House & yard with John Davies south and west, V. Hill north, the street east—W. H. W.)."

[B. of P., p. 103, Appendix G—85.] In 1641 Wilson sold part to Sergeant John Davies, the joiner.

[B. of P., p. 109, Appendix.] "H—1 James Johnson, glover, upland & marsh; sold to Thomas Hawkins, baker and innholder, in 1662. In 1671-2 this lot and John Davies' by assignments and foreclosure of mortgages came into the possession of Sampson Sheaffe" etc.—(SFR's note—Davies had, however, sold his interests in 1645 and had in that year bought from John Wilson.)

[B. of P., p. 110, Appen.] "This lot (H—1) is No. 4 of James Johnson's possessions, being three quarters of an acre of upland & marsh with the cove north & east John Smith west, and John Davies south W H W."

[B. of P., p. 85, Appen.] "F—92 James Johnson, garden, These lots on the line of present Mason street, were granted, in 1638, to James Johnson, John Davis, George Borden and Nathaniel Chappell, and were then called 'gardens on the back side of the lots in ye long street'."

[Doc. 46, p. 69 (61) 25 d 5 mo 1642] "It is granted to Capt Gibones John Davis, and John Smith to have the marish on their backsides to the water side, paying unto the Towne for it after the rate of 40 S per acre." "William Tynge Treasurer James Penn and John Oliver are appointed to order the digging of the creeke near John Davis, his howse, and the highway to Charletowne by Tho: Marshalls land."

All the above records definitely locate the houses of John Davies. He was at first on Lot G-14, shown by the Appendix to Doc. 46, Part 2, the Book of Possessions, to have been in the block north of Hanover Street and east of Portland Street and to have extended down to the marsh by the cove of the Mill Pond. Then 28 d, 4 mo., 1645 he sold it to John Trotman (Suffolk Deeds, Liber 1, p. 60).

Before selling to Trotman he had moved to State Street to the property he had purchased from the Rev. John Wilson. Apparently he purchased this 5(2)1644,

the date given on p. 6 (19) of the Book of Possessions. But it is to be noticed that on p. 103 of Appendix, B. of P., under G-85, Mr. W. H. W. says that it was in 1641 that John Wilson sold to Sergeant John Davis; however, it would appear to us that 1644 is the correct date. Rev. John Wilson's property, G-85, was on the North Side of State Street between Washington and Wilson's lane, now Devonshire Street. Liber 1, page 61, shows that John Davies of Boston "Joyner," sold part of this land 17 (5) 1645 to Edmund Jackson and in the description it is stated that this property is next door to the house of John Davies. Then on page 202 of Liber 1 is a reference to this land which Jno. Wilson formerly sold to "Sergeant" Davies. We give these two references to show that "Sergeant" John Davies and John Davies the "Joyner" were the same man.

He did not sell his house to Jackson at that time but sold him land whereon he was to build a house next to Davis', having his floor even with Davis' floor.

Fifteen months later, 5 (8) 1646, Davis sold the house and the balance of the land to the same Edmund Jackson. The first sale is recorded in Liber 1, page 61. The second sale was not recorded and appears only on p. 4 (14) of the Book of Possessions.

What became of John after 1646 we have not yet discovered. Savage is reported as saying he might have gone to Duxbury where one John Davis sold an estate in 1650. In the Aspinwall Notarial Records, Vol. I, p. 151 (131) we find an entry which might prove to be a good clue. There it is stated that Henry Shrimpton 7 (6) 1648 appointed William Gibbins of Hartford attorney to receive payment from John Daves *of Hartford*. Now Henry Shrimpton in 1646 was on Lot G-86, practically next door to John Davies on Lot G-85, and it might well be

that the John Daves of Hartford, from whom he was collecting money in 1648, was the John formerly of Boston. John apparently had been thinking of leaving Boston for some time. On October 1, 1645 "seriant John Davies" was one of five men granted a plantation and leave to set out lots at Nashaway (Recs. of Mass., Vol. 2, p. 136), but November 11, 1647 they reported they had taken no action and asked to be discharged from the responsibility (Recs. of Mass., Vol. 2, p. 212) and this is the last record we have of John¹ Davis of Boston.

[Recs. of Mass., Vol. 1, p. 245] A Quarter Court houlden at Boston the 4 day of the 10th month 1638 . . . John Kinge, Willi Reeves & John Davies, appearing were discharged till further information bee given about the murtherer they tooke from the iland.

When we first found the above record we had some doubts about John's standing in the community. These were dispelled later when we discovered that the incident mentioned might have been nothing worse than a mischievous prank of some kind somewhat similar to some of our present Fourth of July events. The "Memorial History of Boston," page 85, tells us that Samuel Maverick, a man of 28, lived at East Boston* in a sort of fort which he had built three years previously (in 1626 less 3) and which was armed with four large guns or "*murtherers*". This John Davis may not have been of Boston. There was a John Davis of Ipswich who was summoned into court frequently in 1638 and 1639 and the court records rarely gave the Town from which the men came.

*Then called Noddles Island.

JOHN AND RETURNE DAVIS

In the Boston Record of Marriages we find that John Davis married Returne Gridley, daughter of Richard Gridley, 9 d. 2 mo. 1656. The following children of this marriage appear on the Boston Birth Records:

- i GRACE born Mar. 4, 1657—dau. of John and Returne Davis.
- ii RICHARD born Apr. 15, 1659—son of John and Returne Davis.
- iii HANNAH born Jan. 24, 1662—dau. of John and Returne Davis.
- iv MARY died 12 d. 6 mo. 1663—dau. of John and Returne Davis.
- v MARY born July 2, 1665—dau. of John & Returne Davis of Block Island.

Perhaps they had removed from Boston to Block Island between 1663 and 1665.

It is interesting to note that Edward Davis in 1659 had a wife, Hannah, daughter of Richard Gridley. Possibly Edward Davis and John Davis were brothers. Savage says "perhaps" they were brothers.

This may possibly have been John¹ Davis but it seems unlikely for John¹ was 29 in 1635 and would have been 50 in 1656. We have found no John born in Boston whose age would correspond to that of this man, providing the latter was perhaps 25 years old at the date of his marriage to Returne Gridley. There was, however, the John Davis, 9 years old, who was on the Elizabeth in 1635. He would have been 30 years old at that time and might well have been the man who married Returne Gridley.

Liber XI, p. 364, 30 Sept. 1662, recorded 23 Sept. 1680, Richard Gridley of Boston, brickmaker, to his son in

law John Davis of Boston Brickmaker and his daughter Return, his wife, a piece of land next to land of Richard Gridley.

4 EDWARD DAVIS OF BOSTON

Edward Davis married Hannah, daughter of Richard Gridley. The marriage is recorded in Doc. 130, p. 62, 16 d. 7 mo. 1657. The following children are recorded in Doc. 130.

- i SAMUEL of Edward & Hannah Davis born Sept. 30, 1658.
SAMUEL of ——— Davis bap. 3 d. 8 mo. 1658.
- ii EDWARD of Edward & Hannah Davis born Nov. 22, 1660.
EDWARD of Edward Davis bap. 25 Nov. 1660.
- iii MARY of Edward Davis bap. 27 d. 2 mo. 1662.
- iv JOSEPH of Edward & Hannah Davis born Aug. 20, 1664.
JOSEPH of Edward Davis bap. 4 d. 7 mo. 1664.
- v EDWARD of Edward & Hannah Davis born Feb. 6, 1666.
EDWARD of Edward Davis bap. 9 d. 12 mo. 1666.
- vi HANNAH of Edward & Hannah Davis born Sept. 12, 1669.
HANNAH of Edward Davis bap. 25 d. 7 mo. 1669.
- vii MARY of Edward Davis bap. 18 d. 11 mo. 1673.
- viii SAMUEL of Edward & Hannah Davis born Feb. 28, 1677.

