

DAVISON HISTORY

(Written by Edw. S. Davison in 1954 from Long Beach, Calif.)

The family originally came from England. There is some Welch ancestry on one side - I think the Davison side, as that is not an English name, as I know our Grandfather was Samuel E. Davison. Grand mother I think was Ann, but I don't know Ann who. They seemed to have settled in New Jersey, that was where my father was born (that was Samuel Stennett Davison - Eber Davison was born in Pennsylvania), then they emigrated to Centerville, Iowa -3. East. It seemed that the Sheffield-Robinsons and Davisons just happened to locate in the same community. During this time my parents were married in 1870. My brother James was born at Centerville, Iowa. I remember my father telling of your father then, that some of the sisters telling their mother, I believe Eber has married Eunice James. He has something he wants to tell us but he hasn't the nerve to tell us he is married. So the sisters cornered him and he said yes, they were married. They settled near Fairfield, Iowa where they lived until 1890, then moved up to Woodward. From there on you likely know.

THE CHILDREN OF SAMUEL E. and ANN DAVISON

SONS

- Alpheus
 - John
 - James
 - Eber
- S Stennett Davison

DAUGHTERS

- Leah
- Hannah
- Sarah

Alpheus wife was Bethia. As far as I know they lived in Wash. D.C. the greater part of their lives. He was head of the U.S. War Pension Dep't.

There were six children

Kenneth, Will, Judd and Charlie also Nettie and Emma.

I had met all of them but Kenneth, he worked in office with his father. Will and Ann (his wife) were about the age of my parents. They were at my parents wedding also attended their Golden Wedding at Fairview April 30, 1920. Don't know that they had any children.

Judd lived in S.W. Missouri - had one daughter who visited us in Iowa also once in 1884 Oklahoma. Charlie and his wife Maggie lived in Des Moines. He was mail clerk on Express Train. Enlisted in Spanish American War in 1898. Came home with Yellow Fever - visited there at Woodward, Ia. in fall of 1898. From there we never heard from him.

There were other brothers of Grandfather Davisons but no one seems to have any record of any. My father used to say that the D in John D. Rockefeller was that his mother was a Davison.

From Centerville Eber and Eunice moved to Fairfield, Iowa. My father and the Sheffield's went to Boone, Co., Iowa. Grandfather Davison's two sons John and James, the two sisters Leah Robinson and ? Shrivvers went to Nortonville, Kansas. There Grandfather Davison was ^(see attachment) pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist church during the 1870. He was an eccentric old gentleman, he used to cut his own hair. Preached his own funeral sermon, about two years before his passing. He and grandmother died there at Nortonville - he at 80 and she at 81. Theirs and two other graves are there in corner of a field 3 miles North of Nortonville on what was known as 7th Day Lane. I have been there at about 1911 - they died I think 1890 - 1892.

It has been said Grandfather and family started keeping the Sabbath when he knew of no other Sabbath-keeping people. Father used to say that his father could hardly give up his faith that he would live to see Christ's 2nd coming. I am not so much of a Bible student as those before me but I see an outline of prophecy. It doesn't seem to be the end on the clock is not quite ready for striking, but conditions of the world are fast coming up for that. (S. Davison)

The daughter, Nettie, of Alpheus, (about the age of my mother, married Luke Spooner. He was a prosperous farmer - lived near Griswold, Iowa, one of the best parts of Iowa. They had four children - Julia about Leah's age and Susie 4 days younger than I. She visited us in Ark. in 1937. Died in 1940 of heart trouble. Indeed a fine person. John, the youngest died at age 40. Julia still living at Ricewell, Iowa. I hear from her every Xmas time. Will, the oldest brother about 80 or so lives at Crinnell, as his father a wealthy Iowa farmer. The daughter Emma, married a man by name of Reel. Marriage was not much of a success. They had two children - Deliah and Stanley - she and children came there to Oklahoma in fall of 1909. They were only there a year or so and went back to Oregon.

Of the sons, John and James, both served in the Civil War. John was wounded but lived until 1884. He and James each owned farms near Nortonville, Kans. James seemed to have kept up a home as he did not marry until he was 63 then moved to Illinois. When he had his home at Nortonville his parents lived with him and Aunt Louise kept house for them. Grandmother died in 1880. Son John was married and later moved to Washington, Co. Kansas. I have had some contact with his family but never met any.

Of the three daughters I think Aunt Leah was oldest. She married Able Robinson - a 2nd cousin, I think. He had been married before. Had one daughter, Martha - lived near Nortonville. I have been at her home. Of Aunt Leah's children there were 8 - 5 girls and 3 boys. One boy - Walter - killed by lightning at about 14 years. One girl hit by rattlesnake but don't know her name or age.

GIRLS

Boys

P Louie
Priscilla
Belle
Zilla

Edwin
Walter
Bert

Guess you know pretty much of the girls unless Zilla. She married Ed Stillman there at Nortonville and they moved around some. At one time were in Pankhandle near Knowles. Finally settled down at Oceanside where they both died. Zilla in Sept. 1955. We attended her funeral. There were 11 children. One son had committed suicide. Eight of the others lived around Oceanside and were at their mother's funeral.

