

# The Davis Family

**The genealogy of the Melita Branch of the Davis family is included here because Amy Grace Davis, see V.2, was the mother of my late wife Beverly Grace de Roo van Alderwerelt, nee Dobbyn. See also XIIIh. in the van Alderwerelt genealogy.**

**D.M.O. de Roo van Alderwerelt  
2006**

**The Melita Branch of**  
**The Davis Family**

**2012**

**D. van Alderwerelt**  
**Grass Valley, CA 95945**

# Foreword

The information you will find on the following pages was assembled during the past ten years from a number of different sources. A much more complete job could have been done years earlier when certain members of the older generation were still with us and could have filled in many of the gaps. Through contact with Lance W. Balcke, a Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer in Armstrong, BC, a son of Sydney Heather Davis and a grandson of Ewart Marshall Davis and Heather Bell Walker, we have been able to list incomplete information about the descendants of Ewart Marshall Davis (1906-1961) and Ronald Kirkup Davis (1940-1981).

It was during the course of the research into the Davis family that I was very fortunate to locate the descendants of Sidney Garth Davis (1938-1984), namely Robert Todd, John Paul and Byron Garth Davis. They are at the present time the standard bearers of the Melita branch of the Davis family.

There are several individuals I wish to thank for their very valuable help. Jean Davis Norry of London, Ontario provided a large amount of genealogy details about family in Ontario and devoted a lot of time and effort to tracking down the origins of Henry Davis. William Nairn Florence of San Mateo, California provided much detail about his mother Sydney Rose Davis. Beverly Reid of Reston, Manitoba and Florence Slessor of Tilston, Manitoba helped out with Burrill and Davis information. Lance W. Balcke provided a certain amount of detail about Davis descendants.

As with any work of this kind, errors and omissions can easily occur. If any readers do find that corrections need to be made or certain information should be added, I would hope that they contact me with particulars.

Dan van Alderwerelt  
2012

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## INTRODUCTION

The thirteen British colonies in America declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776: however, the American Revolutionary War did not end until the signing of the Treaty of Paris on September 3, 1783. The outcome was of course that the United States became a free and independent nation.

On the British side were British soldiers known as Redcoats. They were helped by Loyalists, i.e. inhabitants of the colonies who actively supported the continuation of British rule. They did so either as private citizens or by joining one of the several Loyalists regiments created for that purpose. On the American side were the Patriots led by General George Washington.

After the peace treaty had been signed, most of the British troops returned to England. However, some members of the units slated for return accepted the incentive of free land in Upper Canada, now known as Ontario, in lieu of a pension that they would otherwise have been entitled to.

Loyalists who had served in Loyalists units and those whose properties had been confiscated for supporting the British side were no longer welcome in the newly born United States. They too were given the opportunity to settle in Upper Canada on free land that would be awarded to them there.

The disbanded soldiers and Loyalists we will be discussing arrived in Upper Canada in mid 1784. They landed at a point of land sticking out into the Bay of Quinte on the north shore of Lake Ontario. This had been set aside for this purpose by the Canadian Government and had only just been surveyed. The settlement became known as Adolphustown in Lennox & Addington County. Lands across the Bay in Prince Edward County were also settled by them. This entire area is some 30 miles west of Kingston and some 110 miles east of Toronto. All these lands were still mostly wilderness so much hard work was needed to clear land, build shelters and start growing crops. There is evidence that the Canadian Authorities provided food rations to the newly arrived settlers for some period of time. Conditions must have been pretty primitive in the beginning but the settlements survived. Henry Davis was one of the settlers.

## **HENRY DAVIS**

### **A Loyalist or a British soldier?**

The genealogy of the Davis family starts with Henry Davis. There is little that we know about Henry or his origins. Did he come to Canada as a Loyalist from Dutchess County in New York State, as some later family members wanted to believe, or was he a British soldier who had elected to accept land in Canada in lieu of a pension?

His name can be found on a Muster List of Disbanded Troops and Loyalists who had settled on land in Township #5, Bay of Quinte, on the shores of Lake Ontario. That list is dated 4 October 1784 and makes reference to a certification of 11 August 1784. On that list Henry Davis and 5 others are identified as having served in the British 29th Regiment. The list includes also many soldiers from other regiments.

Another list, the “Old United Empire Loyalists List” preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto, shows Henry Davis as a resident of Adolphustown with the following comments: “29th Regt. A sergeant. Gov. Hamilton, 1785, says soldier. 100. P.L. 1786. Stamped Book”. That would confirm that he was a sergeant of the British 29th Regiment; that Henry Hamilton, then Lt. Governor of Quebec, confirmed in 1785 that he was known to him to have been a soldier; that he was awarded 100 acres of land; that his name appeared on the Loyalist Provision List in 1786 and in a stamped book.