We have no record of this Edward being the son of any of the Boston or Roxbury Davis families. As he was married in 1657, he perhaps was born about 1636, but where he was born we have no idea. He was elected bellman regularly from 1663 to September 30, 1678 (his last election); he was "Cowkeeper and Pownder" in Boston from 1664 until 1674 and possibly later; and he and his wife Hannah sold property in Boston in April 1680 making the last definite record we have of them. There was no estate of Edward Davis in Suffolk Probate before 1718.

We have not made a study of this man and his family but simply recorded those facts we have found in the search for others of the Davis name. Richard Gridley's daughter, Returne, was married to John Davis 9 d. 2 mo. 1656 and, as we have said previously, we do not know what relation this John Davis was to Edward Davis except that they married sisters.

Liber III, p. 105, 20 (11) 1657—Edward Davis signs as a witness.

Liber III, 5 October 1659—Richard Gridly of Boston brickmaker sells to Edward Davis of Boston laborer and Gridlys daughter Hannah, wife to said Edward Davis, 9 rods of land. Grace Gridley also signed.

Liber V, p. 63—Richard Gridley and Grace his wife sell part of their land next to that of Edward Davis.

Edward Davis and Joseph Gridly were chosen bellmen in 1663 and Edward held the office for many years. The orders for the bellmen were given 27-8-1662 as follows (in Doc. 50, p. 11):

Orders for the Bellman:—You are to walke through and about the Twne from 12 clocke at nighte to 5 in the morning and if yo^u see any extreordinary light or fier in any house o^r vesselles you are to repaire to the same. And as the danger may be soe giue notis of the same. If yo^u see any light in any Vessell att any of the dockes or Creekes, Command them Oute, And speake to all houses where yo^u see any light to haue a care of them, except you know the occation of theare keping the said lighte.

In case of any disorder in any house vessell or street &c. which you iudge dangerous you ar to informe the next Counstable of ye same.

25-2-64—Edward Davis or Robert Blott was chosen "Cowkeeper for the yeare ensueing and to have 20 s. 6 p. for every head" (Doc. 50, p. 21).

27-1-1665—"Edward Davis is apointed to be Cow keper & pounder for the yeare ensueing ye Key to be left with Isaac Cullimore" (Doc. 50, p. 25).

30-1-1668—Edward Davis, having been cowkeeper and pounder for some time, now gets another office:

Edward Davis is chosen Cowe keeper & pownder from the 20th of Aprill to the 15th of October, and to cleere the Streetes of any dead dogs, catts, and other carrion for the whole yeare, and he is hereby ordered to have 20 shillings for his paines [Doc. 50, p. 40].

28:7:1668—Edward Davis and Joseph Gridley get further directions as to their duties as bellmen (Doc. 50, p. 44).

6:3:1672—Detailed instructions given about cow-keeping (Doc. 50, pp. 68, 69).

30:7:1672—Richard Gridley lays out a 12 ft. highway through his property near Edward Davis's garden.

28 April 1673—Edward Davis cowkeeper given further instructions.

Liber X p. 33—Edward Davis a witness 21 Dec. 1676 when Joseph Gridly brickmaker and wife Elizabeth sell their dwelling house.

Liber XI, p. 317, April 17, 1680—Edward Davis of Boston, laborer, and Hannah his wife sell to Stephen Feilder a piece of land towarde the South end of the Towne of Boston near Fort Hill bounded by land of said Davis northwesterly.

Liber XIII, p. 167, July 26, 1684—deed of land near Fort Hill bounded northeasterly by the land of Edward Davis or his assignes.

Edward Davis as cowkeeper must have had his troubles because the cows apparently were a constant source of dispute. It is astonishing to find the august

selectmen of Boston passing so many regulations about the pasturage of the cows.

5 THOMAS DAVIS OF BOSTON

Thomas Davis cannot qualify as one of the first generation of early Boston according to our method of distinction, although a Thomas Davis (residence unrecorded) was made freeman 2nd, 4 mo., 1641 (Mass. Recs. Vol. 1, p. 378). Suffolk Deeds, Liber VIII, p. 183, record a purchase of land near Fort Hill in 1673 by Thomas Davis of Haverhill.

Oct. 28, 1678 (Doc. 50, p. 123) ordered that "Thomas Davis blksmith that hath a wife & family at Metfield, removes from place to place Idleinge about ye towne & knowne to be a Theife" be returned to the "Countie" Court, and Apr. 28, 1679 he was returned.

June 24, 1689, Thomas Davis was chosen a sealer of leather and held the office fairly continuously until Mar. 10, 1701 at least, which was as far as our investigations went. He probably was the Thomas Davis, shoemaker, who appears on the 1695 List of Inhabitants of Boston. On that list appears also Thomas Davis, cooper.

Thomas Davis was elected a "Hog Reeve" Mar. 14, 1691-2, a "Scavenger" Mar. 8, 1696-7, a "Scavenger" Mar. 13, 1699, and "Cryer" on Mar. 10, 1701-2. Jan. 7, 1703-4 Wm. Morto, about 55, and Thomas Davis, about 50, upwards or thereabouts, testified that about 20 years ago they wrought with Richard Cheever (cordwainer) in the house next to Giles Dyer, etc. (Mass. Archives 8, p. 145.)

We have then the shoemaker and the cooper. One of these may have been Thomas ², son of Captain William¹,

because Thomas² was living in Boston in 1695 when the list of inhabitants was made out.

Thomas² Davis, the oldest son of Captain William Davis, was born in 1645. We discussed his birth record under the heading "The Wives and Children of Captain William Davis".

In Boston from 1680 to 1700 we find recorded several children born to Thomas Davis by Wives Mary, Martha, and Hannah. Also a Thomas Davis was married to Grace Hult Jan. 27, 1697.

We do not know whether or not Thomas² (*William*¹) was married more than once, but the sequence of the dates would permit of his having been married three times.

Thomas, son of Thomas and Mary Davis, was born July 10, 1680. Sewall in his diary, volume 2, p. 13, records Dec. 30, 1681, the death of Mrs. Mary Davis, "one of the chief gentlewomen in Town."

Thomas, son of Thomas and Martha Davis, was born July 3, 1687. Abigail, daughter of Thomas and Martha Davis, was born Nov. 20, 1688 and baptized Nov. 25, 1688.

Thomas Davise married Hannah Allen Sept. 12, 1689 and they had four children, two of whom died in infancy.

- i THOMAS born Aug. 13, 1690.
 - ii THOMAS born Oct. 24, 1691.
 - iii SARAH born May 12, 1693—died July 25, 1694.
 - iv SARAH born Mar. 27, 1698—bap. Mar. 27, 1698.
- (All the above are from the Boston Birth Records.)

Savage says that the Thomas who married Hannah Allen (daughter of Gov. Leverett) was the son of William Davis and that the son Thomas, born 1692, (prob. Oct.

24, 1691) was the Secretary of the Province of New Hampshire.

