

THE DAVIS FAMILY OF BARTON STACEY, HAMPSHIRE 1728-1930s

by **Linda Moffatt © 2018**
for the Barton Stacey History Group

If you are able to amend or add any more information to this account, please contact the Barton Stacey History Group at bartonstaceyhistory@gmail.com www.bartonstaceyhistory.co.uk

The Davis family were in the parish of Barton Stacey, Hampshire from the 1720s and are known to have been blacksmiths from at least the second half of the 18th century until 1936 with the death of Walter Matthew Davis of Mount Pleasant.

CHARLES DAVIS is the first with this surname found in the parish registers of All Saints', Barton Stacey when he married in 1728. The first register for this church to have survived commences in 1713 (parish registers began in 1558) so it is possible there were earlier individuals called Davis but one would expect some evidence from marriages and burials in the first half of the 18th century, of which there are none. We can speculate, then, that Charles Davis came into the parish in the 1720s from elsewhere.

Charles Davis and his wife Ruth Carter were both of Barton Stacey parish when they were married after banns on 22 April 1728. They were living in Newton Stacey at the time their first child was baptised. Ruth Davis died in 1756 and was buried at Barton Stacey on 23 July.

Children of Charles and Ruth (Carter) Davis, baptised at Barton Stacey,

- i. Mary, baptised 21 March 1728/9. She presumably died young.
- ii. Charles, baptised 12 November 1732.
- iii. [perhaps] Ann, born about 1735. She married William Gager of Barton Stacey in April 1762. She was buried at Barton Stacey on 26 April 1824, aged 89.
- iv. Mary, baptised 15 January 1735/6.

3 further probable children, for whom no baptism has been found, born late 1730s or early 1740s:

- v. Phillis, buried at Barton Stacey on 27 June 1737.
- vi. Elizabeth. She married Richard Bunny of Barton Stacey in June 1766. Elizabeth Bunny was buried at Barton Stacey on 24 May 1794, her husband on 22 March 1795 (unfortunately, their ages were not stated in the parish register). Children, as known - Betty 1771; Arthur 1774; William 1776; Jacob, died 1778; Mary, died 1778; Sarah 1783. With the deaths of Richard and Elizabeth, the Bunny name disappears from Barton Stacey.
- vii. **JAMES**. He is the first of his family for whom we have documentary evidence of his being a blacksmith. He married Mary Stiles of Barton Stacey, after banns at Barton Stacey in May 1766. Mary Davis was buried on 6 March 1786, her husband on 5 June 1798, both at Barton Stacey. The administration of the estate of James Davis, blacksmith of Barton Stacey, was granted in 1800 to *[as yet unchecked]*¹.

¹ Hampshire Record Office Ref. No.: 1800AD/15, Administration and bond of James Davis of Barton

Children of James and Mary (Stiles) Davis,

- i. Sarah, baptised 11 June 1767. She is presumably the Sarah Davis buried at Barton Stacey on 10 March 1793.
- ii. **WILLIAM**, baptised 18 June 1770. He was a blacksmith like his father. He married Sophia Diddams on 18 October 1797 at Bullington, a parish adjacent to Barton Stacey. She was baptised at Bullington on 25 October 1777, daughter of John and Sarah Diddams.

William Davis and his wife, together with son William and daughter Sarah, are remembered on a stone in the upper part of Barton Stacey's graveyard (grave number 12). He died on 12 January 1823 aged 53 years, leaving a will². Sophia, his wife on 22 March 1823 aged 46 years.

Children of William and Sophia (Diddams), baptised at Barton Stacey,

- i. **JAMES**, baptised 23 February 1800, of whom more follows.
- ii. **WILLIAM**, baptised 18 March 1802. Somewhat confusingly, he too married a Sophia Diddams. They were wed on 9 October 1827 at Barton Stacey. William Davis died at only 27 years of age on 30 May 1829.

Children of William and Sophia (Diddams) Davis, baptised at Barton Stacey,

- i. Daniel, baptised 24 November 1827.
- ii. William, baptised 26 July 1829.
- iii. Charles, baptised 16 February 1806.
- iv. George, baptised 17 March 1808. He married Sarah Eyers at Barton Stacey on 13 April 1834.
- v. Daniel, baptised 3 February 1811. He died aged 24 on 25 February 1835 and is buried in grave number 34 at Barton Stacey.
- vi. Sarah, baptised at seven months old on 30 July 1813. She died at the age of 16 on 28 April 1829.

