

SUTTER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWS BULLETIN

VOL. XXXIII No. 1

Yuba City, California

January 1992

THE JANUARY MEETING OF THE SUTTER COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY WILL BE HELD TUESDAY,
JANUARY 21ST AT 7:30 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY
MEMORIAL MUSEUM. STEPHEN PERRY WILL
DISCUSS "JOHN SUTTER LAND GRANT: NEW
HELVETIA."

WE ARE AGAIN SPONSORING TWO HIKES IN THE BUTTES
WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 21
AND SATURDAY, APRIL 4 THIS YEAR.
OUR BUS TOUR AROUND THE BUTTES WILL TAKE
PLACE ON SATURDAY, APRIL 11TH.

Director's Report

Typically we associate love, romance and marriage with springtime. This year at the Museum we are getting a head start on spring and featuring weddings and romance in the winter with the opening of the new clothing show, "From This Day Forward : Several Generations of Sutter County Weddings", opening on Saturday, January 11 at 7:30 p.m. Guest Curator, Karen Burrow, has combined some of the Museum's wedding dresses with loans from members of the community to put together this exhibition featuring 21 wedding dresses and one man's wedding suit spanning almost 100 years. Beginning with the black and green striped dress worn by Mary Terstegge when she married Henry Powell in 1862, the show traces the evolution of the wedding dress up to 1951 with the satin dress worn by Loadel Harter at her marriage to Norman Piner. In addition, two to three generations of wedding dresses will trace the history of each of these local families : Frye/Bryant, Summy/Burtis, Dean/Schnabel and McFarland/Burrow. "From This Day Forward" will be up through Sunday, April 5.

Bringing love and romance up to the present day, the Museum Commission and Auxiliary will be offering "Love's Messenger" gift bags that we will deliver directly to the valentine of your choice on Friday, February 14. Similar to the baskets we have done in the past for Mother's Day, "Love's Messenger" includes champagne, glasses, chocolate amaretto truffles, a silk rose, a candle and a book of William Shakespeare's sonnets, all presented in a beautiful, high quality, rose-motif bag. A rose gift card is also part of the package. The cost of the bag is \$20.00. and includes delivery anywhere in Sutter County and Marysville proper. All profits from "Love's Messenger" help to fund the educational programs that the Museum offers including the traveling trunk to the schools, the children's Easter program and the summer reading program. An order form for "Love's Messenger" is included in this issue of the Bulletin.

Jackie Lowe

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BUILDING FUND AND TRUST FUND

M/M R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Leila Winship
Wanda Rankin	In memory of Lola Case
Jack & Helen Heenan	In memory of Lola Case
M/M Newell Burtis	In memory of Lola Case
M/M Newell Burtis	In memory of Leila Winship
Howard B. King	In memory of Lola Case
Caroline S. Ringler	In memory of Lola Case
Larry & Linda Fortna	In memory of Lola Case
Mrs. Roy Goodman & family	In memory of Lola Case
Esther Fortna Family	In memory of Lola Case
Emma Howard	In memory of Lola Lucille Case
M/M R. A. Schnabel	In memory of Lola Case
Celia Ettl	In memory of Stella Rodda
Celia Ettl	In memory of Lola Case
Jane & Walter Ullrey	In memory of Lola L. Case
Jane & Walter Ullrey	In memory of Leila Winship
Newell & Shirley Burtis	In memory of Stella Rodda
Joe & Katherine Schmidl	In memory of Lola Ullrey Case
M/M Gayle Morrison	In memory of Lola Case
Fred Covell	In memory of Lola Case
Dorothea Ricketts	In memory of Lola L. Case
Burwell & Marcia Ullrey	In memory of Leila Winship
Burwell & Marcia Ullrey	In memory of Lola L. Case
Connie Cary	In memory of Bill Efstratis
Connie Cary	In memory of Danae Stewart
Dewey & Bernice Gruening	In memory of Jack Sheppard
Jane & Walt Ullrey	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Joe & Ellie McCarron	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Joe & Ellie McCarron	In memory of Mrs. Marona
M/M Milburn Swenson	In memory of Lola L. Case
Caroline Ringler	In memory of John M. McRee
Constance Cary	In memory of Arlene Lovell
Constance Cary	In memory of Pearl Fletcher
Caroline Ringler	In memory of Berniece M. Bryant
Wanda Rankin	In memory of Berniece Bryant
Bert & Shirley King	In memory of Bill Bone