Thomas² Davis, son of Captain William, was born in 1645 and would have been 44 years old in 1689 when he married the widow, Hannah Allen. It might reasonably be assumed that this was not his first marriage. If he had been the husband of either Mary or Martha, the fact that he had sons named Thomas born in 1690 and 1691 would show that his previous son or sons by name of Thomas had died before 1690 and could have left no issue.

Feb. 27, 1705-6, Thomas Davis, innholder, with wife Hannah, "which said Hannah is one daughter of Hon. John Leverett, late Gov. deceased" deeded property to Elisha Cook, Esq., etc. (Liber XXII, p. 463, Suffolk Deeds.)

May 29, 1710 Hannah Davis, widow, Rebecca Lloyd, widow, and Sarah Leverett (3 daughters of John Leverett) sold a house in Boston. (Liber XXV, p. 82, Suffolk Deeds). So Thomas² Davis died between Feb. 27, 1705-6 and May 29, 1710. A Thomas Davis died June 18, 1706 and so it is fair to assume he was Thomas², son of Capt. William.

Jan. 12, 1704-5, Thomas Davis, having lost the use of his limbs, was granted a tax abatement.

Another Thomas Davis married Grace Hult Jan. 27, 1697.

In 1681 and 1691, and in several years between, a Thomas Davis appeared as under Hinksman and under Belknap.

6 SAMUEL DAVIS OF BOSTON

We have found four Samuel Davises among the early Boston residents, not including Samuel, the son of George and Barbara, a mariner, undoubtedly of the second generation.

Three of these, at least we think, were different men and perhaps of the first generation.

1. Samuel Davis of Rumney Marsh—Wife Anna.
2. Samuel Davies who died in 1672—Wife Anna.
3. Samuel Davis who married Sarah Thayer.

4. Samuel Davis, corder of wood, might have been formerly of Rumney Marsh or the husband of Sarah for all we have been able to discover. It would appear, however, that Samuel Davis was still living in Rumney Marsh in 1666 while the corder of wood lived in Boston from 1661 on. Samuel Davis of Rumney Marsh probably was a relative of William¹ Davis the gunsmith, but we have no record of any son of William named Samuel.

Savage apparently knew little of Samuel Davis. His account is as follows:

Samuel Davis, Watertown, rem. early in 1646 to Boston, had w. Ann wh. d. soon and m. 20 July 1651, Sarah, d. of Richard Thayer of Boston, had Samuel b. 22 Mar. 1654, William 4 Sept. 1656, d. next yr. and Sarah 19 Dec. 1657. Prob. he is the freem. of 1645 and perhaps br. of George. It may be that his wid. m. 6 May 1663 Jonathan Hayward.

Pope in "Pioneers of Massachusetts" has a much longer account but he fails to distinguish between the different men and prints a combination account as follows:

Samuel, Rumney Marsh, Boston. He was rec'd to chh Boston 31 (3) 1646, from chh. of Watertown. Wife Anna adm. chh 17 (2) 1646; ch. Susanna b. May 4, 1646, Mary bapt. 31 (3) 1646 ae about 26 days, Susanna bapt. 28 (3) 1648 ae. about 3 days, Priscilla b. Aug. 3, 1650, Samuel b. at BRAINTREE 22 (1) 1653, Sarah d. at BR. 29 (6) 1658, William d. 21 (7) 1657, Mary b. May 21, 1660, Sarah b. Sept. 11, 1661, Mary b. March 21, 1663, Elizabeth b. Oct. 6, 1664, Esther b. Jan. 19, 1665, Rebecca b. July 9, 1667, Nathaniel b. Nov. 26, 1669, Will dated 2 May prob. 4 July 1672, Wife Anna ch. Hannah Griggs, Abigail & Mary Townsend—Priscilla (lately married) and Gershom.

SAMUEL DAVIES OF RUMNEY MARSH*

One of the Samuel Davises was known as Samuel Davies of Rumney Marsh and his daughter Mary is recorded in Document 130, p. 73.: 1660 "Mary of Samuel & Anna Davis of Rumney Marsh born May 21."

He must have been there in 1647 for 26 May 1647:

Samu: Davies of Winnetsimet hath liberty granted him to keepe a house of comon intertainment & to draw wine, he paying 30 S. for his licence into the treasury [Mass. Rec., Vol. 2, p. 188].

10:1:1655—Sam. Davis chosen "Surveyor of high wayes att Rumney Marsh" (Doc. 46, p. 129), chosen again 3:11:1660-61.

March 12, 1665—Sam^l Davis chosen "Counstable for Rumy Marshe".

[30:2:1666] Le^t. Tuttle, Corn^t Hazy, Sam Davis, are made choice of as a Committee to settle the high way at pulling point

*George H. Williams wrote us July 29, 1932 as follows: "That careful and reliable genealogist 'Nausett', writing to the *Transcript* in 1914, said in regard to the Samuel who was of Watertown and Rumney Marsh (Boston), that he was an early settler of Watertown, removing in 1646 to Boston. He came from Red Lion Court, London, and in All Hallows Register, he m. Nov 30, 1631 Anna Norcross—March 31, 1636 his dau. Hannah bpt.—buried Jan. 19, 1638—Jan. 4, 1637 Elizabeth his dau. bpt."

Our own comment on the above is that we think Samuel of Watertown and Samuel of Rumney Marsh were different men. The above records apply, we believe, to the Samuel who died in 1672.

leading out of the necke to Rumy marsh, and to ishue all such differences about high wayes betwixt neighbour & neighbour & to make returne thereof the next meting day [Doc. 50, p. 31].

And on 28:3:1666 Sam. Davis signed the report "dated att Puland pointe this 18th May 1666".

Liber XII, p. 273, June 20, 1678—Samuel Davis witness to deed Joanna Harwood to Arthur Mason of Boston "Biscake baker" in trust.

Nicholas Parker owned a farm of 130 acres in Rumney Marsh. His daughter Mary married William Davis, gunsmith, of Boston and Barbados, and his daughter Joannah married Arthur Mason of Boston. Liber IX, p. 25, of Suffolk Deeds tells us of the disposition of the 130 acre farm and gives the above family relationships: "Whereas Nicholas Parker Gent. by his last will & testament did give & bequeath his farm or messuage lyeing and being in Rumly marsh in New England, being then in the tenure and occupacon of Samuell Davice," etc. The deed goes on to convey the interests of Arthur Mason of Boston, "Biscake baker," and Joannah, his wife, William Davice of the Island of Barbados, merchant, and Mary, his wife, and Jonathan Parker, their brother, to Thomas Savage. William Davis and wife Mary signed 25 March 1678. The deed was dated 30 September 1674 and there are two other dates:—31-5 mo-1674, and May 26, 1676. This 130 acre farm was sold again December 19, 1683 (Liber XIII, p. 63) by executors of the will of Thomas Savage to Ebenezer Savage.

What concerns us now is that this farm, at the time. Nicholas¹ Parker made his will, was in the use and occupation of Samuel Davis. The inference is that Samuel Davis and William the gunsmith were related.

SAMUEL DAVIES WHO DIED IN 1672

This Samuel Davies moved from Watertown to Boston in 1646 and died in 1672; his will was dated May 2, 1672, probated 4 July, 1672, becoming Suffolk Probate Docket 598, Volume 7, p. 219. He left one third of his property to his wife Anna and various amounts to his daughters Hannah Griggs and Abigaile Townsend, to his son, Gershom, to his daughter Mary Townsend, to his daughter Priscilla, "she being lately married", and to his granddaughter, Hannah Griggs. His wife Anna was to be sole executrix. The inventory was for 128 pounds and was presented in court by the Widow Davis, who refused to swear to it.

