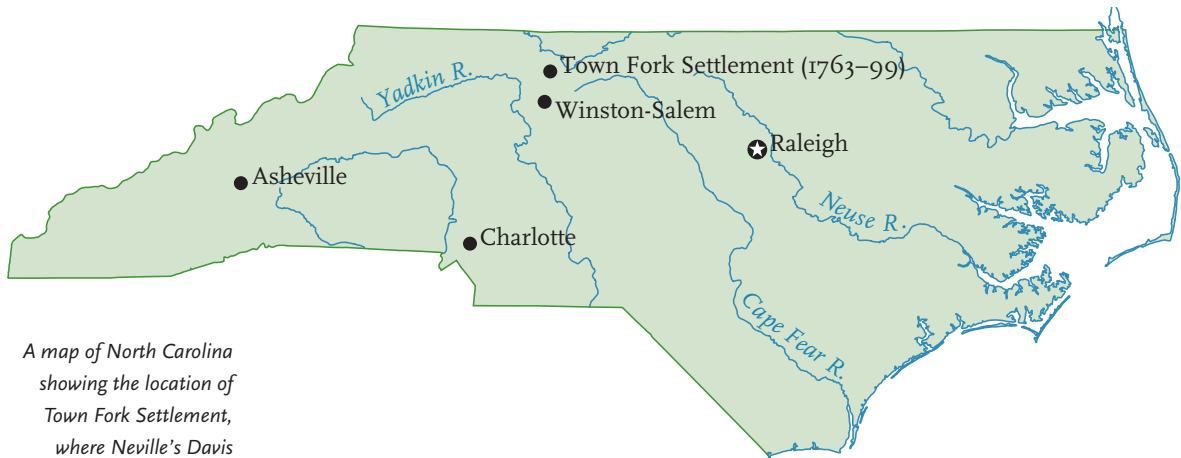


## DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS AND ELIZA MURRAY DRAKE

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)**.



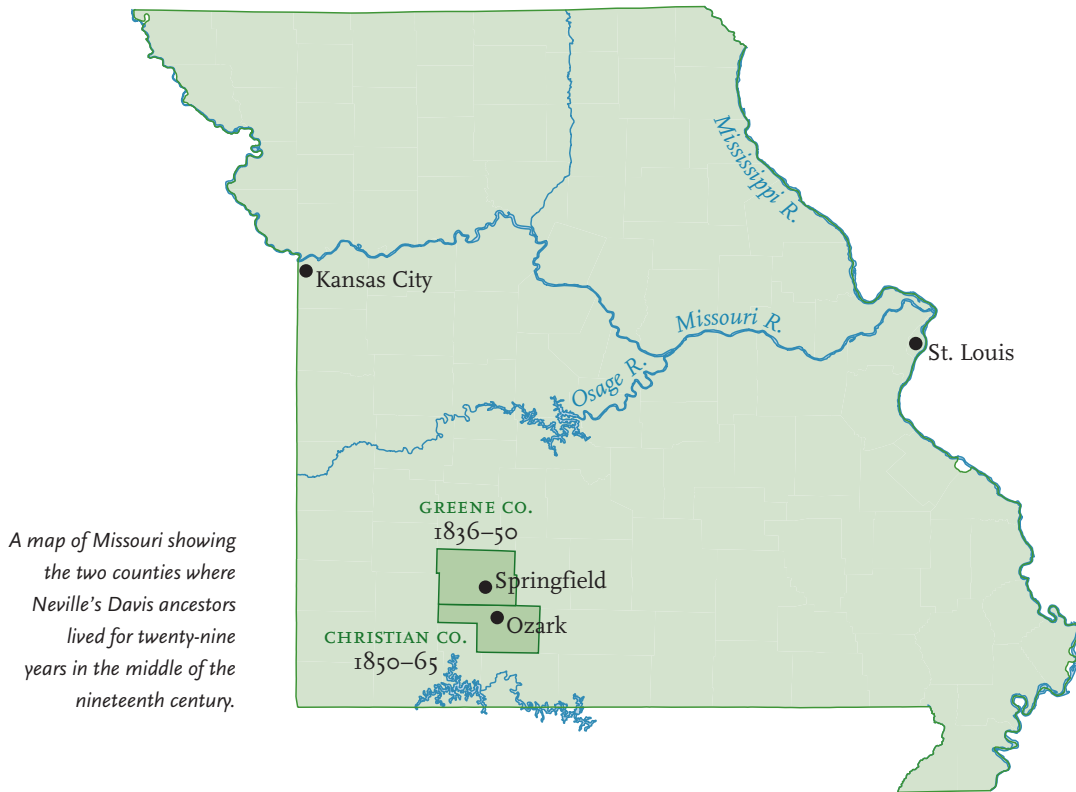
*A map of Tennessee showing the four counties where Neville's Davis ancestors lived for thirty-seven years in the early nineteenth century.*

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.

## DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS | ELIZA MURRAY DRAKE

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#### 1. NEVILLE'S DAVIS HERITAGE

David Davis (1702–1782)	m.	Elizabeth ( –after 1782)
Morgan Davis (1735–1831)	m. 1763	Sarah Reed (1742–1821)
Jonathan Davis (1770–1808)	m. 1793	Nancy Clayton (1769–1819)
Joshua Davis (1794–1856)	m. 1816	Elizabeth Davis (1795–1826)
Dr. Newlin A. Davis (1821–1876)	m. 1842	Eliza M. Drake (1826–1888)
Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)	m. 1868	James G. Frierson (1837–1884)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

The name Davis, which appears in eight successive generations of Neville's ancestry, is a form of the possessive term "David's" and means "son of David." The Davis name has been a particular favorite of Welsh and Scots families for many generations.

Family tradition holds that the Davis family came to either Virginia or North Carolina from Cardiff, Wales. Determining Neville's early Davis ancestry is quite difficult, however, because there were over four hundred Davis families in North Carolina in the first United States census, conducted in 1790. Davis is also the sixth most common surname in America.

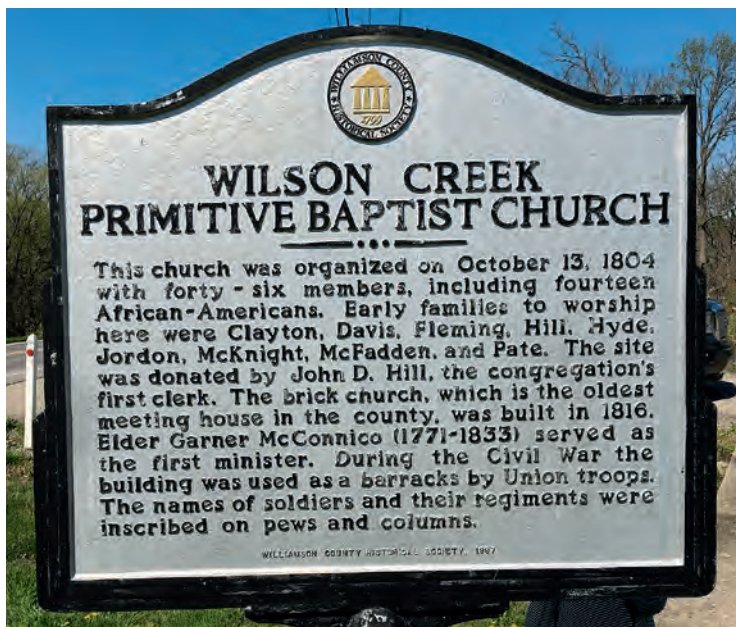
Neville's earliest recorded Davis forefather is her sixth great-grandfather **David Davis (1702–1782)**, who most likely migrated to North Carolina from Virginia in the first half of the eighteenth century. His wife's name was Elizabeth, and in 1759 they are recorded as living in the Town Fork Settlement, near Winston-Salem, North Carolina. David and Elizabeth Davis had several sons, including **Morgan Davis (1735–1831)**, Neville's fifth great-grandfather. David Davis is shown on a 1762 Moravian map as the owner of 266 acres in the Town Fork Settlement. He also left a will, dated October 19, 1782, in Surry County (now Stokes County). In that will, he bequeathed a breeding mare to his son Daniel, a cow to his granddaughter Hannah, and the remainder of his estate to his wife, Elizabeth.

Morgan Davis and his wife, **Sarah Reed Davis (1742–1821)**, had nine children. Morgan Davis owned about two hundred acres of land in Town Fork Settlement and had no slaves. He is listed as

Primitive Baptist. Morgan Davis was too old to serve in the American Revolutionary War (1775–83), for he was in his mid-forties by the time the war came to his part of the country. His sons were too young to serve in the war.

Around 1799, at about age sixty-four, Morgan Davis led his family on a migration from Town Fork Settlement to Williamson County, south of Nashville, in Middle Tennessee. With him were his twenty-nine-year-old son, **Jonathan Davis (1770–1808)**, and his five-year-old grandson, **Joshua Davis (1794–1856)**.

In Williamson County, Jonathan and Morgan Davis were members of the Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Church, located in the eastern part of the county. The Primitive Baptists are a sect of conservative, “hard-shelled” Baptists who split off from the main denomination in the early nineteenth century, during the time of the Second Great Awakening (c. 1790–1840), a Protestant revival movement that saw an explosion of new denominations. The Primitive Baptist movement has waned in our time; it is remembered for ritual foot washing, the rejection of Sunday school, and the exclusion of musical instruments at church services (all singing was a cappella).



*A sign erected at the site of the Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Church. The photograph was taken by John Bryan III on March 27, 2016, when we went there.*



*A recent photograph of the Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Church in Williamson County, Tennessee. Neville's Davis ancestors were early members. The photograph was taken by John Bryan III on March 27, 2016, when we stopped by there.*

Jonathan Davis died in 1808 in Williamson County, at age thirty-eight. He left his widow, **Nancy Clayton Davis (1769–1819)**, and four young children, including fourteen-year-old Joshua, Neville's third great-grandfather. The family subsequently moved to Clinton, Tennessee, in Anderson County, near Knoxville. Anderson County is almost two hundred miles east of Williamson County.

Shortly after that, Jonathan Davis's parents, Morgan and Sarah Reed Davis, moved from Williamson County to Lincoln County, Tennessee, about sixty miles southeast of Williamson County and just above the Alabama state line. Sarah Reed Davis died in Lincoln County at age seventy-nine, in 1821. Morgan Davis died there in 1831, at age ninety-six.

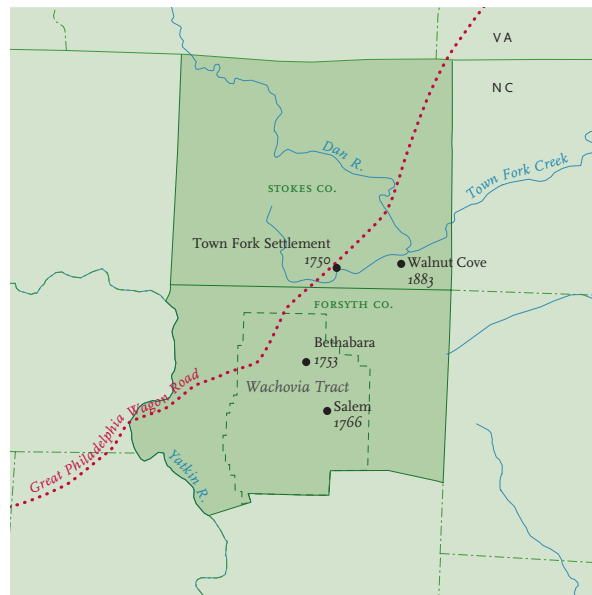
In 1820 Joshua Davis, with his wife and two children, moved from Anderson County to live in either Bedford County or Lincoln County, south of Nashville in Middle Tennessee. Their son **Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** was born in Shelbyville in Bedford County the next year. Several other children were subsequently born in Lincoln County. For the next sixteen years, the Joshua Davis family lived in that area. In 1836 they left Tennessee and moved to Springfield in southwest Missouri. Thus ended the thirty-seven-year residence of Neville's Davis family in Tennessee.