Mr. & Mrs. Howard Hardie	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Elizabeth Randolph	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Gene & Joan Erfle	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Charley & Stella Price	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Bob & Jean Kells	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Jim & Alberta Gilpatric	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Mrs. John Sheehy	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Mr. & Mrs. Roger Chandler	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Ken & LaVerne Onstott	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Lola Case
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bryant	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Ray & Lena Frye	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Doug & Jean Goss	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lonon & Michael	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Gilpatric	In memory of Lola Case
Jennifer, Joel, Alyssa & Ryan Daven	In memory of Lola Case
George & Shyrlie Emery	In memory of Lola Case
Mr. & Mrs. Gayle Morrison	In memory of Leila Winship
James & Judith Barr	In memory of Lola Case
Doug & Jean Goss	In memory of Lola Case
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kells	In memory of Lola Case
Mr. & Mrs. Lee DeWitt	In memory of Lola Case
Frank & Joyce Carleton	In memory of Lola Case
Bud & Carmen Frye	In memory of Leila Winship
Anna, Albert & Mary Ulmer & Helen Brierly	In memory of Leila Winship
Mr. & Mrs. James Harbison	In memory of Della Tennet
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Faszholz	In memory of Leila Winship
Eleanor Holmes	In memory of Margaret Otis
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Lonon	In memory of Leila Winship
John & Lois Glenn, Mary Louise Erh	In memory of Thomas William Glenn
Mary Fran Nicholson	In memory of Geraldine Boyd
George & Dottie Post	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Frances Cook	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Frances Cook	In memory of Ed Hendrix
Eunice & Renzo Del Pero	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Virginia Pierce	In memory of Lola Case
Virginia Pierce	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Beta Chapter - Alpha Sigma	In memory of Geraldine Boyd

M/M R. A. Schnabel
Jack Heenan
Dewey Gruening
Wanda Rankin
Connie Cary
M/M R. A. Schnabel
M/M R. A. Schnabel
Mrs. Walter Ettl
Joe & Katherine Schmidl
Wilbur & Georgia Green
Jane Boone
Jane Boone

Mr. & Mrs. James Uno
Ellen & David Wheeler
Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Andreason
Thomas Frye
Bud & Carmen Frye
Mrs. Frederick Onstott
Catherine Pangle
Angela Hauss
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Harman
Jon Bechtel
Mrs. Robert Atterbury
Frederick & Marilyn Strain
Holly & John Rohrbach
June Goetz
Charles & Sheila Mathews
Mr. & Mrs. Gayle Morrison
Nora Nelson
Bridge Club
Mr. & Mrs. Len Richert
Fred & Paula Tarke
Mary Fran Nicholson
Richard & Elaine Tarke
Richard & Elaine Tarke
Sam & Mary Jane Zall
Anne C. Hodal
Kathryn Forderhase

In memory of Nick Orr
Outright Gift
In memory of Fred Covell
In memory of Fred Covell
In memory of Fred Covell
In memory of Fred Covell
In memory of Cecilia Davis
In memory of Betty Odor
In memory of Velma Littlejohn
In memory of Anne Helen Barth
In memory of Ed LePine
In memory of Dan Dillon

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David & Jennifer Giampaoli	In memory of Velma Littlejohn
Jim & Harriet Harbison	In memory of Bertha Watson
Bud & Carmen Frye	In memory of Bernice Bryant
Bob & Jean Kells	In memory of Geraldine Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. Grover Davis	In memory of Cecilia Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Masera	In memory of Cecilia Davis
Bridge Club	In memory of Mrs. Delbert Little
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kells & Family	In memory of Fred Covell
Mrs. Kathryn Forderhase	In memory of Cecilia Davis
Mr. & Mrs. L. Schmidl	In memory of Illa Howard
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coats	In memory of Bernice Bryant
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coats	In memory of Geraldine Boyd
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coats	In memory of Herman Gengler
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Coats	In memory of Leila Winship
Norman & Loadel Piner	In memory of Fred Covell
Bob & Jean Kells	In memory of Audrey Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Pakos	In memory of Irene Little
Alberta Gilpatric	In memory of George Atwood
George & Mary Coffey	In memory of Fred Covell
Robert Schmidl Family	In memory of Anne Barth
Bart & Donna Edwards	In memory of George Atwood
Mary Carnegie	In memory of Earl Kay