JAMES DAVIS, son of William and Sophia (Diddams), was baptised at All Saints', Barton Stacey on 23 February 1800 (and recorded in error as the son of *James* and Sophia Davis). He married Mary Ann Lovell on 18 July 1824 at St George the Martyr, Southwark, Surrey. They lived in Carshalton, Surrey until 1831-32 before settling in Barton Stacey.

An auction was held at The Swan Inn in Barton Stacey on 31 May 1848 in which James Davis, blacksmith, purchased from William White the house now known as Virginia Cottage for £175³. It is doubtful that he lived in the property, which was multi-occupied by three tenants. On 29 May 1860 James Smith 'in consideration of natural love and affection' conveyed Virginia Cottage to his daughter Emily Davis. Her properties were sold after her death in Sarisbury in 1902.

Stacey, Hampshire, blacksmith, 1800.

² Hampshire Record Office Ref. No. 1823B/29, Will, and further probate document relating to William Davis of Barton Stacey, Hampshire, Blacksmith, 1823.

³ Other houses in Barton Stacey and Binstead were sold at the same time but we have yet to find the details of this auction. The sale of Virginia Cottage is known from a document amongst the house deeds.

James and Mary Ann Davis shared their home with Henry Hailstone who during the 1840s progressed from a journeyman blacksmith to a master. It is possible that James Davis was able to retire and that Hailstone at some point managed his premises and business.

James Davis died on 23 March 1878 aged 79, leaving a will⁴. Mary Ann Davis and her son David, lived in the house called Mount Pleasant. She died on 28 May 1887 aged 86 and is buried with her husband in grave number 126 at Barton Stacey.

Children of James and Mary Ann (Lovell) Davis,

- i. Sophia Sarah, born about 1826 in Carshalton, Surrey. She was a milliner and dress-maker. She married, by licence on 4 November 1856 at St Bride parish Church, London, James Reeves (1821-1896), yeoman of St Bride (born King's Somborne, Hampshire, son of James Reeves, also a yeoman, and his wife Sarah Sweetapple⁵). James Davis and Emily Davis were their witnesses. Sophia Reeves died in 1882 aged 56. Mr Reeves farmed 620 acres in Up Somborne.
Children - Rose Selina (1858-1895), Gabriella (1861-1923).
- ii. **JAMES MATTHEW**, baptised 21 September 1828 at Carshalton. He moved in the 1840s to Crawley, Hampshire, where his blacksmith's shop was located on The Street. At the time of the 1861 censuses he was employing a journeyman and also had two apprentices. In 1857 he married Sarah Grace of Crawley (baptised there 29 July 1838, daughter of George and Louisa Grace).
He died on 20 September 1862 in Crawley, leaving a will proved at Winchester on 19 November that year. Sarah Davis took over the Fox and Hounds pub in Crawley and also continued the blacksmith's business. In 1885 she married George Frampton and moved to 70 Victoria Road, Netley Abbey, Hampshire, where she ran a confectionery shop with her brother Alfred Grace.

Children of James Matthew and Sarah (Grace) Davis, born in Crawley,

- i. James, born 1858. A carpenter in Crawley. He retired to 5 Nelson Place, Lower Canal Walk, Southampton. He is perhaps the James Davis who died in 1936 in Southampton, aged 77.
- ii. **GEORGE REGINALD GRACE**, born 8 June 1860. He married Sarah Ellen Fischer on 12 September 1892 in her home parish of Radstock, Somerset. He was a shoeing and general smith in Crawley until at least 1911 and later a Collector of Rates and Taxes in St Albans, Hertfordshire. He died on 8 January 1947, of 3 The Gardens, Watford, Hertfordshire, leaving a will proved at Winchester on 8 July 1947.

A daughter,

- i. Eileen, born in 1904 in Winchester.
- iii. **WYNDAM MATTHEW**, born 1862. A carpenter and joiner, he married Elizabeth Barrington in 1889 and lived with his wife and child at 7 South View, Winchester. He died in 1897 aged 35 and Elizabeth remained in Crawley, where she ran a laundry business with her sister Jane and widowed mother Rosanna (widow of Francis Barrington).

Children of Wyndam Matthew and Elizabeth (Barrington) Davis,

- i. Mabel Grace, born 1890, died 5 August 1948 in Hove, Sussex. She married Robert Payne in 1905.

⁴ Hampshire Record Office Ref. No. 5M62/17 page 386, Registered copy will of James Davis of Barton Stacey, whitesmith, 1878.

⁵ Information on Sophia Davis was obtained from a pedigree posted at Ancestry.com.