Family lore has it that he came as a Loyalist from Dutchess County, New York and the appearance of his name on the Loyalist List and the Loyalists Provision List would support that belief. However, British regiments were not known to recruit men from the colonies and so it would seem hardly possible to be a Loyalist and a British soldier at the same time. A Loyalist who wanted to fight for the British side would have joined one of the Loyalists units which were not part of the British Army. The importance of this question is that if a person was recognized as a Loyalist, he would later qualify as a member of the United Empire Loyalists Association and he and his descendants would be entitled to put the initials U.E.L. after their name and this would carry considerable prestige with it. This could perhaps be compared somewhat to the D.A.R., Daughters of American Revolution. More importantly, the confirmed status of Loyalist would mean entitlement to 200 acres of land, not only for that person, but also 200 acres for each of his children when they reached 21 or married.

A list of Loyalists prepared by the Executive Council of the Loyalist Commission is thought to be the more authoritative document. On this list, Henry Davis’ name appears followed by the word “expunged” (in 1802) indicating that he could not properly be considered a Loyalist, most likely as he had been a British soldier.

So, it is a reasonable assumption that Henry Davis was born in England, joined the British army there and that he came to the colonies with his regiment to fight the Patriots.

The history of the 29th Regiment Foot would seem to bear this out. The Regiment saw service in the colonies from 1765 to 1773 and again from 1776 until it finally returned to England from Canada in 1787. If we assume that Henry Davis was born in 1753, more about that later, then he would have been 23 when his regiment came to the colonies for the second time in 1776, so that fits. They saw action mostly in New York State and by the spring of 1783 were quartered near Quebec.

As an outflow from his service in the British army Henry Davis was awarded 600 acres in Prince Edward County in lieu of a pension that he otherwise would have been entitled to. The fact that he received 600 acres tends to support the belief that he was a Sergeant because Sergeants received an allotment of 600 acres whereas Privates only received 200 acres. This land in Prince Edward County was across the bay from Adolphustown in Lennox & Addington County.

While we lack any solid information as to when Henry Davis was born, we can fairly accurately estimate his birth year. His funeral notice in the Christian Guardian Death Notices stated that he was 78 years old when he died on 25 August 1831 so that points to a birth year of 1753.

Since the above was written, extensive research was done by two professional researchers in military archives in London in an effort to document Henry's service with the 29th Regiment. Two interesting muster rolls were found. The first one was a report dated 20 February 1777 covering the period from 25 June 1776 to 24 December 1776. There is a listing of "Hendrick Davis". The second is a report dated 15 October 1783 covering the period 25 December 1782 to 24 June 1783. A Henry Davis is listed as having been transferred to a "Light Infantry Company".

As it is known that the Regiment actively recruited in England early in 1776, before it sailed for Canada and the colonies, we can reasonably assume from the first report that Henry joined at that time. The fact that his given name was written as Hendrick does not have a great deal of meaning as names were often written many different ways. It could indicate that perhaps he was of Dutch or German origin but we have not found anything to support that. The second report covers the period towards the end of his service. His name is now written as Henry. In neither report do we find a designation of rank, either for him or any of the others listed, so there is still no way to verify that he was indeed a sergeant. We had hoped to find enlistment or discharge papers giving us a clue as to Henry's origin but unfortunately these have so far not been found.



*Sergeant's uniform for the 29th Regiment of Foot. The halberd, symbol of his rank, was not used in battle.*

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His marriage to Mary Ann Huffnail, probably in 1788, was significant in that she was the daughter of a well known Loyalist, Jobst Huffnail also known as Jeptha or Jobet Hoffnagle, Hufnagle, Huffnegle and Huffnigle. This was obviously a German name anglicized to Huffnail. As a daughter of a confirmed Loyalist, Mary Ann was entitled to 200 acres of land in Adolphustown which was granted to her in December 1797. On this land, lot 16 in the second concession, a house was built that became known as the Davis house. It remained in the Davis family until most of the farm land was sold in 1966 and the house was sold sometime later. The Davis family, as well as most families that had

settled in the area, tried to make a living from farming the land they had received but it must be remembered that all was wilderness when they arrived. Life continued to be difficult even after the land had been cleared.

In 1792 Henry Davis was among the 22 subscribers who donated money for the building of the Hay Bay Church. These 22 are sometimes referred to as “the founders” of the church but in reality that is not so as the church had been in operation for several years but a building was badly needed. With the money raised a church building was erected on the shores of Hay Bay in Adolphustown.

Very few, if any, records remain from the early years so we only know the names of the seven children of Henry and Mary from Henry’s will dated 4 June 1824. They were John, born about 1789, Mary probably born 1791, Sophia born 1793, Henry born 1796, Andrew born 1801, Charles born 1806 and Sarah, no year given. Henry’s son, Henry, would marry Sarah Campbell from another well respected Loyalist family. Henry’s wife, Mary Ann Huffnail, was a great aunt of Amy Ann Huffnail who in 1845 would marry Henry’s grandson Archibald Campbell Davis.