## 2. TOWN FORK SETTLEMENT

In the backwoods of North Carolina's Piedmont,\* a place called Town Fork Settlement developed along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road. It was located about fifteen miles directly north of present-day Winston-Salem, North Carolina. The Town Fork Settlement site is next to Town Fork Creek, just west of Walnut Cove, a small town in Stokes County, North Carolina. Town Fork Settlement no longer exists.

Three of Neville's ancestral families—the Davises, the Claytons, and the Denums—resided in Town Fork Settlement. They lived and intermarried there for several generations in the eighteenth century.

*These maps show the North Carolina location of Town Fork Settlement, a place where twelve of Neville's direct ancestors lived during the latter half of the eighteenth century.*



The founding of Town Fork Settlement slightly predates the 1753 Moravian\*\* purchase of the 100,000-acre parcel known as the Wachovia Tract. On that land, the Moravians first built a

\*The Piedmont is a plateau region in the eastern United States, between the Atlantic Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains. It stretches from New Jersey to Alabama. The word piedmont literally means "mountain foot" in Italian; we usually use the word foothills in English.

\*\*The Moravians were German-speaking Protestants who came to Colonial America from Moravia in Eastern Europe. Moravia is today in the Czech Republic. Moravians are generally characterized as a peaceful, caring, and homogeneous religious sect.



temporary settlement called Bethabara (pronounced Beth-AB-ar-a), which was located six miles northwest of Old Salem,\* a historic district of Winston-Salem. The Moravians commenced construction on the town of Salem in 1766. In 1913 Salem merged with Winston to create the town of Winston-Salem.

In the mid-eighteenth century, the Southern backcountry of North Carolina was a beautiful, but perilous wilderness. However, because of the abundance of land and a relatively temperate climate, thousands of Northern colonists came to the area. The settlers of Town Fork were a somewhat multicultural lot, with differing religious beliefs. They were not a genteel group of people and were thought of in some quarters as Carolina “rabble.” Their neighbors, the Moravians, were pious, disciplined, and spoke German. Moravian records from the eighteenth century reflect considerable interaction and apparent harmony between these two communities.

During the last half of the eighteenth century, approximately twelve of Neville’s direct antecedents lived in Town Fork Settlement. They were members of the Davis, Clayton, and Denum families.

#### THE DAVIS FAMILY

- **DAVID DAVIS (1702–1782)** and his wife, **ELIZABETH (—after 1782)**, are Neville’s sixth great-grandparents and are recorded in Town Fork Settlement in 1762 and 1782. They died there.
- **MORGAN DAVIS (1735–1831)** and his wife, **SARAH REED (1742–1821)**, are Neville’s fifth great-grandparents. He appears on the tax rolls of Town Fork Settlement from 1759 to 1795. The couple moved to Williamson County (south of Nashville), Tennessee, in 1799.
- **JONATHAN DAVIS (1770–1808)** and his wife, **NANCY CLAYTON (1769–1819)**, are Neville’s fourth great-grandparents and were born in Town Fork Settlement, married there, and migrated to Tennessee in 1799.
- **JOSHUA DAVIS (1794–1856)** is Neville’s third great-grandfather. He was born in either Town Fork Settlement or in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, less than one hundred miles south of Town Fork. Whatever the case, at age five, Joshua Davis was with his father and grandfather on their 1799 migration from North Carolina to Tennessee.

\*The old village of Salem is managed today by a nonprofit organization called Old Salem Museum and Gardens. Our son-in-law, Lee Louis French (b. 1962)—our daughter Margaret Bryan’s (b. 1963) husband—was the chief executive officer of Old Salem Museum and Gardens from 2006 to 2012.

## THE CLAYTON AND DENNUM FAMILIES

William Cleaton (1634–1668)	m.	Hannah (c. 1645–1706)
William Clayton (c. 1667–1706)	m. 1688	Mary Dowd (c. 1670– )
Stephen Clayton I (1705–1784)	m.	Mary
Stephen Clayton II (1735–1819)	m. 1757	Mary Denum (1737–1821)
Nancy Clayton (1769–1819)	m. 1793	Jonathan Davis (1770–1808)
Joshua Davis (1794–1856)	m. 1816	Elizabeth Davis (1795–1826)
Dr. Newlin A. Davis (1821–1876)	m. 1842	Eliza M. Drake (1826–1888)
Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)	m. 1868	James G. Frierson (1837–1884)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

Neville's immigrant ancestor in her Clayton heritage is her eighth great-grandfather **William Cleaton (1634–1668)**. He was baptized at Calverley Parish in Shropshire in the West Midlands of England on May 28, 1634. Records state that William Cleaton moved to Northumberland County, in the Northern Neck of Virginia, on March 25, 1651. He was a tobacco merchant. He and his wife, **Hannah (c. 1645–1706)**, had a son, **William Clayton (c. 1667–1706)**, who died at age thirty-nine, leaving a one-year-old son who came to Town Fork Settlement as an adult.

- **STEPHEN CLAYTON I (1705–1784)** is Neville's sixth great-grandfather. He was born in Richmond County, Virginia, and came to North Carolina in the 1730s as a land speculator. We are uncertain about his wife. His death at age seventy-eight is recorded on June 27, 1784, in Town Fork Settlement. He had four children.

- **STEPHEN CLAYTON II (1735–1819)** and his wife, **MARY DENNUM (1737–1821)**, are Neville's fifth great-grandparents. They are recorded in Town Fork settlement as Episcopalians who owned 305 acres of land and two slaves.

- **HUGH DENNUM (1712–1789)** and his wife, **ELIZABETH LUSK (1715–1786)**, are the parents of Mary Denum and are Neville's sixth great-grandparents. They owned 510 acres on both sides of the Dan River in 1763, and he owned one slave. His occupation is listed as hatter. Hugh Denum died in Town Fork Settlement in 1789 and left a will in which he made reference to previous gifts to his son-in-law, Stephen Clayton II, and gave one-half of the residue of his estate to his daughter, Mary.

Since the year 2000, our daughter, Margaret Bryan French (b. 1963), has lived with her husband and four children in Winston-Salem, just about fifteen miles south of Town Fork Settlement.

## DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS | ELIZA MURRAY DRAKE

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### 3. SIR THOMAS WYATT THE ELDER AND SIR THOMAS WYATT THE YOUNGER

Henry Wyatt (1460–1537)	m. 1485	Anne Skinner (1475– )
Thomas Wyatt, Elder (1503–1542)	m. 1520	Elizabeth Brooke (1503–1560)
Thomas Wyatt, Younger (1521–1554)	m. 1537	Jane Hawte (1522–1568)
Jane Wyatt (c. 1546–1616)	m. c. 1565	Charles Scott (1542–1617)
Thomas Scott (1567–1635)	m. 1604	Jane Knatchbull (1580–1616)
Dorothea Scott (1611–1688)	m. 1635	Daniel Gotherson (1618–1666)
Dorothea Gotherson (1657–1709)	m. 1680	John Davis I (1660–1735)
John Davis II (1686–1735)	m. 1711	Elenor Hogen (1690– )
Hannah Davis (1721– )	m. c. 1735	John Reed (1710–1749)
Sarah Reed (1742–1821)	m. 1763	Morgan Davis (1735–1831)
Jonathan Davis (1770–1808)	m. 1793	Nancy Clayton (1769–1819)
Joshua Davis (1794–1856)	m. 1816	Elizabeth Davis (1795–1826)
Dr. Newlin A. Davis (1821–1876)	m. 1842	Eliza M. Drake (1826–1888)
Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)	m. 1868	James G. Frierson (1837–1884)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

The sixteen generations of Neville's Wyatt ancestry represent one of the longest recorded lineages in her family history. Knowledge about the depth of this heritage results from the fame of **Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder (1503–1542)** and his son, **Sir Thomas Wyatt the Younger (1521–1554)**, Neville's thirteenth and twelfth great-grandfathers. Both Thomas Wyatt the Elder and his son were important historical figures in sixteenth-century English history.



*Thomas Wyatt the Elder, poet and diplomat, depicted in a drawing by Hans Holbein the Younger (1497–1543).*

Thomas Wyatt the Elder was the son of **Sir Henry Wyatt (1460–1537)**, one of the privy councilors who advised the Tudor King of England, Henry VII (1457–1509). Henry Wyatt, in fact, helped King Henry VII wrest the English throne from the notoriously evil King Richard III (1452–1485). Henry Wyatt was also named a guardian and trusted advisor for King Henry VIII (1491–1547), who ascended to the English throne in 1509.

Thomas Wyatt the Elder is best known as a lyrical poet who introduced the sonnet to the English language. He has been called “*the Father of English Poetry*” by literary critic and author Patricia Thomson (b. 1948). Although his poems were circulated widely in the court of Henry VIII, none was ever published in his lifetime.

Thomas Wyatt the Elder was six feet tall and handsome. In 1520 he married **Elizabeth Brooke (1503–1560)** when they were sixteen or seventeen years old, and they had one son, Thomas Wyatt the Younger in 1521. In 1524, at age twenty-one, Thomas Wyatt the Elder was appointed as an ambassador in the court of King Henry VIII.

There is conjecture that twenty-two-year-old Thomas Wyatt the Elder, unhappily married, fell in love with his second cousin, the young Anne Boleyn (c. 1501–1536), who would become the second wife of Henry VIII about eight years later. This speculation is based largely on interpretations of poems written by Thomas Wyatt the Elder. Whatever the case may be, Thomas Wyatt the Elder and his wife, Elizabeth Brooke Wyatt, separated in about 1526. He charged her with adultery, which, in Tudor England, was shameful for common people but more acceptable amongst the nobility.

Henry VIII won the favor of Anne Boleyn and began as early as 1527 to seek an annulment of his first marriage from the pope in order to marry Anne. To that end, Henry VIII sent Thomas Wyatt the Elder on a mission to gain papal permission for the marriage. Thomas was captured and imprisoned in Rome, though he escaped and returned to England. Henry VIII’s failure to get the annulment, and his subsequent defiance of Rome, precipitated the Protestant Reformation in England. That event, arguably, had a monumental impact on English as well as American history.

In December 1532, Anne Boleyn became pregnant with the child of Henry VIII. They then secretly married on January 25, 1533, and their only child was born on September 7. She was Elizabeth I (1533–1603), who was to become the greatest monarch in the history of England. After about three

years of marriage, Henry VIII became weary of Anne Boleyn. He was also frustrated by her inability to produce a male heir. To get rid of her, Henry accused her of adultery, treason, and incest. After one thousand days of marriage, Anne Boleyn was beheaded at the Tower of London.

In May 1536, Thomas Wyatt the Elder was imprisoned in the Tower of London for allegedly having committed adultery many years earlier with Anne Boleyn. While imprisoned there, he likely witnessed the execution of Anne Boleyn and five other men with whom she had allegedly committed adultery. Later he was released because of his friendship with Thomas Cromwell (1485–1540), the chief minister to Henry VIII from 1532 to 1540.

In 1537 Thomas Wyatt the Elder took a mistress with whom he had three illegitimate sons. He died of a fever at age thirty-nine, in 1542, and is buried in a plainly marked tomb in the Chapel of Sherborne Abbey in Dorset, England.