This man we cannot identify as Samuel of Rumney Marsh and it does not seem that he could have been the same man. In 1672 he had a daughter, Mary Townsend, whom we consider a Mary Davies who had married a Townsend. This seems a reasonable inference. His daughter Hannah Griggs was married, of course, and we suppose (without proof) that she was the Hanna Davis who was married in Roxbury; "1654 Joseph Grigs and Hanna Davis Nov. 8" (Roxbury Marriages). Mary, married before 1672 and mentioned in the will, could not have been the Mary born in 1660, daughter "of Samuel and Anna Davis of Rumney Marsh". She must have been the daughter of another Samuel Davis and from the records we are able to identify her. She was the daughter of another Samuel and Anna Davies and her father was the one who died in 1672. The following records refer to this man.

(These records are peculiar in that it would appear that the first child was entered on the birth records as Susanna but baptized as Mary).

1646 Susanna of Samuel & Anna Davis born May 4 [Doc. 130, p. 23].

1646 Mary of Samuel Davis aged about 26 days bap. 31 d. 3 mo. [Doc. 130, p. 24].

It is to be noted that these children were born at the same time and were probably one and the same child.

The next child was Susanna—1648, baptised:

Susanna of Samuel Davis aged about 3 d. 28 d. 3 mo. [Doc. 130, p. 28].

1650 Priscilla of Samuel & Anna Davis born 3 d. Aug. [Doc. 130, p. 31].

1650 Priscilla of Samuel Davis 15 d 7 mo [*baptized*] [Doc. 130, p. 32].

Mary, born 1646, we should judge was later Mary Townsend and Priscilla was "lately married" when the will was drawn in 1672.

This Samuel¹ Davies who died in 1672 left property to his son, Gershom². In the Boston Birth Records we find:

i 1680 ANNA of Gershom & Sarah Davis born March 20.

ii 1681 SAMUEL of Gershom & Sarah Davis born Nov. 11.

And in the Roxbury Records is this entry:

iii NATHANIEL, son of Gershom Davis, bap. Mar. 21, 1697.

In 1683-4-5 Gershom Davis lived in Rumney Marsh on a 300-acre farm near the Malden line, the Lynn line, and the Reading road. His farm was owned by the Captain Thomas Brattle estate. (See Liber XIII, pages 96 and 381.)

Gershom² Davis of Cambridge died February 6, 1718 at the age of seventy-five so that he must have been born in 1643. He therefore was the oldest child of Samuel that we know of for his sister Mary (or Susanna) was not born until 1646. Gershom²'s wife died November 20,

1713, aged fifty-five, so that she was only fourteen years old when Samuel died in 1672. She may have been a second wife. A son, Gershom³, was administrator of the estate of his father, Gershom² (see Middlesex Probate, Vol. 15, page 113, filed February 17, 1718). Gershom³ married Sarah Pierpont of Roxbury June 24, 1708 (Rox. Mar.) and had five children recorded in the Cambridge Birth Records—

- i SARAH d. of Gershom & Sarah Davies Mar. 16, 1708-9 (died Sept. 10, 1718).
- ii SAMUEL son of Gershom & Sarah Davies Sept. 30, 1711.
- iii GERSHOM son of Gershom & Sarah Davies Jan. 24, 1713-14.
- iv JONATHAN* son of Gershom & Sarah Davies Mar. 19, 1715-16.
- v EBENEZER son of Gershom & Sarah Davies born June 28, 1723.

In 1739 he bought a large farm in Acton for 2790 pounds and there his descendants lived for many years. A long account of this family appeared in the *Boston Transcript* Wednesday, November 28, 1923, No. 1154, signed G.A.G.L. This Davies family of Acton, we have been told, always was particular to keep the spelling Davies and thus may be distinguished from the descendants of Dolor Davis who also lived in Acton.

It is to be noted that the children of Samuel Davies who died in 1672 all were baptized, while we found no record of the baptism of children of Samuel and Sarah Davis. The fact that Samuel and Sarah Davies had sons Cornelius and William born in 1673 and 1674 also makes it certain that Sarah's husband was not the Samuel who died in 1672.

*The well known Dr. Jonathan Davies of Roxbury.

SAMUELL DAVIS, CORDER OF WOOD

[26:2:1669] In answer to a petition of Samuell Davis It is Ordered that the select men assigne a place for a house lot for him out of the towne waste ground, provided it be noe place of ye Comon or traininge place [Doc. 50, p. 48].

[And 30:1:1671]—where as at a Publique Meetinge of ye Inhabitants the 26th 2: 1669 vpon the petition of Samuell Dauis the select men were ordered to assigne him a place for a house lott out of the towne wast, they accordinglie gaue him libertie to set vp a frame of his house at the end of the Almes house adjoyninge to the buryinge place, and haue now laid out in Land for his acomodation, the breadth of his house from the fence of the burying place eightene foote, & in length by the burying place & pte of James Whetcombes garden, to the land of John Man.

This Samuel does not appear in the records extensively except as a "corder of wood". He was elected to that office 13:1:1670-1 (Doc.50,p.58) and continued in it until 1691-2, the date of his last election. In 1678-9 he was recorded as "Sam^l Davis Senior." In many cases his name was spelled with two l's and this may possibly have been his own custom although it may have been simply the spelling of that particular recorder.

Possibly he was the Samuel who married Sarah Thayer in 1651. We, however, have noticed no evidence for this or against it. Perhaps a search of records after 1700 would help locate this man. Pope shows that one of these men lived in Braintree for a few years, about 1653-1658. He might have moved to Boston about 1661 and become the corder of wood. We have nothing definite at present. We have two references to Samuel Davis which we are unable to assign:

Liber I, p. 251—16 (8) 1652—Samuel Davis signed as a witness.

In 1674 Samuel Davis, servant, appears in the Tax List as serving under Jessen (Boston Selectmen's Records)

SAMUEL AND SARAH DAVIS OF BOSTON

Samuel Davis married Sarah Thayer (dau. of Richard) 20 d. 5 mo. 1651 (Doc. 130, p. 34). They had at least nine children.

- [i 1653 Pope has a SAMUEL born at Braintree 22 (1) 1653.]
- ii 1656 WILLIAM of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Sept. 4 [Doc. 130, p. 55].
- iii 1657 WILLIAM of Samuel & Sarah Davis died 21d. 7 mo. [Doc. 130, p. 61].
- iv 1657 SARAH of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Dec. 19 [Doc. 130, p. 61]. [*Pope says that Sarah died at Braintree 29 (6) 1658.*]
- v 1661 SARAH of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Sept. 11 [Doc. 130, p. 78], [*married Josias Byles*].
- vi 1663 MARY of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Mar. 21 [Doc. 130, p. 88].
- vii 1664 ELIZABETH of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Oct. 6 [Doc. 130, p. 92].
- viii 1665 ESTHER of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Jan. 19 [Doc. 130, p. 96]. (This undoubtedly was 1665-6.)
- ix 1667 REBECCA of Samuel & Sarah Davis born July 9 [Doc. 130, p. 104].
- x 1669 NATHANIEL of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Nov. 26 [Doc. 130, p. 110].
- xi 1673 CORNELIUS of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Apr. 1 [Doc. 130, p. 127].
- xii 1674 WILLIAM of Samuel & Sarah Davis born Nov. 17 [Doc. 130, p. 132].