*Sir PEREGRINE MAITLAND, Knight Commander of the most Honorable Military Order of the Bath, Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Upper Canada, and Major-General Commanding His Majesty's Forces therein, &c. &c. &c.*

To *Henry Davis, Lieut.* ———— *GREENING:*

REPOSING especial confidence in your Loyalty, Courage and Good Conduct, I do hereby appoint you to be *Lieutenant in the First Regiment of Lennox Militia* during pleasure, and of which *Regiment William Bradford, Esquire, is Colonel.*

You are therefore carefully and diligently to discharge the duty of *Lieutenant* ———— by exercising, and well disciplining both the inferior Officers and Men of the said Militia. ———— And I do hereby Command them to obey you as their *Lieutenant.*

And you are to observe and follow all such Orders and Directions as you shall from time to time receive from me or any other your Superior Officer, according to Law.

GIVEN under my Hand and Office Seal at Arms, at *York* this *Second* Day of *May* in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty *Six* and in the *Seventh* year of His Majesty's Reign.

By His Excellency's Command  
*Maitland*

Henry Davis (generation II 1796 – 1876) appointment on 2 May 1826 as Lieutenant of the First Regiment of Lennox Militia



# Genealogy

The first three generations of the Davis family are therefore:

## I. Henry Davis

most likely born in England about 1753  
died Adolphustown, Ont. 25 August 1831  
married probably Adolphustown, Ont. probably 1788  
Mary Anna Huffnail  
born Palatine, NY 6 September 1767  
died Adolphustown, Ont. after 1851  
daughter of Jobst Huffnail and Margaret Anna Gurmandy

from this marriage 7 children: John, Mary, **Henry**, Sophia, Andrew, Charles and Sarah.

## II. Henry Davis

born Marysburgh, Ont. 16 February 1796  
died Adolphustown, Ont. 31 October 1876  
married Adolphustown, Ont. 18 April 1821  
Sarah Campbell  
born Adolphustown, Ont. 12 August 1800  
died Adolphustown, Ont. 4 June 1873  
daughter of Archibald Campbell and Catherine Harrington

from this marriage 11 children: **Archibald Campbell**, Phoebe Ann, Mary Catharine, Sarah E., Alexander Campbell, William Henry, Peter Davey, John Cartwright, Charles Nelson, Gilbert Miller and Thomas Grange.

## III. Archibald Campbell Davis

born Adolphustown, Ont. 11 February 1822  
died Adolphustown, Ont. 22 August 1886  
married first Adolphustown, Ont. 29 January 1845  
Amy Ann Huffnail  
born Adolphustown, Ont. 10 August 1821  
died Adolphustown, Ont. 2 June 1866  
daughter of Jacob Huffnail and Jane Steel  
married second Madox, Ont. 18 February 1869  
Eunice Pringle  
born Adolphustown, Ont. 1819  
died Adolphustown, Ont. 14 January 1910  
daughter of William Pringle and Nancy Jackson

from this marriage 9 children: Marshall Vincent, Sarah Jane, William Wallace, Archibald Campbell, Amy Ann, George Edmund, Allan Ross, Thomas Nelson and **Sidney German**.

The marriage of Archibald Campbell Davis and Amy Ann Huffnail produced the nine children listed above. When the mother, Amy Ann, died in 1866 at the age of 44, the oldest child, Marshall Vincent Davis was 20 but the youngest, Sidney German Davis, was not quite 2 years old. The story goes that Archibald Campbell Davis promptly started courting Eunice Pringle as the young children badly needed a mother. Nevertheless it took a little over 2 1/2 years before they were married. Eunice was from another well known Loyalist family.

While having many children was initially an asset in terms of help available to work on the farm, it was never easy for all the sons to find their own place in the community. It is therefore not surprising that the youngest son, Sidney German Davis, at age 23, the year after his father died, decided to leave Ontario for the West where land had been opened up for homesteading in 1882. And so in 1887 he traveled to Manitoba with his cousin Orison Vancott. Just to put this trip into perspective, the distance from Adolphustown to Melita using present day roads is about 1,600 miles or about 2,600 kilometers.

It is said that in 1888 the two cousins homesteaded on section 20-3-28 in the Municipality of Arthur. This section was located 3 miles north and one mile east of what later became the small village of Pierson, some 15 miles south west of where Melita would later be located. Records show that NW&SW 20-3-28 were actually granted to Orison Vancott and the assumption is that he left the area and transferred the land to Sidney Davis and that in this manner it became the Davis homestead.

Pierson came into existence in 1891 when the Canadian Pacific Railroad created a train stop there to service the settlers. Pierson, which now has a population of about 200, was named after one of the partners in a Dutch banking firm that assisted Canadian Pacific Railroad with financing.

The town of Melita also came into existence in 1891. Melita is about 21 miles north of the US border and North Dakota. Population in 2001 was only 1,111. In 1890 the railroad was surveyed and the location of the town center was decided. A Post Office had been opened in the area in 1884 when the name Manchester was used which was subsequently replaced by the name Melita.