Love's Messenger



The Community Memorial Museum will deliver an elegant treat to that special someone on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14

Love's Messenger includes:

2 chocolate amaretto truffles
 silk rose
 champagne or sparkling cider
 glasses, napkins
 rose-tinted pillar candle
The Constant Heart, a book of
 Shakespeare's love sonnets
 card
 delivered in a rose motif gift bag

Cost of \$20 includes delivery on Friday, February 14. All orders prepaid.

Sample bag on display at Museum.

Extra bags, if available, may be purchased at the Museum on February 14

All proceeds for Museum education programs

Send this form with check payable to:
 Community Memorial Museum
 P. O. Box 1555
 Yuba City CA 95992

Delivery to:
 Sutter County
 Marysville proper

Order by Wednesday, February 12

Deliver Love's Messenger to :

Name _____ Sender's name _____
 Address _____ Address _____
 City _____ Phone _____
 Sign the card _____

Check one:
 Champagne _____
 Sparkling cider _____

ELIJAH LELAND DAVIS

ELIJAH L. DAVIS - An industrious, energetic, and capable agriculturist, Elijah L. Davis, has met with well merited success in his free and independent occupation, and at Oswald station on the twelve acre ranch which he has recently purchased, he expects soon to make his home. (1) He is a fine representative of the native citizens of Sutter County, his birth having occurred December 24, 1870, (2) near Yuba City.

Thomas Davis, his father, was born in England, and was there bred and educated. At the age of seventeen years, in 1859, (3) he immigrated to this country, settling in Illinois where he lived for one year. Continuing then on his journey westward, he came by the Isthmus of Panama to California in 1860, (4) and very soon after his arrival in Sutter County, he bought a squatter's claim on the Sutter Grant near Oswald Station, obtaining one hundred and sixty acres. He subsequently bought another tract of adjoining land equally as large, and, still later, he purchased another tract of one hundred sixty acres. On this ranch he embarked in general farming and stock raising, being thus engaged for twenty or more years. Selling out in 1882, he went to Oregon, locating in the Willamette Valley near Albany where he bought five hundred acres of land (5) on which he followed his chosen occupation for four years. Disposing of this farm in 1886, he returned to Sutter County where he resided until his death at the age of 56 years. (6) He was a man of much tact and judgement, meeting with fair success in his ventures, and was an active worker in the Republican ranks. He married Miss Mary Packard, (7) who was born in Minnesota (8) and came with her parents across the plains when a child. She died at the early age of 32 years (9) leaving four children, namely: Elijah L., the special subject of this sketch; Laura J. (10), the wife of P. A. Campbell of Portland, Oregon; Eddie F. (11), who died at seven years; and Thomas R. (12), a blacksmith residing in Seattle, Washington.

But seven years of age when left motherless (13), Elijah L. Davis remained at home with his father until after attaining his majority, obtaining a practical common-school education in his native district. At the age of 22 years (14) he began life for himself, and during the nine years that he worked as a farm laborer he was in the employ of but three men, working for Sewell Harris (15) five years. Having accumulated some money, Mr. Davis then rented twenty acres of land near Yuba City and engaged in fruit raising, at the same time, when not in the care of his orchard, working by day. He has recently, as mentioned above, purchased twelve acres of land which he has set out to fruit and grapes, starting an orchard and vineyard and in its development and improvemant he has a good promise of success.

Mr. Davis married Grace D. Black (16) and they are the parents of two sons, namely: Percy A. (17), and Charles Milton (18). Politically, he is identified with the Republican party.