- ii. Walter Ernest, born 25 November 1893, died January 1955, buried at Magdalen Hill Cemetery, Winchester. He married Florence E. Dudman in 1919.
- iii. **GEORGE**, baptised 12 December 1830 at Carshalton. On 26 December 1853 at Barton Stacey he married Roselena Farley. Rose Farley was the daughter of John Farley, carpenter and wheelwright of Barton Stacey village, and his wife Charlotte (Rile). George and Rose Davis spent the 1850s in Houghton, Hampshire. He died in 1860 and Rose returned to Barton Stacey for the birth of her last child. She lived with her widowed mother at the house now known as Wheat Cottage, called Kings Cottage at that time. The 1891 census notes that she 'maintains herself from lodgers'. For many years her nephew Edwin Diddams (son of Isaac and Sophia (Farley) Diddams) lived with her and at the time of the 1901 census he and his aunt had moved to a cottage near the Vicarage in Barton Stacey.

Rosalina Davis taught the Wright Charity pupils of Barton Stacey. We know this because in Kelly's and Wright's Directories, when the school teachers are listed, in 1859 and again in 1867, her name is followed by the word (Free), unlike Jennet Froome who taught at the school in Bullington Lane⁶.

Roselena Davis died on 14 July 1904, aged 73, and is buried alongside her daughter Sophia in grave number 128 in Barton Stacey churchyard.

Children of George and Roselena (Farley) Davis, born in Houghton,

- i. **GEORGE FARLEY**, born 1855. In 1879 he married Mary Ware (born 20 June 1852 in Wonston parish, daughter of William and Ann Ware) and moved to Otterbourne, where he was a gardener. After short periods in Littleton and Popham, he returned to work on a farm in Barton Stacey; their home was near the Plough Inn. At some time during the 1890s the family moved to Spring Lane, Bishopstoke, Hampshire, and George became a bricklayer.

George Davis died in 1933 aged 79.

Children of George Farley and Mary (Ware) Davis,

- i. Mabel Harriet, born 1880 in Otterbourne. She married William Stafford, a smallholder (son of John Stafford, a miner) on 25 July 1914 at Burton Abbots, Oxfordshire. Mabel was a professional nurse living at the time of her marriage at Carterton, Black Bourton. Her brother Victor was one of the witnesses.
- ii. Gertrude Mary, born 1881 in Otterbourne. According to a pedigree posted at Ancestry.com, she married Herbert Jelly (1863-1933), a building surveyor, on 6 March 1905 at the Register Office, Staines, Middlesex. They lived in Sunninghill, Berkshire where she died on 8 August 1938.
Children- Vivian, George Herbert, George Herbert, Walter James, Herbert.
- iii. Edgar James, born 1883 in Littleton.
- iv. George Frederick, born 1886 in Popham.
- v. Victor William, born 1888 in Barton Stacey. He moved to Saltley in Birmingham and became a painter in a motor car works.

⁶ See *Barton Stacey Schools 1760-1960* by the Barton Stacey History Group, available via their website www.bartonstaceyhistory.co.uk.

- vi. Sidney, born 1889.
- ii. **WALTER MATTHEW**, born 15 September 1857. He appears to have spent some time as a blacksmith in East Stratton, Hampshire before his marriage. He married Jane Baggs on 12 June 1883 at Hannington, Hampshire, her home parish. They lived in Hartley Witney parish during the 1880s before settling in Barton Stacey village in the house called Mount Pleasant.
He died on 19 July 1936 aged 78 and is buried alongside his wife Jane (died 14 January 1937 aged 79) in grave number 277 in Barton Stacey churchyard.

Children of Walter Matthew and Jane (Baggs) Davis,

- i. Annie May, born 1884. She was in service at Barton House (now called Barton Cottage) as a housemaid, while her sister Rose was cook. The house was then owned by Mrs Mary Hill.
- ii. Roselena, born 1886. She died at Homelea, Barton Stacey (now known as Branben) on 18 May 1966 aged 80 and is buried in grave number 306 at Barton Stacey.
- iii. Olive Jane, born 28 February 1888, died 31 October 1958, of West Runton, Norfolk. She married John Edward Creasey, a naval seaman, in 1929.
- iv. Lucy Ann, born 1890. She married Frederick Thomas Edwards on 6 November 1917 in London.
- v. Sophia Constance, born 13 January 1893. She and her sister Roselena were in service at Wade's House in Barton Stacey village at the time that the 1939 Register was compiled. In 1948 Sophia married Arthur Alderman.
- vi. Harold Arthur, born 1895. He was apprenticed to the village carpenter, Walter Farley of Yew Tree Cottage (Ernest Charlton also worked for him).
- iii. **ALBERT JAMES**, born 24 March 1859. He and his younger brother moved to London, where Albert was a silver engraver in Clerkenwell, moving to Dalston around 1890. He married Julia Osborne in London in 1884. In the later 1890s they moved to Cann Hall, Essex. The business he ran with Francis Josiah Cross seems to have faltered, since the family moved before 1911 to 91 Sunnyside Road, Ilford, Essex, where Albert and his son Walter were jobbing gardeners. Francis Cross moved with them and became a milkman.