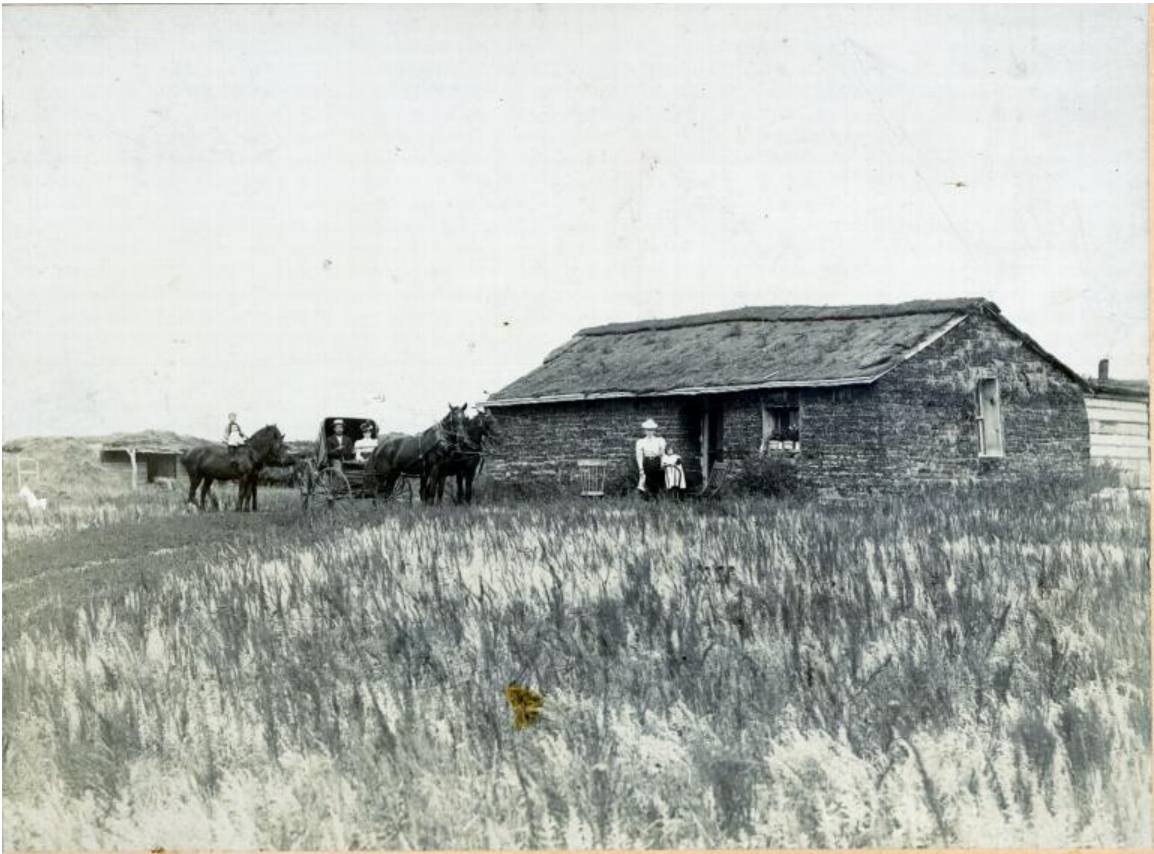
Sidney German Davis reportedly traveled back to Ontario for a time to work there and returned to Pierson in 1891 when he became one of the early grain buyers but at the same time retained the farm. He remained a bachelor until he met and married Rosa Letta Burrill. They were married in Melita, Man. on 28 March 1894 and listed their place of residence after marriage as Pierson, Man. Rosa, who was 18 at the time, had been born in Paris, Ontario but had moved to the Pierson area with her parents, who also homesteaded on newly available land. In fact, their final homestead on 32-3-28 was about 3 miles north of the Davis homestead on 20-3-28. Rosa's parents were John Robert Burrill, born in Lincolnshire, England and Grace Caroline Balkwell, born in Devonshire, England.



Marriage certificate of Sidney German Davis and Rosa Letta Burrill

The 1901 census describes Sidney Davis as an implement dealer obviously referring to agricultural implements and in 1902 he built a warehouse in Pierson. He is thought to have handled everything from drills to buggies to pumps to cream separators. It is also reported that he handled mowers, rakes, binders and plows in addition to being active in the grain elevator business and coal business. In 1906, when the fourth child was born, he sold his various business interests in Pierson and in 1907 moved with his family to Melita.

The old picture, shown below, of the sod house on the original Davis homestead is interesting. Not a tree in sight. Sidney German and Rosa are in the buggy. German and little Sydney are on horseback. It is unclear who the woman is who is standing by the front door with Amy Grace. She would seem to be too young to be Rosa's mother, Grace Caroline Balkwell. Was it one of Sidney German's sisters visiting from Toronto? We assume this picture was taken around 1900 when Sydney would have been 2 years old and therefore before Ewart Marshall was born.



Davis original sod house, about 1900

Then there is the picture, shown below, of the “new house” in Melita taken in about 1907. Here again it shows the family out in front; Rosa with Grace and Sydney at the fence, Sidney in the buggy and German standing alone. Not a sign of Ewart Marshall, about one year old now so perhaps he was taking a nap. Again, not a tree or shrub in sight!



Davis house in Melita about 1907

On February 29, 1912, when he was 48, Sidney was appointed Postmaster of Melita, a function he held until he resigned on July 9, 1949. This resignation was presumably because of ill health as he died on October 27, 1949 at age 85. Beverly recalls visiting her grandparents Davis in Melita when she was a young girl. She thought her grandfather was a grumpy old man who never spoke to children. But, she recalls that her grandmother was kind, thoughtful and nice to be with.

