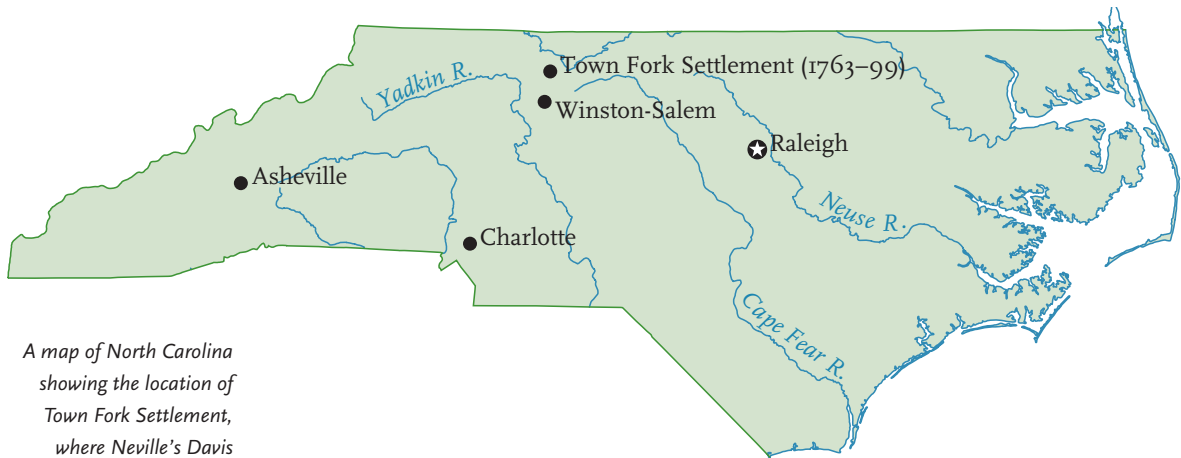


## DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS AND ELIZA MURRAY DRAKE

On March 1, 1842, at the Ebenezer Camp Meeting in Polk County in southwestern Missouri, twenty-one-year-old **Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** married fifteen-year-old **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)**. They were both born in Tennessee and had migrated with their families to Missouri.

Family tradition states that Neville's Davis heritage<sup>1</sup> is derived from a family that came to America in the seventeenth century from Cardiff, Wales. Neville's earliest recorded antecedent in the Davis line is her sixth great-grandfather **David Davis (1702–1782)**, who lived in Town Fork Settlement<sup>2</sup> near Winston-Salem, North Carolina.



*A map of North Carolina showing the location of Town Fork Settlement, where Neville's Davis ancestors lived for thirty-six years in the latter part of the eighteenth century.*

In 1763 **Morgan Davis (1735–1831)**, Neville's fifth great-grandfather, married **Sarah Reed (1742–1821)**, who descended from **Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder (1503–1542)** and his son, **Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger (1521–1554)**, important figures in sixteenth-century English history.<sup>3</sup> It is through the lineage of Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder's wife, **Lady Elizabeth Brooke (1503–1560)**,<sup>4</sup> that Neville is descended from early English royalty and nobility, back to **William the Conqueror (1028–1087)**. Another of Sarah Reed's antecedents was **Dorothea Scott (1611–1688)**, a renowned Quaker preacher who had considerable interaction with notables of seventeenth-century England.<sup>5</sup> The twice-widowed Dorothea emigrated from England to Oyster Bay in colonial New York in 1680 with her daughter, **Dorothea Gotherson (1657–1709)**.



*A map of Tennessee showing the four counties where Neville's Davis ancestors lived for thirty-seven years in the early nineteenth century.*

In 1799, after living in Town Fork Settlement for at least forty years, Morgan Davis led a migration of three generations of Davises from Stokes County, North Carolina, to Williamson County, Tennessee. Neville's Davis forefathers then lived in four counties in Tennessee—Williamson, Anderson, Lincoln, and Bedford Counties—for the next thirty-seven years.