The only legitimate son of Thomas Wyatt the Elder was Thomas Wyatt the Younger, who had a major impact on the lives of three successive English queens: Lady Jane Grey (1536–1554), who was queen for nine days in 1553; Queen Mary I (1516–1558), who reigned from 1553 to 1558; and Queen Elizabeth I (1533–1603), who ruled England for the next forty-five years.



*Thomas Wyatt the Younger was the leader of Wyatt's Rebellion, an unsuccessful uprising against Queen Mary I in 1554. He was convicted of high treason and gruesomely executed. This painting is attributed to Hans Holbein the Younger.*

At age fifteen, Thomas Wyatt the Younger was appointed to the position of Esquire to the Body of Henry VIII, an honorary title given to boys who might later be knighted. At age sixteen in 1537, he married fifteen-year-old **Jane Hawte (1522–1568)**; they had nine children, the last of whom was **Jane Wyatt (c. 1546–1616)**, Neville's eleventh great-grandmother. Thomas inherited his father's estate, Allington Castle, when he was twenty-one years old. He chose a military career and received his knighthood at age twenty-six, in 1547, the year Henry VIII died.

In 1553, after the death of Henry VIII's fifteen-year-old heir, Edward VI (1537–1553), the throne of England was claimed by seventeen-year-old Lady Jane Grey, a Protestant daughter-in-law of John Dudley (1504–1553), the 1st Duke of Northumberland. Lady Jane Grey ruled England for nine days, but she was quickly overthrown and succeeded by Mary Tudor (later known as Bloody Mary), the Catholic half sister of Edward VI.

Thomas Wyatt the Younger had assisted Queen Mary I when her claim to the English throne was threatened in 1553. In 1554, however, Wyatt became incensed by the announcement that thirty-seven-year-old Queen Mary I would marry the twenty-seven-year-old King Phillip II (1527–1598) of Spain, a country he saw as a dangerous enemy for England. This prospect incited Thomas to lead Wyatt's Rebellion, an attempt by four thousand rebels to unseat Mary I by attacking London on February 3, 1554. The uprising was a colossal failure, and it led to the execution of Lady Jane Grey on February 12, 1554, and a death sentence for Thomas Wyatt the Younger on March 15, 1554.

Imprisoned in the Tower of London, Thomas Wyatt the Younger was tortured in an attempt to get him to implicate Elizabeth Tudor, Queen Mary I's younger half sister, in his rebellion. He resisted, and at his execution on April 11, 1554, Thomas Wyatt was allowed a scaffold speech, in which he exonerated Elizabeth and thus saved her life. He said:

*And whereas it is said and whistled abroad that I should accuse my lady Elizabeth's grace and lord Courtenay [Edward Courtenay, 1527–1556]; it is not so, good people. For I assure you, neither they nor any other now in yonder hold or durance [tower] was privy to my rising or commotion before I began. As I have declared no less to the queen's council. And this is most true.*

After his speech, Thomas Wyatt the Younger's head was severed, his body was quartered, and his bowels and genitals were burned. His head was then parboiled and nailed up on a post. It was later stolen.



*A depiction of the decapitation of Neville's twelfth great-grandfather Thomas Wyatt the Younger on April 11, 1554, on Tower Hill near the Tower of London.*

The Wyatts' ancestral home, Allington Castle, is located just north of Maidstone in Kent in the southeast of England. It was the birthplace of both Thomas Wyatt the Elder and Thomas Wyatt the Younger, and it was the family's home throughout the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Allington Castle is currently the private residence of the psephologist ("see-FOL-o-gist") Sir Robert M. Worcester (b. 1933), an American who founded an opinion research firm in England. The house is not open to the public. A psephologist is a sociologist who studies election trends.



*Allington Castle in Kent, England, is the ancestral home of Neville's ancestors Thomas Wyatt the Elder and Thomas Wyatt the Younger.*

#### 4. LADY ELIZABETH BROOKE, DESCENDANT OF ENGLISH ROYALTY AND NOBILITY

William the Conqueror (c. 1028–1087)	m. 1051	Matilda of Flanders (1031–1083)
King Henry I (c. 1068–1135)	m. 1100	Matilda of Scotland (1080–1118)
Princess Matilda (1102–1167)	m. 1128	Geoffrey Plantagenet (1113–1151)
King Henry II (1133–1189)	m. 1152	Eleanor of Aquitaine (1124–1204)
King John (1166–1216)	m. 1200	Isabella of Angouleme (1188–1246)
King Henry III (1207–1272)	m. 1236	Eleanor of Provence (1223–1291)
King Edward I (1239–1307)	m. 1254	Eleanor of Castile (1241–1290)
King Edward II (1284–1327)	m. 1308	Isabella of France (1295–1358)
King Edward III (1312–1377)*	m. 1328	Philippa of France (1314–1369)
John of Gaunt, Duke (1340–1399)	m. 1396	Katherine Swynford (1350–1403)**
Joan Beaufort, Countess (c. 1379–1440)	m. 1397	Ralph Neville, Earl (1364–1425)
Edward Neville, Baron (1412–1476)	m. 1448	Catherine Howard, Baroness (1414–1478)
Margaret Neville, Baroness (1455–1506)	m. c. 1470	John Brooke, Baron (1447–1512)
Thomas Brooke, Baron (c. 1470–1529)	m. c. 1494	Dorothy Heyden, Baroness (c. 1470–1560)
Lady Elizabeth Brooke (1503–1560)	m. 1520	Sir Thomas Wyatt, Elder (1503–1542)

The wife of **Thomas Wyatt the Elder (1503–1542)** was **Lady Elizabeth Brooke (1503–1560)**, a descendant of **William the Conqueror (c. 1028–1087)**, who is, thus, Neville's twenty-eighth great-grandfather. That ancestral line runs back from the House of Brooke and the House of Neville to Plantagenet and Norman kings of England.

Incidentally, there are hundreds of millions of descendants of William the Conqueror living today. In fact, for persons with British ancestry, it is virtually impossible not to descend from him.

After about six years of marriage, and having one child, Lady Elizabeth Brooke and Thomas Wyatt the Elder separated in about 1526. Thomas kept a mistress and paid support to Elizabeth Brooke Wyatt until 1537. After Thomas Wyatt the Elder died in 1542, Elizabeth Brooke Wyatt married Sir Edward Warner (1511–1565), who was Lord Lieutenant of the Tower of London, and they had three sons. Elizabeth Brook Wyatt Warner died at about age fifty-seven at the Tower of London.

\*Edward III is the seventeenth great-grandfather of Queen Elizabeth II (b. 1926). He is Neville's nineteenth great-grandfather. Thus, Neville is Queen Elizabeth's eighteenth first cousin, twice removed.

\*\*Katherine Swynford, John of Gaunt's third wife, was his mistress for many years before they married. Their marriage in 1396 gave legitimacy to their children.



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### 5. DOROTHEA SCOTT, NEVILLE'S QUAKER IMMIGRANT ANCESTOR

Sir William Scot (1390–1433)	m. c. 1421	Isabella Herbert (1406–1454)
Sir John Scot (1423–1485)	m. 1454	Agnew Beaufitz (1431–1487)
Sir William Scotte (1459–1524)	m. 1487	Sibyl Lewkknor (1460–1527)
Sir John Scott (1488–1534)	m. 1508	Anne de Pympe (1485–1540)
Sir Reginald Scott (1512–1554)	m. 1538	Mary Tuke (1514–1555)
Sir Charles Scott (1542–1617)	m. c. 1565	Jane Wyatt (c. 1546–1616)
Thomas Scott (1567–1635)	m. 1604	Jane Knatchbull (1580–1616)
Dorothea Scott (1611–1688)	m. 1635	Daniel Gotherson (1618–1666)
Dorothea Gotherson (1657–1709)	m. 1680	John Davis I (1660–1735)
John Davis II (1686–1735)	m. 1711	Elenor Hogen (1690– )
Hannah Davis (1721– )	m. c. 1735	John Reed (1710–1749)
Sarah Reed (1742–1821)	m. 1763	Morgan Davis (1735–1831)
Jonathan Davis (1770–1808)	m. 1793	Nancy Clayton (1769–1819)
Joshua Davis (1794–1856)	m. 1816	Elizabeth Davis (1795–1826)
Dr. Newlin A. Davis (1821–1876)	m. 1842	Eliza M. Drake (1826–1888)
Emma G. Davis (1847–1899)	m. 1868	James G. Frierson (1837–1884)
Charles D. Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)	m. 1901	Charlotte Gallaway (1878–1968)
Charles D. Frierson Jr. (1907–1970)	m. 1931	Margaret Purifoy (1908–1973)

The most noteworthy ancestor in Neville's Scott lineage is **Dorothea Scott (1611–1688)**, Neville's ninth great-grandmother, a dynamic Quaker woman who led an interesting and troubled life. She immigrated in 1680 to the colony of New York. Most of what we know about her is chronicled in an 1883 book, *Dorothea Scott, Otherwise Gotherson and Hogben, of Egerton House, Kent, 1611–1680*, written by Gideon D. Scull (1824–1889), an American-born Quaker who lived in England for much of his life.

The Scotts have been described as an “*ancient and knightly*” family, residing in the county of Kent from the early fourteenth century to the late eighteenth century. While many of the Scotts were highly distinguished, none was ever given a noble title. Dorothea Scott's great-grandfather was **Sir Reginald Scott (1512–1554)**, who lived in sixteenth-century England, in the time of King Henry VIII. He was Neville's twelfth great-grandfather.

*This oil painting in the North Carolina Museum of Art in Raleigh is inscribed on the upper right: "Sir Reginald Scott of Scotts Hall, Kent. Captain of the Castle of Calais. 1542."*

*In February of 2017, during a visit at the Yale Center for British Art, I learned that this painting had recently been studied by a team of art scholars. They opined that the painting is not British, it's Dutch; the subject is not Sir Reginald Scott; the painting was not created in 1542, rather it dates from c. 1590; and the inscription was applied to the painting at a later time.*

Dorothea Scott was the youngest of the six children of **Thomas Scott (1567–1635)** and his second wife, **Jane Knatchbull (1580–1616)**. She was born at Egerton House, her family home in Godmersham, a small town just west of Canterbury in the county of Kent in southeast England.

Dorothea Scott inherited the Egerton estate and lived there for forty-five years, from 1635 to 1680. In 1635 she married **Daniel Gotherson (1618–1666)**. They had six children, one boy and five girls, including a daughter named **Dorothea Gotherson (1657–1709)**, Neville's eighth great-grandmother. Sometime in the 1650s, while her husband, Daniel Gotherson, was in the army of Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658), Dorothea Scott Gotherson encountered George Fox (1624–1691), the English dissenter who founded the Society of Friends, known as the Quakers.\*

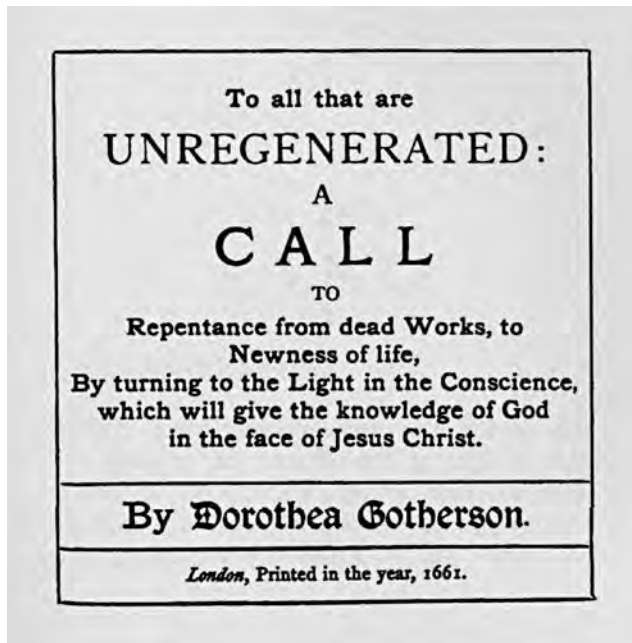
Dorothea Scott Gotherson was an ardent follower of George Fox and thus became a Quaker minister. She preached to a group called Scot's Congregation, wrote about her spiritual experiences, and published exhortations. A beautiful and intelligent woman, Dorothea Scott Gotherson had been in the court of King Charles I (1600–1649) prior to his execution and the ensuing Commonwealth Period (1649–60).