According to the tax records of the Rural Municipality of Edward, the farm in Pierson on section 20-3-28 remained in the Davis name until 1920, when it was presumably sold, so the assumption is that from about 1900 until 1920 someone must have been working the farm for the Davis family.

Sidney and Rose had 4 children, namely, German Campbell, Amy Grace, Sydney Rose and Ewart Marshall. Birth records for German Campbell and Amy Grace show that both were born at the original homestead section 20-3-28 in 1894 and 1896 respectively.



Sydney Rose, Amy Grace and German Campbell about 1902

On 28 July 1915, after the outbreak of World War I (1914-1918), German Campbell Davis joined the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force and went to France with his unit. He was 20 years old at the time. According to a newspaper item, he returned to Canada in the spring of 1919 but suffered from the effects of being gassed while on active service in France. There are large gaps in our knowledge of his life after that. It appears that he worked for the Post Office from about 1931 to 1934. He married Irene Kirkup in 1938 and they lived in Winnipeg where their two sons were born in 1938 and late 1940.

It is assumed that he remained in the active reserve and was recalled sometime after the outbreak of World War II (1939-1945) He was apparently stationed at Camp Shilo, near Brandon, Man. when his condition worsened early in 1941. His death certificate shows that he died at Brandon General Hospital on 2 February 1941 and that he had been in that Rural Municipality for four months which could mean he had been at Camp Shilo since early October 1940.



German Campbell Davis

DESCRIPTION OF German Campbell Davis ON ENLISTMENT.

Apparent Age 20 years 8 months.  
(To be determined according to the instructions given in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.)

Distinctive marks, and marks indicating congenital peculiarities or previous disease.

Height 5 ft. 5 1/4 ins.

(Should the Medical Officer be of opinion that the recruit has served before, he will, unless the man acknowledges to any previous service, attach a slip to that effect, for the information of the Approving Officer.)

Chest measurement  
 Girth when fully expanded 36 1/2 ins.  
 Range of expansion 3 1/4 ins.

*nil*

Complexion Dark  
 Eyes Grey  
 Hair Black

Religious Denominations  
 Church of England \_\_\_\_\_  
 Presbyterian \_\_\_\_\_  
 Methodist Yes  
 Baptist or Congregationalist \_\_\_\_\_  
 Other Protestants \_\_\_\_\_  
(Denomination to be stated.)  
 Roman Catholic \_\_\_\_\_  
 Jewish \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATE OF MEDICAL EXAMINATION.

I have examined the above-named Recruit and find that he does not present any of the causes of rejection specified in the Regulations for Army Medical Services.

He can see at the required distance with either eye; his heart and lungs are healthy; he has the free use of his joints and limbs, and he declares that he is not subject to fits of any description.

I consider him fit for the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force.

Date July 28<sup>th</sup> 1915

Place Militia Man.

Harry W. Lewis  
 Medical Officer.

\*Insert here "fit" or "unfit."  
 NOTE.—Should the Medical Officer consider the Recruit unfit, he will fill in the foregoing Certificate only in the case of those who have been attested, and will briefly state below the cause of unfitness:—

CERTIFICATE OF OFFICER COMMANDING UNIT

German Campbell Davis having been finally approved and inspected by me this day, and his Name, Age, Date of Attestation, and every prescribed particular having been recorded, I certify that I am satisfied with the correctness of this Attestation:

Alv. Turner *capt*  
 (Signature of Officer.)

Date July 28 1915.

O.C. "A" Sec # 17 A.D.  
C.B.F.

German Campbell Davis enlistment document dated 28 July 1915



*Duplicate*  
**ATTESTATION PAPER**

No. *03130*

Folio.

**CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE**

**QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BEFORE ATTESTATION.**

(ANSWERS)

1. What is your name? *German Campbell Davis*
2. In what Town, Township, or Parish, and in what Country were you born? *Pierson, Man*
3. What is the name of your next-of-kin? *Lidney G. Davis*
4. What is the address of your next-of-kin? *Melita, Man*
5. What is the date of your birth? *Nov 12, 1894*
6. What is your trade or calling? *Saboner*
7. Are you married? *No*
8. Are you willing to be vaccinated or re-vaccinated? *Yes*
9. Do you now belong to the Active Militia? *No*
10. Have you ever served in any Military Force?  
If so, state particulars of former Service. *Yes, 2nd B. Co.*
11. Do you understand the nature and terms of your engagement? *Yes*
12. Are you willing to be attested to serve in the CANADIAN OVER-SEAS EXPEDITIONARY FORCE? *Yes*

*G. C. Davis* (Signature of Man.)  
*S. G. Davis* (Signature of Witness.)

**DECLARATION TO BE MADE BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, *German Campbell Davis*, do solemnly declare that the above answers made by me to the above questions are true, and that I am willing to fulfil the engagements by me now made, and I hereby engage and agree to serve in the Canadian Over-Seas Expeditionary Force, and to be attached to any arm of the service therein, for the term of one year, or during the war now existing between Great Britain and Germany should that war last longer than one year, and for six months after the termination of that war provided His Majesty should so long require my services, or until legally discharged.