We have nothing except Pope's statement to show that the Braintree records refer to this couple. The Braintree records are as follows (both taken from Bates' printed record):

[p. 638] Sarah Davis the daughter of Samuel Davis and Sarah his wife dyed the (29) (6) 1658.

[p. 635] Samuel Davis the sone of Samuel Davis and Sarah his wife was borne the (22) (1) 1653.

In the above record it is to be noticed that Samuel and Sarah had children born both before and after the Mary born in 1660 to Samuel and Anna Davis of Rumney Marsh, a fact which shows definitely that this could not have been the Rumney Marsh Samuel.

We have found two deeds referring to this Samuel and Sarah. 1. *Liber VI*, page 70, 14 Sept. 1668—Samuel Daves and Sarah, his wife, sell to Joseph Peck $2\frac{1}{2}$ A. on Long Island. In the body of the deed it is "Samuel Davie of Boston, Planter," but the deed is signed "Daves." 2. *Liber VIII*, p. 154—Deed to land on Long Island bounded southerly by land of Samuell Davis.

It is of interest to note that Samuel and Sarah Davis in 1668 disposed of land on Long Island. William the gunsmith, son of Wm. the locksmith, bought from the Cowdalls 2 acres of land in Long Island formerly owned by the locksmith and obtained title in July and October 1645. This could not have been the 3 acres granted James Davis in 1640 because James still owned his in 1649. *Liber VI*, p. 70—Samuel Davis and Sarah, his wife, sell to Joseph Rock $2\frac{1}{2}$ A. on Long Island Sept. 14, 1668.

We have two interesting facts here. *First*—William Davis the locksmith and James Davis, who lived next to each other in Boston, both had land on Long Island. We suspect (no proof) that these men were related, possibly brothers. *Second*—Samuel Davis, husband of Sarah, may have inherited the Long Island land of William the gunsmith (this is not proved). And a Samuel Davis lived on the 130 acre farm in Rumney Marsh partly owned by Mary (Parker) Davis, wife of the gunsmith.

If it were not for the child recorded in 1660 as one born to Samuel and Anna Davis of Rumney Marsh while Samuel and Sarah Davis were in the midst of producing their family, we should suspect that Sarah was the wife of the Rumney-Marsh Samuel. However, we have no evidence that she was and fairly conclusive evidence that she was not.

7 JOSEPH DAVIS OF BOSTON

We have found no Joseph Davis of the first generation in New England. The earliest record we have is Joseph Davis, 13 years old, who came over in the Planter with his parents, Nicholas and Sarah, arriving in Boston June 7, 1635 (Banks' "Planters of the Commonwealth" p. 140) Nicholas settled in Charlestown, moved to Woburn with the original settlers about 1640, and was living in Kittery or York in May, 1653 (Recs. of Mass., Vol. 4, p. 128). Savage says that his will of 27 Apr. 1667, probated 12 Mar. 1670, mentions no son.

We have found nothing further about the above Joseph² except that Savage records a Joseph Davis of Kittery, Maine, elected constable in 1660.

The next record we find which could possibly refer to this man is in 1662 when a Joseph married Elizabeth Saywell and had seven children by her. The 13 year old Joseph would have been 40 years old in 1662. It is a possibility, of course, that it was the same man but, if so, he or his children probably would have been mentioned in the will of his father, Nicholas. In the absence of confirming evidence we naturally would not connect the 13 year old Joseph with the Joseph who married Elizabeth Saywell in 1662.

JOSEPH DAVIS OF MUDDY RIVER

William¹ Davis of Roxbury had a son Joseph² born October 12, 1647 who married Sarah Camberlin in 1670. He lived in Muddy River and died in December 1717. He probably is the Joseph of Suffolk Docket 3945, administered in 1718, but we have not investigated. For details see the paragraphs in this book which discuss the descendants of William¹ of Roxbury.

JOSEPH², SON OF CAPTAIN WILLIAM¹ DAVIS

He was born September 3, 1669, but was not mentioned in the Captain's will of 1676, so that it is fair to assume that he died young. He certainly could not have been the Joseph who joined the artillery company in 1675 and was one of the founders of the Old South Church in 1669.

The "History of Old South Church," p. 119, says of Joseph Davis who was one of the "dissenters" and who signed the petition to the Governor about 7:1:1668-9:

Joseph Davis: we know nothing of him, except that probably he married Sarah Chamberlain in Roxbury in 1670. He was perhaps the youngest of the dissenting brethren. Sarah Davis owned the covenant in 1680.

The above paragraph of course, is not reliable because we know that the Joseph who married Sarah Chamberlain was Joseph Davis of Muddy River and could not have been the one who married Elizabeth Saywell and was the "dissenter". The Sarah Davis who owned the covenant in 1680 might well have been Sarah (Richards) Davis, wife of Captain William's son, Benjamin² Davis, whose first child, Sarah, was born May 20, 1680. This is our best guess, although there were two other Mrs. Sarah Davises in Boston about that time, wives of Stephen and Samuel.

JOSEPH DAVIS, THE FELTMAKER

His marriage to Elizabeth Saywell is recorded in Doc. 130, p. 86, May 7, 1662, and the following children appear in Doc. 130.

- i JOSEPH born Jan. 26, 1662-3—died 18 d. 12 mo. 1662.
- ii JOSEPH born June 5, 1664—bap. 12 d. Nov. 1665.
- iii JOHN born Oct. 2, 1666—bap. 14 d. 8 mo. 1666.
- iv ELIZABETH born Dec. 13, 1668—bap. 20 d. 10 mo. 1668.
- v ABIGAIL born 1670.
- vi ELIZABETH born Nov. 8, 1673.
- vii SAMUEL born Mar. 3, 1678.

This Joseph served in the Artillery Company and appears thus in its records, volume 1, p. 236:

Joseph Davis (1675) of Boston whom Mr. Whitman (1810), wrongfully calls 'son of Capt. William Davis (1643) and born in 1645' married May 7, 1662 Elizabeth, daughter of David Saywell (1664), became freeman in 1666, and appears as one of the founders of the Old South Church in 1669.

The following records are of interest. We believe that they all refer to the Joseph Davis who married Elizabeth Saywell.

25:1:1667—Joseph Davis was "fined 20 s. for entertaineing & Imployeing Steven Brace contrarie to a Towne order". And "Steven Brace was fined 20 s. for setting up his callinge of Feltmaker, without libertye from the Select men" (Doc. 50, p. 35).

29:5:1667—"John Ingoldsby hath putt himselfe apprentice to Joseph Davis for to learne the trade of felt maker, begiñg the first of May and soe to serve the terme of 8 yeares" (Doc. 50).

1667—Henry Heriat put himself to apprentice to Joseph Davis (felt maker) for 6 years (Doc. 50).

4 Nov. 1671—Joseph Davis buys house and land of his brother-in-law, David Saywell and wife Abigail (Liber VII, p. 252)—Recorded X br 6, 1671. (Miss Thwing says this was on west side of Washington Street north of Court Street).

Liber VIII—Joseph Davies witness to a purchase by Samuel Shrimpton (might be in 1672).

Liber VIII, p. 137, 28 April, 1673—"Thomas Bingley gent. and ABIGAIL, his wife, Relict & Executrix of David Saywell late of Boston, Joiner to Simon Lynde of Boston, merchant," land, etc. formerly of David Saywell excepting that part which David Saywell sold to Joseph Davis.