*George Fox, founder of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), a Christian movement, in about 1650.*

\*The Quaker Movement gained about 60,000 adherents by 1680 in England. Among its converts was William Penn (1644–1718), who led Quakers to Colonial America and founded Pennsylvania. Today the world population of Quakers is about 369,000, of which about 85,000 live in the United States.

In 1661 Dorothea Scott Gotherson, now a Quaker, was concerned about the lax morals in England and the court of the newly restored King Charles II (1630–1685). She wrote a book entitled *A Call to Repentance* and took a copy to Charles II. It was a plea for a return to godly living.



*A portion of the title page of Dorothea Scott Gotherson's A Call to Repentance, published in 1661.*

Dorothea Scott Gotherson's husband, Daniel Gotherson, died on the day before the Great London Fire, which began on September 2, 1666. After the death of her husband, Dorothea Scott Gotherson learned that the couple had been swindled out of a large sum of money and that she did not own the 20,000 acres of land that her husband had purchased in the colony of New York. In about 1669, she wrote a letter to King Charles II, pleading for his help:

“A COPPEY OF WHAT I WRITT TO Y<sup>e</sup> KING

*“lett it please the King to know that I, formerly dorothea scott, being heire to the yoonger house of Scott’s hall in Kent did match with Daniel Gotherson to whom I brought y<sup>e</sup> estate of neer £500 per annum, which estate being all mortgaged by my husband, and since his death all extended for debt, soe y<sup>e</sup> myselfe and six chilldren crave y<sup>e</sup> King’s clemancy in y<sup>e</sup> case following.*

*“A great part of my husband’s debts being contracted by his disbursing near £2,000 to one John Scott for land and houses in long-Island, which land is all disposed of and ye houses pulled down and sett up in other places, and my son for whome y<sup>e</sup> land was bought, exposed to work for bread y<sup>e</sup> two or three yeares last past, who is not yett full 17 years of age.*

*“lett it please y<sup>e</sup> King therefore to give his Royall letter of order to y<sup>e</sup> now debuty governour, francis lovelace [second colonial governor of New York] to examine my pretensions and doe iustlie, and if it appear I have noe interest in land ther, I have none elsewhere, yett blessed be his name who obliges me to wish y<sup>e</sup> King’s eternall welfare as my owne and many more such unfeigned true subjects as*

“DOROTHEA GOTHERSON.”

Charles II turned the letter over to his brother, the Duke of York, later James II (1633–1701), who appointed Samuel Pepys (1633–1703),\* secretary of the admiralty, to conduct an investigation. Pepys’s records regarding the matter are among his papers in the Bodleian (“BOD–lee–un”) Library in Oxford, England. The case dragged on for years, but Dorothea Scott Gotherson never regained her land on Long Island, New York.

In 1670, four years after her husband’s death, Dorothea Scott Gotherson married a Mr. Hogben, who died in 1680. Later in 1680, she sold the family estate at Egerton and, with her children, sailed to America. She settled on Oyster Bay, an inlet on the north side of Long Island, about thirty miles east of Manhattan in New York City. Dorothea Scott Gotherson Hogben died eight years later, at age seventy-seven, in Oyster Bay. A poem entitled “Dorothea Scott,” written in 1883 by one of her descendants, contains these words.

*She bade her old ancestral hall a last farewell,  
And to the western world her laggard footsteps pressed;  
There nigh the uncultured savage, did she dwell,  
Till folded by kind Nature in eternal rest.*

\*Samuel Pepys is most famous for the daily diary he kept between 1660 and 1669. Pepys’s diary is the major source of information about life in England after the restoration of King Charles II (1630–1685) in 1660.

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### 6. JOSHUA DAVIS, TENNESSEE VOLUNTEER AND MISSOURI PUBLISHER AND POLITICIAN

**Joshua Davis (1794–1856)**, Neville’s third great-grandfather, was born in North Carolina, in either Town Fork Settlement or in Mecklenburg County. He was the second of the four children of **Jonathan Davis (1770–1808)** and **Nancy Clayton (1769–1819)**.

At age five, Joshua Davis migrated with his grandfather **Morgan Davis (1735–1831)** and father, Jonathan Davis, to Williamson County, Tennessee, just south of Nashville. For the next thirty-seven years, Joshua lived in Tennessee. In 1808, when Joshua Davis was only fourteen, his father died at age thirty-eight. After that event, his mother, Nancy Clayton Davis, moved the family to Anderson County in eastern Tennessee, near Knoxville.

On September 25, 1813, at age nineteen, Joshua Davis enlisted at Clinton, Tennessee, for service in the Tennessee Volunteer Infantry Regiment. He served as a private for three months and two days during the War of 1812 (1812–15)\* and was paid a total of \$24.51 for his work. Years later, in 1850, while living in Missouri, he received forty acres of bounty land for his war service.

In 1816 Joshua Davis married **Elizabeth Davis (1795–1826)**, a North Carolinian of no known relationship to Joshua. It is recorded that they married in Henry County in western Tennessee, but they established their home in Anderson County. In 1820 they moved to near Shelbyville in Middle Tennessee. Between 1817 and 1825, Joshua and Elizabeth had five children, including **Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)**, Neville’s great-great-grandfather.

Elizabeth Davis died in Lincoln County, Tennessee, on October 18, 1826, at age thirty-one. Exactly one year to the day after her death, Joshua Davis married Nancy Cooper (1802–1863), who was twenty-five years old. Over the next twelve years, Joshua and Nancy Davis had seven girls and one boy, **William P. Davis (1830–1864)**. In 1836 Joshua moved his large family to Springfield, Greene County, Missouri, where he was an early pioneer and part of the great westward migration of that time.

Upon his arrival in Greene County, Joshua Davis “developed a good farm in the woods” just north of Springfield, a town incorporated two years later, in 1838. By 1850 Springfield had a population of 721 people; today it is Missouri’s third-largest city, with a population of about 160,000.

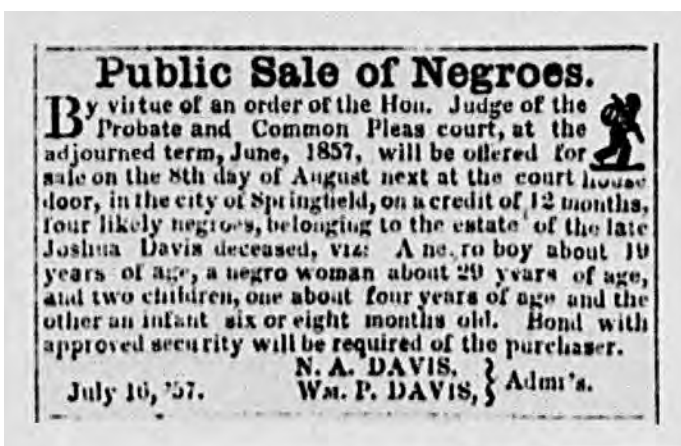
\*Although we celebrated the two hundredth anniversary of the War of 1812 in 2012, we still do not know who started the war or who won it. Americans believe the British started the war, and our victory secured our independence. Canadians believe Americans started the war, and Canada’s victory secured its independence from the United States. The British were never very interested in the war, for at the time they were also fighting against Napoleon Bonaparte in France.

On August 5, 1840, Joshua Davis was elected county clerk of Greene County. He served in that position for twelve years and was defeated in his re-election bid in 1853. A newspaper account states: “Joshua Davis became a prominent citizen, being a good speaker and an able, active politician; he wielded no small influence in the State. Although a cripple and something of an invalid, he had a very brilliant mind.”

In about 1853, Joshua Davis became editor and publisher of the *Springfield Lancet*, a newspaper in Springfield. In the book *History of Greene County*, the *Lancet* is described as “a newspaper as sharp and cutting as the instrument for which it was named.” Politically, Joshua Davis was a Jacksonian Democrat, supporting Andrew Jackson (1767–1845). He was also a big supporter of Senator Thomas Hart Benton (1782–1858),\* a United States senator for the first thirty years of Missouri’s statehood. Benton was a powerful politician who supported the Union and opposed slavery.

Joshua Davis died at age sixty-two, on October 23, 1856. The cause of his death was flux.\*\* His obituary in the *Springfield Advertiser* notes: “Joshua Davis was a highly esteemed and respected citizen. . . . For several years past he has been in feeble health. . . . He has left a large circle of friends to mourn his loss.” His obituary in the *Jefferson City Inquirer* says: “Joshua Davis died in 1856, having [been] survived [by] his wife and his son, William P., [who] succeeded him in journalistic work. His unmarked grave is on the original Davis land about two miles north of Springfield.”

On July 16, 1857, about nine months after Joshua Davis died, an advertisement for the sale of four slaves appeared in the *Springfield Mirror*. According to the *History of Greene County*, the county was home to 11,653 whites and 1,146 black slaves in 1855. This ad reveals that Newlin Addison Davis and William P. Davis, two of Joshua’s sons, were administrators of his estate.



An 1857 newspaper notice offering four slaves owned by the estate of Joshua Davis for sale.

\*Senator Thomas Hart Benton is the great-uncle of the highly regarded Midwestern artist and muralist Thomas Hart Benton (1889–1975). He is also the father-in-law of John C. Fremont (1813–1890), an anti-slavery Republican who lost the United States presidency to James Buchanan (1791–1868) in 1856.

\*\*Flux is an early word for dysentery, an inflammatory disease of the intestine.

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### 7. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS: THE MISSOURI YEARS, 1836–61

In 1836, at age fifteen, **Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** migrated with his parents from Middle Tennessee to Springfield, Greene County, Missouri. At age twenty-one, he married **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)**, who was just fifteen years old. The couple married on March 1, 1842, at an Ebenezer camp meeting\* of the Methodist Episcopal Church\*\* in Polk County, just north of Springfield. Marriage records state:

*Be it remembered that on the 1 day of March AD 1842, I solemnized the rites of matrimony between Newlin A. Davis of Greene county and Eliza M. Drake of Polk Co. Mo.*

*E. K. Yeager D of the M.E.C.*

*Recorded April 7th 1842*

Eliza Murray Drake had come to Missouri with her parents in 1838/39 from Elizabethton in eastern Tennessee, near Johnson City. In a booklet entitled “Dr. N. A. Davis and His Family,” written in 1949 by Neville’s great-aunt **Irene Dabney Gallaway (1869–1957)**, Eliza Murray Drake and her childhood home are remembered:

*She was slight of build, with blond hair and blue eyes; a very gentle nature, who remembered always her childhood days on the banks of the Watauga,\*\*\* where she made doll houses on the big rocks. In after years her dreams were filled with the sound of its purling waters and she would tell her children about the beauties of the everlasting hills of the land of her birth.*

The first child of Newlin Addison and Eliza Murray Drake Davis was **Emma Gywnne Davis (1847–1899)**, Neville’s great-grandmother, who was born in Greene County. Between 1847 and 1871, Newlin and Eliza Drake Davis had ten children, nine of whom survived infancy.