Date *July 28* 1915 *German C. Davis* (Signature of Recruit.)  
*S. G. Davis* (Signature of Witness.)

**OATH TO BE TAKEN BY MAN ON ATTESTATION.**

I, *German Campbell Davis*, do make Oath, that I will be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth, His Heirs and Successors, and that I will as in duty bound honestly and faithfully defend His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, in Person, Crown and Dignity, against all enemies, and will observe and obey all orders of His Majesty, His Heirs and Successors, and of all the Generals and Officers set over me. So help me God.

Date *July 15-28* 1915 *German C. Davis* (Signature of Recruit.)  
*S. G. Davis* (Signature of Witness.)

**CERTIFICATE OF MAGISTRATE.**

The Recruit above-named was cautioned by me that if he made any false answer to any of the above questions he would be liable to be punished as provided in the Army Act.

The above questions were then read to the Recruit in my presence.

I have taken care that he understands each question, and that his answer to each question has been duly entered as replied to, and the said Recruit has made and signed the declaration and taken the oath before me, at *Melita* this *28* day of *July* 1915

*S. G. Davis* (Signature of Justice.)  
*Police Magistrate*

I certify that the above is a true copy of the Attestation of the above-named Recruit.

*G. C. Davis* (Approving Officer.)

M. F. W. 28.  
399 M.-3-15.  
H.Q. 1775-93-941.

German Campbell Davis enlistment document dated 28 July 1915

After completing her basic education, Amy Grace, always known as Grace and never as Amy, started helping out at local schools and became a teacher. I recall her telling us about a one room school house and enormous amounts of snow in the winter which made for a very difficult life. From 1915 to 1922 she attended a number of teaching courses to acquire various teaching credentials. From certificates we have found, we can tell that she attended courses in, among other places, Brandon, Man. (1915/16), Regina, SK. (1919) and Winnipeg, Man. (1922). She married William Cecil Dobbyn in Melita on 16 September 1922. For more details on Grace and Bill and their descendants, see the Dobbyn family pages.

William Nairn Florence, son of Sydney Rose wrote me: "I think Sydney came to the US because Grace told her how much she and Bill Dobbyn liked San Francisco, and Grace was always a "father figure" to her. Sydney worked at the counter of a Burroughs adding machine distributor in San Francisco and one day Bill Florence was sent over from his office to see why some machines they'd sent in for repair weren't ready, and that was that as they say!" Sydney married Bill Florence in San Francisco in March 1931. Bill and Grace Dobbyn were witnesses at this wedding. Bill Florence was born in Glasgow, Scotland in 1901, came with his family to Canada at the age of 2 and immigrated to California in 1929 or 1930.

The birth record for Sydney Rose involves an interesting story. According to Nairn Florence, the authorities in Manitoba could not find a record of her birth. They stated that they had no records of perhaps 10,000 people from that time period. The lack of a birth certificate became a major problem when Sydney wanted to become an American citizen in 1953. According to Nairn Florence "The family decided on a date which they gave to the naturalization people who finally accepted it without paperwork. 1899 was decided upon because why make yourself older if you don't have to, although their mother Rose thought it was 1898. Later came Social Security and she had to have some birth papers, so they contacted Manitoba authorities again who finally invented a certificate." That certificate shows Elva, Man. as her birth place and the assumption is that the family temporarily moved away from the original homestead because circumstances there were a bit too primitive for another birth. The picture of the sod house shows a little girl so that also shows that the move to Elva was just a temporary one.

Since writing the above, the 1901 census for the area has been released and Sydney is listed there with a birthdate of 22 January 1898. So, it appears that Rosa was correct after all!

Ewart Marshall was born 27 June 1906 in Pierson and this was followed by the family moving to a new house in Melita in 1907. He died in Prince George BC on 2 December 1961 when he was only 55 years old. His profession at death was given as Branch Manager for Western Savings & Loan.



Amy Grace



Sydney Rose

The genealogy continues:

IV. Sidney German Davis

born Adolphustown, Ont. 10 August 1864

died Melita, Man. 27 October 1949

married Melita, Man. 28 March 1894

Rosa Letta Burrill

born Paris, Ont. 23 December 1875

died Nanaimo, BC 19 August 1961

daughter of John Robert Burrill and Grace Caroline Balkwell

Rosa married for the second time in Nanaimo, BC around 1950.