Liber XII, p. 73, 15 Sept. 1673—Joseph Davis of Boston, feltmaker and Elizabeth, his wife, sell to John Hull of Boston, goldsmith, their dwelling house and land where they now dwell, bounded by Thomas Bingley, Hannah Savage; they mention interest in pump. Entered 15 June 1681. Miss Thwing says this was west side of Washington Street, between Court Street and Dock Square.

In 1676 Joseph Davis was under Constable Jeremiah Drummer (Doc. 50. p. 145).

April 25, 1681 he was one of the four "Tythingmen" in Captain Hutchinson's company and he served also in 1685, 1686, 1687, and 1688 (see Doc. 50).

Liber XII, p. 222, Aug. 1, 1681—Tyng to Savage "land in Boston near unto the Exchange bounded Northerly partly by the house & land in the tenure and occupation of Joseph Davis."

The following records we are unable to assign to any particular Joseph:

Mar. 12, 1682-3 (Doc. 50, p. 159)—Joseph Davis was chosen one of the four "clarkes of ye Market". Joseph

Davis appears on "List of Inhab. of Boston in 1695" and the list includes Jacob Davis, William Davis, Benjamin Davis, Thomas Davis, cooper, Thomas Davis, shoemaker Sylvanus Davis and Joseph Davis. In 1673, Mar. 23, a son, Joseph, was born in Boston to Joseph and Abigail Davis.

There are three other identified Joseph Davises whom we may mention here:

1). Aug. 20, 1664, a son, Joseph, was born in Boston to Edward and Hannah (Gridley) Davis. He was bap. 4d. 7 mo. 1664.

2). Oct. 28, 1670, a son, Joseph, was born in Roxbury to Joseph and Sarah (Chamberlain) Davis. He and his father both were buried in Roxbury in 1717.

3). And there was Joseph, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Saywell) Davis, born June 5, 1664.

It is interesting to note that Boston had a feltmaker as early as 1662 and that the term of apprenticeship was for six or eight years.

We have no record at hand to show what became of Joseph Davis the feltmaker after 1681.

8 MARGARET DAVIS—1635

In 1635 on the Elizabeth was Margaret Davis 32 with John 9, Mary 4, and Elizabeth 1. We have mentioned this family on pages 255, 175 and 171.

Pope says that Margery married Charles Grist of Braintree about 1648. This was the Charles Grice or Grise who died at Braintree in 1663 leaving a will dated Nov. 9, 1661 which was probated November 12, 1663. In this will he mentions his wife Margery and William Owen who had married Elizabeth Davis (Margaret's

daughter) at Braintree March 29, 1650. Margery died September 13, 1669. William Owen died March 17, 1702 and Elizabeth (Davis) Owen, his wife, died August 3, 1702 (from notes of George H. Williams).

"Braintree Records 1640-1793" by Bates (M.S. BRA-13, N.E.H.G. Soc.) on page 639 has that "Charles Grise (indexed as Grice) dyed 9th mo. 14th 1663". As we have recorded his will as probated November 12, there is a discrepancy of a few days in our dates. George H. Williams has it that he died on October 10.

We have been on the lookout for other references to a Margaret Davis.

Savage says:

Robert, Sudbury, came in 1638, aged 30 with Margaret, perhaps his sister, 26 (who m. a Burnett) in the Confidence of Southampton, as serv. of Peter Noyes, had wife Bridget who surv. ds. Sarah b. 10 Apr. 1646 and Rebecca, and d. 19 July 1655. His will is of 17 July and pro. Oct. of that yr.

But the above Margaret could scarcely have been the 1635 one. The Sudbury Vital Records have the daughter mentioned by Savage:

Sarah dau. Robert and Margaret Davise born Apr. 10, 1646.

The only other Margaret anywhere near this date is the Margaret Pyncheon who married Captain William Davis in 1644. She, of course, was not Margaret Davis in 1635.

9 SYLVANUS DAVIS

Sylvanus Davis appears in Boston records as an inhabitant in the list of 1695. He evidently was a well known man. He is mentioned in a few Suffolk Deeds, Liber 30, p. 149, Liber 21, p. 422 (with wife Elizabeth),

Liber 21, p. 210. He moved to Falmouth, Maine, and was the Captain S. Davis wounded at Arrowsick when Captain Thomas Lake was killed. (See under our title Captain William Davis of Boston.) Pope does not have an account of Sylvanus.

Savage has the following note:

Sylvanus, Sheepscot 1659, sw. alleg. to the king 1665, wound. by the Ind. 1676 at Arrowsick, when Capt. Lake was k. rem. to Falmouth 1680, there had command of the fort in the next Ind. war, tak. by the French and Ind. combined force, 20 May 1690, carr. to Canada, after his return was put into the Council by the Charter of William and Mary 1691; wrote acco. of the conduct of the war, wh. is in 3 Mass. Hist. Coll. 1101. He liv. at Hull in latter days, d. 1704 leav. w. but no ch. His will 8 Apr. 1703 pro. 6 May 1704, gives all his quarter of Casco lds. to 3 ds. of James English, ea. of them paying 3 lb. to his w. and all his other estate to John Nelson, he 'promising justice and kindness' to D's w. Willis I. 161, 209.

We have not investigated Sylvanus further because, although early in New England, he can scarcely qualify as one of the early Davises in Boston. He is the only Sylvanus we have found so that it should be easy to trace him.

10 ANTHONY DAVIS OF BOSTON

The Boston Birth Records (Doc. 130) have note of the following three children born to Anthony and Elizabeth Davis:

- i ELIZABETH born Oct. 26, 1666.
- ii MARY born May 3, 1669.
- iii MERCY born Dec. 12, 1670.

Anthony died in 1674. His estate was administered by his widow Elizabeth. It is Suffolk Docket 691, year

1674. The total estate was five pounds and three shillings—The inventory was filed June 5, 1674; Elizabeth Davis and Nicholas Boone filed the bond; the appraisers were Richard Way and John Couney.

In an account of Captain William Davis of Boston sent us by a Davis genealogist, it was stated that the Captain was a son of the above Anthony. This seems to us extremely improbable, impossible in fact. The Captain's mother was named Elizabeth and this we believe led to the above supposition. If the Captain was Anthony's son the above three children would be nearly fifty years younger than their brother.

11 NICHOLAS DAVIS, THE QUAKER

On the 20th of October 1658, The General Court at Boston passed an act against "the cursed sect of the Quakers". The Quakers were to be arrested and after a month's imprisonment were to be allowed to retract or voluntarily leave the jurisdiction; if they did neither they were to be banished on pain of death.

This sentence was passed on Mary Dyar, Nicholas Davis, and two other men. Mary Dyar and Nicholas Davis both were of Boston. The record was signed September 12, 1659 by Edward Rawson. Nicholas Davis voluntarily left the jurisdiction, but the two men and Mary Dyar refused to leave, preferring to suffer. The three of them were led forth and the two men actually were hung while Mary Dyar was reprieved after the rope had been placed around her neck. She was banished to Rhode Island, but preferred to come back and assert her faith again and finally was hanged at Boston.

The above note is taken from page 543 of an "Abridgement of the Book of Martyrs", printed in 1810.