SOURCE: HISTORY OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA & BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD OF THE SACRAMENTO VALLEY by Prof. J. M. Guinn; Chapman Publ. Co, Chicaho, IL; 1906. Pg 406

A FEW NOTES ABOUT ELIJAH

Elijah Leland Davis always told his children that he was born in 1870, and, if he had been born thirty minutes later, he would have been a Christmas present. The last part of this story might have been true, but he was actually born in 1869. A notice in the "Weekly Sutter Banner" published in Yuba City, Calif., on Saturday, Jan. 1, 1870, says:

BORN -- In Slough Precinct, Sutter County, Dec.
24th to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Davis, a son.

The 1870 Federal Census of Sutter Township, Sutter County, Calif; Pg. 27, states:

DAVIS, Thomas; age 35; male, white, farmer, of Eng
DAVIS, Mary; age 19, female, white, house keeper, of Ill
DAVIS, Elijah, age 7/12, male, white, of Calif; b Dec

As stated in the biography of Elijah Davis, his mother had died when he was quite young. The sketch failed to mention that his father, Thomas Davis had remarried. On 11 Apr 1880, Thomas Davis was married to Mrs. Mary Ann Wallace. The 1880 Federal Census of Sutter County, Calif., states:

DAVIS, Thomas, white, male, 45, farmer, born Eng, father born Eng; mother born Eng

DAVIS, Mary A., white, female, 44, wife, keeping house, born Vt, father born Vt, mother born Vt.

WALLACE, Claire A., white, female, 19, step-daughter, music teacher, born Calif, father b N.Y., mother b Vt.

WALLACE, Ada L., white, female, 11, step-daughter, at school, born Calif, father born N.Y., mother born Vt.

DAVIS, Elijah, white, male, 10, son, at home, born Calif, father born England, mother born Wisconsin

DAVIS, Laura, white, female, 8, daughter, at school, born Calif, father born Eng, mother born Wisconsin

DAVIS, Thomas, white, male, 5, son, at home, born Calif, father born Eng, mother born Wisconsin

[NOTE: There is a great deal of confusion about the actual age of Thomas Davis [He was born between 1834-1845], and the age and place of birth of Mary Packard. [She was born between 1844-1855, in Illinois, Maine, Minnesota, Wisconsin, or "the East".]

Elijah Davis registered to vote in 1892, and the Great Register of the County of Sutter, Calif., for that year states:

#395: Davis, Elijah; age 22; height, 6' 1";
complexion, dark; eyes, hazel; hair, brown;
born in Calif.; mailing address, Yuba City.

NOTES ON BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD:

1: According to Charles M. Davis, his father bought a ranch with grape vines on it. He took out the vines and planted peaches, but was unable to keep up the payments until the trees were old enough to produce, and he lost the ranch.

2: WEEKLY SUTTER BANNER, Yuba City, CA; 1 Jan 1870 - Born - in Slough Precinct, Sutter County, Dec. 24th [1869] to Mr. 7 Mrs. Thomas Davis, a son. [Elijah Leland Davis]

1870 FEDERAL CENSUS, Sutter Twsp, Sutter Co, CA
Thomas Davis; ae 25, m, farmer, b Eng
Mary Davis; ae 19, f, keeping house, b IL
Elijah Davis; ae 7/12, m, at home, b CA

According to Charles M. Davis, his father said that if he had been born one half hour later, he would have been a Christmas present. And he said he was born in 1870. The above records show he was born in 1869.

3: According to various sources, Thomas Davis was born between 1834 and 1845 -

Sutter Co Voter Reg; 1872 - 35 in 1869 = b in 1834
1880 Census, Sutter Co, CA - age 45 = b in 1835
age at death in 1891, 56 = b in 1835
md (2), Marysville, CA - age 43 = b in 1837
Arrived in America 1859 - age 17 = b in 1842
1870 Census, Sutter Co, CA - age 25 = b in 1845

4: Thomas Davis; naturalized in Sutter County, 14 Aug 1869

5: Land records, Albany, Linn Co, OR show 60 acres in 1884

6: See #3 above

7: Davis/Packard Family Bible - Mary Elizabeth Packard born in the year of our Lord 1851, February the 1

A minor when married in 1868; Father gave consent.

