

THE DAVIS FAMILY

The Davis family, like most of the other Puritan families in my line, came originally from England and settled in the New Haven Colony, which was a very staunch Puritan community. From there they, along with the Balls, Riggs and other of my kin, went to East Jersey to found the city of Newark on New York Bay. The earliest Davis that I have information on is Stephen Davis.

STEPHEN DAVIS

Stephen Davis was born in England, but there is no record as to when or where. He came to America in the 1640s and was in Hartford, Connecticut by 1644 and was made a Freeman of Connecticut in 1648. A freeman was an adult male who was a member of the church and as such could hold public office and vote.

Stephen was married twice. This fact comes from a History of Essex County, New Jersey where there is a statement that *'the widow of John Ward, junior was the second wife of Stephen Davis.'* Actually this is little help as we do not know the actual name of either wife, only that he had two of them. Likewise, we do not know which wife bore which children.

Stephen Davis was one of the original group of signers of the agreement to travel to Jersey and establish Newark as a new bastion of Puritan influence. The Agreement was signed in 1666, and the group moved from Connecticut in 1667 to found Newark. Stephen and his family received one of the six acre town plots (number 58).

In 1687, his set of weights were made the official standard for the half bushel weight and all other measures were made against them. He continued to be prominent in Newark all his life.

Stephen was alive in May of 1691 when he and Edward Ball probated the will of Sarah Davis (probably his wife). In 1692 his sons, Thomas and John, divided the lands of their then deceased father.

Stephen Davis had at least two sons, Thomas and John.

John Davis married a Susannah. They had at least two daughters, Jane and Sarah, both of whom married John Scudder (IV); there is something on them in the SCUDDER FAMILY HISTORY portion of this work. My line descends from the second son, Thomas Davis.

THOMAS DAVIS

Thomas Davis was born in Connecticut, probably in Branford, in about 1660. He went with his family to Newark in 1667. In 1685 he married Mary Ward. Their daughter, Sarah Davis, married Thomas Ball and this is my lineage.

Mary Ward was born in Connecticut in about 1664. There were three Ward families in the initial list of Newark Founders: John Ward Sr., John Jr. and Joseph. Mary was probably the daughter of

one of them, but no one knows for certain.

Thomas and his wife spent the remainder of their lives in Newark. They built a rather large home in 1713 in the area.

Thomas Davis died there on January 26, 1739. He left a will dated May 27, 1738 where he mentioned a *'daughter Sarah, wife of Thomas Ball.'* Mary Davis had died earlier on May 10, 1732.

Their daughter, Sarah Ward, married Thomas Ball and their lives are told in the BALL FAMILY HISTORY.