\*Camp meetings were evangelical religious services held for worship, preaching, and communion during frontier days, before communities were well established. The Davis/Drake marriage was held at the Ebenezer Methodist Episcopal Campground, which was established in 1836 and used annually for the next twenty years. It was perhaps the largest such campground in the state of Missouri at the time.

\*\*The Methodist Episcopal Church is the official name of the original and first Methodist church established in the United States in 1784. In 1844, two years after the Davis/Drake marriage, the church split over the issue of slavery, and the Methodist Episcopal Church South was formed. In 1939, after ninety-five years, the two churches reunited to become, simply, the Methodist Church.

\*\*\*The Watauga River is a large stream in northeastern Tennessee. It is eighty miles long and flows through Elizabethton, Tennessee. It is a tributary of the Holston River, the largest tributary of the Tennessee River.

In 1848 Newlin Addison Davis enrolled in the Missouri Medical College, which was located a little over two hundred miles northeast of Springfield, in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his medical degree there in 1850, when he was twenty-nine years old. Missouri Medical College was founded in the 1840s and was the first medical college established west of the Mississippi River. In 1899 the Missouri Medical College joined with the St. Louis Medical College to form the Washington University School of Medicine. Today Washington University in St. Louis is a highly regarded private research university located in the suburbs of St. Louis.

During the period between 1850 and 1861, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis practiced medicine and lived in Ozark, Missouri, a community with about one hundred inhabitants. Ozark is now in Christian County and about twenty miles south of Springfield. It was there that Newlin Davis's daughter Emma Gwynne Davis received her early classic education, which became a great strength for her as a teacher in later years.

Dr. Newlin Addison Davis was an influential citizen in Ozark, and he worked hard to secure the formation of Christian County, which was created out of adjoining counties in 1859. It is said that he made an arduous trip to Jefferson City (the capital of Missouri) on horseback to urge legislators to adopt the law creating the county. Jefferson City is almost 150 miles north-northeast of Ozark, Missouri.

In December 1861, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis joined the Confederate cause; he spent the next few years fighting in the Western Theater of the Civil War. He fought in states southeast of the state of Missouri.

Dr. Newlin A. Davis lived in Missouri for twenty-five years, but after the Civil War he never again returned there. Eliza Murray Drake Davis remained in Missouri through the war years with seven children. In the summer of 1865, she and her children moved southward, joined up with Dr. Newlin Addison Davis, and eventually settled in Arkansas. Dr. Newlin and Eliza Drake Davis had two more children after the Civil War.



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### 8. THE CIVIL WAR CAREER OF SURGEON DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS

Neville's great-great-grandfather **Dr. Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** enlisted on December 14, 1861, at age forty, as a private in the Missouri State Guard. He joined in the town of Ozark in Christian County, Missouri. During his first years of Confederate service (before mid-1863), Newlin Addison Davis was a contract surgeon. As such, he was employed by various military units (usually battalions or regiments\*) to manage and perform medical services. For example, on April 24, 1862, he signed a contract to serve as the surgeon for a battalion for three months; he was paid one hundred dollars per month.

On November 12, 1862, a medical examining board recommended Dr. Newlin Addison Davis to be a surgeon in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States. This official title was a rank held



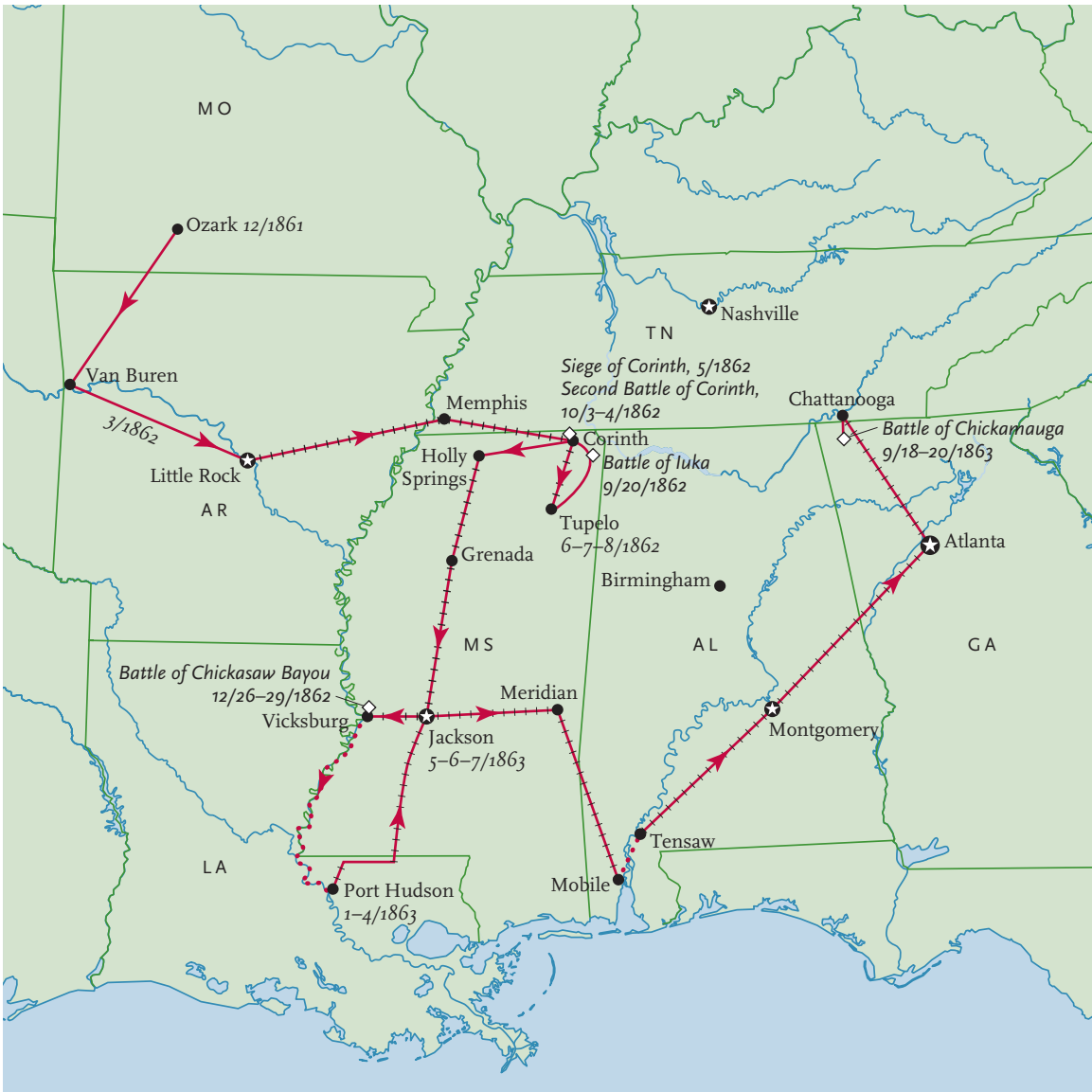
*The uniform of a Confederate Army surgeon during the Civil War.*

by less than one thousand men, and it required nomination by the President of the Confederacy and approval by the Senate of the Confederacy. The position of surgeon had the same rank, pay, and allowances as that of a major in the Confederate Army. After receiving his commission in August 1863, Newlin Addison Davis became a surgeon for the 14th Texas Cavalry Regiment Dismounted,\*\* one of seven military units in Brigadier General Matthew Ector's (1822–1879) brigade. It was a position he held until the end of the war.

As a Confederate surgeon, Dr. Davis wore a traditional double-breasted grey frock coat. It was the same uniform worn by line officers—except that the trim of the coat and the cuffs, collar, and trouser stripe were black, and the letters *MS* (which stand for “Medical Service”) were embroidered in gold on the front of the hat or cap.

\*A regiment usually contained ten companies and thus began its service with about one thousand men. A battalion had only four to eight companies and thus contained about four hundred to eight hundred men.

\*\*The 14th Texas Cavalry Regiment was dismantled in Little Rock, Arkansas, in March 1862. The soldiers served for the duration of the war as an infantry regiment. Because members of the unit wanted to be remembered as cavalymen, the word *dismounted* became an official part of the regiment's name.



*The Civil War path of Dr. Newlin Addison Davis from Ozark, Missouri, in December 1861 to the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863.*

- on foot
- - - train
- ..... boat

During the first twenty-one months of his Confederate service, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis traveled quite extensively throughout the Western Theater. He was in attendance at a number of major engagements during the early part of the war, including the Siege of Corinth from April 29 to May 30, 1862. Dr. Davis was at the retreat from the Battle of Iuka on September 20, 1862, and at the subsequent Second Battle of Corinth on October 3–4, 1862. Both of these battles were victories for the Union Army. Dr. Newlin Addison Davis was also at the Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, considered

the opening engagement of the Vicksburg Campaign. In that battle, which occurred just north of Vicksburg on December 26–29, 1862, the Confederates thwarted a Union attempt to capture Vicksburg. During the first few months of 1863, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis was stationed at Port Hudson on the Mississippi River in Louisiana. After that he returned to Mississippi and fought in the area around Jackson.

At the beginning of September 1863, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis was assigned to Ector's Brigade. He is next recorded at the Battle of Chickamauga in northwest Georgia on September 19–20, 1863. In that battle, Ector's Brigade was a part of Major General William H. T. Walker's (1816–1864) Reserve Corps. The Battle of Chickamauga was a significant victory for the Confederates. At the Battle of Chickamauga, Dr. Davis's regiment, the 14th Texas Cavalry Dismounted, had casualties of about forty-four percent. Out of 197 men, 10 were killed, 47 wounded, and 29 captured or missing. Family lore remembers, "*At the Battle of Chickamauga, he [Newlin] rode his horse, Hannibal, across Chickamauga Creek, carrying soldiers until the horse fell dead from exhaustion.*"

On September 23, three days after the Battle of Chickamauga, General Ector's Brigade went back to Mississippi. The soldiers traveled by railroad through Atlanta, Georgia, and Mobile, Alabama, to Meridian, Mississippi. Their objective was to prevent an advance into central Mississippi by Major General William Tecumseh Sherman (1820–1891), whose Union Army Corps was a part of the portentous and historic defeat of the Confederates at Vicksburg on July 4, 1863.

In October 1863, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis was encamped at Brandon, Mississippi, just east of Jackson. Dr. Davis was next in the Meridian Campaign, which took place February 3–28, 1864. Meridian fell on February 14, and General Sherman's troops subsequently destroyed 115 miles of railroads in all directions around Meridian. Dr. Davis was in Lauderdale Springs, Mississippi (eighteen miles northeast of Meridian), on April 5, 1864. By April 18, his regiment, the 14th Texas Cavalry, had moved eastward to Demopolis, Alabama.

By May 17, 1864, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis and Ector's Brigade were in Rome, Georgia, having moved there to oppose General Sherman's advance on Atlanta. For the next three months, over the summer of 1864, they participated in the Atlanta Campaign, a series of battles in northwest Georgia and the area around Atlanta. Notably, Ector's Brigade was in Atlanta at 9:00 p.m. on the evening of September 1, 1864, and led the last Confederate Division out of the city. On September 2, General Sherman captured Atlanta, a city that had been indiscriminately bombarded for almost six weeks.

The fall of Atlanta was of great consequence. First, it assured the 1864 re-election of President Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865), who had boldly pursued the war throughout his initial term in



The Civil War path of Dr. Newlin Addison Davis from Chickamauga in September 1863 to Grenada, Mississippi, in March–May 1865.