Savage says:

Nicholas Davis, Barnstable, able to bear arms 1643 when he is last on the list, so that possib. it may be an error, as Hamblen puts him into a list of inhabs. adm. after 1660. He may have been of Newport 1638 and there learn the strange policy of toleration in religion. In Sewel, I. 388, it is said he favor the Quakers at their first coming. He had w. Mary and was banish. from Mass. for his peaceful pravity. At Newport he was drown. bef. 9 Aug. 1672. As Roger Williams in his big book against the Quakers P26 tells that in his public conference, there, with the friends of George Fox, he made good use of the event.

There may be no error in the above, for if Nicholas was banished in 1659 and later, when the agitation against the Quakers had died out decided to move back, he would need to be admitted as an inhabitant a second time.

12 VARIOUS OTHERS OF BOSTON BEFORE 1700

In the Boston records before 1700 we find the following Davises, but we have no further information about them.

RICE DAVIES died in 1658—Suffolk Probate 281, Vol. 3, 110-111; Vol. 2, pp. 282-3, New Series. His estate amounted to six pounds, four shillings, and four pence, and Leonard Wheatleigh swore that Rice Davies gave him his entire estate when he died.

Our principal interest in this man is the name Rice and its relation to Rhys Davis, Rees Davis, Ries Davis Davis and Rice Davis, the names of the Tickenham Davis family which used the griffin segreant crest (See under our title William Davis of Roxbury—The Davis Seal).

We have found no other record of Rice Davis.

STEPHEN DAVIS and Sarah his wife had a daughter Hannah born Oct. 25, 1673 (Doc. 130).

NICHOLAS DAVIS and Rebecca his wife had a daughter Rebecca born Dec. 21, 1687 (Doc. 130).

ZECHARIAH DAVIS and Sarah his wife had four children:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|--------------|
| i | ZECHARIAH born Feb. 16, 1686 | } [Doc. 130] |
| ii | SARAH born Apr. 19, 1689 | |
| iii | SAMUEL born Oct. 15, 1691 | |
| iv | ELIZABETH born Nov. 11, 1693 | |

JACOB DAVIS and his wife Susanna had three children:

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|--------------|
| i | JACOB born Nov. 2, 1688 | } [Doc. 130] |
| ii | SAMUEL born Feb. 7, 1692 | |
| iii | SAMUEL born May 25, 1695 | |

ROBERT DAVIS married Jane Alger Oct. 9, 1693 and had two children: (see also p. 291)

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--------------|
| i | MARY born Aug. 29, 1695 | } [Doc. 130] |
| ii | JAMES born Oct. 17, 1698 | |

The following unidentified Davis girls were married:

Apr. 18, 1692 Joseph Skeath married HANNAH DAVISE [Doc. 130].

Oct. 9, 1693 James Babage married ELIZA DAVIS [Doc. 130].

Feb. 3, 1696 Joseph Rayner married SARAH DAVIS [Doc. 130].

Nov. 13, 1699 John Lowery married MARY DAVIS [Doc. 130].

We have not identified those concerned in the following baptisms:

Oct. 8, 1693 JOHN DAVIS

Nov. 15, 1696	{	THOMAS
	{	JOHN
	{	JAMES

13 CEMETERY RECORDS

Cemetery records, without doubt, are important in genealogical research. Occasionally stones are inscribed inaccurately and sometimes they are erected years after the death, but they are strong evidence and are valuable records. We are apt to consider the stones as permanent records but times change; cemeteries are neglected and destroyed. When progress demands that the land be put to other uses, the inscriptions on the stones are usually recorded and preserved before the stones are destroyed. When Boylston Street in Boston was widened, a part of the cemetery on the common was utilized but the inscriptions and graves were recorded as well as could be done. In the case of the cemetery on the hill in the South part of the Arnold Arboretum, known variously as the Central Burying Ground or the Peters Hill Cemetery or the Walters Street Cemetery, we have been unable to find that any record was made when it was destroyed. This cemetery was near the homes of many of the West Roxbury Davises. In fact the hill itself was once known as Davis Hill and the Davis family owned all the land surrounding it and as far Eastward as Stoney Brook. There were tombs there and many stones of the Davis family when we first visited it in 1909. We hoped later to make a record of the Davis inscriptions but copied only a few at that time. In 1931 when we went there for that purpose, we found the cemetery had been destroyed and planted with various kinds of, no doubt, valuable trees. There are left only a very few stones, perhaps a dozen. The only Davis stones left are two markers near the street on the South, on one of which is "Deacon Ezra Davis" and on the other "Mrs. Sarah Davis" with no dates or other inscription. The Cemetery

Department of the City of Boston knows little about it as in May 1932 they wrote us "No record made of stones—in fact there were few, if any, stones there within the past 40 years." In 1909 Henry A. May of Roxbury told us that he had copied the inscriptions of most of the Boston cemeteries but that the only published part of his work was that connected with the Eustis Street Cemetery. Mr. May has since died and his papers and notes are in the Boston Public Library where they are Number H. 81.35 in the department of Special Collections. We have searched these records twice, without success, for a record of the Peters Hill Cemetery but in doing so we have copied the Davis records that we have noticed and we give below what we have of them, as well as quotations from other sources:

EUSTIS STREET CEMETERY

The annual report of the Cemetery Department of the City of Boston for the fiscal year 1903-4 contains City Document No. 8, a complete list of all the inscriptions in the Eustis Street Burying Ground, the original cemetery of Roxbury.

PETERS HILL OR WALTERS STREET CEMETERY

Sometimes called the Central Burying Ground of
Roxbury

The following are from page 444 of Drake's History of Roxbury:

- Sarah wife of Jacob Chamberlain October 14, 1745 ae 84.
- Deacon Ichabod Davis March 16, 1754 ae 78.
- Bethiah wife of Ichabod Davis April 23, 1768 ae 92.
- Deacon Ezra Davis March 4, 1784 ae 74.
- Sarah relict of Deacon Ezra Davis Feb. 14, 1789 ae 75.

The following we copied in the cemetery in 1909:

Mr. Nat. Davis A.M. d Mar. 5, 1731 agd 26.

Ezra³ Davis was buried in a tomb on which was the following inscription:

In hopes of a glorious resurrection at the 2nd advent of his Lord and Savior here lie the remains of Dea. Ezra Davis who departed this life on March ye fourth 1784. Aged 74.

We saw and noted also the stones of Ichabod and Bethiah as given above and the stones of Deacon Ezra Davis and his wife, Experience Whitney. We made no record of the inscriptions on these two stones but suppose it was—Deacon Ezra⁴ Davis who died January 7, 1832 ac 87 y. (R.V.R.)

COPP'S HILL BURYING GROUND

A history of this ground may be found in "Copp's Hill Burying Ground" by Thomas Bridgman, Number B.H. 562.8 in the Boston Public Library. It states there that this was the second place of interment, purchased for this purpose in 1659. The cemetery is now bounded north by Charter Street, west by Hill street, and south by Hull Street. We found no reference here to early Davis burials but in "Copp's Hill Burying Ground Epitaphs" by Bridgman, which is 974.462 B 16 B 6 in the Boston Public Library are the following:

[P. 185] James Davis
 Tomb 1821

[P. 193] Nathaniel Hammond
 &
 C. & S. Davis
 Tomb 1819

DAVIS FAMILIES

[P. 157]

In Memory of
Isaac Howard Davis
Only child of John & Elisth Davis
died May 8th
1807

Ae 20 mos. & 8 days
"Sleep sleep sweet babe, death's done no harm
Crist Jesus calls thee to his arms."

