

January 8, 1996

This is a history of my grandparents on my mothers side of the family: "S.O. Davis and Alice Davis".

This history is as I know it only and may not be correct in every way, but it is very close to being correct, and I think it should be written down and recorded to the memory of two wonderful people who helped pioneer this country.

All of the dates, children's names, etc.... all come from my grandmother's small hand bible. All these were entered in it by her as each event occurred.

I am the Grandson of S.O. and Alice Davis.... being the oldest son of Betty Zane Davis. At this writing, my mother will be ninety-one (91) years old in April of 1996. She is the only child of S.O. And Alice Davis that is still living. All the others have deceased.

Signed this date January 12, 1996

Signature appears here

Davis Doris Warren Sr
3727 Oakridge Drive
Odessa TX 79762
915-366-3324

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S.O. And Alice Davis, were married in Denton County, Texas in the year 1890 and moved to Henrietta, Texas at about the year 1905. They raised ten (10) children, in Clay County, all of whom are now deceased, with the exception of my mother, Betty Zane Davis, who will be ninety-one (91) years old April 8, 1996.

My grandparents, S.O. and Alice Davis, were farmers and farmed in Clay County, Texas. At one time my grandfather, S.O., had a saloon in Henrietta, Clay County, Texas..... It was located on the south side of the Courthouse. My grandparents later moved to the Community of Charlie, Clay County, Texas and Granddad had a cafe there. From there they moved to Thornberry, Clay County, Texas where he bought the Thornberry Ranch House and 365 acres of land. He farmed in that community, until moving back to Henrietta in the early 1940's and they continued to live in Henrietta until their deaths.

Granddad passed away in 1946 and Grandmother in 1954. Both along with some of their children and buried in the Henrietta, Clay County Texas Cemetary.

Samuel Oscar Davis:

Born October 8, 1868 - Titus County, Texas
Deceased 1954 - Buried Henrietta, Texas Cemetary
Parents: Alford and Mollie Ann Davis

Alice Davis:

Born November 17, 1870 - Denton County, Texas
Deceased 1954 - Buried Henrietta, Texas Cemetery
Parents: Leveston and Mary A Willis

According to Grandmother the above two people were united in marriage in Gainesville, Cooke County Texas on November 4, 1890 and they lived in this area their first years of marriage. They then moved to what is now Oklahoma.... in the Chickasha Nation around Perkins County and a community called Burnsville. Their second son, Emmit, was born in the Chickasha Nation.

They then returned to Texas and lived in Denton County and Kaufman County until they moved to Clay County about the year of 1905.

Granddad, S.O. Davis, as I saw him.... Was about 6'2" tall and of a slender build. He always wore a mustache and it was white, and all in all you would consider him a nice looking man. He was a very practical man and he enjoyed kidding and joking with his grandchildren... He was always playing some kind of prank on us, such as telling us there was a bear in the watermelon patch, etc. I guess he was a good farmer, he always seemed to have the best crops around. He prided his self in his farming equipment and his horses, mules, and cattle were all fine animals. And he did not allow them to be mistreated in anyway. They were always fed and groomed very well. Granddad chewed tobacco and loved to play dominoes, especially on cold and

winter days when it was bad to be out. I played many games with him.... He taught me how to play and I thought he was Mr. Wonderful.

Grandmother, Alice Davis, as I saw her.... was a short and very small woman about 5' or less tall, and I'm sure she never weighed as much as 100 pounds in her life. I can remember her with salt and pepper hair, and a very nice looking woman. She was always dressed in well ironed clothes and her apron. Most of the time when outside she wore a bonnet. I can remember her always reading the bible at night after everyone else had turned in for the night. She did dip snuff. I've gathered many of her dip toothbrushes off the tree for her. She had a kerosene chicken incubator and always hatched her own chickens and turkeys. She would gather her eggs, churn her butter and sell them. I lived with Grandmother and Grandad almost every summer and worked on the farm while I was growing up. I guess I knew them as good or better than most of the grandchildren. To me they were two wonderful and kind people. They always worked very hard and were well thought of in their community. Grandmother's big delight was to relax at night, read her bible by a kerosene lamp and on Sunday for her to get to church in some way. A wonderful lady.... I loved her very much.

Children of "S.O. And Alice Davis"
(Birth dates taken from Grandmother's Bible)

- 1) Son - Lela Lee Davis
Born - August 16, 1891 - Denton County, Texas
Children: Sons - Sid, Carrol, and Benny
Daughter - Maylene

- 2) Son - Samuel Emmitt Davis
Born - July 18, 1893 - Chickasha Nation
Children: 1st Marriage
Son - Dalton
Daughter - Willie Faye
2nd Marriage
Sons - Sam, Jim, and Lee Ray
Daughters - Wanda and Nora Faye

- 3) Daughter - Mary Ann Francis Davis
Born - February 11, 1986 - Denton County, TX
Married: Henry Clay
Children: Sons - Olbert and John
Daughters - Dorothy and Lavonne

- 4) Daughter - Maggie Lascina Davis
Born: March 13, 1898 - Denton County, TX
Married : John Nail
Children: Son - John R
Daughters: Lois and Doris
- 5) Son - Alford Albert Davis
Born - November 5, 1900 - Kaufman County, TX
Children: Son - Russell D
Daughters - Helen Ruth and Wynell
- 6) Son - Voss Willis Davis (Twin)
Born - March 14, 1903 - Denton County, TX
Children: Daughters: Jean, Peggy, and Marie
- 7) Son - Weathers (Withers) Clay "Red" Davis (Twin)
Born - March 14, 1903 - Denton County, TX
Children: Son - J.R.
Daughters - Inez, Alice, Kathy and Hallie Faye
- 8) Daughter - Betty Zane Davis
Born - April 8, 1905 - Denton County, TX
Children: Sons - Davis Doris and James Odell
Daughters - Margie Faye and Betty Jo
- 9) Son - Oscar Lawrence "Buck" Davis
Born - August 9, 1907 - Clay County, Texas
Married - Aunt May
Children: Daughters - Wanda Jo and Patsy
- 10) Daughter - Alice Gertrude Davis
Born - November 4, 1909 - Clay County, TX
Deceased - May 7, 1910 - Clay County, TX
- 11) Son - Louis Olon Davis
Born - May 3, 1911 - Clay County, TX
Married - Aunt Grace
Children: Sons - Lewis Wayne and Raymond Lee
Daughter - Betty Rae

12) Son - Frederick Davis

Born - December 6, 1912 - Clay County, TX

Deceased - December 6, 1912 - Clay County, TX

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As you can see Grandmother and Grandad had 12 children.... one died at birth and one only lived to be seven months old.

All the rest of their children lived to be in their 60's, 70's, or 80's, except for my mother, Betty, who like I said will be ninety-on on her birthday. All their children married and had families.... all their children would be my first cousins.... I knew most of them and I am listing them under their parents. Some I've probably forgot so please forgive me if I've left off any names.

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(What a wonderful history! The original was painstakingly created on a typewriter - transcribed from a photo copy given to me by Sadie Davis - as closely as possible to the original by Vickie L Downing February 18, 2003)