- on foot
- - - - train
- ..... on boat

office. Second, over the next two months, General Sherman undertook a cruel and purposeful destruction of Atlanta.\* That act was a prelude to Sherman’s March to the Sea, a 285-mile, 5-week trek of 60,000 Union soldiers, who foraged and pillaged food and supplies, and inflicted unimagined horrors on the people of Georgia. Sherman’s march left a bitter legacy and seared a hatred in the minds of Southerners for generations to come.

\*Atlanta had a population of 9,554 in 1860, before the Civil War began. It was the fourth-largest city in Georgia, behind Savannah with 22,292, Augusta with 12,493, and Columbus with 9,621.

Brigadier General Matthew Ector's military career essentially ended during the Atlanta Campaign, for on July 27, 1864, he was severely wounded by an artillery shell fragment that struck him just above his left knee. His left leg was amputated at the knee, and he never officially rejoined his unit. He was replaced by Colonel William Hugh Young (1838–1901), who became a brigadier general on August 15, 1864.\*

In the autumn of 1864, Ector's Brigade fought in two crucial engagements. One was at the Battle of Allatoona Pass, won by Union forces, on October 5, 1864. Allatoona is about forty miles northwest of Atlanta. After that defeat, Dr. Davis's brigade removed to near Tuscumbia, Alabama, to prepare for what is called Hood's Tennessee Campaign.\*\* Ector's Brigade just missed the bloody Battle of Franklin on November 30, 1864. Dr. Davis was, however, present at the Battle of Nashville on December 15–16, 1864, the last major large-scale battle in the Western Theater.

The Battle of Nashville was an especially decisive defeat for the Confederates. At that battle, Ector's Brigade fought alongside Major General Edward C. Walthall's (1831–1898) Division. On December



*Major General Edward C. Walthall, Division Commander under whom Surgeon Newlin Addison Davis served during the Civil War in late 1864. At that time Walthall was thirty-three years old and Newlin Davis was forty-three.*

20, 1864, after the Battle of Nashville, Ector's Brigade was officially assigned to Walthall's Division, which was putting together an infantry command to cover the retreat of General Hood's army from Nashville. Notably, on Newlin Addison Davis's tombstone, he is identified as a brigade surgeon in Walthall's Division.

Dr. Newlin Addison Davis's retreat from Nashville took him back to northern Alabama, where he crossed the Tennessee River on December 28, 1864, near Florence and Tuscumbia. From there his regiment made its way to Tupelo, Mississippi, arriving in mid-January 1865. By early March 1865, the 14th Texas Cavalry Regiment was stationed in Mobile, where it was assigned to defend that city.

\*General William Hugh Young was wounded and captured at the Battle of Allatoona Pass on October 5, 1864. He was imprisoned for the remainder of the war at Johnson's Island in Lake Erie, near Sandusky, Ohio.

\*\*At age thirty-three, General John Bell Hood (1831–1879) led the Army of Tennessee troops in an attempt to recapture the city of Nashville in late 1864. The frontal assault that he ordered at the Battle of Franklin (November 30, 1864) was one of the most colossal disasters in the history of war. After that debacle and his ignominious defeat at the Battle of Nashville, John Bell Hood was relieved of his command.

On March 6, 1865, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis applied to be relieved from field service and assigned to hospital duty. This is the report of that request:

*1st. He has a wife and seven children in Ozark, Christian County, Missouri from who [sic] he has now been separated for over three years; and who have been reduced by the enemy, from a state of ease and plenty, to a condition bordering on destitution; and who are expecting to be banished under an order which has been promulgated by the federal authorities recently; and who are anxious to remove South, and who can manage to do so, provided he can obtain a location at some fixed point where he can render them that assistance which their condition will demand upon their arrival.*

*2nd. He had been on active field duty since Sept. 1861. First in the ranks as a private and then in the Medical Department as Act. Surg. on detail, then under Contract until the 12th Nov. 1862, when he went before the Med. Exam. Board and was recommended and appointed a Surgeon in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States; and the whole of that time he has never been absent without leave, nor has he been absent with leave but on two occasions, and then for but twelve days altogether.*

*3rd. Inasmuch as he has faithfully served the Confederacy, and has sacrificed his life-long labor for the Cause of Independence; and inasmuch as his wife and children will surely require assistance to enable them to get a start among strangers; and inasmuch as he is now nearly 45 years of age and therefore the time for securing a competency for his family is somewhat circumscribed; and inasmuch as there are many Surgeons now in duty at Post and Hospital who have made no considerable sacrifices, who have no families demanding assistance and who are yet young and vigorous and who have been deprived of the privilege of serving in the Field not because of any particular merit or fitness for Post or Hospital Duty; and inasmuch as he is confident that he can discharge all the duties likely to devolve upon him in the New field of labor sought, to the entire satisfaction of all the authorities; that therefore, he most respectfully and earnestly asks that the grace and favor desired be extended to him at as early a day possible.*

On March 14, 1865, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis received this response to his request: *“Subject to the approval of the War Department, Surgeon N. A. Davis is relieved from duty in the District of the Gulf and will report to Surgeon R. B. Scott Medical Director for assignment to Hospital duty.”*

Dr. Davis was assigned to duty at the General Hospital in Granada (“Gre-NAY-da”), Mississippi. While traveling there, he became ill and was admitted to the Way Hospital in Meridian on March 18, 1865. After being deemed fit for duty on March 21, he continued on to Grenada.

On May 4, 1865, Dr. Newlin Addison Davis’s regiment, the 14th Texas Cavalry, surrendered. They received their official parole on May 9 in Meridian. Dr. Davis was not at either event. Rather, he received his parole notice in Grenada on May 18, 1865. He then went to Bayou Sara, a town along the Mississippi River in Louisiana, to arrange for a new home for his family.

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### 9. CAPTAIN WILLIAM P. DAVIS, UNION OFFICER AND BROTHER OF DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS

**Dr. Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)**, Neville’s great-great-grandfather, had a younger brother, **Captain William P. Davis (1830–1864)**, who lived in the state of Missouri and was drafted into the Union Army during the Civil War. Their “brother-against-brother” story is not recorded in family records. Instead, it has been pieced together from census records and a Civil War widow’s voluminous pension file, found under the name of William P. Davis.

William P. Davis was the only son (out of eight children) from **Joshua Davis (1794–1856)** and his second wife, Nancy Cooper (1802–1863) whom he married in 1827. William P. Davis was thus a half brother of Newlin Addison Davis and about nine years his junior. William P. Davis grew up in Springfield, Missouri, where he succeeded his father, Joshua Davis, a newspaperman, after his death in 1856.

In 1860 William P. Davis is enumerated as a farmer living with his wife, Harriett MacFarland (1834–1913), whom he married in 1853, and an infant son, James C. Davis (1860–before 1864). They were living with Harriett’s parents in the town of Syracuse in Morgan County, Missouri, about 130 miles north of Springfield.

When the Civil War erupted in April 1861, Newlin Addison Davis was a forty-year-old doctor living in Ozark, Missouri, about eighteen miles south of Springfield. In December he volunteered to join the Confederate cause, became a surgeon in the army, and served until May 1865. William P. Davis, in contrast, was thirty years old at the onset of the Civil War. He was not engaged in the war until 1863, when the United States Congress passed a conscription act requiring all males between the ages of twenty and forty-five to register for the draft by April 1, 1863. The *Civil War Draft Registrations Records* (1863–65) state that William P. Davis, residing in Campbell Township, Springfield—a married thirty-three-year-old born in Tennessee—registered for the draft in November 1863.

William P. Davis was apparently determined to avoid serving with the rank of private, so he set out to raise a company of volunteers. If successful, he would be commissioned as the captain of those volunteers. (In the Union Army, no election was required to become a captain, as was the case with Confederate military units.) The winter of 1863–64 was extremely severe, and William P. Davis was constantly out riding through the country seeking his volunteers. Having obtained the minimum required number of recruits, on January 4, 1864, he went to the office of Captain Benjamin W. F.

Bodenhamer (1843–1918) of the 24th Missouri Regiment, the district provost marshal and mustering officer for Springfield. Bodenhamer wrote in a letter, “*William P. Davis applied to me to muster him as a Captain in the 2nd Missouri light Artillery, that I did not do it for want of blanks [preprinted application forms] but told the Captain to call in a few days & the blanks would be on hand & I would muster him.*”

On January 10, 1864, the company raised by William P. Davis had reached the required number of volunteers (approximately 120–160) and was placed on active duty with Davis in command. He was commissioned as a captain on January 14, 1864. Four days later, on January 18, 1864, Davis became ill; his exposure to the severe winter weather had caught up with him. He died in a Springfield hospital six days later, on January 24, 1864, at age thirty-three. The cause of his death is recorded as “*Congestion of the Brain and general congestion of the System.*” Thus, William P. Davis was a captain in the Union Army for only ten days in January 1864.



*Captain William P. Davis, brother of Newlin Addison Davis, wearing an ill-fitting (probably borrowed) regulation frock coat belonging to a Union captain. He is without sash, sword, or sidearm, as he likely did not have time to gather those accessories. The photograph was taken in January 1864, during the ten days that William served as a captain in the Union Army.*



*Probably the original tombstone of William P. Davis at the National Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri.*



*Probably a replacement tombstone for William P. Davis at the National Cemetery in Springfield, Missouri. The date of his death was January 24, not January 21, 1864.*



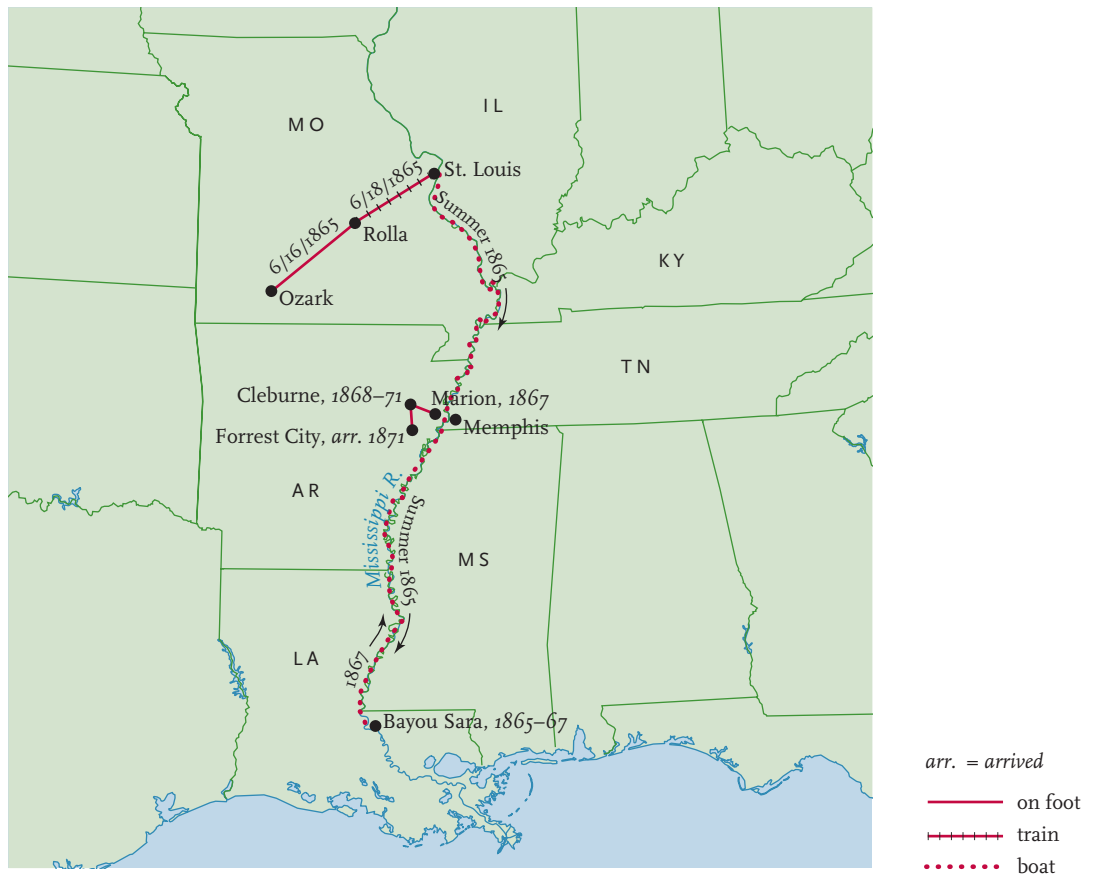
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## 10. THE DAVIS FAMILY: FROM MISSOURI TO ARKANSAS

During the Civil War, while **Dr. Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** was away serving in the Confederate Army, the Davis home in Ozark, Missouri, was seized and occupied by Federal officers. The Davis family became refugees in a small house opposite the Federal soldiers' drill ground.