Albert Davis died in 1959 aged 86.

Children of Albert James and Julia (Osborne) Davis,

- i. Albert Osborne, born 1887.
- ii. Walter Harry, born 1890.
- iii. Rose Sophia Emily, born 26 January 1893, died 1957 in Essex, aged 64. She married Wentworth A. Hodges in 1915.
- iv. Francis Sydney, born 1895. He was a motor driver with the Army Service Corps in the Great War. He enlisted at Grove Park on 5 September 1915 and was in France from September 1916 to August 1919 (service number 119684).
- iv. **SYDNEY**, born posthumously in 1860 in Barton Stacey. He became a fancy cabinet maker in Hackney, London and lived adjacent to the family

of his brother Albert at 95 Southland Street. He married Sarah Henrietta Bath (Sarah Hetty) in 1885 in Hampshire.

Sydney Davis died in 1895 and Sarah married secondly Henry J. Griggs who was a carrier.

Children of Sidney and Sarah Henrietta (Bath) Davis,

- i. Nellie Maud, born 1886.
- ii. Georgina Rosetta, born 1888 in Clerkenwell.
- iii. Sydney Sylvanus, born 1886.
- iv. Sydney, born 1890.

A daughter of Roselena Davis,

- v. Sophia, born 1870. She became Assistant Teacher from 1887, with the new Head Teacher. The Inspector had noted that Miss Davis herself needed considerable improvement in the subjects she was teaching and in teaching method. Assistant Teachers received their training before and after school from the Certificated Teacher. Miss Taylor, with the help of the Vicar and his daughter, succeeded 'in raising the character of the discipline and of the attainments'. The inspection of 1888 noted that 'The Elementary Subjects have been very uniformly advanced'. The needlework Exercises worked at the Examination' showed improvement. Musical Drill and Singing by Ear were fair. Miss Davis' work with the Infants was similarly praised, though it was noted that she 'should attend to Arithmetic and Method'.
Sadly, Sophia was not to reach her potential as she died at the untimely age of only 22. Sophia 'the dearly beloved and affectionate daughter of Roselina Davis' died on 23 March 1892.
- iv. Emily, baptised 7 October 1832 at Barton Stacey. Before 1851, she moved to Crawley with her brother James, who was a blacksmith there. She later returned to Barton Stacey to keep house for her father. In 1875 she married Henry Silvester, a farmer (born in Widley, Hampshire, about 1812) and moved with her husband to Park Gate, Sarisbury (between Southampton and Fareham, Hampshire). He died in 1886 aged 74, Emily in 1901 aged 66. After a number of bequests, she appointed trustees to sell all her real and personal estate. (Will proved 11 April 1902 at the Prerogative Court of Canterbury). These trustees were her nephew George Reginald Grace Davis, a rate collector of Crawley near Winchester, together with her friends George Henry Child, builder of Soberton and Graham Whitlock, solicitor of Fareham.
- v. Rose Selina, baptised 18 January 1835. She died aged 16 in 1851.
- vi. David, baptised 12 March 1837. He remained in Barton Stacey, where he was blacksmith with his father. After his mother's death in 1887 he retired to Park Gate, Sarisbury, the home of his sister Emily Silvester.
- vii. Daniel, baptised 4 May 1839. He died in infancy and was buried at Barton Stacey on 6 June 1839.
- viii. Matilda, who died before her first birthday and was buried on 1 June 1840.

NOTES

1747 Dec 24 Marriage William MUNDAY of Barton Stacey
(perhaps buried 2 December 1784 Barton Stacey, age not stated)
Mary DAVIS of Barton Stacey
(perhaps buried 5 September 1799 Barton Stacey, age not stated)

1787 Aug 28	Marriage	Thomas DAVIS (buried 7 February 1795 Barton Stacey, age not stated) Ann COOPER (buried 11 April 1793 Barton Stacey, wife of Thomas, pauper, age not stated).
1808 Dec 04	Baptism	Hannah, daughter of Martha Davis.
1833 Nov 17	Baptism	Walter Daniel Davis Poore, son of Ann Poore.