Age at death ca 1876 - ae 32 = b in 1844

1870 Census, Sutter Co, CA - age 19 = b in 1851

Laurah Jane Davis birth rec, 1873 - ae 18 = b in 1855

Thomas Davis birth rec, 1875 - ae 20 = b in 1855

8: J. M. Guinn's book = b in Minnesota

1870 Sutter Co, CA Census = b in Illinois

Laurah & Thomas birth records = b in Maine

1880 Sutter Co, CA Census = b in Wisconsin

[above info given after death]

9: She died sometime after 1875 when son, Thomas R. Davis was born, and before 1880, when her husband married [Mrs] Mary Wallace. If she was 20 in 1875 [See #7], she could have died in 1877 at age 22 instead of 32.

10: Delayed Aff of Birth: Laurah Jane Davis born in Sutter County, 11 Nov 1873. [She married Percy Allen Campbell.]

11: No record of birth for Edward Franklin. He does not appear in the 1870 or 1880 census. According to tradition, he fell down stairs and broke his neck when he was 7 years old. He was probably born between Laurah [#10] and Thomas [#12].

12: Delayed Aff of Birth; Thomas R. Davis born in Sutter County, 3 Dec 1875. [He married Pearl Genevieve Myers].

13: Elijah was b 24 Dec 1869. He would have been 7 in late 1875 through early 1876. His mother died after 3 Dec 1875 [See #12]

14: He registered in Sutter Co Voters Reg, 1892, Reg #395. A physical description: ae, 22; height, 6' 1"; complexion, dark; eyes, hazel; hair, brown; res of Yuba City.

In 1893 he was a resident of Slough Precinct, and did not have enough money to pay Poll Tax. [Sutter Co Poll, Dog, & Military List; Reg #18].

In 1900 Census, Elijah & Grace were residents of Vernon Twsp, Sutter Co.

In 1906, Elijah was age 35, an orchardist, in Yocolumne District, Sutter Co.

15: He worked for Suel Harris, a neighbor in Sutter County.

16: They were married 1 Nov 1899. Grace Black was the dau of John J. & Emma Catherine (Luyster) Black. According to Charles M. Davis, his mother didn't have a middle name. She had a favorite uncle who called her "Darling", and she used that for her middle name.

17: The Sutter County Farmer; Fri, 20 Jul 1900 - Born near O'Bannion Corners to Mr. & Mrs. Elijah Davis, 16 Jul 1900, a son. Also recorded in Sutter Co Official Rec Bk 172, Pg 202 for Percy Allen Davis.

18: The Sutter County Farmer; Fri 21 Nov 1902 - Born near Yuba City, to Mr. & Mrs. E. Davis, 16 Nov 1902, a son. Also recorded in Sutter Co Official Rec Bk 198, Pg 91 for Charles Milton Davis.

The Sutter County Farmer; Fri, 16 Feb 1906 - Born near Oswald, to Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Davis, 13 Feb 1906, a son. Also recorded in Bk 1905-07, Pg 20, Sutter Co, CA Births [Name Edward Franklin Davis, added 18 Aug 1941]

The Sutter County Farmer; Fri, 4 Sep 1908 - Born near Yuba City to Mr. & Mrs. E. L. Davis, 28 Aug 1908, a daughter. Also recorded in Bk 1907-11, Pg 40, Sutter Co, CA Births [Name Alice Berniece Davis, added 18 Aug 1941].

SOME NOTES ON NAMES

Elijah Leland Davis, the first child born to Thomas and Mary Elizabeth (Packard) Davis was probably named after his maternal grandfather, Elijah Packard. Not much is known about Elijah Packard except that he gave his consent to his daughter's marriage in 1868, and he was alive in 1872 when his youngest son was born.

ELIJAH LELAND DAVIS' CHILDREN...

1. Percy Allen Davis may have been named after Percy Allen Campbell who married Laurah Jane Davis (Elijah's sister) on 9 Aug 1893.
2. Charles Milton Davis apparently got his middle name from Milton Irwin Black, his mother's older (and only) brother who died 9 Oct 1892. It is possible that Milton Irwin Black was named after Rev. Salathiel Milton Irwin, the minister of the Presbyterian Church in Allen County, Kansas, when the Blacks lived there. Joseph Irwin Heidotting probably got his middle name from the same uncle.
3. Edward Franklin Davis was probably named after "Eddie F.", his father's younger brother, who died at age 7.
4. Alice Berniece Davis may have been named after Alice Marie Campbell, daughter of Laurah Jane Davis and Percy Allen Campbell.