Near the end of the Civil War, Dr. Newlin Davis was in Mobile, Alabama, from where he dispatched a letter asking his wife, **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)**, to join him in the South. She agreed, and on June 16, 1865, with her half sister, **Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt (1838–1910)**, and their children, she left Ozark for the South. The family's departure was necessitated by the bitter hostility against those who had supported the Confederate cause in southwestern Missouri.



A map tracing the route of Eliza Murray Drake Davis and her children from Ozark, Missouri, to Bayou Sara, Louisiana, in 1865, after the Civil War. The map also traces the route of the Davises from Bayou Sara to Marion, Arkansas, in 1867, and later to Cleburne and Forrest City, Arkansas.

In a letter written on June 16, 1930, exactly sixty-five years after her family left Ozark, Missouri, **Annie Davis Gilliland (1854–1933)**, one of Newlin Addison and Eliza Murray Drake Davis’s daughters, wrote her recollections of their exodus:

*This is a day sixty-five years later than the day when our Mother and her family of eight white and one colored and Aunt Mary and her four children (Willie, Sarah Cordelia, Newland, and Ed) left Ozark Mo., moving to Dixie. . . .*

*I can well remember that we stopped the wagons and heard the church and school bells as they pealed out their message of affection and “God be with you till we meet again.” . . .*

*My, those two wagons were full of folks and trunks. All that we had consisted of wearing apparel and sufficient food to last while we traveled to Rolla, Mo. . . .*

*When we left that town [Rolla], June 18th, we took the train for St Louis. [From there] we took passage on the Olive Branch,\* a boat whose every door showed a lovely painted Dove carrying an olive branch.*

A week or so after arriving in Memphis, Tennessee, during the summer of 1865, Eliza Murray Drake Davis and her children departed for Bayou Sara, Louisiana, on a steamboat called the *Alice Dean*.\*\* Bayou Sara was an old shipping port just north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in a bend of the Mississippi River. Dr. Newlin A. Davis had instructed his family to meet him there.

*The Alice Dean, a Mississippi River steamboat, depicted in 1867, two years after the Davis family traveled on it from Memphis, Tennessee, to Bayou Sara, Louisiana.*



\*The Olive Branch was a side-wheel steamboat with a wooden hull that weighed 679 tons. It traveled between St. Louis and New Orleans from 1863 to 1871, when it sank after hitting a stump in the river near St. Louis.

\*\*The Davis and Whitsitt families traveled on the second Alice Dean, a 395-ton boat built in 1864, after the first Alice Dean was captured and destroyed by Confederates on the Ohio River in July 1863.

When the Davises arrived in Bayou Sara, they found that Dr. Davis had gone to Memphis to meet them. They had passed one another on the river. The family was soon reunited but stayed only a year or two in Bayou Sara, for the climate there created very unhealthy living conditions.

Newlin Addison and Eliza Murray Drake Davis next moved their family northward, and spent the rest of their lives in northeastern Arkansas. By early 1867, the family had moved to Marion in Crittenden County, Arkansas, where Dr. Davis practiced medicine with his brother-in-law, Dr. Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt (1828–1887). By 1868 the Davis family had moved about forty miles farther west, to Cleburne, Cross County, Arkansas, on Crowley's Ridge.

It was in Cleburne that the Davises' daughter **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)** married **James Gordon Frierson (1837–1884)** on November 12, 1868. Emma Gwynne and James Gordon Frierson's four children were born while they lived in Cleburne.

In 1871 Newlin Addison and Eliza Murray Drake Davis moved to Forrest City, Arkansas (about twenty-five miles south of Cleburne), in St. Francis County. Dr. Davis practiced medicine there and died at age fifty-four, on February 10, 1876. He is buried in the Forrest City Cemetery. In **Irene Dabney Gallaway's (1869–1957)** booklet "Dr. N. A. Davis and His Family," she described Dr. Davis:

*Dr. N. A. Davis was an energetic man and a home maker. To put all his good deeds in a narrative form would make a remarkable story. His home was famous for old time hospitality, and he was a wonderful personality.*

*Dr. Davis was a Methodist. He loved the church and her doctrines. He studied the teachings of the Bible, and could always give a scriptural reason for the hope that was in him.*

Dr. Newlin Addison Davis was buried in a Davis plot within the Old City Cemetery in Forrest City. His stone gravesite marker is a large square column topped by a draped urn. The urn is festooned with a garland of flowers on its face and a flame rising out of its top. After the cross, the urn, a Greek symbol of mourning, was the most commonly used cemetery monument in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, grave markers became much more plain. On one face of the column are these words:

*Dr. NEWLAND [sic.] A. DAVIS / BORN FEB. 22, 1820 [1821] / DIED MAR. 10, 1876 / [family records use the date February 10, 1876] Brigade Surgeon / Walthall's Div. / C. S. A.*



*The tombstone of Newlin Addison Davis in the Old City Cemetery in Forrest City, Arkansas, in January 2016.*



*The tombstone of Newlin Addison Davis with its column and draped urn remounted in February 2016. The restoration of the tombstone and these photographs are courtesy of Lisa Reeves of Forrest City, Arkansas.*

On another face of the column are the life dates of two of Newlin Addison's daughters, who died at ages twelve and five in Forrest City:

*EVALINA T. DAVIS / BORN AUG. 10. 1861 / DIED SEPT. 1, 1873*

*BIRDIE DAVIS / BORN AUG. 5, 1872 / DIED SEPT. 12, 1877* [family records use the dates August 25, 1871, and September 9, 1876]

Eliza Murray Drake Davis survived her husband by about twelve years. In the late 1880s, she moved from Forrest City to Jonesboro, Arkansas, and lived with her daughter Emma Gwynne Davis Frierson. Eliza Drake Davis died in Jonesboro at age sixty-one, in 1888, and is buried at the City Cemetery in Jonesboro. One of Eliza's sons paid her this tribute: *"In her were embodied all the virtues and none of the vices; she was loving, kind, forgiving, charitable, self-sacrificing, religious, artistic, and possessed a wonderful knowledge of every kind."*

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### 11. NEVILLE'S ANCESTORS IN THE WATAUGA\* SETTLEMENT

The Watauga Settlement was one of the earliest, if not the first, non–Native American settlement established west of the Appalachian Mountains. Three of Neville's ancestors were pioneer settlers at Watauga and lived there from about 1777 to the mid-1830s. All three were great-grandfathers of **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)** and are, thus, Neville's fifth great-grandfathers.

- **EDMUND WILLIAMS (1740–1794)**, who settled in Watauga in about 1777, was Neville's first ancestor to come there. He was a Welsh immigrant who had immigrated to the colony of Massachusetts in about 1760. In 1782 he was a member of the court of Washington County, North Carolina. In 1788 he was the sheriff of Washington County in the State of Franklin. Edmund Williams was a large landowner, a devout Baptist, and the father of eight children.

- **ANDREW TAYLOR (1733–1787)** migrated to Watauga in 1778 from Augusta County in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. He was the grandson of a Scotch-Irish immigrant, **Nathaniel Taylor (1680–1740)**, who came to America in 1737 from County Armagh, Ulster. The Taylor family first owned land along the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road near Lexington, Virginia. At Watauga, Andrew was a member of the Franklin Assembly of the State of Franklin and a justice of the peace.

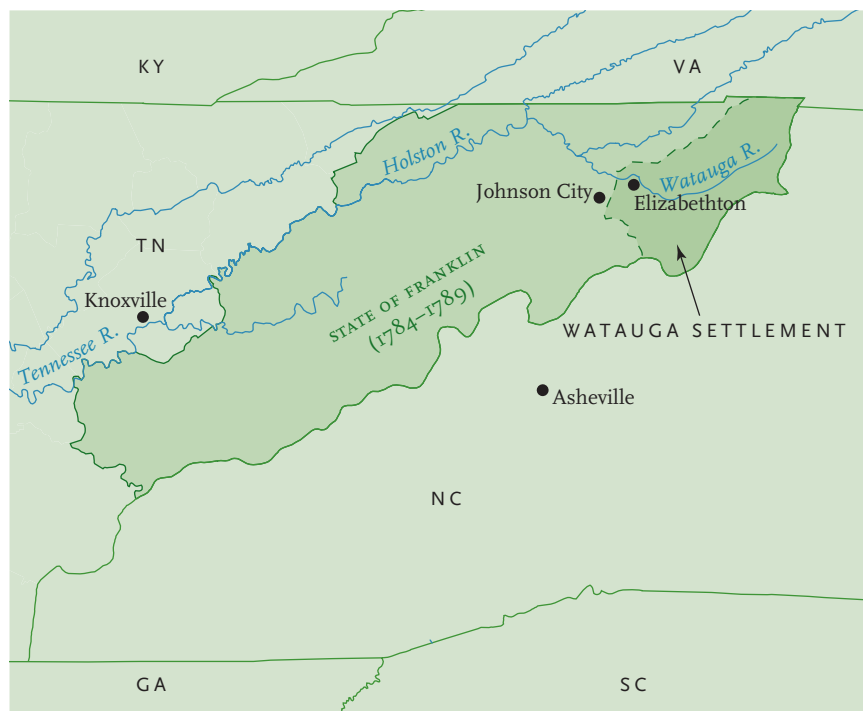
- **BENJAMIN DRAKE (1729–1827)**, with his son, **Abraham Drake (1763–1840)**, and grandson, **Jacob Drake (1791–1834)**, moved from Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, to the Watauga Settlement in the 1790s. There is a granite marker in his memory at Drake's Cliff Cemetery in Elizabethton, Tennessee. It states that Benjamin served as a militiaman in the American Revolutionary War and that he owned 337 acres of land north of the Watauga River, at the site of the cemetery.

Watauga is an important place in early Tennessee history. Daniel Boone (1734–1820), the frontier folk hero, supposedly killed a bear in the vicinity of Watauga. He moved his family there in 1771. General John Sevier (1745–1815), Tennessee's first governor, was one of five magistrates in Watauga in 1776. The Watauga Settlement was located on the Watauga River, in the area around present-day Elizabethton, Tennessee, northeast of Johnson City. Interestingly, Neville's brother James Gordon Frierson (1940–2015) lived for over forty years in Johnson City, a few miles from where his Watauga Settlement ancestors resided during the eighteenth century.

\*Watauga, pronounced "wa-TAW-ga," is an Indian name that means "beautiful waters."

When the United States proclaimed its independence in 1776, Watauga was a part of the newly created state of North Carolina. From 1784 to 1789, the Watauga Settlement was located in an area called the State of Franklin, named for the statesman Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790). In 1784 the State of Franklin declared its intention to become the fourteenth state of the United States. In 1785 a delegation from Franklin petitioned the United States Congress to admit it to the Union. Franklin needed approval from nine of the thirteen states in order to become a state. It received only seven yes votes.