KINGS CHAPEL GROUND

The first cemetery in Boston

In the Boston Public Library (9744.62.B16, B7) in an
account of the Kings Chapel Ground are the following:

[P. 31]

"Tomb"
Founded 1670
By Capt. William Davis
Died May 1675 and here deposited
Repaired and Rebuilt
July 1810
By his great grandson
Edw^d Davis

[P. 86]

Here lyes ye body of
Mr. Edward Davis
aged about 32 years
died Oct ye 23d
1717.

[P. 116]

In Memory of
Mrs. Sarah Davis
wife of Thomas Davis
who died July 9th
1786
in the 24th year of her age
"Compleat she shone through every scene of Life
The tender parent & indulgent wife."

[P. 275] Samuel Pitts, the second son of the Hon. James Pitts and Elizabeth Bowdoin his wife, was born in Boston, in 1745; died Mar. 6, 1805. He was a gentleman of great hospitality & refined manners, and was a zealous patriot. He married a daughter of William Davis Esq. of Boston and left the following issue namely—James, Thomas, John, William Lendell, Mary, Sarah Chardon and Samuel.

GRANARY BURYING GROUND

From the "Granary Burying Ground Inscriptions" by Ogden Codman, published in 1918, we picked out the following Davis inscriptions as previous to 1800:—

Deborah w Samuel Nov. 20, 1673 ae 27 Y.M.C.

George s Samuel & Deborah ae 6d M.C.

James Nov. 11, 1736 ae. 38 y.

Jane w. Robert Dec. 26, 1732, ae 69 y.

John Aug. 5, 1708 ae 2d (s Benjamin & Elizabeth).

John s. John & Elizabeth Sept. 18, 1738 ae 4m. 13 d.

Lydia w. Seth Dec. 3, 1770 ae 78 y.

Robert s. John & Elizabeth Apr. 23, 1740 ae 5 m. 4d.

Sarah d. Benjamin & Elizabeth Sept. 7, 1707 ae 13 d.

Sarah d. Jonathan & Sarah Apr. 21, 1765 ae 6m. (MC Apr. 23).

CENTRAL BURYING GROUND

In the Boston Public Library is a "History of the Central Burying Ground (974-462, B16-C10). This says that the vote to purchase was passed October 11, 1754. Until 1810 it was called the "South Burying Ground" or the Common Burying Ground" or the "Burying Ground at the foot of the Common".

There were no Davis burials here before 1800, but nearly twenty afterward.

Henry A. May's note books (H 81-35) have copies of every inscription in the Central Burying Ground. We copied all the Davis references.

[Tomb No. 1]—Tomb of Judge Davis. A sketch of the tomb with coat of arms is given. The arms have a lion's head and shoulders and the shield three "heads en-grailed". The inscription is as follows:

Sacred
 To the Memory of
 The Honourable Thomas Davis Esquire
 who died Jan. 21 A D 1805
 aged 48 years
 formerly Treasurer of this Commonwealth
 and
 Senator of Massachusetts
 which offices as well as many others He filled
 in a manner Highly useful to the community
 and Honourable to himself
 This monument in token of their respect
 and affection for his memory
 and
 Their just sense of his distinguished merit
 and service
 Is erected by
 The Boston Marine Insurance Company
 over which Institution he presided
 from its establishment
 until his decease and the concerns of which he conducted
 with undeviating rectitude and great ability
 and to universal acceptance.

[Tomb No. 18] Caleb Davis to George Shattuck, Home Good Samaritan. Note about No. 18. Deacon Caleb Davis was granted permission by the selectmen August 19, 1772 to build a tomb at the "South Burying Ground."

[Tomb No. 122] J. Davis & P. May.

[Tomb No. 120] Iron Fence—Amasa Davis—Robert Davis.

No. 120
The Family Tomb
of
Amasa Davis
1794.

[*White marble slab.*]

No. 120
Amasa and Robert
Davis's Tomb
1794.

[*Slate slab.*]

[Notes to No. 120] Robert Davis, Esq. of Boston commissioned Cpt. of Matrosses Nov. 8, 1782, rank of Major in Suffolk Co. Division—[*see A. & H. Artillery Co.*]

Amasa Davis, Caleb Davis, Nahum? Davis—[*see P. 203, Vol. 2, A. & H. Artillery Co.*]

Mr. May's note book contains copies of the votes taken by the Selectmen and others with regard to the Central Ground. It was known as the New Burying Ground and was brought in Oct. 1755 for the use of those living at the South End of Boston.

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DAVIS FAMILIES

of

EARLY ROXBURY
and BOSTON

By SAMUEL FORBES ROCKWELL

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TO identify and to distinguish the numerous seventeenth century Davises in Massachusetts is to solve a series of genealogical puzzles. Both Davis and Davies are in the list of the twenty surnames most widespread in England. In Wales the patron saint was an early bishop named David. In the late middle ages, when fixed family names replaced patronymics, the sons of Welsh fathers named David ordinarily took Davis or Davies as their family name; so Davises were plenty.

The first settlers of Massachusetts increased the chances of confusion by liking to name their boys after English kings: John, Edward, James, and particularly William. Were there in Boston and Roxbury before 1700 six, four, or only three William Davises? What was the relation of William the locksmith to William the gunsmith: were they identical or father and son? Precisely who were William senior and William junior? Which William owned a house in the heart of the present financial centre of Boston, next to the residence of John Winthrop? And what did Ichabod (1676-1754) mean by using a heraldic seal, the "griffin segreant" of the Davises of Carmarthen in Wales, and of Tickenham in the County of Somerset, in England?

To the researches published by Fellowes Davis and others (see Bibliography) regarding Davises in Great Britain the present writer has little to add; but he has tested minutely their statements about the Davises of early Boston and Roxbury and has upset a number of previous conclusions, solved many problems and left numerous others to lure investigators. Instead of omitting individuals, such as sailors dying in the port of Boston, who could not be perched neatly on some branch of the family tree, the author with impartiality has recorded all the significant clues, which should help those interested in any of the early New England Davises.

The writer also supplements in two ways the Davis genealogy compiled and published in 1884 by his great-uncle, Hon. George L. Davis of North Andover: first by continuing for half a century the pedigrees of the descendants of Colonel Stephen⁶ (1788-1854) and Jonathan⁶ (1789-1868), both of Oxford, Massachusetts; and, second, by making very detailed investigations concerning William¹ and John², and numerous other early Davises in the Boston regions.

In addition to the customary utilization of town and church records, wills, administrations, and diaries, the present work contains an elaborate analysis of the Davis real estate holdings. These are elucidated by three maps especially compiled for the present volumes: "Early Davis Property in Brookline and Roxbury"; "Early Davis Property in Boston"; and "Conjectural Property Lines Near the Dock of Boston 1650."

Other illustrations include the crest of Rice Davis (died 1638), a rubbing of the arms of Davis of Carmarthen and of Tickenham, Backwell Church in Somerset, the Ichabod Davis seal, the oldest Davis gravestones in Roxbury, two Davis ancestral charts, two homesteads, and twelve portraits.

Of this book three hundred copies have been printed and the type destroyed. The book is 6" x 9", 320 pages bound in cloth. The index is complete, including about eighteen hundred different names. It is sold postfree at six dollars, which is less than the cost.

To order copies, or to send in corrections or additions, please address

SAMUEL F. ROCKWELL,

North Andover,

Massachusetts.