In the next generation, there were five children: Agnes Florence Davis (Percy); Anita Marie Davis and Charles Irwin Davis (Charles M.); Sharon Ellene Davis (Edward); and Patricia Lynn Powell (Berniece). In this generation the only Davis family names carried on were Anita Marie, after her mother, and Charles Irwin, named after his father and a cousin, Joseph Irwin Heidotting (Uncle Bud).

In the next generation the only Davis family names carried on were Rebecca Marie Davis, named after her grandmothers, Marie Lenora Davis and Rebecca May Allen; Catherine Melissa Davis, named after her cousin, Dora Catherine (Stoker) Heidotting; Joseph Irwin Davis, named after his cousin, Joseph Irwin Heidotting; and Charles Rulon Davis, named after his grandfathers, Charles Milton Davis and Isaac Rulon Jones.

In the next generation, the Davis family names were carried on by the twins, Heather May, after her maternal grandmother, Rebecca May Jones, and Hannah Marie, after her paternal grandmother, Marie Lenora Davis; and by Charles Alan Deems, who got his nickname "Chad" from the "Ch" in Charles Davis, his maternal grandfather, the "a" in Alan Deems, his paternal grandfather, and "d" from Deems, his last name.

On 3 Nov 1899, the following unidentified article appeared in one of the Sutter County, Calif., newspapers:

The wedding of Elijah Davis and Grace Black took place last Wednesday evening at 9 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Spitzer below Yuba City. The ceremony was performed by Rev. E. E. Dodge. Miss Mamie Black, sister of the bride acted as bridesmaid and Joseph Heidotting as best man. The bride was beautifully attired in a dress of white alapace; the bridesmaid in pink organdy, and the groom and best man in conventional black.

After the ceremony and congratulations, all repaired to the dining room where a sumptuous supper was served, to which all did ample justice.

Many beautiful and useful presents were presented by the relations and friends. The happy couple will reside at the farm of G. W. Carpenter which Mr. Davis has leased for a year, and where they will be at home to their many friends.

We acknowledge receipt of some delicious wedding cake, for which we extend our thanks and extend congratulations.

The following notices appeared in "The Sutter County Farmer", Yuba City, Calif.:

Friday; July 20, 1900: BORN - To Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davis, near O'Bannion Corners; July 16, 1900, a son. [Percy Allen Davis, birth record Bk. 172, Pg. 201, Sutter County Official Records]

Friday; Nov. 21, 1902: BORN - To Mr. and Mrs. E. Davis, near Yuba City, Nov. 16, 1902, a son. [Charles Milton Davis, birth record Bk. 198, Pg. 91 Sutter County Official Records]

Friday; Feb. 16, 1906: BORN - To Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davis, near Oswald, Feb. 13, 1906, a son. Edward Franklin Davis, birth record Sutter County Births, 1905/07, Pg. 14. His name was added Aug. 18, 1941.]

Friday, Sept. 4, 1908: BORN - To Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Davis, near Yuba City, Aug. 28, 1908, a daughter. [Alice Berniece Davis, birth record Sutter County Births, Bk. 1907/11, Pg. 40. Her name was added Aug. 28, 1941.]

At 7:15 p.m., Monday, 2 Apr 1928, in Rideout Hospital in Marysville, Calif., Grace Davis died. According to her death record found on Pg. 291 in Vol. 4 of Marysville City Deaths, Grace Davis was the wife of E. L. Davis, and was a housewife, born 12 Jul 1878, in

Indiana, the daughter of John J. Black of Kansas, and Emma Luyster of Kansas. [This is in error. Grace Davis was born in Kansas, John J. Black was born in Ohio, and Emma Luyster was born in Indiana] Grace Davis was buried at South Butte Cemetery in Sutter City on Thursday, 5 Apr 1928

Four months later, at 4 p.m., on Friday, 3 Aug 1928, Elijah Leland Davis died. His death record is found on Pg. 76 of the 1927-1932 Sutter County death records. It states that he was a widower. His deceased wife's name was Grace. He was a carpenter, born 24 Dec 1870 in Sutter County, Calif., the son of Thos. Davis. He was buried at South Butte Cemetery in Sutter City on Monday, 6 Aug 1928. [There was an error in the record. The informant was Elijah's oldest son, Percy, who repeated what his father had told him, that he (Elijah) was born in 1870. 1869 was the correct year of birth.]