William James Miller

died in the mid 1950's

from the first marriage:

1. German Campbell Davis, see V.1

2. Amy Grace Davis, see V.2

3. Sydney Rose Davis, see V.3

4. Ewart Marshall Davis, see V.4

V.1 German Campbell Davis

born section 20-3-28, Mun. of Arthur, north of Pierson, Man. 12 November 1894

died Brandon, Man. 2 February 1941

married Winnipeg, Man. 18 April 1938

Mabel Irene Kirkup

born section NE 2-4-27, Mun. of Arthur, west of Melita, Man. 2 November 1910

died Calgary, AB 10 September 1989

daughter of Bertie Cecil Kirkup and Margaret Irene Reid

from this marriage:

1. Sidney Garth Davis, see VI.1

2. Ronald Kirkup Davis, see VI.2

VI.1 Sidney Garth Davis

born Winnipeg, Man. 15 May 1938

died Medicine Hat, AB 15 April 1984

married Calgary, AB 15 August 1964

Carolyn Gail Pattie

born Mildred, SK 30 June 1940

died Medicine Hat, AB 23 February 1983

daughter of Oswald James Pattie and Clara England

from this marriage:

1. Robert Todd Davis,  
born Calgary, AB 2 August 1967  
married Nordegg, AB 11 July 1998  
Corinne Dinnin  
born Saskatoon, SK 6 June 1964  
daughter of Bruce Dinnin and Hilda Dinnin
2. John Paul Davis, see VII.1
3. Byron Garth Davis  
born Calgary, AB 8 February 1972

VII.1 John Paul Davis  
born Calgary, AB 13 January 1969  
married Kelvington, SK 5 August 1995  
Nicole Diane Staresina  
born Kelvington, SK 11 April 1970  
daughter of Kenneth Staresina and Penny Peltier

from this marriage:

1. Matthew Byron Davis  
born Saskatoon, SK 24 August 1999
2. Benjamin Kenneth Todd Davis  
born Saskatoon, SK 15 August 2002

VI.2 Ronald Kirkup Davis  
born 28 December 1940  
died Watsonville, CA 29 December 1981  
married first Melita, Man. 1958 (marriage dissolved Calgary 1960)  
Donna Roberta Foster  
born Melita, Man. 1 April 1942  
married second 1967  
Jeannie Galbraith

from the first marriage:

1. Sheri Lynne Davis  
born Melita, Man. 2 May 1958  
married Wyoming 17 September 1976  
Timothy Weamer

3 children from this marriage

from the second marriage:

1. Derek Christian Davis  
born 22 April 1970

2. Devonee Heather Davis  
born April 1972

V.2 Amy Grace Davis

born section 20-3-28 Mun. of Arthur, north of Pierson, Man. 4 December 1896  
died San Mateo, CA 5 June 1983

married Melita, Man. 16 September 1922

William Cecil Dobbyn

born section 28-3-26 Mun. of Arthur, east of Melita, Man. 6 November 1895  
died Mountain View, CA 28 April 1964

son of Richard John Dobbyn and Mary Frances Graham.

For further details concerning Grace and Bill and their descendants, please see the  
Dobbyn family pages.



Grace Davis and Bill Dobbyn wedding 16 September 1922



Grace with her grandmother Grace Caroline Balkwell

V.3 Sydney Rose Davis

born Elva, Man. 8 miles south west of Melita 22 January 1899 (1898 according to the 1901 census)

died Menlo Park, CA 5 September 1969

married San Francisco, CA 14 March 1931

William Urquhart Florence

born Glasgow, Scotland 3 October 1901

died Menlo Park, CA 25 December 1971

son of William Gibson Florence and Margaret Jane Urquhart



Sydney and Bill Florence

from this marriage:

VI.4. William Nairn Florence

born San Mateo, CA 12 April 1939

married Carson City, Nevada 16 April 1966

Sigrid Waltraud Kessler

born Leipheim, Germany 10 February 1938

daughter of Ernst Friedrich Leonhard Kessler and Frieda Breitsamer

from this marriage:

1. Diana Susan Florence, see VII.3

2. Roger Douglas Florence

born Hayward, CA 4 April 1970



VII.3 Diana Susan Florence  
born Redwood City, CA 20 January 1967  
married San Jose, CA 8 October 1994  
Michael Rex Inglis  
born Stockton, CA 21 July 1968

from this marriage:

1. Brandon Michael Inglis  
born Palo Alto, CA 4 March 1997
2. Carolyn Susan Inglis  
born Palo Alto, CA 19 January 1999
3. Natalie Anne Inglis  
born Burlingame, CA 6 June 2004

V.4 Ewart Marshall Davis  
born Pierson, Man. 27 June 1906  
died Prince George, BC 2 December 1961  
married 26 April 1934  
Heather Bell Walker  
born Winnipeg, Man. 24 February 1906  
died Victoria, BC 6 November 1994

from this marriage:

1. Valerie Jeanette Davis, see VI.5
2. Sydney Heather Davis, see VI.6
3. Mary Gail Davis, see VI.7
4. Alan Campbell Davis, see VI.8

VI.5 Valerie Jeanette Davis (last name changed to Berthiaume)  
born Calgary, Alberta 17 December 1934

children:

1. Steven Paul Berthiaume, see VII.4
2. Randall Kenneth Bencher  
born Prince George, BC 4 June 1966

VII.4 Steven Paul Berthiaume  
born Ottawa, Ont. 8 June 1956  
married  
Peg

from this marriage:

1. Breanne Jeanette Berthiaume  
born Calgary, Alberta 31 July 1984
2. Teanne Berthiaume  
born Calgary, Alberta 11 September 1987