In 1789, after several years of frontier skirmishes and intrigues, the government of Franklin collapsed, and it once again came under the firm control of North Carolina. On June 1, 1796, the Watauga Settlement became a part of the newly created state of Tennessee, the sixteenth state admitted to the Union.\*



*A map showing the location of the Watauga Settlement, which was originally established in the mid-1700s in the colony of North Carolina. Watauga was part of the state of Franklin from 1784 to 1789, and from 1789 to 1796, it again came under the jurisdiction of the state of North Carolina. Watauga was a part of the newly created state of Tennessee when it joined the United States in 1796. Three of Neville's ancestral families were pioneer settlers in the Watauga Settlement.*

\*After the thirteen original colonies became the United States, Vermont was the fourteenth state to join the Union in 1791. In 1792 Kentucky separated from Virginia and became the fifteenth state. Tennessee, initially a part of North Carolina, was the sixteenth state to join the United States.

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#### 12. THE TEN CHILDREN OF DR. NEWLIN ADDISON DAVIS AND ELIZA MURRAY DRAKE

On March 1, 1842, **Dr. Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** married **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)** at a Methodist camp meeting near Springfield, Missouri. They had ten children, the first eight of whom were born in Missouri. The last two were born after the Civil War in Arkansas.

- **EMMA GWYNNE DAVIS (1847–1899)** is Neville's great-grandmother, who was born in Greene County, Missouri.
- **WILLIAM RHEA DAVIS (1848–1867)** was born in Missouri and died as a teenager in Marion, Arkansas. He is buried in the Vincent Cemetery, just east of Crawfordsville in Crittenden County near Marion. The Vincent Cemetery is also the burial ground for Dr. Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt (1828–1887) and his family.
- **MARY ALICE DAVIS (1851–1936)** was born on July 31, 1851, and married David Henry Legg (1848–1915) on December 15, 1870, in Cross County, Arkansas. They had five children. David Henry Legg was a Cross County farmer who lived around Vanndale, Arkansas. He died at age sixty-six. Mary Alice Davis Legg was eighty-four at her death. They are both buried in Vanndale.
- **MELISSA AVENTINE DAVIS (1852–1852)** died in infancy.
- **ANNIE ELIZABETH DAVIS (1854–1933)** married James McFerrin Gilliland (1844–1895), a Confederate veteran, on March 14, 1872, in Forrest City, Arkansas. The couple had ten children and lived on a farm in Vanndale. James Gilliland died at age fifty-one and is buried in the City Cemetery in Jonesboro, Arkansas. Annie Davis Gilliland is enumerated in Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida, in 1930. She was living there with her two youngest daughters, and her death is recorded there in 1933, at about age eighty-nine.
- **THOMAS LEARNED DAVIS (1857–1935)** was supposedly "*named for the teacher who conducted an excellent school at Ozark, Mo.*" He married Addie May Carson (1866–1915) of Jonesboro, and they had four children. Thomas Learned Davis is enumerated in 1900 and in 1910 as a real-estate agent in Jonesboro. He died at age seventy-seven, in 1915; Addie May Davis had passed away twenty years earlier, at age forty-eight. They are both buried in the City Cemetery in Jonesboro.

- **DR. LANDON HAYNES DAVIS (1858–1894)** was named for Landon Carter Haynes (1816–1875), a noted Tennessee politician and orator who was a distant cousin of his mother, Eliza Murray Drake Davis. Landon Haynes Davis graduated in 1885 from the Memphis Medical College (founded in 1846), Tennessee’s first medical school. In February 1887, he married Lillian Watkins (1861–1926) of Raleigh, Tennessee; they had four children. Landon Haynes Davis was a successful country doctor who had delicate health. He died at age thirty-three in Harrisburg, Poinsett County, Arkansas. He is buried in the City Cemetery in Jonesboro. Lillian Watkins Davis died at age sixty-five and is buried in Elmwood Cemetery in Memphis, Tennessee.
- **EVALINA TAYLOR DAVIS (1861–1873)** died at age twelve. She is buried in the Old City Cemetery in Forrest City and shares the tombstone of her father.
- **DR. JOHN CLAYTON DAVIS (1867–1938)** was born in Arkansas and was named for a wealthy Memphis cotton broker, John S. Clayton (1812–1872), who had befriended the Davis family when they stopped in Memphis during their removal from Missouri to the South after the Civil War. John Clayton Davis was the only Davis child born in Marion, just across the Mississippi River from Memphis. On June 11, 1890, he married Ludie Mitchell (1870–after 1944) of Harrisburg; they had two daughters. Dr. John Clayton Davis was a physician at the State Hospital in Little Rock, Arkansas, for many years. In 1949 **Irene Dabney Gallaway (1869–1957)**, in her booklet about the Davis family, wrote: “*He was truly a beloved physician; . . . His medical skill and his benevolent nature enriched Arkansas.*” Dr. John Clayton Davis died at around age seventy-one in Little Rock. His wife, Ludie Mitchell Davis, is listed in the Little Rock telephone directory as late as 1944.
- **BIRDIE DAVIS (1871–1876)\*** was born in Forrest City and died at age five. She also shares the tombstone of her father at the Old City Cemetery in Forrest City.

\*These dates are as recorded in family records. They conflict with Birdie Davis’s tombstone dates, which are 1872–1877.



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## 13. AUNT MARY AND DR. THOMAS C. S. WHITSITT

**Mary Lucretia Callison (1838–1910)** and her husband, Dr. Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt (1828–1887), played an important role in the history of the family of **Newlin Addison Davis (1821–1876)** and **Eliza Murray Drake (1826–1888)**, as well as in the life of their daughter **Emma Gwynne Davis (1847–1899)**.

Mary Lucretia Callison was Eliza Murray Drake’s younger (by twelve years) half sister. Both of the girls were born in eastern Tennessee and moved to Greene County, Missouri, in about 1839. As far as we know, there were no other children in the family. Eliza Drake and Mary Callison grew up together in southwestern Missouri, married, and raised their families together. Eliza Drake married Newlin Addison Davis in 1842, at age fifteen, and Mary Callison married Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt in 1853, also at age fifteen.

In 1854 Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt was a student at the University of Nashville,\* where he wrote a dissertation for his doctor of medicine degree. That document, entitled “An Inaugural Dissertation on Lymphization by Thomas C. Whitsitt of Ozark, Missouri,” is preserved at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Library.

Newlin Addison Davis and Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt were both practicing physicians, and they became partners in Ozark, Missouri, in the years before the Civil War. Since doctors were greatly needed in the war effort, both men joined the Confederacy as surgeons. During the Civil War, their wives and eleven children (the Davises had seven and the Whitsitts four at the time) remained in Ozark and endured the bitter hostilities and feuds in southwestern Missouri. In June 1865, after the defeat of the Confederacy, the two women left Ozark with their children to meet their husbands and find a home in the South.

*\*The University of Nashville existed from 1826 to 1909. Several educational institutions in Nashville—including Vanderbilt University’s medical school, Peabody College, and Montgomery Bell Academy—can trace their roots to the University of Nashville.*

The Whitsitt family decided to live in Marion, Arkansas, just across the Mississippi River from Memphis, Tennessee, after the Civil War. Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt set up a medical practice there and became highly regarded.

Over the period between 1867 and 1880, all five of the Whitsitt children (four boys and one girl) died. Four of them died between the ages of ten and twelve, presumably of childhood diseases. The last child to die was William Andrew Davis (1858–1880), a young lawyer. Dr. Thomas Whitsitt met a different fate in Marion. Neville’s great-aunt **Irene Dabney Gallaway (1869–1957)** wrote about him in her 1949 booklet “Dr. N. A. Davis and His Family.” She related an event that likely occurred between 1867 and 1874:

*During the stormy and corrupt era of Reconstruction, the town of Marion was under the guard of negro troops. One night, Dr. Whitsitt, with a lantern, was walking through the streets, in response to a call, when he was shot by a negro sentry. The injury necessitated the amputation of his arm.*

In the mid-1880s, Thomas Coleman Slaughter and Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt moved to Jonesboro, Arkansas, where Dr. Whitsitt practiced medicine for a year or two. He died at age fifty-eight, in 1887, and his obituary appeared in the Jonesboro newspaper:

*It becomes our painful duty to announce the death of Dr. T. C. S. Whitsitt, which occurred at the residence of Mrs. Frierson [Emma Gwynne Davis Frierson] on last Friday night (Aug. 12) at nine o’clock. He had been ill for some time. He left no family, except a wife.*

Dr. Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt is buried in the Vincent Cemetery near Marion. Four of his children are also buried there.

*Dr. Thomas Coleman Slaughter Whitsitt, brother-in-law and medical partner of Dr. Newlin Addison Davis.*



Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt was a forty-nine-year-old widow with no children when her husband, Dr. Thomas C. S. Whitsitt, died in Jonesboro in 1887. After that, Mary Whitsitt, along with her sister, Eliza Drake Davis, lived at the Frierson House in Jonesboro with Emma Davis Frierson, who had become a widow in 1884. Eliza Drake Davis died in 1888, and Aunt Mary's niece, Emma Davis Frierson, died in 1899.



*Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt, half sister of Eliza Murray Drake Davis and aunt of Emma Gwynne Davis Frierson, is Neville's third great-aunt.*

Aunt Mary Whitsitt, during her widowhood, lived with her Frierson relatives for twenty-three years, from 1887 to 1910. She was said to be like a second mother to the Frierson children. In 1900 she is enumerated at the Frierson House in the household of Thomas Allen Hughes (1870–1939), the husband of **Camille Frierson Hughes (1872–1961)**, the great-niece of Aunt Mary Whitsitt. When the Hughes family moved to Memphis, Tennessee, in about 1908, Aunt Mary moved to live with her great-nephew, **Charles Davis Frierson Sr. (1877–1947)**, who resided on Cherry Avenue, next door to the Frierson House. In the 1910 census, Mary Whitsitt is recorded as part of the family of Charles Davis Frierson Sr.

Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt died at age seventy-two, on April 25, 1910, one day after the 1910 census taken in Jonesboro.

Her obituary in the *Jonesboro Evening Sun* states:

*Mrs. Mary Whitsitt, aged about 70 years [she was seventy-two] died this morning at 10 o'clock at the home of her nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Frierson on Cherry Ave., with whom she had made her home this past year.*

*Mrs. Whitsitt was a faithful wife and mother, and after the death of her husband she came to Jonesboro to reside with her niece, Mrs. Emma D. Frierson.*

*She had been a semi-invalid for a year, the result of a stroke with which she was stricken last June, while on a visit to her niece, Mrs. Allen Hughes of Memphis. She had seven children [only five are recorded], all of whom are dead. She was a woman of rare culture and refinement and possessed many noble traits of character.*

*Aunt Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt, c. 1909, at about age seventy-one, holding lilies. The house in the background is just east of the Friersons' Cherry Avenue home, where she lived in Jonesboro.*



*Aunt Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt, photographed in April of 1909, sitting next to the wooden plank walkway that led to the front door of the Cherry Avenue home of Charles Davis Frierson Sr. and Charlotte Martin Gallaway Frierson. Charles Davis Frierson Jr., age two, is the child on the walkway, and his mother is standing beside him. The woman to the right is unidentified.*



Mary Lucretia Callison Whitsitt was much beloved by the Frierson family. Her funeral was held at the Frierson House at 115 East Cherry Avenue, and she was buried in the Vincent Cemetery with her husband and four of their children.