Since both of Daddy's parents died before I was born, I know very little about them, except for what I have found in county records, and what I have been told. According to the stories I have heard,

Emma Luyster met and married John J. Black in Kansas. He was 20 years older than her, and had a son, Esla Orris Black, born 8 Dec 1865, by his first wife, Sarah Stiggenwalt. [Aunt Birdie listed him as "Elsa"] Esla died young. John J. & Emma had a son; Milton Irwin, born 17 Jan 1875, & four daughters; Bertha Rachel, born 26 Aug 1876; Grace, born 12 Jul 1878; Effie Samantha, born 23 Jun 1881; & Mary Isabelle, or "Mamie", born 7 Jun 1883, all in Kansas. John J. Black was a farmer, and also hauled freight between Kansas and Colorado.

Emma and John moved to Sutter County, Calif., where they were divorced on 19 Nov 1888. John never remarried. He died in Yuba City on Friday, 12 Apr 1912. Emma married Charles Martin Spitzer in Sutter County, on 31 Mar 1896, and was always referred to as "Granny Spitzer". She died in Yuba City, on Saturday, 1 Nov 1930.

Daddy's mother, Grace (Black) Davis didn't have a middle name, but she had a favorite uncle who called her "Darling", and she adopted this as her middle name, using the name Grace D. Black until the time of her marriage. Milton died in 1892. Aunt Bertha married Steven Rigler Fortna, divorced him, and married William Joseph Cocking. Aunt Effie married Charles Philip Peters. Aunt Mamie (Mary) Mary married Joseph John Heidotting.

Daddy's father, Elijah L. Davis, or "Lige" as he was known to almost everybody, was tall and slender, with hazel eyes, brown hair, and a dark complexion. He had a violent temper, and sometimes drank to excess, making him very difficult to get along with. All of his children except Daddy left home at a young age.

Uncle Percy left home when he was 8 years old, and grew up on the Spitzer ranch with Granny Spitzer. He probably met Gladys Wolf in the peach cutting sheds at the ranch. They were married on

Wednesday, 29 Nov 1922. He worked on the ranch all his life. Later, he managed it. He and Aunt Gladys took care of Charlie Spitzer in his later years, and, when Mr. Spitzer died on Saturday, 12 Jun 1954, Uncle Percy inherited the ranch.

Daddy left home a number of times. He usually stayed with Uncle Joe and Aunt Mamie Heidotting. But he always went back. On several occasions he had to step between his parents when his father was drunk and threatened to hit his mother.

Uncle Ed also left home. He stayed with Granny Spitzer when he was in High School. On Sunday, 26 Nov 1930, he married Gladys Counts. These two aunts were always referred to as Aunt Gladys "Percy" and Aunt Gladys "Ed".

Uncle Percy worked on the Spitzer ranch, and Uncle Ed went to work for P. G. & E., but Daddy still worked with his father as a carpenter. They built at least one barn at Harkey's Corners, a number of houses, and worked on the Barry School. His father bought a farm that had grape vines on it. He took out the grapes and planted peaches, but before the trees matured and began to produce a crop he had to give up the property because he couldn't keep up with the payments. Daddy and his father also worked as fruit pickers and pruners, and in Charlie Spitzer's peach cutting sheds, where Daddy and Mother became acquainted. Daddy and Mother dated several times, and became good friends. Mother used to go to the Viney Ranch to visit on Sundays, but she said Daddy's father was never very friendly.

Then, Daddy's mother died. A few months later, his father also died. 13 months after Grandpa Davis died, Daddy and Mother were married, and Daddy started looking for another line of work. He was doing something in the back of a pickup truck, and an axe fell on his hand and cut it. He couldn't do any manual labor for a while, and he needed some kind of job. On 9 Apr 1928, he had completed a correspondence course in Theoretical and Applied Electricity from the Chicago Engineering Works, but, even though he only had a ninth grade education, he made up his mind that he wanted to work in a bank. But that's another story....