VI.6 Sydney Heather Davis  
born Calgary, Alberta 19 July 1936  
married 14 August 1954  
Wolfgang Hans Balcke  
born Hamburg, Germany 18 January 1920

from this marriage:

1. Peter Lynne Balcke, see VII.5
2. Wolf Michael Balcke, see VII.6
3. Lance Werner Balcke, see VII.7

VII.5 Peter Lynne Balcke  
Born Port Alberno, BC 22 February 1955  
Married 8 December 1984  
Lynne Neidrauer

from this marriage:

1. Dustin Thomas Balcke  
born Comox, BC 24 February 1981
2. Stacy Heather Balcke  
born Campbell River, BC 13 July 1982  
married Courtenay, BC 21 October 2006  
Jeromy Stotts  
from this marriage:  
Tyson Mathew Stotts  
born Comox, BC 4 July 2007

VII.6 Wolfe Michael Balcke  
born Port Alberni, BC 28 August 1957  
married Courtenay, BC 12 May 1979  
Debra Patterson  
born 17 July 1958

from this marriage:

Keith Allen Balcke  
born Comox, BC 7 January 1981

Jennifer Margaret Balcke  
born Comox, BC 19 July 1983  
a child, father: Paul Olenick  
Autumn Grace Olenick  
born Comox, BC 22 September 2005

Richard Erik Balcke  
born Port McNeill, BC 28 December 1994

VII.7 Lance Werner Balcke  
born Port Alberni, BC 23 February 1959  
married 25 August 1979  
Patricia Yvonne Page  
born Maple Creek, Sask. 2 May 1961

from this marriage:

1. Amanda Rachael Balcke  
born Victoria, BC 29 November 1982
2. Benjamin Allan Balcke  
born Victoria, BC 16 June 1984

VI.7 Mary Gail Davis  
born North Vancouver, BC 21 October 1944  
married 1964 Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
Horota Takeda

from this marriage:

1. Erik (adopted out)  
born Vancouver, BC 1962
2. Mary Jane Takeda, see VII.8
3. Jason Takeda, see VII.9

VII.8 Mary Jane Takeda  
born Prince George, BC June 1964  
married Vancouver, BC 1993  
Bobbi Thompson

from this marriage:

1. Joseph Masa Thompson  
born Vancouver, BC 5 February 1995
2. Mitchie Thompson  
Born Vancouver, BC 29 April 1997

VII.9 Jason Takeda  
born Prince George, BC 6 June 1966  
married  
Christine

from this marriage:

1. Jake Takeda  
born Vancouver, BC 20 January 1993
2. Erin Takeda  
born Vancouver, BC 20 January 1993

VI.8 Allen Campbell Davis  
born Nanaimo, BC 22 January 1946  
married Coquitlam, BC  
Bev Yallets

from this marriage:

1. Lisa Davis  
born New Westminster, BC 1976



Grace, Ewart, Rosa, Sidney, Sydney, German



Sydney, Sidney, Ewart, Grace, Rosa, German  
Seated: Grace Caroline Balkwell



Sidney and Rosa Davis



Sidney German Davis



Sidney German DAVIS



Ewart Marshall DAVIS





Heather Bell Davis



Gail, Valerie, Allen, Heather and Sydney

## NOTES ON THE BURRILL FAMILY

John Robert Burrill was born 7 July 1827 (1828 per 1901 census) in Lincolnshire, England as the son of Joseph Burrill (1790 - ?) and Helen Burrill (1800 - ?)

John Robert Burrill immigrated to Canada via New York about 1845 according to the 1883 History of Brant County.

He married Grace Caroline Balkwell 7 December 1857 in Paris, Ont. She was born 18 November 1840 (1841 per 1901 Manitoba census) in Devonshire, England as the daughter of Robert Balkwell and Grace Balkwell.

The Burrills had eleven children who survived, namely Edward, Ellen J., James, George, Frederick, John R., Rosa L., William B., Emma J., Thomas N. and Mabel C. who was born in Ontario in 1885. The twelfth, Lucy, died as a young girl.

The Burrill family moved to Manitoba sometime between the birth of Mabel in 1885 and the census of 1891 and settled on 32-3-28, Rural Municipality of Arthur (now R.M. of Edward). This section is one mile east and 6 miles north of the small town of Pierson and only 3 miles north of the Davis homestead.

The 1891 census lists the family as the parents John and Grace, and 3 children, namely, Frederick, William and Mabel. It is unclear where the other children were, including Rosa Letta, who would have been about 15 at that point.

Reviewing Western Land Grants (1870-1930) we find that SE 32-3-28 was actually granted to Frederick Burrill, one of the sons. Another son, James, was granted NE 18-3-28 and John Burrill himself was granted SE 18-3-28. There must have been a reshuffle of land within the family because it is clear that the family settled on 32-3-28. There are family notes that indicate that Rosa Davis eventually held title to 18-3-28, first jointly with her sister Emma and after that on her own.

John Robert Burrill died 4 February 1909 in Pierson, Man. Grace Caroline Balkwell Burrill died 28 October 1936 in Melita, Man. Both were buried in Pierson, Man. Cemetery.

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