Other daughter, Hannah, married Addison Birch. They had four children. Albie, Albert, Rena and Clarence - they lived at Boonesborough, Iowa - adjacent to Boone. The mother, Hannah, died of cancer 1876 at age of 36. Grandfather Sheffield preached her funeral sermon. I was one year old at the time. The father never established a home after the mother's death. There are three children still living. The youngest, Clarence 83, past. Allie the oldest having died several years ago here in Calif. At the time we moved to Oklahoma in 1899 the father, Allie and Albert (now calls himself Joe) were living S.W. of Enid on a homestead. A few years later they sold it and moved to Canada. After nearly 30 years left what they had there and came to Calif. Joe said when he was 70 years he was completely broke but about 1939 he started in Seal State at Compton just six miles North of us. He could cash in now for around \$75,000. Is 90 past but had a stroke last March, but can walk some. Has been very active. Drove his car until 18 months ago. He spent the winter here with us three years ago. Lives with an only daughter 75 miles on the ft. top. The sister, Rena, 80 lives at Pasadena - a widow. Clarence lives at Lawrence, Kansas. Has been in school and education all his life. He was married before he was 15 - his wife one year younger. Both still living. Clarence could tell you something of that as the end for mother were at Lawrence, Kansas one winter and visited him.

The other sister, Sarah, married a Will Shriver, I don't know as they had any children. At one time they were both ministers for the Seventh Day Baptists

This Joe Birch had been here at Compton and we hear in Long Beach over 12 years and just six miles apart. Until cousin Zillah at Oceanside wrote me there was one of the Birch boys here at Compton and a Bessie Robinson Landrum in Los Angeles and gave addresses. We immediately hunted them up and. This Bessie is a first cousin of Ruth and Mable. I knew Bessie was in L.A. I had been at their home in Nortonville when she was about 14. Her husband was a P.O. employe. Died three years ago this March. When Ruth and Paul were here in '48 Ruth said she wishes she had Bessie's address and we would go find them. She doesn't know what she missed by not meeting them - she and her husband were sure fine people. Now Bessie's mother is here with her. They come down now and then. They are the same relation to you but first cousin to Ruth but two years older.

I had always supposed Grandfather Davison was something as my father in disposition, but this Joe Birch was around him more or less until he was 12 or 14. Says he was not very congenial with children. Rather stern and that children were more to be seen than heard. The Davison's were not formerly known as much talkers. Your father was much that way, but his two wives helped make up for his deficiency. I used to think Aunt Eunice went so bad talking and got up the same. I often think of how our family circle of relatives there near Woodward, Iowa was broken when our father decided to sell and move to Oklahoma. Your father and his family had only been there 9 years. Had a good 160 acre farm and he and the boys were doing better than any before or after. The Sheffields always looked to Stannett as a main stay so it undoubtedly caused a deep sense of loneliness when the Stannetts were gone.

Father saw great possibilities of a future in Oklahoma but at the same time failed to realize the future of Iowa. The farm home he sold at \$4800 would sell today for \$30,000 - that was 80 acres then he had what we called the 1/2 & 60 and 60 acres of timber or pasture down 4 1/2 miles East near the Des Moines River. While in Okla. the 1/2 sections we filed on as Homesteads sell for \$15,000. No doubt the 1/2 father homesteaded if together would sell for \$20,000. That is over where Glen Jordan has his holdings. The old home place near Roscoe father paid \$1000 for. If together I suppose 30 or 40 thousand. I sure hated to see Allie cut that place into. If our father could have seen the great advance in farm prices in Okla. he would have been greatly gratified. Although I think Oklahoma prices are too high (sour grapes, maybe, eh?) If our father could have seen this vast area adjacent to Long Beach - C. E. at the time 60 years ago that he saw in Okla. and envisioned its future as we did Okla. - if placed in this area would be beyond any comparison. Father never had desire to see Calif. We certainly are glad we saw it.

With these lines of Davison History (if you can read it) I will close. No doubt there is much I don't know. Glad to get your letter. They tell us you had winter - the grass is green here - some flowers in bloom.

Sincerely cousins, Edw. S. & Sussannah
P.S. No doubt you have heard Ed was not doing so good. I did have quite a slow down about Kansas time. Someone or something punctured my balloon. The 1/2 that wack or so I am feeling better. Thanking all for prayers and blessings of God. In reading this manuscript I see I already told you of being ill. Still coming up hill but slow.

2 Annual
Ann
Bairns

Alphaville

m. Babin (R.)
(work, D.C.)

John (Nashville)

James (1) (Nashville)

Shen (Fayette, Ga.)
in Service

Wife
Gard (Ga. Mo.) Memphis
Cawley
Nelle m. Tom Spruce (Gainesville, Ga.)
Emma
m. ? Red (Oregon)

Bairns
Stanley

Wife (Gainesville, Ga.)
Julia (Riverside, Ind.)
Suicide
John

Edw. S. (Gibson, Pa.)
(Long Beach, Ca.)

Louise (Ga.)

Priscilla

Belle

Zilla (Nashville, Tenn. & Portland, Oregon, Ca.)

Elmer m. Ed. Seiden

Walter

Best
? Q. Bowie (Riverside, Ind.)
(12. Nashville, site of L-10)

Leah
m. ?
(Nashville, Tenn.)

Jack (Riverside) Nashville
" - Wife Rose (and company)
(He has a d. h. - nurse m. - Nashville)

Harold (Birmingham, Ga.) (Gibson, Ind.) (Cincinnati, Ohio)
m. Allison (Nashville)

Albert m. Joe " " "
Lina (Riverside, Ga.)
Alicia (Nashville, Va.)

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