THREE GENERATIONS OF THE DESCENDANTS OF ELIJAH LELAND DAVIS AND GRACE D. BLACK:

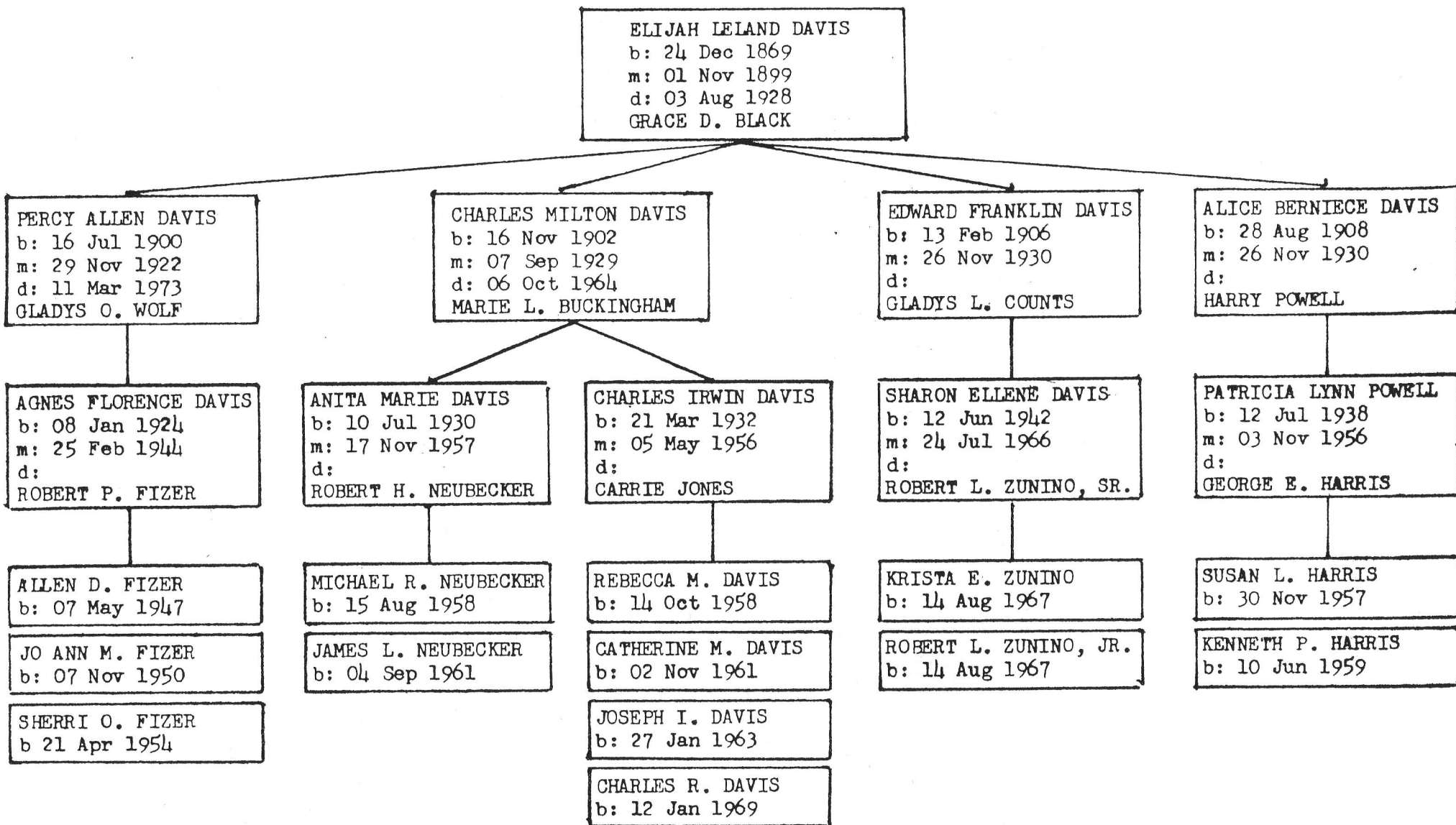


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