Neville's fourth great-grandfather **Jonathan Davis (1770–1808)** was Morgan Davis's oldest son. He was twenty-nine years old at the time of the family's 1799 trek to Tennessee. With him was his wife, **Nancy "Nannie" Clayton (1769–1819)**. The Clayton family came from England to the Northern Neck of Virginia in the mid-seventeenth century. Jonathan and Nannie had four sons, two of whom were present on the migration to Tennessee, including five-year-old **Joshua Davis (1794–1856)**, Neville's third great-grandfather.

Joshua Davis lived from age fourteen to age twenty-six in Anderson County, Tennessee. He married in 1816 and moved with his wife in 1820 to near Shelbyville, Tennessee (southeast of Nashville), in Bedford County. In 1836, Joshua migrated from Shelbyville to Springfield in Greene County, Missouri. Over the next twenty years, Joshua Davis was a prominent politician and newspaper publisher in southwestern Missouri.<sup>6</sup>

Joshua Davis's second son, Newlin Addison Davis, was Neville's great-great-grandfather. He was fifteen years old when he moved with his family to Missouri, and he lived there for the next twenty-five years.<sup>7</sup> Newlin Addison Davis first worked as a printer with his father in Springfield. In 1850, at age twenty-nine, he earned a degree in medicine from Missouri Medical College in



*A map of Missouri showing the two counties where Neville's Davis ancestors lived for twenty-nine years in the middle of the nineteenth century.*

Saint Louis. He and his wife, Eliza Murray Drake Davis, then lived in Ozark, Christian County, Missouri, just twenty miles south of Springfield.

Missouri did not secede from the Union in 1861, but Dr. Newlin Addison Davis's sympathies lay with the Confederacy. Thus, in December 1861, at age forty, he joined the Confederate Army, soon attaining the rank of surgeon. Dr. Newlin Addison Davis's Civil War path was long, unusual, and complicated.<sup>8</sup>

Dr. Newlin Addison Davis had a younger brother, **William P. Davis (1830-1864)**, who was conscripted into the Union Army at age thirty-three in Springfield in November 1863. William Davis raised a company of volunteers in order to gain the rank of captain, which he was granted on January 10, 1864. Tragically, he died after serving for only ten days as a captain in the Union Army.<sup>9</sup>

Toward the end of the Civil War, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis sent a letter to his wife asking that she and their children leave Missouri and move to the South.<sup>10</sup> He wanted them to escape the privations and perils that they were experiencing as a Confederate family living in a border state. After a year or so in Bayou Sara, Louisiana, the Davis family moved first to Marion and then to Cleburne on Crowley's Ridge in northeastern Arkansas. In 1871 Dr. Newlin Addison Davis and his family moved to Forrest City, Arkansas, where he was a prominent physician. He died in Forrest City in 1876, just twelve days shy of his fifty-fifth birthday. Dr. Newlin Addison Davis is buried at the Old City Cemetery in Forrest City.



Eliza Murray Drake was born in the Watauga Settlement<sup>11</sup> near Elizabethton in eastern Tennessee. She was descended from pioneer Tennessee families—the Drakes, Williamses, and Taylors—who were early settlers in the area. In 1839, at age thirteen, Eliza Murray Drake migrated with her mother, stepfather, and half sister to southwestern Missouri, where she married Newlin Addison Davis in 1842.

Dr. Newlin Addison and Eliza Murray Drake Davis had ten children,<sup>12</sup> the oldest of whom was Neville's great-grandmother **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)**.

Eliza Drake Davis remained very close to her half sister, **Mary Lucretia Callison (1838–1910)**, who married Dr. Thomas C. S. Whitsitt (1828–1887). She is remembered as Aunt Mary in the Frierson family, with whom she lived as a widow for the last twenty-three years of her life.<sup>13</sup>

Eliza Drake Davis died in 1888, at age sixty-one, while living with her widowed daughter, Emma Gwynne Davis Frierson, in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Eliza Murray Drake Davis is buried in City Cemetery in Jonesboro.